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# **SIR HUGH OWEN LOWER SCHOOL (SEGONTIUM SCHOOL) ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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**Report No. 651**

**GAT Project no. G1909**



**Prepared for Turner and Townsend Project Management Ltd  
October 2006**

**By George Smith**



**Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd**  
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**Cover: Segontium School shortly before demolition, May 2006, from the north**

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# **SIR HUGH OWEN LOWER SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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# **SIR HUGH OWEN LOWER SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

### **PROJECT NO. G1909**

#### **SUMMARY**

*An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of a proposed development on the site of the former Sir Hugh Owen Lower School, known as Segontium School, on Llanberis Road, Caernarfon. The work was requested by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS) following recommendations made after a previous desktop assessment (Smith 2006). This assessment identified the area as having some archaeological potential, principally because the site lies only 200m north-east of the site of the Roman auxiliary fort of Segontium, one of the longest occupied Roman forts in Wales, between the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. A cremation burial in a pot of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD was also found in 1936 only 30m west of the development site. Comparison with finds from other Roman forts in Wales showed that the area within about 250m of forts was used for a variety of purposes including settlement, industry, burial and military training. The evaluation was carried out by a series of trial trenches. Most of the subsoil surface area was well preserved but no evidence of any Roman activity was found although some pre-school features were found related to 19<sup>th</sup> century agriculture.*

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust was asked by Turner and Townsend Project Management Limited (Manchester) to carry out an archaeological evaluation in advance of construction of a new Law Court on the site of the former Segontium School (NGR SH48633 62738), Llanberis Road, Caernarfon, which formed the Lower Site of the Sir Hugh Owen School, which is based on the Bethel Road, Caernarfon. The client is HOK International (London). The evaluation was requested by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS) as part of the pre-application phase of the planning process, following an earlier desktop archaeological assessment (Smith 2006).

The area affected comprises about 5300 sq. m (0.53ha) on the north-facing slope of a promontory between the Rivers Seiont and Cadnant (Fig. 1). The area now lies within the 20<sup>th</sup> century suburbs of Caernarfon, but consisted of fields until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when a new building for the Caernarfon County School was built to replace rented buildings in the town. The area was, however, one of considerable activity between the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD because of the presence of a major Roman fort 200m to the south around which were roads, civilian settlement, craft/industrial activities, cemeteries and a temple. The fort was abandoned at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD but there is evidence for some activity in subsequent centuries and a church was established there. In the Medieval period Caernarfon was a small settlement focussed on the castle and walled town, built in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century, and did not develop much beyond this area until the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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

The work was carried out in accordance with a design agreed with Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (Appendix 1). This comprised a 20% sample strip of the development area with the aim of identifying if any archaeological features were present. If areas of archaeological potential were uncovered then a further stage of targeted evaluation might be needed and possibly recommendations might be made for further excavation and recording or by preservation *in situ*.

The project design conformed to the specifications of the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994, rev. 1999) and the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1995, rev. 1999).

### 3 METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

The evaluation was carried out between Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September and Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2006.

Twelve trenches were opened (Fig. 3). The trenches were just under 2m in width and were laid out at regular 10m metre intervals to provide a 10% sample of the area. Most of the trenches were laid out on a north-south alignment to follow the natural slope of the ground. Services had been disconnected before the demolition of the buildings, allowing unrestricted excavation although a scanner was used prior to excavation. However, it was found that a live sewer serving the school caretaker's house still crossed the site at the south and two of the trenches were cut on an east-west alignment to evaluate the area on either side of the sewer. It also seemed likely that another live pipe still connects to this sewer line from the changing room of the former school gymnasium to the west of the Caretaker's house.

The trenches were cut by a wheeled excavator under archaeological supervision using a straight bladed bucket to allow cutting of clean surfaces. The overburden was removed by machine to the underlying subsoil surface. Any features then revealed were investigated by hand and recorded on plan and by photography.

The archive is held by GAT under the project number **G1909**.

#### 4.0 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The historical and archaeological background was studied as part of the desktop work for the assessment report (Smith 2006) and no further information has come to hand so is only summarised here.

There are no previous prehistoric features or finds from the immediate vicinity of the development site and there is nothing about the topographic position to suggest it has particular potential for activity in that period.

The development site lies only 200m north-east of the site of the Roman auxiliary fort of Segontium, a large fort that was occupied for a considerable period, between the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD (Casey *et al* 1993). Excavations and chance finds show that there were many activities in the area around the Segontium during the Roman period, including roads, civil and industrial settlement, cemeteries and a small temple. At Segontium the main civilian settlement appears to have been on the west of the fort while the main cemeteries were on the east. Comparison with evidence from other Roman forts in Wales shows that the areas within about 250 m of forts might be used for many purposes including settlement, industry, burial and military training. Therefore there is a good potential for the presence of some evidence of activity in the Roman period, such as funerary, military or industrial. Cemeteries associated with Roman forts are found most typically clustered around the road from the eastern or northern side of the fort. The line of the nearest Roman road, the northern road out of Segontium is believed to have been about 200m to the south-east of the development area. However, one cremation burial of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD was found in 1936 only 30m to the west of the development site, during construction of houses there. The presence of this burial suggests there may have been a cemetery there, which may have extended into the area of the development. It is quite likely that there was a minor road, on the line of the Llanberis Road, in the Roman period, connecting the civilian settlement around Victoria Terrace to the line of the main road north of the fort.

The previous research showed that the area of the development was part of a field, beyond the settlement of Caernarfon, during the medieval and post-medieval periods, right up to the spread of the modern conurbation of Caernarfon so has little archaeological potential in these periods. Prior to the purchase of the land for the construction of the school in 1898-1900 the area was still just a field belonging to Cwellyn Farm, which was part of the Penrhyn Estate. In the Tithe Apportionment of 1841 its field name was 'Wern' meaning meadow and its status was recorded as 'Meadow' so it was clearly a pasture field suggesting that it was not well drained and so unsuitable for arable cultivation.

