

**Results of Archaeological Works
(DBA & Evaluation Trenching) at**

Proposed Development on Land Adjacent to Porth yr Aur, Caernarfon

(NGR SH 47717 62806)



Report Number CR158-2018



C.R Archaeology

Compiled by C. Rees & M. Jones

On Behalf of Antur Waunfawr

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Aur, Caernarfon**

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1.0 Introduction

C.R Archaeology were instructed by Antur Waunfawr to conduct archaeological works at the proposed site of a commercial development on land adjacent to Porth yr Aur, Caernarfon (figure 1).

This document has been prepared to supply the Local Planning Authority Archaeologist with information as to the potential archaeological impacts of the aforementioned scheme. It follows the scheme of work as laid out in the agreed Project Specification (included as Appendix A).

The development site is located adjacent to Porth yr Aur, Caernarfon and the site is bounded to the west by the Medieval Town Walls. The plot frontage is along High Street. The site was previously used as a slate cutters yard, and later a garage. It is currently in use as storage. The proposed development plans are included as Appendix B.

Research has shown that the proposed development site is within an area of known Medieval and Post Medieval activity. The site abuts Porth yr Aur gatehouse which is a key element of the Caernarfon Town Walls, and runs along the walls themselves. The gatehouse is a Grade I Listed Building (Listed Building Reference 3861), and is listed as “*an integral component of the Town Wall, a Medieval defensive structure of national importance, and retaining Medieval detail with nineteenth century detailing*”. The tower and walls are an important contributing element to the setting of Caernarfon Castle. The Medieval Town Wall is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Cn034) and part of the Caernarfon World Heritage Site. The proposed development site is within the Caernarfon Conservation Area.

As one element of the project a basic record was made of the existing building on the site. This record showed that within the existing largely modern building façade there are surviving elements of an earlier structure. The earlier structure is a single storey, stone built construction. Original and earlier windows and doorways in this structure have been blocked and the roof level has been raised with the gable ends changed to accommodate a pitched roof. Also inserted within the building were a series of brick pillars which have been added to support the new roof. The slate slab and concrete flooring are also associated with the later building phases. It is believed that the original building was built between the creation of the John Wood map of Caernarfon in 1834, and the survey for the first edition Ordnance Survey Map in 1887.

Three small evaluation trenches were positioned across the proposed development area to give a representative sample of the site. The results of the works revealed that the site had been heavily disturbed in the Post Medieval/modern period. Two of the three trenches yielded the remains of later Post Medieval activity. A cobbled yard surface was uncovered in one trench which is believed to be of eighteenth or nineteenth century date and a later brick and slate drain. A second trench uncovered the remains of a brick and slate drain of nineteenth/early twentieth century origin. The third trench was opened over entirely disturbed ground and the disturbance continued beyond the 0.9m maximum trench depth.

2.0 Project Aims & Objectives

This phase of works for the development site aimed to undertake a programme of archaeological works and is comprised of an archaeological desk based assessment, the compilation of a basic photographic record of the site, and the excavation of 3 small evaluation trenches.

It aimed to examine the potential archaeological resource surviving at the site, and to provide information which will be utilised to determine an appropriate methodology for further archaeological mitigation required at the site.

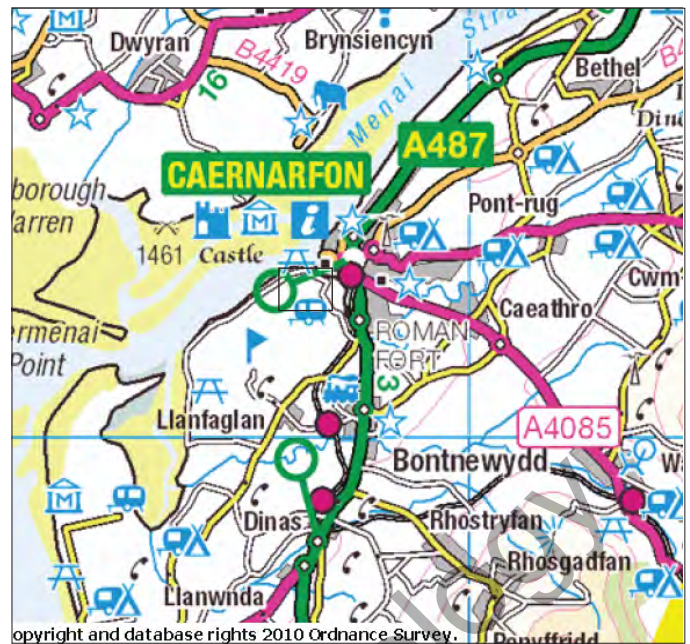
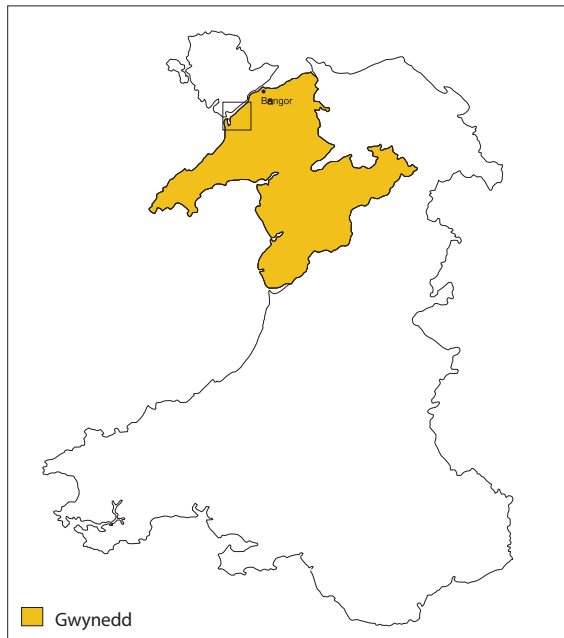


Figure 1. Site Location Map
 (Source: OS Open Data Mapping Contains Ordnance Survey data
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The first aim of this scheme of works was to undertake desk based historical research exploring the history/archaeology of the site. This information included a map progression and archival research in order to compile a coherent narrative history of the site and its environs.

The Gwynedd Historic Environment Record (HER), the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments Wales (RCAHMW) database, Gwynedd/Bangor University Archives and relevant publications were consulted to compile a record of known archaeological sites in the vicinity. The data gathered during this phase of works was also be utilised in the interpretation of the trenching results.

The second aim of this scheme of works was to create a basic photographic record of the buildings on site.

The third aim of this scheme of works was to excavate 3 evaluation trenches - 1 measuring 2m x 3m, 1 measuring 1m x 2m and 1 measuring 2m x 2m (see figure 2) down to the archaeological horizon/natural in order to assess the survival, character and date of any archaeological remains and to excavate/record any archaeological remains uncovered.

This project aimed to fulfil the criteria for undertaking an Archaeological Field Evaluation as specified in the CIfA Standard and Guidance documents (1994 Revised 2008 & 2014).

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

The objectives of this programme of works were:

- To make full and effective use of the resulting information to establish the archaeological significance of the site
- To make a basic record of the site prior to the commencement of works
- To assess the presence, survival, character and date of any archaeological remains
- To excavate/record any archaeological remains uncovered.
- To help inform future decision making, design solutions, further evaluation & mitigation strategies

3.0 Scheme of Works - Methodology

Archaeological works were conducted in three sections and each is detailed separately below.

3.1 Desk Based Research

A complete and coherent history of the site was compiled utilising material sourced from the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record (HER), the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments Wales (RCAHMW) database, Gwynedd Archives, Bangor University Archives and relevant publications. This allowed as comprehensive a history of the site as possible to be compiled. A full map progression of the area was undertaken. Archive information was supplemented with information from local libraries and specialist interest websites & journals. The information collected will be discussed within the main report text.

The works were carried out accordance with the CIfA Standards and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (CIfA 1994 (Revised 2009 & 2014).

This material forms the historical background for the full archaeological report and was utilised to aid the interpretation of the results of the evaluation trenching.

3.2 Evaluation Trenching

Three evaluation trenches, 1 measuring 2m x 3m, 1 measuring 1m x 2m and 1 measuring 2m x 2m were excavated within the proposed development area using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

The trenches were not targeted on any particular areas or features, but rather were distributed to offer as even a coverage of the site as possible. One trench was excavated in the existing courtyard area, one trench near the centre of the building to the rear of the plot and one trench within the main building against the Town Wall. Scheduled Monument Consent was required to excavate the third trench and works did not begin until this had been granted by Cadw.

All machine excavation was supervised by an archaeologist from C.R Archaeology. The trenches were excavated until an archaeological horizon was reached or it became unsafe to continue the excavation beyond the depth reached.

All archaeological features, structures or remains identified in the course of the evaluation were trowel cleaned by hand. Investigation of such features, structures or deposits was sufficient to determine their character, date, significance and quality.

No features yielded suitable material for dating/environmental processing.

The works were carried out in accordance with the CIfA Standard and Guidance documents for Archaeological Field Evaluation (1994 Revised 2008 & 2014).

A basic photographic record of the site was made prior to the commencement of works, which was used for reference and to aid with the interpretation of the site.

3.2.1 Recording

The record forms at C.R Archaeology are based on the English Heritage system and full written, graphic and photographic records were made in accordance with the English Heritage *Field Recording Manual*. The written record comprises of completed *pro-forma* record sheets.

Plans, sections and elevations were produced on gridded, archive standard stable polyester film at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate. Representative measured sections were prepared as appropriate showing the sequence and depths of deposits. All drawings were numbered and listed in a drawing register, these drawing numbers being cross-referenced to written site records.

A high-resolution 13mp Sony Alpha digital camera was used to create a photographic record of the site. This is comprised of photographs of archaeological features and appropriate groups of features and structures. Included in each photograph is an appropriate scale.

All photographic records were indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view were maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number. Images from photography will be stored in a loss-less digital format in this case '*.TIF'.

3.2.2 Additional Mitigation/Contingency Measures

No additional mitigation or contingency measures were required.

3.2.3 Recovery, Processing and Curation of Artefactual Material

No artefactual material was recovered during the works.

3.2.4 Archive Compilation

All records created during the fieldwork were checked for consistency and accuracy and form part of the *Primary Site Archive (P1)* (EH 2006). The archive contains all data collected, including records and other specialist materials. It will be ordered, indexed, adequately documented, internally consistent, secure, quantified, conforming to standards required by the archive repository and signposted appropriately to ensure future use in research, as detailed in the English Heritage *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) methodology.

The archive will be assembled in accordance with the guidelines published in, *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museums & Galleries Commission 1994), *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990) and *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2007).

As no artefactual material was recovered the paper/digital archive will be deposited at the RCAHMW.

3.3 Timetable for Proposed Works

Works commenced on the 9th January and were completed in a single day. Further time was allotted for archive research, report compilation and site archiving.

3.4 Staffing

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

All projects are carried out in accordance with ClifA *Standard and Guidance* documents.

3.5 Monitoring

The project was subject to monitoring by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services who were kept informed of site progress and the results of the works. As the works also required SMC, Cadw also monitored the site works and were informed of site progress.

3.6 Health and Safety

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.

All staff were issued with the following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the site work:

- Mobile telephone (to be kept in site vehicle)
- Safety Helmets (EN397)
- Hi-visibility vests (EN471)
- Safety footwear – steel toecap and mid-sole boots and Wellingtons (EN345-47)

3.7 The Report

This 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 cartographic/pictorial sources. The report contains a site plan showing the locations of photographs taken.

The report includes:

- A copy of the agreed specification
- A location plan
- A plan showing the locations of evaluation trenches
- All identified features and significant finds plotted on an appropriately scaled site plan
- Full dimensional and descriptive detail of all identified finds and features
- A full bibliography of sources consulted
- An archive compact disc

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.

3.7.1 Copyright

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 Topographic and Geological Background

4.1 Topography

The site is located within the Parish of Llanbeblig on a fertile low-lying area overlooking the Menai Straits. The town and castle occupy a position of strategic importance on a spur of land between the Rivers Seiont and Cadnant.

