

Prosiect Maen Hir Anglesey

*Written Scheme of Investigation for a
Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment*



Report prepared for:
Lightsource Renewable UK
Development Ltd

CA Project: CR1327

CA Report: CR1327_1

October 2023



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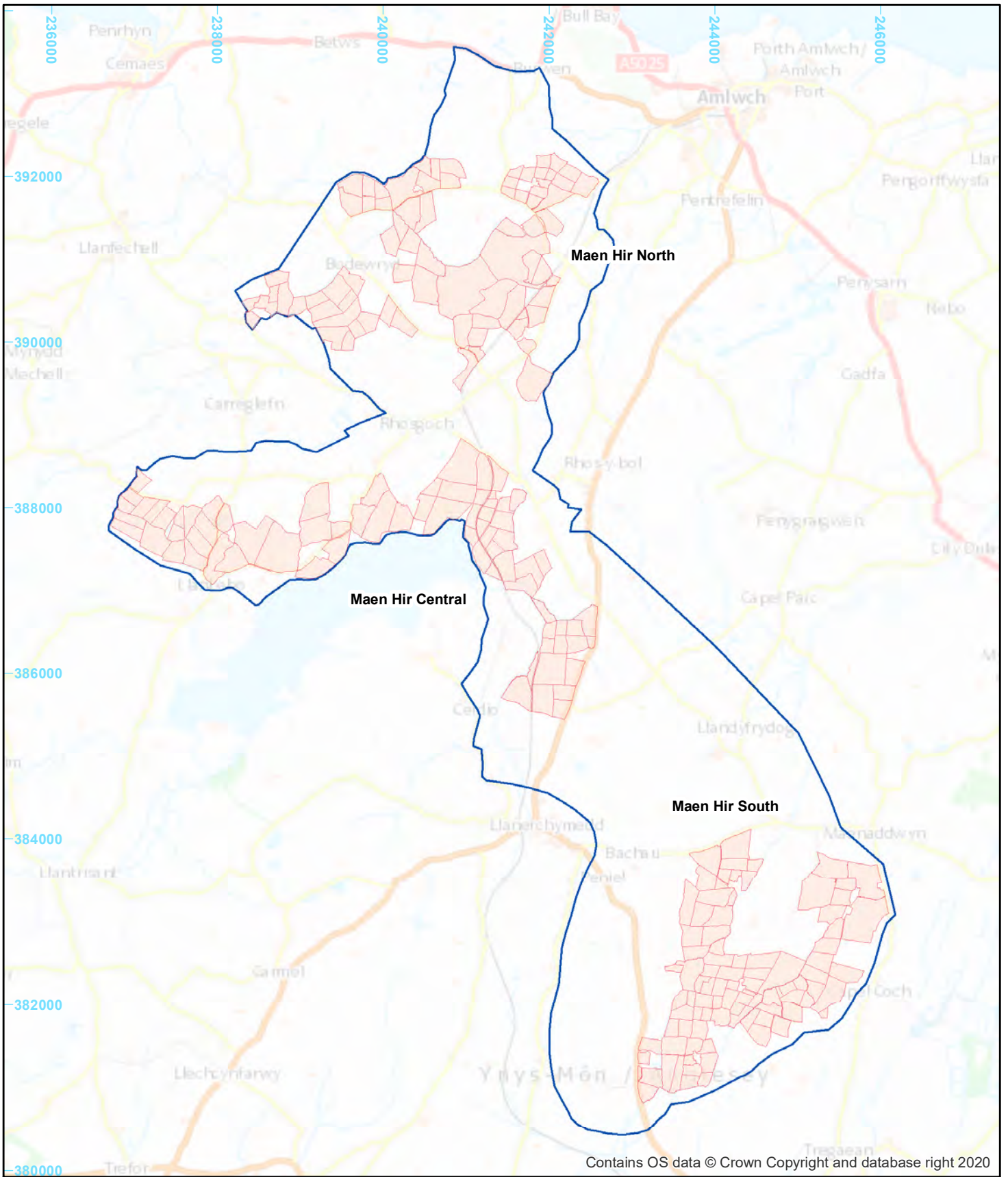
prepared by	Jon Sanigar, Heritage Consultant
date	October 2023
approved by	Julia Sulikowska, Principal Heritage Consultant
signed	
date	October 2023

