

Nant Hall Hotel, Prestatyn

Archaeological Watching Brief



Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

Nant Hall Hotel, Prestatyn

Archaeological Watching Brief

Project No. G2602

Report No. 1487

Prepared for: Lyons Holiday Parks Group

April 2019

Written by: Stuart Reilly

**Front cover image: Location of extension in relation to the existing hotel and grounds; scale: not used
(archive reference: G2602_005)**

Cyhoeddwyd gan Ymddiriedolaeth Achaolegol Gwynedd
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Craig Beuno, Ffordd y Garth,
Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2RT

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Craig Beuno, Garth Road,
Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2RT

Cadeiryddes/Chair - Yr Athro/Professor Nancy Edwards, B.A., PhD, F.S.A.
Prif Archaeolegydd/Chief Archaeologist - Andrew Davidson, B.A., M.I.F.A.

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	Role	Printed Name	Signature	Date
Originated by	Document Author	Stuart Reilly	Stuart Reilly	15/04/19
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Plate 05: West facing section of east trench showing hardcore, topsoil and gravel deposits; scale: 1x1m (archive reference: G2602_013);

Plate 06: East facing section of trench showing switch from gravel to sand; scale: 1x1m (archive reference: G2602_101);

Plate 07: East facing section of east trench showing different deposits; scale: 1x1m (archive reference: G2602_012);

Plate 08: Post-ex view of western foundation trench, taken from southern terminal; scale: 1x1m (archive reference: G2602_022);

Plate 09: First 'box' of western foundation excavated, adjacent to the hotel; scale: 1x1m (archive reference: G2602_018);

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Plate 11: East face of outbuilding with tar pitched roof; scale: 1x1m (archive reference: G2602_017);

Plate 12: Section of brick edging along eastern wall of outbuilding; scale: not used (archive reference: G2602_024);

Plate 13: View north from raised platform on which Nant Hall resides, toward the sea; scale: not used (archive reference: G2602_025).

CRYNODEB ANNHECHNEGOL

Roedd Ymddiriedolaeth Archeolegol Gwynedd yn rhwymedig gan PL Planning ar ran o'r Lyons Holiday Parks Group i ymgymryd briff gwylio archeolegol yn ystod llawr gwaith i ymestyniad eiddo dwy lawr yn Westy Nant Hall, Prestatyn. Roedd y briff gwylio dan arolygaeth y cloddiad o ran fwyaf o'r sefydliadau troeddiad i'r ymestyniad. Roedd y gwaith dan arolygaeth dim darganfod unrhyw ddyddodion archeolegol neu nodweddion yn gysylltiedig gyda gweithgareddau cyn-hanesyddol, canoloesol neu 19eg ganrif (yn gysylltiedig gyda'r tŷ).

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) was contracted by PL Planning on behalf of the Lyons Holiday Parks Group to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a two-storey property extension at Nant Hall Hotel, Prestatyn. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the majority of the pad foundations for the extension. The monitored work did not uncover archaeological deposits or features associated with prehistoric, medieval or 19th century (associated with the house) activity.

1 INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) was contracted by PL Planning on behalf of the Lyons Holiday Parks Group to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a two-storey property extension at Nant Hall Hotel, Prestatyn (NGR SJ07678340; postcode: LL19 9LD; Figure 01). The property extension will be located at the northeastern end of the hotel and will encompass an area c.232m² in size, as indicated on Curvasure Drawing no. DG116_043101A (cf. Figure 02). The planning reference for this scheme is 43/2017/0848/PF; the archaeological watching brief was undertaken as part of Planning Condition 4, which states that “(A)ll groundworks shall be undertaken in the presence of a qualified archaeological contractor so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted”. The watching brief was completed in accordance with an approved project design prepared by GAT (cf. [Appendix I](#)).

The watching brief was undertaken on the 8th and 10th April 2019 during the excavation of foundation trenches for the new extension.

The watching brief was completed in accordance with the following guidance:

- Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014);
- Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991);
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide (Historic England, 2015); and

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust is certified to ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 (Cert. No. 74180/B/0001/UK/En) and is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and a member of the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME).

1.1 Fieldwork Aims and Objectives

The key aims and objectives of the watching brief were to:

- Record any archaeological activity identified during construction groundworks. The objective was to establish the date and nature of any archaeological remains identified and assess their implications for understanding the historical development of the area, in conjunction with the known archaeological record; and
- if no archaeological activity was identified, establish why this may be the case.

1.2 Acknowledgements

GAT would like to acknowledge the cooperation and support provided by the *Lyons Holiday Parks Group* and the contractor *RG Jones* during the archaeological watching brief. GAT would also like to acknowledge the support and guidance provided by Mark Walters the Development Control officer of Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Nant Hall Hotel is a Grade II listed building (ref. no. 1426) and was built in the nineteenth century. According to the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) entry (NPRN 36042) the house was once the seat of the Lords of Penrhyn and it was later the residence of the Conways of Bodrhyddan. The property is positioned near the coastline in Prestatyn and is accessed off Prestatyn Road. The formal garden space at the front of the property is no longer visible and is used for parking and recreational facilities and activities. The rear of the property, including the location of the proposed extension, currently includes open grassland; the extension area was previously occupied by a marquee.

The hotel is located to the immediate north and west of an area of Mesolithic (8000-4300 BC) activity, with occupation layers being uncovered at the Bryn Newydd estate to the southwest and more recently along the Nant Hall Road and the Parc Bodnant Estate under 1km to the west. Buried within the tufa (lime spring deposits) is a Mesolithic ground surface identified by Gilbert Smith in the 1920s when service trenches were laid out for the Bryn Newydd estate. These excavations produced chert and flint artefacts including microliths of later Mesolithic dating, bone, hazelnut shells, red ochre, shellfish remains, part of an antler tine and a perforated oyster shell (Brassil, 1991, 50).

Excavations undertaken in advance of a housing development at Nant Hall Road in 1991–93 revealed a number of shell middens of the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, between about 4500–3300 BC. The Nant Hall Road shell midden I (PRN 17396; NGR SJ070832) was recorded during trial excavation and environmental sampling by Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) that produced radiocarbon dates of 4700+/-70 BP. The Nant Hall Road shell midden II (PRN 17395; NGR SJ070832) was also recorded during trial excavation and environmental sampling by CPAT that produced radio carbon dates of 4890+/-80 BP.

