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*Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd.*

# Antur Stiniog Downhill Cycle Tracks Extension, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd: Archaeological Assessment



**Antur Stiniog Downhill Cycle Tracks  
Extension, Blaenau Ffestiniog,  
Gwynedd: Archaeological Assessment**

**I.P. Brooks**

*EAS Client report 2019/02*

**Project Commissioned**

**by**

**Adrian Bradley**

**on behalf of**

**Antur Stiniog**

**Fieldwork**

**by**

**I.P. Brooks**

**Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd.**

**Antur Stiniog Downhill Cycle Tracks  
Extension, Blaenau Ffestiniog,  
Gwynedd: Archaeological Assessment**

**I.P. Brooks**

***EAS Client report 2019/02***

**registered in England**

**No 2869678**

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## Introduction

**Grid Reference:**

**Centred on SH 03330 37157**

## Location (Figure 1)

The proposed new down hill cycle trails all run from the top of Cribau, approximately 800 m north of the Llechwedd Slate Cavern Visitor Centre, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd, down slope above Plas Waenydd Lodge. Two possible Red Routes were assessed, because of a re-route that was made available only after the initial fieldwork had been completed. Both of the proposed Red Routes cross the upper slopes above Ffridd y Bwlch, on the northern side of Cribau, before finishing on the spoil heaps associated with a trail or adit to the north west of the remains of Tai'r-frest. The other two routes are on the eastern slopes of Cribau, both finishing near the remains of the Cribau Farmstead. Whilst the Black Route links two of the existing trails, the Green Route takes a wider, less steep route on the eastern flanks of Cribau.

## Background

It is intended to construct three new downhill routes at the Antur Stiniog Down Hill Trails, Blaenau Ffestiniog. An archaeological assessment of the original development was carried out by Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd and Govannon Consultancy (Brooks *et al* 2009) which included a desktop study, walk over survey of the proposed routes and an interpretation scoping study for four potential trail development including that above Llechwedd Quarry. This was followed by a watching brief on the construction phase of the downhill trail (Brooks 2013). The work associated with the watching brief recorded a number of previously unrecognised archaeological features, largely because the routes that were built bore little correspondence to those delimited in the planning phase. Also, within the construction phase a paleo-environmental study of Ffridd y Bwlch (Grant 2013) recorded the environmental changes from Later Mesolithic (5805 ± 35 BP) to the nineteenth century AD.

It is understood that the majority of the new proposed routes will not include the level of construction undertaken by the original routes (A. Bradley *pers. comm.*), however how this will work out during the construction phase is uncertain.

## Summary

*A walk-over survey of the proposed new trails was carried out by Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd on 11/02/2019 for Antur Stiniog. Only a few new archaeological features were recorded.*

*Cynhaliwyd arolwg cerdded o'r llwybrau newydd arfaethedig gan Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd ar 11/02/2019, a hynny ar gyfer Antur Stiniog. Dim ond ychydig o nodweddion archeolegol newydd a gofnodwyd*



## Methodology

Before carrying out the fieldwork a check was made of the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record for known archaeological features within the development area (Figure 2).

The proposed routes were supplied, by Antur Stiniog, as “.gpx” files which were loaded into a Garmin GPSmap 62s hand held GPS unit. These routes were followed on site and all visible archaeological features recorded. The positions of the archaeological features were recorded using the same GPS unit using the WAAS/EGNOS correction setting giving an accuracy of approximately 4 m. The details of each of the features was recorded on digital, pro-forma, recording form and photographs were taken with a Panasonic Lumix DMC-TZ70 digital camera with a resolution of 12M. Each of the photographs included a suitable metric scale.

Areas of wet ground with the potential of peat development were also marked.

## Results

Given the steep and potentially boggy nature of the land on the slopes of Cribau, it is not surprising that relatively few new archaeological features were recognised, although each of the proposed routes crossed or were immediately adjacent to archaeological features. The majority of these are either drains or boundaries which are of local interest only. The results are shown on Figure 3 and are detailed below.

### *Steep Red Route*

Two versions of the Steep Red Route were surveyed, an initial route that is shown as a dashed line on Figures 1 – 3, which has been replaced by the revised route which is shown as a solid line.

Both the initial and revised routes start on the top of Cribau and cross an area of relatively soft ground that is likely to have peat rich soils. During the construction of the Uplift route in 2012-2013 shallow peat deposit, between 300 and 400 mm thick, were revealed, over much of the top of the hill (Brooks 2013, 6) and it is likely that these continues over a wider area.

The initial route ran relatively high on the slopes of Cribau and was crossed by a shallow drain (PRN 14667). Initially recorded as a meandering bank in the survey of 2009 (Brooks *et al* 2009), at the point it crosses the initial Red route it has become a shallow ditch with an up-cast bank on its downhill side. This feature could not be traced as far as the revised route, but probably continues as a slight feature down to the relatively flat ground of Ffridd y Bwlch. The revised route runs lower down the slope, nearer to the edge of the peat deposits of Ffridd y Blwch. Care should be taken along this route such that any spoil from the construction of the route does not migrate downhill.

Both routes skirt the edge of the spoil heaps associated with an adit or trial (PRN 14708), as long as the proposed route does not move nearer to the spoil heaps this feature should be safe. No material should be taken from this spoil heap to aid in the construction of the routes.

The routes cross a dry-stone wall (PRN 76086) at SH 69833 47558. This wall forms the edge of the open ground and forms a slight revetment into the hillside. The point chosen for the crossing is already damaged and collapsed, although the lower courses of this wall survive forming a step in the landscape. Attached to this wall is a stone-slab fence (PRN 30237), on

either side of a gateway. This is the best-preserved section of a more extensive fence line that stretches to at least SH 69841 47670. Care should be taken in this section of the route so that no further damage takes place to the stone-slab fence and the damage to the wall is minimised.

At the bottom of these routes they cross the spoil heaps associated with the adit PRN 30206. This spoil heap was heavily disturbed in the past and is crossed by one of the existing trails. Further disturbance should be minimised if possible.

### ***Black Route***

The Black Route links two of the existing trails on the south eastern flanks of Cribau. It is relatively steep over much of its length, reducing the potential risk to the archaeological record. There are, however at least two areas of wet ground with the potential for peat deposits and the paleo-environmental evidence they contain.

The route crosses a modern fence at SH 70182 47564. This is clearly a modern replacement for an earlier fence consisting of upright slate slabs (PRN 76091). During the construction phase the existing trails, dumps of slate slabs were recorded adjacent to this feature, either as supplies for repairing the fence, or more likely, from the replacement of the fence with modern stock fencing (Brooks 2013, 10).

Immediately adjacent to the proposed route is a partly open, vertical shaft (PRN 30202) with a spoil heap to the south west. Although the shaft itself is fenced off, the ground around the fence is soft and it is likely that the top is not stable. The spoil heap seems to be too small for a shaft of any depth, but it is likely that at least part of the shaft is the result of collapse from below.

### ***Green Route***

The Green Route is the longest of the planned trails and is less steep than the other route. It crosses at least two areas of wet ground, although because this route crosses less steep ground it is likely that other areas of soft, peaty ground will be encountered. Indeed, the route crosses an area of peat cutting (PRN 14748) at SH 70527 47990. This rectilinear area of peat cutting covers an area of 8 x 30 m and is cut into the ground by up to 0.5 m. This would suggest that there are likely to be peat deposits at least 0.5 m thick in this area of the route.

