

Archaeological Watching Brief:
Penrhos Industrial Estate, Penrhos, Holyhead

May 2023



Report No. 2189

By

Jessica Woolley



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Prepared for The Environment Partnership Ltd (TEP)

By

Jessica Woolley BA (Hons) MA

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1	02/05/23	Original	Jessica Wooley BA (Hons) MA	Rhiannon Philp BSc (hons) MA PhD

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Archaeology Wales Limited

Main Office, Unit D11.6 Treforest Industrial Estate

Pontypridd - CF37 5UR

Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371

Email: admin@arch-wales.co.uk

Web: arch-wales.co.uk



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Non-Technical Summary

Between September 2022 and April 2023, Archaeology Wales Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the proposed development of six business units together with landscaping and associated infrastructure at land on Penrhos Industrial Estate, Penrhos, Holyhead LL65 2UH, centred on NGR SH 25664 81102. The associated planning application reference is FPL/2022/43.

The purpose of the archaeological mitigation was to identify, excavate, record, and analyse any significant archaeological remains that would have been disturbed by the proposed groundworks. A single highly truncated archaeological feature was identified in the form of a section of shallow linear of unknown date. The watching brief did not identify any further archaeologically significant features, finds or deposits.

The watching brief was undertaken to the standards set in the ClfA's Standards and Guidance: for an archaeological watching brief (2020) and current Health and Safety legislation.

Crynodeb Annhechnegol

Rhwng mis Medi 2022 a mis Ebrill 2023, cynhaliodd Archaeology Wales Cyf friff gwylio archeolegol yn ystod gwaith tir sy'n gysylltiedig â'r gwaith o ddatblygu chwe uned busnes gyda gwaith tirlunio a'r seilwaith cysylltiedig ar dir ar Ystâd Ddiwydiannol Penrhos, Caergybi, LL65 2UH, y mae ei ganolbwynt wedi'i leoli yn NGR SH 25664 81102. Rhif cyfeirnod y cais cynllunio cysylltiedig yw FPL/2022/43.

Diben y gwaith lliniaru archeolegol oedd nodi, cloddio, cofnodi a dadansoddi unrhyw weddillion archeolegol arwyddocaol a fyddai wedi'u haflonyddu gan y gwaith tir arfaethedig. Darganfyddodd arwedd archeolegol sengl wedi ei trychu o dyddiad anhysbys mewn ffyrdd llinellog byr a bas. Ni wnaeth y briff gwylio nodi unrhyw nodweddion, canfyddiadau neu waddodion o arwyddocâd archeolegol.

Cynhaliwyd y briff gwylio i'r safonau a bennwyd yn Safonau a Chanllawiau Sefydliad Siartredig yr Archeolegwyr: ar gyfer briff gwylio archeolegol (2020) a'r ddeddfwriaeth lechyd a Diogelwch presennol.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and Scope of Work

- 1.1.1 This report details the results obtained during a watching brief undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of The Environment Partnership Ltd (TEP) (henceforth - the client). The watching brief was carried out in association with the proposed development of six business units together with landscaping and associated infrastructure at land on Penrhos Industrial Estate, Penrhos, Holyhead LL65 2UH, centred on NGR SH 25664 81102. The associated planning application reference is FPL/2022/43.
- 1.1.2 The following report provides details of the results of the work undertaken. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was submitted to and approved by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS) prior to the undertaking of the works and is included in Appendix I of this report. The project was managed by Archaeology Wales (AW) Project Manager Irene Garcia Rovira PhD MCIfA with site fieldwork undertaken by AW Supervisor Juan Moreno, Jessica Woolley and Anne Templeton.

1.2 Location, Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The proposed development site is located within the Penrhos Industrial Estate, on the east side of the railway track running alongside the A55 (North Wales Expressway) on the southern edge of Holyhead. The site is located within the coastal lowland area. It currently consists of a trapezoidal grass field bounded by hedgerows. It is bordered to the northwest by a supermarket, to the north and east by fields, to the southwest by the railway, and to the southeast by the A5153 (Figures 1-2).
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology is defined by the New Harbour Group - Mica schist and psammite, metamorphic bedrock formed between 635 and 541 million years ago during the Ediacaran period. The superficial deposits are Devensian Till - Diamicton, a sedimentary deposit formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period (BGS 2023).

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 1.3.1 A 0.5km radius HER search was carried out prior to the production of this report to be able to contextualise the results obtained during the watching brief - HER reference number GATHER1709. The results are summarised below in chronological order.

Prehistory

- 1.3.2 A Bronze Age landscape was revealed during the works carried out in associated with Parc Cybi (Kenney *et al.* 2011). The excavated remains included funerary contexts such as an Early Bronze Age cemetery PRN 31589, and a ring ditch PRN31590, as well as domestic contexts such as a round house PRN 31588, a number of pits PRN 76098 and PRN 31580 and an over-like feature PRN 31585. These remains were located less than 200m south from the proposed development.
- 1.3.3 It is also significant to note the density of pits of Neolithic date found within the above-mentioned site, including PRNs 18046, 31571-74, 76097, 74830-32. The remains of a possible Neolithic structure were also found partly covered by round house PRN 31588. Other discrete features of likely prehistoric date were recovered during the archaeological works carried out at Parc Cybi, however their exact function and date have not been attained.

Late Prehistory and Roman Period

- 1.3.4 The archaeological works at Parc Cybi also revealed a number of features of Iron Age Romano-British date including a round house and Roman settlement PRNs 14599 and 31596 respectively.
- 1.3.5 Other significant finds include a possible Iron Age pit found adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site, PRN 15695, a Roman coin hoard found 300m east-southeast of the site, and the projected line of a Roman Road south of the A55.

Early Medieval

- 1.3.6 A total of seven corn driers of early medieval date were found during the works associated with Parc Cybi. These are recorded as PRNs 76100-01. 31601-04 and 81343. Furthermore, the works revealed the remains of a cist cemetery of Late Roman date, PRN 31600.

Post-medieval

- 1.3.7 The HER records documents multiple features of post-medieval date. From the data, it is possible to highlight the rural nature of the site and its surroundings during this period.
- 1.3.8 Some industrial activity is also documented through features such as clay pits PRN31624 but also by the presence of infrastructures close to the site, including the Holyhead Road PRN 16081, and the Chester to Holyhead railway PRN 160077.

1.4 Historic Mapping

- 1.4.1 The tithe map for the area shows that the site sits mostly within apportionment 1270 (Cae square) and partially within apportionment 1269 (Cae oflaen drws) to the northeast of the site. Both fields belonged to a farm called Ty mawr, which was occupied by William Jones and owned by Stanley Lord of Alderley. The boundary between the two apportionments is shown to run west-northwest to east-southeast across the northeast third of the site.
- 1.4.2 OS mapping was consulted from 1883 onwards (consulted maps are listed in the bibliography). All OS mapping showed the site to be open fields with no boundaries within the development area. No evidence of the tithe apportionment boundary was present in any of the OS mapping.

2 Objectives

- 2.1.1 The purpose of the archaeological mitigation (watching brief) was to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains within the area of work, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy Wales (edition 11) and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24. The work was to ensure that all buried artefacts and deposits revealed as a result of activities associated with the development were fully investigated and recorded.
- 2.1.2 The objectives of the watching brief were:
- to allow the investigation and recording of any archaeological features uncovered during the proposed groundworks within the application area.
 - to provide the opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief are not sufficient to support the treatment to a satisfactory or proper standard.
- 2.1.3 This report is intended to provide a detailed account of all the archaeological watching brief work conducted during the development at Penrhos Industrial Estate. Sufficient research has been undertaken to ensure that the results of this work are properly understood, interpreted, and reported.
- 2.1.4 A full site archive will be produced, including project records, artefacts, ecofacts and any other sample residues and summaries of the context, artefact, and environmental records.

3 Methodology

- 3.1.1 A watching Brief complying with the ClfA *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2020) was undertaken during all intrusive groundwork on the site. The methodology was agreed with Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (henceforth - GAPS), advisors to the local planning authority and is set out in the approved WSI (Garcia Rovira 2022) included in Appendix I.
- 3.1.2 The excavations were carried out by a tracked 360° excavator equipped with a flat-bladed bucket, provided by the principal contractor. The entire process was monitored by a suitably trained archaeologist.
- 3.1.3 Day Sheets were maintained for each visit and photographs of progress were taken with appropriate scales throughout the Watching Brief using a 12MP digital camera. Plans and sketches of the excavation were drawn to the appropriate scale using regular archaeological conventions. All the deposits encountered were recorded by means of a continuous context numbering system using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc.). All features and deposits were described in accordance with ClfA conventions. A register of all contexts and photographs was also made.

