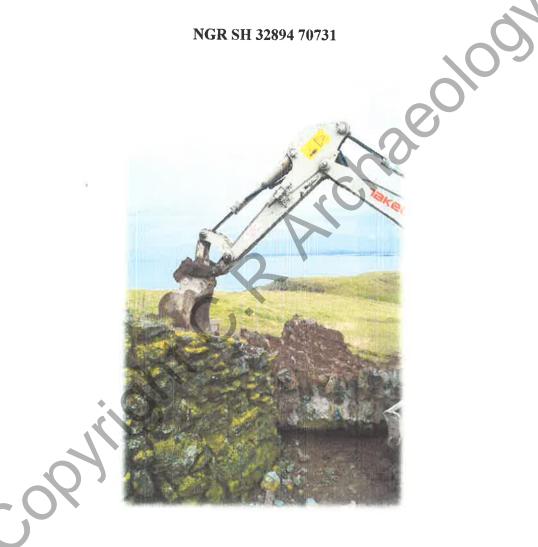
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Results of Archaeological Works at

Barclodiad y Gawres,

Anglesey (SAM AN032)

NGR SH 32894 70731



Project Number CR125-2016



C.R Archaeology Compiled by C. Rees On Behalf of Grosvenor Construction

Event: 45346



Results of Archaeological Works at:

Barclodiad y Gawres, Anglesey

Planning Application Number: N/A

National Grid Reference: Client:

SH 32894 70731

Report Authors:

Grosvenor Construction

Project Number: Date:

C. Rees CR125-2016

12-06-2017

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Introduction

Figure 1. Site Location Map

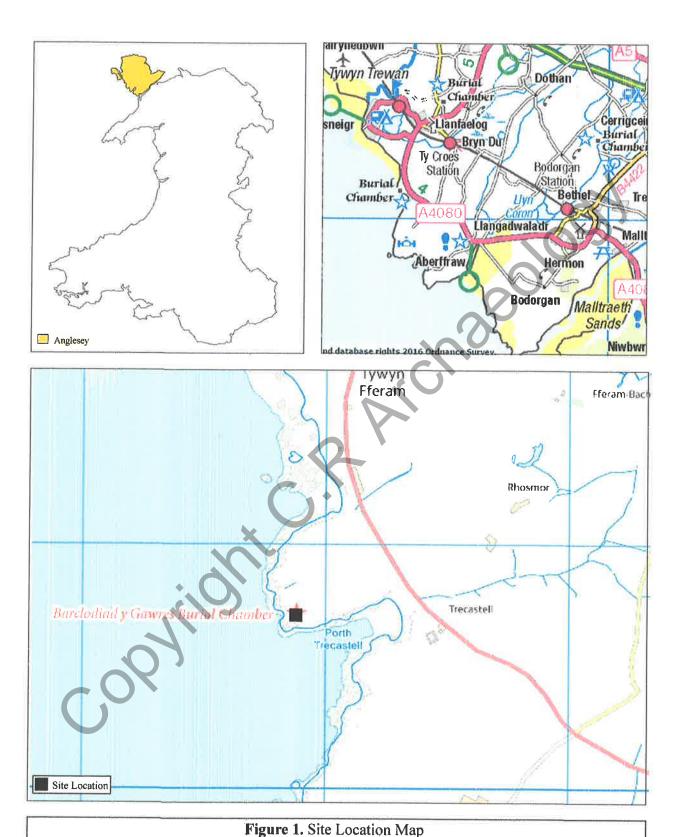
Figure 2. Trench Location Plan

Appendix A. Specification for Archaeological Works

Appendix B. Site Plans and Elevations

1.0 Introduction

- 1.0.1 C. R Archaeology were instructed by Grosvenor Construction to conduct archaeological works at Barclodiad Y Gawres, Anglesey (figure 1). The Neolithic burial monument known as Barclodiad y Gawres (in Welsh literally "the giantess' apronful", a name derived from folklore) is located in stunning scenery on the west coast of Anglesey between Rhosneigr and Aberffraw. The monument is set on a cliff top overlooking Cable Bay with panoramic views of the Irish Sea. One of the most popular stretches of the Anglesey coastal path runs directly past the entrance to the monument. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (AN032).
- 1.0.2 The burial chamber was excavated by T.G.E. Powell and G.E. Daniel in 1952-3. They discovered a cruciform burial chamber accessed by a passage leading into the mound from the north. The chamber was split into three compartments, each apparently sealed at a different point in time, which were arranged around a central space used for rituals. One such ritual left the remains of an inedible "magic stew" consisting of frogs, toads, mice, snakes and eels poured onto a fire in the middle of the chamber. Remnants of human skeletons were found in each of the side chambers. The most significant discovery at Barclodiad y Gawres was its decorated stones. Several of the stones inside the chamber have been carved with abstract patterns of spirals, zig zags and lozenges. Though cryptic, these patterns must have held significant meaning to the monument builders. Surviving Neolithic art forms of this kind are very rare and precious. Of the few comparable specimens of prehistoric art the strongest resemblance is to be found in the Boyne valley in Ireland suggesting possible cultural links, or a seafaring people using the west of Anglesey as a base and a burial ground.
- 1.0.3 After the 1953 excavations, Barclodiad y Gawres was covered by a concrete dome covered with grass to approximate the appearance of the mound that would once have covered the burial chamber. A glass lens positioned at the top of the dome allowed natural light to enter the central chamber of the monument but his was later replaced by a concrete cap, meaning visitors would need to bring a torch to see the rock art. A cast iron gate prevents access to the monument but a key could be borrowed in exchange for a small cash deposit. For decades, this key was kept in Beaumaris castle until towards the end of the twentieth century when the keys were transferred closer to the burial chamber initially to the heritage centre in Aberffraw and later to the Wayside Stores shop in Llanfaelog.
- 1.0.4 In 2007, in response to growing concerns about the vandalism/potential for vandalism to the rare engraved stones and on the advice of the Ancient Monuments Board, Cadw restricted access to the central chamber to accompanied visits only. Locked gates set within the passageway leading into the monument interior allow casual visitors some restricted views into the unlit central chamber but do not allow them to see the majority of the prehistoric artwork. While providing security for the monument, this approach is not considered to be ideal.
- 1.0.5 Research undertaken as part of the HTP established provisionally that some 12,000 visitors per year investigated the locked passageway into the monument but only a tiny percentage made the arrangements necessary to visit the interior. This showed the strong potential and interest in this monument which could and should be a major asset to heritage tourism on Anglesey. The top priority for this project was therefore to modify the gating and lighting arrangements at Barclodiad y Gawres so that passing casual visitors can view at least some of the stone carving and come away with a positive experience of the site while continuing to protect the stones.
- 1.0.6 A Specification for Archaeological Works was produced with reference to Cadw document "Barclodiad Y Gawres: Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Works (produced March 2016) and quotes heavily from this brief. It is included as Appendix A.



