Results of Archaeological Works at

Proposed Development Llangefni Primary School, Llangefni, Anglesey

NGR SH 44734 76010 (Centre Point)





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Results of Archaeological Works: Llangefni Primary School, Llangefni, Anglesey

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1.0 Introduction

1.0.1 As a previous phase of works, C.R Archaeology were instructed by Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn to conduct an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, Walkover Survey and Geophysical Survey at the proposed site of a new primary school in Llangefni (figure 1). Following on from that phase C.R Archaeology were instructed to conduct a programme of evaluation trenching at the site and this document records the results of that work.

1.0.2 This document has been prepared to supply the Local Planning Authority Archaeologist with information as to the potential archaeological impacts of the aforementioned scheme. It is intended that the results of the works detailed in this document will inform decisions as to the nature of any further archaeological mitigation strategies or evaluation methodologies which may be required. The specification for this document was agreed with GAPS and is included as Appendix A.

1.0.3 The site is located on the north-western outskirts of Llangefni town. The proposed development area originally comprised two relatively large rectangular fields. Since the previous phase the development area of the site has been reduced and it is now proposed that only the field adjacent to the B5109 will be built upon. The site is bounded by hedgerows and is currently in use as grazing. The B5109 Llangefni – Bodffordd road runs along the north-eastern site boundary and there is housing to the north-east and south-east. There is undeveloped farmland to the south-west and north-west. As the works are at a pre-planning stage detailed drawing of the buildings/services were not yet available. Available drawings are included as Appendix B.

1.0.4 There are isolated find spots of Prehistoric date located within the vicinity and the site. Although located over 2000m from the proposed development site the recent discovery of an Early Medieval cemetery and burnt mound at Coleg Menai further demonstrates the potential for significant discoveries in the area.

1.0.5 Many of the features encountered during the geophysical survey were believed to relate to Medieval and Post Medieval utilisation of the site for agricultural purposes. These include probable ridge and furrow which is likely to be of Medieval or Post Medieval date, and several field boundaries recorded on early mapping of the site. These features were targeted and 20 30m x 2m trenches were excavated.

1.0.6 The geophysical survey was found to be largely accurate in this instance, with the features targeted revealed as agricultural ditches of varying size which correlated with historic mapping of the site. Although the majority were undated, those which did contain artefactual material were all found to be of Post Medieval date.

1.0.7 A number of possible pits were identified during the trenching works. They were very ephemeral and are quiet conceivably not of archaeological origin. The same could be said of a series of shallow ditches which were not visible on the geophysical survey results. These features raise the possibility of there being features on the site which have not yet been identified.

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 20 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.

2.0.3 It aimed to excavate 20 evaluation trenches down to the archaeological horizon/natural in order to



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

assess the survival, character and date of any archaeological remains and to excavate/record any archaeological remains uncovered.

2.0.4 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).

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

2.0.6 The objectives of this programme of works 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 compiled as an element of the previous project phase. Additional research was not necessary to place the discoveries at the site within their regional and chronological context.

3.2 Evaluation Trenching

3.2.1 Twenty evaluation trenches, each measuring c.30m x 2m were excavated within the proposed development area using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

3.2.2 These trenches were targeted on features identified through geophysical survey. To ensure a representative sample of the site was investigated, blank areas were also targeted.

3.2.3 All machine excavation was supervised by an archaeologist from C.R Archaeology. The trenches were excavated until the archaeological horizon or the bedrock/natural was reached.

3.2.4 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. Excavation generally involved the removal of 50% of pits/posthole fills and 25% of the fills of ditches/large linear features.

3.2.5 No features yielded suitable material for dating/environmental processing.

3.2.6 In addition to the archaeological works, geotechnical work was undertaken at the site. This work investigated the underlying natural at the base of trenches. Areas within trenches to be targeted were fully excavated prior to this work taking place.

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

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*. The written record comprises completed *pro-forma* record sheets.

3.2.1.2 Plans, sections and elevations were produced on 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 are 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 is an appropriate scale. General photographs were taken in the event of a negative result.

3.2.1.4 All photographic records were indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view have been 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 required.

3.2.3 Recovery, Processing and Curation of Artefactual Material

3.2.3.1 Artefactual material which was nineteenth and twentieth century in date was not of any archaeological note. Following analysis none of this material is to be retained.

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 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. Any archive/ material created/discovered during this archaeological project will be deposited at the county record office. Archive material will be deposited in accordance with the archive's terms and conditions for archive deposition.

3.3 Timetable for Proposed Works

3.3.1 The evaluation trenching commenced on the 23^{rd} July and took place over 3 weeks. Further time was 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 with additional suitably qualified field staff brought in as necessary.

3.4.2 C.Vs for all staff employed on the project can be provided on request. All projects are carried out in accordance with CIFA *Standard and Guidance* documents.

3.5 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)

3.6.3 C.R Archaeology staff also complied with all Health and Safety Policy or specific on-site instructions provided by the client or their appointed Principal contractor or H&S coordinator.

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. 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

3.7.2 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 Topographical and Geological Background

4.1 Topography

4.1.1 The eastern site boundary is located along the Llangefni – Bodffordd Road and is bounded by hedgerows. It is located on the outskirts of the town of Llangefni. The site is currently in use as grazing within an enclosed field boundary system.

4.2 Geology

4.2.1 The bedrock geology at the site is recorded as "Gwna Group - Schist. Metamorphic Bedrock formed approximately 508 to 635 million years ago in the Cambrian and Ediacaran Periods. Originally sedimentary rocks formed in deep seas by chaotic deposition from underwater gravity slide. Later altered by low-grade metamorphism. Originally sedimentary rocks formed in deep seas by chaotic deposition from underwater gravity slide. These rocks were sedimentary in origin, possibly chaotic flows of debris in a deep-marine environment but have subsequently undergone metamorphism" (www.bgs.ac.uk).

4.2.2 The superficial geology is recorded as "*Till, Devensian - Diamicton. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions (U). These sedimentary deposits are glacigenic in origin. They are detrital, created by the action of ice and meltwater, they can form a wide range of deposits and geomorphologies associated with glacial and inter-glacial periods during the Quaternary*" (www.bgs.ac.uk).