## 5.0 EVALUATION RESULTS

The main features recorded are shown in plan in Fig. 4. All trenches were also recorded by levelling and three example profiles are shown in Fig. 5.

### Trench 1

Size: Trench 1a, 14.6m long, 1.8m wide. 0.70m deep max. Trench 1b, 23.0m long and 1.8m wide.

#### *Description:*

Trench 1 was cut in two parts 1a and 1b to avoid damaging the roots of two semi-mature trees along the western boundary that were due to be retained in the new development.

The ground was approximately level at the south then sloped gently down to the north. The topsoil was deepest and up to 0.70m deep at the north end. The only features were four linear cuts of modern drains. The subsoil was gravelly clay becoming purer gravel towards the south end.

#### *Interpretation:*

The greater depth of the topsoil at the north end indicated some ploughing and positive lynchetting in the field during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, prior to the school construction.

### Trench 2

Size: 43.0m long and 1.8m wide.

#### *Description:*

Six areas of concrete foundation lay east-west across the trench. The lowest layer was the 19<sup>th</sup> century ploughsoil (206) from which a piece of white glazed tableware was found. This soil was sealed by a layer of clayey made-ground (212), laid down to level up the ground for the floor of the school.

Another layer of soil was also added outside the school at the north to bring the ground slope up to meet the school north wall. North of the northernmost foundation, representing the north wall of the school was an east-west aligned cut for a drain and beyond that a defunct armoured electric cable.

#### *Interpretation:*

The made-ground for the school floor levelling seems to be redeposited subsoil brought in from elsewhere. The subsoil was clear and undisturbed with no evidence of earlier features.

### Trench 3

Size: 42.3m long and 1.8m wide.

#### *Description:*

The main features were east-west lengths of concrete foundation of the former school. There was also one north-south length and a more recent grey brick-built underground compartment with electric cabling, identified as part of the former school boiler room. To the north were a drain cut and an electric cable.

At the north end a small sub-circular feature, pit 316, was found (Fig. 4). This was 0.31m diameter and 0.14m deep with a rounded profile and contained a black fill suggesting that it contained charcoal (Fig. 7). This was half-sectioned and recorded and the whole of its fill, about 10litres, was retained for flotation and sieving (Sample 1).

#### *Interpretation:*

The small pit was interpreted as a possible unaccompanied cremation burial of Roman or Prehistoric date, although no charcoal or burnt bone was seen in the fill at the time of excavation.

### Trench 4

Size: 40.0m long and 1.8m wide.

#### *Description:*

Five east-west lengths of the former school walls were found and an east-west drain cut to the north, but no earlier features. The 19<sup>th</sup> century ploughsoil was still preserved under the centre of the former school but had been truncated during the school construction.

#### *Interpretation:*

The subsoil surface was well preserved but no features earlier than the school were present.

### Trench 5

Size: 43.0m long and 1.8m wide.

#### *Description:*

Five east-west lengths of the former school walls were found (Fig. 9). The 19<sup>th</sup> century ploughsoil was well preserved in the north half but truncated to the south beneath the former school floors.

*Interpretation:*

The subsoil surface was well preserved but no features earlier than the school were present.

**Trench 6**

Size: 42.0m long and 1.8m wide.

*Description:*

The position of this trench was moved 2m to the east in order to provide a better sample of the remaining area here because of the presence of an access road that was still in use and so could not be excavated.

The trench lay just beyond the east edge of the former school building and cut through the former school yard and then through a deep topsoil layer, with no walls or other features present (Fig. 11).

*Interpretation:*

The subsoil surface was well preserved but no features earlier than the school were present.

**Trench 7**

Size: 36.5m long and 1.8m wide.

*Description:*

At the north end this cut through a deep, broad bank of soil (Figs 5 and 11). This proved to consist of a layer of old ploughsoil covered by a further layer of redeposited topsoil, containing some slabs of concrete.

The south end of the trench intruded into the area of a former school outbuilding and it was crossed by two modern drainage cuts.

In the centre of the trench were a narrow linear gully or slot (705) and a line of six shallow post-holes (Fig. 4, 707-715). These features were associated with some pieces of coal, fragments of glazed tableware and a clay tobacco-pipe stem.

*Interpretation:*

The latter features contained finds suggesting that they were older than the school and the post line was on a different alignment to the existing boundaries. They seemed likely to belong with agricultural use of the field in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Trench 8**

Size: 34.5m long and 1.80m wide.

*Description:*

The trench was up to 1.0m deep at the north end, where topsoil had been redeposited but very shallow at the south where the soil had been removed to create a platform for the prefabricated buildings there. Also at the south end were water and drain pipes belonging to the former buildings.

*Interpretation:*

The subsoil surface was well preserved but no features earlier than the school were present.

**Trench 9**

Size: 33.0m long and 1.8m wide.

*Description:*

One east-west shallow linear feature was found about centrally in the trench, possibly a 19<sup>th</sup> century field drain. In the south half were a narrow brick wall and a square post-hole, containing the rotted remains of a rectangular post and belonging to a former school building. There were also two areas of cobbles crossing the trench at an angle. The cobbles were contained within the subsoil and were interpreted as natural periglacial stone-strips.

*Interpretation:*

The subsoil surface was well preserved but no features earlier than the 19<sup>th</sup> century use of the field were present.

**Trench 10**

Size: 15.6m long and 1.8m wide.

*Description:*

This was a short trench, confined by the angle of the adjoining boundaries. No features were found.

*Interpretation:*

The subsoil surface was well preserved but no features were present.