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Site Boundary

Scoping Boundary

N

0

 2 km

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Milton Keynes	01908 564660
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PROJECT TITLE

**Maen Hir Solar Farm
Anglesey**

FIGURE TITLE

Site Location Plan

DRAWN BY	JXS	PROJECT NO.	CR1327	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	JS	DATE	31/10/2023	
APPROVED BY	JS	SCALE @ A4	1:62,500	1

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared in September 2023 by Cotswold Archaeology, a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. It sets out a scope and methodology for a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment of land between Amlwch and Llyn Alaw, and land to the east and south of Llyn Alaw (NGR: 240923 388564; Fig. 1). An application for a Development Consent Order is to be submitted for the construction of a solar farm within the Site, consisting of solar panel arrays, accesses, temporary construction compounds, mitigation areas, project substation and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (Fig. 1: site boundary), with the high voltage cable route, grid connection corridor, construction access and further mitigation and enhancement areas to be located within a wider search area (Fig. 1: scoping boundary). The WSI has been commissioned by Lightsource Renewable UK Development Ltd.
- 1.2. This WSI has been guided in its composition by the ‘Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment’ (ClfA 2020a), Planning Policy Wales (Welsh Government 2021), Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (Welsh Government 2017), and the *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)* (WAT 2022). The desk-based assessment will be subject to the approval of the WSI by the Planning Archaeologist at Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, to seek agreement on the scope and methodology of the project, prior to undertaking the assessment. Upon completion a copy of the desk-based assessment will be sent to Gwynedd Archaeological Trust and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) for deposition.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Site is proposed for the development of a solar farm, accompanying substations and BESS on land around Amlwch and Llyn Alaw on the Isle of Anglesey in north Wales.
- 2.2. Ynys Môn, as Anglesey is known in Welsh, is the largest of the Welsh islands, covering some 720 square kilometres. The main towns on the island are Llangefni, Holyhead, Amlwch, Benllech, Menai Bridge and Llanfair, with the study area lying to the south and south-west of Amlwch. Amlwch is a historic port town which grew in the 18th century with the nearby Parys Mountain Coppermine, then later was known

for ship building, brewing, and tobacco manufacturing. Other than the small towns and villages, houses and buildings are scattered across the landscape, often associated with farming. There are a number of rural settlements surrounding the study area including the linear settlement of Rhos-y-bol. The nearest significant settlement, lying to the south of Llyn Alaw is the village of Llannerch-y-medd (population of 1,360).

Study area

- 2.3. An appropriate 'study area' will be utilised for the stepped assessment of settings and understanding the archaeological potential. Initial examination of the locale indicates that a 1km 'buffer' study area around the development area is likely to be appropriate for understanding the archaeological potential of the Site, and a 2km study area for the consideration of potential effects upon the 'setting' of historic assets. However, the site visit(s) and the developing understanding of historic significance and the scale of development may influence the final study area.

Designated historic assets

- 2.4. There are no Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields or World Heritage Sites within the Site.
- 2.5. Within a 2km study area there are a total of:
- 78 Listed Buildings, comprising 15 Grade II* Listed Buildings and 63 Grade II Listed Buildings. These Listed Buildings comprise medieval churches to 19th/20th century structures;
 - 17 Scheduled Monuments, comprising prehistoric standing stones and enclosures and round barrows, and the 18th/19th century Parys Mountain open quarry with associated structures;
 - Two Conservation Areas Amlwch Central c.1.5km to the north-west of the Site and Llanfechell c.1.4km to the east; and,
 - The Registered Historic Landscape of Amlwch and Parys Mountain c.1km to the east of the Site.
- 2.6. The nearest Registered Parks and Gardens to the Site are:
- The Grade II Listed Cestyll, a parkland created in the 1920s located c.4.7km to the west of the Site; and,

-
- The Grade II* Listed Carreglwyd, an 18th century parkland located c.5.5km to the west of the Site.

