
Conservation Area Appraisal: **Nant Peris, Gwynedd**



GAT Project No. 2155

Report No. 929

March, 2011

Nant Peris

Conservation Area Appraisal

Report No. 929

Prepared for
the
Snowdonia National Park Authority

March 2011

By
Andrew Davidson
&
Robert Evans

NANT PERIS

CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Report No. 929

CONTENTS	Page
1. Introduction	3
2. Methodology	3
3. The Planning Process	4
4. Landscape Setting	5
5. Historical Development	5
6. Present Settlement Character	7
7. Archaeological Resource	9
8. Statement of Significance	9
9. Management Recommendations	9
10. Bibliography	10

Appendix 1 The Planning Process

Appendix 2 List of Sites by PRN

Appendix 3 Sites recorded on the Gwynedd HER within 500m of the Conservation Area

FIGURES

Fig. 1 Principal Sites

Fig. 2 Nant Peris from Survey, Plans and References of the Vaynol Estate Volume 1 1832, copied from 1777 survey (Gwynedd Archives, X/Vaynol/4067)

Fig. 3 Tithe map of the parish of Llanberis of 1839 showing very limited development in the valley at that time, but including the Vaynol Inn

Fig. 4 Vaynol estate plan of 1869 showing increased development within Nant Peris by this date. The Conservation Area is outlined in red (Gwynedd Archives, Vaynol 4163)

Fig. 5 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25 inch map of 1889. Caernarvonshire sheets XVII.09 and XVII.13. The conservation area is outlined in red. Scale 1:2000

Fig. 6 *Nantberis with the Glyder and Crib Goch* by Moses Griffith 1810, showing the church, Ty'n Lôn and Pen y Bryn

PLATES

Plate 1 Glanrafon Terrace from the north-west

Plate 2 The former British School, with Capel Rehoborth to rear

Plate 3 Rehoborth Chapel from the South

Plate 4 Glyn Peris from the south-east

Plate 5 The Vaynol Arms Inn from the north

Plate 6 The Snowdonia National Park Warden Centre, from the north

Plate 7 The Lych Gate top the Church from the south

Plate 8 The east end of St. Peris Church, Nant Peris, from the north-east

Plate 9 The agricultural buildings to the south of the churchyard

Plate 10 Bron Eryri from the south

Plate 11 Dol Peris from the west

Plate 12 Example of slate fencing from near Ty'n Y Werglodd

Plate 13 View of Ystrad from the south, with slate and fieldstone boundaries in the foreground

Plate 14 View of Ty Isaf and Tyddyn Alice farms from the south across the open area within the Conservation Area boundary to the north of the road

Plate 15 Pen y Bryn and Cwm Wrach from the south west, showing the proposed extension to the Conservation Area to the east

Plate 16 Fynnon Beris from the south west

NANT PERIS: CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Introduction

The following document constitutes an assessment of the Nant Peris Conservation Area (Fig. 1), undertaken by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust on behalf of Snowdonia National Park Authority. The area is centred on NGR SH 60625837.

The aim of the appraisal is to describe and explain the historic character of the settlement 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 Nant Peris, 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

Mr Gwilym Jones, Snowdonia National Park Authority instigated the project and generously provided help and information. The staff at Gwynedd Archives, the National Library of Wales, Bangor University Archives and the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth are gratefully thanked for their help and for the provision of archive material relevant to this project.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

A brief was provided by Snowdonia National Park Authority. The methodology employed to answer the brief is based upon that developed by Cadw following initial urban characterization projects undertaken by Welsh Archaeological Trusts. These in turn were based upon a methodology developed in England for urban characterization and assessment, and also include English Heritage guidelines for Conservation Area Appraisal.¹

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 settlement was noted, and phases of historic change identified. Distinctive architectural

¹ English Heritage 2006

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. Site visits were conducted on three separate occasions in January 2011 by representatives of the Trust.

2.2 Principal sources

The resources of the county record office at Caernarfon, the National Library of Wales and the University of Wales Bangor were assessed. Aerial photographs were examined at the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.

2.3 Previous archaeological work

An archaeological excavation has been carried out at Ynys Ettws on medieval settlement in Nant Peris (Smith and Thompson 2006). Recording work has been carried out on the church at Nant Peris in 2006². A Historic Landscape Characterisation assessment of the area has been carried out (GAT 2001, 77).

3. THE PLANNING PROCESS

3.1 Introduction

Details of the planning process and how it affects management of the conservation area can be found in Appendix I.

3.2 Statutory and Non Statutory protection

Nant Peris is located within the Dinorwig Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (HLW(GW) 6), which is described as *'a low coastal plateau and adjoining glaciated valley situated on the north west side of Snowdon, containing evidence of land use and settlement from the prehistoric period onwards, superimposed by recent extensive and outstanding remains of the 19th and 20th centuries slate industry'* (Cadw/ICOMOS 1998, 91).

Nant Peris is completely located within the Snowdonia National Park. There are two listed buildings within the Conservation Area itself, St. Peris Church (Grade II*, Ref: 3769) and the Rehoboth Chapel (Grade II, Ref: 21849). Three listed buildings lie within 500m of the Conservation Area to east. 110m east of the area lies Fynnon Beris (Grade II, Ref: 3770) and 200m east-south-east lies Pen-y-Bryn, a post-medieval farmstead (Grade II, Ref: 21835). About 320m to the east lies Cwm-yr-Wrach, a post-medieval farmhouse (Grade II, Ref: 21837). These farms are present on an 18th century survey of the area.³ There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within or immediately adjacent to the Conservation Area.

4. LANDSCAPE SETTING

4.1 Extent of Area

The extent of the area included within this study is shown on figure 1. It includes the conservation area and surrounding farmsteads.