(Source: OS Open Data Mapping. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right [2016])

- 1.0.7 The works within the chamber involved: the extension of the pre-existing roof line above the entrance passageway, the installation of low-key safety fencing, on top of the monument, surrounding the entrance passageway walls, the reconfiguration of the 'wing walls' on either side of the entranceway, the removal of both sets of metal grilles, the installation of new inner grilles and doorway, along a slightly different alignment to the existing one, the painting the interior surfaces of the concrete dome, the installation of solar powered uplighting within the chamber, the installation of cabling to connect the interior lights with the exterior solar panel, the installation of a solar panel on top of the dome, the surfacing along the entrance passageway (including a redefined path reflecting the original line of the passage entrance) and the installation of a new interpretation panel. The works undertaken are shown in Appendix B.
- 1.0.8 Archaeological works were undertaken to ensure that an archaeological presence was maintained on site during all works involving ground disturbance (other than those works confined to the modern concrete dome). C.R Archaeology were responsible for ensuring full excavation and recording of any archaeological features or deposits that were uncovered during the programme of works. The works conducted at the monument did not however uncover any archaeological features or artefacts. The area excavated had clearly been uncovered during the 1950's excavation, and or the insulation of the concrete dome.

2.0 Project Aims & Objectives

- **2.0.1** The primary aim of the programme of works was to conduct the archaeological works necessary to allow for the proposed programme of works to be undertaken.
- **2.0.2** The aims of this work were:
 - i) to identify and to make an appropriate record of archaeological remains revealed by excavations
 - ii) to ensure the long-term survival of the information contained in such remains through archaeological recording prior to their physical destruction
 - iii) to prepare a report and deposition of a project archive
- 2.0.3 No archaeological remains were identified during this programme of works.
- **2.0.4** This project aimed to fulfil the mitigation criteria for undertaking an Archaeological Watching Brief and an Archaeological Excavation as specified in the CIfA Standard and Guidance documents (2014).
- 2.0.5 The objectives of this work were:
 - i) to excavate and record any deposits which are situated within the proposed development area
 - ii) to increase understanding of the site's history, development and significance
 - iii) to create an archive record of the excavation
 - iv) to establish and make available any further information discovered about the archaeological resource existing on the site
- **2.0**.6 The research objective of this work was to:
 - i) contribute to our understanding of the construction and use of the chambered tomb and the Neolithic period.

3.0 Scheme of Works - Methodology

3.0.1 The site works were conducted in three stages and each is detailed separately below.

3.1 Scheme of Works - Methodology for Desk Based Research

- 3.1.1 It was stated in the Specification that sufficient background research will be undertaken to allow the site to understand within its archaeological context. It was written in the specification that a history of the site would be compiled utilising information sourced from local archives, RCAHMW and the Gwynedd HER. This was however qualified by the proviso that the depth/scope of the research would be in proportion to the archaeological remains uncovered, and that in the event of a negative excavation result limited time would be expended on this task. The research in this area was therefore limited to the examination of the excavation reports for the site, reference to the Scheduled Ancient Monument description and an examination of journal entries prior to the commencement of works in order that site staff were familiar with the site.
- 3.1.2 This material has been summarised and forms the historical background for the archaeological report.

3.2 Scheme of Works - Methodology for Archaeological Watching Brief

- 3.2.1 The removal of all modern surfaces from the area was undertaken by Grosvenor Construction prior to the commencement of hand excavation by C.R Archaeology staff. A member of C.R Archaeology staff was present at all times during this work and all groundwork took take place under archaeological supervision. The exception to this was works associated with the concrete dome which had no archaeological potential and were therefore not monitored.
- **3.2**.2 This fieldwork element was conducted by Catherine Rees and Matthew Jones of C.R Archaeology. A site visit was made by project consultant Dr. George Nash.

3.3 Scheme of Works - Methodology for Hand Excavation

- 3.3.1 Following the removal of modern surfaces by Grosvenor Construction, it was proposed that hand excavation would commence and would continue until the desired maximum depth for works was reached. Due to the negative results of the work and the level of disturbance at the site hand excavation was employed only to clean the areas following machine excavation to be certain that there were no features surviving within the excavated area.
- 3.3.2 No archaeological features, structures or artefacts were uncovered during the course of the excavation and the ground was found to have been disturbed by the 1950's excavation and the erection of the concrete dome.
- **3.3**.3 Fieldwork was conducted by Catherine Rees and Matthew Jones, with Dr George Nash providing additional support as required. The works were carried out in accordance with the CIfA Standard and Guidance documents for Archaeological Excavation (2014).

3.3.1 Recording

- **3.3.1.1** The record forms at C.R Archaeology are based on the English Heritage system and full written, graphic and photographic records were made in accordance with the English Heritage *Field Recording Manual*. The written record is comprised of completed *pro-forma* record sheets.
- **3.3.1.**2 Plans, sections and elevations were produced on gridded, archive standard stable polyester film at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate
- **3.3.1.3** A high-resolution 14.2mp Sony Alpha digital camera was used to create a photographic record of the site. This is comprised of photographs of general shots of the excavated area due to the negative

results of the work. Additional photographs were taken of field boundaries in the vicinity as it was deemed likely that many of the stones used in these structures had been robbed from the tomb. These are included on TIFF format on the CD which accompanies this document.

- **3.3.1.4** In addition to those stipulated above the following photographs were also taken:
 - i) the site prior to the commencement of fieldwork
 - ii) the site during work showing specific stages of fieldwork
 - iii) working photographs illustrating the excavations under way
- **3.3.1.5** All photographic records have been indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view is 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'.

3.3.2 Additional Mitigation/Contingency Measures

3.3.2.1 No additional mitigation/contingency measures were necessary.

3.3.3 Recovery, Processing and Curation of Artefactual Material

3.3.3.1 No artefactual material was recovered during the works.

3.3.4 Archive Compilation

- **3.3.4.**1 All records created during the fieldwork have been checked for consistency and accuracy and will form part of the *Primary Site Archive (P1)* (EH 2006). The archive contains all data collected. It is ordered, indexed, adequately documented, internally consistent, secure, quantified, conforming to standards required by the archive repository and signposted appropriately to ensure future use in research, as detailed in the English Heritage *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) methodology.
- **3.3.4.2** The archive will be assembled in accordance with the guidelines published in, *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museums & Galleries Commission 1994), *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990) and *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2007).
- **3.3.4.3** The paper/digital archive created by this archaeological project will be deposited at Llangefni Archives in accordance with their terms and conditions for archive deposition,

3.4.0 Timetable for Proposed Works

3.4.0.1 Works at Barclodiad y Gawres will commence on Wednesday 23rd March 2016 and visits were made as required throughout the programme of works. Cadw were informed of the exact site days to allow monitoring of works.

