



Bryn Pwyth, Water Street, Llansannan, Conwy LL16 5HH.

June 2018
V 1.0



aeon archaeology



Archaeological Watching Brief
Project Code: A0136.1
Report no. 0168



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Archaeological Watching Brief

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Project Code: A0136.1

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1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Gerallt Rees Jones to carry out an archaeological watching brief at Bryn Pwyth, Water Street, Llansannan, Conwy, LL16 5HH during the groundworks associated with a new single storey extension as part of a condition of full planning permission.

The watching brief revealed a limestone wall which corresponded with a former boundary wall located on the deeds to the property, an assemblage of ceramics which are traditionally associated with the dairy industry during the 17th-20th centuries and a buried ground surface that produced no dating evidence.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Gerallt Rees Jones, hereafter the Client, to carry out an archaeological watching brief at Bryn Pwyth, Water Street, Llansannan, Conwy, LL16 5HH (NGR **SH 293454 65883**) (Planning Permission: **0/40519**) (figures 01 and 02).

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken as part of mitigatory works during the groundworks associated with a new single storey extension in order to satisfy the following planning condition:

Condition 4

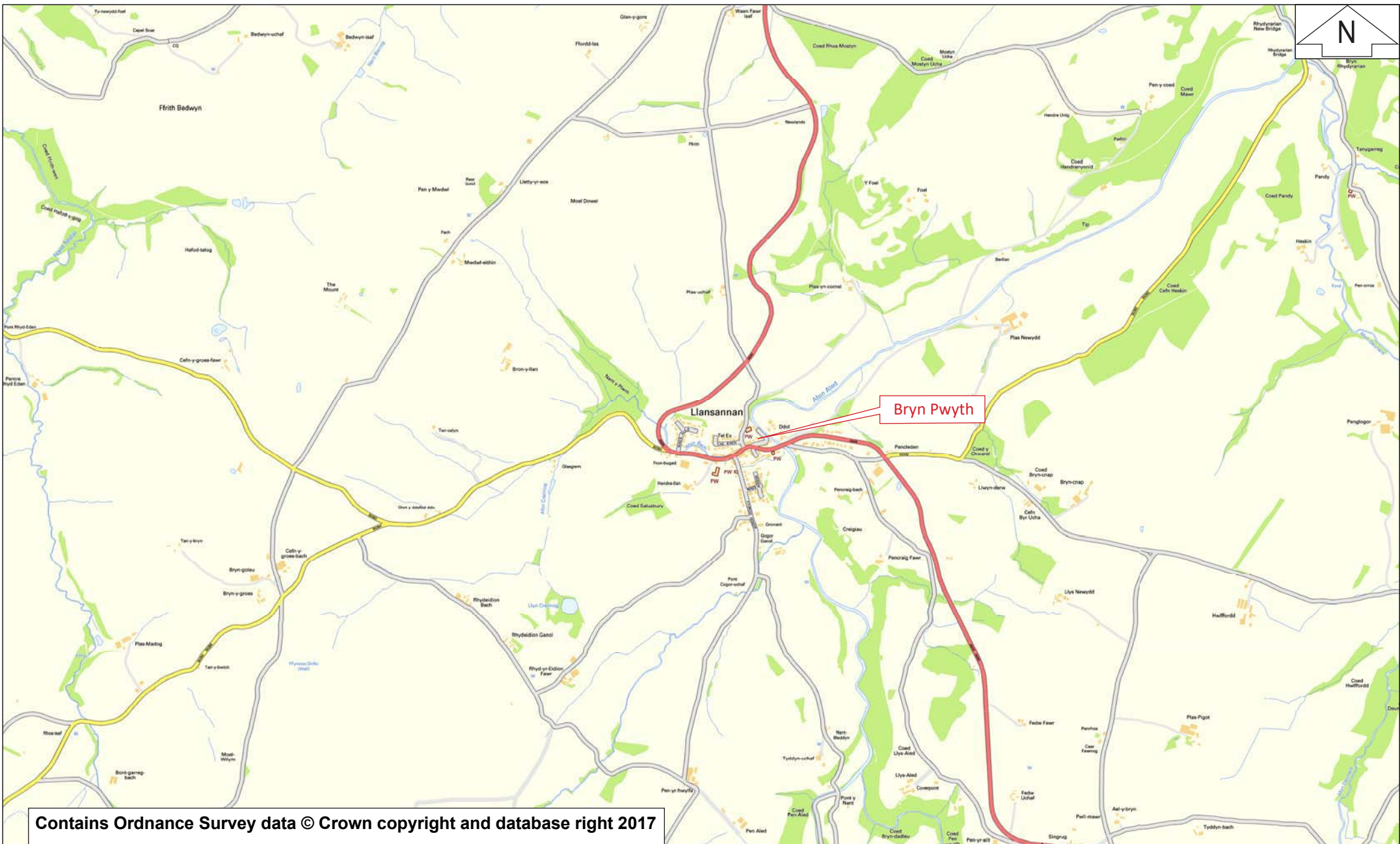
The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeological contractor is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs. The Local Planning Authority will be informed in writing, at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development, of the name of the said archaeological contractor. A copy of the resulting report should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR within two months of the fieldwork being completed.

Reason

In order to record the archaeological interest of the land and in order to comply with policy CTH/2 of the adopted Conwy Local Development Plan 2013, and advice in Planning Policy Wales 6th ed, 2014.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was undertaken by Aeon Archaeology in October 2017 (appendix I) which outlined the principle aims of the watching brief and the methods by which they would be met. This formed the basis of a method statement submitted for the work.

Reference will be made to the guidelines specified in Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).



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Figure 01: Location of Bryn Pwyth, Water Street, Llansannan. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.



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Figure 02: Location of Bryn Pwyth, Water Street, Llansannan. Scale 1:5,000 at A4.



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3.0 PROJECT AIMS

The aim of the watching brief works was to characterise the known, or potential, archaeological remains uncovered during groundworks associated with the construction of a new single storey extension to the property of Bryn Pwyth, Llansannan, Conwy.

The broad aims of the archaeological watching brief were to:

- To allow, within the resources available, the opportunity to gain information about and record the presence/absence, nature and date of archaeological remains on the Site affected by excavations and groundworks, the presence and nature of which could not be established with sufficient confidence in advance of works which may disturb them.
- To provide the facility to signal to the relevant authorities, before irreversible impact to remains that an archaeological and/or historic find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are inadequate to support their treatment to an adequate and satisfactory standard.

The detailed objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to:

- To observe and recover any artefacts of archaeological significance.
- To record the location, dimensions and nature of any deposits, features, structures or artefacts of archaeological significance.
- To recover samples of any deposits considered to have potential for analysis for palaeoenvironmental data should the opportunity arise.

The management of this project has followed the procedures laid out in the standard professional guidance *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006; rev 2015), and in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Archaeological Watching Brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014). Five stages are specified:

Phase 1: project planning

Phase 2: fieldwork

Phase 3: assessment of potential for analysis and revised project design

Phase 4: analysis and report preparation

Phase 5: dissemination

The current document reports on the phase 4 analysis and states the means to be used to disseminate the results. In this instance it was not necessary to prepare a revised project design as alluded to in Phase 3; as there was a paucity of evidence recovered in Phase 2 in terms of archaeological features and therefore did not warrant any alteration to the initial project design.

The site is to be set in its landscape context so that its full character and importance can be understood. All the information is to be presented in a report that will be held by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Monument Record of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) for

long term archiving so that it can be accessible to the public and future researchers. This phase of work also includes archiving the material and documentary records from the project.

