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# Abbey Lodge, Llys Helyg Drive: **LLANDUDNO**

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## Archaeological Evaluation and Building Recording

GAT Project No. 2140

Report No. 883

August, 2010

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# Archaeological Evaluation and Building Recording: **Abbey Lodge, Llandudno**

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Report No. 883

Prepared for  
Penrhyn Homes

August 2010

By  
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&  
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**ABBEY LODGE, LLYS HELYG DRIVE, LLANDUDNO**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND BUILDING RECORDING**

*Project No. G2140*

**Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Report No. 883**

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## **ABBEY LODGE, LLYS HELYG DRIVE, LLANDUDNO (G2140)**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND BUILDING RECORDING**

#### *Summary*

*An archaeological evaluation and building recording project has been carried out at the Abbey Lodge, Llys Helyg Drive, Llandudno. The Lodge, built shortly after 1894, was formerly the lodge to the Abbey Railway Convalescent Home, and a photographic and descriptive record of the building was made in advance of its demolition. The building was approximately 6.8m square and of two stories built around a central chimney stack. It was built of rubble masonry covered in render. It had a stuccoed exterior with mock quoins around the doorways and window openings, a hipped cross-gable with elaborate fretwork barge boards decorated with trefoils and supported on corbels. A large 1960s single storey extension was added to the west side of the building. The roof was slated with terracotta ridge tiles and most of the original four-pane sash windows had been replaced by uPVC windows.*

*An archaeological evaluation was carried out within the grounds of Abbey Lodge on land which formerly formed part of the estate of the Bishop's of Bangor, and which lies adjacent to the ruins of the former Bishop's Palace at Gogarth, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM CO93). The evaluation involved the initial excavation of five trenches lying east-west across the seaward terraced end of the development plot. This layout was modified as archaeology was uncovered, with cross-trenches excavated between trenches 1 and 2, and further supplemented with a long trench along the east perimeter boundary.*

*Within trench 1 the footings of a stone wall was found running parallel to the coast edge. The footings were most clearly defined within the eastern part of the trench. Within the western part of the trench a stone platform was defined. This lacked the clear defined edges of the wall, though the stonework may incorporate remains of a wall within it. The wall and stone platform lie at a depth of 0.5m below the present ground surface. The wall has a similar appearance to the medieval walls excavated on the palace site, and it is possible it forms part of the perimeter wall which defined the precinct of the palace.*

*Overlying the wall and adjoining masonry was a layer of sand/silt soil which contained limestone rubble blocks, some of significant size (approx. 600mm long). This layer is interpreted as a demolition layer. They may have been associated with part of the medieval palace, which possibly included a tithe barn mentioned in an 18<sup>th</sup> century schedule. Further evidence for masonry structures was identified in Trench 6.*

*Further north, away from the coast, there was less surviving evidence for masonry structures, though there were pits cut into the ground noted in trenches 3 and 4. No finds other than animal bone and sea shell were made from these, and it is not presently possible to date them.*

*A watching brief was carried out during the initial construction phase of the project, although no new archaeological features were identified. This ensured the preservation in situ of the masonry features.*

#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust was asked by Penrhyn Homes to carry out an archaeological programme of work at Abbey Lodge to include a building record in advance of demolition of the Lodge, and an archaeological evaluation within the grounds of the Lodge. The evaluation was to consist of five parallel trenches aligned north-west to south-east on level ground at the south-west end of the development plot. The site is located at NGR SH 761828 on the west side of the Great Orme and adjacent to Gogarth, where the Bishops of Bangor had their palace in medieval times (Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) Ref: CO93).

The project was undertaken in response to a planning condition which stated 'No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, including a full photographic record to be made of the building before any demolition works are carried out and a watching brief be carried out during construction works, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant

and agreed in writing by the local planning authority. The development thereafter shall be carried out strictly in accordance with that approved scheme' (Conwy County Borough Council, Application No. 0/31416). The discovery of archaeological remains within the evaluation trenches at the Abbey Lodge resulted in the production of a revised design in July 2010, with the aim of mitigating the impact of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource by redesigning the drainage system.

An Archaeological Assessment was undertaken of a larger area in 2004 (Dyfed Archaeology Trust 2004, Report 2004/48, Evans 2008), which included the remains of the medieval Bishop's Palace which lies to the west of Abbey Lodge and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. An Archaeological Assessment was undertaken of the Monks Barn, which lies to the south-west of the current site, in 2001 (Kenney 2001).

## **1.1 Acknowledgements**

The assistance of Ashley Batten of Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS) with this project is gratefully acknowledged by the authors of this report. Penrhyn Homes are thanked for their help and assistance throughout the project.

## **2.0 METHODS AND TECHNIQUES**

### **2.1 Introduction**

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust was invited by Penrhyn Homes to undertake the archaeological building survey work and archaeological evaluation at the Abbey Lodge, Llandudno. The Brief provided by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service requested an archaeological record (English Heritage 2006; Level 2) of the Abbey Lodge Building, and an archaeological evaluation of the grounds of the lodge. GAPS continued to monitor progress of the project to ensure the planning condition was fulfilled.

### **2.2 Building Recording**

The requirements were for an archaeological building record of Abbey Lodge to be undertaken prior to the start of any demolition works. This was to consist of a building record commensurate with the English Heritage '*Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*' (2006) Level 2 and was to include a written account to discuss the structure's significance, origins, development and use. A basic site plan has been drawn to aid interpretation and allow the location of photographs to be clearly indicated. A full photographic record has been undertaken of all features, room spaces and elevations to illustrate the building's appearance and structure and to support the historical analysis.

### **2.3 Field evaluation**

All trenches were initially opened by a 1.5 tonne 360° tracked excavator with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket, which was undertaken under direct archaeological supervision. This is with the exception of Trench 6, which was archaeologically examined under watching brief conditions during the development process.

All undifferentiated topsoil or overburden of recent origin was removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon, in successive, level spits. Following machine clearance, all faces of the trench that required examination or recording was cleaned using hand tools. All investigation of archaeological levels was by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and section undertaken.

### **2.4 Field Recording Techniques**

The six trenches were planned in relation to the whole site using a Total Station Theodolite (TST) survey, and a plan at a scale of 1:20 and a section was drawn showing the stratigraphy of the deposits and significant features with each of the trenches.

Each distinct layer or evidence of archaeological activity was given its own unique context number and a descriptive record made, and these are referred to throughout the discussion of the results below in

brackets. Their relationships to each other were shown on the scale drawings and a photographic record was maintained.

Following the completion of the field work, the data was processed, final illustrations compiled and this report produced which details and synthesizes the results.

This report includes:

- Introductory statements
- Aims and objectives
- Methodology
- Results
- Conclusions and recommendations
- Archive location
- Appendices
- Illustrations
- References and bibliography

This report conforms to the guidelines specified in *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IFA 1994, rev. 2008), covering the archaeological evaluation phase of the project.

### **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION RESULTS**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

The initial project design of May 2010, agreed by GAPS, required Gwynedd Archaeological Trust to carry out an archaeological evaluation within the grounds of Abbey Lodge, consisting of five north-west south-east parallel trenches on the reasonable level ground to the south west of the development plot (Trenches 1-5, Fig. 2, Plate 1). Some slight changes to the layout of the trenches to reflect the location of archaeology discovered during the evaluation resulted in the excavation of 5m long cross trenches (1a and 1b) between trenches 1 and 2, and the slight reduction of the length of Trenches 4 and 5 to compensate for this. Archaeological remains within Trench 6, running north-east to south-west along the north-eastern edge of the plot were excavated under watching brief conditions as part of the revised project design of July 2010 (Appendix 2). The trenches are numbered 1 to 6, starting with the most southerly near the coast edge and moving northwards (Fig. 2). A watching brief was also maintained during the initial construction phase of the building work in order to ensure that remains identified during the archaeological evaluation were preserved *in situ*.

#### **3.2 The Trenches (Fig. 2)**

##### *3.2.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 3, Plates 2-4)*

The excavated trench was 19.2m long and about 1.7m wide. Wind blown sand (101) was noted below the turf line which extended to a depth of up to 0.2m. At the east end of the trench there was a patch of Macadamised path (103), 0.08m thick. This overlay an extensive mid greyish brown sandy silt soil (104), containing demolition rubble, which was 0.35m thick in places. This overlay probable wall foundations (105), containing angular rubble limestone blocks up to 0.7m by 0.5m, and extending 5.4m at the eastern end of the trench (Plate 1). Beyond the wall to the north west and abutted against it, a rubble spread or platform (107) was noted. The walls (105) and platform (107) were set on a soft mid greyish brown colluvial silt (106). The natural geological deposits were not observed in this trench.

##### 3.2.1.1 Trench 1a

Trench 1a was placed upslope at right angles to Trench 1, 2.1m west of its eastern end, in order to examine the width of the stone wall feature (105). The trench, 5m long, linked trenches 1 and 2. The stratigraphy was as noted in Trench 1; the north-east side of the wall (105) was located, and the width of the wall found to be 1.4m. The overlying rubble spread (104) was noted to extend further north-east into Trench 2 (Plate 4). The rubble spread was of a substantial nature, containing blocks up to 0.9m by



0.6m, and a substantial quantity of roofing slates. To the north-east of the wall foundations the rubble layer was found to overlie the colluvial silt (106) (Plate 3).

### 3.2.1.2 Trench 1b

Trench 1b was placed upslope at right angles to Trench 1, and linked trenches 1 and 2 (fig. 2). Below 0.18m of topsoil and wind blown sand was 0.45m of demolition layer (104) which overlay the colluvial layer (106). Variations within the layer of colluvium are thought to represent plough marks, indicating cultivation of the soil prior to the establishment of the demolition layer (104).

### 3.2.1.3 Interpretation of Trenches 1, 1a and 1b

Within trench 1 the footings of a stone wall were found running parallel to the coast edge (105). The footings were most clearly defined within the eastern part of the trench. The wall, 1.4 m wide, survives only for a single course of about 0.3m in height and runs for 7.6m along the eastern end of the trench. The wall is faced with stone blocks and has a rubble core. Within the western part of the trench a stone platform was defined (107). This lacked the clear defined edges of the wall, though the stonework may incorporate remains of a wall within it. The wall and stone platform lie at a depth of 0.5m below the present ground surface. The wall has a similar appearance to the medieval walls excavated on the palace site (Hague 1956; Davidson 2001), and it is likely that it forms part of the perimeter wall which defined the precinct of the palace, or a tithe barn. In later documentation there is mentioned 'ye enclosure of which there are some remains of ye walls' (NLW ECE/EL/B356, in Evans (2008) p.31), referred to in a memorandum of the Bishop of Bangor dated 21<sup>st</sup> February 1739/40, whilst also mentioned is a tithe barn located on the east side of the enclosure (Evans 2004, 23). This relationship is shown on Fig. 11.

Overlying the wall and adjoining masonry was a layer of sand/silt soil (104) which contained limestone rubble blocks (105), some of significant size (approx. 600mm long). This layer is interpreted as a demolition layer. The source of the masonry blocks cannot be identified with any certainty, though their substantial size suggests they were once part of a building since demolished, possibly the tithe barn mentioned in the 1741 schedule (*ibid.*) (Fig. 11).

The walls were set on a dark sandy silt (106), which has been interpreted as colluvial silt, probably the result of centuries of hill wash down the western slopes of the Great Orme. Deposit (106) is of similar character to that in which the medieval features of the Bishop's Palace were cut (Davidson 2001, Hague 1956) so if these deposits are the same they must pre-date or be contemporary with the construction of the palace.

### 3.2.2 Trench 2(Plate 5)

Below a garden soil 0.05m thick (201) the Tar macadam path (202=103) was noted. This overlay a grey silty loam layer (203). This overlay a deposit of orange brown clay and stones (205), 0.3m thick, in the area between trenches 1a and 1b. This deposit overlay the demolition layer (204=104) which was confined to the area either side of Trench 1a with the trench becoming cleaner to the north-west. This was above the colluvial silt (206=106), which had stones within the matrix in places (208). The trench excavation stopped at a depth of 1.25m in the soft colluvium (206).

