



making sense of heritage

Wylfa Newydd: A5025 Highway Improvements Anglesey

Archaeological Watching Brief Report
on Ground Investigation Works
Section 5: Llanfaethlu



Planning Application No: 27C106/FR
Ref: 112440.01
July 2016



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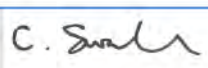
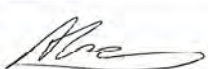
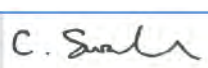


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Quality Assurance

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Non-Technical Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Jacobs UK on behalf of Horizon Nuclear Power (Horizon) to undertake an archaeological watching brief on ground investigation in advance of the Wylfa Newydd: A5025 Highway Improvements. The watching brief was undertaken in response to a condition on planning permission for the ground investigation and in accordance with a Written Scheme of Historic Mitigation prepared by Horizon and agreed with Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS).

This report presents the results of the watching brief for ground investigation of the Llanfaethlu off-line section (Section 5) only. The results of the watching brief on ground investigation for the other off-line sections at Valley (Section 1), Llanfachraeth (Section 3) and Cefn Coch (Section 7) are presented in a separate report (Wessex 2016).

The archaeological watching brief identified two features of possible archaeological interest. The first of these was found within TPC15 and contained modern pottery and is likely to relate to modern agricultural land use.

The second archaeological feature identified was located at the northern end of the scheme within TPBHC17 in an area which contained two geophysical anomalies of possible archaeological origin. It is possible that this feature corresponds with geophysical anomaly K, although the limited scope of the trial pit meant that this could not be confirmed. It was not possible to assign a date to the feature due to the lack of dateable material.

A prehistoric sherd of pottery was recovered from the subsoil of BHC17 and provides evidence of possible prehistoric activity. A small assemblage of post-medieval and modern ceramics was also recovered from across Section 5.

It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Anglesey Museums, under an accession code to be confirmed.



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Acknowledgements

The archaeological watching brief was commissioned by Jacobs UK on behalf of Horizon Nuclear Power (Horizon) and the assistance of Jonathan Dempsey is gratefully acknowledged in this regard. The assistance of Structural Soils Ltd (SSL) who carried out the ground investigation works is also appreciated and in particular Adam Dingle of SSL.

Fieldwork was carried out by Phillip Maier, Mike Howarth and Hannah Holbrook between the 16th and 23rd March 2016. The report was written by Alex Cassels, with illustrations by Alix Sperr. The finds report was written by Lorraine Mephram. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Chris Swales.



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by Jacobs UK on behalf of Horizon Nuclear Power (Horizon; 'the Client') to carry out an archaeological watching brief on ground investigation (GI) works in advance of the Wylfa Newydd: A5025 Highway Improvements, Anglesey ('the Scheme'). The GI works at Section 5 are located between NGR 231894, 386304 in the south and NGR 231613, 387233 in the north (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken in response to Condition 7 of the planning permission (Planning Application Ref: 27C106/FR) and was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Historic Mitigation (WSHM) and agreed with the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS).
- 1.1.3 An initial desk-based assessment identified the known heritage assets within the vicinity of the Scheme (GAT 2015), while a subsequent geophysical survey identified a number of geophysical anomalies interpreted as archaeological in origin (Headland 2015).
- 1.1.4 This report presents the results of the watching brief for ground investigation of the Llanfaethlu off-line section (Section 5) only. The results of the watching brief on ground investigation for the other off-line section sections at Valley (Section 1; centred on NGR 229795, 379338), Llanfachraeth (Section 3; centred on NGR 231705, 382561) and Cefn Coch (Section 7; centred on NGR 234118, 390227) are presented in a separate report (Wessex 2016).

