

Archaeology Wales

Tywyn to Bryncrug Multi-User Path, Gwynedd

Archaeological Desk Based Assessment & Site Visit



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Report No. 1002

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Report No: **1002**

Date: **May 2011**

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Summary

This report results from a Desk Based Assessment and Site Visit undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) for Gwynedd Consultancy in advance of the construction of a multi-use path adjacent to the A493 between Tywyn and Bryncrug, Gwynedd.

The Desk Based Assessment identified a number of archaeologically sensitive features within the study area, including the Croes Faen Standing Stone which is thought to be of prehistoric date, several cropmark sites of prehistoric and early medieval date, features associated with the nineteenth century development of the entrance to the Ynysmaengwyn Estate and structures associated with the old Turnpike Road that became the A493.

The archaeological potential of the proposed development area is considered to be moderate to good, with specific areas of high potential associated with the features identified above.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

This report presents the results of an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment carried out by Archaeology Wales (AW) on behalf of Gwynedd Consultancy in advance of the construction of a multi-use path along the southern side of the A493 between Tywyn and Bryncrug, Gwynedd (from NGR 259920 301840 to NGR 260789 302814; fig. 1). The proposed path is to be approximately 2.5m wide, and the works will involve the removal of the verge in this area together with the realignment of a section of road adjacent to the entrance to the Ynysmaengwyn Caravan Park. A section of walling associated with the entrance is to be dismantled and reconstructed where the road is realigned.

In response to development proposals submitted by Mr Simon Cole of Gwynedd Consultancy, a Brief for a first phase of archaeological work was prepared by Jenny Emmett of the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service on behalf of the Snowdonia National Park Authority (D1471 – 17th November 2010). This detailed the requirements for a Desk Based Assessment and Site Visit. Subsequently, a Written Scheme of Investigations was prepared by Mark Houlston (MIfA), Managing Director, Archaeology Wales Ltd (Henceforth - AW), detailing the methodology to be followed in undertaking the work. The following report represents the result of this first phase of investigations.

1.2 Geology and Topography

The site of the proposed path lies adjacent to the A493, within the broad alluvial Dyffryn Dysynni / Dysynni Valley, a flat coastal haven and estuary, as it approaches the sea at Tywyn. The geology of the assessment area is Ordovician, the south side of the haven geomorphologically part of the Bala Cleft, a major geological fault cutting across North Wales. The haven and main valley floor lie at a height of less than 10m, the slopes rising steeply on either side to hills and ridges that range from about 200m in the south west to

almost 900m at the summit of Cader Idris in the north east. The picturesque valley bears diverse evidence of human occupation and activity from the prehistoric period to the recent past and is particularly notable for the reclaimed landscape created by pioneering agricultural improvements on the post-medieval gentry estate of Ynysymaengwyn during the 18th and early 19th centuries (CCW, accessed 3/12/2010). The slate quarry near Abergynolwyn was connected via the Tallylyn Railway to Tywyn, running through the southern lands of the Ynysymaengwyn Estate and close to the A493.

2 Aims and Objectives

In accordance with the IfA's *Standards and guidance*, the purpose of a desk-based assessment is to gain information about the known or potential archaeological resource within a given area or site (including the presence or absence, character and extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and relative quality of the potential archaeological resource), in order to make an assessment of its merit in context, leading to one or more of the following:

- The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource.
- The formulation of a strategy for further investigation, whether or not intrusive, where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be devised
- The formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research

The other aim of the assessment was to evaluate the potential indirect impact of the proposed development on the setting of all high value sites (SAMs, Listed Buildings and other undesignated sites considered to be of either national or regional importance) within a 1km radius of the proposed development.

3 Methodology

All work was conducted in compliance with the *Codes of Practice* of the Institute of Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

The desk based assessment considered the following:

- The nature, extent and degree of survival of archaeological sites, structures, deposits and landscapes within the study area (see fig. 1).
- The history of the A493 route between Tywyn and Bryncrug.
- The potential impact of the proposed development on the setting of known sites of archaeological importance.
- A methodology for non-intrusive survey and/or intrusive evaluation to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

In considering the above, the following repositories were consulted as part of the research assessment:

- Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) – HER data

- Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW), Aberystwyth – NMR, aerial photos, maps, archives
- National Library of Wales (NLW), Aberystwyth – maps, archives & books
- Cadw – SAM Listings, Listed Buildings, aerial photos
- The National Archives and Record Office, Dollegau – maps, archives, estate plans.
- Aerial photographs consulted spanned the years 1946 – 2006

A site visit was also carried out on 7 December 2010. All photographs taken during the site walkover were undertaken using a 4MP DiMAGE G400 Minolta digital camera.

4 Results

4.1 Summary of HER Data – GAT (see Fig. 2)

The following was received from the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Regional Historic Environment Record on 3rd December 2010 and 15th February 2011 (see Appendix I for full listings)

OS Grid Reference	PRN	Period	Name	Type	Community	Legal Protection	SAM or LB number
Development Area							
SH59680154	1738	Unknown	Croes Faen (Cross Shaft), Stone E of Tywyn	Cross	Tywyn	Scheduled Ancient Monument	ME088
SH59900230	1793	Early-Medieval	Incised Stone Sundial - Findspot	Sundial	Tywyn		
SH59530197	4811	Unknown	Cropmarks, N of Croes Faen	Feature	Tywyn		
SH59660181	4812	Unknown	Cropmarks, N of Croes Faen	Feature	Tywyn		
SH59800184	5798	Unknown	Cropmarks, N of Croes Faen	Feature	Tywyn		
Unknown (SH59000000)	4797	Early Medieval	Clas Monastery – Unlocated, Tywyn	Monastery	Tywyn		
SH61020253	3820	Unknown	Tomen Cil Y Parc, Tumulus/Motte – Site of, Dysynni	Barrow	Tywyn		
SH59920230	4795	Post-Medieval; 18 th Century	Ynysmaengwyn House – Site of, E of Tywyn	House, Major Dwelling	Tywyn		
SH59840234	11886	Post-Medieval	Ynysmaengwyn Dovecote	Building	Tywyn	Listed Building (Grade II)	5247
SH5982602271	4433	Post-Medieval	Ynysmaengwyn Gardens	Country House Garden	Tywyn		
SH59930230	12502	Post-Medieval	Ynysmaengwyn Estate Cottages	House	Tywyn	Listed Building (Grade II)	
Study Area							
SH60850115	5568	Prehistoric	Hillfort – Graig Fach-Goch, Tywyn	Hillfort / Enclosure	Tywyn		
SH60700150	3824	Prehistoric	Stone Tool – Findspot, Fach-Goch	Findspot	Bryn Crug		
SH60720158	4339	Prehistoric	Stone Axe – Findspot, Y Fach-Goch	Findspot	Bryn Crug		
SH61490160	3817	Medieval	Castell Cynfal (C12th), S of	Castle	Bryn Crug	Scheduled Ancient	ME121

			Bryncrug			Monument	
SH61100320	9964	Medieval	Bryncrug Medieval Township	Township	Bryn Crug		
SH61470313	29387	Unknown	Field Boundary, Possible, Bryncrug	Field Boundary	Bryn Crug		
SH6146403140	24747	Unknown	Post Hole, Site of	Post Hole	Bryn Crug		
SH60700360	522	Unknown / Bronze Age	Crop Marks NE of Pen Y Sam, Bryn Crug	Feature, Henge	Bryn Crug		
SH60400342	2260	Unknown	Crop Marks, SE of Pen Y Sam, Bryn Crug	Feature	Bryn Crug	Scheduled Ancient Monument	ME106
SH58800080	3197	Medieval	Tywyn, Medieval Town	Town	Tywyn		
SH58820095	7078	Medieval	Tywyn Parish Church	Church	Tywyn		
SH58810095	4798	Early-Medieval	St. Cadfan's Inscribed Stone, Tywyn Church	Inscribed Stone	Tywyn		
SH58820095	4799	Early-Medieval	Pillar Stone – Unlocated, Tywyn Church	Stone Setting	Tywyn		
SH58770094	4800	Unknown	Stone Setting – Tywyn Churchyard	Stone Setting	Tywyn		
SH58600102	4801	Unknown	St Cadfan's Wells – Holy Well, Site of	Holy Well	Tywyn		
SH58830096	4804	Unknown	St Cadfan's Chapel, Site of, Tywyn Churchyard	Chapel	Tywyn		

4.2 Summary of Coflein data not on HER – RCAHMW (see Fig. 2)

Information from the database of the National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW) was downloaded from the coflein web site (RCAHMW, accessed 3/12/2010). Only sites not forming part of the HER data supplied by GAT (see 4.1 above) are included in the following table, i.e. only those sites that do not have an equivalent PRN number. The NPRN number is given instead.

OS Grid Reference	NPRN (if no PRN)	Period	Name	Type	Community	Legal Protection	SAM or LB number
Development Area							
SH59860233	54224	Post-Medieval	Ynysmaengwyn Structures on South Side of Yard Northwest of Ruined Mansion	Cottage	Bryn Crug		
SH59850235	54225	Post-Medieval	Ynysmaengwyn Outbuildings on North Side of Court on Northwest of Ruined Mansion	Outbuilding	Bryn Crug		
SH6014802105	28894	Post-Medieval	Ynysmaengwyn Gates and Lodge	Lodge	Bryn Crug		
SH58550045	33946	Post-Medieval; 19 th Century	Talylllyn Railway; Tal-Y-Llyn Railway	Railway	Tywyn		
Study Area							
SH60860087	54415	Medieval/Post-medieval	Field System Graig Fach-Goch	Field System	Tywyn		
SN5972399484	409817	19 th Century	Tollgate Cottage, Junction off A493 and Road to Cwrt	Toll House	Tywyn		
SH60660312	24985	Post-Medieval	Felin Yr Ynys; Ynys Corn Mill, Bryncrug	Corn Mill	Bryn Crug		

4.3 Summary of Cadw Listed Buildings

There are 27 Listed Buildings within the study area, the majority of which are located in the towns of Tywyn or Bryncrug – information received from Cadw on 6th April 2011 (see Appendix II for full listings).

OS Grid Reference	Listed Building Ref.	Name	Description	Grade
Development area				
259816 302328	5247	Dovecote at Ynysmaengwyn	Dovecote	II
Study Area				
261053 302796	23908	Bronwylfa	House	II
260817 303117	23909	Water lift pump on road to Penowern	Water pump	II
261590 302170	23907	Water lift pump at Rhyd-yr-onen	Water pump	II
261730 303667	23911	Geufron	Farm	II
261761 303646	23891	Haybarn at Geufron	Haybarn	II
261071 302789	23906	Water lift pump at Pen Parc	Water pump	II
261024 303334	23899	Grave of Mary Jones	Grave	II
260889 303322	23895	Mile Marker	Mile Marker	II
260787 303365	23890	Ty'n-y-winllan	Terraced Cottages	II
258941 300951	84528	18 Maengwyn St	House	II
258907 300953	4643	Corbett Arms Hotel	Hotel	II
258941 300935	4645	6 Maengwyn St	House	II
258947 300937	4646	7 Maengwyn St	House	II
258836 300915	84531	5 Corbet Square	House	II
258813 300922	84542	Lynch gate at church of St Cadfan	Gate	II
258880 300920	84547	Somerset House and house adjoining to its L	Houses	II
258873 300927	84548	White Hall Hotel	Hotel	II
258861 300799	84546	Outbuilding to rear of The Vicarage	Outbuilding	II
258852 300810	21515	The Vicarage	House	II
258822 300952	4642	Church of St Cadfan	Church	I
258675 300819	84533	Boer War Memorial	War Memorial	II
258640 300800	84529	24 High St	House	II
258599 300783	84535	30 High St	House	II
258593 300782	84536	31 High St	House	II
258576 300778	84530	34 High St	House	II
258582 300779	84537	33 High St	House	II

4.4 Summary of Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Four Scheduled Ancient Monuments lie within the study area, two of possible prehistoric date and two medieval Motte castles.

OS Grid Ref	SAM No.	Name	Site Type	Period
Development Area				
	ME088	Croes Fan Standing Stone	Standing Stone	Prehistoric
Study Area				
	ME121	Castell Cynfal, Bryn	Motte	Medieval

		Crug		
	ME106	Crop marks SE of Pen-y-Sarn	Enclosed Hut Circle	Prehistoric
	ME054	Domen Ddreiniog	Motte	Medieval

4.5 Description of the Study Area

The proposed footpath development lies within the Dysynni Valley Registered Landscape of Special Historic Interest (HLW Gw 17) (Cadw 2001). The Register describes the landscape as:

“This picturesque valley bears diverse evidence of human occupation and activity from the prehistoric period to the recent past. The area includes: cropmarks of hidden, possibly prehistoric settlements, Iron Age hillforts, a centre of early Christian activity, medieval earthwork and masonry defence sites, distinctive remains of a native Welsh castle probably begun by Prince Llywelyn ab Iorwerth (‘the Great’) around 1221, two of the finest gentry estates in Meirionnydd: Ynysmaengwyn and Peniarth, the former having had a significant impact on the landscape through extensive and pioneering agricultural improvement, land reclamation and drainage schemes during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.” (Cadw 2001)

It is characterised as been formerly dominated by open water and salt marsh, with the tidal reach of the Dysynni possibly having come close to Ynysmaengwyn Manor prior to the post-medieval reclamation work (Cadw 2001).

Much of the study area lies within the Snowdonia National Park.

4.6 Archaeological Evidence

4.6.1 Prehistoric and Roman periods

There is some evidence for prehistoric activity within the study area. At Fach-Goch, on the northern flanks of Graig Fach-Goch on the southern side of the valley, a stone ‘chisel’ (PRN 3824) and a stone axe (PRN 4339) were discovered in the early twentieth century. The axe is likely to be Neolithic in date although the stone ‘chisel’ is described only as ‘prehistoric’. A quernstone also of possible prehistoric date (PRN 3823) was identified at Bryn-y-Ffynnon – it is the top half of a rotary quern formed on pale blue-grey dolerite.

The Iron Age hillfort of Graig Fach-goch (PRN 5568) is the most prominent of the prehistoric sites in the study area. It is located 1.1km southeast of the line of the A493, in an elevated location, 214m AOD. It was first identified through aerial photographs in 1989, and has yet to be investigated. On the lower flanks of the northern and western sides of the hill are extensive field systems, which probably represent the remnants of medieval or post-medieval agricultural enclosures.

The Croes Faen Standing Stone (PRN 1738) is a fine boulder of volcanic origin. It is irregular in construction, but with six well defined sides, standing to a height of approximately 2.3m and slightly leaning to the south. It has no apparent markings and its upper portion is more weathered than its lower. The stone might be of prehistoric origin or medieval. It has also been suggested

that it forms the remains of a stone cross, as the cross could have been incised on the broken fragment at the top. Smith (2001), however, considers this unlikely.

A significant complex of crop-marks identified to the northwest of Brynchrug (PRN 522) consists of a group of three circular ditches, one 75m in diameter, one slightly smaller 50m to the south and the third around 30m in diameter further to the south (RCAHMW 2007). The largest of the enclosures has the faint traces of a bank inside the ditch, which has led to suggestions that this may represent a henge complex of late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date.

To the south of this enclosure, and closer to the remains of Felin Yr Ynys corn mill, further crop-marks have been noted (PRN 2260; SAM ME106). These consist of a circle with a rectangular annexe attached. Although tentatively indicating settlement activity rather than ceremonial use, it is less certain whether these too are of prehistoric origin.

A possible Roman road (Brithdir to the Cefn Caer fort) runs through Brynchrug village, although the nearest verifiable evidence for it is two miles to the south-east.

4.6.2 Medieval and post-medieval periods

There are number of medieval and post-medieval sites within the study area. A group of cropmarks (PRN 4811, 4812, 5798) has been noted on the northwest side of the A493 at the Tywyn end of the proposed route. The features comprise rectangular enclosures with centrally placed rectangular cuts that have been tentatively interpreted as the remains of an Early Christian cemetery, although the site may include multiple phases of activity.

Castell Cynfal (PRN 3817; SAM ME121) is located on a promontory on the northern flank of Cynfal-fach, at an elevation of approximately 100m AOD. This rock-cut motte and bailey was apparently established by Cadwaladr ap Gruffydd, brother of Owain Gwynedd in 1137 and destroyed in 1147.

At the north-eastern end of the proposed route, is the medieval township of Brynchrug (PRN 9964), which contains a number of fine buildings including the parish church of St Matthew, the eighteenth century Pont Dysynni Bridge, the nineteenth century Tollgate Cottage (NPRN 409817), a single-storey, building with a central situated at junction of the A493 and the road to Rhyd-yr-onen, and the Grade II listed Bronwylfa, which is also located at the southern end of the village. Close to the latter, in a purpose-built stone recess in the retaining bank of the road to Rhyd-yr-onen, is a Grade II listed water lift pump. A similar structure is located to the west of the village on the corner of the road to Penowern farm and Ffordd-y-felin. A number of mills were located in and around Brynchrug, including Felin Yr Ynys corn mill (NPRN 24985), the site of which lies close to the A493, northwest of the village.

A Fluxgate Gradiometer survey undertaken to the east of the village in 2007 identified a possible field boundary of unknown date (PRN 29387). Activity in

this area appears to be of some antiquity, because evidence recovered in 2008 (PRN 24747), indicated that a post, 0.35m in diameter, had been driven into the ground, presumably as part of larger structure, but after it had been removed at least 0.45m of alluvium had formed above its backfilled remains.

At the south-western end of the proposed route, is the medieval township of Tywyn (PRN 3197), the origins of which probably lie in the establishment of a monastery in the area. St Cadfan is known to have founded a monastery at 'Tywyn Meirionnydd' in the 6th century (PRN 5797). It was the third most important church in North Wales, and was the mother-church of the whole of the commote of Ystum Anner. It was a principal 'clas' under an abbot in 1147 and is mentioned in 1291 as being held by a number of clergy. The exact location of this monastery is not known, but it is likely to have been sited somewhere near the modern church of St Cadfan in Tywyn.

St Cadfan's Church (PRN 7078) is located on the northern side of the town of Tywyn, at the point where the higher ground meets the former saltmarsh. Although the modern building is of predominantly nineteenth century construction, the nave, aisles, and a section of the north transept date from the 12th century. The design of the twelfth century Nave is unique in Gwynedd and highly significant. The church is surrounded by a rectilinear cemetery bounded by a nineteenth century stone wall. To the north of the church are a number of rounded boundaries which may indicate that the church lies on the site of the early Christian monastery.

Two early medieval 'funerary' stones, a pillar stone of unknown date, and the remains of a medieval sundial are located in the area of the church. The best known of these, St Cadfan's Stone (PRN 4798), is located within the west end of the church, against the northern wall. It is 2.5m tall and inscribed on all four sides in early Welsh script, one of the oldest known examples of the written language and probably dating to the 7th to 9th centuries (Cadw 2001, 76; Smith & Smith 2001). The stone appears to have been moved to the churchyard in 1761 from Bodtalog, where it had been used as a gatepost, before being placed in its current position.

