

CASTLERING ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO.343

LAND ADJACENT TO THE

AFON HIRAETHLYN

EGLWYSBACH

CONWY

SH 8035 7012 – SH 8045 6990

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED

ASSESSMENT & SITE WALK-OVER

JANUARY 2011

CASTLERING ARCHAEOLOGY REPORT NO. 343

LAND ADJACENT TO THE AFON HIRAETHLYN

EGLWYSBACH

CONWY

SH 8035 7012 – SH 8045 6990

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT & SITE WALK-OVER PRIOR TO
PROPOSED FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

CONTRACTED BY:
CONWY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

UNDERTAKEN BY

PAT FROST, CONSULTANT ARCHAEOLOGIST BA, MIFA

CASTLERING ARCHAEOLOGY

33 STALLION LANE, PONTESBURY

SHROPSHIRE. SY5 0PN

TEL: 01743 792297 MOBILE: 07971751978

Email: mail@castleringarchaeology.co.uk

www.castleringarchaeology.co.uk

SYNOPSIS

This report contains the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment and site visit undertaken on a linear corridor of land adjacent to the Afon Hiraethlyn, south of the village of Eglwysbach, Conwy. The desk-based study and site walk-over have been undertaken to assess the potential impact that works in connection with a flood alleviation scheme may have on the archaeological resource and built heritage within the study area.

The proposed flood alleviation scheme will affect land south of Eglwysbach Primary School, where a masonry clad reinforced concrete flood wall and earth bund will be constructed west of the minor road extending south from Eglwysbach village. In addition, an earth bund will be constructed through pasture land east of the road, on the west bank of the Afon Hiraethlyn upstream of the school to reduce the likelihood of flooding on the highway adjacent to the school. Works include dredging of the river channel at this location.

The combined results of the desk-based assessment and site walk-over have identified the archaeological potential of study area and the impact / potential impact that the proposed works may have thereon.

The assessment has reviewed the development around the existing school buildings and play areas. The school was first built in 1835 and this early range fronts the roadside, to the north of the proposed defences. The original range of the school was granted statutory protection as a Grade II Listed building in 1967, but the present building is now considerably extended. The overall purpose of the scheme appears to be a positive contribution to the protection of the school building and its setting.

The western section of the proposed flood defences has a boundary with Plas-yn-Llan farmland. This gentleman's residence at Plas-yn-Llan was built by the Wynn family in the 16th century. The house was extended in the early 17th century but no substantial alterations have taken place since. The house and a detached 17th century stables / barn have statutory protection as Grade II Listed buildings and the former contemporary gardens have Grade II listing in the Register of Landscapes Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. The 'essential setting' of the historic garden, as defined by the Register about the boundary of the school and the site of proposed defences.

Construction work associated with the scheme will be intrusive but temporary in terms of visual appearance, noise and access in the area abutting the school and Plas-yn-Llan. However, observations made during the site walk-over indicate that the proposed flood wall will be contained within the school play area, which has already impacted visually on the setting of the Listed buildings and Historic Garden at Plas-yn-Llan. The limited height of the defences suggests they will have little or no additional negative impact on the setting.

While no above ground archaeological features were encountered during the present study, flood alleviation schemes are generally considered to have the potential to reveal hitherto unknown archaeological remains as well as possible artefactual evidence. The absence of above ground archaeology does not negate the potential for sub-surface archaeological evidence. Wetlands, in general, have the potential to reveal archaeological remains, artefactual evidence and / or palaeo-environmental information. The proposed scheme may provide an opportunity to research and record sub-surface deposits, which may otherwise remain unknown.

National policy in respect of the archaeological resource and the contribution it makes to our cultural, social and economic lives advocates the protection and preservation of sites and their settings and the opportunity to preserve by record. The archaeological resource is non-renewable and the impact of operational works on any sub-surface archaeology that may exist would be considered to be substantial.

This report recommends that a targetted archaeological watching brief should be carried out during the initial stages of turf and topsoil strip, excavation works and dredging in association with the construction phase, with the aim of preservation by record. Given that appropriate mitigation is agreed prior to any construction work, no significant permanent negative impact on the archaeological resource is predicted during or after the proposed works.

CONTENTS

1.	Introduction Plate 1; Figs 1 - 2
2.	Methodology
3.	Background History of the Site Figs 2-6; Plates 2 & 3
4.	The Existing Site Plates 4-15
5.	Impact Assessment Fig. 7 & Plate 16
6.	Conclusion
7.	Acknowledgements
8.	Sources
Appendix 1	Copy of the Project Brief (GAPS 27.10.10)
Appendix 2	Copy of the WSI (Castlering Archaeology 29.11.10)
Appendix 3	Photographic Register & Digital Archive Fig. 8

ABBREVIATIONS:

AD	Anno Domini
<i>c.</i>	<i>circa</i>
GAPS	Gwynedd Archaeology Planning Service
GAT	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
HER	Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
m OD	metre over datum
Mss	Manuscripts
NLW	National Library of Wales
NMR	National Monuments Record
OS	Ordnance Survey
RCAHMW	Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments, Wales
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

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 Conwy County Borough Council has proposed a flood alleviation scheme centred on the west bank of the Afon Hiraethlyn, south of the village of Eglwysbach. The scheme will affect a linear corridor of land extending from land to the rear of Eglwysbach Primary School (approximately SH 8035 7012), southeastwards through pasture land on the west bank of the river to approximately NGR SH 8045 6990, east of the minor road leading south from the village. The scheme is referred to as the 'Upper Reach Works' comprising the construction of a masonry clad reinforced concrete flood wall, earth bund, and provision of local waterproofing to protect the school building, on the west side of the road. In addition an earth bund will be constructed along the west riverbank of Afon Hiraethlyn upstream of the school to reduce the likelihood of flooding on the highway adjacent to the school. The earth bund is estimated at approximately 620m length, 6.5m width and up to 1m height, and works include dredging of the river channel (Application 0/37211; Figs 1 & 2 *following*).

Archaeological Background

1.2 Consultation with Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS) showed that there are no known archaeological sites within the application area and no recent archaeological fieldwork has taken place in the locality. The archaeological resource of the site of the proposed scheme is therefore poorly understood (GAPS 27.10.10).

1.3 Conwy County Borough Council were subsequently advised by GAPS that a programme of archaeological assessment would be required to establish the archaeological potential of the application area and to inform of the potential impacts of the proposed scheme on the archaeological resource. GAPS stated that a desk-based assessment and site walk-over should form the first phase of a staged programme of archaeological works for the site (Appendix 1).

Archaeological Contract

1.4 In December 2010, Pat Frost, Castlering Archaeology, was contracted by Conwy County Borough Council to undertake a desk-based assessment and site walk-over in order to inform future works on the site. A WSI was submitted to and approved by GAPS in December 2010 (Appendix 2). The project was undertaken immediately and the results form the basis of this report.

2. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

Aims

2.1 The assessment is designed to determine the existence, location, character and date of significant archaeological remains that exist in, or adjacent to, the proposed works, and the potential to recover further archaeological evidence as part of the construction phase of the proposed scheme.

Guidance

2.2 The assessment has been undertaken using proven archaeological techniques, which comply with Guidelines and Codes of Conduct set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA, 2009); in particular the *Standard & Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* (IfA 1994, revised October 2008). The assessment follows the

Department for Communities and Local Government's *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (March 2010); Welsh Office Planning Guidance *Planning Policy Guidance Wales* (March 2002); *Circular 60/96: Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology* (December 1996); *Circular 61/96: Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas* and *Circular 1/98 Planning and the Historic Environment* (February 1998).

Report Methodology

2.3 The desk-based study has consulted relevant readily available records held at Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT); Gwynedd Archives, Caernarfon; Conwy Archives; Denbighshire Archives, Ruthin; the National Monuments Record (NMR), the Royal Commission (RCAHMW) and the National Library of Wales (NLW), Aberystwyth. The assessment has consulted the Historic Environment Record (HER) held by GAT; previous archaeological interventions / assessments; printed maps & manuscripts; photographic and pictorial sources; published & unpublished works.

Site walkover

2.4. The site walkover was undertaken on December 29th 2010 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. Part of the photographic record is included within the report and a full list is recorded in Appendix 3 together with the site location.

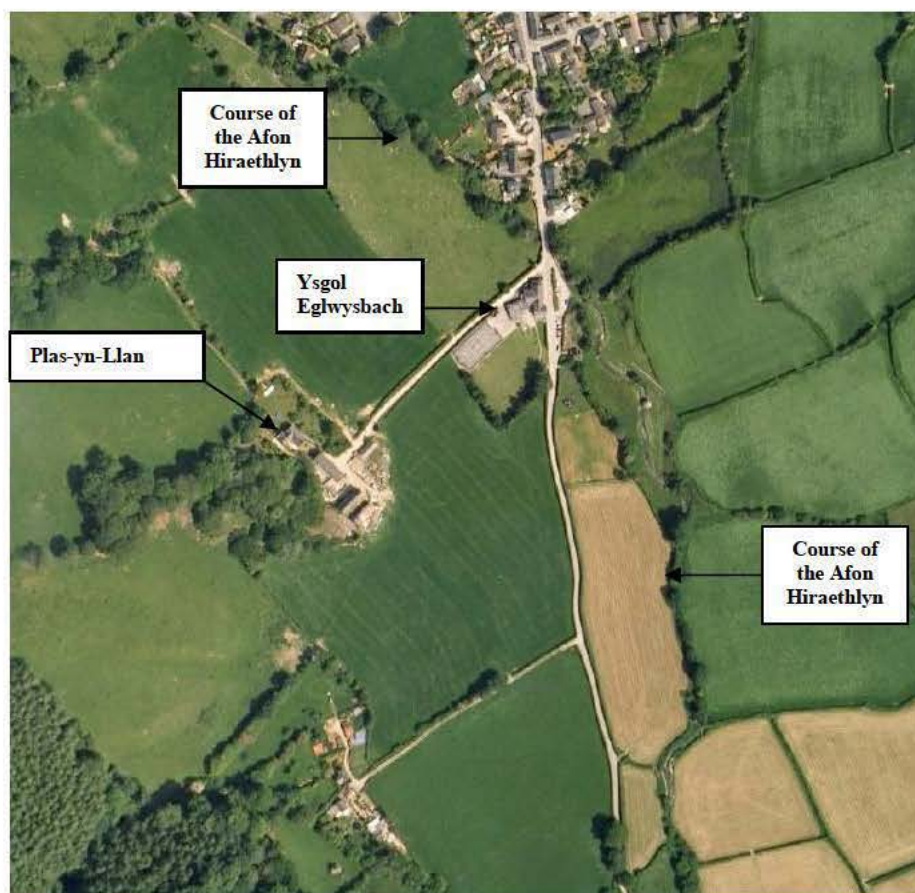


Plate 1 Site location (google-earth c.2000)

