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# Land at Ty Mawr Holyhead

Archaeological assessment and field evaluation

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GAT Project G1701

Report no. 459

June 2002

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*Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd*  
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

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# **LAND AT TY MAWR, HOLYHEAD (G1701)**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND FIELD EVALUATION**

### **SUMMARY**

*It is intended to develop a green-field site within an area of land comprising some 65 ha in the vicinity of Ty Mawr, Holyhead. An archaeological assessment undertaken in November 2000 (GAT Report 389) revealed a high density of known archaeological sites, including two scheduled ancient monuments. The potential for the discovery of additional sites was considered to be high, and hence a programme of field evaluation was recommended to form part of the Environmental Assessment.*

*The evaluation comprised 34,800 sq. m. of magnetometer survey and 2,755 sq. m. of trial excavation, and was confined to the northern part of the assessment area, that is the area for which a planning application is to be submitted. The location of the magnetometer survey grids was partly determined by the location of known archaeological sites and partly by local topography. The location of the trial trenches was further informed by the magnetometer results.*

*A number of sites included within the assessment report required evaluation to determine their status, as field walking alone had been unable to ascertain the potential of the archaeological deposits. As a result of the field evaluation three of these sites were allocated to Category D (Minor and damaged sites), one was allocated to Category C (Local importance) and one was allocated to Category B (Regional importance).*

*Seven new sites (numbers 37 – 43) were discovered during the evaluation works. Two of these were identified as settlements of late Prehistoric/Romano-British date (circa 500 BC to 400 AD), and another as a metalworking site of similar date. All were allocated to Category B (Regional importance). The remaining four sites require further work to ascertain their status, and have not, therefore, been allocated to a category of importance. One is a peat deposit, which has potential for adding to our understanding of the past environment. Another is an area of burnt clay, possibly a hearth within a building. The third is described as an area of 'stone cobbling', and the fourth are two pits adjoining pits containing large stones which have been deliberately set in place, although their function is unknown.*

*Recommendations include full excavation of the three Category B sites, combined with geophysical survey to identify the site limits, and to place the sites within a wider context. Recommendations for the Category E sites are for further evaluation, including extensive geophysical survey and additional excavation. Given the density of archaeological sites within the area it is also recommended that further geophysical survey is undertaken within the northern part of the development area.*

*Attention is drawn to the importance of the two scheduled ancient monuments (Trefignath burial chamber and Ty Mawr standing stone) and the need to preserve their setting.*

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

An environmental assessment has been commissioned on land at Ty Mawr, Holyhead, in preparation for outline planning permission for the development of the site. As part of this work, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust have been asked by Symonds Group to carry out an archaeological assessment. The study area covers some 65 hectares of land, lying adjacent to the line of the new A55 Trunk Road, and centred on SH254808. The land is owned by Anglesey Aluminium Metals Limited. The presence of a number of prehistoric sites in the area suggests the potential for discovering additional remains is high.

### **2. SPECIFICATION AND PROJECT DESIGN**

No initial brief was prepared for this project, though the Development Control Officer was consulted during the work. The basic requirement was for a desktop survey and field search in order to assess the

impact of the proposals on the archaeological features within the area concerned. The importance and condition of known archaeological remains were to be assessed, and areas of archaeological potential and new sites to be identified. Measures to mitigate the effects of any future development on the archaeological resource were to be suggested.

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust's proposals for fulfilling these requirements were, briefly, as follows:

- a) *to identify and record the cultural heritage of the area to be affected;*
- b) *to evaluate the importance of what was identified (both as a cultural landscape and as the individual items which make up that landscape); and*
- c) *to recommend ways in which damage to the cultural heritage can be avoided or minimised.*

A full archaeological assessment comprises 6 phases:

- 1) *Desk-top study*
- 2) *Field Search*
- 3) *Interim Draft Report*
- 4) *Detailed Field Evaluation*
- 5) *Final Draft Report*
- 6) *Final Report*

An initial assessment was undertaken by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust in November 2000 (GAT Report 389). This was followed by a programme of field evaluation undertaken in July and August, 2001 (GAT Report 428). This is the final report, which combines both the assessment and field evaluation results. The study area, which is now equal to the area for which a planning application is to be submitted, is considerably smaller than the area assessed as part of the initial assessment, and the text within this report has been edited to reflect the change in area (see fig. 1 for a map of the present study area).

### **3. METHODS AND TECHNIQUES**

#### **3.1 Desk-top Study**

This involved consultation of maps, computer records, written records and reference works, which make up the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), located at Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Bangor. The archives held by the Anglesey County Record Office and the University of Wales, Bangor were also consulted. Information about Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments was obtained from Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments. See Section 8, Bibliography, for a full list of sources consulted.

Aerial photographs were examined at the Countryside Council for Wales, Bangor, and also at the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust SMR. However, the majority of those examined were taken in summer. Aerial photographs are most useful when photographs of the same area under different conditions can be compared. The summer conditions created good parchmarks in pasture fields, but other areas were obscured. In particular the area round Treddaniel and Tyddyn-bach had been left fallow and was covered with tall weeds, which obscured most earthworks or cropmarks. The photographs did give a good indication of the landscape as it was in the 1990s, as there had been considerable amalgamation of fields to produce larger enclosures. Some of the removed field boundaries could still be seen as cropmarks, as could some of those boundaries removed during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **3.2 Field Search**

This was undertaken between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October 2000, when the proposed development area was inspected by an archaeologist to note the present state of the site, and to identify any archaeological features visible as earthworks. Over most of the area conditions were good for fieldwork, with many of the fields being covered in short grass. However, some areas had long grass, which obscured earthworks, and other areas were completely inaccessible due to the density of the vegetation.

Features identified were marked on copies of the 1:10,000 OS map, as accurately as possible without surveying. Each feature was described and assessed. Detail notes, sketch plans and photographs were made of the more important features.

On the rocky outcrops gorse and bramble often obscured visibility, but there was little evidence of archaeological remains on these areas. Elsewhere the conditions were generally good for field survey. The grass was short over most of the study area.

The numerous rock outcrops can resemble artificial mounds or barrows when they are low and covered in grass, though most have some exposed bedrock to indicate their nature. In several places, especially in the south-western part of the study area small mounds and piles of stone, or occasional single larger stones were noticed on rocky outcrops. None of these were embedded in the soil surface and resulted from recent clearance of stone to improve the pasture. The stones were deposited on rocky areas or next to gorse bushes where there were already obstructions to grazing animals and the plough.

### **3.3 Initial report**

All available information was collated, and the features were then assessed and allocated to the categories listed below. These are intended to give an idea of the importance of the feature and the level of response likely to be required; descriptions of the features and specific recommendations for further assessment or mitigatory measures, as appropriate, are given in the relevant sections of this report.

The criteria used for allocating features to categories are based on those used by the Secretary of State when considering ancient monuments for scheduling; these are set out in the Welsh Office Circular 60/96.

#### **3.3.1 Categories**

The following categories were used to define the importance of the archaeological resource.

##### *Category A - Sites of National Importance.*

This category includes Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings as well as those sites that would meet the requirements for scheduling (ancient monuments) or listing (buildings) or both.

Sites that are scheduled or listed have legal protection, and it is recommended that all Category A sites remain preserved and protected *in situ*.

##### *Category B - Sites of Regional Importance*

These sites are those which would not fulfil the criteria for scheduling or listing, but which are nevertheless of particular importance within the region. Preservation *in situ* is the preferred option for Category B sites, but if damage or destruction cannot be avoided, appropriate detailed recording might be an acceptable alternative.

##### *Category C - Sites of District or Local Importance*

These sites are not of sufficient importance to justify a recommendation for preservation if threatened, but nevertheless merit adequate recording in advance of damage or destruction.

##### *Category D - Minor and Damaged Sites*

These are sites, which are of minor importance, or are so badly damaged that too little remains to justify their inclusion in a higher category. For these sites rapid recording either in advance or during destruction, should be sufficient.

### *Category E - Sites needing further investigation*

Sites, the importance of which is as yet undetermined and which will require further work before they can be allocated to categories A-D, are temporarily placed in this category, with specific recommendations for further evaluation. By the end of the assessment there should be no sites remaining in this category.

#### **3.3.2 Definition of Mitigatory Recommendations**

##### *None:*

No impact so no requirement for mitigatory measures.

##### *Evaluation:*

To investigate the archaeological potential of sites identified as earthworks or cropmarks it may be necessary to use evaluation techniques such as geophysical survey and trial trenches. The former gives an indication of the presence of subsurface features, and trial trenching allows these features to be sampled by small-scale excavation.

##### *Detailed recording:*

Requiring a photographic record, surveying and the production of a measure drawing prior to commencement of works.

Archaeological excavation may also be required depending on the particular feature and the extent and effect of the impact.

##### *Basic recording:*

Requiring a photographic record and full description prior to commencement of works.

##### *Watching brief:*

Requiring observation of particular identified features or areas during works in their vicinity. This may be supplemented by detailed or basic recording of exposed layers or structures.

##### *Avoidance:*

Features, which may be affected directly by the scheme, or during the construction, should be avoided. Occasionally a minor change to the proposed plan is recommended, but more usually it refers to the need for care to be taken during construction to avoid accidental damage to a feature. This is often best achieved by clearly marking features prior to the start of work.

##### *Reinstatement:*

The feature should be re-instated with archaeological advice and supervision.

### **3.4 Geophysical Survey**

#### **3.4.1 Instrumentation**

All geophysical work was carried out using a Geoscan FM36 Fluxgate Gradiometer. This instrument detects variations in the earth's magnetic field caused by the presence of iron in the soil. This is usually in the form of weakly magnetised iron oxides, which tend to be concentrated in the topsoil. Features cut into the subsoil and backfilled or silted with topsoil therefore contain greater amounts of iron and can be detected with the gradiometer. This is a simplified description as there are other processes and materials which can produce detectable anomalies. The most obvious is the presence of

pieces of iron in the soil or immediate environs which usually produce very high readings and can mask the relatively weak readings produced by variations in the soil. Strong readings are also produced by archaeological features such as hearths or kilns as fired clay acquires a permanent magnetic field upon cooling. Not all surveys produce good results as the data can be masked by large magnetic variations in the bedrock or soil and in some cases there may be little variation between the topsoil and subsoil, resulting in undetectable features.

The Geoscan FM36 is a hand held instrument and readings can be taken automatically as the operator walks at a constant speed along a series of fixed length traverses. The sensor consists of two vertically aligned fluxgates set 500mm apart. Their Mumetal cores are driven in and out of magnetic saturation by a 1,000Hz alternating current passing through two opposing driver coils. As the cores come out of saturation, the external magnetic field can enter them producing an electrical pulse proportional to the field strength in a sensor coil. The high frequency of the detection cycle produces what is in effect a continuous output (Clark 1990).

The gradiometer can detect anomalies down to a depth of approximately one metre. The magnetic variations are measured in nanoTeslas (nT). The earth's magnetic field strength is about 48,000 nT, typical archaeological features produce readings of below 15nT although burnt features and iron objects can result in changes of several hundred nT. The machine is capable of detecting changes as low as 0.1nT.

#### *3.4.2 Data Collection*

The gradiometer includes an on-board data-logger. Readings were taken along parallel traverses of one axis of a 20m x 20m grid. The traverse interval was one metre. Readings were logged at intervals of either 0.5m or 0.25m along each traverse giving 800 or 1600 readings per grid.

#### *3.4.3 Data presentation*

The data is transferred from the data-logger to a computer where it is compiled and processed using Geoplot 3.0 software. The following two display options are used in this report along with an interpretation drawing.

##### *a) X-Y plot*

Each traverse is shown by a line trace. These are presented side by side allowing the full range of data and the shape of any anomalies to be seen.

##### *b) Grey-Scale*

Data values are represented by modulation of the intensity of a grey scale within a rectangular area corresponding to the data collection point within the grid. This produces a plan view of the survey and allows subtle changes in the data to be displayed.

#### *3.4.4 Data Processing*

The data is presented with a minimum of processing. High readings caused by stray pieces of iron, such as fences, or bits of machinery, are usually modified on the grey scale plot as they have a tendency to compress the rest of the data. The data is however carefully examined before this procedure is carried out as kilns and other burnt features can produce similar readings. Corrections are also made to compensate for instrument drift and other data collection inconsistencies. Any further processing is noted in relation to each individual plot.

### **3.5 Trial Excavation**

The trial trenches were excavated by machine to the base of the plough soil, and subsequently cleaned by hand when archaeological deposits were encountered. Typically the trenches measured 20m by 2m, although this varied to reflect the requirements of each site. All archaeological features were photographed and planned at a scale of 1:20, and were not excavated further unless additional evaluation was thought necessary. The location of each trench was surveyed using a total station electronic theodolite, as were any archaeological features encountered. All the trenches were backfilled by machine once recording was complete. The location of the trenches was determined by a number of

factors including topography, the location of known archaeological sites, and the results of the geophysical survey.

The purpose of trial trenching is to identify archaeological deposits and features, but not to investigate those that are found. A minimal amount of excavation may be necessary to confirm the nature of a feature, but the intention is to leave the deposits to be fully investigated during next phase of work. This allows all features to be seen and excavated together during area excavation, but it does mean that few finds are recovered during trial trenching and field records are generally restricted to trench plans.

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material, and any other material resulting from the project was prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions are labelled and cross-referenced, and are currently archived with Gwynedd Archaeological Trust under project number G1701. All digital data are written to CD-ROM and stored with the paper archive.

### **3.6 Finds Strategy**

The vast majority of finds recovered from archaeological excavations comprise pottery fragments, bone, environmental and charcoal samples, and non-valuable metal items such as nails. Finds are the property of the landowner, however, it is Trust policy to recommend that all finds are donated to an appropriate museum where they can receive specialist treatment and study. The Trust will retain the finds for a reasonable period to allow for study and publication. All finds work will be undertaken according to the guidance given in *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2001). When appropriate expertise is not available in-house, the Trust uses a wide range of external specialists for examining and conserving archaeological finds, which include Arcus at Sheffield University for skeletal remains, Birmingham University Archaeology Field Unit for examining environmental samples; Alex Gibson for Prehistoric pottery; Jeremy Evans for Roman pottery. Radiocarbon dates are usually obtained from Beta Analytic, Miami.

As excavation of features during trial trenching is limited only a small amount of finds were expected to be recovered. The topsoil contained modern and nineteenth century artefacts, but these were considered to be of low archaeological value, and constraints on time prevented their collection. All artefacts found in archaeological features were retained, and the provenance of these was recorded by trench and by feature. Finds of a medieval date or earlier were collected even when unstratified, and recorded by trench. Three-dimensional co-ordinates for finds were not considered appropriate at this stage of the work, although this is standard practice during full archaeological investigation. Finds were bagged and labelled on site and stored appropriately for further specialist analysis. A full list of finds is included as appendix II, and a report on the lithics forms appendix III.

The assemblages from the trial trenches are too small for significant conclusions to be drawn from them. It is more efficient for them to be studied along with the artefacts resulting from any future stages of investigation. However, the slag was sent to Peter Crew, who confirmed that it was iron slag.

### **3.7 The report**

This report details and synthesises the results of the assessment and field evaluation, and provides mitigation recommendations for each of the sites. The results have been considered in the light of current archaeological knowledge and research priorities to help inform the mitigation strategy.

The report includes a description of the geophysical survey results, with the plots included as appendix IV. The results of the trial excavation has been summarised for each trench. A full description of each context was deemed to be inappropriate to this report, and the site records can be consulted at Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, where they are archived under project number G1701. The location of each trench is shown on figure 1, but only those trenches containing features of interest have been illustrated in detail.



## **4      ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **4.1      Topographic Description**

Holy Island, or Ynys Gybi, is located off the western coast of Anglesey, to which currently it is joined by the Stanley Embankment, and also by the bridge at Four Mile Bridge (Pont Rhyd y Bont).

Holyhead (Caer Gybi) is the principle town on Holy Island, and the proposed development site lies to the south-east of the town. The site is to the south and west of the Anglesey Aluminium works, and is bounded to the north by the railway and the new A55. To the south it borders the outskirts of the village of Trearddur Bay.

Geologically Anglesey is composed largely of Pre-Cambrian rocks, most notably the Mona Complex. These bedded rocks have undergone intense pressures leaving them deformed and folded, and volcanic events have resulted in their interbedding with lavas, ashes and tuffs. These make up much of the bedrock of Holy Island (Davies 1972).

The bedrock under the study area is composed of pale green chlorite schists, part of the New Harbour Group of the Mona Complex (Keeley 1987). Boulder clay overlies this, with the bedrock outcropping in places, and occasional patches of glacial gravels. The soils formed over these substrates are brown earths of the Rocky Gaerwen and Trisant types (Geological and soil survey maps). These soils can carry crops or excellent pasture, and were frequently chosen for settlement in the prehistoric period. The Rocky Gaerwen soils are shallow with frequent rock outcrops, and farms and fields tend to be smaller on these soils than on deeper soils (Keeley 1987).

Like much of Holy Island, the topography of the study area is characterized by north-east to south-west aligned rocky ridges within intervening boggy hollows. This is particularly noticeable around the western, central part of the study area. The bedrock is never far below the surface, and occasionally outcrops as small crags and knolls. Most of the area is used currently for grazing sheep and cattle, with some small paddocks around Tyddyn-uchaf used for horses. The grass is, therefore, generally kept short and largely weed free, although gorse and bramble grow on the rocky ridges. Some fields and paddocks have been planted with trees, making the recognition of sites almost impossible in these areas.

A pollen study was carried out to the north-west of Trefignath burial chamber (Greig 1987). This suggested that the Boreal period vegetation was of a scrubby sub-arctic type. The woodland developed in the usual sequence, from open woodland with birch to denser, mixed oak forest, but with an unusual amount of willow. The climax forest contained oak and elm with hazel as an under-storey. A band of peat, with little pollen survival due to the drying out of the bog, was dated to about the start of the Neolithic period. The band contained charcoal and other evidence for burning, suggesting forest clearance in the immediate area. When the pollen record continued it showed that the forest had been replaced by grassland and arable fields. In the medieval period, and later, expanding arable farming caused increased erosion into the bog.

### **4.2. Archaeological and historical background (Figure 1)**

The town of Holyhead expanded in size and importance after the development of the port for use by packet boats to Ireland, but it has a long history. There is evidence of Neolithic, Bronze Age and later prehistoric activity. Two Neolithic tombs lie within the study area, and will be discussed in detail below. Four Neolithic polished stone axes have been found in the northern part of Holy Island (Lynch 1991). Those found closest to the study area are two axes from the Graiglwyd axe factory, above Penmaenmawr, found when excavating a hole for a turntable railway near Kingsland in 1926 (PRN 2507, SH 2504 8165), and one axe of unspecified stone found at Penllech Nest (PRN 2506, SH 251 816).

Two Bronze Age barrows were prominently situated on top of Holyhead Mountain (PRN 15691, 15692), though little can be seen of them now, and another at Garn (PRN 3804). There was also a cemetery of three barrows at Porth Dafarch (PRN 1772-4). A barrow was recently discovered under the early Christian cemetery at Ty Mawr (SH 2520 8135). The Ty Mawr standing stone (PRN 2501) is one

of several such stones in this part of Holy Island. There is another to the south, next to Stanley Mill (PRN 2009), and a rare pairing of two stones just over 3m apart, to the west at Plas Meilw (PRN 2748) (Lynch 1991).

The island has several notable Iron Age and Roman period sites. Holyhead is dominated by its mountain, to the north-west of the town. The summit is enclosed by a stone rampart wall forming the hillfort of *Caer y Twr* (PRN 1760). A much smaller promontory fort, *Dinas* on the south coast of Holy Island (PRN 807), is probably also Iron Age. This promontory is surrounded by high cliffs and a low bank runs along the edge of the chasm, which separates it from the mainland. These forts were probably defensive refuges, and the population lived in more hospitable areas. Towards the foot of the south-western slope of Holyhead Mountain are a group of huts near another *Ty Mawr* (PRN 1755) and a similar hut group overlies the Bronze Age barrows at *Porth Dafarch* (PRN 2754). Excavation at *Ty Mawr* demonstrated that the stone huts belonged to the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium bc, but with some activity in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, as well as earlier prehistoric and post-Roman settlement evidence (Smith 1985). The finds from *Porth Dafarch* dated the huts to the Roman period (Lynch 1991, RCAHMW 1937).

A Roman fort was constructed at Holyhead towards the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century or later, as a naval base against Irish raiders (Lynch 1972). A Roman coin hoard was found in the area in 1710. The coins were buried in a brass vessel, and all dated to the 4<sup>th</sup> century (PRN 2503, SH 26 81). To the north of the Aluminium works, on the shore of Penrhos Beach, Stanley (1868) recorded a 'Danish fort'. The site (PRN 2509) is now under the main road, and all traces of it have been destroyed, so it is not known whether the fort was Iron Age, Roman or actually attributable to the Vikings.

Holy Island was of considerable importance in the early Christian period, with the *clas* site of *Caer Gybi* large enough to attract the attention of the Vikings in 961 (Edwards 1986, 24). The foundation of this monastic community by St Cybi is traditionally dated to the mid 6<sup>th</sup> century AD, and it was presumably located within the Roman fort; the present church on the site dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. There is an unusual concentration of early Christian sites known, or suspected, on the island. These include a cemetery of long-cist graves, dating to approximately 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> century AD, discovered during the construction of the A55 dual carriageway, to the north-west of *Ty Mawr Farm*. At this site the graves were located around, and cut into, the remains of a Bronze Age barrow. Another cemetery, of similar date, lies to the south-west of the study area, at *Tywyn y Capel*, the site of a medieval chapel on the shore of *Trearddur Bay* (Edwards 1986, 31). There were also cist burials found at *Porth Dafarch*. A chapel and well formerly lay to the north-west of the study area, where there are documentary and map references to *Capel Ulo*, and *Fynnon Ulo*. However, recent trial trenching in the area failed to reveal any archaeological evidence (GAT report 382).

The use of Holyhead port increased in the reign of Elizabeth I, when it became the departure point for the Royal Mail to Ireland. During Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth Holyhead was garrisoned, and regular packet boats sailed to Ireland (Hughes and Williams 1981). The port subsequently grew until, by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was the principle port for Ireland.

During the 17<sup>th</sup> century the road across Anglesey to Holyhead was probably just a rough track, but the forerunner to the bridge at Four Mile Bridge already joined Holy Island to Anglesey by 1578 (Hughes and Williams 1981). One of the earliest maps of Anglesey, published by Speed in 1630, marks *Pont-Rhydbont* (the bridge at Four Mile Bridge), and just to the west of it is *Llansanfraid* (St Bride's or *Trearddur Bay*), the only place marked on Holy Island, other than Holyhead itself (Evans 1972).

In 1765 the road from the Menai ferries to Holyhead was turnpiked, and much improved (Ramage 1987). However, transport was still difficult until Telford built his new London to Holyhead road (the A5), which arrived on Holy Island in 1823. The Stanley Embankment (grade II listed, PRN 20074) carried the road over the *Afon Lasinwen*, the tidal strait between Holy Island and Anglesey, replacing the ferries and fords (GAT Report 251). The embankment was designed by Thomas Telford, started in 1822 and opened in 1823; its construction created the body of water now referred to as the *Inland Sea*. In 1846-8 the railway line was constructed along the southern side of the embankment (GAT 204, p251). The railway runs along the northern boundary of the study area, separating it from the Aluminium works. Major improvements were also made to the harbour throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Hughes and Williams 1981, GAT Report 64, 251).

The coming of Telford's road and the railway significantly changed the landscape of Holy Island, but a comparison between the 18<sup>th</sup> and late 19<sup>th</sup> century maps show that the layout of the fields in the study area did not change considerably. There was no parliamentary enclosure of open fields on Anglesey, as occurred in other parts of Britain at this time, but some common land was enclosed by Private Act (Carr 1982), such as the small areas of common land around Ty Mawr enclosed in 1861 (WPE 68/128).

A large number of defensive works were constructed in 1940-41 to resist the invasion of Britain. Pillboxes were an important component of these defences, and more than 18,000 were built during 1940 (Brown *et al* 1995). In the Second World War Holyhead was strategically important, as it was on the route both to Ireland and to the port of Liverpool. Pillboxes, arranged in a rough line across the island, defended the middle of Holy Island and the Inland Sea, preventing enemy troop movement on Holy Island and defending the approaches to Holyhead. The line starts at the south-western end at Trearddur Bay. Behind the Trearddur Bay Hotel (SH 2519 7931) are two circular-plan pillboxes (grade II listed, 20079). Another is set in the grounds of Trearddur House (SH 2546 7934, grade II listed, 20080). Closer to the study area one (SH 2721 8029) is situated to cover the south side of the Stanley Embankment, and the other (SH 2707 7991, PRN 7213) is a little further south, overlooking the Inland Sea. A related pillbox, not previously recorded, was found within the study area, see below.

Most of the land in the study area was owned by the Penrhos family, who stabilised their surname to Owen in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century (Richards 1940). The original house at Penrhos was said to have been built during the reign of Henry VIII (RCAHMW 1937). In 1763 Margaret Owen, the heiress to Hugh Owen, married John Stanley and the Penrhos Estate passed to the Stanleys of Alderley (Ramage 1972, 1987, Richards 1940). W. O. Stanley was a noted antiquarian, and the Penrhos estate maps provide valuable historical evidence.

The area presently consists of a number of farmsteads surrounded by regularly shaped fields. The majority of the farmsteads are now abandoned and ruinous. The field layout was generally established by 1769, but numerous fields have been amalgamated at various periods since then, and some boundaries have been lost or altered. Unlike the area to the north of Holyhead (Penrhos estate map II, 772, map 14), there were no large open fields here in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. There were a number of small farms, often associated with small, irregular in-by fields or tofts, which have since disappeared. Estate maps of the 18<sup>th</sup> century also show that some of the present settlements, such as Trefignath, have moved slightly from their original locations. These deserted or migrated settlements will have left archaeological remains, although regular ploughing has removed most surface indications. See figures 4-7 for copies of the relevant estate maps.

### **4.3 Scheduled sites**

#### **4.3.1 Scheduled sites in the study area**

Ancient monuments of national importance are given legal protection by scheduling, which is administered by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments Executive Agency. Scheduling ensures that the case for preservation of archaeological remains is fully considered in proposals for development. Planning policy aims to reconcile the need for development with the interests of conservation. Development plans should include policies for the protection, enhancement and preservation of archaeological sites and their settings. This applies particularly to scheduled monuments, but the Planning Guidance makes it clear that these points should also be considered in relation to unscheduled sites.

There is one scheduled site within the study area, the Ty Mawr standing stone (SAM An 12). This site has public access via a footpath to the stone, and has a brief interpretation plaque next to the road. The scheduled area measures c. 25m by 20m around the stone (figure 8).

