

**Archaeological field evaluation:  
Bryn Parciau, Criccieth, Gwynedd**

July 2023



Report No. 2208

By

Lucy Morrison



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evaluation:**

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Report No.2208

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## **Non-Technical Summary**

*In March 2023, Archaeology Wales Ltd was commissioned by Rhys Evans Cyf to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on the site of the proposed development of twenty-three dwellings, creation of a new access from Caenarfon Road, an internal estate road, surface water attenuation pond, landscaping, buffer zone and associated works at land adjacent to North Terrace Criccieth, Gwynedd, North Wales, LL52 0AP.*

*The field evaluation targeted several features identified during a geophysical survey carried out by Archaeology Wales Ltd in 2023 (Muller 2023). Ten trenches measuring 30m long and 1.8m wide were cut across the development area. Trenches 1,2,4,5,8, 9 and 10 were devoid of features/finds or archaeological significance. The features identified on the geophysical survey were confirmed to be field drains.*

*The remains of an undated ditch were revealed in Trench 3. A pit-like feature was recorded in Trench 6, associated with finds of postmedieval date.*

*During the field evaluation 19 artifacts, together weighing 228 g and of which 14 were broken remains of a 20th century bottle were recovered. The assemblage is of little archaeological value and suitable for discard once the project is completed.*

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

## **Crynodeb Annhechnegol**

*Ym mis Mawrth 2023, comisiynwyd Archaeology Wales Cyf gan Rhys Evans Cyf i gynnal gwerthusiad maes archeolegol ar safle datblygiad arfaethedig i godi 23 annedd, creu ffordd fynediad newydd o Heol Caernarfon, ffordd ystâd fewnol, pwll arafu dŵr arwyneb, tirweddu, parth clustogi a'r gwaith cysylltiedig ger North Terrace, Cricieth, Gwynedd, Gogledd Cymru, LL52 0AP.*

*Gwnaeth y gwerthusiad maes dargedu nifer o nodweddion a nodwyd yn ystod arolwg geoffisegol a gynhaliwyd gan Archaeology Wales Cyf yn 2023 (Muller 2023). Torrwyd deg ffos yn mesur 30m ar hyd a 1.8m ar led ar draws yr ardal ddatblygu. Nid oedd unrhyw nodweddion/canfyddiadau o arwyddocâd archeolegol yn ffosydd 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9 a 10. Cadarnhawyd bod y nodweddion a nodwyd yn yr arolwg geoffisegol yn ddraeniau caeau.*

*Datgelwyd gweddillion ffos heb ei ddyddio yn Ffos 3. Canfuwyd nodwedd tebyg i bwl yn Ffos 6. Roedd y nodwedd yn gysylltiedig â chanfyddiadau o ddyddiad cyn-ganoloesol.*

*Yn ystod y gwerthusiad maes adferwyd 19 arteffact, gyda'i gilydd yn pwysu 228 g ac o'r rhain darganfuwyd gweddillion potel o'r 20fed ganrif. Nid yw'r casgliad o fawr o werth archeolegol ac yn addas i'w daflu unwaith y bydd y prosiect wedi'i gwblhau.*

*Gwnaed yr holl waith yn unol â safonau a chanllawiau Sefydliad Siartredig yr Archeolegwyr (2020).*

# 1 Introduction

1.1.1 In March 2023, Archaeology Wales Ltd was commissioned by Rhys Evans Cyf to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on the site of the proposed development of twenty-three dwellings, creation of a new access from Caenarfon Road, an internal estate road, surface water attenuation pond, landscaping, buffer zone and associated works at land adjacent to North Terrace Criccieth, Gwynedd, North Wales, LL52 0AP (NGR SH 49793 38450) - Planning Application C21/1136/35/LL.

1.1.2 Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services (GAPS-PS), in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the Gwynedd Planning Authority requested a field evaluation following a geophysical survey, as outlined on a pre-application response dating back to the 7th of December 2021.

*[...] As mentioned the potential for unknown archaeological features here is moderate, not only relating to post medieval settlement not properly recorded in early mapping, but also early phases of activity relating to the medieval occupation of Criccieth. There is also a wider potential for unknown prehistoric archaeology throughout the local landscape - much of which is generally impossible to indeed unknown ancillary settlement to the town, especially on main thoroughfare roads leading in and out of the town - the results of this work is forthcoming.*

*There are two ways to proceed - one being return to evaluation before any determination is reached, and conduct both Geophysical Survey and Trial Trenching in order to better assess the field, and allow GAPS to provide better-informed advice regarding the potential on-site [...]*

1.1.3 Following consultation with GAPS-PS, it was agreed that an archaeological trenched evaluation would comprise ten trenches measuring 30m in length

and 1.8m in width, and target anomalies observed through a previous geophysical survey (Muller 2023).

- 1.1.4 The work was undertaken to highlight and assess the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.
- 1.1.5 A WSI was subsequently prepared by Jessica Woolley- Archaeology Wales Ltd and agreed with GAPS-PS in its capacity as archaeological advisors to the Gwynedd Planning Authority (Appendix 2). The purpose of the proposed archaeological evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts, and their research potential, within the development area (ClfA 2020) and to provide the local planning authority with the information they are likely to request in respect of the proposed development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy Wales Revised Edition.11, Section 6.1 (2021) and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017).
- 1.1.6 All work conformed to *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (ClfA 2020) and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Artefact and Environmental Collection, Documentation Conservation and Research* (ClfA 2020). The work was undertaken by suitably qualified staff to the highest professional standards. AW is a Registered Organisation with the ClfA.
- 1.1.7 The field work was carried out at the end of June 2023 under the supervision of Lucy Morrison with assistance from Einir Smith and Menna Griffiths, all of Archaeology Wales. The project was managed by Irene Garcia Rovira MClfA, Project Manager.

## **2 Site Description and Archaeological Background**

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

2.1.1 The proposed development area (PDA) is located to the northeast of Criccieth. The PDA measures c 1.56 hectares. Caernarfon Road bounds the proposed site to the east, whilst all other boundaries are adjacent to open fields.

2.1.2 The PDA can be divided into 3 parts (Figure 2):

- the main field on which the proposed dwellings and their associated infrastructure will be constructed;
- a landscaping strip of 20 m in width this extending into the three adjoining fields; and
- an area of circa 300 m<sup>2</sup> located about 50 m to the south of the main field is to be banked up to form an attenuation pond.

2.1.3 The underlying geology is composed of siltstone belonging to the Nant Ffrancon subgroup formed during the Ordovician Period. The superficial soils are defined by Till- Devensian Diamicton formed during the Quaternary Period (BGS 2023).

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

#### **Geophysics Results**

2.2.1 A geophysical survey was carried out within the bounds of the development (Muller 2023). The results are summarised below:

- The survey identified anomalies possibly characteristic of archaeological features in Areas 1 - 5.

- A number of positive linears typical of former ditched field boundaries were observed in Areas 1-3. These anomalies were not visible on any historic maps and must pre-date the 19th century.
- A second group of linear anomalies in Area 2 were documented. They were of different character, each comprising a positive magnetic response coupled with a negative, possibly indicative of a bank and ditch, or perhaps a ditch or cut with a stony fill. Their alignment was much straighter than those of the group and their interrelationship comprises clear square alignments and returns. This could be indicative of more modern features, although none are visible on modern or historic maps, or available satellite imagery at this location.

### **Historic Environment Record (HER) results**

- 2.2.2 A HER search (GATHER1785) was undertaken in order to identify any known historical and archaeological assets within a 500m radius of the proposed site. A total of 50 known sites were identified, the closest being Ffynnon Saint, a holy well (PRN 1285). It lies approximately 80m to the southeast of the site boundary beneath a garage.
- 2.2.3 No sites dating to the prehistoric or Roman periods are recorded on the regional HER.
- 2.2.4 The origins of Criccieth can be dated back to the medieval period (PRN 7355). The historic core of the town is designated a conservation area.
- 2.2.5 The majority of sites recorded on the regional HER date from the post-medieval and modern periods. The records reflect the growth in population during post-medieval/modern times with the construction of establishments such as Brynhir Arms (PRN 68768), or George IV hotel (PRN 68769).

- 2.2.6 A WW1 Memorial Hall (PRN 68767) is located 200m to the southeast from the buildings mentioned above. Another notable modern heritage asset is the site of a Civil Air Raid Shelter documented from 1941 (PRN 93643).
- 2.2.7 There is only one recorded heritage asset in the 500m buffer zone relating to industrial development, this being the former site of a Limekiln located 500m to the southeast (PRN 24511). The kiln is not shown on historic maps until the 1889 and was potentially in use during the early 20th century. The remaining sites relate to agricultural activity. Five hedge-banks and one field boundary (PRN 62708) are included alongside an outbuilding and stable block at Bryn Hir (PRN 56886 + 68764), a Hay Barn at Parciau Mawr (PRN 6345), and a 18th century Cruck building at Parciau-uchaf (PRN 2280).

### **3 Methodology**

#### **3.1 Objectives**

- 3.1.1 The objective of the intrusive trenched evaluation was to locate and describe archaeological features present within the development area as indicated by the geophysical survey (Muller 2023). In addition, it was intended to elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition, and relative significance. A further objective of the work was to include an assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and to highlight any relevant research issues within national and regional research framework.
- 3.1.2 This resulting report provides information which is sufficiently detailed to allow the archaeological resource to be better understood and to inform whether further archaeological work should be undertaken in association with the proposed development.



## **3.2 Methodology**

### **Overview**

- 3.2.1 The work was undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2020).

### **Trenched Evaluation Methodology**

- 3.2.2 All works were carried out in accordance with the Code of Conduct as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. Sample excavation of archaeological deposits was undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in the WSI (Appendix 2).
- 3.2.3 All trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, under archaeological direction.
- 3.2.4 Machine excavation was undertaken down to the surface of the first significant archaeological deposits or to the surface of natural undisturbed ground, whichever was uppermost. This was monitored by a qualified field archaeologist.
- 3.2.5 Ten trenches were excavated. These each measured 1.8m wide and 30m long. The final positioning of the trenches was adjusted due to the presence of extant buried services or other obstructions that came to light during the initial phase of ground works. The locations and dimensions of the trenches were agreed with GAPS-PS. Any changes to the original layout were also previously agreed with GAPS-PS.
- 3.2.6 Examination and cleaning of all archaeological deposits was undertaken by hand using appropriate hand tools. Any archaeological deposits were examined and recorded both in plan and section. Any features were excavated to ascertain their extent, form, function and if possible, date. Where appropriate a representative sample, sufficient to meet the

objectives of the evaluation, of identified features was investigated and all features were recorded. The stratigraphy of each trench was recorded in full.

- 3.2.7 All archaeological features revealed were planned and recorded in accordance with industry standards. Each context was recorded on a pro-forma context sheet by written and measured description; principal deposits recorded by drawn plans (scale 1:20) or electronically using GPS as appropriate and drawn sections (scale 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate). Photographs (digital colour) were taken as appropriate. Finds and samples were bagged separately and related to the context record. All artefacts recovered were retained for processing and analysis.

## **4 Archaeological Trenched Evaluation Results**

- 4.1.1 Ten trenches were excavated within the development area, all of which measured 30m in length and 1.8m in width. Trench 2 and Trench 6 were relocated due to the presence of subsurface water mains. The changes were agreed with GAPS-PS prior to the commencement of works.
- 4.1.2 In general, the earliest deposit recorded in the trenches was the natural substrate (102). This comprised a mixed deposit containing mid-yellow brown sandy clay with frequent subrounded stones and, in some areas, large boulders. This deposit was overlaid by the subsoil (101) composed of mid-brown, grey loamy sand containing frequent stones. The topsoil (100) was characterised as a mid-grey brown sandy loam containing frequent stones.
- 4.1.3 The depths of these deposits are annotated individually within each trench summary.

