Results of Archaeological Works (Evaluation Trenching) at

Land Adj. to Bryn Hyfryd, Llanrwst

NGR SH 80270 61618

Project Number CR199-2020



CR ARCHAEOLOGY

Compiled by C. Rees and M. Jones On Behalf of Mr. M. Davies

Summary

CR Archaeology were commissioned by the owner to undertake evaluation trenching on land adjacent to Bryn Hyfryd, Llanrwst. The work was undertaken on November 7th 2020.

Five 20m × 2m trenches were excavated. The trenching at the site yielded a negative result and no archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered during the works, with anomalies identified during the geophysical survey shown to either be modern drainage features or of geological origin.

Crynodeb

Dirprwyodd Archeoleg CR gan y perchennog i ymgymryd asesiad ffosydd ar dir cyfagos i Bryn Hyfryd, Llanrwst. Roedd y gwaith ei ymgymryd yn Dachwedd 7fed 2020.

Cloddwyd pump ffoes 20m x 2m. Cynhyrchid y ffosydd ar y safle canlyniad negyddol ac nid oedd yna nodweddion archeolegol neu wrthrychau ei dadorchuddio ystod y gwaith, gydag anomaledd dynodedig yn ystod yr arolwg geoffisegol yn ymddangos is fod un ai nodweddion draeniad cyfoes neu o darddiad daearegol.

Results of Archaeological Works (Evaluation Trenching) at:

Land Adj. to Bryn Hyfryd, Llanrwst

Planning Application Number: 0/47526

National Grid Reference: SH 80270 61618 Client: Mr. M. Davies

Report Author: Catherine Rees and Matthew Jones

Report Number: CR199-2020 **Date:** 12/11/2020

Contents

1.0	Introduction
2.0	Project Aims
3.0	Scheme of Works – Methodology
3.1	Desk Based Research
3.2	Evaluation Trenching
3.2.1	Equipment
3.3	Timetable for Proposed Works
3.4	Staffing
3.5	Monitoring
3.6	Health and Safety
3.7	The Report
3.7.1	Copyright
4.0	Topographical and Geological Background
4.1	Topography
4.2	Geology
5.0	Historical Background
6.0	Results of Archaeological Works
7.0	Conclusion
8.0	Bibliography
	rations
	re 1. Site Location Map
rigur	re 2. Trench Location Plan

1 1guit 2. 11

Appendices

Appendix A. Specification for Archaeological Works

Appendix B. Location and Direction of Photographic Plates

1.0 Introduction

CR Archaeology were instructed by Mr. M. Davies to conduct further archaeological works – archaeological trenching, at the proposed site of a new residential development containing 16 houses and associated developments (Appendix A). It was the second phase of works at the site and the trenching targeted anomalies highlighted in the previous phase of works (Desk Based Assessment & Geophysical Survey). It also targeted areas which did not contain anomalies to ensure representative coverage of the area.

It must be noted that the majority of the geophysical anomalies identified during the previous phase of works were located outside the area of the development itself and were within the flood prone easement area. It was therefore agreed with GAPS that as this area was not to be affected by the proposed works they would not be trenched due to serious concerns over flooding and the potential to cause a silting episode should the heavy rainfall currently being experienced in the area continue. Should the development plans change then this area must be evaluated separately, and it is the understanding that should the proposed development go ahead this area is to be fenced off from the work area and is not to be used in any way – including as a storage area.

The site is located on land adjacent to Bryn Hyfryd Farm, Llanrwst (Figure 1). The farm and outbuildings are Grade II Listed buildings (Ref 3594 and 3595). They are recorded as having been built c. 1840. The proposed development area is currently in agricultural use, with the area immediately adjoining the road prone to flooding.

The town of Llanrwst has Medieval origins and it is noted that there is a general potential for unknown, contemporary archaeological remains throughout the area surrounding the core of the town. It is suggested that within the proposed development site this could comprise ancillary dwellings or industrial activity, or possibly the site of a significant battle as several are known to have taken place in the locale (GAPS Letter Ref: 0807tf/D3490). The proposed development is located to the south of the former Ysgol Dyffryn school (Grade II Listed Ref 3592) and Schoolmaster's House (Grade II Listed Ref 3593). The school is believed to have been founded c. 1612 and elements of the 17th century building have been incorporated into the 19th century and later school.

