
Llain Delyn: Gwalchmai, Anglesey



Archaeological Assessment

GAT Project No. 2186

Report No. 947

May, 2011

Llain Delyn, Gwalchmai

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Prepared for
WM Design and Architecture Ltd.

May 2011

By
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LAND AT LLAIN DELYN, GWALCHMAI, ANGLESEY

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LAND AT LLAIN DELYN, GWALCHMAI

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT (G2186)

SUMMARY

An archaeological assessment was carried out in advance of proposed development at Llain Delyn, Gwalchmai. There are no known prehistoric sites within the development area, but it is known that the larger part of Anglesey was settled and farmed by the later prehistoric period, and that there is a relatively high concentration of settlements of this period within Anglesey.

The study area formed part of the farm and mill of Ysgubor Esgob (i.e. the Bishop's barn), and though it has not been possible to trace the name back to the medieval period, it is probable that this formed part of the Bishop of Bangor's holding. To the north of Ysgubor Esgob lies Spite Inn, a name which is usually thought to be derived from 'Hospitium', and to indicate the presence of a medieval guest house, often owned by the Knights Hospitallers, though there is no evidence of their influence in this area.

The principal site identified within the study area is the former Second World War Prisoner of War camp (Site 1). Concrete bases are thought to lie within the area, one possible example clearly visible within the south corner, and the roads should be clearly identifiable. Former service trenches are thought likely to cross the area, possibly causing disturbance to any surviving archaeological deposits.

Potential for survival of pre-WWII buried archaeological remains is slight in the eastern part of the site occupied by the prisoner of war camp, but medium in the western part of the site alongside Ysgubor Esgob.

It is recommended that the site is carefully stripped down to archaeological layers under the supervision of an archaeologist. The aim of the mitigation would be to identify and record any surviving remains of the Prisoner of War Camp and to identify any other surviving buried archaeological features. Further mitigation recommendations may be required depending upon the extent, nature and status of any buried features located.

1. INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) has been asked by *W M Design and Architecture Ltd.* to carry out an archaeological assessment of land at Llain Delyn, Gwalchmai, in advance of a proposed development (centered on NGR SH 39227586). Housing is proposed within two fields adjacent to the farm of Esgubor Esgob, as shown on Figure 1.

2. SPECIFICATION AND PROJECT DESIGN

A specific brief was not provided for this project, however the archaeological curators, Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services (GAPS) advised that an archaeological assessment and evaluation be undertaken according to the guidelines set out in Welsh national planning guidance (*Planning Policy Guidance Wales 2010*), in Welsh Office Circular 60/96 (*Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology*), and in *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994, rev. 2007). A project design was produced by GAT which conformed to these guidelines and agreed with the client.

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust's proposals for fulfilling the requirements were, briefly, as follows:

- a) to identify and record the cultural heritage of the area to be affected;
- b) to evaluate the importance of what was identified (both as a cultural landscape and as the individual items which make up that landscape); and
- c) to recommend ways in which damage to the cultural heritage can be avoided or minimised.

A full archaeological assessment usually comprises 6 phases:

- 1) Desk-top study
- 2) Field Search
- 3) Interim Draft Report
- 4) Detailed Field Evaluation
- 5) Final Draft Report
- 6) Final Report

This assessment has covered the work required under 1, 2, 3. It is sometimes necessary to undertake a programme of field evaluation following the desktop assessment. This is because some sites cannot be assessed by desktop or field visit alone, and additional fieldwork is required. This typically takes the form of trial excavation, though other options, including topographic survey, are also possible. The present report makes recommendations for any further field evaluation required.

3. METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

3.1 Desk-top Study

This involved consultation of maps, computer records, written records and reference works, which make up the Historic Environment Record (HER), located at Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Bangor. A range of aerial photographs were examined at National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth dating from the 1940's and 1960's, as well as more recent colour aerial coverage. Estate maps, tithe maps and OS maps were examined at the University of Wales Bangor archives and the regional archives at Llangefni. Information about Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments was obtained from Cadw. Secondary sources were consulted to provide background information. Sites noted on the Gwynedd HER are referred to by their Primary Record Number (PRN), a unique number given to each site, and are listed in Appendix I and shown on figure 1. A full list of sources consulted is given in section 7 of the report.

3.2 Field Search

This was undertaken during April 2011, when the site was visited on two occasions by an archaeologist. The conditions were generally fine for fieldwork, though vegetation hid much of the detail in the eastern field.

3.3 Report

All available information was collated, and the features were then assessed and allocated to categories of national, regional, local and other importance as listed in Appendix II. These are intended to give an idea of the importance of the feature and the level of response likely to be required; descriptions of the features and specific recommendations for further assessment or mitigatory measures, as appropriate, are given in the relevant sections of this report. The criteria used for allocating features to categories of importance are based on those used by the Secretary of State when considering ancient monuments for scheduling; these are set out in the Welsh Office Circular 60/96.

3.4 Definitions

Definitions of Impact, evaluation methods and mitigation methods as used in the gazetteer (section 5 below) can be found in Appendix II.

4. THE STUDY AREA

4.1 Topographic Description

The study area is located some 8Km from the west coast of Anglesey at a height of approximately 60m above OD and within the village of Gwalchmai. The village is in two parts – isaf (lower) and uchaf (upper). The former has its nucleus both around the medieval church and as ribbon development along Telford's Holyhead road (A5). Gwalchmai Uchaf has its nucleus around a cross-roads where a chapel and school were located in the 19th century. The study area formed part of the farm of Ysgubor Esgob,

which, in 1900, lay on the north edge of Gwalchmai Uchaf, though 20th century expansion of the settlement has spread so it is now incorporated within the village.

The underlying geology is pre-Cambrian, though the corrugated landform with its north-east to south-west trend is a result of the later Caledonian orogeny. This is manifest in the flow of the Afon Ddrudwy, a small river west of the study area which flows south-west into the sea by Llyn Maelog. The soils are brown earths of low-base status, suitable for grazing and occasional crop rotation, though areas of significant rock outcrop occur, particularly north-west of Gwalchmai, where granite is quarried. The agriculture is predominantly pastoral, with trees limited to boundaries. The fields are small, often unimproved, and from their morphology are pre-19th century in origin. They contrast with the large rectangular 19th century fields which lie to the east and west. A network of paths and tracks survives which also appear to date from an earlier period, and one suspects that much of the landscape reflects a medieval or early modern pattern.

4.2 Statutory and non-statutory designations

The proposed development area is not within any statutory or non-statutory designated areas.

A number of listed buildings are close proximity to the site (Fig. 2). The closest listed buildings to the proposed development area and those within view are:

20516 Jerusalem Chapel, Grade II
20518 Ty Capel, Jerusalem Chapel, Grade II
5331 Church of St. Morhaiarn, Grade II*

There are no scheduled ancient monuments within close proximity to the study area.

4.3 The Existing Archaeological Record and Cartographic Evidence

4.3.1 Prehistoric to Medieval periods

There are few known sites of prehistoric date from the vicinity, though finds of flints and other prehistoric artefacts suggest the absence is more apparent than real. Excavations in advance of the construction of the A55 across Anglesey revealed a high density of sites which were not visible as surface remains, but were preserved as buried archaeology beneath the plough soil (Cutler *et al*, 2011). A quern and bones were found during drainage works next to Llyn Hendref 500m north-east of the study area (PRN 3513), whilst further up the valley, from a large area of marsh and bog called Cors Bodwrog, were found a significant hoard of Bronze Age palstaves and socketed axes (Lynch 1991, 366-7). Prehistoric flints have also been found south-west of the study area at Dothan (PRN 2447).