### **Trench 1 (Figure 4-7, Plates 1-4)**

- 4.1.4 Trench 1 measured 30m in length, 1.8m in width and was oriented northeast/southwest. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m below ground level. The natural horizon (102) was encountered at a depth of 0.76m.
- 4.1.5 The trench was located to target anomalies F3 and F4 identified during the geophysical survey (Muller 2023). Culvert [1000] (see below) relates to feature F3), however no other evidence was recovered from the trench relating to F4.
- 4.1.6 Culverted drain [1000] was located towards the centre of the trench and measured 1.8m in length and 0.9m in width and was oriented north/south. The drain continued beyond the limit of excavation. The feature was not excavated as it was clearly a post-medieval culvert. Furthermore, from the section it was clear that the cut [1000] cut through the subsoil (101), had almost vertical sides and was capped with flat capping stones (1002).
- 4.1.7 The culvert contained a single fill (1001), which was comprised of mid-grey brown clayey sand containing very frequent large sub-rounded stones.
- 4.1.8 Culvert [1000] was overlain by topsoil (100) which had a maximum thickness of 0.45m.
- 4.1.9 No finds or features of archaeological significance were found within the trench.

### **Trench 2 (Figures 4-6, Plates 5-7)**

- 4.1.10 Trench 2 measured 30m in length, 1.8m in width and was oriented east/west. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.46m below ground level. The natural horizon (202) was encountered at a depth of 0.45m below the ground level.

- 4.1.11 A single feature was recorded within the trench. The feature was observed to be a drain [2000], which matched the location of feature F1 recorded during the geophysical survey (Muller 2023).
- 4.1.12 Land drain [2000] was located in the centre of the trench and was oriented north-northeast/south-southwest. The drain continued beyond the limit of excavation.
- 4.1.13 The drain was overlain by subsoil (201) which had a maximum thickness of 0.15m. Subsoil (101) was overlain by topsoil (200) which had a maximum thickness of 0.30m.
- 4.1.14 No finds or features of archaeological significance were found within the trench.

### **Trench 3 (Figures 4-6, 8; Plates 8-10)**

- 4.1.15 Trench 3 measured 30m in length, 1.8m in width and was oriented north-northwest/south-southeast. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.61m below ground level. The natural horizon (302) was encountered at a depth of 0.6.
- 4.1.16 The trench targeted geophysical anomaly F7 in two instances, one toward the northern end of the trench and one toward the southernmost end of the trench. F7 was only identified at the north end of Trench 3 and was interpreted as a ditch [3000].
- 4.1.17 Ditch [3000] was linear in plan, had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 3m in length as excavated within the trench, 1.25m in width, and had a depth of 0.4m. The ditch was oriented north-northeast/south-southwest and continued beyond the limit of excavation. It contained a single fill (3001), which was comprised of mid-orange brown clayey sand containing occasional small sub-rounded stones.

4.1.18 The ditch was overlain by subsoil (301) which had a maximum thickness of 0.37m. Subsoil (101) was overlain by topsoil (300) which had a maximum thickness of 0.23m.

4.1.19 No other finds or features of archaeological significance were found within the trench.

#### **Trench 4 (Figures 4-6, Plates 11-12)**

4.1.20 Trench 4 measured 30m in length, 1.8m in width and was oriented northwest/southeast. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.36m below ground level. The natural horizon (402) was encountered at a depth of 0.34m and had an exposed thickness of 0.02m.

4.1.21 No archaeological features were recorded within this trench. Trench 4 had been located to target geophysical anomaly F8, an inverted L-shaped feature (Muller 2023).

4.1.22 The natural horizon was overlain by subsoil (401) which had a maximum thickness of 0.19m. The subsoil was overlain by topsoil (400) which had a maximum thickness of 0.15m.

#### **Trench 5 (Figures 4-6, Plates 13-15)**

4.1.23 Trench 5 measured 30m in length, 1.8m in width and was oriented east/west. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.44m below ground level. The natural horizon (502) was encountered at a depth of 0.42m and had an exposed thickness of 0.02m. A single land drain was investigated within the trench.

4.1.24 The trench had been located to target geophysical linear anomaly F9 which was not recorded within the trench. However, a previously unidentified land drain [5000] was recorded within the trench.

- 4.1.25 Land drain [5000] was located in the centre of the trench and was oriented northwest/southeast. The drain continued beyond the limit of excavation.
- 4.1.26 Land drain [5000] was overlain by subsoil (501) which had a maximum depth of 0.23m. The subsoil was overlain by topsoil (500) which had a maximum thickness of 0.2m.
- 4.1.27 No finds or features of archaeological significance were found within the trench.

#### **Trench 6 (Figures 4-6, 9; Plates 16-17)**

- 4.1.28 Trench 6 was oriented northwest/southeast and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.44m below the ground level. The natural horizon was encountered at a depth of 0.44m below ground level. The trench contained a single feature, a recut pit [6000] which was cut through the natural horizon (602).
- 4.1.29 Subcircular pit [6000] was located in the northern end of the trench. Its northeast side had an uneven slope, whilst the southwest side was gradually sloping, with an almost flat base. It measured 1.8m long x 1.3m wide and 0.5m deep. The pit contained a single fill (6001) which was comprised of a friable mid-grey, brown sandy silt containing occasional stone fragments measuring up to 0.2m in diameter.
- 4.1.30 Pit [6000] was truncated by recut [6002]. The re-cut had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 1.8m in length, 1.3m in width and 0.18m in depth. Its fill (6003) comprised a friable mid-yellow/beige brown silt with occasional small stone inclusions, this fill also contained postmedieval pottery fragments (see section 5).
- 4.1.31 The pit fill (6003) was overlain by subsoil (601) which had a maximum thickness of 0.17m. The subsoil was overlain by topsoil (600) which had a maximum thickness of 0.27m.

4.1.32 No other finds or features of archaeological significance were found within the trench.

#### **Trench 7 (Figures 4-6, Plates 18-20)**

4.1.33 Trench 7 was oriented east/west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.48m. The natural horizon was encountered at a depth of 0.45m below ground level. The trench contained two postmedieval land drains both cut through the natural horizon (702).

4.1.34 Land drain [7000] was located in the western end of the trench, was orientated northeast to southwest and was linear in plan. The land drain was not excavated. The fill (7001) comprised of large subrounded stones up to 0.2m in size and contained postmedieval pottery fragments.

4.1.35 Land drain [7002] was located in the western end of the trench, was orientated north to south and was linear in plan. The land drain was not excavated. The fill (7003) comprised of large subrounded stones up to 0.2m in diameter and contained fragments of postmedieval pottery and clay pipe.

4.1.36 The features were both overlain by subsoil (701) which had a maximum depth of 0.19m. The subsoil was overlain by topsoil (700) which had a maximum thickness of 0.26m.

4.1.37 No finds or features of archaeological significance were found within the trench.

#### **Trench 8 (Figures 4-6; Plates 21-23)**

4.1.38 Trench 8 was oriented east/west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4m below the ground level. The natural horizon was encountered at a depth of 0.3m below ground level. The trench contained two postmedieval land drains both cut through the natural horizon (802).

4.1.39 Land drain [8000] was located at the eastern end of the trench, was orientated north/south and was linear in plan. The land drain was not excavated. The fill (8001) comprised of large subrounded stones up to 0.2m in diameter.

4.1.40 Land drain [8002] was located in the eastern end of the trench, was orientated northwest /southeast and was linear in plan. The land drain was not excavated. The fill (8003) was comprised of large subrounded stones up to 0.2m in diameter. No dateable finds were present.

4.1.41 The features were both overlain by subsoil (801) which had a maximum thickness of 0.1m. The subsoil was overlain by topsoil (800) which had a maximum thickness of 0.2m.

4.1.42 No finds or features of archaeological significance were found within the trench.

#### **Trench 9 (Figures 4-6; Plates 24-25)**

4.1.43 Trench 9 was oriented northeast/southwest and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.55m.

4.1.44 The natural horizon (902) was encountered at 0.55m below ground level. The natural horizon was overlain by subsoil (901) which had a maximum thickness of 0.29m. This was overlain by topsoil (900) which had a maximum thickness of 0.26m.

4.1.45 No finds or features of archaeological significance were found within the trench.

#### **Trench 10 (Plates 26-27)**

4.1.46 Trench 10 was oriented north/south and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.55m below the ground level.



- 4.1.47 The natural horizon was encountered at 0.5m below ground level. The trench contained a single land drain which was cut through the natural horizon (10002).
- 4.1.48 Land drain [100000] was located in the northern end of the trench, was orientated east /west and was linear in plan. The land drain was not excavated. The fill (100001) comprised large subrounded stones up to 0.2m in diameter and contained fragments of post medieval glass.
- 4.1.49 The land drain [100000] was overlain by subsoil (10001) which had a maximum thickness of 0.3m. This was overlain by topsoil (10000) which had a maximum thickness of 0.2m.
- 4.1.50 No finds or features of archaeological significance were found within the trench.

## **5 The Finds**

### **5.1 Overview**

- 5.1.1 A total of 19 artefacts, weighing 228g were recovered during the course of the evaluation, from Trenches 6, 7 and 10. All artefacts were dealt with in accordance with the professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials (2020). The artefacts were washed and dried or, where washing was not appropriate, dry brushed.
- 5.1.2 After washing or dry brushing all of the artefacts were assessed to ensure none needed immediate stabilisation.

## 5.2 Results

5.2.1 The finds are catalogued in Table 1.

Context Number	Object Type	Quantity	Weight (g)	Description
6003	Pottery	1	3	Earthenware sherd with internal and external black glaze, likely 20th century plant pot.
7001	Pottery	2	28	Blue and white glazed sherds - post medieval/20th century
7003	Clay Tobacco Pipe	1	< 1	Fragment of pipe stem - makers fingerprint visible - post medieval
7003	Pottery	1	10	Fragment of white glazed 20th century crockery
10001	Glass	14	187	Brown glass bottle fragments, embossed with "J & B" and partial remains of "Jewsbury & Brown" - 20th century pharmaceutical and soft drink manufacturers ( <a href="https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/141aa923-3615-4658-97a5-2bfdea78edd1">https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/141aa923-3615-4658-97a5-2bfdea78edd1</a> )

*Table 1: Finds Quantification*

### Trench 6

5.2.2 A single sherd of 20<sup>th</sup> century glazed plant pot was recovered from the fill of pit [6002] in Trench 6.

### Trench 7

5.2.3 A total of 2 sherds of post medieval/modern blue and white ware were recovered from the fill of land drain [7000] in Trench 7. A further sherd of 20<sup>th</sup> century white glazed crockery was recovered from the fill of land drain [7002]. A fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem, which included the finger or thumb print of the maker embossed on its surface was also recovered from this land drain.

### Trench 10

5.2.4 The broken remains of a brown glass bottle embossed with "J & B" and partially remaining "Jewsbury and Brown" was recovered from the fill of

land drain [10000] in Trench 10. Jewsbury and Brown were 20<sup>th</sup> century pharmaceutical and soft drink manufacturers based in Manchester (National Archives 2023).

