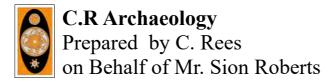
# Results of Archaeological Works at Caerhun Farm, Tyn-y-Groes

NGR SH 77252 70541

**Project Number CR126-2016** 



# of Archaeological Works at

# Results of Archaeological Works at Caerhun Farm, Tyn-y-Groes

**Planning Reference Number:** 0/42140

National Grid Reference: SH 77252 70541
Client: Mr. Sion Roberts

Report Authors:Catherine ReesProject Number:CR126-2016Date:11/07/2016

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# 1.0 Introduction

C.R Archaeology were instructed by Mr. Sion Roberts to conduct archaeological works at the above site in compliance with planning conditions placed on the development (Planning Reference: 0/42140).

A specification was written following a telephone and email conversation with Development Control Archaeologist Jenny Emmett of Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services (beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016) as a methodology for an Archaeological Watching Brief (see appendix a).

The proposed development site is situated in a rural setting just off the B5106 (Figure 1). Planning permission has been granted to erect a compost shed with associated access and soak-aways. The development plot is located within the Grade II Listed Caer Rhun Hall Registered Historic Park and Garden. The farm was established in this location as an element of the estate reorganisation in the 1890's. It is shown on historic mapping that prior to this the land was open parkland, with mature trees marking the remains of former field boundaries.

The proposed development is within 350m of the Roman Fort of Canovium (Scheduled Ancient Monument CN001). The fort has a vicus (civilian settlement) extending to the north and there are associated features including roads and burials recorded on the adjacent land. It was therefore considered that there was a potential for contemporary evidence to extend to the application site and archaeological mitigation was therefore recommended.

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on the development site. No archaeological features were uncovered although a small quantity of Roman and Post Medieval pottery was collected during the works.

# 2.0 Project Aims

The scheme of works aimed to monitor groundworks at the site in order to assess the survival, character and date of any archaeological remains and to excavate/record any archaeological remains uncovered.

It aimed to fulfil the mitigation criteria for undertaking an Archaeological Watching Brief as specified in the CIfA Standard and Guidance document (2014).

# 3.0 Scheme of Works - Methodology

The methodologies employed conformed to The Charted Institute for Archaeologists: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014).

# 3.1 Desk Based Research

A history of the site was compiled utilising information sourced from Conwy Record Office and the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record Office. A map progression was undertaken along with a search of tithe records. The Gwynedd Historic Environment Record was consulted and a search radius of 500m examined.

These works were carried out in accordance with the CIfA Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment (2014).

This material forms the historical background for this archaeological report which also includes the results of the Archaeological Watching Brief.

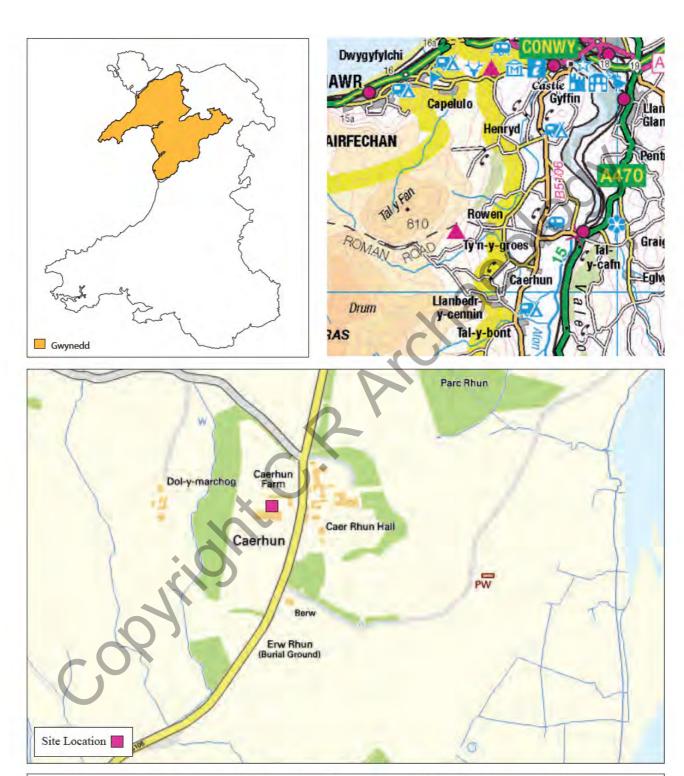


Figure 1. Site Location Map - Source: OS Open Data (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2016)

# 3.2 Archaeological Watching Brief

This watching brief monitored all groundworks undertaken on the site. This included all topsoil and subsoil stripping and the excavation of an access roads shed foundations, soakaways and service trenches. As the ground on which the development was located was on a slope there was also an additional area stripped to provide material to build up the plot on which the shed was to sit.

A C.R Archaeology staff member was present during all machine excavation. This work was undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. No archaeological material was uncovered during the works and due to the shallow depth of the top/sub soil the entire area was stripped down to the underlying natural.

The fieldwork was conducted and managed by Catherine Rees (MCIfA) of C.R Archaeology. C.R Archaeology notified GAPS as the date of the commencement of works and were kept informed as to the site progress. No site visit was deemed necessary due to the negative result of the works.

# 3.2.1 Recording

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

A high-resolution 20mp Sony Alpha digital camera was used to create a photographic record of the site. This is comprised of general photographs of the site due to the a negative result.

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

# 3.2.2 Additional Mitigation/Contingency Measures

No additional mitigation or contingency measures were necessary.

# 3.2.3 Recovery, Processing and Curation of Artefactual Material

All recovered artefactual material will be retained, cleaned, labelled and stored according to Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (IfA 2008) 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 (IfA 2008).

All artefactual material was bagged and labelled with the site code and context number prior to removal from site. The archive reference number will be clearly marked on all finds.

The assemblage has been examined according to typological and chronological criteria and no conservation needs were identified. An assessment report of all Roman and Post Medieval material was produced by Matthew Jones.

Following analysis all archaeological material recovered will be deposited in Llandudno Museum. Processed assemblages will be boxed according to issued guidelines and a register of contents compiled prior to deposition.

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

# 3.2.4 Archive Compilation

All records created during the fieldwork were checked for consistency and accuracy and form part of the *Primary Site Archive (P1)* (EH 2006). The archive contains 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).

Archive/artefactual material created/discovered during this archaeological project will be deposited in Llandudno Museum. Archive material will be deposited in accordance with the museum's terms and conditions for archive deposition.