4.2 Landscape Setting

The Dinorwig valley, or Nant Peris, is situated on the north-west side of the Snowdonian massif, and the village of Nant Peris is enclosed on both sides by the valley. The valley has been heavily glaciated with its craggy edges rising very steeply on both sides. The summit of Snowdon at 1085m OD, towers above the

² Longley 2006

³ Gwynedd Archives, Vaynol 4025

valley and defines the southern extent of this area. The valley, with its twin lakes Padarn and Peris, opens north westwards on to the gently undulating Arfon plateau at about 100m OD. The village is located 0.5Km from the south-east end of Llyn Peris, close to the limit of the cultivatable lands in the valley.

5. HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Prehistoric and Roman origins

No prehistoric archaeological sites are known within 500m of the Conservation area, although significant amounts of prehistoric archaeology are known from the wider area. These include evidence for prehistoric land use and settlement, sometimes with medieval land holdings superimposed over the earlier remains. Later agricultural improvements have largely obliterated these on the lower ground within the valley around Nant Peris itself below the 150m OD level. Further afield, major defended settlements survive, such as at Dinas Dinorwig, and round houses of late prehistoric date also survive within the parish, as at Yr Aelgarth (NGR SH 57675878) and Dinas Ty Du (NGR SH 56665985).

The Segontium to Bryn-Y-Gefeiliau Roman road (GAT HER 17600) passed through the valley although its exact location relative to Nant Peris itself is not known.

5.2 A cattle farm of the Welsh princes

In medieval times the valley formed part of a large area of upland Snowdonia which was in the direct control of the Welsh princes for cattle farming, from which they derived much of their wealth. The centre of these lands lay at Dolbadarn, located between the lakes of Llyn Padarn and Llyn Peris. On 2 May 1283 Dafydd ap Gruffudd signed two charters at 'Llanberis'. He was captured, together with his wife, two sons and seven daughters a short while later on 22 June 1283, signifying the end of Welsh rule.⁴ Dafydd was at Dolbadarn in May, but it is difficult to ascertain if there is any significance in the use of 'Llanberis' as opposed to 'Dolbadarn' for the place of the charter signing. It could be taken to mean the church, and it is possible that church officials helped to draw up the charters, but Dolbadarn is within the parish of Llanberis, and this might be the point of reference.

The origins of the parish and church are obscure. It is probable that both came into existence in the 12th century, when church reforms involved the creation of parishes and a more regularised level of pastoral support. The dedication to a celtic saint and the near location of a well dedicated to the saint do, however, hint at earlier origins, and certainly if there was a church of significance here it would explain its name appearing on the 13th century charters. The well, Ffynnon Beris (PRN 4500), is located 110m east of the church, close to the house of Ty'n-y-Ffynnon.⁵ It consists of a small square structure at the foot of a low cliff which rises on the south-east. The enclosure is 2.5m square, open to the sky with walls about 0.5m thick and 1m high (Plate 16). Within the enclosure a slate bench below the top of the walls covers all four sides of the chamber, with the well itself coped with slate. The entire superstructure is post-medieval and modern in date. The well was much visited in the post-medieval period because of its reputation to cure children with rickets, scrofula and rheumatism. In 1776 the Llanberis terriers record the parish clerk was paid 6s 4d to care for the sacred fish kept in it.

The present church is an unusual plan, an amalgam of many periods, consisting of a nave, chancel, and side chapels, the latter having been expanded from transepts. The nave is the earliest part, and may be of 13th century or earlier origin. The transepts were added c. 1500, and later lengthened to the east to form north and south chapels alongside the chancel. The ornate roof trusses of the nave are slightly different to those of the chapels, and may be earlier, though they are unlikely to be earlier than the 15th century.⁶ The church was heavily restored in the 19th century by Henry Kennedy.

⁴ Pryce 2005

⁵ Jones 1954

⁶ Hughes and North 1924; Longley 2009.

The medieval settlement is likely to have been of a dispersed nature, though a late 18th view by Moses Griffith shows a small cluster of buildings by the church. Certainly the mid-19th century maps show no evidence for nucleated settlement around the church prior to the 19th century.⁷ However, the dispersed farmsteads such as Cwm y Wrach and Yr Erwi probably reflect elements of a settlement pattern within the valley that has its origins in medieval times. Historical records name some of the settlements, such as Cwm Dwythwch on the lower slopes of Snowdon. An excavation has been carried out on a *hafod* at Ynys Ettws, on the north facing side of the Llanberis pass. This consisted of two rectangular stone built buildings, both on a similar orientation, approximately north south and situated 50m apart. Radiocarbon determinations indicated that it was built in the middle of the 11th century and usage may have continued up until 1660.⁸ Similar buildings are described by Pennant (1783) as consisting of ‘a long, low room, with a hole at one end, to let out the smoke from the fire which is made beneath....the furniture is very simple: stones are the substitutes for stools; and the beds are of hay, ranged along the sides’.

The transporting of goods in upland areas in the Middle Ages was always problematic, but appears to have been eased at Nant Peris by use of the two long lakes which occupy a large part of the valley floor. During drainage and re-lining of Llyn Peris for the Dinorwig Hydro Electric scheme two boats were found. The older of the two vessels was a log boat dated by dendrochronology to between AD 1187 and 1205 (GAT HER 9366). The second vessel was a clinker built boat dated by dendrochronology to between AD 1547-1549 (GAT HER 9367).⁹

5.3 From picturesque to the industrial revolution

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries Dolbadarn Castle and its setting became a popular subject for artists reflecting the contemporary aesthetic notions, of which the most well known was painted by *J.M.W. Turner* and exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1802. The scenic popularity of the area continued throughout the 19th century.¹⁰

The area is linked with the growth, development and eventual domination of the Vaynol Estate. By the late 16th century, the estate was the principal landowner and ruthlessly consolidated its interest by the acquisition and extinction of any remaining medieval bond hamlets within the area. By 1696 the estate held nine holdings within the parish, which included much of the area.¹¹ From the mid 18th century, following a period of low investment, tenancies were remodelled as they fell vacant, and the estate was improved and expanded by the enclosure of common land. The road through the pass was turnpiked shortly after 1802.¹² Very little settlement is noted in Nant Peris on the 2 inch Ordnance Survey drawings of the area of 1816-1824.¹³ The Vaynol Estate map of 1832 (Fig. 2) and the tithe map of 1839 shows the church, the Vaynol Inn and one other property within the area of the village, suggesting the community was formed by the inhabitants of the dispersed farmsteads, whose focal points were the church, inn and market (Fig. 3).