5.0 Historical Background

5.0.1 Searches of the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record were conducted at 500m and 1000m radii of the site (central point). The 500m search returned 2 results, 1 of Prehistoric date and one of Post Medieval date. When the search was expanded to 1000m the search results increased to 25 - 2 of Prehistoric date, 2 of Medieval date, 7 of Post Medieval date, 10 of Modern date, 3 of unknown date and 1 multiperiod site.

5.1 Prehistoric

5.1.1 A single entry of Prehistoric date was recorded within 500m of the proposed development area (PRN 2139). When the search area was extended to 1000m a further findspot was recorded (PRN 2682).

5.1.2 PRN 2139 records the discovery of three stone axes found whilst digging a trench for a drain in 1960.

(I) - A small chipped and polished flint axe, 4.1 inches long 1.6 inches wide at the blade, tapering to 0.5 inches at the butt and 0.9 inches thick.

(II) - A chipped unpolished Graig Llwyd axe, 7.6 inches long, 3 inches wide at the blade tapering to 1 inch wide at the butt and 1.3 inches thick.

(III) - A chipped and unpolished Graig Llwyd axe, 10.2 inches long, 3.8 inches wide at the blade tapering to 1.8 inches wide at the butt and 1.8 inches thick.

5.1.3 PRN 2682 is the findspot of a spindle whorl of uncertain date. It was 1 1/2 inch diameter and 3/8 inch thick with a 'squarecut' edge. It was perforated at the centre by a circular straight cut hole. Mr Williams found the spindle whorl in 1964/5 in a field called Cae Ffynnon, lying on the surface. It is recorded that there was no trace remaining of the well from which the field takes its name by 1970.

5.1.4 A third findspot entry should presumably also be assigned a Prehistoric date but is currently recorded as unknown. PRN 62192 is recorded as "Mr Williams at Bryn Goleu reported finding fragments of stone axes in the southern part of his field".

5.2 Roman

5.2.1 There were no sites of Roman/Romano-British date within the 1000m search area.

5.3 Early Medieval

5.3.1 There were no sites of Early Medieval date within the 1000m search area.

5.3.2 There are however four cross-slabs of the C7th to C9th re-set in the western buttresses of Llangeinwen Church (PRN 7011 – see below) indicating activity of the period in the vicinity and possibly an early foundation date for the church.

5.3.3 Although located over 2000m from the proposed development site, the discovery of an Early Medieval cemetery at Coleg Menai serves to highlight the importance of the potential archaeological resource in the area.

5.4 Medieval

5.4.1 There were no sites of Medieval date within the 500m search area. When the area is extended to 1000m it returned 2 entries.

5.4.2 PRN 36162 is recorded as the remains of Pandy Llangefni, a (fulling) mill site.

5.4.3 PRN 7011 records Llangeinwen Parish Church, Bodffordd. The church is described as *"Llangeinwen parish church is dedicated to St. Ceinwen and is located in the diocese of Bangor. A church of C12th continuous nave with later chancel, and a large modern north chapel, a south porch and west tower.*

5.4. *The rectilinear churchyard is bounded by a stone-wall, with an entrance on the east side.*

5.4.5 The present nave is dated to the C12th by a round-headed blocked door in the north wall. The chancel has no dateable features, but was probably added in the C15th. The north chapel was added to the chancel and the west tower built in the first half of the C19th. The windows and doors are all of this date.

5.4.6 *The church was restored in 1928 by H. Hughes when the upper parts of the walls were rebuilt; the gallery was taken down in 1931.*

5.4.7 *The church houses a C13th font and three memorials dating from 1591 to 1728. There are four cross-slabs of the C7th to C9th re-set in the western buttresses of the church*".

5.5 Post-Medieval

5.5.1 A single entry of Post-Medieval date was recorded within 500m of the proposed development area (PRN 7784). When the search area was extended to 1000m a further 6 were recorded. Four of the records are for Listed Buildings

5.5.2 PRN 7784, Capel Cildwrn. Grade II* Listed Building (Cadw ID 5749).

"Built in 1781, heightened and internally remodelled in 1846-9. Formerly the principal Baptist chapel on Anglesey, from 1781 to 1826 the minister was the renowned preacher, Christmas Evans. The chapel was redundant for some years after the Baptists transferred to Peniel chapel in the town centre; renovated and re-opened for services in the 1980s.

5.5.3 Lateral entry, 2-storey chapel with shorter 2-storey chapel house at left (S) end. Built of local rubble masonry, mostly rendered elevations; slate roof with gable stack to S. The principal elevation faces E; openings with rendered, eared architraves. The chapel has 12-pane, hornless sash windows; 3 windows lighting the gallery, 2 windows below (to either side of the pulpit) and ground floor doorways to either end. The chapel house has 4-pane sash windows, a single window range with blocked doorway to right (N) end. The right (N) gable wall of the chapel, being exposed rubble, shows the line of the original roof pitch and a blocked attic opening over a 12-pane sash window. The rear of the chapel has two 16-pane sash windows to the gallery and a modern, 16-pane fixed light to the left (N) of the ground floor; right (S) end with modern porch, modern single storey wing to rear of

chapel house. There is now a slate plaque on the S wall of the chapel house, which reads: CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF / YNYS MON / TY CILDWRN, CARTREF / CHRISTMAS EVANS / 1766 - 1838 / ESGOB BEDDWYR MON / 1791 - 1826. To the front of the chapel is a small yard which leads on to the rectangular churchyard with rubble walls and gate piers. The yard contains a polished granite obelisk to J R Davies, a former minister, and some slate monuments, including one to Catherine Evans, wife of Christmas Evans, d.1823.

5.5.4 The entrances (set to either side of the pulpit) lead into small, timber boarded vestibule enclosures each with gallery stairs; boarded doors open onto each staircase and to the main chapel beyond. The chapel interior is almost square in plan with well-preserved fittings. Three ranks of box pews to the ground floor; central rank wider with central divider. Gallery, splayed across the corners, with raking pews and panelled front; the gallery is set on non-structural, broadly chamfered, slightly tapering timber piers. In the centre of the gallery front, directly opposite the pulpit, is a clock (by H Roberts of Llangefni), the mechanism now housed within one of the piers (formerly in casing inset in the rear wall). The high pulpit is raised by 6 steps, stairs with turned newel post, stick balusters and clasping rail; rising to a door at the right (S) side. The pulpit has a panelled front with curved, fluted angles, and is set on shaped marble piers; the seat has an unusually high panelled back (which formerly contained a plaque to the memory of Christmas Evans' ministry, this was removed and reset on the front of Peniel chapel in the town centre).

