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*Survey Commissioned  
by  
A.L.I. Building Design Services.*

*Watching Brief carried out  
by  
I.P. Brooks and K. Laws  
Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd.*

*registered in England  
Nº 2869678*

*Plots 1 and 2, Land Adjacent to Bod Iorworth,  
Chapel Street, Newborough*

*January 2003  
Eas Client Report 2003/3*

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## **Bod Iorwerth, Newborough Watching Brief - Introduction:**

**NGR**

**Centred on SH 42454 65579**

### **Location and Topography**

*Originally part of the curtilage of Bod Iorwerth, Chapel Street, Newborough, Anglesey, Plots 1 and 2 occupy an area of rough ground between the house of Bod Iorwerth and Chapel Street (Figure 1). When compared to the profile of the field immediately to the south east, it is evident that the area has been built up along its north eastern edge to provide a level area of ground.*

### **Archaeological Background**

*Newborough was a planted town, imposed on an already existing town of Rhosyr. This was achieved by moving the burgesses of Llanfaes, in south east Anglesey, to make way for the construction of Beaumaris Castle and its English borough. Newborough's charter dates from AD 1303, although this is some eight years after the foundation of Beaumaris. The town was set out along two roads running roughly at right angles.*

*Newborough's fortunes proved to be somewhat mixed. Both environmental and historical events conspired to restrict the growth of the town. Repeated sand drifts were a recurrent problem. Probably the largest of these occurred in AD 1330, covering some 211 acres and destroying 28 cottages in Newborough and Rhosyr. The borough also suffered in the revolt of AD 1408-9 when nineteen burgages were burnt as a result of the revolt.*

*There was a revival of fortunes in the sixteenth century with the establishment of the county court in the town from AD 1507. This proved however, to be short lived and it was moved back to Beaumaris in AD 1549.*

*As part of an earlier development plan, by E. and M. Ogwen Roofing, in 1997, Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd, were commissioned to carry out a desktop study and evaluation of the plots (Brooks and Price 1997). The evaluation*

*consisted of the digging of three trenches in the middle section of the plot. The location of these trenches was confined by the brief prepared by the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service which specifically excluded the street frontage from the evaluation. Each of the trenches were approximately 10 x 2 m in size and were located as in Figure 2. They located a series of cobbling layers and short lengths of linear features suggesting a yard and possibly non domestic structures within the sampled area.*

*As a result of the evaluation it was recommended that a watching brief be carried out as part of any further work.*

### **Aims of the Watching Brief**

*To record any archaeological features or deposits disturbed by development activities.*

### **SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

*The foundation trenches for Plot 1, at the north eastern end of the area were monitored. A sequence of deposits were consistently recorded across the area suggesting a uniformity in the history of the plot.*

*Two major zones can be defined dividing the north east end of the development area from the rest of the plot. There would originally appear to have been an upper, yard area in the south western end of the plot and a lower, possible garden, area along the street frontage. At some time the lower garden area was built up in order to produce a relatively flat area in front of Bod Iorwerth. Some evidence for the digging of small pits into the north eastern end of the plot was also recorded.*

## **Bod Iorwerth, Newborough Watching Brief - Results:**

### **Methods**

*It is intended to construct two new properties within the plot between Bod Iorwerth and Chapel Street. Both properties are to be laid out at right angles to Chapel Street, facing onto the drive to Bod Iorwerth. Plot 1 is nearest to Chapel Street and Plot 2 to Bod Iorwerth.*

*The footing for Plot 1 were monitored as this is nearest to the street frontage. (Figure 2). Two of the trenches running approximately east west were drawn to provide a profile through the disturbed area (Figure 3).*

*The work took place on 18/1/03.*

### **Results: (Figures 3 and 4)**

*Four major phases of activity were defined from the watching brief. The earliest of these (Figure 5) would appear to be a major levelling of the north east end of the plot to produce a low level terrace at that end (Context 35) this terrace was approximately level with the road level producing a flat area approximately 12 m deep from the road frontage. The upper level, which was previously sampled in the evaluation, was approximately 0.7 m above the lower level. Sitting on the lower level was sandy humic soil (Contexts 29 and 32) which presumably represents the active soil on the lower terrace. Partly within this soils were at least two dumps of large stone boulders (Context 33). The most consistent of these ran along the face of the terrace and presumably acted as rough revetting for the slope. No other structures were seen on the lower terrace.*

