

**Tyddyn Forgan,
Gwynedd,
Wales
LL55 3AN**

Archaeological Evaluation

Date: September 2025
Client: Net Zero Twenty Six Limited
Project Code: RR1722

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Project Code	RR1722
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Rev Number	Description	Undertaken	Approved	Date
1.0	Draft Report	BC	SR	September 2025
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SUMMARY

Site Name	Tyddyn Forgan, Gwynedd, LL55 3AN
NGR	SH 55707 67335
Site activity	Archaeological Evaluation
Date	28 th July to 8 th August 2025
Site Code	RR1722
Summary of results	Rubicon Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by Net Zero Twenty Six Limited to carry out an evaluation in advance of development at Tyddyn Forgan, Gwynedd, LL55 3AN. In total 27 trenches were excavated. All but one trench was blank, with trench 26 revealing the poorly preserved remains of a Roman road.
Monuments identified (referenced to the Thesaurus of Monument Types)	Roman road
Location of the archive	Rubicon Archaeology Ltd., Unit K7, Capital Business Park, The Levels, Cardiff

CRYNODEB

Enw safle	Tyddyn Forgan, Gwynedd, LL55 3AN
RCGG	SH <u>55707 67335</u>
Gweithgaredd Safle	Gwerthusiad archaeolegol
Dyddiad	28fed o Gorffennaf i 8fed o Awst 2025
Côd Safle	RR1722
Crynodeb o'r canlyniadau	Comisiynwyd Rubicon Archaeology Ltd. gan Net Zero Twenty Six Limited i gynnal gwerthusiad cyn datblygu yn Nhyddyn Forgan, Gwynedd, LL55 3AN. Cloddiwyd cyfanswm o 27 o ffosydd. Roedd pob ffos heblaw un yn wag, gyda ffos 26 yn datgelu olion ffordd Rufeinig sydd wedi'u cadw'n wael.
Henebion a nodwyd (cyfeirir at y Thesaurus o Fathau Henebion)	Ffordd Rhufeinig
Lleoliad yr archif	Rubicon Archaeology Ltd., Unit K7, Capital Business Park, The Levels, Caerdydd

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Rubicon Archaeology Ltd. were contracted by Tetra Tech to carry out archaeological trial trenching at the proposed site, centred on NGR SH 55707 67335 (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 Archaeological evaluation trenching of the site was undertaken by Rubicon Archaeology Ltd. on the 28th of July to 8th August 2025 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Rubicon Archaeology 2025).

1.2 Site Location & Description

- 1.2.1 The proposed development site is located at land at Tyddyn Forgan, Caenarfon, LL55 3AN (NGR SH 55707 67335) (Figure 1). It is bounded to the south by vegetation along the B4547, to the northwest by the access road leading to the Pentir substation to the north, and to the northeast by a temporary construction compound in relation to ongoing works by National Grid.
- 1.2.2 The site is an irregular polygon with an area of 4.6 hectares and is currently rough arable land in a wider area of arable fields with hedged field boundaries, interspersed with farmsteads such as Tyddyn Forgan itself to the west and smaller woods such as Coed Tyddyn Forgan to the northwest and Coed Ty'n Llwyn to the east. The nearest hamlet is Pentir, just under 1.75km to the east.
- 1.2.3 The bedrock geology of the application site is recorded as Minffordd Formation (interbedded sandstone and conglomerate), a sedimentary bedrock formed between 526 and 508 million years ago during the Cambrian period. This bedrock is overlain by superficial deposits consisting of Devensian Till, – Diamicton: a sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period (BGS, 2025).
- 1.2.4 The elevation of the site ranges from approximately 109m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the west to 112m aOD in the south.

1.3 Proposed Development and Planning Background

- 1.3.1 The Senior Planning Archaeologist in the Curatorial Division of Heneb Gwynedd advised the client that the proposed development requires further archaeological mitigation due to known and potential buried archaeology on the site (letter ref. 0508je/D3991.01). In accordance with Planning Policy Wales 12 para. 6.1.26, TAN24 The Historic Environment, and JLDP Policy AT4, it is stated that this should be undertaken prior to the planning decision.

