

Results of Archaeological Works at

The George & Dragon Hotel,

Church Street, Beaumaris

NGR SH 60519 76071



Project Number CR129-2016



C.R Archaeology

Compiled by Catherine Rees

On Behalf of Mr P. Ingham of Frederic Robinson Limited

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Planning Application Number:	12C90C/LB
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Client:	Mr P. Ingham of Frederick Robinson Limited
Report Author:	Catherine Rees
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1.0 Introduction

C.R Archaeology were instructed by Mr P. Ingham of Frederick Robinson Limited to conduct archaeological works at the George and Dragon Hotel, Church Street, Beaumaris (figure 1).

The building is currently in use as a public house with accommodation at first floor level. Refurbishment works to the building were undertaken which affected the ground floor. The following alterations were undertaken: the existing bar service area was removed and new fixtures and fittings were installed which incorporated a salvaged timber panelled bar front, the existing doors were removed and replaced with fire doors where identified on proposed plans, the ladies toilets and catering kitchen were refurbished, the existing fireplace in the bar lounge was reinstated, a new opening was formed into the catering kitchen from main bar lounge area and minor internal alterations shown in the plans were carried out (see appendix a). It was therefore deemed necessary to record any features of archaeological/architectural interest which were uncovered during the programme of works.

The George and Dragon is located on one of the principal streets within the Medieval walled town of Beaumaris, which was established following the conquest of Wales by Edward I. The building of Beaumaris Castle was begun in 1295 and the castle was the last royal stronghold to be built by Edward in Wales. It completed the chain of fortifications with which he had begun to enclose Gwynedd in 1277. The town received its charter in 1296 and building began at around this time.

The Town Wall at Beaumaris has not survived in as complete a state as those at Conwy or Caernarfon, although there is a substantial surviving fragment 20m long, 3m high and 1.75m wide (SAM AN123). Beaumaris Castle is a Scheduled Ancient Monuments (AN001) and together with Conwy Castle and fortifications, Caernarfon Castle and fortifications and Harlech Castle, it is a World Heritage Site (Ref 374). These fortifications are considered to be the finest examples of late 13th and early 14th century military architecture in Europe, demonstrated through their completeness, pristine state, evidence for organized domestic space, and extraordinary repertory of their medieval architectural form.

The area of the town of Beaumaris within the original circuit of the Town Wall is considered to form part of the essential setting of the World Heritage Site and the historic town core - which includes the George and Dragon, is a Conservation Area.

The George and Dragon is a Grade II* Listed Building (Cadw ID: 5617) and is Listed for its exceptional interest as an early C17th house with later modification and alteration to a public house, with especially fine C17th interior detail.

The works undertaken comprised a Level 2/3 Building Recording of the of the structure as it currently stands prior to the commencement of works, with follow up visits undertaken to record the building interior following the removal of modern features. Extensive historical research had previously been undertaken at the site and this information has been incorporated into this document. Additional archive research was undertaken to supplement these existing works.

Features of archaeological/architectural interest were uncovered during these renovation works. These included a large late Medieval fire place, the location of an earlier stairway, the remains of a timber-framed partition wall, a Later Georgian fire place and an Early 20th century bar fitting.