The proposed Green Route crosses two ditches or drains (PRN 76087 and PRN 76090) indicating the potential for wet, peaty deposits. PRN 76090 is crossed by two stone bridges (PRN 76088 and 76089) approximately 42 m apart. PRN 76088 was recorded as part of the watching brief carried out in 2012 – 2013 (Brooks 2013, 10) and is the better constructed of the two bridges with dry stone wall abutments and a stone slab deck. PRN 76089, however, consists of stone slabs roughly supported by a series of iron bars. Both bridges are probably associated with routes to/from the farmstead of Cribau, some 115 m to the south west.

The route crosses a major wall (PRN 30203) which forms the boundary between the actively farmed land associated with the farmstead of Cribau and the open moorland. The route crosses through an existing gap in the wall which was probably a gateway, although this remains to be confirmed. Attached to this wall, and running parallel to the proposed route, is an earthen bank with a slight ditch on both sides (PRN 30224) which appear to mark the edge of one of the fields associated with the farmstead of Cribau. The southern end, and possible

return, of this feature is unclear on the site and the Green route probably runs around the southern side of the potential field. The route then runs through the enclosures associated with the farmstead, although no physical remains have been recorded.

## Discussion

The proposed routes would appear to have limited archaeological impact, however, experience from the construction of the previous routes would suggest that the correspondence between the planned and constructed trials may be variable. Also, none of the temporary works required have been defined and therefore have not been assessed.

It is understood that the Red and Black routes are going to have minimal surfacing, being “natural routes” (Bradley *pers. comm.*). Whilst this will reduce the archaeological risk during construction it is difficult to assess the potential damage through erosion. The Green Route, however, is intended to have a harder surface which will probably involve the carting of material around the site and the possible digging of borrow pits along the line to provide material for the surfacing.

As with the previous scheme the main focus of visible archaeological activity is at the south western end of the development with the farmstead of Cribau and the terrace of Tai'r Frest forming focuses for activity, however the palaeo-environmental evidence from the core taken in 2013 (Grant 2013) would suggest there has been human activity in the general area from the Late Mesolithic onwards and there is a slight potential for unexpected archaeological remains to be encountered. Whilst each of the features identified can only be regarded as of “local interest”, their importance is in their relationship to each other reflecting the close relationship between the extractive industries and the agricultural exploitation of landscape. Their importance as a group of inter-related features is therefore of much greater importance.

The proposed development is within the Blaenau Ffestiniog Landscape of outstanding historical interest (Cadw 1998, Part 2, p77-80) included as “*The foremost slate mining and quarrying landscape in Wales, sited in an elevated natural basin and its tributary valleys in south Snowdonia, containing an undisputed wealth of industrial archaeological remain comprising visually imposing and extensive slate quarry and mine workings, waste tips, associated buildings, transport systems and settlements dating from the late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries*” (Cadw 1998, Part 2, 80). Whilst the development area is towards the northern edge of the registered area, it contains a range of buildings and other features associated with the exploitation of slate and the background, supporting, agricultural economy particularly along the southern edge of the cycle track development. The importance of the area is also shown by the current application to Unesco for World Heritage Site status for the Gwynedd's Slate Landscapes including the area around Blaenau Ffestiniog. There is a correspondence between many of the features recorded in the Historic Monuments Record and from the surveys associated with the construction of the Cycle Tracks and features mapped for the First Edition Ordnance Survey map published in 1881 (Figure 4). This is particularly clear along the southern end of the development with the farmsteads of Cribau and Cae'r-drain and the terrace of Tai-frest, however other features are also seen such as the sheepfold PRN 30236. This early map also suggests that stone slab fence (PRN 30237) may have been part of a sheepfold

## Recommendations

1. A part-time watching brief be commissioned on the construction phase of the project, particularly for the green route and any works around the Cribau Farmstead and the Llechwedd adit.
2. Any temporary works, such as haul routes, should be discussed with an archaeologist to reduce the risk for inadvertent damage.
3. As far as possible wet area should be avoided to avoid damage to the paleo-environmental record.
4. If deep peat deposits are encountered, they should be sampled and the samples studied by a suitably qualified paleo-environmental specialist
5. The walls crossed by the routes should be recorded as part of the watching brief to record any further damage and/or evidence of their construction
6. Where the routes cross drains or ditches, these should be piped to allow drainage.

## Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by A. Bradley on behalf of Antur Stiniog. The historic environment data was provided by Sean Derby, Historic Environment Record Archaeologist at the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust. The project was monitored by Jenny Emmett for the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service.