Additional find spots, old ground surfaces and prehistoric occupation sites have been uncovered along the Nant Hall Road. These include:

- The Hengoed Find (PRN 102233) a bronze chisel rough cast possible Early Bronze Age that was uncovered within a garden in 1928;

- Nant Hall finds (PRN 101933), located in a field off the Nant Hall Road. The finds included a large number of flint implements and flakes also two bone counters and a lead spindle whorl;
- Nant Hall Road (PRN 106454) was a multiperiod site located at NGR SJ07008320. The site included shell middens which were located in the wetland margins at Nant Hall Road, Prestatyn. The middens contained approximately 95% mussel shells plus animal bone and flint artefacts. A flint knapping site (PRN 26875) was also discovered which suggests the possibility of an occupation site in the near vicinity, probably of Mesolithic date. The old ground surface (PRN 26874) in the excavated area was thought to be of Neolithic date but C14 indicated late Bronze Age (2850+/- 70BP SWAN-14);
- Kwik Save Extension, Nant Hall Road (PRN 58204). During ground works associated with the extension (NGR SJ070832) a layer of peat and estuarine deposits known to underlie the area of evaluation and may contain middens of early prehistoric date was uncovered;
- Parc Bodnant Estate, Nant Hall Road (PRN 57729; NGR SJ0679283126). During contracted watching brief carried out in May 2003 by Earthworks Archaeology peat deposits containing well preserved organic remains were noted but no evidence to suggest former Mesolithic activity was encountered; and
- Nant Hall Road peat deposits (PRN 17430; NGR SJ070832). A layer of peat and estuarine deposits were uncovered during sampling works in advance of development.

Located to the immediate west of Nant Hall Hotel are the remains of Prestatyn Castle (PRN 102226) a motte and bailey castle (NGR SJ0723283309) which is a scheduled monument (F024). The castle occupies a low-lying position yet it commands a view across much of the flat coastal plain. It consists of the remains of a motte approximately 20m in diameter with surrounding ditch, and a bailey which, unusually, encloses the whole of the motte. Excavation in about 1913 revealed a substantial stone wall 1.2m thick surrounding the bailey, inside the enclosing ditch, but no trace of a structure on the motte. A slightly raised causeway approaches from the south but no detail is now visible where it meets the bailey; there is no obvious entrance gap in the motte ditch. The castle was probably built by the Norman Robert de Banastre about 1164, and was destroyed by the resurgent Welsh under Owain Gwynedd in 1167.

The hotel is also positioned to the immediate west of Prestatyn town which is designated as a multi period site (PRN 105806; NGR SJ065829). The town is situated at the northern end of the Clwydian hills on the gently rising slopes between a low-lying coastal strip and a steep escarpment. There is archaeological evidence of settlement in the area during the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Roman and early medieval periods. Very little is known, however, of the origins of the medieval predecessor of the present town even though Prestatyn is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1087, the location of the early settlement is uncertain. There are a number of suggested locations of the medieval settlement of Prestatyn, which include the immediate vicinity of the castle (PRN 102226), to the north of the castle, beyond the railway line and along the line of High Street. There are records of the town being enlarged in the 1160's by Roger de Banastre, but it appears to have been destroyed by Owain Gwynedd in 1167 and there are no further references to it for the remainder of the medieval period. Whatever its location, it would appear to have been small and short-lived.

3 METHODOLOGY

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons 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 (CiFA, 2014).

An archaeological watching brief can be divided into four categories:

- comprehensive (present during all ground disturbance)
- intensive (present during sensitive ground disturbance)
- intermittent (viewing the trenches after machining)
- partial (as and when seems appropriate).

GAT undertook an intensive watching brief during the foundation level groundworks, which were conducted by contractors supplied by RG Jones Limited on the 8th and 10th April 2019. The foundation excavation work was undertaken by a 3 and 5-tonne 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothed excavation bucket, with the spoil removed by a front loading wheeled-dumper (Plate 01).

During the watching brief, attendance was recorded using GAT watching brief pro-formas. Photographic images were taken using a digital SLR (Nikon D3100) camera set to maximum resolution in RAW format (4,608 × 3,072; 14.2 effective megapixels), with a photographic record maintained on site using GAT pro-formas and digitised in *Microsoft Access* as part of the fieldwork archive and dissemination process. The archive was prepared in accordance with the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales *Guidelines for digital archives* (2015) and the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record *Historic Environment Record (HER) Guidelines for Archaeological Contractors* (Version 1.3; draft). The photographic images were archived in TIFF format using Adobe Photoshop and archive numbering system G2602_001 to G2602_206 (cf. [Appendix II](#)).

4 RESULTS

The area of development is located at the rear and northeastern corner of the hotel, set within an open area of lawn, previously occupied by a marquee (Plate 02). It is bordered by the main building of the hotel to the south with a two-storey extension projecting south, abutted by a single-storey outbuilding with associated stone wall which form the western boundary. At the time of site attendance on 8th April the area of the extension had been raised approximately 0.3m with hard core to form a level work area (Plate 03) and the foundations had been marked out with spray paint. The marked layout was for pad foundations defined by seven 1.8m x 1.8m squares interlinked by a short, narrow (2.2m x 0.5m respectively) trenches that outlined the eastern and western flanks of the extension (Plate 04). The northern limit of the foundation plan consisted of a central square flanked by a short trench on either side to link in with the eastern and western edges.

The eastern foundation trench was excavated on Monday 8th April to a maximum depth of 1.2m. The make-up of the ground consisted of a predominantly light brownish orange pebble gravel mixed with moderate inclusions of very fine light greyish brown gravel along with infrequent lenses of orange sand and reddish orange clay (Plate 05). The pebble gravel changed to a fine, coarse orange sand within 5.0m of the northern terminal of the eastern foundation trench (Plate 06). All of these layers were sterile and most likely were naturally deposited.

The pebble gravel and sand were overlain by a soft, fine, cohesive dark brownish black clayey silt topsoil which had an average depth of 0.3m. The depth of the topsoil though increased from 0.3m to 0.8m within 5.0m of the northern terminal of the eastern foundation trench (Plate 07). At this point the topsoil had more frequent inclusions of plant roots due to the high number of deciduous trees. The topsoil was in turn covered by the gravel hardcore deposited by the contractor for the site works.

The western foundation trench was excavated on Wednesday 10th April. It is parallel with an existing two-storey wing and single storey outbuilding of the hotel. The foundations are within 0.3m of these existing structures (Plate 08). The ground through which the western foundation trench was excavated was far more varied than that of the eastern trench and less uniform. The southern section of the trench, for a distance of approximately 5.0m was predominantly a mid-dark orange sandy clay with lenses of fine light brown gravel (Plate 09). Thereafter it was a mix of fine orange sand and light brown pebble and/or pea gravel. This changed within 5.0m of the northern terminal of the western foundation trench, at which point

the deposit was almost solely fine orange sand (Plate 10). All of these layers were sterile and most likely were naturally deposited.