Several farmsteads retain features of 18th century date, including Cwm-yr Wrach and Pen-y-Bryn on the east side of the village. The road through the valley was described in 1809 as ‘tolerable’, but ‘rough and ill made [creeping] along the left banks of the lakes to the village, a single bridge connects the present way across the stream’.¹⁴ The bridge must be Pont yr Afr, a single arched stone bridge of 18th century date.

Huge industrial change occurred in the 19th century when Vaynol estate, following the earlier lead set by Penrhyn, invested heavily in slate quarrying at Llanberis. By 1850 two thousand quarrymen were employed in the quarries around Llanberis, and they supplied nearly a quarter of the world output of slate.¹⁵ The

⁷ Gwynedd Archives, Vaynol 4163

⁸ Smith and Thompson 2006, 114-117

⁹ McElouvogue 1999, 6

¹⁰ Joyner 1990

¹¹ Gwynedd Archives, Vaynol 3744

¹² Dodd 1933, 93

¹³ Bangor Archives, f34081

¹⁴ Hyde-Hall 1952, 183

¹⁵ Dodd 1933

quarries continued in operation up to 1969, when they finally closed. The Welsh Slate Museum was established in the former quarry workshops, and in 1983 the Dinorwig Hydro Power Station opened within another part of the former quarry.¹⁶

The church and inn remained the focal point of the valley until the mid-19th century. It was described in 1833 as consisting ‘*only of three or four houses and a spacious and comfortable inn, called the Dolbadarn Inn, for the accommodation of the visitors who in the summer season resort to this place, in their excursions to Snowdon*’,¹⁷ though some 50 years earlier the village had been described as ‘*a group of wretched houses*’.¹⁸ However a new village, centred on the present Llanberis, was established at this time to serve both the slate industry and the increasing number of visitors coming to the area. At this time the settlement around the church took on the name Nant Peris, after the valley in which it was situated.

Nant Peris, though never a large settlement, attracted small scale development. By 1869 a number of houses had been built, largely to house workers in the slate quarries (fig 3). Later, in 1879, the *Rehoboth Calvinistic Methodist Chapel* was rebuilt to the designs of *O. Morris Roberts*.¹⁹ A Minister’s house was built to the east of it as part of the complex.²⁰ The chapel had been preceded by a *British School* and School House in 1856 to the west.²¹ Small terraces of local authority houses were added to the east and west ends of the village in the mid-20th century.

6. PRESENT SETTLEMENT CHARACTER

6.1 The Topographic development of the settlement

The early pattern of settlement within the valley appears to have been one of dispersed farmsteads, and there is very little evidence for any growth of settlement around the church until the 19th century. The farmsteads of Pen y Bryn, Cae-gwyn and Cwm-y-Wrach (Plate 15) are at least 18th century in origin.²² A lane runs north on the west bank of the Afon Afr towards the farmsteads on the north side of the valley, including Ty Isaf, Swyn y Nant and Tyddyn Alice, farms noted in the 18th century Vaynol estate rentals.²³ An inn was built by the mid-18th century, and further development took place following construction of the road through the valley in the early 19th century. This included a number of substantial houses such as Dol Peris (Plate 11) and Bron Eryri (Plate 10) to the east of the village, and a terrace of houses, Glanrafon Terrace (Plate 1), school and school house (Plate 2) and chapel (Plate 3) to the west.

6.2 Present settlement character

The village is principally linear in plan, stretched along the road which was built through the valley in the early 19th century. Though slight nucleation existed around the church in the 18th century, settlement prior to 1800 was of a dispersed nature, in the form of farms, smallholdings and cottages dotted around the valley floor. Significant elements of this pattern can still be discerned today.

The western end of the village, west of the Afon Afr, is nucleated ribbon development, though with earlier buildings interspersed, such as Weirglodd Ddu, which formed part of the earlier dispersed settlement. The foci at this end of the village are Rehoborth Chapel, first built in 1833 and the adjacent British School built in the 1850s. The Italianate chapel, with its ornate west front of snecked masonry, faces the road, whilst adjacent is the simpler steep gabled school, rendered and painted white. Opposite, on the south side of the

¹⁶ Roberts 2006

¹⁷ Lewis 1833

¹⁸ Pennant 1783, 165

¹⁹ Haslam *et al.* 2009

²⁰ Gwynedd Archives, Vaynol 7134

²¹ Gwynedd Archives, X/Maps/901/33

²² Gwynedd Archives, Vaynol 4055

²³ Gwynedd Archives, Vaynol 3744, 4025

road, Glanrafon Terrace was built of similar quarried granite to the chapel, but in irregular large rubble blocks. Further nucleation took place in the mid-20th century when the two small terraces at Bro Glyder were built between Weirglodd Ddu and Glanrafon Terrace.

The Afon Afr, a tributary of the Afon Nant Peris flowing north- south is crossed by an 18th century bridge widened and supplemented with a footbridge on its north side. The church lies at the east end of the village, separated a short distance from the road, with two semi-derelict farm buildings close to its western boundary. These, the modernised Ty'n Lon alongside the road, and the Vaynol Arms form the original nucleation, to which were added the detached 2-storey houses of Bryn Eryri, Dol Peris and Glyn Peris in the mid-19th century. The earlier buildings are all of local stone rubble, in contrast the detached houses of Bron Eryri and Dol Peris which are of squared granite blocks, the former with surviving 12 pane sash windows. The Vaynol Arms is rendered and painted white, of nine bays, its long front facing the road, it now forms the hub of social life in the village and a focus of the activities of the Snowdonia Mountain Rescue Service, who maintain a post in the former outbuildings, and the Snowdonia National Park Warden Centre, which lies in the former church hall to the east. Between the inn and the bridge is Glyn Peris, the former post office, currently empty and in the process of regeneration. At the east end of the village opposite the church are local authority houses in two terraces of four, built angled away from the road. The granite gabled porches add character to the mix of render and window styles.

