

Results of Archaeological Works at
Plas Gwyn, Gannock Park, Deganwy

NGR SH78039 79368

Report Number CR64-2014



C.R Archaeology

Prepared by C. Rees

on Behalf of Williams Homes (Bala) Ltd

Results of Archaeological Works at
Plas Gwyn, Gannock Park, Deganwy

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
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1.0 Introduction

C.R Archaeology were instructed by Williams Homes (Bala) Ltd to conduct archaeological works at the above site in compliance with planning conditions placed on the development (Planning Reference: 0/38379).

A specification was written in response to a brief set by Development Control Archaeologist Jenny Emmett of Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services (dated 7th December 2012) as a methodology for a Desk-top Study and Archaeological Watching Brief.

The development site is situated in Deganwy, Conwy (Figure 1) and is situated immediately adjacent to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Deganwy Castle (Cn 016).

Planning permission has been granted to erect a two storey dwelling with associated access, parking and services (Figure 2).

In March 2009 Gwynedd Archaeological Trust conducted an Archaeological Assessment at Deganwy Castle (Report 781) which identified several linear earthworks which were interpreted as construction inclines dating from the 13th Century and assessed as likely to be of “considerable importance”. A letter from GAPS (Reference 1207je01/D1737) has identified that one of these earthworks extends from the base of the western crag to the eastern property boundary of Plas Gwyn. The position and alignment of this feature indicate that this earthwork previously continued into the site and ran beneath the existing dwelling. The document highlights the high possibility that the earthwork survives on the site and draws attention to lack of information about the feature. The construction inclines have not been studied in detail and the details of its construction, date, function and extent are unknown. It is also possible that further features associated with the monument may also survive within the development area. This information is regarded as important in understanding the development of the complex, multi-phase monument of Deganwy Castle.

Site works were conducted over a period of two days and the development area was stripped down to the natural. No archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered during the works and the site was found to have been heavily disturbed.

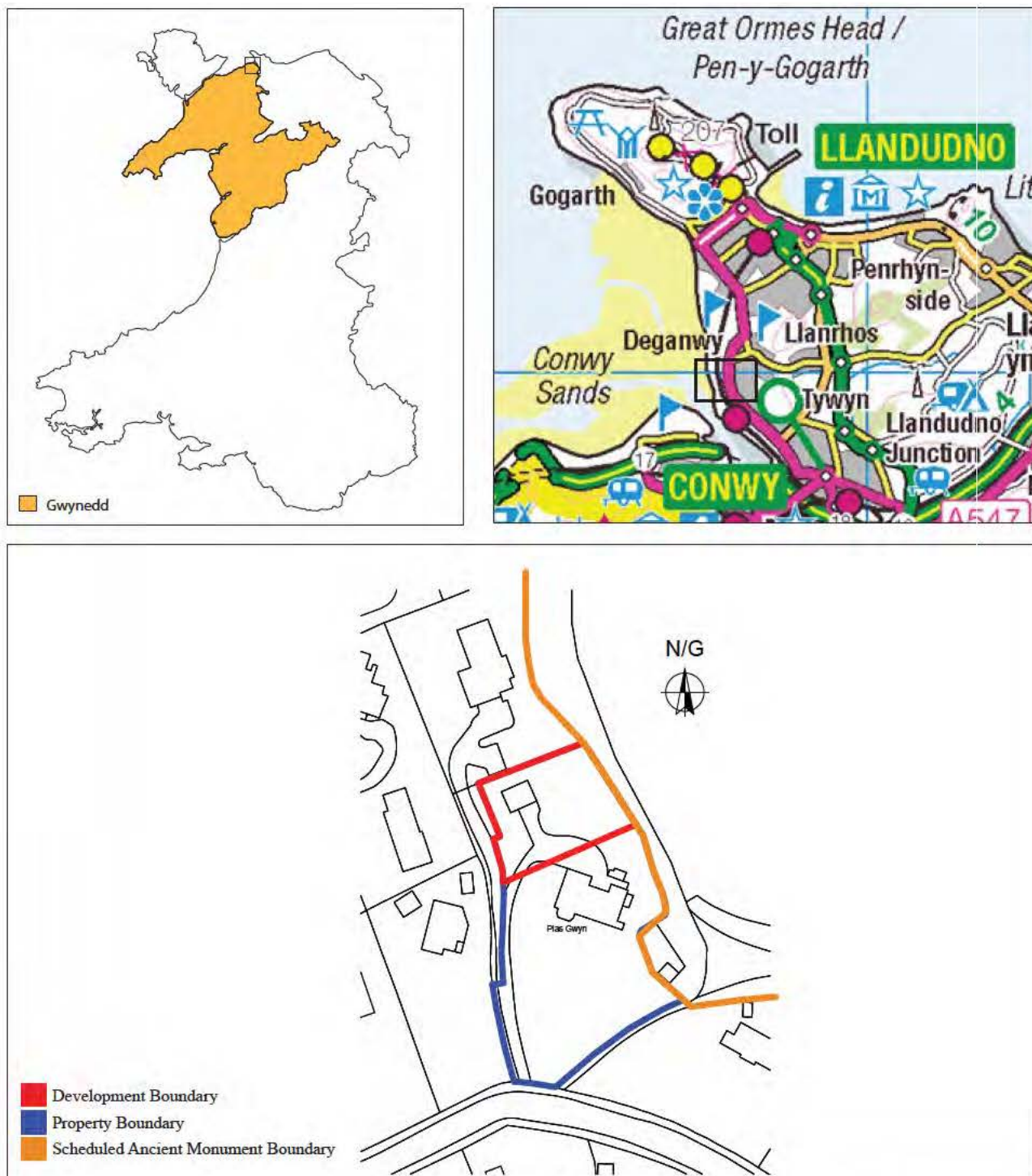


Figure 1. Site Location Map - Source: OS Open Data
(Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2014)