- 1.3.2 The required mitigation was an archaeological evaluation which should comprise:

“a single phase of trial trenching, equivalent to at least 3% of the site area, in order to achieve an adequate understanding of the buried archaeological resource.”

- 1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation (WSI) was prepared by Rubicon Archaeology (2025) outlining a programme of archaeological trial trenching of the Site.

- 1.3.4 The fieldwork followed the Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2023a, 2023b) and the standards and guidance laid out in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager’s Guide (Historic England 2015a).

2. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims of Works

2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were to:

- Determine the extent, condition, nature, character, date and significance of any archaeological remains encountered.
- Establish the nature of the activity on the site.
- Identify any artefacts relating to the occupation or use of the site.
- Provide further information on the archaeology of the site from any archaeological remains encountered.
- Determine the heritage significance of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation subject to any confidentiality restrictions.
- These results will be used to inform any potential need for further archaeological evaluation or mitigation works.

2.2 Scope of Works

2.2.1 The scope of the work was to excavate 27 evaluation trenches, measuring 30m x 1.8m. They have been positioned in relation to the impact area of the proposed new development.

2.2.2 The overall objectives were:

- To define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;
- To attempt to characterise the nature and preservation of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning and extent of features present on the site;
- To recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence which will attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples;
- To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present;
- How far can the size and shape of fields be related to agricultural regimes? What is the relationship between rural and urban sites? (Medleycott 2011, 70)
- Surveys should record the decline or loss of parks and gardens as the woodland clearance part of this (Medleycott 2011, 79).
- To establish the significance of the archaeology encountered on site. The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site,

including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality.

2.3 Methodology

- 2.3.1 All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with current best practice and the CIfA's *Standard and universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA, 2023a, 2023b). All invasive ground-breaking works were monitored by a suitably experienced and qualified archaeologist.
- 2.3.2 All trial trenching was undertaken by a 20-tonne 360 degree tracked excavator fitted with toothless grading buckets under the supervision and control of qualified site archaeologists to the top of the undisturbed natural strata or archaeological deposits, whichever was highest in the stratigraphic sequence.
- 2.3.3 Topsoil, subsoil and non-significant overburden deposits was kept separate during trench excavation and stored in separate spoil heaps. When archaeological deposits were exposed, machine excavation was stopped to allow the site archaeologists to investigate the exposed deposit.
- 2.3.4 Where appropriate, the base of each trench and the upper surface of any archaeological remains surviving within them was hand cleaned and surveyed to produce a plan of the arrangement of archaeological features within the trenches across the Site.
- 2.3.5 All information identified in the course of the Site works was recorded stratigraphically, with sufficient pictorial record created to identify and illustrate individual features. It should be noted that, where possible, data was collected and stored digitally and also in a format suitable for long term storage by the Archaeological Data Service (Richards *et al*, 2000). Primary records were available for inspection at all times.
- 2.3.6 All potential archaeological deposits encountered were planned and recorded. The work included, as a minimum, the recording of individual contexts on appropriate proformas; plan and section drawings of appropriate single contexts and features (at 1:20 and 1:10 scales, as deemed commensurate with the subject); photographs and other appropriate drawn and written records.
- 2.3.7 Site photography was by high resolution (12 megapixel or greater) colour digital photography. Photography included general site shots, shots of each trench, and shots of individual features. All photographs were recorded on a photographic register detailing as a minimum the subject, location and direction of each shot.

- 2.3.8 Fully recorded trenches were backfilled using the excavated material in the approximate stratigraphic sequence in which they were excavated. They were left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Reporting and Archiving

- 2.3.9 The preparation of the report follows the standard and guidance published by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2020a). Details of style and format were determined by Rubicon Archaeology Ltd.
- 2.3.10 The results of the archaeological work form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, prepared in accordance with the CIfA *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2020b), *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage* (UKIC, 1990), *Standards and Guidance in the Care of Archaeological Collections* (Society for Museum Archaeology, 2020) and *Archaeological Archives: a best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown, 2007), as well as current Historic England guidelines (HE 2015b). It has been compiled in line with ADS digital records.
- 2.3.11 The archive from the archaeological works will be deposited with Gwynedd Museum Service when available.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE BASELINE