The other 'funerary' stone (PRN 4799), a pillar stone, is now lost, but it is recorded as having a Latin inscription PASCENT[I], reading vertically upwards, and probably also dates to the early medieval period. A second pillar stone, with an incised cross, is located on the outside of the south side of the tower. Other stones of unknown origin (PRN 4800) are also recorded in the HER as being located within the churchyard.

Set next to St Cadfan's Stone at the west end of the church is an incised stone sundial (PRN 1793), which was moved to the church in 2010 having been originally found in 1987 during the clearance of rubble at Ynysymaengwyn. An 18th century inscription on the stone indicates that it was also used as a mile stone (see below).

Although the history and provenance of the two funerary monuments is uncertain, it is a reasonable conjecture that they were associated with either the

monastery or the Church. It is more certain that the sundial had such a relationship, since sundials were designed to stand outside churches (parish or monastic) to help indicate when services would take place. The object is one of only two “Irish-style” dials in Wales.

A small chapel dedicated to St Cadfan was located at the north-eastern end of the churchyard (PRN 4804), though this was demolished in the early 17th century. The saint's holy well (PRN 4801) is believed to have been located immediately to the north-west of the church, where there is now a builder's yard.

The medieval town was no doubt located in the area around St Cadfan's church, with a market in the present location of Corbett Square, though little survives from this period. It wasn't until the arrival of the railway, and the subsequent development of the tourist industry, that the town grew to its present size, expanding westward from its medieval location towards the seafront.

The Ynysymaengwyn Estate, which encompassed the majority of the Tywyn / Brynchrug area, is one of the significant components of the historic landscape. Prior to post-medieval land reclamation work associated with its development, the tidal reach of the Dysynni may have reached as far as Ynysymaengwyn house itself, with the area characterised by open water and salt marsh.

Ynysymaengwyn played a significant role in the cultural and political life of Meirionnydd. Welsh poets, in particular, appear to have been welcomed to the manor throughout the 15th and 18th centuries. ‘Sir’ Arthur ap Huw, the grandson of Hywel ap Siencyn, was vicar of St Cadfan's between 1555 and 1570, and was a notable patron of the poets as well as a translator of counter-Reformation literature into Welsh. Many of the Ynysymaengwyn poems have been preserved in an important manuscript of *cywyddau* (British Library Additional MS 14866).

Ynysymaengwyn was to become a powerful late medieval estate and many of the major houses of the area held family ties with it, including: Caethle, Dolau-gwyn, Gwyddgwion, Plas-yn-y-rofft (Esgairweddan), and Trefeddian. During the late 18th and early 19th centuries it was a prominent ‘gentry’ estate, and it was remarkable for the extensive and pioneering agricultural improvements that were undertaken there.

At this time, the Corbet family of Ynysymaengwyn played a leading role in the Tywyn area. They were responsible for draining much of the *morfa* or salt marsh between Tywyn and the Dysynni River. It is unknown to what extent the route of the proposed footpath was affected by these efforts. The route lies on the landward side of the estate and on slightly higher ground, although some localised susceptibility to flooding is evident. The raven was the Corbet family emblem and appears on the wall of the entrance Lodge.

Unrelated to this Corbet family, the industrialist John Corbett of Chateau Impney, Droitwich, bought Ynysymaengwyn in 1878. In later years, following

Roger John Corbett's death (1863-1942) his sister Mary (d. 1951) eventually gave the estate to the council but since it was unable to refund the necessary repairs, the mansion was used for fire-fighting practice and army training (The Matapan Camp: Dtwo Branch Transport 2nd Corps.) and soon had to be demolished. The remains of the mansion, associated structures and gardens (PRN 11886, 4433, 12502; NPRN 54224, 54225, 28894) are now incorporated in a caravan and camping park.

The entire extent of the old Turnpike Road (now the A493) between Tywyn and Bryncrug lies completely within the former estate of Ynysymaengwyn (PRN 4795). The extant entrance of the Lodge is approximately 1.85km northeast of Tywyn and approximately 1.03km southwest of Bryncrug.

It is likely that the monastic sundial (PRN 1793) now in St Cadfan's Church (see above) stood for a time in the 18th century on the Turnpike Road, one mile from Tywyn. The 18th century on it inscription reads:

*From
Tywyn
1
Mile*

The location would be at the roadside of the A493 where, on the OS 1888-9 map, is marked a milestone. It may be that the monastic sundial is this milestone and some time between 1888 and the 19th century was removed and incorporated into the fabric of Ynysymaengwyn mansion. The mansion burnt down in 1964, but the stone itself was not found until 1987, when workmen were employed to clear the rubble.

Another important feature within the wider landscape is the Tallyllyn Railway (NPRN 33946), which runs south of the A493 and, from Rhydyronen Halt to Tywyn, is within view of the road, which lies at an elevation of 10m.

Tallyllyn Railway Station name and elevation	Distance from A493
Rhydyronen Halt: 33m	0.95km
Cynfal Halt: 27m	0.69km
Fach Goch Halt: 25m	0.54km
Hendy Halt: 18m	0.35km

The standard gauge Aberystwyth and Welsh Coast Railway was expanded from its base at Machynlleth and in 1863 had reached Tywyn. The industrialist William McConnel decided to build a narrow gauge line from the slate quarry at Bryn Eglwys, near Abergynolwyn, to Tywyn, as this was the nearest point where slate could be transferred to the standard gauge railway (Boyd 1988). Opened in 1866, the narrow gauge railway, carrying both passengers and slate, also cuts through the south estate lands of Ynysymaengwyn and therefore contextually close to the study area.

4.6.3 Unknown Date

At the northern end of the study area, a possible motte or tumulus of unknown date is located at Cil-y-Parc (PRN 3820). As mentioned in the GAT HER information below, nothing is visible from aerial photographs and the information source dates to 1921.

4.7 **Map Regression Analysis**

4.7.1 Tithe Map 1844

The tithe map of 1844 (fig. 3) shows the Ynysmaengwyn house and estate lands, but records no details of fields or woodland suggesting that the estate was exempt from tithes. It is possible that much of the estate had been recently improved and drained, thereby exempting it from tithe payments for seven years. The land between Croes Faen and Tywyn comprises a mix of small irregular fields and large square fields, revealing the extent of drainage and reclamation works that had been carried out in the landscape. To the north, east and south of the estate boundary, small irregular fields dominate the landscape, all of probable medieval or early post-medieval date.

The Croes Faen standing stone is not marked on the map.

4.7.2 Ynysmaengwyn estate maps 1878

The maps show the extensive lands of the estate, both as a general overview and a more detailed plan of sale lots (fig 4). The Tywyn to Brynchrug road (A493) roughly follows its modern line, running along the southern edge of the parkland surrounding Ynysmaengwyn House and separating the house and extensive grounds from the farmland to the south. The drive to the house leads northwards from the road, through a shelter belt of large deciduous trees planted to screen the house and grounds from the road. There is no lodge at the end of the drive. A second, smaller drive, curves across the parkland to meet the Tywyn to Bruncrug road 200m further along the road towards Brynchrug.

The land immediately surrounding the house is typical of a landed estate, with formal gardens, including a walled garden and orchard, and parkland complete with a lake, woodlands and open grassland. The land to the west of the house and grounds shows clear evidence of having been reclaimed, with the characteristic straight lines of drainage ditches contrasting with the less regular field boundaries elsewhere in the landscape.

The Croes Faen standing stone is not marked on this map. The Tal-y-Llyn Railway appears south of the road and traversing through the estate lands from Towyn to the east.

4.7.3 Ordnance Survey first edition map 1888

The OS 1st Edition map of 1888 (fig. 5) shows a number of changes within the study area, most notably the construction of the lodge at the southern end of the drive to Ynysmaengwyn House. This L-shaped building sits within a small area of woodland that has replaced the shelter belt planting either side of the drive entrance. The map shows in more detail the parkland and gardens of

Ynysmaengwyn House, with its mixed deciduous and coniferous woodlands, avenues of trees, specimen plantings, paths, walkways and walled gardens all separated from the parkland by a Haha.

In the southern parkland, to the west of the Lodge and entrance is a gravel pit contained within a small copse of trees. The copse was marked on the 1878 maps, but not the gravel pit, suggesting that gravel extraction has been started by the new owner, John Corbett.

On the land to the south of the house further reclamation has been undertaken, with square fields and straight drainage channels extending to the shore.

A milestone is marked, located on the south side of the road. It shows 1 mile to Towyn and is probably the stone now located in St Cadfan's Church in Tywyn (PRN 1793). The site of the Croes Faen Standing Stone is marked, at the point where the road splits. A small rectangular building labelled Ynys Gate is located on the southern side of the road, between the Lodge and Ysguboriau Farm. This building sits within a rectangular enclosure at the point where the road appears to have been straightened – this is marked on the 1878 maps, although not clearly. It is possible that this building is the Old Toll House of the Turnpike road.

4.7.4 Ordinance Survey map 1891

There are no relevant differences from the 1888 map. The milestone is marked as is Croes Faen, the Ynysmaengwyn mansion and outbuildings, the Lodge and Ynys Gate

4.7.5 Ordinance Survey map 1901

A cemetery is marked on the Tywyn to Brynchrug road, between the properties 'Pall Mall' and 'Picadilly'. This is not marked on any earlier maps but remains the location of the modern cemetery. The standing stone at Croes Farn is marked, as is the milestone and Ynys Gate.

4.7.6 Ordinance Survey map 1938-1953

No relevant differences to the 1901 map.

4.7.7 Ordinance Survey map 1964

The Tywyn to Brynchrug road is marked as the A493, and the milestone does not appear.

4.7.8 Ordinance Survey map 1979-1981

The maps shows a number of changes to the study area, the most significant of which is the loss of Ynysmaengwyn House and the creation of Ynysboriau caravan park in its place. The woods surrounding the house remain, as does the wall of the walled garden and a small number of outbuildings originally belonging to the house complex. There is, however, no trace of the house itself.

The A493 has been straightened in several places, with the original line preserved as a layby and a minor road leading to the cemetery. The

straightening of the road evidently lead to the removal of the house at Piccadilly and Ynys Gate.

A drainage channel crosses the A493 immediately northeast of the Croes Faen standing stone. It appears in the OS maps of 1888, 1891, 1901, 1938-1953 and 1964 but is only labelled on this map.

4.8 Aerial Photographs

The aerial photographs dated from 1946 and 1971 show the cropmarks identified in the fields north of Croes Faen (PRN 5798, 4811 and 4812), however they are extremely faint and difficult to make out (figs. 6 and 7). By contrast, the development of the drainage system used in the reclamation of land is easy to identify. In the fields to the west of the A493 the straight lines of former drainage channels cut through modern fields, and the stream channels that formed part of the natural drainage of the salt marsh in this area can also be clearly identified. These stream channels extend almost to the woodland to the south of Ynysmaengwyn House and provide an indication of the extent of the former salt marsh (fig. 8).

The aerial photograph from 1995 (fig 9) clearly shows at least two of the cropmark features recorded as probable medieval burials in the fields north of Croes Faen (PRN 5798, 4811 and 4812). The clearest of the cropmarks (centre of the image) shows a square ditched enclosure containing four central features, possibly graves. Immediately to the south-east of the square enclosure, a smaller enclosure with rounded ends is also visible, although no central features can be seen.

4.9 1891 Census Summary

The 1891 census of Wales¹ reveals the existence of several of the extant buildings along the A493 between Tywyn (Towyn) and Bryncrug. Within the registration district of Machynlleth, the sub-district of Towyn and the enumeration district Number 11 are included “Ynys Lodge”, “Mansion”, “Keeper’s and Gardener’s Houses”, “Ysguboriau Farm” and “Old Toll House”. Enumeration District 8 includes the farms called “Piccadilly” and “Pall Mall”, on the northeast outskirts of Tywyn and near to Croes Faen standing stone.

4.10 Site Visit

A site visit was carried out on the 7th December 2010. The weather conditions were extremely poor, with lying snow and a blizzard. The Croes Faen Standing Stone was photographed (fig. 10) but the ground around it could not be examined for signs of in situ archaeology due to the snow. The gates at the entrance to Ynysmaengwyn were also photographed.

A walkover of the proposed development route was carried out, but no in situ archaeology was identified due to the covering of snow (fig. 11). It was also not possible to examine the fields containing the crop mark sites (fig. 12).

Owing to the conditions at the time of the site visit, no new archaeological sites or features were identified.

5 Archaeological Potential, Conclusions & Recommendations

5.1 Archaeological Potential

The information provided by the HER, SMR, SAM and Listed Buildings records demonstrate that the study area contains extensive evidence for occupation and activity from the prehistoric to modern periods.

Evidence for prehistoric activity is of particular interest, as prehistoric sites are currently under-represented in the archaeological record for Meirionnydd (Smith 2001). The presence of upstanding remains of probable prehistoric date, such as the Graig Fach-goch hillfort and the Croes Faen standing stone, and the identification of Neolithic flint artefacts, reveal that the potential for further contemporary sites is high, as these features would not have stood in isolation in the landscape. The likely presence of further prehistoric sites in the study area is highlighted by the aerial photographs, which indicate the survival of a possible early prehistoric (Neo/EBA) ritual complex together with possible later prehistoric (MBA/IA) settlement and funerary sites. These cropmark sites are located within a few tens of metres of the northern end of the proposed development area, and as a result the potential for the survival of buried archaeology of a prehistoric date is moderate to high. The Croes Faen Standing Stone lies within the development area and there is a high potential for the survival of buried remains associated with its erection.

The tentative identification of a stretch of Roman road at the northern end of the study area suggests that there is a possibility of contemporary activity within the wider landscape. No finds or sites Roman date have been recorded in the study area or the wider landscape (with the exception of the road), however, and so the potential for the survival of Roman remains in the development area is low.

Aerial photographic evidence suggests that a complex of funerary monuments of possible early medieval date exists on land immediately to the north of the Croes Faen Standing Stone, adjacent to the western side of the A493. These rectangular enclosures with possible central grave cuts are thought to be the remains of early medieval burials, perhaps associated with the monastery known to have been founded in Tywyn by St Cadfan in the 6th century AD. While the exact location of this monastery is not known, it is likely to have been in or around the site of the modern Church of St Cadfan on the north-western edge of Tywyn. The milestone, located on the A493 until the late nineteenth century was originally a sundial of probable medieval date, and likely to have been associated with the monastery in Tywyn. The presence of the cropmarks in such close proximity to the proposed development site and the association of the local landscape with the site of the monastery means that the potential for the survival of early medieval features within the development area is high.

There is extensive evidence for medieval and post-medieval activity in the study area, including the remains of field systems and enclosures on the

northern slopes of Graig Fach-goch. The Church of St Cadfan in Tywyn is of twelfth century origin and would have formed the focus for a settlement.

A house is known to have existed at Ynysmaengwyn since at least the fifteenth century, with the post-medieval owners of the estate largely responsible for creating the landscape that exists between Tywyn and Ynysmaengwyn today. Land reclamation and drainage carried out in the post-medieval period turned a landscape of salt marsh and tidal straits into productive farmland. The extent of the original saltmarsh can be estimated through examination of the aerial photographs and maps (fig. 8), which reveal that Tywyn, the road to Brynchrug and the house at Ynysmaengwyn once sat on ground raised slightly above the saltmarsh. This area contains irregular fields of probable medieval date, together with the remains of the early medieval cemetery, all of which pre-date the draining of the land. It is clear, therefore, that the draining of the land would have had little impact on the proposed development area, which stands on what would have been higher, dry, ground.

The presence of an old Toll House at Ynys Gate and the remains of sections of the original turnpike road (prior to its straightening in the twentieth century) within the development area result in a high potential for revealing medieval or post-medieval remains associated with the road. In addition, the walls either side of the nineteenth century entrance to Ynysmaengwyn and the Lodge house both lie within the proposed development area, with a section of the wall planned to be demolished as part of the works. There is a high potential for revealing evidence for the nineteenth century augmentation of the entrance area.

5.2 Conclusions and Recommendations

The archaeological desk-based assessment concludes there is a moderate to good potential for archaeological remains to be encountered by ground works during the construction of the proposed path. An appropriate mitigation strategy is therefore required. In general:

1. An archaeological watching brief should be conducted during all groundworks in the proposed development area to investigate the possibility of buried archaeological remains. This is particularly significant as the potential for prehistoric and early medieval remains is high.
2. In areas highlighted as having high potential for the survival of archaeological remains, for example around the Croes Faen Standing Stone, in the vicinity of the probable square barrow cemetery, around the entrance to the Ynysmaengwyn Estate and at the northern end of the development area closest to the site of the possible early prehistoric ritual complex a programme of strip map and sample are recommended prior to the commencement of the groundworks.
3. An photographic and drawn record should be made of any structural features that are to be demolished as part of the works, ie. the wall at the entrance to Ynysmaengwyn.