There are, similarly, very few Roman finds from the area. Coins have been found in Cors Bodwrog (PRN 2140), and a Roman copper 'cake' was found close to Llandrygarn 3km north of the study area, but there is no surviving visual evidence of sites of this period.

4.3.2 Medieval and later

The study area lies in the ecclesiastical parish of Trewalchmai; the church, dedicated to St Morhaiarn, lies some 290m north-west on a low eminence.

Within the medieval parish were located both a free medieval hamlet belonging to the descendants of Gwalchmai and lands belonging to the Bishop of Bangor. The name of the parish and township is derived from Gwalchmai ap Meilyr (*fl* 1130-80), a poet from a family of some local importance. Meilyr, Gwalchmai's father, was also a poet, and at least two of Gwalchmai's sons, Einion and Meilyr, were poets, whilst Einion was also a man of the law, possibly a magistrate, in the service of Llywelyn ap Iorwerth (Stephens 1998). The medieval extent of 1352 lists a number of townships and hamlets belonging to descendants of the family, including the hamlet of Trewalchmai which it describes as containing three *gwelyau* or family groups named Gwely Meilir ap Gwalchmai, Gwely Dafydd ap

Gwalchmai and Gwely Elidir ap Gwalchmai, i.e. they are named after three of the sons of Gwalchmai. In 1352 the hamlet was occupied by their descendants, who had shares in both the land and in a corn water mill. One part of the hamlet was described as *ffridd* in the lord's hand, the likelihood being that one part owner had died without an heir (Carr 1972, 170-3). Trewalchmai is also named in another medieval extent dated 1306 which described the lands of the Bishop of Bangor. The Bishop's holding consisted of 4 carucates of land (perhaps some 200 statute acres) farmed by 24 tenants (Ellis 1838, 103). In 1545 the freeholders of the vill of 'Trewalchmaye, belonging to Bishop of Bangor' requested in the Court of Augmentations that the boundary between their vill, or township, and the adjoining vill of Trevybian Meryc be established, as the vills are 'so nigh together and divided by metes and bounds so uncertain and unknown how far they should extend or where to sever or part' (Lewis and Davies 1954, 4). The boundary referred to lies west of the study area, on the edge of the parish, but it shows that the Bishop's lands were not in a cohesive block around the church, but scattered throughout the parish, and presumably intermingling with the freehold lands of the descendants of Gwalchmai ap Meilyr.

It has not been possible to trace the subsequent history and ownership of these lands in any detail, but it is interesting that both the 18th century estate maps and the Tithe map of 1840 record relatively small plots of land with some intermingling of ownership, which suggests that even as late as 1840 the pattern of land ownership was partly influenced by the sub-divisions which occurred during the medieval and Early Modern period.¹

The study area formed part of the farm and mill of Ysgubor Esgob (i.e. the Bishop's barn), and though it has not been possible to trace the name back to the medieval period, it is probable that this formed part of the Bishop of Bangor's holding as recorded in the Extent of 1306. The farm buildings and farmhouse lie on the south side of the study area. Associated with the farm was a water mill, which lay 250m west of the house on the Afon Ddrydwy (Fig. 9). It is not known if this is the site of the medieval mill, though no other mill is known within the vicinity. However if this lay on the Bishop's lands, it is unlikely to have been the mill belonging to the free hamlet associated with Gwalchmai ap Meiy'r's heirs. The site of the mill was not accessible, though a ruinous building was visible in 2008 (NMR NPRN 407848).

To the north of Ysgubor Esgob lies Spite Inn, a name which is usually thought to be derived from 'Hospitium', and to indicate the presence of a medieval guest house, often owned by the Knights Hospitallers, though there is no evidence of their influence in this area. It is shown on the 1769 map as 'Poor land', and on the 1805 map as belonging to the 'Poor of Llangefni'.

By 1700 Ysgubor Esgob and the adjoining mill were owned by Penrhos Estate (UWB Penrhos I, 1393). In 1752 the mill was let to Thomas Williams of Highgate, Gwalchmai (a property adjacent to the church). The lessee was to pay no rent for the first three years during which he put the mill and kiln in order, then £6 per annum afterwards (NLW Bodewryd 123). The estate map of 1769 (fig. 3) shows the farm of Ysgubor Esgob with the farmhouse in the same location as today, though with a very different field layout. The later estate map of 1805 is similar, though clearly indicates the genesis of the later village of Gwalchmai Uchaf. Jerusalem chapel, located just north of the cross-roads and providing a focus for further settlement, was first built in 1780 (Fig. 4). Other buildings are shown clustered around the cross-roads. Some 35 years later the opening of Telford's Holyhead road encouraged the growth of Gwalchmai Isaf along the line of the new road, with the medieval church located between the two. The new, more regularised, field layout of Ysgubor Esgob is shown on the OS map of 1889 (fig. 5), which also shows the considerable growth of the village in the second half of the 19th century.

4.3.3 Later History

In the early 20th century Penrhos Estate sold many of its lands, and, though no direct reference has been found, it is probable that Ysgubor Esgob was sold at that time. It was purchased by the father of the current owner c. 1940. The mill was, at this time, in use for generating electricity, but no corn milling was undertaken.

¹ It has not been possible to consult the parish Land Tax Records which may have helped in this respect. This is because the County Record Office is part way through moving to a new site, and these records were not available for consultation.

A prisoner of war camp for Italian and Polish prisoners was established within the area. The extent of the camp is visible on aerial photographs taken in 1946 (Figs. 7 and 8). This included the easterly of the two fields which make up the study area. A single air-raid shelter survives in the garden of Glyn Alan. Following closure of the camp the buildings were used for a variety of farm uses until the 1970's, and though no buildings survive on site, some concrete platforms are thought to remain beneath the present vegetation (Fig. 10).

In the later 20th century new houses were built alongside the road on land belonging to Ysgubor Esgob, and these now occupy the north and west sides of the present study area.

4.4 Site Gazetteer

What follows is a list of archaeological features identified within or close to the proposed development area during the site investigation.

A. Within the development site

1. Prisoner of War Camp (Fig. 7) SH 3923 7586	PRN:	Category: C Impact: High
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A Prisoner of War Camp, initially for Italian prisoners, but later for Polish prisoners, was established in the 1940's on land between Gwalchmai Uchaf and the A5. The camp covered a much wider area than that just the study area, and its extent can be best appreciated from an aerial photograph of 1946. Some ten buildings lay within the south-east field of the study area, but none lay within the north-west field. Of the ten buildings, the sites of five now lie under the houses that flank the road on the south-east edge. The bases of the remaining five and the road foundations are thought to lie beneath the present vegetation layer. A much higher density of buildings lay within the fields to the north of the study area, now overlain by the housing estate of Llain Delyn.

2. Building on OS map (Fig. 5) SH 3921 7585	PRN:	Category: E Impact: High
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A small building is shown on the OS 1900 map at this location, sited in the corner of the field where the two fields of the study area meet. It obviously forms part of the farmstead of Ysgubor Esgob, though its function is not known. It is not shown on the 1889 OS map, but is clearly indicated on the 1900 OS map. There are no visible upstanding remains of the building.

