

Archaeological Evaluation Report

YSGOL Y BONT NEW SEN SCHOOL

For Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Evaluation Report

YSGOL Y BONT NEW SEN SCHOOL

Client: Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn

Local Authority: Gwynedd Council

NGR: 245300, 375600

Planning App: 34LPA121M/CC/ECON

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Site Code: LGF/YYBI1

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L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Ysgol y Bont new SEN school, Llangefni, Anglesey. The evaluation was implemented because of the potential for archaeological remains on the site as identified in an earlier geophysical survey (MARSH 2011). The work was carried out by L - P : Archaeology. This report has been prepared by John Duffy of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn.

Limited archaeological evidence has been excavated in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site with only nearby findspots of Prehistoric date recorded in Llangefni. The geophysical survey identified areas of possible archaeological features. These were discrete positive anomalies, possibly pits, and several linear positive and negative anomalies, possibly ditches and banks.

The objectives of the evaluation were to further investigate the anomalies identified in the geophysical survey and to assess the archaeological potential of the site.

A total of nine trenches were excavated, totalling 170m, across the site. No archaeological features were identified during the excavation. All the recovered finds were Post Medieval, probably domestic rubbish, and were recovered from the topsoil across the site.

Due to the absence of any identifiable archaeological features or deposits it is recommended that no further work is required on the site.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This evaluation report has been prepared by John Duffy of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn.
- 1.2. The fieldwork was carried out by C. Rees and M. Jones of L – P : Archaeology between 25th August 2011 and 6th September 2011.
- 1.3. The site is located in at Ysgol y Bont new SEN school at Llangefni (FIGURE 1). The NGR is 245300, 375600.
- 1.4. The site code allocated by L – P : Archaeology is LGF/YYB11.
- 1.5. The work was carried out in accordance with the Specification for Archaeological Evaluation prepared by Blair Poole of L – P : Archaeology.

2. Site Background

2.1.PLANNING

- 2.1.1. The application reference is 34LPA121M/CC/ECON.
- 2.1.2. There are no scheduled monuments or listed buildings within the development area.
- 2.1.3. The local authority is Cyngnor Sir Ynys Môn who receive archaeological planning advice from Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services (GAPS).
- 2.1.4. Cyngnor Sir Ynys Môn is bound by local policy B7, in the Local Development Plan, regarding archaeology and planning.
- 2.1.5. Cyngnor Sir Ynys Môn and GAPS have agreed the methodology for these works in the specification document LP1231C-WSI-v1.4 (APPENDIX 2). The specification was based on the design brief provided by GAPS (APPENDIX 1).

2.2.GEOLOGY

- 2.2.1. The geophysical survey identified the superficial (drift) deposits as Till, Devensian – Diamicton, and the solid deposits as Gwna Group – Schist based on the British Geological Survey maps for the area (MARSH 2011).
- 2.2.2. The evaluation identified natural clays over Schist bedrock.

2.3.TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.3.1. The site is located to the west of the centre of Llangefni on Anglesey, North Wales and is fairly central to the island (FIGURE 1).
- 2.3.2. The site is bounded to the northeast by Cildwrn Road, to the southeast by the school tennis courts and car park along with some housing fronting the main road. To the north the site is bounded by a housing development and to the southwest by the former school garden (FIGURE 2).
- 2.3.3. The site is sloping, with an approximate height of 55m OD in the south west sloping down to an approximate height of 44m OD in the north east.

2.4.SITE CONDITIONS

- 2.4.1. The site is currently in use as playing fields and includes a football pitch which covers the southwestern half of the site. The access road to the school crosses the northeast corner of the site (FIGURE 2).

2.5.ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

- 2.5.1. There has been little archaeological work in the immediate vicinity of the site but continued development on the island has shown Neolithic and later evidence (APPENDIX 1).
- 2.5.2. A Neolithic stone axe is recorded in the vicinity of the County Hospital, Llangefni and a Bronze Age looped palstave has also been recovered in Llangefni (RCAHMW 1937).
- 2.5.3. Surviving settlement evidence in Llangefni dates from the mid 16th century with Plas Llangefni house (RCAHMW 1937). The proposed development site is to the west of the centre of the town and is recorded as open fields on the 1887-1888 Ordnance Survey (OS) map. Later editions, from 1901 onwards, show the development of a school on the site with further development in the surrounding area in the second half of the 20th century.
- 2.5.4. Ahead of the trial trenching a geophysical survey, using magnetometry and resistivity, was undertaken on the site (MARSH 2011). The survey identified various positive anomalies as discrete and linear features. These are indicative of in-filled features such as pits and ditches. A series of positive and negative linear anomalies were also identified in the northern half of the site indicating possible ditch and bank features. A more detailed description of the methods and results of the geophysical survey can be read in the full report (MARSH 2011).

3. Aims

3.1.The general aims of the archaeological evaluation were to assess the character, date, type, state of preservation, and extent of any archaeological remains on site.

3.2..The specific aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- ◆ assess areas of interest identified during the previous phase of geophysical survey.
- ◆ to assess the impact of the development proposals on surviving monuments or remains.

3.3.The objective of this report is to provide information for a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised.

4. Methodology

- 4.1. For a full description of the archaeological methodology please refer to section 4 of the Specification for Archaeological Evaluation (POOLE 2011). No deviation from the agreed methodology was required.
- 4.2. A total of nine trenches were excavated across the site, excluding the area of the football pitch (FIGURE 2). The trenches were located in order to record and understand the results of the geophysical survey (MARSH 2011).