5.5.5 Listed II* as an unusually well-preserved example of a C18 chapel and chapel house, retaining much of the character of its early origins, notwithstanding some C19 modifications. Capel Ebeneser is a rare and important survival of its type, few of which remain on Anglesey. The chapel is of particular historic interest due to its association with the life of Christmas Evans, renowned preacher and minister" (www.cadwpublicapi.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=en& id= 5749).

5.5.6 The remaining 3 Listed Buildings are situated within 1000m of the centre of the proposed development area. They are as follows:

5.5.7 PRN 66768. Former National School and Schoolhouse. Grade II Listed Building (Cadw ID 20550).

"National school and schoolhouse built in 1851-2 to replace the earlier school of 1818, which by then had fallen into a state of disrepair and was in a dangerous state, the school being held in the town hall. In January 1850 Reverend Henry Owen was appointed to the incumbency at Llangefni and by September had forwarded a memorial to the Committee of the Council of Education requesting aid to build a new school. In the same month it was announced that plans were being made to build a British School on land donated by Sir Richard Williams-Bulkeley. Faced with requests from both schools, the secretary of the Committee, R.R.W Lingen, ruled that local circumstances did not warrant the establishment of two schools and urged both parties to come to some agreement to build a single school to serve the town. Throughout the following year there were a series of heated debates and meetings held, with R.R.W. Lingen putting forward suggestions for comprises to be made by either party to allow plans for a single school to be considered. Finally, in December 1851, he agreed to award grants to both parties and the National School was opened on 29th September 1852 (the British School opened in the June of that year); designed by Henry Kennedy, Architect of Bangor and built at a cost of £800, the Treasury Grant awarded £229. Both schools were to suffer a shortage of funds but requests for further grants were rejected by Lingen; Reverend Owen was able to claim a grant of $\pounds70$ from the National Society. The schoolmasters house is now a private dwelling, the school itself used to accommodate workshops.

5.5.8 *Mid* C19 *National school building with attached 2-storey schoolhouse. The school and schoolhouse were built as one range, the principal (SW) elevation of the schoolhouse facing the street.*

5.5.9 The school was accommodated in a staggered wing of 2-units; one unit (the infants classroom) was formed by a cross wing at the right (SE) end of the schoolhouse, the second (girls and boys classrooms) by a wing set at right angles to the rear. Entry to the girls and infants classrooms was through a lobby between schoolhouse and infants classroom, entry to the boys classroom through a gabled porch at the NE end of the rear wing. The range is faced with local rubble set roughly to courses and freestone dressings; steeply pitched slate roofs with stone copings and ashlar stacks (the schoolhouse with brick gable stack corbelled out at left (NW) end, and axial stack. The school has horned sash windows throughout (some of which are now boarded over); the infants classroom has large gable windows with ventilations slits above (SW gable with corbelled chimney); right return (SE elevation) has 2 x 4-pane sashes. The girls and boys classrooms each have tripartite windows of 8-pane sashes, the girls classroom, to the left (SW) with the window set in an advanced gabled wing; corbelled chimney above. The NE porch has a steeply pitched gabled roof, entry through boarded double doors set under a segmental-headed fanlight. The schoolhouse is a 2-storey, 4-window range with doorway offset to the left (NW) end; 1st floor windows are 2-pane, side hung casements.

5.5.10 Listed as a well-preserved mid C19 school and schoolhouse range, designed in a strong vernacular idiom, and which retains the practical character of its design, as well as many exterior features. The range is also of interest as a lesser known work by Henry Kennedy" (www.cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=en&id=20550).

5.5.11 PRN 33938. Rhyd y Spardyn Blas. Grade II Listed Building (Cadw ID 87617).

"Small farmhouse and attached cowhouse range probably dating to the C17. Altered during the C19 with the conversion of the cowhouse into part of the dwelling. The architect Brian Lingard, prominant in north Wales during the post-war period, moved to the house c.1950. With the help of a post-war Improvement Grant he altered the house in line with architectural ideas of the time but retained the external appearance of the original structrure. The open plan interior and kitchen, dining and bathrooms to the cowhouse are the work of Lingard as are the dormer to the rear roof-slope and the buttress against the rear wall.

5.5.12 House and attached former agricultural range. Whitewashed rubble stone with slate roof with close eaves and small pane sash windows with projecting cills. 4 bays, single story with gabled attic dormers and gable end stacks, door to right hand bay with slate porch and C20 door. Large buttress to left hand gable and similar buttress centrally to rear with modern window to the left and small pane sash to the right. Modern dormer and two rooflights in the rear roofslope. Attached long single storey range set back to right side (the former cowhouse) with grouted slate roof, continued over catslide extension to rear, 2 plate glass sashes offset to left in inserted openings with brick surrounds, small window to right. Two modern gable windows, and two modern windows to the rear.

5.5.13 Offset entrance with open ground floor, the internal arrangement and detail are the result of Brian Lingard's work here c.1950. C20 fireplace and stair, and inserted opening to cowhouse range to right. Three roughly squared floor joists with some evidence of former partitions visible. First floor retains partitions, wide floor boards and later fireplace to gable. 3 Pegged roof trusses visible within the roof space along with upper sections of former tongue-and-groove partitioning.

5.5.14 Included, for its special architectural interest as a well preserved small farmhouse of the C17 displaying characteristic vernacular features typical of Anglesey buildings of this type and period. The original internal layout has been lost but the present arrangement is of interest as a mid-twentieth century scheme by the architect Brian Lingard" (www.cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/Full Report?lang =en&id=87617).

5.5.15 PRN 66784. Ty Moel. Grade II Listed Building (Cadw ID 21072).

"Early C19 farmhouse with later C19 alterations. A 2-storey farmhouse with single-storey service wing to rear. Rendered elevations throughout, modern slate roof has rendered gable stacks with capping, wider, square stack to gable of service wing. Principal elevation faces SE, a 2-window range with central doorway; ground floor with small-paned sashes, 1st floor with 4-pane sashes in gabled dormers. The rear entrance is a half-glazed door to the service wing, with small-paned sash window to right; the rear elevation of the house also has similarly detailed windows. Included as a good example of an early C19 farmhouse retaining much of its original vernacular character, including the retention of many small-paned sash windows" (www.cadwpublic-api.azureweb sites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=en&id=21072).

