
Urban Characterisation: **Harlech**



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Prepared for
Cadw
and
Snowdonia National Park

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By
Andrew Davidson

Illustrations by Tanya Berks

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The hill above Harlech
William Nicholson c. 1917

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General introduction

This report contains the results of an urban characterisation study jointly funded by Cadw and Snowdonia National Park and carried out by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.

The aim of the characterisation survey is to describe and explain the historic character of towns in order to inform and support positive conservation and regeneration programmes. This will help improve the quality of planning advice, and contribute to local interpretation strategies. The survey will define the distinctive historical character of Harlech, and identify the variety of character within it. The aims of the survey are based upon the understanding that the variety of character identified during the survey is fundamental to local distinctiveness and pride of place, and these are to be seen as assets within the process of regeneration.

1.2 Acknowledgements

The rapid assimilation of knowledge required to understand the development of a town cannot be achieved without considerable help from local historians and others working in the same field. I am very grateful to Adam Voelcker, Rhian Parry, Jim Maxwell, Jeremy Ashbee and John Kenyon. Gwilym Jones, Snowdonia National Park, generously provided help and information to aid the project, and John Roberts, Snowdonia National Park, instigated and managed the project on behalf of the Park. Judith Alfrey, Cadw, has given help and advice throughout the project.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

The methodology employed to undertake the project is based upon that developed by Cadw following initial projects undertaken by Cambria Archaeology of Carmarthen¹ and Gwynedd Archaeological Trust of Bangor.² These in turn were based upon a methodology developed in England for urban characterisation and assessment, and in particular the studies undertaken by the Cornwall and Scilly Urban Survey (see details at <http://www.historic-cornwall.org.uk/>).

The following methods were used to achieve the stated aims.

Data collection

This phase included the collection of data from regional and national historic environment records, including those kept at Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, RCAHMW, Cadw and National Museums and Galleries of Wales. Archive records were obtained from Gwynedd Archives, University of Wales, Bangor and National Library of Wales. The records were entered onto a database that was compatible with the regional Historic Environment Record, and their location identified through a geographical information system (MapInfo). Additional records and information sources were identified from historic maps, prints and photographs, and literature sources, including early antiquarian works.

Characterisation

The characterisation process combined the understanding gained from the desk-based phase with comprehensive fieldwork and a visual assessment of the surviving historic fabric. The development of the topography of the town was noted, and phases of historic settlement identified. Distinctive architectural forms, materials and significant elements of town and streetscapes were recorded.

This process allowed the identification of areas of distinctive character, and these formed the basis of the character areas presented in this report.

2.2 Bibliographic sources

A list of works consulted, combined with bibliographic references is given at the end of this report.

Though a number of histories and descriptions of the castle have been published, very little work has been published on the town of Harlech. Lewis Lloyd has been the principal contributor and his book³ is the

¹ Cambria 2005

² GAT 2007

³ Lloyd 1987

only substantial work available, though the two county histories ⁴ are also very good sources. General histories of medieval Welsh towns which discuss Harlech include Lewis ⁵ and Soulsby.⁶

Contemporary descriptions of Harlech by topographical writers of the 18th and 19th centuries include Pennant ⁷; Bingley ⁸; Evans ⁹; Fenton ¹⁰ and Lewis ¹¹.

Though Harlech attracted large numbers of topographic artists few recorded the High Street or other areas of the town. The standard view was the castle from the north, showing the northern edge of the town. Early photographs by John Thomas are valuable (held by NLW), as are those by Coburn.¹²

2.3 Previous archaeological work

Archaeological studies have been almost entirely devoted to the castle. The only exceptions have been a number of archaeological assessments and watching briefs undertaken in connection with the construction of new pipelines, and none of these have involved the medieval borough. The archaeology of the potential harbour was assessed as part of the Cadw funded review of ports and harbours around the Welsh coast.¹³ No known excavations have been undertaken within the medieval town.

3. THE PLANNING PROCESS

Details of the planning process and how it affects management of the historic environment can be found in Appendix II.

3.1 Conservation Areas in Harlech

The 1990 Town and Country Planning Act defines a conservation area as ‘an area of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance’. The centre and south side of Harlech has been designated a Conservation Area. The defined area consists of the historic core of the town centred around the castle and High Street, the slopes to the west of the town, Pentre'r Efail and Coleg Harlech.

The conservation area currently excludes Crown Lodge, Cae Besi, St Davids Hotel and Plas Amherst, as well as the row of houses east of Ffordd Isaf. It is argued below that that the early 20th century was a crucial time in the development of Harlech, and that this is clearly represented in the character of the town as we see it today, and particularly in the above mentioned properties. The developments are associated with a few key figures, including More, Davison and Coburn, and the architects George Walton and Griffith Morris. On the north side of the town key properties such as Capel Rehoboth and Llys Bach also lie outside the area. It is therefore recommended that the conservation area be re-assessed to see if it should be extended to include the above areas.

⁴ Bowen and Gresham 1967;
Smith and Smith 2001

⁵ Lewis 1912

⁶ Soulsby 1983

⁷ Pennant 1781

⁸ Bingley 1800

⁹ Evans 1812

¹⁰ Fisher 1917

¹¹ Lewis 1983

¹² Coburn 1920

¹³ Davidson 2006

4. THE PHYSICAL SETTING

4.1 Extent of Area

The extent of the area included within this study is shown on figure 1 (p 23). It includes all built-up areas of Harlech and the castle, part of the wooded slopes to the east, and the golf course which occupies part of Morfa Harlech to the west.

4.2 Landscape and Setting

Harlech lies on the coast at the north end of Cardigan Bay, a short distance south of the Dwyryd and Glaslyn estuaries. The castle is sited on a dramatic rock outcrop that is part of the Harlech Dome, but sits slightly seaward of the rest of the cliff edge, making its appearance all the more dramatic. The medieval borough was built on a narrow terrace to the south and east of the castle at a height of some 60m OD. To the east of the borough a landscape of small walled fields and isolated farms occupy the slopes leading to the higher mountains. These fields give way to open mountain at about 240m OD. Above this height, the mountain plateau typically lies between 400 and 500m OD, though Rhinog Fawr climbs to a stately 720m. In the more distant north the mountains of Snowdonia provide a dramatic backdrop. To the immediate west and north the town overlooks Morfa Harlech, a large low-lying triangle of land with the southern point at Harlech, the west side along the coast edge, the east side along the edge of the Harlech Dome, and the north side along the Dwyryd estuary. It is very low lying, and must at one time have been submerged by tidal waters, however enclosure of the east side in the medieval period shows it to have been partly reclaimed by then. The west side was only enclosed following the Enclosure Act of 1806, when a sea wall was built from Llanfigangel y Traethau to Glyn Cywarch. Small islands, of which the largest is at Ynys on which stands the church of Llanfihangel y Traethau, and a smaller one at Lasynys, birthplace of the writer Ellis Wynne, would have always stood above the tidal limits.



Plate 1. The castle sits forward on the rock, with the town on a level terrace behind

5. HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

5.1 The medieval castle

The urban history of Harlech starts with the construction of the castle in 1283 by Edward I as part of his strategy to consolidate the conquest of Wales, and particularly the former stronghold of Gwynedd which he encircled with a ring of castles, either newly built such as those at Caernarfon, Conwy and Beaumaris, or refortified such as Denbigh and Ruthin. In order to consolidate administration duties and encourage economic dominance the castles were accompanied by borough towns, each borough populated by immigrant English burgesses. Harlech was one of five castellated boroughs granted a charter in 1284/5, the others being Caernarfon, Conwy, Criccieth and Bere.

Though 1283 is the start of its urban history there are hints of earlier settlement. Archaeological finds from the immediate area are few, but include a prehistoric gold torque, and a hoard of Roman coins.¹⁴ However, there is considerable evidence from sites within, and finds from, the marginal uplands that fringe the Harlech Dome, which reveal the presence of a flourishing population in the area from Neolithic to Roman times.¹⁵

The presence of a pre-Edwardian settlement is suggested by references to Harlech within the second branch of the Mabinogion, a collection of prose tales thought to have been written down in the late 11th or 12th century. The story opens with Bendigeidfran, the giant king of Britain, seated on the 'rock of Harledech' with his court, and proceeds to relate the tragic tale of Branwen, his sister.¹⁶ At the end of the tale Harlech features again when the retinue returns to Harlech with the head of Bendigeidfran, and there they feast for seven years. One of the towers of the castle is called 'Bronwyn towre' in a description of the castle given in 1564, and the name is also used in a poem of the 1460's. It has been suggested that this association reflects an early oral tradition which perhaps supplemented the literary tale as given in the Mabinogion. To what extent Edward I was aware of the mythical associations of Harlech is unknown, but he was certainly aware of the value of using myth and historical allusion to aid his cause, and it would not be surprising if his choice of location at Harlech was, however slightly, influenced by legendary associations.

It is known that both free and bond populations were moved to make way for the castle and borough and the initial land grant. The latter were moved to the earlier commotal centre of Ystumgwern⁴. The free settlement, called Towyndresselethe, might have lain on the coast south of Ynys.

The history of the castle has been related on numerous occasions, most explicitly by Taylor. The castle was built between 1283 and 1289, and is based around the gatehouse, with an inner and outer ward, and an outer moat on the south and east sides. A large outer enclosure reaching down to the level of the Morfa below the castle was subsequently protected by a strong stone wall, and a path was constructed down the side of the rock to the water gate at its foot.¹⁷

In 1294 the castle was besieged during the revolt of Madog ap Llywelyn, and had to be eventually relieved by sea, as was Criccieth and Aberystwyth. The castle was taken by Glyndwr's forces in 1404, and held by Owain until 1409. The castle and borough were inevitably damaged by the wars, and, as we shall see below, no rents were collected for many years after the end of the war.



Plate 2. The castle is based around the gatehouse.

In the later 15th century the castle became a Lancastrian outpost, and Queen Margaret of Anjou found refuge there in 1460. The castle was held by its Welsh constable Dafydd ab Ieuan ab Einion for the Lancastrians until the siege of 1468, when it succumbed to the Yorkists led by the Herberts of Raglan.

There is no record of any maintenance being carried out at the castle after this period, and it is

¹⁴ Bowen and Gresham, 124 & 259

¹⁵ Bowen and Gresham, 1967, Passim

¹⁶ Jones and Jones 1949, 25

¹⁷ The principle references, in date order are Clark (1875); Hughes (1913); Peers (1921-2); Simpson (1940); Taylor (1974); and Taylor (2002). A selection of medieval documents relating to Harlech was collected by Wynne (1846; 1848)

The medieval borough was always small, and was inconveniently placed for trade or industry. It occupied a narrow terrace south and east of the castle where the rocky and uneven nature of the site make it unlikely it was ever laid out in regular burgage plots, and there is no evidence it was ever walled.



In 1404 the castle succumbed to the Welsh under Owain Glyndwr, who held the castle and town for the next five years. Records suggest some 46 houses were burnt during the final siege, and in 1416/17 the rentable value of the town was set at half its pre-war value, and the burgess community undertook to repair the 'manor' and its mill. The town would have barely had time to recover before it became enmeshed in the Wars of the Roses, when the castle was held by Dafydd ab Ieuan ab Einion from 1461 to 1468 for the Lancastrians. The siege of 1468 must, once more, have had a major impact upon the town and its economy, and recovery would only become possible following the accession of Henry VII in 1485.¹⁹

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Plate 4. *The view by Ingleby shows the ruinous shire hall (NLW)*

Though Harlech continued to play the role of the county town, other urban centres, in particular Bala and Dolgellau, were now rising in importance, and the town failed to capitalise on its status. The borough lands were let to the main local gentry families of Corsygedol, Glyn Cywarch, Maesyneuadd and Tanybwllch. Though the Great Sessions and the Quarter Sessions were held at Harlech, and there is some evidence for the presence of gentry town houses, the majority of the lands and borough offices were held by absentees who had no real interest in the well-being of the town. In 1610 Sir William Maurice of Clennau wrote asking to ensure the continuation of the courts at Harlech, as it ensured the upkeep of the castle, and a Bill in response recorded 'the said Towne of Harleghe is an AncientBoroughe, being a very poore towne, and no through faire place, having no trade, or traphicke nor other means to live, but onlye relieved by havinge hearetofore the Assises and quarter sessions most comonlye kept there'.²⁰ The impact of the Civil War upon the town is not known, but neither the sieges nor the need to accommodate the garrison could have been kind to it, and in 1669 and 1674 the last Quarter Sessions and Great Sessions were held there. The lack of surviving medieval architecture reinforces the view that, by the end of the Middle Ages, the physical and economic state of the town was relatively low. We know there were two medieval houses on the High Street, Ty Mawr and Plas yn Harlech as well as the shire hall and chapel. The chapel is said to have been demolished in the 18th century, and the remains of the shire hall were finally removed in the late 19th century. Ty Mawr was also demolished c. 1900 and replaced by two houses. Plas yn Harlech was altered and extended in 1830 into the Blue Lion Inn, and the lateral chimney surviving on the north side, as well as the survival of part of a post and panel partition suggest part of the medieval house survives in the present building.²¹ A medieval roof of four bays survives at Ty Eiddew, Penllech. This house is, by local reputation, the site of the former chapel.

We have few records of the nature of the town until the increase in visitors in the late 18th century and early 19th century. Pennant (1781) describes it as 'a small and very poor town, remarkable only for its castle'.²² Richard Fenton in 1808 says 'The Town, or



Plate 5. *The medieval roof at Ty Eiddew*

²⁰ Lloyd 1991, 34-5

²¹ I am grateful to Gwilym Jones for this information

²² Pennant 1781, 120

rather poor Village of Harlech, is the most forlorn, beggarly place imaginable, yet it boasts to be the County Town', and he goes on to describe the ruined town hall and the former chapel.²³ Other descriptions

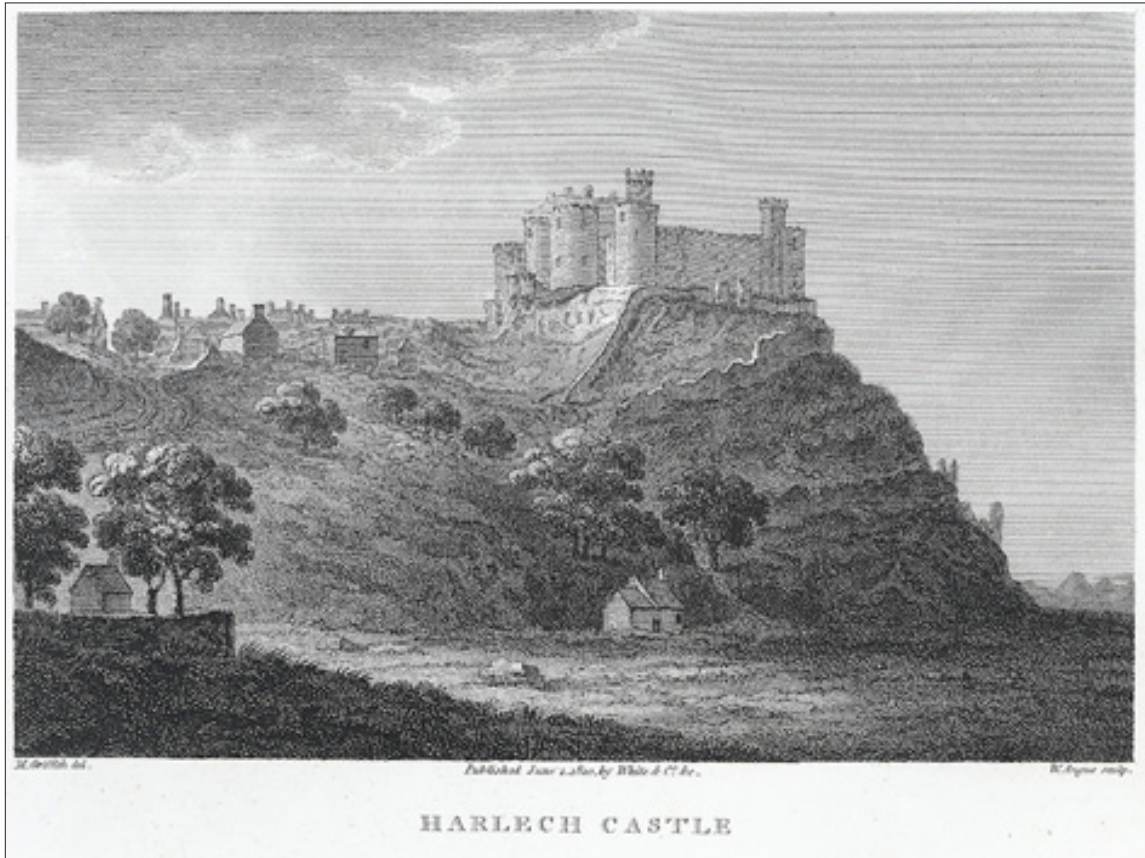


Plate 6. Views by artists such as Moses Griffith belie the descriptions of a 'few miserable little cottages' (NLW)

are similar e.g. 'a very humble village, consisting of a few miserable looking cottages, little better than huts'²⁴ or 'little more than a village of inferior size and insignificant appearance'.²⁵ There is little doubt that Harlech did not live up to the expectations of a county town, and that the towns at Bala and Dogellau were usurping its role as their economic wealth increased, primarily through expansion of the cloth industry. However contemporary views of the town show groups of stone-built houses close to the castle and along the High Street which belie the lowly description generally given, and perhaps it was the difference between



Plate 7. Behind the modern front of the Castle Croft Hotel can be seen the end chimneys and steep roof of the earlier building.

expectation and reality that led to exaggeration of the low status, or indeed the contrast between the town and the castle. Several houses remain from this period, and these exhibit a confident urban vernacular style which reinforces the impression given by the contemporary views. Stone-built two-storey houses, of single pile plan with off-centre door, steep roof and tall stone end chimneys, can be seen along Penllech, incorporating Gwaethdy Saer, the present Castle Croft hotel and Caereinion (partly rebuilt). Ty Felin, the former mill house alongside Caereinion, is smaller, with single end chimney and 1½ storeys, but of similar date. All appear to occupy former burgage plots. At Pendref, Bronallt, the former Harp Inn, is similar, and the White Horse (now the Lion Hotel) incorporates an earlier building. Development at Pentre'r Efail in this period can be seen in the present 'Harlech Pottery'.

²³ Fisher 1917, 104

²⁴ Evans 1812, 901

²⁵ Lewis, 1833, HAR

5.4 Economic regeneration: transport

Wales witnessed an increased interest in visitors in the late 18th century and early 19th century – the Picturesque tour, largely relegated to Britain by the Napoleonic wars, included Harlech in its Welsh itinerary. The increase in interest led to improvement in accommodation for visitors, and slowly to an improvement in transport and communication. During the first half of the 19th century, local influence remained largely in the hands of the landed gentry and in particular the Vaughans of Corsygedol. The Enclosure Act of 1806 saw the drainage of the remaining areas of open marsh, and the dividing up of the common lands between the major estates. This, together with the work of the new turnpike trusts, allowed new roads to be opened up, and existing roads to be improved. The road across the marsh from Ty Gwyn (the nearest harbour and ferry point) to below the castle was improved. However two new roads were to have a major impact on the urban landscape of Harlech. The route from the medieval borough south through Pentre'r efail had always been hampered by the steep drop down between the two, a route currently occupied by steps. A new road was built on level ground curving round to the east and back to link up to the Llanfair road, but instead of taking the old Llanfair road over the top, the new road continued parallel to the old but at a lower level on a terrace around the sloping hill side, thus opening the way for linear expansion outside the urban limits. As at the south end of the town, access from the north was also difficult, involving a steep climb up from the Morfa if approaching from Ty Gwyn, or a very rough track over from Llandecwyn to the top of Pendref. A new road was built from the north-west of the square, bisecting the plots between Penllech and Pendref, and on to Llechwedd. This made more of a focus of the square, and continued the High Street on a level gradient to the north, encouraging development either side the new road. In 1867



Plate 8. The new road continued the line of the High Street. The old road down Penllech can be seen on the left.



Plate 9. The railway station, 1867, attracted new development below the castle.

the railway was built through Harlech, the route cutting through the Morfa, and keeping to the low lying land below the castle through the enclosed Harlech Marsh. Easier access by rail encouraged more visitors, and in 1867 an annual concert was founded which became a successful event, helped in no small part by the opening of the railway in that year.

5.5 Economic regeneration: ownership

The landed gentry, occupying the estates of Glyn Cywarch, Nannau, Cors y Gedol and Maes y Neuadd, were firmly in control of the development of the town during the first half of the nineteenth century. Sir R W Vaughan, Nannau, was investing heavily in urban improvements elsewhere in the county, and at Harlech he converted the former town house of Plas yn Harlech into a new coaching inn, the Blue Lion, in 1830, and he donated land for a new Anglican church at the south end of the High Street in 1838. In the adjacent plot of land the estate was later responsible for the construction of Bron y Graig, a large Victorian house now demolished. The Ormesby Gore family of Glyn Cywarch (Harlech) and Brogyntyn (Shropshire), though they rarely stayed at Harlech, were responsible for developing land adjacent to the new High Street and between the High Street and Penllech. In the 1840's they built the shops and houses currently fronting the High Street north of the square, and Porkington Terrace, both built in a more polite style, with imposing facades of squared masonry as an indication of the importance of the family, who were later (in 1875) to be awarded the title of Baron or Lord Harlech. However, following the death of Sir R W Vaughan in 1843 and the sale

of the estate by the Mostyn family, landed influence declined, and the moral and physical improvement of the town was now led by 'native middle-class leadership'.²⁵ This was accompanied by a significant rise in Nonconformity, and the construction of several new chapels.