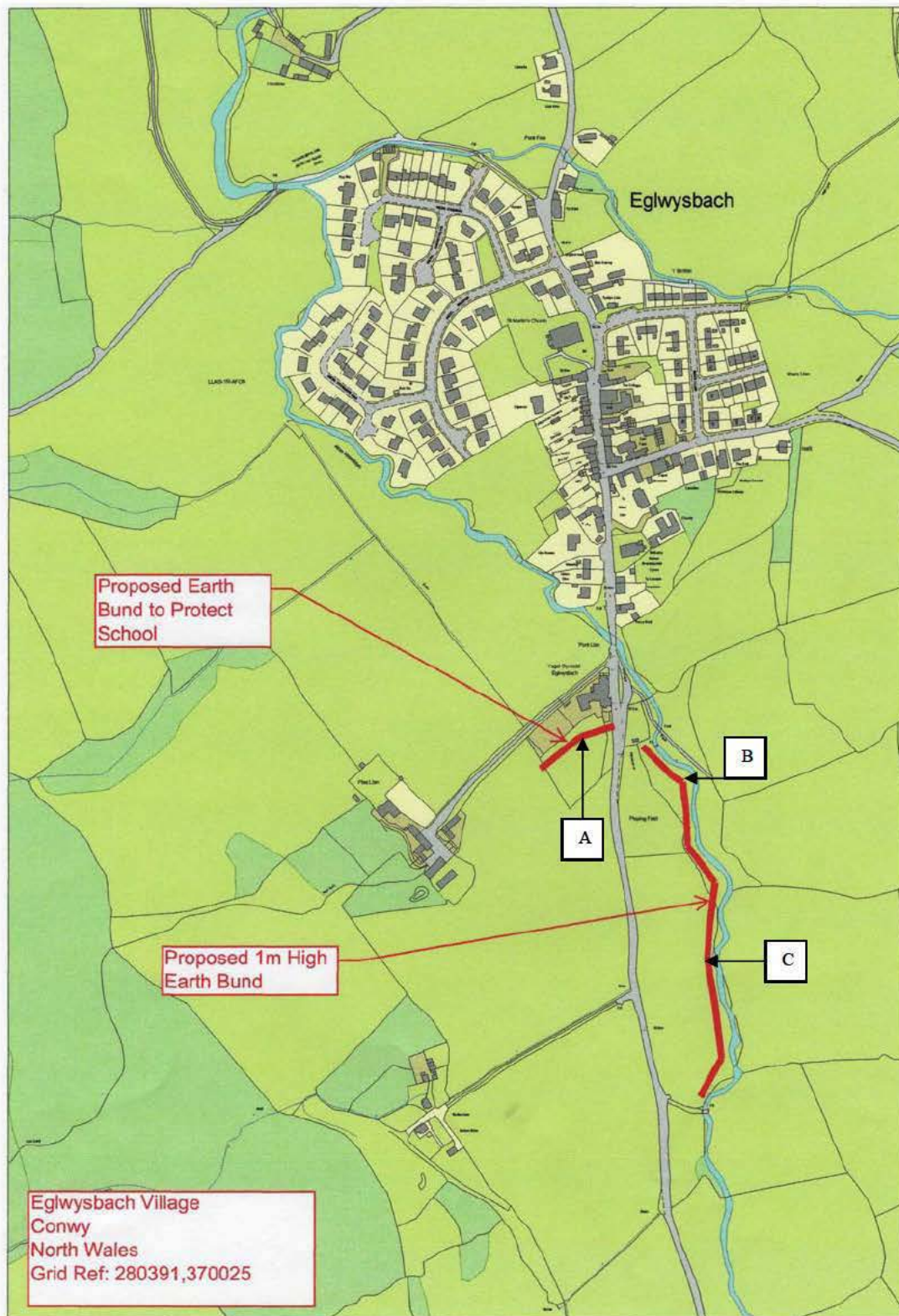


Fig. 1 Site Location (provided by Conwy County Borough Council)

3. BACKGROUND HISTORY OF THE SITE

3.1 The proposed works lie south of the village of Eglwysbach, a small settlement located east of the Afon Conwy at approximately 150m OD. The Afon Hiraethlyn passes west of the nucleus of the village, continuing south to the school and site of the proposed works. The village and the extensive parish of the same name were part of the County of Denbighshire until 1974 when they became part of Conwy County Borough Council. The valley of the Afon Hiraethlyn is separated by a wooded ridge from the much broader valley of the Afon Conwy, joined by the Afon Hiraethlyn further north of the study area.

3.2 The main valley of the Afon Conwy is bounded to the east by the rolling mudstone hills of the Silurian period. The rocks are generally covered in thin, often acidic soils and a large part of the upland area is moorland. To the west, the catchment is underlain by older Cambrian rocks which are harder and the landscape is more mountainous. The slopes rising above the river on both sides of the valley generally comprise enclosed pastureland, as seen in Plate 1 previous.

3.3 The village of Eglwysbach is one of several small communities that straddle the floor of the broad Afon Conwy, in an area which has been inhabited since prehistoric times. The HER records the site of a possible Bronze Age barrow (Bedd Carrog) at the northern edge of the village (HER 2892), which tradition held to be the grave of a huge wild boar, killed by Bach ab Corwed. However, the earth mound is now considered to be of natural origin. A sub-circular earth mound of unknown date or origin is recorded at the eastern edge of the village (HER 5678) and a Bronze Age Celtic tool was found in the past near Plas-yn-Llan, south of the village (HER 2889).

3.4 Evidence of Roman activity near the village is recorded in the alignment part of the Roman Road that once led from CANOVIUM to VARIS (HER 17660). The route formed part of ITER XI, which led from the legionary fortress of DEVA (Chester) following a route eastwards through the present counties of Denbighshire, Conwy and Gwynedd towards Caernarfon. The route is recorded in the Antonine Itinerary, a list of Roman road stations produced during the second century. The section that passes to the north of the village led to the fortress of CANOVIUM, on the west bank of the Afon Conwy, c.2.6km west of the village of Eglwysbach. The fortress, which has been excavated since the mid-17th century when a hypocaust was uncovered, dates to c.75AD. Four Roman milestones have also been found in areas to the west of the fortress, but to date there have been no finds from the period recovered within the village of Eglwysbach.

3.5 There are gaps in the archaeological evidence after the Roman period until the establishment of ecclesiastical settlements; the churches at Llanrhychwyn and Llangelynin in the Conwy valley are two of the oldest churches in Wales, dating to the 11th and 12th centuries respectively. At Eglwysfach, St. Martin's Church was built in 1782 on the site of the earlier medieval church, for which there is little evidence remaining (HER 6964). The medieval church, which was recorded in the Norwich taxation of 1254, is thought to underlie the plan of the present building, which itself was restored in 1874. The church lies within the village, north of the site of proposed works.

3.6 While the churches were established in the valley, King Edward I was building his castle at the mouth of the Afon Conwy between 1283 and 1289. The castle was one of several coastal fortresses built to contain the Welsh nationals. The castle is now a World Heritage Site and the town of Conwy is enclosed by its extensive medieval walls.

3.7 The second half of the 15th century was a turbulent time in the Conwy valley. Much of the land was laid waste in the Wars of the Roses by the Jasper Tudor, the Earl of Pembroke, under the orders of Edward IV, the Yorkist King in response to the Lancastrian attack on the town of Denbigh in 1466. In support of the House of York, Jasper Tudor made his way across North Wales toward Denbigh where he seized the castle and burned it. This series of civil wars for the throne of England was eventually settled with the establishment of the House of Tudor.

3.8 Perhaps in more peaceful times, the gentleman's residence at Plas-yn-Llan was built by the Wynn family in the mid to third quarter of the 16th century (HER 17285; Plate 2 *below*). The house was extended and altered probably in the early 17th century but no substantial alterations have taken place since. The gardens that once surrounded the house and the stable block are also considered to be of late 17th century date, as suggested by the two large heraldic plaster overmantels, located inside the house, which bear the arms and abbreviated titles of Sir John Wynn, 5th

Baronet, of Wynnstay (1628-1719), together with 1684 date (Plate 3 *below*). The house and a detached 17th century stables / barn have statutory protection as Grade II Listed buildings. The former gardens at Plas-yn-Llan are registered as Grade II (Ref. PGW(Gd)51(CON)) in the Register of Landscapes Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. The gardens have been listed primarily for the survival of the structure of an interesting and unusual partly rock-cut walled and terraced garden of the late 17th century probably created for the use of Sir John Wynn. The gardens falls into two main areas: the level ground in front of the house and the steeply sloping ground to the back of it. In front, to the east of the house, is a rectangular stone walled enclosure extending from the north end of the house to the drive to its south. The wall is of rubble construction, c 1.2 m high and the interior is now grassed over and mainly grazed. The garden behind the house is walled and terraced and has long fallen into disuse as a garden. It too is now largely grassed over and grazed.

3.9 The Grade II Listed farmhouse, barn and former gardens are located at the end of the hedge-lined unmetalled drive that extends south-west off the minor road extending south from Eglwysbach village, beyond the village school. The house, barn and gardens lie in close proximity to the proposed scheme (Fig. 7 *following*).



Plate 2 above: Plas-yn-Llan c.1954

(RCHMW; gtj 22233_1)

Plate 3 left:

**The overmantel dedication to Sir John Wynn,
5th Baronet, of Wynnstay, 1684**

(RCHMW; gtj 22235_1)

3.10 The 17th century appears to have heralded some expansion of settlement at Eglwysbach. For example, when the present Smithy in the village was renovated in 1967, a massive beam was uncovered from the chimney breast. The beam bore the inscription 'I LL 1628' which suggests it was erected by John Lloyd, the sole landowner of the township of Bodnod in Eglwysbach Parish at this time. On the rising slopes above the village houses of a similar date, perhaps inhabited by lesser gentry, have subsequently been turned into farms.

