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# **Incline Field, Maesgeirchen, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 4HP**

## **Project Design (PD) for Archaeological Strip, Map and Record Excavation**

**December 2024 v1.0**



Project Code: A0201.2  
Event PRN: 49156

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# Incline Field, Maesgeirchen, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 4HP

## December 2024 v1.0

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been commissioned by Williams Homes Ltd, hereafter ‘the Client’, to provide a Project Design (PD) for carrying out an archaeological strip, map and record excavation on land known as Incline Field, Maesgeirchen, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 4HP (figures 1 and 2) (centred on **NGR SH 59269 71946**), hereafter ‘the Site’, in advance of development.

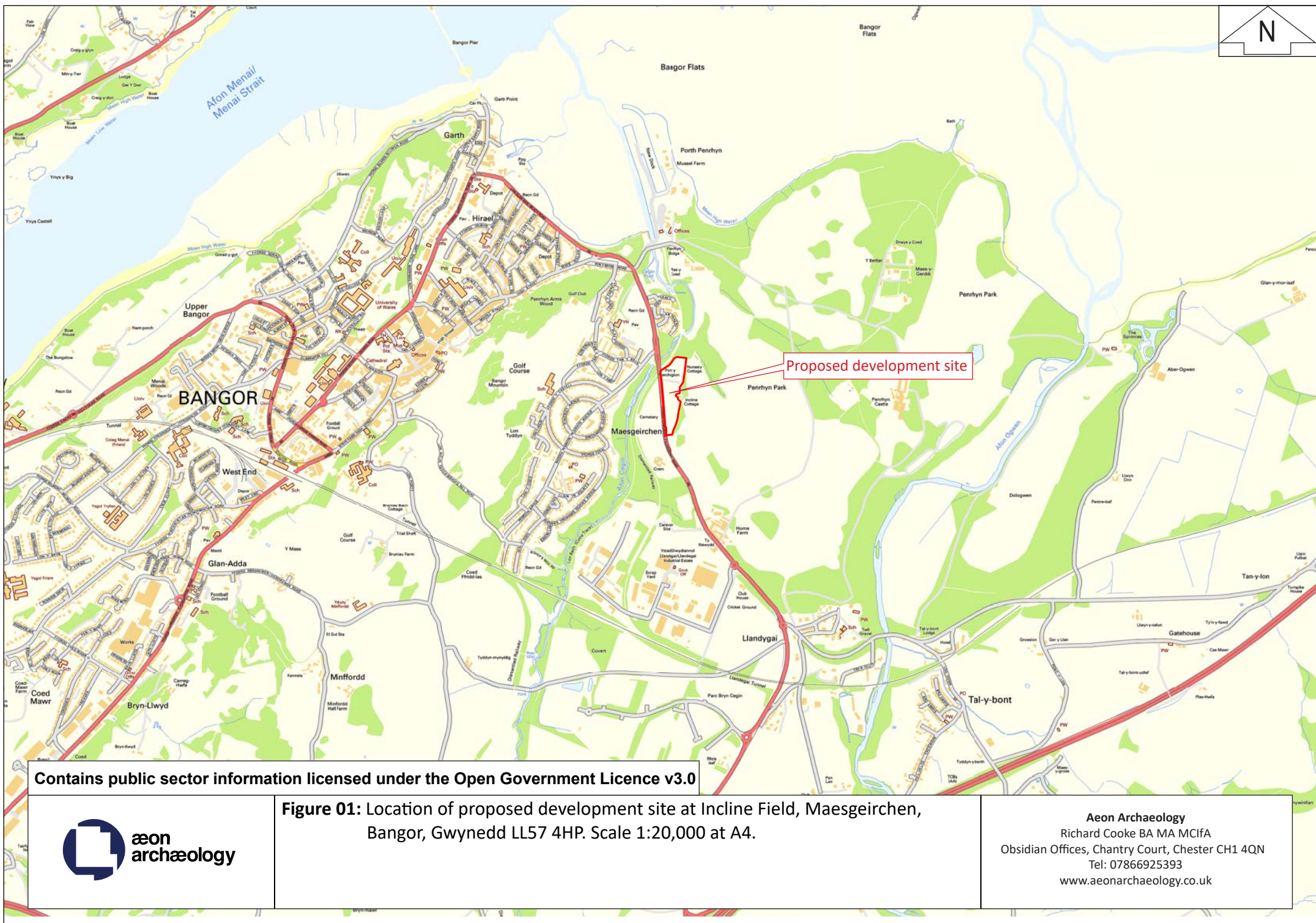
This PD is being undertaken in advance of the pre-application consultation (PAC) process. The Development Management Archaeologist (DMA) at Heneb Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (HGA), in their role as archaeological advisors to the Council, made recommendations for a strip, map and record excavation centred on the Site and targeting prehistoric features identified during an archaeological evaluation undertaken by the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust in 2021.

This PD outlines the aims and objectives of the proposed strip, map and record excavation and the methods by which they will be met in order to address the spirit and intent of the archaeological recommendations.

