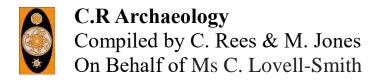
Results of Archaeological Works (Evaluation Trenching) at

Proposed Development on Land At Y Bluen Goch, Dwygyfylchi, Conwy

NGR SH 73731 77557

Report Number CR164-2018



Results of Archaeological Works (Evaluation Trenching) at:

Proposed Development on Land at Y Bluen

Planning Application Number: 0/44691

National Grid Reference: SH 73731 77557
Client: Ms C. Lovell-Smith
C. Rees & M. Jones

Goch, Dwygyfylchi, Conwy

Report Number: CR164-2018 **Date:** 12-03-2018

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1.0 Introduction

- **1.0**.1 C. R Archaeology were instructed by Ms C. Lovell-Smith to conduct archaeological works at the proposed site of a commercial development on land at Y Bluen Goch, Dwygyfylchi, Conwy (figure 1). The proposed development plans are included as Appendix A.
- **1.0.2** A specification (included as Appendix B) was written with reference to a discussion with Jenny Emmett of GAPS as a methodology for an initial programme of works. It is intended that 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.
- **1.0.3** 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**.4 The proposed development site is located off Glan-Yr-Afon Road, in the northern outskirts of the coastal village of Dwygyfylchi. The site is currently part of the large grounds of Y Bluen Goch and is enclosed within an established screen of trees and hedgerows.
- 1.0.5 Development Control Archaeologist Jenny Emmett (letter ref: 0104je01/D3230) had noted that although the Historic Environment Record holds few records for the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site, extensive prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval extensive archaeology is recorded in the upland areas to the south and east. She stated that this is likely to reflect the visibility of remains in the upland in comparison to the developed coastal strip rather than presenting a representative picture of the archaeology of the area.
- **1.0**.6 Also remarked upon in the above document is a possible feature within the proposed development area which is described as appearing to be a "small enclosure or former structure, part of which appears to survive as a linear earthwork. This feature may alternatively represent a series of former field boundaries, but it does not correspond to any mapped historic boundaries and is overlain by plough marks, suggesting that it is not of recent origin".
- 1.0.7 This document details the results of the excavation of 3 small evaluation trenches which were positioned to establish whether the feature was of natural, recent or archaeological origin. The results of these works will be utilised to assist in the determination of appropriate further archaeological mitigation at the site.
- **1.0**.8 On excavation, the feature was found to have been cut from the subsoil level and was found to contain 20th century material. The feature was shallow in depth and did not cut in to the underlying natural. This feature has been interpreted as an unrecorded 20th century garden feature.

2.0 Project Aims & Objectives

- **2.0**.1 This phase of works for the development site aimed to undertake a programme of archaeological works and was comprised of the excavation of 3 small evaluation trenches.
- **2.0.2** 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 any further archaeological mitigation which may be required at the site. This was limited to the evaluation of a "small enclosure or former structure, part of which appears to survive as a linear earthwork".

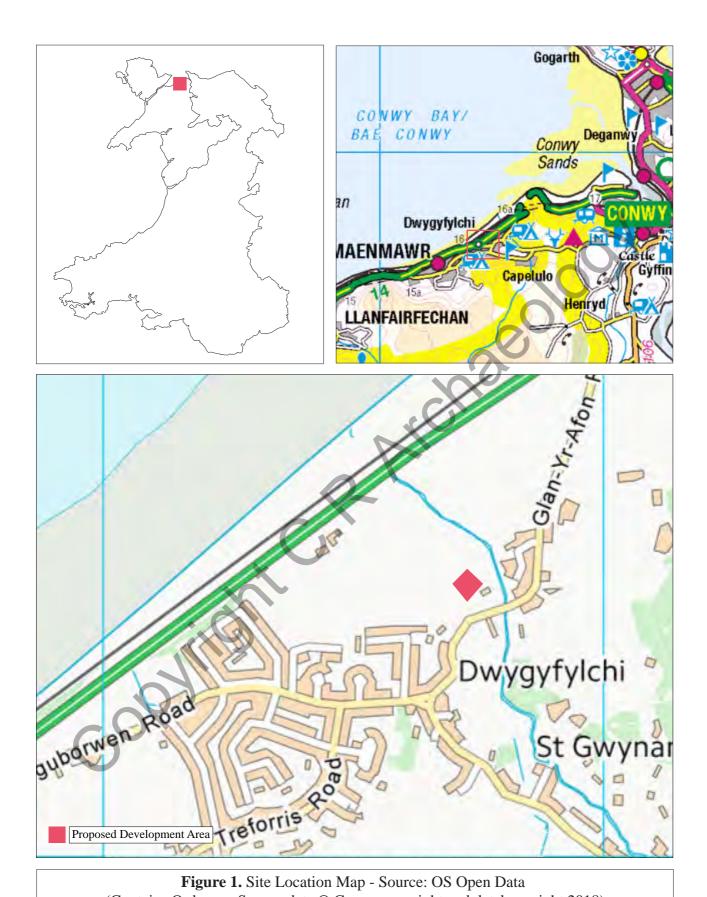


Figure 1. Site Location Map - Source: OS Open Data (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018)

- **2.0**.3 The Gwynedd Historic Environment Record HER was consulted to compile a record of known archaeological sites in the vicinity.
- **2.0.4** The second aim of this scheme of works was to excavate evaluation trenches 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.
- **2.0**.5 This project fulfilled the criteria for undertaking an Archaeological Field Evaluation as specified in the CIfA Standard and Guidance documents (1994 Revised 2008 & 2014).
- **2.0**.6 It is intended that this document be utilised to inform further archaeological planning decisions and conditions at the site.
- **2.0**.7 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 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

3.1 Desk Based Research

- **3.1**.1 A complete and coherent history of the site was not required for this project and research was limited to a search of the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record (HER).
- **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 and a 1000m radius of the proposed works (the grid reference for the search was taken as the centre point of the development area).
- **3.1**.3 The works were carried out accordance with the CIfA Standards and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (CIfA 1994 (Revised 2009 & 2014).
- **3.1**.4 This material forms the historical background this archaeological report and was utilised to aid the interpretation of the results of the evaluation trenching.