5.5.16 The remaining sites of Post Medieval are PRN 56049 - Weir, Llyn Bach, SW of St Cyngar's Chrch, PRN 56050 Rectory, St Cyngar's Church and PRN 56051 Railway Cutting, NE of Llyn Pwmp.

5.5.1 Modern

5.5.1.1 There are 10 records of modern date within 1000m of the proposed development area (PRN's 56040 - 56048 & 56051 - 56052). All are identified from historic mapping and are related to the railway in the area.

5.6 Multi Period

5.6.1 There is a single multi-period site within the study area – PRN 17133 Rhostrehwfa Character Area, Llangristiolus. The area is described as "*small area of ribbon settlement with associated long rectangular fields shown on tithe map and still extant*".

5.7 Records of Unknown Date

5.7.1 There are 3 records of unknown date within the study area: PRN 62152 – the farm Track, Cae'r-bwl, PRN 32077 Ffynnon Cyngar and PRN 62192 which is discussed in the Prehistoric section.

5.8 Cartographic Sources

5.8.1 No early estate maps could be sourced which showed the proposed development area. The earliest source examined was the 1840 Tithe of the area. This document shows that the proposed development area is occupied by 3 fields: 82a (part of) - Rhos Trehwfa, 71 Bodellis Quarry (both owned by Thomas Ellis and tenanted by William Edwards), and 84 - Ty Hen (owned by Owen Bulkeley, tenanted by Ellen Owen).

5.8.2 The field name – Ty Hen for plot 84 is of interest. It is most likely that the "old house" for which the plot is named would have been located along the road to the east of the plot and may have been destroyed by the current road. Traces of a quarry in plot 71 may survive below ground.

5.8.3 The 1888 First Edition Ordnance Survey map shows that between 1840 and 1888 the plots have been further subdivided. The north-western potion of field 82a (which lies outside the proposed development area) has been partitioned off and a farm named Pen y Parc built within the area. The remaining area of field 82a has been roughly divided in half, as has field 84. Field 71 has been divided into 3 smaller fields. The historic Ordnance Survey editions up until 1949 show no further changes to the field and the removal of the internal field boundaries postdates 1949, as does the erection of houses along the B4422.

6.0 Results of Archaeological Evaluation Trenching

6.0.1 The following section has been subdivided by trench number and each of the individual trenches will be discussed in detail. All trenches measured approximately $2m \times 30m$. Unless otherwise stated all trenches contained contexts (83), (84) and (85) – topsoil/turf, subsoil and natural. The natural in this area was a boulder clay which varied in colour from yellow through to orange and brown. It contained bands of gravel and contained frequent stone inclusions. Unless noted otherwise all features cut the natural and are sealed by the subsoil.

6.0.2 Figure 2 shows the relationship between the trenches and the features identified through geophysical survey. Figure 3 records the archaeological features uncovered during the works.

6.1 Trench 1 (Plates 1-2)

6.1.1 Trench 1 was located to the north-west of the site, near the road boundary. It was located in an area which had only been partially surveyed due to interference from the road. There were no features identified through geophysical survey targeted by this trench and it was aimed to determine whether there were any features present in this area. Trench 1 was positioned on an east-west axis and was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 0.40m (natural reached at 0.35m).

6.1.2 A single possible archaeological feature was uncovered in Trench 1 (plate 2). Feature [15] was a shallow (depth 0.10m) curvilinear ditch with a bowl-shaped profile. It had a width of 0.42m and measured 1.62m in length within the trench. This feature extended beyond the trench limits. The presence of a modern stone filled drain was noted at the eastern end of the trench.

6.1.3 Feature [15] contained a single grey clay fill (context (16) with occasional small rounded stone inclusions. No artefactual material or charcoal was present within this context.

6.2 Trench 2 (Plates 3 – 6)

6.2.1 Trench 2 was located to the south-west of Trench 1. It was positioned to investigate features 8 and 12 identified through geophysical survey. It was positioned on an east – west axis and was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 0.42m (natural reached at 0.42m).

6.2.2 Three ditch features ([22], [19] and [17]) were recorded in this trench. Ditch [22] was a shallow linear feature (depth 0.07m) which crossed the eastern end of Trench 2 on a north-west – south-east alignment (plate 4). The ditch was 0.60m wide and had a shallow, concave profile. It contained a single a grey-brown clay silt fill (21). It contained no artefactual material. This ditch could possibly be a drainage or boundary ditch – but if it is a boundary ditch it does not correspond with any shown on cartographic sources. It is also possible that this is the remains of a deep plough scar and is orientated on the same axis as others of this feature type identified through geophysical survey.

6.2.3 Ditches [19] and [17] were located at the western end of Trench 2. Ditch [19] (plate 5) was a shallow (maximum depth 0.09m), linear feature which crossed the ditch on a north - south orientation. It was 0.47m in width and has a shallow concave profile and contained a single fill (20). The fill was a grey-brown silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions. No artefactual material was recovered from this fill.

6.2.4 Ditch [17] (plate 6) was the larger of the two features and appears to cut the very shallow (<0.01m) remains of a field drain or possibly a plough mark. Ditch [17] crossed the trench on a north-south axis and was 1.06m wide. It survived to a maximum depth of 0.17m and had a concave profile. Ditch [17] contained a single fill (18) which was a grey-brown silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions. A large abraded sherd of Buckley pottery (late Nineteenth Century date) was recovered from the base of this fill.







Plate 3. Trench 2 Taken Facing East

Plate 4. Linear [22] Trench 2

6.2.5 Two of the ditches - [19] and [17] were in the approximate location to correspond with features 12/13 recorded during the geophysical survey. These were two positive/ negative responses lying close to the field edge. These features had been interpreted as possible "large pits, or, given their location may be related to plough heads, where a ploughing team turns at the end of their run". It was also noted that "the magnetic disruption from the water main effects this area and that 'features' at this end of the site should be treated with some caution". It would therefore seem likely that the ditch features were in part distorted by the background noise in this area.

6.2.6 No cut features were encountered in the location of feature 8 and it is likely that this feature is either the result of distortion from the adjacent water/sewage mains as was noted in the previous report or the result of the large concentration of iron panning noted in this location.

6.3 Trench 3 (Plates 7-8)

6.3.1 Trench 3 was located immediately to the south of Trench 2. It was positioned to investigate feature 8 identified through geophysical survey. It was positioned on a north-west – south-east axis. It was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 0.62m.