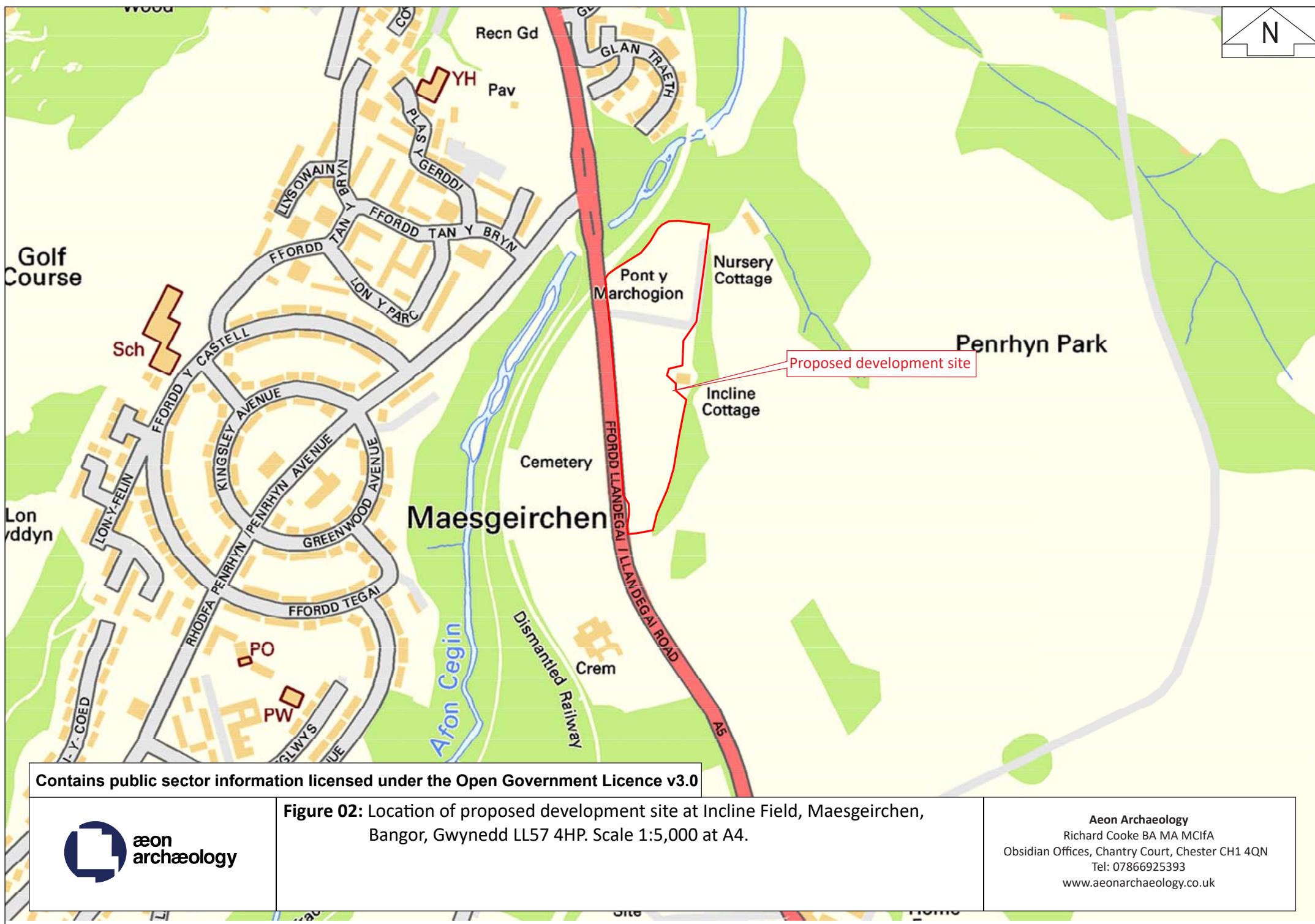
The work will adhere to the guidelines specified in the Standard for Archaeological Excavation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023) and the Universal Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023).

This project design and all subsequent work shall be undertaken as event primary reference number **49156**.

This specification is offered in consideration to the Council via the DMA at HGA.







