

Proposed reconfiguration of the Anglesey Circuit

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CPAT Report No 426

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Proposed reconfiguration of the Anglesey Circuit

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND DESK-TOP STUDY

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Report for Bodorgan Properties Ltd

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PROPOSED RECONFIGURATION OF THE ANGLESEY CIRCUIT:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND DESK-TOP STUDY

SUMMARY

The development area has undoubtedly seen many centuries of agrarian activity, perhaps stretching back into the prehistoric era, but the imposition of an army camp in the Second World War had a more fundamental impact than anything that had gone before. The remains of the Camp represent the most visible landscape element even though most traces have been removed. Earlier features of post-medieval date do survive including relics of an enclosed landscape which date from the beginning of the 19th century, while from an earlier time the medieval church of St Cwyfan, perhaps occupying an even earlier location, lies just outside the development area. In addition there may be further potentially significant buried features or artefacts which cannot be detected by any of the conventional methods used in the survey but might be revealed during site works.

No major archaeological sites have been recognised within the development area, but the setting of the church needs to be considered within the framework of the proposal, and an assessment of the landscape impact has also been conducted by Symonds Group Ltd. Identified features of known or potential archaeological significance which are likely to be affected by the proposed development are considered in the report and, where appropriate, mitigation measures are proposed.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Bodorgan Properties Ltd are proposing to reconfigure the layout of the Anglesey Circuit at Llangwyfan on the west side of the island of Anglesey. Due to the nature of the proposed development, the value of an Environmental Impact Assessment and a subsequent Environmental Statement has been highlighted, and this report addresses the archaeological and cultural heritage section of that Assessment.
- 1.2 In February 2001, the Contracts Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (hereafter "CPAT Contracting"), were invited to submit a tender for the assessment, based on a brief prepared by the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (brief no. D458; undated) for Bodorgan Properties Ltd. A tender and specification were prepared on 27 February 2001 and was accepted by Meyrick Estate Management Ltd, on behalf of Bodorgan Properties Ltd, on 28 February. The desk-top section of the assessment was carried out in March and April, but the fieldwork element of the study was delayed until the beginning of May because of access uncertainties related to the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak.

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The archaeological and landscape assessment of a proposed development such as the Anglesey Circuit (hereafter "the Circuit") will in normal circumstances follow a set of well-established procedures which in this instance are laid down in broad terms in the brief prepared by the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service.
- 2.2 The desk-top element of the assessment integrates evidence – documentary, cartographic and photographic (often in the form of aerial photography) – held in a range of archives and other repositories to create what might be termed a 'picture' of the archaeology and historic landscape of the area for which the development is planned. The archives can range from those of national standing through to small local repositories and in the present assessment include estate maps that are still held by the client. A full list of the archives consulted can be found in Appendix 2.
- 2.3 The second stage is a fieldwork examination of the development area to identify, where possible, and to assess those features of archaeological and historic interest that were recorded during the desk-top work, and also to examine the landscape for other visible features that for one reason or another did not appear in any of the desk-top sources.
- 2.4 The third stage – the report – draws on the desk-top study and the field survey and also suggests mitigation measures to reduce or negate the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource and, where appropriate, to lessen its effect on the setting of archaeological and historic monuments that lie close to its boundaries.
- 2.5 All of these stages have been followed during the current assessment and fieldwork was undertaken over the whole of the proposed development area where earth-moving and other engineering operations are likely to take place. Two pasture fields on the north-western periphery of the development area had stock on them and, as at the time of the fieldwork visit in May there was considerable concern over the Foot and Mouth outbreak, the writers were disinclined to enter them, particularly as they were not in the ownership of the client. A visual assessment indicated that the fields contained some low earthworks, almost certainly of military origin.
- 2.6 It should also be noted that since the first draft of the archaeological report was prepared the application area has evolved to take in ground to the west and north of the old army installations which lie on the western periphery of the area which is proposed to be

physically developed. No assessment of this area has been conducted and the old military installations fall outside the development area.

3 LOCATION and TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The existing Circuit (centred at SH 331688) and the area for assessment (see Fig 1) occupy a broad headland projecting slightly from the south-western coastal edge of Anglesey, a little over 2km to the west of the historically important village of Aberffraw and 16km to the south-east of Holyhead. Formerly much of the area was covered by the Ty Croes Camp (but “Ty-croes” on modern Ordnance Survey maps and hereafter “the Military Camp”), traces of which remain.
- 3.2 The assessment area extends over undulating yet flattish land, much of it between 20m and 40m above sea level (see Figure 6 which is based on a map provided by Symonds Group Ltd of Altrincham, Cheshire who act on behalf of Bodorgan Properties Ltd). The assessment area is edged by: i) the coast cliffs on the south and on part of the west; and ii) by a track and enclosed farmland on the east. A small group of houses and the surviving remains of the Military Camp lie immediately to the north. The assessment area can be broken down into a number of separate landscape elements, discussed here individually because of their differing significance in understanding the past history of the site.
- 3.3 At the centre is the present Circuit, occupying on the north fairly level ground and further south, a slope that fades gently to the south-east where the circuit paddock occupies a rectangular and levelled patch of ground with several associated buildings on its edge. The Circuit occupies much of what was the Military Camp, particularly its accommodation zone; and the Circuit paddock is the former camp parade ground.
- 3.4 East of the Circuit is a flattish tract of rough grassland through which the access road runs. South of this are three rectilinear pasture fields that have seen heavy improvement and cultivation over the years. These have a slightly domed appearance and are edged by a track on the east and a rocky ridge running approximately east-north-east/west-south-west on the south. The ridge forms a cliff overlooking the bay containing Llangwyfan church.
- 3.5 Between the Circuit and the sea, on the south side of the assessment area, is a relatively small, developed tract of ground, occupied by a modern industrial building used as a store and motor racing school, the shell of a military building, a large, sunken, concrete tyre store (formerly a munitions store) and various access roads.
- 3.6 Edging the coastline on the west of the assessment area is a narrow but gently rising strip of coastal heath which is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI; see Figs 6a & 6b) and inland from this is a broader band of ground which has been much disturbed by past military activity, ground-level traces of which remain, and by earth-moving associated with the Circuit operations. North of these landscapes is a fenced off but abandoned portion of the Military Camp. This falls outside the development area and is not owned by Bodorgan Properties Limited.

4 THE SITE: HISTORY, ARCHAEOLOGY and LANDSCAPE (Figs 1 and 5)

4.1 *Prehistoric period*

- 4.1.1 Nothing is known of the prehistoric utilisation of this headland. On an adjacent headland no more than 2km to the north lies the Neolithic chambered cairn of Barclodiad y Gawres (PRN 3032: SH 3289 7072), and there were promontory forts, putatively of later prehistoric origin, at Porth Trecastell (PRN 3037; SH 3324 7059) near the chambered cairn and further south near Dinas-lwyd (SH 3695 6507). Further evidence of activity during this period is provided

by the Mesolithic site (PRN 5055) and round cairn (PRN 3003) at Trwyn Du, Aberffraw (SH 353 679). A lump of rock (PRN 3493: SH 3296 6932) discovered on the Military Camp was originally considered to be an arrow-sharpening stone, but this has subsequently been re-evaluated and the marks on its surface are now considered to be of glacial origin.

4.1.2 The apparent absence of prehistoric features and finds in the development area should not be taken as a definitive indication that the Ty Croes headland never witnessed any prehistoric activity. It is likely that the coastal fringe of Anglesey will have been visited and perhaps settled, if intermittently, throughout prehistory, as the survival of the sites on adjacent parts of the coast listed above clearly indicates. It is quite likely that some prehistoric material survives below the ground surface within the development area, even though all surface traces have now disappeared.

4.2 **Roman period**

4.2.1 There is no evidence of Roman activity in the immediate vicinity of the proposal. It has previously been suggested that a Roman fort underlies the village of Aberffraw (see discussion in Johnstone 1997, 63), which was then re-used in the post-Roman period, but recent work within the settlement has not substantiated this argument.

4.3 **Early Medieval period**

4.3.1 The proposal area is only some 2km from Aberffraw, which is the site of one of the Royal Courts of Gwynedd: the court was probably established early in the history of the kingdom of Gwynedd and was certainly in existence from AD 968, when it was subject to a Viking raid (Johnstone 2000, 172).

4.3.2 There is no direct evidence for early medieval occupation within the proposal area, or its immediate vicinity. The church of St Cwyfan (PRN 7020), set on its small islet, might conceivably have early medieval origins, but the earliest elements of the single-cell building are believed to date from the 12th century (Davidson 2000, 180).

