

# Land at Ty Mawr, Holyhead

## Archaeological Assessment



Report No. 389

Prepared for



By  
Jane Kenney

November 2000

**Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd**  
**Gwynedd Archaeological Trust**

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## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

The Welsh Development Agency commissioned a study on land at Ty Mawr, Holyhead, in preparation for outline planning permission for the development of the site. Gwynedd Archaeological Trust were asked by Symonds Group to carry out an archaeological assessment. The study area covers some 140 hectares of land adjacent to the line of the new A55 Trunk Road. The northern end of the study area is at SH 2510 8125, and the southern end is at SH 2580 7960. The land is owned by Anglesey Aluminium Metals Limited. The presence of a number of prehistoric sites in the area suggests the potential for discovering additional remains is high.

### **2 SPECIFICATION AND PROJECT DESIGN**

The basic requirement was for a desktop survey and field search of the proposed area, in order to assess the impact of the proposals on the archaeological features within the area concerned. The importance and condition of known archaeological remains were to be assessed, and areas of archaeological potential and new sites to be identified. Measures to mitigate the effects of any future development on the archaeological resource were to be suggested.

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust's proposals for fulfilling these requirements were, briefly, as follows:

- a) *to identify and record the cultural heritage of the area to be affected;*
- b) *to evaluate the importance of what was identified (both as a cultural landscape and as the individual items which make up that landscape); and*
- c) *to recommend ways in which damage to the cultural heritage can be avoided or minimised.*

A full archaeological assessment usually comprises 6 phases:

- 1) *Desk-top study*
- 2) *Field Search*
- 3) *Interim Draft Report*
- 4) *Detailed Field Evaluation*
- 5) *Final Draft Report*
- 6) *Final Report*

This assessment has covered the work required under 1, 2 and 3, and recommendations will be made for any field evaluation required in phase 4.

## **3 METHODS AND TECHNIQUES**

### **3.1 Desk-top Study**

This involved consultation of maps, computer records, written records and reference works, which make up the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), located at Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Bangor. The archives held by the Anglesey County Record Office were also consulted. Aerial photographs were examined at the office of the Countryside Council for Wales, Bangor. Information about Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments was obtained from Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments.

### **3.2 Field Search**

This was undertaken between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October 2000, when the proposed development area was inspected by an archaeologist to note the present state of the site, and to identify any archaeological features visible as earthworks. Over most of the area conditions were good for fieldwork, with many of the fields being covered in short grass. However, some areas had long grass, which obscured earthworks, and other areas were completely inaccessible due to the density of the vegetation.

Features identified were marked on copies of the 1:10,000 OS map, as accurately as possible without surveying. Each feature was described and assessed. Detail notes, sketch plans and photographs were made of the more important features.

### **3.3 Report**

All available information was collated, and the features were then assessed and allocated to the categories listed below. These are intended to give an idea of the importance of the feature and the level of response likely to be required; descriptions of the features and specific recommendations for further assessment or mitigatory measures, as appropriate, are given in the relevant sections of this report.

The criteria used for allocating features to categories are based on those used by the Secretary of State when considering ancient monuments for scheduling; these are set out in the Welsh Office Circular 60/96.

#### **3.3.1 Categories**

The following categories were used to define the importance of the archaeological resource.

##### *Category A - Sites of National Importance.*

This category includes Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings as well as those sites that would meet the requirements for scheduling (ancient monuments) or listing (buildings) or both.

Sites that are scheduled or listed have legal protection, and it is recommended that all Category A sites remain preserved and protected *in situ*.

##### *Category B - Sites of Regional Importance*

These sites are those which would not fulfil the criteria for scheduling or listing, but which are nevertheless of particular importance within the region. Preservation *in situ* is the preferred option for Category B sites, but if damage or destruction cannot be avoided, appropriate detailed recording might be an acceptable alternative.

### *Category C - Sites of District or Local Importance*

These sites are not of sufficient importance to justify a recommendation for preservation if threatened, but nevertheless merit adequate recording in advance of damage or destruction.

### *Category D - Minor and Damaged Sites*

These are sites, which are of minor importance, or are so badly damaged that too little remains to justify their inclusion in a higher category. For these sites rapid recording either in advance or during destruction, should be sufficient.

### *Category E - Sites needing further investigation*

Sites, the importance of which is as yet undetermined and which will require further work before they can be allocated to categories A-D, are temporarily placed in this category, with specific recommendations for further evaluation. By the end of the assessment there should be no sites remaining in this category.

### **3.3.2 Definition of Mitigatory Recommendations**

#### *None:*

No impact so no requirement for mitigatory measures.

#### *Evaluation:*

To investigate the archaeological potential of sites identified as earthworks or cropmarks it may be necessary to use evaluation techniques such as geophysical survey and trial trenches. The former gives an indication of the presence of subsurface features, and trial trenching allows these features to be sampled by small-scale excavation.

#### *Detailed recording:*

Requiring a photographic record, surveying and the production of a measure drawing prior to commencement of works.

Archaeological excavation may also be required depending on the particular feature and the extent and effect of the impact.

#### *Basic recording:*

Requiring a photographic record and full description prior to commencement of works.

#### *Watching brief:*

Requiring observation of particular identified features or areas during works in their vicinity. This may be supplemented by detailed or basic recording of exposed layers or structures.

#### *Avoidance:*

Features, which may be affected directly by the scheme, or during the construction, should be avoided. Occasionally a minor change to the proposed plan is recommended, but more usually it refers to the need for care to be taken during construction to avoid accidental damage to a feature. This is often best achieved by clearly marking features prior to the start of work.

#### *Reinstatement:*

The feature should be re-instated with archaeological advice and supervision.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **4.1 Topographic Description**

Holy Island, or Ynys Gybi, is located off the western coast of Anglesey, to which currently it is joined by the Stanley Embankment, and also by the bridge at Four Mile Bridge (Pont Rhyd y Bont). Holyhead (Caer Gybi) is the principle town on Holy Island, and the proposed development site lies to the south-east of the town. The site is to the south and west of the aluminium works, and is bounded to the north by the railway and the new A55. To the south it borders the outskirts of the village of Trearddur Bay.

Geologically Anglesey is composed largely of Pre-Cambrian rocks, most notably the Mona Complex. These bedded rocks have undergone intense pressures leaving them deformed and folded, and volcanic events have resulted in their interbedding with lavas, ashes and tuffs. These make up much of the bedrock of Holy Island (Davies 1972).

The bedrock under the study area is composed of pale green chlorite schists, part of the New Harbour Group of the Mona Complex (Keeley 1987). Boulder clay overlies this, with the bedrock outcropping in places, and occasional patches of glacial gravels. The soils formed over these substrates are brown earths of the Rocky Gaerwen and Trisant types (Geological and soil survey maps). These soils can carry crops or excellent pasture, and were frequently chosen for settlement in the prehistoric period. The Rocky Gaerwen soils are shallow with frequent rock outcrops, and farms and fields tend to be smaller on these soils than on deeper soils (Keeley 1987).

Like much of Holy Island, the topography of the study area is characterized by north-east to south-west aligned rocky ridges within intervening boggy hollows. This is particularly noticeable around the western, central part of the study area. The bedrock is never far below the surface, and occasionally outcrops as small crags and knolls. Most of the area is used currently for grazing sheep and cattle, with some small paddocks around Tyddyn-uchaf used for horses. The grass is, therefore, generally kept short and largely weed free, although gorse and bramble grow on the rocky ridges. Some fields and paddocks have been planted with trees, making the recognition of sites almost impossible in these areas.

A pollen study was carried out to the north-west of Trefignath burial chamber (Greig 1987). This suggested that the Boreal period vegetation was of a scrubby sub-arctic type. The woodland developed in the usual sequence, from open woodland with birch to denser, mixed oak forest, but with an unusual amount of willow. The climax forest contained oak and elm with hazel as an under-storey. A band of peat, with little pollen survival due to the drying out of the bog, was dated to about the start of the Neolithic period. The band contained charcoal and other evidence for burning, suggesting forest clearance in the immediate area. When the pollen record continued it showed that the forest had been replaced by grassland and arable fields. In the medieval period, and later, expanding arable farming caused increased erosion into the bog.

### **4.2 Archaeological and historical background (Figure 1)**

The town of Holyhead expanded in size and importance after the development of the port for use by packet boats to Ireland, but it has a long history. There is evidence of Neolithic, Bronze Age and later prehistoric activity. Two Neolithic tombs lie within the study area, and will be discussed in detail below. Four Neolithic polished stone axes have been found in the northern part of Holy Island (Lynch 1991). Those found closest to the study area are two axes from the Graiglwyd axe factory, above Penmaenmawr, found when excavating a hole for a turntable railway near Kingsland in 1926 (PRN 2507, SH 2504 8165), and one axe of unspecified stone found at Penllech Nest (PRN 2506, SH 251 816).

Two Bronze Age barrows were prominently situated on top of Holyhead Mountain (SH 219 829), though little can be seen of them now. There are others at Garn (SH 211 825) and Gorsedd Gwlwm (SH 227 816), and a cemetery of three barrows at Porth Dafarch (SH 234 801). A barrow was recently discovered under the early Christian cemetery at Ty Mawr (SH 2520 8135). The Ty Mawr standing

stone is one of several such stones in this part of Holy Island. There is another to the south, next to Stanley Mill (SH 2664 7888), and a rare pairing of two stones just over 3m apart, to the west at Plas Meilw (SH 227 809) (Lynch 1991).

The island has several notable Iron Age and Roman period sites. Holyhead is dominated by its mountain, to the north-west of the town. The summit is enclosed by a stone rampart wall forming the hillfort of *Caer y Twr* (SH 219 829). A much smaller promontory fort, *Dinas* on the south coast of Holy Island (SH 223 794), is probably also Iron Age. This promontory is surrounded by high cliffs and a low bank runs along the edge of the chasm, which separates it from the mainland. These forts were probably defensive refuges, and the population lived in more hospitable areas. Towards the foot of the south-western slope of Holyhead Mountain are a group of huts near another *Ty Mawr* (SH 211 820) and a similar hut group overlies the Bronze Age barrows at *Porth Dafarch* (SH 234 801). Excavation at *Ty Mawr* demonstrated that the stone huts belonged to the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium bc, but with some activity in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, as well as earlier prehistoric and post-Roman settlement evidence. The finds from *Porth Dafarch* dated the huts to the Roman period (Lynch 1991, RCAHMW 1937).

A Roman fort was constructed at Holyhead towards the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century or later, as a naval base against Irish raiders (Lynch 1972). A Roman coin hoard was found in the area in 1710. The coins were buried in a brass vessel, and all dated to the 4<sup>th</sup> century (PRN 2503, SH 26 81). To the north of the Aluminium works, on the shore of *Penrhos Beach*, Stanley (1868) recorded a 'Danish fort'. The site (PRN 2509) is now under the main road, and all traces of it have been destroyed, so it is not known whether the fort was Iron Age, Roman or actually attributable to the Vikings.

Holy Island was of considerable importance in the early Christian period, with the *clas* site of *Caer Gybi* large enough to attract the attention of the Vikings in 961 (Edwards 1986, p24). The foundation of this monastic community by *St Cybi* is traditionally dated to the mid 6<sup>th</sup> century AD, and it was presumably located within the Roman fort; the present church on the site dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. There is an unusual concentration of early Christian sites known, or suspected, on the island. These include a cemetery of long-cist graves, dating to approximately 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> century AD, discovered during the construction of the A55 dual carriageway, to the north-west of *Ty Mawr Farm*. At this site the graves were located around, and cut into, the remains of a Bronze Age barrow. Another cemetery, of similar date, lies to the south-west of the study area, at *Tywyn y Capel*, the site of a medieval chapel on the shore of *Trearddur Bay* (Edwards 1986, p31). There were early Christian cist burials found at *Porth Dafarch*. A possible early Christian site lies just to the north-west of the study area, where there are documentary and map references to *Capel Ulo*, and *Fynnon Ulo*. However, recent trial trenching in the area failed to reveal any archaeological evidence (GAT report 382).

The use of Holyhead port increased in the reign of Elizabeth I, when it became the departure point for the Royal Mail to Ireland. During Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth Holyhead was garrisoned, and regular packet boats sailed to Ireland (Hughes and Williams 1981). The port subsequently grew until, by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was the principle port for Ireland.