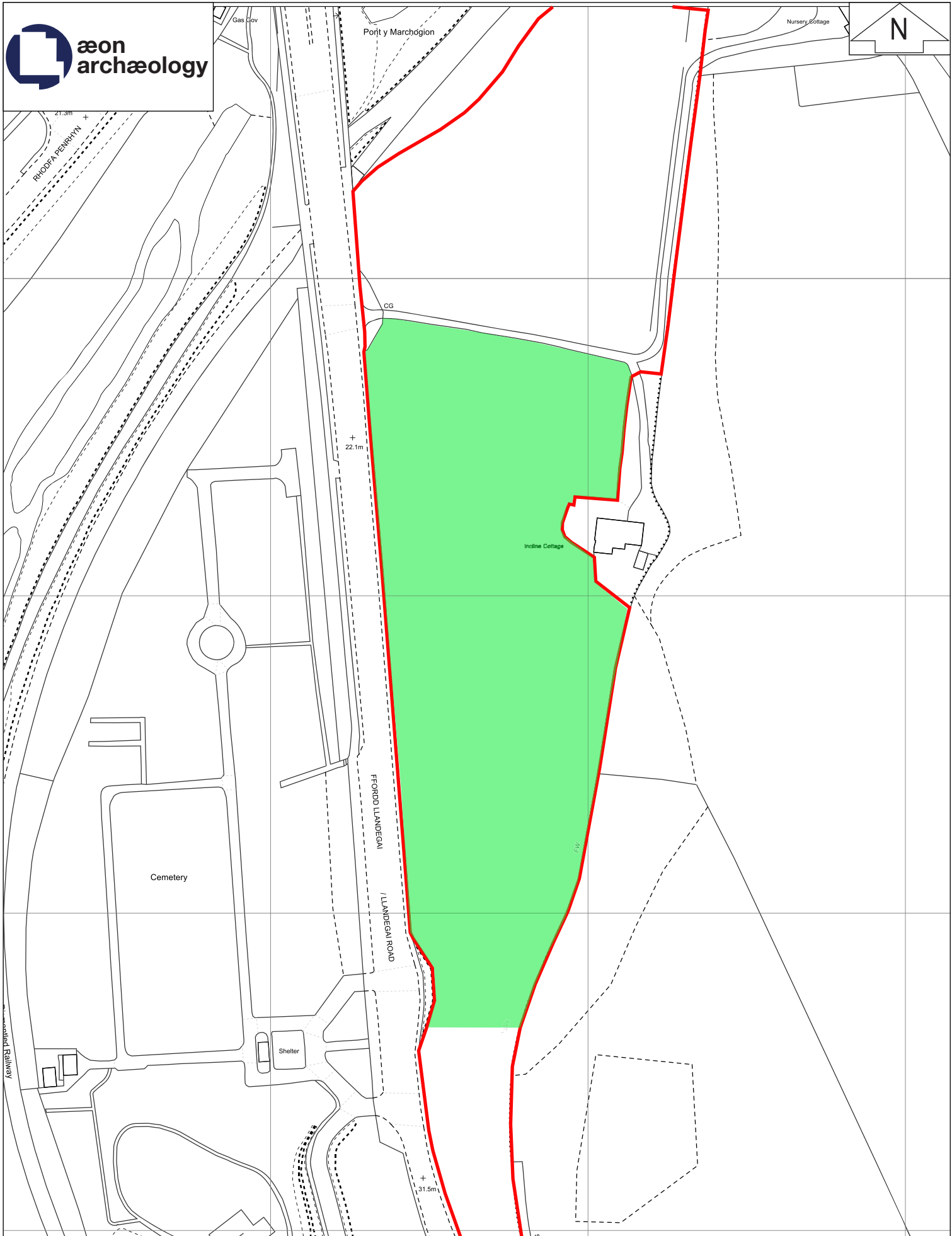


**Figure 03:** Site location. Scale 1:1,500 at A4.

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**Figure 05:** Location of proposed strip, map and record excavation area.  
Scale 1:1,500 at A4.

## 2.0 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 also 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

### 3.0 SITE LOCATION AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

An archaeological assessment was undertaken by Aeon Archaeology in 2019 (A0201.1 report 0196) followed by a geophysical survey by GAT in 2020 (report 1565) and an archaeological evaluation by GAT in 2021 (report 1594). The historic environment surrounding the sites detailed in the three reports provides a rich narrative of human activity spanning from prehistory to the industrial age. The land off Llandegai Road, Bangor, and its surrounding area is particularly significant for its association with both prehistoric settlement and later industrial developments, reflecting the complex evolution of human interaction with the landscape.

Evidence from the archaeological evaluation at Llandegai Road reveals early Neolithic activity, including the discovery of a ditched enclosure and pits, indicative of early agricultural practices and possibly ritualistic behaviour. The Mesolithic period is also represented by features such as irregularly shaped pits, providing insights into the transitional lifestyle of hunter-gatherer communities adapting to settled agriculture. Moving forward in time, the site shows continuity of use into the Late Bronze Age, with features such as bowl-shaped pits likely associated with domestic or industrial activities.

The later historical significance of the area is marked by its proximity to the Penrhyn Slate Quarry Railroad, a feature closely tied to the slate industry that dominated the economy and shaped the cultural identity of North Wales in the 18th and 19th centuries. The railroad, an integral component of the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site, represents a key phase of industrialisation, connecting the quarry to shipping points and thereby facilitating the global export of slate. The discovery of artefacts, including slate sleepers, within the railroad formation at the site enhances understanding of the technological developments and construction methods employed during this period.

The inclusion of medieval and post-medieval features, such as field boundaries and evidence of agricultural use, further highlights the longevity of activity in the area. These features underscore the site's role as part of a continuously exploited rural landscape, reflecting broader social and economic trends over time.

#### *Research Questions for a Strip, Map, and Record Excavation*

Given the historical depth of the area, a strip, map, and record excavation could address several pertinent research questions:

- **Prehistoric Settlement Patterns and Land Use:** What do the Neolithic enclosure and pits reveal about settlement organisation, subsistence strategies, and ritual practices in the early farming communities of North Wales? How do these findings compare with similar sites in the region?
- **Transitions between Prehistoric Periods:** Can the features from the Mesolithic and Bronze Age periods provide clearer insights into the transition from mobile foraging to settled agricultural societies? What role did environmental factors play in these transitions?
- **Medieval and Post-Medieval Agricultural Practices:** How do the field boundaries and agricultural features from these periods reflect changes in land use, economic pressures, and settlement organisation? Are these changes consistent with regional patterns documented in historical records?
- **Industrial and Transportation Heritage:** What additional insights can the Penrhyn Slate Quarry Railroad and its associated artefacts provide regarding the technological innovations and



economic impacts of the slate industry? Can this excavation further elucidate the logistical challenges and solutions faced during the railroad's construction and operation?