This document has been prepared to supply the client and statutory bodies including Cadw and the Local Planning Authority Archaeologist with information as to the archaeological potential, impact and constraints on the aforementioned scheme. It is intended that the results of this work will inform decisions as to the nature of any additional heritage considerations/consultations which the scheme must be afforded and archaeological mitigation strategies or evaluation methodologies which may be required.

Five 20m x 2m trenches were excavated. The trenching at the site yielded a negative result and no archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered during the works.

2.0 Project Aims & Objectives

This phase of works for the development site aimed to undertake a programme of archaeological works and was comprised of the excavation of 5 evaluation trenches each measuring 2m x 20m.

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.

It aimed to excavate 5 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.

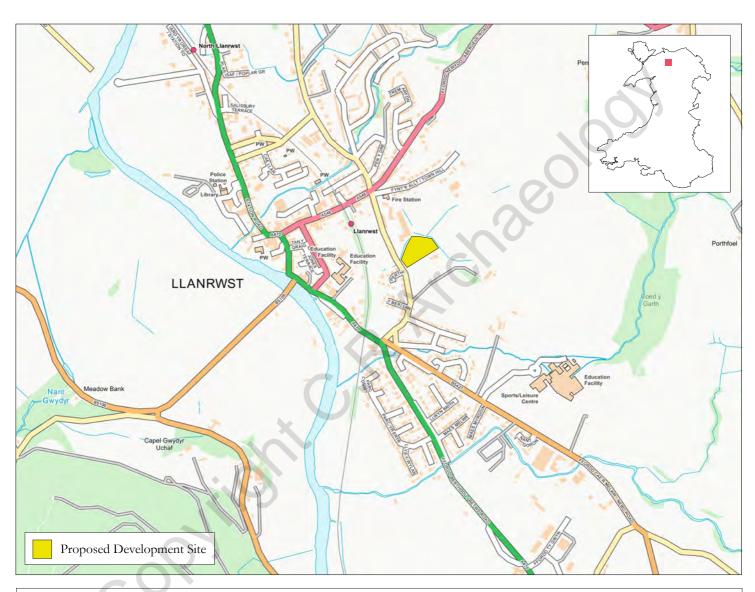


Figure 1. Site Location Map - Source: OS Open Data (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2019)

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

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

The objectives of this programme of works were:

- To make full and effective use of the resulting information to establish the archaeological significance of the site
- To 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

A complete and coherent history of the site was compiled as an element of the previous project phase. Due to the negative results of this phase of works no additional research was undertaken.

3.2 Evaluation Trenching

Five evaluation trenches, each measuring c.20m x 2m were excavated within the proposed development area using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

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

All machine excavation was supervised by an archaeologist from CR Archaeology. The trenches were excavated until an archaeological horizon or the bedrock/natural was reached. No archaeological features, structures or remains identified were identified in the course of the evaluation.

During works all excavated soil was stored onsite alongside the individual trenches. Trenches were backfilled immediately upon the completion of the archaeological works.

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

The record forms at CR 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.

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

A high-resolution 14.2mp Sony Alpha digital camera was used to create a photographic record of the site. General photographs of each trench were taken due to the negative result of the works.

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

3.2.2 Additional Mitigation/Contingency Measures

Due to the negative results of the works no contingency measures were necessary.

3.2.3 Recovery, Processing and Curation of Artefactual Material

No artefactual material was recovered during the trenching works.

3.2.4 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. 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).

Archive material will be deposited in accordance with the repository's terms and conditions for archive deposition.

3.3 Timetable for Proposed Works

The evaluation trenching commenced on 9th November and due to the negative result was completed within a single day. Further time has been allotted for archive research, report compilation and site archiving.

3.4 Staffing

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

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

The project was 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.

3.6 Health and Safety

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

All staff were issued with 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)

Due to the current ongoing Covid 19 situation additional safety measures were in place. Frequent handwashing and the use of alcohol hand gel was adopted, and staff maintained a distance of 2m + at all times.