4 Results

4.1 Test Pits

- 4.1.1 Six test pits were cut between the 20th and 21st of September 2022 across the development area (Figure 3). The results of this phase of work - Phase I - are summarised below:

Test pit 100 (Figure 3, Plate 2)

- 4.1.2 Test pit 100 was 2.4m in length, 0.55m in width, and 3.2m in depth. No archaeological remains, finds or deposits were revealed within this test pit.
- 4.1.3 The natural substrate (1002) was encountered at 0.41m below the ground level. It consisted of light grey, brown sandy clay with occasional subrounded stones.
- 4.1.4 The subsoil (1001) was encountered at a depth of 0.3 to 0.4m below the ground level. The deposit was defined as light brown sandy silt with occasional small, rounded stones.
- 4.1.5 The topsoil (1000) was 0.3m in thickness and consisted of dark brown loam with occasional gravel inclusions.

Test pit 101 (Figure 3, Plate 3)

- 4.1.6 Test pit 101 was 2.6m in length, 0.54m in width, and 3.8m in depth. No archaeological remains, finds or deposits were revealed within this test pit.
- 4.1.7 The natural substrate (1012) was encountered at 0.64m below the ground level. It consisted of light grey, brown sandy clay with occasional subrounded stones.
- 4.1.8 The subsoil (1011) was encountered at a depth of 0.3 to 0.4m below the ground level. The deposit was defined as light brown sandy silt with occasional small, rounded stones.
- 4.1.9 The topsoil (1010) was 0.3m in thickness and consisted of dark brown loam with occasional gravel inclusions.

Test pit 102 (Figure 3, Plate 4)

- 4.1.10 Test pit 102 was 2.6m in length, 0.54m in width and 3.8m in depth. No archaeological remains, finds or deposits were revealed within this test pit.
- 4.1.11 The natural substrate (1022) was encountered at 0.5m below the ground level. It consisted of light grey, brown sandy clay with occasional subrounded stones.
- 4.1.12 The subsoil (1021) was encountered at a depth of 0.3 to 0.48m below the ground level. The deposit was defined as light brown sandy silt with occasional small, rounded stones.
- 4.1.13 The topsoil (1000) was 0.3m in thickness and consisted of dark brown loam with occasional gravel inclusions.

Test pit 103 (Figure 3, Plate 5)

- 4.1.14 Test pit 103 was 3.8m in length, 0.6m in width and 3.7m in depth. No archaeological remains, finds or deposits were revealed within this test pit.
- 4.1.15 The natural substrate (1032) was encountered at 1.2m below the ground level. The natural substrate was overlaid by a deposit of made ground first evidenced at 0.34m below the ground level. This deposit was defined by loose sandy clay with frequent fragments of plastic, metal wire and other debris.
- 4.1.16 This deposit was overlaid by the topsoil (1030). The topsoil was 0.34m in thickness and consisted of dark brown loam with occasional gravel inclusions.

Test pit 104 (Figure 3, Plate 6)

- 4.1.17 Test pit 104 was 2.6m in length, 0.56m in width and 3.8m in depth. No archaeological remains, finds or deposits were revealed within this test pit.
- 4.1.18 The natural substrate (1042) was reached at 1m below the ground level. This deposit was overlaid by what was tentatively interpreted as buried topsoil (1041), composed of light brownish grey sandy clay with frequent stone inclusions. This deposit was overlaid by a thick deposit of made ground, identical to that found within TP 103, of 0.2m in thickness.
- 4.1.19 This deposit was overlaid by the topsoil (1040). The topsoil was 0.35m in thickness and consisted of dark brown loam with occasional gravel inclusions.

Test pit 105 (Figure 3, Plate 7)

- 4.1.20 Test pit 105 was 2.7m in length, 0.4m in width and 3.7m in depth. No archaeological remains, finds or deposits were revealed within this test pit.
- 4.1.21 The stratigraphy of this test pit was identical to that described for TP 104.

4.2 Watching Brief (Figure 4-5, Plates 9- 22)

- 4.2.1 The watching brief was carried out in two phases. Phase I was represented by a topsoil strip across the development area. The topsoil (001) was defined as dark to medium sandy loam with occasional gravels and had a maximum depth of 0.34m below the ground level. During Phase II of the watching brief, the area was divided into three main regions of excavation: the building footprint, a raised area to the north of the development, and the access road (Figure 4).

Access Road

- 4.2.2 The access road measured 1,296m², and was oriented northeast to southwest, with an arm joining the main road area, oriented northwest to southeast. The access road was cut to the foundation level, in some cases exposing the natural substrate (003).
- 4.2.3 The natural substrate (003) was heterogeneous and ranged from light greyish brown sandy clay to mid-yellow brown clayey sand with occasional to frequent angular stones. It was revealed at depths ranging from 0.57 to 0.98m below the ground level due to the sloping topography.
- 4.2.4 Whilst no topsoil was present as it has been stripped during phase I, some subsoil was still present. The subsoil (002) was light brown sandy silt with occasional small, rounded stones.

- 4.2.5 No finds, deposits or features of archaeological interest were found during the excavation of the access road.

The Western Area

- 4.2.6 A raised area was present within the site, adjacent to Morrisons supermarket. The area measured 12m in width and 60m in length. This area was reduced on the 8th of February 2023.
- 4.2.7 This area was reduced to the natural substrate (003), revealed at 0.64m below the ground level. It comprised a mid-yellow brown sandy clay with occasional to frequent angular stones and was overlaid by the subsoil (002). The subsoil was encountered at a depth of 0.34m below the ground level and was c. 0.20m thick. This deposit comprised a brown sandy silt with occasional small, rounded stones, as well as occasional fragments of wire, plastic and other debris.
- 4.2.8 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were revealed during the excavation of this area.

The Building Footprint

- 4.2.9 The building footprint measured 51m in length and c. 8m in width, and was excavated in two main phases, the first phase targeting the northwest of the building footprint measuring 18m x 8m, and the second located within the area identified as containing made ground, measuring c. 30m in length and 8m in width.
- 4.2.10 The first area was excavated to the natural substrate reached at 0.6m below the ground level. The natural substrate (003) was defined by mid-orange-brown clayey sand with frequent gravel inclusions.
- 4.2.11 The subsoil (002) in this area measured 0.12m in thickness and was composed of a light brown sandy silt with occasional small, rounded stones.
- 4.2.12 The subsoil was overlain by the topsoil (001), a deposit of friable, dark orange-brown sandy loam which contained frequent gravels and medium sized stones. It covered the whole site and had a depth of c.0.40m.
- 4.2.13 Linear [005] was cut into the natural (003). It measured 14m long - although it was truncated to the southeast - 0.6m wide and had a maximum depth of 0.15m. The linear stretched across the northwest edge of the stripped area and was orientated northeast - southwest. It was investigated via a single intervention to the southern end of the stripped area and found to have had straight sides which had a moderate slope into a slightly concave base. The linear contained one fill (006) which comprised a friable, dark black-brown

clayey silt with frequent small to medium sized stones (Figure 5). No datable material was obtained during its excavation. The feature may have been the remains of a heavily truncated ditch, but this is not identifiable in historic mapping. The feature is on a perpendicular alignment to the recorded boundary between the two tithe apportionments that the site falls within; no evidence for which was identified during the watching brief, and none of the historic OS mapping consulted above shows evidence of this feature as a field boundary (consulted mapping listed in bibliography). The date and purpose of the feature are therefore unclear.

- 4.2.14 No other finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified during the stripping of this area.
- 4.2.15 The eastern region of the building footprint was first excavated to the foundation levels; however, it was subsequently agreed to remove all made ground within this region. On average the made ground was 0.6m in thickness and was characterised by loose sandy clay with frequent fragments of plastic, metal wire and other debris.
- 4.2.16 The made ground (004) overlaid the natural substrate (003) which was characterised as heterogeneous context composed of sands and gravels, alluvial in nature.

5 Finds

- 5.1.1 No finds of archaeological significance were recovered during the watching brief.