**Trench 11**

Size: 35.0m long and 1.8m wide.



*Description:*

This trench was cut west to east through the asphalted yard surface and terminated to avoid an active sewer line at the east end. The asphalt was two layers thick over an earlier yard surface of concrete, laid *in situ*. Unlike the rest of the site, the west end was deeply disturbed where a former outbuilding had been, probably a toilet block. Several modern drains from this building and from the gymnasium to the south were found and at the east end narrow brick foundations of minor outbuildings.

*Interpretation:*

The 19<sup>th</sup> century ploughsoil had been stripped during the school construction but the subsoil surface was still well preserved. However, no features earlier than the former school were present. The deep modern disturbance at the west, adjoining the boundary wall might be because there had once been a series of steps down to the adjoining field.

**Trench 12**

Size: 16.0m long and 1.8m wide.

*Description:*

Cut west to east through the former school yard surface. The subsoil surface was level and undisturbed and the 19<sup>th</sup> century ploughsoil was still preserved in the eastern half. In the western half the topsoil had been removed during school construction and replaced with mixed soil and rubble. At the east end the 4 inch iron gas main pipe supply to the former school was found and left intact, although it had been disconnected before the demolition.

*Interpretation:*

The subsoil surface was well preserved but no features earlier than the school were present.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1 Subsoil**

The subsoil consisted of quite firm silty, gravelly fluvio-glacial till with occasional cobbles and small boulders. This was red-brown at the north of the site on a gentle slope but there was a paler and more clayey and stone-free material towards the south, where the ground was more level. These deposits may have been superficial and there was a suggestion in places that more clayey material would be found at greater depth.

In general the subsoil was undisturbed because it had been protected by a considerable depth of ploughsoil and made-ground and had only been cut into for the insertion of deeper features such as drains.

### **6.2 20<sup>th</sup> Century Features**

The majority of features found were those relating to the former Segontium School lying below the level at which it had been left after demolition. The most obvious remains of the main school building consisted of foundations of concrete with broken brick fill. In a few places one course of the lowest stone wall-course survived. The foundations had been set in trenches and built on top of the subsoil surface. The site slopes gently to the north and the school had been terraced above the slope. It had therefore been built over the existing ploughsoil, which still survived over most of the area (Figs 4, 6 and 8). At the north side of the school and within the area of the school building the ground had been made up to the new terrace level.

Various service trenches were also found; including ceramic drain pipes, metal gas and water pipes and electrical cables, all disconnected. However, one sewer was found to be still in use at the south and west side of the site, serving the caretaker's house and possibly also the Boxing Club and Gymnasium (Fig. 4). Some of the disused drains of the demolished school are also still connected into this sewer.

At the west and south side of the school and in the field to the east had been various outbuildings, some of which had been pre-fabricated structures. These had slighter brick foundations. The area of the building in the field at the east had been stripped of topsoil before construction of the school outbuildings there and the soil dumped in a low mound against the northern boundary and over the pre-existing ploughsoil (Fig. 11).

### **6.3 19<sup>th</sup> Century Features**

As described above, the 19<sup>th</sup> century ploughsoil still survived over much of the site because it had been left in place when the school was built. Occasional small fragments of 19<sup>th</sup> century transfer-printed tableware were found in this soil.

In the eastern field a few features were found that predated the construction of the school. These consisted of a small linear cut, probably a gully or field drain, 705, and a line of small post-holes, 707-715 (Fig. 4). These features were associated with pieces of coal, fragments of 19<sup>th</sup> century transfer-printed tableware and a clay tobacco-pipe stem fragment. The post-holes were about 6ft apart and suggested probably belonged to a timber post and rail fence. The orientation of the post line did not relate to the existing boundaries. However, if the post-line was projected it would form a continuation of a former north-west to south-east oriented field boundary of the next field to the south, which can be seen on the OS map of 1918 (Fig. 2) and earlier maps, before the construction of the Maes Barcer Estate.

### **6.4 Features possibly earlier than 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

One feature was found that was considered to be possibly of Roman or earlier date. This was a small pit, which could have been interpreted as a cremation burial because it contained a black fill that appeared to be rich in charcoal. The pit, 316, was found at the north end of Trench 3. It was sub-circular, 0.31m diameter and 0.14m deep with a rounded profile (Fig. 4). It was cut into the red-brown gravelly subsoil (Fig. 7). The edges and base of the feature were well defined suggesting that it was a dug feature and not just geological, such as an ice-wedge or tree-hole. The fill was black and gritty but mottled with orange-brown patches. The mottling could have resulted from mixing of the black fill with the subsoil, if it was backfilled soon after excavation.

No charcoal fragments were seen in the fill and no white flecks to suggest the presence of burnt bone. The fill was stone-free and no artefacts were found in it. Subsequently, a sample of the fill was soaked in water and subject to flotation and sieving through a 1mm mesh sieve. No charcoal or bone floated and no identifiable charcoal or bone fragments were seen in the sieved residue. Some pieces of black material, when viewed under magnification, appeared to be clumps of finer grained material. These smeared like charcoal suggesting that the dark fill was of finely comminuted charcoal, but this would not be typical of cremation material, which requires considerable amounts of timber. The fact that none of the black material floated suggests either that it is not charcoal but mineral manganese or iron, or that it is charcoal but indurated with iron or manganese. If the latter this would suggest that the feature is of some geological age and perhaps a natural feature from the early post-glacial period when much of this area would have been forested and the poorer-drained areas may have had a cover of peat. One side of the pit was not clearly defined and some of the dark material continued into a small cavity in the subsoil, which suggests some animal burrowing. It is possible, therefore, that the feature is a filled-in burrow or the mottling may be the result of a small mammal burrowing into the pit fill.

