ARCHAEOLOGY WALES

Field Evaluation:

Land East of Llanrwst Road, Gyffin, Conwy

August 2025

Report No. 2405

By

Rachel Willmot & Daniel Morgan

REGISTERED ORGANISATION CIfA

ARCHAEOLOGY WALES

Field Evaluation

Land East of Llanrwst Road, Gyffin, Conwy

August 2025

Prepared for

Beech Developments (NW) Ltd on behalf of Adra (Tai) Cyfyngedig

By

Rachel Willmot BA PCIfA,

Daniel Morgan MSc

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Summary

In July 2025, Archaeology Wales Ltd was commissioned by Beech Developments (NW) Ltd on behalf of Adra (Tai) Cyfyngedig to carry out an archaeological field evaluation in association with a proposed residential development of 102 affordable homes at land east of Llanrwst Road, Gyffin, Conwy, LL32 8HZ. The site is centred on NGR SN 77788 76525.

The fieldwork consisted of the excavation of eighteen trenches, each measuring 30m by 1.8m. These were excavated within the proposed development to assess the presence or absence and character of the archaeological resource within the site and located to target anomalies identified by geophysical survey (TerraDAT 2025). Trench 13 and 16, were repositioned from due to health and safety concerns, following agreement with Heneb GAPS.

Trench 1 revealed the remains of a shallow feature – either a ditch or large pit – while Trenches 4 and 13 each contained a single posthole. Although no definite function or could be ascribed to these features, highly fragmented sherds of probable prehistoric pottery were recovered from feature [106] during post-excavation. These were identified as eight fragments of Middle Neolithic Impressed Ware contained within a deposit of fuel waste charcoal. No archaeological remains were recorded in the other trenches.

All works were conducted in accordance with the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2023a) and the Universal Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2023b).

Crynodeb

Ym mis Gorffennaf 2025, comisiynwyd Archaeology Wales Ltd gan Beech Developments (NW) Ltd ar ran Adra (Tai) Cyfyngedig i gynnal gwerthusiad maes archaeolegol mewn cysylltiad â datblygiad preswyl arfaethedig o 102 o gartrefi fforddiadwy ar dir i'r dwyrain o Ffordd Llanrwst, Gyffin, Conwy, LL32 8HZ. Canolir y safle ar NGR SN 77788 76525.

Cynhaliwyd y gwaith maes trwy gloddio deunaw ffos, pob un yn mesur 30m wrth 1.8m. Cloddiwyd y rhain o fewn ardal y datblygiad arfaethedig er mwyn asesu presenoldeb neu absenoldeb ac ansawdd yr adnodd archaeolegol ar y safle, a'u lleoli i dargedu anomaleddau a nodwyd gan yr arolwg geoffisegol (TerraDAT 2025). Cafodd Ffosydd 13 a 16 eu hail-leoli oherwydd pryderon iechyd a diogelwch, ar ôl cytundeb gyda Heneb GAPS.

Datgelodd Trench 1 weddillion nodwedd fas – naill ai ffos neu dwll mawr – tra roedd un twll post yn unig ym mhob un o Drinshis 4 a 13. Er na ellid priodoli swyddogaeth benodol i'r nodweddion hyn, cafwyd darnau crochenwaith hynafol, wedi'u torri'n ddarnau bach iawn, o nodwedd [106] yn ystod y gwaith ôl-gloddio. Adnabuwyd y rhain fel wyth darn o grochenwaith Argraffedig o'r Oes Neolithig Ganol, wedi'u cynnwys mewn dyddodiad o lo gwastraff tanwydd. Ni chofnodwyd unrhyw weddillion archaeolegol yn y trinshis eraill.

Cynhaliwyd yr holl waith yn unol â'r safonau a ofynnir gan Safon yr Athrofa Siartredig yr Archaeolegwyr ar gyfer Gwerthusiad Maes Archaeolegol (2023a) a'r Canllawiau Cyffredinol ar gyfer Gwerthusiad Maes Archaeolegol (2023b).

1. Introduction

1.1.1. In July 2025, Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) was commissioned by Beech Developments (NW) Ltd on behalf of Adra (Tai) Cyfyngedig (henceforth – 'the Client') to carry out an archaeological field evaluation in association with a proposed residential development of 102 affordable homes at land east of Llanrwst Road, Gyffin, Conwy, LL32 8HZ (henceforth 'the Site') (Figure 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SH 77788 76525.

1.1.2. The purpose of the proposed archaeological evaluation was to provide Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology Planning Services (Heneb GAPS) with the information they are likely to request in respect of the proposed development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy Wales (Ed.12). The aim of the work was to highlight and assess the impact on if any archaeology is on/surrounding the proposed site, and to provide specialist advice upon any potential impact.

1.1.3. The fieldwork consisted of the excavation of eighteen trenches, each measuring 30m in length by 1.8m in width, located to assess the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey conducted at the site in July 2025 (TerraDat 2025).

1.1.4. Trenches 13 and 16 were repositioned due to health and safety concerns relating to the steepness of the slope. The new layout was agreed by Heneb GAPS prior to the excavation of the trenches.

1.1.5. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Archaeology Wales (Garcia Rovira 2025) (Appendix II) and approved by Heneb GAPS prior to work commencing on site.

1.1.6. The fieldwork took place between the 18th of August and 22nd of August 2025. The fieldwork was conducted by Pete Clarke (AW Project Officer), Rachel

Willmot (AW Project Archaeologist), Dan Morgan (AW Project Archaeologist), and managed by Irene Garcia Rovira (AW Project Manager).

1.1.7. All works were conducted in accordance with the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard for archaeological field evaluation* (2023a) and *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2023b).

2. Site Description

2.1.1. The proposed development site is situated to the east of Llanrwst Road (B5106) in Gyffin, Conwy – NGR SH 77788 76525 (Figure 1).

2.1.2. The site lies within a semi-rural fringe on the southern edge of Conwy, adjoining residential properties to the north and west and open countryside to the south. It occupies four irregularly shaped parcels of land that are currently used as pasture. Existing field boundaries are a mix a hedgerows and mature trees.

2.1.3. The site is in close proximity to the medieval walled town of Conwy, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and falls just outside the Registered Historic Landscape of Creuddyn and Conwy (HLW (Gw) 5).

2.1.4. The underlying geology of the site is defined by the Bettws Mudstone Formation, which was formed during the Silurian Period. Overlying this bedrock, the superficial deposits consist of Devensian Till (Diamicton), which was laid down during the Quaternary Period (BGS 2025).

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1.1. Archaeology Wales undertook a desk-based assessment in July 2025 (Garcia Rovira 2025). The study found little evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity

in the immediate area beyond isolated findspots, although a possible prehistoric enclosure has been identified as an earthwork approximately 450m to the north-west of the site (PRN 112171).

3.1.2. The development area itself lies within the medieval township of Gyffin (PRN 7367), whose centre is marked by the parish church of St Benedict (LB 3291; NPRNs 43691, 43692, 43693; PRN 6934), located 270m to the north-north-west. Believed to date to the 13th century and associated with the monks of Aberconwy (Roberts 2008), the church contains a painted celure of sixteen panels dating to the late 15th or early 16th century (Jones & Rees 2016a), and a medieval mill is also recorded nearby (ibid). Around 480m to the west lies the medieval settlement of Hendre, where ridge-and-furrow cultivation remains survive in adjacent fields, while Conwy Castle (WHS 374; SM CN004; LB 3250; NPRN 121; PRN 2851) and its medieval town walls are situated only 800m to the north-west. During the post-medieval period, Gyffin expanded as a village and continued to develop as an agricultural community.

3.1.3. Given the limited disturbance across the development fields, it was considered possible that any surviving archaeological remains, likely of medieval origin, could be well preserved beneath the ploughsoil.

3.1.4. Following completion of the desk-based assessment, a geophysical survey was undertaken across the site to further assess its archaeological potential (Terradat 2025). The results revealed evidence of agricultural activity across the site. In the southern fields, a series of parallel lineations were interpreted as resulting from deep ploughing connected to previous farming practices. Linear features in the central and southern areas were interpreted as boundary ditches relating to pre-modern land division. Curvilinear features in the north and central areas may have been of archaeological or geological origin.

4. Aims and Objectives

4.1.1. The main objective of the archaeological field evaluation was to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological remains and to sufficiently characterise these to inform the potential requirement for any further archaeological work.

4.1.2. The general aim was to:

- Determine the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains within the site
- Determine the anomalies identified by the prior geophysical survey
- Investigate and record all deposits and features of archaeological interest within the site
- Provide a sufficient level of information to allow determination of any additional requirements for mitigation
- Disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of recording.

5. Methodology

5.1.1. The work was undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2023a) and the *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2023b).

5.1.2. A total of eighteen trenches were excavated within the proposed development area during this phase of works (Figure 2). The positioning of the trenches was agreed with Heneb GAPS prior to work commencing. All trenches measured 30m in length and 1.8m in width.

5.1.3. The trenches were excavated to the top of the archaeological horizon or natural substrate (whichever was reached first) using a 9ton tracked excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. The removal of the overburden soils was

done under the supervision of a competent archaeologist.

5.1.4. Any archaeological remains encountered were hand cleaned, excavated, and recorded through the use of proforma recording sheets, high resolution digital photography, and GPS.

6. Evaluation results

6.1. Introduction

6.1.1. A total of eighteen trenches were opened within the proposed development area. Of these trenches, three contained archaeological features (Trenches 1, 4, 13), and the remaining fifteen were blank. The trenches containing archaeological features are described in Section 6.2 to 6.4 (Figure 2).

6.1.2. Across all of the trenches within the proposed development area the natural substrate varied considerably. The natural substrate varied between a firm light-grey yellow sandy clay, with very frequent sub-angular stones, small to medium in size, to a very firm mid-brown yellow sandy clay with frequent gravel inclusions, and areas of bedrock.

6.1.3. A largely uniform deposit was seen above the natural substrate in Trenches 1, 4, 6, 11, and 17. These trenches are located at the western edge of the site, at the base of the natural slope. Therefore, this layer was interpreted as a colluvial deposit. It ranged between 0.09m and 0.16m in thickness, and consisted of a firm mid-brown orange, sandy clay with very frequent inclusions of gravels and sub-angular stones.

6.1.4. Overlying the colluvium – where present – and the natural substrate, the subsoil consisted of a loose light-grey brown clay silt with frequent gravel and sub-angular small stone inclusions and had a maximum thickness of 0.2m.

6.1.5. The topsoil remained consistent across the site, consisting of a loose mid-grey

brown, sandy silt with occasional inclusions of small sub-angular stones and gravels. The topsoil varied between 0.17m and 0.4m in thickness.

6.2. Trench 1

6.2.1. Trench 1 was located in the southwest of site and was excavated to a depth of 0.74m below the ground level. The natural substrate (103) was exposed to 0.08m and was described as a very firm light brownish yellow sandy clay with frequent small and medium sub angular stone inclusions (Figures 2-4, Plates 1-3).

6.2.2. Toward the southwestern end of the trench, the natural was feature, possibly a ditch or large pit. The feature [106] was linear in plan and was oriented north-west to south-east. It measured 1.8m in length within the trench, and 2.75m wide and had a depth of 0.2m. The feature had very shallow sloping sides and a flat base (Plates 2). The feature contained two fills. The lower fill (107), a friable mid-greyish brown sandy silt with frequent rooting, rare small sub-angular and sub-rounded stone inclusions. It measured a maximum depth of 0.16m. The upper fill (108) was a moderately firm brownish yellow sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions and measured a maximum depth of 0.08m. Neither of the fills produced finds.

6.2.3. The natural substrate was overlain by a colluvium layer (102), measuring 0.16m thick, consisting of a firm mid-greyish brown silty clay with rare small stone inclusions. This in turn was overlain by subsoil (101), measuring 0.1m thick, consisting of a friable light greyish brown sandy silt with frequent small stone and gravel like inclusions. The subsoil was then overlain by the topsoil (100), measuring 0.4m thick, and was a deposit of friable mid-grey brown sandy silt with inclusions of moderate rooting and small gravels throughout.