### 3.2.2.1 Interpretation of Trench 2

The limited extent of the spread of the demolition deposit (204) to the west of the trench, along with the lack of masonry foundations suggests that the demolished building represented by the rubble was limited to the eastern end of the plot. The build up of deposits noted probably represents phases of agricultural activity within the area as well as a phase of building demolition (203 and 205). The area of colluvial build up (206) extended beyond Trench 2 to the north.

### 3.2.3 Trench 3 (Fig.4, Plate 6)

Trench 3 consisted of 0.2m of garden soil (301) overlying a subsoil of dark brown sandy silt with stones (302), 0.3 to 0.4m thick, which in turn overlay a dark grey sandy silt with a large amount of stones (303), which overlay a brown silt and stone layer (307) at the north end of the trench. This in

turn overlay a natural glacial orangey buff stone sand and gravel (304), with the colluvial deposit not being encountered. Two features were noted cut into the glacial soil [305] and [308]. Pit [305] was 1.5m wide and 0.6m deep and was wider than the trench on both sides, and therefore could be a large pit or possibly ditch (Plate 7). It had irregular sides, with a large natural stone present on the south edge. The fine silt and stony fill of this (306) contained a significant quantity of animal bone, within a very high proportion of stones 80%. A shallow pit [308], 0.8m across and up to 0.2m deep had a very fine grey silt fill (309) containing limpet shells and small mammal bones.

#### 3.2.3.1 Interpretation of Trench 3

Two pits [305] and [309] cut into the glacial deposits contained animal bone and shells and appear to be rubbish pits containing food waste. The absence of diagnostic finds from within their fill means that they cannot be dated at this time. The absence of colluvial silting noted in Trenches 1 and 2 indicates that the build up of this deposit did not extend this far upslope to the north.

#### *3.2.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 5, Plate 8)*

Trench 4 was 18m long by 1.8m wide and consisted of about 0.2m of topsoil (401) overlying a pale greyish brown stony silt subsoil (402) up to 0.4m deep, which overlay a layer of mussel and limpet shells (403), extending from 2m from the south-east end of the trench for approximately 8m to the north-west. Shells from this deposit appear to have slipped down the slope and have been noted in Trenches 1-3. The shelly deposit overlay a light orange brown glacial gravel (404). Into this deposit were cut two small pits [406] and [408] at the south western end of the trench. Both pits were located on the southern side of the trench and approximately half of them were visible in the trench, although [406] extended across most of the width of it. Pit [406] was about 0.88m in diameter and 0.27m deep with smooth sides and a sharp break of slope to a concave base (Plate 9). The fill of this pit (407) was a light grey fine sandy silt, but no finds were recovered from it. Pit [408], 0.95m to the west of [406], was smaller with a probable diameter of about 0.5m, although the amount of this pit seen in the trench makes this somewhat uncertain. It had a depth of about 0.15m and was filled with a light greyish brown sandy silt fill with a significant quantity of small rounded stones and pebbles (409).

#### 3.2.4.1 Interpretation of Trench 4

Below an overburden containing a number of layers of build-up deposit, two pits [406] and [408] were cut into the glacial deposits, which are of uncertain date, as no deposits were found within them. They clearly represent evidence of past human activity, but cannot be directly related to the probable medieval activity and later noted in Trenches 1 and 1a. They possibly may be contemporary with the pits found in Trench 3, owing to their similar character, but this cannot be proved at the present time.

#### *3.2.5 Trench 5 (Plate 10)*

Trench 5 was located about 3.8m below the main break of slope across the property, and was 17m by 1.6m wide. The light orangey buff sandy clay and gravel natural (503) was noted at a maximum depth 0.75m below the present ground surface, but only 0.35m at the south-east end, the shallowest of all the trenches dug. This was overlain by up to 0.2m of topsoil (501) and 0.5m of a stoney silt subsoil (502). A small pit [504], 0.3m in diameter was cut into the natural soil 6m from the south east end of the trench. This contained a grey fine silt fill (505) with stones packed within it (506).

#### 3.2.5.1 Interpretation of Trench 5

The relative shallowness of the overburden deposits in this trench provides further evidence for the greater build up of deposits further down the slope towards the sea, suggesting colluvial activity. The small pit [504] would appear to be a recent feature cut into the ground, associated with gardening activity, and backfilled with some stones.

#### *3.2.6 Trench 6 (Fig. 6)*

The excavated service trench was approximately 40.14m in length, and a maximum of 0.8m in depth (see plate 11), however this was determined by the contractor and not any particular interface between deposits. The width of the trench, and thus the width of any exposed strata, measured a maximum of

0.62m. The topsoil (606) was a loose, dark grey-brown deposit with occasional small, sub-rounded cobbles and approximately 0.35m in depth. This lay directly above ploughsoil (605) which was a fairly loose, mid to light red-brown silt-clay with occasional small sub-rounded cobble inclusions measuring 0.1m in depth. Towards the centre of the trench, a small spread of large and medium sized rounded cobbles (601) was found which lay beneath the plough soil (Figs. 6-7). This deposit was orientated southeast to northwest and measured 1.2m in length, at least 0.8m in width, and 0.3m in depth (Plate 13). The stones were bonded by a soft and very dark-brown clay-silt. These cobbles had no clear form or facing, but did show clear signs of having partially tumbled to the north. The spread lay above a stoney orange sand-silt deposit (604) on its northern side which appeared to have been a relict soil deposit of unknown antiquity, spreading through the entire length of the trench. This deposit was overlain to the south by two very similar grey-brown sand-silt deposits (608, 609), which the stone spread (601) also overlaid. These deposits appear to represent an old ground surface, and produced a collection of degraded limpet and cockle shells from beneath the stone spread.

At the south end of the trench a linear wall (602) was partially uncovered, running from east to west (Fig. 8-9; Plates 11-12). This wall was constructed from medium sized sub-angular cobbles bonded together with a dark-brown silt-clay. The wall measured at least 0.82m in length, and was 1.0m in width, and 0.55m in height. This wall lay beneath the plough soil deposit (605), and butted up against a very large upright stone slab (603) to the south. This stone measured approximately 0.4m in length, 0.34m in width, and at least 1.05m in height. It was first believed that this stone was simply a very large block incorporated into the construction of wall (602), however upon further investigation it became clear that this stone was actually within a stoney orange sand-silt deposit (604) which lay beneath the wall. The stone did not appear to be within a cut, although it is not clear whether it had sunk slightly into deposit 604 due to its weight. It is clear however that the stone had been erected prior to the wall (602) having been constructed around it. On the southern side of the upright stone was a deposit of tumble material (607) from wall (602).

#### 3.2.6.1 Interpretation of Trench 6

It is not clear what the stone spread (601) represents. When it was first uncovered, it was believed to be a wall; however the lack of any real form or facing to the spread suggests that it was not structural. Furthermore, despite it being orientated southwest to northeast it was not seen within trench two, which was located to the southwest. The nature of the spread suggests that this feature was a clearance cairn, perhaps occurring as the result of field clearance at the base of the Orme.

The stone wall (602) was built against the upright stone (603). It was not possible to ascertain if the two were contemporary or if the wall made use of a pre-existing upright stone. The character of the wall was different to that exposed in Trench 1 (it did not have the same facing stones of large blocks) however only a small section was exposed, and it may be that the two were linked, perhaps as part of the perimeter wall, though current evidence suggests this is doubtful (Fig. 11). They would appear to post date the Bishop's Palace Precinct.

### **3.3 Results of the Excavation Trenching**

Within trench 1 the footings of a stone wall were found running parallel to the coast edge. The footings were most clearly defined within the eastern part of the trench. Within the western part of the trench a stone platform was defined. This lacked the clear defined edges of the wall, though the stonework may incorporate remains of a wall within it. The wall and stone platform lie at a depth of 0.5m below the present ground surface. The wall has a similar appearance to the medieval walls excavated on the palace site, and it is possible it forms part of the perimeter wall which defined the precinct of the palace. These remains may be linked to a stone wall (601) found at the south end of trench 6.

Overlying the wall and adjoining masonry was a layer of sand/silt soil (104) which contained limestone rubble blocks, some of significant size (approx. 600mm long), and roofing slates. This layer is interpreted as a demolition layer. The source of the masonry blocks cannot be identified with any certainty. They may have been associated with part of the medieval palace, which may have included a tithe barn mentioned in an 18<sup>th</sup> century schedule.

Further north, away from the coast, there was no further evidence for masonry structures, though there were pits cut into the ground noted in trenches 3 and 4. Bone and some shell material were recovered from these features.

### 3.4 Watching Brief

A watching brief was carried out during the initial building construction phase in late August 2010 in order to ensure that the archaeological remains identified during the evaluation were preserved *in situ*. This involved monitoring the re-burial of an exposed section of wall (602). No additional archaeological features were identified during this phase.

## 4.0 FINDS

### 4.1 Table of Finds

Description	Material	Context	Quantity	Date
<b>CONTEXT 104</b>				
Pottery	Clay	104	2	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> cent.
Nail	Iron	104	1	Pre-industrial
Roof slate	Slate	104	1	Pre-industrial
<b>CONTEXT 305</b>				
Bone and shell		305	1 large finds bag	Unknown
<b>CONTEXT 309</b>				
Bone and Shell		309	1 small finds bag	Unknown

### 4.2 Discussion

The context of probable demolition material (104) contained a glazed pottery sherd with part of the handle surviving. This was probably from a glazed mug of late 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century date. A hand forged nail of pre-industrial date was noted, along with roof slates. The nail and roof slate found seem to form part of the demolition rubble from a building, possibly the barn referred to in the 1741 schedule (Evans 2004, 23), and the pottery fragment probably dates from the time of the demolition of the building.

The bone and shell from contexts (305) and (309) come from discrete features, probably pits, located within Trench 3. The pits have not currently been dated, but the bones within them show evidence of butchery and they would appear to be food refuse pits. No other dateable material was recovered from the pits.

## 5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

### 5.1 Introduction

The works are sited at NGR SH 761828 on a terrace within the grounds of Abbey Lodge, and on the west side of the Great Orme and adjacent to Gogarth, the site of the medieval palace of the Bishops of Bangor, at a height of approximately 20m OD.

#### 5.1.1 Topography

Gogarth terrace is about 100m wide, and lies to the west of the foot of the steep slopes of the Great Orme, which rises to a height of over 200m. The terrace is formed from a thick layer of glacial till which overlies Lower Carboniferous limestone rock (Davidson 1999). The Great Orme promontory is covered in a thin deposit of glacial till most of which has been removed by marine action around the headlands, but around Gogarth this process is still ongoing, and it has meant that the coastal terrace on which the development sits is very fertile.

## 5.2 Prehistoric and Roman

The area that was to become the manor of Gogarth was intensively occupied in prehistoric times, probably associated with the substantial copper mining activity on the Great Orme. Excavation was carried out in the vicinity in 1939, when a possible hut floor was found, indeed the 'terraces at Gogarth were probably hut-sites, and shell layers [such as those found during the archaeological evaluation] may have been floors, laid down for drainage' (Davies 1948, 61-66). The excavator considered that the terraces might have represented the upper edge of settlement. A Bronze axe was found just northwest of the Bishop's Palace (Gwynedd HER PRN 4590).

## 5.3 Medieval

The earliest references to the area refer to the 'Dark Age palace of Llys Helig' (Aris 1996), and suggest that the fertile Gogarth terrace may have 'had some role as part of the food producing lands which victualled the royal court in the era of the Welsh princes (*ibid*, 20). It has also been suggested that there may have been some form of early religious foundation in the area. If this is so, it may explain the 'large quantities of human bones' found in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (Hall 1811, 54). At this time the terrace was probably considerably larger than it is today and a substantial amount of land may have been lost to erosion since that time. The remnants of strip fields shown on the 1840's tithe map suggest it was intensively cultivated in medieval times.

