

Cyngor Gwynedd

Barmouth North Promenade FAS

Heritage Desk Based Assessment for GI

Reference: BMTH-ARP-EHR-ZZ-RP-OE-000001

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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



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Contents

1. The Project	1
1.1 Scheme Overview	1
1.2 Scheme Objectives	1
1.3 Purpose of this Report	2
1.4 Consultation	2
2. Legislation, policy, standards, and guidance	3
2.1 Legislation	3
2.2 National planning policy	3
2.3 Local planning policy	3
2.4 Standards and guidance	4
3. Methodology	5
3.1 Study area	5
3.2 Data and information sources	5
3.3 Heritage assets and Cultural and Historic landscapes	5
3.4 Professional judgement and experience	6
3.5 Terminology	6
4. Archaeological and historical background	8
4.1 Time periods	8
4.2 Overview	8
4.3 Geology and topography	13
4.4 Registered Historic Landscapes	13
4.5 Prehistoric (1,000,000BCE – 43CE)	14
4.6 Roman (43CE – 410CE)	15
4.7 Early Medieval (410CE – 1086CE)	15
4.8 Medieval (1086CE – 1536CE)	16
4.9 Post Medieval (1536CE – 1899CE)	17
4.10 20 th century (1900CE – 1999CE)	21
4.11 Uncertain date	31
4.12 Walkover survey	32
4.13 Archaeological potential	39
5. Significance	40
6. Potential impacts	41
7. Recommendations	46
 Abbreviations List	 47
Glossary	47
References	48
Appendix A Cultural Heritage Gazetteers	52

Tables

Table 4-1	Archaeological and cultural (historical) time periods	8
Table A-1	Gazetteer of designated heritage assets, Cadw	52
Table A-2	Gazetteer of non-designated heritage assets, Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology (HGAT)	54
Table A-3	Gazetteer of National Monuments Record heritage assets	59
Table A-4	Gazetteer of Registered Historic Landscapes	62

Figures

Figure 1	Site location	7
Figure 2	Designated heritage assets	10
Figure 3	Non-designated heritage assets	11
Figure 4	Registered Historic Landscapes	12
Figure 5	GI location plan, Drawing BMTH-ARP-CGT-ZZ-SK-G-000004	42
Figure 6	GI location plan, Drawing BMTH-ARP-CGT-ZZ-SK-G-000005	43
Figure 7	GI location plan, BMTH-ARP-CGT-ZZ-SK-G-000006	44
Figure 8	GI location plan, BMTH-ARP-CGT-ZZ-SK-G-000007	45

Graphics

Graphic 4-1	1795 map of Barmouth by John Evans. Six Counties of North Wales. Print. The National Library of Wales. Reproduced under a Creative Commons license.	18
Graphic 4-2	1844 tithe map of the Parish of Llanaber in Merionethshire, showing the town of Barmouth at this time, and the land within the site boundary. North is to the left. The National Library of Wales.	19
Graphic 4-3	1888 Ordnance Survey six-inch map of the site boundary. Surveyed 1887. Merionethshire Sheet XXXVI.NW. Reproduced with permission of National Library of Scotland under a CC BY (Creative Commons Attribution) licence.	21
Graphic 4-4	1901 Ordnance Survey six-inch map of the site boundary. Revised 1900. Merionethshire Sheet XXXVI.NW. Reproduced with permission of National Library of Scotland under a CC BY (Creative Commons Attribution) licence.	22
Graphic 4-5	Richards, S.L. 1930. Barmouth Sea Defence Works. National Archives. Reference: BT 356/8975/PT4.	24
Graphic 4-6	Richards, S.L. 1930. Barmouth Sea Defence Works. Typical Cross Section. National Archives. Reference: BT 356/8975/PT3.	25
Graphic 4-7	c.1948 Ordnance Survey six-inch map of the site boundary. Revised 1938. Merionethshire Sheet XXXVI.NW. Reproduced with permission of National Library of Scotland under a CC BY (Creative Commons Attribution) licence.	28
Graphic 4-8	1953 Ordnance Survey six-inch map of the site boundary. Revised 1949. Merionethshire Sheet XXXVI.NW. Reproduced with permission of National Library of Scotland under a CC BY (Creative Commons Attribution) licence.	29
Graphic 4-9	Aerial imagery of the site boundary, dated December 2006. Google Earth Pro.	31
Graphic 4-10	Aerial imagery of the site boundary, dated April 2020. Google Earth Pro.	31

1. The Project

1.1 Scheme Overview

- 1.1.1 Cyngor Gwynedd, supported by YGC, propose to carry out coastal flood and erosion risk management works on a 1.2km length of frontage at the North Promenade region in Barmouth, Gwynedd. The 1.2km scheme area comprises of a mix of hard coastal defences (sheet piled wall, concrete revetment, and wave recurve wall, with masonry setback walls). The defences run parallel with the promenade and adjacent to Marine Parade.
- 1.1.2 The preferred option will reduce the long-term flood risk to both people and properties along the Barmouth seafront, bringing the area in line with its SMP2 policy of 'hold the line', with the longer-term considerations towards 'managed realignment'. The project will contribute towards managing flood risk, coastal erosion, and structural failure of the primary coastal defences, adapting to the increasing pressures associated with coastal erosion and climate change.
- 1.1.3 An Outline Business Case (OBC) was submitted by Cyngor Gwynedd in 2021 to seek approval and funding from Welsh Government for the design development and consenting of the project (Stage 1). YGC appointed Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd, with Arup (the 'AGC Team') to progress Stage 1 of the project, which includes developing the outline design, undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Consenting, Detailed Design and Full Business Case.
- 1.1.4 The preferred option outlined in the OBC comprised of the elements listed below, which are to be refined and developed through Stage 1. These elements are collectively referred to in this report as 'the Scheme'.
- Alternative primary wall to be rebuilt structurally and increased by +600mm (from 5.65mOD to 6.25mOD) over a length of approximately 1.2km.
 - Tertiary flood wall to be re-built structurally and increased by +450mm (from 6.4mOD to 6.85mOD) over a length of approximately 1.1km.
 - Existing sheet piles to be refurbished over approximately 515m length.
 - Additional 300m of rock toe armour to be provided to protect the primary sea wall and revetment.
 - 560m of shingle beach profile to be built out to protect the primary sea wall and revetment. Extents to be defined during detailed design. Dependant on stability of shingle material as a result of coastal processes.
 - Refurbishment of culverted outfall and reinstatement of flap valve.
 - Demountable flood defences to be installed with the arrangement to be confirmed during the detailed design.

1.2 Scheme Objectives

- 1.2.1 Cyngor Gwynedd seek a solution to reduce coastal flood and erosion risk to Barmouth North Promenade, whilst improving the amenity and environmental value of this section of coastline. Placemaking opportunities such as beach access, dwell spaces and facilities, and improved connectivity and wayfinding have the potential to leverage the less-used asset, broadening the appeal of Barmouth and reducing pressure on the popular South Promenade area.
- 1.2.2 The following Investment Objectives have been identified in the OBC:

- To reduce the threat of coastal flood and erosion risk to people and property with due consideration of SMP2 policy to ensure the long-term resilience and vitality of the community;
- To support, and where possible enhance, recreation and amenity value of the local area;
- To maintain, and where possible enhance, natural and historic environments;
- To ensure marine amenity activities can continue to grow; and
- Ensure an affordable and deliverable whole life option through a partnership approach and contributions.

1.3 Purpose of this Report

- 1.3.1 The purpose of this report is to assess the heritage impacts and provide recommendations on programme of Ground Investigation (GI) works being undertaken along Barmouth beach for the forthcoming planning application for upgrading the town's sea defences.
- 1.3.2 The project is proposing to undertake the following engineering-led GI works on the beach at Barmouth:
- Four Window Samples to 6 metres below ground level to inform underlying geology. the GI Contractor may use Cable Percussive boring if WS is unlikely to achieve the scheduled depth (this would be due to encountering shallow cobbles).
 - Eight Trial Pits to 4 metres below ground level for sampling and informing condition of existing sheet pile wall
 - Eight Cone Penetration Tests (CPTs) to 15 metres below ground level to inform deeper geology along the beach
- 1.3.3 The locations of the GI works are shown on Figures 5, 6, 7, and 8.

1.4 Consultation

- 1.4.1 Consultation has been undertaken with Heneb Historic Environment Record to inform this report.
- 1.4.2 Consultation has also been undertaken with the Senior Investigator (Maritime) at the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales to inform this report. This consultation was undertaken in January 2024. The Senior Investigator stated that there is known archaeological material in the form of peat deposits along the stretch of coast on which Barmouth is situated. From an archaeological point of view, their preference would be to embed geoarchaeological monitoring into the wider GI work. They also stated that it may be appropriate to include a watching brief for the trial pits, likely with a geoarchaeological focus on potential peat deposits.

2. Legislation, policy, standards, and guidance

2.1 Legislation

Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023

- 2.1.1 This Act builds on and makes important changes to the two main UK laws that provide the legislative framework for the protection and management of the historic environment: the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990).

2.2 National planning policy

Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12, Chapter 6. Distinctive and Natural Places (2024)

- 2.2.1 The policy states:

“The characteristics and environmental qualities of places varies across Wales, creating distinctive or unique features associated with their particular natural or cultural heritage and these should be recognised and valued, in and of, themselves and should be protected and enhanced.”

Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment (2017)

- 2.2.2 This note makes clear that in policy terms, the historic environment is defined as:

“All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and deliberately planted or managed.”

- 2.2.3 A historic asset is:

“An identifiable component of the historic environment. It may consist or be a combination of an archaeological site, a historic building or area, historic park and garden or a parcel of historic landscape. Nationally important historic assets will normally be designated.”

- 2.2.4 Taken together and set within their cultural context, historic assets contribute to the character and sense of place of different parts of Wales.

2.3 Local planning policy

Anglesey and Gwynedd joint Local Development Plan 2011 – 2026

- 2.3.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015), which strengthens the current governance arrangements for improving the well-being of Wales by ensuring that sustainable development is a key point within the decision made by government and public bodies, was taken into consideration and updated within the 2011 – 2026 Local Development Plan. The policy states:

“Aims to make a difference to the lives of people in Wales in relation to a number of well-being goals including improving health, culture, heritage and the sustainable use of resources. The Act provides the legislative framework for the preparation of Local Well-being Plans, which replace Single Integrated Plans.”

Supplementary Planning Guidance, Maintaining and creating distinctive and sustainable communities, Strategic Policy PS 6 (2019)

2.3.2 The policy states:

“Landscapes and seascapes are intrinsic parts of the special features of the Plan's area, contributing to their character and general sense of place. Sustainable developments are ones that protect and improve the character of the landscape and seascape of the Plan's area.”

And:

“Cultural Heritage is an important element of the features and character of the Plan's area. Its conservation maintains these characteristics, and the advantages that they create for the residents and visitors to the area. Sustainable developments protect and improves archaeological, architectural, historical, and/or cultural assets, and promotes the area's folklore, art, literature and music.”

Gwynedd Unitary Development Plan 2009, Policy B12, Protecting historic landscapes, parks and gardens (2009)

2.3.3 The policy states:

“Safeguard landscapes, parks and gardens of special historical interest in Wales from developments which would cause significant damage to their character, their appearance or their setting.”

2.4 Standards and guidance

2.4.1 This report has been compiled in line with the following professional standards and guidance:

- Code of conduct: professional ethics in archaeology [1]
- Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment [2]
- Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales [3]
- Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales [4]
- Setting of Historic Assets in Wales [5]
- Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) [6]

3. Methodology

3.1 Study area

- 3.1.1 A study area of 1km has been buffered from the site boundary for this report. The site boundary and study area are shown on Figure 1.

3.2 Data and information sources

- 3.2.1 The following sources have been used to inform this report:

- British Geological Survey – for 1:50,000 geological mapping and historic borehole records obtained via a Web Map Service.
- Cadw – for data and information regarding designated heritage assets.
- DataMap Wales – for georeferenced historic aerial photography and Light Detection And Ranging (LiDAR) Digital Terrain Model (DTM) data.
- Google Earth Pro – for current and historic aerial and satellite imagery.
- Heneb, Gwynedd Archaeology (HGAT) – for data and information regarding non-designated heritage assets and previous archaeological and historic environment and archaeological surveys and investigations.
- Llyfgell Genedlaethol Cymru (National Library of Wales) – for georeferenced tithe maps and apportionments, country, Welsh county, and other historic maps.
- National Library of Scotland – for historic Ordnance Survey (OS) maps.
- Cyoeth Naturoil Cymru (Natural Resources Wales) LANDMAP – for data and information regarding Cultural and Historic Landscapes.
- RCAHMW – for data and information regarding designated and non-designated terrestrial and marine heritage assets entered onto the National Monuments Record (NMR) of Wales.
- A visit to Meirionnydd Record Office, Gwynedd Archives.
- A visit to the National Archives, London.
- Site visit and walkover survey, undertaken on 21st October 2024.

3.3 Heritage assets and Cultural and Historic landscapes

- 3.3.1 A gazetteer of recorded heritage assets and Historic and Cultural landscapes located throughout the study area is available in Appendix A. Throughout this report:

- Designated heritage assets are referred to using Cadw's Reference Number (RN).
- Non-designated heritage assets are referred to using HGATs Preferred Reference Number (PRN).
- Heritage assets entered onto the NMR are referred to using the RCAHMW National Preferred Reference Number (NPRN).
- Areas of Cultural Landscape and Historic Landscape are referred to using Cyoeth Naturoil Cymru's Unique Identifier (UID).
- Unrecorded heritage assets or potential archaeological features and remains identified during production of this report are referred to using an Arup UID.

- 3.3.2 Where heritage assets represent constituent parts of the same recorded heritage assets, they will be grouped together.

3.4 Professional judgement and experience

- 3.4.1 Professional judgement and experience, which is informed, reasonable and balanced with respect to outcomes, will be applied throughout this report. Examples of instances when it may be applied are when identifying unrecorded built heritage and possible archaeology and when assessing the significance of heritage assets and the contribution made to this by setting, if any.

3.5 Terminology

- 3.5.1 A list of abbreviations and a glossary have been provided for reference at the end of this report.