Generally, the absence of identifiable charcoal or any evidence of human activity suggests it is a natural feature. If it was a cremation burial of the Roman period it would most likely be part of a more widespread cemetery, perhaps continuous with the burial found in 1936 but no evidence of any other possible burial features were found.

### **6.5 Conclusions**

No features were found to indicate that there had been any human activity in the development area before the post-medieval period.

Burial features can be quite widely scattered but the area sampled by the evaluation was sufficient to make it reasonably certain that any such activity would have been detected.

The assessment indicated the potential of the area for the presence of activity in the Roman period, being only some 200m from the fort of Segontium. Clearly this area was close to areas of occupation, industry and burial in the Roman period and is unlikely to have been totally unused. However, it may have been that it was kept deliberately free of development for military reasons. Military activities, such as training, parade drilling or cavalry horse grazing may not have left any archaeological traces at subsoil level. In that sense, the lack of evidence itself is of some interest.

The results of the evaluation now indicate that the area is of low archaeological potential, and it is believed that no further evidence would result from any additional archaeological excavation or watching brief.

## **7 REFERENCES**

- Casey, P.J. and Davies, J.L. with Evans, J. 1993. *Excavations at Segontium (Caernarfon) Roman Fort, 1975-1979*. CBA Research Rep. 90, Council for British Archaeology, London.
- Smith, G.H. 2006. *Sir Hugh Owen Lower School Archaeological Assessment*, GAT Report no. 631.

**APPENDIX 1**

**PROJECT DESIGN**

**HUGH OWEN LOWER SCHOOL (SEGONTIUM SCHOOL), LLANBERIS ROAD, CAERNARFON**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION PROJECT DESIGN (G1909)**

Prepared for Turner & Townsend Project Management Ltd, 12 September 2006

## **1. PROJECT BACKGROUND**

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust have been asked by Turner & Townsend Project Management Ltd to provide a cost for carrying out an archaeological evaluation in advance of development at Hugh Owen Lower School (Segontium School), Caernarfon.

An archaeological assessment was undertaken in March 2006 (GAT Report 631), which recommended a programme of field evaluation on the site. This document provides a project design which follows the guidelines specified in *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994, rev. 1999). The work will be monitored by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

## **2. AIMS**

Field evaluation is defined as a 'limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.' (*Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* IFA 1994, rev. 1999).

The purpose of the evaluation is therefore to ascertain the nature and status of any archaeological evidence on the site, and to make recommendations for any mitigation that may be necessary. This may involve full excavation of archaeological remains, or a recommendation for preservation *in situ* should the remains be considered to be of national importance.

## **3. THE ASSESSMENT REPORT**

The recommendations as set out within the assessment report are to 'strip the area of the footprint of the proposed construction to subsoil level under archaeological supervision, clean the surface to archaeological standards, and evaluate any features exposed'.

## **4. METHOD STATEMENT**

### **4.1 Fieldwork**

The area occupied by the proposed development is 5,000 square metres. It is intended to undertake an initial 20% sample strip of the area, amounting to 1000 square metres. This is part of a staged process, and may be followed by further evaluation work if the potential for the discovery of archaeological remains is high. If, however, it is found the archaeological layers are severely truncated, with very low potential for survival, no further work will be undertaken. The decision will be made in conjunction with the clients and the Development Control Archaeologist.

The work will be undertaken according to the following specification.

A visual inspection of the entire site will be undertaken. This will include the examination of any available exposures (e.g. drainage pits or geotechnical pits).

An appropriate machine will be used to remove the upper layers of material. This will normally be a 13 Tonne 360° tracked excavator with a 1.5m or 1.8m wide toothless bucket. All machining will be undertaken under direct archaeological supervision.

All undifferentiated topsoil or overburden of recent origin will be removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon, in successive, level spits. Following machine clearance, all archaeological faces that require examination or recording will be cleaned using hand tools. All investigation of archaeological levels will be by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and section. Spoil heaps will be monitored to recover artefacts to assist in the analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts. Modern artefacts will be noted but not retained.

Within significant archaeological levels a minimum number of features required to meet the aims will be hand excavated. Occasional pits and postholes will be subject to a 50% sample by volume. Complex clusters of pits will be sampled more selectively. Linear features will be sectioned as appropriate. No archaeological deposits will be entirely removed unless this is unavoidable. It is not necessarily the intention that the whole area will be fully excavated to natural stratigraphy, but the depth of archaeological deposits across the site will be assessed. The stratigraphy will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.

All finds will remain the property of the landowner. All artefacts and samples will be treated in a proper manner and to standards agreed in advance with the recipient museum. These will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, stabilised, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in UKIC's "Conservation Guideline No. 2". A register of small finds and environmental samples will be maintained.

## **4.2 Human Burials**

In order to excavate human remains, a licence is required under Section 25 of the Burials Act 1857 for the removal of any body or remains of any body from any place of burial.

In the event of unexpected discoveries of human remains, a licence may be obtained from the Home Office by telephoning them and explaining the situation. Any conditions attached to the licence will be complied with. The following procedural steps will be followed to ensure adherence to legal obligations with as little disruption to the project programme as possible while also keeping all parties informed of the situation:

- On first discovering any unexpected human remains the archaeological subcontractor will endeavour as rapidly as possible to establish whether it is likely that they form part of a group (e.g. cemetery) or are isolated occurrences.
- The archaeological sub-contractor will immediately contact the Home Office, explaining the discovery and requesting the licence to be faxed to the archaeological sub-contractor. The archaeological sub-contractor will, without delay, inform the engineering contractor's site engineer and the Project Archaeologist. The Project Archaeologist will inform the Department's Agent, the District Coroner and if appropriate (on the advice of the Coroner) the Police. Until receipt of the licence limited archaeological excavations would continue in the area of the discovery, without disturbing the burials(s), to clarify the nature and extent of burial features.
- Should the discovery be late in the working day, or the licence not received on the same day as the discovery in time to excavate and fully record the remains with due care and attention, they will be covered in an appropriate manner, and if necessary special overnight security provisions will be made to ensure that the remains are not disturbed by unauthorised persons.
- On receipt of the licence the remains will be excavated and recorded as soon as is practically possible, in accordance with any conditions attached to the licence.