The land associated with Abbey Lodge formerly formed part of the garden of The Old Abbey, a house built following the sale of the land by the church in 1894. This land incorporated the remains of the medieval Bishop's Palace at Gogarth. The Palace was built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and formed, with their palace at Bangor, one of the Bishop's two official residences. The ruins of the palace lie 50m to the north-west, and are in two blocks (Hague 1956). The earlier block (called Block A following its partial excavation in the 1950's) lies on the coast edge, and has largely fallen into the sea, though one wall remains standing. Block B is a suite of rooms, including hall and ancillary structures lying further from the coast edge. Block A was destroyed by fire, possibly c. 1400. The site appears to have been abandoned c. 1500, at about the time a new residence for the Bishops was being built in Bangor (see Berks *et al*, Davidson 2001 and Hague 1956 for further details of the history and former archaeology of the palace site).

## 5.4 Post-Medieval

Leyland writing in the 16<sup>th</sup> century said that the Bishop's Palace was in ruins (in Hughes and North 1924, 32), indicating that it had already fallen considerably into decay by then. From about 1550 until the 19<sup>th</sup> century the manor was leased from the Bishop of Bangor by the Mostyn family, with a short interruption between 1650 and 1660, when the manor was sequestered and sold to Col. John Jones of Maesygarneidd for £322 4s 3d (NLW Thorne MSS 271), but it was restored with other church lands at the restoration, and again leased to the Mostyn family

## 5.5 Early-Modern/Modern

A map dated 1741 (NLW ECE/EL/B66,029ii; reproduced in Evans 2004, fig 4) shows the grounds enclosing the palace remains divided into two fields (labelled B9 and B10). The origin of these plots is unknown, but given that these two plots continued to be held by the church in distinction to the surrounding lands which were leased to the Mostyn Estate, it is possible they represent some reflection of the original area which was occupied by the precinct of the palace. A schedule of lands dated 1741 describes the plot B9, which includes the garden of Abbey Lodge, as 'Garth y Twr with the ruin of ye Abbey also a Barn at ye East end'. The location of the barn 'at ye east end' is not known, though Abbey Lodge garden lies at the east side of plot B9. The 1741 map does not show the location of the tithe barn. The available maps show no development within the present Abbey Lodge grounds until the construction of the lodge following the sale of the land by the church in 1894. To the south-east, however, in the grounds of Monks Barn, and on land leased to the Mostyn Estate, a farm developed at least as early as the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century.

## 6.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING OF THE ABBEY LODGE

### 6.1 Introduction

The Lodge to the former Abbey Railway Convalescent Home is situated at the south-east end of its drive at its junction with Llys Helyg Drive, and was formerly associated with it, located at NGR SH 76168291. It was built as the lodge to a large house soon after the Church Commissioners sold the land in 1894. It has for a number of years been detached from it forming a property of its own, with a substantial garden leading down to the sea (Fig. 1).

### 6.2 Building Description (Fig. 10)

#### 6.2.1 External Description

The Abbey Lodge was originally a two-storey (basement and ground floor) square building built around a central chimney stack, about 6.8m square, with a large single storey extension (Plate 14). The building is built into a slope, so that principal access from the road was into first-floor level, whilst ground-floor or basement level entry was from the garden below. The walls are of rubble masonry construction, stuccoed, with mock quoins around the doorways and window openings. A hipped cross-gable with elaborate pediment on two corbels has a semi-circular attic sash light, with mock quoins and carved barge boards with trefoils in fretwork (Plate 16). Most of the four pane horned sash windows have been replaced by modern uPVC casement windows (Plate 21). One of the rear lights has been replaced by a large bay window, of probable 1960s date (Plate 20). Two original four-pane sash windows survive either side of the rear door with steps leading down to a modern garden level extension to the west. The building is 5.6m high to the top of the pediment on the street frontage, and over 8m high on the garden side owing to the slope (Plate 31).

The building was decaying significantly at the time of the survey, and some elements of the construction technique were visible. Evidence for cast iron lintels were noted above the front window openings was noted.

#### 6.2.2 Internal Description

The building consisted of 9 rooms with an attic and these will be discussed in turn (Fig. 10). Four of these rooms were on the ground floor (Rooms 1-4), and a further five at basement level, in the space allowed since the ground slopes away significantly to the south. This resulted in a somewhat stepped internal ground level, with exposed bedrock in the basement. The attic space was not accessible, as the entrance hatch was blocked but could be observed to be of low pitch and consist of common rafters, with slates attached to softwood battens.

Some light fittings made of bakelite were noted, which may have dated from before the Second World War. Some early internal wallpapering (Plate 29) and painted wall surfaces (Plate 30) were also noted, which may form part of the initial decorative scheme of the building.

##### 6.2.2.1 Room 1 (Plate 17)

A hallway which is opened on to directly from the front door, with a stairway to the basement immediately on the right as the room is entered. The room is 4.6m by 4.2m and 2.8m high. A panelled door to the front parlour (room 2) is on the immediate left, and also to Room 3 to the rear. The central chimney stack has a 1930s tiled fireplace inserted. The room had been recently converted to a kitchen, with a chipboard unit with chrome sink. An original store cupboard survived between the stairs to the lower ground floor and the northern wall, of 2m by 0.55m, and also a cupboard adjacent to the central chimney.

##### 6.2.2.2 Room 2

This room is probably best interpreted as the front parlour. It has dimensions of 3.7m by 3.2m and has a height of 2.8m. An original late 19<sup>th</sup> century fireplace survived to the rear of the main fireplace noted in room 1 (Plate 18). A modern sink unit has been added between the fireplace and the panelled door, otherwise no architectural details noted, except some surviving coat hooks to the right of the doorway.

### 6.2.2.3 Room 3

This room to the rear of the building was entered by a panelled door from the hallway (Room 1). The dimensions of the room were 4.5m by 4m with a height of 2.8m. A modern bay window was added to the building to the south, of double-glazed uPVC construction. Damage to the internal non load-bearing walls showed them to have been of post and lath construction (plate 20). No other features of note were observed.

### 6.2.2.4 Room 4 (Plate 21)

Room 4, 4m square and 2.8m high, was entered via a panelled door along a short corridor from room 1. The corridor is bounded by tongue and groove wooden panelling. No architectural features were noted to survive, apart from the door and skirting boards.

### 6.2.2.5 Room 5

Room 5, 7.2m long by 3m wide and 2.8m high, although the height was less on the northern side of the building, was entered from stairs of late 19<sup>th</sup> century date leading down into the basement with a half turn (Plate 22). The original four pane sash window to the rear is original to the building. A five shelf laundry cupboard and low table were present (Plate 23), which may also date from the construction of the building. The doorway to the modern extension (room 9) and also to rooms 6-8 were modern insertions.

### 6.2.2.6 Room 6

Room 6, 4m by 2.6m and 2.8m high was accessed by a modern softwood doorway on the western side of the room, and ascends 0.8m by way of a large step (Plate 24). A wooden tongue and grooved partition divided it from the bathroom (room 7) and a cupboard (room 8) to the south. The room formed a kind of cellar, and a coal-hole was noted on the north wall. A substantial internal buttress wall was also set against the eastern side of the room. This arrangement appears required due to building over the original bedrock, which was built upon bedrock. There were no light openings, and the room is believed to have functioned as a form of cellar.

### 6.2.2.7 Room 7

A bathroom 2.4m by 2.3m and 2.8m high, was located of the corridor area (room 8) in the north-east corner of the building. It was tiled in six inch white tiles to waist level, with the bathroom fittings of 1930s style, with high level cistern to the water closet, and a bath of white enamel (Plate 25). The bathroom window was one of the two surviving four pane horned sash windows.

### 6.2.2.8 Room 8

Room 8 was an 'L' shaped corridor 3.5m north south and 2.3m east west at the southern end of the room, with the base of the 'L' 1m wide. The room was 2.8m high, and led to the rear door of the property to the south (Plate 27). The wooden partitions in this area were probably some time after the building was built, to provide for an internal bathroom, possibly during the 1930s. The partitions were used to form a cupboard against the east wall of the building (Plate 26).

### 6.2.2.9 Room 9

A rendered breeze blocks extension to the west of the building 4m by 3.5m and 2.4m high, entered from room 5 via a modern door. The room is devoid of all architectural features (Plate 28).

## **7.0 CONCLUSION**

### **7.1 Archaeological Evaluation**

Five trenches were excavated within the level area on the level area at the seaward end of the garden associated with the old Abbey Lodge, east of the former medieval Bishop's Palace at Gogarth. A sixth

trench was excavated under watching brief conditions. Within Trench 1 the footings of a stone wall was found running parallel to the coast edge (105). The footings were most clearly defined within the eastern part of the trench. Within the western part of the trench a stone platform was defined. This lacked the clear defined edges of the wall, though the stonework may incorporate remains of a wall within it. The wall and stone platform lie at a depth of 0.5m below the present ground surface. The wall has a similar appearance to the medieval walls excavated on the palace site, and it is possible it forms part of the perimeter wall which defined the precinct of the palace, or the footings of a barn. Within trench 6 further possible walls or surfaces were observed, possibly associated with the Bishop's Palace or later archaeological activity.

Overlying the wall (105) and adjoining masonry was a layer of sand/silt soil which contained limestone rubble blocks, some of significant size (approx. 600mm long). This layer (104) is interpreted as a demolition layer. The masonry blocks may have been associated with part of the medieval palace, which may have included the tithe barn mentioned in the 18<sup>th</sup> century schedule, as hand-made roof slates were also found within this deposit.

Further north, away from the coast, there was no further evidence for masonry structures, though there were pits cut into the ground in trenches 3, 4 and 5. These pits, which appear to be domestic rubbish pits and contain food waste in the form of animal bone and seashell, may be associated with the medieval activity noted in the area, although this cannot be conclusively demonstrated

## **7.2 Archaeological Building Recording**

A photographic record of the Abbey Lodge was undertaken. The building was noted to have been built in about 1894 as a lodge to the substantial house of Gogarth Abbey, which later became a Railway Convalescent Home. The property became separated from the main house in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. The building was of late 19<sup>th</sup> century style consisted of nine rooms, four on the ground floor and five on the lower ground. Although the building was somewhat decayed, some original internal fittings survived, including panelled doors, fixed cupboards and decorative plasterwork, paintwork and wallpapering schemes.

Various additions and alterations were subsequently made to the building. These included the addition of an extension to the lower ground floor, and the construction of a bay window, which appears to have taken place in the 1970s or 1980s, and all but two of the main windows to the building were replaced by uPVC windows.

## **8.0 ARCHIVE**

The archive consists of field notes, plans and 137 photographs relating to the building recording at the Abbey Lodge, and 7 trench sheets, 48 contexts sheets, context finds and drawing registers, 4 A2 sheets of scale plans and sections and 126 photographs from the evaluation excavations. These are currently held by GAT under project code **G2140**.

## **9.0 SOURCES CONSULTED**

Aris, M. 1996 *Historic Landscapes of the Great Orme* (Llanrwst)

Berks, T., Davidson, A., Roberts, J., 2008 'Excavations at Gogarth, Llandudno', *Archaeology in Wales*

Davidson, A. 2001. 'Bishop's Palace, Gogarth, Llandudno. Report on 1997 and 1998 Excavation and Recording Work' *Transactions of the Caernarvonshire and Historical Society* 62, 62-79.

Davidson, A. 1999 *Bishop's Palace, Gogarth, Llandudno: Archaeological Evaluation* (Unpublished GAT Report 329)

Davies, O. 1948 'Excavations at Gogarth, Llandudno', *Arch. Camb.* 97, 61-66

English Heritage 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*



Evans, R., 2004 *The Bishop's Palace, Llys Helig Drive, Gogarth*, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Report 2004/48

Hague, D., 1956. The Bishop's Palace, Gogarth, Llandudno Transactions of the Caernarvonshire and Historical Society 17, pp. 09-22.

Institute For Archaeology 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

Kenney, J., 2001, *Monks Barn, Marine Drive, Llandudno*, GAT Report 407.