4.4 **Medieval period**

4.4.1 Llangwyfan parish, in which the proposed development falls, appears to have been in large part coincident with Rhosmor township, and the greater part of the parish is named as Rhosmor Township on Lewis Morris' survey of the Bodorgan Estate, dated between 1724 and 1727 (*UW Bangor B 1579*: Fig 2). A larger scale version of this survey (Plate 1) is held by the Bodorgan Estate.

4.4.2 The medieval background of Rhosmor indicates that it fell within the commote of Malltraeth in the cantref of Aberffraw and was a "Tir gwelyog" township, though unusual in this respect in having an associated church (Carr 1982, 38n). Tir gwelyog refers to bond tenure of the land, passed through inheritance to male heirs, which imposed various restrictions on the tenants within the township. Tenants could not enter a trade or profession or marry without the consent of the lord, and owed dues and services in respect of their land (Longley 1999, 12). The last page of an account of leases, dated 1778, granted by O.P. Meyrick on his estates in Anglesey (*UW Bangor B 1589*) provides an insight into the way Rhosmor township was organised, and demonstrates the survival of at least one element associated with the Tir gwelyog system. It gives a list of services which are due to the tenant of Llangwyfan demesne - now known as Llangwyfan-isaf - from eleven farms in Llangwyfan and four farms in Llanfaelog; the services were harrowing, reaping and carrying corn, and a maximum of four days, though more often one or two, were required from each farm per service.

4.4.3 Rhosmor township is not detailed by Longley (1999), whose work largely draws on sources relating to Crown and church land, and this suggests that it was privately owned in the 13th century. The inscription on the tympanum over a former door in Llangwyfan-isaf gives evidence that the demesne farm was owned by the Wood family, prior to its incorporation in

the Bodorgan Estate. The tympanum, dated 1589, has the initials 'OW MW'. These refer to Owen Wood and his wife Margaret. Owen Wood was a descendant of Richard de la Wood of Woodhall in Cheshire who is known to have possessed land in Anglesey in 1331 (Jones 1940, 46). The family was evidently one of some importance as John del Wode is one of three 15th-century Sheriffs of Anglesey named by Carr (1982, 78) and said by him to have originated in Cheshire. Owen Wood was the son of William de la Wood, from his marriage (by 1567) to a daughter of the long established Owen family of Bodeon (Jones 1940, 46), and it seems possible that Llangwyfan demesne and Rhosmor township came into the ownership of the Wood family through this connection.

4.4.4 Of the medieval landscape in the development area it is possible to say very little. Lewis Morris' maps (Fig 2 and Plate 1) depict a pattern of narrow fields at the northern end of the area which look to be the remnants of a medieval, sub-divided field system around Llangwyfan-isaf, perhaps properly enclosed by the beginning of the 18th century. Given the re-planning of the landscape later in the 18th or in the 19th century (see below), it should come as no surprise that nothing obvious of this medieval pattern remains. Only the slight scarp bank (Site no. 4) might belong to this period of agrarian activity, and in view of the absence of any sub-divided field traces in this area on Morris' map, this view is at best speculative.

4.4.5 St Cwyfan's church, as noted above, was certainly in existence in the 12th century, and also displays later, medieval additions, having a 16th-century roof and a 14th or 15th-century bell-cote. The spring known as Ffynnon Gwyfan (Site no. 8), in a narrow cove to the north of the church, and located just inside the development area is not intrinsically datable, but could have acquired its name in the medieval period or conceivably even earlier.

4.5 *Post-medieval period*

4.5.1 The Wood family remained the landowners throughout the 17th century. Skinner writing in 1802 (published as Skinner 1908), commented on a memorial of 1602 to a Mr Woode in St Cwyfan's church and he also passed "a large mansion house the former habitation of this Mr Woode but now rented of Mr Meyrick by a farmer". A drawing (No 32) in Skinner's journal demonstrates that this was Llangwyfan-isaf. Letters from a descendent, Owen Wood, are included in the Baron Hill MSS at Bangor, and descriptive comment added to the volume notes that he had been the High Sheriff of Anglesey during the Commonwealth period (1649-1660), despite having sheltered at Rhosmor a relative who had been an opponent of the Puritan powers. His son Howel had been admitted to St John's College, Cambridge as a Sizar (student who waits at table in return for the payment of some fees) in 1634 (Wilson-Reid 1949, 274). The lands of the Wood family eventually passed to the Bold family following the marriage of William Bold to Florence Wood, who had inherited the estate as a result of her brothers Richard and Thomas having died without issue (Barnes 1982, 49n). On the death of Owen Bold, the last male member of the Bold family, in 1703, the lands passed to Owen Meyrick of Bodorgan (Meyrick & Roberts, n.d.).

4.5.2 Llangwyfan demesne was originally of considerable size (calculated as 503 acres, or over one third of the township, in 1724-7) and this led to the suggestion in the 1774 Survey and Valuation of Bodorgan Estate (*UW Bangor B 1581*) that the land should be separated into two farms. The land tax assessments for Llangwyfan (*Llangefni WQT/54/16 & 17*) demonstrate that this division of the demesne land into two tenanted farms was carried out between 1806 and 1809.

4.5.3 The smaller of the two estate maps prepared by Lewis Morris, that in the University of Wales Bangor (Fig. 2), is annotated with a pattern of enclosure fields comparable to that present in the late 19th and early 20th centuries (see Fig 4), imposed on the earlier layout of narrow fields referred to above (para 4.4.4). It seems likely that this change in the field pattern occurred at the time of the division of the demesne land. By the time of a Particular and Valuation of the Bodorgan Estate carried out in 1812 (*UW Bangor B 1585*), Llangwyfan

demesne was apparently divided into three parts. The Tithe map of 1839 only defines the extent of Llangwyfan-isaf and Llangwyfan-ucha (probably the house subsequently known as 'Hen-dy') and evidently these holdings were the results of the division of the demesne land. Remnants of these early 19th-century fields survive in the south-east corner of the development area, and are probably also represented by the bank (Site no 12) at the western extremity of the proposal area, which appears to be depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey map.

- 4.5.4 Llangwyfan-isaf lies immediately to the north-east of the former military camp, a Grade II Listed Building retaining some features including a doorway and a window that are 16th-century in origin (see RCAHMW 1937, 97 for a fuller description). The second dwelling, Hen-dy, a little further away, is not known to have any features of architectural interest.

4.6 *Modern period*

- 4.6.1 The Llangwyfan-isaf farmholding was evidently used for agricultural purposes from 1840 up to 1922 when the 3rd edition of the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 maps was produced. There is no material difference between the features depicted in the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 maps of 1889 and those of 1922. The 1:10,560 first edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig 4) depicts all the features present on the larger scale maps.
- 4.6.2 An army camp was apparently established at Ty Croes by the Royal Artillery on farmland beside Llangwyfan-isaf at the beginning of the Second World War (the first of a series of conveyances in the Bodorgan archives is dated 2 July 1940). No evidence has been encountered which provides a specific date for the foundation and indeed despite consultation with various specialist and official bodies it has been impossible to determine more than the a bare outline of the subsequent history of the site. Certainly as far as we can establish no detailed history of the Military Camp has been compiled and no detailed plans have been identified in the archives consulted, though these might in military repositories or perhaps in the Public Record Office.
- 4.6.3 The Military Camp is spread over a large portion of the development area, and the vertical aerial photographs of 1940 show that its northern perimeter was protected by minefields. During the Second World War it developed as the Equipment Wing of the School of Artillery, and would have arranged, supervised and reported upon user trials of all new artillery weapons and equipment. It also functioned as a practice range for anti-aircraft gunnery on pilot-less target planes sent up from the Bodorgan Airfield (Sloan 1995, 60).
- 4.6.4 After the war the Military Camp continued in use and, indeed, expanded. In 1953 the Equipment Wing, now designated as the Trials Establishment, RA, was joined by the Joint Guided Weapons Trials Unit and became a largely RAF establishment. Around 1971/72 the site became RAF Ty Croes, a sub-site of RAF Valley. The date of its final abandonment has not been ascertained.
- 4.6.5 A surviving portion of the Military Camp lies just beyond the north-western fringe of the development area, but is now fenced off and abandoned though with the buildings still standing (plate 18). It is not depicted on the 1975 Ordnance Survey map (Fig 5), but this cannot be taken as a guide to its date, as it appears that sensitive military installations were omitted from official mapping. The rest of the Military Camp has been levelled leaving some platforms and emplacements (see Site nos 6, 7 10, 11, 13 & 14).

