

**Land at Llwyndyrus Farm
Y Ffor
Gwynedd**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for:
Llwyndyrus Solar Farm Ltd.

CA Project: CR0415
CA Report: CR0415_1

July 2021



Land at Llwyndyrus Farm Y Ffor Gwynedd

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Cirencester Building 11 Kemble Enterprise Park Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6BQ t. 01285 771 022	Milton Keynes Unit 8, The IO Centre Fingle Drive, Stonebridge Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK13 0AT t. 01908 564 660	Andover Stanley House Walworth Road Andover Hampshire SP10 5LH t. 01264 347 630	Suffolk Unit 5, Plot 11 Maitland Road Lion Barn Industrial Estate Needham Market Suffolk IP6 8NZ t. 01449 900 120
e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk			

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SUMMARY

Project name:	Land at Llwyndyrus Farm
Location:	Y Ffor, Gwynedd
NGR:	238690 340340
Type:	Watching brief
Date:	17–28 August 2020
Planning reference:	Gwynedd Council ref: C15/0810/40/LL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with The National Museum Wales
Site Code:	LCF 20

In August 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new solar farm on land at Llwyndyrus Farm, Y Ffor, Gwynedd.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.

Ym mis Awst 2020, cynhaliodd Cotswold Archaeology friff gwyllo archeolegol yn ystod gwaith daear sy'n gysylltiedig ag adeiladu fferm solar newydd ar dir yn Fferm Llwyndyrus, Y Ffor, Gwynedd.

Ni welwyd unrhyw nodweddion na darnau o ddiddordeb archeolegol yn ystod gwaith paratoi'r pridd, ac ni ddaethpwyd o hyd i unrhyw arteffactau.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In August 2020, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief on land at Llwyndyrus Farm, Y Ffor, Gwynedd (centred at NGR: 238690 340340; Fig. 1). This watching brief was undertaken for Llwyndyrus Solar Farm Ltd.
- 1.2. Planning permission for the construction of a solar farm, with associated infrastructure, access track, temporary construction compound, security fencing and ecological and landscape enhancement measures (see Appendix B) was granted by Gwynedd Council (GC), conditional on a programme of archaeological work (GC planning ref: C15/0810/40/LL). Condition 8 of this planning permission required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with an approved WSI.
- 1.3. The scope of this watching brief was defined by Jenny Emmett, Senior Planning Archaeologist, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT), the archaeological advisor to GC. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by CA (2020) and approved by Jenny Emmett.
- 1.4. The watching brief was also undertaken in line with *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.5. The development area is approximately 12.5ha in area, situated south of Llwyndyrus Farm and east of Tyn Coed (Fig. 1). It comprises five enclosed or partially enclosed fields and is bounded on all sides by agricultural land. The site lies at approximately 80m AOD, sloping gently downwards from north-east to south-west.
- 1.6. The bedrock geology of the area is mapped as mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Ashgill Rock Formation of the Ordovician Period. This is overlain by superficial Quaternary deposits of diamicton sand and gravel in a clay matrix (BGS 2020). The natural geological substrate identified during the course of the watching brief consisted of mixed clay with stone outcrops.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The archaeological and historical background of the site has been presented in a desk-based assessment (CA 2015). The following section is summarised from this source.

Neolithic to Bronze Age (c. 4,000 BC – c.1,500 BC)

- 2.2. Around 2km south-east of the site at Cromlech Farm, Four Crosses, a Neolithic burial chamber is recorded, which overlooks the Afon Erch flowing to the east of the Scheduled Monument. Bronze Age funerary monuments show a clear pattern of distribution focused toward the peaks and slopes of hills in the area, such as the cairn at Mynydd Carnguwch which lies c. 2.7km to the north of the site.
- 2.3. A number of standing stones are also recorded within the landscape, 1.4km to the north-west of the site, and 1.6km to the south-east. While dating of these monuments is difficult, they are generally considered to date to the Bronze Age.
- 2.4. A Neolithic or Bronze Age stone hammer has been recorded around 670m to the west of the site.

Middle Bronze Age to Late Iron Age (c. 1,500 BC – AD 43)

- 2.5. A prehistoric hillfort has been identified 3.5km to the north-east of the site on the peak of Garn Bentrych at c. 220m AOD, which may date to the later prehistoric period, although an early medieval phase is also thought to exist. A hut group north-east of Carnguwch Fawr has also been identified 2.3km to the north of the site, on the slopes of Mynydd Carnguwch at c. 150m AOD. A possible hillfort site has been located c. 400m to the north of the proposed development site.