6.3. Trench 4

6.3.1. Trench 4 was located towards the southwest part of site (Figures 2-4, Plates 6-8). It was excavated to a depth of 0.68m below the ground level (Plate 7).

6.3.2. The natural substrate (403) was exposed to 0.1m and was a firm light-grey yellow sandy clay with very frequent sub-angular stones, small to medium in size. Toward the east south-east end of the trench, the natural was cut by a posthole. Posthole [104] was a west north-west to east south-east aligned sub-circular feature, measuring a 0.35m in length by 0.22m wide and had a depth of 0.06m. The posthole had concave sides and a flat base. The posthole contained one fill. The fill (405) was a soft mid-orange brown sandy clay with frequent inclusions of gravel throughout. The fill produced no finds.

6.3.3. The natural substrate was overlain by a colluvium layer (402), measuring 0.11m thick, consisting of a firm mid-greyish brown silty clay with rare small stone inclusions. This in turn was overlain by subsoil (401), measuring 0.17m thick, consisting of a loose light greyish brown sandy silt with frequent small stone and gravel like inclusions. The subsoil was then overlain by the topsoil (400), measuring 0.3m thick, and was a friable mid grey brown sandy silt with inclusions of moderate rooting and small gravels throughout.

6.4. Trench 13

6.4.1. Trench 13 was located towards the southwest part of site. It was excavated to a depth of 0.69m below the ground level (Figures 2-4, Plates 19-21).

6.4.2. The natural substrate (1302) was exposed to 0.13m and was a firm light-orange brown sandy clay with very frequent sub-angular stones, small to medium in size, and gravels.

6.4.3. Toward the southeast end of the trench, the natural was cut by a posthole. Posthole [1303] was a sub-circular feature, measuring a 0.38m in length by

0.33m wide and had a depth of 0.17m. The posthole had concave sides and a rounded base (Plate 20). The fill (1304) was a loose mid-orange brown silty clay with very frequent inclusions of gravel throughout. The fill produced no finds.

6.4.4. The natural substrate was overlain by subsoil (1301), measuring 0.15m thick, consisting of a loose light greyish brown sandy silt with frequent small stone and gravel like inclusions. This was then overlain by the topsoil (1300), measuring 0.4m thick, and was a friable mid grey brown sandy silt with inclusions of small gravels throughout.

7. Finds

7.1. Overview

7.1.1. A very small quantity of late post-medieval and modern finds were identified from the topsoil across the site but not retained.

7.1.2. A total of eight fragments of prehistoric pottery and a small quantity of charcoal were recovered from sample. These are reported on below.

7.2. Neolithic Pottery – Frances Lynch

7.2.1. Eight pieces of pottery were received from Archaeology Wales from excavations at Llanwrst Road, Gyffin, Conwy LL32 8HZ (SN 77788 76525). Quite a large area was excavated but these sherds were the only finds, and they were found in a soil sample. The only features found were two postholes.

7.2.2. The find consisted of one sherd 2 x 1.5 x 0.9 cm GC/25/EV (107) <1> and 7 fragments GC/25/EV (109) <1>. It is likely that these fragments came from the same pot as the sherd.

7.2.3. The sherd is small and the surface is damaged but there is just enough decoration on the curved surface to enable it to be recognised as Middle

Neolithic Impressed Ware, almost certainly belonging to the Mortlake style. The curved surface suggests a ridged wall and the surviving decoration can be recognised as two or more lines of twisted cord.

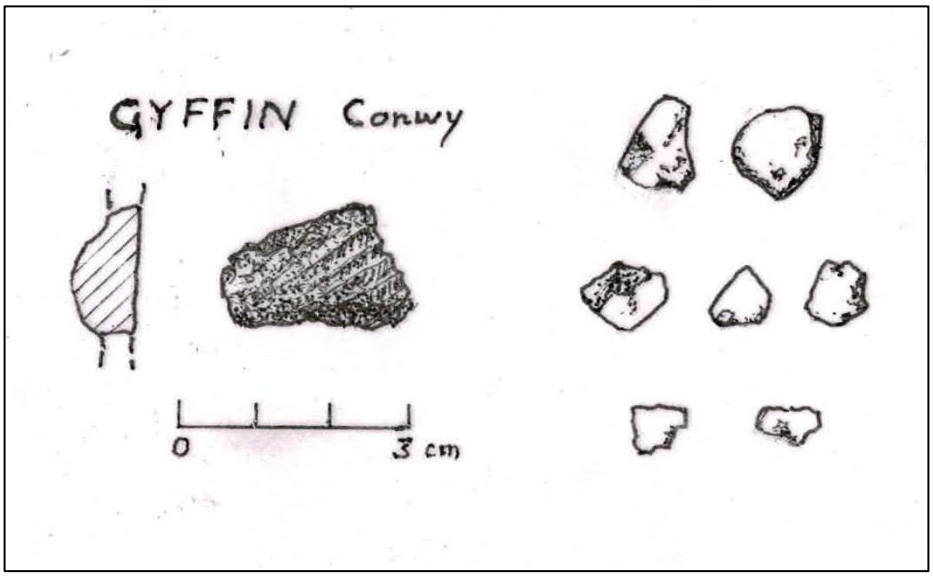

Illustration 1. Fragments of Neolithic Impressed Ware from feature [106].

7.2.4. The Impressed Wares from Wales were brought together as a whole in 1995 (Gibson, 1995) by which time a good deal of this pottery had been found in the Welsh Marches. In the twenty years since then, the pattern of discovery has been very similar to that of the later Grooved Ware in Wales -- a large amount from extensive excavation in Anglesey and near Wrexham, but not a great deal more in south Wales. The Mortlake style is the commonest, with 34 find spots, while Ebbsfleet is found on 9 sites and Fengate on 14. Looking at six extensive sites where the context is pit fillings (mainly in northwest Wales, but including Borras and Upper Ninepence) : 4/6 have Early Neolithic pottery; 2/6 have Ebbsfleet ; 6/6 have Mortlake bowls ; 4/6 have Fengate Ware and 6/6 have Grooved Ware. This suggests that over the approximately two thousand years of the Neolithic period people have returned fairly regularly to known sites of occupation. It may also suggest that the popularity of Ebbsfleet Ware was short lived and that Fengate was rapidly eclipsed by Grooved Ware,

as the fairly frequent association of the two suggests. Mortlake is the commonest and longest surviving style, being current between 3400 -2800 cal BC (Lynch in Copper, Whittle, and Sheridan, 2026).

7.2.5. The area around the northern end of the Conwy Valley (Gyffyn) does not have any mid Neolithic pottery but there is some in the Llandudno area and there is there is a reasonable quantity of Mortlake Ware from a small occupation site at Betws yn Rhos (Grant 2007) to the east. Mortlake pottery has been found in caves in Llandudno and to the east of the Clywd near Dyserth but the main context for this material is the enigmatic pit group. The content of burnt stones, charcoal and burnt bone and broken pottery suggests a domestic origin, but houses are very seldom found at these sites. A very typical site of this type was found near Denbigh, at Brookside where all the pottery is in the Mortlake style and no structures were found (Rees and Jones 2017).

8. Environmental Samples

8.1. Bulk Sampling

8.1.1. A total of three bulk samples, ranging from between 10-40 litres were recovered during this phase of the evaluation for finds recovery and in order to try to obtain any available dating evidence. The remaining samples were returned to Archaeology Wales' Finds and Environmental processing facility, where they were processed using a three tank, recycled water flotation system. During the flotation process, a 500 μ m mesh was used to collect the residue and a 300 μ m mesh to collect the flot. The residues were then washed through a sieve stack containing 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and 500 μ m mesh sizes. Each fraction was kept separate to aid drying.

8.1.2. Once dry, the residues were sorted for artefacts and ecofacts. Material was extracted from all residues greater than 2mm and separated according to type.

A magnet was passed over the <2mm residue in order to collect any magnetic residue present. This was then scanned by eye for any obvious signs of hammerscale. The flots were scanned by eye for environmental remains.

8.1.3. Quantities of remains are described as occasional + (<5 items), moderate ++ (5-25 items), frequent +++ (25-100 items) or abundant ++++ (>100 items).

Results

Sample No.	Context No.	Charcoal	Pottery	Magnetic Reside	No finds?	Flot
1	107	+++	++	+		+++ Charcoal
2	405			+	No finds	No flot
3	1304			+	No finds	No flot

Table 1: Sample Sorting Results

Flot Report

8.1.4. Of the three processed samples, flots from two contained no material of archaeological significance. A frequent quantity of charcoal was noted within the flot from Sample <1>.

Residue Report

8.1.5. Samples <2> (405) and <3> (1304) produced no material of archaeological value.

Pottery

8.1.6. Very small fragments of highly eroded pottery, potentially of Prehistoric date, were noted within Sample <1> (107).

Charcoal

8.1.7. Frequent quantities of fragmented charcoal were recovered from Sample <1>, (107).

Magnetic Residue

8.1.8. Small quantities of magnetic residue were identified in all three samples. No hammerscale was noted and it is therefore likely that the residue was natural in origin.

Summary

8.1.9. Only one of the samples produced very material of archaeological significance. This sample contained enough material to warrant potential further investigation should it be required. The charcoal from Sample <1> has been analysed by a charcoal specialist and is reported on below.

8.1.10. Small fragments of pottery were also recovered from Sample <1>. These have been analysed by a specialist and are reported on in the finds section above.

8.2. Charcoal – Dana Challinor

8.2.1. A single sample was provided for analysis from a linear feature of uncertain function. The feature was truncated and continued outside the boundaries of the evaluation trench. The basal fill contained, in addition to charcoal, a small assemblage of Neolithic pottery.

Methodology

8.2.2. The charcoal was fractured and sorted into groups based on the anatomical features observed in transverse section at X7 to X45 magnifications. Representative fragments from each group were then selected for further examination using a Meiji incident-light microscope at up to X400 magnification. Identifications were made by comparison with identification keys (Gale & Cutler 2000, Hather 2000, Schweingruber 1990) and modern reference material. Heartwood was identified by the presence of multiple tyloses across more than one growth ring and sapwood was identified by the absence of tyloses. In the absence of pith and/or bark, roundwood was

attributed to fragments which exhibited strong or moderate ring curvature. Additional observations on features relating to pre- and post-burning conditions (e.g. vitrification, vivianite or iron staining, presence of insect tunnels and fungal hyphae) were also recorded. Classification and nomenclature follow Stace 2019, with the exception of the Maloideae (from Stace 1997), which is a particularly useful taxonomic grouping for identifications based upon wood anatomy.