6 Discussion

- 6.1.1 Between September 2022 and April 2023, Archaeology Wales Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the proposed development of six business units together with landscaping and associated infrastructure at land on Penrhos Industrial Estate, Penrhos, Holyhead LL65 2UH, centred on NGR SH 25664 81102.
- 6.1.2 The Watching Brief was designed to help identify and record archaeological features or deposits located within the development area that may be associated with the historical landscape of Anglesey. The monitoring focused upon six geological test pits and the stripping of an area measuring 100m by 150m.
- 6.1.3 The results of the watching brief identified a single highly truncated ditch [1003] of unknown date and a number of modern field drains traversing the

site. The ditch was not identified on any historic mapping including the Welsh Tithe and historic OS mapping dating from 1883 onwards. No further remains of archaeological value were identified during the works and it was clear from large areas of made ground that the site had been heavily truncated and adapted in recent times.

7 Archiving

- 7.1.1 The final archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth as per the National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales Guidelines (2017) and ClfA Standards and guidance for the collection, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (2020). Copies of all reports and the final archive will be deposited no later than 12 months after completion of the work.

8 Bibliography

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Technical Advice Note - The Historic Environment - 2017 [Accessed online: <https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-24-historic-environment>]

Maps Consulted

Welsh Tithe Maps [Accessed online: https://places.library.wales/browse/53.299/-4.617/16?page=1&alt=SH%2025664%2081102&alt=SH%2025664%2081102&leaflet-base-layers_70=on]

OS Historic Maps [Accessed online: <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/side-by-side/#zoom=17.7&lat=53.29819&lon=-4.61735&layers=170&right=ESRIWorld>]

OS 1 Inch 1885-1900

OS 6 Inch 1883-1913

OS 6 Inch 1892-1914

OS 1 Inch 1919-1930

OS 25 Inch England and Wales: Anglesey XI.7 1924

OS 1:25000 1937-1961

OS 1:25000 19945-1965

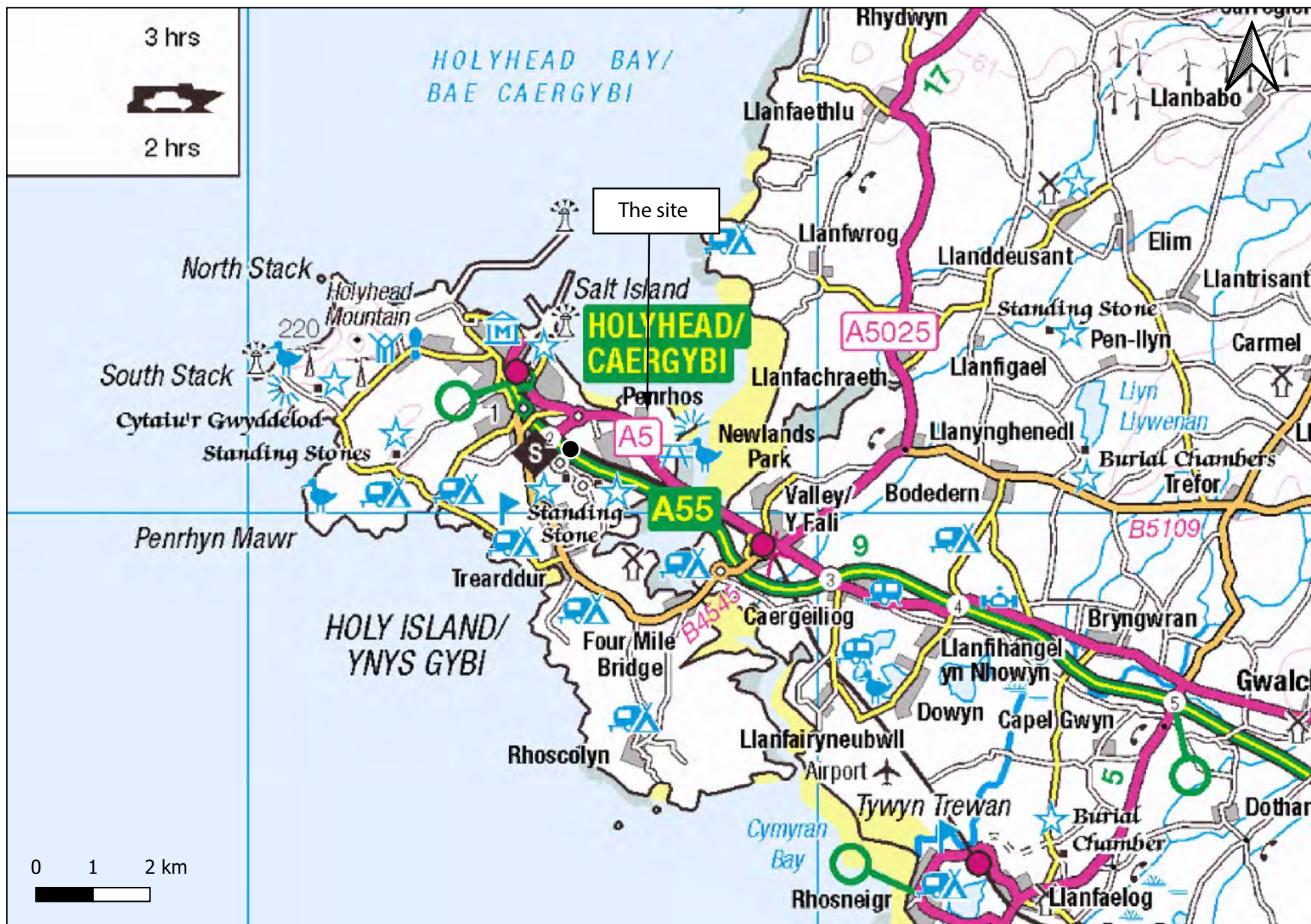
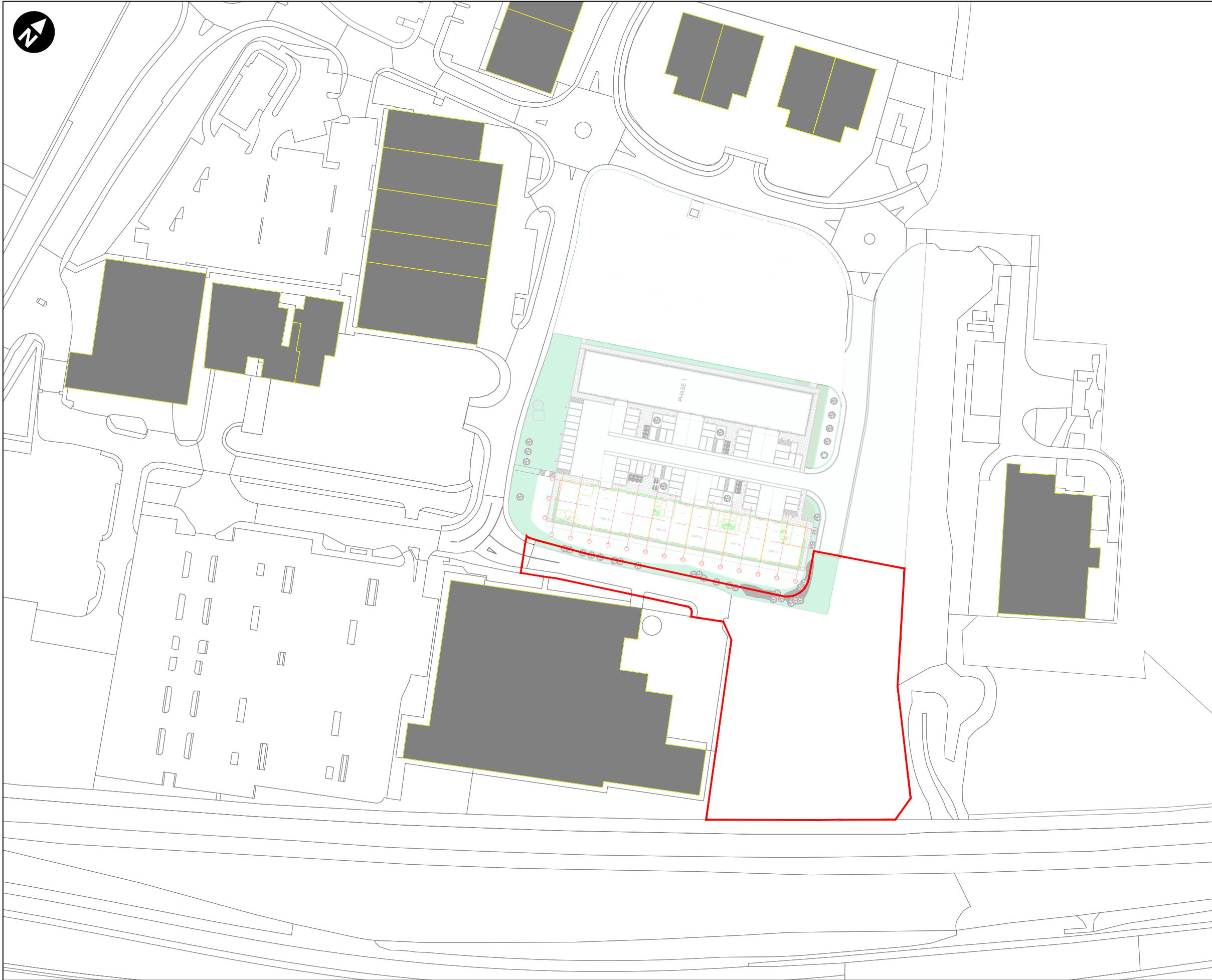


