

CASTLERING ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO.375

PROPOSED YSGOL BRO DYSYNNI

LLANEGRYN

MEIRIONNYDD

SH59787 05100

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED

ASSESSMENT

FEBRUARY 2012

CASTLERING ARCHAEOLOGY REPORT NO. 375

PROPOSED YSGOL BRO DYSYNNI

LLANEGRYN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

CONTRACTED BY

GWYNEDD COUNCIL

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SYNOPSIS

This report has been undertaken at the request of Gwynedd Council to accompany proposals for a new primary school to be known as Ysgol Bro Dysynni on land at Llanegryn, Gwynedd, in the former county of Merionethshire. The proposed school site adjoins the southeast end of the present village of Llanegryn in the angle between the modern alignment of the Dolgellau to Tywyn trunk road, the A493, and the minor road leading to the village. The study area and the existing settlement of Llanegryn lie in the valley of the Afon Dysanni at approximately 35mOD, within the Snowdonia National Park.

The proposed development has allowed for an initial insight into the archaeological potential of the study area. The desk-based assessment has highlighted the history of settlement going back to prehistoric times, showing that the paucity of above ground archaeology from this period on the lower valley slopes of the Afon Dysanni is not an indication of lack of settlement. The proximity of the Waenfach standing stone to the study area and cropmark evidence in the lower part of the valley at Brynchrug indicates that further evidence of occupation dating from the prehistoric period may await discovery in this area in general.

The large open field of pasture that comprises the proposed school site is the result of enclosure and land improvement undertaken over several centuries since the beginnings of agriculture. The field and the surrounding landscape have changed to meet the needs of successive landowners and farmers. While the present field displays no above ground evidence of archaeology, the magnetic survey undertaken by *ArchaeoPhysica Ltd*, at the request of Castlering Archaeology has produced important evidence of what appears to be a former road with a possible small settlement or area of agricultural activity alongside it on the site. Other than the former northwest to southeast boundary recorded by the tithe in 1842 and only removed in modern times, the features recorded by the magnetic survey are previously unrecorded. These features are therefore undated, although it can be safely said that they pre-date 1842.

The new evidence is significant in archaeological terms and requires further investigation. Archaeology is a non-renewable resource and the impact of construction works on any archaeology that may exist below ground would be considered to be substantial. A further programme of archaeological mitigation in order to evaluate the site would appear to be the appropriate response to the current study. An appropriate mitigation strategy for the site would allow for sufficient archaeological recording of potential below-ground remains and / or artefactual evidence. Appropriate mitigation, should be designed to ensure that the proposed development has a limited adverse impact on the archaeological resource of the site.

In terms of the proposed school and its setting, the design of the new school building has taken into account the character of the surrounding landscape and the visual impact that any development would have upon it. The proposed building is a primarily single storey structure with a sedum and wildflower roof covering, designed to nestle into the slopes of the field. The position of the school is designed to have a minimum impact on the historic landscape and views east towards the Afon Dysanni Valley, when approached by the A483. The hard and soft landscape plan also indicates that planting schemes are in place to ensure some screening of the site. The plans indicate that the visual impact has been taken into consideration within the limits of the proposed development.

This assessment can only be used as a guide to the potential for archaeological evidence and the survival, nature, extent and significance of any sub-surface features can only be established through systematic evaluation.

CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Aim of the Archaeological Work
Figs 1-4
3. Methodology
4. Background History of the Study Area and its Immediate Environs
Figs 5 - 10
5. The Existing Study Area
Plate 1 – 9 & Figs 11 - 12
6. The Surrounding Landscape
Figs 13 - 14
7. Discussion
8. Acknowledgements
9. Sources

Appendix 1: Known Archaeological Sites

ABBREVIATIONS:

AD	Anno Domini
approx.	approximately
BGS	British Geological Survey
<i>c.</i>	<i>circa</i>
EH	English Heritage
GAT	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
HER	Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
m OD	metre over datum
Mss	Manuscripts
OS	Ordnance Survey
SNP	Snowdonia National Park

Every effort has been made to provide accurate information within this report. However Castlering Archaeology cannot be held responsible for any errors and inaccuracies contained therein.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report has been undertaken at the request of Gwynedd Council to accompany proposals for a new primary school to be known as Ysgol Bro Dysynni on land at Llanegryn, Gwynedd, in the former county of Merionethshire (Figs 1 - 4 *following*). The proposed school site (hereinafter referred to as the study area) adjoins the southeast end of the present village of Llanegryn in the angle between the modern alignment of the Dolgellau to Tywyn trunk road, the A493, and the minor road leading to the village. The study area and the existing settlement of Llanegryn lie in the valley of the Afon Dysynni at approximately 35mOD.

1.2 The study area lies within the Snowdonia National Park. Consultation in respect of the site with John Roberts, Principal Archaeologist for Snowdonia National Park, indicated that an archaeological desk based assessment and geophysical survey of the site should be undertaken prior to any planning application being submitted.

1.3 The desk-based study has been undertaken by Castlering Archaeology and the geophysical survey has been undertaken by *ArchaeoPhysica Ltd.* at the request of Castlering Archaeology.

2. AIM OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

Stage 1 – Desk-based assessment and Site walk-over

2.1 Stage 1 desk-based assessment and site walk-over is designed to determine the potential existence, location, character and date of significant archaeological remains that exist in, or adjacent to, the proposed development site as defined on Fig. 1, and the potential to recover further archaeological evidence from the site, in so far as these aims are possible.

2.2 The walk-over is a non-intrusive process designed to examine the current land-use of the site, assess the survival, quality, condition and relative significance of any surviving standing buildings / structures and / or earthworks on the site, and the potential for buried archaeological deposits, in order to assess the impact that any future works may have on the archaeological resource and the built heritage of the area.

Stage 2 - Geophysical Survey

2.3 A magnetic field survey has been undertaken by *ArchaeoPhysica Ltd* and reproduced as a stand-alone report (*ArchaeoPhysica Ltd., Report No. LEG121*). Geophysical surveys play an increasing role in the presentation and interpretation of potential archaeological sites. The surveys are designed to determine the nature of the detectable archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices, as far as is reasonably possible. The results of the survey are commented on in Sections 5 and 7 of this report.



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Site Location | Lleoliad Safle
1:2500 @ A3

Fig. 1 Study area Location

reproduced with permission of B3 Architects



Fig. 2 Study area Location, aerial photograph
(google-earth 2012)

Ysgol Bro Dysynni
Elevations | Edrychiadau

B3
ARCHITECTS

Drawing Number | 41316-PL04
Planning Application
November 2011

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REPORT NO. 375. 8

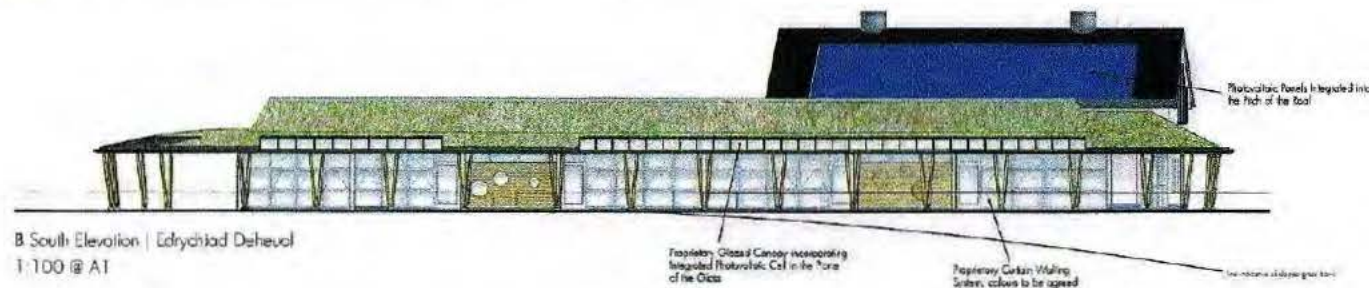
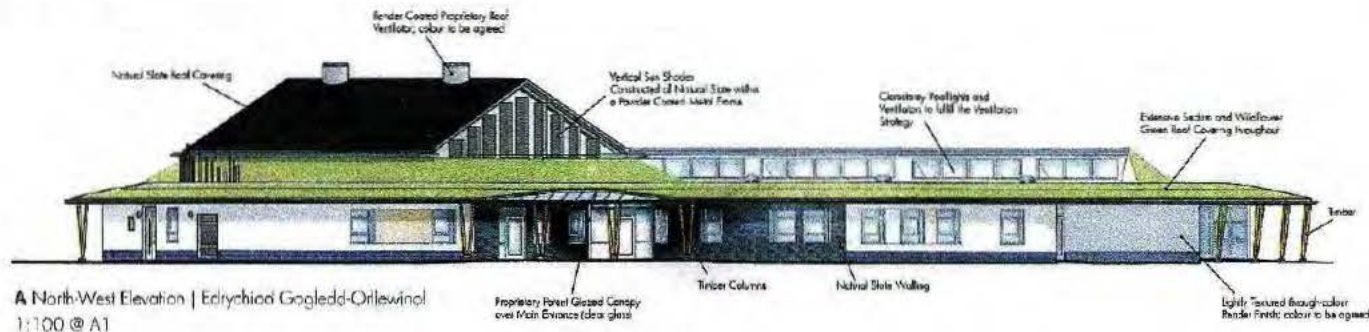


Fig. 3 Proposed Elevations

reproduced with permission of B3 Architects



Key Plan | Allwedd



Fig. 4 Proposed Layout
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of B3 Architects

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 The desk-based study has been undertaken in accordance with the IfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (2008 revision).

3.2 Information for sites of archaeological interest within the study area and its immediate environment has been obtained from the following repositories:

- Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT), Bangor
Interrogation of the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER); the primary source of data for identifying known archaeological sites in the former County of Merionethshire and information in respect of studies or contracted archaeological interventions undertaken within the study area. Sites are referenced in the text by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and listed in Appendix 1.
- Meirionnydd Archives (MA), Dolgellau
County Record Office consulted to examine documentary and cartographic sources; Tithe Maps etc.
- Dolgellau Library, Local Studies
Source of published local history
- National Monuments Record (NMR) maintained by RCAHMW, Aberystwyth
Information regarding Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs); Listed buildings and a repository for aerial photographic collections (APs)
NMR sites are referenced in the text by their Primary Record Number (NPRN) and listed in Appendix 1.
- National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth (NLW)
Source of published maps, primary and secondary documentary sources
- Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments
Information regarding Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs)

3.3 Site visits were undertaken in January and February 2012 in order to assess the current land-use and topography, evidence of structures / earthworks and / or the potential for buried archaeological deposits that may be encountered during the proposed works, in addition to taking into account the surrounding landscape.

3.4 A copy of this report will be submitted to John Roberts, Principal Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park, in order to inform further archaeological works.