Another scheduled site lies just outside the southern edge of the study area, namely the Trefignath burial chamber (SAM An 11). This site was excavated between 1977 and 1979, and was partially reconstructed in 1980 and consolidated for public access from the adjacent road (Lon Towyn Capel). The scheduled area forms a rectangle measuring c. 40m by 25m around the monument, however, a larger area than this has been fenced in and is under Cadw Guardianship (i.e. an area of land managed directly by Cadw) (see figure 9).

A third monument, a burial chamber at Trearddur, lies to the south of the study area. It is not scheduled, however the monument needs to be taken into account as it is of significance in relation to the scheduled monuments.

Listing provides similar protection for buildings as scheduling does for archaeological sites. There are no listed buildings in the study area.

#### **4.3.2 The importance of setting**

The sites in this report are listed and described as discrete entities, but at no point in their history would they have existed as such, and recognising in this site specific way we run the risk of isolating them from their setting and related landscape. It then becomes possible for new development to cause the isolation of features from their original environment.

The lack of cartographic and documentary evidence for prehistoric sites means that can be far more difficult to interpret their setting, and it is of particular importance that the evidence on or in the ground is preserved. To go beyond the ordinary domestic life of prehistory and to attempt to study past thoughts and beliefs is to deal with even sparser, more obscure evidence. Here the loss of one class of evidence can lead to a completely different, possibly erroneous, interpretation of a monument. Numerous studies have shown that Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments were not located just by purely practical considerations, but that the landscape formed a significant part of the monument itself. Bradley (1993) has discussed the possibility of monuments as models of the physical and cultural world around them, with their position in the landscape being deliberately used to reflect a variety of complex ideas. Numerous authors have suggested that the intervisibility or otherwise between Neolithic burial monuments reflects the social landscape of territory and landownership. The relationship of monuments to the sun, moon, and even some stars, has also been widely discussed. Features of the landscape, such as distant hills, are often used as foresights to point to particular celestial phenomenon. Without being able to appreciate the physical landscape in which these monuments were placed none of these theories could be proposed, explored or tested. The setting of a monument forms such an intrinsic part of its existence that it cannot be adequately interpreted without it.

For the purposes of this development there are two monuments to which these points apply in particular, the Ty Mawr standing stone and the Trefignath burial chamber; it is also necessary to take into account the Trearddur monument because of its proximity to Trefignath. All are located on local high points, with views of Holyhead Mountain and wide views in other directions. There are east-west orientations in all the monuments, and Baynes (1911) has suggested that the standing stone was deliberately placed in relation to the Trefignath burial chamber. Perhaps the Trearddur monument is also deliberately related to the location of the others. It and Trefignath are intervisible, and Smith (1987) has suggested that Trearddur may originally have been the same type of construction as the first phase of Trefignath, and therefore possibly built at a similar date. These and other considerations can only be explored with all three monuments being protected and their location in their landscape being appreciated.

The planning legislation does, to some extent, take this approach into consideration. The Welsh Office Circular 60/96 stresses the 'desirability of preserving an ancient monument and its setting...whether that monument is scheduled or unscheduled'(3). Collcutt (1999) has studied this issue in relation to planning regulations and guidances, mainly from England, but also from the rest of the UK. He concluded that the setting of a monument was considered of importance, even though the term was not strictly defined. The view from and to a monument should be considered in planning applications, as should the relationship of neighbouring monuments to the understanding of the monument in question. The regulations, however, leave the exact definition of setting open to be decided on a case by case basis, with the application of common sense. Four main points should be considered:

*'(a) Intrinsic Visual Interest - the visual qualities of the archaeological features themselves as seen from other points;*

*(b) Topographic Setting - the visual relationship of the archaeological features to surrounding topography (including local slope angles) and to such major elements as hills, river valleys, etc.;*

*(c) Landuse Setting - the visual relationship of the archaeological features to the landuse and particularly to those elements of the current landuse which had remained unchanged or were similar to those which existed at the time the features were occupied; and*  
*(d) Group Setting - the visual relationship of the features to other visible archaeological sites in the vicinity, in terms of both contemporary and diachronic ("palimpsest") groupings or patterning'*  
(Colcutt 1999, 504).

This whole issue is problematic and the appeal to common sense is important. Of particular importance are the category A monuments. Under the planning regulations their setting must be considered, but to preserve the full area visible from the three monuments would be to forbid all development within the study area. The common sense approach would seem to be to identify the most important aspects of the settings and try to preserve these. The view towards Holyhead Mountain is probably of considerable significance, as is the view to the east, as many Neolithic tombs are aligned on the sunrise at different times of the year. In the case particularly of the standing stone and Trearddur monument it is possible that the view to the west was also important. The intervisibility between the monuments should also be preserved. Keeping lines of site open in these directions, rather than preserving the whole view, may be an acceptable compromise.

No development is allowed within the scheduled areas, but these are small and do not take the setting into account. A larger exclusion area would be recommended to allow the appreciation of the monuments in relation to their immediate topography. Any development must be considered carefully so that the monuments are not left isolated, entirely surrounded by buildings and re-landscaping. It should also be considered that buried archaeology related to the visible monuments may extend a considerable distance from the monument, and archaeological evaluation should precede any works close to these sites.

## **5. SITE GAZETTEER**

This gazetteer contains a list of all sites identified during the assessment and field evaluation programme.

A square feature, measuring c. 25m on each side, was visible as a slight earthwork on aerial photographs just south-west of Ty Mawr House (SH 2512 8118). This was inspected on the ground, where it was just visible, but a manhole cover located in the middle of the feature showed that it was a buried reservoir or septic tank.

As the exact plans for development, and the extent of the area to be affected are not known, it has been assumed that all sites are under considerable threat so that the most extreme measures for mitigation can be presented. Naturally if the threat in the final version of the plan is not considerable the mitigation measures would be appropriately less.

**(See figure 2 for location of sites and figures 3-7 for maps)**

### **1. Field boundaries**

#### *Category C*

Most of the fields are recognisable in 1769, though there have been some localised alterations, especially around Tyddyn-pioden. The layout was finally established by 1817, and the changes since have been slight, consisting mainly of amalgamations to create larger fields. The boundaries were originally all dry-stone walls, except a group of earthen banks with hedges, around Tyddyn-uchaf. These banks do not appear on the earlier maps, and so seem to be a later form of boundary used to subdivide existing fields.

Many of the walls have been replaced by post and wire fences, and even those that survive are usually too ruined to act as stock barriers without additional fencing. The walls are all built of local schist in rough courses, with toppler stones. Where the walls have been rebuilt the toppler stones have sometimes been cemented in place and positioned upright and widely spaced, like mini-crenellations. The more traditional method was to have the stones sloping slightly and leaning against each other like books on a shelf (**plate 1**). The stone is almost always fairly small schist slabs, but at SH 2530 8067, a large

quartz boulder has been built into a wall. This measures 0.80x0.75x0.45m, and was presumably dug up from the field.

Mending and rebuilding over two and a half centuries has ensured that there is no clear stylistic typology of the walls, but differences in gateposts may give an indication of the date of the latest rebuilding episode. In the area south-east of Tyddyn-pioden there are a group of brick-faced gateposts, presumably constructed at the same time. These are built with poor quality brick of a type often used during the Second World War. Along the Lon Towyn Capel road boundary there are some more ornate stone-built gateposts, one of which is circular in plan, and has stone set in its top to create the effect of a small crenellated tower (SH 2575 8062) (**plate 2**). More simply, large slabs are occasionally used, such as at SH 2587 8040.

Many of the field boundaries have been lost even since the OS 1:10,000 map was surveyed in 1971. Most of the removed boundaries can be seen on the ground, and often also on aerial photographs, as shallow gullies or low banks. Even boundaries removed during the 19<sup>th</sup> century can sometimes still be traced, such as those in the field centred on SH 2520 8045, which are visible as very slight gullies, not to be confused with the other gullies in this field, which are the surface traces of field drains.

Maps: Penrhos II. 772 (1769), Penrhos III. 208 (1769), Penrhos II. 778 (1817), Penrhos II. 804 (1817), W maps 52/1 (1845), tithe map (1853), 25" County Series (1889, 1900), 6" County Series (1926), OS 1:10,000 (1971, 1975)

**Recommendations for further assessment:** None

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** Basic recording and reinstatement where possible or the retention of the original character if new walls are constructed.

## 2. Ponds

### Category C

Water was an important resource and drinking water for livestock may have been scarce in summer. There were wells near most of the farmsteads, but in the fields ponds of various sorts were dug for the animals. There are features in the middle of some fields, which are roughly oval-shaped hollows surrounded by broad banks, presumably composed of the material dug from the hollow. These are possibly dewponds to collect rainwater, although they could be quarry pits. These features could be seen at SH 2513 8047, where there is one measuring c.29x23m and over 1m deep, and at SH 2523 8102. The latter could be seen on the aerial photographs as an almost figure-of-eight shaped feature measuring c. 35x26m and up to 1m deep. There is a small enclosure marked on the 1817 map, presumably surrounding the feature. It was not marked in 1889, and had presumably gone out of use by then. Neither feature had standing water in the bottom, even though there was plenty on the fields around.

Other ponds were constructed at the junctions of walls, and usually fed by drains. These often have some element of stone revetting to support the sides. One such example is located at SH 2526 8096. It measures c. 12 x 6m and is at least 1.5m deep, with rough stone revetting in places. At SH 2535 8036 is a fairly deep pond defined on the north side by a natural crag, to the west by a wall, and to the south by a boulder revetment. It is fed from the boggy valley running off to the north-east. A pond still present at SH 2662 8050 was marked on the 1889 map. This was fed by a drainage ditch.

Maps: Penrhos II. 804 (1817), 25" County Series (1889, 1900)

**Recommendations for further assessment:** None.

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** Basic recording and watching brief.

## 3. Road SH 2511 8125 – SH 2622 7975

### Category C

The road known as Lon Towyn Capel runs through the middle of the study area, aligned north-west to south-east. It winds gently and is lined with stone walls along most of the length within the study area. This road provides access to many of the farms listed below. It is shown on all the Penrhos Estate maps

from 1769 onwards, although it does not appear on John Evan's 1795 map of North Wales, presumably because it was considered too minor to be shown. It's route has remained largely unchanged.

Maps: Penrhos II. 772 (1769), Penrhos III. 208 (1769), Penrhos II. 778 (1817), Penrhos II. 804 (1817), W maps 52/1 (1845), tithe map (1853), 25" County Series (1889, 1900), 6" County Series (1926), OS 1:10,000 (1971, 1975)

**Recommendations for further assessment:** *None.*

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** *Basic recording and watching brief.*

#### **4. Ty Mawr** PRN 21169, SH 2523 8121

##### *Category C*

A farmhouse appears on the same site on maps going back to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is not certain that the same building is shown, but the house appears to be at least 200 years old (GAT Report 64). Common land around Ty Mawr was enclosed by act of parliament in 1861. The house and related buildings were demolished to make way for the improved A55, so only some barns and the garden now survive.

Maps: Penrhos II, 772, map 3 (1769), W maps 52/1 (1845), tithe map (1853), WPE 68/128 (1861)

**Recommendations for further assessment:** *None*

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** *The older parts of the farm have already been destroyed so basic recording will be adequate to record the remainder.*

#### **5. Enclosure and structure** SH 2525 8112

##### *Category D*

A small enclosure, associated with a small building, is shown on the 1900 and 1926 maps adjacent to the road, just south-east of Ty Mawr. On the ground a low bank could be seen defining the south-west corner of the enclosure. There was no trace of the building, but the field near the road had been recently ploughed. There was also a heap of stones next to the field gate at this point, and it was not clear whether they had been dumped there from elsewhere, or represented stones removed from this part of the field.

Maps: 25" County Series (1900), 6" County Series (1926)

**Recommendations for further assessment:** *None*

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** *Watching brief*

#### **6. Tyddyn-Pioden** SH 2510 8092

##### *Category D*

The modern house of this name is at the above grid reference and is outside the study area, but the earlier maps show that it was originally further east, at SH 2533 8083 (6a). The earliest spelling is of Tyddyn y Pregodyn. On the 1845 tithe map there is a building shown next to the road called Tyddyn y Biodan, further south than present, at c. SH 2510 8078 (6b), but this may be a cartographic error; there are no structures shown in the middle of the fields.

The eastern location at 6a is on the south-eastern corner of a ridge. Parts of the ridge may have been artificially leveled, but there is no clear evidence for structures, however, it is a good location for a house, safely above the boggy valley to the south. Just north of here there is the slight trace of a former field boundary running north-east to south-west. Between this and the well, site 7, there are very vague suggestions of parallel furrows, but these are not clear enough or regular enough to be securely interpreted as the remains of ridge and furrow. The boundary is shown on the 1769 map, but here ploughing is indicated to the south-east, not the north-west of the boundary.

Very little could be seen at the more southerly location, except for a 1m wide dog-leg in the field wall, for which there was no obvious explanation. This may have been part of a former building, though the stretch of wall was no broader than usual.

Geophysical survey (Grid I) did not reveal any archaeological anomalies, and no features were revealed in Trench 13, though this may have been sited slightly south of the area.

Maps: Penrhos II, 772, map 3 (1769), Penrhos II, 804 (1817), W maps 52/1 (1845), Tithe map (1853), 6" County series (1926)

***Recommendations for further assessment:***

***Recommendations for mitigatory measures:*** *Watching brief.*

## **7. Well SH 2525 8092**

### ***Category C***

A stone-lined well is located on a now removed field boundary. The boundary is visible as a gully in the grass. The well has dry-stone walls and a cemented stone slab capping, all of local schist. It is aligned c. north-east to south-west along the boundary and opens at its south-western end. At the north-eastern end grows a very straggly hawthorn bush. Three large timbers lie over the south-western end, and are probably the remains of some wooden structure (**plate 3**). The well is 1.3m deep from the top of the cap stones to its stone lined base. It is currently full of water and the presence of disused pipe work showed that it has been in use until fairly recently, but its origin could be as old as the enclosure of the fields. The copy of the 25" map inspected was damaged at just this point, so it was not clear if the well was marked or not, but it is shown on the 6" map.

Maps: County series, 25" (1889), 6" (1926).

***Recommendations for further assessment:*** *None*

***Recommendations for mitigatory measures:*** *Detailed recording*

## **8. Ty Mawr standing stone PRN 2501, SAM A12, SH 2539 8095**

### ***Category A***

The stone is an attractive piece of schist with swirling bedding planes, and an almost anthropomorphic shape (**plate 4**). It stands c. 2.5m high, and is a maximum of 1.7m wide and 0.4m thick. It is located on a local high point, at an altitude of 12m OD, but not on the highest point in the area, in a gently undulating, rather than a craggy, field. The views are good all round, but especially good of Holyhead mountain. The stone stands in a slight hollow caused by livestock eroding the ground around it, and this has exposed the packing stones around the base of the monolith. No earthworks were noticed around the stone, despite the grass in this field being particularly short.

A small square marks the stone on the 1889 map, but it is not labeled. On the 1926 map it is marked as a *maen hir*.

The monument is listed by RCAHMW (1937) as a *maen hir* 83/4 ft high 4ft wide and 11/4ft thick. Baynes (1911, p71) states that its south-east face is facing the summer solstice sunrise, and that an alignment from here to the burial chamber at Trefignath is within one degree of the winter solstice sunrise. A geophysical survey was carried out by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford in 1990, which revealed a possible bank around the monument, and associated linear features. There is a possibility that the circular anomaly could be the trace of a former fence, but no such fence is shown on any map (Geophysical Surveys 1990).

Additional magnetometer survey was undertaken to the west and north of the stone (Grids E and F) but no features were revealed, nor in the trial trenches 2, 3 and 12.

Maps: County series 25" (1889), 6" (1926)

***Recommendations for further assessment:*** *None*

***Recommendations for mitigatory measures:*** *Every effort should be made to avoid excessive visual intrusion. It must be possible to appreciate the monument in its landscape setting. Vistas towards Holyhead Mountain and south-east towards the Trefignath tomb should be kept open. To enable the appreciation of the location of the stone on top of a rise in the terrain development should not come within 50m of the stone to the south-east. In other directions an exclusion zone of 20m is recommended.*



*It is important to seek the views of Cadw, and it may be necessary to apply for scheduled monument consent for work that affects the setting.*

## **9. Stone** c. SH 2541 8085

### *Category D*

A large, horizontal stone was found directly south of the standing stone. It is orientated east to west, and has rather rounded edges. It is well embedded in the ground, and has clearly not been recently deposited. It is possible that it is part of the bedrock, but its form and the slope of the bedding planes are different to the bedrock outcrops, none of which appear in this fairly low-lying area. It is located in a low-lying point in the landscape, with higher land all round except to the west. The Ty Mawr standing stone appears on the brow of the rise to the north from this point (**plate 5**). Although it is probable that the recumbent stone is out-cropping bedrock, its location in relation to the *maen hir* and the lack of other outcrops in the area make it worth investigating. There is a tradition that a second stone existed near the Ty Mawr standing stone (Glynn Morris pers. comm.).

Geophysical survey (Grid D) and trial trenching (Trench 4) revealed the stone to be a glacial erratic; no archaeological features were located.

***Recommendations for further assessment:*** *None.*

***Recommendations for mitigatory measures:*** *None.*

## **10. Pen-y-Lone** SH 2555 8082

### *Category C*

A series of cottages and associated fields are depicted on the early estate maps, located immediately next to the minor road, north-west of Trefignath. In 1769 these were called Pen-y-Lone, and are represented as two houses with small tofts next to them. In 1817 one of these is still marked, and another building appears to the north-west. This latter is the farm called Penbonc-deg in 1853, and Bonc-deg on later maps. The layout of fields around Bonc-deg was the same in 1817 as it was in 1889, but all trace of Pen-y-Lone had disappeared by the later date.

Pen-y-Lone was a fairly substantial farm in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, covering the land subsequently farmed by Trefignath Farm, and even including some land as far away as Cae Glas.

At the location of Pen-y-Lone a mound was noted on the aerial photographs. This was clear on the ground and appeared to be a house platform measuring c. 10x4m along the top. It was c.0.4m high, though appeared higher at the south-western end where the land naturally sloped down. The mound was roughly rectangular in shape and to the south-west slighter traces of other features could be seen. A low bank seems to form a small rectangular enclosure to the south-west of the house platform. To the west of that, and running further north is a slight linear, hollow, which extends to the field boundary to the north. Even further west are at least two other parallel hollows.

The house platform is the more southerly of the two houses marked on the 1769 map. This had a small field to its south-east, but a corner of the field extends round the south-west end of the house, probably explaining the apparent rectangular enclosure. At this period there was no boundary to the north, but by 1817 there was, and the features visible on the ground are clearly a mixture of different periods. One short boundary is shown further west in 1817.

Excavations on the site of Pen y Lon (Grid K and Trench 24) revealed wall foundations and related stone spreads, interpreted as the remains of the former house.

Maps: Penrhos II, 772, map 4 (1769), Penrhos II, 804 (1817), W maps 52/1 (1845), tithe map (1853), County series 25" (1889)

***Recommendations for further assessment:***

***Recommendations for mitigatory measures:*** *Preservation in situ, or full excavation of the remains.*

### **36. Bonc-deg** SH 2555 8082

#### *Category C*

A series of cottages and associated fields are depicted on the early estate maps, located immediately next to the minor road, north-west of Trefignath. In 1769 these were called Pen-y-Lone, and are represented as two houses with small tofts next to them. In 1817 one of these is still marked, and another building appears to the north-west. This latter is the farm called Penbonc-deg in 1853, and Bonc-deg on later maps. The layout of fields around Bonc-deg was the same in 1817 as it was in 1889, but all trace of Pen-y-Lone had disappeared by the later date.

Where Bonc-deg was located the earthworks are not easily interpreted. There is a faint terrace or lynchet defining the enclosure round the farmstead. Within this there are hollows and undulations, presumably relating to the farm buildings, but a detailed plan of them would have to be made before these rather confusing remains could be interpreted in detail. The magnetometer survey (Grid G) produced a series of high readings, but no specific features. Excavation (Trench 1) revealed remains of a stone wall and fragments of a concrete surface, both standing on a layer of rounded cobbles and sand. The structural remains were slight, suggesting the site had been heavily robbed out when destroyed in the 1960's.

Maps: Penrhos II, 772, map 4 (1769), Penrhos II, 804 (1817), W maps 52/1 (1845), tithe map (1853), County series 25" (1889)

***Recommendations for further assessment:*** None.

***Recommendations for mitigatory measures:*** Watching brief..

### **11. Unidentifiable earthworks** SH 2533 8065

#### *Category D*

At the south-western end of a smooth, rather than rocky, ridge, and close to a very wet area, is a group of low, grassy hummocks. Some resemble banks and others have roughly circular hollows, but there are no clear patterns, except a possibly rectangular feature measuring c. 12 x 6m. The scarps are less than 0.4m high, and are generally aligned along the same axis as the ridge. It is possible that these are the result of rock outcropping near the surface, but they are slightly different in character to other examples of this, which are frequently seen in the study area. Possibly trees growing and falling over would explain the earthworks, but there are no trees marked here on any of the maps. The features are probably natural, but the possibility that they are anthropogenic cannot be entirely ruled out.

Geophysical survey (Grid L) and trial excavation (Trench 28) failed to reveal any archaeological remains.

***Recommendations for further assessment:*** None.

***Recommendations for mitigatory measures:*** None.

### **12. Cae'r Ty-hen** c. SH 253 803

#### *Category D*

Small buildings are shown on several maps, in the corner of a rough grazing field, north of Trearddur Mews. The earliest reference is on the 1817 map. On the tithe map the field is marked as Cae'r Tyhen, and the building is shown surrounded by a small enclosure. The field was previously subdivided, but the general shape of the field has remained the same. Very vague traces may just be visible on the aerial photographs. On the ground several flat areas between the rock outcrops were inspected, but no earthworks were found. The remains of a wall noticed during field survey in the field just north of here compares well to a boundary on the 1817 map.

Maps: Penrhos II, 804 (1817), W maps 52/1 (1845), tithe map (1853)

***Recommendations for further assessment:*** Preservation in situ, or field evaluation, involving geophysical survey and trial trenching.

***Recommendations for mitigatory measures:*** Preservation in situ, or if there is to be any impact the mitigation will be dependant on the results of the field evaluation.

### 13. Trefignath Farm

SH 2590 8073

#### *Category C*

The 1769 map shows two small buildings to the north of the modern farm, which were in a field called Trefignedd, part of the Pen-y-Lone land. By 1817 there was a building, named as Trefignath, in the same location as the recent farm, but the two buildings to the north were still in use. The situation was the same in 1845 and 1853, but by 1887 the whole farm had moved to the southern location; although a very small structure is indicated further north near the railway. Slight traces of former buildings on the southern site are visible on the aerial photographs. The buildings were marked on the 1926 map, but had been removed by 1971, and sheep pens now occupy the site.

The name of the farm has been very variable, including Trefignerth (1624), Trefignedd (1769) and Trefignant (1817). The forms show no logical development, and 1624 is the earliest known reference (Smith 1987).

The buildings at the northern location (outside the study area) do not show on the ground as earthworks, but there are a pair of gateposts in roughly the right place. These are large stone slabs, possibly taken from the tomb. The gap between them has long since been filled in with walling, which is now low and fairly ruined. Whether this gate is related to the buildings or just provided access between the fields is unclear. It seems likely that some subsurface remains of the buildings survive.

An attempt was made to locate the buildings by geophysical survey, during the archaeological evaluation in advance of the A55 road improvements. No clear evidence of the buildings was found, but a circular anomaly, c. 5m in diameter, and an associated linear feature of unknown status, were revealed to the north-east of the burial chamber (GAT 204).

Trial excavation (Trench 44) revealed traces of former buildings, interpreted as late medieval buildings associated with the first settlement at Trefignath. These, however, now lie just beyond the western limit of the study area, although the later site of house and buildings lie within it. These have been almost entirely removed down to bedrock, with only traces of concrete remaining where the farm buildings stood. Part of the area is now used for sheep pens, with an area covered in hard core to the south of this. However, the external wall of the western range of barns does survive, though converted into a field wall. The eastern (internal) side of this is cement rendered, and some stones project where they have been keyed into now demolished perpendicular walls. To the east of the hard cored area at least half of the pond exists, though silted up. To the north of that is a rock outcrop, enclosed by walls. In the north side of these walls are the remains of some small structures, probably those shown on the 1889 map.

Maps: Penrhos II, 772, map 4 (1769), Penrhos II, 778, sheet 7 (1817), Penrhos II, 804 (1817), W maps 52/1 (1845), tithe map (1853), 25" County Series (1889), 6" County Series (1926), OS 1:10,000 (1971)

***Recommendations for further assessment:*** None.

***Recommendations for mitigatory measures:*** Basic recording of upstanding remains, and watching brief during demolition and below ground works.

### 14. Trefignath burial chamber PRN 2500, SAM A11, SH 2586 8055

#### *Category A*

This Neolithic burial chamber lies outside the western edge of the study area. However, it is a scheduled ancient monument, and as the setting of the site may be impacted upon, it is necessary to include it within the gazetteer. The monument is composed of local mica schist, and situated on a natural knoll (**plate 6**). It is surrounded by traces of a long cairn, and is best preserved at the eastern end. This site was assumed to be a gallery grave until excavation proved it to be much more complex. The site was excavated between 1977 and 1979, and was partly reconstructed in 1980. This demonstrated that the tomb had three chambers, which were built in succession from west to east, with the cairn enlarged as each new chamber was built. The earliest chamber resembled a simple passage grave. The central and eastern chambers were box-like structures with portal stones. The tomb overlay evidence of domestic occupation of the site dating to the early fourth millennium uncalibrated bc (HAR 3932 5050+/-70 BP) (Smith 1987).

Quantities of flint and chert artefacts including 22 scrapers, and a single leaf-shaped arrowhead were found, and the remains of at least 21 pottery vessels (Smith 1987). Nineteenth century references also mention the discovery of 'urns and bones' (Lynch 1991). The site was first noted in 1655 or 1660 when John Aubrey visited it (Smith 1987, p3). Stanley in 1867 states that the monument was damaged c. 70 or 80 years previously, when the capstones were removed for gateposts and lintels. An alignment from the standing stone at Ty Mawr to the burial chamber lines up, to within one degree, with the winter solstice sunrise (Baynes 1911).

The chamber is marked as a *cromlech* on the 1889 map, but not shown on any earlier maps, although clearly known about. On the 1926 map it is marked as *cromlechau*, presumably because the chambers were being considered as separate tombs, rather than part of a single structure.