N/G

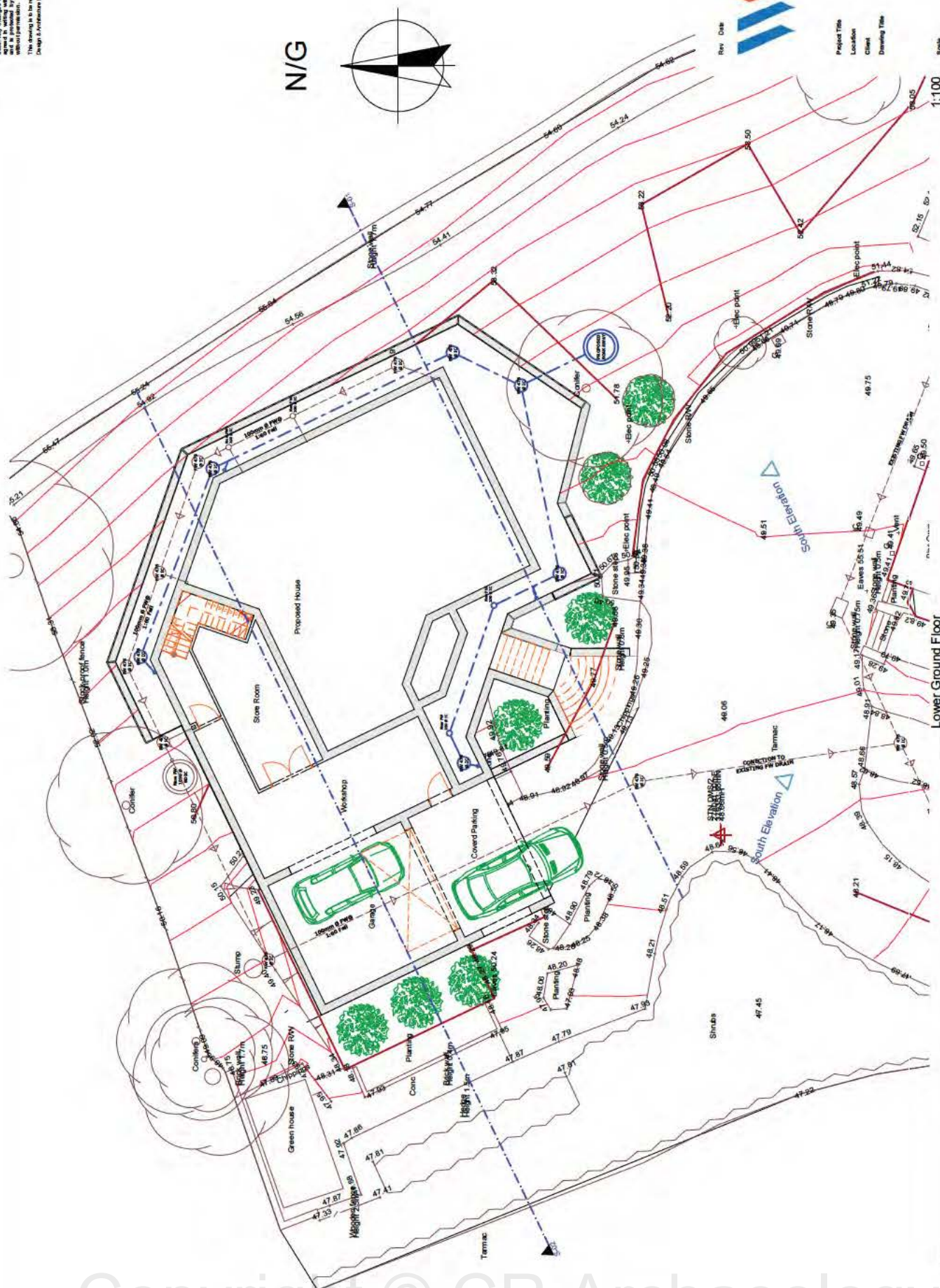
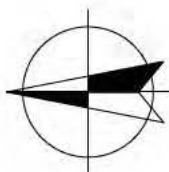


Figure 2. Proposed Site Works

Proposed New Dwelling At Plas Gwyn.
 Plas Gwyn, Gernack Park, Ogernwy.
 Mr C & Mrs J Wright
 Proposed Site Layout

Scale 1:100
 Paper Size A2
 Date Tuesday, 30 October 2012
 Issue Type Planning
 Drawn By DPC
 Drawing Details
 Job No. AL003
 Sheet No. 1 of 1

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 IfA Standard and Guidance document (1994 Revised 2008).

