

# A55(T) ABERGWYNGREGYN TO TAI'R MEIBION IMPROVEMENT

Pre-Commencement Archaeological Evaluation



Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd  
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust



# A55(T) ABERGWYNGREGYN TO TAI'R MEIBION IMPROVEMENT

## Pre-Commencement Archaeological Evaluation

Prosiect Rhif / Project No. G2424

Adroddiad Rhif / Report No.1323

Prepared for: YMGYNGHORIAETH GWYNEDD CONSULTANCY

June 2016

Written by: Neil McGuinness

**\*front cover image: View from culvert SW of Wig Farm, looking SE across field  
towards Trenches 02 and 03 (archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_028)**

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## CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| SUMMARY.....  | 1  |
| 1 INTRODUCTION .....  | 2  |
| 2 BACKGROUND.....   | 4  |
| 3 SITE LOCATIONS .....  | 5  |
| 4 METHODOLOGY .....   | 6  |
| 5 RESULTS.....  | 7  |
| 5.1 Trench 01 .....   | 7  |
| 5.2 Trench 02 .....   | 8  |
| 5.3 Trench 03 .....   | 9  |
| 5.4 Trench 04 .....   | 10 |
| 6 DISCUSSION .....  | 11 |
| 7 CONCLUSION.....   | 13 |
| 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....  | 14 |
| 9 BIBLIOGRAPHY .....  | 15 |
| Appendix I: Project Design.....   | 16 |
| Appendix II: Context Summary .....  | 17 |
| Appendix III: Reproduction of Gwynedd Archaeological Trust photographic record<br>metadata..... | 21 |



## Figures

Figure 01: Scheme extent and location and index to 1:1000 maps

Figure 02: Map 1, location of evaluation Trenches 01, 02 and 03

Figure 03: Map 2, location of evaluation Trench 04

Figure 04: Archaeological features in Trenches 02 and 04



## Plates

Plate 01: Post-machining shot of Trench 01, viewed from the NE (scale: 2x1m; archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_011).

Plate 02: NW facing baulk section of Trench 01, viewed from the NW (scale: 2x1m; archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_012).

Plate 03: Trench 01 reinstated, viewed from the NE (archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_026).

Plate 04: Post-machining shot of Trench 02, viewed from the SW (scale: 2x1m; archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_006).

Plate 05: NW facing baulk section of Trench 02, viewed from the NW (scale: 2x1m; archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_007).

Plate 06: View of ceramic drain pipe (0206) in Trench 02, viewed from the NNE (scale: 2x1m; archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_009).

Plate 07: View of slate capped culvert (0205) and manhole cover in Trench 02, viewed from the NW (scale: 2x1m; archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_008).

Plate 08: Probable continuation of slate culvert (recorded as 0205) at NW side of field, viewed from the SSE (archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_027).

Plate 09: View from culvert SE across field towards manhole cover and Trenches 02 and 03, viewed from the NW (archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_028).

Plate 10: Trench 02 reinstated, viewed from the NE (archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_025).

Plate 11: Post-machining shot of Trench 03, viewed from the NE (scale: 2x1m; archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_005).

Plate 12: NW facing baulk section of Trench 03 with field boundary in background, viewed from the NW (scale: 2x1m; archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_004).

Plate 13: Trench 03 reinstated, viewed from the SW (archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_024).

Plate 14: Trench 04 post-machining, viewed from the ESE (scale: 2x1m; archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_033).



Plate 15: SSW facing baulk section Trench 04, viewed from the SSW (scale: 2x1m; archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_036).

Plate 16: Modern drain [0407] with ceramic pipe, viewed from the SW (scale: 1x1m; archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_035).

Plate 17: Earth and stone field boundary bank (0409) in Trench 04, viewed from the S (scale: 2x1m; archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_037).

Plate 18: Trench 04 reinstated, viewed from the E (archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_042)



| Approvals Table |                         |                    |                          |          |
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| Rev No.          | Summary of Changes  | Ref Section  | Purpose of Issue                              |
| 01               | Amendments to text to correct stated length of scheme and clarify aims and objectives.<br>Correct typographical errors.<br>Replace word 'natural' with 'natural drift geology'.<br>Amend discussion and conclusion<br>Amend Figure 01 to show location of Asset Number 30 | Sec 1<br>Sec 5, Sec 6<br>Sec 5, Sec 6<br>Sec 6, Sec 7<br>Figure 01 | Comments received from CRJ (YGC) (01/07/2016) |
|                  |   |  |   |
|                  |   |  |   |
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## SUMMARY

*This report sets out the results of a programme of archaeological trial trenching undertaken by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust at two sites within the scheme footprint of the proposed A55(T) road upgrade, on land to the south and south-west of Wig Farm, Abergwyngregyn, Gwynedd and land to the S of Tai'r Meibion, Llanllechid, Gwynedd. The work was carried out on behalf of Ymgynghoriaeth Gwynedd Consultancy in June 2016.*

*Four trial trenches were excavated with an 8 tonne mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision down to the natural drift geological levels, three at Wig Farm and one at Tai'r-meibion. The trenches at Wig Farm were located to identify the location, nature and degree of survival of features related to medieval settlement. The trench at Tai'r Meibion was placed to identify the exact location and degree of survival of the Canovium - Segontium Roman Road. Archaeological features were encountered within two of the trenches, Trench 02 at Wig Farm and Trench 04 at Tai'r-meibion. In addition to two modern drains Trench 02 revealed evidence for a slate culvert that appears to be part of a Post-medieval water management system associated with the water mill at Wig Farm. No evidence for medieval settlement was identified. Trench 04 at Tai'r Meibion revealed evidence for two modern drains and a stone and earth field boundary bank of unknown date. No evidence for the Roman Road was encountered.*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

This report was commissioned by Ymgynghoriaeth Gwynedd Consultancy (YGC) and forms the report for the pre-commencement archaeological trial trenching evaluation carried out on land to the south and south-west of Wig Farm, Abergwyngregyn, Gwynedd (centred on NGR SH 6351071980) (Figure 02) and land to the south of Tai'r Meibion, Llanllechid, Gwynedd (centred on NGR SH6315771500) (Figure 03).

The evaluation is part of pre-commencement works in advance of the proposed A55(T) road upgrade. The A55(T) road upgrade extends for 2.2km between Junctions 12 (NGR SH62977173) and 13 (NGR SH65067263) (Figure 01). A Project Design was prepared (Appendix I) after consultation with Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS) which sets out the legislation framework in detail.

The Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) completed an Assessment of the Significance of the Impact of Development on Historic Landscape (ASIDOHL) report (McNichol 2015a: GAT Report 1257) and a heritage desk based assessment (McNichol, 2015b: GAT Report 1258) of the A55(T) road upgrade scheme in 2015. The desk based assessment report included recommendations for trial trenching, prior to any other work on site, at two sites of unknown, but potentially high, archaeological value that lie within the scheme footprint and may be directly affected by the road upgrade (McNichol 2015b, para. 7.1; Table 9) (Figure 01). These are the medieval Township at Wig (Asset Number 27; GAT PRN 6811) and the Canovium (Caerhun) - Segontium (Caernarfon) Roman Road (Asset Number 30; GAT PRN 17568).

After discussion with GAPS, it was decided that instead of Asset Number 30, another, potentially more easily locatable, stretch of the same Roman Road should be targeted, the Canovium - Segontium Roman Road to the south of Tai'r Meibion (Asset Number 12; RCAHMW NPRN 405340) (Figure 01).

As specified in the Project Design (Appendix I) the objectives of the pre commencement archaeological evaluation trenches are to:

- Establish the location, nature and level of preservation of any archaeological remains for Asset Numbers 12 (the Canovium - Segontium Roman Road) and 27 (the medieval Township at Wig)
- Enable an accurate assessment of the value of Asset Numbers 12 (the Canovium - Segontium Roman Road) and 27 (the medieval Township at Wig) according to DMRB criteria
- Develop an appropriate mitigation strategy for any archaeological remains encountered that will either reduce the impact of the proposed scheme on

them or, if justified, determine whether the scheme could be adjusted so as to preserve the remains in situ.

. This report has been prepared in accordance with:

- English Heritage, 1991. Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)
- Historic England, 2015. Management Of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE)
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation, and research of archaeological materials
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standards and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer, and deposition of archaeological archives
- Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales, 2015. Guidelines for digital archives

## 2 BACKGROUND

During the Roman period a major road between Segontium (Caernarfon) and Canovium (Caerhun) in the Conwy valley ran very close to the study area (Asset Number 30, GAT PRN 17,568) (McNichol, 2015b). The route is described in the third century Antonine Itinerary (Hopewell 2013, 10). The course of the road is known to the east of Abergwyngregyn at Madryn Farm, where a Roman milestone has been discovered (GAT PRN 638). The midpoint of a 1.5km long segment of the Canovium - Segontium Roman Road is also recorded at SH6279071210 (Asset Number 12; RCAHMW NPRN 405340). No part of this route has been excavated by archaeologists, but parts are visible on both aerial photographs and lidar data. No obvious traces are visible within the scheme footprint. If encountered, the remains of an approximately 5m wide agger, a raised road surface made from layers of gravel stones and clay, with drainage ditches either side of it, might be expected (Hopewell 2013, 10).

A medieval settlement is known from documentary evidence to have existed at Wig (Asset Number 27; PRN 6811) (McNichol, 2015b). It is referred to in medieval extents and grants as a bond township of two *gafaelion*. The medieval township may have contained more than one settlement, but it is likely that at least one of these lay on or near the present Wig, which lies 100m north of the proposed improvements. An area of earthworks survives at Wig Farm which could be medieval in date and if this is the case could form part of a documented medieval settlement of regional importance.

### **3 SITE LOCATIONS**

Both sites are located on improved grassland on the coastal plain between the Carneddau and the Menai Straits. The underlying geology of both sites is Llanvirn Rocks (mudstone, siltstone and sandstone) with overlying glacial sands and gravels at Wig Farm and glacial till at Tai'r Meibion (British Geological Survey).

The three trenches on land to the south and south-west of Wig Farm are located in two fields of improved grassland. They are aligned NE-SW and run parallel with, and to north of, the existing carriageway of the A55 (TR01 centered on SH 6345771959; TR02 centred on SH 6356672001; TR03 centred on SH 6360372015) (Figure 02).

The trench on land to the south of Tai'r Meibion, (TR04 centred on NGR SH6315771500) is located in a field of improved grassland and runs at a tangent to, and to the north of, the lane known as 'Roman Road' (Figure 03).

## 4 METHODOLOGY

All works were carried out in accordance with the Project Design for the works (Appendix I).

- The trenches' centrelines were located with a Trimble R6 GPS receiver (centimetre accuracy) and subsequently CAT scanned by a qualified and competent operative prior to their excavation.
- The trenches were excavated by an 8 tonne tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket under the direct supervision of an archaeologist.
- When encountered, potential archaeological features / contexts were manually cleaned and examined to determine the extent, function, date and relationship to adjacent features / contexts.
- A written record of the excavations was completed via GAT pro-formas.
- The excavated trench locations and all archaeological features were surveyed with the use of a Trimble R6 GPS receiver (centimetre accuracy) with the results recorded in Ordnance Survey of Great Britain National Grid co-ordinates.
- Forty three digital photographs were taken in RAW format using a digital SLR camera set to **maximum resolution** (Archive file refs G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_001 - G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_043). A complete table of metadata with details of each image, including descriptions and directions of shot was produced using Microsoft Access (Appendix III).
- The trenches were carefully backfilled, first with the excavated subsoil, then topsoil and then re-turfed with the mechanical excavator. After this was complete, the trenches were hand finished, re-seeded and rolled by professional contractors to ensure the best possible standard of reinstatement (Plate 03; Plate 10; Plate 13; Plate 18).
- The paper archive resulting from the fieldwork is stored at Gwynedd Archaeological Trust; the digital archive resulting from the fieldwork will be deposited with the RCAHMW in accordance with their guidelines.