Archaeological potential

2.7. The Site is situated over three main parcels: an area near Rhosgoch and Bodewryd ('Maen Hir North'), to the south-east and north of Llanerch-y-medd ('Maen Hir South'), and around the periphery of Llyn Alaw ('Maen Hir Central') (Fig. 1). Along with a rapid review of known archaeological remains within the Site and a 1km study area from freely available online heritage databases, including Coflein and Archwilio, the character and archaeological potential of the areas the Site covers are summarised below.

Maen Hir North

2.8. There appears to be a strong connection with prehistoric activity within the Maen Hir North area, in particular Bronze Age features, including metal working sites and mortuary features comprising a barrow and a cist. The later historic evidence suggests that there was a medieval settlement within the area's environs and the Site boundary. There is a medieval mill also recorded within this area which may bear relation to the medieval settlement.

Maen Hir Central

2.9. The Maen Hir Central area has a high percentage of archaeological features from the preliminary research. These assets include Bronze Age mortuary features and monuments with potential for older prehistoric remains, which come in the form of a potential Mesolithic flint scatter. The majority of features in the landscape may relate to later prehistoric or Romano-British activity. There are numerous enclosures, noted from excavations, and aerial photography and geophysical surveys, which have recorded four enclosures within the Site's boundary, and a further three noted in proximity too. The later medieval and post-medieval evidence relates to quarrying and agricultural activity, including mills.

Maen Hir South

2.10. The Maen Hir South area contains later prehistoric assets comprising remains of roundhouses, and a circular ditched enclosure is also noted within the study area which may relate to later prehistoric or Romano-British activity. This area of the Site contains a section of Roman Road, which most likely will have associated sites adjacent to it. There are other later trackways identified within the area and linear

features which could relate to field boundaries, enclosures or even further trackways all of which have an unknown provenance.

3. OBJECTIVES

3.1. The assessment will assess the known and potential historic assets within the Site, their survival and significance. The objectives of the desk-based assessment will be:

- to identify designated historic constraints within the Site and study area;
- to gather information on non-designated recorded historic assets through desk-based research, and through available archaeological survey information;
- to assess the above baseline information, and offer an analysis of the potential for currently unrecorded historic assets within the Site;
- to assess, as far as possible, the likely depth and extent of any below-ground archaeological deposits within the Site; and
- to assess the value of the historic assets affected by the proposed development and, where possible, the impact of the proposed development upon the value of these assets, including the setting of designated historic assets.

4. METHODOLOGY

Key heritage policy and guidance

4.1. The content, aims and method set out in this WSI have been guided by the following key documents:

- Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016;
- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979);
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990);
- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) 2011 (Section 5.8 Historic environment);
- Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) 2023 (Section 5.9 Historic environment);
- Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-3) 2023 (Section 3.10 on solar photovoltaic generation, with paragraphs 3.10.98-3.10.110 relating to cultural heritage);
- Planning Policy Wales (Welsh Government Edition 11, 2021);

- Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (Welsh Government 2017);
- Hedgerows Regulations (1997);
- Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan 2011 – 2026 (2017);
- Conservation Principles (Cadw 2011);
- Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (ClfA 2020a);
- Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (Cadw 2017a);
- Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales (Cadw 2017b);
- Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment in the UK (IEMA, IHBC, ClfA 2021);
- Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales; and
- The ‘Guidance for the Submission of data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records’ produced by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts (2022).

Desk-Based Assessment

4.2. The desk-based research and sources will be based upon the *Standard and Guidance for historic environment assessments* produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA 2020a). Cotswold Archaeology is a Registered Organisation with the ClfA, and the project will be managed and technically coordinated by a Member of the Institute.