### **GAT Historic Environment Record**

*Bangor University Archives*

**National Library of Wales**

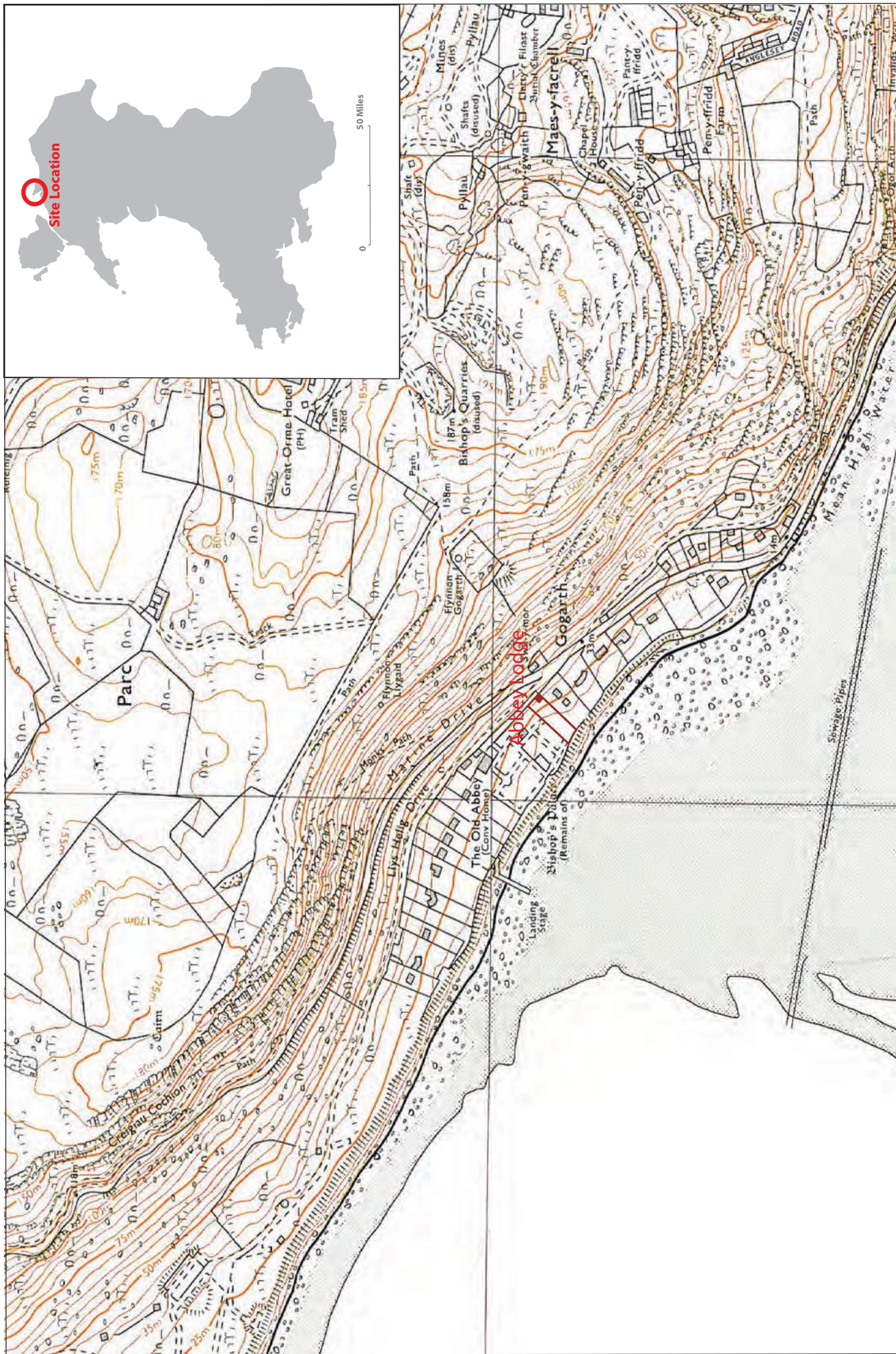


Figure 1. Location map. Base map taken from Ordnance Survey 1:10 000 sheet SH78SE. Scale 1:15 000. Crown Copyright Licence No. AL100020895

