

æon archaeology

Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth, LL52 0HB (C23/0503/35/LL).

April 2024 v2.0



Archaeological Monitoring & Recording
(Formerly Watching Brief)

Project Code: A0450.1

Report no. 0445

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April 2024 v2.0

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1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Comisiynwyd Aeon Archaeology gan Stephen Cawley. cynnal cyfnod o fonitro a chofnodi archeolegol (brîff gwyllo yn flaenorol) yn ystod y gwaith daear sy'n gysylltiedig â chodi 1 fflat. ty annedd ynghyd â datblygiad cysylltiedig ym Maes Parcio Cyn Dywysog Cymru, Stryd Fawr, Criccieth, LL52 0HB, (yn ganolog ar NGR SH 50116 38142)

O dan lefel y ddaear, darganfuwyd dwy wal rwbel carreg. Yn dilyn cyfnod o waith ymchwil pen desg, deallwyd bod y strwythurau hyn yn ôl pob tebyg yn rhan o hen adeilad, a godwyd rhwng 1839 a 1887. Cafodd yr adeilad hwn ei ehangu o leiaf unwaith, ac roedd iard galed i'r gogledd-orllewin. Yn nodedig, roedd yn ymddangos bod sylfeini'r strwythur wedi'u mewnlenni â cherrig traeth a thywod, sy'n dynodi dyddiad adeiladu posibl yn cyd-fynd â'r 1880au hwyr, yn cyd-daro â sefydlu'r promenâd. Ar ben hynny, sylwyd ar debygrwydd arddull diddorol mewn dulliau adeiladu, sy'n awgrymu cysylltiad posibl â Fferm Bryn Hir a, thrwy estyniad, Stad Ellis Nanney.

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Stephen Cawley. to carry out a phase of archaeological monitoring and recording (formerly watching brief) during the groundworks associated with the erection of 1 no. dwelling house together with associated development at the Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth, LL52 0HB, (centred on **NGR SH 50116 38142**)

Beneath the ground level, a series of stone rubble walls was discovered. Following a thorough desk-based research period, it was determined that these structures likely belonged to a former building erected between 1839 and 1887. This building, seemingly expanded at least once, featured a metalled yard to the northwest. Notably, the foundations of the structure seemed to have been infilled with beach deposits, indicating a potential construction date aligning with the late 1880s, coinciding with the establishment of the promenade. Moreover, intriguing stylistic similarities in construction methods were observed, suggesting a possible association with the Bryn Hir Farm and, by extension, the Ellis Nanney Estate.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Stephen Cawley, hereafter 'the Client', to carry out a phase of archaeological monitoring and recording (formerly watching brief) during the groundworks associated with the *erection of 1 no. dwelling house together with associated development* at the Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth, LL52 0HB, hereafter 'the Site', (centred on **NGR SH 50116 38142**) (figures 01-03).

Full planning permission (**ref: C23/0503/35/LL**) was secured by the Client from Gwynedd Council, hereafter 'the Council', on the 11th August 2023 with the following conditions concerning archaeology being applied to the permission:

Condition 6

Ni cheir ymgymryd ag unrhyw ddatblygu (gan gynnwys agor ffosydd, clirio safle neu waith tir arall) hyd nes fod manylion ar ffurf rhaglen o waith archaeolegol yn cael ei gyflwyno i'r awdurdod cynllunio lleol a'i gymeradwyo yn ysgrifenedig. Rhaid cynnal y datblygiad a chwblhau'r gwaith archeolegol yn gwbl unol a'r manylion a gymeradwyir. No development (including trial pitting, site clearance or other groundworks) shall take place until a specification for a programme of archaeological work has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out and all archaeological work completed in strict accordance with the approved details.

REASON: Er mwyn arsylwi a chofnodi unrhyw nodweddion/eitemau o ddiddordeb pensaernïol/hanesyddol a ddarganfyddir yn unol a polisi PS20 a AT4. In order to observe and record any features/items of archaeological/historical interest which may be uncovered in accordance with policy PS20 & AT4.

Condition 7

Rhaid cyflwyno adroddiad manwl ar y gwaith archeolegol, yn unol ag amod 6, i'w gytuno yn ysgrifenedig gan yr Awdurdod Cynllunio Lleol o fewn 6 mis o gwblhau'r gwaith archeolegol. A detailed report on the archaeological work, as required by condition 6, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority within 6 months of the completion of the archaeological fieldwork.

REASON: Er mwyn arsylwi a chofnodi unrhyw nodweddion/eitemau o ddiddordeb pensaernïol/hanesyddol a ddarganfyddir yn unol a polisi PS20 a AT4. In order to observe and record any features/items of archaeological/historical interest which may be uncovered in accordance with policy PS20 & AT4.

The work will adhere to the guidelines specified in *The Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023).

The Development Control Archaeologist (DCA) at the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS) made the following consultee comments in their role as archaeological advisor to the Council:

Thank you for consulting us on the above application. Having reviewed the area of proposed works with reference to the regional Historic Environment Record (HER), I have determined that there is a potential for archaeological impact and would like to draw you attention to the comments below.

The proposed development is for the erection of a dwelling on the former Prince of Wales car park, a disused semi-brownfield site in central Criccieth. GAPS were not consulted on either the previous application (C20/0290/35/LL) or the pre-application for this current scheme – however there is potential for archaeological remains in the area, and as such mitigation should be undertaken.

Late 19th century mapping shows a structure on the site, which looks to have been demolished by at least the mid part of the 20th century. The structural remains of this post medieval building are unknown, and as such there could be remnants beneath the modern surface. Additionally, there is a general potential for earlier occupation deposits in the locale, especially as they relate to the medieval core of the town, as well as preceding prehistoric settlement throughout this coastline.

The site also falls within the Criccieth conservation area, and is less than 400m north from the scheduled monument Criccieth Castle (ref. CN015). Owing to these designations the relevant parties must be consulted, including the relevant Conservation Officer (with regards the CA) and in particular Cadw, with regards the SM. The latter here is indicative of the potential for earlier occupation layers of archaeology throughout Criccieth.

Regardless, if the authority is minded to grant permission, the proposed development falls within a landscape of moderate archaeological potential, with known medieval and post medieval activity in the locale. Despite the relatively limited scope of the proposals, the sub-surface soil profiles at the site are unknown, and similar mitigation in the locality has proved that archaeology can exist at varying depths. As such a programme of mitigation should be undertaken to ensure no archaeological deposits are unduly lost or destroyed without appropriate measures.

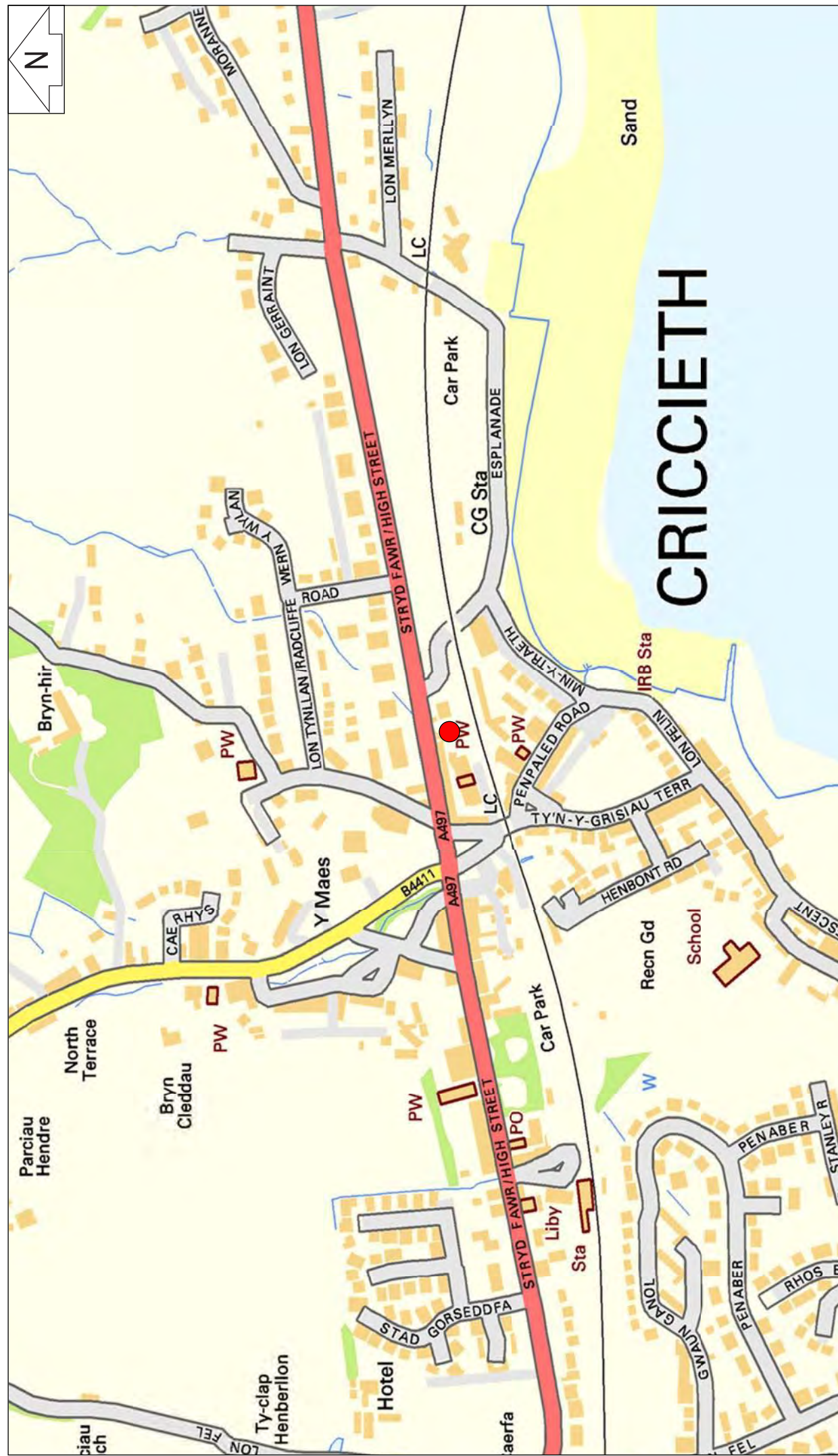


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Figure 01: Location of Former Prince of Wales Carpark, High Street, Crickieth, LL52 0HB
(SH 50116 38142). Scale 1:20,000 at A4.



