
Plas Pistyll

Pistyll, Gwynedd



Archaeological Assessment

GAT Project No. 2182

Report No. 935

March, 2011

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Prepared for
Natural Retreats

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G2182 PLAS PISTYLL, PISTYLL, GWYNEDD

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PLAS PISTYLL, PISTYLL, GWYNEDD (G2182)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY

An archaeological assessment has been carried out on land at Plas Pistyll, Pistyll, Gwynedd. The area is known to be rich in prehistoric and medieval settlement, and to the west of the former garden at Plas Pistyll, a sub-rectangular enclosure has been identified, of probable late prehistoric date, along with a small horseshoe shaped feature which is possibly of later, post-medieval, date. These lie in an area adjacent to the development and alongside the garden of the former hotel. It is recommended that the proposed design avoids any direct impact on the enclosure, and that a programme of archaeological evaluation be undertaken in the former garden.

The land is centred upon Pistyll farm which was improved in the mid 19th century. It formed an outlying part of the Vaynol Estate, having formerly been a holding of Bodvel. The farm was sold in 1898, and was bought by the Goddard family, who constructed a large guest house on land which had formed part of the farm. This hotel was sold again in 1949, and has since become derelict. The building contains a number of surviving architectural features from around 1900, although it is not currently accessible internally. It is recommended that a programme of basic photographic recording is carried out prior to development.

1 INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) has been asked by Robert Fradley on behalf of his client *Natural Retreats*, to carry out an archaeological assessment in advance of the development of Plas Pistyll, Pistyll, Nefyn. The proposals involve the development of the building, the provision of new car parking spaces to the west of Plas Pistyll, the demolition of a number of outbuildings to accommodate them, the development of the current garden area to the west of the building into a tennis court and the development of a garden area to the north of Plas Pistyll. These are shown on the *Sustainable Leisure* drawing Plas Pistyll-01 (Fig. 6).

1.1 Acknowledgements

The staffs at Gwynedd Archives, Caernarfon and the National Library of Wales are thanked for their help with providing archive material. Ashley Batten of Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service is thanked for his help and guidance. The author is grateful for the views of George Smith and Dave Hopewell of GAT concerning the earthwork enclosure.

2 DESIGN BRIEF AND SPECIFICATION

A detailed brief has not been prepared for this scheme, however an archaeological assessment was required by the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service. This report conforms to that brief, and to the guidelines specified in *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994, rev. 2001).

A desk-based assessment is defined as ‘a programme of assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. It consists of a collation of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate’. (*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*, IFA 2001, 2).

The aims of the assessment as given in the specification are:

- to identify and record the cultural heritage within the defined study area;
- to evaluate the importance of what has been identified;
- to recommend ways in which impact upon the cultural heritage can be avoided or minimised.

To comply fully with the aims expressed above it can be necessary to undertake a programme of Field Evaluation following the Desktop study and Field Visit. This is because some sites cannot be assessed by desktop or field visit alone, and additional fieldwork is therefore required. This typically takes the form of geophysical survey or trial excavation, although measured survey is also a possible option. A full programme of assessment and evaluation may therefore consist of:

- Desktop study
- Field walkover
- Initial report
- Field evaluation
- Draft report
- Final report

This phase of the project concerns the first three phases, and recommendations are made concerning further archaeological evaluation or mitigation.

3 METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

3.1 Desk top study

The desktop study comprised the consultation of maps, documents, computer records, written records and reference works, which form part of the Historic Environment Record (HER), located at Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT), Bangor. The archives held by the Caernarfon Record Office and Bangor University were also consulted. Information about listed buildings was consulted by means of the CARN (Core Archaeological Index), which is the online index of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments, Wales. Relevant aerial photographs from the collection at RCAHM, Wales were examined.

Sites, buildings and find spots listed in the GAT HER were identified (Fig. 1), with GAT HER referring to the unique Primary Record Number given to each individual site.

3.2 Field Search

The field search was undertaken during March 2011, when the area of the proposed development was examined. Notes were taken, sketches and measurements were taken of sites of potential archaeological interest and a photographic record was made. Weather and ground conditions were good for a site visit.

3.3 Report

The available information was synthesised to give a summary of the archaeological and historic background and of the assessment and recommendations, as set out below. The separate features, their evaluation and recommendations are listed separately, and a summary of the overall assessment of the area is given at the end.

The criteria used for assessing the value of features was based upon those used by the Secretary of State for Wales when considering sites for protection as scheduled ancient monuments, as set out in the Welsh Office circular 60/96. The definitions of categories used for impact, field evaluation and mitigation are set out in Appendix 2.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Topographic description

Plas Pistyll is situated on an undulating coastal strip of relatively high quality soil, west of the *Eifl* range of mountains, at a height of about 78m OD, below higher ground to the south. It is located on typical brown soils of the Newport 1 Association (BGS 1983) overlying Ordovician shale, flags and mudstone (Smith and George 1961, 31). It lies within the ecclesiastical parish of Pistyll, about 210m west of the parish church, separated from it by a steep sided stream in its lower reaches, and about 320m from the coast at NGR 3266 4220. Plas Pistyll lies along a metalled lane running south-east of the track to Pistyll farm, which terminates at it. The ground slopes from the south-east to the north-west towards the sea.

4.2 Archaeological and historical background

4.2.1. Prehistoric and Roman sites

Plas Pistyll lies within an area densely populated with well-preserved sites of prehistoric date. Within the wider landscape lies the hillfort at Tre'r Ceiri (GAT HER 613) on the summit of the easternmost peak of Yr Eifl, and Bronze Age cairns on the summits of Yr Eifl (GAT HER 610, 623). An excavation has been carried out to the south west of the study area at Carreg y Llam (PRN 2220; Hogg 1957, 46-55) in advance of quarrying, where a fortified oval enclosure 30m long by 15m wide with single round hut built into the inner face of the rampart was found. Of probable similar date is a sub-rectangular enclosure 30m by 24m orientated NNE-SSW located immediately north-west of the former garden of Plas Pistyll (GAT HER 1262, Fig. 1; Plates 7, 9-10), consisting of a stone built rampart about 1.2m wide and surviving to about 0.5m high, with a possible entrance on the north side. There are possible remains of a hut circle against the western enclosure bank.