3.11 The village school (Plate 4 *below*) was built in 1835 and its history is documented in 'Ysgol Eglwysbach 1835-1985' (Roberts 1985). Work started on the building in February 1835 with building stone brought by horse and cart from Trefriw and rough timber sourced locally and cut in a sawpit near the school. Although the village was small at this time, and largely dependent on agriculture, the villagers raised money towards the building of the school. The original range of the school seen alongside the road below was granted statutory protection as a Grade II Listed building in 1967.



Plate 4

Ysgol Eglwysbach

View from northwest

3.12 The school was endowed by Rev. Howell Holland Edwards (1762 - 1846), a descendent of one Matthew Holland of Upholland in Lancashire, a supporter of Henry IV, who took over Conwy Castle and large tracts of land in the valley. From the 16th century, the Hollands owned the Pennant estate, sited mainly in the wooded valleys and hills on the east side of the Conwy Valley, including part of the study area. Pennant Hall was passed on through the generations until it finished up in the hands of the Rev. Howell Holland Edwards, the son of Mary Holland and the Rev Edward Edwards.

3.13 Rev. Howell Holland Edwards was the last male survivor of this dynasty. Bryn y Fran, located east of the study area, was also occupied by a member of the Holland family. The family held large tracts of land on both sides of Afon Hiraethlyn valley, as recorded by the 1841 tithe (*following*). Gradually the families of each estate failed to produce male heirs to succeed them. Following the death of Rev. Howell Holland Edwards Bryn y Fran land appears to have been purchased by Bodnant Estate.

3.14 The Bodnod Estate had been held by the Lloyd family since the early 16th century. In the early 19th century, Bodnod was the residence of William Hanmer, Esq., who had inherited the estate through marriage to a descendant of the Lloyds, and it was on his land that Ysgol Eglwysbach was built as the 'National School'.

3.15 School records show how life at Eglwysbach revolved around seasonal agriculture and the surrounding estates throughout the 19th century. Absentee records for the school show children missing school to go potato picking and turnip weeding. Eventually the farmers at Plas-yn-Llan and Bodnant Estates agreed to take boys only on a Saturday or after school.

3.16 The 1841 Tithe map records the site of Plas-yn-Llan (817), the school (821) and the fields that form part of the proposed scheme (820, 822, 823, 824 and 827). Plas-yn-Llan and the surrounding farmland are owned by William Hanmer and leased to Robert Thomas. Apportionment 821 is recorded as the National School managed by a Board of Trustees and sited on land owned by William Hanmer. Apportionment 820 (Llindir Bach); 822 (Erw Lundir) and 823 (Llindir dwr) are part of Plas-yn-Llan land. Apportionment 824 (Liverpool Cottage werglodd) and 827 (Caepen rhedyn) are part of the land owned by Rev. Howell Holland Edwards. East of the Afon Hiraethlyn, Apportionments 826, 827 and 828 are part of Bryn y Vron, also owned by Rev. Holland Edwards.

3.17 The proposed flood defences, as outlined on Fig. 1, will be constructed on the mixed arable and pasture land recorded as Apportionments 820, 824, 823 and part of 827.

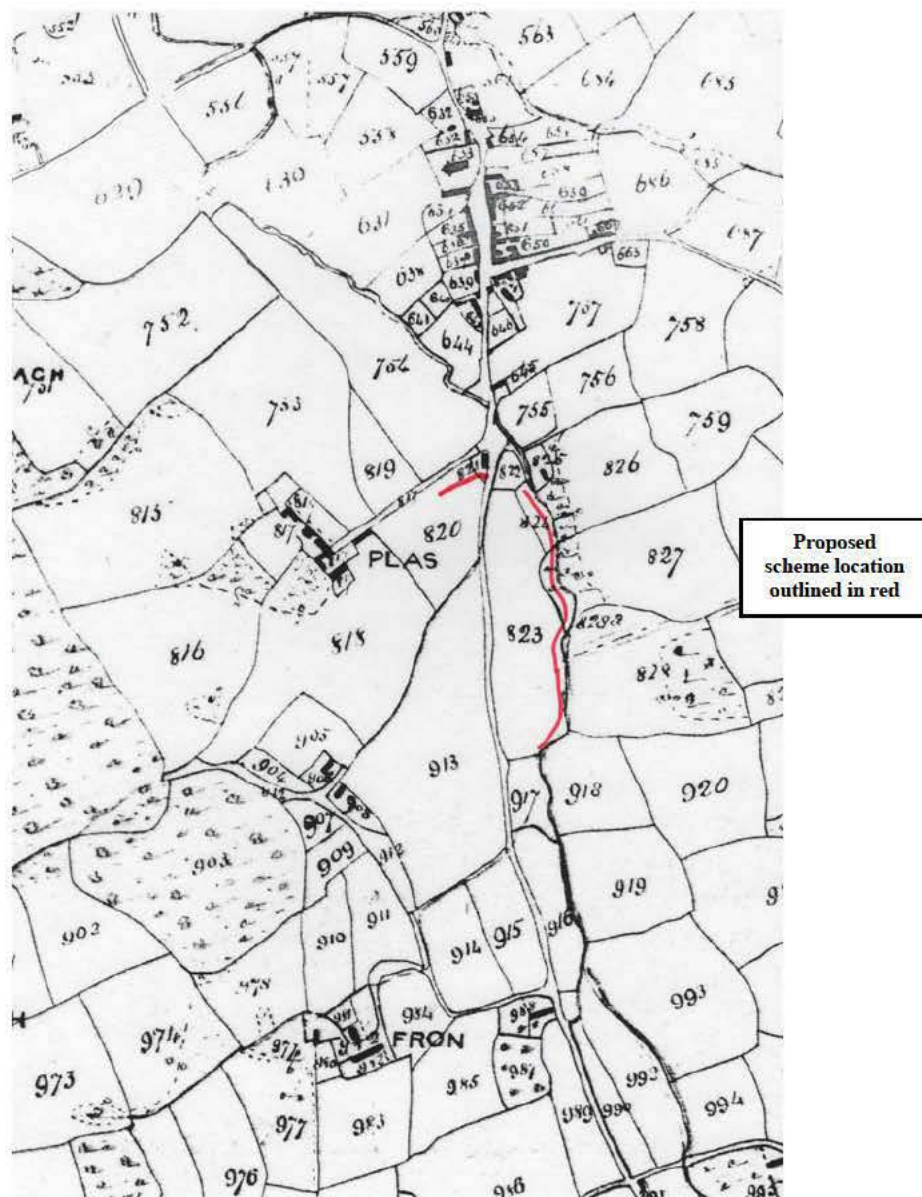


Fig. 3 1841 Tithe map

3.18 The 1880 OS map (Fig. 4) shows some expansion of the village on the south side, but no change in the area of proposed development. The bridge over the Afon Hiraethlyn is now named as 'Pont Llan' and just south of the proposed development a Ford and Footbridge (FB) are recorded. There is little change in the field pattern that surrounds the village and the 1900 OS map (Fig. 5 *overleaf*) records a similar landscape.