Maps: County series 25" (1889), 6" (1926)

**Recommendations for further assessment:** None

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** Every effort should be made to avoid excessive visual intrusion. It must be possible to appreciate the monument in its landscape setting. Ideally a vista should be left open towards the standing stone and Holyhead Mountain beyond. The existing guardianship area should be adequate to preserve the immediate surroundings of the monument. The northern approach to the monument could be improved if the wire fencing around the site of Trefignath farm was removed and the appearance of this area improved. The view of Cadw needs to be sought on any design that affects the setting of this site, and scheduled ancient monument consent may be required.

### Site 37 Peat deposits

Category E

An exploratory excavation (trench 6), although limited by the difficulties of digging within waterlogged soils, was undertaken at the base of a break of slope within a large elongated depression which often contains standing water. Further work is required to establish the full depth of the peat and its potential for palaeo-environmental material. However, present evidence suggests it could provide good complimentary material to the results obtained from the peat bog lying north of Trefignath which was sampled in the late 1970's.

**Recommendations:** the site is to be assessed for palaeo-environmental potential, and further recommendations will be made following the assessment.

### Site 38 Burnt clay feature

Category E

This feature, a roughly circular patch of burnt clay, was discovered during trial excavation (Trench 16). An unexpected depth of topsoil (up to 1.8m) made full evaluation difficult, as access to the interior of the trench was not possible at this depth. The greater depth of soil is thought to relate to landscaping undertaken in the 1960's. The burnt clay must relate to human activity, but as conditions made full evaluation impossible, future work must concentrate upon further evaluation by wider area stripping.

**Recommendations:** Strip and record an area some 20m in diameter. If the clay is a hearth within a building, this will reveal the full extent of the building, and the existence of any adjacent structures. Full excavation of features will need to be undertaken if merited by the revealed archaeology.

### Site 39 Romano-British settlement west of Pen y Lon

Category B

Excavation of an anomaly revealed by geophysical survey (Grid K) resulted in the discovery of the remains of a late prehistoric or Romano-British round house with internal drains (Trench 26). Three pieces of pottery date from the Roman period. More structures may lie in the immediate vicinity of the discovered remains, and excavations from elsewhere suggest the origins of the settlement may lie in later Prehistoric times. It is important to find the limits of this settlement, so that development in the area does not disturb the archaeological remains. This would be best undertaken by a programme of intensive geophysical survey, using magnetometer and resistivity survey, supplemented by trial excavation. The settlement has been allocated to Category B (regional importance), for which preservation *in situ* is recommended. If, however, it proves necessary to build over the site, then full excavation will be required.

**Recommendations:** additional field evaluation involving intensive geophysical survey and trial excavation to ascertain the full extent of the site. Preservation *in situ* of the remains, or full excavation if the remains are to be disturbed.

#### **Site 40 Cobbled area**

##### *Category E*

This site lies on a slight prominence above an area of marshy ground. Excavation (Trench 34) revealed a cobbled area, which was interpreted as being of human origin. It was not possible to ascertain the full nature and extent of the remains; future work is to concentrate upon further evaluation. Excavation may be required if additional evaluation reveals archaeological features of importance.

**Recommendations:** *Geophysical survey is unlikely to work efficiently here because of the lack of overlying soils. Further field evaluation should therefore be undertaken by trial excavation. An area of 100 sq. m should initially be stripped for cleaning and recording.*

#### **Site 41 Stone settings**

##### *Category E*

Excavation of geophysical anomalies (Trench 36) revealed two pits containing carefully placed large stones. A concentration of smaller stone, some of it burnt, also lay within the trench. Although the pits were not obviously part of structures, burnt stone is typically found on Prehistoric settlement sites. The remains may, therefore, be part of a Prehistoric settlement, or part of a ritual site associated with the nearby remains of the burial chamber at Trefignath.

**Recommendations:** *In order to ascertain the date, extent and status of this site it will be necessary to strip, clean and record a wider area around the known remains. This will need to be a minimum of 100 metres square, and possibly larger if the remains continue. Full excavation will be required of the remains, or preservation in situ, if the site is considered to be of national importance.*

#### **Site 42 Prehistoric settlement remains**

##### *Category B*

Excavation within Trenches 51 and 54 revealed a variety of features, including stone capped drains, burnt stone and fragmentary stone walls. Although some of the features undoubtedly relate to the complex of small fields which surrounded Bonc Deg (Site 36), for example feature *i* in trench 54, the other features are interpreted as part of a late Prehistoric and Romano-British settlement. Although there is no firm dating evidence, one sherd of pottery has been tentatively dated as Roman in date, and the features are typical of those found on such sites.

**Recommendations:** *Further evaluation is required to ascertain the full extent of the remains, and the date and function of the site. Intensive geophysical survey, combined with stripping and recording of an area some 400 sq. metres in extent is recommended. Preservation in situ is recommended, but full excavation is required if it is to be disturbed by construction.*

#### **Site 43 Possible Prehistoric site**

##### **Category B**

Archaeological features of unknown date, but provisionally interpreted as Prehistoric by their character, by their association with iron slag, and by the lack of post-medieval finds, were found during excavation of Trench 57. Analysis of the slag is required, and further field evaluation to reveal the full extent and character of the remains.

**Recommendations:** *Geophysical survey and trial excavation by strip and record to reveal the full extent of the site. Preservation in situ is recommended for Category B sites, but if development is to take place, then full excavation of the remains will be required.*

## **6. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT AND PROPOSALS FOR MITIGATORY MEASURES**

### **6.1 Research questions arising from fieldwork results**

The results of the assessment and field evaluation have presented a dense concentration of archaeological remains of many periods. A chronological summary will be given below, which takes into account the archaeology within and immediately adjacent to the study areas. Two principal excavations have been undertaken within and close to the study area: the excavation of Trefignath burial chamber undertaken 1977-79 (Smith and Lynch 1987), and the excavation of a Neolithic settlement, Bronze Age barrow and Early Christian cemetery north of Ty Mawr in 1999 (unpublished, but draft report, Kenney 2001) in advance of the construction of the dual carriageway. Pollen samples were taken from a bog north of Trefignath during the tomb excavations, and reported on in Smith and Lynch 1987 (Greig 1987).

### **Palaeolithic and Mesolithic**

Palaeolithic remains are rare, and it is even more rare to find them by traditional field evaluation techniques, particularly as most evidence will have been removed during glaciation. Finds of Mesolithic date are also comparatively rare, though they are known from north and west of the study area. Examination of the pollen sequence in the bog north of Trefignath chamber showed a sequence of birch and open grassland in the Mesolithic period giving way to oak and elm as the climate improved and the full 'climax forest' matured in the Neolithic period. The only hint of Mesolithic activity recovered from the evaluation is a core trimming flake from a narrow blade core, typical of the late Mesolithic (trench 34). However, late Mesolithic radiocarbon dates were obtained from below the Ty Mawr barrow, and at least one substantial posthole on the site belongs to this period (Kenney forthcoming). The search for *in situ* Mesolithic deposits on the northern part of Holy Island should be considered an important research priority, although predicting the location of such deposits is difficult. The Mesolithic/Neolithic transition period, marking the stages in human evolution from hunter-gatherer to settled agriculturist, has not been greatly studied in Anglesey, and any contribution to research in this period would be of national importance.

### **Neolithic**

The importance of the two Neolithic tombs within the study area has been discussed above. Early Neolithic dates (*circa* 3000 - 4020 BC) have been obtained from the excavations immediately north of the farm at Ty Mawr, and it is important that these be placed in as wide a context as possible. This would include results from palaeo-environmental studies, which may be obtained from Site 37. Some of the Neolithic activity on the Ty Mawr excavations might represent settlement (Kenney 2001), as may the pre-tomb features at Trefignath (Smith and Lynch 1987, 10-11). The pollen analysis (Greig 1987) showed a sequence of woodland clearance to cultivated arable within the later Neolithic, though the record is slightly confused, particularly within the earlier Neolithic period. Neolithic settlement is notoriously difficult to locate, and only one house is known from north-west Wales (that at Llandegai) (Lynch *et al* 2000, 50-51). The location of settlement sites would therefore contribute to a debate of national importance.

### **Bronze Age**

Activity within the Early Bronze Age is evidenced by the standing stone at Ty Mawr, and the barrow located during the Ty Mawr excavations (Kenney 2001). Once again, settlement during this period is very rare, and any contribution to a greater understanding of settlement and land use during this period would contribute to a debate of national importance. The dislocation that typically marks the earlier from the later Bronze Age is poorly understood, although climatic deterioration undoubtedly played a significant role. Burnt mounds form the commonest site type within the latter period, but none have been found at Ty Mawr. Other settlements are rare, but it has been suggested they should be sought within the earlier phases of the later Prehistoric settlements.

### **Late Prehistoric and Romano-British**

Settlement sites from this period are more common, and several have been excavated within recent years. The finding of two additional sites provides the opportunity of answering more detailed questions concerning density of population, availability and use of resources, development of agricultural techniques, development of metal working technology, site status, and social hierarchies. Pottery studies help establish trading patterns, site activities and site hierarchy. Environmental evidence from these periods is of particular importance, as it provides basic data on vegetation, crop cultivation, and climate change. The chronological sequence is important, particularly at the start of the settlement which may overlap with the Later Bronze Age, and at the end, which may overlap with the Early Christian/Post Roman period.

### **Early Christian Period**

Although several burial sites from this period are known from Holy Island, including one found during the Ty Mawr excavations, no certain settlements are known. The presence of the burial sites certainly indicates settlement, and locating its whereabouts is of particular importance. The starting place has to be the Romano-British settlements, some occupied into the 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> centuries, but there is little evidence for settlement location after that.

### **Medieval and Post-Medieval periods**

There is no documentary evidence for medieval settlement within the immediate evaluation area, although Tre Gof, in the southern half of the study area, was a settlement in late medieval times, and is

a site of particular importance. Further research concerning this site since the assessment report has led to a re-assessment of its importance, and Tre-gof is now to be classified as of regional importance (Class B), and potentially as of national importance (Class A).

An area of research of particular importance in this period is the nature of medieval field systems and their enclosure within the Post-Medieval period. Several strips remaining from the open medieval system are still visible on the 1769 and 1817 estate maps. Information from buried soils and palaeo-environmental sources on these sites may provide valuable evidence for this process, and for the nature of both medieval open and enclosed field systems.

The date of the establishment of farmsteads within the late Medieval and Post-Medieval is one presently poorly understood. Evidence from Trefignath and Pen y Lon will contribute to this debate.

The widespread use of pottery on Anglesey is typically fairly late (often not until the 18<sup>th</sup> century), and although many concentrations of pottery have been reported on from south and east Wales, such collections are much rarer in north and west Wales. A study of the pottery from Trefignath, Pen y Lon and possibly Bonc Deg and Tyddyn Pioden will provide important additional material for understanding the source and date of pottery vessels, and hence improve our knowledge of trading patterns, technological development and the economy.

## **6.2 General recommendations**

The density of archaeological sites found at Ty Mawr suggests a high level of activity within the area from Neolithic times to the present day. The field evaluation programme has been successful in discovering a number of new sites, but nonetheless there remain large parts of the development area, which have not been evaluated. It is recommended, as a result of the high archaeological potential revealed by the work to date, that additional geophysical survey be undertaken in those areas presently without any indication of archaeological evidence. This particularly involves those areas on the northern part of the site and in the vicinity of the standing stone.

It is also recommended that the site specific geophysical survey is not limited to the immediate confines of each site, but that it should extend to cover the areas between the known sites. This is important, as it enables relationships between settlements, and between settlement and burial sites to be established, and similarly between field systems and settlement. For the same reason, it is important that site excavation is sufficiently extensive to ensure the wider environs of the site are examined, and not just the core structures.

Seven new sites (numbers 37 – 43) were discovered during the evaluation works. Two of these were identified as settlements of late Prehistoric/Romano-British date (circa 500 BC to 400 AD), and another as a metalworking site of similar date. All were allocated to Category B (Regional importance). The remaining four sites require further work to ascertain their status, and have not, therefore, been allocated to a category of importance. One is a peat deposit, which has potential for adding to our understanding of the past environment. Another is an area of burnt clay, possibly a hearth within a building. The third is described as an area of ‘stone cobbling’, and the fourth are two pits adjoining pits containing large stones which have been deliberately set in place, although their function is unknown.

Recommendations include full excavation of the three Category B sites, combined with geophysical survey to identify the site limits, and to place the sites within a wider context. Recommendations for the Category E sites are for further evaluation, including extensive geophysical survey and additional excavation. Given the density of archaeological sites within the area it is also recommended that further geophysical survey is undertaken within the northern part of the development area.

In certain circumstances it may be possible to carry out construction work over archaeological sites, and to leave the remains preserved *in situ* underground. Given the shallow depth of topsoil, any development would have to take place above the topsoil, without removing it. It would also have to be shown that subsequent compression from the weight above would not impact upon the archaeological remains. This method could be considered where, for example, a road is to pass over an archaeological site.

Attention is drawn to the importance of the two scheduled ancient monuments (Trefignath burial chamber and Ty Mawr standing stone) and the need to preserve their setting.

### 6.3 Summary of recommendations for mitigatory measures

This lists the sites according to their perceived archaeological value, and summaries the recommended mitigatory measures.

#### ***Category A - National importance***

8	Avoidance/Setting issues
14	Setting issues

#### ***Category B - Regional Importance***

15	Avoidance
39	Avoidance/Full excavation
42	Avoidance/Full excavation
43	Strip and record to recover full extent of archaeology

#### ***Category C - Local Importance***

1	Basic recording/Reinstatement
2	Basic recording/watching brief
3	Basic recording
4	Basic recording
7	Detailed recording
10	Preservation <i>in situ</i> or Full excavation
13	Basic recording and watching brief

#### ***Category D - Minor or damaged features***

5	Watching brief
6	Watching brief
12	Preservation <i>in situ</i> or field evaluation

#### ***Category E-Sites needing further investigation***

37	Peat deposits	assessed for palaeo-environmental evidence
38	Burnt clay feature	Strip and record area 20m in diameter
40	Cobbled area	Strip and record approximately 100 sq metres
41	Stone setting	Strip and record approximately 100 sq metres

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Glynne Morris pers. comm. Estate manager, Ty Mawr Estate

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W MAPS 52/1 (1845) A plan of the parish of Holyhead and part of Rhoscolyn, Penrhos Estate plan  
c.1845

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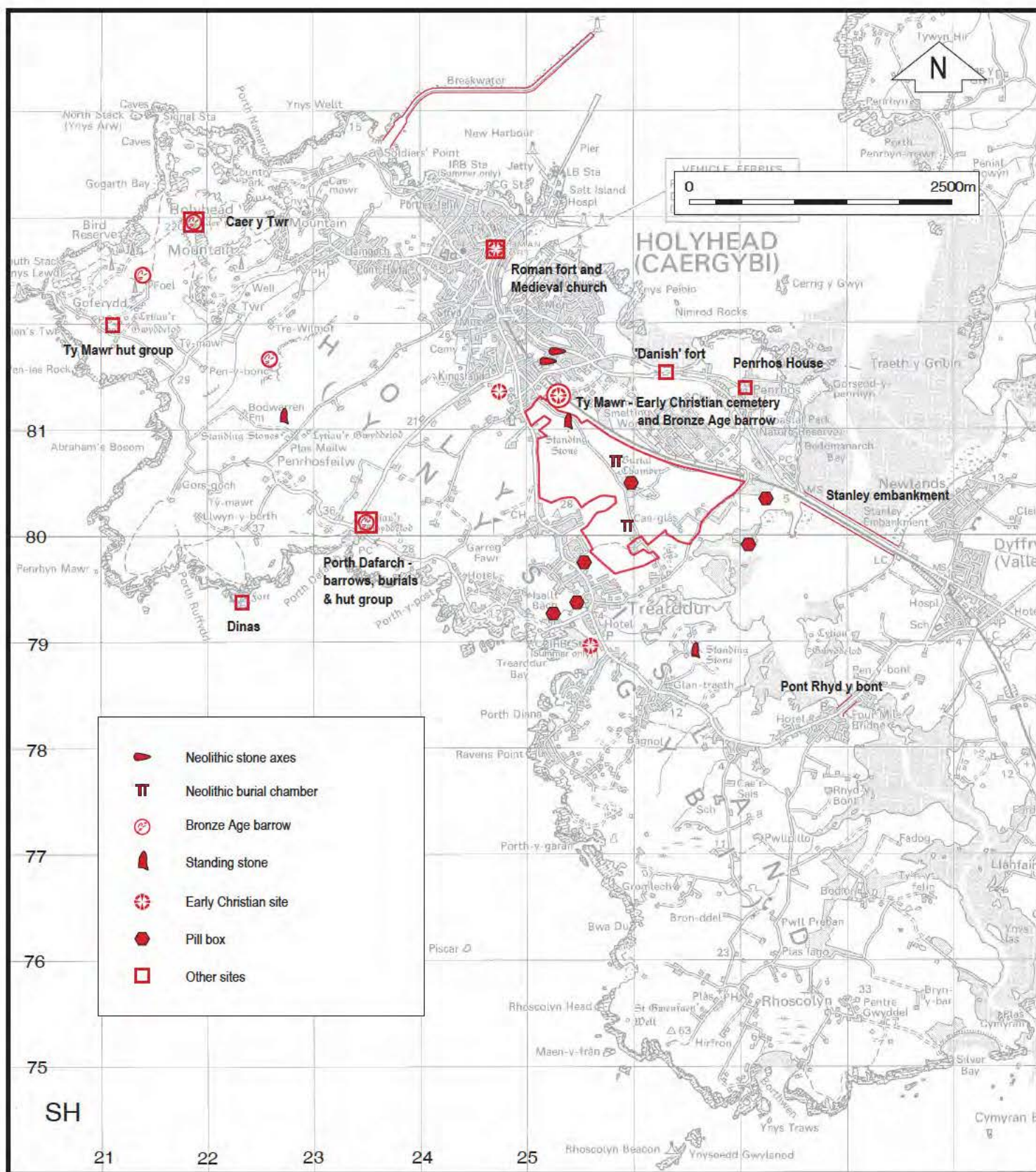
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Fig 1. Location of sites in proximity to study area.