Post-medieval (1540 – 1800) and Modern (1800 – present)

- 2.6. Many farmsteads and dwellings within the area have been dated to the post-medieval and modern periods, and specifically to the 17th and 18th century. Woodlands, gardens and other landscape features dated to the post-medieval period, including a ha-ha, are associated with houses at Trllwyn and Hafodlon. Further post-medieval features which lie within the wider environs include a possible mill, smithy and slate quarry.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objectives of the watching brief were:
- to monitor the development groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits/features thus revealed;
 - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated project archive and a report setting out the watching brief results and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The watching brief comprised the observation by a competent archaeologist of all intrusive groundworks associated with the proposed development. These works comprised the machine excavation of a haul road area and cabling trenches (Fig. 2).
- 4.2. Records were maintained in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential, but no deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.4. CA will make arrangements with National Museum Wales for the deposition of the project archive. The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).
- 4.5. A summary of information for the project for submission to the GAT Historic Environment Record (HER) is provided in Appendix B.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the watching brief results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A.
- 5.2. The general stratigraphic sequence recorded throughout the observed groundworks was broadly uniform. The natural geological substrate was revealed at an average depth of 0.4m below present ground level (bpgl). It was overlain by dark peaty silt subsoil, measuring up to 0.2m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by 0.4m of clayey silt topsoil.

-
- 5.3. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefactual material was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1. Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see *Archaeological Background*, above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that archaeological remains associated with the nearby prehistoric activity does not extend as far as the development groundworks.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Matthew Coman. This report was written by Daniel Sausins. The report illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The project archive has been compiled by Daniel Sausins and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Alex Thomson.

8. REFERENCES

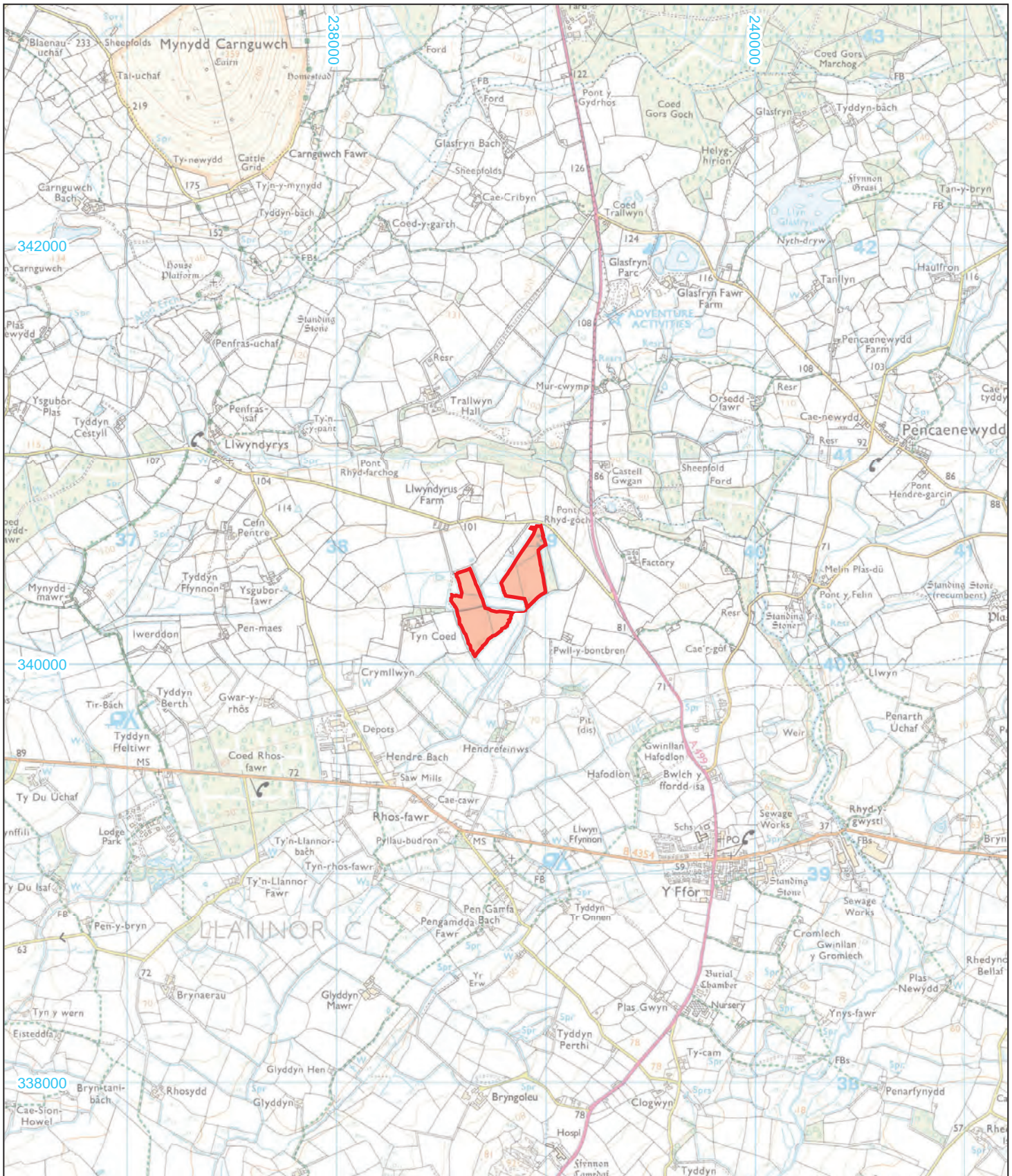
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<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>
Accessed 1 July 2021
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *Land at Llwyndyrus Farm, Y Ffor, Gwynedd: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment*. CA typescript report **15578**
- CA 2020 *Land at Llwyndyrus Farm, Y For, Gwynedd: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*
- Edwards, G. 2013 *RCAHMW Guidelines for Digital Archives*
- NPAAW (National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales) 2017 *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales*
- WAT (Welsh Archaeological Trusts) 2018 *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		topsoil	Dark grey brown clayey silt and stone			0.4	
1	101	Layer		subsoil	Patchy black peaty silt			0.25	
1	102	Layer		Natural substrate	Mottled dark brown yellow, grey white and light blue green sandy clay with sub-circular stone				