- **Continuity and Change in the Landscape:** How has the landscape evolved from prehistory to the modern era? What do the stratigraphic sequences reveal about the interplay between human activity and natural processes in shaping the environment?

By addressing these questions, the excavation has the potential to contribute significantly to our understanding of both the local and regional historical trajectory, from early human habitation to industrial expansion, providing a clearer narrative of how the area has been utilised and transformed across millennia.

#### **4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS – STRIP, MAP AND RECORD**

Before the strip, map & record excavation commences an agreed programme of excavation timing, siting, duration, surface re-instatement and health and safety protection measures will be agreed with the Client and the DMA at HGA. The above representative shall also be invited to attend a site meeting within the first five working days of commencement of archaeological works to review the programme, submitted method statement and arrangements that have been established for archaeological mitigation.

The purpose of excavation is to provide a sufficiently detailed record of the remaining archaeological deposits present within the Site boundary that are likely to be lost as a result of development, and to successfully fulfil and discharge the planning condition.

The strip, map and record excavation area will be rectangular in plan orientated N-S. It will measure 240m in length by 80m in width. The excavation will be taken to the depth of archaeological remains or the natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

#### **5.0 PROJECT TIMETABLE AND STAFF**

The work shall commence in early 2025 and is expected to last for a duration of c10 weeks.

The following fieldwork staff shall be in attendance during the archaeological mitigation (CVs and evidence of relevant qualifications and experience can be supplied upon request):

##### **Archaeological Manager**

Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA [richard.cooke@aeonarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:richard.cooke@aeonarchaeology.co.uk) Tel: 07866925393

##### **Archaeological Supervisor**

Josh Dean BA [josh.dean@aeonarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:josh.dean@aeonarchaeology.co.uk) Tel: 07375852423

## 6.0 METHODOLOGY – STRIP, MAP AND RECORD

While superficially similar strip, map and record - and full excavation differ in the level of record produced. A strip, map and record excavation involves the mechanical removal of top and subsoil down to the first identifiable archaeological horizon. A plan of the features is then made followed by targeted sampling of features exposed, principally at relationship junction, in order to broadly characterise and date the remains present. An archaeological excavation occurs where the archaeological remains are understood to be of such significance or complexity that a programme of detailed recording is required to preserve the Site by record. Excavations are also likely to require greater resources during and post excavation phase, along with a post-excavation assessment to be agreed by HGA prior to the production of the report.

Minimum requirements are as follows: -

- All plant will be supplied by the Client;
- Topsoil and subsoil will be removed by mechanical excavator, under archaeological supervision, using a toothless grading bucket and top and subsoils shall be stored separately;
- Soil storage will comply with an agreed soil management plan.
- The surface of the natural substrata shall be ‘cleaned’ to clearly see any archaeological features;
- The cleaned surface shall be allowed to weather for at least 48 hours and any further features revealed shall be planned;
- A robust spatial framework of excavation will be established to provide an understanding of the distribution of past activities across the excavation area including any ‘special’ deposits and any patterning in artefact distribution. Such a framework will take into account the inter-relationship of major features;
- A review of the planned features shall be made, and a programme of sample excavation agreed;
- Sampling shall target:
  - Feature intersections to establish stratigraphic sequence
  - Features likely to provide maximum evidential information
- Sampling shall be based on the following:
  - Enclosure ditches 50%
  - Field boundaries 10%
  - Pits 50% -100%
  - Burials – 100%
  - Structures, including roundhouses etc – 100%
  - Significant spreads/deposits (eg. Burnt mounds or middens) - to be excavated by quadrant or T-section slots followed by careful removal of the remainder of the spread by machine. Should any features or structures be sealed by the spread then these will be 100% sampled.

- The sampling excavation strategy will be reviewed continuously throughout the course of fieldwork and, if necessary, amended in order to take account of changing circumstances and understanding. Any changes or amendments will be agreed in advance of implementation with the HGA Archaeologist and the project consultant archaeologist, such as:
  - in some cases, it will be sufficient to excavate a representative sample of long linear features (e.g. boundary ditches) or quarry pits in order to record their form, function, and date and recover artefacts and ecofacts;
  - Enclosure ditches shall be sampled at a higher percentage than other boundary features in order to identify any structural deposition or area of specific use.
  - where insufficient dating material or information has been retrieved from a partially sectioned feature, further sampling may be undertaken, subject to consideration of residuality or other factors that might limit the integrity of archaeological data, with reference to the research objectives and in consultation with the HGA Archaeologist.
- Context records for individual layers, deposits and features, and registers for small finds and soil samples will be kept using Aeon Archaeology pro-formas;
- Features shall be planned/drawn by hand, augmented by GPS/Total station positioning. This is to ensure that discrete features are recorded accurately and so aid interpretation. Rapid planning by GPS/Total Station can often result in over simplified rendition of features, losing detail and plan accuracy.
- Site and feature levels will be taken across the excavation area and shall be tied to Ordnance Datum;
- Bulk samples will be identified and taken for scientific dating. There is no limit to the samples taken and the number to be processed and dated will be determined in the post excavation assessment.