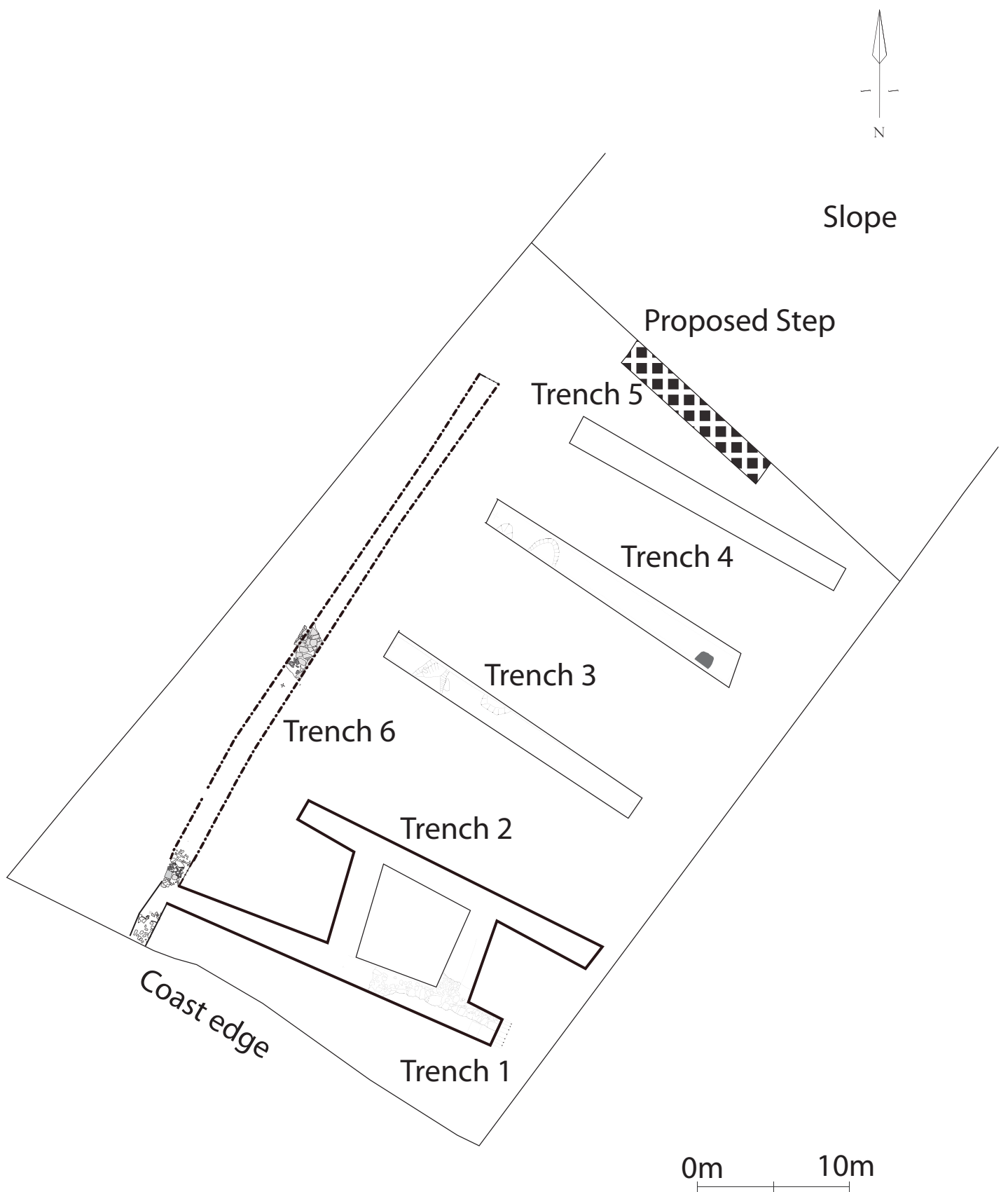


Fig. 2 Trench locations

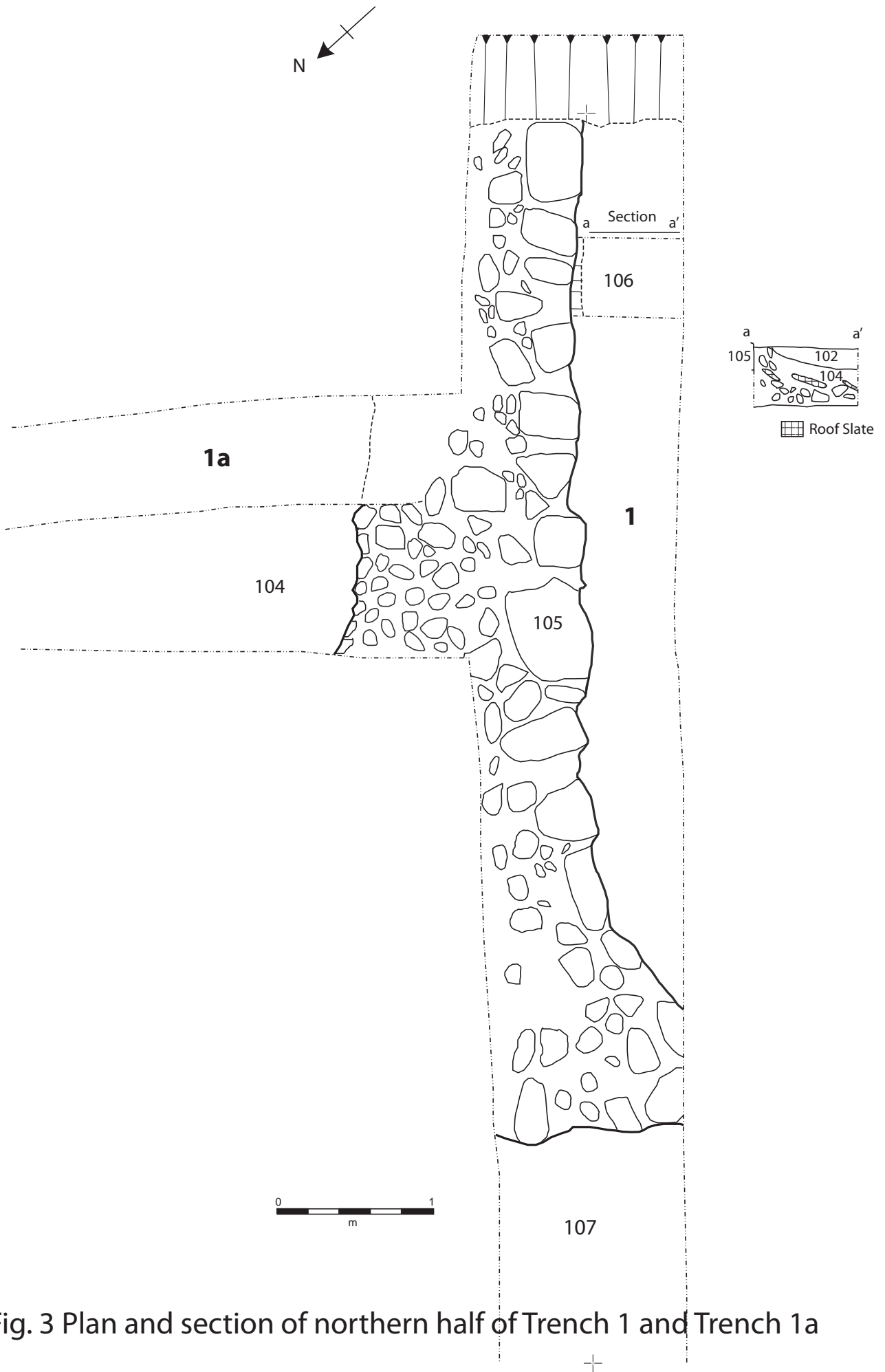


Fig. 3 Plan and section of northern half of Trench 1 and Trench 1a

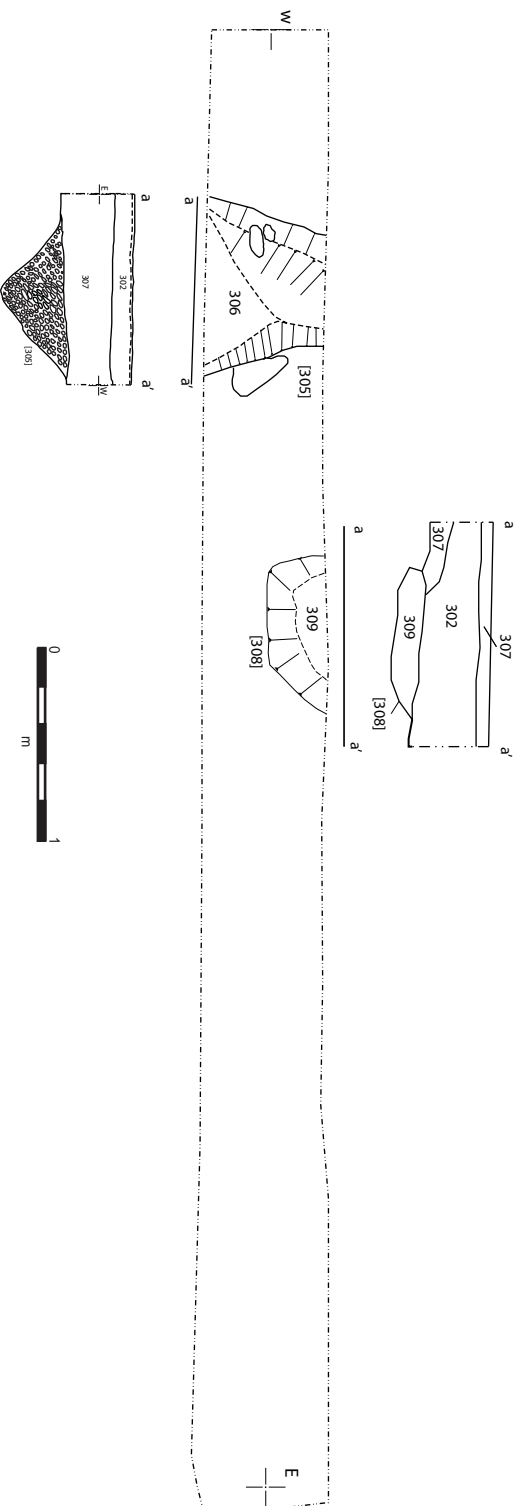


Fig. 4 Plan and sections of Trench 3

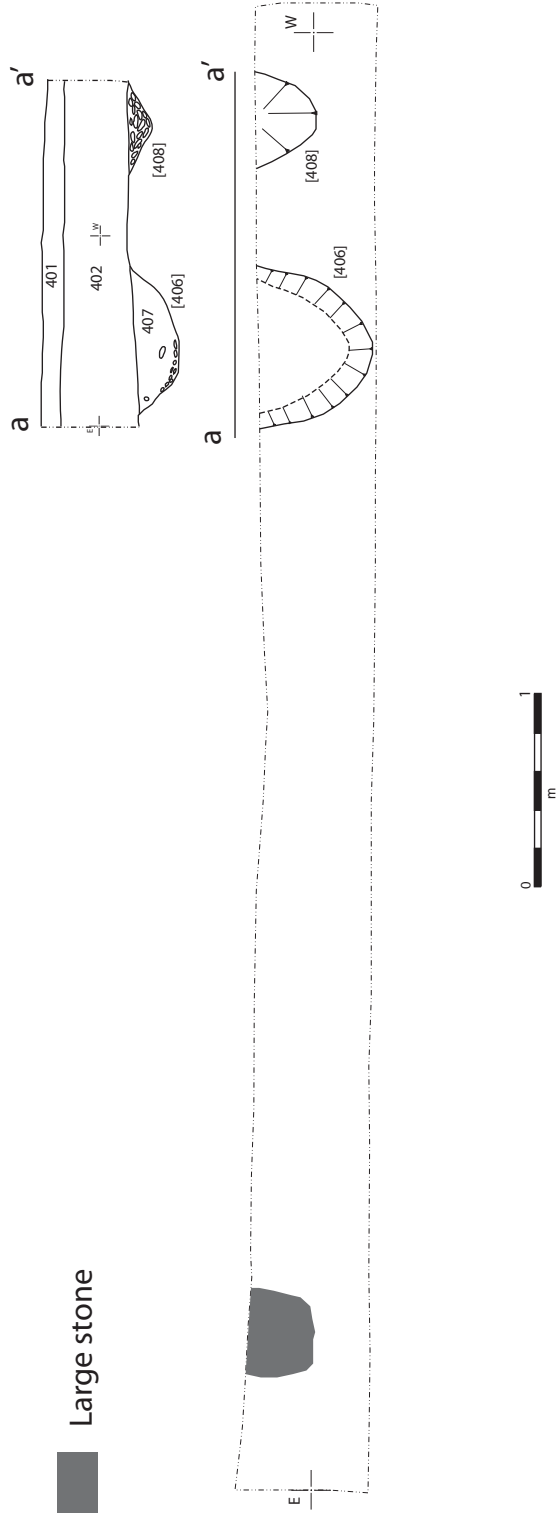


Fig. 5. Plan and sections of Trench 4

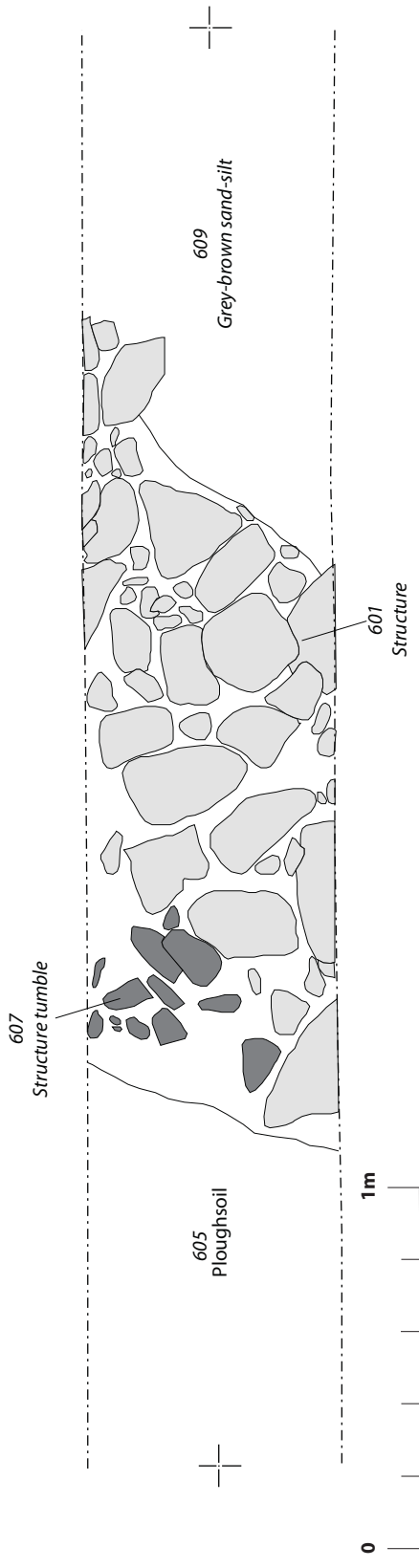
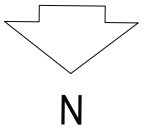


Figure 6: Plan of structure (601).

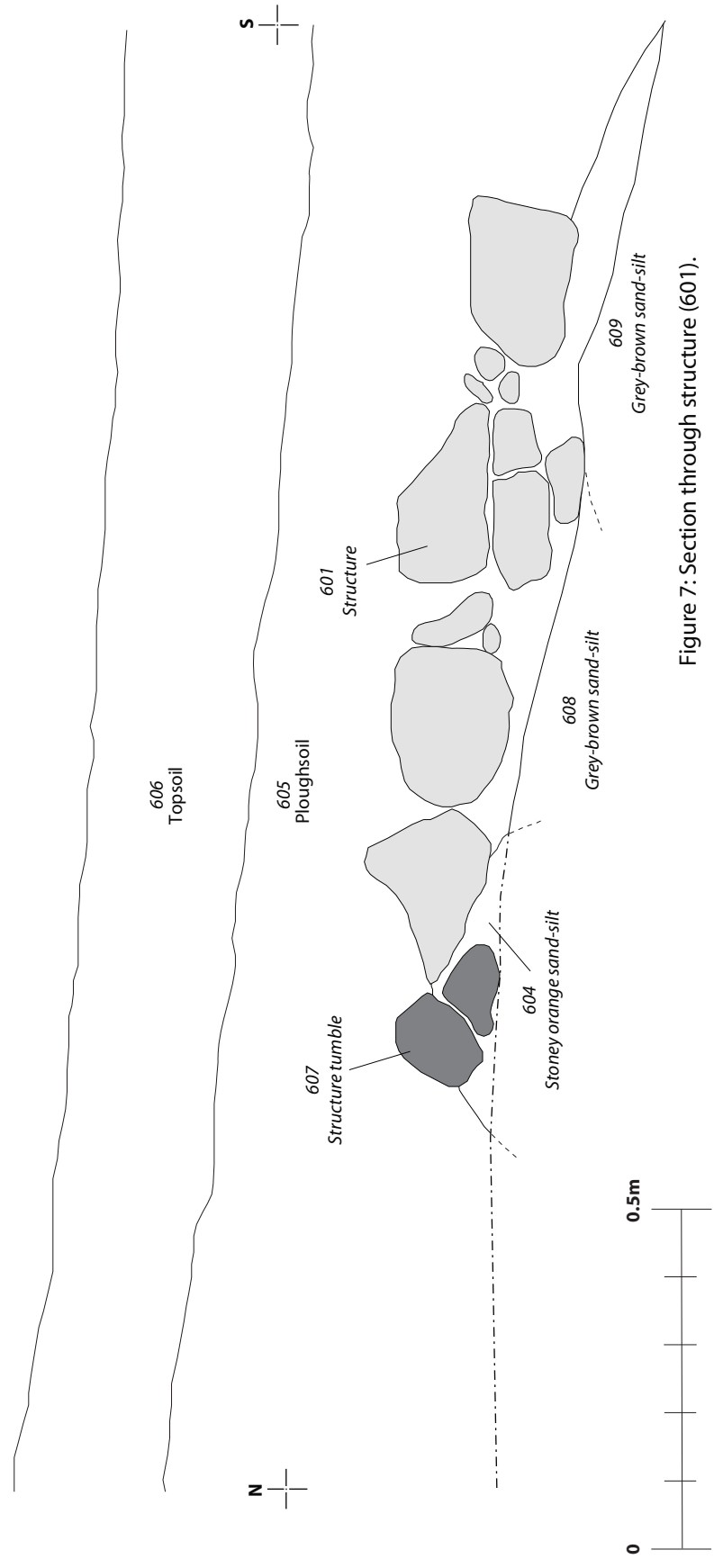


Figure 7: Section through structure (601).

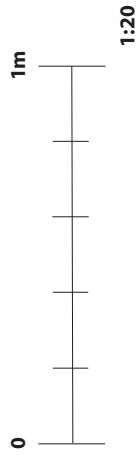
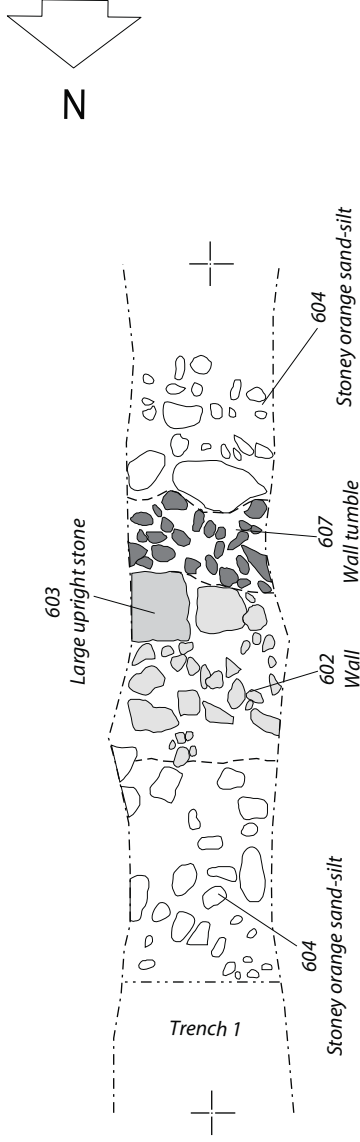


Figure 8: Plan of wall (602).