The site is situated next to the West Gate (Porth yr Aur) of the town walls which was the main seaward entrance to the Medieval Borough.

The proposed development lies within the Caernarfon Town Conservation Area.

4.2 Geology

The superficial geology of the site is described as “fluvial deposits” and the bedrock is not detailed. The deposit is described as “normally soft to firm consolidated, compressible silty clay, but can contain layers of silt, sand, peat and basal gravel. A stronger, desiccated surface zone may be present” (www.bgs.ac.uk).

5.0 Historical Background

For ease of interpretation this section has been divided into a brief history of the town of Caernarfon, followed by a more detailed section specific to the Porth yr Aur site and its immediate environs.

5.1 An Introduction to the Development of the Town of Caernarfon

The earliest major settlement within the Caernarfon area was the establishment of the Roman fort of Segontium on a small plateau above the Seiont River in A.D 77. The fort was occupied until A.D 393 and, following the Roman withdrawal this area of Caernarfon, continued to be occupied on a limited scale with the foundation of Llanbeblig church in A.D 433 (Haslam, Orbach & Voelcker 2009: 280).

It is recorded that as part of the Norman incursions into Wales after 1066 Earl Hugh of Chester built a castle within the area of the later Edwardian castle (Williams-Jones 1978: 75). This site and the surrounding area was later reclaimed by the Welsh leader Gruffydd ap Cynan (Maund 2004: 38).

The earliest reference to a recognisable name of Caernarfon comes from Gerald of Wales in 1188 when they passed the town on the way to Bangor (Thorpe 1978: 183-185). Variations of the Caernarfon name appear in the official documents of Llywelyn the Great and Llywelyn the Last dating from 1221 to 1272 (Williams-Jones 1978: 74).

It is clear that there was a major 13th century Welsh settlement in this area up until the Edwardian conquest in 1282 (Jones Pierce & Griffiths 1937-9: 237-8). Documents record the demolishing of the Welsh settlement in 1283 to make way for the building of the English Castle, town and town walls. The walls enclosed an area of ten acres with three parallel streets laid out north to south which were crossed half way along their length to create a grid system of eight sections. This encompassed sixty-five to seventy Burgess plots with each plot measuring approximately 24 by 18 meters (Williams-Jones 1978: 75-78).

Edward introduced the English legal system into Wales. Areas were administered through the formation of Shires or counties of which Caernarfonshire was one. As the county town Caernarfon was to be the commercial and administrative centre for the new Shire (Hughes 2007: 9).

The town suffered greatly throughout the Owain Glyndwr rebellion of 1400 - 1415 but following this period of tension and destruction the town underwent a revival with many of the major local families buying property within the town walls. An exchequer commission in 1613 states that the greater gentry of the area were in possession of much property in Caernarfon (Williams-Jones 1978: 92).

In his travel writings Pennant observed that Caernarfon was a place of lawyers and was rich in timber buildings. The town became a centre for administration in the North Wales area and formed a focus for cultural life and early tourism following the end of the Napoleonic Wars (Haslam, Orbach & Voelcker 2009: 281).

In the early 19th century The Cambrian Tourist Guide states that there where new buildings being put up within the town walls and these new market houses were being constructed with over and under warerooms (Cambrian Tourist Guide and Companion 1813). The growth of Caernarfon continued into the 19th Century and by the early 20th Century was a thriving industrial town and seaport with railways from Snowdonia bringing slate and metals down to quays round the estuary, and to the new Victoria Dock (Haslam, Orbach & Voelcker 2009: 281).

5.2 A History of the Town Walls and Porth yr Aur, Caernarfon

The Town Walls and Porth yr Aur form the western site boundary of the development area. The following description of the town walls is taken from the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments Wales inventory (Caernarfonshire – Volume II: Central). Extensive research of original (including pipe roll and Medieval diaries) and later sources which are not readily accessible was conducted and synthesised by the Royal Commission for inclusion in the aforementioned inventory.

“Caernarfon town walls and gates, together with the castle, enclose the Medieval borough. Although contemporary with the castle they are on a smaller scale and more simply designed. The curtains are flanked at an average interval of about 75 yards by eight round towers, all but one open at the gorge, and by two gatehouses consisting of pairs of similar towers with closed backs projecting inwards. These gates lie at the eastern and western ends of High Street, the one largely rebuilt, the other altered. East Gate or Porth Mawr, is approached by a stone bridge, much of which remains though hidden beneath the roadway and the buildings alongside it. Other Medieval entrances were a postern at the S.E, Green Gate, and another at the S.W, Water Gate, now replaced by a modern archway; possibly there was a third postern at the N.W which was early embodied in St. Mary's Church. Other openings in the N section are modern. By the waterfront the line of the Medieval quay is followed by the promenade. The line of the ditch protecting the landward front is followed by Greengate Street and Bank Quay. It was linked with the ditch of the castle at its N.E angle. The town walls remain substantially intact and are an important example of urban fortification ca. 1300 and, though of smaller extent, comparable with that of Conwy” (RCAHMW 1960: 150).

As mentioned above a pre-Edwardian settlement at Caernarfon is recorded in the vicinity of the castle, and prior to the development of the area as an English settlement it was occupied by a thriving native community. Documents record the demolishing of the Welsh settlement in 1283 in order to make way for the building of the castle, town and town walls. The town walls enclosed an area of ten acres with three parallel streets laid out north to south which were crossed half way along their length to create a grid system of eight sections. This encompassed sixty-five to seventy Burgess plots with each plot measuring approximately 24 by 18 meters (Williams-Jones 1978: 75-78).

The masonry work on the walls is believed to have been completed by the end of 1285, and contemporary with the erection of the walls and the castle, an earth and timber quay was built along the western front. By April 1287 two keepers of the town gates were mentioned on the payroll for Caernarfon (RCAHMW 1960: 150).

In 1294 a rebellion led by Madog ap Llewelyn broke out and, as the centre of the newly established shire, Caernarfon was targeted by the Welsh. The town and castle were taken and set alight and the walls “thrown down”. It is however noted that the walls were unlikely to have been completely demolished and at £ 1,195 the cost for their restoration and improvement was less than half the cost of its original erection. Between 1297 and 1301 further work was conducted on the quay, which is the area between the town walls and the sea (ibid).

The quay was rebuilt in stone from 1316, and it is mentioned in orders for repairs in 1322, 1323 and 1327. It is presumed that the water gate which was recorded as being rebuilt by William of Shaldeford, clerk of works to Henry of Ellerton (the master mason) as his residence in 1318 was Porth yr Aur and further rebuilding/repair of the west gate was ordered in 1326 as it had been burnt (ibid 150 - 151).

Further repairs to the walls were ordered in 1347 which included works on certain towers, bridges and a roof linking the wall walk in order to allow for the walking of the walls to defend the town in times of peril. This work was to prove fortuitous as in the years 1401-4 the town walls bore the brunt of several sieges by Owain Glyndŵr and the east gate barbican was badly damaged (ibid 151).

Following the ascension of the Tudor dynasty in 1485 conflict between the English and Welsh was much reduced and although repairs to the castle and walls continued, it was at a much-reduced pace. By 1538 it was recorded that many Welsh castles were “moche ruynous and ferre in decaye for lakke of tymely reparations” (Taylor 1997: 19). During this period works were carried out on the quay “by the gate called the Gildyn yeate” in 1525 and 1538-9 using stone from Aberconwy Abbey – presumably due to the economic impetus of having a functional harbour area (RCAHMW 1960: 151).

Whilst the stone core of the castles and walls remained intact the perishable elements such as those made of wood were very much in decay, and by 1620 of the castles seven towers and gatehouses only the Eagle Tower and King's Gate were roofed. Despite this the town was in a defensible state and during the English Civil War (1642 – 1651) it was garrisoned by Royalist forces. The town was surrendered to Parliamentary forces in 1646 and in 1660 it was ordered that the castle and town walls be dismantled. This work appears to never have been carried out – presumably due to the epic size of the undertaking and the defences were simply allowed to fall into decay (Taylor 1997: 19).

As mentioned in the previous section Caernarfon was to undergo an unprecedented period of prosperity during the earlier nineteenth century and the population grew from less than 4,000 in 1801 to more than 10,000 in 1851 due in no small part to the construction of a narrow-gauge railway and the slate quay below the castle (Taylor 1997: 20).

The refocus of economic activity on this port area is evident through a change in the focus of the area in front of Porth yr Aur as a promenade. Travel writers of the time record this perambulation which Thomas Pennant describes as “*the most beautiful walk alongside the Menai, and commands the most agreeable view*” and Edmund Hyde Hall as “*a very handsome terrace, parapetted and protected against the sea*” and “*a wide terrace extending from the quay to the north end of the town walls, forms a most charming walk, the fashionable promenade, in fine weather, for all descriptions of people, who, while they inhale the salubrious breeze, may be agreeably amused by the moving varieties of the port*” (Cadw 2010: 13).

In 1852 Caernarfon was connected to the main standard gauge railway line (London, Chester and Holyhead line) which allowed further expansion of the slate trade and ushered in a new period of increased and easy interaction with the wider world. It also marked the end of an era of isolation and self-sufficiency for the town which was to prove key in the history of the town (ibid).

With increased external communication and contact came an increased awareness of the importance of the castle and town walls and these structures which had been neglected for generations attracted wider attention. At government expense a programme of repairs at the castle was pursued from 1870 and was to last for thirty years. It was conducted under the direction of the deputy-constable Sir Llewelyn Turner (1823 - 1903) who oversaw the renewal of the stone steps and newels in several of the towers, restored battlements, repaired the Chamberlain Tower, completed the top of the Well Tower, floored and roofed the Queen's Tower, cleared out the northern moat and removed what he considered to be unsightly encroachments from against the outer walls. The castle as it appears today owes much to the vision and pertinacity of Turner (ibid: 20 - 21).

The familiarity of Turner with the rebuilding of elements of Medieval Caernarfon would begin in 1855 when the Royal Welsh Yacht Club, of which he was Rear-Commodore, took up residence at Porth yr Aur. The building was at that date in a ruinous state and in the possession of three different estates but following the purchases of leases at peppercorn rates the building was renovated and once more became a unified entity (Taylor Morgan 1933).

In 1908 responsibility for the castle, which was and remains the property of the Crown, was transferred from the Office of Woods and Forests (which had become responsible for the structure in 1832) to the Office of Works and since that date has been under the supervision of this office and its successor organisations. Responsibility for curation currently lies with Cadw on behalf of the Secretary of State for Wales (ibid: 21)

The town walls, like the castle, have always been the property of the Crown but it appears that its repair came to be regarded as the responsibility of neighbouring landowners. By 1960 almost all of the structure was in the ownership or guardianship of the Ministry of Works and works were under way to remove structures which were abutting the walls on the land front (RCAHMW 1960: 151). This work was completed by 1963 (Cadw 2010: 21) although certain towers on the waterfront, along with Porth yr Aur remained in private ownership (RCAHMW 1960: 151).

In addition to being part of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (CN034) it is recorded that Porth yr Aur (also known as the Royal Welsh Yacht Club became a Grade I Listed Building (ID 3861) in 1953 and in 1987 Caernarfon Castle and the town walls were given World Heritage Status as an historic site of outstanding universal value (Cadw 2010: 21).

5.2.1 The Later History of the Port yr Aur Area Including Cartographic & Pictorial Sources

The earliest map showing the complete plan of Caernarfon was produced in 1610 by John Speed (figure 2). This map clearly shows the area within the town walls is divided into eight sections. Porth yr Aur is labelled as Plot S - West Gate. Interestingly this document shows that the structure retains its barbican but that it is un-roofed and there do not appear to be any internal floors surviving. There is a building shown fronting High Street but due to the schematic nature of the map it is unclear as to whether this property fronts the proposed development plot or whether it is very slightly to the east. The land to the rear of the proposed development plot is shown as undeveloped open gardens associated with the Shire Hall.