1.2 The Scheme

- 1.2.1 The Scheme (**Figure 1**) follows the route of the A5025 which forms a main vehicular route through Anglesey and provides access to both the existing and proposed power stations. The section of carriageway associated with the proposed improvements is approximately 18 km long commencing at the junction with the A5 at Valley. The road runs northwards broadly parallel with the west coast of Anglesey, towards Cemaes at the northern end of the Scheme.
- 1.2.2 Section 5 runs close to the village of Llanfaethlu, to south-east and east. It runs north from the present route of the A5025 close to Ty'n-llech across open fields before crossing the A5025 to the south of Fadog Frech before crossing further open fields, re-joining the A5025 to the immediate east of Llanfaethlu at Ty'n-y-buarth.
- 1.2.3 Section 5 crosses undulating land with a ground level of approximately 60 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the southern end of the Site, falling to approximately 55 m aOD, before rising again to approximately 65 m aOD at the northern end of the Site.



- 1.2.4 The underlying geology of Section 5 is recorded as schist of the Gwna Group with no recorded superficial deposits apart from an area of diamicton at the southern end of the Site (British Geological Survey).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The route of the Scheme had previously been the subject of a desk-based assessment and a geophysical survey. The following information is summarised from the WSHM (Horizon 2015).

2.2 Summary

- 2.2.1 No evidence of Palaeolithic activity on Anglesey has been identified, with the first indication for occupation on the island dating to the Mesolithic period. It was not until the Neolithic period that there were considerable changes in how land was used, with the introduction of farming leading to more settled occupation as well as megalithic monument tombs, often burial chambers for multiple deceased. Within the vicinity of Section 5 lies a Neolithic settlement site, features of which are located at its southern and northern ends.
- 2.2.2 The Bronze Age was a period of particular importance on Anglesey with extensive evidence of human activity across the island including the Capel Soar standing stone Scheduled Monument. During the Early Bronze Age funerary activities moved inland from the coastal areas, and individual burials furnished with grave goods, were adopted replacing the communal burials used in earlier periods. Settlement evidence is sporadic at this time but increases during the Late Bronze Age and into the Early Iron Age.
- 2.2.3 The Iron Age on Anglesey is defined by scattered farming settlements punctuated by dominant defensive sites, with hillforts and related fortifications occupying naturally defensive positions within the landscape. Roman occupation of Anglesey began shortly after the conquest in AD 43 when refugees escaping from the advancing Roman army sought shelter on the island. A garrison was established on the island in AD 60 with its final capture occurring in AD 78 after fierce resistance.
- 2.2.4 The recorded archaeology of the wider area suggests that the early medieval to modern period was characterised by largely agricultural activity within a landscape of small, scattered settlements and associated churches and chapels. The major development on Anglesey during the post-medieval period was the exploitation of copper ores, especially at the Parys Mountain mine.
- 2.2.5 The Scheme lies within an area that appears to have remained relatively undisturbed throughout the 19th century and into the modern period, retaining an essentially rural character.
- 2.2.6 The recent geophysical survey undertaken along the route of the Scheme identified a number of geophysical anomalies interpreted as archaeological in origin within Section 5 (Headland 2015). These largely comprise linear anomalies at the northern end of Section 5.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 The specific objectives of the project were:

- *to mitigate the potential impact of the geotechnical investigations on two heritage assets, a forking trackway (GAT 2015: Asset 152) and a linear embankment (GAT 2015: Asset 162), and any present archaeological remains that may be present by making a record of them;*
- *to identify, investigate and record any such archaeological remains to the extent possible by the methods put forward in the WSHM;*
- *to determine (so far as possible) the stratigraphic sequence and dating of features identified; and,*
- *to disseminate the results through deposition of an ordered archive at the Royal Commission of the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, the deposition of a detailed report at the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Historic Environment record and the report made available through the Council for British Archaeology (Wales) publication Archaeology in Wales.*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within the WSHM and ClfA standards and guidance (ClfA 2014a and 2014b).
- 3.2.2 The excavated trial pits and starter pits for boreholes and their exact locations deviated from the specification outlined in the approved WSHM due to access issues and the very wet ground conditions across Section 5. The final number of GI pits monitored and their exact locations is described in Figure 1 and Appendix 1. Appendix 1 lists the GI pit designations and nature of deposits identified.
- 3.2.3 The archaeological watching brief comprised the monitoring of 19 boreholes and trial pits. A 1 m by 1 m hand dug starter pit was excavated at the location of each borehole. Trial pits measured, measuring 4 m by 1 m and due to the potential for archaeological remains within Section 5, were hand dug to a depth of 1.2 m below ground level. The excavation of each starter pit and trial pit was undertaken by the GI contractor (SSL) under the direct and continuous supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist.
- 3.2.4 Clearance for the GI works to proceed with further excavation was issued once it was satisfied that there were no remains of archaeological significance, that there was no further risk to buried heritage assets, or that any archaeological remains had been identified, investigated and recorded.
- 3.2.5 All subsequent mechanical excavation was undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.2.6 The location, layout, depth and general stratigraphy of each trial pit and borehole was recorded irrespective of whether archaeological remains were identified. Each GI pit was surveyed by SSL, with the 'as dug' survey data provided to Wessex Archaeology.
- 3.2.7 Where potential archaeological remains were identified they were investigated by hand excavation. Potential archaeological deposits, structures and features were investigated by hand excavation and recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* system. Recording included written, drawn, and photographic elements as conditions allowed.