5. Results

5.1. Results are given below in summary for the site as there was little variation between the trenches and no archaeological features were identified. Where any variations were noted across the site they are described below. Deposit numbers are given in (parentheses) and cut numbers are given in [square brackets].

5.2. TRENCHES

5.2.1. Trenches 1, 6 and 7 measured 10m by 2m are were located to identify positive anomalies in the geophysical survey (FIGURE 2). Trench 2 was a 'T' shaped trench consisting of two 10m by 2m trenches and was excavated in order to locate positive anomalies including a linear anomaly (FIGURE 2). Trench 3 was 20m by 2m aligned northwest to southeast with a 10m long extension mid way along the main trench extending to the southwest. A second extension was excavated 4m from the southeast end of the main trench and extended 10m to the northeast. Trench 3 was excavated to identify positive anomalies recorded in the geophysical survey (FIGURE 2).

5.2.2. Trenches 4 and 5 were both 20m by 2m and were aligned in a northwest to southeast direction. Both were excavated to identify the positive and negative linear features recorded in the geophysical survey (FIGURE 2). Trenches 8 and 9 were also 20m by 2m but were aligned northeast to southwest along the northern edge of the football pitch (FIGURE 2). Trench 8 was excavated to examine a curvilinear positive feature in the geophysical survey and Trench 9 excavated to examine other positive anomalies. It was noted on site that the location of the curveliner feature corresponded with a desire line on the ground. Access via a gap in the hedge led to the football pitch at this point.

5.3. DEPOSITS

TOPSOIL

5.3.1. The topsoil identified across the site was homogenous and varied between 0.11m and 0.14m thick. All finds recovered from the site were contained within this deposit. The finds report is included as Section 6 of this report.

SUBSOIL

5.3.2. A mid brown clay loam was identified immediately below the topsoil in all nine trenches. The deposit was homogenous but varied in depth between 0.4m and 0.22m thick. The deposit was deeper to the north and shallower to the south. No finds or archaeological features were identified in this deposit.

NATURAL GEOLOGY

5.3.3. Natural deposits were encountered in all nine trenches and was a yellow clay and gravel. The clay was identified as more orange than yellow in Trenches 2, 8 and 9 where Schist bedrock was visible in places. In Trench 6 an outcrop of the bedrock was identified across the southwest end of the trench and the clay was described as a red/orange (PLATE 1). There were no archaeological features identified cutting the natural deposits.



Plate 1 - View of Trench 6 looking NE. 2 x 1m scale.

6. Finds

by Matt Jones

6.1. This report discusses the finds recovered from an evaluation excavation carried by L – P : Archaeology between the 25th August to the 6th of September. Nine evaluation trenches were excavated by machine under the supervision of archaeologists. No archaeological features were identified in any of these trenches but a clear horizon was observed at the interface between the turf and the sub-soil layer. All finds were recovered from this horizon at a depth of approximately 0.10m-0.14m.

6.2. The majority of artefactual material recovered was ceramic and the broad classification categories are detailed below. Individual sherds will be discussed only where diagnostic. All material was recovered from the same context with little significant spatial variation inferring it was deposited as part of the same action/activity. The assemblage will therefore be presented as a single entity and as such is not divided by trench.

6.3. POTTERY

BLUE AND WHITE WARES

6.3.1. Forty seven sherds of white glazed pottery were recovered from the excavation, although unfortunately a large number of these sherds were small and the vessel form could not be identified with any confidence. Where vessel types could be identified the assemblage comprised seven separate plates, three bowls, one tea cup and the rim of a possible chamber pot.

6.3.2. Blue and white wares became popular in the United Kingdom during the late 18th century, when pottery makers began copying eastern styles. The introduction of the transfer printing method of mass production made this style of pottery cheaper and more available to a wider audience. By the end of the first quarter 19th century most households would have had a vessel with transfer printed designs on them (COPELAND 1982).

STONE WARE

6.3.3. Five stone ware vessels were identified from the assemblage; two clear slip

glazed bottle/ flask bases (one with a oval stamp which was unfortunately not identifiable), a single small white glazed bottle base and two white glazed marmalade pots represented by seven pottery sherds.

- 6.3.4. The slip- glazed bottles have been in common use since the early 1800's and bottles of this type were in common usage from the 1830's until the 1920's. . The 'marmalade pot' design jar was a common form during the Edwardian period 1901 to 1910 (WWW.ANTIQUEBOTTLES.COM).

BUCKLEY WARE

- 6.3.5. Buckley ware is a lead glazed ware made from mixed red and yellow/white clay found in the north-western region of England mainly near Wales. Fourteen sherds of Buckley ware were recovered from the site and all pieces are the characteristic of large thrown storage vessels intended for household use. Buckley pottery was produced from the late 17th well into the 19th century and the larger vessels are indicative of a later manufacturing date (BUCKLEY CLAY INDUSTRIES RESEARCH COMMITTEE 1975).

PORCELAIN

- 6.3.6. Twenty sherds of porcelain were recovered and a range of vessel forms were represented including bowls, plates and tea cups. The tea cups sherds were predominately bases and rims although a single swan neck handle was recovered. Industrial scale porcelain manufacture in Britain began in the 18th century and became more accessible as the century progressed.
- 6.3.7. A small decorative paste porcelain lid depicting a male figure in a wide open legged riding position was also recovered. The main body of the piece would presumably represent the animal upon which he is riding.