Figure 1. Site Location



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NOTES:

Key

— Site boundary (0.69ha)

B	For Approval	10/02/22	VN	DH	DH
REVISION DETAILS		DATE	DWN	CHK	APP

SCALE: 1:1250

PROJECT TITLE:
Penrhos Business Unit

DRAWING TITLE:
Phase 3
Site Location Plan

wood.
NICHOLL'S HOUSE, HOMER CLOSE,
LEAMINGTON SPA, CV34 6TT
TEL: (01926) 439000

CLIENT:
 CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

CLIENT DRAWING No.

WOOD DRAWING No.
39696-WOOD-XX-P3-SK-A-0001_50

REV.
P01

Figure 2. Development boundary (in red)

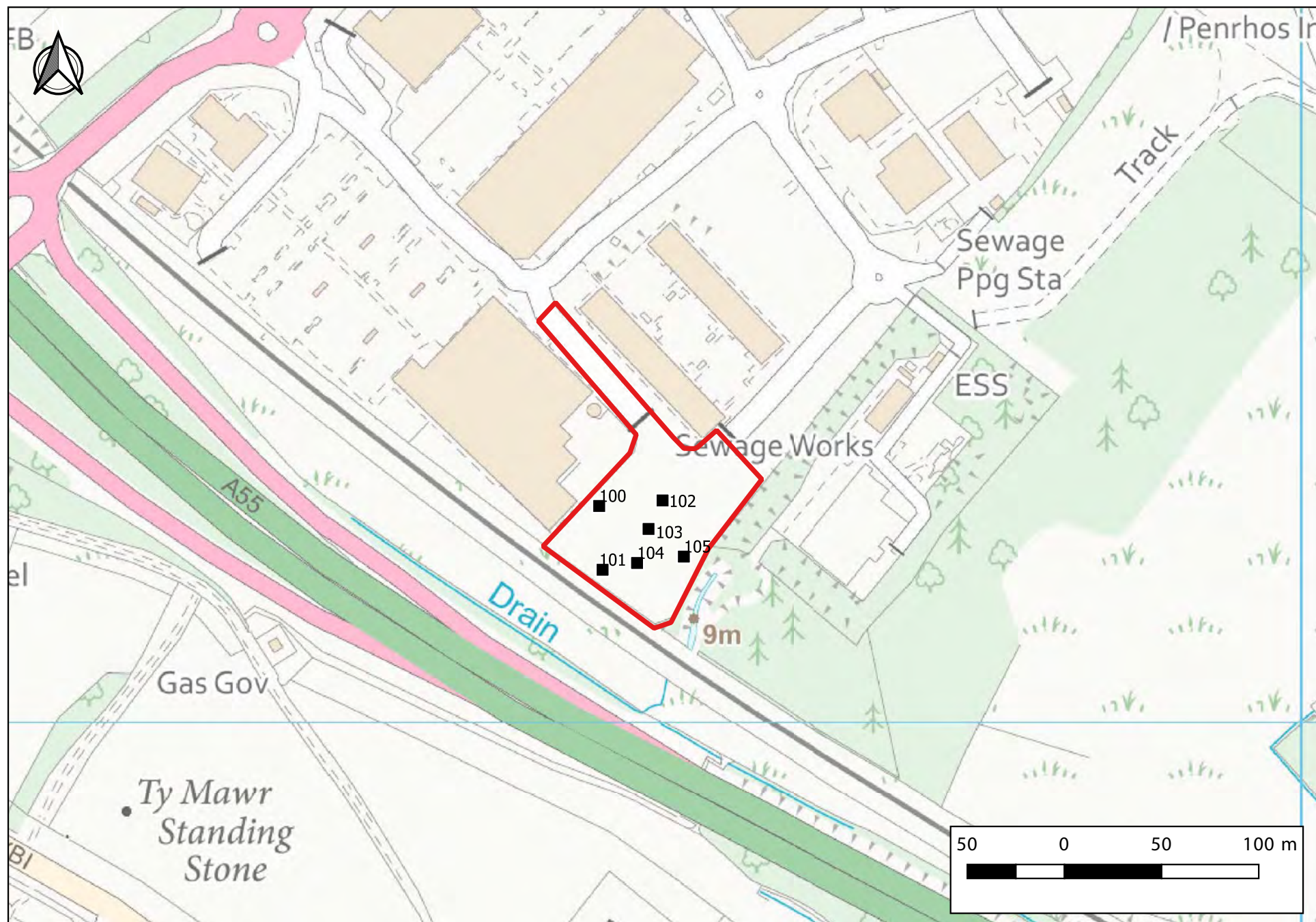


Figure 3. Location of test pits

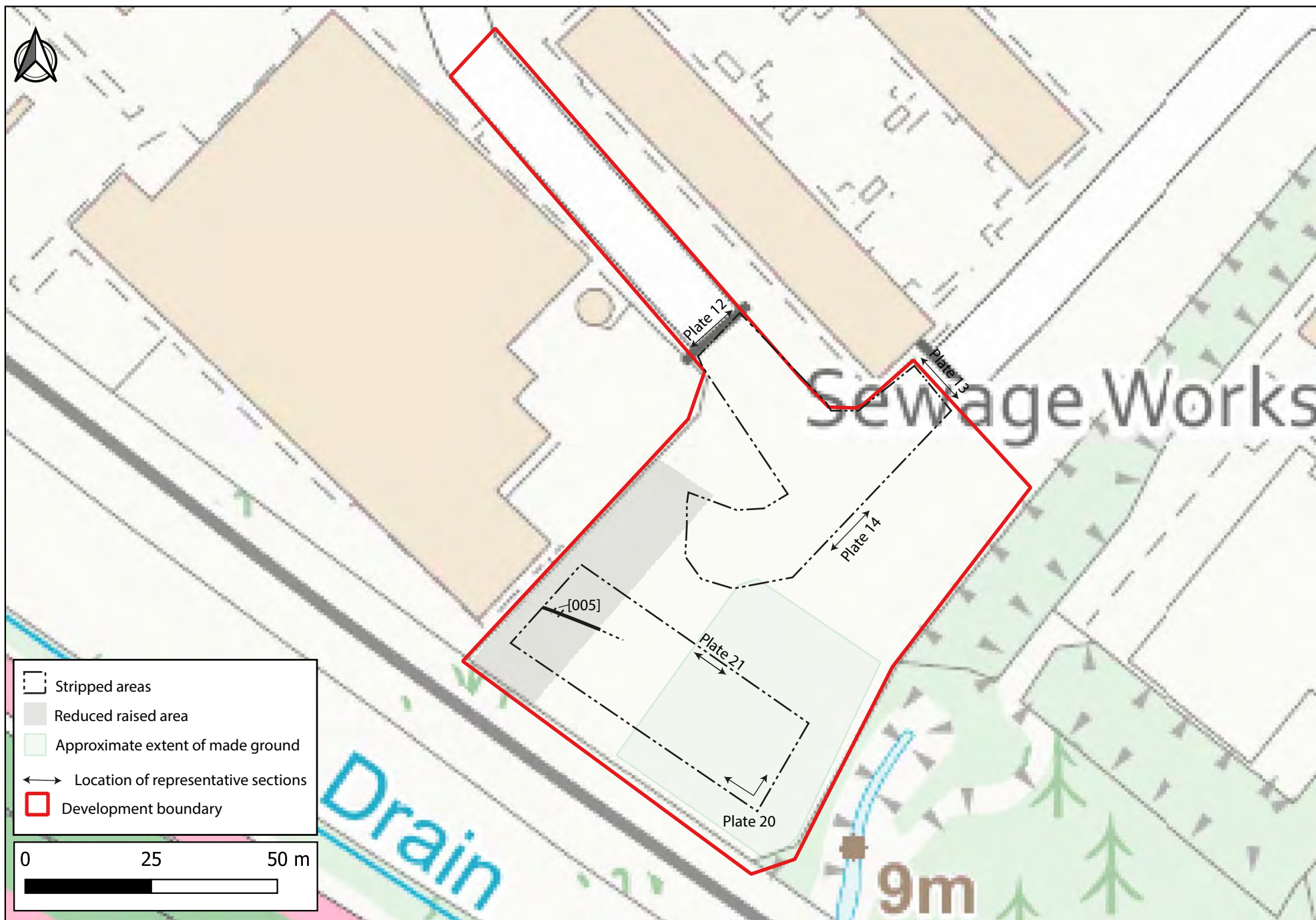


Figure 4. Location of monitored areas.