Plate 10. *The Glyn Cywarch estate developed land adjacent to the new road in the 1840's. The fronts are of coursed masonry blocks, but the sides and rear are of uncoursed rubble masonry. The three-storey buildings quickly drop down to two-storey away from the square.*



Plate 11. *The Castle Hotel was one of many developments by Samuel Holland in the 1870's.*

A figure of particular influence in the later part of the 19th century was Samuel Holland, a quarry owner and Liberal MP from 1870. He bought and improved many properties, and was responsible for building the Castle Hotel and adjoining properties, an action which included the removal of the last vestiges of the medieval town hall and the construction of a new hall close-by. Also the result of Holland's influence were Bronwen Terrace, Noddfa (as a convalescent home for quarrymen), Rock Terrace, Gorffwysfa (as a temperance hotel) and the Board School opposite Rock Terrace. The influence of Holland is still clearly visible in the architecture of the town, and the style he introduced became, though tempered by other influences, the *de facto* style for Harlech. His work was accompanied by a rise in employment in industry, which included work in the slate quarries of Llanfair, and a large stone and slate quarry on the south-west side of Harlech. Housing for this new workforce was provided by terraces of stone built cottages, and the change from single or two unit developments to terraces of houses is accompanied by a rise in speculative building. Examples of terraced housing can be seen at Tryfar and Ffordd Llanfair.

Self-help, through the establishment of local Friendly Societies, was also becoming commonplace, and in Harlech the local branch of the Order of the true Ivorites was particularly strong. Whilst the main purpose of the friendly societies was to provide members with financial support during times of ill-health or infirmity, the Ivorites (in Welsh 'Iforydd', named after Ifor ap Llywelyn fl. 1340-60) also promoted the Welsh language and culture.²⁶

5.6 Harlech as a summer resort

Whilst industry had been responsible for increasing the wealth and prosperity of many Welsh villages and towns, Harlech, despite the presence of limited quarrying, possessed few natural resources to aid economic growth. It did, however, have a picturesque castle, fine views and sea air. This was sufficient to attract, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, several wealthy families or individuals to the town who were to have a dramatic impact upon its growth. The town was to become, in the words of Lewis Lloyd, a 'Welsh Simla by the Celtic Sea'.²⁷ Holland had already been aware of the potential advantages, and the building of the Castle Hotel and, more particularly perhaps, Bronwen Terrace suitable for higher class boarding houses, had been his answer. However another set of newcomers were now to play an influential role in the development of the physical and cultural life of the town. These included A P Graves, an enthusiastic researcher into the music and literature of Wales who published a book of translated Welsh poetry. His son, the poet and author Robert Graves, published an account of his childhood and holiday memories in Harlech in *Goodbye to all that* (1929). A P Graves was known for his sponsorship of the Harlech Historical Pageants which were held annually in the castle from the early 1920's. The artist William Nicholson, whose daughter Robert Graves married, stayed at Llys Bach, a nearby house built in 1910. Also influ-

²⁵ Lloyd 1991, 62

²⁶ Lloyd 1972

²⁷ Lloyd 1991, 81

ential was H. H. Finch-Hatton (1856 – 1904), fourth son of the Earl of Winchilsea and Nottingham and his elder brother H. Stormont Finch-Hatton (1852-1927) who inherited both the Earldom and property in Arddwy, including the former Nannau lands.²⁸ The Finch-Hatton's owned the Blue Lion Inn and usually stayed there, as well as the house at Bron y Graig. Lord and Lady Amherst, who later built Plas Amherst were members of this group, as also was W H More, who was appointed Crown Receiver for Wales in 1891. William More initially lived at Noddfa, until Crown Lodge was built for him in 1903. He was also responsible for introducing George Davison, an old school friend, to the area. Davison was a wealthy ex-director of Kodak Eastman, and he employed the Scottish Arts and Crafts architect George Walton to build him a house at Harlech. Plas Wernfawr was built on the site of the former slate quarry in 1906, in solid Georgian Arts and Crafts style. Davison also encouraged More and the Finch-Hattons to invest in a new hotel to both serve the golf club and provide accommodation for friends and guests, which led to the construction of St David's Hotel, also designed by Walton. Davison's next venture was a large music hall (the Great Hall) added on to Wern Fawr, designed by Walton in a style which owed much to his native Scottish Border castles. The presence of Crown Lodge, Wern Fawr, Plas Amherst and St David's Hotel encouraged the growth of other houses in similar style, including Craig yr Helfa, the former Rectory. Davison may also have been responsible for the introduction of Lawson Dodd to the area, who initiated a Fabian summer school at Penyrallt, Llanbedr, between 1907 and 1909 where eminent socialists, including George Bernard Shaw, and Sidney and Beatrice Webb were to teach.



Plate 12. *Plas Wernfawr and the great hall as built by George Walton for George Davison 1906-10.*

Davison, partly because of both his and his daughter's ill health, moved to the south of France in the 1920's. Wern Fawr was eventually sold to Henry Gethin Lewis (1872-1945), a south Wales businessman, for £7,500, a fraction of its real value. The purchase had been made at the behest of Thomas Jones (1870-1955) academic and politician, then serving as Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet under Stanley Baldwin. Lewis donated the building for use as an adult educational establishment, and Coleg Harlech was born, with its first Warden (Sir) Ben Bowen Thomas (1899-1977), who later became Permanent Secretary to the Welsh Department of the Ministry of Education.²⁹

St David's hotel was burnt down in 1922, and was rebuilt to designs by O M Roberts and Son of Porthmadog, where the architect Griffith Morris was working. Morris subsequently set up on his own, and continued the strong tradition of Arts and Crafts architecture in the area, including a new library wing for the college, and a new house (Cae Besi) for Alvin Langdon Coburn, the photographer and friend of Davison.



Plate 13. *Cae Besi designed by Griffith Morris for Alvin Langdon Coburn.*



Plate 14. *The theatre by Colwyn Foulkes was opened in 1974 on the site of the great hall.*

²⁸ Lloyd 1977, 21

²⁹ See Stead 1977 for the history of the establishment

Also for the college he designed Y Wern built for the new warden.

In 1968 the Great Hall of 1910 burnt down. It was replaced by the present theatre (opened 1974) built to designs by Sidney Colwyn Foulkes. Colwyn Foulkes also designed the tower block to the south of the college and a gymnasium hall to the west. Both theatre and tower block were determinedly modern in appearance, in contrast to George Walton's and Griff Morris's designs.

5.7 Later 20th century

Expansion of the town in the later 20th century mainly took place on Morfa Harlech below the castle, where there was ample room to develop without having to take the confines of the steep slopes into account. Public and private housing has developed in discrete estates since 1945, most of it accessed from the main A497 road. A Secondary School was opened in 1957, and a new primary school was later built close-by, as well as a swimming pool and sports hall. A small business park was developed on the east side of the railway, a short distance north of the lower gate to the castle. Elsewhere in Harlech Bron y Graig was demolished, and houses built within part of the grounds, though part remains a public open space.



Plate 15. Development on the Morfa below the castle largely took place in the second half of the 20th century.

6. PRESENT SETTLEMENT CHARACTER: A SUMMARY

6.1 The topographic development of the town

The layout of the town is considerably influenced by its original location on a narrow terrace with steep sloping ground above and below. The High Street runs along the terrace, which is located slightly above the castle, with roads down on to the coastal plateau, east to the uplands, and north and south parallel to



Plate 16. Map by John Speed, 1610.

the coast. The late medieval plan is clearly shown on Speed's map of 1610. The borough consisted of the present High Street (Stryd Fawr), Penllech and Pendref, whilst an element of extra-mural settlement is shown at Pentre'r Efail. Though approximately 400 years had passed between the foundation of the town and its depiction by Speed, the layout can hardly have changed significantly given the constraints imposed by the landscape. Of particular significance here is the development of the Morfa and the presence of Harlech Marsh, which limited options for settlement below the castle. Though evidence is slight, it is likely that, from 1282 to the early 14th century it was possible to gain access to the castle Watergate by sea. We know that the entire Morfa was not flooded, because part of it contained a field system owned by the burgesses. This field system, noted by fields called 'acrau' as a corruption of 'acre', lay east of a strong earth bank built as a sea wall. The bank survives for much of its length, and follows the line of the present A497 between Harlech and Ynys. The early 14th century was a period of increased storms which caused numerous sand incursions around the west coast. An increasing belt of sand dunes would have prevented sea access, however a tidal river formerly ran from Ty Gwyn in the north to the foot of the castle. Ty Gwyn is also known by the epithet Ty Gwyn y Gamlas, and Gamlas can be translated as 'canal'. It is very possible that the river was improved to allow access to the castle by boat. If this were the case, by the time of Speed's map of 1610 even this method of access had been lost, though local tradition maintains that access by boat part way up the river was used until 1806, when the construction of the dam as part of the Enclosure Act prevented any access. Views of Ty Gwyn painted in the 18th century show it to have been busy with boat building, and an imposing late medieval house lay close to the shore of the estuary. A 19th century house and warehouse still occupy the site.

Within the medieval borough, though the basic street pattern is known, the detailed layout of the medieval borough is not easy to reconstruct. It is unlikely that the original design involved the



Plate 17. *Ty Gwyn* by Thomas Allom mid-19th century (British Museum) showing shipbuilding and the late medieval house.

laying out of regularly shaped burgage plots, because of the difficult terrain. Certainly no regular pattern can be discerned in 18th and 19th century sources, or within the present landscape. There are, however, hints of former divisions, particularly on the west side of the High Street, part of the east side of the High Street, and the east side of Penllech. We know from documentary sources there were some 30 burgage plots by 1315, and that these had a standard rent of 1/-. If the plots were to average 80ft by 60ft, as in Caernarfon, then 30 plots would require a total street frontage of 1800ft. The length of the High Street from the mill to Pentre'r Efail is approximately 650ft, giving a total street frontage along both sides of 1300ft, though parts of the east side were unsuited to building. More land was available off Pendref, but certainly, even if the width of each plot was 40ft as at Beaumaris, space was at a premium. There is evidence for the division of part of the Morfa into plots called acrau, and each burgage plot was accompanied by a share in the acrau, as well as other borough lands, and this would have made up the shortfall of land within the town itself. The clearest evidence for the survival of medieval plots is at Penllech, where the row of houses

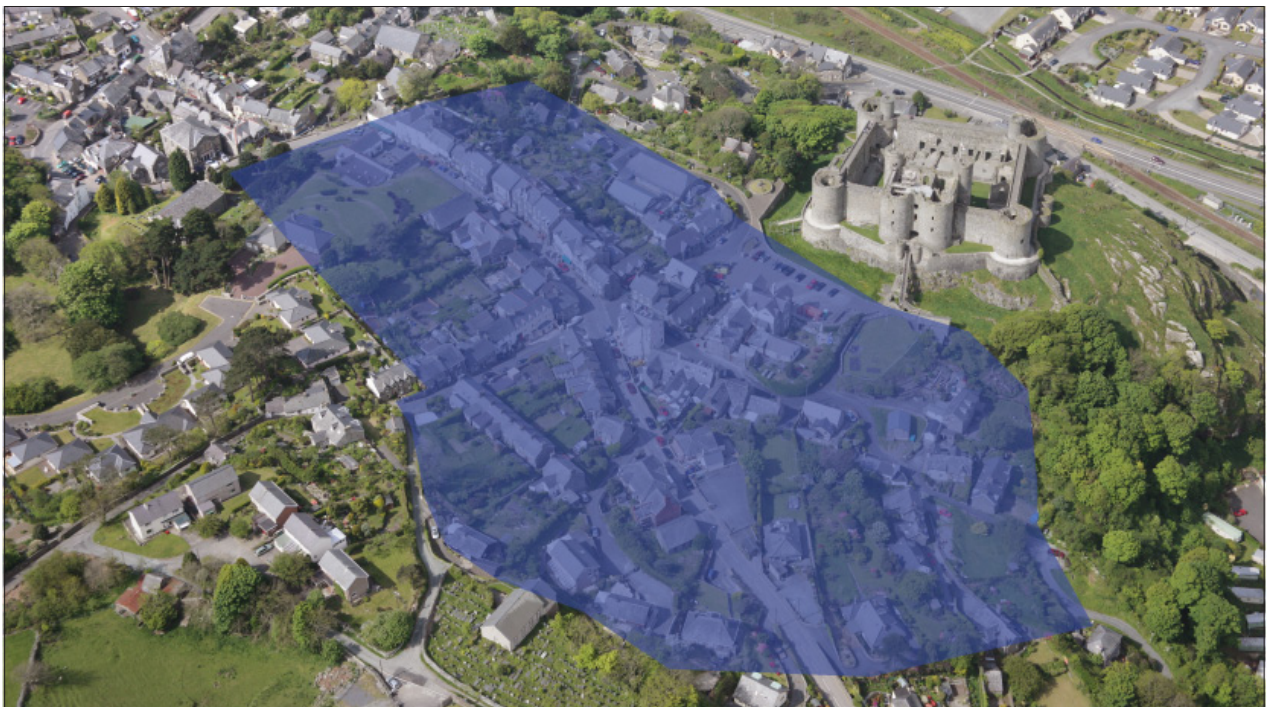


Plate 18. The town and castle with the approximate area of the borough shaded (Crown Copyright RCAHMW)

from Gwaethdy Saer to Hen Felin each occupy a plot approximately 40ft wide, and behind, at a slight angle, lay long strips some 400ft long, though sub-divided along their length. Remnants of these are most clearly visible on the 1771 estate map. The plots are later cut through by the lower High Street, and are subsequently largely removed by the construction of Porkington Terrace. Elsewhere, for example behind the east side of the High Street a plot boundary associated with the former house of Ty Mawr (now Glyndwr and Ty Mawr) may survive, and others might survive on the west side of the High Street, though no regular subdivisions occur.

Speed's map clearly shows a water course running across the south end of the High Street (crossed by a bridge) and then parallel along the west side of the High Street to the mill pond at the north end. The natural flow would take this stream straight down the steep slopes west of the High Street, so the water course might be best interpreted, at least in part, as a medieval leat, and evidence for early water management.

Houses of 17th and 18th century date survive along Penllech, along Pendref, on the High Street and in Pentre'r Efail. There is no evidence for expansion of settlement outside the area depicted by Speed until the 19th century. We have seen above how the construction of new roads in the first half of the 19th century changed the layout of the town and created new areas for development. This removed elements of the medieval plot structure, and encouraged new ribbon development, though preservation of an earlier plot system can be seen to the north of the town, both at Awelfryn, east of the lower High Street, where the house is built at an angle to the street to allow it to fit the earlier angled plot, and further north where the modern house of Hiraethog is aligned with the early plot behind Ty'r Felin.

North of the square the houses were originally aligned along Penllech, and this is still noticeable where the rear of Gwaethdy Saer and Castle Croft face the west side of the later High Street. On the east side of the lower High Street, however, early 19th century development by the Brogyntyn estate took advantage of the potential opened up by the new road. New houses and shops were built fronting the High Street, and Porkington Terrace was built higher up the slope. The realignment required for this development removed the medieval plot structure, and the earlier houses which had lined the north side of Pendref. Cambrian House, on the south side of the square, was built about this time and in similar style.

An expanding population employed in industry, and increased visitor numbers taking advantage of easier travel arrangements, encouraged expansion of the town in the later 19th century, much of it influenced by Samuel Holland. His redevelopment of the castle green, involving the construction of the Castle Hotel (as well as the removal of the last vestiges of the medieval shire hall) had a significant impact on the appearance of the town, and the construction of Bronwen Terrace, largely for boarding houses, changed the view from the Morfa below. The majority of terraced housing, including those at Tryfar and Rock Terrace on Ffordd Uchaf, dates from this period. Expansion onto the hill slope below the High Street was largely confined to houses of higher status, including villas such as Fair View south of the castle and Noddfa towards the foot of the slope. At the same time, the beginnings of development took place on the Morfa alongside the new railway station built in 1867.



Plate 19. This late 19th century photograph shows the relatively new developments on the north side of Pendref (NLW)



Plate 20. The slopes south of the castle were developed in the late 19th and early 20th century.

Later in the century, and particularly in the early 20th century, Large detached houses and villas were built to north and south of the town by a new population keen to take advantage of the views across the coastal plain to the sea. Pen y Garth, on Ffordd Uchaf, is a typical Victorian example. The new roads provided access for much of this expansion, which included Crown Lodge, Plas Wernfawr and Cae Besi south of the town, and Erinfa and Llys Bach north of the town. In the later 20th century most of the new building, including council houses, schools and private housing estates, took place on the Morfa, though new housing has also recently been built in one of the few relatively level areas east of the southern end of the High Street, at the site of the demolished Bron y Graig.

6.2 The character of building

6.2.1 Wall materials and finishes

The principal building material in the town was stone, only fully replaced by brick and concrete in the mid-20th century. There is no evidence for timber building within the town, though one would expect the medieval houses to have been largely of timber, and a timber hall is known to have been transported from Ystumgwern to Harlech castle in the 14th century. The stone used for the construction of the castle walls appears to have been obtained locally, much of it from the levelling of the rock and the excavation of the ditches. Freestone for jambs and mouldings was brought in from Egryn (south of Harlech) and Anglesey. Stone for repairs to the castle in the early 20th century was obtained from quarries behind Crown Lodge in Harlech. The majority of the stone used in the construction of the town buildings was excavated close by, from quarries in the cliffs east of the town. Slate quarries were worked on the east edge of Harlech, where the college is now, and further south at Llanfair. Lintels are often of long schist or slate slabs, a feature particularly visible in the terraces on Ffordd Tryfar.

The stone, particularly in the earlier buildings, is usually random rubble construction, typically with squared or long rectangular quoins. There are several examples of small roughly coursed masonry blocks dating from the first half of the 19th century, including the church (1840) and the house on the west side of the High Street in the square. Other early 19th century developments in the square and at Brogyntyn Terrace used squared masonry blocks to emphasise the front of the buildings, though the rear is of rubble construction, and even the squared blocks are less substantial than first appear, as when examined closely these are seen to be relatively thin slabs applied to a rubble wall.³⁰ In the later 19th century there is a return to largely rubble masonry, partly influenced by the picturesque ideas of Samuel Holland. However there are examples of squared coursed blocks being used, particularly on public buildings, though even here it is typical for the front of the building to be of coursed masonry, and the sides and back to be of random rubble. At Jerusalem chapel (1881) the squared blocks are of uneven size, resulting in snecked masonry, as also on the front of the Institute (1908). Plas Owain (early 20th century) is similarly built of snecked masonry.

The stone is predominantly bare of any covering. However, a dominant group of buildings at the south end of the High Street (Plas Restaurant, stables and Spar) are painted white, as is the Lion Hotel and adjoining house on Pendref, and there is evidence on stonework that other buildings, for example the Pottery and Caereinion, were once also painted. There is little evidence for the early use of stucco, though modern



Plate 21. Rubble walling and squared quoins can be seen at Ty'r Felin, Penllech.



Plate 22. An example of roughly coursed rubble masonry from the 19th century (Pentre'r Efail).

³⁰ I am grateful to Gwilym Jones for pointing this out



Plate 23. Early 19th century developments in the square were built to a more polite style using thin masonry slabs applied to a rubble wall to produce an ashlar finish.



Plate 24. The front of the Institute is snecked masonry, though the sides are of rubble masonry.



Plate 25. The end of Bronwen Terrace shows Holland's preference for uncoursed rubble with heavier quoins.

cement renders and pebble-dash coverings can be seen along Rock Terrace and Ffordd Tryfar. It has been suggested that the stone town of Dolgellau was once predominantly lime-washed, and that the early 19th century witnessed a determined removal of all covering in pursuit of a picturesque ideal.³¹ The stone appearance of Harlech was possibly similarly contrived. Certainly by the turn of the 19th century and well into the 20th century the ideas of Holland reinforced by the Arts and Crafts movement ensured the majority of new building was unadorned stone.

Brick barely makes an appearance, with the exception of Llys Maelor on the northern end of Stryd Fawr, though some may be hidden behind 20th century render, especially in the post-war council houses, where bricks form ornamental labels around the doors. Though concrete was used in the

construction of St David's hotel, built 1908, it was not until the second half of the 20th century that it makes any impact. At the base of the town, alongside the A497, are two council houses clad in dark vertical planking, whilst further south the former fire engine house is also of dark timber.



Plate 26. A group of buildings at the south end of the High Street are painted white.