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).

A copy of the archive produced will be held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0201.2** with the original paper archive being deposited with the RCAHMW.



## 6.1 Post-excavation Assessment

A report on the results of the excavation, in accordance with the recommendations in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006; 2015); the *Standard for Archaeological Excavation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023) and the *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023) will be required to be produced upon conclusion of the archaeological fieldwork. The report will be completed within a maximum of six 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 be subject to a specification for approval by the DMA at HGA upon the conclusion of the fieldwork project and preliminary fieldwork assessment report.

## 6.2 Post-excavation Report

Following completion of the stages outlined above, a report will be produced that will include:

- A non-technical summary.
- A table of contents.
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the site.
- A statement of the project aims.
- An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same to include a statement on preservation bias and the means of data collection and sampling strategies.
- A factual summary of the history, development and use of the site.
- A statement setting out the nature, quantity and condition of the material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) including commentary on any bias observed due to collection and sampling strategies and commentary on long-term storage requirements.
- A statement setting out the nature and quantity of the documentary archive (notes, photographs, drawings, digital data).
- A general site plan indicating the position and size of the areas subject to watching brief and the locations of archaeological deposits identified and recorded during the works.
- Plans and sections at appropriate scales, augmented with appropriate photographs. All plans and sections will be related to the Ordnance Survey datum levels and to the National Grid.
- Other maps, plans, drawings, stratigraphic matrices and photographs as appropriate.
- Summary assessment reports on the artefact, bio-archaeological, dating and other assessments/analyses.
- A discussion of the location, extent, date, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits and finds identified during the project.
- A discussion of any research implications arising from the archaeological work.

- Notes on consultations with conservators and the nominated archive repository related to the immediate and long-term conservation and storage requirements for the data held in the site archive and recommendations of retention/discard of artefacts and ecofacts.
- A bibliography of sources consulted.
- Appendices to the report will include artefact catalogues, reports on assessments/analyses and an index to the project archive and a statement on its location/proposed repository.
- In addition the post-excavation report will summarise and draw together the findings of all of the phases of work.
- An updated Digital Management Plan (DMP), an archive Selection Strategy, and an archive content list will be included.

Illustrations will include plans of the location of the study area and archaeological sites. Historical maps, when appropriate and if copyright permissions allow, will be included. Photographs of relevant sites and of the study area where appropriate will be included.

A draft copy of the report will be sent to the DMA at HGA and to the Client for comment and approval prior to production of the final report.

## **7.0 DIGITAL DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### **7.1 Type of study**

Archaeological strip, map and record excavation at Incline Field, Maesgeirchen, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 4HP (centred on NGR SH 59269 71946).

### **7.2 Types of data**

Photographs, photograph register, scaled drawings.

### **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 shall be controlled and documented through the use of standardised procedure as outlined in the WSI. This will include 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 will be organised into Aeon Archaeology proformae 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 created using Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) or Access (.accdb) of all photographic plates.

Paper metadata created from Aeon Archaeology proformas for contexts, artefacts, environmental samples, archaeological monitoring and recording day sheets, trench sheets, and basic record sheets and then scanned to create digital .PDF copies.

## **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), 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 5.8) 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](mailto: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 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS DESIGNS (FAWDs)**

The discovery of substantial archaeological remains and/or features during the archaeological works may result in the requirement for an extended programme of archaeological mitigation. This may require the submission of revised quotes to the Client as well as a new specification which will be required to be approved by the DMA at HGA prior to implementation.

## **9.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES**

Relevant archaeological deposits will be sampled by taking bulk samples (a minimum of 10.0 litres and maximum of 30.0 litres) for flotation of charred plant remains. Bulk samples will be taken from waterlogged deposits for macroscopic plant remains. Other bulk samples, for example from middens, may be taken for small animal bones and small artefacts.

Bulk environmental samples will also be taken from any fills, deposits or structures which yield archaeological artefacts, charcoal flecks/ fragments, bone, or any other historic remains.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs will be obtained from Oxford Archaeology.

For guidance purposes the following volume criteria represent the minimum feature sampling requirements:

- 50% of each discrete feature (e.g. pits and postholes)
- 25% of the exposed areas of each linear feature and all terminals/intersections
- 50% of structural features (e.g. beamslots, ring-ditches)
- 50%-100% of domestic/industrial working features (e.g. hearths and ovens)

## **10.0 HUMAN REMAINS**

Any finds of human remains will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, and both the coroner and the DMA at HGA informed. If removal is necessary it will take place under appropriate regulations and with due regard for health and safety issues. In order to excavate human remains, a licence is required under Section 25 of the Burials Act 1857 for the removal of any body or remains of any body from any place of burial. This will be applied for should human remains need to be investigated or moved.

## **11.0 ARTEFACTS**

All artefacts and ecofacts will be retrieved for identification and recording and will be treated in accordance with CIfA 2008 Guidelines for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020).