# 3.3 Timetable for Proposed Works

Ground works commenced on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and was conducted over two days. Additional time was allotted for archive research, report compilation and site archiving. Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services were informed of the exact site days to allow monitoring of works.

# 3.4 Staffing

The project was managed by Catherine Rees (MCIfA). All projects are carried out in accordance with CIfA *Standard and Guidance* documents.

# 3.5 Monitoring

The project was subject to monitoring by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services. The monitor was given prior notice of the commencement of the fieldwork. They were updated with the results of all works conducted as watching brief elements. This was initially as an telephone call & email with attached JPEG photographs.

# 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:

- Safety Helmets (EN397)
- Hi-visibility vests (EN471)
- Safety footwear steel toecap and mid-sole boots and Wellingtons (EN345-47)

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

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

# 3.7 The Report

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 report contains a site plan showing the locations of photographs taken.

# The report includes:

- A copy of the design brief and agreed specification
- A location plan
- A full bibliography of sources consulted
- An archive compact disc

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 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 project.

# 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 Specification.

# 4.0 Geographical and Geological Context

## 4.1 Topography

The proposed development site is situated within the Conwy Valley in a rural setting just off the B5106. The area is in agricultural use and within 800m of the river Conwy.

#### 4.2 Geology

The bedrock is recorded as "Denbigh Grits Formation - Mudstone, Siltstone And Sandstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 423 to 428 million years ago in the Silurian Period. Local environment previously dominated by deep seas. These rocks were formed in deep seas from infrequent slurries of shallow water sediments which were then redeposited as graded beds". The superficial geology is recorded as "Till, Devensian - Diamicton. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions. 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.mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

# 5.0 Historical Background

A search of the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record Office was conducted which examined a area within a 500m radius of the proposed development site. The results are summarised below.

#### **Prehistoric**

There are no Prehistoric remains or findspots located within the search radius.

#### Roman

Caerhun Farm is located within 350m of Canovium Roman Fort (Scheduled Ancient Monument CN001).

Canovium is briefly described in Coflien as "Canovium, a Roman military settlement set at a strategically important point on a ridge overlooking the Conwy river, is the last intermediate fort in a defensive chain that ran along the coastal road from Chester to Caernarfon. It was occupied, with some breaks, from the time of Agricola's campaign in AD 77/8 through to the the fourth century. The settlement centres on an auxiliary fort, a near square stone walled enclosure, 130-140m across. This was the scene of extensive excavations in 1926-9. At the foot of the river cliff traces of the bathhouse explored in the early nineteenth century can be seen. The settlement is known to have extended along the ridge to the north, extensive remains being glimpsed from the air and in geophysical survey. It was fringed by cemeteries and a possible circular shrine or tomb has been identified on the north. There is some, though not conclusive, evidence that the nearby dock is a Roman structure (NPRN 303122). Roads are known to have led from the settlement, including those to St Asaph (NPRN 303525) and Tomen-y-Mur (NPRN 303519)" (www.coflein.gov.uk).

There are a number of additional Roman/Romano-British sites associated with Canovium recorded in the GAT HER which also lie within the 500m search radius. They are as follows:

PRN 17585: Part of Roman Road, Segontium - Canovium

PRN 17586: Roman Road, Possible, Canovium to Docks

PRN 17177: Vicus, Canovium. The text

PRN 3841: Roman Road: Canovium - Varis

PRN 17703, 17704 & 17705: Part of Roman Road, Canovium - Tomen y Mur

PRN 2487: Roman Cremation Burial, Caerhun. A Roman cremation burial found before 1925. Discovered approx. 137m SW and 548m NE of fort. The remains were said to be female but the skeletal material has been lost. The vessel is extant.

PRN 2472: Roman Brooch - Findspot, River Conwy, Caerhun. Roman Brooch dated c. AD 125, found in the River Conway below the fort of Canovium, now in Bangor University College Museum.

#### Medieval

Within 350m of Caerhun Farm is Caerhun Church. The church is a Grade I Listed Building (ID 3167). The following is an excerpt from the Cadw listing text.

"The present church is early Medieval with early C15 and C16 additions and alterations. The former consist of rebuilt E and W gable ends, a re-roofing of the continuous nave and chancel, and an added S porch. A south chapel was added apparently in 1591, by Captain Edward Williams (of Maes-y-Castell), and an ex situ dedication board bearing this date survives within; in addition, a (now very weathered) sandstone plaque above the chapel's S window is recorded as showing the arms of Edward Williams, together with the date as before. Despite this apparently unequivocal dating evidence, both the roof structure and the S and E windows of the chapel are of C15 character; the implication therefore is that either earlier elements have been re-used/re-set, or a pre-existing space has been remodelled, or that alternatively the style and construction is merely deeply antiquated.

Included at Grade I as a fine Medieval church of considerable architectural and historical significance" (www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk).

It is postulated that Caerhun Hall (see below) has Medieval origins.

#### **Post Medieval**

Caerhun Farm is located within the Caer Rhun Hall Registered Historic Park and Garden (PRN 17287). The farm was established in this location as an element of the estate reorganisation in the 1890's. It is shown on historic mapping that prior to this the land was open parkland, with mature trees marking the remains of former field boundaries. The hall itself is a Grade II Listed Building (ID 17010) and the description is summarised below.

"The original Plas Caerhun was a largely C17 house with probable Medieval origins, and was the seat of the Davis and subsequently Davis-Griffith families. The present house was built in 1895 for Major-General Hugh Sutlej Gough (1848-1920), Commander-in-Chief in India during the first and second Sikh wars and conqueror of the Punjab, as well as Governor-General of Jersey. Designed in Elizabethan style, the house bears close similarity with the work of Douglas and Fordham, architects of Chester; the influence of Plas Mawr, Conway is apparent in both theme and detail.

# Reason for Listing

An imposing and well-designed late Victorian country house in the manner of Douglas and Fordham, architects of Chester and with good surviving interior detail" (www.britishlisted buildings.co.uk).

The description for the gardens (PRN 17287, Register 0f Parks and Gardens number: PGW (Gd) 12 (CON)) is extensive although the majority of the description concentrates around the house and the Roman Fort on the opposite side of the B5106. It has therefore not been included in full and just the excerpts which relate to Caerhun Farm and the development area have been included below.

"Caer Rhun Hall is situated just to the east of the B5106 Conwy to Betws y Coed road, about 7km south of Conway. The house, although close to the road, is surrounded by gardens, and faces south over its wide, shallow terraces. The River Conwy is about 0.75 km away to the east. The home farm and walled kitchen garden lie on the other side of the B5106, immediately opposite the house".

