

Archaeological Watching Brief:
National Slate Museum, Llanberis, Gwynedd

January 2024



Report No. 2262

By

Lucy Morrison



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Prepared for AtkinsRéalis

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Contents

1. Introduction	4
2. Site Description and historic background	4
3. Methodology.....	5
4. Watching brief results.....	6
5. Discussion and Interpretations.....	9
6. Archiving	9
7. Sources.....	10
Figures.....	11
Plates	16
Appendix I. Written Scheme of Investigation	
Appendix II. Context Inventory	
Appendix III. Selection Strategy	
Appendix IV. Data Management Plan	

Figures

Figure 1: Site location	12
Figure 2: Location of exploratory holes	13
Figure 3: Designated assets within the proximity of National Slate Museum	14
Figure 4. Tithe plan of the parish of Llanddeniolen County of Carnarvon (1839).....	15

Plates

Plate 1 SA02 after excavation, view east	17
Plate 2 SA03 after excavation, view northeast	17
Plate 3 SA04 after excavation, view south	18
Plate 4 HP01 after excavation, view west.....	18
Plate 5. HP02 after excavation, view south.....	19

Summary

In December 2023, Archaeology Wales Ltd was commissioned to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief within the grounds of the National Slate Museum, Gilfach Ddu, Llanddeiniolen, Llanberis, Gwynedd LL55 4TY.

The watching brief confirmed the position of the nine exploratory holes, and monitored the soakaways and hand dug pits. The results largely evidence the quarry waste upon which the former Dinorwic slate quarry workshops were built.

The remains of a wall were seen in Soakaway SA02. The examination of historic maps indicates that the wall may have been a boundary/retainer wall belonging to a track documented on the 1839 Tithe map of the studied area.

The former Dinorwic slate quarry workshops were registered as a Grade I listed building in 1999 – LB 22656. Furthermore, the three elements associated with Dinorwic Quarry are scheduled (CN 163): the Hadof Owen Winding Engine, the locomotive shed and the water wheel and housing. These elements are within and adjacent to the museum building. The museum building significance is also recognised and integrated within the World Heritage Site (WHS) of The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales.

All work was undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA); Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (2023a), and Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (2023b).

Crynodeb Annechnegol

Ym mis Rhagfyr 2023, comisiynwyd Archaeology Wales Cyf i ymgymryd â Briff Gwyllo Archeolegol o fewn tir yr Amgueddfa Lechi Genedlaethol, Gilfach Ddu, Llanddeiniolen, Llanberis, Gwynedd LL55 4TY.

Cadarnhaodd y briff gwyllo safle naw twll archwiliol, a monitrodd y ffosydd cerrig a'r pyllau a dyllwyd â llaw. Mae'r canlyniadau gan mwyaf yn nodi tystiolaeth o'r gwastraff o'r chwarel yr adeiladwyd gweithdai cyn chwarel lechi Dinorwig arno.

Gwelwyd gweddillion wal yn ffos gerrig SA02. Mae archwiliad o'r mapiau hanesyddol yn nodi mai wal ffin/cynnal oedd y wal o bosibl a oedd yn gysylltiedig â llwybr a gofnodwyd ar fap Tithe 1839 o'r ardal a astudiwyd.

Cofrestrwyd cyn weithdai chwarel lechi Dinorwig yn adeilad rhestredig Gradd I ym 1999 - LB 22656. Yn ogystal, mae'r tair elfen sy'n gysylltiedig â Chwarel Dinorwig yn gofrestredig (CN 163): Injan Weinido Hafod Owen, y sied locomotif a'r olwyn ddŵr a'i adeilad. Mae'r elfennau hyn o fewn a gerllaw adeilad yr amgueddfa. Cydnabyddir

arwyddocâd adeilad yr amgueddfa hefyd a chaiff ei integreiddio o fewn Safle Treftadaeth y Byd Tirwedd Lechi Gogledd-orllewin Cymru.

Gwnaed yr holl waith at y safonau a'r canllawiau a nodwyd gan Sefydliad Siartredig yr Archeolegwyr; y Safon ar gyfer Monitro a Chofnodi Archeolegol (2023a), a'r Canllawiau Cyffredinol ar gyfer Monitro a Chofnodi Archeolegol (2023b).

1. Introduction

- 1.1.1. In December 2023, Archaeology Wales Ltd was commissioned to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief within the grounds of the National Slate Museum, Gilfach Ddu, Llanddeiniolen, Llanberis, Gwynedd LL55 4TY, NGR SH 58548 60281 (Figure 1-2).
- 1.1.2. The purpose of the archaeological mitigation was to provide Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services (GAPS) with sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains on the site of the development, the requirements for which are set out in Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017).
- 1.1.3. The work was to ensure that all archaeological and historical components of the site were fully investigated and recorded if they were revealed because of activities associated with the development.
- 1.1.4. All work was undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA); Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (2023a), and Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (2023b). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA. It followed the methodology set out on the Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix I – Garcia Rovira 2023).

2. Site Description and historic background

- 2.1.1. The monitored groundworks took place within the premises of the National Slate Museum, Gilfach Ddu, Llanddeiniolen, Llanberis, Gwynedd LL55 4TY, NGR SH 58548 60281 (Figure 1-2). The museum is contained within the workshops of the former Dinorwic Slate Quarry and is devoted to the preservation and display of the slate industry of Wales.