Plate 27. Several buildings show evidence of former paint or limewash, including the Pottery, Pentre'r Efail.

³¹ Alfrey 2009



Plate 28. *Llys Mador at the north end of the High Street is one of the very few examples of brick.*

ture on buildings prior to 1850. It's introduction to Harlech seems to be largely associated with Holland's developments, and it remains a feature on the majority of buildings after that date.

Early gabled dormer windows are less of a feature at Harlech than elsewhere. The dormer at Ty'r Felin has a catslide roof. They become more of a feature in the early 19th century, and remain popular during the 20th century. The Lion Hotel and Castle Croft Hotel added gabled dormers in the 20th century. Holland tended to use a hipped gable dormer, particularly on the buildings alongside the castle green and Bronwen Terrace (plate 25). These are a local vernacular type, seen at 17th century Maes y Neuadd, which Holland would have been familiar with. A typical Victorian gabled dormer can be seen on the lower side of Ty Eiddew.

Solid stone chimneys form a significant feature of the houses within Harlech. The earlier 17th and 18th century houses tend to have square tall end chimneys, whilst those later in date are often rectangular, shorter and bulkier, serving a greater number of flues. The tops of the chimneys are emphasised by projecting caps and weather coursing. An early lateral chimney survives at Plas, and both lateral and central chimneys become more frequent again in the early 20th century.



Plate 29. *The roof at Siambr Wen with the slates laid in diminishing courses.*

6.2.2 Roofs

The local slates, still visible on the earlier buildings, are generally small and thick, and of a dark greenish blue colour. There are several examples of these being laid in diminishing courses, as at Gerlan (Pentre'r Efail) and Siambrwen (Pendref). The roof of Gweithdy Saer, recently re-slatted, incorporates a swept slate gully where the roof of the rear wing joins the main roof. Later roofs are of even sized blue slates.

A feature typical of both Harlech and the wider area is the extension of the roofline beyond the walls, a feature which contrasts with Anglesey and Llŷn, where it is more rarely found. However it is noteworthy that the roofline of earlier buildings is not extended, and it is much less of a fea-



Plate 30. *A later example of slates laid in diminishing courses at Pentre'r Efail.*

6.2.3 Architectural detail

The usual windows are sash, however there are very few surviving examples of small pane Georgian sash windows, which would have been the dominant type. Exceptions include the Plas Restaurant, Cambrian House and Ty'r Felin. Examples of the Victorian four-pane sash window can be seen, and it was varieties of this type that were used by Holland, though often with an arched head, as seen in the Castle Hotel and



Plate 31. Examples of the roof line extended beyond the wall can be seen on the Castle Restaurant and Church Hall.



Plate 32. Tall chimneys dominate the roofscape of much of Harlech. This view overlooks Penllech.

Church Hall. However many of the earlier windows have been replaced by modern varieties.

The small pane sash window, however, can also be found on later buildings, for example Moranedd and Coleg Harlech, though in some cases only part of the window is of small panes, as at Plas Owain. The ratio of the later sash windows is different, in that the individual panes are square, in contrast to the earlier rectangular examples.

Iron railings can be seen around Harlech fronting a number of houses, particularly on Tryfar (plate 24).

6.3 Building types

Medieval remains are rare in Harlech, though Ty Eiddew, dating from approximately 1500, survives as a single unit with a four bay medieval roof, whilst at Plas yn Harlech a north wing with lateral chimney survives. However the majority of early surviving buildings are single houses of 17th or 18th century date. These form a distinctive vernacular type, and are typified by single-pile plan, off-centre door, steep roofs and tall stone end chimneys. Examples include Castle Croft and Caereinion on Penllech, and Bronallt on Pendref. Slightly later, but comparable, is the Harlech Pottery in Pentre'r Efail. Ty'r Felin has similar characteristics, but is smaller, of one and a half storeys and a single end chimney. The group of four buildings on Penllech form a well preserved continuous row, though each is individually constructed in its own plot. Harlech is relatively unusual amongst the borough towns of north Wales in its lack of Georgian town



Plate 33. This view of the Plas Restaurant shows the early lateral chimney on the right, and the use of typical sash windows inserted c. 1830 when the earlier house was converted into the Blue Lion Inn.



Plate 34. An example of the later four-pane sash window at Tryfar.



Plate 35. A view of the row of 17th century buildings at Penllech, with Ty'r Felin nearest, and Caereinion and Castle Croft Hotel beyond.



Plate 36. Cambrian House represents a period of more formal town planning c. 1830 in the square.

houses. This, of course, reflects the history of the town, and its relative economic poverty in early modern times. As a result the High Street is largely made up of individual buildings of mixed dates, with little evidence for formal planned development, and this characteristic is responsible for much of the character of the town. However, there are examples of more formal planning, and a change from the urban vernacular to the urban polite can be seen at Cambrian House on the square and the row below the square on the east side. This development is linked with Porkington Terrace, one of the earliest planned terraces, which is indicative of the move to developer led construction. Of more vernacular style, but of the same period, is the small terrace east of Moreiah chapel on Tryfar, a well preserved early 19th century terrace, developed by Sir R W Vaughan, of two storeys with coursed front and rubble back, and pronounced heavy stone lintels.

The construction of terraced housing increased considerably in the later 19th century to house the expanding workforce, many working within local quarries, though there was also a wide variety of craftsmen and tradesmen working within the town. Pentre'r Efail, Tryfar, Ffordd Llanfair and Pendref all contain examples of two storey terraced housing, though because of the terrain much of it in relatively small rows.

The purpose-built shops are mainly in the square, and most are relatively late, though the present Spar at the south end of the High Street is earlier, whilst 'Paraphernalia' has a good Edwardian shop front. The three-storey houses and shops which line the central western side of the High Street, including Gorffwysfa, a former Temperance Hotel, are largely Holland influenced. At the bottom of Twthill is London House, the former lower post office, with its double shop window built into the gable end facing the road.

Whilst the rise in non-conformity is evident in the number of chapels, some of which have been converted to other uses, these are generally smaller and less elaborate than examples in other towns. The relative lack of wealth and later status of the borough also mean there are no major public buildings; the medieval shire hall was finally demolished in the late 19th century, and replaced by Holland with the present hall at the top of Twthill. The larger buildings in the town are therefore hotels or former hotels, the two largest being the Castle Hotel and the Plas Restaurant (Blue Lion Inn), though the Lion Hotel (Harp Inn) and Castle Croft Hotel (incorporating the Red Lion) are other examples. The White Horse Inn is now a private house.

Villas on the outskirts of the town were built in the later 19th century, and include Fair View, and Pen y Garth. Boarding houses, of which an early example



Plate 37. Terraced housing at Tryfar.



Plate 38. *The Victorian villa at Fair View.*



Plate 39. *Plas Owain on the slopes below the castle.*

is Bronwen Terrace by Holland, include Byrdir and other three storey houses on the Llanfair road.

The first half of the 20th century saw an increase in the construction of detached large stone-built houses, typical of which are Crown Lodge and Wernfawr. These houses continued the tradition of building in stone, often in squared masonry blocks, coursed at Wernfawr though not at Crown Lodge. A number of these houses show Arts and Crafts influence through the designs of George Walton at Wernfawr and Griffith Morris at Cae Besi and Y Wern. Other houses of this period, particularly those on the slopes west of the town, seem to combine elements from both Holland's style and the Arts and Crafts influenced houses. Typical of these are Moranedd and Plas Owain, the latter on the slope parallels the location of Noddfa to its south, the two houses partly facing each other.

Modern housing, particularly that on the Morfa, is of less specific character, and is typical of housing built throughout the country in the post-war years.

7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

There has been very little previous archaeological work undertaken at Harlech, other than that associated with the castle. No archaeological excavations are recorded.

The potential for medieval archaeology within the original borough is reasonably high. Certainly medieval buildings would have flanked the main street, though the majority of evidence will have been destroyed by later building. The largest area of undeveloped land is that outside the castle main gate, where the carpark now lies, though there is no evidence for any building here, and certainly it was open space in the 17th century.

The exact location of the medieval chapel is unknown. Speed locates it south of the mill pool but north of the square, which would place it at the north end of the present Castle Hotel. Tradition, however, identifies it with the house of Ty Eiddew, which is located north of the mill pond.³² Ty Eiddew contains a medieval roof of four bays, however its alignment north-south would argue against this. The medieval shire hall lay at the south end of the present Castle Hotel, under the Castle restaurant, and is possibly the ruinous building shown on Ingleby's painting of 1795.

Late medieval town houses are known to have existed at both Ty Mawr, on the east side of the High Street, demolished and rebuilt in the early 20th century, and Plas yn Harlech, parts of which survive in the Plas Restaurant.

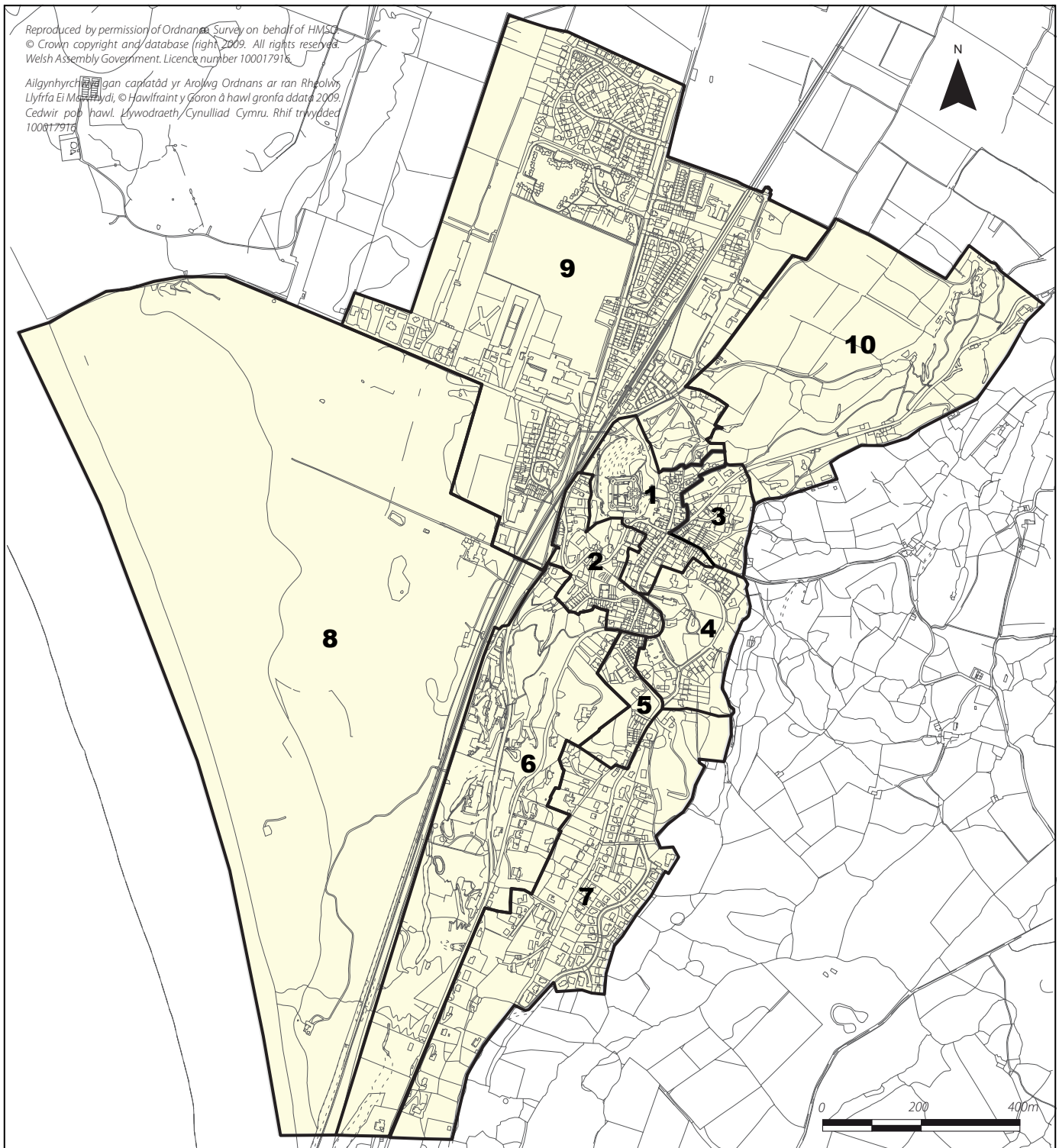
The date of Pentre'r Efail, the small extra-mural settlement south of the Edwardian Borough, is unknown, though it is likely to have medieval origins, and archaeology from this period onwards can be expected in this area.

There is potential for the discovery of earlier building remains surviving encased within later façades, particularly along the west side of the High Street.

³² Lloyd 1991

8. CHARACTER AREAS

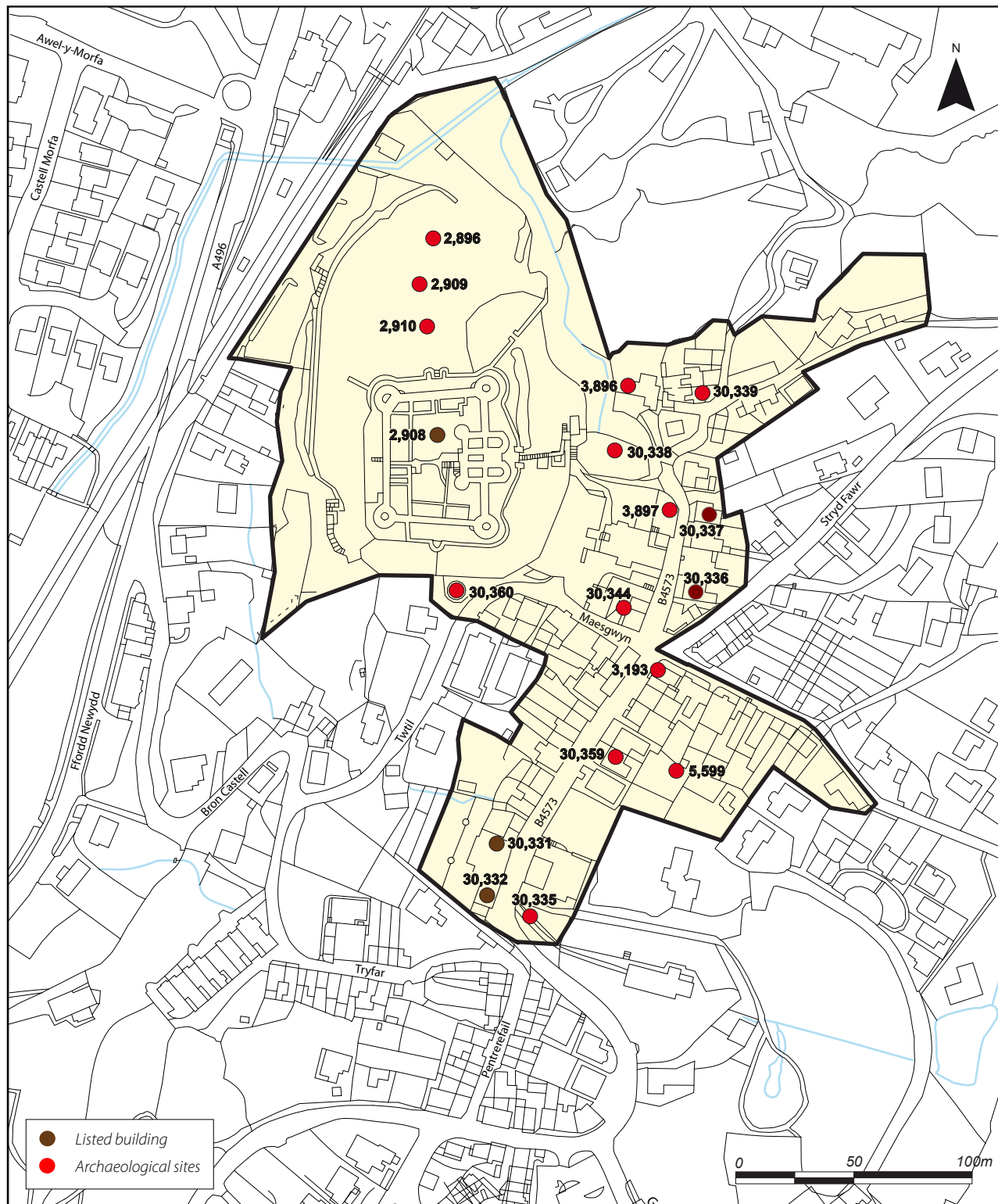
Each of the character areas are described in terms of their historical development, current urban character area and archaeological potential.



01	Harlech Castle	05	Ffordd Uchaf	09	Ffordd Morfa
02	Pentre'r Efail	06	Ffordd Isaf and Coleg Harlech	10	Llechwedd
03	Stryd Fawr	07	Ffordd Llanfair and heol y Bryn		
04	Bronygraig	08	Golf course		

Figure 1. All character areas.

8.1. CHARACTER AREA 1. Harlech Castle and Stryd Fawr



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Cynulliad Cymru. Rhif trwydded 100017916

2,896	Bronze Age Torc	3,897	Site of chapel	30,337	Ty'r Felin
2,908	Harlech Castle	5,599	Oven-Garden of Glyndwr	30,338	Former Mill Pond
2,909	Centurial stones	30,331	Plas rest. Former Blue Lion	30,339	Ty'r Eiddew
2,910	Urn with Roman coins	30,332	The Spar	30,344	Site of Medieval Town Hall
3,193	Harlech Medieval Town	30,335	Communal washing place	30,360	Sculpture
3,896	Mill	30,336	Former Red Lion Inn		

Figure 2. Harlech Castle and Stryd Fawr.

8.1.1 Historical development

Though there are hints of earlier settlement, the origins of urban development at Harlech are directly associated with the construction of the castle and borough as part of the conquest of north Wales in 1283 by Edward I. The history of the castle, built by Edward I between 1283 and 1289, is described in 5.1 above. It has always been in state ownership, and in 1914 was transferred into the Ministry of Works as an ancient monument, and is now managed by Cadw. Immediately to the east of the castle is the former 'Castle Green' described in 1564 as 'extending from a place called fynnon vaire to the tutthill, in lengthe and in breadth, from the river runniynge through the towne to the castle deche'.³³ This was a public space, used for fairs, markets and public meetings. Speed shows no development within the area, and neither does the map of 1771.³⁴ The river ran through here to the mill pond below. The pond is a feature clearly marked on all maps, and is shown on an early photograph as a heavily embanked pond on the edge of the steep slope, with the mill on a level terrace below. The pond was filled in during the 1960's, and a playing field now occupies the site. The shire hall lay at the south end of Castle Green, between the river and the castle. This was a medieval building, but in ruins by 1700. In 1706 Rev Ellis Wynne (Rector of Llandanwg) wrote to Margaret Owen of Glyn Cywarch, asking if she could provide a church in Harlech, as parishioners were reluctant to travel to the parish church, and he suggests that the ancient and ruined Shire Hall might be renovated for the purpose, though nothing came of it. The former chapel of St Mary Magdalen which lay a short distance north he says 'is now not only demolish'd but the stones of it quite carry'd away into other buildings in the Town long ago'.³⁵ Tradition places the chapel on the site of Ty Eiddew, though this is further north than Speed indicates, and further north of the centre of the town than one would expect. Ty Eiddew is also aligned north-south, whereas one would expect the chapel to be aligned approximately east-west. Ty Eiddew, now two cottages, contains a four-bay medieval roof with collar beam trusses and cusped windbraces. It is difficult to identify any earlier features within the masonry,



Plate 40. Ty Eiddew from the east.



Plate 40a. The medieval roof in Ty Eiddew.



Plate 40b. Ty Eiddew might be the building left of the mill with the single door



Plate 40c. Ty Eiddew in the 19th century showing the same door (NLW).

³³ Clark 1846, 250

³⁴ Mostyn 8679

³⁵ quoted Lloyd 1987, 44

but 18th century prints show a building in this location with a southern arched doorway. The building is also shown in a late 19th century photograph with the same door, though the building had been converted into two cottages with gabled dormers. The arched head of the door has since been removed, but a similar arched door now exists at the north end of the building.

The hill down Penllech formed the continuation of the High Street prior to the construction of the present lower High Street in the early 19th century, after which it was reduced in status. It wends its way down the steep slope to the morfa below, past the millpond and mill. The road divided opposite Ty Eiddew, continuing down the hill in one direction, and along the slope to serve grazing land in the other. The street was lined



Plate 41. *Caereinion, Penllech. The uncoursed masonry on the right is earlier than the roughly coursed masonry on the left.*



Plate 42. *Castle Croft Hotel, Penllech. Behind the modern front the two end chimneys and steep roof denote a 17th century building.*

with buildings; those to the west encroaching onto the castle green were swept away as part of Holland's redevelopment in the 1870's when the Castle Hotel and stables were built. The present Castle restaurant lies on the site of the medieval shire hall.

