

# Archaeology Wales

## Land at Penhesgyn (Anglesey)

### Archaeological Field Evaluation



By  
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James Weaver

Report No. 1623


# Archaeology Wales

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Archaeological Field Evaluation

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## *Non-technical Summary*

*Archaeology Wales Ltd carried out archaeological field evaluation from the 26th to the 31st of October 2017 at the request of Anglesey County Council. This programme of works was recommended by GAPS— archaeological advisors for Anglesey County Council- in response to the proposed development of a gypsy and traveller site on land at Penhesgyn, Anglesey, LL59 5RY (SH 53589 74321). The archaeological field evaluation drew on the results obtained by a magnetometer survey of Fields 1 and 2. The latter was undertaken with the aim of determining the nature and extent of any buried archaeological features within the proposed development area. The programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation was undertaken prior the submission of a planning application for the development.*

*An examination of the archaeological background indicates that the area is rich in prehistoric activity. A number of Neolithic axes as well as pits and enclosures of prehistoric and Roman date are recorded within 1km of the development site.*

*The geophysical survey identified a series of parallel lines interpreted as geological in nature. Similarly, a number of anomalies were attributed to the imprint of ploughing. Three circular anomalies were identified in Field 1 and one in Field 2, and a L-shape feature was identified at the northern extremity of Field 1.*

*During this stage of investigations twenty trenches each measuring 20m in length and 1.8m in width were excavated. Five trenches yielded archaeological remains. An examination of historical maps for the area suggests that these features predate 1889. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered in the remaining fifteen trenches.*

*All work conformed to Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2014) and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Artefact and Environmental Collection, Documentation Conservation and Research (CIfA 2014).*

### **1. Introduction**

In October 2017, Archaeology Wales Ltd was commissioned by Anglesey County Council to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on land at Penhesgyn, Anglesey, LL59 5RY (SH 53589 74321) (Figure 1). The archaeological field evaluation drew on the results obtained by a magnetometer survey of Fields 1 and 2 carried out by AW in August 2017 (see Garcia Rovira 2017). This stage of works was recommended by GAPS, archaeological advisors for Anglesey County Council, prior the submission of a planning application associated with the proposed development of a gypsy and traveller site. Field 3 was not accessible at the time of the survey and the field evaluation.

A Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Archaeology Wales and approved by GAPS prior to the commencement of the fieldwork outlined the location of the

trenches. It was agreed that these would be 20m in length and 1.8m in width. The field evaluation was carried out by James Weaver, and Stephanie McCulloch, all of Archaeology Wales. The project was managed by Dr Irene Garcia Rovira. The fieldwork was undertaken between the 26th and 31th of October 2017.

All work conformed to *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014) and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Artefact and Environmental Collection, Documentation Conservation and Research* (CIfA 2014).

## 2. Site description and archaeological background

### 2.1. Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the northeast and southeast of Penhesgyn Recycle Centre, and it is composed of three large fields. These are defined as open fields currently used for agricultural purposes and grazing. The topography of Field 1 and Field 2 gradually ascends from 65m AOD to the west and 72m AOD to the easternmost limits of these fields (Figure 2).

The underlying geology is defined by the Central Anglesey Shear Zone and Berw Shear Zone, including schist and mica formed in the Cambrian and Ediacaran Periods. The superficial soils are characterised as Till, Devensian Diamicton formed in Ice Age conditions (BGS 2017).

### 2.2. Archaeological and historical background

The surrounding area to the site is rich in prehistoric activity. The following finds have been recorded within 1km of the development area:

- During a programme of strip-map-record located 200m NE from Field 1 (see Figure 1), GAT revealed three pits, one of which contained a flint tool of Neolithic date (see Cooke 2011).
- Three Neolithic axes are recorded as findspots in the HER less than 1km SE from the development site. A further axe is recorded NE of the site.
- Aerial photography has revealed the existence of a hut group at Llansadwrn. This hut group may be dated to late prehistoric and Roman chronologies (see Smith 1996). A circular enclosure as well as a rectangular enclosure have been recorded within the same field, less than 1km SE from the development site.
- A cist burial site was recorded in 1937 in a field located less than 700m SE from the development site (see Smith 2003).

Furthermore, four scheduled monuments have been documented in the vicinity of the development area. These are: Bryn Eryr earthwork (AN100), Dinas Cadnant hillfort (AN048) and two standing stones, Ty-Wyn (AN073) and Pen-y-Maen (AN072).

It is also significant to note that Penhesgyn Hall and other associated features of post-medieval age are located immediately below the southern boundary of Field 3.

In August 2017, AW carried out a geophysical survey of Fields 1 and 2. The geophysical survey identified a series of parallel lines interpreted as geological in nature. Similarly, a number of anomalies were attributed to the imprint of ploughing. Three circular anomalies were identified in Field 1 and one in Field 2, and a L-shape feature was identified at the northern extremity of Field 1 (Garcia Rovira 2017) (Figure 3 and 4).

### 3. Aims and Objectives

The proposed archaeological work aimed to elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material that might be affected by the development, in particular its character, distribution, extent and relative significance.

During the first stage of work, a geophysical survey of Field 1 and Field 2 helped in locating possible archaeological features present within the development area (Figure 3 and 4). A report was produced, providing information which was sufficiently detailed to inform the location of trenches during the second stage of evaluation (Figure 5).

The objective of the intrusive trial trench evaluation was to locate and describe, by means of strategic trial trenching, archaeological features present within the development area. The work aimed to elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance. The work included an assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and aimed to highlight any relevant research issues within national and regional research frameworks.

### 4. Methodology

#### Field Evaluation

The work was undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for **Archaeologist's** *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014).

The archaeological project manager in charge of the work satisfied that all constraints to ground works have been identified, including the siting of live services and Tree Preservation Orders.

The agreed evaluation areas were positioned to maximise the retrieval of archaeological information and to ensure that the archaeological resource was understood.

20 trenches, measuring 20m in length and 1.8m in width, were machine-excavated within the planned development area (Figure 5). The location and dimensions of the trenches were agreed with GAPS prior to the commencement of works.

The evaluation trenches (Trenches 1-20) were excavated to the top of the archaeological horizon by a machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under close archaeological supervision. All areas were subsequently hand cleaned using pointing trowels and/or hoes to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features and to determine their significance. The excavation of the minimum number of archaeological features was undertaken, to elucidate the character, distribution, extent and importance of the archaeological remains. As a minimum small discrete features were fully excavated, larger discrete features were half-sectioned (50% excavated) and long linear features were sample excavated along their length to 20% of total- with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature and to investigate terminals, junctions and relationships with other features.

Sufficient excavation was undertaken to ensure that the natural horizons were reached and proven, where this could be practically and safely achieved. The depth of the excavation conformed to current safety requirements.

It was agreed that where potentially significant archaeological features were encountered during the course of the evaluation then GAPS and Anglesey County Council would be informed at the earliest possible opportunity.

## 5. Evaluation results

### Trench 1 (Figure 5; Plate 1)

Trench 1 was 20m in length and 1.8m in width and was orientated NW/SE. No archaeological remains were encountered during the excavation of this trench.

The natural substrate (1003) was found 0.60m below the ground level. (1003) was composed of mid-orange brown sandy clay with occasional stone inclusions. This deposit was overlaid by (1002) – subsoil. The latter was 0.30m in depth and was characterised by a deposit of mid-brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The topsoil (1001) was 0.30m deep and defined by mid to dark brown clay loam. No finds were recovered during the excavation of this trench.

### Trench 2 (Figure 5; Plate 2)

Trench 2 was 20m in length and 1.8m in width and was orientated E/W. No archaeological remains were encountered during the excavation of this trench.

The natural substrate (1003) was found 0.56m below the ground level. (1003) was composed of mid-orange brown sandy clay with occasional stone inclusions. This deposit was overlaid by (1002) – subsoil. The latter was 0.20m in depth and was characterised by a deposit of mid-brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The topsoil (1001) was 0.36m deep and defined by mid to dark brown clay loam. No finds were recovered during the excavation of this trench.

#### Trench 3 (Figure 5; Plate 3)

Trench 3 was 20m in length and 1.8m in width and was orientated N/S. No archaeological remains were encountered during the excavation of this trench.

The natural substrate (1003) was found 0.40m below the ground level. (1003) was composed of mid-orange brown sandy clay with occasional stone inclusions. This deposit was overlaid by (1002) – subsoil. The latter was 0.26m in depth and was characterised by a deposit of mid-brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The topsoil (1001) was 0.14m deep and defined by mid to dark brown clay loam. No finds were recovered during the excavation of this trench.

#### Trench 4 (Figure 5; Plate 4 and 5)

Trench 4 was 20m in length and 1.8m in width and was orientated NE/SW. No archaeological remains were encountered during the excavation of this trench.