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Cadw SAM and LB listings

Tithe Map and Apportionment for Towyn Parish

Ynysmaengwyn Estate Maps and information

OS 1st Edition County Series Map

OS 2nd Edition County Series Map

OS 1:2500 maps 1900 to 1981

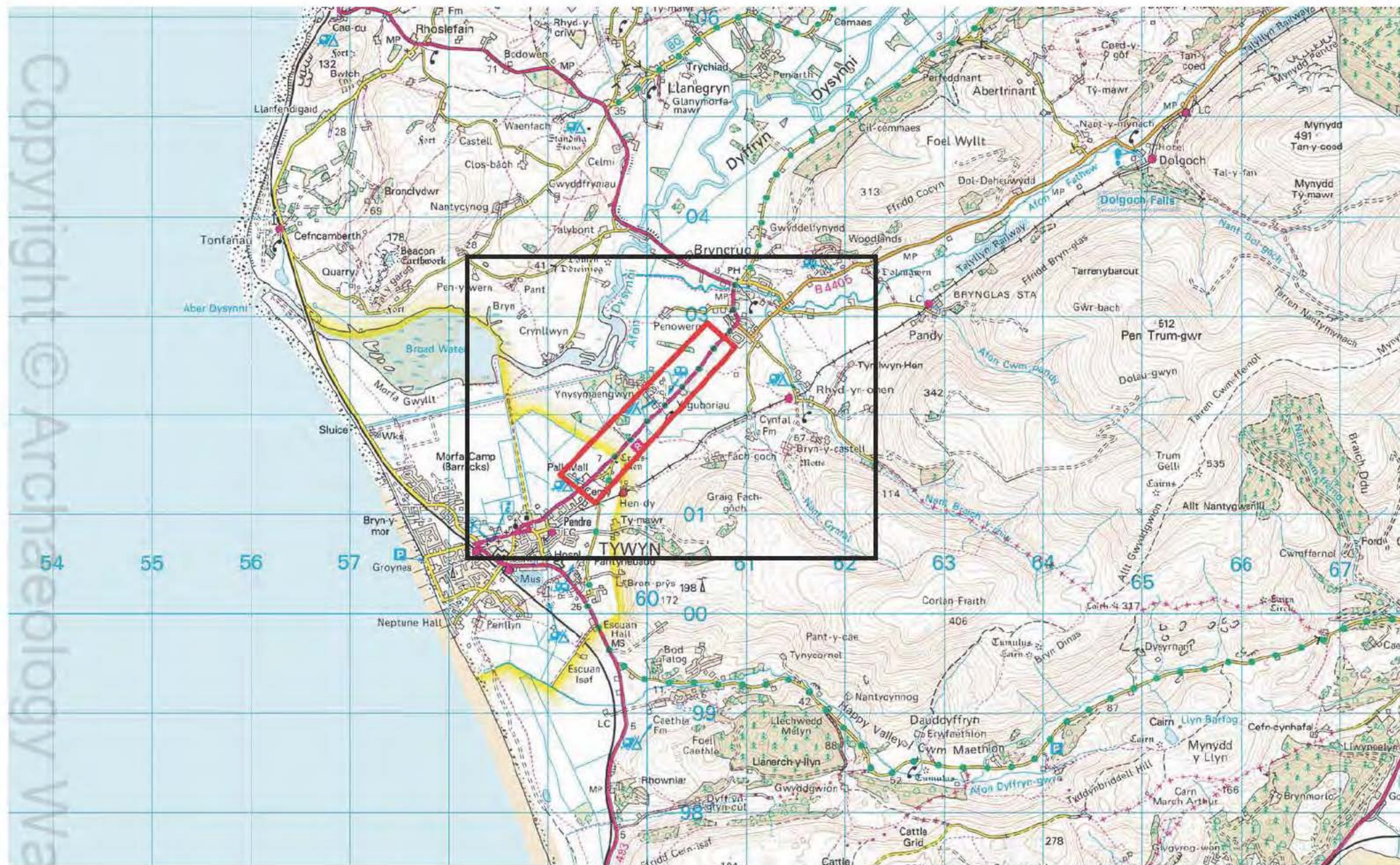


Fig.1: Location plan showing extent of study area (black square) and development area (red rectangle)



33946 (NPRN) Tal-y-llyn Railway 4797 Clas Monastery - Unlocated

Fig. 2: Location of sites listed in the HER, SMR and SAM registers

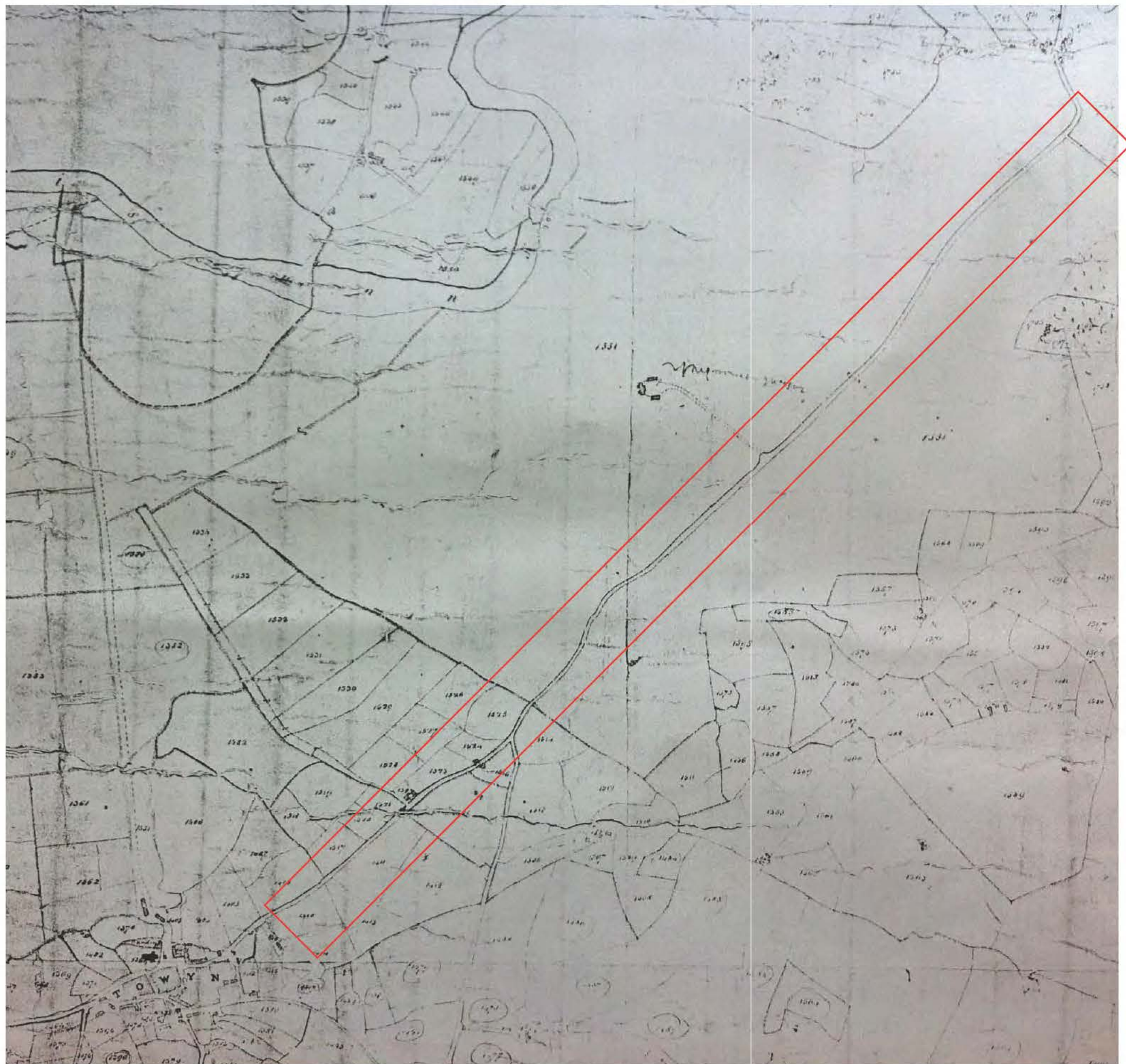


Fig. 3
Tithe map of 1844 showing
the proposed development
area

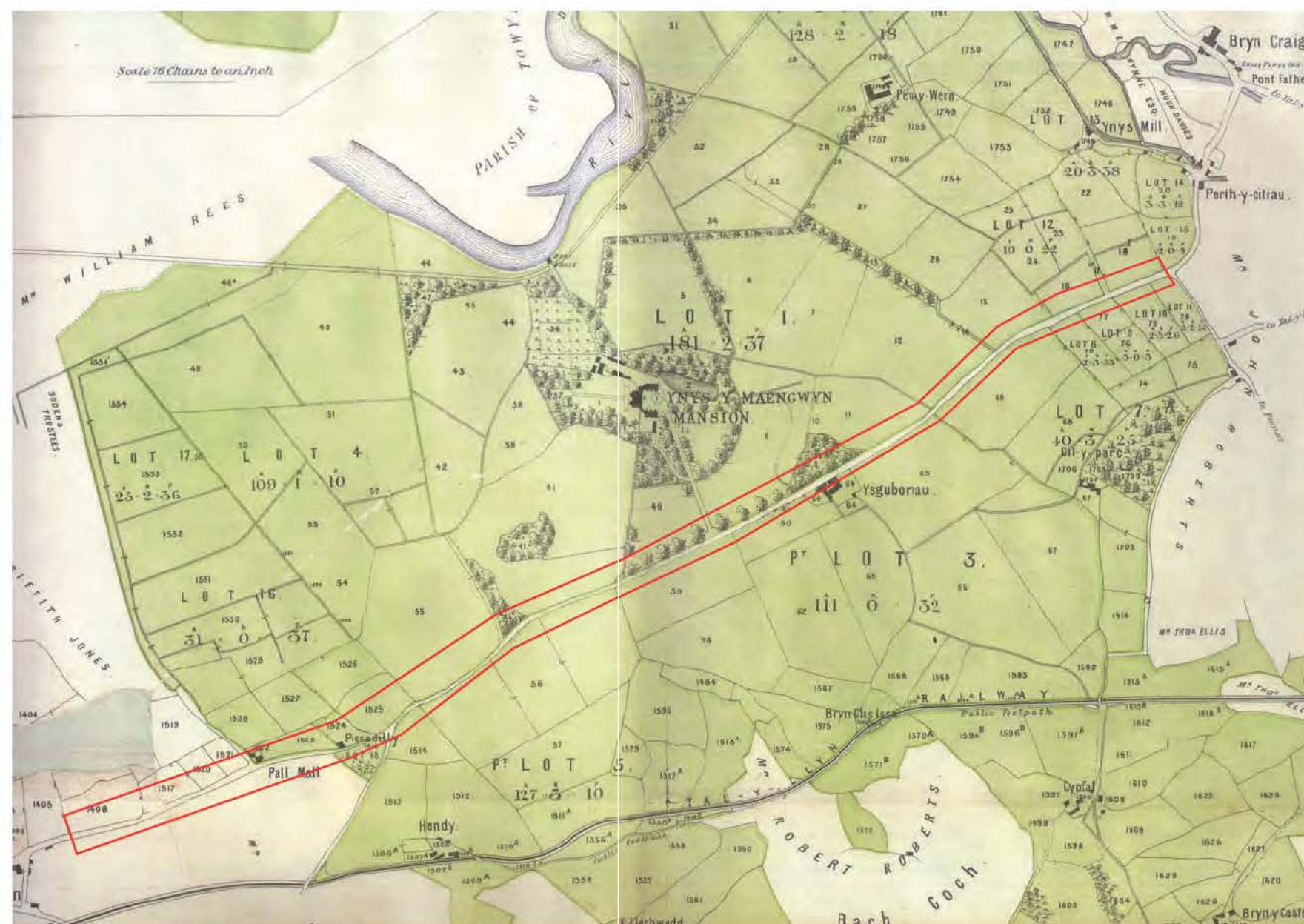
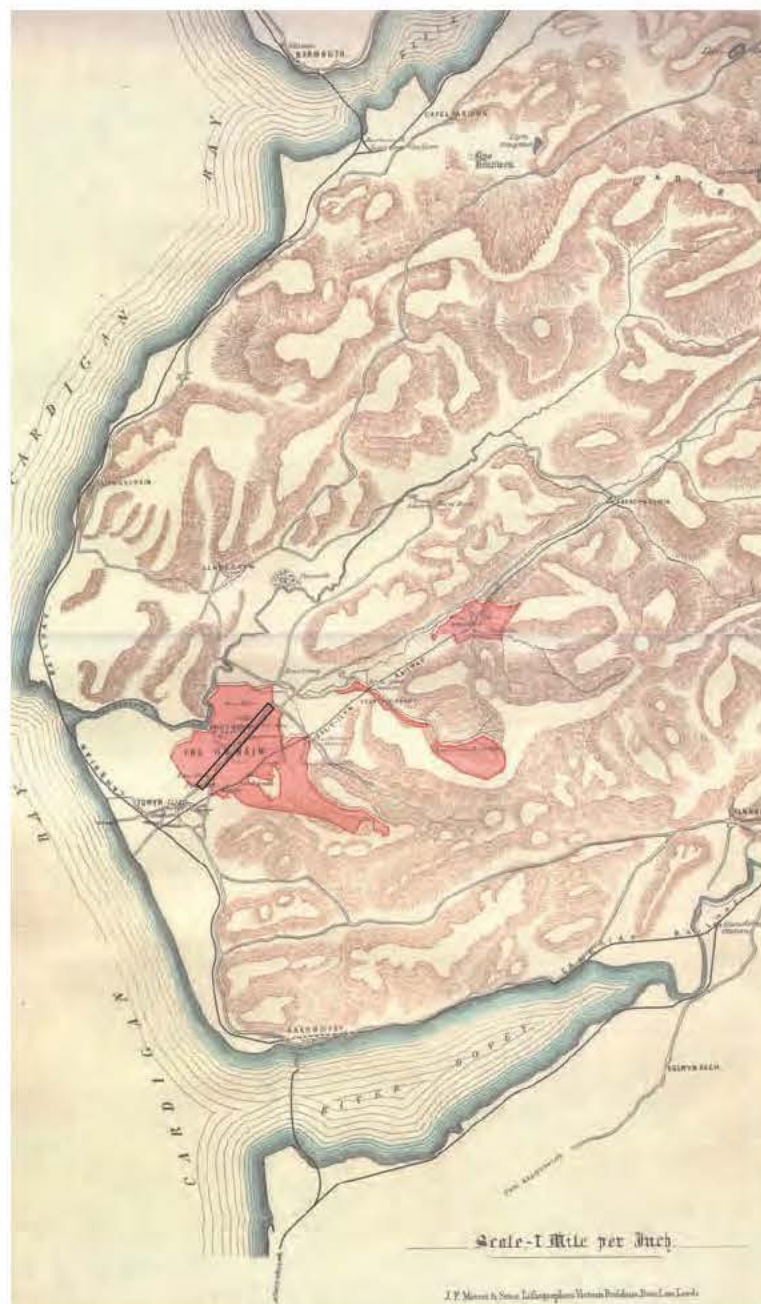


Fig. 4
Estate maps from 1878
showing the
proposed development
area

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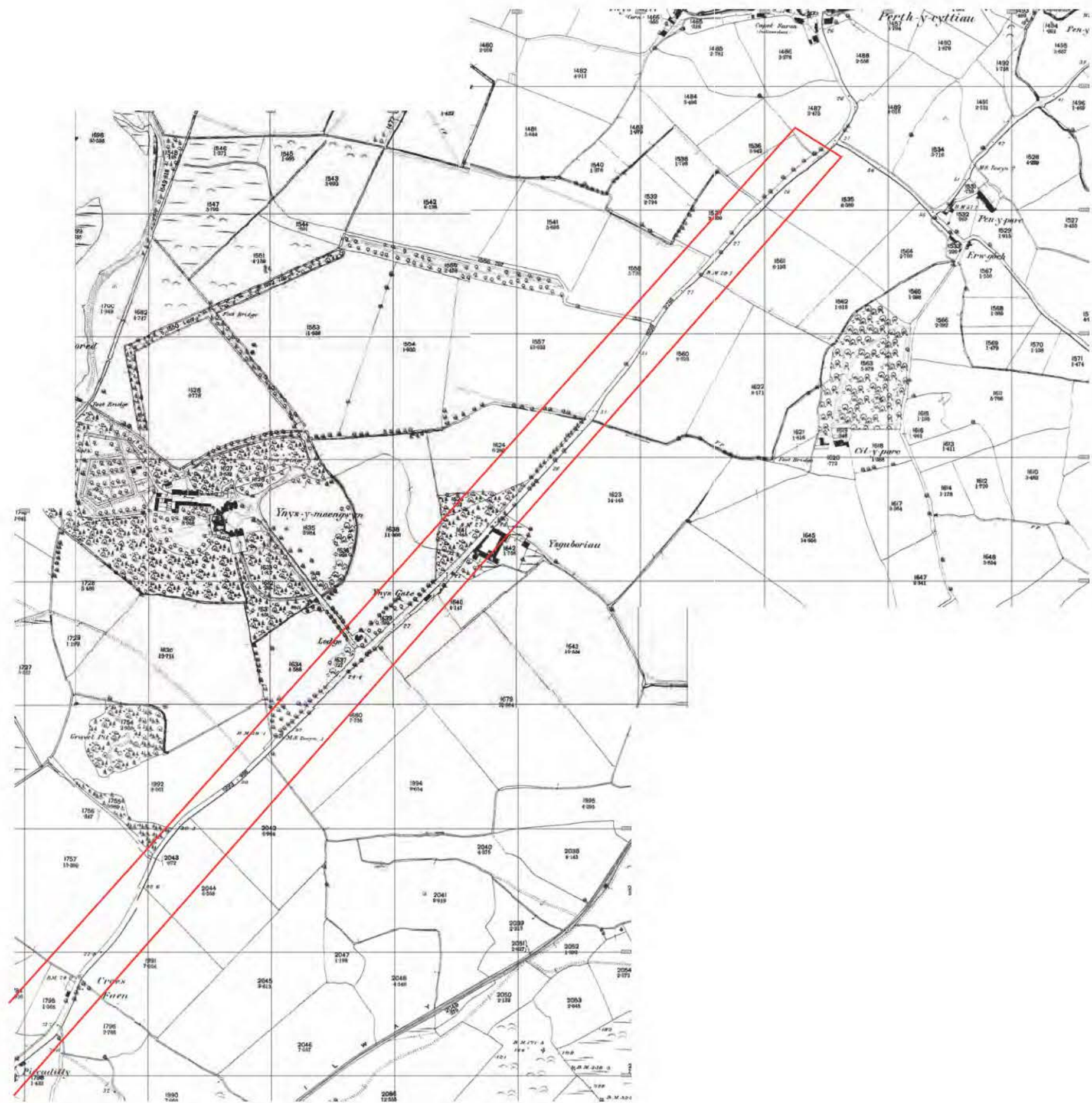


Fig. 5
OS 1st Edition Map of
1888 showing the
proposed development
area



Fig. 6
RAF Aerial Photograph
from 1946 showing possible
outlines of rectangular
barrows (plotted by author)
and location of more
possible barrow features

Archaeology Wales



Fig. 7
RAF Aerial Photograph
from 1971 showing possible
outline of rectangular
barrow (plotted by author)
and location of more
possible barrow features

Archaeology Wales



Fig. 8
RAF Aerial Photograph
from 1946 showing
approximate line of the
edge of the salt marsh
prior to drainage

Archaeology Wales



Fig. 9
RCAHMW Aerial Photograph
from 1995 showing
location of cropmark
features thought to be
medieval burials

Archaeology Wales



Fig. 10
The Croes Faen Standing
Stone as seen on the
site visit



Fig. 11
Views of the proposed
development site in the
snow



Fig. 12
View across snow
covered fields

Archaeology *Wales*

APPENDIX I: GAZETTEER

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Regional Historic Environment Record

The list comprises the PRN (Primary Record Number) which we assign to each record on the HER; the site name; the OS NGR; the status reference, which will tell you if a site is scheduled or not; and period; and notes, where available, direct from the database.