3.7 The Report

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

The report includes:

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

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

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

3.7.1 Copyright

CR 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 & Geological Background

4.1 Topography

The application site is located off Ffordd Tan y'r Ysgol which forms the south-western site boundary. It is accessed via a lane off Ffordd Tan y'r Ysgol leading to Bryn Hyfryd Farm. This lane runs along the south-eastern site boundary. The field is bounded to the north-east by enclosed agricultural land. It is a generally flat area of land within an enclosed field system and is currently in use as grazing.

4.2 Geology

The bedrock geology at the site is recorded as "Denbigh Grits Formation - Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 427 to 433 million years ago in the Silurian Period. Local environment previously dominated by deep seas. These sedimentary rocks are marine in origin. They are detrital and comprise coarse-to fine-grained slurries of debris from the continental shelf flowing into a deep-sea environment, forming distinctively graded beds" (www.bgs.ac.uk).

The site is located at the boundary of two superficial geology types. They are recorded as "River Terrace Deposits (undifferentiated) - Sand and Gravel. Superficial Deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by rivers. Sedimentary deposits are fluvial in origin. They are detrital, ranging from coarse- to fine-grained and form beds and lenses of deposits reflecting the channels, floodplains and levees of a river or estuary (if in a coastal setting)" and "Till, Devensian - Diamicton. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions. These 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

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 the following results - 47 within a 500m search radius, and 100 within a 1000m search radius. Within a 500m search radius there was 1 entry of Prehistoric date, 2 entries of Roman date, 1 entry of Medieval date, 41 of Post Medieval date, 1 of multiperiod date and a single entry recorded as of unknown date.

When the search is expanded to 1000m the majority of the results continue to be predominantly of Post Medieval date. At 1000m there were 2 Prehistoric entries, 3 entries of Roman date, 5 entries of Medieval date, 75 of Post Medieval date, 2 of Modern date, 1 of multiperiod date, and 11 entries recorded as of unknown date.

There are 31 Listed Buildings within a 500m radius of the proposed development, and 53 within a 1000m search radius. One of the Listed Buildings – Pont Fawr Bridge is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

6.0 Results of Archaeological Works (Figure 2, Plates 1 – 7)

Five 20m x 2m trenches were machine excavated. The locations of the trenches are shown on figure 2.

Trench 1 (plate 1) was located at the southern end of the proposed development area. It was targeted on an area of magnetic disturbance identified during the geophysical survey. No feature was uncovered within the trench and it is presumed that this feature was geological in origin.

The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.52m. Three contexts were identified within the trench – a mid-brown, clay silt topsoil/turf layer (0.28m in depth), which overlay a mid-brown clay silt subsoil (0.16m) and a yellow-orange clay natural. The natural was dug into to a maximum depth of 0.08m.

Trench 2 (plate 2) was located to the north of Trench 2 in a "blank" area which did not show any strong signature on the geophysical survey. No archaeological features were uncovered within this trench.

The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.40m. Three contexts were identified within the trench – a mid-brown, clay silt topsoil/turf layer (0.30m in depth), which overlay a mid-brown clay silt subsoil (0.08m) and a yellow-orange clay natural. The natural was dug into to a maximum depth of 0.02m.

Trench 3 (plate 3) was located to the north of Trench 2 in an area of feint linear features identified on the geophysical survey, and which were presumed to be drainage features. No archaeological features were uncovered within this trench.

The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.40m. Three contexts were identified within the trench – a mid-brown, clay silt topsoil/turf layer (0.24m in depth), which overlay a mid-brown clay silt subsoil (0.10m) and a yellow-orange clay natural. The natural was dug into to a maximum depth of 0.06m.