B. In the immediate vicinity of the development site

3. Semi-sunken shelter, Glyn Alan SH 3925 7587	Category: C Impact: None
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A semi-sunken shelter of half-round concrete panels remains on the site of the 1940's Prisoner of War camp within the garden at Glyn Alan. It measures approximately 10m long by some 3m wide. A similar shelter was located underneath the houses south of Glyn Alan. It is thought to be an air raid shelter contemporary with the camp.

4. Ysgubor Esgob SH 3917 7586	Category: B Impact: None
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A farmhouse and farm buildings belonging to a small farm of some 15 to 20 acres, and associated with a water corn mill (see site 5 below). No historical references earlier than the 18th century have been found, when it was owned by the Penrhos Estate, however it is suggested in the historical section above that the name is derived from the property having formed part of the Bishop of Bangor's estate in the medieval period. The present house is thought to be 18th century in origin.

5. Ysgubor Esgob Water Mill (Fig. 9) SH3899 7602	Category: C Impact: None
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A corn water mill was associated with the holding of Ysgubor Esgob. This is mentioned in the rentals of the Penrhos Estate from the 18th century onwards. There was a medieval mill in Gwalchmai, but its location is not known, though a lack of suitable rivers means it is likely to have lain somewhere on the

same river if not on the same location as the 18th century mill. The mill is likely to have been working up to the first half of the 20th century, though by 1946 it was used for generating electricity. It was not possible to gain access to the site, but it is thought that upstanding walls of the mill remain, though the mill pond has been filled in.

6. Spite Inn
SH39197600

Category: C
Impact: None

The name ‘Spite Inn’ is thought to be derived from ‘hospitium’, and use of the site as an inn or place of shelter in medieval times. It has not proved possible to trace the name back earlier than the 18th century. Ownership in the 19th century was described on Penrhos Maps as ‘Llangefni Poor Land’. The site was not visited as part of the survey.

7. Jerusalem Chapel and Ty Capel
SH3911 7577

Category: B (Listed II)
Impact: None

A Calvinistic Methodist chapel of 2 storeys built in simple Renaissance style. A chapel was first established here in 1780, and rebuilt in 1849. The present building was refurbished in 1925. Alongside is Ty Capel, a mid-19th century chapel house range of 2 storeys. A cemetery lies north-east of the chapel.

8. Church of St Morhaearn, Trewalchmai
SH3904 7610

Category: A (Listed II*)
Impact: None

The medieval parish church on a rock outcrop 300m north-west of the study area. Though the foundation is at least as early as the 12th century, the earliest datable features within the continuous nave and chancel are of the 14th century, and the north chapel was added c. 1500.

9. Unknown buried archaeological remains

Category: E
Impact: Unknown

There exists the possibility of unknown buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

5. IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Archaeological potential

The principal site within the study area is the former Prisoner of War camp. Concrete bases are thought to lie within the area, one possible example clearly visible within the south corner, and the road should be clearly identifiable. Former service trenches may cross the area.

Potential for the former existence of medieval or prehistoric archaeology is medium – the area is known to have been settled in medieval times, but the exact location of the settlements is not known. Similarly, by the late prehistoric period, the larger part of Anglesey was settled and farmed, and there is potential for prehistoric settlement here. Potential for survival of the remains is slight in the eastern part of the site occupied by the prisoner of war camp, but medium in the western part of the site alongside Ysgubor Esgob.

5.2 Direct Impact

It is assumed that the entire site will be impacted upon by the proposed development, and that any surviving archaeological features will be removed as part of this process.

5.3 Indirect impact

The site is surrounded by houses on the north and east. It is just inter-visible with the church of St Morhaearn, but the back-drop of modern housing means there will be very slight new intrusive impact.

5.4 Mitigation

It is recommended that the site is carefully stripped of the current high vegetation down to archaeological layers under the supervision of an archaeologist. The aim of the mitigation will be to identify and record any surviving remains of Site 1 (Prisoner of War Camp) and to identify any other surviving buried archaeological features. Further mitigation recommendations may be required depending upon the extent, nature and status of any buried features located.

6. ARCHIVE

The archive consists of field notes, historic maps and photographs taken on the field visit. It is currently held by GAT under the project code **G2186**.

7. SOURCES

7.1 OS Maps

25" County Series Anglesey XVII.4 surveyed 1889, 1900, and 1922

7.2 Aerial Photographs

National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth
Welsh Assembly Government, Cardiff

7.3 Manuscript Sources

Anglesey Record Office, Llangefni

Tithe map for parish of Trewalchmai
Postcard of Llwydiarth Esgob mill

University of Wales, Bangor:

Penrhos Manuscripts including various rentals and leases and:
Penrhos II Map 775
Penrhos III 1805

7.4 Published sources

Carr, A. D., 1972 'The Extent of Anglesey, 1352', *Trans Anglesey Antiquarian Society*, 1971-2.

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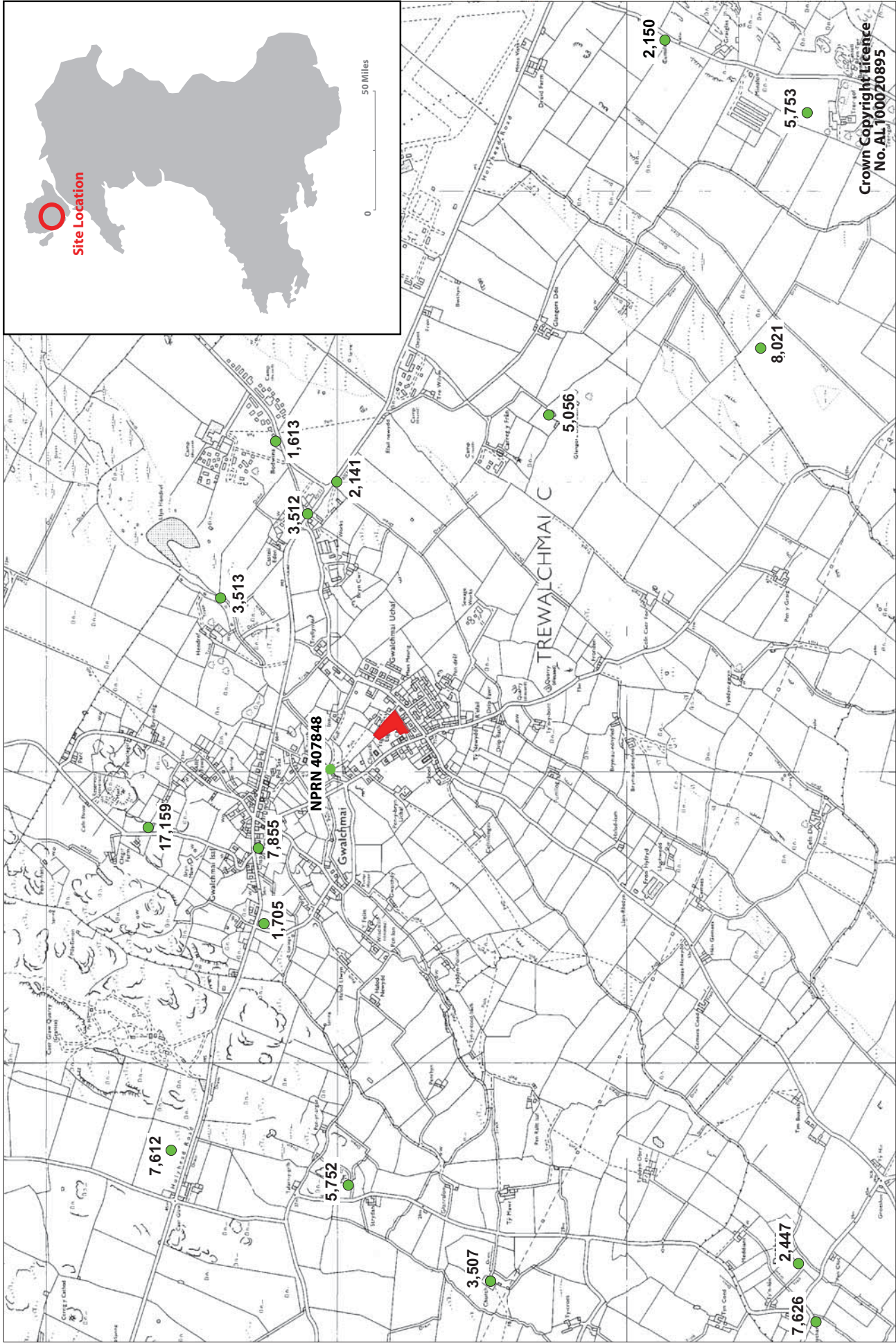