## 5 RESULTS

Summarised descriptions of all archaeological contexts identified are included in Appendix II.

### 5.1 Trench 01

Trench 01 was located within a field of improved pasture, 200m to the SW of the farmhouse at Wig. It was orientated NE-SW, parallel to the hedge that forms the boundary of the field with the adjacent carriageway of the A55 to the S. Its excavated length was 19.50m and its width 1.90m. Its maximum excavated depth was 0.50m (Plate 01; Plate 02).

A 0.15m deep layer of topsoil **(0101)** was visible overlying an alluvial deposit of light brownish grey silty clay **(0102)**, on average 0.35m deep. This had been deposited over the natural drift geology **(0103)**, a wet, cohesive, light greyish orange, coarse and fine gravel / sand mixture with moderate small and medium sized sub-rounded and sub angular stones.

No archaeological features or finds were encountered in Trench 01.

## 5.2 Trench 02

Trench 02 was located in another improved pasture field adjacent to that containing Trench 01, and lay approximately 120m to the SSW of the farmhouse at Wig. It was again orientated NE-SW, parallel to a clawdd wall that forms the SE boundary of this field with the carriageway of the A55 to the S. Its excavated length was 19.50m and its width 1.90m. Its maximum excavated depth was 0.60m (Plate 04; Plate 05; Figure 04).

The topsoil **(0201)** in Trench 02 was 0.20m deep, and overlay a 0.35m deep layer of subsoil **(0202)**, a light brownish grey silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. An alluvial deposit of soft, slightly blueish grey slightly sandy clay with very occasional small flecks of charcoal **(0211)** was encountered below the subsoil approximately 5.5m from the NE end of the trench. The natural drift geology was exposed below these deposits at a depth of 0.30- 0.55m. In the NE and middle part of the trench the natural drift geology was recorded as **(0203)**, a compact, light grey clay with occasional veins of cobbles and orange clay deposits. There was a change to the natural drift geology approximately 3m from the SW end of Trench 02 coinciding with the SW limit of the overlying alluvial clay **(0211)**. The natural drift geology here changed abruptly to a deposit of loose, coarse orange pebbles and gravel with very occasional lenses of clean, very fine, mid grey sand **(0204)**.

A modern circular cast iron manhole cover, set in a sub-circular concrete surround approximately 1.60 m in diameter, was located on the S side of the trench, set back approximately 0.40m from the baulk and 3.30m from its NE end (Plate 07).

At this NE end of the trench, the 0.50m wide straight linear cut of a modern land drain **[0210]** was visible cutting through the subsoil **(0202)**. It emerged from a presumed junction with the manhole to the SW and ran NE towards the farmhouse at Wig. The drain contained a modern orange ceramic pipe **(0206)** at a depth of approximately 0.30m below the current ground surface (Plate 06).

A 0.80m wide stone culvert **(0205)**, the visible portions of which were constructed from horizontally laid flat slabs of slate, also appeared to be associated with the manhole (Plate 07). It was constructed within cut **[0209]** and lay below the topsoil at a depth of 0.30m. It was located just to the south of drain **[0210]** and ran across the trench in a straight linear fashion from the manhole to the SSE in a NNW direction towards the millpond and building that houses the remains of the water wheel at Wig (Plate 08; Plate 09).

Another, presumably modern, 0.30m wide straight linear land drain cut **[0207]** was observed approximately 6.00m from the SW end of Trench 02. It was cut through the subsoil **(0202)** and ran NW-SE, perpendicular to the orientation of the trench. It was filled with **(0208)**, a light greyish brown clean clay.

### 5.3 Trench 03

Trench 03 was located in the same field as Trench 02 approximately 20m to the NE of the latter's NE end, 95m S of farmhouse at Wig. It was orientated NE-SW and again lay parallel to the clawdd wall that forms the SE boundary of the field. Its excavated length was 19.50m and its width 1.90m. Its maximum excavated depth was 0.40m (Plate 11).

A 0.20m deep layer of topsoil **(0301)** was visible above the subsoil **(0302)**, a 0.20m deep layer of light brown silty clay with occasional small stones. Natural drift geology **(0303)** was encountered at an average depth of 0.40m below the present ground surface and consisted of a compact, coarse, light greyish brown clayey gravel with frequent small sub-angular stones and occasional compact deposits of fine light grey clay (Plate12).

No archaeological features or finds were encountered in Trench 03.

#### 5.4 Trench 04

Trench 04 was located in a field of improved pasture 140m to the S of Tai'r Meibion, on the opposite side of the A55 to Trenches 01-03. It was orientated WNW-ESE, tangential to the clawdd wall and hedge that forms the southern boundary of the field with the carriageway of 'Roman Road' to the S. Its excavated length was 19.82m and its width 2.03m. Its maximum excavated depth was 0.90m (Plate 14; Figure 04).

The topsoil **(0401)** in Trench 04 was 0.20m deep, and overlay a 0.35m deep layer of subsoil **(0402)**, a mid orangey brown silty clay with moderate to frequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. The stones occurred in lenses across the length and width of the trench and appeared to be colluvial in origin having washed down the hillslope immediately to the S. A 0.35m deep alluvial deposit of soft, mid grey clay with moderate small to medium sized sub-angular stones **(0403)** was encountered below the subsoil at a depth of 0.55m. Natural drift geology **(0404)** lay below at 0.90m below the level of the current ground surface. It consisted of a soft light grey clay with very frequent small to medium sized sub-angular stones and cobbles (Plate 15).

The 0.30m wide straight linear cut of a presumably modern land drain **[0405]** ran from SE-NW across the central / E end of the trench. It was filled with **(0406)**, a mid brown silty clay with frequent small to medium sized sub-rounded stones.

Just to the W of this, in the central part of the trench, another straight linear land drain cut **[0407]** ran across the trench from NE-SW. It was 0.40m wide and the filled with well sorted small angular stones (2-3cm long) **(0408)** which were packed around a modern orange ceramic water pipe. The pipe lay 0.60 m below the level of the current ground surface (Plate 16).

To the W of this, approximately 3m from W end of the trench, a 0.85m wide, 0.62m deep, stone and earth bank **(0409)** was revealed (Plate 17). It was constructed on natural drift geology **(0404)** and predominately made up of closely packed angular, sub-angular and sub-rounded stones and cobbles averaging between 5-25cm long. Two very large boulders, 65 and 52cm long respectively were laid flat and flush with each other at the N end of the exposed bank. The stones were within a matrix of mid brown soft sandy silt. The bank was aligned NNE-SSW and spanned the width of the trench, though it was partially truncated by the machine at the SW corner of the exposed section. No archaeological finds were recovered from the bank. Fragments of broken modern drain pipe were recovered from the lower levels of the subsoil **(0402)** immediately to the W of the bank but no cut for a land drain was noted here.

## 6 DISCUSSION

Trenches 01, 02 and 03 were specifically located to attempt to establish the nature, level of preservation, and hence the value, of possible medieval settlement remains at Wig (**Asset Number 27**; GAT PRN 6811). Only one of these three trenches, Trench 02, contained any archaeological remains, none of which were related to medieval settlement.

The field drain **[0207]** at the SW end of Trench 02 appears to be modern and of little archaeological significance. Likewise the drain **[0210]** at the NE end of the trench.

The slate culvert (**0205**) appears to be part of a Post-medieval water management system. The collapsed remains of most likely the same culvert were identified 50m to the NW at the edge of the field, the water emerging from it and feeding into a disused mill pond (Plate 08). A leat from the mill pond still carries water NW to the location of the disused water wheel. The observation that the culvert is still actively carrying water means that, unless replaced there by a more recent pipe, it may also survive underneath the present carriageway of the A55 to the SE.

The slate culvert (**0205**) meets the DRMB criteria for a 'Low' value archaeological asset as it is '...of limited archaeological value, but with potential to contribute to local research objectives.' (DMRB, Volume 11, Section 3, Part 2, HA208/7, Annex 5, Table 5.1)

The manhole on the SE side of Trench 02 would appear to be a modern insertion into the culvert, primarily to facilitate the diversion of some of the water flowing through the culvert off to the NE towards the Wig farmhouse. The manhole would therefore appear to be contemporary with the modern ceramic pipe contained within drain cut **[0210]**.

As the Trenches 01, 02, 03 failed to locate any medieval settlement remains, **the location, nature, extent and level of preservation of features associated with Asset Number 27 remain unknown**. It is still possible that evidence for the settlement does survive elsewhere within the scheme footprint within the environs of Wig Farm.

Trench 04 was located establish the location and level of preservation of the Canovium – Segontium Roman Road (**Asset Number 12**; RCAHMW NPRN 405340). No evidence for the road was encountered within the trench.

The two field drains **[0405]** and **[0407]** in the trench are probably modern in origin, the gravel fill and visible ceramic pipe in **[0407]** suggests it is very recent.

The stone and earth bank (**0409**) represents a field boundary of unknown date. A stratigraphic relationship between the drain **[0407]** and the earth and stone bank

**(0409)** was not observed within the trench. No field boundary in this location could be positively identified on historic mapping, and it almost certainly predates the large scale re-organisation of local field boundaries that occurred during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century (McNicol, 2015b).

The bank **(0409)** meets the DRMB criteria for a 'Low' value asset as it is '...of limited archaeological value, but with potential to contribute to local research objectives.' (DMRB, Volume 11, Section 3, Part 2, HA208/7, Annex 5, Table 5.1)

The exact **location, nature, extent and level of preservation of Asset Number 12 remain unknown**. Trench 04 was positioned to cut the projected path of the Roman Road as suggested by two sets of grid co-ordinates recorded on the RCAHMW NMR record. It is entirely possible that the road does not run in an exact straight linear fashion between these two points. Despite the absence of evidence for a road surface and / or associated ditches within Trench 04, it is still possible that the Roman Road survives elsewhere within the scheme footprint in the area to the S of Tai'r Meibion.

## 7 CONCLUSION

In terms of the stated aims of the project, the programme of pre-commencement trial trenching has produced inconclusive results. It failed to identify evidence for medieval settlement remains associated with the Township at Wig (GAT PRN 6811), therefore the value of Asset Number 27 remains unknown. Similarly, the exact location and degree of survival of the Canovium – Segontium Roman Road SW of Tai'r Meibion (RCAHMW NPRN 405340), Asset Number 12, remains unknown. Evidence for both assets may still survive within the scheme footprint and be encountered during the course of the road improvement works.

The programme of pre-commencement trial trenching did however demonstrate the potential for previously unknown archaeological remains to be encountered during the course of the improvement works. Two previously unknown 'Low' value archaeological assets were identified. A slate built culvert, designated as Asset Number 52, part of the Post-medieval water management system at Wig Farm, and a stone and earth field boundary bank S of Tai'r Meibion, now designated as Asset Number 53.

## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The author would like to thank *Ymgynghoriaeth Gwynedd Consultancy* for commissioning the work, and Penrhyn Estates and their tenants, Mr E Williams at Wig Farm and Mr I Williams at Tai'r Meibion, for facilitating access to undertake the works. The work on site was carried out by the author Neil McGuinness and Stuart Reilly.