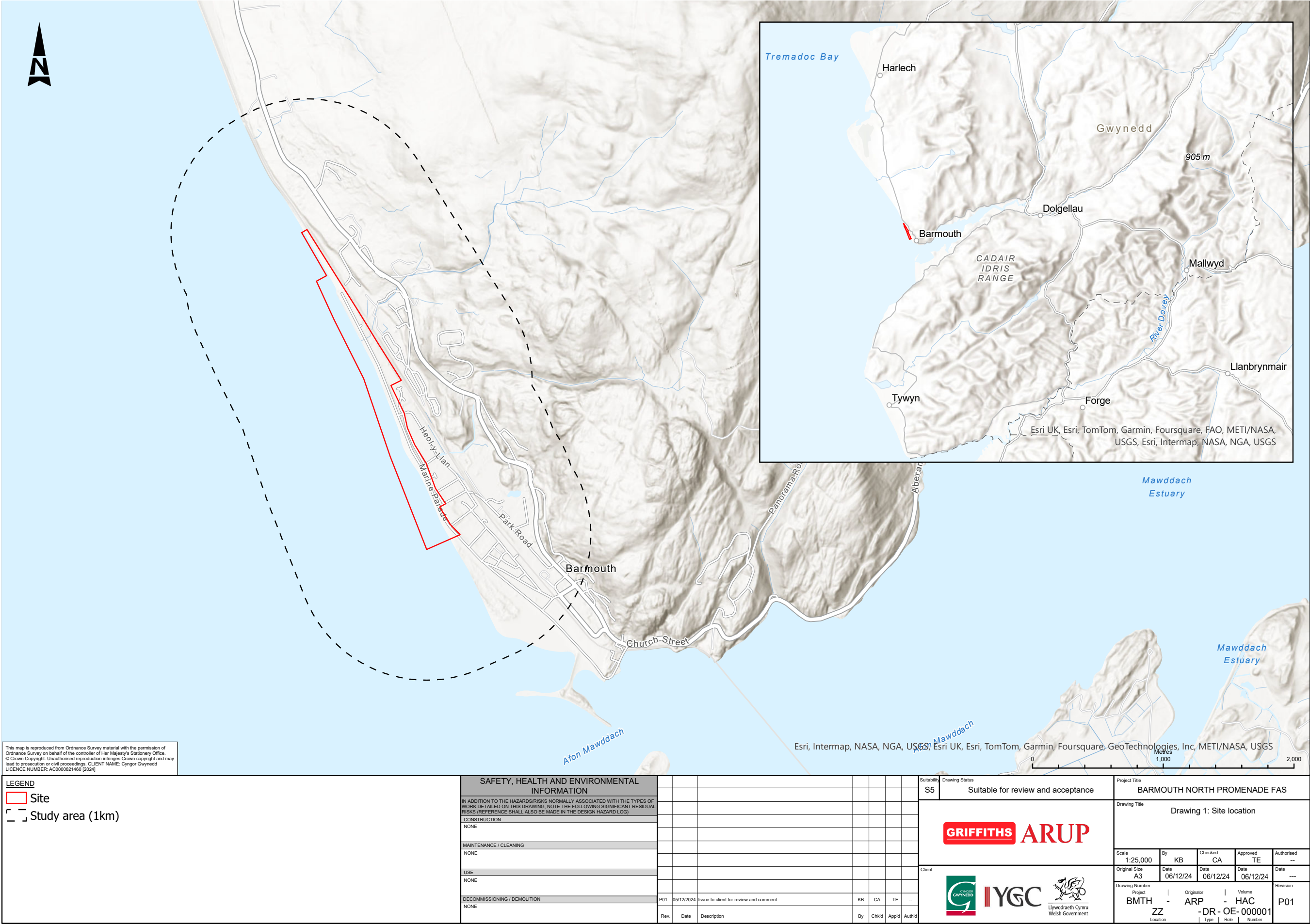


Figure 1 Site location

4. Archaeological and historical background

4.1 Time periods

- 4.1.1 The archaeological and cultural (historical) periods used throughout this report are based on the chronology for Wales, which is curated by the RCAHMW and communicated by the Forum on Information Standards in Heritage [7].

Table 4-1 Archaeological and cultural (historical) time periods

Period		Date range
Archaeological	Prehistoric	From the earliest appearance of humans in the British Isles (c. 1,000,000BCE) to the end of the Iron Age in 43CE.
	Palaeolithic	From the earliest appearance of humans in the British Isles (c.1,000,000BCE) to the end of the last Ice Age around 8,500 years BCE.
	Mesolithic	8,500BCE – 4,000BCE
	Neolithic	4,000BCE – 2,200BCE
	Bronze Age	2,200BCE – 700BCE
	Iron Age	700BCE – 43CE
Cultural	Roman	43CE – 410CE
	Early Medieval	410CE – 1086CE
	Medieval	1086CE – 1536CE
	Post Medieval	1536CE – 1899CE
	20 th Century	1900CE – 1999CE
	21 st Century	2000CE - present
Uncertain	-	Used when a date for the creation or construction of an artefact or archaeological feature or other remains cannot be determined.

Source: FISH, “Forum Information Standards in Heritage - Chronology,” May 2024. [Online]. Available: <https://heritage-standards.org.uk/chronology/>.

4.2 Overview

Designated heritage assets

- 4.2.1 Designated heritage assets within the study area are shown in Figure 2. There are 10 listed buildings within the study area, none of which are within the site boundary. One of these is listed at Grade I. This is the Parish Church of Saint Mary and Saint Bodfan (Record Number: 4906). Two are listed at Grade II*. These are Plas Mynach (Record Number: 5244) and St John's Church (Record Number: 15467). Seven are listed at Grade II.
- 4.2.2 Barmouth Conservation Area is partially within the study area but is outside the site boundary.

Non-designated heritage assets

- 4.2.3 Non-designated heritage assets within the study area are shown in Figure 3. There are 80 non-designated heritage assets within the study area. 58 of these are from the HGAT HER, and 22 from the National Monuments Record, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

Registered Historic Landscapes

- 4.2.4 There two Registered Historic Landscapes within the site boundary, Ardudwy and Mawddach. They are shown on Figure 4.