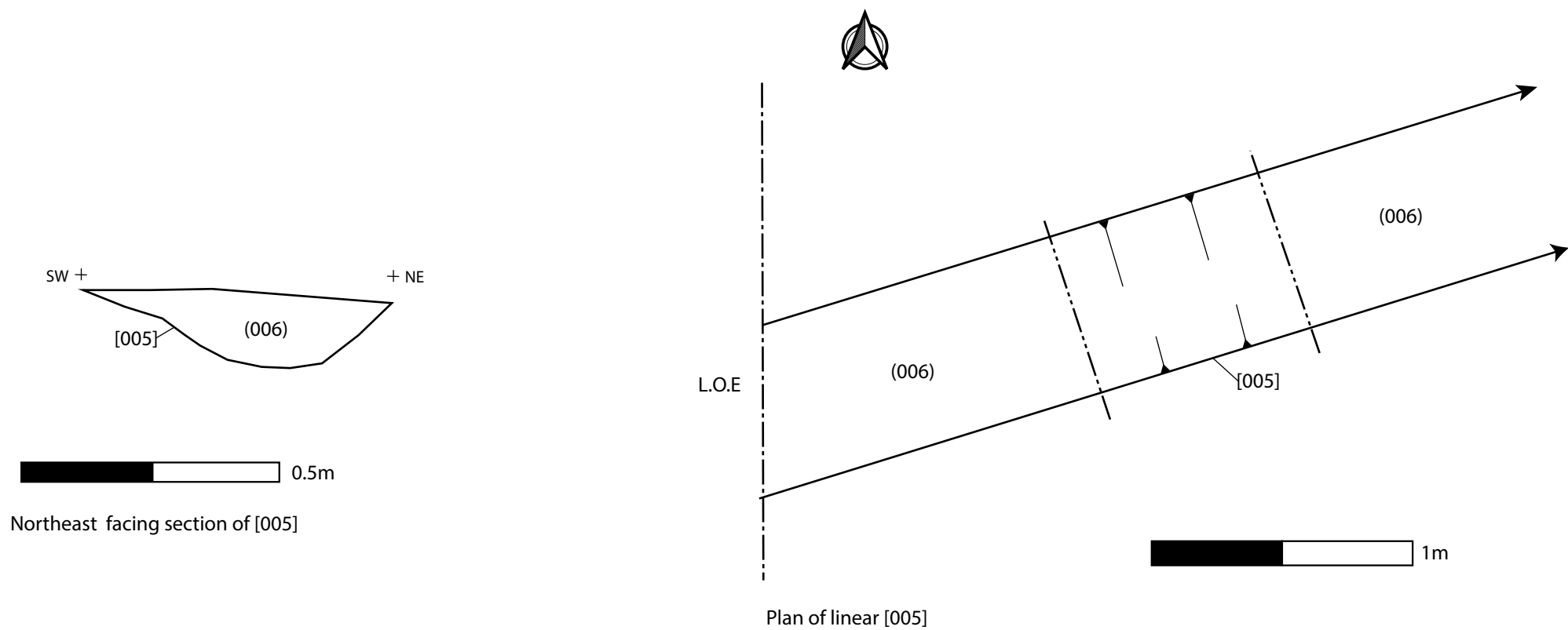


Figure 5. Feature [005], plan and section.

Plates



Plate 1: The site prior to excavation, looking northwest



Plate 2: Test pit 100, southwest facing section



Plate 3: Test pit 101, southwest facing section



Plate 4: Test pit 102, southwest facing section



Plate 5: Test pit 103, southwest facing section.



Plate 6: Test pit 104, southwest facing section.



Plate 7: Test pit 105, southwest facing section



Plate 8: Topsoil strip completed looking north from southwest of site.



Plate 9: Topsoil strip, looking southwest.



Plate 10: Topsoil strip looking northwest.



Plate 11: Topsoil strip looking east/southeast.



Plate 12: Access Road strip, northwest end, southwest facing representative section



Plate 13: Representative section, Access Road strip. Section facing southwest.



Plate 14: Representative section, Access Road strip. Section facing west.



Plate 15: Access Road strip, working shot, looking southeast.



Plate 16: Building footprint, western strip looking northeast.



Plate 17: Shallow linear feature, pre-excavation shot.



Plate 18: Shallow linear feature, post-excavation shot.



Plate 19: Linear [005] looking northwest.



Plate 20: Building footprint, eastern strip with man-made ground, looking southeast.



Plate 21: Representative section, building footprint, man-made ground, facing south-southwest.



Plate 22: Mixed sand and gravel, natural substrate – southeast region of building footprint., looking north.

Archaeology Wales Ltd

The Reading Room, Town Hall, Llanidloes SY18 6BN

T: 01686 440371

E: info@arch-wales.co.uk

www.arch-wales.co.uk

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL

WATCHING BRIEF AT

Former Heliport Site, Penrhos Industrial Estate,
Penrhos, Holyhead

Prepared for:

The Environment Partnership (TEP) Ltd

Project No: 3031

August 2022



*Archaeology Wales Limited
The Reading Room, Town Hall, Great Oak Street
Llanidloes, Powys SY18 6BN*

Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371

Email: admin@arch-wales.co.uk

Figures

Figure 1. Site location

Figure 2. Development boundary

Figure 3. Location of GI test pits

Summary

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details the proposal for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken in association with the proposed development of six business units together with landscaping and associated infrastructure at land on Penrhos Industrial Estate, Penrhos, Holyhead LL65 2UH, SH 25664 81102. It has been prepared by Archaeology Wales Ltd for The Environment Partnership (TEP).

All work will be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020).

1 Introduction and planning background

- 1.1.1 This WSI details the proposal for a watching brief to be undertaken in association with the proposed development of six business units together with landscaping and associated infrastructure on land at Penrhos Industrial Estate, Penrhos, Holyhead, LL65 2UH, NGR SH 25664 81102 (Figure 1). The planning application reference is FPL/2022/43.
- 1.1.2 This WSI has been prepared by Irene Garcia Rovira MCIfA, Project Manager at Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth AW) at the request of The Environment Partnership (TEP).
- 1.1.3 The methodology set out in this WSI has been agreed with Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS). GAPS has recommended that intrusive groundworks in areas assessed to be archaeologically sensitive should be monitored through the implementation of an archaeological watching brief. Condition 06(a) of the Conditional Planning Decision states that:

(06) a) No development (including topsoil strip or other groundworks) shall take place until a specification for a programme of archaeological work has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out and all archaeological work completed in strict accordance with the approved details.

b) A detailed report on the archaeological work, as required by condition (a), shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority within six months of the completion of the archaeological fieldwork.

Reasons:

1) To ensure the implementation of an appropriate programme of archaeological mitigation in accordance with the requirements of Planning Policy Wales 2021 and TAN24: The Historic Environment.

2) To ensure that the work will comply with Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2) and the Standards and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).

1.1.4 The purpose of the archaeological mitigation (watching brief) is to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains within the area of work, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy Wales (edition 11) and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24. The work is to ensure that all buried artefacts and deposits are fully investigated and recorded if they are disturbed or revealed as a result of activities associated with the development.