3.2 Evaluation Trenching

- **3.2**.1 The location of the trenches as excavated deviated from those proposed in the specification due to the location of a previous trench excavated at the site prior to the involvement of C. R Archaeology in the project. This trench was located in the centre of the feature and had generated a large amount of spoil. This had to be backfilled before works could begin, and the trenches were adjusted accordingly to ensure a full evaluation of the feature. Three evaluation trenches each measuring 1.8m x 5m were excavated. The trench locations are shown in figure 2.
- **3.2**.2 All machine excavation was carried out using a toothless ditching bucket and was supervised by Matthew Jones of C. R Archaeology.

- **3.2.3** Any archaeological features, structures or remains identified in the course of the evaluation were trowel cleaned by hand. Investigation of such features, structures or deposits were sufficient to determine their character, date, significance and quality.
- **3.2.**4 No suitable material for dating/environmental processing was identified.
- **3.2.5** The works were carried out in accordance with the CIfA Standard and Guidance documents for Archaeological Field Evaluation (1994 Revised 2008 & 2014).
- **3.2.6** 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

- **3.2.1.1** 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*. Sample forms can be provided on request. The written record comprises completed *pro-forma* record sheets.
- **3.2.1.**2 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.
- **3.2.1**.3 A high-resolution 14.2mp 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 will be an appropriate scale, north arrow. General photographs were also taking showing a general view of the site pre-excavation.
- **3.2.1.4** All photographic records have been 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'.

3.2.2 Additional Mitigation/Contingency Measures

3.2.2.1 No additional mitigation/contingency measures were necessary at the site.

3.2.3 Recovery, Processing and Curation of Artefactual Material

3.2.3.1 All material recovered was of twentieth century date and was discarded on site.

3.2.4 Archive Compilation

3.2.4.1 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.

- **3.2.4.2** 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).
- **3.2.4.3** As no artefactual material was retained the paper/digital archive will be deposited at the RCAHMW.

3.3 Timetable for Proposed Works

3.3.1 Evaluation trenching commenced on the 2nd March took 1 day. Further time was been allotted for archive research, report compilation and site archiving.

3.4 Staffing

3.4.1 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.

3.5 Monitoring

3.5.1 The project was subject to monitoring by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services who were kept informed of site progress and the results of the works.

3.6 Health and Safety

- **3.6**.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.
- **3.6**.2 All staff were issued with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the site work. This consisted 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)

3.7 The Report

3.7.1 This report clearly and accurately incorporates information gained from the programme of archaeological works. The report contains a site plan showing the locations of photographs taken.

3.7.2 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
- **3.7.3** 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.

3.7.4 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.

3.7.1 Copyright

3.7.1.1 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 Topological and Geological Background

4.1 Topography

- **4.1**.1 The proposed development site is located off Glan-Yr-Afon Road, in the northern outskirts of the coastal village of Dwygyfylchi. The site is currently part of the large grounds of Y Bluen Goch and is enclosed within an established screen of trees and hedgerows.
- **4.1**.2 The site is located just outside the limits of the Snowdonia National Park.

4.2 Geology

- **4.2**.1 The superficial geology of the site is described as "Till, Devensian Diamicton. Sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period".
- **4.2.2** The bedrock geology of the site is recorded as "Conwy Rhyolite Formation Rhyolite. Igneous bedrock formed between 458.4 and 449 million years ago during the Ordovician period" (www.bgs.ac.uk).

5.0 Historical Background

- **5.0**.1 A complete and coherent history of the site was not required for this project and research was limited to a search of the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record (HER).
- **5.0**.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 and a 1000m radius of the proposed works (the grid reference for the search was taken as the centre point of the development area). This returned 5 records within a 500m search radius, which rose to 20 when the radius was extended to 1000m.
- **5.0**.3 The Historic Environment Record holds relatively few records for the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site, but extensive prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains are recorded in the upland areas to the south and east. This is likely to reflect the visibility of remains in the upland in comparison to the developed coastal strip rather than presenting a representative picture of the archaeology of the area.

5.1 Prehistoric

- **5.1**.1 There are no records of Prehistoric date within the 500m search radius.
- **5.1.2** When the search area was extended to 1000m a single entry was recorded. PRN 727 is a Bronze Age burnt mound. It is described as a crescent shaped mound of burnt stone located in a small pond with a causeway running south from it. The causeway is noted to have been added after the pond had formed and is noted as being "clearly not an original feature and is probably recent".

5.2 Roman/Romano-British

- **5.2**.1 There are no records of Roman/Romano-British date within the 500m search radius.
- **5.2**.2 When the search area was expanded to 1000m 2 entries were returned. The first was PRN 713, Dinas Allt Wen, a small Romano-British hillfort covering an area of 1.23 hectares over the summit of Allt Wen, adjoining the hill with the larger fort of Caer Seion. It is recorded as "defended by a single substantial stone bank reinforced by a ditch on the north side. A single simple entrance approached via a winding track from a small valley on the north-east (coastal) side. A remote and seemingly impractical site with traces of only one round hut within.
- **5.2**.3 The ramparts are relatively small but neatly made and better preserved over much of the circuit than previous descriptions record. The ditch is also well preserved and considerably outside the rampart because of the steep slope. The interior is largely intact because visitors walk on and around the ramparts. However, despite the interior being easily visible with an even cover of heather there are no signs of hut platforms. The one hut platform described by the RCHM at the N is still visible but it may be just a chance terrace where there is a natural ridge of rock. There are several areas of trample damage".
- **5.2.**4 The second entry, PRN 24156, is the find spot of a Roman Coin recorded as (follis?) of the House of Constantine. It was found in the front garden of a house in Dwygyfylchi and was probably re-deposited.