### **5.3 Summary**

- 5.3.1 All the artefacts recovered during the evaluation were residual inclusions and post medieval or modern in date. The majority were recovered from land drains of modern construction, with the exception being a small sherd of 20<sup>th</sup> century plant pot from the pit in Trench 6.
- 5.3.2 The assemblage is of little archaeological value and suitable for discard once the project is complete.

## **6 Discussions and Conclusions**

- 6.1.1 In March 2023, Archaeology Wales Ltd was commissioned by Rhys Evans Cyf to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on the site of the proposed development of twenty-three dwellings, creation of a new access from Caenarfon Road, an internal estate road, surface water attenuation pond, landscaping, buffer zone and associated works at land adjacent to North Terrace Criccieth, Gwynedd, North Wales, LL52 0AP.
- 6.1.2 The field evaluation targeted several features identified during a geophysical survey carried out by Archaeology Wales Ltd in 2023 (Muller 2023). Ten trenches measuring 30m long and 1.8m wide were cut across the development area. Trenches 1,2,4,5,8, 9 and 10 were devoid of features/finds or archaeological significance, with all artefacts residual inclusions in modern features. The majority of features identified on the geophysical survey were confirmed to be field drains.

6.1.3 The remains of an undated ditch were recorded in Trench 3. A pit-like feature was recorded in Trench 6, associated with finds dating from the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

6.1.4 The features revealed during the field evaluation related in almost every case, to the features identified during the geophysical survey (Muller 2023).

Three of the geophysical anomalies that were targeted during the evaluation were not identified during the excavations: F4, F8 and F9. It is assumed that these anomalies represent either natural variation within the natural substrate (102) which was shown to be varied in nature; or colluvial variation with subsoil layer (101).

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[www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html) (accessed 30/01/2023)

National Archives:

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/141aa923-3615-4658-97a5-2bfdea78edd1>

National Library of Scotland Maps:

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/find/marker/#zoom=15&lat=51.8513&lon=-4.3486&f=0&z=1&marker=51.8495,-4.3454&from=1550&to=1971&i=189230508>

(accessed 30/01/2023)



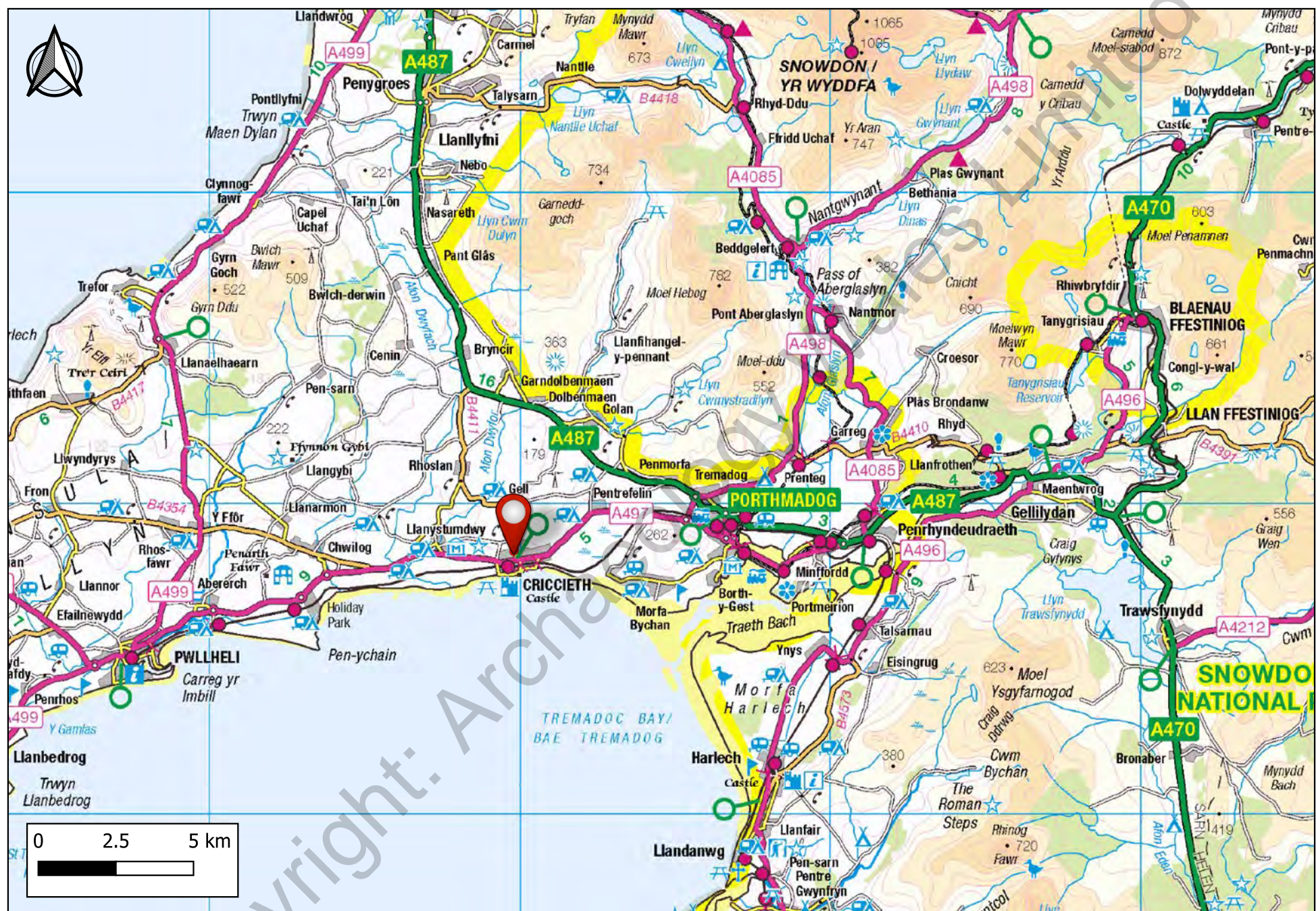


Figure 1. Site location



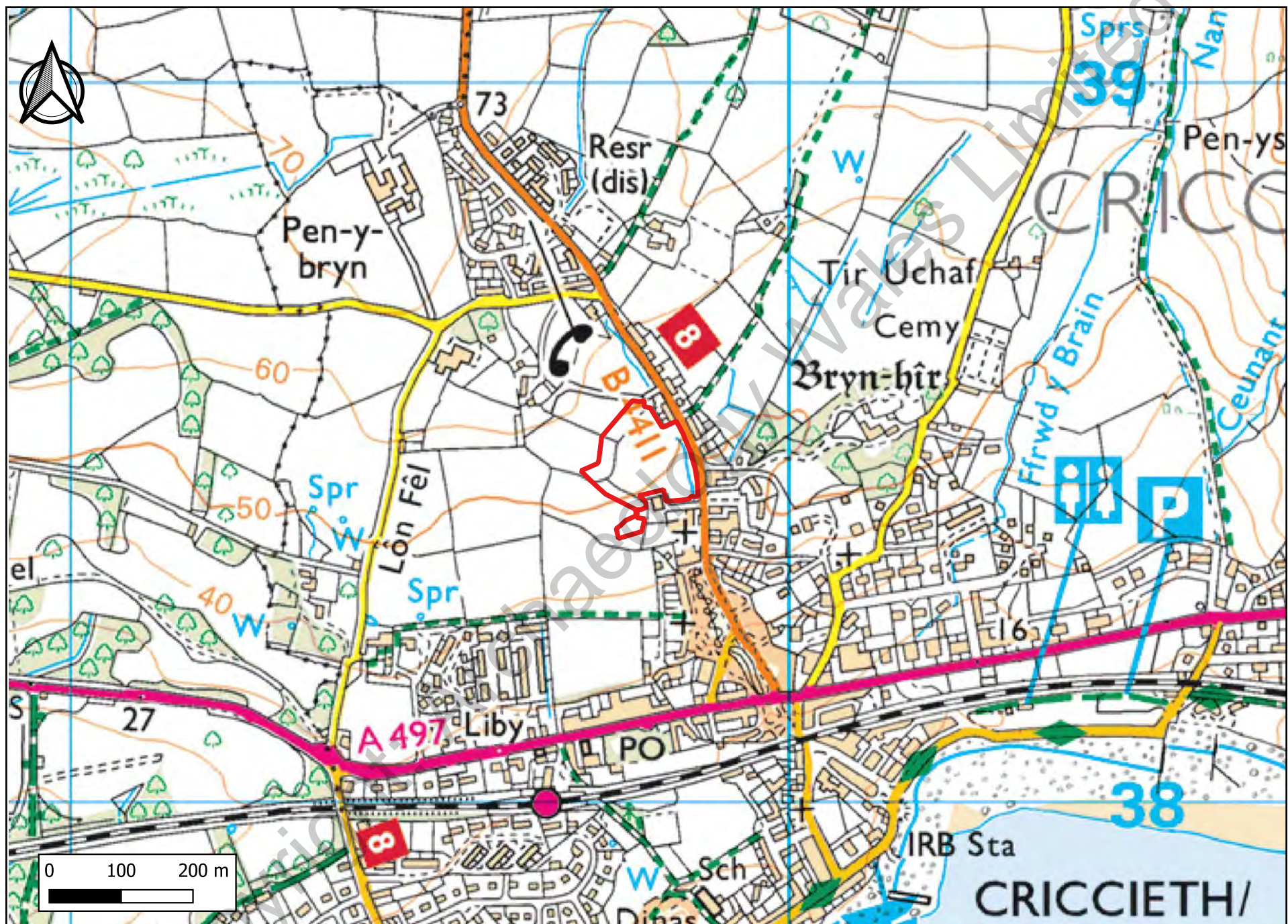


Figure 2. Proposed development area.