6.4. CLAY PIPE

- 6.4.1. A total of forty nine clay pipe stem fragments were recovered from the nine trenches, two of these fragments had a surviving pointed 'spur' with no makers mark. The pointed spur tends to be indicative of the later era of clay pipe manufacture and is generally observed in examples from the late 18th century onwards (AYTO 1979).

6.5.GLASS

- 6.5.1. Thirty pieces of glass were recovered during excavation, many of which were unidentifiable single sherds.

BOTTLES

- 6.5.2. Four sherds have been identified as having makers or regional names on them, and all of these pieces seem to have come from soda bottles. The first sherd was from a 6oz standard Codd bottle from Thomas and Edwards Ltd of Caernarfon. There is no exact date for this style, although the company is first listed on the Caervonshire census in 1889 as a soda and mineral water company, and the company closed in 1914 when the workers join up to fight in the first world war. The next two sherds were found to have formed torpedo shaped bottles from R. Ellis & Son, of Ruthin. The date range for this company is unfortunately somewhat wider with a record for the establishment in 1825 and closing date around the 1920's. A forth sherd remains unidentified as no correlation between with the partial wording 'TURER' found on the glass and a known company could be found.

MISCELLANEA

- 6.5.3. Also of note was a single neck fragment of light blue glass and two sherds of a rose pink cut glass bowl. Cut glass became popular in the late 19th century when it was considered to be a high status item, although this vessel is believed to belong to the later Edwardian period when mass production had brought some items within the reaches of the working classes (SANDON 1999).

6.6.SLATE

- 6.6.1. Fifteen pieces of slate where recovered, bar one, all these pieces were associated with roof or floor tiles. One such tile has evidence of a squarish nail hole. The single piece of worked slate seems to have been designed to be used to hold a rail as, although now broken, a singular circular hole is cut into the slate. The shape of the fragment widens away from this hole but there is no evidence of how this was attached to the wall.

6.7.COINS

6.7.1. A single copper coin was collected during the machining of the trenches. This was a 1910 issue Edward the VII penny. The head on the obverse side shows signs of ware although the edges are still very distinct. The reverse shows 'Britannia' although the image is distorted by concreted corrosion. The 1910 issues was the last of King Edwards reign (WWW.COINS-OF-THE-UK.CO.UK).

6.8.CHILDREN'S TOYS

6.8.1. Two children's toys were identified. A small ceramic coffee/tea pot with a white glaze and a lead wheel from a child's kart.

6.9.DISCUSSION

6.9.1. The Llangefni assemblage is clearly domestic in character, containing large number of plates and cups along with a more limited quantity of bowls and other items. Storage vessels seem to be lacking with only the Stone ware and Buckley ware being assigned to these roles. The glass bottles where mainly produced for minerals waters but with out comparative or further study it is impossible to know how popular these drinks were.

6.9.2. All the items seem to date from the late nineteenth to early twentieth century and are likely to have been the waste products of nearby farmsteads.

7. Summary and Conclusions

- 7.1. A site at Ysgol y Bont New SEN School is proposed for redevelopment. The proposed redevelopment involves a purpose designed, sustainable school with associated drainage, access, infrastructure, parking, sports/play areas and landscaping.
- 7.2. Examination of the available data indicates that the site does not contain any scheduled monuments or listed buildings.
- 7.3. Limited archaeological evidence has been excavated in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site with only nearby findspots of a Prehistoric date recorded in Llangefni. A geophysical survey on the site (MARSH 2011) identified areas of possible archaeological features. These were discrete positive anomalies, possibly pits, and several linear positive and negative anomalies, possibly ditches and banks.
- 7.4. The archaeological trial trenching across the site was designed to investigate the area and specifically the anomalies identified during the geophysical survey. The results of the trial trenching showed no archaeological features preserved on the site. The topsoil contained numerous Post Medieval finds but are likely to be domestic refuse, possibly from nearby farmsteads.
- 7.5. There was no evidence of previous development or activity on the site which is supported by the Ordnance Survey maps which show the site as an open field prior to the construction of the school buildings immediately to the south.
- 7.6. The trial trenching identified no archaeological features or deposits preserved on the site suggesting the geophysical survey may have detected underlying geological variations. The sample of the finds from the topsoil adequately characterise this deposit. As such it is recommended that no further archaeological work is necessary on the site.

8. Archive

8.1.The paper archive consists of:

- ◆ 3 x Photographic Register
- ◆ 35 x Black and white photographs and negatives and colour slides
- ◆ 1 x Context Register
- ◆ 9 x Trench Sheets

8.2.The finds archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x box artefacts as described in Section 6 (all materials).

8.3.The archive is to be deposited at the Oriel Ynys Mon.

SOURCES CONSULTED

BIBLIOGRAPHIC

- AYTO E G 1979 *Clay Tobacco Pipes*. Shire Album 37.
- BUCKLEY CLAY INDUSTRIES RESEARCH COMMITTEE 1975 *The Buckley potteries: An archaeological field report*.
- COPELAND R 1982 *Blue and White Transfer-printed Pottery*. Shire Album 97, Princes Risborough.
- MORRIS K 2003 *Edward Noble Mineral Water Manufacturer, Carnarvon*, [HTTP://WWW.CODDS-N-ODDS.CO.UK](http://www.codds-n-odds.co.uk)
- LYNCH F 1991 *Prehistoric Anglesey*
- MARSH B 2011 *Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni Secondary School, Anglesey*. Geophysical Survey Report. Stratascan, unpublished report.
- POOLE B 2011 *Specification for Archaeological Evaluation at Ysgol y Bont New Sen School*. L – P : Archaeology, unpublished report.
- RCAHMW 1937 *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Anglesey*
- SANDON J 1999 *Starting to Collect Antique Glass*. Antique Collectors' Club Ltd