The natural substrate (1003) was found 0.62m below the ground level. (1003) was composed of mid-orange brown sandy clay with occasional stone inclusions.

[1006] was defined by a linear cut, cutting through the natural substrate. [1006] had concave sides and a flat base. It measured 1.2m in width and 0.31m in depth. The total length of this feature is unknown as it surpassed the limits of excavation. [1006] was orientated NW/SE and filled by a deposit of mid-brown grey sandy silty clay – (1007).

This feature was overlaid by (1002) – subsoil. The latter was 0.44m in depth and was characterised by a deposit of mid-brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The topsoil (1001) was 0.18m deep and defined by mid to dark brown clay loam. No finds were recovered during the excavation of this trench.

#### Trench 5 (Figure 5; Plate 6)

Trench 5 was 20m in length and 1.8m in width and was orientated NW/SE. No archaeological remains were encountered during the excavation of this trench.

The natural substrate (1003) was found 0.64m below the ground level. (1003) was composed of light orange brown sandy clay with occasional stone inclusions. This deposit was overlaid by (1002) – subsoil. The latter was 0.37m in depth and was

characterised by a deposit of mid-brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The topsoil (1001) was 0.27m deep and defined by mid to dark brown clay loam. No finds were recovered during the excavation of this trench.

#### Trench 6 (Figure 5; Plate 7 and 8)

Trench 6 was 20m in length and 1.8m in width and was orientated ENE/WSW. The natural substrate (1003) was found 0.44m below the ground level. (1003) was composed of mid-orange brown sandy clay with occasional stone inclusions.

[1008] was a sub-oval cut with shallow sides and concave base. It measured 0.14m in length, 0.32m in width and 0.15m in depth, and was filled by (1009). The latter was a deposit of friable dark brown silty clay with frequent charcoal.

[1010] in close proximity to [1008]. [1010] was a sub-oval cut with shallow sides and concave base. It measured 0.11m in length, 0.17m in width and 0.20m in depth, and was filled by (1011). The latter was a deposit of friable dark brown silty clay with frequent charcoal.

These features were overlaid by (1002) – subsoil. The latter was 0.21m in depth and was characterised by a deposit of mid-brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The topsoil (1001) was 0.23m deep and defined by mid to dark brown clay loam. No finds were recovered during the excavation of this trench.

#### Trench 7 (Figure 5; Plate 9 and 10)

Trench 7 was 20m in length and 1.8m in width and was orientated NW/SE.

The natural substrate (1003) was found 0.56m below the ground level. (1003) was composed of mid-orange brown sandy clay with occasional stone inclusions.

[1004] cut through the natural substrate. [1004] was defined as a linear cut with concave sides and a flat base. It measured 0.3m in width and 0.12m in depth, and was orientated N/S. Its fill – (1005) – was composed of mid-brown silty clay with occasional small inclusions. No finds were recovered during the excavation of this feature.

[1004] was overlaid by (1002) – subsoil. The latter was 0.31m in depth and was characterised by a deposit of mid-brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The topsoil (1001) was 0.25m deep and defined by mid to dark brown clay loam. No finds were recovered during the excavation of this trench.

#### Trench 8 (Figure 5; Plate 11)

Trench 8 was 20m in length and 1.8m in width and was orientated NW/SE. No archaeological remains were encountered during the excavation of this trench.

The natural substrate (1003) was found 0.45m below the ground level. (1003) was composed of mid-orange brown sandy clay with occasional stone inclusions. This deposit was overlaid by (1002) – subsoil. The latter was 0.20m in depth and was characterised by a deposit of mid-brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The topsoil (1001) was 0.25m deep and defined by mid to dark brown clay loam. No finds were recovered during the excavation of this trench.

#### Trench 9 (Figure 5; Plate 12)

Trench 9 was 20m in length and 1.8m in width and was orientated N/S. No archaeological remains were encountered during the excavation of this trench.

The natural substrate (1003) was found 0.50m below the ground level. (1003) was composed of mid-orange brown sandy clay with occasional stone inclusions. This deposit was overlaid by (1002) – subsoil. The latter was 0.25m in depth and was characterised by a deposit of mid-brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The topsoil (1001) was 0.25m deep and defined by mid to dark brown clay loam. No finds were recovered during the excavation of this trench.

#### Trench 10 (Figure 5; Plate 13)

Trench 10 was 20m in length and 1.8m in width and was orientated NE/SW. No archaeological remains were encountered during the excavation of this trench.

The natural substrate (1003) was found 0.51m below the ground level. (1003) was composed of light orange brown sandy clay with occasional stone inclusions. This deposit was overlaid by (1002) – subsoil. The latter was 0.24m in depth and was characterised by a deposit of mid-brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The topsoil (1001) was 0.27m deep and defined by mid to dark brown clay loam. No finds were recovered during the excavation of this trench.

#### Trench 11 (Figure 5; Plate 14 and 15)

Trench 11 was 20m in length and 1.8m in width and was orientated NW/SE. The natural substrate (1003) was found 0.41m below the ground level. (1003) was composed of light orange brown sandy clay with frequent stone inclusions.

A single feature [1020] cut through the natural substrate. [1020] was defined by a linear cut, with concave sides and a flat base. It was 1.86m in width and c 0.4m in depth. [1020] was orientated NE/SW. This cut was filled by (1021), a deposit of mid-grey brown sandy silty clay. Occasional rooting was observed within this fill. The excavation of this feature did not document dating evidence. Given its orientation and character, it may be suggested that this feature was the same linear encountered in Trench 12 (see below).



[1020] was overlaid by (1002) – subsoil. The latter was 0.43m in depth and was characterised by a deposit of mid-brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The topsoil (1001) was 0.17m deep and defined by mid to dark brown clay loam.

#### Trench 12 (Figure 5; Plate 16 -19)

Trench 12 was 20m in length and 1.8m in width and was orientated NE/SW. Trench 12 was extended to the NW to allow defining both edges of the linear ditch running parallel to the trench (see Figure 10).

The natural substrate (1003) was found 0.40m below the ground level. (1003) was composed of light orange brown sandy clay with frequent stone inclusions.

A linear feature cut through (1003), running on a NE/SE axis and, therefore, following the trench orientation. Within the trench itself, this feature was visible for c.17m. Its terminus end was located at the SW end of the trench. To the NE, the feature appeared to run beyond the limits of Trench 12, possibly reappearing in Trench 11. In order to examine the feature, two slots were cut: [1018] representing its terminus end, and [1014].

[1014] was defined as a linear cut with sloping sides and a flat base. Within this slot, the cut was c. 1.40m in width and 0.30m in depth, and was filled by (1015). The latter was a deposit of friable mid-brown grey sandy silty clay with moderate small stone inclusions and occasional roots.

[1018] was defined by the linear terminus. At this end, the feature was shallow, and characterised by sloping sides and a flat base. The cut was between 1m to 0.4m in width, c 0.2m in depth. Its fill, (1019) was defined by a deposit of mid-brown grey sandy silty clay with moderate small stone inclusions and occasional roots.

[1016] was a linear feature running parallel to [1014] = [1016] on the NW side of the trench, and orientated NE/SW. This feature was only documented during the extension of Trench 12. [1016] was a linear cut with almost vertical sides and a concave base. It measured 0.3m in width and c0.3m in depth. The total extent of the feature is unknown as it surpassed the limits of the excavation area. Its fill (1017) was composed of dark purple brown silty clay with moderate roots. While it is difficult to ascertain the function of this feature, it may be tentatively interpreted as the remnants of a land drain.

No finds were recovered during the excavation of these features. Both cuts were overlaid by (1002) – subsoil. The latter was 0.20m in depth and was characterised by a deposit of mid-brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The topsoil (1001) was 0.16m deep and defined by mid to dark brown clay loam.

#### Trench 13 (Figure 5; Plate 20)

Trench 17 was 20m in length and 1.8m in width and was orientated NW/SE. No archaeological remains were encountered during the excavation of this trench.

The natural substrate (1003) was found 0.36m below the ground level. (1003) was composed of light orange brown sandy clay with frequent stone inclusions. This deposit was overlaid by (1002) – subsoil. The latter was 0.20m in depth and was characterised by a deposit of mid-brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The topsoil (1001) was 0.16m deep and defined by mid to dark brown clay loam. No finds were recovered during the excavation of this trench.

#### Trench 14 (Figure 5; Plate 21)

Trench 14 was 20m in length and 1.8m in width and was orientated NE/SW. No archaeological remains were encountered during the excavation of this trench.