On the north side of the village (to the south the land is too wet) lies a dispersed range of detached cottages and farmhouses, some in clusters of three or more. These lie towards the perimeter of the valley floor, with the land rising steeply behind, separated by a mixture of improved pasture and rock outcrop. Single storey cottages rub shoulders with double fronted farmhouses, and this dispersed mixture preserves an excellent example of the pre-quarrying rural landscape.

6.3 The character of building

6.3.1 Wall materials and finishes

The area is relatively rich in building stone, offering slates, gritstone and granite. The earlier buildings were constructed from local rubble stone, much of it rounded field stone, though usually with squared quoins, as in the church and also the farm buildings alongside. The later church hall also retains this style of masonry. In the mid-19th century squared granite blocks, particularly for the front of buildings, was used to emphasise status, and the chapel, Glyn Peris, and Bron Eryri are examples of this. Glanrafon Terrace is built of a similar quarried granite, but in irregular rubble. Several buildings are rendered and painted, in particular the Vaynol Arms and the former British School and School House.

6.3.2 Roofs

All the buildings within Nant Peris have slate roofs. These are all of the thin quarried and split slate variety, and hence all appear to be of 19th or 20th century date. The roof of the church has been re-slatted.

6.3.3 Architectural Detail

The majority of the buildings are relatively plain and unadorned. Late 19th century horned sash windows survive at the Vaynol Arms and Bron Eryri, but elsewhere they have been modernised. Some boarded doors survive within Glanrafon Terrace, but again most doors have been modernised.

Capel Rehoborth, the west ornate front of Capel Rehoborth, in Italianate style, faces the road. The projecting porch with round arched doors and window, and the tri-partite window above with Corinthian columns, picked out in terracotta red, is a good example of non-conformist architecture, and contrasts nicely with the simple architecture of the steep gabled school alongside.

6.3.4 Field Boundaries

Boundary walls consist in the main of unworked field stone, laid without mortar, often with larger boulders at the base. There is some use of quarried slate both in these walls and more particularly in the fine examples of slate fences seen, for example, south of the church.

6.4 Building Types

The village consists of two ecclesiastical buildings, the medieval parish church which formed the early focus for settlement at the east end of the village, and the 1870s Rehoborth chapel which formed a later one. The buildings close to the church include an inn, built in the early 19th century to serve the needs of an increasing number of visitors to the area. A secondary focus develops during the latter part of the 19th century by the Pont yr Arfr with the Rehoborth Chapel and School group of buildings opposite Glanrafon Terrace on the western side of the river and Glyn Peris, the former Post Office, on the east side of the river. This area forms a key element in the nucleation of the village.

Within the village most houses are of 19th century or later date, ranging from the detached houses of Bron Eryi and Dol Peris to Glanrafon Terrace. Earlier houses lie outside the village, where there are clusters of one- and two-storey cottages mixed with larger double fronted farmhouses, including the listed buildings of Cwm Wrach and Pen y Bryn.

7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

The potential for the survival of prehistoric archaeology within the valley is unknown, however it would have been an attractive area for settlement, and it is possible that evidence for burnt mounds (prehistoric cooking places) could be located close to the Afon Afr and the Afon Nant Peris. Evidence would appear to have been obscured by later agricultural practices.

It is possible that evidence for medieval settlement survives around the church. The road through the valley is an ancient route and with the river crossing would have provided a settlement focus.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Nant Peris is a small rural settlement with a medieval church which acted as a focus for 18th and 19th century development. The settlement developed along a main communications route through the Nant Peris valley close to a river crossing. The Conservation Area includes the medieval church with its extended graveyard and adjoining inn. It excludes the modern development on the fringes of the village to the east and west. It lies within a wider area of dispersed smallholdings (*tyddynod*) on the valley floor, and it is these that provide much of the character of the area.

The key elements are the medieval church, the Inn, which catered for travellers in search of the Picturesque from the late 18th century on, and a small nucleated community which developed around the Calvinistic Methodist chapel and school in the mid-19th century.

9. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Conservation area boundary

Alterations to the conservation area boundary are recommended, and these are shown on Figure 1. To the south of the church yard it is recommended that the Conservation Area be extended to incorporate two farm buildings adjacent to the cemetery.

To the east lies the holy well of St Peris and a number of smallholdings of 18th century date. It is recommended that the conservation area be extended to include Ffynnon Beris, Pen y Bryn and Cwm-y-wrach, and to the north to incorporate Ty Isaf, Swn y Nant and Tyddyn Alice. It is these buildings which define the area as much as the more nucleated settlement around the church and chapel. The well and two of the farmhouses (Pen y Bryn and Cwm y Wrach) are listed buildings. The extension would maintain the historic relationship between the church and Ffynnon Beris, and ensure the church and nucleated settlement is retained within their appropriate context.

9.2 Other recommendations

- The former school has been converted sympathetically – the adjacent chapel is a significant element within the village, and care will need to be taken to preserve its character should a change of use be required.
- Glyn Peris and adjoining plot are in the process of re-development. Care should be taken that new buildings are in scale and keeping with the existing buildings.
- The spaces between the building plots, and the undeveloped nature of much of the north side of the road is an essential characteristic of the settlement, and should be preserved.