3.4.1 Staffing

- **3.4.1.**1 The project was managed by Catherine Rees (MCIfA, BA, MA, PgDip HEC) and Matthew Jones (BA Archaeology and Welsh History, M.A Archaeological Practice). In addition to Matthew and Catherine, Dr George Nash was also involved in a support/advisory capacity. C.Vs for all staff employed on the project have been provided as requested.
- 3.4.1.2 All projects are carried out in accordance with CIfA Standard and Guidance documents.

3.4.2 Monitoring

3.4.2.1 The project was subject to monitoring by Cadw. The monitor was given prior notice of the commencement of the fieldwork.

3.4.3 Health and Safety

- **3.4.3.1** A risk assessment was conducted prior to the commencement of works and site staff were familiarised with its contents. A first aid kit was located in the site vehicle.
- **3.4.3.2** All staff were issued with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the site work, This consisted of:
 - Safety Helmets (EN397)
 - Hi-visibility vests (EN471)
 - Safety footwear steel toecap and mid-sole boots and Wellingtons (EN345-47)
 - Gloves
 - Plastic hard cased kneeling pads
 - Alcohol dry "handwash"
- **3.4.3**.3 C. R Archaeology were not the Principle Contractor onsite and staff complied with all Health and Safety Policy and specific on-site instructions provided by Grosvenor Construction.

3.4.4 The Report

3.4.4.1 This report clearly and accurately incorporates information gained from the entire programme of archaeological works. It presents the documentary evidence gathered in such a way as to create a clear and coherent record.

3.4.4.2 The report includes:

- a title/cover page detailing site address, Scheduled Monument number, site code and accession number, NGR, author/originating body, client's name and address, report date and planning reference number
- full contents listing
- a non-technical summary of the findings of the excavations
- a description of the archaeological background
- a description of the topography and geology of the excavation area
- a description of the methodologies used during the excavation
- a description of the findings of the excavation
- **3.4.4.3** The report details the results of the background research, the archaeological watching brief and the excavation of the trenches.
- **3.4.4.** Copies of the reports 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 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 the final report.

3.4.4.1 Copyright

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

4.0 Geographical and Geological Context

4.1 Topography

4.1.1 The Neolithic burial chamber known as Barclodiad y Gawres (in Welsh literally "the giantess' apronful", a name derived from folklore) is located in stunning scenery on the west coast of Anglesey between Rhosneigr and Aberffraw. The monument is set on a cliff top overlooking Cable Bay with panoramic views of the Irish Sea. One of the most popular stretches of the Anglesey coastal path runs directly past the entrance to the monument.

4.2 Geology

- **4.2.**1 The bedrock is recorded as "Central Anglesey Shear Zone and Berw Shear Zone (undifferentiated) Schist, Mica. Metamorphic Bedrock formed approximately 508 to 635 million years ago in the Cambrian and Ediacaran Periods. Original rocks without interpretation. Later crushed in fault zone or shear zone. These rocks have undergone low grade metamorphism, high grade regional metamorphism, or crushing in a fault or shear zone and it is not known whether they were of igneous, sedimentary or older metamorphic origin". There are also "Unnamed Igneous Intrusion of Unknown Age Gabbro, Microgabbro And Diorite. Local environment previously dominated by intrusions of silica-rich and silica-poor magmas. These rocks were formed from silicarich and silica-poor magmas. It intruded into the Earth's crust and cooled to form intrusions ranging from large, coarse crystalline, granitic to gabbroic plutons to smaller, fine to medium crystalline, rhyolitic to basaltic, dykes and sills" recorded in the area.
- 4.1.2 The superficial geology is not recorded (www.map apps.bgs.ac.uk).

5.0 Historical Background

- **5.0.1** The Neolithic burial chamber known as Barclodiad y Gawres (in Welsh literally "the giantess' apronful", a name derived from folklore) is located in stunning scenery on the west coast of Anglesey between Rhosneigr and Aberffraw. The monument is set on a cliff top overlooking Cable Bay with panoramic views of the Irish Sea. One of the most popular stretches of the Anglesey coastal path runs directly past the entrance to the monument. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (AN032).
- **5.0.2** The burial chamber was excavated by T.G.E. Powell and G.E. Daniel in 1952-3. They discovered a cruciform burial chamber accessed by a passage leading into the mound from the north. The chamber was split into three compartments, each apparently sealed up at different points in time, arranged around a central space used for rituals. One such ritual left the remains of an inedible magic stew consisting of frogs, toads, mice, snakes and eels poured onto a fire in the middle of the chamber. Remnants of human skeletons were found in each of the side chambers. The most significant discovery at Barclodiad y Gawres was its decorated stones. Several of the stones inside the chamber have been carved with abstract patterns of spirals, zig zags and lozenges. Though cryptic, these patterns must have held significant meaning to the monument builders. Surviving Neolithic art forms of this kind are very rare and precious. Of the few comparable specimens of prehistoric art the strongest resemblance is to be found in the Boyne valley in Ireland suggesting possible cultural links, or a seafaring people using the west of Anglesey as a base and a burial ground. Barclodiad y Gawres is of Later Neolithic date (c. 3000-2500 B.C) and belongs to a period where monuments became grander and more complex (Yates & Longley 2001: 6-7).
- **5.0.**3 After the 1953 excavations, Barclodiad y Gawres was covered by a concrete dome covered in turf and grass to approximate the appearance of the mound that would once have covered the burial chamber. When constructed a glass lens was positioned at the top of the dome which allowed natural light to enter into the central chamber of the monument. This was later replaced by a concrete cap, meaning visitors would need to bring a torch to see the rock art. A cast iron gate prevented access to the monument but a key could be borrowed in exchange for a small cash deposit. For decades this key was kept in Beaumaris castle. Towards the end of the twentieth century the keys were transferred

