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# Land at Anglesey Aluminium: **Holyhead, Anglesey**

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## Archaeological Assessment

GAT Project No. 2163

Report No. 911

December, 2010

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Report No. 911

Prepared for

Capita Symonds

December 2010

By

Andrew Davidson and Robert Evans

# **G2163 LAND AT ANGLESEY ALUMINIUM, HOLYHEAD**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

**Project No. G2163**

**Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Report No. 911**

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**Plate 2** View of area looking east towards the leisure centre.

**Plate 3** View looking south showing the former *Bodwredd* farmhouse (Site 1) and possible associated enclosure

**Plate 4** View looking eastwards across the former *Cae'r Hen dy* land, taken from the road

# LAND AT ANGLESEY ALUMINIUM, HOLYHEAD

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT: AREA 1 (G2163)

### SUMMARY

*An archaeological assessment was carried out in advance of proposed development on a site south of Holyhead, and adjacent to the existing Holyhead Leisure Centre. Though the surrounding area is rich in archaeological sites of all periods, no new prehistoric or Roman sites were identified within the immediate study area. Three former post-medieval farmsteads or cottages were identified, of which one retains upstanding remains, whereas the other two are visible as slight earthworks only. The potential for the existence of buried archaeology is considered to be high, and there may be environmental evidence preserved in the wetter soils. A staged programme of field evaluation is therefore recommended prior to development.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust has been asked by asked by Capita Symonds on behalf of their clients to undertake an assessment of land south of Holyhead, centered on NGR SH24638067 (Fig. 1). The site is situated close to a number of known archaeological sites, and adjacent to the site of a major archaeological excavation carried out at Ty Mawr. The study area forms one of three areas to be assessed; this report concerns the first area only.

## 2 SPECIFICATION AND PROJECT DESIGN

A detailed brief has not been prepared for this project. A project design was produced which conformed to the guidelines specified in *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994, rev. 2007). It is advised that the Development Control Archaeologist be consulted regarding the findings and recommendations set out in this report.

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

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

A full archaeological assessment usually comprises 6 phases:

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

This assessment has covered the work required under 1, 2 and 3. It is sometimes necessary to undertake a programme of field evaluation following the desktop assessment. This is because some sites cannot be assessed by desktop or field visit alone, and additional fieldwork is required. This typically takes the form of geophysical survey and/or trial excavation, though other options, including topographic survey, is also possible. The present report makes recommendations for any field evaluation required.

## 3 METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

### 3.1 Desk-top Study

This involved consultation of maps, computer records, written records and reference works, which make up the Historic Environment Record (HER), located at Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Bangor.

A range of aerial photographs were examined at National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth dating from the 1940's and 1960's, as well as more recent colour aerial coverage. Estate maps, tithe maps and OS maps were examined at the Area Record Office, Llangefni, and the University of Wales Bangor archives. Information about Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments was obtained from Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments. Secondary sources were consulted to provide background information, particularly on the development of the town and harbour of Holyhead. A programme of archaeological excavation has recently been undertaken to the east of the study area, at Ty Mawr and Trefignath, and also prior to the construction of the A55 dual carriageway. Both these programmes of work confirmed the dense distribution of archaeology within the area. Sites noted on the Gwynedd HER are referred to by their Primary Record Number (PRN), a unique number given to each site, and are listed in Appendix 1. A full list of sources consulted is given in section 8 of the report.

### **3.2 Field Search**

This was undertaken on the 7th and 8th December, 2010, when the site was visited by an archaeologist.

The conditions were fine for a field search, though cloudy with some drizzle. Parts of the site were gorse covered and not readily visible.

### **3.3 Report**

All available information was collated, and the features were then assessed and allocated to categories of national, regional, local and other importance as listed in Appendix 2. These are intended to give an idea of the importance of the feature and the level of response likely to be required; descriptions of the features and specific recommendations for further assessment or mitigatory measures, as appropriate, are given in the relevant sections of this report. The criteria used for allocating features to categories of importance are based on those used by the Secretary of State when considering ancient monuments for scheduling; these are set out in the Welsh Office Circular 60/96.

### **3.4 Definitions**

Definitions of Impact, evaluation methods and mitigation methods as used in the gazetteer (section 5 below) can be found in Appendix 2.

## **4 THE STUDY AREA**

### **4.1 Topographic Description**

Holy Island, or Ynys Gybi, is located off the western coast of Anglesey, to which it is joined by the Stanley Embankment, and also by the bridge at Four Mile Bridge (Pont Rhyd y Bont). Holyhead (Caer Gybi) is the principle town on Holy Island, and the proposed development site lies to the south of the town, on the west side of Kingsland Road, that links Trearddur Bay with Holyhead.

The study area is divided by the former post road from Trearddur Bay to Holyhead. The larger section lies to the west, and incorporates the present leisure centre. The smaller centre lies to the east and now consists of a single large field. The landscape is generally rocky, and partly corrugated with north-west to south-east aligned ridges. In between the rock outcrops the land has been improved and drained, and much of this land is classified as Brown Earth. These are relatively fertile soils, capable of supporting arable crops, and were frequently chosen for settlement in the prehistoric period. The land lies between 20m and 30m OD. The lowest point lies at the west end of the survey, where a pond has been created.

A pollen study was carried out to the north-west of Trefignath burial chamber (Greig 1987) (approximately 1km east of the study area). This suggested that the Boreal period (late glacial) vegetation was of a scrubby sub-arctic type. The woodland developed from open woodland with birch to denser, mixed oak forest, but with an unusual amount of willow. The climax forest contained oak and elm with hazel as an under-storey. A band of peat, with little pollen survival due to the drying out of the bog, was dated to about the start of the Neolithic period. The band contained charcoal and other evidence for burning, suggesting forest clearance in the immediate area. When the pollen record continued it showed that the forest had been replaced by grassland and arable fields.

## 4.2 Statutory and non-statutory designations (fig 1)

There are two Listed Buildings within the vicinity of the study area. The windmill (variously called George's mill, Melin yr Ogof or Kingsland Mill) is listed Grade II\* as an exceptionally important example of a 19<sup>th</sup> century windmill because of the retention of an almost complete set of machinery. Ebenezer Chapel is listed Grade II, particularly for the architectural qualities of the main front. A number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM) are located in the general vicinity of the study area, the closest being Trefignath Burial Chamber (A011) and the Ty Mawr Standing Stone (A012). The list of non-designated sites recorded within the Historic Environment Record is shown on fig. 1 and listed in Appendix 1.

## 4.3 The Existing Archaeological Record

No sites of clearly prehistoric, Roman or medieval date were identified within the study area; however the area lies relatively close to the extensive prehistoric site excavated at Ty Mawr (Kenney 2007), and the wider area has proved to be very rich in archaeological remains (see Appendix 3 for a description of the known archaeology within the area). A prehistoric macehead (PRN 1833) has been found immediately west of the study area at SH 24008060, in an area of low lying boggy ground. It must be considered a medium to high probability that prehistoric and medieval archaeological remains survive below the ground, given the large amount of additional archaeology which was identified during the fieldwork phases of work at Ty Mawr (Kenney 2000; Davidson *et al.* 2004).

In the post-medieval period the study area consisted of land formerly belonging to two farms, *Bodwredd* which was the property of the Penrhos estate, lying to the west of the road between Holyhead and Treaddur (Plate 3), and *Cae'r Ty Hen*, the property of the Carpenter family, lying to the east of the road (Figs 3-7). A number of farmsteads and cottages, of post medieval date, are known adjacent to or within the study area. Three sites have been identified within the study area (Sites 1, 2 and 5) and two immediately adjacent to it (Sites 3 and 4). The map evidence suggests the first site of Bodwredd lay at site 2, where no above-ground features survive. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the principle farmhouse appears to have moved to Site 1, where a ruinous small farmhouse survives. A level platform is thought to indicate the site of the former house at Cae'r Ty Hen (Site 5). Significant changes to the field systems can be seen to have taken place between 1769 (Fig. 3) and 1889 (Fig. 7), with the small enclosures being replaced with larger ones by the latter date. Some of the field boundaries noted on the 1889 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 7) are still present today.

