

Results of Archaeological Works at
Austin Taylor Communications Ltd,
Bethesda

NGR SH 62691 66180



Report Number CR38 -2013



C.R Archaeology

Compiled by M. Jones & C. Rees

on Behalf of Austin Taylor Communications Ltd

Copyright © CR Archaeology

**Results of Archaeological Works at
Austin Taylor Communications Ltd, High Street, Bethesda**

Planning Reference Number:	C13/0036/13/AM
National Grid Reference:	SH 62691 66180
Client:	Austin Taylor Communications Ltd
Report Authors:	Matthew Jones & Catherine Rees
Report Number:	CR38-2013
Date:	15/05/2013

Contents

1.0	Introduction	5
2.0	Project Aims	9
3.0	Scheme of Works – Methodology	10
3.1	Desk Based Research	10
3.2	Evaluation Trenching	10
3.2.1	Archaeological Recording	11
3.2.2	Additional Mitigation/Contingency Measures	11
3.2.3	Recovery, Processing & Curation of Artefactual Material	12
3.2.4	Archive Compilation	12
3.3	Timetable for Proposed Works	13
3.4	Staff	13
3.5	Monitoring	13
3.6	Health and Safety	14
3.7	The Report	14
3.7.1	Copyright	15
4.0	Geographical and Geological Context	16
4.1	Topography	16
4.2	Geology	16
5.0	Historical Background	17
5.1	Prehistoric	17
5.2	Romano-British	17
5.3	Medieval	17
5.4	Post-Medieval/Modern	18
6.0	Results of Evaluation Trenching	21
6.1	Trench 1	22
6.2	Trench 2	26
6.3	Trench 3	27
6.4	Artefactual Material	31

7.0	Conclusion	32
8.0	Bibliography	33

Illustrations

Figure 1. Site Location Map

Figure 2. Plan of Proposed Works

Figure 3. Proposed Trench Location Plan

Figure 4. Cassini Map Combining Ordnance Survey One-Inch (Old Series)

Figure 5. 1889 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map

Figure 6. 1914 Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map

Figure 7. Plan of Trench 1

Figure 8. Detailed Plan of Feature (104) in Trench 1

Figure 9. Plan of Trench 2

Figure 10. Detailed Plan of Trench 2 Showing Features [204] & (206)

Figure 11. South-east Facing Section Through Trackway (206)

Plates

Plate 1. East Facing View of Trench 1

Plate 2. Detailed Photograph of Feature (104)

Plate 3. Detailed Photograph of Feature (104)

Plate 4. Detailed Photograph of Feature (104)

Plate 5. East Facing Section Through Feature (104)

Plate 6. North Facing View of Section Through Feature (104)

Plate 7. North Facing View of Trench 2

Plate 8. South Facing View of Trench 2

Plate 9. East Facing View of Trench 2

Plate 10. East Facing Section Through Feature (206)

Plate 11. East Facing Section Through Feature (206)

Plate 12. North Facing View of Trench 3

Plate 13. Bone China Sherd Recovered From Subsoil

1.0 Introduction

C.R Archaeology were instructed by Austin Taylor Communications Ltd to conduct archaeological works at the the former Austin Taylor Communications site, High Street, Bethesda in compliance with pre-determination requirements placed on the development (GAPS letter 0312je01/D1767).

A specification (included as Appendix A) was written following a discussion with Development Control Archaeologist Jenny Emmett of GAPS as a methodology for a programme of works relating to a letter sent to the client (dated 12th March 2013) and a programme of evaluation trenching was undertaken.

The site is situated adjacent to the A5 on the outskirts of Bethesda, Gwynedd (Figure 1). The site is currently occupied by a large industrial unit and associated car parking. The site is bounded to the north by the Afon Llafar and is located near the confluence of this river and the Afon Ogwen. There is an area of undeveloped land to the rear (east) of the property and this scheme of works has sought to clarify the archaeological potential of this area and to inform further planning decisions.

Planning permission has been sought to allow the construction of 37 houses with associated services, parking etc (Figure 2). It was noted (GAPS letter 0312je01/D1767) that the site is located in the vicinity of a possible hut circle (PRN 5705) and the high status medieval site of Tyn Twr (Scheduled Monument Cn213). There have also been chance discoveries of stone tools (PRNs 1643 and 3369) and a hoard of Roman coins and other artefacts (PRN3672) in the area.

A linear earthwork within the site boundary was also been highlighted and is visible on aerial photographs. This earthwork appears to correlate with a footpath recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 but is possibly of earlier origin (GAPS letter 0312je01/D1767).

This phase of works excavated three 20m x 2m evaluation trenches within the undeveloped area to the rear of the property. The trenching targeted specific site areas which had been highlighted as of possible importance. Trench 1 was located near the river as there was felt to be a potential for archaeological remains (particularly of Prehistoric date) near watercourses. Excavation of this trench revealed a linear spread of stones of undetermined date and the trench was extended. Trench 2 was positioned to evaluate the aforementioned linear earthwork which was confirmed to be a roughly cobbled track way running along a natural ridge. The third trench was located to the south east of the plot and contained no archaeological features (Figure 3).

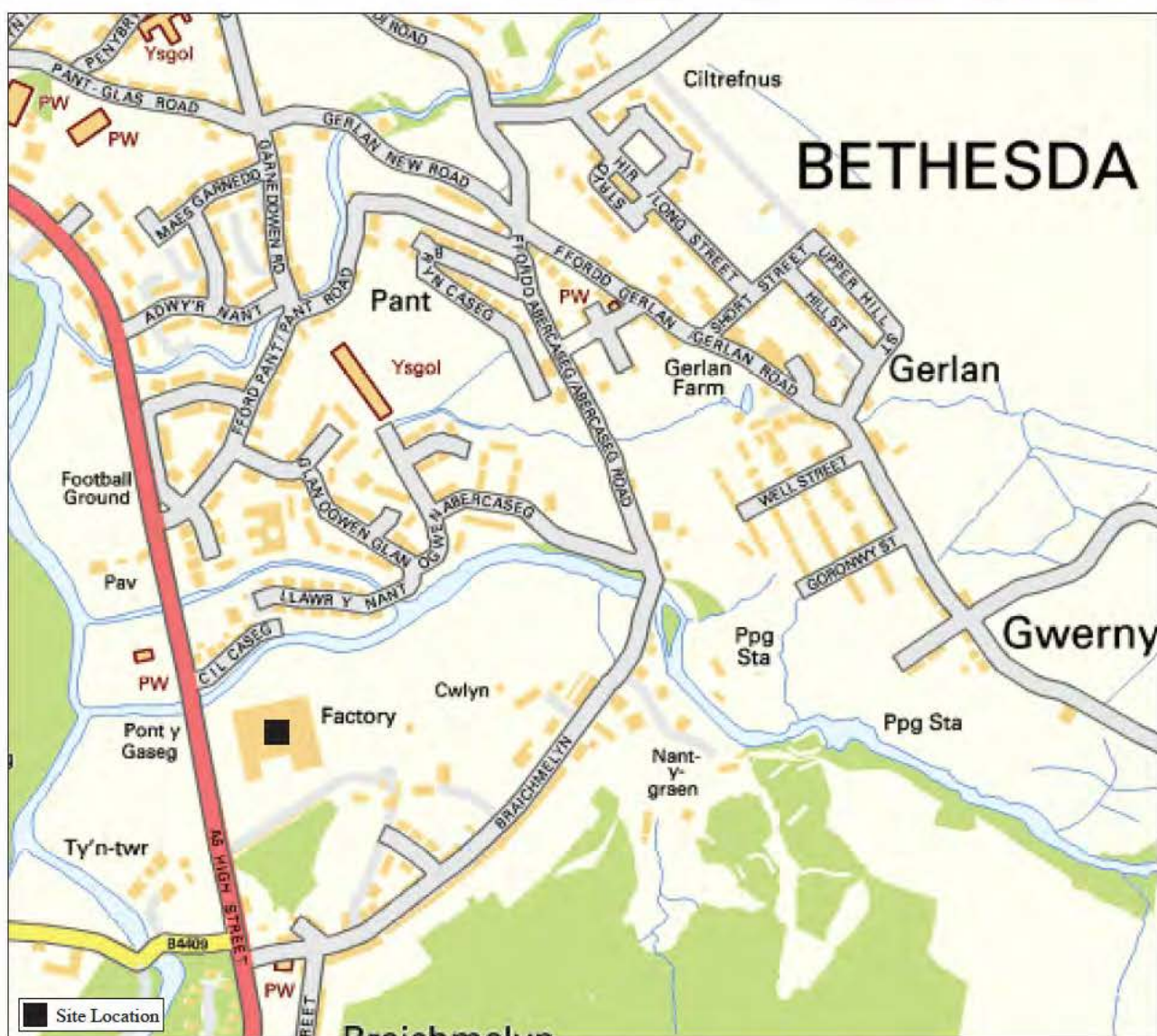
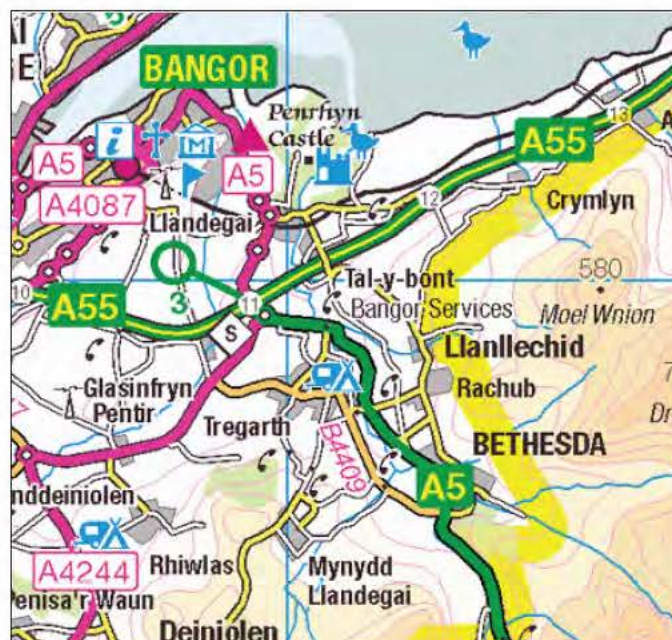
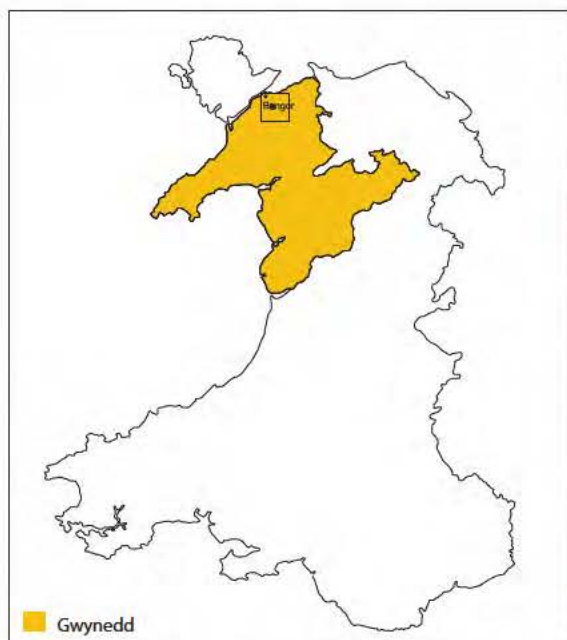