4. BACKGROUND HISTORY OF THE STUDY AREA AND ITS IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS

4.1 The study area is located in the historic Parish of Llanegryn, once part of the hundred of Talybont in the former County of Merionethshire. The boundary of the parish is formed on the west side by Cardigan Bay, and on the east side by the Afon Dysynni. The study area and the village of Llanegryn are located on the northern bank of the Afon Dysynni, which in the 19th century was 'still navigable for vessels of ten or twelve tons burden from the sea to beyond Peniarth Weir', according to Samuel Lewis writing in 1833. The Dysynni now flows down the valley from Tal-y-Llyn Lake in the northeast to its estuary on Cardigan Bay, north of the town of Tywyn. Enclosed land now extends towards the coast from the A494 and south and southeast towards the river. To the northeast of the study area and the village, unenclosed uplands rise towards the summit of Allt-lwyd (392m).

Prehistory

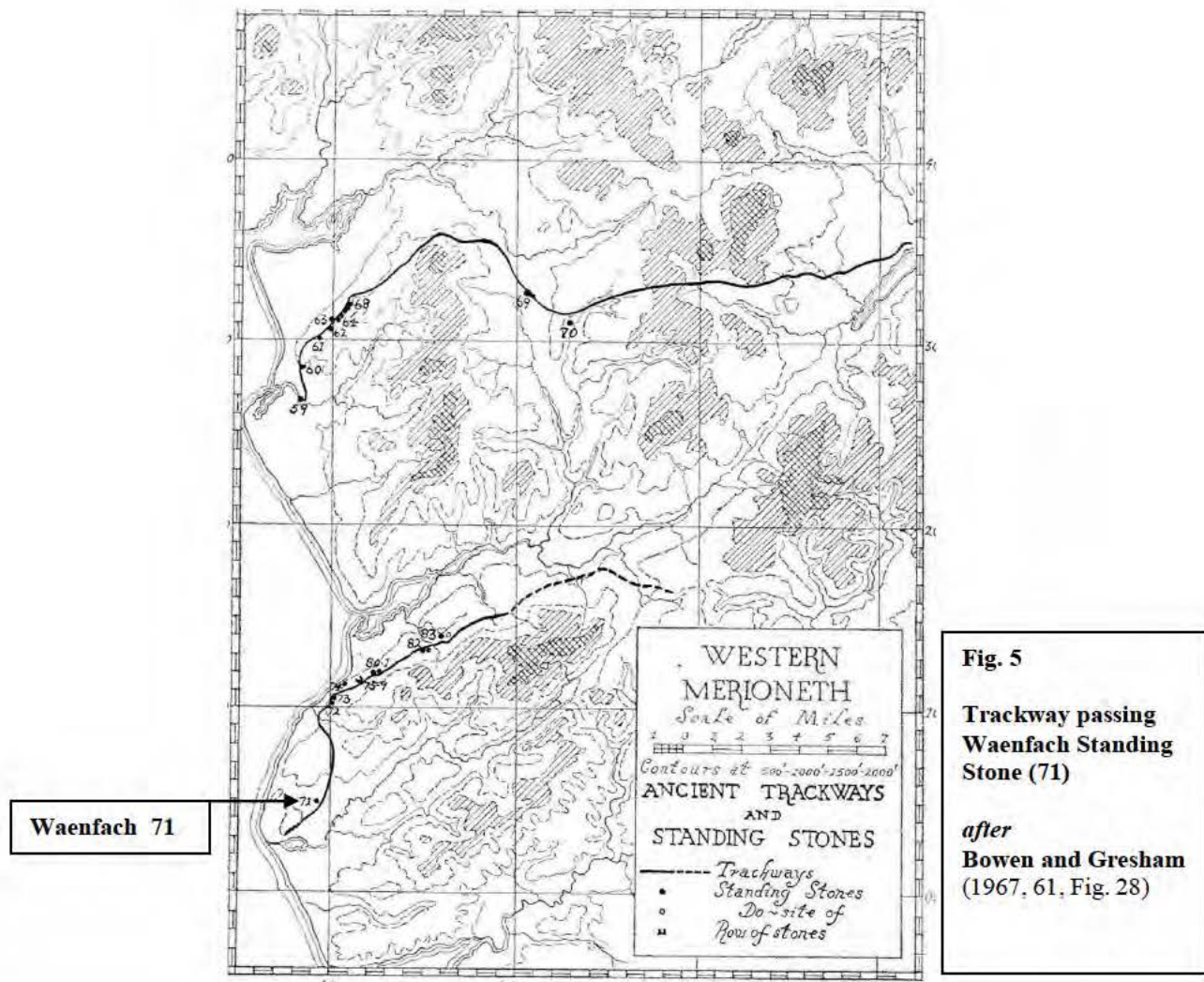
4.2 While documentary evidence of the village dates from the medieval period, perhaps the main archaeological interest in the area surrounding Llanegryn are the number of previously recorded sites that date from prehistoric times.

4.3 While no archaeological evidence has been recovered from the study area itself, extensive evidence of settlement in prehistoric times in the uplands to the north and northeast of the village has been recorded in antiquity and by the Ordnance Survey since the 19th century. The record of sites has been enhanced by the more recent programme of uplands surveys and by aerial reconnaissance, funded by the Royal Commission. The mountainous region of Snowdonia, in general, has revealed evidence of settlement dating from c.4000BC, when Neolithic people began to settle and farm (Crew & Musson 1996, 5). In the uplands of Allt-lwyd, Twyllydallen and Pen-y-garn to the north and northeast of the study area, cairns, field systems and enclosures likely to represent ritual and settlement in the Bronze Age (c.2,500-800BC) have been recorded (Laws, K., EAS 2007).

4.4 From c.4,000BC, agriculture has increasingly modified the landscape and the lack of above-ground evidence for archaeology on enclosed land in the area of Llanegryn cannot be interpreted as a sign of its non-existence. The larger and more significant structures have survived above ground, as land was cleared of stone to improve agriculture. In close proximity to the study area, the Scheduled Monument known as Waenfach Standing Stone (PRN 4796) is an impressive and well-preserved example of a ritual monument of the Early Bronze Age period (c. 2000-1500 BC) and, as such, forms Scheduled Ancient Monument ME223. The structure stands west of the A493, c.300m southwest of the study area boundary, on pastureland that form part of Waenfach farmland (Figs 8-10 *following*). Although the stone now appears as a solitary monument, it doubtless formed an important element in the wider prehistoric landscape during the Bronze Age.

4.5 c.300m south of the study area, a pair of Neolithic stone axes were found in September 1871 when a wall was being built close to Celmi Farmhouse (PRN 4808 & Grimes 1951, 144). The axes are part of the National Museum of Wales collection.

4.6 In addition some of the existing trackways that run through the Parish have their origins in prehistory, as attested by the numerous cairns and hut circles located along their routes. Bowen and Gresham (1967, 61, Fig. 28 reproduced as Fig. 5 *overleaf*) record the route of Ffordd Du as it runs in a roughly north-easterly direction from the coast towards Dolgellau, passing Waenfach Standing Stone (71). The route, which appears to follow the alignment of the existing road as it passes between the standing stone and the study area, may have led inland from the suggested port at the mouth of the Afon Dysynni. The route of the former foot-trail or packhorse route as it extends northeast of the village of Llanegryn is now metalled and follows the eastern edge of Cwm-llwyd (NPRN 500881).



Cropmark evidence

4.7 South and west of the study area, and along the coast and the Dysynni valley, land has been cleared since prehistory and enclosed into a network of small fields. While this may have removed above-ground archaeology, aerial reconnaissance since the mid-1970s has recovered cropmark evidence of an important settlement at Bryn-Crug on the Afon Dysynni valley floor at c.9mOD (NPRNs 406372 & 275900; Crew & Musson 1996, 12). The cropmark complex was first recorded by Professor J.K. St Joseph during an exceptional season of drought in the mid-1970s (AP BUB 59) and has been the subject of surveillance by RCAHMW since the 1990s. The most prominent features are near circular enclosures, possibly late-prehistoric settlement enclosures or earlier ritual or ceremonial monuments located in the north-eastern area of cropmarks. The features, none of which appear above ground in the pasture, appear to represent roundhouses, property and / or field boundaries, or alternatively ceremonial features. The aerial reconnaissance has resulted in the cropmark area being designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monuments extending to 2.3 hectares (SAM ME 106). The study area indicates that prehistoric settlement was not restricted to the upland regions, where the bulk of the evidence now exists.

4.8 Although photographic evidence captured during aerial reconnaissance by the RCAHMW since the 1990s and by the OS in the 1970s has been examined at the National Monuments Record (NMR), no features are recorded on

the proposed school site other than evidence of the former field boundary that sub-divided the plot as recorded since the 19th century (Fig. 6 & Plate 1).

The Iron Age

4.9 *c.*1.6km west of the study area, the Iron Age known as Castell-mawr occupies a defensive position on a spur of land at *c.*100mOD immediately south of Castell-mawr farmstead (NPRN & PRN 93758). The oval earthworks of the fort form Scheduled Ancient Monument ME 073 GWY. Monuments of this kind are generally attributed to the Iron Age (*c.*1,000BC-AD50), although many continued to be occupied throughout the Roman period, as Iron Age tribes adapted willingly into living alongside the Romans. Relatively few hillforts in Wales have been the focus of modern archaeological excavations. While their earthworks suggest a defensive nature, perhaps providing protection from attack during raids and local warfare, they are equally as likely to have been used as stock enclosures or farms occupied by small family groups. Whatever, its original function, Castell-mawr hillfort serves to show continuity of settlement in the area of Llanegryn into the 1st century AD.

The Roman period from *c.*77AD

4.10 The Iron Age tribe known as the Ordovices inhabited northwest Wales at the time of the Roman invasion. The Romans eventually made their mark in 77AD establishing a series of marcher camps and forts to control the major arterial routes through the mountains of Snowdonia. The most significant of the Roman forts has survived at Segontium near the town of Caernarfon, where the remains represent the former Roman administrative centre that continued until the end of the 4th century AD.

4.11 The straight roads typical of Roman construction were not easily achieved over the mountains of Snowdonia. Crew and Musson (1996, 31) comment on the number of aerial photographs that have been taken in trying to establish the route of the Roman road going west over Cader Idris. The search continues but this route is likely to have followed part of the route of Ffordd Ddu (para 4.6 *previous*).

4.12 To date there are no findspots recorded from the Roman period from the area of the village, but the potential for the recovery of Roman artefacts is generally high.

Post-Roman – early Christian

4.13 Evidence for the period between the departure of the Romans and the Norman Invasion of 1066 in Wales in general has generally come from documentary sources or in the form of inscribed stones such as the pillar stone, incised with the outline of a Maltese cross built into the south wall of the Parish Church at Llanegryn. The pillar is thought to be of 7th to 9th century date and presumably associated with an early Christian church at this site (PRN 4918). The present Parish Church St. Egryn and St. Mary, located *c.*700m north of the study area and northwest of the village, dates from the mid-13th century at least (PRN 6971 & NPRN 43890).

