



Archaeoleg Brython Archaeology



Archaeological Fieldwork Report
Nanner Road Improvements, Cemlyn
Document Number B1609.02

Nanner Road Improvements Cemlyn

Archaeological Fieldwork Report

Prepared for Jones Brothers Ruthin (Civil Engineering) Co Ltd.

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Crynodeb

Comisiynwyd Archaeoleg Brython Archaeology (ABA) gan Jones Brothers (Civil Engineering) Ltd. i gyflawni rhaglen o waith archaeolegol yn ystod gwaith gwelliant i Ffordd Nanner ym Mae Cemlyn. Roedd y gwaith gwelliant yn ofynnol i wella mynediad ar gyfer yr atomfa arfaethedig, Wylfa Newydd, sydd wedi ei leoli i'r dwyrain ac i'r gogledd ddwyrain o'r cynllun.

Yn dilyn asesiad ben desg gan Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd yn 2014 a nodwyd potensial yr effaith ar 54 ased treftadaeth gan y cynllun, mi benderfynwyd bod y cyn dŷ, Tŷ Sarah angen rhaglen Recordio Adeiladau Lefel 1 ac y byddai briff gwyllo yn cael ei gynnal yn ystod yr holl waith mewnwithiol mewn tri phwynt gwahanol ar hyd y llwybr. Yn ystod y briff gwyllo, nodwyd elfennau o Dŷ Sarah gan gynnwys aelwyd a cherameg o'r oes ôl-ganoloesol. Ni ddarganfuwyd unrhyw nodweddion archaeolegol eraill yn ystod y gwaith.

Summary

Archaeoleg Brython Archaeology (ABA) was commissioned by to undertake a programme of archaeological mitigation during improvement works to Nanner Road, Cemlyn Bay. The improvement works were required to improve access for the proposed Wylfa Newydd nuclear power station located to the east and north east of the scheme.

Following a Desk Based Assessment (DBA) conducted by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) in 2014 which identified the potential impact to 54 heritage assets as a result of the scheme. It was determined that the former dwelling known as Tŷ Sarah required a Level 1 Building Recording and that a watching brief would be conducted during the invasive works in three passing points along the route. The watching brief identified elements of the former dwelling including a hearth and eastern return as well as post-medieval ceramics. No other known or unknown archaeological features were revealed during the works.

1 Introduction

Archaeoleg Brython Archaeology (ABA) was commissioned by Jones Brothers (Civil Engineering) Ltd. to undertake archaeological mitigation during improvement works to Nanner Road, Cemlyn Bay (NGR SH3366092000C). The improvements involved the widening and resurfacing of approximately 2.5km of the current carriageway and creating 19 passing points along the route.

This document is a report on the results of the Level 1 building recording of a derelict building known as Tŷ Sarah, and the watching brief conducted during all invasive works associated with the construction of passing points 1C, 19 and 21 (see Figure 1).

The Level 1 building recording was undertaken by Karolina Saxerbo Sjöberg and Jeannette Plummer Sires under the supervision of Iwan Parry on the 3rd of October 2016. The watching brief was undertaken by Jeannette Plummer Sires over a period of 5 days between the 4th and 10th of September 2016 and for 1 day on the 30th of January 2017. The work was monitored by Ashley Batten, Senior Planning Archaeologist at Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS).

All works were undertaken to meet the standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2014) and Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (2014). The Level 1 building recording was conducted according to the standards outlined in the English Heritage (Historic England) publication '*Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Practice*' (2006).