CARTOGRAPHIC AND PICTORIAL

- ORDNANCE SURVEY 1887-88
- ORDNANCE SURVEY 1901
- ORDNANCE SURVEY 1950

ELECTRONIC

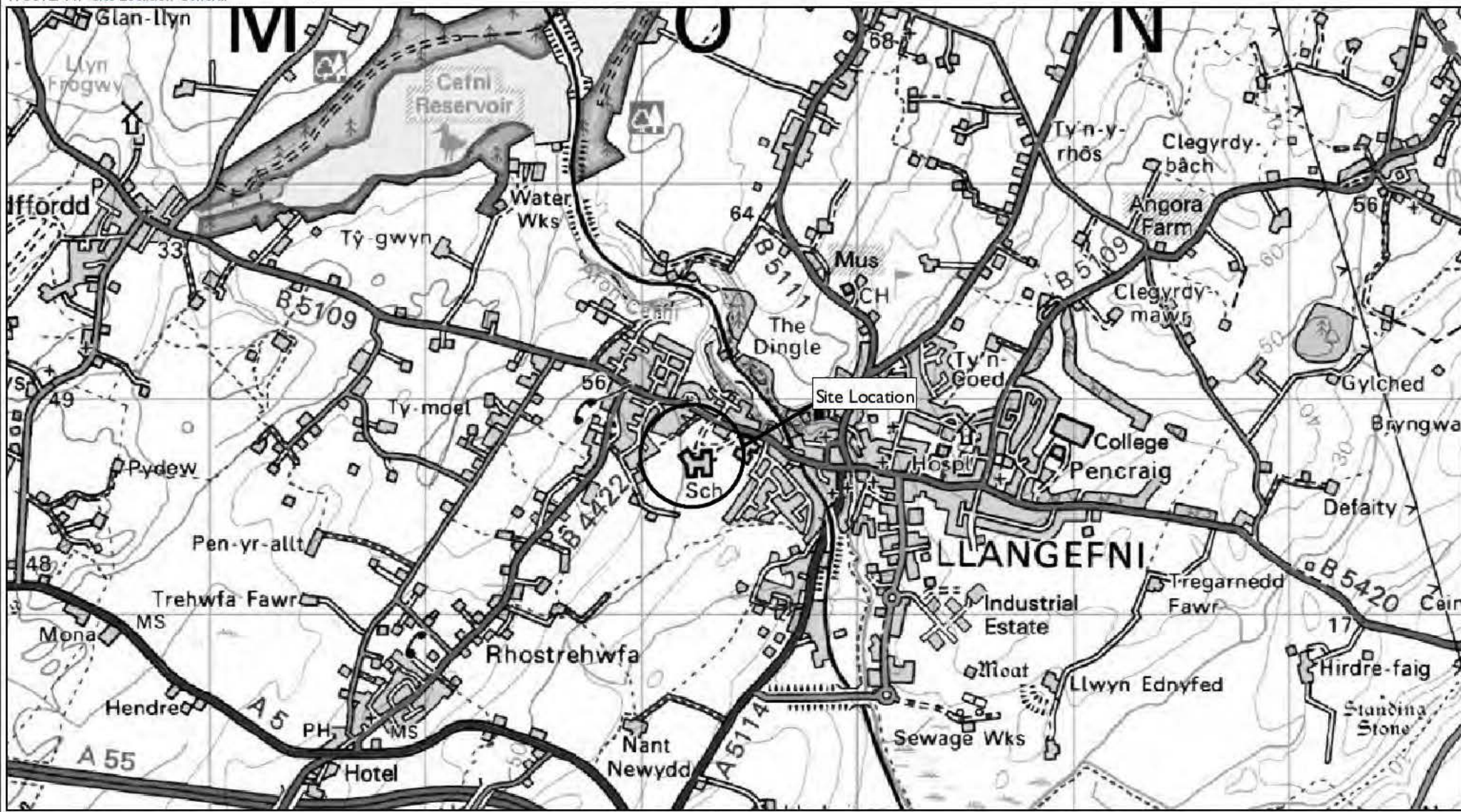
- www.antiquebottles.com
- www.coins-of-the-uk.com

STATUTORY AND GUIDANCE

- STANDARD AND GUIDANCE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION Institute for Archaeologists 2008

FIGURES

FIGURE 1 // Site Location General



0

1,500m

PROJECT // 1228C - Ysgol y Bont New SEN School

DESCRIPTION // Site location general

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FIGURE 2 // Site Detail



0 50 m

PROJECT // I228C- Ysgol y Bont New SEN School

DESCRIPTION // Site detail and trench plan (with geophysics results)

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DESIGN BRIEF

APPENDIX I

DESIGN BRIEF FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service

Site: Ysgol y Bont New SEN School, Llangefni

Client: Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn

Date: 16th August 2011

Planning Reference: 34LPA121M/CC/ECON

National Grid Reference: 245300, 375600

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

- 1.1. For the purposes of this brief the proposed development site comprises a plot of land within the campus of the existing Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni together with a small parcel of land to the north which is not currently owned by the council.
- 1.2. The land within the existing school campus comprises playing fields, hard tennis courts and an area of scrub which was formerly the school garden. The separate parcel, referred to as the old Cildwrn site, is currently unused. The school land includes hedged boundaries and an access road.
- 1.3. The proposed development site is located in a suburban environment to the west of Llangefni town centre and south of the Afon Cefni. The site slopes gently from approximately 55m aOD in the south-west to approximately 44m aOD in the north-east, at a gradient of about 1:20.
- 1.4. Llangefni is the administrative centre of Anglesey, north-west Wales, and is located roughly centrally on the island.