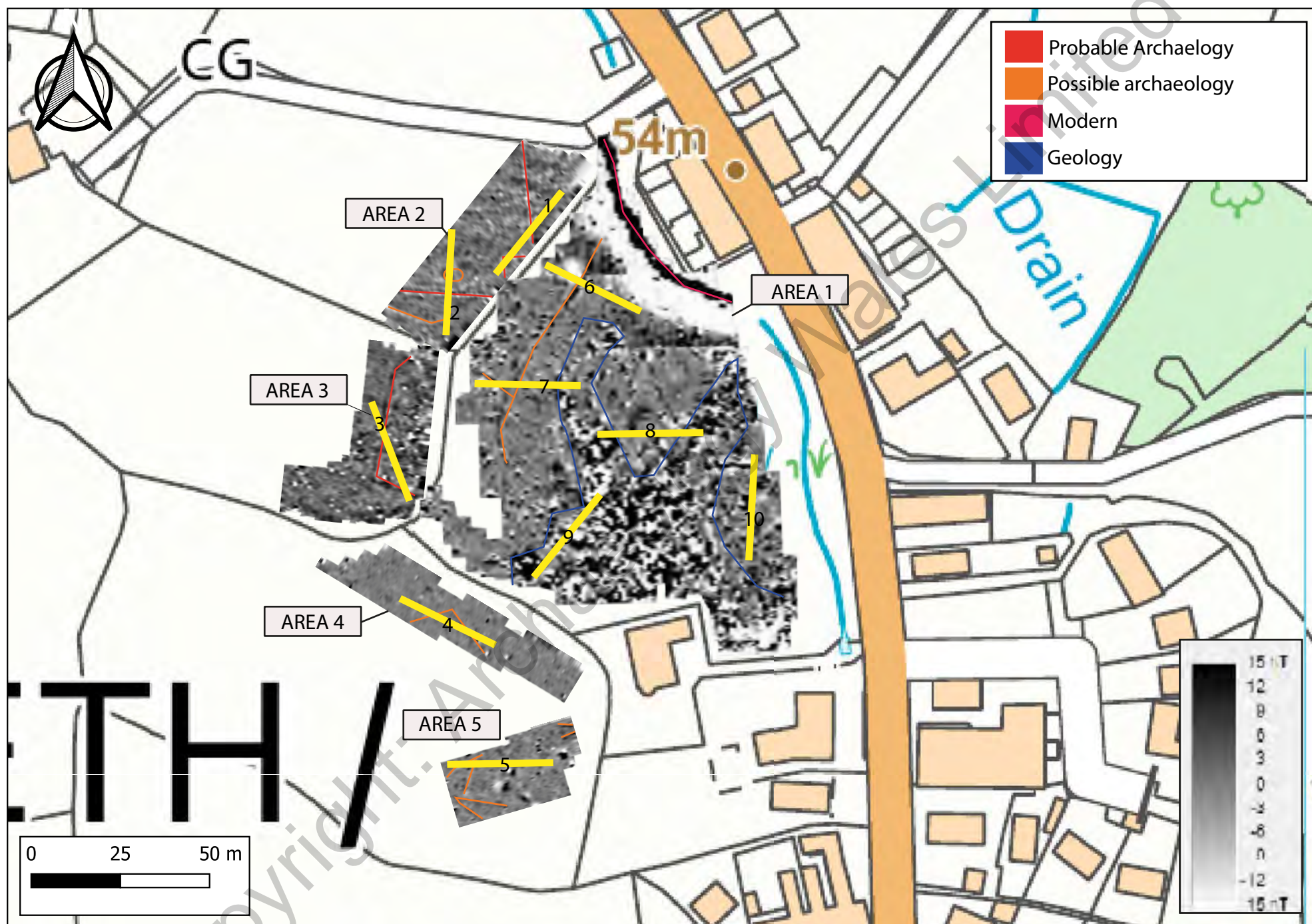


Figure 4: Proposed trench layout overlaid with geophysical survey results (after Muller 2023)

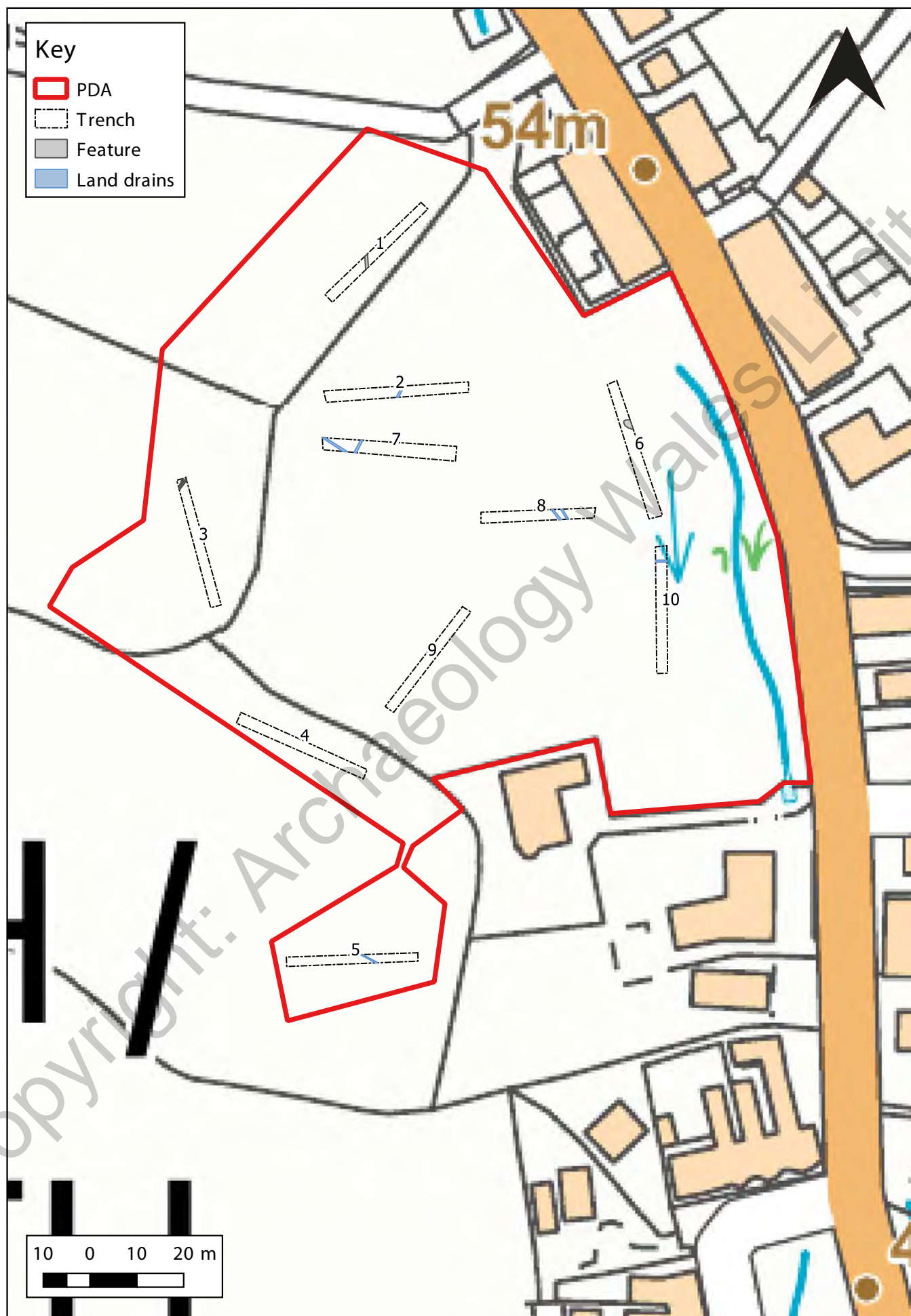


Figure 5. Final trench layout and results.





Figure 6. Results overlaid on geophysical survey (after Muller 2023).



TRENCH 1

0 2.5 5 m



Dr. #1

[1000]

SW

NE

(101)

(1002)

(102)

(1001)

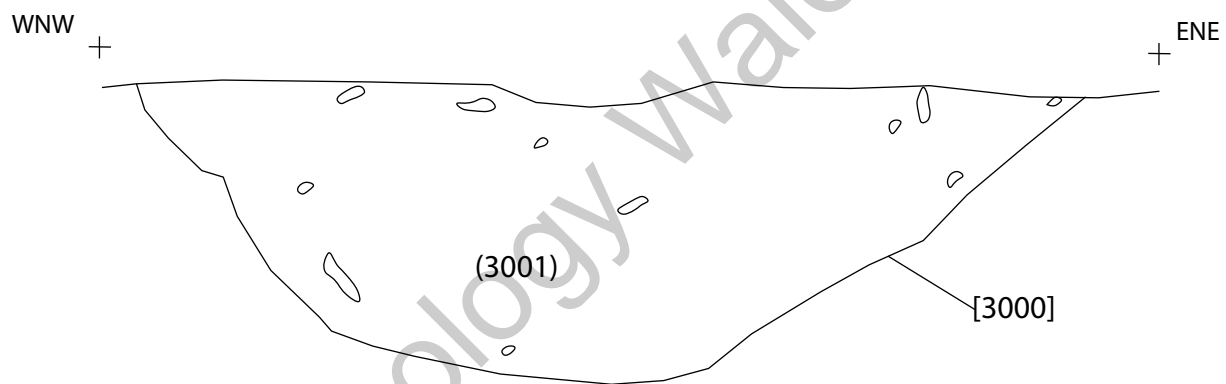
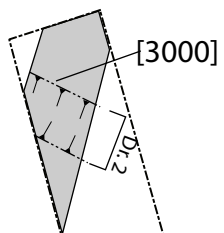
(102)

[1000]

0.3m

SE facing section of culvert [1000]

Figure 7. Trench plan and SE facing section of [1000]



0.2m

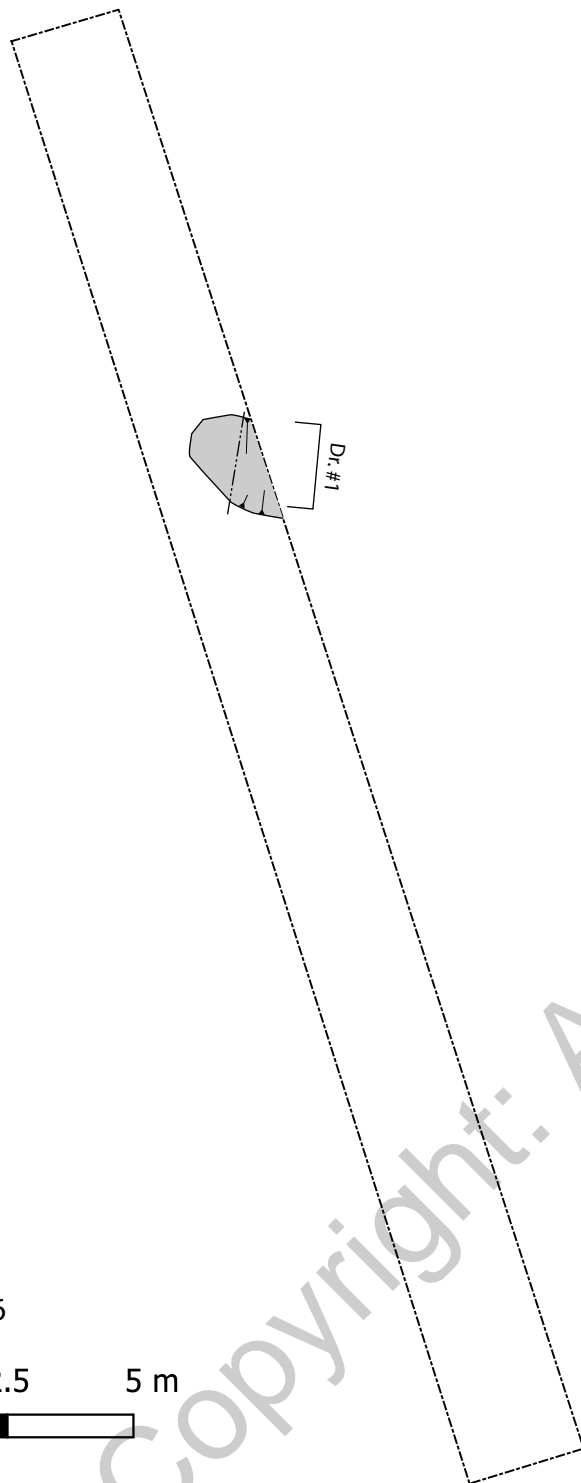
SSW facing section of linear [3000]

TRENCH 3

0 2.5 5 m



Figure 8. Trench plan and SSW section of [3000]



TRENCH 6

0 2.5 5 m



NE +

SW +

[6002]

(6003)

(6001)

[6000]

0.2m

NW facing section of pit [6000] with recut [6002]

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Figure 9. Trench plan and NW facing section of pit [6000] with recut [6002]





Plate 1: Trench 1 looking SW. 2x1m scale.



Plate 2: S facing section of culvert [1000], looking N. 0.5m scale.





Plate 3: Plan view of culvert [1000], looking E. 1m scale.



Plate 4: Trench 1, representative section looking E. 1m scale.





Plate 5: Trench 2 looking W. 1m scale.





Plate 6: Trench 2, land drain , looking SE. 1m scale.



Plate 7: Trench 2 representative section, looking S. 1m scale.





Plate 8: Trench 3 looking SW. 2x1m scale.