"The gardens are surrounded by the once very extensive park, which runs down to the river on the east and also extends some way to the north and south, on both sides of the B5106. It includes the small church of St Mary and the Roman fort of Canovium within which the church and churchyard lie. Although most of the park is now in separate ownership and is mostly regularly ploughed, sufficient of the dot-planted trees survive for it to retain its parkland appearance, though this will not persist for many more years as many of the trees are nearing the ends of their lives, and they are not being replaced".

"The park pre-dates the present house and its layout was largely unchanged when the house was rebuilt and the garden redesigned in 1892. In its present form it is likely to date to the early nineteenth century. The 1889 Ordnance Survey map records the layout of the grounds as they were before the house was rebuilt and by comparing it with the 1913 map it is possible to see how comprehensive was the redesigning of the whole garden area. The park, however, was not much altered, except that the garden was extended slightly on the north and west, taking the drive into the garden and necessitating the re-routing of a footpath to the church. The new home farm and walled garden were constructed in one of the park enclosures, on the west side of the B5106".

"An area of probably natural woodland in the valley of the small stream to the west of the new farm and walled garden was increased in extent and had conifers added to it, and belts of conifers were planted along the roadsides and in the field to the west, surrounding the walled garden. Only parts of these now survive, and many self-sown deciduous trees have appeared".

"A completely new walled kitchen garden, smaller than the old but containing no glass, was laid out on the west side of the B5106".

"The 1890s kitchen garden lies on the west side of the B5106, north of the farm buildings, one range of which forms the south wall of the garden. Although the walls have largely survived, the interior has been completely cleared and is now used as a touring caravan park. The path layout is not shown on the 1914 map, but the present owners remember that the site was divided into six plots, was slightly terraced, and the paths were of brick. There were espaliers on wire and posts along the terraces, and some wall fruit still remains.

The walls are entirely of brick, three bricks thick and about 3 m high, with a slate coping. They look as though they may have been raised, especially along the road side. The bricks are severely weathered in places, where they are particularly exposed, and are in need of consolidating. There is also some ivy damage.

There were four arched doorways, of which three remain and the other has been enlarged to make an entrance to the field on the west. The main entrance is a modern breach, and there is also access via the farm buildings on the south side.

Two internal features remain - just south of centre a circular pool and fountain of dark brick, about 3.5 m in diameter and over 0.5 m deep, and in the apse to the north another, smaller (1.5 m), circular feature, which looks like a small pool filled in. The owners describe it as having had a glass superstructure at one time, and being quite deep with smooth sides and a curved bottom. They have filled it in for safety. Near this are three larch trees, looking rather out of place. Apart from the wall fruit, there are no other plants other than grass".

# **Cartographic Evidence**

Due to the negative results of the watching brief a detailed search for surviving estate maps associated with Caer Hun Hall was not conducted.

An examination was however made of Tithe and early Ordnance Survey mapping.

The Tithe map of 1847 (figure 2) showed that the development field boundaries to the south-east and south-west remain unchanged. The plot is shown to have once been part of a larger triangular shaped field bordering the main route from the Conwy Valley into Conwy. The woodland which runs along the western edge of the field is shown as well established by this point.

Little change is noted on the 1887 first edition Ordnance Survey map (figure 3). The main feature of note is the erection of Dol-y-Marchog farm which has an access trackway which runs across the development field.



Figure 2. Extract from 1847 Tithe Map of Area

The main change to the plot occurs between the surveying for the first edition Ordnance Survey in 1887 and the second edition in 1899 (figure 4). Between these dates we see great change to the northern portion of the field when the home farm and walled garden from the Caerhun Estate is relocated to the western side of the Conwy road. The boundaries of the farmstead are preserved and form the northern boundary of the development area, although the subdivisions in the area between the field and farmstead do change.

A small area of land to the west of the field is incorporated into the woodland of the field boundary between the 1899 and 1911 map editions (figure 5). There are no changes to the plot shown between the 1911 and 1948 (figure 6) surveys of the area, although there are changes evident in the area between the farmhouse and the field. In the 1899 survey the area is wooded and divided into three small plots. These subdivisions have been removed by 1911 and the division extended right across the plot completely dividing the northern and southern field boundaries. A small building is shown in this area which remains on the 1948 survey. In the latest edition two long barns have been added to the plot.

The east-west field boundary first noted on the 1911 survey had been removed when the site was visited but this is evidently a recent change and the boundary was still visible and was marked by a post and wire fence divider in places.

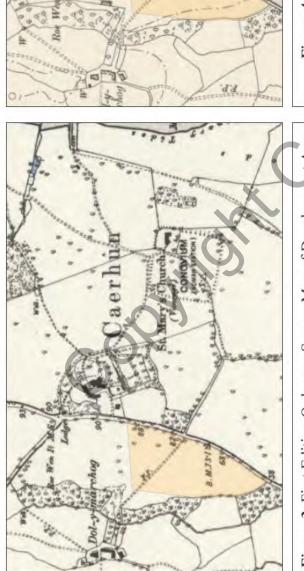


Figure 3. First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of Development Area. Surveyed 1887 Published 1889

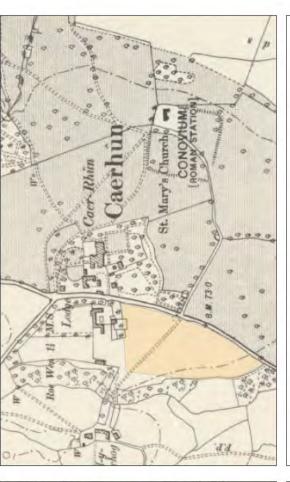


Figure 4. Ordnance Survey Map of Development Area. Revised 1899 Published 1901

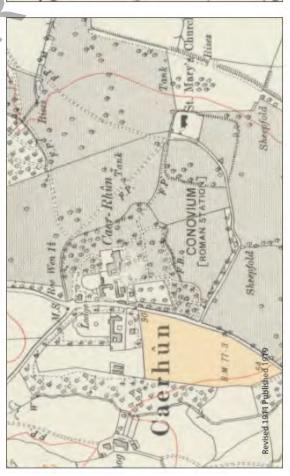


Figure 5. Ordnance Survey Map of Development Area. Revised 1911 Published 1919

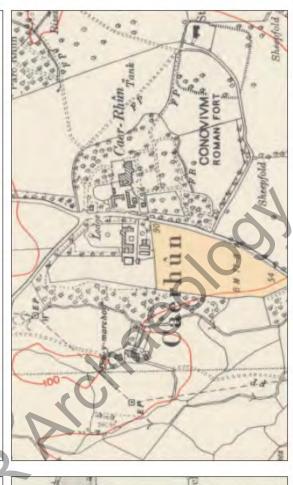


Figure 6. Ordnance Survey Map of Development Area. Revised 1948 Published 1953

# **6.0 Results of Archaeological Works**

The construction methodology for the erection of the compost shed was such that rather than requiring the stripping of the building footprint, the access and the service routes, a much wider area was stripped down to the natural in order to allow for the levelling of the plot.