2.0 Archaeological Background

- 2.1 There has been little archaeological investigation within Llangefni and no upstanding archaeological remains have been previously identified within the site. However, development led fieldwork throughout the island is revealing an extensive and diverse buried archaeological resource and existing archaeological records in the vicinity of the site, representing activity from the Neolithic onwards, suggest that buried archaeological deposits may survive within the development plot.
- 2.2 A geophysical survey, comprising detailed gradiometer survey and supplementary earth resistance survey, was carried out on part of the site in August 2011 (Marsh, August 2011). The area surveyed comprised the

existing school playing field, other parts of the site not being suitable for survey.

- 2.3 The survey identified a number of anomalies which may represent archaeological features. These include possible curvilinear ditches, a series of parallel linears which may represent a ditched and banked feature, and various pit type anomalies.

2.4 Documentation

The following source must be read in conjunction with this brief:

Marsh, B, August 2011. *Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni Secondary School, Anglesey: Geophysical Survey Report*, prepared by Stratascan Ltd for Isle of Anglesey County Council (project ref. 2933).

3.0 The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

- 3.1 The proposals comprise plans to develop a modern school for pupils with special educational needs to replace the existing SEN school in Llangefni Industrial Estate. The existing school is considered to have become outdated and incapable of adequately meeting pupils' needs.
- 3.2 The proposals entail a purpose-designed, sustainable school together with associated drainage, access, infrastructure, parking, sports/play areas and landscaping.
- 3.3 This is a *design brief* for the **second phase** of a staged programme of archaeological works. The aim of this phase is to undertake an **archaeological field evaluation** to be undertaken according to guidelines set out in Welsh national planning guidance (*Planning Policy Wales 2010*) and Welsh Office Circular 60/96 (*Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology*). This phase of the evaluation will comprise a programme of **trial trenching**.
- 3.4 The object of this programme of archaeological works is to establish the archaeological significance of the site, to assess the impact of the development proposals on surviving monuments or remains and to help inform future decision making, design solutions and potential mitigation strategies.
- 3.5 The report should include an assessment of the potential for further investigative work and where relevant give recommendations for an appropriate mitigation strategy.
- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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

4.0 Archaeological Field Evaluation detail

4.1 The evaluation must consider the following:

- a) The nature, extent and degree of survival of archaeological features, structures or deposits 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.
- b) The significance of any remains in their context both regionally and nationally.
- c) The history of the site.
- d) A methodology for further intrusive evaluation and or mitigation.

4.2 The archaeological deposit model may involve:

- a) Assessment of the environmental potential of the archaeological deposits.
- b) Assessment of the faunal potential of the archaeological deposits.
- c) Assessment of the artefactual potential of the archaeological deposits.

4.3 The methodology for any subsequent phase of the archaeological programme must consider the use of the following techniques:

- a) Further trial trenching to investigate the archaeological potential of the development site in more detail.
- b) Archaeological investigation by strip, map and sample.
- c) Archaeological excavation.
- d) Archaeological recording.
- e) Implementation of archaeological monitoring (watching brief).
- f) Design modification to enable preservation *in situ*.

4.4 Any subsequent evaluation or mitigation work will require the approval of a separate project specification.

4.5 The field evaluation must be undertaken in accordance with the following:

- The trenches must comprise a sample of a minimum 3% of the area subject to geophysical survey (c.1.1 hectare plot)
- Trenches must measure a minimum of 2m x 10m.

- Trenches must target features as identified on the geophysical survey in order to characterise the deposits at the site.
- Trenches should also randomly sample 'blank' areas. The value of any negative evidence should be considered in relation to future decision making.
- Due to time constraints the evaluation will be partly undertaken during term time. Trench locations must therefore exclude the current football pitch.
- The evaluation should aim to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.
- The evaluation should carefully consider any artefactual and environmental information and provide an assessment of the viability (for further study) of such information. It will be particularly important to provide an indication of the relative importance of such material for any subsequent decision making regarding mitigation strategies.

4.6 Research aims

The evaluation will aim to address the following:

- Verify the efficacy of the geophysical survey for identifying archaeological remains within the site
- Establish the extent to which archaeological remains survive at the site
- Establish the date and nature of archaeological remains at the site and assess their implications for understanding the historical development of Llangefni and environs
- Establish the depth of archaeological remains and the quality, value and level of preservation of any deposits
- Assess the level of risk any surviving remains may pose to development.

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.

5.5 The report should specifically include the following:

- a) a copy of the design brief and agreed specification
- b) a site location plan based on current OS mapping
- c) a trench location plan indicating trench positions relative to the development site and fixed manmade or topographic features
- d) all identified features plotted on an appropriately scaled plan of the development site
- e) appropriately scaled trench plans and sections showing identified features and significant finds
- f) full dimensional and descriptive detail of all identified features

6.0 General requirements

6.1 The archaeological evaluation must be undertaken by an appropriately qualified individual or organisation, fully experienced in work of this character. 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 development control archaeologist and all written work attributed to an author(s).