## References

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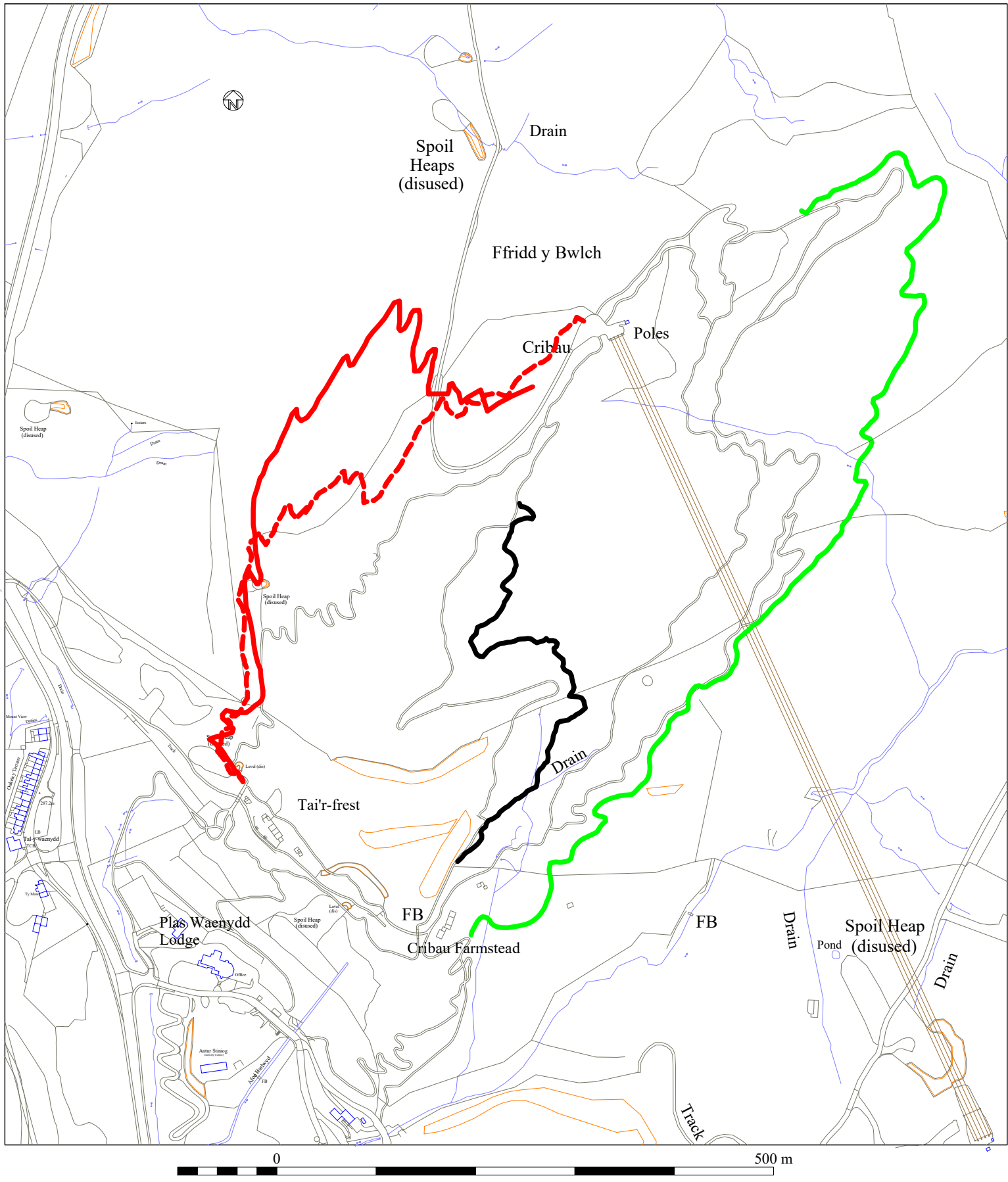
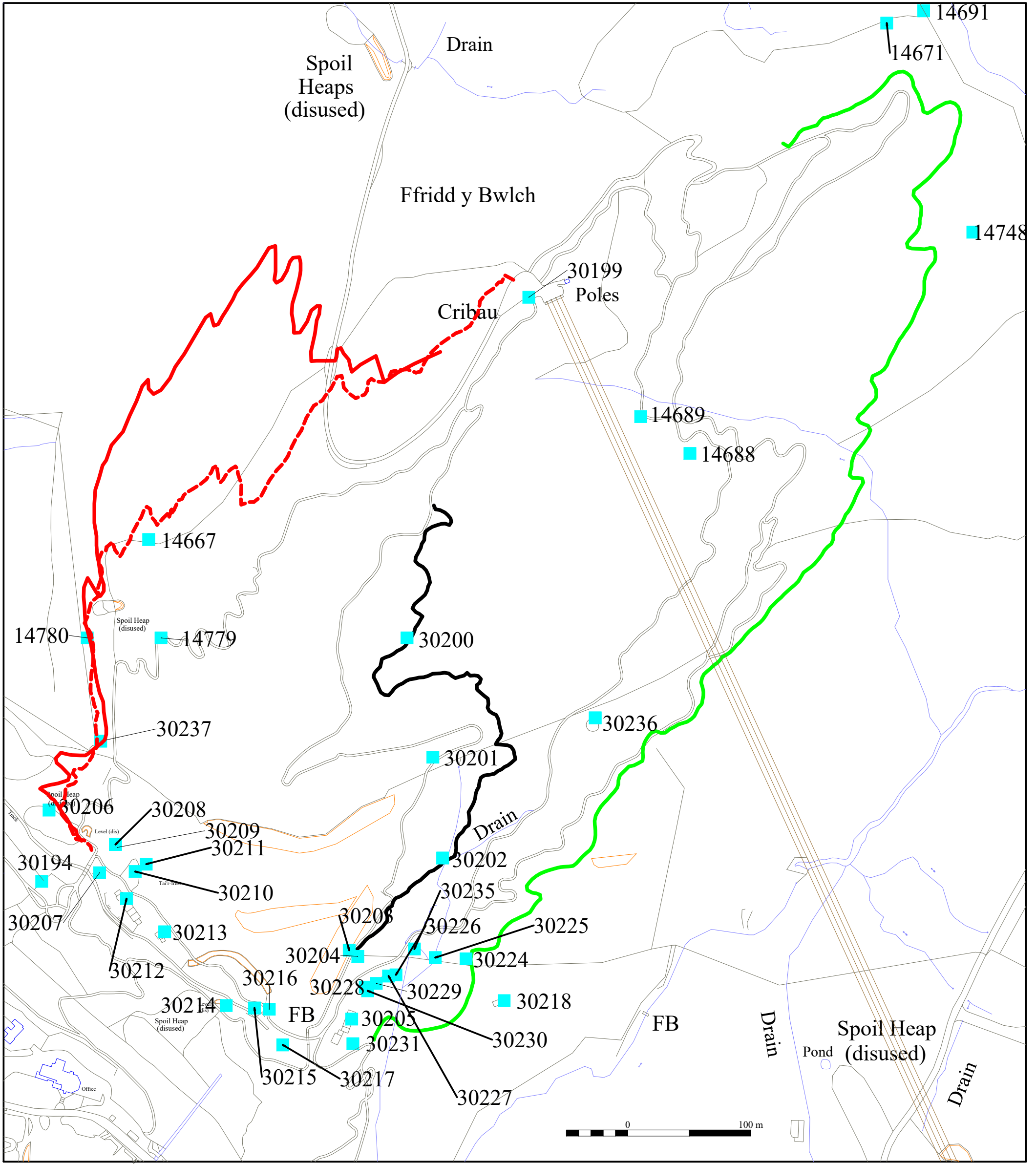


Figure 1: Location  
Scale 1:5,000



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Figure 2: Sites and Features already recorded in the Historic Environment Record  
 Scale 1:3,000