5 ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE CIRCUIT AREA

- 5.1 The results from the documentary, cartographic and field surveys have been combined here to identify those features of potential archaeological significance which are depicted on Fig. 6a. It should be noted that upstanding military buildings are not included in the following list as they lie outside the development area.
- 5.2 Each site, whether identified through the desk-top study or through fieldwork, has been given a discrete and sequential 'Site No' which is used on any accompanying plans and also in the text descriptions. The remaining entries for each site are what are termed 'core data' and conform to specific database fields in the Welsh Archaeological Trusts' Sites and Monuments Records. The detailed requirements were laid out in the brief (no. D458) from the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service, but are largely self-explanatory.
- 5.3 The exception is the last entry for each site which has been classified according to its perceived significance in archaeological and historic landscape terms. The categories are those given in the *Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments Draft Archaeology and the Trunk Road Programme in Wales: a Manual of Best Practice*.

- Category A sites of National importance. It is presumed that sites in this category will be preserved and protected in situ.
- Category B sites of regional or county importance which are of particular importance within the region. Preservation in situ is the preferred option for these sites, but if loss or damage is unavoidable, appropriate detailed recording should be undertaken.
- Category C sites of district or local importance which are not of sufficient importance to justify preservation if threatened, but which merit adequate recording in advance of loss or damage.
- Category D minor and damaged sites which do not merit inclusion in a higher category, and for which rapid recording should be sufficient.
- Category E sites whose importance could not be fully determined as a result of the assessment and may warrant further evaluation.

5.4 Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites

Site No: Existing site (Plates 3 & 4, see also Plate 2)

PRN 7020	Name: Llangwyfan Church	NGR: SH33606828
Type: Church	Period: Medieval	Form: Building
Source:	Condition: Intact	
Regional SMR		
Skinner, Rev J, 1908, 'Ten days' tour through Anglesey (1802)', <i>Archaeologia Cambrensis Supplement</i> , London		

Dimensions: Not recorded

Description: Listed building. Rectangular church, 200m south-east of the proposal area, sited on a rocky promontory cut off by high tides. Churchyard now encircled by a retaining wall to prevent erosion. Originally built in the 12th century, though this original church was subsequently modified in the 14th and 16th centuries. The early 16th-century north aisle (see Skinner's Fig 31 for a depiction of the arcade) was removed in the 19th century and the church was then restored in 1893-4. Roof is probably of the 16th century with later repairs; west wall has a 14th or 15th-century bell-cote. Interior was reputed to have had a monument with an epitaph to

William Wood, dated 1602, (See Skinners "Ten days tour through Anglesey") though the interior was not examined and this monument is not mentioned in the listing.

Category: A

Site No: 1 (Plate 5)

PRN 15151

Name: Paddock building platform

NGR: SH33376865

Type: Platform

Period: Modern

Form: Structure

Condition: Damaged

Source: OS modern 1:10,000 edition 1975 (Fig 2)

Field survey

Dimensions: c.27m long x 5m wide x 0.2m high

Description: Concrete platform for building of unknown function shown on 1975 Ordnance Survey map.

Category: D

Site No: 2 (Plate 6)

PRN 15152

Name: Ty Croes field boundaries I

NGR: SH33416869

Type: Field boundary

Period: Post medieval

Form: Earthwork

Condition: Intact

Source: Estate map 1840-50

OS 1st edition 1889 (Fig 3)

Field survey

Dimensions: Variable; heights over 1m.

Description: Three surviving fields in south-east corner of circuit area, defined by stone-faced earthen-cored banks. North field (centred at SH33456885) has such banks on all sides; South field (centred at SH33506860) has such banks on two sides and part of a third. South-west field (centred at SH33306860) has a bank on one side only. See also Site no.3 below.

Category: C

Site No: 3 (Plate 7)

PRN 15153

Name: Ty Croes field entrance

NGR: SH33386870

Type: Gateway

Period: Post medieval

Form: Structure

Condition: Intact

Source: Field survey

Dimensions: 2.8m wide; posts 1m wide x 1.7m high

Description: Field entrance, now blocked, defined by a pair of massive cylindrical stone gateposts. A second field entrance at the northern end of the same field (SH33336889) lacks the posts but looks to have been blocked in two stages and incorporates an orthostat.

Category: C

Site No: 4

PRN 15154

Name: Ty Croes lynchet

NGR: SH33436878

Type: Lynchet

Period: Medieval ?

Form: Earthwork

Condition: Damaged

Source: Field survey

Dimensions: length uncertain; height <0.3m

Description: Slight scarp bank or lynchet running roughly parallel to field boundary to west. Visible only from a distance.

Category: D

Site No: 5 (Plate 8; See also Plate 2)

PRN 15155 **Name:** Llangwyfan marble quarry **NGR:** SH33396843
Type: Quarry **Period:** Post medieval **Form:** Structure **Condition:** Intact
Source: Estate Map 1724-7 (Plate 2)
 Field survey
Dimensions: 21m long x 4m wide
Description: Cleft in rock where stone has been removed. Some marble traces still visible in base of quarry.
Category: C

Site No: 6 (Plate 9)

PRN 15156 **Name:** Llangwyfan military emplacement I **NGR:** SH33396840
Type: Platform **Period:** Modern **Form:** Structure **Condition:** Damaged
Source: Field survey
Dimensions: i) 1m square. ii) 1.5m square
Description: Two concrete emplacements for military equipment, possibly a flagpole or mast; metal plates or bolts protruding.
Category: D

Site No: 7 (Plate 10)

PRN 15157 **Name:** Llangwyfan military emplacement II **NGR:** SH33396839
Type: Structure **Period:** Modern **Form:** Structure **Condition:** Damaged
Source: Field survey
Dimensions: 3.6m by 2.8m x 0.3m
Description: Foundations of a stone and concrete structure, D-shaped. Adjacent three conical concrete stays with bolts protruding, possibly for a flagpole or mast.
Category: D

Site No: 8 (Plate 11; see also Plate 2)

PRN 15158 **Name:** Ffynnon Gwyfan **NGR:** SH33366845
Type: Well **Period:** Medieval ? **Form:** Landform **Condition:** Damaged
Source: Estate Map 1724-7 (Plate 2)
 Field survey
Description: Site of well on Lewis Morris' larger map; water still runs down the rocks from a spring; some metal piping.
Category: C

Site No: 9

PRN 15159 **Name:** Llangwyfan building I **NGR:** SH33396845
Type: Structure **Period:** Post medieval ? **Form:** Document **Condition:** Destroyed
Source: Estate Map 1724-7 (Fig 5)
Description: Site of building depicted on smaller of Lewis Morris' estate maps. No trace remains to indicate site or function. A heap of stone near the putative spot looks to be field clearance material. This may be contemporary with the later revisions to the small scale Lewis Morris map, and accordingly be of later 18th or 19th-century date.
Category: E

Site No: 10 (Plate 12)

PRN 15160 **Name:** Ty Croes military building I **NGR:** SH33266845
Type: Building **Period:** Modern **Form:** Building **Condition:** Intact

Source: Circuit development map
Field survey
Dimensions: 26m x 10m
Description: Brick building with flat roof, aligned north-west/south-east, partially open on south-east side. Internally a transporter crane runs on metal rails that lie along the side walls. Equipment in situ. Classed as a MoD store. 30m to the west a rock outcrop is surmounted by a concrete plinth of military origin, about 8m by 6.5m.
Category: D

Site No: 11 (Plates 13-17)

PRN 15161 **Name:** Ty Croes military emplacements **NGR:** SH329686(centred)
Type: Emplacements **Period:** Modern **Form:** Structure **Condition:** Damaged
Source: Field survey
Dimensions: Not applicable
Description: Much disturbed area lying to the west of the Circuit contains numerous foundations and emplacements, some probably for guns (and possibly one or more launch platforms for Thunderbird rockets¹), and some, perhaps many, in existence during war years. They include a raised earthwork with hollowed interior and concrete flooring this at SH32956856; brick and tarmac foundations at SH32856867; two closely-set circular gun emplacements set within square stands at SH32816871 and SH32826870; a square concrete platform (SH32846888) approached by a narrow gauge railway line 0.65m wide and c.58m long, the rails still in position and disappearing into the camp outside the development area; large concrete platforms at SH32946887 and SH32936884; another platform about 6m long and 2.5m wide with metal rails and adjacent a small platform with the stumps of wooden uprights projecting at SH32946881; a bunker-like feature, 5m long, at SH32956880; two large rectangular concrete platforms over 14m long by 8m wide at SH33026882 and SH33016883; and another exceptionally large hard standing at SH33016886.
Category: D