4.0 POLICY CONTEXT

At an international level there are two principal agreements concerning the protection of the cultural heritage and archaeological resource – the UNESCO *Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage*¹ and the *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*², commonly known as the Valetta Convention. The latter was agreed by the Member States of the Council of Europe in 1992, and also became law in 1992. It has been ratified by the UK, and responsibility for its implementation rests with Department for Culture Media and Sport.

The management and protection of the historic environment in Wales is set out within the following legislation:

- The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (As amended)
- The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- The Town and County Planning Act 1990
- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
- The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 (As amended)

The Historic Environment (Wales) Act is the most recent legislation for the management of the Historic Environment and amends two pieces of UK legislation — the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The new Act has three main aims:

- to give more effective protection to listed buildings and scheduled monuments;
- to improve the sustainable management of the historic environment; and
- to introduce greater transparency and accountability into decisions taken on the historic environment.

With respect to the cultural heritage of the built environment the *Planning (Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings) Act*³ 1990 applies. The Act sets out the legislative framework within which works and development affecting listed buildings and conservation areas must be considered. This states that:-

“In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses” (s66(1))

Other known sites of cultural heritage/archaeological significance can be entered onto county-based Historic Environment Records under the *Town and Country Planning 1995*.

Planning Policy Wales sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. Chapter 6 covers the historic environment and emphasises that the positive management of change in the historic environment is based on a full understanding of the nature and significance of historic assets and the recognition of the benefits that they can deliver in a vibrant culture and economy.

¹ UNESCO, 1972, *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*

² Council of Europe, 1992, *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*

³ Great Britain. *Planning (Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings) Act*. Elizabeth II.(1990), London: The Stationery Office

Various principles and policies related to cultural heritage and archaeology are set out in the Planning Policy Wales which guide local planning authorities with respect to the wider historic environment.

The following paragraphs from Planning Policy Wales are particularly relevant and are quoted in full:

Paragraph 6.5.5 concerns planning applications:

The conservation of archaeological remains is a material consideration in determining a planning application, whether those remains are a scheduled monument or not. Where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings are likely to be affected by proposed development, there should be a presumption in favour of their physical protection in situ. It will only be in exceptional circumstances that planning permission will be granted if development would result in an adverse impact on a scheduled monument (or an archaeological site shown to be of national importance) or has a significantly damaging effect upon its setting. In cases involving less significant archaeological remains, local planning authorities will need to weigh the relative importance of the archaeological remains and their settings against other factors, including the need for the proposed development.

Planning Policy Wales is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TAN). Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment contains detailed guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment during development plan, preparation and decision making on planning and listed building consent applications. TAN 24 replaces the following Welsh Office Circulars:

- 60/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology
- 61/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas
- 1/98 Planning and the Historic Environment: Directions by the Secretary of State for Wales

5.0 METHODOLOGY – ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

5.1 Watching Brief

The CIfA maintains a standard for archaeological watching brief which states that:

An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant by-laws of CIfA.

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the CIfA as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons (CIfA 2014a). The watching brief will take place within a specified area within the Site where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.

The CIfA further identifies the purpose of a watching brief as allowing, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.

It is also important to note that a watching brief provides an opportunity, if needed, for a signal to be made to all interested parties, before the destruction of the archaeological materials, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

A watching brief is, therefore, not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

All excavations were undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. A photographic record was maintained throughout, using a digital SLR camera (Canon 6000D) set to maximum resolution and any subsurface remains were to be recorded photographically, with detailed notations and measured drawings being undertaken if required.

In the event of archaeological discovery features were to be excavated by hand and fully recorded using Aeon Archaeology pro-formas, digital photographs, and plan and section drawings taken at a suitable scale (usually 1:20 for plan drawings and 1:10 for section drawings).

The archive produced is held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0136.1**.

5.2 Data Collection from Site Records

A database of the site photographs was produced to enable active long-term curation of the photographs and easy searching. The site records were checked and cross-referenced and photographs were cross-referenced to contexts. These records were used to write the site narrative and the field drawings and survey data were used to produce an outline plan of the site.

All paper field records were scanned to provide a backup digital copy. The photographs were organised and precisely cross-referenced to the digital photographic record so that the CPAT HER can curate them in their active digital storage facility.

5.3 Artefact Methodology

All artefacts were to be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. They would be bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. After processing, all artefacts would be cleaned and examined in-house at Aeon Archaeology. If required artefacts would be sent to a relevant specialist for conservation and analysis.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds was kept under review throughout the archaeological watching brief. Any changes in recovery priorities would be made under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Client and the CPAT Development Control Archaeologist. There was a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

5.4 Environmental Samples Methodology

The sampling strategy and requirement for bulk soil samples was related to the perceived character, interpretational importance and chronological significance of the strata under investigation. This ensured that only significant features would be sampled. The aim of the sampling strategy was to recover carbonised macroscopic plant remains, small artefacts particularly knapping debris and evidence for metalworking.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs would be obtained from Oxford Archaeology if required.

5.5 Report and dissemination

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project was prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions were labelled, and cross-referenced, and will be lodged within a suitable repository to be agreed with the archaeological curator within six months of the completion of the project.

A draft copy of the report has been sent to the client and upon written approval from them paper and digital copies of the report will be sent to the regional HER, the CPAT Development Control Archaeologist, and will be logged with the RCAHMW. Copies of all notes, plans, and photographs arising from the watching brief will be stored at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0136.1** with the originals being lodged in a suitable repository to be agreed with the archaeological curator.

6.0 HISTORIC BACKGROUND

Information held within the Historic Environment Record indicated that the proposed new extension lies within the medieval historic core of the village and immediately adjacent to the churchyard boundary. The churchyard boundary was potentially a very early earthwork dating to the foundation of a church on this site. Furthermore the renowned Methodist exhorter Edward Parry is buried in the churchyard at Llansannan and the famous and prolific preacher and politician Gwylim Hiraethog was born in the Parish.

Sub-circular churchyard boundaries in conjunction with *Llan* placenames and early saint dedications are typically used as markers for early medieval churches and these can sometimes occupy the site of even earlier prehistoric enclosures.

The foundations for the new extension may therefore have revealed sub-surface deposits related to an early enclosure bank and ditch around the churchyard boundary as well as evidence of later medieval occupation at the back of the street frontage.

7.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS

7.1 The Documentary Archive

The following documentary records were created during the archaeological watching brief:

Watching brief day sheets	2
Context Sheets	9
Digital photographs	30
Archaeological Drawings	2

7.2 Environmental Samples

No environmental samples were taken as part of the watching brief as no suitable archaeological deposits were encountered.

7.3 Artefacts

Post-Medieval Pottery and Clay Tobacco Pipe from Bryn Pwyth, Water Street Llansannan.

Summary

The Bryn Pwyth finds assemblage comprised the following range of artefacts: 21 sherds of post-medieval pottery and 2 fragments of clay tobacco pipe. The finds span the approximately a 150 year era between the Stuart period through to the early 19th century.

Artefact Category	Post-Medieval Pottery		Clay Tobacco Pipe	
	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.
(102)	8	134		
(106)	2	77	2	19
(108)	11	285		
Total	21	459	2	19

Table 1: Quantification of all finds by category and context

Post-Medieval Pottery

The post-medieval pottery comprised of a rather limited range of wares, largely products of the 18th and 19th centuries comprising of glazed black earthenware, Cistercian ware, transfer printed ware, and north midlands Pancheon ware. The forms were primarily those for the historic dairy industry along with some kitchen and table wares.