4.3. The archaeological assessment will utilise a minimum study area of 1km around the boundary of the proposed Site. Data will be collated from published and archive sources of archaeological, historical, geographical, topographical, and environmental information relevant to the area of the development using the following sources:

- Cadw and RCAHMW for details of designated historic assets, e.g., Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Registered Historic Landscapes and non-designated historic assets. Conservation Area appraisals are available online through via the Ynys Mon/Isle of Anglesey County Council website;
- The Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record (HER) for details of previously completed archaeological works in the vicinity and recorded historic assets;
- Aerial photographs curated by the Central Register of Aerial Photographs for Wales;

- The Archifau Ynys Môn/Anglesey Archives and mapping from online sources, for documentary sources and historic mapping of relevance to the historical development of the Site and its surroundings;
- Remote sensing resources, i.e., LiDAR (provided by Natural Resources Wales);
- Information regarding findspots from the Portable Antiquities Scheme;
- Grey literature of relevant previous archaeological investigation;
- Relevant national and local planning policy documentation; and
- A walkover survey of the proposed Site and its environs to assess and document any extant evidence of historic assets, any evidence of previous disturbance within the area of the Site and the setting of historic assets.

Value of historic assets

- 4.4. The value of historic assets is best defined by the Cadw guidance, *Conservation Principles* (2011), which describes value as a combination of evidential value; historical value; aesthetic value; and communal value.
- 4.5. Evidential value derives from those elements of a historic asset that can provide evidence about past human activity, including its physical remains or historic fabric.
- 4.6. Historical value may derive from particular aspects of past ways of life, or association with notable families, persons, events or movements – it embodies the connection between past events and society with the present.
- 4.7. Aesthetic value derives from the sensory and intellectual stimulation drawn from a historic asset. It may include its physical form, and how it lies within its setting. It may also be the result of design, or an unplanned outcome of a process of events.
- 4.8. Communal value derives from the meanings that a historic asset has for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory. It may be commemorative or symbolic and relate to issues of identity or collective memory.

The setting of historic assets

- 4.9. The assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the approach outlined in Cadw's 'Setting of Historic Assets in Wales' (2017). This publication provides guidance on setting and development management, including the assessment of the implications of proposed development. It reiterates that 'the setting of a historic asset is the surroundings in which a historic asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and

may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral'. In accordance with the guidance, the extent of the setting of a historic asset is not fixed and can evolve periodically.

- 4.10. All historic assets have a setting, and features of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to significance and may affect the appreciation of the asset. They can remain neutral. The extent and importance of setting is often expressed by reference to visual considerations but can also comprise other elements which contribute to the ways in which a historic asset is experienced, including factors such as noise, vibrations, dust, or other pollutants; spatial associations; the rarity of comparable survivals of setting, and associative relationships between historic assets.
- 4.11. The Site is located within the vicinity of the Registered Historic Landscape of Amlwch and Parys Mountain, which is situated c.1km to the east of Maen Hir North. It is proposed that ASIDOHL 2 Assessment (Cadw *et al.* 2007) will not be undertaken, but rather the effects of change within the setting of the Registered Historic Landscape will be assessed as part of the settings assessment.

5. STAFF AND TIMETABLE

- 5.1. This project will be under the management of Robert Sutton and Julia Sulikowska, Cotswold Archaeology. The assessment will be undertaken, and the subsequent report produced by Jon Sanigar. The desk-based assessment is anticipated in late 2023.

6. ANALYSIS AND REPORTING

- 6.1. The information collated will initially be assembled into a workable database. The assessment report will begin the title of the report being in both English and Welsh, along with a non-technical summary both in English and Welsh, in accordance with Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (WAT 2022), outlining in plain language the principal reasons for the work, its aims and main results. The introduction will then set out the circumstances leading to the commission of the report, any restrictions on reporting or access to relevant records, size, surface geology and topography of the study area. Any variation from the

methodologies set out in this project specification will be detailed and explained within the methodology section of the report.

- 6.2. The report will set out the information base regarding the assessment objectives, as set out in Section 3 above. The known and potential historic assets will be outlined clearly and objectively in relation to the methods used, organised by archaeological period or type, and with reference to, or inclusion of, supporting evidence. The results will be interpreted and put into context in terms of significance. A comprehensive list of sources consulted, with full bibliographic details, will be provided at the back of the report. Summaries will be included of any new identified assets during the course of the assessment, in accordance with Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (WAT 2022).
- 6.3. The assessment will be supported with illustrative material, including at least one figure showing known or potential historic assets within or affecting the proposed scheme. Where possible, areas of greater or lesser potential will be defined and the effects of previous construction, industrial and other intrusive activity taken into account.