3.0 Scheme of Works – Methodology

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

3.1 Desk Based Research

A complete and coherent history of the site was compiled utilising information sourced from Conwy Record Office, Bangor University Archives and the Gwynedd Historic Environment Office. A full map progression was undertaken along with a search of tithe records.

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

These works were carried out in accordance with the IfA Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment (IfA 1994 (Revised 2009)).

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

3.2 Archaeological Watching Brief

A watching brief was undertaken to monitor all groundworks on the site. This include all topsoil and subsoil stripping and the excavation of the building foundations and all service trenches.

A C.R Archaeology staff member was present during the machine excavation of all groundworks. Where possible work was undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and the development area was stripped down to the natural. It was necessary that a toothed bucket be used to remove the stumps of several large trees from the site. Following the removal of these stumps a toothless bucket was used to clear the area.

C.R Archaeology notified GAPS as the date of the commencement of works. No archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered during works and it a GAPS visit to site was therefore not required.

No archaeological features, structures or remains were encountered during the works.

Fieldwork was conducted and managed by Matthew Jones (MA) of C.R Archaeology. No additional staff were required.

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.

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 which where possible will be calculated 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 will be created.

A high-resolution 14.2mp Sony Alpha digital camera was used to create a photographic record of the site. This was comprised of general photographs as there were no archaeological features onsite.

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

3.2.2 Additional Mitigation/Contingency Measures

No additional mitigation or contingency measures were required.

3.2.3 Recovery, Processing and Curation of Artefactual Material

No artefactual material was recovered during the site works.

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 (PI)* (EH 2006). The archive contains all data collected, including

records and other specialist materials. It is ordered, indexed, adequately documented, internally consistent, secure, quantified, conforming to standards required by the archive repository and signposted appropriately to ensure future use in research, as detailed in the English Heritage *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) methodology.

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

3.3 Timetable for Proposed Works

Groundworks commenced on March 11th 2014 and took place over a period of two days. 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.

3.4 Staffing

The project was managed by Matthew Jones (BA (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology)). All staff will have a skill set equivalent to the IfA AIfA level. 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. They were notified in writing (via email) of the commencement dates for archaeological site work and 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 all Health and Safety Policy and specific on-site instructions provided by the client and their appointed Principal contractor/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.

The report includes:

- 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 fieldwork.

3.7.1 Copyright

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

4.0 Geological and Geographical Context

4.1 Topography

The site is located within the Parish of Llanrhos (also referred to as Eglwys Rhos) in the Hundred of Creuddyn. It is positioned at the foot of the hill on which Deganwy Castle is situated.

4.2 Geology

The superficial geology of the site is not recorded. The bedrock is described as “Capel Curig Volcanic Formation - Tuff, Felsic. Igneous Bedrock formed approximately 451 to 461 million years ago in the Ordovician Period. Local environment previously dominated by explosive eruptions of silica-rich magma. These rocks were formed from viscous and highly gaseous silica-rich magma. It rose to the surface, where sudden pressure relief caused explosive volcanic eruptions, producing fragmentary pyroclastic material or ash” (www.bgs.ac.uk).

5.0 Historical Background

A search was conducted of the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record (HER) and this together with a search of the RCAHMW records was used to ascertain as to whether any material specifically related to The Gannock Park development. Searches were also carried out at the Conwy and Caernarfon Archives and unless otherwise stated all archive reference numbers refer to the material held in the Conwy Archives.

Early archaeological evidence appears to have been centred around the hills that overlook Deganwy and the Conwy estuary. Unless otherwise stated all sites commented on are within a 500m radius of the development.

5.1.1 Mesolithic

No direct evidence of Mesolithic activity is recorded within the aforementioned 500m search area.

5.1.2 Neolithic

Three Neolithic polished stone axes have been found within the defined search area. The first (Prn 2831) was recovered from Vardre mountain which overlooks Deganwy. A second (Prn 4581) was found at Plas Mariandir, at an inland site to the east. An incomplete axe (Prn 5182) was recovered from the fields leading up to the medieval castle.

5.1.3 Bronze Age

A large and impressive hoard of bronze age axes (Prn 2815) was recovered from shore of the Conwy estuary. It is unclear exactly how many were recovered but it is possible that over twenty were originally in the hoard which has since become dispersed.

A hoard of bronze celts (axes) are discussed in the 1941 *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 'miscellanea' section (Anon 1941: 205). These axes were recovered on the inland side of Deganwy castle in the Gloddaeth area.

5.1.4 Iron Age

No direct evidence of Iron age activity is recorded within the search area and a suggested settlement site (Prn 2837) is discussed in the Romano-British section. The upper half of a beehive quern (Prn 5553) was handed in to the local archaeological trust in the late 80's and this object is likely to date from a Iron Age or Romano-British period.

5.1.5 Romano-British

A of settlement of three enclosed huts (Prn 2837/ Nprn 303133) described as either a late prehistoric or Romano-British enclosure is recorded but there is no direct evidence for this interpretation. The Royal Commission states that it could be part a Medieval settlement or settlement complex and associates the hut structures with a Medieval settlement on the same mountain (Nprn 400535). This interpretation is also favoured in George Smith's interpretation of the site (Smith 1999).

Small amounts of Roman pottery (Prn 1697) were recovered during the Alcock excavations at Deganwy Castle in the 1960's (Alcock 1990:196).