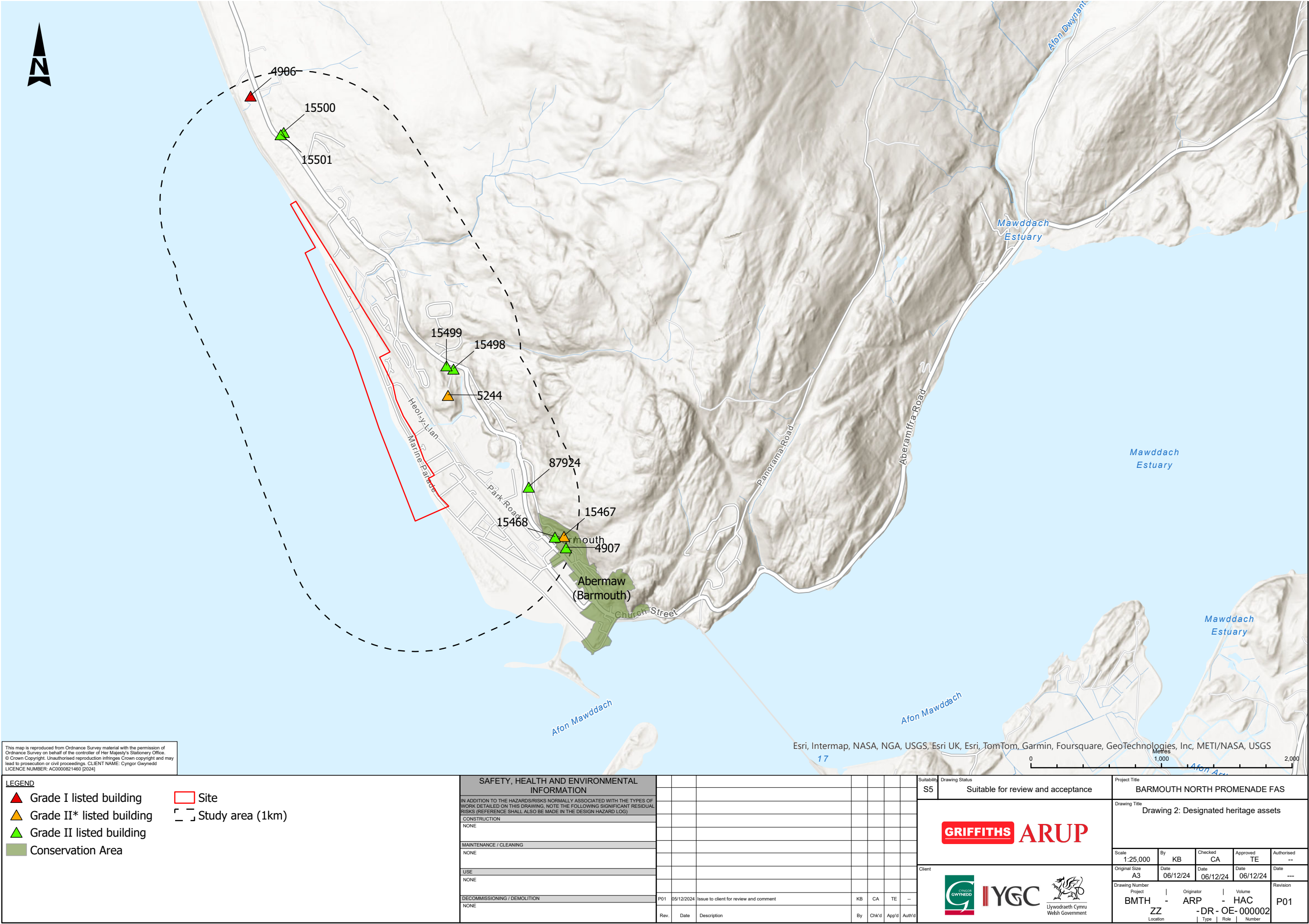


Figure 2 Designated heritage assets

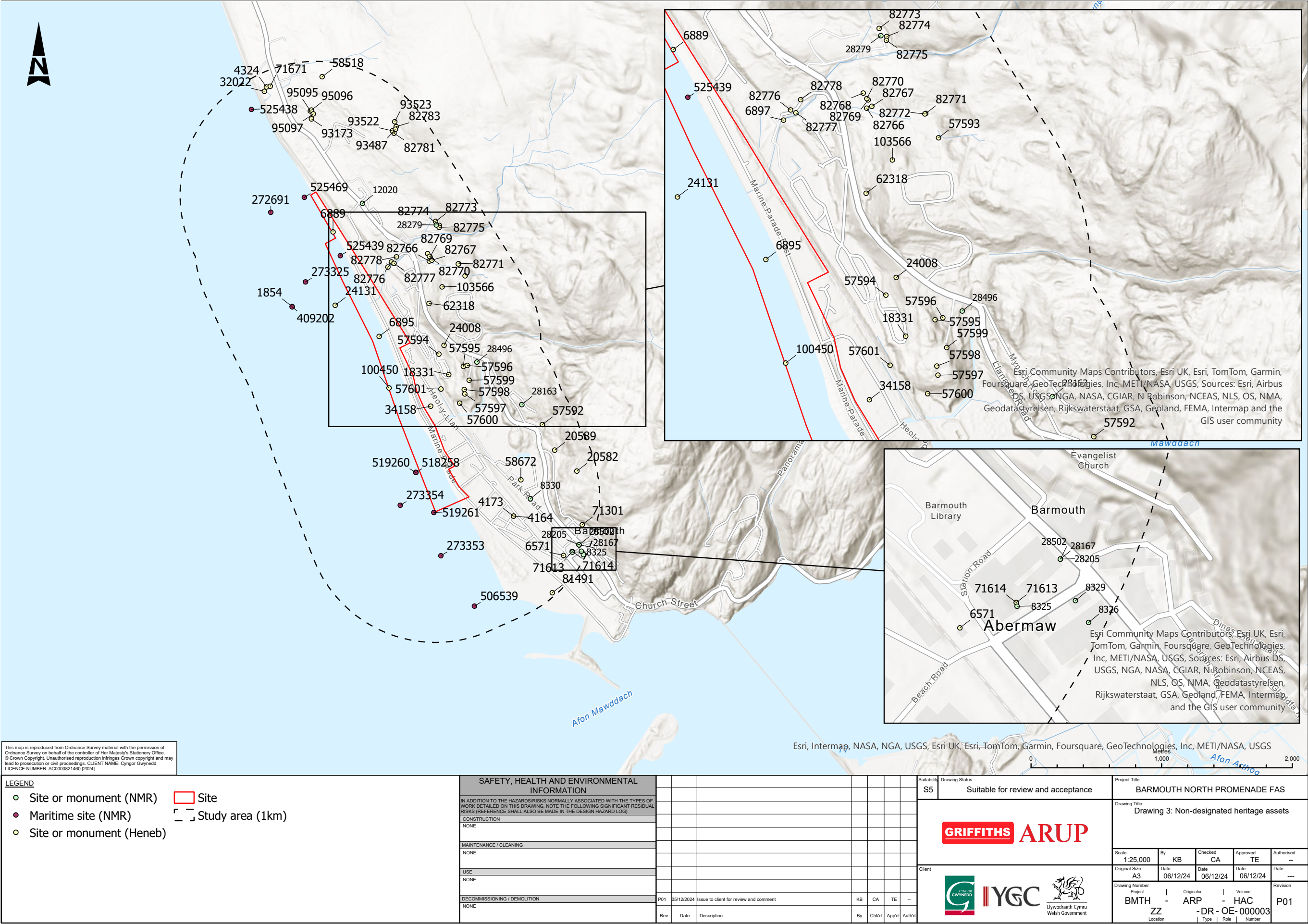


Figure 3 Non-designated heritage assets

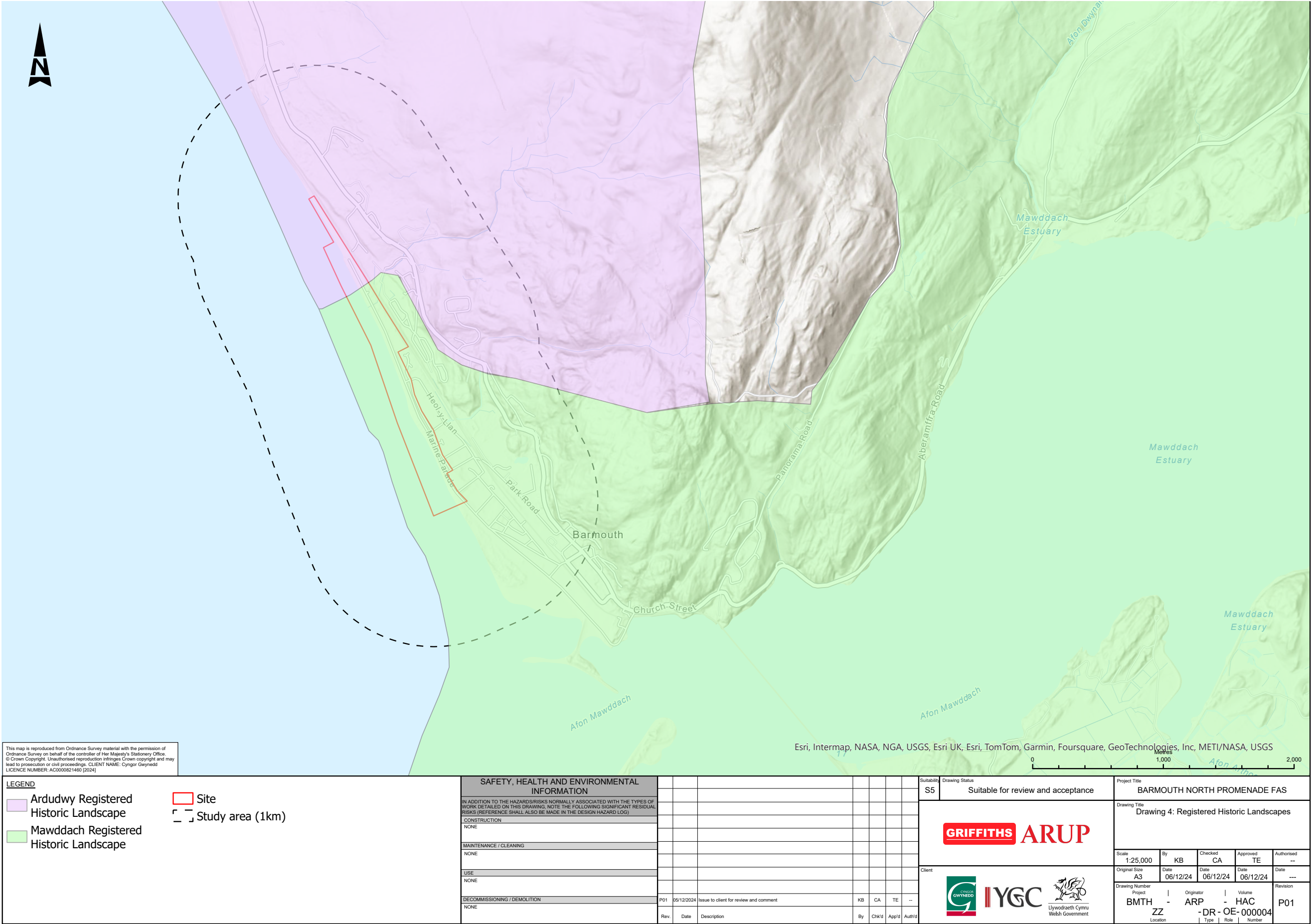


Figure 4 Registered Historic Landscapes

4.3 Geology and topography

- 4.3.1 The site boundary is located within the seaside town of Barmouth, which lies on estuary of the Afon Mawddach and Cardigan Bay, on the Irish Sea. The site boundary includes part of the flat Barmouth beach and includes the intertidal zone as well a section of the town's sea defences including a promenade and sea walls. To the west, the site boundary is overlooked by sharply rising high ground. Approximately 2km to the east are the Garn mountain and Ffridd y Graig hill, which rise up to more 250m.
- 4.3.2 British Geological Survey data shows that the bedrock geology within the site boundary is sandstone, siltstone and mudstone of the Harlech Grits and Rhinog Formations. These are sedimentary rocks formed between 526 and 499 million years ago during the Cambrian period. The northern end of the site boundary is characterised by siltstone and mudstone interbedded bedrock of Llanbedr Formation, formed between 526 and 508 million years ago during the Cambrian period.
- 4.3.3 British Geological Survey data shows that the superficial geology along the flat beach and within the intertidal zone within the site boundary are Coastal Zone Deposits, comprising gravel, sand, silt and clay formed between 11.8 thousand years ago and the present during the Holocene. To the east of this, along the groynes and below the promenade, the superficial geology is recorded as Blown Sand, which formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present. At the far northern end of the site boundary the superficial geology is recorded as Storm Beach Deposits. This deposit of gravel was formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present. Within the wider study area, outside of the site boundary to the east, the superficial geology is Devensian till, which formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago.

4.4 Registered Historic Landscapes

- 4.4.1 The site boundary lies within the area of two Registered Historic Landscapes, the Ardudwy historic landscape to the north and the Mawddach to the south.
- 4.4.2 The lowland area of the Ardudwy historic landscape, comprises the coastal plain, narrower to the south where the site boundary lies, but wider to the north in Morfa Dyffryn and Morfa Harlech. The lower parts of these coastal plains are covered by a peat layer. These represent that part of the coastline drowned by rising sea levels during the post glacial period. The peat layers are exposed occasionally in the intertidal zone of the eroded coastal edge, for 5km along the shore. Some of the intertidal peats have been dated using Radiocarbon dating. The underlying salt marsh was dated to c. 6000 before present (BP, meaning before 1950CE), while the forest bed has been dated from the c. 5400 BP to 3900 BP.
- 4.4.3 The archaeological finds that have been retrieved from the peats along the foreshore, includes Mesolithic flint picks, flint flakes, an antler tool and a hearth which was dated to the c. 4000 BP from the surrounding peat, as well as red deer bones and wild cattle. A timber trackway, radiocarbon dated to the 12th to 14th centuries BCE, has been investigated in the intertidal zone at Llanaber, to the north of the site boundary. As well as this, a nearby tree stump, produced a date within the Roman period. The inundation of the coastal area, created a marshland and wetland environment. Therefore, the Ardudwy's peat is likely to

preserve an important archaeological landscape, covering millennia of history, including organic material rarely preserved inland, such as animal remains, timber jetties, platforms and trackways.

- 4.4.4 The Mawddach historic landscape includes the most southern part of the site boundary, closer to the Mawddach estuary. Barmouth is situated to the northern side of the Mawddach estuary, and it was a small, hard to access, fishing settlement until the 18th century, when the town's economy growth for two main reasons. First, thanks to its location by the sea, shipbuilding began in the 1750s. By 1770 Barmouth was established as a small port in coastal trade, mostly based on the Meirionnydd woollen industry. The expansion of the trade, which counted a hundred ships registered in the port in 1795, which prompted an Act of Parliament for the enlargement of the harbour in 1797. The coastal trade continued until the opening of the railway in 1867, which contributed to its decline. The second reason for the growth of this area was the opening of the coastal Cambrian Railway in 1867, including the bridge across the estuary, which drastically altered the landscape and opened the door to tourism and holidaymaking, leading to the development of Barmouth and its distinctive Victorian architectural character. The railway stimulated a major campaign of building including the rebuilding of existing hotels, such as the Cors y Gedol which were rebuilt in 1873, and several new boarding houses and domestic terraces. A public water supply was opened in 1873, and commercial establishments, shops and banks opened. By 1902, with only a few exceptions, all the houses in Barmouth were let to visitors [8].

4.5 Prehistoric (1,000,000BCE – 43CE)

- 4.5.1 There is limited evidence from the Palaeolithic period in Wales as a whole, with the last glaciation appearing to have removed the majority of evidence from this time [9]. Some of the earliest evidence for human activity in Wales can be found at Bontnewydd near St Asaph where a fragment of Neanderthal upper jaw bone was found in a cave in the River Elwy valley, some 45 km north of Barmouth. The individual probably lived during an interglacial period in c.230,000BCE during the Palaeolithic (c.1,000,000BCE – 8,500BCE). The human presence within Wales appears to have been intermittent during the Palaeolithic with an apparent absence from about 21,000 years ago until roughly 13,000 years ago [10]. There are no recorded Palaeolithic sites or finds within the study area.
- 4.5.2 As the last ice age ended and the climate warmed at the start of the Holocene, sea levels rose. Present understanding of changing sea levels since the beginning of the Holocene is that the sea levels have risen some 55 metres and much of what is now the seabed and intertidal zone would have been dry land before inundation beginning some 12,000 years ago. Exposures of intertidal peat and submerged forest deposits at Clarach, Borth, Tywyn, Llanbedr and Morfa Dyffryn, to the north of the site boundary, provide proof of inundated landscapes dating back to the end of the last ice age, while petrified remains of trees found at Ynyslas and in the Dyfi Estuary, date back 4,500 years.
- 4.5.3 Britain was recolonised by humans during the Mesolithic period (8,500BCE – 4,000BCE), with the environment and climate beginning to stabilise around 7,000BCE. While evidence for human activity during the Mesolithic period has been recorded throughout Wales, the recovery of stratified remains is rare, with the earliest confidently dated Mesolithic site in Wales in use around 9,200 years ago [10].

- 4.5.4 Although there are no recorded Mesolithic sites or finds within the study area, it is possible that a land surface contemporary with the Mesolithic period, potentially containing artefacts and paleoenvironmental evidence, is submerged or buried within the site boundary.
- 4.5.5 The earliest recorded farming communities in Wales date from c.4,000BCE and mark the beginning of the Neolithic period (4,000BCE – 2,200BCE). The cultural shift from semi-nomadic to permanent settlement sites and agricultural practice brought with it considerable change, including the construction of complex, large stone funerary monuments [10]. The Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology (HGAT) Historic Environment Record (HER) records a possible standing stone (PRN: 103566) in the northeast of the study area, which may date to Late Neolithic or Bronze Age period.
- 4.5.6 Metal tools are first recorded in Wales late in the Neolithic in c.2,500BCE [11]. These early metal tools would have been composite copper implements, and it was not until the Neolithic to Bronze Age transition (2,200BCE – 700BCE) that the knowledge, skill, and technology to alloy copper with tin became prominent. During the late Bronze Age more advanced and complex tools, objects, decorations, and weapons were being produced and increasingly began to reflect regional styles [10]. The Historic Environment record records that a Bronze Age bronze looped socketed spearhead (PRN: 4173) was found in a peatmoss near Barmouth c.1869, although its precise findspot and present whereabouts are unknown.
- 4.5.7 By the Iron Age (700BCE – 43CE) Wales could be broadly divided into four tribal regions based on the tool typologies and artistic styles which began to appear on metalwork during the late Bronze Age. These regions comprise the lands of the *Ordowīces* in mid- and north Wales and the Isle of Anglesey, those of the *Deceangli* in northeast Wales, of the *Demetae* in southwest Wales, and of the *Silures* in southeast Wales [10]. The extent of the *Ordowīces* tribal lands is unconfirmed; it may have been limited to the region north of the River Dyfi and River Dee but could have also included the study area.
- 4.5.8 A round bottomed bronze bowl (PRN: 4164) recorded in 1905 was said to have been found in the marsh near the sea at Barmouth. The archaeologist Arthur Evans considered it to be a pre-Roman import from Italy, or of 'Late Celtic' work, and it is likely that it was imported in the Late Iron Age or Roman period (PRN: 4164).

4.6 Roman (43CE – 410CE)

- 4.6.1 The *Ordowīces* resisted the Roman (43CE – 410CE) occupation of their territory until 77CE-78CE when their surviving stronghold on the Isle of Anglesey was overcome.
- 4.6.2 The HER records the find of a copper alloy penannular finger ring (PRN: 24131) decorated with snake head terminals of Roman date (c.100-c.300 AD) within the study area.

4.7 Early Medieval (410CE – 1086CE)

- 4.7.1 Following the withdrawal of direct rule from Rome in 410CE, the study area and its environs became part of the sub-kingdom of *Dunoding*, within the larger Kingdom of Gwynedd. Emerging throughout the mid-5th Century the Kingdom of Gwynedd and its rulers were important throughout the Early Medieval period,

retaining a high degree of political influence and physical dominance over north Wales until the Norman invasion of Wales between 1067 and 1081.

- 4.7.2 Bodfan, a Welsh saint, is recorded as having established the first church at Llanaber, in the northern part of the study area, in the 6th century, likely in the location now occupied by the Medieval St Mary and St Bodfan Church (Grade I listed building, Reference Number 4906).
- 4.7.3 Displayed within St Mary and St Bodfan Church are two Early Medieval inscribed stones, both of a 5th or early 6th century date (PRN: 4324). One, known as is the Calixtus Stone, is a rough pillar stone, 1.3m x 0.5m x 0.25m, and was placed in the church in the 19th century and having been previously used as a footbridge at the neighbouring Beilwart farm. The inscription has been read as: CAELIXTUS MONEDO REGI and is thought to mean 'Calixtus King of Mona'. The second is a rough pillar stone of local Cambrian grit, 1.5m x 0.35m x 0.2m, inscribed AETERN[I(?)] / ET / AETERN[(A)E(?). The stone commemorates Aeternus and Aeterna, presumably a brother and a sister, and most probably a pair of twins [12].
- 4.7.4 Both of the inscribed stones were recorded by antiquary Lewis Morris in c.1737. The second stone was described by Lewis, who stated:
- "There was another formerly seen about ye place this lay, but it is now cover'd with sand and not to be found" [12]*
- 4.7.5 It was found buried in sand 20ft (6m) below the high-water mark by workmen during the building of the Barmouth seawall in February 1931 [12]. It is likely that the stone was *in situ* and was buried by tidally deposited and/or wind blown sand over time, before being uncovered by the workmen.

4.8 Medieval (1086CE – 1536CE)

- 4.8.1 The Norman invasion of Wales was largely undertaken in the 1080s and 1090s, when the Normans attacked and occupied areas of Wales. The Principality of Gwynedd remained independent until the death of Llywelyn II in 1282, after which it was annexed to England. Under the terms of the Statute of Rhuddlan in 1284, Wales was re-organised into six shires, with the study area falling within Merionethshire.
- 4.8.2 In 1188, the chronicler Gerald of Wales described a journey around Wales, which involved crossing over the mouth of the Mawddach by ferry, indicating that a ferry was operating at this time.
- 4.8.3 St Mary and St Bodfan Church, Llanaber (Grade I listed building, Reference Number 4906), within the northern part of the study area, largely dates from the early 13th century, with elements of the building showing the transition from Norman architecture to the Early English Style. The chancel is a remodelling of an earlier one, which may date to the 12th century. The founding of the church has been attributed to Hywel ap Gruffydd ap Cynan, a benefactor of Cymer Abbey, and great-grandson of Owain Gwynedd. A fragment of a late 13th century stone expanded-arm cross (PRN: 32022), found in 1858 when the west wall of the church was being taken down, is now built into the face of the west end of the nave. The church was substantively restored in 1860.
- 4.8.4 Within Barmouth itself, outside of the study area, is a late Medieval first floor hall house, known as Ty Gwyn y Bermo. Located on the quay, it was built between

1460 and 1485 by Gryffydd Fychan of Corsygedol, a Lancastrian and one of the principal supporters of Jasper Tudor, Earl of Pembroke.

4.9 Post Medieval (1536CE – 1899CE)

- 4.9.1 The Act of Union of 1536 joined Wales to England. The earliest documentary record of a community in Barmouth is in the 'Survey of the Ports, Creeks and landing places on the Welsh Coast', from 1565, commissioned by Queen Elizabeth I. This states that Barmouth HAD only four houses, as well as two little boats used to carry passengers over the estuary [13]. It is likely that these houses were on the steep hill side to the east of the estuary, where early historic core of the settlement was located.
- 4.9.2 Barmouth remained a relatively small and inaccessible fishing settlement until it started to rapidly develop from the 1750s, when boat-building started within the town, as a trading port and boat-building centre. A 1748 map of Barmouth and its harbour, drawn before its rapid development in the second half of that century, shows the town as being tightly focused on land on the northern side of estuary and the high ground near this to the northwest [14]. The map does not show streets, but rather six buildings clustered together that are indicative of the settlement. The sand dunes are labelled as 'sand hills' and the land near these and the flatter beach to the west where the site boundary is located is undeveloped at this time [14].
- 4.9.3 By 1770, the town was well-established as a small port in coastal trades, based largely on the Meirionnydd woollen industry. Other exports were also mostly derived from the Mawddach valley, and included wood, paving stones, slate, and cloth from the mills in Dolgellau. With land routes still difficult the wool and other exports was shipped out of the port of Barmouth, feeding a boom in local ship building. In just 20 years from 1770 to 1790, records show that a total of 138 vessels were built on the Mawddach estuary. In 1795, a hundred ships registered in the port at Barmouth, and in 1797 an Act of Parliament was undertaken for the enlargement of the harbour.
- 4.9.4 The first turnpike roads in north Wales were constructed in 1777. The turnpike road from Barmouth to Llanelltyd to the east was likely built in 1780s or early 1790s and is shown on John Evans' 1795 map of North Wales (Graphic 4-1). This map shows that at this time the town of Barmouth was still focused on land on the western side of the estuary. The map shows that the town comprised a concentration of buildings centred along a long street, likely the present High Street, showing how the town had expanded over the past half century. The beach and beachfront within the site boundary was still undeveloped at this time, although there appears to have been an access track leading from the road across the beach to a square-shaped structure, probably a slipway, likely used as a landing place, closer to the town, likely indicating that activity related to shipping was taking place on the seafront at this time, as well as within the estuary.



