

## 6 Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

### Introduction

- 6.1 This section of the Screening and Scoping Report considers the likely significant effect of the Proposed Project on terrestrial archaeology and cultural heritage assets including designated historic landscapes marine archaeology is address in section 20 of this report.

### Legislation and Policy

- 6.2 Legislation relevant to the archaeology and cultural heritage assessment comprises:
- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979;
  - Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990;
  - Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
- 6.3 Planning Policy Wales Chapter 6 Historic Environment (Welsh Government, 2016) is supplemented by a series of technical advice notes, circulars and policy clarification letters. Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment contains detailed guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment during development plan preparation and decision making. It replaces Welsh Office Circulars: 60/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology, 61/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas and 1/98 Planning and the Historic Environment: Directions by the Secretary of State for Wales. The replacement of Welsh Office Circular 1/98 has required the making of three new directions (non- statutory):
- Conservation Areas (Disapplication of Requirement for Conservation Area Consent for Demolition) (Wales) Direction (2017 No. 27)
  - Listed Building Applications and Decisions (Duty to Notify National Amenity Societies and the Royal Commission (Wales) Direction (2017 No. 26)
  - Listed Building Consent Applications (Disapplication of Duty to Notify Welsh Ministers) (Wales) Direction (2017 No. 25)
- 6.4 Local Development Plans reflect national policies for the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment. Locally specific policies aim to identify opportunities for the conservation and enhancement of historic assets in the consideration of development proposals. Of relevance to the Proposed Project are:
- Gwynedd Unitary Development Plan 2001-2016 (Gwynedd Council, 2009); and
  - Eryri Local Development Plan end date 2022 (Snowdonia National Park Authority, 2011).

### Baseline Environment

- 6.5 An initial desk-top appraisal has been undertaken to identify the baseline archaeology and cultural heritage conditions, and to inform a recommended scope of further assessment. The desk-top appraisal is focused on heritage assets within the Area of Search for Permanent and Temporary Works; however, assets outside of this area are referred to where they may be relevant to the proposed assessment and/or provide archaeological and historical context.
- 6.6 Figure 6.1 illustrates the location of known archaeology and cultural heritage assets, which are also discussed in this section.

- 6.7 Assets prefixed with 'ME' are from the Cadw Scheduled Ancient Monument database, and those prefixed with 'GAT' or 'PRN' are from the Historic Environment Record which is maintained by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT).

### Designated Heritage Assets

#### Registered Landscapes

- 6.8 The south-east part of the Area of Search for Permanent and Temporary Works is within the Ardudwy Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, which lies within Snowdonia National Park, and is described in the Register of Outstanding Landscapes (Cadw, 1998) as follows:

*"a large and exceptionally archaeologically rich and well-studied landscape situated on the western flanks of the Rhinog Mountains, containing extensive relict evidence of recurrent land use and settlement from prehistoric to recent times".*

- 6.9 The western part of the Area of Search for Permanent and Temporary Works is within the Aberglaslyn Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, described in the Register (Ibid.) as follows:

*"a man-made landscape occupying a reclaimed river estuary situated in south Snowdonia, the whole conceived as one man's grand scheme, probably the most ambitious of its kind in 19th century Britain".*

#### Scheduled Monuments

- 6.10 There are no scheduled monuments within the Area of Search for Permanent and Temporary Works, however there are two within 1km of the Area of Search for Permanent and Temporary Works:
- The site of Cei Tyddyn is a quarry site located on the northern shore of the Dwyrdd (ME108) approximately 1km north.
  - The site of Ty'n y Berllan Settlement which is an enclosed prehistoric hut circle, approximately 350m north (ME096).

#### Listed Buildings

- 6.11 There are a number of Grade II listed buildings within the Area of Search for Permanent and Temporary Works. These include a milepost (83457) located along the A496 carriageway to the north of Llandecwyn, Pont Briwet over the Afon Dwyrdd, and a further three buildings located in the western section of the Area of Search including Nazareth Chapel. Minffordd Railway Station (26859) is the closest designated asset to the existing OHL within the western section and is located approximately 130m south of the existing OHL.

#### Registered Parks and Gardens and Conservation Areas

- 6.12 Portmeirion Registered Historic Park and Garden is located just outside the Area of Search for Permanent and Temporary Works to the south. In 1973 the whole of Portmeirion was given Grade II listed status and in 1993 the Portmeirion Estate was designated a Conservation Area by Gwynedd Council.