On the east side of the street are a row of four adjoining 17th/18th century buildings. The Red Lion, the principal inn of Harlech prior to the 19th century lay towards the top of the road. It is traditionally associated with the southernmost building of the row, which was later an undertaker's workshop, and renamed Gweithdy Saer, though it is now part of the adjoining hotel. This building has no end chimneys, several blocked openings on the front, and a rear wing with large end chimney. The estate map of 1771 clearly shows two buildings and a smaller building at the north end forming the row. These would equate to the present Castle Croft, Caereinion and Ty'r Felin. The map is not entirely accurate in other respects, so too much reliance should not be place on it, but the map appears to show the present Castle Croft hotel as the former Red Lion. The Castle Croft hotel and Caereinion both contain substantial elements of 17th century buildings, though Caereinion has been partly rebuilt, perhaps when used as a school house. The mill house below, Ty'r Felin, is smaller, but also 17th century.³⁶ If Gwaethdy Saer was built as a stable block for the inn, this might explain the lack of end chimneys and multiple doorways, though it does not explain why it is not shown on the map, nor the rear wing. More research is needed before any firm conclusions can be drawn. Lower down the road is the converted corn drying kiln (Odyn) and opposite and slightly below is the mill, also now converted into a house. The exact location of the medieval mill is not known, but it is assumed to have been close to or on the site of the present building. There is also evidence that another mill was established on the river at the foot of the slope. A mill features in several 18th and 19th century illustrations of the castle.

Twthill which runs from the square past the castle and to the morfa below, though not shown on Speed's map, is clearly indicated on 18th century maps, and is likely to have originated in medieval times. The buildings now lining the south side of the road and overlooking the castle green include the Church hall, which formed part of Samuel Holland's rebuilding of the 1870's, and alongside a small cemetery, which was formerly attached to the first Baptist chapel (Bethel) to be built in Harlech in 1786. The

³⁶ Lloyd 1987, 101

chapel was demolished and the present houses/shops erected in the mid-20th century. The two houses

below the church hall were built on a previously undeveloped plot at about the same time. A small late 19th century terrace lies at right angles along the slope behind the hall. The High Street (Stryd Fawr), part of the medieval borough, lies along a narrow terrace, with steep slopes below, and this physical constraint is unlikely to have allowed the layout of regular burgage plots. The south end is marked by a steep change in slope down to Pentre'r Efail below. A river formerly ran parallel to the west side, (shown on Speed's map). It is still visible alongside the path to the church, where a series of slab covered openings record a former communal washing area, but it now appears to follow a course straight down the slope to the west, though it is likely a culvert still runs north to the mill pond. Towards the southern end (east side) is a rocky empty plot that appears never to have been developed. To the north of this empty plot was the site of Ty Mawr, the house where Glyndwr is reputed to have held his parliament when at Harlech, and demolished in the late 19th century. The houses Ty Mawr and Glyndwr now occupy the site. Opposite, at the south-west corner of the town, lay Plas yn Harlech, a late medieval house owned by the Vaughans of Nannau. In c. 1830 Sir R W Vaughan converted the medieval house into the Blue Lion, and this became the principal inn in Harlech, taking over the role of the Red Lion. The lateral chimney on the north side of the house, and the division of the building into two parts suggests significant elements of the medieval structure were incorporated into the later conversion. A road was built around the front of the inn to allow horse drawn coaches to turn easily. The house north of the inn overlies this road. The Plas was owned in the late 19th century, to 1913, by the Earls of Winchilsea, who also owned other property in the town, including Bronheudog, below the High Street, which was connected via a drawbridge to allow additional accommodation.

Re-development within the first half of the 19th century is visible at the north end of the High Street. On the east side Cambrian House, at one time a Temperance Hotel, though later one of the principal shops, is stylistically similar to contemporary developments along the lower High Street, and both exhibit the introduction of a more polite style of architecture. On the west side an early 19th century pair of two storey cottages are more vernacular in style, whilst south of these were two smaller cottages, demolished in the early 20th century. The centre part of the west side of the High Street largely dates from Holland's rebuilding, in particular Gorffwysfa, built as a temperance hotel. Of later date again are the chemist shop and the Hen Bethau antique shop.

Pendref was also part of the medieval borough, and Speed shows houses on both sides of the street. Sambr Wen, now at the upper end of development, looks 18th century in origin, though has been considerably renovated. Close to the square were two inns, the Harp Inn and the White Horse above, the former now renamed the Lion Inn, and refurbished with gabled dormers in the 20th century (the earlier lower roof line is still visible in the masonry of the gable wall). The latter is now a house, Bronallt, but the tall end chimneys and off-centre door suggest a building of 17th century origins. The north side of Pendref was redeveloped in the 1830's (see Area 3 below).



Plate 43. The Castle Hotel and stables built by Samuel Holland in the 1870's. The style is Holland's image of a vernacular picturesque, with extended eaves and hipped dormer windows.



Plate 44. The Church Hall, also by Samuel Holland.



Plate 45. Tall three-storey buildings line the west side of the High Street



Plate 46. At the south end of the High Street is a group of white painted buildings. Evidence on other buildings suggests far more buildings were once painted or limewashed.

8.1.2 Current Urban Area Description

The castle occupies the north-west part of this area. It is a World Heritage Site, and is in state guardianship, managed by Cadw. The castle is the dominating heart of Harlech – without it the borough would never have been founded – and at different times it has played varying roles in the political, social and economic history of the borough. The Castle Green was redeveloped by Holland in the 1870's, the three storey hotel, built of roughly coursed rubble with large squared quoins faces the castle, and has its back to Penllech. A recessed entrance and flanking wings are gabled, and tall stone chimneys add to the height. The less flamboyant Castle Restaurant to the south, partly the former stables to the hotel, has small hipped gables on the north and west. The buildings along the south side of Twthill again look on to the castle. The church hall, with small hipped gables echoing those of the restaurant, lies alongside the enclosed and almost hidden small cemetery. Within a relatively level space alongside the south-east corner of the castle ditch, is a bronze sculpture of a mutilated Bendigeidfran by Ivor Roberts-Jones RA (1916-1996) erected in 1984. The location of the High Street on ground sloping to the west allows for tall 3-storey buildings along the west side, but more disparate 2-storey buildings on the east which partly lie above the road. Though the over riding impression is of 3-storey stone buildings with overhanging slate roofs, tall stone chimneys, and four-pane sash windows, this is tempered by both earlier and later examples of building exhibiting a range of styles. Not least are the white painted group at the south end of Stryd Fawr consisting of the Plas Restaurant, adjoining Spar and the former U shaped stable block opposite. A porch to the Plas used to reach across the entire pavement, though this has been demolished. Both the first two have small pane sash windows on the upper floors. The Spar was designed as a shop, and the ground floor façade retains elements of the original fascia. The 2-storey 'U' shaped stable block opposite, with central courtyard, has been converted to house a range of shops. At the other end of the High Street Cambrian House, the walls of dark ashlar, has retained its 12-pane sash windows on the ground floor, and 9 pane above, now all painted red. Contrasting with the ashlar is the coursed stone building opposite, with evidence that the front façade, if not the gable, was once rendered. In the centre of the west side of the High Street are a series of three storey stone houses and shops of the later 19th century, with slight overhanging eaves and four-pane sash windows. The lack of horizontal regularity of the window openings adds to the haphazard character of the street. The Chemists is a later building, of white



Plate 47. Two-storey terraced housing in small units runs down the slope along the south side of Pendref, whilst on the opposite side the area was re-developed to run at right-angles to the road along the slope.

painted roughcast render, with gabled dormers. To the south and opposite are the two houses Glyndwr and Ty Mawr, brown pebbledashed, with bay windows to the ground floor front, the bays roofed with sweeping lead canopies. Alongside is Seion Wesleyan chapel (now the Roman Catholic church) built 1872 by O Morris Roberts. The narrow plot means the west gable, with a pair of round headed central windows flanked by doors, faces the road, and is reached by steps up.

Looking up Pendref a contrast exists between the south side facing the street and the north side, realigned in the 19th century. At the upper end, looking down over the street is the former 19th century farmhouse of Penybryn, only the upper floor and gabled dormers visible. Opposite is the graded roof of Siambr Wen, almost at road level at the upper end. Two storey terraced housing of 19th century date lies below Siambr Wen in uncoursed rubble with largely modern windows. Lower down is Bronallt, the former White Horse Inn, the tall square chimneys and off-centre door indicating 17th or 18th century origins. Below the Lion Hotel has a largely regular façade of second storey gabled dormers which are 20th century. The earlier two storey roofline can be seen in the end gable. Both Bronallt and the Lion Inn are roughcast and painted.



Plate 48. *Gwaithdy Sair, Penllech, traditionally the site of the former Red Lion Inn, has no end chimneys, though a rear wing has a large chimney attached.*



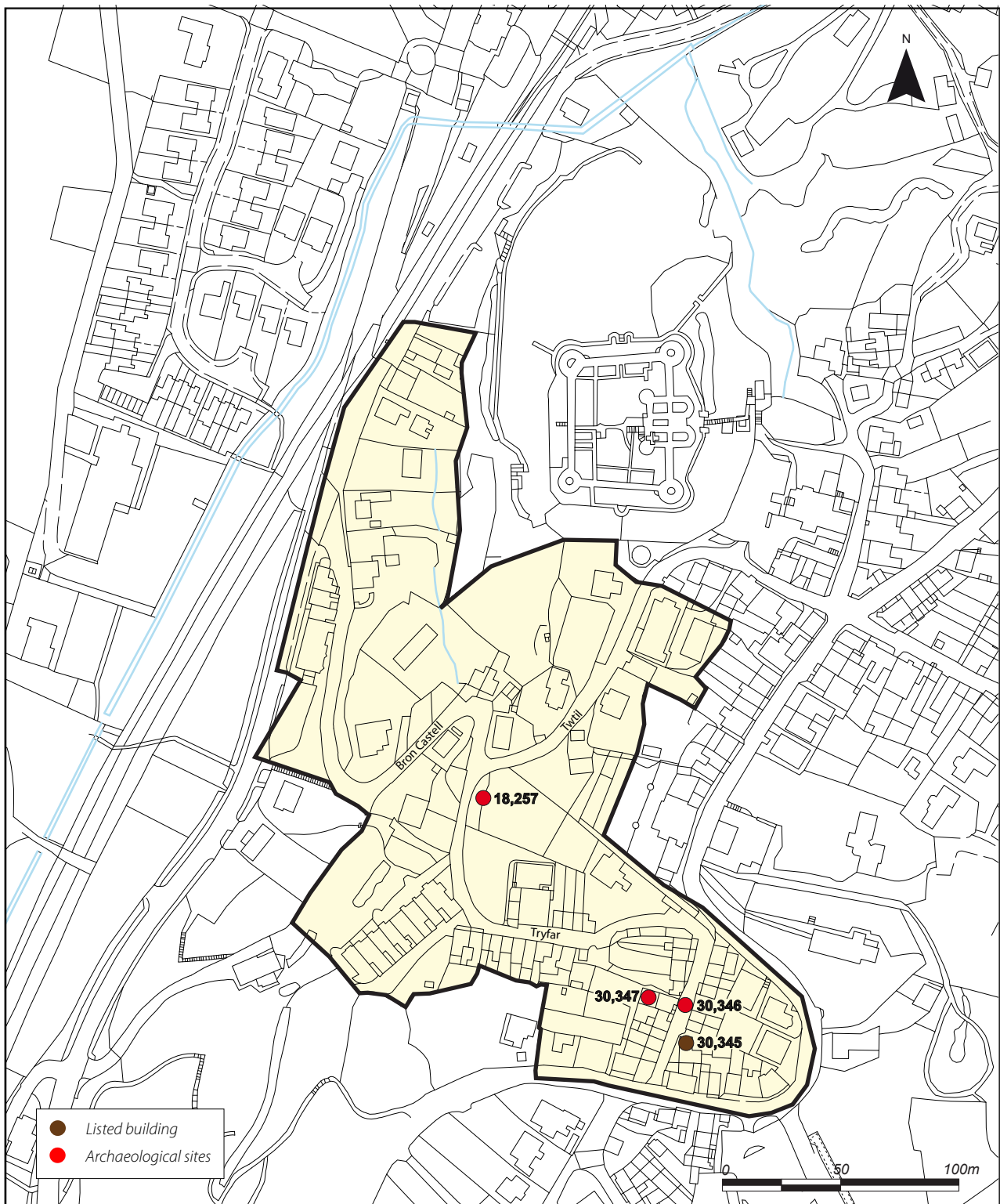
Plate 49. *Castle Croft Hotel, Penllech, has a modern front, but the roof of the original building can still be seen behind.*

Penllech now appears a minor thoroughfare, and though it is still open to traffic the steep hill and hairpin bend discourage its use other than for access. Along the west side is the rear of the Castle Hotel, whilst opposite lies the Castle Croft Hotel, incorporating Gwaithdy Saer, and below are Caereinion and Ty'r Felin. Whilst Gwaithdy Saer has been renovated recently in sympathetic style, a previous renovation of Castle Croft has largely hidden the earlier building behind a modern front. The tall chimneys and roofline, however, identify the earlier origins. The west front of Caereinion shows masonry of two phases – the south end is uncoursed rubble, and on the south gable is a tall, square early chimney whilst the north half is more regularly coursed with larger blocks, and the chimney is rectangular and squat. The former suggests a house of 17th or 18th century origins, whilst the latter denotes a rebuilding in the 19th century. The stonework of Caereinion shows evidence of former paintwork. This row of buildings contains some of the oldest buildings in Harlech, and their presence here, with early slate roofs laid in diminishing courses, tall stone chimney stacks and sash windows, set the character. It is unfortunate that many of the windows (Caereinion is a particular example) have been unsympathetically modernised.

Lower down the slope the buildings are more scattered, reflecting the local topography. Ty Eiddew, now two cottages but formerly a single medieval building, is terraced into the sloping ground, whilst the majority of the other groups lie along the slope. Glas Cerrig and Llys Mair which sit above the road are 19th century, the former with 12 pane sash windows and overhanging eaves, the latter with four pane sash windows.

There is considerable potential for the preservation of medieval archaeology within the medieval borough. The Shire Hall lay under the south end of the Castle Hotel complex (the present Castle Restaurant), and the chapel of St Magdelen may have lain on the north side of the plot. Buildings fronted Penllech, which up to the early 19th century was one of the principal roads out of the town. A well, ffynon fair, or St Mary's well, also lay at the north end. The mill pool underlies the present children's playground. Capel Bethel, the former Baptist chapel, lay east of the small cemetery.

8.2 CHARACTER AREA 2. Pentre'r Efail and Tryfar



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- 18,257 Harlech Landscape
- 30,345 Harlech Pottery
- 30,346 Pentre'r Efail
- 30,347 Former Smithy

Figure 3. Pentre'r Efail and Tryfar

8.2.1 Historical development

This area lies at the south end of the town, but the topography means it is significantly lower, with a steep drop from the south end of Stryd Fawr, now via steps alongside a revetment wall, though early maps show the High Street went straight on through here and along the road to Llanfair beyond. Wheeled transport must have found this route impossible, and hence the building of the present road around to the east. Tryfar, a road clearly marked on the 1771 map, leads from the north end of Pentre'r Efail west and north to join up with Twthill, and the road also appears to be shown on Speeds map. Speed also shows a bridge crossing the river at the south end of the High Street, and a scatter of houses at Pentre'r Efail. Lloyd suggests this might have originally been a Welsh extra-mural settlement.³⁷ Buildings are shown along both sides of the road on the 1771 map.³⁸ The plot in the north-west corner (containing the present houses of Cilán, Gerlan,



Plate 50. The settlement at Pentre'r Efail may be medieval in origin, though most of the present houses are no older than 1800.



Plate 51. The settlement at Pentre'r Efail may be medieval in origin, though most of the present houses are no older than 1800.

Hafen Deg and Ty'n Ffrwd) is shown undeveloped on all maps up to 1849. The smithy (Yr Efail) lay south of this, alongside a small stream. The earliest building is the Harlech Pottery, an 18th century house set at an angle to the street frontage, perhaps acknowledging an early plot layout, indicated on the 1771 map. The remaining buildings are nearly all mid- to late-19th century, indicative of the increase in housing for slate quarry workers in that century. At the south east corner the Baptist chapel Aion was built in 1870, but replaced by the larger chapel to the north in 1897, the latter a car sales room for many years after its closure, though now available for redevelopment. The shops and houses around the south bend of the new road are all later 19th century. The Institute alongside the later Baptist chapel was built 1908.

This area also includes the steep slopes south of the castle, and the two principal roads which negotiate them. Twthill, not shown on Speeds map of 1610, though one would expect it to have been in use, is clearly indicated in 1771. Tryfar, which links up with Twthill part way down the slope, appears to be shown in 1610 and 1771. However the steep slopes were not conducive to early development, and only a single small building is shown in 1771 on the north side of Tryfar at the top of the slope, and none are indicated along Twthill. The Calvinistic Methodists, however, had built their first chapel by 1769, apparently on the site of the later chapel on the north side of Tryfar (Lloyd 1987, 44). By 1840 the small terrace on the north side of Tryfar had been built, and a building is indicated below, on the site of the chapel, whilst shortly after the houses along the south side of Tryfar were built.



Plate 52. The slopes below the High Street were not developed until after 1800, though the routes down Twthill and Tryfar may be medieval.

³⁷ 1987, 19

³⁸ UWB Mostyn 8679

³⁵ quoted Lloyd 1987, 44

In the 1870's Bronwen Terrace was built for Samuel Holland, and several other houses were built down Twtil, including Ty'n y Groes and Bron Castell. The construction of the railway in 1867 provided a new focus for development at the base of the slope, and new houses were built along the lower road that skirts the castle rock. In the early 20th century several new detached villa style houses were built up the slope, carefully sited to take advantage of the views over the golf course to the sea.

8.2.2 Current Urban Area Description

The small street of Pentre'r Efail lined with two storey houses is of a different character to the High Street. The walls are predominantly stone, and usually of roughly coursed squared blocks, though random rubble is found also. The roofs are of slate, that on Gerlan/Hafen Deg laid in diminishing courses. The houses are



Plate 53. *Pentre'r Efail looking north.*



Plate 54. *Tryfar looking east towards Pentre'r Efail, with Moreia Chapel in the foreground.*

all one and half or two storey, with the exception of that at the north-east corner which is taller t reach up to the road above it. No's 2 to 4, a small terrace of 1½ storeys with gabled dormer windows and built of roughly coursed stone blocks may be one of the earliest surviving, and was possibly once rendered. No.2 retains 12 pane sash windows without horns. Similar windows, but with horns, can be seen at Ty'n Ffrwd to the north. The style of this terrace is copied in another terrace of three opposite, though here the construction date is later. Of particular significance for the area is the survival of the 18th century Harlech Pottery, a 2-storey end chimney house with off-centre front door and flanking windows, the one to the left widened to create a shop window. Three small 12 pane sash windows light the first floor. The walls are of uncoursed rubble with long quoins, though slight masonry changes suggest the walls have been raised. A later single storey extension was built onto the right gable. The former smithy, with rendered and painted walls, lies end on to the street. A small early 20th century shop, now converted into a house, lies at the north end of the west side, where the road curves round into Tryfar

The late 19th century row of shops curve round the new road to the east of Pentre'r Efail. These are of two storeys, built of squared stone blocks roughly coursed, with slate roofs. Further round the bend to the north is a disused garage site, due for development, the Institute is of dark snecked masonry facing the road, though of rubble masonry behind. Similar is the converted Baptist chapel also due for re-development. On the east side of the road is Byrdir house, a tall three storey boarding house in white painted render, with squared labels over the first floor windows. A horse trough is built into the wall part way round the bend of the road south of Byrdir.

The castle slopes are significant because of the clear views from below which take in the castle and the town perched on the highest terrace above. The buildings scattered on levelled terraces up and down the slope are a mixture of late 19th century vernacular, early 20th century villas (influenced by the Arts and Crafts buildings elsewhere in Harlech) and late 20th century buildings. However, whilst this is all clearly visible from below, the experience is very different when driving or walking along the two roads of Twtil and Tryfar, which twist and turn in traverses up the slope. Tryfar, with its terraced houses either side, is partly an extension of Pentre'r Efail, though Bronwen Terrace enters new territory, built for wealthier occupiers.