Results

8.2.3. Charcoal was abundantly preserved in the assemblage from context 107, with good sized fragments, including lots >8mm. Condition was good to fair, with occasional sediment infusion. Roundwood was common, but relatively wide, with no complete stems (with pith and bark) preserved. Much of the oak appeared to be from sapwood or sapwood-heartwood transition, with rare tyloses observed. A total of 5 taxa were positively identified (Table 2):

ROSACEAE: Maloideae (apple, pear, hawthorn, rowan, service tree, whitebeams)

FAGACEAE: Quercus sp. (oak)

BETULACEAE: Alnus glutinosa (alder)

Corylus avellana (hazel)

AQUIFOLIACEAE: Ilex aquifolium (holly)

	Feature no.	106
	Context no.	107
	Sample no.	1
Maloideae	hawthorn group	6 (r)
Quercus sp.	Oak	31 (sr)
Alnus glutinosa Gaertn.	Alder	6 (r)
Corylus avellana L.	Hazel	4 (r)
Alnus/Corylus	alder or hazel	1
Ilex aquifolium L.	Holly	2

Table 2: Charcoal results (showing fragment counts)

Discussion

8.2.4. The absence of in situ burning in the feature and the presence of multiple taxa suggests that the assemblage does not represent burnt structural remains. This, combined with the abundance and good fragment sizes of the charcoal assemblage, suggests that it derived from a deliberate dump of waste fuelwood. There is nothing unusual or exotic in the assemblage that would indicate a specific date. All of the species present are deciduous 'hardwoods', used for firewood, that would have grown locally. Hazel and holly tolerate shade and are frequently found as understorey in deciduous oak woodland, while the Maloideae species tend to prefer woodland margins or scrub/hedgerow habitats. Alder is a riparian tree that would have flourished on the banks of the River Gyffin. Although alder was traditionally considered a poor fuelwood (e.g. Edlin 1949, 158), it provides a sufficiently high heat if well-seasoned. Moreover, alder is frequently found in prehistoric fuelwood assemblages, at least as a supplementary fuel: Bronze Age assemblages from the North Wales pipeline, for instance, comprised mostly oak, followed by hazel and alder (Challinor 2014). Small assemblages of charcoal from a series of Neolithic pits at Llanbadrig, Anglesey, were also chiefly oak and hazel, with poplar/willow (also wet ground taxa), birch and a trace of alder (Smith et al. 2014).

9. Discussion and conclusion

9.1.1. In July 2025, Archaeology Wales (AW) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological field evaluation in advance of a proposed residential development comprising 102 affordable homes with associated works, including new vehicular access from Llanrwst Road, a footpath connection to Isgoed, drainage and landscaping works, and the creation of public open

spaces. The site is located on land east of Llanrwst Road, Gyffin, Conwy, LL32 8HZ (NGR SH 77788 76525).

9.1.2. The evaluation strategy was designed to target anomalies identified by a geophysical survey undertaken by Terradat (2025). The survey results indicated agricultural activity across the site. In the southern fields, a series of parallel lineations were interpreted as deep ploughing from former farming practices. Linear features in the central and southern areas were considered to represent boundary ditches associated with pre-modern land division, while curvilinear features in the northern and central areas may have been of either archaeological or geological origin.

9.1.3. The field evaluation identified three archaeological features within the development area: a shallow feature in Trench 1 and single postholes in Trenches 4 and 13. No function or date could be ascribed to the features within Trenches 4 and 13, although pottery from a bulk sample taken from the basal fill of the feature within Trench 1 contained a small quantity of fragmented middle Neolithic Impressed Ware pottery, alongside a dump of fuel waste charcoal, the range of species within which also reflected a prehistoric date.

9.1.4. No archaeological remains were recorded in the other trenches. None of the identified features corresponded to anomalies from the Terradat (2025) survey, nor did they align with field boundaries depicted on historic maps.

10. Archiving

10.1.1. The report will be uploaded to Heneb – Glamorgan-Gwent HER and with the RCAHMW alongside a full digital copy of the site archive and any digital borne data.

10.1.2. The site archive will be prepared in accordance with the CIfA Guidelines

Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (2020b).

10.1.3. Conwy Museum will be consulted to discuss final selection options. If the material is not requested by the museum it will be held for reference purposes by Archaeology Wales.

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Cartographic Sources

Tithe map - Gyffin parish in the County of Carnarvon 1848

Caernarfonshire IV.16 1889 OS 25-inch

Caernarfonshire IV.16 1913 OS 25-inch

Caernarfonshire Sheet IV SE 1938-48 6-inch

Denbighshire Sheet III SW 1949-53 6-inch

Denbighshire Sheet III SW 1911-1947 6-inch

Figures

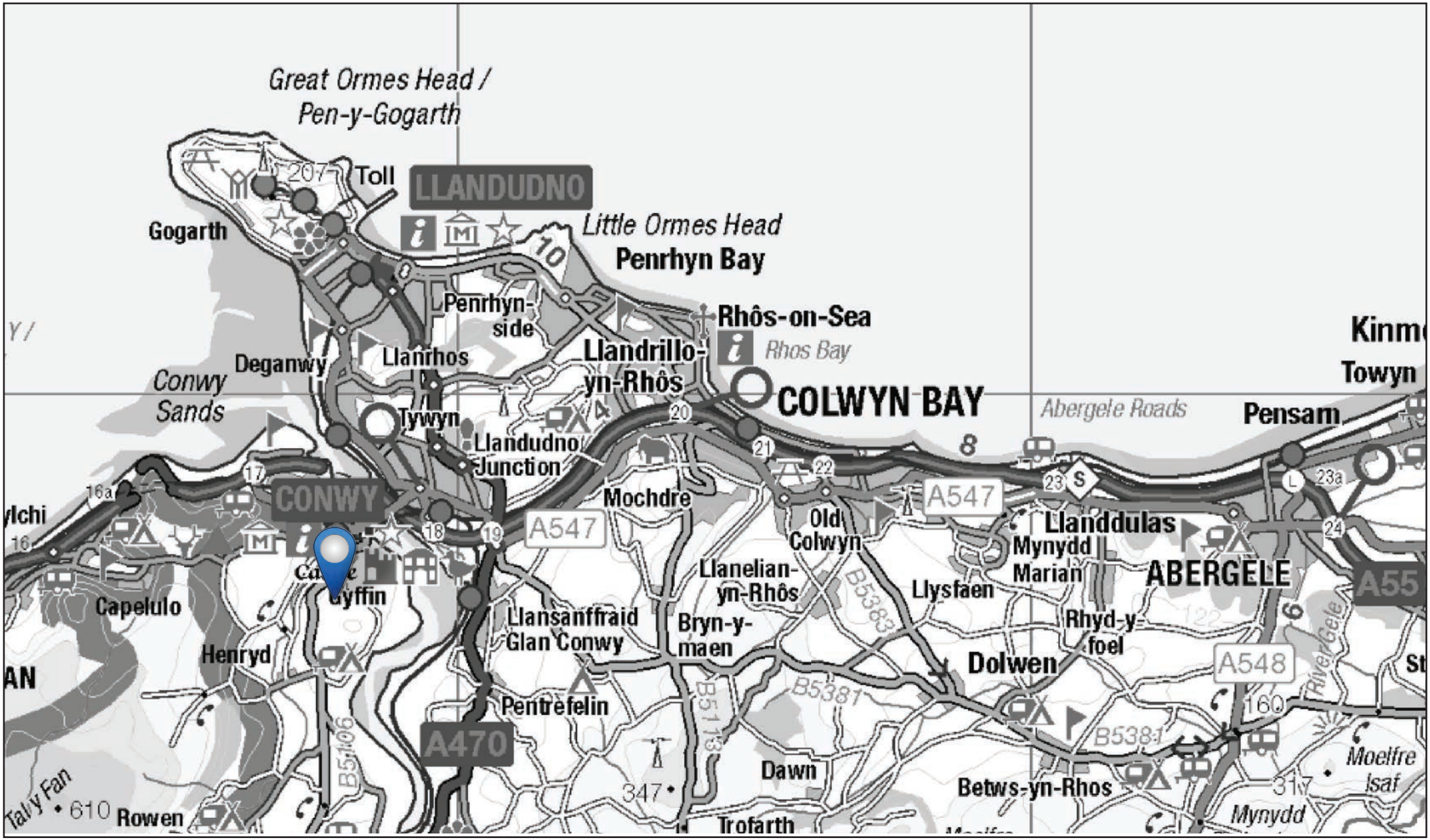

Figure 1. Site location

Site location

0 2.5 5 km

N

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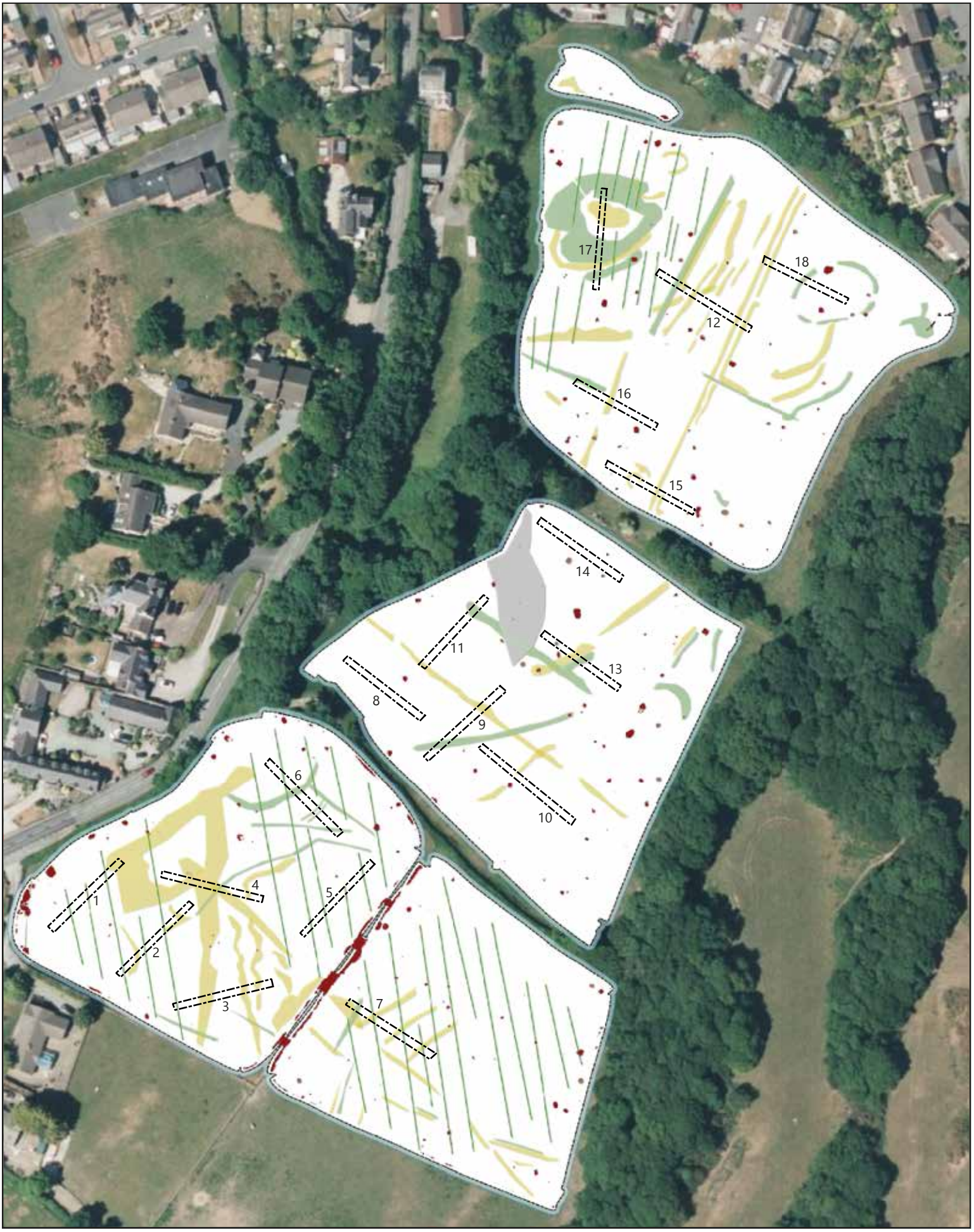
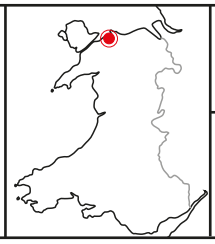


Figure 2. Amended trench layout.



N

0 25 50 m

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Summary Archaeological Interpretation image from TerraDat 2025.