5.3 Early Medieval

5.3.1 There are no records of Early Medieval date within either a 500m or 1000m search radius of the site.

5.4 Medieval

- **5.4**.1 There are 2 records of Medieval date within a 500m search radius of the proposed development site. There are no further entries when this radius was extended to 1000m.
- **5.4**.2 The first entry is PRN 6809 the Dwygyfylchi Medieval Township.
- **5.4**.3 The second entry, PRN 6930, relates to the Medieval phase of Dwygyfylchi Parish Church. The church is dedicated to St Gwynan and located in the diocese of Bangor. The current church was constructed in 1760 and extensively re-built in 1889. Records show that prior to this here was originally a medieval church on the site as it is listed in the 1254 Norwich taxation as "Duygeuilby".
- **5.4.4** The HER records that there is no evidence of the medieval church, with the exception of part of a 15th- or 16th-century window head used as a quoin in the south-west angle of the present nave, and part of a window jamb re-set near the west door. Lewis has described the church as a small, neat edifice dedicated to St Tegonwy, and Hughes and North stated that it was cruciform in plan.

5.5 Post-Medieval

- **5.5**.1 There are 4 records of Early Medieval date within a 500m search radius of the site.
- **5.5.2** PRN 2847 refers to the Post Medieval rebuild of the aforementioned St. Gwynan's Church which was entirely rebuilt in 1760 and again in 1889. It is described as follows "the stone-walled churchyard is sub-rectangular in form, although curved sections to the north suggest the boundary may have originally been curvilinear. The churchyard was extended on a number of occasions and the modern entrance is via a lych gate in the south end of the west wall. Formerly there were also entrances at the west ends of the north and south walls.
- **5.5**.3 The present church originally consisted of a single-cell nave and chancel with a west door, an east window, and three windows in the south and north walls. The 1889 rebuilding was designed by E. M. Bruce Vaughan and changes included the lengthening of the west end, the addition of an angular apse to the east end, and the construction of the north vestry and south chapel. Windows were inserted, a chancel arch was built, and an arcade of two bays was constructed to separate the nave and south chapel. It is likely that the church was totally rebuilt from the foundations.
- **5.5.**4 On the south wall of the nave there is a marble memorial dated 1701, from the medieval church. A new organ was placed at the east end of the south chapel in 1902, although this meant that the stained-glass memorial window of Queen Victoria had to be moved".
- **5.5**.5 PRN 38087 records a Post Medieval shell midden which was discovered in the face of cliffs of sandy drift c. 1.5m-2m high. It was uncovered at approximately "0.5m down" and is noted as including some animal bone. An 18th Century type of wine bottle found nearby was interpreted as suggesting a settlement of that date in the vicinity.
- **5.5**.6 PRN 56341 Muryddyn Hywel House, Penmaenmawr is recorded as a Post Medieval house and PRN 56342 refers to a footbridge, W of Muryddyn Hywel House. Both sites were identified using early Ordnance Survey Maps.
- **5.5**.7 When the search radius was extended to 1000m a further 9 entries were returned, 6 of which were identified using early Ordnance Survey Maps. The five entries are as follows:
- 5.5.8 PRN 56343 Footbridge W of Pentrefelyn, Penmaenmawr
- 5.5.9 PRN 56344 House, Pentrefelyn
- 5.5.10 PRN 56336 Footbridge, W of Yr Hen Fewlin, Glyn Woods
- 5.5.11 PRN 56337 Pond, S of Yr Hen Felin, Glyn Woods
- 5.5.12 PRN 56338 Old Mill Bridge, NW of Hen Felin, Glyn Woods.
- **5.5**.13 PRN 56335 Building, S of Glyn
- **5.5**.14 In addition to these entries are 3 further records. PRN 7504 records a Post Medieval sheepfold below Allt Wen, which I described as collapsed and overgrown. It is recorded as "a rectangular stone-built structure measuring about 6m by 4.3m internally and aligned almost exactly north-south. The walls are well-built and about 0.6m wide and survive to up to 0.5m high. A rough wall runs from the north-west corner to enclose a small area. This wall is very collapsed and confused. The structure is

heavily overgrown with bilberry and details are difficult to identify. Only the curving wall and the northern end of the structure were burnt in the fire, leaving most obscured by vegetation.

- **5.5.15** The rectangular structure, but not the curving wall, is shown on the 25 inch OS maps from 1889 onwards and is labelled as a sheepfold. There is nothing to indicate that this was ever anything but a post medieval sheepfold even though it has previously been recorded as a deserted medieval settlement".
- **5.5**.16 PRN 21051 records a Post Medieval quarry in a crag on SW side of Allt Wen. The possibility of this as a quarry site was raised by the Snowdonia National Park Archaeologist and the site was investigated February/March 2017 after an extensive fire in June 2016.
- **5.5**.17 It was noted that although "these crags do curve round to resemble a quarry, close inspection failed to identify any firm evidence that it had been a quarry. Particularly it is in an inaccessible position and no trace of any access routes or inclines were found, so it seems highly unlikely that stone was removed from here. The face of the crags appeared quite natural and no drill holes were visible".
- **5.5**.18 The final entry is for the sole Listed Building entry within a 1000m search radius of the site. Horeb Capel (PRN 66910, Cadw ID 3155), is a Grade II Listed Welsh Independent chapel, formerly dated 1813. It was substantially altered late C19. The Cadw entry records "Rectangular, single-storey rubble-built chapel, roughcast with hipped slate roof. 3 large sash windows to each long side with marginal glazing and plain stucco architraves; stucco quoins. To the W a recessed entrance bay with hipped roof and stucco quoins and architraves as before; entrance facing N with 6-panel door. To the rear of this porch block, extruded between it and the chapel proper, a small boiler house addition with plain chimney. Decorative spear-headed iron gate in front of the entrance with rubble wall returned to the S along the side of the chapel.
- **5.5**.19 All fittings are late C19. Grained pitch-pine box pews in inclined arrangement; pine panelled pulpit and balustrade. Large elaborate foliate plasterwork roundel to ribbed and boarded ceiling. Included for its historic interest as a C19 chapel in a prominent roadside location within the village." (http://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=en&id=3155)

5.6 Modern

5.6.1 There are no records of Modern date within either a 500m or 1000m search radius of the site.

5.7 Multi-Period

- **5.7**.1 There is a single multi-period entry within the 1000m search area PRN 15811 which records the Penmaenmawr/Dwygyfylchi, Landscape.
- **5.7.2** "Historic background: though the fourteenth century Record of Caernarvon records eight free gafaelion (holdings) in the township of Dwygyfylchi, maps of the eighteenth century reveal the paucity of settlement along this coastal strip, though a small nucleated settlement may have existed around St Gwynan's church and at the foot of the road through the Sychnant pass. The local family of consequence in the eighteenth century were a branch of the Coetmors, and lived at Ty Mawr. Their last survivor sold the estate to one George Thomas Smith, who constructed a new house called Pendyffryn nearly two away, thereby earning the praise of Edmund Hyde Hall for having given "a polish and a social look to a tract that was heretofore sufficiently desolate." Pendyffryn was later inhabited by Samuel Dukinfield Darbishire, secretary of the Chester and Holyhead Railway Company, who was responsible for much of the subsequent development of Penmaenmawr as a community.