APPENDIX B: WELSH HER INFORMATION SUBMISSION FORM

HER Field Name	Field Definition
PRN	Pending
Site Name	Land at Llwyndyrus Farm, Y Ffor, Gwynedd
Summary Welsh	<p>Ym mis Awst 2020, cynhaliodd Cotswold Archaeology friff gwylio archeolegol yn ystod gwaith daear sy'n gysylltiedig ag adeiladu fferm solar newydd ar dir yn Fferm Llwyndyrus, Y Ffor, Gwynedd.</p> <p>Ni welwyd unrhyw nodweddion na darnau o ddiddordeb archeolegol yn ystod gwaith paratoi'r pridd, ac ni ddaethpwyd o hyd i unrhyw arteffactau.</p>
Summary English	<p>In August 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new solar farm on land at Llwyndyrus Farm, Y Ffor, Gwynedd.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed, and no artefactual material was recovered.</p>
Description	<p>Cotswold Archaeology was commissioned by Llwyndyrus Solar Farm Ltd. to undertake a watching brief during development groundworks associated with the construction of a new solar farm on land at Llwyndyrus Farm, Y Ffor, Gwynedd.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed, and no artefactual material was recovered.</p>
NGR	SH 38690 40340
Easting	238690
Northing	340340
NGR Qualifier	Area Centred
NGR Derivation	Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping
Type	Watching brief
Period	n/a
Survival Condition	n/a
Condition Rating	n/a
Condition Description	n/a
Broad class	Intrusive event
Evidence	None
Year	2021
References	Cotswold Archaeology 2021 <i>Land at Llwyndyrus Farm, Y Ffor, Gwynedd: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> , CA typescript report CR415_1
Record Compiled By	Alex Thomson
Record Compiled On	29 June 2021
Copyright Holder	Cotswold Archaeology