Due care and respect will be accorded any human remains located in the course of archaeological excavations and monitoring of the construction works.

In order not to attract public interest of an undesirable kind, which might result in disturbance of the remains, site staff will be required not to discuss the discovery with unauthorised personnel.

Archaeological recording will be undertaken in accordance with good practice guidelines. No excavated remains will be left on site overnight, but will be removed to a safe store pending full compliance with any conditions for disposal required by the licence.

### 4.3 Unexpected Discoveries: Treasure Trove

Treasure Trove law has been amended by the Treasure Act 1996. The following are Treasure under the Act:

- *Objects other than coins* any object other than a coin provided that it contains at least 10% gold or silver and is at least 300 years old when found.
- *Coins* all coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found (if the coins contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least 10. Any object or coin is part of the same find as another object or coin, if it is found in the same place as, or had previously been left together with, the other object. Finds may have become scattered since they were originally deposited in the ground. Single coin finds of gold or silver are not classed as treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act.
- *Associated objects* any object whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or that had previously been together with, another object that is treasure.
- *Objects that would have been treasure trove* any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. These objects have to be made substantially of gold or silver, they have to be buried with the intention of recovery and their owner or his heirs cannot be traced.

The following types of finds are not treasure:

- Objects whose owners can be traced.
- Unworked natural objects, including human and animal remains, even if they are found in association with treasure.
- Objects from the foreshore which are not wreck.

All finds of treasure must be reported to the coroner for the district within fourteen days of discovery or identification of the items. Items declared Treasure Trove become the property of the Crown, on whose behalf the National Museums and Galleries of Wales acts as advisor on technical matters, and may be the recipient body for the objects.

The National Museums and Galleries of Wales will decide whether they or any other museum may wish to acquire the object. If no museum wishes to acquire the object, then the Secretary of State will be able to disclaim it. When this happens, the coroner will notify the occupier and landowner that he intends to return the object to the finder after 28 days unless he receives no objection. If the coroner receives an objection, the find will be retained until the dispute has been settled.

### 4.4 Processing data, illustration, report and archiving

The level of post-excavation analysis and reporting for the purposes of the evaluation will be sufficient to establish the character, scale, date range, artefactual and palaeo-environmental potential and overall significance of the remains.

The level of artefact analysis will be sufficient to establish date ranges of archaeological deposits, a general assessment of the types of pottery and other artefacts to assist in characterising the archaeology, and to establish the potential for all categories of artefacts should further archaeological work be necessary.

Palaeo-environmental samples, if appropriate, will be processed and scanned to establish the site's potential for yielding valuable information of this type. The scanning will be performed by specialists with appropriate experience of assessing the significance and potential of such material on the basis of limited analysis. Samples will be retained for possible future detailed analysis.

The significance of any archaeology will be judged by general reference to the non-statutory criteria for scheduled monuments. The report on the evaluation will provide an assessment of the impact of the scheme and an outline of mitigation measures proposed. The findings will be discussed with the Development Control archaeologist.

Following the completion of the field work, the data will be processed, final illustrations will be compiled and a report will be produced which will detail and synthesise the results. Survey drawings and a sample of relevant photographs will be used to illustrate the reports.

The report will include:

- a) details of the agreed project design
- b) a scale plan showing location of evaluated areas and archaeology
- c) a description of the methodology
- d) a description of the results
- e) a discussion section, with any recommendations for further work
- g) plans and sections of relevant features
- h) a bibliography of all sources consulted
- i) all specialist reports.

#### **4.5 Archive**

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project will be prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions will be labelled and cross-referenced, and lodged in an appropriate place (to be decided in consultation with the regional Sites and Monuments Record) within six months of the completion of the project. All digital data will be written to CD-ROM and stored with the paper archive.

#### **5. STAFF**

The project will be supervised by Andrew Davidson, Principal Archaeologist at the Trust, who has worked in various aspects of British archaeology for 18 years, and who has been responsible for managing all contract work at the Trust for the past five years, including archaeological programmes for major road contracts, pipeline construction and new development sites. The work will be carried out by fully trained Project Archaeologists who are experienced in conducting archaeological excavations and working with contractors and earth moving machinery. (Full CV's are available upon request).

