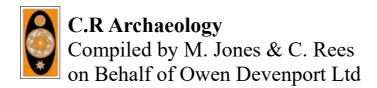
Results of Archaeological Assessment at

Proposed Development at Henryd Road, (Land at) Gyffin, Conwy

NGR SH 77471 76810



Project Number CR118-2016





Results of Archaeological Assessment at: Proposed Development at Henryd Road, (Land at) Gyffin, Conwy

Planning Application Number: Pre-planning

National Grid Reference: NGR SH 77471 76810 **Client:** Owen Devenport Ltd

Report Authors: M. Jones & C. Rees

Project Number: CR118-2016 Date: 22-01-2016

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1.0 Introduction

C.R Archaeology have been instructed by Owen Devenport Ltd to conduct an archaeological desk based assessment at the proposed site of a small residential development on which approximately 10 - 15 houses are planned (figure 1). Due to the preliminary phase of the process during which these works are being undertaken there is no definitive plan of the development at this time.

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

A specification was been written with reference to emails prepared by Jenny Emmett of GAPS (dated 25th - 27th November 2015) as a methodology for an initial programme of works and is included as Appendix A. It is intended that the results of these works will inform decisions as to the nature of any further archaeological mitigation strategies or evaluation methodologies which may be required.

The site is located along the eastern side of the B5106 (Henrhyd Road) and is bounded by this to the east and the river Gyffin to the north and west. It is within the village of Gyffin in the county of Conwy. The site is currently in use as grazing within an enclosed field boundary system, and the site is a flat plateau which drops away sharply down to the level of the river.

The historic Medieval walled town of Conwy lies approximately 800m to the north-east of the proposed development. Of historic and archaeological interest within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area is St. Benedict's Church which has Medieval origins and is notable for the survival of a late 15th to early 16th century painted celure consisting of sixteen painted panels depicting religious images (Richards 1975: 63-65).

Research has uncovered relatively little archaeological information about the site itself and the Gyffin area in general. Cartographic sources reveal that the plot has remained unchanged for several centuries and has historically been in agricultural use which would be indicative that should remains survive they are likely to be undisturbed. They also indicate that the current river section which defines the plot boundaries may have Medieval origins and the river course here was altered to create a mill race which took water to power the Gyffin Mill. The mill race is no longer operational but there were Post Medieval sluice and weir features surviving within the main river.

The siting of the plot on a plateaux above a river would make it a possible candidate for prehistoric settlement, and the lower section of the plot near the river may have attracted burnt mound activity. The proximity to Conwy town, coupled with a scarcity of information about the Medieval settlement at Gyffin may also hint at possible Early Medieval/Medieval remains.

The lack of information for this area is considered to be due to a lack of archaeological work rather than necessarily being the result of an absence of archaeological remains. It is therefore recommended that further works be considered to determine the archaeological potential of the site.

2.0 Project Aims & Objectives

The programme of works for the development site aimed to undertake a desk-based assessment and walkover survey. It aimed to examine the potential archaeological resource surviving on the site and to provide information which will be utilised to determine an appropriate methodology for any further archaeological mitigation or evaluation methodologies which may be required.

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

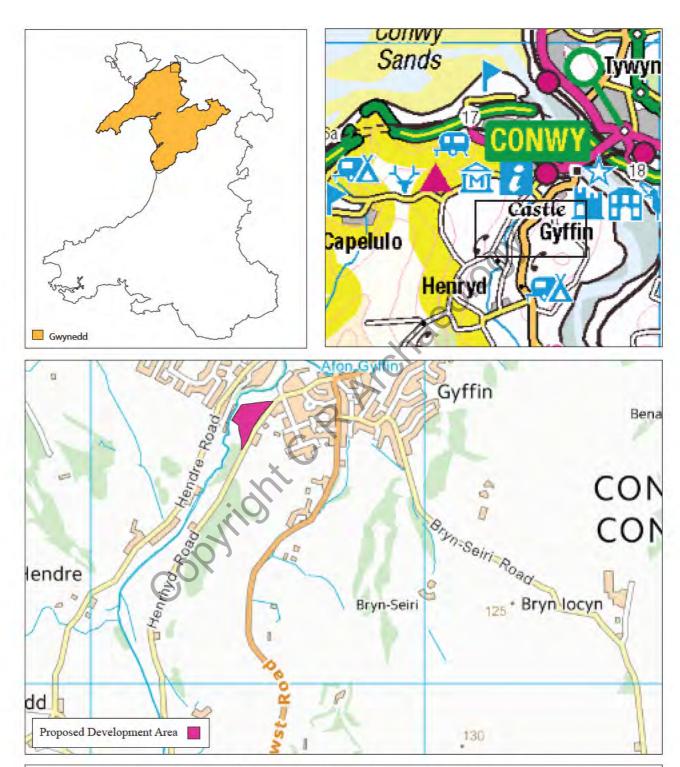


Figure 1. Site Location Map - Source: OS Open Data (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2016)

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

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

3.0 Scheme of Works - Methodology

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

3.1 Desk Based Research

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

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

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

This material forms the historical background of this archaeological report which also includes the results of the walkover survey.

3.2 Walk Over Survey

A site visit was conducted and a photographic record compiled. This details above ground features and shows the general topography of the site. Further photographs were taken to illustrate the setting of the site. The location of features have been noted on a site plan.

3.2.1 Equipment

The photographic element of the walkover survey was undertaken using a 14.2 mega-pixel Sony A350 digital camera with a standard lens. Images were captured in RAW format for later processing into high resolution JPG and TIF files.

3.3 Timetable for Proposed Works

The walkover survey and archival research were undertaken in later December 2015/early January 2016. Additional time has been allotted for 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).

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

3.5 Monitoring

The project was subject to monitoring by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service.

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:

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

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

3.7 The Report

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

The desk-based assessment considered the following:

- the nature, extent and degree of survival of archaeological sites, structures, deposits and landscapes within the study area
- the significance of any remains in their context both regionally and nationally
- the history of the site
- the potential for further work with appropriate recommendations

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

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

3.7.1 Copyright

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

4.0 Topographical and Geological Background

4.1 Topography

The site is located along the eastern side of the B5106 (Henrhyd Road) and is bounded by this to the east and the river Gyffin to the north and west. It is within the village of Gyffin in the county of Conwy. The site is currently in use as grazing within an enclosed field boundary system, and the site is a flat plateau which drops away sharply down to the level of the river.

