



# Archaeoleg Brython Archaeology

Fieldwork Report for  
Archaeological Watching Brief  
Nant Peris Sewerage Works  
Document Number B1605.02

## Nant Peris Sewerage Works

Fieldwork Report for  
Archaeological Watching Brief

Prepared for William Hughes Ltd.

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June 2016

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## Crynodeb

*Gofynnwyd i Archaeoleg Brython Archaeology gan William Hughes Cyf. i gynnal briff gwylio archaeolegol yn ystod gwaith i uwchraddio safle trin carthffosiaeth yn Nant Peris, Gwynedd. Cynhaliwyd y gwaith dros ddau ddiwrnod ar yr 1af o Ebrill 2016 a'r 4ydd o Fai 2016. Darganfuwyd un ffos a oedd yn gysylltiedig â chlawdd ond ni ddarganfuwyd unrhyw archaeoleg sylweddol yn ystod y gwaith. Cadarnhawyd bod y holl ddyddodion yn dyddio o'r 19eg ganrif neu hwyrach.*

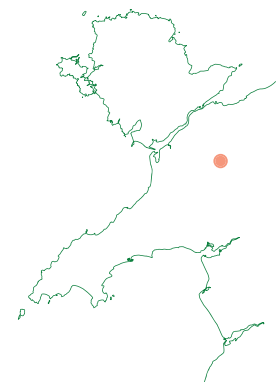
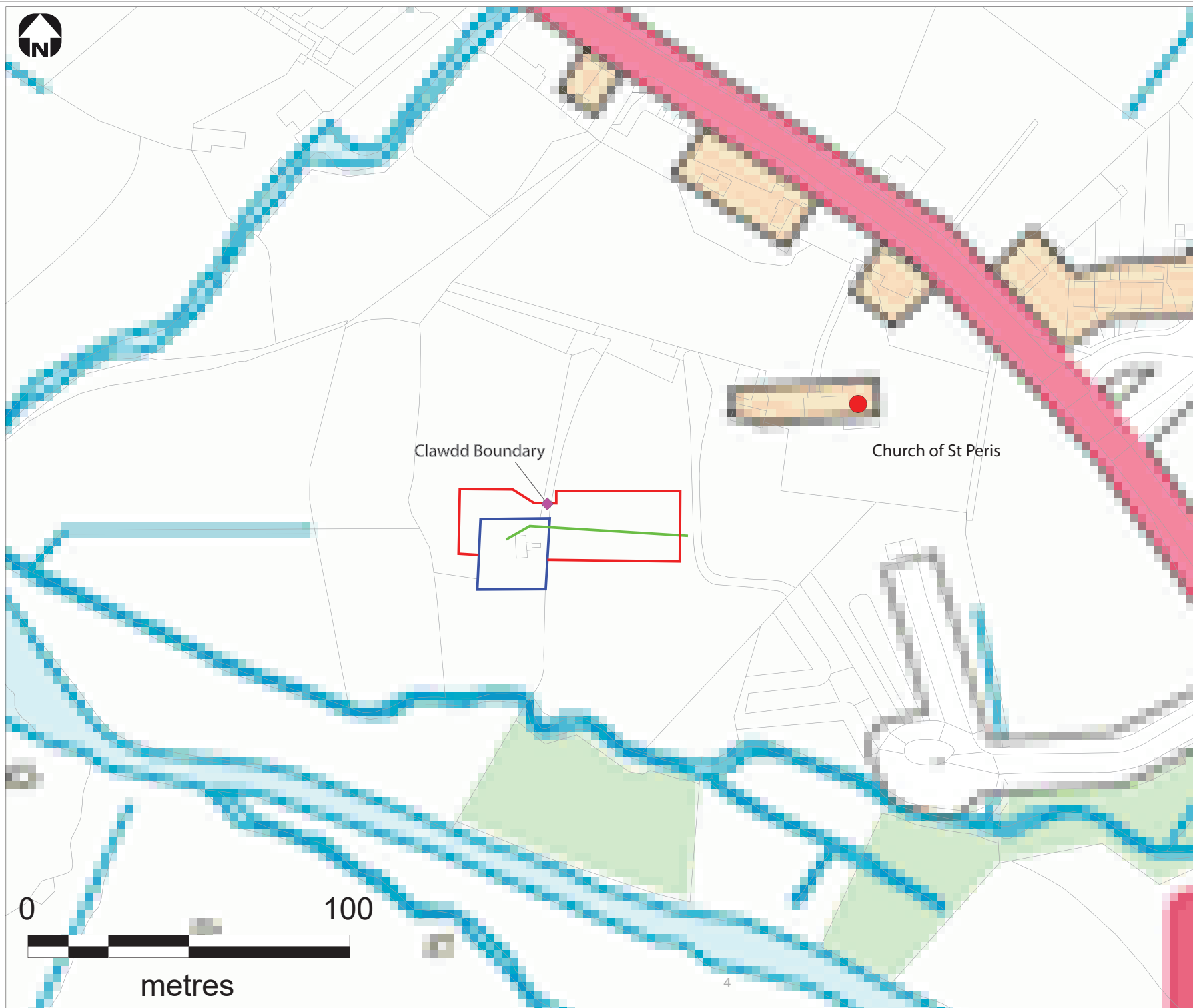
## Summary