Figure 1. Site of Austin Taylor Communications Ltd, Bethesda. Location Map
 (Source: OS Open Data Mapping. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right [2013])



Figure 2. Proposed Development on Land at Austin Taylor Communications Ltd, Bethesda

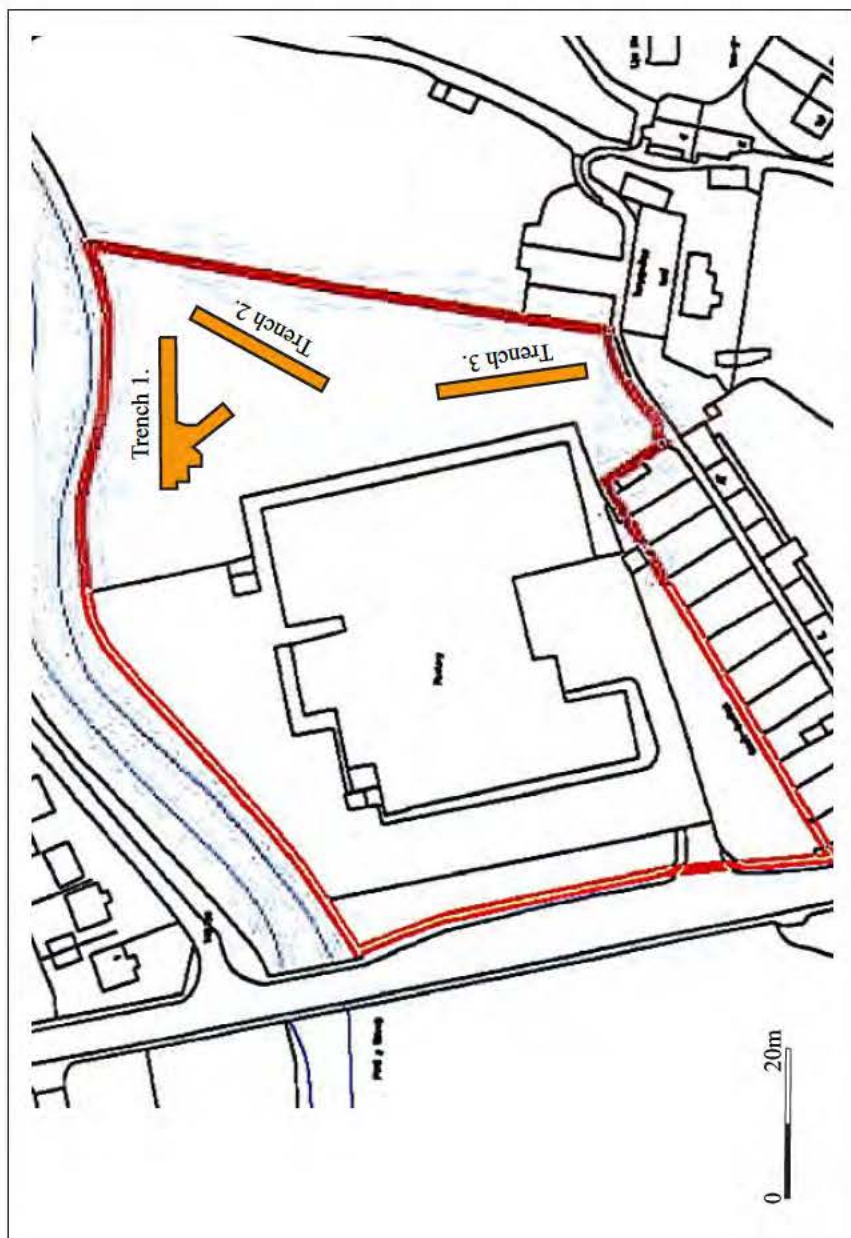


Figure 3. Trench Location Plan

2.0 Project Aims

This scheme of works aimed to assess the archaeological potential of the undeveloped area of the site. The works aimed to assess the survival, character and date of any archaeological remains which were uncovered.

3.0 Scheme of Works – Methodology

The methodologies employed conformed to The Institute for Archaeologists: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Revised 2008).

3.1 Desk Based Research

A search of the Gwynedd HER was conducted covering a radius of 500m and these records were utilised to place the site within the local archaeological context. Visits were also made to the Gwynedd Council Record Office, Caernarfon and Bangor University Archives to source historic material and maps which were utilised to place the site in its historical context. This information is discussed in section 5.0 Historical Background.

3.2 Evaluation Trenching

Initially three evaluation trenches, each measuring 2m x 20m, were excavated within the undeveloped area to the rear of the property using a mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket. The trenching targeted specific site areas which had been highlighted as of possible importance.

Trench 1 was located near the river as this area it was felt there was the potential for archaeological remains (particularly of Prehistoric date) near the watercourse. Trench 2 was positioned so as to evaluate the aforementioned linear earthwork. Trench 3 was located to the south east of the plot. Following the uncovering of a large stone feature in Trench 1 the trench was extended. A trench location plan is included as Figure 3.

All machine excavation was supervised by Matthew Jones of C.R Archaeology. The trenches were excavated until an archaeological horizon or the bedrock/natural is reached. When it was felt that the natural had been reached the machine was used to excavate a sondage into the deposit to confirm that it has not been redeposited and that the material is the natural.

All archaeological features, structures or remains identified in the course of the evaluation were trowel cleaned by hand. The investigation of such features, structures or deposits was sufficient to determine their character, date, significance and quality. Excavation involved the removal of 50% of pits/posthole fills and 50% of the trackway in Trench 2 was excavated,. In the case of the stone spread a 0.5m section was excavated through the feature as given the large area exposed it was not feasible to excavate 50%.

No features yielded suitable material for dating/environmental processing.

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

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

A high-resolution 13mp Sony Alpha digital camera was 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 was an appropriate scale & north arrow and the site name, number and context numbers were recorded in a photographic register. General photographs were also taken to record the negative results found in Trench 3.

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

3.2.2 Additional Mitigation/Contingency Measures

A large stone spread was uncovered in Trench 1. The feature extended beyond the trench limits and no dating evidence was recovered during the initial cleaning of the trench. Following a visit by GAPS it was decided that it would be beneficial to extend the trench in order to provide a better understanding of the extent and nature of the feature. Initially a machine excavated section measuring 1.6m x 4m was therefore added to the trench. This proved inconclusive and following a second visit by GAPS the trench was extended by a further 2m x 8m.

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 their removal from site. The archive reference number will be clearly marked on all finds. Each assemblage was examined according to typological or chronological criteria and conservation needs identified. An assessment report of all post-medieval material was produced by Matthew Jones. No material was recovered pre-dating this period and no artefact conservation was required.

Following analysis all archaeological material recovered will be offered to Bangor Museum. As the recovered material is all of Post-Medieval date it may be discarded but this decision will be made by the museum. 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).

3.2.4 Archive Compilation

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

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

All materials contained within the *Primary Site Archive (P1)* that are subsequently identified by the *Assessment Report (P2)* as appropriate for analysis will be processed by suitable specialists and the resultant *Research Archive (P3)* will be checked and ordered according to *MoRPHE* criteria. Any archive/artefactual material created/discovered during this archaeological project will be deposited at Bangor Museum. Archive material will be deposited in accordance with the museum's terms and conditions for archive deposition.

3.3 Timetable for Proposed Works

Works at the site commenced on Thursday 25th April 2013 and continued until Thursday 2nd May 2013. Work were carried out on a day rate basis and staff attended site on Thursday, Friday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Additional time was allotted as necessary for archive research, report compilation and site archiving. Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services were informed of the exact site days to allow monitoring of works. Site visits were made by Jenny Emmett on Friday 26th April and Tuesday 30th April.

3.4 Staffing

The project was managed by Matthew Jones (BA (Archaeology & Welsh History), MA (Archaeological Practice). Catherine Rees also attended site to assist with excavation. 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 IfA *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 and a site visit was conducted by Jenny Emmett of GAPS on Friday 26th April and Tuesday 30th April.

GAPS were notified in writing of the commencement dates for all stages of archaeological site work and GAPS were updated with the results of all field works. This was initially as a phone call followed by an 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 will carry a Construction Related Organisation (CRO) White Card for Archaeological Technician (Code 5363).

C.R Archaeology staff also complied with any 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. The report contains a site plan showing the locations of photographs taken.

This report also includes:

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

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 fieldwork.

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 at Bangor Museum.

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 site (Grid Reference SH62691 66180) is located on High Street adjacent to the A5 on the outskirts of Bethesda, Gwynedd. The site is currently occupied by a large industrial unit and associated car parking. The site is bounded to the north by the Afon Llafar and is located near the confluence of this river and the Afon Ogwen.

The town of Bethesda is characterised as a slate quarry community established from 1820 onwards along the newly constructed Telford road (now the A5). It was built on a small pocket of land which was not owned by Lord Penrhyn and grew up around the Independent Chapel from which the town takes its name (www.heneb.co.uk).

4.2 Geology

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

The bedrock is detailed as “Lower Cambrian Rocks (Undifferentiated) - Sandstone And Conglomerate, Interbedded. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 518 to 545 million years ago in the Cambrian Period. Local environment previously dominated by shallow seas. These rocks were formed in shallow seas with mainly siliciclastic sediments (comprising of fragments or clasts of silicate minerals) deposited as mud, silt, sand and gravel” (www.bgs.ac.uk).

5.0 Historical Background

A search within a 500m radius of the site was conducted using the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record and 13 sites were identified. For ease of discussion these sites will be discussed by period in this section and are summarised (with grid references) in table form in Appendix B.

5.1 Prehistoric

The earliest archaeological record within the vicinity of the site is the find spot of a well polished Neolithic stone axe, probably made using stone from the Graig Llywd quarry (PRN 1643).

5.2 Romano-British

A number of finds/possible sites from this period have been identified within the search radius. The first of these is a pebble stone with an hour glass perforation and stone ball (PRN 3369). Comparisons have been made between these finds and those from a contemporary site – Ty Mawr, Anglesey. Such objects are described as indicative of domestic debris from settlement sites and the presence of these artefacts may be evidence of the former existence of a site which has now been destroyed.

A possible round hut platform (PRN 5705) has been identified c. 15m from the eastern bank of the River Ogwen. The site consists of a line of stones 5.9m long and c. 1.0m wide. A further linear feature, observed in relief only, was visible at right angles to the line of stones.

A hoard of c. 200 Roman coins including some of Postumus and Carausius was found together with some thick, white pottery in April 1870 when workmen were blasting for building stone (PRN 3672). A few yards away a second find spot was found containing some scoriae and a metal cup, possibly of copper. Fifteen years earlier another large hoard of coins and a similar cup had been found.

5.3 Medieval

Two Medieval structures were identified within the study area. The first is a tower which survives through place name evidence through Pont y Twr and Ty'n Twr (PRN 3664). Ty'n Twr is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (CN219) and it is suggested that the site was a motte formed by the revetting of rock east of the bridge. The HER notes that there is however insufficient evidence to conclusively prove this as the area is densely vegetated. It is also postulated that possible traces of an early wall can be detected to the north east. Unfortunately the ground has been built over and this cannot be confirmed.

The second Medieval structure is a Cruck Framed House (PRN 5249). This house is aligned NE-SW on a roughly level site at the foot of a rocky knoll. The house is built of local rubble masonry but is now rendered and has modern slate buttresses. There is a slight plinth to the walls and the gables formally had rough upstanding copings. The HER record dates the house as being of 16th and 17th Century date and as having been enlarged in 1805.