The two fields to the north of the study area were, in 1845 at the time of the Tithe survey, part of an area of common ground owned by Queen Anne's Bounty, a charity established to augment poor church livings. To the north of these lay the farms of Ogof and Tanrallt. A windmill was built at Tanrallt sometime after 1820. One source states the mill was built by Hugh Hughes of Ty Mawr farm (this lies on the east side of the study area) about 1825 and at his own expense (Guise and Lees 1992). This area was enclosed by 1890 (OS 25" first edition), and a track was constructed through the fields on the line of the road now going to the Leisure Centre. The windmill worked until approximately 1919, and the cap and sails were removed in 1939 when the top was concreted over. The remainder of the machinery remains inside the tower.

The study area is bisected by the road that runs from Rhyd y Bont to Holyhead (now called Kingsland Road). This is an early route into Holyhead, and has been used certainly since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, as a bridge was established at Rhyd y Bont by at least 1578. However, although a medieval chapel (Capel Ulo) had existed just to the north, there was little development in the vicinity until the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. By 1890 housing estates had been constructed in the area originally called Penllech Nêst, and renamed Kingsland following the visit of George IV in 1821. Houses lined the road from Capel Ebenezer (a Calvinistic Methodist chapel north of the study area) into town. This ribbon development was extended during the second part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when houses were constructed along the west side of the road and into the north-east part of the study area. The adjoining leisure

centre was constructed in the late 1970's, though the golf course to the south dates from the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 4.4 Cartographic Evidence

Good cartographic evidence for the study area survives from the third quarter 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present day over much of the study area. During that period all the land within the study area west of the road, Bodwredd, was the property of the Owens and then the Stanleys of Penrhos, however the portion east of the road, Caer Ty Hen, belonged to the Carpenter's of Carreg Llwyd. Penrhos estate maps survive from 1769 (Bangor University Archives; Penrhos II 772), 1810 (*ibid.*; Penrhos III 209) and 1817 (*ibid.*; Penrhos II 803). The tithe map of 1845 (NLW) shows the whole area clearly, and modern style mapping of the area commenced with the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1889 (Fig. 7).

Major changes in the landscape have taken place in the form of alterations to the field boundaries. In 1769 a patchwork of small and medium size fields is noted in the Bodwredd area (Fig. 3). Further field sub divisions, probably associated with land improvement are noted by 1810, particularly in the north and east parts of the farm (Fig. 4). This pattern is still present in 1817 (Fig. 5), but further changes had taken place by the time of the tithe map in 1845 (Fig. 6). By the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1889, many of the former field boundaries had been removed, and the landscape had taken on an appearance similar to that seen today. It is likely that evidence for the former field boundaries survives below ground.

Field names, noted in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, are given and these are noted in the tables below:

##### **Bodwredd in 1769 (Taken from Penrhos MSS 205, a schedule to Fig.3 {Penrhos II 772})**

Letter and Number	Catherine Williams	A	R	P
K	House Garden &c	1		4
1	Cae Rodyn	8	3	17
2	Cae Cerrig	13	2	29
3	Cae tan ty Ysgubor	9	2	36
4	Cae Ysgubor	14	2	36
5	Cae Dafyd	11	3	1
6	Cae Cufwla	2	3	38
7	Ditto	7	1	4
8	Cae bychan	1	1	25
9	Ditto	2	2	3
10	Anadd fawr	22	1	4
11	Ditto bach	20	2	27
12	Cae tros y ffordd	3	1	28
13	Erw	6		11

##### **Cae Ty Hen in 1817 (Taken from Penrhos II MSS 803). Fields 313-315 lie within the study area.**

##### **Cae Ty Hen- Captain Carpenter**

No	Names of Fields	Clear Ground			Rough Ground			Totals		
		A	R	P	A	R	P	A	R	P
313	Cae Llun	4	1	29						
314	Cae'r Lon	2	2	30						
315	Cae Mawr	6	1	6	3		18	16	1	33
330	Caeau bychan	10	2	27	4	2	3	15		30
437	Llain fawr		2	36						
438	Old School		1	31				1		27

1080	Quillet in Cerrig-ddranen	1	1	24		1	1	24
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#### 4.5 Site Gazetteer (Fig. 2)

##### 1. Bodwredd Farmhouse (Plate 3)

Category C

SH 24308047 Impact: Unknown

The former farmhouse of Bodwredd, which is of 18<sup>th</sup> century or earlier date, is located at this position. The structure survives in a ruined state, with the north gable end surviving to full height, and a possible yard to the south. The farmhouse is noted on the Penrhos estate maps of 1769, 1810 and 1817 and all subsequent maps.

##### 2. Site of former Bodwredd farmstead

Category E

SH 24368065 Impact: Unknown

This location is shown on the 1769 map (fig 3) as the main location of the farm of Bodwredd. Buildings are also noted at this location on the Penrhos estate map of 1817 (Fig. 5) and the tithe map of 1845 (Fig. 6), though the principal farmhouse is now shown to the south. The buildings are not noted on the 1889 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch map, suggesting the site had been abandoned by then. No indication of the structures was noted on the field survey, but it is likely that evidence survives below ground.

##### 3. Site of former building

Category E

SH 22088077 Impact: Unknown

A probable cottage located adjacent to the road, noted on the Penrhos estate maps of 1810 and 1817 and the tithe map of 1845. It is not shown on the 1889 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch map, suggesting that it had been abandoned by then. From the tithe map evidence it appears that it was located within a small enclosure, and was probably constructed in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. There are no visible upstanding remains.

##### 4. Site of Ty'n y Coed cottage

Category E

SH 25078057 Impact: Unknown

A cottage located adjacent to the road, noted on the Penrhos estate maps of 1810 and 1817 and the tithe map of 1845. It is not shown on the 1889 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch map, suggesting that it had been abandoned by then. It is located just outside the study area to the east, and on the tithe map of 1845 is named as Tyn y Coed cottage, a smallholding of 36 perches, owner by the Penrhos estate and in the occupation of one William Parry. There are no visible upstanding remains.

##### 5. Site of Cae'r Ty Hen Farmhouse

Category E

SH 25368035 Impact: Unknown

The former farmhouse of Cae'r Ty Hen is noted on the tithe map of 1845 (Fig. 6) at this location. No remains survive above ground however a level platform approximately 12m by 7m is thought to represent the site of the former farmstead. It is likely to have an 18<sup>th</sup> century or earlier origin, and was built on an area of higher ground amidst rock outcrops to the east of the study area, above the low lying and boggy ground to the west.

## 5. IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1 General recommendations

This study has shown that the surrounding area is rich in sites of archaeological interest, however none are known from within the study area that are medieval or earlier in date. This may be partly explained by the rocky nature of much of the area, and the boggy low-lying ground now occupied by the sports centre. The nearby ridge, where the farms of Ogof and Tanrallt were established, would have held more appeal to early settlers. However, the excavations nearby at Ty Mawr have revealed a wealth of archaeological information from prehistoric times onwards, much of which was not identified during the assessment phase, and it is possible that prehistoric remains lie preserved underground, which will only be revealed by field evaluation. This includes the possibility of Late Bronze Age burnt mounds, a

site type often found on low-lying wetter ground. Environmental evidence may be preserved within waterlogged parts of the site.

Settlement in the post medieval period in the form of farmsteads with associated field systems has been identified in the study area. These, dating from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century or earlier, become abandoned during the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the small fields, identified on the historic mapping were expanded into larger fields by the removal of hedgerows.

Given the known quality and quantity of archaeological remains in the vicinity, the study area (Site 1) is thought to have a medium to high potential for the survival of archaeological remains. It is recommended that a programme of field evaluation be undertaken. This should adopt a phased approach, of which the first phase would be geophysical survey with a possible subsequent phase of trial trenching. The trial trenching phase would typically consist of the excavation of a series of trenches 20m by 2m which would target features previously identified and also sample other areas.