- 3.1.1 An Archaeological and Heritage Desk-based Assessment (DBA) was carried out by Tetra Tech on behalf of Net Zero Twenty Six Limited. The following has been summarised from the DBA (Tetra Tech, 2025):
- 3.1.2 There are no designated heritage assets within the site.
- 3.1.3 The proposed development site lies within the non-statutory designated Dinorwig Registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest.
- 3.1.4 The line of two Roman roads between Canovium (Caerhun) and Segontium (Caernarfon), cross the site from southwest to northeast (Figure 1), one a projected line and the latter known from cropmarks. Substantial remains of the latter road were found during an evaluation in connection with a National Grid Dinorwig-Pentir upgrade project.
- 3.1.5 There is a Roman quarry north of the site, which could be associated with sourcing stone for the roads, and further undated quarry pits to the north and east.
- 3.1.6 There is a prehistoric hut circle settlement 0.6km to the south-west of the site and an undated pillow mound is recorded 0.56km north of the site.
- 3.1.7 A letter from the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Heneb in response to the planning application (Ref. 0508je/D3991.01 8 May 2025) mentions archaeological assessment and evaluation in connection with the National Grid Dinorwig-Pentir upgrade project. No copy of the Dinorwig-Pentir reports are yet publicly available. A forthcoming report by Brython Archaeology on a group of Bronze Age burnt mounds a short distance to the south was also mentioned in the letter but is also not yet available.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Twenty-seven trenches were excavated across the site between 28th July and 8th August 2025 (Figure 2, Appendix II). All trenches were excavated largely within the planned footprint with only occasional minor alterations to avoid trees etc. At the time of the works, the site was utilised as 'rough pasture' with some parts overgrown. The ground was generally dry, although there was evidence to suggest this was not always the case. Conditions were dry and mostly overcast with light rain on one day only. The poorly preserved remains of a Roman Road were encountered in a single trench (Trench 26), otherwise no archaeology was found.

4.2 Deposit sequence

- 4.2.1 The general site wide deposit sequence consisted of topsoil directly overlaying the natural, with only one exception in Trench 27 (see below).
- 4.2.2 The topsoil across the site as a whole comprised c.0.3m thick dark brown silty clay, frequently with a very high humic content and contained/overlay very frequent small to very large boulders, no finds were recovered. The underlaying natural comprised predominantly mid yellow clay with very common small to very large boulders, occasional black mineralised areas and variable sand and/or gravel inclusions were also present. Gleying of the natural deposits was evident in some trenches, indicative of a normally very wet environment.
- 4.2.3 No evidence of modern agricultural disturbance (land drain, plough marks etc.) was encountered in any of the excavated trenches.

4.3 Trenches

Trench 26 (Plate 6)

- 4.3.1 Trench 26 contained the very poorly preserved remains of a Roman Road (Figure 4). This was evident only by a slight northeast-southwest linear 'bump' in the topography measuring approximately 7.2m in width, although the edges were practically imperceptible. The topsoil (2600) covering the road had a slightly higher proportion of gravel than the surrounding areas, otherwise there was no indication of a road surface. The only finds recovered were of post-medieval date and are described below.

Trench 27

- 4.3.2 Trench 27 had the only 'non-standard' deposit sequence as noted above. Overlaying the topsoil (2700) was a deposit of redeposited modern soil (2702) which had a maximum

thickness of 0.65m. this deposit contained various examples of modern material/finds including a broken 10m tape measure, miscellaneous plastic and tarmac. These finds were not retained.

4.4 Finds

Post-medieval Pottery by D. Gilbert

- 4.4.1 A small assemblage of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil (2600) of Trench 26. This comprised 16 sherds weighing a total of 61g. All were fragmented and abraded. The bulk of the assemblage consisted of 13 sherds of 19th -20th century refined whiteware weighing 37g. The remainder were two conjoining sherds of a late 19th century stoneware inkwell weighing 19g, and a sherd of refined red earthenware with an internal brown glaze weighing 5g, again of a similar date. The sherds were washed, quantified, identified, and discarded.