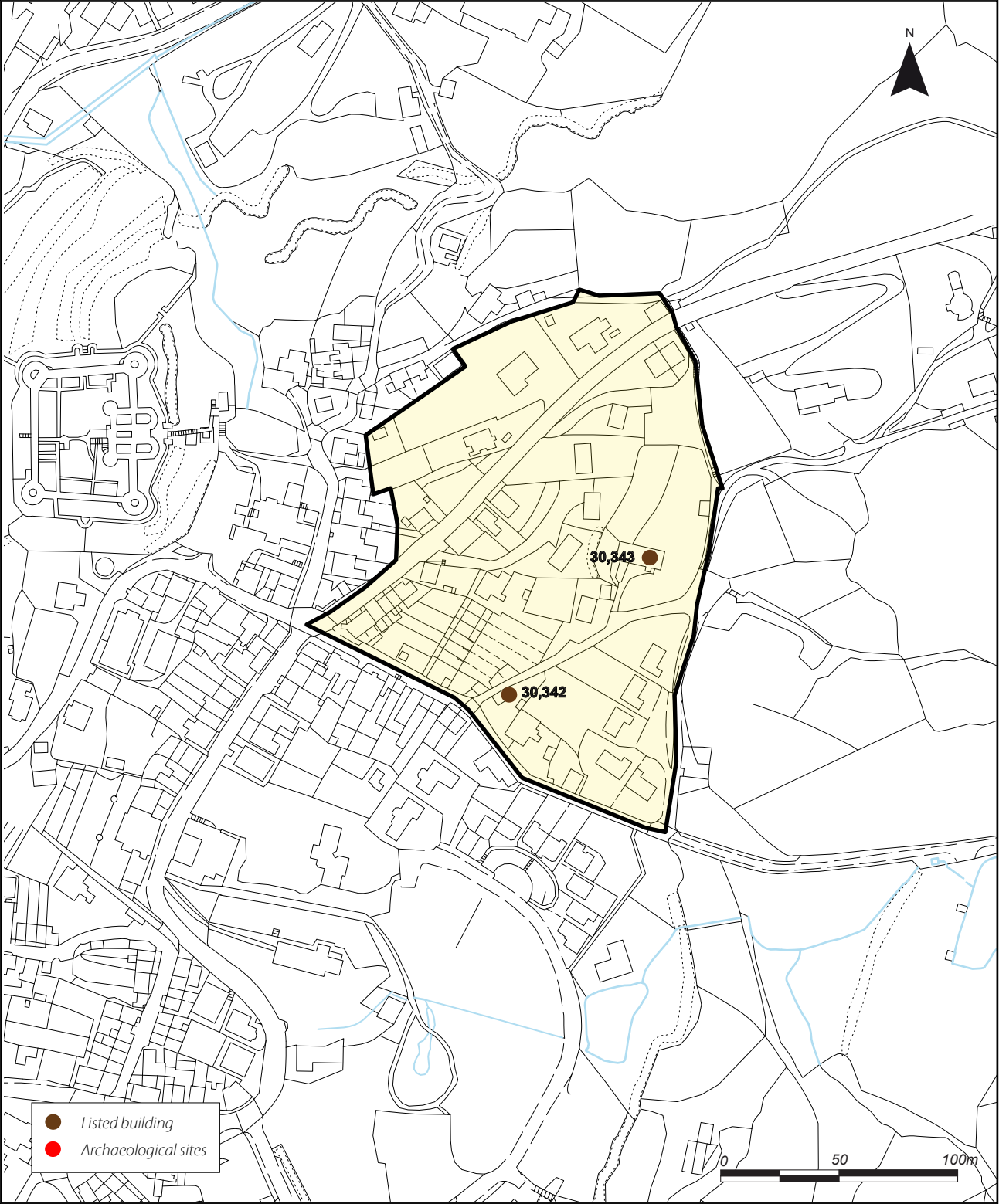
Plate 55 & 56. *London House, for many years the lower post office, is an example of expansion on to the Morfa in the mid-19th century. The Branwen Hotel lies south of London House.*

The earliest development, the terrace along the north side of Tryfar, is two storey with roughly coursed masonry blocks on the front and un-coursed rubble on the side and rear. Heavy stone lintels above doors and windows form a strong horizontal line at first floor level. The windows are all modern. Original iron railing survives at the lower end and between the small gardens at the front of the houses. Opposite on the south side of Tryfar, changes in masonry styles suggest the continuous row was built in successive phases. Generally, however, they are two storey, built of roughly coursed rubble with stone lintels and slate sills. Two are painted but the stonework is exposed on the remainder. The front of Moreia chapel, gable onto the road with four tall round-arched windows and two doors, is painted white, though the small house attached to the west side and the remainder of the chapel is exposed rubble. The small cemetery on the west side lies above the road, with a high terraced wall. Bronwen Terrace is typical of the work of Samuel Holland, with solid dark quoins, snecked masonry, stone chimneys and overhanging eaves. It is a long terrace of six houses flanked by two larger end units. Of three storeys, it overlooks the golf course, each house having two gabled dormers, with two larger gables on the end units. Examples of earlier buildings elsewhere on the slope include Bron Castell and Bryn Hyfryd, both on Twtil, whilst Cwt Bach and Twtil Cottage are small stone vernacular buildings. The Victorian villa style is exemplified by Fair View close to the castle at the top of the slope, with rubble walls, steeply pitched slate roof with overhanging eaves and four-pane sash windows. Lower down the slope Plas Owain is typical of the early 20th century, built to boldly face out, with a wide central arch over the recessed front, and two small gables over the upper windows. Higher up Twtil, just above Cwt Bach, the 1970's style Tegfryn is less in keeping, though the public toilets above, in stone with round arches, have been carefully designed for their location alongside the castle. On the bottom road at the base of the slope Y Branwen hotel, white painted stone of three storeys with small gables above the upper windows, is part of the post-railway development on the Morfa.

8.2.3 Archaeological potential

There is potential for the survival of medieval and later remains within Pentre'r Efail. There is less potential on the slopes for buried archaeology, as the steepness tended to prohibit development until the later 19th century.

8.3 CHARACTER AREA 3: Stryd Fawr north of Pendref



30,342 Bryntirion
30,343 Capel Rehoboth

Figure 4. Stryd Fawr north of Pendref

8.3.1 Historical development

The layout of the area is now determined by the early 19th century Stryd Fawr, which cut diagonally between the roads of Penllech and Pendref. The earlier road to Llechwedd, which involved going east up Pendref then turning north and passing Capel Rehoboth, runs above and roughly parallel to Stryd Fawr. Narrow plots, possibly former burgage plots, between Penllech and the upper road, were cut through by the new road, as clearly shown on the 1840 tithe map. By 1849, however, the plot in the south corner between the new road and Pendref, owned by Ormesby-Gore (Lord Harlech) had been completely redeveloped. The older houses lining the north side of Pendref had been demolished, and two rows of terraces built, one fronting the new road, and another higher up the slope (Porkington Terrace). Both terraces, though parts of the lower one has been modernised, were built in similar styles, and both with long narrow gardens behind. The construction of the new line of the lower High Street emphasised the importance of the square in Harlech, and the new buildings were designed to take advantage of the economic potential. Cambrian House, on the junction of Stryd Fawr with Pendref are in a similar style, and may form part of the same development. The older layout is still reflected along the south side of Pendref (see Area 1 above) and along the west side of Stryd Fawr where the rear of Gwaithdy Saer dominates. On the east side of Stryd Fawr 19th century buildings front the street as far as the Independent chapel (Capel Jerusalem) built 1881 in dark snecked rubble, whilst alongside is one of the very few red brick houses in the town. Later, 20th century, houses lie beyond. At the top end of Penllech is the large house of Penbryn Mawr, again late 19th century, though the site is called Penybryn in the 18th century. The triangle of roads around Penybryn is clearly indicated on the 1771 map. On the lower of these roads is Bryntirion, a small mid-19th century cottage backing on to the steep rock slope behind, and flanked by a high retaining wall, but the remainder of the triangle within the roads around Penybryn was developed with new houses in the late 20th century. At the north end of the triangle is Capel Rehoboth built for the Scotch Baptists in 1820 on an elevated position above the town. The chapel was renovated in the later 19th century when a schoolroom was added. On the north edge of the Penybryn triangle is a small stone building used as a store, but was formerly an abattoir.



Plate 53. *Pentre'r Efail looking north.*



Plate 54. *Tryfar looking east towards Pentre'r Efail, with Moreia Chapel in the foreground.*

8.3.2 Current Urban Area Description

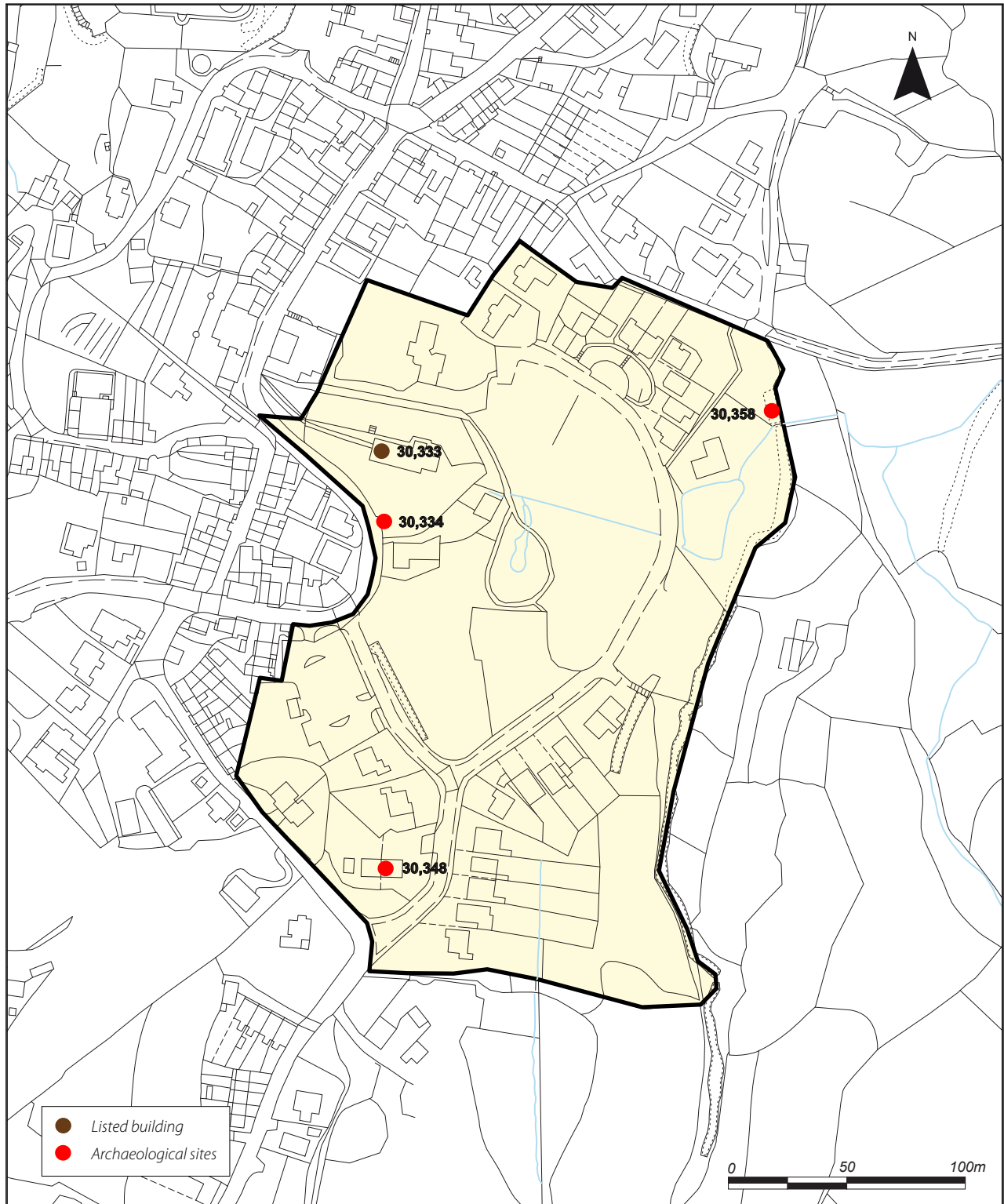
The layout of the buildings largely reflects the early 19th century new road (the lower Stryd Fawr), though the underlying plot structure lies at an angle to the road, reflecting an earlier pattern based on the roads along Penllech and Pendref, and the tithe map of 1840 shows the earlier plots simply cut through. Gwaithdy Saer lying with its back to Stryd Fawr, reflects the earlier layout, providing a view of the recently renovated roof of slates laid in diminishing size and swept gullies. The present visitor centre on the corner opposite, formerly the post office and then a bank, has been modernised, and the south gable is now rendered, but a photograph of c. 1875 (NLW John Thomas 00395) shows large coursed masonry blocks with an open verandah around the outside and small pane sash windows. Porkington terrace a two-storey terrace, is built of the same coursed masonry. North of the Ormesby-Gore terrace on Stryd Fawr is a detached house with its front at an angle to the street – it has been built with its side wall parallel to the earlier plot in which it lies. A roughly carved date on one of the gable quoins reads 1885. Opposite is Hiraethog, a modern house but built within the early plot structure at an angle to the present road. To the north again,

the only pre-1900 development was Jerusalem chapel, again in solid grey masonry, though this time in snecked rubble. To the south of the chapel is Llys Mador, a rare example of red brickwork. In the first half of the 20th century the large building between Penllech and Stryd Fawr (now the Mermaid gift shop etc) was built – its present rendered appearance and modernised upper windows looking distinctly out of place here. Other 20th century building includes Min y Mynydd set back from the road, a dormer bungalow in arts and crafts style.

8.3.3 Archaeological potential

There is potential for medieval archaeology either side Pendref, whilst the remnants of burgage plots are reflected in the strips between Penllech and Pendref.

8.4 CHARACTER AREA 4: Bronygraig



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- 30,333** St Tanwg's church
- 30,334** Cattle trough
- 30,348** Bron y Graig
- 30,358** Bottling plant

Figure 5. Bronygraig

8.4.1 Historical development

This area lies east of the town up to the steep quarried cliffs. It was undeveloped until the late 19th century, consisting of rough open land, and a series of small fields. The Hatton Wood family (Earls of Winchilsea and Nottingham) inherited the Nannau lands, which included this area, and built a house at Bron y Graig in 12 acres of park. In 1839-40 a plot had been given by Sir R W Vaughan of Nannau for the construction of St Tanwg's church, designed by Thomas Jones of Chester in Early English style. Below the path to the church was a public washing area (still marked by slabs which lift up to reveal the stream below) and in the same vicinity was the cattle market, until it was moved down to the hill to the new railway station. A water mineral works (the water piped from a reservoir above) was developed in the northern area, and remains of walling relating to this can still be seen in gardens. Bron y Graig was demolished after the Second World War, and the area subsequently developed as a mixture of public gardens, woodland walks in the heavily wooded slopes to the east, and private housing. A footpath runs up past the church to the parkland beyond, whilst other footpaths to the east lead into the wooded slopes.

8.4.2 Current Urban Area Description

The church is the only significant early building in this area. It is best viewed from the south, where its dark coursed stonework and broad single lancet windows is clearly visible on the road into the town. Otherwise it is largely hidden, the west front only clearly visible from the path leading to the church. Former gardens, with examples of exotic trees, occupy the area behind the church, with new housing developments fringing



Plate 59. The church was built on the south edge of town c. 1840 on land donated by Sir R W Vaughan.



Plate 60. Public grounds on the site of Bron y Graig.

the park. More heavily developed is the area to the south, where car parks and new housing have been developed on and around the site of the former Bron y Graig house. Woodland walks have been developed in the broadleaved woodland occupying the eastern slopes, in which former stone quarries are clearly visible.

8.4.3 Archaeological potential

There is no evidence for development here until the later 19th century. Upstanding fragments of the former mineral water works are visible in the gardens to the north-east. The demolished house of Bron y Graig has been built over. The gardens may preserve elements of their original layout, and the exotic planting is of interest. The quarries which supplied much of the building stone fringe this area.

8.5 CHARACTER AREA 5: Ffordd Uchaf

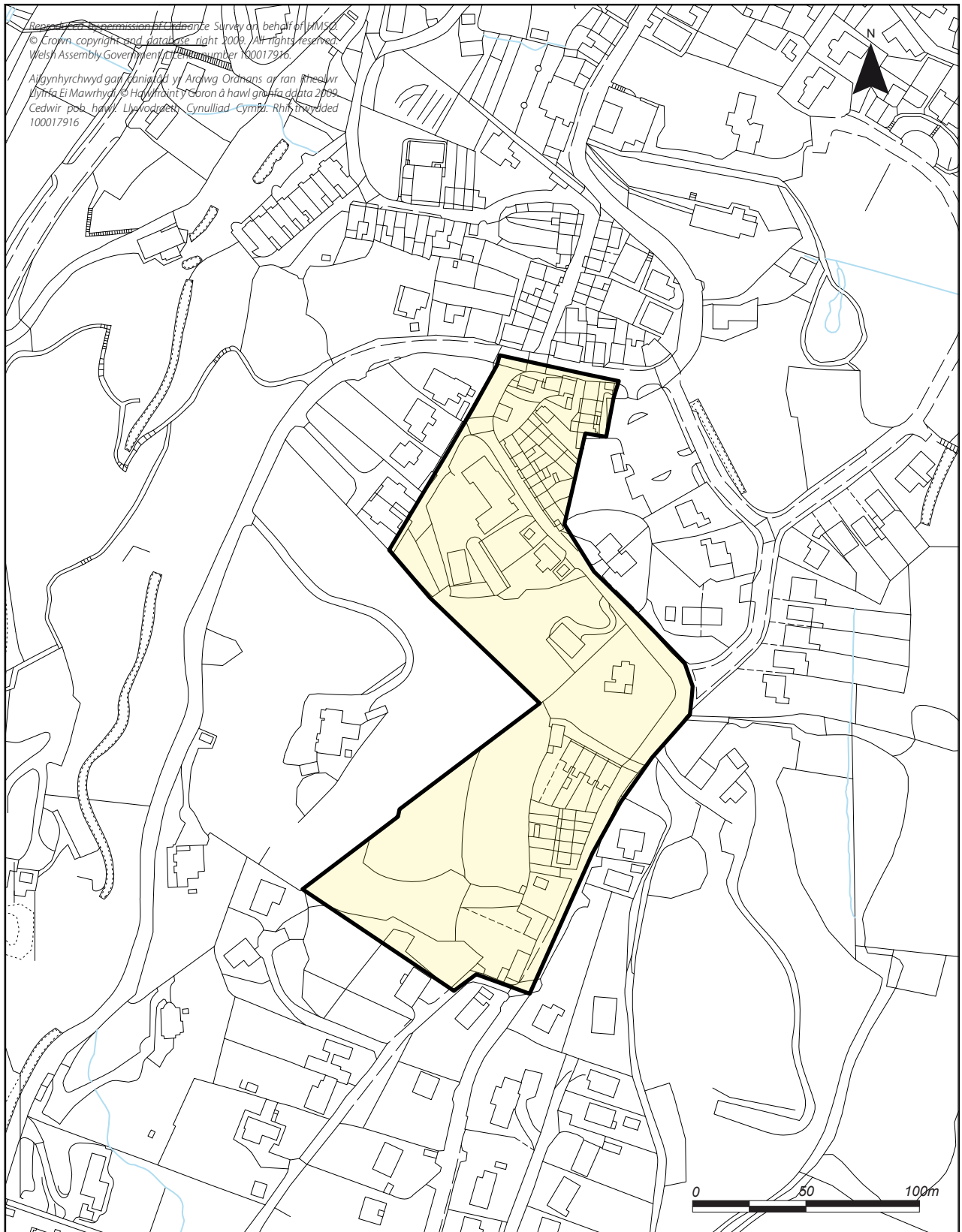


Figure 6. Ffordd Uchaf

8.5.1 Historical development

This area includes the earliest main road south from Harlech to Llanfair. Little development occurred before the later 19th century, but it is closer in character to Tryfar than the later lower road to Llanfair, where development of larger villa style houses took place. Rock Terrace, which occupies the east side of the road, was part of Samuel Holland's development of the 1870's, who also donated the land for the new Board school opposite, built in 1874, and now the library. Higher up the slope, on a bend in the road, is Pen y Garth, a Victorian villa, initially occupied by Dr Richard Thomas Jones, though later for many years the youth hostel, before its closure and conversion to a guest house. Higher up the slope again is a small terrace of quarry workers cottages, and beyond the 18th century farmhouse of Pencerrig.

8.5.2 Current Urban Area Description

A group of terraces at the foot of the road, opposite Pentre'r Efail, form the southernmost spread of late 19th century urban Harlech. Rock Terrace, along Ffordd Uchaf, owes its origins to Samuel Holland, though the houses have been modernised, and many are now rendered or pebble-dashed, with modern windows, though a group at the upper end are still stone. Grogan Terrace, reached from a narrow entrance on the main road, is also 19th century, and lies above the road, though largely hidden. Its wide windows may indicate former work rooms. Opposite Rock Terrace is the former board school, now the library, typical of Holland's buildings, in squared stone blocks with steep roof pitches and overhanging eaves. Penygraig, a small stone house of similar date, lies just above the school, though opposite are two 1970's style brick houses, which look out of place here. Higher up the hill the Victorian villa of Pen y Garth with bay windows and wide projecting eaves is typical of late 19th century building at Harlech. Higher up again is the farm of Penllech, a possible 18th century building with small window openings looking onto the road. A stone two-storey terrace lies to the north alongside the road, and another, later, terrace lies at right angles to the road above Pen y Garth.