4.14 The principal divisions of Wales were formed by the four principalities, with Llanegryn lying within Gwynedd, comprising the mountainous region based on the Snowdonia massif and the island of Anglesey, much as it does today.

Post-1066

4.15 The Norman invasion of Wales began gradually after 1066 under William the Conqueror. As the Normans advanced west, they built their traditional ‘castles’ in the form of a motte surmounted by a wooden keep. *c.*1.3m south of the study area, the earthwork mound of Domen Ddreiniog, also known as Talybont Castle mound (NPRN 302714 & PRN 1740), survives at a former bridging point on the bank of the Afon Dysynni, downstream of the present Pont Dysynni (NPRN 24180). The near circular mound may have been associated with a *llys* or principal court of the Princes of Gwynedd with the *maerdref* located in the vicinity of the farm still known as Tal-y-bont. Northwest Wales was divided into administrative areas known as *commotes*, and each *commote* had its own royal court or *llys*. The

township in which the *llys* was located was referred to as the *maerdref* (the *maer* being the king's agent in the *commote*). Within the *maerdref*, land was worked by tenant farmers. The history of Domen Ddreiniog can only be based on comparison to similar constructions elsewhere. It may have been built by the Normans during the phase of expansion, and destroyed, or taken over by the Welsh towards the end of the 11th century. The meander of the river north-east of the motte provides an ideal defensive site. However, even if the loop was there in mediaeval times, the enclosed land would be wet and subject to violent floods and possibly unsuitable. It may have been that when the mound was constructed there was a similar meander at the base of the mound, forming a bailey suitable for the safe keeping of horses, at least in the dryer months

4.16 After initial success, Norman control in northwest Wales ended. Llewelyn Fawr (Llewelyn the Great), became Prince of Wales in 1194, drove the English from North Wales in 1212 and conquered the town of Shrewsbury in 1215. The Princes of Gwynedd were finally conquered by Edward I during late 13th century campaigns and the prominent stone coastal castles that survive today were built to maintain English rule in North Wales. The principality of Gwynedd was subsequently divided into the new shires of Anglesey, Caernarfon and Meirionnydd.

Medieval period

4.17 The medieval tithes of Llanegryn Parish were paid to Cymer Abbey, founded in 1198-9 near Dolgellau, under the patronage of Maredudd ap Cynan, then the Lord of Meirionnydd, and his brother Gruffyd. It was colonised by a community of monks from Abbey Cwmhir in Radnorshire. The nucleus of the abbey lands was located on the banks of the Mawddach. Away from these lands the monks farmed the surrounding uplands where they established Granges to be worked by lay brothers, of which Llanegryn was one. The Abbey and the Granges survived until the Dissolution of the Monasteries after 1536. The Abbey was small and never reached the grandeur of most Cistercian monasteries.

4.18 The poor state of the monastery may have been reflected in this area of Wales in general. The survival of the average family within the community of Llanegryn during the medieval period depended on agriculture. The church was both the religious and social centre of medieval communities. At Llanegryn, it doubtless remained so until the establishment of three chapels in the village in the 19th century. The medieval nobility and gentry fared somewhat better, particularly as former monastic lands were incorporated into private estates.

Late-medieval / Post-medieval estates

4.19 In the late-medieval to post-medieval period, several grand dwellings were built in the Afon Dysanni valley. c.1.4km east-north-east of the study area, the existing Grade II Listed dwelling at Peniarth had its origins in a dwelling known as 'Plas Peniarth', for which there is a fifteenth century poetic reference (NPRN 28633). The earlier house was enlarged by Richard Owen around 1700, and subsequently set within the surrounding parkland. Peniarth was the ancient estate of the Owen family, who trace their descendents to Llewelyn the Great. The house passed by marriage to the Wynne's of Wern, Portmadoc. The later William Watkin Edward Wynne MP (1801-1880) became a distinguished antiquary and collector, inheriting and adding to the Peniarth Manuscripts, the most important collection of Welsh manuscripts, now housed in the National Library of Wales. Wynne published extensively in *Archaeologia Cambrensis* including a history of the Parish of Llanegryn in 1879.

4.20 In Bryn-Crug Parish, c.3km southeast of the study area, the 17th century dwelling known as Dolau-gwyn includes two heraldic shields; one inscribed 'L.G.A.G 1628', for Lewis and Anne Gwynne, corroborating evidence in an inventory dated 1620 that mentions 'a new house for Lewis Gwynne in the Parish of Tywyn called Dole Gwyn' (RCAHMW site notes). The second records 'G.N A.N. NANNEY 1656' recording the Nanney connection. Dolau-gwyn is considered to be one of the best examples of an early 17th century Squire's house in Merionethshire (NPRN 28341).

4.21 c.3km south of the study area, a prominent 15th century dwelling at Ynysmaengwyn was burnt following the Civil War in 1656. It was restored and passed by marriage to the Corbet family of Morton Corbet, Shropshire. The house was rebuilt in 1758 (NPRN 54223) but was unfortunately demolished in the 1960s. The development of the estate at Ynysmaengwyn had a significant impact on the landscape of the Afon Dysanni. Edwin Corbet, the late 18th century owner of the estate, made intensive agricultural improvements transforming wasteland into productive farmland by considerable land reclamation and drainage schemes.

4.22 The 17th and 18th centuries appear to have seen an increase in settlement and use of the road network linking the villages either side of the river. A modern bridge now carries the A493 over the Afon Dysanni, but its predecessor, survives upstream (NPRN 24180). The grade II Listed 18th century stone bridge was presumably constructed shortly after the road was turnpike in 1784, providing an important river crossing.

Early to mid-19th century

4.23 Samuel Lewis writing in 1833 records the population of Llanegryn Parish as 764 inhabitants and the extent of the Parish as ‘about ten thousand acres, part of which is mountainous land, while some is so low as to be subject to occasional inundation’. About three-fifths of the land is unenclosed and uncultivated while the remainder is comparatively fertile and in a good state of cultivation.

4.24 The village of Llanegryn itself was presumably the main area of settlement at this time, with properties scattered along the street frontage. The 1842 Tithe map (Fig. 6 *overleaf*) provides the first detailed evidence of the extent of the village and of the study area. The tithe records the two fields that form the proposed school site as Apportionments 636 and 637. Apportionment 636 is of unrecorded size and its name is indecipherable. Apportionment 637 forms 5 acres, 1 rood and 2 perches of land recorded as ‘Lletty y Dyfrigi’, interpreted as ‘dwelling of the otter’. Both tithe fields appear to have their existing ditch / watercourse boundaries, which would provide a suitable habitat or corridor for otters. It has to be noted, however, that no evidence of otters were recorded during the Environmental Survey undertaken by Gritten Ecology as part of the scoping for the proposed new school (Gritten 2011).

4.25 Both fields are part of Waenfach lands, as they still are today. The Waenfach estate is owned by the Reverend Robert Owen and let to Isaac Thomas, presumably the tenant farmer. Wynn writing in 1879 (p.114) refers to Waenfach as one of the oldest properties in the Parish under the ownership of the Owen family for many years. Wynn traces the ownership to a Lewis Owen in 1717, the first of the family to style himself ‘of Waenfach’, although the family may have lived there well before that date. Waenfach land includes Apportionment 659, the field in which the Waenfach standing stone is located.

4.26 Apportionment 638, recorded as Cefn Coch Cottages and gardens, represents the present bed and breakfast property that stands opposite the study area today. Cefn Coch appears to have its origins as a coaching inn serving the turnpike road and the present owners state on their website that it is recorded as being the last tavern in the village of Llanegryn. The cottage was part of the Peniarth estate of the Wynns in 1842.

4.27 The 1842 map shows the old alignment of the coastal road from Tywyn to Dolgellau, as it passes Apportionments 636 and 637; the alignment of the road into the village from the coastal road; and the alignment of the track from Glanymorfa Bach into the village, which has subsequently been modified. The 1842 track from Glanymorfa Bach formed the northeast boundary of the study area and Apportionment 636. The tithe also records the stream boundary that follows the east side of Apportionments 636 and 637; the stream continues to run alongside the eastern boundary of the study area.

4.28 No estate maps for Waenfach have been located as part of the current search, but the 1867 Sale Plan of Glanymorfa and adjacent lands in the Parish of Llanegryn (Fig. 7 *following*) shows the tithe Apportionment 636 on the boundary of Glanymorfa land. The map is recorded as one of several that form the particulars of the Sale of The Pale Estate belonging to Thomas Wright Hill. The Pale Estate, Llandderfel, near Bala, was purchased in its entirety in 1869 by Henry Robertson (1816-1888), the prominent civil engineer, ironmaster and coal-master whose interests revolved around mining and railway engineering and construction.

4.29 The Sale Plan records Apportionment 636 in the latter years of its ownership by Reverend Owen. When Owen died childless at his estate in Rhyd-y-bill near Ruthin, Waenfach came into the ownership of Evan Garnons-Lloyd (b.1806), the son of Reverend William William Lloyd of Blaen-y-Glyn, Merionethshire. Garnons-Lloyd married Caroline Janette Gordon and they owned and lived at Waenfach in 1879 according to Wynn’s history (1879, 114 & Griffiths 1914). Caroline was the daughter of Admiral Sir James Alexander Gordon, KCB, RN (1782 –1869), a distinguished British officer in the Royal Navy. Trade directories, however, record Ann Thomas farming at Waenfach in the 1870s and the Williams family by the 1890s, perhaps indicating a short stay at Waenfach by the Garnons-Lloyd.

Ordnance Survey mapping

4.30 Ordnance Survey mapping since the end of 19th century provides an accurate record of the study area and its environs from this date. The OS map published in 1891 and the 1902 edition (Figs 8 & 9 *following*) shows how little the village and the surrounding landscape have changed in the *c.*50 years since the Tithe record. The study area still comprises the two fields recorded by the tithe but the northeast boundary had changed as the track from Glanmorfa Bach has been altered to its present alignment. North of the study area, Cefn-Coch is recorded as a Hotel alongside the coastal road which continues south to cross the 18th century bridge (NPRN 24180) over the Afon Dysynni. Waenfach standing stone (PRN 4796) is recorded, showing its prominence in the late 19th century landscape. The enclosed fields that surround the village remain much as they were recorded by the tithe in 1842.

4.31 By the end of the 19th century, the village has expanded. The OS clearly record the three Welsh chapels (NPRNs 8455 – 8457) in 1900, but outside the village the agricultural landscape is unchanged. The 1953 OS map (Fig. 10) records the village much as it was in 1900. The study area itself has remained unchanged in a period of over 100 years, since the tithe record.

4.32 Changes to the study area and its immediate environs have only occurred recently with the construction of the new alignment of the A483, which left a section of the old road as a lay-by alongside Cefn Coch and the enclosed area set-aside on the opposite corner adjacent to the study area. In recent years, housing has taken in part of the former Tithe Apportionment 636 and the dividing hedgeline between the two tithe fields has been removed. Otherwise in a period of over 150 years since the tithe record, there has been little change to the study area or field patterns that surround the village as a whole.