During the 17<sup>th</sup> century the road across Anglesey to Holyhead was probably just a rough track, but the forerunner to the bridge at *Four Mile Bridge* already joined Holy Island to Anglesey by 1578 (Hughes and Williams 1981). One of the earliest maps of Anglesey, published by Speed in 1630, marks *Pont-Rhydbont* (the bridge at *Four Mile Bridge*), and just to the west of it is *Llansanfraid* (*St Bride's* or *Trearddur Bay*), the only place marked on Holy Island, other than Holyhead itself (Evans 1972).

In 1765 the road from the *Menai ferries* to Holyhead was turnpiked, and much improved (Ramage 1987). However, transport was still difficult until Telford built his new London to Holyhead road (the A5), which arrived on Holy Island in 1823. The *Stanley Embankment* (grade II listed, 20074) carried the road over the *Afon Lasinwen*, the tidal strait between Holy Island and Anglesey, replacing the ferries and fords (GAT 251). The embankment was designed by Thomas Telford, started in 1822 and opened in 1823; its construction created the body of water now referred to as the *Inland Sea*. In 1846-8 the railway line was constructed along the southern side of the embankment (GAT 204, p251). The railway runs along the northern boundary of the study area, separating it from the Aluminium works. Major improvements were also made to the harbour throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Hughes and Williams 1981, GAT report 64, p251).

The coming of Telford's road and the railway significantly changed the landscape of Holy Island, but a comparison between the 18<sup>th</sup> and late 19<sup>th</sup> century maps show that the layout of the fields in the study area did not change considerably. There was no parliamentary enclosure of open fields on Anglesey, as occurred in other parts of Britain at this time, but some common land was enclosed by Private Act (Carr 1982), such as the small areas of common land around Ty Mawr enclosed in 1861 (WPE 68/128).

A large number of defensive works were constructed in 1940-41 to resist the invasion of Britain. Pillboxes were an important component of these defences, and more than 18,000 were built during 1940 (Brown *et al* 1995). In the Second World War Holyhead was strategically important, as it was on the route both to Ireland and to the port of Liverpool. Pillboxes, arranged in a rough line across the island, defended the middle of Holy Island and the Inland Sea, preventing enemy troop movement on Holy Island and defending the approaches to Holyhead. The line starts at the south-western end at Trearddur Bay. Behind the Trearddur Bay Hotel (SH 2519 7931) are two circular-plan pillboxes (grade II listed, 20079). Another is set in the grounds of Trearddur House (SH 2546 7934, grade II listed, 20080). Closer to the study area one (SH 2721 8029) is situated to cover the south side of the Stanley Embankment, and the other (SH 2707 7991, PRN 7213) is a little further south, overlooking the Inland Sea. A related pillbox, not previously recorded, was found within the study area, see below.

Most of the land in the study area was owned by the old Penrhos family, who stabilised their surname to Owen in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century (Richards 1940). The original house at Penrhos was said to have been built during the reign of Henry VIII (RCAHMW 1937). In 1763 Margaret Owen, the heiress to Hugh Owen, married John Stanley and the Penrhos Estate passed to the Stanleys of Alderley (Ramage 1972, 1987, Richards 1940). WO Stanley was a noted antiquarian, and the Penrhos estate maps provide valuable historical evidence.

The area presently consists of a number of farmsteads surrounded by regularly shaped fields. The majority of the farmsteads are now abandoned and ruinous. The field layout was generally established by 1769, but numerous fields have been amalgamated at various periods since then, and some boundaries have been lost or altered. Unlike the area to the north of Holyhead (Penrhos estate map II, 772, map 14), there were no large open fields here in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. There were a number of small farms, often associated with small, irregular in-by fields or tofts, which have since disappeared. Estate maps of the 18<sup>th</sup> century also show that some of the present settlements, such as Trefignath, have moved slightly from their original locations. These deserted or migrated settlements will have left archaeological remains, although regular ploughing has removed most surface indications. See figures 4-7 for copies of the relevant estate maps.

## 4.3 Schedules sites

### 4.3.1 Scheduled sites in the study area

Ancient monuments of national importance are given legal protection by scheduling, which is administered by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments Executive Agency. Scheduling ensures that the case for preservation of archaeological remains is fully considered in proposals for development. Planning policy aims to reconcile the need for development with the interests of conservation. Development plans should include policies for the protection, enhancement and preservation of archaeological sites and their settings. This applies particularly to scheduled monuments, but the Planning Guidance makes it clear that these points should also be considered in relation to unscheduled sites.

There are two scheduled sites within the study area; the Trefignath burial chamber and the Ty Mawr standing stone. These have the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) numbers A11 and A12 respectively. The burial chamber was excavated between 1977 and 1979. It was partially reconstructed in 1980 and laid out for public exhibition. It has public access from the road (Lon Towyn Capel), and a signboard interpreting the site. The area covered by the scheduling is a rectangle measuring c. 40m by 25m around the monument itself. However, a larger area than this has been fenced in and is under Cadw guardianship (**figure 9**).



The Ty Mawr standing stone has public access via a footpath to the stone, and has a brief interpretation plaque next to the road. An area measuring c. 25m by 20m around the stone is included in the scheduling (**figure 8**). A third monument, the Trearddur monument, is not scheduled as it is considered to be too ruined to justify scheduling. However, the monument is of considerable significance in relation to the scheduled monuments, and may be valuable in its own right for the buried archaeology which may survive.

Listing provides similar protection for buildings as scheduling does for archaeological sites. There are no listed buildings in the study area, but a pillbox near the Trefignath burial chamber is similar to others in Trearddur Bay, which are grade II listed buildings. The pillbox in the study area was not previously recorded in the Sites and Monuments Register, and now that it has been identified its status may be reassessed in the future. It would be advisable to treat this structure as a grade II listed building.

#### **4.3.2 *The importance of setting***

The sites in this report are listed and described as discrete entities, but at no point in their history would they actually have existed as such. It is only our labeling of certain features in the landscape, as being of greater historic importance than others, which creates this illusion. However, intrusive development can in reality cause the isolation of features from their original environment.

Sites of all periods lose historical value through this process, but the loss is of more significance to some sites than others. The farmsteads, which are listed as discrete sites, are clearly part of an agricultural landscape including fields, trackways, mills, villages, wells, roads, etc; the whole making much more sense than the parts. The location of each farmstead was chosen by taking into account the other features of this landscape, but the loss of the reasons for its location does little to detract from the interpretation of the site as a farm. This is partly because there are quantities of documentary and cartographic sources of evidence to aid this interpretation, and, in fact, to preserve a record of the complete landscape at different periods.

For earlier periods this evidence does not exist, so preserving the evidence on or in the ground becomes even more important. A prehistoric settlement would have been located in relation to other features in its landscape, in the same way as the more recent farmsteads, but many of these features have since been lost. Even so, an excavated site can usually be adequately interpreted without this information.

To go beyond the ordinary domestic life of prehistory and to attempt to study past thoughts and beliefs is to deal with even sparser, more obscure evidence. Here the loss of one class of evidence can lead to a completely different, possibly erroneous, interpretation of a monument. Numerous studies have shown that Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments were not located just by purely practical considerations, but that the landscape formed a significant part of the monument itself. Bradley (1993) has discussed the possibility of monuments as models of the physical and cultural world around them, with their position in the landscape being deliberately used to reflect a variety of complex ideas. Numerous authors have suggested that the intervisibility or otherwise between Neolithic burial monuments reflects the social landscape of territory and landownership. The relationship of monuments to the sun, moon, and even some stars, has also been widely discussed. Features of the landscape, such as distant hills, are often used as foresights to point to particular celestial phenomenon. Without being able to appreciate the physical landscape in which these monuments were placed none of these theories could be proposed, explored or tested. The setting of the monument is such an intrinsic part of the monument that it cannot be adequately interpreted without it.

In the study area there are three monuments to which these points apply in particular, the Ty Mawr standing stone, the Trefignath burial chamber and the Trearddur monument. The latter is not scheduled, unlike the other two monuments, because the above ground structure is very damaged. However, its landscape situation is well preserved, and its proximity to the other monuments stresses that it must be considered in relationship to them. All are located on local high points, with views of Holyhead Mountain and wide views in other directions. There are east-west orientations in all the monuments, and Baynes (1911) has suggested that the standing stone was deliberately placed in relation to the Trefignath burial chamber. Perhaps the Trearddur monument is also deliberately related to the location of the others. It and Trefignath are intervisible, and Smith (1987) has suggested that Trearddur may originally have been the same type of construction as the first phase of Trefignath, and therefore

possibly built at a similar date. These and other considerations can only be explored with all three monuments being protected and their location in their landscape being appreciated.

This argument does not just relate to the prehistoric period. During the Second World War defensive systems had to be created across Britain in a very short time. While there are documents relating to the general principles and instructions, the actual location of structures, and the final local decisions that were made were often not recorded because there was no time to do so. A search of documentary sources for 20<sup>th</sup> century fortifications in the UK, commissioned by the CBA, discovered no anti-invasion defenses recorded for Anglesey, except for some examination posts (Redfern 1998). The scarcity of documentary evidence means that for many pillbox lines and other defences there is no real evidence except the remains on the ground. At the time a single pillbox would have of little value for defence, it was the lines of pillboxes, related to other defence systems which were of value. Similarly we cannot understand the defensive function of a single pillbox without having some indication of the location of others, and without views towards the areas or routes being defended.

The planning legislation does, to some extent, take this approach into consideration. The Welsh Office Circular 60/96 stresses the 'desirability of preserving an ancient monument and its setting...whether that monument is scheduled or unscheduled' (p3). Collcutt (1999) has studied this issue in relation to planning regulations and guidances, mainly from England, but also from the rest of the UK. He concluded that the setting of a monument was considered of importance, even though the term was not strictly defined. The view from and to a monument should be considered in planning applications, as should the relationship of neighbouring monuments to the understanding of the monument in question. The regulations, however, leave the exact definition of setting open to be decided on a case by case basis, with the application of common sense. Four main points should be considered:

*'(a) Intrinsic Visual Interest - the visual qualities of the archaeological features themselves as seen from other points;*

*(b) Topographic Setting - the visual relationship of the archaeological features to surrounding topography (including local slope angles) and to such major elements as hills, river valleys, etc.;*

*(c) Landuse Setting - the visual relationship of the archaeological features to the landuse and particularly to those elements of the current landuse which had remained unchanged or were similar to those which existed at the time the features were occupied; and*

*(d) Group Setting - the visual relationship of the features to other visible archaeological sites in the vicinity, in terms of both contemporary and diachronic ("palimpsest") groupings or patterning'* (Collcutt 1999, p504).

This whole issue is problematic and the appeal to common sense is important. In the case of the study area the post-medieval agricultural landscape is only of local importance, and so such considerations as the preservation of setting probably do not apply to it. Of particular importance are the category A monuments. Under the planning regulations their setting must be considered, but to preserve the full area visible from the three monuments would be to forbid all development within the study area. The common sense approach would seem to be to identify the most important aspects of the settings and try to preserve these. The view towards Holyhead Mountain is probably of considerable significance, as is the view to the east, as many Neolithic tombs are aligned on the sunrise at different times of the year. In the case particularly of the standing stone and Trearddur monument it is possible that the view to the west was also important. The intervisibility between the monuments should also be preserved. Keeping lines of site open in these directions, rather than preserving the whole view, may be an acceptable compromise.

No development is allowed within the scheduled areas, but these are small and do not take the setting into account. A larger exclusion area would be recommended to allow the appreciation of the monuments in relation to their immediate topography. Any development must be considered carefully so that the monuments are not left isolated, entirely surrounded by buildings and re-landscaping. It should also be considered that buried archaeology related to the visible monuments may extend a considerable distance from the monument, and archaeological evaluation should precede any works close to these sites.

The setting of the pillbox, as a category B site, should be considered in a similar way, and at least sight lines in important directions should be preserved.

#### 4.4 Site gazetteer

The sites were identified from several sources. Information was collated from the tithe map, Penrhos estate maps, and other cartographic sources for the area. This gave a good picture of the development of the farms and field systems over time. The location of some farms moved, and with most the layout of the buildings changed. The names of the farms also varied in spelling.