5.4 Post-Medieval/ Modern

The remaining sites are of Post-Medieval/ Modern date and the larger number of sites from this period reflects the increasing importance of the town during it's later history.

In 1765, and prior to the establishment of the commercial quarries at Bethesda, a survey commissioned by Richard Pennant of the Penrhyn Estate recorded 80 men quarrying slates on the mountain slopes for their own use. He recognised the potential of this mineral wealth and industrial quarrying began in 1784. By 1801 approximately £12,000 had been spent developing not only the quarry itself but also a road and six mile narrow-gauge railway to his newly developed harbour at Bangor (Sheridan Jones 2003: viii).

The first workers at the Penrhyn Quarry were housed in barracks and returned home to their homes on weekends until they could afford to build homes for their families near the new industries (Sheridan Jones 2003: xi). A landscape survey of the Afon area conducted by the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust identifies Bethesda as a slate quarry community established from 1820 onwards along the newly constructed Telford road, now the A5 (PRN 15874, there is also a toll booth (PRN 1709) associated with the road). The town was built on a small pocket of land which was not owned by Lord Penrhyn and grew up around the Independent Chapel from which the town takes it's name (www.heneb.co.uk).

Of note in the history of Bethesda is the Great Strike of 1900-1903 which at three years in length was one of longest in British Trade Union History (Sheridan Jones 2003: xii).

Bont Ucaf Quarry (PRN 20820) falls within the study area and there are three sites related to quarrying activity recorded in the Gwynedd HER. The first is the Penrhyn Quarry Hospital (PRN 5703), the ruined remains of which survive in woodland. The structure was built in 1842 and survives with little damage although roof has been stripped and timber work is generally collapsed. The second site is Tyn Twr School (PRN 5704) which was founded in 1830 and was maintained by quarry workers. The final site is Cerrig Cannan (PRN 5708), a series of gunpowder channels. The

site is formed of a minimum of three stone slabs, possibly natural outcrops, containing patterns of more than 100 small bored holes with narrow connecting channels. The minimum area covered by the feature is 20m x 12m although given the heavy overgrowth in the area it may be larger.

The final site recorded within the 500m search radius on the Gwynedd HER was a sub-circular stone structure measuring approximately 10m in diameter which is believed to be an ice house constructed sometime in the 19th century (PRN 5706).

A visit was made to the Bangor Archives and an examination was made of sources related to the area. This particular plot of land appears to lie slightly outside the Penrhyn lands and does not therefore appear on any early sources such as estate maps. It was also not possible to identify the plot on the Tithe Map although the general area can be seen as fields in the Cassini Map which amalgamates Ordnance Survey data of the same date (Figure 4).

A linear earthwork within the site boundary has been highlighted and is visible on aerial photographs. This earthwork correlates with a footpath recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1889 but is possibly of earlier origin. This is clearly shown in Figure 5. The plot shape and size is the same as is shown on the current map and does not change on subsequent editions. The 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey shows no change to the plot although on this edition the area is labelled as “allotment gardens” (Figure 6).

The Austin Taylor Communication Ltd building was erected in the late 1960's and the ground level was reduced by between 1.5m and 2m in order to create a flattened area for the structure and associated car park. This building does not appear on the 1962 OS Map but is present by the 1977 edition. The building has been extended a number of times since this date.

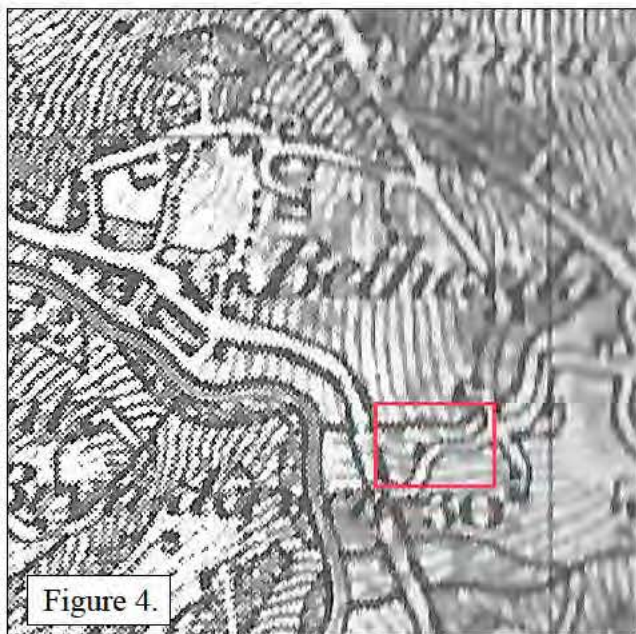
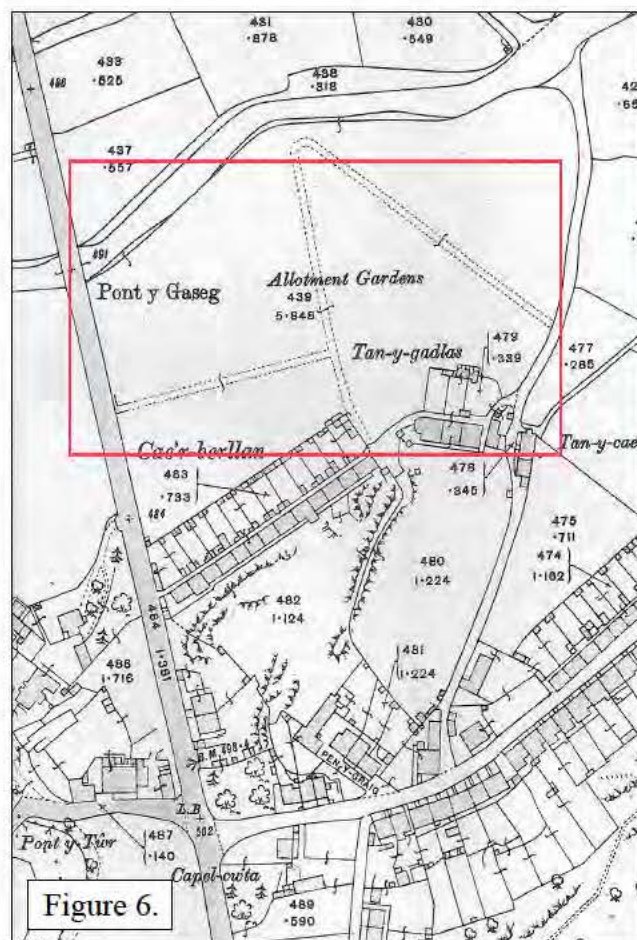
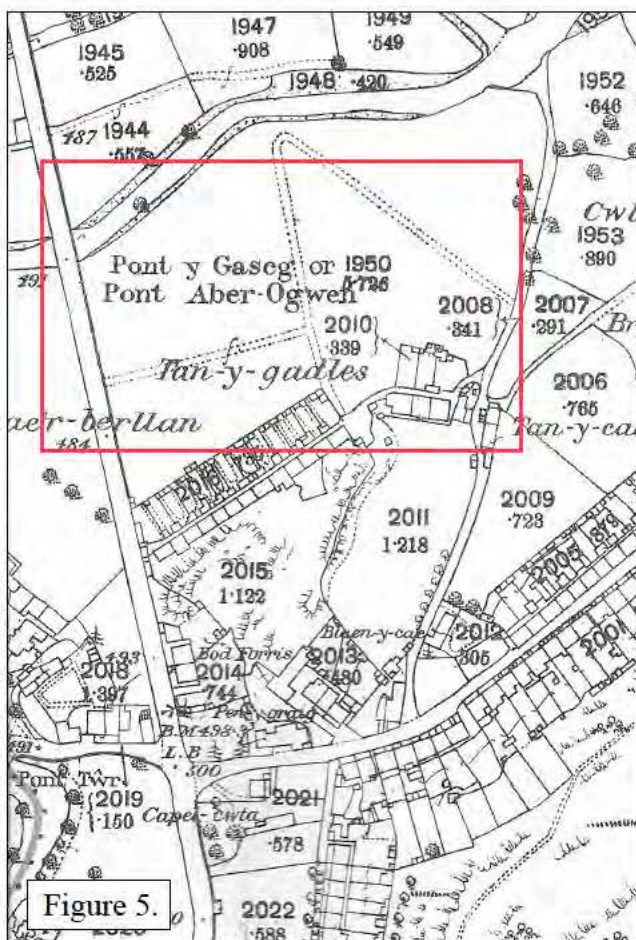


Figure 4. Cassini Map Combining Ordnance Survey One-Inch (Old Series) Sheets Dated 1841 & 1840 (Source: Cassini 2006)

Figure 5. 1889 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map (Source: Bangor University Archives)

Figure 6. 1914 Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map (Source: Bangor University Archives)

The Approximate Site Area is Highlighted in Red



6.0 Results of Archaeological Works

The land to the rear of the site sloped steeply to the south between Trenches 1 and 2 and then rose more gently between the southern end of Trench 3 and the site boundary. There was a slight dip between Trenches 2 and 3. The site slopes more gently from the east to the west.

The area was not developed or used for any purpose and was overgrown with a mixture of coarse grass, scrub and bramble. The site is bounded to the north by the Afan Llafar and the land to the east is used as grazing for horses. There was a modern rough slate boundary constructed of upright slabs and wire running approximately north-east – south-west across part of the site. This is not marked on any maps and must post-date the use of the site as allotments.

The evaluation initially consisted of three machine excavated 20m x 2m metre trenches. Trench 1 was located near the river as it was felt that there was the potential for archaeological remains (particularly of Prehistoric date) near the watercourse. Trench 2 was positioned so as to evaluate the aforementioned linear feature shown on the First Edition OS Map. This feature was still visible on the ground as an earthwork during the site visit. Trench 3 was located to the south east of the plot. A trench location plan is included as Figure 3.

Following the uncovering of a large stone feature in Trench 1 the trench was extended. This was initially a 1.60m x 4m extension to the south of the feature and adjacent to the main trench which was later extended by a further 2m x 8m. The second extension was orientated on a north-west – south-east axis.

All trenches were machine excavated to the level of the natural or to the top of a visible archaeological horizon. Where the level of the natural was thought to have been reached in each trench a small area was machine excavated to a depth of approximately 1m in order to test the natural.

6.1 Trench 1.

Dimensions: Initial Trench 20m x 2m. First Extension 1.60m x 4m. Second Extension 2m x 8m

Trench Orientation: Approximately East-West

Plates: 1 - 6

Figures: 7 - 8

Five contexts were identified within the trench. Context (101) was a turf/topsoil layer containing frequent rooting. The deposit covered the whole site and the depth varied between 0.12m – 0.30m in this trench. Context (102) was a mid-brown clay silt deposit with occasional small sub angular and rare large sub angular/rounded stone inclusions. The deposit covered the whole site and the deposit depth varied between 0.07m-0.11m in this trench. Post-medieval ceramics and clay pipe stems were recovered from this deposit.

These deposits overlay a large stone spread (context 104) which measured approximately 6.6m in length and 2.6m in width within the final trench limits. The stones varied in height between 0.30m and 0.60m and the spread was constructed of a mixture of rounded and sub angular stones of all sizes with very rare chunks of sub angular slate. The lengths of the individual stones ranged between approximately 0.08m and 0.68m. The northern edge of this spread had a very straight edge and it is in this area that the majority of the larger stones had been placed. The eastern and southern extents of the feature were less well defined and there were large gaps between stones. It is possible that the south-western corner of the first trench extension is very near the edge of the feature as there are noticeably fewer stones in this area.