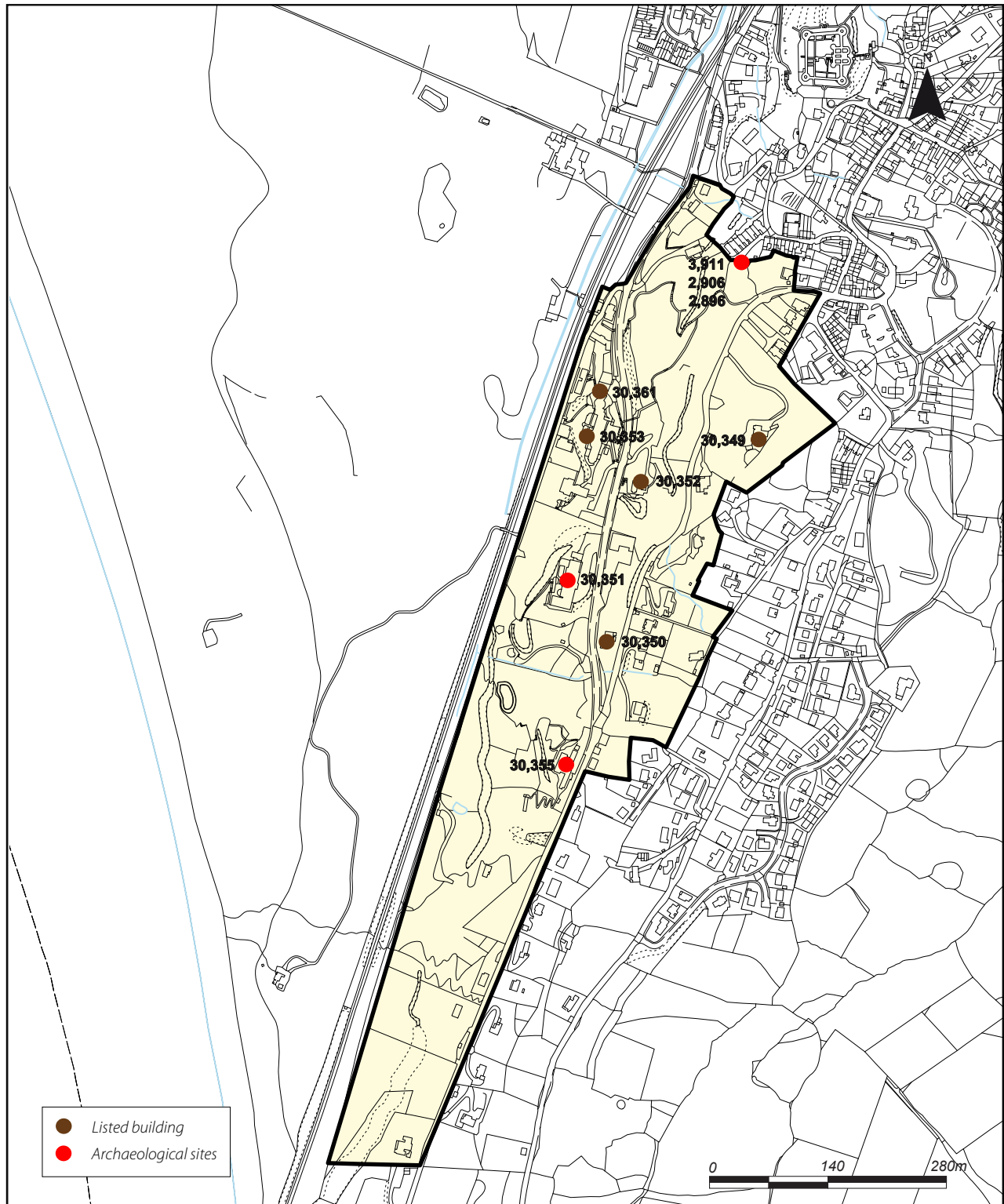


Plate 61. Rock Terrace was a development by Samuel Holland. The former board school (now library) lies across the road.

8.5.3 Archaeological potential

This area lies outside the medieval settlement. There is potential for prehistoric settlement within the area.

8.6 CHARACTER AREA 6: Ffordd Isaf and Coleg Harlech



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2,896	BA gold torc	30,350	Cae Besi	30,353	Coleg Harlech
2,906	Hoard of BA palstaves	30,351	St David's hotel	30,355	Plas Amherst
3,911	Bronze sword	30,352	Y Wern	30,361	Theatre Arudwy

Figure 7. Ffordd Isaf and Coleg Harlech

8.6.1 Historical development

The lower road from Harlech to Llanfair was built in the early 19th century as an easier road through, avoiding the steep hill. It follows the contours of the hill round from Pentre'r Efail, with views over the golf course to the sea beyond. The new road cut through fields and rough grazing on land principally belonging to the farm of Pen y Cerrig. Another lower road was subsequently built in the 20th century around the base of the rock, now the main A496. The railway, following the edge of the slope, forms a clear division between this area and the former Harlech marsh (now the golf course) beyond. East of the railway was a large quarry, called a slate quarry on the OS maps, though it is said also to have produced building stone. The period of operation of the quarry is not known – it covered a large area though the workings do not appear substantial – and it is assumed to have operated in the latter half of the 19th century. Development in this area was slow, and originally confined to the lower slopes, including Noddfa, built by Holland as a convalescent home for quarrymen. W H More, who lived in Noddfa for a short time, came to Harlech in 1892 as Receiver for Crown Lands, and recognised the potential for building higher up the slope along Ffordd Isaf. Crown Lodge was built for him in 1903 by the government in spacious grounds, overlooking the sea. More was friends with George Davison, and encouraged him to settle in Harlech. Davison had Plas Wernfawr built in the former slate quarry by George Walton, a Scottish Arts and Crafts architect, and contemporary of Rennie Mackintosh. The large music hall was built onto Plas Wernfawr in 1910 by Walton, but was destroyed in a fire of 1968, to be replaced by the present theatre designed by Colwyn Foulkes. Davison, in conjunction with others, built St David's Hotel, designed by Walton, to house guests and patrons of the golf club. The hotel was rebuilt following a fire in 1922 to designs by Griffith Morris while working for O Morris Roberts and Son. Davison moved to France in the early 1920's, and Plas Wernfawr was eventually sold at a fraction of its value for use as an educational establishment. Coleg Harlech was established there in 1927 as a residential college for adults. The library to the north was added by Griffith Morris in 1938. Morris was also responsible for Y Wern, built to house the warden of the college, and Cae Besi, built for the American born photographer Alvin Langdon Coburn, and friend of Davison. Also part of the college is the tall accommodation block built by Colwyn Foulkes in 1968.

8.6.2 Current Urban Area Description

This area is seen largely from the A496 road, which encircles the base of the slope before cutting up through rock quarried rock past the college, and from the lower road out of the town. The area is also clearly visible from the golf course and footpath to the beach below. Noddfa, built for Holland, was one of the first houses here, and is typical of his work but also partly sets the scene for this area, with its long stone front facing the sea, gabled dormers and stone walls it is a precursor of many of the later developments. Crown Lodge, built for More, is less visible as it is set back amongst trees in its own grounds. It is a solid stone building in baronial style, built of irregular stone blocks and long granite lintels. Shouldered gables define each of the principal bays and elevations, the date 1903 and monogram of Edward VII is located in the front central gable. A rear service wing built of un-coursed rubble looks earlier, but is not marked on the 1900 OS map. The windows are all small pane sashes. The Coleg Harlech group of buildings, based around Plas Wernfawr, is significant not just because of its architectural influence in the area,



Plate 62. Crown Lodge, built by the Government for W H More in 1903, was one of the earliest large detached houses built south of the town.



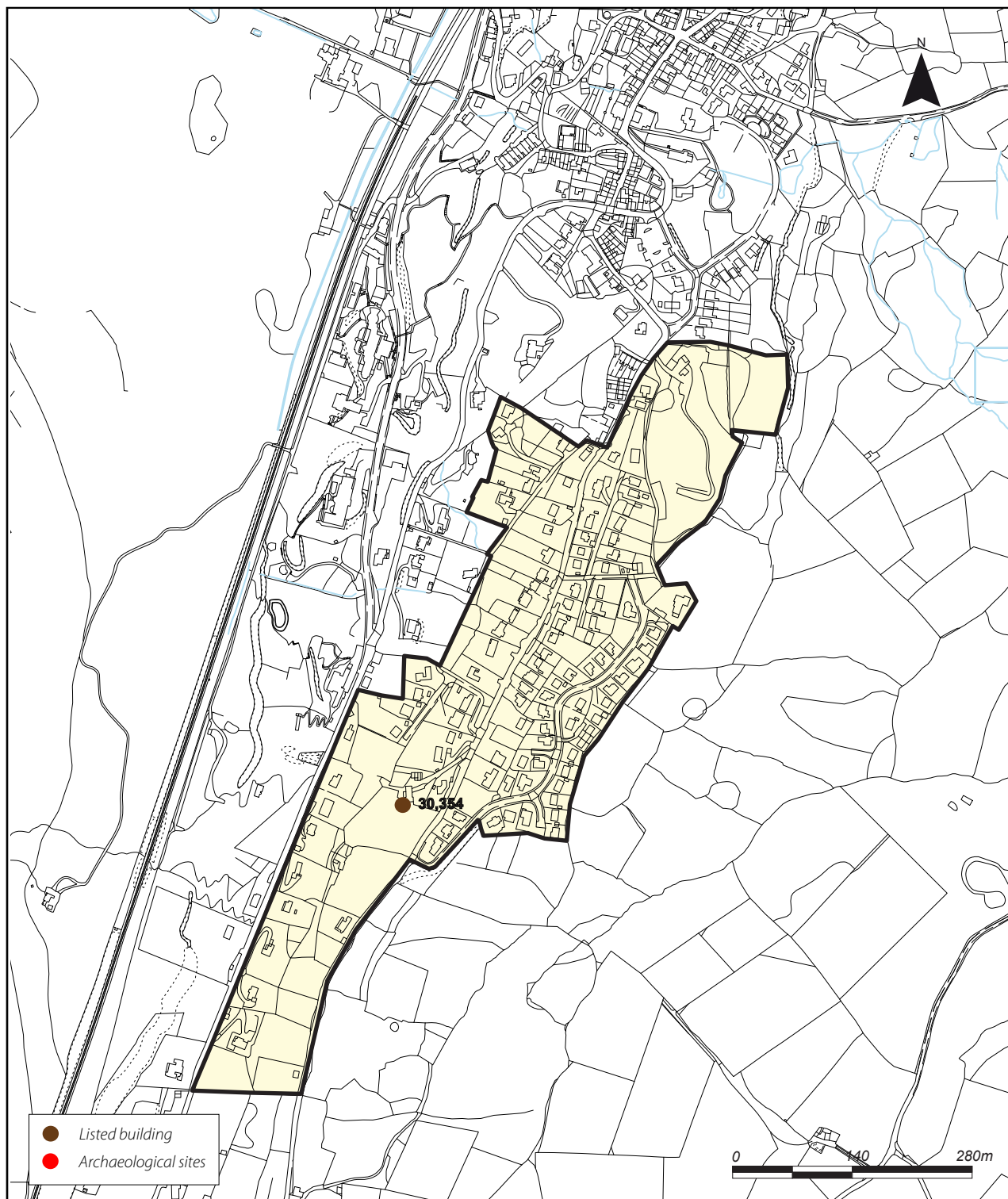
Plate 63. Plas Wernfawr, by George Walton for George Davison, 1908, started the trend for Arts and Crafts inspired architecture in Harlech.

but also because of its prominent visible location. The theatre is the first building one sees, designed by Colwyn Foulkes and opened in 1973, the raw concrete finish recalls the brutalism of the 1950's. It forms a stark contrast with Walton's Plas Wernfawr, built in 1908, in Georgian Arts and Crafts style. The gardens, arcades, surrounding stone walls and ornamental gates, all designed by Walton, are also significant, and do as much to define the area as the former house, which is barely visible from outside the courtyard. The library, attached to the north end of Plas Wernfawr, is a tall stone building with long windows to light the reading room, and semi-circular apse-like south end. At the north end of the college grounds is the tower accommodation block, also designed by Colwyn Foulkes, with horizontal windows and walling of pre-cast concrete panels impressed with local stone. The tower block is due for re-development, as also is the now derelict St David's Hotel above the college, a four storey building with central stone bays, dormer windows in the roof, and strong horizontal banding. The exposed site, overlooking both footpath to the beach and the golf course, from where the castle is also clearly visible, requires sensitive redevelopment to ensure the character set by both the castle and by Walton are maintained. On the east side of the road, across from the college, is Y Wern, a stone building in Arts and Crafts style built for the college warden, and higher up beyond the garage is Cae Besi, both designed by Griffith Morris in the 1930's, and maintaining the Arts and Crafts style set by Walton. Other large stone buildings of similar date lie upslope along Ffordd Isaf into Harlech, including Craig yr Helfa, the former rectory, Bryn Teg and Perthi, all within substantial wooded grounds. Closer to Harlech are large three-storey semi-detached houses, possibly built as boarding houses, one in typical stockbroker style with black and white projecting bay over the porch.

8.6.3 Archaeological potential

There is little potential for buried archaeology within this area.

8.7 CHARACTER AREA 7: Ffordd Llanfair and Heol y Bryn



30,354 Pencerrig Pellaf

Figure 8. Ffordd Llanfair and Heol y Bryn

8.7.1 Historical development

The development along Ffordd Llanfair, nearly joining Harlech with the village of Llanfair, has taken place in the later decades of the 20th century. The houses are nearly all detached and private, a mixture of bungalows and houses on the slopes overlooking the sea to the west. The building land was carved out of the fields belonging to the farms of Pencerrig, Pencerrig Pellaf and Pant Mawr. Farmhouses and buildings remain at each. At Pencerrig Pellaf is a good example of an early 19th century vernacular farmhouse with attached stable block.

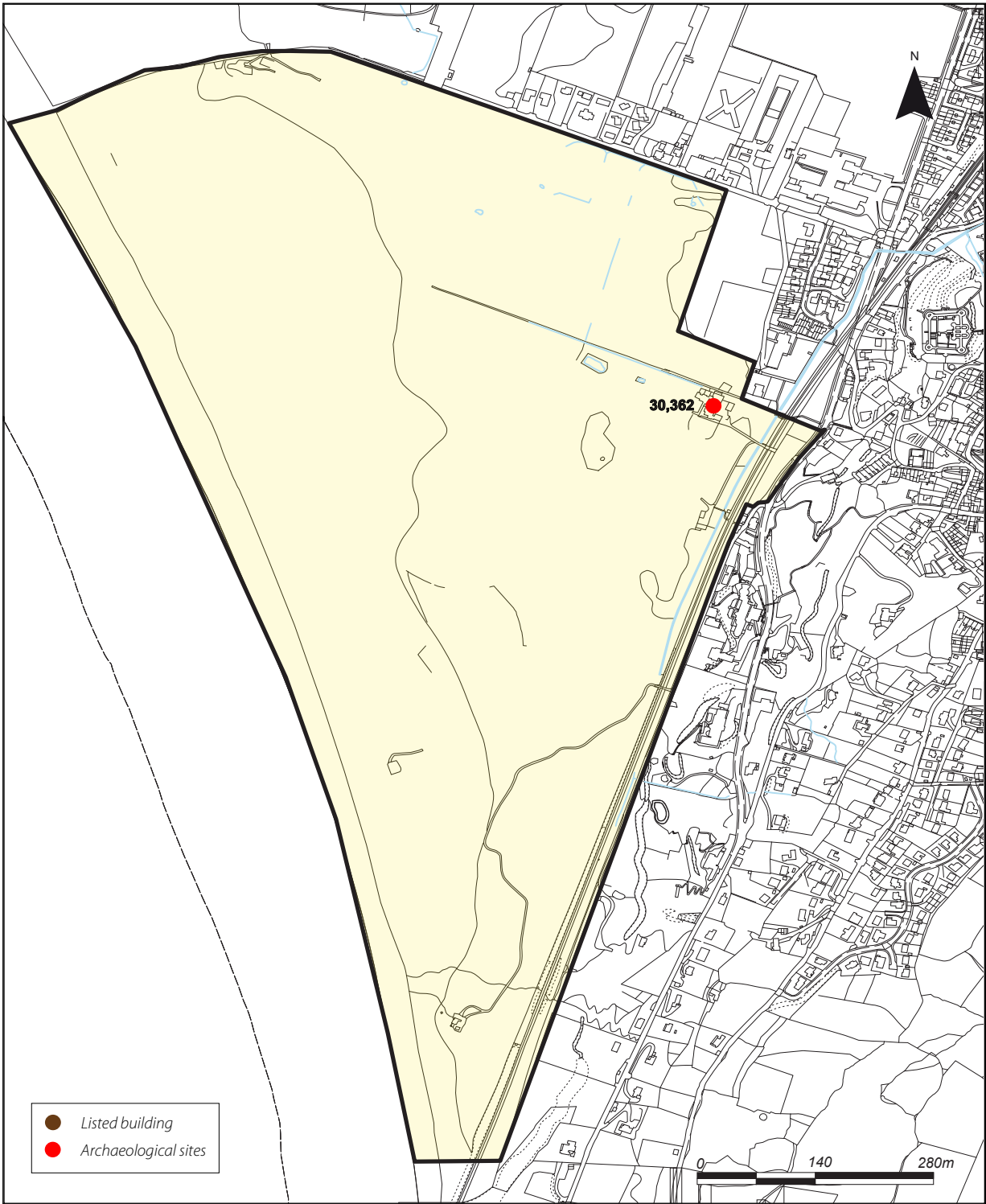
8.7.2 Current Urban Area Description

The area has been developed to take account of the views out over the sea. It lies outside well outside, and largely invisible from, the medieval core of Harlech, and is typical of late 20th century private housing developments, all be it much of it carried out on an ad hoc basis.

8.7.3 Archaeological potential

The density of prehistoric settlement in the surrounding area would suggest there is good potential for the discovery of underground archaeology in this area.

8.8 CHARACTER AREA 8: Golf Course



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30,362 Golf course

Figure 9. Golf Course

8.8.1 Historical development

The golf course is crucial to our understanding of the early 20th century development of Harlech. It was initiated by the Finch Hatton family, W H More and others in the 1890's, and was initially laid out by Stormont Finch Hatton, later the Earl of Winchelsea, his brother Harold and W H More on the reclaimed Harlech Marsh. It was renamed the Royal St David's following patronage by Edward VII and the Duke of Windsor (who captained the club in 1934).

8.8.2 Current Urban Area Description

The area is significant in providing an undeveloped backdrop between the town and the sea. Development needs to take account of views from here and the beach. Within the dunes at the south end is the curious timber house called Traeth Du, most clearly visible from the road above. The club house at the north end of the links is also partly timber, though is of several phases. The golf links continue to the north outside this area.

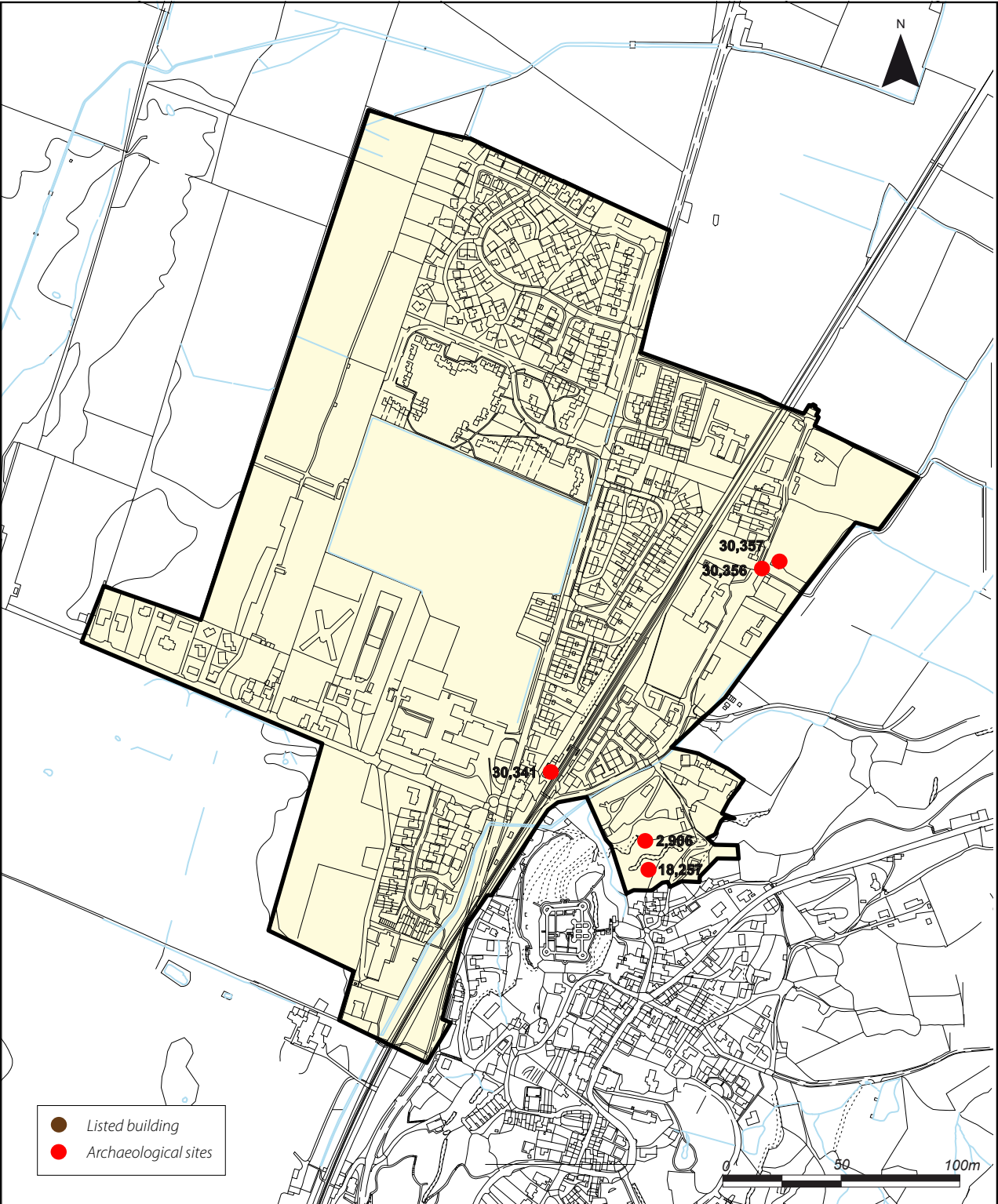
8.8.3 Archaeological potential

There is no known buried archaeology within this area. The development of the Morfa and sand dunes is little understood, and evidence from trial pits or boreholes might help understand this development.