- **5.7.3** The existing settlements at Penmaenmawr and Dwygyfylchi both expanded rapidly in the nineteenth century. At Penmaenmawr an initial quarry-workers' settlement of 1838 on the newly-built post road grew into a substantial town, housing both holidaymakers and quarry families.
- **5.7.4** Key historic landscape characteristics: quarry workers' settlement, resort development, premodern nucleated community, colonnaded walkways, use of Penmaenmawr granite.
- **5.7.5** The town of Penmaenmawr is characterised by quarry workers' dwellings, which predominate in the western half of the town, and by holiday villas, boarding houses and hotels, which predominate in the eastern half. The east-west axes of the Telford post road, the Chester to Holyhead main line railway, and the modern A55 dominate the settlement, and the courses of the former quarry inclines, one of which is in re-use for a conveyor belt system to a sorting plant at the railway station, pass through the residential areas. The town includes a wide variety of workers' housing, ranging from the very simple early buildings at New York, the Lancashire-style terraced housing at David Street and Erasmus Street, and the attractive range of buildings for staff employees at St David's Terrace. These, and their associated community infrastructure, reflect the paternalistic regime of the Darbishire family at the quarry.
- **5.7**.6 The resort buildings are for the most part late nineteenth and early twentieth century, and are laid out following the lie of the land. The broad but winding street from the railway station to the main shopping area on the post road is especially prominent, but other streets in this part of the settlement are narrow as well as winding. The main street is noted for its covered walkways, supported by cast-iron pillars, in imitation of Llandudno.
- **5.7**.7 The dominant building material for both the quarry and the resort dwellings is Penmaenmawr granite, though there is considerable use of glazed Rhiwabon brick for decorative work. Slate is the dominant roofing material, but there is some use of tile.
- **5.7.8** The smaller nucleated community at Dwygyfylchi to the east is made up partly of villa style architecture of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century and a modern housing estate, interspersed with older agricultural buildings and a cluster of nineteenth century dwellings at the foot of the road over the Sychnant pass to Conwy. The substantial Regency dwelling Pendyffryn survives as an office complex and a social centre for the caravan park established on its demesne. A golf-course has been laid out north of the Old Conwy Road".

5.8 Records of Unknown Date

5.8.1 There is a single record of unknown date located within the 1000m search radius. PRN 723 refers to a long hut measuring 11m x 5m on a NW-SE orientation. It is a recessed into the hillside on its SW side. The site condition is recorded as poor.

6.0 Results of Archaeological Works

- **6.0.1** Three trenches each measuring 1.8m x 5m were excavated through a feature identified through aerial photography. The feature was described as a "small enclosure or former structure, part of which appears to survive as a linear earthwork. This feature may alternatively represent a series of former field boundaries, but it does not correspond to any mapped historic boundaries and is overlain by plough marks, suggesting that it is not of recent origin". This feature would be destroyed by the proposed housing development at the site.
- **6.0.2** The feature was clearly visible on the ground, especially along the south-eastern, eastern and north-eastern edges. It was however partially obscured by the machine excavation of a trench measuring approximately 1.8m x 3m (and the associated spoil heap and damage caused by machine tracks) which had been excavated in the centre of the feature prior to the involvement of C. R Archaeology in the project.
- **6.0**.3 The first course of action was to backfill this trench as it was a danger to staff if left open. In order to work around this trench, three trenches were excavated which began with the interior of the feature and continued outwards, cutting across the ditch feature each time.

6.1 Trench 1

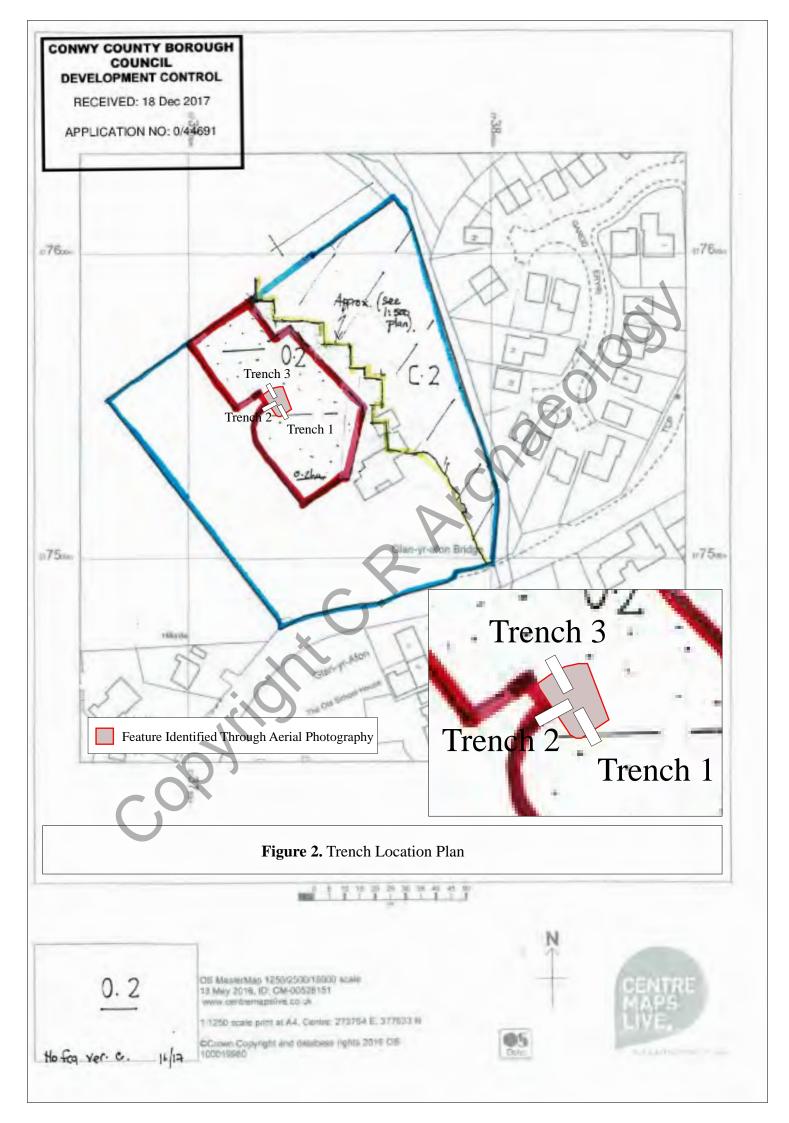
6.1.1 Trench 1 was orientated on a south-east – north-west axis and was excavated to a maxim depth of 0.40m. Three contexts were identified in this trench. Context (101) was a turf/top soil which was 0.28m in depth. It was a mid-brown clay silt with rare small stone inclusions. Below this was context (102) which was a subsoil deposit 0.10m in depth. It was a mid-brown clay silt with rare small/gravels stones. This overlay (103), the underlying natural which was a pinkish-red clay. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.2m. Although it was clear from the raised line of the earthwork running through this trench, it could not be identified as an archaeological feature within this trench as the feature did not cut the natural and the fill was so similar to the subsoil that it could not be distinguished.

