

# **Results of Historic Landscape Impact Assessment & Archaeological Works (Desk Based Assessment & Geophysical Survey) at**

**Proposed Development on Sychnant Pass Road, Conwy**

**NGR SH 77449 77575**



**Project Number CR141-2017**



**C.R Archaeology**

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on Behalf of Mr. D. Mortimer-Jones

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**Results of Historic Landscape Impact Assessment & Archaeological Works: Proposed Development at Sychnant Pass Road, Conwy**

**Planning Application Number:**  
**National Grid Reference:**  
**Client:**

Pre-planning  
NGR SH 77449 77575  
Mr. D. Mortimer-Jones

**Report Authors:**  
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## **1.0 Introduction**

**1.0.1** C. R Archaeology were instructed by Mr. D. Mortimer-Jones to conduct an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment and Geophysical Survey at the proposed site of a small residential development (figure 1). Due to the preliminary phase of the process during which these works are being undertaken there is no definitive plan for the development at this time.

**1.0.2** This document has been prepared to supply the Local Planning Authority Archaeologist with information as to the potential archaeological impacts of the aforementioned scheme.

**1.0.3** A specification was written, and agreed with Jenny Emmett of GAPS, as a methodology for an initial programme of works. This document is included as appendix a. The results of these works will inform decisions as to the nature of any further archaeological mitigation strategies or evaluation methodologies which may be required. They will also provide further information as to the effect of the proposed scheme upon existing heritage assets within the locality.

**1.0.4** The site is located to the west of Conwy town and is bounded by a stream to the north, and by Sychnant Pass Road to the south. The site is currently in use as cattle grazing within an enclosed field boundary system, and the site slopes to the north.

**1.0.5** The site lies to the west of the walled town and is within the designated Essential Setting of the Conwy World Heritage Site (WHS 374). The boundary of the Snowdonia National Park runs along the line of the stream at the north of the site, although none of the proposed development area lies within the park limits. It was also considered possible that the proposed works may have a visual impact on the setting of Castell Caer Seion (SAM CN012) which is located approximately 1500m to the west of the proposed development. The historic Medieval walled town of Conwy lies approximately 350m to the east of the proposed development. When the site visit was made it seemed likely that Deganwy Castle (SAM CN016) may be visually affected and this site was also visited.

**1.0.6** This Desk Based Assessment examined the historic context and archaeological potential of the proposed development area and determined the possible impact of the development on the setting of the Conwy Town World Heritage Site and the Scheduled Ancient Monuments of Castell Caer Seion, Deganwy Castle and Plas Mawr. It was determined that, with the employment of a landscape architect and a sensitive site design, this plot of land could be developed without having an adverse effect on the Essential Setting of the Conwy Castle and Town Walls World Heritage Site or the settings of Castell Caer Seion or Deganwy Castle. The proposed development will have no impact on the setting of Plas Mawr.

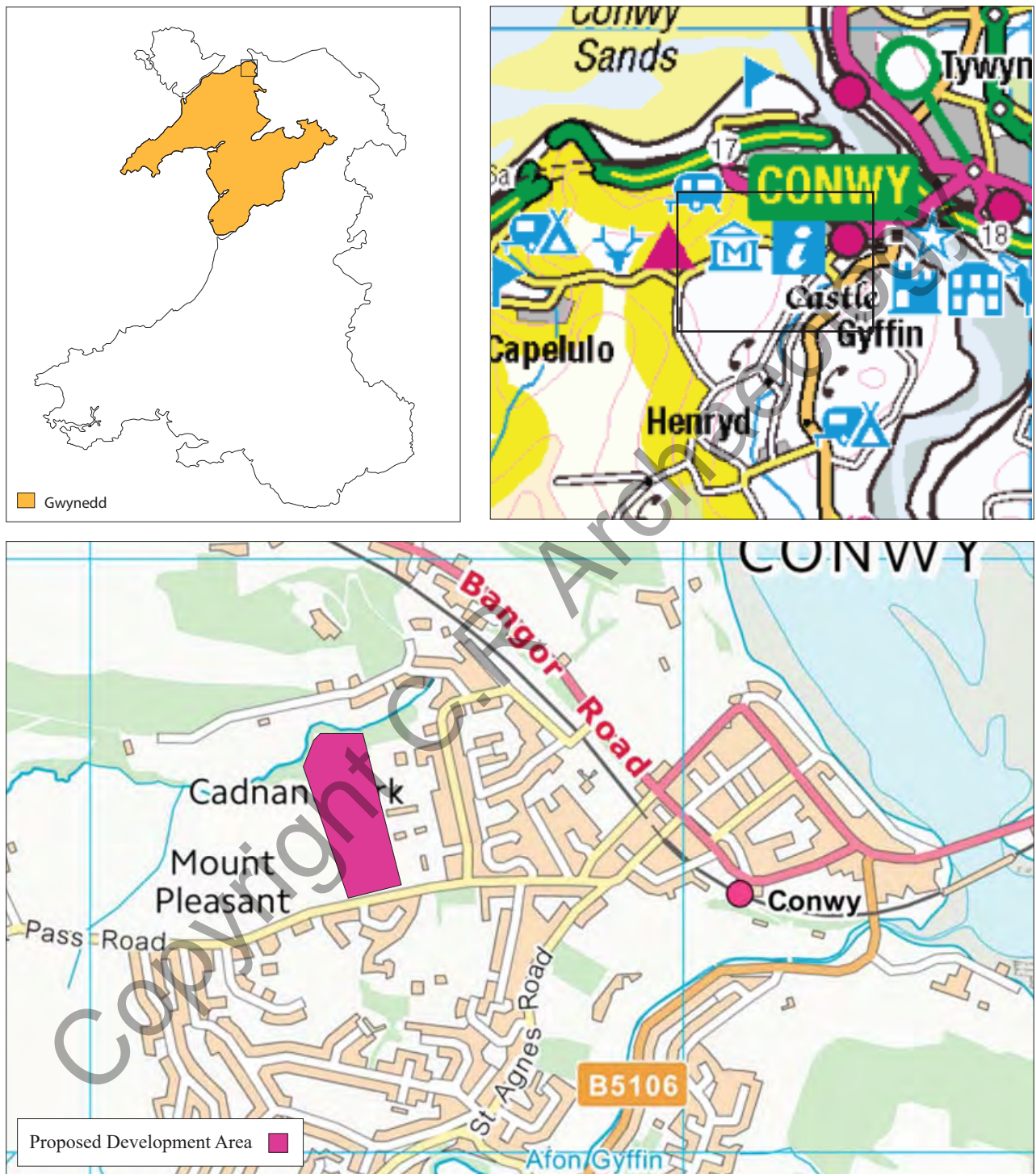
**1.0.7** Background research and Geophysical survey of the site has shown that there is the possibility of buried remains on the site, and as it is situated within a broader area of Prehistoric activity, it is advised that further archaeological mitigation be undertaken should the proposed development go ahead.

## **2.0 Project Aims & Objectives**

**2.0.1** The programme of works for the proposed development site aimed to undertake a Desk Based Assessment, Geophysical Survey, and Walkover Survey, together with a setting examination of the development site and its relationship with Conwy Castle, Conwy Town Walls, Castell Caer Seion and Deganwy Castle.

**2.0.2** The aim of this scheme of works was to undertake desk based historical research exploring the history/archaeology of the site. This information included a map progression and archival research in order to compile a coherent narrative history of the site and its environs.





**2.0.3** The Gwynedd Historic Environment Record (HER), the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments Wales (RCAHMW) database, Bangor University and Conwy Archives and relevant publications were consulted to compile a record of known archaeological sites in the vicinity. Aerial imagery was also examined.

**2.0.4** A further aim of the scheme of works was to undertake a geophysical survey of the proposed development area in order to provide further information as to the archaeological potential of the plot.

**2.0.5** It is intended that this document be utilised to inform further archaeological planning decisions and conditions at the site.

**2.0.6** The objectives of this programme of works are:

- To make full and effective use of existing information to establish the archaeological significance of the site
- To assess the impact of the development proposals on surviving sites, monuments or remains both within the development area and in the surrounding landscape
- To undertake a geophysical survey of the proposed development site
- To help inform future decision making, design solutions, further evaluation & mitigation strategies

### **3.0 Scheme of Works - Methodology**

**3.0.1** The archaeological works were conducted in sections and each is detailed below. The methodology for the geophysical survey is included separately within the geophysical section of the report.

#### **3.1 Desk Based Research**

**3.1.1** A complete and coherent history of the site was compiled utilising material sourced from Conwy Archives and the Bangor University Archives. This allowed as comprehensive a history of the site as possible to be compiled. A full map progression of the area was undertaken. Where appropriate the archive information was supplemented with information from local libraries and specialist interest websites & journals.

**3.1.2** In order to identify the character of archaeological remains in the vicinity of the site, a search of the Gwynedd HER was conducted examining an area within a 500m radius of the proposed works (the grid reference for the search is taken as the centre point of the development area). A more general search was conducted at a 1000m radius. As the search area included the historic town of Conwy (which contains a large number of historic buildings which are not of direct relevance to this study) this information has not been discussed in detail. The RCAHMW database and aerial photographs of the site have been examined. The information collected is discussed within the main report text.

**3.1.3** The works were carried out accordance with the CIfA Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment and Geophysical Survey (CIfA (Revised 2014).

**3.1.4** This material forms the historical background for the archaeological report which includes the results of the walkover survey.

#### **3.2 Walk Over Survey**

**3.2.1** A site visit was conducted on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017, and a photographic record was compiled which detailed all above ground features and showed the general topography of the site. Further photographs were taken to illustrate the setting of the site. The locations of features are noted on a site plan.

**3.2.2** Additional photographs were taken to illustrate the setting of Conwy Town, Plas Mawr, Deganwy Castle and Castell Caer Seion as viewed from the proposed development area, with additional emphasis placed on the sense of arrival into the town.

### **3.2.1 Equipment**

**3.2.1.1** The photographic survey was undertaken using a 14.2 mega-pixel Sony A350 digital camera with a variety of standard and other lenses. Images were captured in RAW format for later processing into high resolution JPG and TIF files.

### **3.3 Geophysical Survey**

**3.3.1** Prior to the commencement of works a brief written record of the site was compiled. This included a note on features/elements which may have an impact on the survey results - for example weather, geological features, fencing & overhead cables.

**3.3.2** The survey was carried out in accordance with English Heritage's guidance "*Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation*" (2008) and the CIfA "*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey*" (2011 Revised 2014).

**3.3.3** A survey grid was established over the site, orientated to provide a best possible fit to the area to be surveyed and to minimise the effects of the slight slope of the ground level on the site. Grids were walked using a zig-zag method, for maximum speed.

### **3.3.1 Equipment**

**3.3.1.1** The survey was undertaken using a Bartington Instruments Grad601 fluxgate gradiometer, with dual gradiometer set up. This comprised two Grad-01-1000L cylindrical gradiometer sensors mounted on a rigid carrying bar with a 1m separation. The grid location was surveyed using a Leica TCR 1100+ Total Station.

**3.3.1.2** The survey settings for the gradiometer were as follows:

Sensitivity: 0.1nT

Sample Interval: 0.25m

Traverse Width: 1m

Traverse Method: Zig-Zag

Grid Square Size: 20x20m where possible, downsized to 20x10m where necessary

**3.3.1.3** Archaeosurveyor was used to download and manipulate the geophysical data. Minimal processing was applied to all images to ensure no false results were created by excessive image manipulation. Data was downloaded to a portable computer during each rest period for the course of the day, to ensure data integrity and check ongoing results.

**3.3.1.4** A basic photographic record was compiled prior to the commencement of the survey which details all above ground features and shows the general topography of the site. Further photographs were taken to illustrate the setting of the site. It was undertaken using a 14.2 mega-pixel Sony A350 digital camera with a variety of standard and other lenses. Images were captured in RAW format for later processing into high resolution JPG and TIF files.



### **3.4 Consideration of Essential Setting of WHS and SAM and Other Identified Heritage Assets**

**3.4.1** As discussed with GAPS the following points were given consideration in the Desk Based Assessment:

- Existing baseline describing the historic landscape before development, including previous use of site and any links to existing developments and including reference to sources used in DBA where relevant
- Registered Landscape(s) of Historic Interest potentially directly and indirectly affected
- Historic Landscape Character Area(s) (HLCA) potentially directly and indirectly affected and which HLCAs are to be included in an assessment
- Direct and indirect effects on historic landscape character e.g. landform, land cover, openness/enclosure, key patterns, features and qualities, including maps to determine likely significant historic landscape effects
- Proximity of sensitive historic assets and their setting

**3.4.2** The following points were also considered where possible. It is however envisaged that, should the scheme go ahead, a Landscape Architect will be employed by the client to consider these points in detail when designing the actual scheme:

- Indirect visual effects; views, visual amenity and types of people who may be affected by changes to views and visual amenity of the historic landscape, and their sensitivity to such changes, including maps to determine likely significant visual effects
- Design details and materials (e.g. whether they are similar to local vernacular, contrasting, complementary; how conspicuous scheme will be)

**3.4.3** This was achieved through a combination of the analysis of the results of desk based research and site visits to examine the potential visual impacts of the scheme. Viewsheds to and from Conwy Town Walls, Conwy Castle, Deganwy Castle and Caer Seion were compiled. The camera locations and heights will be recorded and care was taken to illustrate viewsheds as completely as possible.

### **3.5 Timetable for Proposed Works**

**3.5.1** The walkover survey, archival research and heritage site visits were undertaken during May 2017 and the geophysical survey was undertaken on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017. Additional time was allotted for archive research, report compilation and site archiving.

### **3.6 Staffing**

**3.6.1** The project was managed by Catherine Rees (BA (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology) Postgraduate Diploma (Historic Environment Conservation) & Matthew Jones (BA (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology)).

**3.6.2** All staff have a skill set equivalent to the CIfA ACIfA/MCIfA level. C.Vs for all staff employed on the project can be provided on request. All projects are carried out in accordance with CIfA *Standard and Guidance* documents.

### **3.7 Monitoring**

**3.7.1** The project was subject to monitoring by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services and GAPS were informed of the project dates.

### **3.8 Health and Safety**

**3.8.1** A risk assessment was conducted prior to the commencement of works and site staff were familiarised with its contents. A first aid kit was located in the site vehicle.

**3.8.2** All staff will be issued with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the site work. This consisted of:

- Hi-visibility vests (EN471)
- Mobile Telephone (to be kept in site vehicle)
- Suitable Walking Boots & Waterproofs

**3.8.3** All staff have passed at least a CITB health and safety test at least operative level and carry a Construction Related Organisation (CRO) White Card for Archaeological Technician (Code 5363).

### **3.9 The Report**

**3.9.1** The report clearly and accurately incorporates information gained from the programme of archaeological works. It presents the documentary evidence gathered in such a way as to create a clear and coherent record. This includes illustrations of any cartographic/pictorial sources. The report contains a site plan showing the locations of any photographs taken.

**3.9.2** The desk-based assessment considers the following:

- the nature, extent and degree of survival of archaeological sites, structures, deposits and landscapes within the study area
- the significance of any remains in their context both regionally and nationally
- the history of the site
- the potential impact of any proposed development on the setting of known sites of archaeological/historic importance
- the potential for further work with appropriate recommendations

**3.9.3** It is intended that this report will inform decisions as to the necessity and/or nature of any further archaeological mitigation strategies which may be required.

**3.9.4** A copy of the report in Adobe PDF format will be sent to the appropriate monitoring archaeologist for approval before formal submission. A bound paper copy and PDF digital copy of the report will be submitted to GAPS as part of the formal submission. A digital Adobe PDF version and a bound paper copy of the final report and will be lodged with the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record within six months of completion of fieldwork.

#### **3.9.1 Copyright**

**3.9.1.1** C. R Archaeology and sub-contractors shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides a licence to the client and the local authority for the use of the report by the client and the local authority in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project.

## **4.0 Topographical and Geological Background**

### **4.1 Topography**

**4.1.1** The site is located along the northern side of the Sychnant Pass Road and is bounded by this to the south and a stream to the north. It is located on the outskirts of the town of Conwy. The site is currently in use as grazing within an enclosed field boundary system, it slopes towards the river at the northern site boundary.

## **4.2 Geology**

**4.2.1** The bedrock geology at the site is recorded as “*Nod Glas Formation – Mudstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 451 to 456 million years ago, in the Ordovician Period. Local environment previously dominated by shallow seas. These rocks were formed in shallow seas with mainly siliciclastic sediments (comprising of fragments or clasts of silicate minerals) deposited as mud, silt, sand and gravel*” (www.bgs.ac.uk).