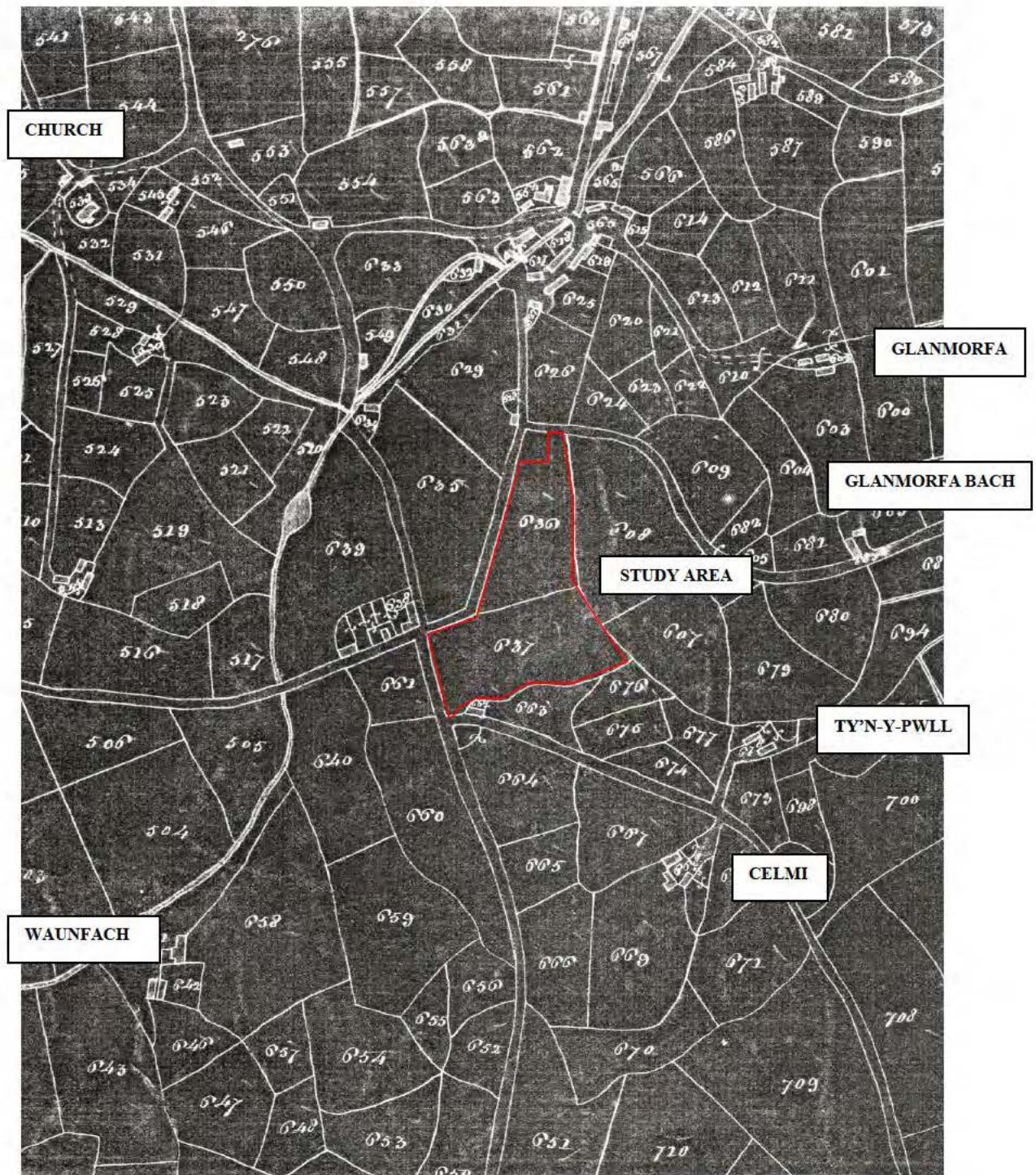


Fig. 6 1842 Tithe Map

with approx. study area boundary in red

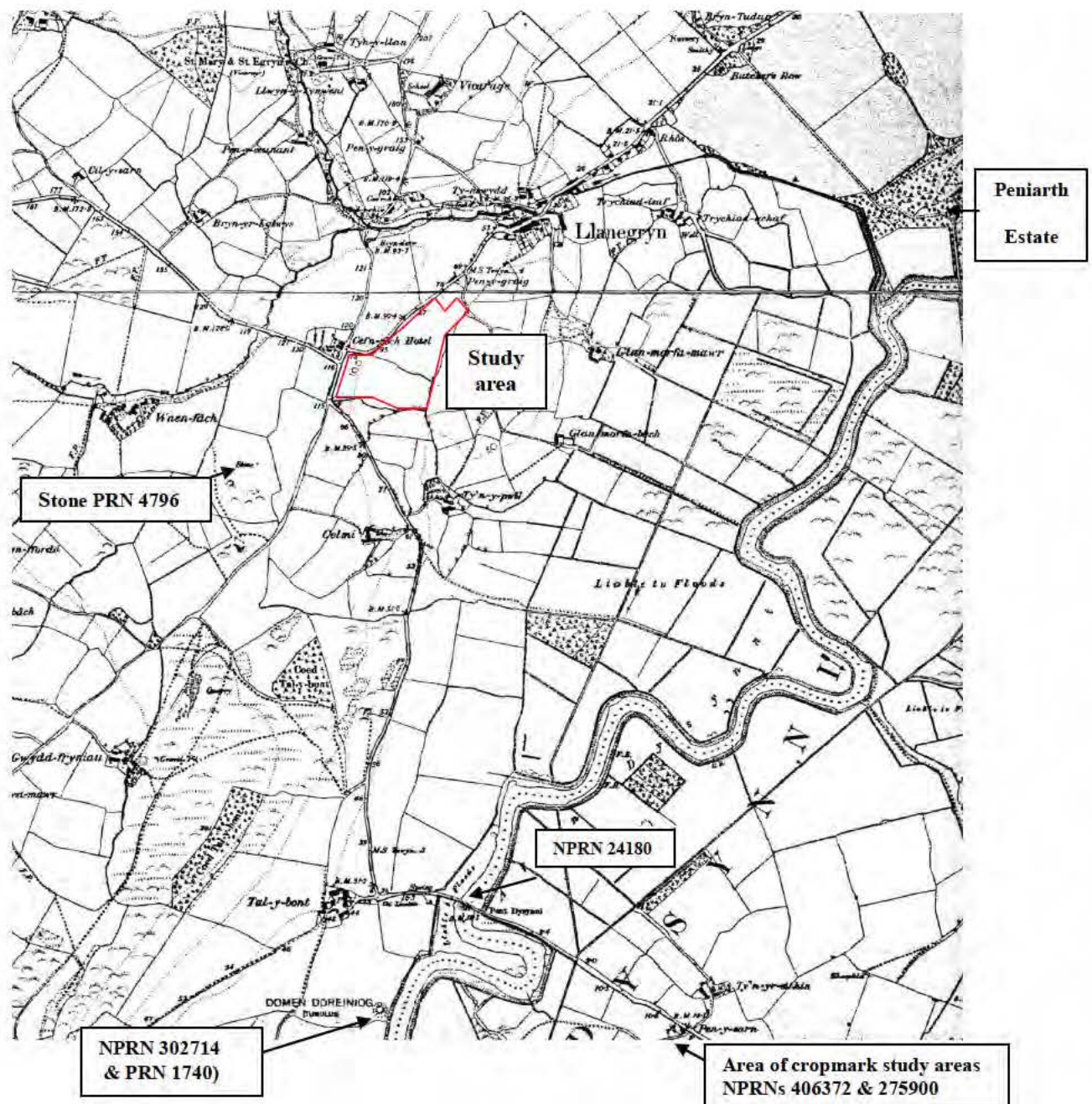


Fig. 8 1891 edition OS Map, Surveyed 1886-7

with approx. study area boundary in red

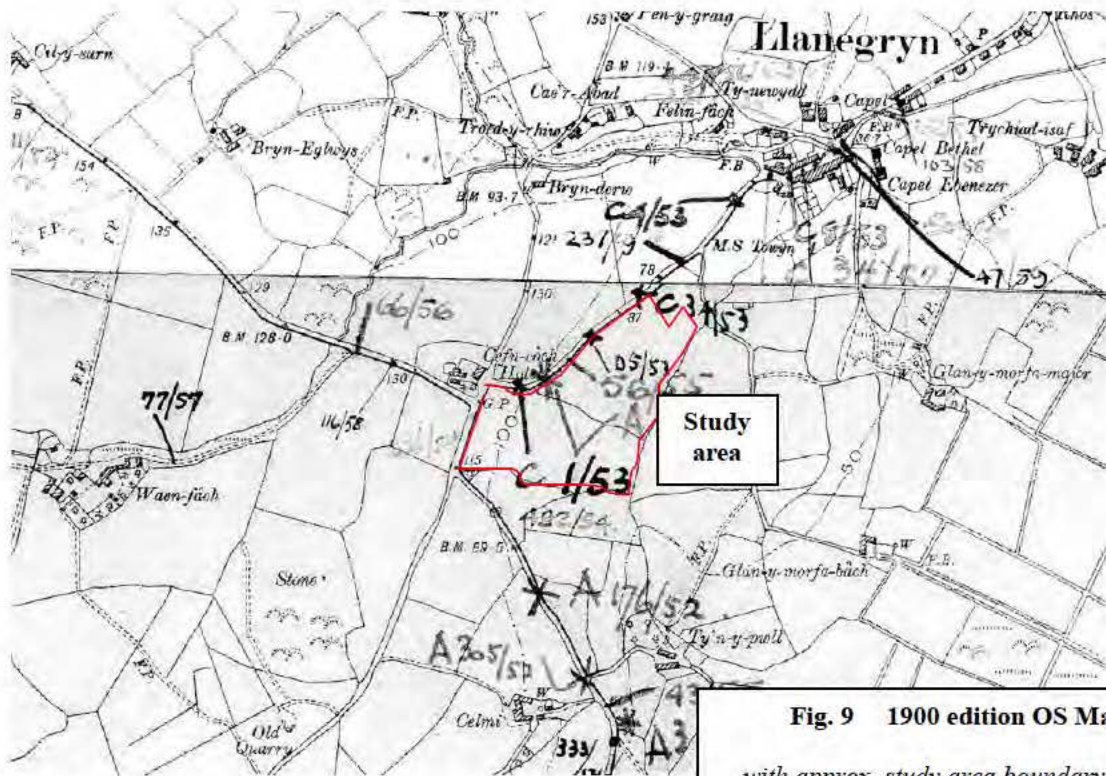


Fig. 9 1900 edition OS Map

with approx. study area boundary in red

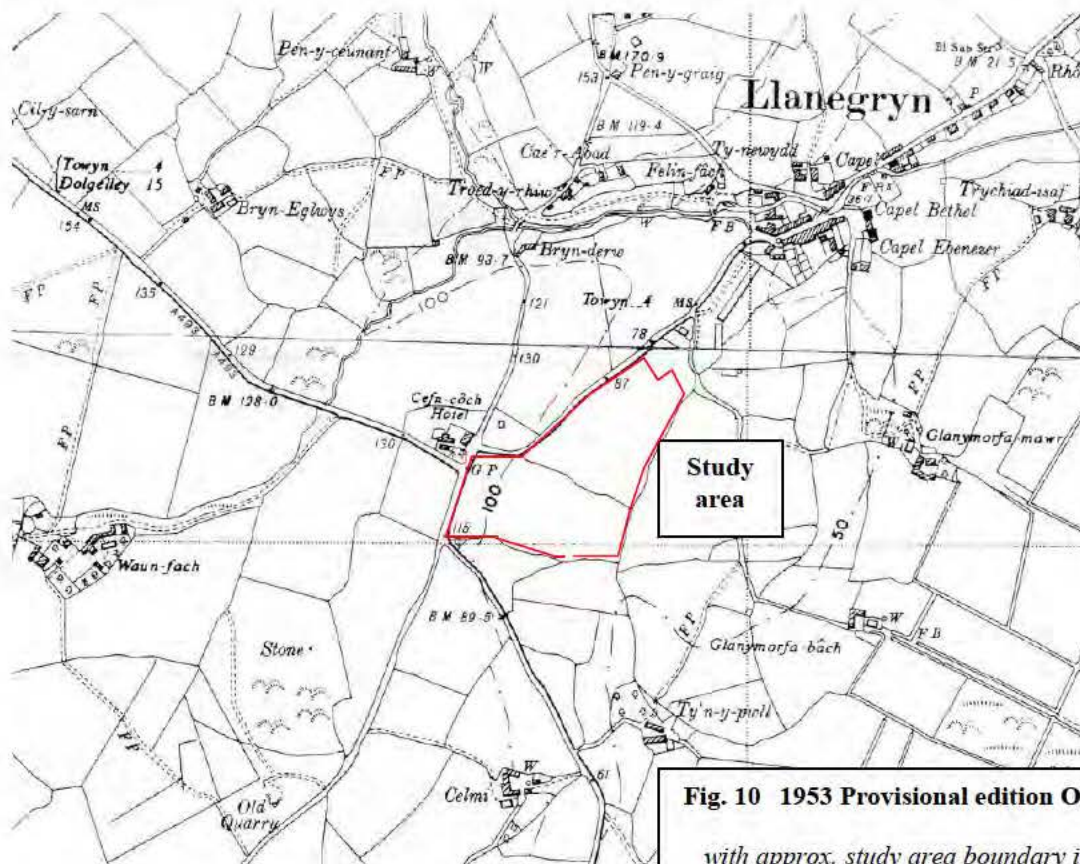


Fig. 10 1953 Provisional edition OS Map

with approx. study area boundary in red

5. THE EXISTING STUDY AREA

5.1 The study area comprises a single roughly triangular open field of improved pasture which is currently used for grazing. The western boundary is formed by the hedge that separates the field from the picnic area created by the line of the old road (Plate 2). The boundary continues towards the northwest where a gated entrance is set into the iron fenceline (Plate 3). The north-western boundary continues towards the village as an embanked hedge retained by an irregular stone wall along the road side (Plates 4 & 5). The wall is of unknown date and has doubtless been rebuilt several times in the past. The wall continues towards the modern housing that abuts the north side of the study area.

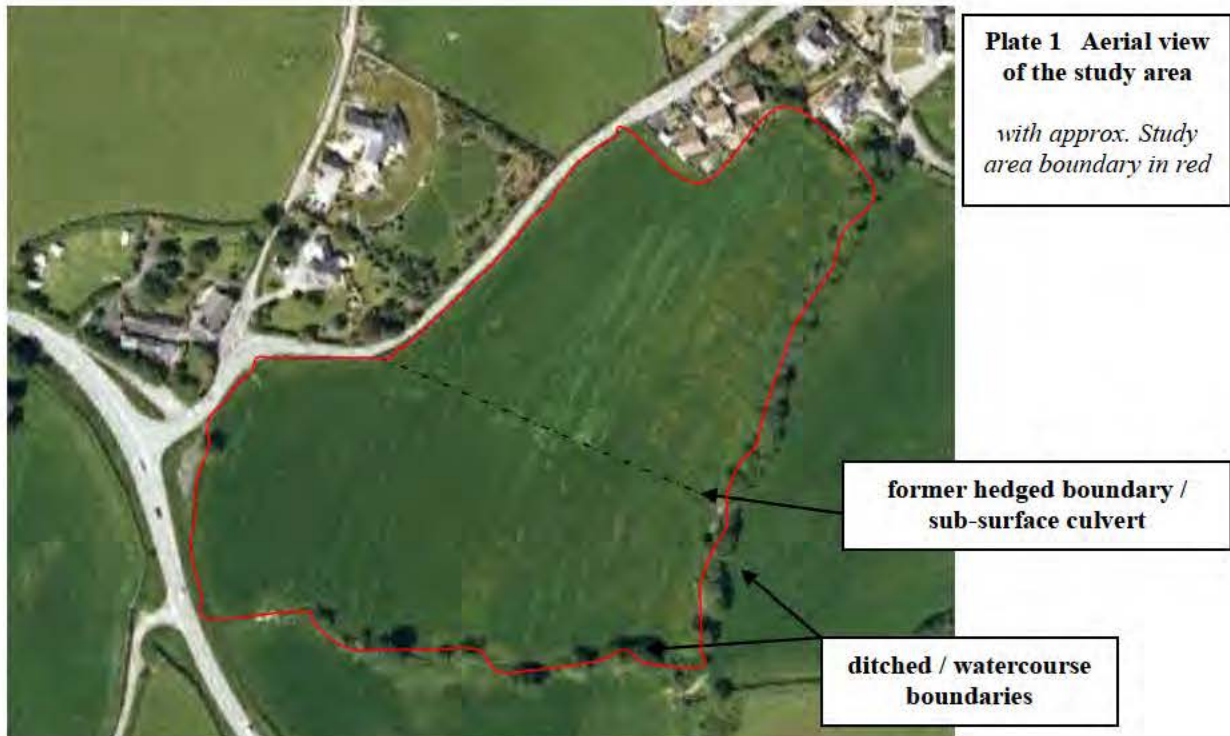
5.2 The eastern boundary is formed by an embanked hedge which abuts a broad watercourse / drainage ditch that follows the boundary (Plate 6). The southern hedged boundary with a shallow drainage ditch to either side is also interspersed with mature trees and shrubs. Further grazing lands extend beyond the east and south boundaries.

5.3 The study area field slopes gently downwards from the north-west towards the eastern boundary and the watercourse. Beyond this the land slopes gently towards the broad flat glaciated valley of the Afon Dysynni.

5.4 No above ground archaeological features are evident on the study area.

Sub-surface evidence – Geotechnical data

5.5 A sub-surface modern drainage culvert appears to have been inserted when the boundary was removed between the two fields recorded since the tithe map in 1842 to create the present open field. The former boundary and assumed location of the culvert is clearly seen from the air (Plate 1 *below*). The approximate location of the culvert was recorded and mapped by the *Geotechnical Feasibility Report* (2010) undertaken as part of the scoping for the proposed new school, based on information provided by the land-owner (reproduced as Fig. 11 *following*). In addition, the Feasibility Report comments on the existence of field drains on the lower areas of the study area falling towards the eastern watercourse boundary, which have been corroborated in *ArchaeoPhysica*'s survey (Fig. 12 *following*).