The natural deposits within the western foundation trench were overlaid by a topsoil identical in composition to what was noted in the eastern trench, except it was far more intermittent and shallow, with a maximum average depth of 0.2m. At the southern limit of the foundation trench, noticeably within the first pad there was no topsoil present but the fine gravel which overlaid the sandy clay had been stained black by a leaking sewer pipe. This area was immediately adjacent to the main building of the hotel and was crossed by several surface water and sewerage pipes. This layer and the topsoil were overlaid by the gravel hardcore deposited by the contractor for the site works.

The western foundation trench was excavated parallel with a high pitched roof stone built outbuilding that appears contemporary with the 19th century house (Plate 11). The roof appears to have been slate covered by a layer of tar. The eastern wall of the outbuilding consisted of a 1.3m high roughly coursed wall comprised of rectangular blocks of stone bonded by a light grey mortar, with a small blocked up window. During the excavation of the western foundation trench remnants of a red brick edging or surface which abutted and were mortared onto the eastern face of the outbuilding were uncovered (Plate 12). It was one brick deep and wide, with the bricks bonded by a light orange mortar. The bricks were visible for a distance of 6.0m, within 10m of the southern terminal of the western trench.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the excavation of the foundation trenches for the planned extension to the Nant Hall Hotel.

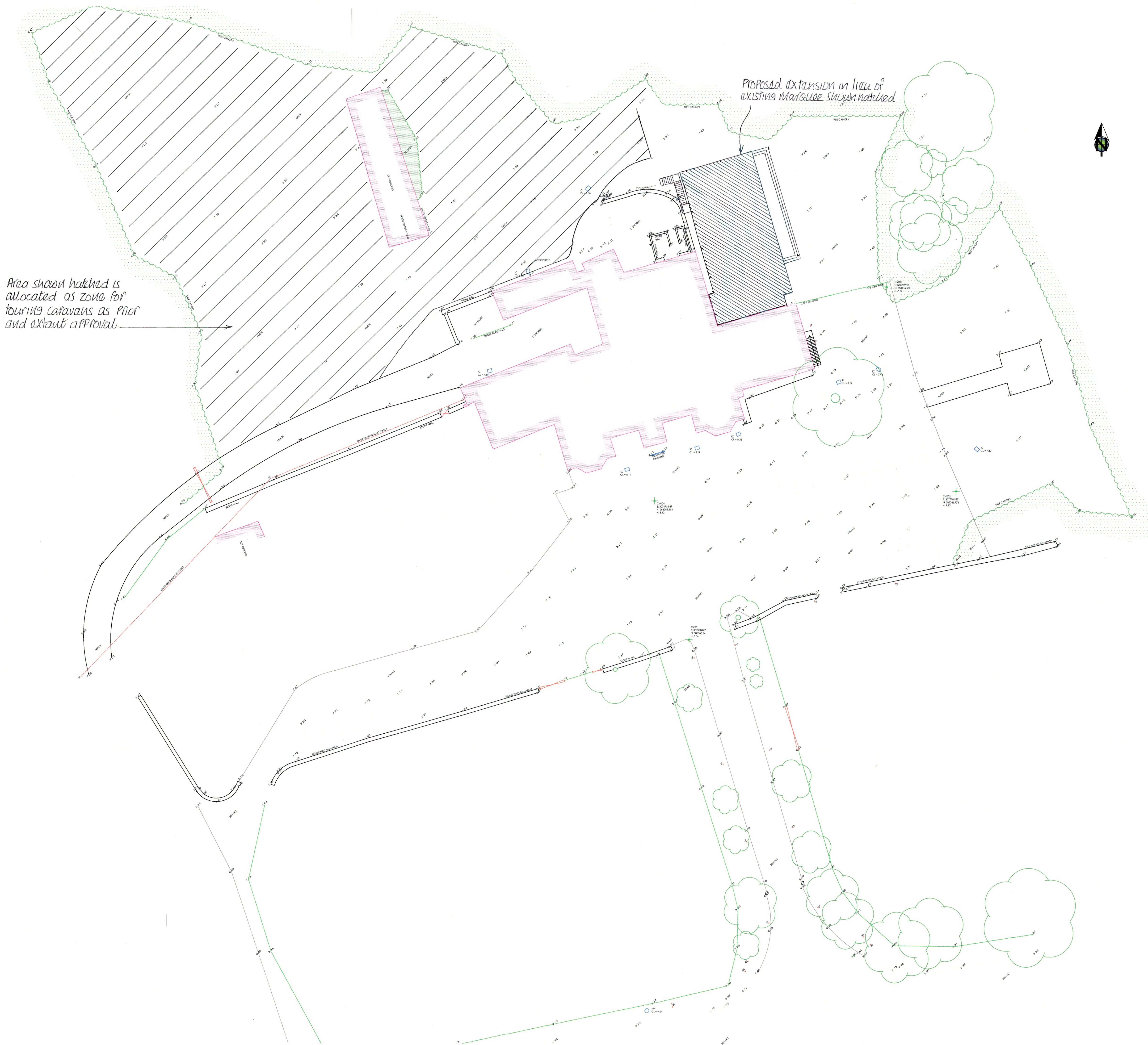
5 CONCLUSIONS

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) was contracted by PL Planning on behalf of the Lyons Holiday Parks Group to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a two-storey property extension at Nant Hall Hotel, Prestatyn. The archaeological watching brief monitored the majority of the pad foundations excavated for the planned extension. The work did not physically impact on the Grade II listed hotel and associated outbuilding. The foundation trenches were excavated through predominantly gravel or sand layers that were natural depositions typical of the coastal location of the site. The hotel stands on a natural spur that overlooks reclaimed foreshore (Plate 13).

An intensive archaeological watching brief was conducted for the excavation of the extension foundations due to the relative proximity of an area of significant Mesolithic (8000-4300 BC) and Medieval activity. While the archaeological watching brief did not uncover artefacts or deposits relating to these periods or to activity directly related to the 19th century listed building, it provided insight into the ground make-up of the immediate area and given the relatively small area opened up for the extension, there is still potential for archaeology in the area.

6 SOURCES CONSULTED

1. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*;
2. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief*;
3. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*;
4. English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*;
5. Historic England, 2015, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*;
6. Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales, 2015, *Guidelines for digital archives*;
7. The Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2018, *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)*.