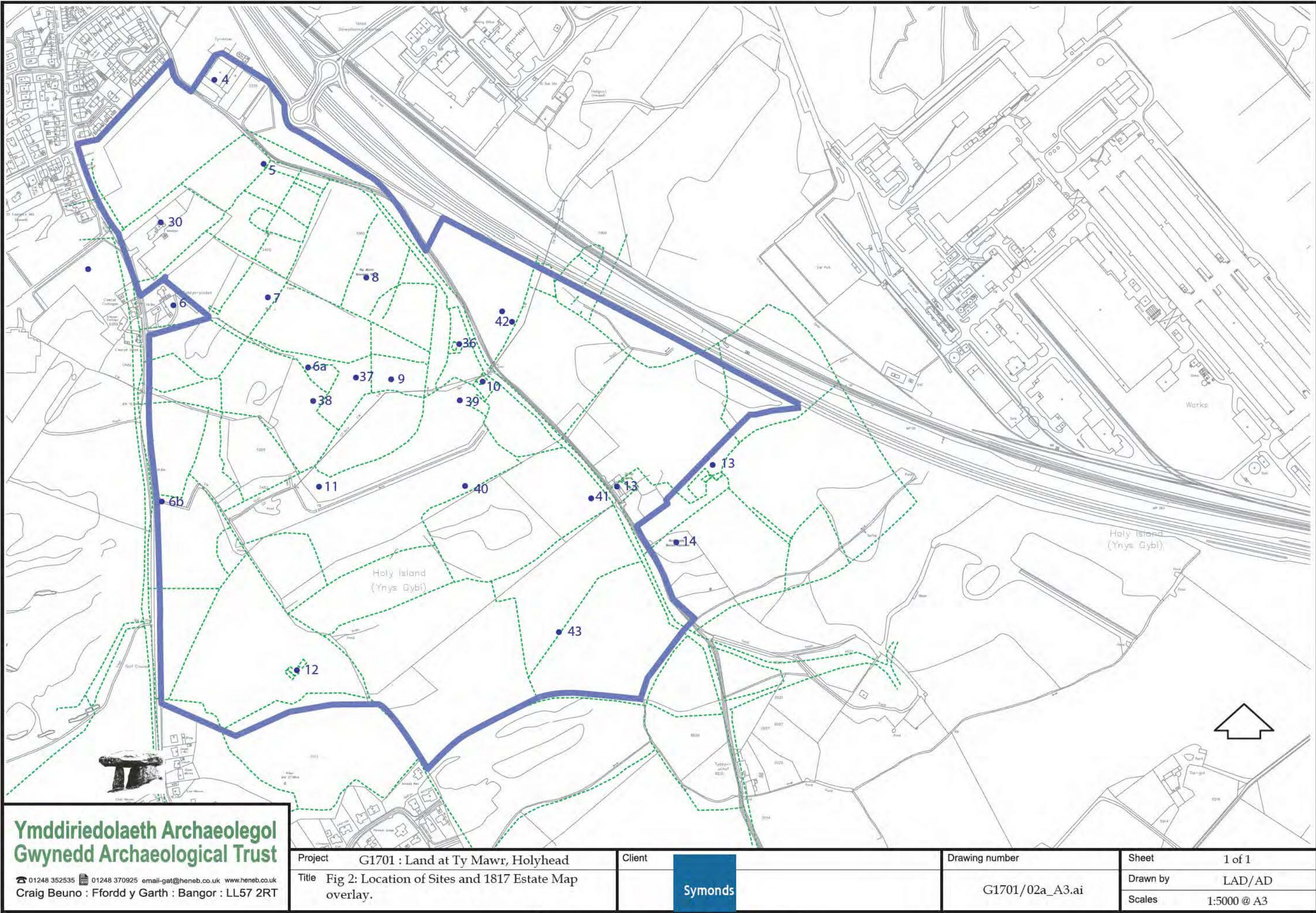


Figure 2: location of sites in study area



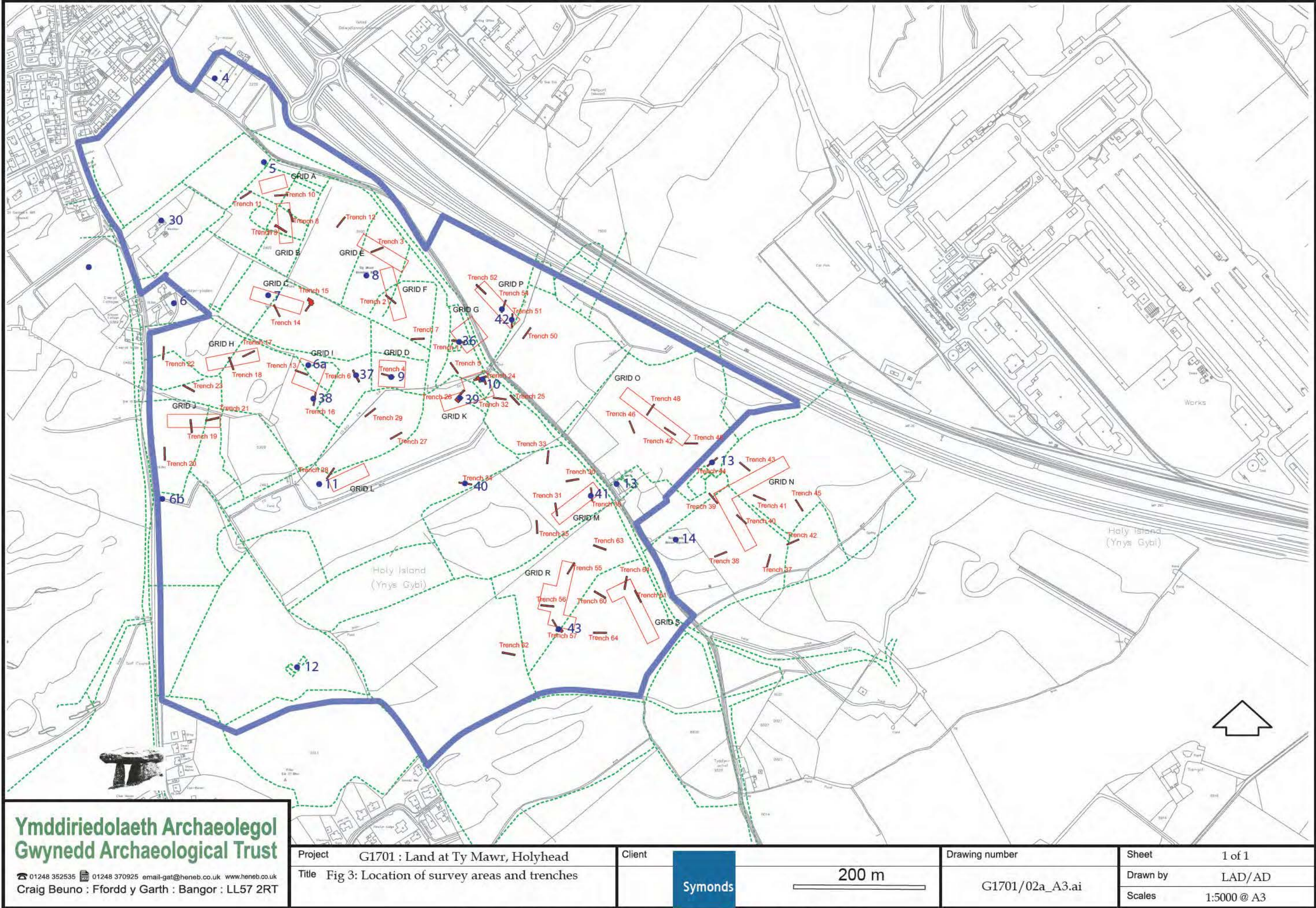


Figure 3: location of field evaluation survey areas and trenches





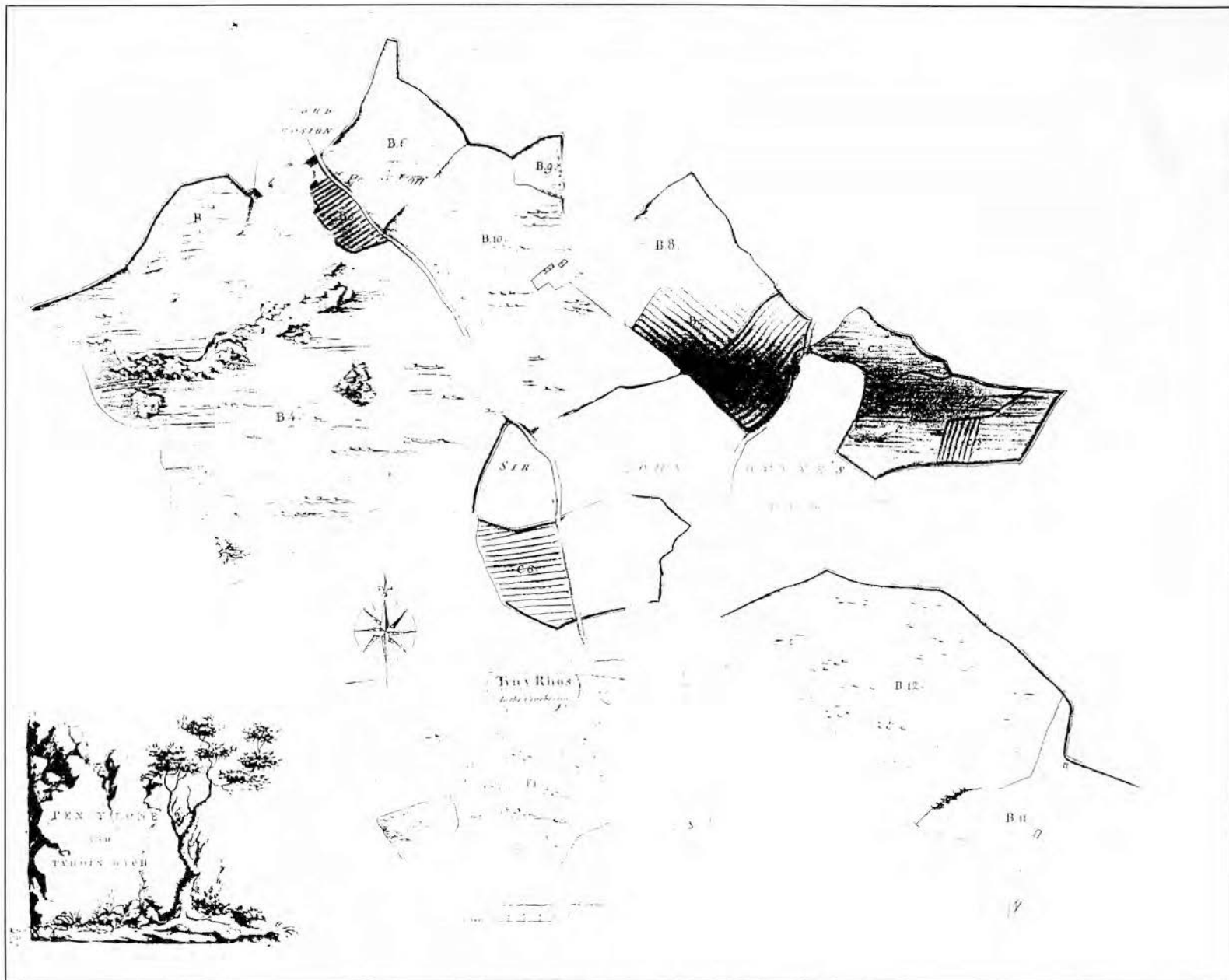


Fig 5 Penrhos 772 Estate Survey (1769): Pen y Lone





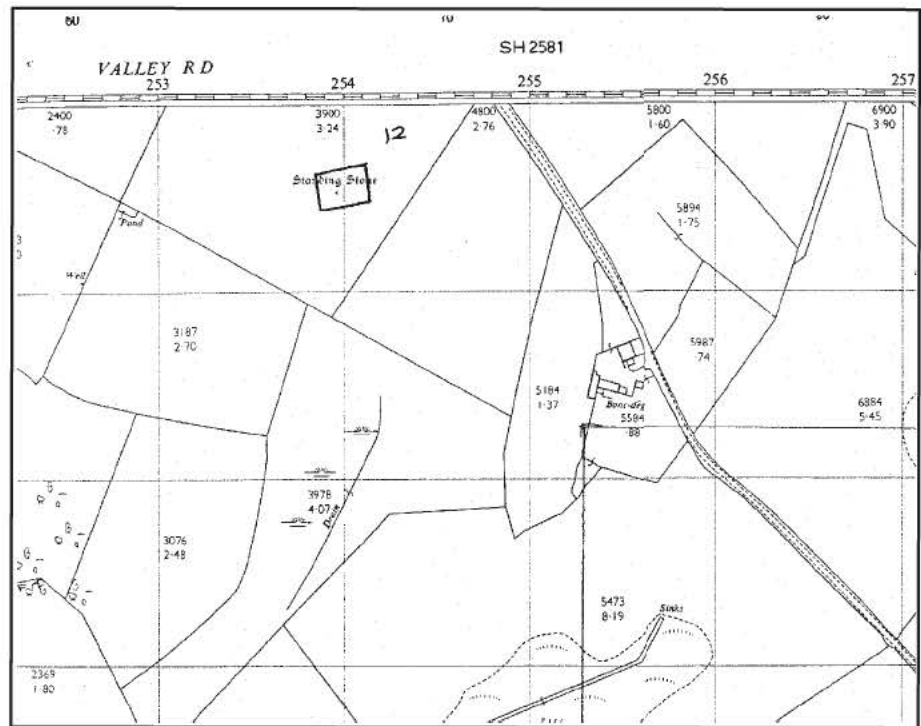


Figure 7: Scheduled area around the Ty Mawr standing stone

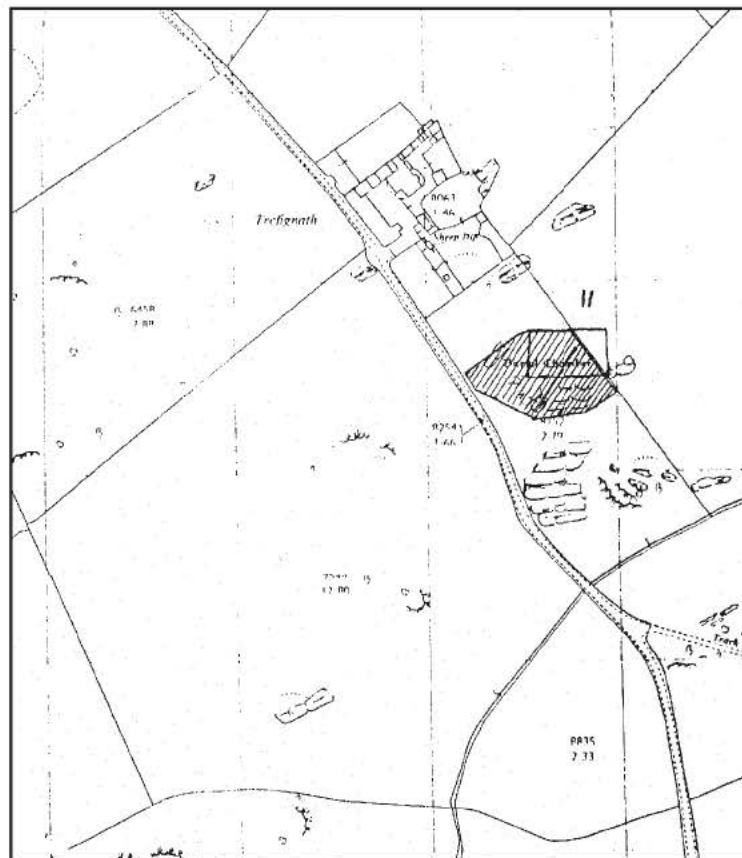


Figure 8: Scheduled and guardianship areas around Trefignath burial chamber





Plate 1: A typical wall



Plate 2: An ornated gatepost near Trefignath



Plate 3: Well, site 7





Plate 4: Ty Mawr standing stone



Plate 5: Looking north from the possible toppled standing stone towards the Ty Mawr stone



Plate 6: Trefignath burial chamber looking north-west towards Holyhead Mountain

## **APPENDIX I: PROJECT DESIGN FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

### **LAND AT TY MAWR, HOLYHEAD**

#### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION (G1655)**

Prepared for Symonds Group Limited 14/08/2000

#### **1. PROJECT BACKGROUND**

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust have been asked by Symonds Group Ltd to provide an estimate of fees for carrying out an archaeological assessment on land at Ty Mawr Farm, Holyhead. The area in question comprises some 140 ha of land adjacent to the line of the new A55 Trunk Road, on land owned by Anglesey Aluminium Metals Limited. The presence of a number of prehistoric sites within the area suggests the potential for discovering additional remains is high.

#### **2. KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGY**

There are four known archaeological sites within the study area, one standing stone, two Neolithic burial chambers, and the site of a Roman coin hoard find. The Bronze Age standing stone at Ty Mawr and the Neolithic burial chamber at Trefignath are both Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM A11 and A12). Other sites in the immediate vicinity include a cemetery of 6<sup>th</sup> century date overlying a Prehistoric burial site (this lies west of the farmhouse of Ty Mawr), discovered during evaluation work in advance of the new A55 trunk road. On the east boundary of the study area is a settlement of late Prehistoric date, also a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM A92).

The study area contains a number of farmsteads surrounded by regularly shaped fields. The field pattern dates from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, before which there existed a more complex arrangement of smaller irregular fields served by a number of small farms which have since disappeared. Early estate maps of the 18<sup>th</sup> century also show that some of the present settlements, such as Tre-gof, have moved slightly from their original locations. These deserted settlements will have left archaeological remains, although regular ploughing has removed any surface indications.

#### **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS**

The aims of the assessment are:

- to identify and record the cultural heritage of the area;
- to evaluate the importance of what has been identified;
- to recommend ways in which impact upon the cultural heritage can be avoided or minimised.

#### **4. PROGRAMME OF WORK**

An archaeological assessment consists of the following phases:

- Desktop study
- Field walkover
- Initial report
- Field evaluation
- Draft report
- Final report

The level of work required for the field evaluation phase is dependant upon the results of the desktop study and field walkover, and therefore only indicative work programmes are possible at this stage.

##### **4.1 Desktop**

The desk-based assessment will involve a study of the published and archive information available for the site. This will include printed books and maps, archive manuscripts and maps and aerial photographs. Archives will be consulted in the Gwynedd Sites and Monuments Record, the Anglesey and Caernarfon County Record Offices, the library and archives at the University of Wales, Bangor, the

National Monuments Record at Aberystwyth, and the library of the Countryside Council for Wales at Bangor. Information about Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments will be obtained from Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments.

## **4.2 Field survey**

This part of the assessment will involve walking the areas concerned and recording (short description, photograph, map position) all sites encountered. The aims of this stage of the work are:

- to verify the results of the desk based assessment;
- to identify any further archaeological sites which exist as above ground features;
- to photograph and record the present condition of all sites noted.

Access onto land is to be arranged by the clients, although GAT staff will notify all landowners prior to gaining access.

## **4.3 Initial report**

Following completion of the desk based assessment and field search as outlined above, a report will be produced incorporating the following:

1. Introduction
2. Specification and Project Design
3. Methods and techniques
4. Archaeological Background
5. Site gazetteer - including areas of archaeological interest
6. Assessment of impacts
7. Proposals for field evaluation and for mitigatory measures
8. Summary and conclusions
9. Bibliography of sources consulted.

To assess the importance of sites and to allow the appropriate mitigatory action to be proposed for each, a framework of categories will be used with each site allocated to a particular category according to its relative importance:

### **Category A - Sites of National Importance.**

This category includes Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings as well as those sites which would meet the requirements for scheduling (ancient monuments) or listing (buildings) or both. Sites that are scheduled or listed have legal protection, and it is recommended that all Category A sites remain preserved and protected *in situ*.

### **Category B - Sites of Regional Importance**

These sites are those which would not fulfil the criteria for scheduling or listing, but which are nevertheless of particular importance within the region. Preservation *in situ* is the preferred option for Category B sites, but if damage or destruction cannot be avoided, appropriate detailed recording might be an acceptable alternative.

### **Category C - Sites of District or Local Importance**

These sites are not of sufficient importance to justify a recommendation for preservation if threatened, but nevertheless merit adequate recording in advance of damage or destruction.

### **Category D - Minor and Damaged Sites**

These are sites which are of minor importance or are so badly damaged that too little remains to justify their inclusion in a higher category. For these sites rapid recording either in advance or during destruction, should be sufficient.

### **Category E - Sites needing further investigation**

Sites, the importance of which is as yet undetermined and which will require further work before they can be allocated to categories A-D, are temporarily placed in this category, with specific recommendations for further evaluation. By the end of the assessment there should be no sites remaining in this category.

#### **4.4 Field evaluation**

This work will involve the evaluation of any Category E sites located during the study, and the examination of areas of unknown archaeological potential. Previous fieldwork, particularly on Anglesey, has shown that in areas which have been under regular cultivation many archaeological sites can only be located by field evaluation techniques. However the areas to be evaluated and the density of evaluation required is best specified following completion of the initial assessment report. An indicative level of work will be specified here based upon a percentage of the area under consideration.

Field evaluation techniques are non-intrusive or intrusive. Of the former, the most effective technique for open fields is magnetometer survey. It is therefore proposed that a geophysical survey be undertaken using a Geoscan Research Fluxgate Gradiometer. This detects variations in the earth's magnetic field caused by the presence of iron in the soil, usually in the form of weakly magnetised iron oxides which tend to be concentrated in the topsoil. Features cut into the subsoil and back-filled or silted with topsoil contain greater amounts of iron and can therefore be detected with a gradiometer. Strong readings can be produced by the presence of iron objects, and also hearths or kilns. The area will be scanned to look for areas of greater disturbance, and relevant parts will then be surveyed in detail. Detailed surveys will be carried out in contiguous areas of 20m by 20m, and readings will be taken every 0.5m, giving 800 readings per grid. Data will be presented in a series of X-Y and Grey-scale plots, and location of each of the grids will be shown on a map at a scale not less than 1:2500.

Final amounts to be surveyed and excavated can only be decided following the completion of the initial assessment. However, it is estimated that some 4 ha will be surveyed in detail, which will involve a minimum of 100 grids each measuring 20m by 20m.

Intrusive field evaluation involves trial excavation, either of features identified during earlier phases of the assessment, or of areas considered to be of high archaeological potential. An area of approximately 1200 sq metres will be excavated.

The location and size of the trenches can only be decided once the results of the desktop survey and geophysical survey are known. The trenches will be dug by machine to the base of the plough soil, unless archaeological features are encountered above that level. The trenches will then be cleaned by hand and inspected for features. Any features encountered will be examined and fully recorded by scaled plans and sections. Soil samples will be taken for further analysis if relevant. Finds will be located accurately and removed for examination.

If complex features are encountered, then those features may not be fully excavated if to do so would limit the understanding to be gained from a wider excavation.

#### **5. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The Trust subscribes to the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers) Health and Safety Policy as defined in **Health and Safety in Field Archaeology** (1997). Risks will be assessed prior to and during the work.

#### **6. INSURANCE**

The Trust holds public liability insurance with an indemnity limit of £2,500,000 through Russell, Scanlon Limited Insurance Brokers, Wellington Circus, Nottingham NG1 5AJ (policy 01 1017386 COM), and Professional Indemnity Insurance for £2,000,000 per claim (policy No. 59A/SA11818791).

#### **7. STAFF**

The work will be supervised by one of the Trust's Project Manager's Mr Andrew Davidson, who graduated in archaeology in 1979. During his career he has been involved with all aspects of archaeological work, including excavation, topographic survey, heritage management and assessments and evaluations. For the past five years he has been Project Manager for the Contract Section of the Trust, and has been responsible for carrying out or overseeing the production of all contract work, including road schemes, pipeline installations and major construction schemes. This work included

overseeing the assessment, field evaluation and excavations along the route of the A55 which runs alongside the Ty Mawr development site.

Susan Jones, MA, is one of the Trust's Project Officers. She is an experienced archaeologist, having acted as a supervisor on a number of large scale excavations. She has worked on many assessment projects, and has also recently been responsible for co-ordinating a major study of medieval settlements in Gwynedd, part of which involved the development of a national strategy for this subject. She will be responsible for the desktop, fieldwork and report stages.

David Hopewell is an experienced field archaeologist, with extensive knowledge and experience of geophysical techniques. He has worked on a large number of projects, in particular the evaluation of the route of the A55 across Anglesey, and he is therefore familiar with the area around Ty Mawr. This officer will be responsible for the geophysical survey and subsequent trial excavations.

## **8. TIMING**

The Trust would require one week's notice to start the project. Once started, a period of 10 working days would be required to complete the initial assessment.



## **APPENDIX II: PROJECT DESIGN FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

### **Ty Mawr planning study: project design for archaeological evaluation**

Prepared for Symonds Group 29/6/01

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

It is proposed to develop an area of land at Ty Mawr Farm, Holyhead, within a plot comprising some 140 ha. An initial archaeological assessment has been undertaken (GAT Report No. 389, November 2000). This project design details the archaeological evaluation work recommended in that report, taking into account the impact upon the site as contained within the *Preliminary Master Plan* (Drawing Number 56080/MP/01 Rev B, but excluding Plots A and J which are no longer to be developed). The design has been requested by Symonds Group Limited on behalf of Welsh Development Agency, and has been prepared by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust. There is no formal brief upon which to base this design, however comments made by the Development Control Officer of Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service on an earlier design will be taken into account, and a copy of this design will be passed to the Officer for comment prior to the start of any work. This design will adhere to the guidelines specified in *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1993, rev. 1999).

#### **2. THE ASSESSMENT REPORT**

Within the assessment report sites were classified into four categories of importance labelled A to D (National, Regional, Local and Other). Recommendations for mitigation were made for each of these sites, depending upon the importance and nature of the remains and the level of impact.

The information available for some sites, however, was insufficient to allow classification, and they were therefore placed into another category, E, until field evaluation work could be undertaken to ascertain their status. Appropriate mitigation recommendations can only be made for these sites following the completion of field evaluation. In addition, recommendations were made within the report for field evaluation of areas of land of unknown archaeological potential.

The work detailed in this design includes both the investigation of Category E sites and areas of unknown archaeological potential through field evaluation, so that their status can be ascertained and appropriate mitigation recommended.

#### **3. FIELD EVALUATION**

##### **3.1 Introduction**

Field evaluation is defined as '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 on land or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, and relative quality; and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate' (*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*).

The aims of this phase of the work are, therefore, to build upon the findings of the archaeological assessment by using field evaluation techniques to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains and to assess their extent and significance. The known archaeological remains will be used both to help determine the likely location of, and to determine the character of, new archaeological findings.

Two principal techniques will be used to undertake the Field Evaluation at Ty Mawr. The first, non-intrusive, phase will be undertaken by magnetometer survey. This is the preferred method for area survey (*Geophysical Survey in archaeological field evaluation*, English Heritage, 1995), and previous experience of its use within the area, undertaken during field evaluation in advance of the construction of the A55 road, shows the technique to be effective within the geological and soil conditions which exist at Ty Mawr. Magnetometer scanning (as opposed to detailed survey) is not, in the experience of this Trust, a useful technique for the evaluation of large areas: the results have tended to confuse rather than aid evaluation. It is not, therefore, the intention to use this technique during this project.

Trial excavation will form the intrusive phase of the field evaluation, details of which are given below.

The amount of survey to be undertaken has been calculated on a percentage based upon the area of the plots to be developed. Magnetometer survey will be undertaken at 10%, and trial trenching at 1%. These levels are based on previous work undertaken in Anglesey by GAT, when subsequent watching briefs have revealed that no archaeological sites of significance remained undiscovered following evaluation at this level. Higher levels of sampling are, on present experience, unlikely to result in the discovery of a significant number of sites.

### *3.2 Magnetometer survey*

This survey will be carried out using a Geoscan Research Fluxgate Gradiometer. A magnetometer survey detects variations in the earth's magnetic field caused by the presence of iron in the soil. This is usually in the form of weakly magnetised iron oxides, which tend to be concentrated in the topsoil. Features cut into the subsoil and back-filled or silted with topsoil contain greater amounts of iron and can therefore be detected with a gradiometer. Strong readings can be produced by the presence of iron objects, and also hearths or kilns. The surveys will be carried out in contiguous areas of 20m by 20m, and readings will be taken every 0.5m, giving 800 readings per grid. Data will be presented in a series of X-Y and Grey-scale plots, and location of each of the grids will be shown on a map at a scale not less than 1:2500.

### *3.3 Trial excavation*

Trial trenches will usually be machine dug, and cleaned by hand when archaeology is reached. All features encountered will be planned and recorded in plan, but not excavated unless further evaluation is thought necessary. The size of each trench will reflect the requirements of the site, but will typically measure 20m long and 2 m wide. Site plans will be at a minimum scale of 1:20, and section drawings will be at a minimum scale of 1:10. All features will be photographed.

All trenches will be back-filled by machine with the material removed, but not re-turfed by hand or fully compacted unless arrangements are made to do so in advance.

## **4. WORK SCHEDULE**

### **4.1 Introduction**

The work schedule detailed below is based upon the plot numbers as shown on the 'Preliminary Masterplan', Drawing No. 56080/MP/01 provided by Symonds Group. The plan identifies ten plots labelled A to J within which development may take place, but recent changes have resulted in plots A and J being no longer included for development. Extensive areas of the defined site lie outside the plot boundaries, many of them containing areas of ecological interest. The field evaluation is confined to within the plot boundaries, but if it is decided to develop outside these areas, an appropriate programme of archaeological works will need to be undertaken prior to development.

It is not intended to develop Plot I for a number of years. As this area presently supports a plantation of coniferous trees, it will not be possible to undertake field evaluation without causing considerable damage to the crop. It is therefore recommended that field evaluation within this plot be delayed until closer to development, following the harvesting and removal of the trees. Evaluation of Plot I is therefore not included within this design.

#### 4.2 Site recommendations

##### **PLOT B**

###### **Site 6a Tyddyn Pioden**

The earlier estate maps show a property of this name to have been situated further east of the present house. No remains are visible on the ground, but the construction of the carpark by Plot B3 may impact upon buried remains.

**Field evaluation:** *An additional 1600 sq m of geophysical survey and trial excavation of up to 120 sq m. will be undertaken at the supposed location of this site.*

###### **Site 9 Stone**

A large stone lying horizontally within the ground. It will lie close to the new access road.

**Field evaluation:** *This stone is most likely a glacial field boulder. However, given the near location of upstanding megalithic remains, field evaluation will be undertaken in the area of the stone as part of the area evaluation.*

###### **Site 10 Pen y Lon/Bonc Deg**

A series of former cottages and associated fields, which will be impacted upon by the construction of access roads and a roundabout. Slight earthworks are thought to indicate the remains of this site, which is principally known from map evidence.

**Field evaluation:** *In addition to the area evaluation, geophysical survey of 1600 sq m. and trial excavation of up to 120 sq m will be undertaken on the site.*

##### **PLOT C**

###### **8. Standing stone**

This scheduled ancient monument lies close to Plot D2. No ground disturbance, nor field evaluation, can take place within the scheduled area, unless scheduled monument consent is obtained from Cadw. Geophysical survey has already been undertaken within this area (see details in the Assessment Report), which did not find any archaeological remains. However, further work will be undertaken immediately outside the scheduled area as part of the area evaluation.

**Field evaluation:** *To be included within the area evaluation.*

##### **PLOTS G and H**

###### **14. Trefignath Burial Chamber**

This scheduled ancient monument lies just outside Plot H, and on the other side of the minor road from Plot G. The most likely areas of associated activity, on topographic evidence, lie to the north, south or west. The ground to the east falls away more sharply, and is of a poorer quality. No development is to take place within the immediate vicinity of this site, the closest lying 60m to the east. Where possible, the area evaluation will be positioned close to the burial chamber.

**Field evaluation:** *To be included within the area evaluation.*

#### 4.3 Area Recommendations

The following table shows the total area in square metres of each plot, the area proposed for geophysical survey, and the area proposed for trial trenching.

Plot	Area sq m	Geophys area sq m	Geophys plots 20m x 20m	TT area sq m	TT trenches 20m x 2m
Plot B	110,000	11,000	27	1100	27
Plot C	29,000	2,900	7	290	7
Plot D	20,000	2,000	5	200	5
Plot E	21,000	2,100	5	210	5
Plot F	22,000	2,200	5	220	5
Plot G	54,000	5,400	14	540	14
Plot H	67,000	6,700	16	670	16
Totals	323000	32300	79	3230	79

The exact location of each of the survey areas will not be specified in detail, as this has been found in the past to be too restrictive, requiring frequent changes. However, an indicative location is shown on Map 1 based on the location of known sites and topography. An initial meeting will be arranged on site with the clients and the Development Control Officer to discuss this layout.

## **5. REPORT**

Following the completion of the evaluation field work, a report will be produced, which will detail and synthesise the results, and provide mitigation recommendations for each of the sites. The results will be considered alongside current archaeological knowledge and research priorities to help inform the mitigation strategy.

The evaluation report will include:

- a) details of the agreed project design
- b) a scale plan showing the location of the surveyed areas and trial trenches
- c) the results of the geophysical surveys
- d) the results of the trial excavations
- e) plans and sections of the each trial trench
- f) other illustrations as appropriate
- g) a description of the archaeology revealed, including its extent and character, and an assessment of its importance
- h) recommendations for mitigation strategies for each site
- i) a bibliography of all sources consulted
- j) all specialist reports.

## **6. ARCHIVE**

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project will be prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions will be labelled and cross-referenced, and lodged in an appropriate place (to be decided in consultation with the regional Sites and Monuments Record) within six months of the completion of the project. All digital data will be written to CD-ROM and stored with the paper archive.

## **7. DEPOSITION OF FINDS**

The vast majority of finds recovered from archaeological excavations comprise pottery fragments, bone, environmental and charcoal samples, and non-valuable metal items such as nails. Often many of these finds become unstable (ie they begin to disintegrate) when removed from the ground. All finds are the property of the land owner, however, it is Trust policy to recommend that all finds are donated to an appropriate museum where they can receive specialist treatment and study. At the very least the Trust would request access to the finds for a reasonable period to allow for study and publication. All finds work will be undertaken according to the guidance given in *Guidance for Finds Work* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1992). The Trust uses a wide range of specialists for examining and conserving archaeological finds, which include Arcus at Sheffield University for skeletal remains, Birmingham University Archaeology Field Unit for examining environmental samples; Alex Gibson for Prehistoric pottery. Radiocarbon dates are usually obtained from Beta Analytic, Miami.

## **8. TIMING**

A time period of 10 weeks has been allowed for the field evaluation programme by the clients, which is to run from 9 July to 14 September. The time required for completing the work will be dependant upon a number of factors, including the quantity of geophysical survey undertaken prior to the start of trial trenching, the size of the field team, the density of archaeological features per trench, ease of access onto the site, and external factors such as adverse weather conditions.

The following timetable is indicative only, and may need to be changed as the project progresses.

<b>Phase</b>	<b>Days required</b>	<b>Timetable</b>	<b>Staffing levels</b>
Geophysical survey	15 days	9 July – 27 July	1-2
Trial trenching	25 days	23 July – 24 August	6
Report and archive	15 days	27 August – 14 September	3 (including illustrator)

## **9. STAFF**

The work will be supervised by one of the Trust's Project Manager's Mr Andrew Davidson, who graduated in archaeology in 1979. During his career he has been involved with all aspects of archaeological work, including excavation, topographic survey, heritage management and assessments and evaluations. For the past five years he has been Project Manager (now Principal Archaeologist) for the Contract Section of the Trust, and has been responsible for carrying out or overseeing the production of all contract work, including road schemes, pipeline installations and major construction schemes. This work included overseeing the assessment, field evaluation and excavations along the route of the A55, which runs alongside the Ty Mawr development site.