## 5.2 Site Specific Recommendations

Five sites have been identified as part of this assessment. Two of these sites (3 and 4) lie immediately outside the boundary of the study area. The remaining three sites are former farmsteads or cottages. The direct impact on these is not currently known. If they can be avoided by future development then no further work is recommended, however if there is to be direct impact then trial excavation is recommended to evaluate the condition and extent of any surviving archaeology.

Number	Name	Category	Impact	Recommendations
1	Bodwredd Farmhouse	C	Unknown	Avoidance or Basic recording and trial excavation
2	Site of Buildings	E	Unknown	Avoidance or Trial Excavation
3	Site of Cottage	E	None	Avoidance
4	Site of Ty'n y Coed Farmhouse	E	None	Avoidance
5	Site of Cae'r Ty Hen Farmhouse	E	Unknown	Avoidance or Trial Excavation

## 6. ARCHIVE

The archive consists of field notes, historic maps and photographs taken on the field visit. It is currently held by GAT under the project code **G2163**

## 7. SOURCES

### OS Maps

25" County Series Anglesey XI.6 and XI.7 surveyed 1900 and 1924

6" County Series Anglesey Sheets X NE and XI NW surveyed 1887 revised 1926

OS 1:10,000 map sheet SH 28 SW surveyed 1967-73, revised 1977

### Aerial Photographs

National Archaeological Record, Aberystwyth

Countryside Council for Wales collection

### Manuscript Sources

Anglesey Record Office, Llangefni

Tithe maps for Holyhead (1845)

W/Maps/52/1 Survey of J T Stanley lands c. 1820

University of Wales, Bangor:

Penrhos II 772 *Map of Severall Estates of Penrhos, Bodewryd and Bodwina, lying in the Island of Anglesey, surveyed by T. Boydell* 1769  
 Penrhos II 804 *Reduced plans of the property of Sir John Stanley Bart in the Parish of Holyhead and part of Rhoscolyn* 1817  
 Penrhos III 205 *Maps of Penrhos Estate* 1805  
 Penrhos III 209 *A Plan of Bodwradd* 1810

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 Welsh Office Circular 60/96 1996 *Planning and the historic environment: archaeology*, Cardiff

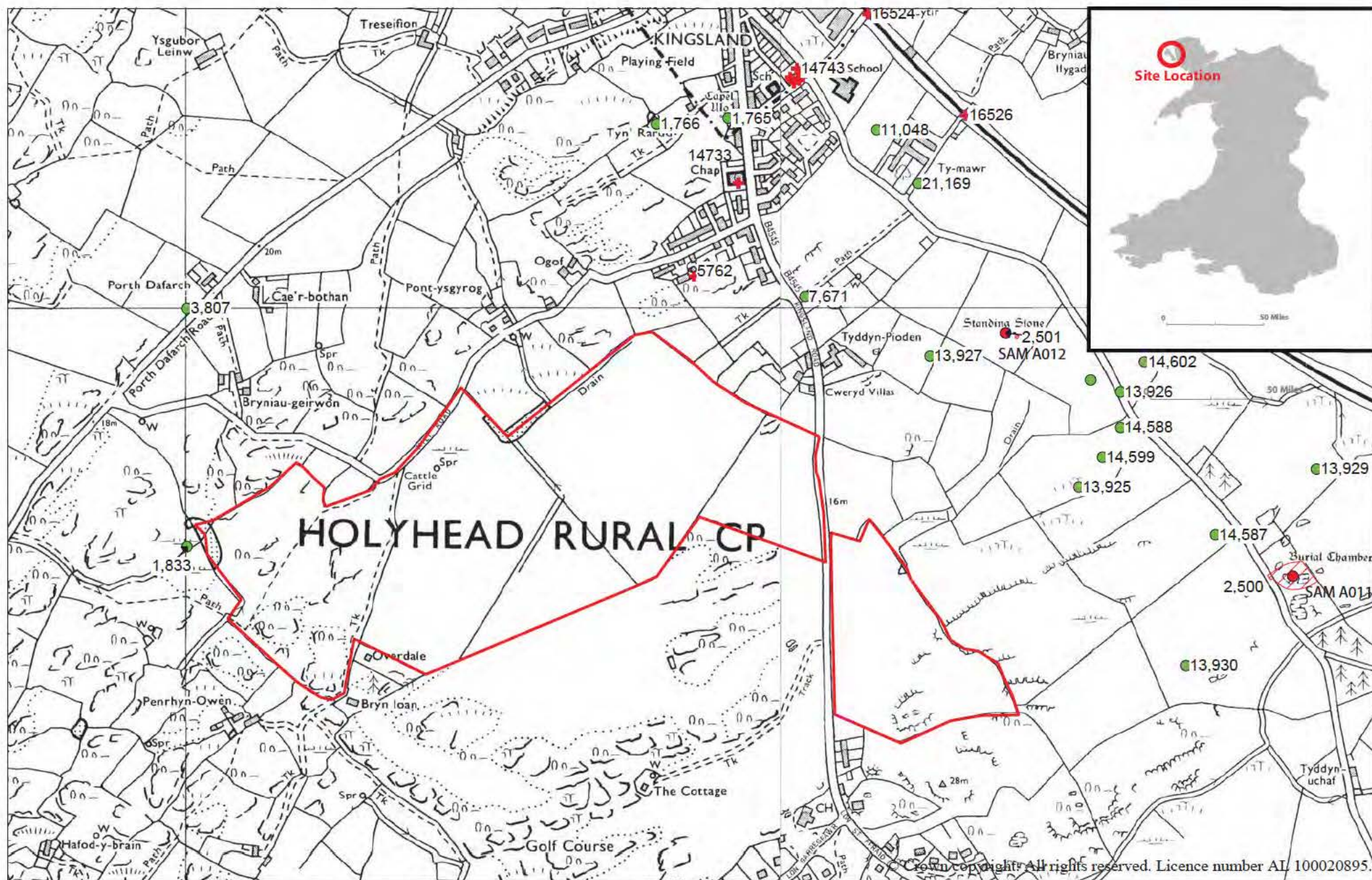
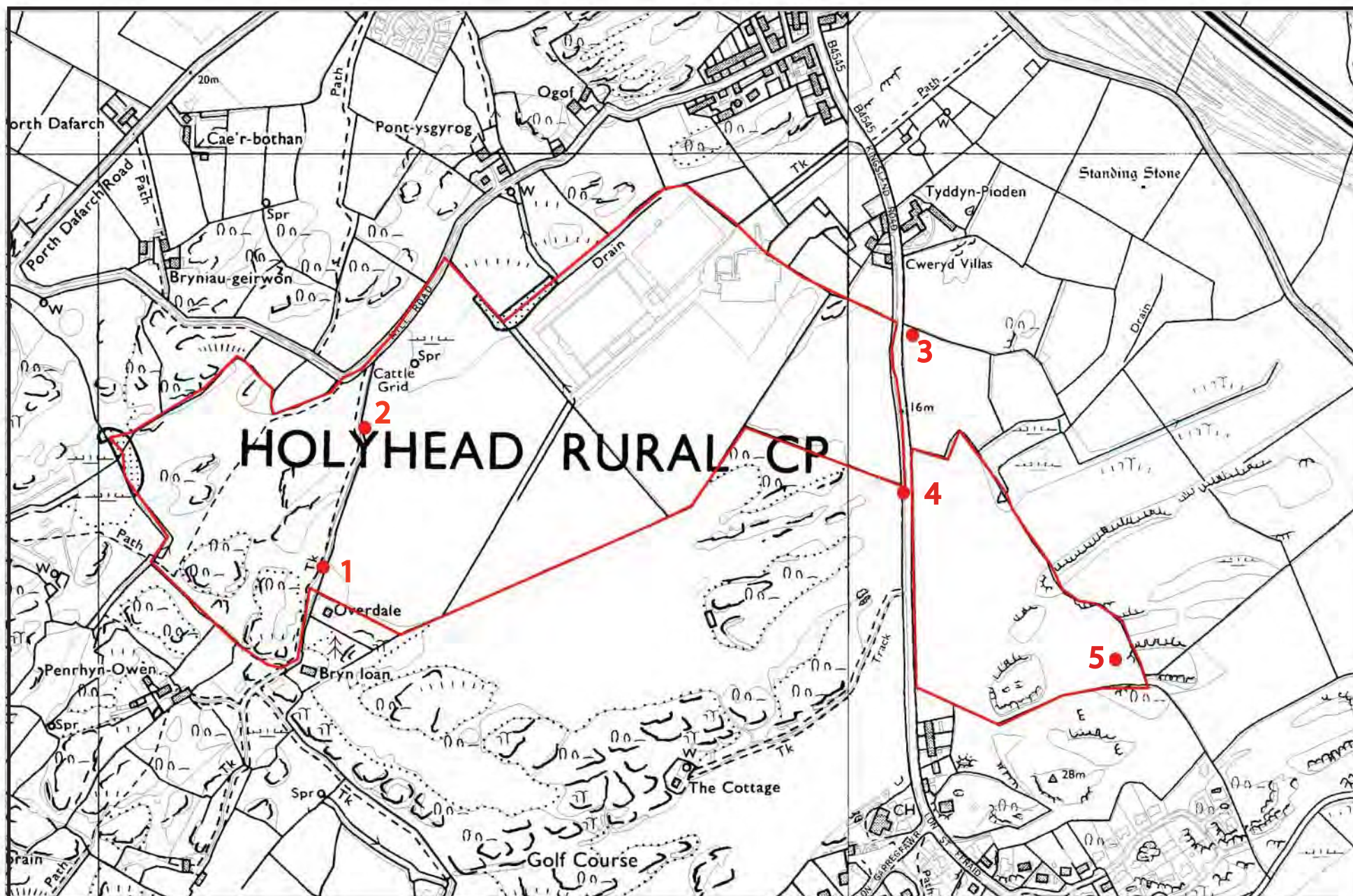