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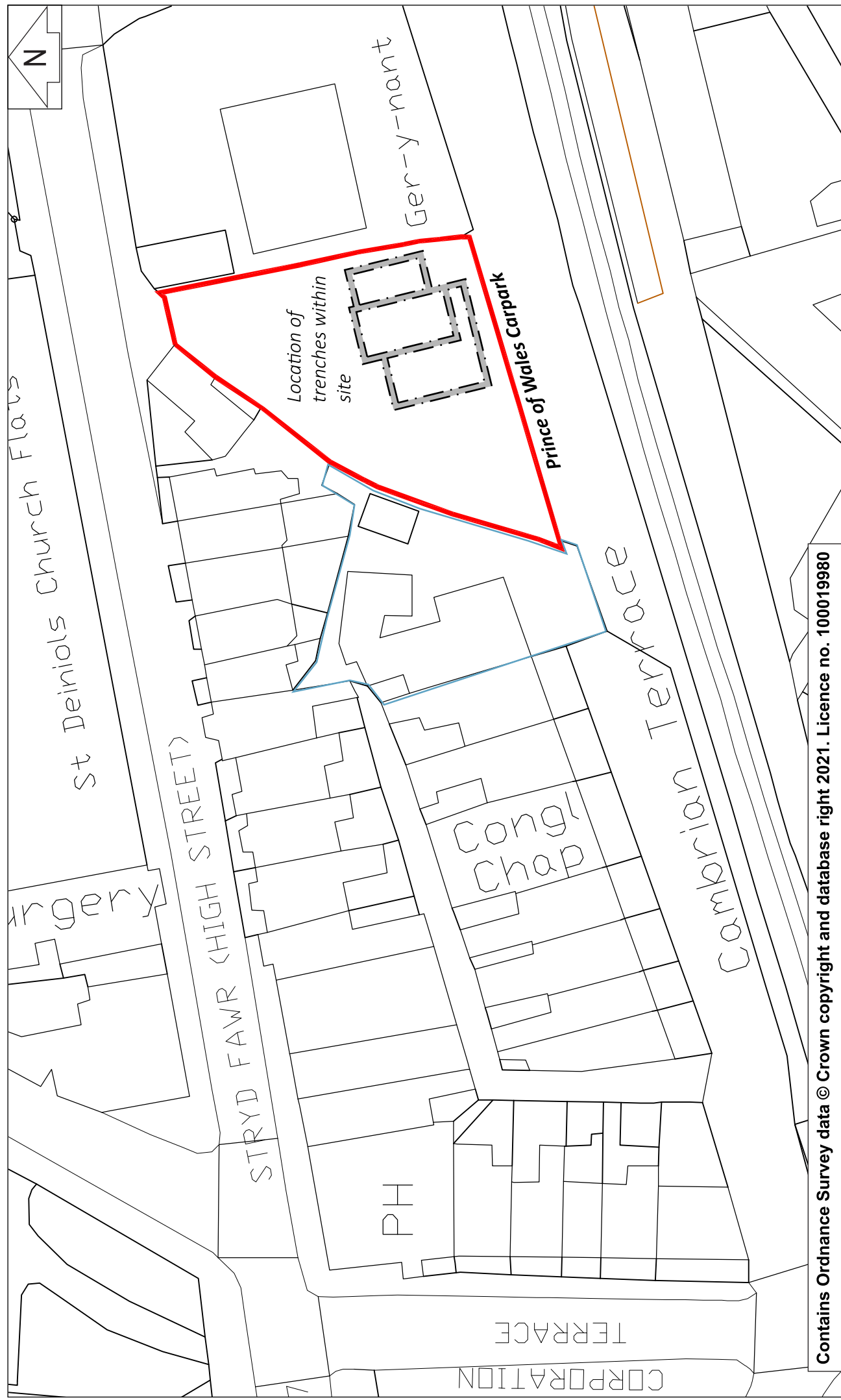


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Figure 02: Location of Former Prince of Wales Carpark, High Street, Criccieth, LL52 0HB (SH 50116 38142). Scale 1:5,000 at A4.



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Figure 03: Location of Former Prince of Wales Carpark, High Street, Criccieth, LL52 0HB
(SH 50116 38142). Scale 1:500 at A4.



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3.0 POLICY CONTEXT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Various principles and policies related to cultural heritage and archaeology are set out in the Planning Policy Wales which guide local planning authorities with respect to the wider historic environment. The following paragraphs from Planning Policy Wales are particularly relevant and are quoted in full: Paragraph 6.1.5 concerns planning applications:

The planning system must take into account the Welsh Government's objectives to protect, conserve, promote and enhance the historic environment as a resource for the general well-being of present and future generations. The historic environment is a finite, non-renewable and shared resource and a vital and integral part of the historical and cultural identity of Wales. It contributes to economic vitality and culture, civic pride, local distinctiveness and the quality of Welsh life. The historic environment can only be maintained as a resource for future generations if the individual historic assets are protected and conserved. Cadw's published Conservation Principles highlights the need to base decisions on an understanding of the impact a proposal may have on the significance of an historic asset.

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

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

4.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

As stated in the **Introduction (section 2.0)** of this document DCA at the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS) made the following consultee comments as part of the planning application and in their role as archaeological advisor to the Council:

...The proposed development is for the erection of a dwelling on the former Prince of Wales car park, a disused semi-brownfield site in central Criccieth. GAPS were not consulted on either the previous application (C20/0290/35/LL) or the pre-application for this current scheme – however there is potential for archaeological remains in the area, and as such mitigation should be undertaken.

Late 19th century mapping shows a structure on the site, which looks to have been demolished by at least the mid part of the 20th century. The structural remains of this post medieval building are unknown, and as such there could be remnants beneath the modern surface. Additionally, there is a general potential for earlier occupation deposits in the locale, especially as they relate to the medieval core of the town, as well as preceding prehistoric settlement throughout this coastline.

The site also falls within the Criccieth conservation area, and is less than 400m north from the scheduled monument Criccieth Castle (ref. CN015). Owing to these designations the relevant parties must be consulted, including the relevant Conservation Officer (with regards the CA) and in particular Cadw, with regards the SM. The latter here is indicative of the potential for earlier occupation layers of archaeology throughout Criccieth.

Regardless, if the authority is minded to grant permission, the proposed development falls within a landscape of moderate archaeological potential, with known medieval and post medieval activity in the locale. Despite the relatively limited scope of the proposals, the sub-surface soil profiles at the site are unknown, and similar mitigation in the locality has proved that archaeology can exist at varying depths. As such a programme of mitigation should be undertaken to ensure no archaeological deposits are unduly lost or destroyed without appropriate measures.

Criccieth – Location and Brief History

Criccieth is a town and community in Gwynedd, Wales, on the boundary between the Llŷn Peninsula and Eifionydd. The town is 5 miles (8 km) west of Porthmadog, 9 miles (14 km) east of Pwllheli and 17 miles (27 km) south of Caernarfon. The geological information provided by the British Geological Survey (2023) places the underlying geology in the *Nant Ffrancon Subgroup - Siltstone. Sedimentary bedrock formed between 477.7 and 449 million years ago during the Ordovician period. With superficial deposits being formed Till, Devensian - Diamicton. Sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period.*

The area around Criccieth, Wales, has a history dating back to the Bronze Age, and a chambered tomb, Cae Dyni, survives on the coast to the east of the town (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, n.d.). Criccieth Castle, built around 1230, played a significant role in Welsh history (Pilling, 2021). After Llywelyn's death in 1240, a power struggle between his sons Gruffydd and Dafydd ensued, leading to Gruffydd's imprisonment and eventual transfer to the Tower of London.

Edward I's conquest of Gwynedd in 1277 marked the end of Welsh independence. Criccieth Castle was expanded as part of Edward's strategy, and a charter in 1284 aimed to establish an English

settlement. In 1294, the Welsh rebelled against English rule, besieging Criccieth. The town later experienced changes, including Welsh officials holding key positions.

In 1400, Owain Glyndŵr's revolt saw Criccieth Castle fall in 1404 (Howell, 2000). The castle was sacked, and the town declined, no longer playing a role in state affairs. By 1847, Criccieth was described as a “straggling place” with little development (Pilling, 2021).

In the 19th century, transportation improvements led to the town's expansion (Cooke, 2019, Gwyn 2007). Notably, David Lloyd George, a Criccieth solicitor, became a prominent political figure, serving as Prime Minister from 1916 to 1922. The town gained national and international prominence during this period. However, disaster struck in 1927 when a storm caused a double high tide, destroying houses and leading to the relocation of residents in Abermarchnad (Heywood, 2012).

Historic Environment Record database review (figure 3a)

Capel y Traeth, Criccieth (PRN 68750):

Located 55 meters southwest of the site, Capel y Traeth (PRN 68750) is a post-medieval chapel founded in 1889. Designated as a Listed Building (Grade II), it holds cultural and religious significance within the community of Criccieth.

Gates, Wall and Railings at Capel Seion, Criccieth (PRN 68749):

Situated approximately 90 meters south/southwest of the site, the Gates, Wall, and Railings at Capel Seion (PRN 68749) were built in 1895 and are associated with the chapel. Recognized as a Listed Building (Grade II), they represent architectural elements from the post-medieval period.

Nant y Felin, Criccieth (PRN 68755):

Approximately 60 meters northeast of the site stands Nant y Felin (PRN 68755), a house whose exact period remains unknown. Despite the lack of specific dating, its architectural features contribute to the area's historical fabric.

Penpaled, Criccieth (PRN 68765):

Approximately 60 meters southwest of the site, Penpaled (PRN 68765) is a 19th-century house that adds to the architectural diversity of the area. It is recognised as a Listed Building (Grade II).

Memorial Hall, Criccieth (PRN 68767):

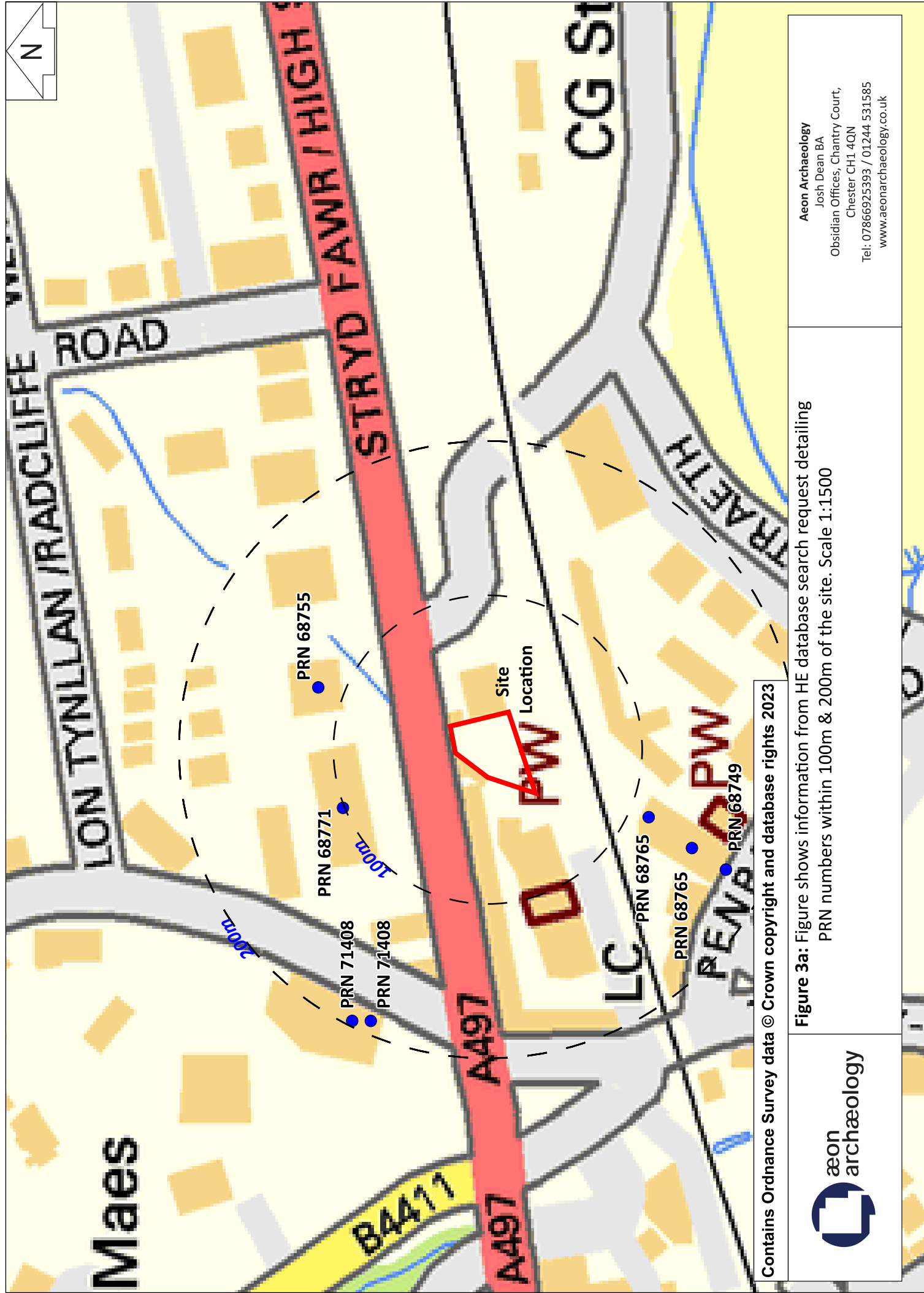
Approximately 50 meters west of the site stands the Memorial Hall (PRN 68767). Erected after the First World War, this hall serves as a poignant memorial to commemorate the sacrifices made during the conflict. Designed by D.O.M. Roberts.