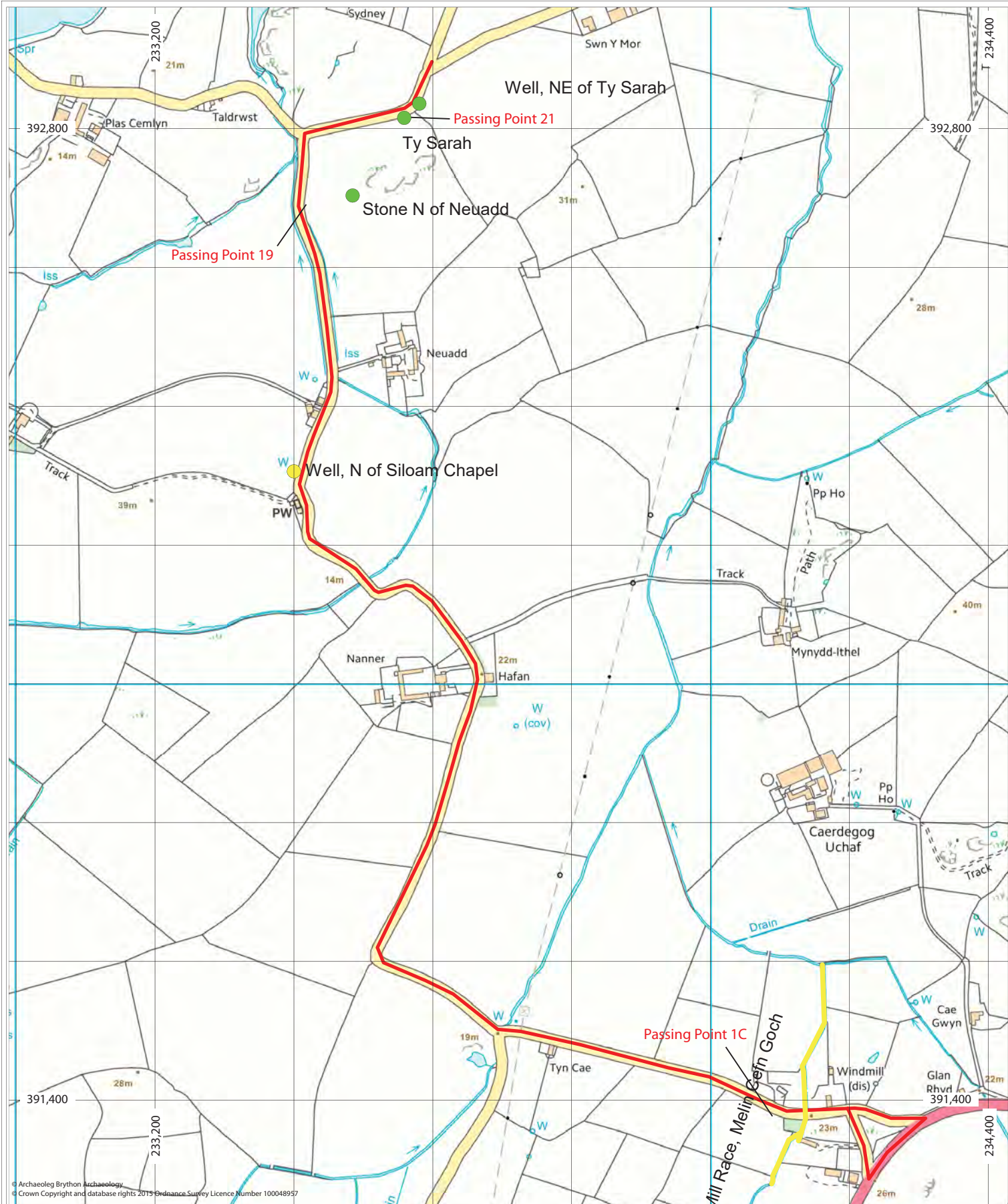
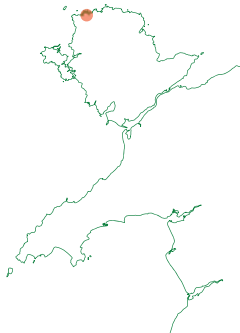


Figure 1
Location plan showing route of Nanner Road improvements and known heritage assets which may have been impacted during the scheme that were monitored as well as those thought to have potentially been affected but were not. (Ordnance Survey 10k Map, Grid: 200m)

Key

- Route to be improved
- Potentially affected features that were monitored
- Unaffected features that were not monitored



Drawn By:	LR
Date:	05/04/17
Location:	SH 33660 92000
Project Number:	AB1609



2 Background

2.1 The Current Site

Nanner Road provides a route from the A5025 at SH3427091340 to Cemlyn Bay and an alternative route to Tregelle, the improvements were undertaken from the junction with the A5025 to the eastern entrance to Cemlyn Bay at SH33600392900. The minor road consists of a single tarmacked carriageway which is generally flanked by dry stone wall. It passes through a rural landscape of small improved and semi-improved fields with associated farmsteads.

2.2 Current Development

The improvements were required to facilitate increased traffic due to the location of the road in relation to the proposed nuclear power station which is expected to be constructed to the east and north east of the route.

2.3 Historic and Archaeological Background

A Desk Based Assessment (DBA) was completed for the scheme by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) on behalf of Horizon Nuclear Power in November 2014.