Aerial photographs were inspected, but only ones taken in summer were available. Aerial photographs are most useful when photographs of the same area under different conditions can be compared. The summer conditions created good parchmarks in pasture fields, but other areas were obscured. In particular the area round Treddaniel and Tyddyn-bach had been left fallow and was covered with tall weeds, which obscured most earthworks or cropmarks. The photographs did give a good indication of the landscape as it was in the 1990s, as there had been considerable amalgamation of fields to produce larger enclosures. Some of the removed field boundaries could still be seen as cropmarks, as could some of those boundaries removed during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Finally all the sites were inspected on the ground, and the area was searched for any sites not visible on other sources. Some fields were not accessible for survey, either because they were so overgrown that access was impossible or because they were obscured by spoil dumps relating to the road improvement (see figure 2). Various areas along the northern side of the study area fell within the latter category, particularly south-east of Ty Mawr farmhouse. Fields to the east of Cae Glas and to the north of Treddaniel were very overgrown with brambles, and planted in places with conifers. Nothing could be seen in these areas. However, the field to the east of Cae Glas had been inspected by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust in 1989 as part of a field walking programme. This was carried out in advance of afforestation. Unfortunately most of the soil was obscured by either weeds or manure spreading so detailed field-walking for artefacts was not carried out. Earthworks would have been visible and none were noted.

In other fields, particularly to the west and north of Tre-gof, the land had been so improved by ploughing and bulldozing that nothing was likely to be visible on the surface as an earthwork. In this area a large pile of rock and earth, obviously created by a bulldozer, proved the extent of the clearance that had occurred.

On the rocky outcrops gorse and bramble often obscured visibility, but there was little evidence of archaeological remains on these areas. Elsewhere the conditions were generally good for field survey. The grass was short over most of the study area, with the exception of the fields mentioned above.

The numerous rock outcrops can resemble artificial mounds or barrows when they are low and covered in grass, though most have some exposed bedrock to indicate their nature. In several places, especially in the south-western part of the study area small mounds and piles of stone, or occasional single larger stones were noticed on rocky outcrops. None of these were embedded in the soil surface and resulted from recent clearance of stone to improve the pasture. The stones were deposited on rocky areas or next to gorse bushes where there were already obstructions to grazing animals and the plough.

A square feature, measuring c. 25m on each side, was visible as a slight earthwork on aerial photographs just south-west of Ty Mawr House (SH 2512 8118). This was inspected on the ground, where it was just visible, but a manhole cover located in the middle of the feature showed that it was a buried reservoir or septic tank.

Previous results from similar projects have shown that many sites can only be detected by excavation. Field evaluation involving geophysical survey and trial trenching, plus a watching brief during the early stages of construction, may reveal further features. The sites listed below should, therefore, not be taken as a final and comprehensive list of all the archaeology surviving in the study area.

General features will be discussed first then the specific sites will be listed in order from north-west to south-east. Following these are some sites outside the study area, but their environment will be influenced by any development. These are also listed from north-west to south-east.

As the exact plans for development, and the extent of the area to be affected are not known, it has been assumed that all sites are under considerable threat so that the most extreme measures for mitigation can be presented. Naturally if the threat in the final version of the plan is not considerable the mitigatory measures would be appropriately less.

(See figure 2 for location of sites and figures 3-7 for maps)

## 1. Field boundaries

### *Category C*

Most of the fields are recognisable in 1769, though there have been some localised alterations, especially around Tyddyn-pioden. The layout was finally established by 1817, and the changes since have been slight, consisting mainly of amalgamations to create larger fields. The boundaries were originally all dry-stone walls, except a group of earthen banks with hedges, around Tyddyn-uchaf. These banks do not appear on the earlier maps, and so seem to be a later form of boundary used to subdivide existing fields.

Many of the walls have been replaced by post and wire fences, and even those that survive are usually too ruined to act as stock barriers without additional fencing. The walls are all built of local schist in rough courses, with topper stones. Where the walls have been rebuilt the topper stones have sometimes been cemented in place and positioned upright and widely spaced, like mini-crenellations. The more traditional method was to have the stones sloping slightly and leaning against each other like books on a shelf (**plate 1**). The stone is almost always fairly small schist slabs, but at SH 2530 8067, a large quartz boulder has been built into a wall. This measures 0.80x0.75x0.45m, and was presumably dug up from the field.

Mending and rebuilding over two and a half centuries has ensured that there is no clear stylistic typology of the walls, but differences in gateposts may give an indication of the date of the latest rebuilding episode. In the area south-east of Tyddyn-pioden there are a group of brick-faced gateposts, presumably constructed at the same time. These are built with poor quality brick of a type often used during the Second World War. Along the Lon Towyn Capel road boundary there are some more ornate stone-built gateposts, one of which is circular in plan, and has stone set in its top to create the effect of a small crenellated tower (SH 2575 8062) (**plate 2**). More simply, large slabs are occasionally used, such as at SH 2587 8040.

Many of the field boundaries have been lost even since the OS 1:10,000 map was surveyed in 1971. Most of the removed boundaries can be seen on the ground, and often also on aerial photographs, as shallow gullies or low banks. Even boundaries removed during the 19<sup>th</sup> century can sometimes still be traced, such as those in the field centred on SH 2520 8045, which are visible as very slight gullies, not to be confused with the other gullies in this field, which are the surface traces of field drains.

Maps: Penrhos II. 772 (1769), Penrhos III. 208 (1769), Penrhos II. 778 (1817), Penrhos II. 804 (1817), W maps 52/1 (1845), tithe map (1853), 25" County Series (1889, 1900), 6" County Series (1926), OS 1:10,000 (1971, 1975)

**Recommendations for further assessment:** *None*

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** *Basic recording and reinstatement where possible or the retention of the original character if new walls are constructed.*

## 2. Ponds

### *Category C*

Water was an important resource and drinking water for livestock may have been scarce in summer. There were wells near most of the farmsteads, but in the fields ponds of various sorts were dug for the animals. There are features in the middle of some fields, which are roughly oval-shaped hollows surrounded by broad banks, presumably composed of the material dug from the hollow. These are possibly dewponds to collect rainwater, although they could be quarry pits. These features could be seen at SH 2513 8047, where there is one measuring c.29x23m and over 1m deep, and at SH 2523 8102. The latter could be seen on the aerial photographs as an almost figure-of-eight shaped feature measuring c. 35x26m and up to 1m deep. There is a small enclosure marked on the 1817 map,

presumably surrounding the feature. It was not marked in 1889, and had presumably gone out of use by then. Neither feature had standing water in the bottom, even though there was plenty on the fields around.

Other ponds were constructed at the junctions of walls, and usually fed by drains. These often have some element of stone revetting to support the sides. One such example is located at SH 2526 8096. It measures c. 12 x 6m and is at least 1.5m deep, with rough stone revetting in places. At SH 2535 8036 is a fairly deep pond defined on the north side by a natural crag, to the west by a wall, and to the south by a boulder revetment. It is fed from the boggy valley running off to the north-east. A pond still present at SH 2662 8050 was marked on the 1889 map. This was fed by a drainage ditch.

Maps: Penrhos II. 804 (1817), 25" County Series (1889, 1900)

*Recommendations for further assessment: None.*

*Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Basic recording and watching brief.*

### **3. Road SH 2511 8125 – SH 2622 7975**

#### *Category C*

The road known as Lon Towyn Capel runs through the middle of the study area, aligned north-west to south-east. It winds gently and is lined with stone walls along most of the length within the study area. This road provides access to many of the farms listed below. It is shown on all the Penrhos Estate maps from 1769 onwards, although it does not appear on John Evan's 1795 map of North Wales, presumably because it was considered too minor to be shown. Its route has remained largely unchanged.

Maps: Penrhos II. 772 (1769), Penrhos III. 208 (1769), Penrhos II. 778 (1817), Penrhos II. 804 (1817), W maps 52/1 (1845), tithe map (1853), 25" County Series (1889, 1900), 6" County Series (1926), OS 1:10,000 (1971, 1975)

*Recommendations for further assessment: None.*

*Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Basic recording.*

### **4. Ty Mawr PRN 21169, SH 2523 8121**

#### *Category C*

A farmhouse appears on the same site on maps going back to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is not certain that the same building is shown, but the house appears to be at least 200 years old (GAT 64). Common land around Ty Mawr was enclosed by act of parliament in 1861. The house and related buildings were demolished to make way for the improved A55, so only some barns and the garden now survive.

Maps: Penrhos II, 772, map 3 (1769), W maps 52/1 (1845), tithe map (1853), WPE 68/128 (1861)

*Recommendations for further assessment: None*

*Recommendations for mitigatory measures: The older parts of the farm have already been destroyed so basic recording will be adequate to record the remainder.*

### **5. Enclosure and structure SH 2525 8112**

#### *Category D*

A small enclosure, associated with a small building, is shown on the 1900 and 1926 maps adjacent to the road, just south-east of Ty Mawr. On the ground a low bank could be seen defining the south-west corner of the enclosure. There was no trace of the building, but the field near the road had been recently ploughed. There was also a heap of stones next to the field gate at this point, and it was not clear whether they had been dumped there from elsewhere, or represented stones removed from this part of the field.

Maps: 25" County Series (1900), 6" County Series (1926)

*Recommendations for further assessment: None*

*Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Watching brief*

## 6. Tyddyn-Pioden SH 2510 8092

### Category C

The modern house of this name is at the above grid reference and is outside the study area, but the earlier maps show that it was originally further east, at SH 2533 8083 (6a). The earliest spelling is of Tyddyn y Pregodyn. By 1845 there is a building shown next to the road, further south than present, at c. SH 2510 8078 (6b), and no structures are shown in the middle of the fields. It is called Tyddyn y Biodan on the tithe map.

The eastern location is on the south-eastern corner of a ridge. Parts of the ridge may have been artificially leveled, but there is no clear evidence for structures, however, it is a good location for a house, safely above the boggy valley to the south. Just north of here there is the slight trace of a former field boundary running north-east to south-west. Between this and the well, site 7, there are very vague suggestions of parallel furrows, but these are not clear enough or regular enough to be securely interpreted as the remains of ridge and furrow. The boundary is shown on the 1769 map, but here ploughing is indicated to the south-east, not the north-west of the boundary.

Very little could be seen at the more southerly location, except for a 1m wide dog-leg in the field wall, for which there was no obvious explanation. This may have been part of a former building, though the stretch of wall was no broader the usual.

Maps: Penrhos II, 772, map 3 (1769), Penrhos II, 804 (1817), W maps 52/1 (1845), Tithe map (1853), 6" County series (1926)

**Recommendations for further assessment:** *Field evaluation involving geophysical survey and trial trenching at the eastern location.*

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** *Dependant on results of the field evaluation.*

## 7. Well SH 2525 8092

### Category D

A stone-lined well is located on a now removed field boundary. The boundary is visible as a gully in the grass. The well has dry-stone walls and a cemented stone slab capping, all of local schist. It is aligned c. north-east to south-west along the boundary and opens at its south-western end. At the north-eastern end grows a very straggly hawthorn bush. Three large timbers lie over the south-western end, and are probably the remains of some wooden structure (**plate 3**). The well is 1.3m deep from the top of the cap stones to its stone lined base. It is currently full of water and the presence of disused pipe work showed that it has been in use until fairly recently, but its origin could be as old as the enclosure of the fields. The copy of the 25" map inspected was damaged at just this point, so it was not clear if the well was marked or not, but it is shown on the 6" map.

Maps: County series, 25" (1889), 6" (1926).

**Recommendations for further assessment:** *None*

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** *Detailed recording*

## 8. Ty Mawr standing stone PRN 2501, SAM A12, SH 2539 8095

### Category A

The stone is an attractive piece of schist with swirling bedding planes, and an almost anthropomorphic shape (**plate 4**). It stands c. 2.5m high, and is a maximum of 1.7m wide and 0.4m thick. It is located on a local high point, at an altitude of 12m OD, but not on the highest point in the area, in a gently undulating, rather than a craggy, field. The views are good all round, but especially good of Holyhead mountain. The stone stands in a slight hollow caused by livestock eroding the ground around it, and this has exposed the packing stones around the base of the monolith. No earthworks were noticed around the stone, despite the grass in this field being particularly short.