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

10.1 Primary Sources

Gwynedd Archives, Caernarfon

Vaynol 3744 *A rentroll of the late estate of Sir William Williams of Veynol in the County of Carnarvon Baronet dead 1696*

Vaynol 4025 *Rough Valuation of the Parish of Llanberis 18th cent.*

Vaynol 4055 *Survey, Volume 1, Plans and References*

Vaynol 4067 *Survey, Plans and References of the Vaynol Estate Volume 1*

Tithe Map of the Parish of Llanberis 1839

Vaynol 4108 *Estate rental 1869*

Vaynol 4163 *Rough Valuation of the Parish of Llanberis c.1867*

Vaynol 4055 *Plan of new British School 1856*

Vaynol 7134 *Plan of Additional Land leased to Rehoborth Chapel, Nant Peris*

Tithe map of the Parish of Llanberis 1839

Bangor University Archives

Bangor Archives f34081 *Ordnance Survey 2" Preparatory Drawings by Robert Dawson 1816-1824*

National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth

Aerial Photographs

3G/TUD/UK/193 Frames 6172-3 taken 10th May 1946

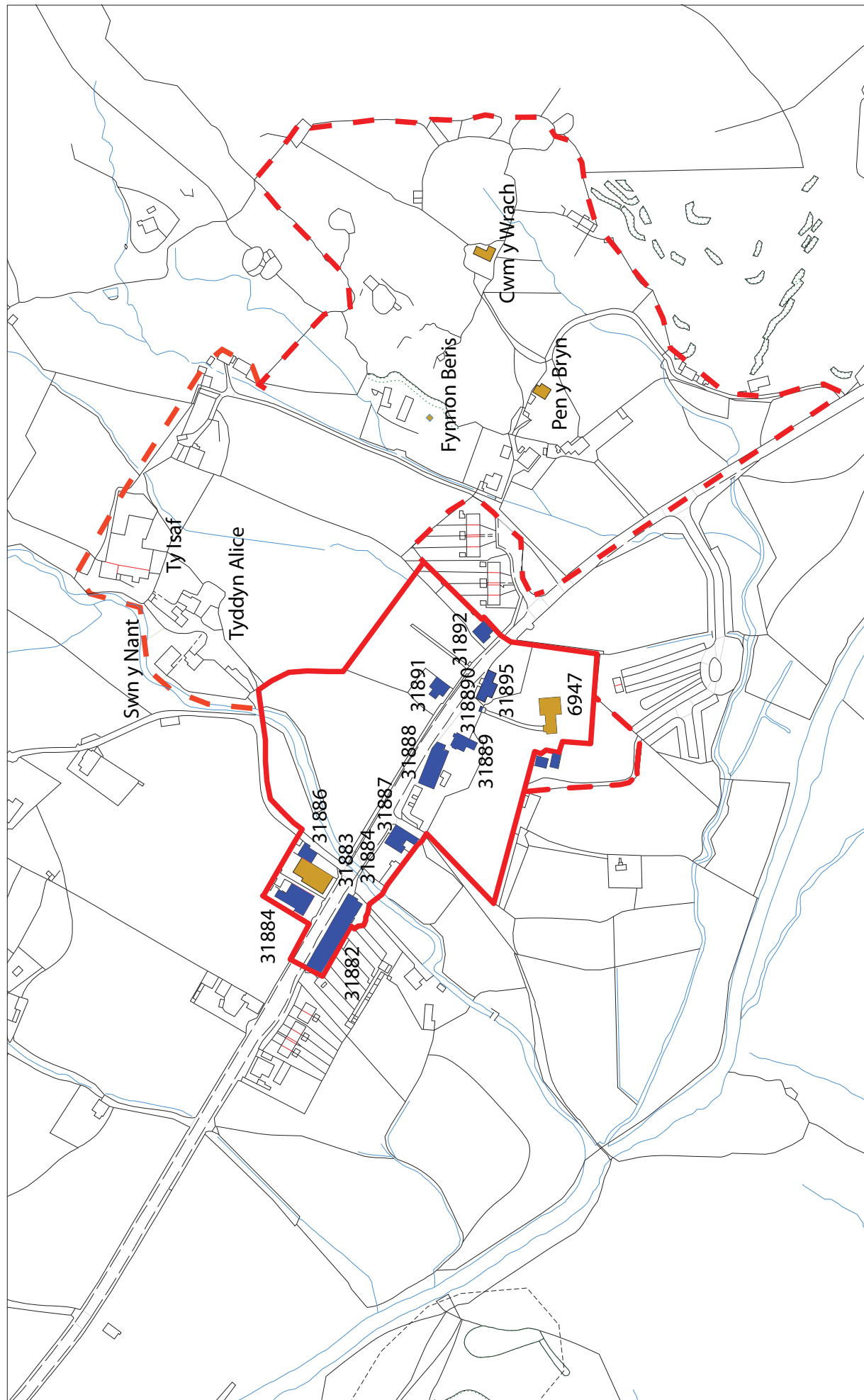
OS 71-211 frame 041 taken 5th March 1973

Gwynedd Historic Environment Record

10.2 Secondary Sources

Anon. 1868 *National Gazetteer of Great Britain and Ireland*

- British Geological Survey 1982 *Harlech-Sheet 135*
- CADW/ICOMOS 1998 *Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales*
- Dodd, A.H. 1933 *The Industrial Revolution in North Wales*
- English Heritage, 2006 *Guidance on Conservation Area Appraisals*
- GAT, 2001 *Historic Landscape Characterisation (Ardal Arfon)* Unpublished GAT Rep. No 351
- Haslam, R., Orbach, J. and Voelcker, A. 2009 *Gwynedd* (Pevsner Buildings of Wales Series)
- Hughes, H. and North, H.L. 1924 *The Old Churches of Snowdonia*
- Hyde-Hall, E. 1952 *A Description of Caernarvonshire 1809-1811*
- Jones, F. 1954 *The Holy Wells of Wales*
- Joyner, P. (ed), 1990 *Dolbadarn: Studies on a theme*
- Lewis, S. 1833 *Topographical Dictionary*
- Longley, D.L. 2006 'The Church of St. Peris' *Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Magazine* 25, 27-31
- McElvogue, D.M. 1999 'The Forgotten Ways: Evidence for water-borne transport in Nant Peris, Gwynedd', *Industrial Gwynedd*, Vol. 4, 5-15.
- Pennant, T. 1783 *A Tour in Wales*
- Pryce, H., 2005 *The acts of Welsh rulers, 1120-1283.*
- RCAHMW 1960 *Inventory of Ancient and Historic Monuments of Caernarvonshire; Vol. II*
- Roberts, J. 2006 *Dinorwig Power Station: Llyn Peris Engineering Works*. Unpublished GAT Rep. No. 637
- Smith, B. and George, T.N. 1961 *British Regional Geology. North Wales*
- Smith, G. and Thompson, D. 2006 'Results of the Project Excavations', in Roberts, K. (ed.) *Lost Farmsteads; Deserted Rural Settlements in Wales*, 113-132