The natural substrate (1003) was found 0.60m below the ground level. (1003) was composed of light orange brown sandy clay with frequent stone inclusions. This deposit was overlaid by (1002) – subsoil. The latter was 0.43m in depth and was characterised by a deposit of mid-brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The topsoil (1001) was 0.17m deep and defined by mid to dark brown clay loam. No finds were recovered during the excavation of this trench.

#### Trench 15 (Figure 5; Plate 22)

Trench 15 was 20m in length and 1.8m in width and was orientated NW/SE. No archaeological remains were encountered during the excavation of this trench.

The natural substrate (1003) was found 0.48m below the ground level. (1003) was composed of light orange brown sandy clay with frequent stone inclusions. This deposit was overlaid by (1002) – subsoil. The latter was 0.35m in depth and was characterised by a deposit of mid-brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The topsoil (1001) was 0.17m deep and defined by mid to dark brown clay loam. No finds were recovered during the excavation of this trench.

#### Trench 16 (Figure 5; Plate 23)

Trench 16 was 20m in length and 1.8m in width and was orientated NE/SW. No archaeological remains were encountered during the excavation of this trench.

The natural substrate (1003) was found 0.43m below the ground level. (1003) was composed of light orange brown sandy clay with frequent stone inclusions. This deposit was overlaid by (1002) – subsoil. The latter was 0.34m in depth and was characterised by a deposit of mid-brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The topsoil (1001) was 0.09m deep and defined by mid to dark brown clay loam. No finds were recovered during the excavation of this trench.

#### Trench 17 (Figure 5; Plate 24)

Trench 17 was 20m in length and 1.8m in width and was orientated NE/SW. No archaeological remains were encountered during the excavation of this trench.

The natural substrate (1003) was found 0.45m below the ground level. (1003) was composed of light orange brown sandy clay with frequent stone inclusions. This deposit was overlaid by (1002) – subsoil. The latter was 0.35m in depth and was characterised by a deposit of mid-brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The topsoil (1001) was 0.12m deep and defined by mid to dark brown clay loam. No finds were recovered during the excavation of this trench.

#### Trench 18 (Figure 5; Plate 25)

Trench 18 was 20m in length and 1.8m in width and was orientated NW/SE. No archaeological remains were encountered during the excavation of this trench.

The natural substrate (1003) was found 0.40m below the ground level. (1003) was composed of light orange brown sandy clay with frequent stone inclusions. This deposit was overlaid by (1002) – subsoil. The latter was 0.27m in depth and was characterised by a deposit of mid-brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The topsoil (1001) was 0.12m deep and defined by mid to dark brown clay loam. No finds were recovered during the excavation of this trench.

#### Trench 19 (Figure 5; Plate 26)

Trench 19 was 20m in length and 1.8m in width and was orientated NE/SW. No archaeological remains were encountered during the excavation of this trench.

The natural substrate (1003) was found 0.47m below the ground level. (1003) was composed of light orange brown sandy clay with frequent stone inclusions. This deposit was overlaid by (1002) – subsoil. The latter was 0.19m in depth and was characterised by a deposit of mid-brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The topsoil (1001) was 0.27m deep and defined by mid to dark brown clay loam. No finds were recovered during the excavation of this trench.

#### Trench 20 (Figure 5; Plate 27)

Trench 20 was 20m in length and 1.8m in width and was orientated NW/SE. No archaeological remains were encountered during the excavation of this trench.

The natural substrate (1003) was found 0.45m below the ground level. (1003) was composed of light orange brown sandy clay with frequent stone inclusions. This deposit was overlaid by (1002) – subsoil. The latter was 0.26m in depth and was

characterised by a deposit of mid-brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The topsoil (1001) was 0.19m deep and defined by mid to dark brown clay loam. No finds were recovered during the excavation of this trench.

## 6. Environmental results

Three environmental samples (sample 009, 003 and 07) were processed in order to enhance the possibilities to obtain dating material. A 250 micron mesh was used to recover the flot and a 1mm / 500 micron mesh was used to retain the residue.

### Results

#### Context 1005 Sample 009

Flot – few roots, c.20 charcoal fragments <2mm, one charcoal fragment 5mm x 4mm x 2mm

Residue – Very small charcoal fragments <2mm

No suitable dating material obtained.

#### Context 1007 Sample 003

Flot – Roots, one charred grain, one seed

Residue – stone only

No suitable dating material obtained.

#### Context 1011 Sample 007

Flot – Roots, c.10 fragments of charcoal <2mm

Residue – c. 5 fragments of charcoal <3mm

No suitable dating material obtained.

## 7. Discussions and conclusions

The field evaluation revealed the remains of two linear features (Trench 4 and 7) which can be tentatively interpreted as field boundaries. An examination of historical maps denotes that these features may have predated 1889. Two small pits were recovered in Trench 6. A small fragment of charred shell was recovered from one of the pits. While no dating evidence was obtained during the excavation of these features, it may be possible to suggest that these pits may have been of prehistoric date. A large linear ditch was documented in Trench 11 and 12. Its position within the

field suggests that this might be the remnants of a field boundary. No dating evidence was gathered during the excavation of this feature. Finally, a small gulley was excavated in Trench 12. This feature runs parallel to [1014] = [1016], and might be the remnant of a drainage system. No finds were recovered during the work carried out at Field 1 and 2.

Similarly to that experienced during the geophysical survey, Field 1 and 2 presented very wet ground conditions during the time of the field evaluation.

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[www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html)

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **APPENDIX I:**

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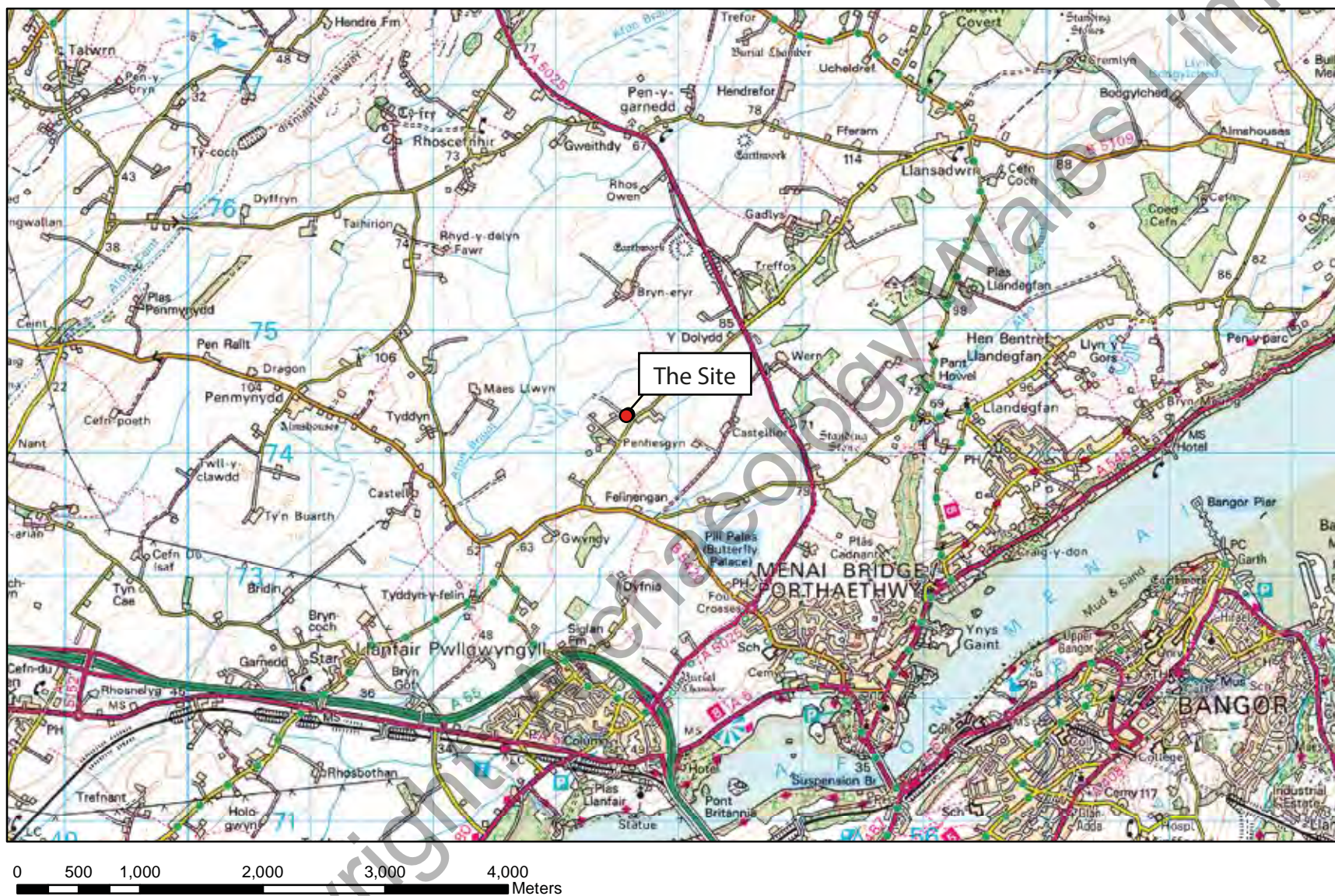


Figure 1.  
Location of  
development site.