*On the upper terrace a spread of orange/brown clayey soil with a high density of marine shells (Context 34) was observed covering an area of approximately 4 x 6 m. The shells were mainly cockles, although a few mussels and whelks were noted. This was presumably a dump of domestic rubbish. Unfortunately no dating evidence was obtained from either the soil (Contexts 29 and 32) or the possible shell midden (Context 34), although it is assumed that they may be*

*contemporary with the yard levels recorded in the evaluation.*

*At an unknown time the level of the lower terrace was raised to that of the upper terrace, thereby giving the plot its present form. This was achieved, partly by the dumping of a widespread layer of orange clay (Context 24). This layer covered the whole width of the plot and reached back at least 7 m from the road frontage. It is possible that the upper levels of Context 32 are a continuation of this process in a soily material. It was not, however, possible to distinguish the upper and lower parts of Context 32 in the field.*

*The make up layer was then subjected to a phase of the digging of features. Three features were located (Contexts 25, 27 and 30). All three would appear to have been small pits or large postholes. They were all cut from a level at the base of the modern topsoil (Context 23).*

*The site was sealed by a relatively thick (0.5 m) layer of sandy soil (Context 23). This had been disturbed relatively recently as it contained plastic and barely degraded material within its make-up.*

# **Bod Iorwerth, Newborough Watching Brief - Conclusions:**

## **Conclusions**

*Taking the evidence from the evaluation and watching brief it is possible to suggest a tentative reconstruction of some of the activity on the site. At a time, presumably contemporary with the early life of Bod Iorwerth, the plot was divided into two areas. An upper area, near to the house, with at least a partly cobbled surface and possibly non domestic structures and a lower area, next to Chapel Street, possibly laid out as a garden or small paddock. There is also some evidence of the dumping of domestic refuse at the end of the yard area furthest away from the house.*

*At a later date the lower terrace was filled to produce a relatively flat plot. The dating of this event is unknown, but it might be related to a change of use of Bod Iorwerth to purely domestic occupation.*

*The last major phase of activity would appear to be the digging of a series of small pits on the site, presumably for the disposal of small amounts of organic material as no finds were recovered from these features.*

## **References**

*Brooks, I.P. and Price J. 1997. Land adjoining Bod Iorwerth, Newborough. Archaeological Evaluation. Unpublished client report.*

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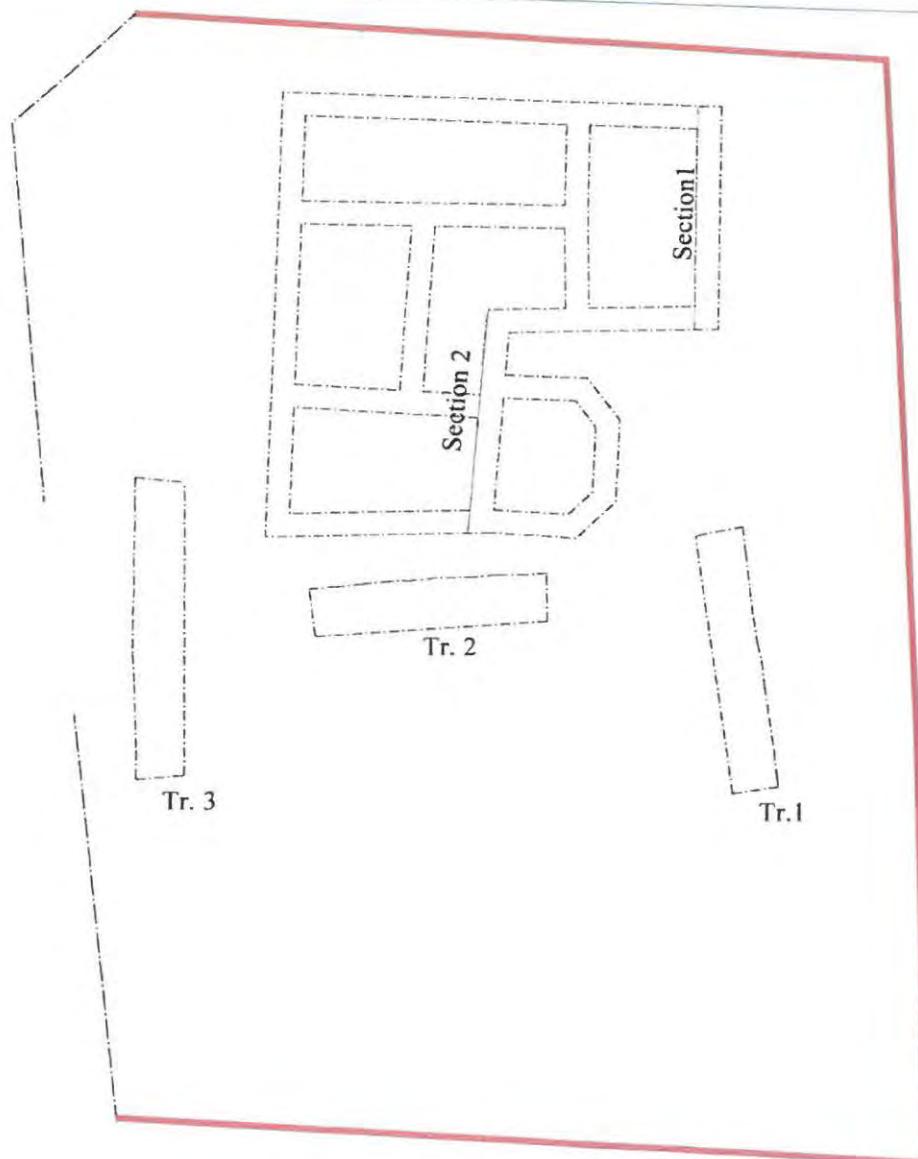
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Chapel Street