All artefacts are the property of the landowner but it is recommended that finds are deposited with the rest of the project archive within an appropriate museum. Furthermore, the client agrees to granting access to all artefacts recovered by Aeon Archaeology for analysis, study and publication as necessary. All finds would be treated according to advice provided within *First Aid for Finds* (Rescue 1999). Aeon Archaeology staff will undertake initial identification, but any additional advice would be sought from a wide range of consultants.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds will be kept under review throughout the archaeological works. Any changes in recovery priorities will be under guidance from an appropriate specialist and Aeon Archaeology – Incline Field, Bangor – PD 1.0

agreed with the DMA at HGA. There will be a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

All finds will be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. Their location and height will be plotted; finds numbers attributed, bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. Where specialist advice is required provision will be made to do so at the earliest possible convenience.

After processing, artefacts which are suitable will be cleaned and conserved in-house. Artefacts requiring specialist cleaning and conservation will be sent to the relevant specialist. All artefacts will then be sent to a specialist for analysis, the results of which will then be assessed to ascertain the potential of the finds assemblage to meet the research aims of the project. The value of the finds will also be assessed in terms of the wider educational and academic contributions.

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation of waterlogged material:

- Organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)
- Non-organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation and analysis of artefacts:

- Bone: Nora Bermingham
- Glass: Hilary Cool, Barbican Research Associates.
- Metal artefacts: Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services, Cardiff.
- Slag, burnt clay, hammerscale: Dr. Tim Young, Geoarch, Cardiff.
- Stone artefacts: George Smith, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Bangor.
- Wood artefacts: Jane Foley, Foley Conservation, Builth Wells.
- Leather: Quita Mould, Barbican Research Associates.
- Environmental Material: Dr Mike Allen, Allen Environmental Archaeology.
- Numismatics: Peter Guest, Barbican Research Associates.
- Ceramics: Leigh Dodd

If well preserved materials are found it may be necessary to employ additional staff. Furthermore, it may be necessary to suspend work within a specific region of the site, or across the whole site, while conservation and excavation/recording takes place. Aeon Archaeology accepts no responsibility for any costs incurred from delays as a result of unexpected archaeological finds.

## 12.0 UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES: TREASURE TROVE

The Treasure Trove law, as amended by the Treasure Act 1996 and subsequent updates, defines Treasure as follows:

### What Constitutes Treasure

#### *Objects Containing Precious Metals*

Any object, other than a coin, which contains at least 10% gold or silver and is at least 200 years old at the time of discovery. (Note: The age requirement has been revised in recent amendments.)

#### *Coins*

All coins from the same find are considered Treasure if they are at least 200 years old when found. If the coins contain less than 10% gold or silver, there must be at least two coins to qualify as Treasure.

A coin or object is considered part of the same find if discovered in the same place as, or previously deposited together with, other objects from the find. Finds that have been scattered over time are still considered part of the same deposit.

Single coin finds are not classified as Treasure under the Treasure Act unless they meet additional criteria introduced in recent guidance (e.g., rarity or historical significance).

#### *Associated Objects*

Any object, regardless of material, found in the same location as, or originally deposited with, an item of Treasure. These objects contribute to the understanding of the original deposition context.

#### *Objects of Historical or Cultural Significance*

Items that, although not made of precious metals or meeting the standard age requirement, have been designated as Treasure due to their historical or cultural importance. This includes artefacts such as tools or ornaments, as defined under the new provisions.

#### *Finds Meeting Previous Treasure Trove Criteria*

Objects that would previously have been considered Treasure Trove but do not fall within the specific categories above. These must be substantially made of gold or silver, buried with the intention of recovery, and without a traceable owner.

### What is Not Considered Treasure:

Objects with an identifiable owner, unless deemed Treasure under additional criteria.

Natural, unworked objects, including human and animal remains, even if found in association with Treasure.

Objects from the foreshore that are not classified as wreck under maritime law.



### Reporting Requirements:

All potential Treasure must be reported to the local coroner within 14 days of discovery or identification as Treasure.

Failure to report Treasure is a criminal offence and may result in prosecution.

### Ownership and Acquisition:

Items declared as Treasure become the property of the Crown.

Museums, including the British Museum, have the first opportunity to acquire the objects. The process now prioritises the public benefit and ensures the artefact is preserved appropriately.

If no museum expresses interest, the Secretary of State may disclaim the item, allowing the coroner to notify the landowner and occupier of its intended return to the finder after 28 days unless objections are raised.

In the event of disputes over ownership or acquisition, the item will remain in safekeeping until the matter is resolved.

## **13.0 ARCHIVING**

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project will be prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions will be labelled, and cross-referenced, and lodged with the National Monument Record, RCAHMW within six months of the completion of the project.

A draft copy of the report will be produced within six weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and will include an updated Data Management Plan (DMP), an archive Selection Strategy, and an archive content list. A copy of the report will be sent to the Client and the DMA at HGA for comment prior to finalisation of the report and dissemination. Digital copies of the report and archive will be sent to the regional HER and the DMA at CPAT, with the original paper archive being deposited with the RCAHMW for long term archiving. Furthermore, a summary of the project will be sent to *Archaeology in Wales* for publication.