*Archaeoleg Brython Archaeology were asked by William Hughes Ltd. to conduct an archaeological watching brief during works to upgrade sewerage treatment works in Nant Peris, Gwynedd. The work was undertaken over two days on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2016 and the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2016. A ditch which was associated with a clawdd boundary was identified but no other significant archaeology was present. All artefacts recovered were 19<sup>th</sup> century and later in date.*

# 1 Introduction

Archaeoleg Brython Archaeology were commissioned by William Hughes Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during work to upgrade sewerage treatment works in Nant Peris, Gwynedd (NGR SH60555825, see Figure 1). As part of the scheme the existing treatment tank was decommissioned and a new tank positioned virtually within the same footprint. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken during topsoil stripping for general preparation of the site and during the excavation of a trench for a new sewer pipe to the north of the existing. The watching brief was undertaken over two days on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2016 and 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2016, during the site clearance an existing field boundary was partially removed which revealed the presence of infilled ditches containing 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery. No other archaeological features were identified during the work.

The watching brief was undertaken to meet the requirements of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2014).



**Figure 1**  
Location plan showing existing  
sewerage works, new sewerage  
main and area of topsoil strip.

- Key**
- Existing Sewerage Works
  - Area of Topsoil Strip
  - New Sewerage Main
  - Church of St Peris
  - ◆ Clawdd Boundary

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Drawn By:

IGP

Date:

17/06/16

Location:

SH60545825

Project:

AB1605



## 2 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the watching brief was to mitigate against negative impact to any previously unidentified archaeology which may have come to light during the construction programme. By effectively disseminating the results of the mitigation the work will also aim to increase knowledge and inform future management of the archaeological resources of the area.

The specific objectives of the mitigation were:

- To undertake an archaeological watching brief during invasive works associated with the development
- Identify and mitigate against negative impact to previously unrecorded archaeology which may come to light during the construction works
- Effectively disseminate the results of the fieldwork

## 3 Background

### 3.1 Project Background

The works were required to upgrade existing sewerage treatment works at Nant Peris. This involved the installation of new sewerage tanks and the replacement of an existing sewer main in a slightly different location.

Much of the area for the new tanks had been previously disturbed during the construction of the existing works, the replacement main was in ground which had not been previously disturbed. The archaeological watching brief also monitored topsoil stripping for a crane platform and areas of general hard standing to be used during the construction works.

### 3.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

Nant Peris was the original Llanberis, being the pre-modern focus of the valley. The road through the valley (the current A4086) was built in the 1830s, probably on the route of an existing trackway.