5. DISCUSSION

- 5.1.1 Excavation of the twenty-seven evaluation trenches revealed little evidence for human activity across the site as a whole. Indeed, with the exception of the poorly preserved remains of a Roman Road encountered in Trench 26 there was essentially zero evidence of human interaction, with not even land drains or plough scars present to indicate the site had ever been utilised for arable agriculture. This inferred lack of agriculture was likely a major factor in the preservation of the Roman Road in the landscape. An examination of freely available satellite images or lidar data shows that in the presumably higher quality land to the northeast and southwest, the line of the road in the landscape is soon lost.
- 5.1.2 Looking at old OS maps it is clear that the section of the Roman Road present within the site and the immediate area was incorporated into the nearby (immediately northeast) Ty'n-Llwyn landowner's access and was clearly still in use at least into the late 19th century (Figure 3). Conversely to the lack of arable agriculture noted above this usage likely explains the poor preservation evident at the time of the present works.

6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

6.1 Known Heritage Resource

- 6.1.1 There are no designated heritage assets within the proposed development site.
- 6.1.2 The remains of a Roman Road were encountered in a single trench, previously identified by crop marks and a prior Archaeological Evaluation in connection with a National Grid Dionorwig-Pentir upgrade project.

6.2 Potential Archaeological Resource and Significance

- 6.2.1 The results of this evaluation indicate that overall, the site generally speaking, has a low potential for significant archaeological remains. The Roman Road is however clearly an exception to this statement and suitable mitigation should be put in place with respect to it.

7. REFERENCES

- Brown, D. H. 2007. *Archaeological Archives; a best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives' Forum
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). 2023a. *Standard for Archaeological Field Evaluation*
- CIfA. 2023b. *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*
- CIfA. 2020a. *Standards and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*
- CIfA. 2020b. *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*
- HE. 2015a. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide*
- HE. 2015b. *Digital Image Capture and File Storage. Guidelines for Best Practice*
- Richards, J. C., Richards, J., and Robinson, D., (Eds), 2000, '*Digital Archives from Excavation and Fieldwork: Guide to Good Practice (Second Edition)*', Archaeology Data Service
- Rubicon Archaeology. 2025. Tyddyn Forgan, Caenarfon, LL55 3AN, Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation
- Society for Museum Archaeology. 2020. *Standards and Guidance in the Care of Archaeological Collections*.
- Tetra Tech, 2025 Tyddyn Forgan, Gwynedd, Wales 784-B068934 Archaeological and Heritage Desk-Based Assessment
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC), 1990, *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage*

Web Sources

- British Geological Survey materials © UKRI. 2022. Geology of Britain 3D map viewer
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain3d/> (accessed February 2025)