An area with a maximum width of 79m and a maximum length of c.80m (see figure 7) was stripped down to the level of the underlying natural. The south-eastern corner of the stripped area was not excavated due to the presence of a large tree. The site slopes from east to west and the soil depth varied between 0.35m at the lower end of the slope, and 0.17m at the top of the slope.

There was a thin layer of turf/topsoil approximately 0.05 - 0.1m in thickness. The soil had a silty clay matrix. Below this was a mid brown silty-clay subsoil which contained moderate rounded stone which was a maximum of 0.30m in depth.

The underlying geology was a mixed yellow clay with frequent large glacial erratics up to 1.5m in length.

No archaeological features were noted although a small quantity of Roman and Post Medieval pottery was collected from the subsoil.

# 6.1 Artefactual Material Roman Pottery Samian Type

A single rim sherd of Samian pottery was recovered which displayed similar characteristics to the 18 to 31 range discussed in Webster (2005: 32-33). The sherd would have been part of a plate or shallow bowl.

There was also a single sherd abraded pottery measuring 3.5cm by 2.5cm with a thickness of 0.3cm. There is some evidence of a slip glaze on this sherd which is which is indicative of it being a copy of a vessel of Samian type.

#### Coarse ware

Four sherds of a coarse orange pottery were recovered.

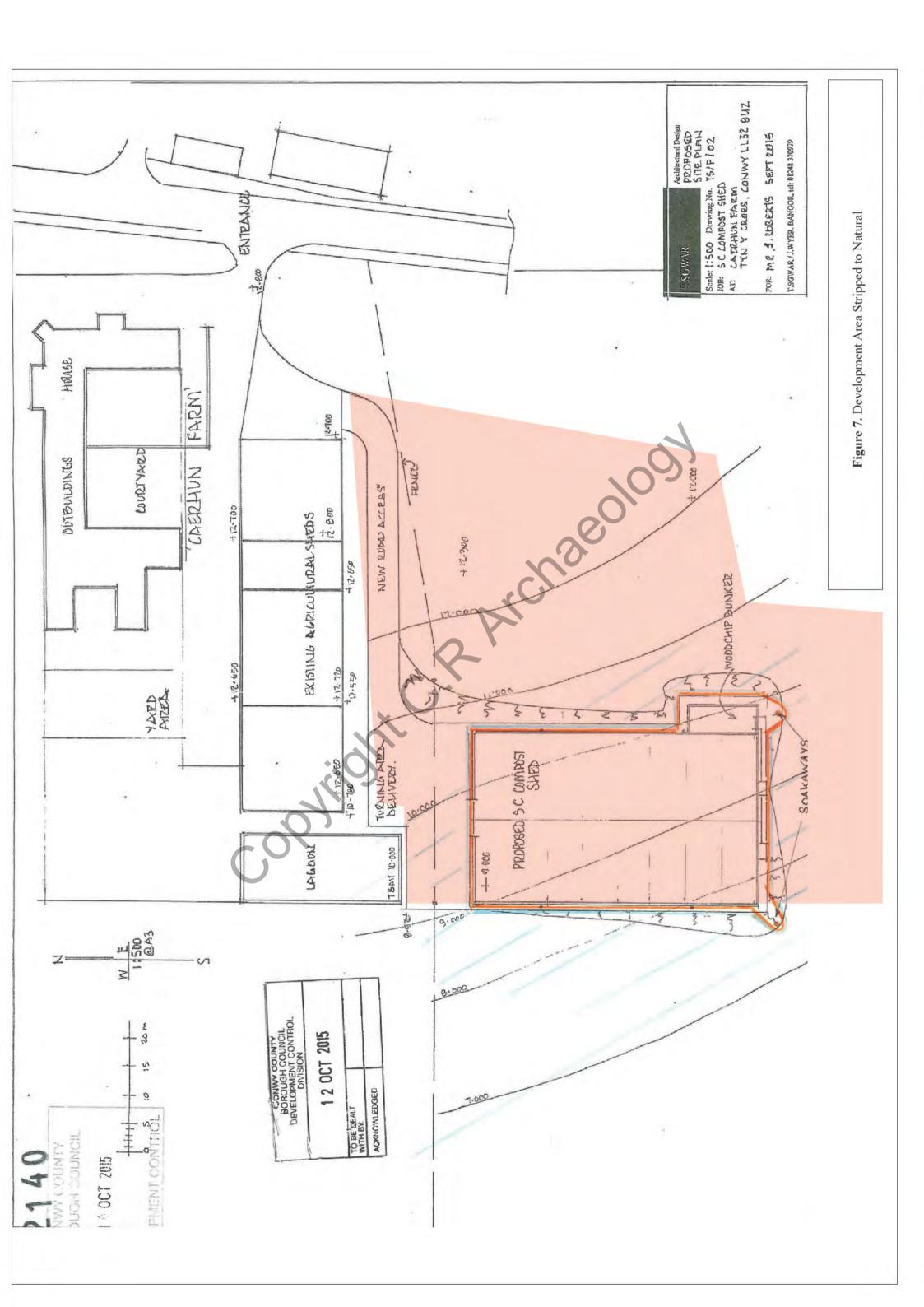
The first was a rim sherd from a cup or straight sided bowl which measured 4.5cm by 3.3cm with a thickness of 0.8cm. The rim was slightly rounded and there was ribbing to the exterior body. There was a dark red slip on the vessel interior. The fabric is orange with dark brown and black grit inclusions.

Two partial bases were recovered which had flat bases and slightly right angled returns to the body. Both pieces were likely to have been part of bowls. The fabric is orange with small black and clear grits within the fabric.