Figure 1. Location map, showing study area (outlined in red) with sites on the Gwynedd HER (numbered, with green dots), and Listed Buildings (red crosses). Scheduled Ancient Monuments are noted with red dots and areas are shaded. Map taken from OS 1:10 000 series sheet SH27SE. Scale 1:7500



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Fig.2 Location of Sites referred to in the text (Red dots, numbered). Map taken from OS 1:10 000 series sheet SH27SE. Scale 1:5000

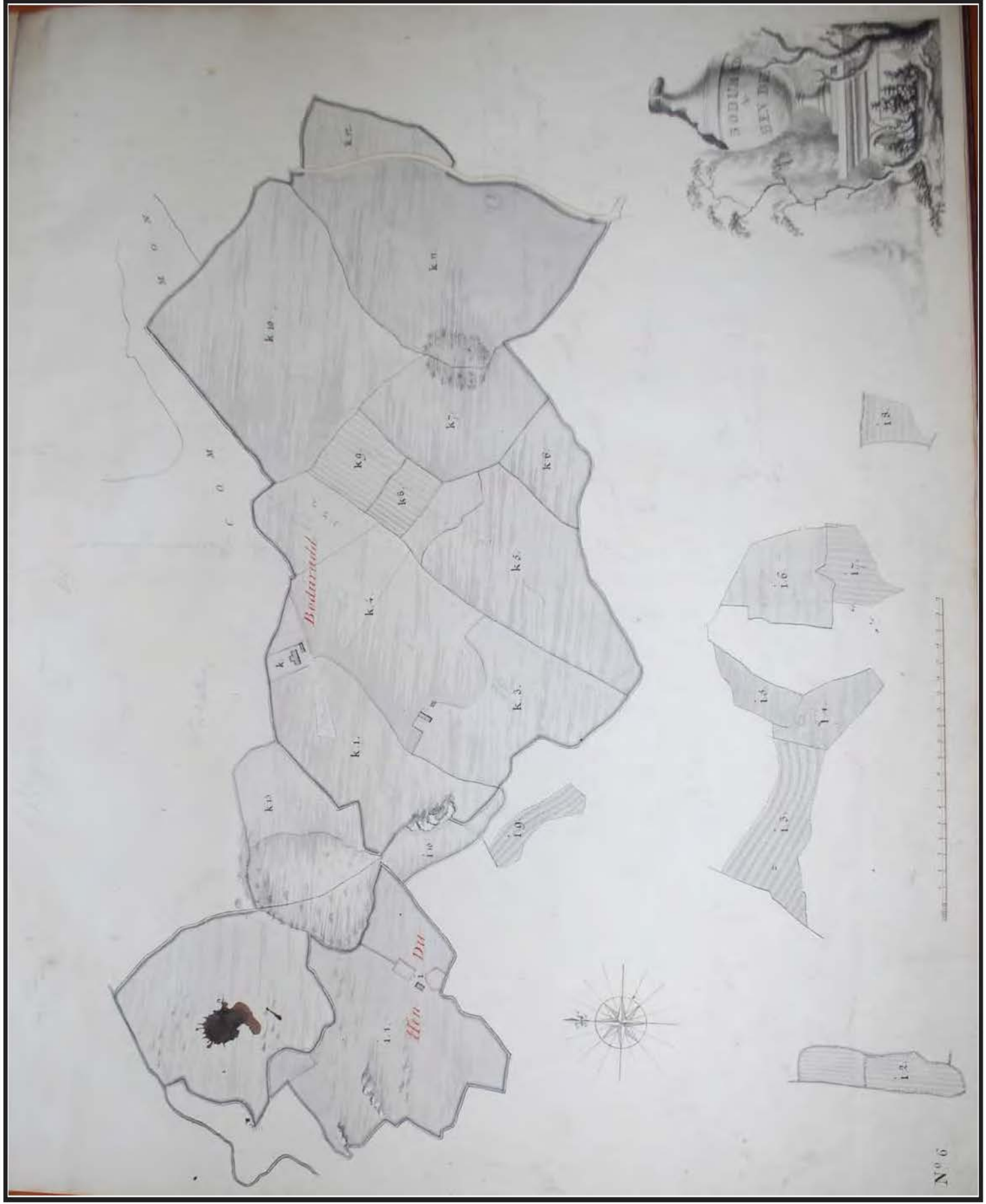


Fig.3 Bodurad and Hen Du taken from Map of Severall Estates of Penrhos, Bodewryd and Bodwina, lying in the Island of Anglesey, surveyed by T. Boydell 1769 (Bangor University Archives Penrhos MSS II 772)