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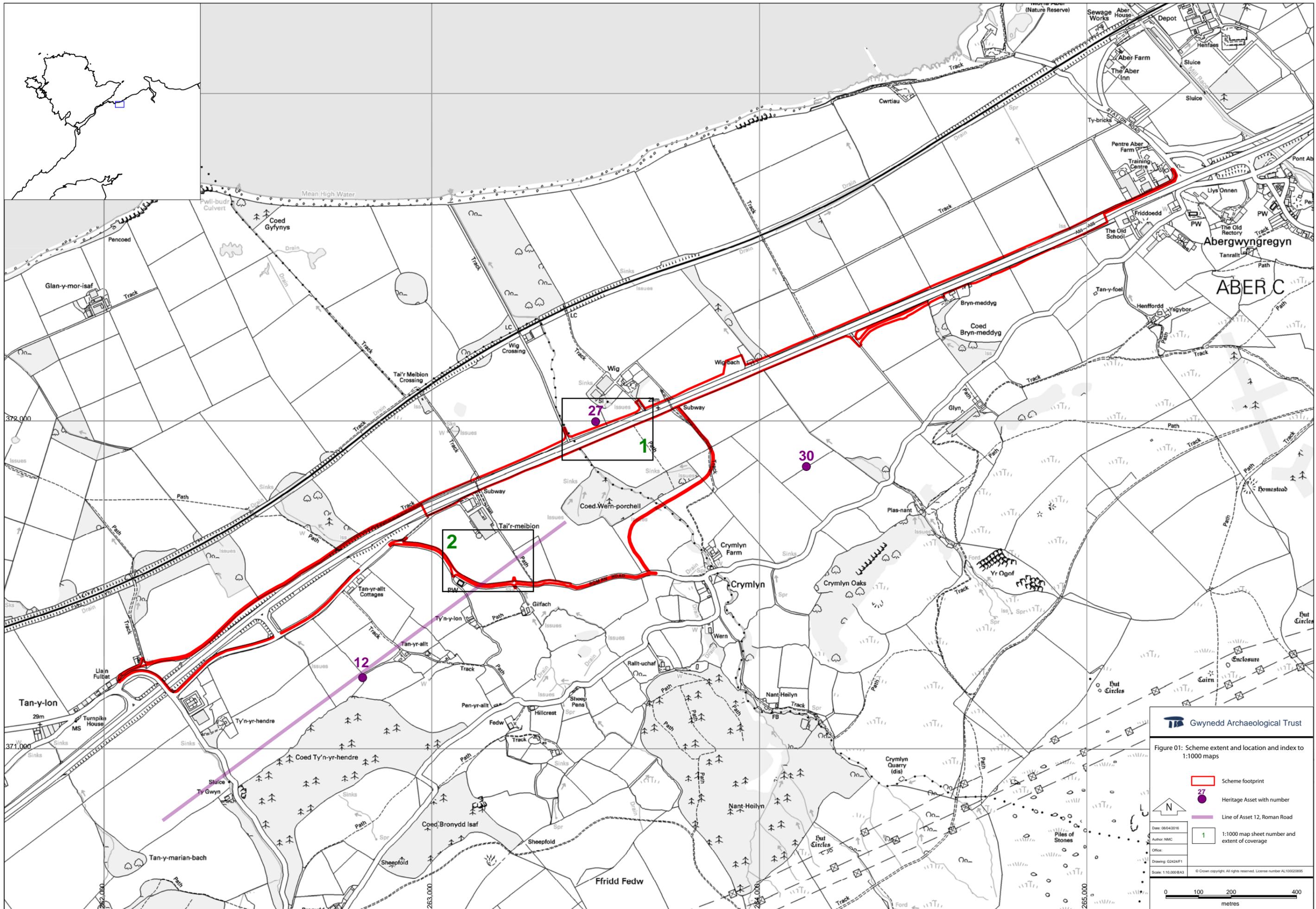
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**Gwynedd Archaeological Trust**

Figure 01: Scheme extent and location and index to 1:1000 maps

- Scheme footprint
- 27 Heritage Asset with number
- Line of Asset 12, Roman Road
- 1:1000 map sheet number and extent of coverage

Date: 08/04/2016  
 Author: NMC  
 Office:  
 Drawing: G2424F1  
 Scale: 1:10,000@A3

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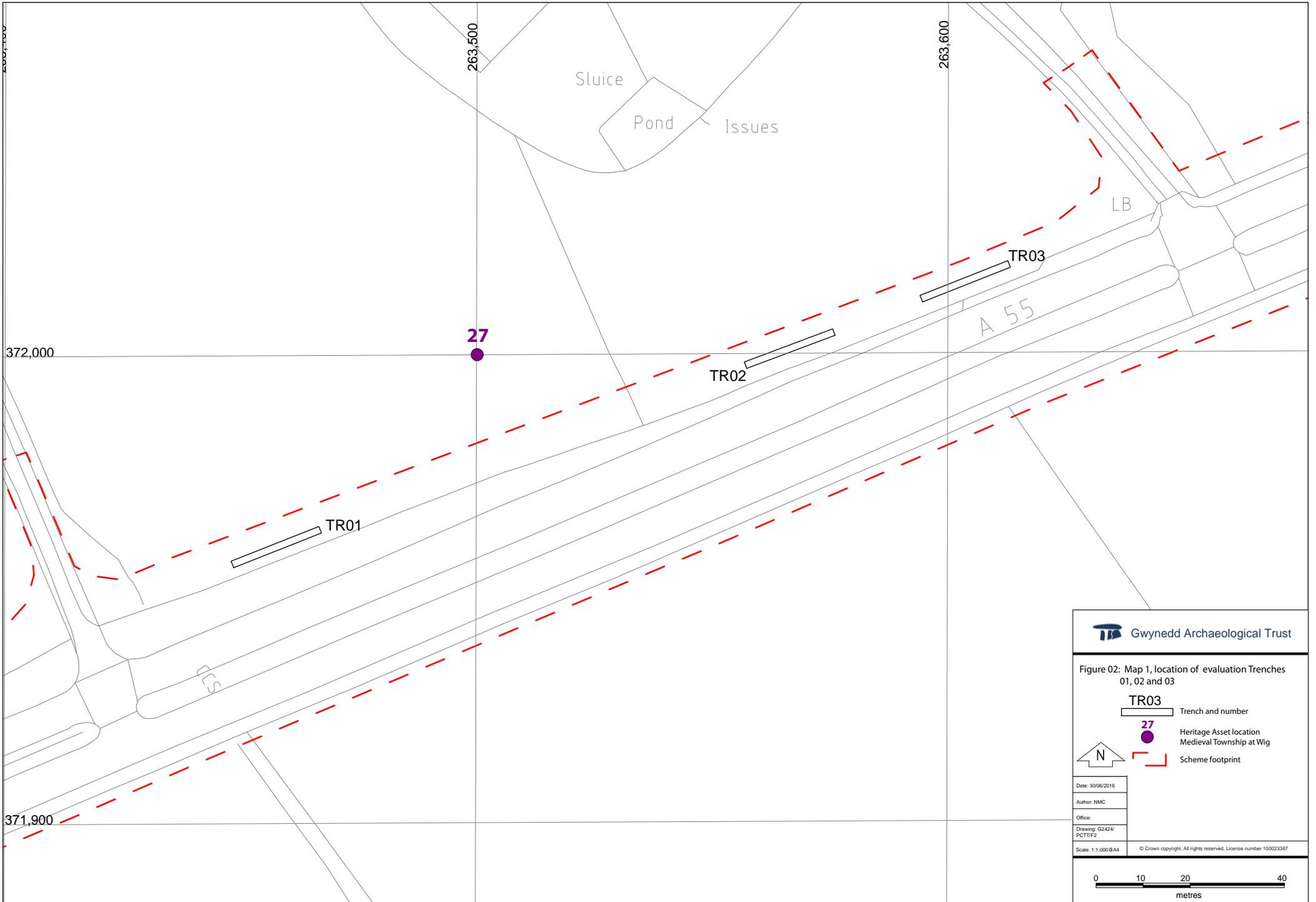


Figure 02: Map 1, location of evaluation Trenches 01, 02 and 03

-  Trench and number
-  Heritage Asset location  
Medieval Township at Wig
-  Scheme footprint



Date: 30/06/2016

Author: NMC

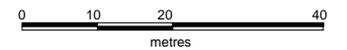
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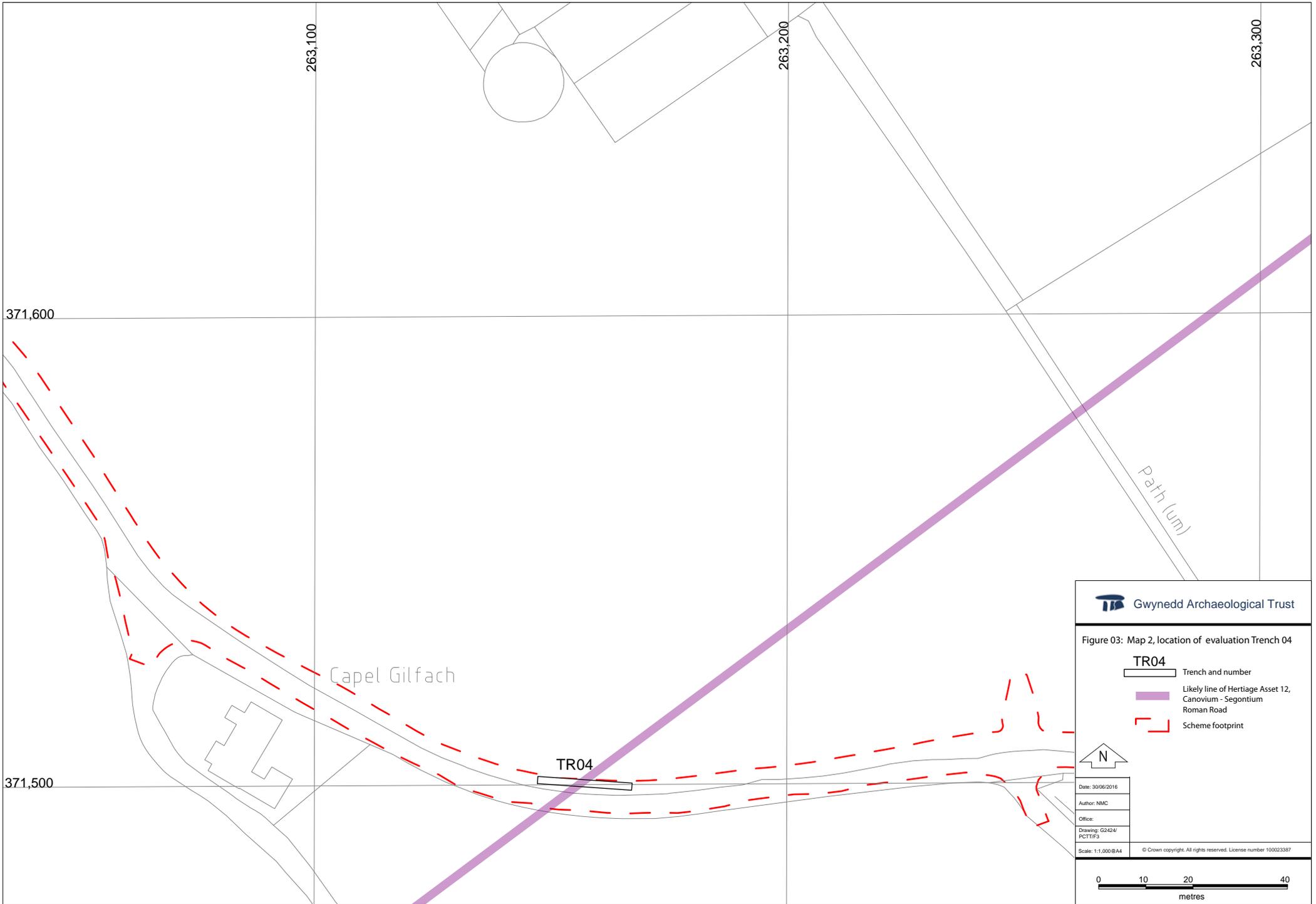
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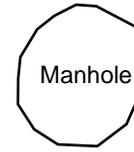
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### TRENCH 02



### TRENCH 04

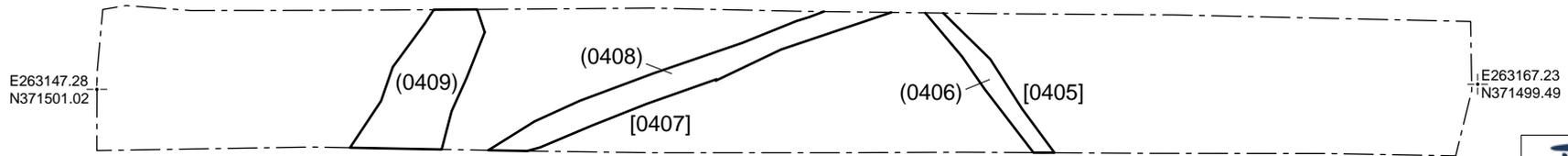


Figure 04: Archaeological features in Trenches 02 and 04

Date: 30/06/2016

Author: NMC

Office:

Drawing: G2424/  
PCTT/F4

Scale: 1:100@A4

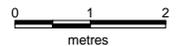




Plate 01: Post-ex shot of Trench 01, viewed from the NE (scale: 2x1m; archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_011).