**4.2.2** The superficial geology of the site is recorded as “*Till, Devensian - Diamicton. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions. These rocks were formed in cold periods with Ice Age glaciers scouring the landscape and depositing moraines of till with outwash sand and gravel deposits from seasonal and post glacial meltwaters*” (www.bgs.ac.uk).

## **5.0 Historical Background**

**5.0.1** The locations of the Conwy World Heritage Site, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings are shown on figure 2. Searches of the Gwynedd HER were conducted at a radius of both 500m and 1000m of the proposed development area (taken from the central point of the proposed development). The results are summarised below. The results have been broadly divided by period. Where of significance, sites lying outside this search area are included with a note as to their location. The results of the HER 500m search are shown on figure 3.

**5.0.2** The results of the 500m HER search radius returned 34 sites – 1 was of Medieval date, 29 were of Post Medieval date, 2 were recorded as multi-period, and 2 were recorded as being of unknown date. When the records were checked the Medieval entry is for a record in Lancaster Square within the town, but the record location is recorded in a field to the west of the site. PRN 11921 (numbers 27 & 29 Berry Street were also wrongly located and are within 1000m rather than 500m. When the search area was extended to 1000m there are 275 entries, again predominantly Post Medieval in date.

**5.0.3** Due to the large volume of data, and the concentration of this data within the area of the town walls only sites within the 500m search radius have been plotted as outside this area, although these sites are relevant as part of a wider discussion, they will not be visually impacted by the proposed development as the enclosing town walls prevent this. The exceptions to this are the Scheduled Ancient Monuments which are shown on the accompanying figure.

### **5.1 Prehistoric and Roman Sites**

**5.1.1** There are no known Prehistoric sites within a 500m radius of the site. When the search area is extended to 1000m, a single prehistoric entry and two find spots are recorded.

#### **5.1.1 Bronze Age**

**5.1.1.1** PRN 2827 is a find spot for a Bronze Age axe. The HER entry records a “*small bronze flat axe was found in 1936/7 on the western slopes of castle rock at Conway*”.

#### **5.1.2 Iron Age/Romano-British**

**5.1.2.1** The site of an enclosure (PRN 2820) lies approximately 900m to the north-west of the proposed development site. It is described as an enclosure at about 200ft above OD on the gently sloping southern side of Conwy Mountain marked. It is marked as a ‘camp’ on the 2inch map (OS) of around 1816. It is roughly circular and around 50m in diameter. The bank is barely visible and all that remains is a scarp varying from 0.7m uphill to 1.3m downhill. The eastern side, which possibly included an entrance, has virtually disappeared.



**Figure 2.** World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings Within the Vicinity Of the Proposed Development Site

World Heritage Site

WHS Essential Setting

Scheduled Ancient Monument

Listed Buildings

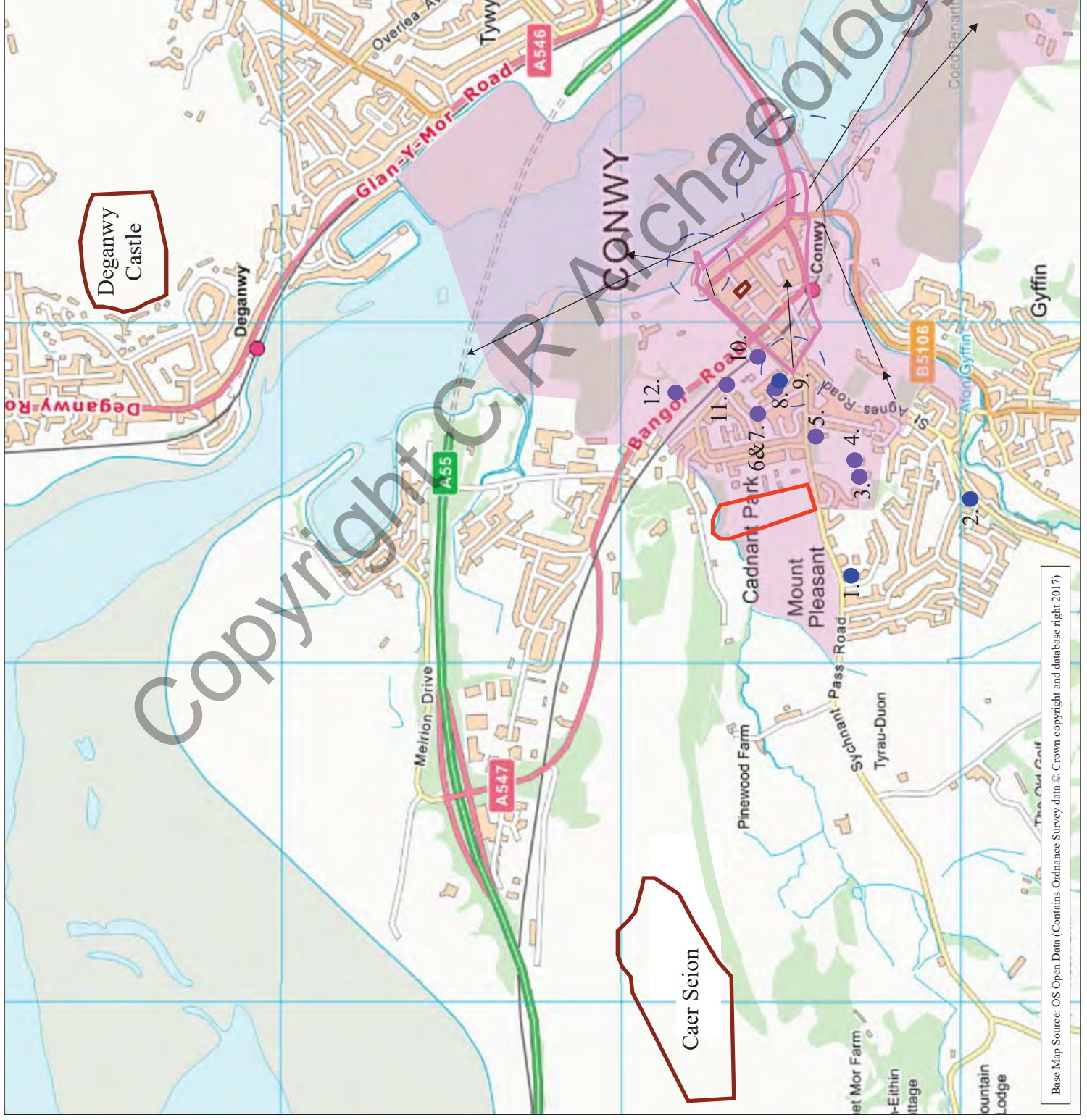
Significant View

Arc of View

Proposed Site

Listed Buildings:

- 1 - Tri Dyffryn (Cadw ID 3286)
- 2 - Gadlas (Cadw ID 3290)
- 3 - Bryn Corach (Cadw ID 3362)
- 4 - Garden terrace walls Bryn Corach (Cadw ID 87426)
- 5 - Gate piers and walls of Bryn Corach (Cadw ID 3361)
- 6 - 1 Bryn Ffynnon (Cadw ID 3324)
- 7 - 2 Bryn Ffynnon (Cadw ID 87409)
- 8 - Castlebank Hotel (Cadw ID 3323)
- 9 - Llys Llewelyn (Cadw ID 3322)
- 10 - NW portal of Conwy Railway Tunnel (Cadw ID 87448)
- 11 - Cadnant Bridge (Cadw ID 87417)
- 12 - Bodlondeb Lodge (Cadw ID 3238)



**Figure 3. HER Results of 500m Search Radius**

Conwy Conservation Area

HER Entries Within 500m of Proposed Development Site:

- 1 - Tri Dyffryn (PRN 66214, Cadw ID 3286)
- 2 - Beechwood Court (PRN 56361)
- 3 - Bryn Corach (PRN 11969, Cadw ID 3362)
- 4 - Garden terrace walls Bryn Corach (PRN 66238, Cadw ID 87426)
- 5 - Old Cadnant School, Site of (PRN 62367)
- 6 - 1 Bryn Ffynnon (PRN 66226 & 11971, Cadw ID 3324)
- 7 - 2 Bryn Ffynnon (PRN 66164 & 11971, Cadw ID 87409)
- 8 - Castlebank Hotel (PRN 34167, Cadw ID 3323)
- 9 - Llys Llewelyn (PRN 12284, Cadw ID 3322)
- 10 - NW portal of Conwy Railway Tunnel (PRN 66233, Cadw ID 87448)
- 11 - Cadnant Bridge (PRN 66195, Cadw ID 87417)
- 12 - Bodlondeb Lodge (PRN 11945, Cadw ID 3238)
- 13 - 1 Newbrough Terrace (PRN 66201, Cadw ID 87356)
- 14 - 2 Newbrough Terrace (PRN 66181, Cadw ID 87372)
- 15 - 3 Newbrough Terrace (PRN 66172, Cadw ID 87380)
- 16 - 4 Newbrough Terrace (PRN 66169, Cadw ID 87387)
- 17 - 5 Newbrough Terrace (PRN 66152, Cadw ID 87392)
- 18 - 6 Newbrough Terrace (PRN 931, Cadw ID 87399)
- 19 - Sychnant Pass Road (PRN 31880)
- 20 - Bodhyfryd (PRN 11941, Cadw ID 3364)
- 21 - Woodville (PRN 11582, ID 87467)
- 22 - Toll House (PRN 11369, Cadw ID 3241)
- 23 - Conwy Workhouse/Hospital (PRN 7983)
- 24 - Gate Pier S of Pinewood Farm (PRN 31884)
- 25 - Hedgerow S of Pinewood Farm (PRN 31879)
- 26 - Gate Piers Muriau Cerrig (PRN 12589, Cadw ID 3361)
- 27 - 1 Watkin Street (PRN 11569, Cadw ID 3366)
- 28 - Pant y Graianog, Tre Dyffryn (PRN 11382)
- 29 - Structure, NW of Beechwood Court (PRN 56362)





**5.1.2.2** PRN 2823 is the find spot of an Iron Age spindle whorl which was found in April 1965 in the garden of Aberconwy School during the extension of the dining room. It was recorded that there have been no subsequent finds in the vicinity.

### **5.1.3 Further Prehistoric/Roman Sites Lying Outside 1000m Study Area**

**5.1.3.1** Although situated around 1,300m from the edge of the northern site boundary, due to its elevated position, the hillfort site of Castell Caer Leion (Scheduled Ancient Monument CN012) has been considered as any proposed development may have a visual impact upon the monument.

**5.1.3.2** The Cadw Scheduled Monument information details the site as: *“Hillfort on Conway Mountain (Mynydd y Dref), also known as Castell Caer Seion or Lleion. The summit of a ridge of rhyolite is enclosed by a single rampart, with more complex works protecting a smaller fortified area at the W end. Within the fort 58 round hut foundations are visible as levelled platforms, including 7 in the smaller enclosure. The large enclosure also contains a rectangular levelled platform, on the N slopes 430ft NNE from the main entrance; 600ft NE from the entrance is a circular pit of about 4ft diameter with a trench leading into it from the NE - in plan resembling a corn-drying kiln. There are possible traces of others. The detailed structural history of the site remains open to several widely different interpretations. It appears certain that the existing remains represent two or more periods of construction, during at least one of which both the enclosures were occupied together, although there is no indication of direct access from one to the other, and indeed the small enclosure seems to have been designed to resist attack from within the large enclosure as well as from outside. The site is traditionally associated with Maelgwn, but there is no other evidence either way as to a sixth-century occupation. The main structure belongs to the pre-Roman Iron Age. The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of prehistoric settlement and defence. It retains significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability of the presence of associated archaeological features and deposits. The structures themselves may be expected to contain archaeological information concerning chronology and building techniques. The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive”.*

## **5.2 Early Medieval**

**5.2.1** There is a single entry of Early Medieval date lying within 1000m of the proposed development site. The entry was PRN 2829, *“a bronze cup, found under an oak tree near Conwy Castle, was exhibited by Capt. Jones at the Temporary Museum of the Cambrian Archaeological Association, held at Bangor 1860. It is listed in the museum catalogue under the heading 'Medieval and Miscellaneous’.*

### **5.2.1 Early Medieval Sites Lying Outside of 1000m Search Radius**

**5.2.1.1** As with Castell Caer Leion, Deganwy Castle (CN016) lies outside the 1000m search radius and is situated around 1,900m to the north-east of the proposed development area. Due to its elevated position, the site has been considered as any proposed development will have a visual impact upon the monument.

**5.2.1.2** The Cadw Scheduled Monument information details the site as: *“The monument comprises the remains of Degannwy Castle which occupies a commanding position about 1/4 m E of the mouth of the River Conway. The fortifications occupy two precipitous hillocks separated by a saddle. Few of the visible remains are likely to be earlier than the 13th century, but the site has a long history. Coins and a scrap of pottery indicate occupation during the Roman period. Late traditions make it the Llys of Maelgwn Gwynedd, and it is mentioned as ‘Arx Decantorum’ in 822. In c.1080 a castle was built here by Robert of Rhuddlan. The district was subsequently recovered by the Welsh, and in 1200 passed by inheritance to Llywelyn Fawr. The castle was destroyed in 1210 in the face of an*

English advance, refortified in timber by the Earl of Chester, and recaptured in 1213 by Llywelyn. In 1241 his son David once again destroyed the castle in preparation to resist an attack by Henry III, to whom the site was transferred as part of the peace terms. In 1244, the conflict was reopened, and the King ordered that the castle of 'Gannok' should be fortified, but the initial successes of the Welsh prevented much progress until he himself reached the site, where he remained from August to October of 1245. The castle was again attacked by Llywelyn ap Gruffydd in 1257, and was captured and probably finally destroyed in 1263. Of the four or five periods of construction for which there is this documentary evidence, only two, both probably of the 13th century, can be identified on the site with any certainty. It is probable that the earlier works were all of earth, timber and dry stone, and those they were either reshaped or obliterated by the later structures. The rubble masonry is built of the local rhyolite forming the two hillocks; the fragments of dressed stone are of imported grit. The fortified area falls into three parts. The Donjon occupies the larger (W) hill, Mansell's tower stands on the E hillock, and the Bailey occupies the saddle between. Architectural Description: The Donjon of the mid-13th-century castle consisted of a polygonal enclosure wall about 4ft thick round the top of the hill. Near the NW angle are two latrine slots. The SW angle, at which the entrance lay, is destroyed. At the SE angle stood a round tower about 40ft in diameter with a simple roll moulding at its base - almost certainly the 'tower of the castle', built in 1247 and raised one storey in 1248. To the W of this lie the remains of a range of substantial buildings about 90ft by 30ft, including the King's Hall, which was completed by 1250. At the E end of these and on a different orientation can be seen the angle of a rectangular building, perhaps part of the castle of 1213-41. To that period also may belong the revetment wall on the N side of the hill, which appears to be earlier than the main enclosure wall. The large quarry near the centre of the hill and the S end of a rectangular building E of it are ancient, but of uncertain period. The Donjon was approached up a steep roadway rising from E to W along the S side of the hill, with a gate at each end. The track was bounded above by a revetted slope and below by a vertical revetment wall. The S side of the Bailey is protected by a wall about 5ft thick with a ditch outside. Midway between the two hills are the remains of a strong gateway, with a passage about 8ft wide between a pair of D-shaped towers, each about 45ft by 30ft. Near the foot of the E hill a tower about 12ft square stood within the wall. Below it there appears to have been a latrine outlet, and higher up the hill the base of a small turret projects from the wall. On the N side of the bailey the only surviving masonry is a short stub of walling just below the enclosure wall on the W hill, and a substantial fragment which seems to have been intended to form part of a gateway. Apart from these, the defences on this side are composed merely of a strong ditch and an earthen bank which seems never to have carried any masonry. It was originally intended that the defences of the bailey should be completed in stone as on the S side. On August 23, 1250, instructions were sent to Alan la Zusch to raise Mansell's tower by 12ft, to fortify the bailey of the castle between that tower and the donjon with stone and lime, and to make a barrier (incinctorium) outside the tower, two gates with two towers on each side in pairs, two suitable chambers above these towers, with fireplaces, and a chapel in the town of 'Gannoc' in honour of the Blessed Virgin. But in the Pipe Roll for 1250-4 payment is recorded for walling half the bailey and making one such gate. It seems clear that work on the N side was never more than started, and that very little further work was done on the fortifications. Mansell's Tower (on the E hill) now appears as a low wall, D-shaped in plan. It seems probable that the W side was originally closed. A platform a little below the top of the hill on the E side may be the remains of unfinished work for the 'barrier'. Outside the main enclosure are various earthworks. The gates on both sides of the bailey are approached by roadways slanting up the hillside. On the S of the W hill and on the N of the E hill are levelled platforms which seem to have carried rectangular buildings of uncertain age and purpose; and N of the bailey is a group of roughly rectangular enclosures sometimes associated with traces of long huts. These last may perhaps be the remains of the town, which received its charter in 1252 and from which a rent of 10 shillings is recorded in the Pipe Roll for 1250-5. A millstone, 1ft 5ins in diameter and 3ins thick, having a central hole 3.5ins in diameter with two radial slots, was exposed just outside the S gate of the bailey in 1948. The construction of a horse mill was ordered in 1250. The remains of the associated settlement are visible north and south of the castle as various bumps and hollows. The monument is of national

*importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of medieval defensive organisation and settlement. The site forms an important element within the wider medieval context and within the surrounding landscape. The site is well preserved and retains considerable archaeological potential. There is a strong probability of the presence of evidence relating to chronology, building techniques and functional detail. The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive”.*

### **5.3 Medieval Sites**

**5.3.1** Conwy is a Medieval Town, and therefore this period is well represented within the archaeological record. All Medieval sites identified in the vicinity of the proposed development site are situated within the Edwardian Town Walls, and all 30 entries recorded within the 1000m search radius are related to the Medieval town, walls and castle. The closest point is a distance of 330m between Conwy town wall and the proposed development area (they do not appear within the 500m search radius due to the use of a central co-ordinate) and Conwy Castle is located c. 800m from the proposed development boundary.