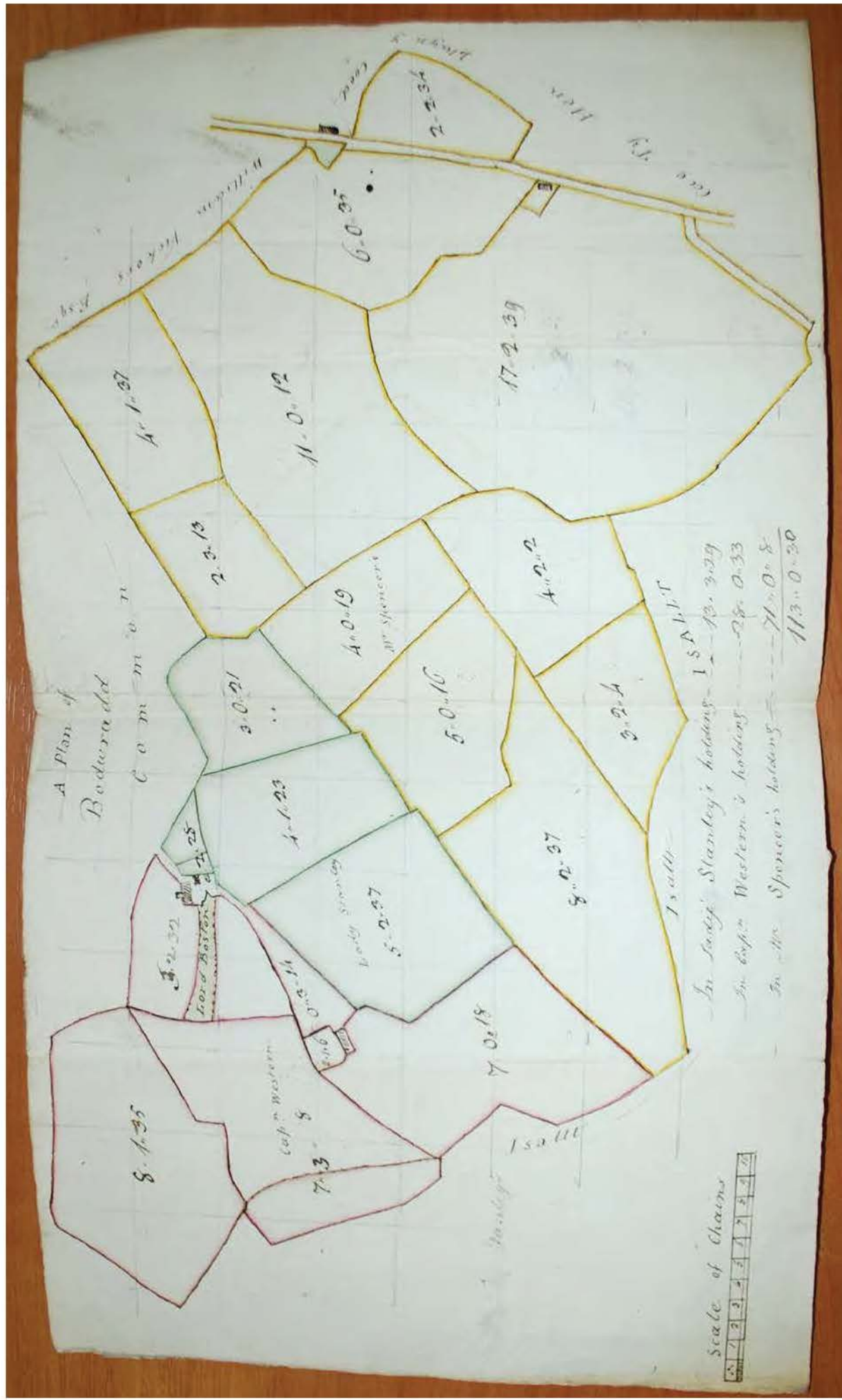


Fig. 4 A Plan of *Bodwrdd* dating to 1810, showing the western portion of Site 1 (Bangor University Archives; Penrhos III MSS, 209)



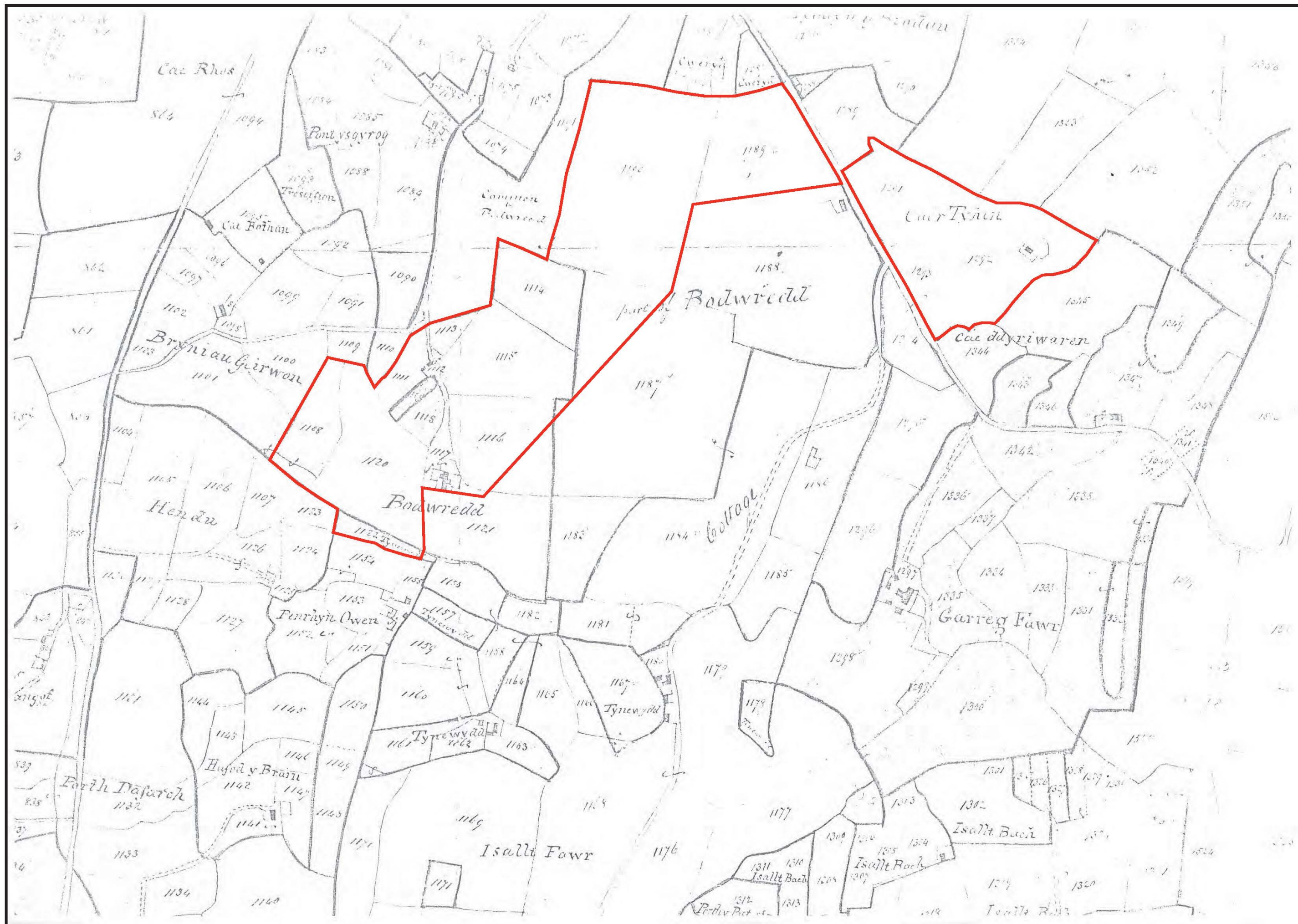


Fig.6 Detail from Holyhead tithe map of 1845, with area of Site 1 outlined (NLW). Not to scale