Wares	Glazed Black Earthenware		Cistercian Ware		Pancheon Ware (Black)		Pancheon Ware (Cream)		Transfer ware		Bone China		English Stoneware	
	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.
(102)	4	40	1	57			1	25	1	3	1	9		
(106)													2	77
(108)	4	101			4	156					2	28		

Table 2: Quantification of post-medieval pottery by ware group and context

Context (101)

This context produced single sherds each from a cream Pancheon ware bowl, Cistercian ware jug, transfer printed plate and bone china plate. The Pancheon ware was a rim sherd from a large mixing bowl – such large vessels were used to cool milk, this could be an example from the production centre at Buckley and as such can be widely attributed a date somewhere between L.17th- e.20th century. Cistercian ware is recognisable by its purple body and purpleish/dark brown glaze, this fabric is very hard and were produced in some of the first coal fired kilns (Barker 1986), the date of this vessel is probably somewhere between 16th to 17th century. The floral pattern found on the transfer printed ware fragment can be reliably dated to between 1790-1870 and is almost certainly from an English production centre as is the bone china.

The blackware sherds in this context are more examples from the Buckley production centre – with a robust base sherd perhaps an example of pancheon ware (late 18th-early 19th century).

Context (106)

This context produced two connecting sherds forming the base of salt glazed English stoneware jug or pitcher. English Stonewares were first developed in the 16th and 17th centuries in London and then later in Nottingham (Allen 1984, Cumberpatch 1998); such wares are evidence of an evolution of technically complex goods that were eventually successful and mainstream by the 19th century.

Context (108)

The blackware sherds in this context are more examples from the Buckley production centre – these were of a narrower body profile to those found in context (102) and may represent a larger vessels (Brears 1971); these constituted of three body sherds with a base sherd dated to the (late 18th - early 20th century). Furthermore a single piece of Staffordshire slipware was present within the assemblage – a rim sherd with “pie crust” rim, a brown slip covered with amber glaze and a single cream line of slip also visible, such a design is typical of dishes from the later part of the 18th century and probably represents a residual (transported from original context) find.

Once more Pancheon ware makes up a large portion of this assemblage; body sherds from a large jug are present, these having a thinner body with a layered ‘biscuit/buff’ colour to the body. Also found in this context was a sherd from a black glazed earthenware milk churn; this vessel is distinctive due to its large rim mouth and the addition of shoulder handles which are characteristic of such receptacles (Brears 1971, Moorhouse & Roberts 1992) This fragment is probably from the production centre at

Buckley and as such can be widely attributed a date somewhere between the late 18th - early 20th century.

Clay Tobacco Pipes

Context (108)

Along with the post-medieval pottery, this context produced a single fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem and although not closely datable these can be dated c. 1800–1910. The tobacco pipe bowl found in this context was earlier in date probably post-1700; Shortly after that date pipes changed in quality, being more accurately made, with a smoother finish and with thinner walls and slender stems (Cambridge Archaeology Field Group 2012).

8.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

8.1 Excavation of foundation trenches at Bryn Pwyth, Llansannan.

The archaeological watching brief was maintained by Josh Dean BA ACIFA, archaeological contractor at Aeon Archaeology. The site was attended on 3-4th May 2018 and the weather conditions were bright and sunny with occasional periods of overcast cloud.

The watching brief was maintained during the excavation of the extension foundation trenches located to the northwest of Bryn Pwyth (near the south-eastern boundary of the churchyard). These trenches formed a 'C' shaped perimeter which measured approximately 0.60m in width by 5.20m in length northwest to southeast (the northern and southern trenches) and 7.85m long northeast to southwest (the western trench) and were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.30m. The western area of the site was covered with turf and topsoil (104) while the eastern portion consisted of a hard levelling deposit (103). Just south of the junction of the western and northern trenches, just below the turf (104) was a modern intervention (soak-away) which measured approximately 1.0m³.

8.2 The western foundation trench (northeast to southwest)

The western foundation trench (7.85m long) was excavated through a 0.07m (south) – 0.15m (north) deep soft dark grey-brown clay-silt topsoil (104) with very rare sub-rounded pebble inclusions. Revealed beneath this topsoil was a modern soak-away which was visible in plan as approximately a 1.0m² intrusion into the deposits below and was full of angular/sub-angular cobbles and small boulders. This lay above a 0.24m deep hard, mid grey-brown sand-silt secondary levelling deposit (103) with frequent slate, plastic and modern brick inclusions. To the south this lay directly upon a very hard light grey-yellow sand & gravel natural substrata (101) which was >0.76m in depth.

To the north of the western trench at the junction with the northern trench (northwest to southeast aligned trench) directly below the levelling material was a demolition deposit (102) measuring 0.35m deep, very hard dark grey-brown (with black mottling) silt-clay with very frequent small to medium sized angular/sub-angular sized cobbles and small boulder rubble inclusions; this deposit was visible in the north-western section projecting southeast for approximately 1.24m. Directly below the demolition layer (102) was a 0.60m deep soft and friable, light grey-brown sand-clay-silt relict garden surface/infill material (108) with frequent sub-angular/sub-rounded cobble inclusions. This lay above a firm, light grey-brown clay natural glacial substrata with frequent angular and sub-angular pebbles and post-medieval ceramic inclusions. Partially truncated by this layer and lying directly beneath it was a soft and malleable, mid yellow-brown, silt clay with abundant well-sorted sub-angular/sub-rounded pebble inclusions (109). The foundation trench did not reach the horizon with the natural glacial substrata in this corner of the trench and was only encountered 1.76m to the southeast.

Discussion

According to the trench section the turf (104) was the most recent addition to this area as this covered the modern soak-away which cut into the layers beneath (from latest to earliest) (103), (108), (109), (101). The 'made ground' (103) appears to have covered the majority of the site and most probably represents a modern imported material utilised for levelling the site for a modern garden. Furthermore directly below this levelling deposit (103) was demolition layer (102) which (according to anecdotal evidence) may once have been a pig-sty; this building was levelled prior to the importation of (102) and the deposit was replete with post-medieval ceramic which is historically linked with the dairy

industry. The relict garden surface/infill material (108) appears to have been partially truncated by the levelling material (103) above. At the northern and eastern boundaries of the site there is a modern brick wall which acts as a retaining wall for the garden, this infill material (108) apparently serves to elevate the garden above where previously there was a slope, running away to the northeast; this suggestion of a slope is evidenced by the section where slope is visible, created by the deposit (109).

The deposit (109) may represent the earliest archaeological phase at Bryn Pwyth, although archaeologically inert the deposit sits directly upon the natural sand/gravel (101) and is distinct from it in that it is a quite soft silt-clay with very well sorted stony inclusions. If this deposit (109) was encountered further to the west or contained archaeologically dateable material it could have represented a very small part of the original boundary earthwork, which was associated with the church at Llansannan. However due to the distance at which it was encountered (nearly 5.0m) from the modern church boundary wall it is more probably representative of the original ground surface upon which the earthwork could have been built upon, furthermore the evident sloping away of the ground to the southwest correlates with the concept of early church foundations being located on elevated ground (CADW 2000).