David Hopewell is an experienced field archaeologist, with extensive knowledge and experience of geophysical techniques. He has worked on a large number of projects, in particular the evaluation of the route of the A55 across Anglesey, and he is therefore familiar with the area around Ty Mawr. This officer will be responsible for conducting the magnetometer survey, and will be in overall charge of all site work.

## APPENDIX III: DETAILS OF GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

### Introduction

The results presented here relate to the geophysical survey only, and are as presented to the field team undertaking the trial excavation. The results of the trial excavation are contained within section 4.2 below. The survey results for each grid are described below, and an illustration for each is given in Appendix I. Each illustration includes an X-Y plot, grey scale plot, and archaeological interpretation.

The survey area produced results with a medium to high level of background noise caused by ferrous oxides in the subsoil and bedrock. The survey was therefore not expected to detect fine detail in archaeological features or very weak anomalies. It should also be stressed that geophysical survey can produce evidence of archaeological features but an *absence of features on the survey cannot be taken to reflect an absence of archaeology in the ground.*

### Survey results

#### Grid A

(No trial trenches)

A small area of two 20m grids (800 sq. m) was surveyed in order to assess the likelihood of survival of site 5 (Enclosure and structure). The survey results were dominated by an extremely strong anomaly corresponding to a buried pipe (a) with a further area of increased noise (c) indicating a 20m wide strip of clearance associated with the pipeline. A small, strong anomaly (b) indicative of the presence of an iron object is unlikely to be of significance being on the edge of the disturbed area. The site can be assumed to have been destroyed apart from the very corner of the enclosure, which can be seen as a low earthwork in the field.

#### Grid B

(Trenches 8, 9)

An area of three 20m grids (1200 sq. m) was surveyed in order to assess a level area in the field. The area also included the edge of one of the hollows previously interpreted as ponds (site 2). There were fairly high levels of background noise across all of the area with three areas (a, b and c) producing slightly higher levels that could either be indicative of archaeological features or local changes in the subsoil. Anomaly *a* corresponded to the hollow and was most likely to be archaeological. Anomalies *b* and *c* were more likely to be a result of natural subsoil variations.

#### Grid C

(Trench 14)

An area of four 20m grids (1600 sq. m) was surveyed to the north of site 7 (Well). The most noticeable feature of the results was a series of short narrow anomalies (b) scattered across the survey area. This type of anomaly is usually indicative of plough scarring on the top of the subsoil. Anomaly *a* appears to be a result of iron pipework in the roof of the well.

#### Grid D

(Trench 4)

An area of four 20m grids (1600 sq. m) was surveyed in order to further investigate a recumbent stone (site 9). The results showed a noticeable level of larger scale gradual changes in the magnetic response usually associated with the underlying geology (e.g. anomaly *b*). The stone itself produced an unusually strong magnetic dipole. This result could be interpreted in several ways.

- (i) The stone itself could be strongly magnetic.
- (ii) There could have been an attempt to break up the stone using a fire setting technique, where a fire is lit over the stone and cold water is then poured onto it causing the stone to crack
- (iii) There could be a large iron object associated with the stone.

#### Grid E

(Trench 3)

An area of four 20m grids (1600 sq. m) was surveyed alongside the scheduled area around Ty Mawr standing stone. The area around the stone had already been surveyed by Cadw with rather inconclusive

results. The results were almost totally featureless with only one linear anomaly at the west of the survey that is best interpreted as a field drain.

#### **Grid F**

(Trench 2)

An additional area of four 20m grids (1600 sq. m) was surveyed to the south-east of the stone. Several anomalies were detected towards the centre of the trench. Anomaly *a* was rather poorly defined and could be interpreted as being either geological in origin or the ploughed out remains of a field bank. Anomalies *b* and *c* appear to be geological but the overlapping anomalies in this area could include some archaeological features.

#### **Grid G**

(Trench 1)

An area of four 20m grids (1600 sq. m) was surveyed in order to investigate the north-western part of site 10 (Pen-y-Lone/Bonc-deg). A roughly rectangular mass of high readings with strongly defined limits of at least 18m x 5m was detected on the north-east edge of the survey area. The unusually high readings in this area could be caused by burning or the presence of large amounts of iron.

#### **Grid H**

(Trenches 17, 18)

A strip of four 20m grids (1600 sq. m) was surveyed along a level area between two rocky outcrops. The results revealed a well defined linear anomaly running diagonally across the north-eastern half of the survey area. This anomaly appears to correspond to one of the boundaries shown on the 1817 tithe map.

#### **Grid I**

(Trench 13)

An area of four 20m grids (1600 sq. m) was surveyed in order to try and locate site 6 (Tyddyn-Pioden). No definite archaeological features were detected. The results reflect the underlying geology along with the topography of the area. The ground falls away to the north-east of the survey area and this is reflected in anomaly *d*. Three parallel anomalies *a*, *b* and *c* appear to have a geological origin but are somewhat unusual and could be worth further investigation.

#### **Grid J**

(Trenches 19, 21)

An area of four 20m grids (1600 sq. m) was surveyed. No anomalies were identified that could be attributed to archaeological features. Three very faint and diffuse anomalies (*a*, *b* and *c*) were identified but these are most likely to reflect changes in the natural subsoil.

#### **Grid K**

(Trenches 24, 26)

An area of six 20m grids (2400 sq. m) was surveyed in order to assess the remains of south-eastern part of Pen-y-Lone/Bonc-deg (site 10). There was a fair amount of background noise and diffuse geological variations in this area. Three areas however produced anomalies with a pronounced archaeological character. The most noticeable anomaly (anomaly *a*, particularly on the trace plot) is visible as a series of 'iron spikes' and less well defined linear anomalies on the northern edge of the survey area. This type of response is typical of may collapsed buildings and may be produced by the remains of the walls and ferrous debris such as roofing nails. This would appear to be a good candidate for the remains of the buildings associated with site 10.

A further area of less intense noise and vague anomalies (*b*) lies to the south-west of anomaly *b*, the responses are more typical of burning and could well represent further, and possibly earlier, settlement. A further curvilinear anomaly (*c* and *d*) with a possible break at the southern end is not obviously associated with either *a* or *b* and could represent an early enclosure.

#### **Grid L**

(No trenches)

An area of three 20m grids (1200 sq. m) was surveyed in a low-lying hummocky area designated as site 11 (unidentified earthworks) in the initial assessment report. The survey results were unusually even with only one small visible anomaly (*a*), which is best interpreted as a plough scar.

### **Grid M**

(Trenches 31, 36)

An area of four 20m grids (1600 sq. m) was surveyed along the top of a small plateau between Trefignath burial chamber and Ty Mawr standing stone. The southern part of the survey was featureless. There was however a noticeable concentration of higher readings at the northern end. These were tentatively interpreted as two roughly circular anomalies and one linear feature. This could represent a pair of roundhouses or an area of ritual activity.

### **Grid N**

(Trench 40)

An L-shaped area of ten 20m grids (4000 sq. m) was surveyed, running along the slope below Trefignath burial chamber and then down-slope across the edge of a mound in the lower part of the field. The results were dominated by the effects of the local geology with typical diffuse anomalies visible across most of the field e.g. *a* and *b*. Features *c* and *d* may also be geological or could be interpreted as ditches or drains.

### **Grid O**

(Trenches 42, 48)

An area of six 20m grids (2400 sq. m) was surveyed. The most noticeable anomalies in this area were a series of parallel linear features running across the survey (*a*, *b* and *c*). The anomalies appear to correspond to a series of modern drains running across the field. The south-eastern half of the survey is dominated by geological noise (*c*). An intriguing arc of a larger anomaly (*d*) can be seen in the central part of the survey. This is most likely to be geological but could also be interpreted as a diffuse archaeological feature.

### **Grid P**

(Trenches 51, 52, 54)

An area of four 20m grids (1600 sq. m) was surveyed over the area used for a topsoil storage area during the construction of the A55. One of the aims of the geophysical survey was to ascertain whether the area had been damaged or merely covered up during the topsoil storage and removal. The survey results were unusually noisy and there were several areas of increased noise (*a* to *f*). The noise was however not entirely random and some faint linear features were visible towards the centre of the survey area (*c*). These anomalies may represent plough scars or, along with the areas of noise, other buried archaeology. They strongly suggest that the area was not cleared to below the top of the subsoil and that archaeology could potentially have survived.

### **Grid R**

(Trenches 55, 56, 57)

An area of eight 20m grids (3200 sq. m) was surveyed across a level area between outcrops of rock to the west of Trefignath burial chamber. The survey was dominated by fairly low level diffuse responses which appear to be of geological origin e.g. *a*, *b*, and *c*. One large magnetic dipole *c* could be of archaeological interest being too large for a piece of stray iron and of similar character to hearths and other undisturbed burnt features.

### **Grid S**

(Trenches 61, 64)

An area of six 20m grids (2400 sq. m) was surveyed to the south-west of Trefignath burial chamber. The results were dominated by responses from the underlying geology, e.g. anomalies *a-c*, and no features of archaeological character were identified.



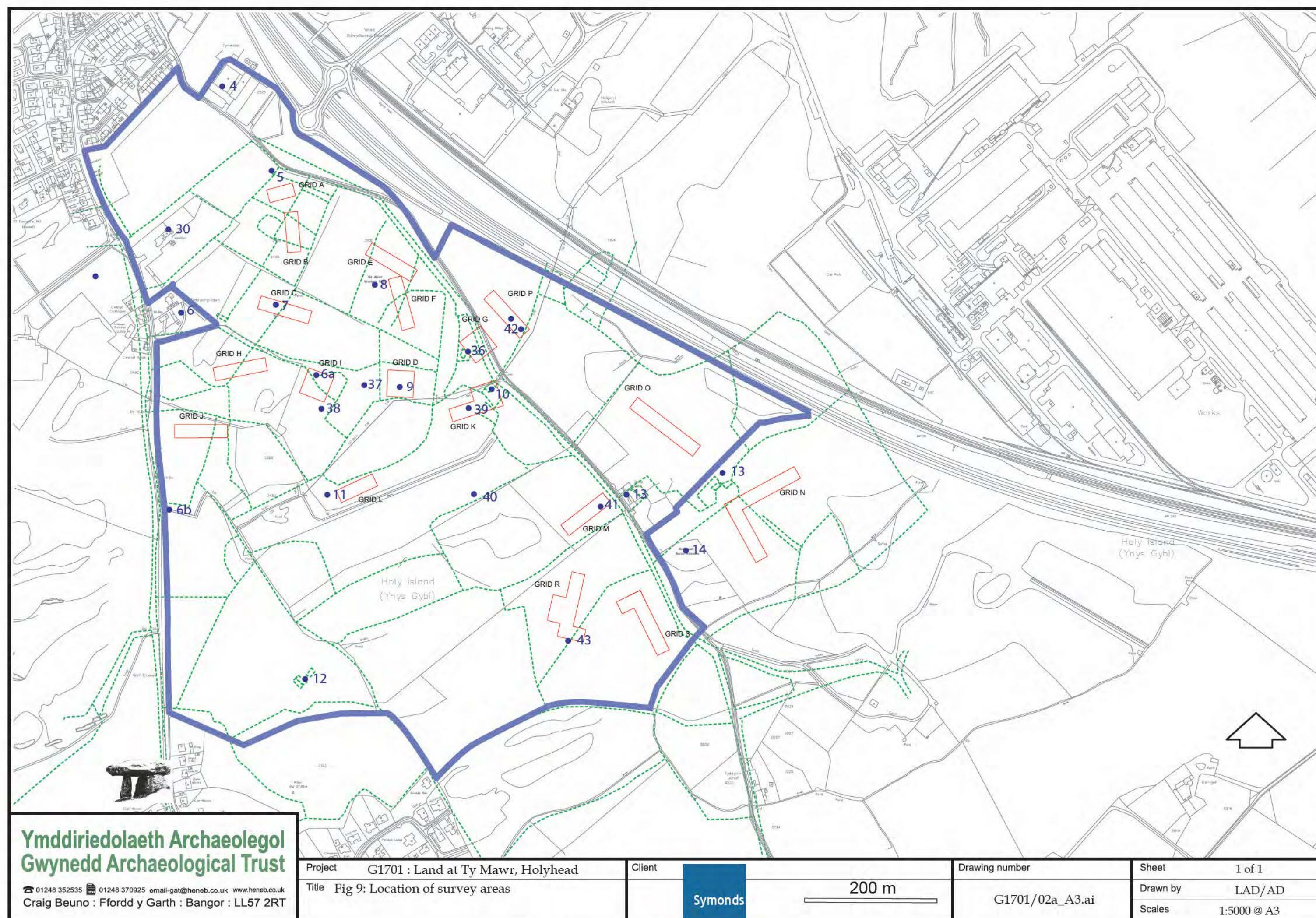
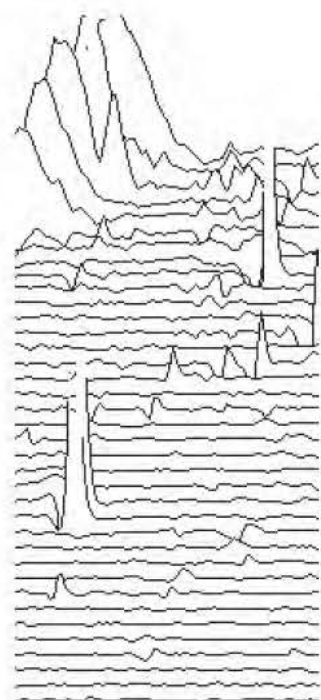
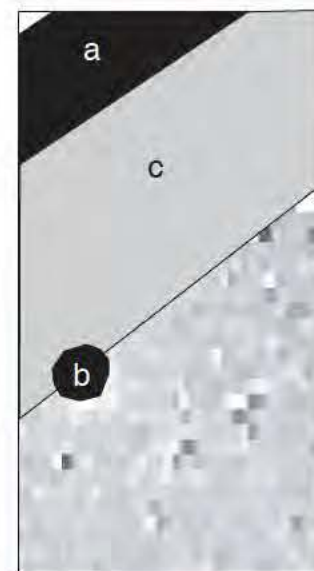
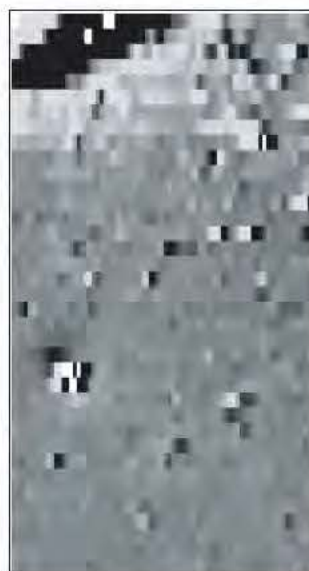


Figure 9: location of geophysical survey areas





51.80 nT



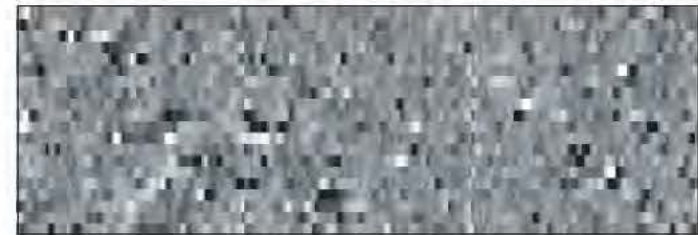
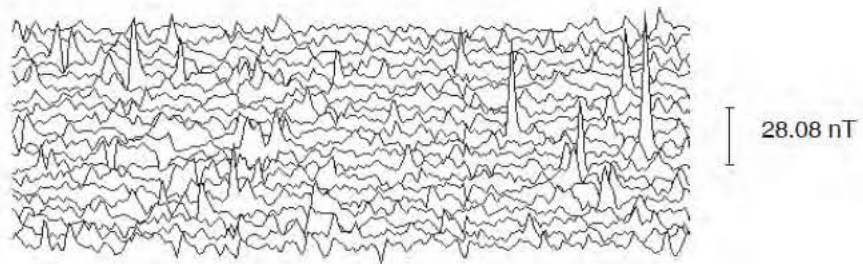
LAND AT TY MAWR, HOLYHEAD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
G1701  
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS

AREA A



Mean 0.5  
Std Dev 26.7  
Min -204.5  
Max 204.5

ARCHAEOLOGY  
KEY GEOLOGY  
INCREASED NOISE



LAND AT TY MAWR, HOLYHEAD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
G1701  
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS

AREA B



Mean 0.1  
Std Dev 2.3  
Min -25.8  
Max 43.3

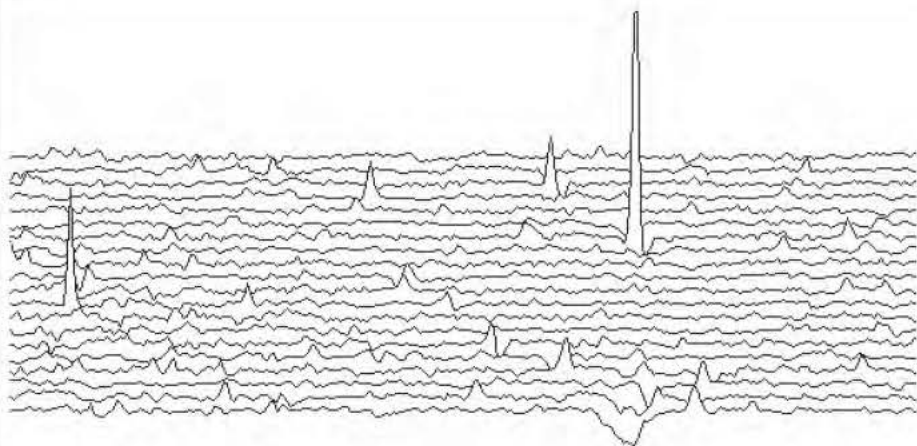
KEY

ARCHAEOLOGY

GEOLOGY

INCREASED NOISE





30.23 nT



LAND AT TY MAWR, HOLYHEAD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
G1701  
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS

AREA C



Mean 0.1  
Std Dev 2.5  
Min -15.7  
Max 101.7

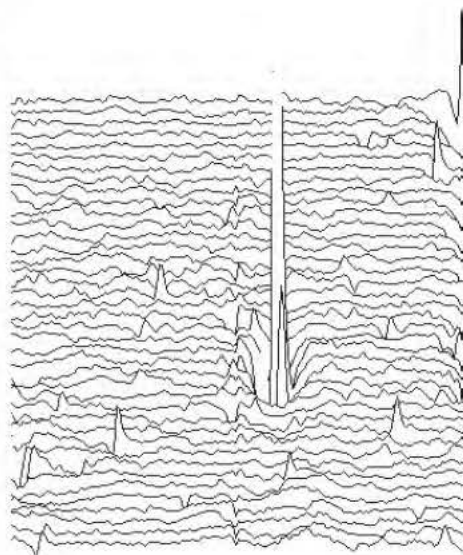
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ARCHAEOLOGY

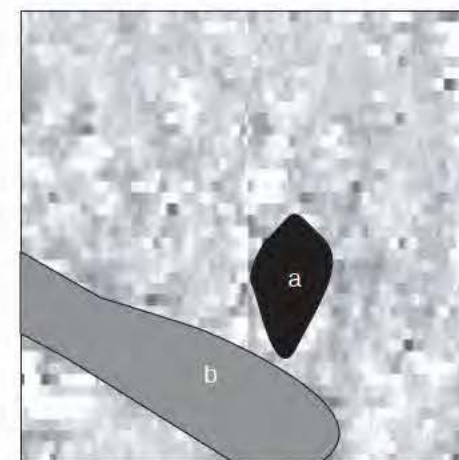
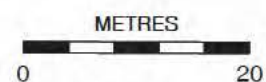
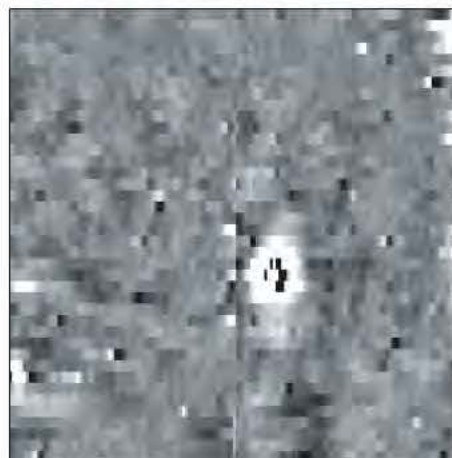
GEOLOGY

INCREASED NOISE





33.63 nT



LAND AT TY MAWR, HOLYHEAD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
G1701  
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS

AREA D



Mean -0.4  
Std Dev 8.4  
Min -198.4  
Max 175.8

KEY

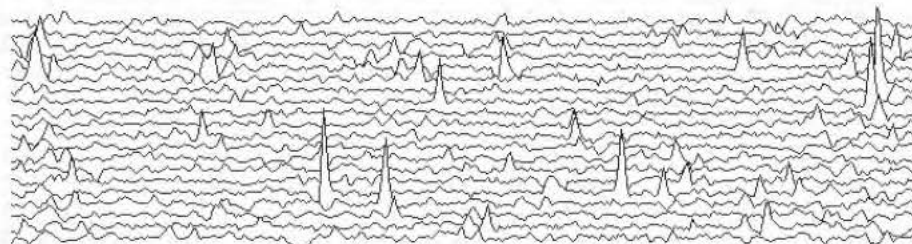
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GEOLOGY

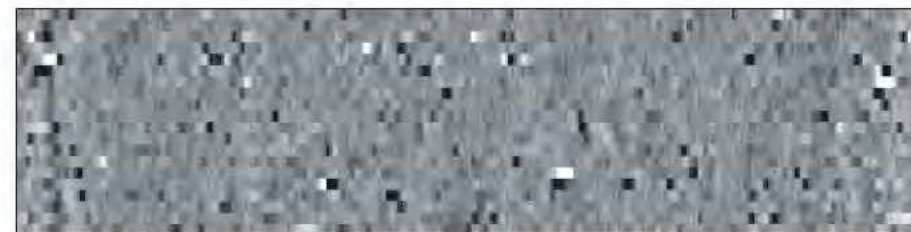
INCREASED NOISE




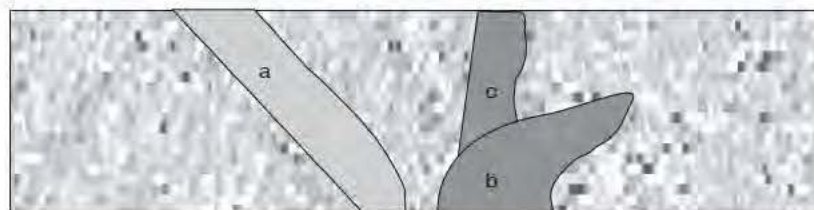
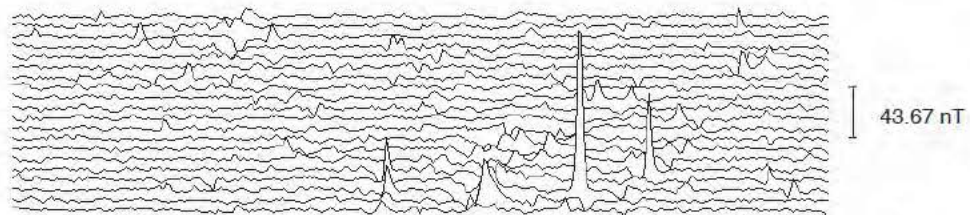




25.19 nT



LAND AT TY MAWR, HOLYHEAD ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT G1701 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS	AREA E		Mean 0.1 Std Dev 2.1 Min -27.8 Max 37.4	KEY	ARCHAEOLOGY  GEOLOGY  INCREASED NOISE
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LAND AT TY MAWR, HOLYHEAD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
G1701  
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS

AREA F

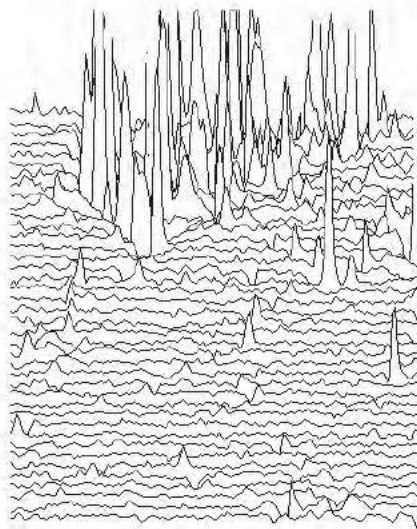


Mean 0.1  
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Min -23.2  
Max 135

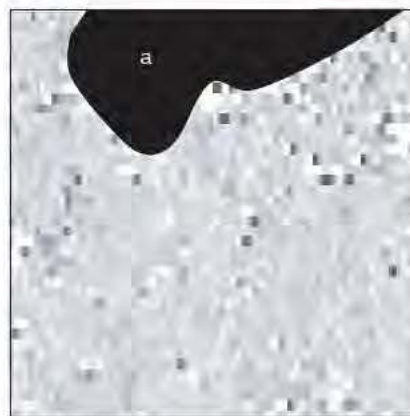
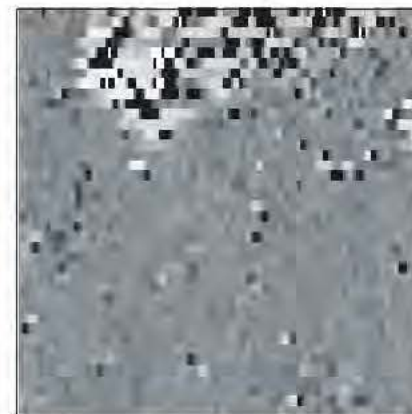
KEY

ARCHAEOLOGY  
GEOLOGY  
INCREASED NOISE

METRES  
0 20



71.07 nT



LAND AT TY MAWR, HOLYHEAD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
G1701  
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS

AREA G



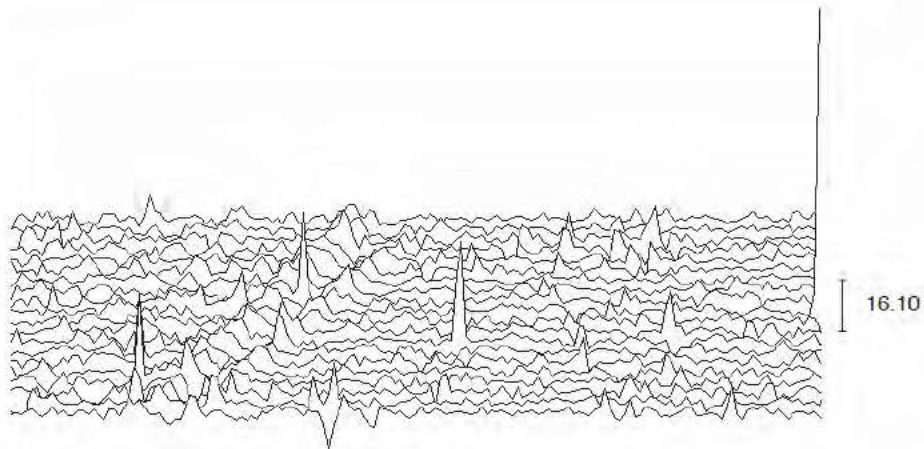
Mean -3.1  
Std Dev 17.9  
Min -191.4  
Max 196.7