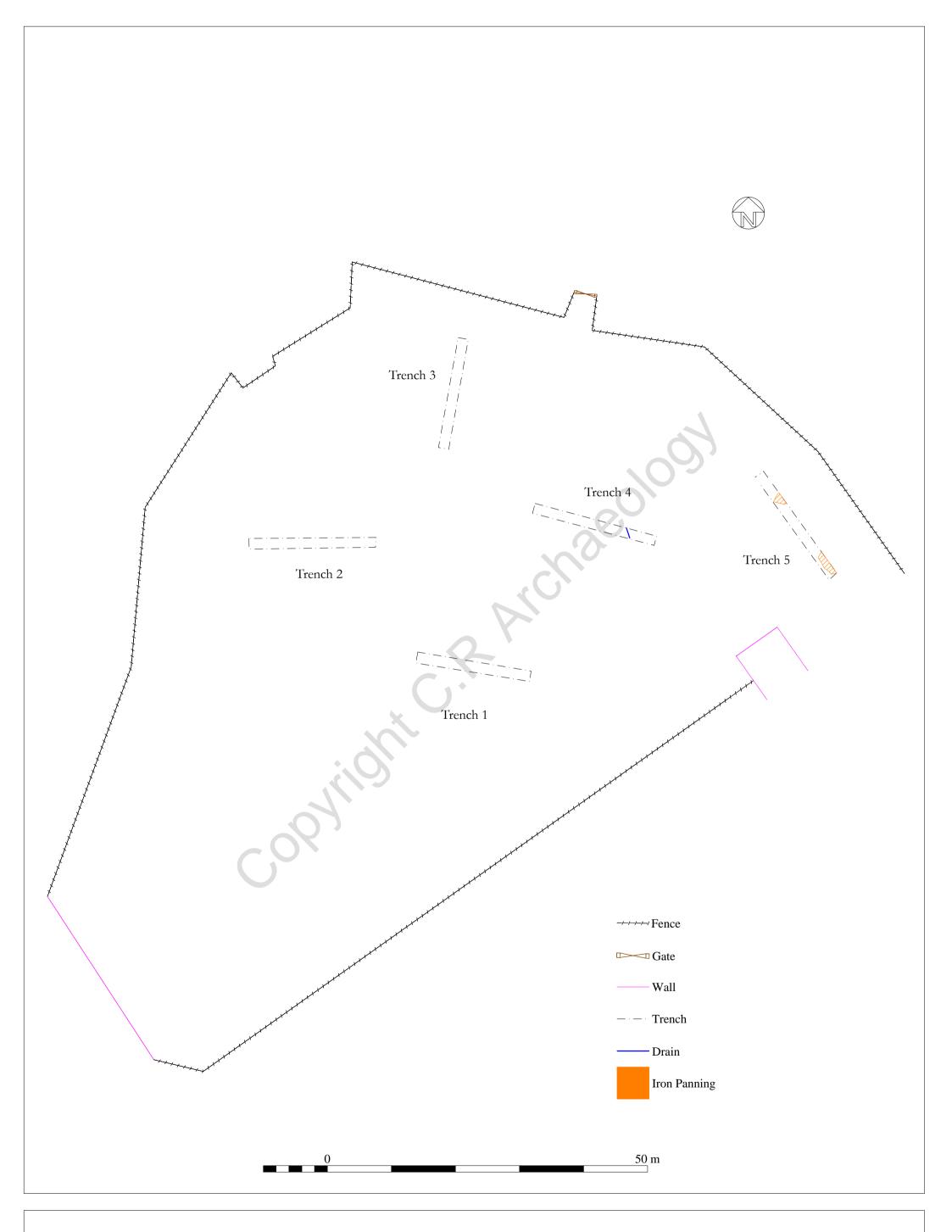


Figure 2. Trench Location Plan



Plate 1. Trench 1











Plates 6 (Left) & 7 (Above). Trench 5 Showing Dense Iron-panning





Trench 4 (plate 4) was located to the south-east of Trench 3 in an area of feint linear features identified on the geophysical survey, and which were presumed to be drainage features. No archaeological features were uncovered within this trench. There was a modern clay drainage ditch uncovered in the base of this feature.

The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.40m. Three contexts were identified within the trench – a mid-brown, clay silt topsoil/turf layer (0.32m in depth), which overlay a mid-brown clay silt subsoil (0.06m) and a yellow-orange clay natural. The natural was dug into to a maximum depth of 0.02m.

Trench 5 (plates 5-7) was located to the north-eastern corner of the field. It was located to target an area of magnetic disturbance identified on the geophysical survey. No archaeological features were uncovered within this trench. The anomaly was shown to be the result of iron panning in this area and was a natural feature.

The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.28m. Three contexts were identified within the trench – a mid-brown, clay silt topsoil/turf layer (0.22m in depth), which overlay a mid-brown clay silt subsoil (0.06m) and a yellow-orange clay natural. There were large patches and chunks of iron panning in the base of this trench.