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) including the translation of a non-technical summary into the medium of Welsh.

## **14.0 MONITORING AND LIAISON**

Regular liaison and site monitoring meetings will take place during all stages of work. The DMA at HGA will be informed of the start date and of discreet subsequent stages.

## **15.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Aeon Archaeology has a Health and Safety Policy Statement which can be supplied upon request. Furthermore, site-specific Risk Assessments and Method Statements are compiled and distributed to every member of staff involved with the project prior to the commencement of works.

## **16.0 INSURANCE**

### **Liability Insurance**

Employers' Liability: Limit of Indemnity £10m in any one occurrence

Public Liability: Limit of Indemnity £2m in any one occurrence

Legal Defence Costs (Health and Safety at Work Act): £250,000

The current period expires 07/09/25

### **Professional Indemnity Insurance**

Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 07/09/25

## APPENDIX I

Aeon Archaeology Artefact Selection Strategy	
Project:	Incline Field, Maesgeirchen, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 4HP
Location:	<b>NGR SH 59269 71946</b>
Client:	Williams Homes
Curator:	HGA
Receiving Institution:	Storiol Museum, Bangor
Landowner:	TBC assumed Williams Homes

Selection Strategy - Stone
<p><b>Prehistoric Lithics and Worked Stone</b></p> <p>Retain: All assemblages whether stratified or not that contribute to our understanding of prehistory or lithic technology. Museum curator and a specialist will be consulted to formulate a selection strategy for some knapping debitage.</p> <p>Dispose: Unstratified/unprovenanced undiagnostic artefacts.</p> <p><b>Roman Worked Stone</b></p> <p>Retain: Museum curator and a specialist will be consulted to formulate a selection strategy for stratified assemblages from excavations. Unusual/rare unstratified material should be considered as suitable for deposition.</p> <p>Dispose: Selected elements of common unstratified material.</p> <p><b>Early Medieval Worked Stone</b></p> <p>Retain: All, whether stratified or not.</p> <p>Dispose: Not applicable.</p> <p><b>Medieval Worked Stone</b></p> <p>Retain: Museum curator and a specialist will be consulted to formulate a selection strategy for stratified assemblages from excavations. Unusual/rare unstratified material should be considered as suitable for deposition.</p> <p>Dispose: Selected elements of common unstratified material.</p> <p><b>Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial Worked Stone</b></p> <p>Retain: Dependent on the date of the material and its quality. Generally only rare or unusual pieces will be retained.</p> <p>Dispose: Most to be disposed of.</p> <p><b>Modern Worked Stone</b></p> <p>Retain: Dependent on the date of the material and its quality. Generally only rare or unusual pieces</p>

will be retained.

Dispose: Most to be disposed of.

### **Selection Strategy - Ceramic**

#### **Prehistoric Pottery**

Retain: All, whether stratified or not.

Dispose: Not applicable.

#### **Roman Pottery**

Retain: Museum curator and a specialist will be consulted to formulate a selection strategy for stratified assemblages from excavations. Unusual/rare unstratified material should be considered as suitable for deposition.

Dispose: Selected elements of common unstratified material.

#### **Early Medieval Pottery**

Retain: All, whether stratified or not.

Dispose: Not applicable.

#### **Medieval Pottery**

Retain: Museum curator and a specialist will be consulted to formulate a selection strategy for stratified assemblages from excavations. Unusual/rare unstratified material should be considered as suitable for deposition.

Dispose: Selected elements of common unstratified material.

#### **Early Post Medieval Pottery**

Retain: Only rare/unusual/complete items or stratified assemblages crucial to the interpretation of the site to be retained. Museum curator and a specialist will be consulted to formulate a selection strategy for other pottery.

Dispose: Most to be disposed of.

#### **Later Post-Medieval and Industrial Pottery**

Retain: Most will not be retained.

Dispose: Most of the assemblage will be disposed of.

#### **Modern Pottery**

Retain: This is not normally retained.

Dispose: Dispose of.

**Later Post-Medieval and Industrial and Modern Clay Pipes**

Retain: Normally retain complete pipes, bowls and mouthpieces. Museum curator and a specialist will be consulted to formulate a selection strategy.

Dispose: pipe stem fragments.

**Selection Strategy – Building Materials****Prehistoric Daub/Burnt Clay**

Retain: Normally not retained. Museum curator and a specialist will be consulted to formulate a selection strategy.

Dispose: Normally disposed of.

**Roman, Early Medieval, Medieval or Early Post Medieval Building Material**

Retain: Museum curator and a specialist will be consulted to formulate a selection strategy that ensures that a representative selection of the total is retained.

Dispose: Most of the assemblage will be disposed of.

**Later Post-Medieval and Industrial Building Material**

Retain: Most will not be retained.

Dispose: Most of the assemblage will be disposed of.

**Modern Building Material**

Retain: This is not normally retained.

Dispose: Dispose of.

**Selection Strategy – Metal****Prehistoric Metal Artefacts and Metalworking Debris**

Retain: All, artefacts whether stratified or not. Normally all metalworking debris will be retained.

Dispose: Not applicable.