Detailed Scope of Report Contents

- 6.4. The report will contain the following information:
- Data exemption form
 - Bilingual non-technical summary
 - Introduction
 - Planning background, including aims and objectives
 - Description of proposed development
 - Methodology
 - Site topography and geology
 - Archaeological and historic background and context (including information from cartographic and aerial photographic sources, and the Site inspection)
 - Assessment of effects (physical and non-physical)
 - Preliminary recommendations for work
 - Conclusions
 - References and bibliography

Archive deposition

- 6.5. The final archive (Site and research) will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution, usually the relevant Local Authority museums service. Arrangements will be made with the receiving institution before work starts. A digital copy of the archive will also be sent to the RCAHMW following the guidance set out in the '*RCAHMW Guidelines for Digital Archives*' (2015).
- 6.6. Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER. A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust. This will be in line with the guidance published by National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales (NPAAW), '*National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales*' (2017).

New historic assets and archaeological events

- 6.7. Prior to depositing the archive, summaries of newly identified historic assets will require summaries in both English and Welsh, set out in Section 4.1 of the *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records* (WAT 2022). The requirements for the summaries are below.
- 6.8. Any historic assets that were newly identified during the course of the assessment will have a summary provided, in both English and Welsh, which will be incorporated into a new asset form (located in Section 4.4 of the *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records* (WAT 2022) and submitted with the report. The summary will address these key points:
- Type of period of the asset
 - Location of the asset
 - Nature of the discovery
 - Method and material of construction
 - Reference to any known associated assets or artefacts
 - Possible interpretations
 - Significant features or associations and their size and shape
- 6.9. Shapefiles of the Site boundary, study area, and any new historic assets will be submitted to the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record, in accordance with requirements set out in Sections 4.4, 4.6, and 4.7 of the *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records* (WAT 2022).

Photographs

- 6.10. Photographs used within the assessment report will be provided to the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust as separate files, including a photograph register containing metadata as set out in Section 4.5 of the *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records* (WAT 2022).

7. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 7.1. CA will conduct all works in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and all subsequent Health and Safety legislation, and CA Health, Safety and Welfare Policy (2010).

8. INSURANCES

- 8.1. CA holds Public Liability Insurance to a limit of £15,000,000 and Professional Indemnity Insurance to a limit of £10,000,000.

9. QUALITY ASSURANCE

- 9.1. CA is a Registered Organisation (RO) with the Institute for Archaeologists (RO Ref. No. 8). As a RO, CA endorses the Code of Conduct (ClfA 2019) and adheres to the Standard and Guidance for Commissioning Work or Providing Consultancy Advice on Archaeology and the Historic Environment (2020b). All CA Project Managers and Project Officers hold either full Member or Associate status within the ClfA.
- 9.2. CA operates an internal quality assurance system in the following manner. Projects are overseen by a Project Manager who is responsible for the quality of the project. The Project Manager reports to the Chief Executive who bears ultimate responsibility for the conduct of all CA operations. Matters of policy and corporate strategy are determined by the Board of Directors, and in cases of dispute recourse may be made to the Chairman of the Board.

10. REFERENCES

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 Act of UK Parliament

Cadw, Welsh Assembly Government and Countryside Council for Wales 2007 *Guide to Good Practice on Using the Register of Landscape of Historic Interest in Wales in the Planning and Development Process. Revised (2nd) Edition Including Revisions to the Assessment Process (ASIDOHL2)*

Cadw 2011 *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales*

Cadw 2017a *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales*

Cadw 2017b *Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020a *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment.*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020b *Standard and Guidance for Commissioning Work or Providing Consultancy Advice on Archaeology and the Historic Environment*

IEMA, IHBC, CIfA 2021: *Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment in the UK*

National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017 *National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales*

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Act of UK Parliament

RCAHMW 2015 *RCAHMW Guidelines for Digital Archives*

Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales
<https://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/intro.html>

Welsh Archaeological Trusts 2022 *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)*

Welsh Government 2017 *Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment*

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