

9 STANLEY STREET, HOLYHEAD  
WATCHING BRIEF

REPORT NO. 144

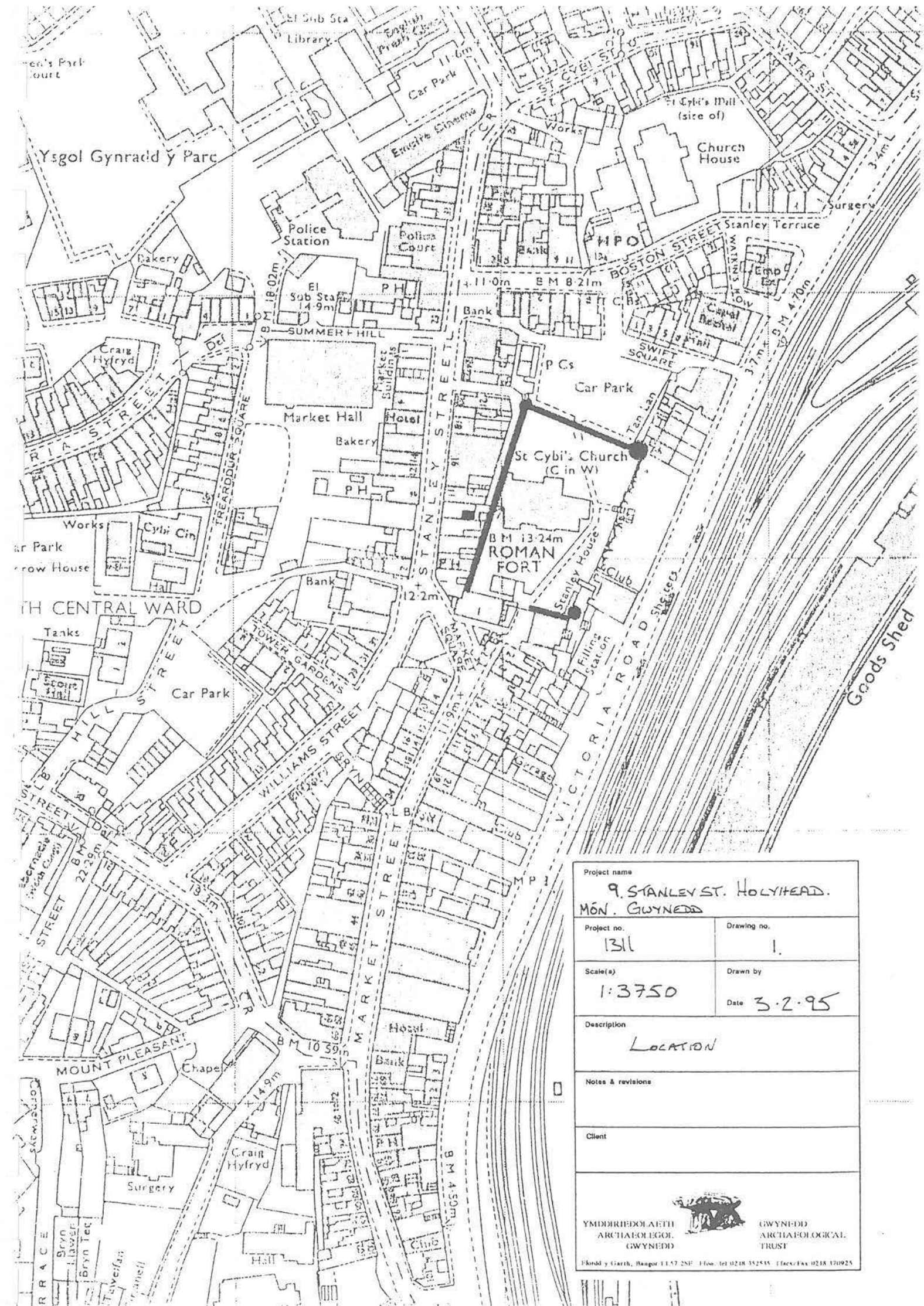
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd  
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust


# 9 STANLEY STREET, HOLYHEAD WATCHING BRIEF (G1311)

prepared for  
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**Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Report No. 144**



Project name <b>9, STANLEY ST. HOLYHEAD. MÔN. GWYNEDD</b>	
Project no. <b>1311</b>	Drawing no. <b>1.</b>
Scale(s) <b>1:3750</b>	Drawn by <b>3.2.95</b>
Description <b>LOCATION</b>	
Notes & revisions	
Client	
 <b>YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL GWYNEDD</b> <b>GWYNEDD ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST</b>	
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## **WATCHING BRIEF AT 9 STANLEY STREET, HOLYHEAD (G1311)**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

A planning application was made to Ynys Mon Borough Council to construct an extension to the present offices at 9 Stanley Street, Holyhead. The archaeological advisor to the local planning authority indicated that, in consideration of the proximity of the proposed development to the Roman fort, it was possible that important archaeological remains would be disturbed. A condition was attached to the grant of planning permission by Ynys Mon Borough Council requiring an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during ground disturbance. A brief (Ref. D214) outlining the requirements of the watching brief was supplied to the applicant by the archaeological advisor.

Subsequently, the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Contracts Section was commissioned to carry out the required archaeological works.

### **2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

The present extension comprises a small area measuring some 7 m by 3 m to the rear of existing offices fronting Stanley Street. This site is located approximately 10 m from the west wall of the 3rd century Roman fort known as Caer Gybi. Excavations on the north side of the fort by W E Griffiths in 1952 produced evidence of further walls surviving in the area beyond the main defensive wall itself. This suggests that there was extra-mural building and activity on at least one side of the fort and it is possible that similar remains may survive elsewhere around the fort.

In addition, the church of St Cybi lies within the fort enclosure located against the west wall. The church may have been founded as early as the 6th century, and other associated monastic buildings could be expected to have existed outside of the main fort walls.

### **3. THE WATCHING BRIEF**

The development was monitored by one member of GAT staff during two site visits: January 24 and 25 1995. On the first visit, the initial hand-digging by the contractor of the south foundation trench was observed, whilst on the second visit the remaining open trenches were inspected.

The trenches were excavated to just over 1 m in depth. The lowest deposit consisted of a brown clay. This was overlain by a single layer of black humic soil containing random stones varying in size from 10 to 20 cm. Two redundant gas pipelines and one sewer pipe were observed within the trenches.

### **4. INTERPRETATION**

The lowest layer of brown clay would appear to represent the natural geology. The depth at which it was struck (1 m) accords with the evidence of the earlier 1952 excavations. The overlying black humic 'soil' deposit contained no finds earlier than the 19th century and would appear to represent late dumping to make up the present ground level.

It would seem then, that there is no evidence for activity before the 19th century in the area sampled by the contractor's trenches.

## SOURCES

Griffiths W E (1954), Excavations at Caer Gybi; *Archaeologia Cambrensis*  
Jarrett M G (ed) (1969), *The Roman Frontier in Wales*  
RCAHMW (1937), *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments of Anglesey*