3.3 Specialist strategies

Artefact

- 3.3.1 All finds of archaeological interest were retained and removed from Section 5 and cleaned, catalogued and appropriately packaged.

Environmental

- 3.3.2 No environmental soil samples were taken during the archaeological watching brief.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the information held in the Site archive, with a full list of context numbers and descriptions within the watching brief area contained in Appendix 1. It is not intended to discuss individual GI pits in any detail. A complete list and description of each GI pit monitored can be found in Appendix 1.

4.2 Typical soil profiles

- 4.2.1 The underlying geology across Section 5 comprised a mid-yellowish brown sandy clay and was generally encountered between 0.2 m and 0.6 m below ground level (bgl). This was overlain by a subsoil layer comprising mid greyish brown silty clay measuring between 0.1 m and 0.26 m thick. The subsoil layer was not encountered in all the boreholes and trial pits. Topsoil within Section 5 was recorded as comprising a dark brownish grey silty clay and measuring between 0.12 and 0.4 m thick.
- 4.2.2 TPBHC17 had a notably different stratigraphic sequence comprising a 0.5 m thick layer of topsoil overlying two subsoil layers of 0.4 m and 0.1 m thick respectively. These overlay the same underlying geology as the rest of the site which was encountered at 1 m below ground level.

4.3 Archaeological features

- 4.3.1 There were only two archaeological features identified during the watching brief. The first was identified in TPC15 and was a northwest-southeast aligned gully (TPC1503) with a flat base and concave sides. It measured over 4 m long, 0.6 m wide and 0.12 m deep. The finds recovered while excavating this feature were modern in date.
- 4.3.2 The second archaeological feature was located in TPBHC17 and comprised a probable terminus of a gully. The gully (TPBHC1705) was 0.4 m long, 0.9 m wide and 0.2 m deep. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 4.3.3 Finds were recovered from the surface of the subsoil within BHC17 comprising two small waste flakes and a single sherd of prehistoric pottery (see below; Artefactual Evidence).

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered, consisting largely of pottery. With the exception of a very few prehistoric items, all datable material is post-medieval/modern. Most finds were recovered from topsoil contexts. The quantification of finds by material type and by context is given in Table 1.

5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 Table 2 lists the pottery by context. Of the 21 sherds recovered, one is prehistoric and the remainder post-medieval/modern. The prehistoric sherd (context BHC1702) is a small body sherd, relatively thin-walled, in a shelly fabric (fossil shell inclusions). In the absence of diagnostic features, close dating of this sherd is difficult. It is too thin-walled and well fired for early prehistoric, so a late prehistoric date is proposed (Late Bronze Age to Iron Age), but no parallels can be found in local published assemblages, and any closer dating remains uncertain. The fossil shell temper indicates a non-local source, but the fabric does not match, for example, the limestone-tempered variants of the regionally traded Middle/Late Iron Age Malvernian wares (Peacock 1968).
- 5.2.2 Post-medieval/modern wares represented include black-glazed redwares, creamware, pearlware and refined whiteware. These wares suggest a date range of 17th/18th to 20th century.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 5.3.1 One fragment, recovered from TPC12 topsoil, is abraded, featureless and undiagnostic, though a post-medieval date seems most likely.