A similar arrangement is shown on a later line engraving entitled "Prospect of Caernarfon Taken on the East Side" produced by J. Boydell in 1750 (figure 3) and it was noted by an observer of the engraving that the towers "*on the river side seem to have been the most ruinous*" (Jones 1882: 79).

On Speed's map the northern tower of Porth yr Aur is shown as being integrated into the property boundary of two large buildings - possibly a town house and ancillary structure. Some interesting research was conducted by W. H. Jones in 1882 which records that as late as c.1800 "*from the Church Yard to Porth yr Aur was then a long open space, without any houses or buildings at whatever. It was called Plas Isaf yard. On this ground about a century before had stood a famous mansion called "Plas Isaf" belonging to the old family of "Coed Alun". This space continued to be open green until the Marquis of Anglesey built the baths*" (Jones 1882: 77). It would therefore seem very likely that the properties shown on Speed's map were the mansion of Plas Isaf and that the northern tower once belonged to this estate. The division of Porth yr Aur between separate estates is attested to by later indentures and this process appears to have rather early origins.



Figure 2. Speed's 1610 Plan of Caernarfon (Source: Jones 1882)

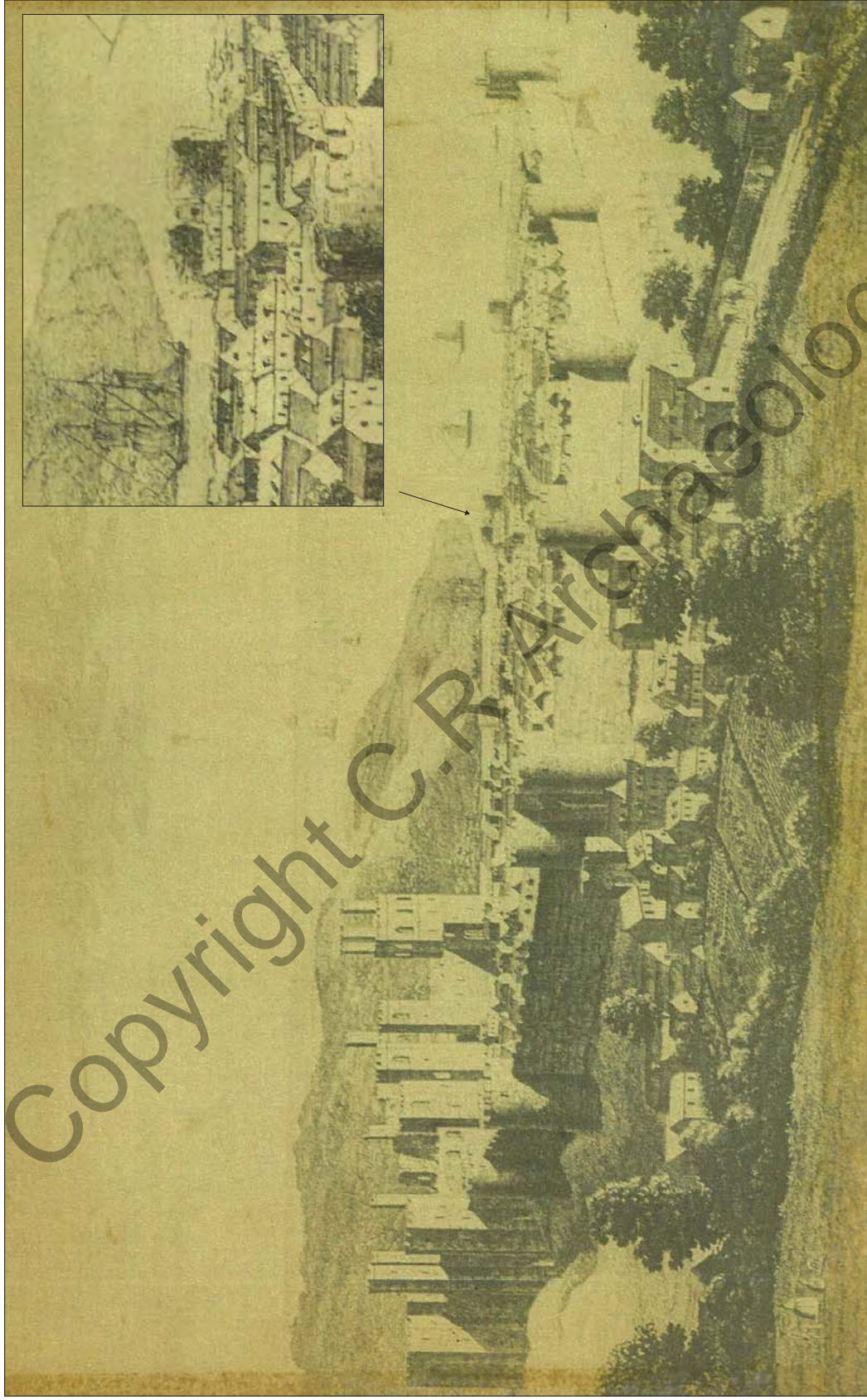


Figure 3. Line Engraving of Caernarfon Castle and Town Produced by J. Boydell in 1750
Inset - Detail of Rear of Porth yr Aur (Source: Gwynedd Archives XS3478/222)

Unless part of the High Street terrace, Speed's Map does not clearly show a single large house in the position opposite Plas Isaf, from which we must presume that the structure discussed post dates 1610, a further high status property adjacent to the Porth yr Aur gateway is discussed alongside Plas Isaf in a further passage by Jones. *“By Porth yr Aur formerly stood Plas y Porth, and near it – I believe opposite it – stood Plas Isaf, both houses belonging to persons of rank or position in the town. The latter was the property of the Coed Helen family, who used it as their town residence, but it was demolished many years ago. Plas y Porth, which was also known by the name of Porth yr Aur, lay in ruins for a long time before it was taken down. At the close of the 16th century, Plas y Porth was in the possession of a branch of the Griffith family of Penrhyn”* (Jones 1882: 100).

On the 25th February 1814 a property was sold by auction at a hotel in Caernarfon. It was described as *“Porth Yr Aer, in the said town of Caernarvon, with the Tower and Buildings, Yard and Garden, containing 22 yards in front of the Street, with extensive Premises at the back; is well adapted either for building two excellent Houses, or for building two rows of Cottages, or for a Warehouse and Merchant's Yard for Timber, Coals, &c. one of the buildings having a large cellar for the use of a Wine, Ale, or Spirit Merchant. This Lot is subject to a quit Rent of one Shilling per annum”* (Source: Gwynedd Archives Poole 4174). This source shows that the southern tower was in the ownership of the property opposite Plas Isaf.

Interestingly the change in status of this area of the town is attested to by the falling into disrepair of the high status houses, and by their replacement as an area for merchants. This is attested to by the relocation of the Custom's House to the area where Plas Isaf stood, and the above article advertising the land/property as being suited to this purpose. Earlier nineteenth century accounts of Caernarfon record that *“the town was usually crowded with idlers and loungers, who congregated on the quay at Porth y Aur or in Turf Square”* (Jones 1882: 100).

There are a number of maps of Caernarfon produced during the eighteenth and early nineteenth century including the Vaynol Survey of estate lands in 1777, the survey of the Glynllifon Estate Land belonging Lord Newborough in 1790 and a plan of Caernarfon produced in 1810 but none of these documents show any details of the town walls or associated areas.

John Wood produced two maps of Caernarfon, the first in 1834 (figure 4) and a second edition in 1848 (which shows no change to the area around Porth yr Aur). The document shows the proposed development plot frontage as occupied by a property owned by the Reverend John Roberts.

This period overlaps with the production of the Tithe Map in 1841 but the Tithe map simply shows where the enclosing walls are. There is no tithe return for the area of Caernarfon within the Town Walls. The larger scale schedule map does show some details of the street layout within the walls and the familiar gridded street pattern is shown but is not possible to identify individual properties from this map.

The Royal Welsh Yacht Club was formed in 1847 and as Porth yr Aur was used as the starting and finishing point for a race in the 1845 Caernarfon Regatta it was deemed the most fitting place to house club as the whole course of a regatta could be watched from the gatehouse (Taylor Morgan 1933: 6).

In the history of the club compiled in 1933 there is an interesting introduction which includes a description of the town, and the Porth yr Aur area of the town in the 1840's and the relevant passages are included below



Figure 4. 1834 Map of Caernarfon by John Wood
(Source: Caernarfon Archives XM493)

“To understand the origins of the Club it is important to grasp the situation during the 1840's. At this time, when the railway did not exist (the Britannia bridge had not been completed, though the stations as far as Bangor were in course of erection in 1847), and the roads, with the exception of the turnpikes, were, according to our modern ideas, incredibly bad, the sea was a natural means of communication. In 1847, for example, the City of Dublin Steampacket Co.'s steamer “Prince of Wales” plied between Menai Bridge and Liverpool on Mondays and Fridays throughout the winter. The steamer “Erin go Bragh” also sailed between Caernarvon and Liverpool on Tuesdays and Fridays. Coaches met these steamers at the terminal points.

Three ferries, at Abermenai, Tal-y-foel, and Moel-y-don, at this time carried passengers from the Caernarvon area to Anglesey.

Shipping statistics show ship arrivals at the port of Caernarvon for the week-end July 3rd, 1847, as forty, departures as forty-two, while thirty-two other vessels passed through the Straits; a contrast to the present day, when for the weekend September 10th, 1932, arrivals and departures were reported as four and five respectively.

Considering the traffic, and the fact that these ships were nearly all sailing ships, thus requiring more seamen and more repairs than if they had been steamers or oil-driven vessels, it is obvious that Caernarvon must have been then more the home of sailors than it is to-day. The whole population must have been rather more than less nautically minded, a situation now reversed.

Local society, too, more or less cut off by bad communications (though it is quite extraordinary how people did move about under the circumstances), thrown back upon itself for its amusements, naturally moved upon its lawful occasions, whether for business or pleasure, largely upon the water.

Yachting now was, as we shall see, spreading as a pastime (there was a regatta as early as 1832 at Beaumaris in connection with an Eisteddfod), and yacht clubs already existed upon the Mersey and the Dee” (Taylor Morgan 1933: 6).

The indentures for the leases of Porth yr Aur during this era are held by Gwynedd Archives and in a document signed on the 12th May 1854 between the Reverend David Williams of Llanfachraeth, in the County of Anglesey, and Llewelyn Turner and William Kirkby on behalf of the RWYC the surrounding area is described. The lease covers “*All that tower situate below High Street in the said Town of Caernarvon and known as the South Tower of Porth yr Aur or the Golden Gate*” and recorded that the tower is bounded by a slate yard to the South East which was in the occupation of a Mr John Owen, Slate Cutter and carver. In addition to the rental of the tower this document also records the rental of a portion of the town walls as far as the property of Mr Thomas Duncombe Love Jones Parry. It states that the RWYC “*will rebuild the South Easternmost wall of the said tower from the top of the present remaining portion thereof to the height and level of the North-West wall of the said town, and roof and keep in good and substantial repair*” (Source: Gwynedd Archives XD 72/17).

It would therefore seem almost certain that at least part of the eastern boundary wall was rebuilt at this time, and the rebuilding of the town side of the tower appears on the leases/indentures for the central section of the gatehouse, and for the northern tower.

The proposed development site is shown on the various Ordnance Survey editions from 1888 onwards (figures 5-8). There is very little change shown between the various editions and we can clearly see the current footprint of the building on the site is established by the first edition, although the buildings have been partially rebuilt and remodelled since this date.



Figure 5. Ordnance Survey Map Showing Proposed Development Site Surveyed 1887 - Published 1888



Figure 6. Ordnance Survey Map Showing Proposed Development Site Revised 1899 - Published 1901



Figure 7. Ordnance Survey Map Showing Proposed Development Site Revised 1913 - Published 1920



Figure 8. Ordnance Survey Map Showing Proposed Development Site Revised 1938 - Published 1948

The site was purchased by the family of the previous owner (Mr Pritchard) in the 1920's and was used as a yard and storage area. This was later converted into a garage and continued to be used in this manner until relatively recently, when it reverted to use as storage. Evidence of the site having been utilised as a garage is found in the vehicle inspection pit which was excavated within the large building on the site.