6.3.2 Two features ([27] and [29]) were recorded in this trench.

6.3.3 Feature [27] was a north-east – south-west orientated ditch and ran across the full width of the trench (plates 7 - 8). It was 0.82m in width and survived to a maximum depth of 0.15m. The ditch had straight sides and a flat base. Feature [27] contained a single grey clay-silt fill (28) with rare rounded stone inclusions. No dating material was recovered from this feature. Feature [27] is believed to predate [29] and be cut by it but it must be noted that due to the extremely dry weather and the near identical fills this relationship is by no means certain.

6.3.4 Feature [29] was an interesting feature. It was linear in plan with a curved end which ran for 15m alongside the north-east trench edge (plates 7 - 8). It was 0.36m in width and survived to a maximum depth of 0.13m. It contained a single brown silty-clay fill (30) with occasional rounded stone inclusions. No dating material was recovered from this feature. The function of this feature was unclear.

6.3.5 It is almost certain that these features are unrelated to feature 8 on the geophysical survey and it is likely that this feature is the result of distortion from the adjacent water/sewage mains as was noted in the previous report.

6.4 Trench 4 (Plates 9-11)

6.4.1 Trench 4 was located to the south-west of the site. It was positioned to investigate feature 5 identified through geophysical survey. It was positioned on a north-east – south-west axis. The trench was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 0.55m.

6.4.2 Two parallel ditches were identified in Trench 4 - [33] & [35]. They were both orientated on an east-west axis and crossed the full width of the trench. Ditch [33] was 0.80m in width, 0.54m deep and had a concave profile (plates 10 - 11). The ground was very dry and although it appeared that this ditch was a later feature and cut through the subsoil the similarities between the feature fill and the feature fill were such that this was not conclusively proven. Ditch [33] contained a single fill (34) which was a mid brown-grey silty clay. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

6.4.3 Ditch [35] was a larger ditch cut through the underlying natural (plates 10-11). It had a concave profile, measured 1.0m in width and survived to a maximum depth of 0.34m. Ditch [35] contained a single mid brown-grey silty clay fill (36). No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.





6.4.4 The location of these features does not correlate with the location of feature 5 on the geophysical survey. It would seem likely that feature 5 was a plough mark and did not survive below the subsoil level.

6.5 Trench 5 (Plates 12 – 16)

6.5.1 Trench 5 was located to the east of Trench 4. It was positioned to investigate features 5 and 6 identified through geophysical survey. It was positioned on a north-west – south-east axis. The trench was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 0.42m. Three stone filled land drains were uncovered at the base of the trench.

6.5.2 Trench 5 contained four archaeological features – [62], [60], [64] and [66].

6.5.3 Feature [62] was a north-south orientated linear ditch which cut across the width of the trench (plates 13 - 14). It had a u-shaped profile with a width of 0.51m and a depth of 0.17m. It contained a single fill (61), which was a mid grey-brown silty clay. No dating material was recovered from this feature. It was cut by a later land drain.

6.5.4 Ditch [60] ran parallel to feature [62]. It had a depth of 0.66m and a distinctive profile with an "ankle-breaker" at the base (plate 15). Unlike the majority of the features encountered on site this feature contained a number of distinct fills.

6.5.5 The basal fill of the ditch was context (59) which was a mid grey-brown silty clay. This fill has been interpreted as silting within the ditch, possibly washed from a bank. This fill had a maximum depth of 0.08m. Above fill (59) was fill (58) a light orange brown clay fill which is believed to have resulted from further, more gradual silting of the feature. It had a maximum depth of 0.26m. Context (58) was overlain by (57) a silting fill 0.42m in depth.

6.5.6 The uppermost fill in [60] was context (56), and rather than being a silting episode this context represents a deliberate infilling. It contained large stones and clumps of clay and silt resulting in a mottled orange and brown fill. It is also possible that this backfilling may sit within a recut of the ditch although this could not be proven. No dating material was recovered from any of the ditch fills but this feature was notably different from the other ditches excavated, both in its depth and in the number of fills.

6.5.7 Feature [64] was a north-south orientated linear feature which terminated within the trench (plate 16). It was 5.15m in length within the trench, 0.46 - 0.28m in width and 0.08m in depth. The feature had a wide u-shaped profile and contained a single fill (63). Fill (63) was a mid grey-brown compact sandy silt. The feature contained no dating material.

6.5.8 The final feature in Trench 5 was [66], which is recorded as a short length of gully – possibly related to feature [64] which is located immediately adjacent (plate 16). The feature was 1.35m in length, 0.47m in width and survived to a depth of 0.07m. It contained a single fill (65) which had the same characteristics as fill (63). The feature contained no dating material.

6.5.9 Features [60] & [62] identified in this trench do appear to relate to that shown on the geophysical survey. It does however seem likely that it was the land drains in Trenches 5 & 7 which resulted in the positive results.



6.6 Trench 6 (Plates 17 – 22)

6.6.1 Trench 6 was located to the east of Trench 5. It was positioned to investigate the continuation of feature 1 identified through geophysical survey. It was orientated on a north-west – south-east axis. The trench was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 0.52m.

6.6.2 Four features were identified in Trench 6 - [44], [46], [48] and [50]. Feature [44] was a linear ditch feature orientated on an approximately north – south axis (plate 18). It was 1.02m wide and 0.13m in depth with a wide u-shaped profile and slightly concave base. It contained a single fill (43) which was a light yellow-brown sandy silt. No dating material was recovered from this feature.

6.6.3 Feature [46] ran parallel to ditch [44] and was very similar in character. It was 1.03m in width and crossed the trench on a north-south axis (plate 19). The feature survived to a maximum depth of 0.16m and had a wide u-shaped profile with a flat base. It contained a single fill (45) which was a light yellow-brown sandy silt. A single sherd of nineteenth century pottery was recovered from this fill.

6.6.4 Feature [48] also ran parallel to features [46] and [44]. It was 1.20m wide and survived to a depth of 0.22m (plate 20). It had an asymmetrical u-shaped profile with a slightly concave base and contained a single fill (47) which was a light yellow-brown sandy silt. A single sherd of nineteenth century Buckley pottery was recovered from this fill.

6.6.5 Feature [50] (fill (51) was very different to the other three features in the trench (plate 21 - 22). This feature was a poorly defined amorphous shape in plan and extended beyond the trench limits. The feature profile was also poorly defined and irregular with root holes. This feature was almost certainly of natural rather than archaeological origin.