4.2.2 Medieval

The parish church of St. Beuno, Pistyll (GAT HER 7062) is located 210m north east of Plas Pistyll. It is located on the east side of the river opposite the former Pistyll farm, within a rectilinear churchyard that slopes down from the east to the west, with a sharp drop down to the stream, of probable early medieval date. The church is a small low building with a continuous nave and chancel and contains work of the 12th to 15th centuries, with significant amounts of later restoration. The roof retains five arch-braced collar-beam trusses of late medieval date. The circular carved gritstone font has chain decoration around the bowl and is of 12th century or earlier date (RCAHMW 1964, 89-90; Davidson 2000, 225).

A well at Pistyll farm, Ffynnon Beris (GAT HER 2230; NGR SH 32574215), may, from its association with the name Peris, be a holy well, though no features of medieval date are known to survive.

A number of rectangular stone and earthwork foundations of medieval long huts and enclosures have been identified at a number of locations in the wider area around Plas Pistyll, forming part of a significant amount of relict medieval settlement and field systems (GAT HER 621 NGR SH 35194448, PRN622 SH 35264434, NPRN 15,181 SH 352444). The medieval township of Nant (PRN 6,525 SH 35104428) is located north east of the study area. The long huts, which are likely to have continued in use into the 17th or 18th centuries, may have housed people and beasts under the same roof, although many of the small ones on more marginal land may have served as *hafodydd* occupied only during the summer months (Silvester 2003, 129).

4.2.3 Post-Medieval and Modern

The extent of Pistyll farm is shown on an estate map of 1802, when the land formed part of the Bodvel Estate (Fig. 2; Vaynol 4142). Pistyll farm is shown at this date as a house with two outbuildings, possibly a barn and a byre (1 on Fig. 2). The area of land where Plas Pistyll was subsequently to be built is shown as a single large field, partly ploughed and partly marshy (2 on fig. 2) and described as a *Carreg y Dinas* on the schedule. The *dinas* element of the placename is likely to refer to the enclosed fort, though the remains actually lie within field 3, called *Clogwyn* on the schedule. The estate had come into the hands of the Assheton-Smith family of Vaynol by 1839.

The tithe map of 1839 shows the same field pattern to that evidenced in 1802, although there appears to have been some slight rebuilding and alteration (Fig. 3).

Landowner	Occupier	Plan Nos.	Name and Description of Land and Premises	State of Cultivation	Quantities in Statute Measures A R P
			<i>Pistyll</i>		
Thomas Assheton Smith Esq.	Richard Williams	419	Pant Rhiwiau		4 1 37
		418	Rhiwiau		15 2 19
		416	Cae Fonwent		4 3 24
		415	House garden and yard		1 1 8
		413	Carreg y Dinas		12 3 8
		411	Clogwyn	Pasture	1 2 10
		410	Carreg y Dinas		6 3 18

		414	“” “”		8	14
		420	Cae'r ffynon		6	3 9
		422	Cae Owen		2	3 8
		412	'Rallt y mor		50	1 29

In 1841 Pistyll farm was occupied by 14 people, including Thomas and Elizabeth Rees and their six children and six farm servants, indicating that it was a substantial farm holding (National Archives HO 107/1390/9). By 1868 Pistyll farm had acquired its current layout, having been improved by the Vaynol Estate and the track way that led subsequently to Plas Pistyll appears to have been developed (Fig. 4; Vaynol 4178). In 1871, although the farm had been improved it remained of similar size, with the Rees family and five servants (National Archives RG10/5710). In August 1898 the Vaynol Estate sold off some of its outlying portions (XD28/2894). Pistyll farm formed Lot 1, with farm buildings generally unaltered from those recorded in 1868. The farm consisted of 302 acres 2 roods and 25.5 perches and extended as far as Carreg y Llam to the east, and was purchased by the Goddard family of metal polish manufactures. The Goddards began to develop the area as a resort, and a substantial guest house, known as Plas Pistyll was constructed on the land of Plas Pistyll farm. This was a three storeyed building, with the eight principal rooms arranged off a central corridor. The first floor contained 15 bedrooms, two bathrooms, a housemaid's closet and linen room. The second floor had six bedrooms and four store rooms.

In 1949 the Plas Pistyll Estate was sold again, and from this time went into a slow decline. It is now a derelict building and all roof slates have been removed. Pistyll farmhouse has become the centre of *Natural Retreats*, a holiday centre and Dorlan, a modern residence has been built to the south-west of it.

4.3 Statutory and non-statutory designations

Pistyll Church is a Grade I listed building (Ref: 4374). There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within or adjacent to the study area. Plas Pistyll is situated within the Llyn and Bardsey Island Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (Ref: HLW (GW) 8), where it is described as farming 'a large and topographically varied peninsula lying to the south west of Snowdonia, with composite, yet highly integrated and well preserved evidence of land use, showing continuity and territorial unity possibly from prehistoric times' (Cadw/ICOMOS 1998, 100). It lies within the Llyn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Site noted on the Gwynedd HER are listed in Appendix 1

4.4 The Archaeological Survey (Fig. 2)

The archaeological survey lists sites identified within the study area (outlined in red on fig. 1) and within 100m of it.