A small quantity of Post Medieval pottery ($19^{th} - 20^{th}$ century date) was identified during the trenching but not retained. No other artefactual material was recovered during the works.

7.0 Conclusion

The trenching works at Llanrwst yielded a negative result, with anomalies identified during the geophysical survey shown to either be modern drainage features or geological in origin.

It would therefore seem likely that were there to be archaeological remains surviving within the proposed development area, they are likely to be isolated single features or small groups.

The area of highest archaeological potential identified through geophysical survey was not trenched as this area is not to be affected by the proposed development scheme.

8.0 Bibliography

Ballinger, J. 1927. History of the Gwydir Family. (Cardiff)

Berks, T. 2007. *Dyffryn Conwy Flood Alleviation Scheme: Archaeological Watching brief.* (GAT Report 696)

Bingley, Rev. W. 1814. North Wales

Davidson, A. 2005. *Dyffryn Conwy Flood Alleviation Scheme: Archaeological Assessment.* (GAT Report 618)

Evans, R. T. J. 2010. *Trefriw Borrow Pit. Archaeological Excavation*. (GAT Report No. 864)

Evans, R. T. J. 2010. *Conwy Valley Flood Alleviation Scheme: Llanrwst, Gwynedd.* (GAT Report No. 873)

English Heritage. 2006. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE)*

- Fenton, R. 1917. Tours in Wales (1804-1813). Cambrian Archaeological Association
- Lewis, Samuel. 1833. A Topographical Dictionary of Wales
- Pennant, T. 1883 edition. Tours in Wales Volume 3. H Humphreys. Caernarfon
- Roberts, A & Woodall, E. 1902. *Gossiping Guide to Wales: North Wales and Aberystwyth.* Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co. London
- Roberts, J. 2006. *Dyffryn Conwy Flood Alleviation Scheme: Archaeological Watching Brief.* (GAT Report 622)
- St. Paul, J. 2018. Heritage Impact Assessment Regarding the Impact on the Heritage Asset of Proposed Development Adjacent to Bryn Hyfryd and Outbuildings.

 Commercial Report
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 1985 (Revised 2010 & 2014). Code of Conduct
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 1990 (Revised 2008 & 2014). Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 1994 (Revised 2009 & 2014). *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2008, Revised 2014. Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*
- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales. 1914. *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire: IV County of Denbigh Volume 4*Walker, K.1990. *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage,*United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) Archaeology Section
- Watkinson, D. & Neal, V. 2001. *First Aid for Finds.* London. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works

Websites – all sites were visited 13/09/2020

www.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html www.cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/cof-cymru/search-cadw-records www.data.gov.uk/data/map-preview

Appendix A. Specification for Archaeological Works



Specification for Archaeological Works (Evaluation Trenching) at

Land Adj. to Bryn Hyfryd, Llanrwst

NGR SH 80270 61618

Project Number CR199-2020



CR ARCHAEOLOGY

Compiled by C. Rees and M. Jones On Behalf of Mr. M. Davies

Specification for Archaeological Works (Evaluation Trenching) at:

Land Adj. to Bryn Hyfryd, Llanrwst

Planning Application Number: 0/47526

National Grid Reference: SH 80270 61618 Client: Mr. M. Davies

Report Author: Catherine Rees and Matthew Jones

Report Number: CR199-2020 **Date:** 26/10/2020

Contents

1.0	Introduction
2.0	Project Aims
3.0	Brief Historical Background
3.1	Topography
3.2	Geology
4.0	Sahama of Washa Mathadalaas
	Scheme of Works – Methodology
4.1	Desk Based Research
4.2	Evaluation Trenching
4.2.1	Equipment
4.3	Timetable for Proposed Works
4.4	Staffing
4.5	Monitoring
4.6	Health and Safety
4.7	The Report
4.7.1	Copyright

5.0 Bibliography

Illustrations

Figure 1. Site Location Map

Figure 2. Proposed Trench Location Plan

Appendices

Appendix A. Proposed Site Development Plans

1.0 Introduction

CR Archaeology have been instructed by Mr. M. Davies to conduct further archaeological works – archaeological trenching, at the proposed site of a new residential development containing 16 houses and associated developments (Appendix A). It is the second phase of works at the site and will target anomalies highlighted in the previous phase of works (Desk Based Assessment & Geophysical Survey) and will target areas which did not contain anomalies to ensure representative coverage of the area.