Graphic 4-1 1795 map of Barmouth by John Evans. Six Counties of North Wales. Print. The National Library of Wales. Reproduced under a Creative Commons license.

- 4.9.5 An 1801 map, drawn to show the route of the turnpike road from Barmouth to Llanelltyd, shows a similar view to the 1795 map, and shows that at this time Barmouth still comprised buildings clustered tightly together near to the estuary along High Street [15]. It also shows three buildings to the west of this main street, probably indicating some expansion of the town out to the west by this time, although the beach and beachfront within the site boundary was still undeveloped [15].
- 4.9.6 In 1802, following the 1797 an Act of Parliament, the harbour was deepened and a new quay built. In the first half of the 19th century, Barmouth was well-known for its shipbuilding and for exports of minerals, including copper and gold from Snowdonia. The town's port developed around the mouth of the west-facing estuary, benefiting from close links to the Irish Sea and their proximity to the Snowdonia valleys and hills with their rich mineral resources and farming economy. The port's continental trade never recovered after the Napoleonic Wars, but a coastal trade remained busy with imports including coal, American and Baltic timber, limestone, corn and grocery, and with the export of woollen cloth, timber, manganese, copper and lead ore, slates, butter and cheese.
- 4.9.7 Reflecting the town's importance in maritime trade, there are a number of shipwrecks recorded within the study area in the early to mid-19th century. In 1805, the Caminha (NPRN: 272691), a Portuguese brig on passage from Oporto to London with a cargo of wine and fruit, was embayed to the north of Sarn Badrig's Causeway and eventually went onshore and was totally wrecked near Barmouth. The Barmouth Volunteers led by Captain Edward Roberts were witnesses to the event and were able to salvage some £6,000 of the cargo, including approximately 90 pipes of wines (a pipe being a measure of capacity used for wine, one pipe being half a tun or 126 gallons).

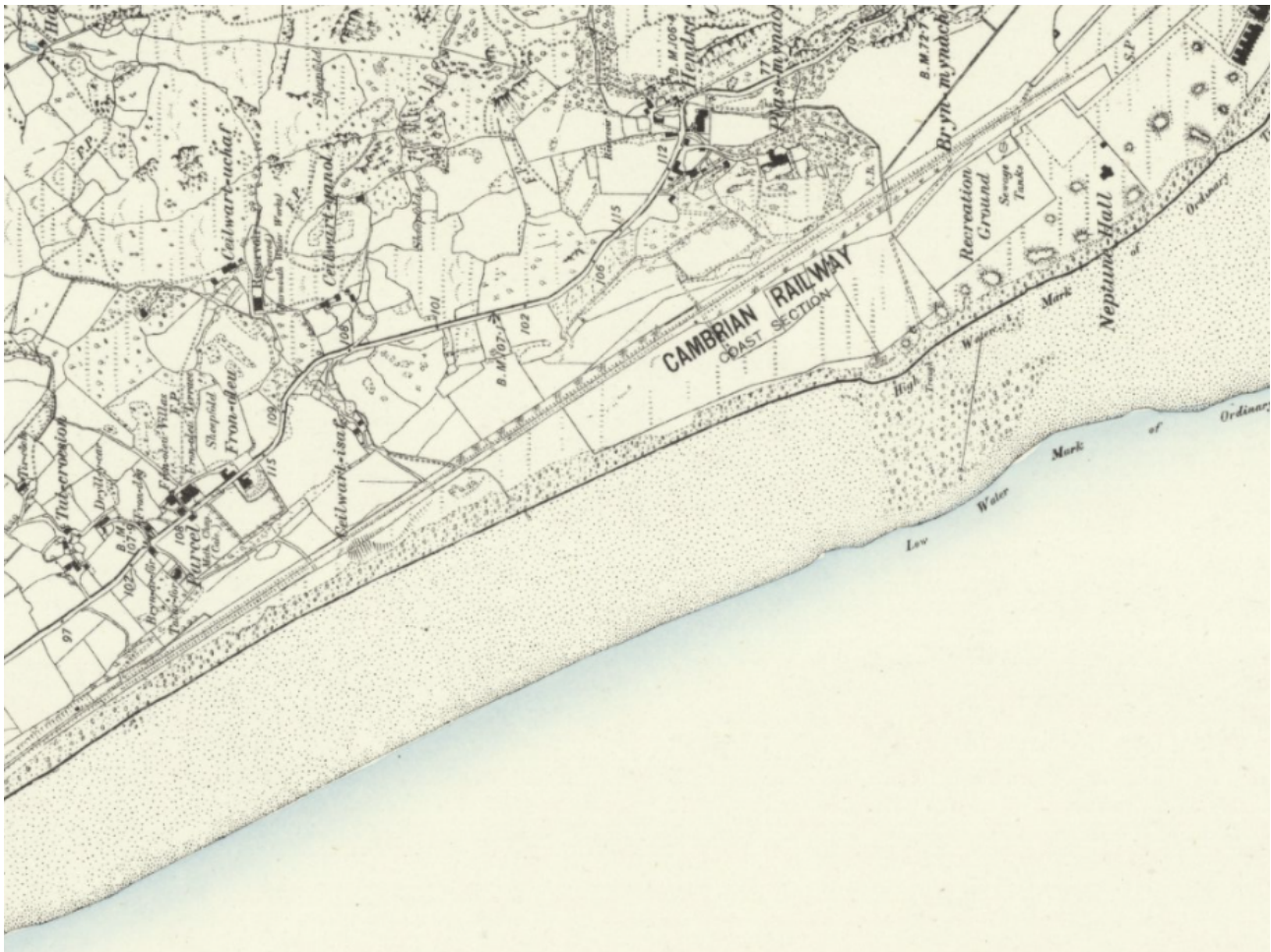
- 4.9.8 In February 1825, The Neptune (NPRN: 273325), a wooden sailing vessel on passage from New Orleans to Liverpool, was wrecked near Barmouth. The crew and cargo were saved.
- 4.9.9 In October 1825, two wooden sailing ships, the Jane (NPRN: 519260) and the Linnet (NPRN: 519261), both on the passage from Porthmadoc to Cardiff, went ashore at near Barmouth during a violent gale. The crews of both vessels were saved.
- 4.9.10 In 1843, the Bertholly (NPRN: 273353), a wooden schooner, was driven ashore two miles north of Sarn-y-bwch. The vessel was later recovered.
- 4.9.11 Also in 1843, the Edwin (NPRN: 273354), a wooden schooner built in 1840 that was carrying a cargo of coal from Mostyn to Barmouth, went on shore a half mile north of Barmouth. During an exceptionally low tide in March 1934, the hull timbers of the wreck were uncovered, and a short length of anchor chain was recovered. A link from the chain was used for a memorial plaque now held at the Barmouth Sailor's Institute.
- 4.9.12 Part of a large wooden rudder with pintles still attached was washed ashore at Barmouth in 1998 and is from an unknown shipwreck (NPRN: 506539). The rudder is now on display at Barmouth museum.
- 4.9.13 In the early decades of the 19th century, during the Romantic movement, Barmouth became a tourist destination and a favourite stop on tours of north Wales by wealthy travellers interested in the romantic and the picturesque. During this time, it attracted writers, artists, and scientists, including John Varley, Percy Bysshe Shelley, William Wordsworth, David Cox, Thomas Creswick, John Ruskin, and Charles Darwin.
- 4.9.14 The 1844 tithe map of the Parish of Llanaber (Graphic 4-2) shows that the town of Barmouth at this time was still focused on High Street, with the beach and seafront within the site boundary remaining undeveloped.



Graphic 4-2 1844 tithe map of the Parish of Llanaber in Merionethshire, showing the town of Barmouth at this time, and the land within the site boundary. North is to the left. The National Library of Wales.

- 4.9.15 In the mid-19th century, as Porthmadog blossomed as a slate port it also became a major ship-building location and Barmouth's ship-building industry declined.

- 4.9.16 In about 1860, the owner of the copper mines above Bontddu discovered gold, and by May 1861 profits were sufficient to initiate a gold rush in the area which lasted into the early twentieth century. At around same time, across the estuary, two slate quarries were opened up in Panteinon Valley, and the slate taken to Barmouth for export.
- 4.9.17 In 1867, the opening of the coastal Cambrian Railway (which linked Aberystwyth with Pwllheli), which included a permanent bridge across the mouth of the estuary, brought in increasing numbers of tourists, particularly workers and their families, who came in large numbers from the factories of the West Midlands.
- 4.9.18 The influx of tourists sparked by the opening of the railway stimulated the expansion of the town, and the use of the beachfront for leisure activities, especially sea bathing, which had become fashionable in the Victorian period. In the 1878, Marine Terrace, a large-scale development which included a large hotel, was built on the beachfront to the east of the site boundary. A triangle of land in front of this site was laid out according to a more formal plan and named Marine Parade. Its structured formality was likely due in part due to the activities of the Local Board, the first one of which was elected in 1872. Marine Parade included a promenade along the beachfront in front of Marine Terrace. Late 19th century photographs of Barmouth show people walking along Marine Parade, as well as people walking and sitting on the beach in front of Marine Terrace, and sea bathing, which become popular in this period [16].
- 4.9.19 To accommodate the growing population, in 1873 a reservoir was built at Llyn Bodlyn, above Talybont, to provide Barmouth's public water supply. The growing population also required an upgraded sewerage system. In 1890 a new holding tank and discharge pipe were completed. Running for around 150 metres across the beach within the site boundary, the flap-operated, cast-iron pipe discharged raw sewage into the sea at high tide [17].
- 4.9.20 In 1893, plans were drawn up for a sea wall to protect the harbour [18]. This wall was relatively short and was located to the east of and outside of the site boundary, closer to Barmouth Harbour.
- 4.9.21 In 1889, The Church of Saint John was built specifically to provide for the town's population of English-speaking visitors.
- 4.9.22 Graphic 4-3 shows the site boundary in the late 1880s. The beachfront was undeveloped at this time, although the line of the 1890 sewer line is shown, perhaps indicating that was under construction at this time.



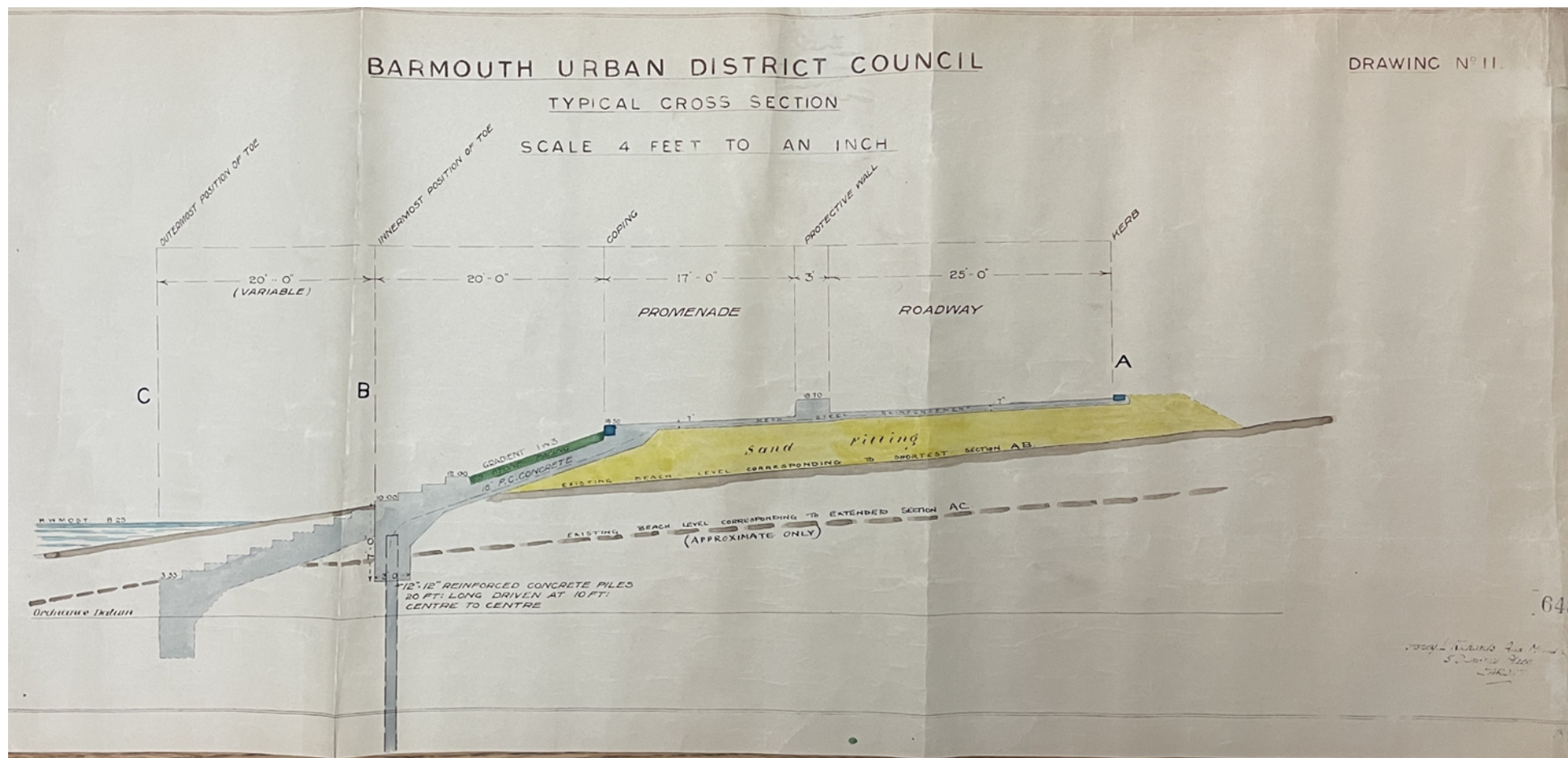
Graphic 4-3 1888 Ordnance Survey six-inch map of the site boundary. Surveyed 1887. Merionethshire Sheet XXXVI.NW. Reproduced with permission of National Library of Scotland under a CC BY (Creative Commons Attribution) licence.

4.10 20th century (1900CE – 1999CE)

- 4.10.1 Graphic 4-4 shows the site boundary in at the start of the 20th century. The beachfront was still undeveloped at this time, although the 1890 sewer line was in place by this time.
- 4.10.2 A map included in the 1909 guidebook *History of Barmouth and its Vicinity*, shows that at this time the bathing beach was the area of beach closest to the town and near to the estuary, and outside of the site boundary [19]. It was noted that this beach:

“is all fine smooth sand and is deservedly popular among children and bathers. Viewed from these sands, the appearance of the town is particularly Romantic, and is said to resemble strangely the fortification of Gibraltar” [19].