**5.3.2** The number of sites is a reflection of increased activity centred on the town but it may not reflect a particular use for the site beyond agricultural purposes. Beyond the key sites of the Town Wall and Castle the following section has therefore been summarised to avoid becoming a narrative for the Medieval history of Conwy.

#### **5.3.1 Sites Within 500m Search Radius**

**5.3.1.1** If we exclude the Conwy Town Walls (they are fully discussed below), there is a single entry of Medieval date recorded within a 500m radius of the proposed site. PRN 2871 records the discovery of a series of Medieval pits during works at the site of an old estate office in Lancaster Square. It is recorded as having been *“thoroughly examined for archaeological remains, in particular for any traces of the C13th Cistercian Abbey. No structures were found on the site but a series of seven medieval and late medieval rubbish pits were discovered. Four of the pits had been emptied of their original fill and repacked with rubble in order to bear the load of the walls above. One of the undisturbed pits produced a vast quantity of oyster shells and a piece of medieval cloth preserved in the anaerobic conditions at the bottom of the pit”*. As mentioned above this site has incorrect co-ordinates and the site does not in reality lie within 500m of the proposed development area.

##### **5.3.1.1 The Conwy Town Walls and Castle**

**5.3.1.1.1** The Conwy Town Wall and gates are part of the Conwy Castle and Town Walls World Heritage Site. The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value describes the four castles of Beaumaris, Conwy, Caernarfon, Harlech (and the attendant fortified towns at Conwy and Caernarfon) as *“the finest examples of late 13th-century and early 14th-century military architecture in Europe, as demonstrated through their completeness, pristine state, evidence for organised domestic space, and extraordinary repertory of their medieval form. The castles as a stylistically coherent group are a supreme example of medieval military architecture designed and directed by James of St George, King Edward I of England’s chief architect, and the greatest military architect of the age. The extensive and detailed contemporary technical, social and economic documentation of the castles, and the survival of adjacent fortified towns at Caernarfon and Conwy, make them one of the major references of medieval history”*.

**5.3.1.1.2** Town Walls and Gates (WHS 374, SAM CN014, PRN 2842): the Cadw Scheduled Monument information details the site as: *“This monument comprises the remains of the medieval town walls of Conwy. Begun in 1283 by King Edward I, the town walls incorporate Conwy Castle and were built to protect the new town borough. The walls are constructed from Silurian grit and Ordovician rhyolite and measure approximately 1.3km in length and enclose an area approximately 22 acres. As built, they vary in height because of the sloping ground but are at least 6m high on the*



outer face. With three twin-towered gates and twenty-one D-shaped towers at regular intervals, originally with a ditch around the outside, the town walls of Conwy share many constructional and architectural details with the castle. The towers stand up to 15m high, and apart from the gates and Tower 16, are all roofless and open backed, originally with only a timber platform at the same level as the main wall-walk. The towers and wall-walks of the intervening stretches of wall are built with crenellations, and, as on the castle, the merlons contain arrowloops alternating between low and high levels, allowing a field of fire in both the near and middle distance. The Lower Gate was built to give access into the town from a quay on the riverside. The gate itself, like the Upper Gate at the opposite end of the town, is twin-towered and protected with a portcullis. The Mill Gate gave access to the royal mill on the nearby River Gyffin. Unusually, the two towers that comprise the gate do not form a pair; one is round and one is D-shaped. It is this distinction that helps identify the building as the location for the King's wardrobe. The Upper Gate is located to the south of the watchtower (Tower 13) and forms the main landward entrance to the town. Like the Lower Gate it consists of two drum towers flanking a central carriageway and protected by a drawbridge, portcullis and wooden gates. An additional spur wall projecting beyond the wall circuit into the river, was built to protect the landing place for ships, either from storm or attack. It originally ended in a round tower which no longer exists. A number of later modifications to the walls have occurred. A hole was created in the northern section of wall close to the castle to accommodate the road that used Thomas Telford's suspension bridge built in 1826. In addition, the wall between Towers 17 and 18 was largely rebuilt in 1847 to accommodate a broad arch for the Chester to Holyhead railway which closely skirts the walls and castle. The monument is of national and international importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of medieval defensive organisation and the growth of towns. This is reflected by its designation as a World Heritage Site. Significantly, the town walls constitute one of the best-preserved and most imposing medieval defensive schemes in Europe. The monument forms an important element within the wider medieval context and the structure itself may be expected to contain archaeological information in regard to chronology, building techniques and functional detail. The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive".

**5.3.1.1.3** Conwy Castle (WHS 374, SAM CN004, Listed Building ID 3250, PRN 2851): the Cadw Scheduled Monument information details the site as: "This monument comprises the remains of a medieval castle built by King Edward I. Begun in 1283, the castle and town were established as part of a ring of new English fortresses encircling the Welsh heartland of Snowdonia in Gwynedd. The castle was built on a new site on the west bank of the river Conwy. The castle was constructed quickly in one main building phase. Two adjoining wards (inner ward and outer ward) were built with a substantial curtain wall forming the perimeter of the castle. The curtain wall is 3m thick and 27m high with eight round towers rising to 41m above the river. A continuous wall walk runs around the top of the curtain wall. The outer ward contains the main entrance, entered from the west barbican, which is reached by climbing a stepped ramp from the town. The approach to the entrance is defended by a drawbridge and portcullis. The north-west and south-west towers and the short length of curtain wall between together form an extended version of the twin-towered gateways seen in other Edwardian castles. The outer ward was intended for the more public functions of the castle and for the domestic services. On the south side of the outer ward is the great hall range. The great hall is thought to have been at the centre of the range, with a lesser hall, served through an ante-room at one end and a chapel at the other. The north and east sides of the court are lined with buildings to house the kitchen, guardrooms and domestic offices (only the foundations remain). On the east side is the castle well. Each of the four towers accessed from the outer ward contained two floors, each with one habitable room, and a basement for storage. Exceptionally, the Prison Tower also has a well-concealed sub-basement, clearly designed as a prison cell. The inner ward provided a secure residence for the king and a seat for the royal court. It was defensible even if the outer ward were lost. The separating wall sits behind a deep ditch cut in the rock. This was crossed by a drawbridge operated from, and leading to, a small gatehouse covering a narrow passage to the inner ward. The

inner ward is also accessible directly from the River Conwy. The elaborate watergate has disappeared but the remains of steps lead up to the east barbican. The inner ward has four towers similar to those in the outer ward, except that each is crowned by a turret and two contain rooms that signify their greater importance. The inner ward also contains an L-shaped two-storey building housing the royal apartments. The King's Tower and the Chapel Tower contain more royal apartments; the Chapel Tower also housing a vaulted chapel. The Stockhouse and Bakehouse Towers are entered from the court of the inner ward and the upper rooms may have been intended for guests. With an outer ward containing a great hall, chambers and kitchen, and a more secluded inner ward with private chambers and a royal chapel, the excellent preservation of these royal chambers which remain relatively unaltered from their thirteenth-century form, provide a unique insight into how the royal household lived. By 1332, however, the castle was unfit to accommodate the king. Major repair works were put in place around 1347 when the great hall range and royal apartments were remodelled to support a newly leaded roof. In 1399 Richard II took refuge here before his capture at nearby Flint Castle. And two years later the supporters of Owain Glyn Dŵr succeeded in capturing the castle. Minor renovation continued throughout the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, but it was during the Civil War that Conwy saw military action again, when Archbishop John Williams fortified and held the castle for King Charles I. In 1646 it was among the last strongholds to capitulate to parliament at the end of the Civil War. Despite some attempt at deliberate destruction, the castle remained virtually intact. The monument is of national and international importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of medieval social, domestic and political life and warfare. This is reflected by its designation as a World Heritage Site. Significantly, Conwy Castle is exceptional not only for the grandeur of its high towers and curtain walls, but also for its excellent state of preservation. Inside the imposing outer shell, the castle contains the most intact set of residential buildings left by the medieval English monarchy in Wales or England. The scheduled area comprises the remains described and an area around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive".

**5.3.1.1.4** For ease of interpretation the remaining entries in the following section have been divided by site type.

#### **5.3.1.2 Townships**

**5.3.1.2.1** Two townships were located with the 1000m site search radius, Conwy Township (PRN 3189) and Gyffin Medieval Township (PRN 7367).

#### **5.3.1.3 Secular Sites**

**5.3.1.3.1** There are four HER entries for three secular sites recorded within the 1000m search area. They are as follows:

**5.3.1.3.2** Llewelyn's Hall (Site of) PRN 2854 & 2875: "The hall is first mentioned in an exchequer roll of 29 Edward I as being repaired in 1296. Later rolls give details of expenditure on the hall chapel and tower, but in 1316 orders were given to pull down the 'Old hall' and carry the timbers to Caernarvon Castle.

**5.3.1.3.3** The remains consist of a length of the town wall W of the bastion known as Llywelyn's tower, which is the first to the E of the SW angle tower. Its W end is marked by an almost vertical keyed joint visible on each side of the wall. There is no corresponding construction joint at the E end. The wall contains 3 barred windows with sandstone dressings set in deep recesses with segmental arched heads and window seats. These were obviously intended to light a room, the roof timbers of which were carried on rough stone corbels set irregularly just below the wall walk. It seems likely that a timber building stood on the site before work was commenced on the walls, and that most of it was left standing, the S wall being rebuilt in stone to form part of the curtain.



**5.3.1.3.4** *The adjacent tower differs from all the others on account of its stone back, which was added in 1286. The first floor, which is level with the ground floor of the hall is a rectangular chamber with two windows and a fine hooded fireplace. It was also reached from the outside by steps, covered by a porch through a door with a shaped shouldered head in the N wall. The upper floor and battlements are inaccessible. The basement, originally reached by a door on the E has a semi-circular end which suggests that the chambers above represent a very early change in plan”.*

**5.3.1.3.5** The Old College, Conwy (PRN 29573): No text provided.

**5.3.1.3.6** Tidal Mill, Site of (PRN 29710): *“The study area is located to the south and east of the mill gate, constructed 1285-6 as part of the town defences. The gate was so-called because it gave access to the town mills, of which there were at least two, and possibly three. The lower mill was a tide mill, whilst the upper mill lay close to the church of Gyffin, and took its power source from the river. In 1296 it is recorded that a new mill and leat were constructed at Gyffin for 8.19sh.5d... This may have been because the town mills are recorded as being destroyed during the uprising of Madoc ap Llywelyn in 1294. Lewis says that the mills were still in a ruinous state in 1307, but rebuilt sometime before 1316. The mills were granted to burgesses, and were subsequently inherited by the borough, remaining in use until the end of the 18th century... The word sarn (within the name Pont Pensarn) refers to a causeway, and it is possible that this causeway once formed the dam of the lower or tidal mill. Several references refer to the dam associated with the Salt or Tide mill... These accounts show the mill was operating until the latter years of the 18th century. References after that date are less obvious, and the construction of the railway in the mid 19th century would certainly have had a major impact on the mill. It has not been possible to locate the site of the former tidal mill accurately”.*

**5.3.1.3.7** Plas Mawr (PRN 2843, SAM CN083): *“An excellent example of an Elizabethan town house, built in the last quarter of the C16th. The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of the Elizabethan period and construction techniques. It retains significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability of the presence of associated archaeological features and deposits. The structures themselves may be expected to contain archaeological information concerning chronology and building techniques. The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive”.*

#### **5.3.1.4 Ecclesiastical Sites**

**5.3.1.4.1** There are 6 sites of ecclesiastical interest within the Town Walls and within the 1000m search radius. The results are as follows:

**5.3.1.4.2** Maenan Abbey (PRN 2861) is was a very small parish comprising meadow land on both sides of the River Conway. Maenan Abbey was one of the greater Medieval monasteries of Wales and was established late in the C12th by monks from Strata Florida. It received its charter from Llewelyn the Great as Prince of Wales. It was removed in 1283 by Edward I to build the town and castle of Conwy.

**5.3.1.4.3** A new monastery was constructed and was known as the old name or Aberconwy or Conway Abbey. This in turn was destroyed in the Dissolution. Although once a Scheduled Ancient Monument, the site was de-scheduled in 1992, as it has been excavated. The 1961 (PRN 2870) excavation showed that the abbey did not extend over the area of the new Vicarage Garden.

**5.3.1.4.4** Further excavations (PRN 2866) were undertaken in the area around the church and an excavation was undertaken bounded to the north by the church yard and to the south by Rosehill Street and on the east by the path linking the two.

**5.3.1.4.5** These works uncovered buried Medieval walls which continued beyond the excavation limits. Four walls were identified as belonging to the medieval first phase of occupation. All were set in foundation trenches with light brown gritty soil fill and were of similar construction. They were described as well mortared with flat slabs of grey shales set lengthways forming well defined faces. 5 courses of wall survived to a maximum height of 25ins. The walls were 6ft in width.

**5.3.1.4.6** The primary occupation was dated from the pottery to the period 1280-1350 and a few sherds were late C14th. The occupation was brought to an end by fire and the area was not subsequently reoccupied. The excavator wrote it was *“reasonable to identify the main structure as the lodging of the Master of the King's Works and the remainder of the site as the mason's working area during the erection of the Edwardian Castle and the town walls”*.

**5.3.1.4.7** St. Mary's Church, Conwy (PRN 6924 & 2850): Conway parish church is dedicated to St. Mary and is located in the diocese of Bangor. Established as a monastic church of the Cistercian order in 1197, the church was changed to parochial status when the abbey was moved to Maenan. Most of the present church is C14th rebuilding, but parts of the original Cistercian church remain. It consists of a west tower, nave with north and south aisles, south transept, and a chancel with a north vestry. Further restoration took place in the C15th and C16th and in Victorian times. The church is notable for its Early English west front, C14th architecture, a series of memorials and surviving woodwork.

**5.3.1.4.8** The well-kept irregular churchyard dates from the foundation of the Cistercian Abbey of Aberconway c.1197. It is bounded by the high stone walls of the gardens and outbuildings of the properties adjacent to the churchyard. It is probable that a larger enclosure existed, surrounding the present day churchyard, and defining the precinct of the Cistercian Abbey. The entrances are to the north-east, north, west and south. There is a 13th century cross slab set upright to the north-east of the chancel of the church.

**5.3.1.4.9** Following the relocation of the Abbey to Maenan in the late C13th, the church was rebuilt in three stages. The nave, chancel, south and north aisles, north vestry and the west tower were built c.1300.

**5.3.1.4.10** Later in the C14th, the south transept with its buttress was divided from the east end of the nave and the south aisle. The arches of the arcades between the nave and the south and north aisles were also added at this time. In the mid C14th the south aisle and porch were built.

**5.3.1.4.11** In the late C15th or early C16th an additional battlemented third stage was added to the tower and the north porch was built. The north porch was originally timber framed.

**5.3.1.4.12** In 1872 all the roofs were renewed when the church was restored by Gilbert Scott. In 1895 the drainage around the church was introduced, the porches restored, the east window was re-instated at a higher level and the transept buttresses were re-pointed. In 1925 the north vestry was extended on the north side and the new and old portions of the vestry divided by an oak screen.