Feature 1 Plas Pistyll (Plates 2, 5-6, 10)

SH 3266 4220

Period: Post-medieval

Category: B Impact: Considerable

A three storey guest house, currently derelict, built in the years following 1898 by the Goddard family. A three storeyed building, with the eight principal rooms arranged off a central corridor. The first floor contained 15 bedrooms, two bathrooms, housemaid's closet and linen room. The second floor had six bedrooms and four store rooms. The building is centrally gabled on its north-west elevation and has bay windows at either end. The building has three gables on the south-east front. A number of original architectural details survive, including snecked granite columns around the entrance, finials to the gables, with four granite chimneys.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Basic Recording

Feature 2 Enclosure SW of Plas Pistyll (Plates 7, 9-10)

PRN 1262

SH 3257 4215

Period: Prehistoric

Category: A Impact: Possible

A 30m by 24m sub rectangular enclosure south-west of Plas Pistyll, with apparent stone ramparts, exposed through the turf covering about 1.2m wide and 0.5m high and with an apparent entrance to the north-west. It is located terraced into a north-east facing slope, and it appears that a hut platform is located on its western side (Plate 8), however is no surviving evidence of an enclosure ditch. It is best interpreted as a good example of a late prehistoric enclosed farmstead, of a type known throughout north-west Wales (Smith 1999). If this

interpretation is correct it can be considered of potential national importance. There is possibly fragmentary evidence of field systems associated with it.

Recommendations for further assessment: *None*

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: *The proposed development should be designed to avoid direct impact on the visible remains.*

Feature 3 Small circular structure (Plate 8-9)

SH 3258 4215

Period: Post-Medieval

Category: E Impact: Possible

A small circular enclosure, forming a 'horseshoe' shape, about 2m in diameter, survives to a height of about 0.6m. It appears constructed of medium sized uncoursed rubble blocks, but it is hard to identify its purpose. It has been suggested that it may be a well (Hopewell *pers. Comm.*), but is currently completely filled in, and may be better interpreted as a corn drying kiln.

Recommendations for further assessment: *None*

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: *The proposed development should be designed to avoid direct impact on the visible remains.*

Feature 4 Circular Features (Plate 3)

PRN 5217

SH 3275 4242

Period: Unknown

Category: E Impact: None

Circular features were noted at this location on aerial photographs. They are likely to have been completely destroyed when the area was improved for concrete or chalet bases, and there is nothing visible on the ground.

Recommendations for further assessment: *None*

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: *None*

Feature 5 Agricultural Building near Carreg-y-Ddinas

PRN 1395

SH 3247 4209

Period: Medieval

Category: B Impact: None

A rubble built agricultural outbuilding of possible medieval date (GAT HER 1395) is situated at this location. It formed part of Carreg-y-Dinas farm. It lies outside the area of development, and will not be directly impacted on by the scheme.

Recommendations for further assessment: *None*

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: *None*

Feature 6 Pistyll Farm (Plates 1-4)

SH 3274 4233

Period: Post-medieval

Category: B Impact: None

An improved farmstead, with outbuildings situated around a courtyard to the north. The farm was rebuilt in the mid 19th century by the Vaynol estate. A mill building is located on the east side of the courtyard, and a wheel pit survives at the southern end of the buildings. The outbuildings have been converted to holiday accommodation, and the former farmhouse serves as the office.

Recommendations for further assessment: *None*

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: *None*

5. SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

5.1 Location Summary

Plas Pistyll is situated on an undulating coastal strip of relatively high quality soil, at a height of about 78m OD, on ground sloping to the north. It lies within the ecclesiastical parish of Pistyll, about 210m west of the parish church, separated from it by a steep sided stream in its lower reaches, and about 320m from the coast at NGR 3266 4220.

5.2 Environmental Remains and Soil Morphology

The depth of soil is not known, though the field appears to have been ploughed. The significance for the preservation of environmental remains is unknown, though unlikely to be high.

5.3 Artefactual Potential

The potential for the survival of medieval or earlier artefacts is unknown, although it is possible that prehistoric artefacts might be identified associated with the enclosure (Feature 2). It is likely that post medieval finds might be encountered, as there is much evidence of material associated with the building and occupation of Plas Pistyll, and material related to feature 3 might be encountered.

6. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Summary of Specific Recommendations

Number	Name	Importance	Impact	Recommendation for further evaluation	Mitigation recommendations
1	Plas Pistyll	B	Considerable	None	Basic Recording
2	Enclosure SW of Plas Pistyll	A	Possible	None	Avoidance
3	Small horseshoe-shaped structure	E	Possible	None	Avoidance
4	Circular features	E	None	None	None
5	Agricultural building near Carreg Y Dinas	B	None	None	None
6	Pistyll Farm	B	None	None	None

6.2 General Recommendations

In addition to the specific recommendations noted above, the following general recommendations are made. These only fully apply if it is not possible to avoid disturbance to the areas of Features 2 and 3:

- It is noted that the ground works associated with the proposed tennis court (Fig. 6) impinge upon the enclosure (Feature 2), and possibly the small horseshoe shaped structure (Feature 3). It is recommended that the proposed developments be designed to avoid any impact on the archaeological features.
- The end of the garden, south of the hotel, runs alongside the prehistoric enclosure. It is possible that archaeology continues into the garden, but is not visible as above ground features. A programme of field evaluation, to include topographic survey and trial trenching, should be undertaken prior to any development to ascertain the status of the garden area.
- There is not considered to be any potential for the survival of archaeological remains either within the surrounding wall of the derelict hotel or within the area immediately on the north-west side where small-scale improvements are proposed (Fig. 6).

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological assessment has been undertaken which has identified a probable prehistoric enclosure close to the proposed development. It is proposed that the development be designed to avoid direct impact on the enclosure, and that a programme of archaeological evaluation be carried out to ascertain the status of the area within the former garden of the derelict hotel which lies adjacent to the enclosure.

The church of Pistyll, of at least 12th century date, lies a short distant east of the development. The church lay on the pilgrimage route to Ynys Enlli, and was an important medieval site. A holy well south of the church may also have been associated with the pilgrimage route.

The farm of Pistyll, located alongside the church, was improved in the mid 19th century. It formed an outlying part of the Vaynol Estate, having formerly been a holding of Bodvel. The farm was sold in 1898, and was bought by the Goddard family, who constructed a guest house on land which had formed part of the farm. This hotel was sold again in 1949, and has since become derelict. It is recommended that the derelict hotel is recorded at a basic level.