6.2 Contractors and subcontractors are expected to conform to standard professional guidelines, including the following:-

- English Heritage's 2006 Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE)
- English Heritage's 1991 Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2).
- The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1985 (revised 2010) Code of Conduct.
- The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1990 (revised 1997) Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.
- The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2008) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.
- The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2008) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment.
- The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2008) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation.
- The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1995 (revised 2008) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation.
- The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999 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.
- Museum and Galleries Commission 1994 Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections.

- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation 1990 Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for long-term storage.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 Where relevant, specialist studies of environmental, economic and historical data must include a *statement of potential*. All specialist reports produced in the preparation of the evaluation report must be reproduced **in full**.
- 6.5 A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project should be prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions should be labelled, cross-referenced and lodged in an appropriate place (to be agreed with the archaeological curator) within six months of the completion of the project.
- 6.6 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.
- 6.7 The involvement of Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service should be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

7.0 Glossary of terms

7.1 *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.

7.2 *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.

7.3 *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.

7.4 *Assessment*

A desk-based archaeological assessment (also known as a *desk-top assessment*) is a detailed consideration of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area or site (land-based, intertidal or underwater), consisting of a collation of existing written and graphic information in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource in a local, regional or national context as appropriate.

7.5 *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.

7.6 Evaluation

A limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site; and, if present, defines their character and extent, and relative quality. It enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context, as appropriate. The programme of work will result in the preparation of a report and archive.

7.7 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.

7.8 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.

8.0 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.

9.0 Curatorial monitoring

9.1 The project will be monitored by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service on behalf of Gwynedd Council Local Planning Authority to ensure the fulfilment of the brief and specifications. The Development Control Archaeologist will normally review the progress of reports and archive preparation. The archaeological contractor must inform Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service in writing of the proposed start dates for the project and any subsequent phases of work

Jenny Emmett
Archaeolegydd Rheolaeth Datblygiad - Development Control Archaeologist

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SPECIFICATION

APPENDIX 2

Specification for Archaeological Evaluation at

YSGOL Y BONT NEW SEN SCHOOL

For Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn

Blair Poole MSc MIfA

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Specification for Archaeological Evaluation at

YSGOL Y BONT NEW SEN SCHOOL

Client:	Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn
Local Authority:	Gwynedd Council
NGR:	245300, 375600
Planning App:	34LPA121M/CC/ECON
Author(s):	B Poole
Doc Ref:	LP1231C-WSI-v1.4
Date:	August 11

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document refers to the archaeological evaluation required for the Ysgol y Bont new SEN school at Llangefni (FIGURE 1). The site is located at grid reference 245300, 375600.
- 1.2. The local authority is Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn.
- 1.3. This specification has been produced in response to a request from Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS). The document will outline the methodology employed for the archaeological evaluation of the site based on a brief supplied by GAPS.
- 1.4. The site measures a total of 1.1 hectares. A total of 170m of trenching at 2m wide has been proposed to investigate a 3% sample area of the site (FIGURE 2). The precise locations are to be proposed by the archaeological contractor and agreed with GAPS in advance of works. A detail of the trenching strategy can be found in section 4 of this document.
- 1.5. The project will be directed by Blair Poole of L – P : Archaeology with fully qualified and experienced archaeological site staff.
- 1.6. All site staff will undergo full site induction upon arriving for any relevant site visit, and all relevant health and safety procedures will be adhered to at all times.

2. Planning Background

- 2.1. Planning Policy Wales, 4th edition (2011) and the associated Welsh Office Circulars 60/96 and 61/96 provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains within a planning context. These documents supplement the Adopted Unitary Development Plan Policies relating to archaeology.
- 2.2. Planning Policy Wales (2011) outlines the Welsh Assembly's planning policies. The historic environment is discussed within Chapter 6. Welsh Office Circulars 60/96 - Planning and Historic Environment: Archaeology, and Welsh Office Circular 61/96 - Planning and the Historic Environment; Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas, advise on legislation and procedures relating to historic buildings, conservation areas and archaeology.
- 2.3. Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn and Gwynedd Council have a Joint Local Development Plan (JLDP) based on Gwynedd's Unitary Development Plan. The relevant policy contained within the UDP is as follows:

POLICY B7

Proposals that will damage or destroy archaeological remains of national importance (whether scheduled or not) or their setting will be refused.

A development which affects other archaeological remains will be permitted only if the need for the development overrides the significance of the archaeological remains.

In areas where there are likely to be archaeological remains, the developer will be required to commission either an Archaeological Assessment and/or field evaluation in order to determine the archaeological impact of the proposed development before the Planning Authority determines the application. The assessment/evaluation results must be submitted with the planning application, in addition to a plan showing how the impact of the proposal on the archaeological remains will be mitigated.

If a proposed development would affect nationally important archaeological remains, then the developer should prepare sympathetic plans, which retain the remains in situ. Where preservation in situ is not feasible planning conditions or agreements will be used in appropriate cases to ensure that the work of excavating and recording the remains takes place prior to commencement of the development.

Schemes that will facilitate the appropriate management and interpretation of archaeological sites for educational or tourism purposes will be supported.

3. Aims of Works

3.1.The trenches will be located over areas of interest identified by a previous phase of geophysical investigation.

3.2.The objectives of the archaeological works are:

3.2.1. to establish the archaeological significance of the site

3.2.2. to assess the impact of the development proposals on surviving monuments or remains

3.2.3. to help inform future decision making, design solutions and potential mitigation strategies.