### Known Non-designated Heritage Assets

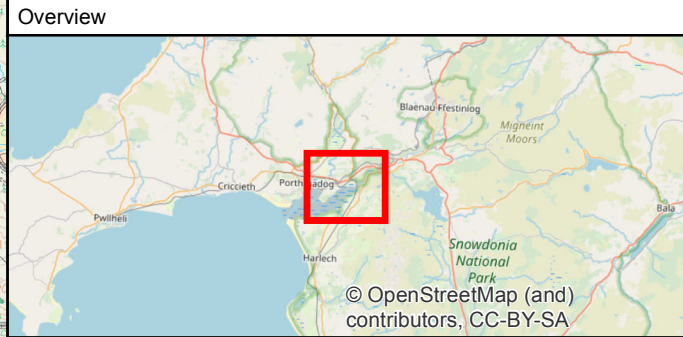
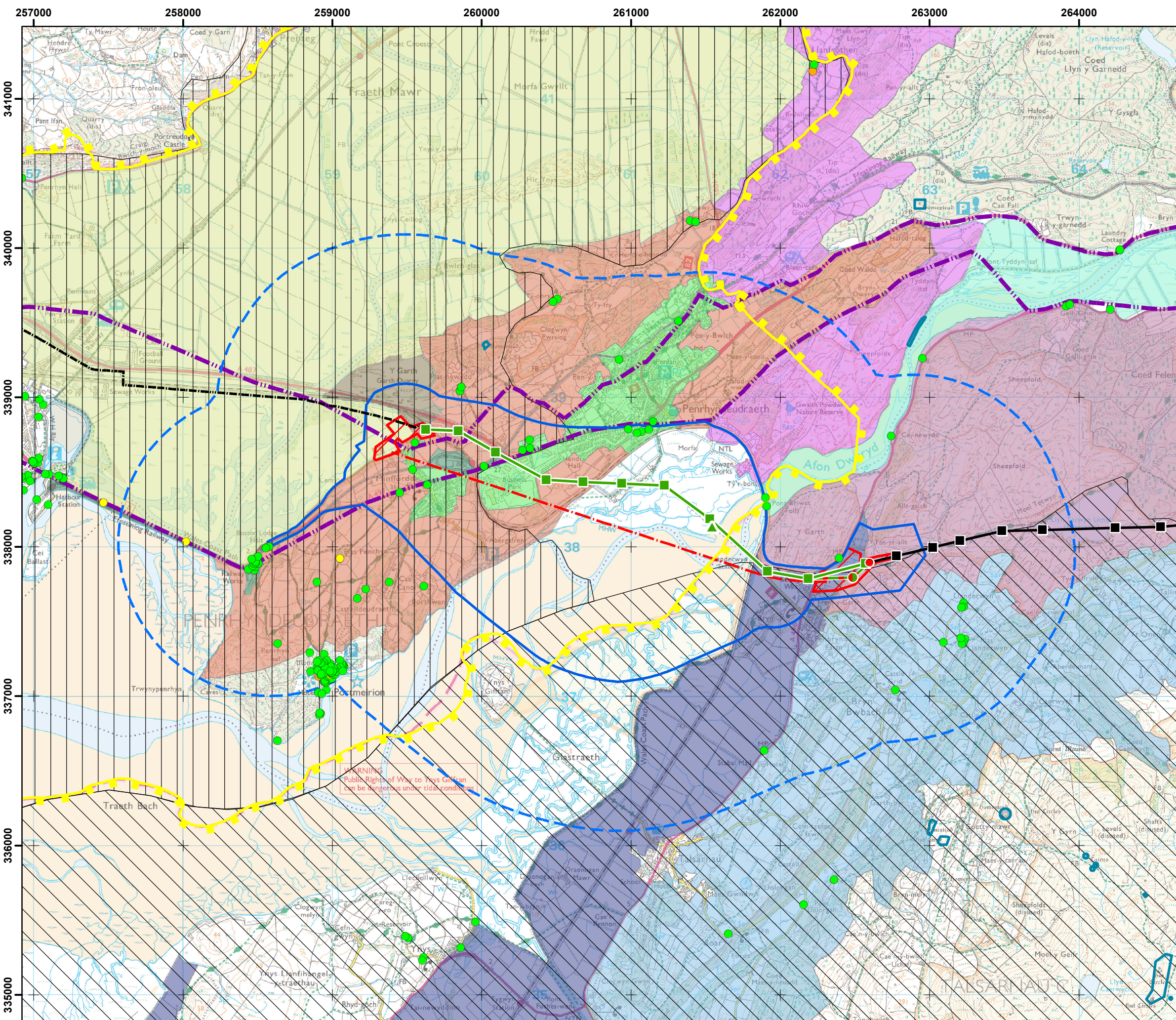
- 6.13 Non-designated heritage assets that are located in close proximity to the existing OHL include a channelled stream to the south of Bron Y Garth (GAT33921), Bron Turnor Quarry at

Minffordd (GAT20668), and the route of a turnpike road at Minffordd (GAT58447). Other non-designated assets located in and around Minffordd include assets relating to the post-medieval railway and include embankments (PRN 56763/56764) and a trackway (PRN 58445).