8. ARCHIVE

The archive consists of historic maps, plans and aerial photographs, along with notes and digital images taken on the field visit. The archive is currently held by GAT under project code **G2182**.

One copy of the bound report will be sent to the GAPS archaeologist, and a further copy sent to the HER Archaeologist at the curatorial division of Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Bangor, for deposition in the Regional HER. A copy of the report will be provided to the National Monument Record, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales, Aberystwyth.

9. REFERENCES AND OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED

Cadw/ICOMOS 1998 *Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales*

Davidson, A. 2000 *Historic Churches of Gwynedd, Diocese of Bangor*. Unpublished GAT report no. 391

Hogg, A.H. 1957 'A Fortified Round Hut at Carreg Y Llam near Nevin', in *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 106, 46-55

IFA 1994 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment* (rev. 2001).

RCAHMW 1964 *An Inventory of Ancient and Historical Monuments in Caernarvonshire Vol. III: West*

Silvester, R. 2003. 'An Illustrated Guide to Common Field Monuments' in Browne and Hughes *The Archaeology of the Welsh Uplands* (Aberystwyth), 125-133

Smith, G.H. 1999 'Survey of Prehistoric and Romano-British Settlement in North-West Wales', *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 148, 22-53

GAT Historic Environment Record

Gwynedd Archives, Caernarfon

Tithe Map of the Parish of Pistyll, Caernarfonshire 1840

Vaynol 4212 *Survey, Plans and Reference of the Bodfal Estates belonging to William Hervey in the Counties of Caernarfon and Anglesey; surveyed by W. Jones and R. Williams, parishes of Llannor (including Bodfel demesne), Pistyll, Carngywch, Llanarmon, Llanfaglan, Co. Caernarfon and Llaneugred, Co. Anglesey* 1802

Vaynol 4213 *Survey, Book of Reference of Bodfal Estate in the parishes of Llannor, Bodfean, Pistyll, Carngywch and Llanarmon belonging to Thomas Assheton Smith*. 1833

Vaynol 4178 *Farms in the Parish of Pistyll* 1868

XD 28/2894 *Sale Catalogue of outlying portions of the Vaynol Estate* 13th August 1898

XSC 1185 *The Plas Pistyll Estate. Sale Catalogue* 1949

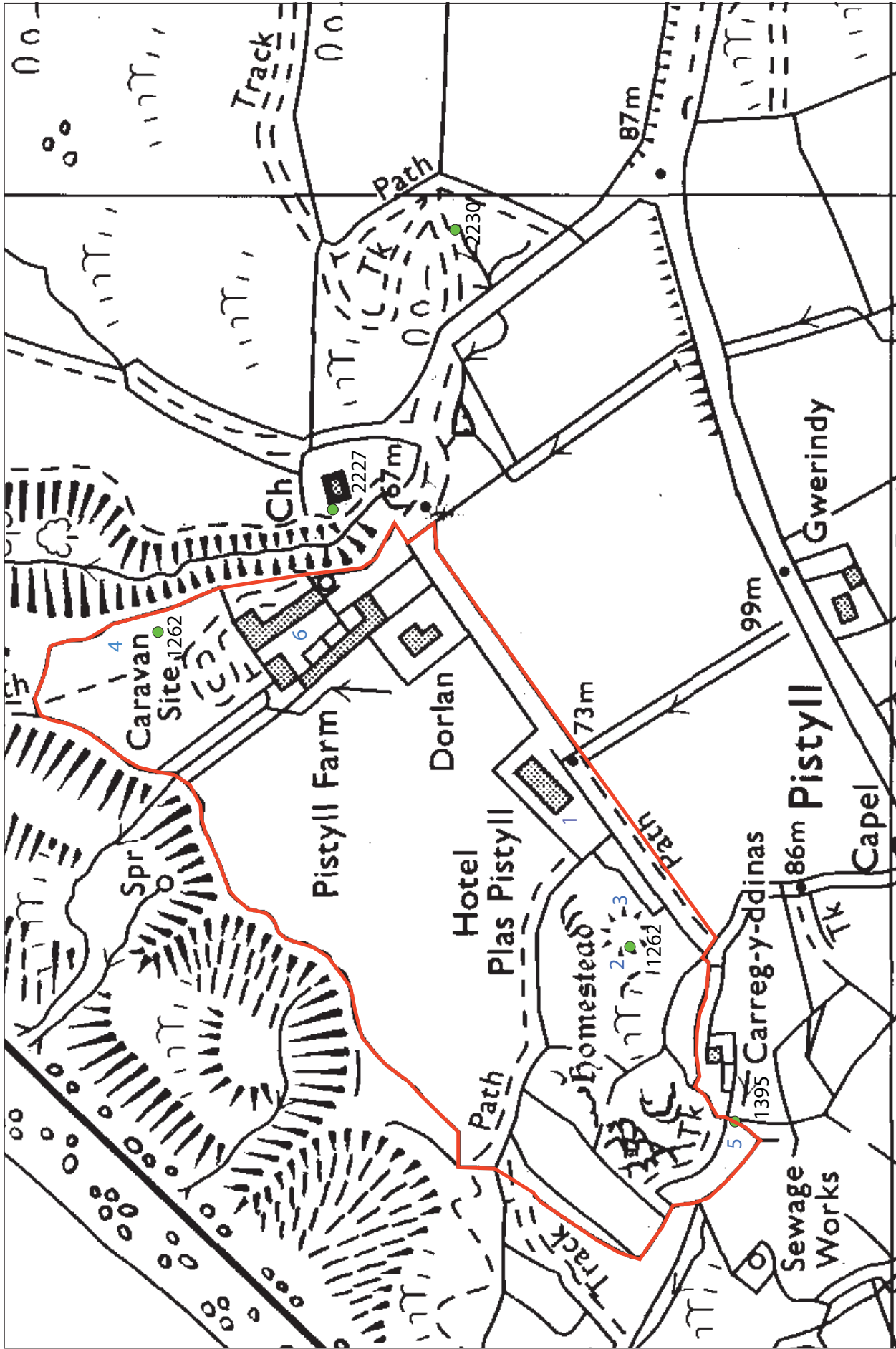
National Archives

HO 107/1390/9 Census returns for Pistyll Farm 1841

RG10/5710 Census returns for Pistyll Farm 1871

National Library of Wales

RCAHM Wales Aberystwyth



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Fig. 1 Location of sites (numbered in blue). Green dots represent sites of the Gwynedd HER (numbered by PRN), and the study area is outlined in red. Scale 1:2500 Map taken from OD 1:10 000 sheet SH34 SW.