4.2 Geology

The bedrock geology at the site is recorded as "Conwy Mudstones Formation - Mudstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 444 to 451 million years ago in the Ordovician Period. Local environment previously dominated by shallow seas. These rocks were formed in shallow seas with mainly siliciclastic sediments (comprising of fragments or clasts of silicate minerals) deposited as mud, silt, sand and gravel" (www.bgs.ac.uk).

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

5.0 Historical Background

The proposed development site is located within the parish of Gyffin in the Cwmwd of Llechwedd Isaf in the Cantraf of Aber. Its now referred to as Isaf and includes the old townships of Bodidda, Dymryd, Gwerydros, Llechan and Maerchiyn. Part of the parish lies within the borough of Conwy (Richards 1975: 53).

A search of the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record was conducted on the 18th December 2015 and an area covering a radius of 500m from a central point within the proposed development was examined. A further search widening the search radius to 1000m was also conducted although due to the large number of Post Medieval entries for the area the results of this search are not discussed in detail and only Medieval or earlier RCAHMW/Gwynedd Historic Environment Record records, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings are included. Figure 2 shows the locations of all records within a 500m search radius, selected records within a 1000m search radius and the boundaries of designated areas.

5.1 Prehistoric

No archaeological find spots or sites of a Prehistoric date were recorded on the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record within either the 500m or 1000m study area.

5.2 Roman

No archaeological find spots or sites of a Roman date were recorded on the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record within either the 500m or 1000m study area.

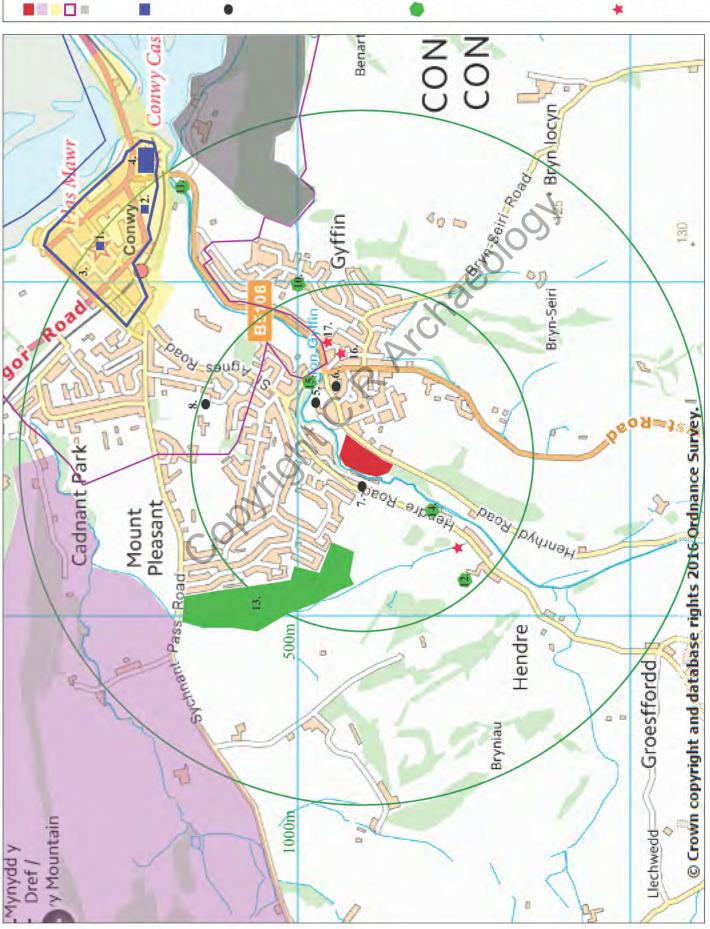


Figure 2. Designated Areas and Sites Recorded on HER and RCAHMW Databases (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2016)

- Proposed Development Area Snowdonia National Park
 - Conwy Conservation Area Conwy Essential Setting
- Benarth Grade II Registered Parks & Gardens
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments 1. Plas Mawr (CN083)

 - 2. King's Hall (CN147) 3. Town Wall (CN014)
- 4. Conwy Castle (CN004)

Listed Buildings

- 5. Gyffin Parish Church & Associated Records ID's
- ID 296 & Outbuilding 3297 6. Gyffin National School 3292-4 & 87446

 - 7. Gadlas ID 3290
- Related Records ID's 3362 8. Bryn Corach Farm &
 - 87426 & 3361
- Related Records ID 3314 9. Bryn Glorian Farm &
- Gwynedd Archaeological Trust HER Records
- 10. Early Medieval Bronze Cup PRN 2829
 - 11. Tidal Mill PRN 29710
- 12. Hendre Medieval Settlement PRN 2833
 - 13. Boundaries & Hedgerows Identified in GAT DBA 919 PRN's 31870, 31872-5
 - 15. Conwy Corporation Mill 14. Pen y Felin PRN 34618 PRN 34618
- RCAHMW Records
- 17. Siloh Methodist Chapel 16. Soar Methodist Chapel NPRN 6850
- Please note that where sites have NPRN 6848

multiple designations only one is used on the map. This is an ascending hierarchy based on the above numbering system

5.3 Early Medieval

No archaeological find spots or sites of an Early Medieval date were recorded on the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record within the 500m study area. Within the 1000m search radius a bronze cup (PRN 2829) was listed as having been found near Conwy Castle in the mid 1800's. It is recorded as being held "at Bangor listed under 'Medieval and Miscellaneous'". The item appears to have been lost by the 1940's when artefacts were transferred to the Bangor University Museum.

5.4 Medieval

The site is recorded as lying within the Medieval Township of Gyffin (PRN 7367).

The nearest feature dating from this period is the Gyffin parish church of St Benedict (PRN 6934, NPRN 43691, 43692 & 43693) which is located approximately 120m from the north-eastern corner of the proposed development site. There is no suggestion that the church has an Earlier Medieval foundation and it is believed that the church dates to 1186 as is evidenced by a Latin dedication associated with the Cistercian monks (Richards 1975: 53-54).

A watching brief carried out by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) in 2008 showed a number of building phases were evident at the church, which date the earliest surviving elements to the 13th century (Roberts 2008). The church is notable for the survival of a painted celure consisting of sixteen painted panels depicting religious images and dating from the late 15th to early 16th century (Richards 1975: 63-65).

Just within the 500m search radius lies the Medieval settlement at Hendre (PRN 2833). It is described as "above the modern cottages are several walls of untrimmed boulders set in clay. At least two houses can be distinguished, but no details remain. One of the existing cottages may be of the C16th, but all details are modernised. There are traces of ridge and furrow cultivation in the fields to the SW" (Gwynedd Historic Environment Record).