5.4 Worked flint and stone

- 5.4.1 Two small waste flakes were recovered, one in flint and one in a fine-grained stone. These came from context BHC1702, where they were associated with a prehistoric pottery sherd (see above).

5.5 Other finds

- 5.5.1 Other finds comprise one piece of animal bone (sheep metacarpal), three pieces of modern vessel glass; and three iron objects (one U-staple, two possible nails, none datable).

Table 1: All finds by context (number/weight in grams)

Context	Pottery	Other Finds
TPC901	1/8	
BHC1001	1/43	
TPC1201	3/28	1 CBM; 1 glass
TPC1202	2/9	
TPC1301	1/19	
BHC1401	2/9	
TPC1501	1/8	1 animal bone; 2 glass; 1 iron
TPC1504	1 / 2	1 iron
BHC1701	3/193	
BHC1702	1 / 2	1 flint; 1 stone
TPC2001	2/6	1 glass; 1 iron
Total	18/327	

CBM = ceramic building material

Table 2: Pottery by context

Context	Material	No. sherds	Wt. (g)	Additional Comments
TPC901	POTTERY	1	8	modern: pearlware
BHC1001	POTTERY	1	43	post-medieval: black-glazed redware
TPC1201	POTTERY	3	28	post-medieval/modern: 1 black-glazed redware; 2 refined whiteware
TPC1202	POTTERY	2	9	post-medieval: black-glazed redware
TPC1301	POTTERY	1	19	post-medieval: black-glazed redware
BHC1401	POTTERY	2	9	post-medieval/modern: 1 black-glazed redware; 1 refined whiteware
TPC1501	POTTERY	1	8	post-medieval: black-glazed redware
TPC1504	POTTERY	1	2	modern: refined whiteware
BHC1701	POTTERY	3	193	post-medieval: black-glazed redware (large, heavy-rimmed bowl)
BHC1702	POTTERY	1	2	prehistoric: shelly ware
TPC2001	POTTERY	2	6	post-medieval: creamware

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Summary

- 6.1.1 The archaeological watching brief identified two features of possible archaeological interest. The first of these (TPC1504) contained modern pottery and is likely to relate to modern agricultural land use.
- 6.1.2 The second archaeological feature (TPBHC17) identified was located at the northern end of Section 5 in an area which contained a number of geophysical anomalies of possible archaeological origin. It is possible that this feature corresponds with geophysical anomaly K (Headland 2015), although the limited scope of the trial pit meant that this could not be confirmed. It was not possible to assign a date to the feature due to the lack of dateable material.
- 6.1.3 A prehistoric sherd was recovered from the subsoil of BHC17 and provides evidence of possible prehistoric activity within the vicinity. This pottery could not be closely dated but seems likely to be of a later prehistoric date due to its thin wall and being well fired.
- 6.1.4 The watching brief identified no archaeological remains associated with Asset 152 and Asset 162 which were identified as being affected by the GI works in the WSHM (Horizon 2015).

7 STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

- 7.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Anglesey Museums, under an accession code to be confirmed.

7.2 Preparation of archive

- 7.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Anglesey Museums, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 7.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the **site/accession code**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:
- 1 file of paper records & A4 graphics
 - 1 box of finds

7.3 Discard policy

- 7.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (SMA 1995), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. In this instance, the prehistoric finds (pottery sherd and worked flint and stone) should be retained, but the post-medieval/modern material (small quantities of commonly occurring and well documented types) has little or no potential for further analysis, and does not warrant retention for long-term curation. Any dispersal of artefacts from the assemblage will be fully documented in the project archive.