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

2 Site Description

- 2.1.1 The proposed development site is located within the Penrhos Industrial Estate, on the east side of the railway track running alongside the A55 (North Wales Expressway) on the southern edge of Holyhead. The site is located within the coastal lowland area. It currently consists of a trapezoidal grass field bounded by hedgerows. It is bordered to the NW by a supermarket, to the N and E by fields, to the SW by the railway, and to the SE by the A5153 (Figure 2).
- 2.1.2 The underlying geology is defined by the New Harbour Group - Mica schist and psammite, metamorphic bedrock formed between 635 and 541 million years ago during the Ediacaran period. The superficial deposits are Devensian Till - Diamicton, a sedimentary deposit formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period (BGS 2022).

3 Historic Background

- 3.1.1 This historic background has been informed by a Historic Environment Record (HER) search of a 500m search area around the proposed development site.
- 3.1.2 There is evidence for prehistoric activity on Holy Island as far back as the Neolithic Period. Several Neolithic sites were excavated in 2007 by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) as part of the Parc Cybi project (Kenney et al. 2011), including a Neolithic occupation site with pits, post and stakeholes, and hearths c. 500m SW of the site.
- 3.1.3 There is also extensive evidence for Bronze Age activity in the area, including Ty Mawr Standing Stone (AN012; PRN 2501) 270m S of the site. The Parc Cybi project (Kenney et al. 2011) also revealed a roundhouse and a burnt mound

c. 650m SE of the site, an Early Bronze Age cist cemetery (PRN 31589) and enclosure (PRN 31591) c. 250m SW of the site.

- 3.1.4 There is evidence of Iron Age settlement activity near the site, with the Parc Cybi project encountering two roundhouses (PRN 31595) only 200m S of the site and a roundhouse settlement (PRN 14599) just to the E of this.
- 3.1.5 A Roman fort was constructed at Holyhead towards the end of the 3rd century or later, as a naval base against Irish raiders (Lynch 1972 in Kenney et al. 2011). It survives now as a rectangular wall around St. Cybi's church and graveyard (Scheduled Monument AN031), over 1km to the NW of the development area. Closer to the site are a Romano-British settlement (PRN 14602), a late Roman/early medieval cist cemetery (PRN 31600), and a Roman settlement (PRN 31596), all around 500m to the S and SE of the site.
- 3.1.6 Holy Island was of considerable importance in the early Christian period. The foundation of the monastic community of Caer Gybi by St Cybi is traditionally dated to the mid 6th century AD. The present church on the site dates from the 13th century. There is an unusual concentration of early Christian sites known, or suspected, on the island. Near the development site, seven early medieval corn drying kilns (PRN 31601) were discovered by the Parc Cybi project (Kenney et al. 2011).
- 3.1.7 Recorded medieval and post-medieval activity in this area demonstrate continued agricultural activity, including the remains of medieval strip field systems.

4 Objectives

4.1.1 This WSI sets out a program of works to ensure that the watching brief will meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (update 2020).

4.1.2 The objective of the watching brief will be:

- to allow the investigation, recording and reporting of any archaeological features that are uncovered during the proposed groundworks within the application area.
- to provide the opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief are not sufficient to support the treatment to a satisfactory or proper standard.
- A written report will be compiled following the fieldwork. Sufficient desk-top research will be undertaken to ensure that the results of this work are properly understood, interpreted, and reported.

4.1.3 The report will include a comprehensive assessment of the historic context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within regional, national and, if relevant, international research frameworks.

4.2 Timetable of works

4.2.1 It is planned that the archaeological watching brief will be carried out in two phases. Phase 1 will monitor the excavation of six test pits. It is foreseen that the work will take place on the week commencing the 19th of September. Phase 2 (general watching brief) will take place soon after the above-mentioned date. GAPS will be informed of any changes to the schedule.

- 4.2.2 The report will be submitted to the client and to GAPS within 3 months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional Historic Environment Record.

5 Methodology

- 5.1.1 The work will be undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs* (update 2020).
- 5.1.2 The watching brief will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist on (1) GI test pits and (2) the footprint of the six business units (Figure 2-3). The mechanical excavation will always be undertaken by a tracked 360-degree excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 5.1.3 The site archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will be afforded the required access by the main contractor in order to observe and where necessary to record any archaeological remains revealed. Groundwork will not be undertaken without the presence of the site archaeologist in this area. The site archaeologist will record finds and less significant archaeological deposits and features without significant delay to the work program.
- 5.1.4 Any significant archaeological deposits or features encountered will be fenced off and highlighted to all contractors employed on the site.

5.2 Contingency

- 5.2.1 Should potentially significant archaeological features be encountered during the course of the watching brief then GAPS and the client will be informed at the earliest possible opportunity.

5.2.2 GAPS may subsequently request that further archaeological work is undertaken in order to fully assess areas of significant archaeological activity. Such work may require the provision of additional time and resources to complete the archaeological investigation. The scope of such work will be agreed with GAPS and the client prior to any extended works being undertaken.

5.3 Recording

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

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

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

5.3.4 Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 10MP+ camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

5.4 Finds

5.4.1 The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation, and research of archaeological materials* (2020) will form the basis of finds collection, processing, and recording.

5.4.2 Finds will be carefully excavated by hand. The excavation of fragile or particularly significant finds will be undertaken in consultation with an appropriate archaeological conservator. Finds will be bagged by

archaeological context, the location of special finds and flint working deposits will be recorded three dimensionally.

5.4.3 All manner of finds regardless of category and date will initially be retained. These will be suitably bagged, boxed and marked. Following cataloguing and initial analysis finds of little archaeological significance may be discarded.

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

5.4.5 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).

5.5 Environmental Sampling Strategy

5.5.1 Deposits with a significant potential for the preservation of paleoenvironmental 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* (2nd Edition 2011).

5.6 Human remains

5.6.1 In the event that human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established, the client, GAPS and the coroner informed. Measures will be put in place to ensure that any such remains are fenced off, covered, and

protected from deterioration and damage, and that human remains, and burial goods will be treated in a respectful manner.

5.6.2 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.

5.6.3 Human remains will be excavated in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains* (2017). A Ministry of Justice Licence will be obtained before remains can be lifted, this applies to both inhumation and cremated remains.

5.7 Specialist advisers

5.7.1 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
Lithics	Dr Julie Birchenall (Freelance)
Animal bone	Dr Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University) Dr Hannah Russ (Freelance)
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Dr Siân Thomas (Archaeology Wales) Dr Phil Mills (Freelance) Sandra Garside Neville (Freelance)
Clay pipe	Charley James Martin (Archaeology Wales)
Glass	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)

Artefact type	Specialist
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst (University of York) Dr Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
Metalwork	Dr Rhiannon Philp (Archaeology Wales) Dr Kevin Leahy (PAS/University of Leicester) Quita Mould (Freelance)
Metal work and metallurgical residues	Dr Tim Young (GeoArch)
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson (Bradford University) Dr David Mullin (Freelance)
IA/Roman pottery	Dr Jane Timby (Freelance)
Roman Pottery	Dr Siân Thomas (Archaeology Wales) Dr Peter Webster (Freelance)
Medieval and Post Medieval Pottery	Paul Blinkhorn (Freelance)
Charcoal (wood ID)	Dana Challinor (Freelance)
Waterlogged wood	Professor Nigel Nayling (University of England - Lampeter) Damian Goodburn (MOLA) Mike Bamforth (Freelance)
Marine Molluscs	Dr Rhiannon Philp (Archaeology Wales)
Pollen	Dr Rhiannon Philp (Archaeology Wales)
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers (Freelance) Kath Hunter Dowse (Freelance)

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

5.8 Monitoring

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

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

5.8.3 GAPS will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the mitigation work. GAPS will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

6 Post-Fieldwork Programme

6.1 Site Archive

6.1.1 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with: *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (2015) upon completion of the project.

6.1.2 The site archive – including all artefacts, soil samples, paper, and digital records – will be subjected to selection in order to establish those elements that will be retained for long term curation. The selection strategy will be agreed with all stakeholders and will be detailed in the *Selection Strategy and Data Management Plan* (ClfA 2020). It will be developed taking into

consideration the aims and objectives of the project and will be informed through a detailed consideration of the Research Agenda of the Archaeology of Wales and other relevant research frameworks. The manner in which the records will be prepared for long time storage will be guided by the requirements established by the repositories. A detailed justification for the disposal of both records and materials will be written and included within the Data Management Plan.

6.1.3 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). It will also conform to the guidelines set out in *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales* (National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017). The legal landowner's consent will be gained for deposition of finds. The project will adhere to the Welsh Archaeological Trust's joint *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records* (2018).