**Roman, Early Medieval or Medieval Metal Artefacts and Metalworking Debris**

Retain: All, artefacts whether stratified or not. Normally all metalworking debris will be retained. Museum curator and a specialist will be consulted to formulate a selection strategy.

Dispose: Not normally applicable.

**Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial Metal Artefacts and Metalworking**

Retain: This is dependent on the date of the material and its quality. Generally only rare or unusual pieces will be retained. Museum curator and a specialist will be consulted to formulate a selection strategy.

Dispose: Most to be disposed of.

### **Modern Metal Artefacts and Metalworking Debris**

Retain: This is not normally retained.

Dispose: Dispose of.

## **Selection Strategy – Glass**

### **Prehistoric Glass**

Retain: All, whether stratified or not.

Dispose: Not applicable.

### **Roman, Early Medieval or Medieval Glass**

Retain: All whether stratified or not. Museum curator and a specialist will be consulted to formulate a selection strategy.

Dispose: Not normally applicable.

### **Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial Glass**

Retain: This is dependent on the date of the material and its quality. Generally only rare or unusual pieces will be retained. Museum curator and a specialist will be consulted to formulate a selection strategy.

Dispose: Most to be disposed of.

### **Modern Glass**

Retain: This is not normally retained.

Dispose: Dispose of.

## **Selection Strategy – Worked bone, antler and ivory**

### **Prehistoric, Roman, Early Medieval or Medieval Worked Bone, Antler and Ivory**

Retain: All, artefacts whether stratified or not.

Dispose: Not applicable.

### **Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial Worked Bone, Antler and Ivory**

Retain: This is dependent on the date of the material and its quality. Generally only rare or unusual

pieces will be retained.

Dispose: Most to be disposed of.

**Modern Worked Bone, Antler and Ivory**

Retain: This is not normally retained.

Dispose: Dispose of.

**Selection strategy - Animal Bone**

**Prehistoric Animal Bone**

Retain: All. Normally all animal bone will be retained. Museum curator and a specialist will be consulted to formulate a selection strategy.

Dispose: Not normally applicable.

**Roman, Early Medieval, Medieval Animal Bone**

Retain: All. Normally all stratified animal bone will be retained. Museum curator and a specialist will be consulted to formulate a selection strategy.

Dispose: Unstratified material and possibly selected fragments of assemblages.

**Early Post Medieval, Later Post-Medieval and Industrial or Modern Animal Bone**

Retain: Not normally retained.

Dispose: All, normally.

**Selection Strategy – Human Remains**

**Prehistoric, Roman, Early Medieval or Medieval Human Remains**

Retain: Retention/reburial will be governed by a Ministry of Justice Burial Licence. Normally all human bone of these dates will be deposited with a museum with suitable storage if justification for its retention can be made.

Dispose: Not normally applicable, but see above.

**Early Post Medieval Human Remains**

Retain: Retention/reburial will be governed by a Ministry of Justice Burial Licence. Normally all early post-medieval human bone will be reinterred.

Dispose: Normally reinter.

**Later Post-Medieval and Industrial Human Remains**

Retain: Retention/reburial will be governed by a Ministry of Justice Burial Licence. All later

postmedieval human bone will be reinterred.

Dispose: Reinter.

### **Modern Human Remains**

Retain: Modern human remains will be subject to the Human Tissue Act 2004 and will require reinternment or disposal in a manner that is agreed with the Human Tissue Authority.

Dispose: Normally reinter but see above.

## **Selection Strategy – Wood**

### **Prehistoric, Roman, Early Medieval or Medieval Wood**

Retain: All worked wood as long as it has been fully conserved.

Dispose: Natural wood and unconserved wood.

### **Early Post Medieval Wood**

Retain: This is dependent on the date of the material and its quality. Generally only rare or unusual pieces will be retained.

Dispose: Most to be disposed of.

### **Later Post-Medieval and Industrial or Modern Wood**

Retain: Not normally retained.

Dispose: All, normally.



## APPENDIX II

Aeon Archaeology Environmental Sample Selection Strategy	
Project:	Incline Field, Maesgeirchen, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 4HP
Location:	<b>NGR SH 59269 71946</b>
Client:	Williams Homes
Curator:	HGA
Receiving Institution:	Storiol Museum, Bangor
Landowner:	TBC assumed Williams Homes

Selection Strategy – Environmental Samples
<p><b>Prehistoric, Roman, Early Medieval or Medieval Processed Environment Samples</b></p> <p>Retain: These should be retained.</p> <p>Dispose: Not applicable.</p>
<p><b>Prehistoric, Roman, Early Medieval or Medieval Unprocessed Environmental/Soil Samples</b></p> <p>Retain: Charcoal samples are normally retained. Other bulk samples are not normally retained, as they should have been processed and analysed during a post-excavation programme.</p> <p>Dispose: Normally unprocessed bulk samples are disposed of.</p>
<p><b>Early Post Medieval, Later Post-Medieval and Industrial or Modern Processed Environment Samples</b></p> <p>Retain: Not normally retained.</p> <p>Dispose: All, normally.</p>
<p><b>Early Post Medieval, Later Post-Medieval and Industrial or Modern Unprocessed Environmental/Soil Samples</b></p> <p>Retain: Not normally retained.</p> <p>Dispose: All, normally.</p>