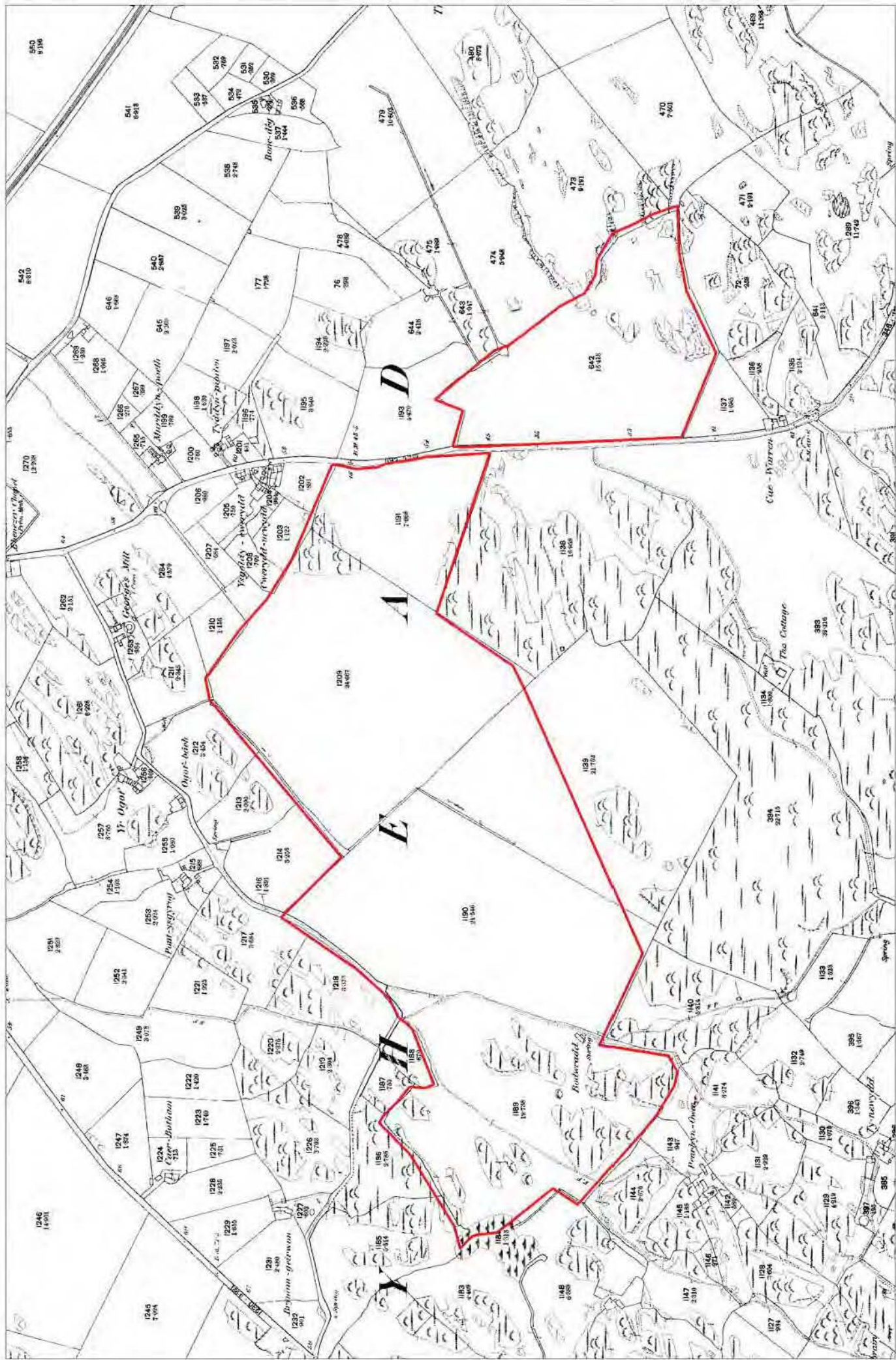


Fig.7 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25 inch map of 1889. Anglesey sheet X.6 and X.7, with Site 1 outlined in red. Scale 1:5000

# APPENDIX 1

Sites within 1km of the centre of Site 1 on the Gwynedd HER					
PRN	SITENAME	NGR	STATUS (SAM or LB)	SITETYPE	PERIOD
1765	CAPEL ULO - SITE OF, HOLYHEAD	SH24918132A		CHAPEL	Unknown, possibly medieval
1766	FFYNNON ULO (POSS.), HOLYHEAD	SH24798131		WELL	Unknown, possibly medieval
3807	STANDING STONE, SITE OF, KINGSLAND, HOLYHEAD	SH24008100A		STANDING STONE	Prehistoric
1833	MACEHEAD - FINDSPOT, NR PORTH DAFARCH	SH24008060A		FINDSPOT	Prehistoric
21168	PONT CYTIR, HOLYHEAD	SH25158150		BRIDGE	Modern
21169	TY MAWR HOUSE, HOLYHEAD	SH25238121		HOUSE	Post-Medieval
21170	RAILWAY BRIDGE, HOLYHEAD	SH25318133		BRIDGE	Modern
2501	TY MAWR STANDING STONE	SH25398095	A012 SAM	STANDING STONE	Prehistoric
11788	KINGSLAND WINDMILL; ROGO MILL, ST. GEORGE'S	SH24858107	GII* LB	CORN MILL	Post-Medieval
7671	LONDON ROAD	SH25048102		NONCONFORMIST CHAPEL	Post-Medieval
7682	EBENEZER CHAPEL	SH24938122	GII LB	NONCONFORMIST CHAPEL	Post-Medieval
11048	TY MAWR CEMETERY, HOLYHEAD	SH25168130		CEMETERY	Early-Medieval
14588	COTTAGES, PEN Y LON	SH25578080		COTTAGE	Post-Medieval
14599	ROMANO- BRITISH SETTLEMENT, TREFIGNATH	SH25548075		HUT CIRCLE SETTLEMENT?	Prehistoric;Romano- British
14602	ROMANO- BRITISH SETTLEMENT, TY MAWR	SH25618091		HUT CIRCLE SETTLEMENT	Prehistoric;Romano- British
13925	FIELD BOUNDARIES,	SH25508070C		FIELD BOUNDARY	Post-Medieval

Sites within 1km of the centre of Site 1 on the Gwynedd HER					
PRN	SITENAME	NGR	STATUS (SAM or LB)	SITETYPE	PERIOD
	TY MAWR				
13926	ROAD - LON TOWYN CAPEL	SH25578086C		ROAD	Post-Medieval
13927	WELL, TY MAWR	SH25258092		WELL	Unknown
13928	BONC-DEG, TY MAWR	SH25528088		BUILDING	Post-Medieval

## APPENDIX 2: DEFINITIONS OF IMPORTANCE AND RECOMMENDATION

### 1. Definition of Categories of importance

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

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

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

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

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

This category includes grade II Listed Buildings and sites which would not fulfil the criteria for scheduling, but which are nevertheless of particular importance within the region. Preservation *in situ* is the preferred option for Category B sites, but if damage or destruction cannot be avoided, appropriate detailed recording might be an acceptable alternative.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 2. Definition of Impact

The direct impact of the proposed development on each site was estimated. The impact is defined as *none, slight, unlikely, likely, significant, considerable or unknown* as follows:

#### *None:*

There is no construction impact on this particular site.

#### *Low:*

This has generally been used where the impact is marginal and would not by the nature of the site cause irreversible damage to the remainder of the feature, *e.g.* part of a trackway or field bank.

#### *Medium:*

The partial removal of a site affecting its overall integrity. Sites falling into this category may be linear features such as roads or field boundaries where the removal of part of the feature could make overall interpretation problematic.

*High:*

The total removal of a feature or its partial removal which would effectively destroy the remainder of the site.

*Unknown:*

This is used when the location of the site is unknown, but thought to be in the vicinity of the proposed development.

### **3. Definition of field evaluation techniques**

Field evaluation is necessary to allow the reclassification of the category E sites, and to allow the evaluation of areas of land where there are no visible features, but for which there is potential for sites to exist. Two principal techniques can be used for carrying out the evaluation: geophysical survey and trial trenching.

*Geophysical survey*

This technique involves the use of a magnetometer, which detects variation in the earth's magnetic field caused by the presence of iron in the soil. This is usually in the form of weakly magnetised iron oxides, which tend to be concentrated in the topsoil. Features cut into the subsoil and back-filled or silted with topsoil contain greater amounts of iron and can therefore be detected with the gradiometer. Strong readings can be produced by the presence of iron objects, and also hearths or kilns.

Other forms of geophysical survey are available, of which resistivity survey is the other most commonly used. However, for rapid coverage of large areas, the magnetometer is usually considered the most cost-effective method. It is also possible to scan a large area very rapidly by walking with the magnetometer, and marking the location of any high or low readings, but not actually logging the readings for processing.

*Trial trenching*

Buried archaeological deposits cannot always be detected from the surface, even with geophysics, and trial trenching allows a representative sample of the development area to be investigated. Trenches of an appropriate size can also be excavated to evaluate category E sites. These trenches typically measure between 20m and 30m long by 2m wide. The turf and topsoil is removed by mechanical excavator, and the resulting surface cleaned by hand and examined for features. Anything noted is further examined, so that the nature of any remains can be understood, and mitigation measures can be recommended.

### **4. Definition of Mitigatory Recommendations**

*None:*

No impact so no requirement for mitigatory measures.

*Detailed recording:*

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

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

*Basic recording:*

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

*Watching brief:*

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

*Avoidance:*

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

*Reinstatement:*

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

### APPENDIX 3: ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

#### Prehistoric Archaeology

The study area must be seen in relation to the port of Holyhead, and the rich archaeological heritage of Holy Island. The location of Holy Island within the busy western seaways linking Brittany, Cornwall, Ireland, Wales, Northern England, Scotland and the Viking countries to the east provides an international setting until post-medieval times, when its use as an official port for Ireland became of dominant importance. The port of Holyhead provided easy access in most weather, and recognition from sea was aided by the dominant mass of Mynydd y Twr, or Holyhead Mountain.