8.3 The northern foundation trench (northeast to southwest)

The northern foundation trench (5.20m long) was excavated through a 0.06m (south) – 0.17m (north) deep, soft dark grey-brown clay-silt topsoil (104) with very rare sub-rounded pebble inclusions. To the east of the topsoil the trench was covered in a 0.24m deep, hard mid-grey-brown sand-silt levelling deposit (103) with frequent sub rounded/angular cobbles; this layer represented a modern ‘made-up’ ground surface which covered the majority of the eastern portion of the site. Revealed beneath this was a demolition deposit (102) measuring 0.18m in depth, it was a very hard dark grey-brown (with black mottling) silt-clay with very frequent small to medium sized angular/sub-angular sized cobbles and small boulder rubble inclusions. This appeared to lay above the deep, soft and friable, light grey-brown sand-clay-silt relict garden surface/infill material (108) visible in the northern trench. It was into this layer (108) that the robber trench [105] was cut; it also partially truncated the sand/gravel natural (101) deposit below. The cut [105] was apparently linear (although this was not seen in plan), probably aligned east-west and vertical from the uppermost break of slope before gradually curving to a flat base (0.68m wide approx.). The cut was 1.25m wide at the top and was 0.93m in depth. The dry stone wall (106) was linear in plan, aligned east to west and arranged vertically, eight courses high; it consisted of small sub-rounded boulders which were un-mortared and appeared to be projecting towards the east. The cut [105] was backfilled (107) with a 0.93m deep, soft light-grey-brown sand-clay-silt with frequent sub angular/rounded pebbles and cobbles, fragments of post-medieval ceramic and glass shards. Below this layer was >0.42m deep natural sand and gravel deposit (101) which was a very hard light-grey-yellow sand and gravel with abundant small sub angular/rounded pebbles and cobbles.

Discussion

The dry stone wall (106) was partially truncated during machining however it had previously been truncated by works associated with the erection of a modern red brick wall, forming the north-eastern boundary of the property. The alignment of the wall was east –west which may correlate with an earlier stone wall which formed part of the earlier boundary for the property; The property sits upon a hill overlooking the Afon Aled and properties to the north, furthermore on HM Land Registry document for the property there is a triangular portion of the boundary which projects into the

adjoining northern property's garden; more anecdotal evidence suggests that this was once an earlier stone buttress wall which helped to support the original stone retaining wall for the garden. The wall (106) may align with the boundary wall on the Land Registry document; however this would mean that the wall (106) may well have projected into the garden possibly partitioning it into separate areas perhaps for livestock. The depth to which the wall projects below ground level (1.0m approx.) also suggests that this wall (106) was concurrent with the boundary wall. With the assumption that the original boundary was of a stone construction and was erected from the ground level of the northern property's garden up to the current ground level of Bryn Pwyth's garden (similarly to the modern brick wall); then the depth at which (106) was encountered advocates that it too was constructed when the ground level was lower than today, subsequently the infill material (108) was used to elevate the garden above the historic slope and form a terrace above the Afon Aled with the historic stone wall boundary acting as a retaining wall.

The cut [105] visible in section (Figure 04) is probably a robber trench which was excavated in order to reclaim some of the stone from the wall (106). The wall when uncovered, was in a poor condition as it was obviously missing structural components and appeared misaligned when viewed in profile, the damaged and dilapidated state of this wall supports the conclusion that this was a robber trench [105]; it was excavated and disturbed the wall, then in order to access the building stone the wall was further disturbed as some of the fabric of the wall was removed before being summarily backfilled (107).



Plate 01: Pre excavation shot - from south - scale 2 x 1.00m



Plate 02: Pre excavation shot - from north - scale 2 x 1.00m



Plate 03: Working shot showing modern soakaway cut into (103) - from the north - scale 1.00m



Plate 04: Northern trench footing (aligned northwest - southeast) - from the southeast - scale 1.00m



Plate 05: Western trench footing (aligned northeast - southwest) - from the northeast - scale 1.00m



Plate 06: Western trench footing (aligned northeast - southwest) - from the southwest - scale 1.00m



Plate 07: Southern trench footing (aligned northwest - southeast) - from the northwest - scale 1.00m



Plate 08: Southern trench footing (aligned northwest - southeast) - from the southeast - scale 1.00m



Plate 09: Generic section of northern trench footing - from the northeast - scale 1.00m



Plate 10: Section of northern trench footing showing wall (106) - from the northeast - scale 1.00m



Plate 11: Section of western trench footing showing context (109) - from the southeast - scale 0.50m



Plate 12: Section of western trench footing showing modern soakaway - from the southeast - scale 1.00m

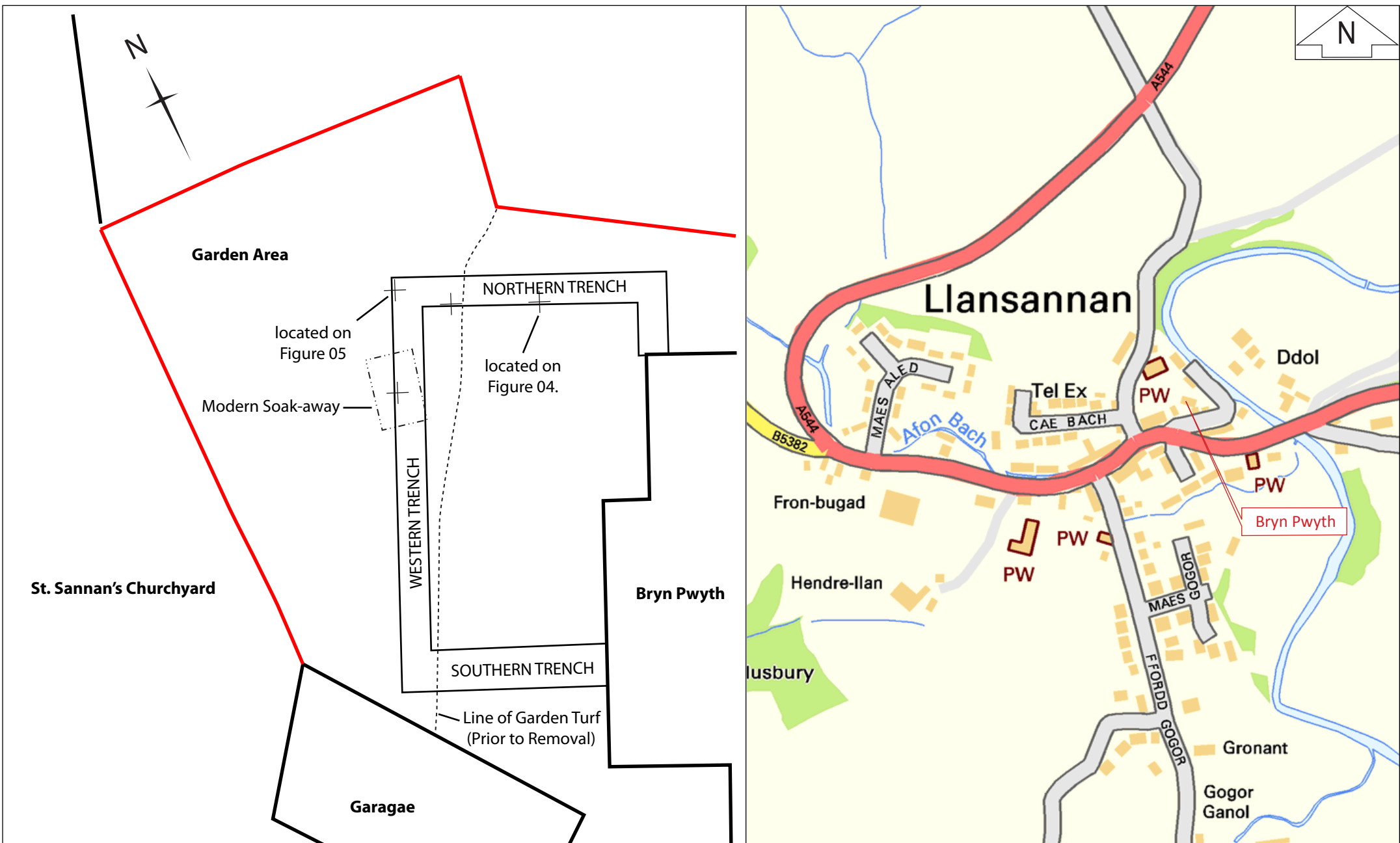


Figure 03. Plan of area covered by watching brief at Bryn Pwyth, Llansannan showing the location of section drawings (1:100 @ A4) and map showing location of Bryn Pwyth in relation to St. Sannan's Church (1:5000 @ A4).