Trench 1

Trench 4

Trench 13

Figure 3. Plan of trench 1,4 and 13

0 2.5 5 m

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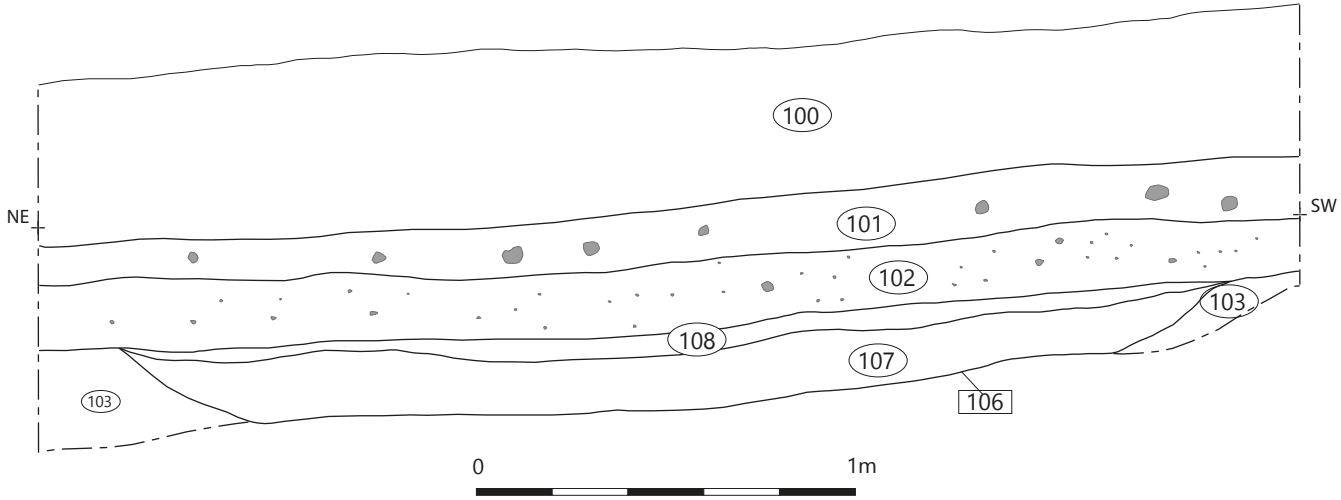
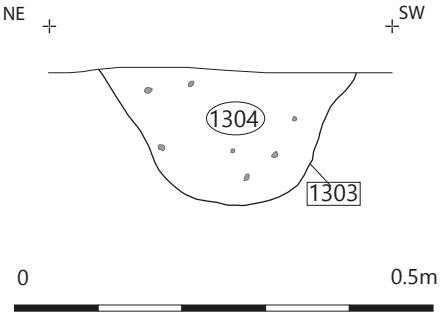
North-west facing section of ditch [106]



North-west facing section of posthole [1303]



West north-west facing section of posthole [404]

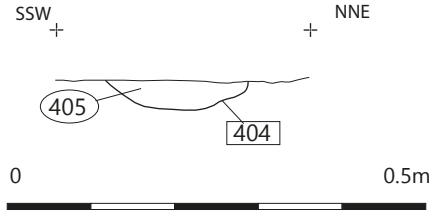


Figure 4. Section of [106], [404] and [1303].

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Plates

Plate 1: Trench 1, looking southwest. Scale 2x1m

Plate 2: Feature [106], looking northeast. Scale 1m

Plate 3: Southeast facing representative section of Trench 1. Scale 1m.

Plate 4: Trench 2, looking northeast. Scale 2x1m

Plate 5: Trench 3, looking north northeast. Scale 2x1m

Plate 6: Trench 4, looking northeast. Scale 2x1m

Plate 7: Posthole [404], looking west northwest. Scale 0.3m

Plate 8: Trench 4, northwest facing representative section. Scale 1m

Plate 9: Trench 5, looking northeast. Scale 2x1m

Plate 10: Trench 6, looking northwest. Scale 2x1m

Plate 11: Trench 7, looking northwest. Scale 2x1m

Plate 12: Trench 7, southwest representative section. Scale 1m

Plate 13: Trench 8 looking north-northwest. Scale 2x1m

Plate 14: Trench 9, looking northeast. Scale 2x1m

Plate 15: Trench 10, looking southeast. Scale 2x1m

Plate 16: Trench 11, looking northeast. Scale 2x1m

Plate 17: Trench 11, southeast representative section. Scale 1m.

Plate 18: Trench 12, looking southeast. Scale 2x1m

Plate 19: Trench 13, looking northwest. Scale 2x1m

Plate 20: Posthole [1303], looking southeast. Scale 0.3m.

Plate 21: Trench 13, southwest facing representative section. Scale 1m

Plate 22: Trench 14, looking northwest. Scale 2x1m

Plate 23: Trench 15, looking southwest. Scale 2x1m

Plate 24: Trench 16, looking southwest. Scale 2x1m

Plate 25: Trench 17, looking north. Scale 2x1m

Plate 26: Trench 18, looking southeast. Scale 2x1m

Plate 27: Trench 18, northeast representative section. Scale 1m

Appendix I: Context Inventory

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)	Spot date
1	100	Layer		Top Soil	A loose/friable mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent small stone and gravel like inclusions.	.	.	0-0.4	
1	101	Layer		Sub Soil	A friable light greyish brown sandy silt with frequent small stone and gravel like inclusions.	.	.	0.4-0.5	
1	102	Layer		Colluvium layer	A firm mid greyish brown silty clay with rare small stone inclusions.	.	.	0.5-0.66	
1	103	Layer		Natural	A very firm light brownish yellow sandy clay with frequent small and medium sub angular stone inclusions.	.	.	0.66-0.74+	
1	104	Geological		Geological	Geological in nature. Originally thought to be cut of a feature but once evaluated it became apparent it was natural	.	.	.	
1	105	Geological		Geological	Natural in nature. Originally thought to be fill of a potential feature	.	.	.	
1	106	Cut		Cut of feature	Cut of a linear feature, very shallow flat sides and a flat base with rooting disturbance. Runs NW to SE.	1.8+	2.75	0.66-0.86	
1	107	Fill	106	Fill of feature	Lower fill of feature [106]. A friable mid greyish brown sandy silt with rare small sub angular and sub rounded stone inclusions. Sampled <1>.	1.8+	2.75	0.66-0.82	

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)	Spot date
1	108	Fill	106	Fill of feature	Upper fill of feature [106]. A moderately firm brownish yellow sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions.	1.8+	2.75	0.78-0.86	
2	200	Layer		Top Soil	A loose mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent small stone/gravel inclusions.	.	.	0-0.3	
2	201	Layer		Sub Soil	A friable light greyish brown sandy silt with frequent small stone and gravel like inclusions.	.	.	0.3-0.47	
2	202	Layer		Natural	A very firm light yellow grey sandy clay with very frequent inclusions of shale and small to large angular stones	.	.	0.47-0.58+	
3	300	Layer		Top Soil	A loose mid greyish-brown sandy silt with very frequent small gravel inclusions.	.	.	0-0.26	
3	301	Layer		Sub Soil	A friable light greyish-brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of small to medium sub-rounded stones.	.	.	0.26-0.4	
3	302	Layer		Natural	A firm mid yellowish-brown silty clay. Very frequent inclusions of small to medium sub angular stones and gravels.	.	.	0.4-0.51+	
4	400	Layer		Top Soil	A loose mid greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent small sub-angular stone inclusions.	.	.	0-0.3	

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)	Spot date
4	401	Layer		Sub Soil	A loose light greyish-brown sandy silt. Frequent inclusions of small to medium sub-angular stones.	.	.	0.3-0.47	
4	402	Layer		Colluvium layer	A firm mid greyish-brown silty clay. Occasional inclusions of small sub-angular stones and gravel.	.	.	0.47-0.58	
4	403	Layer		Natural	A firm light greyish-yellow sandy clay with very frequent inclusions of small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded stones.	.	.	0.58-0.68+	
4	404	Cut		Cut of posthole	Cut of a posthole. Sub circular in plan with concave sides and a flat base. Contained one fill (405).	0.35	0.22	0.68-0.74	
4	405	Fill	404	Fill of posthole	Single fill of posthole [404]. A soft mid orange-brown sandy clay with frequent inclusions of gravel. No finds but was sampled <2>.	0.35	0.22	0.68-0.74	
5	500	Layer		Top Soil	A friable mid greyish-brown silty sand with rare inclusions of gravels and sub-angular stones.	.	.	0-0.17	
5	501	Layer		Sub Soil	A friable light greyish brown sandy silt with frequent small stone and gravel like inclusions.	.	.	0.17-0.28	
5	502	Layer		Natural	A firm light brownish-yellow sandy clay with very frequent inclusions of shale and sub-angular stones. Located	.	.	0.28-0.36+	

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)	Spot date
					in middle of the trench was raised bedrock.				
6	600	Layer		Top Soil	A loose mid greyish-brown silty sand with small inclusions of sub-angular stones.	.	.	0-0.23	
6	601	Layer		Sub Soil	A loose light greyish-brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of sub-angular stones and gravels.	.	.	0.23-0.3	
6	602	Layer		Colluvium layer	A firm mid greyish-brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones. This layer is only present at the NW end of the trench.	.	.	0.3-0.39	
6	603	Layer		Natural	A very firm light yellowish-grey sandy clay with frequent inclusions of sub-angular stones.	.	.	0.39-0.49+	
7	700	Layer		Top Soil	A loose mid greyish-brown silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions.	.	.	0-0.22	
7	701	Layer		Sub Soil	A loose light greyish-brown silty sandy with frequent gravel inclusions.	.	.	0.22-0.31	
7	702	Layer		Natural	A firm mid yellowish-grey sandy clay with frequent small and medium sub-angular stone inclusions.	.	.	0.31-0.38+	
8	800	Layer		Top Soil	A loose mid greyish-brown silty sand with occasional sub-angular stone and gravel inclusions.	.	.	0-0.17	

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)	Spot date
8	801	Layer		Sub Soil	A friable light greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent sub-angular stones and gravel inclusions.	.	.	0.17-0.26	
8	802	Layer		Natural	A firm light brownish-yellow sandy clay with frequent inclusions of small to large sub-angular stones.	.	.	0.26-0.33+	
9	900	Layer		Top Soil	A loose mid greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of small gravels	.	.	0-0.25	
9	901	Layer		Sub Soil	A loose light greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions.	.	.	0.25-0.41	
9	902	Layer		Natural	A firm light yellowish-grey sandy clay with very frequent inclusions of gravels and occasional small to large sub-rounded stones.	.	.	0.41-0.51+	
10	1000	Layer		Top Soil	A loose mid greyish-brown clayey silt with frequent inclusions of gravels.	.	.	0-0.24	
10	1001	Layer		Sub Soil	A loose light greyish-brown clayey silt with frequent inclusions of sub-angular stones.	.	.	0.24-0.4	
10	1002	Layer		Natural	A firm light yellowish-grey sandy clay. Frequent inclusions of small to medium sub-angular stones.	.	.	0.4-0.53+	
11	1100	Layer		Top Soil	A loose mid greyish-brown sandy silt. Frequent inclusions of gravels and small sub-angular stones.	.	.	0-0.33	

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)	Spot date
11	1101	Layer		Sub Soil	A loose light greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent gravels and small to medium sub-angular stones.	.	.	0.33-0.49	
11	1102	Layer		Colluvium layer	A firm mid greyish-brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of gravels and frequent sub-angular stones.	.	.	0.49-0.64	
11	1103	Layer		Natural	A very firm light yellowish-grey sandy clay with frequent inclusions of gravels and small sub-angular stones.	.	.	0.64-0.75+	
12	1200	Layer		Top Soil	A loose mid greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional inclusions of small gravels.	.	.	0-0.27	
12	1201	Layer		Sub Soil	A loose light greyish-brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of gravels and small to medium sub-angular stones.	.	.	0.27-0.35	
12	1202	Layer		Natural	A firm light greyish-yellow sandy clay with frequent inclusions of gravel, shale and small to medium sub-angular stones.	.	.	0.35-0.4+	
13	1300	Layer		Top Soil	A loose mid greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional inclusions of small gravels.	.	.	0-0.4	
13	1301	Layer		Sub Soil	A loose light greyish-brown clayey silt with frequent inclusions of small sub-angular stones.	.	.	0.4-0.55	