5.1.6 Early Medieval

Deganwy is well know for its association with Maelgwyn Gwynedd, a 6th century ruler of North Wales (Maund 2004: 22). Legend places his court on the hills over looking the modern town of Deganwy and the site of a later castle. Excavation carried out in the 1960's recovered North African amphorae and glass dating to the 5th and 6th century. This would indicated that this area was in contact with trade network supplying high status items (Alcock 1990: 161).

Deganwy held its high status position until the 9th century when it was attacked and held by the Mercians in 822 (Nprn 404377) giving them control over Gwynedd (Maund 2004: 34). It is possible that the site was destroyed during this period as Lynch states that the 'Annales Cambriae' record the site as having been destroyed by Saxons (Lynch 2001: 146).

A notable hoard of Cnut period silver pennies was recovered by two metal detectorists in 1979 at an unrecorded spot on the hill of Bryn Maelgwyn to the east of Deganwy castle (Boon 1986). This site is outside the search radius but has been included due to the associations with Maelgwyn.

5.1.7 Medieval

The majority of the Medieval archaeology survives in the hills above the modern town of Deganwy. The most famous site is Deganwy Castle (Nprn 85282) which was built over two hills and is situated on the earlier site of Maelgwyn's court. As previously mentioned the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and the boundary for the SAM runs up to the property boundary for Plas Gwyn.

The first recorded castle was built by the Norman Lord Robert of Rhuddlan around AD 1080. Robert held the castle and the surrounding lands until 1093 when he was killed in a raid by Welsh rebels. The land then passed into the ownership of Earl Hugh of Chester (Osborne 2000: 5-6). The land returned to Welsh hands when Gruffydd ap Cynan rose to power in 1094 (Jones 2010). The area continued to be held by the Welsh and by AD 1200 the land had been inherited by Llywelyn ap Iorwerth (RCAHMW 1936: 152). Llywelyn destroyed the castle and lands as part of a scorched earth policy in advance of King John's invasion of 1211 (Maund 2004: 120).

Following the death of Llywelyn ap Iorwerth in 1240 his heirs struggled to hold onto his gains and by 1241-2 Deganwy Castle and lands were once more held by the English. King Henry III took control of the site but it has been suggested that the castle was completely destroyed before returning to English control (Lynch 2001: 146).

It is thought that in 1244 Henry III began to rebuild the castle and it is the remains of this phase of construction which survive to the present day (Nprn 85282/ Prn 2814). Henry III also established the borough of Deganwy in 1248 (Prn 30307). During this period the grandson of Llywelyn ap Iorwerth, Llywelyn ap Gruffudd, was rising to power and in 1257 he led an attack on the castle. In 1263 he made large gains taking Diserth and Deganwy Castle from the Crown (Maund 2004: 120-131). It is thought that Llywelyn ap Gruffudd destroyed the castle to base himself on the west side of the Conwy Estuary where he had a llys (Nprn 303129) which was later incorporated into the Edwardian walls (Nprn 95280) which encircle the town (White 1995). Conwy and the associated archaeological remains do not fall within the search radius and are included to give context and to explain the decline of Deganwy.

After the conquest of North Wales by Edward I settlement and power was refocused to the west of the river Conwy. Conwy Castle (Nprn 121) was built and a new borough was formed. Lewis discussed the formation of a market at Deganwy (Prn 30322) in 1284 (1912: 194).

A 2009 GAT study identified a large number of features associated with the undeveloped areas around the Medieval castle which were attributed a Medieval date. These features are: five possible farmsteads (Prn's 2836, 2838, 30305, 30306, 30308), a roadway to Deganwy castle (Prn 30304), four linear features (Prn 303013) and a quarry to the west of the castle (Prn 30314). One of the aforementioned linear features is of particular importance as it extends from the base of the western crag to near the eastern property boundary of Plas Gwyn (a site walkover showed it stopped

approximately 5-6m from the boundary). The position and alignment of this feature indicate that this earthwork may have previously continued into the site and ran beneath the existing dwelling.

A surviving medieval field system has been identified to the south of Deganwy castle (Prn 30309) and a small rectangular platform near Deganwy Castle (Prn 5777) which could possibly be given a medieval date.

Four sherds of 13th-14th century pottery were uncovered on the Vardre mountain (Prn 24080) and are thought to have all come from the same vessel.

5.1.8 Post-Medieval – General Background

During the early part of this period the area around Deganwy was primarily agricultural in character with a pattern of dispersed farmsteads. This continued into the nineteenth century and the 1841 census listings of the professions of the parish occupants recorded in the census reflected this. In addition to agricultural work a number of the men were employed in mining (at either the copper mines on the Great Orme or the antimony mine near Bwlch) and fishing (Richards 2010: 11).

This was to change dramatically in the mid nineteenth century with the advent of the railway and the raise to prominence of Llandudno as a holiday location. Deganwy was on the mainline to Llandudno and by 1866 had its own train station. Land associated with the Deganwy and other estates was prime building land and was parcelled off for the erection of villas and houses from the early 1870's onwards and by the early twentieth century much of the area was residential (Richards 2010: 21-23).