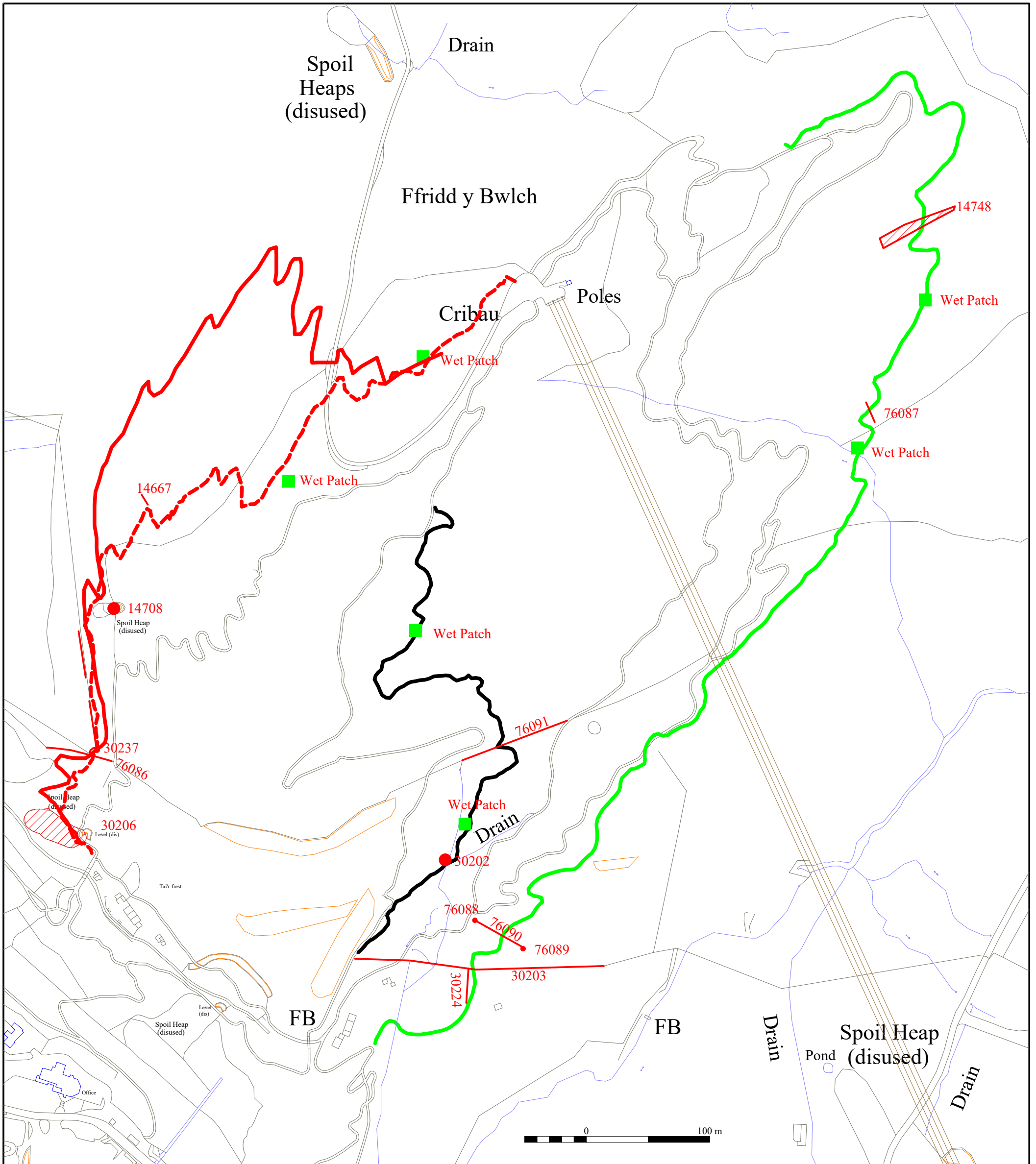


Figure 3: Results  
Scale 1:3,000



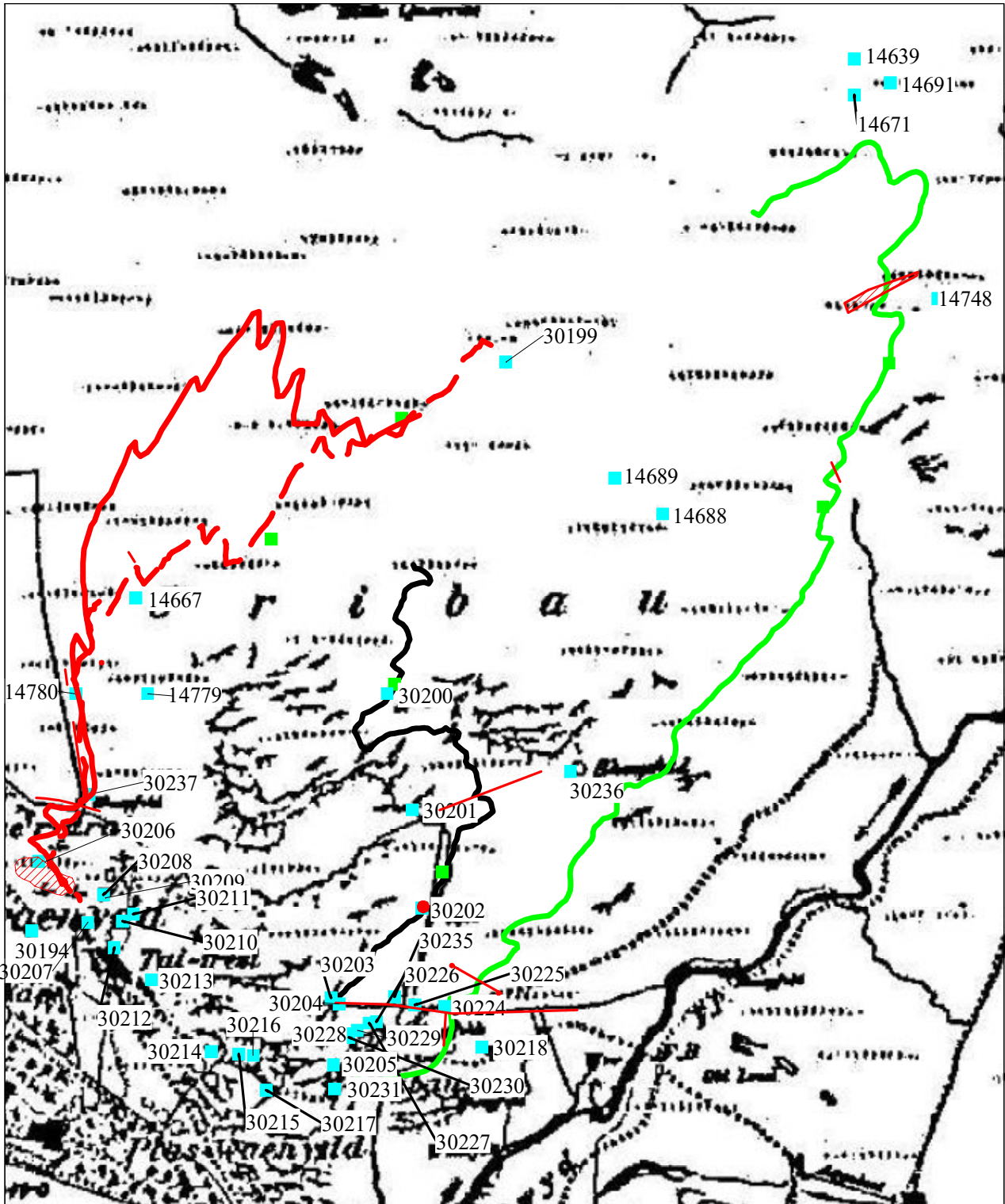





Figure 4: Proposed Routes and Historic Assets  
 Plotted on an Extract from the Ordnance Survey  
 1881 Merionethshire IV NW map  
 Re-scaled to 1:5,000

## Appendix 1: Gazetteer


<b>PRN</b> 14667	<b>NPRN</b>	<b>SAM</b>	<b>Parish</b> Ffestiniog	<b>Grid Reference</b> SH 69899 47760
<b>Name</b> Moel Bowydd Drain				
<b>Site Type</b> Drain		<b>Period</b> Post Medieval		<b>Land Use</b> Rough Pasture
				
<b>Description</b> Shallow ditch cut in the hillside to drain the upper slopes. Approximately 1 m wide and 0.3 m deep with a bank formed from its up cast on the western side. The bank is up to 1 m wide, 0.4 m high				
<b>Condition</b> Good	<b>Stability</b> Stable	<b>Vulnerability</b> Medium	<b>Importance</b> Local	
<b>Impact of the Route</b> Steep red route crosses the top of this feature.				
<b>Photographs</b> ASDL 07				
<b>Recorded by</b> IB		<b>Date Recorded</b> 11/02/2019		




<b>PRN</b> 14748	<b>NPRN</b>	<b>SAM</b>	<b>Parish</b> Ffestiniog	<b>Grid Reference</b> SH 70523 47985
<b>Name</b> Rectangular Depression, Ffestiniog				
<b>Site Type</b> Peat Cutting		<b>Period</b> Post Medieval		<b>Land Use</b> Rough Pasture
				
<b>Description</b> Rectilinear strip of peat cutting approximately 8 m wide and up to 30 m long. Cut in on all sides up to 0.5 m				
<b>Condition</b> Moderate	<b>Stability</b> Stable	<b>Vulnerability</b> High	<b>Importance</b> Local	
<b>Impact of the Route</b> Green Route crosses this feature				
<b>Photographs</b> ASDL 08				
<b>Recorded by</b> IB		<b>Date Recorded</b> 11/02/2019		

<b>PRN</b> 14779	<b>NPRN</b>	<b>SAM</b>	<b>Parish</b> Ffestiniog	<b>Grid Reference</b> SH 69871 47675
<b>Name</b>				
<b>Site Type</b> Adit		<b>Period</b> Post Medieval		<b>Land Use</b> Rough Pasture
				
<b>Description</b> Small adit running into the hillside. Approximately 1.5 m wide and up to 2 m high face at end of cut 8 m long. Spoil heap down slope with top platform 7 x 2 m in size.				
<b>Condition</b> Good	<b>Stability</b> Slow deterioration	<b>Vulnerability</b> Low	<b>Importance</b> Local	
<b>Impact of the Route</b> Steep Red Route runs just below the tips.				
<b>Photographs</b> ASDL 03, ASDL 04				
<b>Recorded by</b> IB		<b>Date Recorded</b> 11/02/2019		