Crop Marks NE of Pen y Sarn, Bryn Crug

PRN	522	Site Type	HENG
Form	Cropmark	Period	Bronze Age
NGR	SH60700360	Community	Bryn Crug
Status		Status Ref	

Description:

At Bryn Crug, NE of Towyn, crop marks were recorded of a rath-like enclosure (PRN2260) in shape, a circle with a rectangular annexe attached. Other crop marks nearby, at SH607036, include a large circular enclosure. <1> Interpretive map of crop marks, by Pete Crew, based on JKS St. Joseph's 1975 aerial photo (BUB59). <2> The cropmark consists of a single near-perfectly circular ditch with no breaks or entrances (unless they coincide with the hedge banks). The possible slight remains of a bank run along the inside of the ditch. The outer part of the circular anomaly is stronger than the inside perhaps as a result of the bank having eroded into the ditch. The most distinctive feature of the enclosure is its almost perfect circular regularity, suggesting a carefully laid out and constructed enclosure of ceremonial use rather than domestic. However the lack of internal features makes it difficult to interpret. Its size and design suggests it is at least related to the henge monuments but may be of Bronze Age date. <5>

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source Type	Collection	Bibref
522				PRN 522		Mention	SMR REDUNDANT	<3>
522	Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments	1956		Caernarvonshire 1	P36	Mention	RCAHM Inventories	<4>
522	ST. JOSEPH, J. K. S.	1975	Merionethshire No.101 Towyn	Archaeology in Wales	P.71	Desc. Text & AP	Archaeology in Wales	<1>
522	CREW, P.	1992		Sketch Plan of Crop Marks from AP		Plan-sketches	Further Information File	<2>
522	Smith, G. & Hopwell, D.	2007		Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Monument Survey: Assessments of Monuments at Risk in an Agricultural Landscape - Ceremonial Monuments	G1629 Report 663	Desc. Text	Trust Report	<5>
522	Smith, G. & Hopwell, D.	2007		Archaeology in Wales	Vol. 47 p. 106	Desc. Text	Archaeology in Wales	<6>

Croes Faen (Cross Shaft), Stone E of Tywyn

PRN	1738	Site Type	CROSS
Form	Other Structure	Period	Unknown
NGR	SH59680154	Community	Tywyn
Status	Scheduled Ancient Monument	Status Ref	ME088

Description:

Site described: (not checked). <1>

A fine boulder of volcanic origin. A cross may have been incised on the broken fragment at the top, but it had no pedestal, it is simply sunk into the ground. It is traditionally said that this column was used formerly to rid the district of a fiery dragon. Has possibly been moved and then put back here. <2>

Info repeated. <3>

Hexagonal cross-shaft (length 1.2m width 0.5m), leaning now slightly to the SE. Appears to taper towards the base where it is much better prepared/carved. Top is very rough and uneven, and has appearance of being unfinished. Covered in lichen at top, though bottom has been used as a rubbing stone. Stands in rough grass in centre of a field of improved pasture. Visible from road. <4> DJT 15.9.88

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source Type	Collection	Bibref
1738				Cantref Meirionydd	P550	Desc. text		<1>
1738	Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments	1921		Merioneth	P168 NO.533 ILLUS FIG. 73	Desc. text	RCAHM Inventories	<2>
1738	Ordnance Survey	1974		SH50SE 5		Desc. text	National Archaeological Record Card	<3>
1738	THOMPSON, D.	1988		PRN 1738		Visit form	SMR	<4>
1738	SMITH, G.	2001		Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites Survey: Meirionydd	G1629 REP. NO. 415	Desc text	Trust Report	<6>

Domen Ddreiniog Castle Mound, Dyffryn Dysynni

PRN	1740	Site Type	Motte
Form	Earthwork	Period	Medieval
NGR	SH59690360	Community	Llanegryn
Status	Scheduled Ancient Monument	Status Ref	ME054

Summary:

Domen Ddreiniog is a motte on the western bank of the Dysynni. It is built from gravel from the surrounding area, and is also known as Tal y Bont. It has been suggested as a possible site for Hugh of Chester's castle in Meirionnydd in 1090, but is also thought to be of Welsh construction as it is the llys of the commote of Tal y bont. In 1275 Llewelyn ap Gruffydd wrote to the archbishops of York and Canterbury from Tal y bont, and Edward I was there in 1295. The top of the mound has been disturbed by digging, and while there are signs of a ditch, possibly 10m wide, all trace of a bailey has been lost as the field surrounding Domen Ddreiniog has been subject to ploughing for centuries.

Description:

Domen Ddreiniog. Dimensions of motte: diameters N+S 42ft, E+W 50ft. Height (max) 19ft. No counterscarp. <1> Tomen y Moreiniog, or as it is more usually called, Tal y Bont, is a conical mound on the bank of the Dysynni about a furlong below a very ancient bridge across the river. It is flat-topped with a diameter of 54ft across the summit and stands about 30ft high, wholly artificial and composed of gravel. There are faint indications of a ditch at its base, but the field is under plough and all traces of outworks are lost. Llywelyn addressed a letter from Tal y Bont in 1275 and Edward I was there in 1295. <2>

A castle mound within an encircling ditch, but no trace of a bailey. Ploughing has reduced the ditch to a shallow depression 8m deep and some 10m wide, which peters out on the river bank. <3>

Only a cursory visit but covered by mature trees and indications of considerable erosion problems. <4>

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source Type	Collection	Bibref
1740	HALPENNY, I.	2004		Me054 Domen Ddreiniog		Site visit	Further Information File	<7>

1740 KING, D. J. C.	1954	Field Notes	Mention	<1>
1740 HUGHES, H.	1875	Archaeologia Cambrensis	PP67-8	Mention Archaeologia Cambrensis <2>
1740 Ordnance Survey	1972	SH50SE 3	Mention	National Archaeological Record Card <3>
1740 THOMPSON, D.	1988	PRN 1740	Visit form	Further Information File <4>
1740 BURNHAM, H.	1994	Domen Dreiniog	AM 107	Field Monument Warden Report <5>
1740 Cathcart King, D. J.	1983	Castellarium Anglicanum	Desc. Text	<8>

Incised Stone Sundial - Findspot, Ynysmaengwyn

PRN	1793	Site Type	SUNDIAL
Form	Other Structure	Period	Early-Medieval
NGR	SH59900230	Community	Tywyn
Status		Status Ref	

Summary:

When Ynysmaengwyn, near Tywyn, was demolished in 1986, an inscribed milestone was noted amongst the remains. It read, in eighteenth-century lettering, 'From / Towyn / I / Mile'. It was later noticed, however, that the stone was in fact an Early-Christian Monument which had been re-used as a milestone. The head of the stone had been badly damaged, possibly when it was incorporated into the wall of an outhouse at Ynysmaengwyn, and is now rounded. Although the top is missing, the incised lines of the lower edge of the sundial are still visible, and the central hole for the gnomon which cast the shadow on the dial remains in place. The stone is 2.6m tall and 34 cm wide. It is unlikely that the head of the sundial ever projected out as the other sides of the stone are plain. Unusually, the radial lines divide the sundial into six periods of roughly two hours. It is more common for these lines to divide the dial into four three hour sections. Another unusual feature are two incised rings beneath the dial. It is not clear how these belong to either the functional or decorative schemes. A similar early sundial was discovered in Clynog Fawr, Caernarfonshire, and there have been a number of parallel monuments found in Ireland.

Description:

The C18 house known as Ynysmaengwyn (SH59920230) was burned down c.27.7.64: it had stood on the site of an earlier house. In c.April 1987, Thomas Lloyd (a Carmarthenshire antiquarian) reported to Cadw and RCAHM that a milestone (probably C18) bearing the words 'TYWYN 1 Mile' had appeared in the rubble of the above house - its original siting remains unknown. On closer inspection (?by the RCAHM) there appeared to be a sundial incased on the top - a parallel to the one at Clynog Fawr (PRN??). The stone seems to belong to the local council, & has been moved by Cadw workmen in to a secure shed on the caravan site. For information, contact Mr Bunden, Warden, on Towyn 710684. The town clerk, Mr. Emyr Jones, also has an interest in the matter & can supply information on the area etc (tel: 710345).

<1> <2>

Awaiting further details, drawing etc. from RCAHM. Above information repeated, with drawing & 1 of the Clynog Fawr stone for comparison. Detailed description too. <3> Dating information etc.

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source Type	Collection	Bibref
1793	PARKINSON, T.	1987		PRN 1793		Pers. comm.	SMR	<1>
1793	YATES, M.	1987		PRN 1793		Pers. comm.	SMR	<2>
1793	GWYN THOMAS, W.	1989	An Early Sundail from the Towyn Area	Archaeologia Cambrensis	PP 111-113, DRAWINGS 112	Mention	Archaeologia Cambrensis	<3>

Crop Marks, SE of Pen y Sarn, Bryn Crug

PRN	2260	Site Type	FEATURE
Form	Cropmark	Period	Unknown

NGR	SH60400342	Community	Bryn Crug
Status	Scheduled Ancient Monument	Status Ref	ME106

Description:

Cropmarks of a rath-like enclosure in the shape of a circle with a rectangular annexe attached. Not visible on RAF APs (RAF 106G/UK 1468/600g-11 4 5 46). <1>

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source	Type	Collection	Bibref
2260	ST. JOSEPH, J. K. S.	1975	No.101	Towyn Archaeology in Wales	15, P.71	AP		Archaeology in Wales	<1>

Tywyn Medieval Town

PRN	3197	Site Type	TOWN
Form	Buried Feature	Period	Medieval
NGR	SH58800080	Community	Tywyn
Status		Status Ref	

Summary:

Tywyn is a coastal settlement on Cardigan Bay north of the Dyfi estuary. Its origins lie in a monastery established by St Cadfan, a monk of Bardsey, in the 6th century. In 963 it was attacked by the Danes. The sources mention the name of an abbot in 1147. Parts of the present church of St Cadfan, notably the nave, aisles, and a section of the north transept, date from the 12th century, may well occupy the site of the original structure. There are two early funerary stones here, one within the church and the other in the graveyard. There was also a small chapel dedicated to St Cadfan at the north-eastern end of the churchyard which was demolished in the early 17th century. The saint's holy well lies immediately to the north-west, where there is now a builder's yard. The town is likely to have originated in a cluster of cottages in the shadow of the church. The 'villa de Tewyn in Merennnyth' is recorded in 1283, but 10 years later there were only nine taxpayers, and although there would also have been others exempt from payment, the total population was obviously small. The town had a viable economic existence, however, with a market every Friday, and tolls in the late 13th century amounted to 13s. 4d. a year. The medieval town was probably situated in the area of St Cadfan's church and Corbett Square, which represents the early market-place. According to the Tithe Map of 1841, the area took the form of an elongated triangle with the apex on the western side at the junction of College Green and National Street, and the eastern area bounded by Maengwyn Street, Brook Street, and Frankwell Street." Photographs from the late 19th century show a concentration of old cottages here, since demolished, while there were also a number of almshouses at the junction of National Street and Frankwell Street, which were only recently removed. There are no indications of any defences. In 1420 the 'villa de Townen' was valued at 60s, much of which derived from the market and fairs, and the settlement itself was of little significance with few houses. As late as 1820 a traveller was able to note that 'as a town . . . it is hardly worthy of an appellation so lofty, and as for streets it has none merely lanes'. The place remained small until the arrival of the railway and the development of the tourist industry which has seen the modern town expand westwards towards the sea and away from the church and the area of the early settlement. Tywyn is a coastal settlement on Cardigan Bay north of the Dyfi estuary. Its origins lie in a monastery established by St Cadfan, a monk of Bardsey, in the 6th century. In 963 it was attacked by the Danes. The sources mention the name of an abbot in 1147. Parts of the present church of St Cadfan, notably the nave, aisles, and a section of the north transept, date from the 12th century, may well occupy the site of the original structure. There are two early funerary stones here, one within the church and the other in the graveyard. There was also a small chapel dedicated to St Cadfan at the north-eastern end of the churchyard which was demolished in the early 17th century. The saint's holy well lies immediately to the north-west, where there is now a builder's yard.

Description:

See Jones and Soulsby 1977 (<1>).

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source	Type	Collection	Bibref
3197	JONES, D. & SOULSBY, I.	1977		Historic Towns in Merioneth Archaeological Implications of Redevelopment		Desc. text			<1>
3197	SOULSBY, I.	1983		The Towns of Medieval Wales	P 259-261	Desc. text			<2>

Cynfal Fach (Placename), Bryn Crug

PRN	3414	Site Type	PLACE NAME
Form	Placename	Period	Early-Medieval
NGR	SH61000100	Community	Bryn Crug
Status		Status Ref	

Description:

This site is not among those listed in the lay subsidy roll of 1293 however the compilers of Atlas Meirionnydd have included it on a Tref whose site is known (presumably from the association with Castell Cynfal PRN 3817). The valley is called Nant Cynfal, the near by hill slope Cynfal Fach and the farm Cynfal Farm. Presumably the tref is to be located in the area. However as the tref does not appear in the lay subsidy its size cannot be known and the reasons for its identification as a tref needs further explanation. <1>

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other Source Type	Collection	Bibref
3414	BOWEN, G.	1972		Atlas Meirionnydd	P41 Desc. text		<1>

Castell Cynfal (C12th), S of Bryn crug

PRN	3817	Site Type	Castle
Form	Earthwork	Period	Medieval
NGR	SH61490160	Community	Bryn Crug
Status	Scheduled Ancient Monument	Status Ref	ME121

Summary:

A motte created by digging a deep ditch around the upper part of a small hill. The castle is known to have been built by Cadwaladr ap Gruffudd in 1147 and occupies a strong position on a ridge overlooking the Dysynni estuary. It is reputed to have been besieged by the sons of Owain Gwynedd, Cadwaladr's brother, and the keep is described by the poet Cynddelw falling down in flames.

Description:

Castle mound. <1>

A large artificial mound at the N extremity of Cwm Cynfal which was fortified by Cadwaladr ap Gruffudd, lord of Meirionnydd in 1147 and taken and demolished in that year. <2>

Cynfal: steep sided low motte rock-cut ditch and rim bank - small plateau may mark bailey. <3>

Castell Cynfel occupied a rocky knoll rendered a natural stronghold by the valleys of two small brooks. The mound is about 15ft high and 60ft diameter across the top which includes a low bank of earth about 10ft broad and 4ft high, crowning the slope. The surrounding rock-cut ditch is 12ft wide and 6ft deep. Beyond the ditch to the E and W the ground slopes away naturally, but to the N and S are the two ends of the ridge, at a lower level than the mound and cut off from it by ditch. As early as 1145, Howell and Conan, sons of Owen Gwynedd, attacked the castle of Cynvael which Cadwaladr, their uncle, had built and fortified. It was defended by the abbot of Ty Gwyn, who refused to surrender until the walls had been beaten down. <4>

No trace of bailey. <5>

Circular feature, about 6.0m diameter, ?hut circle. <6>

(Area SH 642009) Two circular features 4.0m and 8.0m diameter respectively. <7>

A low motte with a depression in the top 1.0m deep: this still leaves the interior level some 2.0m above the natural. The suggestion that there was a bailey attached had no evidence to support it. Published 1:2500 revised. <8>

No trace of antiquity could be seen in the area of these features which occur on a steep S-facing slope. They may be identified with some circular patches of reeds. <9>

Situated on a rocky knoll at the end of a mountain spur falling to the NW, this motte has an overall diameter of 42m and is up to 5m high. It is surrounded by a rock-cut ditch, 3m wide and 1m deep. A depression in the top of the mound is up to 1m deep. There is no trace of masonry, nor is there any evidence of a bailey. <10>

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source	Collection	Bibref
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		Title		Type	
3817 KING, D. J. CATHCART	1983	Castellarium Anglicanum	P.278	Mention	<14>
3817 Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments	1921	Inventory of Ancient Monuments of Merioneth	NO.535, P.168	Desc text	<2>
3817 Ordnance Survey	1964	SH60SW		Map	6 INCH <1>
3817 RENN, D. F.	1968	Norman Castles	p.162	Mention	<3>
3817 GTC	1875	Moated Mounds	Archaeologia Cambrensis P.66-7	Mention	Archaeologia Cambrensis <4>
3817 RAF	1946	106G/UK 1450/3007-8		AP	RAF <5>
3817 RAF	1946	106G/UK 1468/2013-4		AP	RAF <6>
3817 RAF	1958	F21/58/2469/0155-6		AP	RAF <7>
3817 Ordnance Survey	1972	SH60SW 1		Site Visit	National Archaeological Record Card <8>
3817 Ordnance Survey	1977	SH60SW 1		Site Visit	National Archaeological Record Card <9>
3817 Ordnance Survey	1977	SH60SW 1		Site Visit	National Archaeological Record Card <10>

Tomen Cil y Parc, Tumulus/Motte - Site of, Dysynni

PRN	3820	Site Type	BARROW
Form	Earthwork	Period	Unknown
NGR	SH61020253	Community	Tywyn
Status		Status Ref	

Description:

Tomen Cil y Parc; a mound which has possibly become misshapen measuring 34ft north to south by 18ft east to west. 'Swords' are said to have been found in it. Visited by the Commissioners in 1914. <1>

Nothing visible on available APs. <2>

The site lies in pasture on the summit of a widespread minor hillock on the flood plain of the river Dysynni. There is no trace of the feature referred to, or of a barrow. <3>

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source Type	Collection	Bibref
3820	Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments	1921		Inventory of Ancient Monuments of Merioneth	P.166, NO.530	Desc text	RCAHM Inventories	<1>
3820	RAF	1946		RAF/106G/UK 1468/2008		AP	RAF	<2>
3820	Ordnance Survey	1977		SH60SW 4		Site Visit	National Archaeological Record Card	<3>
3820	SMITH, G.	2001		Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites Survey: Meirionnydd	G1629 REP. NO. 415	Desc text	Trust Report	<4>

Quernstone - Findspot, Bryn y Ffynnon

PRN	3823	Site Type	FINDSPOT
Form	Find Only	Period	Prehistoric
NGR	SH61860364	Community	Bryn Cryg

Status**Status Ref****Description:**

The upper half of a rotary quern was found in 1969 in loose rubble between Bryn-y-ffynnon farmhouse and adjacent outbuildings. It is made of pale blue-grey dolerite. The dating is uncertain and could be within the pre-Roman to medieval period. In the possession of Mr. B. A. Taylor of Bron-y-ffynnon, Tywyn. <1>

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source Type	Collection	Bibref
3823	DANCER, A. M.	1970	A Quern Stone from Bryn Crug	Journal of the Merionethshire Historical and Record Society	VOL. VI PT.2 P.132-33	Desc. text	Journal of the Merionethshire Historical and Record Society	<1>

Stone Tool - Findspot, Fach-goch

PRN	3824	Site Type	FINDSPOT
Form	Find Only	Period	Prehistoric
NGR	SH60700150	Community	Bryn Cryg
Status		Status Ref	

Description:

Stone chisel. A stone chisel was found while drawing a meadow at Fach-goch (SH607015) in 1909. Length 12 1/2ins, width cutting end 4 1/2ins, opposite end 1 1/4ins. In the possession of Haydn Jones, Towyn. <1>

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other Source	Collection	Bibref
3824	ANWYL, E.	1909	Archaeological Notes and Queries: Pantyneuadd	Archaeologia Cambrensis	9:162 Mention	Archaeologia Cambrensis	<1>

Stone Axe - Findspot, Y Fach-goch

PRN	4339	Site Type	FINDSPOT
Form	Find Only	Period	Prehistoric
NGR	SH60720158	Community	Tywyn
Status		Status Ref	

Description:

The axe found at Y fach-goch, near Towyn, in about 1908, was kept at Pant-y-neuadd, where it was seen by Miss L. F. Chitty as recently as 1929. It was a very large example. <1>

A fine stone (chert) celt, 12ins long 4ins maximum breadth, and 2.5ins thick, was found some years ago in a field near Pant y neuadd. The cutting edge is perfect, but there is a slight fracture of the butt-end. <2>

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other Source	Collection	Bibref
4339	GRESHAM & BOWEN	1967		History of Merioneth	P 27, 28	Desc. text	<1>
4339	Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments	1921		Merionnydd	NO 556 Desc. text	RCAHM Inventories	<2>

Ynysmaengwyn Gardens, Tywyn

PRN	4433	Site Type	GARDEN
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Form	Document	Period	Post-Medieval
NGR	SH59900230	Community	Tywyn
Status		Status Ref	

Description:

Large mansion, mid-C18th. Destroyed by fire 1964. Sundail from garden - see PRN 1793. <3>

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other Source Type	Collection	Bibref
4433	WHITTLE, E.	1991	Provisional Cadw Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales (Gwynedd)	Welsh Historic Gardens Trust	List	Welsh Historic Gardens Trust	<1>
4433	OWEN, L.	1988		PRN 4795	Mention	Further Information File	<2>
4433	THOMPSON, D.	1987		PRN 1793	Mention	Further Information File	<3>

Ynysmaengwyn House - Site of, E of Tywyn

PRN	4795	Site Type	HOUSE
Form	Building - Ruined	Period	Post-Medieval
NGR	SH59920230	Community	Tywyn
Status		Status Ref	

Description:

A mid C18th house built of ashlar, of two storeys with two wings. One wing was built in 1730. Grade 2. <1>
Destroyed by fire c.27-7-64. <2>

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source Type	Collection	Bibref
4795	DOE	1950		Listing Information - Meirionydd	TOWYN UD	Mention		<1>
4795	Ordnance Survey	1978		SH50SE 19		Mention	National Archaeological Record Card	<2>

St. Cadfan's Inscribed Stone, Tywyn Church

PRN	4798	Site Type	INSCRIBED STONE
Form	Other Structure	Period	Early-Medieval
NGR	SH58820095	Community	Tywyn
Status		Status Ref	

Description:

St. Cadfan's stone is a tall, quadrangular pillar stone fractured in two pieces, of C7th - C9th date. Its importance lies in the fact that its inscription, on all four sides, is in Old Welsh, the oldest of its kind, proving the existence of Welsh as a language probably as far back as the C7th. <1> The stone was in use as a gate post at Bodtalog. <2> In 1761 it was moved to Towyn churchyard by Dr. Taylor. <3> It was noted by Lewis who stated that it was called St. Cadfan's stone and formerly stood erect in the churchyard covering the remains of the saint. <4> The stone now lies in Towyn church. The inscription reads: + CINGEN CELEN TRICET / NITANAM + TENGRUIN MALTE [C (?)] GU ADGAN ANTERUNC DUBUT MARCIAU MALT () (?) PE TUAR M [C] / ARTR (?) <5>

PRN Author	Year Article Title	Title	Other Source Type	Collection	Bibref
4798 LEWIS, S.	1842	Topographical Dictionary of Wales	p2	Mention	<4>
4798 Ordnance Survey	1979	SH50SE 7		Mention	National Archaeological Record Card <5>
4798 NASH-WILLIAMS, V. E.	1950	Early Christian Monuments of Wales	p 172	Mention	<1>
4798	1822	Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion	1 p 153	Mention	Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion <2>
4798 GOUGH	1806	Camden's Britannia	3 p 172	Mention	<3>
4798 Davies, W.	1982	Wales in the Early Middle Ages		Desc. text	<6>

Pillar Stone - Unlocated, Tywyn Church

PRN	4799	Site Type	STONE SETTING
Form	Document	Period	Early-Medieval
NGR	SH58820095	Community	Tywyn
Status		Status Ref	

Description:

Rough pillar stone reported in Towyn churchyard in the late C18th and now lost. Latin inscription (incomplete) in one line reading vertically upwards: PASCENT[I] C5th to early C6th. <1>

PRN Author	Year Article Title	Title	Other Source Type	Collection	Bibref
4799 Ordnance Survey	1965	SH50SE 8	Mention	National Archaeological Record Card	<1>

Stone Setting, Tywyn Churchyard

PRN	4800	Site Type	STONE SETTING
Form	Other Structure	Period	Unknown
NGR	SH58770094	Community	Tywyn
Status		Status Ref	

Description:

Stones in churchyard, four shown. <1>

No information encountered during ODR recording, but see SH50SE 8 which may refer. <2>

PRN Author	Year Article Title	Title	Other Source Type	Collection	Bibref
4800 Ordnance Survey	1968	SH50SE 9		Mention	National Archaeological Record Card <2>
4800 SMITH, G.	2001	Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites Survey: Meirionnydd	G1629 REP. NO. 415	Desc text	Trust Report <3>
4800 Ordnance Survey	1964	SH50SE		Map	6 INCH <1>

St. Cadfan's Wells - Holy Well, Site of, Tywyn

PRN	4801	Site Type	HOLY WELL
Form	Other Structure	Period	Unknown
NGR	SH58600102	Community	Tywyn
Status		Status Ref	

Description:

This well was 'much celebrated for the cure of rheumatism, scrofulous and cutaneous disorders.' It was made into two enclosed baths, with four attached dressing rooms and an attendant, but was later converted into a coach-house and stables, although the well could still be used. <1>

The building housing the baths was used as stables and coach-house and is now used to garage vehicles. I understand from local enquiries that the baths were filled in and covered over about 1895 and the water piped into the stream to the N of the building. <2>

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source Type	Collection	Bibref
4801	LEWIS, S.	1849		Topographical Dictionary of Wales	Vol 2 p 397	Mention		<1>
4801	Ordnance Survey	1968		SH50SE 10		Mention	National Archaeological Record Card	<2>

St. Cadfan's Chapel, Site of, Tywyn Churchyard

PRN	4804	Site Type	CHAPEL
Form	Building - Ruined	Period	Unknown
NGR	SH58830096	Community	Tywyn
Status		Status Ref	

Description:

A free chapel, with walls standing within living memory, stood in the NW of Towyn churchyard. <1> The site is still discernable. <2>

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source Type	Collection	Bibref
4804	GOUGH	1800		Camden's Britannia	Vol 3 p 172	Mention		<1>
4804	Ordnance Survey	1974		SH50SE 14		Mention	National Archaeological Record Card	<2>
4804			St. Cadfan's Church, Tywyn	PRN 4804	CHURCH PAMPHLET	Desc. Text	Further Information File	<3>
4804	Petts, D. & Turner, S.	2009	Early medieval Church Groups in Wales and Western England	The Archaeology of the Early Medieval Celtic Churches		Desc. text		<4>
4804	Davies, W.	1982		Wales in the Early Middle Ages		Desc. text		<5>

Cropmark, NW of Crynllwyn

PRN	4810	Site Type	FEATURE
Form	Cropmark	Period	Unknown
NGR	SH59190291	Community	Tywyn

Status**Status Ref****Description:**

Circular crop mark, c.11m diameter. <1>

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source Type	Collection	Bibref
4810	RAF	1946		RAF 106G/UK 1468/2005-6 4 5 46		AP	RAF	<1>
4810	SMITH, G.	2001		Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites Survey: Meirionnydd	G1629 REP. NO. 415	Desc text	Trust Report	<2>

Cropmark, N of Croes Faen

PRN	4811	Site Type	FEATURE
Form	Cropmark	Period	Unknown
NGR	SH59530197	Community	Tywyn
Status		Status Ref	

Description:

Circular crop mark, c.13m diameter. <1>

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source Type	Collection	Bibref
4811	RAF	1946		RAF106G/UK 1468/2006-7 4 5 46		AP	RAF	<1>
4811	SMITH, G.	2001		Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites Survey: Meirionnydd	G1629 REP. NO. 415	Desc text	Trust Report	<2>

Cropmark, N of Croes Faen

PRN	4812	Site Type	FEATURE
Form	Cropmark	Period	Unknown
NGR	SH59660181	Community	Tywyn
Status		Status Ref	

Description:

Circular cropmark, c.20m diameter. <1>

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source Type	Collection	Bibref
4812	RAF	1946		RAF 106G/UK 1450/3005-6 1 4 46		AP	RAF	<1>
4812	SMITH, G.	2001		Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites Survey: Meirionnydd	G1629 REP. NO. 415	Desc text	Trust Report	<2>

Hillfort - Graig Fach-goch, Tywyn

PRN	5568	Site Type	HILLFORT
Form	Document	Period	Prehistoric
NGR	SH60850115	Community	Tywyn

Status**Status Ref****Description:**

Apparently hitherto-unrecorded hillfort photographed by C. Musson, 9.5.89. Further investigation required. <1>

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source Type	Collection	Bibref
5568	MUSSON, C.	1989		PRN 5568		AP		<1>
5568	FASHAM, P.	1990		5568.2-9		Photograph		<2>

Cropmarks, N of Croes Faen

PRN	5798	Site Type	FEATURE
Form	Cropmark	Period	Unknown
NGR	SH59800184	Community	Tywyn

Status**Status Ref****Description:**

AP site: potentially important cropmark site. Perhaps a dark age cemetery, in view of the nearby early Christian monuments and St. Cadfan's supposed presence in the area. Or Iron Age cemetery? <1>

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source Type	Collection	Bibref
5798	MUSSON, C.	1995		PRN 5798	NO.955139-59	AP		<1>
5798	SMITH, G.	2001		Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites Survey: Meirionnydd	G1629 REP. NO. 415	Desc text	Trust Report	<2>

Tywyn Parish Church

PRN	7078	Site Type	CHURCH
Form	Building - Roofed	Period	Medieval
NGR	SH58820095	Community	Tywyn

Status**Status Ref****Summary:**

Tywyn parish church is dedicated to St. Cadfan and is located in the diocese of Bangor. The site of an early Clas church, the present C19th building is cruciform in plan and consists of a chancel, with a vestry on the north side, north and south transepts, a tower over the crossing, a nave with north and south aisles and a south porch. The design of the surviving C12th nave is unique in Gwynedd and of great importance. The cemetery is rectilinear and bounded by a stone wall; however curvilinear boundaries to the north may indicate an earlier outer boundary. In 1908 the south churchyard wall was rebuilt on a new alignment, and a lych gate built. The main entrance is via the lych gate south west of the church. The basic plan and dimensions of the present church are that of the medieval church, however only the nave and part of the masonry of the north transept remain from medieval times. In 1693 the central tower fell down, but was not replaced; instead a west tower was built over the west end of the nave in 1792. This was removed during the extensive restorations in 1884 by John Pritchard of Llandaff. The present tower, chancel and transepts also date to this time. The octagonal font is probably C14th in date, and there are two C14th effigies in niches in the north wall of the chancel and sanctuary. An inscribed stone of C8th-C9th date, known as the Cadfan stone, bears the earliest known inscription in Welsh and lies upright in the north aisle. There is a pillar stone with an incised cross on the outside south wall of the tower.

Description:

A central tower containing a chime of three bells with a tenor 28 1/4inch in diameter: Treble - MAY THE CHURCH FLOURISH 1759 (decoration) 26ins diameter 2 - CAST IN GLOCESTER BY ABEL RUDHALL 1759 (dec.) 26 1/4inch diameter Tenor - PROSPERITY TO THIS PARISH A (Bell) R 1759 (dec.) 28 1/4inch diameter These three bells were

supplied by Abel Rudhall 1759 and appear in the 1804 Rudhall bell list. The bells are at present hung dead and chimed with an Ellacombe apparatus installed by Taylors in 1958. Each bell has been quarter-turned, and each has lost its pair of single canons. In 1692 the original central tower collapsed and it was not until 1736 that another tower was built, this time over the west bay of the nave. Becoming unsafe in the C19th, it was taken down at the restoration of the church in 1881-84 and a new central tower built. The bells were then installed in the old frame. <7>

This site is that of an early Clas church, and the present building retains the nave and aisles of a 12th century church. It was described by the poet Llywelyn Fardd (mid 13th century) as "the glory of Meirionydd" with "three magnificent altars famed for miracles", the three altars were dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, St Peter and St Cadfan (Gresham n.d.). Initially a cruciform building, the medieval tower collapsed to be replaced by a west tower in the 18th century. The church was rebuilt to a cruciform plan in the 19th century. The nave with its 12th century aisles, arcades and clerestorey windows is unique in Gwynedd, and of great importance. The fittings, particularly the inscribed stone, but also the two effigies, are also important. A holy well formerly stood a short distance from the church. A rectilinear cemetery, bounded by a stone wall. It is surrounded by roads on the west and south sides, but encroached by buildings on the north and east. The interior is raised by some 1.5 - 2 m from the outside. The path on the south side has been lowered. The main entrance is through a lych gate (of 1908) south-west of the church. There are possible re-used stone mullions north-west of the church. A free-standing chapel is recorded as having stood in the north-west of the churchyard, although there is no sign of this now (OS Card SH50SE 14). Work carried out in 1908 (B/F/471) included re-building the south churchyard wall on a new alignment because of road widening, and building a new lych gate. The south side was curved prior to this straightening. A cruciform church of aisled nave, north and south transepts and chancel. With the exception of the nave the present church is largely modern, built in the 19th century to replace a former cruciform church with central tower of 12th century date. In 1692 the central tower fell down, but it was not rebuilt at that time; instead a west tower was built to replace it, over the west end of the nave. This was in turn taken down during the major re-building of 1884 (not 1848 as stated in RCAHWW). The nave is the only medieval part remaining. This, however, has north and south aisles of 12th century date. The arcades are of three bays (there were four before the construction of the 17th century tower), of plain circular piers without capitals, and semi-circular arches. On each side of the clerestorey are four small typical 12th century windows with rounded heads and deep interior splays; the east window on the north has been renewed. All the aisle windows are modern. The west wall with its triple lancet window is modern, but traces of the former 18th century tower are visible. The arch-braced roof of the nave is 14th century. The north arcade is supported by arched buttresses built out over the aisle, probably during the 17th century work. Glynne (1901, 141) describes the church before the 1884 restoration, where he states "the transepts open to the aisles by smaller arches than those in the nave, very low and small, but of like form," thereby confirming the 12th century date for the original transepts. The present tower, chancel and transepts were built in 1884 by the architect John Pritchard of Llandaff, when the 1792 tower was taken down and a new west wall built, excluding the previous fourth bay of the nave. A new south door was inserted. The aisle windows also date from this restoration. The chancel appears to have been built on the foundations of the former one (NLW B/F/469) Two early 14th century effigies, one an unnamed priest, the other an unnamed knight but traditionally that of Gruffydd ab Adda of Dolgoch, in modern niche's in the north wall of the chancel and sanctuary (Gresham 1968, 164-193). An inscribed stone of 7th to 9th century date bearing the earliest known inscription in Welsh (Nash-Williams 1950, 172), upright in the north aisle. On the outside of the south side of the tower a pillar stone with an incised cross. Octagonal font of probable 14th century date. The walls are of local rubble, with modern dressings. Modern slate roofs. The nave interior is plastered and whitewashed. The exterior of the church is pointed with good stone definition. <10>

PRN Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source Type	Collection	Bibref
7078 Glynne, Sir S. R.	1901	Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses	Archaeologia Cambrensis	pp 141 Vol Lvi	Mention	Archaeologia Cambrensis	<1>
7078 Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments	1921		Merioneth Inventory	pp 170	Desc. Text	RCAHM Inventories	<2>
7078 Crossley, F. H. & Ridgway, M. H.	1945	Screens & Lofts in Wales	Archaeologia Cambrensis	pp 182 Vol Xcviii	Mention	Archaeologia Cambrensis	<3>
7078 Gresham, C. A.	1968		Medieval Stone Carving in North Wales	pp 164-165 191-193	Mention		<4>
7078 Lunt, W. E. (ed)	1926		The Valuation of Norwich 1254	pp 196	Mention		<5>
7078 Nash-Williams, V. E.	1950		The Early Christian Monuments of Wales	pp 172	Mention		<6>
7078 Thomas, H.	1971	Some Features and Episodes in the History of St Cadfan'	Journal of the Merioneth Historical and Record Society	pp 227-231 Vol V	Mention	Journal of the Merioneth Historical and Record Society	<7>
7078 EISEL, J. C.	2005	The Church Bells	Journal of the	VOL. XIV	Desc.	Journal of the	<8>

		of Merioneth	Merioneth Historical and Record Society	PART IV, PP291-318	Text	Merioneth Historical and Record Society	
7078 PALMER, T.	2007	Egryn Stone: A Forgotten Welsh Free Stone	Archaeologia Cambrensis	VOL. 156 P.149ff	Mention	Archaeologia Cambrensis	<9>
7078 Davidson, A. & Ward, M.	1998		The Historic Churches Project	G1184	Desc Text	Trust Report	<10>

Tywyn Medieval Township

PRN	9866		Site Type	TOWNSHIP
Form	Document		Period	Medieval
NGR	SH58800120		Community	Tywyn
Status			Status Ref	

Description:

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source Type	Collection	Bibref
9866	Dane,C.	2000		Merionethshire Townships		List		<1>

Maenol Gadfan Medieval Township

PRN	9962		Site Type	TOWNSHIP
Form	Document		Period	Medieval
NGR	SH58600080		Community	Tywyn
Status			Status Ref	

Description:

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source Type	Collection	Bibref
9866	Dane,C.	2000		Merionethshire Townships		List		<1>

Cynfal Fach Medieval Township

PRN	9963		Site Type	TOWNSHIP
Form	Document		Period	Medieval
NGR	SH6160040		Community	Tywyn
Status			Status Ref	

Description:

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source Type	Collection	Bibref
9866	Dane,C.	2000		Merionethshire Townships		List		<1>

Bryncrug Medieval Township

PRN	9964	Site Type	TOWNSHIP
Form	Document	Period	Medieval
NGR	SH61100320	Community	Tywyn
Status		Status Ref	

Description:

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source Type	Collection	Bibref
9866	Dane,C.	2000		Merionethshire Townships		List		<1>

Ynys-maengwyn - Dovecote

PRN	11886	Site Type	BUILDING
Form		Period	Post-Medieval
NGR	SH59840234	Community	Bryn Crug
Status	Listed Building	Status Ref	5247

Description:

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source Type	Collection	Bibref
11886	Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments			Rc Buildings Records		ENDEX List		<1>

Ynysmaengwyn

PRN	12502	Site Type	BUILDING
Form		Period	Post-Medieval
NGR	SH59930230	Community	Bryn Crug
Status	Listed Building	Status Ref	

Description:

Mid 18th century, earlier site, 2 storey, main block flanked by quadrant shaped walls each of 5 arched bays, join side wings facing each other. Many pure 18th century features, rare in Wales. <1>