### Archaeological Potential

- 6.14 Mesolithic archaeology is limited in Wales, however a mixed farming economy is thought to have prevailed during the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods (Briggs 1985, Burgess 1980), taking advantage of tree clearance from the end of the 5th millennium BC (Savory 1980). The concentration of monuments and artefacts, such as leaf-shaped arrowheads and pottery suggests a strong preference for Anglesey, Pembrokeshire and the Glamorgan and Monmouthshire coasts in Wales (Lynch 2000). No prehistoric structures or features are recorded within the Area of Search for Permanent and Temporary Works, however there is a potential for previously undiscovered archaeology from all prehistoric periods to exist in the form of findspots or features.
- 6.15 In the post-medieval period the Dwyrdd Estuary and Traeth Bach became focal points for the shipment of slates brought from Ffestiniog. The slates were initially brought on pack mules and carts from Ffestiniog down to quays on the Afon Dwyrdd, where they were loaded onto small boats and taken to Ynys Cyngar and transferred to sea-going ships (Gwyn 2013). The earliest evidence for slate roofing material in the area is between 1575 and 1580, but this is likely to have been from small-scale quarries sporadically tapped for local needs (GAT 2010). There is the possibility that previously unrecorded findspots and features associated with the use of the estuary are present within the Area of Search for Permanent and Temporary Works.





**Legend**

- Area of Search for Permanent and Temporary Works
- 1km Study Area
- Proposed Sealing End Compound/ Tunnel Head House Search
- Temporary Overhead Line Diversion
- Existing National Grid Underground Cable
- Existing National Grid Overhead Line
- Existing National Grid Overhead Line to be Removed
- Proposed Tunnel
- Foundation of Former Pylon 42C030 to be Removed
- Existing National Grid Pylon to be Removed
- Existing National Grid Pylon to be Retained
- New National Grid Pylon
- New Temporary National Grid Pylon
- Scheduled Monument
- Roman Road
- Grade I Listed Building
- Grade II\* Listed Building
- Grade II Listed Building

**Historic Landscapes**

- Aberglaslyn
- Ardudwy
- Snowdonia National Park Boundary

**Registered Landscapes**

- COED FELINRHYD & MOEL TECWYN
- DWYRYD VALLEY FLOOR
- FFESTINIOG RAILWAY
- GLASLYN ESTUARY
- INTERMEDIATE SLOPES OF THE MOELWYN RANGE
- MINFFORDD QUARRY
- MORFA HARLECH - FIELDSCAPE
- PENRHYN-GARTH
- PENRHYNDEUDRAETH
- WOODED VALLEYS AROUND BRYN BWBACH

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**Figure 6.1:  
Location of Heritage Assets**

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## Potential Impacts

### Direct Effects

- 6.16 The Proposed Project has the potential to result in direct (physical) permanent impacts to buried archaeological and cultural heritage remains/ deposits (the construction footprint of the SEC near Cilfor, the foundations of new/ replacement pylons, Tunnel Head Houses, access tracks and laydown areas which will require topsoil removal). Direct impacts to archaeological remains are unlikely in areas of existing/previous development due to the extent of ground disturbance (existing pylons to be removed), or within identified areas of made ground (such as the made ground at Garth SEC) where there is no archaeological potential.

### Setting Effects

- 6.17 The removal of the existing OHL will result in permanent beneficial setting effects for many designated and non-designated heritage assets and historic landscapes within and beyond the Area of Search for Permanent and Temporary Works.
- 6.18 New permanent above-ground infrastructure associated with the Proposed Project comprises a SEC near Cilfor, terminal pylon, two tunnel head houses (one at Garth, another at Cilfor) and permanent access. The construction and operation of these elements of the Proposed Project may result in adverse effects on the setting of heritage assets. The highest densities of listed buildings are concentrated around areas of existing settlement. It is considered that the majority of these designated heritage assets are unlikely to be adversely affected by permanent above-ground infrastructure of the Proposed Project due to the distance of separation.