Figure 2.  
Location of  
fields 1,2 and 3.



Figure 3. Magnetometer survey results clipped at -4nT to 4nT with interpretation (below).

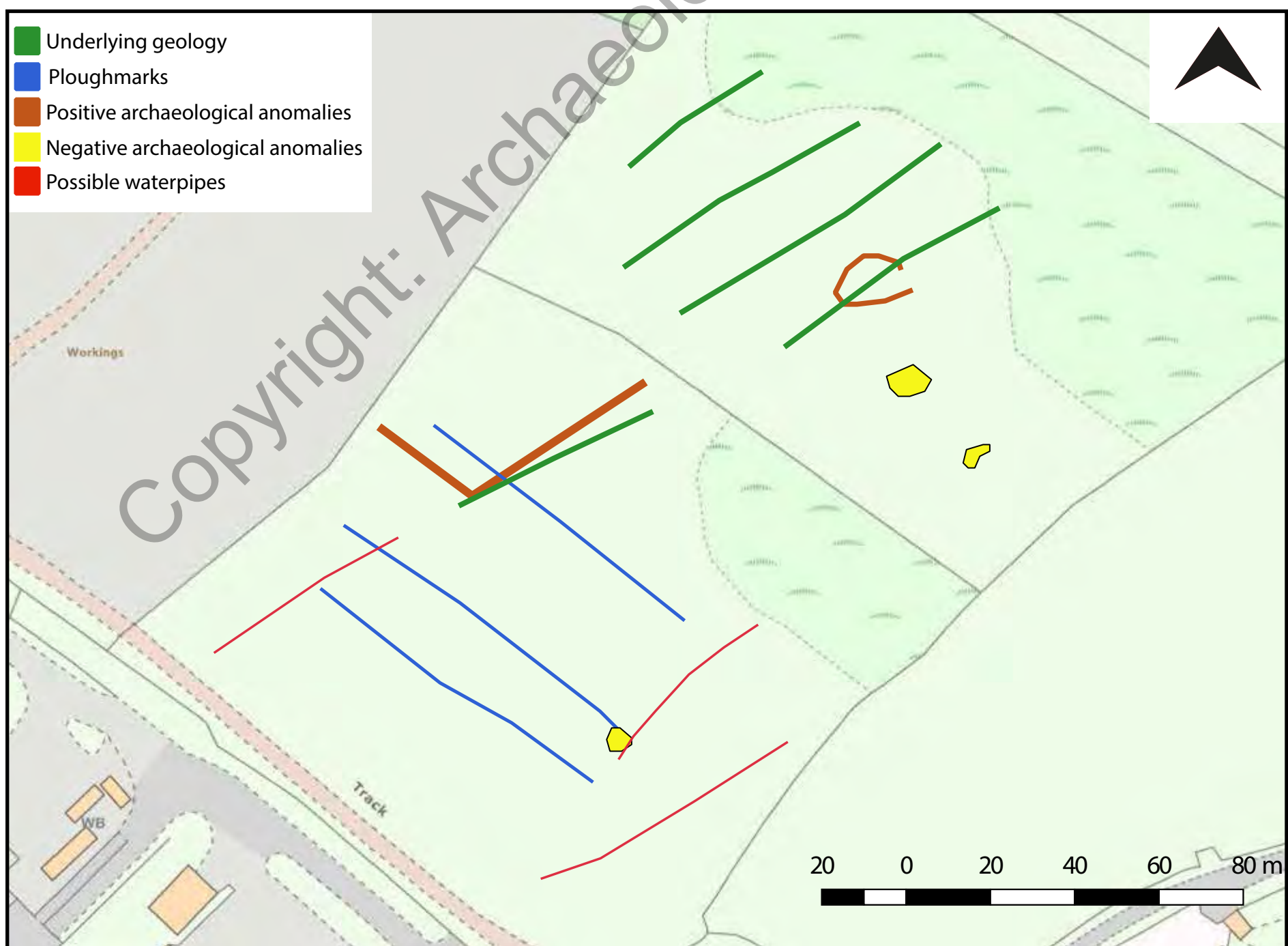
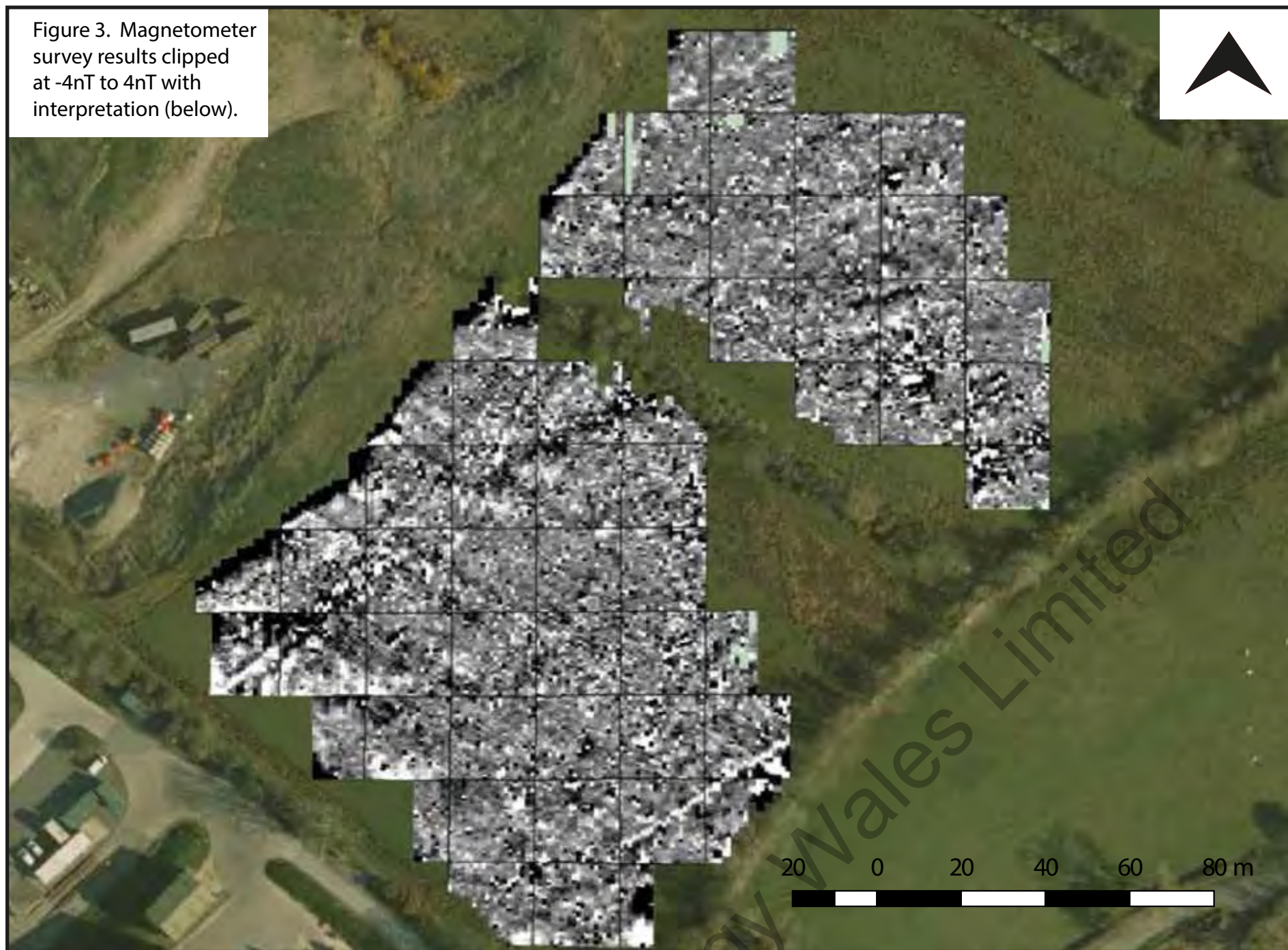




Figure 4. Magnetometer survey results clipped at -2nT to 2nT with interpretation (below).