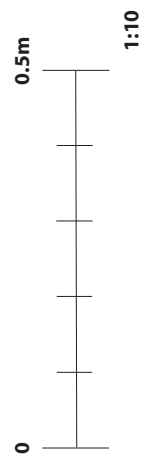
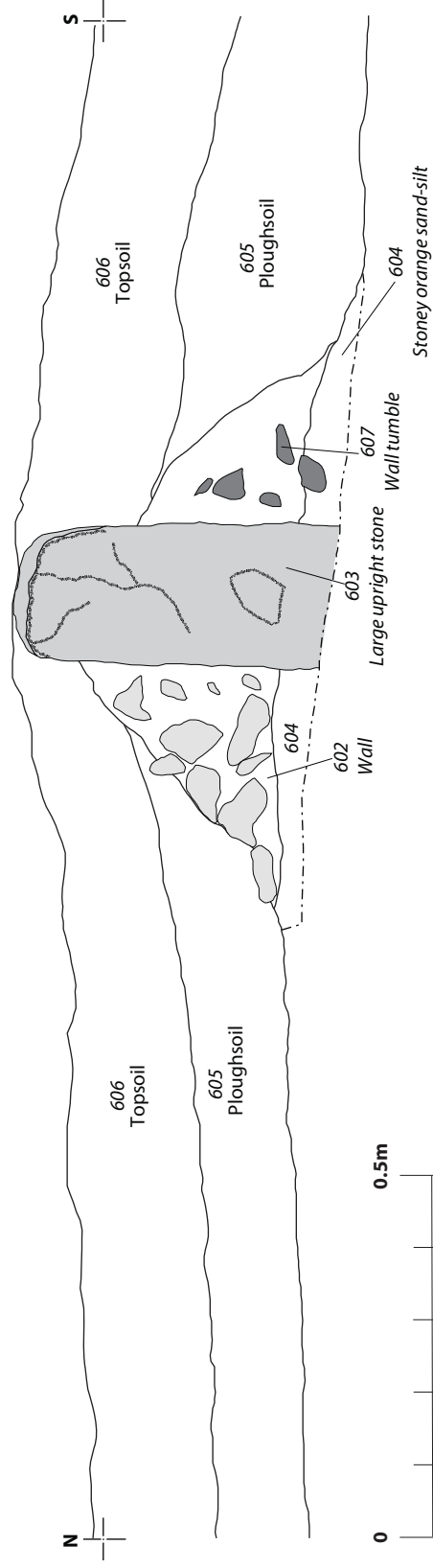
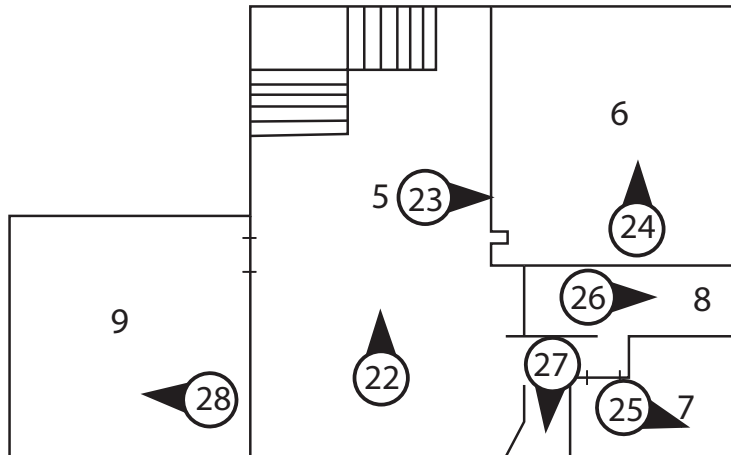


Figure 9: Section through wall (602).



LOWER GROUND FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

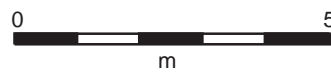
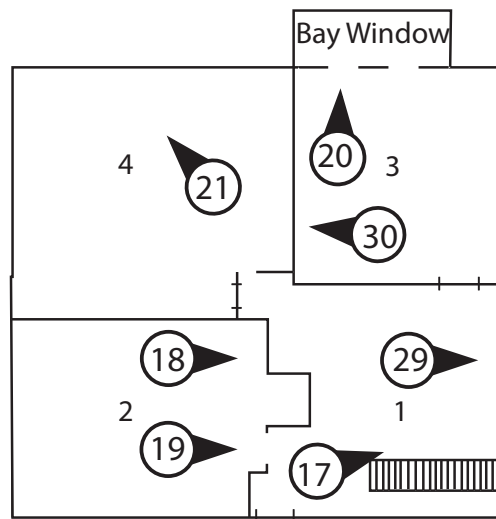


Fig. 10 Location of photographs for building recording

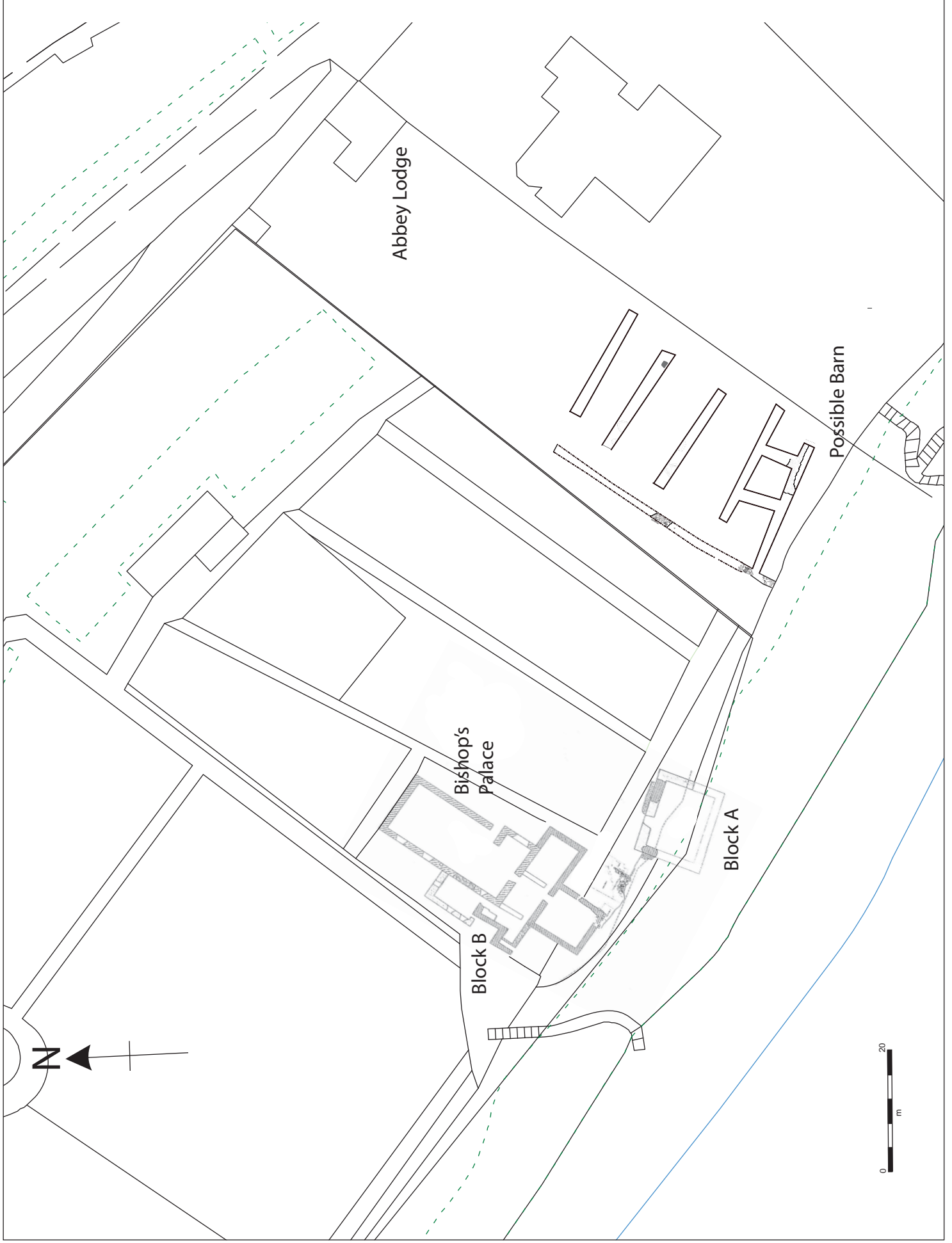


Fig. 11 Plan showing relationship of excavation work at the Abbey Lodgeto layout of Bishop's Palace (taken from Davidson 2001 after Hague 1956)



**Plate 1** General view of the development area from the north



**Plate 2** Trench 1. View of wall foundations (105) from the south west



**Plate 3** Trench 1. Sondage showing demolition rubble (106) adjacent to wall (105)



**Plate 4** Section at junction of Trenches 1a and 2, showing demolition rubble (104)



**Plate 5** Trench 2, from the south-west. Scales 2 x 1m



**Plate 6** Trench 3, from the south-west. Scales 2 x 1m



**Plate 7** Detail of pit [305] in Trench 3, showing the toney fill (306) in section. Scales 2 x 1m



**Plate 8** Trench 4 from the north-east. Scales 2 x 1m



**Plate 9** Detail of pit [406] in Trench 4 from the north. Scales 2 x 1m



**Plate 10** Trench 5, from the south-east. Scales 2 x 1m



**Plate 11** Trench 6 from the south, showing wall (602)



**Plate 12** Trench 6 from the west, showing stone (603) within wall (602) during excavation. Scale 50cm





**Plate 13** Trench 6 from the west showing stone spread (601). Scales 1m and 50cm

#### ABBAY LODGE RECORDING



**Plate 14** General shot of the Abbey Lodge from the north-east



Plate 15 Abbey Lodge front door. Scale 2m



Plate 16 The pediment over the front door



**Plate 17** Room 1, showing panelled door to room 4. Scale 2m



**Plate 18** 19<sup>th</sup> century fireplace in Room 2



**Plate 19** Panelled door between rooms 1 and 2. Scale 2m



**Plate 20** Bay window in Room 3. Scale 2m



**Plate 21** Room 4 with uPVC window. Scale 2m



**Plate 22** Room 5 showing late 19<sup>th</sup> century stair and cupboard



**Plate 23** Cupboard in room 5. Scale 2m



**Plate 24** Cellar Room 6. Scale 2m



**Plate 25** Room 7; enamel bath. Scale 2m



**Plate 26** Room 8, with tongue and groove panelled cupboard



**Plate 27** The rear door to the Abbey Lodge. Scale 2m



**Plate 28** Room 9. Scale 2m





**Plate 29** Evidence of early decorative wallpapering scheme in room 1



**Plate 30** Surviving early paint scheme in room 4. Scale 2m



**Plate 31** The rear, south facing elevation to the Abbey Lodge. Scale 2m



**Plate 32** The west facing elevation to the Abbey Lodge

## APPENDIX 1

### Context List

Context Number	Description	Trenches in which located
101	Wind blown sand	01/1a/1b
102	Mid greyish brown sandy silt	01/1a/1b
103	Tar Macadam	01/1a/2
104	Mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent angular stones and rubble, containing large substantial limestone blocks	01/1a/1b/2
105	Possible wall foundations, with angular stones up to 0.7m by 0.5m	01/1a/1b
106	Soft mid greyish brown colluvial silting	01/1a/1b/2
107	Platform of stone material	01/1b
201	Topsoil	2
202	<i>Same as 103</i>	2
203	Grey silt with stones	2
204	<i>Same as 104</i>	2
205	Orange brown clay and stones	2
206	<i>Same as 106</i>	2
301	Topsoil	3
302	Light brown stoney silt subsoil	3
303	Dark grey stoney silt with shells	3
304	Buff sand with stones	3
305	Cut of large pit 1.6m wide	3
306	Stoney fill of [305]	3
307	Mid brown silt with stones	3
308	Cut of shallow pit	3
309	Silty fill of [308]	3
401	Topsoil	4
402	Light greyish brown stoney silt subsoil	4
403	Layer of mussel and limpet sea shells	4
404	Light brown stoney silt subsoil	4
405	Orangey glacial sand and gravels	4
406	Cut of pit	4
407	Fine grey silt fill of [406]	4
408	Cut of small pit	4
409	Fill of [408]	4
501	Topsoil	5
502	Stoney silt subsoil	5
503	Light orange sandy clay glacial deposit	5
504	Cut of small pit	5
505	Fine silt fill of [504]	5
506	Stones within (505)	5

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT  
ABBAY LODGE, LLYS HELYG, LLANDUDNO

UPDATED  
PROJECT DESIGN FOR  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
AND EVALUATION

**Prepared for**

Penrhyn Homes

**July 2010**

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd  
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

## **ABBEY LODGE, LLYS HELYG, LLANDUDNO**

### **UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND EVALUATION (G2140)**

Prepared for Penrhyn Homes, July 2010

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

This updated project design has been compiled following the production of an initial design and a programme of survey and evaluation work undertaken at Abbey Lodge, Llys Helyg, Llandudno.