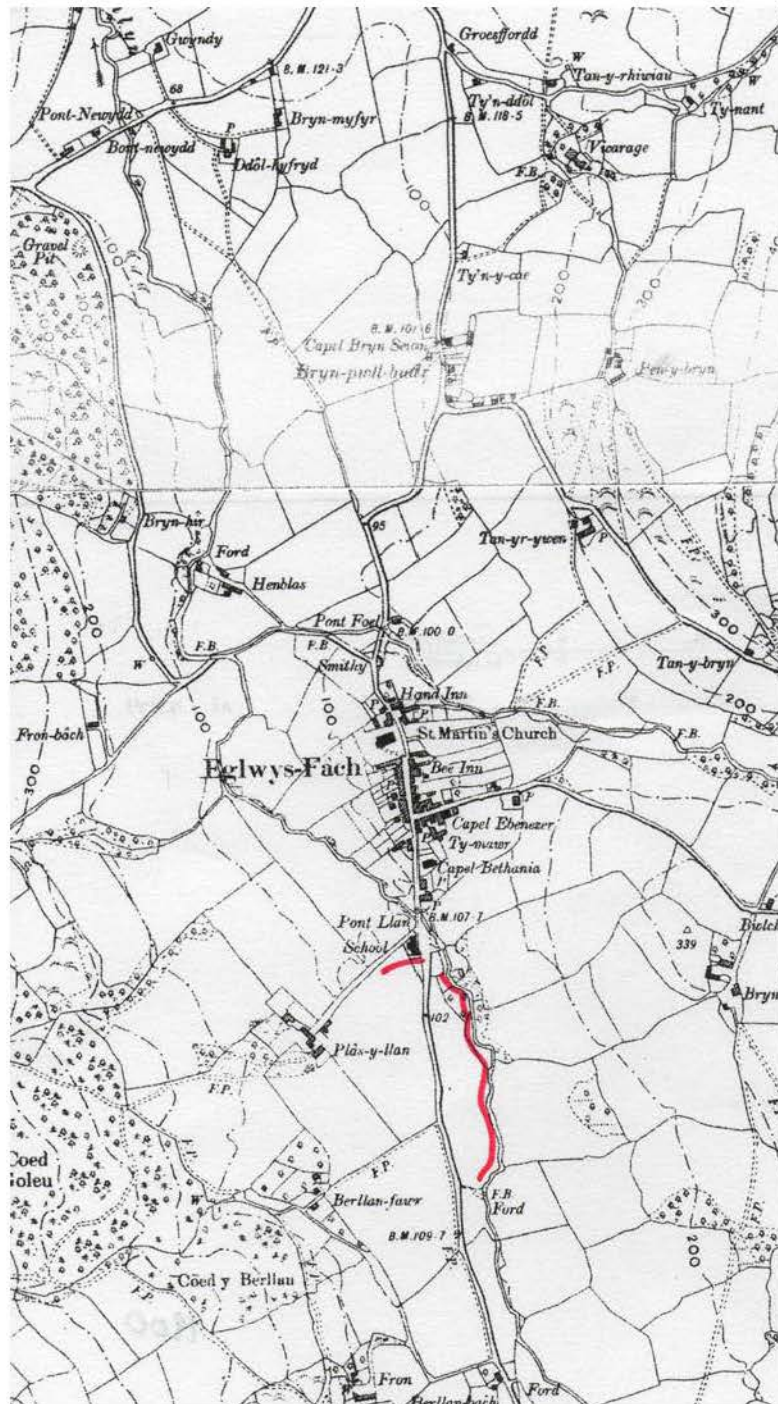


Fig. 4 1880 OS map

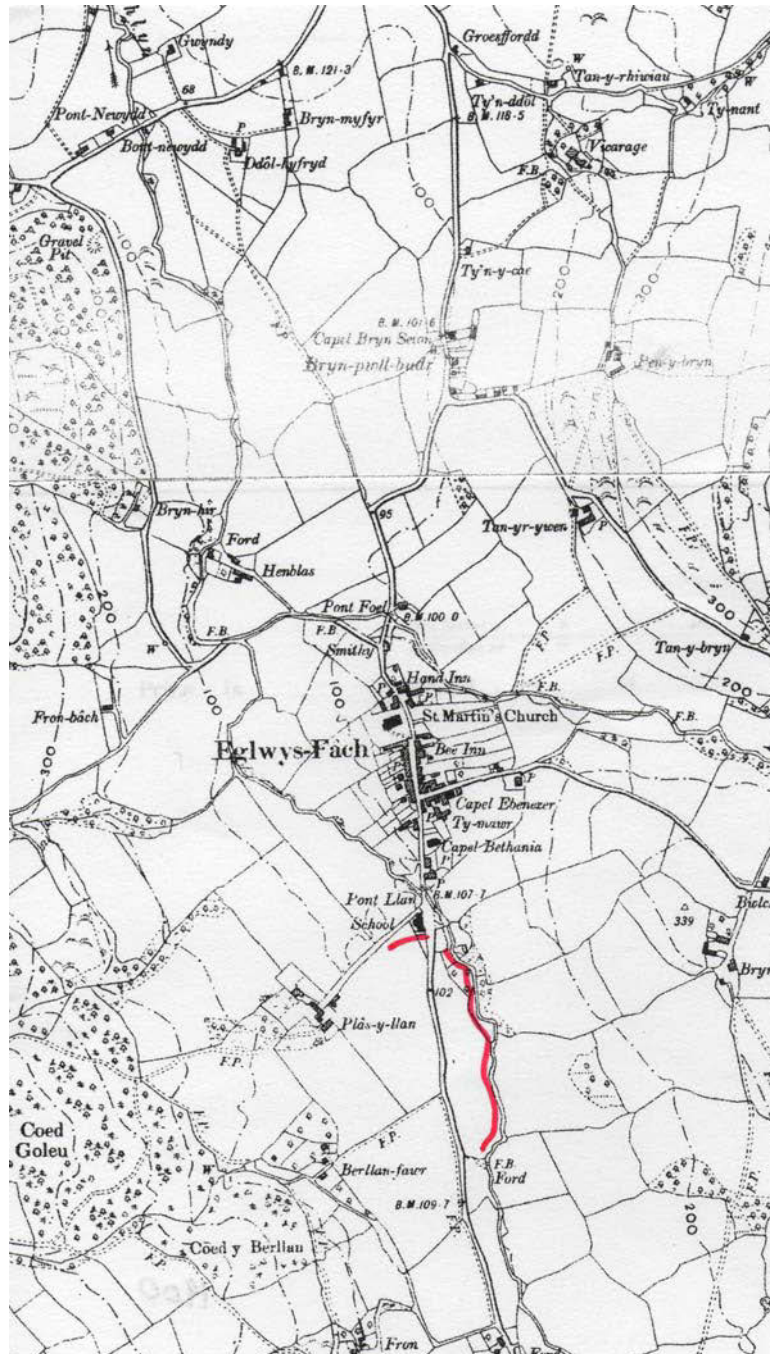


Fig. 5 1900 OS map

3.19 In January 1875, Henry Davis Pochin (1824-1895), a successful industrial chemist from Lancashire, purchased the Bodnant Estate. On his death it was inherited by his daughter, whose husband, Charles Benjamin Bright McLaren (1850-1934), became the first Lord Aberconwy in 1911. In the summer of 1921, improvements were carried out at the village school and a new playground was added on land presented by Lady Aberconwy (d.1933). Two blocks of toilets were also added. Prior to this earth closets were the accepted mode of sanitation; the two that were in

use may have been sited in the stone building seen left of the track in Plate 16 *following*. Prior to 1921, children played in the road, ate their lunch sitting on Pont Llan and drank water from the river.

3.20 In 1941, a government report criticised the state of the school and the lack of running water. Hot water eventually arrived in 1958 and in 1960 the local education authorities appear to have purchased additional land for a new playing field. Some dispute over the value of this land is recorded. The purchasers valued the land at £65 while Lord Aberconwy wanted £130. The 1946 aerial photograph (Plate 5 *below*) and the 1954 map (Fig. 6 *below*) record the fields south of the school and those east of the road prior to the construction of the existing playgrounds.

3.21 No archaeological features have been identified from the 1946 aerial coverage or from more recent sorties by the RCAHMW. Map evidence shows that, other than the construction of the playgrounds, there has been no change in the field patterns in the area of the proposed works in nearly 200 years.

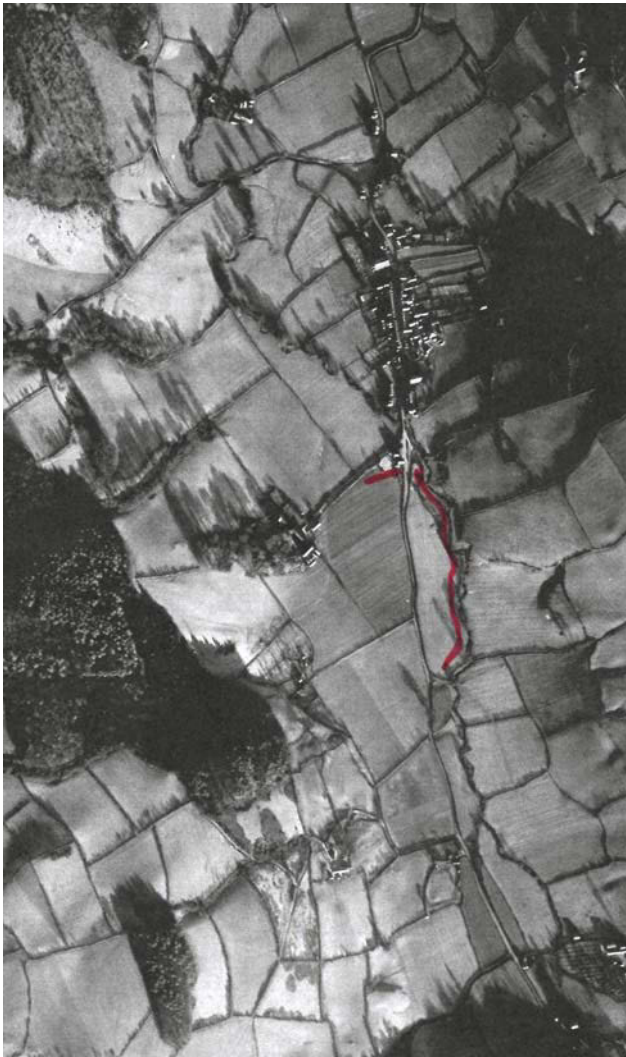


Plate 5 **January 1946 AP**
(NMR collection 5030)

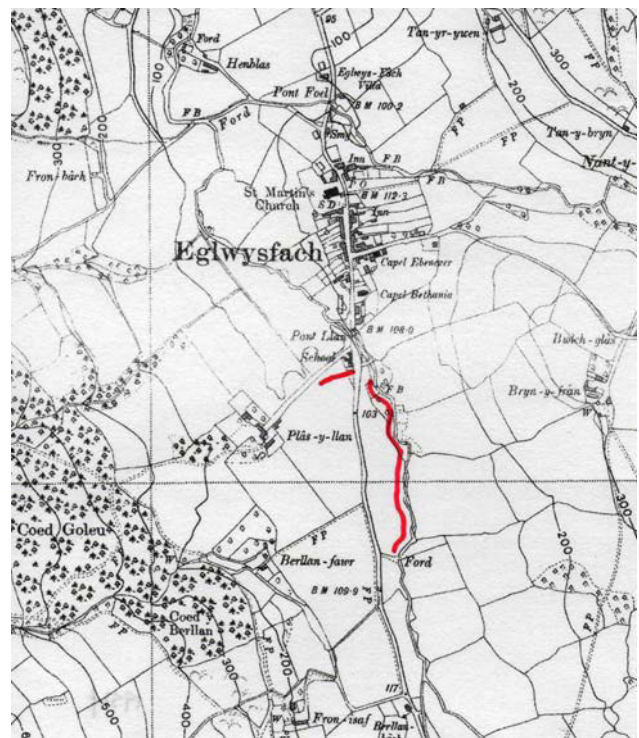


Fig. 6 **1954 OS 6" map**

4. THE EXISTING SITE

4.1 The site visit identified three distinct areas through which the flood defences will be constructed. For the purpose of this report, the areas are identified as Area 'A' the school play area; Area 'B', rough pasture and Area 'C', grazing land.

4.2 The western section of the proposed defences will be constructed on Area 'A', the existing fairly level grass play area south of the school building and enclosed yard. The former agricultural land, given by Lady Aberconwy, was developed for school use, east of Plas-yn-Llan, which can be seen in the background of Plates 6 and 7 below.



Plate 6:

Area 'A', the playing field viewed from the southeast

Black line indicates approx. direction of proposed bund



Plate 7:

Playing field viewed from the east

4.3 The flood wall will extend eastwards from the fenced boundary with Plas-yn-Llan farmland to meet the minor road that extends south from the village, at a point south of Pont Llan and the modern lay-by and recycling area that has been laid out opposite the school.