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)	Spot date
13	1302	Layer		Natural	A firm light orangey-brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of sub-angular stones and gravels.	.	.	0.55-0.69+	
13	1303	Cut		Cut of posthole	Cut of a posthole, Sub circular in shape with concave sides and a rounded base. Had one fill.	0.38	0.33	0.69-0.86	
13	1304	Fill	1303	Fill of posthole	The single fill of Posthole [1303]. A loose mid orangey-brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of gravel. No finds but was sampled <3>	0.38	0.33	0.69-0.86	
14	1400	Layer		Top Soil	A loose mid greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional inclusions of small gravels.	.	.	0-0.24	
14	1401	Layer		Sub Soil	A loose light greyish-brown clayey silt with frequent inclusions of gravels and sub-rounded stones.	.	.	0.24-0.35	
14	1402	Layer		Natural	A firm mid brownish-orange sandy clay with very frequent inclusions of gravels and frequent medium sub-angular stones.	.	.	0.35-0.45+	
15	1500	Layer		Top Soil	A loose mid greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional small gravel inclusions.	.	.	0-0.3	
15	1501	Layer		Sub Soil	A loose light greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions.	.	.	0.3-0.41	
15	1502	Layer		Natural	A firm light greyish-yellow sandy clay with frequent gravels and small to medium sub-angular stones.	.	.	0.41-0.5+	

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)	Spot date
16	1600	Layer		Top Soil	A loose mid greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional small gravel inclusions.	.	.	0-0.24	
16	1601	Layer		Sub Soil	A loose light greyish-brown clayey silt. Frequent gravel and small sub-angular stone inclusions.	.	.	0.24-0.34	
16	1602	Layer		Natural	A firm light brownish-orange sandy clay with frequent gravel and small to medium sub-angular stone inclusions.	.	.	0.34-0.42+	
17	1700	Layer		Top Soil	A loose mid greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions.	.	.	0-0.26	
17	1701	Layer		Sub Soil	A loose light greyish-brown clayey silt with frequent gravel and sub-angular small stone inclusions.	.	.	0.26-0.46	
17	1702	Layer		Colluvium layer	A firm mid brownish-orange sandy clay with very frequent inclusions of gravels and frequent medium sub-angular stones.	.	.	0.46-0.61	
17	1703	Layer		Natural	A firm light greyish-yellow sandy clay with very frequent inclusions of gravels and small to medium sub-angular stones.	.	.	0.61-0.74+	
18	1800	Layer		Top Soil	A loose mid greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular stones and gravels.	.	.	0-0.24	
18	1801	Layer		Sub Soil	A loose light greyish-brown sandy silt. Very frequent inclusions of gravels and occasional sub-angular stones.	.	.	0.24-0.35	

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)	Spot date
18	1802	Layer		Natural	A firm light yellowish-grey sandy clay. Very frequent inclusions of gravel, shale, sub-angular stones and a very large stone.	.	.	0.35-0.44+	

Appendix II: Data Management Plan

Data Management Plan

Section 1: Project Administration

Project ID
3225
Project Name
Gyffin, Conwy
Project Description
In August 2025, Archaeology Wales Ltd was commissioned by Beech Developments (NW) Ltd on behalf of Adra (Tai) Cyfyngedig to carry out an archaeological field evaluation in association with a proposed residential development of 102 affordable homes at land east of Llanrwst Road, Gyffin, Conwy, LL32 8HZ. The site is centred on NGR SN 77788 76525. The fieldwork consisted of the excavation of 18 trenches, 30m by 1.8m. These were excavated within the proposed development to assess the presence or absence and character of the archaeological resource within the site and located to target anomalies identified by geophysical survey.). Trench 13 and 16, were repositioned from their original proposed location which was laid out in the WSI. In total, three trenches contained archaeological features. All work conformed to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.
Project Funder / Grant reference
Adra (Tai) Cyfyngedig
Project Manager
Irene Garcia Rovira
Principal Investigator / Researcher
Pete Clarke
Data Contact Person
Rhiannon Philp (rhiannon.philp@arch-wales.co.uk)
Date DMP created
27/08/2025
Date DMP last updated
As above
Version
V1
Related data management policies
This DMP is guided by the Project Brief, CIfA Standards and guidance, trusted digital repository guidelines (RCAHMW) or other best practice guidance (see brief for details)

Section 2: Data Collection

What data will you collect or create?
The table below provides a summary of the data types, formats and estimated archive volume

for data collected / created as part of this project. As the project progresses, more detail regarding files will be added to this DMP.

Type	Format	Estimated volume (Data Archived)
Text/documents	PDF (.pdf)	5
Images	Photographs (.jpg) PDF (.pdf)	208 2
Spreadsheets	Excel spreadsheet (.xlsx)	2
GIS	Shapefiles (.shp plus associated files)	2 groups

How will the data be collected or created?

Data Standards / Methods

- Standard methods of data collection will be applied throughout the project, working to best practice guidance where applicable / available. In general, data acquisition standards are defined against RCAHMW Guidelines. Specific or additional guidance relevant to this project are listed below, and will
- be updated as the project progresses.
- Methods of collection are specified within the Project Design and will meet the requirement set out in the Project Brief, the organisation recording manual and relevant CIfA Standards and guidance.
- Where appropriate, project contributors external to the organisation will be required to include data standards, collection methodology and metadata with individual reports and data.
- Specific guidance:
  - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures.
  - Historic England, 2016. Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice

Data storage / file naming

- The data produced will be uploaded at regular intervals during the project as a way of backing up the information.
- The working project archive will be stored in a project specific folder on the internal organisational server. The internal organisation server is backed up to a cloud-based storage system to maintain an up-to-date security copy of the organisation wide data.
- Project folders are named following established organisational procedures and the folder hierarchy and organisation devised will be understood by all members of staff involved in the project.
- Data collected will be downloaded and raw data will be stored in the appropriate folder.
- File naming conventions following established organisational procedures, based on RCAHMW file naming guidance, and include version control management.
- The data stored will be checked by the project manager regularly as a means of quality assurance.

Section 3: Documentation and metadata

What documentation and metadata will accompany the data?
• Data collected will include standard formats which maximise opportunities for use and reuse in the future (see Section 2, above). • A RCAHMW metadata document will be included with the digital archive and include all data types included within the archive. A working copy will be kept on the organisational server in the Project Folder. A copy of the form containing HER required data will also be created. • Data documentation will meet the requirement of the Project Brief, Museum Deposition Guidelines, Digital Repository Guidelines and the methodology described in the Project Design methodology. • An archive catalogue documenting both physical and digital archive products will be maintained and submitted with both the Museum and Trusted Digital Repository

Section 4: Ethics and legal compliance

How will you manage any ethical, copyright and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues?
• The project archive will include the names and contact details of individuals who intend to volunteer or participate in the excavation and post excavation stages. We have a GDPR compliant Privacy Policy which underpins the management of personal data; any personal data is managed through a secure cloud-based database and not retained on the project specific folders. • Personal data will be removed from the archaeological project archive and permission to include individual's names in any reporting is gained prior to use. • Copyright for all data collected by the project team belongs to the organisation, and formal permission to include data from external specialists and contractors is secured on the engagement of the specialist or contractor. • Where formal permissions and/or license agreements are linked to data sharing, they will be included in the project documentation folders and will accompany the archaeological project archive.

Section 5: Data Security: Storage and Backup

How will the data be stored, accessed and backed up during the research?
• Organisational IT is managed by an external data management provider, who is also responsible for the management and verification of our daily back-ups and who supports access to security copies as needed • Sufficient data storage space is available via the organisational server, which includes permissions-based access. The server is accessible by staff on and offsite through a secure log-in • Off-site access to the project files on the organisation's server is provided to support back-up of raw data while fieldwork is ongoing. Where internet access for data back up is not possible, the raw data will be backed up to a separate media device (such as laptop and portable external hard drive). • Project files will be shared with external specialists and contractors directly using the same system, with the wider project team gaining access to only the files needed using permissions-based access

Section 6: Selection and Preservation

Which data should be retained, shared, and/or preserved?
• The Selection Strategy and DMP will be reviewed and updated as part of the Post Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design and following full analysis. Updated documentation will be included in all reporting stages. • Prior to deposition, the Selection Strategy and DMP will be updated and finalised in agreement with all project stakeholders (including the Local Planning Archaeologist, Client, Museum, RCAHMW). • Selection will be informed by the Project Design, defined against the research aims, regional and national research frameworks, specialist advice and the significance of the project results. • The project will be published as an online technical report (accessible via RCAHMW and as part of this archive), with full access to research data. • The data archive will be ordered, with files named and structured in a logical manner, and accompanied by relevant documentation and metadata, as outlined in Sections 2 and 3 of this DMP. • Deselection will be undertaken automatically on any duplicate or unusable files, such as blurry or superfluous photographs.
What is the long-term preservation plan for the dataset?
• The digital archive will be deposited with the RCAHMW, which is working towards becoming a certified repository with Core Trust Seal. • The archive will be prepared for deposition by the project team and the costs for the time needed for preparation, and the cost of deposition have been included in the project budget.
Have you contacted the data repository?
• AW has an ongoing agreement with the RCAHMW who the intended repository for digital data are.
Have the costs of archiving been fully considered?
• A costing estimate has been produced to allow for the preparation of the archive and has been included in the project budget.

Section 7: Data Sharing

How will you share the data and make it accessible?
• The museum and digital archive repository and will be updated as the project progresses. • The investigations have resulted in the following documents: Project Design, Evaluation Report • A final version of the project report will be supplied to the Historic Environment Record, and any data which they request can also be provided directly. • The location (s) of the final Archaeological Archive will be included in the final report
Are any restrictions on data sharing required?
• A temporary embargo may be required on the sharing of the project results. If this is the case, specific details once agreed will be included in the updated version of this DMP and will be documented in the overarching Project Collection Metadata.

- Data specific requirements, ethical issues or embargos which are linked to particular data formats will be documented within the relevant metadata tables accompanying the project archive

Section 8: Responsibilities

Who will be responsible for implementing the data management plan?

- The Project Manager and Post Excavation Manager will be responsible for implementing the DMP, and ensuring it is reviewed and revised at each stage of the project.
- Data capture, metadata production and data quality is the responsibility of the Project Team, assured by the Project Manager and Post Excavation Manager.
- Storage and backup of data in the field is the responsibility of the field team.
- Once data is incorporated into the organisations project server, storage and backup is managed by an external company.
- Data archiving is undertaken by the project team under the guidance of the Post Excavation Manager, who is responsible for the transfer of the Archaeological Project Archive to the agreed repository.
- Details of the core project team can be found in the Project Design.

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Appendix III: Selection Strategy

Project Information	
ID	3225
Name	Gyffin, Conwy
Project Management	
Project Manager	Irene Garcia Rovira
Post Excavation Manager	Rhiannon Philp
Organisation	Archaeology Wales
Stakeholders	
Collecting Institution(s)	Heneb Gwynedd - HER; RCAHMW; Conwy Museum
Project Lead / Project Assurance	Pete Clarke
Landowner / Developer	Adra (Tai) Cyfyngedig
Other	
Resources	No unusual resources required outside of AW normal operating equipment and personnel to implement this Selection Strategy.
Context	
All work conformed to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.	