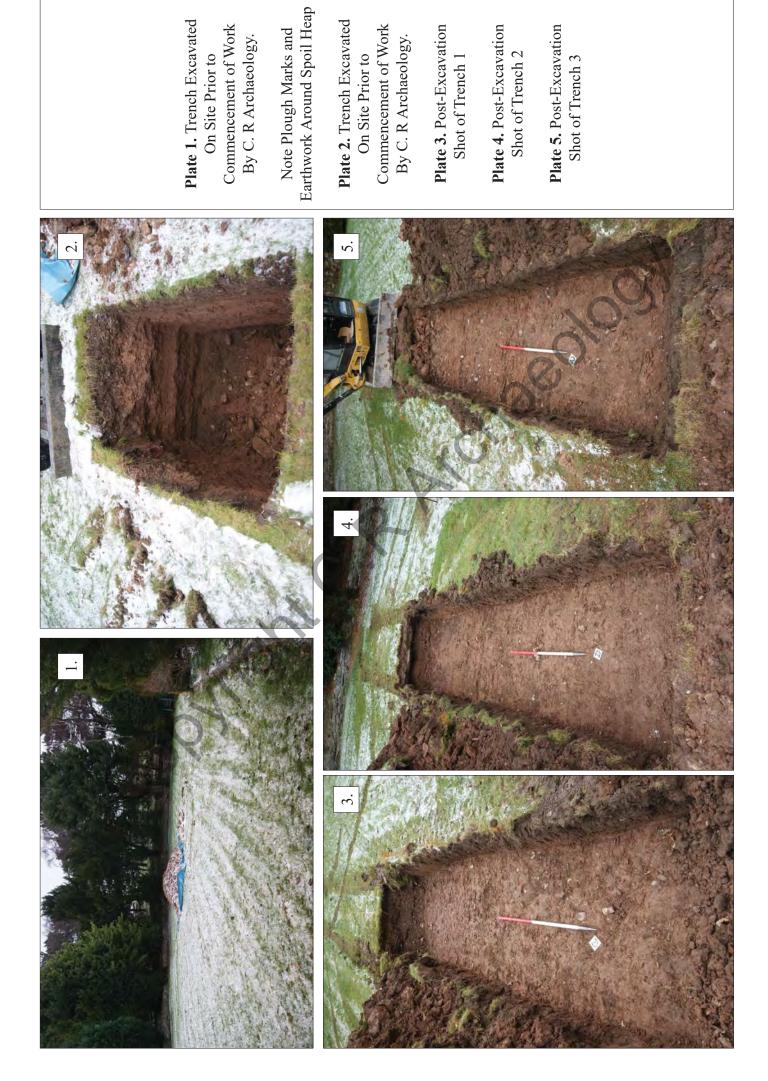
6.2 Trench 2

6.2.1 Trench 2 was orientated on a north-east – south-west axis and was excavated to a maxim depth of 0.40m. Three contexts were identified in this trench. Context (201) was a turf/top soil which was 0.22m in depth. It was a mid-brown clay silt with rare small stone inclusions. Below this was context (202) which was a subsoil deposit 0.12m in depth. It was a mid-brown clay silt with rare small/gravels stones. This overlay (203), the underlying natural which was a pinkish-red clay. Although it was clear from the raised line of the earthwork running through this trench, it could not be identified as an archaeological feature within this trench as the feature did not cut the natural and the fill was so similar to the subsoil that it could not be distinguished.

6.3 Trench 3

- **6.3**.1 Trench 3 was orientated on a south-east north-west axis and was excavated to a maxim depth of 0.37m. Five contexts were identified in this trench. Context (301) was a turf/top soil which was 0.10m in depth. It was a mid-brown clay silt with rare small stone inclusions. Below this was context (302) which was a subsoil deposit 0.25m in depth. It was a mid-brown clay silt with rare small/gravels stones. Subsoil (302) was cut by linear feature [305] which could be traced from the visible earthwork. The feature had a sharp break of slope at top, with uneven concave sides and a slightly rounded base. The feature contained a single fill (304) which was very similar to the subsoil, but which could be distinguished by its slightly more grey colour in this trench. Fill (304) contained fragments of ceramic plant pots and some abraded Buckley type ware.
- **6.3**.2 This overlay (303), the underlying natural which was a pinkish-red clay.