The assessment was completed using the methodology stated in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Volume 11, Section 3, Part 2 Cultural Heritage (June 1993, Revised August 2007). The assessment considered an area of 300m from the centreline of the scheme and identified a total of 54 heritage assets; three of these were of medium value, 25 were of low value and 26 were of negligible value. Of all the identified assets, a total of six had the potential of being directly impacted by the proposed works, these are:

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| • Feature 30 – Well, NE of Tŷ Sarah | SH 33572 92839 |
| • Feature 29 – Tŷ Sarah | SH 33565 92822 |
| • Feature 19 – Stone, N of Neuadd | SH 33480 92698 |
| • Feature 12 – Well, N of Siloam Chapel | SH 33412 92306 |
| • Feature 3 – Mill Race, Melin Cefn Goch | SH 34163 91506 |

The mitigation aimed to minimise negative impact on these features and on previously unrecorded archaeology revealed during the construction programme.

2.4 Topography and Geology

The route passes through an undulating rural landscape characterised by passes, small improved and semi-improved fields largely laid to pasture with associated farmsteads.

The British Geological Survey (BGS) Geology of Britain Viewer (accessed 26th September 2016) states that the superficial geology along the route consists of Devensian Till formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period during the last Ice Age. The underlying bedrock at the northern end of the scheme consists of Church Bay Tuffs and Skerries Grits, a combination of sedimentary and igneous bedrock formed approximately 488 to 635 million years ago during the Cambrian and Ediacaran periods in an environment dominated by explosive magma eruptions. At the southern end of the route the bedrock consists of New Harbour Group Mica Schist and Psammite, metamorphic bedrock which formed approximately 542 to 635 million years ago during the Ediacaran period in deep sea conditions.

3 Aims and Objectives

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

The specific objectives of the mitigation were:

- To complete a Level 1 building recording of Feature 29, Tŷ Sarah, prior to any invasive works
- To undertake an archaeological watching brief during all invasive works associated with the construction of passing points 1C, 19 and 21
- Ensure that the construction works did not impact any other features identified in the DBA and if impact was unavoidable, agree a suitable level of mitigation with GAPS
- Identify and mitigate against negative impact to previously unrecorded archaeology which may have come to light during the construction works

4 Specific Methodology

The Level 1 building recording of Tŷ Sarah involved:

- Photographs using a 1.0m and 0.5m photographic scale were taken of all visible elements of Tŷ Sarah
- A photogrammetric survey was conducted
- Measurements were taken of all visible elements including a chimney and eastern and western returns
- A measured sketch of the feature was drawn on basic recording forms
- A brief description of the feature was completed on basic recording forms

The watching brief involved:

- All invasive groundworks including the dismantling of boundary walls associated with the construction of passing points 19 and 21 were monitored by an archaeologist at all times
- The boundary wall located along passing point 1C was photographed, described on basic recording forms and a measured sketch of it was drawn on basic recording forms
- The soil was stripped using an excavator fitted with a flat, toothless ditching bucket
- Mechanical excavation continued until archaeological deposits or the natural glacial subsoil was reached.
- Mechanical excavation in passing point 21 ceased when archaeological features associated with Tŷ Sarah were revealed
- Identified archaeological features were cleaned and investigated by hand
- All features were recorded in writing, in a measured sketched, and photographed
- Mechanical excavation resumed once recording was complete

5 General Methodology

5.1 Recording

All archaeological features and boundary walls associated with identified assets were fully recorded by appropriate means.

This involved:

- A written record of all features made on ABA pro-forma sheets.
- Features drawn by means of a measured sketch.
- A photographic record of all features maintained using a Nikon DSLR camera, with the images stored in NEF/RAW format. Each photograph given a unique number and other information including description, orientation, scales used, originating person and date recorded for future reference and archiving.
- Some features recorded by means of photogrammetry.

5.2 Artefacts

During the course of the programme the only artefacts recovered were of a late post-medieval in date, and were relatively few in number. Due to their recent date and nature they were not retained.