Fig. 2 Pistyll Farm from 'Survey, Plans and Reference of the Bodfel Estates belonging to William Hervey' (Gwynedd Archives, Vaynol 4212)

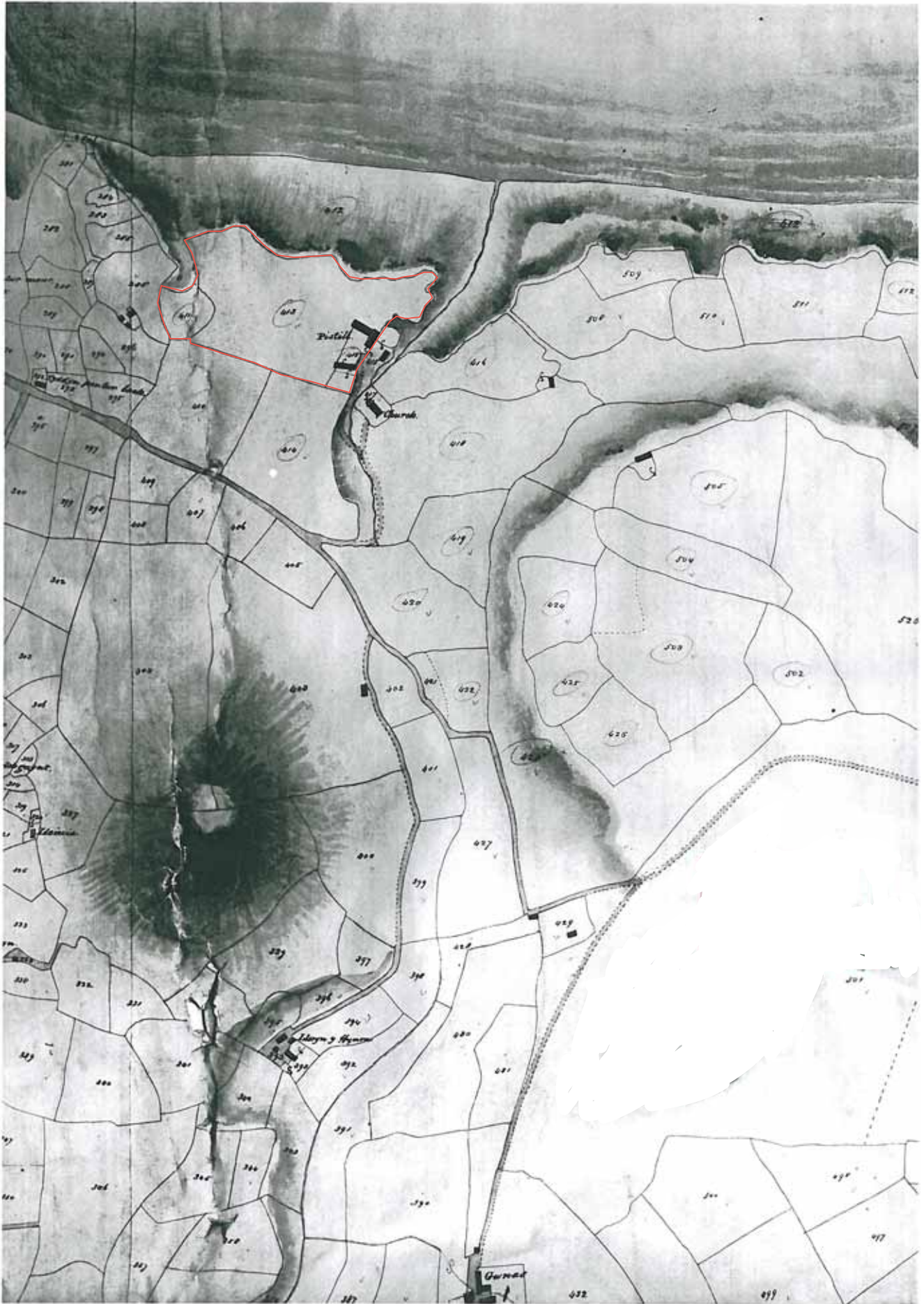


Fig. 3 Tithe map of the parish of Pistyll of 1840 (Gwynedd Archives) with the very approximate study area outlined in red