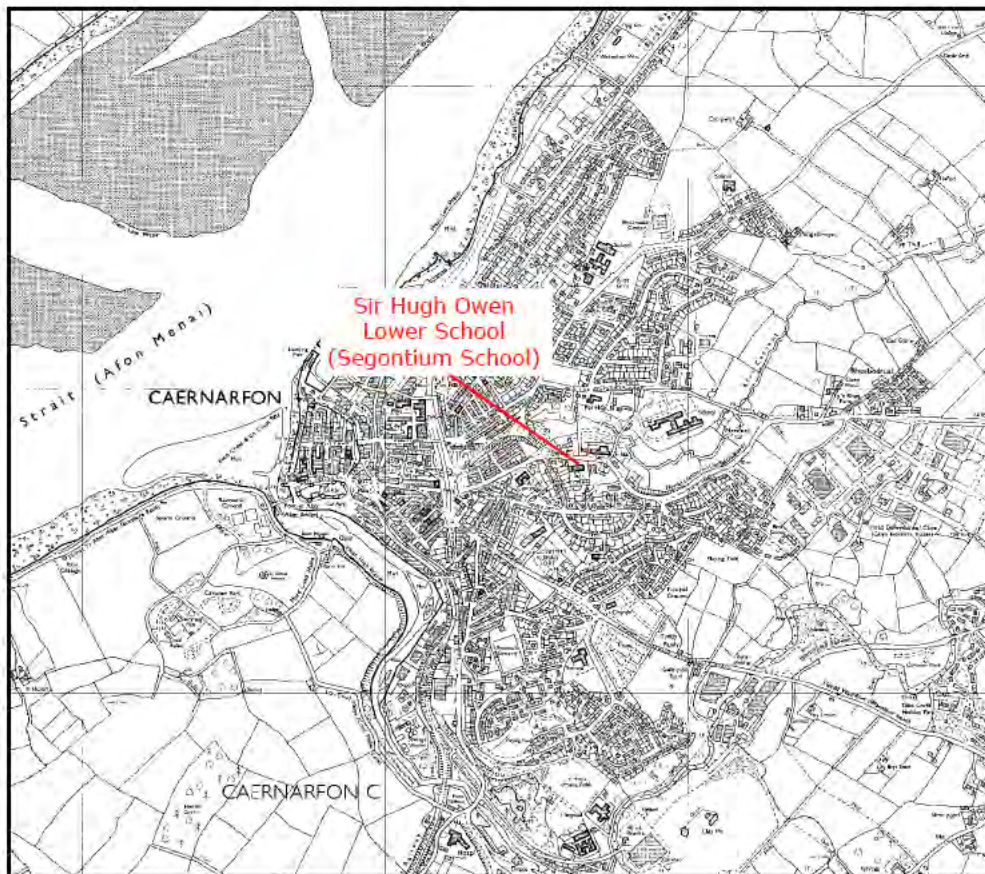
#### **6. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The Trust subscribes to the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers) Health and Safety Policy as defined in **Health and Safety in Field Archaeology** (1999). Risk assessments will be undertaken prior to the project, and will be monitored during the fieldwork phase.

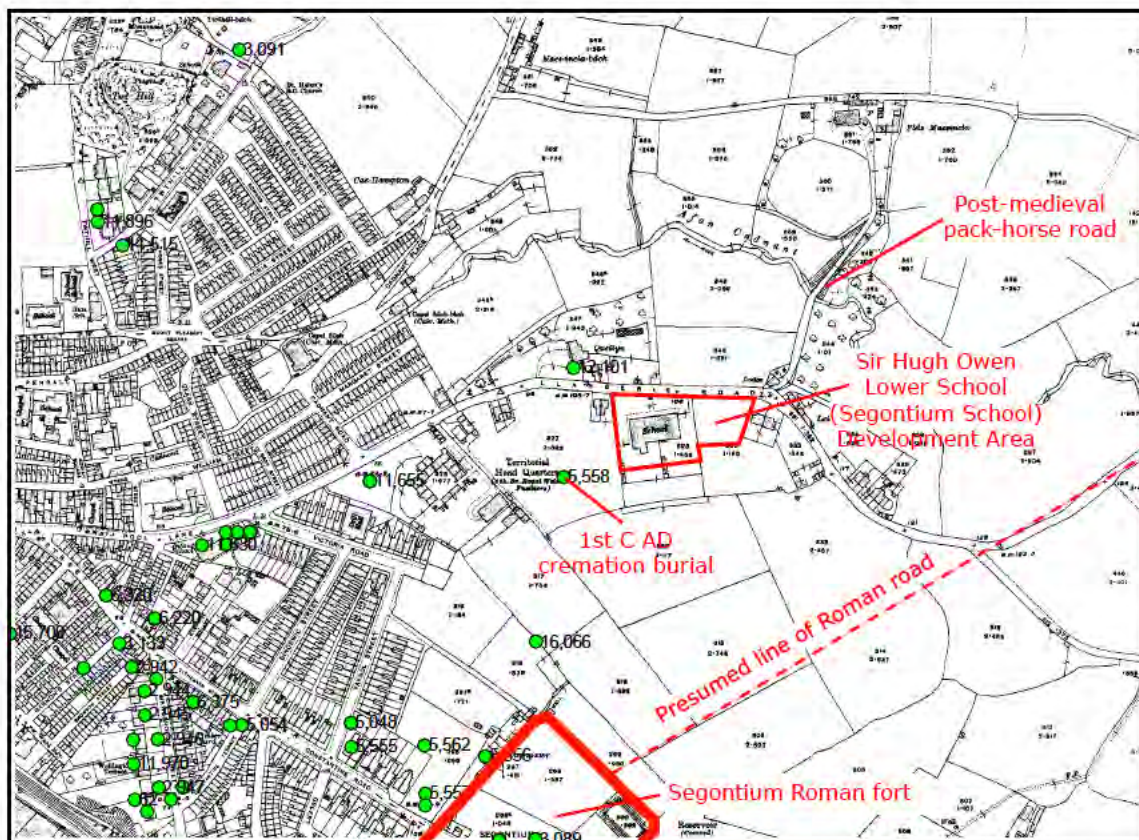
#### **7. INSURANCE**

The Trust holds public liability insurance with an indemnity limit of £2,500,000 through Russell, Scanlon Limited Insurance Brokers, Wellington Circus, Nottingham NG1 5AJ (policy 01 1017386 COM), and Professional Indemnity Insurance for £2,000,000 per claim (policy No. 59A/SA11818791).