End of proposed western bund

Plate 8:

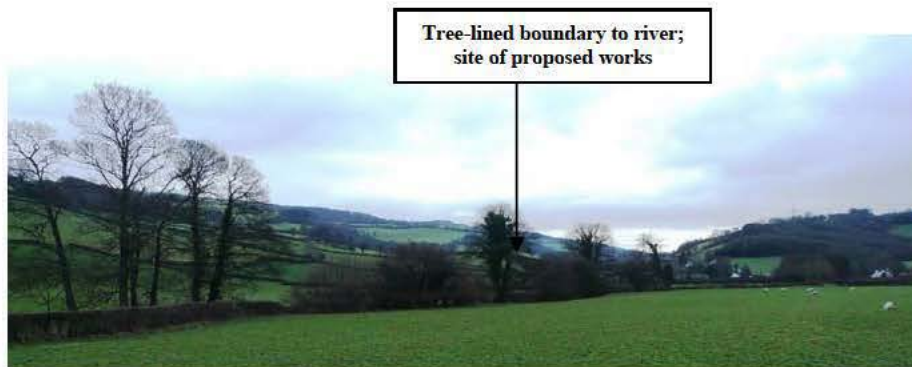
View from the north, along the road leading south from Pont Llan showing the original Ysgol Eglwysbach right of road & the lay-by & recycling area left



Plate 9:

Pont Llan and the Afon Hiraethlyn, viewed from the north

4.4 On the east side of the road, the proposed earth bund will be constructed parallel to the river as it runs through Area 'B' rough pasture, east of the modern Playing Field (Plates 11 & 12 *overleaf*), and further south through Area 'C', the large field currently grazed by sheep (*view from the north below*).



Tree-lined boundary to river;
site of proposed works

Plate 10

Area 'C'



Plate 11

Area 'B', viewed from the north

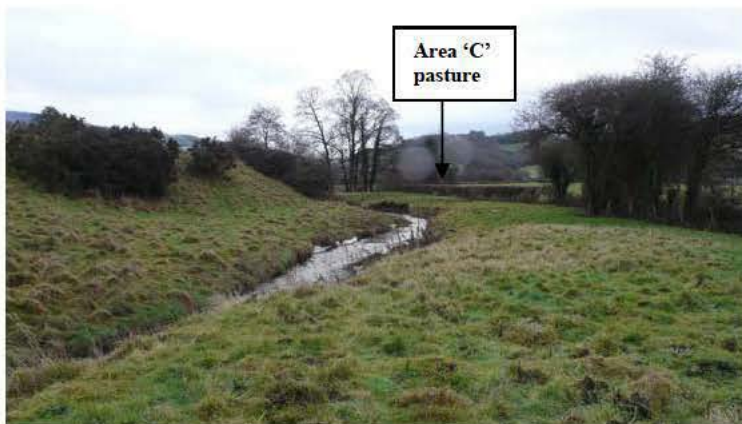


Plate 12

Area 'B', view from north



Plate 13

Area 'B', bend in river to Area 'C'; view from north

**Plate 14****Area 'B', view from the south**

4.5 The site walk-over showed that the proposed works on the east side of the road extend through agricultural land which has remained relatively unchanged since the 1841 tithe map. The field boundaries are mainly hedged and thinly lined with trees, interspersed with modern post and wire fencing. Some stone gateposts have survived along the road south of the village, although fitted with new gates. The site walk-over showed no above ground evidence of any archaeological features in the areas to be affected by the proposed works.

**Plate 15****Sample stone gateposts**

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 The combined results of the desk-based assessment and site walk-over have identified the archaeological potential of the study area and the impact / potential impact that the proposed works may have thereon. Construction work in general can have both a negative and a positive impact on the archaeological resource.

In respect of the current proposals potential negative impacts to be considered are as follows:

- primary impact resulting from physical change to the archaeological resource as a result of temporary or permanent changes due to ground disturbance, which could either reduce the value of or completely remove the archaeological resource;
- secondary impact resulting in the change of accessibility to or amenity value of the archaeological resource;
- permanent and temporary changes to the setting and aspect of the archaeological resource.

Potential positive impacts to be considered are as follows:

- an increase in knowledge arising from the opportunity to research, investigate, record and interpret the archaeological resource as a result of the proposed works;

Impact on Plas-yn-Llan Listed buildings and gardens

5.2 The assessment shows that proposed works in Area 'A' will impact on two Grade 2 Listed buildings, namely the farmhouse and barn, and the Historic Garden at Plas-yn-Llan. The extent of the recommended 'Essential Setting' extends to Area 'A' of the proposed works and includes the unmetalled track that leads past the school buildings to Plas-yn-Llan (Plate 16 *below*). Fig. 7 *overleaf* shows the extent of the Historic Garden and the Essential Setting as recorded by Cadw, ICOMOS and CCW in 1998.



Plate 16

View from the east along the unmetalled track towards Plas-yn-Llan farmhouse;

Ysgol Eglwysbach left

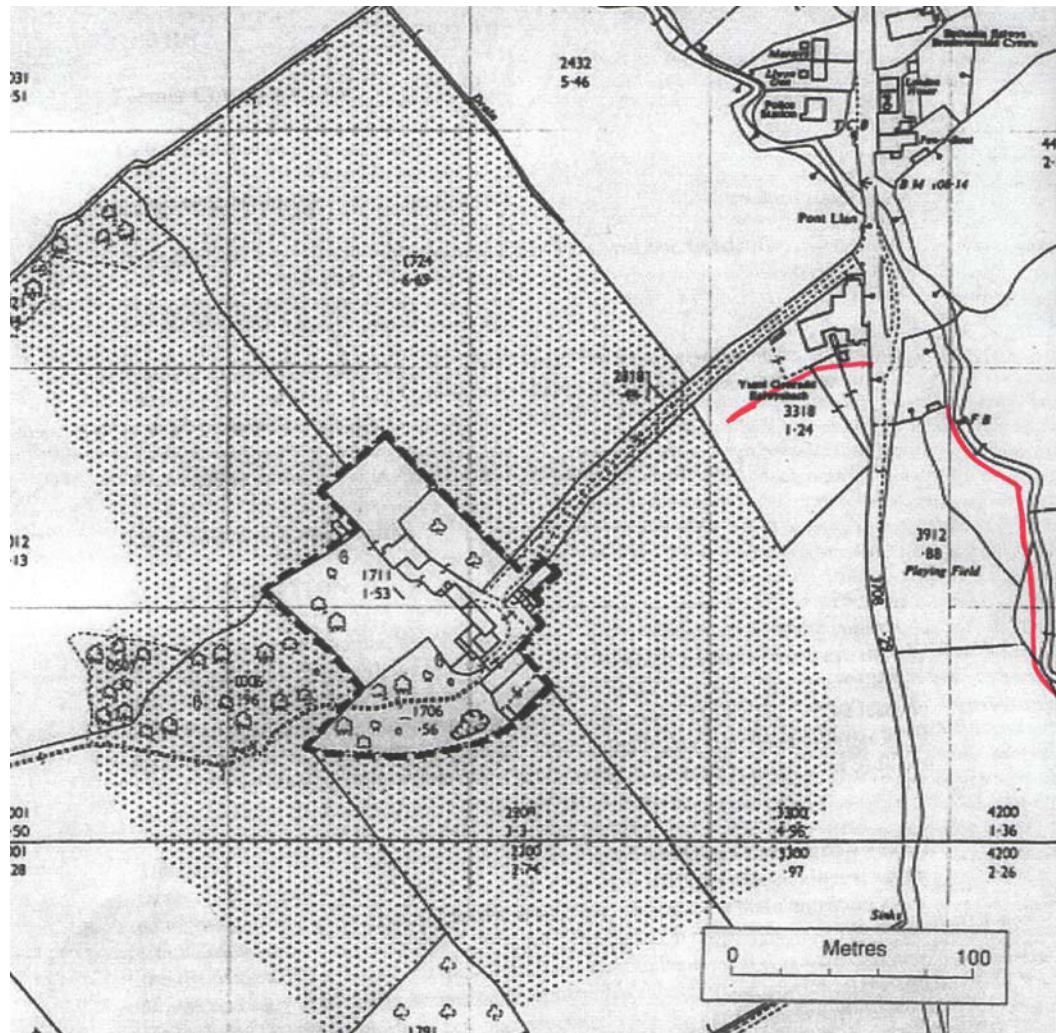


Fig. 7 Plan accompanying the entry for Plas-yn-Llan Grade II Historic Garden (PGW (GD) 051 (CON).

The broken line indicates the extent of the Historic Garden and the dotted area indicates the Essential Setting

5.3 Plas-yn-Llan is private property and there is no public access. The structure of the garden partially survives together with some of the walls, although in poor condition in places. However, the garden has long since been grassed over and used as part of the pastureland that surrounds the house and farm buildings. The buildings include the Grade II Listed 17th century house, the contemporary Grade II two-storey stable and barn, together with additional stone buildings.

5.4 The need to preserve the best examples of historic buildings has long been recognised by the government. Individual buildings of special architectural or historic interest have been given special protection in planning law, most recently under *The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990* (Amended 2009). The National Assembly for Wales published planning policy guidance in the Welsh Office Circulars 61/96 and 1/98 and Listed Building consent is required for any works affecting Listed Buildings or structures. The setting of the Listed

buildings and gardens at Plas-yn-Llan will be visually impacted on by the proposed works. However, the impact on the site requires clarification.

5.5 The construction work will be intrusive but temporary in terms of visual appearance, noise and access. The new bund to be constructed on Area 'A', the school play area, will have a more lasting visual impact on the setting of Plas-yn-Llan. However, Area 'A' is already much altered from the former pasture land recorded by the tithe in 1841 and the landscape that existed around the time that the house was built. Area 'A' is fenced and, adjacent to it, the school yard has a high fence and floodlights, which have already visually impacted on the setting of the Listed buildings and former Historic Garden. Plate 16 *previous* shows the close proximity of the school and existing play areas to the farmstead.

5.6 Observations made during the site walk-over indicate that the proposed flood wall in Area 'A' will be contained within the school play area, which has already impacted visually on the setting of the Listed buildings and Historic garden. The limited height of the defences suggests they will have little or no additional negative impact on the setting.

Impact on the Grade II Listed original school building

5.7 The school has undergone several building phases since the original wing was built in 1832. The proposed construction work will be intrusive but temporary in terms of noise and access on the school and play areas as a whole. The proposed flood defence wall will have a lasting visual impact on the setting of the school complex, when viewed from the rear. The wall will have no lasting visual impact on the original school wing, which fronts the road as seen in Plate 8 *previous*. The overall purpose of the scheme appears to be a positive contribution to the protection of the school building and its setting.