The area was influenced by high status native Welsh settlement along the river Conwy and Llywelyn ap Gruffydd held a royal residence in the area now occupied by the town of Conwy which lies approximately 800m to the north-east of the proposed development.

There was also high status building associated with the Cistercian Abbey of Aberconwy. The development of Conwy and the immediate environs continued following the conquest of Edward I who gained control of the Conwy valley in 1283. This was during his second campaign in Wales and in this period he began building the current castle and town walls (Humphries 1983: 34). The town became the main borough town for the area and the town hosted many merchant familes and traders. It had an active post and harbour and this was improved in 1833 for the export of slate and other mineral resources from the Conwy valley.

Lying within the 1000m search area was the site of the Medieval tidal mill (PRN 29710). It is described as "located to the south and east of the mill gate, constructed 1285-6 as part of the town defences. The gate was so-called because it gave access to the town mills, of which there were at least two, and possibly three. The lower mill was a tide mill, whilst the upper mill lay close to the church of Gyffin, and took its power source from the river. In 1296 it is recorded that a new mill and leat were constructed at Gyffin for £8.19sh.5d. This may have been because the town mills are recorded as being destroyed during the uprising of Madoc ap Llywelyn in 1294. Lewis says that the mills were still in a ruinous state in 1307, but rebuilt sometime before 1316. The mills were granted to burgesses, and were subsequently inherited by the borough, remaining in use until the end of the 18th century. The word sarn (within the name Pont Pensarn) refers to a causeway, and it is possible that this causeway once formed the dam of the lower or tidal mill. Several references refer to the dam associated with the Salt or Tide mill. These accounts show the mill was

operating until the latter years of the 18th century. References after that date are less obvious, and the construction of the railway in the mid 19th century would certainly have had a major impact on the mill. It has not been possible to locate the site of the former tidal mill accurately" (GAT Report 562).

Cartographic records dated 1776 (see below) show that the mill race which fed the Gyffin mill was located along the riverside boundary just outside the proposed development site and a medieval origin for these feature cannot be discounted.

5.5 Post-Medieval/ Modern

The following description of the parish is taken from "The History of North Wales Comprising a Topographical Description of the Several Counties" which although somewhat dated provides a basic introduction. It states "It is situated on the river Gyffin, which discharges itself into the Conwy. This parish contains about 3000 acres of in-closed land and cultivated land including wood-land; and about 1000acres of mountain, which affords good pasturage for sheep" (Cathrall 1828: 110)

By the mid 18th century St Benedict's Church (PRN 6934) is described as being in a "sad state of dilapidation" with the paintings in compartments much defaced" (Costello 1845: 58).

The Estate Map of Owen Holland dated 1776 is the earliest cartographic record which was sourced for the site. It shows the section of the river Gyffin bounding the proposed development site had been split into two to create a mill race by this date. This feature was associated with the Gyffin Mill (which was located to the east of the parish church) which was later rebuilt by the Conwy Corporation Mill. GAT Report 562 establishes a Medieval origin for a mill in this area and there is the possibility that the race is therefore also of considerable antiquity as the mill sites and associated features were reused as the mills along the Gyffin underwent various phases of updating and rebuilding.

Williams (1835: 100) refers to a new mill at Gyffin which replaced the earlier mill along with two older sites — one located under the eastle which was called Velin Heli or salt water mill (PRN 29710) and one located just below Hendre named Pen y Velin (Pen y Felin PRN 34616). As at Gyffin, GAT have also established a Medieval date for these mill sites (see section 5.4).

The Bodlondeb Estate map of 1865 shows a mill pool in the south-west of the field and it is believed that this is likely to be associated with the Conwy Corporation Mill (PRN 34618). The mill race is partially marked with a dashed line as is the Gyffin village mill pool.

The first edition 1888 Ordnance Survey Map shows a clearly marked out mill dam area in association with a sluice, weir and a mill race, the Gyffin Mill appears to have been enlarged at this time. These features are recorded under the same PRN as the Gyffin Mill discussed above. This area was observed on site as having been marked by Conwy Corporation iron posts.

There are field boundaries and hedgerows associated with Pinewood Farm (PRN's 31870, 31872, 31873, 31874 & 31875). These features were identified by GAT during an archaeological assessment of a nearby plot of land and the features were identified as pre-dating the 1840's Tithe Map of the area.

Works were also conducted by EAS Ltd near Gyffin Church (Report EAS 2002/25). The land in this plot was found to be disturbed. This disturbance is believed to be localised and it is not therefore likely to have had any effect on the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

Listed Buildings

There were a number of Listed Post-Medieval buildings within the 500m search radius. Also included in this section is Gyffin Parish Church (St. Benedict's).

Gyffin Parish Church - St. Benedict's (ID 3291, PRN 6934) is a Grade I Listed Building listed as "a medieval church retaining exceptionally fine late-medieval interior detail". The brief description is given as "a church of at least C13 origin. The nave is substantially medieval fabric, the S chapel C16. The chancel retains a late medieval roof but the E wall of the chancel and the N chapel were built in 1858 when the church was extensively restored. Windows in the earlier parts of the building were also replaced at this time, giving the church a C19 external character" (www.britishlisted buildings.co.uk).

The wall surrounding the church is individually listed and this includes the gate piers and gate (ID 3294). The wall is recorded as "wall enclosing a church of C13 origin. The S wall was built in 1866 when the churchyard was extended, but the gates and piers are later still" and the reason for listing is given as group value with the church" (www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk).

Associated with the church are a number of individually listed gravestones. The grave slab of Hugh Owen of Bodidda in Gyffin churchyard is Grade II Listed (ID 3293). It is described as a "C17 or C18 freestone grave slab on a narrow low plinth. The weathered slab has memorial inscriptions to Hugh Owen and his wife Catherine. The slab has a quartered shield in the centre, and enriched border". It is listed as "an early churchyard memorial and, with other associated listed items, for group value with the church" (www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk).

Also Grade II Listed is the grave of John Stodart (ID 87446) which is described as a "freestone grave slab on a narrow low plinth. It is inscribed 'Here lyeth the body of John Stodart of Bodidda ...' died 1627. Overgrown and weathered". It is listed as an exceptionally early grave slab (www.britishlisted buildings.co.uk).

A third Grade II Listed grave slab is that of John Holland and John Holland (ID 3292) which is a memorial with Welsh inscription to John Holland (d. 1695) and John Holland (d. 1748, aged 30). As with the stones detailed above it is listed as an early memorial stone (www.britishlisted buildings.co.uk).