5.3 Archaeological Excavations in the Vicinity of Porth yr Aur

Works undertaken in future at proposed development site will require groundworks. There is the strong likelihood that the construction of the gatehouse/town wall has destroyed all traces of earlier activity but it may be the case that small pockets of intact deposits have survived.

Should below grounds works be carried out then there will be the opportunity to study the construction of the Edwardian structure. Given the documented Post Medieval reuse of the site discussed above, there is also a strong possibility that material and features from this later period may be recovered. The following section discusses the known below ground archaeological resource in the immediate vicinity of Porth yr Aur.

During a previous site visit we were grateful for the opportunity offered by the owner of the property opposite to visit a well which had been uncovered in the cellar of his building. This structure is possibly of Medieval date and is named Eleanor's Well. It is also possible that this well is associated with one of the two high status houses which are discussed above.

In 2005 Gwynedd Archaeological Trust were commissioned by Cadw to produce "Ports and Harbours of Gwynedd – A Threat Related Assessment". In a discussion of the archaeological potential of the area this document states that the location of the harbour associated with the pre-Edwardian settlement is not known but it is likely to have been both located both along the edge of the Menai Strait to the west, and along the Seiont to the south (GAT 2005: 10).

This was followed in 2010 with the Cadw document entitled "*Caernarfon Waterfront: Understanding Urban Character*" which drew together work undertaken in the area and summarised the development of the harbours of Caernarfon. The Promenade or Medieval Quay area discussed in this paper and it is highlighted as an area of archaeological potential. It records that although archaeological works undertaken in 2006 found no Medieval deposits they did reveal evidence relating to quay construction in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and to the construction techniques used in the foundations of the town wall (Cadw 2010: 27).

Also of interest given the proximity to Porth yr Aur are works undertaken by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust in 1995. The trust monitored a scheme of town improvements in and around the High Street area (Report Numbers 164 & 174). The results of this work revealed that little had survived the late 18th Century remodelling of the street, although the remains of a cobbled street surface were recorded. A number of brick barrelled cellars dating from around this period were also noted as was a "tunnel" discovered associated with the Conservative Club. The relevant passages are included below.

"The main area of interest in Market Street is in the vicinity of the Conservative Club, on the corner of Market Street and High Street. This is the site of both the Medieval Town Hall and later an Eighteenth Century meat market. Speed's map of 1610 portrays the Town Hall as extending southwards across much of the width of Market Street while the location is marked as "The Conduite". The Medieval Town Hall fell into disuse after a new Guild Hall was built above the East Gate, Porth Mawr in 1767 (Jones 1889: 77) and was replaced at the end of the Eighteenth, beginning of the

Nineteenth Century, by a Meat Market, the entrances of the cellars of which were reportedly left open to allow the refuse of the streets to be swept into them (Jones 1889: 77). This building was replaced by another meat market c.1828 with the upper floors being used as a schoolhouse, an arms depot, a savings bank and as a reading and billiards room by members of the Conservative Party (GAT Report No. 118)” (GAT Report 174:6).

“The second feature in the area of the old Market Hall was two parallel stone walls outside No. 1 Market Street, running across the street to within 1.4m of the north-west side of The Crown Public House. They were 1.3m to 1.5m apart, between 0.2m to 0.4m wide and at a depth of 2.2m there was a slate floor. Large slate slabs at a depth of 0.5m from the modern street surface, roofed the structure which was partially backfilled. Approximately 1.25m from the east end of the 'tunnel' was a brick partition wall dividing the 'tunnel' into two compartments (west and east ones). The western side of the 'tunnel' had been disturbed and partially destroyed by the installation of modern service pipes cutting through. There was no doorway on the east side, but the walls terminated neatly 1.4m from The Crown Public House. The west of the 'tunnel' was subsequently disturbed by the installation of the culvert and a manhole entrance, while the west side was backfilled with concrete.

The location of the 'tunnel' in the probable position of the old Town Hall marked on Speed's map and the reference on the same map of the 'conduite' suggest that this feature may relate either to the structure of the Town Hall, possibly a cellar, or it may represent the 'conduite' some sort of street drain for refuse similar to that referred to by Jones (Jones 1889: 77). Jones may indeed be referring to the older 'conduite' when he talks about the cellars of the old Market Hall being left open for refuse” (GAT Report 174:6).

6.0 Results of Archaeological Works

The first phase of the works was to create a basic photographic record of the area investigated. This record is included as plates 1 – 18. The record shows that within the existing, largely modern, building façade there are surviving elements of an earlier structure. The earlier structure is a single storey, stone built construction. Original and earlier windows and doorways in this structure have been blocked and the roof level has been raised with the gable ends changed to accommodate a pitched roof. Also inserted within the building were a series of brick pillars which have been added to support the new roof. It is believed that the original building was built between the creation of the John Wood map of Caernarfon in 1834, and the survey for the first edition Ordnance Survey Map in 1887.

Three evaluation trenches, 1 measuring 2m x 3m, 1 measuring 1m x 2m and 1 measuring 2m x 2m were excavated within the proposed development area using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

The trenches were not targeted on any particular areas or features, but rather were distributed to offer as even a coverage of the site as possible. The trench array is shown in figure 9. Trench 1 was excavated in the existing courtyard area, Trench 2 was positioned near the centre of the building to the rear of the plot, and Trench 3 was located within the main building against the Town Wall. Scheduled Monument Consent was required to excavate the third trench and works did not begin until this had been granted by Cadw.

All machine excavation was supervised by an archaeologist from C.R Archaeology. The trenches were excavated until an archaeological horizon was reached, or until it became unsafe to continue excavation.



Plate 1. Proposed Development Site. View from High Street



Plate 2. Proposed Development Site. View from High Street



Plate 3. Modern Building Frontages Overlooking Yard Area



Plate 4. Modern Building Frontages Overlooking Yard Area



Plate 5. Building Gable/Boundary Wall



Plate 6. Rear Elevation of Warehouse/Garage Building



Plate 7. Rear Elevation of Warehouse/Garage Building



Plate 8. Doorway in Rear Elevation



Plate 9. Window in Rear Elevation



Plate 10. Side Elevation of Warehouse/Garage Building



Plate 11. Side Elevation of Warehouse/Garage Building



Plate 12. Warehouse/Garage Building Interior. West Facing Elevation



Plate 13. Warehouse/Garage Building Interior. North Facing Elevation



Plate 14. Warehouse/Garage Building Interior. North Facing Elevation



Plate 15. Warehouse/Garage Building Interior. North Facing Elevation

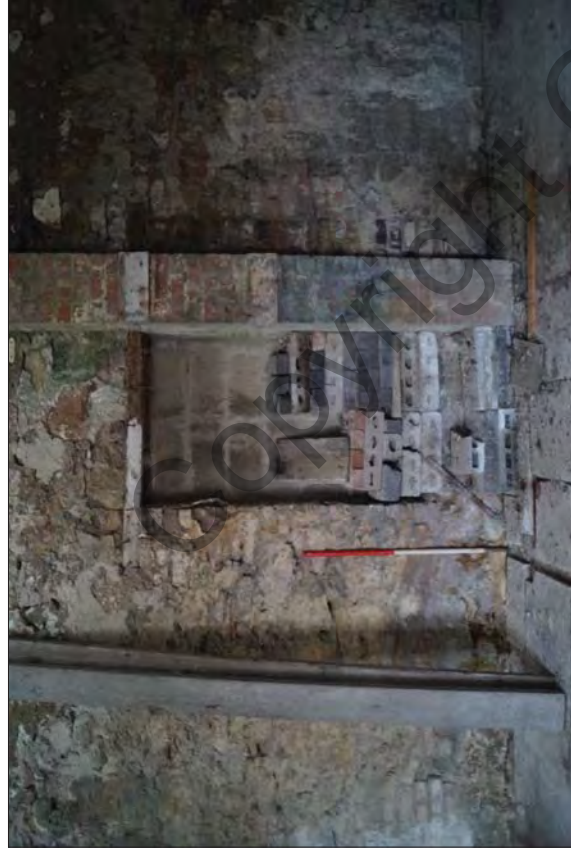


Plate 16. Warehouse/Garage Building Interior. North Facing Elevation



Plate 17. Warehouse/Garage Building Interior. East Facing Elevation



Plate 18. Warehouse/Garage Building Interior. East Facing Elevation



Plate 19. Trench 1 Pre-excavation View of Trench

All archaeological features, structures or remains identified in the course of the evaluation were trowel cleaned by hand. Investigation of such features, structures or deposits was sufficient to determine their character, date, significance and quality.

No features yielded suitable material for dating/environmental processing.

Trench 1 (Plates 19 – 23)

Trench 1 was orientated on a north– south axis and measured 3m x 2m. It was excavated to a depth 0.85m.

This trench was located within a concrete floored yard (101). This concrete covering was between 0.20m and 0.30m in depth. This context covered a mixed layer (102) of crushed brick rubble with smashed and broken slate within a mixed orange gravel matrix. Within this a context was a small, roughly built culvert (103) which ran diagonally across the northern end of the trench.

The feature was constructed using broken half-bricks as the culvert sides and broken roof slates were used as capping. The culvert had no base and contained no bonding. It contained a black organic fill (105).

This feature was above context (104) a mixed black organic clay deposit with similar inclusions to (102). It contained frequent medium to large rounded beach pebbles which could indicate a destroyed cobbled surface. This deposit was clearly of Post Medieval origin. The lower layer reached within the trench was a was a mind orange clay silt (106). This layer was reached at a depth of 0.83m and no features were recorded within this layer.

Trench 2 (Plates 24 – 27)

Trench 2 was orientated on a north– south- axis and measured 2m x 2m. It was excavated to a depth of 0.50m.

This trench was excavated through a concrete floor (201). This concrete covering was 0.20m to 0.3m in depth and covered a mixed layer (202) of mid-brown sandy clay, with gravel, broken brick and slate inclusions. This deposit had a cast iron pipe running through it. At a depth of 0.50cm a rough cobbled stone floor (203) was encountered which covered the entirety of the base of the trench. No artefactual material was recovered from this trench but the appearance of the cobbling was consistent with being an exterior yard surface. On the balance of probability this surface is almost certainly of Post Medieval date, and it is likely that it is of eighteenth or nineteenth century date.

Along the southern edge of the trench and beneath the cast iron pipe was a small roughly built culvert (204). As in trench 1, the feature was constructed broken half bricks sides with reused broken roof slates used as capping. The culvert had no base and no bonding material between the bricks or the slates was used.

Trench 3 (Plates 28 – 31)

Trench 3 was orientated on an east-west- axis and measured 2m x 1m. It was excavated to a depth of 0.90m. It was located directly against the Caernarfon Town Wall.

This trench was covered with a slate slab floor (301), which sat on a clean yellow sand base (302). Below this was a mixed grey-brown sandy clay deposit with frequent small gravel inclusions (303). This material appeared to be a modern levelling material. An early to mid-twentieth century ceramic drain pipe ran along the edge of the town wall with a vertical fitting in the north-west corner of the

0 5m

SWYDDFA

STORFA

Trench 1

CWRT

Trench 2

Trench 3

GWEITHDY

Figure 9. Trench Location Plan

Rev.	Description	Date	Dr.	By
1				



Sylwedd: Stryddeddi Adnoddau
Mae'r Proiect
Yng Nghyrraedd Penrhodri
Yng Nghyrraedd Penrhodri

To: Maelor
Ffôn: 01248 713006
Ffôn: 01248 713012
Email: info@dewisuk.com
www.dewisuk.com

<p><small>Chartered Building Surveyors Project Managers Architectural Consultants Historic Building Consultants</small></p>	<p><small>Historic Building Consultants</small></p>
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Client Antur Waunfawr			
Project Beics Menai, Porth yr Aur, Caernarfon			
Drawing Existing Plan			
Dwg No. D603.02	Rev. 1	Scale 1:100	Drawn By RM
Plot Date 11/07/2017	Size A3	Issue Status SKETCH	Approved By -

This drawing must be read in conjunction with all related drawings.
All dimensions must be checked and verified on site before commencing any work
or producing shop drawings. The originator should be notified immediately of any
discrepancies. Only figured dimensions are to be worked to.
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Trench 1.
Post-Excavation Record



Plate 24. Pre-Excavation Photograph of Trench 2



Plate 25. Cleaning of Cobbles in Trench 2



Plate 26. Post Excavation Shot of Cobbled Surface in Trench 2



Plate 27. Post Excavation Shot of Cobbled Surface in Trench 2



Trench 3.