0 10.0 m

Figure 2: Land Adjoining Bod Iorwerth  
Location of Trenches and Footings

Scale 1:250

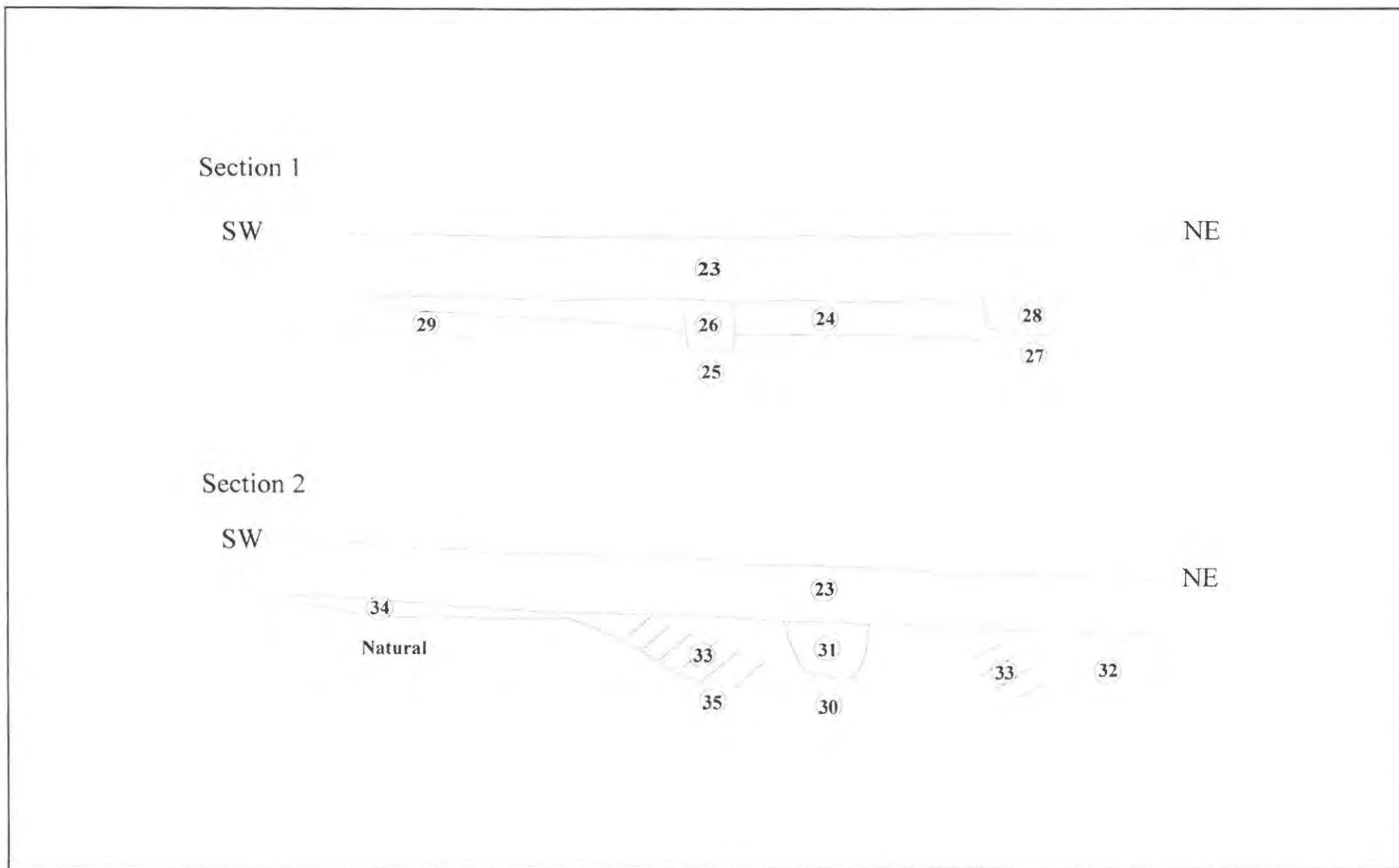


Figure 3: Sketch drawings of sections 1 and 2, scale: 1:50