Site No: 12 (Plate 19)

PRN 15162 **Name:** Ty Croes field boundary II **NGR:** SH32816859
Type: Boundary **Period:** Post medieval? **Form:** Earthwork **Condition:** Intact
Source: Field survey
OS first edition 1889 (Fig 3) ?
Dimensions: 3m wide by 0.5m high
Description: Earthen boundary bank with shallow scooped ditch to north, running up slope from coastal edge at SH32826864 to SH32796853. Once above the coastal heath it is lost amongst the 20th-century earthworks.
Category: D

Site No: 13 (Plate 20)

PRN 15163 **Name:** Ty Croes earthworks **NGR:** SH32746868
Type: Earthworks **Period:** Modern? **Form:** Earthwork **Condition:** Damaged
Source: Field survey
Dimensions: i) 5m by 4m; ii) 4m by 3.5m
Description: On the strip of coastal heath are several small hollows or scoops. i) at SH32746868 is rectangular and looks to be relatively recent in date; ii) at

¹ We have been told by Mr M Parry (RCAHMW) that the Thunderbird rocket was developed at the Ty Croes Military Camp.

SH32746870 is almost D-shaped. They could represent the sites of look-out huts relating to gunnery, but could conceivably be of earlier date.

Category: E

Site No: 14 (Plate 21)

PRN 15164

Name: military building II

NGR: SH33116910

Type: Building

Period: Modern

Form: Structure

Condition: Damaged

Source: Field survey

Dimensions: 5m long by 1.2m high

Description: Fragmentary remains of building in form of stone and brick wall, just inside present fence line. Mounds of spoil around.

Category: D

6 EVALUATION OF IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MITIGATION

6.1 The brief prepared by the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service requires the contractor to evaluate the impact of the proposals on the cultural heritage and to make recommendations for possible mitigation or for any further work. Table 1 indicates the potential impact of the development on the various features identified in as far as the impact can be assessed. It should be stressed that the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service in their capacity as archaeological curator for the region may also wish to make their own assessment of the impact of the development and that their views may differ from what is expressed here.

6.2 The presence of the existing Circuit needs to be taken into account when evaluating any potential impacts on the cultural heritage. We consider that the existing Circuit has already had an impact on the setting of the archaeological sites on and beyond the headland, and that its presence lessens the significance of the impact of the new proposal.

6.3 *The church*

6.3.1 No archaeological or historic landscape features of national or regional importance (Categories A or B) have been identified within the Circuit development area, but St Cwyfan's church lies immediately to the south. It occupies a rocky peninsula 200m to the south of the headland on which the Circuit is located and is separated from it by coastal outcrops and a sandy beach to which the track, running along the eastern side of the development area, leads. The Circuit does not have a physical impact on Llangwyfan church but its proximity does require consideration of the visual impact on this historic structure.

6.3.2 In respect of the impact of the proposal on the church and its setting, reference may be made to paragraph 10 of Welsh Office Circular 60/96², which is clarified and expanded in paragraph 17 of the same Circular³. In short, the effect of these two paragraphs is to clarify that in respect of an ancient monument, whether scheduled or unscheduled, there should be a presumption against proposals which would have a significant impact on its setting. Llangwyfan church is a listed building rather than a scheduled ancient monument, but we believe that there is much justification in considering its setting.

6.3.3 Accordingly, and given that this is a remote and scenically beautiful location, any further harmful intrusions on the setting of the church should be avoided. However, it must also be born in mind that developments on the headland have already had an adverse impact visually for the past sixty years.

6.3.4 It is our opinion based only on a visual inspection that there are no obvious mitigation measures that could entirely eliminate every visual intrusion of the proposed reconfigured Circuit on the church. We understand, however, that Bodorgan Properties Ltd do intend to reduce the visual impact of the Circuit on the landscape and the church (see paragraph 6.3.7, below).

6.3.5 Parts of the present Circuit are currently visible from the island on which the church stands. From a distance at such vantage points as the narrow road that leads down to Porth Cwyfan (SH33956815) from Aberffraw, south-east of the church, rather more is visible as a distant backdrop to the church (see Plate 4).

² Paragraph 10 makes reference to "*The desirability of preserving an ancient monument and its setting...whether that monument is scheduled or unscheduled*"

³ Paragraph 17 clarifies that "preservation" is preservation against proposals which would have a significant impact: "*Where nationally important archaeological remains whether scheduled or not, and their settings, are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation in situ i.e., a presumption against proposals which would...have a significant impact on the setting of visible remains.*"

6.3.6 We understand that some of the western part of the proposed reconfigured Circuit will be visible from the western end of the island on which the church stands but not from the church itself.

6.3.7 We also understand that the development proposals include mitigation measures to reduce the existing impact and to limit the additional impact of the proposed reconfigured Circuit in as far as this is possible. Included in the proposal is the construction of landscaped bunding to link the rocky ridges that rise intermittently along the southern edge of the headland (see figure 6b). This work, together with the replacement and removal from sight through a mitigation bund of the more visible part of the existing Circuit – the top straight which crosses the high point to the north-west of the start-finish straight/pit complex (see figure 6b) – can be claimed to balance any increased visibility of the western part of the proposed reconfigured Circuit. To provide maximum benefit, the proposed bunding should be designed to blend in with the natural landscape and we are assured that this is something which Bodorgan Properties Ltd intend to do.

6.3.8 One factor which may increase slightly the visibility of the Circuit from the church is the demolition of the defunct military building (Site no 10). This is a relatively recent, and unattractive, feature and its removal is to be welcomed. A second building, the Performance Driving Centre Building, does not form part of the proposal, though it does lie within the application area.

6.3.9 The shell of a small military installation on the southern edge of the headland near the proposed bund (and just outside the proposal area) also affects the visual setting of the church. Consideration should be given to its removal.

6.4 ***The church: conclusion***

On balance, we consider that the proposals to reconfigure the Circuit will have a limited additional impact on the setting of the church, and in our opinion this impact falls below the threshold of 'significant impact'.

6.5 ***Other features***

6.5.1 A range of archaeological and historical landscape features of local or minor importance remain (Categories C and D) and various mitigation measures can be suggested.

6.5.2 From the proposal map (see figures 6a & 6b), it seems that neither Ffynnon Gwyfan (Site no. 8) nor the marble quarry (Site no. 5) are directly affected by the proposals. This should be ensured by careful attention to these topographical features during any construction works, particularly the proposed bunding, that occur in their vicinity.

6.5.3 Two earthwork scoops (Site No 13) of uncertain function, though probably related to military activity, are present on the western side of the proposal area. It seems very unlikely that these features will be disturbed during the development since they fall within the area of the SSSI, but if any ground disturbance associated with the development is considered for this area, prior evaluation to determine their function and chronology must be implemented.

6.5.4 It appears that at least two of the traditional field boundaries (*cloddiau*; Site no. 2) will be removed in order to facilitate viewing and enhance safety around the new track, though wherever possible such boundaries should be preserved⁴. It is recommended that the blocked entrance with the cylindrical gateposts (Site no. 3) be retained unless there are

⁴ We understand that Bodorgan Properties Ltd will preserve *cloddiau* where possible. Where *cloddiau* preservation is not possible, we understand that Bodorgan Properties Ltd will seek to minimise the loss following discussions with the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (see figure 6b).

overriding reasons for its removal, and we are led to understand that Bodorgan Properties Ltd proposes to retain the cylindrical gateposts and unblock them so that they can once again be used for access purposes.