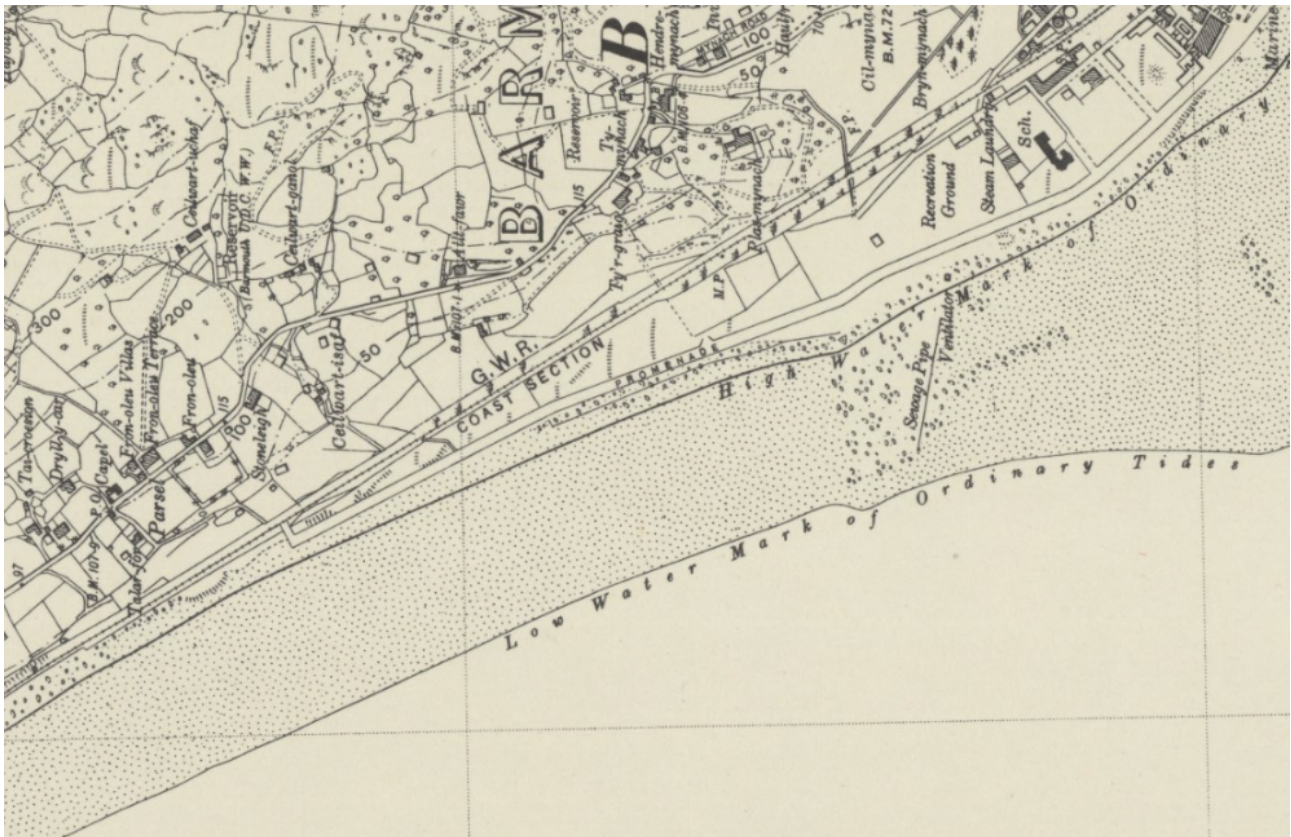
- 4.10.6 In 1928 a great storm devastated sections of the Barmouth's promenade. Subsequently, in January 1929, a meeting of Barmouth ratepayers adopted a resolution in favour of the promotion of a parliamentary bill empowering the council to construct seawalls and promenades, to acquire Barmouth harbour, and to bring electricity to the town. The first scheme approved, for the construction of a sea wall and promenade, involved an expenditure of £20,000 [21]. Later that same year, the Barmouth Urban District Council promoted a bill in parliament for the construction of sea defence works to protect the roads, railway, and property on the Barmouth sea front [22].
- 4.10.7 The scheme of sea defences promoted by Barmouth Urban District Council was designed by Stanley L. Richards on the same design as his 1925 plans, but on a much larger scale, with the defences to extend for a length of a mile and half of beachfront. The Board of Trade approved the construction of the sea defences in 1929, and in 1930 plans for the sea defences were drawn up by Richards [23]. Graphic 4-5 shows Richards' plan of the scheme, while Graphic 4-6 shows Richards' drawing of a typical cross section of the sea defences.
- 4.10.8 On April 1930, Barmouth Urban Council accepted the tender of the Demolition and Construction Co. London of £126,980 for constructing the sea defence scheme, which was to comprise a promenade, seawalls, and roads, and dredging Barmouth Harbour [24]. The Unemployment Grants Committee gave a grant of 75% toward the scheme, and Stanley L. Richards was placed in charge of the construction of the works. The resident engineer was A.G. Booth of Sheffield, while the principal contractors were the Demolition and Construction Company Ltd of Westminster [25].
- 4.10.9 In January 1931, David Lloyd George, the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (from 1916 to 1922), who was at this time Leader of the Liberal Party and Earl of Dwyfor, laid the foundation stone of the Barmouth sea defence works (Western Mail, 1931). Flags, bunting, and banners were displayed, and a brass band played Llwyn Onn (the Ash Grove) a traditional Welsh folk song [26]. After tapping the stone into place, Lloyd George declared that he was:
- “...privileged to be invited by Barmouth Council to lay the foundation stone of this very fine enterprise, the building of an embankment here that will defy all the storms of the Atlantic until the day when Mr [G?]'s prophecy is true, and the whole world is shattered to atoms” [26].*
- 4.10.10 At this date it was estimated that the total expenditure for the works would be £130,000 [25]. Photographs of the works in progress show that they employed rails laid on timber sleepers on the beach, which were used for a tall steam-powered piling rig, which drove in the timber piles for the groynes [16]. Rails also appear to have been laid on the beach for hand-pushed metal mine-style carts, while timber boards were also laid on the beach to form walkways [16]. Hand tools including wheelbarrows, buckets, and shovels were also used. Photographs also show metal mine-style carts abandoned on the beach, and being covered by drifts of sand [16].



Graphic 4-6 Richards, S.L. 1930. Barmouth Sea Defence Works. Typical Cross Section. National Archives. Reference: BT 356/8975/PT3.

- 4.10.11 In November 1931, gale and flood tides with mountainous waves resulted in the collapse of more than 300 yards (274 metres) of the newly constructed seawall in front of the Minymor, the collapse of the roadway, and the undermining the of the promenade, causing an estimated £40,000 of damage [27].
- 4.10.12 This damaged section of sea wall was reconstructed, and the works continued following the storm. In the reconstruction Larsen steel sheet piling 16 ft (4.9 metres) long was driven behind the buried toe wall and damaged wall reconstructed behind this steel piling and anchored to it by steel reinforcement [28].
- 4.10.13 The remainder of the sea defences were completed in under three years and were declared open by David Lloyd George on 22nd September 1933. After cutting a tape using gold scissors presenting to him by the engineer of the scheme to declare the works open, Lloyd George unveiled two bronze tablets commemorating the laying of the foundation stone and the opening of the works and invested the chairman of Barmouth Council with an inscribed gold chain of office. Thousands of people from all parts of Wales were present for the ceremony, with bunting displayed and Welsh and Union Jack flags flown. Lloyd George was presented with a silver tray which was engraved with a drawing on the new defences at the close of the ceremony [29].
- 4.10.14 On the opening of the scheme the press reported that:
- “Against almost insurmountable difficulties the engineers pushed forward with ingenious defences, and today they hold the enemy at bay” [29].*
- The Liverpool Echo declared that:
- “It is one of the most ambitious schemes of its kind in the country and represents man’s achievement in grappling for years with the sea, which has threatened to destroy the town of Barmouth” [30].*
- 4.10.15 In his role as patron of the National Council of Social Service and as part of a tour of Welsh unemployment centres, The Prince of Wales visited the completed sea defences in May 1934, and drove along the promenade [31]. The completed sea defences protected the whole of the seafront within the urban area along a length of one and half miles and comprised a sloping apron sea wall of concrete faced with Welsh granite, the lower portion being stepped and the toe carried into the beach and supported by piles, approx. 7,200 ft (2.2km) long, with a reinforced concrete promenade, roadway or carriage drive, and footpath, as well as 46 timber groynes [32].
- 4.10.16 The apron wall was constructed at a slope of one in three, the lower portion consisting of concrete steps with 2 ft treads and 8 inch rise, and the upper portion of concrete reinforced with 6 inch mesh B.R.C fabric and faced with North Wales granite. The minimum thickness of the apron wall was 2 ft 3 inches (69 centimetres). The granite coping of the apron wall was set at the same level along the whole of the wall, which was 16 and a half ft (5 metres) above ordnance datum and was constructed of 12 inch by 9 inch dressed granite [32].
- 4.10.17 The toe wall was a reinforced concrete beam, 7 ft (2.13 metres) deep by 3 ft (91 centimetres) thick, carried on 12 inch by 12 inch reinforced concrete piles driven at 10ft (3 metre) centres to a depth of about 24 ft (7.32 metres) below the beach level [32].

- 4.10.18 The promenade was keyed into the apron wall and was 18 ft 6 inches wide (5.64 metres) and the roadway 25 ft (7.62 metres) wide. Both were of reinforced concrete and both had a cross fall seaward of one in 24 in order to drain off surface water [32]. They consisted of a 7 inch (18 centimetres) thickness of concrete reinforced with 6 inch mesh reinforcement and were constructed on the alternate bay method, with expansion joints provided at regular intervals throughout the length of the work. The backing or filling behind the apron wall and below the promenade and roadway consisted of sand filled up to a level of 8 ft above high water-mark. Provision was made for dealing with land and storm water, which was carried in cast iron pipes through the work and discharged through 30 inch pipes carried on pitch pine cradles on the foreshore.
- 4.10.19 A protective wall 3 ft. wide was intended to divide the promenade from the roadway. This wall was:
- “Intended as a base for seating and as a screen to trap blown sand” [25].*
- 4.10.20 This wall was built of coursed stone rubble, with a distinctive spiked stone top, and was referred to as a cock’n hen parapet wall (Liverpool Daily Post, 1968).
- 4.10.21 Each of the 46 timber groynes was 150ft (46m) long and the groynes were positioned 150ft (46m) apart, at right angles to the seawall [32]. The groynes were made of creosoted pine supplied by Robinson, David, and Co. Ltd. of Cardiff, and were mainly intended to protect the toe wall, although they gave further actual protection by raising the level of the beach by as much as 10 ft (3m) in places.
- 4.10.22 Electricity was brought to the town during the construction of the scheme, with the work of laying the cables on the promenade was undertaken by Messers Overhead Ltd of London [32].
- 4.10.23 The project sought to use local material as far as possible, and the whole of the concrete aggregate, about 52,000 tonnes, was quarried and crushed in the town. All the concrete piles and kerbs were cast on the site, while the stone facing used for the sea wall was obtained from Minffordd, in the same county as Barmouth, while the dressed granite coping was quarried at Trefor, Caernarvonshire [32].
- 4.10.24 The construction works employed four hundred men at one time, and it was a condition of that grant that 20 per cent of the men employed were brought in from distressed areas. These men were mainly drawn from the economically depressed areas of South Wales and from the North of England. The total cost of the works at completion was about £170,000 with about 63 per cent of this sum contributed by the Unemployment Grants Committee [32].
- 4.10.25 The sea defence scheme considerably increased the popularity of Barmouth as a tourist destination, and increased access to and visits to the land within the site boundary in particular. On the completion of the scheme, it was noted that:
- “The town as a seaside resort has been very considerably improved as the result of these improvements, and the number of visitors during the past season, which was more than double that of any previous season, speaks well for the future” [32].*
- 4.10.26 Graphic 4-7 shows the site boundary in 1948. This map shows the completed sea defence scheme, including the promenade.



Graphic 4-7 c.1948 Ordnance Survey six-inch map of the site boundary. Revised 1938. Merionethshire Sheet XXXVI.NW. Reproduced with permission of National Library of Scotland under a CC BY (Creative Commons Attribution) licence.

4.10.27 In 1939 the Second World War broke out. An aerial photograph taken in 1941 shows a system of trenches close to the beach at Barmouth. These were located outside of the site boundary in the area is now occupied by residential housing estates (PRN: 34158)

4.10.28 Graphic 4-8 shows the site boundary after the Second World War, in 1949.

4.10.29 The new sea defences and promenade dramatically increased the popularity of the town with tourists over the following decades, with a newspaper article in 1953 noting that:

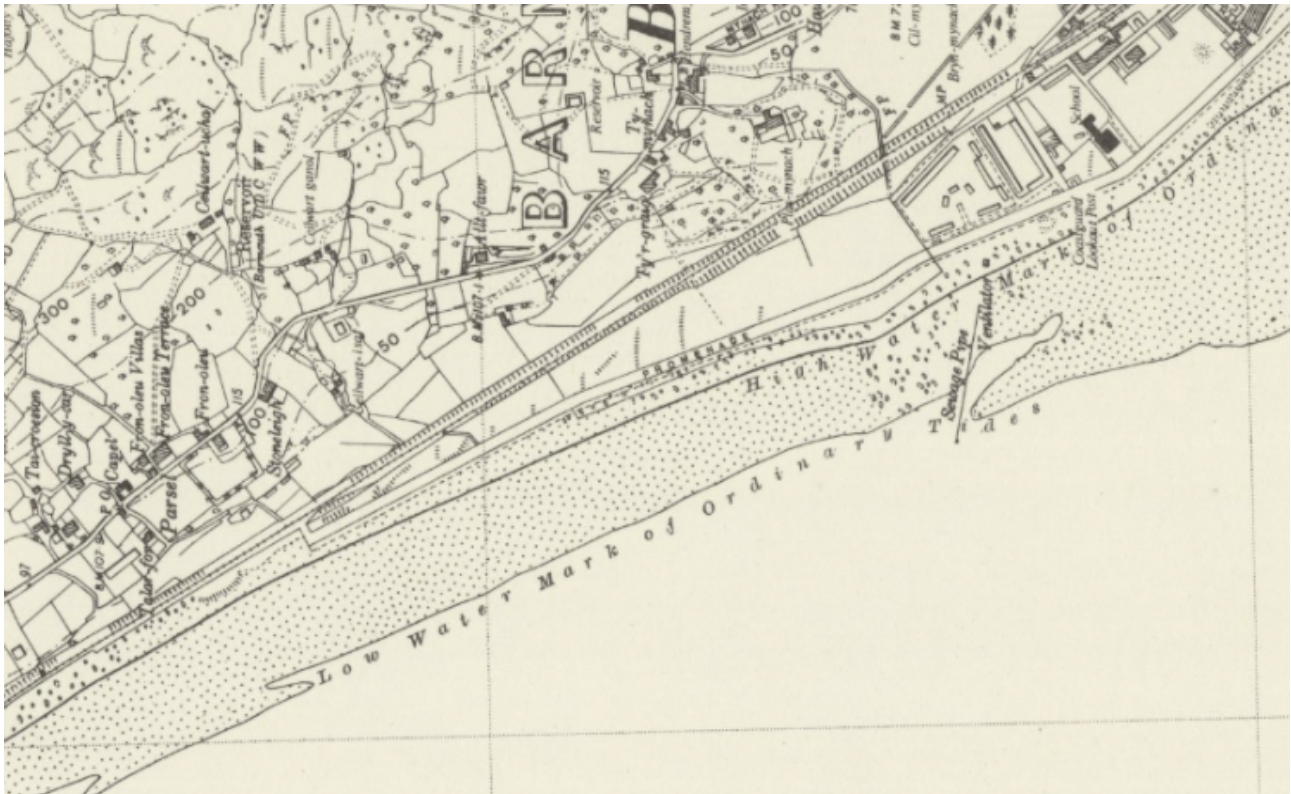
“Sixty years ago Barmouth was a perfect picture of a little Welsh fishing village... Barmouth has certainly developed immensely and is becoming increasingly popular... visitors love the sands, the sea, and the two miles of promenade” (Western Mail, 1953).