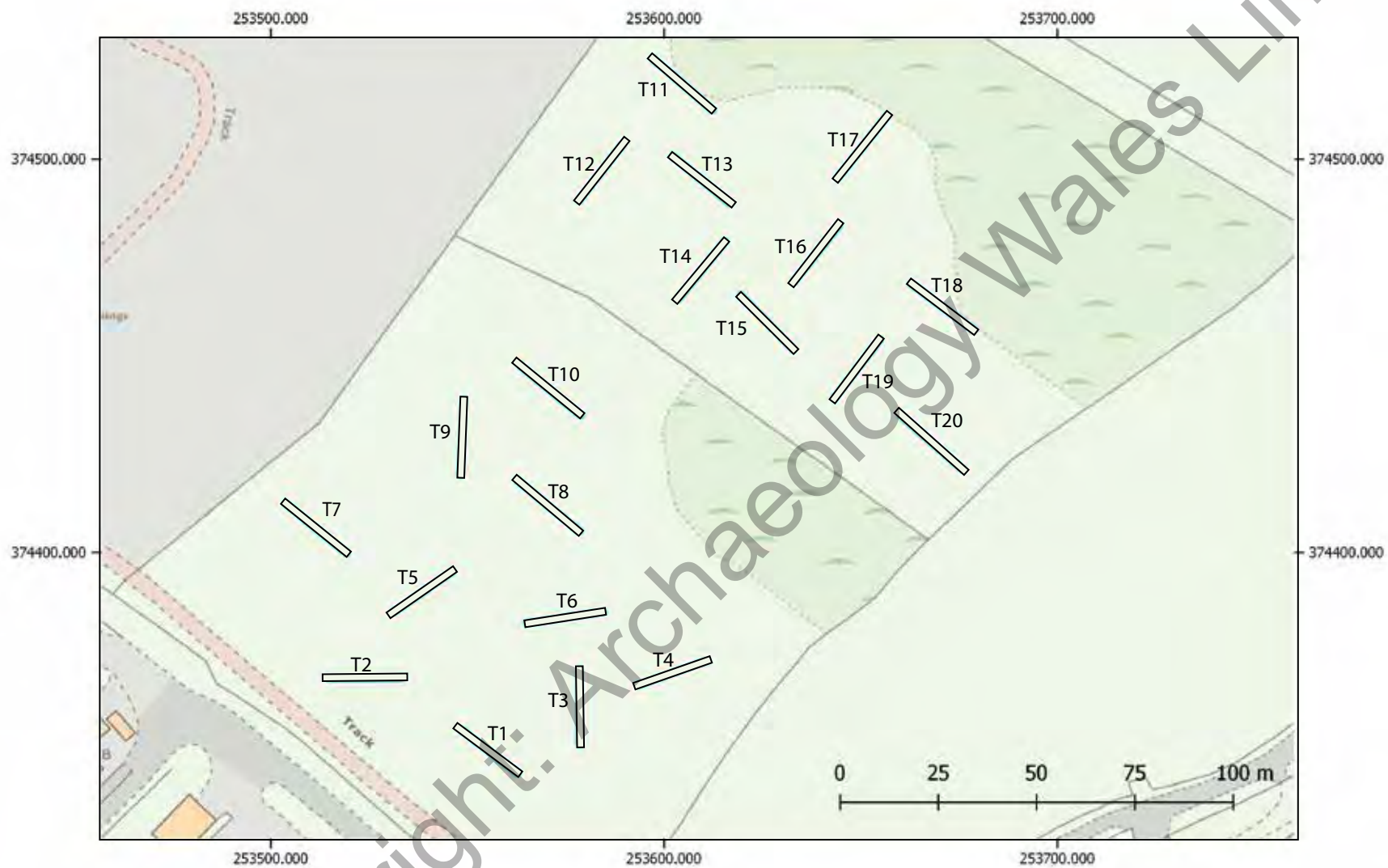


Figure 5.  
Trench location.

Trench 4



Figure 6.1. General plan of trench 4.

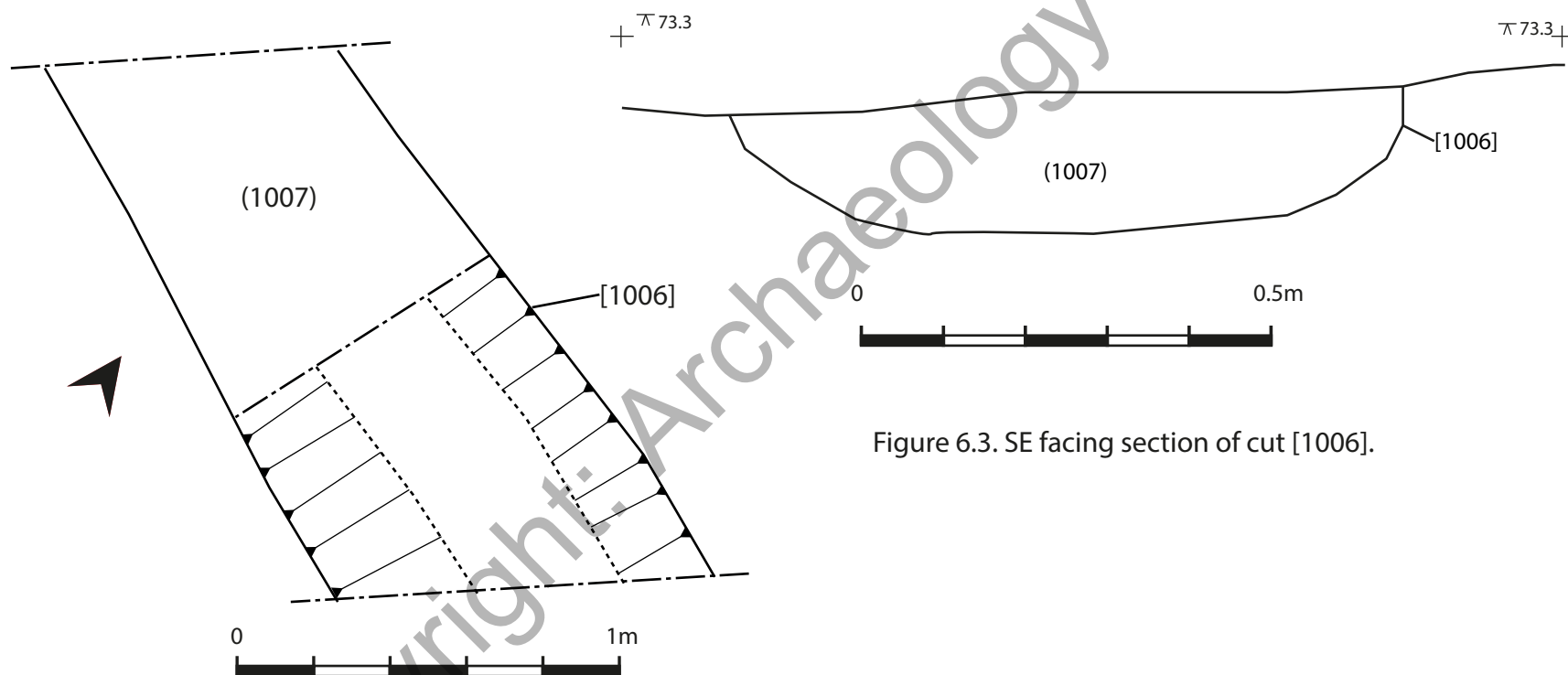
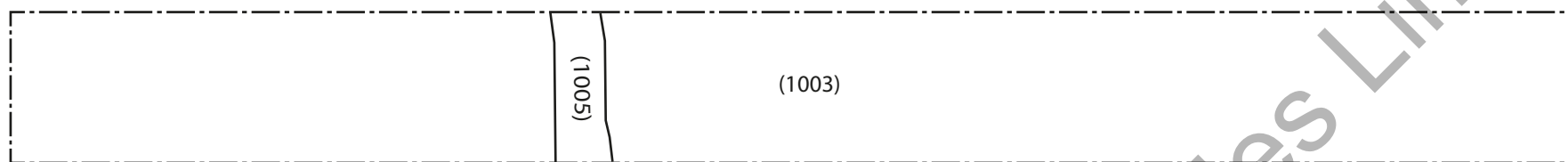


Figure 6.3. SE facing section of cut [1006].

Figure 6.2. Plan of ditch [1006].

Figure 6.  
Trench 4, plans and  
sections.

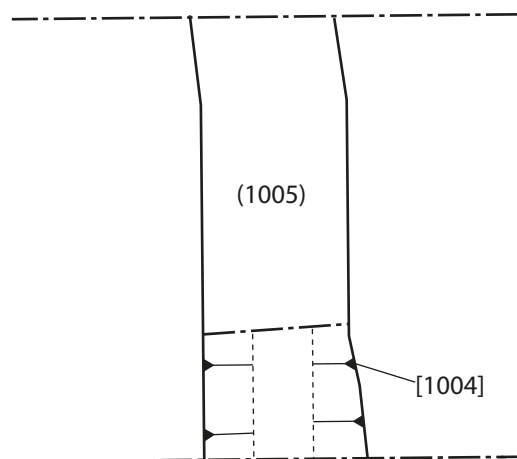
Trench 7



0 5m



Figure 8.1. General plan of Trench 7.