Fig. 1 Location of sites mentioned in the text. Site location shown in red. Sites on the Gwynedd HER are marked with green dots and numbered. Base map taken from OS 10 000 Series Sheets SH 37 NE and SH 47 NW. Scale 1: 15 000.

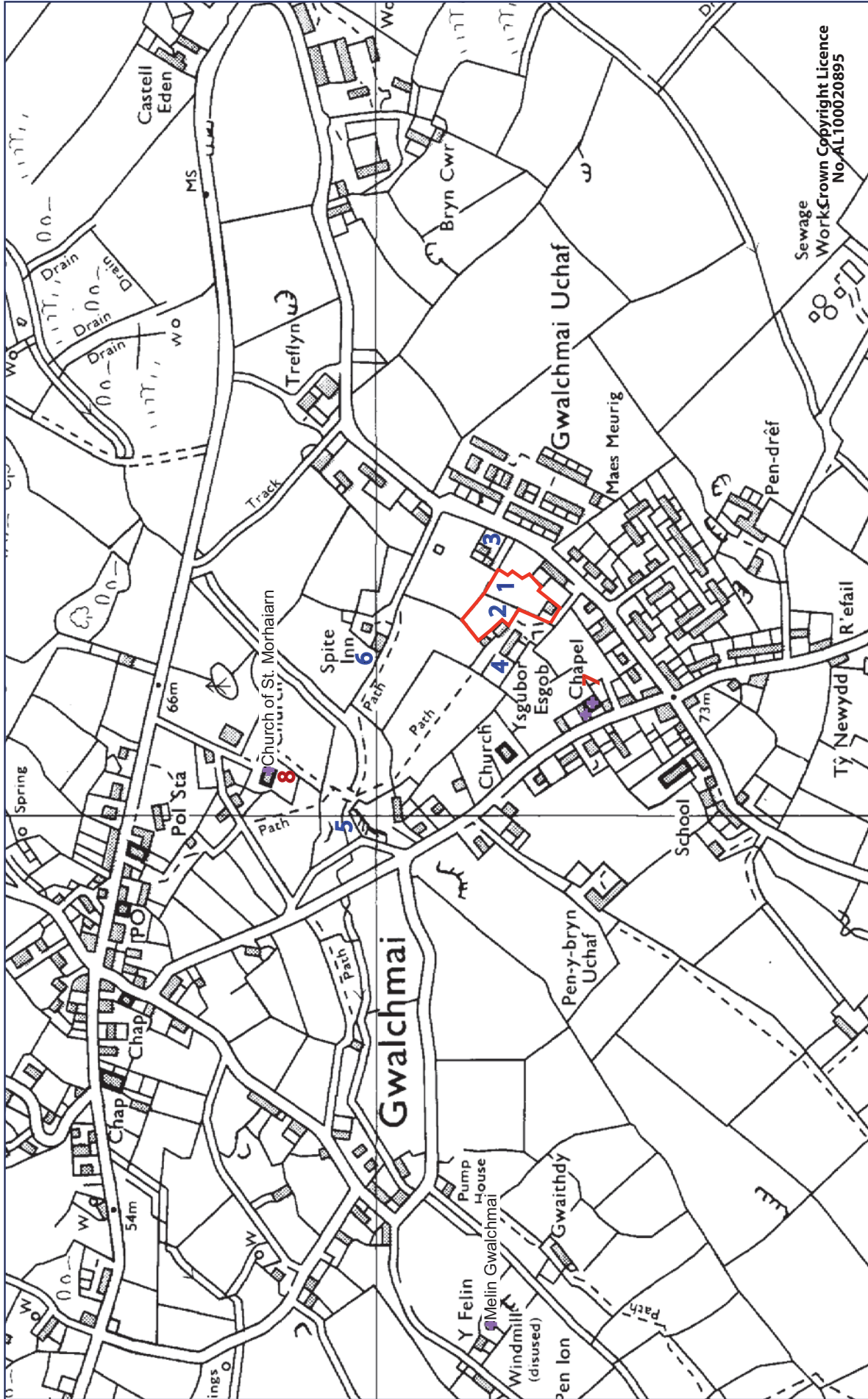


Fig. 2 Listed buildings, shown with purple crosses, and sites referred to in the text are numbered in blue, with listed buildings in red. Site location shown in red. Base map taken from OS 10 000 Series Sheets SH 37 NE and SH 47 NW. Scale 1: 7500.