Table 1: Potential Impacts of the Proposal on the Cultural Heritage of the Development Area

Site No/ PRN	Category	Nature of impact	Likely magnitude of impact	Significance of any impact	Mitigation
PRN 7020	A	Indirect, visual impact	Minor	Moderate	para 6.3 - 6.4
1	D	Impact during construction works	Moderate?	Minor	None
2	C	Destruction in part	Major	Moderate	para 6.5.4
3	C	Possible destruction?	Major	Moderate	para 6.5.4
4	D	Destruction	Major	Minor	None
5	C	Impact during construction works	Minor	Moderate	para 6.5.2
6	D	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	None
7	D	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	None
8	C	Impact during construction works	Minor	Moderate	para 6.5.2
9	E	Impact during construction works	Minor	Minor	None
10	D	Demolition	Major	Minor	Record (para 6.5.5)
11	D	Destruction during construction works?	Major	Minor	Record (para 6.5.5)
12	D	Negligible	Negligible	Moderate	None
13	E	Negligible?	Negligible	Minor	para 6.5.3
14	D	Destruction during construction works?	Moderate	Minor	None

6.5.5 Foundations and platforms from the military exploitation of the site remain in place on the western side of the existing track (Site no.11), and there are other, sparser, remains on the south side of the Circuit, including the MoD store (Site no. 10) which is earmarked for demolition. We do not believe that these features require a high level of detailed recording, nor preservation, as it is our view that, in general, they are not of great intrinsic interest. However, we are also conscious that this view may not be shared by everyone and we

recommend that the developer consider the option of a limited recording programme prior to the commencement of on-site works, enabling preservation by record of the site. We do, however, single out what we assume to be circular gun emplacements and also the platform served by the railway (within Site no.11) and recommend that a full photographic record be made together with a somewhat fuller written record than we were able to undertake. We also recommend that the MoD store be recorded in similar fashion. In this regard, we understand that Bodorgan Properties Ltd intends to preserve the circular gun emplacement and, as far as is possible, the platform served by the railway (see figure 6b).

6.5.6 The remaining part of the Military Camp lies either outside the development area or beyond the north-western edge of the area that is intended to be physically developed. It is outside our brief, therefore, to make any recommendations on this matter.

6.5.7 Considerable earthmoving will occur along the course of the proposed reconfigured track layout. In some areas these works may well reveal further traces of military activity and there is the possibility too that material of earlier periods – e.g. prehistoric – might be identified. In our opinion, this is more most likely to occur in those reconfigured track sections which pass through:-

- the three fields to the east of the existing track currently in agricultural use; and
- the area to the south-west of the existing track layout.

6.5.8 Accordingly, a selective watching brief, to recover and record such features and material as are revealed, is recommended.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 The writers would like to thank the staff of the following repositories and also the named individuals for their help and assistance:

Anglesey Archives Service, Llangefni
Bodorgan Estate Archives
Countryside Council for Wales Maps Office, Bangor
Department of Manuscripts, University College of North Wales, Bangor
Ministry of Defence (Historical Branch), London
National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth
National Monument Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth
Regional SMR, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Bangor

Mr R Baillie, Land Agent, Defence Estates (Shrewsbury)
Mr W Foot, Defence of Britain Project (Duxford Cambridgeshire)
Mr M Parry, National Monument Record, RCAHMW (Aberystwyth)

8 REFERENCES

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Sloan, R, 1995, Anglesey airfields during the Second World War, *Transactions Anglesey Antiquarian Society*, 57-73

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APPENDIX 1

ANGLESEY MOTOR RACING CIRCUIT SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT BY CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The proposed development involves an extension to the existing motor racing circuit at Ty Croes, near Aberffraw, Anglesey. Bodorgan Properties Limited approached the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS) with regard to the preparation of an Environmental Assessment, and a desktop survey has been recommended, included a site visit, in order to determine the likely impact of the proposals on the archaeological and cultural heritage.
- 1.2 The existing racing circuit is located 1.2km west of Aberffraw, located partly on a former army base at Ty Croes Camp. The proposed extension will encompass an area to the north and south of the existing track. There are still numerous large army buildings present on the site and these may be utilised by the development. The area has been designated an AONB and an SSSI (Trwyn Ifan).
- 1.3 Known archaeological sites within the immediate area include Llangwyfan church and Llangwyfan Isaf, a multi-phase house with 16th century origins. The military structures are also considered of archaeological and historical significance and the assessment will consider the potential impact on these and the 'historic landscape' as a whole.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the evaluation are:
 - 2.1.1 to locate and describe all archaeological features within the development area by means of a combination of desk-based assessment and ground survey, in so far as these aims are possible;
 - 2.1.2 to prepare a report outlining the results of the assessment and incorporating sufficient information on the archaeological resource for a reasonable planning decision to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the area affected by the proposed development;
- 2.2 to consider the archaeology of the application area as a whole, including the wider local or regional context.

3 Methods

- 3.1 Stage one of the evaluation will involve the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, photographic, aerial photographic and oral sources. Repositories consulted will include the following: County SMR, GAT, Bangor; the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth; the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; County Records Office, Caernarfon; University College, Bangor.
- 3.2 All cartographic sources consulted will be included within the desktop section of the report, together with transcriptions of relevant documents and copies of plans, maps and photographs containing relevant information. Aerial photographs will be rectified as appropriate and the resulting plots included within the report.
- 3.3 Stage two will take the form of a rapid field survey of the entire development area in order to identify and record any features of archaeological significance.

- 3.4 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared according to the principles laid out in the Curatorial Brief (section 8). This will be in A4 format and contain conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Historic Background; Summary of Archaeological Sites; Conclusions and Recommendations and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives and finds. A gazetteer will be included of all sites identified.
- 3.5 The site archive will be prepared to specifications laid out in Appendix 3 in the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991). The archive will be deposited at an appropriate repository following consultation with the archaeological curator, within six months of the completion of the project.

4 Resources and Programming

- 4.1 Project staff (cv enclosed):
Bob Silvester, Head of Field Services, CPAT
Nigel Jones, Project Officer, CPAT
Wendy Owen, Senior Project Assistant, CPAT
- 4.2 Overall supervision will be by Mr RJ Silvester, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 4.3 All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologists who conducted the evaluation.
- 4.4 The following timings are anticipated: desk-based study, 5 days; field survey, 1 day; report, 4 days. The report would be prepared immediately on completion of the fieldwork, dependent on the client's instructions and the arrangement of a suitable timetable. The date of commencement, at the time of writing, has yet to be agreed with the client, and will be dependent on the state of the site negotiated access. At present, CPAT would be unable to commence fieldwork before April 2001 due to existing commitments. The archaeological curator will be informed of the detailed timetable and staffing levels when agreement has been reached with the client.
- 4.5 Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 4.6 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance.

N.W.Jones
27th February 2001

APPENDIX 2

Archives

The following archives and other repositories were consulted in order to inform the desk-top assessment. Individual sources are detailed below.

Anglesey Archives Service, Llangefni (LRO)
 Bodorgan Estate Archives
 Countryside Council for Wales Maps Office, Bangor (CCW)
Ministry of Defence (Historical Division), London
 National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth (NLW)
 National Monument Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth (NMR)
 Regional SMR held by the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Bangor (GAT)
 University College of North Wales, Bangor, Department of Manuscripts (UCNW)

Aerial Photographs: Vertical photos

(All held by the NMR, Aberystwyth or National Assembly of Wales AP Unit, Cardiff, except for Geonex at CCW Offices in Bangor. Copyright considerations prevent their reproduction in this report)

1940 (24 November) Luftwaffe F10396140/385+387
 1942 (27 April) RAF 56 AC 39
 1945 (13 August) RAF/106G/UK 655/4171-4173
 1960 (31 May) 58 RAF/ 3579/0017-0018
 1985 (8 May) 1 PRO/RAF/0740/003-004
 1993 (17 August) Geonex 89 93 006

Aerial Photographs: Obliques

(Held at NMR, Aberystwyth and the National Assembly of Wales AP Unit)

1947 CPE/UK/2400
 1999 RCAHMW 995019-54

Maps: Estate

1724-7 Bodorgan Estate Survey by Lewis Morris (Bodorgan Archives: Plate 1)
 1724-7 Bodorgan Estate Survey by Lewis Morris [working volume] (UCNW - B1579: Fig 5)
 1816 Map of the Bodowen Estate (UCNW - Llysdulas 53)
 1818-23 Ordnance Surveyors' Drawing No 318
 1839 Llangwyfan Tithe Map and Apportionment (by J R Haslam: Fig 4)
 1840-50 Bodorgan Estate Survey by J.R. Haslam (Bodorgan Archives)

Maps: Printed

1889 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1st Edition Anglesey 21.2 & 21.6
 1900 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 2nd Edition Anglesey 21.2 & 21.6
 1922 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 3rd Edition Anglesey 21.2 & 21.6
 1891 Ordnance Survey 1:10560 1st edition Anglesey 21NW (Fig 3). This depicts the same features as the 1:2500 maps
 1975 Ordnance Survey 1:10000 SH36NW (Fig 2)
 1988 Ordnance Survey 1:50000 (Landranger 114)