0 1m



Figure 8.2. Plan of [1004].

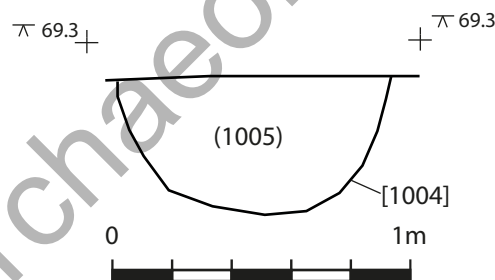


Figure 8.3. SE facing section of [1004].

Figure 8.  
Trench 7, plans and  
sections.

Trench 11

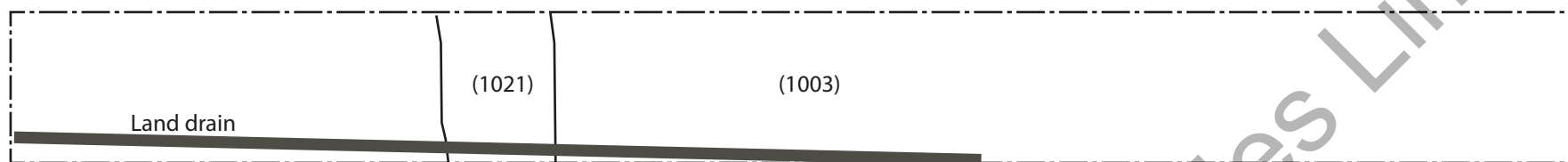


Figure 9.1. General plan of Trench 11.

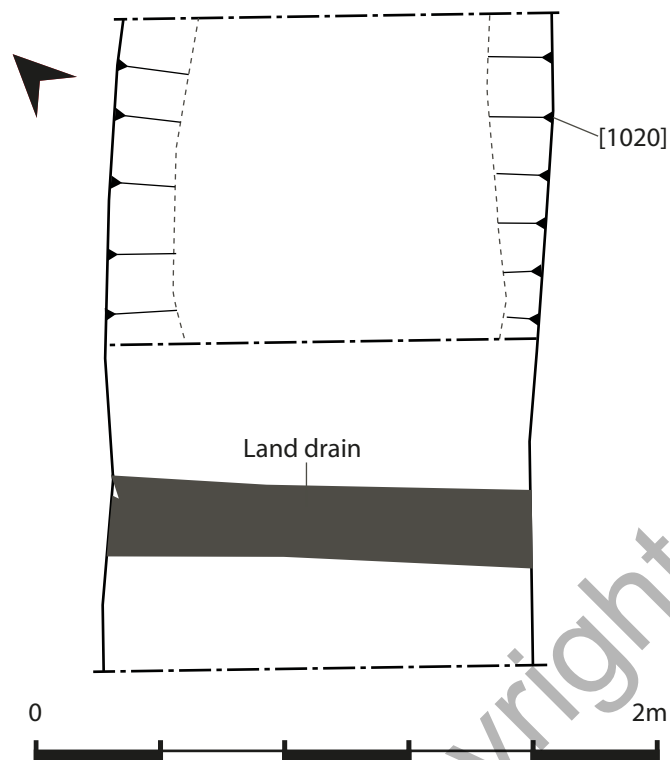


Figure 9.2. Plan of [1020].

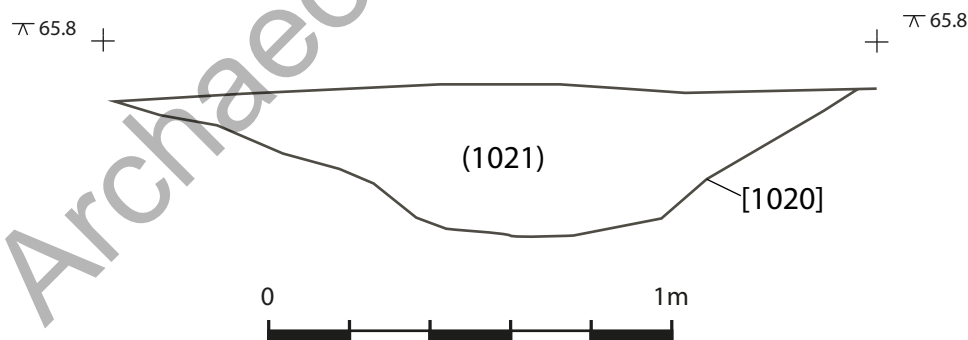


Figure 9.3. SW facing section of [1020].

Figure 9.  
Trench 11, plans and  
sections.

Trench 12

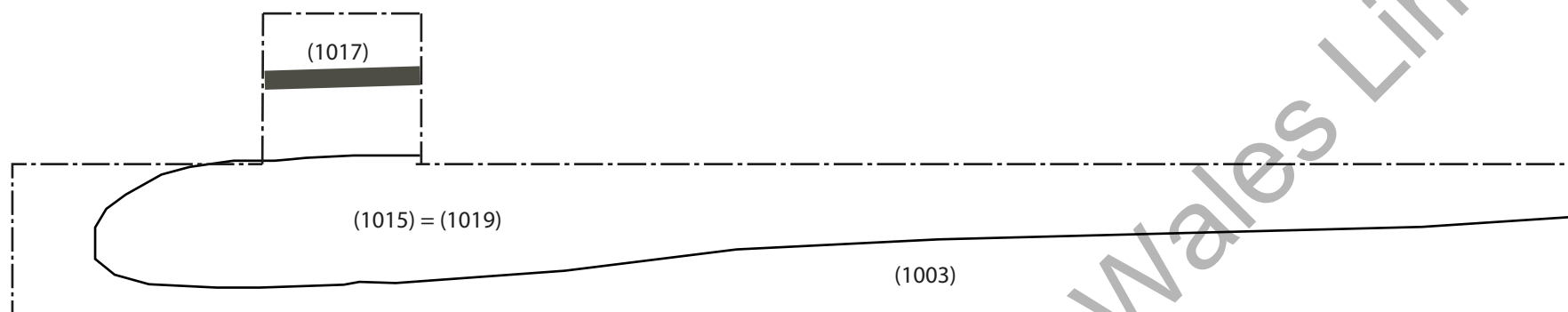


Figure 10.1. General plan Trench 7.

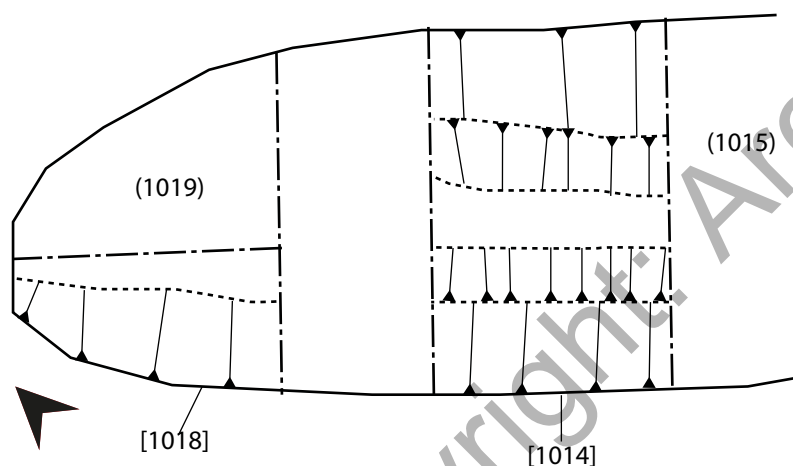


Figure 10.2. Plan of [1018] and [1014].

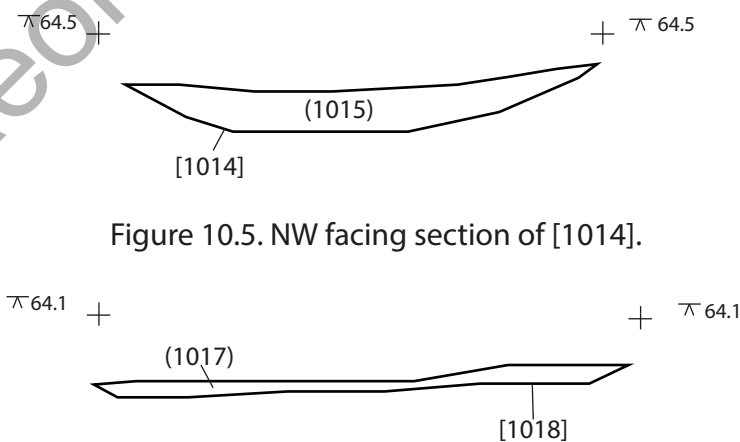


Figure 10.4. SW facing section of terminus [1018]

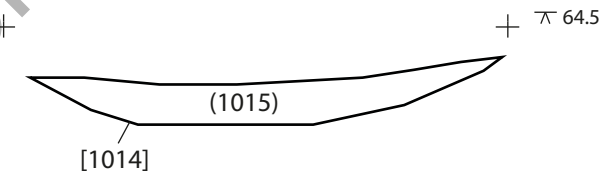


Figure 10.5. NW facing section of [1014].