Construction of the earth bund

5.8 The site walk-over showed no above ground evidence of any archaeological features or the potential to uncover archaeological evidence in the areas to be affected by the construction of the bund. The construction methodology will comprise the removal of turf and topsoil and excavation to key the bund into existing ground, as indicated on Fig. 2 *previous*. The bund construction will be sited on the school play Area 'A' and the west bank of the river in Areas 'B' and 'C'. Modern flood alleviation schemes in general necessitate the movement of large-scale machinery and earth-moving vehicles and it is imperative to consider carefully not just the location of the bund but also the access route to and from the construction site and any storage areas for goods and materials, together with the sources of these materials.

5.9 While no above ground archaeological features are recorded along the line of the proposed bund, the potential for revealing unknown archaeological remains is a consideration during construction works of this size. The opportunity to research, investigate, record and interpret previously unknown archaeological evidence, if existing, as a result of the proposed works is seen as a positive impact.

Works within the river bed

5.10 The proposed works include limited dredging and removal of river bed deposits to variable depths (*see* Fig. 2). The methodology of dredging works has the greatest potential to uncover hitherto unknown archaeological remains, as well as possible artefactual evidence. Wet anaerobic conditions create the optimum circumstances for the preservation of organic materials that would not survive on dry land. The potential to uncover buried archaeological deposits and / or chance finds will depend on the proposed depth of excavation associated with the works. Changes in river channel morphology and sediment distribution within gravel-bed environments have the potential to transport and deposit artefacts from prehistoric times to the present day. The opportunity to record and interpret previously unknown archaeological evidence or artefacts, if existing, as a result of the dredging work is seen as a positive impact.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Collation of existing historical and archaeological information together with the site visit has shown that the proposed works lie in close proximity to the Grade II Listed house, barn, and Historic Garden at Plas-yn-Llan. The extent of the recommended 'Essential Setting' extends to Area 'A' of the proposed works, where the expansion of the school and the construction of the high fencing that encloses the play areas together with tall floodlights, has already visually impacted on the setting of the historic sites. The limited height of the defences suggests they will have little or no additional negative impact on the setting.

6.2 Area 'A' is located to the rear of the Grade II Listed wing of the school built in 1832. The wing fronts the minor road and, while construction work will be intrusive but temporary in terms of visual appearance, noise and access, the new flood wall will have no lasting visual impact on the setting of the original wing of the school.

6.3 No significant permanent negative impact on the built heritage or the historic landscape is predicted during or after the proposed works.

6.4 While no above ground archaeological features were encountered during the present study, flood alleviation schemes are generally considered to have the potential to reveal hitherto unknown archaeological remains as well as possible artefactual evidence. The archaeological potential of the west bank of the Afon Hiraethlyn within the area of the proposed works is difficult to evaluate based on the current limited observations. However, the absence of above ground archaeology does not negate the potential for sub-surface archaeological evidence. Wetlands, in general, have the potential to reveal archaeological remains, artefactual evidence and / or palaeo-environmental information.

6.5 The scheme may provide an opportunity to research and record sub-surface deposits, which may otherwise remain unknown. The scheme may provide potential to uncover palaeoenvironmental evidence including submerged land surfaces; evidence of the relationship between the river and the adjacent agricultural land as well as the recovery of chance finds.

6.6 National policy in respect of the archaeological resource and the contribution it makes to our cultural, social and economic lives advocates the protection and preservation of sites and their settings and the opportunity to preserve by record. The archaeological resource is non-renewable and the impact of operational works on any sub-surface archaeology that may exist would be considered to be substantial.

Mitigation

6.7 This report recommends that a targetted archaeological watching brief should be carried out during the initial stages of turf and topsoil strip, excavation works and dredging in association with the construction phase, with the aim of preservation by record. The archaeological watching brief should be maintained during all dredging work in order to record potential archaeological features and artefacts.

6.8 A contingency allowance should be set aside for sufficient archaeological recording and / or hand-excavation of any unexpected archaeological features and appropriate conservation of any artefacts. Procedures should be in place for the immediate post-excavation care of any waterlogged deposit and / or artefacts recovered.

6.9 Given that appropriate mitigation is agreed prior to any construction work, no significant permanent negative impact on the archaeological resource is predicted during or after the proposed works.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Castlering Archaeology would like to thank Conwy County Borough Council for contracting the work; Jenny Emmett, Development Control Archaeologist, GAPS for the provision of the archaeological brief (Appendix 1); staff at the RCAHMW, NMR and NLW, Aberystwyth and staff at Caernarfon, Conwy and Denbighshire Archives.

8. SOURCES

8.1 Bibliography

Cadw, ICOMOS and CCW, 1998, *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales – Part 1: Parks and Gardens*. Cadw: Cardiff.

Department for Communities and Local Government, 2010, *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*. March 2010, London: TSO (www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planning)

English Heritage, 2006, *Management of Archaeological Projects*. London (MAP2)

IfA, 1996, *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (revised 2008)

IfA, 1997, *Code of Conduct* (revised 2009)

IfA, 1999, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (revised 2001)

IfA, 1999, *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (revised 2008)

IfA, 1999, *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (revised 2008)

Gardner, W, 1913, Excavation of Tumuli, Eglwysbach, *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, 163, 17-37

Roberts, S. Tudor, 1985, *Ysgol Eglwysbach 1835-1985* (NLW DYB 2003c87)

Smith, B. & George, T.N., 1961, *British Regional Geology – North Wales*. London: HMSO

Welsh Office Planning Guidance, 2002, *Planning Policy Guidance Wales*

Welsh Office Planning Guidance, 1996, *Circular 60/96: Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology*

Welsh Office Planning Guidance, 1998, *Circular 61/96: Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas*

Welsh Office Planning Guidance, 1998, *Circular 1/98 Planning and the Historic Environment*

WI, 1978, Hiraethlyn Jubilee Trail (Womens Institute publication)

8.2 Cartographic Sources:

1843	Tithe map
1880	OS 6" map, sheets 6NW & 6SW, surveyed 1875
1900	OS 6" map, sheets 6NW & 6SW
1954	Provisional edition OS map

8.3 Caernarfon CRO, Ruthin

XD101 17th cent-19th cent: Pennant (Denbighshire) estate and house building papers and Holland family papers
Tucker, Norman, *Eglwysbach: its origins and its history, 1894-1971* (Collection of notes & newspaper cuttings)

8.4 Conwy Archives

PD/27/1/30	1843 Tithe apportionment
PD/27/1/70	Account Book voucher for building school, 1835-6
PD/27/1/71	Correspondence, papers etc re. school buildings & playground, 1877-1964
PD/27/1/73	Plans & accounts re. alterations to school, 1920-1922
PD/74	1813 description of parish boundaries re. Enclosure
CX288/1/1/57	Ivor Wynn Jones collection; 20th century notes, newspaper cuttings etc re. village & parish

8.5 Denbighshire CRO, Ruthin

DRO DD/DM/654/1	1914 6" OS map showing the extent of Lord Aberconwy's estate at Bodnant
DRO NTD/407/49	1971 Country Quest article re Plas-yn-Llan, Eglwysbach
DRO ED/X/27/5	Functional and social changes in Eglwysbach 1875-1975, 1976c
DRO NCD/265	20th century article re Eglwysbach and the Conwy Valley
DRO NTD/146	20th century notes on village and parish church

8.6 Photography (RCAHMW collection)

Aerial Photographs

Sortie 3G/TUD/UK34; Frame 5030 & 5031; date 16.1.1946 (NMR)
AP 2007; Frame 39; NNNPRN 409063; date 28.3.2007 (NMR)

Standard:

AA54/2667	Photographic survey of Plas-yn-Llan undertaken by George Bernard Mason as part of the National Buildings Record in 1954
NA/GEN/93/08/e	Ysgol Eglwysbach 29.08.1989

8.7 Websites:

www.ads.ahds.ac.uk	www.archwilio.org.uk
www.british-history.ac.uk	(Lewis, 1849, A Topographical Dictionary of Wales)
www.cadw.wales.gov.uk	www.coflein.gov.uk
www.google-earth.com	www.heneb.co.uk www.Roman-Britain.org

8.8 GAT Historic Environment Records (HER)

HER No. 5678 NGR: SH80517047

Name: Possible Earthwork/Mound, Eglwysbach

Description:

Almost circular earthwork mound; appears to be cut by later hedge which appears on tithe maps of mid-1800s. Dimensions approx 5m E-W and 3m N-S. A deep hole approx. 0.5m in diameter has been cut into one side and appears to be over 1m deep. Site overgrown with brambles when visited in 1995

Source: Geary, K., 1995

HER No. 2892 NGR: SH80347065

Name: Bedd Carrog alleged Barrow mound,

Description:

Tumulus 90 paces circumference and 4ft in height, is situated in the field immediately to the N of the house of 'The Hand' (formerly an inn) at the N end of Eglwysbach village. Condition: slightly damaged. Now interpreted as a natural oval mound, situated in a valley bottom.

Bedd Carawg - grave of Carrog, which, as tradition says, is the grave of a huge wild boar, killed by Bach ab Corwed, on the river Carrog.

Source: Davies, E., 1929, Prehistoric and Roman Remains in Denbighshire

HER No. 17660 NGR: SH82167199

Name: Section of Canovium - Varis Roman Road,

Description:

Recorded in Antonine Itinerary, the list of Roman road stations produced during the second century AD. Extended eastwards to the legionary fortress at Chester

Source: Hopewell, D., 2007, Roman Roads in North-west Wales. GAT Report No. 668.

HER No. 6964 NGR: SH80327053

Name: Eglwysbach Parish Church

Description:

Church dedicated to St. Martin. The medieval church was replaced in 1782 by the current building, consisting of an aisled nave, south and north aisles, and a west tower and there are few details of the original church remaining. The south porch was added in 1837. Extensive restorations took place in 1874 when the seating was replaced, the church was re-floored, the west gallery was removed and the east window and the four windows in the south and north walls were inserted. Two outbuildings were also built against the west wall. All of the memorials were removed during the C19th restorations. The cemetery was extended on the west side in 1862 and in 1947, and on the northwest side in 1903.