Plate 64. The golf course, built and designed by W H More and the Finch-Hatton's, has reduced development within the south part of the Morfa.

8.9 CHARACTER AREA 9: Ffordd Morfa



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2,906	Hoard of Bronze Age Palstaves	30,356	Cows House south of Ael-y-Glyn
18,257	Harlech landscape	30,357	Barn south of Ael-y-Glyn
30,341	Harlech railway station		

Figure 10. Ffordd Morfa

8.9.1 Historical development

There was little potential for development within this area until the Enclosure Act of 1806 encouraged the drainage and enclosure of the former Harlech Marsh. Even after this, however, there was little development until the construction of the railway in 1867 encouraged growth in the area, though this again was relatively slight. It was not until post Second World War years that it became necessary to find a significant area of new building land. Most of the available land higher up was already used, and the Morfa provided ample space for private and public housing, as well as the new school, sports centre and business park.

8.9.2 Current Urban Area Description

Though dominated by the castle above, the development of the Morfa at the foot of the rock has adopted a contrasting style of its own. The railway station and adjoining hotel (The Queens) are typical of late 19th century development, but the remainder is nearly all 20th century, with the exception of 19th century



Plate 65 & 66. The railway station (1867) and adjoining hotel are some of the earliest urban developments on the Morfa.

agricultural buildings at Nant Newydd, the cottage and outbuildings at Howel Gwynt and house and farm buildings at Glan y Morfa, alongside Ffordd Glan y Mor which was the principal route to the sea. Further south Samuel Holland had instigated a tramway to the sea, but this was not resurrected after the Second World War, when a gunnery range was established on the marsh. Council houses were built north of Harlech Station and west of the railway, most of them post-dating 1960, though two intriguing wooden semi-detached houses remain. Development has been in select areas, leaving large areas of green in between, but the school and swimming pool are particularly dominant in the area, though the former is surrounded by playing fields. Development has also occurred east of the railway, where a small business park has been constructed opposite a caravan park close to the castle watergate. Neither development is particularly dominant, though the development of this area of the Morfa is most clearly seen, perhaps, from the ramparts of the castle towering over them.

8.9.3 Archaeological potential

There is little potential for buried archaeology within this area, though a clearer understanding of the development of the Morfa might be obtained by monitoring excavations.

8.10 CHARACTER AREA 10: Llechwedd

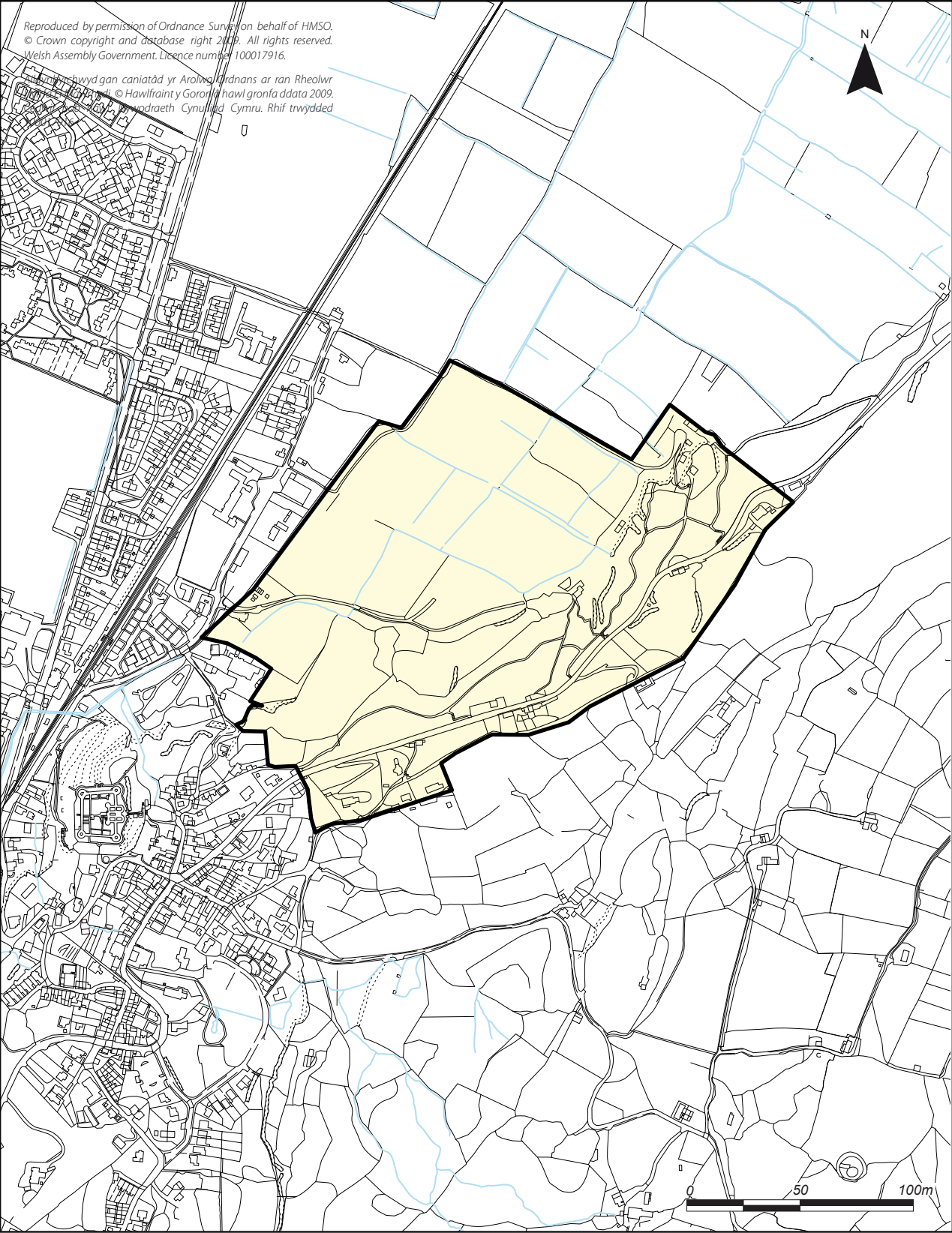


Figure 11. Llechwedd

8.10.1 Historical development

This area lies outside the urban development of Harlech, but includes the road from Eisingrug, Maes y Neuadd and Glyn Cywarch from the north along the steep wooded slopes that separate the upland fields from the lowland morfa. It passes through Llechwedd, a possible medieval or early modern township. Above the road lies the former Graves house of Erinfa and Llys Bach, where William Nicholson stayed. The road passes through the steep wooded slopes that separate the Morfa from the higher land, and is an early route, though the last section from Erinfa to Harlech follows a new alignment.

8.10.2 Current Urban Area Description

Though outside the built-up area, this area is of significance as it preserves the distinction between lowland and upland, separated by tree covered slopes. There has been considerably less development in this area than in the comparable area north of Harlech, principally because the views are less dramatic, though Erinfa and Llys Bach are typical of the early 20th century villas built outside the town.

8.10.3 Archaeological potential

There is potential for both prehistoric and medieval settlement within this area.



Plate 67. The steep wooded slopes separate the Morfa from the adjoining uplands. Erinfa, the house built by the Graves family, can be seen centre right.

9. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Harlech originated as a small medieval borough, its location dictated more by the needs of the castle than by any economic or commercial requirements. The castle is the primary visual force, and indeed the original medieval high street is barely visible from anywhere, partly explaining why so few antiquarian images of it exist.

A strong contrast lies between the morfa (the low lying field systems that were formerly sea marsh) and the intermediate higher ground where the castle and town are sited, the change in height severe and marked by tree covered slopes. The ground rises again to the marginal fields above, before the main mountain massif rises above all. The town and castle form one small part of the much larger Arduwy historic landscape, famed for its archaeology and sparsely populated upland landscapes. The steep slopes either side the castle are of particular significance, however that north of the castle has not fared well. The majority of 18th and 19th century views are from this direction, showing the mill and houses scattered down the slope, yet it is now difficult to find an aspect from which to obtain this view because of the 20th century development below. However the steep slope south of the castle has fared better, and views particularly from the beach and from the golf course show buildings dotted on the slopes with the High Street just visible above. Certain dwellings, for example Noddfa and Plas Owain, are particularly characteristic of late 19th and early 20th century development, and key to retaining the present character. Other houses on the hill, for example Hafod, in stark late 20th century style, contribute less. It is important to remember the clear visibility of any development in this area, and the impact it can have both on the landscape, the existing buildings and the castle. Similarly the roads, which are relatively narrow and steep, and in the main follow medieval routes, are important elements of this landscape, and the difficulty of access adds to the mystery and isolation of the town.

The character of the late medieval borough is best preserved at Penllech, particularly in the survival of four adjoining 17th/18th century stone buildings each clearly identifiable in its own plot, though also the mill, kiln and Ty Eiddew all contribute. Careful management is required to preserve and enhance this area, which has suffered from inappropriate renovation during the second half of the 20th century.

Pentre'r Efail forms one of the classic landscapes of the town, in part preserved by the lack of vehicular access from the High Street, and enhanced by the presence of the 18th century pottery, the street forms one of the defining views of Harlech (if we exclude the castle), dipping down to the centre and the site of the former smithy. Similarly the High Street, dominated at the south end by the Plas, stable block and present Spar shop is a significant streetscape. Shops lie largely along the west side, whilst the central east side, partly because of the difficulty of building at street level (most buildings lie up steps above the street) is less suited for retail development. The buildings surrounding the square are varied, generally the more commercial and therefore the more modernised. Few have retained original windows, and many have been raised in height.

Investment by local landowners in the early 19th century, marking a change to more formal development and a politer style of architecture, is still clearly recognisable in the buildings. Cambrian House, the present visitor centre and Porkington Terrace indicate investment by Ormesby-Gore at the north end, Plas and the church by Sir R W Vaughan at the south end. The character of later 19th century buildings is typified by the style of Samuel Holland, and whilst stone remains the principal building medium, features include deeply projecting roof eaves, four pane sash windows, dormer windows and hipped gables. Many of these characteristics were taken up by later builders, and it becomes almost the de facto building style of Harlech, and provides much of the character of the present town. The construction of larger detached houses in the early 20th century, and particularly the construction of Wernfawr by Davison, started a wave of new building utilising ideas generated by the Arts and Crafts movement, including building in harmony with the landscape and using local materials and skills. The same ethos was continued into the 1930's by the architect Griffith Morris. Though a number of these buildings have gone, several including Wernfawr, Y Wern, and Cae Besi, remain. These can be paralleled on the north side of the town by Erinfa and Llŷs Bach. Features are varied, though a common window type uses small square panes, a proportion quite different to the original Georgian windows, and one that needs to be adhered to. Later buildings fused ideas from Holland's buildings and the Arts and Crafts inspired buildings.

Harlech is a mixed town, dominated by the castle, but its buildings exhibit influences from late medieval, Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian styles to create an environment that reflects its varied history. The influence of old landowning estates vies with Victorian self made philanthropy and moneyed incomers belatedly in search of the picturesque.

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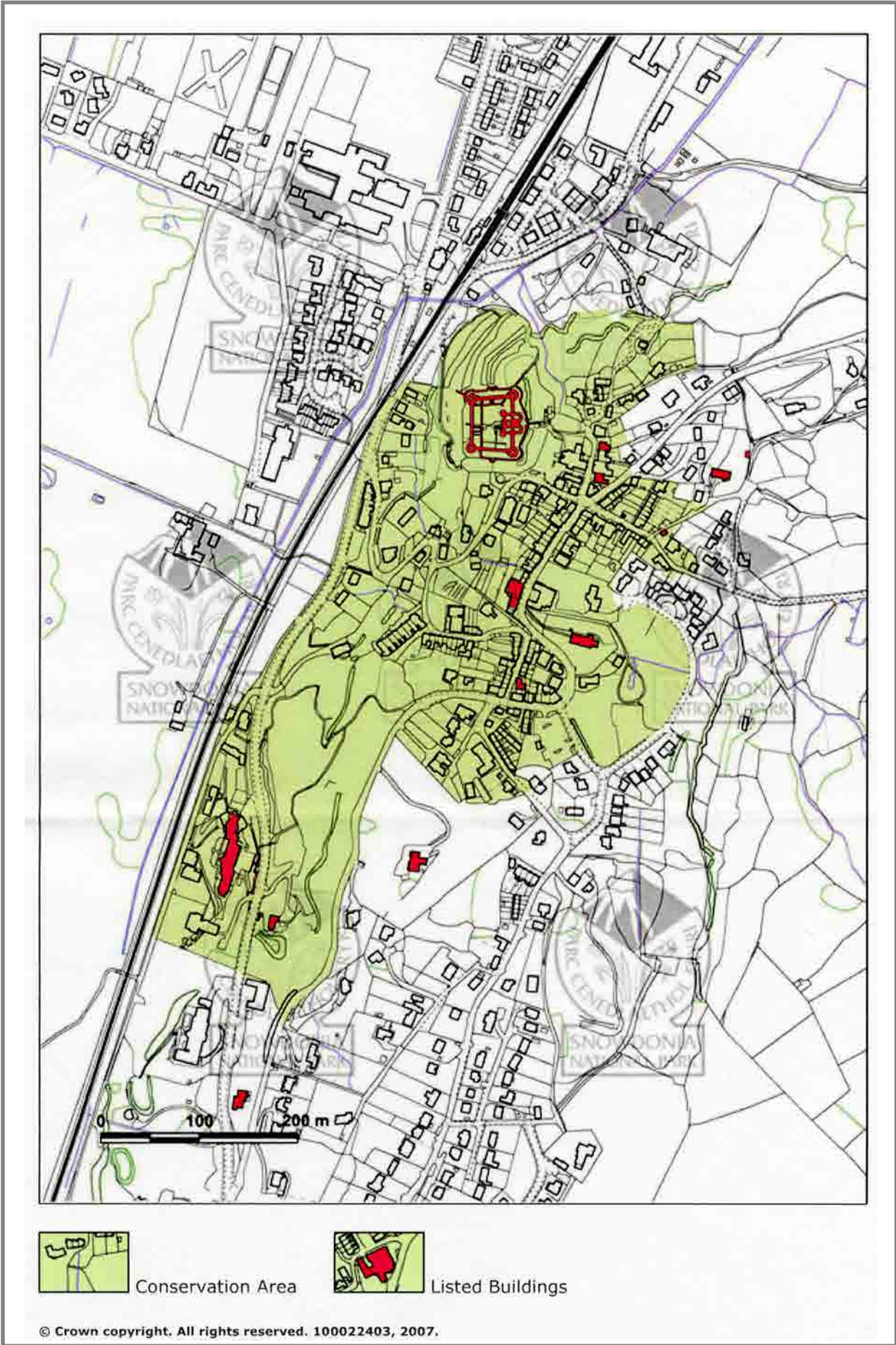
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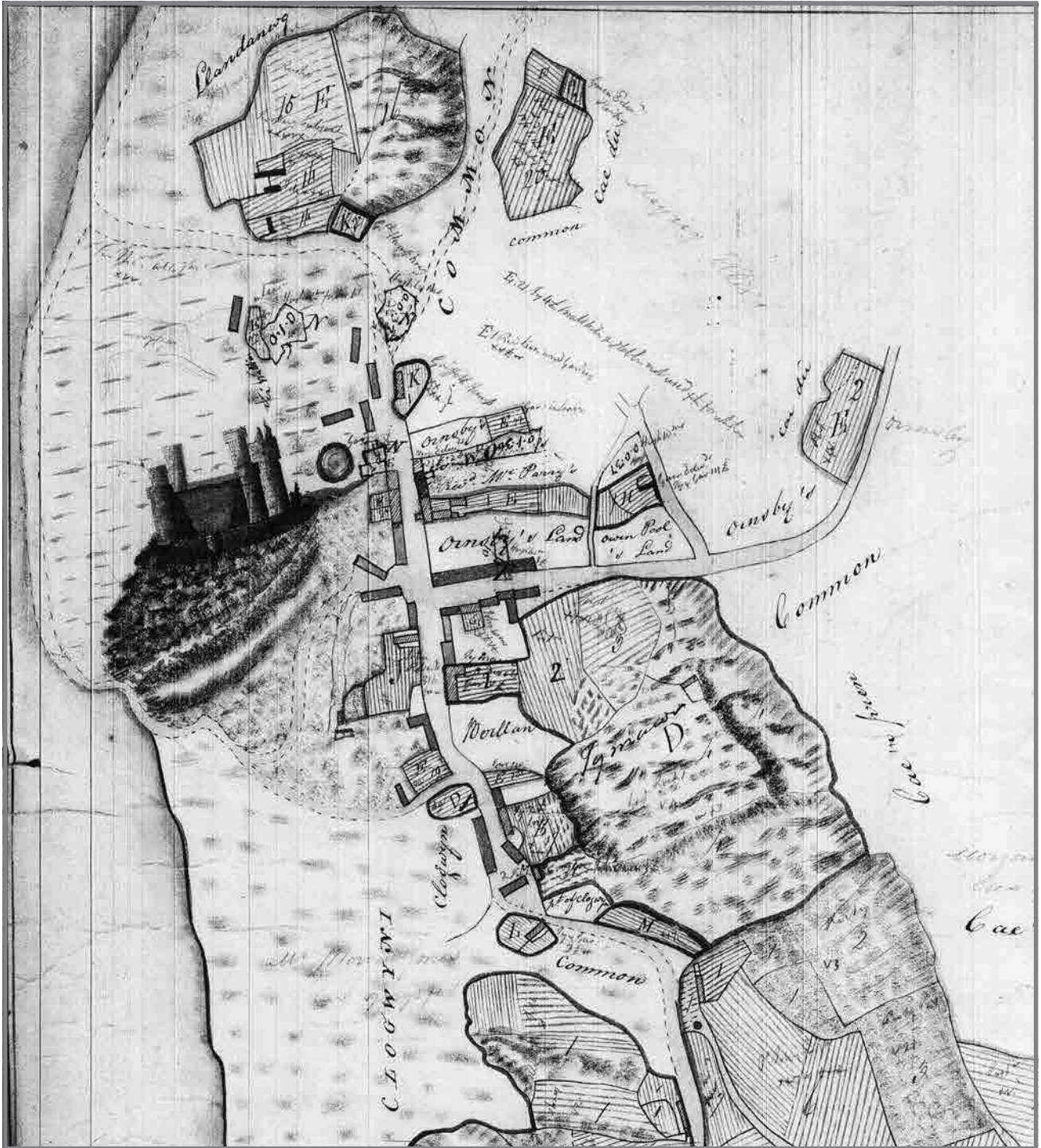
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2. Harlech Conservation Area



3. Map of Harlech in 1771 (UWB Mostyn 8679)





5. Tithe map of 1840 showing enclosure award. Dated 1863 (LRRO 1/3573)



APPENDIX II: THE PLANNING PROCESS

Current legislation

The local Planning authorities are recognised and identified as having the key role in protecting our archaeological heritage. Government advice and planning case law clearly establish archaeology as a 'material consideration' in the planning authorities' assessment and determination of a planning application. This is seen both in national and regional policy documents and guidelines.

The protection of the vulnerable historic environment falls into two broad categories: Statutory protection and non-statutory protection.

Statutory protection is provided by the following Acts and Orders:

- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, as amended by the National Heritage Act 1983
- The Town and Country Planning Act 1990
- The Planning and Compensation Act 1991
- Statutory Instrument 1199, the Town and Country Planning (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1988
- Statutory Instrument 1995 No. 419, The Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

Designations arising from these Acts and Orders are Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.