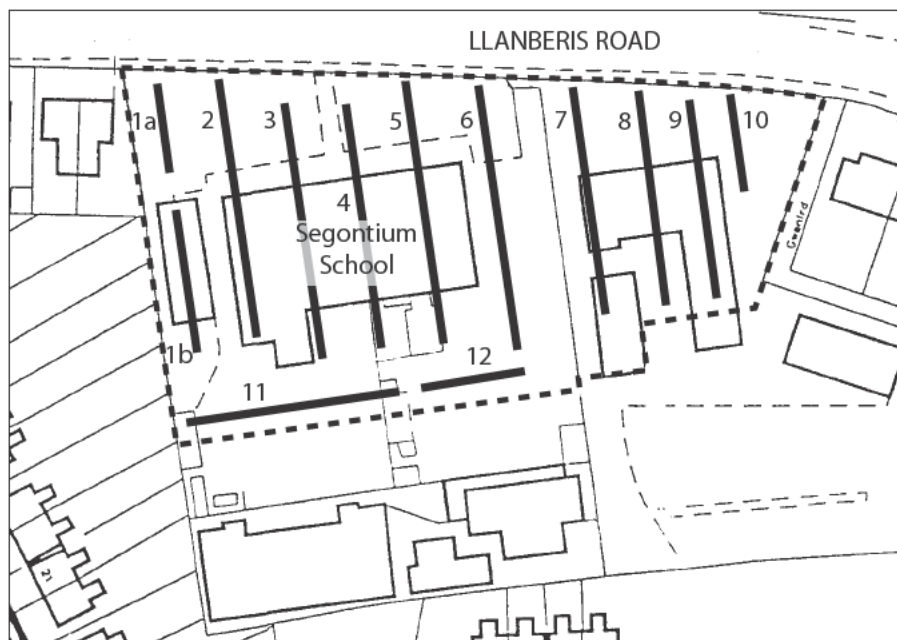




Sir Hugh Owen Lower School Development Fig. 1 Location of the development area. Scale 1:2500.  
Based on OS 1:10,000 scale maps. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100020895.



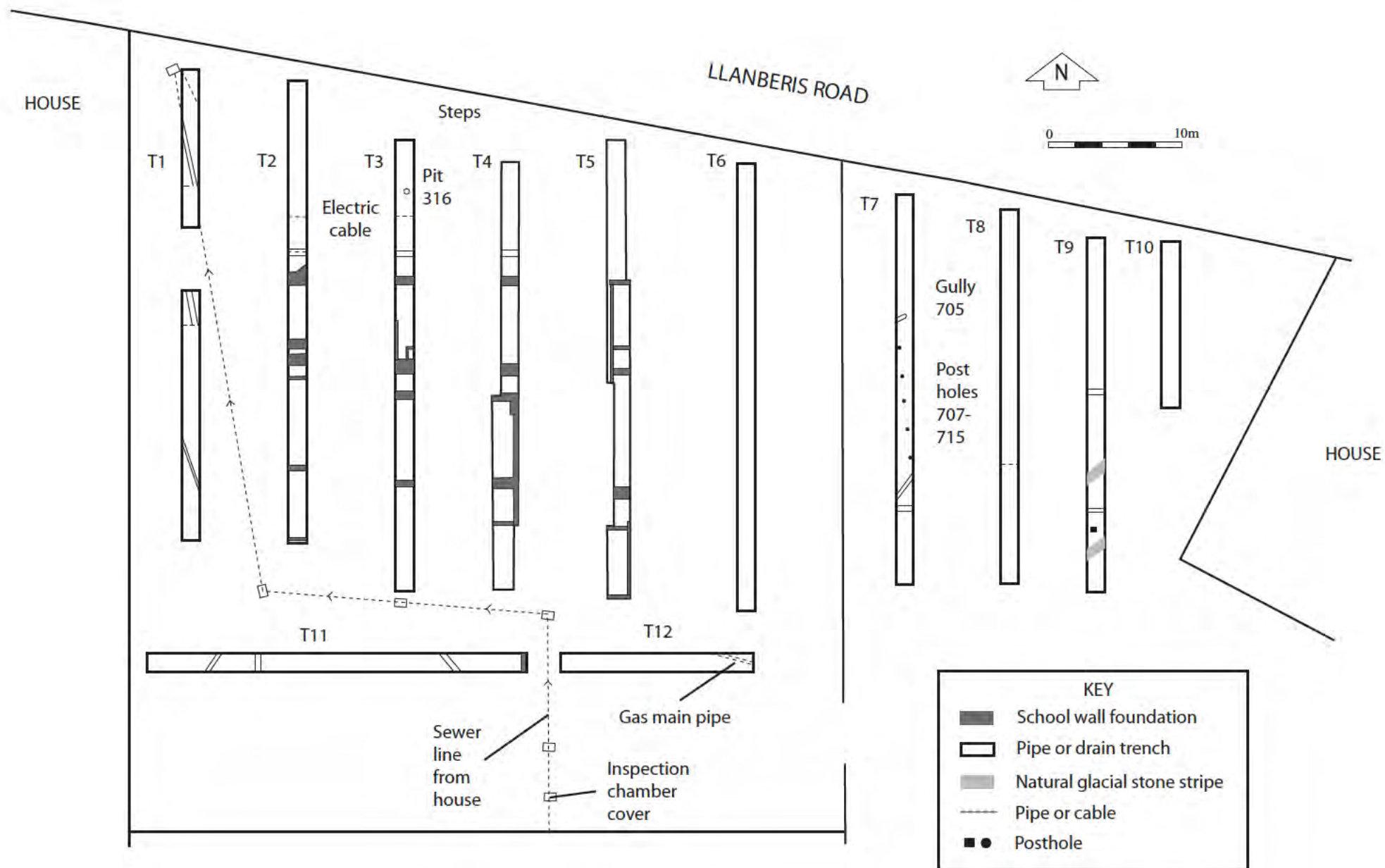
Sir Hugh Owen Lower School Development  
Fig. 2 The vicinity of the development shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1918, after construction of Segontium School, with the addition of archaeological and historic features recorded in the Gwynedd HER. Scale 1:5000