Digital Data

Stakeholders
Rhiannon Philp (PX manager), Irene Garcia Rovira (Project Manager), RCAHMW, Heneb – Gwynedd HER
Data Management Plan (DMP)

Selection and De-selection
DMP Attached as a separate document

Amendments			
Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.			
Date	**Amendment**	**Rationale**	**Stakeholders**

Documents

Stakeholders
Rhiannon Philp (PX manager), Irene Garcia Roira (Project Manager),

Selection and De-selection
Selection 2.1. All original documentary material created during data gathering will be selected for inclusion in the final archive. Duplicates, photocopies of originals and research materials will be de-selected during archive completion 2.2. Selection reviews will be undertaken after the following phases: • Fieldwork • Reporting • Archive Completion 2.3. Relevant Standards and Guidance: • CIfA. 2020. Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials. • CIfA. 2022 revision. Code of conduct: professional ethics in archaeology • Any information provided by Receiving Institutions 2.4. It is not envisaged that the selection decisions will deviate from standard guidelines
De-selection It is envisaged that the material de-selected from inclusion in the preserved archive will be duplicates, re-productions, miscellaneous material, correspondence and GDPR/confidentiality created during the analysis phase of the project. De-selected material will therefore be retained to supplement AW/AE's research files. A copy of the complete digital working archive incl. the preserved archive is stored on AW/AE's server.

Amendments			
Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.			
Date	**Amendment**	**Rationale**	**Stakeholders**

Materials

Materials Selections Template			
No	**Find type**	**Selection Strategy**	**Stakeholders**
3.1	Pottery	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; Conwy Museum
3.2	CBM	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; Conwy Museum
3.3	Metals	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; Conwy Museum
3.4	Worked Stone	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; Conwy Museum
3.5	Animal Bone	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; Conwy Museum
3.6	Lithics	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of	Specialist; PXM; Conwy Museum

		assessment.	
3.7	Small Finds	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; Conwy Museum
3.8	Environmental Material	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; Conwy Museum
3.9	Modern (post 20th C) Material	Note in paperwork and discard on site.	Site Staff; PXM

No	ALL	**Material type**	All categories

Stakeholders

Rhiannon Philp (PX manager), Irene Garcia Rovira (Project Manager), Conwy Museum

Selection

a) All artefacts are returned to AW/AE Finds and Environmental processing facility and dealt with in accordance with the professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials (2020). Selection may also be made prior to deposition based on Society of Museum Archaeologists' Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections guidelines (1993), National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales (2017) and consultation of the receiving institution's deposition guidelines

b) Selection reviews will be undertaken after the following phases:

- Fieldwork
- Assessment
- Analysis (if required)
- Archive Completion

c) Relevant Standards and Guidance:

- CIfA. 2020. Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials
- Historic England. 2011. Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition)

- Society of Museum Archaeologists. 1993. Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections
- National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales. 2017. The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales

d) It is not envisaged that the selection decisions will deviate from standard guidelines

Uncollected Material

All material will be collected in the first instance unless obviously modern (plastics/post 20th century artefacts).

De-Selected Material

After assessment stage material may be deselected based on the advice of the relevant material specialist and the requirements of the receiving institution. The selection strategy will be updated to reflect any decision made on de-selected material.

De-selected material will be assessed for educational value and retained/passed to an educational provider if deemed of use. If no further use is identified the de-selected material shall be discarded via Smiths Waste Management and deposited within their South Wales waste processing facility.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

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Appendix IV: Written Scheme of Investigation

Written Scheme of Investigation
for Archaeological Field Evaluation
at Land east of Llanrwst Road, Gyffin, Conwy LL32 8HZ

Prepared for:

Beech Developments (NW) Ltd on behalf of Adra (Tai) Cyfyngedig

Project No: 3225

August 2025

Version	Date	Sections Revised	Prepared/Revised by
1	11.8.25	Original	Irene Garcia Rovira MCIfA

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Summary

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details a programme of archaeological field evaluation to be undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth – AW) at the request of Beech Developments (NW) Ltd on behalf of Adra (Tai) Cyfyngedig (henceforth 'the Client').

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; Standard and the Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation (2023a&b). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

1. Introduction

1.1.1. This Written Scheme of Investigation sets out a proposal for a program of Archaeological Evaluation to be undertaken in connection with the proposed residential development of 102 affordable homes and associated works including new vehicular access from Llanrwst Road, footpath connection to Isgoed, drainage and landscaping works and creation of public open spaces. The site is at land east of Llanrwst Road, Gyffin, Conwy, LL32 8HZ, NGR SH 77788 76525 (henceforth 'the Site') (Figure 1).

1.1.2. Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology Planning Services (hereafter Heneb GAPS), in its capacity as archaeological advisor to the Local Authority, has recommended that a targeted field evaluation be undertaken prior to the submission of the planning application to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological remains.

1.1.3. The purpose of this archaeological mitigation is to provide the Local Planning Authorities Archaeological advisers with sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains on the site of the development, the requirements for which are set out in *Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment* (2017). The work is to ensure that all archaeological and historical components of the site are fully investigated and recorded if they are to be revealed because of activities associated with the development.

1.1.4. This Specification has been prepared by Susan Stratton for Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth – AW).

1.1.5. All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; Standard and the Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation (2023a&b).* AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

2. Site Description

2.1.1. The proposed development site is situated to the east of Llanrwst Road (B5106) in Gyffin, Conwy – NGR SH 77788 76525 (Figure 1).

2.1.2. The site lies within a semi-rural fringe on the southern edge of Conwy, adjoining residential properties to the north and west and open countryside to the south. It occupies four irregularly shaped parcels of land that are currently used as pasture. Existing field boundaries are a mix a hedgerows and mature trees.

2.1.3. The site is in close proximity to the medieval walled town of Conwy, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and falls just outside the Registered Historic Landscape of Creuddyn and Conwy (HLW (Gw).

2.1.4. The underlying geology of the site is defined by the Bettws Mudstone Formation, which was formed during the Silurian Period. Overlying this bedrock, the superficial deposits consist of Devensian Till (Diamicton), which was laid down during the Quaternary Period (BGS 2025).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

3.1.1. Beyond findspots, there is little information on any prehistoric or Roman

activity in the vicinity of the proposed development and the wider landscape. However, approximately 450m to the north-west of the site is an earthwork which is thought to be a prehistoric enclosure (PRN 112171).

3.1.2. The proposed site lies within the medieval township of Gyffin (PRN 7367). At the heart of Gyffin lies the parish church of St. Benedict (LB 3291; NPRNs 43691, 43692, and 43693; PRN 6934), which is located just 270m north-north-west of the northern-most part of the proposed site. The church is believed to have foundations from the 13th century, and built by the monks of Aberconwy (Roberts, 2008). It contains a painted celure, consisting of sixteen panels, that date from the late 15th to early 16th century (Jones & Rees, 2016a). There is also a record of a medieval mill near the church (ibid).

3.1.3. About 480m to the west of the southern-most part of the proposed site lies the medieval settlement of Hendre, with traces of ridge and furrow in fields to the south-west.

3.1.4. Notably, Castell Conwy (WHS 374; SM CN004; LB 3250; NPRN121; PRN 2851) and its medieval town walls are located just 800m north-west of the proposed site.

3.1.5. The post-medieval period shows evidence of the growth of the village of Gyffin and continuing agricultural activity.

3.1.6. As part of the pre-planning archaeological assessment of the site, Archaeology Wales carried out a Desk-based Assessment in July 2025 (Archaeology Wales, 2025). The assessment concluded that there was a moderate to high potential for the survival of sub-surface archaeological features due to the lack of late post-medieval and modern disturbance and the site's proximity to the medieval core of Gyffin.

3.1.7. In July 2025, TerraDat carried out a geophysical survey of the proposed development area on behalf of Archaeology Wales. The results revealed strong

evidence of agricultural activity across the site (TerraDat 2005). In the southern fields, a series of parallel lineations were interpreted as resulting from deep ploughing connected to previous farming practices. Linear features in the central and southern areas were interpreted as boundary ditched relating to pre-modern land division. Curvilinear features in the north and central areas may have been of archaeological or geological origin.

4. Objectives

4.1.1. This WSI sets out a program of works to ensure that the archaeological evaluation will meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and the Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation (2023a&b).*

4.1.2. The objective of the archaeological evaluation will be to locate and describe archaeological features that may be present within the proposed development area. The work will elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition, and relative significance.

4.1.3. A written report will be compiled following the fieldwork. Sufficient desk-top research will be undertaken to ensure that the results of this work are properly understood, interpreted, and reported.

4.1.4. The report will include a comprehensive assessment of the historic context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within regional, national and, if relevant, international research frameworks.

5. Timetable of works

5.1. Fieldwork

5.1.1. The archaeological evaluation is scheduled to begin on the 18th of August 2025. AW will inform Heneb GAPS of any changes to the proposed schedule.

5.2. Report delivery

5.2.1. The report will be submitted to the Client and to Heneb GAPS within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional HER.

6. Fieldwork

6.1. Detail

6.1.1. The archaeological project manager in charge of the work will satisfy themselves that all constraints to ground works have been identified, including the siting of live services and Tree Preservation Orders.

6.1.2. The agreed evaluation trenches will be positioned to maximise the retrieval of archaeological information within accessible areas, and to ensure that the archaeological resource is understood. It is proposed that eighteen (30 x 1.8m) trenches will be excavated within the planned development area (Figure 2). These trenches will be located to investigate the potential archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey (TerraDat, 2025).

6.1.3. The exact positioning of the trenches will depend on the position of any extant services or other obstructions that come to light during the initial phase of ground works. The locations and dimensions of the trenches have been agreed with Heneb GAPS.

6.1.4. Evaluation trenches 1-18 will be excavated to the top of the archaeological horizon by a 360 excavator or similar machine fitted with a toothless grading

bucket under close archaeological supervision.

6.1.5. All areas will be subsequently hand cleaned using pointing trowels and/or hoes to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features and to determine their significance.

6.1.6. Any structures or surfaces encountered will be hand-cleaned, photographed, and documented using AW's recording systems. These features will be hand-planned, and the resulting drawings will be georeferenced using a sub-meter GPS.

6.1.7. The excavation of the minimum number of archaeological features will be undertaken, to elucidate the character, distribution, extent and importance of the archaeological remains. As a minimum, small discrete features will be fully excavated, larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated) and long linear features will be sample excavated along their length - with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature and to investigate terminals, junctions and relationships with other features. Should this percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined full excavation of such features/deposits may be required.

6.1.8. Sufficient excavation will be undertaken to ensure that the natural horizons are reached and proven, where this can be practically and safely achieved. If safety reasons preclude manual excavation to natural, hand augering may be used to try to assess the total depth of stratification within each area. The depth of the excavation will conform to current safety requirements. If excavation is required below 1m the options of using shoring will be discussed with the client and Heneb GAPS, but the intention would be to stop at safe depths.

6.1.9. Should potentially significant archaeological features be encountered during

the course of the evaluation then Heneb GAPS and the client will be informed at the earliest possible opportunity.

6.1.10. Heneb GAPS may subsequently request that further archaeological work is undertaken in order to fully evaluate areas of significant archaeological activity. Such work may require the provision of additional time and resources to complete the archaeological investigation. The scope of such work will be agreed with Heneb GAPS and the client prior to any extended works being undertaken.

6.2. Recording

6.2.1. Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets, etc.) using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

6.2.2. Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

6.2.3. All features identified will be tied into the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries.

6.2.4. Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 12MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

6.3. Finds

6.3.1. The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation, and research of archaeological* (2020) will form the basis of finds collection, processing, and recording.

6.3.2. Finds will be carefully excavated by hand. The excavation of fragile or particularly significant finds will be undertaken in consultation with an appropriate archaeological conservator. Finds will be bagged by

archaeological context, the location of special finds and flint working deposits will be recorded three dimensionally.

6.3.3. In most cases all finds will be recovered from site, quantified and assessed by specialist. Finds retention and discard policies will be drawn up in conjunction with specialist advice and the requirements of the receiving archive or regional/national guidelines (NPAAW 2019) in conjunction with the CIfA *Selection Strategy Tool Kit* (CIfA 2019). If large quantities of material are identified, an onsite discard policy may be implemented under the guidance of relevant finds specialists and the local authority archaeologists.