Church of St Deiniol, Criccieth (PRN 68771):

Approximately 50 meters southwest of the site is the Church of St Deiniol (PRN 68771). Built in the late 19th century, this church stands as a prominent landmark in Criccieth.

Memorial Hall, Neuadd Goffa, Criccieth (PRN 71408):

Also located around 100 meters northwest of the site, the Memorial Hall, Neuadd Goffa (PRN 71408) serves as a modern war memorial, commemorating the sacrifices of those who served in the First World War.



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Figure 3a: Figure shows information from HE database search request detailing PRN numbers within 100m & 200m of the site. Scale 1:1500

National Monuments Record database review (figure 3b)

St Deiniol's Church, Criccieth (NPRN: 43728):

St Deiniol's Church (NPRN: 43728), situated in the community of Criccieth, a prominent landmark located approximately 50 meters north of the Former Prince of Wales Car Park. Constructed in the 19th century, this church serves as an architectural and religious focal point in the area. The evidence of its historical significance is documented through records. Its grid reference is SH 50099 38193.

St. Deiniol's church, built between 1884 and 1887 as a chapel of ease, stands on Criccieth's High Street, designed by Chester architects Douglas and Fordham. Constructed in a Geometric Gothic style with dark grey granite rubble and red sandstone dressings, the cruciform layout features a six-bay nave, a three-bay chancel, and a south porch. Closed for worship in 1988, it was later converted into residential flats in 1994.

Memorial Hall (Cinema), Criccieth (NPRN: 416942):

The Memorial Hall, also known as the Cinema (NPRN: 416942), is a notable site located around 100 meters northwest of the Former Prince of Wales Car Park in Criccieth. Built in the 20th century, this hall has served various purposes over time, including as a cinema. Its historical evidence is documented through records. The grid reference for this site is SH 50027 38196.

The memorial hall, erected to honour World War I veterans, was designed by D.O.M. Roberts and formally opened in 1925, with construction costs raised through subscriptions and donations. Its distinctive fusion of Arts and Crafts and Art Nouveau styles is evident in the roughcast render and swept slate roofs, complemented by a hipped gabled entrance front and polygonal turrets. Inside, the main hall features a Neo-Classical style with Art Deco influences, including a circular Hall of Memory adorned with oak memorial panels commemorating both World Wars. The building, serving as a venue for various entertainments, showcases a remarkable blend of traditional and modern architectural elements, making it an outstanding example of its kind.

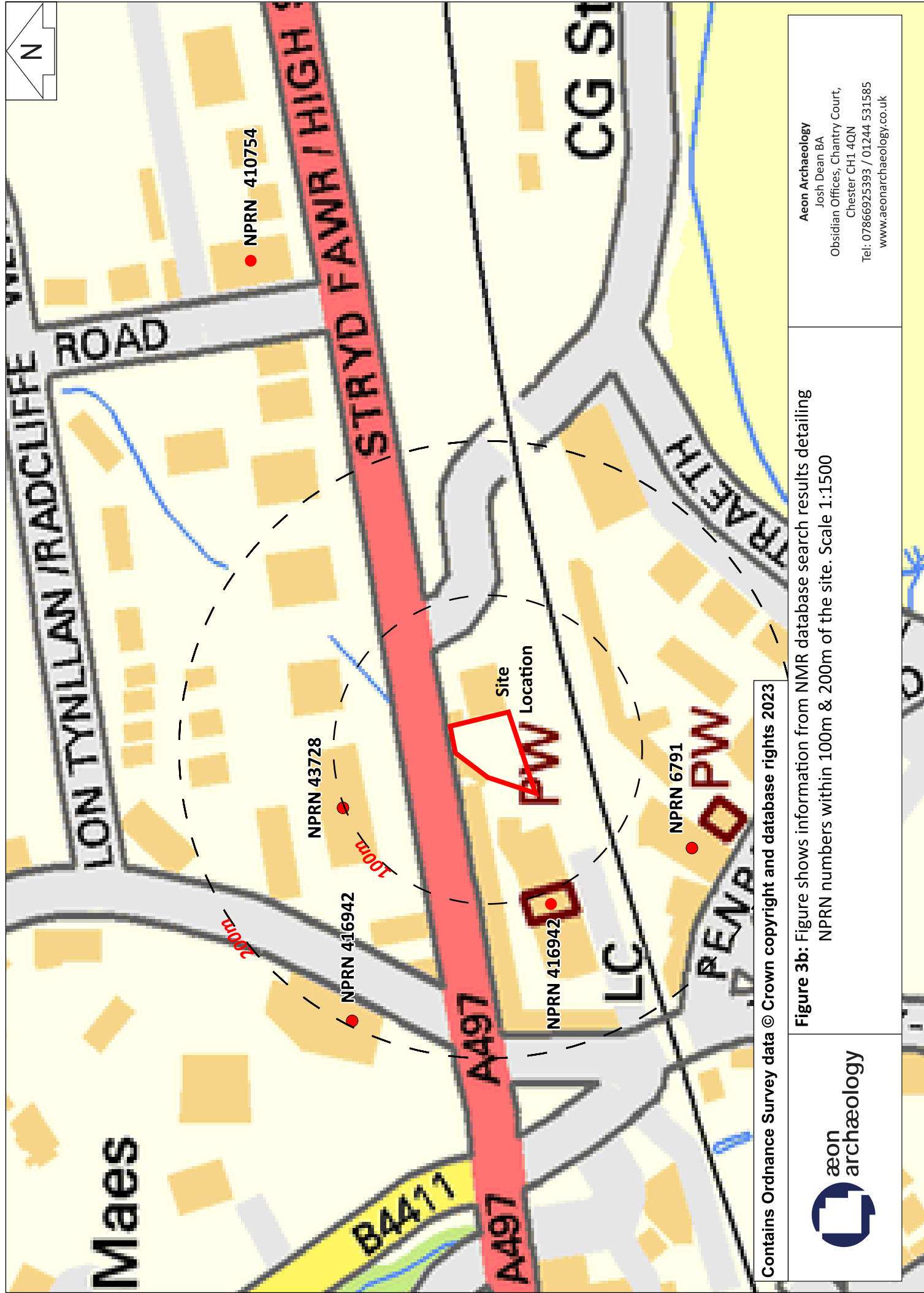
Jerusalem Welsh Independent Chapel (Jerusalem), Criccieth (NPRN: 6791):

Jerusalem Welsh Independent Chapel (NPRN: 6791), also known as Jerusalem, is situated in Criccieth and represents a significant religious site from the post-medieval period. Located near the Former Prince of Wales Car Park (50m to the southwest), this chapel's historical evidence is documented through records. Its grid reference is SH 50067 38125.

Capel y Traeth Calvinistic Methodist Chapel; Capel Seion, Penpaled Road, Criccieth (NPRN: 6796):

Capel y Traeth Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, also known as Capel Seion, is located along Penpaled Road in Criccieth (NPRN: 6796). This post-medieval chapel is an important religious site in the community. Its historical significance is supported by building evidence. The grid reference for this site is SH 50085 38079.

Capel Seion, later renamed Capel Y Traeth, was originally built in 1895 but underwent changes in the twentieth century, merging with other congregations. Its Classical style features a smooth rendered gable end facade with terracotta dressings, while the interior boasts a horseshoe gallery, decorative



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Figure 3b: Figure shows information from NMR database search results detailing NPRN numbers within 100m & 200m of the site. Scale 1:1500

wooden panels, and an enriched plaster ceiling. The chapel's front facade comprises two storeys and six bays, with narrow round-arched windows and a central porch supported by cast iron columns.

Henfaes Hotel, Criccieth (NPRN: 410754):

Henfaes Hotel (NPRN: 410754), a 20th-century establishment, adds to the historical fabric of Criccieth. Located near the Former Prince of Wales Car Park, this hotel's evidence is documented through records. Its grid reference is SH 50276 38220. Henfaes Hotel, is a large 2-storey building with attics. An Edwardian building with rendered elevations, and slate roofs.

Nearby contractor work

An archaeological assessment and watching brief were conducted at The Pines Residential Home (140m southwest of the site), during groundworks associated with a car park. The investigation revealed evidence of 19th-century site drainage, modern services, and structures, including a septic tank and a garage. The assessment indicated that the area was mainly undeveloped since the post-medieval period and was part of Tynygrisiau farm. Additionally, historical features such as a stream noted on the tithe map and the location of an old mill pond beneath the residential home suggest possible past activities related to water management and milling.