4.10.30 However, the scheme was also subject to increasing criticism at this time, with the promenade described by the town clerk as a “stranglehold” [33]. It was noted that:

“The work cost far more than been anticipated and had left the town without any money to add gardens to relieve the glare of concrete” [33].

4.10.31 As there were no other sites available:

“The town was compelled to build its council houses along the sea front” [33].



Graphic 4-8 1953 Ordnance Survey six-inch map of the site boundary. Revised 1949. Merionethshire Sheet XXXVI.NW. Reproduced with permission of National Library of Scotland under a CC BY (Creative Commons Attribution) licence.

- 4.10.32 In 1954, plans were drawn up for a £37,000 scheme was undertaken to provide for repairs to the seawall, estimated at £29,000, construction of groynes at £7,500, and the formation of expansion joints in the back wall ([34]; [35]. These works were undertaken in 1955.
- 4.10.33 In 1967 storms caused thousands of pounds worth of damage to the sea defences [36]. Subsequently, in January 1968, plans were submitted for a £240,000 scheme of sea defence works, including a barrier from the shore across the channel to Ynys-Y-Bawd Island at £44,000, the rebuilding of the harbour quay wall at £11,000, and a wave return wall at £82,000 [36]. The wave return wall was to be a curved wall which would cause the sea to curl back on itself and was to be 3 ft 6 inches in height along the entire 1 and a half miles length of the promenade, as a parapet at the crest of the existing apron wall. The works also included the repair of the promenade and construction of steps at the existing access points. A substantial sum was also estimated in regard to the construction and reconstruction of groynes.
- 4.10.34 In November 1968, as the council pushed to get the scheme approved, it was reported that further damage had occurred to the sea defences, with the Liverpool Post reporting that:

“Sandbags are a housing estate’s last-ditch protection from the cruel sea. Giant waves pounding against the parapet wall on Barmouth’s promenade have breached it in several places. Now people on the seafront estate live in fear of King Neptune’s wrath. They dread the high tides, when sea water has been known to reach their front gardens or rush down an alleyway at the back of a block of flats” [37].

- 4.10.35 In that same year, it was reported that the cock'n hen parapet wall had washed away and been demolished in parts [37].
- 4.10.36 The £240,000 scheme was approved and in November 1970, the Prince of Wales was invited to lay foundation stone [38]. The scheme was completed and by 1974 it was reported that the:
- “wave return wall, built as part of Barmouth’s major sea defence scheme, has already proved its worth during high tides and storms” [39].*
- 4.10.37 In 1987, the 1890 holding tank and sewerage discharge pipe were replaced by a new pipe, buried beneath the beach, which discharges treated waste [17]. A sewage plant and pumping station was built the same time. The 1890 pipe was not removed and remains buried nearby [17].
- 4.10.38 Graphic 4-9 shows the site boundary in 2006, and Graphic 4-10 shows the site boundary in 2020. Both images show the existing sea defences, including promenade and groynes, and the 1987 sewerage pipe.
- 4.10.39 In October 2021, shifting sand patterns revealed three sections of narrow-gauge rail track on the beach within the site boundary, as well as a pair of wheels [17] (PRN: 100450). These may be associated with the installation of the 1890 sewer pipe, late 19th or early 20th century sea bathing, or the construction of the 1930s sea defences.
- 4.10.40 Since the 1970s to the present, Barmouth has continued to face pressure from the sea, with recent storms bringing flooding and damaging the existing sea defences. In March 2021 around 180 square metres of the northern promenade collapsed following high tides and strong winds [17].
- 4.10.41 Damage observed on the site visit undertaken in October 2024 included the collapse of part of the stone wall dividing the promenade from the roadway at the northern end of the site boundary.



Graphic 4-9 Aerial imagery of the site boundary, dated December 2006. Google Earth Pro.



Graphic 4-10 Aerial imagery of the site boundary, dated April 2020. Google Earth Pro.

4.11 Uncertain date

- 4.11.1 The HER records the find of animal bones (PRN: 6689) eroding out of the beach at base a of shingle bank, 10-15cm deep, within the Site. The bones appeared to be part of a full skeleton of a large animal, possible a deer or cow. A dark clay/sandy layer nearby which appeared to be an old ground surface. Wood was reported to be present in peat further to the north of this find. The date of this find is not recorded, and it could be prehistoric in date.

4.12 Walkover survey

- 4.12.1 A site visit and walkover survey was undertaken on 21st October 2024. The whole length of the promenade and roadway within the site boundary was walked along by day and at night. The beachfront within the site boundary was also visited, as were the conservation area and listed buildings within the study area. Photographs 1 through to 10 show the existing sea defences, which date from the 1930s through to the 1970s, while photographs 11 and 12 show the likely 1930s rain shelter.



Photograph 1 View north along the promenade and roadway from the southern end of the site boundary. Shingle is covering the 1930s stone-faced apron wall.



Photograph 2 View north along the promenade, showing the stone wall (centre) dividing the promenade and roadway, and the 1970s wave return wall (left)



Photograph 3 View north along the beachfront, showing the 1970s wave return wall, timber groynes, and shingle covering the 1930s stone-faced apron wall and steps down to the beach



Photograph 4 View northwest showing the beach and timber groynes



Photograph 5 View west showing timber groyne (right) and timber cradle (left)



Photograph 6 View north showing the 1930s stone-faced apron wall



Photograph 7 View south showing the 1930s stone-faced apron wall and stone steps, 1930s concrete stepped sea wall, and 1970s wave return wall



Photograph 8 View south showing the 1930s stone-faced apron wall and stone steps, 1930s concrete stepped sea wall, and 1970s wave return wall



Photograph 9 View west showing the northern end of the 1930s sea defences, with 1930s stone-faced apron wall and concrete stepped sea wall, and 1970s wave return wall



Photograph 10 View north showing storm damage to the stone wall dividing the promenade and roadway



Photograph 11 View west of rear of rain shelter



Photograph 12 View east of front of rain shelter

4.13 Archaeological potential

- 4.13.1 Present understanding of changing sea levels since the beginning of the Holocene confirms that the sea levels have risen some 55 metres, and the seabed, intertidal zone, and land within the site boundary would have been land before inundation beginning some 12,000 years ago. Exposures of intertidal peat and submerged forest deposits at elsewhere in the region provide evidence of inundated landscapes dating back to the end of the last ice age and later.
- 4.13.2 The HER records the find of animal bones (PRN: 6689) eroding out of the beach at base a of shingle bank within the site boundary, with a dark clay/sandy layer nearby which appeared to be an old ground surface, and wood was reported to be present in peat further to the north of this find.
- 4.13.3 There is potential for submerged and buried landscapes, which may contain paleoenvironmental evidence and/or artefacts, from the Palaeolithic period onward, to be present within the site boundary. Due to environmental conditions, artefacts may include well-preserved timber and other organic remains. Peat is also likely to retain a good paleoenvironmental record. As well as prehistoric remains, these buried landscapes are also likely to retain evidence from later periods, as erosion has moved the seafront further inland over time, with the shifting coastline and coastal beach sands burying earlier land surfaces. Bronze Age, Roman, and Early Medieval finds within the site boundary suggest that further evidence relating to these periods may be buried within the Site boundary; of particular interest is the finding of an Early Medieval inscribed stone, found, likely *in situ*, buried below the sand, during the building of the 1930s sea defence works.
- 4.13.4 In the 19th century Barmouth was well-known for its shipbuilding and minerals export, and in the 18th and 19th centuries there was an increase in marine traffic. There are a number of shipwrecks recorded within the study area, and there is potential for wrecks of ships and their cargo to be found within the site boundary on seabed, within the intertidal zone, and on the beach. A track across the beach leading to what was likely a slipway is shown on the earliest OS map, indicating a landing place within the site boundary.
- 4.13.5 There is some potential that archaeological evidence relating to the use of the site boundary for leisure and sea bathing in the 19th and early 20th centuries may be present within the site boundary, although this is limited as until the building of the sea defences in the 1930s these activities were largely focused in areas beyond the site boundary, on areas of the beach closer to the historical core of Barmouth and the estuary.
- 4.13.6 The 1890 cast-iron sewer pipe is known to be buried within the site boundary, and the site boundary may also preserve evidence of its construction, such as rails, tools, and machinery.
- 4.13.7 The 1930s sea defences were constructed using rails for a steam-driven piling rig and mine-style carts, as well as hand tools. There is potential for physical evidence of this construction activity to survive within the site boundary, and rails and wheels exposed within the Site boundary in 2021 may relate to these works.
- 4.13.8 The site boundary may also contain evidence of earlier phases of sea defences and sea walls, and of the Victorian seafront and promenade. It may also contain deposits of rubbish and refuse, including rubbish pits and artefacts deposited through accidental loss.

5. Significance

- 5.1.1 This section provides an assessment of significance of potential archaeological remains within the site. In line with the Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales, this report takes a comparative approach to significance, assigning heritage assets and archaeological remains significance at local, regional, or national levels, where local is the lowest level of significance and national the highest. The greater the significance of an historic asset, the greater the weight that should be attached to sustaining its heritage values.
- 5.1.2 Paleoenvironmental evidence and/or artefacts from the Palaeolithic period and Mesolithic period would be of evidential and historical value for their ability to reveal more about ways of life in Wales during these time periods. Finds of single artefacts from these periods are likely to be of local significance. However, *in situ* Palaeolithic artefacts, or evidence of discrete Mesolithic activities such as knapping events in association with paleoenvironmental evidence and/or organic artefacts, is nationally rare and may be of regional or higher significance depending on their date, nature, and intactness.
- 5.1.3 Remains dating to the Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, and Medieval activity would be of evidential and historical value and are likely to be of local significance, although this may be higher depending on their nature, date, and intactness. Remains of Early Medieval activity would be of evidential and historical value, and may be of local or regional significance, through their association with other important finds from this period in the local area, including the nationally rare find of an inscribed Early Medieval stone on Barmouth beach in the 1930s.
- 5.1.4 Remains of and finds associated with Post-Medieval boats and ships, and other maritime activity in this period, would be of evidential and historical value for its ability to reveal information about maritime trade and exchange in this period, and the growth and development of Barmouth over time. Such remains are likely to be of local significance, although shipwrecks may be of regional significance depending on their date, nature, intactness, associated cargo, and identification and history.
- 5.1.5 Other Post-Medieval remains, such as the 1890s cast-iron sewer pipe, evidence of sea defences and sea walls, and deposits of rubbish and refuse, would likely be of evidential and historical value at a local level for their ability to reveal information about the rapid growth and development of Barmouth over this period.
- 5.1.6 Evidence relating to the construction of the 1930s seawall is likely to be local importance for its evidential and historical value as part of its potential to reveal information about the construction of the sea defences, the nature of labour and work on Unemployed Grants Schemes in this period, and the development of Barmouth.

6. Potential impacts

- 6.1.1 The project is proposing to undertake the following engineering-led GI works on the beach at Barmouth:
- Four Window Samples to 6 metres below ground level to inform underlying geology. The GI Contractor may use Cable Percussive boring if WS is unlikely to achieve the scheduled depth (this would be due to encountering shallow cobbles).
 - Eight Trial Pits to 4 metres below ground level for sampling and informing condition of existing sheet pile wall
 - Eight Cone Penetration Tests (CPTs) to 15 metres below ground level to inform deeper geology along the beach
- 6.1.2 The locations of the GI works are shown on Figures 5, 6, 7, and 8.
- 6.1.3 It is anticipated that the works can be undertaken without removal of the existing timber groynes. However, if required, a contingency option of localised removal of the upper third of the groynes may be undertaken.
- 6.1.4 Access to the beach is to be down two existing slip ways. These are concrete and appear to date from the late twentieth century.
- 6.1.5 The GI works would not impact any known heritage assets. However, they may encounter archaeological remains and deposits, such as historic land surfaces and peat deposits surviving beneath the sand.