The railway also brought with it an increase in employment and associated trade opportunities and goods could now be moved more easily to new markets leading to an increase in quarrying/ timber production. Mussel fishing also increased as perishable foodstuffs could be transported more rapidly to markets (Richards 2010: 21-23).

5.1.9 Cartographic Evidence

Tithe Map

The plot occupies the western side of the Vardra, which is shown as part of an enclosed field system on the 1841 Tithe Map (figure 3) roughly in the position of Plot 195. The accompanying Schedule lists the land owner as John Lloyd Jones with the land in arable use. Lloyd Jones owns the Deganwy Estate at this time and was resident at what is now the Deganwy Castle Hotel.

Deganwy Estate Sale Catalogues

Conwy Archive hold a number of sale catalogues associated with the sale of the Deganwy estate which previously held the plot now occupied by Plas Gwyn. The earliest sale catalogue is dated 1871 (Document Reference XD2/14374) and the Deganwy Estate lands are parcelled into lots with the land sold separately from the main house. The catalogue describes the land as “*Admirably adapted for villa residences – within one mile of the railway stations at Llandudno and Llandudno Junction, and close to the Deganwy Station, at which upwards of thirty trains per day pass and repass*”.

The land appears not to have been developed following the 1871 sale and is listed for sale once more in 1892 (SC/1) as Plot 18. The land is listed as good for either building or quarrying. The 1892 plan shows trees spread out around what will later become the Plas Gwyn site (figure 4). The site is shown as within Plot 5 sale in a catalogue dated 1903 (CSC/5 (figure 5) show that some of the existing road layout have now been put in place and now describes the site as an “*exceedingly well placed building site close to Deganwy Railway station*”. None of the plans show any major features within the plot.

Ordnance Survey Maps

The 1889-1891 Ordnance Survey Map (figure 6) shows a large open area with a small square enclosure (agricultural) occupying what would become the front garden of the Plas Gwyn site. The 1900 Ordnance Survey Map (figure 7) shows the area as enclosed into a plot with the same small square enclosure shown in the same position. There are no changes to the site until the 1937 Ordnance Survey Map which shows the current Plas Gwyn house (figure 8). The garage is shown to be contemporary with the house. Following the 1937 Ordnance Survey Map there are no further changes to the plot.