- 2.1.2. The workshops were built in 1870 on land created by the tipping of spoil from Vivian quarry. Quarry activity ceased in 1969, and the area was subsequently transformed into a museum. The latter opened in 1972. The workshops included saw-sheds, patternmaking shops, a foundry, blacksmith shops, stores, engine sheds, a canteen and a chief engineer's house. Up until 1925 all machinery was powered by a De Winton water wheel, later replaced by a Pelton wheel (Cadw 1999).
- 2.1.3. Historic map regression documents the workshop complex for the first time in the OS County series map of 1890. A railway system runs into the main building in a north/south direction. The area to the west is dominated by quarry tipping, while structures associated with the quarry are documented to the east. The first reference to the museum is documented on the 1975 OS map edition.
- 2.1.4. The former Dinorwic slate quarry workshops were registered as a Grade I listed building in 1999 – LB 22656. Furthermore, the three elements associated with Dinorwic Quarry are scheduled (CN 163): the Hadof Owen Winding Engine, the locomotive shed and the water wheel and housing. These elements are within and adjacent to the museum building. The museum building significance is also recognised and integrated within the World Heritage Site (WHS) of The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales (Figure 3).

3. Methodology

- 3.1.1. The work was undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (2023).
- 3.1.2. This phase of work consisted of nine exploratory holes: four soakaways, three

boreholes and two hand excavated pits (Figure 3). The monitoring archaeologist ensured that the exploratory holes were located away from any feature of archaeological significance and monitored the excavation of the hand dug pits and soakaways.

- 3.1.3. The watching brief preserved, by record, detailed information on all archaeological deposits within the designated area. The site archaeologist recorded stratigraphically, all archaeological deposits, horizons and artefacts encountered.

4. Watching brief results

4.1. SA01 (Figure 2)

- 4.1.1. Soakaway SA01 was located to the southeast of the museum near the rear entrance. Due to the number of services crossing this area, the soakaway was not cut.
- 4.1.2. The presence of services was evidenced during the excavation of a hand dug pit measuring 0.2m in length and width. The excavation ceased at a depth of 0.05m below the ground level. The reduced area contained one deposit which comprised of slate waste chippings (1000).

4.2. SA02 (Figure 2, Plate 1)

- 4.2.1. Soakaway SA02 was located in the central courtyard of the museum complex. It measured 2m in length and 1m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.8m below the ground level. The facing of a slate wall (2002) was found along the eastern edge, this was exposed to a length of 2m and a depth of 0.8m and continued beyond the limits of excavation. It comprised of eleven courses of slate slabs, each measuring 0.2m to 0.6m in length with a thickness of 0.2m. The coursing was random with no bonding material. This was overlain by a

deposit (2001) of quarry waste, comprising of loose blueish grey slate chippings and slag stones measuring 0.1m to 0.5m in length with a thickness of 0.01m to 0.1m. This deposit had a depth of 0.7m and extended beyond the limits of excavation. Overlying this was a slate surface (2000), comprising of loose blueish grey slate chippings with a maximum size of 0.05m, this surface had a thickness of 0.1m and extends throughout the exterior of the museum complex.

- 4.2.2. Slate wall (2002) was not evidenced on OS historic maps. It is therefore possible to infer that the wall predated 1890. The Tithe map of 1839 documents a track running north-north-east to south-south-west. The wall might correspond to a boundary/retaining wall demarcating the track through the quarry (Figure 4).

4.3. SA03 (Figure 2, Plate 2)

- 4.3.1. Soakaway SA03 was located northeast of the museum entrance. It measured 2m in length and 1.5m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.5m below the ground level. It contained two deposits. The lower deposit (3001) was comprised of quarry waste, loose blueish grey slate chippings and slag stones measuring 0.3m to 1m in length with a thickness of 0.01m to 0.2m. This deposit had a depth of 1.45m and extended beyond the limits of excavation. Overlying this was a slate surface (3000), comprising of loose blueish grey slate chippings with a maximum size of 0.05m, this surface had a thickness of 0.1m and extends throughout the exterior of the museum complex.

4.4. SA04 (Figure 2, Plate 3)

- 4.4.1. SA04 was located northwest of the museum entrance. It measured 1.9m in length and 1.5m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.5m below the ground level. It contained four deposits which continued beyond the limits of excavation. The lower deposit (4003) was comprised of quarry waste, loose

blueish grey slate chippings and slag stones measuring 0.3m to 1m in length with a thickness of 0.01m to 0.2m. This deposit had a depth of 1.1m and extended beyond the depth of excavation. This was overlain by deposit (4002) comprising of loose light yellowish grey slate silt & slag stones from 0.01m to 0.2m in size, and with a thickness of 0.15m. Overlying this was a layer of foundry and smithing waste (4001), comprising of loose dark blackish grey silt & slate, composed of crushed slate and coke, with a thickness of 0.15m. This was overlain by a slate surface (3000), comprising of loose blueish grey slate chippings with a maximum size of 0.05m, this surface had a thickness of 0.1m and extends throughout the exterior of the museum complex.

4.5. HP01 (Figure 2, Plate 4)

- 4.5.1. Hand dug pit HP01 was located in the centre of the courtyard within the museum complex. It measured 0.2m in length and 0.2m in width with a depth of 0.2m below the ground level. The pit contained two deposits, the lower (1100) comprising of loose blueish grey slate chippings and slag stones measuring 0.1m in length with a thickness of 0.01m to 0.1m. Overlying this was a surface of slate waste chippings with a thickness of 0.1m and seen throughout the museum complex.