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source Type	Collection	Bibref
11886	Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments			Rc Buildings Records		ENDEX List		<1>

Slate Quarry, Cwm Cynfal

PRN	20400	Site Type	SLATE QUARRY
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Form				Period	Post-Medieval			
NGR		SH61400100		Community	Tywyn			
Status				Status Ref				
Description:								
PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source Type	Collection	Bibref
20400	DAVIDSON,A.			Slate Quarries Project	G1107	Trust project		<1>

Post Hole, Site of

PRN	24747	Site Type	POST HOLE
Form	Buried Feature	Period	Unknown
NGR	SH6146403140	Community	Bryn Crug
Status	Status Ref		
Description:			
This feature was 350mm in diameter and up to 460mm deep. It consisted of a tapering hole with a circular plan and a pointed base. The form of this feature would suggest it was the result of a pile (driven post) rather than a cut post-hole. It was filled by a clean pale grey clay. The date of the feature is not known, however it was sealed by at least 45mm of alluvium suggesting that it may be of some antiquity. <1>			

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source Type	Collection	Bibref
24747	Brooks, I. P.	2008	Penybont WTW Watching Brief	EAS 08/09 Desc. Text		Non-GAT Report	<1>	

Field Boundary, Possible, Bryn crug

PRN	29387	Site Type	FIELD BOUNDARY
Form	Buried Feature	Period	Unknown
NGR	SH6147803132	Community	Bryn Crug
Status	Status Ref		
Description:			
The Fluxgate Gradiometer survey was undertaken in advance of proposed works on the site. Anomaly A is a straight linear anomaly running approximately NE SW. In such it is roughly parallel to the modern field boundary along the road side and may represent the line of a field division. However it is possible that Anomaly A is the result of modern drainage. <1>			
The anomaly noted within the geophysical survey is within an area where only the topsoil was removed and thus the origins of the anomaly are not certain. <2>			

PRN	Author	Year	Article Title	Title	Other	Source Type	Collection	Bibref
29387	Brooks, I. P. & Laws, K.	2007	Penybont WTW Geophysical Survey	EAS 2007/11	Desc. Text	Non-GAT Report	<1>	
29387	Brooks, I. P.	2008	Penybont WTW Watching Brief	EAS 08/09	Desc. Text	Non-GAT Report	<2>	

Corbett Arms Hotel, Tywyn

PRN	29575	Site Type	HOTEL
Form	Building - Roofed	Period	Post-Medieval
NGR	SH58900095	Community	Tywyn
Status	Listed Building	Status Ref	

Description:

3 storeys and attic; 10-bay facade with pedimental gable over 2 centre bays; 8 hipped dormers; prominent stacks; sash windows. <1>

PRN	Author	Year Article Title	Title	Other Source Type	Collection Bibref
29575	Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments		Rc Buildings Records	ENDEX List	<1>

APPENDIX II

CADW Listed Buildings Information

Dovecote at Ynysmaengwyn

Listed Building Reference: 5247

Grade: II

Date Listed: 16/09/1992

Date Amended: 15/08/2000

Co-ordinates: 259816,302328

Locality: Bryn Crug

Community: Bryn Crug

Council: Gwynedd

National Park: Yes

Location

Ynysmaengwyn stood in its own grounds approximately half-way between Tywyn and Bryn Crug. The dovecote stands at the W end of the former estate buildings, W of the site of the demolished house, and near the entrance to the former walled garden.

History

Ynysmaengwyn was a fine brick house rebuilt for the Corbett family from 1758, some earlier C18 agricultural buildings being retained, the whole forming an exceptionally fine 'U'-plan group. The house, which had been left to the local authority, was neglected and demolished in 1964, the ballroom wing demolished as late as 1989. The dovecote was an addition to the estate made in the later C18.

Interior

The interior is lined with nest boxes constructed with brick, each tier separated by a slate flight ledge. The boxes are 20 high on three walls and 12 high on the entrance wall, totalling 864 nest boxes. The roof structure has been reconstructed in recent times, without a central potence.

Exterior

Built of local stone, the main front, facing E, of well coursed squared and tooled stone. The central arched opening has graded voussoirs, the opening later reduced to a single door. Irregular slate hipped roof, recently renewed, over a coved eaves course without gutters, rising to a central louvred Glover, with its own slated hipped roof.

Reason for Listing

Included as a well preserved C18 dovecote and a good example of this building type.

Bronwylfa

Listed Building Reference: 23908

Grade: II

Date Listed: 15/08/2000

Date Amended: 15/08/2000

Co-ordinates: 261053,302796

Locality: Bryn Crug

Community: Bryn Crug

Council: Gwynedd

National Park: Yes

Location

The house stands at the right-angled bend in the road in Pen Parc, the S end of Bryn Crug.

History

The house was probably built c1910-1915, and subsequently extended in a more economic style as a separate dwelling, Bryn-crug Cottage. The house is reminiscent of other buildings in the region designed by T Alwyn Lloyd.

Interior

Not accessible at the time of inspection.

Exterior

A house in an Arts & Crafts style. Pebbledashed and painted white, with slate roofs. Two storeys, extended later to the left as Bryn-crug Cottage. Asymmetrical composition consisting of a gabled left wing projecting forward, and a main NW-SE range, of which the first bay is infilled with a single storey section under an extension of the main roof, containing the entrance and hallway. Round-arched open porch on a splay, sheltering a boldly moulded door with a shaped glazed panel. The windows throughout consist of narrow lights with paned glazing, assembled as 5-light on the ground floor of the cross wing, with 4-light above, and 5-light to the hall, with a 3-light dormer with a

wide cornice in the long roof slope over. The end elevation has a canted flat-roofed bay window to the ground floor and a 5-light window over. There is a small canted bay window to the rear. Two rendered stacks, with yellow clayware pots.

Reason for Listing

Included as a largely unaltered house of the immediate pre-war period in a strong Arts & Crafts style, characterised by the clear expression of its plan, bold massing, simple plain surfaces and neo-vernacular detail.

Water lift pump on road to Penowern

Listed Building Reference: 23909

Grade: II

Date Listed: 15/08/2000

Date Amended: 15/08/2000

Co-ordinates: 260817,303117

Locality: Bryn Crug

Community: Bryn Crug

Council: Gwynedd

National Park: Yes

Location

The pump stands on the corner of the road to Penowern farm, and Ffordd-y-felin.

History

Erected probably in the mid-late C19 when a piped public water supply was brought to the village.

Exterior

Made of cast iron. A vertical fluted pipe rising to a Doric cap, and a spout with scrolled bucket hook, having a leaf like form at its junction with the main pipe. round bar iron handle hooked at its end. On the rising pipe, a lion rampant on an oval plate, reading in raised lettering Norton Hamar, the lower half obscured by the collar of an angled stay bar, added later. The pump has recently been painted.

Reason for Listing

Included as a well preserved C19 water pump, one of a group of such pumps in the area, an interesting example of a public amenity, unusual in a rural area.

Water lift pump at Rhyd-yr-onen

Listed Building Reference: 23907

Grade: II

Date Listed: 15/08/2000

Date Amended: 15/08/2000

Co-ordinates: 261590,302170

Locality: Bryn Crug

Community: Bryn Crug

Council: Gwynedd

National Park: Yes

Location

The pump stands beside the K6 telephone kiosk and post box in the hamlet of Rhyd-yr-onen, opposite Y Barclud, one of a row of 5 small cottages.

History

Probably erected later in the C19 when piped water was first introduced to the village.

Exterior

Cast iron lift pump, with a 10.16cm (4") diameter pipe with strengthening bands ascending to a widened and fluted top chamber, to which is attached a double curved arm and handle. The discharge pipe, at the head of the ascending pipe, has a scroll-shaped bucket hook. On the side of the chamber, a registration number and the manufacturer's badge on the shaft, surmounted by a lion crest, possibly for Norton Hamar, or the Lion Foundry of Kirkentilloch, Scotland, the manufacturer of the adjoining kiosk. The pump is steadied by two stay bars and a collar, and has been recently painted.

Reason for Listing

Included as a well-preserved village pump, one of a group of such pumps in the community, an interesting example of a public amenity, unusual in a rural area.

Geufron

Listed Building Reference: 23911

Grade: II

Date Listed: 15/08/2000

Date Amended: 15/08/2000

Co-ordinates: 261730,303667

Locality: Bryn Crug

Community: Bryn Crug

Council: Gwynedd

National Park: Yes

Location

Geufron farm is perched on the S facing slope of Foel Wylt, NE of Bryn Crug village, and is reached by a farm road off the B4405.

History

The farm is set on a platform cut in the hillside, and is probably of C18 origin, altered in the C19 with detail associated with estate work, perhaps that of the Peniarth estate.

Interior

Not accessible at the time of inspection.

Exterior

The building is of local stone rubble, with an old slate roof. Two storeys. It consists of a main 3-bay structure, the centre bay brought forward and gabled, to which is added a gabled porch. An added one-storey and attic service wing extends in line to the left, with further outbuildings. The gabled porch has a part-glazed door with label hood over, painted black. Four-paned horned sash window to the first floor with a similar drip mould over, and small roof vents in the gable. Bays each side of the centre bay, that to the left longer and probably incorporating the major living room. Both have similar 4-paned sash windows to each floor, those to the upper floor rise into small gables, also with hood moulds. Part external stack on the E gable end with a hexagonal stone flue. Similar stack at the W gable end now incorporated into the lower service wing, which has a modern stack.

Reason for Listing

Included as a prominent and well preserved farmhouse, vernacular in plan and materials, but with detail characteristic of C19 estate work.

Haybarn at Geufron

Listed Building Reference: 23891

Grade: II

Date Listed: 15/08/2000

Date Amended: 15/08/2000

Co-ordinates: 261761,303646

Locality: Bryn Crug

Community: Bryn Crug

Council: Gwynedd

Location

Geufron farm is perched on the S facing slope of Foel Wylt, NE of Bryn Crug village, and is reached by a farm road off the B4405.

History

Probably built by the Peniarth Estate in the mid to later C19 .

Interior

Softwood tie beam trusses with raking struts, supporting two tiers of purlins and the soffit of the roof is torched. Vertical iron bolts tie the foot of each principal rafter to the tie beam.

Exterior

Built of small slate rubble laid in lime, with a slate roof. Three bays, tall rectangular piers between end gable walls. The N gable wall has a pitching opening, and 5 slit vents in the S gable end wall.

Reason for Listing

Included as a fine C19 open-sided hay barn built within the local tradition

Water lift pump at Pen Parc

Listed Building Reference: 23906
Grade: II
Date Listed: 15/08/2000
Date Amended: 15/08/2000
Co-ordinates: 261071,302789
Locality: Bryn Crug
Community: Bryn Crug
Council: Gwynedd
National Park: Yes

Location

Pen Parc is at the S end of Bryn Crug village. The pump stands in a purposely formed stone-built recess in the retaining bank of the road to Rhyd-yr-onen.

History

Erected probably in the mid-late C19 when a piped public water supply was brought to the village.

Exterior

Cast iron lift pump, with a 4-in diameter pipe ascending to a widened and fluted top chamber, to which is attached a long curved handle with an acorn terminal. The discharge pipe, at the head of the ascending pipe, has a scroll-shaped bucket hook. On the side of the pipe, the manufacturer's badge surmounted by a lion. The pump is steadied by two stay bars and a collar. Recently painted.

Reason for Listing

Included as a well-preserved C19 pump, one of a group of such pumps in the community, an interesting example of a public amenity, unusual in a rural area.

Grave of Mary Jones

Listed Building Reference: 23899
Grade: II
Date Listed: 15/08/2000
Date Amended: 15/08/2000
Co-ordinates: 261024,303334
Locality: Bryn Crug
Community: Bryn Crug
Council: Gwynedd
National Park: Yes

Location

In the graveyard behind Capel Bethlehem, in the centre of Bryn Crug.

History

The grave is of Mary Jones, well-known for her epic walk from Llanfihangel to Bala in 1800 when she was 16 to obtain a Welsh language Bible from the Revd Thomas Charles, the eminent Methodist preacher, an event leading eventually to the formation of the British and Commonwealth Bible Society.

Exterior

The headstone is in granite, by R R Davies of Tywyn, with a gabled head. It has a rope margin and is engraved with a floral band at the head, and a long inscription in both Welsh and English to the memory of Mary Jones, recording her epic walk in 1800 to acquire a personal copy of the Bible. It is set on an inscribed plinth stone, recording that it was set up by the Merionethshire Sunday Schools members, probably c1920. It is surrounded by cast iron railings with knob and fleur terminals enclosing a further headstone by R O set flat, to Mary, widow of Thomas Lewis, a weaver of Bryn Crug, d.1864.

Reason for Listing

Included as a memorial to a young woman whose single pious act has stood as a landmark in the history of Non-conformity in Wales.

Mile Marker

Listed Building Reference: 23895
Grade: II
Date Listed: 15/08/2000
Date Amended: 15/08/2000
Co-ordinates: 260889,303322
Locality: Bryn Crug
Community: Bryn Crug

Council: Gwynedd
National Park: Yes

Location

Set into the roadside wall, c30m S of the bridge over the Nant-Rhyd-yr-Onen, in the centre of the village.

History

The cast iron mile markers along the road from Dolgellau to Tywyn were erected by the turnpike trust in c1827.

Exterior

Cast iron mile marker consisting of a shaft of open-backed triangular section, bracketed at the foot, with bead edge strengthening, widening at the top, with a splayed top gusset. On each side face of the upper part raised sans-serif lettering reading, on the left, DOLGELLEY / 17, and on the right, TOWYN / 2.

Reason for Listing

Included as one of a largely complete series of mile markers erected by the Turnpike Trust at the time of considerable improvements to rural roads in W Meirionnydd in c1827 when the toll booths were erected.

Ty'n-y-winllan

Listed Building Reference: 23890
Grade: II
Date Listed: 15/08/2000
Date Amended: 15/08/2000
Co-ordinates: 260787,303365
Locality: Bryn Crug
Community: Bryn Crug
Council: Gwynedd
National Park: Yes

Location

Ty'n-y-winllan is a row of 6 terrace cottages on the S side of the road leaving Bryn Crug for Llanegryn. No 6 is at the W end, directly on to the road.

History

The house was built in the early-mid C19 as part of a terrace of small village houses. It later became the adult home of Mary Jones of Llanfihangel-y-pennant, the simple country girl who walked to Bala in 1800 to obtain a Welsh language bible, and who later became a symbol of the desire of ordinary folk for direct access to the sources of religious knowledge, a movement which resulted in the British and Foreign Bible Society. After her death in 1872 she was buried in the graveyard of Bethlehem Chapel, Bryn Crug.

Exterior

The house is built of stone and roughcast, with smooth rendered pilasters and bands. Slate roof. Two storeys, 3 window bays, with a symmetrical front, extended to the right by a lean-to. Four-panelled door with raised mouldings. Sixteen-paned sash windows either side of the front door on the ground floor, and 12-paned above.

Reason for Listing

Included as a village house of strong C19 character, and particularly for its association as the adult home of Mary Jones.

Maengwyn Street, 18

Listed Building Reference: 84528
Grade: II
Date Listed: 24/06/2005
Date Amended: 24/06/2005
Co-ordinates: 258941,300951
Locality: Tywyn
Community: Tywyn
Council: Gwynedd
National Park: No

Location

In a terrace of houses fronting the street.

History

An early C19 house shown on the 1841 Tithe map.

Interior

Not inspected.

Exterior

A 2-storey 2-window terraced house of pebble-dashed painted peach, slate roof in the same range as No 19, with shared stone and roughcast stack to the R. Openings have smooth-rendered surrounds with shallow pediments. To the R of centre the entrance has a replacement door. Windows are 4-pane horned sashes in the lower storey, and 12-pane hornless sashes in the upper storey.

Reason for Listing

Listed for its special architectural interest as a town house retaining definite early C19 character, and for its contribution with other buildings in Corbet Square, Red Lion Street and Maengwyn Street, to the historical integrity of the old town centre.

Corbett Arms Hotel

Listed Building Reference: 4643

Grade: II

Date Listed: 30/03/1951

Date Amended: 24/06/2005

Co-ordinates: 258907,300953

Locality: Tywyn

Community: Tywyn

Council: Gwynedd

National Park: No

Location

A prominent building occupying the whole of the E side of Corbet Square opposite the church.

History

An early C19 hotel, originally of 6 bays. It is mentioned as the town's principal hotel in 1833 and is shown on the 1841 Tithe map, on the estate of John Corbet of Ynysmaengwyn. In 1900 (date on building) it was enlarged by adding a further 4 bays, remodelling the original bays and rebuilding the roof to accommodate an attic storey.

Interior

The entrance lobby has a polished-slate fireplace surround. On the L side is a dining room with panelled cross beams on consoles. An axial corridor behind it leads to the early C20 open-well stair, which has moulded square newels and turned balusters. General features include panelled reveals incorporating lozenge panels. Another dining room, in the extension of 1900, also has panelled cross beams on consoles and panelled reveals.

Exterior

A hotel in late-Georgian style of 10 bays and 3 storeys and attic, of scribed roughcast painted cream, slate roof on deep bracketed eaves, and brick stacks to the front roof slope. Openings are not quite symmetrical. They are grouped 4+6 bays, with the original part of the hotel on the R side and the extension of 1900 on the L. The R-hand has rusticated quoins. The L-hand has rock-faced quoins. Windows are horned sashes with 12-panes in the upper sash and 2 panes in the lower sash. Lower and upper-storey windows have moulded cornices. The middle storey has bracketed cornices with alternate segmental and triangular pediments. The 2 central bays have similar pediments to the upper-storey windows, beneath a gable bearing a coat of arms and a pediment on consoles which is inscribed 'JC 1900AD'. The main entrance is in the 9th bay, and has a C20 glazed porch under a hipped slate roof. The 4th bay also incorporates a panelled door and overlight, under a cornice linked with the window immediately to its L. There are 8 roof dormers with segmental pediments and 16-pane horned sash windows. The R gable end is asymmetrical. On the L side it has sash windows in the middle and upper storeys, of small-panes upper sashes over 2-pane lower sashes. On the R side of the apex are 2 windows in each storey, all sashes similar to the front except for a 2-light inserted window in the lower storey. A 1-bay rear extension has similar windows. The L gable end is of rock-faced stone. It has an added brick stack, small-pane sashes and inserted windows. In the rear elevation the 4 added bays are of snecked rock-faced stone with lighter quoins. Sash windows and dormers are similar to the front. Alternate bays have 2-storey canted bay windows. The centre has a gabled brick stair projection, to which a conservatory has been added. Set back further L the wall is also of rock-faced stone and the return wall of the rear extension, of rubble stone, with windows similar to the front.

Reason for Listing

Listed for its special architectural interest as a prominent building of definite and striking architectural character, its 2 phases representing the development of Tywyn as a resort in the C19, and for its contribution with other buildings in Corbet Square, Red Lion Street and Maengwyn Street, to the historical integrity of the old town centre.