KEY

ARCHAEOLOGY  
GEOLOGY  
INCREASED NOISE

METRES  
0 20





LAND AT TY MAWR, HOLYHEAD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
G1701  
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS

AREA H



Mean 0.2  
Std Dev 4.0  
Min -79.0  
Max 128.6

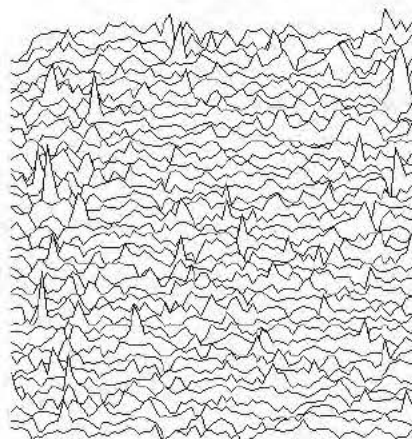
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ARCHAEOLOGY

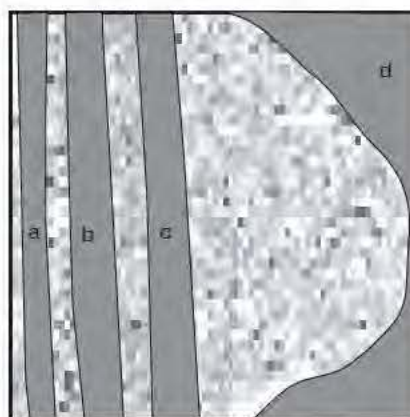
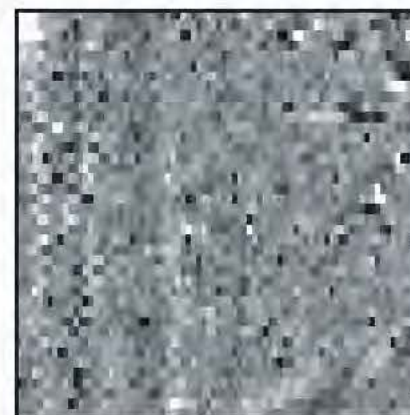
GEOLOGY

INCREASED NOISE





27.87 nT



LAND AT TY MAWR, HOLYHEAD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
G1701  
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS

AREA I



Mean 0.0  
Std Dev 2.3  
Min -19.9  
Max 18.4

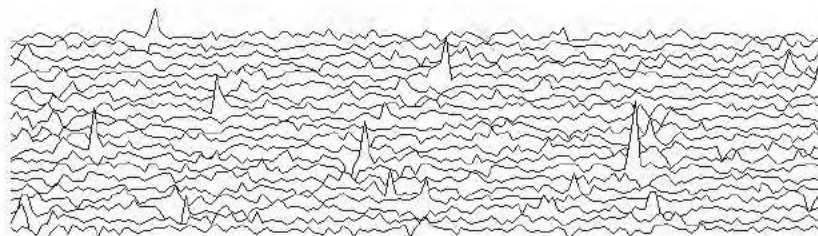
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ARCHAEOLOGY

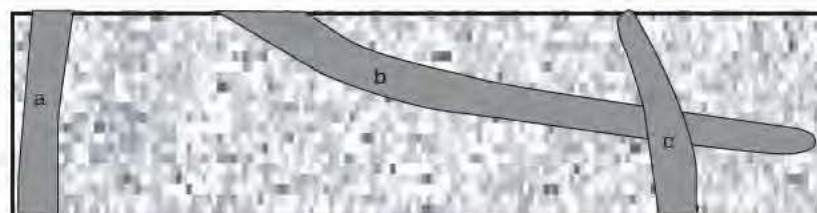
GEOLOGY

INCREASED NOISE

0 METRES 20



23.67 nT



LAND AT TY MAWR, HOLYHEAD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
G1701  
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS

AREA J



Mean 0.1  
Std Dev 2.0  
Min -26.2  
Max 31.3

KEY

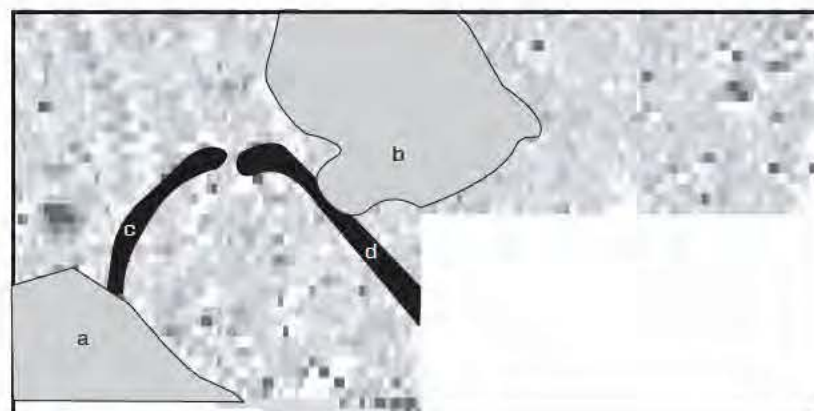
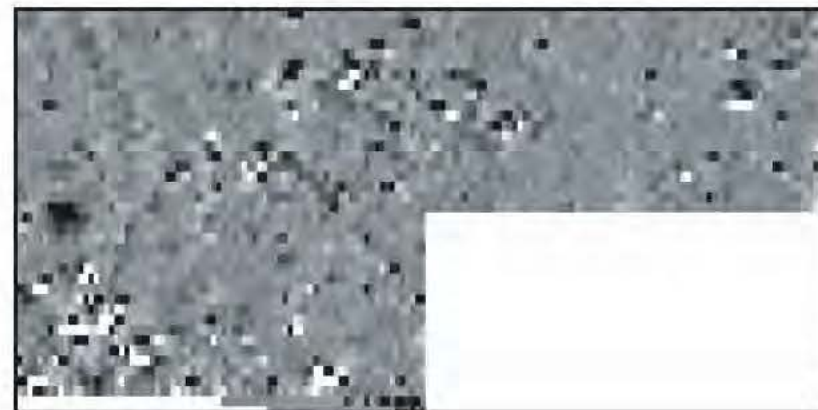
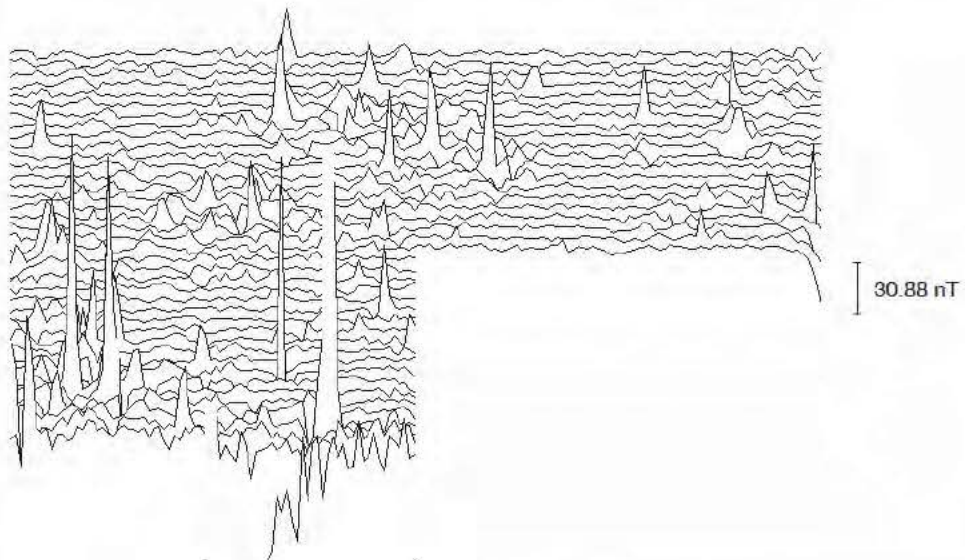
ARCHAEOLOGY

GEOLOGY

INCREASED NOISE

METRES  
0 20





LAND AT TY MAWR, HOLYHEAD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
G1701  
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS

AREA K



Mean 0.1  
Std Dev 2.0  
Min -26.2  
Max 31.3

KEY

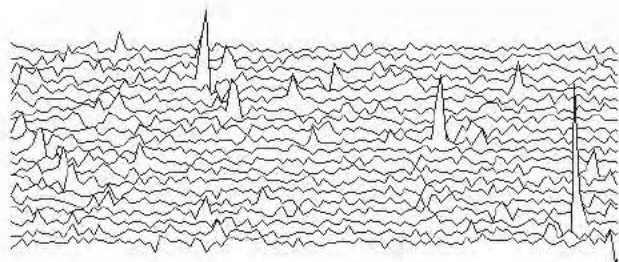
ARCHAEOLOGY

GEOLOGY

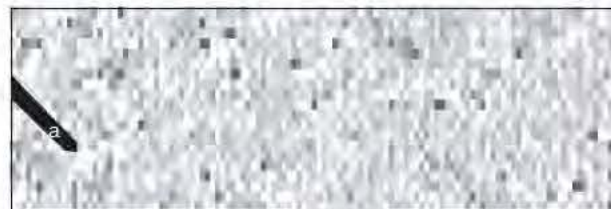
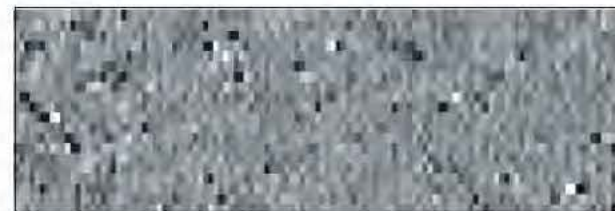
INCREASED NOISE

0 METRES 20

A scale bar showing a distance of 0 to 20 metres. The bar is divided into segments, with the total length representing 20 metres.



14.23 nT



LAND AT TY MAWR, HOLYHEAD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
G1701  
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS

AREA L



Mean 0.1  
Std Dev 1.8  
Min -49.1  
Max 38.4

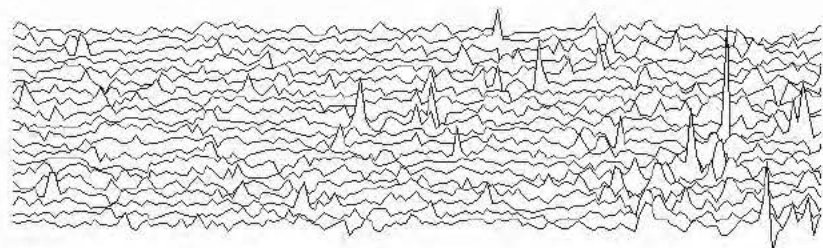
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ARCHAEOLOGY

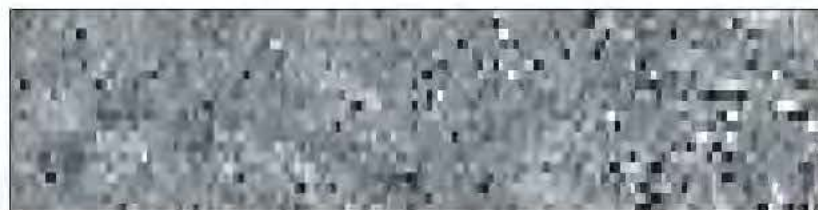
GEOLOGY

INCREASED NOISE





11.82 nT



LAND AT TY MAWR, HOLYHEAD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
G1701  
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS

AREA M



Mean: 0.0  
Std Dev: 1.4  
Min: -21.0  
Max: 24.4

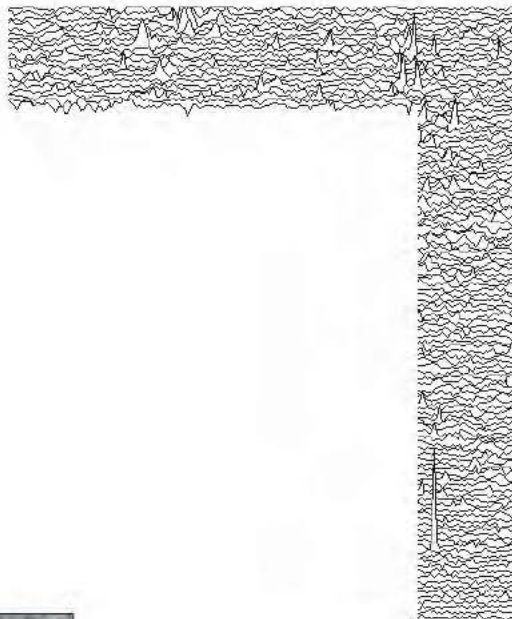
KEY

ARCHAEOLOGY

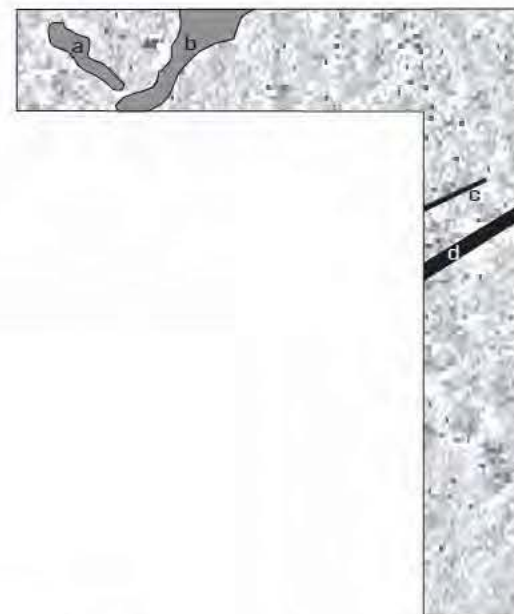
GEOLOGY

INCREASED NOISE

METRES  
0 20



43.97 nT



LAND AT TY MAWR, HOLYHEAD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
G1701  
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS

AREA N



Mean: 0.1  
Std Dev: 2.7  
Min: -51.3  
Max: 82.8

KEY

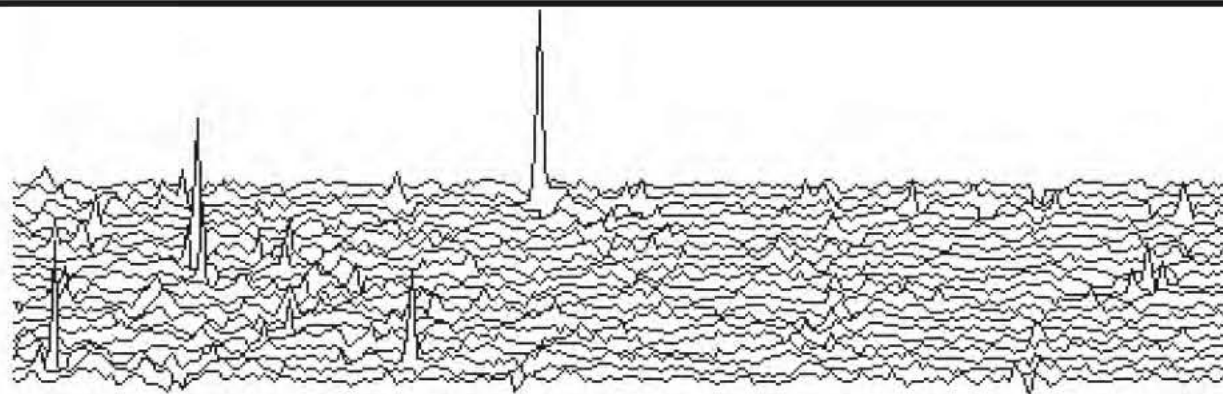
ARCHAEOLOGY

GEOLOGY

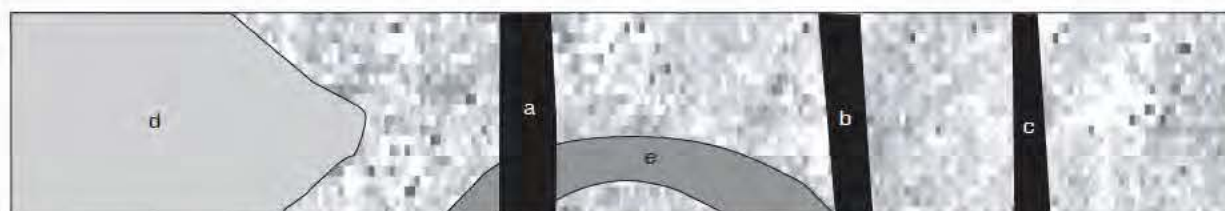
INCREASED NOISE

METRES  
0 50





44.49 nT



LAND AT TY MAWR, HOLYHEAD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
G1701  
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS

AREA 0



Mean: 0.1  
Std Dev: 2.8  
Min: -31.8  
Max: 88.2

KEY

ARCHAEOLOGY

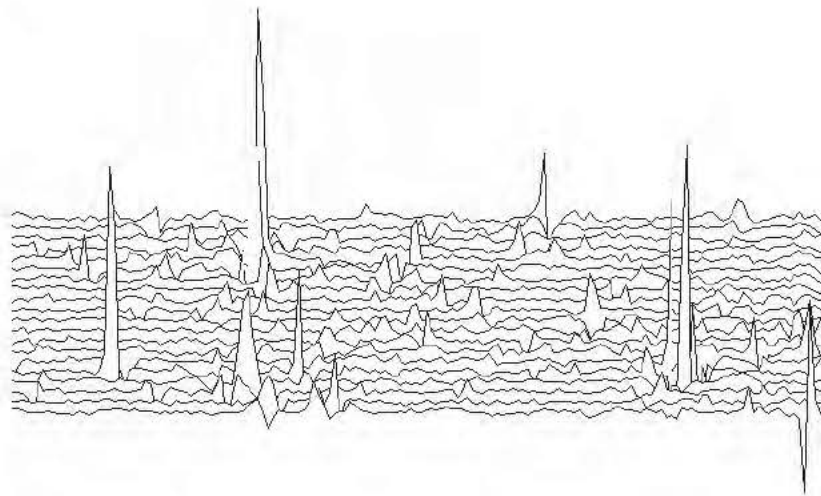
GEOLOGY

INCREASED NOISE

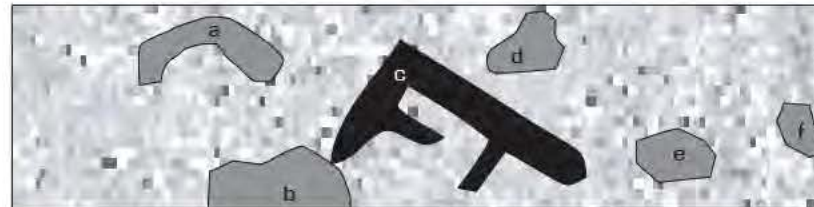
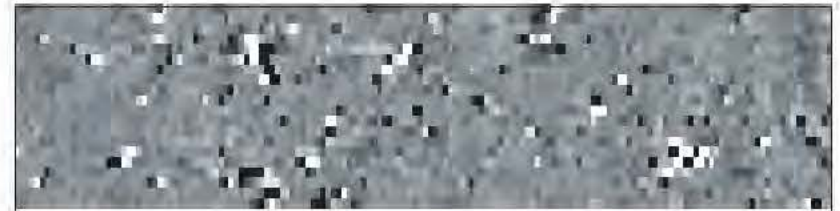


METRES  
0 20





35.27 nT



LAND AT TY MAWR, HOLYHEAD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
G1701  
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS

AREA P



Mean: 0.32  
Std Dev: 8.81  
Min: -88.2  
Max: 208.2

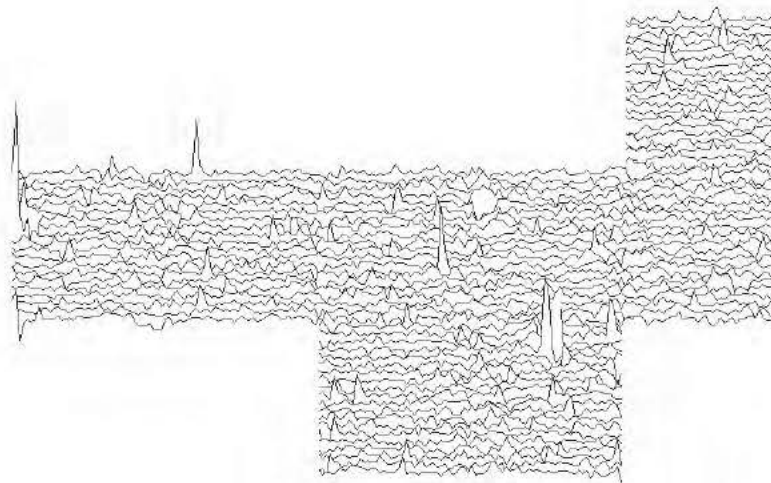
KEY

ARCHAEOLOGY

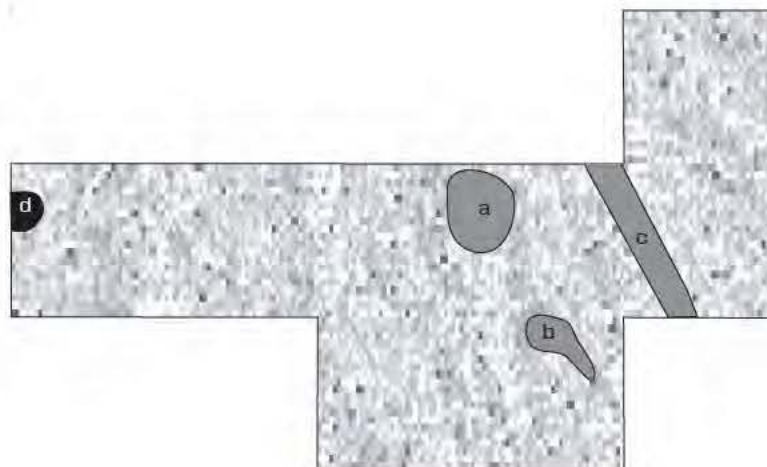
GEOLOGY

INCREASED NOISE





35.27 nT



LAND AT TY MAWR, HOLYHEAD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
G1701  
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS

AREA R



Mean: -0.1  
Std Dev: 2.7  
Min: -124.5  
Max: 49.1

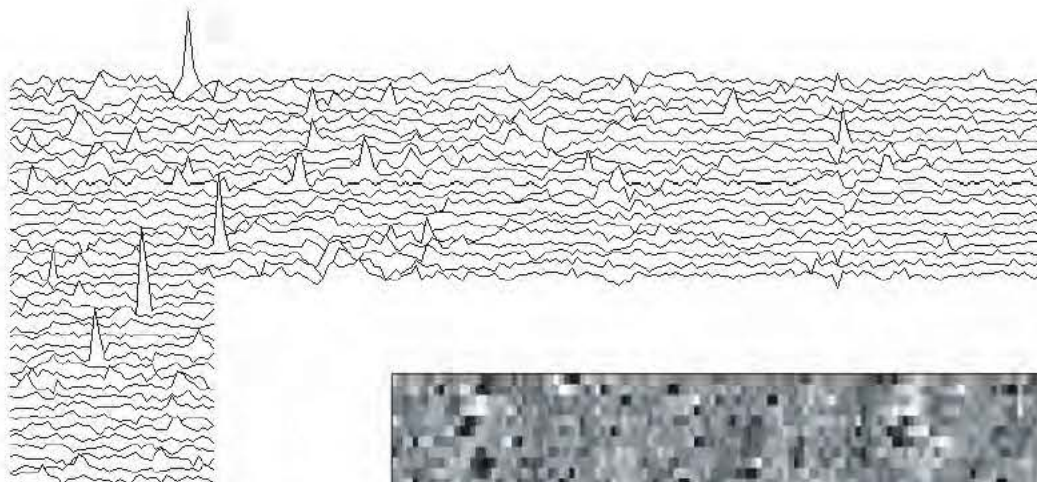
KEY

ARCHAEOLOGY

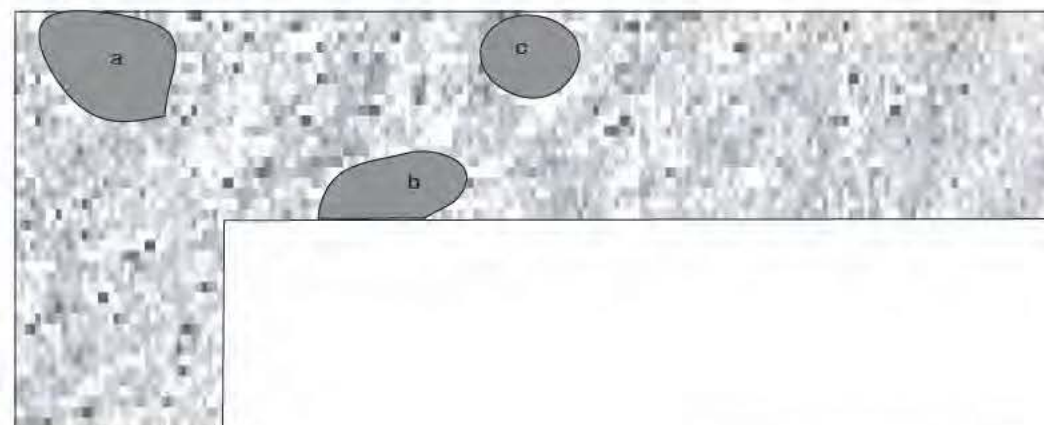
GEOLOGY

INCREASED NOISE

METRES  
0 20



20.57 nT



LAND AT TY MAWR, HOLYHEAD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
G1701  
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS

AREA S



Mean: 0.1  
Std Dev: 1.7  
Min: -7.4  
Max: 20.57

KEY

ARCHAEOLOGY

GEOLOGY

INCREASED NOISE



## APPENDIX IV: DETAILS OF TRIAL EXCAVATION

### General comments

Conditions for the fieldwork were generally good, with dry sunny days predominating, and only a few very wet days. The topsoil was found to be generally thin and contained a considerable amount of late 19<sup>th</sup> century debris including pottery, ironwork and the occasional coin, all thought to be derived from manuring activities. The spoil from some of the trenches was metal detected by Mr Archie Gillespie who recovered further 19<sup>th</sup> century objects. An almost total absence of flints and other earlier objects in the topsoil was felt to be worthy of comment. The subsoil comprised a very wide variety of glacial tills ranging from hard red clays to stony gravels. It is also worth noting that the whole assessment area was heavily improved after it was bought by Rio Tinto during the construction of the aluminium works. Information provided by the JCB driver, Mr Clive Jones of Bethesda, suggests that large amounts of material were imported from the construction site in order to fill in hollows and to dispose of unwanted materials.