The final piece was a rim sherd of light orange fabric which measured 3cm by 2.8cm and was 0.2cm in thickness. The sherd had a straight flat rim and appeared to be part of a small cup.

#### Mortarium

A single mortarium base sherd was collected. It measured 4cm by 2.4cm and was 1cm thick, with a right angle return to the body. The body scar was 1.1cm in thickness. The internal base was smooth with raised black grit inclusions.





Plates 1 - 4. Stripped Development Area Showing Negative Result - Note Large Glacial Erratics Especially in Plate 1

# **Post Medieval Pottery**

# Black/dark brown glazed ware

Two sherds of black/dark brown glazed ware with a light red pink body fabric were recovered. All are associated with the local Buckley pottery centre.

A single irregular shaped body sherd was collected. It measured 3cm by 3cm and had a thickness of 0.6cm. It was glazed internally and externally and had a ribbed design. It is unclear as to the vessel type this piece originated from.

A large rim sherd 13cm in length was collected. The lip of the rim was flat and 3cm in width. It then stepped 0.5cm towards the thickest part of the body which was 2cm in width. This stepped towards the body for 0.5cm. The main body of the vessel is 0.5cm thick. There was a rough uneven glazing internally and externally with a smooth interior. This fragment was possibly part of a large wash pan or a tall pot used for storing milk in the dairy. Later versions of these vessel types have a smooth exterior so this piece is likely to be of late 19th or 20th century date (McGarva 2000:26).

# **Blue and White Ceramic**

A single sherd of blue and white ceramic was recovered. It was a part body sherd of a high bowl or pot. There is a unclear printed blue decoration internally and a printed version of the classic Asian garden and lake scene although the piece is too small to be sufficient to attribute it to any one deign style (Copeland 2010).

#### White Ceramic

Three sherds of white glazed pottery were recovered. Two were two rim sherds, one with a straight edge and one with a scalloped rim. Both pieces came from shallow plates. The third sherd was the base of a pot with partial body sherd. It was printed with a banner design baring the letters SIS, it is unclear what this represents but it is likely some form of company logo.

## **Stone Ware**

A single sherd of light grey stone ware with a light brown glaze was recovered. It is believed to be part of a neck of a bottle

## Modern Kitchen Ware

A single body and rim sherd of a white ceramic was collected. It had a thick light blue band and three thinner, light blue bands. It was part of a mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century kitchen ware vessel of the distinctive Cornishware blue and white style.

#### Unknown

Fourteen sherds of a mid-orange coarse ware were collected. There was no abrasion on these sherds and they are considered to be of a late date - possibly flower pots pieces or the remains of other agricultural ceramics.

# 7.0 Conclusion

No archaeological features were encountered during the site works. There were a small quantity of residual Roman and Post Medieval artefacts recovered during the works which is not unexpected given the proximity to Caerhun Roman fort and Caerhun Farm.

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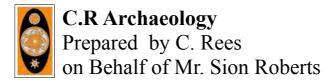
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# Specification for Archaeological Works at Caerhun Farm, Tyn-y-Groes

NGR SH 77252 70541

**Report Number CR126-2016** 



# for Archaeological Works at

# Specification for Archaeological Works at Caerhun Farm, Tyn-y-Groes

**Planning Reference Number:** 0/42140

National Grid Reference: SH 77252 70541
Client: Mr. Sion Roberts

Report Authors:Catherine ReesReport Number:CR126-2016Date:24/03/2016

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# 1.0 Introduction

C.R Archaeology have been instructed by Mr. Sion Roberts to conduct archaeological works at the above site in compliance with planning conditions placed on the development (Planning Reference: 0/42140).

This specification has been written following a telephone and email conversation with Development Control Archaeologist Jenny Emmett of Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services (beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016) as a methodology for an Archaeological Watching Brief. It refers directly to correspondence Ref: 111je01/D2087 which outlines the required works.

The proposed development site is situated in a rural setting just off the B5106 (Figure 1). Planning permission has been granted to erect a compost shed with associated access and soakaways (Appendix A).

The development plot is located within the Caer Rhun Hall Registered Historic Park and Garden. The farm was established in this location as an element of the estate reorganisation in the 1890's. It is shown on historic mapping that prior to this the land was open parkland, with mature trees marking the remains of former field boundaries.

The proposed development is within 350m of the Roman Fort of Canovium (Scheduled Ancient Monument CN001). The fort has a vicus (civilian settlement) extending to the north and there are associated features including roads and burials recorded on the adjacent land. It is therefore considered that there is a potential for contemporary evidence to extend to the application site and archaeological mitigation was therefore recommended.

This document details the methodology for an archaeological watching brief which is to be conducted on all groundworks associated with the proposed project.

# 2.0 Project Aims

This scheme of works aims to monitor groundworks at the site in order to assess the survival, character and date of any archaeological remains and to excavate/record any archaeological remains uncovered.

It aims to fulfil the mitigation criteria for undertaking an Archaeological Watching Brief as specified in the CIfA Standard and Guidance document (2014).

# 3.0 Historical Background

The following section is, through necessity, brief and is intended to merely place the site in context. A more detailed history of the site will form an element in the proposed works and will concentrate more specifically on the site itself.

Caerhun Farmis located within the Caer Rhun Hall Registered Historic Park and Garden. The farm was established in this location as an element of the estate reorganisation in the 1890's. It is shown on historic mapping that prior to this the land was open parkland, with mature trees marking the remains of former field boundaries. The hall is a Grade II Listed Building (ID 17010) and the description is included below.

#### "Location

Located 200m NW of Caerhun church, set back from the main Bettws-y-Coed - Conwy road (B 5106) on the E side behind high rubble walls.

# History

The original Plas Caerhun was a largely C17 house with probable Medieval origins, and was the seat of the Davis and subsequently Davis-Griffith families. The present house was built in 1895 for Major-General Hugh Sutlej Gough (1848-1920), Commander-in-Chief in India during the first and second Sikh wars and conqueror of the Punjab, as well as Governor-General of Jersey. Designed in Elizabethan style, the house bears close similarity with the work of Douglas and Fordham, architects of Chester; the influence of Plas Mawr, Conway is apparent in both theme and detail.