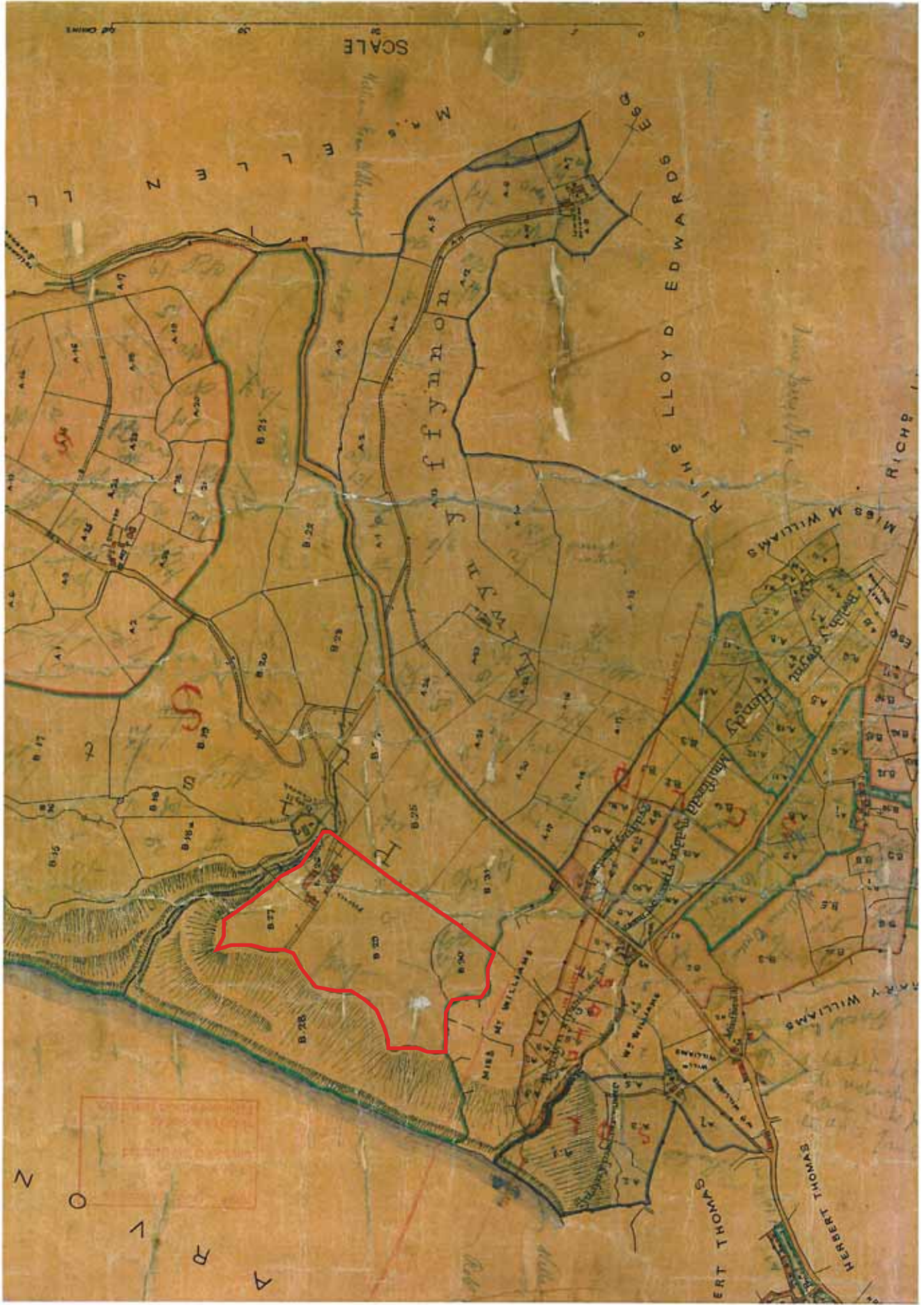


Fig. 4 Map of Farms in the parish of Pistyll 1868 (Vaynol 4178), the study area is outlined in red. Not to scale