**5.3.1.4.13** There are a large number of pre C19th memorials ranging in date from 1586 to 1776 within the church along with a table tomb dated 1584. There are C14th cross slabs lying in the south and north aisles and in the north porch. There is also a C15th effigy in the south aisle. The screen between the nave and chancel and the seating in the chancel has been described as one of the most outstanding examples of medieval screen work to be found in England and Wales. The font of octagonal bowl and shaft is C15th in date. Medieval glazed tiles are set in the south wall of the chancel. The seating is C19th.

**5.3.1.4.14** The churchyard walls are recorded separately as PRN 66239 *“Of uncertain date, but the original precinct of the late C12 monastery was probably bounded by Rose Hill Street, Church Street, High Street and Castle Street. The present walls, probably piecemeal in construction, bound the back yards of the buildings fronting those streets”*.

**5.3.1.4.15** Although the exact location of the site is unknown there is a record of a Gwynedd Archaeological Trust excavation which uncovered a group of burials of possibly Late Medieval date (PRN 60899). The entry is as follows *“a watching brief carried out by GAT during improvements works to the High Street, Llewelyn Street and Crown Lane, Conwy, revealed a number of human burials of possible Medieval date. The exact location of where the burials were uncovered is unknown. A project report was never produced for this work.*

**5.3.1.4.16** *The recent finds appear to be orientated and the nails associated with skeleton 2 suggest a coffin...they are relatively near to the Church of St. Mary, which was formerly part of Aberconway Abbey, founded in the 12th century, and moved in the late 13th century to Maenan. They may be associated with this period”*.

**5.3.1.4.17** St. Benedict's Church, Gyffin: Gyffin parish church is dedicated to St. Benedict and is located in the diocese of Bangor. Formerly owned by the Cistercian Monastery of Aberconwy, and possibly founded by them in the C12th or C13th. The original church, a smaller rectangular structure, now forms the east end of the nave. The nave was extended westwards in the C15th and it was at this time that the nave and chancel were re-roofed. The painted panelled ceiling is probably contemporary with the re-roofing. The south chapel with its parclose screen was added in the C16th, along with the roof of the chapel and a porch. The former north aisle, now rebuilt as the north chapel, may also date from this period. A bell-cote was added in the C17th, and there is a date stone of 1694 in the west wall.

**5.3.1.4.18** The church was restored in 1858 when the north aisle was pulled down and replaced by a larger north chapel, with a large cellar below. A vestry was also added. The west gallery was removed, and the chancel arch, of uncertain date, was replaced. The chancel was restored in 1900 along with the sanctuary floor, and the pulpit and reading desk moved.

**5.3.1.4.19** The irregular churchyard has a curved stone walled boundary from the north-east around to the north-west. The main entrance is on the south side, but there is also a small entrance on the east side to a footbridge over a stream.

**5.3.1.4.20** The churchyard walls are recorded separately in the HER under PRN 66248. *“Wall enclosing a church of C13 origin. The S wall was built in 1866 when the churchyard was extended, but the gates and piers are later still”*.

### **5.3.1.5 Agricultural Sites**

**5.3.1.5.1** Strip-Field, Possible, S of Pinewood Farm (PRN's 31877 & 31878): *“To the immediate west of the area, a thin linear field runs from northeast to southwest and is depicted on the first, second, and third edition (1889, 1900, 1913) Ordnance Survey maps. The field resembles a medieval strip-field; although no earlier cartographic evidence exists to prove its antiquity”*.

### **5.3.1.6 Miscellaneous Sites Uncovered Through Excavation**

**5.3.1.6.1** PRN 61159 Stone Drain, Castle Square, Conwy: *“Stone constructed drain uncovered during a watching brief, running broadly parallel with the town wall and extending a distance of at least 3.5m. Possibly served a building built nearby during the construction of the Castle”*.

**5.3.1.6.2** PRN 2864 Conwy, Survey of Archaeological Sites: Survey to assess the archaeological interest inside and adjacent to the town walls during December 1975/76. The report outlines the results and conclusions of that survey.

**5.3.1.6.3** PRN 1531 Excavation, Conwy Visitor Centre: Excavation by M. Jones et al summer 1987 ahead of Cadw's new visitor centre in Conwy. Possible medieval quarry pits and miscellaneous features uncovered. Report forthcoming.

**5.3.1.6.4** PRN 2872 The Old Station Site: *"A section was made across the town wall. Unfortunately revealing little that was not already known. Just outside the wall was a circular pit. In the bottom of the pit were two slots between 0.15m and 0.25m across and no more than 0.25m deep. The sockets were filled with clay and the pit itself with a clay bam, neither of which contained any finds."*

**5.3.1.6.5** *The ditch may originally have been 2.5m across, 1.3m deep and 1.3m wide at the bottom. A few (Medieval?) finds were found here".*

**5.3.1.6.6** The Old Estate Office, Lancaster Square (PRN 2871): *"After the old estate office was demolished an excavation took place on the levelled surface beneath. A number of pits were found containing various artefacts and a thick smear of redeposited material displaced from the top containing a number of pot sherds. These were overlaid by a series drains."*

**5.3.1.6.7** *The site of the old estate office in Lancaster square was thoroughly examined for archaeological remains, in particular for any traces of the C13th Cistercian Abbey. No structures were found on the site but a series of seven medieval and late medieval rubbish pits were discovered. Four of the pits had been emptied of their original fill and repacked with rubble in order to bear the load of the walls above. One of the undisturbed pits produced a vast quantity of oyster shells and a piece of medieval cloth preserved in the anaerobic conditions at the bottom of the pit".*

**5.3.1.6.8** Hearths, Berry Street (PRN 11494): *"The archaeological features and deposits along the Barry Street frontage took the form of a surface on which the remains of several ovens or hearths were identified and recorded. A quantity of medieval pottery from the 13th - 15th centuries, some of which had been imported from France and Spain, was recovered from associated deposits. A significant assemblage of animal bone was also recovered from these deposits providing a useful insight into the domestic economy of the settlement during this early period".*

**5.3.1.6.9** Porth yr Aden (PRN 1771): *"Section of wall and cobbled surface revealed in section by work carried out by Gwynedd C. C. Highways Department in January 1987".*

**5.3.1.6.10** River Gyffin (PRN 12647): A slightly confusing entry for a Medieval well site. Recorded as 19<sup>th</sup> century stone rubble with rough covering.

#### **5.4 Post Medieval/Modern Period Sites**

**5.4.1** There are 29 entries of Post Medieval date within 500m of the centre of the proposed development. When this search area is extended to 1000m the number rises to 218 (including 90 Listed Buildings). These findings reflect the close proximity of the proposed development to a historic urban centre.

**5.4.2** As with the Medieval entries this data has also been broken down into separate categories for ease of discussion.



#### **5.4.1 Agricultural and Subsistence**

**5.4.1.1** There are 6 records of agricultural and subsistence features within a 1000m search radius of the proposed development site. Four of these records relate to historic field boundaries shown on early Ordnance Survey editions, one record is for a tithe barn (Twt Hill) and the final record is for agricultural outbuildings at Bodlondeb.

#### **5.4.2 Civil, Educational, Health & Welfare and Commemorative**

**5.4.2.1** There are 15 entries which fall within these categories, with 7 civil buildings (including post box, lampstand, Guild Hall, and Police Station), 3 Health & Welfare (hospital, workhouse and public lavatories), 1 commemorative structure (war memorial) and 5 educational buildings (schools and school outbuildings).

#### **5.4.3 Commercial, Recreational and Communications**

**5.4.3.1** There are 37 entries which fall within these categories, with 33 commercial buildings, 2 communications (both telephone kiosks) and 2 recreational buildings (a cinema and a cockpit).

#### **5.4.4 Domestic**

**5.4.4.1** Domestic structures dominate the Post Medieval structures and there are 111 houses/buildings recorded.

#### **5.4.5 Gardens, Parks and Urban Spaces**

**5.4.5.1** There are 9 entries in this category. Includes a variety of miscellaneous items grouped under a general category so in addition to gardens includes features within these such as gate piers and sundials.

#### **5.4.6 Religious, Ritual & Funerary**

**5.4.6.1** There are 8 entries in this category which incorporates churches and chapels, along with associated records for interior fittings and exterior grave slabs.

#### **5.4.7 Transport**

**5.4.7.1** There are 11 entries in this category which covers features such as roads, trackways, bridges (including the Conwy Suspension Bridge) and railway features.

#### **5.4.8 Industrial & Maritime**

**5.4.8.1** There are 6 industrial entries, predominantly recording destroyed structures and includes workshops, a former abattoir and a quarry site. There are 3 maritime entries recording quayside buildings and the Harbourmaster's House.

#### **5.4.9 Miscellaneous**

**5.4.9.1** There are 12 miscellaneous/unassigned entries – predominantly quayside buildings, but also including a water fountain and enclosure walls.

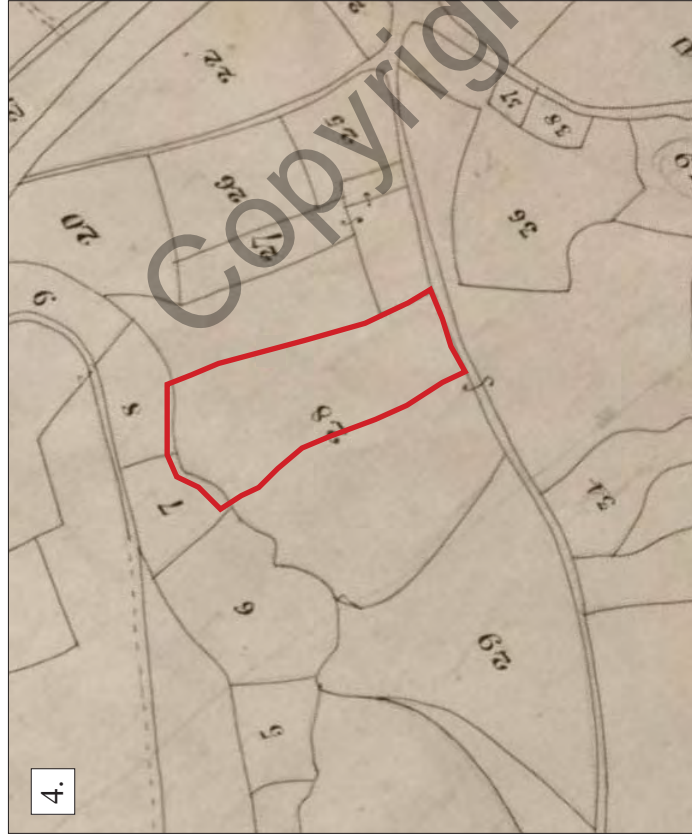
#### **5.5 Sites of Unknown Date**

**5.5.1** There are 8 sites of unknown date recorded within a 1000m of the proposed development area.

#### **5.6 Cartographic Sources (Figures 4 – 7)**

**5.6.1** Despite the strip-like appearance of the current field boundaries of the proposed development site, this is a relatively modern subdivision. The Tithe Map of the early 1840's shows that the proposed development site was once part of a much larger plot. It is owned by Lady Erskine and rented by Edward Williams. The field is named "Yr Acrau Hirion" which roughly translates as the long acres (figure 4).





**Figure 4.** Early 1840's  
Tithe Map of Proposed  
Development Area  
(Source: [www.cynefin.  
archiveswales.org.uk](http://www.cynefin.archiveswales.org.uk))

**Figure 5.** First Edition  
Ordnance Survey Map  
Of Proposed Development  
Area - Surveyed 1887,  
Published 1888  
(Source: [www.maps.nls.uk](http://www.maps.nls.uk))

**Figure 6.** 1899 Edition  
Ordnance Survey Map  
Of Proposed Development  
Area - Revised 1899,  
Published 1901  
(Source: [www.maps.nls.uk](http://www.maps.nls.uk))

**Figure 7.** 1948 Edition  
Ordnance Survey Map  
Of Proposed Development  
Area - Revised 1948,  
Published 1953  
(Source: [www.maps.nls.uk](http://www.maps.nls.uk))

**5.6.2** Early Ordnance Survey mapping dated 1887 (figure 5) shows the current field system in place, together with what appears to be the stone walling near the river which is surviving on the site. This map edition shows a reservoir to the north east of the site. There are no changes to the site shown on the 1899 (figure 6) second edition or the 1948 edition (figure 7).

**5.6.3** Adjacent to the site there are no buildings shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey Map. The first edition on which there are buildings marked is the 1899 edition, although the name Ty Gwyn Cottages is marked on the plot but there is no building shown. The 1948 edition clearly shows the cottages and a second development at the north of the strip.

**5.6.4** Since the production of the 1948 Ordnance Survey Edition the remaining plots between the proposed development site and the town of Conwy have been developed as housing. Houses appear to be large detached properties set within large garden plots and have extensive views over the town of Conwy.

## **6.0 Results of Archaeological Works**

**6.0.1** The following results have been divided into individual elements and each of the project elements is discussed separately below.

### **6.1 Results of Walk Over Survey (Plates 1-28)**

**6.1.1** The proposed development area is approximately 240m in length and 90m in width. It is an irregular linear plot which is orientated on a roughly north-west – south-east axis. The field slopes steeply from the south-east to the north-west and is currently in use as grazing for cattle.

**6.1.2** The field is bounded to the north-west by a shallow stream which runs within an area of woodland. The stream and woodland are positioned at the base of a steep incline and are not part of the proposed development area. The stream forms the boundary of the Snowdonia National Park.

**6.1.3** The field boundaries to the south-east, south-west and north-east are a mixture of the remains of a low stone wall, earthen bank and hedgerow. Wire and post fencing had also been utilised although it was difficult to see the whole circuit as the boundaries were overgrown. Parts of metal bedframes had been utilised to patch areas where the field boundary had sustained damage or where there were gaps in the foliage. The Sychnant Pass Road runs along the south-east field boundary.

**6.1.4** The site is accessed off the Sychnant Pass Road, through a double gate which is flanked by fencing to create an internal path way for at least 15m. This area of the field is raised approximately a meter above the road and is hedgerow at this point is well in excess of 1.5m in height and screens the plot from the road.

**6.1.5** Near the access the field is relatively flat area with large patches of weeds and nettles suggesting areas of disturbance. This flat area continued for approximately 70 meters before it gradually sloped down towards the stream. The slope was undulating and there were many flatter areas and occasional cattle scoops. There were no earthworks/features of interest identified within the proposed development area.

**6.1.6** The north-western end of the site is bounded by a shallow stream which is within an area of woodland. This was the only area where there were visible archaeological/historical features. These were in the form of the remains of stone walls which were faced on both sides with a rough stone core. The clearest wall runs in a north-westerly direction towards the stream, whilst a second wall runs to the west. There appear to be other possible walls in this area but these were difficult to identify with certainty as this area is heavily overgrown.

**6.1.7** These walls can be seen on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map dated 1887. This map also appears to show walling on the opposite side of the stream. It is unclear as to the purpose of this structure. The field boundaries remain in place on the 1899 Ordnance survey edition, although the structure on the opposite side of the bank appears to have been removed. These features are not located within the proposed development area.

## **6.2 Results of Geophysical Survey**

**6.2.1** A geophysical survey was undertaken by Matthew Jones (C.R Archaeology) and Thomas Wellicome (Archaeological Landscape Investigation). The following report was compiled by Thomas Wellicome.