6.2 Analysis

6.2.1 Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of analysis and reporting will be undertaken.

6.2.2 This will result in the following inclusions in the report:

- A bilingual non-technical summary
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological works, and the background and circumstances of the report (including development proposals and planning background)

- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the watching brief, including the locations of all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plans and section drawings (if features are encountered) with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- A 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, and proposals for further necessary analysis
- The report will contain 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.

6.3 Report to Client

6.3.1 Copies of all reports associated with the mitigation, together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, including photographs and illustrations, will be submitted upon completion to GAPS for comment and approval. Following approval, a copy will be sent to the client, and for formal submission to the Planning Authority.

6.4 Additional Reports

6.4.1 After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of all reports will be deposited with the relevant county Historic Environment Record (GAT), the

National Monuments Record and, if appropriate, Cadw. The report and all relevant information will be submitted to the Historic Environment Record following the guidelines and procedures laid out in the *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records* (WAT 2018).

6.5 Summary Reports for Publication

6.5.1 Should remains of significant interest be found, 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.

6.6 Notification of Important Remains

6.6.1 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.

6.7 Archive Deposition

6.7.1 The final archive (site and research) will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution. If artefacts are recovered, and dependent on the size of the final archive, the preferred receiving institution would be a suitable local institution. If no artefacts are recovered then the archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth. Arrangements will be made with the receiving institution before work starts.

6.7.2 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 12 months after completion of the work.

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

6.7.4 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 GAT.

6.8 Finds Deposition

6.8.1 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 landowners.

7 Staff

7.1.1 The project will be managed by Irene Garcia Rovira MCIfA (AW Project Manager), and the assessment undertaken by suitably trained and experienced AW staff. Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of GAPS and the client.

8 Health and Safety

8.1.1 Prior to the commencement of the site visit AW will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with the Management of Health and safety Regulations 1999. 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.

8.2 Other Guidelines

- 8.2.1 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).

8.3 Insurance

- 8.3.1 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.

9 Quality Control

- 9.1.1 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.
- 9.1.2 The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

10 Arbitration

10.1.1 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.

11 References

British Geological Survey: Geology of Britain viewer:
www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, update 2020. 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.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, update 2020. Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief.

English Heritage, 2002. Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology

English Heritage, 2006. Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE)

Kenney, J. et al. 2011. Parc Cybi, Holyhead: post excavation assessment of potential report, volume I. Report No. 954.

National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales, 2017. The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales

National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales, 2019. Archaeological archives: selection, retention and disposal guidelines for Wales.

Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2018. Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records

Wessex Archaeology, 2015. Penrhos Leisure Village, Holyhead, Anglesey: Archaeological Evaluation Report. Report Ref: 106200.03.

Planning Policy Wales – Edition 11:

https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-02/planning-policy-wales-edition-11_0.pdf

Technical Advice Note – The Historic Environment -2017:

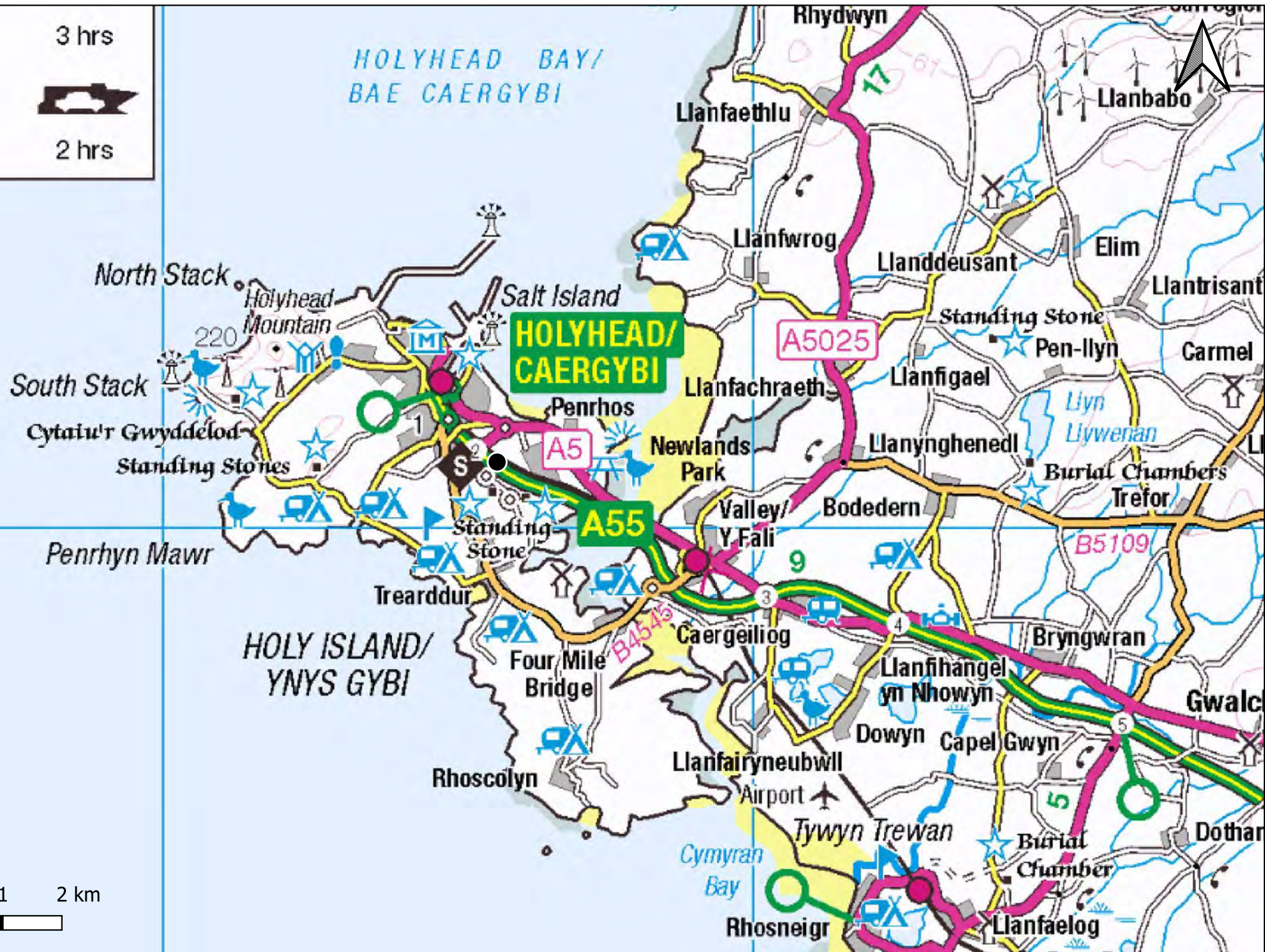
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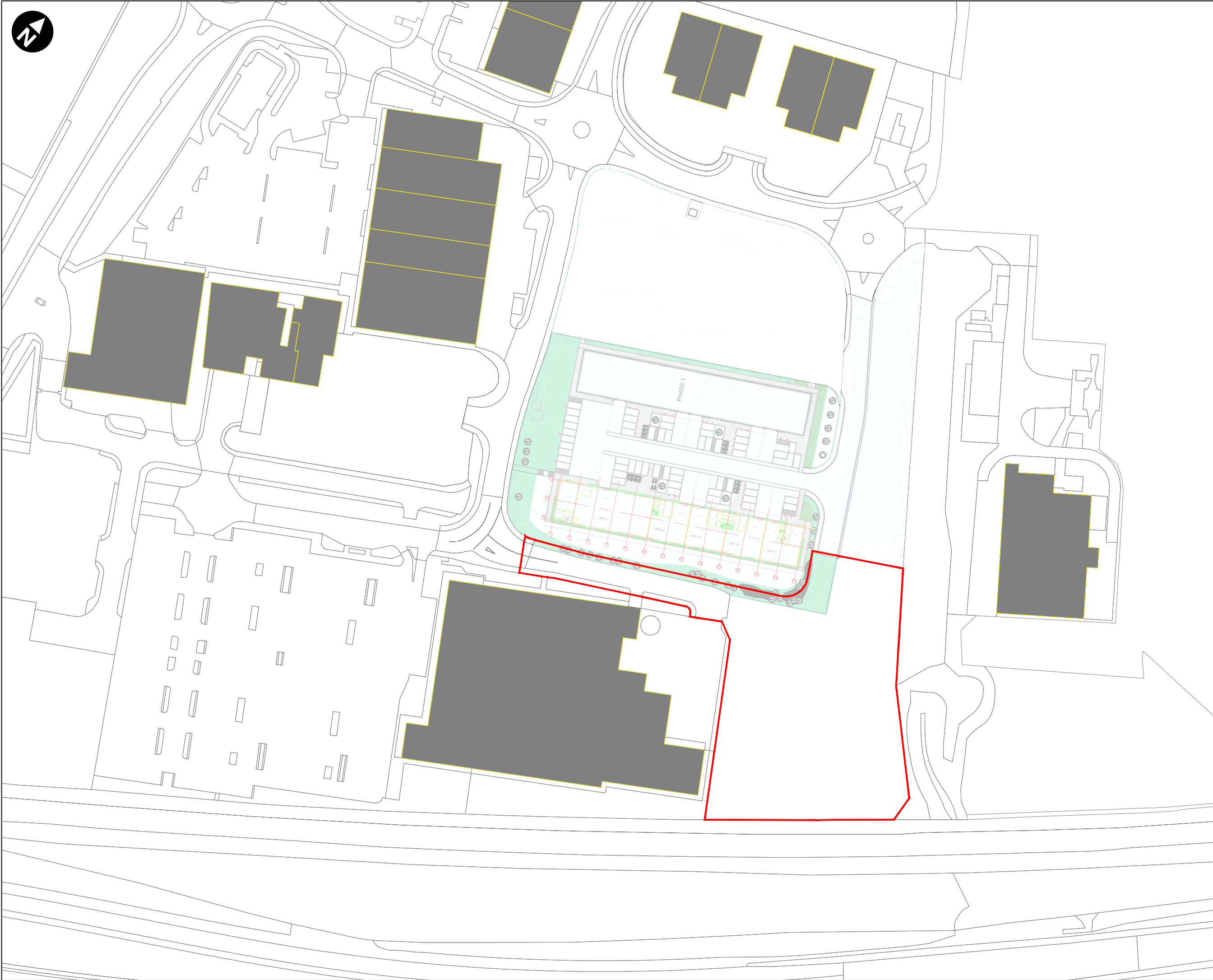
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HOLYHEAD BAY/
BAE CAERGYBI