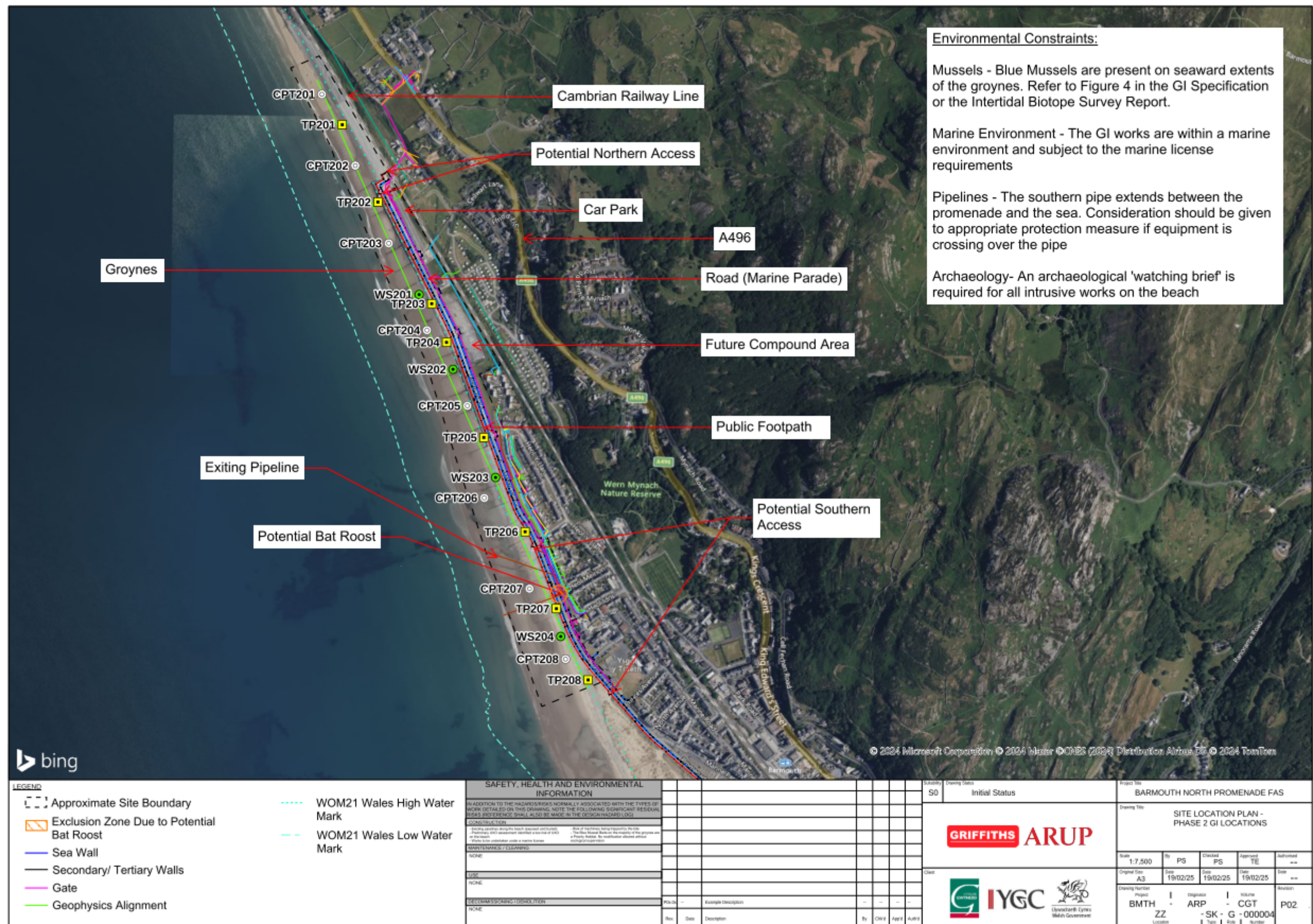
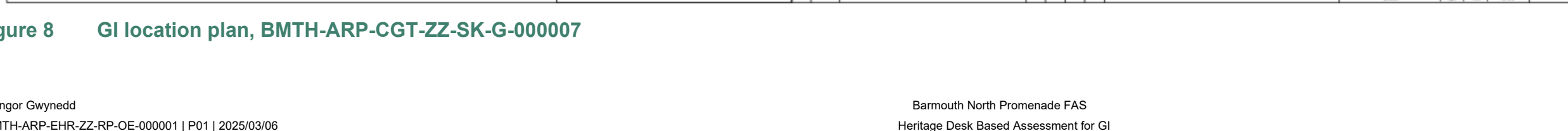


Figure 5 GI location plan, Drawing BMTH-ARP-CGT-ZZ-SK-G-000004



Cyngor Gwynedd
BMTH-ARP-EHR-ZZ-RP-OE-000001 | P01 | 2025/03/06

7. Recommendations

7.1.1 The following recommendations are made:

- Geoarchaeological monitoring and recording ('watching brief') of the window samples and trial pits. This would involve the attendance of a specialist geoarchaeologist to the location that the window sample cores are opened – this could be on site or at a lab location depending on the GI contractor's methodology – and the attendance of a specialist geoarchaeologist on-site for the excavation of the trial pits.
- Specialist geoarchaeological review of the GI contractor produced window-sample logs to complement the observations and make an assessment of the archaeological potential and likely geoarchaeological significance of any former terrestrial deposits below the sand.

7.1.2 The results of this monitoring should be included in any future assessment of the potential impacts of the Scheme.

Abbreviations List

AGC	Alun Griffiths Contractors
BCE	Before Common Era
CE	Common Era
D&B	Design and Build
DTM	Digital Terrian Model
ECI	Early Contractor Involvement
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
FAS	Flood Alleviation Scheme
HER	Historic Environment Record
HGAT	Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology
LiDAR	Light Detection And Ranging
NMR	National Monuments Record
OBC	Outline Business Case
OS	Ordnance Survey
YGC	Ymgynghoriaeth Gwynedd Consultancy

Glossary

Term	Definition
Bronze Age	A historic period, lasting from 2200 BCE to 700 BCE, when some objects, weapons. and tools were made of bronze.
Early Medieval	A historic period, lasting from 410 CE to 1086 CE.
Iron Age	A historic period, lasting from 700 BCE to 43 BCE, when some objects, weapons. and tools were made of iron.
Listed buildings	Building of special architectural or historic interest, recorded in the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest compiled according to the provisions of the Historic Environment Wales Act. Such buildings are subdivided into Grade I, II* and II (in descending importance).
Medieval	A historic period, lasting from 1086 CE to 1536 CE.
Mesolithic	The middle part of Stone Age, lasting 8,500 BCE to 4,000 BCE.
Neolithic	The latter part of Stone Age, lasting 4,000 BCE to 2,200 BCE, when agriculture was introduced.
Palaeolithic	The early phase of Stone Age, lasting between 1 million BCE to 8,500 BCE.
Roman	A historic period, lasting between 43 CE to 410 CE, where the Romans occupied the British Isles.
Post-medieval	A historic period, lasting from 1536 CE to 1899 CE.

Source: Arup, 2025.

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Appendices

Appendix A Cultural Heritage Gazetteers

A.1 Heritage assets

A.1.1 Designated heritage assets, Cadw

A.1.1.1 The designated heritage assets located in the study area are presented in Table A-1. Designated heritage assets are arranged by ascending Cadw AN/DW/RN.

Table A-1 Gazetteer of designated heritage assets, Cadw

RN	Name	Description	Period	Type	Designation
4906	Parish Church of Saint Mary and Saint Bodfan	A superb church which exhibits some of the finest Early English work in Gwynedd. It is unusual in being an almost perfectly preserved 13th century building, despite substantial restoration work, consisting of an aisled nave with clerestory and a south porch, and a raised separate chancel with a north vestry. The chancel arch is unusual in an area where most churches are of a single cell. All the windows are single lancets. The founding of the church has been attributed to Hywel ap Gruffydd ap Cynan, a benefactor of Cymer Abbey, and great-grandson of Owain Gwynedd (RCAHM 1924, 47; Radford C A R 1949, 303-4). The churchyard at Llanaber is irregular in shape, stone walled and terraced into sloping ground above sea cliffs. The earliest dating evidence for the site is the late 12th century church. The churchyard was extended to the south in 1861, when the road to the cottage, which is located to the south-west of the church, was re-routed to the south and the original east-west road was incorporated into the churchyard. Restoration work during 1858-60, supervised by W. W. E. Wynne, included rebuilding the western wall with its bell-cote and two modern lancets, and parts of the walls of the chancel. Other work involved the construction of the present porch, and the removal of the north chapel to be replaced by the present vestry. In 1910 the reredos was added, the porch re-roofed and the altar rails and choir stalls were replaced	Medieval	Church	Grade I listed building
4907	St Anne House	A large former Inn known originally as the Lion Inn, and subsequently as the Belle Vue. Built in the third quarter C18. A symmetrical 7 bay Georgian building of 3 storeys plus attic.	Post Medieval	Inn / House	Grade II listed building
5244	Plas Mynach	Plas Mynach is an imposing country house, comprising a tower, main building and gatehouse wing extending to the east, enclosing a turning area. It was built in 1882 for the Perrins family of Lea and Perrins as a holiday home. It is approached via a long causeway from the north, which is flanked on the main road by former lodge buildings.	Post Medieval	Country House; Hotel	Grade II* listed building

RN	Name	Description	Period	Type	Designation
		The building is finished in the Arts and Crafts style, with, externally, a carved sundial on the south face. Internally the main reception hall is panelled, while the main ground floor rooms on the west side are augmented with stained glass windows and carved wooden fire surrounds. The gardens in 2005 are overgrown but extend in a series of terraces and walled areas to the south and south-east. The main grounds beyond to the south are wooded, with walks laid out around the slopes and natural outcrops. The garden to the west of the house was considerably altered in the 1960s when the existing terraces were bulldozed and landscaped into a large flat lawn to hold a helicopter landing pad.			
15467	St. John's Church	St John's Church, Barmouth, Gwynedd, Wales was built between 1889 and 1895 and designed by the Chester architects Douglas and Fordham.	Post Medieval	Church	Grade II* listed building
15501	Former Domestic Stable Block at Hendre Coed Isaf	A 2-storey rubble-built stables with accommodation over; mid C18. Medium-pitched slate roof with kneelered rubble gable parapets. 3 window symmetrical entrance (NW) front. Central recessed entrance with C19 boarded stable door and wooden doorcase.	Post Medieval	Stable	Grade II listed building
15500	Barn At Hendre Coed Isaf	A sub-medieval vernacular barn, possibly late C16/early C17; set into the slope of the hill with massive boulder foundations. Rubble construction with crude rubble gable parapet to NE.	Post Medieval	Barn	Grade II listed building
15499	Porth Mynach	Snecked rubble facings withwhitened limestone dressings and slate roofs with tiled ridges. Of 3sections: a square 2-and-a-half storey stepped-gabled tower; an adjoining single-storey plus attic range, and a single-storey range at right-angles to the rear. These formed the coachman's accommodation, the coach-house and stables respectively.	Post Medieval	Coach House	Grade II listed building
15498	Plas Mynach Lodge	Single-storey plus basement; roughly rectangular in plan. Snecked rubble facings and whitened limestone dressings, with slate roof and tiled ridges; oversailing eaves and deep verges with exposed rafter ends.	Post Medieval	Lodge	Grade II listed building
15468	Church Hall	Single storey hall in vernacular Tudorbethan style. Rectangular plan with projection at E end, advanced and gabled to S. Of snecked dressed slate-stone with red sandstone dressings and slate roof. Simple slate-hung louvre with feathered eaves and lead ball finial; plain tapered and banded chimney to E end.	Post Medieval	Church	Grade II listed building
87924	Catholic Church of St Tudwal and attached Presbytery	Catholic church constructed 1904-5 to designs of Alfred Gilbertson of Liverpool in a late Gothic Revival style with Arts and Crafts influences. The adjoining Presbytery was constructed with the church and also to designs by Gilbertson.	20th Century	Church	Grade II listed building

RN	Name	Description	Period	Type	Designation
-	Abermaw	Barmouth Conservation area is centred around the historic High Street and the encompasses a concentration of buildings from the town's Victorian heyday.	-	-	Conservation area

A.1.2 Non-designated heritage assets, Heneb

A.1.2.1 The non-designated heritage assets located in the study area are presented in Table A-2.

Table A-2 Gazetteer of non-designated heritage assets, Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology (HGAT)

PRN	Name	Description	Period	Type
1854	Radiocarbon Date, Llanaber	-	Unknown	Non-monument
4164	Bronze Bowl, Findspot, Barmouth	A round bottomed bronze bowl is recorded in the Oxford Ashmolean Museum report of 1905, where it is preserved as having been found 'in the marsh near the sea at Barmouth, Wales.' Considered to be a pre-Roman import from Italy, or of 'Late Celtic' work, it is 5.5ins in diameter and just over 3ins high.	Roman	Findspot
4173	Bronze Spearhead, Findspot, Near Barmouth	A bronze looped socketed spearhead, 9ins long.	Bronze Age	Findspot
4324	Inscribed Stones, Llanaber	Two inscribed stones preserved in Llanaber church, against the N wall at the W end of the nave. Both C5th or early C6th.	Early Medieval	Inscribed stone
6571	Signal Box, Barmouth	Small signal box; brick locking room with timber cabin above under a slated pitched roof. Site visited 1989. Signal box moved to Glyndyfrdwy on the Llangollen Railway, in use. B. A. Malaws, 27 July 1999.	Post Medieval	Railway signal box
6889	Animal bones, Findspot, Barmouth	Animal bones eroding out of beach at base of shingle bank, 10-15cm deep. Dark clay/sandy layer nearby which looks like an old ground surface. Wood reported in peat further to the N. The bone appeared to be part of a full? skeleton of a large animal, possible deer or cow.	Unknown	Findspot
6895	Inscribed Stone, Findspot, Barmouth	Early Medieval inscribed stone. Now in Llanaber church.	Early Medieval	Inscribed Stone
6897	Inscribed Stone, Findspot, Ceilwart Isaf	Early Medieval inscribed stone. Now in Llanaber church.	Early Medieval	Inscribed Stone
20582	Manganese Mine, Barmouth	Post Medieval manganese mine.	Post Medieval	Manganese Mine

PRN	Name	Description	Period	Type
20589	Quarry, Cilmyrnach	Post Medieval quarry.	Post Medieval	Quarry
24008	Pot, Findspot, Nr Hendre Mynach	Small, wheel-turned pot with painted decoration and hallmarked silver ring around neck.	20th Century	Findspot
24131	Finger Ring, Findspot, Barmouth	A copper alloy penannular finger ring decorated with snake head terminals of Roman date (100-300 AD). The hoop of the finger ring is broken at the back of the hoop, suggesting that the snake head terminals are fused together. The hoop is broadly sub-circular in plan and D shaped in cross section. It is regular in thickness but expands in width from the thinnest part to the relatively wide snakehead terminals. The hoop of the ring in plan measures 22.3mm length, 23.1mm width; it is 3mm high and is 2.4mm thick. The ring expands to a width of 9.2mm at the snake head and 4.5mm thickness. The internal diameter of the ring is 17.5mm. The ring weighs 3.6 grams. The ring is a mid grey green colour with a well developed but abraded patina which covers the majority of the artefact. Similar style of snake headed rings can be sub-classified using her system as a type Bi. The hoard at Snettisham is dated by the coin evidence as being deposited 154-5 AD, however the style of finger-ring is relatively long lived. As such it is likely that this example dates from the second early fourth century AD (100-300 AD).	Roman	Findspot
32022	Expanded-arm cross, Llanaber	The parish church of St. Bodfan. The fragment of a head of a slab was found in 1858 when the west wall, which was in danger of collapse, was being taken down. It is now built into the face of the wall at the west end of the Nave of this very fine example of an early 13th century church. The fragment now measures 1ft 8in in length, and 1ft 2in in width at the top. The dexter side is broken. It is of brown-gritstone and carved in low-relief with an expanded-arm cross and plain narrow shaft. In each of the four spaces between the arms is a simple heart-shaped leaf with central rib. Late 13th century.	Medieval	Inscribed stone
34158	Practice Trenches, Former Site of, Barmouth	An aerial photograph taken in 1941 shows a system of trenches close to the beach at Barmouth. The area is now the site of residential housing estates.	20th Century	Practice trench
57592	Building, N of Hendre Hall	Site identified using early Ordnance Survey Maps.	Post Medieval	Building
57593	Sheep Fold, N of Ffordd Pentre Mynach	Site identified using early Ordnance Survey Maps.	Post Medieval	Sheep fold
57594	Steps, W of Ty'r Y Graig Castle Hotel	Site identified using early Ordnance Survey Maps.	Post Medieval	Steps