Gyffin National School (ID 296, NPRN 96659) was built in 1903, the school was designed by the outstanding Arts and Crafts architect, Herbert Luck North (1871-1941). Also associated with the school is and built in 1903 as a single storey outbuilding which is recorded in a handlist prepared from the architect's own notes. It is a Grade II Listed structure (ID 3297) and the reason for listing the Luck North building group is cited as being due to "good arts and crafts character, by one of the principal architects working in N Wales in the early C20" (www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk). The school is currently in use as Gyffin Community Centre.

Gadlas is a Grade II Listed Building (ID 3290) described as "an C18 traditional farmhouse remodelled in the C19 when the present fenestration was inserted. A former attached 2-storey outbuilding, incorporating cart shed, brewhouse and granary, was demolished in the late C20". It is listed for "its special architectural interest as a vernacular farmhouse retaining traditional character through C19 remodelling" (www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk).

Bryn Gynog Farm is recorded as a Grade II Listed Building in the GAT HER and RCAHMW database as having late 17th and mid 18th century features (PRN 11975, NPRN 31341, 31340 & 26108). This building is associated with an early trackway (PRN 31871). It appears from the location of the two plots that Gadlas and Bryn Gynog are the same building and there appears to be no entry for Bryn Gynog on the Listed Building database.

Brynglorian Farm and outbuildings are a Grade II Listed Building group (ID 3314) and the main a 1750 date plaque (PRN 12557, NPRN 16744 &31339.) The listed building description is as follows "Shown on Tithe Map of 1848 for parish of Gyffin but probably older than this date; plaque dated "1750" above left doorway. Southern range of two storeys with granary at first floor level, reached partly by external stair to loft door in South-east gable end; door with plaque inscribed "E G 1750" above it; window to each side. Stone rubble walls. Slate gabled roof. South-west elevation with buttress at Western end; ventilators to Western side of elevation; flight of stone stairs with brick capping rises to ledged loft door to granary with gable over. Two small brick ventilators to right hand. North-east elevation with two semi-elliptical and brick headed entries to former cartsheds at Eastern end. Various windows with small panes in upper parts and slatted or ledged portions below. At West end, just before cross-wing, a wide semi-elliptically headed archway to former cow shed. Western cross-wung in four portions, all with stone walls and slate roofs; at Southern end, a single storey wing. Secondly, a high and wide projecting gabled elevation to barn; this has pigeon holes in apex of gable and ventilator below; round-headed doorway with stone voussoirs in centre of elevation; brick single-storey wing to left hand. Thirdly, a single storey sing with door with wood lintel at left hand end and window at right hand end. Fourthly, a projecting gabled wing with wide segmental headed opening in South-east gable end, now mostly blocked with stone".

Bryn Corach is a late 19th century Grade II Listed Building (ID 3362, PRN 11969, NPRN 26092, 86309). It is described as a "large villa built in the second half of the C19 overlooking Conwy and N Wales mountains. It is shown on the 1889 Ordnance Survey with a projection against the N (entrance) front that has since been taken down, and without the veranda on the E and S sides, which must therefore be later. The 1913 Ordnance Survey shows a conservatory on the S side of the main range. The house became a hotel in 1913, owned by the Co-operative and Communal Holidays Fellowship (now HF Holidays), founded by Thomas Arthur Leonard (1868-1948). In the early C20 a SW wing was added behind the W wing, which was also extended and later re-roofed. A detached wing was added in 1963". Also associated with Bryn Corach but listed separately are the garden terrace walls and turrets on N and E sides of Bryn Corach (ID 87426) and the gate piers and walls of former back drive to Bryn Corach (ID 3361). The walls and turrets are of the same building phase as the original villa and were designed to resemble the town walls (www.britishlisted buildings.co.uk).

Structures Recorded by the RCAHMW

Soar Methodist Chapel was built in 1905 in the vernacular style and is of gable entry type (NPRN 6850).

Siloh Methodist Chapel was built in 1901 by architect Thomas Parry of Colwyn Bay. It is constructed in the Romanesque style and is of the gable entry type (NPRN 6848).

5.5.1 Cartographic Evidence

Archive research was carried out at Conwy and Bangor University Archives and a number of relevant historic maps were identified which show the proposed development site. These sources range in date from 1776 – 1949 and show that the plot has remained relatively unchanged since at least 1776.

Map of Estate of Owen Holland 1776 (Figure 3)

An estate map of Owen Holland's lands in Conwy was sourced from Bangor archives (Bangor Archives MS 2383). This map records the plot as 10c and shows the river Gyffin at the south-western corner of the plot has been split to create a mill race which is associated with the mill at Gyffin. The mill was located to the east of the parish church and was later rebuilt by the Conwy Corporation Mill. GAT Report 562 establishes a Medieval origin for this mill and there is the possibility that the race is also of considerable antiquity and was reused as the mills along the river Gyffin underwent various phases of updating and rebuilding. The field boundaries of the site are preserved in the current site layout.

The map shows a trackway running along the eastern field boundary which originates in the village and runs through the church and across the neighbouring field. A series of wheel ruts in the approximate position of this trackway were observed during the walkover survey. This route only continues between the two field entrances and this may simply be the easiest route between the two openings rather than be the surviving earlier route way. Also marked on this estate map is the steep change in ground level which runs almost parallel with the western boundary of the site (delineated by the river Gyffin).

The accompanying schedule names the field as *Nant y Bucci*, with "nant" meaning stream or brook which is presumably simply because the plot is bounded by the River Gyffin. The "Bucci" element is a more difficult to interpret and the origin of this may be derived from the word "Bucc" which has been interpreted as being from Old English buck (deer) or boca (beech tree) although it must be noted that this word was not introduced into North Wales until 18th century. Alternatively "Bucc" could be used to refer to a male goat, which would give a typical descriptive Welsh name of a goat or deer field near the stream. The map schedule lists the field being used as pasture.

Tithe Map 1839 (Figure 4)

The 1839 Tithe Map shows that the field boundaries of the proposed plot are unchanged. The schedule names the field as Cae Uwen with "cae" meaning field or enclosure. Uwen has no direct translation and could represent a personal name and the name could translate to the Field of Unwen. Unwen is possibly a Welsh version of Unwin or an anglicised spelling of Iwan or Owen/Owain. The tithe schedule lists the tenants as Williams with the land being owned by the Erskine family.