HOLY ISLAND/
YNYS GYBI

0 1 2 km



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NOTES:

- Key
- Site boundary (0.69ha)

B	For Approval	10/02/22	VN	DH	DH
REVISION DETAILS		DATE	DWN	CHK	APP

SCALE: 1:1250

PROJECT TITLE:
Penrhos Business Unit

DRAWING TITLE:
Phase 3
Site Location Plan

wood.

NICHOLL'S HOUSE, HOMER CLOSE,
LEAMINGTON SPA, CV34 6TT
TEL: (01926) 439000

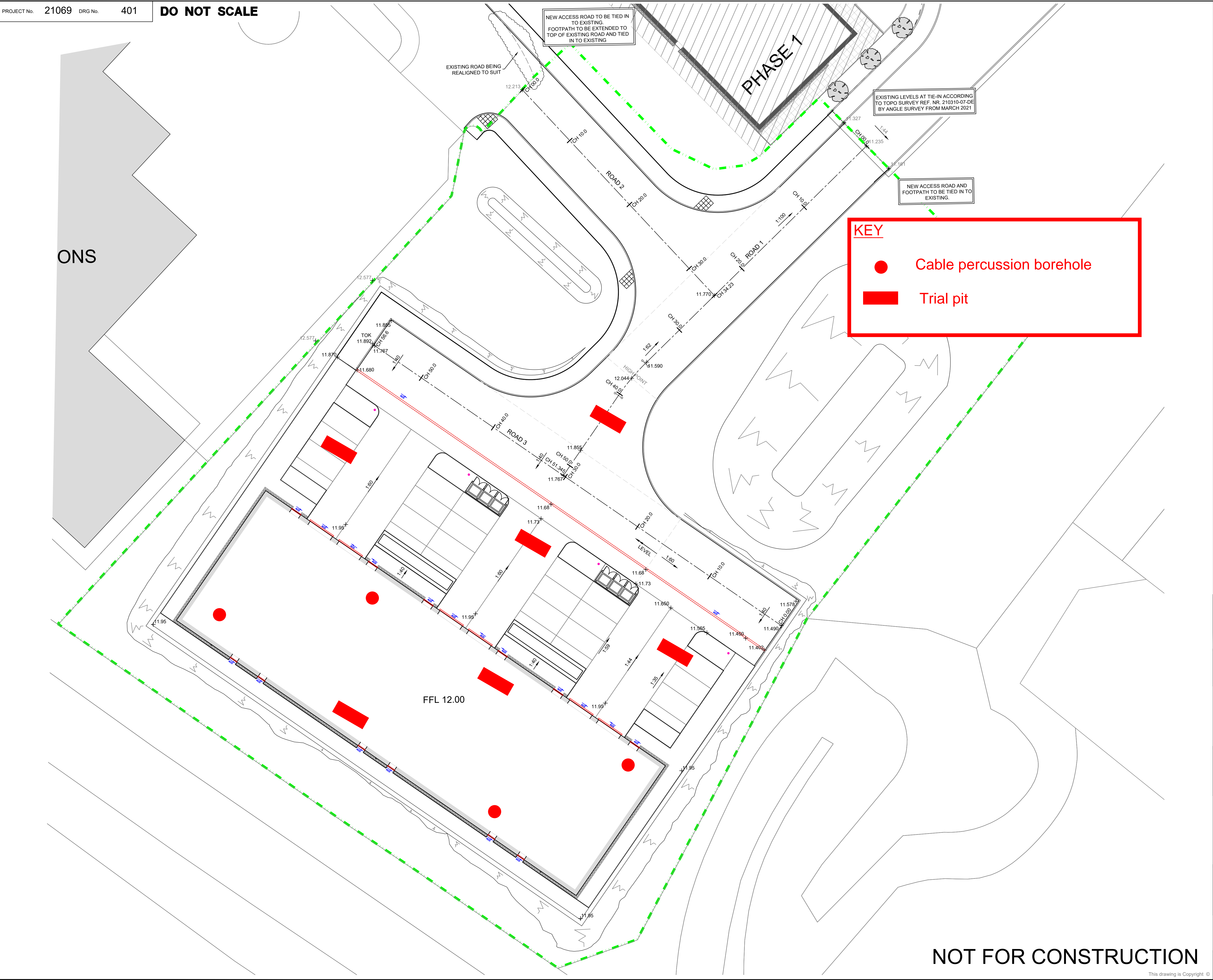
CLIENT:



CLIENT DRAWING No.

WOOD DRAWING No.
39696-WOOD-XX-P3-SK-A-0001_50

REV.
P01



- NOTES
1. THIS DRAWING IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALL RELEVANT ARCHITECT'S, ENGINEER'S AND OTHER SPECIALISTS' DRAWINGS.
 2. PLEASE REFER TO ARCHITECT'S DRAWINGS FOR FINAL BUILDING LOCATION.
 3. REFER TO DATRYS DRAWING 21069/402 FOR SURFACING LAYOUT.
 4. REFER TO DATRYS DRAWING 21069/404 FOR ACCESS ROAD VERTICAL ALIGNMENTS.

FOR PLANNING

- KEY
- DENOTES SITE BOUNDARY
 - DENOTES ROAD CENTERLINE
 - 47.45 + DENOTES EXISTING SPOT LEVELS
 - 11.578 + DENOTES PROPOSED SPOT LEVELS
 - 1:40 DENOTES PROPOSED FALLS

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHK	APP

REVISIONS



PROJECT
Penrhos Business Units
Phase 3
Holyhead

TITLE
General Arrangement
& Setting Out

DATRYS
Caernarfon
Unit 6 Block A, Dock Victoria
Caernarfon, LL55 1TH
Tel: 01286 670227
Mold
Suite 4A, Brionce House
Wrexham Road, Mold, CH7 1HP
Tel: 01352 706205
info@datrys.coop | www.datrys.net

DRAWN	LI	CHECKED	AC	PASSED	AC
DATE	06.01.2022	CLIENT'S REF.			
SCALE AT A1	1:200	AUTOCAD REF.	21069/401		
DRAWING No.	21069/401	REVISION	P1		



Archaeology Wales Limited

Main Office, Unit D11.6 Treforest Industrial Estate

Pontypridd - CF37 5UR

Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371

Email: admin@arch-wales.co.uk

Web: arch-wales.co.uk