Non-statutory protection is provided by national policies and guidelines contained within:

- Planning Policy Wales, March 2002
- Welsh Office Circular 60/96, Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology, December 1996
- Welsh Office Circular 61/96, Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas, December 1996.

The key document in Wales which expands on the legislative background and provides detailed guidance on the handling of archaeology within the planning process is Welsh Office Circular 60/96 - Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology (1996). This Welsh Assembly guidance expands on Planning Policy Wales (March 2002), Chapter 6 'Conserving the Historic Environment; particularly paragraphs 6.5.1 to 6.5.6 (see Appendix I for extracts from 60/96).

Local Plan Policies

The town lies entirely within the Snowdonia National Park. Current regional and local plan policies are defined in Gwynedd Structure Plan (adopted 1993) and Eryri Local Plan (adopted 1999). The plan can be consulted in the offices of the National Park, or online at http://www.eryri-npa.co.uk/images/eryri_local_plan/elp_english.pdf. Policies concerning archaeology, including historic towns, are given in section 5, policies AR 1-4. Policies concerning the built heritage, including listed buildings and conservation areas, are given section 6, policies TA 1-12.

Conservation Areas in Harlech

The 1990 Town and Country Planning Act defines a conservation area as 'an area of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. The centre and south side of Harlech has been designated a Conservation Area. The defined area consists of the historic core of the town centred around the castle and High Street, the slopes to the west of the town, Pentre'r Efail and Coleg Harlech.

Heritage and Local Planning Context

Advice on the management of the archaeological heritage is provided by the National Park Archaeologist, who, together with the Park's building conservation and planning officers

contribute to the decision making processes to inform on the likely impact of development on the historic environment and how best to mitigate the impact. Advice on Conservation Areas and the Built Heritage is given by the National Park Planning Department through their Building Conservation Officer.

Archaeology is the process by which we can understand past societies through their material remains. These archaeological remains are a finite and non-renewable resource. They are vulnerable to modern development and can, in a short space of time, be entirely destroyed by modern machinery and building methods.

The level of archaeological response is guided by the nature of the archaeological remains and the significance of the impact. Archaeological mitigation is usually imposed through planning conditions, and a relevant programme of archaeological works is advised by the National Park archaeologist. On occasion a programme of assessment and evaluation may be required prior to the determination of a planning application, so that the appropriate mitigation can be advised.

Regional Historic Environment Record

The regional Historic Environment Record (HER) is a database of archaeological sites and finds with details of interventions (surveys, excavations, previous work etc) and references. It consists of both a computerised record and a paper record, and is maintained at the offices of the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust in Bangor. The digital record combines database and GIS functionality, and forms the key component of the planning and archaeology decision making process. The experience and knowledge of the development control archaeologists is used to interpret the record, and provide relevant advice to the planning officers.

Other relevant strategic documents

World Heritage Site

Harlech is one of the sites included within 'The Castles and Town Walls of Edward I in Gwynedd' a World Heritage Site designated in 1986. A management plan has been published.

Historic Landscape Characterisation

Harlech falls within the 'Ardudwy' Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (HLW GW2). The contents and significance of this area are described as follows.

'A large, exceptionally archaeologically rich and well-studied landscape situated on the western flanks of the Rhinog Mountains, containing extensive relict evidence of recurrent land use and settlement from pre-historic to recent times.'

North Cardigan Bay Shoreline Management Plan

A Shoreline Management Plan has been produced by Gwynedd Council Coast Protection Unit (1999) in order to provide a framework for sustainable future coastal defence.

Extracts from Welsh Office Circular 60/96

Archaeological remains are a finite, and non-renewable resource, in many cases highly fragile and vulnerable to damage and destruction. [Paragraph 3]

Archaeological remains are part of our cultural heritage, not least in terms of the information they provide about the past, valuable both for their own sake, and for their role in education leisure and tourism. [Paragraph 3]

The key to the future of the great majority of archaeological sites and historic landscapes lies with local authorities, acting within the framework set by central government, in their various capacities as planning, highways, education and recreational authorities. [Paragraph 7]

Local planning authorities should expect developers to provide the results of such appraisals, assessments and/or evaluations as part of their applications for sites where there is good rea-

son to believe there are remains of archaeological importance. [Paragraph 14]

Authorities will need to consider refusing permission for proposals which are inadequately documented. [Paragraph 14]

When planning applications are made without prior discussion with the local planning authorities, the authorities should seek to identify those applications which have archaeological implications, and to assess their likely impact by consulting the local authority Archaeological Officer, National Park Archaeologist or regional Welsh Archaeological Trust. [Paragraph 15]

In the case of a development proposal that is likely to affect the site of a scheduled ancient monument, planning authorities are required to consult the Secretary of State (Cadw). [Paragraph 15]

Where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings, are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation in situ i.e. a presumption against proposals which would involve significant alteration or cause damage, or which would have a significant impact on the setting of visible remains. [Paragraph 17]

It may be possible to preserve important archaeological remains where developers prepare sympathetic designs using, for example, foundations which avoid disturbing the remains altogether or minimise damage by raising ground levels under a proposed new structure or by careful siting of landscaped or open areas. [Paragraph 17]

Archaeological investigations such as excavation and recording should be carried out before development commences, working to a project brief prepared by the planning authority (with reference to their archaeological advisers). [Paragraph 20]

It is open to the local planning authority to impose conditions designed to protect a monument. [Paragraph 22]

APPENDIX III: LIST OF SITES BY PRN

The following list identified sites of archaeological significance within the town of Harlech. It includes both standing buildings and sites of former or potential archaeological interest. The PRN (Primary Reference Number) identifies the site within the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust. Entries with sitenames in capitals denote sites already in the HER, whereas those in lower case denotes sites added as a result of this study. The site status reference gives the Listed Building (I, II*, II) or Scheduled Ancient Monument status. The assessment of importance gives an indication of the importance of the site (A=National, B=Regional, C=Local, D=Other, E=Unknown).

2896 B.A.GOLD TORC - FINDSPOT, NEAR HARLECH CASTLE

Assessment of Importance: E

Site Status Reference:

A gold torc of the Middle Bronze Age was found in a garden near the castle in 1692. It has been described by Savoury (1980) as 'Gold flange-twisted torc of Tara type'. It was kept by the Mostyn family for many years, but was bought by the National Museum in 1977. The description of it being found is recorded in Camden's Britannia: 'In 1692 an ancient golden torque was dug up in a garden somewhere near this castle of Harlech. It is a wreathed bar, or rather three or four rods twisted together, about four feet long, flexible, but bending naturally only one way in form of a hatband. It had hooks at each end, not twisted or sharp, but plain and cut even. It is of a round form, about an inch in circumference and weighs eight ounces'.

Easting: 258094

Northing: 331330

2906 HOARD OF BRONZE AGE PALSTAVES, HARLECH

Assessment of Importance: E

Site Status Reference:

A hoard of palstaves is recorded as being found 'near Harlech' in 1851. One is in the British Museum. 'This palstave is an untrimmed casting, and might therefore possibly be of local manufacture. It has a slender midrib running from the curved stop-ridge to a little over two-thirds of the way down the widely splayed blade, and is an example of the low-flanged type.' (Gresham 1967)

Easting: 258179

Northing: 331345

2908 HARLECH CASTLE

Assessment of Importance: A

Site Status Reference: SAM M044An

Edwardian castle built as part of Edward I conquest of Wales in 1283, built at the same time as Caernarfon and Conwy castles, each with accompanying boroughs.

Easting: 258096

Northing: 331253

2909 CENTURIAL STONES, HARLECH CASTLE

Assessment of Importance: E

Site Status Reference:

A collection of five stones from the Roman fort at Tomen y Mur which used to be housed at Harlech Castle, but are now at Segontium Museum.

Easting: 258096

Northing: 331314

2910 URN WITH ROMAN COINS FOUND AT HARLECH CASTLE

Assessment of Importance: E

Site Status Reference:

A hoard of 3rd and 4th century Roman coins was found c. 1695 at Harlech Castle. A letter dated 1704 from Mr C N Eyre (constable of the castle) to Edward Lhuyd reads 'An Urn of Porphyry filled with medalls, dug up at Harlech Castle about 8 or 9 years since by a virtuoso who is a Phisithian who is gone to the East Indies - he was at a friends house near the castle- sold it for 30 guineas before he left England. He gave me some of the medalls. I am told by a medalist they are of the lower Empire, not any great antiquity - Constantius, Gallienus, Claudius Gothicus, Tetricus, Victorinus Posthumus, and severall others'. An additional Roman coin dated 388-402 was found during clearance work at the castle in the 1920's or 1930's.

Easting: 258097

Northing: 331301

3193 HARLECH MEDIEVAL TOWN

Assessment of Importance: A

Site Status Reference:

Medieval borough created as part of Edward I conquest of Wales 1283.

Easting: 258186

Northing: 331159

3896 MILL - SITE OF, HARLECH

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

A mill has been recorded at Harlech since the original establishment of the borough, and medieval references appear to refer to more than one mill. The mill continued in use until the end of the 19th century. The final mill building has now been converted to a house.

Easting: 258180

Northing: 331276

3897 CHAPEL -SITE OF, HARLECH

Assessment of Importance: E

Site Status Reference:

A borough chapel is known to have existed, and is marked on Speed's map of 1610. It appears to have been demolished in the early 18th century. Local tradition attributes the site to the current property of Ty'r Eiddew, though Speed shows it south of this, under the present Castle Hotel.

Easting: 258192

Northing: 331222

3911 BRONZE SWORD - FINDSPOT, NR. HARLECH

Assessment of Importance: E

Site Status Reference:

A bronze rapier preserved in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford is recorded as having been found at Harlech, without further details of the exact find spot. It has a thin narrow blade, half an inch wide, and a brad butt from which the rivet holes have been broken out. The overall length is 11.6 inches. (Bowen and Gresham 1967, 124).

Easting: 258184

Northing: 331322

5599 OVEN - GARDEN OF GLYNDWR, HIGH STREET,

Assessment of Importance: E

Site Status Reference:

An oven built of sandstone with a corbelled roof was found in the garden behind Glyndwr, on the High Street, in 1989. Date unknown. The present house occupies the former site of the medieval house of Ty Mawr.

Easting: 258195

Northing: 331115

18257 HARLECH - LANDSCAPE

Assessment of Importance:

Site Status Reference:

Easting: 258182

Northing: 331333

30331 Plas Restaurant, Harlech (Former Blue Lion Inn)

Assessment of Importance: A

Site Status Reference: II

Built as the Blue Lion Inn c. 1830 by Sir Robert Williams Vaughan, Bart., as a speculative development designed to serve the growing tourist trade. The inn incorporates remains of the former house of Plas yn Harlech, a sub-medieval town house of the Nanney family (of Nannau near Dolellau); the name was taken from the crest of the family, whose head, at that time, was Sir Robert. Morgan Davies and Daniel Parry are recorded as the first landlords.

Easting: 258120

Northing: 331084

30332 The Spar, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference: II

A shop at the lower end of the High Street, originally built c. 1840, with later modifications. Forms part of a group with adjoining Plas Restaurant.

Easting: 258117

Northing: 331061

30333 St Tanwg's Church, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: A

Site Status Reference: II

Church built c. 1840 on land donated by Sir Robert Williams Vaughan, designed by Thomas Jones of Chester. Built in coursed dark granite with yellow sandstone dressings (possibly Egryn stone). Lit by broad lancet windows along each side, with door through the west gable.

Easting: 258182

Northing: 331027

30334 Cattle trough, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: C

Site Status Reference:

A small cattle trough of stone slabs built into the wall alongside the road. Presumably early 19th century when the road was built. The cattle market used to be held close-by.

Easting: 258182

Northing: 330997

30335 Communal Washing Place, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: C

Site Status Reference:

A series of stone slabs lift up to reveal the stream passing below. They are located on the path to the church, and are traditionally the site of a communal washing place.

Easting: 58136

Northing: 331053

30336 Former Red Lion Inn, (Gwaethdy Saer) Harlech

Assessment of Importance: A

Site Status Reference: II

The former Red Lion Inn, the principal inn within Harlech until the construction of the Blue Lion c. 1830.

Later converted to a workshop and coffin maker. Probably late 17th century in origin, of L'plan consisting of a front range of 2 storeys with no chimneys, and with a one-and-a-half storey end chimney rear range.

Slate roof has swept valleys at the roof junction.

Easting: 258206

Northing: 331191

30337 Ty'r Felin, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: A

Site Status Reference: II

A small one-and-a-half storey house of 17th century origin. The mill house is associated with the mill opposite and the kiln (odyn) below. The house is of local rubble construction with battered gable.

Easting: 258210

Northing: 331222

30338 Former Mill Pond, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: C

Site Status Reference:

The location of the former mill pond is now a play area. It was filled in during the 1950's, though formerly was a significant local feature, possibly shown on Speed's map of 1610.

Easting: 258171

Northing: 331249

30339 Ty'r Eiddew, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: A

Site Status Reference:

A one and a half storey building, now two cottages. A medieval roof survives inside running the length of the two cottages. Four bay with five collar beam principal rafter trusses, through purlins, cusped wind-braces and original rafters. The site is traditionally that of the former borough chapel, though Speed shows it further south.

Easting: 258207

Northing: 331274

30340 Watergate, Harlech Castle

Assessment of Importance: A

Site Status Reference: SAM; GAM; WHS

The castle watergate, also used as a lower public entrance to the castle during the summer months, with a carpark alongside. Now landlocked, but access by boat was formerly available, initially perhaps by sea, though later it might have been down a tidal inlet from Ty Gwyn.

Easting: 258046

Northing: 331314

30341 Harlech Railway Station

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

Harlech station built 1867.

Easting: 258079

Northing: 331441

30342 Bryntirion, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference: II

A small cottage dated 1841 built against the hill between Pendref and the lane leading to Capel Rehoboth.

Two storeys, built of local rubble.

Easting: 258274

Northing: 331137

30343 Capel Rehoboth, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference: II

19th century Scotch Baptist Chapel, built on a commanding elevated site on the eastern edge of Harlech with fine views over the town and castle; set within its own walled graveyard and accessed via a steep lane leading up from Stryd Fawr.

Easting: 258334

Northing: 331195

30344 Site of medieval town hall, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: E

Site Status Reference:

The site of the medieval town hall. It was in ruins by the 18th century, though still used to declare the Parliamentary member. It was finally demolished to make way for the Castle Hotel, and lay approximately under the present Castle Restaurant.

Easting: 258174 Northing: 331183

30345 The Harlech Pottery, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference: II

An 18th century 2 storey end chimney house, set back at a slight angle to the street. Now houses Harlech Pottery.

Easting: 258124 Northing: 330983

30346 Pentre'r Efail, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

A small settlement that lay immediately south of the borough of Harlech, on the road which continued south to Llanfair. It's date of origin is unknown, but Speed in 1610 shows a scattering of buildings here, and it has been suggested that it was the location of an extra-mural Welsh settlement outside the English borough.

Easting: 258123 Northing: 330998

30347 Former Smithy, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: C

Site Status Reference:

The site of the smithy which gave the name to Pentre'r Efail. It was refurbished in the 19th century.

Easting: 258108 Northing: 331004

30348 Bron y Graig, Site of, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: E

Site Status Reference:

The site of a Victorian villa in substantial grounds, once owned by the Earls of Winchilsea and Nottingham (who had inherited the Nannau lands in Harlech). Demolished after the Second World War, but part of the gardens remain with exotic trees.

Easting: 258182 Northing: 330855

30349 Crown Lodge, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: A

Site Status Reference: II

House built 1903 for W H More, the Receiver General for Wales. Roughly T-shaped plan with a main 4-bay section and a rear service range. The house is constructed of local slatestone, the principal elevations with snecked, quarry-dressed facings; tooled granite dressings. Slate roof with tiled ridge and dentilated eaves to the front, with central and projecting chimneys having wide moulded caps. Shaped triangular gable parapets with slab copings and curved kneelers.

Easting: 258018 Northing: 330805

30350 Cae Besi, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference: II

House built for the photographer Alvin Langdon Coburn c. 1930 by Griffith Morris of Porthmadog. Medium sized house in restrained Arts and Crafts style consisting of a main two-and-a-half storey section with a two storey subsidiary wing set back to the L. The house is constructed of local slatestone; slate roof with projecting verges and stepped kneelers; central chimney with simple corncicing. The entrance is to the E, facing Ffordd Uchaf, below which the house is sited. The entrance is contained within a gabled projection off-centre to the R of the main block, the longer left-hand roof-pitch roof which oversails to form a covered porch. The subsidiary wing, to the R, also has a gabled projection to the front.

Easting: 257841 Northing: 330562

30351 St David's Hotel, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

St David's hotel was originally designed by George Walton, and built 1910-11, primarily as a hotel to serve the golf course. It was partly burnt down in 1922, and rebuilt to designs by Griffith Morris whilst working with O Morris Roberts & Son. Currently (2009) derelict and due for redevelopment.

Easting: 257796 Northing: 330627

30352 Y Wern, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: A

Site Status Reference: II

Listed as a particularly fine and largely unaltered inter-War C20 Arts and Crafts house by the architect

Griffith Morris of Porthmadog; one of a series of highly interesting architect-designed houses built around Coleg Harlech. Y Wern was built c1935 for the first Warden of Coleg Harlech, Sir Ben Bowen Thomas. One-and-a half storey house in restrained Arts and Crafts style; roughly L-plan with main, entrance section and gabled cross-wing to the L. The house is constructed of local slatestone, the principal elevations with snecked, quarry-dressed facings, the rear elevation roughcast. Slate roof with projecting gable end chimneys with plain cappings; gable parapets with slab copings and stepped kneelers.
Easting: 257875 Northing: 330742

30353 Coleg Harlech (Plas Wernfawr), Harlech

Assessment of Importance: A

Site Status Reference: II*

Listed Grade II* for its special interest as a fine early C20 Arts and Crafts house designed by the architect George Walton, with 1930s additions and alterations for Coleg Harlech by Griffith Morris, architect of Porthmadog. The former home of the millionaire philanthropist and aesthete George Davidson; since 1927 Coleg Harlech. A Great Hall wing, added in 1910, was destroyed by fire in May 1968.

Easting: 257827 Northing: 330799

30354 Pencerrig Pellaf, Harlech

Assessment of Importance:

Site Status Reference: II

Located towards the southern boundary of the town, sited below the lane with commanding views across the Morfa; accessed via a short track from the lane and set behind low rubble forecourt walls. Listed as a first-half C19 vernacular farmhouse with attached stable block retaining good external character.

Easting: 257873 Northing: 330277

30355 Plas Amherst, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

Located north of Plas Wernfawr, this was the home of Lord and Lady Amherst, part of the social group which transformed Harlech in the early 20th century. Now a nursing home.

Easting: 257792 Northing: 330411

30356 Cow House S of Ael-y-Glyn, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference: II

Late C18 or early C19 vernacular barn, erected as a pair with the adjacent cow house; probably originally serving Ael-y-Glyn. Small rectangular barn of local rubble construction with slab-coped and roughly-kneelered gable parapets; old slate roof. Entrances to the centre on each side, with slate lintels; rectangular ventilator in the lane-facing gable.

Easting: 258335 Northing: 331677

30357 Barn S of Ael-y-Glyn, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference: II

Late C18 or early C19 vernacular cow house, built as a pair with the adjacent barn; probably originally serving Ael-y-Glyn. Small rectangular cow house of local rubble construction with roughly-kneelered rubble gable parapets; old slate roof. Entrance to the side opposite the lane; small later buttress to the R on the lane-facing side.

Easting: 258347 Northing: 331682

30358 Bottling plant, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: D

Site Status Reference:

The site of a late 19th century/early 20th century bottling mineral water bottling site. Some walling can still be seen about the waterfall within the garden.

Easting: 258348 Northing: 331039

30359 Ty Mawr, site of, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: E

Site Status Reference:

Site of a former medieval town house, standing well into the 19th century. Site now occupied by two houses built c. 1900.

Easting: 258172 Northing: 331120

30360 Sculpture, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

Sculpture of Bendigeidfran on a horse bearing the body of his nephew Gwern. 1984 by Ivor Roberts-Jones

RA.

Easting: 258105 Northing: 331191

30361 Theatre Ardudwy, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

Built 1973 on the site of the former Great Hall of Wern Fawr (burnt down 1968) by Colwyn Foulkes and Partners. Brutalist style on concrete supports. Auditorium part faced in copper sheet.

Easting: 257832 Northing: 330838

30362 Golf Course, Harlech

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

Golf course designed by Harold and Stormont Finch Hatton with W H More in the 1890's. Named St David's to rival St Andrews and St George's in Scotland and England. The course was an essential element in the redevelopment of Harlech in the early 20th century.

Easting: 257790 Northing: 331132



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Craig Beuno, Ffordd y Garth, Bangor, Gwynedd. LL57 2RT
Ffon: 01248 352535. Ffacs: 01248 370925. email: gat@heneb.co.uk