Sources: Documents

1646 Letter to Viscount Bulkeley from Owen Wood of Rhosmor (UCNW Baron Hill MSS 6727)

1753-1814 Llangwyfan Land Tax Assessments (LRO - WQT/54/2-20)

1755 Indenture of lease (UCNW - B163)

1774 Survey and valuation of Bodorgan Estate (UCNW - B1581)

1778 Details of services due to the tenant of Llangwyfan demesne in: An account of Leases granted by OP Meyrick of his Anglesey Estates (UCNW - B1589)

1812 Particular and valuation of Bodorgan Estate (UCNW - B1585)

Sources: Secondary Material

Archaeologia Cambrensis

Transactions of the Anglesey Antiquarian Society and Field Club

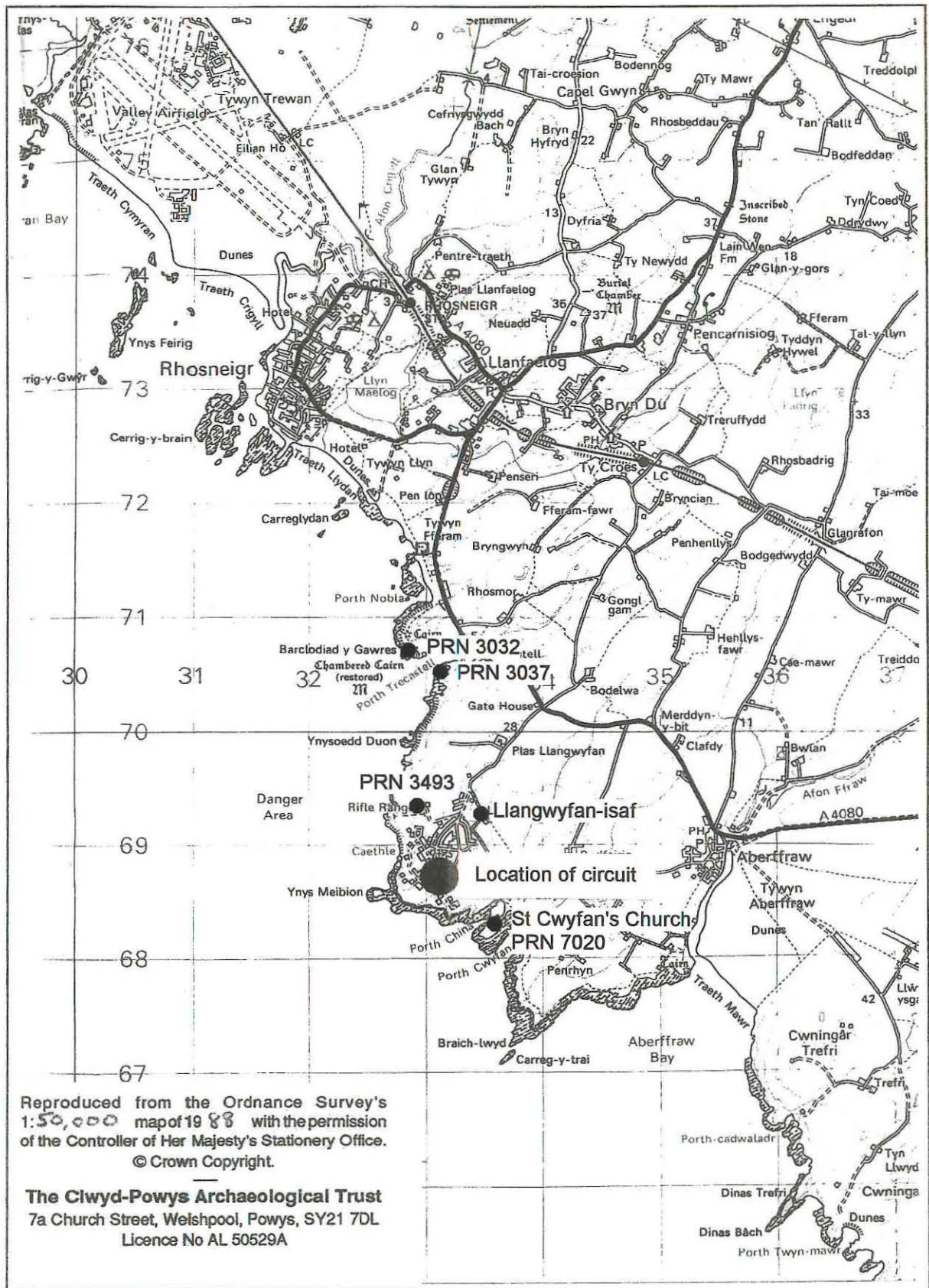


Fig. 1 Location of Circuit. Not to scale

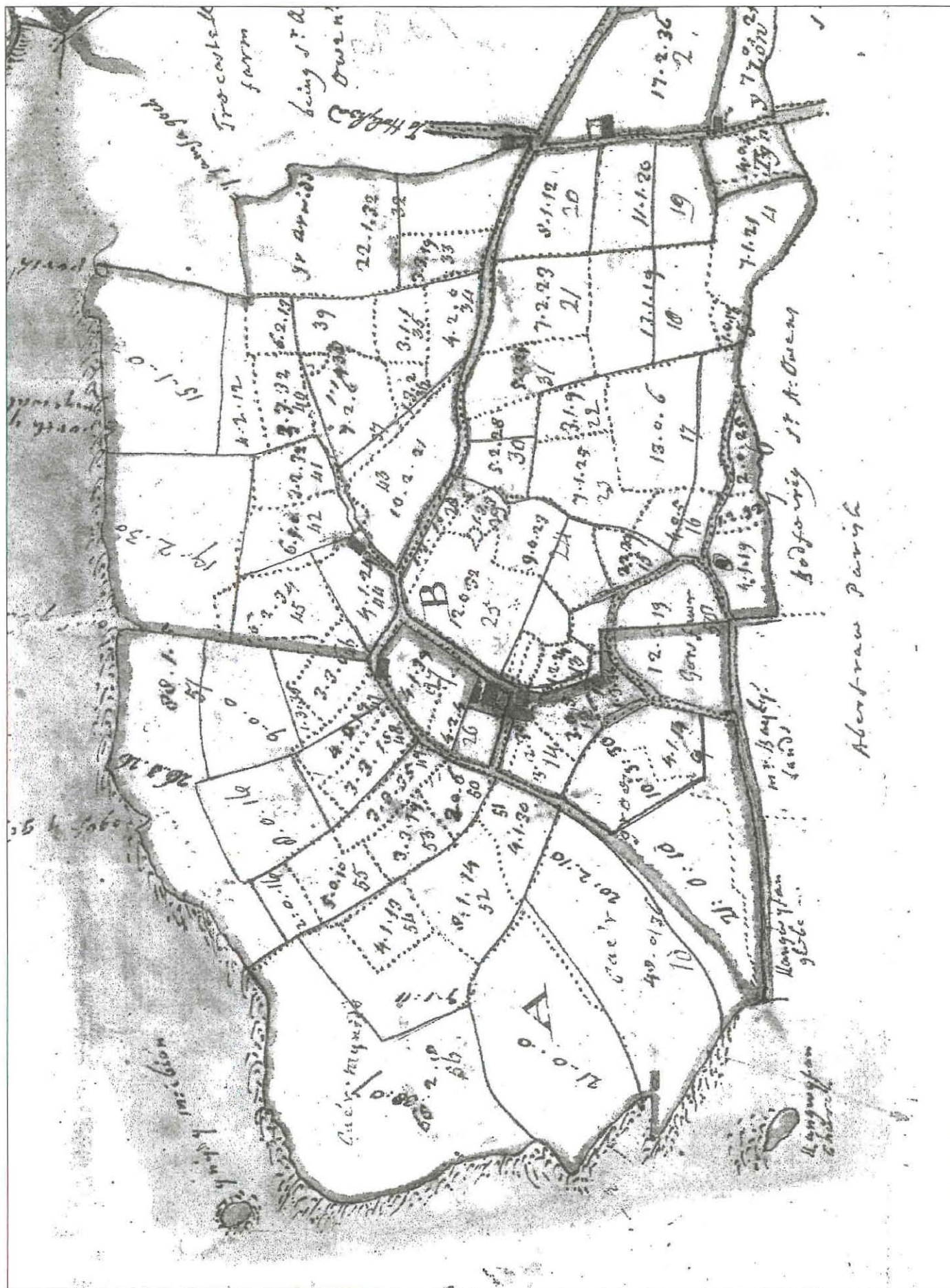


Fig 2 1724-7 Bodorgan Estate Survey by Lewis Morris (UCNW B1579)