7.4 Security Copy

- 7.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

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On line resources

British Geological Survey, 2016. (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>)



9 APPENDICES

9.1 Appendix 1: Context Descriptions

BH C2			Dimensions: 1 mx1 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m BGL)
BHC201	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0-0.35
BHC202	Subsoil	Dark brown sandy clay	0.35-0.6
BHC203	Natural	Light brown silty clay	0.6+

BH C3			Dimensions: 1 mx1 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m BGL)
BHC301	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0-0.38
BHC302	Subsoil	Dark brown sandy clay	0.38-0.6
BHC303	Natural	Yellowish brown sandy clay	0.6-1.0+

BH C4			Dimensions: 1 mx1 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m BGL)
BHC401	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay	0-0.37
BHC402	Natural	Yellowish brown sandy clay	0.37+

BH C7			Dimensions: 1 mx1 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m BGL)
BHC701	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	0-0.12
BHC702	Subsoil	Light greyish brown silty clay	0.12-0.24
BHC703	Natural	Light yellowish grey silty clay	0.24+

BH C10			Dimensions: 1 mx1 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m BGL)
BHC1001	Topsoil	Light brown sandy clay	0-0.12
BHC1002	Subsoil	Brownish grey sandy clay	0.12-0.23
BHC1003	Natural	Brownish yellow sandy clay	0.23-1.0+



BH C12			Dimensions: 1 mx1 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m BGL)
BHC1201	Topsoil	Greyish brown sandy clay	0-0.12
BHC1202	Subsoil	Greyish brown sandy clay	0.12-0.25
BHC1203	Natural	Brownish yellow sandy clay	0.25-1.1+

BH C14			Dimensions: 1 mx1 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m BGL)
BHC1401	Topsoil	Light brown silty clay	0-0.15
BHC1402	Subsoil	Brownish grey silty sand	0.15-0.28
BHC1403	Natural	Brownish yellow silty sand	0.28-1.2+

BH C16			Dimensions: 1 mx1 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m BGL)
BHC1601	Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay	0-0.34
BHC1602	Natural	Brownish yellow silty clay	0.34-0.39+

TPBH C17			Dimensions: 4 mx1 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m BGL)
BHC1701	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0-0.5
BHC1702	Subsoil	Dark reddish brown sandy clay	0.5-0.9
BHC1703	Subsoil	Yellowish brown silty clay	0.9-1.0
BHC1704	Natural	Yellowish brown silty sand	1.0-1.45+
BHC1705	Cut	Gully: Flat base, concave sides	1.0-1.2
BHC1706	Fill	Secondary fill: dark grey silty clay	1.0-1.2

TP C2			Dimensions: 4 mx2 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m BGL)
TPC201	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	0-0.2
TPC202	Natural	Mid brownish yellow coarse sand	0.2-0.3+

TP C3			Dimensions: 4 mx1 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m BGL)
TPC301	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	0-0.25
TPC302	Subsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay	0.25-0.35
TPC303	Natural	Mid brownish yellow silty clay	0.35+



TP C9			Dimensions: 4 mx1 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m BGL)
TPC901	Topsoil	Reddish brown sandy clay	0-0.23
TPC902	Natural	Reddish orange silty clay	0.23+

TP C10			Dimensions: 4 mx1 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m BGL)
TPC1001	Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay	0-0.4
TPC1002	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty clay	0.4-0.66
TPC1003	Natural	Brownish yellow silty clay	0.66-0.9+

TP C12			Dimensions: 4 mx1 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m BGL)
TPC1201	Topsoil	Light brown sandy clay	0-0.2
TPC1202	Subsoil	Light greyish brown sandy clay	0.2-0.4
TPC1203	Natural	Brownish yellow sandy clay	0.4+

TP C13			Dimensions: 4 mx1 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m BGL)
TPC1301	Topsoil	Light brown silty sandy clay	0-0.4
TPC1302	Natural	Greyish yellow silty sand	0.4+