6.4 Discussion

- **6.4**.1 The feature was cut from subsoil level and did not extend to the depth of the underlying natural. The fill of the feature was very difficult to distinguish from the surrounding subsoil although it could be clearly viewed as a low earthwork on the surface. It contained 20th century material and didn't cut in to the natural.
- **6.4.2** This feature has been interpreted as an unrecorded 20th century garden feature. It is postulated that plough marks which can be seen on aerial photographs to overlay the feature may have been the result of the land having been brought into agricultural usage during the Second World War, and therefore the feature may be of earlier rather than later twentieth century date.

7.0 Conclusion

- **7.0**.1 Trial trenching has shown the feature evaluated to be a shallow feature cut from subsoil level. Although it was visible on the ground as a low earthwork, it was very difficult to identify within the trenches. This was due to the similarities of the feature fill with the surrounding subsoil.
- **7.0.2** The feature contained 20th century material and it has been concluded that the feature is of modern date. It has been interpreted as an unrecorded earlier 20th century garden feature. It is postulated that plough marks which can be seen on aerial photographs to overlay the feature may have been the result of the land having been brought into agricultural usage during the Second World War.

8.0 Bibliography

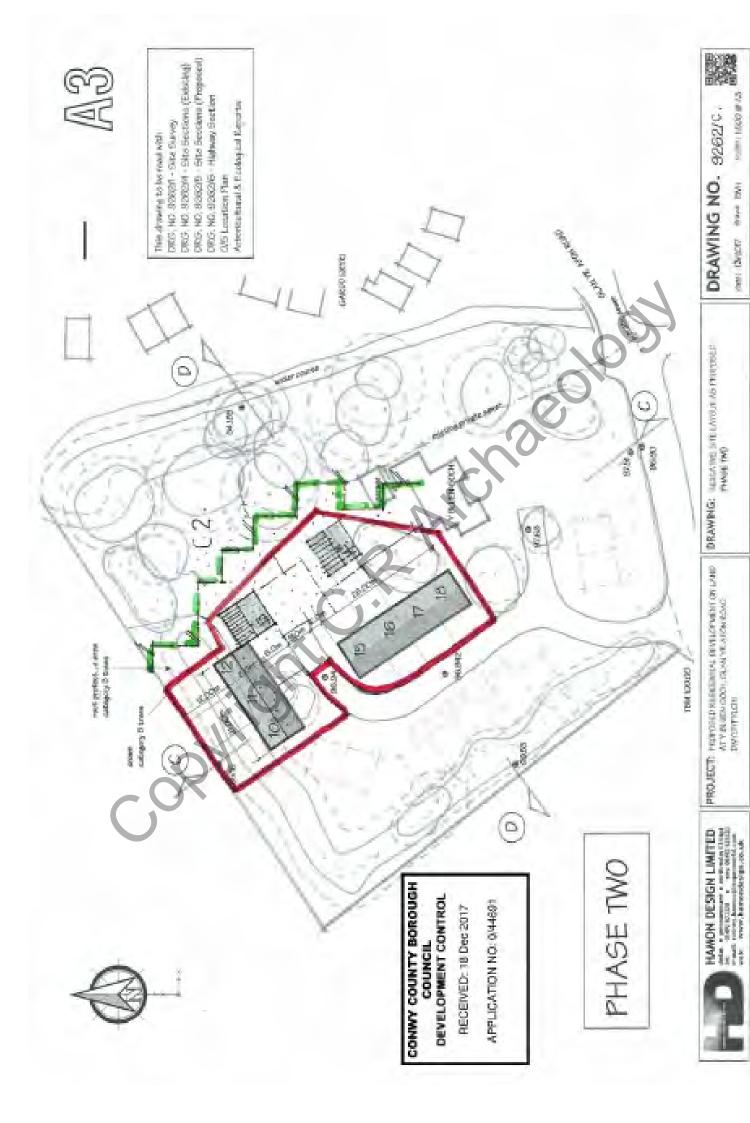
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www.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

Appendix A. **Proposed Development Plans**





Appendix B. **Specification for Archaeological Works**

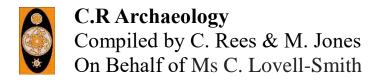


Specification for Archaeological Works (Evaluation Trenching) at

Proposed Development on Land At Y Bluen Goch, Dwygyfylchi, Conwy

NGR SH 73731 77557

Report Number CR164-2018



Night Cr. Archaeolog,

Specification for Archaeological Works (Evaluation Trenching) at: Proposed Development on Land at Y Bluen Goch, Dwygyfylchi, Conwy

Planning Application Number: 0/44691

National Grid Reference: SH 73731 77557
Client: Ms C. Lovell-Smith
C. Rees & M. Jones

Report Number: CR164-2018 **Date:** 20-02-2018

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Illustrations

Figure 1. Site Location Map

Figure 2. Proposed Trench Location Plan

Appendices

Appendix A. Proposed Site Development Plans

1.0 Introduction

C.R Archaeology have been instructed by Ms C. Lovell-Smith to conduct archaeological works at the proposed site of a commercial development on land at Y Bluen Goch, Dwygyfylchi, Conwy (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 proposed development site is located off Glan-Yr-Afon Road, in the northern outskirts of the coastal village of Dwygyfylchi. The site is currently part of the large grounds of Y Bluen Goch and is enclosed within an established screen of trees and hedgerows.

Development Control Archaeologist Jenny Emmett (letter ref: 0104je01/D3230) has noted that although the Historic Environment Record holds few records for the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site, extensive prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval extensive archaeology is recorded in the upland areas to the south and east. She states that this is likely to reflect the visibility of remains in the upland in comparison to the developed coastal strip rather than presenting a representative picture of the archaeology of the area.

Also remarked upon in the above document is a possible feature within the proposed development area which is described as appearing to be a "small enclosure or former structure, part of which appears to survive as a linear earthwork. This feature may alternatively represent a series of former field boundaries, but it does not correspond to any mapped historic boundaries and is overlain by plough marks, suggesting that it is not of recent origin".