It must be noted that the majority of the geophysical anomalies identified during the previous phase of works were located outside the area of the development itself and were within the flood prone easement area. It was therefore agreed with GAPS that as this area is not to be affected by the proposed works they would not be trenched due to serious concerns over flooding and the potential to cause a silting episode should the heavy rainfall currently being experienced in the area continue. Should the development plans change then this area must be evaluated separately, and it is the understanding that should the proposed development go ahead this area is to be fenced off from the work area and is not to be used in any way – including as a storage area.

The site is located on land adjacent to Bryn Hyfryd Farm, Llanrwst (Figure 1). The farm and outbuildings are Grade II Listed buildings (Ref 3594 and 3595). They are recorded as having been built c. 1840. The proposed development area is currently in agricultural use, with the area immediately adjoining the road prone to flooding.

The proposed development is located to the south of the former Ysgol Dyffryn school (Grade II Listed Ref 3592) and Schoolmaster's House (Grade II Listed Ref 3593). The school is believed to have been founded c. 1612 and elements of the 17th century building have been incorporated into the 19th century and later school.

The town of Llanrwst has Medieval origins and it is noted that there is a general potential for unknown, contemporary archaeological remains throughout the area surrounding the core of the town. It is suggested that within the proposed development site this could comprise ancillary dwellings or industrial activity, or possibly the site of a significant battle as several are known to have taken place in the locale (GAPS Letter Ref: 0807tf/D3490).

This document has been prepared to supply the client and statutory bodies including Cadw and the Local Planning Authority Archaeologist with information as to the archaeological potential, impact and constraints on the aforementioned scheme.

It is intended that the results of this work will inform decisions as to the nature of any additional heritage considerations/consultations which the scheme must be afforded and archaeological mitigation strategies or evaluation methodologies which may be required.

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 5 evaluation trenches each measuring 2m x 20m.

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 5 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.

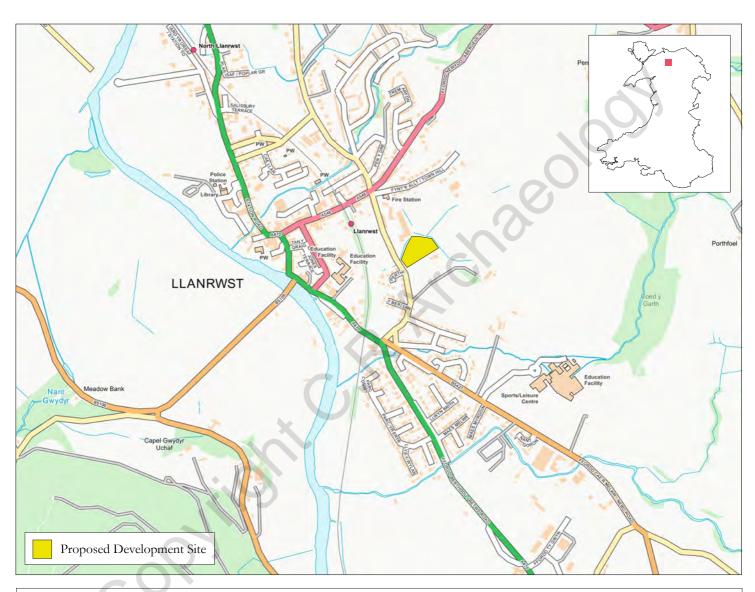


Figure 1. Site Location Map - Source: OS Open Data (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2019)

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 the following results - 47 within a 500m search radius, and 100 within a 1000m search radius. Within a 500m search radius there was 1 entry of Prehistoric date, 2 entries of Roman date, 1 entry of Medieval date, 41 of Post Medieval date, 1 of multiperiod date and a single entry recorded as of unknown date.

When the search is expanded to 1000m the majority of the results continue to be predominantly of Post Medieval date. At 1000m there were 2 Prehistoric entries, 3 entries of Roman date, 5 entries of Medieval date, 75 of Post Medieval date, 2 of Modern date, 1 of multiperiod date, and 11 entries recorded as of unknown date.