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust was initially asked by Penrhyn Homes to provide a cost and project design for carrying out an archaeological building record in advance of demolition of Abbey Lodge, and an archaeological evaluation within the grounds of Abbey Lodge. The works were sited at SH 761828 on the west side of the Great Orme and adjacent to Gogarth, the site of the medieval palace of the Bishops of Bangor. The survey work has been completed, and evaluation excavations have been undertaken. A report has not yet been compiled. This project design is being produced to ensure construction can continue as efficiently as possible within the constraints imposed by the archaeological findings.

The initial design was in response to a planning condition which stated 'No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, including a full photographic record to be made of the building before any demolition works are carried out and a watching brief be carried out during construction works, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and agreed in writing by the local planning authority. The development thereafter shall be carried out strictly in accordance with that approved scheme' (Conwy County Borough Council, Application No. 0/31416).

This updated design continues to fulfil the requirements of the planning condition. Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service are the archaeological curators, who advise the Local Authority on archaeological matters. The archaeological curator will need to approve this design prior to the start of any work.

An Archaeological Assessment was undertaken of a larger area in 2004 (Dyfed Archaeology Trust 2004, Report 2004/48, Evans 2008), which included the remains of the medieval Bishop's Palace which lies to the west of Abbey Lodge and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. An Archaeological Assessment was undertaken of the Monks Barn, which lies to the south-west of the current site, in 2001 (Kenney 2001).

#### **2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS**

The aims of the work are to identify the nature of the archaeological resource within the area and to mitigate the impact of the proposed development upon that resource.

#### **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

The land associated with Abbey Lodge formerly formed part of the garden of The Old Abbey, a house built following the sale of the land by the church in 1894. This land incorporated the remains of the medieval Bishop's Palace at Gogarth. The Palace was built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and formed, with their palace at Bangor, one of the Bishop's two official residences. The ruins of the palace lie 50m to the north-west, and are in two blocks. The earlier block (called Block A following its partial excavation in the 1950's) lies on the coast edge, and has largely fallen into the sea, though one wall remains standing. Block B is a suite of rooms, including hall and ancillary structures lying further from the coast edge. Block A was destroyed by fire, possibly c. 1400. The site appears to have been abandoned c. 1500, at about the time a new residence for the Bishops was being built in Bangor (see Berks *et al*, Davidson 2001 and Hague 1956 for further details of the history and former archaeology of the palace site).

A map dated 1741 (NLW ECE/EL/B66,029ii; reproduced in Evans 2004, fig 4) shows the grounds enclosing the palace remains divided into two fields (labelled B9 and B10). The origin of these plots is unknown, but given that these two plots continued to be held by the church in distinction to the surrounding lands which were leased

to the Mostyn Estate, it is possible they represent some reflection of the original area which was occupied by the precinct of the palace. A schedule of lands dated 1741 describes the plot B9, which includes the garden of Abbey Lodge, as 'Garth y Twr with the ruin of ye Abbey also a Barn at ye East end'. The location of the barn 'at ye east end' is not known, though Abbey Lodge garden lies at the east side of plot B9. The 1741 map does not show the location of the tithe barn. The available maps show no development within the present Abbey Lodge grounds until the construction of the lodge following the sale of the land by the church in 1894. To the south-east, however, in the grounds of Monks Barn, and on land leased to the Mostyn Estate, a farm developed at least as early as the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century.

### 3. METHOD STATEMENT

#### 3.1 The original design

The initial design identified two separate elements of the work programme, namely a Building Survey of Abbey Lodge and Trial Trenching. Both these elements have been partly undertaken, and are described further below:

##### 3.1.1 Building Survey

The requirements were for an archaeological building record of Abbey Lodge to be undertaken prior to the start of any demolition works. This was to consist of a building record commensurate with the English Heritage '*Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*' (2006) Level 2 and was to include the following elements:

- written account 1-3, 5-8, 22;
- drawings 2;
- photographs 1-9.

These elements were described in the original design as follows:

##### *Written Account*

The written account will utilise a range of available resources and discuss the structure's significance, origins, development and use. Local archive sources will be used to identify the history of the site and its evolution.

##### *Site Drawings*

The **drawings** will include a ground plan of the existing structure to aid interpretation and allow the location of photographs to be clearly indicated.

##### *Photographs*

Photographs will be detailed and will record all features, room spaces and elevations to illustrate the building's appearance and structure and to support an historical analysis. Each print will be clearly labeled with the subject, orientation and the date taken, and cross-referenced to its negative and or digital file. Digital images will be presented in the report as a hard copy and a CD-ROM will be included as an archive to accompany the report.

##### *Processing data, illustration, report and archiving*

Following completion of the record as outlined above, a report will be produced incorporating the following:

- Non-technical summary
- Introduction
- Specification and Project Design
- Methods and techniques
- Archaeological Background
- Description of structure, including: a agreed specification, a location plan, a plan illustrating the location and direction of any photographs or drawings, full dimensional and descriptive detail
- Summary and conclusions
- Bibliography of sources consulted

- An archive compact disc

Illustrations, including plans and photographs, will be incorporated within the report.

The photographic survey has been undertaken, and a written description of the building was compiled during the site visit. This will be supplemented with a fuller written account and sketch-plans of the building in order to fulfil the specification given above.

### **3.1.2 Field evaluation**

*The details from the original design are given below:*

#### *Impact and proposals*

The study area consists of a rectangular plot of land approximately 87m long by 28m wide, which now forms the garden to the lodge. However the upper, northern, part of the garden has been terraced into natural rock, and there is no potential for the survival of archaeology within this area. The southern part, which measures approximately 40m long, is relatively level, and retains some potential for archaeological survival. This area lies south of the intended building, however it will be necessary to excavate a complex series of drains across the whole area. A watching brief during the excavation of the drains would be time consuming, and is unlikely to be productive, given the narrow trenches to be excavated. It is therefore proposed to examine the area by excavating a series of five trenches each measuring 20m x 2m, and separated from each other by approximately 5m. This will result in examining just under 20% of the available site, and will give a clear indication of the status of any surviving archaeology within the area. This method will avoid problems with spoil storage which any wider striping would entail. It will be necessary to keep back at least 5m from the coast edge.

#### *Methodology*

All trenches will be initially opened by machine. This will normally be a JCB 3CX type excavator or a 360° tracked excavator with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. All machining will be undertaken under direct archaeological supervision.

All undifferentiated topsoil or overburden of recent origin will be removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon, in successive, level spits. Following machine clearance, all faces of the trench that require examination or recording will be cleaned using hand tools. All investigation of archaeological levels will be by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and section. Spoil heaps will be monitored to recover artefacts to assist in the analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts. Modern artefacts will be noted but not retained.

Within significant archaeological levels a minimum number of features required to meet the aims will be hand excavated. Occasional pits and postholes will be subject to a 50% sample by volume. Complex clusters of pits will be sampled more selectively. Linear features will be sectioned as appropriate. Features not suited to excavation within narrow trenches will not be samples. No archaeological deposits will be entirely removed unless this is unavoidable. It is not necessarily the intention that all trial trenches will be fully excavated to natural stratigraphy, but the depth of archaeological deposits across the site will be assessed. The stratigraphy of all evaluation trenches will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.

If significant archaeological deposits are found during trial trenching it will be necessary to liaise with the client and with the Development Control Archaeologist to decide on the most appropriate means of mitigation.

#### *Processing data, illustration and report*

Following the completion of the field work, the data will be processed, final illustrations will be compiled and a report will be produced which will detail and synthesise the results. Survey drawings and a sample of relevant photographs will be used to illustrate the reports.

The report will include:

- Introductory statements
- Aims and objectives

- Methodology
- Results
- Conclusions and recommendations
- Archive location
- Appendices
- Illustrations
- References and bibliography

## **3.2 Current status**

### **3.2.1 Building survey**

The photographic survey has been undertaken, and field notes and measurements have been compiled.

The report element remains to be completed.

### **3.2.2 Trial Trenching**

The trial trenching has been undertaken according to the initial design, though some slight change was made to the layout of the trenches to reflect the location of archaeology discovered during the process (see fig 1 for trench location).

#### *Results*

Five trenches were excavated. Within trench 1 the footings of a stone wall was found running parallel to the coast edge. The footings were most clearly defined within the eastern part of the trench. Within the western part of the trench a stone platform was defined. This lacked the clear defined edges of the wall, though the stonework may incorporate remains of a wall within it. The wall and stone platform lie at a depth of 0.5m below the present ground surface. The wall has a similar appearance to the medieval walls excavated on the palace site, and it is possible it forms part of the perimeter wall which defined the precinct of the palace.

Overlying the wall and adjoining masonry was a layer of sand/silt soil which contained limestone rubble blocks, some of significant size (approx. 600mm long). This layer is interpreted as a demolition layer. The source of the masonry blocks cannot be identified with any certainty. They may have been associated with part of the medieval palace, which may have included the tithe barn mentioned in the 18<sup>th</sup> century schedule.

Further north, away from the coast, there was no further evidence for masonry structures, though there were pits cut into the ground. No finds were made from these, and it is not presently possible to date them.

A full report detailing the findings of this stage will be completed.

## **4. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS AND IMPACT**

### **4.1 Proposals and impact**

The proposals for the plot at Abbey Lodge include demolition of the present lodge and construction of a new house within the centre of the plot. The northern half of the plot has been heavily disturbed by previous activities, and potential for the survival of archaeology within that area is low. The southern half of the plot will form the garden, terraced down to the coast edge. A drainage system is to be constructed within the proposed garden area. The five trial trenches have been located within this half of the plot, and this is the area shown on figure 1.

The layout of the proposed drains is shown in fig. 2. The drains are to be laid 400mm below the surface, and require a total depth of 550mm which will include the 100mm pipework. At the location of the linkage trench at the south end of the French drainage system each of the intersections will need to be 850mm deep. This lies approximately along the line of the excavated Trial Trench 3. The trenches will be dug using a 5T tracked excavator working south from the north end of the site. The work is expected to take 10 days.



The depth of the archaeology is shown in the table below:

Trench no	Maximum depth	Depth to archaeological deposit
1	0.55m	Demolition layer 0.33m Stones 0.50m
1a	0.9m	Demolition layer 0.33m. Stones 0.5-0.6m
1b	0.9m	Demolition layer 0.35m to 0.75m, overlying Colluvial silting 0.75m to 0.9m
2	1.25m	Demolition layer 0.45m to 0.95m, overlying Colluvial silting 0.95m to 1.25m
3	1.4m	Pits 0.8m
4	1.2m	Pits 1.0m
5	0.75m	0.75m to natural

The demolition layer lies closest to the surface, at a depth of 0.33m from the present land surface. The revealed wall lies 0.5m from the present land surface.

#### 4.2 Mitigation

It is proposed to bury the archaeology to a sufficient depth to allow the drainage to be inserted with no impact upon the archaeology. This is to be achieved by building up the ground surface to a sufficient depth.