Legend

Symbols

□	Bollard	○	Utilities Marker Post
+	Survey Station	○	Outlet
○	Electricity Pole	○	Rain Water Gully
△	Fire Hydrant	○	Road Sign
○	Gas Tap	○	Slope
○	Gully	○	Slope
○	Lamp Post	○	Stop Tap
□	Manhole/Inspection Chamber	○	Stop Valve
○	Manhole/Inspection Chamber	○	Telegraph Pole
△	Manhole/Inspection Chamber	○	Tree (Spread to scale)
		○	Tree Stump

Abbreviations

AV	Air Valve
BED	Flower Bed
BH	Bore Hole
BOL	Bollard
BT	British Telecom Inspection Chamber
BT	Telegraph Pole
BS	Bus Stop
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television Furniture
CEB	Control Electricity Box (Above ground)
DK	Drop Kerb
ER	Earth Road
EP	Electricity Pole
FH	Fire Hydrant
GU	Gully
IC	Inspection Chamber
IP	Lamp Post
LB	Letter Box
MP	Utilities Marker Post
MH	Manhole
P	Post
RS	Road Sign
RE	Reading Eye
RWG	Rain Water Gully
SOP	Setting Out Point
ST	Stop Tap
SV	Stop Valve
TCB	Telephone Call Box
TL	Traffic Light
WM	Water Meter

Boundary Abbreviations

B/W	Barbed Wire Fence
C/B	Close Boarded Fence
C/B	Crash Barrier
C/L	Chain Link Fence
C/P	Chestnut Paving
C/I	Corrugated Iron Fence
I/R	Iron Rolling
L/L	Larchlap Fence Panel
P/W	Post & Wire Fence
P/C	Post & Chain
RTW	Retaining Wall
S/PAL	Steel Palisade Fence
S/P	Stock Proof Fence
W/M	Wire Mesh Fence

Proposed Site Plan
DA/116_043/1A

Title:

NANT HALL
PRESTATYN

Client:

MR J MOUND
NANT HALL
PRESTATYN

SCALE: 1:250@A1 DATE: 21/03/16 CHECKED: SR DWG NO. 16_043/01A

Survey data and drawings produced by:

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Registered Office: 23 Princes Drive, Colwyn Bay, Conwy, LL29 8HT

t:01492 532400 m:07970 459236 f:01492 532400 e:admin@curvature.co.uk

www.curvature.co.uk



Plate 01: Excavation of western foundation trench; scale not used (archive reference: G2602_020).



Plate 02: Location of extension in relation to the existing hotel and grounds; scale not used (archive reference: G2602_005).



Plate 03: Depth of hardcore and view of southern end of the site; scale: 1x1m (archive reference: G2602_004).



Plate 04: Pre-ex of extension, view along length of the site; scale: 1x1m (archive reference: G2602_001).



Plate 05: West facing section of east trench showing hardcore, topsoil and gravel deposits; scale: 1x1m (archive reference: G2602_013).



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Plate 07: East facing section of east trench showing different deposits; scale: 1x1 m (archive reference: G2602_012).



Plate 08: Post-ex view of western foundation trench, taken from southern terminal; scale: 1x1 m (archive reference: G2602_022).



Plate 09: First 'box' of western foundation excavated, adjacent to the hotel; scale: 1x1m (archive reference: G2602_018).



Plate 10: Change from pebble gravel to sand, close to southern terminal of western trench; scale: 1x1m (archive reference: G2602_023).



Plate 11: East face of outbuilding with tar pitched roof; scale: 1x1m (archive reference: G2602_017).



Plate 12: Section of brick edging along eastern wall of outbuilding; scale: not used (archive reference: G2602_024).



Plate 13: View north from raised platform on which Nant Hall resides, toward the sea; scale: not used (archive reference: G2602_025).

APPENDIX I

Reproduction of approved GAT Written Scheme of Investigation

NANT HALL HOTEL, PRESTATYN (G2602)

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Prepared for

PL Planning

April 2019



Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

Approvals Table				
	Role	Printed Name	Signature	Date
Originated by	Document Author	STUART REILLY	<i>Stuart Reilly</i>	04/04/19
Reviewed by	Document Reviewer	JOHN ROBERTS	<i>John Roberts</i>	04/04/19
Approved by	Principal Archaeologist	JOHN ROBERTS	<i>John Roberts</i>	04/04/19

Revision History			
Rev No.	Summary of Changes	Ref Section	Purpose of Issue

All GAT staff should sign their copy to confirm the project specification is read and understood and retain a copy of the specification for the duration of their involvement with the project. On completion, the specification should be retained with the project archive:

Name

Signature

Date

NANT HALL HOTEL, PRESTATYN (G2602)

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Prepared for *PL Planning*, April 2019

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1 INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) has been commissioned by PL Planning to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a two-storey property extension at Nant Hall Hotel, Prestatyn (NGR SJ07678340; postcode: LL19 9LD; Figure 01). The property extension will be located at the northeastern end of the hotel and will encompass an area c.232m² in size, as indicated on Curvasure Drawing no. DG116_043101A (cf. Figure 02). The planning reference for this scheme is 43/2017/0848/PF; the archaeological watching brief will be undertaken as part of Planning Condition 4, which states that “(A)ll groundworks shall be undertaken in the presence of a qualified archaeological contractor so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted”.

The watching brief will be undertaken from 8th April 2019, completion date is subject to the confirmation of the groundworks programme.

The watching brief will be completed in accordance with the following guidance:

- Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014);
- Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991);
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide (Historic England, 2015); and

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust is certified to ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 (Cert. No. 74180/B/0001/UK/En) and is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and a member of the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME).

1.1 Fieldwork Aims and Objectives

The key aims and objectives of the watching brief are to:

- Record any archaeological activity identified during construction groundworks. The objective would be to establish the date and nature of any archaeological remains identified and assess their implications for understanding the historical development of the area, in conjunction with the known archaeological record; and
- if no archaeological activity is identified, establish why this may be the case.

1.2 Monitoring Arrangements

The archaeological watching brief will be monitored by the Development Control Archaeologist Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT); the content of this WSI and all subsequent reporting by GAT must be approved by CPAT prior to final issue.