4. Methodology

- 4.1. A total of 170m of trenching at 2m wide has been proposed to adequately address the 3% sample of the site area, taking the geophysical anomalies into account. The layout of the trenches can be seen in FIGURE 2.
- 4.2. The initial groundworks will be undertaken using appropriately sized plant as agreed with GAPS. This is suggested as being an 8 tonne 360 degree machine with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket.
- 4.3. A suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist will monitor all machine excavation activities to ensure that appropriate care is taken during the removal of homogeneous post medieval and modern disturbed deposits.
- 4.4. All machine excavation will be undertaken in spits. The groundworks will be closely monitored and care will be taken to observe all deposits for archaeological significance.
- 4.5. Undifferentiated topsoil and overburden of recent origin will be removed in successive spits down to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon. Under no circumstances will the site simply be machine excavated to natural without regard for the possible survival of archaeological deposits above the natural.
- 4.6. All features are to be recorded stratigraphically. Features will be recorded archaeologically, both in plan and section.
- 4.7. Hand cleaning by context will be undertaken within the trenches to clearly identify the location and extent of any features.
- 4.8. All features will be hand excavated to meet the research requirements of the project to adequately record the archaeological deposits and associated features or remains.
- 4.9. Excavated material will be examined in order to retrieve artefacts to assist in the analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts.
- 4.10. Examination and cleaning of all archaeological deposits will be by hand using appropriate hand tools. Any archaeological deposits will be examined and recorded both in plan and section.
- 4.11. All finds which constitute Treasure Trove under the 1996 Treasure Act for England

and Wales will be reported to the coroner by the finder within 14 days of discovery.

4.12. Any human remains must also be left in situ, covered and protected. If removal is essential it can only take place under appropriate Home Office and environmental health regulations. Such removal must be in compliance with the Disused Burial Grounds Amendment Act 1981.

4.13. Relevant specialists will be used if required, however, only under agreement by the client.

5. Health and Safety

- 5.1. This section represents pertinent supplementary information. A full risk assessment has been prepared separately and is available on request.
- 5.2. All relevant health and safety regulations will be followed. Barriers, hoardings and warning notices will be installed as appropriate. Safety helmets/boots and high visibility jackets will be used by all personnel as necessary.
- 5.3. No personnel will work in deep unsupported excavations. Where the installation of temporary support work and other attendance are required, these will be provided as necessary.
- 5.4. All archaeological sections will be backfilled upon completion of the fieldwork for safety reasons, unless the applicant or developer has given written instructions to the contrary.
- 5.5. The site shall have at least one qualified first aider present at any time and all accidents and injuries shall be reported accordingly to HSE and RIDDOR guidelines. All relevant procedures are held within the full risk assessment.
- 5.6. All staff and visitors shall undergo a full site induction and will be shown the Risk Assessment. Staff shall sign and date their copies of the risk assessment and visitors shall be required to sign a declaration stating that they shall abide by the site safety guidelines. Copies of these documents are available on request.

6. Recording

- 6.1. A site code will be allocated to the site by L – P : Archaeology. This code will be used to label (using appropriate materials not adhesive labels) all sheets, plans and other drawings; all context and recording sheets; all photographs (but not negatives); all other elements of the documentary archive.
- 6.2. The written recording system used will follow the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (SPENCE 1994).
- 6.3. Context sheets will include all relevant stratigraphic relationships and for complex stratigraphy a separate matrix diagram will be employed. This matrix will be fully checked during the course of the excavation. If there is any doubt over recording techniques, the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual will be used as a guide.
- 6.4. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets. Sample registers, finds recording sheets, access catalogues, and photo record cards will also be used.
- 6.5. A site location plan will be prepared (OS 1:1250) showing the investigation areas and development site in relation to surrounding locality and street pattern.
- 6.6. This will be supplemented by a plan at 1:500 (or 1:1000), which will show the location of the excavation trench in relation to the development area. The locations of the OS bench marks used and site TBM will also be indicated.
- 6.7. Detailed plans will be drawn at an appropriate scale, usually 1:10 or 1:20.
- 6.8. The extent of any visible archaeological deposits will be recorded in plan. Long sections showing layers and any cut features will be drawn at 1:50. Short sections will be drawn at 1:20.
- 6.9. Sections containing significant deposits, including half sections, will be drawn at an appropriate scale, usually 1:10 or 1:20. All sections will be related to the Ordnance Datum using spot heights and registers of sections and plans will be kept.
- 6.10. Upon completion of each significant feature a minimum of one section will be drawn. The stratigraphy will be recorded, even if no archaeological deposits have

been identified.

- 6.11. An adequate photographic record will be made of any significant archaeological remains in both plan and section. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies (on 35mm film) as well as digital backups, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation.
- 6.12. A register of all photographs taken will be kept on standardised forms.
- 6.13. A Harris Matrix stratification diagram will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the excavations.