This document details the methodology for a desk-based assessment and for the excavation of 2 small evaluation trenches which will positioned to establish whether the feature is of natural, recent or archaeological origin. Should the feature be of archaeological origin then the works will assess the character and significance of the feature. 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 the excavation of 2 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 Gwynedd Historic Environment Record HER 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 2 evaluation trenches - 1 measuring c. 1.8m x 11m, 1 measuring 1m x 5m (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.

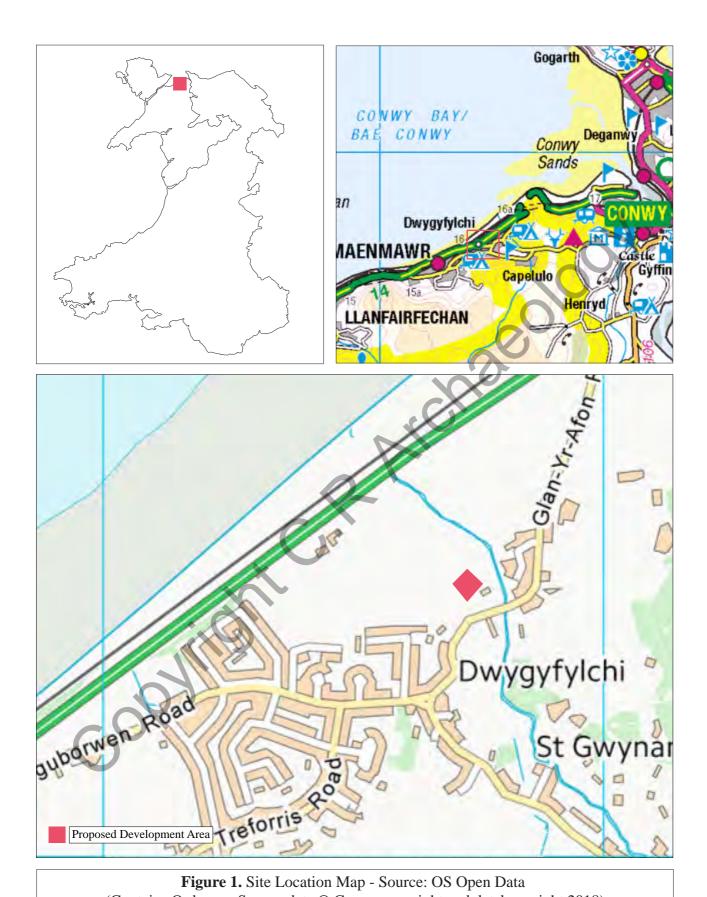


Figure 1. Site Location Map - Source: OS Open Data (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018)

The locations shown on figure 2 are approximate only and there are site specific constraints including tree protection issues and spoil management which may have to be considered 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.

The Historic Environment Record holds few records for the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site, but extensive prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains are recorded in the upland areas to the south and east. This is likely to reflect the visibility of remains in the upland in comparison to the developed coastal strip rather than presenting a representative picture of the archaeology of the area.

3.1 Topography

The proposed development site is located off Glan-Yr-Afon Road, in the northern outskirts of the coastal village of Dwygyfylchi. The site is currently part of the large grounds of Y Bluen Goch and is enclosed within an established screen of trees and hedgerows.

The site is located just outside the limits of the Snowdonia National Park.

3.2 Geology

The superficial geology of the site is described as "Till, Devensian - Diamicton. Sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period".

The bedrock geology of the site is recorded as "Conwy Rhyolite Formation - Rhyolite. Igneous bedrock formed between 458.4 and 449 million years ago during the Ordovician period" (www.bgs.ac.uk).

4.0 Scheme of Works - Methodology

4.1 Desk Based Research

A complete and coherent history of the site is not required for this project and research will be limited to a search of the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record (HER).

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 and a 1000m radius of the proposed works (the grid reference for the search is taken as the centre point of the development area. The works will be carried out 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

Two evaluation trenches, 1 measuring 10m x 1.8m and 1 measuring 5m x 1.8m will be excavated within the proposed development area using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

These trenches will be targeted on the "small enclosure or former structure" identified by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services from aerial photographs and the proposed trench locations are shown in figure 2. The feature appears to be roughly rectangular in plan and measures approximately $10m \times 5m$. The locations shown on figure 2 are approximate only and there are site specific constraints including tree protection issues and spoil management which may have to be considered when locating the trenches. This also allows the flexibility to reposition the cross trench should a feature of interest be uncovered so that it can be further examined.

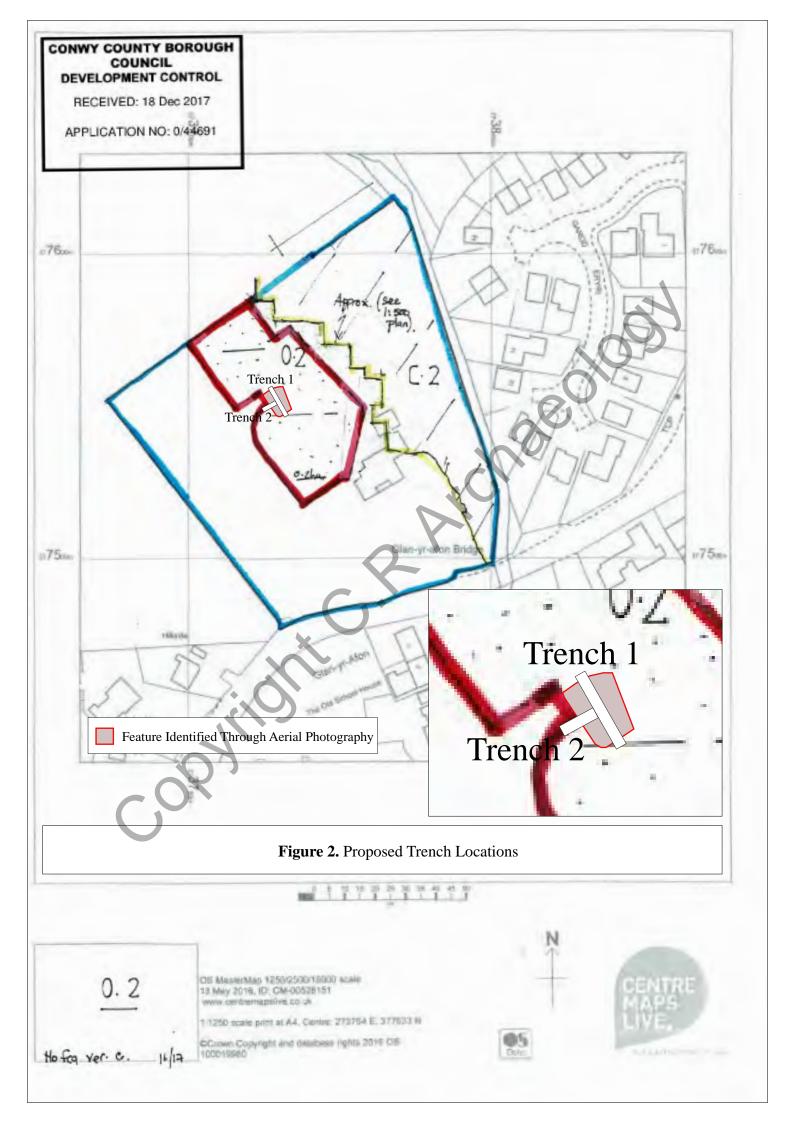
These evaluation trenches which will positioned to establish whether the feature identified through aerial photography is of natural, recent or archaeological origin and, should the feature be of archaeological origin, to assess the character and significance of the feature.