6.6.6 The ditches in Trench 6 correspond with those shown on the geophysical survey.

6.7 Trench 7 (Plates 23 – 27)

6.7.1 Trench 7 was located parallel to and to the north of Trench 5. It was positioned to further investigate features 5 and 6 identified through geophysical survey. It was positioned on a north-west – south-east axis. The trench was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 0.43m.

6.7.2 Five features were identified in Trench 7 – [72], [74], [76], [78] and [81]. Three of the features, [72], [74] and [81] were north-south orientated ditches whilst features [76] and [78] were orientated east-west and were very shallow, less well defined, and were quite possibly natural features.

6.7.3 Feature [72] was 0.86m in width and survived to a maximum depth of 0.22m (plate 25). It had a very shallow concave profile and contained a single mid grey-brown silty clay fill (71). A single sherd of nineteenth century Buckley pottery was recovered from this fill.

6.7.4 Feature [74] was 0.54m in width and survived to a maximum depth of 0.10m (plate 25). It had an asymmetric concave profile and contained a single mid grey-brown silty clay fill (73). The feature contained no dating material and root disturbance was noted.

6.7.5 As mentioned above features [76] and [78] (plate 26) were irregular linear features and may possibly be associated with water seepage from a land drain.

6.7.5 Feature [81] was 0.80m in width and survived to a maximum depth of 0.43m (plate 27). It had v-shaped profile and is almost certainly a continuation of feature [60] in Trench 5. As in feature [60], separate episodes of silting were identified. The basal fill if feature [81] was fill (82), which was a light-mid orange-grey clay which had a maximum depth of 0.04m. Fill (80) overlay (82) and was a





mid grey-brown silty clay. It was 0.28m deep and represented a silting episode. The uppermost fill in ditch [81] was (79), a mottled orange grey-brown sandy clay. 0.08m in depth. This fill appears to be deliberate backfilling, possibly from a no longer visible associated bank. The feature contained no dating material.

6.8 Trench 8 (Plate 28)

6.8.1 Trench 8 was located parallel to and to the north of Trench 7. There were no features identified through geophysical survey targeted by this trench. It was positioned on a north-west – south-east axis. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.52m and the underlying natural was reached at a depth of 0.50m.

6.8.2 No archaeological features were present in this trench.

6.9 Trench 9 (Plates 29 – 32)

6.9.1 Trench 9 was located parallel to, and to the north of Trench 8. There were not any features identified through geophysical survey targeted by this trench. It was positioned on a north-west – south-east axis. The trench was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 0.42m.

6.9.2 A group of three undated possible pits were excavated in this trench [38], [40] and [42]. All pits contained a single dark red-brown silty clay fill.

6.9.3 Pit [38] was a roughly circular feature with a diameter of approximately 0.4m (plate 32). It survived to a maximum depth of 0.09m and had a wide concave profile. Doubts were expressed by the excavator as to whether this feature was of archaeological or natural origin.

6.9.4 Pit [40] was also roughly circular in plan and survived to a maximum depth of 0.11m (plate 30). It had a diameter of 0.84m. The feature had shallow, concave sides and a flat base. This feature was also interpreted as of uncertain origin.

6.9.5 Pit [42] was a subcircular feature which continued beyond the northern trench limits (plate 31). It was 1m long and 0.80m wide (within the trench). The feature survived to a maximum depth of 0.20m and had shallow, concave sides and a flat base. This feature was also interpreted as of uncertain origin.

6.10 Trench 10 (Plates 33 - 34)

6.10.1 Trench 10 was located adjacent to the road in the central area of the site. It was positioned to investigate feature 5 identified through geophysical survey and to investigate an area which was not covered by geophysical survey due to interference from the road. It was positioned on a north-east – south-west axis. The trench was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 0.40m.

6.10.2 Three possible features were initially identified in Trench 10, although on excavation the two possible pits were discounted as natural features. Ditch [02] was a shallow, east-west orientated feature (plate 34). It had a maximum width of 1.2m and survived to a maximum depth of 0.11m. The ditch contained a single orange-brown silty clay fill (01). No dating material was recovered from this feature and should the trench be extended, or this area further evaluated at a later date it may prove to be a natural undulation in the natural.

6.10.3 The ditch in Trench 10 was not visible on the geophysical survey. Feature 5 on the geophysical survey was shown, as was seen in other trenches, to be a plough mark and was not visible below the subsoil level.



6.11 Trench 11 (Plate 35)

6.11.1 Trench 11 was located adjacent to the road in the central area of the site, and parallel with Trench 10. It was positioned to investigate feature 5 identified through geophysical survey and to investigate an area which was not covered by geophysical survey due to interference from the road. It was positioned on a north-east – south-west axis. The trench was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 0.55m.

6.11.2 Two possible ditches were initially identified in this trench - but both proved not to be archaeological features on investigation. No archaeological remains were present in this trench.

6.11.3 Feature 5 on the geophysical survey was shown, as was seen in other trenches, to be a plough mark and was not visible below the subsoil level.

6.12 Trench 12 (Plate 36 – 39)

6.12.1 Trench 12 was located parallel with the road in the north-eastern portion of the site. It was positioned to investigate features 1 and 13 identified through geophysical survey. It was positioned on a north-west – south-east axis. The trench was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 0.46m.

6.12.2 Three features were identified within Trench 12 - two ditches [08] and [10] and possible pit [06]. Pit [06] was a somewhat unconvincing feature with a diameter of 0.50m and a maximum depth of 0.11m (plate 37). It had concave sides and an irregular base. It contained a single dark orange-brown silty clay fill (05). The feature contained no dating material.

6.12.3 Ditch [08] was a north-south orientated ditch (plate 38). It was 1.8m in width and survived to a maximum depth of 0.36m. The ditch had an asymmetric profile with a vertical edge to the east, and a more gentle, concave slope to the west. It contained a single dark brown silty sand fill (07). The feature contained no dating material.

6.12.4 Ditch [10] was a narrower north-south orientated ditch which ran parallel to ditch [08] (plate 39). The ditch was 0.9m wide and survived to a maximum depth of 0.11m. It had a shallow concave profile and contained a single dark brown silty sand fill (09). The feature contained no dating material.

6.12.5 The ditch features uncovered in this trench corresponded with features 1 & 13 as identified through geophysical survey.