## Chapel Street

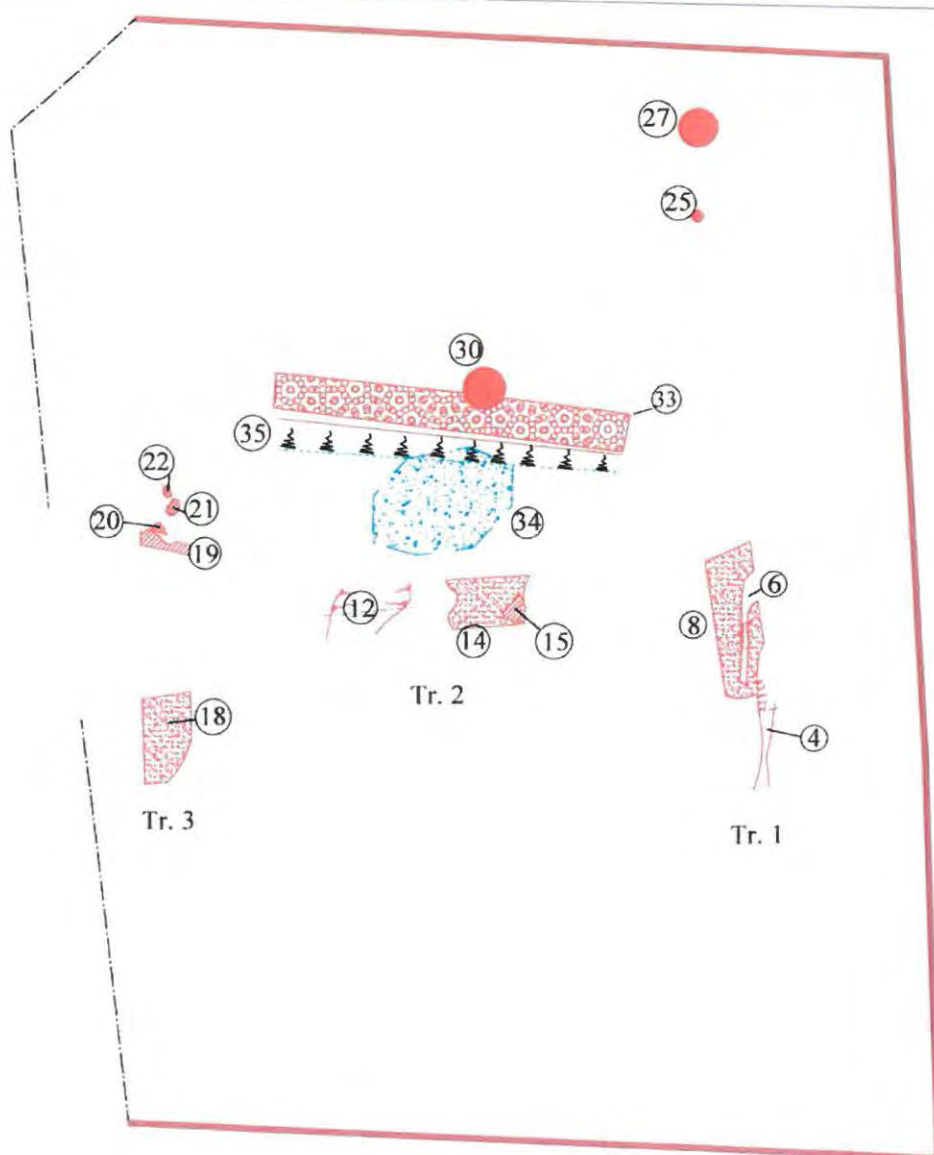
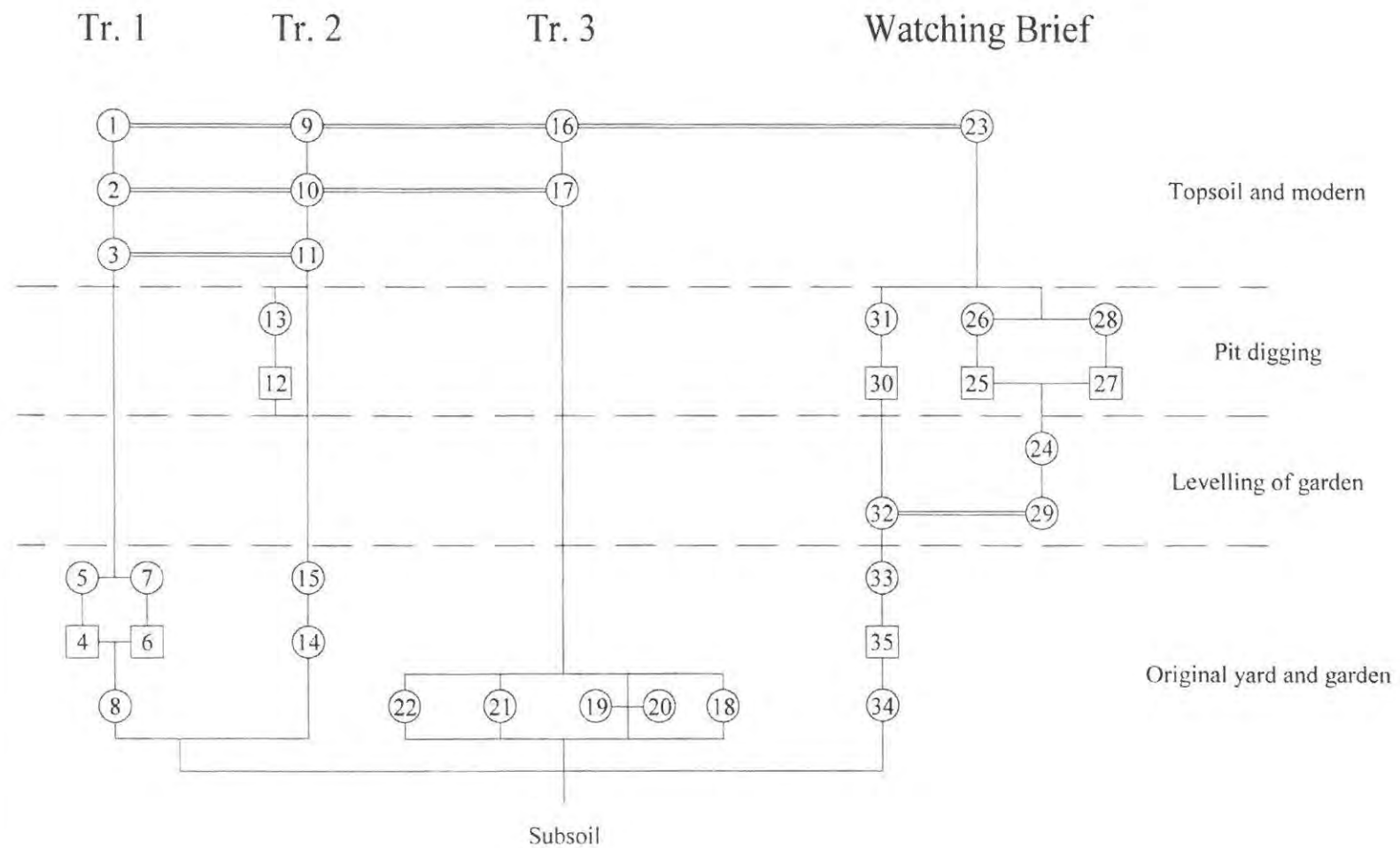