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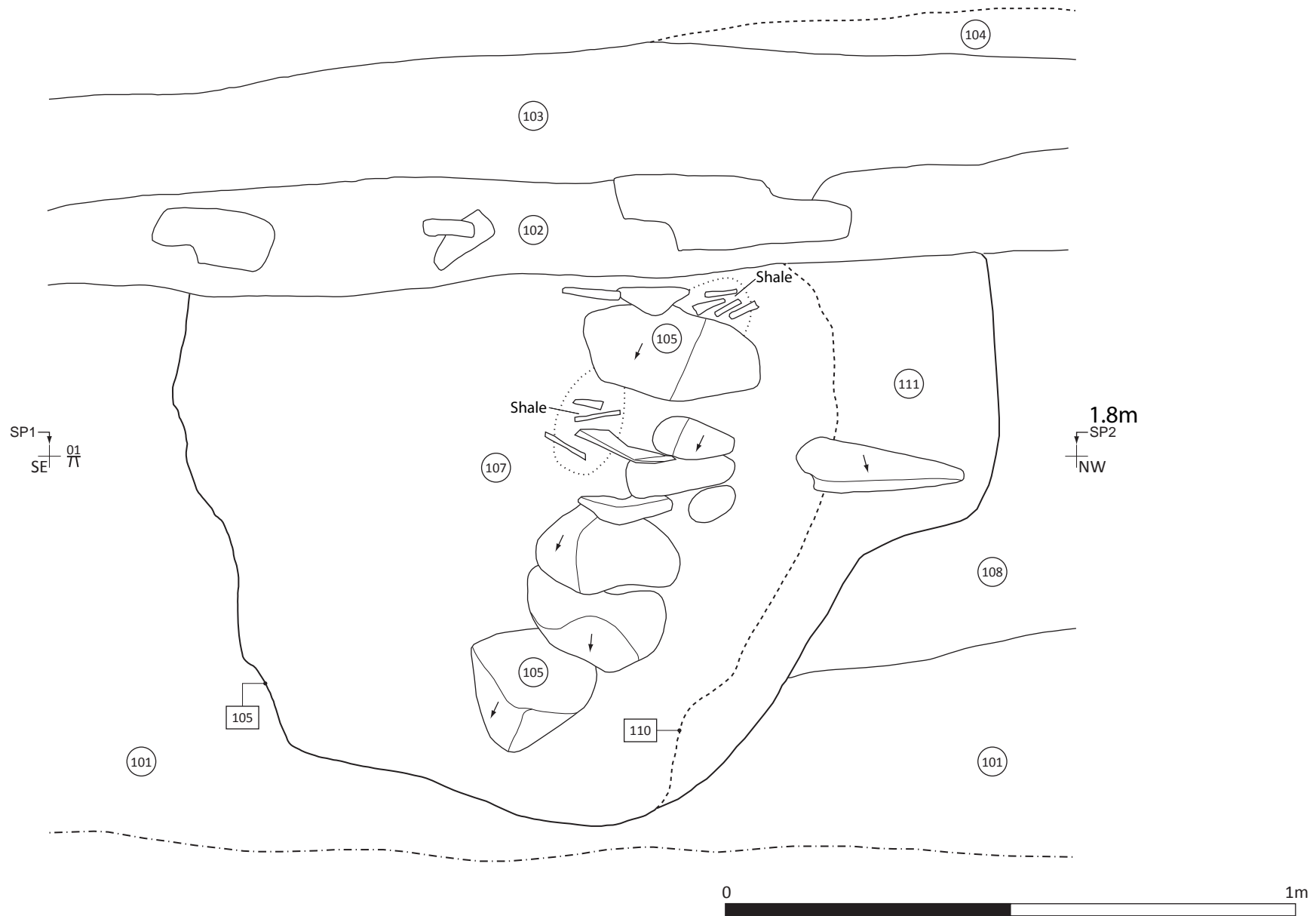


Figure 03. Northwest facing section of northern trench showing post-medieval wall (105). Scale 1:10 @ A4.



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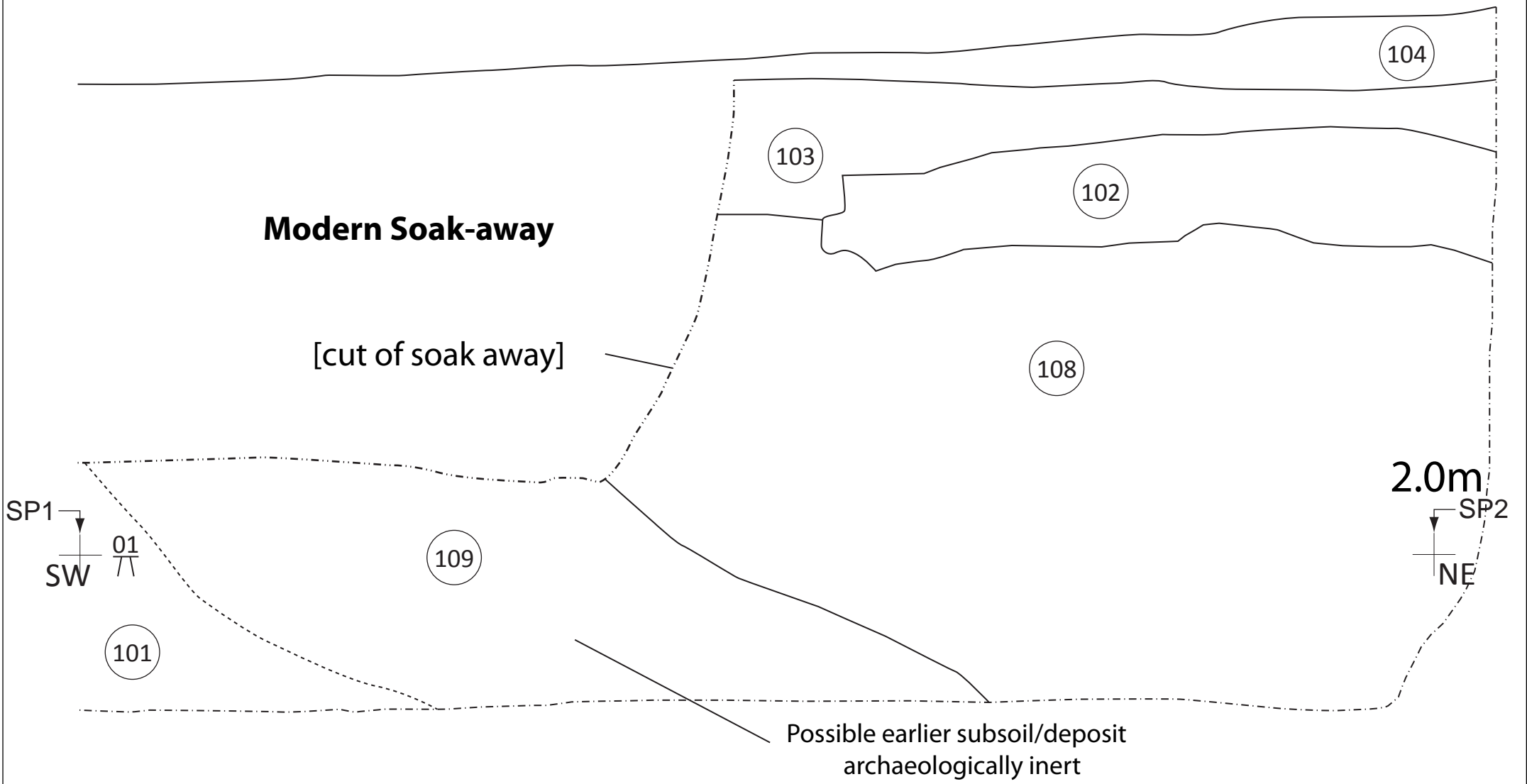