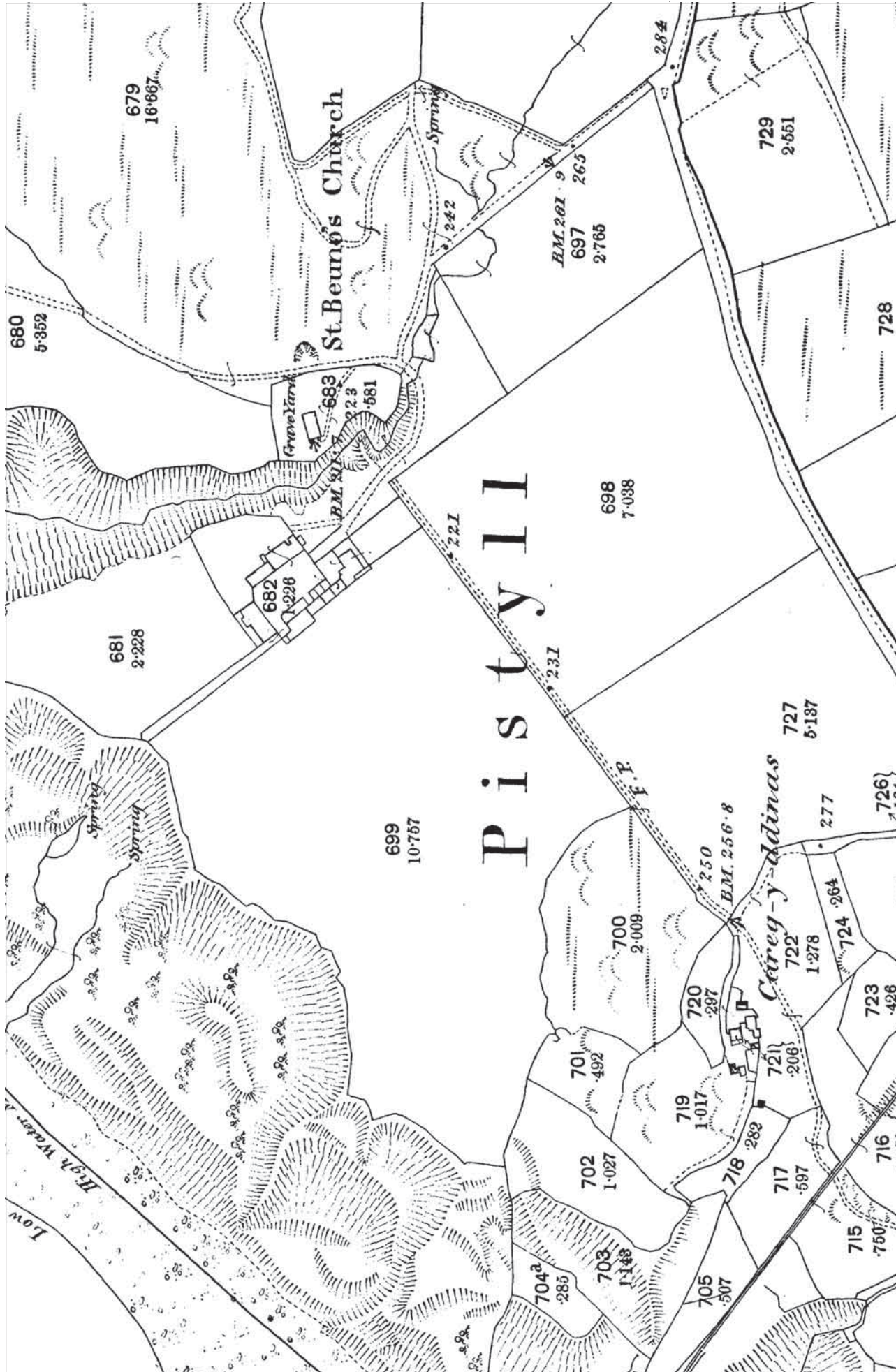


Fig. 5 Ordnance Survey 25 inch map of 1889 Caernarvonshire sheet XXII.6 showing study area. Scale 1:2500

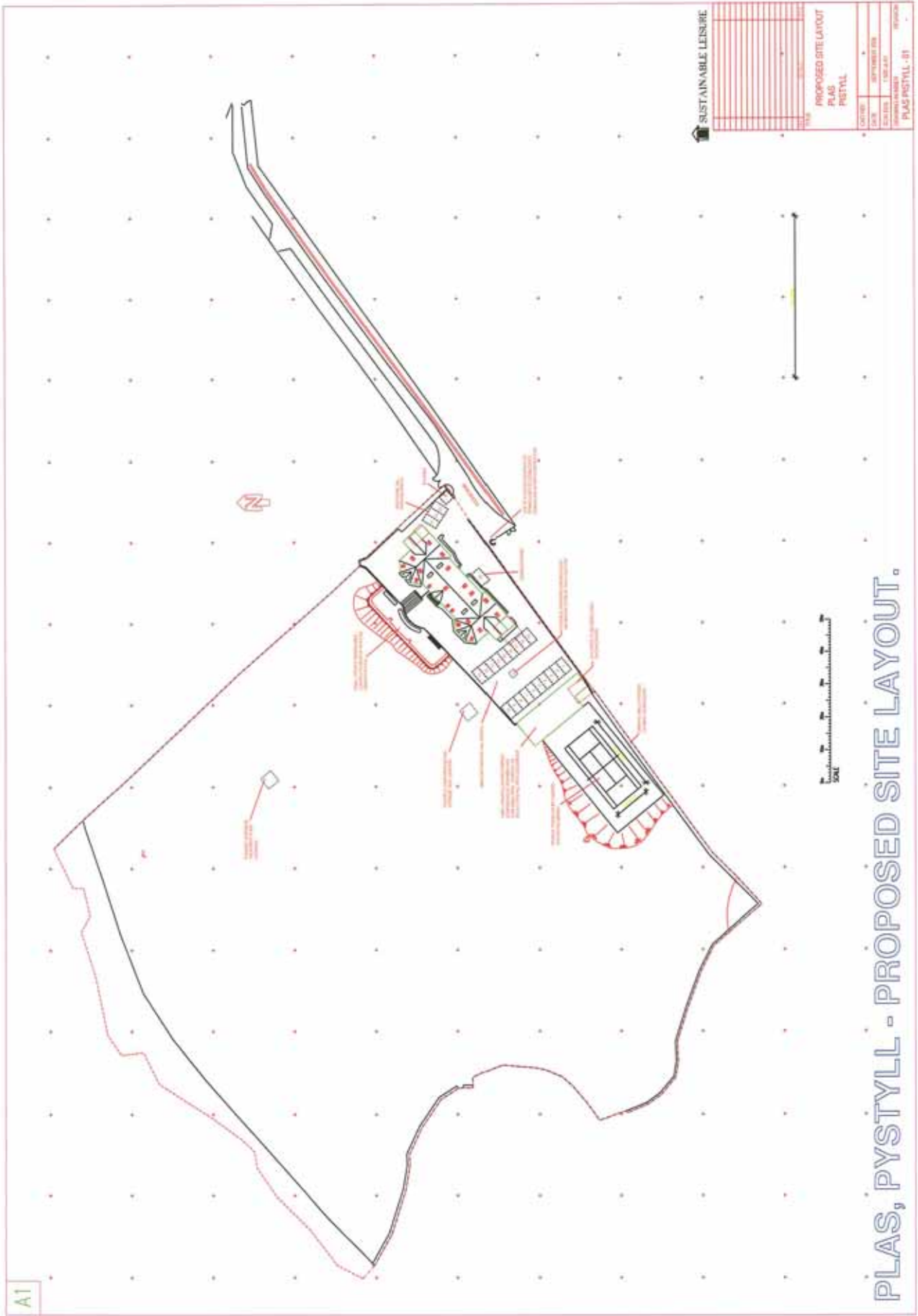


Fig. 6 Sustainable Leisure plan Plas Pystyll 01 showing proposed development



Plate 1 Pistyll Farm from the south



Plate 2 View of Plas Pistyll along the track from the east



Plate 3 Site of circles noted on aerial photograph, now developed (GAT HER 5217)



Plate 4 View of the mill-wheel pit at Pistyll Farm from the south east. Scale 1m



Plate 5 Plas Pistyll from the south east. Scale 1m



Plate 6 View of snecked granite columns at Plas Pistill from the south east. Scale 1m



Plate 7 The prehistoric enclosure (Feature 2) from the east, with the scale on the east rampart. Scale 1m



Plate 8 The horseshoe shaped enclosure, a possible well (Feature 3), from the south east. Scale 1m



Plate 9 The eastern rampart of Feature 2 and Feature 3 to the west of it looking south. Scale 1m