## Proposed Assessment Methodology

- 6.19 Baseline reporting, site walkover survey and setting assessment will be undertaken in line with relevant legislation and national and local planning policy and guidance, and in accordance with the published Standards and Guidance and Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), Cadw and, in the absence of specific guidance for Wales for the assessment of setting, relevant good practice advice published by Historic England.
- 6.20 Key guidance comprises:
- Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales (Cadw, 2011).
  - Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment (CIfA, 2014); and
  - Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (Cadw, 2017).
- 6.21 During the preparation of the baseline report, consultation will be undertaken with Cadw, Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service and the Archaeologist for Snowdonia National Park Authority.

### Baseline Reporting

- 6.22 An archaeology and cultural heritage baseline report will be produced which will identify all known heritage assets within a defined Study Area, and describe the significance of the assets, including the contribution made by their setting.

- 6.23 The baseline Study Area for the assessment of potential direct (physical) effects will comprise a 500m buffer around the Area of Search for Permanent and Temporary Works. The Study Area for the assessment of potential setting effects will be set provisionally at 1km from any of the Proposed Project's permanent above-ground infrastructure; this will be refined following a site visit and with reference to a generated zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) (see Section 4 'Landscape and Visual' of this Screening and Scoping Report).
- 6.24 The following sources will be consulted during the preparation of the archaeology and cultural heritage baseline report (the list is not exhaustive):
- Cadw for information relating to scheduled monuments, listed buildings, historic landscapes included within the non-statutory Registers of Landscapes of Outstanding or Special Historic Interest in Wales, and Registered Parks and Gardens included on the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales;
  - Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales – National Monuments Record;
  - Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record;
  - Information held by Snowdonia National Park Authority;
  - Central Register of Air Photographs for Wales, plus available LiDAR;
  - Grey literature, including local histories, existing archaeological assessment and fieldwork reports.
- 6.25 A walkover survey will aim to identify any visible and previously unrecorded heritage assets, areas of potential archaeological interest, and areas of previous ground disturbance in order to inform the Proposed Project design. The walkover survey will entail a systematic walkover of the proposed land-take/areas of impact from the Proposed Project. Sites of potential archaeological interest will be plotted using a GPS, and a photographic and a written record of the walkover survey will be maintained.
- 6.26 The setting assessment will entail site visits to heritage assets in order to identify components of their setting that contribute to their heritage significance, including the extent of associative relationships and intervisibility with other assets.
- 6.27 Guidance for the Assessment of the Significance of Development on Historic Landscapes (ASIDOHL2) published by Cadw (2007) states that assessment is to gauge negative impacts. It is considered that the overall net effect of the Proposed Project on historic landscape(s) will be positive and therefore a full ASIDOHL2 assessment is not proposed.

## Impact Assessment

### Asset Significance/Sensitivity

- 6.28 The significance of heritage assets is derived from their potential to contribute to our understanding of past human activity guided by local, regional and national research priorities. The significance of heritage assets is guided by Planning Policy Wales, Chapter 6 and guidance published by Cadw (2011) which provides criteria for assessing the significance of historic assets, and defines significance as follows:
- 'the sum of the cultural heritage values which are aesthetic, communal, evidential and historical'.*
- 6.29 The relative sensitivity of identified heritage assets will be determined to provide a framework for comparison between different sites. The categories of importance do not reflect a definitive level of importance or value of a site, but a provisional one based on a range of factors including a site's significance, current status, period, rarity, available documentation, its survival, condition, and potential. When combined, these factors offer representations of the sensitivity of a given resource and provide an analytical tool that can inform later stages

of archaeological assessment and the development of appropriate mitigation in accordance with the four-point scale as set out in Table 6.1.

**Table 6.1 Criteria for determining heritage sensitivity**

Sensitivity	Criteria
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assets of inscribed international importance i.e. World Heritage Sites;</li> <li>• Grade I and II* listed buildings;</li> <li>• Grade I and II* Registered Historic Parks and Gardens;</li> <li>• Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest;</li> <li>• Registered Battlefields;</li> <li>• Scheduled Monuments;</li> <li>• Conservation Areas containing historic buildings of the highest significance;</li> <li>• Non-designated archaeological assets of schedulable quality and importance;</li> <li>• Well preserved historic landscapes, exhibiting considerable coherence, time-depth or other critical factor(s).</li> </ul>
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade II listed buildings;</li> <li>• Grade II Registered Historic Parks and Gardens;</li> <li>• Landscapes of Special Historic Interest;</li> <li>• Conservation Areas;</li> <li>• Non-designated heritage assets of a regional resource value as identified through consultation;</li> <li>• Non-designated historic landscapes with reasonable coherence, time-depth or other critical factor that would justify special historic landscape designation, landscapes of regional value.</li> </ul>
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-designated heritage assets of a local resource value as identified through consultation;</li> <li>• Historic landscapes of importance to local interest groups or whose value is limited by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations.</li> </ul>
Very low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-designated heritage assets of limited resource value or whose heritage values are compromised by poor preservation or damaged so that too little remains to justify inclusion into a higher grade;</li> <li>• Landscapes with little or no significant historical interest.</li> </ul>