5.6 The underlying solid geology of the study area comprises Ordovician mudstones of the T'yr Gawen Formation, overlain by deposits of glacial till (BGS 1995).

5.7 The geology of the study area was tested during ground investigations undertaken by Strata Surveys in November 2010 on behalf of Gwynedd Council, when five trial pits were mechanically excavated. The results form the basis of the *Geotechnical Feasibility Report* (2010) and the overall results are included in this report in order to inform any potential further archaeological works. The location of the trial pits are recorded on Fig. 11.

5.8 The trial pits in general conformed to the data recorded by the British Geological Survey (1995). In general grass overlies light brown fine to medium sandy topsoil recorded as extending to 0.2mbgl and 0.6mbgl. Topsoil sealed firm grey to brown sandy gravelly clay interpreted as glacial till. The clay was recorded to depths in excess of 3.0mbgl in TP2 and TP3. TP1 was terminated at 2.4mbgl when a hard obstruction was encountered, the nature of which is unrecorded but assumed to be bedrock. Trial Pits 1 - 3 are sited slightly east of the linear feature recently recorded by *ArchaeoPhysica Ltd* (para 5.12 & Fig. 12 *following*).

5.9 A layer of glacial sands and gravels was recorded at depths of 0.7mbgl and 1.2mbgl within the glacial till in TP1, TP2 and TP3 along the lower part of the study area. The gravel was recorded as predominantly mudstone with occasional quartz and iron stained mudstone. Partially decayed wood fragments were also recorded. Groundwater seeped into TP1, TP2, and TP3 on the lower slopes of the field.

5.10 In TP4 and TP5 on the higher ground, mudstone was encountered below the glacial till. In TP5 bluish-grey mudstone was encountered at 1.9mbgl. In TP4 weathered rock was found directly below the sandy topsoil at 0.60mbgl and the excavation stopped at 1.50mbgl because of the hard nature of the rock. Trial Pits 4 and 5 are sited northwest of the linear feature recently recorded by *ArchaeoPhysica Ltd* (paras 5.12 – 5.13 & Fig. 12 *following*).