The CPAT Archaeologist will need to be informed of the project timetable and of the subsequent progress and findings. This will allow the CPAT Archaeologist time to arrange monitoring visits and attend site meetings (if required) and enable discussion about the need or otherwise for further archaeological works (if required) as features of potential archaeological significance are encountered. The curator contact details are:

- Mark Walters mark.walters@cpat.org.uk
Tel: 01938 553670 | Mobile: 07736 163148

1.3 Historic Environment Record

In line with the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record (CPAT HER) requirements, the HER will be contacted at the onset of the project to ensure that any data arising is formatted in a manner suitable for accession to the HER and follows the guidance set out in *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)* (The Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2018). The HER will be informed of the project start date, location including grid reference, estimated timescale for the work, and further relevant information associated with the project.

The CPAT HER Enquiry Number for this project is E6445 and the Event PRN is 152164. The CPAT HER will also be responsible for supplying Primary Reference Numbers (PRN) for new assets identified and recorded.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Nant Hall Hotel is a Grade II listed building (ref. no. 1426) and was built in the nineteenth century. The property is positioned near the coastline in Prestatyn and is accessed off Prestatyn Road. The formal garden space at the front of the property is no longer visible and is used for parking and recreational facilities and activities. The rear of the property, including the location of the proposed extension, currently includes open grassland; the extension area was previously occupied by a marquee.

The property is located c.438m east of Prestatyn Castle (NPRN 92922; NGR SJ07238330), a former motte and bailey castle now present as a roughly rectangular enclosure.

There are no other archaeological assets within close proximity to the property.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons 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 (CiFA, 2014).

An archaeological watching brief can be divided into four categories:

- comprehensive (present during all ground disturbance)
- intensive (present during sensitive ground disturbance)
- intermittent (viewing the trenches after machining)
- partial (as and when seems appropriate).

An **intensive** watching brief is recommended for this scheme, during foundation level groundworks;

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

The following methodology will be applied for the watching brief:

- All attendances and any identified features will be recorded using GAT watching brief pro-formas ([Appendix I](#));
- Photographic images will be taken using a digital SLR (Nikon D40) camera set to maximum resolution (3008 × 2000 6.1 effective megapixels) in RAW format; a photographic record will be maintained on site using GAT pro-formas ([Appendix II](#)) and digitised in *Microsoft Access* as part of the fieldwork archive and dissemination process. Photographic images will be archived in TIFF format using Adobe Photoshop; the archive numbering system will start from the next sequential number to be used after completion of the previous stages. When practical, a photographic ID board will be used and will include site code, image orientation and any relevant context numbers;

- Any subsurface features identified will be recorded photographically, with detailed notations and a measured survey (completed using a *Trimble R8* GPS unit);
- Any archaeological features/deposits/structures encountered within the watching brief area will be manually cleaned and examined to determine extent, function, date and relationship to adjacent activity. The following excavation strategy will generally apply: 50% sample of each sub-circular feature, 10% sample of each linear feature (terminal ends and intersection points with other features will be prioritised). However, if more discrete features are identified, these will be 100% excavated as will any exposed segments of linear features.. *In the event of the identification of extensive/complex remains, additional time, resourcing and costs may be required for GAT to complete an appropriate programme of works. All archaeological investigations will be undertaken in accordance with the main contractor health and safety requirements;*
- Any required plans or sections to be drawn at a minimum 1:10 scale using GAT A4 or A2 pro-forma permatrace;
- Should dateable artefacts and/or ecofacts be recovered, an **interim report** will be submitted summarising the results of the watching brief, along with an assessment of potential for analysis post-excavation project design (in line with the MAP2 process). *Additional time, resourcing and costs will be required to undertake any post-excavation programme of works.*

3.2.1 Human Remains

Although it is not expected that human remains will be identified during the current archaeological watching brief, if any human remains are identified that are to be excavated, and cannot be preserved in situ this will take place under appropriate regulations and with due regard for health and safety issues. In order to excavate human remains, a Ministry of Justice 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. In accordance with the Ministry of Justice licence, recovered remains will be reburied once the investigation and/or assessment/analysis are complete.

Non-fragmented skeletal remains will be excavated using wooden tools and collected and stored in polyethylene bags (with appropriate references for context, grave number, et al) and placed in a lidded cardboard archive box (note: separate boxes for each grave) and stored in a suitable manner within GAT premises. If significant quantities of human remains are encountered, a human osteologist should be contacted and appointed to advise the team during the fieldwork. The osteologist will be an external appointment: Dr. Genevieve Tellier | Tel: 01286 238827 | email: northwalesosteology@outlook.com who will assist in devising the excavation, recording and sampling strategy for features containing human remains. The osteologist should also help to ensure that adequate post-excavation processing of human remains is carried out so that the material is in a fit state for assessment during the post-excavation stage. For inhumations, this will involve washing, drying, marking and packing.

If human remains are recovered that are deemed suitable for further assessment/analysis, this will be completed in accordance with the osteologist's requirements and with *Human Bones from Archaeological Sites Guidelines for producing assessment documents and analytical reports* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2017).

3.2.2 Ecofacts

Bulk samples will not be taken by GAT from any waterlogged/organic deposits, but the GAT archaeologist will monitor and record the depth and context of the deposit or deposits. Based on initial results and potential, e.g., an extensive depth of waterlogged deposits, recourse may be made to a specialist (via Lucy Whittingham | Project Manager (post-excavation) | AOC Archaeology | telephone: 0208 843 7380 | email: lucy.whittingham@aocarchaeology.com) for advice on a palaeoenvironmental assessment and analysis strategy.

Should any archaeological features be identified that include sealed deposits deemed suitable for dating, samples will be taken of not less than 40 litres for bulk samples (or 100% if the feature is smaller). The sampling strategy will be undertaken in accordance with the principles set out in *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (Historic England, 2011).

For any ecofact samples taken from human burials, this will be completed in accordance with an appointed osteologist's guidance.

3.2.3 Artefacts

Diagnostic artefacts will be retained for further examination and identification. Pottery sherds of 19th and 20th century date will be examined on site and the context from which they were retrieved noted but the sherds will not be retained. The artefacts will be treated according to guidelines issued by the UK Institute of Conservation, in particular the advice provided within *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 2001).