There are 31 Listed Buildings within a 500m radius of the proposed development, and 53 within a 1000m search radius. One of the Listed Buildings – Pont Fawr Bridge is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

3.1 Topography

The application site is located off Ffordd Tan y'r Ysgol which forms the south-western site boundary. It is accessed via a lane off Ffordd Tan y'r Ysgol leading to Bryn Hyfryd Farm. This lane runs along the south-eastern site boundary. The field is bounded to the north-east by enclosed agricultural land. It is a generally flat area of land within an enclosed field system and is currently in use as grazing.

3.2 Geology

The bedrock geology at the site is recorded as "Denbigh Grits Formation - Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 427 to 433 million years ago in the Silurian Period. Local environment previously dominated by deep seas. These sedimentary rocks are marine in origin. They are detrital and comprise coarse-to fine-grained slurries of debris from the continental shelf flowing into a deep-sea environment, forming distinctively graded beds" (www.bgs.ac.uk).

The site is located at the boundary of two superficial geology types. They are recorded as "River Terrace Deposits (undifferentiated) - Sand and Gravel. Superficial Deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by rivers. Sedimentary deposits are fluvial in origin. They are detrital, ranging from coarse- to fine-grained and form beds and lenses of deposits reflecting the channels, floodplains and levees of a river or estuary (if in a coastal setting)" and "Till, Devensian - Diamicton. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions. These 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

Five evaluation trenches, each measuring 20m 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.

During works all excavated soil will be stored onsite alongside the individual trenches. Trenches will be backfilled immediately upon the completion of the archaeological works.

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

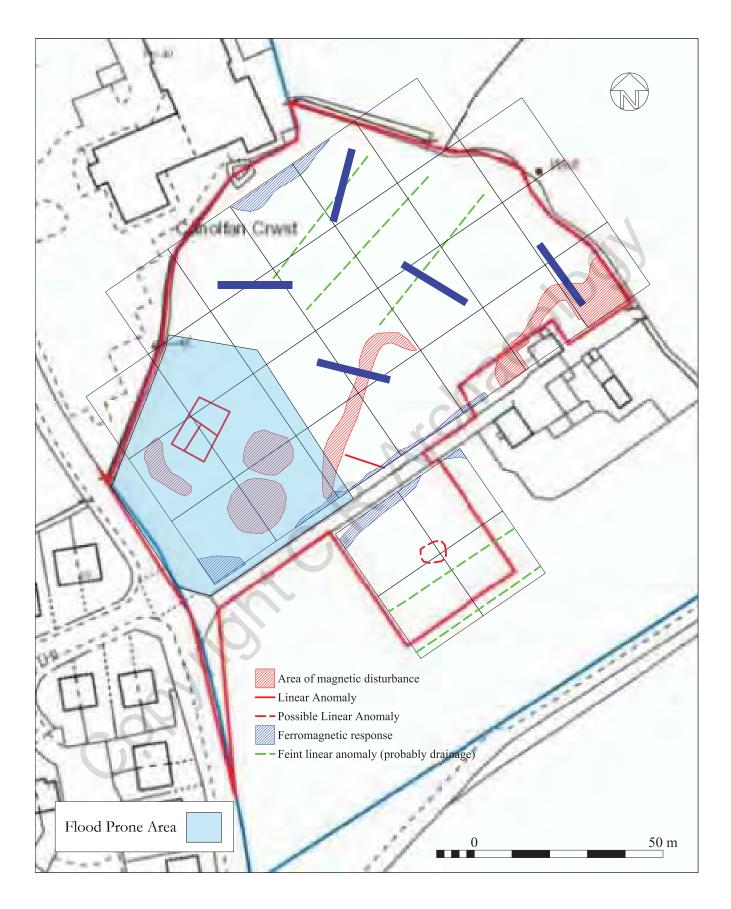


Figure 2. Proposed Trench Layout Overlaid Upon Results of Geophysical Survey

showing the sequence and depths of deposits. 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. Consultation will take place between CR 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. In the event of a significant discovery being made the landowner reserves the right to

take ownership of the material.

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 9th November and an estimated time frame of 2 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

Due to the current ongoing Covid 19 situation additional safety measures are in place. Frequent handwashing and the use of alcohol hand gel will be adopted and staff will maintain a distance of 2m + at all times. Due to the works being undertaken outdoors face coverings will not be worn whilst working but will be worn when using indoor welfare facilities unless eating. Welfare facilities will be kept clean and well ventilated.