6 Results

6.1 Passing Point 1C

Approximately 23m of boundary wall was demolished for the construction of passing point 1C which was near the Mill Race associated with Melin Cefn Goch (DBA Feature 03). The work in the area did not affect the Mill Race, being approximately 5m west of the culvert through which it passes under the road (Plate 1). The dry stone, free standing wall was interrupted by a 2.5m wide entrance, the gate having been previously removed (Plate 2). Two large stone gateposts flanked the entrance. The eastern stone measured 1.40m in height, 0.58m in width, and 0.23m in depth. The western stone measured 1.24m in height, 0.91m in width, and 0.19m in depth. Only 2m of boundary wall east of the gap was demolished. This section of the wall was of dry stone construction, roughly coursed with vertical coping stones and measured 1.20m in height and 0.50m in depth. 18m of boundary wall to the west of the entrance was demolished. This section was un-coursed and had no coping stones. It had a maximum height of 0.72m and a depth of 0.50m.



Plate 1. View of culvert associated with Mill Race. View from South-West, Scale: 1m



Plate 2. View of boundary wall in passing point 1C. View from North, Scale: 1m

6.2 Passing Point 19

The topsoil was stripped from the edge of the eastern side of the boundary wall which was a free standing, un-coursed, dry stone construction with vertical coping stones and had a maximum height of 0.8m. After the demolition of the boundary wall, the ground was reduced to a depth of 0.55m from the top of the road surface (Plate 3). The topsoil consisted of dark brown silt clay. The subsoil was made up of medium brown silt sand (0.15m) while the natural consisted of mixed patches of light to medium grey-yellow silt sand with abundant sub-angular, medium limestone inclusions. No archaeology was identified during the work in this area.



Plate 3. Working shot at passing point 19. View from South, Scale: 1m

6.3 Passing Point 21

A Level 1 building recording of Tŷ Sarah (DBA Feature 29) was conducted ahead of its demolition to allow construction of passing point 21.

The remains of Tŷ Sarah (Plate 4) consisted of the gable of a former dwelling which had been incorporated into a dry stone boundary wall. The lime mortared, un-coursed rubble construction measured 5.3m in length, 1.7m in height (on the exterior north-facing side), and 0.6m in width. Some of the mortared pointing remained. On the interior south-facing side of the gable, the remnants of the western and eastern returns were still visible. The internal width of the gable measured 4.2m. The ground level on the south-facing side was higher than on the road-facing north side. Turf and brambles partially obscured a fireplace located slightly east of centre in the gable. The height of the exposed fireplace measured 0.61m in width, and 0.77m in height including a 0.78m wide lintel.

The dry stone boundary wall to the east of Tŷ Sarah was about 1.10m in height, was un-coursed and had vertical coping stones. The boundary wall west of Tŷ Sarah was of un-coursed dry stone, its height varied from 0.1m to 0.7m, wire and post stock fencing was present in areas on its southern side.



Plate 4. Tŷ Sarah gable (interior/south facing) and boundary wall. Scale: 1m

The watching brief during topsoil removal in the interior of Tŷ Sarah revealed an in-situ hearth measuring 0.84m x 0.55m (Plate 5).



Plate 5. Fireplace in northern gable of Tŷ Sarah following stripping of topsoil. View from South, Scale: 1m

During the hand excavation of the hearth, the remains of the iron grates and tray were identified. The remnants of the eastern return (Plate 6) measuring 1.23m from the northern gable, 0.66m wide, and 0.61m at its highest point were hand cleaned and recorded. No further evidence of the western wall was present within the affected area. The height of the gable within the interior was 1.68m from the former floor level. Several fragments of post medieval ceramics and glass bottles (both blue and green) were identified but not retained.

The topsoil consisted of mid brown silt clay. The subsoil was mid grey-brown silt sand (0.2m). The soil within the interior of Tŷ Sarah was also silt sand with light yellow-brown and dark grey-brown patches (0.45m). The natural consisted of medium brown-grey silt sand with abundant sub-angular limestone inclusions (0.60m).



Plate 6. Tŷ Sarah fireplace and eastern return. View from South-West, Scale: 1m

7 Conclusion

The programme of archaeological mitigation during improvement works to Nanner Road was successful in completing a Level 1 Building Recording of Tŷ Sarah and in conducting a watching brief during all invasive groundworks associated with the construction of passing points 19 and 21. Monitoring the demolition of the boundary wall in passing point 1C was not necessary as the works did not have an impact on the Mill Race associated with Melin Cefn Goch.

The watching brief was also successful in identifying and recording previously unrecorded features associated with Tŷ Sarah. Evidence of the standing stone identified in the DBA was not revealed during the construction of passing point 19. It is possible that if any remains survive they are located further east between the passing point and the rocky outcrops in the adjacent field.

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