Figure 4: Land Adjoining Bod Iorwerth  
Location of Features

Scale 1:250

Figure 5: Stratigraphic Matrix



## Bod Iorwerth, Newborough Watching Brief- Appendix 1:

### *Appendix 1: Context Summary*

*This context summary includes those context recorded as part of the evaluation carried out in AD 1997*

| Context | Location | Relationships   | Description  |
|---------|----------|---|--|
| 1       | Tr. 1    | Above 2<br>Equivalent to 9                            | Humic sandy loam with occasional to frequent stones in the size range 50 - 100 mm. It also contains the occasional sherd of modern white ware. Above context 2. Probable modern levelling layer. Up to 200 mm thick. |
| 2       | Tr. 1    | Below 1<br>Above 3.<br>Equivalent to 10               | Mid brown, humic sandy loam. Probably a natural soil.  |
| 3       | Tr. 1    | Below 2<br>Above subsoil ,4 and 6<br>Equivalent to 11 | A humic sandy loam, slightly less humic than context 2. The context becomes slightly clayey towards its base with flecks of iron and manganese panning. This context is not readily distinguishable from that above. |
| 4       | Tr. 1    | Below 3<br>Cuts 8<br>Contains 5                       | Linear feature cut into the subsoil. width 0.5 m, depth 0.13 m.  |
| 5       | Tr. 1    | Below 3<br>Within 4                                   | Yellowish brown sandy clayey loam with the occasional fleck of iron pan, frequent stones up to 200 mm and the occasional slate fragment.   |
| 6       | Tr. 1    | Below 3<br>Cuts 8<br>Contains 7                       | Shallow gully 0.25 m wide and 0.09 m deep.   |
| 7       | Tr. 1    | Below 3<br>Within 6                                   | Compact sandy clayey loam.   |
| 8       | Tr. 1    | Below 3<br>Cut by 4 and 6                             | Area of cobbling reaching a depth of 0.16 m and filling a slight depression.   |
| 9       | Tr. 2    | Equivalent to 1<br>Above 10                           | Humic sandy loam with occasional to frequent stones in the size range 50 - 100 mm. It also contains the occasional sherd of modern white ware.   |
| 10      | Tr. 2    | Equivalent to 2<br>Below 9<br>Above 11                | Mid brown, humic sandy loam. Probably a natural soil.  |
| 11      | Tr. 2    | Below 10<br>Above 13, 14, 15<br>Equivalent to 3       | A humic sandy loam, slightly less humic than context 2. The context becomes slightly clayey towards its base with flecks of iron and manganese panning. This context is not readily distinguishable from that above. |