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

Ballinger, J. 1927. *History of the Gwydir Family.* (Cardiff)

Berks, T. 2007. *Dyffryn Conwy Flood Alleviation Scheme: Archaeological Watching brief.* (GAT Report 696)

Bingley, Rev. W. 1814. North Wales

Davidson, A. 2005. *Dyffryn Conwy Flood Alleviation Scheme: Archaeological Assessment.* (GAT Report 618)

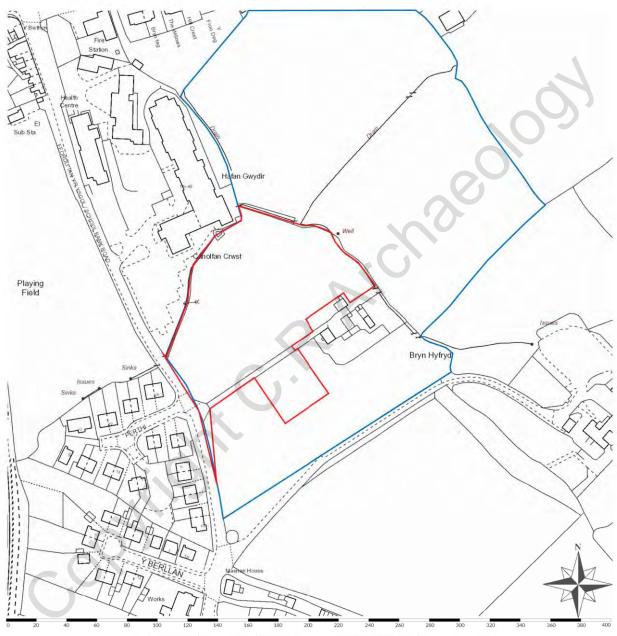
- Evans, R. T. J. 2010. Trefriw Borrow Pit. Archaeological Excavation. (GAT Report No. 864)
- Evans, R. T. J. 2010. *Conwy Valley Flood Alleviation Scheme: Llanrwst, Gwynedd.* (GAT Report No. 873)
- English Heritage. 2006. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE)*
- Fenton, R. 1917. Tours in Wales (1804-1813). Cambrian Archaeological Association
- Lewis, Samuel. 1833. A Topographical Dictionary of Wales
- Pennant, T. 1883 edition. Tours in Wales Volume 3. H Humphreys. Caernarfon
- Roberts, A & Woodall, E. 1902. *Gossiping Guide to Wales: North Wales and Aberystwyth.* Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co. London
- Roberts, J. 2006. *Dyffryn Conwy Flood Alleviation Scheme: Archaeological Watching Brief.* (GAT Report 622)
- St. Paul, J. 2018. Heritage Impact Assessment Regarding the Impact on the Heritage Asset of Proposed Development Adjacent to Bryn Hyfryd and Outbuildings.

 Commercial Report
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 1985 (Revised 2010 & 2014). Code of Conduct
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 1990 (Revised 2008 & 2014). Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 1994 (Revised 2009 & 2014). *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2008, Revised 2014. Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*
- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales. 1914. *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire: IV County of Denbigh Volume 4*Walker, K.1990. *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage,*United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) Archaeology Section
- Watkinson, D. & Neal, V. 2001. *First Aid for Finds.* London. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works

Websites – all sites were visited 13/09/2020

www.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html www.cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/cof-cymru/search-cadw-records www.data.gov.uk/data/map-preview Appendix A. Proposed Development Plans





Scale: 1:2500 | Area 16Ha | Grid Reference: 280304,361601 | Paper Size: A4







Proposed Section Through Site



Natural Stone Cladding



Smooth Render Painted White



Heritage Style Upvc Casement Windows

External Finishes Walls - Natural Stone Cladding and Smooth White Render Roof - Natural Slate

Windows & Doors - White Upvc

Rainwater Goods & Fascia Boards - Dark Green

Project Outline Application for New Residential Units
- Planning Drawings
Address
Land Adjacent Bryn Hyfryd, Llannwst, Conwy LL26 0HU Client Mr M Davies Scale 1:250 @A3 Drawing:- Ty/398/PL04