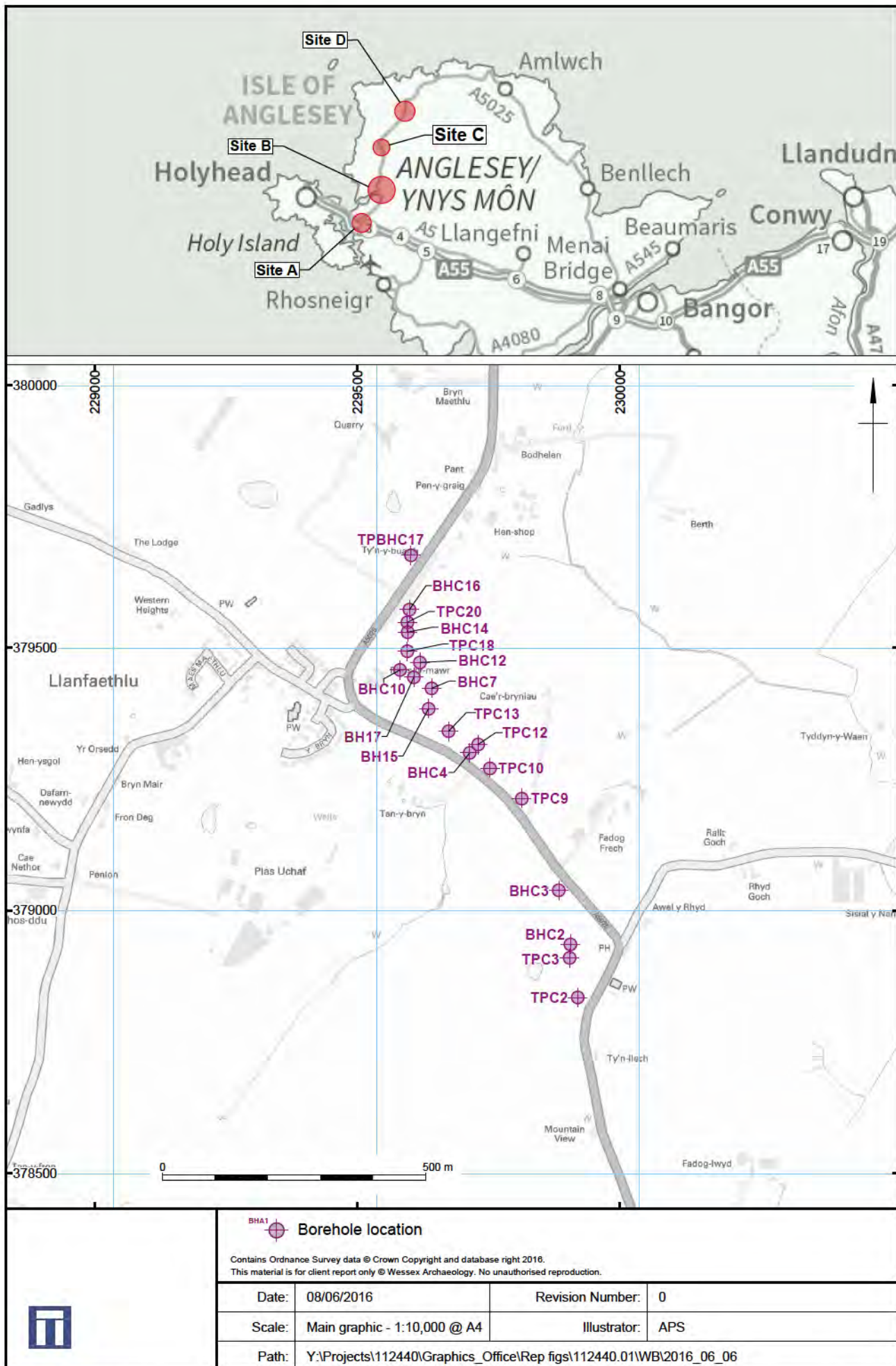
BH C15			Dimensions: 3 mx1 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m BGL)
TPC1501	Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay	0-0.33
TPC1502	Natural	Yellowish grey silty clay	0.33+
TPC1503	Cut	Gully: Flat base and concave sides	0.33-0.47
TPC1504	Fill	Secondary fill: greyish brown silty sand	0.33-0.47

BH C17			Dimensions: 3 mx1 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m BGL)
TPC1701	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay	0-0.27
TPC1702	Natural	Yellowish grey silty clay	0.27+