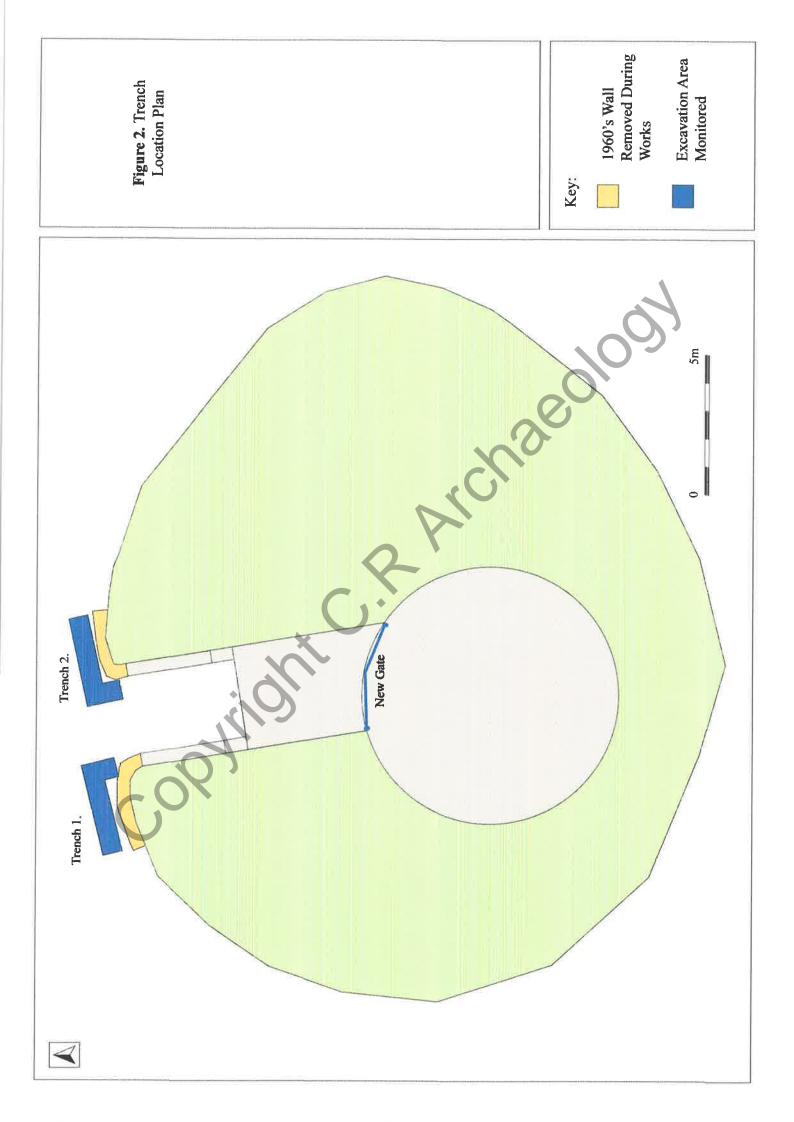
closer to the burial chamber – initially to the heritage centre in Aberffraw and more recently to the Wayside Stores shop in Llanfaelog.

5.0.4 The Scheduled Monument description for the monument is as follows:

5.0.5 "The monument comprises the remains of a burial chamber probably dating to the Neolithic (c. 4,000 - 2,900 BC). It is located in a cliffside position overlooking the small bay at Porth Trecastell. The name means 'the Giantess's Apronful' and is derived from local tradition. The mound seen today is a reconstruction, though it is based on the original Neolithic form. Excavations during 1952-53 revealed an earthen mound some 27m in diameter with parts of this tumulus being made up of peat turfs. The edge of the mound was loosely defined by a tight packing of stones. The tomb passage itself is entered from the north. It is some 7m long and is flanked by upright stones. This leads to a crossshaped (cruciform) chamber, from which open three smaller side chambers to the east, west and south. Each of these would have been covered with a capstone, but only that to the south survives. The plan of the western chamber is the most complex; the front is blocked and it has a small annexe to the south. In this, the cremated remains of two men were found, together with two burnt and broken pins of bone or antler. Traces of bone were also recovered from the east and south side chambers. The central area of the tomb does not, however, appear to have been used for burial; instead it was used for ritual purposes. The excavations uncovered one of the most exciting finds on a megalithic monument in Wales. The end stones of the east and west side chambers, and three of the inner passage stones, were found to be decorated with a variety of lightly pecked and incised designs of spirals. chevrons, zig-zags and lozenges. This type of decoration was clearly invested with some significant meaning as it occurs elsewhere on tombs of the Neolithic period. The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of prehistoric burial and ritual practices. The burial chamber is an important relic of a prehistoric funerary and ritual landscape. It retains significant archaeological potential and there is a strong probability of the presence of burial, ritual or structural evidence. The monument's importance is further enhanced by its rare rock art. The scheduled area comprises the remains described and an area around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive. It is roughly circular and measures approximately 25m in diameter".

6.0 Results of Archaeological Works

- **6.0.1** Works in three areas were conducted under archaeological watching brief conditions. The first two trenches were located immediately outside the tomb entrance and were excavated to allow for the remodelling of this area.
- **6.0.2** Trench 1 (plates 5-8) was located to the west of the entrance, immediately to the north of the existing wall terminus which was removed using a mechanical excavator. The trench was L-shaped in plan with the longest axis measuring 3.30m and the shorter 1.20m. The trench was 0.70m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.40m. A single context (101) was encountered in the trench. This material was a layer of dark brown clay silt with frequent cobble and stone inclusions. Although this deposit did not contain any artefactual material it was clearly a levelling layer which was reinstated following the previous excavation and the subsequent remodelling of the tomb. The natural was a brown orange clay with stone inclusions. The was a slightly mixed interface between the two deposits. No artefactual material was recovered from this trench.
- **6.0.3** Trench 2 (plates 9-12) was located to the east of the entrance, immediately to the north of the existing wall terminus which was removed using a mechanical excavator. The trench was L-shaped in plan with the longest axis measuring 3.20m and the shorter 1.00m. The trench was between 0.70m and 0.90m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.31m. A single context (201) was encountered in the trench. This material was a layer of dark brown clay silt with frequent cobble and stone inclusions. Although this deposit did not contain any artefactual material it was clearly a