A small square marks the stone on the 1889 map, but it is not labeled. On the 1926 map it is marked as a *maen hir*.

The monument is listed by RCAHMW (1937) as a *maen hir* 83/4 ft high 4ft wide and 11/4ft thick. Baynes (1911, p71) states that its south-east face is facing the summer solstice sunrise, and that an alignment from here to the burial chamber at Trefignath is within one degree of the winter solstice sunrise. A geophysical survey was carried out by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford in 1990, which revealed a possible bank around the monument, and associated linear features. There is a possibility that the circular anomaly could be the trace of a former fence, but no such fence is shown on any map (Geophysical Surveys 1990).

Maps: County series 25" (1889), 6" (1926)

**Recommendations for further assessment:** None

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** Every effort should be made to avoid excessive visual intrusion. It must be possible to appreciate the monument in its landscape setting. Vistas towards Holyhead Mountain and south-east towards the Trefignath tomb should be kept open. To enable the appreciation of the location of the stone on top of a rise in the terrain development should not come within 50m of the stone to the south-east. In other directions an exclusion zone of 20m is recommended.

## 9. Stone c. SH 2541 8085

Category E

A large, horizontal stone was found directly south of the standing stone. It is orientated east to west, and has rather rounded edges. It is well embedded in the ground, and has clearly not been recently deposited. It is possible that it is part of the bedrock, but its form and the slope of the bedding planes are different to the bedrock outcrops, none of which appear in this fairly low-lying area. It is located in a low-lying point in the landscape, with higher land all round except to the west. The Ty Mawr standing stone appears on the brow of the rise to the north from this point (**plate 5**). Although it is probable that the recumbent stone is out-cropping bedrock, its location in relation to the *maen hir* and the lack of other outcrops in the area make it worth investigating. There is a tradition that a second stone existed near the Ty Mawr standing stone (Glynn Morris pers. comm.).

**Recommendations for further assessment:** A field evaluation involving geophysical survey and trial trenching should be carried out around the stone to establish whether or not it is natural.

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** Dependant on the results of the field evaluation.

## 10. Pen-y-Lone/Bonc-deg SH 2555 8082

Category C

A series of cottages and associated fields are depicted on the early estate maps, located immediately next to the minor road, north-west of Trefignath. In 1769 these were called Pen-y-Lone, and are represented as two houses with small tofts next to them. In 1817 one of these is still marked, and another building appears to the north-west. This latter is the farm called Penbonc-deg in 1853, and Bonc-deg on later maps. The layout of fields around Bonc-deg was the same in 1817 as it was in 1889, but all trace of Pen-y-Lone had disappeared by the later date.

Pen-y-Lone was a fairly substantial farm in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, covering the land subsequently farmed by Trefignath Farm, and even including some land as far away as Cae Glas.

Where Bonc-deg was located the earthworks are not easily interpreted. There is a faint terrace or lynchet defining the enclosure round the farmstead. Within this there are hollows and undulations, presumably relating to the farm buildings, but a detailed plan of them would have to be made before these rather confusing remains could be interpreted in detail. Just to the south-east at the location of Pen-y-Lone a mound was noted on the aerial photographs. This was clear on the ground and appeared to be a house platform measuring c. 10x4m along the top. It was c.0.4m high, though appeared higher at the south-western end where the land naturally sloped down. The mound was roughly rectangular in shape and to the south-west slighter traces of other features could be seen. A low bank seems to form a small rectangular enclosure to the south-west of the house platform. To the west of that, and running further north is a slight linear, hollow, which extends to the field boundary to the north. Even further west are at least two other parallel hollows.

The house platform is the more southerly of the two houses marked on the 1769 map. This had a small field to its south-east, but a corner of the field extends round the south-west end of the house, probably explaining the apparent rectangular enclosure. At this period there was no boundary to the north, but by 1817 there was, and the features visible on the ground are clearly a mixture of different periods. One short boundary is shown further west in 1817.

Maps: Penrhos II, 772, map 4 (1769), Penrhos II, 804 (1817), W maps 52/1 (1845), tithe map (1853), County series 25" (1889)

**Recommendations for further assessment:** *A field evaluation, involving geophysical survey and trial trenching, is recommended to establish the nature and date of any remains.*

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** *Dependant on the results of the field evaluation.*

#### **11. Unidentifiable earthworks** SH 2533 8065

##### *Category E*

At the south-western end of a smooth, rather than rocky, ridge, and close to a very wet area, is a group of low, grassy hummocks. Some resemble banks and others have roughly circular hollows, but there are no clear patterns, except a possibly rectangular feature measuring c. 12 x 6m. The scarps are less than 0.4m high, and are generally aligned along the same axis as the ridge. It is possible that these are the result of rock outcropping near the surface, but they are slightly different in character to other examples of this, which are frequently seen in the study area. Possibly trees growing and falling over would explain the earthworks, but there are no trees marked here on any of the maps. The features are probably natural, but the possibility that they are anthropogenic cannot be entirely ruled out.

**Recommendations for further assessment:** *A field evaluation, involving geophysical survey and trial trenching.*

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** *Dependant on the results of the field evaluation.*

#### **12. Cae'r Ty-hen** c. SH 253 803

##### *Category D*

Small buildings are shown on several maps, in the corner of a rough grazing field, north of Trearddur Mews. The earliest reference is on the 1817 map. On the tithe map the field is marked as Cae'r Tyhen, and the building is shown surrounded by a small enclosure. The field was previously subdivided, but the general shape of the field has remained the same. Very vague traces may just be visible on the aerial photographs. On the ground several flat areas between the rock outcrops were inspected, but no earthworks were found. The remains of a wall noticed during field survey in the field just north of here compares well to a boundary on the 1817 map.

Maps: Penrhos II, 804 (1817), W maps 52/1 (1845), tithe map (1853)

**Recommendations for further assessment:** *A field evaluation, involving geophysical survey and trial trenching.*

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** *Dependant on the results of the field evaluation.*

#### **13. Trefignath Farm** SH 2590 8073

##### *Category C*

The 1769 map shows two small buildings to the north of the modern farm, which were in a field called Trefignedd, part of the Pen-y-Lone land. By 1817 there was a building, named as Trefignath, in the same location as the recent farm, but the two buildings to the north were still in use. The situation was the same in 1845 and 1853, but by 1887 the whole farm had moved to the southern location; although a very small structure is indicated further north near the railway. Slight traces of former buildings on the southern site are visible on the aerial photographs. The buildings were marked on the 1926 map, but had been removed by 1971, and sheep pens now occupy the site.

The name of the farm has been very variable, including Trefignerth (1624), Trefignedd (1769) and Trefignant (1817). The forms show no logical development, and 1624 is the earliest known reference (Smith 1987).



The buildings at the northern location do not show on the ground as earthworks, but there are a pair of gateposts in roughly the right place. These are large stone slabs, possibly taken from the tomb. The gap between them has long since been filled in with walling, which is now low and fairly ruined. Whether this gate is related to the buildings or just provided access between the fields is unclear. It seems likely that some subsurface remains of the buildings survive.

An attempt was made to locate the buildings by geophysical survey, during the archaeological evaluation in advance of the A55 road improvements. No clear evidence of the buildings was found, but a circular anomaly, c. 5m in diameter, and an associated linear feature of unknown status, were revealed to the north-east of the burial chamber (GAT 204).

The recent farm buildings have been almost entirely removed down to bedrock, with only traces of concrete remaining where the farm buildings stood. Part of the area is now used for sheep pens, with an area covered in hard core to the south of this. However, the external wall of the western range of barns does survive, though converted into a field wall. The eastern (internal) side of this is cement rendered, and some stones project where they have been keyed into now demolished perpendicular walls. To the east of the hard cored area at least half of the pond exists, though silted up. To the north of that is a rock outcrop, enclosed by walls. In the north side of these walls are the remains of some small structures, probably those shown on the 1889 map.

Maps: Penrhos II, 772, map 4 (1769), Penrhos II, 778, sheet 7 (1817), Penrhos II, 804 (1817), W maps 52/1 (1845), tithe map (1853), 25" County Series (1889), 6" County Series (1926), OS 1:10,000 (1971)

**Recommendations for further assessment:** *Trial trenching. The main farm may have subsurface remains surviving adjacent to the road. The possibility of remains of the earlier buildings to the north should be investigated, as well as the geophysical feature.*

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** *Dependant on the results of the field evaluation.*

#### **14. Trefignath burial chamber** PRN 2500, SAM A11, SH 2586 8055

##### *Category A*

The monument is composed of local mica schist, and situated on a natural knoll (**plate 6**). It is surrounded by traces of a long cairn, and is best preserved at the eastern end. This site was assumed to be a gallery grave until excavation proved it to be much more complex. The site was excavated between 1977 and 1979, and was partly reconstructed in 1980. This demonstrated that the tomb had three chambers, which were built in succession from west to east, with the cairn enlarged as each new chamber was built. The earliest chamber resembled a simple passage grave. The central and eastern chambers were box-like structures with portal stones. The tomb overlay evidence of domestic occupation of the site dating to the early fourth millennium uncalibrated bc (HAR 3932 5050+/-70 BP) (Smith 1987).

Quantities of flint and chert artefacts including 22 scrapers, and a single leaf-shaped arrowhead were found, and the remains of at least 21 pottery vessels (Smith 1987). Nineteenth century references also mention the discovery of 'urns and bones' (Lynch 1991). The site was first noted in 1655 or 1660 when John Aubrey visited it (Smith 1987, p3). Stanley in 1867 states that the monument was damaged c. 70 or 80 years previously, when the capstones were removed for gateposts and lintels. An alignment from the standing stone at Ty Mawr to the burial chamber lines up, to within one degree, with the winter solstice sunrise (Baynes 1911).

The chamber is marked as a *cromlech* on the 1889 map, but not shown on any earlier maps, although clearly known about. On the 1926 map it is marked as *cromlechau*, presumably because the chambers were being considered as separate tombs, rather than part of a single structure.

Maps: County series 25" (1889), 6" (1926)

**Recommendations for further assessment:** *None*

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** *Every effort should be made to avoid excessive visual intrusion. It must be possible to appreciate the monument in its landscape setting. Ideally a vista should be left open towards the standing stone and Holyhead Mountain beyond. The existing guardianship area should be adequate to preserve the immediate surroundings of the monument. The northern*

approach to the monument could be improved if the wire fencing around the site of Trefignath farm was removed and the appearance of this area improved.

#### 15. Pillbox SH 2586 8050

##### *Category B*

This is a well-preserved circular pillbox, with upper and lower levels of loopholes. It has a flat concrete roof and a door in northern side with a blast wall. It is built of concrete, but faced in local stone with topping stones set round the edge of the roof and along the top of the blast wall copying the crenellated gate-pillars in the area, and so disguising its real nature (**plate 7**). It is a little larger than the standard class 25 type pillbox (Brown *et al* 1995), and has more loopholes. The crag blocks the view to the north, the views to the south and west are now obscured by trees, but were presumably originally fairly open. There is a good view towards the railway. The structure is visible on the aerial photographs.

Other pillboxes in the area are of similar design, eg those near the Trearddur Bay Hotel, and are disguised to resemble follies or garden architecture. This design is considered to be unusual and believed only to have been used on Anglesey. This is unsurprising as the pillboxes are deliberately designed to mimic local Anglesey features (see **plate 8** for pillbox at corner of Snowdon View Road). The three pillboxes in Trearddur Bay are grade II listed buildings. In comparison with these the present site has therefore been classed as category B, as if it were grade II listed.

**Recommendations for further assessment:** *None*

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** *Detailed recording. It may be worth making this interesting structure a feature of any development. Ideally the views from it, especially towards the railway should be maintained.*

#### 16. Tyddyn-bach SH 2630 8057

##### *Category C*

This farm is shown on the 1769 estate map, it also appears on the maps of 1817 and 1853 in much the same location, but with some variation in the position of the buildings. It is missing from the 1845 map, though the buildings between it and Treddaniel are shown.