4.6. HP02 (Figure 2, Plate 5)

- 4.6.1. Hand dug pit HP02 was located to the west of the courtyard within the museum complex. It measured 0.2m in length and 0.2m in width with a depth of 0.2m below the ground level. The pit contained two deposits, the lower (2100) comprising of loose blueish grey slate chippings and slag stones with a depth of 0.1m and extended beyond the limits of excavation. Overlying this was a surface of slate waste chippings with a thickness of 0.1m and seen throughout the museum – (2101).

4.7. Boreholes

- 4.7.1. The position of all boreholes was confirmed using a sub-meter GPS prior to their excavation.

5. Discussion and Conclusions

- 5.1.1. In December 2023, Archaeology Wales Ltd was commissioned to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief within the grounds of the National Slate Museum, Gilfach Ddu, Llanddeiniolen, Llanberis, Gwynedd LL55 4TY.
- 5.1.2. The watching brief confirmed the position of the nine exploratory holes, and monitored the soakaways and hand dug pits. The results largely evidence the quarry waste upon which the former Dinorwic slate quarry workshops were built.
- 5.1.3. The former Dinorwic slate quarry workshops were registered as a Grade I listed building in 1999 – LB 22656 . Furthermore, the three elements associated with Dinorwic Quarry are scheduled (CN 163): the Hadof Owen Winding Engine, the locomotive shed and the water wheel and housing. These elements are within and adjacent to the museum building. The museum building significance is also recognised and integrated within the World Heritage Site (WHS) of The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales.
- 5.1.4. Soakaway SA02 evidenced the remains of a wall. The examination of historic maps indicates that the wall may have been a boundary/retainer wall belonging to a track documented on the 1839 Tithe map of the studied area.

6. Archiving

- 6.1.1. Report and selected digital archive will be submitted to GAT HER, and the full

documentary archive will be submitted to the RCAHMW.

7. Sources

Archaeology Wales, 2023, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at National Slate Museum, Llanberis

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023a. Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023b. Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording.

Cadw Listing. 1999.

<https://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=en&id=22656>

(accessed 10.1.24)

National Library for Wales. Welsh Tithe Maps.

<https://places.library.wales/home>

(accessed 10.1.24)

Maps consulted

Tithe plan of the parish of Llanddeniolen County of Carnarvon 1839

Caernarvonshire Sheet XVI.NE Surveyed: 1888, Published: 1888

Caernarvonshire Sheet XVI.NE Revised: 1899, Published: 1901

Caernarvonshire Sheet XVI.NE Revised: 1912 to 1913, Published: 1920

Caernarvonshire Sheet XVI.NE Revised: 1949, Published: 1953

Figures



Figure 1. Location of site (red)



Figure 2. Location of exploratory holes.

- Soakaway
- Borehole
- ▲ Hand Excavated Pit



10 0 10 20 m

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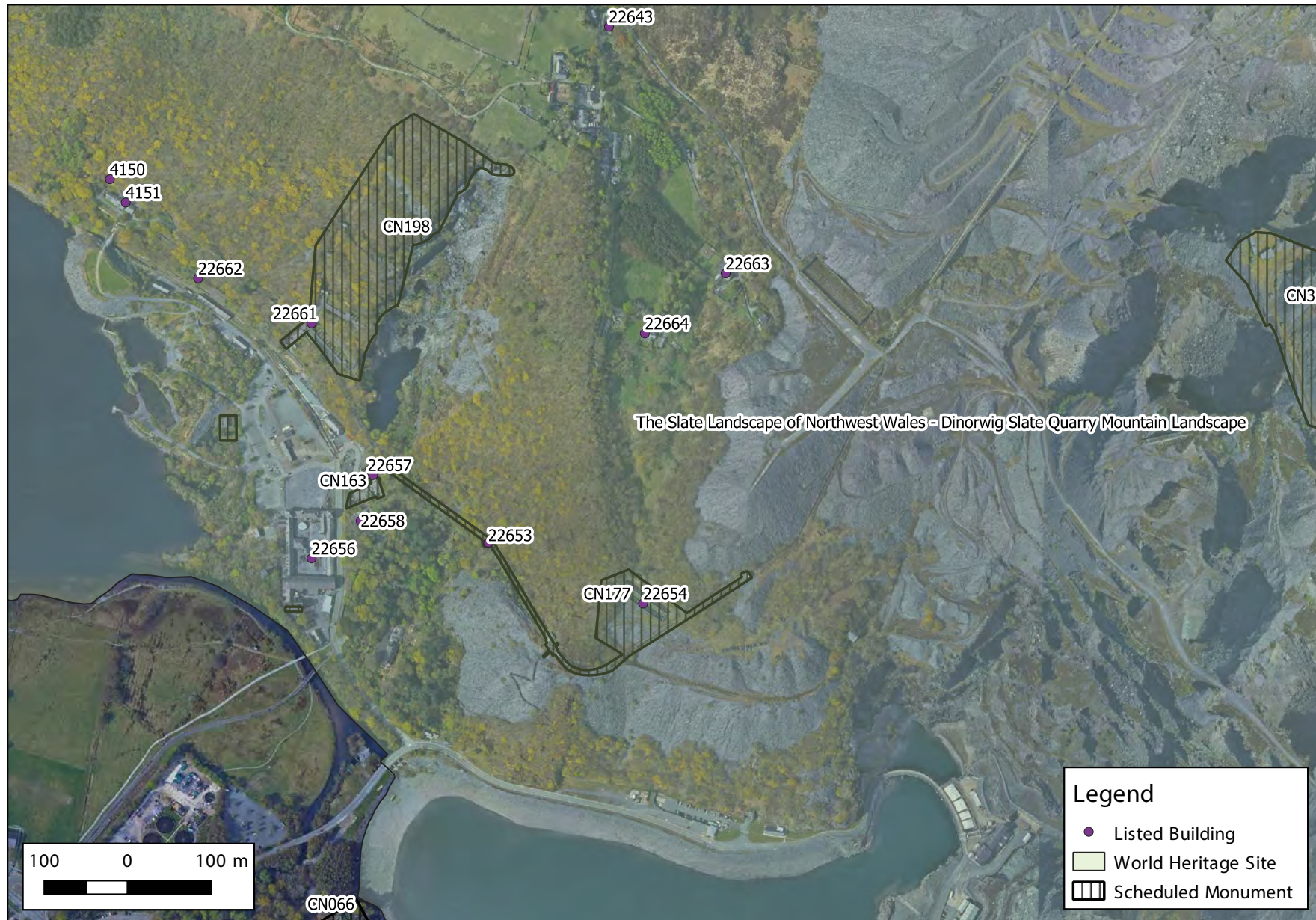