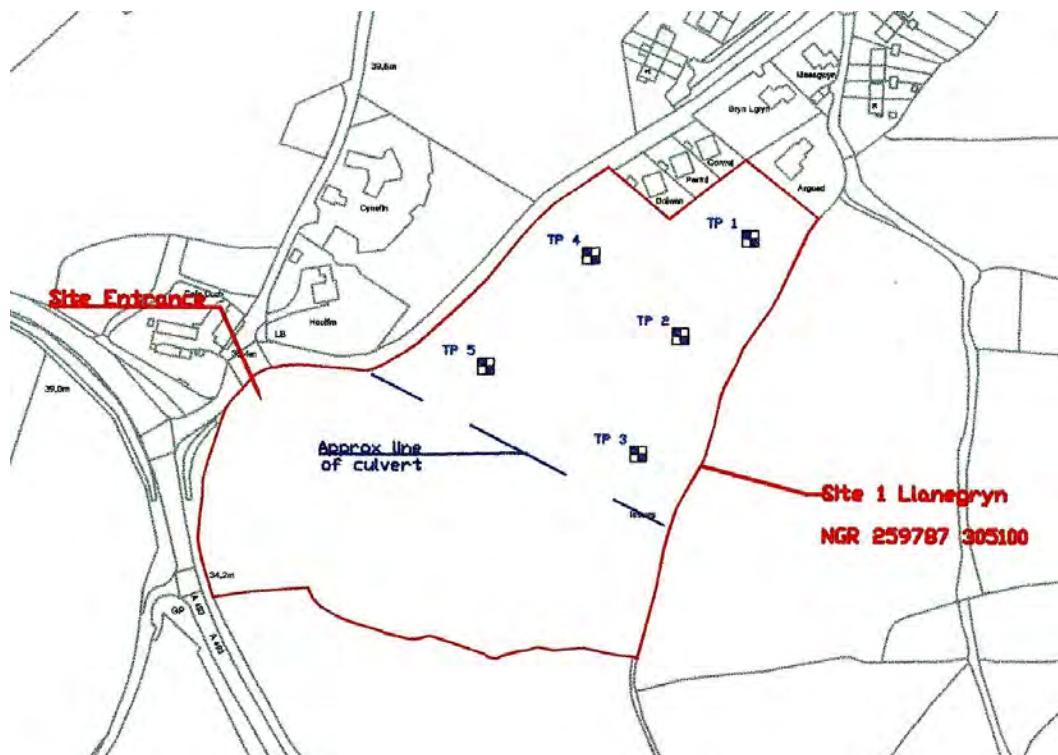


Fig. 11 Trial Pit locations & approximate line of culvert
after Gwynedd Consultancy, 2010, Drawing No. 3249/G1/07

Sub-surface evidence – Magnetic survey data

5.11 The recent magnetic survey undertaken at the request of Castlering Archaeology, as part of the scoping for the proposed new school, has produced significant evidence of sub-surface features on the site.

5.12 The detailed results are recorded by *ArchaeoPhysica Ltd Report No. LEG121* (February 2012) and the data is recorded on Fig. 12 *overleaf*, with permission of *ArchaeoPhysica Ltd*. Fig. 12 records numerous sub-surface features, perhaps the most interesting lying on a northeast to southwest axis across the field. The linear feature (3) entering the site from the northeast is interpreted as a possible road, which may have continued across the length of the site. On the southwest side, the road may be perpetuated by the line of a former field boundary (8), which the magnetic data suggests may have incorporated a stream or ditch. The north-eastern section of the road is ditched on both sides (2 & 4).

5.13 The possible road feature (3) is separated from the possible former field boundary (12) by evidence of the northwest to southeast former field boundary (8) recorded by the tithe in 1842 (Fig. 6 *previous*).

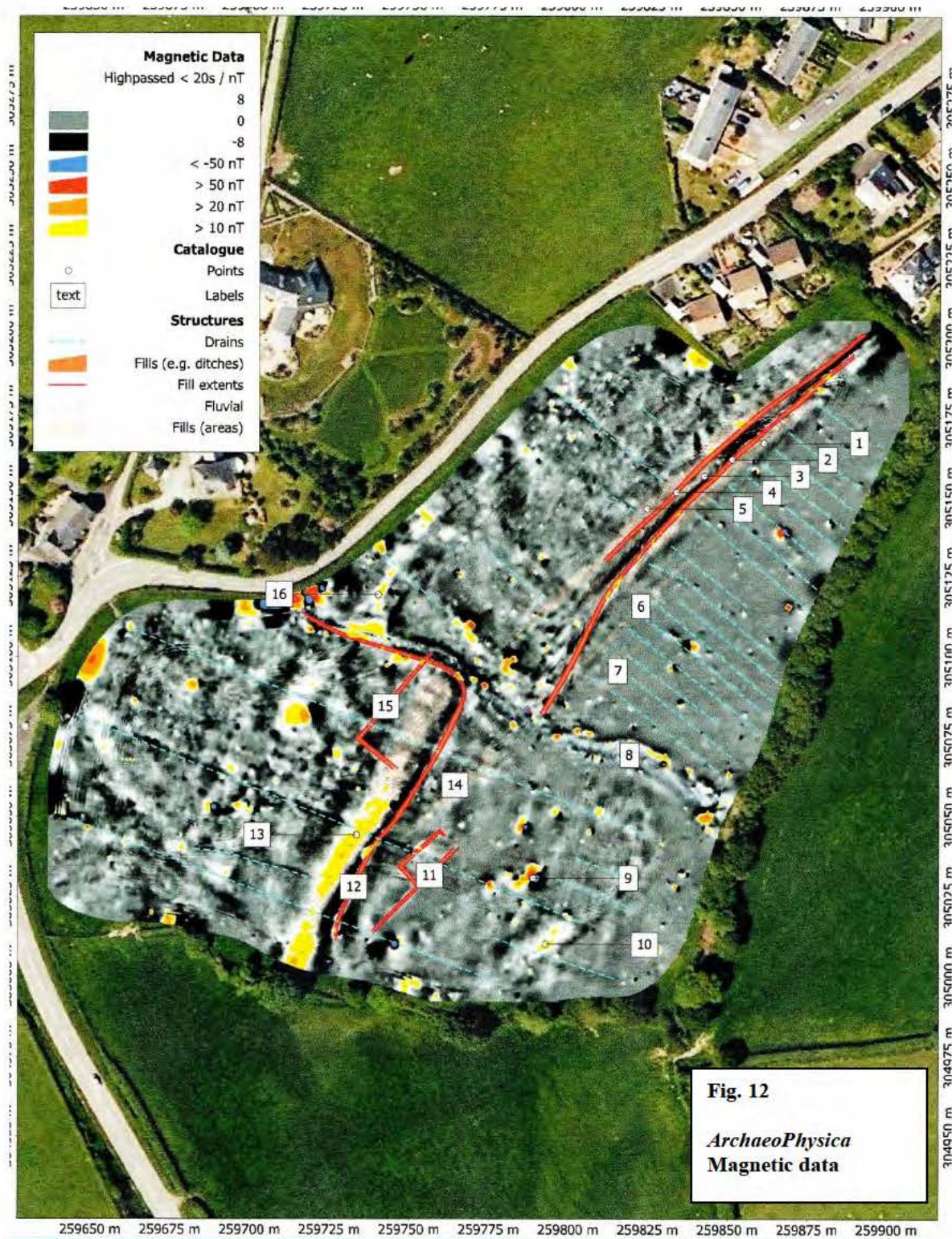
5.14 The alignment of field boundary (8) is partly followed by a second former field boundary (12) that turns away south-westwards in a mid-field position.

5.15 Southeast of the former field boundary (8) and either side of field boundary (12), a complex of enclosures is recorded defined by features 11 and 15, located on a level area of the present field.

5.16 *ArchaeoPhysica Ltd* also notes that possible colluvium (13) might suggest that at least the higher regions of the field have been cultivated in the past.

5.17 Southeast of the linear features (principally 3 & 12) numerous land drains extending downslope towards the existing south-eastern boundary and watercourse. In the north-eastern sector, the drains appear to be fairly intensive in nature and are probably all of modern date. The lower portions of the field in general are particularly waterlogged at present. Elsewhere broader areas of drainage have been recorded over the entire site.

5.18 None of these features are evident above ground.



LEG121 Llanegryn, Gwynedd
DWG 04 Catalogue



ArchaeoPhysica Ltd

Orthographic Centre X: 259771.67 m Centre Y: 305112.20 m Scale: 1:1500 @ A4 Spatial Units: Meter. Do not scale off this drawing
 File: LEG121.map from PERSEPOLIS 18/2/2012 Copyright ArchaeoPhysica Ltd 2012 OS OpenData Crown Copyright & Database Right 2012



Plate 2:

**Study area viewed
from the northwest
corner picnic area**



Plate 3:

**Study area viewed
from the southwest**



Plate 4:

**Iron railed boundary
to the minor road into
the village;
viewed from the east
towards Cefn-coch**



Plate 5:

Stone retaining wall and hedged boundary along the minor road into the village; viewed from the southwest



Plate 6:

Stone retaining wall, sample section



Plate 7 left:

Watercourse / ditch boundary to the east side

Plate 8 right:

Bank, hedge and watercourse / ditch southern boundary; viewed from the west



6. THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE

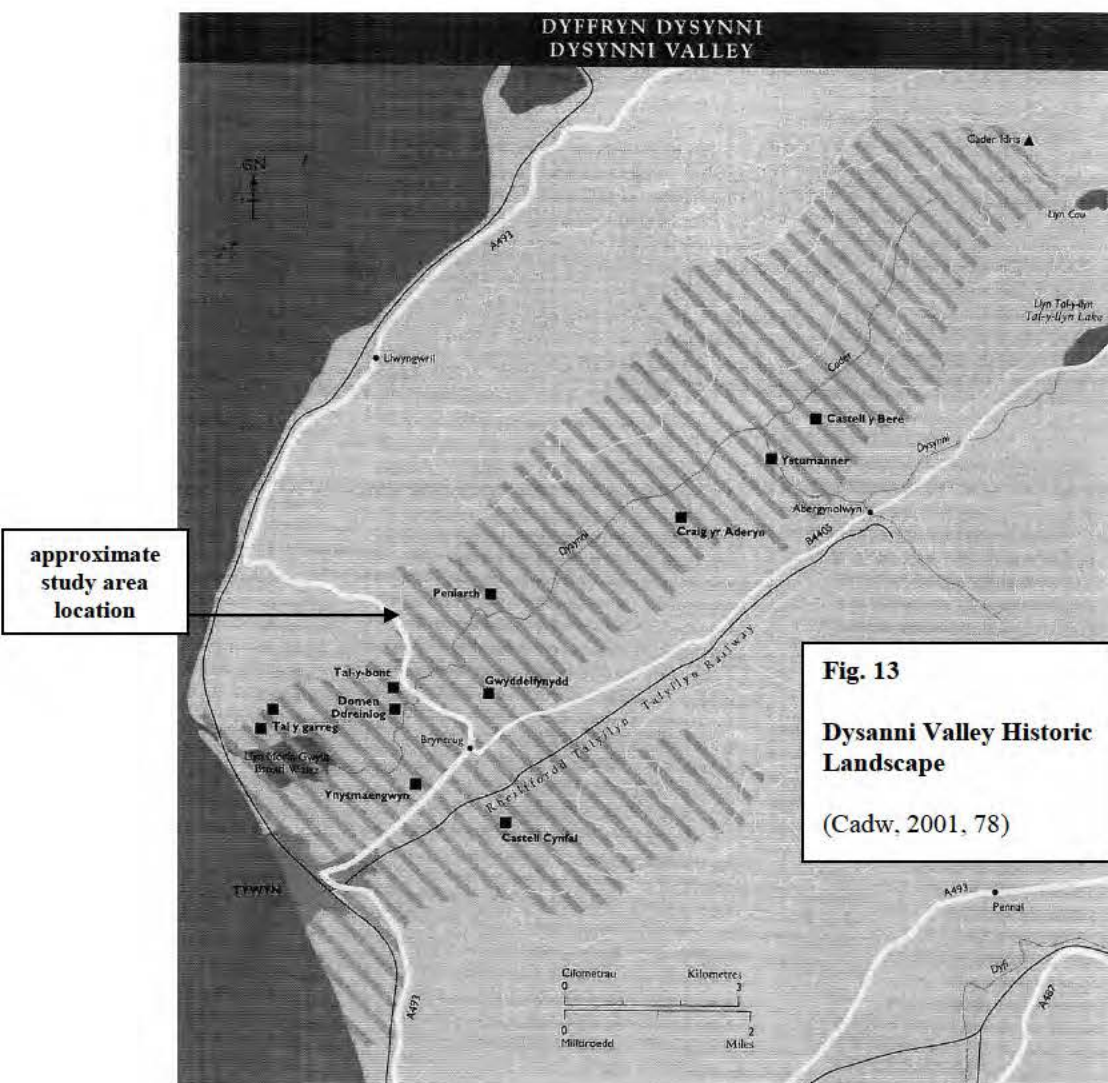
6.1 Land to the north and north-east of the study area and the village of Llanegryn rises to the mountainous areas that form part of the Cader Idris massif. To the northeast and west the land extends to the coast and to the south and east the land slopes towards the valley of the Afon Dysanni.