The site could not be inspected during the present survey, because the area has been planted with conifers and has become overgrown with brambles, making it inaccessible. It was inspected in 1996, for the evaluation in advance of the A55 improvement (GAT report 204). Then very little could be seen on the ground, with only occasional traces of walls surviving. Very little of the plan of the farmstead could be determined.

Maps: Penrhos II, 772, map 4 (1769), Penrhos II, 778, sheet 8 (1817), Penrhos II, 804 (1817), W maps 52/1 (1845), tithe map (1853)

**Recommendations for further assessment:** *Field evaluation involving trial trenching*

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** *Dependant on the results of the field evaluation.*

#### 17. Tyddyn-uchaf SH 2593 8020

##### *Category C*

This house is not shown on the estate maps, even though the area is clearly represented. The land belonged to Tyddyn-bach, and there were no buildings on it in 1769 and 1817. The house first appears on the 1889 map, and has remained largely unchanged to the present day. It is still occupied, and part of the adjoining paddock has been enclosed as a garden. The house is whitewashed, so details of construction can not be seen.

The semi-circular drainage ditch to the west of Tyddyn-uchaf is a prominent feature of the maps from 1769 onwards. It was largely unchanged up to the present, although one boundary shown on the 1889 map has since disappeared. The ditch is 2.5 to 3m wide and at least 1.8m deep from the top of the bank.

Maps: Penrhos II, 772, map 4 (1769), Penrhos II, 778, sheet 8 (1817), 25" (1889)

**Recommendations for further assessment:** None

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** Detailed recording of the house, if under threat, otherwise its setting should be taken into consideration.

**18. Treddaniel** SH 2615 8032

*Category C*

Although presumably in existence before 1817, the farm does not appear on the estate maps until this date as the area covering Treddaniel was not part of the Penrhos estate in 1769; it is marked as the land of John Wynne. It appears on the 1817 estate maps and the tithe map in its present location, but with the spelling Trefaniel. In 1817 there are two small buildings and adjacent small plots of land to the north of the main farm, between it and Tyddyn-bach. There is a well marked on the western side of the track between Treddaniel and Tyddyn-bach (SH 2620 8050). Comparisons between the 1889 and 1926 maps show changes to the buildings on this farm. Only a small section of the house existing in 1926 was marked in 1889. Between 1926 and 1971 there was little change, but all the buildings have since been demolished, and a large, open sided modern barn built, now also abandoned.

No trace of the farm buildings could be seen in the tall vegetation. Parts of the farmyard wall still survive, including a substantial post-1889 gateway, with square pillars over 2m high (**plate 9**). Walls of paddocks and a walled copse attached to the farmyard also survive. Most of these date from before 1889. Much of the area is heavily overgrown, but the walled copse to the south-east of the farm is still in use to house beehives.

Maps: Penrhos II, 778, sheet 7, 8 (1817), Penrhos II, 804 (1817), W maps 52/1 (1845), tithe map (1853), County series 25" (1889), 6" (1926), OS 1:10,000 (1971)

**Recommendations for further assessment:** Field evaluation involving trial trenching to investigate whether any trace of the farmhouse survives.

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** Detailed recording of surviving remains, and other recording dependant on the results of the field evaluation.

**19. Trackway** SH 2616 8040 – SH 2638 8064

*Category C*

A track ran north from Treddaniel to Tyddyn-bach, and this still exists, with its stone walls, but was only accessible for a distance of c. 80m after which it was too overgrown by trees and brambles. The two buildings between Treddaniel and Tyddyn-bach could, therefore, not be inspected, and the well to the north of the track could not be located. Another well is marked in the woods to the north-west of the farm, but this too was inaccessible.

Maps: Penrhos II, 778, sheet 7, 8 (1817), Penrhos II, 804 (1817), W maps 52/1 (1845), tithe map (1853), County series 25" (1889), 6" (1926), OS 1:10,000 (1971)

**Recommendations for further assessment:** None.

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** Basic recording.

**20. Coin hoard** PRN 2502, SH 259 800

*Category D*

Three hundred small Roman coins were found in a field close to the Trearddur burial chamber in 1843. They were discovered in an urn under a large stone, and included brass coins of Valerian, Gallienus, Claudius Gothicus and Posthumus the elder.

**Recommendations for further assessment:** None.

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** None

**21. Trearddur monument** PRN 2504, Not scheduled, SH 2596 8004

*Category E*

One large stone remains upright. It measures c. 1.4m high and 1.8m wide and 0.25m thick. It is orientated almost exactly magnetic east/west. At its foot to the south-east lies another slab measuring 1.64 x 1.20 x 0.20m. Both stones are of local schist, and are located to the east of the centre of a low mound. The mound reaches 0.5m high at its highest point, but here bedrock is out-cropping. It is unclear how much of the mound is composed of bedrock and how much might be cairn material, but the roughly circular shape is suggestive of a cairn. There are stones scattered on top of the mound, around the slabs. Most of these are not embedded in the ground and represent recent field clearance, but some are more deeply embedded in the soil, and could be cairn material (**plate 10**).

The monument seems not to have been altered since being described by RCAHMW (1937). This site was first mentioned by N Owen in 1775, and he refers to it as a druidical altar or cromlech. He uses the name of Coetan Arthur (Arthur's Quoit), which this may have led to the neighbouring farm being called Tref Arthur, and hence the origin of Trearddur. Owen records that the upper stone of the chamber had been moved to a hedge nearby, but no large stone could be found during the present survey. The monument was often mistaken for a standing stone, though Stanley in 1867 describes it as the remains of a cromlech (Baynes 1911). Smith (1987, p19) suggests tentatively that this monument may have been a simple passage grave like the first phase of Trefignath, but Lynch (1969) lists the site under her 'Monuments so ruined as to be unintelligible'. Its identification as a Neolithic tomb must be considered provisional until further work has been carried out. Cadw considered the site too ruined to be worth scheduling, but there is the possibility of the survival of subsurface archaeology.

A stone slab can be seen lying c. 17m to the west of the monument. This is probably just a piece of outcropping bedrock, but if the area were ever disturbed it would be worth checking that this is not a removed chamber slab. To the south of the monument are various stones lying on the surface, which are recent field clearance stones, as seen elsewhere. However, one pile of stones, c. 14m to the south-east, is much more securely embedded in the grass and topsoil than the rest. They form a low, near circular cairn, c. 1.8m in diameter and 0.3m high. There is the slight possibility that this is a feature of some antiquity, possibly even related to the use of the monument.

The upright stone is not even marked on the 1900 map, despite the usual accuracy and detail of these maps. It is marked on the 1926 map as *cromlech (remains of)*.

Maps: County series 25" (1900), 6" (1926)

**Recommendations for further assessment:** *Field evaluation consisting of geophysical survey and trial trenching to determine the nature and status of the site.*

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** *Dependant on the results of the field evaluation.*

**22. Stone** SH 2580 7990

*Category D*

An upright stone within the remains of a wall (**plate 11**). The stone measures 1.1 x 0.4 x 0.4m, and has been used by cattle as a rubbing stone; whether it was inserted in the wall remains for this purpose or originally formed part of the wall is not clear. It does not seem to have been a gatepost as there are no holes or fixtures in it. The wall survives to a height of 0.4m and is the very southern end of the boundary which is shown running across the field on the 1971 map. The track to the south of this still exists but it is almost entirely overgrown and inaccessible.

Map: OS 1:10,000 (1971)

**Recommendations for further assessment:** *None*

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** *Basic recording*

**23. Structure** SH 2567 7990

*Category D*

A single building is shown on the tithe map on the northern side of the track leading west from Trearddur Farm (site 24). This is not shown on other maps, but a very vague trace may be visible on the

aerial photographs. In 1900 a boundary ran north-west from this point before turning north and running across the field. This boundary is visible both on the aerial photographs, and on the ground as a shallow gully in the grass.

Map: Tithe map (1853), County series 25" (1900)

**Recommendations for further assessment:** *Field evaluation involving geophysical survey and trial trenching.*

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** *Dependant on the results of the field evaluation.*

**24. Trackway** SH 2555 7982 – SH 2590 7986

*Category C*

A trackway runs westward from Trearddur Mews to Snowdon View Road. At present only its western end is accessible, as the rest is overgrown. It was originally walled on both sides, but most of the wall on the southern side has been lost. As this was not on the Penrhos Estate there are few early maps, which show it, although it is indicated on the 1853 tithe map, as well on the County Series maps.

Maps: Tithe map (1853), County series 25" (1900)

**Recommendations for further assessment:** *None.*

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** *Basic recording.*

**25. Structure** SH 2600 7995

*Category D*

A rock ridge running east-west with dry-stone revetting on its southern side. The land slopes down to form a roughly rectangular hollow over 1.5m deep, maximum. This is just north of a modern fence and may be the remains of a previous boundary terraced into the slope. The ground level has been artificially raised within the modern fence creating the rectangular shape of the hollow.

**Recommendations for further assessment:** *None*

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** *Basic recording*

**26. Field bridge** c. SH 2580 7975

*Category D*

A small bridge over a drainage channel in the middle of the field. It is aligned roughly east-west and measures 3 x 1.5m. It is composed of four large slabs and several smaller stones. One of the slabs is a reused gatepost pierced by three holes to hold the gate fittings.

**Recommendations for further assessment:** *None*

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** *Basic recording*

**27. Cae-glas** SH 2640 8006

*Category C*

The name appears on the 1769 map as part of the lands of Pen y Lone, and also on the 1817 map, but no buildings are shown on these early maps, except for those at Felin-heli. It is not marked on the 1845 map, but a building does appear on the 1853 tithe map. The present buildings are probably those shown on the 1889 map. The house has changed relatively little externally, although it is rendered and white-washed so details of construction and alteration cannot be seen. Only one of the original sash windows remains; it is downstairs on the south-east face.

Maps: Penrhos II, 804 (1817), W maps 52/1 (1845), tithe map (1853), 25" (1889)

**Recommendations for further assessment:** *None*

**Recommendations for mitigatory measures:** *Detailed recording if under threat.*

## 28. Tre-gof SH 2660 8020

### Category C

This was an important farm, also known as Tre'rgo. It existed in the Medieval period, and in the 16<sup>th</sup> century was inhabited by the Gwyn family (also Gwynne or Wynn). John Gwyn of Tre'rgo was the High Sheriff of Anglesey in 1543 and 1555. The farm was joined to the Penrhos estate at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, when John Owen inherited Tre'rgo from his grandmother, who had married an Owen. The house was converted to labourers' dwellings, and farm buildings, but was still occupied in 1947 (Williams 1947). The farm appears on the 1769 and 1817 estate maps in much the same location as today, but with the spelling Tre'rgof, Tre'r Gof, or Tre'go, as well as Tre'rgo (township of the smith). The fields are somewhat random in layout in 1769, but by 1817 achieve the more formalised pattern that was to continue largely unchanged. Some of the fields become amalgamated after this date, and some boundaries. In 1845 there was a track running north to the east side of the farm, by 1853 this had moved to the west side, though it later moved back to the east. The western track can be seen as a cropmark or earthwork on the aerial photographs.

Although now completely derelict the foundations of the buildings remain with walls surviving in places up to 3m high. The site is over grown, but all the structures shown on the 1889 map can be clearly seen on the ground. The most complete building is a stone shed with brick arches (**plate 12**); those on the north-eastern side are decorative, but those on the south-western side were originally all open, although two are now blocked. There is also a large rectangular door in the north-western gable end. The structure probably began as a livestock shelter shed, and was converted to other uses. The gables survive to their full height, and one roof timber remains in place, with others and the roof slates on the floor. To the west of this is a partly silted up pond, and then the entrance into the farmyard.

The farmhouse itself was presumably the range of buildings along the northern side of the yard, though these are now just piles of rubble. Opposite is a range of three small structures, possibly pig sties (**plate 13**), with two larger stalls adjacent. Along the western side of the yard are the remains of barns, with a relatively narrow door and ventilation slits through the outer wall. To the south of the stables are two subsidiary yards with barns. The gateway to these has impressive, tall round, tower-like gate-pillars. The farmyard is walled, and there is an outer wall enclosing the paddocks and wood, which surround the farmyard.