Copyright C.R Archaeology





**Plate 1.** Stream Running Along North-Western Site Boundary



**Plate 2.** Stream Running Along North-Western Site Boundary



**Plate 3.** Area Adjacent to Stream at North-Western Site Boundary



**Plate 4.** Steep Slope Leading from Stream Boundary Wall in Foreground





**Plate 5.** Stream Running Along North-Western Site Boundary Showing Stone Wall Position



**Plate 6.** Steep Slope Leading from Stream Boundary Showing Boundary Wall



**Plate 7.** Stream Running Along North-Western Showing Site Boundary Stone Wall Location



**Plate 8.** Steep Slope Leading from Stream Boundary Wall Shown Between Trees





**Plate 9.** Stone Boundary Wall Facing  
- Taken Facing South-East



**Plate 10.** Stone Boundary Wall Facing  
- Taken Facing South-East



**Plate 11.** Iron Pipe Draining  
Into Stream



**Plate 12.** Stone Boundary Wall Facing  
- Taken Facing South-East





**Plate 13.** View Over the North-West of the Site  
Castell Caer Seion Visible in Background



**Plate 14.** View Over the Central Area of the Site



**Plate 15.** South-East Facing View from  
North-Western Corner of the Site



**Plate 16.** Housing to the North-East of the Site





**Plate 17.** South-East Facing View Over Site



**Plate 18.** Housing to the North-East of the Site



**Plate 19.** View from Site Facing North-East  
Towards Deganwy Castle



**Plate 20.** View of South-East Area of Site





**Plate 21.** South-East Site Entrance



**Plate 22.** Boundary Wall in South-Eastern Area of Site



**Plate 23.** View of South-East Area of Site



**Plate 24.** View of South-East Area of Site





**Plate 25.** South-East Facing View  
Over the Proposed Development Area



**Plate 26.** General View of North-Western Area of Site



**Plate 27.** North-East Facing View  
Over the Proposed Development Area



**Plate 28.** General View Of Site Taken Overlooking Conwy

# Gradiometer Survey at Proposed Development at ‘Land off the Sychnant Pass Road’, Conway

By Thomas Wellicome BSc MA ACIfA – Archaeological Landscape Investigation

## 1. Site Location and Ground Conditions

### Site Description and Topography

The survey area comprised a broadly rectangular plot covering c. 7.23 hectares lying to the north of the Sychnant Pass road to the south-west of Conway (centred on NGR 27745, 37755]. The site slopes steeply from c. 64m AOD downwards, from the south-east to the north-west, and slightly to the south in the southern end of the field adjacent to Sychnant Pass Road. Between these a thin flat ridge runs along the southern quadrant of the field on a roughly east-westerly alignment and a further ridge demarcates a steep slope down to a watercourse at the northern end of the field. The site's current use at the time of survey comprised improved pasture for grazing. At the northern end of the site, just outside the survey boundary, was a water course. Associated with this watercourse were several walls, appearing to form part of a possible structure and dam.



*Fig. 1 – Site Location on Open Streetmap mapping.*

### Geology

Geology on the site is formed from the Glas Formation – which comprised of mudstone. This is a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 451 to 456 million years ago in the Ordovician Period when the local environment previously dominated by shallow seas. Superficial deposits of Devensian

Till, originating from up to two million years ago during the Ice Age may also be present.



## Historic Mapping

Historic mapping of the site appears to show little development of the survey area from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present day, with the overall form of the field unchanged and no obvious features depicted. The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS 1:2500 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Revision maps seem to portray some of the structural evidence still present at the north-west of the field along the stream (outside the survey area), but nothing is recorded as extending from there into the survey area.



Fig 2. Extract from the OS 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 25" map depicting approximate site location in red.

The only cartographic evidence for non-agricultural use of the site comes from a map of proposed explorations for routes of the A55, which shows three test/ bore holes were excavated/ sunk in the north-east corner of the field in 1973 (date).

## 2. Methodology

The survey was carried out in accordance with Historic England's guidance '*Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation*' (2008), which establishes best practice for archaeological geophysical surveys in England. The work has been carried out to the standards set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey*.

A survey grid was established over the site location, orientated to provide a best possible fit to the area to be surveyed. The grid was laid out using a Leica TCR 1105+ total station. Unfortunately the topology of the field was steeply sloped, which was likely to impact the quality of the survey results, which led to a choice to be made between accurate walking pace or striping in the results due to the differing heights of each sensor on the Grad 601. In this case the choice was made to walk across the slope, rather than up or down, as the likelihood of walking pace differentials between walking up and down the hill was determined to be more problematic to survey accuracy. The orientation of the grids was approximately NE to SW, which while not ideal for surveying accuracy<sup>1</sup> was perceived to be the best layout of grids to fit the site footprint and minimise walking errors. The survey area was limited by wire fences surrounding the site, which were avoided where possible, although the readings in the grids lying adjacent to the site boundary were still heavily affected. Grids were walked using a zig-zag method, for maximum speed, although this contributed to the effects of the slope on the survey results.

### Equipment and Set-up

The survey was undertaken using a Bartington Instruments Grad601 fluxgate gradiometer, with dual gradiometer set-up. This comprises of two Grad-01-1000L cylindrical gradiometer sensors mounted on a rigid carrying bar, with 1m separation.

The survey settings for the gradiometer were as follows:

- Sensitivity: 0.1nT
- Sample Interval: 0.25m
- Traverse Width: 1m
- Traverse Method: Zigzag
- Grid Square Size: 20 x 20m

### Software and Survey Processing

Archaeosurveyor was used to download and manipulate the geophysical data. Data was downloaded to a portable computer during each rest period for the course of the day, to ensure data integrity and check ongoing results.

Minimal data processing was undertaken on the survey results in accordance with best practise. The following image processing filters were applied to the data produced during the survey:

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<sup>1</sup> . Surveying is best carried out with the magnetometer grid orientated to allow walking in an N – S orientation, to reduce problems with gradiometer alignment.



- A single de-striping filter was run over the results to remove striping created from running the dual gradiometer over sloping ground.
- The image was **clipped** to  $\pm 1\text{nT}$  to enhance low magnitude anomalies.

A processed greyscale plot (both georeferenced and standalone] and an abstract 'interpretational' plot form the main 'display' of the geophysical survey results within this document. The plot was overlain on mapping data using the QGIS software package.

### **Survey Conditions and Limitations**

Weather conditions were mainly hot and sunny, although there was some fluctuation in temperature. This may have had a slight effect on the function of the gradiometer(s), which are susceptible to changes in temperature, although this effect is likely in this case to have been negligible.

All sides of the field were surrounded by metal wire fencing, which can detrimentally effect the accuracy of the gradiometer results. A gap of c. 10m was left around the field boundaries where possible to reduce any impact the fencing may have had on the survey results., although to make sure as large an area as possible was surveyed several of the grids (notably along the south-western and south-eastern corners, ran close to the fence and were impacted as a result.

As mentioned in the methodology, the field was surprisingly steeply sloped, which led to issues with both gradiometer sensors being at different heights as they passed over the ground surface, this may have impacted the sensitivity of the results, which had to be de-striped during processing.

An area of c. two grids at the south-western corner of the site was not surveyed due to the presence of metallic animal pens and cattle. A further area of c. three grid squares were not surveyed at north-west due to an increase in slope, that would have resulted in invalid readings.

### **Archiving**

All raw and published data will be retained within the archive along with a high-resolution digital copy of the final report.

### 3. Results

The results of the survey are detailed below, with the numbered features in Fig. 3 referring to the paragraph numbers in the text. Where specific features are referred to in the text body itself, they are enclosed in square brackets in the form '[1]' referring to feature 1.

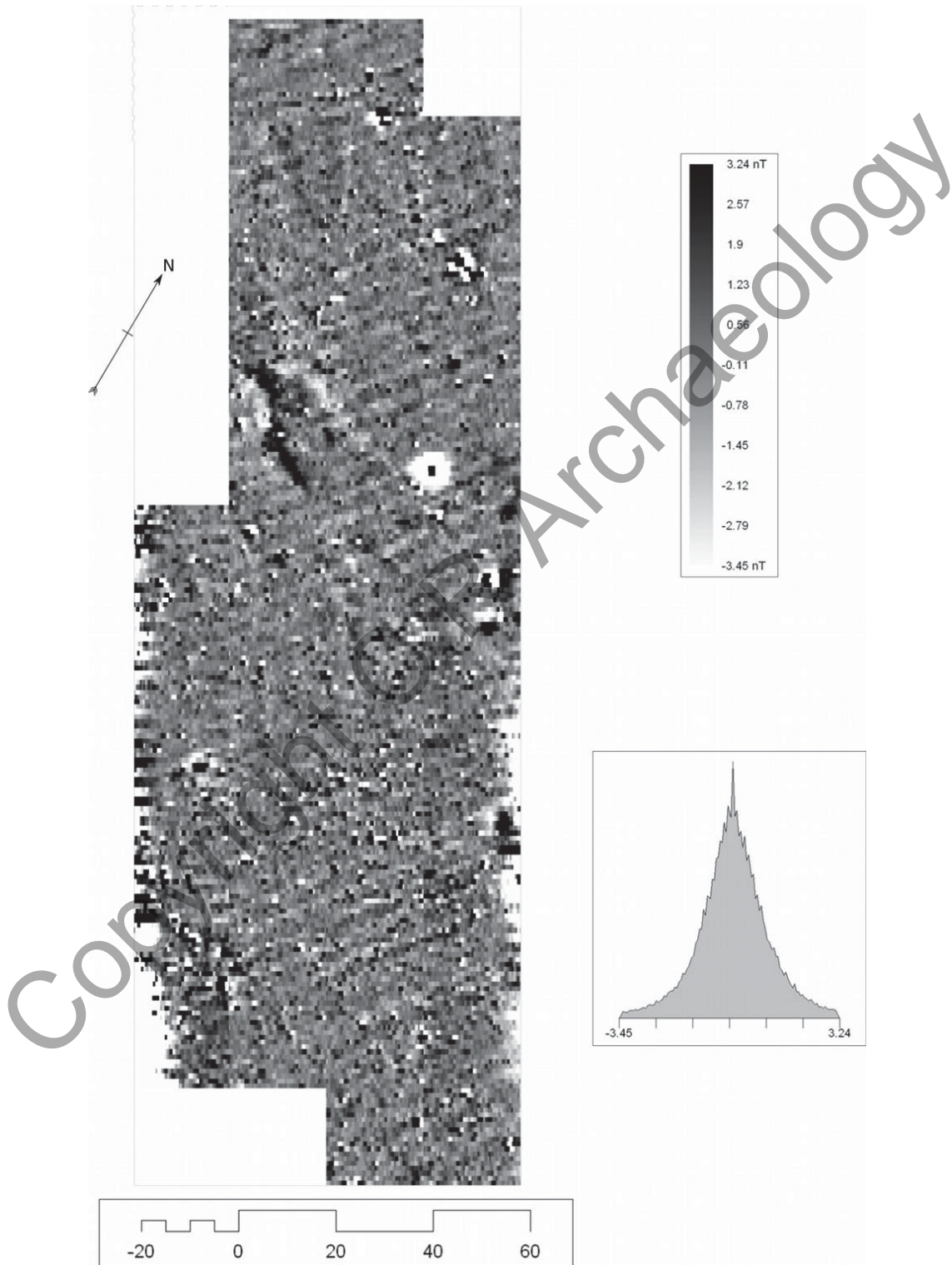


Fig. 3. Processed plot of Geophysical Survey Results

## General Notes:

The survey area has a high level of scattered dipolar magnetic responses, particularly at the southern end, indicating the present of ferrous objects over much of the field. The boundaries of the property contained a high level of magnetic detritus, including iron bed frames, and it appears some of this material may have 'spread' across the site, probably during historic ploughing.

The results also are affected by the background geology, which can be seen as a series of ephemeral curving patternation across most of the survey area, particularly to the south.

The level of magnetic noise, coupled with the background geological response, made interpretation of smaller discrete features, like post holes or pits, difficult with any degree of accuracy.

Notable also across the survey was a regular linear array of agricultural marks, resulting from either medieval or post medieval ridge and furrow. The marks run across the field in a north-east to south-west orientation, which suggests either the ploughing regime was orientated in a way that tried to mitigate the natural line of slope, or the field was originally orientated on a different layout.

## Features

Three potential features were located during the survey (see Figs. 3 & 4) these comprise:

1. A positive/ negative circular response, measuring c. 10m in diameter, which is partially obscured by the response of the ridge and furrow. This 'feature' is of dubious providence, and it most likely is a naturally originating response resulting from variations in the underlying bedrock. Also, given the presence of animal feeders in the feed it may have resulted from compacted earth around the feeder. However, given the proximity of Iron Age settlement to the site, there is a low possibility that this may be a feature worthy of further investigation.

2. NW to SE aligned positive/ negative linear response running across the northern quadrant of the field. The providence of this feature isn't fully clear, it may be a relic field boundary or hollow way, but may just represent natural geology. The feature appears to be partially interrupted by, or interrupts, the prevalent ridge and furrow, which could suggest it is a later feature, with the gap representing a gate or entrance, or alternatively that it has been partially disrupted by ploughing activity. Given that the orientation of this feature bares no resemblance to the current field layout and aligns on a 'kink' in the current site boundary, the most probable interpretation is that this represents the boundary of an earlier field alignment, possibly more in keeping with the alignment of the visible ridge and furrow, and more broadly contemporary. It may be, however, that the kink in the current boundary and this feature result of natural geological activity.

3. A NW – SE aligned negative response, which, based on its alignment, is probably related to feature [2]. There appears to be some continuation, and alteration in orientation to the south, as the anomaly reaches the eastern field boundary, although magnetic interference from the fence line interrupts clear visibility. Again, this feature may relate to natural geology, but given the possible origin of feature [2], this feature may also originate from earlier land division. The response is notably less magnetic than the surrounding soils, which may indicate it is a land drain, small culvert.

Additionally three very strong dipolar magnetic responses (A, B and C) roughly approximate in location to those of the exploratory bore holes excavated in 1973 (Boreholes 422, 642 and 643).

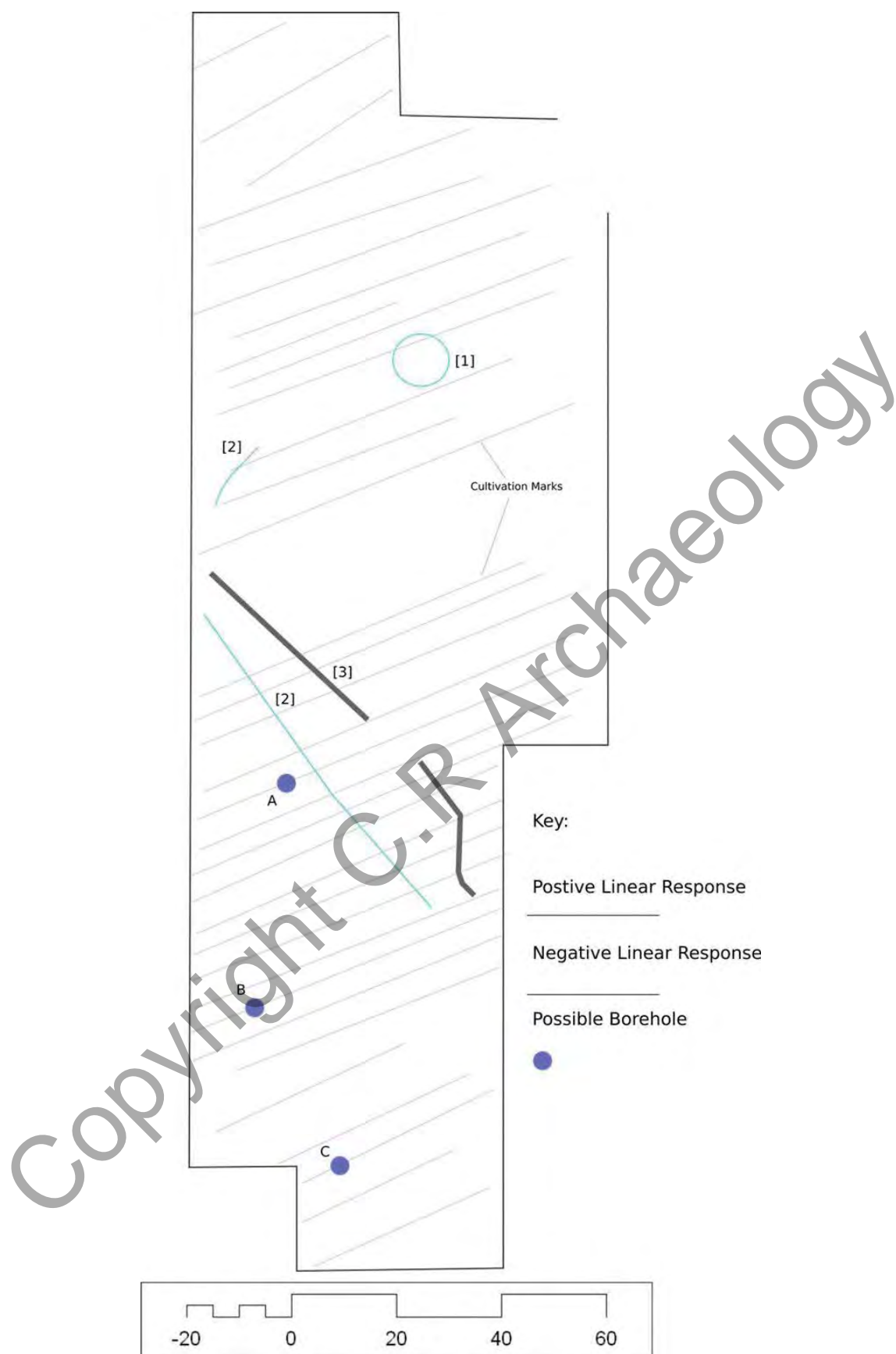


Fig. 4. Interpretational plot of features within survey area





*Fig. 5. Geophysical survey plot location on mapping*

#### **4. Assessment of Survey Quality**

Given the impact of the steep slope on the quality of the raw survey data, the results appear to be representative of the magnetic anomalies present on the site. Heavy striping was visible in the raw survey results, which was corrected using a de-striping filter in Archaeosurveyor. Overall the amount of magnetic noise in the field made the interpretation of smaller features such as pits or post holes difficult, and these could not be identified with any great certainty. Given the survey conditions the results, however, give a reasonable overall level of accuracy and survey quality.