Figure 05. Southeast facing section of western trench showing deposit (109). Scale 1:10 @ A4.

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9.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The watching brief at Bryn Pwyth, Water Street, Llansannan, Conwy revealed a dry stone wall which probably corresponds with a former boundary wall located on the deeds to the property, an assemblage of ceramics which are traditionally associated with the dairy industry during the 17th-20th centuries and a buried ground surface that produced no dating evidence.

The buried deposit (109) may represent the earliest archaeological phase at Bryn Pwyth. There is no archaeological evidence to support an anthropogenic origin as a purpose built earthwork for the founding of a Church, it also sits directly upon the natural sand/gravel (101) sharing a slight similarity with that context perhaps alluding to natural origins. Furthermore the buried deposit (109) was discovered some 5.0m away from the modern church wall. It is most likely that the deposit represents an original ground surface upon which such earthwork may have been built upon or a natural hill that the Church founders may have seen as an appropriate location for siting an ecclesiastical building.

The watching brief can be seen as having fulfilled the spirit and intent of the archaeological condition and it is recommended that the condition now be discharged.

10.0 SOURCES

General

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APPENDIX I: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



**Bryn Pwyth, Water Street,
Llansannan, Conwy LL16 5HH.**

**Written Scheme of Investigation
for Archaeological Watching Brief.**

October 2017 v1.0

aeon archaeology



Project Code: A0136.1
Planning Ref: 0/40519

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been commissioned by Mr Gerallt Rees Jones, hereafter the Client, to provide a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for carrying out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the erection of a new single storey extension at Bryn Pwyth, Water Street, Llansannan, Conwy LL16 5HH (NGR SH 293454 65883).

The property lies to the immediate north of Water Street and approximately 30.0m southeast of St Sannan's Church, and within the historic core of Llansannan. Permission has been secured for the demolition of the existing utility / boiler room to the rear of the property and the construction of a new extension.

A mitigation brief was not prepared for this scheme by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) Development Control Archaeologist but the following condition was assigned to full planning permission (**0/40519**):

Condition 4

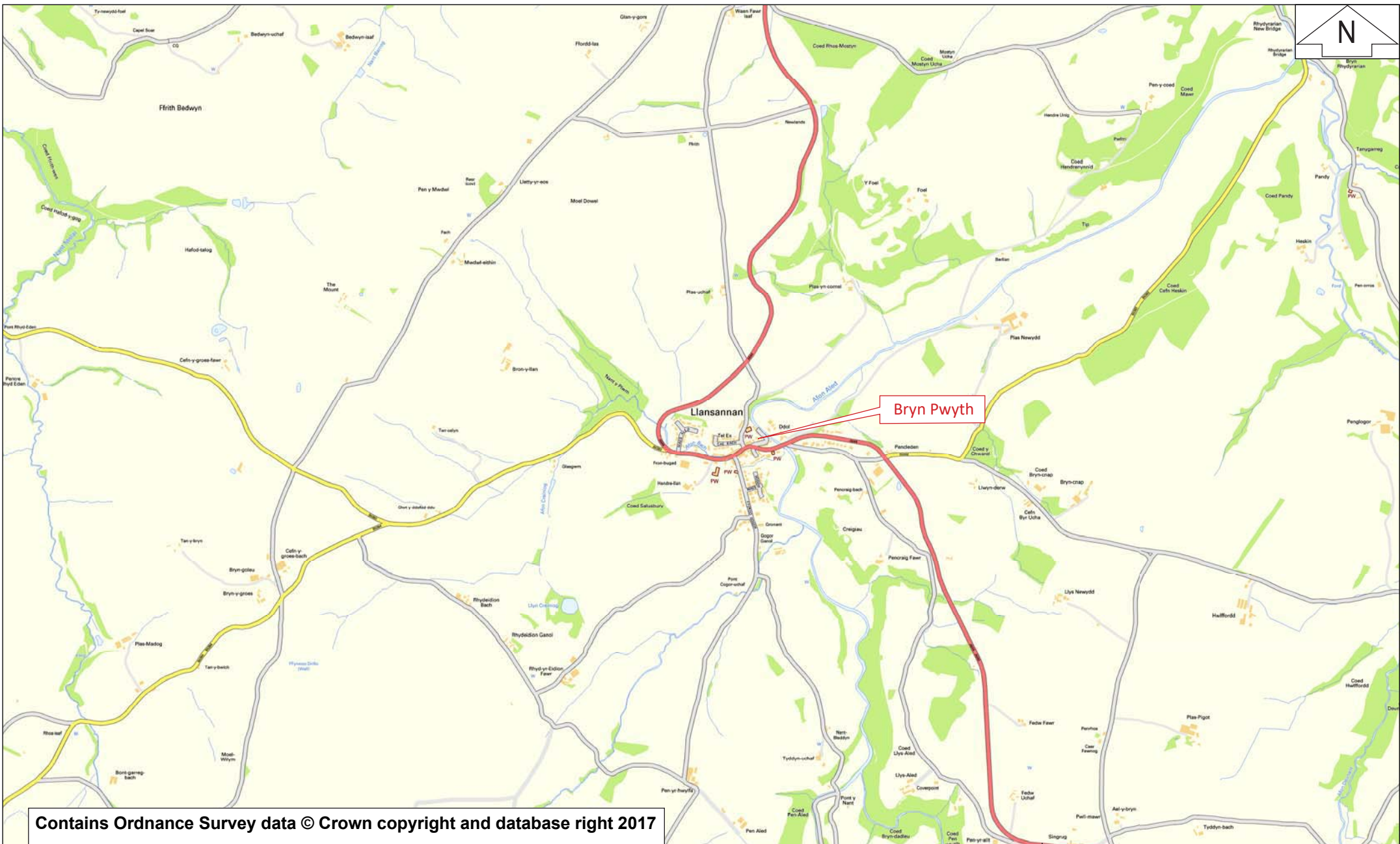
The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeological contractor is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs. The Local Planning Authority will be informed in writing, at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development, of the name of the said archaeological contractor. A copy of the resulting report should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR within two months of the fieldwork being completed.

Reason

In order to record the archaeological interest of the land and in order to comply with Policy CTH/2 of the adopted Conwy Local Development Plan 2013, and advice in Planning Policy Wales 6th ed, 2014.