The results from each of the trial trenches are presented below along with discussion, if necessary, and recommendations for further work. Newly discovered sites have been allocated new site numbers following on from the sequence presented in the initial assessment report (GAT report 389). All new sites have been placed in one of the following categories in order to define the importance of the archaeological resource.

### Excavation results

#### Trench 1

Area: 40 sq. m

#### Description

The trench was dug over anomaly 'a' in geophysics area G, which was sited over site 10, Bonc Deg cottage. Topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.3m and 0.4m revealing a 0.5m wide, stone wall foundation and a fragment of a concrete surface (plate 1). The wall and surface were standing on a deposit of rounded cobbles and sand the upper parts of which contained numerous finds of late 19<sup>th</sup> early 20<sup>th</sup> century objects. This deposit was found to be over 2m deep, overlying glacial clay subsoil.

#### Discussion

The large geophysical anomaly was not explained by the presence of the relatively slight archaeological features. The deposit of cobbles and sand appears to be of marine origin and the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century debris appears to be the source of the geophysical anomaly. Local accounts of dumping material onto this land, during the construction of the Anglesey Aluminium factory, could go some way to explaining the origin of this deposit. The wall foundation and concrete surface are interpreted as components of the Bonc-deg smallholding (site 10) which survived until land improvements were carried out in the 1960s.

#### Recommendations for further work

None: the fragmentary nature of the archaeology and recent date of the finds suggest that no significant archaeological features remain in this area. The northern part of site 10 can thus be allocated a new site number (36) and assigned to category D - Minor and damaged sites.

12

#### 13 Trench 2

14 Area: 40 sq. m

#### Description

The trench was dug over anomalies b and c in geophysics area F. Topsoil was removed to a maximum depth of 0.34m. Two stone filled field drains were revealed along with another similar stone filled feature that terminated part way across the trench. This was interpreted as an earlier field drain that had been ploughed out. A further linear ditch with a fill similar to the ploughsoil but containing no modern finds was interpreted as being a field boundary as depicted on the estate maps of the area.

#### Recommendations for further work.

None: the archaeological features in this trench were found to be of minor importance

**Trench 3** Area: 40 sq. m

Description

The trench was dug in a level area to the north of Ty Mawr standing stone. Topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.3 and 0.5m onto undisturbed subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.

**Recommendations for further work.**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

**Trench 4** Area: 40 sq. m

Description

The trench was dug around site 9, a large recumbent stone. Topsoil was removed to a depth of about 0.4m. The stone was found to be the top of a massive, glacial erratic, which was embedded in the subsoil (plate 2). The strong magnetic response from the geophysical survey was in part due to the nature of the stone and in part to the presence of several fragments of ploughshare found in the topsoil around the stone. A modern stone-filled land drain crossed the northern end of the trench.

**Recommendations for further work.**

None: the archaeological features in this trench were found to be of minor importance.

**Trench 5** Area: 40 sq. m

Description

Topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.25 and 0.3m onto undisturbed subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.

**Recommendations for further work.**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

**Trench 6** Area: 40 sq. m

Description

The trench was dug in a wet area at the base of a steep slope in order to ascertain the potential for water logged environmental evidence. Topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.2m and 0.3m. The hollow was found to be filled with waterlogged peat although the upper part appeared to have been disturbed at some point in the past (plate 3). The depth of peat could not be determined, as the ground was too soft for the J.C.B. to work on for more than a few minutes at a time.

**Discussion**

The area has a good potential for recovery of waterlogged environmental samples.

**Recommendations for further work.**

Sampling and environmental analysis of the peat deposits. This area has been allocated a site number (37) and assigned to Category C - Sites of district or local importance

**Trench 7** Area: 40 sq. m

Description

Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.25m onto undisturbed subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.

**Recommendations for further work.**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

**Trench 8** Area: 40 sq. m

Description

Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.4m onto undisturbed subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.

**Recommendations for further work.**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

**Trench 9** Area: 40 sq. m

Description

The trench was dug in order to investigate a large circular depression recorded as a possible pond (site 2) in the initial assessment report. Topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.3m and 0.75m revealing a rubble filled field drain which ran into a stone filled sump or soak-away. Both features contained 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century pottery. There was nothing to suggest that the circular depression was anything other than a natural hollow.

**Recommendations for further work.**

None: the archaeological features in this trench were found to be of minor importance.



**Trench 10** *Area: 40 sq. m*

Description

Topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.45m and 0.60m onto plough scarred subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.

**Recommendations for further work.**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

**Trench 11** *Area: 40 sq. m*

Description

Topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.35m and 0.40m onto undisturbed subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.

**Recommendations for further work.**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

**Trench 12** *Area: 40 sq. m*

Description

Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.35m revealing three stone-filled land drains containing 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

**Recommendations for further work.**

None: the archaeological features in this trench were found to be of minor importance.

**Trench 13** *Area: 40 sq. m*

Description

The trench was dug over anomalies a, b and c in geophysics Grid I, and close to the location of Tyddyn Pioden (Site 6) as shown on the 1817 estate map (Penrhos II, 804). Topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.4 and 0.5m revealing orange pebbly glacial till. A poorly defined feature consisting of a 1m wide and 0.1 to 0.2m deep, irregular bottomed, gully forming a 180 degree arc of a 20m diameter circle was identified. The fill was found to be very similar to the subsoil but less stony. Occasional small flecks of charcoal were also recorded in the fill.

**Discussion**

This site was not felt to be of any significant archaeological merit and was interpreted as animal burrowing. No remains were found of Tyddyn Pioden, and it is to be assumed that the single structure shown on the 1817 map has been destroyed and robbed out, leaving little archaeological trace.

**Recommendations for further work.**

Watching brief during clearance work.

**Trench 14** *Area: 40 sq. m*

Description

The trench was dug in order to investigate a linear hollow running across the field to the west of site 7 (well). Topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.35m and 0.50m. The feature was found to be a stone-filled land drain with low banks on either side. This appears to be the remains of a field boundary shown on the 19<sup>th</sup> century estate maps.

**Recommendations for further work.**

None: the archaeological features in this trench were found to be of minor importance.

**Trench 15** *Area: 80 sq. m*

Description

Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.45m revealing natural yellowish brown subsoil with a curvilinear stone filled feature cut into it. This was initially interpreted as a wall foundation. The trench was extended from 40 sq. m to 80 sq. m in order to investigate this feature further.

The feature was found to be a stone filled land drain, with a 90 degree bend in it, that appears to lead to the pond to the north-east of the well.

**Recommendations for further work.**

None: the archaeological features in this trench were found to be of minor importance.

**Trench 16** *Area: 40 sq. m*

Description

The trench was dug in order to investigate a slight hollow. A surprising depth of topsoil was encountered ranging from 0.5m at the south of the trench to 1.8m at the northern end. This was removed revealing orange/yellow clayey subsoil containing a 0.8m diameter, roughly circular patch of

burnt clay. A possible curving stone feature was also identified at the northern end of the trench. This could not be investigated, as the sides of the trench were higher than that permitted by health and safety law and were in danger of collapse.

#### **Discussion**

No finds were recovered from the features in this trench but the burnt clay patch is indicative of human activity. Such features are often found as part of settlement sites of many periods although the lack of substantial features in the vicinity suggests either a prehistoric site or a later campfire. The unusual depth of topsoil is probably a result of landscaping during 20<sup>th</sup> century land improvements.

#### **Recommendations for further work.**

Area excavation: The site was not fully investigated due to the depth of the trench and it is recommended that a larger area be excavated in order to allow further examination of the features and their immediate surroundings. The site has been allocated a new site number (38) and allocated to Category E - Sites needing further investigation.

#### **Trench 17** *Area: 40 sq. m*

##### **Description**

The trench was dug over anomaly *a* in geophysics Grid H. Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.40m onto lightly plough scarred subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.

##### **Discussion**

The geophysical anomaly was very well defined and it was expected that a substantial ditch and/or bank would have been visible in the trench, relating either to a field boundary or the boundary of Tyddyn Pioden. The lack of any visible features suggests the anomaly was caused by a natural variation in the subsoil (c.f. geophysics area I and trench 13).

##### **Recommendations for further work.**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

#### **Trench 18** *Area: 40 sq. m*

##### **Description**

The trench was dug over an anomaly free portion of geophysics area H. Topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.45 and 0.6m onto undisturbed subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.

##### **Discussion**

It should be noted that the fact that no anomalies were visible on the geophysical survey does not necessarily mean that there is no archaeology present.

##### **Recommendations for further work**

None: The trench was archaeologically sterile.

#### **Trench 19** *Area: 40 sq. m*

##### **Description**

The trench was dug over anomaly *b* in geophysics area J. It was unclear whether the anomaly was of geological or archaeological origin. The topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.35m and 0.4m onto undisturbed subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.

##### **Discussion**

It is assumed that the anomaly reflected a natural change in the subsoil.

##### **Recommendations for further work**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

#### **Trench 20** *Area: 40 sq. m*

##### **Description**

The trench was dug over anomaly *C* in geophysics area J. Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.5m onto undisturbed subsoil. No archaeological features were identified although two natural linear stony patches were identified in the subsoil, perhaps accounting for the geophysical anomaly.

##### **Recommendations for further work**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

#### **Trench 21** *Area: 40 sq. m*

##### **Description**

Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.5m, revealing orange and grey gravelly subsoil. One circular patch of stones was identified and half sectioned but was found to be a natural change in the subsoil.

##### **Recommendations for further work**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

**Trench 22** *Area: 40 sq. m***Description**

Topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.30m and 0.45m revealing yellowish brown subsoil and bedrock. A stone filled field drain was cut into the subsoil.

**Recommendations for further work**

None: the archaeological features in this trench were found to be of minor importance.

**Trench 23** *Area: 40 sq. m***Description**

Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.3m revealing patchy yellow and grey subsoil. A single stone filled field drain was visible at the south-east end of the trench.

**Recommendations for further work**

None: the archaeological features in this trench were found to be of minor importance.

**Trench 24** *Area: 90 sq. m***Description**

The trench was dug in order to investigate anomaly a in geophysics area K. This anomaly had been interpreted as being the remains of Pen-y-Lone farmstead (site 10). Topsoil was removed to a depth of about 0.35m revealing a number of archaeological features. The trench was extended on both the northern and southern sides to allow interpretation of the features. Two wall foundations were identified (fig. 3, features a and b) (plate 4). A 6m straight length of wall (a) constructed from roughly dressed stone blocks and with surviving facing was recorded at the north-east end of the trench. Another length of wall (b) was recorded 4m to the west of the above. This was constructed from undressed stone with occasional facing surviving facing on both sides. Several sherds of post-Medieval pottery were associated with wall a. No finds were associated with wall b. Five patches of stone spread were visible in the trench (c-f). Spread c contained post-medieval pottery. The other spreads remained undated. Spread e was overlain by a deposit of dark brown clayey silt (f) which was in turn partially disturbed by patches of very recently deposited yellow clay containing barbed wire and plastic.

**Discussion**

The above features are interpreted as the plough damaged remains of Pen-y-Lone farm, which was destroyed some time between 1817 and 1889. Some of the features date from the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and others may be earlier. The site should be classified as Category C (sites of district or local importance). This category consists of sites that not of sufficient importance to justify a recommendation for preservation if threatened. Category C sites nevertheless merit adequate recording in advance of damage or destruction. Site 10 should now be redefined as Pen-y-Lone and not include Bonc-Deg (now site 36).

**Recommendations for further work**

Excavation and recording. The site should be excavated and recorded in advance of any disturbance.

**Trench 25** *Area: 40 sq. m***Description**

The trench was dug over a mound close to site 10. Topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.6 to 0.7m onto undisturbed orange stony subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.

**Recommendations for further work.**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

**Trench 26** *Area: 80 sq. m***Description**

The trench was dug over anomaly b in geophysics area K. Topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.3 and 0.6m revealing several archaeological features. Two rough stone structures (a and b, Fig 3) and a capped drain (c) were identified after initial clearance (plate 5). Carefully constructed capped drains are usually associated with settlement sites as opposed to land drainage. The south-western end of the trench was therefore extended in order to investigate these features further. One of the stone features was found to be curvilinear, possibly forming an arc of wall foundation. Further examination of this feature produced three roughly datable sherds of pottery. Two small sherds of a decorated Samian ware (Terra Sigillata) vessel were recovered. This is a type of relatively high status slip-coated tableware produced in Gaul and is found in Britain from the first to the early third centuries AD. The rim of a vessel with a black gritty fabric, possibly an abraded sherd of Category 1 black burnished ware



from Dorset, was also recovered. This is another type of pottery associated with Roman and Romano-British sites and was exported from the south of England from about 120 AD until the fourth century. These finds strongly suggest that the curvilinear feature is part of the wall of a Romano/British roundhouse with a projected external diameter of around 14m. The capped drain is therefore likely to have formed part of the under-floor drainage of the house. Two stone spreads and one linear feature both of possible Romano-British date along with a modern field drain were also identified and recorded.

#### **Discussion**

The finds from this site clearly date it to the Romano-British period and it is probable that only a small part of a Romano-British hut group has been uncovered. This type of site varies considerably and can range from a single hut to an extended enclosed settlement. The shallow topsoil and intensive cultivation of the area appears to have resulted in a partial truncation of the archaeological deposits with some floor levels having been destroyed. This site should therefore be allocated to Category B (sites of regional or county importance) and has been allocated a site number (39).

#### **Recommendations for further work**

A programme of geophysical survey using high resolution magnetometer and resistivity survey, combined with trial excavation, would identify the limits of the site. Preservation *in situ* is the preferred option for Category B sites, but if damage or destruction cannot be avoided, complete excavation and recording might be judged to be an acceptable alternative.

#### **Trench 27 Area: 40 sq. m**

##### **Description**

The trench was dug along the ridge to the south-west of trench 26. The thin stony topsoil was removed to a depth of around 0.35m revealing undisturbed gravely subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.

#### **Recommendations for further work**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

#### **Trench 28 Area: 40 sq. m**

##### **Description**

The trench was dug across site 11, a series of unidentifiable earthworks. Topsoil was of a variable depth ranging from 0.3m to 0.7m. The subsoil was somewhat variable grey and yellow clay containing concentrations of stone. No archaeological features were identified.

#### **Discussion**

The unidentifiable earthworks appear to be a result of disturbance to what must be a very wet area during the winter months.

#### **Recommendations for further work**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

#### **Trench 29 Area: 40 sq. m**

##### **Description**

Topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.3m and 0.6m revealing natural grey clay and gravels. A shallow humic layer had accumulated in a natural hollow.

#### **Recommendations for further work.**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

#### **Trench 30 Area: 40 sq. m**

##### **Description**

Topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.45m and 0.55m revealing reddish brown gravely subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.

#### **Recommendations for further work.**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

#### **Trench 31 Area: 40 sq. m**

##### **Description**

Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.45m onto yellowish brown stony subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.

#### **Recommendations for further work**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

**Trench 32** *Area: 40 sq. m***Description**

The trench was dug about 25m to the south-east of the Site 10 Pen-y-Lone remains. Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.3m revealing orange/brown clayey natural with three features cut into it. Two linear features containing stone rich fills were probably land drains. A sub-circular pit with a diameter of 1.5m and a depth of 0.2m was excavated. This was filled with stones and topsoil and produced no dating evidence.

**Discussion**

The pit was not felt to be of any significant archaeological value and could have been formed when a stone was dragged from the subsoil by the plough.

**Recommendations for further work.**

None: the archaeological features in this trench were found to be of minor importance.

**Trench 33** *Area: 40 sq. m***Description**

The trench was dug at the bottom of a steep slope overlooking the lower ground at the north-east of the site. Topsoil and an accumulation of hill-washed deposits were removed to a depth of between 0.55m and 1.10m. No archaeological features were identified.

**Recommendations for further work**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

**Trench 34** *Area: 40 sq. m***Description**

The trench was dug across a short semicircular prominence, which lies immediately south-west of, and above, a marshy area. Topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.2m and 0.35m revealing what appears to be a roughly cobbled area extending over all but the easternmost 4m of the trench. The surface was sectioned in two places and was found to be somewhat variable but consisting predominantly of rounded pebbles 30 to 40mm in diameter pressed into hard yellowish brown clayey subsoil. A selection of bovine teeth and two flint flakes (see flint report) were recovered from the cobbled surface.

**Discussion**

The two flint flakes are not enough to date this feature with certainty, as they could be residual finds originating from the ploughsoil. The extent of this feature is unknown and more information is required before it can be securely dated. The site should therefore be allocated to category E (sites with archaeological potential requiring further evaluation) and added to the site list (site number 40). The site stands on a shelf between a low cliff and a steep slope into a marshy area. Both the topsoil and subsoil appear to be very thin suggesting that geophysical survey may be of limited value.

**Recommendations for further work.**

A programme of field evaluation should be undertaken to ascertain the extent and status of the feature.

**Trench 35** *Area: 40 sq. m***Description**

The trench was sited in a level area between two rocky outcrops. Topsoil was removed to a maximum depth of 0.45m revealing undisturbed orange/brown natural subsoil and bedrock. No archaeological features were identified.

**Recommendations for further work**

None: The trench was archaeologically sterile.

**Trench 36** *Area: 50 sq. m***Description**

The trench was excavated in order to investigate anomalies A to C in geophysics area M. It was discovered after excavation that the trench had been positioned about 10m too far to the west. Topsoil was removed to a maximum depth of 0.6m revealing yellowish brown gravelly subsoil. A sub oval feature with dimensions of 2.1m x 0.85m was located about half way down the trench. The trench was extended to reveal the full extent of the feature. It was noted that the JCB had pulled a large stone out of the top of the feature. The eastern half of the feature was excavated and the western half was partially excavated. The cut was found to be roughly in the shape of a wide-waisted figure 8 possibly indicating the presence of two closely spaced pits (plate 6). It was steep-sided 0.36m deep with a slightly convex base. It was noted that there was no evidence suggesting that one pit was cut through

the other. The pits originally contained two large stones with dimensions of 0.55 x 0.46 x 0.25m and 0.70 x 0.50 x 0.25m although one had been dragged out by the JCB. The *in situ* stone appeared to be held in place in the centre of the western pit by four large stones. The entire feature was filled with stones within a uniform mid/dark brown clayey silt matrix. The stones in the eastern half were concentrated in the central part of the fill and consisted of a variety of larger stones, typically 0.15 to 0.25m in length along with smaller stones some of which were firecracked. Two small concentrations of charcoal were identified within the matrix, which were sampled.

#### **Discussion**

The function and date of this feature are unknown, although the lack of the post-Medieval debris in the topsoil across the whole site suggests that it is not modern. The site stands in a prominent position, and lies close to the line of sight between Ty Mawr standing stone and Trefignath burial chamber. This raises the possibility of ritual function, although it should be noted that neither of the stones could have protruded much above ground level and neither was broken. It is also possible that the pits could have some structural significance. There was enough charcoal recovered from the feature to allow an AMS radiocarbon date to be obtained. The site should therefore be allocated to category E (sites with archaeological potential requiring further evaluation) and added to the list of sites (site 41)

#### **Recommendations for further work**

Further area excavation: The trial trench was not large enough to ascertain whether the site stands alone or forms part of an larger feature or group of features. The geophysical survey results also suggest further activity to the north-east. It is therefore recommended that a larger area excavation be carried out around the site.

#### **Trench 37 Area: 40 sq. m**

##### **Description**

Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.5m onto undisturbed subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.

##### **Recommendations for further work**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

#### **Trench 38 Area: 40 sq. m**

##### **Description**

Topsoil was removed to a maximum depth of 0.6m revealing natural yellow clayey subsoil with manganese panning along with bedrock. No archaeological features were identified.

##### **Recommendations for further work**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

#### **Trench 39 Area: 40 sq. m**

##### **Description**

Topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.4 and 0.55m revealing variable orange and grey clayey subsoil containing gravel patches. No archaeological features were identified.

##### **Recommendations for further work**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

#### **Trench 40 Area: 40 sq. m**

##### **Description**

Topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.4 and 0.5m revealing undisturbed orange and grey gravelly subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.

##### **Recommendations for further work**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

#### **Trench 41 Area: 40 sq. m**

##### **Description**

Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.5m revealing very variable subsoil containing hard cemented gravel and yellow clays over bedrock. Two parallel stone filled land drains crossed the centre of the trench.

##### **Recommendations for further work**

None: the archaeological features in this trench were found to be of minor importance.

**Trench 42** *Area: 40 sq. m***Description**

Topsoil was removed to a fairly uniform depth of 0.6m. The top of the natural subsoil was cemented by an exceptionally hard layer of manganese panning which in places formed a solid sheet up to 3cm thick. A linear feature was cut through this. The feature was 0.5m wide and 0.15m deep with a u shaped profile. It was filled with a mid yellowish brown clayey silt containing about 40% mixed stones and no dating evidence. There were not enough stones in the feature for it to function as a field drain. A linear feature running downhill in a wet area can still be assumed to have provided some sort of drainage.

**Recommendations for further work**

None: the archaeological features in this trench were found to be of minor importance.

**Trench 43** *Area: 40 sq. m***Description**

The trench was opened on a small hillock. Topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.5 and 0.75m revealing mixed natural sands and gravel. Two features were identified. One was a modern animal burial, which was not further investigated. The other was a subcircular hollow with a diameter of 0.35m and depth of 0.15m containing dark brown soil and chunks of charcoal. The excavators suggested that a tree root had been dug out and burnt in this location. Charcoal samples were however retained.

**Discussion**

There was nothing to suggest that this was an archaeological feature of any importance.

**Recommendations for further work**

None: the archaeological features in this trench were found to be of minor importance.

**Trench 44** *Area: 40 sq. m***Description**

The trench was dug over the location of two small buildings associated with Site 13 (Trefignath Farm) shown on the 1817 Trefignath estate map. The topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.23 to 0.45m. The natural subsoil was found to be very variable in this location with a patches of clay, stones gravel and smashed bedrock all occurring in the trench. Two walls had survived along with a field drain. The walls were both badly plough damaged but retained fragments of facing. The limited area of the trench did not allow any structures to be defined but it can assumed that these features relate to the buildings shown on the estate map.

**Discussion**

The site can be considered to be of local importance (Category C).

**Recommendations for further work**

Excavation and recording of the full extent of the buildings.

**Trench 45** *Area: 40 sq. m***Description**

The trench was dug in the lower part of the field close to a boggy area. Topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.4 and 0.5m revealing yellow and grey subsoil with five roughly parallel linear features cut into it. Four were found to be modern field drains and one a U shaped cut 1.2m wide and 0.3m deep filled with soft brown silty soil. This appears to correspond to a field boundary shown on the Trefignath estate map.

**Recommendations for further work**

None: the archaeological features in this trench were found to be of minor importance.

**Trench 46** *Area: 40 sq. m***Description**

Topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.7 and 1.1m revealing reddish brown stony subsoil containing a single large glacial erratic. A damage stone filled field drain was also located at the extreme north of the trench.

**Recommendations for further work**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

**Trench 47** *Area: 40 sq. m*

**Description**

Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.5m onto yellow and grey clayey subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.

**Recommendations for further work**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

**Trench 48** *Area: 40 sq. m*

**Description**

Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.55m onto plough scarred orange-brown subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.

**Recommendations for further work**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

**Trench 49** *Area: 40 sq. m*

**Description**

The trench was dug over anomaly e in geophysics area O in order to determine if it was a geological anomaly or an archaeological feature. Just over half a metre of topsoil was removed revealing orange subsoil and bedrock. No archaeological features were identified.

**Recommendations for further work**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

**Trench 50** *Area: 40 sq. m*

**Description**

Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.3m to 0.75m revealing undisturbed stony greyish brown subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.

**Recommendations for further work**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

**Trench 51** *Area: 40 sq. m*

**Description**

The trench was dug in an area that was used as a topsoil storage dump during the construction of the A55 in late 2000. Topsoil was removed to a depth of around 0.6m revealing that the original ground surface was undisturbed and a layer of imported topsoil had been left behind. The trench was found to contain a large number of archaeological features. The features were in general not excavated but were recorded in plan (Fig. 4) and photographed (plate 7). At the eastern end of the trench were two substantial, possibly intersecting, stone capped drains (a and b). A spread of angular and burnt stones (c) filled most of the western end of the trench. This was 6.5m wide and of unknown length and was bounded on the east by a possible ditch (d). A fragmentary stone wall (e) was standing on the stone spread (c) and this appeared to be associated with a deposit of darker gravel (f) again overlying the stone spread. The stone spread was cut by a silted field drain. A stone lined pit or post hole (h) was identified close to the centre of the trench and a modern field drain (i) crossed the middle of the trench. Further stone features were observed in the eastern half of the trench but these were not well defined and were not investigated. None of the features produced any dating evidence, which suggests a pre-19<sup>th</sup> century date, as does the fact that no structures are recorded in this area on maps or documents of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The excavated surface was covered with a water permeable membrane before backfilling.

**Discussion**

The trench was found to contain a wealth of undated archaeological features most of which did not appear to be modern. The extent and date of the features remains unknown. However, present evidence would suggest the site is of at least regional importance (Category B), although further work may require re-assessment of this. The site has been allocated number 42.

**Recommendations for further work**

Additional geophysical survey and trial excavation is required to ascertain the status and extent of the remains. Full excavation will be required if the remains are to be disturbed.

**Trench 52** Area: 40 sq. m

## Description

Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.45m onto undisturbed natural grey and orange gravels. No archaeological features were identified.

**Recommendations for further work**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

**Trench 53** Area: 40 sq. m

## Description

Topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.4m and 0.8m revealing natural grey clay and gravels. No archaeological features were identified.

**Recommendations for further work**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

**Trench 54** Area: 40 sq. m

## Description

This trench was dug about 15m to the north-west of trench 51 in order to assess the extent of the features found therein. The trench was again dug in the area that had been used as a topsoil storage dump during the construction of the A55. Topsoil was removed to a depth of between around 0.6 and 0.85m removing the original ground surface and a layer of imported topsoil. The trench was found to contain a large amount of archaeological features (plate 8). The surface was cleaned by hand. The features were not excavated but were recorded in plan (Fig. 4) and photographed. They consisted of a series of linear and curvilinear cuts running at close to 90 degrees across the trench. Feature (a) was interpreted as being a 2.8m wide ditch and this was cut by a linear stony feature (b). Feature c was a 1.8 m wide cut of debatable shape (due to the width of the trial trench). Feature d was interpreted as a 0.8m wide subcircular pit, cutting narrow linear feature e. Feature f appeared to be a truncated feature with a fill stones some of which were firecracked. Feature g was thought to be a field drain. Feature h appeared to be a part of a larger curvilinear cut and feature i was a somewhat irregular stony feature containing firecracked cobbles. A heavily abraded rim sherd of fine grained pottery tentatively dated to the Roman period was recovered from this surface.