## 5. Conclusions

At least one of the features, ([1]) located during the geophysical survey, was highly likely to be of natural origin although the proximity of the site to Iron Age settlement may suggest it could be worthy of further investigation. The response was weak and poorly defined and may be little more than a response from natural geology. Further irregular shapes and patternation are visible in the field which most likely result from this natural magnetic response. The two other 'features' located during the survey are more likely to be from archaeological features, in this case both appear to relate to a potential relic field boundary or land division, although a natural origin cannot be fully ruled out.

### Bibliography

CIfA, 2014 Standard and Guidance for Geophysical Survey Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Historic England, 2008 Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation

### Cartography

OS 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 25"

### Closure

This report has been prepared by the author with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the manpower and resources devoted to it by agreement with the client. Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

### **6.3 Results of Examination of the Impact on the Setting of Known Heritage Assets**

**6.3.1** There are a number of different landscape and site-specific designations of heritage assets which are of direct relevance to the proposed development site. The following section has been subdivided to detail the different statutory heritage designations, protections and considerations which are applicable for consideration when evaluating the possible impacts of the development of the site under consideration.

#### **6.3.1 World Heritage Site Status**

**6.3.1.1** There are no sites with World Heritage Status within the site limits. This confirms that the proposed works will have no direct physical impact on this class of heritage asset. The site is however located within the essential setting for the Conwy Castle and Town Walls World Heritage Site (see figure 2).

**6.3.1.2** Cadw have recently produced an updated draft management plan for the “Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site”. Included within this group is Conwy Castle and Town Walls which lie approximately 340m from the south-eastern corner of the proposed development site. It states that *“setting is the surroundings in which a historic asset is understood, experienced and appreciated, embracing present and past relationships to the surrounding landscape. It often extends beyond the property boundary or ‘curtilage’ and into the surrounding landscape or townscape. In Managing Change in World Heritage Sites in Wales, setting is described as more than simply the immediate surroundings of a site; it can also relate to how the site was intended to fit into the landscape, the views from it and how the site is seen from the surrounding area”* (Cadw 2016: 14)

**6.3.1.3** The essential setting functions as a buffer zone to protect the monuments from inappropriate development which may potentially detract from the monument and the understanding of its place within the wider landscape. Inclusion within this area is not necessarily a barrier to development but the possible implications of this development must be carefully considered. They are detailed as *“areas outside the World Heritage Site boundary, where inappropriate development or change could have an unacceptable impact on the Outstanding Universal Value, for example, by damaging or obscuring specific features or altering important views. This management plan maintains and enhances that approach. The essential setting is a spatially defined area that can be mapped and used to inform the development management process. At each location, the essential setting is primarily restricted to areas immediately adjacent to the World Heritage Site boundary, within significant views or arcs of views, and considered to be most sensitive to development, both visually and from the perspective of archaeological potential”* (Cadw 2016: 16). There is also an increased emphasis placed on the sense of arrival in the aforementioned document and this will be considered along with the three distinct elements to the setting of the castles within the World Heritage Site defined by Cadw and listed below:

1. the intrinsic relationship that each castle has with its town
2. the relationship between each castle and the coast
3. the relationship between each castle and the natural environment

#### **6.3.1.1 The Intrinsic Relationship That the Castle has with the Town**

**6.3.1.1.1** Point 1 examines the relationship between Conwy Castle and its town and the Cadw report states that in *“Conwy the original relationship between the castles and the towns is demonstrated by surviving town wall circuits with defensive features such as wall-walks, defended gateways, arrow-loops and open backed D-shaped mural towers, which allow sections of wall to be isolated when under attack. There is also a relationship between the castle and the medieval church within the towns (St Mary’s Church in Conwy). For the most part, the walls did not incorporate contemporary buildings, with the exception of Llywelyn’s Hall at Conwy”* (Cadw 2016:36).



**6.3.1.1.2** It continues by detailing that “*in Conwy, development was largely contained within the town walls until the late nineteenth century; it was based on the medieval street pattern and the incomplete survival of a burgage plot structure. The greatest impact on the setting of the castle, more so than at any of the other three castles, came from transport engineering with the construction of Telford’s suspension bridge in 1826, the Chester to Holyhead railway in 1849 and Stephenson’s railway viaduct. Increasing car traffic resulted in the need for a new road bridge in 1958 and, as a result of severe traffic problems, the Conwy tunnel was built in 1991 - the first immersed tube tunnel in Britain*” (Ibid 37).

**6.3.1.1.3** As previously detailed the proposed development site is located outside the Conwy Town Walls and is situated approximately 330m to the north-west of the monument. There will therefore be no detrimental effect on the relationship between the castle and town, and any new housing would be an extension of the late nineteenth century and later housing pattern which has grown up outside the town walls.

### **6.3.1.2 The Relationship Between the Castle and the Coast**

**6.3.1.2.1** Point 2 deals with the relationship between the monument and the sea. This element is not of relevance when discussing the proposed development site as it does not lie on the seaward side of the Town Walls.

### **6.3.1.3 The Relationship Between the Castle and the Natural Environment**

**6.3.1.3.1** Point 3 deals with the wider environment, beyond the castle and the town walls, and is of direct relevance to the consideration of the potential impact of the proposed development.

**6.3.1.3.2** The area of the essential setting for the Conwy World Heritage Site encompasses the entirety of the Conwy Conservation together with:

1. Bodlondeb Park and Wood, and associated buildings, which provide a large public open space just outside the town walls. Differences in topography make this a sensitive area for new development that may affect views of and from the northern range of town walls
2. The open areas of the Gyffin Valley to the south of the town walls — development here could adversely affect views of and to the southern range of town walls
3. **Land uphill of the town wall watchtower (Tower 13) – the highest point of the World Heritage Site**
4. Coed Benarth, which frames the southern prospect from the castle and town walls
5. Three bridges cross the river, each of different date and design, and provide the principal approach to the castle and town (Cadw 2016: 17).

**6.3.1.3.3** Within the essential setting there are also a number of Significant Views which identify key vistas both to, and from the monument (see figure 2). The proposed development site does not lie within any of these lines of sight or the defined arc of view and therefore this aspect will not be discussed further in this assessment.

**6.3.1.3.4** As highlighted above the proposed development site is included in point 3 – land uphill of the town wall watchtower, Tower 13. In order to ascertain the prominence of the proposed development area within the wider landscape as viewed from the World Heritage Site Conwy Castle and the Town Walls (including Tower 13) were visited and a photographic record made (plates 29 – 32).

**6.3.1.3.5** Plates 29 and 30 show the view from Conwy Castle out over the proposed development site, and both illustrate that the plot is largely obscured by Victorian and modern housing developments. Due to the topography of the site only the crest of the hill to the south of the site is visible. The case



**Plate 29.** View from Conwy Castle Facing Proposed Development Area - Site Hidden Behind Victorian & Modern Houses



**Plate 30.** View from Highest Point of Conwy Castle Facing Proposed Development Area - Site Largely Hidden Behind Houses



**Plate 31.** View from Conwy Town Wall Facing Proposed Development Area - Site Hidden Behind Victorian & Modern Houses



**Plate 32.** View from Conwy Town Wall Tower 13 Facing Proposed Development Area - Site largely Hidden Behind Houses



is the same for the views from the Town Walls (including those from Tower 13) which are illustrated by plates 31 & 32.

**6.3.1.3.6** Given the site topography, and that the view out over the Sychnant Pass and immediately surrounding area is almost entirely obscured by housing, the effect of any new development would constitute a relatively limited cumulative effect, continuing the historic/current settlement pattern of the town suburbs moving outwards towards the boundary of the National Park. With an appropriate design scheme for future development, the limited views could be safeguarded and the negative effect mitigated against. In addition to the possible avoidance of this area the development and/or screening options, plans must consider the height of any planned structures. This applies to the southern area of the field and is largely a moot point over the northern site area. It is envisaged that, should the scheme go ahead, a Landscape Architect will be employed by the client to consider these points in detail when designing the actual scheme.

#### **6.3.1.4 An assessment of the views from the site over the World Heritage Site**

**6.3.1.4.1** There are limited views out over the castle and the town walls from one small area within the proposed development site, and the varied site height is largely responsible for this. There is a well-established hedge and large mature trees along the eastern boundary at the southern end of the site, which along with a large Victorian house effectively largely screens off the land. If one stands on the slight rise within the southern part of the proposed development area then there is a limited view between the house and the trees. This would however be increased from the upper floor of a two-storey property should one be located on this spot. It would however be advised that the prominent placement of structures on this specific area of the site be avoided/minimised/screened to mitigate any small negative impact on the essential setting of the World Heritage Site. As mentioned above, it is envisaged that, should the scheme go ahead, a Landscape Architect will be employed by the client to consider these points in detail when designing the actual scheme.

**6.3.1.4.2** The views over the castle and town walls are illustrated in plates 33 – 36.

#### **6.3.1.5 The Sense of Arrival at the Conwy Castle and Town Walls**

**6.3.1.5.1** A sense of arrival is described as a distinct element in the setting of the World Heritage Site and may be influenced by buildings, sites or landscape features which contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site, or are part of the distinctive character of place. It is important to note that whilst these features may not be visible to or from the World Heritage Site they may contribute to the sense of entering or arriving at the World Heritage Site. Current approaches to the site are considered particularly sensitive, but historic routes may also be relevant. Due to these criteria, the location of the proposed development along the Sychnant Pass Road is considered to be of significance (Cadw 2016: 19-20).

**6.3.1.5.2** A journey along major road and rail, or water access routes to the World Heritage Site creates a sense of arrival for visitors. It helps in the preparation for the visitor's response and assists in interpretation of the World Heritage Site and its Outstanding Universal Value. Development proposals along the major tourist access routes will need to consider how the proposal relates to this sense of arrival and how it can contribute to it positively (Cadw 2016: 52).

**6.3.1.5.3** Aspects of the setting have a particular value when they help to create a sense of arrival to the World Heritage Site. For example, when driving towards Conwy the route presents views of the physical environment in which the World Heritage Site was constructed, reveals views of the monumental architecture of the walled town and castle, and passes alongside historic assets with links to the World Heritage Site. Route appraisal may reveal opportunities to open up views of the World Heritage Site, buildings or features, assist in determining good development design or provide inspiration for appropriate materials (ibid).





**Plate 33.** View from Proposed Development Site (Southern Area)  
Overlooking Conwy Town - Obscured by Vegetation



**Plate 34.** View from Proposed Development Site (Southern Area)  
Overlooking Conwy Town - Obscured by Vegetation



**Plate 35.** View from Proposed Development Site (Southern Area)  
Overlooking Conwy Town - Castle Just Visible Between House & Trees



**Plate 36.** View from Proposed Development Site (Southern Area)  
Overlooking Conwy Town - Camera Raised Above Head Height



**6.3.1.5.4** In this context, it is important to consider that the Sychnant Pass road is a historic route into the town, as prior to the advent of the railways this was the only route along the coast between Conwy and Penmaenmawr (via Dwygyfylchi) at high tide when the faster, safer route along the sands was not passable. In his travels Pennant describes the route from Penmaenmawr to Conwy, detailing a little of the roads history in the process:

**6.3.1.5.5** *"In past times, it was justly the terror of the traveller; extremely narrow, bad, and stony; and what added to his fears, for a considerable way the danger increased with his progress, by reason of the precipice gaining additional height. Generally, it was without the protection of a wall to secure him in the case of a false step; which might in the loftiest place precipitate him some scores of yards, either on sharp rocks or into the sea, according to the state of the tide. A vein of crumbling stratum, in one part so contracted the road as to excite new horrors. The British parliament eased the fears of the travellers by a generous aid; which by means of the judicious employment of John Sylvester, about the year 1772, effected what was before thought beyond the reach of art to remedy. The road is now widened to a proper breadth, and near the verge of the precipice secured by a strong wall. The descent towards Penmaen Bach, which before was hardly practicable, is now destroyed; and the road is brought on a level for two or three miles, at a vast height above a return of rich slopes, and the deep bottom of Dwygyfylchi, till it arrives at the rude back of that lesser promontory; when the traveller labours up the steep ascent of Sychnant, with a horrible and almost precipitous mountain on one side, and hills with tops broken into most singular crags, on the other. From the top of Sychnant, the road is continued about two miles on a perpetual descent to the town of Conwy"* (Pennant 1883 Edition: 107-8).

**6.3.1.5.6** Pennant digresses somewhat beginning by describing terrible accidents which had occurred along the Sychnant Pass, followed by his musing on the local archaeology and ancient stories and customs before completing his description of the journey into Conwy. *"After leaving the antiquities of Gwddw Glas, I joined the turnpike road above Sychnant. On the left, was pointed out to me a lofty hill, impending over Conwy Marsh. On its summit is Castell Caer Lleion, a British post, surrounded with ditches, and strong ramparts of stone; an additional defence to the country, besides that of Penmaen Mawr. The view of part of Conwy, and a large bend of the river, with its rich and wooded banks, are seen from the descent to great advantage.*

**6.3.1.5.7** *I entered Conwy at the upper gate. A more ragged town is scarcely to be seen, within; or a more beautiful one without"* (ibid 116).

**6.3.1.5.8** The relief which must have been felt by previous generations of travellers upon reaching Conwy has undoubtedly been diminished by the advent of the motor vehicle and road improvements made since Pennant's time, although the spectacular views of the pass have retained their appeal. The arrival into Conwy from the Sychnant Pass has been drastically altered and one does not come upon the town wall, rather one winds their way into the town with Victorian and later housing lining the route. When arriving via this route the monument is not encountered until it appears on the horizon at the junction with Cadnant Park Road which is situated approximately 100m from the south-eastern corner of the proposed development site.

**6.3.1.5.9** There is a relatively new housing estate (Rhodfa Sychnant) directly opposite the proposed development site, whilst other housing extends c.400m further along the roadside. There is an extensive open viewshed to the north as one enters Conwy, but this has become enclosed by the point where the proposed development side is bounded by the road due in part to the established hedgerow boundaries, and in part to the site topography in that there is a rise up from the road into the site.

**6.3.1.5.10** The proposed development site has its shortest end along the Sychnant Pass and any impact will therefore be limited by this factor. There will be no effect on the current sense of arrival as the

monument cannot be viewed from the Sychnant Pass at this point. The site boundary currently screens the plot and the rise to the southern plot end restricts the open views to the north towards the Conwy Mountain ridge which are enjoyed further west.

**6.3.1.5.11** Plates 37-38 show the views along the area of Sychnant Pass road around where it is the boundary for the proposed development site.

### **6.3.2 Scheduled Ancient Monuments**

**6.3.2.1** There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings or known sites of archaeological interest within the site limits. This confirms that the proposed works will have no direct physical impact on these classes of heritage asset. In order to examine the potential indirect, visual impact of the scheme on known assets in the vicinity, a list of monuments was compiled using a combination of the analysis of the results of desk based research and a site visit.

**6.3.2.2** The following sites were identified as potentially being visually impacted by the scheme: Conwy Town Walls, Conwy Castle, Plas Mawr (Conwy), Deganwy Castle and Caer Seion. Viewsheds to and from the monuments were recorded and due to the variable elevations of both the site and the monuments care was taken to ensure that the works were representative of the sites as a whole.

**6.3.2.3** The town walls and castle have been considered above as they are also part of the World Heritage Site and this discussion will not be replicated in this section.

#### **6.3.2.1 Plas Mawr**

**6.3.2.1.1** Plas Mawr is located within the town walls and the proposed development will not therefore have a visual impact on the setting of the monument. There was a possibility that due to the extensive vistas enjoyed from the tower at the site, that there may be a limited impact on the view over the town.

**6.3.2.1.2** Plate 39 shows the views from the tower and the proposed development site is not visible due to the screening provided by the surrounding buildings.

#### **6.3.2.2 Deganwy Castle**

**6.3.2.2.1** Like Caer Seion, Deganwy Castle occupies a prominent hilltop location. It is elevated above the surrounding area, a position which accords an extensive vista over a wide area. The proposed development site is clearly visible from Deganwy Castle (see plates 40-42) and is positioned on the outskirts of Conwy. The site and the neighbouring fields represent an area of grazing between the existing housing and a large stand of trees which runs along the bottom of Conwy Mountain.