7. Finds and Samples

- 7.1. All identified finds, artefacts, industrial and faunal remains will be collected and retained. Certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained. No finds will, however, be discarded without the prior approval of the nominated representative of the local authority.
- 7.2. Unstratified material recovered from the spoil is to be recovered and included with the finds assemblage.
- 7.3. Material dating to the 19th century shall be retained and included with the finds assemblage.
- 7.4. All finds will be washed and processed to local standards by L – P : Archaeology.
- 7.5. The finds assemblage will be subject to summary analysis, dating classification and storage according to the local standards.
- 7.6. The following classes of finds will be assessed, in house, by L – P : Archaeology:
- ◆ Post Medieval ceramic assemblage
 - ◆ Post Medieval glass assemblage
 - ◆ Construction material
 - ◆ Wood
- 7.7. Where external finds specialists are required, as determined on site, these finds will be assessed by relevant specialists.
- 7.8. Marking of finds will include the Museum Accession Number, Finds Number and Context Number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self-sealing plastic bags marked with the same Accession Number, Finds and Context Number. Storage will be by standard storage boxes that comply with relevant local specifications.
- 7.9. The finds assemblage will be retained for deposition with the site archive in the relevant Museum. Documentary material including the paper archive, photographic negatives and prints will be stored in boxes to the local standards.
- 7.10. Photographic negatives will be stored in archival quality polypropylene sleeves

with strip divisions, three ring holes, centres 107mm apart and dimensions no greater than, 255mm (from the punched side to the opposite edge) by 300mm. The sleeve should have a white writing strip.

7.11. Packaging of all organic finds and metalwork will follow the UKIC/Rescue guidelines, 'First Aid for Finds'. 3rd edition 1998. Any necessary, conservation and treatment of wood or metalwork will be arranged in conjunction with GAPS and specialist conservators.

7.12. All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner and to the relevant local standards.

7.13. Finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation "Conservation Guideline No. 2". Appropriate guidance set out in the Museums and Galleries Commissions "Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (1991)" will also be followed, as will the current IFA guidelines.

7.14. Environmental samples will be collected from relevant deposits on agreement with the GAPS such as: riverine silts, pit and ditch fills, deposits overlying floors and contexts relating to refuse disposal, and contexts where organic survival is apparent or suspected. Ongoing communication with environmental specialists will ensure that appropriate samples will be taken during the investigation to satisfy the specialist requirements.

7.15. Should such deposits be encountered during the course of the groundworks the advice of the local Archaeological planning advisor will be sought. A visit will be arranged to determine the importance that will be attached to the deposits exposed during the investigation. If it is considered appropriate these will be sampled by a specialist in accordance with A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis (MURPHY & WILTSHIRE 1994). These deposits will be subject to the following treatment:

- ◆ Organic samples will be subject to appropriate specialist analysis. There may be a requirement to submit timbers to dendrochronological analysis and to process some samples to provide C14 dating.

- ◆ For carbonised remains, bulk samples a minimum of 10 litres (but up to 30 litres for early prehistoric features) will be collected.
- ◆ Bulk samples of 40 - 60 litres will be taken from waterlogged deposits for analysis of macroscopic plant remains
- ◆ Columns for pollen analysis will be taken where appropriate
- ◆ Mollusc samples will be gathered when required.

7.16. Other bulk samples for small animal bones and other small artefacts maybe taken from appropriate deposits depending on the aims of the project.

7.17. Residues and any retained samples will be treated as part of the finds assemblage.

7.18. Ceramic material will be subject to spot dating on site and, where necessary, subsequent analysis will be undertaken in conjunction with the reference types and any series held by any relevant local museums.

8. Reporting

8.1.The report will comprise a written description of the sources consulted, significant features identified during research and can be used to inform the client of any potential archaeological issues on the site in question. The report will also aid the curatorial service in their determination of any further work that may be required on the site.

8.2.The report will include:

- ◆ A concise non-technical summary of the results
- ◆ An explanation of the circumstances of the project, including references to the planning application
- ◆ Location of the site, given to an accurate national grid reference
- ◆ A summary of the sites geology and topography
- ◆ A summary of the historical background of the site
- ◆ A description of the aims and methodology employed during investigation
- ◆ A description of the archaeological data identified supported by scale illustrations and photographic evidence
- ◆ An interpretation of the results
- ◆ A full bibliography
- ◆ A description of the nature, extent and condition of the archaeological finds
- ◆ Summary and conclusion of archaeological works, including comment on the significance of the results both locally and nationally

8.3.A bound copy of the report will be sent to the client, a copy will be sent to GAPS and a further copy sent to the National Monuments Record. A single bound copy and digital version in pdf format will be submitted to the HER.

8.4.Copyright of all material within the programme shall remain with L – P : Archaeology, however the client and the local planning authority will be given a license to use such material for educational, public and research purposes.

9. Archive

- 9.1. The site code will be used to mark all plans, drawings, context and recording sheets, photographs and other site material during excavation.
- 9.2. The integrity of the site archive will be maintained. All finds and records will properly be curated by a single organisation, and be available for public consultation. Appropriate guidance set out in the MGC “Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections” (1992), and the SMA’s draft “Selection, Retention and Disposal of Archaeological Collections” (1992) will be followed in all circumstances.
- 9.3. The minimum acceptable standard for the archival report is defined in the “Management of Archaeological Projects” 5.4 and Appendix 3. It will include all materials recovered (or the comprehensive record of such materials) and all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. It will also contain a site matrix, a site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data.
- 9.4. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (1990) will be followed. Arrangements for the curation of the site archive will be agreed with the appropriate museum.
- 9.5. Pursuant to these agreements the archive will be presented to the appropriate museum within 6 months of the completion of the project (unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority). In addition, written confirmation from the client will be provided for the transfer of ownership.
- 9.6. A short summary of the results of the work, even if negative, will be submitted to the relevant Historic Environment Record (using the appropriate archaeological report forms).

10. Agreement

10.1. This recommended format attempts to define best practice but cannot fully anticipate all contingencies. Material changes are however only to be made with the prior written approval of the client and GAPS.