Evidence for activity from Neolithic times (*circa* 4000 BC to 2500 BC) to the present is abundant within the northern part of Holy Island. The two Neolithic tombs of Trefignath and Trearddur lie close to the study area. Four Neolithic polished stone axes have been found in the northern part of Holy Island (Lynch 1991), including two Graiglwyd axes found when excavating a hole for a turntable railway near Kingsland in 1926 (PRN 2507, SH 2504 8165), and one axe of unspecified stone found at Penllech Nest (PRN 2506, SH 251 816).

Two Bronze Age barrows were prominently situated on top of Holyhead Mountain (SH 219 829), though little can be seen of them now, and three barrows lay close to the shore at Porth Dafarch (SH 234 801), whilst others were situated at Garn (SH 211 825) and Gorsedd Gwlwm (SH 227 816). A barrow was recently discovered under the early Christian cemetery at Ty Mawr (SH 2520 8135). The Ty Mawr standing stone is one of several such stones in this part of Holy Island. There is another to the south, next to Stanley Mill (SH 2664 7888), and a rare pairing of two stones just over 3m apart, to the west at Plas Meilw (SH 227 809) (Lynch 1991).

Between November 2006 and the end of June 2008 Gwynedd Archaeological Trust carried out a large strip and map project funded by the Welsh Assembly Government in advance of a business park development. The site lies just south of Holyhead and immediately east of Site 1 (centred on SH 255 808) in an area rich in archaeological monuments. The Trefignath chambered tomb (PRN 2500) lay on the edge of the development and the Tŷ Mawr standing stone (PRN 2501) was in the middle of the area.

The story starts in the Early Neolithic, when a large rectangular timber building stood less than 100m west of the Trefignath chambered tomb. The building is interpreted as being a single structure about 16m in length and up to 7m in width, aligned ENE-WSW. The ground plan appears to represent a tripartite building with two internal partitions, a design typical of the Early Neolithic. The gable ends were composed of post-holes joined by foundation trenches, and there were hints of a porch on the eastern end.

Trenches to hold plank walling are also typical of this class of monument, and the eastern third of the Parc Cybi structure was defined by such a trench. The rest of the walls were less well preserved, but were marked by more or less continuous lines of post-holes. Inside the building were several fire pits, some of which seemed to post-date internal features of the building. Other pits cut through the eastern internal partition and it seems possible that this building had a roofed and an unroofed phase of use.

The number of finds recovered both from a relict ground surface and from features in the building was particularly high for this type of site. The pottery was mostly vesicular Irish Sea ware typical of the Early Neolithic in this region. The lithic assemblage was dominated by local black chert, with flint being relatively scarce. There were also several grinding stones and worked crystal quartz in some quantity. This latter material had been found at Parc Bryn Cegin, Llandygai, near Bangor in a similar building, and may be typical of these structures in North Wales.

About 7m to the north of the building was a pit containing several pottery sherds and a large unfinished jet bead. Jet beads are not known from the Early Neolithic, and are generally assumed to be Bronze Age at the earliest. However, this bead is unusually large and it is possible that it is late Neolithic in date.

The discovery of a Neolithic structure is of national significance, but the relationship in this case between the building and the tomb makes it particularly important. The chambered tomb was fully

excavated in the 1970s (Smith 1987), but is poorly dated. However, it is associated with the same Early Neolithic pottery as the building and it is possible that the first phase of the tomb pre-dated the building, which was aligned on this monument. The subsequent development of the tomb reflected the alignment of the building as more chambers and a long cairn were added.

Nearly 500m north-west of the building lay evidence for less substantial settlement in the form of a scatter of Early Neolithic pottery and lithics. These were found in a hollow with stake-holes and fire sites. A microlith and some Bronze Age pottery suggest the use of the hollow both before and after the Early Neolithic but most of the activity seems to have been from this period. Most of the finds came from a relict soil layer and seemed to be largely *in situ*, representing an undisturbed occupation surface. The settlement may have been seasonally or occasionally occupied. Similar casual occupation appears to have continued in the middle Neolithic on part of the site about 200m north of the Early Neolithic building. A variety of pits and post-holes were found, at present only dated to the middle Neolithic by a fragment of Peterborough ware. Although most of the features were scattered two lines of post-holes could imply a structure here as well.

What appears to have been a Bronze Age ritual complex was located at the northern end of the site on a low gravel platform. This complex consisted of a ring ditch, presumably indicating the presence of a barrow; a roughly figure-of-eight shaped ditched enclosure and the remains of a multiple cist barrow.

A nearly perfectly circular ditch, c 12m in external diameter, lay on the south-eastern edge of the plateau. The circularity of the ring ditch strongly suggests that it surrounded a Bronze Age barrow, though if this were the case the barrow material had been removed through erosion. There was a lack of dating evidence, but the proximity of other significant Bronze Age monuments makes this interpretation likely. No burial cists were found, but this could be due to the heavy truncation of the area or the former presence of cists only in the barrow mound, not dug into the ground below.

To the north of the ring ditch was a small enclosure defined by a deep ditch. Fully excavated this enclosure was shaped like a figure-of-eight measuring about 12m by 8m, with ditches up to 1m in depth. The steepness and lack of erosion on the sides suggest that the ditches had been backfilled soon after being dug. The monument had two phases and the figure-of-eight shape never existed as a functional form. The first phase was probably a small circular enclosure less than 6m in external diameter but with a ditch about 1m deep. Part of this ditch was infilled and the monument was extended to a D-shaped enclosure, with similarly substantial ditches. Several fragments of prehistoric pottery were recovered from the secondary ditch fill, which are provisionally dated to the Bronze Age period, but one has corded decoration and they may prove to be Neolithic. This monument is difficult to classify in terms of its function and purpose. With an absence of funerary material, it is best interpreted as a ceremonial monument associated with the other monuments on the plateau.

On the north-western edge of the plateau was a group of eight cists. Three were small, but the other five were fairly large, measuring up to 1.3m by 0.95m. The cists were built of schist slabs and had capstones but no basal slabs. All the large cists still had their capstones securely in place; in most cases these were massive single slabs. Few artefacts were found, but two cists each contained a single pot. No trace of burnt bone was found, so it is almost certain that these cists had contained crouched burials, the bones having since leached away.

Although they did not form a perfect circle all the graves seemed to have been laid out in respect of each other within a very limited area and were presumably constructed over a fairly short period. Initial examination of the pots indicates that these cists were early Bronze Age and the cists fit well within that tradition. At this period there were flat cist cemeteries as well as cists under barrows. However, if this was a flat cemetery it does not explain why the graves are so densely packed. It is more probable that they were intended to be covered by a barrow and indeed could all be enclosed by a circle no more than 10m in diameter; a very reasonable size for a barrow. The layout also suggests that all the larger cists at least were in place before the barrow covered them. This interpretation would indicate an example of a multi-cist barrow. These have previously been unknown in North Wales, although a small number have been found in South Wales (Savory 1972), and therefore represents an entirely new site type for the region.

Bronze Age activity on the site was not restricted to the ritual complex. Elsewhere there existed groups of small bowl-shaped pits filled with midden material. All were Bronze Age, one produced a stone hammer or macehead and all contained fairly large sherds of pottery but no complete vessels.

One of these pit groups was close to a timber roundhouse situated near the shores of a small marsh. The roundhouse consisted of two concentric rings of post-holes, the outer ring measured over 11m in diameter, but was severely truncated. There was no dating evidence for the roundhouse and even charcoal was rare so it may be impossible to obtain a radiocarbon date. This is unfortunate as it would be very valuable to determine the chronological and spatial relationship of the pit groups to the focus of settlement. Elsewhere another group of charcoal-filled pits were found next to a small sub-circular structure, but radiocarbon dating will be necessary before these features can be allocated to a period.