APPENDIX I**ARCHIVE STATEMENT**

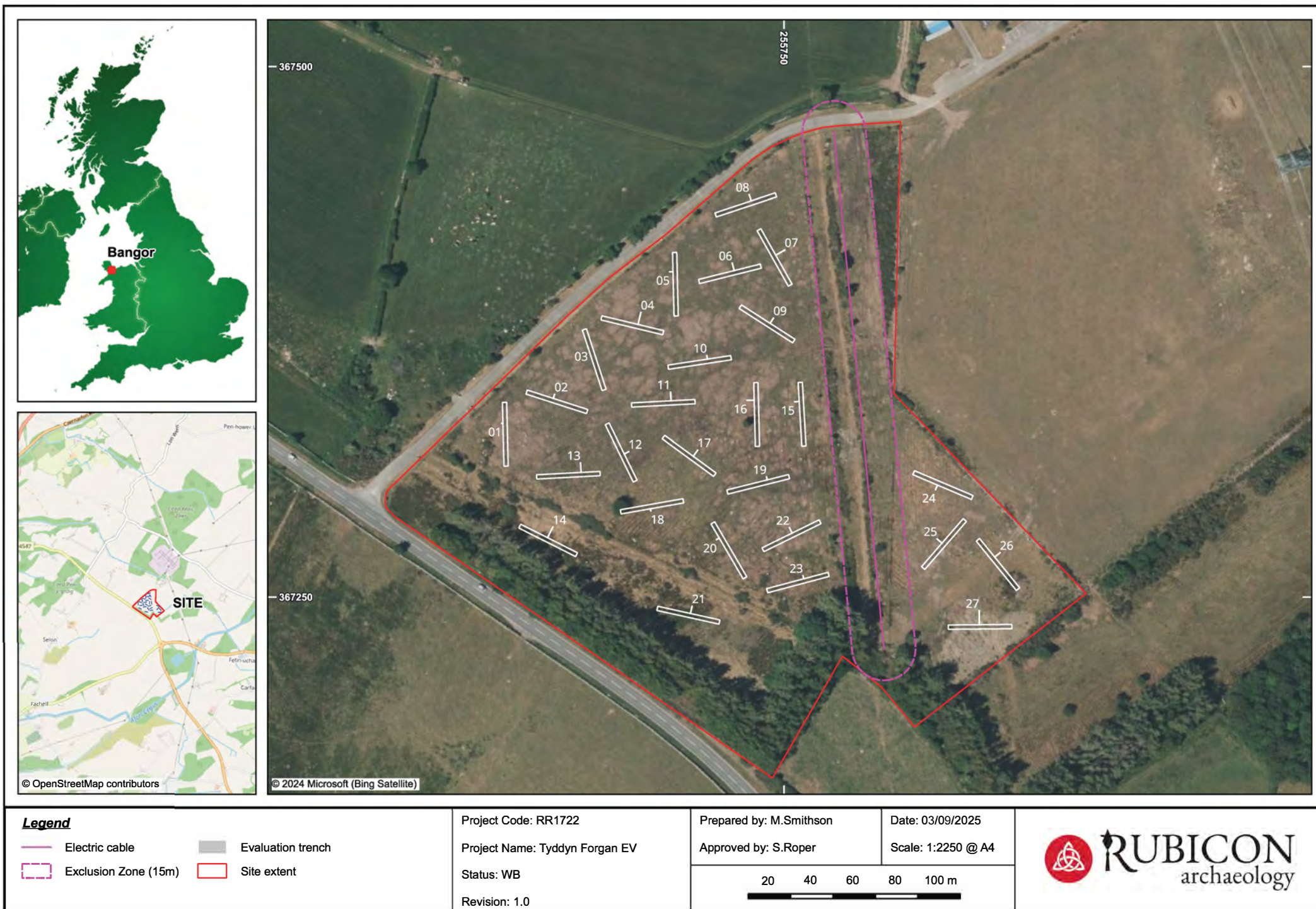
The site archive is comprised of the following materials:

Item
Trenching and field recording sheets, annotated site plan and drawing sheets
GPS Plans (Digital data)
Digital Photographs (JPG files)
Registers (drawings, photographs)

The archive is currently stored by Rubicon Archaeology Ltd. at their Cardiff Office, Unit K7, Capital Business Park, The Levels, Cardiff, and will subsequently be deposited with Gwynedd Museum Service.

APPENDIX II TRENCH SUMMARY

Trench No.	Excavated Length (m)	Average Depth (m)	Archaeology	Notes
1	32.3	0.3	None	
2	33	0.3	None	
3	31.6	0.3	None	
4	32.5	0.3	None	
5	33.4	0.3	None	
6	31.6	0.3	None	
7	31	0.3	None	
8	31.4	0.3	None	
9	31.1	0.3	None	
10	32.7	0.3	None	
11	31.1	0.3	None	
12	32	0.3	None	
13	32.6	0.3	None	
14	30.7	0.3	None	
15	33.1	0.3	None	
16	31.2	0.3	None	
17	31.7	0.3	None	
18	29.6	0.3	None	
19	30.5	0.3	None	
20	31.5	0.3	None	
21	32.9	0.25	None	
22	30.2	0.3	None	
23	32.2	0.3	None	
24	31.5	0.3	None	
25	31.9	0.3	None	
26	31.9	0.3	Roman Road	Very poorly preserved, only survived as a minor topographic feature and a slightly denser concentration of gravel in topsoil
27	31.4	0.95 (max)	None	Modern redeposited soil containing plastic, tarmac etc present above topsoil