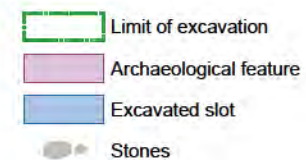
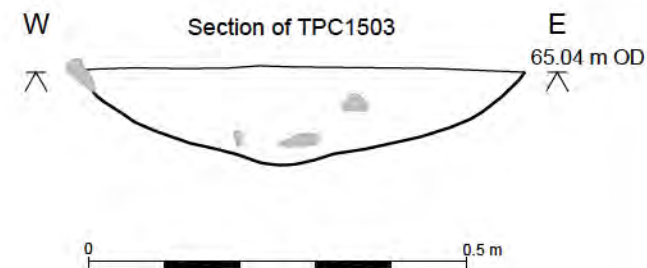
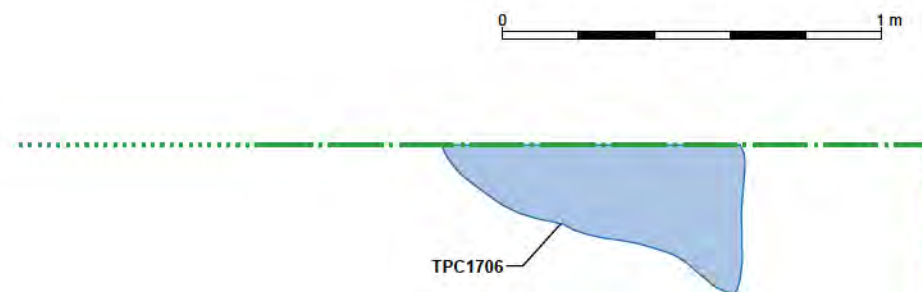
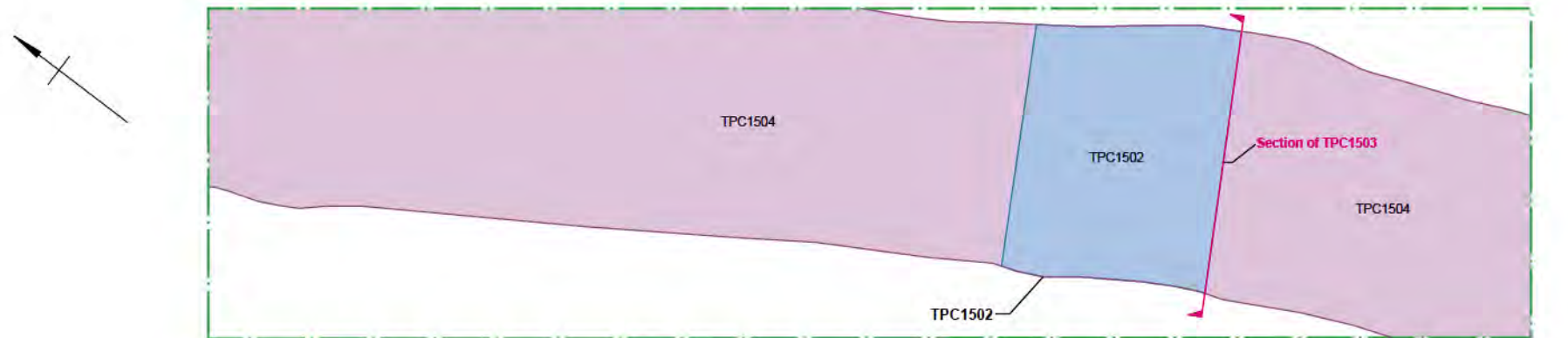


TP C18			Dimensions: 3 mx1 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m BGL)
TPC1801	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	0-0.33
TPC1802	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	0.33-0.43
TPC1803	Natural	Yellowish brown silty clay	0.43+

TP C20			Dimensions: 4 mx1 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m BGL)
TPC2001	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0-0.34
TPC2002	Natural	Brownish yellow sandy clay	0.34+



Site C location of all Ground Investigation Works



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Plate 1: BHC10 representative section



Plate 2: BHC1 representative section


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Plate 3: Representative borehole starter pit (BHC4)



Plate 4: Representative trial pit (TPC18)



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Plate 5: Modern gully TPC1503



Plate 6: Undated gully terminus TPBHC1705

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