Figure 10.  
Trench 12, plans and  
sections.

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## **APPENDIX II:**

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Plate 1: Trench 1 looking SE.



Plate 2: Trench 2 looking W.





Plate 3: Trench 3 looking N.



Plate 4: Trench 4 looking NE.





Plate 5: SE facing section of [1006].



Plate 6: Trench 5 looking NE.





Plate 7: [1008] and [1010] looking N.



Plate 8: Trench 6 looking NE.





Plate 9: Trench 7 looking SE.



Plate 10: SW facing section of [1004].





Plate 11: Trench 8 looking NW.



Plate 12: Trench 9 looking N.





Plate 13: Trench 10 looking NW.



Plate 14: Trench 11 looking NW.





Plate 15: E facing section of [1020].



Plate 16: Trench 12 looking SW.





Plate 17: W facing section of [1014].



Plate 18: E facing section of [1016] - 0.5m scale.





Plate 19: E facing section of [1018].



Plate 20: Trench 13 looking NE.





Plate 21: Trench 14 looking NE.



Plate 22: Trench 15 looking NW.





Plate 23: Trench 16 looking SW.



Plate 24: Trench 17 looking SW.





Plate 25: Trench 18 looking NW.



Plate 26: Trench 19 looking NE.





Plate 27: Trench 20 looking NW.

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **APPENDIX III:**

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WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION  
FOR A AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
ON LAND AT PENHESGYN (ANGLESEY)

Prepared for:  
Anglesey County Council

Project No: 2542

19<sup>th</sup> of October 2017



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Figure 1. Site location

Figure 2. Magnetometer survey results clipped at -4nt to 4nt with interpretation

Figure 3. Magnetometer survey results clipped at -2nt to 2nt with interpretation

Figure 4. Proposed location of evaluation trenches

## Summary

*This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details the proposal for archaeological trial trenching to be undertaken by Archaeology Wales at the request of Anglesey County Council. The work represents the second stage of a programme of archaeological evaluation recommended by the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS) prior to the submission of a planning application for the development of a gypsy and traveller site on land at Penhesgyn (Anglesey), centred on SH 53589 74324. The first stage, which comprised a geophysical survey, was completed in late August 2017 (Garcia Rovira 2017).*

*An examination of the archaeological background indicates that the area is rich in prehistoric activity. A number of Neolithic axes as well as pits and enclosures of prehistoric and Roman date are recorded within 1km of the development site.*

*The results obtained during the first stage of work identified a series of parallel lines interpreted as geological in nature. Similarly, a number of anomalies were attributed to the imprint of ploughing. Three circular anomalies were identified in Field 1 and one in Field 2, and a possible L-shape feature was noted at the northern extremity of Field 1. These features might be of archaeological origin. Field 3 was not accessible at the time of the survey.*

*The programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation, which comprises the excavation and recording of twenty 20.0m x 2.0m trenches, will be undertaken prior to the submission of a planning application for the development. The trenches will target anomalies noted on the geophysical survey carried out in Field 1 and 2.*

*All work will be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).*

## 1. Introduction and planning background

This WSI details the methodology for a programme of trial trenching of Field 1 and 2 to be undertaken in association with the proposed development of a gypsy and traveller site at land off Penhesgyn (LL59 5RY) centred on SH 53589 74324 (Figure 1 and 2).

An examination of the archaeological background indicates that the area is rich in prehistoric activity. A number of Neolithic axes as well as pits and enclosures of prehistoric and Roman date are recorded within 1km of the development site. GAPS have recommended a two-stage programme of archaeological investigations,

including a geophysical survey and trial trenching. The geophysical survey was carried out over Fields 1 and 2 during the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2017 (see Appendix 1).

This WSI has been prepared by Dr Irene Garcia Rovira, Assistant Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of Anglesey County Council.

The methodology set out in this WSI has been agreed with GAPS in its capacity as archaeological advisors to Isle of Anglesey County Council. GAPS has recommended that a geophysical survey and a trial trenching evaluation of the development area is undertaken prior to the submission of a planning application to assess the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

## 2. Site Description

The site is located to the northeast and southeast of Penhesgyn Recycle Centre, and it is composed of three large fields. These are defined as open fields currently used for agricultural purposes and grazing. The topography of Field 1 and Field 2 gradually ascends from 65m AOD to the west and 72m AOD to the easternmost limits of these fields. Field 3 gradually descends from 76m AOD to the north and 69m AOD to the south of the field (see figure 2)

The underlying geology is defined by the Central Anglesey Shear Zone and Berw Shear Zone, including schist and mica formed in the Cambrian and Ediacaran Periods. The superficial soils are characterised as Till, Devensian Diamicton formed in Ice Age conditions (BGS 2017).

## 3. Archaeological background

The surrounding area to the site is rich in prehistoric activity. The following finds have been recorded within 1km of the development area.

- During a programme of strip-map-record located 200m NE from Field 1 (see Figure 1), GAPS revealed three pits, one of which contained a flint tool of Neolithic date (see Cooke 2011).
- Three Neolithic axes are recorded as findspots in the HER less than 1km SE from the development site. A further axe is recorded NE of the site.
- Aerial photography has revealed the existence of a hut group at Llansadwrn. This hut group may be dated to late prehistoric and Roman chronologies (see Smith 1996). A circular enclosure as well as a rectangular enclosure have

been recorded within the same field, less than 1km SE from the development site.

- A cist burial site was recorded in 1937 in a field located less than 700m SE from the development site (see Smith 2003).

Furthermore, four scheduled monuments have been documented in the vicinity of the development area. These are: Bryn Eyr earthwork (AN100), Divas Cadvant hillfort (AN048) and two standing stones, Ty-Wyn (AN0773) and Pen-y-Maen (AN072).

It is also significant to note that Penhesgyn Hall and other associated features of post-Medieval age are located immediately below the southern boundary of Field 3

Given the archaeological potential of the development area, GAPS recommended that a two-stage programme of archaeological investigations be undertaken. A magnetometer survey was carried out during Stage 1 to assess the location and character of buried archaeological remains and, consequently, to help determine the location of the Stage 2 evaluation trenches.

#### 4. Objectives

This WSI sets out a program of works to ensure that the trial trenching will meet the standard required by The Chartered **Institute for Archaeologist's** *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014).

The proposed archaeological work will attempt to elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material that might be affected by the development, in particular its character, distribution, extent and relative significance.

During the first stage of work, a geophysical survey of Field 1 and Field 2 helped in locating possible archaeological features present within the development area (Figure 2 & 3). A report was produced, providing information which is sufficiently detailed to inform the location of trenches during the second stage of evaluation (see Figure 4).

The objective of the intrusive trial trench evaluation will be to locate and describe, by means of strategic trial trenching, archaeological features that may be present within the development area. The work will elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance. The work will include an assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within national and regional research frameworks.

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

#### 4.1. Site Specific Research Aims

It is important to recognize that whilst primarily designed to mitigate impacts, developer-led archaeology is also regarded as research activity with an academic basis, the aim of which is to add to the sum of human knowledge. Curators recognize the desirability of incorporating agreed research priorities as a means of enhancing the credibility of the development control process, ensuring cost-effectiveness and legitimately maximizing intellectual return.

A research framework for the archaeology of Wales has been produced (2011-2014) and currently in the process of review.

This programme of trial trenching has the capacity to identify areas where subsequent mitigation may contribute to the following published research aims:

##### *Neolithic/Bronze Age*

The archaeology of this period is to a large extent known thanks to the visibility that monuments and other stone structures have in the landscape. However, the same cannot be said for negative features and other burial remains (e.g. pits). The latter have the potential to extent our knowledge of the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods in North-West Wales (and elsewhere). A programme of geophysical survey and trial trenching has great potential to map and reveal archaeological remains of this chronological period. The potential that the development area has to produce new set of data of these chronologies is further attested by the archaeological remains found by GAT during a programme of strip-me-record to the NE of the proposed development area.