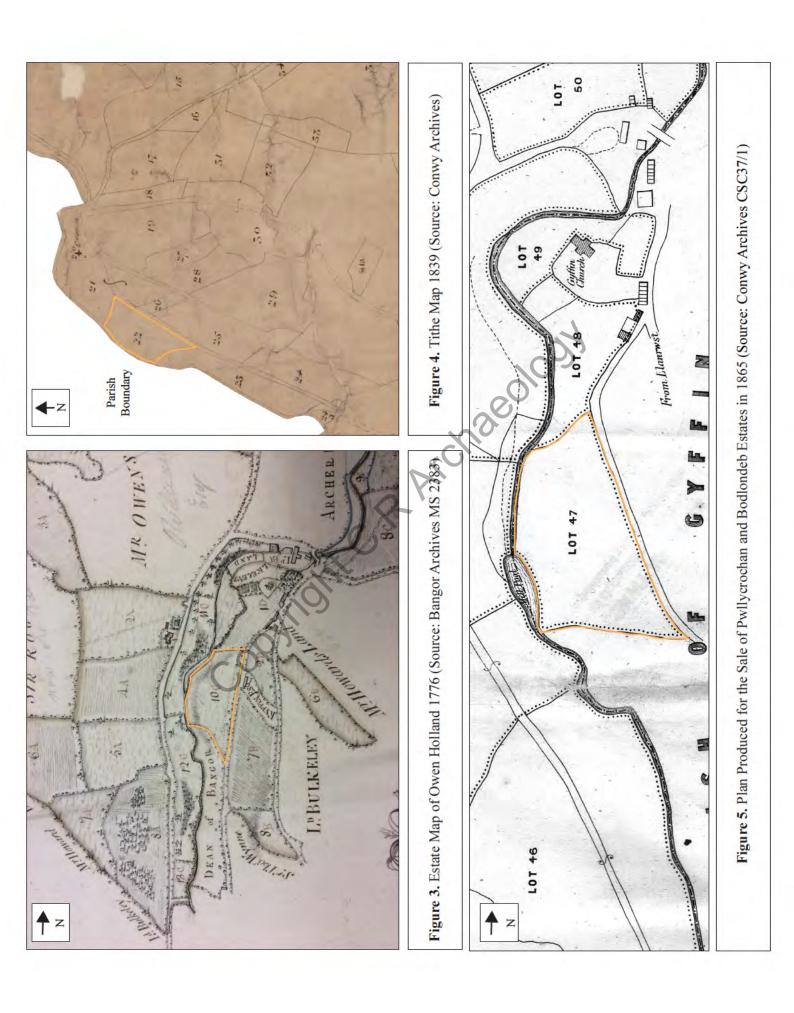
Plan of Part of Bodlondeb Estate 1865 (Figure 5)

A plan produced for the sale of Pwllycrochan and Bodlondeb estates in 1865 once more shows the proposed plot boundaries as unchanged. Along the river edge there has been some development to the south-west of the site and the river has been modified to create a mill pool.

There is an incomplete dashed line which appears to correspond with the mill race shown on the Holland map, but on this source it does not continue as far as the mill. The mill pond by the mill is also drawn as a dashed line. The mill seems to have undergone a series of rebuilds during this period and it is possible that modifications were being undertaken when this map was produced although there does not appear to have been a change to the route when the Holland map is compared with the First Edition Ordnance Survey map and it may simply be a mapping error.

Ordnance Survey Maps 1887 (Figure 6)

The first Edition Ordnance survey (surveyed 1887, published 1888) shows that the field boundaries remain unchanged. The mill pond has gone out of use and has been replaced by a sluice and a weir. These modifications are both being used to split the river in order to create a separate water flow to the Gyffin Flour Mill.



Ordnance Survey Maps 1899 (Figure 7)

The first Edition Ordnance survey (surveyed 1899, published 1901) shows that the field boundaries remain unchanged. A mill dam is now marked which worked in association with the sluice and weir which and the northern river section is labelled as a mill race leading to the Gyffin Flour Mill. The mill building complex also appears to have been slightly enlarged in the time between the two map editions. The mill dam is in the same location as the mill pool marked on the 1865 Bodlondeb Estate Map (figure 5).

Ordnance Survey Maps 1916 -1990 (Figures 8 & 9)

There are no changes to the plot marked throughout this period. The 1960 Ordnance Survey Map contains no mention of any of the features relating to the mill and it is therefore considered that the mill went out of use around this time.

Aerial Photographs (Search of Images Held by RCAHMW and Google Earth)

The RCAHMW were contacted who provided a series of nine of RAF and Ordnance Survey aerial images showing the site. These photographs were taken between 1946 and 1973 and although all showed the site clearly, with the steep slope down from the upper plateau and a flat area adjacent to the river clearly visible, there were no other features visible.

Google Earth was also examined which showed a strip of bare ground in the approximate position of the trackway marked on the 1776 Holland Estate Map. These marks were observed during the walkover survey. No other features were observed when examining this data.

LIDAR Data (Figure 10)

Two LIDAR images where available through the Natural Resources Wales website. These were presented at 1m Data or 2m data resolutions. These datasets were derived from a combination of all data that is at 1m and 2m resolution or better which has been merged and re-sampled to give the best possible coverage. The 1m data set has been included as figure 10 as at this resolution the trees etc. are removed allowing a clearer view of the topography of the site.

No further earthworks were visible on this data set but it does provide a clear image of the Gyffin valley and the topography of the site. The steep drop to the river is clearly demonstrated and the area of the mill pool/later mill dam is visible.

6.0 Results of Walkover Survey

The site is located along the eastern side of the B5106 (Henrhyd Road) and is bounded by this to the east and the river Gyffin to the north and west. It is situated within the village of Gyffin in the county of Conwy. The site is currently in use as grazing for sheep within an enclosed field boundary system, and the site is a flat plateau which drops away sharply down to the level of the river.

The site has been photographed and the results are included as Plates 1-17. Appendix B shows the location and directions of the photographs discussed in the text.

The site is accessed via two gates which lead off Henrhyd Road with one located towards the north of the plot and one to the south. There is a trackway running along the eastern field boundary which was observed as a series of wheel ruts during the walkover survey which ran between the two field entrances. A portion of a trackway marked on the 1776 Holland Estate Map is marked in this approximate location. The plot contains an uneven trapezoidal plateau and the north-eastern edge of this plateau drops sharply down the level of the river. The slope is more gradual when the plateau drops away to the south. The plateau is approximately 52m in width and has a road frontage of approximately 196m. Aside from the wheel ruts noted above no earthworks or features were visible on this plateau during the visit.