Maps: Penrhos II, 772, map 2 (1769), Penrhos III, 208, Penrhos II, 778, sheet 8 (1817), Penrhos II, 804 (1817), W maps 52/1 (1845), tithe map (1853), 25" (1889)

*Recommendations for further assessment: None.*

*Recommendations for mitigatory measures: The importance of this farmstead justifies detailed recording of all upstanding structures and excavation to investigate the buried archaeology.*

## 29. Quarry SH 2690 8035

### Category D

This is indicated as an 'old quarry' on the 1889 map just north-east of Tre-gof, and it is shown on the 1926 map, but not labeled as a quarry. This map does show several ponds, presumably in old quarry workings. Its location is shown on the 1971 map as a patch of scrubby land, half of which extends into the study area. The quarry is not marked on the 1769 or 1817 estate maps, but the land later quarried can be identified as a projection from a larger field, possibly quarrying had already started, or the land had been enclosed in advance of that purpose. The area is presently too overgrown with gorse to enter.

Maps: Penrhos III, 208 (1769), Penrhos, 778, sheet 8 (1817), 25" (1889), 6" (1926)

*Recommendations for further assessment: None*

*Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Basic recording after clearance of vegetation.*

### **Sites bordering on the study area**

Sites immediately outside the area, but possibly influenced by it. In all cases, except Ty'n y Pwll, which seems to have been already destroyed, the affect of development on the setting of these sites must be considered.

#### **30. Merddyn-poeth SH2505 8102**

##### *Category C*

This farm appears on 1769 and 1817 maps in roughly same position as in 1926. It is still in same position, but unnamed on modern map. The field layout is a little different in this area in 1769 to later, but by 1853 the layout was much the same as today.

Maps: Penrhos III, 208 (1769), Penrhos II, 804 (1817), tithe map (1853), County series 6" (1926), OS 1:10,000 (1971)

#### **31. Ty'n y Pwll c. SH 255 811**

##### *Category C*

A single house and a toft (called Tyn y Proll) are located on the 1769 and 1817 maps to south-east of Ty Mawr. Two buildings and some tofts, within larger fields are marked in 1853, and the farm is mentioned on the Ty Mawr enclosure award (1861) as Ty'n y pwll. A mound and possible hollow is visible on the aerial photographs roughly where house is situated on maps. It resembles the dew ponds seen elsewhere in the middle of fields, and may not be related to the farmstead. This feature could not be located on the ground, and it is probably that it and the site of the farm are now under the works for new A55 trunk road, and therefore outside the study area.

Maps: Penrhos II, 772, map 3 (1769), Penrhos II 804 (1817), W maps 52/1 (1845), tithe map (1853), WPE 68/128 (1861)

#### **32. Pillbox SH2555 7982**

##### *Category B*

There is a circular pillbox on the corner of Snowdon View Road, at the south-western end of the track from Trearddur Mews (site 23). It is constructed of concrete but faced in local stone, with stones set around the edge of the roof, to camouflage it as a garden feature. There is a single row of loopholes and a door, with a blast wall, in the south-western side, although this is now blocked. It is set low down, so that it is hardly visible over the hedge, and is located just outside the study area. The pillbox is located to cover the fields to the east, which are part of the study area. There is no view of the coast or features of obvious strategic importance, so its function must have been to prevent enemy movement across the open fields.

#### **33. Trearddur Farm SH 2600 7985**

##### *Category C*

This farm appears on the edge of many of the maps but sometimes not named, as it was not part of the Penrhos Estate. Now called Trearddur Mews, Trearddur Bay seems to have taken its name from this farm, but whether the farm was named after Coetan Arthur or vice versa is unclear.

Maps : Tithe map (1853)

#### **34. Trearddur hut group PRN 2003, SAM A92, SH 2625 7989**

##### *Category A*

This group of prehistoric huts is just beyond the development area to the south east, but it is a scheduled monument and is included here because any development is likely to have an impact on its landscape and the outlook from the site.

The huts were visible as circular hollows with traces of walling situated on a rocky knoll, but they are over grown with gorse and cannot presently be seen. The site faces east towards Anglesey, so

avoidance of disrupting its outlook should not be difficult, as long as the development is low level. The site has not been excavated and the remains are now disturbed and difficult to interpret.

**35. Felin-heli Tre-gof PRN 7212, SH 2657 7977**

*Category B*

This tidal mill is shown on the maps of 1845 and 1853. The mill pond was located to the west of Mill Island, though this area was filled in by 1887. In 1845 five buildings are shown round the mill. The area of the in-filled dam can be seen well on the aerial photographs. The earliest reference to this site is from 1524, but it is thought that the mill existed before then; the dam and miller's cottage still remain (GAT 251).

Maps: W maps 52/1 (1845), tithe map (1853), 25" County Series (surveyed 1887, pub 1900)

## **5 ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT AND PROPOSALS FOR MITIGATORY MEASURES**

### **5.1 Proposals for field evaluation**

#### **5.1.1 Site specific proposals**

The next phase of the project is to carry out field evaluation of sites identified in this report. The following sites are recommended for field evaluation involving geophysical survey and trial trenching to establish the nature and extent of any remains.

Site 6	Site 13
Site 9	Site 16
Site 10	Site 18
Site 11	Site 21
Site 12	Site 23

#### **5.1.2 Area proposals**

Many archaeological sites can only be identified by field evaluation. The finding of archaeological sites late in the construction programme can often cause tremendous difficulties, and it is therefore recommended that a programme of geophysical survey and trial excavation be undertaken to help identify sites at an early stage. Previous work has shown that sample rates of 10% and 2% respectively, of the area to be developed, are appropriate. A completely random sampling strategy is rarely the most productive in finding sites. It is usually best to consider the topography and the location of known sites when deciding the position of trial trenches, so that the most likely locations for past activity can be chosen. This evaluation phase may be followed in some cases by further, more extensive excavations if significant sites are revealed. There should be allowance for the production of a proper level of archiving and production of a report and drawings with a summary for publication, if the resulting information is suitable.



## 5.2 Summary of recommendations for mitigatory measures

This lists the sites according to their perceived archaeological value, and summaries the recommended mitigatory measures.

### *Category A - National importance*

8	Avoidance
14	Avoidance

### *Category B - Regional Importance*

15	Avoidance
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### *Category C - Local Importance*

1	Basic recording/Reinstatement
2	Basic recording/watching brief
3	Basic recording
4	Basic recording
6	Dependant on results of field evaluation
10	Dependant on results of field evaluation
13	Dependant on results of field evaluation
16	Dependant on results of field evaluation
17	Detailed recording
18	Detailed recording/other recording dependent on results of field evaluation
19	Basic recording
24	Basic recording
27	Detailed recording
28	Detailed recording / excavation

### *Category D - Minor or damaged features*

5	Watching brief
7	Detailed recording
12	Dependant on results of field evaluation
20	None
22	Basic recording
23	Dependant on results of field evaluation
25	Basic recording
26	Basic recording
29	Basic recording

### *Category E-Sites needing further investigation*

9	Dependant on results of field evaluation
11	Dependant on results of field evaluation
21	Dependant on results of field evaluation

## 7 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

A desk top and field survey of the study area was carried out. This identified 29 sites within the study area and a further 6 bordering on it. The report recommends measures for recording and mitigation of impact in the case of the development impacting significantly on the area of each site. The study area contains archaeology from various periods ranging from the prehistoric to the Second World War. Some of the monuments are of national importance, not only should they not be damaged by development, but their setting should also be preserved.

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W MAPS 52/1 (1845) A plan of the parish of Holyhead and part of Rhoscolyn, Penrhos Estate plan  
c.1845

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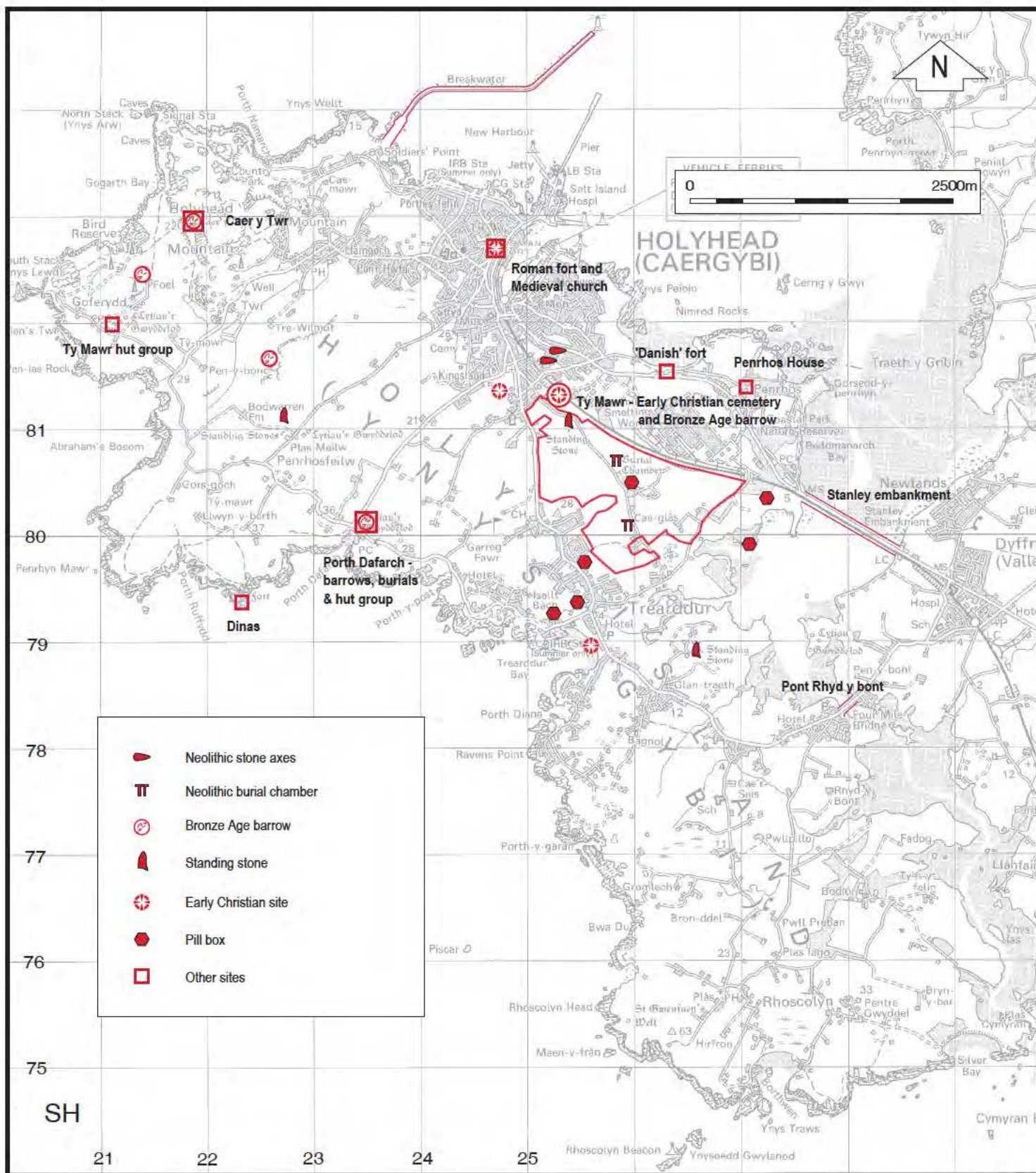
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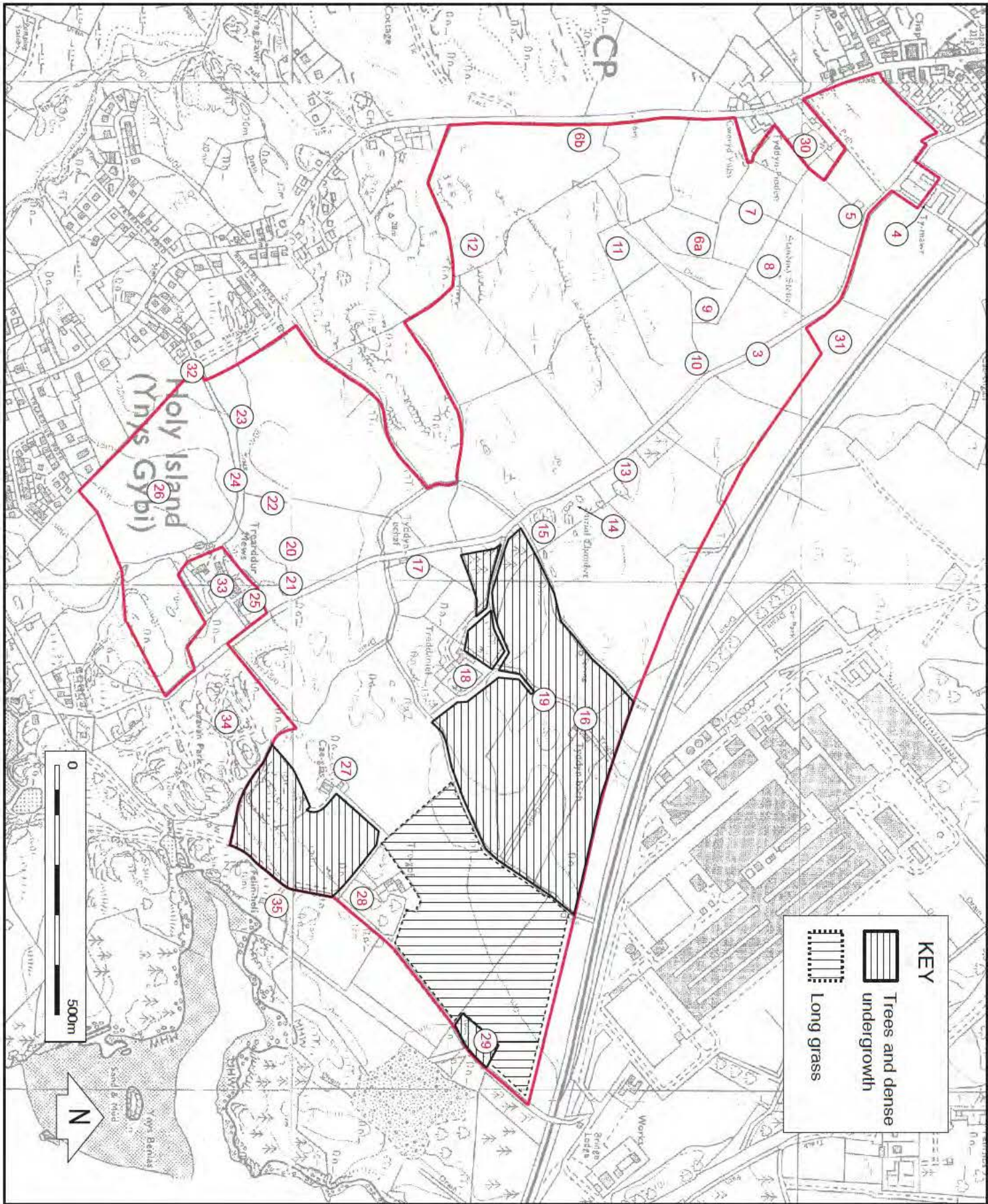
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Fig 1. Location of sites in proximity to study area.