Any waterlogged artefacts (e.g. wood or leather) that are to be recovered for post-excavation assessment and analysis will be processed in accordance with *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (English Heritage, 2011) and specifically in accordance with Brunning and Watson (2010) for waterlogged wood and Historic England (2012) for waterlogged leather. In such cases an external specialist will be contacted to agree an appropriate sampling and recovery strategy via Lucy Whittingham | Project Manager (post-excavation) | AOC Archaeology | telephone: 0208 843 7380 | email: lucy.whittingham@aocarchaeology.com). All finds are the property of the landowner; however, it is Trust policy to recommend that all finds are donated to an appropriate museum (in this case Rhyl museum, Church Street, Rhyl LL18 3AA), where they can receive specialist treatment and study. Access to finds must be granted to the Trust for a reasonable period to allow for analysis and for study and publication as necessary. Trust staff will undertake initial identification, but any additional advice would be sought from a wide range of consultants used by the Trust, including National Museums and Galleries of Wales at Cardiff.

All finds of treasure must be reported to the coroner for the district within fourteen days of discovery or identification of the items. Items declared Treasure Trove become the property of the Crown, on whose behalf the Portable Antiquities Scheme acts as advisor on technical matters, and may be the recipient body for the objects.

The Treasure Valuation Committee, based at the British Museum, and informed by the Portable Antiquities Scheme, will decide whether they or any other museum may wish to acquire the object. If no museum wishes to acquire the object, then the Secretary of State will be able to disclaim it. When this happens, the coroner will notify the occupier and landowner that he intends to return the object to the finder after 28 days unless he receives no objection. If the coroner receives an objection, the find will be retained until the dispute has been settled.

GAT will contact the landowner for agreement regarding the transfer of artefacts, initially to GAT and subsequently to the museum. A GAT produced pro-forma will be issued to the landowner where they are given the option to donate the finds or to record that they want them returning to them once analysis and assessment has been completed. Artefacts will be transferred to the museum in accordance with their guidelines.

3.3 Fieldwork Archiving

Following the completion of the respective watching brief stages, fieldwork archiving will be completed based on following task list:

1. Pro-formas: all cross referenced and complete;
2. Photographic Metadata: completed in *Microsoft Access* and cross-referenced with all pro-formas;
3. Survey data: downloaded using a Computer Aided Design package;
4. Sections: all cross referenced and complete (to include matrices);
5. Plans: all cross referenced and complete;
6. Artefacts (if relevant): quantified and identified; register completed;
7. Ecofacts (if relevant): quantified and register completed;
8. Context register (if relevant): quantified and register completed;
9. Site Matrix (if relevant).

All data will be processed, final illustrations will be compiled and a report will be produced which will detail and synthesise the results.

4 REPORTING

Following completion of the fieldwork, a separate report will be produced within one month incorporating the following:

1. Non-technical summary (Welsh and English)
2. Introduction
3. Background
4. Methods and techniques, including details and location of project archive
5. Results
6. Summary and conclusions (including any further recommendations – if relevant)
7. List of sources consulted.
8. Appendix I – approved GAT written scheme of investigation

Illustrations will include plans of the location, site plans and individual plans and sections of archaeological features identified as appropriate. Historical maps, when appropriate and if copyright permissions allow, will be included. A draft copy of the report will be sent to the client prior to production of the final report.

The report will incorporate the results of the watching brief and will be submitted within one month of completion of the watching brief and subsequently to Clwyd-Powys Historic Environment Record (41 Broad St, Welshpool SY21 7RR) within six months of approval.

5 DISSEMINATION AND ARCHIVING

The following dissemination will apply:

- A digital report will be provided to the client and CPAT (draft report then final report);
- A paper report plus a digital report will be provided to the Clwyd-Powys Historic Environment Record; this will be submitted within six months of report completion (final reports only);
- A digital report and archive (including photographic and drawn) data will be provided to the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments Wales (RCAHMW; final report only). This will be in accordance with the RCAHMW Guidelines for Digital Archives Version 1. Digital information will include the photographic archive and associated metadata;

6 PERSONNEL

The project will be managed by John Roberts, Principal Archaeologist GAT Contracts Section and attended by a project archaeologist. The project archaeologist will be responsible for the completing the watching brief, including all field management duties, e.g. CPAT liaison, main contractor liaison, osteologist or palaeoenvironmentalist liaison (if relevant). The project archaeologist will be responsible for completing the fieldwork proformas and the fieldwork archive itemised in Sec 3.7. The project archaeologist will also be responsible for submitting a draft final report (or interim report) for each of the watching brief stages to the project manager for review and approval. The reports will then be submitted as per the arrangements defined in Sec 5.

7 HEALTH AND SAFETY

The GAT Project Archaeologist(s) will be CSCS certified. Copies of the site specific risk assessment will be supplied to the client and site contractor prior to the start of fieldwork. Any risks and hazards will be indicated prior to the start of work via a submitted risk assessment. All GAT staff attending will be issued with required personal safety equipment, including high visibility jacket, steel toe-capped boots and hard hat. GAT will conform to all health and safety requirements defined by the main contractor.

8 SOCIAL MEDIA

One of the key aims in the GAT mission statement is to improve the understanding, conservation and promotion of the historic environment in our area and inform and educate the wider public. To help achieve this, GAT maintains an active social media presence and seeks all opportunities to promote our projects and results. With permission, GAT would like the opportunity to promote our work on this scheme through our social media platforms. This could include social media postings during our attendance on site as well as any postings to highlight results. In all instances, approval will be sought from client prior to any postings.

9 INSURANCE

9.1 Public/Products Liability

Limit of Indemnity- £5,000,000 any one event in respect of Public Liability

INSURER Aviva Insurance Limited

POLICY TYPE Public Liability

POLICY NUMBER 24765101CHC/UN/000375

EXPIRY DATE 21/06/2019

9.2 Employers Liability

Limit of Indemnity- £10,000,000 any one occurrence.

The cover has been issued on the insurers standard policy form and is subject to their usual terms and conditions. A copy of the policy wording is available on request.

INSURER Aviva Insurance Limited

POLICY TYPE Employers Liability

POLICY NUMBER 24765101 CHC / UN/000375

EXPIRY DATE 21/06/2019

9.3 Professional Indemnity

Limit of Indemnity- £5,000,000 in respect of each and every claim

INSURER Hiscox Insurance Company Limited

POLICY TYPE Professional Indemnity

POLICY NUMBER 9446015

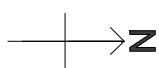
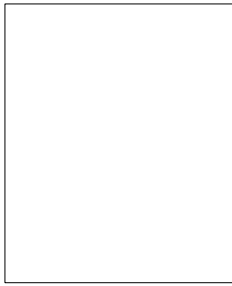
EXPIRY DATE 22/07/2019

10 SOURCES CONSULTED

1. Brunning, R and Watson, J 2010, *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the Recording*,
2. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*
3. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief*
4. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*
5. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*
6. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2017, *Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*
7. English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*
8. English Heritage, 2011, *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*
9. Evans, R., and Burnett, A., 2012 , Medieval and Post-Medieval Mills. Scheduling Enhancement 2011-12. Part 01: Report and Gazetteer
10. Gwynedd Museum Service, 2009, *Guidelines For The Preparation and Deposition of Archaeological Archives: An agreement between Gwynedd Museums Service and Gwynedd Council*
11. Historic England, 2012, *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation*
12. Historic England, 2015, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*
13. Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales, 2015, *Guidelines for digital archives*
14. *Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood* (3rd edition)
15. The Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2018, *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)*
16. Watkinson, D and Neal, V, 2001, *First aid for finds* (3rd edition)

FIGURE 01

Location Map.