Figure 3. Designated assets within the proximity of National Slate Museum



Figure 4. Tithe plan of the parish of Llanddeniolen
County of Carnarvon (1839)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Soakaway ● Borehole ▲ Hand Excavated Pit 	<div data-bbox="1058 1957 1121 2069"> </div> <div data-bbox="1153 1980 1536 2047"> <p>0 25m 50m</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1121 2092 1489 2181"> </div>
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Plates



Plate 1 SA02 after excavation, view east



Plate 2 SA03 after excavation, view northeast



Plate 3 SA04 after excavation, view south



Plate 4 HP01 after excavation, view west

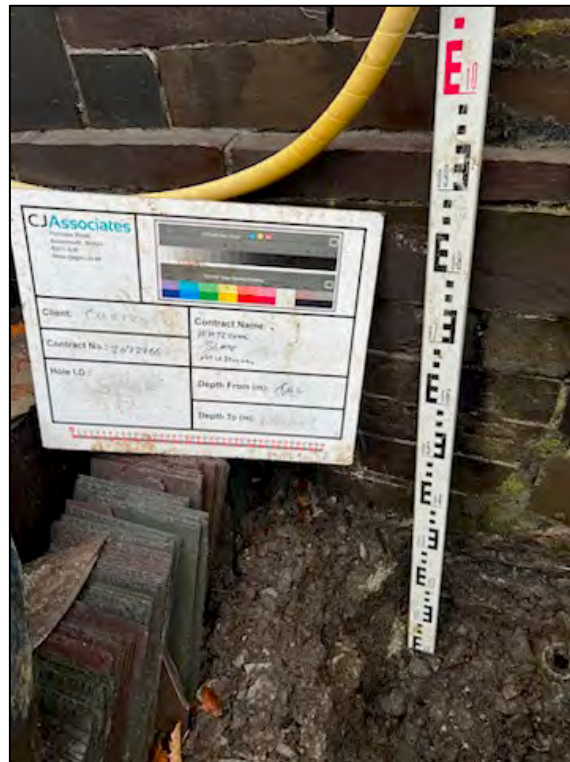


Plate 5. HP02 after excavation, view south



WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT
National Slate Museum, Llanberis

Prepared for:

AtkinsRéalis

Project No: 3124

December 2023



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Contents

1.	Introduction and Planning Background	3
2.	Site description and historic background	3
3.	Objectives	4
4.	Timetable of works	5
5.	Report delivery.....	5
6.	Fieldwork detail	5
7.	Recording	6
8.	Finds	6
9.	Environmental sample strategy	7
10.	Human remains.....	7
11.	Specialist advisers	8
12.	Monitoring	8
13.	Notification of important remains	9
14.	Post-fieldwork programme	9
15.	Archive deposition	10
16.	Finds deposition	11
17.	Staff	11
18.	Health and Safety.....	11
19.	Other Guidelines	11
20.	Community and outreach	11
21.	Insurance.....	12
22.	Quality control	12
23.	Arbitration.....	12
24.	References	13
	Figures.....	14

List of Figures

Figure 1: Location of Site

Figure 2: Location of exploratory holes

Figure 3: Designations within and around the National Slate Museum

1. Introduction and Planning Background

- 1.1.1. This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details a programme of archaeological mitigation to be undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth – AW) at the request of AtkinsRéalis (henceforth – ‘the Client’). The monitored work will be carried out within the grounds of the National Slate Museum, Gilfach Ddu, Llanddeiniolen, Llanberis, Gwynedd LL55 4TY, NGR SH 58548 60281 (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2. The purpose of the archaeological mitigation is to provide GAPS with sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains on the site of the development, the requirements for which are set out in Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017). The work is to ensure that all archaeological and historical components of the site are fully investigated and recorded if they are to be revealed because of activities associated with the development. This Specification has been prepared by Irene Garcia Rovira (Project Manager AW).
- 1.1.3. All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA); Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (2023), and Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (2023). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