PRN	Name	Description	Period	Type
57595	Building, S of Coedwig Mynach	Site identified using early Ordnance Survey Maps.	Post Medieval	Building
57596	Enclosure, S of Coedwig Mynach	Site identified using early Ordnance Survey Maps.	Post Medieval	Enclosure
57597	Building, SW of Plas Mynach	Site identified using early Ordnance Survey Maps.	Post Medieval	Building
57598	Structure, SW of Plas Mynach	Site identified using early Ordnance Survey Maps.	Post Medieval	Structure
57599	Steps, N of Plas Mynach	Site identified using early Ordnance Survey Maps.	Post Medieval	Steps
57600	Steps, SW of Plas Mynach	Site identified using early Ordnance Survey Maps.	Post Medieval	Steps
57601	Railway Embankment, W of Plas Mynach	Site identified using early Ordnance Survey Maps.	Post Medieval	Railway
58518	ROC Post, Llanaber	Royal Observer Corps (ROC) underground monitoring post at Barmouth. Opened in 1965 as part of Britain's defence against nuclear attack during the Cold War and closed three years later in 1968.	20th Century	Observation Post
58672	War Memorial, Barmouth	A stone pillar comprising three main sections with stone ledge between top and middle sections, set on a stone plinth and three steps and enclosed within railings.	20th Century	War Memorial
62318	Allt Fawr, Barmouth	During the First World War Miss Patchett ran the Red Cross Workroom no 1364 in Allt Fawr. Here volunteers made supplies for the VAD hospitals. With some additions it's relatively unchanged today.	Post Medieval	House; Workroom
71301	Plaque, St John Church	A brass plaque on a wooden frame with dedication & names.	20th Century	War Memorial
71613	Memorial Plaque, Caersalem Welsh Presbyterian, Barmouth	A war memorial.	20th Century	War Memorial
71614	Memorial Tablet, Siloam Welsh Congregational Chapel	A war memorial.	20th Century	War Memorial

PRN	Name	Description	Period	Type
71671	War memorial, St. Mary's and St. Bodfan's Church, Llanaber	A war memorial. Memorials mounted inside and at the rear of the church. Main memorial is wooden with gold lettering. A large two-door memorial with a triangular top contains a gold cross. Above the names and in a domed recess is 'For God King and Country'.	20th Century	War Memorial
81491	Pendant, Findspot, Barmouth	The findspot of a post medieval pendant.	Post Medieval	Findspot
82766	Farm building, Ceilwart-ganol	Extant traditional farm building shown on 2nd Edition OS 25 inch map.	Post Medieval	Farm building
82767	Farm building, Ceilwart-ganol	Extant traditional farm building shown on 2nd Edition OS 25 inch map.	Post Medieval	Farm building
82768	Farm building, Ceilwart-ganol	Extant traditional farm building shown on 2nd Edition OS 25 inch map.	Post Medieval	Farm building
82769	Farm building, Ceilwart-ganol	Extant traditional farm building shown on 2nd Edition OS 25 inch map.	Post Medieval	Farm building
82770	Farmstead	A post medieval farmstead.	Post Medieval	Farmstead
82771	Outbuilding, Ceilwart-ganol	Extant traditional farm building shown on 2nd Edition OS 25 inch map.	Post Medieval	Farm building
82772	Outfarm, Ceilwart-ganol	Farmstead plan types are explained in detail in Report 1585: Farmstead Mapping Attribute Table, Page 6. Outbuilding E of Ceilwart-ganol.	Post Medieval	Farm building
82773	Farm building, Ceilwart-uchaf	Extant traditional farm building shown on 2nd Edition OS 25 inch map.	Post Medieval	Farm building
82774	Farm building, Ceilwart-uchaf	Extant traditional farm building shown on 2nd Edition OS 25 inch map.	Post Medieval	Farm building
82775	Farmstead, Ceilwart-uchaf	A post medieval farmstead. Residential dwelling.	Post Medieval	Farmstead
82776	Farm building, Ceilwart-isaf	Extant traditional farm building shown on 2nd Edition OS 25 inch map.	Post Medieval	Farm building
82777	Farm building, Ceilwart-isaf	Extant traditional farm building shown on 2nd Edition OS 25 inch map.	Post Medieval	Farm building

PRN	Name	Description	Period	Type
82778	Farmstead, Ceilwart-isaf	A post medieval farmstead.	Post Medieval	Farmstead
82781	Farm building, Hendre-coed-uchaf	Extant traditional farm building shown on 2nd Edition OS 25 inch map.	Post Medieval	Farm building
82783	Farm building, Hendre-coed-uchaf	Extant traditional farm building shown on 2nd Edition OS 25 inch map.	Post Medieval	Farm building
93173	Farmstead, Hendre-coed-isaf	A post medieval farmstead.	Post Medieval	Farmstead
93487	Farmstead, Hendre-coed-uchaf	A post medieval farmstead. This site was previously recorded as PRN82784.	Post Medieval	Farmstead
93522	Farm building, Hendre-coed-uchaf	Extant traditional farm building shown on 2nd Edition OS 25 inch map. This site was previously recorded as PRN82780.	Post Medieval	Farm building
93523	Farm building, Hendre-coed-uchaf	Extant traditional farm building shown on 2nd Edition OS 25 inch map. This site was previously recorded as PRN82784.	Post Medieval	Farm building
95095	Farm building, Hendre-coed-isaf	Extant traditional farm building shown on the Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition OS 25 inch map.	Post Medieval	Farm building
95096	Farm building, Hendre-coed-isaf	Extant traditional farm building shown on the Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition OS 25 inch map.	Post Medieval	Farm building
95097	Farm building, Hendre-coed-isaf	Extant traditional farm building shown on the Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition OS 25 inch map	Post Medieval	Farm building
100450	Rail Tracks, Barmouth	Rail tracks, iron wheels, and axles periodically exposed by shifting sands at the north end of Barmouth beach.	Post Medieval	Railway
103566	Standing Stone, Possible, Barmouth	A possible standing stone. Visible from the main road and on private land.	Unknown	Standing stone

A.1.3 National Monuments Record, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

A.1.3.1 Heritage assets on the NMR of Wales that are in the study area and do not have a Cadw or Heneb record are presented in Table A-3. They are arranged in ascending order of NPRN and they divided between terrestrial and maritime.

Table A-3 Gazetteer of National Monuments Record heritage assets

NPRN	Name	Description	Period	Type	Terrestrial / Maritime
8325	Siloam Welsh Independent Chapel, High Street, Barmouth	Siloam Independent Chapel was built in 1828 and rebuilt in 1870. The present stone chapel, dated 1870, is built in the Lombardic-Gothic style with a gable-entry plan, to the design of architect Thomas Thomas of Landore. The gable facade has mock machicolation and end Gothic buttresses with offsets and pinnacles.	Post Medieval	Chapel	Terrestrial
8326	Zion Baptist Chapel	Zion Baptist Chapel was built in 1876.	Post Medieval	Chapel	Terrestrial
8329	Christ Church English Presbyterian and Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, Barmouth	Christ Church Methodist Chapel was built in 1878 in the Gothic style of the gable-entry type, to the design of architect Richard Owen of Liverpool.	Post Medieval	Chapel	Terrestrial
8330	Park Road Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, Barmouth	Park Road Methodist Chapel was built in 1893 and rebuilt in 1915 in the Classical style of the gable-entry type.	Post Medieval	Chapel	Terrestrial
12020	Capel Parsel (Calvinistic Methodist; Ty Newydd Pursel), Parsel, Llanaber	Capel Parsel Methodist Chapel was built in 1800.	Post Medieval	Chapel	Terrestrial
28163	Barmouth Rectory and Lodging	Post Medieval Rectory and Lodging	Post Medieval	-	Terrestrial
28167	Bennar Terrace 2 and 3	Circa 1800, rubblestone, 2 storey and attic; 6 dormers, slates, 2 ledged doors, one with rectangular fanlights and semi-circular steps.	Post Medieval	Dwelling	Terrestrial
28205	Bron-y-Graig	17/18th century, rough hewn stone, 1 storey and attics. Left Hand wing with plain gable, with later round headed entrance cut in; screening open passage.	Post Medieval	Dwelling	Terrestrial
28279	Ceilwart Uchaf	17th century, stone farmhouse	Post Medieval	Dwelling	Terrestrial
28496	Hendre Mynach; Hendremynach Hall	Hendre Mynach Hall, Barmouth is in use as a public house. It is a large 2-storied, L-shaped house with a glass-roofed veranda.	Post Medieval	House	Terrestrial

NPRN	Name	Description	Period	Type	Terrestrial / Maritime
28502	High Street	House occupied by Dr. Rippiner Heath. Circa 1800, ashlar, 3 storey, attics, wood porch and plain columns, pediment with finial, small side gables with barges and finials above attic windows.	Post Medieval	House	Terrestrial
272691	Caminha	The CAMINHA/CAMINHANDO was a Portuguese brig on passage from Oporto to London with a cargo of wine and fruit. The vessel was embayed to the north of Sarn Badrig's Causeway and eventually went onshore and was totally wrecked near Barmouth on 1 January 1805 (Larn) or in early March 1805 (Wynne Jones and Lloyds List). The Barmouth Volunteers led by Captain Edward Roberts were witnesses to the event and were able to salvage some £6,000 of the cargo, including approximately 90 pipes of wines.	Post Medieval	Wreck	Maritime
273325	Neptune	The NEPTUNE was a wooden sailing vessel on passage from New Orleans to Liverpool, when it was wrecked near Barmouth on 4 February 1825. Edmund Lewis of Barmouth received one of the first Royal National Lifeboat Institution Medals in 1825. He used ropes to clamber down a dangerous cliff to rescue seven of the crew of the NEPTUNE. The cargo was also saved.	Post Medieval	Wreck	Maritime
273353	Bertholly	The BERTHOLLY or BERTHHOLLY was a wooden schooner built at Newport in 1837 by B Bachelor & Co. The schooner's first owners Tom Benjamin Batchelor, John Owen and Joseph Latch all of Newport, timber merchants and co-partners forming the company B Batchelor & Co. Transactions on the register reveal the growing links of the vessel to Porthmadog. The vessel appears to have gone ashore on 12-13 January 1843 - it had been dismasted out in St George's Channel and was eventually driven ashore 2 miles north of Sarn-y-bwch. One crewmember managed to swim ashore, but the captain and two other men had to remain lashed to the rigging until the storm abated to be rescued. A fifth crewmember was later found drowned in the hold. John Owen died at around the same time as the incident. The surviving partners sell shares in the vessel to John Jones, master mariner of Porthmadog, and Edwin Shelton of Maentwrog, Merioneth, and John Michael Greaves of Tremadog, slate merchants trading as Shelton and Greaves in 1848. The Caernarfon and Denbigh Herald notes that the vessel appeared to be not much damaged and was recovered and continued sailing. The schooner was transferred to the port of Caernarvon on 24 October 1860 and was finally lost at the entrance to Dungarvon, Ireland, on 30 May 1870.	Post Medieval	Wreck	Maritime
273354	Edwin	The EDWIN was a wooden schooner built by Edward Eyton at Mostyn in 1840. It was placed on the port of Chester shipping register on 13 July 1840. The owners include mopre of Edward Eyton's family - John Pruyse Eyton, Robert Eyton and	Post Medieval	Wreck	Maritime

NPRN	Name	Description	Period	Type	Terrestrial / Maritime
		James Eyton. At time of loss, the vessel was carrying a cargo of coal from Mostyn to Barmouth. The schooner had anchored and taken on a pilot waiting from sufficient water clearance over the bar, when the winds increased to gale force. The schooner's anchor began to drag and the EDWIN eventually went on shore a half mile north of Barmouth. When one of the masts collapsed, four local mariners were able to get onboard. They found that five of the crew and the pilot who had lashed themselves to the rigging had drowned. The ship's apprentice was found sheltering under one of the bulwarks and had survived. During an exceptionally low tide in March 1934, the hull timbers of the wreck were uncovered and a short length of anchor chain was recovered. A link from the chain was used for the memorial plaque.			
409202	Ruin, Llanaber	Ruined cruck-framed farmhouse.	Post Medieval	Farmhouse	Maritime
506539	Unnamed Wreck	Part of a large wooden rudder with pintels still attached was washed ashore at Barmouth in 1998. The rudder is now on display at Barmouth museum.	Post Medieval	Wreck	Maritime
518258	Jane	The JANE, under the command of master John Evans, went ashore at Aberbach on the 7 October 1825 during a violent west northwesterly gale. A report printed in the North Wales Gazette on 25 October 1825 noted that 'Last week about 25 trading vessels bound to the west. We were detained for several days in Fishguard Roads, by contrary winds. On the night of Thursday week, the weather being more favourable, they all set sail towards St. David's, when a most tremendous gale arose from the northwest, and nearly the whole were driven ashore? The Jane, John Evans, from Port Madock, bound to Cardiff, with slates, onshore at Aberback, crew saved?'	Post Medieval	Wreck	Maritime
519260	Jane	The JANE, under the command of master Evans, went ashore at near Abermaw (Barmouth) in mid October 1825. The JANE had been in company with the LINNET of Aberystwyth (519261), with both being on passage from Porthmadoc to Cardiff. The crews of both vessels were saved.	Post Medieval	Wreck	Maritime
519261	Linnet	The LINNET was a wooden sailing vessel belonging to the port of Aberystwyth. A report printed in Lloyd's List on 18 October 1825 noted that the vessel had gone ashore near Abermaw (Barmouth) along with the JANE, Evans being the master of the latter. Both vessels had been on passage from Porthmadoc to Cardiff. The crews of both vessels were saved.	Post Medieval	Wreck	Maritime

NPRN	Name	Description	Period	Type	Terrestrial / Maritime
525438	Landing Place, Llanaber	OS 1st edition mapping shows three tracks converging on the forshore, from Yr-efail in the north, from St Bodvan's Church and from Hendre coed-isaf in the south, hence confirming a landing place. With the coming of the railway, a crossing and slipway access appears to have been provided near Ys-efail, plus a footbridge from Hendre coed-saf.	Post Medieval	Landing Point	Maritime
525439	Landing Place, Fron-Oleu	OS 1st edition mapping shows a track converging on the foreshore confirming a landing place. The track now provides access to the northern end of the promenade.	Post Medieval	Landing Point	Maritime

A.2 Landscapes

A.2.1.1 Registered Historic Landscapes

A.2.1.2 The Registered Historic Landscapes located in the study area are presented in Table A-4.

Table A-4 Gazetteer of Registered Historic Landscapes

UID	Name	Description	Type
HLW(Gw)14	Mawddach	It is an area rich in prehistoric and later remains, notably groups of Bronze Age ritual and funerary monuments, prehistoric trackways, and relict settlements and field systems from the Iron Age and medieval periods, which extend over the intermediate slopes and plateaux on the south side of the estuary. Barmouth is sited on the north side at the mouth of the estuary, and there are significant remains of 19th and early 20th centuries gold mining in the valleys and the lower hills to the north east of the town.	Outstanding
HLW(Gw) 2	Ardudwy	Ardudwy has retained a natural integrity as a territory, probably since prehistoric times, because topography has strongly constrained both access and settlement in the area. It also has an exceptional wealth of relict archaeological remains, from the prehistoric period to the recent past, reflecting recurrent human activity in an area with juxtaposed resources of lowland and upland and, not least, the easy availability and survival of stone as a building material. Much of the area has already been studied by both historians and field archaeologists, but the potential to further study settlement evolution and land use changes in detail is enormous.	Outstanding