**6.3.2.2.2** The development of this site will have a limited indirect visual impact on the monument and will not obstruct the views to or from any sites of significance such as between Deganwy and Conwy Castles. Given the relatively modern date of neighbouring housing, further development will represent a continuation of a trend in the urbanisation of the outskirts of the town in order to meet rising demand for housing, and will therefore not significantly alter the landscape characteristics of this area. Housing is currently visible on two sides of the plot, with further houses along the skyline behind the neighbouring field. The proposed development will not have a negative impact on the setting of the monument.

**6.3.2.2.3** To minimise the visual impact of any development on the vista from Deganwy Castle it is advised that, should the scheme go ahead, a Landscape Architect will be employed by the client to consider the appropriate prominence, scale and appearance of the housing to ensure that it is in-keeping with existing structures and will not be visually intrusive when viewed from Deganwy Castle.





**Plate 37.** North-East Facing View Along Sychnant  
Pass Road Towards Conwy Town



**Plate 38.** South-West Facing View Along Sychnant  
Pass Road Leaving Conwy Town



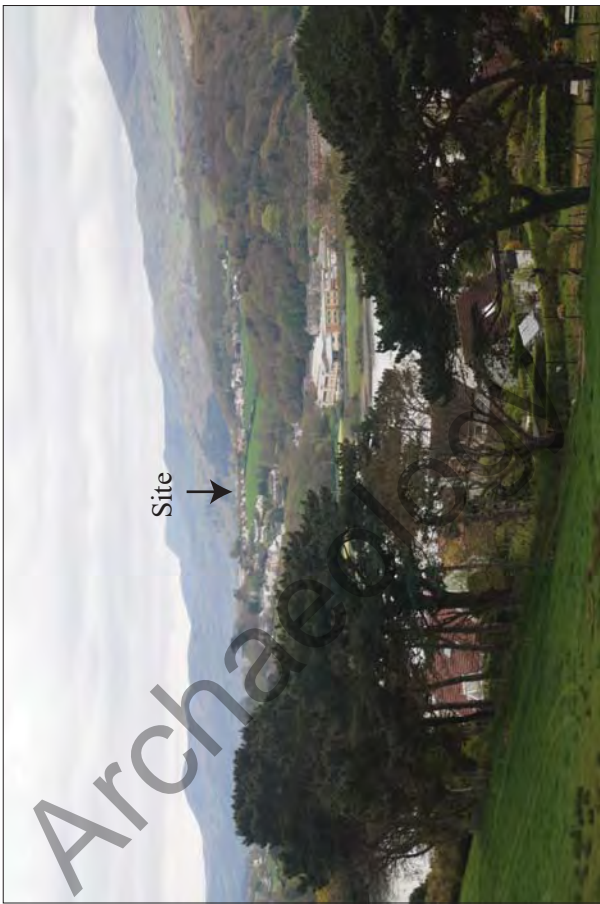
**Plate 39.** View from Tower of Plas Mawr Facing Proposed Development Area - Site Not Visible



**Plate 40.** View from Summit of Deganwy Castle Facing Proposed Development Area



**Plate 41.** View from Summit of Deganwy Castle Facing Proposed Development Area



**Plate 42.** View from Base of Deganwy Castle Facing Proposed Development Area



### **6.3.2.3 Caer Seion**

**6.3.2.3.1** Caer Seion occupies a prominent hilltop location, elevated above the surrounding area, and a position from which it enjoys an extensive vista over a wide area. The proposed development site is clearly visible from parts of Caer Seion. Plate 43 is a view taken from inside the smaller, western enclosure of the hillfort looking out through the main entrance. Plate 44 shows the area outside the main entrance facing the development area. These plates demonstrate that the proposed development site is not visible the main site entrance.

**6.3.2.3.2** Plate 45 shows the view from the approximate location of a second entrance identified on a plan produced by the RCAHMS, and again the site isn't visible from this position.

**6.3.2.3.3** Plate 46 shows the view from the eastern wall of the hillfort and shows that the site is clearly visible from this part of the hillfort, with the site and the neighbouring fields representing an area of grazing between the existing housing and a large stand of trees which runs along the bottom of Conwy Mountain.

**6.3.2.3.4** The development of this site will have a limited indirect visual impact on the monument and will not obstruct the views to or from any sites of significance. Given the relatively modern date of neighbouring housing, further development will represent a continuation of a trend in the urbanisation of the outskirts of the town in order to meet rising demand for housing, and will therefore not significantly alter the landscape characteristics of this area. Housing is currently visible on two sides of the plot, and the long thin shape of the plot will effectively minimise the encroachment as there is existing housing along the longest axis.

**6.3.2.3.5** It is the authors understanding that it is proposed that additional housing be constructed in the neighbouring fields to the west, and should this be the case then the impact of development would be considered more significant. Depending on the scale of the proposed neighbouring development, it is likely that this additional development would have a more significant impact on the vista from and the setting of the hillfort, effectively removing the buffer between the mountain and the town.

**6.3.2.3.6** To minimise the visual impact of any development on the vista from Caer Seion it is advised that, should the scheme go ahead, a Landscape Architect will be employed by the client to consider the appropriate prominence, scale and appearance of the housing to ensure that it is in-keeping with existing structures and will not be visually intrusive when viewed from Caer Seion. The existence of a buffer of open land at the northern end of the site should be considered between the trees and the development.

### **6.3.3 Listed Buildings**

**6.3.3.1** There are no Listed Buildings within or adjacent to the site limits. This confirms that the proposed works will have no direct physical impact on this class of heritage asset. In order to examine the potential indirect, visual impact of the scheme on known assets in the vicinity, a list of monuments was compiled using a combination of the analysis of the results of desk based research and a site visit.

**6.3.3.2** There are 12 Listed buildings situated within 500m of the proposed development site limits, but not lying within the Conwy Town Walls (see figure 2). All are Grade II Listed. They are:

Tri Dyffryn (Cadw ID 3286)

Gadlas (Cadw ID 3290)

Bryn Corach (Cadw ID 3362)

Garden terrace walls and turrets on N and E sides of Bryn Corach (Cadw ID 87426)

Gate piers and walls of former back drive to Bryn Corach (Cadw ID 3361)

1 Bryn Ffynnon (Cadw ID 3324)





**Plate 43.** View from Western End of Hillfort Facing the Entrance



**Plate 44.** View from the Outer Entrance (Showing Eastern Lip of Entrance) Facing Proposed Development Area



**Plate 45.** View from lower entrance along the southern wall



**Plate 46.** View from eastern end of the hillfort

2 Bryn Ffynnon (Cadw ID 87409)  
Castlebank Hotel (Cadw ID 3323)  
Llys Llewelyn (Cadw ID 3322)  
NW portal of Conwy Railway Tunnel (Cadw ID 87448)  
Cadnant Bridge (Cadw ID 87417)  
Bodlondeb Lodge (Cadw ID 3238)

**6.3.3.3** Through site visits and map analysis it was clear that, given the dense urban location of these structures, the construction of housing at the proposed development site would have no impact on the setting of any of the Listed Buildings above.

### **6.3.4 Conwy Town Conservation Area**

**6.3.4.1** The proposed development site lies outside the Conwy Town Conservation Area.

### **6.3.5 Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historical Interest**

**6.3.5.1** The site is located within the Creuddyn and Conwy Registered Landscape of Historical Interest. It is described as *“This mainly coastal landscape, comprising the Great and Little Orme’s Heads and the lower part of the Conwy Estuary and its hinterland in north Snowdonia, contains evidence of highly diverse land use and settlement from the early prehistoric period to the present”*. Although inclusion in the register does not confer statutory protection it highlights the cultural heritage importance of some parts of the landscape.

**6.3.5.2** The erection of housing at this location would result in a change for the specific plot from agricultural to residential use, but this is mitigated somewhat by the Victorian and modern encroachment of agricultural land surrounding this plot which this development would be considered an extension of.

### **6.3.6 Historic Landscape Character Area**

**6.3.6.1** The proposed development site lies within the Conwy Historic Landscape Character Area which includes the Medieval walled town and the planned street layout and, although there is a recognition of the extra-mural suburban housing, there is no specific conservation priority or management recommendation made for this area (GAT 1999: 24).

### **6.3.7 Snowdonia National Park**

**6.3.7.1** The proposed development area is not located within the Snowdonia National Park. The boundary for the National Park does however run along the north-western boundary and the proposed development would be visible from within the National Park, for example from Caer Seion described above.

**6.3.7.2** To minimise the visual impact of any development on the vista from the National Park it is advised that, should the scheme go ahead, a Landscape Architect will be employed by the client to consider the appropriate prominence, scale and appearance of the housing to ensure that it is in-keeping with existing structures and will not be visually intrusive when viewed from the National Park. The existence of a buffer of open land at the northern end of the site should be considered between the trees and the development.



### **6.3.8 The Cumulative Effect of Proposed Housing Schemes in the Area**

In itself, the proposed development is of modest size, and constitutes thin strip of land which is bounded on two sides (including on long axis) by existing residential developments. The development of this plot would therefore represent a limited incursion onto undeveloped land around the fringe of the suburbs of Conwy Town. It is however understood that the adjacent plots will also be applying for planning permission and should this be granted then there would be a cumulative effect on the landscape character of this area of Conwy with housing replacing what is traditionally agricultural land.

## **7.0 Conclusion**

**7.0.1** The proposed site of the residential development is located within an area renowned for its archaeological/historical remains. The area is a palimpsest of different periods stretching from the prehistoric through to the post-medieval period. It is overlooked by the Iron Age hillfort of Caer Seion and by the Early Medieval site of Deganwy Castle. It is within the Essential Setting for the Conwy Castle and Town Walls World Heritage Site.

**7.0.2** This document has considered the potential impact of the proposed development site located on Sychnant Pass Road, Conwy. It has determined that, with the employment of a landscape architect and a sensitive site design, this plot of land could be developed without having an adverse effect on the Essential Setting of the Conwy Castle and Town Walls World Heritage Site.

**7.0.3** The potential impact of the development on the setting of three Scheduled Ancient Monuments was also considered – Plas Mawr, Deganwy Castle and Caer Seion. It was found that there would be no impact at all upon Plas Mawr and the site is not inter-visible. Due to both Deganwy Castle and Caer Seion occupying prominent upland locations, the site is visible from both. As above with the employment of a landscape architect and a sensitive site design, this plot of land could be developed without having an adverse impact on the setting of Deganwy Castle or Caer Seion.

**7.0.4** No Listed Buildings were found to be affected by this development.

**7.0.5** Background research and Geophysical survey of the site has shown that there is the possibility of buried remains on the site, and as it is situated within a broader area of Prehistoric activity it is advised that further archaeological mitigation be undertaken should the proposed development go ahead.



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[www.cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/protection/worldheritage/cstlsedward1/?lang=en](http://www.cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/protection/worldheritage/cstlsedward1/?lang=en)

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[www.data.gov.uk/data/map-preview](http://www.data.gov.uk/data/map-preview)

[www.maps.nls.uk/geo/find/#](http://www.maps.nls.uk/geo/find/#)

[www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk)

## **Appendix A.** Specification for Archaeological Works

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# **Specification for Archaeological Works at**

## **Proposed Development on Sychnant Pass Road, Conwy**

**NGR SH 77449 77575**

**Project Number CR141-2017**



**C.R Archaeology**

Compiled by C. Rees & M. Jones  
on Behalf of Mr. D. Mortimer-Jones



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**Specification for Archaeological Works:  
Proposed Development at Sychnant Pass Road, Conwy**

<b>Planning Application Number:</b>	Pre-planning
<b>National Grid Reference:</b>	NGR SH 77449 77575
<b>Client:</b>	Mr. D. Mortimer-Jones
<b>Report Authors:</b>	C. Rees
<b>Project Number:</b>	CR141-2017
<b>Date:</b>	02-03-2017

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#### **Figure 1.** Site Location Map

## **1.0 Introduction**

C.R Archaeology have been instructed by Mr. D. Mortimer-Jones to conduct an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment at the proposed site of a small residential development (figure 1). Due to the preliminary phase of the process during which these works are to be undertaken there is no definitive plan of the development at this time.

This document has been prepared to supply the Local Planning Authority Archaeologist with information as to the potential archaeological impacts of the aforementioned scheme.

This specification has been written with reference to emails prepared by Jenny Emmett of GAPS (dated 7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017) as a methodology for an initial programme of works. It is intended that the results of the works outlined in this document will inform decisions as to the nature of any further archaeological mitigation strategies or evaluation methodologies which may be required.

The site is located to the west of Conwy town and is bounded by a stream to the north, and by Sychnant Pass Road to the south. The site is currently in use as grazing within an enclosed field boundary system, and the site slopes to the north.

The site lies to the west of the walled town and is within the designated Essential Setting of the Conwy World Heritage Site (WHS 374). The boundary of the Snowdonia National Park runs along the line of the stream at the north of the site, although none of the proposed development area lies within the park limits. It is also possible that the proposed works may have an impact on the setting of Castell Caer Seion (SAM CN012) which is located approximately 1500m to the west of the proposed development. The historic Medieval walled town of Conwy lies approximately 350m to the east of the proposed development.

This Desk Based Assessment will examine the historic context and archaeological potential of the proposed development area and will determine the possible impact of the development on the setting of the Conwy Town World Heritage Site and Scheduled Ancient Monument of Castell Caer Seion.

## **2.0 Project Aims & Objectives**

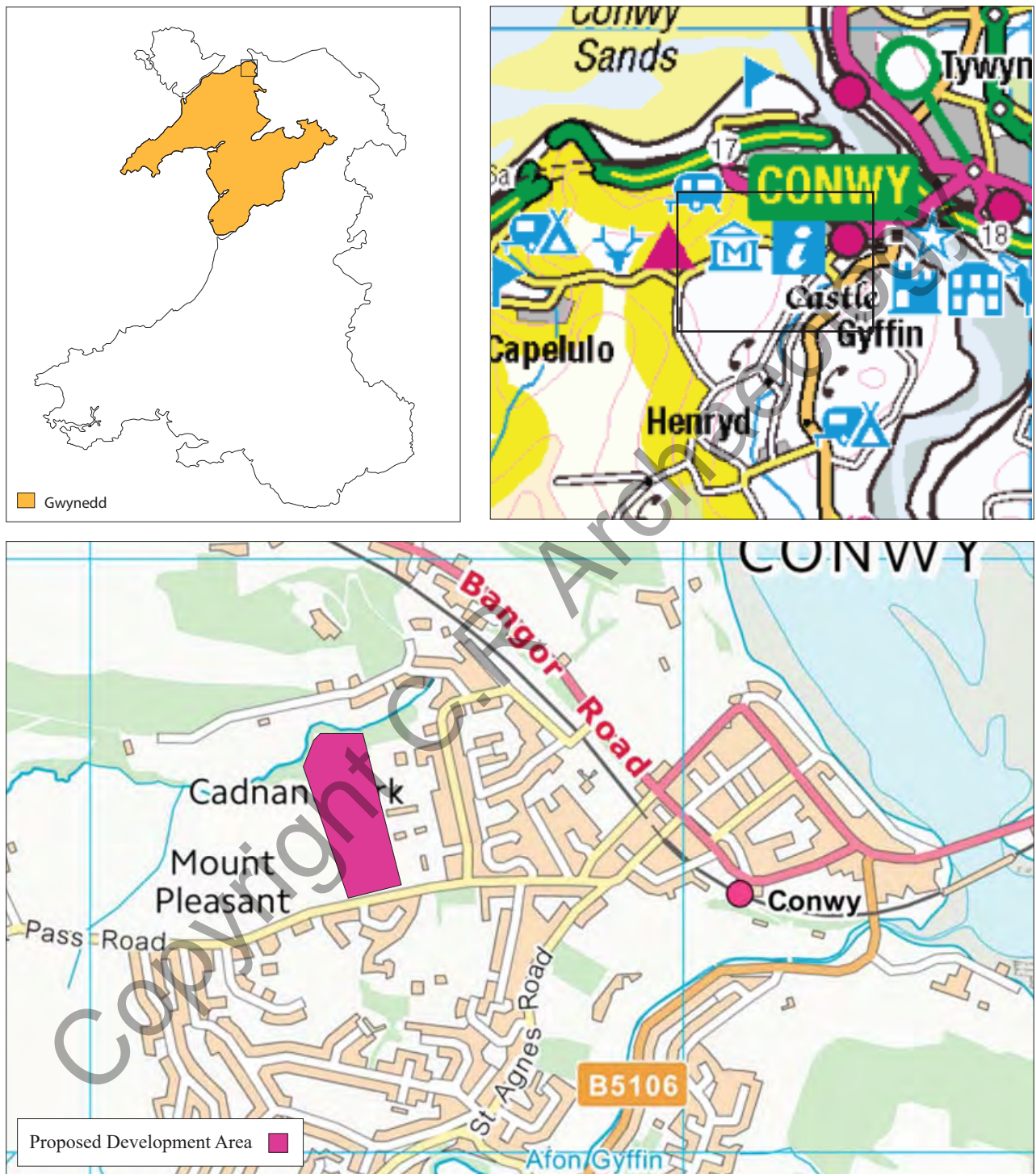
This programme of works for the development site aims to undertake a Desk Based Assessment, Walkover Survey and setting examination of the development site and its relationship with Conwy Town and Castell Caer Seion.