2. Site description and historic background

- 2.1.1. The monitored groundworks will take place within the premises of the National Slate Museum, Gilfach Ddu, Llanddeiniolen, Llanberis, Gwynedd LL55 4TY, NGR SH 58548 60281 (Figure 1-2). The museum is contained within the workshops of the former Dinorwic Slate Quarry and is devoted to the preservation and display of the slate industry of Wales.
- 2.1.2. The workshops were built in 1870 on land created by the tipping of spoil from Vivian quarry. Quarry activity ceased in 1969, and the area was subsequently transformed into a museum. The latter opened in 1972. The workshops included saw-sheds, patternmaking shops, a foundry, blacksmith shops, stores, engine sheds, a canteen and a chief engineer’s house. Up until 1925 all machinery was powered by a De Winton water wheel, later replaced by a Pelton wheel (Cadw 1999).
- 2.1.3. Historic map regression documents the workshop complex for the first time in the OS County series map of 1890. A railway system runs into the main building in a north/south direction. The area to the west is dominated by quarry tipping, while structures associated with the quarry are documented to the east. The first reference to

the museum is documented on the 1975 map edition.

- 2.1.4. The former Dinorwic slate quarry workshops were registered as a Grade I listed building in 1999 - LB 22656¹. Furthermore, the three elements associated with Dinorwic Quarry are scheduled (CN 163)²: the Hadof Owen Winding Engine, the locomotive shed and the water wheel and housing. These elements are within and adjacent to the museum building. The museum building significance is also recognised and integrated within the World Heritage Site (WHS) of The Slate lands of NW Wales (Figure 3).³

3. Objectives

- 3.1.1. 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 for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (2023).
- 3.1.2. This phase of work will consist of nine exploratory holes: four soakaways, three boreholes and two hand excavated pits (Figure 2). The monitoring archaeologist will ensure that the exploratory holes are located away from any feature of archaeological significance, and will monitor the excavation of the hand dug pits and soakaways.
- 3.1.3. The objective of the watching brief will be:
- to allow the investigation and recording of any archaeological features that are uncovered during the proposed groundworks,
 - 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.
- 3.1.4. The results of the watching brief will:
- enhance and contribute to the understanding of the heritage of the local area. Ensuring any yet undiscovered archaeological material is not unduly destroyed or lost.
 - contribute to the wider Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales-Later Post Medieval and Industrial.
- 3.1.5. A written report will be compiled following the fieldwork. Sufficient desk-top research

¹ [Listed Buildings - Full Report - HeritageBill Cadw Assets - Reports \(cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net\)](https://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/Lists/Buildings-Full-Report-HeritageBill-Cadw-Assets-Reports)

² [Scheduled Monument - Full Report - HeritageBill Cadw Assets - Reports \(cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net\)](https://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/Lists/Scheduled-Monument-Full-Report-HeritageBill-Cadw-Assets-Reports)

³ [The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales - UNESCO World Heritage Centre](https://www.unesco.org/whc/areas-of-interest/the-slate-landscape-of-northwest-wales)

will be undertaken to ensure that the results of this work are properly understood, interpreted, and reported.

4. Timetable of works

- 4.1.1. The watching brief will be carried out during the week commencing on the 11th of December 2023. Any changes to the timetable will be communicated to GAPS prior to the commencement of groundworks.

5. Report delivery

- 5.1.1. 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 sent to the regional HER.

6. Fieldwork detail

- 6.1.1. The work will be undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (2023).
- 6.1.2. The location of all exploratory holes will be verified by the monitoring archaeologists prior to the commencement of works.
- 6.1.3. The watching brief should be undertaken using a tracked excavator equipped with a flat-bladed bucket working from a single front. During the groundworks 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. The hand excavated test pits and soakaways will not be undertaken without the presence of the site archaeologist.
- 6.1.4. The watching brief will preserve, by record, detailed information on all archaeological deposits within the designated area, prior to their likely destruction as a consequence of the development. The site archaeologist will record and removed stratigraphically, all archaeological deposits, horizons and artefacts encountered. Less significant archaeological deposits and features will be recorded without significant delay to the work program.
- 6.1.5. Where significant or complex archaeological deposits or features are encountered there will be a requirement for work in those areas to cease and those areas to be fenced off and highlighted to all contractors employed on the site. Machines or contractors shall not enter this area until archaeological recording has been

completed.

- 6.1.6. If significant archaeological features are encountered a meeting between the Client, GAPS and AW will be called at the earliest convenience. Contingency arrangements will be made. Contingency costs will be agreed in advance before any extension to the program commences and will follow a site meeting between Archaeology Wales, the Client (or their representatives) and GAPS.

7. Recording

- 7.1.1. Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.
- 7.1.2. Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.
- 7.1.3. All features identified will be surveyed using a GeoMax GNSS Net rover and tied into the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries.
- 7.1.4. Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 12MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

8. Finds

- 8.1.1. The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation, and research of archaeological materials (2020) will form the basis of finds collection, processing, and recording.
- 8.1.2. 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.
- 8.1.3. 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.
- 8.1.4. Retained finds will be suitably bagged, boxed and marked. Following cataloguing and

initial analysis finds of low archaeological significance may be discarded.

- 8.1.5. Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under The Treasure Act 1996 will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.
- 8.1.6. 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).