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.

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 14.2mp 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, Gwynedd 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 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 RCAHMW.

4.3 Timetable for Proposed Works

It is envisaged that the evaluation trenching will commence on the 2nd March and an estimated time frame of 1 days has been allotted for the fieldwork. A further 4 days contingency has however been allowed should it be needed. 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.

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. 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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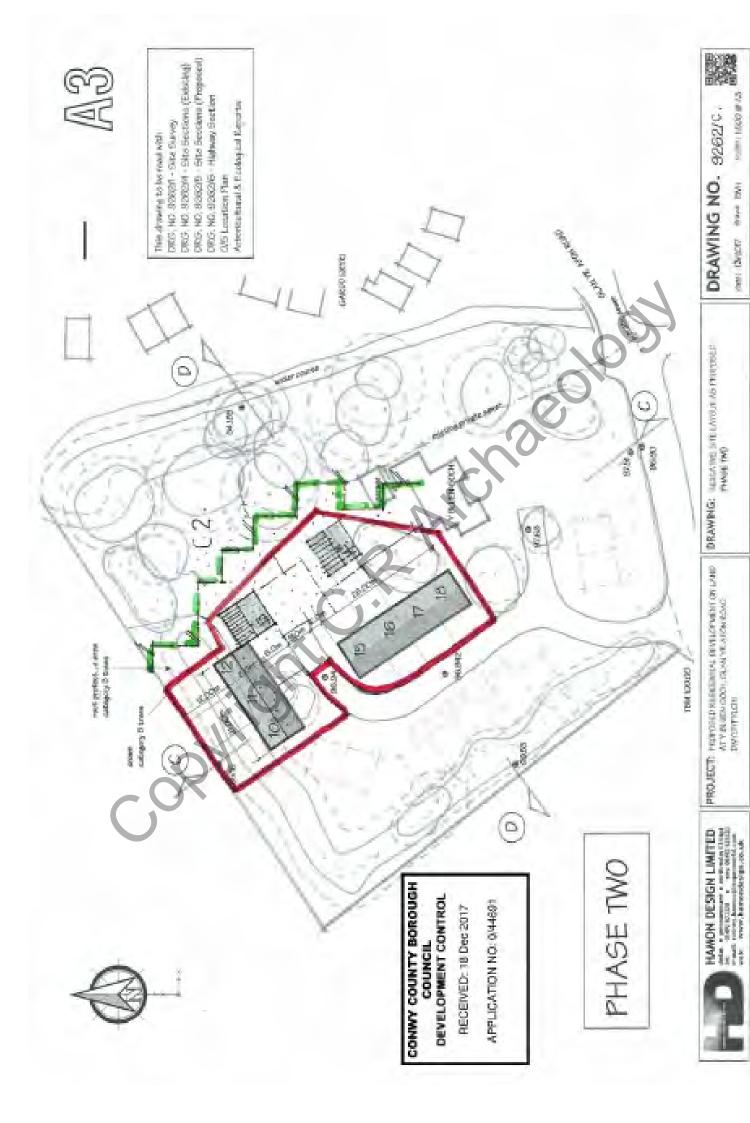
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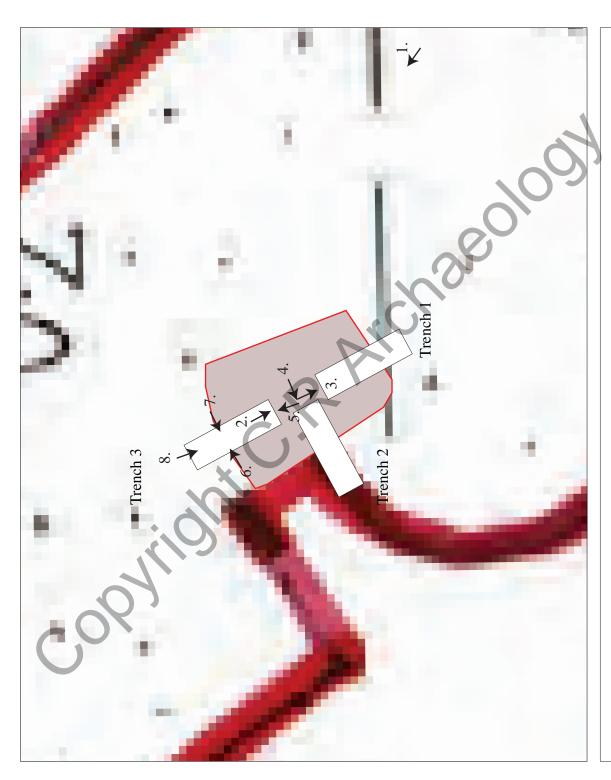
Appendix A.

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





Appendix C. Location and Direction of Photographic Plates