OS MasterMap 1250/2500/10000 scale
Wednesday, August 30, 2017, ID:
CM-00650869
www.centremapslive.co.uk

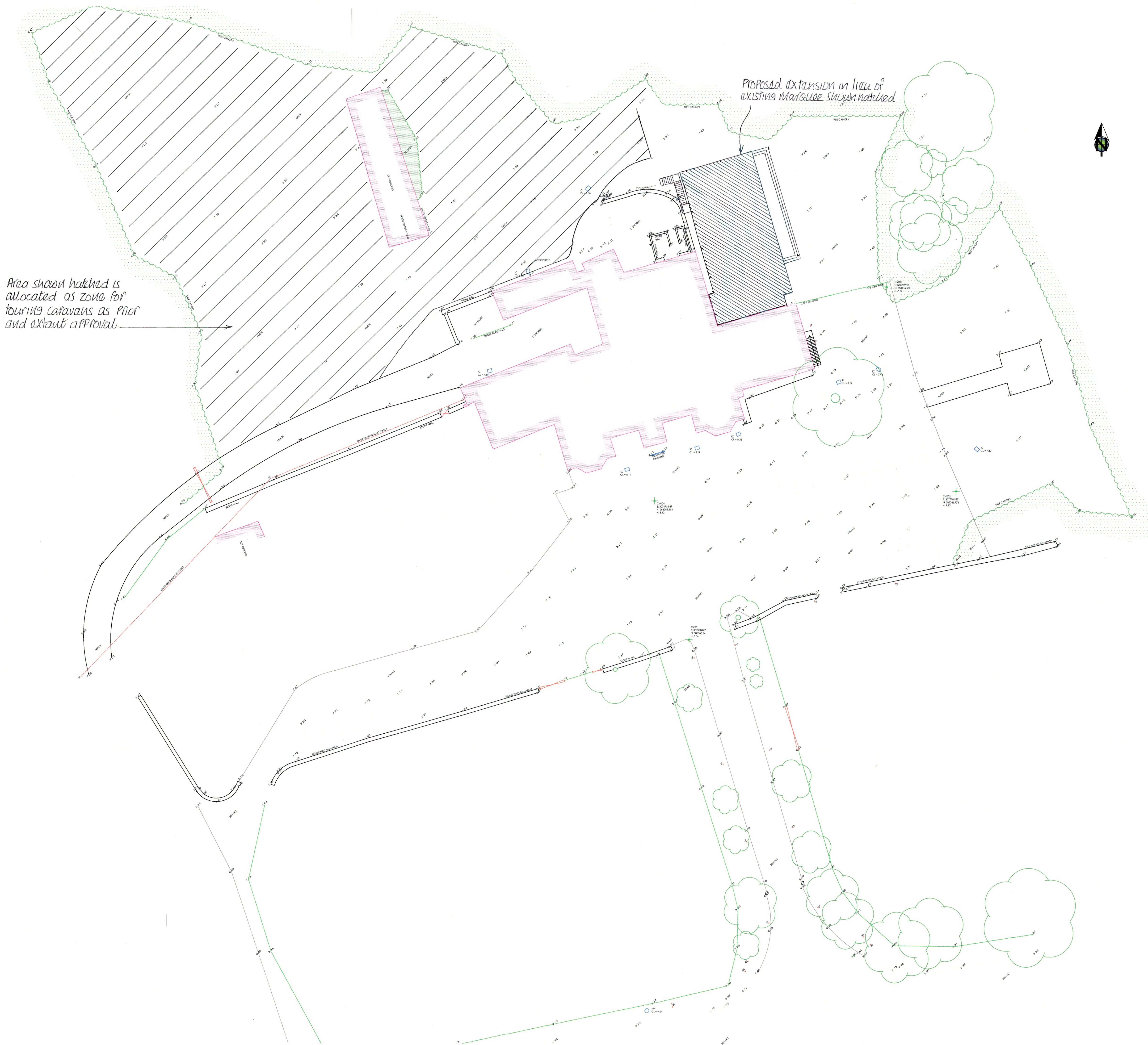
1:1250 scale print at A4, Centre: 307696 E,
383381 N

© Crown Copyright Ordnance Survey, Licence
no. 100019980



FIGURE 02

Reproduction of Curvasure Drawing No. DG116_043101A.



Legend

Symbols

Ballard	Utilities Marker Post
Survey Station	Obstn
Electricity Pole	Rain Water Gully
Fire Hydrant	Road Sign
Gas Tap	Slope
Gate	Stop Tap
Gully	Stop Valve
Lamp Post	Telegraph Pole
Manhole/Inspection Chamber	Tree (Spread to scale)
Manhole/Inspection Chamber	Tree Stump
Manhole/Inspection Chamber	

Abbreviations

AV	Air Valve
BED	Flower Bed
BH	Bore Hole
BOL	Bollard
BT	British Telecom Inspection Chamber
BT	Telegraph Pole
BS	Bus Stop
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television Furniture
CEB	Control Electricity Box (Above ground)
DK	Drop Kerb
ER	Earth Road
EP	Electricity Pole
FH	Fire Hydrant
GU	Gully
IC	Inspection Chamber
IP	Lamp Post
LB	Letter Box
MP	Utilities Marker Post
MH	Manhole
P	Post
RS	Road Sign
RE	Reading Eye
RWG	Rain Water Gully
SOP	Setting Out Point
ST	Stop Tap
SV	Stop Valve
TCB	Telephone Call Box
TL	Traffic Light
WM	Water Meter

Boundary Abbreviations

B/W	Barbed Wire Fence
C/B	Close Boarded Fence
C/B	Crash Barrier
C/L	Chain Link Fence
C/P	Chestnut Paving
C/I	Corrugated Iron Fence
I/R	Iron Rolling
L/L	Larchlap Fence Panel
P/W	Post & Wire Fence
P/C	Post & Chain
RTW	Retaining Wall
S/PAL	Steel Palisade Fence
S/P	Stock Proof Fence
W/M	Wire Mesh Fence