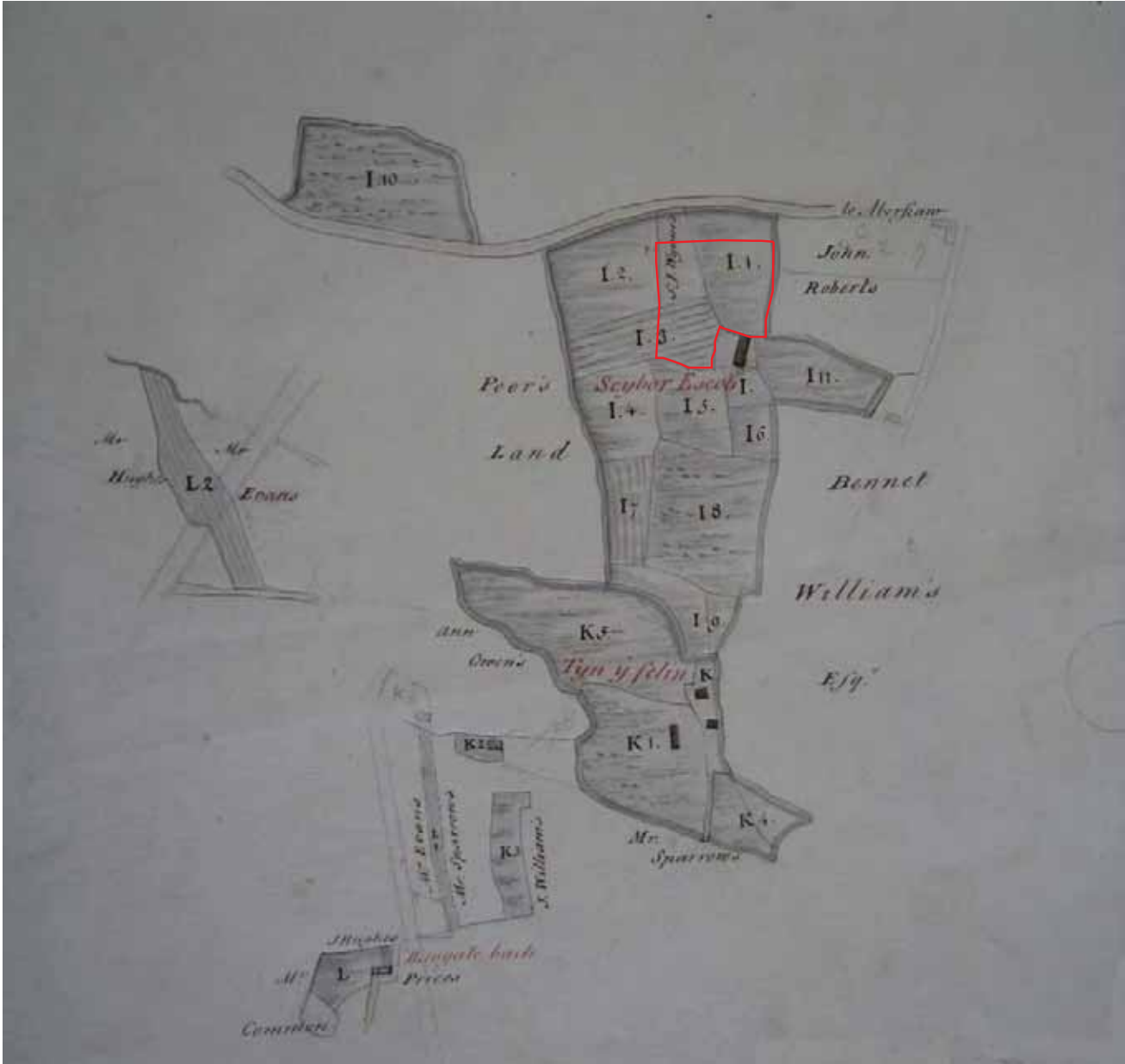


Figure 3. Estate map of 1769 showing farm of Yscybor Esgob with approximate location of study area overlain. (UWB Penrhos II, 773)

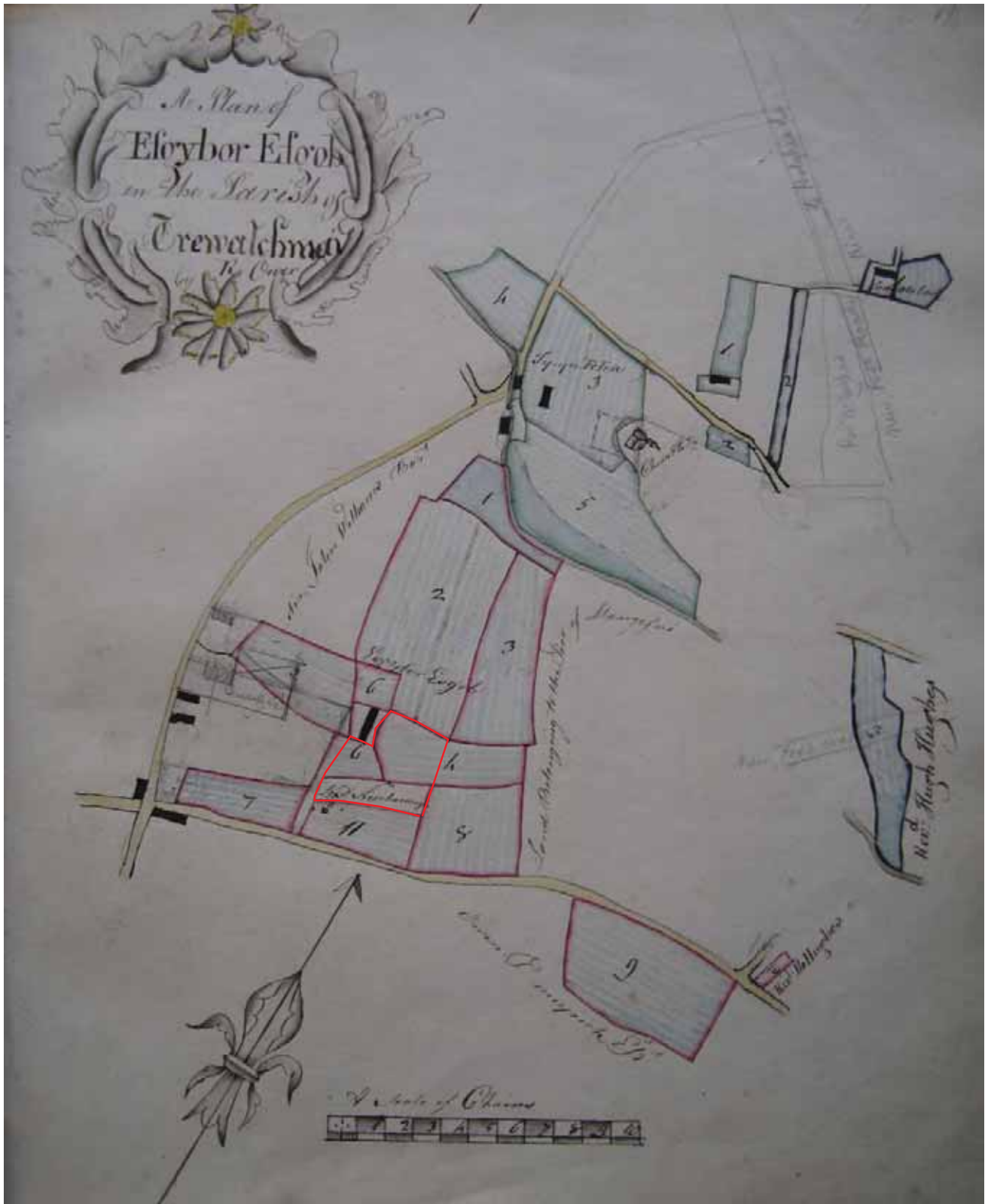


Figure 4. Estate map of Ysgubor Esgob dated 1805 with approximate location of study area overlain (UWB Penrhos III)