Nant Peris Conservation Area
Character Appraisal
Figure 1 Principal sites

Scale: 1:2500



--- Proposed conservation area extension
— Conservation area boundary

■ Listed building
■ Building of local note
■ Scheduled ancient monument

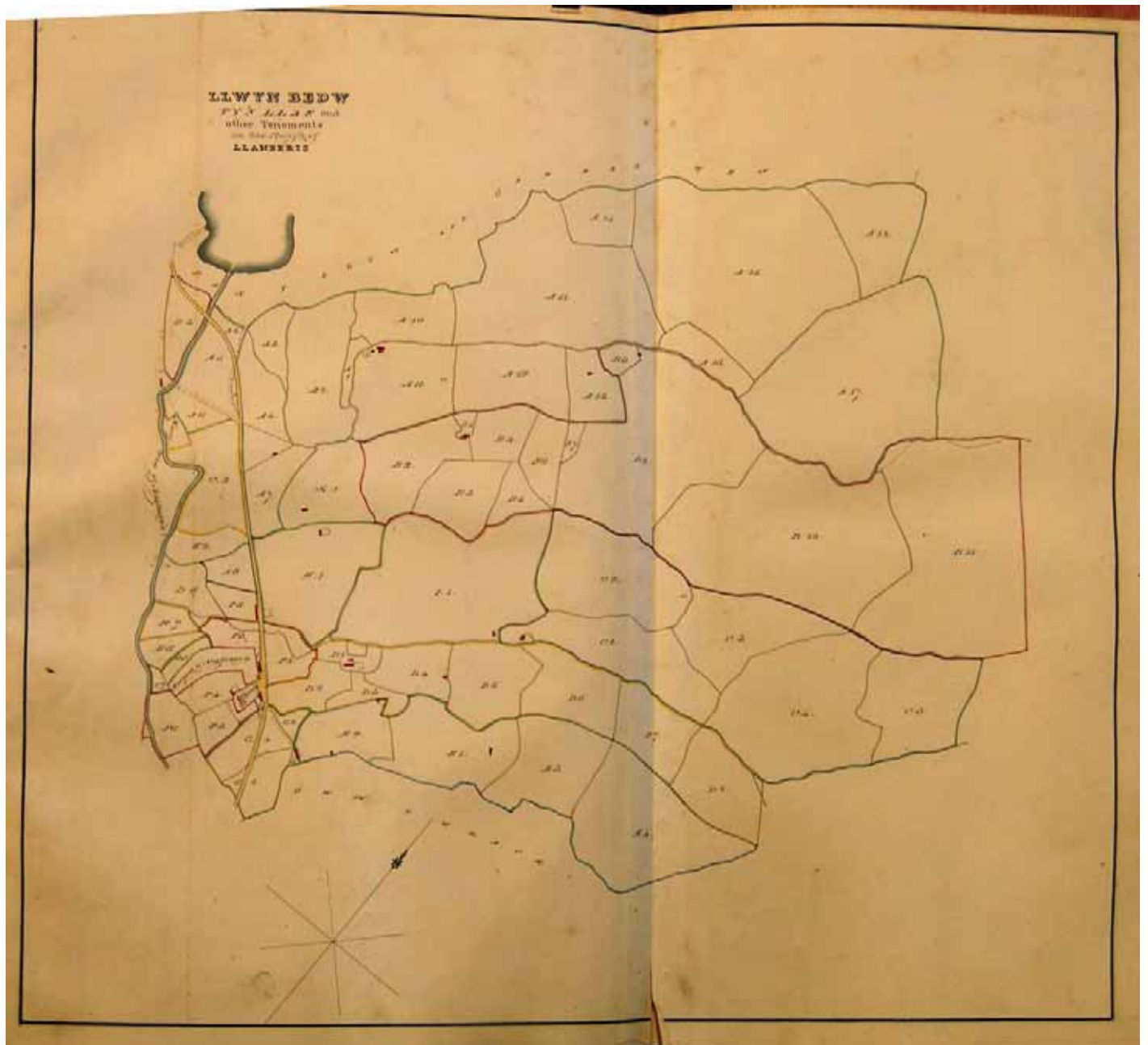


Fig. 2 Nant Peris from *Survey, Plans and References of the Vaynol Estate Volume 1* 1832, copied from 1777 survey. (Gwynedd Archives, X/Vaynol/4067)



Fig. 3 Tithe map of the parish of Llanberis of 1839 showing very limited development in the valley at that time, but including the Vaynol Inn



Fig. 4 Vaynol estate plan of 1869 showing increased development within Nant Peris by this date. The Conservation Area is outlined in red (Gwynedd Archives, Vaynol 4163).