Title: Location of sites within the survey area.		Client: 		Scales: 31/10/00	
 <b>Gwynedd Archaeological Trust</b> 01248 352535 01248 370925 email: gat@heneb.co.uk Craig Beuno : Ffordd y Garth : Bangor : LL57 2RT				Drawing number	
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Fig 2. Location of sites within the survey area.

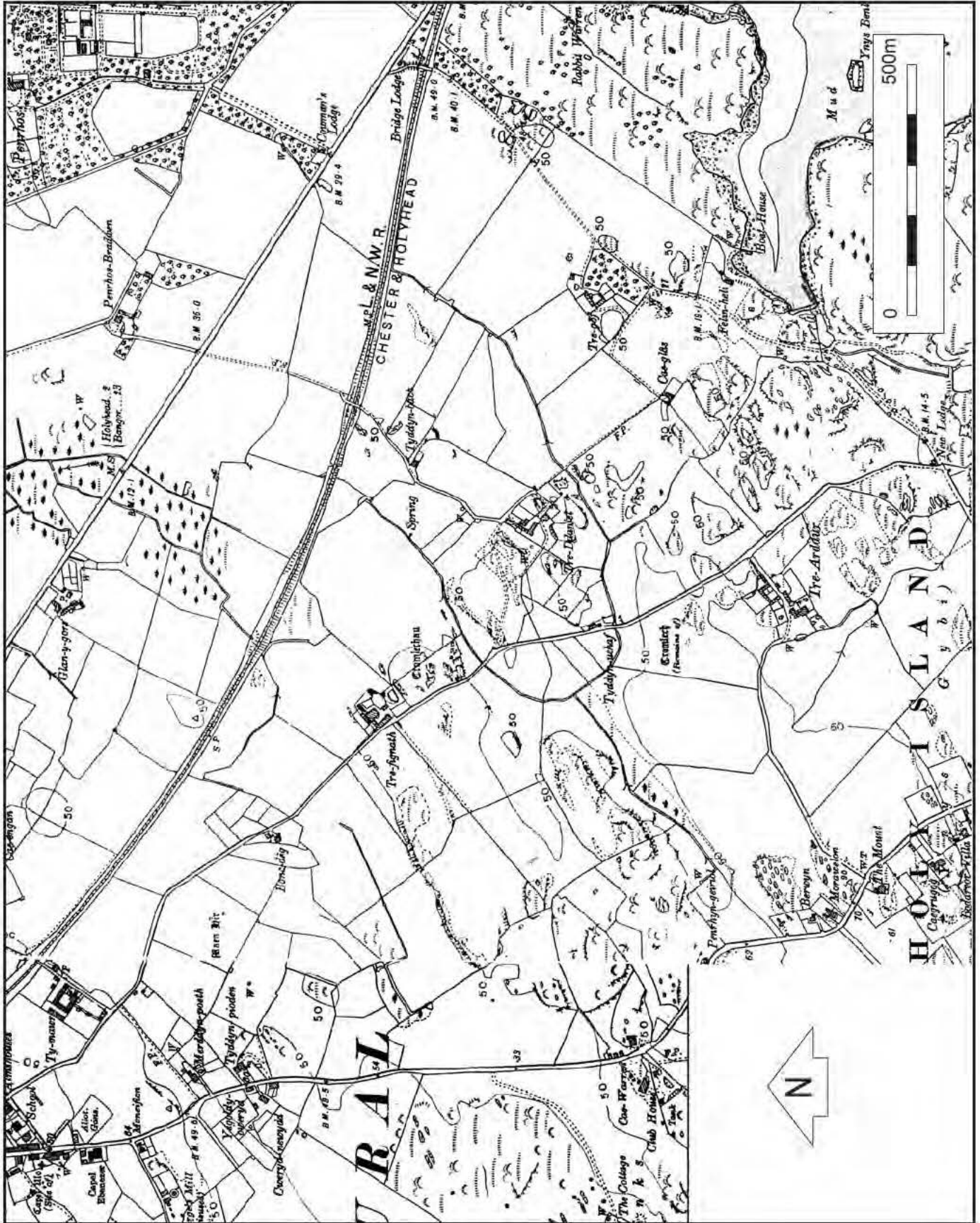


Fig 3. Extract from 6" map, 1926 Scale 1:10,560

*Trefignant, Merddyn poeth, Tyddyn picdan, &c.*

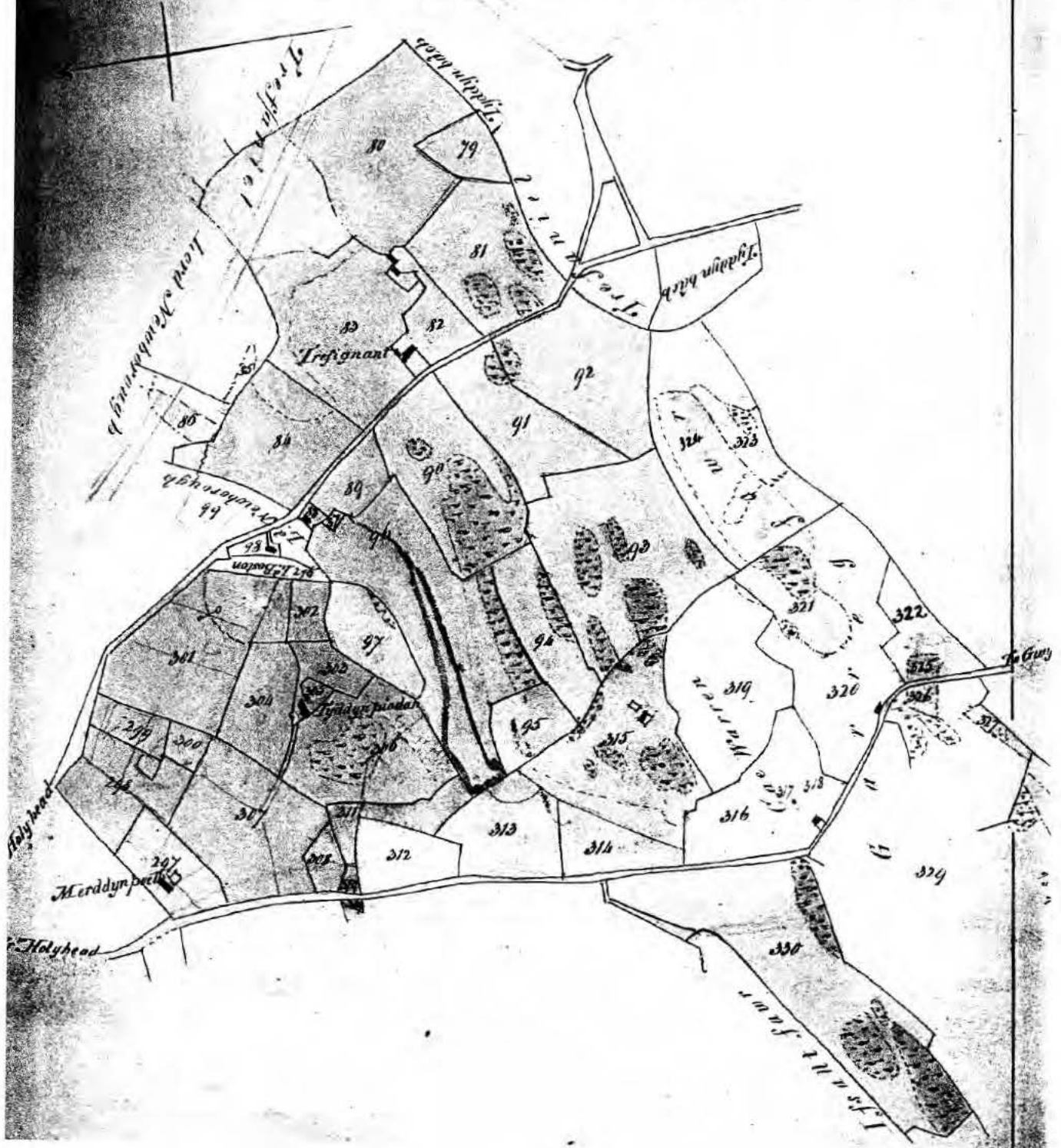


Figure 4: Estate map of Trefignath (Penrhos II 804 sheet 1, 1817)