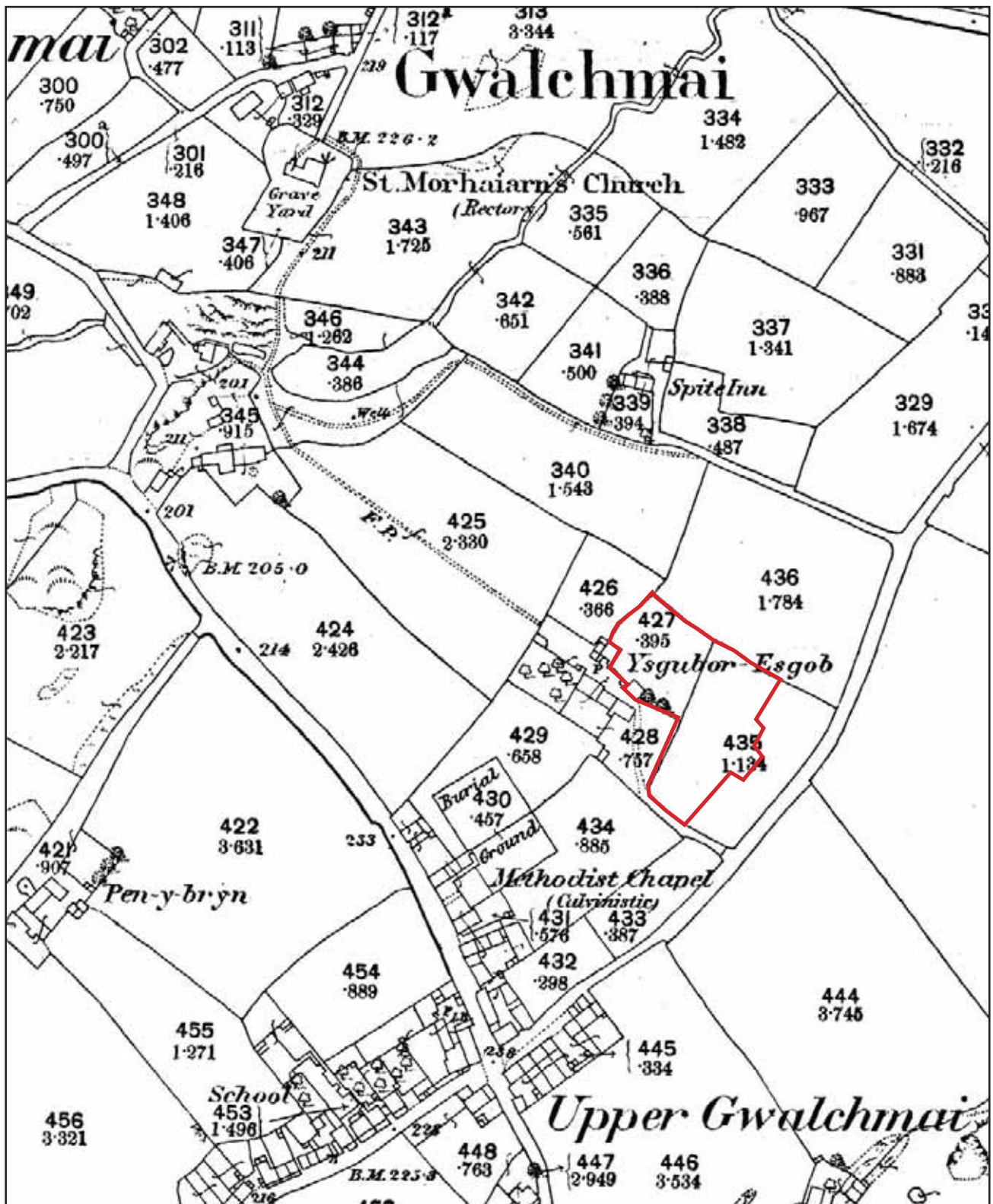


Figure 5. OS map of 1889 showing farm of Ysgubor Esgob (OS County Series Anglesey XVII.4 First edition of 1889). Study area outlined in red

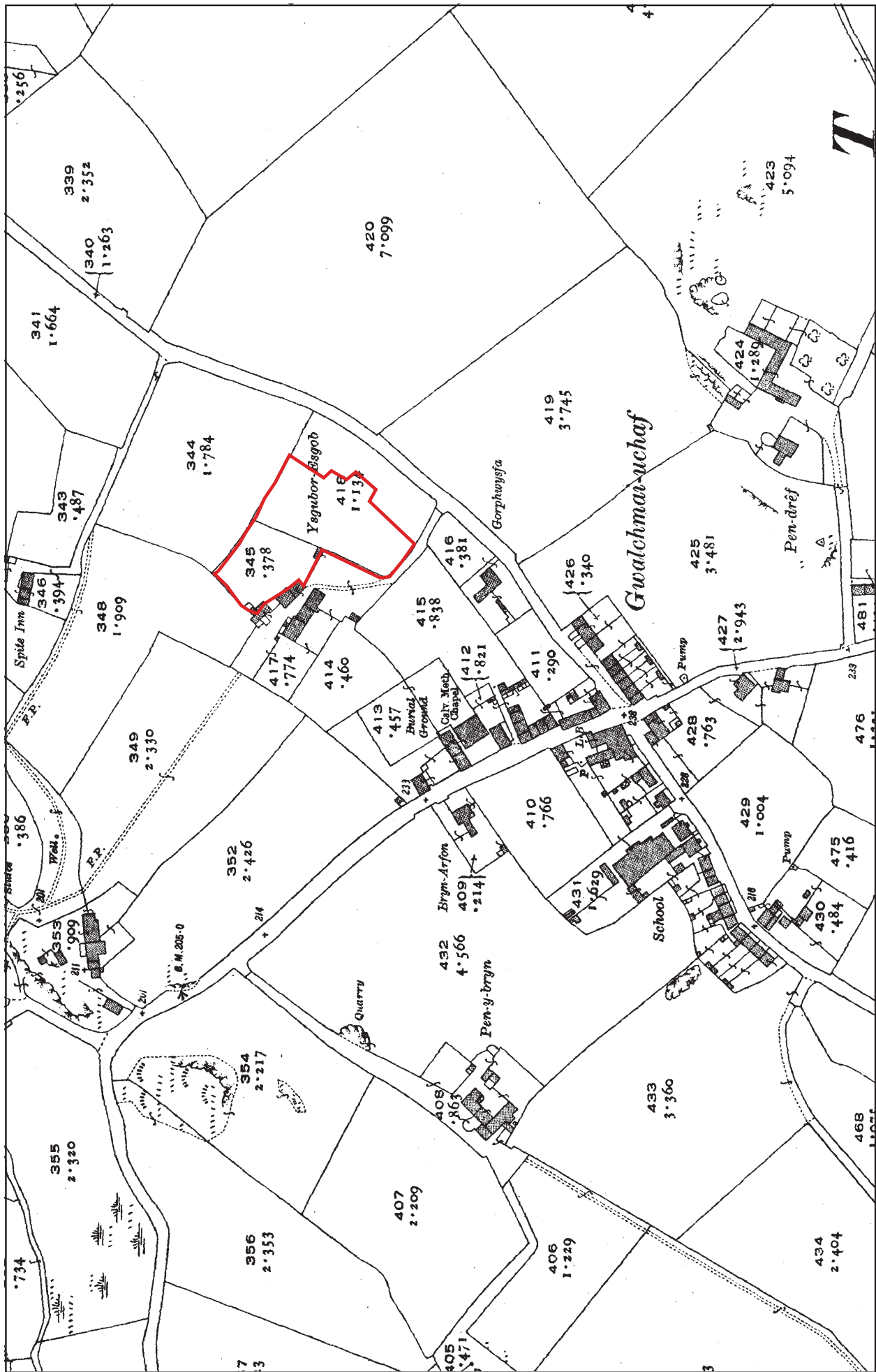


Figure 6. OS map of 1922 showing farm of Ysgubor Esgob (OS County Series Anglesey XVII.4 Third edition). Scale 1:2500



Fig. 7 RAF Aerial Photograph 106G/UK 655 frame 4192, taken 13th Aug 1945. Development area outlined in red. The surrounding Prisoner of War camp is clearly visible