Plate 02: NW facing baulk section of Trench 01, viewed from the NW (scale: 2x1m; archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_012).



Plate 03: Trench 01 reinstated, viewed from the NE (archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_026).



Plate 04: Post-machining shot of Trench 02, viewed from the SW (scale: 2x1m; archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_006).



Plate 05: NW facing baulk section of Trench 02, viewed from the NW (scale: 2x1m; archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_007).



Plate 06: View of ceramic drain pipe (0206) in Trench 02, viewed from the NNE (scale: 2x1m; archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_009).

Plate 07: View of slate capped culvert (0205) and manhole cover in Trench 02, viewed from the NW (scale: 2x1m; archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_008).



Plate 08: Probable continuation of slate culvert (recorded as 0205) at NW side of field, viewed from the SSE (archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_027).



Plate 09: View from culvert SE across field towards manhole cover and Trenches 02 and 03, viewed from the NW (archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_028).



Plate 10: Trench 02 reinstated, viewed from the NE (archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_025).



Plate 11: Post-machining shot of Trench 03, viewed from the NE (scale: 2x1m; archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_005).



Plate 12: NW facing baulk section of Trench 03 with field boundary in background, viewed from the NW (scale: 2x1m; archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_004).



Plate 13: Trench 03 reinstated, viewed from the SW (archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_024).

Plate 14: Trench 04 post-machining, viewed from the ESE (scale: 2x1m; archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_033).





Plate 15: SSW facing baulk section Trench 04, viewed from the SSW (scale: 2x1m; archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_036).

Plate 16: Modern drain [0407] with ceramic pipe, viewed from the SW (scale: 1x1m; archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_035).

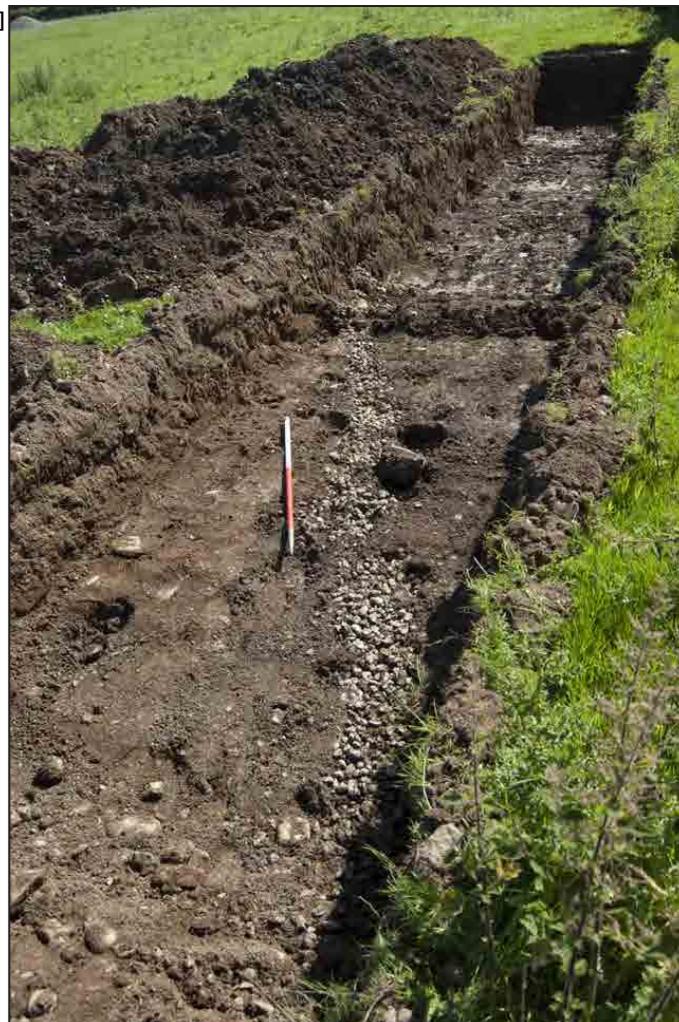




Plate 17: Earth and stone field boundary bank (0409) in Trench 04, viewed from the S (scale: 2x1m; archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_037).



Plate 18: Trench 04 reinstated, viewed from the E (archive image: G2424\_PCTT\_2016\_042).



## **APPENDIX I: PROJECT DESIGN**



A55(T) ABERGWYNGREGYN TO TAI'R MEIBION  
IMPROVEMENT

PROJECT SPECIFICATION FOR A PRE  
COMMENCEMENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION  
(G2424)

***Prepared for***

*Ymgynghoriaeth Gwynedd Consultancy*

***April 2016***

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd  
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

# PROJECT SPECIFICATION FOR A PRE COMMENCEMENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION (G2424)

Prepared for *Ymgynghoriaeth Gwynedd Consultancy*, April 2016.

## CONTENTS

|       |   |    |
|-------|---|----|
| 1     | INTRODUCTION .....  | 5  |
| 2     | PROJECT BACKGROUND .....  | 7  |
| 2.1   | Archaeological Background .....   | 7  |
| 2.1.1 | Prehistoric and Roman (up to 400 AD) .....  | 7  |
| 2.1.2 | Medieval (400 AD – 1485 AD) .....   | 7  |
| 2.1.3 | Post-medieval and later (1485 AD to the present day) .....                                      | 8  |
| 2.2   | Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Assessment Report .....  | 10 |
| 3     | METHODOLOGY .....   | 11 |
| 3.1   | Table 1: trench centreline coordinates .....  | 12 |
| 3.2   | Evaluation Methodology .....  | 13 |
| 3.3   | Environmental Sampling (Ecofacts) .....   | 14 |
| 3.4   | Human Remains .....   | 15 |
| 3.5   | Small Finds .....   | 16 |
| 3.6   | Monitoring Arrangements .....   | 17 |
| 3.7   | Fieldwork Archiving .....   | 18 |
| 4     | REPORT .....  | 19 |
| 5     | DISSEMINATION AND ARCHIVING .....   | 20 |
| 5.1   | Historic Environment Record .....   | 21 |
| 6     | PERSONNEL .....   | 22 |
| 7     | HEALTH AND SAFETY .....   | 23 |
| 8     | INSURANCE .....   | 24 |
| 9     | REFERENCES .....  | 25 |
|       | Figure 1: Scheme extent and location and index to 1:1000 maps .....                             | 26 |
|       | Figure 2: Map 1, location of evaluation trenches TR01, TR02 and TR03 .....                      | 27 |
|       | Figure 3: Map 2, location of evaluation trench TR04 .....                                       | 28 |
|       | Appendix I .....  | 29 |
|       | Reproduction of Gwynedd Archaeological Trust evaluation trench pro-forma (April 2016) .....     | 29 |
|       | Appendix II .....   | 32 |
|       | Reproduction of Gwynedd Archaeological Trust context record pro-forma (April 2016) .....        | 32 |
|       | Appendix III .....  | 35 |
|       | Reproduction of Gwynedd Archaeological Trust photographic metadata pro-forma (April 2016) ..... | 35 |

| Approvals Table |                         |              |           |      |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------|-----------|------|
|                 | Role                    | Printed Name | Signature | Date |
| Originated by   | Document Author         |              |           |      |
| Reviewed by     | Document Reviewer       |              |           |      |
| Approved by     | Principal Archaeologist |              |           |      |

| Revision History |                    |             |                  |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Rev No.          | Summary of Changes | Ref Section | Purpose of Issue |
|                  |                    |             |                  |
|                  |                    |             |                  |
|                  |                    |             |                  |
|                  |                    |             |                  |
|                  |                    |             |                  |

All GAT staff should sign their copy to confirm the project specification is read and understood and retain a copy of the specification for the duration of their involvement with the project. On completion, the specification should be retained with the project archive:

**Name**

**Signature**

**Date**

# 1 INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) was asked by Ymgynghoriaeth Gwynedd Consultancy (YGC) to prepare a scheme of pre-commencement archaeological evaluation involving trial trenching on two potential archaeological sites, in advance of the proposed A55(T) road upgrade. The A55(T) road upgrade extends for 2.1km between Junctions 12 (NGR SH62977173) and 13 (NGR SH65067263) (Figure 1).

GAT has previously carried out an Assessment of the Significance of the Impact of Development On Historic Landscape Areas (ASIDOHL) for the scheme (McNichol, D. 2015a: GAT Report 1257) and a heritage desk based assessment (McNichol, 2015b: GAT Report 1258). The latter report included recommendations for trial trenching, prior to any other work on site, at two sites of unknown, but potentially high, archaeological value that may be directly affected by the scheme (McNichol 2015b, para. 7.1; Table 9). These are the medieval Township at Wig (Asset 27; GAT PRN 6811) and the Canovium (Caerhun) - Segontium (Caernarfon) Roman Road (Asset 30; GAT PRN 17568).

Following consultation with Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services (GAPS), a recommendation has been implemented to not target Asset 30, but instead to target the part of the route of the same Canovium – Segontium Roman Road recorded as Asset 12 (RCAHMW NPRN 405340).

Three trenches (TR01, TR02 and TR03), each measuring 1.5x20m, are targeted on the medieval Township at Wig (Asset 27; GAT PRN 6811). They are centred on NGRs SH6345771959, SH6356672001 and SH6360372015, and are set within the A55 segment of the scheme footprint, parallel to the SW-NE field boundaries in two fields to the S and SW of Wig Farm, Abergwyngregyn (Figure 2).

The fourth trench, measuring 1.5x20m, is centered on SH6315771500 on the possible route of the Canovium – Segontium Roman Road (Asset 12; RCAHMW NPRN 405340). It is situated in a field to the S of Tai'r-meibion, and runs close to, and parallel with, the E-W field boundary within the scheme footprint at the 'Roman Road' widening segment (Figure 3).

The aim of the pre-commencement evaluation trial trenches are to determine the location, nature and level of survival of archaeological remains at each site in order to accurately assess their value. This will enable the development of an archaeological mitigation strategy that will reduce the impact of the scheme on them or if justified, determine whether the scheme could be adjusted so as to preserve the remains in situ.

This specification sets out the Gwynedd Archaeology Trust methodology for completing the archaeological evaluation. This specification must be approved by GAPS in advance of any work on site; all subsequent reporting must also be approved by GAPS.

The archaeological works will conform to the guidelines specified in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*

(Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014). Gwynedd Archaeological Trust is a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Registered Archaeological Organisation*. The format of this design corresponds to the requirements of section 2.3 of MoRPHE (Historic England, 2015) and to MAP2 (English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects*).

## **2 PROJECT BACKGROUND**

The following sections are taken from GAT Report 1258, A55 (T) Abergwyngregyn to Tai'r Meibion Improvement Desk Based Assessment Report (McNichol 2015b).

### **2.1 Archaeological Background**

#### **2.1.1 Prehistoric and Roman (up to 400 AD)**

Evidence of prehistoric activity within the coastal strip is provided mainly by stray finds from the fields. A Bronze Age axe was found at Wig Farm (GAT PRN 6811), while a Bronze Age stone axe hammer from College Farm, Abergwyngregyn (GAT PRN 4071), and a Bronze Age burial urn at Pen-y-Bryn, immediately to the east of Abergwyngregyn (GAT PRN 4079), have also been found. Systematic study of the Aber valley, immediately to the southeast of the study area has produced many prehistoric and later remains (GAT 2001), whilst east of Abergwyngregyn a 'burnt mound' has been located (GAT 1994). There is significant evidence for prehistoric activity in the uplands with several cairns of Bronze Age type on the hill-tops and ridges as well as remains of settlements and fields.