Maengwyn Street, 6

Listed Building Reference: 4645
Grade: II
Date Listed: 30/03/1951
Date Amended: 24/06/2005
Co-ordinates: 258941,300935
Locality: Tywyn
Community: Tywyn
Council: Gwynedd
National Park: No

Location

In a terrace of houses fronting the street.

History

Dated 1832 and one of 3 terraced houses roofed under the same range. It is shown on the 1841 Tithe map. Facade detail is later C19.

Interior

Not inspected.

Exterior

A 2-storey 2-window terraced house of pebble-dashed front with slate roof on overhanging eaves, shared stone stack to the R and replacement C20 shared blue-brick stack to the L. The front has smooth-rendered surrounds with shallow pediments, and smooth-rendered pilaster strips to the ends. Openings are offset to the R. The entrance on the R side has a replacement glazed door under a plain overlight. To its L, and in the upper storey, are 2-pane sash windows, horned in the lower storey, hornless in the upper storey. Below the sill of the upper R-hand window is a stone tablet inscribed 'Built by Richard Owens ... 1832'.

Reason for Listing

Listed for its special architectural interest as an early C19 small terraced house retaining definite C19 character, and for its contribution with other buildings in Corbet Square, Red Lion Street and Maengwyn Street, to the historical integrity of the old town centre.

Maengwyn Street, 7

Listed Building Reference: 4646
Grade: II
Date Listed: 30/03/1951
Date Amended: 24/06/2005
Co-ordinates: 258947,300937
Locality: Tywyn
Community: Tywyn
Council: Gwynedd
National Park: No

Location

In a terrace of houses fronting the street.

History

Probably built in 1832, the date on the adjoining house, which is roofed under the same range. The house is shown on the 1841 Tithe map.

Interior

Not inspected.

Exterior

A 2-storey 2-window house of pebble-dashed front, slate roof on overhanging eaves, with blue-brick stack to the R, and roughcast stack to the L. Openings are offset to the R and have smooth-rendered surrounds with shallow pediments. Door and windows are all replacements in original openings.

Reason for Listing

Listed, notwithstanding alteration of windows, for its contribution to a short row of early C19 terraced houses retaining definite architectural character, and for its contribution with other buildings in Corbet Square, Red Lion Street and Maengwyn Street, to the historical integrity of the old town centre.

Corbet Square, 5

Listed Building Reference: 84531
Grade: II

Date Listed: 24/06/2005
Date Amended: 24/06/2005
Co-ordinates: 258836,300915
Locality: Tywyn
Community: Tywyn
Council: Gwynedd
National Park: No

Location

Fronting the street opposite the parish church.

History

Built in the second half of the C19, part of the expansion of Tywyn following the arrival of the railway in 1863. The house is shown on the 1889 Ordnance Survey. From the inscription on the front it appears to have subsequently been a bank, while faded paint suggests it was later a hotel.

Interior

Not inspected.

Exterior

A 3-storey 3-bay house of scribed roughcast, slate roof behind a parapet on a moulded cornice, and a roughcast stack to the L. Openings are offset to the R side. In the lower storey the entrance is in the L-hand bay, and has a moulded surround to a recessed panel door and overlight. To its L is a segmental-headed passage doorway with replacement doors. Windows are 4-pane horned sashes in moulded architraves, also with a sill band in the middle storey. Between middle and upper storeys is a sign 'bank' in raised letters. The rear has replacement windows.

Reason for Listing

Listed for its special architectural interest as a town house retaining definite C19 character, and for its contribution with other buildings in Corbet Square, Red Lion Street and Maengwyn Street, to the historical integrity of the old town.

Lych gate at church of St Cadfan

Listed Building Reference: 84542
Grade: II
Date Listed: 24/06/2005
Date Amended: 24/06/2005
Co-ordinates: 258813,300922
Locality: Tywyn
Community: Tywyn
Council: Gwynedd
National Park: No

Location

On the S side of the church, attached to the churchyard wall.

History

Built in 1908.

Exterior

A lych gate of battered snecked stone walls with freestone quoins and dressings, and graded slate roof. Round arches have 2 narrow openings above them. Inside are double-iron gates and narrow benches beneath a corbelled roof.

Reason for Listing

Listed for its contribution to the historical integrity of the parish church and of the old town centre.

Somerset House and house adjoining to its L

Listed Building Reference: 84547
Grade: II
Date Listed: 24/06/2005
Date Amended: 24/06/2005
Co-ordinates: 258880,300920
Locality: Tywyn
Community: Tywyn
Council: Gwynedd
National Park: No

Location

Fronting the street on the corner of Maengwyn Street and Red Lion Street.

History

Built in the late C19 and shown on the 1889 Ordnance Survey.

Interior

Not inspected.

Exterior

A pair of 3-storey double-fronted town houses with shops in the Georgian tradition, of pebble-dashed walls, slate roof and thin roughcast end stacks. In the lower storey Somerset House has a panelled door, a small-pane former shop window to its L and 12-pane sash window to its R. The house on the L side has a central double-leaf panel door flanked by a 6-pane shop windows. In both houses the windows in the middle and upper storeys are small-pane horned sashes, except for a small sash window above the entrance to the L-hand house, which retains its 4-pane upper sash but with the lower sash removed and boarded over. Upper-storey windows break through the eaves and are beneath gables.

Reason for Listing

Listed for its contribution with other buildings in Corbet Square, Red Lion Street and Maengwyn Street, to the historical integrity of the old town centre and for its special architectural interest as a town house retaining definite C19 character

White Hall Hotel

Listed Building Reference: 84548

Grade: II

Date Listed: 24/06/2005

Date Amended: 24/06/2005

Co-ordinates: 258873,300927

Locality: Tywyn

Community: Tywyn

Council: Gwynedd

National Park: No

Location

On the corner of Corbet Square and Red Lion Street.

History

Listed as a hotel in a directory of 1868 (although architectural detail suggests a later C19 date) and built during the expansion of Tywyn following the arrival of the railway in 1863.

Interior

Not inspected.

Exterior

A late Georgian style 3-storey 6-bay hotel of whitened scribed roughcast, slate roof and central roughcast stack. The lower storey has rusticated quoins to a first-floor sill band. Lower-storey openings have moulded architraves. In the window to the R of the entrance in the first bay and in the 5th bay they have shouldered cambered heads with faceted keystones. Entrances are a half-glazed panel door and overlight with leaded glazing in the 1st bay, and double glazed doors (with glazing inserted into original moulded lower panels) and overlight in the 5th bay. Lower-storey windows are 4-pane sashes, of which the lower sash has leaded glazing, with cast-iron grilles. The middle and upper storeys have 4-pane sash windows, shorter in the upper storey. The L gable end has window has rusticated quoins and first-floor sill band, similar to the front. On the R side is a half-glazed door under an overlight with leaded glazing, and on the L side a 4-pane sash window with leaded glazing to the lower sash. In the middle storey is a single 4-pane sash window in moulded architrave, and in the upper storey a shorter 4-pane sash window.

Reason for Listing

Listed for its special architectural and historic interest as a C19 hotel, one of a number built in the second half of the C19 following Tywyn's connection with the railway network, and for its contribution with other buildings in Corbet Square, Red Lion Street and Maengwyn Street, to the historical integrity of the old town centre.

Outbuilding at rear of The Vicarage

Listed Building Reference: 84546

Grade: II

Date Listed: 24/06/2005
Date Amended: 24/06/2005
Co-ordinates: 258861,300799
Locality: Tywyn
Community: Tywyn
Council: Gwynedd
National Park: No

Location

Behind, on the S side of the house.

History

Probably contemporary with the Vicarage and shown on the 1841 Tithe map.

Interior

The stable at the R end has a partly cobbled floor. The laundry immediately next to it retains the base of a former boiler. The unit at the L end, of uncertain original use although probably a stable, also has a cobbled floor. The rear is built into a bank.

Exterior

A lofted outbuilding of rubble stone and slate roof, of which the principal components are a coach house at the L end, a laundry and a stable at the R end. Most openings have brick cambered heads. At the L end are stone steps to the boarded loft door, probably accommodation for grooms. Beneath the steps is a former kennel with lintelled opening. Immediately to the R is a boarded door under a stone lintel, then a former coach doorway with inserted up-and-over garage door. Further R is a small window and boarded door to the laundry, then another boarded door and a small window to the stable. There are 2 loft openings, a 2-light window over the coach entrance and boarded shutters over the stables. At the very end is a ty bach, which has openings with blue-brick dressings and is entered from the higher ground at the rear.

Reason for Listing

Listed for its special architectural interest as a well-preserved outbuilding retaining definite C19 character, and for its contribution to the overall historical integrity of the house.

The Vicarage

Listed Building Reference: 21515
Grade: II
Date Listed: 24/03/1999
Date Amended: 24/06/2005
Co-ordinates: 258852,300810
Locality: Tywyn
Community: Tywyn
Council: Gwynedd
National Park: No

Location

In walled garden, opposite S end of Church Street.

History

An early C19 vicarage shown on the 1841 Tithe map. It was altered in the late C19 when the bay windows were added.

Interior

The house has a double-depth plan with a central stair hall. The open-well stair has turned newels and plain balusters. The dining room to the L at the rear of the hall has a large fireplace with stone cambered head. The basement has a flagged floor and retains original features including slate benches and a bread oven. The 3-bay roof has collar-beam trusses mostly concealed by plaster.

Exterior

A late-Georgian style vicarage of 2 storeys with attic and basement, and 3 bays. The front is of distinctive coursed blocks of unworked rubble stone and has stone lintels to the openings. Sides and rear are pebble-dashed. The slate roof has roughcast gable stacks. The central entrance is reached up stone steps. It has a Tuscan doorcase, fielded-panel door and overlight with thin diamond-pattern glazing bars. Outer bays have late C19 canted bay windows with 4-pane horned sashes, beneath which are basement vents. The upper storey has 12-pane hornless sash windows. Three gabled roof dormers have 8-pane hornless sash windows. In the L gable end is a 2-light basement window on the R side. In 2-window the R gable end are 12-pane hornless sash windows in the lower storey, horned to the L and hornless to the R, and a similar hornless sash window upper L. In the rear elevation is an added single-storey double-gabled projection of rubble stone with yellow-brick dressings, slate roof and late C20

blue-brick stack. Rear windows are replacements in original openings, including a tall central stair window under a gable, and 2 roof dormers, which have 8-pane sash windows. A 2-light basement window is lower R.

Reason for Listing

Listed for its special architectural interest as a well-preserved vicarage retaining definite C19 character and detail

Church of St Cadfan

Listed Building Reference: 4642

Grade: I

Date Listed: 30/03/1951

Date Amended: 24/06/2005

Co-ordinates: 258822,300952

Locality: Tywyn

Community: Tywyn

Council: Gwynedd

National Park: No

Location

Near the E end of the modern town, in a walled churchyard on the W side of Corbet Square.

History

An early medieval clas, and a substantial C12 church. It was enlarged in the late C15 or early C16, by which time it was a cruciform building with crossing tower. In 1692 the tower fell. It was replaced by a new W tower, occupying the site of one bay of the C12 nave, and at the same time piers on the N side of the nave were supported by an arched buttresses in the N aisle. In 1884 the church was rebuilt by John Prichard, architect of Llandaf.

Interior

Inside the porch are war-memorial tablets above window level, and an added 1939-45 memorial tablet in the W wall. The roof has closely spaced rafters. The S aisle S doorway is segmental-headed with prominent voussoirs. It has a C20 boarded door, but on the inner side are battens and strap hinges from the previous door. The main church has plastered interior walls. The nave has C12 3-bay N and S arcades with low round plastered piers with simple capitals, and round arches. The responds at the E end are square. Round piers at the W end demonstrate that the nave was originally at least one bay longer before the tower was built at the end of the C17. Clerestorey windows have round rere arches, except for the end windows in the S wall, which have square heads. The 5-bay late-medieval nave roof has corbelled arched braces, windbraces, and added tie beams. In the N aisle 3 of the piers have arched buttresses, and trusses that survive the restoration of 1884. Likewise the S transept has trusses earlier than 1884, which are also supported on unusual arched struts supported on the capitals of the piers. The C19 crossing arches, in C13 style, have an outer continuous order, and an inner order on shafts with head corbels. Beneath the tower is a heavy framed ceiling. Transepts have roofs of closely spaced arched braces, and plastered round arches at the ends of the aisles. The N transept also has a pointed window and a pointed boarded door to the vestry. The chancel has a boarded wagon roof with moulded ribs and embattled cornice. Wood panelling around the walls, incorporating blind Gothic arches with delicate tracery, is partly dated 1910, and an integral reredos, which also incorporates shields bearing Passion symbols, is dated 1908. The E window has rere arches with ringed shafts. The square font is chamfered at the angles, stands on a squat octagonal stem and square base, and is late medieval. Late C19 pews have shaped ends. The polygonal wooden pulpit has open Gothic panels. The altar rail has a moulded wooden rail on iron uprights with scrolled brackets. There are 3 medieval memorials. In the N aisle is a tall early Christian stone with Latin cross and an inscription in Welsh (one of the earliest recorded uses of the Welsh language in a Christian context). Two effigies are in the N wall of the chancel, probably placed there following the restoration in 1884. The early C14 effigy of a priest has his head beneath a gabled canopy and feet on mutilated lions. The effigy of a knight, of c1350, has feet resting a headless animal, probably a dog. The shield is too mutilated to identify the knight, although the effigy has traditionally been identified as Gruffydd ab Adda of Dolgoch. Other memorials are wall tablets, mostly salvaged from the previous church and reinstated after its restoration. In the chancel N wall is a classical marble memorial to Vincent Corbet (d 1723). The inscription panel has an apron with foliage and winged cherub, an open pediment and an achievement with garland. Further R is a simple classical memorial to Anne Maurice (d 1767) and family. It has an inscription panel, apron, entablature with painted coat of arms and a shallow cambered moulded cornice. In the S wall is Gothic style wall tablet to Lewis Vaughan (d 1877), under a cinquefoiled arch and gabled canopy, with a classically dressed woman in high relief. Next to it is a plain marble tablet to the Rev William Lewis and his wife (d 1716, 1698). Further R is a rococo tablet to Atheluston Owen (d 1731), by Sir Henry Cheere. It has a corbelled inscription panel over a running-dog frieze, and apron bearing an inscription to his wife Anne (d 1766). It is surmounted by an urn against a roundel under a scrolled pediment with achievement. Scrolled wings are further enriched with husk garlands. In the S transept is a simpler tablet with cornice and apron, to Richard Edwards (d 1785) and family by John Carline of Shrewsbury. Below it is a small brass to Rupert Kettle (d 1908). In the N transept the W wall has a simple brass to William Kettle (d 1930), and in the N wall is a brass panel in a stone pedimented surround to Louis de Saumese (d 1788). In the S wall, a severe classical tablet to Edward Scott (d 1842) has an inscription panel and pediment. Below it is a plain brass to Griffith Evans (d 1923). To its L is a plain small brass to Ann Dafydd (d 1785) with inscription in Welsh. Several windows have stained glass. The chancel and transept windows form a set and are

probably therefore by the same glassmaker. The E window shows Christ in Majesty and scenes from the Passion. The S transept shows the Nativity and the N transept shows the Virgin Mary and SS Peter and Cadfan (all of whom had altars dedicated to them in the medieval church). The chancel S window, post 1944, shows the Adoration of the Magi in conservative style. The W window shows SS Matthew, David and Cadfan, dated 1883. In the S aisle the W window depicts the child Christ, post 1941 by Wippell & Co of Exeter. In the S aisle the small window shows Mary and Jesus, the larger window probably the death of the Virgin.

Exterior

A cruciform church in C19 Gothic style built around the core of a C12 church, with central tower, aisled nave and S porch. Nave, aisles, N transept and tower are of rubble stone. The S transept is of snecked stone, as is the chancel in its E and S walls. Roofs are slate, mostly behind coped gables on moulded kneelers. Windows have mainly Bath stone dressings. The war-memorial S porch, lower than the S aisle, is of snecked rock-faced stone, battered at the base. It has a round arch with later recessed glazed doors and overlight. The L side wall has a single narrow window and the R side wall 2 windows. The lean-to S aisle has a small square-headed window immediately R of the porch and an inserted or enlarged window further R. The clerestorey has 4 small round-headed C12 windows. The S transept has a window of 3 main lights but no tracery lights, under a segmental pointed head and hood mould with head stops. On the E side of the transept is a shallow projection in the angle with the chancel, under a hipped lean-to stone roof. It has a boarded door with strap hinges under a shouldered head, leading to the stair turret of the tower. A narrow barred window is in the splayed angle between transept and chancel. The chancel has a 2-light geometrical S window under a hood mould with head stops. The E window is 3 stepped lights under a linked hood and head stops. The chancel has diagonal E buttresses. On the N side, set back from the E end, is a lean-to vestry. It has a single pointed light in the E wall, and pointed door and window in the N wall. The late medieval N transept has diagonal buttresses and a 3-light window inserted in 1884 similar to the S transept, beneath the relieving arch of an earlier window. The N aisle has a boiler room at the E end, under a catslide roof, with stone steps and railings to a boarded door in its W wall, slightly below ground level. Further R is a stepped buttress, a 3-light wood-framed domestic style window with diamond leaded glazing, and a small window further R. The clerestorey has 4 small C12 round-headed windows, of which the easternmost has been renewed in a heavy Bath stone surround. On the W side the nave has a stepped battered plinth projecting in front of the remainder of the elevation, all that remains of the early C18 tower, but otherwise there is no structural break between nave and aisle W walls. The nave has 3 round-headed W windows and a bullseye window in the gable. The S aisle has an inserted mid C20 W window. The 2-stage tower has a higher octagonal SE turret. In the E and W walls the lower stage has 2 narrow shoulder-headed lights. The belfry has pairs of pointed bell openings with louvres. The parapet, on a corbel table, has stepped battlements and blind arrow loops.

Reason for Listing

Listed grade I for its exceptional interest as a parish church retaining a substantial part of its C12 building, a rare early-medieval survival in Wales of such scale and quality, with late medieval and C19 additions. The church also makes a strong contribution to the historical integrity of the old town centre.

Boer War Memorial

Listed Building Reference: 84533

Grade: II

Date Listed: 24/06/2005

Date Amended: 24/06/2005

Co-ordinates: 258675,300819

Locality: Tywyn

Community: Tywyn

Council: Gwynedd

National Park: No

Location

On the S side of Cambrian Square in the centre of its junction with Neptune Road.

History

Erected by public subscription and unveiled on the coronation day of Edward VII in 1902 (details on inscription panel).

Exterior

On a stepped octagonal plinth, and a freestone square base with moulded cornice, and marble panels, all blank except for the front (N) facing Cambrian Square. This has a commemorative inscription in black letters. The base is surmounted by a cast iron lamp post. The post has its own splayed base with neo-classical foliage in relief, relief foliage around the base of the post, which is fluted higher up, and has a foliage capital. It is crowned by a lantern (now with replacement electric light).