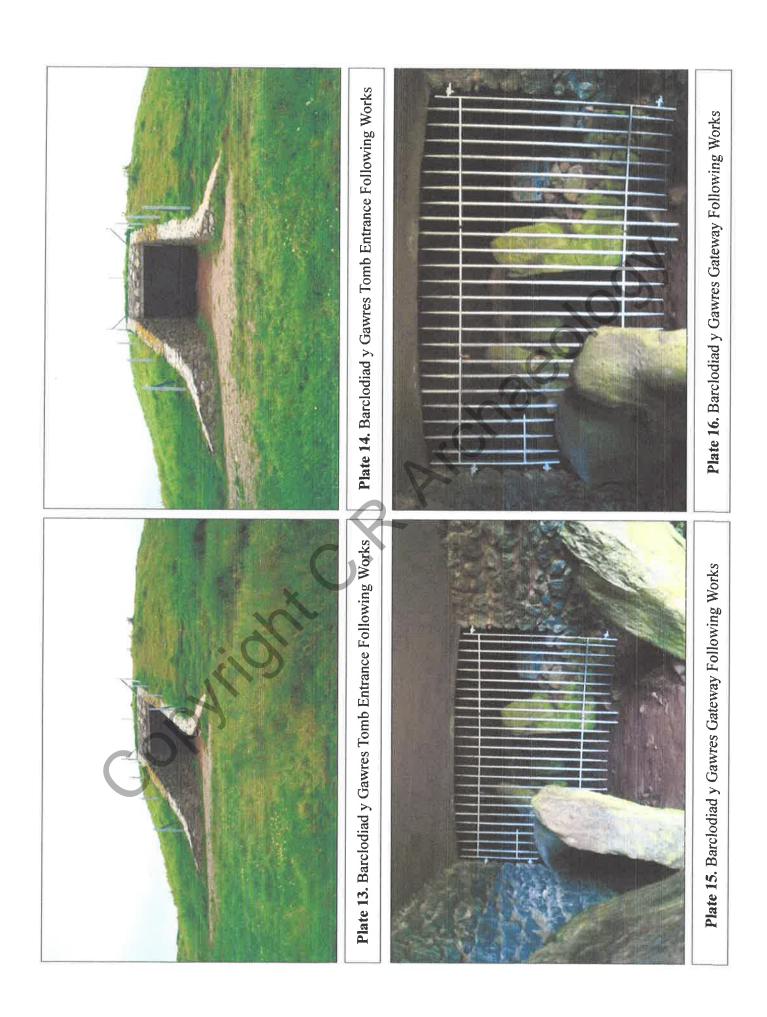








Plates 9 - 12. Post Excavation Photographs of Trench 2





levelling layer which was reinstated following the previous excavation and the subsequent remodelling of the tomb. The natural was a brown orange clay with stone inclusions. The was a slightly mixed interface between the two deposits.

6.0.4 The final area which was observed was the post holes to allow for the insertion of the new grille near the tomb chamber. Two postholes were excavated to a maximum depth of c.0.20m. Due to the limited size of the postholes and the stony nature of the underlying clay deposit nothing of significance could be determined from these interventions and it is likely that the material into which the cut was made was the underlying natural, or redeposited natural following the completion of previous works. No artefactual material was recovered from this area.

6.0.5 Plates 13-16 show the tomb following the insertion of the new gateway and the remodelling of the entrance.

7.0 Conclusion and Recommendation for Future Works

7.0.1 The works undertaken at Barclodiad y Gawres yielded a negative result and no artefactual material or archaeological features were uncovered. The ground was found to have been disturbed by the previous site works.

7.0.2 There were some interesting observations made during the programme of archaeological works which have highlighted areas which would benefit from further research. These comments are arranged chronologically rather than in order of importance.

7.0.3 A paper was published in the Transactions of the Anglesey Antiquarian Society in 1982 which described the results of field walking in a field adjacent to the burial chamber. A group of four flints were recovered from a plough furrow, two of which were recorded as identifiable artefacts. They are detailed as "a core some 3cm in length of pale grey flint, and a blade 3.5cm long with three facets on one side, and one curved face on the other. Two waste flakes of similar material were also found, these comprising the weathered surfaces of a flint pebble such as might be found in the glacial drift". The assemblage is compared with Mesolithic material uncovered at other sites in Anglesey (Conway 1982: 144-5). This paper has highlighted the potential for further information to be gained about Mesolithic and later activity in the surrounding area and systematic field walking is a low impact, relatively low-cost activity which can be effectively be undertaken as a community project.

7.0.4 When preparing for the project and conducting background research, a study was made of the 1956 Powell and Daniel excavation report. It was noted when reading this document that the cremated human remains recovered during the excavations were studied by F.P Lisowski at this time but it appears that no further work has been conducted on the remains since this date. It is proposed that a re-examination of the remains be undertaken in accordance with the aims of the Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales for the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age which states that "Existing archives need to be examined and/or archaeological intervention undertaken to obtain dating material for intra-site sequences. The development of new techniques, for example the dating of cremations, and a review of existing radiocarbon dating and key sequences using modern calibration techniques, for example Bayesian algorithms, may allow a more developed absolute chronology to be constructed from archive material". The interim update for this agenda adds that the study of human remains from previous excavations "may provide the basis for a redefinition of research aims in this area, hopefully leading to further targeted fieldwork". Given that Barclodiad y Gawres is one of the most important and popular prehistoric sites in Wales it would be hugely beneficial if the material could be radiocarbon dated and re-examined and that this data be integrated with the results of other works being carried out on Welsh tombs.

- 7.0.5 At the request of Cadw, costs for this work were investigated and to have the material examined by cremated bone expert Dr. Jackie McKinley at Wessex Archaeology would cost £276 per day and would take 2.5 days. To have the samples radio-carbon dated would cost c. £400 per sample (there are 2 samples to be dated). The total for the works would therefore be c.£1,490.
- **7.0.6** It was also observed whilst at the site that there were several stones of a similar character to some of those used in the tomb construction incorporated into the boundary walls of neighbouring fields. These are large stones which could have previously functioned as uprights in the tomb (see plates 17-20) and it is possible that given a systematic approach and the correct light there *may* be previously undiscovered decoration on the stones. This is however not as unlikely as it may first seem as work by Dr. George Nash and his team has revealed previously unknown work on panels within the tomb itself.
- 7.0.7 The next element which would benefit from further study is concerned with the Post Medieval graffiti on the stones. An article on the site published in Archaeologia Cambrensis in 1869 wrote that "strangers may find the spot more readily by inquiring for "Careg-yr-enwau" (the stone of the names), a modern appellation assigned to it in consequence of the names and initials carved by visitors on the remaining capstone of its central chamber" (Pritchard 1869: 403). This use of the site as a tourist attraction and picnic spot is a little recorded and discussed element of the sites history and no record of this later graffiti currently exists. Photogrammetry would be a simple undertaking which would not risk causing any damage to the stones, and would allow for a more detailed examination and transcription of the information off site.
- 7.0.8 It has been noted that there has been an increase in condensation and algae growth also appears to have increased since the painting of the dome and it is recommended that moisture levels within the dome area be monitored and action taken should this issue persist.