6.2 The study area and the village of Llanegryn form part of Dysanni Valley Historic Landscape (HLW (GW) 17) recorded on the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (Cadw, 2001, 74-79). The non-statutory Register of Landscapes is the result of a pan-Wales project sponsored by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, the Countryside Council for Wales and ICOMOS UK, in order to raise awareness of the importance and wealth of the historic fabric of a landscape.

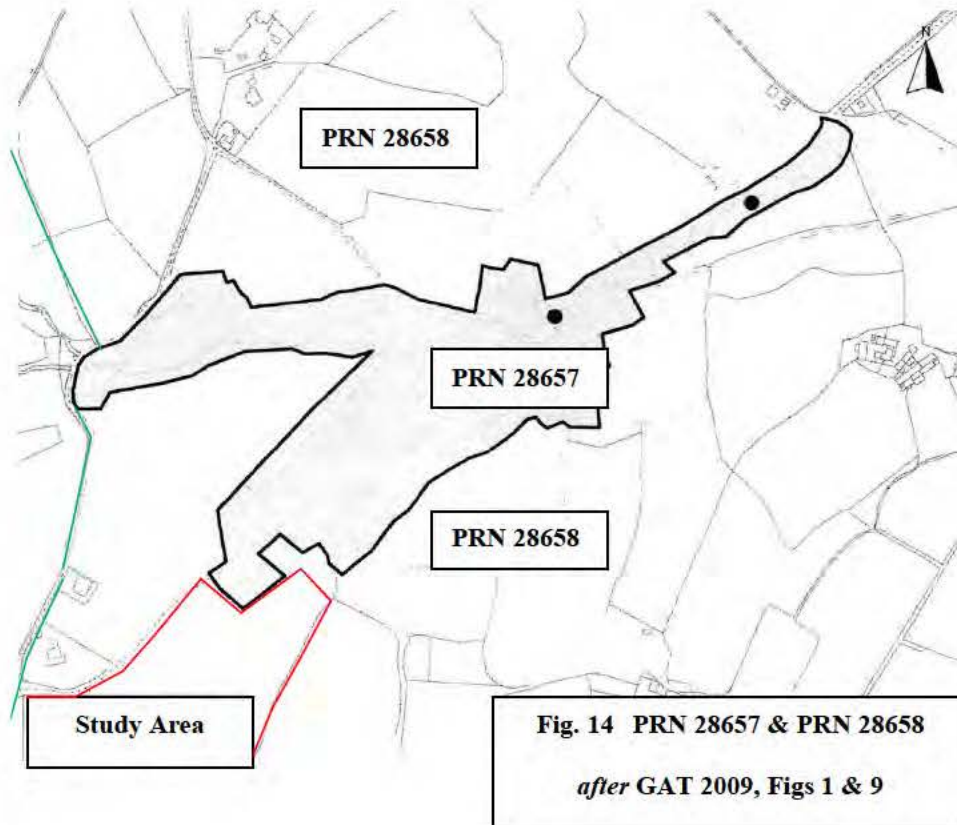
6.3 In brief, the Register records the Dysanni Valley landscape as including

cropmarks of hidden, possibly prehistoric settlements; Iron-Age hillforts; a centre of early Christian activity (*at Tywyn*); medieval earthworks and masonry defensive sites *and* two of the finest post-medieval gentry estates in Meirionnydd

(Cadw, 2001, 79 & Fig. 13 below)



6.4 Within the Historic Landscape Register, the village of Llanegryn is recorded as PRN 28657, as a component of the Historic Landscape, and the study area lies on the edge of the village within PRN 28658, part of the area described as the enclosed northern slopes of the valley (Fig. 14). PRN 28658 extends down-slope towards the valley but also includes land north of the village (east of the green boundary *below*).



6.5 The study area lies southeast of the linear settlement of the village recorded as PRN 28657. Current plans indicate the school will be sited on the northeast side of the plot adjacent to late 20th century housing and is therefore unlikely to have any impact on the character of the village itself. Listed buildings within the village, principally the chapels, are located at the northeast end of the village and will not be impacted on by the proposed development.

6.6 The proposed site for the new school is, however, part of an extensive post-medieval agricultural landscape, which has remained relatively unchanged since the 1840s tithe record, if not longer.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 The proposed development has allowed for an initial insight into the archaeological potential of the study area. The desk-based assessment has highlighted the history of settlement going back to prehistoric times, showing that the paucity of above ground archaeology from this period on the lower valley slopes of the Dysanni is not an indication of lack of settlement. The proximity of the Waenfach standing stone to the study area and the cropmark evidence in the lower part of the valley at Brynchrug indicates that further evidence of occupation dating from the prehistoric period may await discovery in this area.

7.2 In general, the environs of the study area contain diverse archaeological evidence of human settlement from prehistoric times to the recent past. In particular, the desk-based study has highlighted evidence of settlement during the Iron-Age at Castell-mawr hillfort c.1.6km west of the study area; early Christian activity in the form of the incised stone set into Llanegryn church wall; the medieval motte alongside the Afon Dysanni at Talybont c.1.3km south of the study area and the post-medieval gentry estates, for example Peniarth c.1.4km east-north-east of the study area, that had a significant impact on the landscape.

7.3 While the study area displays no above ground evidence of archaeology, the rubblestone wall that retains the hedged boundary fronting the road on the northeast side of the site is of unknown age. The wall is part of the local character of the village. The wall is to be taken down and the stone retained for rebuilding. While the wall may not be of sufficient importance to justify a recommendation for its preservation, it is nevertheless worthy of recording in its present form, prior to any construction works.

7.4 The large open field of pasture that comprises the study area is the result of enclosure and land improvement undertaken over several centuries since the beginnings of agriculture. The field and the surrounding landscape have changed to meet the needs of successive landowners and farmers.

7.5 The study area gives no above-ground indication of the extensive evidence indicating buried archaeological deposits, recorded by the total magnetic field survey recently undertaken by *ArchaeoPhysica Ltd* (February 2012). The survey has produced evidence of what appears to be a former road with a possible small settlement or area of agricultural activity alongside it. Other than the former northwest to southeast boundary recorded by the tithe in 1842 and only removed in modern times, the features recorded by the magnetic survey are previously unrecorded. These features are therefore undated, although it can be safely said that they pre-date 1842.

7.6 There has been no recent archaeological fieldwork in or around the village of Llanegryn and the potential for buried archaeological remains to date was unknown. The new evidence is significant in archaeological terms and requires further investigation.

7.7 Archaeology is a non-renewable resource and the impact of construction works on any archaeology that may exist below ground would be considered to be substantial. A further programme of archaeological mitigation in order to evaluate the site would appear to be the appropriate response to the current study. An appropriate mitigation strategy for the site would allow for sufficient archaeological recording of potential below-ground remains and / or artefactual evidence. Appropriate mitigation, should be designed to ensure that the proposed development has a limited adverse impact on the archaeological resource of the site.

7.8 In terms of the proposed school and its setting, *The Register of Historic Landscapes* states that:

Landscapes will continue to change, and need to change, so the intention is not to fossilise them, or to prevent them from being altered, but rather to manage them in ways that will allow the key historic elements or characteristics from the past to be retained while still meeting modern needs

(Cadw: 2007, 9).

7.9 The proposed new school will have a further impact on the landscape. The design of the new school building has taken into account the character of the surrounding landscape and the visual impact that any development would have upon it. The proposed building is a primarily single storey structure with a sedum and wildflower roof covering, designed to nestle into the slopes of the field. The position of the school is designed to have a minimum impact on the historic landscape and views east towards the Afon Dysanni Valley, when approached by the A483. The hard and soft landscape plan (Fig. 4) also indicates that planting schemes are in place to ensure some screening of the site.

7.10 While the proposed new school will not directly visually impact on any archaeological features, the visual impact on the landscape is a key consideration. Current plans indicate that this has been taken into consideration.

7.11 This assessment can only be used as a guide to the potential of archaeological deposits and their survival, nature, extent and significance can only be established through systematic evaluation.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Castlering Archaeology would like to thank B3 Architects for initial contact in respect of the site; Gwynedd Council for contracting the work; John Roberts, Snowdonia National Park Archaeologist, for consultation in respect of the site; staff at Dolgellau Archives and the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, for their general assistance; Gwynedd Archaeological Trust and the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth for the provision of archaeological data. Thanks are also due to *ArchaeoPhysica Ltd* for their informative magnetic survey data and particularly to William Tudor Davies & Bethan Owen Davies, Waenfach, Llanegryn, the site owners, for the provision of access.

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9.2 Cartographic Sources

- 1842 Tithe map & apportionment for the Township of Llanegryn (Dolgellau Archives)
- 1867 Plan of Glanymorfa and adjacent lands situate in the Parish of Llanegryn (Particulars of Sale of The Pale Estate (ref/ NLW - WIAbNL 003325162)
- 1891 OS first edition 6" map, Merionethshire sheets 41SW & 46NW, surveyed 1886-7
- 1901 OS 6" map, Merionethshire sheets 41SW
- 1902 OS 6" map, Merionethshire sheets 46NW
- 1948 / 53 OS Provisional 1:10560 map, Merionethshire sheets 41SW & 46NW
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9.3 Aerial Photography (RCAHMW collection)

Cambridge University: BUB 59 (St. Joseph re. Bryn-Crug cropmarks)

OS Verticals dated 1976: Flight 76-120; Nos 78 & 79 (Llanegryn + Study area)

RCAHMW collection:

Llanegryn Motte: 935065/05: 2003/5046-54; 895007 (5)

Llanegryn Peniarth: 935065/04

Afon Dysanni old & new road & bridges: 895007 (6) (8-9) & (11); 2003/5046-53

Bryn-Crug cropmarks: 995043-52; 935065-06; 2003/5046-52; 955197-42; G100/94/22/35 (1995)

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APPENDIX 1 – KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

**HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORDS (PRNS)
& NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORDS (NPRN)**
PRN 4796 & NPRN 302715 Waenfach Standing Stone NGR: SH 5944 0487

Legal Protection: Scheduled Ancient Monument

Description:

Prehistoric standing stone at Waenfach, sited on gently rising ground. 1.9m high, 1.3m wide and 0.8m thick, with the longer axis aligned east to west; packing stones are clearly visible on the north side. The Waenfach standing stone is a large, impressive and well-preserved example of a ritual monument of the Early Bronze Age (c. 2000-1500 BC).