Plate 9: SSW facing section of Ditch [3000], looking NNE. 1m scale.





Plate 10 Trench 3, E facing representative section. 1m scale.



Plate 11: Trench 4, looking W. 2x1m scale.





Plate 12: Trench 4, representative section looking N. 1m scale.



Plate 13: Trench 5, looking SE. 2x1m scale.





Plate 14: Plan view of Land Drain [5000], looking W. 1m scale.



Plate 15: SW facing representative section, Trench 5. 1m scale.





Plate 16: Trench 6, looking S. 2x1m scale.



Plate 17: NW facing section of Pit [6000], looking SW. 1m scale.





Plate 18: E facing representative section of Trench 6. 1m scale.



Plate 19: Trench 7, looking E. 2x1m scale.





Plate 20: Plan view of Land Drain [7000], looking NE. 1m scale.



Plate 21: S facing representative section of Trench 7. 1m scale.





Plate 22: Trench 8 looking E. 2x1m scale.



Plate 23: Plan view of Land Drains [8000] and [8002], looking E. 1m scale.





Plate 24: N facing representative section of Trench 8. 1m scale.



Plate 25: Trench 9, looking NE. 2x1m scale.





Plate 26: NW facing representative section of Trench 9. 1m scale.



Plate 27: Trench 10, looking SE. 2x1m scale.





*Plate 28: Plan view of Land Drain [10000], looking N. 1m scale.*

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## **APPENDIX I: Context Inventory**

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## Context Inventory

CONTEXT NUMBER	TRENCH NUMBER	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
100	1	Deposit	Topsoil - mid greyish-brown sandy loam, moderately frequent stone (sub rounded slate) 0.05m-0.2m, occasional boulders 0.4m-0.6m. 0.45m thickness.	
101	1	Deposit	Subsoil - mid brownish-grey loamy sand. Same frequency of stone as (100). 0.35m thickness.	
102	1	Deposit	Natural - range of mid yellowish-brown to greyish-black sandy clay. Occasional large glacial erratic boulders.	
1000	1	Cut	1.8m + in length, 0.9m in width, 0.2m depth.	Cut of post medieval stone culvert.
1001	1	Fill	Moderately loose mid greyish-brown clayey sand. Very frequent large sub rounded stones 0.2m and occasional large slate slabs 0.5m. 1.8m+ in length, 0.9m in width, 0.2m in depth.	Fill of stone culvert.
200	2	Deposit	Topsoil - same as (100). 0.3m thickness.	
201	2	Deposit	Subsoil - same as (101). 0.15m thickness.	
202	2	Deposit	Natural - same as (102).	
2000	2	Cut	Unexcavated.	Cut of land drain.
2001	2	Fill	Unexcavated	Fill of land drain.
300	3	Deposit	Topsoil - same as (100). 0.23m thickness.	
301	3	Deposit	Subsoil - same as (101). 0.37m thickness.	
302	3	Deposit	Natural - same as (102).	
3000	3	Cut	Linear ditch - concave sides, concave base. 3m+	Cut of linear ditch. Function unclear.

CONTEXT NUMBER	TRENCH NUMBER	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
			in length, 1.25m in width, 0.4m in depth.	
3001	3	Fill	Fairly compact mid orangey-brown clayey sand. Occasional sub-rounded stones <0.1m and frequent rooting. 3m in length, 1.25m in width, 0.4m in depth.	Fill of linear ditch. Deliberately backfilled, no dateable material present.
400	4	Deposit	Topsoil - same as (100). 0.15m thickness.	
401	4	Deposit	Subsoil - same as (101). 0.19m thickness.	
402	4	Deposit	Natural - same as (102). 0.02m exposed thickness.	
500	5	Deposit	Topsoil - same as (100). 0.2m thickness.	
501	5	Deposit	Subsoil - same as (101). 0.23 thickness.	
502	5	Deposit	Natural - same as (102). 0.01 exposed thickness.	
5000	5	Cut	Unexcavated.	Cut of land drain.
5001	5	Fill	Unexcavated.	Fill of land drain.
600	6	Deposit	Topsoil - same as (100). 0.27m thickness.	
601	6	Deposit	Subsoil - same as (101). 0.17m thickness.	
602	6	Deposit	Natural - same as (102).	
6000	6	Cut	Sub-circular pit - concave sides, concave base. 1.8m in length, 1.3m in width, 0.5m in depth.	Cut of pit.
6001	6	Fill	Friable mid greyish-brown sandy silt, occasional small stones 0.05m-0.2m. 1.8m in length, 1.3m in width, 0.5 in depth	Lower fill of pit.
6002	6	Cut	Pit re-cut - gradual sloping sides, concave base. 1.2m in width, 1.8m in length, 0.18 in depth.	Later re-cut of pit [6000].
6003	6	Fill	Friable mid yellow/beige brown silt, occasional small stone. 1.2m in width, 1.8m	Fill of pit re-cut contained post

CONTEXT NUMBER	TRENCH NUMBER	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
			in length and 0.18m in depth.	medieval Buckley glazed ware.
700	7	Deposit	Topsoil - same as (100). 0.26m thickness.	
701	7	Deposit	Subsoil - same as (101). 0.19m thickness.	
702	7	Deposit	Natural - same as (102).	
7000	7	Cut	Unexcavated.	Cut of land drain.
7001	7	Fill	Unexcavated.	Fill of land drain. Post medieval pot sherds present.
7002	7	Cut	Unexcavated.	Cut of land drain.
7003	7	Fill	Unexcavated.	Fill of land drain. Post medieval pot sherds present.
800	8	Deposit	Topsoil - same as (100). 0.2m thickness.	
801	8	Deposit	Subsoil - same as (101). 0.10m thickness.	
802	8	Deposit	Natural - same as (102). 0.10m exposed thickness.	
8000	8	Cut	Unexcavated.	Cut of land drain.
8001	8	Fill	Unexcavated.	Fill of land drain.
8002	8	Cut	Unexcavated.	Cut of land drain.
8003	8	Fill	Unexcavated.	Fill of land drain.
900	9	Deposit	Topsoil - same as (100). 0.26m thickness.	
901	9	Deposit	Subsoil - same as (101). 0.29m thickness.	
902	9	Deposit	Natural - same as (102).	
10000	10	Deposit	Topsoil - same as (100). 0.20m thickness.	
10001	10	Deposit	Subsoil - same as (102). 0.30m thickness.	
10002	10	Deposit	Natural - same as (102).	
100000	10	Cut	Unexcavated.	Cut of land drain.
100001	10	Fill	Unexcavated.	Fill of land drain.

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **APPENDIX II: Written Scheme of Investigation**



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## WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR A FIELD EVALUATION

Land adjacent to North Terrace Criccieth, Gwynedd, North Wales

Prepared for:

Rhys Evans (Criccieth) Cyf

Planning Application Number: C21/1136/35/LL

Project No: 3064

May 2023



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### *Summary*

*This Written Scheme of Investigation details a programme of field evaluation to be undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd at the request of Rhys Evans Cyf.*

*The fieldwork will be undertaken prior the commencement of works associated with the development of 23 dwellings, creation of a new access from Caenarfon Road, an internal estate road, surface water attenuation pond, landscaping, buffer zone and associated works at land adjacent to North Terrace Criccieth, Gwynedd, North Wales, LL52 0AP.*

*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 Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details the methodology for a programme field evaluation, to be undertaken in association with the proposed development of 23 dwellings, creation of a new access from Caenarfon Road, an internal estate road, surface water attenuation pond, landscaping, buffer zone and associated works at land adjacent to North Terrace Criccieth, Gwynedd, North Wales, LL52 0AP - NGR SH 49793 38450 - Planning Application C21/1136/35/LL.

1.1.2. The field evaluation will consist of ten trenches measuring 30m in length and 1.8m in width targeting anomalies observed through a previous geophysical survey (see Muller 2023).

1.1.3. The methodology set out in this WSI has been agreed with the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services (GAPS) in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the Gwynedd Planning Authority. Their request for a field evaluation following a geophysical survey is outlined on a pre-application response dating back to the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2021.

*[...] As mentioned the potential for unknown archaeological features here is moderate, not only relating to post medieval settlement not properly recorded in early mapping, but also early phases of activity relating to the medieval occupation of Criccieth. There is also a wider potential for unknown prehistoric archaeology throughout the local landscape - much*

*of which is generally impossible to indeed unknown ancillary settlement to the town, especially on main thoroughfare roads leading in and out of the town – the results of this work is forthcoming.*

*There are two ways to proceed – one being return to evaluation before any determination is reached, and conduct both Geophysical Survey and Trial Trenching in order to better assess the field, and allow GAPS to provide better-informed advice regarding the potential on-site [...]*

1.1.4. The purpose of the archaeological mitigation is to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains on the site of the development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy Wales (edition 11 – February 2021), 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. This WSI has been prepared by Irene Garcia Rovira, Project Manager - Archaeology Wales Ltd at the request of Rhys Evans Cyf.

1.1.6. All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020). AW is a Registered Organisation with the ClfA.

## 2. Site Description

2.1.1. The proposed development area (PDA) is located to the northeast end of Criccieth. The PDA measures c 1.56 hectares. Caernarfon Road

bounds the proposed site to the east , whilst all other boundaries are adjacent to open fields.

2.1.2. The PDA can be divided into 3 parts being the following:

- the main field on which the proposed dwellings and their associated infrastructure will be constructed;
- a landscaping strip of 20 m in width this extending into the three adjoining fields; and
- an area of circa 300 m<sup>2</sup> located about 50 m to the south of the main field is to be banked up to form an attenuation pond.

2.1.3. The underlying geology is composed of siltstone belonging to the Nant Francon subgroup formed during the Ordovician Period. The superficial soils are defined by Till- Devensian Diamicton formed during the Quaternary Period (BGS 2023).

### 3. Historical and Archaeological background

#### 3.1. Geophysics results

3.1.1. A geophysical survey was carried out within the bounds of the development (see Muller 2023). The results are summarised below:

3.1.2. The survey identified anomalies possibly characteristic of archaeological features in Areas 1 - 5.

3.1.3. A number of positive linears typical of former ditched field boundaries were observed in Areas 1-3. These anomalies were not visible on any historic maps and must pre-date the 19th century.

3.1.4. A second group of linear anomalies in Area 2 were documented. They were of different character, each comprising a positive magnetic response coupled with a negative, possibly indicative of a bank and ditch, or perhaps a ditch or cut with a stony fill. Their alignment was much straighter than those of the group and their interrelationship comprises clear square alignments and returns. This could be indicative or more

modern features, although none are visible on modern or historic maps, or available satellite imagery at this location.

### 3.2. HER results

- 3.2.1. A HER search (GATHER1785) was undertaken in order to identify any known historical and archaeological assets within a 500m radius of the proposed site. A total of 50 known sites were identified, the closest being Ffynnon Saint, a holy well (PRN 1285) known for its supposed curing powers of eye infections. It lies about 80m to the southeast of the site boundary beneath a garage.
- 3.2.2. No HER records date to the prehistoric or Roman periods.
- 3.2.3. The origins of Criccieth can be dated back to medieval chronologies (PRN 7355). The historic core of the town is protected as a conservation area.
- 3.2.4. The bulk of the HER results focus upon the post-medieval and modern periods. The records reflect the of growth in population during post-medieval/modern times with the establishment of services such as Brynhir Arms (PRN 68768), or George IV hotel (PRN 68769).
- 3.2.5. A WW1 Memorial Hall (PRN 68767) is located 200m to the southeast from the assets mentioned above. Another notable modern asset is the site of a Civil Air Raid Shelter documented from 1941 (PRN 93643).
- 3.2.6. There is only one asset that shows evidence of industrial development in the 500m buffer zone, this being the former site of a Limekiln located 500m to the southeast (PRN 24511). The kiln is not shown on maps until the 1889 OS map and was likely in use till the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The rest of the results show numerous agricultural sites located in the area. Five hedge-banks and one field boundary (PRN 62708) are included alongside an outbuilding and stable block at Bryn Hir (PRN 56886 + 68764), a Hay Barn at Parciau Mawr (PRN 6345), and a 18<sup>th</sup> century Cruck building at Parciau-uchaf (PRN 2280).