Source: Crossley, F. H., 1946, Archaeologia Cambrensis

Hubbard, E., 1986, The Buildings of Wales - Clwyd

HER No. 17285 NGR: SH80207010

Name: Plas-yn-Llan Gardens

Description:

Structure of late 17th-century walled and terraced garden associated with Grade II Listed country house, the oldest part of which dates to the mid-16th century. The major phase of activity associated with the garden, however, was probably in the late seventeenth century when the stable block was built. This phase is represented in the house by two large heraldic plaster overmantels which bear the arms and abbreviated titles of Sir John Wynn, 5th Baronet, of Wynnstay and are dated 1684.

Source: Cadw/Icomos Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest, 1998, Record Id: 2660; Reference PGW(Gd)51(CON)

& National Monuments Record No. NPRN 409063

APPENDIX 1 COPY OF THE PROJECT BRIEF (GAPS 27.20.2010)**DESIGN BRIEF FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT****Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service**

Site: Land adjacent to Afon Hiraethlyn, Eglwysbach

Client: Conwy County Council

Date: 27th October 2010

Planning Reference: 0/37211 and 0/37272

National Grid Reference: 280458, 369926 and 280069, 370550

This design brief is only valid for six months after the above date. After this period Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service should be contacted.

It is recommended that the contractor appointed to carry out the archaeological assessment visits the site of the proposed development and consults the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER) for north-west Wales before completing their specification. Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service cannot guarantee the inclusion of all relevant information in the design brief.

Key elements specific to this design brief have been highlighted.

1.0 Site Location and Description of Proposed Development

- 1.1. Eglwysbach is an extensive parish located on the east side of the river Conwy. Eglwysbach village is an essentially linear settlement along a minor road on the floor of the Hiraethlyn valley, with some modern residential development to the north-west. The Afon Hiraethlyn bounds the village to the west and south, while the Nant y Rhaglaw defines the northern extent.
- 1.2. For the purposes of this brief the proposed development comprises a proposed flood alleviation scheme at Eglwysbach, Conwy. The scheme is divided into two parts covered by separate planning applications: land west of Heol Ffynnon Asa or lower reaches (0/37272) and land adjacent to Eglwysbach Primary School / Afon Hiraethlyn or upper reaches (0/37211). As the two parts are located very close to one another a combined archaeological assessment encompassing both parts is to be undertaken, to avoid duplication of work and to achieve a more complete assessment.
- 1.3. The site known as 'land west of Heol Ffynnon Asa' is located to the west of the village of Eglwysbach, centred at approximate NGR 280069, 370550. The application area comprises a corridor of the Afon Hiraethlyn and adjacent pasture land, to the rear of residential properties along Heol Ffynnon Asa and Heol Carrog, and a small area of land north of the confluence of the Afon Hiraethlyn with the minor watercourse Nant y Rhaglaw.
- 1.4. The proposed works at this site comprise the partial dredging, and widening and reinforcement of approximately 460m of the river channel, and the excavation of a new channel of approximately 50m length.
- 1.5. The site known as 'land adjacent to Eglwysbach Primary School / Afon Hiraethlyn' is located to the south of the village, centred at approximate 280458, 369926. The application area comprises a corridor passing through pasture land on the west bank of the Afon Hiraethlyn.

- 1.6. The proposed works at this site comprise the construction of an earth bund of approximately 620m length, 6.5m width and up to 1m height, and dredging of the river channel.

2.0 Archaeological Background

- 2.1 There are no known archaeological sites within either of the application areas and no recent archaeological fieldwork has taken place in the locality. As result the archaeological resource of the area is poorly understood. Historic maps illustrate the areas as agricultural land, indicating that any buried archaeological remains may be undisturbed.
- 2.2 Existing archaeological records in the locality comprise: a barrow reputed to have existed at the northern edge of the village (PRN 2892) but which is probably of natural origin; a sub-circular earthwork of unknown date or origin is recorded at the eastern edge of the village (PRN 5678); the findspot of a bronze age celt (tool) (PRN 2889) near Plas-yn-Llan; and two post-medieval water mills at Pentre'felin to the south (PRNs 945 and 949). The present parish church dates from 1782, but replaced a medieval foundation, demonstrating a potential for evidence from at least the medieval period.
- 2.3 The Grade II registered historic garden of Plas-yn-Llan is located to the south-west of Eglwysbach village, and its essential setting extends to within 100m of both parts of the scheme. Plas-yn-Llan (also Grade II listed) is considered to be a gentrified farmhouse or minor gentleman's residence belonging to the Wynn family, dating from the mid 16th century but with its principal phase in the late 17th century.
- 2.4 A programme of archaeological assessment is required to establish the archaeological potential of the application areas and to inform assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed development on archaeology.

3.0 Archaeological requirements

- 3.1 This is a *design brief* for the first phase of a staged programme of archaeological works. The aim of this phase is to prepare an **archaeological assessment** to be undertaken according to guidelines set out in Welsh national planning guidance (*Planning Policy Guidance Wales 2010*) and Welsh Office Circular 60/96 (*Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology*). The assessment will comprise a **desk-based assessment and field survey**.
- 3.2 The purpose of the archaeological work is to make full and effective use of existing information in establishing the archaeological significance of the site, in order to assess the impact of the development proposals on the historic environment and to help inform future decision making, design solutions and potential mitigation strategies.
- 3.3 This *design brief* should be used by the archaeological contractor as the basis for the preparation of a detailed written archaeological *specification*. The specification must be submitted to the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service for approval before the work commences.
- 3.4 The *specification* should contain, as a minimum, the following elements:
 - Non-technical summary.

- Details of the proposed works as precisely as is reasonably possible, indicating clearly on a plan their location and extent.
- A research design which sets out the site-specific objectives of the archaeological works.
- Reference to the relevant legislation.
- Health and Safety considerations.
- Monitoring procedures.
- Field methodology.
- The level and grade of all key project staff.
- A timetable for the proposed works including contingency costs (if appropriate).
- The intended method of publication.
- Archive deposition

3.5 Following the desk-based assessment a programme of evaluation may also be required in advance of development in order to further assess the presence or absence of remains, their extent, nature, quality and character before determining the appropriate mitigation strategy.

3.6 Any work following the desk-based assessment and field survey will require approval of a new specification for archaeological work by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service.

4.0 Desk-based assessment detail

4.1 The assessment must consider the following:

- a) The nature, extent and degree of survival of archaeological sites, structures, deposits and landscapes within the study area through the development of an **archaeological deposit model**. This deposit model should reflect accurately the state of current knowledge and provide a research framework for further work if necessary. [See 4.2 below for further details]
- b) The **significance** of any remains in their context both regionally and nationally and in light of the findings of the desk based study.
- c) The **history of the site**. [See section 4.3 below for further details]
- d) The potential impact of any proposed development on the **setting of known sites of archaeological importance**.
- e) An assessment of the potential for further investigative work and give recommendations where appropriate for a **methodology for further non-intrusive survey and / or intrusive evaluation** to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development **and/or an appropriate mitigation strategy**. [See section 4.4-4.5 below for further details]

4.2 The **archaeological deposit model** will involve the following areas of research:

- a) Collation and assessment of all relevant information held in the HER, including listed building records.
- b) Assessment of all available excavation reports and archives including unpublished and unprocessed material affecting the site and its setting.
- c) Assessment of all extant aerial photographic (AP) evidence and, where relevant, a re-plotting of archaeological and topographic information by a suitably qualified specialist at an appropriate scale. The main source of archaeological aerial photographic records is the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW), Aberystwyth.
- d) Assessment of archive records held at the relevant county archives / record office and as appropriate, RCAHMW and University College Bangor.
- e) Assessment of the environmental potential of the archaeological deposits through existing data or by inference.
- f) Assessment of the faunal potential of the archaeological deposits through existing data or by inference.
- g) Assessment of the artefactual potential of the archaeological deposits through existing data or by inference.
- h) Assessment of available geotechnical information for the area including the results of test pits and boreholes.
- i) Assessment of the present topography and land use of the area through map research and site visits.
- j) A walkover survey of the proposed development areas.

4.3 **Historical research** will involve the following:

- a) A review of the published resources.
- b) An analysis of relevant maps and plans. Cartographic evidence is held at the County Record Offices, including tithe maps, enclosure act plans, estate maps and all editions of the Ordnance Survey. Place and field-name evidence from these sources must be considered.
- c) An analysis of the historical documents (e.g. county histories, local and national journals and antiquarian sources) held in museums, libraries or other archives, in particular local history and archives library.
- d) A review of the aerial photographic evidence.

4.4 The assessment must formulate a **methodology for further archaeological investigation and/or mitigation** within a programme of research. This must consider the use of the following techniques:

- a) Archaeological historic building recording / survey.
- b) The use of geophysical survey.
- c) A programme of trenching and/or test pits to investigate the deposit model in more detail.
- d) A programme of strip, map and sample in areas of identified potential.

- e) Design modification to preserve remains *in situ*.
- f) Archaeological excavation of identified remains.
- g) Archaeological watching brief on construction works.
- h) Environmental sampling / auger survey.

- 4.5 The detail of any evaluation or mitigation work will be agreed with Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service prior to being undertaken following the completion of the first phase of archaeological assessment and in accordance with an agreed detailed specification.