The stones appear to sit within an irregular undulation or cut [105] although it is unclear if this feature is a true cut or a low point in the natural. A 0.5m wide sondage was excavated through the feature (see Plates 5 & 6) and the southern edge of the section shows a clear difference between the natural and the upper deposit with uneven concave side and a shallow break of slope. The northern end of the section is obscured by large stones and very unclear. The maximum depth of the feature recorded within the sondage was 0.16m. No dating evidence was recovered from securely within the soil matrix of the stones although this was very similar to context (102) which contained artefacts dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.



Plate 1. East Facing View of Trench 1. Feature (104) is Visible Near Scales



Plate 2. Detailed Photograph of Feature (104) Following Cleaning and a 2m Trench Extension. Facing East



Plate 3. Detailed Photograph of Feature (104) Following Cleaning and a 2m Trench Extension. Facing West



Plate 4. Detailed Photograph of Feature (104) Following Cleaning and a second 12m Trench Extension. Facing North-East



Plate 5. East Facing Section Through Feature (104). Trench 1



Plate 6. North Facing View of Section Through Feature (104). Trench 1

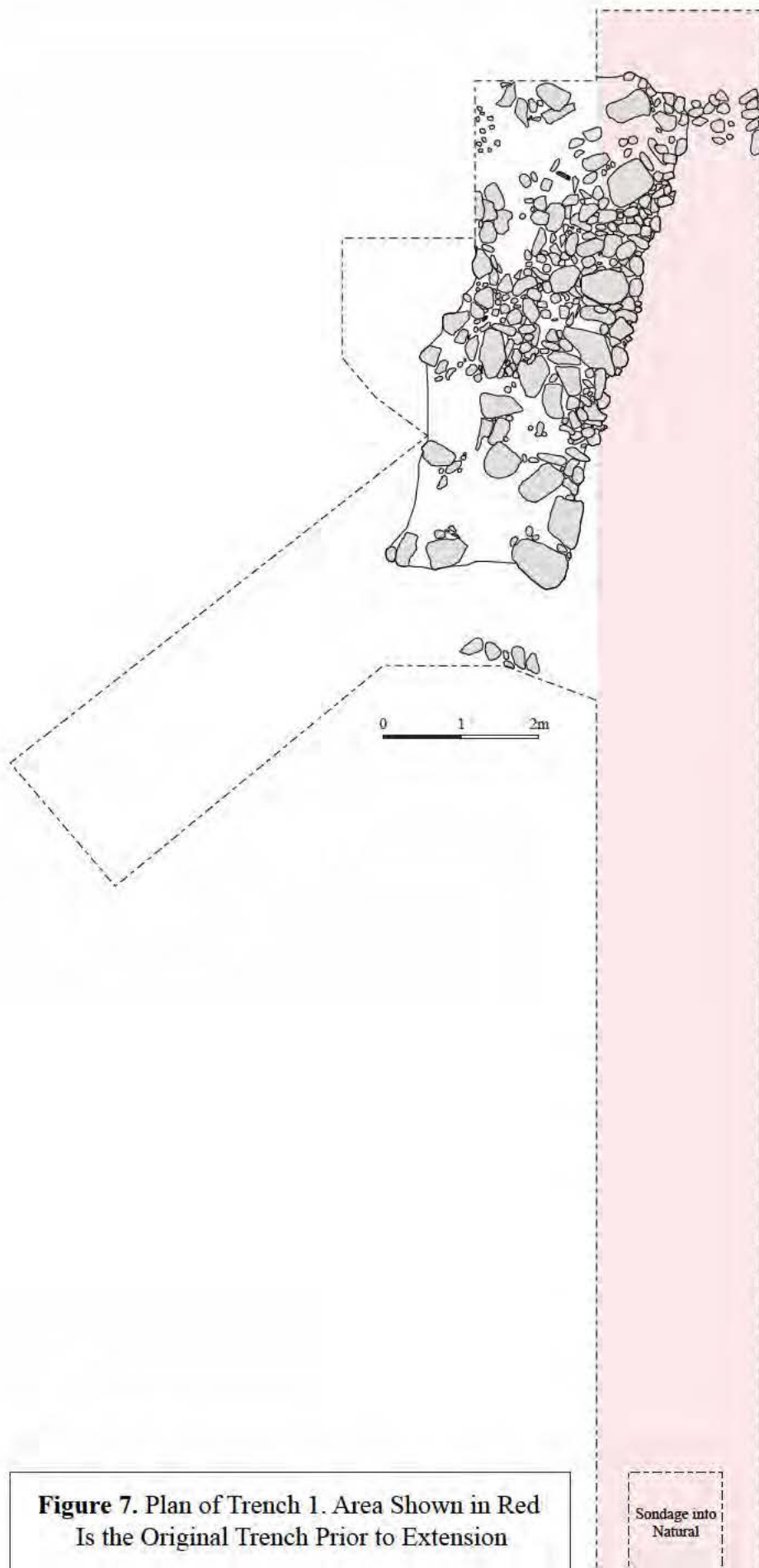
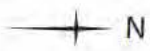


Figure 7. Plan of Trench 1. Area Shown in Red Is the Original Trench Prior to Extension

Sondage into
Natural

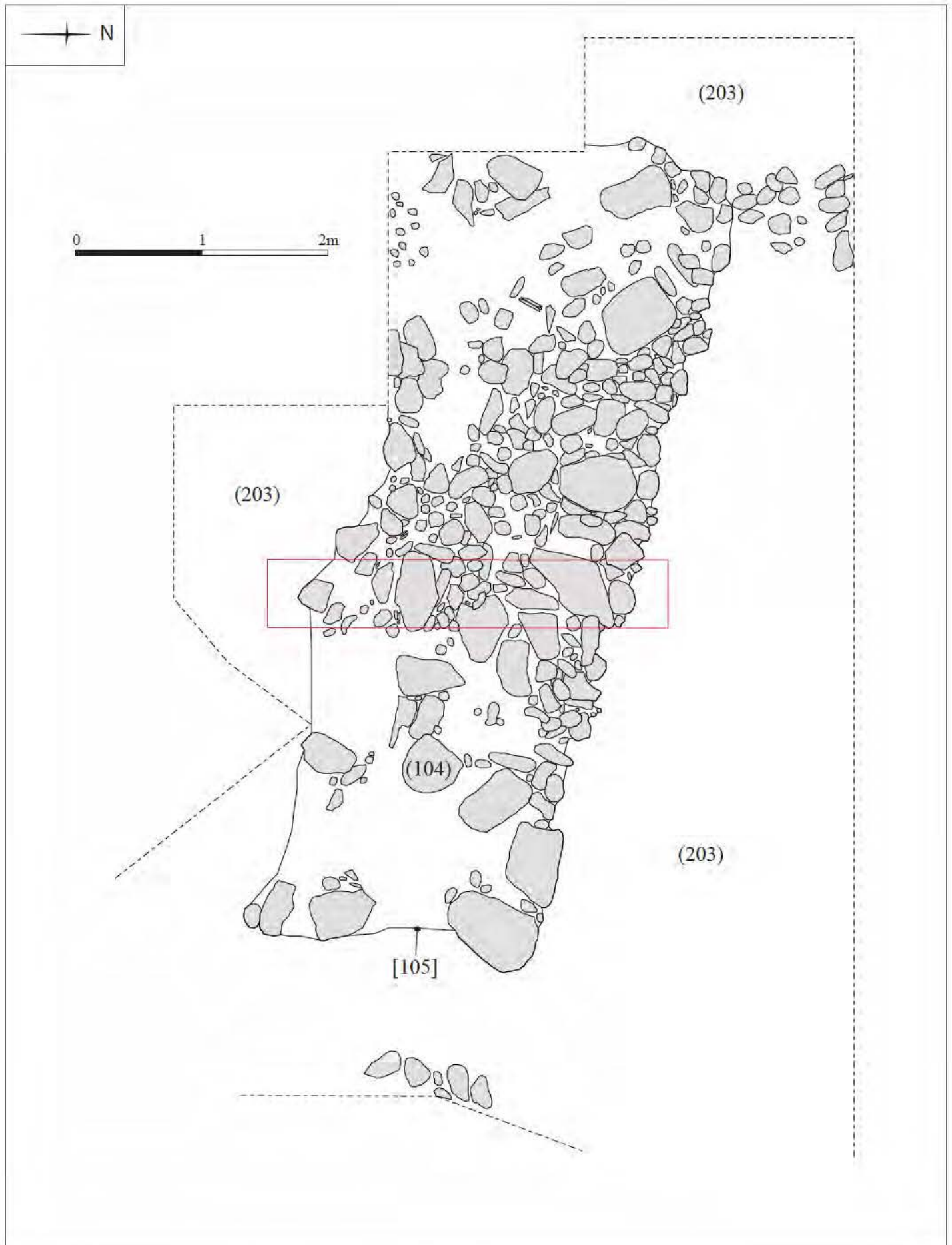


Figure 8. Detailed Plan of Feature (104) in Trench 1.

The Area Shown in Red is the Location of a Slot Excavated through the Feature

It was not possible to ascertain the form, age or function of the feature and the trench was extended twice. Although we do not have the full dimensions of the stone feature in Trench 1 it is not believed that further excavation will yield a conclusive result and it is more than likely that the feature is of a relatively recent date. All artefactual material found in the layer covering the feature was of late Nineteenth or early Twentieth Century date and although none were found beneath any of the stones they were present in the subsoil between the stones. The most likely date for this feature is Post-Medieval and it is likely to be of agricultural origin, possibly the result of field clearance. It may be associated with the use of the plot as allotments in the early twentieth century as there is stone within the natural and the relatively shallow soil depth would have necessitated the removal of these stones in order to prepare the ground for planting.

This feature was cut into the orangey-yellow clay-gravel natural (103). A machine sondage was excavated to a depth of 0.9m which confirmed that this deposit was not redeposited.

6.2 Trench 2.

Dimensions: 20m x 2m

Trench Orientation: Approximately North-East - South-West

Plates: 7-11

Figures: 9 - 11

Trench 2 was positioned so as to evaluate a linear earthwork marked as a trackway on the First Edition OS Map. Two features were identified within this trench - (206) a cobble bank/trackway and [204] a modern sub-oval pit.

Context (201) was a turf/topsoil layer containing frequent rooting. The deposit covered the whole site and the depth varied between 0.08m – 0.22m in this trench. Context (202) was a mid-brown clay silt deposit with occasional small sub angular and rare large sub angular/rounded stone inclusions. The deposit covered the whole site and the deposit depth varied between 0.04m-0.13m in this trench. Post-medieval ceramics and clay pipe stems were recovered from this deposit.

This overlay a dark brown/black silty clay organic bank deposit (207) which contained moderate small, round stone inclusions. This deposit was only present on the southern side of the bank. Context (207) overlay (206), a linear feature running on a north-west - south-east axis across the site. A two meter section was exposed in plan and a one meter section was cut through its western side down to the level of the natural (203). The deposit was made up of poorly sorted rounded and

sub rounded stones of all sizes (cobbles of less than 0.10m to boulders of up to 0.60m in length) and were generally arranged with the larger stones towards the base of the deposit and the smaller on the top.