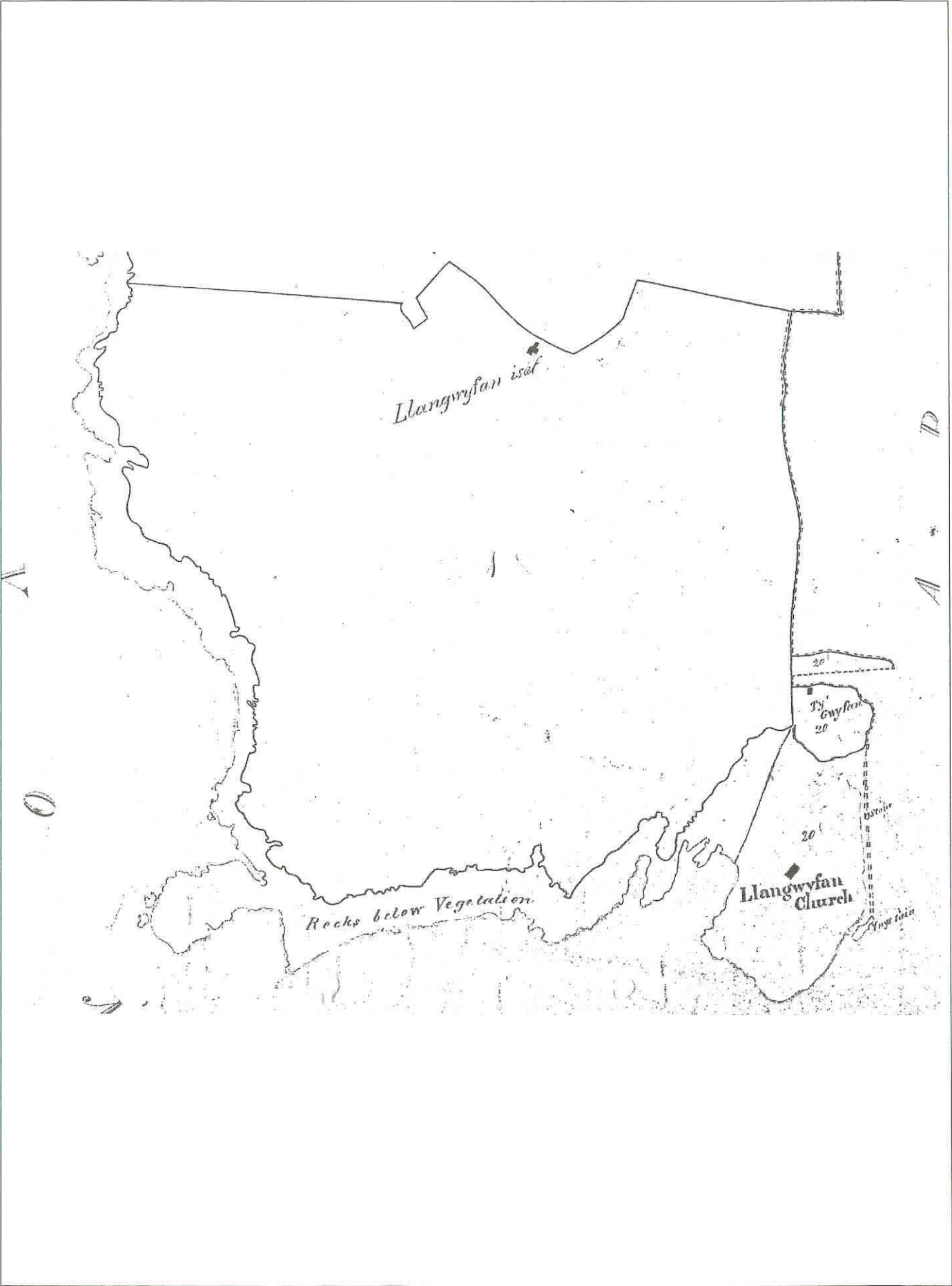


Fig 3 1839 Tithe Map



Fig 4 1889 Ordnance Survey first edition 1:10,560 map (Anglesey 21NW) Not to scale



Fig 4 1889 Ordnance Survey first edition 1:10,560 map (Anglesey 21NW) Not to scale

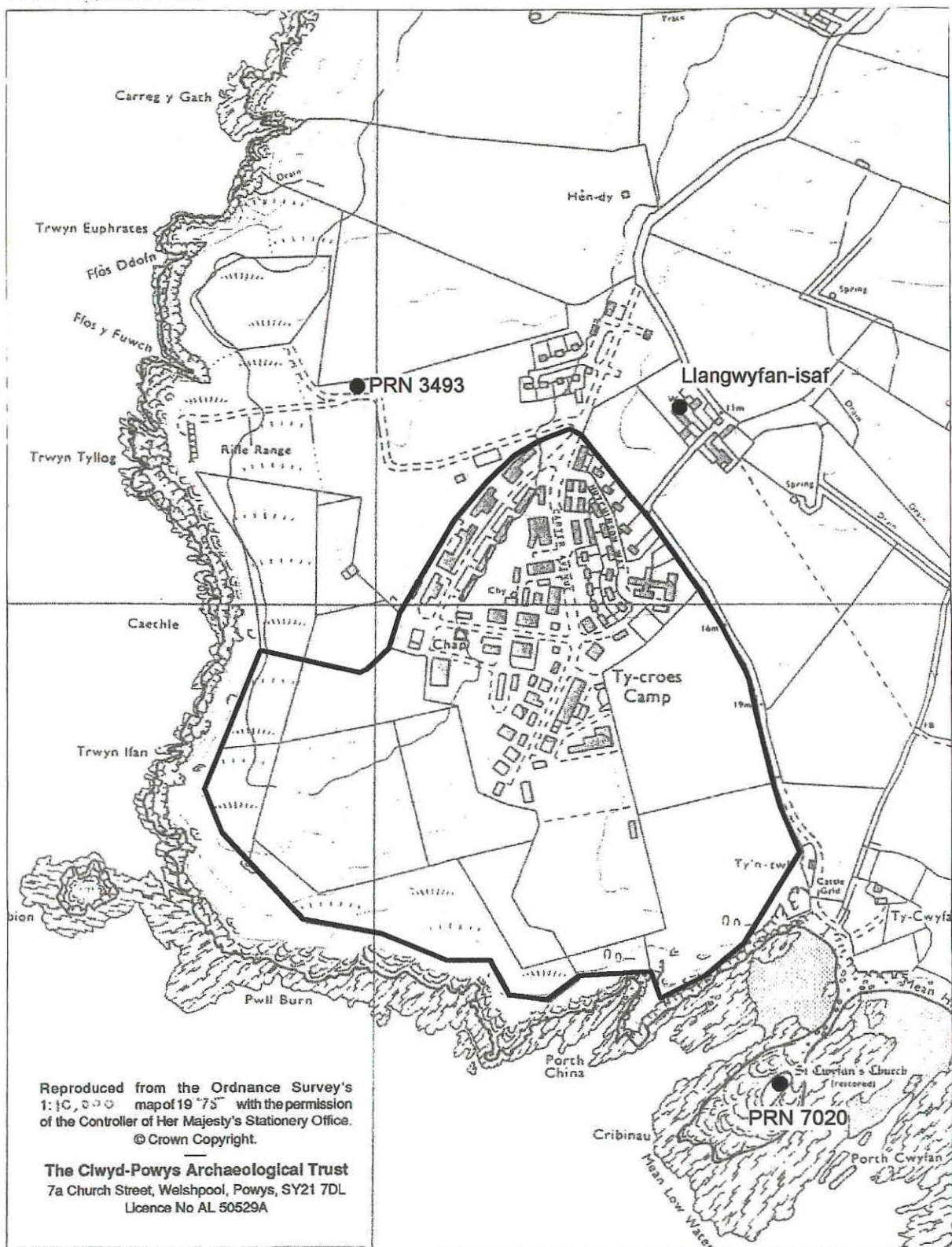


Fig 5 1975 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map (SH36NW) showing development area. Not to scale