5.0 Results

- 5.1 The results must be presented in a report and should be detailed and laid out in such a way that data and supporting text are readily cross-referenced. **The HER Officer should be contacted to ensure that any sites or monuments not previously recorded in the HER are given a Primary Record Number (PRN) and that data structure is compatible with the HER.** The historical development of the site must be presented in phased maps and plans comprising clearly, the outline of the site.
- 5.2 The deposit model should be presented graphically in plan and, where appropriate, in profile and at a scale that is commensurate with subsequent use as a working document.
- 5.3 Within the report an attempt should be made to indicate areas of greater or lesser archaeological significance and the sites should be ranked in level of overall archaeological importance (locally, regionally and nationally).
- 5.4 All relevant aerial photographs, re-plots and historic maps must be included and be fully referenced. Any site photographs included in the report should be appropriately captioned and clearly located on a suitably scaled site plan.
- 5.5 The report should specifically include the following:
- a) a copy of the design brief
 - b) a location plan
 - c) all identified sites plotted on an appropriately scaled plan of the proposal site
 - d) a gazetteer of all located sites with full dimensional and descriptive detail **including grid reference and period**

6.0 General requirements

- 6.1 The archaeological assessment and walkover survey must be undertaken by an appropriately qualified individual or organisation, fully experienced in work of this character.
- 6.2 Details, including the name, qualifications and experience of the project director and all other key project personnel (including specialist staff) should be communicated to the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service and all written work attributed to an author(s).
- 6.3 Contractors and subcontractors are expected to conform to the following standard professional guidelines in the undertaking of this work:

- English Heritage's 2006 Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice
 - English Heritage's 2006 Management Of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE)
 - The Institute for Archaeologists 1985 (revised 2010) Code of Conduct.
 - The Institute for Archaeologists 1990 (revised 2008) Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.
 - The Institute for Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2001) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment.
 - The Institute for Archaeologists 1996 (revised 1999) Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures.
 - The Institute for Archaeologists 1999 (revised 2008) Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials.
 - The Institute for Archaeologists 2008 Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives.
 - English Heritage's 1991 Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2).
- 6.4 Many people in North Wales speak Welsh as their first language, and many of the archive and documentary references are in Welsh. Contractors should therefore give due consideration to their ability to understand and converse in Welsh.
- 6.5 Any changes to the specifications that the archaeological contractor may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated to Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service and approved.
- 6.6 The involvement of Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service should be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.
- 6.7 A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project should be prepared in accordance with standard guidance. All plans, photographs and descriptions should be labelled, cross-referenced and lodged in an appropriate place (to be agreed with Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service) within six months of the completion of the project.
- 6.8 Two copies of the bound report must be sent to the address below, one copy marked for the attention of the Development Control Archaeologist, the other for attention of the HER Officer, who will deposit the copy in the HER.
- 7.0 Curatorial monitoring**
- 7.1 The project will be monitored by the development control archaeologist at Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service to ensure the fulfilment of the brief and specifications. The development control archaeologist will normally inspect site works and review the progress of excavation reports and archive preparation. The archaeological contractor must inform Gwynedd

Archaeological Planning Service in writing of the proposed start dates for the project.

Further information

- 8.1 This document outlines best practice expected of an archaeological assessment but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. If requirements of the brief cannot be met they should only be excluded or altered after gaining written approval of the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service.
- 8.2 Further details or clarification of any aspects of the brief may be obtained from the Development Control Archaeologist at the address below.

Glossary of terms

Archaeological Contractor

A professionally qualified individual or an organisation containing professionally qualified archaeological staff, able to offer an appropriate and satisfactory treatment of the archaeological resource, retained by the developer to carry out archaeological work either prior to the submission of a planning application or as a requirement of the planning process.

Archaeological Curator

A person, or organisation, responsible for the conservation and management of archaeological evidence by virtue of official or statutory duties. In north-west Wales the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authorities is the development control archaeologist, who works to the Welsh Archaeological Trust's Curators' Code of Practice.

Archive

An ordered collection of all documents and artefacts from an archaeological project, which at the conclusion of the work should be deposited at a public repository, such as the local museum.

Brief

The Association of County Archaeological Officers (1993) defines a *brief* as an outline framework of the planning and archaeological situation which has to be addressed, together with an indication of the scope of works that will be required.

Historic environment Record (HER)

A documentary record of known sites in a given area. In north-west Wales the HER is curated by the curatorial division of the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.

Specification

The Association of County Archaeological Officers (1993) defines a *specification* as a schedule of works outlined in sufficient detail to be quantifiable, implemented and monitored.

Watching brief

A formal programme of observation during non-archaeological excavation

works in order to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains which may be present, in accordance with the Archaeological Standards.

References

Cadw, ICOMOS and CCW, 1998. *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales – Part 1: Parks and Gardens*. Cadw: Cardiff.

Jenny Emmett
Archaeolegydd Rheolaeth Datblygiad - Development Control Archaeologist

Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service
Craig Beuno
Ffordd Y Garth
Bangor
Gwynedd LL57 2RT

Ffon/Tel: 01248 370926
Ffacs/Fax: 01248 370925
jenny.emmett@heneb.co.uk

APPENDIX 2 COPY OF THE WSI

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION
FOR A DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT & SITE WALK-OVER
TO BE UNDERTAKEN AT THE PROPOSED SITE OF
EGLWYSBACH FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME
SJ 8035 7012 – SJ 8035 6990**

PREPARED BY:

Pat Frost, Consultant Archaeologist

Castlering Archaeology

33 Stallion Lane, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. SY5 0PN

Tel: 01743 792297 Mobile: 07971751978

email: mail@castleringarchaeology.co.uk

www.castleringarchaeology.co.uk

29th November 2010

1. Introduction

1.1 This written scheme of investigation (WSI) for a desk-based assessment and site walk-over to be undertaken on the proposed site of Eglwysbach Flood Alleviation scheme has been prepared for the approval of Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS). The assessment has been prepared by Castlering Archaeology, at the request of Conwy County Borough Council.

1.2 GAPS have advised that, while no recent archaeological fieldwork has been undertaken in or around the village of Eglwysbach and the potential for buried archaeological remains at this site is not known, valley floor locations typically hold high potential for well-preserved archaeological remains, due to preservation by waterlogging and protection of buried remains by the accumulation of alluvial soils. In consequence GAPS considers that the proposed engineering works have the potential to expose and/or adversely affect any such archaeological remains present.

1.3 An archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey has therefore been requested in order to assess the impact of the proposed works on the historic environment.

2. Revision of Scheme

2.1 Two applications were originally submitted in respect of the flood alleviation scheme – Application Nos 0/37272 and 0/37211. The scheme has subsequently been revised and the scheme will be restricted to land adjacent to Eglwysbach Primary School and the Afon Hiraethlyn – Application No. 0/37211. The proposed scheme will impact on a corridor passing south of the school and passing through pasture land on the west bank of the Afon Hiraethlyn; from approximately SJ 8032 7015 in the north to SJ 8045 6990 in the south (Fig. 1 *enclosed*).

2.2 The proposed works comprise the construction of an earth bund approximately 620m in length, 6.5m wide by 1m high, and dredging of the river channel (Fig. 2).

3. Methodology

3.1 The desk-based assessment is designed to determine the existence, location, character and date of significant archaeological remains that exist in, or adjacent to, the proposed works, and the potential to recover further archaeological evidence as part of the construction phase of the proposed scheme.

3.2 The assessment will be undertaken using proven archaeological techniques, which comply with Guidelines and Codes of Conduct set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA, 2009); in particular the *Standard & Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* (IfA 1994, revised October 2008). The assessment follows the guidance of the Department for Communities and Local Government's *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (March 2010) and Welsh Office Planning Guidance *Planning Policy Guidance Wales* (March 2002); *Circular 60/96: Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology* (December 1996); *Circular 61/96: Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas* and *Circular 1/98 Planning and the Historic Environment* (February 1998).

3.3 The desk-based study will consult relevant readily available records held at the following repositories:

- Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Bangor (GAT)
- Bangor University Archives
- Conwy Archives, Llandudno
- the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth
- the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth

3.4 The assessment will consult:

- the Historic Environment Record (HER) held by GAT
- previous archaeological interventions / assessments
- printed maps & manuscripts
- photographic and pictorial sources
- published & unpublished works

4. Site walkover

The site visit is a non-intrusive process designed to assess the current land-use and topography, structures and earthworks and the potential for buried archaeological deposits that may be encountered during the proposed works. The walk-over will be undertaken in order to relate to the existing landscape to the results of the desk-based study.

5. Report

5.1 Following the desk-based study and site visit, an illustrated and bound report will be prepared in A4 and PDF format, presenting the archaeological resource of the site.

5.2 The report will include as a minimum:

- non-technical summary
- the location of the site
- summary of the methodology employed
- a full written description & interpretation of the results of the assessment
- summary of past and present land-use
- cartographic regression
- plans / illustrations as appropriate
- descriptive & illustrated interpretation of existing and / or potential archaeological deposits/ features
- conclusions
- list of all sources consulted
- archive statement
- copy of the project WSI

5.3 An appropriate number of copies of the report will be produced for the client; GAPS and Gwynedd HER. A copy of the report will be deposited with the HER within one month of completion of the project.

6. Resources and Programming

6.1 The documentary research, site visit, report preparation and archive deposition will be undertaken by the Contractor, who is a Member of the Institute for Archaeologists (MifA). The contractor will abide by the *IFA Code of Conduct* (1997).

6.2 The Contractor is an affiliated member of CBA and holds Insurance for Public and Employees Liability with Towergate Risk Solutions, recommended by CBA. The Contractor will adhere to the *Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974*.

6.3 The contracted will be monitored by GAPS.

APPENDIX 3 DIGITAL ARCHIVE**DIGITAL PHOTO ARCHIVE**

No	SUBJECT	View from
1	Report Plate 1- google-earth AP	-
2	Report Plate 2 - Plas-yn-Llan c.1954. Source RCAHMW; gtj 22233_1	Northeast
3	Report Plate 3 - Plas-yn-Llan c.1954. Source RCAHMW; gtj 222353_1	-
4	Report Plate 4 - Ysgol Eglysbach	Northwest
5	Report Plate 5 - Hiraethlyn valley, January 1946 AP; Source NMR 5030	-
6	Report Plate 6 - Area 'A' playing field	Southeast
7	Report Plate 7 - Area 'A' playing field	East
8	Report Plate 8 - Ysgol Eglysbach	North
9	Report Plate 9 - Pont Llan & Afon Hiraethlyn	North
10	Report Plate 10 - Area 'C'	North
11	Report Plate 11 - Area 'B'	North
12	Report Plate 12 - Area 'B'	North
13	Report Plate 13 - Area 'B'	North
14	Report Plate 14 - Area 'B'	South
15	Report Plate 15 - Sample gateposts	West
16	Report Plate 16 - Ysgol Eglysbach & view to Plas-yn-Llan	East
17	Area 'A' playing field	East
18	Pont Llan & Afon Hiraethlyn	North
19	Pont Llan & Afon Hiraethlyn	South
20	Area 'B' farm tracks	North
21	Area 'C'	West
22	Area 'B'	South
23	Area 'A' playing field & Ysgol Eglysbach	Southeast

DIRECTION OF REPORT PHOTOGRAPHS