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Websites – all sites were visited 22/03/2016 www.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html www.cadw.wales.gov.uk www.coflein.gov.uk www.historicwales.gov.uk/

Appendix A.Specification for Archaeological Works

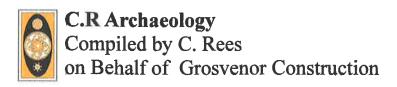
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Specification for Archaeological Works at

Barclodiad y Gawres, Anglesey

NGR SH 32894 70731

Project Number CR125-2016





Specification for Archaeological Works at:

Barclodiad y Gawres, Anglesey

Planning Application Number:

N/A

National Grid Reference:

SH 32894 70731

Client:

Grosvenor Construction

Report Authors:

C. Rees (Document Based Upon Cadw Brief)

Project Number:

CR125-2016

Date:

22-03-2016

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Illustrations

Figure 1. Site Location Map

1.0 Introduction

C.R Archaeology have been instructed by Grosvenor Construction to conduct archaeological works at Barclodiad Y Gawres, Anglsey (figure 1). The Neolithic burial chamber known as Barclodiad y Gawres (in Welsh literally "the giantess' apronful", a name derived from folklore) is located in stunning scenery on the west coast of Anglesey between Rhosneigr and Aberffraw. The monument is set on a cliff top overlooking Cable Bay with panoramic views of the Irish Sea. One of the most popular stretches of the Anglesey coastal path runs directly past the entrance to the monument. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (AN032).

The burial chamber was excavated by T.G.E. Powell and G.E. Daniel in 1952. They discovered a cruciform burial chamber accessed by a passage leading into the mound from the north. The chamber was split into three compartments, each apparently sealed up at different points in time, arranged around a central space used for rituals. One such ritual left the remains of an inedible magic stew consisting of frogs, toads, mice, snakes and eels poured onto a fire in the middle of the chamber. Remnants of human skeletons were found in each of the side chambers. The most significant discovery at Barclodiad y Gawres was its decorated stones. Several of the stones inside the chamber have been carved with abstract patterns of spirals, zig zags and lozenges. Though cryptic, these patterns must have held significant meaning to the monument builders. Surviving Neolithic art forms of this kind are very rare and precious. Of the few comparable specimens of prehistoric art the strongest resemblance is to be found in the Boyne valley in Ireland suggesting possible cultural links, or a seafaring people using the west of Anglesey as a base and a burial ground.

After the 1953 excavations, Barclodiad y Gawres was covered by a concrete dome covered in grass to approximate the appearance of the mound that would once have covered the burial chamber. A glass lens positioned at the top of the dome allowed natural light to enter into the central chamber of the monument but his was later replaced by a concrete cap, meaning visitors would need to bring a torch to see the rock art. A cast iron gate prevented access to the monument but a key could be borrowed in exchange for a small cash deposit. For decades this key was kept in Beaumaris castle. Towards the end of the twentieth century the keys were transferred closer to the burial chamber - to the heritage centre in Aberffraw and the Wayside Stores shop in Llanfaelog.

In 2007, in response to growing concerns about the potential for vandalism to the rare engraved stones and on the advice of the Ancient Monuments Board, Cadw restricted access to the central chamber to accompanied visits only. Locked gates set within the passageway leading into the monument interior allow casual visitors some restricted views into the unlit central chamber but do not allow them to see the prehistoric artwork. While providing security for the monument, this approach is not considered to be ideal.

Research undertaken as part of the HTP has established provisionally that some 12,000 visitors per year investigated the locked passageway into the monument but only a tiny percentage made the arrangements necessary to visit the interior. This shows the strong potential and interest in this monument which could and should be a major asset to heritage tourism on Anglesey. The top priority for this project therefore is to modify the gating and lighting arrangements at Barclodiad y Gawres so that passing casual visitors can view at least some of the stone carving and come away with a positive experience of the site while continuing to protect the stones.

The proposed works within the chamber will involve the extension of the pre-existing roof line above the entrance passageway, the installation of low-key safety fencing, on top of the monument, surrounding the entrance passageway walls, the reconfiguration of the 'wing walls' on either side of the entranceway, the removal of both sets of metal grilles, the installation of new inner grilles and doorway, along a slightly different alignment to the existing, the painting the interior surfaces of the

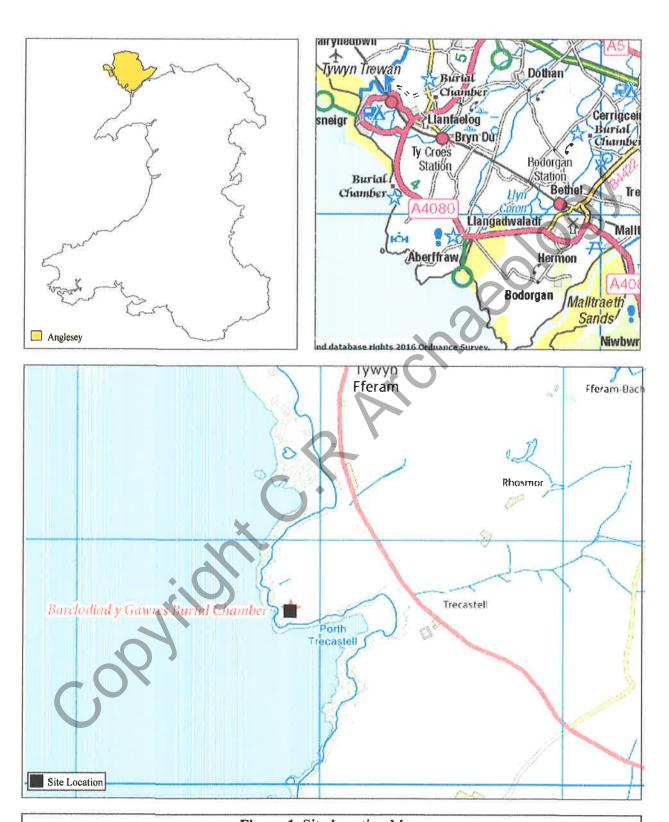


Figure 1. Site Location Map (Source: OS Open Data Mapping. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right [2016])

concrete dome, the installation of solar powered uplighting within the chamber, the installation of cabling to connect the interior lights with the exterior solar panel, the installation of a solar panel on top of the dome, the surfacing along the entrance passageway (including a redefined path reflecting the original line of the passage entrance) and the installation of a new interpretation panel.

Archaeological works are to ensure that an archaeological presence is maintained on site during any works involving ground disturbance (other than those works confined to the modern concrete dome). C.R Archaeology will ensure full excavation and recording of any archaeological features or deposits that will be impacted upon by the this programme of works.

Further archaeological oversight of the works may be required during certain phases of the programme to ensure the appointed contractors do not inadvertently cause damage during the works.

This document has been produced with reference to Cadw document "Barclodiad Y Gawres: Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Works (produced March 2016) and quotes heavily from this brief.