##### *Iron Age/ Romano-British*

The research framework for North West Wales denotes the need to obtain better understandings of the ritual and funerary landscape of late prehistory. A programme of investigation of the characteristics outlined above has the potential of obtain new sets of data necessary to inform this research priority.

Furthermore, it has the potential to map new enclosures and settlement activity as that found to the SE of the development area.

Broader themes are also to be addressed as follows:

- The extent, nature, economy and character of settlement and landscape use during late prehistory.
- The reliability of geophysical surveys with regards to feature type/date.

## 5. Timetable of works

### 5.1. Fieldwork

The geophysical survey (Stage 1) and the programme of trial trenching (Stage 2) will be undertaken prior to the submission of the planning application associated with the proposed development.

The geophysical survey was carried out over Field 1 and 2 during the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2017. Field 3 will be surveyed once access to the land is granted.

The programme of trial trenching of Fields 1 and 2 is proposed to start on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2017. Archaeology Wales will update GAPS with the exact date.

### 5.2. Report delivery

The report will be submitted to Anglesey County Council and to GAPS within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional HER.

## 6. Fieldwork

### 6.1. Detail

#### Trial trenching

The work will be undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered **Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation** (2014).

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

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

It is proposed that 20 No. 20.0m trenches will be machine-excavated within Field 1 and Field 2, targeting anomalies observed during the geophysical survey (Figure 4). The exact positioning of the trenches will depend on the position of any extant services or other obstructions that come to light during the initial phase of ground works. The locations and dimensions of the trenches will be agreed with GAPS prior to the commencement of works.

The evaluation trenches (Trenches 1-20) will be excavated to the top of the archaeological horizon by a machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under close archaeological supervision. All areas will be subsequently hand cleaned using pointing trowels and/or hoes to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological

features and to determine their significance. The excavation of the minimum number of archaeological features will be undertaken, to elucidate the character, distribution, extent and importance of the archaeological remains. As a minimum small discrete features will be fully excavated, larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated) and long linear features will be sample excavated along their length - with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature and to investigate terminals, junctions and relationships with other features. Should this percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined full excavation of such features/deposits will be required.

Sufficient excavation will be undertaken to ensure that the natural horizons are reached and proven, where this can be practically and safely achieved. If safety reasons preclude manual excavation to natural, hand augering may be used to try to assess the total depth of stratification within each area. The depth of the excavation will conform to current safety requirements. If excavation is required below 1.2m the options of using shoring will be discussed with Anglesey County Council and GAPS.

Where potentially significant archaeological features be encountered during the course of the evaluation then GAPS and Anglesey County Council will be informed at the earliest possible opportunity. GAPS may subsequently request that further archaeological work is undertaken in order to fully evaluate areas of significant archaeological activity. Such work may require the provision of additional time and resources to complete the archaeological investigation.

## 6.2. Recording

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

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

All features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries.

Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 12MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

## 6.3. Finds

The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for **Archaeologists'** *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological (2014)* will form the basis of finds collection, processing and recording.

All manner of finds regardless of category and date will be retained.

Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under *The Treasure Act 1996* will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.

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

#### 6.4. Environmental sampling strategy

Deposits with a significant potential for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental material will be sampled, by means of the most appropriate method (bulk, column etc). Where sampling will provide a significant contribution to the understanding of the site AW will draw up a site-specific sampling strategy alongside a specialist environmental archaeologist. All environmental sampling and recording and will follow English Heritage's *Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology* (2002).

#### 6.5. Human remains

In the event that human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established and the coroner informed. All human remains will be left *in situ* and protected during backfilling. Where preservation *in situ* is not possible the human remains will be fully recorded and removed under conditions that comply with all current legislation and include acquisition of licenses and provision for reburial following all analytical work. Human remains will be excavated in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains: Technical Paper Number 13* (1993).

#### 6.6. Specialist advisers

In the event of certain finds, features or sites being discovered, AW will seek specialist opinion and advice. A list of specialists is given in the table below although this list is not exhaustive.

Artefact type	Specialist
Flint	Kate Pitt (Archaeology Wales)
Animal bone	Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall (APS)
Clay pipe	Hilary Major (Freelance)
Glass	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst (University of York)/Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)



Metalwork	Kevin Leahy (University of Leicester)/ Quita Mold (Freelance)
Metal work and metallurgical residues	Dr Tim Young (GeoArch)
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson (Bradford University)
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby (Freelance)
Roman Pottery	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)/ Peter Webster (Freelance)
Post Roman pottery	Stephen Clarke (Monmouthshire Archaeology)
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot (Freelance)
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling (University of Wales – Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers (Freelance)

#### 6.6.1. Specialist reports

Specialist finds and palaeoenvironmental reports will be written by AW specialists, or sub-contracted to external specialists when required.

## 7. Monitoring

GAPS will be contacted approximately five days prior to the commencement of archaeological site works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

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

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

## 8. Post-fieldwork programme

### 8.1. Archive assessment

#### 8.1.1. Site archive

An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2006) upon completion of the project.

The site archive (including artefacts and samples) will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and deposited with an appropriate receiving organisation, in compliance with ClfA Guidelines *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (2014). The legal landowners consent will be gained for deposition of finds.

#### 8.1.2. Analysis

Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of analysis and reporting will be undertaken. This will result in the following inclusions in the final report:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the evaluation trenching, all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings (if features are encountered) with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- Written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate.
- An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development
- A discussion of the local, regional and national context of the remains by means of reviewing published reports, unpublished reports, historical maps, documents from local archives and the regional HER as appropriate.
- A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples finds and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.

### 8.2. Reports and archive deposition

#### 8.2.1. Report to client

Copies of all reports associated with the geophysical survey and intrusive trial trench evaluation together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as

appropriate, including photographs and illustrations, will be submitted to Anglesey County Council and GAPS upon completion.

#### 8.2.2. Additional reports

After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of all reports will be deposited with the relevant county Historical Environment Record, the National Monuments Record and, if appropriate, Cadw.

#### 8.2.3. Summary reports for publication

Short archaeological reports will be submitted for publication in relevant journals; as a minimum, a report will be submitted to the annual publication of the regional CBA group or equivalent journal.

#### 8.2.4. Notification of important remains

Where it is considered that remains have been revealed that may satisfy the criteria for statutory protection, AW will submit preliminary notification of the remains to Cadw.

#### 8.2.5. Archive deposition

The final archive (site and research) will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution, usually the relevant Local Authority museums service. Arrangements will be made with the receiving institution before work starts.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, copies of all reports and the final archive will be deposited no later than six months after completion of the work.

Copies of all reports, the digital archive and an archive index will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER. A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to GAPS.

#### 8.2.6. Finds deposition

The finds, including artefacts and ecofacts, excepting those which may be subject to the Treasure Act, will be deposited with the same institution, subject to the agreement of the legal land owners.

### 9. Staff

The project will be managed by Irene Garcia Rovira (AW Assistant Project Manager) and the fieldwork undertaken by James Weaver (Archaeology Wales), and Stephanie McCulloch. Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of GAPS and Anglesey County Council.

### Additional Considerations

## 10. Health and Safety

### 10.1. Risk assessment

Prior to the commencement of work AW will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. A copy will be sent to the client (or their agent as necessary) for their information. All members of AW staff will adhere to the content of this document.

### 10.2. Other guidelines

AW will adhere to best practice with regard to Health and Safety in Archaeology as set out in the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology* (2002).

## 11. Community Engagement and Outreach

Wherever possible, AW will ensure suitable measures are in place to inform the local community and any interested parties of the results of the site investigation work. This may occur during the site investigation work or following completion of the work. The form of any potential outreach activities may include lectures and talks to local groups, interested parties and persons, information boards, flyers and other forms of communication (social media and websites), and press releases to local and national media.

The form of any outreach will respect client confidentiality or contractual agreements. As a rule, outreach will be proportional to the size of the project.

Where outreach activities have a cost implication these will need to be negotiated in advance and in accordance with the nature of the desired response and learning outcomes.

## 12. Insurance

AW is fully insured for this type of work, and holds Insurance with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hiscox Insurance Company Limited through Towergate Insurance. Full details of these and other relevant policies can be supplied on request.

## 13. Quality Control

### 13.1. Professional standards

AW works to the standards and guidance provided by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*. AW fully recognise and endorse the Chartered Institute for **Archaeologists'** *Code of Conduct*, *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* and the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs* currently in force. All employees of AW, whether

corporate members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists or not, are expected to adhere to these Codes and Standards during their employment.

### 13.2. Project tracking

The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

## 14. Arbitration

Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision **in accordance with the Rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' Arbitration Scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists** applying at the date of the agreement.

## 15. References

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standards and guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standards and guidance for the collection, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.

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