## Bod Iorwerth, Newborough Watching Brief- Appendix 1:

| Context | Location | Relationships   | Description  |
|---------|----------|---|--|
| 12      | Tr. 2    | Below 11<br>Contains 13   | Shallow depression   |
| 13      | Tr. 2    | Within 12<br>Below 11   | Slightly humic sandy loam with occasional bone and shell fragments, some slates and one fragment of coal.  |
| 14      | Tr. 2    | Below 11 and 15   | Area of cobbling.  |
| 15      | Tr. 2    | Below 11<br>Above 14  | Possible wall footing consisting of two large stones. The line was continued by two further stones which were removed during machining.  |
| 16      | Tr. 3    | Equivalent to 1 and 9<br>Above 17                                 | Humic sandy loam with frequent stones. The context is up to 0.25 m thick.  |
| 17      | Tr. 3    | Equivalent to 2, 3, 10 and 11.<br>Below 16<br>Above 18, 19 and 20 | Humic sandy loam with frequent stones. The context overlies a gravely subsoil (natural) surface.   |
| 18      | Tr. 3    | Below 17  | Area of cobbling.  |
| 19      | Tr. 3    | Below 17  | A single course of irregular stones, possibly the footing for a wall. The feature would appear to be in association with an area of burning (context 20).  |
| 20      | Tr. 3    | Below 17  | An area of burnt clay to the east of context 19.   |
| 21      | Tr. 3    | Below 17  | An area of burnt clay.   |
| 22      | Tr. 3    | Below 17  | An area of burnt clay.   |
| 23      |          | Equivalent to 1, 9, 16<br>Above 24, 26, 29, 31, 32, 34            | Dark grey sandy humic loam with the occasional small stone, fragments of modern plastic, rags and sherds of post medieval pottery. Up to 600 mm thick becoming shallower (250 mm) to the west. [Topsoil]   |
| 24      | Sect. 1  | Below 23<br>Cut by 25, 27<br>Above 29                             | Orange clay with occasional lens of dark grey clay loam. The layer also contains the occasional angular stone (20 - 100 mm), fragment of slate and fleck of charcoal. The layer is between 200 and 300 mm thick. The layer thins to the west. [Deliberate make up layer] |
| 25      | Sect. 1  | Below 23<br>Cuts 24<br>Contains 26                                | Small ?circular feature with near vertical sides. Diameter at section 400 mm, depth 500 mm. [Either large posthole or small pit]   |
| 26      | Sect. 1  | Below 23<br>Within 25   | Dark grey clayey soil with the occasional small stone, fragment of charcoal and ceramic (tile/brick). [Feature fill]   |

## Bod Iorwerth, Newborough Watching Brief- Appendix 1:

| Context | Location | Relationships                         | Description   |
|---------|----------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 27      | Sect. 1  | Below 23<br>Cuts 24<br>Contains 28    | Feature with sloping sides and a flat base, possibly circular in plan. Diameter 900 mm (approximately) depth 300 mm. [Shallow pit]  |
| 28      | Sect. 1  | Below 23<br>Within 27                 | Dark grey clayey loam with the occasional fleck of charcoal and small stone. [Feature fill]   |
| 29      | Sect. 1  | Below 24                              | Dark grey humic sandy soil with the flecks and lumps of charcoal and the occasional small stone. Between 200 and 300 mm thick. [Sealed garden soil]   |
| 30      | Sect. 2  | Below 23<br>Cuts 32<br>Contains 31    | Possible circular feature with sloping sides and a rounded base. Approximately 700 mm in diameter and 500 mm deep. [Possible pit]   |
| 31      | Sect. 2  | Below 23<br>Within 30                 | Dark grey clayey loam. [Fill of feature]  |
| 32      | Sect. 2  | Below 23<br>Cut by 30<br>Above 33, 12 | Dark grey sandy soil with charcoal fleck and the occasional small stone. A few sherds of post medieval pottery were recorded from this layer. The layer also contained dumps of large stone boulders up to 550 x 300 x 200 mm. [Deliberate make up layer]                 |
| 33      | Sect. 2  | Below 32<br>Above 35                  | Linear dump of large stone boulders up to 550 x 300 x 200 mm in size in a matrix of Context 32. The boulders form a linear band running across the site. [Boulder hardening for terrace]  |
| 34      | Sect. 2  | Below 10                              | Orange/brown clayey soil with a high density of marine shells. The shells are mainly cockles, although a few mussels and whelks were noted. Many of the shells were crushed. The layer covers an area of approximately 4.00 x 6.00 m and was up to 150 mm thick. [Midden] |
| 35      | Sect. 2  | Below 32, 33                          | Sloping cut, extending across the property to produce a lower area at the eastern end of the plot. The lower area is approximately 700 mm below the upper level. [Terrace]  |

## **Bod Iorwerth, Newborough Watching Brief- Appendix 2:**

### ***Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Plot 1 and 2, Land Adjacent to Bod Iorwerth, Church Street, Newborough:***

#### ***1 Background***

- 1.1 It is intended to build two domestic properties on the plot of land between Bod Iorwerth, Church Street, Newborough and the street frontage.
- 1.2 A previous evaluation carried out by Engineering Archaeological Service Ltd., carried out in June 1997, located a number of archaeological features and recommended a watching brief on the main phase of development.

#### ***2 Objectives***

The principal objectives of the proposed archaeological watching brief are as follows:

- 2.1 To identify and record, any archaeological features or deposits disturbed by the development.