Historic Map Regression (figures 3d-3h)

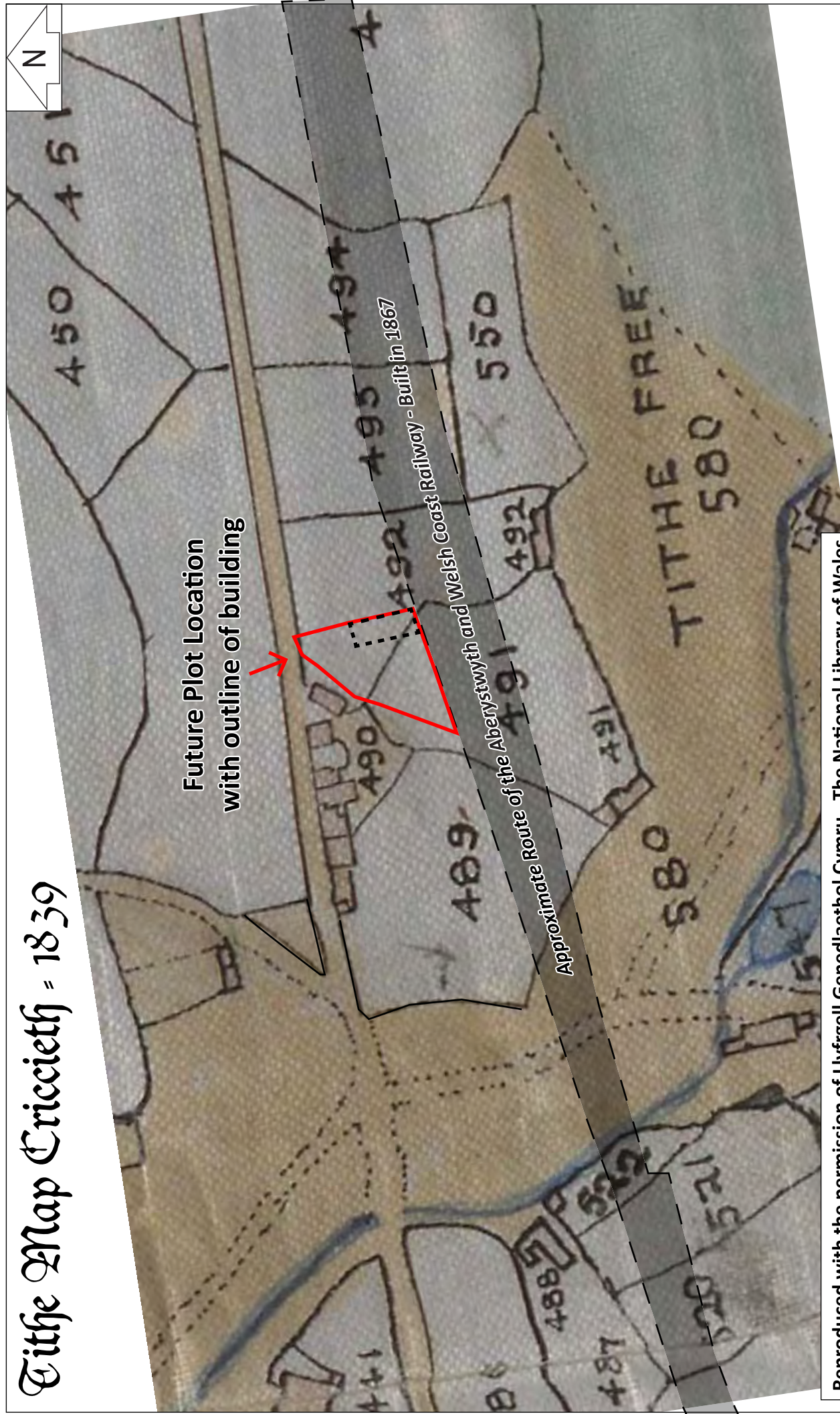
The *Map of the parish of Crickieth in the County of Carnarvon* or as it is also known; *Apportionment of the rent-charge in lieu of tithes in the parish of Crickieth in the County of Carnarvon*, was published in 1839 (figure 3d). It was likely surveyed by *John Price, (1839-1848)* and the valuation of the parish was compiled by *Philip Watkins from Llaniestyn* and *John Owen from Llangian*. The map shows that in the time prior to the construction of the Aberystwyth and Welsh Coast Railway in 1867 the plot had not assumed its current form, rather it was split across two fields: *plot 491* to the southwest and *plot 492* to the northeast. The apportionment for the tithe map reads as follows:

Field Number	491
Farm Name	Penpalad
Field Name	Cae Penpalad
Occupier	John Foulks
Landowner	Owen Jones, Ellis Nanney Esq.
Measure:	0 a, 2 r, 28 p
Value:	0 £, 1 s, 0 p

Field Number	492
Farm Name	Part of Brynhir Farm
Field Name	Cae tyn y gellesg
Occupier	William Jones
Landowner	Owen Jones, Ellis Nanney Esq.
Measure:	1 a, 1 r, 6 p
Value:	<i>Part of Brynhir Farm</i>

The owner of the plot is one *Owen Jones Ellis Nanney* who had inherited the estate (*and the surname Ellis-Nanney*), based on *Plas Gwynfryn* in 1819. However, in the town of Criccieth to the southeast of

Tithe Map Criccieth = 1839



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Figure 3c: (Tithe) Map of the parish of Criccieth in the County of Carnarvon (1839), showing (approximate) location of site now known as Former Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth.



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Plas Gwynfryn in 1839, the site was as mentioned split across two plots. Plot 491 was the larger plot, trapezoidal in shape, and bordered on tithe free land to the south and west. To the north of the plot was a collection of 8 houses (plot 490) which fronted onto the Porthmadog – Pwllheli road. Plot 492 was located to the east of plot 491. It also shared a boundary with the 8 houses of plot 490 to the northwest and itself fronted onto the roadway to the north. It bordered with more field plots (495-550) to the east and had a small building in its southern corner. The southern boundary of the plot bordered on tithe free land to the south. To the far west of the site a stream meanders through the town to discharge into the bay.

Therefore, this was farmland belonging to the Brynhir Farm (plot 492) and Penpalad (plot 491), both presumably part of the Plas Gwynfryn/Ellis Nanney Estate in 1839. Plot 492 was known as *Cae tyn y gellesg* can be translated to ‘field of tightly packed sedge grasses’. Plot 491 was known as *Cae Penpaled* likely refers to the farm of the same name, inferring ownership.

By the time of the 1888 1st edition (6 inch) Ordnance Survey (OS) map (figure 3d) the area has completely changed. Now the modern-day shape of the site is recognisable as a triangular plot. Within the plot is a long, rectangular building aligned north-northwest to south-southeast. To the south the plot is bounded by the new Railway which was constructed in 1867. The railway came to Criccieth thanks to the successful partnership of railway contractors, David Davies and Thomas Savin, who were the main investors. To the west of the plot is a newly constructed terrace of houses (Cambrian Terrace), and further to the west several buildings have been built along the newly built road (Corporation Terrace) creating a frontage. To the north and across the road *St. Deiniol’s Church* has been built. To the east there is an empty plot.

By the time of the 1901 2nd edition (6 inch) OS map (figure 3e), the building seen in 1888 within the plot, has developed and been extended to the west, with a new long range (*forming an ‘L’ shape in plan*), and seems to abut with the wall of the railway (southern boundary). In addition, the building appears to have encroached into the eastern plot slightly with a small extension. The immediate environs of the site remain unaltered, although to the south of the site, beyond the railway the town had developed. The stream seen on earlier maps has been entirely enclosed with Penpalad Road now constructed, and Capel Seion now erected.

By the time of the 1920 3rd edition (6 inch) OS map (figure 3f), the plot has once more undergone a transformation as much of the plot appears to have been filled in. Given the observations of the archaeologist during groundworks, several cut bases of steel ‘H’ beams were present, as well as a large amount of concrete hardstanding. In addition, a large diesel tank was removed from the ground. Therefore, it is believed that this was once a covered bus garage (confirmed pers. comm), which came to encompass the plot. This arrangement then persists across the 1948 and 1953 OS maps (figures 3g & 3h).

The Ellis Nanney Estate

The Ellis-Nanney family played a significant role in shaping the history of Criccieth. Major Owen Jones Ellis Nanney (1790–1870), as a Tory politician representing *Carnarvon Boroughs*, contributed to the political landscape of the region during the 19th century (Morgan, 2018). His brief stint in Parliament and subsequent political activities left an imprint on the local political history.



Site Plot

Building appears in SE corner of plot

ABERYSTWYTH AND WELSH COAST RAILWAY

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Figure 3d: Ordnance Survey Map, 6 inch, 1st edition, (1888)

Caernarvonshire Sheet XXXIV.SW. Showing location of site known as Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth. No scale.

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Figure 3e: Ordnance Survey Map, 6 inch, 2nd edition, (1901)

Caernarvonshire Sheet XXXIV.SW. Showing location of site known as Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth. No scale.



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Site Plot

Building extends to cover almost whole southern area of plot

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Figure 3f: Ordnance Survey Map, 6 inch, 3rd edition, (1920)

Caernarvonshire Sheet XXXIV.SW. Showing location of site known as Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth. No scale.



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Figure 3g: Ordnance Survey Map, 6 inch, 4th edition, (1938, rev. 1948)

Caernarvonshire Sheet XXXIV.SW. Showing location of site known as Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth. No scale.



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Figure 3h: Ordnance Survey Map, 6 inch, 5th edition, (1954)

Caernarvonshire Sheet XXXIV.SW. Showing location of site known as Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth. No scale.

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The legacy continued through Owen's son, Sir Hugh John Ellis-Nanney (1845–1920), who not only inherited the family estate but also became the 1st Baronet Ellis-Nanney of Gwynfryn (Morgan, 2018). Sir Hugh's involvement in local politics, along with his unsuccessful attempts to secure a parliamentary seat, demonstrated the family's continued engagement in the civic affairs of Criccieth.

The construction of Plas Gwynfryn, a notable mansion built by Hugh Ellis-Nanney in the 1870s, became a landmark in Criccieth's architectural history (Cadw, 1999). Despite facing challenges such as serving as a hospital during World War I and later being repurposed as an orphanage and hotel, the mansion retained its significance in the town's landscape.

The family's efforts extended beyond politics and architecture. Hugh's grandson, Hugh Ellis-Nanney, contributed to the development of the east side of Criccieth during the Victorian era (Rhydderch-Dart, 2020). The construction of the promenade in 1888, funded by the Ellis-Nanney family, remains a testament to their commitment to the community's well-being.

The Ellis-Nanney family, would have wielded considerable influence over the agricultural landscape in the Eifonydd region (Morgan, 2018, Rhydderch-Dart, 2020). Such agricultural estates typically encompassed diverse agricultural operations, involving both livestock and crop cultivation. In this example *Bryn Hir Farm*, *Court Farm*, and *Penpalad*, formed integral components of the family's extensive holdings, and likely played pivotal roles in their agricultural activities.

The estates would have contributed significantly to the local economy and employment, reflecting the broader impact of the Ellis-Nanney family on the agricultural history of the Criccieth area (Morgan, 2018). This may also have extended into the construction of the Bryn Hir Arms on the turnpike road to generate more revenue from locals and travellers alike (Cadw, 1994).

The Ellis-Nanney family's influence and contributions to Criccieth's political, architectural, and civic spheres are integral to the town's history. From political representation to architectural endeavors and community development, the family's legacy is woven into the fabric of Criccieth's rich heritage.