During the Roman period a major road between Segontium (Caernarfon) and Canovium (Caerhun) in the Conwy valley ran very close to the study area (GAT PRN 17,568). The course of this road is known to the east of Abergwyngregyn at Madryn Farm, where a Roman milestone has been discovered (GAT PRN 638). The exact line of the road within the study area cannot be clearly identified, although based on the location of known milestones it probably ran to the south of the study area (GAT 2005, 6-8). A Roman coin has been recovered from Abergwyngregyn parish (GAT PRN 4073), while a possible Roman fortlet has been identified at Tal-y-Bont, 2km west of the study area (GAT PRNs 2454 and 2465).

#### **2.1.2 Medieval (400 AD – 1485 AD)**

In the early medieval period the centralised control of Roman administration broke down into territorial divisions known as cantrefi (hundreds), which were subdivided into commotes. Abergwyngregyn was the commotal centre of Arllechwedd Uchaf and one of the seats of the Princes of Gwynedd, and thus important as a regional centre of power. The court, or llys, may have been located at or near the site of the motte (GAT PRN 370), or closer to the present Pen-y bryn, on the east side of Abergwyngregyn (Johnstone 2000). The earliest settlement at Aber is probably indicated by the site of St. Bodfan's church on a rise in ground to the west of the village. The original church was demolished and rebuilt but it lies within a sub-circular enclosure or llan. Such features usually indicate an early medieval foundation, and the earliest ecclesiastical settlement would have developed around the church.

It was control of the crossing point at the junction of the coastal road and another taking the upland route through the valleys that was the key to Aber's importance and the reason why a small castle on a mound or motte was built there, possibly during a campaign by the Norman Earl of Chester during an unsuccessful attempt to subjugate Gwynedd between 1081-1090. Later, when Gruffudd ap Cynan reasserted the independence of

Gwynedd and established administrative control he made Aber the llys or court of the commote of Arllechwedd Uchaf. The hall that was built there became one of the favourite residences of the princes of Gwynedd. The valley was a sheltered place and its position facing the priory at Penmon may also have made it attractive. The earliest antiquarian description was by Leland in the 1530's who stated 'The moode in the parish of Aber otherwise Llan Boduan, wher Tussog Lluelin uab Gerwerd Trundoon had a castle or palace on a hill by the church, whereof yet parte stondith'. Excavations in 1993 revealed the foundations of a hall close to the castle mound of Ty'n y Mwd, associated with pottery of the 13th-15th century, a ring-brooch of 13th-14th century style and a coin dating to 1335-43 (Johnstone 1994, 1995, 1997, and 2000; Longley 1997).

The hall of the llys lay close to the motte and within a curvilinear enclosure believed to be the bailey or castle yard. The village grew up around the west side of this bailey enclosure. In the late 13th century 24 families were recorded as living there (Lewis 1912, 175). After the death of Llywelyn the Manor of Aber passed through various hands and although still maintained for some time the hall eventually fell into decay. However, the village continued and in 1339 was granted the right to hold a weekly market and a fair three times a year (ibid). It seems to have flourished because of its position on the crossroads at the junction of the valley and coastal road and the route from the coastal road across the Lavan Sands for the ferry across to Anglesey, which was the chief route across the Straits until the opening of Telford's bridge in 1826. This route was also a droving route, which took the valley road over the hills and may have therefore been associated with the Aber fairs.

Aber is also of significance owing to it having been at the focus of the traditional routes from Anglesey across the Lafan Sands, the mainland to the west and the Conwy valley across the hills to the east.

There was also a medieval settlement at Wig (GAT PRN 6811) which is referred to in medieval extents and grants. It was a bond township of two gafaelion. The medieval township may have contained more than one settlement, but it is likely that at least one of these lay on or near the present Wig, which lies 100m north of the proposed improvements. An area of earthworks survives at Wig Farm which could be medieval in date and if this is the case could form part of a documented medieval settlement of regional importance.

### **2.1.3 Post-medieval and later (1485 AD to the present day)**

During the post-medieval period there appears to have been dispersed settlement along the fertile coastal strip east of Abergwyngregyn. The survival of estate maps and plans for this area is extremely limited (Johnstone 1995, 16). A 1693 survey of the sea coast of England [including Wales] shows roads crossing the Lavan Sands, with no detail of the fields in the coastal strip (Collins 1693). A plan of the New Road of Penmaenmawr dated to 1769 (UCNWB Penrhyn 198) showing the proposed new turnpike route between Conwy and Bangor, shows a pattern of irregular small fields on the coastal strip, although it does not show any detail or the location of any structures with the exception of the old bridge at Aber. A survey of the glebe land at Aber parish dated to 1776 shows four irregular shaped fields, three of which appear to have been under cultivation and one

pasture on the coastal strip immediately north of Aber on the west side of the river (Gwynedd Archives XPE/56/106), and also indicated that the surrounding land was the property of the Baron Hill estate. The earliest reasonably detailed depiction of the wider area is provided by the John Evans map of 1797, which shows buildings scattered across the coastal strip by Abergwyngregyn. The more accurate 1 inch OS depiction, completed by 1823, shows a scatter of buildings on either side of the main road and linked to it by a series of smaller roads or tracks. In 1839 the Bangor to Conwy road was improved in Abergwyngregyn with a new road and bridge built north of the village itself, effectively bypassing it (UCNWB Baron Hill MSS 6895). The Llanllechid tithe map of 1839 and the Abergwyngregyn tithe map of 1848 (Gwynedd Archives) only shows the boundaries between different land blocks, rather than the individual fields themselves. A railway plan of c.1840 shows that the area was divided into numerous small fields of irregular size and shape, which could date back to early times.

The principal 19th century landowners in the study area were the Bulkeley and Pennant families, the former having gained control of the manor in 1689, who at some time between 1848 and 1896 reorganised the coastal strip into a landscape of rectilinear fields. This resulted in the loss of many of the small roads and buildings shown on earlier maps. This field pattern has survived with only limited alteration until the present day. The Bulkeley family remained the main proprietors of the manor until 1863 when they sold off their Caernarfonshire lands and Abergwyngregyn holdings to the Penrhyn estate in whose holding it remained until into the 20th century (Evans 2003).

Improvements were carried out at Wig Farm and Wig Bach cottages in the early years of the 20th century (UCNWB Baron Hill MSS 6608, Penrhyn MSS 14), and Wig Bach cottage was demolished in 2011.

## 2.2 Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Assessment Report

The Gwynedd Archaeological Trust completed a heritage desk based assessment of the scheme in 2015 (McNichol, 2015b: GAT Assessment Report 1258). The assessment was carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Volume 11, Section 3, Part 2 Cultural Heritage (revised August 2007). The assessment identified the existence of 24 historic buildings (16 of which are listed structures) and 23 archaeological sites within 300m of the proposed scheme footprint.

The majority of the 23 archaeological sites identified lie outside the footprint of the proposed improvement scheme and will not be affected. 9 sites will be directly affected. Mitigation in the form of recording in advance of destruction, thus ensuring preservation by record is recommended for 7 of these. They are the segment of Roman Road running south-east of Tan-yr-Allt Cottages (Asset Number 12; RCAHMW NPRN 405340) and identified as high value; culverts (Asset Number 17; GAT PRN 30280); Revetment walls (Asset Number 19; GAT PRN 30276); Field boundaries (Asset Numbers 25 and 31; GAT PRNs 30278 and 30281); Gate Piers (Asset Number 26; GAT PRN 30279); and a Quarry (Asset Number 37; GAT PRN 20831), all identified as low value. Recommended mitigation in all cases will involve recording in advance of destruction ensuring preservation by record (McNichol, 2015b, para 7.1; Table 9).

Elements of two sites of unknown, but potentially high, archaeological value, may lie within the proposed improvement scheme footprint. These are the remains of the medieval township of Wig (Asset 27; GAT PRN 6811) and the Canovium - Segontium Roman Road (Asset 30; GAT PRN 17568). The report recommended that trial trenching is undertaken at these sites prior to any other work on site in order to develop an appropriate mitigation strategy for them (McNichol, 2015b, para 7.1).

Following on from discussion and feedback with GAPS after the submission of the report, a recommendation to target the Roman Road as indicated by the location of Asset 12 instead of Asset 30, has been implemented. It is hoped that targeting Asset 12 will increase the likelihood of identifying the location and degree of survival of elements of the Roman Road within the scheme footprint.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

The general location of the medieval township of Wig (Asset 27; GAT PRN 6811) is recorded at SH6350072000. The township is referred to in medieval extents and grants. The traces of linear features, possibly associated with the township have been identified in a paddock to the SW of Wig Farm. Unfortunately the concentration of underground services in that location precludes the placing of trenches there. Instead, three SW-NE orientated evaluation trenches (TR01 (centered on SH6345771959), TR02 (centered on SH6356672001) and TR03 (centered on SH6360372015)), will be located to the S and SW of Wig Farm (SH6360172119). They are intended to target the potential settlement and/or agricultural remains associated with the township within the proposed improvement scheme footprint. They lie within a narrow, 8m wide, SW-NE aligned corridor of temporary intake land that runs parallel to the section of the A55 designated for improvement (Figure 2).

The dimensions of TR01, TR02 and TR 03 are;

- Length: 20.0m; and
- Width: 1.5m;

The midpoint of a 1.5km long segment of the Caerhun-Caernarfon Roman Road (Asset 12; RCAHMW NPRN 405340) is recorded at SH6279071210. The Caerhun-Segontium route is described in the third century Antonine Itinerary (Hopewell 2013, 10). Parts of it are visible on both aerial photographs and lidar data, however no obvious traces are visible within the scheme footprint. No part of this route has been excavated by archaeologists. If encountered, the remains of an approximately 5m wide agger, a raised road surface made from layers of gravel stones and clay, with drainage ditches either side of it, might be expected (Hopewell 2013, 10). The fourth trench (TR04), orientated WNW-ESE, is located approximately 460m to the NW of the recorded location of Asset Number 12; RCAHMW NPRN 405340 (Figure 3).

TR04 (centered on SH6315771500) is located in a field to the S of Tai'r-meibion. It runs within the scheme footprint, close to and parallel with the E-W field boundary on the N side of the 'Roman Road'. It lies on land designated to be taken for widening in this part of proposed improvement scheme (Figure 3). It is hoped that TR04 will identify the potential presence and degree of survival of the Roman Road, both in this part of the field and underneath the current 'Roman Road' lane immediately to the S.

The dimensions of TR04 are;

- Length: 20.0m; and
- Width: 1.5m;

The OSGB co-ordinates of the centerlines of the four trenches are shown in Table 1

|             |          | <b>CENTRELINE START (OSGB)</b> | <b>CENTRELINE END (OSGB)</b> |
|-------------|----------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>TR01</b> | <b>E</b> | 263466.94                      | 263448.34                    |
|             | <b>N</b> | 371962.77                      | 371955.44                    |
| <b>TR02</b> | <b>E</b> | 263575.83                      | 263557.11                    |
|             | <b>N</b> | 372004.49                      | 371997.51                    |
| <b>TR03</b> | <b>E</b> | 263594.35                      | 263612.97                    |
|             | <b>N</b> | 372011.55                      | 372018.86                    |
| <b>TR04</b> | <b>E</b> | 263167.23                      | 263147.28                    |
|             | <b>N</b> | 371499.49                      | 371501.02                    |

### **3.1 Table 1: trench centreline coordinates**

The trenches will be located using a survey grade GPS with <10cm accuracy (model: *Trimble GNSS/R6/5800*).

All trenches will be excavated using GAT procured plant fitted with a toothless bucket. Prior to excavation, the trench area will be CAT scanned by a qualified operative to identify the presence of buried services. The vertical limit of excavation of each of the four trenches will be defined as an archaeological or glacial horizon, whichever is encountered first.

The evaluation will be undertaken in April or May 2016, with a duration expected of 5 days on site. Subsequent to the fieldwork phase, in-house report writing and archiving is expected to take 5 days. The report is scheduled for delivery within 4 weeks of the completion of fieldwork. If diagnostic artefacts or ecofacts requiring specialist analysis are recovered, the report will be an interim rather than final report.