## 4. Objectives

4.1.1. The objective of the intrusive trial trench evaluation will be to locate and describe archaeological features that may be present within the development area as suggested. 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.

4.1.2. A report will be produced that will provide information which is sufficiently detailed to allow the archaeological resource to be better understood. The information could then be used to help inform further archaeological work undertaken in association with the proposed development.

### 4.2. Timetable of works

4.2.1. The archaeological field excavation should start on the 19th of June 2023. 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 three months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be submitted to the local planning authority, and to the regional Historic Environment Record.

## 5. Fieldwork

5.1.1. The work will be undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2020).

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

- 5.1.3. The agreed evaluation trenches will be positioned to maximise the retrieval of archaeological information within accessible areas, and to ensure that the archaeological resource is understood. Positioning will be led by the results of the previously undertaken geophysical survey.
- 5.1.4. It is proposed that 10 (30 X 1.8m) trenches are machine excavated within the development area (Figure 4).
- 5.1.5. The exact positioning of the trenches will depend on the position of an extant services or other obstructions that come to light during the initial phase of ground works. The locations and dimensions of the trenches have been agreed with GAPS.
- 5.1.6. The evaluation trenches will be excavated to the top of the archaeological horizon by a 360 excavator or similar machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under close archaeological supervision.
- 5.1.7. 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 may be required.
- 5.1.8. 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, a hand auger 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 1m the options of using shoring will be discussed with the client and GAPS, but the intention would be to stop at safe depths.

5.1.9. Should potentially significant archaeological features be encountered during the course of the evaluation then GAPS and the client will be informed at the earliest possible opportunity.

5.1.10. 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. The scope of such work will be agreed with GAPS and the client prior to any extended works being undertaken.

#### **Recording**

5.1.11. Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (proforma context sheets, etc.) using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

5.1.12. 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.

5.1.13. All features identified will be tied into the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries. Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 10MP+ camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

#### **Finds**

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

5.1.15. 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.

5.1.16. In most cases all finds will be recovered from site, quantified and assessed by specialist. Finds retention and discard policies will be drawn up in conjunction with specialist advice and the requirements of the receiving archive or regional/national guidelines (NPAAW 2019) in conjunction with the ClfA Selection Strategy Tool Kit (ClfA 2019). If large quantities of material are identified, an onsite discard policy may be implemented under the guidance of relevant finds specialists and the local authority archaeologists.

5.1.17. Retained finds will be suitably bagged, boxed and marked. Following cataloguing and initial analysis finds of low archaeological significance may be discarded .

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

5.1.19. 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).

### **Environmental Sampling Strategy**

5.1.20. 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).



## Human remains

5.1.21. In the event that human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established, the client, GAPS and the coroner informed.

5.1.22. 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.

5.1.23. 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.

5.1.24. 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.

## Specialist advisers

5.1.25. 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)

Artefact type	Specialist
Glass	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)
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)

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

## 6. Monitoring

- 6.1.1. GAPS will be contacted prior to the commencement of archaeological site works, and subsequently once the work is underway.
- 6.1.2. 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.
- 6.1.3. GAPS will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the mitigation work. 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.

## 7. Post-Fieldwork Programme

### Site Archive

- 7.1.1. 7.1. 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.
- 7.1.2. 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.

7.1.3. 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 (2019).

## 8. Analysis

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

8.1.2. 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 trenched evaluation, 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.

## **9. Report to Client**

9.1.1. 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 Local Planning Authority.

## **10. Additional Reports**

10.1.1. 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).

## **11. Summary Reports for Publication**

11.1.1. 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.

## **12. Archive Deposition**

12.1.1. 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.

12.1.2. 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.

12.1.3. Copies of all reports, the digital archive and an archive index will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth. A full Data Management Plan for this project is included in Appendix I.

12.1.4. 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 GAPS.

### **13. Finds Deposition**

13.1.1. 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.

### **14. Staff**

14.1.1. 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.

### **15. Health and Safety**

15.1.1. 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.

- 15.1.2. 9A 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.

### **Other Guidelines**

- 15.1.3. 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).

## **16. Insurance**

- 16.1.1. 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.

## **17. Quality Control**

### **Professional standards**

- 17.1.1. 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.
- 17.1.2. 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.

### **Project tracking**

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

### **Arbitration**

- 17.1.4. 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.



## 18. References

British Geological Survey: Geology of Britain viewer:

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

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2019. Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. Standards and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. Standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. Standard and Guidance for Geophysical Survey Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Muller. J. 2023. Geophysical Survey. Bryn Parciau, Criccieth. Archaeology Wales Report 2192.

National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales (NPAAW), 2019. The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales

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



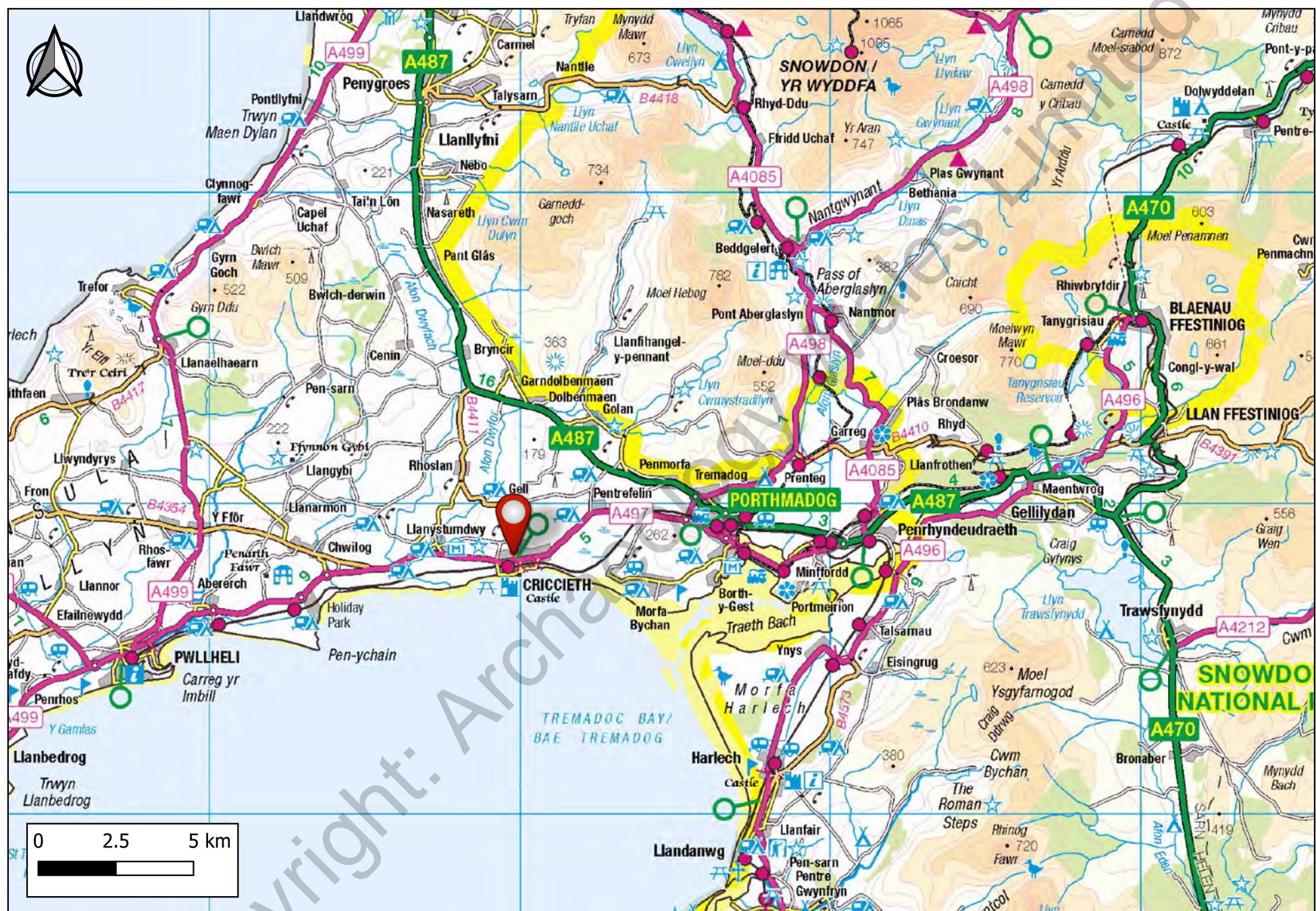


Figure 1. Site location



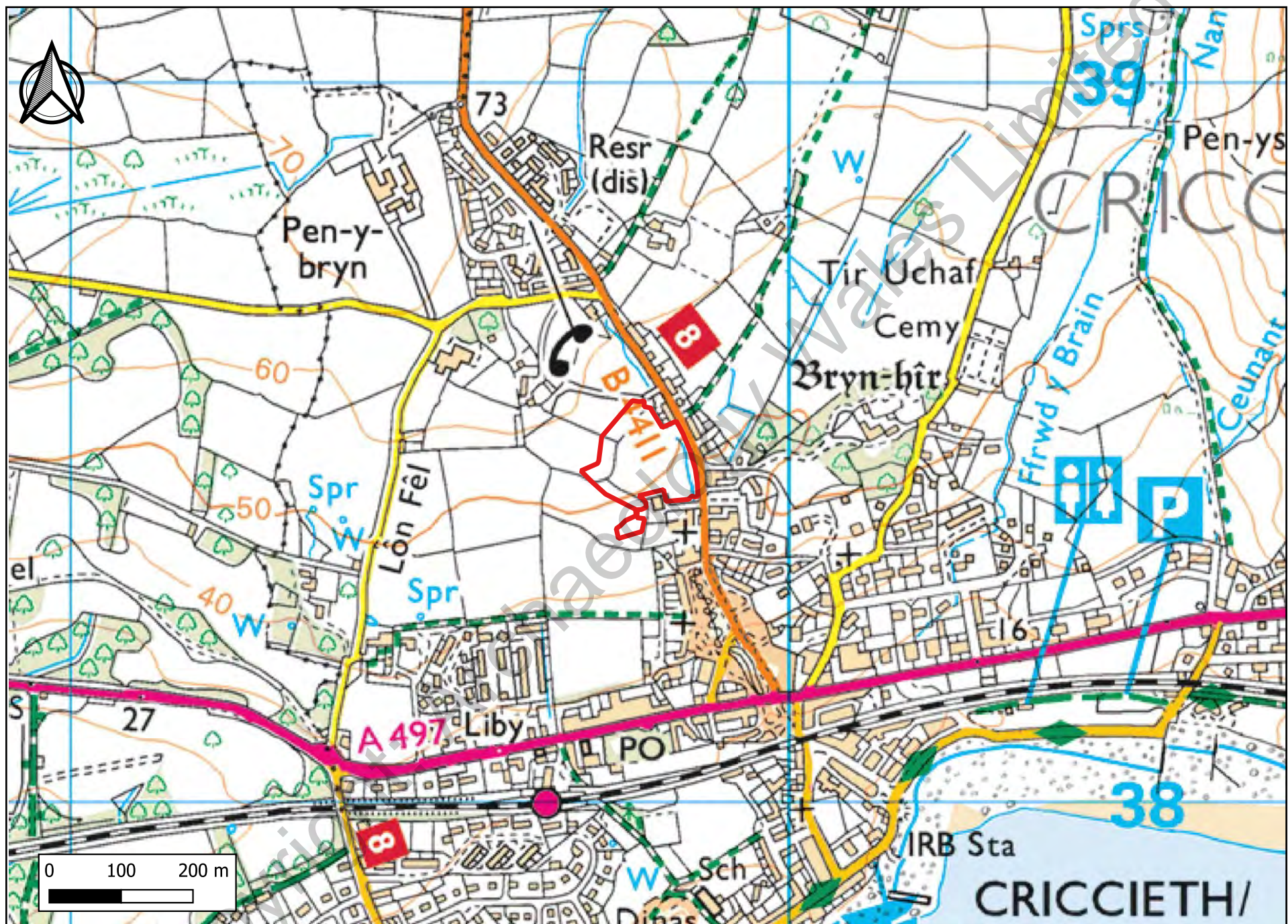


Figure 2. Proposed development area.