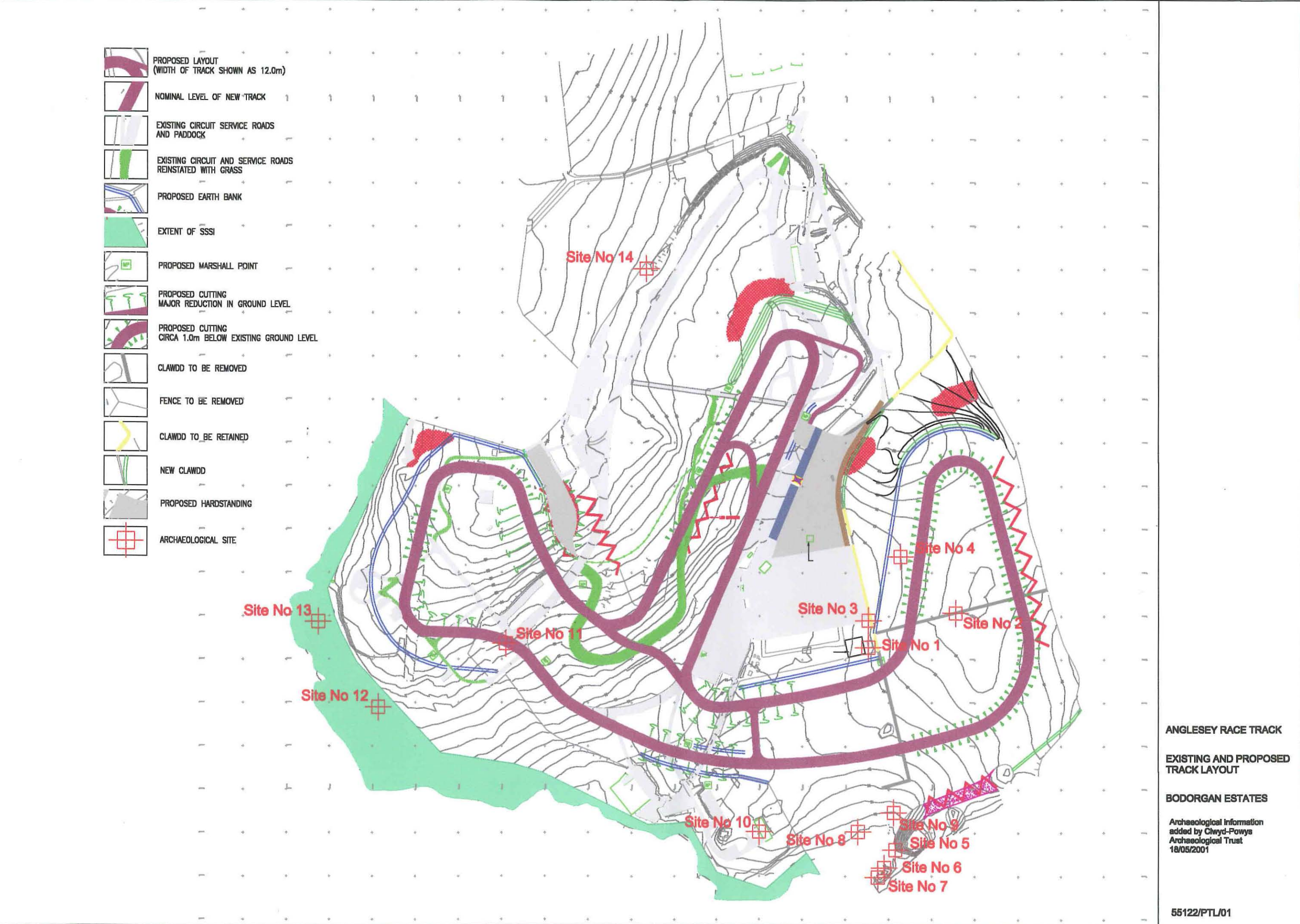


Fig. 6 Archaeological sites within proposal area



Plate 1 Llangwyfan Demesne map in the 1724-7 Bodorgan Estate Survey by Lewis Morris (Bodorgan Archive copy)

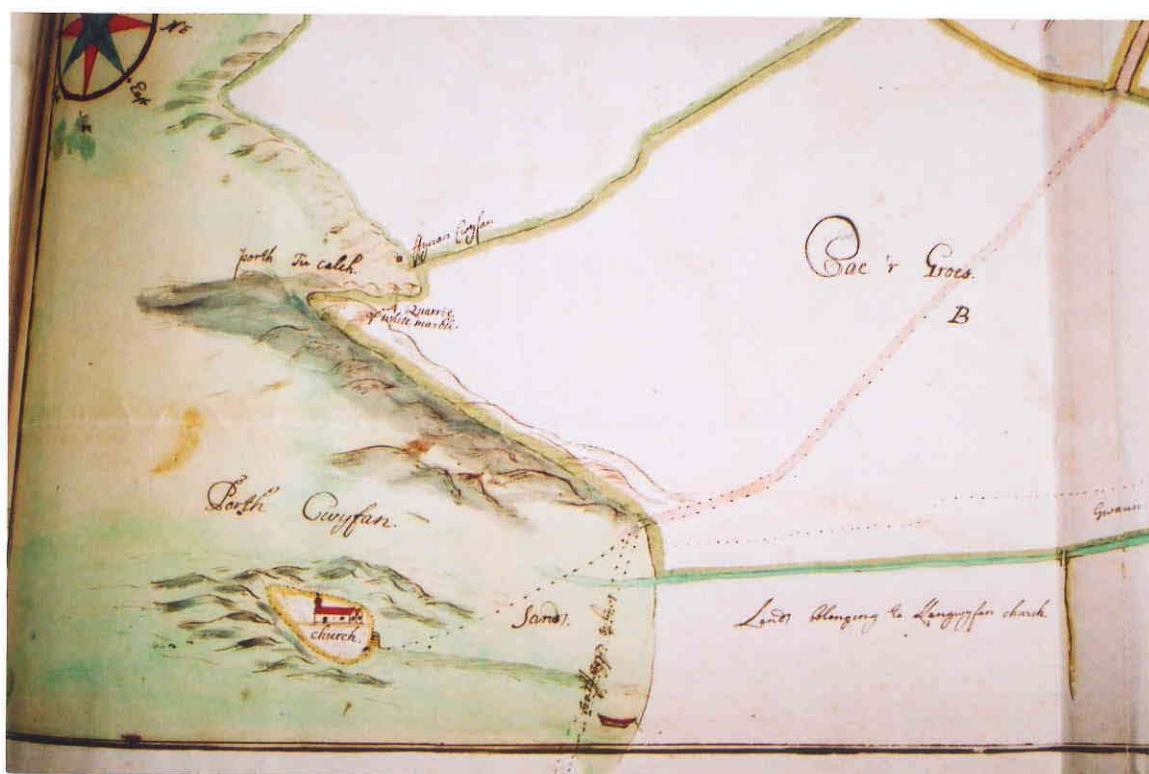


Plate 2 Close-up of Llangwyfan Church area on the Llangwyfan Demesne map in the 1724-7 Bodorgan Estate Survey by Lewis Morris (Bodorgan Archive copy)



Plate 3 Llangwyfan Church (PRN 7020) as visible from ridge forming southern boundary of the proposal area, from north



Plate 4 Llangwyfan Church (PRN 7020) and bay looking towards the proposal area, from south-east



Plate 5 Paddock building platform (Site No 1), from north-north-east



Plate 6 Section of stone faced boundary (forming part of Site No 2), from south-east



Plate 7 Ty-croes field entrance (Site No 3), from south-west



Plate 8 Llangwyfan marble quarry (Site No 5), from south-south-west



Plate 9 Llangwyfan military emplacement I (Site No 6), also showing motor racing circuit buildings, from south



Plate 10 Llangwyfan military emplacement II, from north-north-west



Plate 11 Ffynnon Gwyfan (Site No 8), from east



Plate 12 Ty-croes military building I (Site No 10), from west-south-west



Plate 13 Ty-croes military emplacements (Site No 11), circular gun emplacements at SH32816871 and SH32826870, from north



Plate 14 Ty-croes military emplacements (Site No 11), concrete platform at SH32846888 approached by a narrow gauge railway, from south-south-west



Plate 15 Ty-croes military emplacements (Site No 11), concrete platforms at SH32946887 and SH32936884, from north



Plate 16 Ty-croes military emplacements (Site No 11), bunker-like feature at SH32956880, from north



Plate 17 Ty-croes military emplacements (Site No 11), concrete platforms at SH33026882, from north-west



Plate 18 Surviving part of Ty-croes camp, outside the proposal boundary, from south



Plate 19 Ty-croes field boundary II (Site No 12), from north



Plate 20 Ty-croes earthworks (Site No 13), from north-west



Plate 21 Ty-croes military building II (Site No 14), from south-south-west