Relatively little archaeology is recorded in the immediate vicinity of the works. The church of St Peris (PRN 4501, LB GII\* 3769) which dates to the 15<sup>th</sup> century with later additions is located approximately 100m north east of the main works. The general area was dominated by slate quarries in the Post-Medieval period, an industry which was at its height during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In addition to slate quarries copper was also mined in the valley, possibly from later Prehistory, with the Llanberis Mine (PRN 21587) being the closest to the site. The area was extensively mined during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries which may obscure earlier workings.

### 3.3 Topography and Geology

The site is located in Nant Peris, Gwynedd at NGR SH60545825, 90m to the south west of St Peris Church. The village is located within the Snowdonia National Park at the entrance to Llanberis Pass, a mountainous valley stretching from the south eastern end of Llyn Peris to Pen y Pass. The sewerage works are surrounded by fields laid to pasture, it is reached by a track leading from a car park off the A4086 which is regularly used by hill walkers.

The BGS Geology of Britain Viewer (Accessed 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016) states that the superficial geology in the area is Alluvium consisting of clay, silt, sand and gravel formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary period indicating a landscape dominated by rivers. The underlying bedrock is Siltstone from the Nant Ffrancon Subgroup, which was formed approximately 451 to 479 million years ago in the Ordovician period indicating an environment dominated by shallow seas.



## 4 Results

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken over two days on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2016 and the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2016.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April an archaeologist was present during the stripping of a large area to house a crane platform and general lay-down area to be used during construction. The topsoil was found to be a maximum of 0.1m deep, consisting of light brown-grey silt clay with occasional sub angular to angular stones up to cobble size. Within the topsoil was a fairly large amount of 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery including Buckley ware and white glazed wares. Other items within the topsoil included coal, glass and occasional fragments of roofing slate.

Where visible the underlying natural subsoil was seen to be light grey-yellow sandy silt-clay containing occasional sub angular to angular stones.

A total area of approximately 1100m<sup>2</sup> was stripped.



Plate 1: General shot of topsoil strip from the north west

A field boundary bank running to the north east corner of the existing sewerage works was breached to allow access to the western side of the site. This appeared to be a clawdd boundary which had become flattened and replaced by post and wire stock fencing. The section through the feature was investigated and a corresponding ditch was identified on the western side of the bank. Within the ditch a number of sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> century Buckley pottery were identified.



Plate 2: South facing section through former field boundary, scale: 1m



On the 4<sup>th</sup> of May the watching brief observed the new sewerage main trench across the area to the east of the existing site which had previously subject to topsoil stripping. No archaeology was present within the trench.



Plate 3: New sewer main trench from the east, scale: 1m

## 5 Conclusion

The watching brief monitored the stripping of topsoil from the main working area and the excavation of the new sewerage main to the treatment works. Evidence of 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century activity in the area was identified by the pottery and general rubbish found throughout the topsoil and within the ditch of the field boundary. It is likely that this material came to the site through spreading rubbish on fields before the introduction of formal waste collection. It is possible that the clawdd boundary could be part of an earlier field system although no evidence was found which would prove this.

No archaeology relating to the earlier history of the village was found during the works, it may be present closer to the church which is likely to have been the focus of the earlier settlement.

## 6 Archive

A copy of this report will be lodged with the Snowdonia National Park Authority, Gwynedd Historic Environment Record, Bangor and the National Monuments Record of Wales which is the public record of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales, Aberystwyth.

The archive produced during the watching brief, including written record and photographs, will be lodged with the National Monuments Record of Wales, Aberystwyth.

ABA will hold a digital copy of the archive indefinitely.

Post-Medieval artefacts were noted but not retained.

The results of the project do not warrant further publication.

## 7 Bibliography and Sources Consulted

### **Client Drawing 3591-S-201-HYD-XX-XX-DR-CX-00610 (Proposed WWTW Site Layout Plan)**

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014. *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*

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

English Heritage. 1991. *Management of Archaeological Projects* ('MAP2'), 2<sup>nd</sup> edn.

English Heritage. 2006. *Management Of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE)*

### 7.1 Websites

[www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk) (BGS Geology of Britain Viewer)

[www.coflein.gov.uk](http://www.coflein.gov.uk) (RCAHMW)



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