A single feature cut into the natural was identified in the north west end of the site. Context [204] was a sub oval pit with a length of 1.04m, width of 0.62m and a depth of 0.20m with an irregular rounded profile with a slightly concave base. The fill (205) was a dark brown silt clay with small sub angular round stones. Ten modern iron clips were recovered from the fill and it is likely that this feature is a small waste pit from the construction of the factory and of a mid twentieth century date.

Both features were cut into the orangey-yellow clay-gravel natural (203). A machine sondage was excavated to a depth of 0.6m which confirmed that this deposit was not redeposited.

6.3 Trench 3.

Dimensions: 20m by 2m

Trench Orientation: Approximately North – South

Plates: 12

No archaeological remains were identified within Trench 3. Three contexts were identified - (301) was a turf/topsoil layer containing frequent rooting. The deposit covered the whole site and had a maximum depth of 0.22m in this trench. Context (302) was a mid-brown clay silt deposit with occasional small sub angular and rare large sub angular/rounded stone inclusions. Occasional small to medium slate fragments were also noted. The deposit covered the whole site and the maximum deposit depth was 0.10m in this trench. Post-medieval ceramics and clay pipe stems were recovered from this deposit.

The subsoil lay directly on the natural (303) which was an orangey-yellow clay-gravel deposit. A machine sondage was excavated to a depth of 0.6m which confirmed that this deposit was not redeposited.

We were informed by staff at the site that there is a problem with drainage in this area and that it regularly floods/ is waterlogged. It would therefore seem unlikely that any archaeological features are to be found in this lower lying area.



Plate 7. North Facing View of Trench 2



Plate 8. South Facing View of Trench 2 Showing Feature (206), a Cobbled Trackway and [204], a Modern Pit Shown in the Picture Foreground



Plate 9. East Facing View of Trench 2 Showing Cobbled Trackway (206) in Detail



Plate 10. East Facing Section Through Feature (206). Trench 2



Plate 11. East Facing Section Through Feature (206). Trench 2



Plate 12. North Facing View of Trench 3



Figure 9.

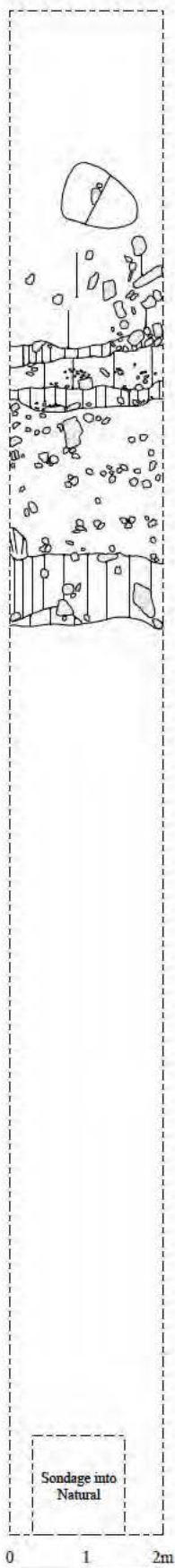


Figure 10.

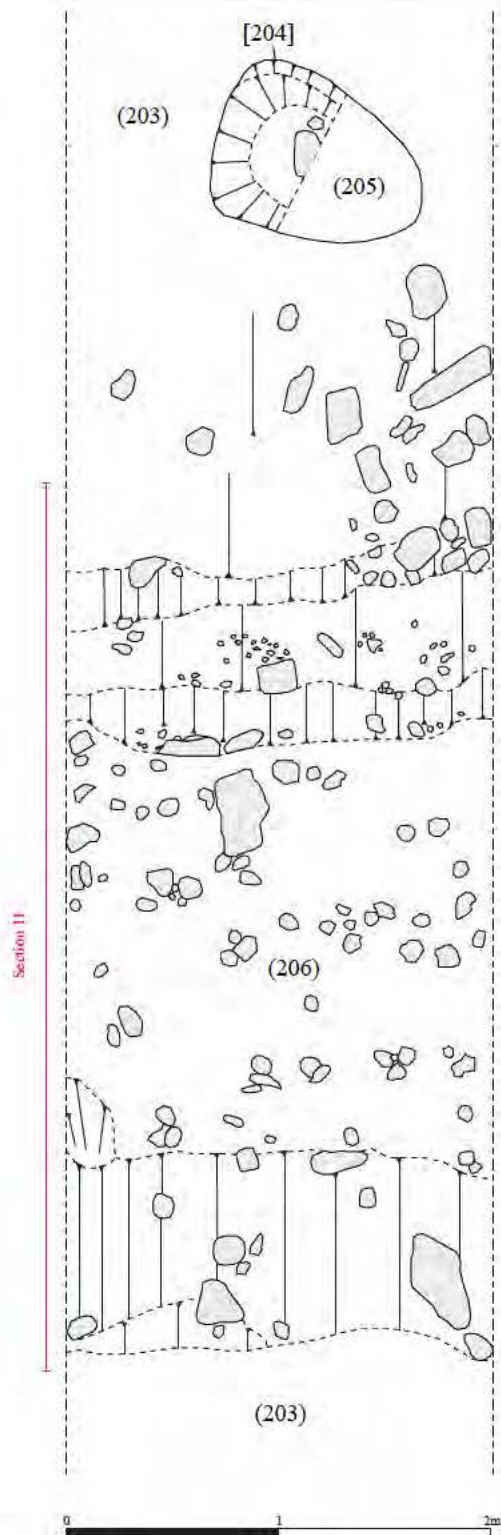


Figure 9. (Above Left) Plan of Trench 2

Figure 10. (Above Right) Detailed Plan of Trench 2 Showing Features [204] & (206)

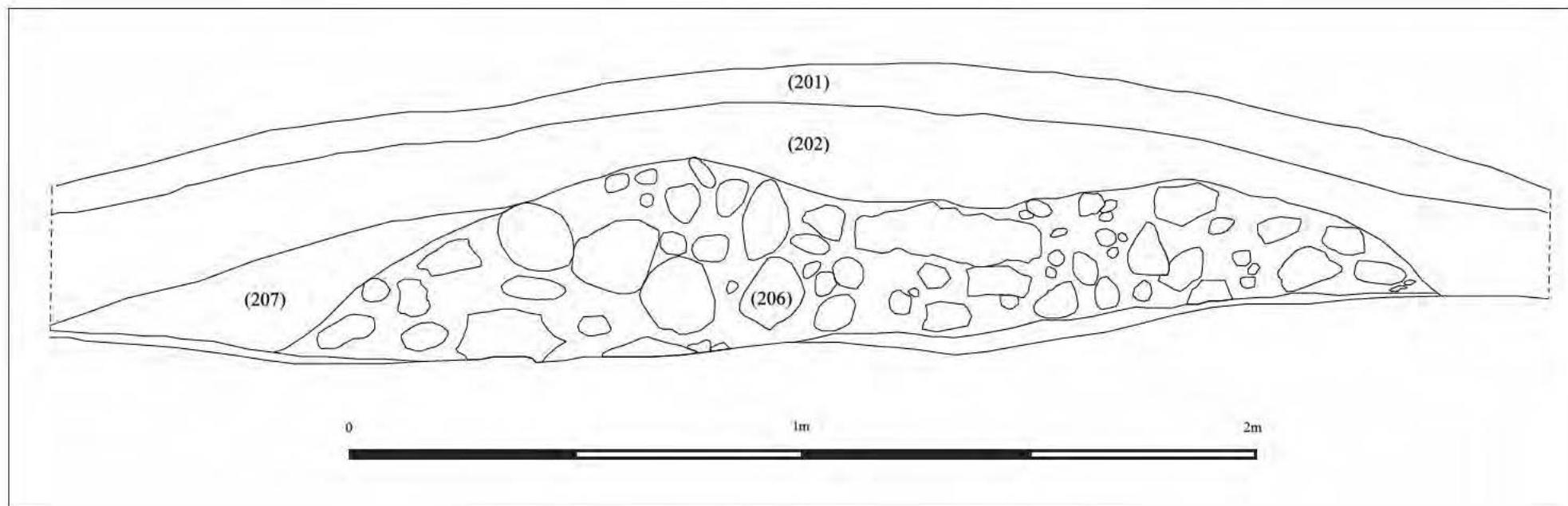


Figure 11. South-east Facing Section Through Trackway (206)

6.4 Artefactual Material



Plate 13. Bone China Sherd
Recovered From Subsoil

All artefactual material recovered during evaluation trenching was of late Post-medieval/modern date with the assemblage dated to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Unless otherwise stated all finds were recovered from the subsoil layers and there was no significant variation in distribution or dates of the finds from the three trenches. Subsoil finds are therefore discussed together as belonging to a single context rather than being broken down by trench.

The assemblage for the site is domestic in nature and contained a total of eighty ceramic sherds, twenty one clay tobacco pipe stems, two clay tobacco pipe bowls, a single 303 rifle cartridge and a slate pencil. These finds are detailed in Appendix D. Of note amongst this assemblage was a single bone china body sherd decorated with a group of three ladies in traditional Welsh costume.

One sealed context (205) was identified in Trench 2. This was the fill of a modern pit which contained twelve iron clips and a single steel nut.

7.0 Conclusion

Three features were discovered during the evaluation trenching at the former Austin Taylor Communication Ltd site, one in Trench 1 and two in Trench 2.

A large stone spread was uncovered in Trench 1. Due to the lack of dating evidence the trench was extended twice in an attempt to understand the form and function of this feature. These extensions revealed the northern and eastern extents of the feature.

Although we do not have the full dimensions of the stone feature in Trench 1 it is not believed that further excavation will yield a conclusive result and it is considered more than likely that the feature is of a relatively recent date. All artefactual material found in the layer covering the feature was of late Nineteenth or early Twentieth Century date and although none were found beneath any of the stones they were present in the subsoil between the stones. The most likely date for this feature is Post-Medieval and it is likely to be of agricultural origin, possibly a result of field clearance associated with the early twentieth century allotments.

Trench 2 contained two features. The first was a modern pit which is believed to be roughly contemporary with the erection of the Austin Taylor building and is not of any great significance. The second feature is the trackway identified on the First Edition OS Map. This trackway had a stone base and core with smaller stone cobbles on the top of the feature. A small bank element also survived and it is possible that the trackway was originally a field boundary with stone core. This feature forms a slight ridge and as it fell out of use it may therefore have been an area of drier ground which provided an easy passageway across the field. The full extent of this feature in plan is shown on cartographic sources it is not felt that further excavation will yield any significant further information.

Trench 3 contained no archaeological features. We were informed during our visit that this low lying area of the site regularly floods and is often marshy and waterlogged. It would therefore seem unlikely that this is a productive area and there is no great potential for archaeological remains in this area.

The evaluation trenching uncovered limited features of archaeological interest and all are believed to be of Post-Medieval date. Given the limited size of the undeveloped land to the rear of the building and the results of the evaluation trenching it is not felt that there is significant potential for archaeological remains of any great antiquity to be found at the site.

8.0 Bibliography

AAF. 2007. *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*

Cassini Historical Map. 2006. *Old Series 1840-1841 - Snowdon*. Southampton. Cassini Publishing Ltd

Copeland, R. 2010. *Blue and White Transfer Printed Pottery*. Hampshire. Shire Publications

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

Godden, G. 1999. *New handbook of British Pottery & Porcelain Marks*. London. Barrie & Jenkins Ltd

Goss, S. 2011. *British Tea and Coffee Cups*. Hampshire. Shire publications

Ingram, A. 2008. *Dairying Bygones*. Hampshire. Shire publications

McGarva, A. 1999. *Country Pottery: Traditional Earthen Ware of Britain*. A & C Black. London

Medieval Pottery Research Group. 1998. *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*. Occasional Papers No 1.