The Bryn Hir Arms

The Bryn Hir Arms in Criccieth, may once have been a small farmhouse which converted into a small public house, probably as an inn associated with the new turnpike road, in c1840 (the building post-dates the Tithe Map, which does however record an inn of the same name closer to the Castle). The building is constructed from robust roughly squared stone, this building features a slate roof and roughcast rendered end wall stacks. The structure spans two stories, comprising a three-window range with a central entrance leading to a compact lobby. On either side of the entrance and on the first floor, there are 12-pane sash windows, each adorned with flat stone lintels (Cadw 1994). The building is characterized by a straightforward overhanging eaves design. Positioned on the east side is a carriage entry with a segmental voussoir arch, providing access to the rear yard. While the interior maintains its original layout, consisting of a small lobby entrance leading to principal rooms on either side, minimal original details have endured over time Cadw 1994).

Bryn Hir Farm, Barn & Stables

Bryn Hir Farm in Criccieth, originated as a modest single-room cottage in 1631, the house underwent significant expansion in 1751 under the direction of Reverend John Jones. The presence of an

inscription stone commemorates this substantial development. Further modifications, likely around 1800, included the addition of a kitchen wing, providing a rectangular plan to the structure. Additional alterations in the late 19th century enhanced the farm's architectural legacy. The main range preserves distinctive features such as a staircase with fluted pilasters and original wall panelling, offering insights into its mid-18th-century character. Recognized for its historical and architectural significance, Bryn Hir Farm stands as a testament to Welsh architectural history, embodying a rich tapestry of construction phases over the centuries (Coflein 2004).

In addition, the barn and stables at the Farm sported an undressed cobblestone floor which was laid in two different directions, with a drain in the middle. There is a picture of this on available to view on the Coflein website (*Archive number: 6388463; Title rcn: 0099631342, Original image ref: AA51/2049, Creator: G. Bernard Mason | - National Buildings Record, Date created: 01/01/1950*). This form of construction was expensive in terms of time to construct, and serves to extend the architectural legacy of the farm out into its agricultural buildings. When paired with the octagonal Norman pillars also found in the stables, it makes for a very fine barn.

Cobblestone yard

True cobblestones, are small, natural stones with edges smoothed by water, in this example likely gathered from the shingle beach below the esplanade in Criccieth. These undressed stones, or cobbles, were used in their natural state without being worked in any way. These stones were carefully selected and laid in sand pointy end down and were packed tightly together to provide a relatively smooth and durable surface. This type of construction has excellent drainage, augmented in this example by a drainage channel and brick lined gulley to the south. Therefore, they were much longer lasting than the alternative of the time which was a likely a simple beaten earth floor. They would also have been used frequently in stables which it is believed was the case here. A lot of craftsmanship experience and skill went into selecting stones of similar size and shape and in aligning them. This example is reminiscent of the stables at Bryn Hir Farm – photo available on the Coflein Website (*Archive number: 6388463; Title rcn: 0099631342, Original image ref: AA51/2049, Creator: G. Bernard Mason | - National Buildings Record, Date created: 01/01/1950*), and is possibly associated with the Hugh Ellis-Nanney Estate.

5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The Archaeological monitoring and recording was maintained:

1. During initial topsoiling, ground preparation and foundation excavation works

The CIfA maintains a standard for *Archaeological monitoring and recording* which states that:

A phase of archaeological monitoring and recording will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant by-laws of CIfA. Archaeological monitoring and recording is defined by the CIfA as ‘a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons’ (CIfA 2023). This will take place within a specified area within the Site where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.

The CIfA further identifies the purpose of a *phase of archaeological monitoring and recording* ‘as allowing, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works’ (ibid). It is also important to note that a *phase of archaeological monitoring and recording* provides an opportunity, if needed, for a signal to be made to all interested parties, before the destruction of the archaeological materials, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

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

The aims of the *phase of archaeological monitoring and recording* were:

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

The specific objectives of the *phase of archaeological monitoring and recording* were:

- To observe and recover any artefacts of archaeological significance.

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

6.0 METHODOLOGY – ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

6.1 Archaeological monitoring and recording

The methodology for the *archaeological monitoring and recording* has been prepared with reference to the CIfA's document *The Standards and Guidance for Archaeological monitoring and recording* (2023) and will be kept under constant review during the project, in order to see how far it is meeting the terms of the aims and objectives, and in order to adopt any new questions which may arise.

Curatorial monitoring of the archaeological work on behalf of the Council will be carried out by the DMA at GAPS. To facilitate the curatorial monitoring, the officer shall be provided with a minimum of two weeks' notice of the start of the archaeological work.

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

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

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

Any archaeological deposits, features and structures identified which can be investigated and recorded under the terms of the *phase of archaeological monitoring and recording* will be excavated manually in a controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project – subject to the limitations on site access. It may not be necessary to excavate the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits but the inter-relationships between archaeological deposits, features and structures will be investigated sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project and the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits will be investigated where practicable.

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

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

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

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

6.2 Archaeological monitoring and recording report

6.2.1 Post-excavation Assessment

A report on the results of the *phase of archaeological monitoring and recording*, in accordance with the recommendations in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006; 2015), and in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological monitoring and recording* (2020) will be required to be produced upon conclusion of the archaeological fieldwork. The report will be completed within a maximum of two months of completion of work on site and may include examination and quantification leading to the identification of function, form, date, method of manufacture, material/fabric type, source, parallels, attributes and condition of artefacts; of the exploitation of wild or domesticated resources; the reconstruction of environments; and the nature of human populations.

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

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

6.3 Archive and Dissemination

A full archive including photographs and written material has been prepared (see section 7.0). All photographs and descriptions have been labelled, and cross-referenced, and will be lodged with the RCAHMW within six months of the completion of the project.

Upon completion of the project, copies of the report will be sent to the Client, regional HER via the HEDDOS portal, and the DMA at GAPS with the original paper archive being deposited with the RCAHMW.

The project report and archive will adhere to the Welsh Trusts' and Cadw's Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) (2018 updated 2022) including the translation of a non-technical summary into the medium of Welsh.

7.0 DIGITAL DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

7.1 Type of study

A phase of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the *erection of 1 no. dwelling house together with associated development* at the Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth, LL52 0HB, (centred on **NGR SH 50116 38142**)

7.2 Types of data

File name	File Contents	Linked File(s)
A0450.1 Y Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth MR report 1.0.PDF	PDF report	
A0450_1_001 - A0450_1_086.JPG	JPEG site images	A0450.1_Metadata
A0450_1_001 - A0450_1_086.TIF	TIF site images	A0450.1_Metadata
A0450.1_Metadata.XLSX	Excel file of photographic metadata	A0450_1_001 - A0450_1_086 (JPG and TIF)
A0450.1 Watching Brief Day Sheets.PDF	Scanned copies of watching brief day sheets	

All data generated during this project has been selected for archive.

7.3 Format and scale of the data

Photographs taken in *RAW* format and later converted to *TIF* format for long term archiving and *JPEG* format for use in the digital report, converted using *Adobe Photoshop*. All photographs renamed using *AF5* freeware with the prefix (*project code_frame number*) and a photographic metadata created using Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) or Access (.accdb).

All written registers, pro-formas, and scaled drawings scanned as .PDF files.

7.4 Methodologies for data collection / generation

Digital data will be collected / generated in line with recommendations made in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2014. Rev 2020). Sections 3.3.1 and 3.3.3 are relevant:

3.3.1 Project specifications, research designs or similar documents should include a project specific Selection Strategy and a Data Management Plan.

3.3.3 Project designs or schedules of works etc should outline the methodology used in recording all information, in order to demonstrate that all aspects of archive creation will ensure consistency; for instance, in terminologies and the application of codes in digital data sets, highlighting relevant data standards where appropriate

7.5 Data quality and standards

Consistency and quality of data collection / generation was controlled and documented through the use of standardised procedure as outlined in the WSI. This included the use of standardised data capture file formats, digital proformas, data entry validation, peer review, and use of controlled vocabularies.

7.6 Managing, storing and curating data.

All digital data was organised into Aeon Archaeology proforma project file systems and backed up to The Cloud using *Acronis Cyber Protect* with additional copies made to external physical hard drive.

7.7 Metadata standards and data documentation

Digital metadata was created using Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) of all photographic plates.

7.8 Data preservation strategy and standards

Long term data storage will be through the submission of digital (.PDF) reports to the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) (via HEDDOS), the RCAHMW and retention of copies of all digital files at Aeon Archaeology on physical external hard drive and uploaded to Acronis Cyber Protect.

7.9 Suitability for sharing

All digital data will be placed within the public realm (through the channels in 6.8) except for where project confidentiality restricts the sharing of data. All data sets will be selected / discriminated by the Senior Archaeologist at Aeon Archaeology and written permission will be sought from all project specific Clients prior to the sharing of data.

7.10 Discovery by potential users of the research data

Potential users of the generated digital data (outside of the organisation) will be able to source the data and identify whether it could be suitable for their research purposes through access granted via the RCAHMW website. Requests can also be made for data through the regional HER's and directly to Aeon Archaeology (info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk).

7.11 Governance of access

The decision to supply research data to potential new users will be via the associated website request (RCAHMW, HER) or via the Senior Archaeologist when made directly to Aeon Archaeology.

7.12 The study team's exclusive use of the data

Aeon Archaeology's requirement is for timely data sharing, with the understanding that a limited, defined period of exclusive use of data for primary research is reasonable according to the nature and value of the data, and that this restriction on sharing should be based on simple, clear principles. This time period is expected to be six months from completion of the project however Aeon Archaeology reserves the right to extend this period without notice if primary data research dictates.

7.13 Restrictions or delays to sharing, with planned actions to limit such restrictions

Restriction to data sharing may be due to participant confidentiality or consent agreements. Strategies to limit restrictions will include data being anonymised or aggregated; gaining participant consent for data sharing; and gaining copyright permissions. For prospective studies, consent procedures will include provision for data sharing to maximise the value of the data for wider research use, while providing adequate safeguards for participants.

7.14 Regulation of responsibilities of users

External users of the data will be bound by data sharing agreements provided by the relevant organisation or directly through Aeon Archaeology.

7.15 Responsibilities

Responsibility for study-wide data management, metadata creation, data security and quality assurance of data will be through the Senior Archaeologist (Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA) at Aeon Archaeology when concerning data generation and early/mid-term storage. Upon deposition with digital depositories the study-wide data management, metadata creation, data security and quality assurance of data will be the responsibility of the specific organisations' themselves.

7.16 Organisational policies on data sharing and data security

The following Aeon Archaeology policies are relevant:

- Aeon Archaeology Archive Deposition Policy 2022
- Aeon Archaeology Quality Assurance Policy 2022
- Aeon Archaeology Conflict of Interest Policy 2022
- Aeon Archaeology Outreach Policy 2022
- Aeon Archaeology Digital Management Plan 2022

8.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS

8.1 The Documentary Archive

The following documentary records were created during the Archaeological monitoring and recording:

Digital photographs	86
Watching Brief Day Sheets	4

8.2 Environmental Samples

No environmental samples were taken during the Archaeological monitoring and recording as no suitable deposits were encountered.