2.0 Project Aims & Objectives

The primary aim of this programme of works is to conduct the archaeological works necessary to allow for the proposed programme of works to be undertaken.

The aims of this work are:

- i) to identify and to make an appropriate record of archaeological remains revealed by excavations
- ii) to ensure the long-term survival of the information contained in such remains through archaeological recording prior to their physical destruction
- iii) to prepare a report and deposition of a project archive

Should significant archaeological remains be identified then the following additional set of aims has been stipulated:

- i) assess the nature, date, density, extent, function and state of preservation of the archaeological remains
- ii) assess their potential for answering questions about the development of the tomb
- iii) where remains are of sufficient importance work in liaison with Cadw to formulate a strategy designed to determine the best method for mitigation

This project aims to fulfil the mitigation criteria for undertaking an Archaeological Watching Brief and an Archaeological Excavation as specified in the CIfA Standard and Guidance documents (2014).

The objectives of this work are:

- i) to excavate and record any deposits which are situated within the proposed development area
- ii) to increase understanding of the site's history, development and significance
- iii) to create an archive record of the excavation
- iv) to establish and make available any further information discovered about the archaeological resource existing on the site

The research objective of this work is to:

i) contribute to our understanding of the construction and use of the chambered tomb and the Neolithic period

3.0 Historical Background

This section is through necessity brief and is intended merely to provide a basic outline of the site history. The compilation of a more detailed history will form an integral part of the final report.

The Neolithic burial chamber known as Barclodiad y Gawres (in Welsh literally "the giantess' apronful", a name derived from folklore) is located in stunning scenery on the west coast of Anglesey between Rhosneigr and Aberffraw. The monument is set on a cliff top overlooking Cable Bay with panoramic views of the Irish Sea. One of the most popular stretches of the Anglesey coastal path runs directly past the entrance to the monument. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (AN032).

The burial chamber was excavated by T.G.E. Powell and G.E. Daniel in 1952. They discovered a cruciform burial chamber accessed by a passage leading into the mound from the north. The chamber was split into three compartments, each apparently sealed up at different points in time, arranged around a central space used for rituals. One such ritual left the remains of an inedible magic stew consisting of frogs, toads, mice, snakes and eels poured onto a fire in the middle of the chamber. Remnants of human skeletons were found in each of the side chambers. The most significant discovery at Barclodiad y Gawres was its decorated stones. Several of the stones inside the chamber have been carved with abstract patterns of spirals, zig zags and lozenges. Though cryptic, these patterns must have held significant meaning to the monument builders. Surviving Neolithic art forms of this kind are very rare and precious. Of the few comparable specimens of prehistoric art the strongest resemblance is to be found in the Boyne valley in Ireland suggesting possible cultural links, or a seafaring people using the west of Anglesey as a base and a burial ground. Barclodiad y Gawres is of Later Neolithic date (c. 3000-2500 B.C) and belongs to a period where monuments became grander and more complex (Yates & Longley 2001; 6-7).

After the 1953 excavations, Barclodiad y Gawres was covered by a concrete dome covered in grass to approximate the appearance of the mound that would once have covered the burial chamber. A glass lens positioned at the top of the dome allowed natural light to enter into the central chamber of the monument but his was later replaced by a concrete cap, meaning visitors would need to bring a torch to see the rock art. A cast iron gate prevented access to the monument but a key could be borrowed in exchange for a small cash deposit. For decades this key was kept in Beaumaris castle, Towards the end of the twentieth century the keys were transferred closer to the burial chamber - to the heritage centre in Aberffraw and the Wayside Stores shop in Llanfaelog.

4.0 Geographical and Geological Context

4.1 Topography

The Neolithic burial chamber known as Barclodiad y Gawres (in Welsh literally "the giantess" apronful", a name derived from folklore) is located in stunning scenery on the west coast of Anglesey between Rhosneigr and Aberffraw. The monument is set on a cliff top overlooking Cable Bay with panoramic views of the Irish Sea. One of the most popular stretches of the Anglesey coastal path runs directly past the entrance to the monument.

4.2 Geology

The bedrock is recorded as "Central Anglesey Shear Zone And Berw Shear Zone (undifferentiated) - Schist, Mica. Metamorphic Bedrock formed approximately 508 to 635 million years ago in the Cambrian and Ediacaran Periods. Original rocks without interpretation. Later crushed in fault

zone or shear zone. These rocks have undergone low grade metamorphism, high grade regional metamorphism, or crushing in a fault or shear zone and it is not known whether they were of igneous, sedimentary or older metamorphic origin". There are also "Unnamed Igneous Intrusion Of Unknown Age - Gabbro, Microgabbro And Diorite. Igneous Bedrock formed approximately NaN to NaN million years ago in the Period. Local environment previously dominated by intrusions of silica-rich and silica-poor magmas. These rocks were formed from silica-rich and silica-poor magmas. It intruded into the Earth's crust and cooled to form intrusions ranging from large, coarse crystalline, granitic to gabbroic plutons to smaller, fine to medium crystalline, rhyolitic to basaltic, dykes and sills" recorded in the area. The superficial geology is not recorded (www.map apps.bgs.ac.uk).

5.0 Scheme of Works - Methodology

The proposed works will be conducted in three stages and each is detailed separately below

5.1 Scheme of Works - Methodology for Desk Based Research

Sufficient background research will be undertaken to allow the site to understood within its archaeological context. A history of the site will be compiled utilising information sourced from local archives, RCAHMW and the Gwynedd HER. Specialist journals, museum collections, publications and personal archives will be examined as appropriate. Web resources will also be utilised. The depth of research will be in proportion to the archaeological remains uncovered and in the event of a negative excavation result limited time will be expended on this task. In the event of a significant find then more intensive and targeted research will be undertaken.

This material will form the historical background for the archaeological report.

5.2 Scheme of Works – Methodology for Archaeological Watching Brief

The removal of all modern surfaces from the area is to be undertaken by Grosvenor Construction prior to the commencement of hand excavation by C.R Archaeology staff. A member of C.R Archaeology staff will be present during this work and all groundworks are to take place under archaeological supervision.

This fieldwork element is to be conducted by Catherine Rees or Matthew Jones of C.R Archaeology. Both staff members are qualified, experienced archaeologists and cv's can be provided on request.

5.3 Scheme of Works - Methodology for Hand Excavation

Following the removal of modern surfaces by Grosvenor Construction hand excavation will commence and will continue until the desired maximum depth for works is reached. Prior to the commencement of excavation the area is to be hand cleaned in order to define any context boundaries which may be present.