Sheridan Jones, Charles. 2003. *What I Saw at Bethesda*. Llandysul. Gomer Press

The Institute for Archaeologists. 1985 (Revised 2010). *Code of Conduct*

The Institute for Archaeologists. 1990 (Revised 2008). *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*

The Institute for Archaeologists. 2001. *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

The Institute for Archaeologists. 1994 (Revised 2008). *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

The Institute for Archaeologists. 2008. *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*

Walker, K. 1990. *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage*, United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) Archaeology Section

Watkinson, D. & Neal, V. 2001. *First Aid for Finds*. London. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works

Websites (All websites consulted 14/05/2013)

www.bgs.ac.uk

<http://www.harringtonmuseum.org.uk/303CartRTT.htm>

www.heneb.co.uk/arfonnorth/arfon12.html

www.thepotteries.org/allpotters/472.htm

Archive Information (Sourced from Bangor University Archives)

1889 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map

1914 Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map

Appendix A.

Specification for Archaeological Works at
Austin Taylor Communications Ltd,
Bethesda

NGR SH 62691 66180

Report Number CR37-2013



C.R Archaeology

Compiled by C. Rees & M. Jones

on Behalf of Austin Taylor Communications Ltd

Specification for Archaeological Works at Austin Taylor Communications Ltd, High Street, Bethesda

Planning Reference Number:	C13/0036/13/AM
National Grid Reference:	SH 62691 66180
Client:	Austin Taylor Communications Ltd
Report Author:	Catherine Rees & Matthew Jones
Report Number:	CR37-2013
Date:	16/04/2013

Copyright © CR Archaeology

Contents

1.0	Introduction	4
2.0	Project Aims	5
3.0	Brief Historical Background	6
4.0	Geographical and Geological Context	7
4.1	Topography	7
4.2	Geology	7
5.0	Scheme of Works – Methodology	8
5.1	Desk Based Research	8
5.2	Evaluation Trenching	8
5.2.1	Archaeological Recording	9
5.2.2	Additional Mitigation/Contingency Measures	10
5.2.3	Recovery, Processing & Curation of Artefactual Material	10
5.2.4	Archive Compilation	11
5.3	Timetable for Proposed Works	11
5.4	Staff	11
5.5	Monitoring	12
5.6	Health and Safety	12
5.7	The Report	13
5.7.1	Copyright	14
6.0	Bibliography	15
 Illustrations		
Figure 1.	Site Location Map	16
Figure 2.	Plan of Proposed Works	17
Figure 3.	Proposed Trench Location Plan	18

1.0 Introduction

C.R Archaeology have been instructed by Austin Taylor Communications Ltd to conduct archaeological works at the the former Austin Taylor Communications site, High Street, Bethesda in compliance with planning conditions placed on the development (GAPS letter 0312je01/D1767).

This specification has been written following a discussion with Development Control Archaeologist Jenny Emmett of GAPS as a methodology for a programme of works relating to a letter sent to the client (dated 12th March 2013).

The site is situated adjacent to the A5 on the outskirts of Bethesda, Gwynedd (Figure 1). The site is currently occupied by a large industrial unit and associated car parking. The site is bounded to the north by the Afon Llafar and is located near the confluence of this river and the Afon Ogwen. There is an area of undeveloped land to the rear (east) of the property and this scheme of works is intended to clarify the archaeological potential of this area and to inform further planning descisions.

Planning permission has been sought to allow the construction of 37 houses with associated services, parking etc (Figure 2). It has been noted (GAPS letter 0312je01/D1767) that the site is located in the vicinity of a possible hut circle (PRN 5705) and the high status medieval site of Tyn Twr (Scheduled Monument Cn213). There have also been chance discoveries of stone tools (PRNs 1643 and 3369) and a hoard of Roman coins and other artefacts (PRN3672) in the area.

A linear earthwork within the site boundary has also been highlighted and is visible on aerial photographs. This earthwork appears to correlate with a footpath recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 but is possibly of earlier origin (GAPS letter 0312je01/D1767).

This phase of works will excavate three 20m x 2m evaluation trenches within the undeveloped area to the rear of the property. The trenching will target specific site areas which have been highlighted as of possible importance. One trench will be positioned to evaluate the aforementioned linear earthwork, one will be located near the river as there is the potential for archaeological remains (particularly of Prehistoric date) near watercourses and the final trench will be located to the south east of the plot (Figure 3).

2.0 Project Aims

This scheme of works aims to assess the archaeological potential of the undeveloped area of the site. The works aim to assess the survival, character and date of any archaeological remains which may be uncovered.

3.0 Brief Historical Background

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

A landscape survey of the Afon area conducted by the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust identifies Bethesda as a slate quarry community established from 1820 onwards along the newly constructed Telford road (now the A5). It was built on a small pocket of land which was not owned by Lord Penrhyn and grew up around the Independent Chapel from which the town takes its name (www.heneb.co.uk).

A number of sites have been identified in the vicinity of the proposed development, notably a possible hut circle (PRN 5705) and the high status medieval site of Tyn Twr (Scheduled Monument Cn213). There have also been chance discoveries of stone tools (PRNs 1643 and 3369) and a hoard of Roman coins and other artefacts (PRN3672) in the area. A linear earthwork within the site boundary has been highlighted and is visible on aerial photographs. This earthwork appears to correlate with a footpath recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 but is possibly of earlier origin (GAPS letter 0312je01/D1767).

4.0 Geographical and Geological Context

4.1 Topography

The site (Grid Reference SH62691 66180) is located on High Street adjacent to the A5 on the outskirts of Bethesda, Gwynedd. The site is currently occupied by a large industrial unit and associated car parking. The site is bounded to the north by the Afon Llafar and is located near the confluence of this river and the Afon Ogwen.

The town of Bethesda is characterised as a slate quarry community established from 1820 onwards along the newly constructed Telford road (now the A5). It was built on a small pocket of land which was not owned by Lord Penrhyn and grew up around the Independent Chapel from which the town takes its name (www.heneb.co.uk).

4.2 Geology

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

The bedrock is detailed as “Lower Cambrian Rocks (Undifferentiated) - Sandstone And Conglomerate, Interbedded. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 518 to 545 million years ago in the Cambrian Period. Local environment previously dominated by shallow seas. These rocks were formed in shallow seas with mainly siliciclastic sediments (comprising of fragments or clasts of silicate minerals) deposited as mud, silt, sand and gravel” (www.bgs.ac.uk).

5.0 Scheme of Works – Methodology

The methodologies employed will conform to The Institute for Archaeologists: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Revised 2008).

5.1 Desk Based Research

A search of the Gwynedd HER will be conducted covering a radius of 500m and these records will be utilised to place the site within the local archaeological context. Visits will also be made to the Gwynedd Council Record Office, Caernarfon and Bangor University Archives to source historic material and maps which will be utilised to place the site in its historical context.

5.2 Evaluation Trenching

Three evaluation trenches, each measuring 2m x 20m will be excavated within the undeveloped area to the rear of the property using a mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket. The trenching will target specific site areas which have been highlighted as of possible importance.

One trench will be positioned to evaluate the aforementioned linear earthwork, one will be located near the river as there is the potential for archaeological remains (particularly of Prehistoric date) near watercourses and the final trench will be located to the south east of the plot (Figure 3).

All machine excavation will be supervised by an archaeologist from C.R Archaeology. The trenches will be excavated until an archaeological horizon or the bedrock/natural is reached. When it is felt that the natural has been reached the machine will be used to excavate a sondage into the deposit to confirm that it has not been redeposited and that the material is the natural.

In the event of modern hard standing being uncovered a sondage will be machine excavated to determine the depth of this deposit. If safe to do so the modern deposit will be removed to assess the survival of underlying deposits. If the deposit is of a considerable depth it will not be removed and the trench will be excavated to this level to determine the extent of the modern disturbance.

Any archaeological features, structures or remains identified in the course of the evaluation will be trowel cleaned by hand. Investigation of such features, structures or deposits will be sufficient to determine their character, date, significance and quality. Excavation will generally involve the removal of 50% of pits/posthole fills and 25% of the fills of ditches/large linear features.

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.

5.2.1 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 relative to OS data. All drawings will be numbered and listed in a drawing register, these drawing numbers being cross-referenced to written site records. A 'harris matrix' diagram will be constructed for the excavated area.

A high-resolution 13mp Sony Alpha digital camera will be used to create a photographic record of the site. This will be comprised of photographs of archaeological features and appropriate groups of features and structures. Included in each photograph will be an appropriate scale, north arrow and a record board detailing the site name, number and context number. General photographs will also be taken in the event of a negative result.

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

5.2.2 Additional Mitigation/Contingency Measures

In the unlikely event of a significant archaeological discovery being made during the excavation C.R Archaeology will immediately inform both the client and the development control archaeologists Ashley Batten/Jenny Emmett. 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.

5.2.3 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 has been submitted to GAPS and the relevant expertise will be sought. Any specialist conservation necessary will be undertaken by Cardiff Conservation Services, Cardiff University. This will be conducted in accordance with guidelines issued by the Institute for Conservation.

Following analysis all archaeological material recovered will be deposited in Bangor Museum. 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).

5.2.4 Archive Compilation

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

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

All materials contained within the *Primary Site Archive (P1)* that are subsequently identified by the *Assessment Report (P2)* as appropriate for analysis will be processed by suitable specialists and the resultant *Research Archive (P3)* will be checked and ordered according to *MoRPHE* criteria. Any archive/artefactual material created/discovered during this archaeological project will be deposited at Bangor Museum. Archive material will be deposited in accordance with the museum's terms and conditions for archive deposition.

5.3 Timetable for Proposed Works

It is envisaged that works at the site will commence on Monday 22nd April 2013. Work 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.

5.4 Staffing

The project will be managed by Matthew Jones (BA (Archaeology & Welsh History), MA (Archaeological Practice)). 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 IfA *Standard and Guidance* documents.

5.5 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.

GAPS will be notified in writing of the commencement dates for all stages of archaeological site work and GAPS will be updated with the results of all field works. This will be initially as a phone call followed by an email with attached JPEG photographs.

5.6 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).

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.

5.7 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.

The report will include:

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

A copy of the report in Adobe PDF format will be sent to the appropriate monitoring archaeologist for approval before formal submission. If possible this will be produced within one month of the completion of site work. If specialist finds analysis, environmental sample processing or radiocarbon dating are required an interim report will be submitted within one month of the completion of site work and the full report submitted within two weeks of the arrival of the required information.

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 fieldwork.

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 at Bangor Museum.

5.7.1 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.