## 3.2 Evaluation Methodology

- The trenches and identified features/contexts will be recorded using GAT pro-formas (Appendix I, Appendix II).
- Photographic images will be taken using a digital SLR (Nikon D40) camera set to maximum resolution (3008 × 2000 6.1 effective megapixels) in RAW format and will be converted to TIFF and JPEG format for archiving using Adobe Photoshop; a photographic record will be maintained on site using GAT pro-formas (Appendix III) and digitised in *Microsoft Access* as part of the fieldwork archive and dissemination process;
- Any subsurface remains will be recorded photographically, with detailed notations and a measured plan.
- All archaeological features/deposits encountered will be manually cleaned and examined to determine extent, function, date and relationship to adjacent features. If any other features, e.g., pits, postholes or ditches, are encountered, the following strategy will apply: 50% sample of sub-circular features, 10% sample of linear features. If the remains of the Roman Road are encountered, the area will be thoroughly cleaned by hand to clearly define the agger and associated ditches. The ditches will be sampled with an intervention measuring 0.75m wide.
- All sections to be drawn at a minimum 1:10 scale. Sections will be drawn on GAT pro-forma permatrace.
- All plans to be at a minimum 1:20 scale. Plans will be drawn on GAT pro-forma permatrace.
- Should dateable artefacts and ecofacts be recovered, an interim report will be submitted summarising the results, along with an assessment of potential for analysis specification (in line with the MAP2 process).

### **3.3 Environmental Sampling (Ecofacts)**

The evaluation trenches will target possible settlement and agricultural features and a Roman Road, if applicable, any deposits deemed suitable for dating will be taken from sealed contexts, with bulk samples from ditches and pit fills proposed as not less than 10 litres from each context. The sampling strategy will be undertaken in accordance with the principles set out in *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (English Heritage, 2011). Recourse will be made to relevant specialists for palaeoenvironmental analysis and dating. Any required specialists will be consulted during the evaluation to advise GAT on a sampling strategy.

*Note: if ecofacts are recovered during the evaluation an interim report that will be submitted in the first instance, along with an assessment of potential summary. The interim report will summarise the results of the fieldwork and the assessment of potential summary will discuss the scope and costs for analysing and assessing any ecofacts recovered from site, and for producing a final report and a publication document*

### 3.4 Human Remains

The evaluation trenches will target possible settlement and agricultural features and a Roman Road and it is not currently expected that human remains will be encountered; however, if applicable, should any finds of human remains be encountered, they will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, and both the coroner and the GAPS Archaeologist informed. If removal is necessary it will take place under appropriate regulations and with due regard for health and safety issues. In order to excavate human remains, a Ministry of Justice licence is required under Section 25 of the Burials Act 1857 for the removal of any body or remains of any body from any place of burial. This will be applied for should human remains need to be investigated or moved.

*Note: if human remains are recovered during the evaluation an interim report that will be submitted in the first instance, along with an assessment of potential summary. The interim report will summarise the results of the fieldwork and the assessment of potential summary will discuss the scope and costs for analysing and assessing any human remains recovered from site, and for producing a final report and a publication document*

### 3.5 Small Finds

Diagnostic artefacts will be treated according to guidelines issued by the UK Institute of Conservation (Leigh and Watkinson, 2001) in particular the advice provided within *First Aid for Finds* (Leigh and Watkinson, 1998) and Historic England. Pottery sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century date will be examined on site and the context from which they were retrieved noted but the sherds will not be retained.

*Note: if diagnostic artefacts are recovered during the evaluation an interim report that will be submitted in the first instance, along with an assessment of potential summary. The interim report will summarise the results of the fieldwork and the assessment of potential summary will discuss the scope and costs for analysing and assessing any artefacts recovered from site, and for producing a final report and a publication document*

All finds are the property of the landowner; however, it is Trust policy to recommend that all finds are donated to an appropriate museum, in this case *Bangor Museum*. Access to finds must be granted to the Trust for a reasonable period to allow for analysis and for study and publication as necessary. Trust staff will undertake initial identification, but any additional advice would be sought from a wide range of consultants used by the Trust, including National Museums and Galleries of Wales at Cardiff.

All finds of treasure must be reported to the coroner for the district within fourteen days of discovery or identification of the items. Items declared Treasure Trove become the property of the Crown, on whose behalf the National Museums and Galleries of Wales acts as advisor on technical matters, and may be the recipient body for the objects.

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

*Note: GAT will contact the landowner for agreement regarding the transfer of any artefacts, initially to GAT and subsequently to the relevant museum (Bangor Museum). A GAT produced pro-forma will be issued to the landowner where they are given the option to donate the finds or to record that they want them returning to them once analysis and assessment has been completed. If artefacts are transferred to Bangor Museum, this must be in accordance with the Bangor Museum guidelines.*

### **3.6 Monitoring Arrangements**

The GAPS Archaeologist will need to be informed of the project start date and of the subsequent progress and findings. This will allow the GAPS Archaeologist time to arrange monitoring visits and attend site meetings (if required).

### 3.7 Fieldwork Archiving

Following the completion of the fieldwork, a programme of field work archiving will be completed based on following task list;

1. Pro-formas: all cross referenced and complete;
2. Photographic Metadata: completed in *Microsoft Access* and cross-referenced with all pro-formas;
3. Sections: all cross referenced and complete;
4. Plans: all cross referenced and complete;
5. Survey data: downloaded using a Computer Aided Design package imported into a GIS shapfile;
6. Artefacts (if relevant): quantified and identified; register completed;
7. Ecofacts (if relevant): quantified and register completed;
8. Context register (if relevant): quantified and register completed;

All data will be processed, final illustrations will be compiled and a report will be produced which will detail and synthesise the results. Location drawings and a sample of relevant photographs will be used to illustrate the reports.

## 4 REPORT

Following completion of the stages outlined above, a draft report will be produced within four weeks incorporating the following:

1. Non-technical summary
2. Introduction
3. Background
4. Methods and techniques, including details and location of project archive
5. Evaluation Results
6. Summary and conclusions
7. List of sources consulted.
8. Appendix I – approved project design

Illustrations will include plans of the location of the study area and archaeological sites. Historical maps, when appropriate and if copyright permissions allow, will be included. Photographs of relevant sites and of the study area where appropriate will be included. A draft copy of the report will be sent to the regional curatorial archaeologist (GAPS) and to the client for review. Once approved, a final report will be submitted.

*Note: if diagnostic artefacts or ecofacts are recovered during the evaluation an interim report that will be submitted in the first instance, along with an assessment of potential summary. The interim report will summarise the results of the fieldwork and the assessment of potential summary will discuss the scope and costs for analysing and assessing any artefacts and ecofacts recovered from site, and for producing a final report and a publication document*

## 5 DISSEMINATION AND ARCHIVING

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project will be prepared. The archaeological evaluation outlined in this project specification will be completed in April / May 2016. A draft report or interim report (if relevant) will be submitted in May 2016; a final report will be submitted to the Historic Environment within six months of submitting the draft report (November 2016).

The following dissemination will apply:

1. A digital report will be provided to GAPS (draft report then final report).
2. A paper report plus a digital report will be provided to the regional Historic Environment Record, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust; this will be submitted within six months of report completion (final report only).
3. A digital report and archive (including photographic and drawn) data will be provided to Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments, Wales (final report only). Submission of digital information to the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales shall be undertaken in accordance with the *RCAHMW Guidelines for Digital Archives Version 1*. Digital information will include the photographic archive and associated metadata. Note: due to the current relocation of the RCAHMW premises, the RCAHMW Archive and Library Team Leader has requested that any new accessions are deferred until June 2016 (email correspondence: 01/03/2016).
4. A digital report(s) plus paper report(s) (if requested) will be provided to the client (draft report then final report).
5. Artefacts recovered from the site during the evaluation will be transferred in accordance with the protocols and guideline defined in [para. 3.5](#).
6. Dependent on the results of the evaluation a summary note or a specific article will be included in the Council for British Archaeology Wales publication *Archaeology in Wales*. This shall be agreed with GAPS, and client in advance of publication along with all publication content. GAPS involvement in the project will be acknowledged therein.

## **5.1 Historic Environment Record**

In line with the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) requirements, the HER must be contacted at the onset of the project to ensure that any data arising is formatted in a manner suitable for accession to the HER. At the onset, the HER Enquiry Form provided by the HER, will be completed and submitted.

## **6 PERSONNEL**

The project will be managed by John Roberts, Principal Archaeologist GAT Contracts Section and attended by two GAT Project Archaeologists. The project archaeologists will be responsible for completing the evaluation and all field management duties, e.g. liaison with GAPS and client. The project archaeologists will be responsible for completing all on site pro-formas (Appendix II) as well as and the fieldwork archive itemised in para. 3.9. The project archaeologist will also be responsible for submitting a draft final report (or interim report/assessment of potential document, if relevant) for project manager review and approval. The report will then be submitted as per the arrangements defined in para. 5.

## **7 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The GAT Project Archaeologists will be CSCS certified. Copies of the site specific risk assessment will be supplied to the client and site contractor prior to the start of fieldwork. Any risks and hazards will be indicated prior to the start of work via a submitted risk assessment. All staff will be issued with required personal safety equipment, including high visibility jacket, steel toe-capped boots and hard hat.

All plant and welfare will be supplied by GAT. Archaeological evaluation is CDM exempt and does not require HSE notification.

## **8 INSURANCE**

### **Public Liability**

Limit of Indemnity- £5,000,000 any one event in respect of Public Liability

INSURER Aviva Insurance Limited

POLICY TYPE Public Liability

POLICY NUMBER 24765101CHC/000405

EXPIRY DATE 22/06/2016

### **Employers Liability**

Limit of Indemnity- £10,000,000 any one occurrence.

The cover has been issued on the insurers standard policy form and is subject to their usual terms and conditions. A copy of the policy wording is available on request.