001

Figure 6. Ordnance Survey Map of Gyffin. Surveyed 1887 Published 1888.



wifflix

Figure 9. Ordnance Survey Map of Gyffin. Revised 1948 Published 1953





Figure 10. LIDAR Data for Proposed Development Area (1m Data Set) (Source and Copyright National Archives Open Government License www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/2/)

The plateau itself appears to have been formed through riverine erosion and the bedrock is visible on the in places on the slope. Walking down the more gradual southern drop from the plateau leads to a flat level area which is likely to be a flood plain area associated with the river although this area has been culverted. A roughly semi-circular depression was identified in the north-eastern area of the plot corresponding with the mill pool marked on early cartographic sources. The "corner" edges of this depression were defined by the two cast iron "Conwy Corporation Mill Dam" marker posts. On the opposite side of the river a third marker post survives between the river and the road for a static caravan site.

The concrete frame for a sluice gate and associated small step this causes were recorded. These features are described as a weir on the later Ordnance Survey maps. Other features relating to the water mill system were no longer visible.

Walking towards the north-east the flat area dipped slightly towards the river and due to the recent wet weather this area was marshy and the river had started to over flow into the field. Walking up the steeper drop there were sections of a bedrock face defining the edge of the plateau.

Walkover Survey Conclusion

The historic/archaeological features visible during the walkover survey were the possible partial remains of a trackway marked on a 1776 Estate Map, the partial remains of the mill pool/dam and their associated markers, a sluice gate and weir. The appearance/construction material used in the mill feature remains suggest that they are probably late 19th or early 20th century replacements to the earlier system.

The walls and hedgerows of the plot boundaries are likely to be of reasonable antiquity as the plot area and shape has remained unchanged from the earliest map source of 1776.

7.0 Discussion of Archaeological Potential

The following section discusses the potential for archaeological remains from different time periods. It considers the results of the archaeological and historical background research and integrates this with the results of the walkover survey. The potential for archaeological remains is discussed chronologically.

7.1.0 Potential for Prehistoric Remains

There is no Prehistoric activity recorded within the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record search area examined. This is however influenced by the lack of archaeological investigation in the area and is not in itself a indication that the area is of low potential for Prehistoric remains.

The siting of burnt mounds in association with rivers and streams is common and the location of the proposed development area adjacent to the River Gyffin would place it within an area of favourable conditions for encountering a monument of this type.

There is no evidence in the form of earthworks or crop marks that this area has been used for Prehistoric exploitation or settlement but the flat plateau area with nearby watercourse would be considered a favourable location for Prehistoric occupation from the Mesolithic to Iron Age periods. The lack of development or signs of deep ploughing on this plateau would indicate that were there to be buried remains on the site then the preservation of these remains is likely to be good.

Based on the available evidence the potential for remains from the Prehistoric period within the development area is considered to be low-moderate and the significance of such remains is considered to be moderate-high. This is in part due to the lack of archaeological investigation and the scarcity of Prehistoric sites in the area immediately around the town of Conwy.

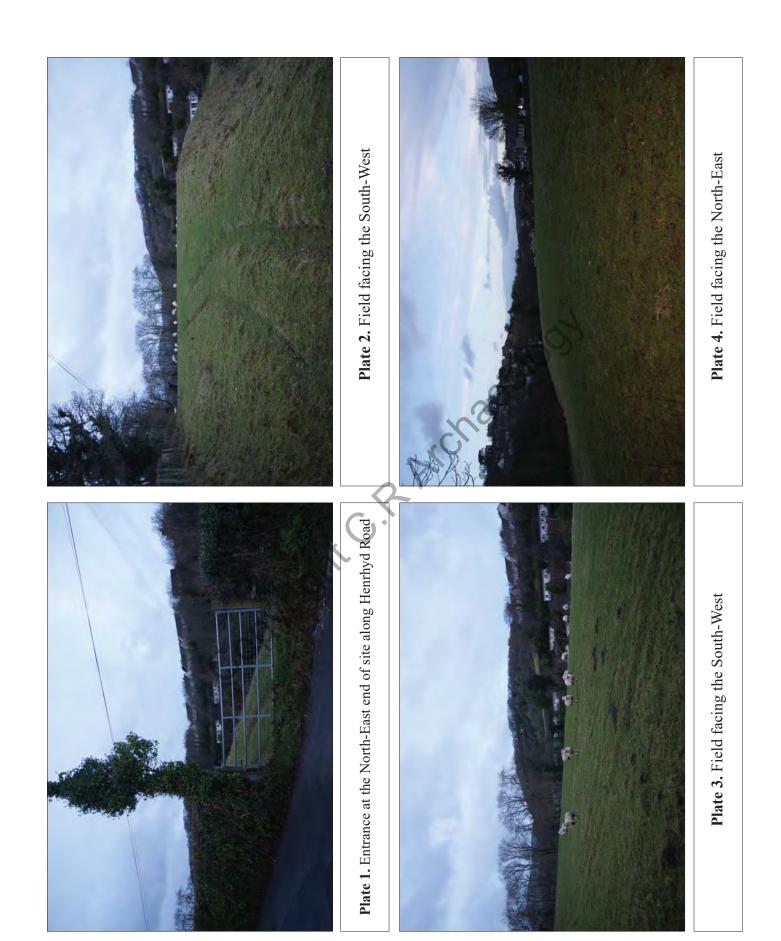




Plate 6. North-East facing view of slope







Plate 8 & 9. Conwy Corporation Mill Dam marker posts



Plate 7. South-West facing view of lower part of site





Plate 15. South-East view up slope from opposite side of the river

Plate 14. View facing West down slope from gate



Plate 17. Flooding at bend of river - taken facing west



Plate 16. West facing view of bottom of the field

7.1.1 Potential for Roman Remains

There were no Roman remains recorded within the HER search area and although there is strong evidence of a Roman presence within the Conwy Valley and along the Afon Conwy (notably the fort at Caerhun) there is little evidence that this area was utilised. It is considered unlikely that isolated farmsteads would be located this far from the main military sites.

Based on the available evidence the potential for remains from this period within this area is considered to be low. The significance of remains from this period is considered to be moderate as the interaction between the local indigenous population and Roman incomers is little understood in the area.

7.1.2 Potential for Medieval Remains

There is evidence for occupation from the Medieval period within the area and the Gyffin Parish Church of St Benedict (PRN 6934, NPRN 43691, 43692 & 43693) is located approximately 120m from the north-eastern corner of the proposed development site. The extent of Medieval Gyffin is unknown and it is possible that there was some exploitation of the plot. This is likely to have been for agricultural usage although there may have been associated settlement. The Medieval settlement at Hendre (PRN 2833) also lies within the 500m search radius.