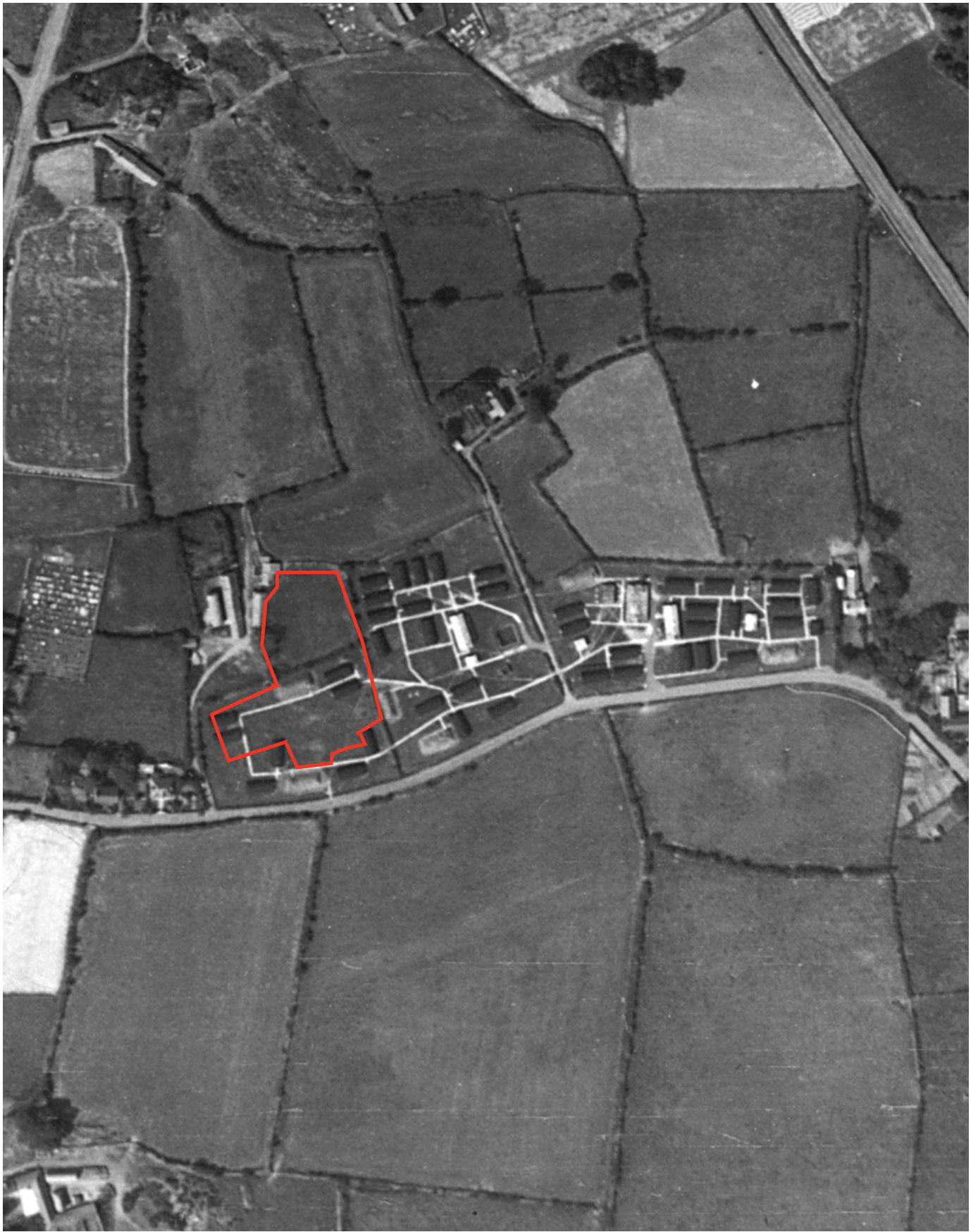


Fig. 8 Detail from RAF AP 106G/UK 655 frame 4192 taken 13th Aug 1945 showing the POW camp with development area outlined



Fig. 9 An early 20th century postcard of Gwalchmai Water Mill from the south (NPRN 407848)



Fig. 10 A concrete pad within the development area, possibly a base for a former POW camp structure

APPENDIX I

Sites Located on the Gwynedd HER within 500m of the study area				
PRN	SITENAME	NGR	SAM/LISTED BUILDING	PERIOD
2447	FLINT TOOLS - FINDSPOT, TY'N LON, DOTHAN	SH37317441		Prehistoric
5056	BRONZE HOARD - FINDSPOT, CORS BODWROG	SH40237527		Prehistoric
2141	FLINT FLAKES - FINDSPOT, BODWINA, CORS BODWROG	SH40007600A		Prehistoric
2150	ROUND BARROW, CRAIG LAS, NEAR MONA	SH41527487	A112	Prehistoric
3507	ST. PEULAN'S CHURCH, LLANBEULAN	SH37257547		Medieval
3512	GWALCHMAI OLD TOLL HOUSE, TREWALCHMAI	SH39887610	GII	Post-Medieval
3513	QUERNSTONE & BONES - FINDSPOT, LLYN HENDREF	SH39607640A		Prehistoric
1613	BODWINA (PLACE-NAME), GWALCHMAI	SH40147621		Early-Medieval
5752	MILL LEAT AND WATERCOURSE, STRYDAN	SH37587596C		Unknown
5753	RUBBING STONE/STANDING STONE, POSS, SITE OF, TRE'R GOF	SH41277438		Unknown
1705	TOLLBOOTH, GWALCHMAI	SH38487625		Post-Medieval
8021	CIRCULAR FEATURE, NEAR WAUN LLANFAIR	SH40467454		Unknown
7612	BURNT MOUND, CAER GLAW	SH37707657		Prehistoric
8137	CAPEL-BACH	SH37247543		Post-Medieval
7626	DOTHAN	SH37117435		Post-Medieval
7855	GWALCHMAI	SH38747627		Post-Medieval
11236	TY NEWYDD, GWALCHMAI	SH39897610	GII	Post-Medieval
6948	LLANBEULAN PARISH CHURCH	SH37257547		Medieval;Post-Medieval
17157	MONA AIRFIELD CHARACTER AREA	SH41177599		Multi-period
17159	GWALCHMAI CHARACTER AREA	SH38817664		Multi-period

APPENDIX II: DEFINITIONS OF IMPORTANCE AND RECOMMENDATION

1. Definition of Categories of importance

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

Category A - Sites of National Importance.

This category includes Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings of grade II* and above, as well as those sites 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 Importance

This category includes grade II Listed Buildings and sites which would not fulfil the criteria for scheduling, 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

These sites are not of sufficient importance to justify a recommendation for preservation if threatened, but nevertheless merit adequate recording in advance of damage or destruction.

Category D - Minor and Damaged Sites

These are sites, which are of minor importance, or are so badly damaged that too little remains to justify their inclusion in a higher category. For these sites rapid recording either in advance 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 be no sites remaining in this category.

2. Definition of Impact

The direct impact of the proposed development on each site 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.

Low:

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.

Medium:

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

High:

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 development.

3. Definition of field evaluation techniques

Field evaluation is necessary to allow the reclassification of the category 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.