Plate 28. Pre-Excavation Shot



Plates 29-31. Post-Excavation Record Showing Level of Disturbance in Trench

trench. There was no obvious cut for this pipe and context (303) continued below the base of the trench as excavation had to be abandoned at 0.90m due to safety concerns. This pipe was covered by the slate and bedding material.

The Medieval Town Wall was examined but the wall had been white washed/had a covering added in the Post Medieval period which obscured the wall. Modern disturbance continued right up against the wall and there was no construction evidence surviving within the area examined. When the wall above the level of the trench was examined it was noted that brick infill had been used to repair small areas of the wall.

Conclusion

The historic research conducted as part of these works has indicated that there is the small potential for some limited survival of features related to the Edwardian, or possibly earlier, phase of the town's development. Any survival is however thought to almost certainly be very fragmentary and heavily disturbed by later activity.

The desk-based research also showed that the majority of the plot was undeveloped on the 1610 Speed Map, although there was possibly part of a terrace built fronting the street to the eastern side. Following this, textual sources allude to the existence of a large 17th century town house in this general area, but it is uncertain as to where exactly this structure stood and whether the remains of such may be uncovered during works.

The front of the plot is shown as occupied by a terrace of properties in the 1834 Wood Map of Caernarfon - although this area is not affected by the proposed development plans. The current buildings, although heavily modified and with modern façades, were built between 1834 and 1887.

Trial trenching uncovered evidence that the proposed development area was heavily disturbed, both inside and outside the building. The only archaeological remains which were uncovered were of a Post Medieval date. These remains were an area of intact cobbled yard surface and 2 brick culverts. These remains demonstrate that there is the potential for deposits to survive beneath them, and for pockets of archaeology to be found within the development area.

The disturbance on the site was observed up to a depth of 0.90m, with a minimum disturbance depth of 0.50m. It is observed that, although there is limited potential for archaeological remains to be uncovered during the proposed work, the significance of any remains which might be uncovered is likely to be high. It may therefore be prudent that an archaeological watching brief be conducted on below ground works associated with the proposed development.

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www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

Appendix A.
Specification for Archaeological Works

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**Specification for Archaeological Works
(DBA & Evaluation Trenching) at**

**Proposed Development on Land
Adjacent to Porth yr Aur, Caernarfon**

NGR SH 47717 62806

Report Number CR158-2017



C.R Archaeology

Compiled by C. Rees & M. Jones

On Behalf of Antur Waunfawr

**Specification for Archaeological Works (DBA & Evaluation Trenching) at:
Proposed Development on Land Adjacent to Porth yr
Aur, Caernarfon**

Planning Application Number:	Preplanning Stage
National Grid Reference:	SH 47717 62806
Client:	Antur Waunfawr
Report Authors:	C. Rees & M. Jones
Report Number:	CR158-2017
Date:	23-10-2017

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Figure 1. Site Location Map

Figure 2. Proposed Trench Location Plan

Appendices

Appendix A. Proposed Scheme of Works at Porth yr Aur

1.0 Introduction

C.R Archaeology have been instructed by Antur Waunfawr to conduct archaeological works at the proposed site of a commercial development on land adjacent to Porth yr Aur, Caernarfon (figure 1). The proposed development plans are included as Appendix A.

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

The development site is located adjacent to Porth yr Aur, Caernarfon and the site is bounded to the west by the Medieval Town Walls. The plot frontage is along High Street. The site was previously used as a workshop and is currently in use as storage.

Initial research has shown that the proposed development site is within an area of known Medieval and Post Medieval activity. As previously mentioned the site abuts Porth yr Aur gatehouse which is a key element of the Caernarfon Town Walls, and runs along the walls themselves. The gatehouse is a Grade I Listed Building (Listed Building Reference 3861), and is listed as “*an integral component of the Town Wall, a Medieval defensive structure of national importance, and retaining Medieval detail with nineteenth century detailing*”. The tower and walls are an important contributing element to the setting of Caernarfon Castle. The Medieval Town Wall is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Cn034) and part of the Caernarfon World Heritage Site. The proposed development site is within the the Caernarfon Conservation Area.

This document details the methodology for a desk based assessment and for the excavation of 3 small evaluation trenches which will be positioned across the proposed development area to give a representative sample of the site. The results of these works will be utilised to assist in the determination of appropriate further archaeological mitigation at the site.

2.0 Project Aims & Objectives

This phase of works for the development site aims to undertake a programme of archaeological works and is comprised of an archaeological desk based assessment, and the excavation of 3 small evaluation trenches.

It aims to examine the potential archaeological resource surviving at the site and to provide information which will be utilised to determine an appropriate methodology for any further archaeological mitigation which may be required at the site.

The first 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, Gwynedd/Bangor University Archives and relevant publications will be consulted to compile a record of known archaeological sites in the vicinity. The data gathered during this phase of works will also be utilised in the interpretation of the trenching results.

The second aim of this scheme of works is to excavate 3 evaluation trenches - 1 measuring 2m x 3m, 1 measuring 1m x 2m and 1 measuring 2m x 2m (see figure 2) down to the archaeological horizon/natural in order to assess the survival, character and date of any archaeological remains and to excavate/record any archaeological remains uncovered.

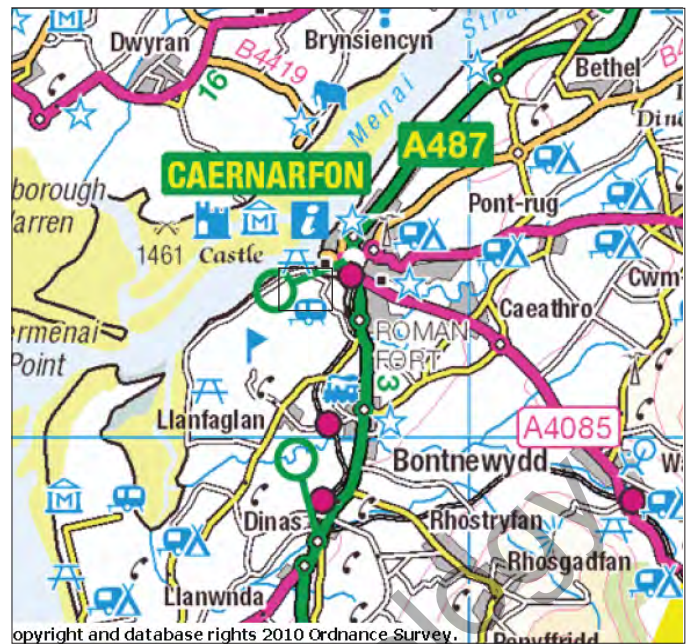
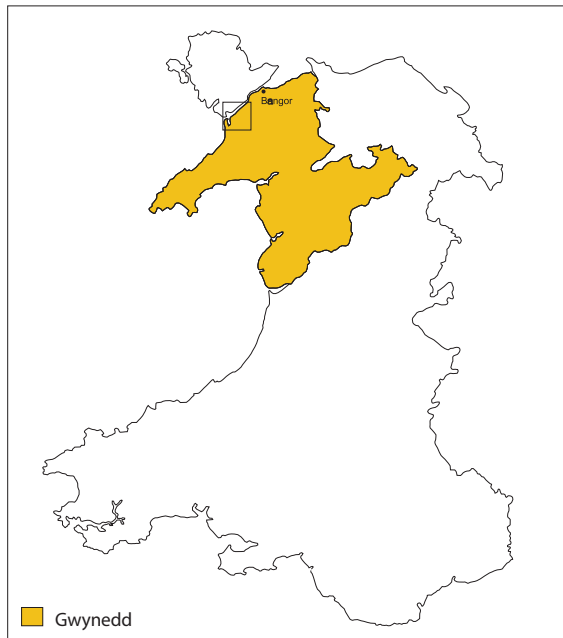


Figure 1. Site Location Map
 (Source: OS Open Data Mapping Contains Ordnance Survey data
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The locations shown on figure 2 are approximate only and there are site specific constraints including drainage, services, an inspection pit and objects within the buildings which will have to be avoided when locating the trenches.

This project aims to fulfil the criteria for undertaking an Archaeological Field Evaluation as specified in the CIfA Standard and Guidance documents (1994 Revised 2008 & 2014).

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

The objectives of this programme of works are:

- To make full and effective use of the resulting information to establish the archaeological significance of the site
- To assess the presence, survival, character and date of any archaeological remains
- To excavate/record any archaeological remains uncovered.
- To help inform future decision making, design solutions, further evaluation & mitigation strategies

3.0 Historical Background

The following section is 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.

Documents record the demolishing of the Welsh settlement in 1283 in order to make way for the building of the castle, town and town walls. The town walls enclosed an area of ten acres with three parallel streets laid out north to south which were crossed half way along their length to create a grid system of eight sections. This encompassed sixty-five to seventy Burgess plots with each plot measuring approximately 24 by 18 meters (Williams-Jones 1978: 75-78).

The masonry work on the walls is believed to have been completed by the end of 1285, and contemporary with the erection of the walls and the castle, an earth and timber quay was built along the western front. By April 1287 two keepers of the town gates were mentioned on the payroll for Caernarfon (RCAHMS 1960: 150).

In 1294 a rebellion led by Madog ap Llewelyn broke out and, as the centre of the newly established shire, Caernarfon was targeted by the Welsh. The town and castle were taken and set alight and the walls “thrown down”. It is however noted that the walls were unlikely to have been completely demolished and at £1,195 the cost for their restoration and improvement was less than half the cost of its original erection. Between 1297 and 1301 further work was conducted on the quay, which is the area between the town walls and the sea (ibid).

The quay was rebuilt in stone from 1316, and it is mentioned in orders for repairs in 1322, 1323 and 1327. It is presumed that the water gate which was recorded as being rebuilt by William of Shaldeford, clerk of works to Henry of Ellerton (the master mason) as his residence in 1318 was Porth yr Aur and further rebuilding/repair of the west gate was ordered in 1326 as it had been burnt (ibid 150 - 151).

Further repairs to the walls were ordered in 1347 which included works on certain towers, bridges and a roof linking the wall walk in order to allow for the walking of the walls to defend the town in times of peril. This work was to prove fortuitous as in the years 1401-4 the town walls bore the brunt of several sieges by Owain Glyndŵr and the east gate barbican was badly damaged (ibid 151).

Following the ascension of the Tudor dynasty in 1485 conflict between the English and Welsh was much reduced and although repairs to the castle and walls continued, it was at a much reduced pace. By 1538 it was recorded that many Welsh castles were “moche ruynous and ferre in decaye for lakke of tymely reparations” (Taylor 1997: 19). During this period works were carried out on the quay “by the gate called the Gildyn yeate” in 1525 and 1538-9 using stone from Aberconwy Abbey – presumably due to the economic impetus of having a functional harbour area (RCAHMS 1960: 151).

Whilst the stone core of the castles and walls remained intact the perishable elements such as those made of wood were very much in decay, and by 1620 of the castles seven towers and gatehouses only the Eagle Tower and King's Gate were roofed. Despite this the town was in a defensible state and during the English Civil War (1642 – 1651) it was garrisoned by Royalist forces. The town was surrendered to Parliamentary forces in 1646 and in 1660 it was ordered that the castle and town walls be dismantled. This work appears to never have been carried out – presumably due to the epic size of the undertaking and the defences were simply allowed to fall into decay (Taylor 1997: 19).