6.0 Bibliography

AAF. 2007. *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*

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

The Institute for Archaeologists. 1985 (Revised 2010). *Code of Conduct*

The Institute for Archaeologists. 1990 (Revised 2008). *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*

The Institute for Archaeologists. 2001. *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

The Institute for Archaeologists. 1994 (Revised 2008). *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

The Institute for Archaeologists. 2008. *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*

Walker, K.1990. *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage*,
United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) Archaeology Section

Watkinson, D. & Neal, V. 2001. *First Aid for Finds*. London. United Kingdom Institute for
Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works

Websites (All websites consulted 16/04/2013)

www.bgs.ac.uk

www.heneb.co.uk/arfonnorth/arfon12.html

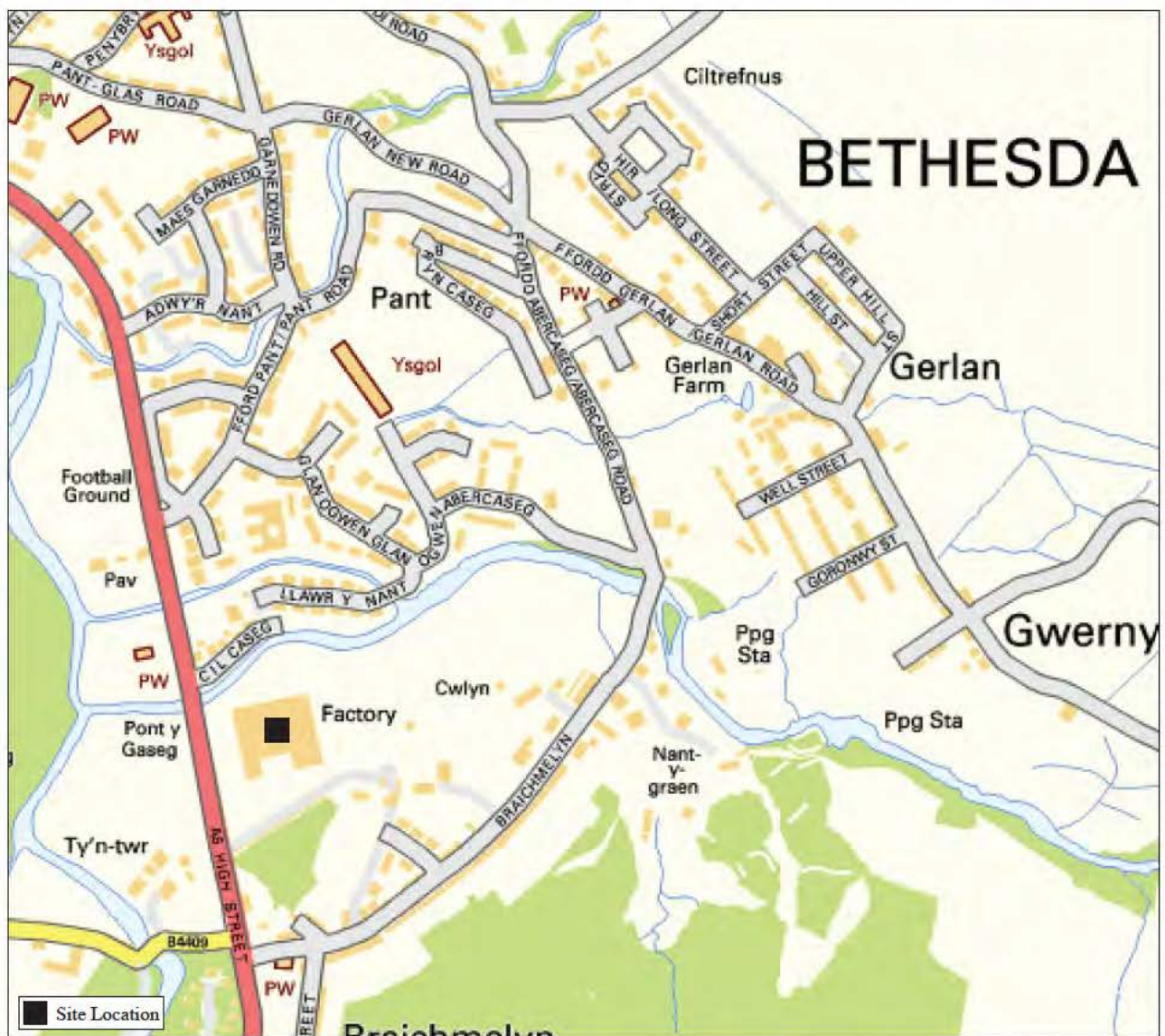
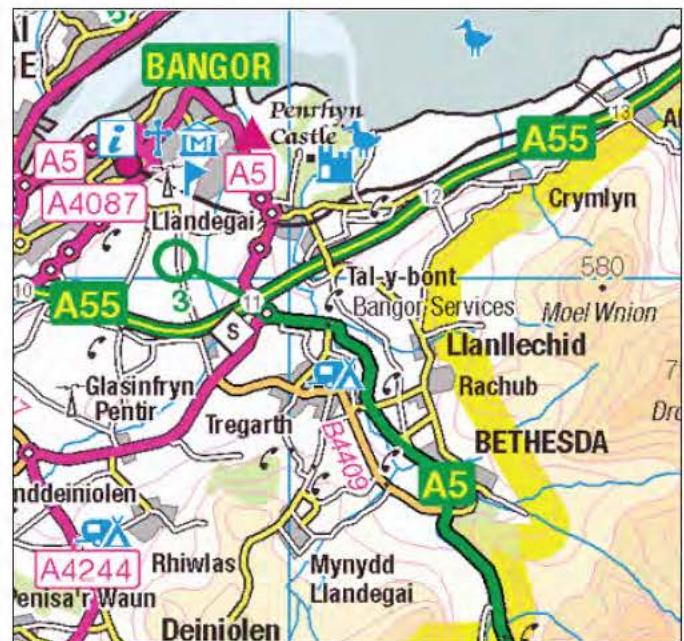
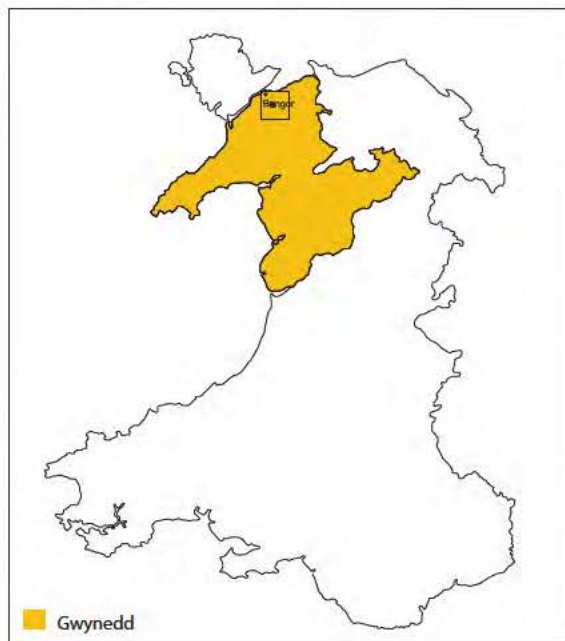


Figure 1. Site of Austin Taylor Communications Ltd, Bethesda. Location Map
(Source: OS Open Data Mapping. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right [2013])



Figure 2. Proposed Development on Land at Austin Taylor Communications Ltd, Bethesda

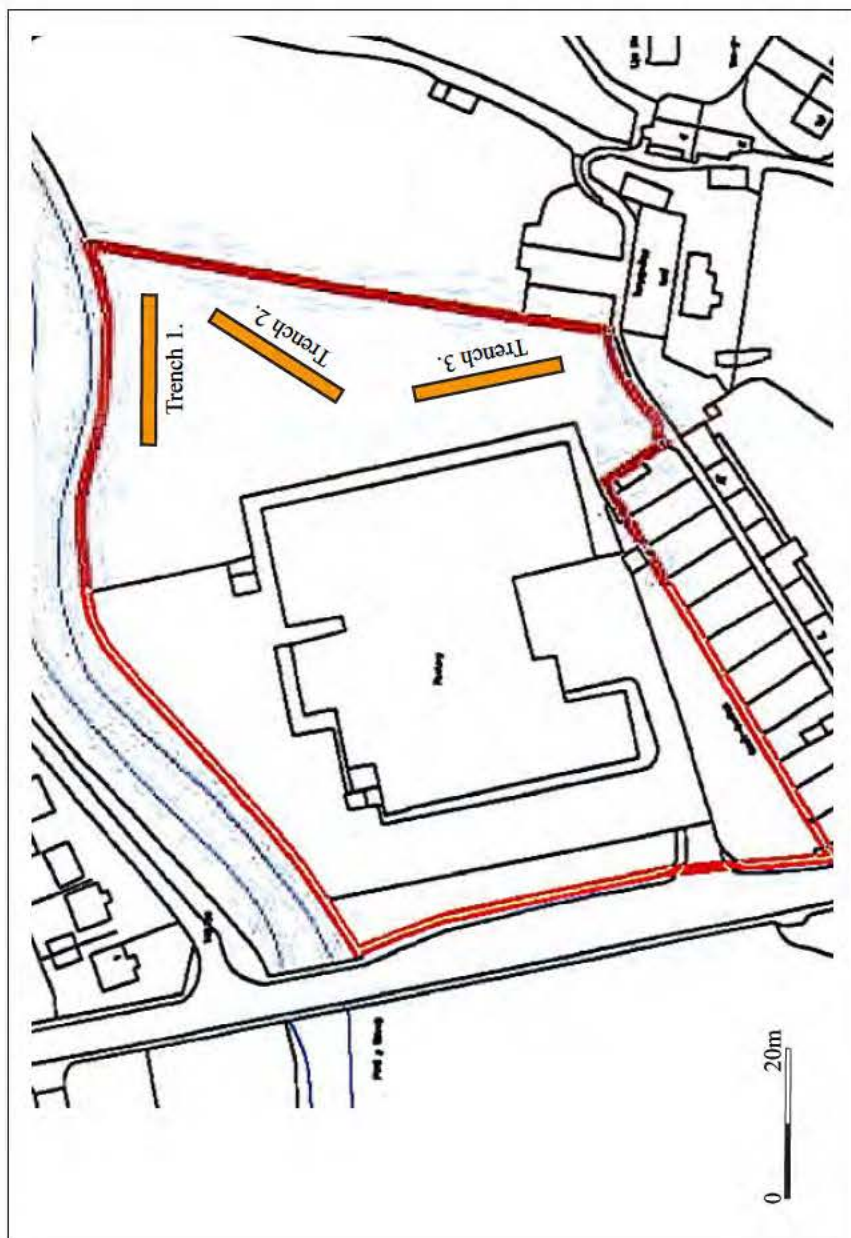


Figure 3. Proposed Trench Location Plan

Appendix B.