Geophysical survey

This technique involves the use of a magnetometer, which detects variation in the earth's magnetic field caused by the presence of iron in the soil. This is usually in the form of weakly magnetised iron oxides, which tend to be concentrated in the topsoil. Features cut into the subsoil and back-filled or silted with topsoil contain greater amounts of iron and can therefore be detected with the gradiometer. Strong readings can be produced by the presence of iron objects, and also hearths or kilns.

Other forms of geophysical survey are available, of which resistivity survey is the other most commonly used. However, for rapid coverage of large areas, the magnetometer is usually considered the most cost-effective method. It is also possible to scan a large area very rapidly by walking with the magnetometer, and marking the location of any high or low readings, but not actually logging the readings for processing.

Trial trenching

Buried archaeological deposits cannot always be detected from the surface, even with geophysics, and trial trenching allows a representative sample of the development area to be investigated. Trenches of an appropriate size can also be excavated to evaluate category E sites. These trenches typically measure between 20m and 30m long by 2m wide. The turf and topsoil is removed by mechanical excavator, and the resulting surface cleaned by hand and examined for features. Anything noted is further examined, so that the nature of any remains can be understood, and mitigation measures can be recommended.

4. Definition of Mitigatory Recommendations

None:

No impact so no requirement for mitigatory measures.

Detailed recording:

Requiring a photographic record, surveying and the production of a measure drawing 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.

Watching brief:

Requiring observation of particular identified features or areas during works in their vicinity. This may be supplemented by detailed or basic recording of exposed layers or structures.

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.

APPENDIX 3

LLAIN DELYN, GWALCHMAI, ANGLESEY

PROJECT DESIGN FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT (T0148)

Prepared for WM Design and Architecture Ltd, March 2011

1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

It is proposed to undertake development at Llain Delyn, Gwalchmai (NGR SH 392758). Housing is proposed within two fields adjacent to the farm of Esgubor Esgob.

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust has been asked by W M Design and Architecture Ltd to provide a cost and project design for carrying out an archaeological assessment of the area.

This design will also conform to the guidelines specified in *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment* (Institute for Archaeologists, 1994, rev. 2001, 2008).

Curatorial responsibility lies with the Local Planning Authority, and will be undertaken on their behalf by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service. This design will be monitored by the curators, who will also be informed of the start of the project.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS

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” (IFA 2008, 2)

The aims of the assessment 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 design is for the first **three** phases only, and recommendations will be made for any field evaluation required.

3. PROGRAMME OF WORK

3.1 Stage 1 - Desk-based assessment

The desk-based assessment will involve a study of the following records

The regional Historic Environment Register (HER, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust) will be examined for information concerning the study area. This will include an examination of the core HER, and secondary information held within the record which includes unpublished reports, the 1:2500 County Series Ordnance Survey maps, and the National Archaeological Record index cards.

The National Monuments Record (NMR RCAHMW, National Monuments Record of Wales, Plas Crug, Aberystwyth, SY23 1NJ) will be checked for sites additional to the HER, and if required additional supporting information will be examined at the NMR.

Information about Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments from Cadw will be examined in the regional HER, with supporting information from Cadw if required. The Register of Outstanding and Special Historic Landscapes and the Register of Parks and Gardens will be checked, and also the location of World Heritage Sites.

Secondary sources will be examined, including the Inventories of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments for Wales, and works held within the regional libraries. Indices to relevant journals, including county history and archaeology society journals and national society journals such as *Archaeologia Cambrensis* will be checked. Also at this stage 19th century topographical dictionaries, antiquarian tours and trade directories will be examined where relevant.

Evidence from aerial photographs will be collated. Vertical and oblique collections held by the NMR, CCW and Welsh Assembly Government will be considered for examination. All photographs examined will be listed in the assessment report.

Archive repositories will be examined where appropriate. This may include the National Library of Wales; the regional archives at Dolgellau; and the archives held by University of Wales Bangor.

3.2 Stage 2 - Field survey

This part of the assessment will involve targeted field walking to assess the sites identified during the desk-based study. Any additional sites noted will also be assessed. The location of potentially well-preserved environmental deposits will be noted.

The aims of this stage of the work are to:

- verify the results of the desk based assessment
- identify any further archaeological sites which may exist as above ground features
- assess the potential for the preservation of below-ground archaeology
- assess the impact upon the historic landscape
- photograph and record the present condition of all sites noted.

Located sites or finds will be accurately fixed by means of GPS satellite navigation and/or related to fixed local topographic features and the OS national grid by means of measured survey.

The character, function, condition, vulnerability, potential dating and relationship to other features of each identified site or find will be described fully. The importance of the site or find will be assessed in terms of local, regional or national significance.

Photographs in high resolution digital format of each recorded site or artefact/object identified will be taken. Both specific photographs of the site and wider angle views of the site within its landscape context will be included.

Access onto land is to be arranged by the Clients.

3.3 Data processing and report compilation

Following completion of the stages outlined above, a report will be produced incorporating the following:

Non-technical summary

1. Introduction
2. Aims and purpose
3. Specification and Project Design
4. Methods and techniques, including details and location of project archive
5. Archaeological Background
6. Results of assessment in the form of a gazetteer
7. Assessment of impacts
8. Proposals for field evaluation and/or mitigation
9. Summary and conclusions
10. List of sources consulted.

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 regional curatorial archaeologist and to the client prior to production of the final report.

3.4 Stage 3 - Field Evaluation

Following desk-based assessments field evaluation work may also be required in order to further assess the presence or absence of remains, their extent, nature, quality and character before determining the appropriate mitigation strategy, whether it be preservation *in situ*, archaeological excavation or a combination of the two.

This might include a methodology for non-intrusive survey and or intrusive evaluation to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

Field evaluation needs to be carefully targeted in response to proposed impact and archaeological potential. It would usually be undertaken in stages, and might typically include:

- geophysical survey.
- a programme of trenching and/or test pits to investigate the deposit model in more detail.

Recommendations for any field evaluation considered necessary will be contained within the assessment report. Specific attention will be paid during the assessment as to the suitability of the geology for geophysical survey. A further brief and report will be necessary for this stage. The brief and report may combine with, and include the results of, stage 4.

4. DISSEMINATION AND ARCHIVING

For the purposes of this project the full site archive will be deposited within one month of the completion of the final report. The archive will be deposited at a time and location to be agreed with the curator. Normally the paper/drawing/digital archive will be deposited with the regional curator and the regional HER and the finds at an appropriate local museum.

The archive will include all site notes, finds, documents, drawings, photographs, digital data and a copy of the final report and any prior draft versions. In the archive deposition statement, located at the rear of the interim and final clients report, all of the above items must be clearly quantified in tabular form and their ultimate location and proposed date of deposition stated.

5. PERSONNEL

The work will be supervised by Mr Andrew Davidson, Principal Archaeologist. The work will be undertaken by one of the Trust's Archaeologists experienced in the relevant skills/periods required. Full details of personnel involved, with *curricula vitae*, can be supplied upon request.

6. MONITORING AND TIMING

Monitoring meetings can be arranged during the course of the project if required.

7. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Trust subscribes to the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers) Health and Safety Policy as defined in **Health and Safety in Field Archaeology** (2006). Risks will be assessed prior to and during the work.

8. OTHER

Any queries concerning the above should be directed to Mr Andrew Davidson or Mr John Roberts at the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Offices, Garth Road, Bangor. Telephone (01248) 352535.

9. SOURCES CONSULTED

Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (Institute for Archaeologists, 1994, rev. 2001)



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