#### ***3 Methodology***

##### ***3.1 Watching Brief:***

- 3.1.1 The archaeologist will be present throughout the trench excavations for footing and services.
- 3.1.2 Excavation of topsoil, overburden and non-archaeologically significant deposits will be carried out by machine preferably using a smooth faced bucket.
- 3.1.3 Where archaeological deposits are encountered excavation by hand will be undertaken and contexts investigated to obtain information on character, dating, function and relationship to adjacent features where appropriate.
- 3.1.4 Where appropriate features will be recorded by means of plans, sections, elevations, written description and photographs.
- 3.1.5 Each deposit, feature or layer will be identified by a unique context number to which all other records will be related.
- 3.1.6 Where appropriate, deposits will be sampled for environmental, dating or technological evidence.
  - 3.1.6.1 Samples will be fully recorded and packed appropriately for future analysis. Where appropriate, deposits will be sampled for environmental, dating or technological evidence
  - 3.1.6.2 Sampling will be carried out in accordance with the procedures outlined in 'A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis' - P Murphy and P Wiltshire 1994.
- 3.1.7 Any artefacts recovered will be related to their archaeological context. Typologically distinct or closely datable artefacts will be recorded in three dimensions.
- 3.1.8 The location of the trenches will be accurately surveyed using a Total Station theodolite.
- 3.1.9 The level of natural soils/geology below the archaeology will be tested for and recorded in at least one trench section location within each trench, unless this is below 1m from the top of the trench.



## **Bod Iorwerth, Newborough Watching Brief- Appendix 2:**

### **4 *Finds and Conservation***

- 4.1 Conservation of archaeological materials will be carried out by K. Laws for Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd.
- 4.2 Any flint or chert artefacts will be studied by Dr. I.P. Brooks
- 4.3 Any pottery will be studied by an appropriate specialist
- 4.4 Any metal or other special finds will be studied by K. Laws
- 4.5 All ceramic, bone and stone artefacts will be cleaned and processed immediately following the watching brief.
- 4.6 Metal artefacts will be stored and managed on site according to the UK Institute of Conservation Guidelines. They will be evaluated prior to conservation by K. Laws.
- 4.7 If required environmental analysis will be carried out by Geomark Research.

### **5 *Report and Archive***

- 5.1 On completion of the watching brief a report shall be produced which will contain:
  - 5.1.1 A location plan of the development area identifying excavated areas, archaeological features and structures located
  - 5.1.2 A detailed description of the structures and features recorded ,their character, function, date and relationship to other features.
  - 5.1.3 Plans and sections as appropriate.
  - 5.1.4 Specialist reports as appropriate.
  - 5.1.5 An assessment of the archaeological importance in a local, regional and national context.
  - 5.1.6 Recommendations for further work if appropriate.
  - 5.1.7 A bibliography.
- 5.2 Five copies of the report will be deposited with the client within one month of the completion of the field work.
- 5.3 A copy of the report will be deposited with the archaeological curator.
- 5.4 A copy of the report will be supplied to the Gwynedd Sites and Monuments Record
- 5.5 A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other relevant findings will be lodged in an appropriate place and in appropriate order within six months of the completion of the project.

### **6 *Liaison***

- 6.1 EAS Ltd. acknowledge that curatorial responsibility for the project lies within the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service.
- 6.2 Measures will be adopted, as appropriate, to facilitate the monitoring of the project by the Archaeological Curator and arrangements will be agreed in advance.



## **Bod Iorwerth, Newborough Watching Brief- Appendix 2:**

### **7 Staff**

7.1 The project will be directed by Dr. Ian Brooks M.I.F.A.

7.2 Project staff will include Dr. Ian Brooks, Kathy Laws.

### **8 General**

#### **8.1 IFA Code of Conduct**

8.1.1 All staff will abide by, and all procedures be carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct.

8.1.2 *EAS* Ltd. will abide by the Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.

#### **8.2 Health and Safety**

8.2.1 *EAS* Ltd. adopt and adhere to safe working practices at all times.

### **9 Insurance**

9.1.1 *EAS* Ltd. carries all necessary Public and Employee Liability Insurances.

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9.1.2 *EAS* Ltd. is prepared to assign copyright at the request of the client.

### **10 Timetable**

10.1 The work will start on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2003.

10.2 A report will be made available one month after completion of the field work element of the project.