<b>PRN</b> 30202	<b>NPRN</b>	<b>SAM</b>	<b>Parish</b> Ffestiniog	<b>Grid Reference</b> SH 70140 47472
<b>Name</b> Llechwedd shaft				
<b>Site Type</b> Shaft		<b>Period</b> Post Medieval		<b>Land Use</b> Rough Pasture
				
<b>Description</b> Vertical shaft, approximately 5 m in diameter at the top, but rapidly reducing to approximately 2 m diameter of unknown depth. Limited spot heaps to the west, covering an area of 5 x 10 m, up to 0.75 m high				
<b>Condition</b> Fair	<b>Stability</b> Slow deterioration	<b>Vulnerability</b> Low	<b>Importance</b> Local	
<b>Impact of the Route</b> Adjacent to the Black Route, but consider moving the route further away				
<b>Photographs</b> ASDL 15				
<b>Recorded by</b> IB		<b>Date Recorded</b> 11/02/2019		




<b>PRN</b> 30203	<b>NPRN</b>	<b>SAM</b>	<b>Parish</b> Ffestiniog	<b>Grid Reference</b> SH 70067 47392 — SH 70269 47386
<b>Name</b> Llechwedd Wall 4				
<b>Site Type</b> Wall		<b>Period</b> Post-Medieval		<b>Land Use</b> Rough Pasture
				
<b>Description</b> Dry stone wall standing to 1.7 m in places, 0.9 m thick. Retaining pitched coping stone in places. Variable condition with some collapsed area. The collapse through which the green route passes was possibly originally a gateway. Has a field bank (PRN 30224) attached to this wall. This wall marks the edge of the actively managed fields associated with Cribau Farmstead (PRN 30205)				
<b>Condition</b> Fair	<b>Stability</b> Slow Deterioration	<b>Vulnerability</b> Medium	<b>Importance</b> Local	
<b>Impact of the Route</b> Green Route goes through an existing gap in the wall				
<b>Photographs</b> ASDL 12				
<b>Recorded by</b> IB		<b>Date Recorded</b> 11/02/2019		




<b>PRN</b> 30206	<b>NPRN</b>	<b>SAM</b>	<b>Parish</b> Ffestiniog	<b>Grid Reference</b> SH 69819 47510
<b>Name</b> Llechwedd adit				
<b>Site Type</b> Adit and tips		<b>Period</b> Post Medieval		<b>Land Use</b> Rough Pasture
				
<b>Description</b> An adit 2.2 m wide and 2.10 m high at its mouth with a tunnel running back into the hillside with a pipe running along the floor. The mouth is partly blocked by slate slab fencing. The tips are to the NW and appear to have been pushed into a relatively small steep pile. Alternatively, part of the heaps could have been removed				
<b>Condition</b> Fair	<b>Stability</b> Slow deterioration	<b>Vulnerability</b> High	<b>Importance</b> Local	
<b>Impact of the Route</b> Crossed by the Steep Red Route				
<b>Photographs</b> ASDL 16, ASDL 17, ASDL 18				
<b>Recorded by</b> IB		<b>Date Recorded</b> 11/02/2019		




<b>PRN</b> 30224	<b>NPRN</b>	<b>SAM</b>	<b>Parish</b> Ffestiniog	<b>Grid Reference</b> SH 70159 47384 — SH 70157 47356
<b>Name</b> Cribau Bank				
<b>Site Type</b> Earthen Bank		<b>Period</b>		<b>Land Use</b> Rough Pasture
				
<b>Description</b> Earthen bank 1.2 m wide and up to 1 m high forming an enclosure, probably part of fields associated with Cribau Farmstead. Slight ditch on both sides.				
<b>Condition</b> Good	<b>Stability</b> Slow deterioration	<b>Vulnerability</b> Low	<b>Importance</b> Local	
<b>Impact of the Route</b> Green route runs alongside this feature. Protect from damage				
<b>Photographs</b> ASDL 13				
<b>Recorded by</b> IB		<b>Date Recorded</b> 11/02/2019		




<b>PRN</b> 30237	<b>NPRN</b>	<b>SAM</b>	<b>Parish</b> Ffestiniog	<b>Grid Reference</b> SH 69854 47562
<b>Name</b> Tal-y-waenydd Stone Fence				
<b>Site Type</b> Stone Fence		<b>Period</b> Post Medieval		<b>Land Use</b> Rough Pasture
				
<b>Description</b> Short length of slab fence consisting of closely set stone slabs up to 1.45 x 0.75 x 0.08 m. Six slabs forming a slight arc and a seventh the other side of a gateway. Adjacent to PRN 76086				
<b>Condition</b> Good	<b>Stability</b> Slow deterioration	<b>Vulnerability</b> Medium	<b>Importance</b> Local	
<b>Impact of the Route</b> Adjacent to the Steep Red Route. Do not damage				
<b>Photographs</b> ASDL 02				
<b>Recorded by</b> IB		<b>Date Recorded</b> 11/02/2019		



<b>PRN</b> 76086	<b>NPRN</b>	<b>SAM</b>	<b>Parish</b> Ffestiniog	<b>Grid Reference</b> SH 69871 47551 – SH 69817 47563
<b>Name</b> Tal-y-waenydd Wall				
<b>Site Type</b> Wall		<b>Period</b> Post Medieval		<b>Land Use</b> Rough Pasture
				
<b>Description</b> Dry stone wall, partly revetting the hill side. Up to 800 mm high and 600 mm thick, composed of slabby rock. Abuts PRN 3027				
<b>Condition</b> Good	<b>Stability</b> Slow deterioration	<b>Vulnerability</b> High	<b>Importance</b> Local	
<b>Impact of the Route</b> Crossed by new steep red route. Cross at point in wall where already collapsed.				
<b>Photographs</b> ASDR 01				
<b>Recorded by</b> IB		<b>Date Recorded</b> 11/02/2019		



<b>PRN</b> 70687	<b>NPRN</b>	<b>SAM</b>	<b>Parish</b> Ffestiniog	<b>Grid Reference</b> SH 70483 478364
<b>Name</b> Cribau Drain				
<b>Site Type</b> Drain		<b>Period</b> Post Medieval		<b>Land Use</b> Rough Pasture
				
<b>Description</b> Straight cut drain, 0.5 m wide and up to 0.5 m deep with a “V” shaped profile.				
<b>Condition</b> Good	<b>Stability</b> Slow deterioration	<b>Vulnerability</b> High	<b>Importance</b> Local	
<b>Impact of the Route</b> Cut by green route. Probably wet and peaty in area				
<b>Photographs</b> ASDL 09				
<b>Recorded by</b> IB		<b>Date Recorded</b> 11/02/2019		




<b>PRN</b> 76088	<b>NPRN</b>	<b>SAM</b>	<b>Parish</b> Ffestiniog	<b>Grid Reference</b> SH 70166 47422
<b>Name</b>				
<b>Site Type</b> Cribau Bridge 1		<b>Period</b> Post-Medieval		<b>Land Use</b> Rough Pasture
				