9. Environmental sample strategy

- 9.1.1. Environmental sampling is unlikely to be required unless excavations go beyond the disturbed layers and archaeology is encountered below that level.
- 9.1.2. Features or archaeological deposits that are encountered will be sampled by means of the most appropriate method (bulk, column, etc.) up to 40 litres in size.
- 9.1.3. If significant or complex deposits are encountered, a site-specific sampling strategy alongside a specialist environmental archaeologist will be draw up. All environmental sampling and recording and will follow English Heritage's Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology (2002).

10. Human remains

- 10.1.1. In the event that human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established, and the coroner informed. All human remains will be left in situ and protected during backfilling. Where preservation in situ is not possible the human remains will be fully recorded and removed under conditions that comply with all current legislation and include acquisition of licenses and provision for reburial following all analytical work.
- 10.1.2. Human remains will be excavated in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains: Technical Paper Number 13 (1993), and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains (2017).
- 10.1.3. A meeting with the Client, GAPS, and AW will be called if the human remains uncovered are of such complexity or significance that the contingency arrangement would not be of sufficient scope.

11. Specialist advisers

11.1.1. 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	Rebecca Devaney (Freelance)
Animal bone	Dr Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University) Dr Hannah Russ (archaeology.biz) Marina Chorro Giner (archaeology.biz) Jessica Waterworth (archaeology.biz)
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)
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Natasha Powers (Rocket Heritage) 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)
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) John Giorgi (Freelance)

12. Monitoring

12.1.1. GAPS will be contacted prior to the commencement of archaeological site works, with as much notice as possible, and subsequently once the work is underway.

- 12.1.2. Any changes to the WSI that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to the Client and GAPS for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.
- 12.1.3. GAPS will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the watching brief. No area will be backfilled until GAPS has had the opportunity to inspect it and signs off the area. GAPS will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

13. Notification of important remains

- 13.1.1. 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.

14. Post-fieldwork programme

The site archive

- 14.1.1. An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2006) upon completion of the project.
- 14.1.2. 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, 2020). 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, 2019). 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 (2022).

Analysis

- 14.1.3. Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of analysis and reporting will be undertaken. The report will adhere to the Welsh Archaeological Trust's joint Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (2022).
- 14.1.4. This will result in the following inclusions in the final report:

- Non-technical summary, in English and Welsh
 - Location plan showing the area/s covered by the groundworks, all artefacts, structures, and features found
 - Plan and section drawings (if features are encountered) with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
 - Written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating, and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate.
 - An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development
 - A discussion of the local, regional, and national context of the remains by means of reviewing published reports, unpublished reports, historical maps, documents from local archives and the regional HER as appropriate.
 - A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples, finds, and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.
- 14.1.5. Copies of all reports associated with the watching brief, together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, including photographs and illustrations, will be submitted to the Client and GAPS upon completion.
- 14.1.6. After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of all reports will be deposited with the relevant county Historical Environment Record, the National Monuments Record and GAPS.
- 14.1.7. 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.

15. Archive deposition

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

months after completion of the work.

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

15.1.4. 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 GAT.

16. Finds deposition

16.1.1. 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.

17. Staff

17.1.1. The project will be managed by Irene Garcia Rovira (AW Project Manager), and the fieldwork undertaken by AW Staff. Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of GAPS and the Client.

18. Health and Safety

18.1.1. Prior to the commencement of work AW will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 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.

19. Other Guidelines

19.1.1. 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).

20. Community and outreach

20.1.1. Wherever possible, AW will ensure suitable measures are in place to inform the local community and any interested parties of the results of the site investigation work. This

may occur during the site investigation work or following completion of the work. The form of any potential outreach activities may include lectures and talks to local groups, interested parties and persons, information boards, flyers and other forms of communication (social media and websites), and press releases to local and national media

- 20.1.2. The form of any outreach will respect client confidentiality or contractual agreements. As a rule, outreach will be proportional to the size of the project.
- 20.1.3. Where outreach activities have a cost implication these will need to be negotiated in advance and in accordance with the nature of the desired response and learning outcomes.

21. Insurance

- 21.1.1. 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.

22. Quality control

- 22.1.1. 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 field evaluation (CIfA 2020) 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.
- 22.1.2. The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

23. Arbitration

- 23.1.1. 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.

24. References

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

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023. Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023. Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologist, 2017. Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains.

English Heritage, 2002. Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology.

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

Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service, 2023. Planning response to planning application DET/2023/1. Ref: 0808tf/D3833.01.

IFA Wales/Cymru on behalf of the archaeological community of Wales. A Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales. <https://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/> (accessed 11/11/23).

National Library for Wales. Welsh Tithe Maps. <https://places.library.wales/home>. (accessed 11/09/23).

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

Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2022. Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HER).



Figure 1. Location of site (red)



Figure 2. Location of exploratory holes.