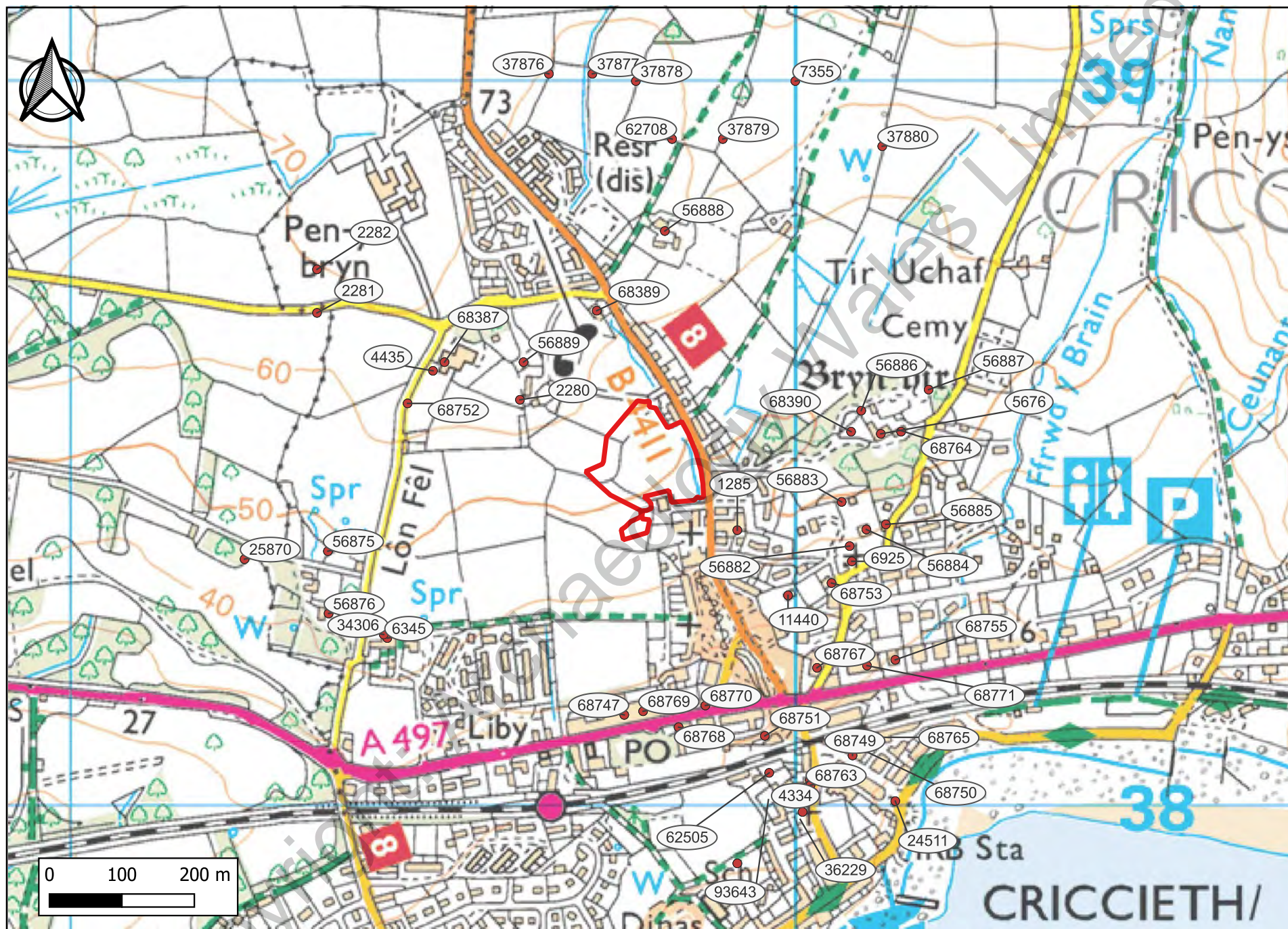


Figure 3. PRNs within 500m search area.



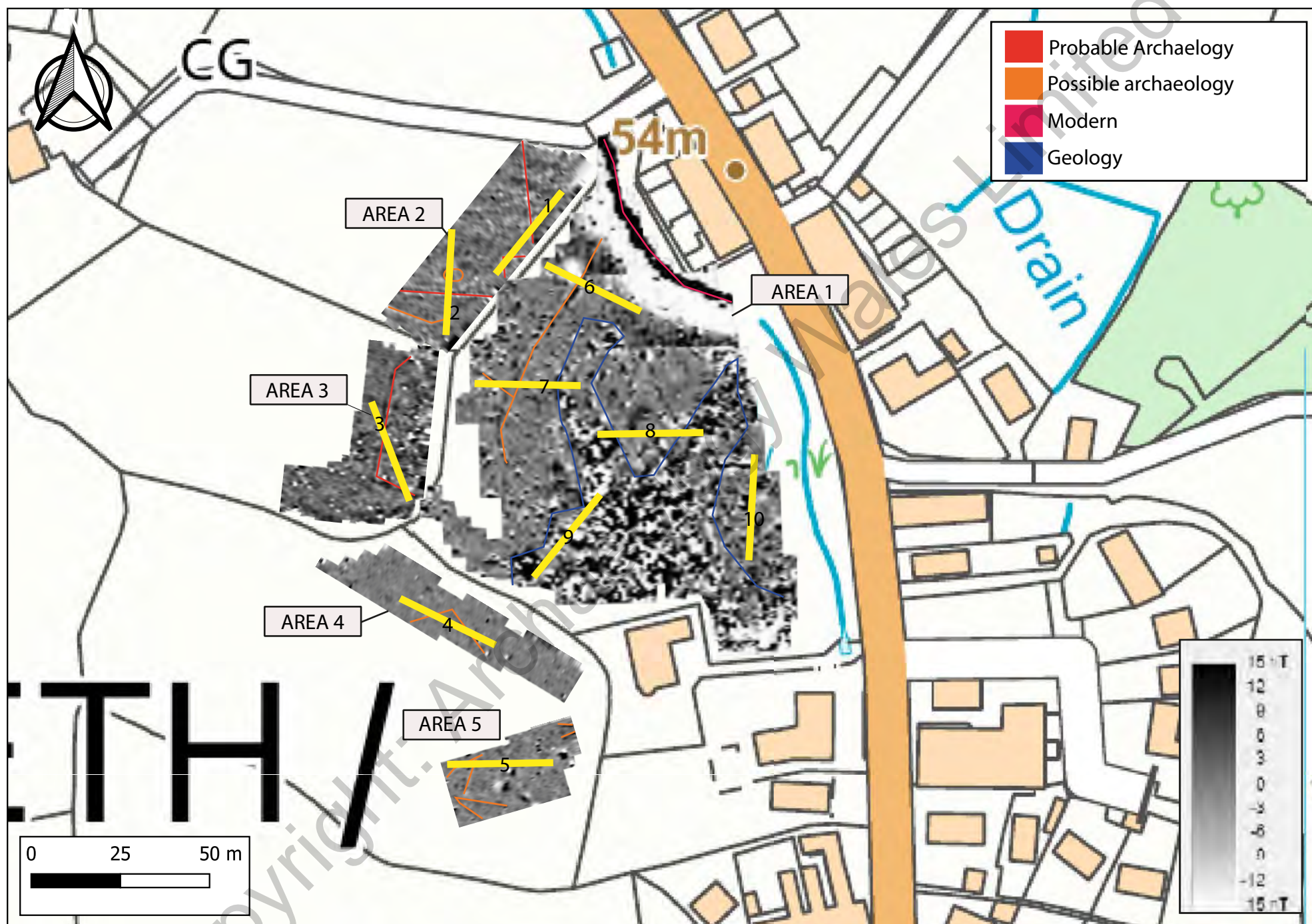


Figure 4. Trench layout overlaid on geophysics results

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **APPENDIX III: Selection Strategy**

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## Selection Strategy

Project Information	
<b>ID</b>	3064
<b>Name</b>	Bryn Parciau, Criccieth
Project Management	
<b>Project Manager</b>	Irene Garcia Rovira
<b>Post Excavation Manager</b>	Rhiannon Philp
<b>Organisation</b>	Archaeology Wales
Stakeholders	
<b>Collecting Institution(s)</b>	RCAHMW; Heneb Gwynedd HER
<b>Project Lead / Project Assurance</b>	Irene Garcia Rovira
<b>Landowner / Developer</b>	Rhys Evans Cyf
<b>Other</b>	
<b>Resources</b>	No unusual resources required outside of AW normal operating equipment and personnel to implement this Selection Strategy.

### Context

In March 2023, Archaeology Wales Ltd was commissioned by Rhys Evans Cyf to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on the site of the proposed development of twenty-three dwellings, creation of a new access from Caenarfon Road, an internal estate road, surface water attenuation pond, landscaping, buffer zone and associated works at land adjacent to North Terrace Criccieth, Gwynedd, North Wales, LL52 0AP.

The field evaluation targeted several features identified during a geophysical survey carried out by Archaeology Wales Ltd in 2023 (Muller 2023). Ten trenches measuring 30m long and 1.8m wide were cut across the development area.

Trenches 1,2,4,5,8, 9 and 10 were devoid of features/finds or archaeological significance. The features identified on the geophysical survey were confirmed to be field drains.



The remains of an undated ditch were revealed in Trench 3. A pit-like feature was recorded in Trench 6, associated with finds of postmedieval date.

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

## Digital Data

### Stakeholders

Rhiannon Philp (PX manager), Irene Garcia Rovira (Project Manager), RCAHMW, Heneb Gwynedd HER

### Data Management Plan (DMP)

#### Selection and De-selection

DMP Attached as a separate document

### Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders
22/10/24	DMP updated	Final DMP in new format	PXM; RCAHMW

## Documents

### Stakeholders

Rhiannon Philp (PX manager), Irene Garcia Rovira (Project Manager),

#### Selection and De-selection

##### Selection

- 2.1. All original documentary material created during data gathering will be selected for inclusion in the final archive. Duplicates, photocopies of originals and research materials will be de-selected during archive completion
- 2.2. Selection reviews will be undertaken after the following phases:

- Fieldwork
- Reporting
- Archive Completion

### 2.3. Relevant Standards and Guidance:

- CIfA. 2020. Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials.
- CIfA. 2022 revision. Code of conduct: professional ethics in archaeology
- Any information provided by Receiving Institutions

### 2.4. It is not envisaged that the selection decisions will deviate from standard guidelines

### De-selection

It is envisaged that the material de-selected from inclusion in the preserved archive will be duplicates, re-productions, miscellaneous material, correspondence and GDPR/confidentiality created during the analysis phase of the project. De-selected material will therefore be retained to supplement AW/AE's research files. A copy of the complete digital working archive incl. the preserved archive is stored on AW/AE's server.

### Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders
16/10/24	All documentary archive scanned and will be uploaded to RCAHMW in digital format. Physical documents to be discarded as agreed with RCAHMW.	Entire archive is available digitally	AW; RCAHMW

## Materials

### Materials Selections Template

No	Find type	Selection Strategy	Stakeholders
3.1	Pottery	Retain until at least after	Specialist; PXM;

		Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Storiel
3.2	CBM	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; Storiel
3.3	Metals	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; Storiel
3.4	Worked Stone	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; Storiel
3.5	Animal Bone	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; Storiel
3.6	Lithics	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; Storiel
3.7	Small Finds	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; Storiel
3.8	Environmental Material	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; Storiel
3.9	Modern (post 20 <sup>th</sup> C) Material	Note in paperwork and discard on site.	Site Staff; PXM



No	ALL	Material type	All categories
<b>Stakeholders</b>			
Rhiannon Philp (PX manager), Irene Garcia Rovira (Project Manager),			
<b>Selection</b>			
<p>a) All artefacts are returned to AW/AE Finds and Environmental processing facility and dealt with in accordance with the professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials (2020). Selection may also be made prior to deposition based on Society of Museum Archaeologists' Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections guidelines (1993), National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales (2017)] and consultation of the receiving institution's deposition guidelines (Gwynedd Museums Service 2009).</p> <p>b) Selection reviews will be undertaken after the following phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fieldwork</li> <li>• Assessment</li> <li>• Analysis (if required)</li> <li>• Archive Completion</li> </ul> <p>c) Relevant Standards and Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CIfA. 2020. Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials</li> <li>• Historic England. 2011. Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition)</li> <li>• Society of Museum Archaeologists. 1993. Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections</li> <li>• National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales. 2017. The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales</li> <li>• Gwynedd Museums Service. 2009. Guidelines for the Preparation and Deposition of Archaeological Archives</li> </ul> <p>d) It is not envisaged that the selection decisions will deviate from standard guidelines</p>			
<b>Uncollected Material</b>			
All material will be collected in the first instance unless obviously modern (plastics/post 20 <sup>th</sup> century artefacts).			
<b>De-Selected Material</b>			

After assessment stage material may be deselected based on the advice of the relevant material specialist and the requirements of the receiving institution. The selection strategy will be updated to reflect any decision made on de-selected material.

De-selected material will be assessed for educational value and retained/passed to an educational provider if deemed of use. If no further use is identified the de-selected material shall be discarded via Smiths Waste Management and deposited within their South Wales waste processing facility.

### Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders
16/10/24	All finds de-selected	All modern or late in date and recovered unstratified or in relation to modern features	AW; Storiell

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **APPENDIX IV: Data Management Plan**



# Data Management Plan

## Section 1: Project Administration

Project ID / OASIS ID
Project number: 3064 Site code: BPC/23/EV
Project Name
Bryn Parciau, Criccieth
Project Description
In March 2023, Archaeology Wales Ltd was commissioned by Rhys Evans Cyf to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on the site of the proposed development of twenty-three dwellings, creation of a new access from Caenarfon Road, an internal estate road, surface water attenuation pond, landscaping, buffer zone and associated works at land adjacent to North Terrace Criccieth, Gwynedd, North Wales, LL52 0AP. The field evaluation targeted several features identified during a geophysical survey carried out by Archaeology Wales Ltd in 2023 (Muller 2023). Ten trenches measuring 30m long and 1.8m wide were cut across the development area. Trenches 1,2,4,5,8, 9 and 10 were devoid of features/finds or archaeological significance. The features identified on the geophysical survey were confirmed to be field drains.
Project Funder / Grant reference
Rhys Evans Cyf
Project Manager
Irene Garcia Rovira – AW project manager Irene@arch-wales.co.uk
Principal Investigator / Researcher
Same as above
Data Contact Person
Rhiannon Philp, AW Post-excavation Manager rhiannon.philp@arch-wales.co.uk
Date DMP created
24.05.23
Date DMP last updated
22.10.24
Version
Version 2
Related data management policies
This DMP is guided by the Project Brief, CIfA Standards and guidance, trusted digital repository guidelines (RCAHMW) or other best practice guidance (see brief for details)

## Section 2: Data Collection

What data will you collect or create?
The table below provides a summary of the data types, formats and estimated archive volume for data collected / created as part of this project. As the project progresses, more detail regarding files will be added to this DMP.

Type	Format	Estimated volume (Data Archived)
Spreadsheets	Excel (.xlsx)	1
Text/documents	PDF (.pdf and .pdf/a)	3
Images	Photographs (.jpg)	115
	Scanned drawings (.pdf)	1
GIS	Shapefiles (.shp plus associated files)	4 groups

#### How will the data be collected or created?

##### Data Standards / Methods

- Standard methods of data collection will be applied throughout the project, working to best practice guidance where applicable / available. In general, data acquisition standards are defined against RCAHMW Guidelines. Specific or additional guidance relevant to this project are listed below and will be updated as the project progresses.
- Methods of collection are specified within the Project Design and will meet the requirement set out in the Project Brief, the organisation recording manual and relevant CIfA Standards and guidance.
- Where appropriate, project contributors external to the organisation will be required to include data standards, collection methodology and metadata with individual reports and data.
- Specific guidance:
  - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2019. Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives.
  - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. Standards and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.
  - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. Standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.
  - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023. Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
  - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023. Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

##### Data storage / file naming

- The data produced will be uploaded at regular intervals during the project as a way of backing up the information.
- The working project archive will be stored in a project specific folder on the internal organisational server. The internal organisation server is backed up to a cloud based storage system to maintain an up to date security copy of the organisation wide data.
- Project folders are named following established organisational procedures and the folder hierarchy and organisation devised will be understood by all members of staff involved in the project.
- Data collected will be downloaded and raw data will be stored in the appropriate folder.
- File naming conventions following established organisational procedures, based on RCAHMW file naming guidance, and include version control management.

- The data stored will be checked by the project manager regularly as a means of quality assurance.

### Section 3: Documentation and metadata

#### What documentation and metadata will accompany the data?

- Data collected will include standard formats which maximise opportunities for use and reuse in the future (see Section 2, above).
- A RCAHMW metadata document will be included with the digital archive and include all data types included within the archive. A working copy will be kept on the organisational server in the Project Folder. A copy of the form containing HER required data will also be created.
- Data documentation will meet the requirement of the Project Brief, Museum Deposition Guidelines, Digital Repository Guidelines and the methodology described in the Project Design methodology.
- An archive catalogue documenting both physical and digital archive products will be maintained and submitted with both the Museum and Trusted Digital Repository.

### Section 4: Ethics and legal compliance

#### How will you manage any ethical, copyright and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues?

- The project archive will include the names and contact details of individuals who intend to volunteer or participate in the excavation and post excavation stages. We have a GDPR compliant Privacy Policy which underpins the management of personal data; any personal data is managed through a secure cloud-based database and not retained on the project specific folders.
- Personal data will be removed from the archaeological project archive and permission to include individual's names in any reporting is gained prior to use.
- Copyright for all data collected by the project team belongs to the organisation, and formal permission to include data from external specialists and contractors is secured on the engagement of the specialist or contractor.
- Where formal permissions and/or license agreements are linked to data sharing, they will be included in the project documentation folders and will accompany the archaeological project archive.

### Section 5: Data Security: Storage and Backup

#### How will the data be stored, accessed and backed up during the research?

- Organisational IT is managed by an external data management provider, who is also responsible for the management and verification of our daily back-ups and who supports access to security copies as needed.
- Sufficient data storage space is available via the organisational server, which includes permissions-based access. The server is accessible by staff on and offsite through a secure log-in.
- Off-site access to the project files on the organisation's server is provided to support back-up of raw data while fieldwork is ongoing. Where internet access for data back up is not



possible, the raw data will be backed up to a separate media device (such as laptop and portable external hard drive).

- Project files will be shared with external specialists and contractors directly using the same system, with the wider project team gaining access to only the files needed using permissions-based access

## Section 6: Selection and Preservation

### Which data should be retained, shared, and/or preserved?

- The Selection Strategy and DMP will be reviewed and updated as part of the Post Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design and following full analysis. Updated documentation will be included in all reporting stages.
- Prior to deposition, the Selection Strategy and DMP will be updated and finalised in agreement with all project stakeholders (including the Local Planning Archaeologist, Client, Museum, RCAHMW).
- Selection will be informed by the Project Design, defined against the research aims, regional and national research frameworks, specialist advice and the significance of the project results.
- The project will be published as an online technical report (accessible via RCAHMW and as part of this the archive), with full access to research data.
- The data archive will be ordered, with files named and structured in a logical manner, and accompanied by relevant documentation and metadata, as outlined in Sections 2 and 3 of this DMP.
- Deselection will be undertaken automatically on any duplicate or unusable files, such as blurry or superfluous photographs.

### What is the long-term preservation plan for the dataset?

- The digital archive will be deposited with the RCAHMW, which is working towards becoming a certified repository with Core Trust Seal.
- The archive will be prepared for deposition by the project team and the costs for the time needed for preparation, and the cost of deposition have been included in the project budget.

### Have you contacted the data repository?

- RCAHMW have are the intended repository for digital data. AW has an ongoing agreement with the repository.

### Have the costs of archiving been fully considered?

- A costing estimate has been produced to allow for the preparation of the archive and has been included in the project budget.

## Section 7: Data Sharing

### How will you share the data and make it accessible?

- The museum and digital archive repository will be updated as the project progresses.
- The investigations are likely to result in the following documents: Evaluation Report
- The final report is expected to be completed within 3 months of the completion of fieldwork.
- A final version of the project report will be supplied to the Historic Environment Record, and any data which they request can also be provided directly.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The location (s) of the final Archaeological Archive will be included in the final report</li> </ul>
Are any restrictions on data sharing required?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A temporary embargo may be required on the sharing of the project results. If this is the case, specific details once agreed will be included in the updated version of this DMP and will be documented in the overarching Project Collection Metadata.</li> <li>• Data specific requirements, ethical issues or embargos which are linked to particular data formats will be documented within the relevant metadata tables accompanying the project archive.</li> </ul>

## Section 8: Responsibilities

Who will be responsible for implementing the data management plan?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Project Manager and Post Excavation Manager will be responsible for implementing the DMP, and ensuring it is reviewed and revised at each stage of the project.</li> <li>• Data capture, metadata production and data quality is the responsibility of the Project Team, assured by the Project Manager and Post Excavation Manager.</li> <li>• Storage and backup of data in the field is the responsibility of the field team.</li> <li>• Once data is incorporated into the organisations project server, storage and backup is managed by an external company.</li> <li>• Data archiving is undertaken by the project team under the guidance of the Post Excavation Manager, who is responsible for the transfer of the Archaeological Project Archive to the agreed repository.</li> <li>• Details of the core project team can be found in the Project Design.</li> </ul>

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