#### Interior

Counter-changed floor to entrance hall, of sandstone and polished black slate slabs. Three-quarter height small-field panelling, re-used C17 material from Plas Caerhun. Twin-arched opening to L leading to stairwell; Tuscan columns supporting round arches. Narrow oak well stair with Jacobean-style geometric finials and strapwork decoration to newel posts; barley-twist balusters and dado panelling. Segmental opening with panelled doors to panelled hall at R. Plas Mawr type fireplace within large Tudor-arched niche which projects slightly; this has simple fluted pilaster decoration to its overmantle and a moulded mantelpiece. Beamed ceiling with ovolo moulding to main beams and stopped chamfered detail; re-used C17 panelling as before with, at the far (service) end, a carved foliate board above doors with late C19 inscription 'fear God and honour the King'. Drawing room and dining room off hall, the former with painted dado panelling. The dining room has a panelled fireplace niche and a Jacobean style fireplace with baluster-columns supporting a mantelpiece and geometric overmantel.

Cantilevered stone circular service stair contained within octagonal tower; swept oak rail and ball-finial to bottom newel. Re-used C16/C17 chamfered ceiling beams to room off kitchen. Kitchen with high ceiling and contemporary glazed ceramic dado tiles and range alcoves.

#### Exterior

Large T-shaped house consisting of a two-and-a-half storey main section with an adjoining L-shaped service/subsidiary range of 2 storeys. Of snecked limestone with red sandstone dressings and pale slate roofs. Asymmetrical facades with leaded mullioned and transomed plain and arched windows and paired or clustered chimneys, mostly off-set and with moulded cornices and capping. Stepped and kneelered gables throughout with ball finials carried on diagonal off-set shafts connecting with plain moulded stringcourses.

The N (entrance) front has a 5-and-a-half bay main block with a 3-bay subsidiary range at right-angles to the R. Extruded at the corner is a large octagonal stair tower with banded decoration, single-light windows with chamfered reveals and an octagonal roof with lead ball finial. Wide gabled bay to L of main block with first-floor canted oriel window of twin and flanking single lights; crenellated parapet to flat roof. Above this, in the gable apex, a plain stone shield-plaque. A dentilated stringcourse divides the ground and first floors and is returned around the E side. To the R (bay 2), an advanced, storied and gabled porch, the upper floor corbelled out slightly at the sides, though flush with the ground floor at the front. Arched entrance with returned label and surmounting, pedimented niche containing the sculpted crest of the Gough family in relief; boarded double doors. Above, a first-floor bowed oriel with 4-light mullioned and transomed convex window and stone domed ogee roof. To the right of the porch a 4-light mullioned window with arched heads and returned label, flanked by similar 3-light windows. 3 cross-windows to the first floor and above, three stepped-gabled dormers with 2-light mullions.

The connecting subsidiary range has two 3-light mullioned and transomed windows with arched heads to the R of the stair tower; above, three 3-light windows contained within gabled dormers as before, though corbelled out slightly. Stepped-gabled projecting cross-wing to R with single-storey canted bay window to ground floor; 3 light mullioned and transomed central window with flanking

single lights. Above, a further mullioned and transomed window with pediment. Extruded in the corner between the subsidiary range and the cross-wing, a single-storey lean-to porch with crenellated parapet; ogee-headed entrance with moulded jambs. Stepped lateral chimney and adjoining single-storey porch to N return of cross-wing. The S (garden) front has the lower, subsidiary range set back to the L of the main block. The former has a projecting end chimney to its L gable. Irregular window arrangement with three 3-light and one 2-light mullioned windows to the ground floor, with a further 4-light mullioned and transomed window to far R beyond; plain stringcourse between storeys, stepped-up to R section. Arched entrance at angle with advanced main block, with moulded jambs and elliptical window above. 2 paired cross windows to the first floor, that to the R with surmounting stepped gable. Similar gable to R containing paired 2-light mullioned windows; smaller gable beyond, to far R containing a single 2-light window. The main block has two storied, canted bays with surmounting stepped gables, that to the L slightly larger. This has a 5-light, arched-headed, mullioned and transomed window with single-light returns to the ground floor; dentilated and moulded stringcourse above. Plain 5-light mullioned and transomed window to the first floor of the bay with a plain 4-light mullioned window to the third (gabled) storey. That to the R has a 3-light mullioned window with 2-light returns to ground and first floors; arched heads to lights. 2-light mullioned window to the gable, above a plain stone plaque (never ornamented). In between the bays the first floor is corbelled out; further mullioned and transomed windows to first floor and arched single light windows to ground floor, gabled dormer to attic with modern window.

Angled turret with tall pyramidal roof to SE corner; lead ball finial with wrought iron weathervane, feathered eaves. Storied flat-roofed bay to centre of E side with crenellated parapet. Wide-arched, multi-cusped heads to 2-light double-transomed windows; decorative lead glazing. Part enclosed service court to W with plain veranda to S side of NW cross range, carried on simple cast iron columns. 2-, 3- and 6-light mullioned and mullioned and transomed windows as before; half-hipped roof to single-storey projection to SW cross-wing.

# Reason for Listing

An imposing and well-designed late Victorian country house in the manner of Douglas and Fordham, architects of Chester and with good surviving interior detail" (www.britishlisted buildings.co.uk).

Also within 350m of Caerhun Farm are Caerhun Church and Canovium Roman Fort (Scheduled Ancient Monument CN001). The church is a Grade I Listed Building (ID 3167) and the following text is taken from the listing.

# "Location

Strikingly situated on a rise overlooking the river Conwy on the W bank, and occupying the NE corner of the former Roman fort of Canovium; accessed via a metalled lane running E from the B5106 Bettws-y-Coed to Conwy road.

# History

The site originated in the second-half C1 AD as a Roman auxiliary camp, probably established by Agricola; archaeological evidence shows civilian occupation here continued into at least the 5th century. The present church is early Medieval with early C15 and C16 additions and alterations. The former consist of rebuilt E and W gable ends, a re-roofing of the continuous nave and chancel, and an added S porch. A south chapel was added apparently in 1591, by Captain Edward Williams (of Maes-y-Castell), and an ex situ dedication board bearing this date survives within; in addition, a (now very weathered) sandstone plaque above the chapel's S window is recorded as showing the arms of Edward Williams, together with the date as before. Despite this apparently unequivocal dating evidence, both the roof structure and the S and E windows of the chapel are of C15

character; the implication therefore is that either earlier elements have been re-used/re-set, or a pre-existing space has been remodelled, or that alternatively the style and construction is merely deeply antiquated.