Any archaeological features, structures or remains identified in the course of the excavation will be trowel cleaned by hand. Investigation of such features, structures or deposits will be sufficient to determine their character, date, significance and quality. This will in general involve the half sectioning of discrete features such as pits and postholes and the excavation of a minimum of 20% of linear features to characterise their profiles. Should features yield significant results or if it is necessary to remove them in order to reach the desired excavation depth then they may be excavated in their entirety.

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 100% will be taken. For larger features a sample of up to 40 litres

will be taken. In the event of a significant discovery Cadw will be informed and a mitigation strategy agreed before works will progress.

Fieldwork is to be conducted by Catherine Rees. Should additional staff be required Matthew Jones will be available to assist as necessary. Dr George Nash will be available to provide additional support should it be required. The works will be carried out in accordance with the CIfA Standard and Guidance documents for Archaeological Excavation (2014).

5.3.1 Recording

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

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

Trench sections will be drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate and any archaeological features identified will be pre and post excavation planned at an appropriate scale.

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 deposits in plan and section, insitu artefacts and any features which may be identified within the trenches. Included in each photograph will be an appropriate scale and north arrow. Photographs will be taken of all trench sections.

In addition to those stipulated above the following photographs will also taken:

- i) the site prior to the commencement of fieldwork
- ii) the site during work showing specific stages of fieldwork
- iii) working photographs illustrating the excavations under way
- iv) the layout of archaeological features within each trench
- v) individual features and where appropriate their sections
- vi) groups of features where their relationship is important.

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'.

A 'harris matrix' diagram will be constructed for the excavated area.

5.3.2 Additional Mitigation/Contingency Measures

In the event of a significant archaeological discovery being made during the excavation C.R Archaeology will immediately inform both Grosvenor Construction and Cadw. Consultation will take place between C.R Archaeology, Cadw and Grosvenor Construction with regards to the most suitable course of action. It is agreed that if extensive archaeological remains are identified it may be necessary to pause groundworks until a strategy has been designed to fully establish their character, distribution, extent, condition, dating and further treatment.

In the event that human remains are encountered site work in that area 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. They will only be removed 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 Cadw and to HM Coroner.

As a provisional strategy it is proposed that samples be taken from any securely dated deposits containing:

- charred plant remains
- large quantities of molluscs
- large quantities of bone
- hearths and other bunt features
- other domestic features eg house gullies.

5.3.3 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 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 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 prehistoric pottery will be produced by Frances Lynch, lithics by Dr. Ian Brooks and cremated human remains by Dr Jackie McKinney of Wessex Archaeology. Further specialists will be appointed as required. A list of specialists will be prepared prior to the post-excavation phase of works.

Specialist conservation will be undertaken by an approved conservator on advice provided by a suitable specialist. This will be conducted in accordance with guidelines issued by the Institute for Conservation.

Following analysis it is provisionally intended that all archaeological material recovered will be deposited at Oriel Mon and the paper/digital archive at Anglesey Archives. Processed assemblages will be boxed according to issued guidelines and a register of contents compiled prior to deposition. It may however be the case that in the event of the recovery of a significant artefact/artefacts that it might be considered more appropriate that the material be retained and displayed by Cadw or taken to the National Museum in Cardiff. C.R Archaeology will therefore consult with Cadw prior to the deposition of any material at Oriel Mon Museum.

The works will be carried out in accordance with The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (2014).

5.3.4 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.

As detailed above Oriel Mon Museum is the likely repository of any artefactual material and will be notified in advance of the proposed deposition of material resulting from this excavation. Artefacts will be deposited in accordance with the museum's terms and conditions for deposition. In the event of a significant discovery it might be considered more appropriate that the material be retained and displayed by Cadw or sent to the National Museum Cardiff and C.R Archaeology will therefore consult with Cadw prior to the deposition of any material.

The paper/digital archive created by this archaeological project will be deposited at Llangefni Archives in accordance with their terms and conditions for archive deposition.

5.4.0 Timetable for Proposed Works

It is envisaged that works at Barclodiad y Gawres will commence on Wednesday 23rd March 2016. Cadw will be informed of the exact site days to allow monitoring of works.

5.4.1 Staffing

The project will be managed by Catherine Rees (MCIfA, BA, MA, PgDip HEC) and Matthew Jones (BA Archaeology and Welsh History, M.A Archaeological Practice). In addition to Matthew and Catherine, Dr George Nash will also be involved in a support/advisory capacity. C.Vs for all staff employed on the project have been provided as requested.

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

5.4.2 Monitoring

The project will be subject to monitoring by Cadw. The monitor will be given prior notice of the commencement of the fieldwork. 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.

5.4.3 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:

- Safety Helmets (EN397)
- Hi-visibility vests (EN471)
- Safety footwear steel toecap and mid-sole boots and Wellingtons (EN345-47)
- Gloves
- Plastic hard cased kneeling pads
- Alcohol dry "handwash"

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

C.R Archaeology are not the Principle Contractor onsite and staff will comply with all Health and Safety Policy or specific on-site instructions provided by Grosvenor Construction.

5.4.4 The Report

The report will clearly and accurately incorporate information gained from the entire programme of archaeological works. It will present the documentary evidence gathered in such a way as to create a clear and coherent record. The reports will contain a site plan showing the locations of photographs taken.

The report will include:

- a title/cover page detailing site address, Scheduled Monument number, site code and accession number, NGR, author/originating body, client's name and address, report date and planning reference number
- full contents listing
- · a non-technical summary of the findings of the excavations
- a description of the archaeological background
- a description of the topography and geology of the excavation area
- a description of the methodologies used during the excavation
- a description of the findings of the excavation
- plans of each of the trenches/areas showing the archaeological features exposed
- sections of the excavated archaeological features
- specialist reports on the artefactual/ecofactual remains from the site
- appropriate photographs of specific archaeological features
- a consideration of the importance of the archaeological remains present on the site in local, regional and national terms

The report will detail the results of the background research, the archaeological watching brief and the hand excavation of the trenches.

Should remains be encountered which require specialist analysis Cadw and the client will be consulted to discuss whether an interim report will be produced or whether publication would more appropriately be delayed until the results of all works have been obtained. Specialist reports may be summarised within the main report text but as a minimum will be included in full as appendices.

Copies of the reports 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 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 the final report.

As a minimum in the event of a positive result a summary of the work will be published in the Archaeology in Wales Journal. Papers will be submitted to relevant additional publications dependant on the results of the field work.

5.4.4.1 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 Specification.

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.sle of Yates, M.J & Longley, D. 2001. Anglesey: A Guide to Ancient Monuments on the Isle of Anglesey. Cadw. Cardiff

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Appendix B.Site Plans and Elevations

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