- Soakaway
- Borehole
- ▲ Hand Excavated Pit



10 0 10 20 m

ARCHAEOLOGY WALES

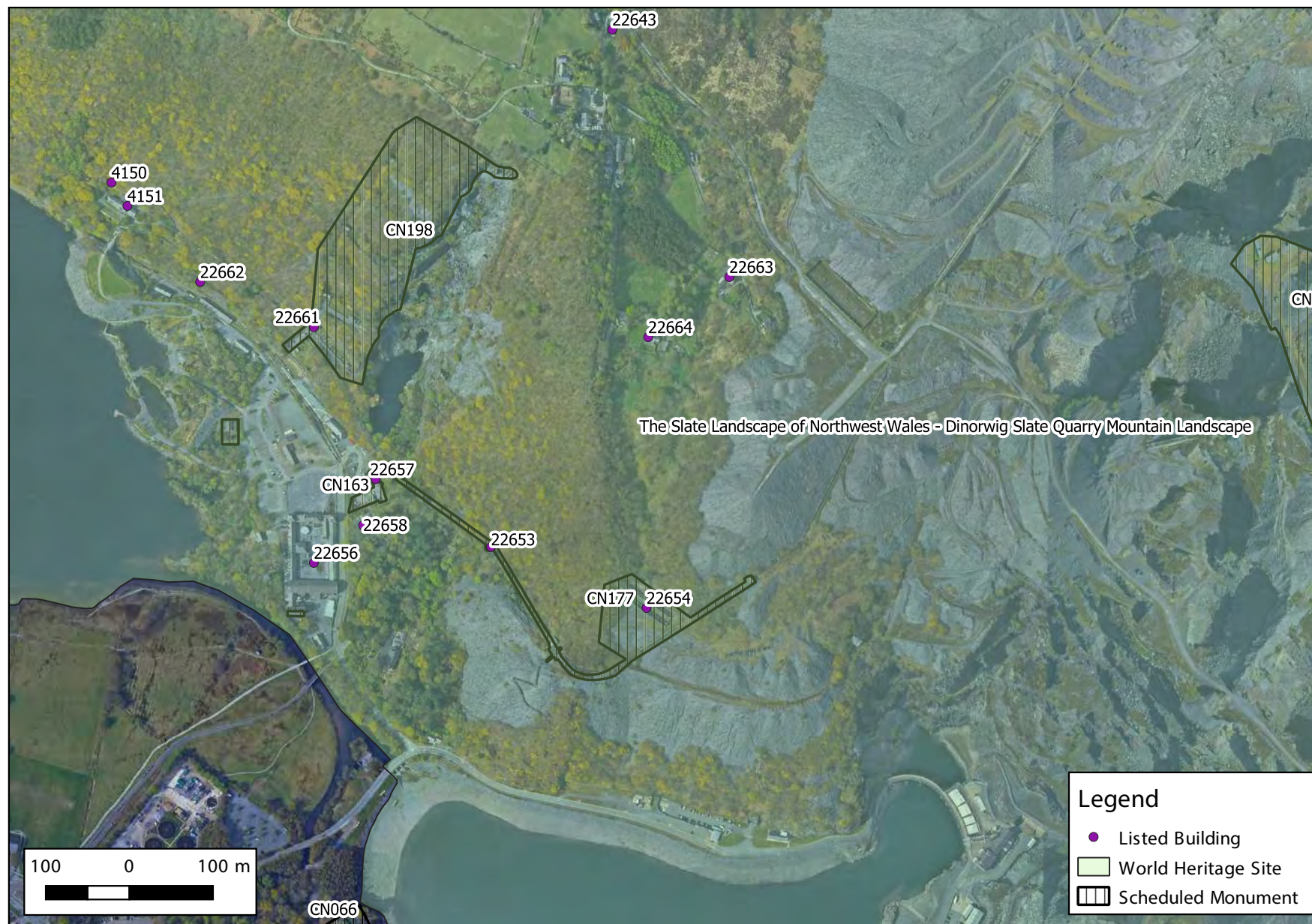


Figure 3. Designations within and around the National Slate Museum.

Trench	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Description	Length (M)	Width (M)	Depth / Thickness (M)	Spot Date
SA01	1000	Layer	Slate Chippings	Loose, Blueish Grey Slate, Composed Of 100 Percent Slate Chips, 0.01 To 0.1 In Size.	0.2m	0.2m	0.05m	Post-Medieval/Modern
SA02	2000	Layer	Slate Chippings	Loose, Blueish Grey Slate, Composed Of 100 Percent Slate Chips, 0.01 To 0.1 In Size.	2m >	1.1m >	0.05m	Post-Medieval/Modern
SA02	2001	Layer	Slate Slag	Loose, Blueish Grey Slate, Composed Of 100 Percent Slate Quarry Waste, 0.1 To 0.5 In Size.	2m >	1.1m >	0.8m>	Post-Medieval/Modern
SA02	2002	Structure	Wall	Slate Slabs, 0.2 To 0.6 In Length X 0.05 To 0.1 Thick, Rough Finish, 11 Courses, Random (Dry Stone), Flat Facing, No Bonding Material. Full Depth Not Excavated, Only Facing Exposed (Not Width). Possible Part Of A Network Of Underground Culverts.	2m >	Unknown	0.8m >	Post-Medieval/Modern
SA03	3000	Layer	Slate Chippings	Loose, Blueish Grey Slate, Composed Of 100 Percent Slate Chips, 0.01 To 0.1 In Size.	2m>	1.5m >	0.05m	Post-Medieval/Modern
SA03	3001	Layer	Slate Slag	Loose, Blueish Grey Slate, Composed Of 100 Percent Slate Quarry Waste, 0.3 To 1m In Size.	2m >	1.5m >	1.5m >	Post-Medieval/Modern
SA04	4000	Layer	Slate Chippings	Loose, Blueish Grey Slate, Composed Of 100 Percent Slate Chips, 0.01 To 0.1 In Size.	1.9m >	1.5m >	0.1m	Post-Medieval/Modern
SA04	4001	Layer	Foundry Waste	Loose, Dark Blackish Grey Silt & Slate, Composed Of Crushed Slate	1.9m >	1.5m >	0.15m	Post-Medieval/Modern
SA04	4002	Layer	Industrial Waste	Loose, Light Yellowish Grey Silt & Slate, Composed Of 100 Percent Slate 0.01 To 0.2, Colour Change Due To Mixing With The Layer Above.	1.9m >	1.5m >	0.15m	Post-Medieval/Modern
SA04	4003	Layer	Slate Slag	Loose, Blueish Grey Slate, Composed Of 100 Percent Slate Quarry Waste, 0.3 To 1m In Size.	1.9m >	1.5m >	1.1m >	Post-Medieval/Modern
HP01	1100	Layer	Slate Slag	Loose, Blueish Grey Slate, Composed Of 100 Percent Slate Chips, 0.01 To 0.1 In Size.	0.2m >	0.2m >	0.1m >	Post-Medieval/Modern
HP01	1101	Layer	Slate Slag	Loose, Blueish Grey Slate, Composed Of 100 Percent Slate Chips, 0.01 To 0.1 In Size.	0.2m >	0.2m >	0.1m >	Post-Medieval/Modern
HP02	2100	Layer	Slate Slag	Loose, Blueish Grey Slate, Composed Of 100 Percent Slate Chips, 0.01 To 0.1 In Size.	0.2m >	0.2m >	0.1m >	Post-Medieval/Modern
HP02	2101	Layer	Slate Slag	Loose, Blueish Grey Slate, Composed Of 100 Percent Slate Chips, 0.01 To 0.1 In Size.	0.2m >	0.2m >	0.1m >	Post-Medieval/Modern