Reason for Listing

Listed for its social-historical interest as a well-detailed war memorial in a prominent location in the town centre

High Street, 24

Listed Building Reference: 84529

Grade: II

Date Listed: 24/06/2005

Date Amended: 24/06/2005

Co-ordinates: 258640,300800

Locality: Tywyn

Community: Tywyn

Council: Gwynedd

National Park: No

Location

Fronting the street in a block of buildings W of Cambrian Square.

History

Built in the second half of the C19, part of the expansion of Tywyn following the arrival of the railway in 1863.

The house is shown on the 1889 Ordnance Survey.

Interior

Not inspected.

Exterior

A late-Georgian style 3-storey 2-bay house of scribed roughcast painted cream, and slate roof. Openings are offset to the L side. It has a replacement door in the L-hand bay, under an overlight and shallow canopy. Windows are replacement 12-pane horned sashes in the lower and middle storeys, original and shorter 9-pane hornless sashes in the upper storey. The 2-window rear is pebble-dashed, with 9-pane and 12-pane sash windows similar to the front, and a lean-to built against the gable end of 23 High Street.

Reason for Listing

Listed for its special architectural interest as a well-preserved late-Georgian-style town house retaining definite C19 character.

High Street, 30

Listed Building Reference: 84535

Grade: II

Date Listed: 24/06/2005

Date Amended: 24/06/2005

Co-ordinates: 258599,300783

Locality: Tywyn

Community: Tywyn

Council: Gwynedd

National Park: No

Location

In a terrace of 4 houses opposite Bethesda Chapel.

History

Built in the second half of the C19, part of the expansion of Tywyn following the arrival of the railway in 1863.

The house is shown on the 1889 Ordnance Survey.

Interior

Not inspected.

Exterior

Reason for Listing

Listed for its special architectural interest as part of a complete and well-preserved short terrace of town houses retaining definite C19 character and detail.

High Street, 31

Listed Building Reference: 84536

Grade: II

Date Listed: 24/06/2005

Date Amended: 24/06/2005

Co-ordinates: 258593,300782
Locality: Tywyn
Community: Tywyn
Council: Gwynedd
National Park: No

Location
In a terrace of 4 houses opposite Bethesda Chapel.

History
Built in the second half of the C19, part of the expansion of Tywyn following the arrival of the railway in 1863.
The house is shown on the 1889 Ordnance Survey.

Interior
Not inspected.

Exterior

Reason for Listing
Listed for its special architectural interest as part of a complete and well-preserved short terrace of town houses retaining definite C19 character and detail.

High Street, 34

Listed Building Reference: 84530
Grade: II
Date Listed: 24/06/2005
Date Amended: 24/06/2005
Co-ordinates: 258576,300778
Locality: Tywyn
Community: Tywyn
Council: Gwynedd
National Park: No

Location
In a block of buildings opposite Bethesda Chapel.

History
Built in the second half of the C19, part of the expansion of Tywyn following the arrival of the railway in 1863.
The house is shown on the 1889 Ordnance Survey.

Interior
Not inspected.

Exterior
A late-Georgian-style 3-storey 2-bay house, of rendered front painted grey, and slate roof with shared brick stack to the R. Openings are offset to the L and in the lower and middle storey have smooth-rendered surrounds. The entrance on the L side has a panel door and overlight. In the lower storey is a margin-lit 4-pane sash window. Middle and upper storeys have sill bands, and 4-pane sash windows except for an oriel window on the R side of the middle storey, which has paired 2-pane sash windows. Upper-storey windows are shorter. The 2-window rear is pebble-dashed, has sash windows and a 2-storey rear wing.

Reason for Listing
Listed for its special architectural interest as a late-Georgian style town house retaining definite C19 character, and forming part of a strong group with 30-33 High Street.

High Street, 33

Listed Building Reference: 84537
Grade: II
Date Listed: 24/06/2005
Date Amended: 24/06/2005
Co-ordinates: 258582,300779
Locality: Tywyn
Community: Tywyn
Council: Gwynedd
National Park: No

Location

In a terrace of 4 houses opposite Bethesda Chapel.

History

Built in the second half of the C19, part of the expansion of Tywyn following the arrival of the railway in 1863. The house is shown on the 1889 Ordnance Survey.

Interior

Not inspected.

Exterior

Reason for Listing

Listed for its special architectural interest as part of a complete and well-preserved short terrace of town houses retaining definite C19 character and detail.

Archaeology Wales

APPENDIX II: COPY OF DESIGN BRIEF

DESIGN BRIEF FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service

Site: Tywyn to Brynchrug Proposed Multi-Use Footpath

Client: Gwynedd Consultancy

Date: 13th October 2010

Planning Reference: Pre-application

National Grid Reference: 259920, 301840

This design brief is only valid for six months after the above date. After this period Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service should be contacted.

It is recommended that the contractor appointed to carry out the archaeological assessment visits the site of the proposed development and consults the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER) for north-west Wales before completing their specification. Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service cannot guarantee the inclusion of all relevant information in the design brief.

Key elements specific to this design brief have been highlighted.

1.0 Site Location and Description of Proposed Development

- 1.1. For the purposes of this brief the proposed development comprises plans to construct a new shared use path for use by pedestrians and cyclists alongside the A493 between Tywyn and Brynchrug. The proposals arise from the need to resolve a safety conflict between road users.
- 1.2. Tywyn is located at the mouth of the Afon Dysynni on the west coast of Wales, in the south-western extremity of Gwynedd. The majority of the proposed scheme lies within the Snowdonia National Park.
- 1.3. The length of the proposed path is approximately 1.675km, extending north-westwards from NGR 259491, 301385 north of the modern cemetery to 260789, 302814 at the edge of Brynchrug village. The width of the new footpath will be approximately 2.5m.
- 1.4. The plans include the construction of a new path along the eastern side of the road (exact route to be confirmed), realignment of a short section of road adjacent to the entrance to the Ynysmaengwyn Caravan Park, dismantling and reconstruction a stretch of wall where the road is to be realigned, and works to existing drainage.

2.0 Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The proposed footpath is located within the Dysynni Valley Registered Landscape of Special Historic Interest (HLW Gw 17). The Register describes the landscape as containing diverse evidence of human activity from prehistoric through to the recent past. The Ynysmaengwyn estate, which encompassed the majority of the Tywyn/Brynchrug area, is cited as one of the significant components of the historic landscape, as a prominent post-medieval gentry estate within Meirionnydd that was remarkable for its

- extensive and pioneering agricultural improvement schemes during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.
- 2.2 The proposed footpath scheme lies within the Dysynni Lowlands landscape character area of the Registered Historic Landscape (PRN 28650). This is characterised as having formerly been much occupied by open water and possibly salt marsh, with the tidal reach of the Dysynni possibly having reached Ynysymaengwyn prior to post-medieval reclamation work.
- 2.3 During the late 18th and early 19th centuries extensive drainage and ground improvement works were undertaken by the owners of Ynysymaengwyn, resulting in the present landscape of largely reclaimed agricultural land. It is unknown to what extent the route of the proposed footpath was affected by these efforts. The route lies on the landward side of the estate and on slightly higher ground, although some localised susceptibility to flooding is evident. The significance of the estate requires assessment both in terms of its own historic landscape value and the potential implications of the historic land management on below ground archaeology.
- 2.4 One scheduled monument is recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site, Croes Faen standing stone (Me088). This is of unknown date; besides a prehistoric origin it has been suggested that this is the remains of a stone cross, although Smith (2001) considers this unlikely.
- 2.5 Lowland areas of Meirionnydd are considered to have particular potential informative value for the presently under-represented prehistoric resource, as a landscape in which few upstanding remains survive and visibility of buried remains as cropmarks in aerial photographs is limited (Smith, 2001).
- 2.6 Archaeological potential at the proposed development site is demonstrated by a significant complex of cropmarks on the west side of the A493, directly opposite the proposed scheme (PRN 5798). This appears to comprise both ring ditches and rectangular ditched features and has provisionally been interpreted as an iron age or early Christian cemetery, but may include multiple phases of activity.
- 2.7 Within the wider landscape are recorded a possible motte or tumulus, Tomen Cil y Parc (PRN 3820), a possible Roman road (Brithdir-Cefn Caer) through Brynchrug village and cropmarks provisionally identified as prehistoric/Roman settlement north of the site near Brynchrug (Me106, PRNs 522 and 2260).
- 2.8 There would appear to be a good potential for archaeological remains to be encountered by ground works for the proposed footpath and this requires elucidation to enable an appropriate mitigation strategy to be developed.
- 2.9 The following documentation should be studied in relation to this project:

Gwyn, D. and Davidson, A., 2009. *Historic Landscape Characterisation: Dysynni Valley* (GAT Report 786). Unpublished report held by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

Roberts, P. R., 1964. 'The Gentry and the Land in Eighteenth Century Merioneth', *Journal of the Merioneth Historical and Record Society* 4 (Part 4), 324-39.

Webb, E., n.d. *God Feeds the Ravens: A Study of Ynysymaengwyn, a Lost Country Estate in Merionethshire 1188-1984*. Unpublished dissertation, University of Wales.

3.0 Archaeological requirements

- 3.1 This is a *design brief* for the first phase of a staged programme of archaeological works. The aim of this phase is to prepare an **archaeological assessment** to be undertaken according to guidelines set out in Welsh national planning guidance (*Planning Policy Guidance Wales 2010*) and Welsh Office Circular 60/96 (*Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology*). The assessment will comprise a **desk-based assessment and field survey**.
- 3.2 The purpose of the archaeological work is to make full and effective use of existing information in establishing the archaeological significance of the site, in order to assess the impact of the development proposals on the historic environment and to help inform future decision making, design solutions and potential mitigation strategies.
- 3.3 This *design brief* should be used by the archaeological contractor as the basis for the preparation of a detailed written archaeological *specification*. The specification must be submitted to the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service for approval before the work commences.
- 3.4 The *specification* should contain, as a minimum, the following elements:
- Non-technical summary.
 - Details of the proposed works as precisely as is reasonably possible, indicating clearly on a plan their location and extent.
 - A research design which sets out the site-specific objectives of the archaeological works.
 - Reference to the relevant legislation.
 - Health and Safety considerations.
 - Monitoring procedures.
 - Field methodology.
 - The level and grade of all key project staff.
 - A timetable for the proposed works including contingency costs (if appropriate).
 - The intended method of publication.
 - Archive deposition
- 3.5 Following the desk-based assessment a programme of intrusive evaluation may also be required in advance of development in order to further assess the presence or absence of remains, their extent, nature, quality and character before determining the appropriate mitigation strategy. Mitigation may entail further recording, preservation in situ, archaeological excavation, an archaeological watching brief on construction work, or a combination of these measures.
- 3.6 Any work following the desk-based assessment and field survey will require approval of a new specification for archaeological work by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service.

4.0 Desk-based assessment detail

4.1 The assessment must consider the following:

- a) The nature, extent and degree of survival of archaeological sites, structures, deposits and landscapes within the study area through the development of an **archaeological deposit model**. This deposit model should reflect accurately the state of current knowledge and provide a research framework for further work if necessary. [See 4.2 below for further details]
- b) The **significance** of any remains in their context both regionally and nationally and in light of the findings of the desk based study.
- c) The **history of the site**. [See section 4.3 below for further details]
- d) The potential impact of any proposed development on the **setting of known sites of archaeological importance**.
- e) An assessment of the potential for further investigative work and give recommendations where appropriate for a **methodology for further non-intrusive survey and / or intrusive evaluation** to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development **and/or an appropriate mitigation strategy**. [See section 4.4-4.5 below for further details]

4.2 The **archaeological deposit model** will involve the following areas of research:

- a) Collation and assessment of all relevant information held in the HER, including listed building records.
- b) Assessment of all available excavation report and archives including unpublished and unprocessed material affecting the site and its setting.
- c) Assessment of all extant aerial photographic (AP) evidence and, where relevant, a re-plotting of archaeological and topographic information by a suitably qualified specialist at an appropriate scale. The main source of archaeological aerial photographic records is held at the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW), Aberystwyth.
- d) Assessment of archive records held at the Dolgellau Record Office and as appropriate, RCAHMW and University College Bangor.
- e) Assessment of the environmental potential of the archaeological deposits through existing data or by inference.
- f) Assessment of the faunal potential of the archaeological deposits through existing data or by inference.
- g) Assessment of the artefactual potential of the archaeological deposits through existing data or by inference.
- h) Assessment of available geotechnical information for the area including the results of test pits and boreholes.
- i) Assessment of the present topography and land use of the area through maps and site visits.
- j) A walkover survey of the proposed development area.

4.3 **Historical research** will involve the following:

- a) A review of the published resources (in particular the documents outlined above 2.9).
- b) An analysis of relevant maps and plans. Cartographic evidence is held at the County Record Offices, including tithe maps, enclosure act plans, estate maps and all editions of the Ordnance Survey. Place and field-name evidence from these sources must be considered.
- c) An analysis of the historical documents (e.g. county histories, local and national journals and antiquarian sources) held in museums, libraries or other archives, in particular local history and archives library. In this case the port authority and the maritime museum may also hold relevant archive material.
- d) A review of the aerial photographic evidence.

4.4 The assessment must formulate a **methodology for further archaeological investigation and/or mitigation** within a programme of research. This must consider the use of the following techniques:

- a) Archaeological historic building recording / survey.
- b) The use of geophysical survey.
- c) A programme of trenching and/or test pits to investigate the deposit model in more detail.
- d) A programme of strip, map and sample in areas of identified potential.
- e) Design modification to preserve remains *in situ*.
- f) Archaeological excavation of identified remains.
- g) Archaeological watching brief on construction works.

4.5 The detail of any evaluation or mitigation work will be agreed with Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service prior to being undertaken following the completion of the first phase of archaeological assessment and in accordance with an agreed detailed specification.

5.0 Results

5.1 The results must be presented in a report and should be detailed and laid out in such a way that data and supporting text are readily cross-referenced. **The HER Officer should be contacted to ensure that any sites or monuments not previously recorded in the HER are given a Primary Record Number (PRN) and that data structure is compatible with the HER.** The historical development of the site must be presented in phased maps and plans comprising clearly, the outline of the site.

5.2 The deposit model should be presented graphically in plan and, where appropriate, in profile and at a scale that is commensurate with subsequent use as a working document.

5.3 Within the report an attempt should be made to indicate areas of greater or lesser archaeological significance and the sites should be ranked in level of overall archaeological importance (locally, regionally and nationally).

- 5.4 All relevant aerial photographs, re-plots and historic maps must be included and be fully referenced. Any site photographs included in the report should be appropriately captioned and clearly located on a suitably scaled site plan.
- 5.5 The report should specifically include the following:

- a) a copy of the design brief
- b) a location plan
- c) all identified sites plotted on an appropriately scaled plan of the proposal site
- d) a gazetteer of all located sites with full dimensional and descriptive detail **including grid reference and period**

6.0 General requirements

- 6.1 The archaeological assessment and walkover survey must be undertaken by an appropriately qualified individual or organisation, fully experienced in work of this character.
- 6.2 Details, including the name, qualifications and experience of the project director and all other key project personnel (including specialist staff) should be communicated to the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service and all written work attributed to an author(s).
- 6.3 Contractors and subcontractors are expected to conform to the following standard professional guidelines:
- English Heritage's 2006 Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice
 - English Heritage's 2006 Management Of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE)
 - The Institute for Archaeologists 1985 (revised 2010) Code of Conduct.
 - The Institute for Archaeologists 1990 (revised 2008) Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.
 - The Institute for Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2001) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment.
 - The Institute for Archaeologists 1996 (revised 1999) Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures.
 - The Institute for Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2008) Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief.
 - The Institute for Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2008) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation.
 - The Institute for Archaeologists 1995 (revised 2008) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation.
 - The Institute for Archaeologists 1999 (revised 2008) Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials.

- The Institute for Archaeologists 2008 Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives.
- English Heritage's 1991 Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2).
- Museum and Galleries Commission 1994 Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections.
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation 1990 Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for long-term storage.

- 6.4 Many people in North Wales speak Welsh as their first language, and many of the archive and documentary references are in Welsh. Contractors should therefore give due consideration to their ability to understand and converse in Welsh.
- 6.5 Any changes to the specifications that the archaeological contractor may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated to Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service and approved.
- 6.6 The involvement of Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service should be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.
- 6.7 A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project should be prepared in accordance with standard guidance. All plans, photographs and descriptions should be labelled, cross-referenced and lodged in an appropriate place (to be agreed with Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service) within six months of the completion of the project.
- 6.8 Two copies of the bound report must be sent to the address below, one copy marked for the attention of the Development Control Archaeologist, the other for attention of the HER Officer, who will deposit the copy in the HER.

7.0 Curatorial monitoring

- 7.1 The project will be monitored by the development control archaeologist at Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service to ensure the fulfilment of the brief and specifications. The development control archaeologist will normally inspect site works and review the progress of excavation reports and archive preparation. The archaeological contractor must inform Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service in writing of the proposed start dates for the project.

Further information

- 8.1 This document outlines best practice expected of an archaeological assessment but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. If requirements of the brief cannot be met they should only be excluded or altered after gaining written approval of the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service.
- 8.2 Further details or clarification of any aspects of the brief may be obtained from the Development Control Archaeologist at the address below.

Glossary of terms

Archaeological Contractor

A professionally qualified individual or an organisation containing professionally qualified archaeological staff, able to offer an appropriate and satisfactory treatment of the archaeological resource, retained by the developer to carry out archaeological work either prior to the submission of a planning application or as a requirement of the planning process.

Archaeological Curator

A person, or organisation, responsible for the conservation and management of archaeological evidence by virtue of official or statutory duties. In north-west Wales the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authorities is the development control archaeologist, who works to the Welsh Archaeological Trust's Curators' Code of Practice.

Archive

An ordered collection of all documents and artefacts from an archaeological project, which at the conclusion of the work should be deposited at a public repository, such as the local museum.

Brief

The Association of County Archaeological Officers (1993) defines a *brief* as an outline framework of the planning and archaeological situation which has to be addressed, together with an indication of the scope of works that will be required.

Historic environment Record (HER)

A documentary record of known sites in a given area. In north-west Wales the HER is curated by the curatorial division of the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.

Specification

The Association of County Archaeological Officers (1993) defines a *specification* as a schedule of works outlined in sufficient detail to be quantifiable, implemented and monitored.

Watching brief

A formal programme of observation during non-archaeological excavation works in order to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains which may be present, in accordance with the Archaeological Standards.

References

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- Gwyn, D. and Davidson, A., 2009. *Historic Landscape Characterisation: Dysynni Valley* (GAT Report 786).
- Smith, P., 1960. 'Ynysmaengwyn, Merioneth', *Arch. Camb.* CIX, 173-9.
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Roberts, P. R., 1964. 'The Gentry and the Land in Eighteenth Century Merioneth', *Journal of the Merioneth Historical and Record Society* 4 (Part 4), 324-39.

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