<b>Description</b>				
<p>Recorded in the previous watching brief. This consisted of two layers of large stone slabs, approximately 0.8 x 1.4 m in size supported by dry stone walling revetting on both sides of the ditch. The small size of this bridge would suggest that it carried a footpath, possibly related to the farmstead of Cribau which is only 115 m to the south west</p>				
<b>Condition</b> Good	<b>Stability</b> Slow deterioration	<b>Vulnerability</b> Low	<b>Importance</b> Local	
<b>Impact of the Route</b>				
None				
<b>Photographs</b>				
Downhill 073, Downhill 074, Downhill 075				
<b>Recorded by</b> IB		<b>Date Recorded</b> 09/12/2011		




<b>PRN</b> 76089	<b>NPRN</b>	<b>SAM</b>	<b>Parish</b> Ffestiniog	<b>Grid Reference</b> SH 70203 47400
<b>Name</b> Cribau Bridge 2				
<b>Site Type</b> Bridge		<b>Period</b> Post Medieval		<b>Land Use</b> Rough Pasture
				
<b>Description</b> Rough bridge consisting of a few stone slabs supported on iron rails				
<b>Condition</b> Moderate	<b>Stability</b> Slow deterioration	<b>Vulnerability</b> Low	<b>Importance</b> Local	
<b>Impact of the Route</b> None, but avoid with any construction traffic				
<b>Photographs</b> ASDL 10				
<b>Recorded by</b> IB		<b>Date Recorded</b> 11/02/2019		



<b>PRN</b> 76090	<b>NPRN</b>	<b>SAM</b>	<b>Parish</b> Ffestiniog	<b>Grid Reference</b> SH 70187 47411
<b>Name</b> Cribau Drain				
<b>Site</b> Drain		<b>Period</b> Post Medieval		<b>Land Use</b> Rough Pasture
				
<b>Description</b> Wide relatively deep ditch up to 1.5 m wide and 0.5 m deep with an irregular profile, but often “U” shaped. Crossed by at least two rough stone bridges (PRN 76088 and PRN 76089).				
<b>Condition</b> Fair	<b>Stability</b> Stable	<b>Vulnerability</b> High	<b>Importance</b> Local	
<b>Impact of the Route</b> Cut by green route. Pipe to maintain drainage				
<b>Photographs</b> ASDL 11				
<b>Recorded by</b> IB		<b>Date Recorded</b> 11/02/2019		



<b>PRN</b> 76091	<b>NPRN</b>	<b>SAM</b>	<b>Parish</b> Ffestiniog	<b>Grid Reference</b> SH 70183 47564
<b>Name</b> Cribau Fence				
<b>Site Type</b> Slate fence		<b>Period</b> Post Medieval		<b>Land Use</b> Rough Pasture
				
<b>Description</b> Remnant of a slate fence, now largely replaced by metal mesh. Occasional stump of upright slate slab 0.15 m wide at the foot of the fence				
<b>Condition</b> Poor	<b>Stability</b> Slow deterioration	<b>Vulnerability</b> High	<b>Importance</b> Local	
<b>Impact of the Route</b> Crossed by the Black Route. Record in construction phase				
<b>Photographs</b> ASDL_14				
<b>Recorded by</b> IB		<b>Date Recorded</b> 11/02/2019		

## Appendix 2: HER Summary

PRN	Site Name	Description	NGR
14639	Long Hut, Ffestiniog		SH70504818
14667	Meandering Bank, Ffestiniog	The scant remains of a low meandering earth and stone bank running at 90° to and heading towards the bank PRN 14,780. In places this feature survives as just a row of stones. Approximately 1 - 2 m wide with a maximum height of 0.4m. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH69904773
14671	Trial, Ffestiniog		SH70504815
14688	Low Bank, Ffestiniog	A slightly meandering earthen bank 3 m wide and up to 0.7 m high. Possibly related to bank PRN 14,689. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH70344780
14689	Large Bank, Ffestiniog	A low earthen bank, 2.5 m wide and up to 0.3 m high, only traceable for a short distance. Possibly an extension of bank PRN 14,688. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH70304783
14691	Meandering Bank, Ffestiniog		SH70534816
14700	Slate Fence, Ffestiniog	The sporadic remains of a slate slab fence surviving as intermittent upright slate slabs. Maximum slab size 1.2 m high, 0.4 m wide and 0.05 m thick. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH69864761
14748	Rectangular Depression, Ffestiniog		SH70574798
14779	Moel Bowydd Trail, Ffestiniog	A small trail adit with a small top to the west. Adit 3 m wide reducing to 2 m at the mouth of the adit. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH69914765
14780	Boundary, Ffestiniog	A low earth bank with some large stone slabs protruding from the structure, 2.5 m wide and up to 0.5 m high. The bank runs parallel with the slate slab fence PRN 14,700 and a modern fence presumably representing successive boundaries. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH69854765
30194	Wall, Tal-y- waenydd	Dry stone built wall with a maximum height of 1.7 m on its down hill side and 1 m on its up hill side, 0.6 m thick. The wall runs adjacent to the track PRN 30,195. Collapsed in places. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH6981347452

<b>PRN</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>NGR</b>
30199	Aerial, Bwlch Cribau	A modern galvanized aerial mast, collapsed. Possibly for a past digital TV system within Blaenau Ffestiniog area. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH7020947927
30200	Wall, Llechwedd	A roughly constructed boulder built wall 0.7 m wide and up to 0.8 m high. Probably the same wall as PRN 30,201. Tumbled. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH7011047650
30201	Wall, Llechwedd	A much tumbled, roughly constructed boulder built dry stone wall. 0.7 m wide and up to 0.7 m high. Probably the same wall as PRN 30,200. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH7013147553
30202	Shaft, Llechwedd	A shaft top approximately 2 m square now fenced off. There is a small area of slate spoil to the south. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH7013947471
30203	Wall, Llechwedd	A dry stone wall constructed of stone slabs 0.7 m wide and up to 1.7 m high. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH7006347396
30204	Stone Fence, Llechwedd	A series of stone slabs set upright to form a boundary. Slabs are typically 0.9 m high, 0.6 m wide and 0.08 m thick. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH7007047391
30205	Farm, Cribau	A building consisting of two ranges off set slightly from each other, but generally in line. The SW range is 15 x 8 m in size and the NE range is 20 x 10 m and is divided into three rooms. The NE gable contains a blocked fireplace. Walls are 0.7 m thick with a maximum height of 3 m at the gables. Probable agricultural range of buildings including a house or hafod. Marked as Cribau on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1891 (Merionethshire IV NW). (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH7006547340
30206	Adit, Llechwedd	An adit 2.2 m wide and 2.10 m high at its mouth with a tunnel running back into the hillside with a pipe running along the floor. The mouth is partly blocked by slate slab fencing. The tips are to the NW and appear to have been pushed into a relatively small steep pile. Alternatively part of the heaps could have been removed. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH6981947510

<b>PRN</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>NGR</b>
30207	Buildings, Llechwedd	A small multi celled structure with two possible rooms with associated pens, possibly pig sties. The NE side of the structure is partly concealed by a large rock which has probably slipped from further up slope. Walls 0.7 m thick and standing to a maximum height of 1.1 m. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH6986047459
30208	Water Tank, Llechwedd	A slate lined, rectangular, tank 1.0 m long, 0.5 m wide and 0.45 m deep cut into the hillside. Possibly the water supply for the Cottages (PRN 30,212) to the SE. The tank appears to be associated with a path (PRN 30,209) and has some evidence for stone slab hardening around its down hill (SE) edge. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH6987347482
30209	Path, Llechwedd	A narrow path, 1.0 m wide and sunken by 0.5 m in places running from the stone line tank (PRN 30,208) towards the possible pig sties (PRN 30,207). (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH6987347482
30210	Enclosure, Llechwedd	A sub-rectangular enclosure behind the row of cottages (PRN 30,212) surrounded by a, roughly constructed, dry stone wall 0.7 m wide and up to 1 m high, now rather tumbled. The enclosure is approximately 11 m wide and 30 m long. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH6988947460
30211	Drain, Llechwedd	A narrow gully running down the hillside adjacent to the enclosure (PRN 30,210) and around the SE end of the Cottages PRN 30,212. In places this feature has a slate slab lining forming a channel 0.5 m wide and up to 0.6 m deep. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH6989847466