### Magnitude of Impact

- 6.30 Following the assessment of sensitivity, magnitude of likely impact of the Proposed Project is assessed, which reflects the level of change that may occur to a heritage asset, including its setting in accordance with the five-point scale as set out in Table 6.2. Impacts may arise during construction, operation and decommissioning and may be temporary or permanent.

**Table 6.2 Criteria for assessing the magnitude of impact**

<b>Magnitude of Impact</b>	<b>Description</b>
High	Change such that key heritage values are totally altered or destroyed. Comprehensive change to setting resulting in a serious loss to heritage value affecting our ability to understand and appreciate the asset.
Medium	Change such that the heritage values of the asset are affected. Noticeably different change to setting affecting heritage value, resulting in erosion in our ability to understand and appreciate the asset.
Low	Change such that the heritage values of the asset are slightly affected. Slight change to setting affecting heritage value resulting in a change in our ability to understand and appreciate the asset.
Very Low	Changes to the asset that hardly affect heritage values. Minimal change to the setting of an asset that have little effect on heritage value resulting in no real change in our ability to understand and appreciate the asset.
No Impact	No change to the heritage asset or its setting

### Significance of Effect

- 6.31 Significance of effect is determined by combining the sensitivity of the heritage asset and the magnitude of impact, using the matrix in Table 6.3. This takes into account embedded mitigation measures that have been incorporated into the Proposed Project as part of the design process in order to reduce potentially significant effects.

**Table 6.3 Criteria for determining the significance of effect**

<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Impact</b>			
	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Very Low</b>
<b>High</b>	Major	Major	Moderate	Minor
<b>Medium</b>	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
<b>Low</b>	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Negligible
<b>Very Low</b>	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

- 6.32 For the purposes of the Proposed Projects, moderate and major effects will be considered to be significant and may warrant changes in order to reduce the significance of effect by design. All identified impacts to archaeological and cultural heritage resources would require appropriate mitigation measures to be implemented where achievable. Potential mitigation options are discussed below.

### Residual Effects

- 6.33 Additional mitigation can be used to avoid, reduce, compensate or, where appropriate, offset significant effects. Measures to mitigate impacts to heritage assets would normally consist of preservation in situ where possible, or where this is not feasible or appropriate, investigation and recording before and/or during construction. Re-assessing the level of effect following the implementation of a suitable mitigation strategy allows the residual effect of the Proposed Project to be determined (refer to Table 6.4).



**Table 6.4 Level of residual effect after mitigation**

<b>Residual effect</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Major Adverse	Negative residual effect that would be an important consideration at a national level.
Moderate Adverse	Negative residual effect that would be an important consideration at a regional or county level.
Minor Adverse	Negative residual effect that would be a relevant consideration in a local context.
Negligible	Residual effect that is nil or imperceptible.
Minor Beneficial	Positive residual effect that would be a relevant consideration in a local context.
Moderate Beneficial	Positive residual effect that would be an important consideration at a regional or county level.
Major Beneficial	Positive residual effect that would be an important consideration at a national level.

### Cumulative Effects

- 6.34 Cumulative effects, which can arise where the construction or operation of a development may increase the impact arising from the Proposed Project, will also be assessed.

### Mitigation Measures

- 6.35 Mitigation measures will be proposed if the impact assessment process identifies likely significant adverse effects arising from the Proposed Project.
- 6.36 Mitigation measures to avoid or reduce adverse impacts can be embedded within the design.
- 6.37 Avoidance of impact is the primary aim; however, if an impact is unavoidable, a programme of archaeological recording and reporting would be designed in consultation with Cadw, Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service and the Archaeologist for Snowdonia National Park Authority, and carried out in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation.

### Issues to be Scoped Out

- 6.38 Other than a full ASIDOHL2 assessment, no archaeological or cultural heritage assessments are proposed to be scoped out.

### Overview of the Likely Significance of Effect

- 6.39 From the information received to date, it is not anticipated that there will be any significant effects on known archaeology and heritage receptors.