There were also a small number of burnt mounds and potential troughs lacking a mound. One mound was very small, only 4.5m long, with a small, circular, probably clay-lined pit. Another was very much larger and had three pits, one probably an earth oven rather than a boiling trough. There was also a large, rather irregular pit 1.6m deep. This was irregular due to water erosion in its base and seemed to be a well dug to tap the groundwater. As usual there were few finds from the burnt mounds, but a leaf-shaped arrowhead was found beneath the smallest mound, perhaps hinting at a Neolithic rather than a Bronze Age date.

Despite the wealth of other features it was the Iron Age remains that absorbed most of the time and effort on the site. Positioned where a roundabout was planned, and where disturbance could not be avoided, was a roundhouse settlement (site 11a), consisting of four large stone-built roundhouses and numerous other structures (Fig 4). Although not projecting above ground, and previously unknown, this settlement was remarkably well preserved at foundation level. It was built on the edge of a marsh, which repeatedly flooded. To counteract the flooding the houses were built on stone platforms and considerable areas were covered by deposits of stone to create dry courtyards. One of the earliest houses appears to have been constructed on a substantial stone platform on which a fire had been previously lit. This house was demolished to foundation level before two later houses were built but may have been in use contemporary with another house that continued in use into the later phase. As well as the four roundhouses there were subsidiary structures, one of stone and others of timber. One of the latter contained a series of hearths and a stone-lined trough, suggesting industrial activity. On the western limits of the settlement (site 11b) were a group of eight post structures, probably granaries, associated with another, slighter stone-built roundhouse. These overlay an extensive area of burnt stone associated with a large circular structure. This may have been another, earlier roundhouse but a 6m wide gap in the south-eastern arc of its wall and the quantity of internal features suggest a non-domestic function.

At its earliest phase the settlement had a stone wall along one side, which seems to have joined one of a series of stone banks which were designed to protect against flooding. There was also an impressive megalithic wall running through the middle of the settlement that was used and extended throughout the life of the site. There was a ditched entrance into a large courtyard area defined by the walls, but the settlement as a whole appears not to have been enclosed.

The houses were particularly large for stone-built roundhouses with internal diameters up to 10m. The walls were massive and in several cases had been successively widened. At least two of the houses had opposing entrances and all but one had an entrance on the north-west side, facing the prevailing winds. This, and features emphasising the entrances, suggest factors other than practical considerations influencing the layout of the houses. The earlier structure to the west also had a north-west entrance, as well as the large gap in the south-eastern wall.

The large size of the houses and the near complete absence of Roman artefacts suggest the settlement did not continue in use into the Romano-British period. The finds are not diagnostic. There is a fine collection of spindlewhorls and other holed stones, along with other intriguing stone objects but nothing that can be closely dated. A comprehensive series of radiocarbon dates will be obtained, but present evidence would suggest the principal phase of use was within the Iron Age, with perhaps origins in the Late Bronze Age.

About 130m north-east of the main settlement, sheltered behind a hill, were two structures (site 12) interpreted as clay-walled roundhouses from the style of drains within them, although the walls were

very poorly defined. Both had well-preserved stone-lined drains, but one had a particularly complex system of drains associated with pits suggesting activities requiring the usage and drainage of considerable quantities of liquid out of the structure.

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

A Roman fort was constructed at Holyhead towards the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century or later, as a naval base against Irish raiders. A Roman coin hoard was found in the area in 1710. The coins were buried in a brass vessel, and all dated to the 4<sup>th</sup> century (PRN 2503, SH 26 81).

Evaluation trenches dug prior to the *Ty Mawr* excavation at *Parc Cybi* indicated a stone-built roundhouse settlement in a field to the north-east of *Lôn Trefignath* (PRN 14,599). It is probable that this is a continuation of the main prehistoric settlement, although finds of Roman pottery suggest a possible later phase of activity. Later settlement is also suggested by stone structures to the east, one at least having a straight rather than a curving wall. These were associated with rectangular timber structures, pits, hearths and probable yard boundaries. Part of this complex has been investigated, but no diagnostic finds were recovered.

### Medieval and Post Medieval Archaeology

Holy Island was of considerable importance in the early Christian period, with the *clas* site of *Caer Gybi* large enough to attract the attention of the Vikings in 961 (Edwards 1986,24). The foundation of this monastic community by *St Cybi* is traditionally dated to the mid 6<sup>th</sup> century AD. There is an unusual concentration of early Christian sites known, or suspected, on the island. These include a cemetery of long-cist graves, dating to approximately 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> century AD, discovered during the construction of the A55 dual carriageway, to the north-west of *Ty Mawr Farm* (PRN 11048). At this site the graves were located around, and cut into, the remains of a Bronze Age barrow. Another cemetery, of similar date, lies to the south-west of the study area, at *Tywyn y Capel*, the site of a medieval chapel on the shore of *Trearddur Bay* (Edwards 1986, 31). There were early Christian cist burials found at *Porth Dafarch*. The early medieval period was represented in the recent (Kenney *forthcoming*). *Ty Mawr* excavations by a small, but neatly laid out long cist cemetery on top of a low rounded hill. Twenty three long cist graves were laid out in 4 rows, the number of graves per row varied from 9 to 3. The western row with only 3 graves appeared unfinished. Most of the graves were aligned nearly east-west, although the northern most graves had a more north-easterly alignment. There was a rough symmetry across the cemetery around an east-west axis. The careful layout of the cemetery suggested deliberate planning of the grave locations. The length of the graves varied between 2.2m and 0.8m reflecting a complete population with all sexes and ages. Most of the cists had the sides and bases lined with local schist slabs, but others had indications of entirely or partly wooden cists. Four cists contained human remains. These were generally very fragmentary but one grave contained sufficient to define the usual extended inhumation with head to the west. One feature, the size and shape of a grave cut and located where the layout suggested a grave should be, proved to be full of charcoal and metal-working debris. Three other features, initially identified as corn driers, were also located on the hill, though it is possible that one or all of these were also used in association with metal-working.

The development of the parochial system in the 12<sup>th</sup> century saw Holyhead church change from a *clas*, or 'mother' church to a collegiate one. Responsibility remained, however, for a number of small chapels in the area, usually with associated wells, including *Capel Ulo*, and *Capel Gorlas*. The site of *Capel Ulo* lies some 250m north of the study area.

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

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

In 1765 the road from the Menai ferries to Holyhead was turnpiked, and much improved (Ramage 1987). However, transport was still difficult until Telford built his new London to Holyhead road (the A5), which was opened in 1823 (the suspension bridge across the Menai Strait was opened in 1825). The Stanley Embankment (grade II listed, 20074) carried the road over Afon Lasinwen, the tidal strait between Holy Island and Anglesey, supplementing the bridge to south, and replacing a number of fords (GAT 251). The embankment was designed by Thomas Telford, started in 1822 and opened in 1823; its construction created the body of water now referred to as the Inland Sea. In 1846-8 the railway line was constructed along the southern side of the embankment (GAT 204, 251). Major improvements were also made to the harbour throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, first by Rennie and Telford who improved the inner harbour, and later the outer harbour was created by constructing a new breakwater (Hughes and Williams 1981). This was a massive undertaking, designed by J M Rendal and completed by J Hawkshaw, it used some 7 million tones of stone and took nearly 30 years to construct, during which time the population of Holyhead rose from just over 2000 to nearly 9000.

The coming of Telford's road and the railway significantly changed the landscape of Holy Island, and this was, in part, accompanied by a change in field layout, when many small holdings and smaller fields were removed and new rectangular field systems laid out. Some common land was enclosed by Private Act (Carr 1982), such as the small areas of common land around Ty Mawr enclosed in 1861 (WPE 68/128).

Much of the lands around the town of Holyhead, and that surrounding the study area, were owned by the Penrhos estate. The owners took the surname Owen in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century (Richards 1940), but in 1763 Margaret Owen, the heiress to Hugh Owen, married John Stanley and the estate passed to the Stanley family of Alderley (Ramage 1972, 1987, Richards 1940).



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