*Tyddyn-bach, Cae glàs, Felin, &c.*

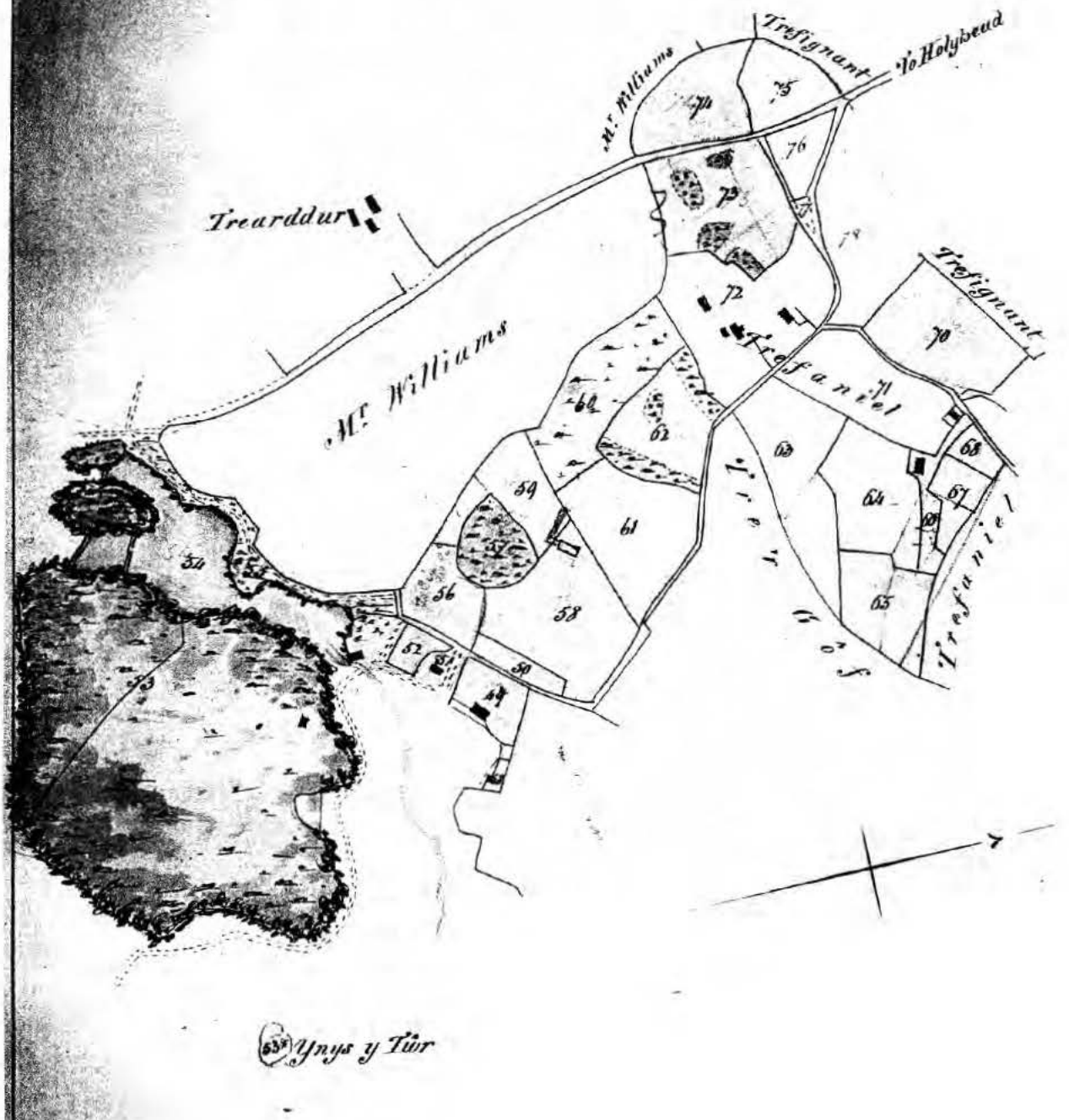


Figure 5: Estate map of Tyddyn-bach (Penrhos II 804 sheet 3, 1817)

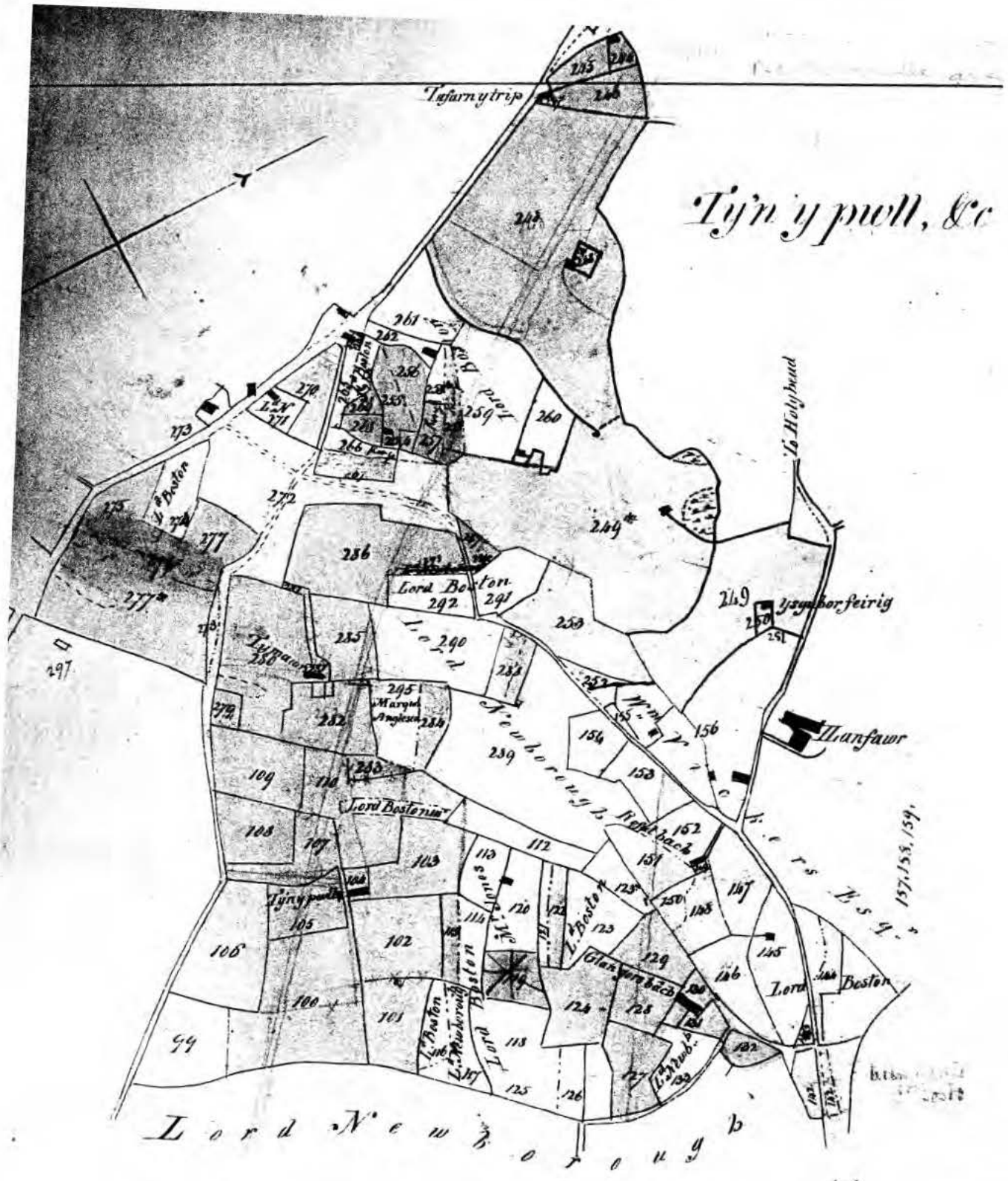


Figure 6: Estate map of Ty'n y Pwll and Ty Mawr (Penrhos II 804 sheet 5, 1817)



Figure 7: Estate map of Tre'r Gof (Penrhos II 804 sheet 8, 1817)

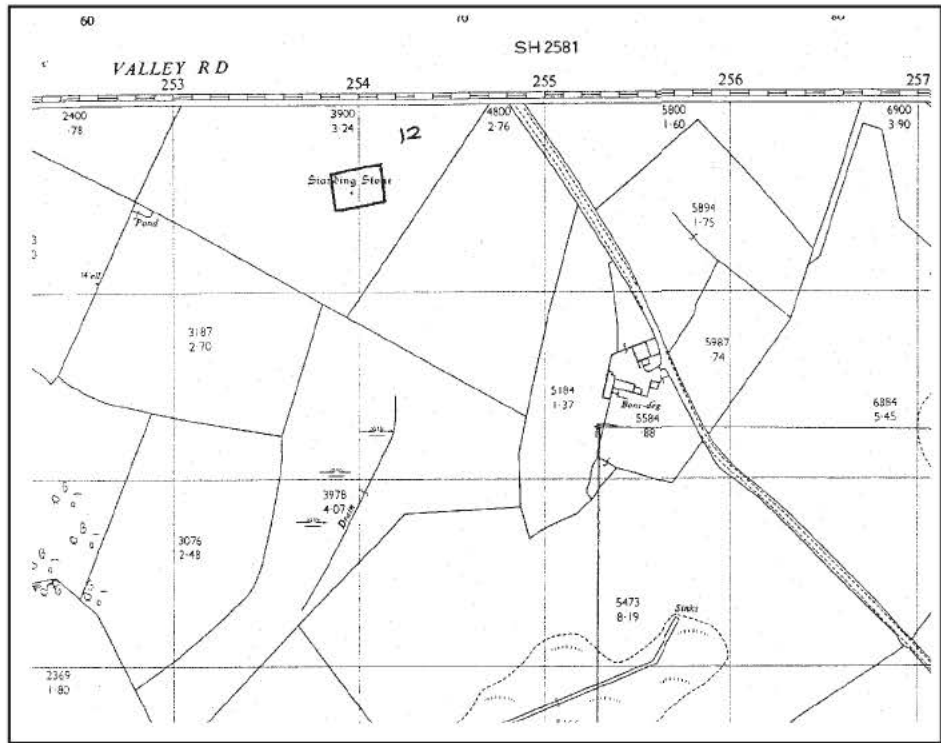


Figure 8: Scheduled area around the Ty Mawr standing stone

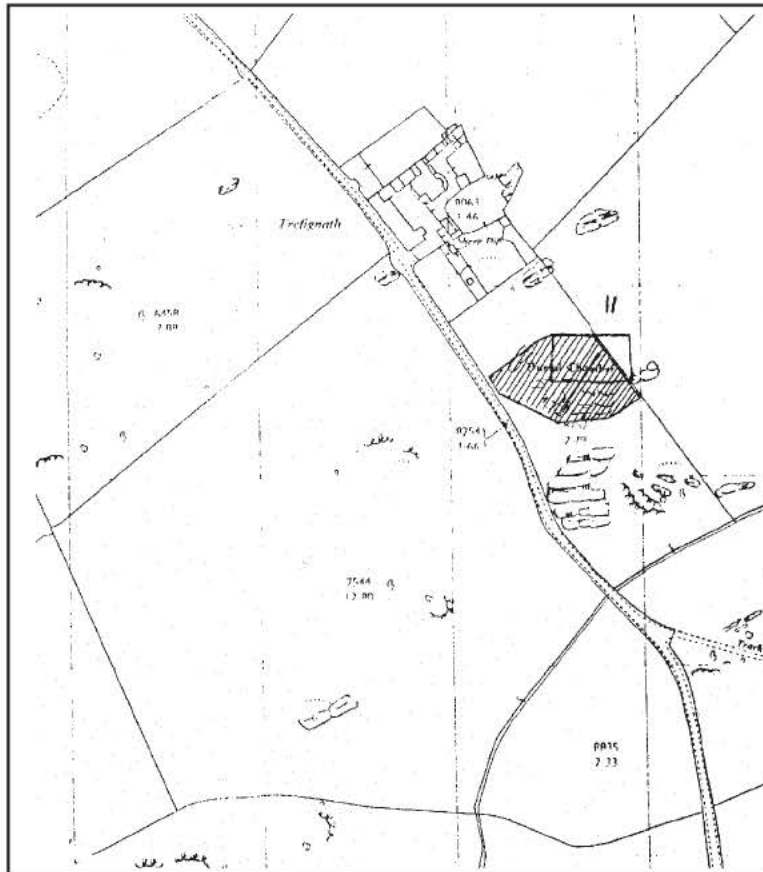


Figure 9: Scheduled and guardianship areas around Trefignath burial chamber



Plate 1: A typical wall



Plate 2: An ornate gatepost near Trefignath



Plate 3: Well, site 7



Plate 4: Ty Mawr standing stone



Plate 5: Looking north from the possible toppled standing stone towards the Ty Mawr stone



Plate 6: Trefignath burial chamber looking north-west towards Holyhead Mountain



Plate 7: Pillbox near Trefignath burial chamber



Plate 8: Pillbox at corner of Snowdon View Road



Plate 9: Gateway and farmyard wall at Treddaniel



Plate 10: Remains of the Trearddur monument



Plate 11: Rubbing stone near Trearddur





Plate 12: Livestock shelter shed at Tre-gof



Plate 13: Possible pig sties at Tre-gof