Proposed Site Plan
DA/116_043/1A

Title:

NANT HALL
PRESTATYN

Client:

MR J MOUND
NANT HALL
PRESTATYN

SCALE: 1:250@A1 DATE: 21/03/16 CHECKED: SR DWG NO. 16_043/01A

Survey data and drawings produced by:
CURVASURE
PROFESSIONAL CONSTRUCTION

Curvature Limited a company registered in England and Wales, Company No. 483017

Registered Office: 23 Princes Drive, Colwyn Bay, Conwy, LL29 8HT

t:01492 532400 m:07970 459236 f:01492 532400 e:admin@curvature.co.uk

www.curvature.co.uk

APPENDIX I

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust watching brief pro-forma



Digital Photographic Record

Include main context numbers for each shot, drawing numbers for sections and any other relevant numbers for cross referencing.

Delete any unwanted photos **immediately** from the camera.

Regularly upload photographs to computer.

[illegible]

APPENDIX II

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust photographic metadata pro-forma

YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL GWYNEDD ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST		
WATCHING BRIEF DAY RECORD		Date
Project name	Project number	Compiler
Location		
Description		
Times of travelling and on-site		
Drawn record details		
Photographic record details		

APPENDIX II

Reproduction of GAT Photographic Metadata

Appendix II – Reproduction of Photographic Metadata

PHOTO RECORD NUMBER*	PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION*	CONTEXT NUMBER (S)	VIEW FROM	SCALE(S)	CREATOR OF DIGITAL PHOTO*	DATE OF CREATION OF DIGITAL PHOTO*	ORIGINATING ORGANISATION	Plates
G2602_001	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	Pre-ex of extension; view along length of the site		NNW	1x1m	Stuart Reilly	08/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	04
G2602_002	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	Pre-ex of extension; view along length of the site		SSE	1x1m	Stuart Reilly	08/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	
G2602_003	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	Pre-ex of western length of the extension		S	1x1m	Stuart Reilly	08/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	
G2602_004	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	Depth of hardcore and view of southern end of the site		NNE	1x1m	Stuart Reilly	08/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	03
G2602_005	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	Location of extension in relation to the existing hotel and grounds		NE	Not used	Stuart Reilly	08/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	02
G2602_006	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	Excavation of eastern foundation trench		ESE	Not used	Stuart Reilly	08/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	

PHOTO RECORD NUMBER*	PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION*	CONTEXT NUMBER (S)	VIEW FROM	SCALE(S)	CREATOR OF DIGITAL PHOTO*	DATE CREATION OF DIGITAL PHOTO*	ORIGINATING ORGANISATION	Plates
G2602_007	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	Make up of layers within eastern foundation trench		ESE	Not used	Stuart Reilly	08/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	
G2602_008	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	East trench of extension foundation (sand in fifth box)		SSW	1x1m	Stuart Reilly	08/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	
G2602_009	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	East trench excavated (taken from northern terminal)		N	1x1m	Stuart Reilly	08/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	
G2602_010	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	East facing section of trench showing switch from gravel to sand		NNE	1x1m	Stuart Reilly	08/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	06
G2602_011	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	Northern terminal of east trench, showing different deposits		SSE	1x1m	Stuart Reilly	08/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	
G2602_012	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	East facing section of east trench showing		SSE	1x1m	Stuart Reilly	08/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	07

PHOTO RECORD NUMBER*	PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION*	CONTEXT NUMBER (S)	VIEW FROM	SCALE(S)	CREATOR OF DIGITAL PHOTO*	DATE OF CREATION OF DIGITAL PHOTO*	ORIGINATING ORGANISATION	Plates
		different deposits							
G2602_013	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	West facing section of east trench showing hardcore, topsoil and gravel deposits		SW	1x1m	Stuart Reilly	08/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	05
G2602_014	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	Post-ex of east trench, taken from southern terminal		S	1x1m	Stuart Reilly	08/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	
G2602_015	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	Start of excavation of western foundation trench. Removal of ceramic surface water pipe		ESE	Not used	Stuart Reilly	10/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	
G2602_016	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	View of rear of hotel and outbuilding prior to excavation		N	1x1m	Stuart Reilly	10/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	
G2602_017	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	East face of outbuilding with		NE	1x1m	Stuart Reilly	10/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological	11

PHOTO RECORD NUMBER*	PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION*	CONTEXT NUMBER (S)	VIEW FROM	SCALE(S)	CREATOR OF DIGITAL PHOTO*	DATE OF CREATION OF DIGITAL PHOTO*	ORIGINATING ORGANISATION	Plates
		tar pitched roof						Trust	
G2602_018	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	First 'box' of western foundation excavated; adjacent to the hotel		N	1x1m	Stuart Reilly	10/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	09
G2602_019	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	Excavation of second 'box' of western foundation trench with layer of bricks visible		SE	Not used	Stuart Reilly	10/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	
G2602_020	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	Excavation of western foundation trench		SE	Not used	Stuart Reilly	10/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	01
G2602_021	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	Post-ex view of western foundation trench, taken from northern terminal		SE	1x1m	Stuart Reilly	10/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	
G2602_022	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	Post-ex view of western		N	1x1m	Stuart Reilly	10/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological	08

PHOTO RECORD NUMBER*	PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION*	CONTEXT NUMBER (S)	VIEW FROM	SCALE(S)	CREATOR OF DIGITAL PHOTO*	DATE OF CREATION OF DIGITAL PHOTO*	ORIGINATING ORGANISATION	Plates
		foundation trench, taken from southern terminal						Trust	
G2602_023	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	Change from pebble gravel to sand, close to southern terminal of western trench		ESE	1x1m	Stuart Reilly	10/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	10
G2602_024	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	Section of brick edging along eastern wall of outbuilding		ESE	Not used	Stuart Reilly	10/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	12
G2602_025	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	View north from raised platform on which Nant Hall resides, toward the sea		SSE	Not used	Stuart Reilly	10/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	13
G2602_026	G2602_Nant_Hall_Hotel	View of south face of Nant Hall		S	Not used	Stuart Reilly	10/04/2019	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	



Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd



Craig Beuno, Ffordd y Garth, Bangor, Gwynedd. LL57 2RT
Ffon: 01248 352535. Ffacs: 01248 370925. email: gat@heneb.co.uk