6.13 Trench 13 (Plates 40 – 42)

6.13.1 Trench 13 was located to the south of Trench 12. It was positioned to investigate feature 1 and the possible continuation of feature 13 identified through geophysical survey. It was positioned on an approximately north-west – south-east axis. The trench was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 0.44m.

6.13.2 Two stone filled land drains were located at the north-west end of Trench 13. A single possible archaeological feature was excavated at the south-eastern end of the trench. Feature [12] extended beyond the trench limits and was L-shaped within the trench (plate 42). The maximum length of the feature within the trench was 4.6m and it had a maximum width of 1.0m. It survived to a maximum depth of 0.15m and contained a single mid-brown silty clay fill. No artefactual material was recovered from this feature.

6.13.3 This feature was somewhat ephemeral, particularly in the extremely dry weather. It was not visible on the geophysical survey. It's form and function are at present unclear although there is the possibility that this maybe part of a structure of some kind.





6.13.4 Features 1 and 13 shown on the survey were not identified within this trench.

6.14 Trench 14 (Plates 43 – 45)

6.14.1 Trench 14 was located in to the east of the site, and to the south-west of Trench 13. It was positioned to investigate features 1 and 2 identified through geophysical survey. It was positioned on an approximately north - south axis. The trench was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 0.46m.

6.14.2 Two ditches were identified in the trench [55] and [53] which correspond with the two features identified on the geophysical survey. Ditch [55] was a north-east – south-west orientated ditch (plate 44). It measured 1.70m in width and survived to a maximum depth of 0.55m. The ditch had an asymmetric profile with a steep, near vertical southern edge, an almost flat base and a more gently sloping northern edge. IT contained a single fill (54), which was a mid-dark brown silt clay. The feature contained no dating material.

6.14.3 Ditch [53] was 1.9m in width and survived to a maximum depth of 0.55m (plate 43). It was orientated on a north-west – south-east axis and had a concave profile with an "ankle breaker" feature at the base. It contained a single fill (52) which was a mid-dark brown silt clay. The feature contained no dating material.

6.15 Trench 15 (Plates 46 – 47)

6.15.1 Trench 15 was located in the south-eastern area of the site. It was positioned to investigate features 3 and 4 identified through geophysical survey. It was positioned on a north-east – south-west axis. The trench was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 0.30m.

6.15.2 A single north-west – south-east orientated ditch [68] was uncovered in Trench 15 (plate 47). The ditch was 1.70m wide and survived to a maximum depth of 0.30m. The ditch had concave sides and a flat base and contained a single mid-brown silty-clay fill (67). The feature contained no dating material.

6.15.3 This feature does appear to partially correlate with the results of the geophysical survey, although one rather than two ditches were identified.

6.16 Trench 16 (Plate 48)

6.16.1 Trench 16 was located near the southern site boundary. It was positioned to investigate feature 9 identified through geophysical survey. It was positioned on a north-west – south-east axis. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.25m.

6.16.2 No archaeological features were present in this trench and the anomaly identified through geophysical survey was not identified.

6.17 Trench 17 (Plates 49 – 50)

6.17.1 Trench 17 was located to the north-east of Trench 16. It was positioned to investigate feature 9 identified through geophysical survey. It was positioned on a north-west – south-east axis. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.50m.

6.17.2 A single ditch [14] was uncovered in Trench 17 (plate 50), although the location of this ditch does not correspond with that of feature 9 identified through geophysical survey. Ditch [14] was 0.60m wide with a shallow concave profile. It survived to a maximum depth of 0.06m and contained a single light grey-brown silty clay fill (13).





6.18 Trench 18 (Plate 51)

6.18.1 Trench 18 was located parallel to the sites eastern boundary. It was positioned to investigate a possible continuation of feature 9 identified through geophysical survey. It was positioned on a northeast – south-west axis. The trench was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 0.42m.

6.18.2 No archaeological features were present in this trench and the anomaly identified through geophysical survey was not identified.

6.19 Trench 19 (Plates 52 – 54)

6.19.1 Trench 19 was located to the north-west of Trench 18. It was positioned to investigate feature 5 identified through geophysical survey. It was positioned on a north-east – south-west axis. The trench was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 0.48m. At the south-western end of the trench the underlying bedrock was reached.

6.19.2 Two possible parallel ditches ([24] and [26]) were identified at the north-western end of the trench. They were both orientated on a north-west – south-east axis. Ditch [24] was 0.60m in width and survived to a maximum depth of 0.06m (plate 53). It had shallow sloping sides and an irregular base. It contained a single mid brown silty clay fill (23). This feature was not entirely convincing as of archaeological origin and further investigation of this area is needed to confirm this.

6.19.3 Ditch [26] was 0.80m in width and survived to a maximum depth of 0.10m (plate 54). It had an irregular base and sides and appeared to have been disturbed by an animal burrow. It contained a single mid brown silty clay fill (25). This feature was not entirely convincing as of archaeological origin and further investigation of this area is needed to confirm this.

6.19.4 As in other trenches investigating feature 5 shown on the geophysical survey, this feature did not survive below subsoil level and was not distinguishable in section.

6.20 Trench 20 (Plates 55 – 56)

6.20.1 Trench 20 was located in the north-eastern corner of the field. It was positioned to investigate feature 5 identified through geophysical survey. It was positioned on a north-east – south-west axis. The trench was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 0.40m.

6.20.2 A possible ditch [32] was identified at the north-eastern end of the trench. It was orientated on a north-west – south-east axis (plate 56). Ditch [32] was 0.80m in width and survived to a maximum depth of 0.02m. It had an irregular base and sides. It contained a single mid brown silty clay fill (31). This feature was not entirely convincing as of archaeological origin and further investigation of this area is needed to confirm this.

6.20.3 As in other trenches investigating feature 5 shown on the geophysical survey, this feature did not survive below subsoil level and was not distinguishable in section.

6.2 Geotechnical Test Pits

6.2.1 Fifteen geotechnical test pits were excavated in the bases of the excavated trenches to examine the underlying geology. The locations of these test pits are marked on figure 4 – each test pit was c.3m in length with a width of 0.6m. They were excavated to a maximum depth of 3m. No archaeological features were encountered, and the underlying geology was boulder clay/gravel on top of schist bedrock.

6.2.2 The test pit excavation was monitored by an archaeologist from C.R Archaeology.





7.0 Conclusion

7.0.1 The archaeological features identified during this phase of works were predominantly agricultural ditches with limited dating evidence. Where dating evidence was recovered it was entirely Post Medieval in date – although it must be stressed that the majority of features were undated.