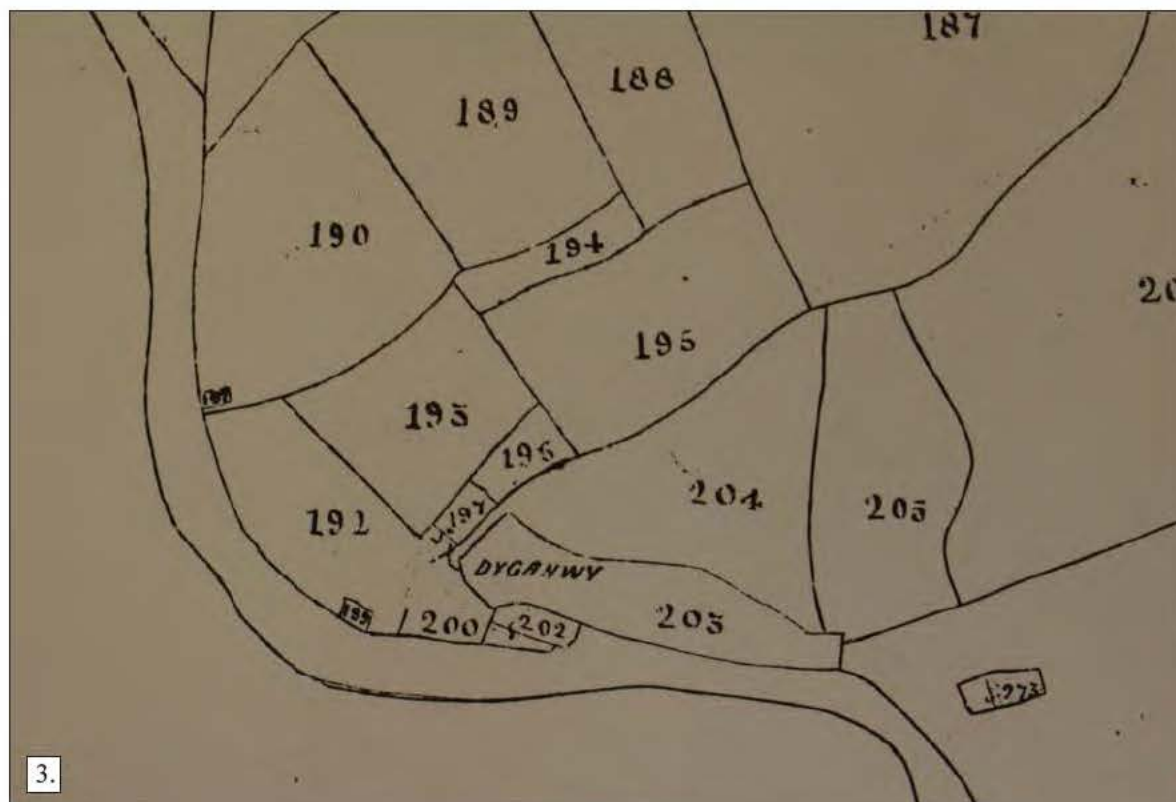


Figure 3. 1841 Tithe Map Extract



Figure 4. 1892 Map from Deganwy Estate Sale Catalogue



Figure 5. 1903 Map from Deganwy Estate Sale Catalogue

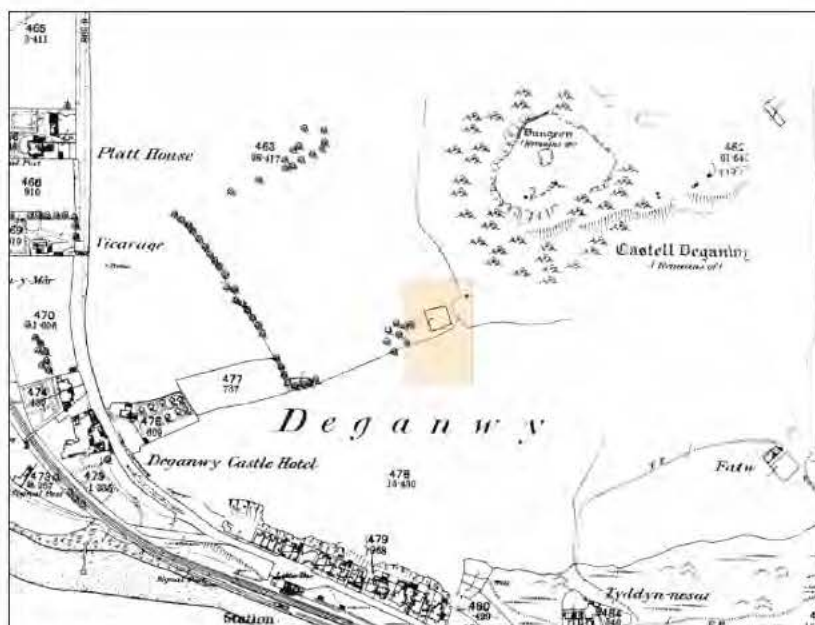


Figure 6. 1889 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map

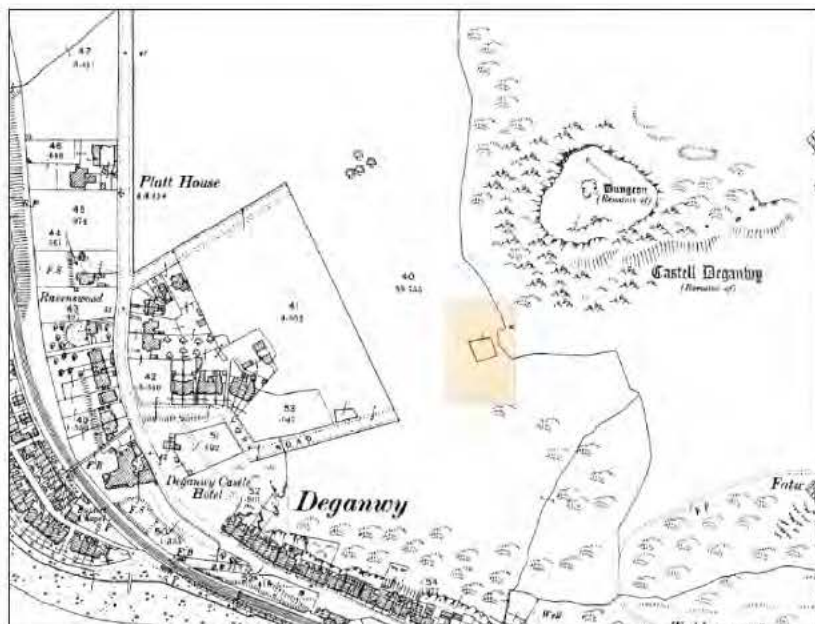


Figure 7. 1900 Edition Ordnance Survey Map



Figure 8. 1937 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

6.0 Results of Archaeological Works

As it was believed that the garage was likely to be contemporary with the building of the house a basic photographic record of the structure was made. This are included as plates 1 - 4.

Three recognisable soil horizons were identified within the area stripped (stripped area shown on Figure 7). The upper layer (01) was composed of a dark brown silty clay turf/top soil layer which was on average 0.18m thick. This layer was disturbed and contained artefactual material dating from the modern period. The assemblage contained plant pots, lager cans (Miller) and the remains of a barbecue.

Context (02) was a subsoil layer identified beneath Context (01). It was a light brown silty clay. The average thickness of the subsoil was 0.10m - 0.23m.

The natural (Context (03) a crushed shale gravel with a grey clay matrix. The natural was reached at a depth of between 0.20-0.40m.

All deposits were disturbed by roots of large mature trees.

No archaeological material or features were identified during the stripping works and the site had been heavily disturbed by the construction of the house and garage, and the associated landscaping. Representative record photographs of the site have been included as plates 5 - 8. The stripped area is shown on figure 9.