The bottom of the existing trenches will be lined with terram both to protect the archaeology, and to allow its presence to be readily identified should excavations be undertaken on the site in future. A layer of inert clean sand or stone will be placed on top. Where the masonry exists within trench 1 and the two right-angled projections the covering layer will be clean sand. In the other trenches the covering layer will be clean sand or clean stone with a mixed particle size below 40mm. This will vary in depth between 100mm and 150mm. The trenches will then be backfilled with the excavated material.

The present ground surface will then be raised by 400mm using soil sourced locally in order to ensure the drains can be laid without impact upon the archaeology. This is calculated as follows:

The requirement for the deepest excavations is the intersections at 850mm which lie along the line of the excavated trench 3. The shallowest archaeology here is 0.8m, and the trench is 1.4m deep, leaving, with 100mm of protection, a free depth of 500mm. The level of ground will therefore be increased here by 400mm to ensure sufficient depth over the archaeology.

The shallowest archaeology lies in trench 1, approximately 330mm below the surface. Allowing for 100mm protective covering this will allow 230mm depth above the archaeology. Raising this area by 400mm will allow the drainage to be inserted to its correct depth without impacting upon the archaeology.

An archaeological watching brief will be undertaken during the works to ensure construction does not impact upon the archaeological resource. This will be an intermittent watching brief, to be carried out when trenches are being excavated, or at the start of trench excavation to ensure there is no impact on the archaeology. If required the archaeologist will request cessation of excavation either to examine deposits or to prevent damage to archaeology. In addition to the photographic record maintained by the archaeologist the contractor will keep their own photographic record of construction. The Development Control Archaeologist will be kept informed of progress.

The results of the watching brief will be incorporated into a final report which will include the details of the trial trenching and the photographic survey. A quantity of bone was found within the pits towards the north end of the site. These will be identified and a sample sent for dating. This will allow the date of the pits to be identified, and will enable a clearer understanding of the development of the site and the soils over it.

## **5. MONITORING AND TIMING**

Monitoring visits can be arranged during the course of the project with the clients and with the appropriate Development Control archaeologist.

## **6. 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** (2006). Risks will be assessed prior to and during the work. A Method Statement, Health and Safety policy and Risk Assessment will be agreed with the clients prior to the start of the project.

## **7. INSURANCE**

The Trust holds public liability insurance with an indemnity limit of £5,000,000 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).

## **8. OTHER**

Any queries concerning the above should be directed to Mr Andrew Davidson or Mr John Roberts at the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Offices, Garth Road, Bangor. Telephone (01248) 352535.

## **9. REFERENCES**

Berks, T., Davidson, A., Roberts, J., 2008 'Excavations at Gogarth, Llandudno', *Archaeology in Wales*

Davidson, A. 2001. Bishop's Palace, Gogarth, Llandudno. Report on 1997 and 1998 Excavation and Recording Work. Transactions of the Caernarvonshire and Historical Society 62, pp. 62-79.

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Kenney, J., 2001, *Monks Barn, Marine Drive, Llandudno*, GAT Report 407.

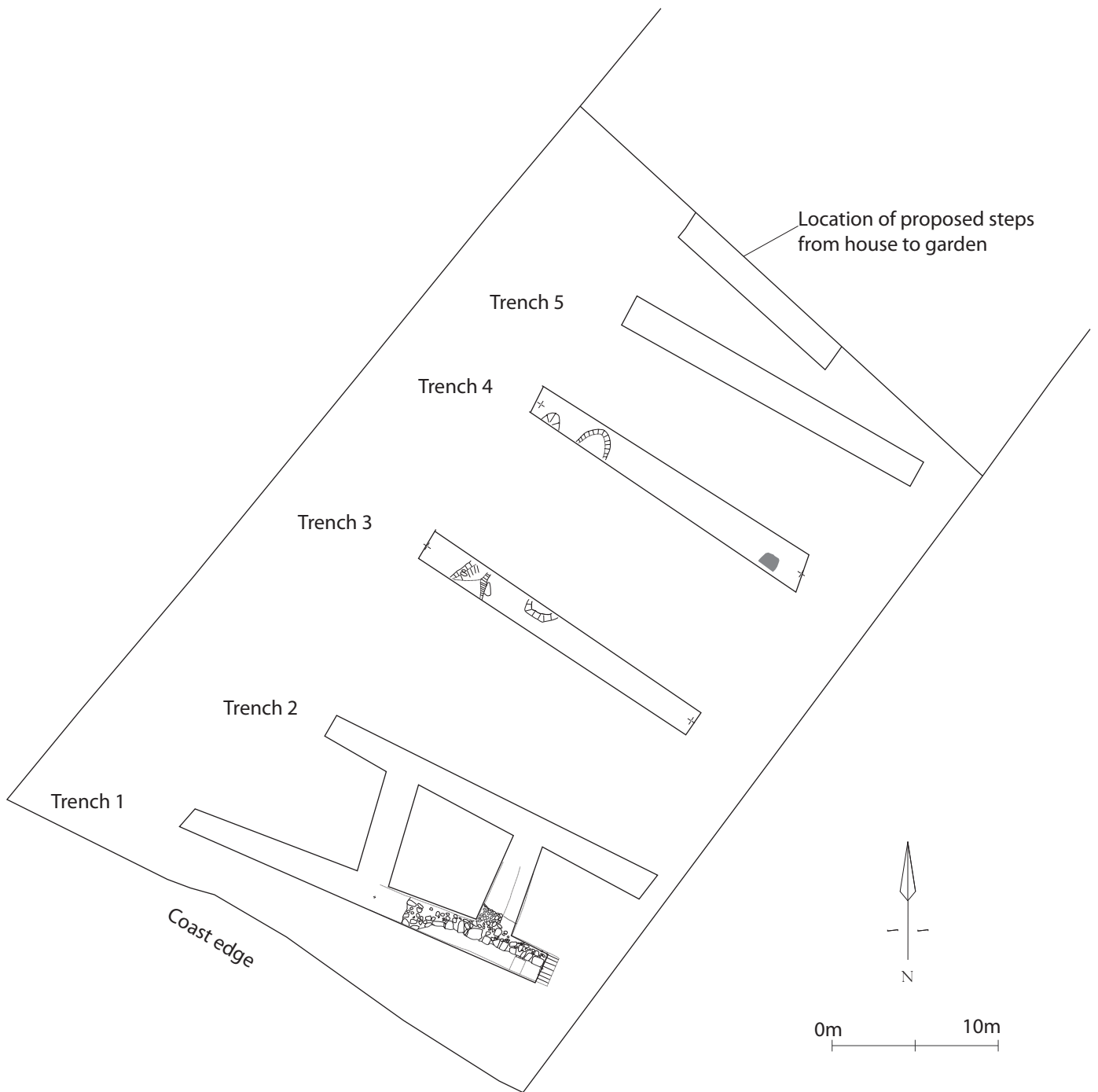
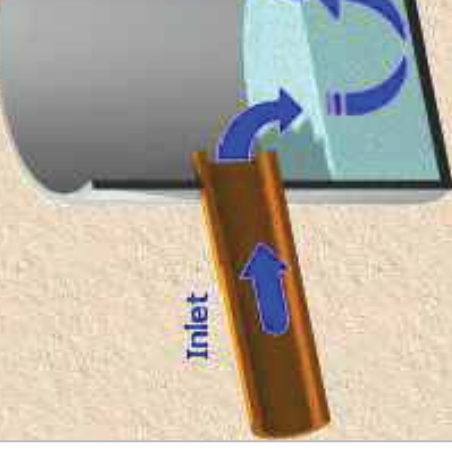


Figure 1: Location of trenches and features



**CATCH PIT DETAIL**

4



**S HELIG DRIVE - DRAINAGE PLAN (2)**

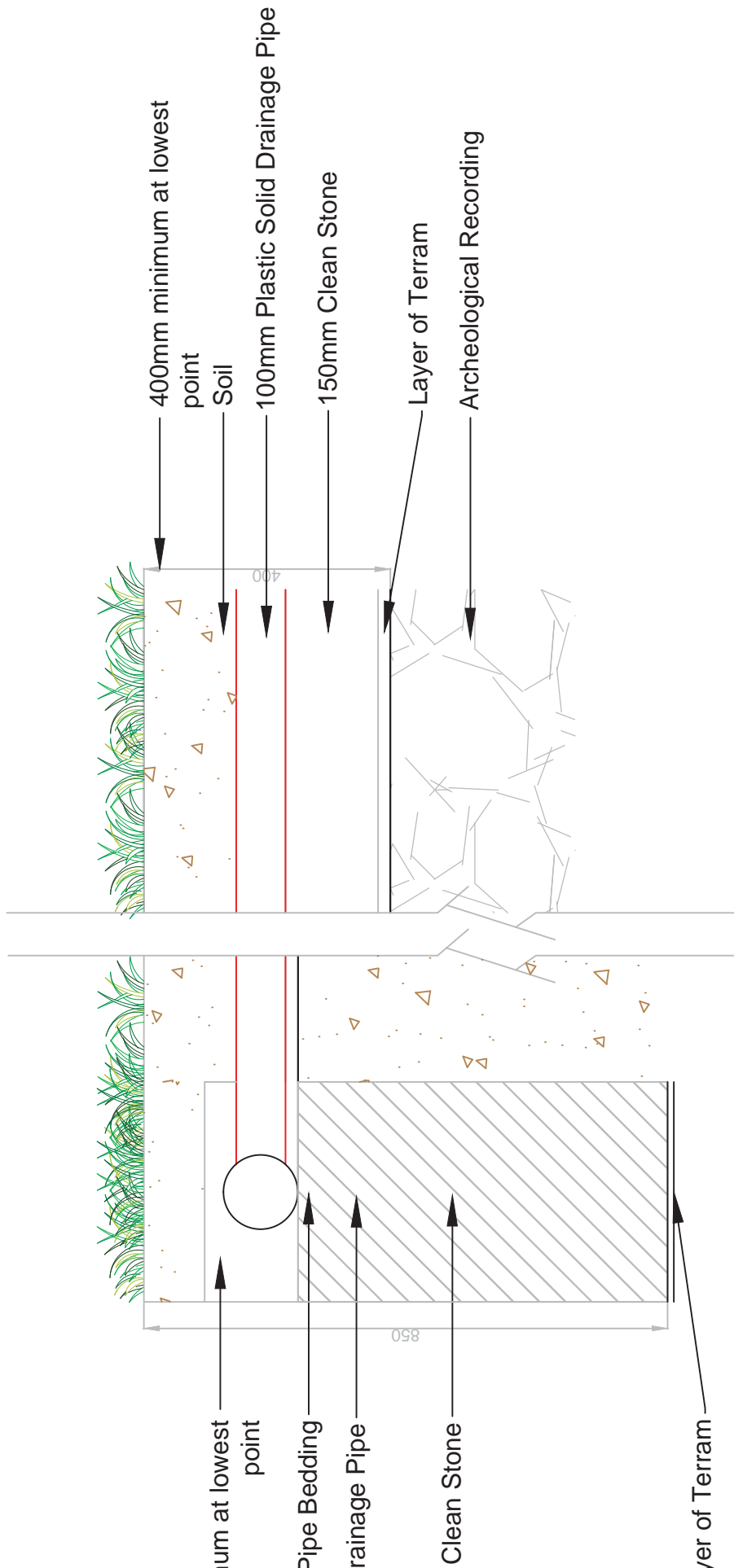
3

**WASTE TREATMENT PLANT D**



ram with 150mm clean stone to all open trenches at level of

E



SECTION A - A DETAIL

1:10

1

G2140 Abbey Lodge, Llys Helig Drive, Llandudno

Trench no	Maximum depth	Depth to archaeological deposit
1	0.55m	Demolition layer 0.33m Stones 0.50m
1a	0.9m	Demolition layer 0.33m. Stones 0.5-0.6m
1b	0.9m	Demolition layer 0.35m to 0.75m, overlying Colluvial silting 0.75m to 0.9m
2	1.25m	Demolition layer 0.45m to 0.95m, overlying Colluvial silting 0.95m to 1.25m
3	1.4m	Pit: 0.8m

PLEASE NOTE

\*\*Pits at 800mm

Detail A-A at 850mm therefore build up of soil to correct level



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