Sites of Archaeological Interest Within a 500m Radius of the Proposed Development Site (All Information Sourced from the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record)

PRN	Site/Artefact Description	Type	Period	Designation	Grid Reference
1643	Well polished stone axe, probably Graig Llwyd. Found amongst redeposited rubble/earth, Abercaseg Road, Bethesda	Find spot	Prehistoric - Neolithic		SH 262600 366000
3369	Pebble hammer with hour glass perforation and stone ball. Both of coarse grained rock. Similarity noted between these and other stone tools from contemporary sites such as Ty Mawr on Anglesey. Possible indication of former settlement – now destroyed. Found in the Pant area of Bethesda	Find spot	Romano-British		SH 262700 366500
5705	A possible round hut platform identified c. 15m from the eastern bank of the River Ogwen. The site consists of a line of stones 5.9m long and c. 1.0m wide. A further linear feature, observed in relief only, was visible at right angles to the line of stones.	Possible Settlement	Romano-British		SH 262480 366100
3672	Hoard of c. 200 Roman coins including some of Postumus and Carausius. Found together with some thick, white pottery in April 1870 when blasting for building stone. A few yards away a second find spot was found containing some scoriae and a metal cup, possibly of copper. Fifteen years earlier another large hoard of coins and a similar cup had been found	Find spot (hoard)	Romano-British		SH 263000 366000
3664	A tower which survives through place name evidence in Pont y Twr and Ty'n Twr. It is suggested that Ty'n Twr was perhaps a motte formed by revetting the boss of rock east of the bridge. There is however insufficient evidence to conclusively prove this as the area is densely vegetated. It is also postulated that possible traces of an early wall can be detected to the north east.	Defensive - Motte	Medieval	Scheduled Ancient Monument CN219	SH 262610 366000

	Unfortunately the ground has been built over and this cannot be confirmed.				
PRN 5249	Cruck Framed House. This house is aligned NE-SW on a roughly level site at the foot of a rocky knoll. The house is built of local rubble masonry but is now rendered and has modern slate buttresses. There is a slight plinth to the walls and the gables formally had rough upstanding copings. The HER record dates the house as being of 16 th and 17 th Century date and as having been enlarged in 1805.	Domestic - House	Medieval	Grade II Listed Building	SH 262593 366026
PRN 15874	Telford's Road. Main road artery between London & Holyhead, designed to afford easy communication between the English and Irish capitals. Constructed in stages between 1815 and 1830. Long recognised as an outstanding engineering masterpiece of the nineteenth century. Telford's road and its associated features remain in daily use and form a historic landscape in their ownright.	Landscape - Road	Post-Medieval/ Modern		SH 262600 366000
PRN 1709	Tollbooth, Tyn Twr. Associated with PRN 15874	Transport Building - Roofed	Post-Medieval/ Modern		SH 262660 365790
PRN 20820	Quarry, Bont Uchaf, Bethesda	Quarry	Post-Medieval/ Modern		SH 262800 366600
PRN 5703	Penrhyn Quarry Hospital. Ruined remains survive in woodland. Main two storey building built in 1842. Survives with little damage although roof has been stripped and timber work is generally collapsed. Interior is partially filled with rubble and no surviving features are apparent. Two smaller buildings nearby are in a similar condition. Associated with PRN 20820	Quarry Hospital	Post-Medieval/ Modern		SH 262450 365850
PRN 5704	Tyn Twr School. Large slate building with small outbuilding to the rear. Marked as a school on 1914 OS. Building founded in 1830	Building - School	Post-Medieval/ Modern		SH 262500 365950

	and was maintained by quarry workers.				
PRN 5706	Sub-circular stone structure approx 10m in diameter. Much collapse and feature is overgrown. Believed to be an ice house constructed sometime in the 19 th century	Building - Domestic	Post-Medieval/Modern		SH 262310 366330
PRN 5708	Cerrig Cannan. Minimum of three stone slabs, possibly natural outcrops containing patterns of more than 100 small bored holes with narrow connecting channels. Holes were filled with gunpowder which were ignited by fuses laid in the channels. Minimum area covered by feature is 20m x 12m and is heavily overgrown	Stone feature – gunpowder channels	Post-Medieval/Modern		SH 262300 366450

Appendix C.

Context Description List

Trench 1.

Context Number	Description	Dimensions
101	Topsoil. Turf/topsoil layer containing frequent rooting	Extends beyond trench limits. Maximum depth – 0.30m
102	Subsoil. Mid-brown clay silt deposit with occasional small sub angular and rare large sub angular/rounded stone inclusions. Post-medieval ceramics and clay pipe stems were recovered from this deposit	Extends beyond trench limits. Maximum depth – 0.11m
103	Natural. Orangey-yellow clay-gravel natural	Extends beyond trench limits. Sondage depth – 0.90m
104	Large stone spread constructed of a mixture of rounded and sub angular stones of all sizes with very rare chunks of sub angular slate. The lengths of the individual stones ranged between approximately 0.08m and 0.68m. The northern edge of this spread had a very straight edge and it is in this area that the majority of the larger stones had been placed. The eastern and southern extents of the feature were less well defined and there were large gaps between stones. It is possible that the south-western corner of the first trench extension is very near the edge of the feature as there are noticeably fewer stones in this area	Extends beyond trench limits. Final dimensions 6.6m in length, 2.6m in width. The stones varied in height between 0.30m and 0.60m
105	Possible cut for (104). A 0.5m wide sondage was excavated through this feature and the southern edge of the section shows a clear difference between the natural and the upper deposit with uneven concave side and a shallow break of slope. The northern end of the section is obscured by large stones and is unclear.	Extends beyond trench limits. Final dimensions 6.6m in length, 2.6m in width. Maximum depth 0.16m

Trench 2.

Context Number	Description	Dimensions
201	Topsoil. See 101	Extends beyond trench limits. Dimensions within trench 20m x 2m. Maximum depth – 0.22m
202	Subsoil. See 102	Extends beyond trench limits. Dimensions within trench 20m x 2m. Maximum depth – 0.13m
203	Natural. See 103	Extends beyond trench limits. Dimensions within trench 20m x 2m. Sondage depth – 0.60m
204	Sub oval pit with a with an irregular rounded profile with a slightly concave base. It is likely that this feature is a small waste pit from the construction of the factory and of a mid twentieth century date	Length - 1.04m, Width – 0.62m, Depth - 0.20m
205	Dark brown silt clay with small sub angular round stones. Ten modern iron clips were recovered from this fill	Length - 1.04m, Width – 0.62m, Depth - 0.20m
206	Linear feature running on a north-west - south-east axis across the site. A two meter section was exposed in plan and a one meter section was cut through down to the level of the natural (203). The deposit was made up of poorly sorted rounded and sub rounded stones of all sizes (cobbles of less than 0.10m to boulders of up to 0.60m in length) and were generally arranged with the larger stones towards the base of the deposit and the smaller on the top	Extends beyond trench limits. 2m segment of the length exposed in plan. Width – 3.08m, Depth – 0.47m
207	Dark brown/black silty clay organic bank deposit containing moderate small, round stone inclusions. This deposit was only present on the southern side of the bank	Exposed in 2m wide strip. Width – 1.0m, Maximum Depth – 0.26m

Trench 3.

Context Number	Description	Dimensions
301	Topsoil. See 101	Extends beyond trench limits. Dimensions within trench 20m x 2m. Maximum depth – 0.22m
302	Subsoil. See 102	Extends beyond trench limits. Dimensions within trench 20m x 2m. Maximum depth – 0.10m
303	Natural. See 103.	Extends beyond trench limits. Dimensions within trench 20m x 2m. Sondage depth – 0.60m

Appendix D.

Artefact Assemblage from Austin Taylor Communications Site, Bethesda

The below tables catalogues the material recovered from the subsoil layer (Contexts 102, 202 & 302). All pottery is believed to be of late nineteenth/early twentieth century date and is of domestic origin.

Fine ware

Context	Type	No. of Pieces	Notes
Subsoil	Base of large vase circular with pinched decoration	1	White glaze ware with a green print makers mark 'England' above a laurel leaf horse shoe. The makers name is written below 'WH Grindley & Co'. The company used this mark between 1880 & 1978 and this example is believed to belong to the earlier part of this period
Subsoil	Base of large vase, circular	1	White glaze ware with a mould or patent number incised on base '658'
Subsoil	Plate sherd	2	White glaze plate sherds unmarked
Subsoil	Small fine ware jug	4	Fragments of a white glaze, moulded decorated jug with fragmentary sub-oval base. Design unclear
Subsoil	Bowl rim	2	Fragments of a thick curved rim of white glazed bowl
Subsoil	Bowl rim and base	1	Sherd of shallow white glazed bowl
Subsoil	Tea cup base with foot	2	Sherds of shallow white glazed tea cups
Subsoil	White glazed sherd	3	Too small to be identified
Subsoil	Circular base and side of decorated vase	2	Medium sized vase with a cobalt blue snaking design with rectangular boxes and red crosses
Subsoil	Plate Rim sherd blue and white transfer ware	5	Blue and white transfer ware plates with Willow pattern design
Subsoil	Part base sherd blue and white transfer ware	2	Blue and white transfer ware shallow bowls with Willow pattern design
Subsoil	Cup or jar rim blue and white transfer ware		Decorated using a trailed flower on both the inside and outside of the rim

Subsoil	Small abraded sherd	6	Fragments – too small or damaged to make an identification.
Subsoil	Cream ware sherd	1	A single cream ware sherd with a printed dome design with a cross on top , possibly souvenir
Subsoil	Small Poole ware sherd	1	Fragment with flower paint design
Subsoil	Decorated Bone china or Porcelain pot or jug	1	Decorated pot/jug possibly late 1800's from a Liverpool maker. Three ladies in traditional Welsh costume are depicted.

Course Ware

Context	Type	No. of Pieces	Notes
Subsoil	Buckley ware, body sherd, black glazed with a reddish pink body	15	Mixed sherd types from large storage jars
Subsoil	Buckley ware, body sherd, black glazed with a reddish pink body	4	Mixed sherd types from large storage jars, with a raised ribbed internal and external design
Subsoil	Buckley ware rim, black glazed with a reddish pink body	2	A straight sided rim with a lower raised rib running under the mouth. Large jar
Subsoil	Buckley ware rim, black glazed with a reddish pink body	1	A flanged curved rim, large jar
Subsoil	Brown internal white glazed rim with orange body	1	Rim sherd for course ware jar
Subsoil	Brown glazed with a grey body small body sherd	2	Beaded rim for straight sided jar
Subsoil	Brown-black glazed rim sherd	1	Opened flanged mouth pot or jar
Subsoil	Brown-black glazed rim sherd	1	Beaded rim sherd
Subsoil	Orange brown base	1	Plaint pot

Stone Ware

Context	Type	No. of Pieces	Notes
Subsoil	White stone glazed jar rim and body sherd	1	Large jar with a a thin body
Subsoil	Body sherd stone ware jar. Cream glazed	3	Fragments of cream glazed stone ware fragments with raised rim design

Ink wells

Context	Type	No. of Pieces	Notes
Subsoil	Dark brown glazed, with a buff pink body	2	Large desk ink well (to be slotted into a prepared slot in a work or school desk)
Subsoil	Mid brown glazed, with a cream body	1	Desk ink well
Subsoil	Mid brown glazed, with a cream body	1	Desk ink well
Subsoil	Mid brown glazed, with a white body	1	Desk ink well
Subsoil	Decorated ink well painted with a yellow band, blue edging and mid brown flowers	1	Desk ink well

Clay Tobacco Pipes

Twenty-one clay tobacco stems were recovered during excavation along with two partial pipe bowls. Sixteen of the stems had no markings and will not be discussed further. Three of the stems had snapped below the pipe bowl and the makers marks had survived.

The first of these marks was a rough circular bulls eye on either side of the pipe. This mark was also seen on the foot for one of the pipe bowls although in this instance it was only used on one side of the bowl. The same bowl also had a leaf design running up the front of the bowl seam.

Two stems had impressed makers names running along their bodies. The first of these was very unclear and appeared to read 'JONES LAT. ST.....', no information could be found on this maker.

The second makers mark read 'W SOUTHOHN & CO ,BROSELEY12'. W. Southorn & Co were founded in 1823 and closed in the 1960's. They were based in Ironbridge Gorge, Shropshire. This pipe was an example of the 12 type and was in use from the late 1800's onwards.

Bullet Jacket

A single copper 303 rifle cartridge jacket. This ammunition type was in use from the 1880's. Cartridge showed little sign of corrosion.

Slate Pencil

Two fragments of slate pencil were found, one nib and one body stem.