Plate 1. Basic Photographic Survey of Garage



Plate 3. Basic Photographic Survey of Garage



Plate 2. Basic Photographic Survey of Garage

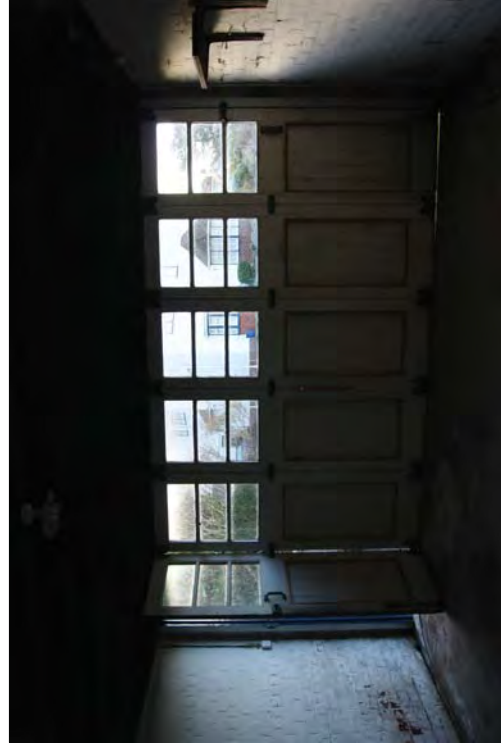


Plate 4. Basic Photographic Survey of Garage



Plate 5. Machine Removal of Tree Stumps



Plate 7. Site Following Striping of Area



Plate 6. Sample Section Showing Soil Depths



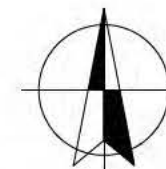
Plate 8. Site Following Striping of Area

Stripped Area
Existing Garage

This drawing is not to be scaled, only figured dimensions, levels etc. are to be used. Any changes made to the information contained on the drawing are to be agreed in writing with the Design & Architecture Ltd. This drawing is Copyright and is protected by the Design Copyright Act 1988 and cannot be reproduced without permission.
This drawing is to be read in conjunction with the printed specifications provided by W&N Design & Architecture Ltd, Park House, 25 Garsington Road, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX4 2DQ, UK.



N/G



Project Title: Proposed New Dwelling At Plas Gwyn.
Location: Plas Gwyn, Gannock Park, Degemey.
Client: Dr C & Mrs J Velthuis.
Drawing Title: Proposed Site Layout.

Scale: 1:100
Paper Size: A2
Date: Tuesday, 30 October 2012
Issue Type: Planning
Drawn By: DRC
Drawing Details: Job No. 514236, Drawing No. AL003, Revisions

Figure 9. Stripped Area at Plas Gwyn, Gannock Park

7.0 Conclusion

Given the proximity of the site to Deganwy Castle and the surviving earthworks noted near the eastern boundary of Plas Gwyn it would seem likely that there would have once been activity in this area. It was however evident during the groundworks that this plot had been heavily disturbed in more recent times and there were no traces of any earlier activity found during the watching brief.

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SC/1 1892 Deganwy Estate Sale Catalogue

XD2/14374 1871 Deganwy Estate Sale Catalogue

1889 Ordnance Survey Map

1900 Ordnance Survey Map

1937 Ordnance Survey Map

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Prepared by C. Rees
on Behalf of Williams Homes (Bala) Ltd

Specification for Archaeological Works at
Plas Gwyn, Gannock Park, Deganwy

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Planning Reference Number: | 0/38379 |
| National Grid Reference: | SH 78039 79368 |
| Client: | Williams Homes (Bala) Ltd |
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Illustrations

Figure 1. Site Location Map

Figure 2. Proposed Works

1.0 Introduction

C.R Archaeology have been instructed by Williams Homes (Bala) Ltd to conduct archaeological works at the above site in compliance with planning conditions placed on the development (Planning Reference: 0/38379).

This specification has been written following an email from Development Control Archaeologist Jenny Emmett of Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services (dated 7th December 2012) as a methodology for a Desk-top Study and Archaeological Watching Brief.

The proposed development site is situated in Deganwy, Conwy (Figure 1) and is situated immediately adjacent to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Deganwy Castle (Cn 016).

Planning permission has been sought to erect a two storey dwelling with associated access, parking and services (Figure 2).

In March 2009 Gwynedd Archaeological Trust conducted an Archaeological Assessment at Deganwy Castle (Report 781) which identified several linear earthworks which were interpreted as construction inclines dating from the 13th Century and assessed as likely to be of “considerable importance”. A letter from GAPS (Reference 1207je01/D1737) has identified that one of these earthworks extends from the base of the western crag to the eastern property boundary of Plas Gwyn. The position and alignment of this feature indicate that this earthwork previously continued into the site and ran beneath the existing dwelling. The document highlights the high possibility that the earthwork survives on the site and draws attention to lack of information about the feature. The construction inclines have not been studied in detail and the details of its construction, date, function and extent are unknown. It is also possible that further features associated with the monument may also survive within the development area. This information is regarded as important in understanding the development of the complex, multi-phase monument of Deganwy Castle.

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 IfA Standard and Guidance document (1994 Revised 2008).

3.0 Historical Background

The following section is a summary of the history of the area 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 .

Early archaeological evidence appears to have been centred around the hills that overlook Deganwy and the Conwy estuary.

There have been a number of Prehistoric artefacts recovered from the vicinity of the development site including three Neolithic polished stone axes Prn 2831, Prn 4581 and Prn 5182 and a large and impressive hoard of over twenty bronze age axes (Prn 2815). A further hoard of bronze celts (axes) are discussed in the 1941 *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 'miscellanea' section (Anon 1941: 205). These axes were recovered on the inland side of Deganwy castle in the Gloddaeth area.