6.3.4. Retained finds will be suitably bagged, boxed and marked. Following cataloguing and initial analysis finds of low archaeological significance may be discarded.

6.3.5. Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under The Treasure Act 1996 will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.

6.3.6. Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (normally Karen Barker).

6.4. Environmental Sampling Strategy

6.4.1. In areas that have previously been disturbed, environmental sampling is unlikely to be required, unless excavations go beyond the disturbed layers and archaeology is encountered below that level.

6.4.2. Features or archaeological deposits that are encountered will be sampled by means of the most appropriate method (bulk, column, etc.) up to 40 litres in size.

6.4.3. Where sampling will provide a significant contribution to the understanding of the site AW will draw up a site-specific sampling strategy alongside a specialist environmental archaeologist. All environmental sampling and

recording and will follow English Heritage's *Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology* (2002).

6.5. Human Remains

6.5.1. In the event that human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established, and the coroner informed.

6.5.2. As per the research carried out by Historic England as a part of *The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project* (HE, 2018), to fully understand the archaeological sequence and to assess the potential risks that may come from further development, burials would usually have to be excavated to their base. This would aid in establishing the significance of the burials and in advising mitigation measures for the remainder of the site including any further potential burials.

6.5.3. The vulnerability of the remains to physical damage and other degradation by the development, as well as alterations to ground conditions, pre and post development will also be established as the possible detrimental effects on long term preservation that re-burial can have.

6.5.4. All human remains will be fully recorded and removed under conditions that comply with all current legislation and include acquisition of an exhumation license from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and provision for deposition in a suitable repository, or reburial following all analytical work.

6.5.5. Human remains will be excavated in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains: Technical Paper Number 13* (1993), and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Updated *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains* (2017).

6.5.6. A meeting with the Client, HENEB GAPS and AW will be called if the human remains uncovered are of such complexity or significance that the contingency

arrangement would not be of sufficient scope.

6.6. Specialist Advisers

6.6.1. In the event of certain finds, features or sites being discovered, AW will seek specialist opinion and advice. A list of specialists is given in the table below although this list is not exhaustive.

Artefact type	Specialist
Lithics	Rebecca Devaney (Freelance)
Stone	Dr Ruth Shaffrey (Freelance)
Animal bone	Dr Hannah Russ (archaeology.biz)
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Dr David Griffiths (archaeology.biz)
Clay pipe	Charley James Martin (Archaeology Wales)
Glass	Elizabeth Foulds (Freelance)
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Dr Richard Madgwick/Dr Katie Faillace (Cardiff University) Gaynor Western (Ossafreelance) Malin Holst (York Osteoarchaeology)
Metalwork	Dr Rhiannon Philp (Archaeology Wales) (Fe) Dr Siân Thomas (Archaeology Wales) (CuA) Quita Mould (Freelance) Dr Tim Young (GeoArch)
Metallurgical residues	Dr Tim Young (GeoArch)
IA/Roman pottery	Dr David Griffiths (archaeology.biz)
Roman Pottery	Dr Siân Thomas (Archaeology Wales) Dr David Griffiths (archaeology.biz)
Medieval and Post Medieval Pottery	Paul Blinkhorn (Freelance)
Charcoal (wood ID)	Dana Challinor (Freelance)
Waterlogged wood	Dana Challinor (Freelance) Professor Nigel Nayling (University of Wales Trinity Saint David) Mike Bamforth (Freelance)
Marine Molluscs	Dr Hannah Russ (archaeology.biz) Dr Rhiannon Philp (Archaeology Wales)
Pollen	Dr Rhiannon Philp (Archaeology Wales)
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	John Giorgi (Freelance)
Conservation and x-ray	Karen Barker (Freelance)

6.7. Specialist Reports

6.7.1. Specialist finds and palaeoenvironmental reports will be written by AW specialists, or sub-contracted to external specialists when required.

7. Monitoring

7.1.1. Heneb GAPS will be contacted approximately five days prior to the commencement of archaeological site works, and subsequently once the work is underway. Any changes to the WSI that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to Heneb GAPS for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.

7.1.2. Representatives of Heneb GAPS will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the evaluation. Heneb GAPS will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

8. Post-fieldwork programme

8.1. The Site Archive

8.1.1. An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with: *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2006) upon completion of the project.

8.1.2. The site archive (including artefacts and samples) will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and deposited with an appropriate receiving organisation, in compliance with CIfA Guidelines (*Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*', 2020). It will also conform to the guidelines set out in '*The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for*

Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales 2019' (National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales 2019) and the RCAHMW *Guidelines for Digital Archaeological Archives* (2016). The legal landowner's consent will be gained for deposition of finds. The project will adhere to the Welsh Archaeological Trust's joint *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records* (2024).

8.2. Analysis

8.2.1. Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of analysis and reporting will be undertaken. The report will adhere to the Welsh Archaeological Trust's joint *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records* (2024).

8.2.2. This will result in the following inclusions in the final report:

- Non-technical summary, in English and Welsh
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the groundworks, all artefacts, structures, and features found
- Plan and section drawings (if features are encountered) with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- Written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating, and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate.
- An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development
- A discussion of the local, regional, and national context of the remains by means of reviewing published reports, unpublished reports, historical maps, documents from local archives and the regional HER as

appropriate.

- A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples finds and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.

8.3. Report to client

8.3.1. Copies of all reports associated with the mitigation, together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, including photographs and illustrations, will be submitted to the Client and Heneb GAPS upon completion.

8.4. Additional reports

8.4.1. After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of all reports will be deposited with the relevant county Historical Environment Record, the National Monuments Record and Heneb GAPS.

8.5. Summary reports for publication

8.5.1. Short archaeological reports will be submitted for publication in relevant journals; as a minimum, a report will be submitted to the annual publication of the regional CBA group or equivalent journal.

8.6. Archive deposition

8.6.1. The final archive (site and research) will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution, usually the relevant Local Authority museums service. Arrangements will be made with the receiving institution before work starts.

8.6.2. Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, copies of all reports and the final archive will be deposited no later than six months after completion of the work.

8.6.3. Copies of all reports, the digital archive and an archive index will be deposited

with the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

8.6.4. Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER. A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to Heneb GAPS.

8.7. Finds deposition

8.7.1. The finds, including artefacts and ecofacts, excepting those which may be subject to the Treasure Act, will be deposited with the same institution, subject to the agreement of the legal landowners.

8.8. Staff

8.8.1. The project will be managed by Irene Garcia Rovira (AW Project Manager), and the fieldwork undertaken by AW Staff. Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of Heneb GAPS and the Client.

9. Health and Safety

9.1. Risk Assessment

9.1.1. Prior to the commencement of work AW will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1999. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. A copy will be sent to the Client (or their agent as necessary) for their information. All members of AW staff will adhere to the content of this document.

9.2. Other Guidelines

9.2.1. AW will adhere to best practice with regard to Health and Safety in Archaeology as set out in the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) health and safety manual Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (2002).

10. Community Engagement and Outreach

10.1.1. Wherever possible, AW will ensure suitable measures are in place to inform the local community and any interested parties of the results of the site investigation work. This may occur during the site investigation work or following completion of the work. The form of any potential outreach activities may include lectures and talks to local groups, interested parties and persons, information boards, flyers and other forms of communication (social media and websites), and press releases to local and national media.

10.1.2. The form of any outreach will respect client confidentiality or contractual agreements. As a rule, outreach will be proportional to the size of the project.

10.1.3. Where outreach activities have a cost implication these will need to be negotiated in advance and in accordance with the nature of the desired response and learning outcomes.

11. Insurance

11.1.1. AW is fully insured for this type of work and holds Insurance with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hiscox Insurance Company Limited through Towergate Insurance. Full details of these and other relevant policies can be supplied on request.

12. Quality Control

12.1. Professional standards

12.1.1. AW works to the standards and guidance provided by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. AW fully recognise and endorse the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct, Code of Approved Practice for the*

Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology and the *Standard and the Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2023a&b) currently in force. All employees of AW, whether corporate members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists or not, are expected to adhere to these Codes and Standards during their employment.

12.2. Project tracking

12.2.1. The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

13. Arbitration

13.1.1. Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision in accordance with the Rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' Arbitration Scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists applying at the date of the agreement.

14. Sources

General

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Figures

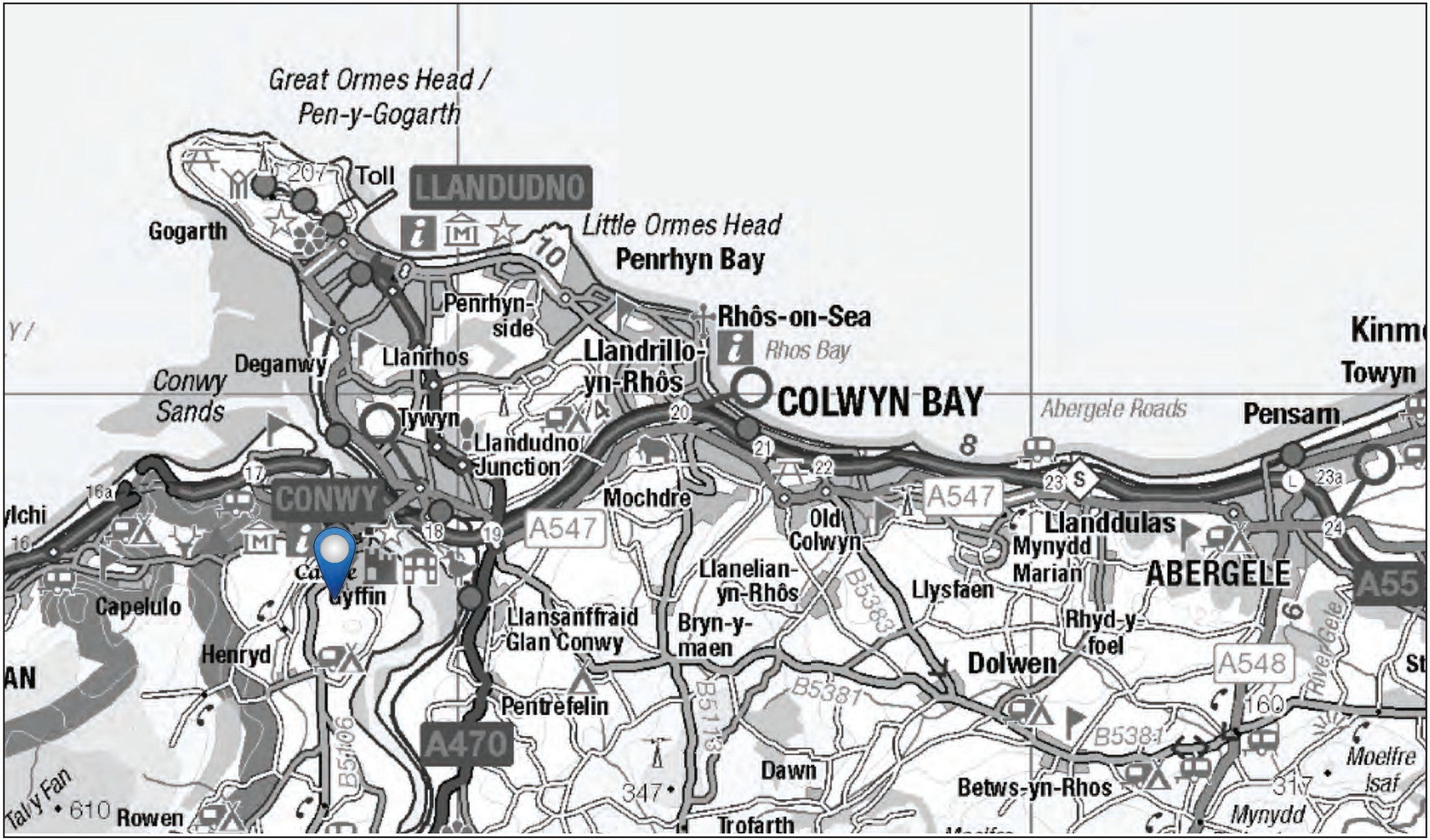

Figure 1. Site location

Site location

0 2.5 5 km

N

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Figure 2. Proposed trench layout.