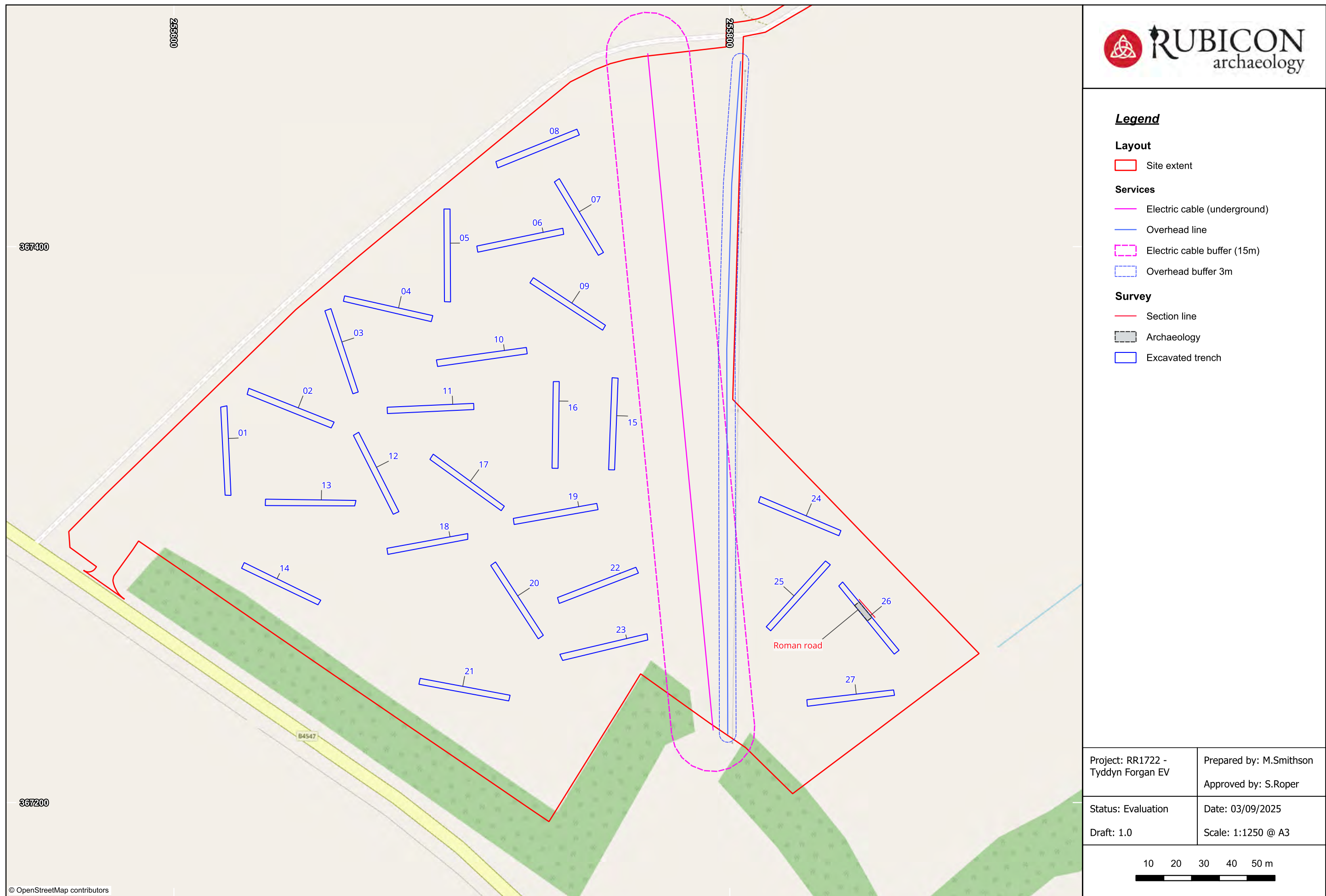


Figure 2 - Site overview with archaeology labelled

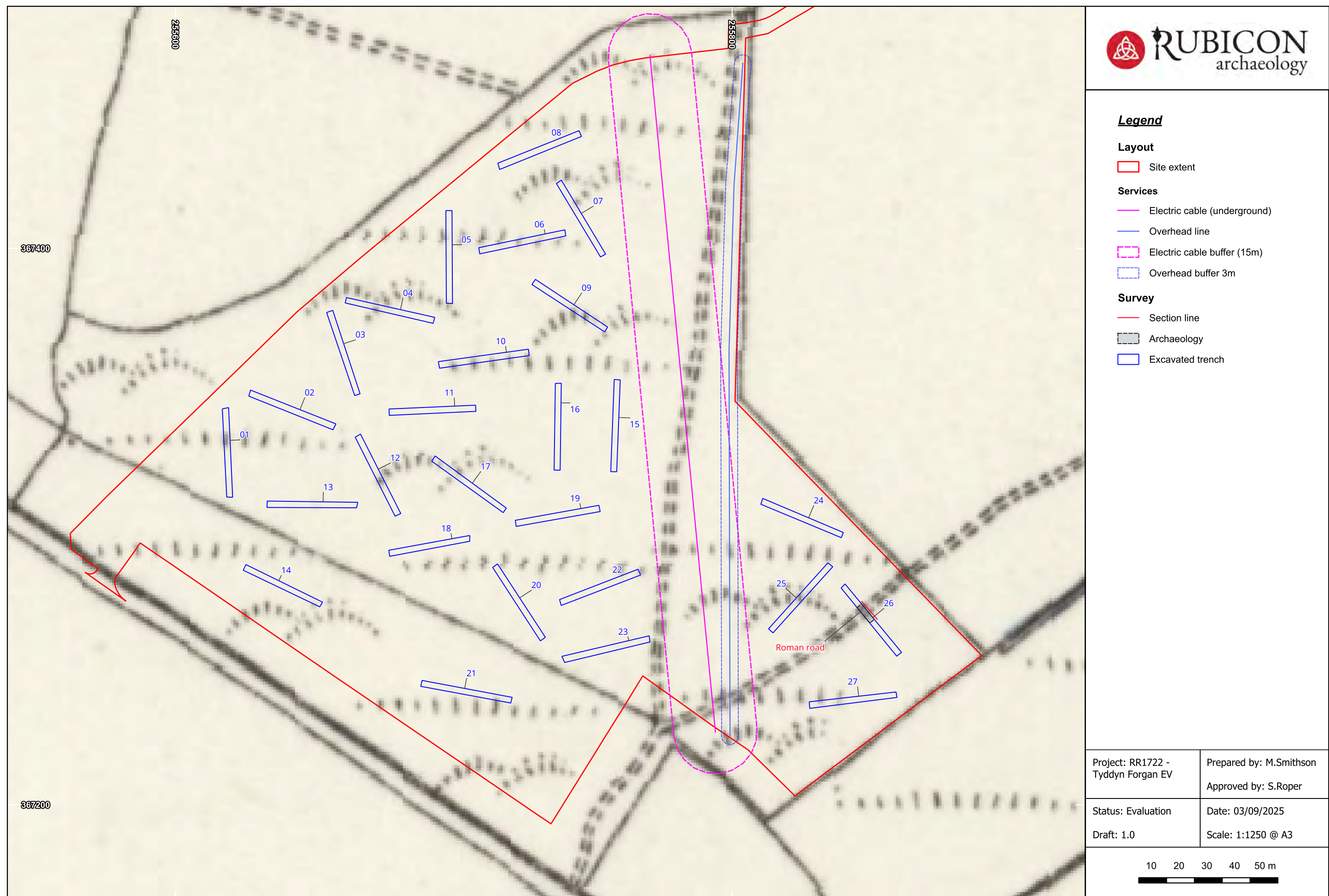


Figure 3 - Site overview with archaeology labelled on OS background. Caernarvonshire Sheet XI.NE. Surveyed: 1888, Published: 1888. 6 inch scale.
Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland

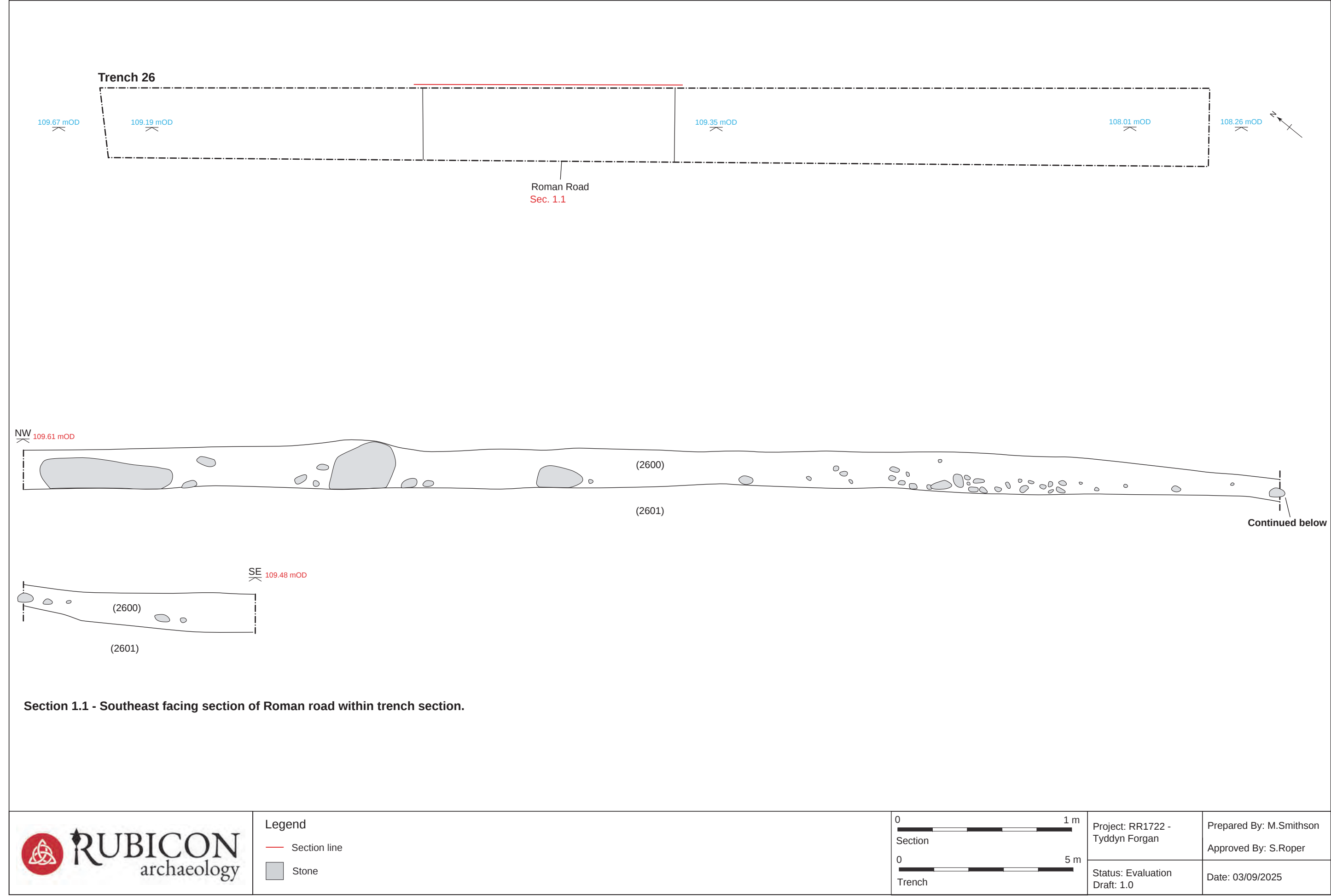


Figure 4 - Plan of Trench 26 with associated section



Plate 01 - Trench 5 overview facing south



Plate 02 - Trench 13 overview facing east



Plate 03 - Trench 18 overview facing east



Plate 04 - Trench 21 overview facing east



Plate 05 - Trench 27 overview facing east



Plate 06 - Trench 26 southwest facing section showing Roman road