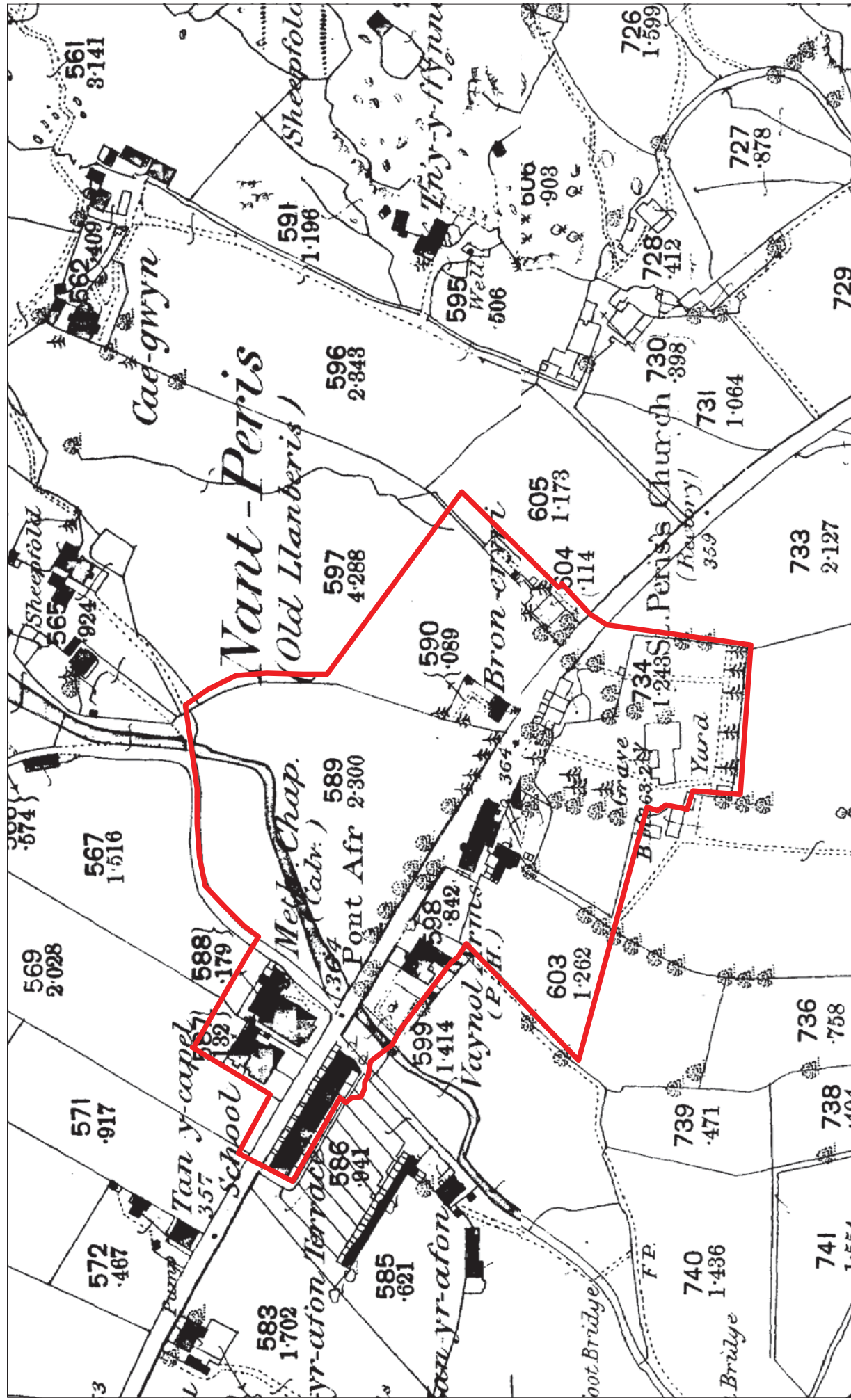


Fig. 5 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25 inch map of 1889. Caernarvonshire sheets XVII.09 and XVII.13. The conservation area is outlined in red. Scale 1:2000



Fig. 6 Nantberis with the Glyder and Crib Goch by Moses Griffith 1810, showing the church, Ty'n Llan and Pen y Bryn



Plate 1 Glanrafon Terrace from the north-west



Plate 2 The former *British School*, with Capel Rehoborth to rear



Plate 3 Rehoborth Chapel from the South



Plate 4 Glyn Peris from the south-east



Plate 5 The Vaynol Arms Inn from the north



Plate 6 The Snowdonia National Park Warden Centre, from the north



Plate 7 The Lych Gate top the Church from the south



Plate 8 The east end of St. Peris Church, Nant Peris, from the north-east



Plate 9 The agricultural buildings to the south of the churchyard



Plate 10 Bron Eryri from the south



Plate 11 Dol Peris from the west



Plate 12 Example of slate fencing from near Ty'n Y Werglodd



Plate 13 View of Ystrad from the south, with slate and fieldstone boundaries in the foreground



Plate 14 View of Ty Isaf and Tyddyn Alice farms from the south across the open area within the Conservation Area boundary to the north of the road



Plate 15 Pen y Bryn and Cwm Wrach from the south west showing the proposed extension to the Conservation Area to the east



Plate 16 Fynnon Beris from the south west

APPENDIX I

THE PLANNING PROCESS

Conservation Areas

The 1990 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act places a duty on every local planning authority to determine which parts of their area are areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. The 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 Act also states that the local planning authority should, from time to time, formulate and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of these conservation areas. The location and extent of the Nant Peris Conservation Area is shown in Fig. 1.

Local Plan Policies

Current regional and local plan policies are defined in *Gwynedd Structure Plan* (adopted 1993) and, for the National Park, *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.

Heritage and Local Planning Context

Snowdonia National Park Authority

The Cultural Heritage Section within the Planning and Cultural Heritage Service works to protect and enhance the archaeology, historic buildings and culture of the National Park. The Section provides advice to the public on which buildings are listed, and on any proposed alterations requiring Listed Building Consent or Planning Permission. Advice on Conservation Areas and the Built Heritage is given by the National Park Planning Department through their Building Conservation Officer. Advice on the management of the archaeological heritage is provided by the National Park Archaeologist. Together they 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.

Archaeology and Local Planning Context

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.

Relevant 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 reason 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 2 LIST OF SITES BY PRN

GAZETTEER OF SITES WITHIN AND ADJACENT TO THE CONSERVATION AREA

31882 GLANRAFON TERRACE (PLATE 1)

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

Ten cottages forming a terrace of cottages, each with door and single ground and first floor window facing the street, constructed of partly coursed squared granite blocks.