8.3 Artefacts

All the examples of ceramic fragments that were recovered from site, post-dated the structures uncovered, and were so not retained. However, it is possible that they were residual (intrusive) finds *i.e.* not in their original context. It is possible that these may in part relate to a phase of occupation at the site, even if disturbed. Therefore, for the sake of thoroughness a list of those wares that were observed has been produced here.

CONTEXT	WARE TYPE	CODE	SHERD TYPE	SHERD AMOUNT
1005	ANNULAR WARE	N/A	BODY	1
	BONE CHINA	BONE	BODY	1
	LEAD GLAZED BLACKWARE	STRSB/STBL	BODY	1
1006	ANNULAR WARE	N/A	BODY	1
	LEAD GLAZED BLACKWARE	STRSB/STBL	BODY	1

This section will summarise the pottery sherds recovered from the archaeological works undertaken at **Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth**. The ceramic sherds are recognisable regional examples (North Wales, Northwest England) associated with 19th/20th century habitation. The finds were found across two deposits including the topsoil and subsoil.

The pottery was quantified by sherd count and according to ware names commonly in use by archaeological ceramic specialists across the region. Codes shown thus: (STRSB) relate to the identification system used for medieval and post-medieval ceramics used by The Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA).

The excavation produced a total of 5 sherds of post-medieval ceramics. The pottery spans the period from the late 17th to the early 20th century. The pottery was in decent condition overall although fragmented, although a good portion had been subject to frost damage – suggesting a period of exposure prior to being buried.

Annular Ware (N/A) - 1780-1840

Banded annular ware was part of the factory-made Slipware group of refined earthenware ceramics decorated with applied slip decoration. These were produced in great quantity during the last quarter of the eighteenth century through the nineteenth century in England and the United States. After 1840 annular wares became available only in the blue banded variety and its use continued into the 20th century (Sussman 1996, Van Rensselear 1966).

Bone China (BONE, TR2, TR3, BONE PNTD) - 1794 - 1900

The modern product of Bone China was developed by the Staffordshire potter Josiah Spode in the early 1790s. Spode included kaolin clay so his formula, sometimes called "Staffordshire bone-porcelain", was effectively hard-paste porcelain, but stronger, and versions were adopted by all the major English factories by around 1815.

Both economical and practical, Bone China became the standard porcelain body produced in England within ten years of its introduction. Heavy import duties that raised the price of Chinese porcelain, as well as the patronage of the Prince of Wales, helped increase public demand for the ware, which found a ready market with the growing merchant and professional classes (Honey 1977, Hughes 1968). It was produced in many different varieties over the years.

Lead Glazed Blackware (STRSB/STBL) - 1750 - 1870

Black lead glazed earthenwares made from mixed red and yellow clays were being produced in Wales and England, particularly Northwest England, by the mid-17th century, and continued to be made into the 19th century (Cresswell & Davey 1989). The ubiquitous lead glazed blackware sherds found on the site are possibly associated with the extensive ceramic works at Buckley in North Wales which has been related with the production of pottery from the medieval period to the mid twentieth century. The most productive time was in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries.

However, it would be remiss not to engage with the commonly accepted issue with surrounding these wares as ascertaining with any degree of certainty where such lead glazed blackwares were produced is notoriously difficult. Investigation of pottery production centres in the British Isles during the last half century suggest that the designation of this type of pottery as "Buckley Ware" is likely incorrect and misleading. The Buckley potteries produced a wide range of post medieval earthenware and stoneware, including black-glazed, red-bodied earthenware. A number of other centres made a similar range of products, also based on Coal Measures Clays. The most important of these, from a North Wales point of view are Stoke-on-Trent, Liverpool/South Lancashire, Whitehaven, the Glasgow area and Ironbridge Gorge/Bristol. It follows from these arguments that the identification of black-glazed, red-bodied earthenware as "Buckley Ware" should be abandoned (Davey & Longworth 2005).

9.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

9.1 Overview

(see Figures 04-06: Plates 01-31)

The Archaeological monitoring and recording was maintained by Josh Dean BA, archaeological contractor at Aeon Archaeology on the 16th October 2023 & 11th-12th January 2024, The weather conditions were very bright making photography difficult due to high contrast.

9.2 Description of the Archaeological monitoring and recording

The *phase of archaeological monitoring and recording* took place during the reduction of the proposed new dwelling footprint and the excavation of the associated foundation trenches. An area measuring 15.30m in length (NNW-SSE) by 12.77m in width (SSW-NNE) and on an area of ground known as the former Prince of Wales carpark, located to the south of the A497 (High Street). The area was already reduced by 0.17m below ground level (BGL) prior to the arrival of the archaeologist – this was due to the removal of a layer of concrete hardstanding and some site overburden. Around the perimeter of the extension footprint a foundation trench measuring 0.70m in width was then excavated to a maximum depth of 1.20m BGL. The extension footprint had formerly been occupied by an area of concrete hardstanding and some upright ‘H-girder’ bases associated with a former coach depot.

Near the south east corner of the site a portion of very neat, cobbled surface had been revealed. This persisted below a former layer of concrete (0.12m in depth) and 0.05m of black silt overburden. The cobblestone surface had been constructed from suspected beach cobbles laid “*on end*” within a matrix of grey-orange, silt-sand. The eastern portion of this surface had the cobbles aligned east to west, whilst the western cobbles, were aligned north to south, the surface being bisected by a north to northwest/south to southeast aligned drainage channel, which ended in a red brick gully. This channel was sloping from north to south and produced a single sherd of banded annular ware (likely mid-19th-century).

This surface measured 4.20m in length and was >2.00m in width, its depth remained undetermined. Although the different cobbled surfaces aligned in separate directions, more generally, the surface could be said to have been aligned east to west. The cobbles themselves consisted of small (5-12cm diameter) rounded, cobbles, placed “*on end*” in a distinctive style. Furthermore, this surface can be said to have abutted with wall (1002).

Following a period of desk-based assessment which included the examination of historic mapping and some photographic evidence, it is thought this cobbled surface may pertain to a primary phase of construction associated with the remains of a (now demolished) building. These were uncovered during excavation of the trenches for the new plot (see below). It may have been a workshop addition or a small stable for a pony. Also, during the research, it was discovered that *Bryn Hir farm* (located on the hillside to the north above the site) had an almost identical cobbled surface located in one of its stables, this potentially indicates a link between the two buildings, at least stylistically.

The foundation trenches

Several trenches were excavated for a new housing plot, these trenches were the primary reason why an archaeological condition of watching brief, (now monitoring and recording), was applied to this development. During these excavations a number of portions of wall foundations (associated with a

a previous structure) were revealed to persist below the ground surface. As previously mentioned, in the southeast corner is where the area of cobbled surface was revealed, however, in one of the north to south aligned trenches (trench, F), a long, linear, portion of partially dressed, cobblestone wall was uncovered.

This wall was aligned north to south and measured 10.44m in length by 0.80m in width and extended to a maximum depth of 0.70m. The wall was roughly coursed up to 3 courses and can be said to have been between 2-3 wythe. The wall comprised of two, very large sub-angular, and sub-rounded cobblestones (0.20m-0.70m). The stones were not dressed. However, those with flat surfaces had been positioned to face to the west. The wall had been bonded with lime mortar. Furthermore, the wall cut for the foundation had been cut into the subsoil (1008) and had been infilled by the beach cobble sand material (1010) - (see below for a discussion on stratigraphy).

It is thought following the desk-based research that the wall may correlate with a primary phase of construction for a building which postdates 1839 but pre-dates 1877. This is because it does not appear on the tithe map, but is present by the time of the first edition OS 6-inch map. On this map, it appears as a long rectilinear block, roughly aligned north- northwest to south-southeast. The eastern wall of the site which is still present to this day is of a similar construction to (1002) and has two, blocked up red brick windows, at presumed former ground floor height.

Further to the west, were the two stone rubble walls (1003) and (1004), which were uncovered in separate trenches. It is presumed that these walls, due to their proximity and alignment, constitute the same wall construction. For the sake of thoroughness, a description of both walls is presented here.

Wall (1003) was linear, aligned north to south and measured > 0.80m in length by 0.62m in width and extended to a maximum depth of 0.70m. The wall was roughly coursed, consisting of five courses and two wythe, the stones being a various sizes vary in from 0.20m², to 0.50m². These were undressed, large, rounded stones with flat faces. Furthermore, they were bonded by lime mortar and were cut into the subsoil (1008) and had been truncated vertically, presumably historically when the buildings were destroyed.

Wall (1004) Was also linear, aligned north to south and measured greater than 0.80m in length by 0.65m in width and extended to a maximum depth of 0.62m. It was coursed between four and five courses and between 2-3 wythe. The stones were of a similar size to those observed in the wall (1003), and were undressed large, rounded stones with flat faces. These were also bonded by lime mortar and cut into the subsoil (1008), and had been truncated vertically, once again historically when the buildings were destroyed.

Following the desk-based research it appears that these walls (or rather singular wall), were positioned in such a location as to not represent the west facing gable of the building's secondary extension, but rather may have represented an internal wall division within that structure.

Stratigraphy

Of note are two variations to the stratigraphic column, and these can be classified separately as being to the east of the wall (1002), (within the building), and to the west of the wall (1002), (outside of the building).

The stratigraphy to the east of the wall (1002), consisted of a former layer of concrete (modern), measuring 0.12m in depth, which lay above a 0.05m deep deposit of very loose, dark, black brown, sand-silt, overburden. Below, this was a very soft/loose 0.60m deep deposit of mid red-grey brown, silt-sand with very frequent (25-30%), mid rounded cobble inclusions. In addition, this deposit measured >4.20m in width. Below this was a > 0.12m, light blue-grey, sand-clay, natural.

It is believed that this represents an importation of material which was used to “infill” the stone foundation of the building (primary phase), which previously inhabited the plot. Given the presence of a large amount of sub-rounded cobbles, and the sandy matrix in which they rested, it is thought that they may have been brought in from the beach nearby. The construction of the promenade/Esplanade began in the early 1880s, and it is possible that large amounts of material from the seafront were available at this time.

The stratigraphy to the east of the wall (1002) consisted of a former layer of concrete measuring 0.12m in depth, which lay above 0.08m of dark, black brown, clay-silt, overburden. Below this was a 0.08m, deep deposit of very firm, light yellow-grey, stony clay, with abundant, angular, pebble, inclusions. This material is high enough in stratigraphy to be considered anthropogenic in origin and has been referred to as “*syntir*” by Welsh builders (pers. comm). It is a peculiarly hardwearing deposit and is difficult to dismantle. It is thought that in this circumstance, it may have represented a substrate for a former yard surface, which was since removed.

Below this was a 0.06m deep deposit of very firm, dark brown-black, stony clay, with frequent sub-angular/rounded pebbles. It is thought that this was a finished/metalled surface for a former primary yard. Then persisting below this was a 0.09m deep deposit of very firm, light yellow-grey, stony clay, with abundant angular pebbles. This then representing the primary substrate or “*syntir*” for the yard surface above.

Below this was a 0.45m deep deposit of quite firm, light, grey brown, sand-silt-clay, with charcoal and very occasional post-mediaeval ceramic (19th century) inclusions. It is thought that this deposit represents the former site subsoil, into which, the foundations of the walls and the saltglaze pipe drainage was cut. Below this was >0.12m of firm, light, blue-grey, sand-clay, natural.