There is the possibility that the current river course, and the splitting of the river to allow for the creation of a mill race (which lay just outside the site boundary) has thirteenth century origins. It is as yet unclear as to the proposed site layout but if the lower marshy area adjacent to the river is to be avoided then it is unlikely that any Medieval remains associated with this modification will be encountered should it be located on the site.

The site is approximately 800m from the historic walled town of Conwy and the associated Medieval sites.

Based on the available evidence the potential for remains from the Medieval period within the development area is considered to be low and the significance of such remains is considered to be moderate.

7.1.3 Potential for Post-Medieval Remains

There are a number of Post-Medieval remains with the site boundaries which are predominantly associated with the generation of power for the Gyffin flour mill. These features are however clustered around the river Gyffin at the western site boundary and are unlikely to be affected by the development.

There are the possible remains of a historic trackway running parallel with the eastern plot boundary which has been heavily disturbed by the use of farm vehicles. This is likely to be damaged/removed by the proposed site works although it is recorded on historic sources and the current remains are a small section of the original trackway length. There is little preserved of the trackway other than the route itself.

The potential for remains from this period is considered to be high and the significance of such remains is considered to be low.

7.1.4 Overall Potential for Archaeological Remains

Overall the archaeological potential of the development area is considered to be moderate but should remains be encountered then the significance of these sites may be considered to be moderate-high depending on the period of origin. To date there has been relatively little excavation in the Gyffin area and there are very few known archaeological sites in the vicinity of the development.

The location and topography is considered to be favourable to Prehistoric and Medieval settlement and land usage and there are known Post-Medieval remains surviving at the site.

7.2 Potential Mitigation Strategies

As specified in the specification methodologies to mitigate the impact of the proposed works have been explored. This section applies to the direct physical impact the scheme may have on unknown below ground remains.

There are a number of known sites of Medieval and later date in the immediate vicinity of the development. The walkover survey/DBA has identified this as a favourable location for remains of Prehistoric or Medieval date. It is therefore considered that the site is an area of archaeological potential.

It is therefore recommended that, should the development go ahead, further archaeological evaluation should be considered. Geophysical study could be carried out on the raised plateau area but it is not considered viable for the lower lying section adjacent to the river as it is too marshy to walk the majority of the area. The lower site element is not accessible to heavy machinery and evaluation trenching would not be possible in this zone. Given the relatively small remaining plot area a programme of evaluation trenching may be best suited to identify the archaeological resource at the site.

8.0 Conclusion

The historic Medieval walled town of Conwy lies approximately 800m to the north-east of the proposed development. Of historic and archaeological interest within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area is St. Benedict's Church which has Medieval origins and the Gyffin Mill and associated features. The mill race for the Gyffin Mill was fed from the river Gyffin in the area adjacent to the site boundary.

Research has uncovered relatively little archaeological information about the site itself and the Gyffin area in general. Cartographic sources reveal that the plot has remained unchanged for several centuries and has historically been in agricultural use which would be indicative that should remains survive they are likely to be undisturbed. They also indicate that the current river section which defines the plot boundaries may have Medieval origins and the river course here was altered to create a mill race which took water to power the Gyffin Mill. The mill race is no longer operational but there were Post Medieval sluice and weir features surviving within the main river.

The siting of the plot on a plateaux above a river would make it a possible candidate for prehistoric settlement, and the lower section of the plot near the river may have attracted burnt mound activity. The proximity to Conwy town, coupled with a scarcity of information about the Medieval settlement at Gyffin may also hint at possible Early Medieval/Medieval remains.

The lack of information for this area is considered to be due to a lack of archaeological work rather than necessarily being the result of an absence of archaeological remains. It is therefore recommended that further works are considered to determine the archaeological potential of the site.

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Archives

Bangor Archives

MS 2383 Map of Estates the property of Owen Holland, Esquire in the several parishes of Conway, Gyffin, Dwygyfylchi, Llangelynin and Caerhun. Drawn by A. Bowdler, 1776.

Conwy Archives

CSC37/1 PwyllyCrochan Estate Sale

RCAHMW Aerial Photographs

5243 3G/TUD/UK/33 Part III 16 Jan 46

0104 F2153RAF/2196 14 June 57

0105 F2153RAF/2196 14 June 57

0176 F2153RAF/2196 14 June 57

0177 F2153RAF/2196 14 June 57

0178 F2153RAF/2196 14 June 57

71-218 Ordnance Survey Undated

70 137 Ordnance Survey 19 May 1970

73 050 WILD 704 6" 2550' 28 March 1973

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Appendix A

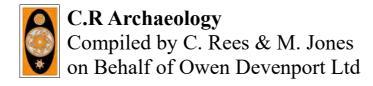
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Specification for Archaeological Works at

Proposed Development at Henryd Road, (Land at) Gyffin, Conwy

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Specification for Archaeological Works at: Proposed Development at Henryd Road, (Land at) Gyffin, Conwy

Planning Application Number: Pre-planning

National Grid Reference: NGR SH 77471 76810 **Client:** Owen Devenport Ltd

Report Authors: C. Rees **Project Number:** CR118-2016 Date: 05-01-2016

Contents

1.0	Introduction
2.0	Project Aims
3.0 3.1 3.2	Brief Historical Background Topography Geology
4.0 4.1 4.2 4.2.1 4.3 4.4 4.5 4.6 4.7	Scheme of Works – Methodology Desk Based Research Walk Over Survey Equipment Timetable for Proposed Works Staffing Monitoring Health and Safety The Report Copyright
5.0	Bibliography
	Monitoring Health and Safety The Report Copyright Bibliography rations e 1. Site Location Map

1.0 Introduction

C.R Archaeology have been instructed by Owen Devenport Ltd to conduct an archaeological desk based assessment at the proposed site of a small residential development on which approximately 10 - 15 houses are planned (figure 1). Due to the preliminary phase of the process during which these works are to be undertaken there is no definitive plan of the development at this time.

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

This specification has been written with reference to emails prepared by Jenny Emmett of GAPS (dated 25th - 27th November 2015) as a methodology for an initial programme of works. It is intended that the results of the works outlined in this document will inform decisions as to the nature of any further archaeological mitigation strategies or evaluation methodologies which may be required.

The site is located along the eastern side of the B5106 (Henrhyd Road) and is bounded by this to the east and the river Gyffin to the north and west. It is with the village of Gyffin in the county of Conwy. The site is currently in use as grazing within an enclosed field boundary system, and the site is a flat plateau which drops away sharply down to the level of the river.