7.0.2 Overall the majority of the features located during the geophysical survey are typical of fields utilised for agricultural purposes, with land division boundary ditches and plough furrows forming the likely origin of the majority of anomalies detected.

7.0.3 There were a number of features identified through the evaluation trenching which did not appear on the geophysical survey, although many were very shallow or could not be determined with 100% certainty

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Specification for Archaeological Works (Evaluation Trenching) at

Proposed Development

Llangefni Primary School, Changefni, Anglesey

NGR SH 44734 76010 (Centre Point)

Project Number CR168-2018



Specification for Archaeological Works (Evaluation Trenching) at: Llangefni Primary School, Llangefni, Anglesey

Planning Application Number: National Grid Reference: Client: Report Authors: Report Number: Date: Pre-planning NGR SH 44734 76010 (Centre Point) Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn C. Rees CR168-2018 12-07-2018

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Figure 1. Site Location Map **Figure 2.** Proposed Trench Location Plan

Appendices

Appendix A. Proposed Site Development Plans

COR

1.0 Introduction

As a first phase of works at the proposed development site C.R Archaeology were instructed by Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn to conduct an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, Walkover Survey and Geophysical Survey (figure 1). This document details the methodology for further works at the site and will investigate the features identified during the previous phases of work.

As the works are at a pre-planning stage detailed drawings of the buildings/services were not yet available. Available drawings 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, and it is intended that the results of the works in this document will inform decisions as to the nature of any further archaeological mitigation strategies or evaluation methodologies which may be required.

The site is located on the north-western outskirts of Llangefni town. The proposed development area comprises two relatively large rectangular fields. It is bounded by hedgerows and is currently in use as grazing. The B5109 Llangefni – Bodffordd road runs along the north-eastern site boundary and there is housing to the north-east and south-east. There is undeveloped farmland to the south-west and north-west.

There are isolated find spots of Prehistoric date located within the vicinity and the site. Although located over 2000m from the proposed development site the recent discovery of an Early Medieval cemetery and burnt mound at Coleg Menai further demonstrates the potential for significant discoveries in the area.

Many of the features encountered during the geophysical survey appear to relate to Medieval and Post Medieval utilisation of the site for agricultural purposes. These include probable ridge and furrow; likely to be of Medieval or Post Medieval date, and several field boundaries recorded on early mapping of the site. Several features are deemed to be worthy of further investigation.

This document details the methodology for a desk-based assessment and for the excavation of 20 30m x 2m evaluation trenches which will be positioned to establish the origin and date of features on the geophysical survey. 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 20 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.

It aims to excavate 20 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.

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

A full historical background for the site was conducted as an element of the previous works at the site. In summary searches of the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record conducted at 500m and 1000m radii of the site (central point) returned 25 results -2 of Prehistoric date, 2 of Medieval date, 7 of Post Medieval date, 10 of Modern date, 3 of unknown date and 1 multiperiod site.

There are isolated find spots of Prehistoric date located within the vicinity and the site. Although located over 2000m from the proposed development site the recent discovery of an Early Medieval cemetery and burnt mound at Coleg Menai further demonstrates the potential for significant discoveries in the area.

3.1 Topography

The eastern site boundary is located along the Llangefni – Bodffordd Road and is bounded by hedgerows. It is located on the outskirts of the town of Llangefni. The site is currently in use as grazing within an enclosed field boundary system.

3.2 Geology

The bedrock geology at the site is recorded as "Gwna Group - Schist. Metamorphic Bedrock formed approximately 508 to 635 million years ago in the Cambrian and Ediacaran Periods. Originally sedimentary rocks formed in deep seas by chaotic deposition from underwater gravity slide. Later altered by low-grade metamorphism. Originally sedimentary rocks formed in deep seas by chaotic deposition from underwater gravity slide. These rocks were sedimentary in origin, possibly chaotic flows of debris in a deep-marine environment but have subsequently undergone metamorphism" (www.bgs.ac.uk).

The superficial geology is recorded as "Till, Devensian - Diamicton. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions (U). These sedimentary deposits are glacigenic in origin. They are detrital, created by the action of ice and meltwater, they can form a wide range of deposits and geomorphologies associated with glacial and inter-glacial periods during the Quaternary" (www.bgs.ac.uk).

4.0 Scheme of Works - Methodology

4.1 Desk Based Research

A complete and coherent history of the site was compiled as an element of the previous project phase. Additional research will only be conducted in the event of a significant archaeological discovery and will seek to place the discovery within its regional and chronological context.

4.2 Evaluation Trenching

Twenty evaluation trenches, each measuring 30m x 2m will be excavated within the proposed development area using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

These trenches will be targeted on features identified through geophysical survey. To ensure a representative sample of the site is investigated blank areas will also targeted. The proposed trench layout is shown in figure 2.

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.

In addition to the archaeological works there is geotechnical work planned at the site. This work will investigate the underlying natural at the base of trenches. Areas within trenches to be targeted will be fully excavated prior to this work taking place. Should a trench be considered archaeologically sensitive then work will not be permitted within this area. Also planned is geotechnical window sampling which will involve the drilling of cores on the site – this will not be carried out within the trenches but is of small scale and will have minimal impact on the ground. Should nearby trenches uncover significant archaeological remains which are believed to extend into the coring area then coring will not be permitted.

During works all excavated soil will be stored onsite alongside the individual trenches. Trenches will be backfilled immediately upon the completion of the archaeological/geotechnical works. The top and subsoil will be kept separate from any material excavated during the geotechnical work.

Following the completion of the works the trenches will be backfilled and compacted to level using a mechanical excavator. The material removed during the geotechnical works will be backfilled first and compacted before the backfilling of the sub and topsoil.

Should further landscaping works be required Anglesey County Council will undertake levelling and reseeding.

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

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. Anglesey Council have secured an agreement with the landowner that any finds recovered during the works will be the property of the council and are to be deposited at Oriel Mon.

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. Any archive/artefactual material created/discovered during this archaeological project will be deposited at the county museum/record office. Archive material will be deposited in accordance with the museum's terms and conditions for archive deposition.

4.3 Timetable for Proposed Works

It is envisaged that the evaluation trenching will commence on the 23rd July and an estimated time frame of 4 weeks 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.

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.

5.0 Bibliography

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