Relevant UK legislation on heritage includes the Welsh Government's Planning Policy Wales Technical Advice Note 24 (TAN-24 2017), and the Historic Environment Act (Wales) 2016.

The work will adhere to the guidelines specified in Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).



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Figure 01: Location of Bryn Pwyth, Water Street, Llansannan. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.



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Figure 02: Location of Bryn Pwyth, Water Street, Llansannan. Scale 1:5,000 at A4.



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2.0 ARCHEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Information held within the Historic Environment Record indicates that the proposed new extension will lie within the medieval historic core of the village and immediately adjacent to the churchyard boundary. The churchyard boundary was potentially a very early earthwork dating to the foundation of a church on this site. Sub-circular churchyard boundaries in conjunction with Llan placenames and early saint dedications are typically used as markers for early medieval churches and these can sometimes occupy the site of even earlier prehistoric enclosures.

The foundations for the new extension may therefore reveal sub-surface deposits related to an early enclosure bank and ditch around the churchyard boundary as well as evidence of later medieval occupation at the back of the street frontage.

3.0 WATCHING BRIEF - ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS

The archaeological watching brief shall be maintained:

1. During the excavation of topsoil and foundation trenches for the new extension.

The CIfA maintains a standard for archaeological watching brief which states that:

An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant by-laws of CIfA.

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the CIfA as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons (CIfA 2014). The watching brief will take place within a specified area within the Site where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.

The CIfA further identifies the purpose of a watching brief as allowing, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.

It is also important to note that a watching brief provides an opportunity, if needed, for a signal to be made to all interested parties, before the destruction of the archaeological materials, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

A watching brief is, therefore, not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

The aims of the watching brief are:

- To allow, within the resources available, the opportunity to gain information about and record the presence/absence, nature and date of archaeological remains on the Site affected by excavations and groundworks, the presence and nature of which could not be established with sufficient confidence in advance of works which may disturb them.
- To provide the facility to signal to the relevant authorities, before irreversible impact to remains that an archaeological and/or historic find has been made for which the resources

allocated to the watching brief itself are inadequate to support their treatment to an adequate and satisfactory standard.

The specific objectives of the watching brief are:

- To observe and recover any artefacts of archaeological significance.
- To record the location, dimensions and nature of any deposits, features, structures or artefacts of archaeological significance.
- To recover samples of any deposits considered to have potential for analysis for palaeoenvironmental data should the opportunity arise.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

The methodology for the watching brief has been prepared with reference to the CIfA's document Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (2014) and will be kept under constant review during the project, in order to see how far it is meeting the terms of the aims and objectives, and in order to adopt any new questions which may arise.

Curatorial monitoring of the archaeological work on behalf of the Council will be carried out by the CPAT Development Control Archaeologist (Mr Mark Walters). To facilitate the curatorial monitoring, the officer shall be provided with a minimum of two weeks' notice of the start of the archaeological work.

A suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist(s) from Aeon Archaeology will be commissioned for the maintenance of the watching brief. On arrival on site, the archaeologist(s) will report to the site manager and conform to the arrangements for notification of entering and leaving site. The archaeologist(s) will keep a record of the date, time and duration of all attendances at site, the names and numbers of archaeologists deployed and any actions taken. The archaeologist will be provided with a Health & Safety Induction by the construction contractor and wear a safety helmet, safety footwear and high visibility jacket/vest at all times.

If deposits and or artefacts are exposed during excavations for the development which require recording and recovery, it may be necessary to delay works whilst the proper investigation and recording takes place. Watching brief recording can often be undertaken without delay to groundworks, depending upon the specific circumstances and flexibility of all the staff on site.

Within the constraints of the terms of the watching brief work, the archaeologist will not cause unreasonable disruption to the maintenance of the work schedules of other contractors on site. In the event of archaeological discoveries the treatment of which (either arising from the volume/quantity of material and/or the complexity/importance of the material) is beyond the resources deployed the Client will be notified and a site meeting/telephone consultation arranged with the CPAT Archaeologist. The aim of the meeting will be to confirm that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard and identify measures which would be sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard prior to destruction of the material in question.

Any archaeological deposits, features and structures identified which can be investigated and recorded under the terms of the watching brief will be excavated manually in a controlled and stratigraphic

manner sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project – subject to the limitations on site access.

It may not be necessary to excavate the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits but the inter-relationships between archaeological deposits, features and structures will be investigated sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project and the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits will be investigated where practicable.

The method of recording will follow the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and the stratigraphy will be recorded in written descriptions even where no archaeological deposits have been identified. The archaeologist will record archaeological deposits using proformae recording forms and locate them on a large-scale site plan related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum references.

The groundworks excavations shall be undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The drawn record will comprise plans at scale 1:20 and sections at scale 1:10; propriety electronic hardware and software to prepare site drawings may be used as appropriate.

The photographic record will be maintained throughout using a digital SLR camera (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution (72 dpi) and all archaeological features will be recorded photographically with photographs taken in RAW format and later converted to TIFF format for long-term storage and JPEG format for presentation and inclusion in the archive. The standards for the digital archive will adhere to those set out in ‘*Guidelines for Digital Archaeological Archives*’ (RCAHMW, 2015).

The archive produced will be held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0136.1**.

4.2 Watching brief report

4.2.1 Post-excavation Assessment

A report on the results of the watching brief, in accordance with the recommendations in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager’s Guide* (English Heritage 2006; 2015), and in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2014) will be required to be produced upon conclusion of the archaeological fieldwork. The report will be completed within a maximum of two months of completion of work on site and may include examination and quantification leading to the identification of function, form, date, method of manufacture, material/fabric type, source, parallels, attributes and condition of artefacts; of the exploitation of wild or domesticated resources; the reconstruction of environments; and the nature of human populations.

Full analysis of the results of the project, including: dating and interpretation of excavated features; pottery and other finds analysis; analysis of industrial residues by an appropriate specialist or specialists; analysis of samples for environmental data (including pollen, plant macrofossils and beetles) by an appropriate specialist or specialists; radiocarbon dating; discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context, including relating the excavated features and palaeoenvironmental data to evidence from nearby sites, and discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context may be required.

The scope of post-excavation assessment will subject to a specification for approval by the CPAT Archaeologist, upon the conclusion of the fieldwork project and preliminary report.

4.2.2 Post-excavation Report

Following completion of the stages outlined above, a report will be produced that will include:

- A non-technical summary.
- A table of contents.
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the site.
- A statement of the project aims.
- An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same to include a statement on preservation bias and the means of data collection and sampling strategies.
- A factual summary of the history, development and use of the site.
- A statement setting out the nature, quantity and condition of the material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) including commentary on any bias observed due to collection and sampling strategies and commentary on long-term storage requirements.
- A statement setting out the nature and quantity of the documentary archive (notes, photographs, drawings, digital data).
- A general site plan indicating the position and size of the areas subject to watching brief and the locations of archaeological deposits identified and recorded during the works.
- Plans and sections at appropriate scales, augmented with appropriate photographs. All plans and sections will be related to the Ordnance Survey datum levels and to the National Grid.
- Other maps, plans, drawings, stratigraphic matrices and photographs as appropriate.
- Summary assessment reports on the artefact, bio-archaeological, dating and other assessments/analyses.
- A discussion of the location, extent, date, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits and finds identified during the project.
- A discussion of any research implications arising from the archaeological work.
- Notes on consultations with conservators and the nominated archive repository related to the immediate and long-term conservation and storage requirements for the data held in the site archive and recommendations of retention/discard of artefacts and ecofacts.
- A bibliography of sources consulted.
- Appendices to the report will include artefact catalogues, reports on assessments/analyses and an index to the project archive and a statement on its location/proposed repository.
- In addition the post-excavation report will summarise and draw together the findings of all of the phases of work.