#### Interior

Long, continuous nave and chancel. Simple arched-braced collar roof consisting of 31 clustered trusses, probably C14 or early C15; flagged floor. Late C19 figurative stained glass to western-most window of N wall; plain bowl font on column, presumably early Medieval. Round-arched niche to L of E window, a fragment of the pre-C15 E wall. c1830 Gothick furnishings with simple pews with moulded rails to flat bench ends. Sunk-panelled octagonal pulpit on moulded base; stall with open Decorated tracery. The S chapel opens out from the chancel, the supporting bressummer for its wide, flat opening being carried on a figurative engaged capital set into the E wall; this is perhaps C13 and is re-set. 2-bay roof with arched-braced collar truss with plain struts; protruding dowels and chamfered decoration. Above the chapel's E window is a long oak board bearing the inscription in raised letters: 'EDWARDVS: WILL: IAMES: AR: ET: / GRACEA: UXOREI: Q HOC: OPVS: FIERI/ FECERVNT: ANNO: DOMINI: 1591.' This refers to Captain Edward Williams of Maes-y-Castell, High Sheriff of Caernarvonshire in 1570. W wall mural tablet with arms cartouche to Hugh Davis of Caerhun, d.1721; E wall monument to Catherine Hester Hemming and family, d.1829. 2-bay vestry (former S porch) with C15 collar-truss roof with windbraces.

#### Exterior

Simple church with long, continuous nave and chancel and S chapel addition flush with the E end. Of random rubble construction under a renewed slate roof: the walling includes a quantity of squared red sandstone blocks which are probably re-used Roman material from the site. Roughkneelered and stone-coped W end gable parapets with large surmounting double-bellcote. This projects slightly beyond the line of the W wall and is carried downwards to rest on 4 rounded corbels; in the centre of this projection is a carved stone crucifix in a shallow cusped, arched niche of C15 type. Depressed-headed bell openings with triangular profiled rubble coping to flat top; central stone gablet. Deeply-recessed W door with gently-pointed arch; C18 studded plank door. 3 post-Reformation 3-light mullioned leaded windows to N side, those to the L and R of re-used sandstone and slate-stone respectively and that to the centre with C19 pale sandstone mullions. Wide, segmentally-arranged sandstone voussoirs appear between the first 2 windows from L, testifying to an earlier opening. Simple C15 3-light mullioned E window with arched sandstone heads. Adjoining to the S and flush with the E end, the S chapel. This has a 2-light mullioned window to its E side with wide, cusped, arched heads and a similar 3-light window to its gabled S face; original ferrementa. Above, an eroded sandstone plaque formerly bearing the initials EW and GW flanking the Williams arms, and with the date 1591. 2 further post-Reformation windows to the nave S wall, that towards the W of 3 lights with slate mullions and that towards the E a wooden 2light window. Beyond, towards the W end, a C15 rubble S porch, largely rebuilt as a vestry in the C19, though retaining its W wall and roof structure. This now has a small, arched and cusped window to its S face, re-set and probably originally in the porch E wall.

# Reason for Listing

Included at Grade I as a fine Medieval church of considerable architectural and historical significance" (www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk).

Canovium is briefly described in Coflien as "Canovium, a Roman military settlement set at a strategically important point on a ridge overlooking the Conwy river, is the last intermediate fort in a defensive chain that ran along the coastal road from Chester to Caernarfon. It was occupied, with some breaks, from the time of Agricola's campaign in AD 77/8 through to the the fourth century. The settlement centres on an auxiliary fort, a near square stone walled enclosure, 130-140m across. This was the scene of extensive excavations in 1926-9. At the foot of the river cliff traces of the

bathhouse explored in the early nineteenth century can be seen. The settlement is known to have extended along the ridge to the north, extensive remains being glimpsed from the air and in geophysical survey. It was fringed by cemeteries and a possible circular shrine or tomb has been identified on the north. There is some, though not conclusive, evidence that the nearby dock is a Roman structure (NPRN 303122). Roads are known to have led from the settlement, including those to St Asaph (NPRN 303525) and Tomen-y-Mur (NPRN 303519)" (www.coflein.gov.uk).

# 3.1 Topography

The proposed development site is situated within the Conwy Valley in a rural setting just off the B5106. The area is in agricultural use and within 800m of the river Conwy.

# 3.2 Geology

The bedrock is recorded as "Denbigh Grits Formation - Mudstone, Siltstone And Sandstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 423 to 428 million years ago in the Silurian Period. Local environment previously dominated by deep seas. These rocks were formed in deep seas from infrequent slurries of shallow water sediments which were then redeposited as graded beds". The superficial geology is recorded as "Till, Devensian - Diamicton. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions. 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.mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

# 4.0 Scheme of Works – Methodology

The methodologies employed will conform to The Charted Institute for Archaeologists: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014).

## 4.1 Desk Based Research

A history of the site will be compiled utilising information sourced from Conwy Record Office and the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record Office. A full map progression will be undertaken along with a search of tithe records.

The Gwynedd Historic Environment Record will be consulted and a search radius of 500m will be examined.

These works will be carried out in accordance with the CIfA Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment (CIfA 2014).

This material will form the historical background for a full archaeological report. The report will include the results of the Archaeological Watching Brief.

# 4.2 Archaeological Watching Brief

This watching brief will monitor all groundworks undertaken on the site. This will include all topsoil and subsoil stripping and the excavation of access roads, shed foundations and soakaways and any service trenches.

A C.R Archaeology staff member will be present during the machine excavation of all groundworks. This work will be undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. If archaeological remains are encountered then machine excavation will cease at this level until it is clear in plan that the full extent of any features have been uncovered within the development area. If the features extend beyond the limits of the development and it is felt to be beneficial to extend the width of the strip where possible an additional area of up to 1m on either side of the feature will be exposed. If this does not prove sufficient it may then be necessary to

follow the procedures for Additional Mitigation/Contingency Measures.

C.R Archaeology will notify GAPS as the date of the commencement of works and if any significant archaeological features are uncovered. A site visit visit will be arranged to allow for the inspection of works.

All archaeological remains/potential archaeological remains identified during the stripping of the site will be marked using spray paint and cordoned off to allow excavation by C.R Archaeology staff. Any archaeological features, structures or remains will be trowel cleaned by hand. Investigation of such features, structures or deposits will be sufficient to determine their character, date, significance and quality. If features yield suitable material for dating/environmental processing then samples will be taken for processing off site. The size of these samples will depend on the size of the feature but for smaller features a sample of up to 95% will be taken. For larger features a sample of up to 40 litres will be taken. In the event of a significant discovery GAPS will be informed of the discovery and a mitigation strategy agreed before works will progress.