The historic Medieval walled town of Conwy lies approximately 800m to the north-east of the proposed development. Of historic and archaeological interest within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area is St. Benedict's Church which has Medieval origins and is notable for the survival of a late 15th to early 16th century painted celure consisting of sixteen painted panels depicting religious images (Richards 1975: 63-65).

2.0 Project Aims & Objectives

This programme of works for the development site aims to undertake a desk-based assessment and walkover survey. It aims to examine the potential archaeological resource surviving on the site and to provide information which will be utilised to determine an appropriate methodology for any further archaeological mitigation or evaluation methodologies which may be required.

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

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

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

The objectives of this programme of works are:

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

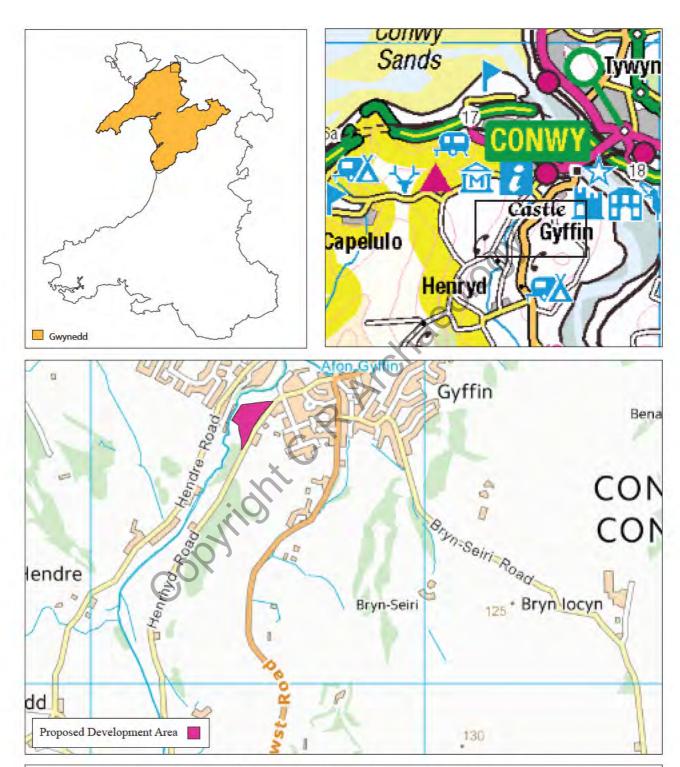


Figure 1. Site Location Map - Source: OS Open Data (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2016)

3.0 Brief Historical Background

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

The proposed development site is located within the parish of Gyffin in the Cwmwd of Llechwedd Isaf in the Cantraf of Aber. Its now referred to as Isaf and includes the old townships of Bodidda, Dymryd, Gwerydros, Llechan and Maerchiyn. Part of the parish lies within the borough of Conwy (Richards 1975: 53).

There are no known Prehistoric or Roman/Romano-British sites within a 1000m radius of the site and the parish is considered to have Medieval origins. There are a number of Medieval sites within the study area and the site is approximately 800m from the Medieval walled town of Conwy. Of historic and archaeological interest within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area is St. Benedict's Church which has Medieval origins and is notable for the survival of a late 15th to early 16th century painted celure consisting of sixteen painted panels depicting religious images (Richards 1975: 63-65).

Early Ordnance Survey mapping shows a mill system and associated features running along the site boundary.

3.1 Topography

The site is located along the eastern side of the B5106 (Henrhyd Road) and is bounded by this to the east and the river Gyffin to the north and west. It is with the village of Gyffin in the county of Conwy. The site is currently in use as grazing within an enclosed field boundary system, and the site is a flat plateau which drops away sharply down to the level of the river.

3.2 Geology

The bedrock geology at the site is recorded as "Conwy Mudstones Formation - Mudstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 444 to 451 million years ago in the Ordovician Period. Local environment previously dominated by shallow seas. These rocks were formed in shallow seas with mainly siliciclastic sediments (comprising of fragments or clasts of silicate minerals) deposited as mud, silt, sand and gravel" (www.bgs.ac.uk).

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

4.0 Scheme of Works - Methodology

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

4.1 Desk Based Research

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

In order to identify the character of archaeological remains in the vicinity of the site a search of the Gwynedd HER will be conducted examining an area within a 500m radius of the proposed works

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

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

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

4.2 Walk Over Survey

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

4.2.1 Equipment

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

4.3 Timetable for Proposed Works

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

4.4 Staffing

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

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

4.5 Monitoring

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

4.6 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:

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

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

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

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

4.7 The Report

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

The desk-based assessment will consider the following:

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

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

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

4.7.1 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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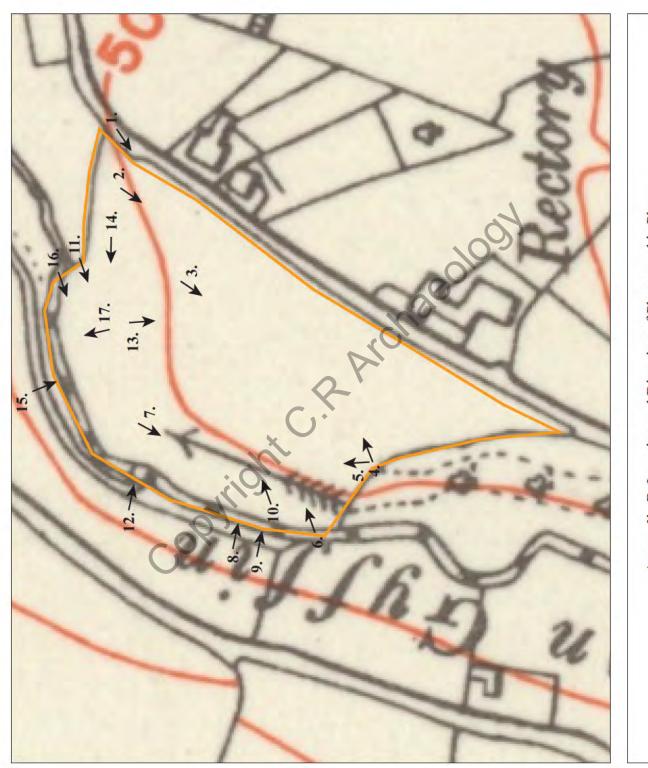
Websites – all sites were visited 02/01/2016

www.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html www.data.gov.uk/data/map-preview www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk



Appendix B

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Appendix B. Location and Direction of Photographic Plates