Caernarfon was to undergo an unprecedented period of prosperity during the earlier nineteenth century and the population grew from less than 4,000 in 1801 to more than 10,000 in 1851 due in no small part to the construction of a narrow-gauge railway and the slate quay below the castle (Taylor 1997: 20).

The refocus of economic activity on this port area is evident through a change in the focus of the area in front of Porth yr Aur as a promenade. Travel writers of the time record this perambulation which Thomas Pennant describes as “*the most beautiful walk alongside the Menai, and commands the most agreeable view*” and Edmund Hyde Hall as “*a very handsome terrace, parapetted and protected against the sea*” and “*a wide terrace extending from the quay to the north end of the town walls, forms a most charming walk, the fashionable promenade, in fine weather, for all descriptions of people, who, while they inhale the salubrious breeze, may be agreeably amused by the moving varieties of the port*” (Cadw 2010: 13).

In 1852 Caernarfon was connected to the main standard gauge railway line (London, Chester and Holyhead line) which allowed further expansion of the slate trade and ushered in a new period of increased and easy interaction with the wider world. It also marked the end of an era of isolation and self-sufficiency for the town which was to prove key in the history of the town (ibid).

With increased external communication and contact came an increased awareness of the importance of the castle and town walls and these structures which had been neglected for generations attracted wider attention. At government expense a programme of repairs at the castle was pursued from 1870 and was to last for thirty years. It was conducted under the direction of the deputy-constable Sir Llewelyn Turner (1823 – 1903) who oversaw the renewal of the stone steps and newels in several of the towers, restored battlements, repaired the Chamberlain Tower, completed the top of the Well Tower, floored and roofed the Queen's Tower, cleared out the northern moat and removed what he considered to be unsightly encroachments from against the outer walls. The castle as it appears today owes much to the vision and pertinacity of Turner (ibid: 20 – 21).

The proposed development site appears on numerous cartographic and pictorial sources beginning with John Speed's 1610 map of the town which shows the proposed development area as gardens for a large house. The plot is shown as filled in with a property belonging to Rev John Roberts on a map dated 1834. This is labelled as a slate yard on the Porth yr Aur deeds dating from the 1850's and by the first edition OS published in 1888 the current arrangement of buildings along the wall with a larger structure to the rear of the plot is established.

3.1 Topography

The site is located within the Parish of Llanbeblig on a fertile low-lying area overlooking the Menai Straits. The town and castle occupy a position of strategic importance on a spur of land between the Rivers Seiont and Cadnant.

The site is situated next to the West Gate (Porth yr Aur) of the town walls which was the main seaward entrance to the Medieval Borough.

The proposed development lies within the Caernarfon Town Conservation Area.

3.2 Geology

The superficial geology of the site is described as “fluvial deposits” and the bedrock is not detailed. The deposit is described as “normally soft to firm consolidated, compressible silty clay, but can contain layers of silt, sand, peat and basal gravel. A stronger, desiccated surface zone may be present” (www.bgs.ac.uk).

4.0 Scheme of Works - Methodology

It is proposed that the archaeological works be conducted in two 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 the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record (HER), the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments Wales (RCAHMW) database, Gwynedd/Bangor University Archives and relevant publications. This will allow as comprehensive a history of the site 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). Due to the location of the site within an urban area of Caernarfon, the Post Medieval records will be summarised unless directly relevant to the onsite findings. The information collected will be discussed within the main report text.

The works will be carried out in accordance with the CIfA Standards and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (CIfA 1994 (Revised 2009 & 2014)).

This material will form the historical background for a full archaeological report and will be utilised to aid the interpretation of the results of the evaluation trenching.

4.2 Evaluation Trenching

Three evaluation trenches, 1 measuring 2m x 3m, 1 measuring 1m x 2m and 1 measuring 2m x 2m will be excavated within the proposed development area using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. The trenches are not targeted on any particular areas or features, but rather have been distributed to offer as even a coverage of the site as possible. The proposed trench array is shown in figure 2. This plan is an indication of the trench locations, and will be revised onsite to take into account any services or obstacles which might be encountered. Broadly speaking one trench will be excavated in the existing courtyard area (it will not be located right on the street frontage due to the presence of a drain), one trench near the centre of the building to the rear of the plot and one trench

0 5m

SWYDDFA

STORFA

Trench 1

CWRT


Trench 2

Trench 3

GWEITHDY

Figure 2. Trench Location Plan

Rev.	Description	Date	Dr. by	Check by
1				



Sylwedd: Stryddeddi Adnoddau
Mae'r Proiect
Ynghyngwyl Fawrddol
Ynghyngwyl Fawrddol

To: Maelor
Ffordd Gwyl
Llanfawr
Ynghyngwyl
LLAN 5011

012480 715006
012480 715012
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<p><small>Chartered Building Surveyors Project Managers Architectural Consultants Historic Building Consultants</small></p>	<p><small>Chartered Building Surveyors Project Managers Architectural Consultants Historic Building Consultants</small></p>
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Client Antur Waunfawr			
Project Beics Menai, Porth yr Aur, Caernarfon			
Drawing Existing Plan			
Dwg No. D603.02	Rev. 1	Scale 1:100	Drawn By RM
Plot Date 11/07/2017	Size A3	Issue Status SKETCH	Approved By -

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within the main building against the Town Wall. Scheduled Monument Consent is required to excavate this trench and works will not begin until this has been granted by Cadw.

All machine excavation will be supervised by an archaeologist from C.R Archaeology. The trenches will be excavated until an archaeological horizon or the bedrock/natural is reached. When it is felt that the natural has been reached, if possible the machine will be used to excavate a sondage into the deposit to confirm that it has not been redeposited and that the material is the natural.

In the event of modern hard standing being uncovered, a sondage will be machine excavated to determine the depth of this deposit. If safe to do so the modern deposit will be removed to assess the survival of underlying deposits. If the deposit is of a considerable depth it will not be removed and the trench will be excavated to this level to attempt to determine the extent of the modern disturbance.

Any archaeological features, structures or remains identified in the course of the evaluation will be trowel cleaned by hand. Investigation of such features, structures or deposits will be sufficient to determine their character, date, significance and quality. Excavation will generally involve the removal of 50% of pits/posthole fills and 25% of the fills of ditches/large linear features. Should it be deemed necessary to understand the archaeological remains uncovered trenches may be extended. This will be subject to prior agreed with Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services and the client.

If features yield suitable material for dating/environmental processing then samples will be taken for processing off site. The size of these samples will depend on the size of the feature but for smaller features a sample of up to 95% will be taken. For larger features a sample of up to 40 litres will be taken. In the event of a significant discovery Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services will be informed of the discovery and a mitigation strategy agreed before works will progress.

The works will be carried out in accordance with the CIfA Standard and Guidance documents for Archaeological Field Evaluation (1994 Revised 2008 & 2014).

A basic photographic record of the site will be made prior to the commencement of works, which will be used for reference and to aid with the interpretation of the site. This will not be a complete record as the site is currently obscured by objects stored within the buildings and a full record of the existing structures will be undertaken as part of a later phase of works.

4.2.1 Recording

The record forms at C.R Archaeology are based on the English Heritage system and full written, graphic and photographic records will be made in accordance with the English Heritage *Field Recording Manual*. Sample forms can be provided on request. The written record shall comprise completed *pro-forma* record sheets.

Plans, sections and elevations will be produced on gridded, archive standard stable polyester film at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate. Representative measured sections will be prepared as appropriate showing the sequence and depths of deposits. A temporary benchmark (TBM) will be established on the site and where possible plans, elevations and sections will contain grid and level information relative to OS data. All drawings will be numbered and listed in a drawing register, these drawing numbers being cross-referenced to written site records. A 'harris matrix' diagram will be constructed for the excavated area.

A high-resolution 13mp Sony Alpha digital camera will be used to create a photographic record of the site. This will be comprised of photographs of archaeological features and appropriate groups of

features and structures. Included in each photograph will be an appropriate scale, north arrow and a record board detailing the site name, number and context number. General photographs will also be taken in the event of a negative result.

All photographic records will be indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view will be maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number. Images from photography will be stored in a loss-less digital format in this case '*.TIF'.

4.2.2 Additional Mitigation/Contingency Measures

In the event of a significant archaeological discovery being made during the excavation, C.R Archaeology will immediately inform both the client and the development control archaeologist Jenny Emmett. Consultation will take place between C.R Archaeology, Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services and the client with regards to the most suitable course of action.

In the event that human remains are encountered site work will cease with immediate effect. The coroner, client and monitoring body will be informed immediately. The company will abide by the requirements of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857. Any arrangements regarding the discovery of human remains will be at the discretion of HM Coroner whose instruction/permission will be sought.

All human remains are to be preserved *in situ*, covered and protected. They will only be removed in exceptional circumstances and with the appropriate Ministry of Justice licence, environmental health regulations, Coroner's permission and, if appropriate, in compliance with the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981 or other local Act, with adequate security provided in such cases.

Any artefacts recovered that fall within the scope of the Treasure Act 1996 will be reported to the landowner, Clwyd Powys Archaeological Planning Services and to HM Coroner.

4.2.3 Recovery, Processing and Curation of Artefactual Material

All recovered artefactual material will be retained, cleaned, labelled and stored according to *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2008 revised 2014)* and *First Aid for Finds (Watkinson & Neal 2001)*. The aim will be to create a stable, ordered, well-documented, accessible material archive forming a resource for current and future research (CIfA 2008, revised 2014).

All artefactual material will be bagged and labelled with the site code and context number prior to their removal from site. The archive reference number will be clearly marked on all finds. Each assemblage will be examined according to typological or chronological criteria and conservation needs identified. An assessment report of all post-medieval material will be produced by Matthew Jones, prehistoric pottery will be examined by Frances Lynch and lithics by Dr Ian Brooks. A list of further specialists will be submitted to GAPS if necessary and the relevant expertise will be sought. Any specialist conservation necessary will be undertaken by Cardiff Conservation Services, Cardiff University. This will be conducted in accordance with guidelines issued by the Institute for Conservation.

Following analysis, it is hoped that all archaeological material recovered will be deposited in the local county museum. The landowner does however reserve the right to retain any artefacts recovered.

Processed assemblages will be boxed according to issued guidelines and a register of contents compiled prior to deposition. The works will be carried out in accordance with The Institute for Archaeologists: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (Revised 2008 & 2014).

4.2.4 Archive Compilation

All records created during the fieldwork will be checked for consistency and accuracy and will form part of the *Primary Site Archive (P1)* (EH 2006). The archive will contain all data collected, including records and other specialist materials. It will be ordered, indexed, adequately documented, internally consistent, secure, quantified, conforming to standards required by the archive repository and signposted appropriately to ensure future use in research, as detailed in the English Heritage *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) methodology.

The archive will be assembled in accordance with the guidelines published in, *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museums & Galleries Commission 1994), *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990) and *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2007).

All materials contained within the *Primary Site Archive (P1)* that are subsequently identified by the *Assessment Report (P2)* as appropriate for analysis will be processed by suitable specialists and the resultant *Research Archive (P3)* will be checked and ordered according to *MoRPHE* criteria. It is hoped that any archive/artefactual material created/discovered during this archaeological project will be deposited at the county museum. Archive material will be deposited in accordance with the museum's terms and conditions for archive deposition. In the event that no artefactual material is recovered or that the material is retained by the landowner the paper/digital archive will be deposited at the RCAHMS.

4.3 Timetable for Proposed Works

It is envisaged that the evaluation trenching will commence within the next fortnight and an estimated time frame of 2-6 days has been allotted for the fieldwork. Further time has been allotted for archive research, report compilation and site archiving.

4.4 Staffing

The project will be managed by Catherine Rees MCIfA, BA (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology) Postgraduate Diploma (Historic Environment Conservation) & Matthew Jones (BA (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology)). The fieldwork will be conducted by Catherine Rees or Matthew Jones with additional suitably qualified field staff brought in as necessary.

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.