PRN	Site Name	Description	NGR
30212	Terrace, Tai Frest	A row of what was originally five terraced cottages each of which were 4.5 m wide and 7m deep sitting on a raised platform above the track (PRN 30,195) from the A470(T) to the farm complex PRN 30,205. They stand to a maximum height of 2.7 m. Now in four units with the northwest unit being double size and containing a later sub-division (possible sheep pen). There are lean to extensions on the NW and SE ends and three small structure on a slightly lower platform in front of the row of the cottages. These structure each consist of two cell, open to the NE with vents/chutes to the SW overlooking the track way. There is some evidence that they were relatively low structures (approximately 1 m with sloping slate slab roofs. These may be pig sties although their interpretation is uncertain. The complex appears to be associated with the enclosure (PRN 30,210) . Marked as ?Tai Frest? on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1891 (Merionethshire IV NW). (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH6988247438
30213	Buildings, Llechwedd	The remains of two small, joined, structure each consisting of a small inner structure, approximately 2 m square in a larger possible pen (4.1 x 5.3 m in size) The walls forming this structure stand to 2.2 m at the rear where they revett the natural slope, but are more typically 1.2 m high and 0.6 m thick. Possible pig sties. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH6991347411
30214	Adit, Llechwedd	An adit with a mouth 2.2 m wide and 2.3 m high to a tunnel extending into the hillside. There is a large spoil tip to the NW. Mouth of the adit is partly blocked by dry stone walling. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH6996347351
30215	Wall, Llechwedd	A short length of dry stone walling alongside the Track PRN 30,195. Rough boulder built, 0.8 m wide and up to 1.4 m high. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH6998647349
30216	Structure, Llechwedd	A small structure with a rectangular cell (2.5 x 3 m in size) adjacent to the track (PRN 30,195) and a sub-rectangular enclosure (6 x 6 m) at a slightly higher level behind the cell. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH6999847348
30217	Wall, Llechwedd	The scant remains of a boundary wall, little more than a row of boulders surviving. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH7000947319

<b>PRN</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>NGR</b>
30218	Structure, Afon Barlwyd	A small structure built against a natural rock face. The building is 3.6 x 7 m in size with two partially blocked windows and a rough buttress on its SE side . The remains of a partially collapsed slate roof in place. Walls 0.7 m thick and standing to their original height of up to 2.10 m. Possible sheppard's hut. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH7018947355
30224	Bank, Llechwedd	A low stony bank, 1.7 m wide and 0.8 m high with a slight ditch on both sides. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH7015847389
30225	Wall, Llechwedd	A rough dry stone wall that starts as the revetting for the side of a deeply cut natural gully/stream, but then sweeps away from the stream and links to the agricultural structure PRN 30,226. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH7013347390
30226	Structure, Llechwedd	A rectangular building 2.5 x 2.2 m in size with walling on three sides which is 0.7 m wide and up to 1.7 m high. The open (SE) side has a large boulder sitting in the middle. The back of the building abuts PRN 30,227. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH7010147376
30227	Structure, Llechwedd	A rectangular building with two cells opening to the SE. It abuts building PRN 30,226. Constructed of walls 0.7 m thick and standing to a height of 2.4 m. The NE room is 2.0 x 2.6 m in size and the SW is 3.2 x 2.6 m in size. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH7009547375
30228	Platform, Llechwedd	A platform 4 m wide and 22 m long with a stone revetted front (SE) face. Structure PRN 30,227 is at the NE end and enclosure PRN 30,229 is below it. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH7007647366
30229	Enclosure, Llechwedd	A small enclosure approximately 12 x 8 m in size in front of the platform PRN 30,228. The surrounding wall is 0.7 m wide and survived to a maximum height of 0.6m. It was constructed of rough dry stone, slab construction. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH7008547369
30230	Wall, Llechwedd	A short length of dry stone walling, probably originally joining the platform (PRN 30,228) to the building range (PRN 30,205). 0.7 m wide and up to 0.6 m high it is made of rough, dry stone slab construction. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH7007847363

<b>PRN</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>NGR</b>
30231	Enclosure, Llechwedd	Two sides of an irregular triangular enclosure immediately to the south of the building range (PRN 30,205). Defined by a somewhat tumbled dry stone wall which has been partly replaced by a stone slab fence and a low stony bank. The wall is up to 0.9 m wide and 0.9 m high. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH7006647320
30232	Enclosure, Tal-y-waenydd	A sub-rectangular enclosure approximately 15 x 30 m in size running up a steep slope above the track (PRN 30,195) and the building platform (PRN 30,233) Surrounded on three sides by a dry stone wall 0.8 m thick and standing to a maximum height of 0.7m Very tumbled. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH6976547557
30233	Platform, Caer-drain	A widening of the track (PRN 30,195) to form a rectilinear platform 13 x 6 m in size. Cut into the hill side by 2.5 m with some revetting supporting the natural slope and revetted to the SW above the original line of the track (PRN 30,234). Post medieval pottery was noted in the immediate area. Building marked as Cae'r-drain of the First edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1891 (Merionethshire IV NW). (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH6974847552
30235	Wall, Llechwedd	A dry stone wall partly revetting the side of a natural gully leading down towards the farm complex with PRN 30,205 as its main building range. Roughly constructed and much tumbled this wall crosses the gully in at least two places. Where it survives it is 0.7 m wide and up to 0.8 m high. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH7011647397
30236	Sheepfold, Cribau	A roughly circular sheep fold, approximately 10 m in diameter, with an entrance to the west. It is formed of dry stone walls 0.7 m thick and up to 1.3 m high and appears to sit on a platform up to 1m higher than the surrounding ground. There are two slight walls to the north which appear to enclose an area of about 12 x 11 m between the main structure and a natural rock face. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH7026347585
30237	Stone Fence, Tal-y-waenydd	A short length of stone slab fencing either side of a gateway I the corner of the field. Slabs typically 0.8 m wide, 1.6 m high and 0.08m thick. (Brooks, Laws and Gwyn, 2009)	SH6986147566



## **Appendix 3: Specification**

### **Specification for Archaeological Assessment of the Additional Routes at the Antur Stiniog Down Hill Trails.**

Specification written by I.P. Brooks 28/01/19

#### **1. Background**

It is intended to construct three new routes as part of the Antur Stiniog Downhill Trails above Llechwedd Quarry, Blaenau Ffestiniog (Fig 1).

- 1.1. In 2012/2013 four downhill tracks, a jumps track and a new building were constructed on land to the north of Llechwedd Quarry, Blaenau Ffestiniog. Prior to construction, Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd and Govannon Consultancy carried out an archaeological assessment of the proposed development and Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief during their construction. The preconstruction phase of this work recorded 57 new features within the development area and further archaeological features were recorded during the construction phase.
- 1.2. Approximately 1.3 km of new routes have been proposed consisting of three new routes which partially link in to the previously constructed system of downhill tracks.
- 1.3. This specification is based on telephone conversations with Adrian Bradley of Antur Stiniog and Jenny Emmett of the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service.