Plate 10 The enclosure from the north facing terrace at Plas Pistyll

APPENDIX 1

Sites on the Gwynedd HER, the RCAHMW CARN database and listed buildings, within 500m of the study area

PRN	NPRN	SITENAME	NGR	SITETYPE	PERIOD	FORM
2227	55040	ST.BEUNO'S CHURCH, PISTYLL	SH32824232	CHURCH	Medieval	BUILDING - ROOFED
2230	55119	FFYNNON (UNATTRIBUTED), HOLY WELL, PISTYLL FARM	SH32984225	WELL	Medieval	OTHER STRUCTURE
1262	57505	ENCLOSURE, PLAS PISTYLL	SH32574215	ENCLOSURE COMPLEX	Unknown	STONE BUILT FEATURE
1395	59833	AGRICULTURAL BUILDING NR CARREG-Y-DDINAS	SH32474209	AGRICULTURAL BUILDING	Medieval	BUILDING - ROOFED
5217	60228	CIRCULAR FEATURES, PISTYLL FARM, PISTYLL	SH32754242A	FEATURE - CIRCULAR	Unknown	AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH SITE
5605	61774	BOULDER BANK (POSS FISH TRAP), PORTH PISTYLL	SH32304230A	BOULDER BANK	Unknown	STONE BUILT FEATURE
7062	0	PISTYLL PARISH CHURCH	SH32824232	CHURCH	Medieval;Post-Medieval	

APPENDIX 2

Categories of importance

The following categories were used to define the importance of the archaeological resource.

Category A - Sites of National Importance.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings of grade II* and above, as well as those that would meet the requirements for scheduling (ancient monuments) or listing (buildings) or both.

Sites that are scheduled or listed have legal protection, and it is recommended that all Category A sites remain preserved and protected *in situ*.

Category B - Sites of regional or county importance.

Grade II listed buildings and sites which would not fulfil the criteria for scheduling or listing, but which are nevertheless of particular importance within the region.

Preservation *in situ* is the preferred option for Category B sites, but if damage or destruction cannot be avoided, appropriate detailed recording might be an acceptable alternative.

Category C - Sites of district or local importance.

Sites which are not of sufficient importance to justify a recommendation for preservation if threatened.

Category C sites nevertheless merit adequate recording in advance of damage or destruction.

Category D - Minor and damaged sites.

Sites that are of minor importance or are so badly damaged that too little remains to justify their inclusion in a higher category.

For Category D sites, rapid recording, either in advance of or during destruction, should be sufficient.

Category E - Sites needing further investigation.

Sites, the importance of which is as yet undetermined and which will require further work before they can be allocated to categories A - D are temporarily placed in this category, with specific recommendations for further evaluation. By the end of the assessment there should usually be no sites remaining in this category. In this case several areas of unknown potential have been allocated to this category.

Definition of Impact

The impact of the proposed development on each feature was estimated. The impact is defined as *none, slight, unlikely, likely, significant, considerable or unknown* as follows:

None:

There is no construction impact on this particular site.

Slight:

This has generally been used where the impact is marginal and would not by the nature of the site cause irreversible damage to the remainder of the feature, *e.g.* part of a trackway or field bank.

Unlikely:

This category indicates sites that fall within the band of interest but are unlikely to be directly affected. This includes sites such as standing and occupied buildings at the margins of the band of interest.

Likely:

Sites towards the edges of the study area, which may not be directly affected, but are likely to be damaged in some way by the construction activity.

Significant:

The partial removal of a site affecting its overall integrity. Sites falling into this category may be linear features such as roads or tramways where the removal of part of the feature could make overall interpretation problematic.

Considerable:

The total removal of a feature or its partial removal which would effectively destroy the remainder of the site.

Unknown:

This is used when the location of the site is unknown, but thought to be in the vicinity of the proposed works.

Definition of field evaluation techniques

Field evaluation is necessary to fully understand and assess most class E sites and to allow the evaluation of areas of land where there are no visible features but for which there is potential for sites to exist. Two principal techniques can be used for carrying out the evaluation: geophysical survey and trial trenching. Topographic survey may also be employed where sites are thought to survive as earthworks.

Geophysical survey most often involves the use of a magnetometer, which allows detection of some underground features, depending on their composition and the nature of the subsoil. Other forms of geophysical survey, including resistivity survey and ground penetrating radar might also be of use.

Trial trenching allows a representative sample of the development area to be investigated at depth. Trenches of appropriate size can also be excavated to evaluate category E sites. Trenching is typically carried out with trenches of between 20 to 30m length and 2m width. The topsoil is removed by machine and the resulting surface is cleaned by hand, recording features. Depending on the stratigraphy encountered the machine may be used to remove stratigraphy to deeper levels.

Definition of Mitigatory Recommendations

Below are the measures that may be recommended to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeology.

None:

No impact so no requirement for mitigatory measures.

Detailed recording:

This requires a full photographic record and measured survey prior to commencement of works.

Archaeological excavation may also be required depending on the particular feature and the extent and effect of the impact.

Basic recording:

Requiring a photographic record and full description prior to commencement of works.

Strip, Map and Sample:

The technique of Strip, Map and Sample involves the examination of machine-stripped surfaces to identify archaeological remains. The stripping is undertaken under the supervision of an archaeologist. Stripping and removal of the overburden is undertaken in such a manner as to ensure damage does not take place to surfaces that have already been stripped, nor to archaeological surfaces that have not yet been revealed.

Stripping is undertaken in as careful a manner as possible, to allow for good identification of archaeological features. A small team of archaeologists will be responsible for subsequently further cleaning defined areas where necessary. Complex sites which cannot be avoided will need to be fully excavated.

Watching brief:

This is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.

Avoidance:

Features, which may be affected directly by the scheme, or during the construction, should be avoided. Occasionally a minor change to the proposed plan is recommended, but more usually it refers to the need for care to be taken during construction to avoid accidental damage to a feature. This is often best achieved by clearly marking features prior to the start of work.

Reinstatement:

The feature should be re-instated with archaeological advice and supervision.



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