 Site boundary



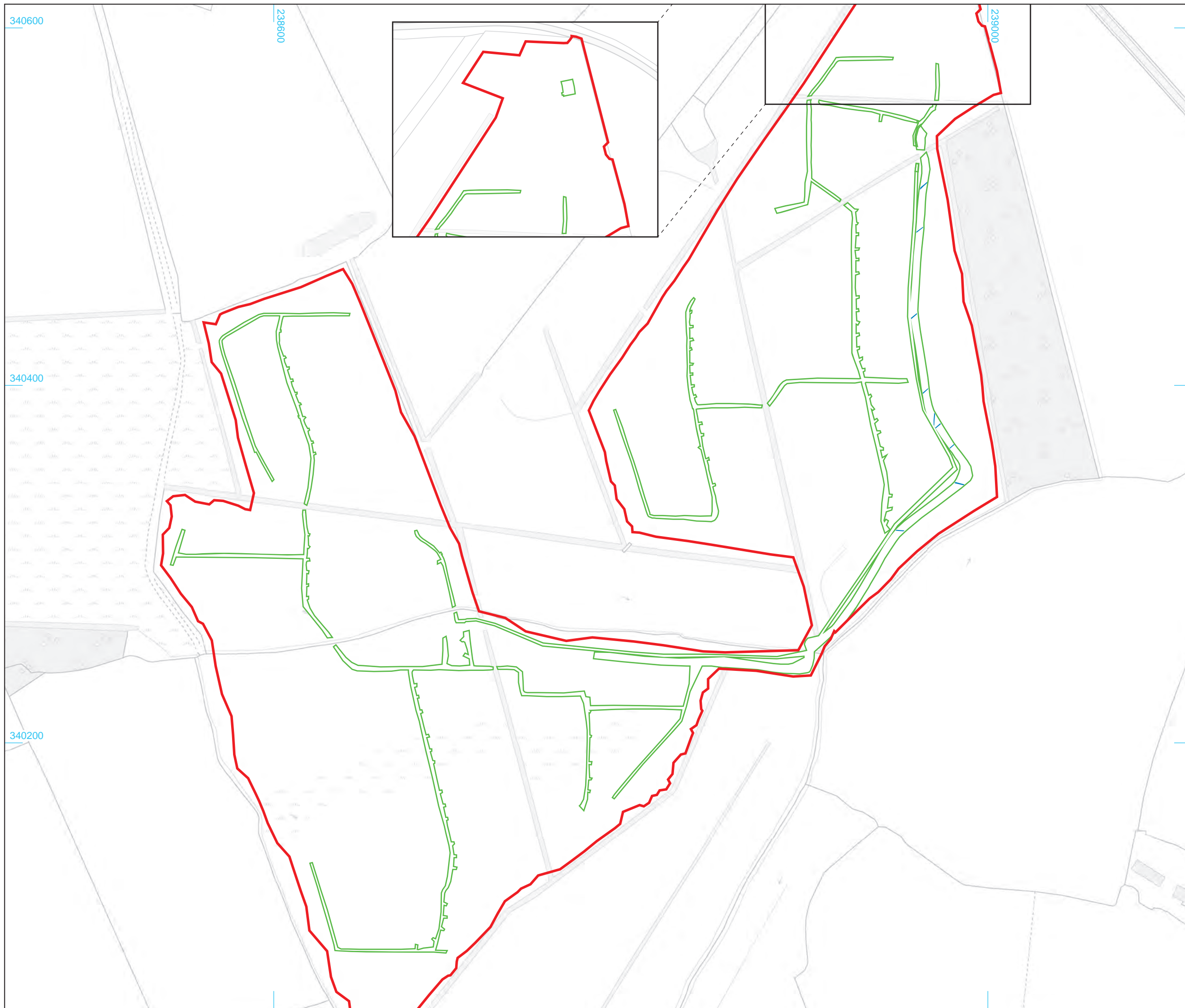
Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Llwyndyrus Farm, Y Ffor, Gwynedd

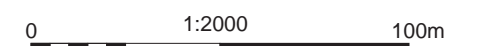
FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	CR0415	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	18/05/2021	1
APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	

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 Ordnance Survey 0100031673



- Site boundary
- Observed groundworks
- Drain



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Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Llwyndyrus Farm, Y Ffor, Gwynedd

FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing location of observed groundworks

DRAWN BY RW	PROJECT NO. CR0415	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 18/05/2021	2
APPROVED BY MC	SCALE@A3 1:2000	



General working shot, cabling trench



General working shot, haul road



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land at Llwyndyrus Farm, Y Ffor,
 Gwynedd

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

DRAWN BY RW PROJECT NO. CR0415
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 18/05/2021
 APPROVED BY MC SCALE@A4 NA

FIGURE NO.

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Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Cotswold Business Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Milton Keynes Office

Unit 8 - The IO Centre
Fingle Drive, Stonebridge
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK13 0AT

t: 01908 564660

Suffolk Office

Unit 5, Plot 11, Maitland Road
Lion Barn Industrial Estate
Needham Market
Suffolk
IP6 8NZ

t: 01449 900120

e: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