Essentially, the area to the east of wall (1002), and to the north of walls, (1003), and (1004) appears to have consisted of a very firm, compacted yard surface. This consisted of two phases, the primary phase (1007) the yellow substrate or “*syntir*” and the metalled surface (1006) - being placed upon a subsoil (1008), which had been subject to some activity prior to the creation of the yard, as evidenced by the presence of ceramic and the examples of salt-glazed drainage observed cut into it.

Above this was a second layer of yellow substrate or “*syntir*” (1005) however, the presumed metalled surface which once covered this was now absent, presumably removed prior to the casting of the concrete slab.

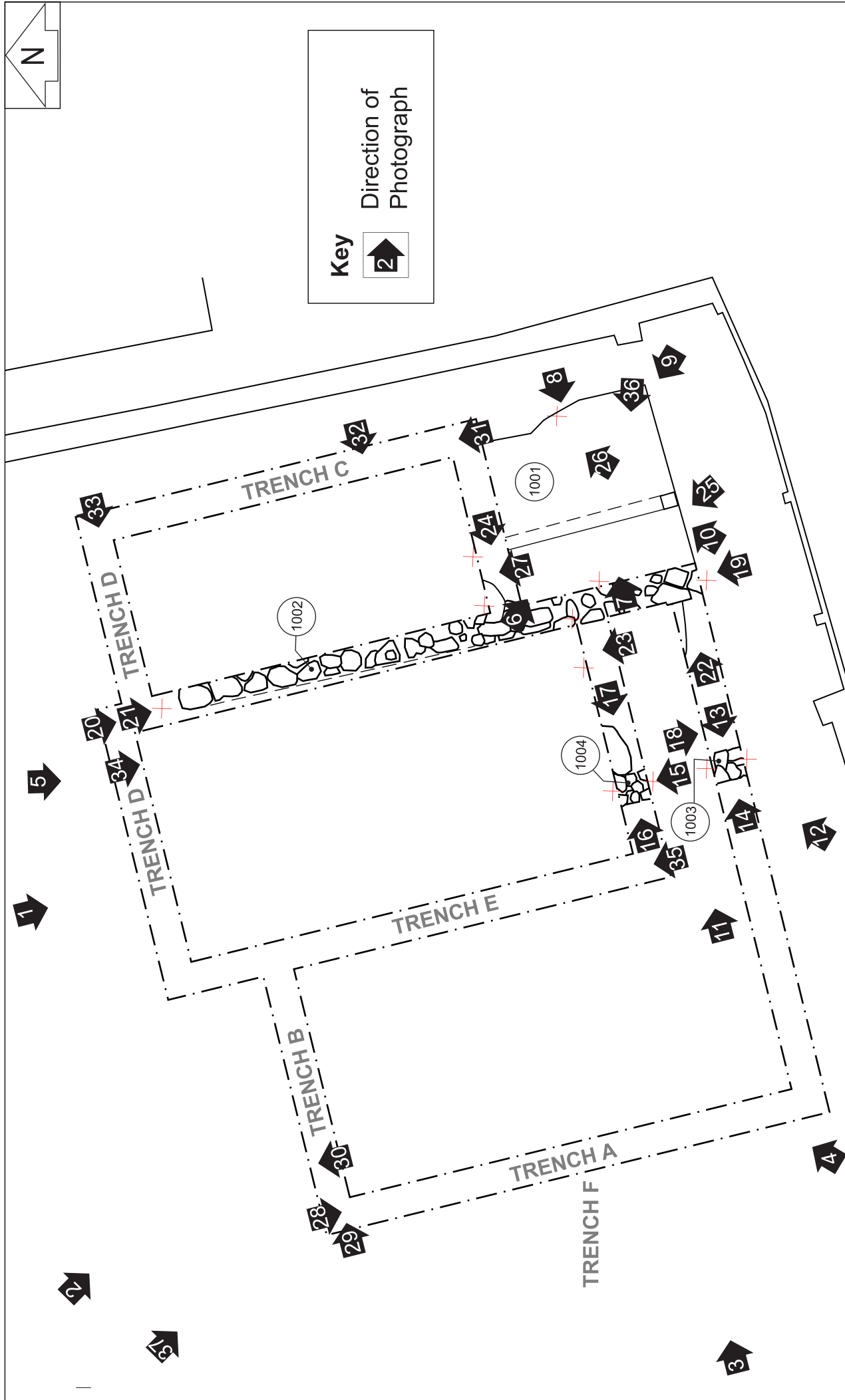


Figure 04: Foundation trench plan showing location of archaeological plates taken at Prince of Wales Carpark, Criccieth, Gwynedd. Scale 1:100 @ A4.

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Levels OD(m)

TBM	= 16.54
BS	= 2.55
IH	= 19.09
1	= 16.85
2	= 16.59
3	= 16.26
4	= 16.71
5	= 16.57
6	= 16.49
7	= 16.39
8	= 16.50
9	= 16.00
10	= 16.50
11	= 16.55

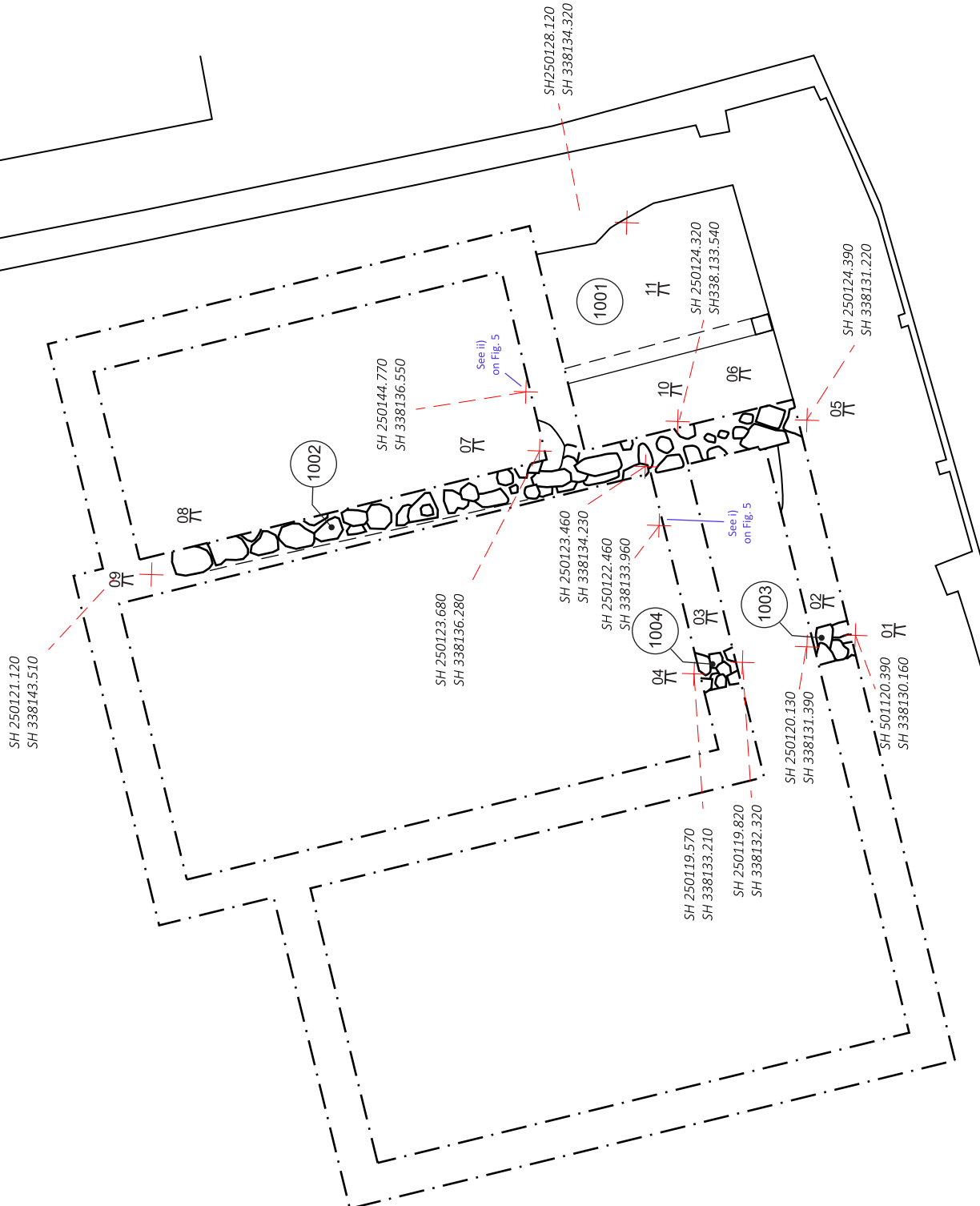


Figure 05: Foundation trench plan showing location of stone walls uncovered at Prince of Wales Carpark, Criccieth, Gwynedd. Scale 1:100 @ A4.

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Plate 01: Pre excavation shot of site, Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the north - 2.00m scale



Plate 02: Pre excavation shot of site, Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth- from the northwest - 2.00m scale



Plate 03: Pre excavation shot of site, Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the west - 2.00m scale



Plate 04: Pre excavation shot of site, Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the southwest - 2.00m scale

