

Maesdu Golf Course Llandudno Wales

Archaeological Watching Brief



for:
Arup

on behalf of:
Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water

CA Project: 6374
CA Report: 6374_1

July 2021



Maesdu Golf Course Llandudno Wales

Archaeological Watching Brief

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Maesdu Golf Course
Location:	Llandudno, Wales
NGR:	277946 380574
Type:	Watching brief
Date:	24 November 2017; 19–23 November 2018
Planning Reference:	Conwy County Borough Council planning ref: 0/44208
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Llandudno Museum and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

In November 2017 and November 2018, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the creation of a drainage water holding reservoir at Maesdu Golf Course, Llandudno, Wales.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefactual material was recovered.

CRYNODEB

Ym mis Tachwedd 2017 a mis Tachwedd 2018, fe wnaeth Cotswold Archaeology gynnal briff gwylio archeolegol yn ystod y gwaith paratoi'r pridd oedd yn gysylltiedig â chreu cronfa i ddal dŵr draenio yng Nghwrs Golff Maesdu, Llandudno, Cymru.

Ni welwyd unrhyw nodweddion na darnau o ddiddordeb archeolegol ac ni ddaethpwyd o hyd i unrhyw arteffactau.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In November 2017 and November 2018, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Maesdu Golf Course, Llandudno, Wales (centred at NGR: 277946 380574; Fig. 1). This watching brief was undertaken for Arup, who were acting on behalf of Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water.
- 1.2. The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for the creation of a drainage water holding reservoir at the site (Conwy County Borough Council planning ref: 0/44208).
- 1.3. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2017) and approved by Conwy County Borough Council acting on the advice of the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS). The watching brief was also in line with *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014).

The site

- 1.4. Maesdu Golf Course lies immediately west of Maesdu Avenue (the A546), on the northern edge of the Llandudno suburb of Deganwy. At the time of the watching brief, the site comprised an overgrown vegetated area and an existing watercourse within the golf course. The site is bounded by Maesdu Avenue to the east, by scrubland within the golf course to the south and by golf greens to the north and west. In total, the application area extends to c. 0.99ha.
- 1.5. The underlying bedrock geology of the works area is mapped as Nant Ffrancon Subgroup siltstone, which formed in the Ordovician Period. This is overlain by Blown Sand which formed in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2020).
- 1.6. A previous geotechnical investigation of the site encountered bedrock (dark grey mudstone) at a depth of 18.1mOD–18.5mOD. Blown sand deposits comprising slightly silty fine to medium grained sand with frequent pockets of clay were recorded above glacial till material (CA 2017).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The following text is summarised from information contained in the WSI (CA 2017). PRN codes refer to entries in the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record.

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- 2.2. An isolated prehistoric stone axe has been recovered from within the golf course site (PRN4592), although there is no other record of prehistoric activity within the site itself. Prehistoric occupation has been recorded in the wider area; in particular, circle huts, megalithic structures, burial chambers, earthworks, stone rows and the Great Orme Bronze Age copper mine are present on the Great Orme peninsula (c. 1.4km north-west of the watching brief site) (Davidson and Jones 2001; Smith 2002; Waddington 2013).
- 2.3. The watching brief site lies c. 400m north of the medieval Deganwy Castle and c. 350m north-west of Bryniau Tower, which is thought to have been built in the 17th century as part of a system of lookouts designed to give warning of pirate attacks.
- 2.4. A series of First World War practice trenches (PRN13991) have been recorded in the southern end of the golf course site (Kenney 2015).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The objectives of the watching brief were:
- to monitor the development groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits/features thus revealed;
 - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated project archive and a report setting out the watching brief results and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The monitored groundworks are shown on Figure 2. They comprised three trenches associated with new drainage features (T1–T3; November 2017) and subsequent stripping of topsoil from the entire application area (T4). T1–T3 were c. 10m–c. 40m long, 0.25m wide and 0.2m deep. T4 was c. 175m long and a maximum of c. 80m wide.
- 4.2. As the T4 topsoil strip exposed the natural substrate throughout the monitored area, no further monitoring of subsequent deeper excavations into the natural substrate took place.
- 4.3. Records were maintained in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

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- 4.4. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. No deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.5. CA will make arrangements with Llandudno Museum for the deposition of the project archive. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the watching brief results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A.
- 5.2. The natural geological substrate (context 102) comprised yellow-brown sand. It was exposed throughout T1–T4 at an average depth of 0.2m. It was sealed directly by the topsoil (context 101).
- 5.3. There was no clear evidence for extensive ground disturbance associated with the construction of the golf course, although the relatively shallow topsoil layer and the absence of subsoil might indicate that the site has been stripped/truncated and that a replacement topsoil has been laid.
- 5.4. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was present.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1. Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see *Archaeological background*, above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Graham Eyre-Morgan (Black Mountains Archaeology Ltd), who also wrote this report. The report illustrations were prepared by Richard Lewis. The project archive has been compiled by Black Mountains Archaeology Ltd on behalf of CA and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

8. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 2020 *Geology of Britain Viewer*

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

Accessed 17 January 2020

Cotswold Archaeology 2017 *Maesdu Golf Course, Llandudno, Wales: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Davidson, A. and Jones, S. 2001 *The Great Orme Archaeological Management Plan*, GAT report **399**

Kenney, J. 2015 *First World War Military Sites: Military Landscapes. Part 1: Report and Gazetteer*, GAT report **1248**

Smith, G. 2002 *Survey of Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Monuments in Wales: West Conwy and North Gwynedd*, GAT report **449**

Waddington, K. 2013 *The Settlements of Northwest Wales: From the Late Bronze Age to the Early Medieval Period*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
100	Layer	topsoil	mid grey-brown silty clay	0.2
101	Layer	natural	yellow-brown sand	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Maesdu Golf Course, Llandudno, Wales	
Short description	<p>In November 2017 and November 2018, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the creation of a drainage water holding reservoir at Maesdu Golf Course, Llandudno, Wales.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefactual material was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	24 November 2017; 19–23 November 2018	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Maesdu Golf Course, Llandudno, Wales	
Study area (m ² /ha)	200m ²	
Site co-ordinates	277946 380574	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Graham Eyre-Morgan	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Llandudno Museum	Context/trench sheets
Digital	Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales	Database, digital photos, survey
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2020 <i>Maesdu Golf Course, Llandudno, Wales: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report 6374_1		



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PROJECT TITLE
Maesdu Golf Course, Llandudno, Wales

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

0 1km

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 Ordnance Survey 0100031673

DRAWN BY AW **PROJECT NO.** 6374
CHECKED BY AO **DATE** 30.05.19
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FIGURE NO.

1



- Stripped area
- Drainage trench

0 1:1500 50m



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PROJECT TITLE

Maesdu Golf Course, Llandudno, Wales

FIGURE TITLE

**The site, showing location of
observed groundworks**

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FIGURE NO.

2



Topsoil removal from south-west corner of site



Topsoil removed, revealing natural substrate



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PROJECT TITLE

Maesdu Golf Course, Llandudno, Wales

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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FIGURE NO.

3

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