Selection Strategy

Project Information	
ID	3124
Name	National Slate Museum, Llanberis
Project Management	
Project Manager	Irene Garcia Rovira
Post Excavation Manager	Rhiannon Philp
Organisation	Archaeology Wales
Stakeholders	
Collecting Institution(s)	Heneb – Gwynedd, HER; RCAHMW; National Slate Museum
Project Lead / Project Assurance	Lucy Morrison
Landowner / Developer	AtkinsRéalis
Other	
Resources	No unusual resources required outside of AW normal operating equipment and personnel to implement this Selection Strategy.

Context

In December 2023, Archaeology Wales Ltd was commissioned to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief within the grounds of the National Slate Museum, Gilfach Ddu, Llanddeiniolen, Llanberis, Gwynedd LL55 4TY.

The watching brief confirmed the position of the nine exploratory holes, and monitored the soakaways and hand dug pits. The results largely evidence the quarry waste upon which the former Dinorwic slate quarry workshops were built. The remains of a wall were seen in Soakaway SA02. The examination of historic maps indicates that the wall may have been a boundary/retainer wall belonging to a track documented on the 1839 Tithe map of the studied area.

All work was undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA); Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

(2023a), and Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (2023b).

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

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
26/06/2025	Physical documentary archive deselected	Full digital copy uploaded to RCAHMW	AW; RCAHMW

Materials

No material archive was recovered during the Watching Brief

Data Management Plan

Section 1: Project Administration

Project ID
3124
Project Name
National Slate Museum, Llanberis
Project Description
<p>In December 2023, Archaeology Wales Ltd was commissioned to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief within the grounds of the National Slate Museum, Gilfach Ddu, Llanddeiniolen, Llanberis, Gwynedd LL55 4TY.</p> <p>The watching brief confirmed the position of the nine exploratory holes, and monitored the soakaways and hand dug pits. The results largely evidence the quarry waste upon which the former Dinorwic slate quarry workshops were built. The remains of a wall were seen in Soakaway SA02. The examination of historic maps indicates that the wall may have been a boundary/retainer wall belonging to a track documented on the 1839 Tithe map of the studied area.</p> <p>All work was undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA); Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (2023a), and Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (2023b).</p>
Project Funder / Grant reference
AtkinsRéalis
Project Manager
Irene Garcia Rovira
Principal Investigator / Researcher
Lucy Morrison
Data Contact Person
Rhiannon Philp (rhiannon.philp@arch-wales.co.uk)
Date DMP created
07/12/23
Date DMP last updated
26/06/2025
Version
V2
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)
Text/documents	PDF (.pdf)	3
Images	Photographs (.jpg) PDF (.pdf)	24 -
Spreadsheets	Excel spreadsheet (.xlsx)	-
GIS	Shapefiles (.shp plus associated files)	1 group

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, 2020. Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures.
 - Historic England, 2016. Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice

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?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 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?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AW has an ongoing agreement with the RCAHMW who the intended repository for digital data are.
Have the costs of archiving been fully considered?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The museum and digital archive repository and will be updated as the project progresses.• The investigations have resulted in the following documents: Project Design, Watching Brief Report• 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.• The location (s) of the final Archaeological Archive will be included in the final report
Are any restrictions on data sharing required?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.

- 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

Section 8: Responsibilities

Who will be responsible for implementing the data management plan?

- 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.
- Data capture, metadata production and data quality is the responsibility of the Project Team, assured by the Project Manager and Post Excavation Manager.
- Storage and backup of data in the field is the responsibility of the field team.
- Once data is incorporated into the organisations project server, storage and backup is managed by an external company.
- 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.
- Details of the core project team can be found in the Project Design.