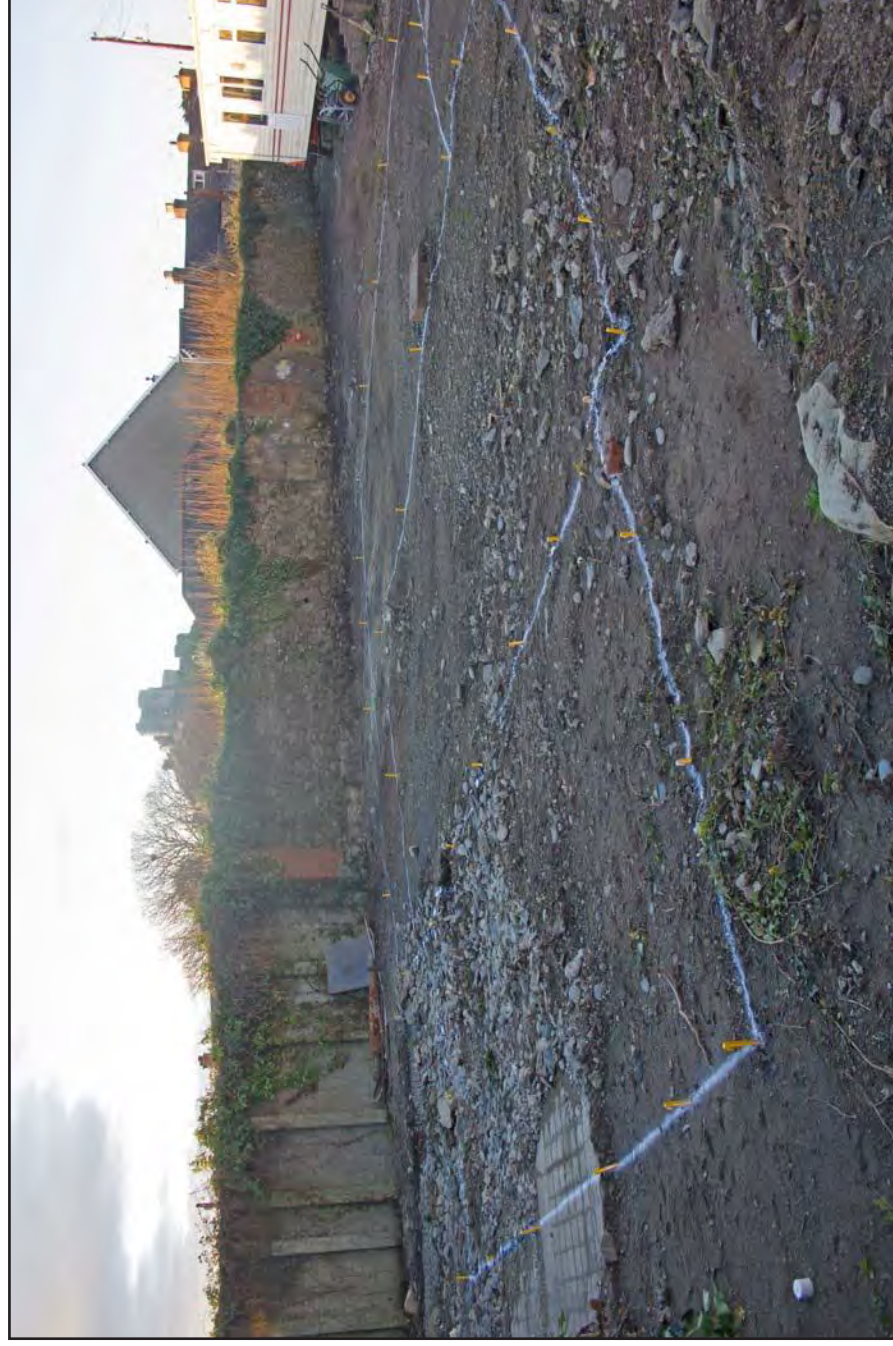


Plate 05: Pre excavation shot of site, Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the northeast - 2.00m scale



Plate 06: Cobbled surface (1001), at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the northwest - 1.00m scale



Plate 07: Cobbled surface (1001), at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the west - 1.00m scale



Plate 08: Cobbled surface (1001), at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the east - 1.00m scale



Plate 09: Cobbled surface (1001), at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the southeast - 1.00m scale



Plate 10: Cobbled surface (1001), at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the southwest - 1.00m scale



Plate 11: Wall foundation (1003/1004), at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the west - (2x) 1.00m scale, (2x) 0.50m scale



Plate 12: Wall foundation (1003) & Cobbled surface (1001), at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the southwest - (2x) 1.00m scale, (2x) 0.50m scale



Plate 13: Wall foundation (1003) elevation shot, at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the east - 1.00m scale



Plate 14: Wall foundation (1003) elevation shot, at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the west - 1.00m scale



Plate 15: Wall foundation (1003) in plan, at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the south - 1.00m scale



Plate 16: Wall foundation (1003) elevation shot, at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the west - 0.50m scale



Plate 17: Wall foundation (1003) elevation shot, at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the east - 0.50m scale

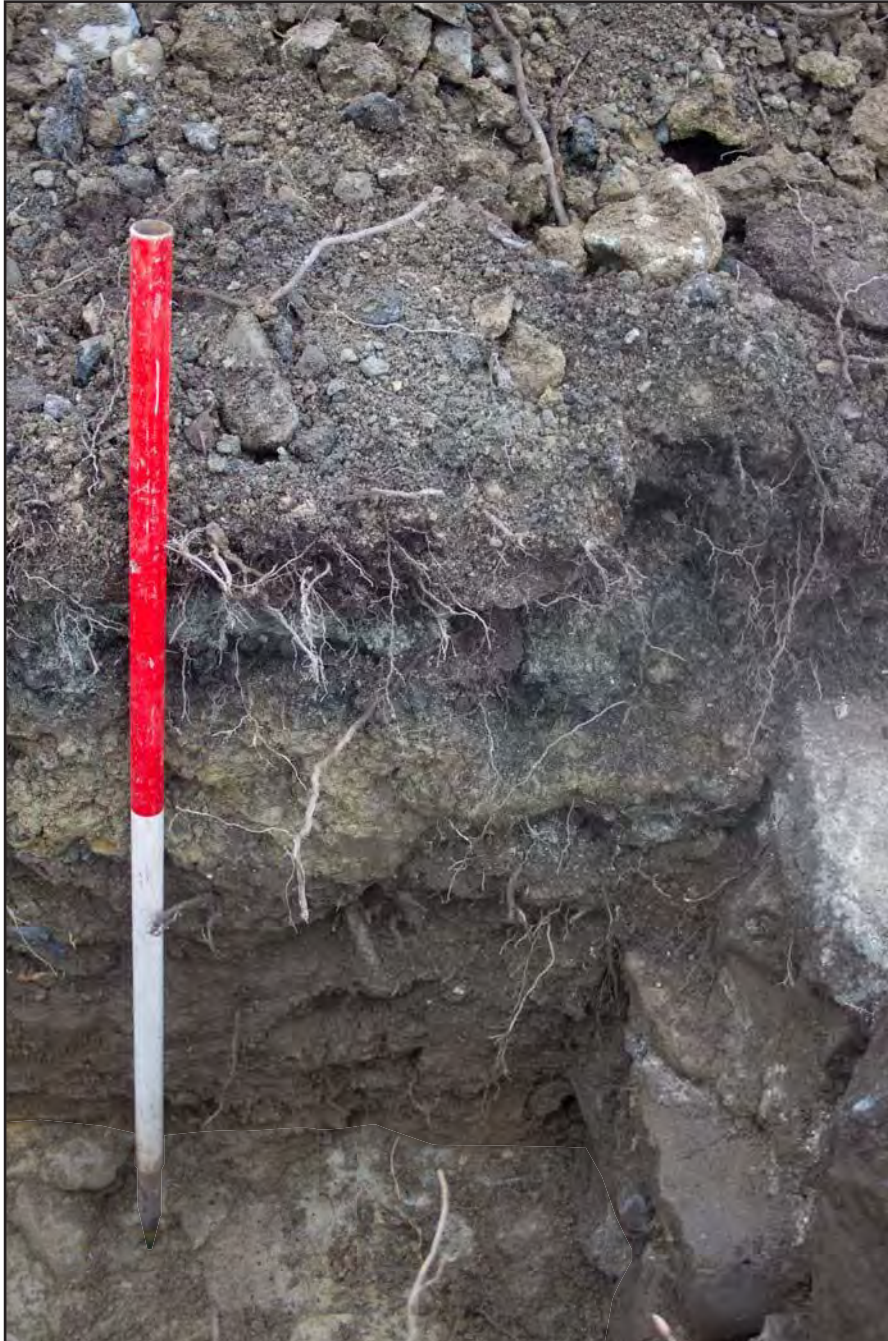


Plate 18: Generic section near (1003), at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the north - 1.00m scale



Plate 19: Wall foundation (1002) in plan, at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Crickieth - from the south - (2x) 0.50m scale



Plate 20: Wall foundation (1002) in plan, at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Crickieth - from the north - (2x) 0.50m scale



Plate 21: Wall foundation (1002) elevation, at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Crickieth - from the north - (2x) 0.50m scale



Plate 22: Wall foundation (1002) in elevation (south), at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the west - 0.50m scale



Plate 23: Generic section near (1002) external to 19th century building footprint, at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the south - 0.50mm scale



Plate 24: Wall foundation (1002) in elevation (centre), at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the south - 1.00m scale



Plate 25: Wall foundation (1002) & Cobbled surface (1001), at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Crickieth - from the southeast - 1.00m scale, 0.50m scale



Plate 26: Surviving eastern perimeter wall of the site, at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the southwest - 1.00m scale



Plate 27: Generic section near (1002) within the footprint of 19th century building , at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the south - 1.00m scale



Plate 28: Trench A post excavation shot, at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the north - 1.00m scale



Plate 29: Trench B post excavation shot, at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the west - 1.00m scale



Plate 30: Trench B section shot, at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the south - 1.00m scale



Plate 31: Trench C post excavation shot, at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the south- 1.00m scale



Plate 32: Trench C section shot, at Former Prince of Wales Car Park,
High Street, Criccieth - from the east - 1.00m scale



Plate 33: Trench D post excavation shot, at Former Prince of Wales Car Park,
High Street, Criccieth - from the east - 1.00m scale



Plate 34: Trench D section shot, at Former Prince of Wales Car Park,
High Street, Criccieth - from the south - 0.50m scale



Plate 35: Trench E post excavation shot, at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the south - 1.00m scale



Plate 36: Working shot closing down of trenches, at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the southeast -
no scale



Plate 37: Working shot closing down of trenches, at Former Prince of Wales Car Park, High Street, Criccieth - from the northwest -
no scale

10.0 CONCLUSION

The results of the archaeological monitoring and recording conducted at the *Prince of Wales carpark* site in Criccieth underscore the essential role of archaeological works in better describing the character and history of this historic town. The findings of this phase of works demonstrate the need for thorough archaeological observation, especially in areas earmarked for development, as it has meaningfully contributed to our understanding of Criccieth's rich heritage.

The discovery of a well-preserved cobbled surface, exhibiting distinctive construction features, is evidence of the inherent historical complexity of the site, both in relation to Criccieth, but also may allude to a larger network associated with the *Ellis Nanney Estate*, at play both within the town, but also in its immediate environs. The discovery of this surface, believed to be associated with a historically demolished building, highlights the importance of archaeological monitoring and recording in uncovering hidden remnants that might otherwise be lost during development.

The excavation of foundation trenches exposed substantial portions of wall foundations, offering an indication into the architectural history of the area. The linear cobblestone wall (1002), aligned north to south, and the adjacent stone rubble walls (1003 and 1004) suggest a depth of built wall foundations, which in many ways might challenge preconceptions about how buildings were planned out and constructed in the late 19th century, both within Criccieth and the wider region.

The stratigraphic analysis provides valuable insights into the historical use of the site, with distinct variations east and west of the wall (1002). The presence of a firm, compacted yard surface and the removal of a presumed metallised surface before modern development hint at the evolution of the site at the end of the 19th century into the early 20th century.

In essence, this phase of archaeological monitoring and recording has contributed to enhancing our understanding of Criccieth's character and history. The documentation and interpretation of the uncovered features contribute significantly to the broader historical narrative of the town. By recognizing and preserving these archaeological layers through record, we not only pay tribute to the heritage of Criccieth but also ensure that future development endeavours, both consider and respect the existing archaeological resource. The findings emphasise the ongoing importance of archaeological work in balancing development with the preservation of our historical legacy.

In conclusion, the phase of archaeological monitoring and recording aligns with the prescribed standards for archaeological monitoring as specified by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*. This phase of archaeological work has ensured that a useful baseline has been created for any future archaeological work that might take place in the area.

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