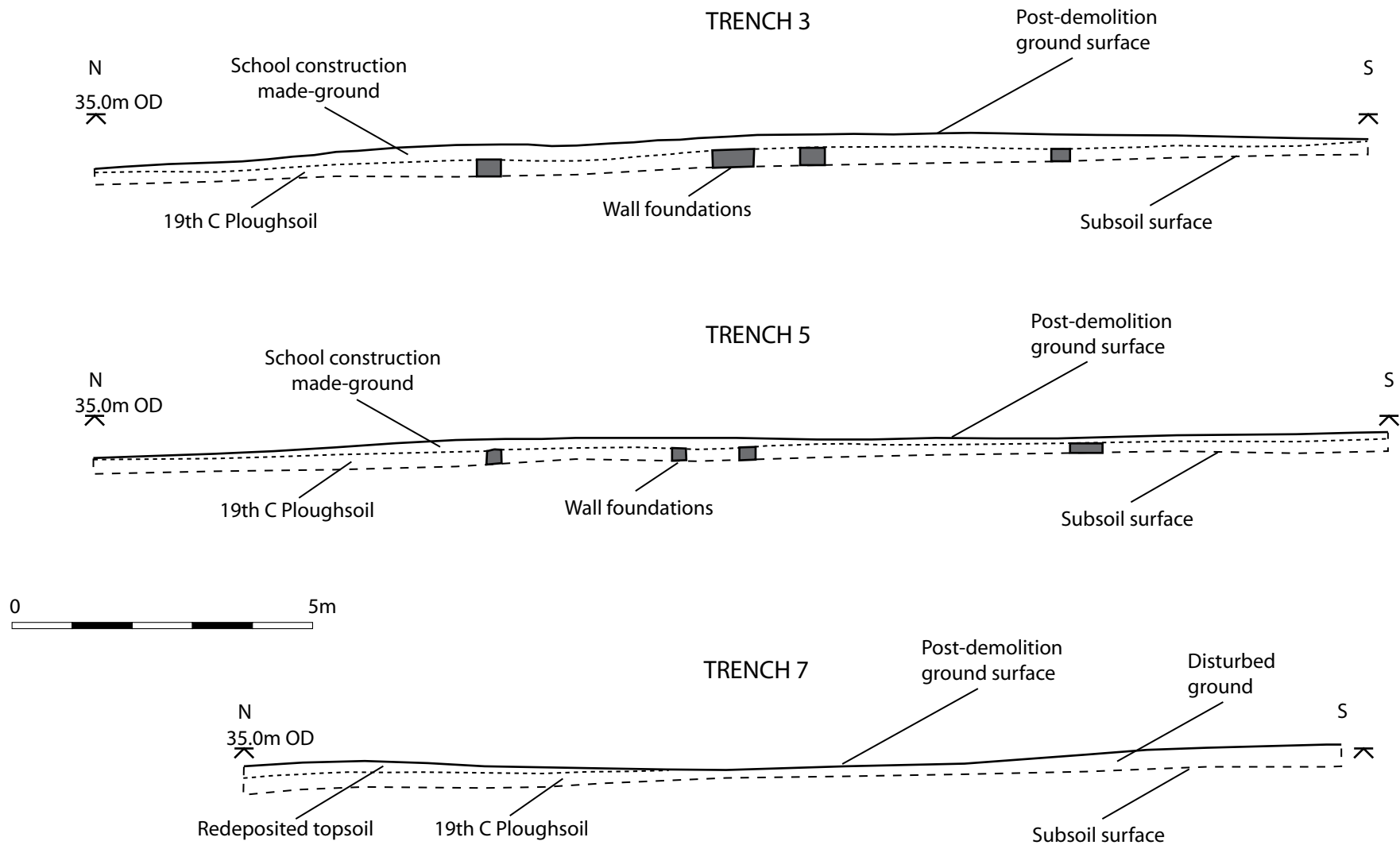
#### Sir Hugh Owen Lower School Development

Fig. 3 Plan of the school buildings before demolition showing the extent of the proposed development area (dashed line) and the location of the archaeological evaluation trenches 1-12.





Sir Hugh Owen Lower School Development Fig. 4 Location of the main features recorded during the evaluation.



Sir Hugh Owen Lower School Development Fig. 5 Profiles of selected trenches to show the topography of the site and the depth of overburden.



Sir Hugh Owen Lower School Development Fig. 6 Trench 2 excavated to the subsoil surface.  
 Section detail showing the buried 19th century ploughsoil and school construction made-ground.  
 From the west. Scale with 0.50m divisions



Sir Hugh Owen Lower School Development Fig. 7 Trench 3 excavated to the subsoil surface.  
 Detail of pit 316, half-sectioned. From the north. Scale with 1cm divisions





Sir Hugh Owen Lower School Development Fig. 8 Trench 3, General view from south-east excavated to the subsoil surface, showing in section the buried 19th century ploughsoil, school construction made-ground and demolition debris. Scale with 0.50m divisions



Sir Hugh Owen Lower School Development Fig. 9 Trench 5 from the north-east excavated to the subsoil surface. General working shot.





Sir Hugh Owen Lower School Development Fig. 10 Trench 6 excavated to the subsoil surface. General view from south-west. Red and white scale with 0.25m divisions. Black and white scale with 0.10m divisions



Sir Hugh Owen Lower School Development Fig. 11 Trench 7 excavated to the subsoil surface. General view from the north-west showing in section buried 19th century ploughsoil beneath redeposited topsoil. Scale with 0.50m divisions



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