Deganwy is well known for its association with Maelgwyn Gwynedd, a 6th century ruler of North Wales (Maund 2004: 22). Legend places his court on the hills overlooking the modern town of Deganwy and the site of a later castle. Excavation carried out in the 1960's recovered North African amphorae and glass dating to the 5th and 6th century. This would indicate that this area was in contact with trade network supplying high status items (Alcock 1990: 161).

Deganwy held its high status position until the 9th century when it was attacked and held by the Mercians in 822 (Nprn 404377) giving them control over Gwynedd (Maund 2004: 34). It is possible that the site was destroyed during this period as Lynch states that the '*Annales Cambriae*' record the site as having been destroyed by Saxons (Lynch 2001: 146).

The majority of the Medieval archaeology survives in the hills above the modern town of Deganwy. The most famous site is Deganwy Castle (Nprn 85282) which was built over two hills and is situated on the earlier site of Maelgwyn's court.

The first recorded castle was built by the Norman Lord Robert of Rhuddlan around AD 1080. Robert held the castle and the surrounding lands until 1093 when he was killed in a raid by Welsh rebels. The land then passed into the ownership of Earl Hugh of Chester (Osborne 2000: 5-6). The land returned to Welsh hands when Gruffydd ap Cynan rose to power in 1094 (Jones 2010). The

area continued to be held by the Welsh and by AD 1200 the land had been inherited by Llywelyn ap Iorwerth (RCAHMW 1936: 152). Llywelyn destroyed the castle and lands as part of a scorched earth policy in advance of King John's invasion of 1211 (Maund 2004: 120).

Following the death of Llywelyn ap Iorwerth in 1240 his heirs struggled to hold onto his gains and by 1241-2 Deganwy Castle and lands were once more held by the English. King Henry III took control of the site but it has been suggested that the castle was completely destroyed before returning to English control (Lynch 2001: 146).

It is thought that in 1244 Henry III began to rebuild the castle and it is the remains of this phase of construction which survive to the present day (Nprn 85282/ Prn 2814). Henry III also established the borough of Deganwy in 1248 (Prn 30307). During this period the grandson of Llywelyn ap Iorwerth, Llywelyn ap Gruffudd, was rising to power and in 1257 he led an attack on the castle. In 1263 he made large gains taking Diserth and Deganwy Castle from the Crown (Maund 2004: 120-131). It is thought that Llywelyn ap Gruffudd destroyed the castle to base himself on the west side of the Conwy Estuary where he had a llys (Nprn 303129) which was later incorporated into the Edwardian walls (Nprn 95280) which encircle the town (White 1995). Conwy and the associated archaeological remains do not fall within the 1000m search radius and are included to give context and to explain the decline of Deganwy.

After the conquest of North Wales by Edward I settlement and power was refocused to the west of the river Conwy. Conwy Castle (Nprn 121) was built and a new borough was formed. Lewis discussed the formation of a market at Deganwy (Prn 30322) in 1284 (1912: 194). A Gwynedd Archaeological Trust study conducted in 2009 suggested that the site of the market could be represented by the survival of the name "Deganwy" which was used for a farmstead on the tithe map and now is the site of the Deganwy Castle Hotel (Kenny 2009).

The aforementioned 2009 GAT study identified a large number of features associated with the undeveloped areas around the Medieval castle which were attributed a Medieval date. These features are: five possible farmsteads (Prn's 2836, 2838, 30305, 30306, 30308), a roadway to Deganwy castle (Prn 30304), four linear features (Prn 303013) and a quarry to the west of the castle (Prn 30314). A surviving medieval field system has been identified to the south of Deganwy castle (Prn 30309) and a small rectangular platform near Deganwy Castle (Prn 5777) could possibly be given a medieval date.

3.1 Topography

The site is located within the Parish of Llanrhos (also referred to as Eglwys Rhos) in the Hundred of Creuddyn. It is positioned at the foot of the hill on which Deganwy Castle is situated.

3.2 Geology

The superficial geology of the site is not recorded. The bedrock is described as “Capel Curig Volcanic Formation - Tuff, Felsic. Igneous Bedrock formed approximately 451 to 461 million years ago in the Ordovician Period. Local environment previously dominated by explosive eruptions of silica-rich magma. These rocks were formed from viscous and highly gaseous silica-rich magma. It rose to the surface, where sudden pressure relief caused explosive volcanic eruptions, producing fragmentary pyroclastic material or ash” (www.bgs.ac.uk).

4.0 Scheme of Works – Methodology

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

4.1 Desk Based Research

A complete and coherent history of the site will be compiled utilising information sourced from Conwy Record Office, Bangor University Archives and the Gwynedd Historic Environment 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 IfA Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment (IfA 1994 (Revised 2009)).

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 foundations and all 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 service/foundation trench area. If the features extend beyond the limits of the trench and it is felt to be beneficial to extend the width of the strip an additional area of up to 1m on either side of the trench 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.

Any archaeological features, structures or remains identified in the course of the excavation will be trowel cleaned by hand. Investigation of such features, structures or deposits will be sufficient to determine their character, date, significance and quality. 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 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 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. 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 February 2014 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 IfA *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 fieldwork.

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.

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