4.5 Monitoring

The project will be subject to monitoring by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services who will be kept informed of site progress and the results of the works. A site visit will be arranged as necessary. As the works also required SMC then Cadw will also be monitoring the site works and will be informed on site progress and a site visit will be arranged.

4.6 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:

- Mobile telephone (to be kept in site vehicle)
- Safety Helmets (EN397)
- Hi-visibility vests (EN471)
- Safety footwear – steel toecap and mid-sole boots and Wellingtons (EN345-47)

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

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.

4.7 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 report will include:

- A copy of the agreed specification
- A location plan
- A plan showing the locations of evaluation trenches
- All identified features and significant finds plotted on an appropriately scaled site plan
- Full dimensional and descriptive detail of all identified finds and features
- A full bibliography of sources consulted
- An archive compact disc

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.

4.7.1 Copyright

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.

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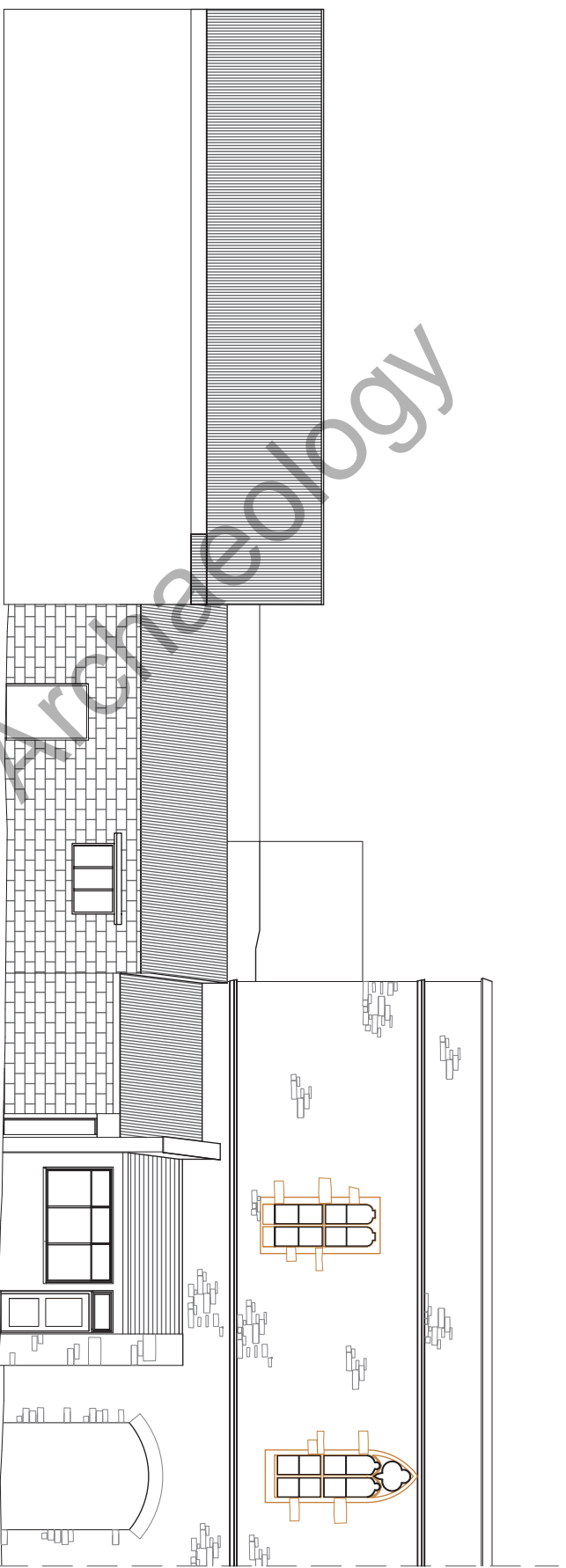
www.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html

www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

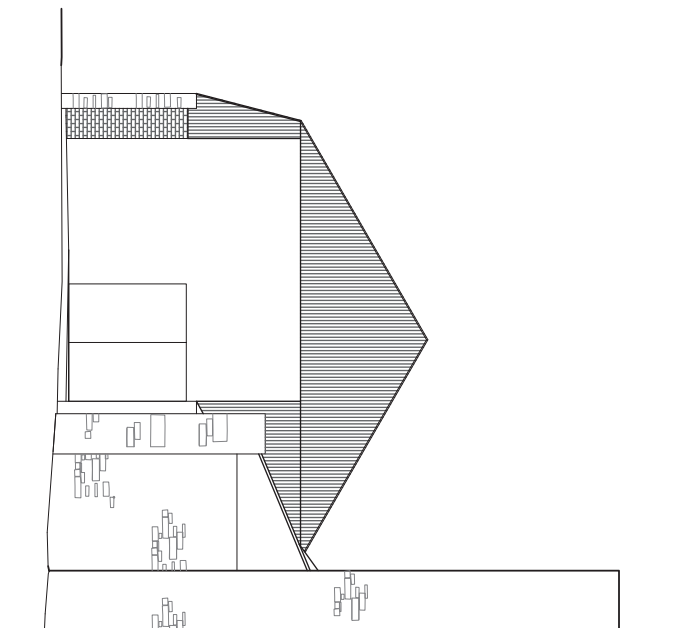
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Appendix B.
Proposed Development Plans


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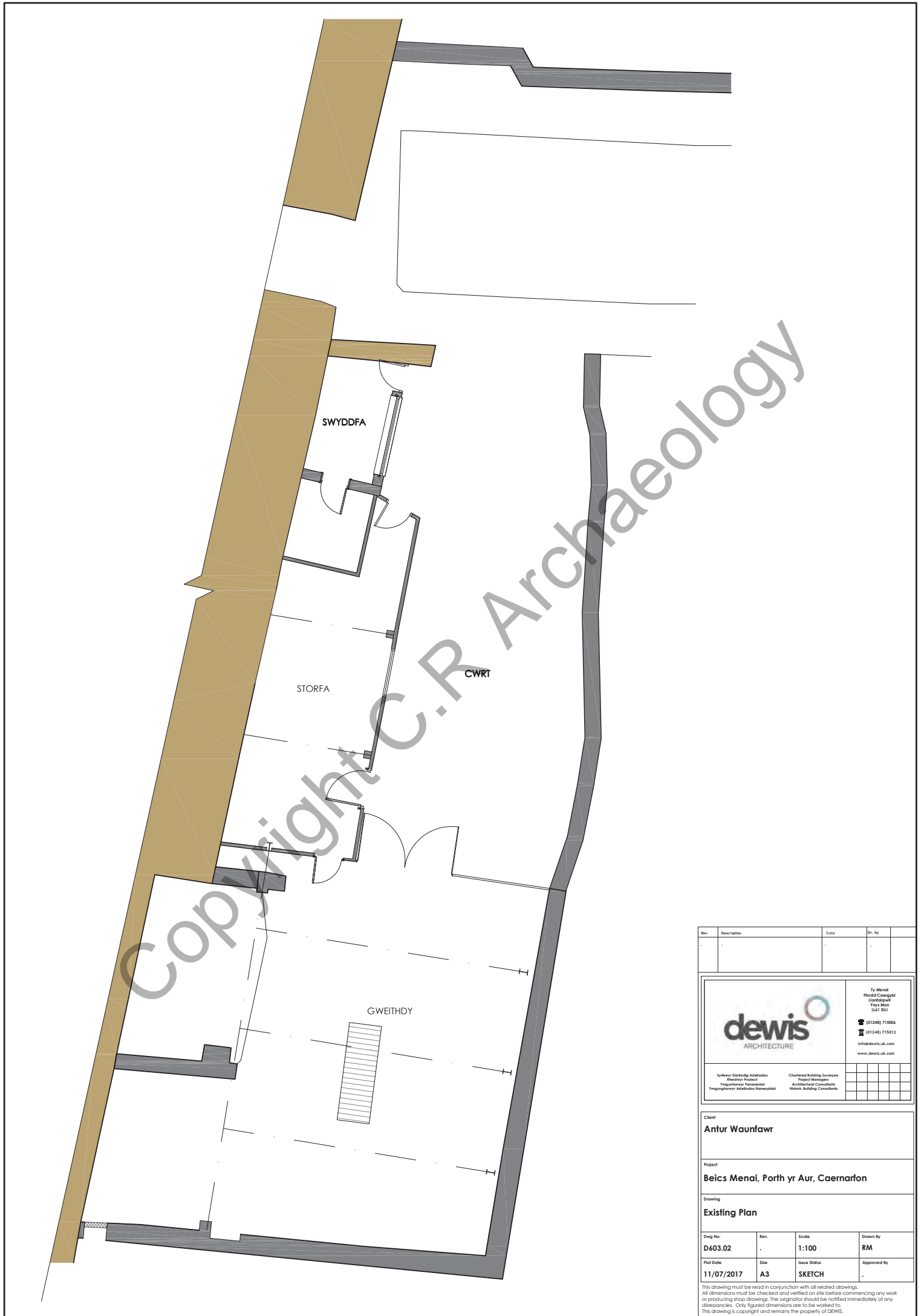
SIDE ELEVATION




ELEVATION FROM FRONT APPROACH

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Client	Arthur Woulfoer			
Project	Porth yr Aur, Coernamon			
Drawings	Existing Elevations			
	Draw No.	Rev.	Scale	Drawn by
	D603.04	*	1:100	RM
	Print Date	Size	Sheet Number	Approved by
	19/07/2017	A3	Pre-App	*



Rev	Description	Date	Dr.	By
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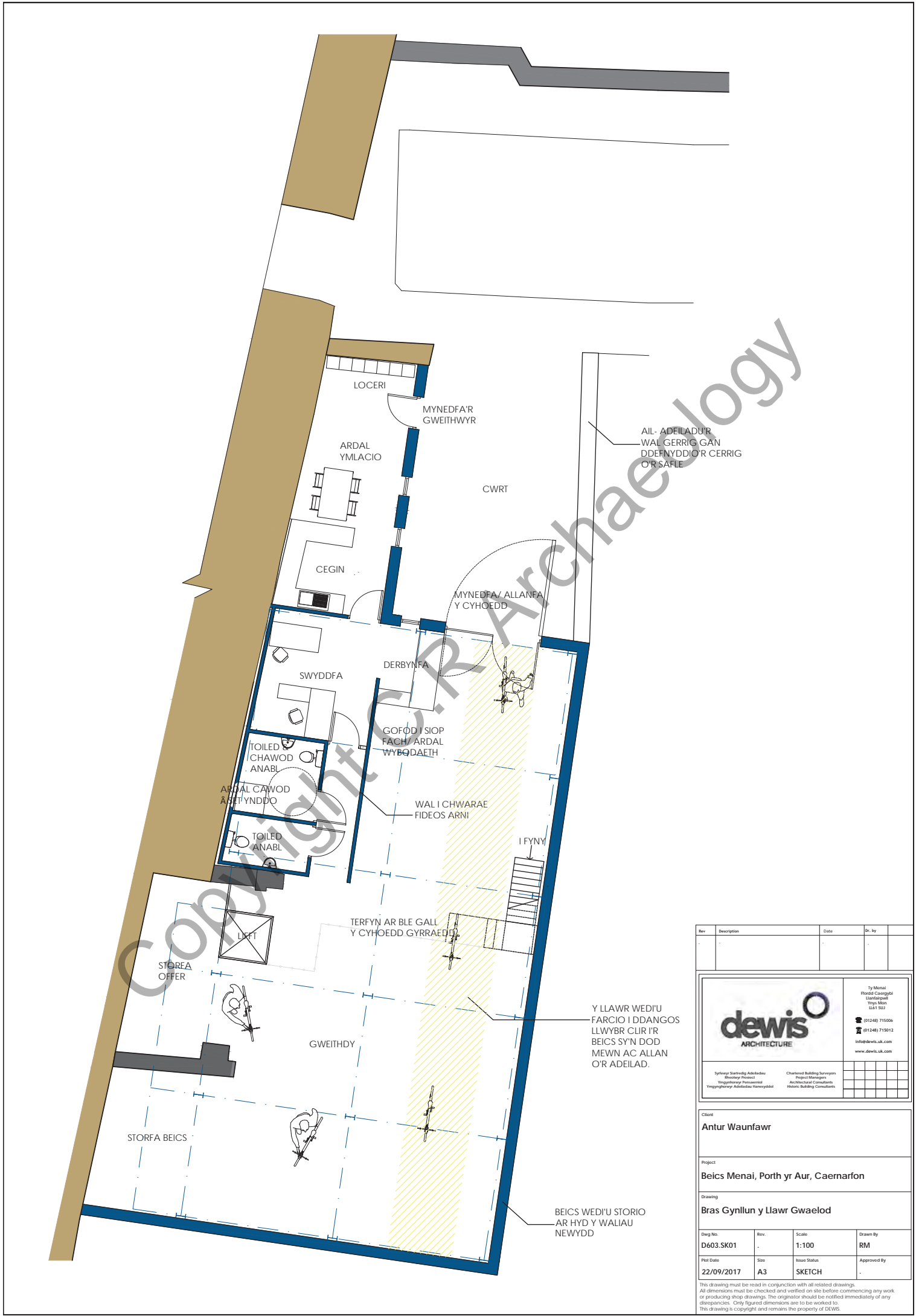