INSURER Aviva Insurance Limited

POLICY TYPE Employers Liability

POLICY NUMBER 24765101CHC/000405

EXPIRY DATE 22/06/2016

### **Professional Indemnity**

Limit of Indemnity- £5,000,000 in respect of each and every claim

INSURER Hiscox Insurance Company Limited

POLICY TYPE Professional Indemnity

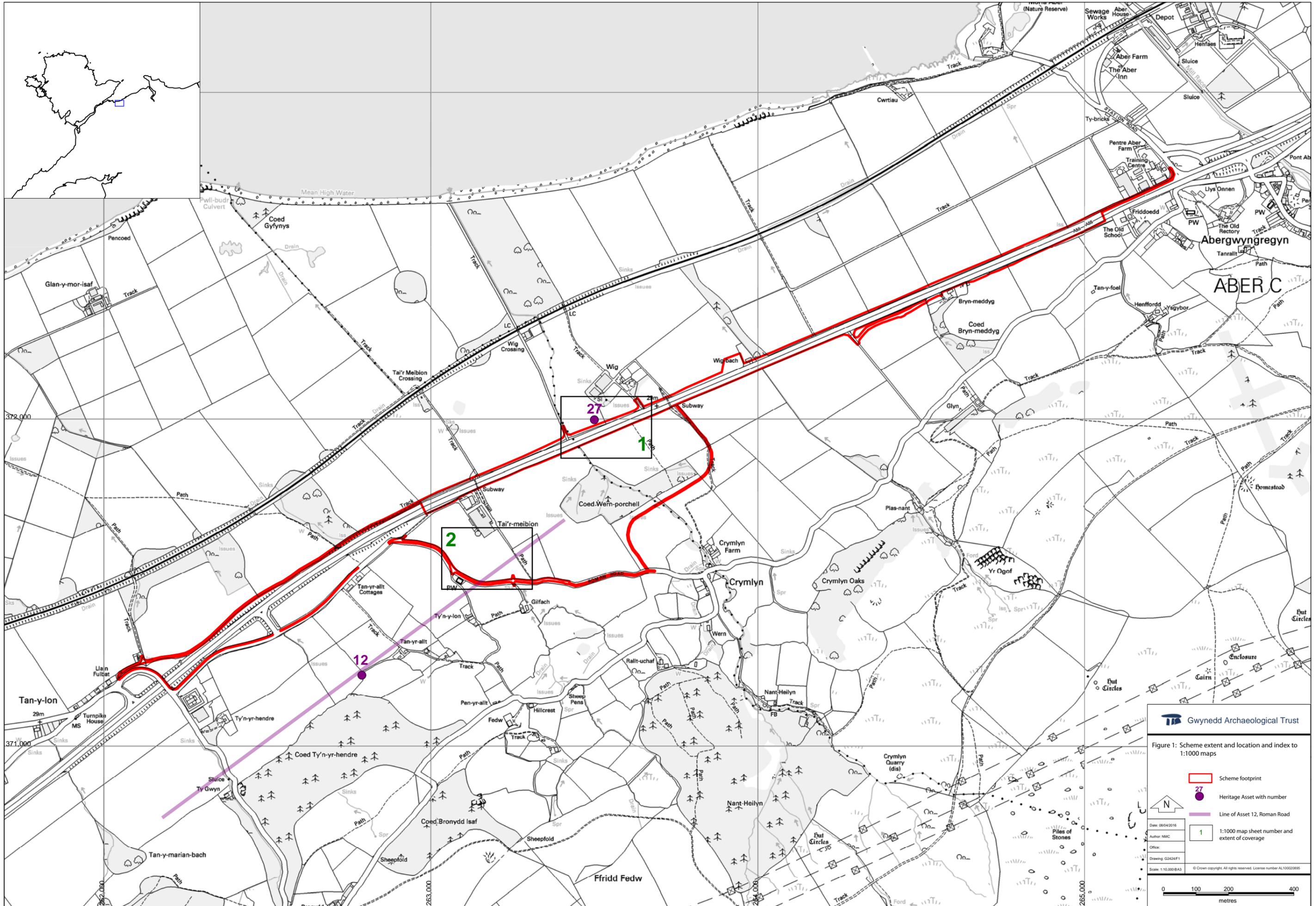
POLICY NUMBER

HU PI 9129989/1208

EXPIRY DATE 23/07/2016

## 9 REFERENCES

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2. English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*.
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11. Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales. 2015. *Guidelines for digital archives*



**Gwynedd Archaeological Trust**

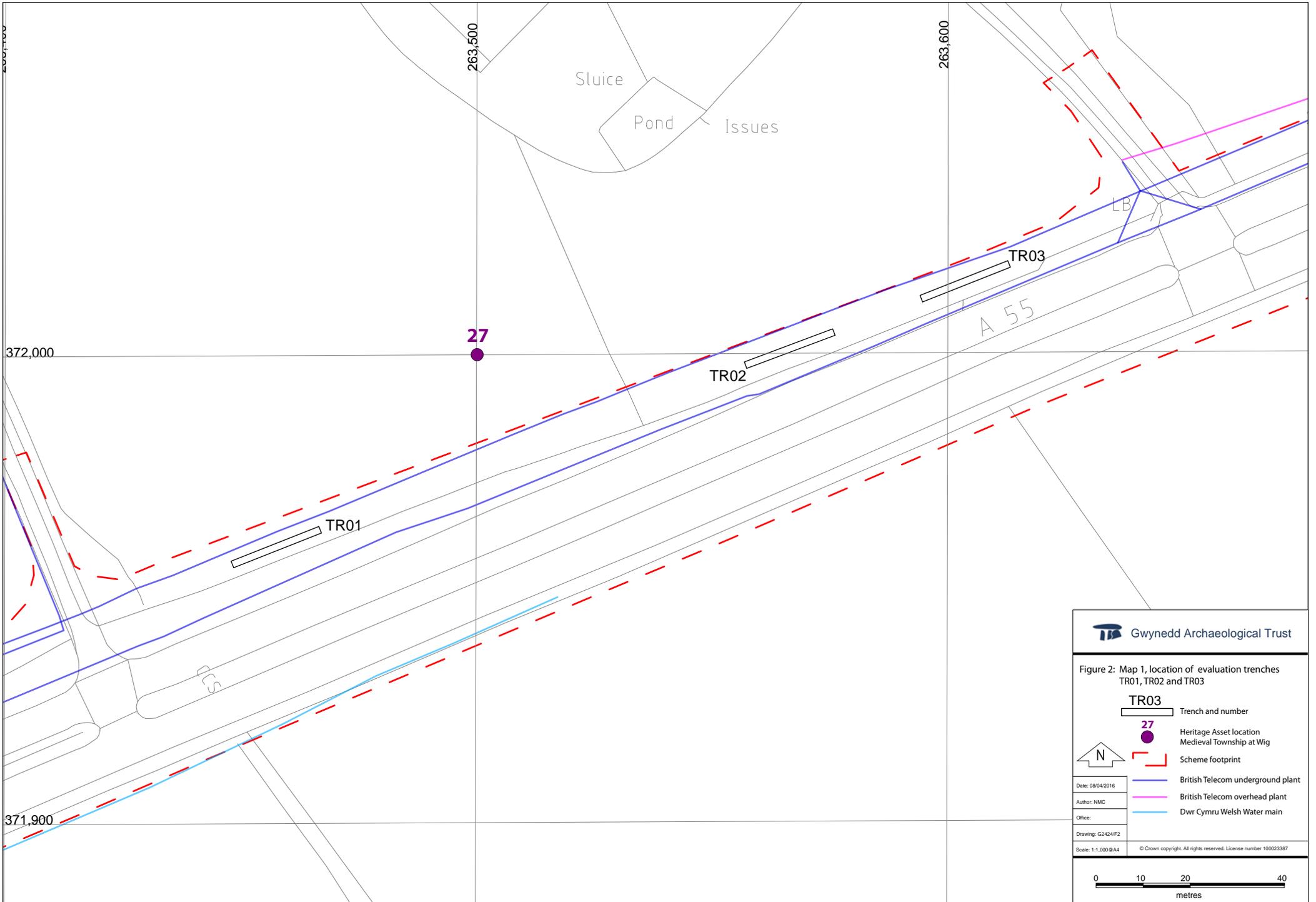
Figure 1: Scheme extent and location and index to 1:1000 maps

- Scheme footprint
- 27 Heritage Asset with number
- Line of Asset 12, Roman Road
- 1:1000 map sheet number and extent of coverage

Date: 08/04/2016  
 Author: NMC  
 Office:  
 Drawing: G2424F1  
 Scale: 1:10,000@A3

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0 100 200 400 metres



**Gwynedd Archaeological Trust**

Figure 2: Map 1, location of evaluation trenches TR01, TR02 and TR03

**TR03** Trench and number

**27** Heritage Asset location Medieval Township at Wig

**N** Scheme footprint

British Telecom underground plant

British Telecom overhead plant

Dwr Cymru Welsh Water main

Date: 08/04/2016  
 Author: NMC  
 Office:  
 Drawing: G2424/F2  
 Scale: 1:1,000@A4

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0 10 20 40 metres

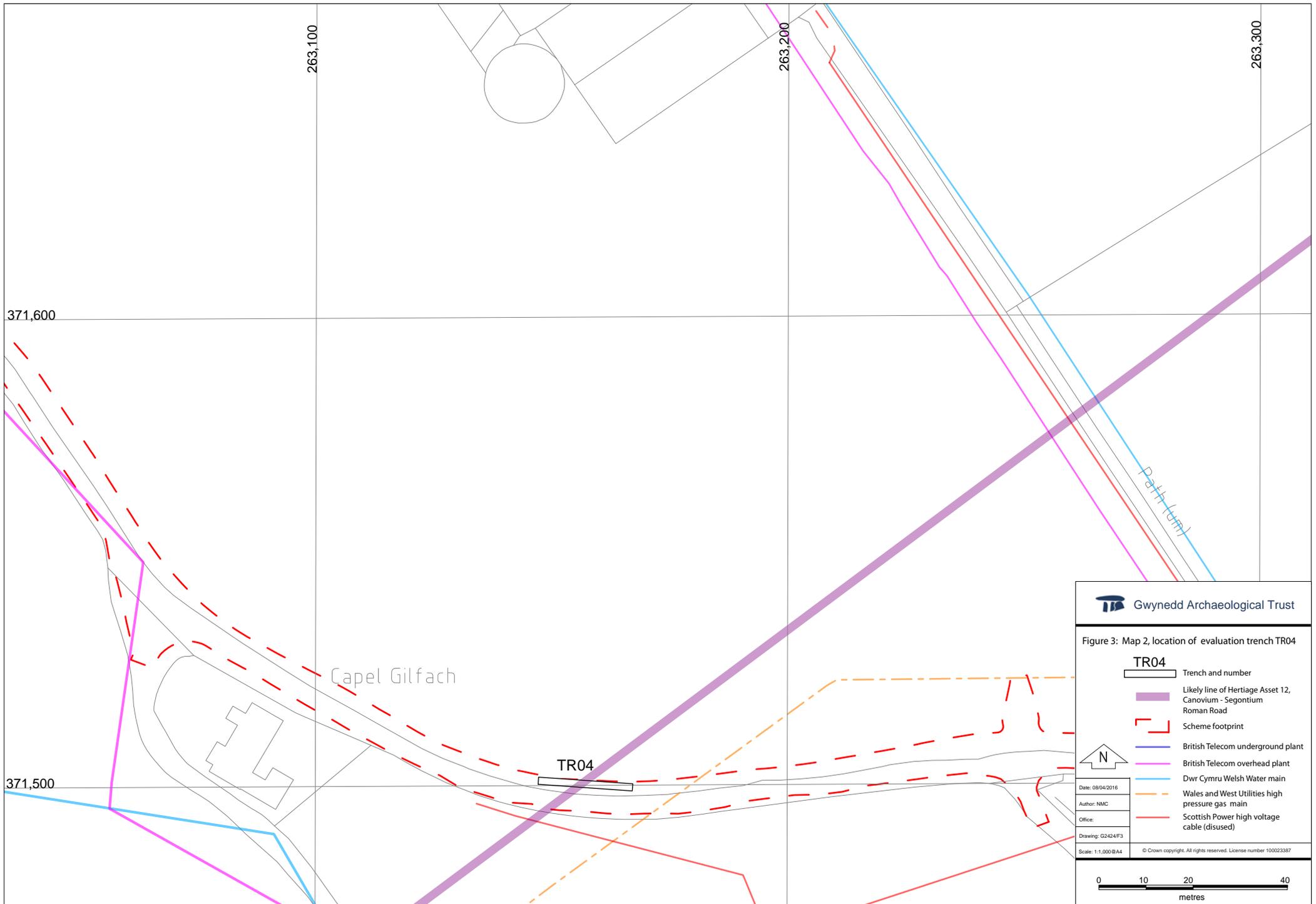


Figure 3: Map 2, location of evaluation trench TR04

- TR04**
-  Trench and number
  -  Likely line of Heritage Asset 12, Canovium - Segontium Roman Road
  -  Scheme footprint
  -  British Telecom underground plant
  -  British Telecom overhead plant
  -  Dwr Cymru Welsh Water main
  -  Wales and West Utilities high pressure gas main
  -  Scottish Power high voltage cable (disused)



Date: 08/04/2016

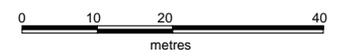
Author: NMC

Office:

Drawing: G2424/F3

Scale: 1:1,000@A4

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## **APPENDIX I**

**Reproduction of Gwynedd Archaeological Trust evaluation trench pro-  
forma (April 2016)**





## **APPENDIX II**

**Reproduction of Gwynedd Archaeological Trust context record pro-  
forma (April 2016)**



**SKETCH**

**DESCRIPTION/INTERPRETATION CONTINUED**

## **APPENDIX III**

**Reproduction of Gwynedd Archaeological Trust photographic metadata pro-forma (April 2016)**







## APPENDIX II: CONTEXT SUMMARY

| <b>Trench</b> | <b>Context Number</b> | <b>Depth below surface (m)</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>TR01</b>   | 0101                  | -                              | Topsoil: loose, fine light brown clayey loam, abundant fine wavy roots.   |
|               | 0102                  | 0.15                           | Natural alluvial clay deposit: fine, wet, cohesive light brownish gray silty clay.  |
|               | 0103                  | 0.50                           | Natural: wet, cohesive, light greyish orange coarse and fine gravel / sand with moderate small and medium sized sub-rounded and sub angular stones.   |
| <b>TR02</b>   | 0201                  | -                              | Topsoil: soft, cohesive mid brown clayey loam with very occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones.  |
|               | 0202                  | 0.20                           | Subsoil: soft, cohesive light brownish grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones.  |
|               | 0203                  | 0.55                           | Natural: cohesive, compact light grey clay with occasional veins of cobbles and orange clay deposits. Found across most of the trench. Bounded to the SW by (0204).   |
|               | 0204                  | 0.30                           | Natural: loose, coarse orange pebbles and gravel with very occasional lenses of very fine mid grey sand.  |
|               | 0205                  | 0.30                           | Slate capped culvert. Orientated NNW-SSE and located approximately 3.5 m from the NE end of the trench. Runs across the width of the trench from a modern manhole cover to the SSE, adjacent to the excavated area. Runs NNW from manhole cover towards the mill pond and water wheel at Wig Farm. Possibly earlier than the manhole cover, and may be a culvert to supply water to the mill pond. Not excavated. |
|               | 0206                  | 0.30                           | Orange ceramic water pipe at NE end of trench. NE-SW orientated. Appears to run from the manhole to the SW off towards to the farmhouse at Wig. Approximately 0.20m in diameter. Not excavated.   |

| <b>Trench</b> | <b>Context Number</b> | <b>Depth below surface (m)</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>TR02</b>   | 0207                  | 0.55                           | Parallel sided straight linear cut of a field drain. Runs NW-SE across the SW end of the trench. Visible portion is 1.9m long and 0.30m wide.   |
|               | 0208                  | 0.55                           | Fill of [0207]. Light greyish brown clean clay with no inclusions. Not excavated.   |
|               | 0209                  | 0.30                           | NNW-SSE aligned straight linear cut for culvert (0205). Not excavated.  |
|               | 0210                  | 0.30                           | NE-SW aligned straight linear cut for modern ceramic water pipe (0206). Appears to run from the manhole to the SW off towards to the farmhouse at Wig. Not excavated.                       |
|               | 0211                  | 0.40                           | Alluvial deposit: soft, slightly blueish grey slightly sandy clay with very occasional small flecks of charcoal. Sits above natural boulder clay* (0203) but not over gravel natural (0204) |
| <b>TR03</b>   | 0301                  | -                              | Topsoil: soft, cohesive mid brown, clayey loam with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones.  |
|               | 0302                  | 0.20                           | Subsoil: soft, cohesive light brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones.  |
|               | 0303                  | 0.40                           | Natural: compact, coarse light greyish brown clayey gravel with frequent small sub-angular stones and occasional compact deposits of fine light grey clay.                                  |
| <b>TR04</b>   | 0401                  | -                              | Topsoil: soft, cohesive mid brown loamy clay.   |
|               | 0402                  | 0.20                           | Subsoil: soft, cohesive mid orangey brown silty clay with moderate to frequent small stones and cobbles and occasional medium sized sub rounded stones.                                     |

| <b>Trench</b> | <b>Context Number</b> | <b>Depth below surface (m)</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>TR04</b>   | 0403                  | 0.55                           | Alluvial deposit: soft, plastic, wet, fine mid grey clay with moderate small to medium sized sub-angular stones.   |
|               | 0404                  | 0.90                           | Natural: soft, cohesive light grey clay with very frequent small to medium sized cobbles and sub angular stones (boulder clay)*  |
|               | 0405                  | 0.80                           | Straight linear cut for NW-SE orientated field drain, 0.30m wide and 2.5m long. Not excavated.   |
|               | 0406                  | 0.80                           | Fill of field drain [0405]. Soft cohesive mid brown silty clay with frequent small-medium sub rounded stones. Not excavated.   |
|               | 0407                  | 0.50                           | Straight linear cut of NE-SW orientated modern field drain. Contains modern ceramic pipe. Not excavated.   |
|               | 0408                  | 0.50                           | Fill of [0407]. Well sorted small angular stones (2-3cm long) packed around an orange ceramic water pipe. Pipe lies 0.60 m below current ground surface. Not excavated.  |
|               | 0409                  | 0.30                           | Probable relict field boundary bank. NNE-SSW aligned stone and earth bank consisting of 70-80% closely packed sub-rounded, angular and sub-angular cobbles, on average between 9-25cm long. Two very large boulders laid flat and closely packed at N end, 65 and 52cm long. The stones have a subsoil like matrix consisting of a mid brown soft, sandy silt. |

**APPENDIX III: REPRODUCTION OF GWYNEDD ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
TRUST PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD METADATA**

| File reference      | Description  | Contexts         | View from | Scale (s) | Type               | Date       | Originating person | Originating organisation | Plate No. |
|---------------------|--|------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| G2424_PCTT_2016_001 | Trench 03 under excavation   |                  | NE        | 1x1m      | Digital Photograph | 20.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      |           |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_002 | Pre-ex shot of location of Trench 02                                   |                  | NE        | -         | Digital Photograph | 20.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      |           |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_003 | Post-machining shot of Trench 03                                       |                  | SW        | 2x1m      | Digital Photograph | 20.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      |           |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_004 | NW facing baulk section of Trench 03 with field boundary in background |                  | NW        | 2x1m      | Digital Photograph | 20.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      | Plate 12  |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_005 | Post-machining shot of Trench 03                                       |                  | NE        | 2x1m      | Digital Photograph | 20.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      | Plate 11  |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_006 | Post-machining shot of Trench 02                                       |                  | SW        | 2x1m      | Digital Photograph | 20.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      | Plate 04  |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_007 | NW facing baulk section of Trench 02                                   | 0201, 0202, 0203 | NW        | 2x1m      | Digital Photograph | 20.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      | Plate 05  |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_008 | View of slate capped culvert (0205) and manhole cover in Trench 02     | 0205, 0209       | NW        | 2x1m      | Digital Photograph | 20.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      | Plate 07  |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_009 | View of ceramic drain pipe (0206) in Trench 02                         | 0206, 0210       | NNE       | 2x1m      | Digital Photograph | 20.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      | Plate 06  |

| File reference      | Description                          | Contexts         | View from | Scale (s) | Type               | Date       | Originating person | Originating organisation | Plate No. |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| G2424_PCTT_2016_010 | Post-machining shot of Trench 02     |                  | NE        | 2x1m      | Digital Photograph | 20.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      |           |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_011 | Post-machining shot of Trench 01     |                  | NE        | 2x1m      | Digital Photograph | 20.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      | Plate 01  |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_012 | NW facing baulk section of Trench 01 | 0101, 0102, 0103 | NW        | 2x1m      | Digital Photograph | 20.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      | Plate 02  |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_013 | Post-machining shot of Trench 01     |                  | SW        | 2x1m      | Digital Photograph | 20.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      |           |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_014 | Trench 01 backfilled                 |                  | SW        | -         | Digital Photograph | 20.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      |           |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_015 | Close up of Trench 01 backfilled     |                  | SW        | -         | Digital Photograph | 20.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      |           |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_016 | Trench 01 backfilled                 |                  | NE        | -         | Digital Photograph | 20.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      |           |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_017 | Tracks leading from Trench 01        |                  | SW        | -         | Digital Photograph | 20.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      |           |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_018 | Trench 02 being backfilled           |                  | SW        | -         | Digital Photograph | 20.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      |           |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_019 | Trench 03 backfilled                 |                  | SW        | -         | Digital Photograph | 20.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      |           |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_020 | Close up of Trench 03 backfilled     |                  | SW        | -         | Digital Photograph | 20.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      |           |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_021 | Trench 03 backfilled                 |                  | NE        | -         | Digital Photograph | 20.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      |           |

| File reference      | Description  | Contexts | View from | Scale (s) | Type               | Date       | Originating person | Originating organisation | Plate No. |
|---------------------|--|----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| G2424_PCTT_2016_022 | Trench 02 backfilled   |          | NE        | -         | Digital Photograph | 21.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      |           |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_023 | Trench 02 backfilled   |          | SW        | -         | Digital Photograph | 21.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      |           |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_024 | Trench 03 reinstated   |          | SW        | -         | Digital Photograph | 22.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      | Plate 13  |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_025 | Trench 02 reinstated   |          | NE        | -         | Digital Photograph | 22.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      | Plate 10  |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_026 | Trench 01 reinstated   |          | NE        | -         | Digital Photograph | 22.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      | Plate 03  |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_027 | Probable continuation of slate culvert (recorded as 0205) at NW side of field  | 0205     | SSE       | -         | Digital Photograph | 22.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      | Plate 08  |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_028 | View from culvert SE across field towards manhole cover and Trenches 02 and 03 | 0205     | NW        | -         | Digital Photograph | 22.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      | Plate 09  |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_029 | Mill pond which culvert flows into   |          | E         | -         | Digital Photograph | 22.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      |           |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_030 | Close up of wall of mill pond  |          | E         | -         | Digital Photograph | 22.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      |           |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_031 | Pre-ex shot of Trench 04   |          | NE        | -         | Digital Photograph | 23.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      |           |

| File reference      | Description  | Contexts               | View from | Scale (s) | Type               | Date       | Originating person | Originating organisation | Plate No. |
|---------------------|--|------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| G2424_PCTT_2016_032 | Turf being removed from Trench 04                                      |                        | ESE       | -         | Digital Photograph | 23.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      |           |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_033 | Trench 04 post-machining   |                        | ESE       | 2x1m      | Digital Photograph | 23.06.2016 | NMC                | GAT                      | Plate 14  |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_034 | Trench 04 post-machining   |                        | WNW       | 2x1m      | Digital Photograph | 23.06.2016 | NMC                | GAT                      |           |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_035 | Modern drain with ceramic pipe   | 0407, 0408             | SW        | 1x1m      | Digital Photograph | 23.06.2016 | NMC                | GAT                      | Plate 16  |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_036 | SSW facing baulk section Trench 04                                     | 0401, 0402, 0403, 0404 | SSW       | 2x1m      | Digital Photograph | 23.06.2016 | NMC                | GAT                      | Plate 15  |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_037 | Stone and earth field boundary bank (0409) in Trench 04                | 0409                   | S         | 2x1m      | Digital Photograph | 23.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      | Plate 17  |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_038 | Stone and earth field boundary bank (0409) in Trench 04                | 0409                   | E         | 2x1m      | Digital Photograph | 23.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      |           |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_039 | Remnants of field boundary bank in N facing baulk section of Trench 04 | 0409                   | N         | 1x1m      | Digital Photograph | 23.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      |           |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_040 | View of field drain [0407] as it cuts field boundary bank (0409)       | 0407, 0408, 0409       | NE        | 2x1m      | Digital Photograph | 23.06.2016 | SR                 | GAT                      |           |

| <b>File reference</b> | <b>Description</b>                       | <b>Contexts</b> | <b>View from</b> | <b>Scale (s)</b> | <b>Type</b>        | <b>Date</b> | <b>Originating person</b> | <b>Originating organisation</b> | <b>Plate No.</b> |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| G2424_PCTT_2016_041   | Trench 04 being backfilled and re-turfed |                 | NE               | -                | Digital Photograph | 23.06.2016  | SR                        | GAT                             |                  |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_042   | Trench 04 reinstated                     |                 | E                | -                | Digital Photograph | 24.06.2016  | SR                        | GAT                             | Plate 18         |
| G2424_PCTT_2016_043   | Trench 04 reinstated                     |                 | W                | -                | Digital Photograph | 24.06.2016  | SR                        | GAT                             |                  |









Gwynedd Archaeological Trust  
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd

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