Sources:

Waenfach Standing Stone, Cadw Scheduling Papers, 2003

History of Merioneth, Bowen, E. G. & Gresham, C. A., 1967

Smith, G., 2001, Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Study areas Survey: Meirionnydd

PRN 4808 Celmi Farm Findspot NGR: SH 5970 0470

Description:

Pair of Neolithic stone axe found in September 1871 'in putting down a wall fence close to the house at Celmi Farm (Grimes 1951, 144). Axes of polished igneous rock with flattened oval sections, now in National Museum of Wales (Acc. Nos 21.24.5; 25.140). The first axe of made from rock from Mynydd Rhiw in Caernarvonshire on the opposite area side of Cardigan Bay, the second axe of quartz diorite is thought possibly to come from N. Pembrokeshire, a discovery which again stresses the important effect of coastwise movements on the earliest cultures of west Merioneth (Bowen & Gresham 1967, 25,28).

Sources:

Grimes, W. F. 1951, Prehistory of Wales, p 144

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Bowen, E. G. & Gresham, C. A. 1967, History of Merioneth, p.25, 28

PRN 4918 Early Medieval Incised Stone NGR: SH 5961 0579

Description:

Rough pillar stone, incised outline Maltese cross, C7th-9th; built into the south wall of Llanegryn Church.

PRN 6971& NPRN 43890 Llanegryn Parish Church NGR: SH 59618 05786

Legal Protection: Listed Building

Description:

Llanegryn Parish Church, dedicated to St. Egryn and St. Mary, located in the Diocese of Bangor. The medieval parish church in Llanegryn was recorded in 1254. It was subject to restoration through the nineteenth century and although it preserves many internal medieval features and fittings, the exterior is largely modern. The rood screen probably dates to around 1520; considered to be amongst the best in Wales and there is a story that it came from Cymer Abbey after the dissolution, but this is unproven. The church is of continuous chancel and nave. Much restored in the C19th. The polygonal churchyard has a stone-walled boundary and a stream runs under the churchyard, to the east of the church, which may have formed the original eastern boundary.

Source: History of Merioneth, Vol. II, 2001, 349-50

Source: Haslam, Orbach & Voelcker, 2009, The Buildings of Wales: Gwynedd. Pevsner Architectural Guide

NPRN 8455 **Ebenezer Independent Chapel** **NGR: SH 60158 05396**
Legal Protection: Listed Building Cadw ID: 23759
Description:
Chapel built in 1817, enlarged in 1829 and rebuilt in 1839. The present chapel, dated 1839, is built in the Classical style of the gable-entry type. Sunday school added in 1905 (RCAHMW, February 2010 record)
Source: RCAHMW, February 2010

NPRN 8456 **Llanegryn Methodist Chapel** **NGR: SH 6018 0548**
Legal Protection: Listed Building Cadw ID: 23760
Description:
Calvanistic Methodist Chapel was built in 1811, enlarged in 1848 and rebuilt in 1878. The present chapel, dated 1878, is built in the Simple Gothic style of the gable entry type.
Source: RCAHMW, February 2010

NPRN 8457 **Nazareth Methodist Chapel** **NGR: SH 6015005421**
Description:
Chapel built in 1808, rebuilt in 1867 in the Simple Round-Headed style of the gable-entry type. A Sunday school was added in 1912 but by 1993 the chapel had fallen into disuse.
Source: RCAHMW, February 2010

NPRN 24180 **Afon Dysanni Bridge, Llanegryn** **NGR: SH 5990 0384**
Legal Protection: Listed Building
Description:
Probably 18th century stone bridge four semi-circular arches of 6.3m span, with plain parapets. Built in the 18th century, probably following the Turnpike Act of 1784, as a major river crossing, carrying the turnpike road over the tidal river and adjoining marshland on the main coastal road south to Tywyn. Built of local stone rubble, the arches rising 1.8m above the water. The water piers are set on starlings, with a c120-degree cutwater each side. The roadway, which is 3.75m wide between the 0.43m parapets, is humped over the river spans. An iron plate by Isaac of Portmadoc is reset in the east parapet, banning locomotives from crossing due to the insufficient strength of the bridge.
Source: ME/DOM/SH50SE, from the Cadw Listed Buildings Database & J. Archer, RCAHMW, 31.12.2004

NPRN 28341 **Dolau-gwyn** **NGR: SH 6232 0347**
Description:
Country house of c.1620, excellent Jacobean rubblestone, 2 storey and attic, central gabled porch wing. Gabled left wing with dormer, all stepped, interior plaster ceiling, original stair; 1 drawing room dated 1656 bearing armorial bearings above fire, kitchen heraldic device 1628. Wallpainting: Painted plaster overmantle and shield dated 1656. (RCAHMW)

NPRN 28633 **Peniarth** **NGR: SH 612 054**
Legal Protection: Listed Building Cadw Id: 4731
Description:
There is fifteenth century poetic reference to a house called 'Plas Peniarth' occupying the Study area of the present house. The earlier house was enlarged by Richard Owen around 1700, as indicated by a stone cartouche. His son, Lewis Owen, carried out some improvements to the house and probably laid out the surrounding park. Peniarth then passed through the marriage to the Wynnes of Wern, Portmadoc. The later William Watkin Edward Wynne MP (1801-1880) became a distinguished antiquary and collector, inheriting and adding to the Peniarth Manuscripts, the most important collection of Welsh manuscripts, now in the NLW.
Source: Haslam, Orbach & Voelcker, 2009, The Buildings of Wales: Gwynedd. Pevsner Architectural Guide, 632

NPRN 54223 **Ynysmaengwyn; Ynys-Y-Maengwyn, Bryn-Crug** **NGR: SH 5992 0230**
Description:
Major dwelling of 18th century date. For associated structures at Ynysmaengwyn, see NPRNs 41757, 54224, 54225, 28894, 28895 and 265175. Ynysmaengwyn was a fine brick house rebuilt for the Corbett family from 1758, with some earlier 18th-century agricultural buildings being retained, the whole forming an exceptionally fine 'U'-plan group. The house, which had been left to the local authority, was neglected and demolished in 1964, the ballroom wing demolished as late as 1989.
Source: J. Archer, RCAHMW, 31.12.2004

NPRN 302714 & PRN 1740**Domen Ddreiniog****NGR: SH 59688 03613****Description:**

Talybont Castle mound is a near circular mound identified as a medieval castle mount. Set at a former bridging point on the right bank of the Dysynni, the mount may have been associated with a llys or princely court. This is a steep sided flat-topped mound, 34m in diameter & 7.0m high. The 15m diameter summit is somewhat mutilated. A ploughed out ditch, in 1972 some 10m wide and 0.8m deep, runs around the base of the mound except on the east where it stands over the riverbank. There are no traces of any other defensive works. Llewelyn dated a letter from Talybont in 1275 the king was here in 1295. Other castle mounds in north Wales are associated with apparently unfortified houses, for example Aber in Caernarvonshire (NPRN 95692) and Castell Prysor (NPRN 308964), Crogen (NPRN 306558) and Rug (NPRN 306598) in Merioneth. It is possible that the castle mound was associated with or an adjunct of the lys.

Source: History of Merioneth II (2001), 415

NPRN 406372 & PRN 93780**Bryn-Crug Cropmark Complex, North-East Area****NGR: SH 60805 03720****Cropmark Evidence**

Legal Protection: Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM ME 106 GWY)

Description:

A complex and extensive array of cropmark features recorded across the level plain north of Bryn-crug. Similar features have been recorded to the south-west (NPRN 275900). The most prominent feature is a near circular ditched enclosure about 75m across. This could be a later prehistoric settlement enclosure or else an earlier ritual or ceremonial monument. There are indications of a second, slightly smaller, enclosure some 50m to the south, with a still smaller, roughly 30m diameter enclosure beyond. Extending about 200m south and south-east of the main enclosure is a complex of linear features and ring ditches. These might represent roundhouse study areas and property or field boundaries, or else ceremonial features.

Sources: Crew and Musson, 1996, *Snowdonia from the Air*, 12-3

Air photos: CUAP coverage; RCAHMW coverage (& AP mapping)

NPRN 275900**Bryn-Crug Cropmark Complex, South-West Area****NGR: SH 60390 03420****Cropmark Evidence****Description:**

A complex and extensive array of cropmark features have been recorded across the level plain west of Bryn-crug. Similar features have been recorded to the north-east (NPRN 406372). The most prominent feature is a near circular ditched enclosure about 62m across. Parts of an inner palisade(?) ditch are visible. This enclosure is joined to a pattern of enclosure or boundary ditches, with clearly defined entrance gaps, extending up to 200m on the north. On the west it is apparently overlain by a smaller, 35-37.5m, sub-rectangular enclosure. This complex could represent a later prehistoric settlement or else an earlier ritual or ceremonial monument or complex. Other features probably represent grubbed up modern field boundaries. There is a possible leat to the east, emerging from Bryn-crug.

Sources: Crew and Musson, 1996, *Snowdonia from the Air*, 12-3

Air photos: CUAP coverage; RCAHMW coverage (& AP mapping)

John Wiles 28.06.07

NPRN 302690 & PRN 93758**Castell-Mawr Iron age hillfort****NGR: SH 258040 304803**

Legal Protection: Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM ME 073 GWY) & SSSI

Description:

An oval ridge top enclosure, about 80m north-east to south-west by 36m, with an annex extending a further 24m to the north-east. The main enclosure is defined mostly by scarps above natural slopes. A rampart runs about the west and south sides, with a ditch and counterscarp on the west covering both enclosure & annex. There is a possible east-facing entrance. Monuments such as this are generally assigned an Iron Age date, although many were maintained and some founded anew, across and beyond the Roman period.

Source: Bowen & Gresham 1967, 153

NPRN 500881**Ffordd-du****NGR: SH 62760 09110**

Description:

The old mountain road between Llanegryn and Dolgellau running along the eastern edge of Cwm-llwyd. Metalled and in use. Source: Laws, EAS Ltd, 2007

ADDITIONAL LISTED BUILDING**Cadw Id 2364****Glanymorfa Bach****NGR: SH 60233 05115****HISTORIC LANDSCAPE**

PRN 18347	Dysanni Valley Historic Landscape (HLW (GW) 17)
PRN 28657	Llanegryn
PRN 28658	Northern slopes of the Dysanni Valley

APPENDIX 2 – TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY – CDROM ENCLOSED