The aim of this scheme of works is to undertake desk based historical research exploring the history/archaeology of the site. This information will include a map progression and archival research in order to compile a coherent narrative history of the site and its environs.

The Gwynedd Historic Environment Record (HER), the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments Wales (RCAHMW) database, Bangor University and Conwy Archives and relevant publications will be consulted to compile a record of known archaeological sites in the vicinity. Aerial photographs will also be examined.

It is intended that this document be utilised to inform further archaeological planning decisions and conditions at the site.





**Figure 1. Site Location Map** - Source: OS Open Data  
(Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017)

The objectives of this programme of works are:

- To make full and effective use of existing information to establish the archaeological significance of the site
- To assess the impact of the development proposals on surviving sites, monuments or remains both within the development area and in the surrounding landscape
- To help inform future decision making, design solutions, further evaluation & mitigation strategies

### 3.0 Brief Historical Background

The following section is, through necessity, very brief and is intended to merely place the site in context. A more detailed history of the site will form a key element in the proposed works.

The proposed development site is located within the parish of Conwy.

There are no known Prehistoric sites within a 1000m radius of the site. There is the site of a Roman camp (PRN 2820) approximately 900m to the north-west of the proposed development site. There are a number of Medieval sites within the study area and the site is approximately 350m from the Medieval walled town of Conwy.

Early Ordnance Survey mapping shows the current field system in place, and on the Tithe Map of Conwy it is shown as part of a larger field.

#### 3.1 Topography

The site is located along the northern side of the Sychnant Pass Road and is bounded by this to the south and a stream to the north. It is located on the outskirts of the town of Conwy. The site is currently in use as grazing within an enclosed field boundary system, it slopes towards the river at the northern site boundary.

#### 3.2 Geology

The bedrock geology at the site is recorded as “*Nod Glas Formation – Mudstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 451 to 456 million years ago, in the Ordovician Period. Local environment previously dominated by shallow seas. These rocks were formed in shallow seas with mainly siliciclastic sediments (comprising of fragments or clasts of silicate minerals) deposited as mud, silt, sand and gravel*” (www.bgs.ac.uk).

*The superficial geology of the site is recorded as “Till, Devensian - Diamicton. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions. These rocks were formed in cold periods with Ice Age glaciers scouring the landscape and depositing moraines of till with outwash sand and gravel deposits from seasonal and post glacial meltwaters”* (www.bgs.ac.uk).

## **4.0 Scheme of Works - Methodology**

It is proposed that the archaeological works be conducted in three sections and each is detailed separately below.

### **4.1 Desk Based Research**

A complete and coherent history of the site will be compiled utilising material sourced from Conwy Archives and the Bangor University Archives. This will allow as comprehensive a history as possible to be compiled. A full map progression of the area will be undertaken. Where appropriate the archive information will be supplemented with information from local libraries and specialist interest websites & journals.

In order to identify the character of archaeological remains in the vicinity of the site a search of the Gwynedd HER will be conducted examining an area within a 500m radius of the proposed works (the grid reference for the search is taken as the centre point of the development area). A more general search will be conducted at a 1000m radius but as this search area will include the historic town of Conwy (which contains a large number of historic buildings which are not of direct relevance to this study) the information will not be discussed in detail. The RCAHMW database and aerial photographs of the site will be examined. The information collected will be discussed within the main report text.

The works will be carried out accordance with the CIfA Standards and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (CIfA (Revised 2014).

This material will form the historical background for an archaeological report which will include the results of the walkover survey.

### **4.2 Walk Over Survey**

A site visit will be conducted and a photographic record will be compiled which will detail any above ground features and show the general topography of the site. Further photographs will be taken to illustrate the setting of the site. The location of any features will be noted on a site plan.

Additional photographs will be taken to illustrate the setting of Conwy Town and Castell Caer Seion as viewed from the proposed development area with additional emphasis placed on the sense of arrival into the town.

#### **4.2.1 Equipment**

It will be undertaken using a 14.2 mega-pixel Sony A350 digital camera with a variety of standard and other lenses. Images will be captured in RAW format for later processing into high resolution JPG and TIF files.

### **4.3 Consideration of Essential Setting of WHS and SAM and Other Identified Heritage Assets**

As discussed with GAPS the following points will be given consideration in the Desk Based Assessment:

- Existing baseline describing the historic landscape before development, including previous use of site and any links to existing developments, including reference to sources used in DBA where relevant
- Registered Landscape(s) of Historic Interest potentially directly and indirectly affected
- Historic Landscape Character Area(s) (HLCA) potentially directly and indirectly affected and which HLCAs are to be included in an assessment



- Direct and indirect effects on historic landscape character e.g. landform, land cover, openness/enclosure, key patterns, features and qualities, including maps to determine likely significant historic landscape effects
- Proximity of sensitive historic assets and their setting

The following points will also be considered where possible. It is however envisaged that, should the scheme go ahead, a Landscape Architect will be employed by the client to consider these points in detail when designing the actual scheme:

- Indirect visual effects; views, visual amenity and types of people who may be affected by changes to views and visual amenity of the historic landscape, and their sensitivity to such changes, including maps to determine likely significant visual effects
- Design details and materials (e.g. whether they are similar to local vernacular, contrasting, complementary; how conspicuous scheme will be)

This will be achieved through a combination of the analysis of the results of desk based research and site visits to examine the potential visual impacts of the scheme. Viewsheds to and from Conwy Town Walls, Conwy Castle and Caer Seion will be compiled. Should further sites which could potentially be impacted by the proposed site development be identified through the desk based works then this process will also be undertaken for these sites. The camera locations and heights will be recorded and care will be taken to illustrate viewsheds as completely as possible. It is almost certain that the site will be visible from numerous positions given the height and scale of the monuments under examination so the exercise will be undertaken at a number of representative locations.

#### **4.4 Timetable for Proposed Works**

It is envisaged that the walkover survey, archival research and heritage site visits will be undertaken as soon as possible. Time has been allotted for archive research, report compilation and site archiving.

#### **4.5 Staffing**

The project will be managed by Catherine Rees (BA (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology) Postgraduate Diploma (Historic Environment Conservation) & Matthew Jones (BA (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology)).

All staff will have a skill set equivalent to the CifA ACIfA/MCIFA level. C.Vs for all staff employed on the project can be provided on request. All projects are carried out in accordance with CifA *Standard and Guidance* documents.

#### **4.6 Monitoring**

The project will be subject to monitoring by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services. A projected time-scale and copy of the risk assessment can be provided on request to the monitoring body prior to the commencement of works.

#### **4.7 Health and Safety**

A risk assessment will be conducted prior to the commencement of works and site staff will be familiarised with its contents. A first aid kit will be located in the site vehicle.

All staff will be issued with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the site work. Initially this is anticipated to consist of:

- Hi-visibility vests (EN471)
- Mobile Telephone (to be kept in site vehicle)

- Suitable Walking Boots & Waterproofs

Any further PPE required will be provided by C.R Archaeology

All staff will have passed at least a CITB health and safety test at least operative level and will carry a Construction Related Organisation (CRO) White Card for Archaeological Technician (Code 5363). C.R Archaeology staff will also comply with any Health and Safety Policy or specific on-site instructions provided by the client or their appointed Principal contractor or H&S coordinator.

#### **4.8 The Report**

The report will clearly and accurately incorporate information gained from the programme of archaeological works. It will present the documentary evidence gathered in such a way as to create a clear and coherent record. This will include illustrations of any cartographic/pictorial sources. The report will contain a site plan showing the locations of any photographs taken.

The desk-based assessment will consider the following:

- the nature, extent and degree of survival of archaeological sites, structures, deposits and landscapes within the study area
- the significance of any remains in their context both regionally and nationally
- the history of the site
- the potential impact of any proposed development on the setting of known sites of archaeological/historic importance
- the potential for further work with appropriate recommendations

It is intended that this report will inform decisions as to the necessity and/or nature of any further archaeological mitigation strategies which may be required.

A copy of the report in Adobe PDF format will be sent to the appropriate monitoring archaeologist for approval before formal submission. A bound paper copy and PDF digital copy of the report will be submitted to GAPS as part of the formal submission. A digital Adobe PDF version and a bound paper copy of the final report and will be lodged with the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record within six months of completion of fieldwork.

##### **4.8.1 Copyright**

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## 5.0 Bibliography

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### Websites – all sites were visited 02/03/2017

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[www.cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/protection/worldheritage/cstlsedward1/?lang=en](http://www.cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/protection/worldheritage/cstlsedward1/?lang=en)

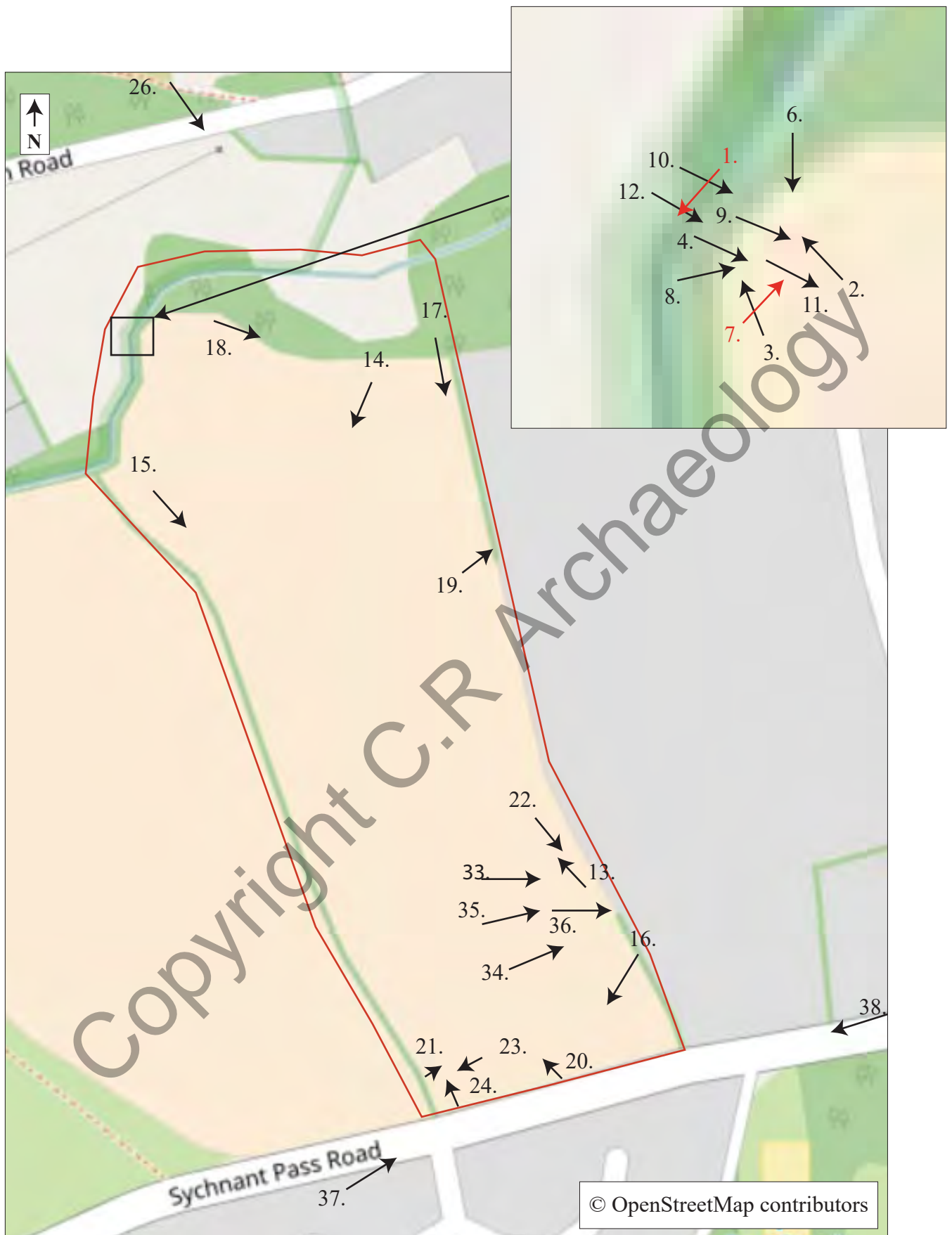
[www.data.gov.uk/data/map-preview](http://www.data.gov.uk/data/map-preview)

[www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk)

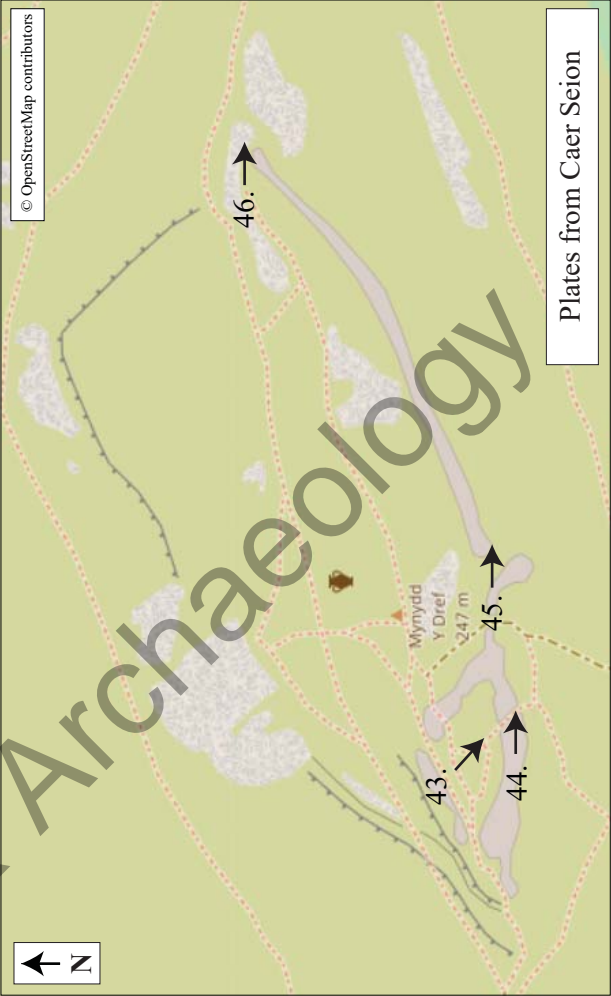
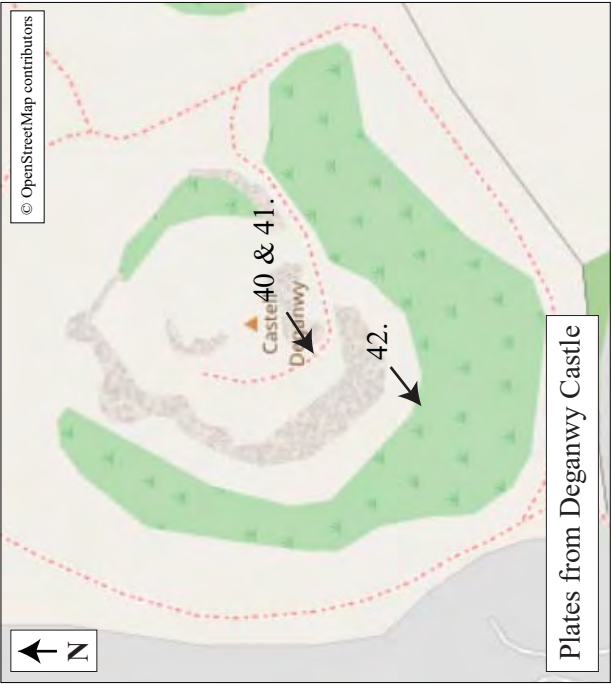


**Appendix B. Location and Direction of Photographic Plates**

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**Appendix B.** Location and Direction of Photographic Plates



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