N

0 25 50 m

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Summary Archaeological Interpretation image from TerraDat 2025.

Selection Strategy

Project Information	
ID	3225
Name	Land east of Llanrwst Road, Gyffin, Conwy
Project Management	
Project Manager	Irene Garcia Rovira
Post Excavation Manager	Rhiannon Philp
Organisation	Archaeology Wales
Stakeholders	
Collecting Institution(s)	Conwy Museum Services; RCAHMW; Heneb – Gwynedd HER
Project Lead / Project Assurance	Irene Garcia Rovira
Landowner / Developer	
Other	
Resources	No unusual resources required outside of AW normal operating equipment and personnel to implement this Selection Strategy.
Context	

Digital Data

Stakeholders
Rhiannon Philp (PX manager), Irene Garcia Rovira (Project Manager), RCAHMW, Heneb-Gwynedd HER
Data Management Plan (DMP)
Selection and De-selection

DMP Attached as a separate document

Amendments
Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

Documents

Stakeholders
Rhiannon Philp (PX manager), Irene Garcia Rovira (Project Manager)

Selection and De-selection
Selection 2.1. All original documentary material created during data gathering will be selected for inclusion in the final archive. Duplicates, photocopies of originals and research materials will be de-selected during archive completion 2.2. Selection reviews will be undertaken after the following phases: • Fieldwork • Reporting • Archive Completion 2.3. Relevant Standards and Guidance: • CIfA. 2020. Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials. • CIfA. 2022 revision. Code of conduct: professional ethics in archaeology • Any information provided by Receiving Institutions 2.4. It is not envisaged that the selection decisions will deviate from standard guidelines
De-selection It is envisaged that the material de-selected from inclusion in the preserved archive will be duplicates, re-productions, miscellaneous material, correspondence and GDPR/confidentiality created during the analysis phase of the project. De-selected material will therefore be retained to supplement AW/AE's research files. A copy of the complete digital working archive incl. the preserved archive is stored on AW/AE's server.

Amendments
Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

Materials

Materials Selections Template			
No	**Find type**	**Selection Strategy**	**Stakeholders**
3.1	Pottery	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; Conwy Museum Services
3.2	CBM	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; Conwy Museum Services
3.3	Metals	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; Conwy Museum Services
3.4	Worked Stone	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; Conwy Museum Services
3.5	Animal Bone	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; Conwy Museum Services
3.6	Lithics	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; Conwy Museum Services

3.7	Small Finds	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; Conwy Museum Services
3.8	Environmental Material	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; Conwy Museum Services
3.9	Modern (post 20th C) Material	Note in paperwork and discard on site.	Site Staff; PXM

No	ALL	**Material type**	All categories

Stakeholders

Rhiannon Philp (PX manager), Irene Garcia Rovira (Project Manager),

Selection

a) All artefacts are returned to AW/AE Finds and Environmental processing facility and dealt with in accordance with the professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials (2020). Selection may also be made prior to deposition based on Society of Museum Archaeologists' Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections guidelines (1993), National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales (2017).

b) Selection reviews will be undertaken after the following phases:
- Fieldwork
- Assessment
- Analysis (if required)
- Archive Completion

c) Relevant Standards and Guidance:
- CIfA. 2020. Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials
- Historic England. 2011. Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition)
- Society of Museum Archaeologists. 1993. Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections

- National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales. 2017. The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales

d) It is not envisaged that the selection decisions will deviate from standard guidelines

Uncollected Material

All material will be collected in the first instance unless obviously modern (plastics/post 20th century artefacts).

De-Selected Material

After assessment stage material may be deselected based on the advice of the relevant material specialist and the requirements of the receiving institution. The selection strategy will be updated to reflect any decision made on de-selected material.

De-selected material will be assessed for educational value and retained/passed to an educational provider if deemed of use. If no further use is identified the de-selected material shall be discarded via Smiths Waste Management and deposited within their South Wales waste processing facility.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

Data Management Plan

Section 1: Project Administration

Project ID

3225

Project Name

Land east of Llanrwst Road, Gyffin, Conwy

Project Description

This Written Scheme of Investigation sets out a proposal for an archaeological evaluation to be undertaken in connection with the proposed residential development of 102no. affordable homes and associated works at land east of Llanrwst Road Gyffin, Conwy, LL32 8HZ, NGR SH 77788 76525. The pre-planning reference is DC/ENQ/32353.
Project Funder / Grant reference
Beech Developments (NW) Ltd on behalf of Adra (Tai) Cyfyngedig
Project Manager
Irene Garcia Rovira – AW project manager irene@arch-wales.co.uk
Principal Investigator / Researcher
Same as above
Data Contact Person
Rhiannon Philp, AW Post-excavation Manager rhiannon.philp@arch-wales.co.uk
Date DMP created
Created on 12.08.25
Date DMP last updated
12.08.25
Version
1
Related data management policies
This DMP is guided by the Project Brief, CIfA Standards and guidance, trusted digital repository guidelines (RCAHMW) or other best practice guidance (see brief for details)

Section 2: Data Collection

What data will you collect or create?

The table below provides a summary of the data types, formats and estimated archive volume for data collected / created as part of this project. As the project progresses, more detail regarding files will be added to this DMP.

Type	Format	Estimated volume (Data Archived)
Spreadsheets	Excel (.xlsx)	TBC
Text/documents	Word (.docx) PDF (.pdf and .pdf/a)	TBC TBC
Images	Photographs (.jpg) Scanned drawings (.pdf)	TBC TBC
GIS	Shapefiles (.shp plus associated files)	TBC

How will the data be collected or created?

Data Standards / Methods

- Standard methods of data collection will be applied throughout the project, working to best practice guidance where applicable / available. In general, data acquisition standards are defined against RCAHMW Guidelines. Specific or additional guidance relevant to this project are listed below, and will
- be updated as the project progresses.
- Methods of collection are specified within the Project Design (see Archaeology Wales 2025) and will meet the requirement set out in the Project Brief, the organisation recording manual and relevant CIfA Standards and guidance.
- Where appropriate, project contributors external to the organisation will be required to include data standards, collection methodology and metadata with individual reports and data.

Data storage / file naming

- The data produced will be uploaded at regular intervals during the project as a way of backing up the information.
- The working project archive will be stored in a project specific folder on the internal organisational server. The internal organisation server is backed up to a cloud based storage system to maintain an up to date security copy of the organisation wide data.
- Project folders are named following established organisational procedures and the folder hierarchy and organisation devised will be understood by all members of staff involved in the project.
- Data collected will be downloaded and raw data will be stored in the appropriate folder.
- File naming conventions following established organisational procedures, based on RCAHMW file naming guidance, and include version control management.
- The data stored will be checked by the project manager regularly as a means of quality assurance.

Section 3: Documentation and metadata

What documentation and metadata will accompany the data?

- Data collected will include standard formats which maximise opportunities for use and reuse in the future (see Section 2, above).
- A RCAHMW metadata document will be included with the digital archive and include all data types included within the archive. A working copy will be kept on the organisational server in the Project Folder. A copy of the form containing HER required data will also be created.
- Data documentation will meet the requirement of the Project Brief, Museum Deposition Guidelines, Digital Repository Guidelines and the methodology described in the Project Design methodology.
- An archive catalogue documenting both physical and digital archive products will be maintained and submitted with both the Museum and Trusted Digital Repository

Section 4: Ethics and legal compliance

How will you manage any ethical, copyright and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues?

- The project archive will include the names and contact details of individuals who intend to volunteer or participate in the excavation and post excavation stages. We have a GDPR compliant Privacy Policy which underpins the management of personal data; any personal data is managed through a secure cloud-based database and not retained on the project specific folders.
- Personal data will be removed from the archaeological project archive and permission to include individual's names in any reporting is gained prior to use.
- Copyright for all data collected by the project team belongs to the organisation, and formal permission to include data from external specialists and contractors is secured on the engagement of the specialist or contractor.
- Where formal permissions and/or license agreements are linked to data sharing, they will be included in the project documentation folders and will accompany the archaeological project archive.

Section 5: Data Security: Storage and Backup

How will the data be stored, accessed and backed up during the research?

- Organisational IT is managed by an external data management provider, who is also responsible for the management and verification of our daily back-ups and who supports access to security copies as needed
- Sufficient data storage space is available via the organisational server, which includes permissions-based access. The server is accessible by staff on and offsite through a secure log-in
- Off-site access to the project files on the organisation's server is provided to support back-up of raw data while fieldwork is ongoing. Where internet access for data back up is not possible, the raw data will be backed up to a separate media device (such as laptop and portable external hard drive).

- Project files will be shared with external specialists and contractors directly using the same system, with the wider project team gaining access to only the files needed using permissions-based access

Section 6: Selection and Preservation

Which data should be retained, shared, and/or preserved?

- The Selection Strategy and DMP will be reviewed and updated following the fieldwork. Updated documentation will be included in all reporting stages.
- Prior to deposition, the Selection Strategy and DMP will be updated and finalised in agreement with all project stakeholders (including the Local Planning Archaeologist, Client, Museum, RCAHMW).
- Selection will be informed by the Project Design, defined against the research aims, regional and national research frameworks, specialist advice and the significance of the project results.
- The project will be published as an online technical report (accessible via RCAHMW and as part of the archive), with full access to research data.
- The data archive will be ordered, with files named and structured in a logical manner, and accompanied by relevant documentation and metadata, as outlined in Sections 2 and 3 of this DMP.
- Deselection will be undertaken automatically on any duplicate or unusable files, such as blurry or superfluous photographs.

What is the long-term preservation plan for the dataset?

- The digital archive will be deposited with the RCAHMW, which is working towards becoming a certified repository with Core Trust Seal.
- The archive will be prepared for deposition by the project team and the costs for the time needed for preparation, and the cost of deposition have been included in the project budget.

Have you contacted the data repository?

- RCAHMW have also been contacted as the intended repository for digital data.

Have the costs of archiving been fully considered?

- A costing estimate has been produced to allow for the preparation of the archive and has been included in the project budget.

Section 7: Data Sharing

How will you share the data and make it accessible?

- The digital archive repository will be updated as the project progresses.
- The investigations are likely to result in a number of documents: Archaeological Evaluation Report
- The final report is expected to be completed within three months of the completion of fieldwork.
- A final version of the project report will be supplied to the Historic Environment Record, and any data which they request can also be provided directly.
- The location (s) of the final Archaeological Archive will be included in the final report

Are any restrictions on data sharing required?

- A temporary embargo may be required on the sharing of the project results. If this is the case, specific details once agreed will be included in the updated version of this DMP and will be documented in the overarching Project Collection Metadata.
- Data specific requirements, ethical issues or embargos which are linked to particular data formats will be documented within the relevant metadata tables accompanying the project archive

Section 8: Responsibilities

Who will be responsible for implementing the data management plan?

- The Project Manager and Post Excavation Manager will be responsible for implementing the DMP, and ensuring it is reviewed and revised at each stage of the project.
- Data capture, metadata production and data quality is the responsibility of the Project Team, assured by the Project Manager and Post Excavation Manager.
- Storage and backup of data in the field is the responsibility of the field team.
- Once data is incorporated into the organisations project server, storage and backup is managed by an external company.
- Data archiving is undertaken by the project team under the guidance of the Post Excavation Manager, who is responsible for the transfer of the Archaeological Project Archive to the agreed repository.
- Details of the core project team can be found in the Project Design.

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