#### **2. Aims**

To assess the archaeological impact of the proposed new routes.

#### **3. Mitigation Program**

The programme of works shall include:

- 3.1.1. Check of the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record
- 3.1.2. A walk-over survey of the routes
- 3.1.3. Archive preparation
- 3.1.4. Report

#### **4. Methodology**

The Gwynedd Historic Environment Record will be checked for any new entry between the previous assessment and this work

The proposed routes will be walked and any archaeological feature recognised will be recorded including:

- 4.1.1. Location
- 4.1.2. Extent
- 4.1.3. Type
- 4.1.4. Form
- 4.1.5. Size
- 4.1.6. Importance
- 4.1.7. Threat
- 4.1.8. Potential date

4.1.9.State of preservation

4.1.10. Land use

Previously unrecorded sites will be given a PRN number in consultation with the HER Officer

A photograph will be taken of all archaeological features with a digital camera with a resolution of at least 12 Mega pixels.

4.1.11. The photographs will include metric scales

Where possible the location and extent of any feature will be recorded using a Garmin “GPSmap 62s” hand held GPS using the WAAS correction giving a potential accuracy of  $\pm 2\text{m}$ .

4.1.12. Where it is not possible to use the GPS, the features will be plotted by reference to topographic features.

## 5. Archiving

An archive of the photographs taken for this report will be prepared and deposited with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

This will be consistent with the RCAHMW Guidelines for Digital Archives (<https://rcahmw.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/RCAHMW-Guidelines-for-Digital-Archives.pdf>)

A copy of the archive will be provided to the Gwynedd Historical Environment Record

## 6. Report

A summary report on the findings of the investigations will be prepared and completed on the project including;

6.1.1.A non-technical summary

6.1.2.Introduction

6.1.3.Aims and objectives

6.1.4.Methodology

6.1.5.Archaeological Results

6.1.6.Copies of drawings

6.1.7.Copies of photographs

6.1.8.Conclusions

6.1.9.Recommendations for further work

6.1.10. Appendices

6.1.11. References and bibliography

Copies of reports will be sent both to the client and the curatorial archaeologists

The preparation of the report will conform to the Welsh Archaeological Trusts 2018 “Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)”

## 7. Monitoring

Procedures will be put in place to facilitate the monitoring of this project by the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service, which will include the notification of any works undertaken and any significant finds or discoveries made during the project.

## 9. General

### IFA Code of Conduct

9.1.1. All staff will abide by, and all procedures be carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct.

### Health and Safety

9.1.2. EAS Ltd adopt and adhere to safe working practices at all times. A copy of the company's general statement of policy is available on request.

### Staff

9.1.3. The project will be directed by Dr I.P. Brooks MCIfA, FSA

9.1.4. Project Staff will include Dr I.P. Brooks MCIfA, FSA

### Timetable

9.1.5. The fieldwork element of the walk over survey will take 3 days.

9.1.6. It is expected that the fieldwork will take place in February 2019

9.1.7. Analysis and report preparation is dependent on the results of the fieldwork.

### Insurance

9.1.8. EAS Ltd carries all necessary Public and Employee Liability Insurances.

9.1.9. EAS Ltd carries Professional Indemnity Insurance.

### Copyright

9.1.10. EAS Ltd shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documentation, under the Copyrights, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved: excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive license to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

EAS Ltd is prepared to assign copyright at the request of the client.

### Liaison with regional HER

9.1.11. The regional Historic Environment Record (maintained by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust) will be contacted prior to any post-fieldwork analysis commencing for any PRN (primary record number) identifiers.

### Dissemination

9.1.12. In addition, the copies required by the Client, copies of the reports will be sent to, The Regional Historic Environment Record held by the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales



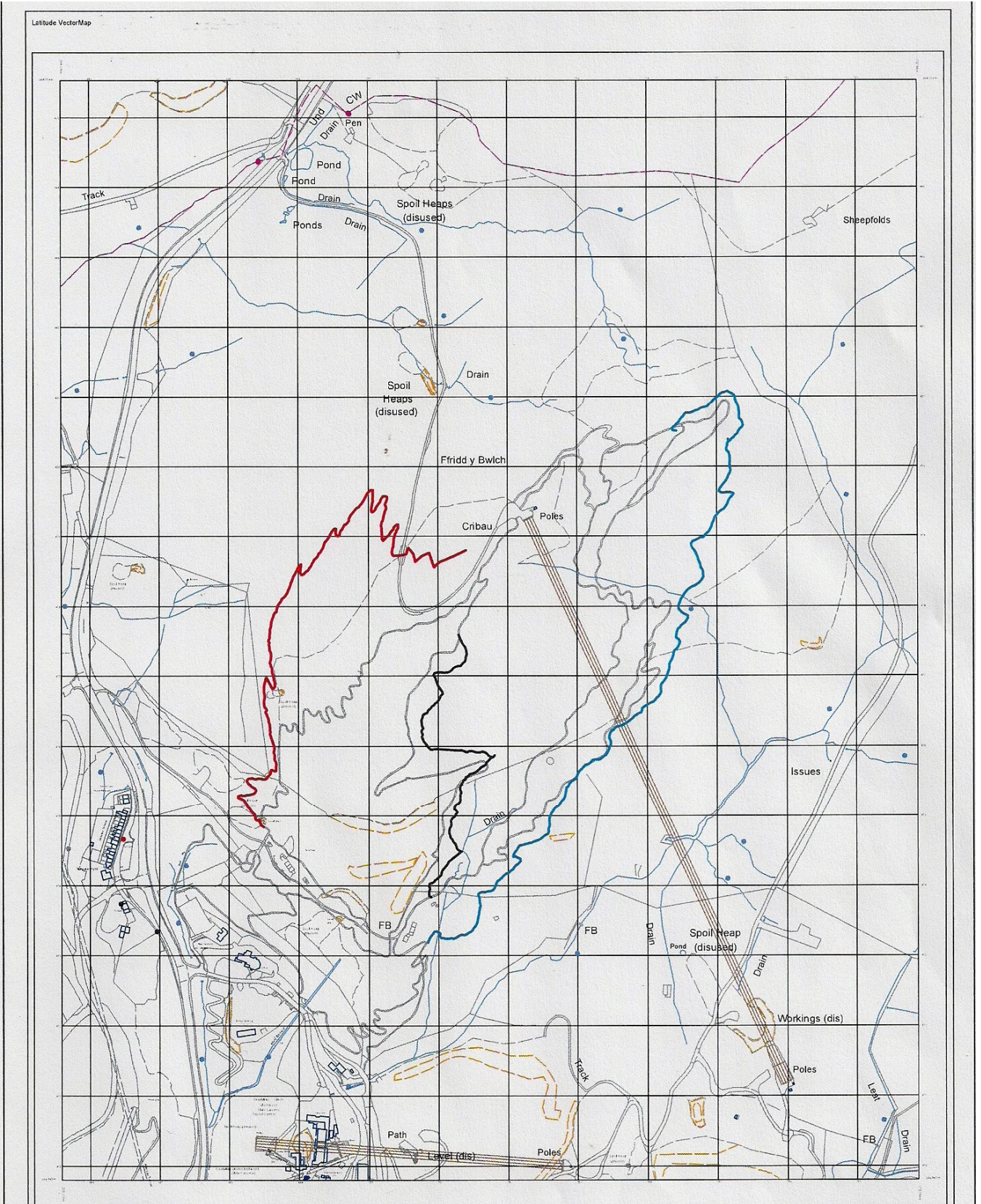


Figure 1: Location of the proposed routes