Illustrations will include plans of the location of the study area and archaeological sites. Historical maps, when appropriate and if copyright permissions allow, will be included. Photographs of relevant sites and of the study area where appropriate will be included.

A draft copy of the report will be sent to the CPAT Archaeologist and to the client for comment and approval prior to production of the final report.

Aeon Archaeology will not be held responsible for delays and subsequent costs incurred through the onset of adverse weather. If such conditions occur additional costs may be incurred.

5.0 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS DESIGNS (FAWDs)

The discovery of substantial archaeological remains and/or features during the archaeological works may result in the requirement for an extended programme of archaeological mitigation. This may require the submission of revised quotes to the client as well as a new specification which will be required to be approved by the CPAT archaeologist prior to implementation.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

Relevant archaeological deposits will be sampled by taking bulk samples (a minimum of 10.0 litres and maximum of 30.0 litres) for flotation of charred plant remains. Bulk samples will be taken from waterlogged deposits for macroscopic plant remains. Other bulk samples, for example from middens, may be taken for small animal bones and small artefacts.

Bulk environmental samples will also be taken from any fills, deposits or structures which yield archaeological artefacts, charcoal flecks/ fragments, bone, or any other historic remains.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs will be obtained from Oxford Archaeology.

For guidance purposes the following volume criteria represent the minimum feature sampling requirements:

- 50% of each discrete feature (e.g. pits and postholes)
- 25% of the exposed areas of each linear feature and all terminals/intersections
- 50% of structural features (e.g. beamslots, ring-ditches)
- 50%-100% of domestic/industrial working features (e.g. hearths and ovens)

7.0 HUMAN REMAINS

Any finds of human remains will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, and both the coroner and the CPAT Archaeologist informed. If removal is necessary it will take place under appropriate regulations and with due regard for health and safety issues. In order to excavate human remains, a licence is required under Section 25 of the Burials Act 1857 for the removal of any body or remains of any body from any place of burial. This will be applied for should human remains need to be investigated or moved.

8.0 ARTEFACTS

All artefacts and ecofacts will be retrieved for identification and recording and will be treated in accordance with Cifa 2008 Guidelines for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).

All artefacts are the property of the landowner but it is recommended that finds are deposited with the rest of the project archive within an appropriate museum. Furthermore, the client agrees to granting access to all artefacts recovered by Aeon Archaeology for analysis, study and publication as necessary. All finds would be treated according to advice provided within *First Aid for Finds* (Rescue 1999). Aeon Archaeology staff will undertake initial identification, but any additional advice would be sought from a wide range of consultants.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds will be kept under review throughout the archaeological works. Any changes in recovery priorities will be under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the CPAT Archaeologist. There will be a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

All finds will be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. Their location and height will be plotted; finds numbers attributed, bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. Where specialist advice is required provision will be made to do so at the earliest possible convenience.

After processing, artefacts which are suitable will be cleaned and conserved in-house. Artefacts requiring specialist cleaning and conservation will be sent to the relevant specialist. All artefacts will then be sent to a specialist for analysis, the results of which will then be assessed to ascertain the potential of the finds assemblage to meet the research aims of the project. The value of the finds will also be assessed in terms of the wider educational and academic contributions.

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation of waterlogged material:

- Organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)
- Non-organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation and analysis of artefacts:

- Bone: Nora Bermingham
- Glass: Hilary Cool, Barbican Research Associates.
- Metal artefacts: Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services, Cardiff.
- Slag, burnt clay, hammerscale: Dr. Tim Young, Geoarch, Cardiff.
- Stone artefacts: George Smith, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Bangor.
- Wood artefacts: Jane Foley, Foley Conservation, Builth Wells.
- Leather: Quita Mould, Barbican Research Associates.
- Environmental Material: Dr Mike Allen, Allen Environmental Archaeology.
- Numismatics: Peter Guest, Barbican Research Associates.
- Ceramics: Leigh Dodd

If well preserved materials are found it may be necessary to employ additional staff. Furthermore, it may be necessary to suspend work within a specific region of the site, or across the whole site, while conservation and excavation/recording takes place. Aeon Archaeology accepts no responsibility for any costs incurred from delays as a result of unexpected archaeological finds.

9.0 UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES: TREASURE TROVE

Treasure Trove law has been amended by the Treasure Act 1996. The following are Treasure under the Act:

- *Objects other than coins* any object other than a coin provided that it contains at least 10% gold or silver and is at least 300 years old when found.

- *Coins* all coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found (if the coins contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least 10. Any object or coin is part of the same find as another object or coin, if it is found in the same place as, or had previously been left together with, the other object. Finds may have become scattered since they were originally deposited in the ground. Single coin finds of gold or silver are not classed as treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act.
- *Associated objects* any object whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or that had previously been together with, another object that is treasure.
- *Objects that would have been treasure trove* any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. These objects have to be made substantially of gold or silver, they have to be buried with the intention of recovery and their owner or his heirs cannot be traced.

The following types of finds are not treasure:

- Objects whose owners can be traced.
- Unworked natural objects, including human and animal remains, even if they are found in association with treasure.
- Objects from the foreshore which are not wreck.

All finds of treasure must be reported to the coroner for the district within fourteen days of discovery or identification of the items. Items declared Treasure Trove become the property of the Crown.

The British Museum will decide whether they or any other museum may wish to acquire the object. If no museum wishes to acquire the object, then the Secretary of State will be able to disclaim it. When this happens, the coroner will notify the occupier and landowner that he intends to return the object to the finder after 28 days unless he receives no objection. If the coroner receives an objection, the find will be retained until the dispute has been settled.

10.0 ARCHIVING

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 with the National Monument Record, RCAHMW within six months of the completion of the project.

A draft copy of the report will be produced within six months of the completion of the fieldwork and sent to the Client and the CPAT Archaeologist for comment prior to finalisation of the report and dissemination. Bound copies of the report and an archive CD will be sent to the regional HER, the CPAT archaeologist and to National Monument Record, of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) for long term archiving. Furthermore, a summary of the project will be sent to *Archaeology in Wales* for publication. Copies of all digital files (inc. photos, report as PDF and Word, spreadsheets, databases, survey data etc) to be presented to each of above on optical disc (ie DVD).

11.0 PERSONNEL

The work will be managed by Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA, Archaeological Contractor and Consultant at Aeon Archaeology.

12.0 MONITORING AND LIAISON

Regular liaison and site monitoring meetings will take place during all stages of work. The CPATArchaeologist will be informed of the start date and of discreet subsequent stages.

13.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Aeon Archaeology has a Health and Safety Policy Statement which can be supplied upon request. Furthermore, site-specific Risk Assessments and Method Statements are compiled and distributed to every member of staff involved with the project prior to the commencement of works.

14.0 INSURANCE

Liability Insurance – Insignia Underwriting Policy 347002

Employers' Liability: Limit of Indemnity £10m in any one occurrence

Public Liability: Limit of Indemnity £2m in any one occurrence

Legal Defence Costs (Health and Safety at Work Act): £250,000

The current period expires 07/09/18

Professional Indemnity Insurance – Insignia Underwriting Policy 347002

Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 07/09/18