Fieldwork is to be conducted and managed by Matthew Jones (MA) of C.R Archaeology. Additional staff can be brought in as required and all staff members will have experience equivalent to AIfA level and cv's can be provided on request.

# 4.2.1 Recording

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

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

A high-resolution 14.2mp Sony Alpha digital camera will be used to create a photographic record of the site. This will be comprised of photographs of archaeological features and appropriate groups of features and structures. Included in each photograph will be an appropriate scale and north arrow. General photographs will also be taken in the event of a negative result.

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

# **4.2.2** Additional Mitigation/Contingency Measures

In the event of a significant archaeological discovery being made during the excavation C.R Archaeology will immediately inform both the client and the development control archaeologist. Consultation will take place between C.R Archaeology, GAPS and the client with regards to the most suitable course of action.

In the unlikely event that human remains are encountered site work will cease with immediate effect. The coroner, client and monitoring body will be informed immediately. The company will

abide by the requirements of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857. Any arrangements regarding the discovery of human remains will be at the discretion of HM Coroner whose instruction/permission will be sought. All human remains are to be preserved *in situ*, covered and protected. They will only be removed in exceptional circumstances and with the appropriate Ministry of Justice licence, environmental health regulations, Coroner's permission and, if appropriate, in compliance with the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981 or other local Act, with adequate security provided in such cases.

Any artefacts recovered that fall within the scope of the Treasure Act 1996 will be reported to the landowner, GAPS and to HM Coroner.

# 4.2.3 Recovery, Processing and Curation of Artefactual Material

All recovered artefactual material will be retained, cleaned, labelled and stored according to Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (IfA 2008) 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 (IfA 2008).

All artefactual material will be bagged and labelled with the site code and context number prior to their removal from site. The archive reference number will be clearly marked on all finds. Each assemblage will be examined according to typological or chronological criteria and conservation needs identified. An assessment report of all post-medieval material will be produced by Matthew Jones and further specialists will be appointed as required. A list of specialists will be prepared prior to the post-excavation phase of works.

Any specialist conservation necessary will be undertaken by Cardiff Conservation Services, Cardiff University. This will be conducted in accordance with guidelines issued by the Institute for Conservation.

Following analysis all archaeological material recovered will be deposited in Llandudno Museum. However should an item of high value be retrieved from the site then the client has asked to reserve the right to retain ownership of said artefact. Processed assemblages will be boxed according to issued guidelines and a register of contents compiled prior to deposition.

The works will be carried out in accordance with The Institute for Archaeologists: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (Revised 2008).

# 4.2.4 Archive Compilation

All records created during the fieldwork will be checked for consistency and accuracy and will form part of the *Primary Site Archive (P1)* (EH 2006). The archive will contain all data collected, including records and other specialist materials. It will be ordered, indexed, adequately documented, internally consistent, secure, quantified, conforming to standards required by the archive repository and signposted appropriately to ensure future use in research, as detailed in the English Heritage *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) methodology.

The archive will be assembled in accordance with the guidelines published in, *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museums & Galleries Commission 1994), *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990) and *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2007).

All materials contained within the *Primary Site Archive (P1)* that are subsequently identified by the *Assessment Report (P2)* as appropriate for analysis will be processed by suitable specialists and the resultant *Research Archive (P3)* will be checked and ordered according to *MoRPHE* criteria.

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

# 4.3 Timetable for Proposed Works

It is envisaged that groundworks will commence in approximately 8 weeks time (around May 16<sup>th</sup>) and will be carried out on a day rate basis and staff will attend site as necessary. Additional time will be allotted as necessary for archive research, report compilation and site archiving. Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services will be informed of the exact site days to allow monitoring of works.

# 4.4 Staffing

The project will be managed by Matthew Jones (BA (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology). All staff will have a skill set equivalent to the IfA AIfA 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. 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.

They will be notified in writing (via email) of the commencement dates for archaeological site work and will be updated with the results of all works conducted as watching brief elements. This will be initially as an telephone call & email with attached JPEG photographs and if/when required further interim reports will be compiled.

# 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:

- Safety Helmets (EN397)
- Hi-visibility vests (EN471)
- Safety footwear steel toecap and mid-sole boots and Wellingtons (EN345-47)

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

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) or a Site Visitor card.

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. The report will contain a site plan showing the locations of photographs taken.

As a minimum the report will include:

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

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 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 project.

In the event of a positive result of site works a short article will be submitted to the Archaeology in Wales Journal and the site archive including copies of all photographs in RAW and Tiff format will be deposited the local museum.

# 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 Specification.

# 5.0 Bibliography

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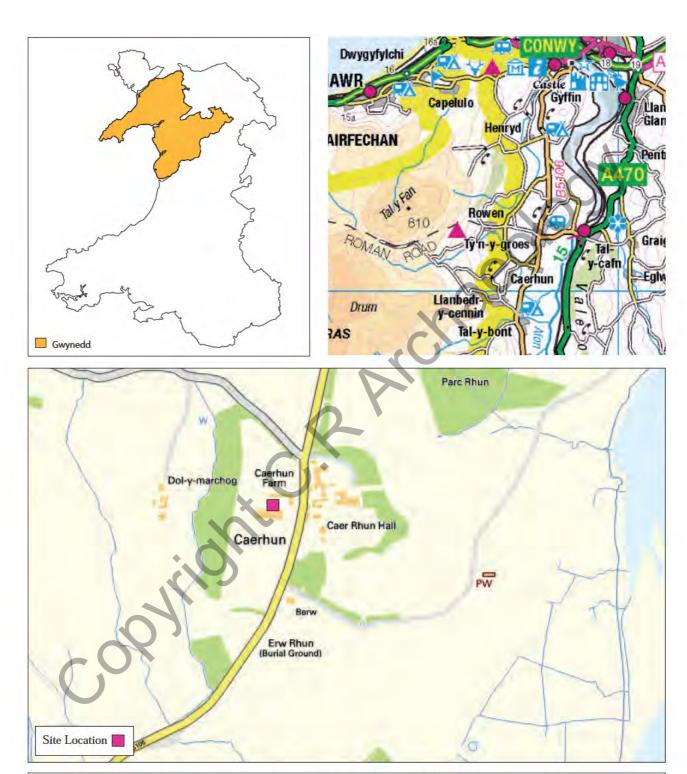
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**Figure 1.** Site Location Map - Source: OS Open Data (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2016)

# Appendix A.

# **Proposed Development Plans and Elevations**