**Discussion**

The features in this trench can presumably be seen as a continuation of the activity in trench 51 and should be seen as part of the same site (42). The recovery of an apparently Roman or Romano/British pottery sherd adds weight to the hypothesis that this is a site of some importance. It should however be noted that the pottery could be residual and be unconnected with feature i. For further discussion see trench 51.

**Recommendations for further work**

See trench 51.

**Trench 55** Area: 40 sq. m

## Description

The trench was dug over anomaly d in geophysics area R. Topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.45 and 0.6m revealing very variable natural subsoil and two features neither of which corresponded to the geophysical anomaly. A 0.74m wide, linear ditch was found to cross the centre of the trench. This was sectioned and was found to be U shaped and 0.26m deep. The fill was uniform, soft, mid brown clayey silt containing occasional stones. Part of a somewhat irregular sub-circular scoop about 0.4m in diameter was located on the western edge of the trench. This was found to contain two layers of humic fill along with some redeposited subsoil. No finds were recovered from either feature.

**Discussion**

The geophysical anomaly was presumably caused by a piece of iron in the topsoil. The ditch was similar in form and contents to other boundary/drainage ditches found elsewhere on the development area and probably dates from the earlier part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The scoop could well have been formed by organic material accumulating in a hollow formed by the removal of a large stone from the subsoil during land improvements.

**Recommendations for further work**

None: the archaeological features in this trench were found to be of minor importance.



**Trench 56** *Area: 40 sq. m***Description**

The trench was dug over anomaly b in geophysics area R. Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.35m revealing light greyish brown subsoil and two modern stone filled field drains. The feature producing the geophysical anomaly was clearly visible as a strongly cemented patch of subsoil containing a high percentage of iron panning.

**Recommendations for further work**

None: the archaeological features in this trench were found to be of minor importance.

**Trench 57** *Area: 95 sq. m***Description**

Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.4m. The most noticeable feature was a 2m wide ditch (a) running diagonally across the south-eastern end of the trench. Careful cleaning revealed a narrow subcircular slot (b) cut by the ditch (plate 9). The trench was extended in order to trace the continuation of the slot on the other side of the ditch. The full extent of the slot was not revealed but it appeared to form a roughly egg-shaped feature with projected dimensions of 8 x 6m. There were no surviving features on the interior of the area bounded by the slot. The slot was on average 0.25 m wide and 0.03 to 0.06m deep and filled with a firm black humic matrix. A single beach cobble of unusual blood red chert that had been shattered, probably by heat, was recovered from the fill (appendix III). Further features were partially uncovered in the trench just to the north-west of feature b comprising a linear stony feature (c) and a pit containing iron working slag (d). No further investigation was carried out.

**Discussion**

The features in the trench could be described as having a prehistoric character and were certainly not modern. The presence of iron working debris, particularly in an early context, makes this a site of some significance. This site (new site number: 43) should therefore be allocated to Category B (sites of regional or county importance).

**Recommendations for further work**

The extent of the site has yet to be uncovered. The first recommendation would be to extend the area of geophysical survey, as metal working sites are particularly suited to detection by gradiometer survey. Further excavation would also be required to determine the full extent of the site. The slag should also be subjected to specialist analysis. Preservation *in situ* is the preferred option for Category B sites, but if damage or destruction cannot be avoided, complete excavation and recording might be judged to be an acceptable alternative.

**Trench 58** *Area: 40 sq. m***Description**

Topsoil was removed to a maximum depth of 0.4m revealing undisturbed clayey subsoil and bedrock. Occasional pieces of twiggy charcoal were noticed among the soil over the bedrock, which were probably the products of an agricultural bonfire.

**Recommendations for further work**

None: the archaeological findings from this trench were found to be of minor importance.

**Trench 59** *Area: 40 sq. m***Description**

The trench was dug adjacent to the ditch at the far south east of the survey area. Topsoil was removed to a maximum depth 0.4m revealing rather wet clayey subsoil with a single linear feature cut into it. The feature was 1.8m wide and was presumed to be a ditch. It was sectioned and found to be a field drain containing 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

**Recommendations for further work**

None: the archaeological features in this trench were found to be of minor importance.

**Trench 60** *Area: 40 sq. m***Description**

The trench was dug across a slightly raised level area between two rock outcrops. Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.45m revealing natural orange clays. No archaeological features were identified.

**Recommendations for further work**

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

**Trench 61** *Area: 40 sq. m*

**Description**

The trench was dug along the edge of the survey area to the south-west of Trefignath burial chamber. Approximately 0.40m of topsoil was removed revealing orange/brown sandy silt subsoil with two modern land drains and a small circular cut into it. The circular feature was 0.8m in diameter and was half sectioned. It was found to be 0.15m deep with a uniform fill similar to the topsoil and was interpreted as a hole where a stone had been pulled from the subsoil by the plough.

***Recommendations for further work***

None: the archaeological features in this trench were found to be of minor importance.

**Trench 62** *Area: 40 sq. m*

**Description**

Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.35m revealing natural yellow and light grey clay subsoil. Three modern field drains crossed the trench but no other archaeological features were present.

***Recommendations for further work***

None: the archaeological features in this trench were found to be of minor importance.

**Trench 63** *Area: 40 sq. m*

**Description**

Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.45m revealing natural yellow clay and gravels along with bedrock at the south east end of the trench. No archaeological features were identified.

***Recommendations for further work***

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.

**Trench 64** *Area: 40 sq. m*

**Description**

Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.4m revealing natural yellow and grey clay and silts. No archaeological features were identified.

***Recommendations for further work***

None: the trench was archaeologically sterile.



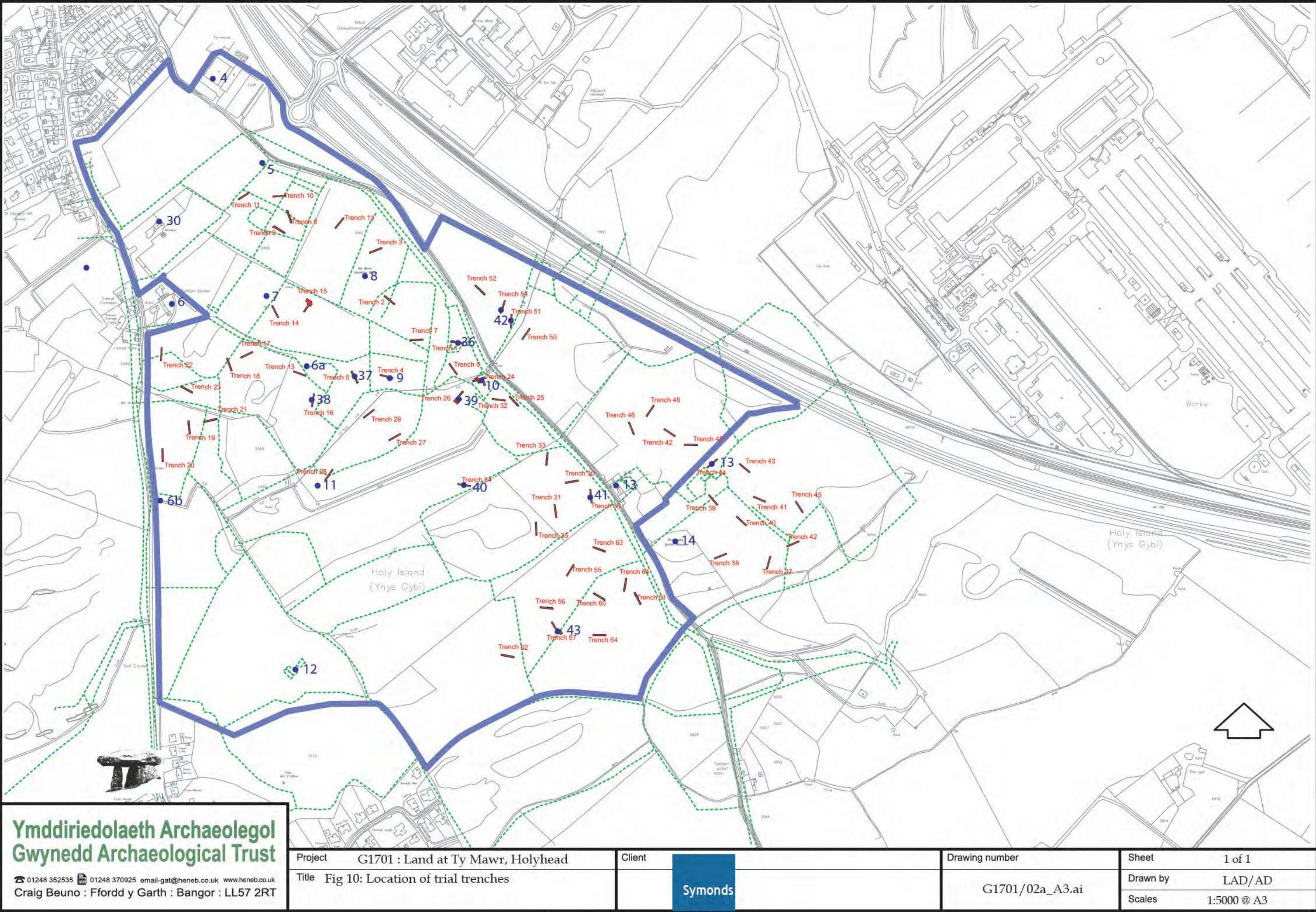
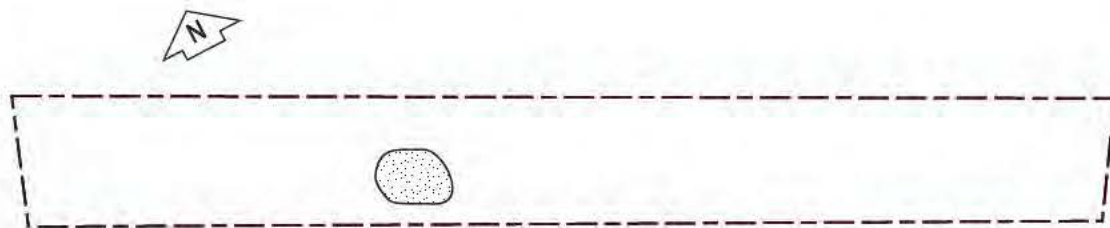
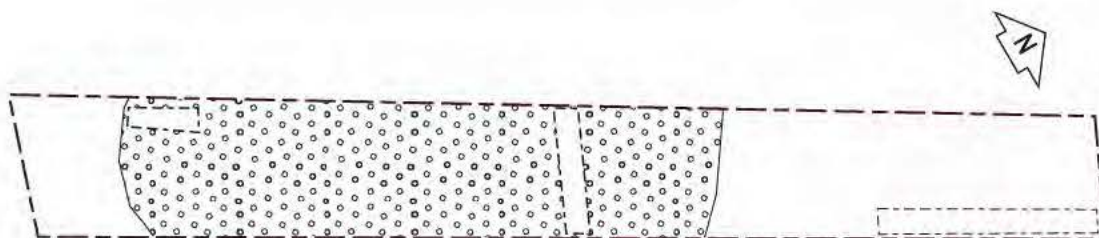


Figure 10: location of trial trenches

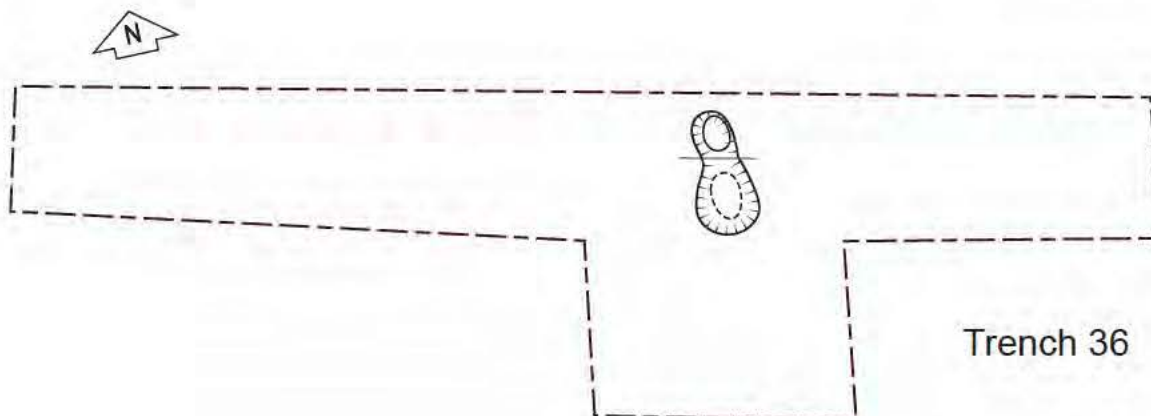




Trench 16



Trench 34



Trench 36



Figure 11

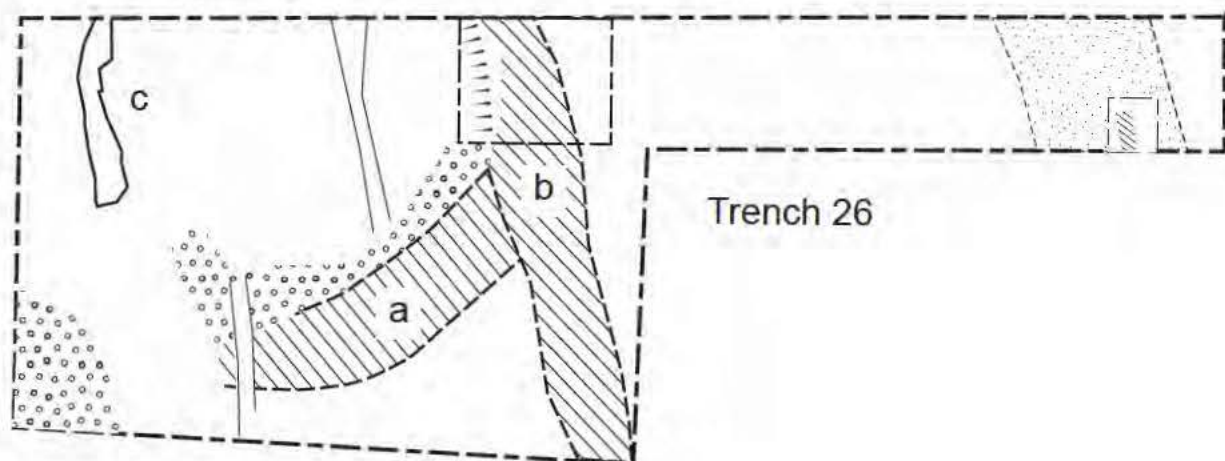
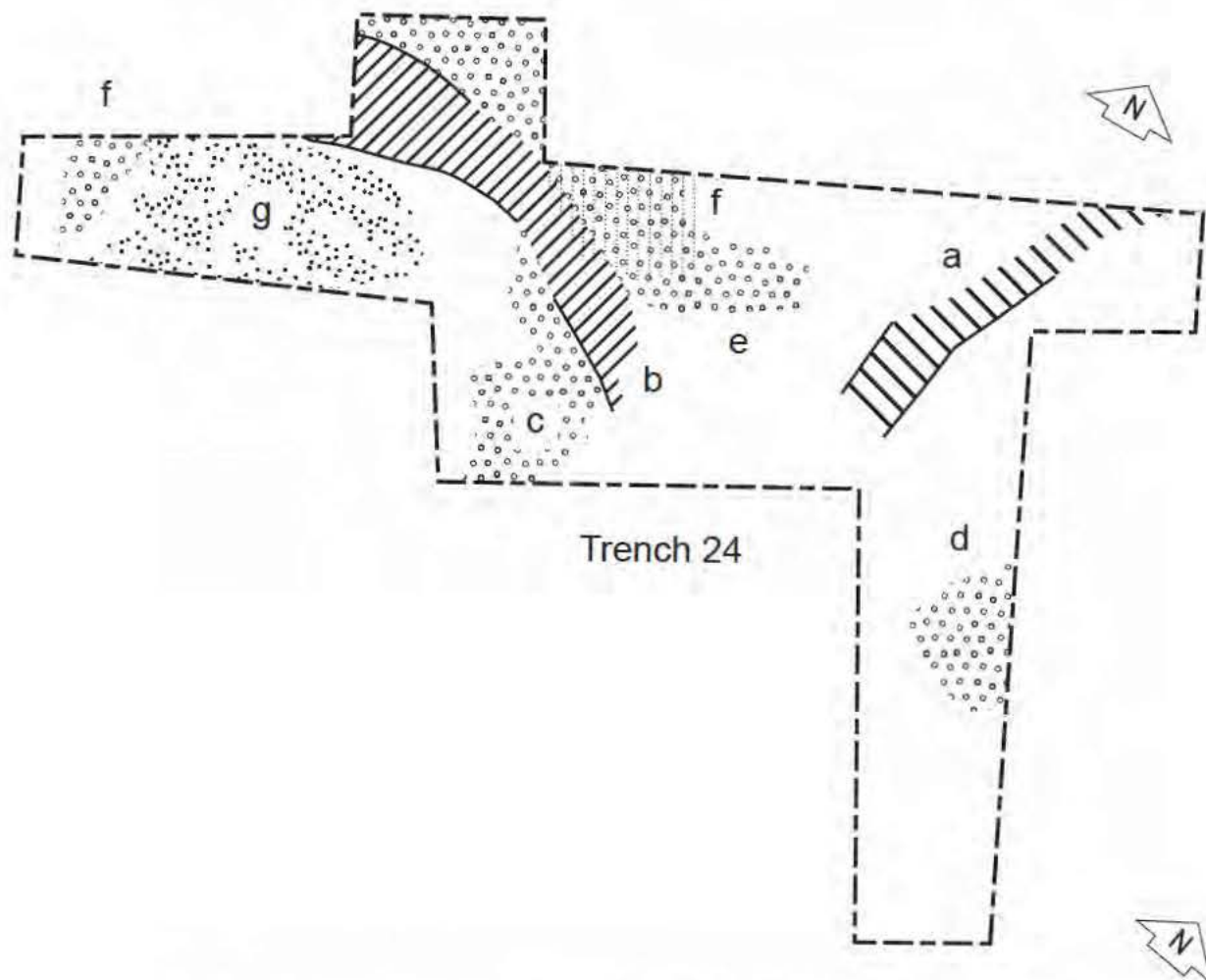
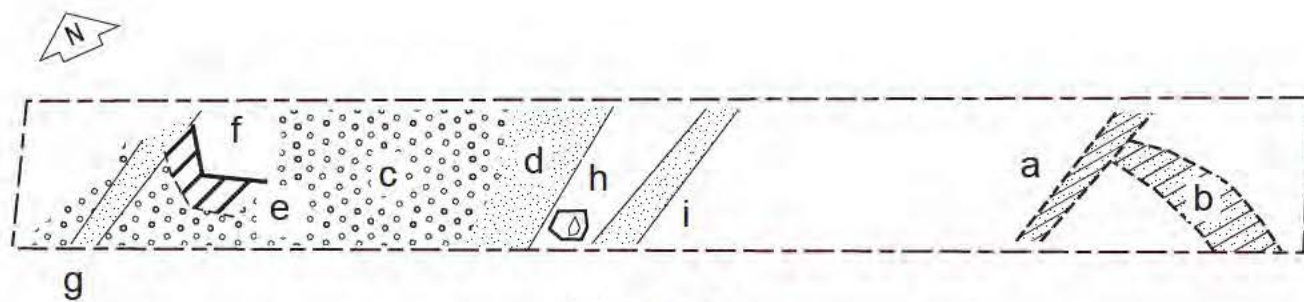
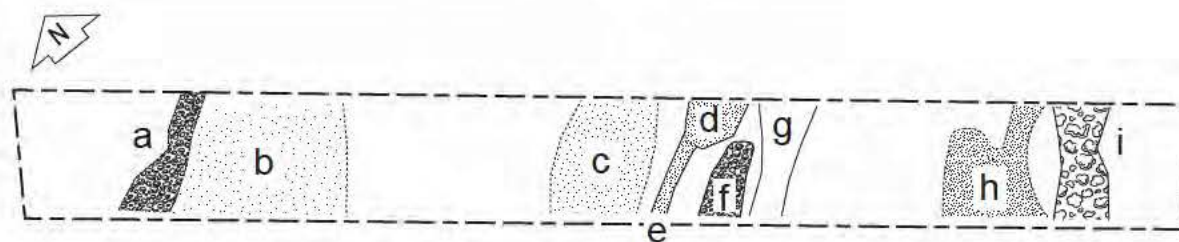


Figure 12

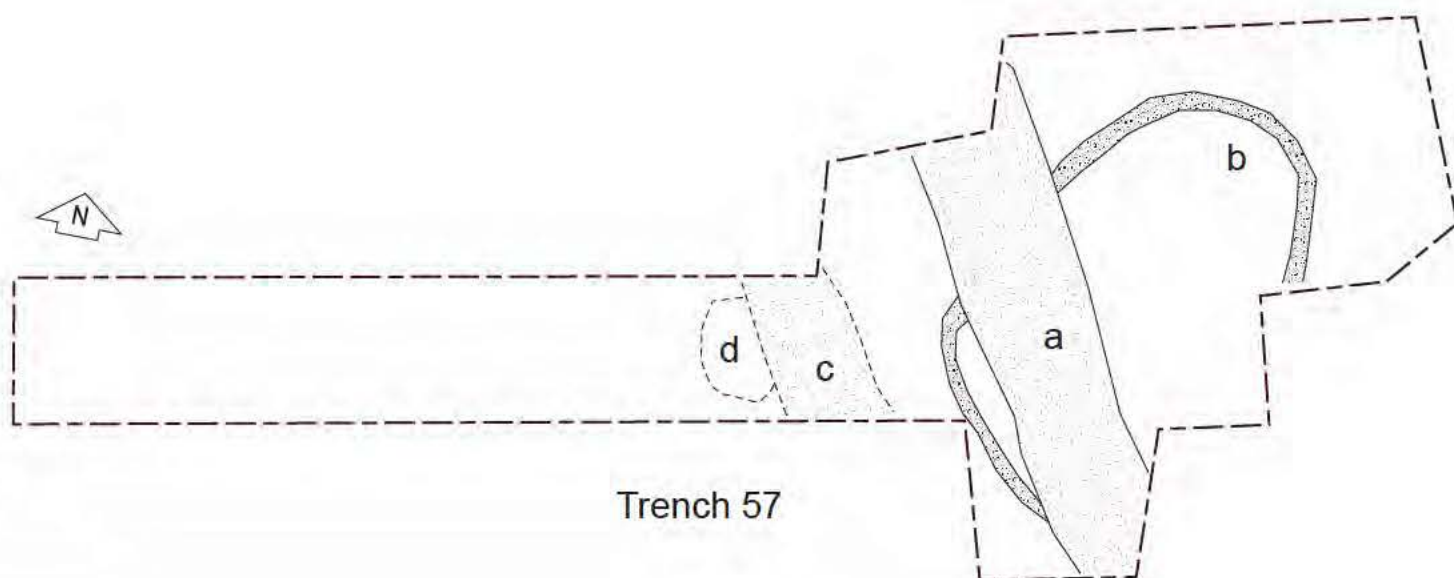




Trench 51



Trench 54



Trench 57



Figure 13



Plate 7: trench 1, wall foundation



Plate 8: trench 4, natural boulder



Plate 9: trench 6, peat deposit



Plate 10: trench 24, wall foundation





Plate 11: trench 26, Romano-British settlement



Plate 12: trench 36, stone setting



Plate 13: trench 51, stone capped drain



Plate 14: trench 54, possible settlement



Plate 15: trench 57, subcircular feature

## APPENDIX V: FINDS REGISTER

### Finds register

Find no.	Trench	Feature no.	Material	Description
001	26	cleaning	ceramic	Rim sherd of probable Roman coarse-ware
002	26	cleaning	ceramic	2 small decorated sherds of Samian ware
003	26	unstratified	iron	2 iron objects and 3 fragments from spoil heap
004	34	cleaning	flint	2 flint flakes
005	34	cleaning	teeth	Several whole and fragmented teeth, horse or cow.
006	36	004	charcoal	Small sample, but with some identifiable pieces
007	36	004	charcoal	Mostly soil and gravel, some charcoal frags.
008	43	003	charcoal	Small sample, but contains large frags of charred wood
009	57	007	charcoal	Fairly large frags of charcoal in soil
010	57	007	slag	Several fragments of iron slag
011	57	007	charcoal	Large frags of charred wood
012	57	003	chert	Red chert pebble, presumably burnt
013	61	cleaning	flint	1 flint flake, 1 thumbnail scraper
014	64	cleaning	flint/chert	1 flint flake, 1 black chert flake
015	57	007	slag	1 piece of slag
016	54	022	ceramic	Rim sherd
017	54	cleaning	ceramic	Burnt clay encrusted with slag, furnace lining?

## APPENDIX VI: REPORT ON FLINT AND CHERT

### Report on flint and chert

by George Smith

#### Trench 34

1. The tip of a small, thick, blade-like flake. 21 x 9. Grey-brown flint.  
A broken core-trimming flake with some recent damage. Probably from a small single-direction core for production of narrow blades.
2. Tip fragment of a thin trimming flake. 15 x 10. Yellow-brown flint.

#### Trench 57, Context 003

Beach cobble, broken probably after light heat treatment. Shattered, not split, so could be accidental. 70 x 63. Unusual blood red chert. Almost certainly an import to the site, not just eroded out of the till. Probably collected and discarded when it was found to be of unworkable material.

#### Trench 61

1. Thin trimming flake. 25 x 13. Grey-brown flint.  
Soft hammer, no platform.
2. Thumbnail scraper. Pebble-backed. 20 x 19. Yellow-brown flint.

#### Trench 64

1. Irregular fragment. Flat scalar fracture. 23 x 22. Grey-brown flint.
2. Thick core-trimming flake. 40 x 30. Black chert.

#### Comment

These all derive from material found locally on the beaches, derived from the glacial till. None of them are closely datable but the lack of better quality imported material, found in the Later Neolithic and Bronze Age in this area, suggests an earlier date. Tr34 no 1 could well be a Later Mesolithic piece but the rest probably belongs with the same period, c. 4<sup>th</sup> millennium BC, as that of the Trefignath chambered tomb, close-by, where beach material, scalar working and thumbnail scrapers were a typical part of the assemblage (Healey 1987).

Healey, E, 1987 Lithic technology. In Smith CA and Lynch FM, *Trefignath and Din Dryfol, the excavation of two megalithic tombs in Anglesey*. Cambrian Archaeological Monographs No. 3, Cardiff, 50-59





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