Easting: 6051 Northing: 5843

31883 HEN YSGOL (PLATE 2)

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

School building with central cross gable of unrendered course blocks. The main block is rendered. The building was designed by *John Lloyd* for the County of Caernarvon in 1854. The building consisted of a main hall with yard to the rear, and designed as one with the school house²⁴.

Easting: 6054 Northing: 5845

31884 TY'R YSGOL

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

Four bay school house with west facing north wing, rendered with a porch, designed by *John Lloyd* in 1854. The building is orientated NE-SW and adjoins the former school.

Easting: 6053 Northing: 5846

31885 CAPEL REHOBORTH (PLATE 3)

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference: GII LB Ref: 21849

The chapel was built in 1879 to the designs of *O. Morris Roberts*. It consists of a full-frontal pedimented gable, above a tripartite composition of windows, all round headed except for the main lower ones. Original sash windows are present with varied and rounded panels and original coloured glass. The chapel stands on the site of a former building, probably a former chapel building, noted on the Vaynol estate map of 1869 (Vaynol 4163, Fig. 4). There was no building on the site in 1839 (Tithe Map, Fig. 3).

Easting: 6055 Northing: 5844

31886 LLYS AWEL

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

The former Chapel House of Capel Rehoborth, attached to its eastern side. Built of coursed granite blocks and of three bays. There is a granite porch with a rounded opening, but all the windows are modern replacements.

Easting: 6056 Northing: 5844

31887 GLYN PERIS (PLATE 4)

Assessment of Importance: C

Site Status Reference:

A pair of regular coursed granite block cottages, with outbuildings to the rear. That to the east has a modern shop front and was formerly the post office of the village.

Easting: 6057 Northing: 5838

31888 VAYNOL ARMS INN (PLATE 5)

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

A nine bay inn with two porches, rendered, with former coach house to the west and outbuildings to the rear. It is of early to mid 19th century date and was built by the Vaynol Estate. It is shown on the Vaynol estate map of 1832 (Fig. 2) and the tithe map of 1839 (Fig. 3) without the outbuildings and coach house, which appear to be of mid 19th century date.

²⁴ Gwynedd Archives X/Maps/901/33

Easting: 6062 Northing: 5836

31889 SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK WARDEN CENTRE (PLATE 6)

Originally built in 1923 probably as a church hall, and consisting of a north south orientated gabled building, and north facing porch. The building includes a slate date stone in the north facing gable.

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

Easting: 6063 Northing: 5834

6947 ST. PERIS CHURCH (PLATE 8)

Assessment of Importance: A

Site Status Reference: GII* LB Ref: 3769

The old parish church of St. Peris consists of a chancel with north and south chapels, crossing, north and south transepts and nave. It is mainly of medieval to 17th century date.

Easting: 6065 Northing: 5029

31890 LYNCH GATE TO ST. PERIS CHURCH (PLATE 9)

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

A 20th century structure consisting of two parallel walls with a gabled roof constructed out of granite. It appears to be a rebuild of an earlier structure on this site.

Easting: 6065 Northing: 5029

31891 BRON ERYRI (PLATE 10)

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

A three bay building of uncoursed regular granite blocks, with five lights of sixteen pane horned sash windows, and a central door. It has a single chimney to the west and has a modern single storey extension to the west.

Easting: 6067 Northing: 5836

31892 DOL PERIS (PLATE 11)

Assessment of Importance: C

Site Status Reference:

A coursed and squared rubble built house of three bays with chimneys at. It has been significantly modernised with the addition of a porch and insertion of a garage, and all the windows have been replaced with those of uPVC type.

Easting: 6070 Northing: 5833

31893 FORMER FARM OUTBUILDINGS SOUTH OF CHURCHYARD (PLATE 9)

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

The former agricultural buildings to the south of the churchyard are constructed of irregular uncoursed rubble blocks, with outbuildings to the rear, and include a few quarried slate blocks in their construction. They consist of a barn with hay loft, and a probable byre.

Easting: 6062 Northing: 5829

31894 PONT YR AFR

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

A single arched bridge over the Afon Afr constructed of rubble voussoirs, string course and coursed rubble masonry. It is the probable site of the early crossing point of the river, and is mentioned in 18th and 19th century travel writings (Hyde-Hall 1952). It is of possible 18th century date, and appears to predate settlement in this part of the village.

Easting: 6070 Northing: 5833

31895 TY'N LÔN

Assessment of Importance: C

Site Status Reference:

A former pair of cottages with a western extension, with a chimney stack at the western end of the main building. The building appears to pre-date the nucleated village, and to be present on the 1777 map and the tithe map (Fig. 3) so would appear to be 18th century or earlier in origin, and to have formed an important part of the pre 19th century landscape, and appears on a Moses Griffith print of 1810 (Fig. 6). The building has been much altered, with the rear, north facing gable line having been raised in recent times, and the

eastern doorway converted to a window. All windows have also been replaced in recent times, and it is difficult to see the original form of the building. However it once formed the nucleus of an important farm within the valley that included much of the land that was subsequently developed as part of the village (Fig. 4).

Easting: 6067 Northing: 5833

APPENDIX 3

Site on the Gwynedd HER within 500m of the Conservation Area					
PRN	NPRN	SITENAME	NGR	PERIOD	DESCTYPE
4500	58110	FYNNON BERIS - HOLY WELL	SH60855836	Early-Medieval	WELL
4501	58111	ST PERIS CHURCH, NANT PERIS	SH60655829	Post-Medieval	BUILDING
6947	0	LLANBERIS PARISH CHURCH (NANT PERIS)	SH60655829	Medieval;Post-Medieval	
15866	0	NANT PERIS - LANDSCAPE	SH60905850	Multi-period	



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH
ARCHAEOLEGOL
GWYNEDD



GWYNEDD
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TRUST

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