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Ffordd Capelgwyn
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Sylweddwr: Sionedwg Adalabod	Chofreodwr: Sionedwg Adalabod
Bleddwr: Rhys Iwan	Proffesiynwr: Rhys Iwan
Ymgynghorwr: Rhys Iwan	Architect: Rhys Iwan
	Historic Building Consultants

Client	Antur Waunfawr		
Project	Beics Menai, Porth yr Aur, Caernarfon		
Drawing	Existing Plan		
Dwg No.	Rev.	Scale	Drawn By
D603.02	-	1:100	RM
Plot Date	Size	Issue Status	Approved By
11/07/2017	A3	SKETCH	-

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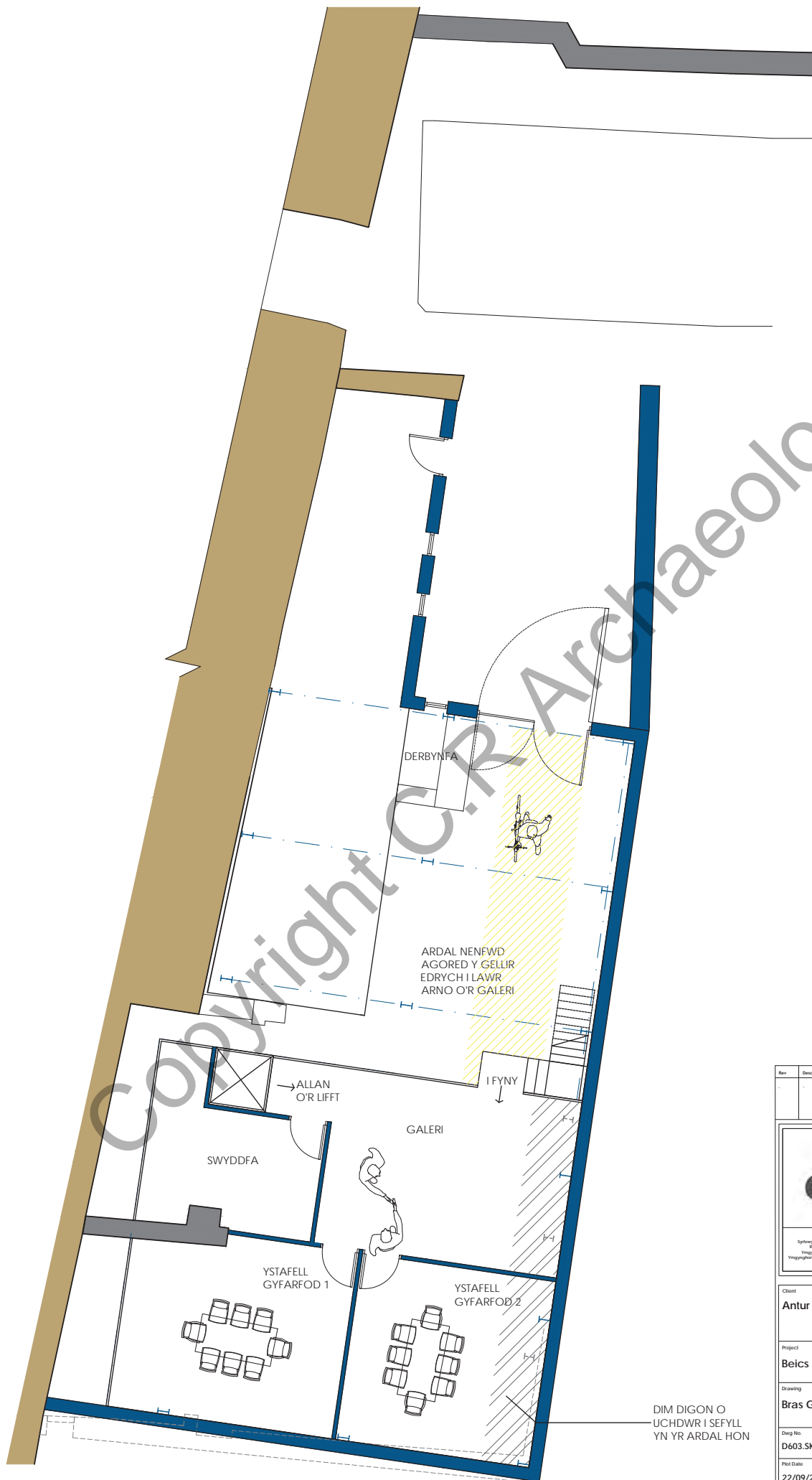


Rev	Description	Date	Dr. by	

	<p>Ty Menai Florida Caernghyl Llanfairpwll Ynys Môn LL51 9JZ (01248) 715006 (01248) 715012 info@dewis.uk.com www.dewis.uk.com</p>
<p><small>Sylweddwr: Sefnddwr Adilddau Deddfwr: Rhedwr Ymgynghwrwr: Penrhawddwr Ymgynghwrwr: Adilddau Hanesyddol</small></p>	<p><small>Chartered Building Surveyors Project Managers Architectural Consultants Historic Building Consultants</small></p>

Client Antur Waunfawr			
Project Beics Menai, Porth yr Aur, Caernarfon			
Drawing Bras Gynllun y Llawr Gwaelod			
Dwg No. D603.SK01	Rev. -	Scale 1:100	Drawn By RM
Plot Date 22/09/2017	Size A3	Issue Status SKETCH	Approved By -

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Sylweddwr: Strydwrdd Adreiddio Rheolwr: Rheolwr Ymgynghwr: Rheolwr Ymgynghwr: Rheolwr	Rheolwr: Rheolwr Rheolwr: Rheolwr Rheolwr: Rheolwr Rheolwr: Rheolwr		

Client
Antur Waunfawr

Project
Beics Menai, Porth yr Aur, Caernarfon

Drawing
Bras Gynllun yr Llawr Cyntaf

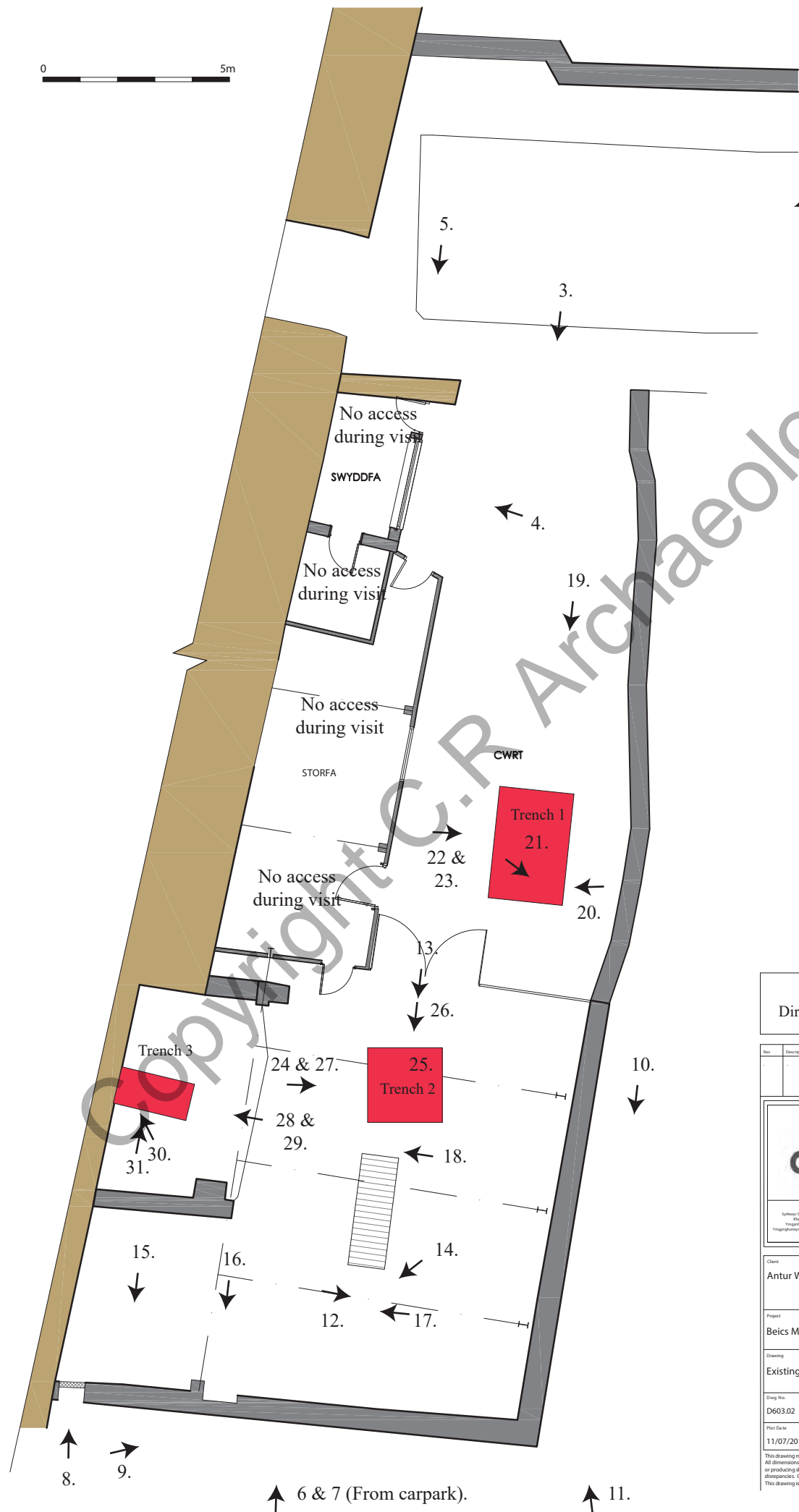
Dwg No.	Rev.	Scale	Drawn By
D603.SK02	-	1:100	RM
Plot Date	Size	Issue Status	Approved By
22/09/2017	A3	SKETCH	-

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Appendix C.
Location and Direction of Photographic Plates

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0 5m



Appendix C. Location & Direction of Photographic Plates

Rev.	Description	Date	Dr. by

Ty Mawr
 Ffordd Gwynfa
 Llanfawr
 Ynys Môn
 LL55 5JJ
 01248 713006
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 info@dewisuk.com
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Sylwedd Strydysydd Adnabyddus
 Rheolwr Proiect
 Yng Nghyngor Penrhyn
 Yng Nghyngor Adnabyddus Penrhyn

Chofreolwr Strydysydd
 Rheolwr Proiect
 Adnabyddus Penrhyn
 Rheolwr Proiect

Client

Antur Waunfawr

Project

Beics Menai, Porth yr Aur, Caernarfon

Drawing

Existing Plan

Draw No.	Rev.	Scale	Drawn By
D603.02	1	1:100	RM

Plot Date	Size	Issue Status	Approved By
11/07/2017	A3	SKETCH	

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6 & 7 (From carpark).

11.