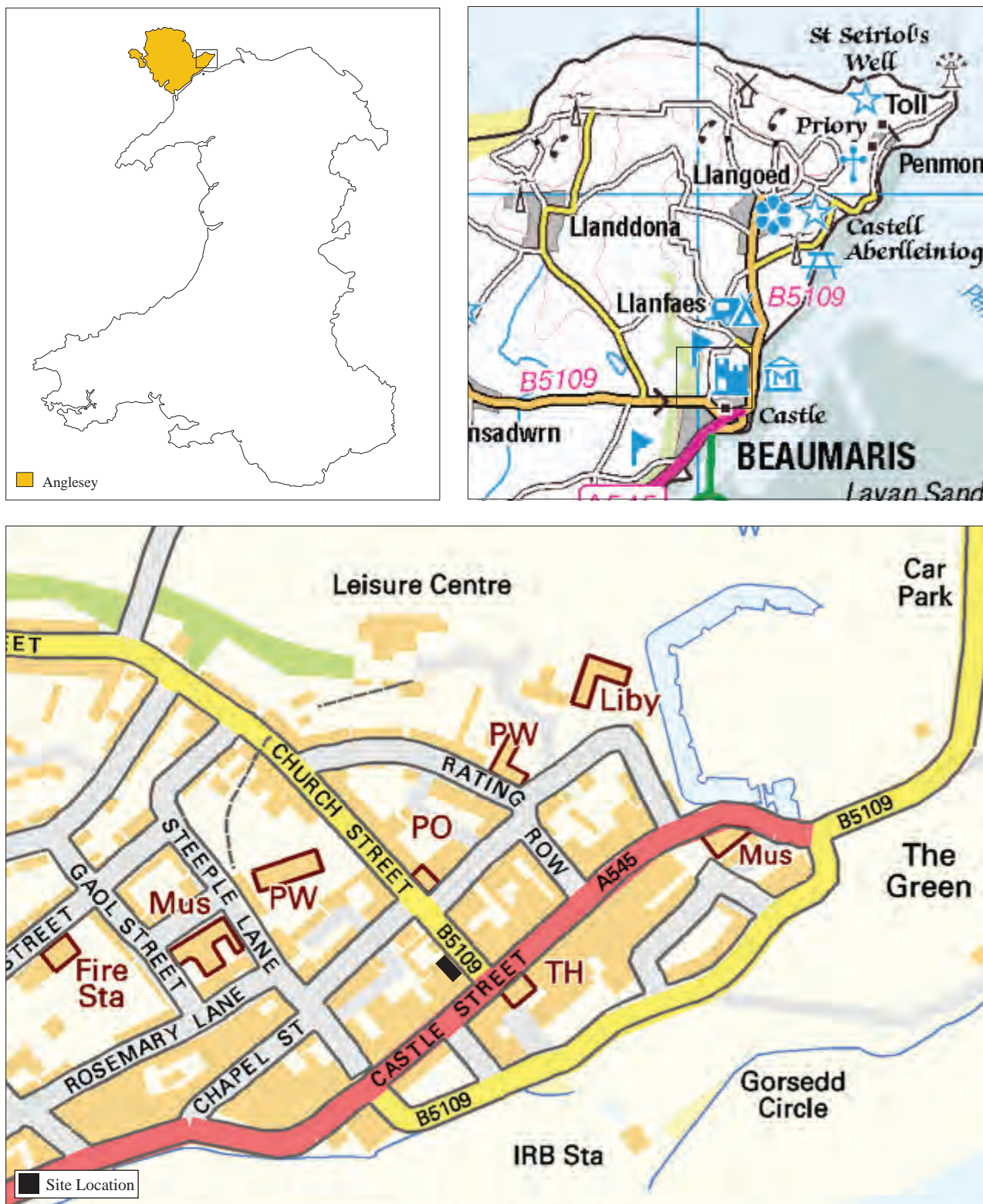


Figure 1. Site Location Map

(Source: OS Open Data Mapping. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right [2016])

2.0 Project Aims & Objectives

The aim of this programme of works was to create a Level 2/3 Building Record of the George and Dragon Hotel with emphasis placed on the ground floor bar area where the refurbishment works were undertaken.

It aimed to fulfil the mitigation criteria for undertaking an Archaeological Building Recording as specified in the CIfA Standard and Guidance documents (revised 2014).

The objectives of the archaeological programme were to provide an archive record of the building; to increase understanding of the site's history, development and significance and to make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

3.0 Scheme of Works - Methodology

The works were conducted in two stages with the first photographic survey undertaken on the 17th May 2016. The second stage was the recording of the building interior following the stripping out of modern features to ascertain as to whether there were further surviving historic fabric elements and to record any surviving features. Return site visits were made on the 30th September and the 5th October 2016.

3.1 Scheme of Works – Methodology for Building Recording

The methodology employed conformed to the requirements for a Level 3 Building Record as specified in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (Historic England 2016) and The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (2014).

The following points are detailed in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (Historic England 2016).

The record created for the site consists of:

Written Account	Points 1-3, 5-9, 13-15, 17 – 22
Drawings	Points 2, 6-9
Photography	Points 1-2, 4-5, 7-9.

3.1.1 Desk Based Research

A detailed history of the site has been compiled by Mark Shepard of the “Discovering Old Welsh Houses” group and this data was incorporated into the final report for this project. Further limited research was conducted to elaborate upon these findings. Where the research was not conducted by C.R Archaeology this is stated in the text.

This material forms the historical background for the archaeological report. The report also includes the results of the photographic survey and an additional compact disc containing all site images in Tiff format.

The works were conducted in accordance with the CIfA Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment (2014) and include the information required to fulfil points 1-3, 5-9, 13-15, 17 - 22 as specified in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (Historic England 2016).

3.1.2 Drawn Survey

Architects plans and elevations of the building have been supplied by Frederic Robinson Limited and these have been annotated and amended as necessary to aid in the interpretation of the building phasing. These drawings have been utilised to fulfil points 2, 6-9 as specified in “*Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*” (Historic England 2016). Location plans and historical material has been produced/sourced by C.R Archaeology to fulfil criteria 8-9 in the aforementioned document.

A drawn record of an undiscovered feature (a large stone fireplace) was produced by C.R Archaeology.

3.1.3 Photographic Survey

A photographic survey of the building was undertaken. This included:

- 1) A photographic survey of the exterior including general shots of the site environs
- 2) A photographic survey of the interior of the building with particular emphasis on the renovated area

The methodology employed conformed to the requirements of photographic recording to the equivalent of a Level 3 Survey, as specified in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (Historic England 2016) and includes works specified in points 1-2, 4-5, 7-9.

3.1.3.1 Equipment

The photographic survey was undertaken using a 20.1 mega-pixel Sony Alpha58 digital camera with a variety of standard and other lenses using a tripod where necessary. Images were captured in RAW format for later processing into high resolution JPG and TIFF files.

Where possible all accessible exterior and interior elevations of the building were photographed with scales from ground level. In this instance, it was only possible to photograph the front and north-west facing elevation. Additional photographs were taken showing the general setting of the site.

3.2 Archive Compilation

All records created during the fieldwork will be checked for consistency and accuracy and will form part of the *Primary Site Archive (P1)* (EH 2006). The archive will contain all data collected, including records and other specialist materials. It will be ordered, indexed, adequately documented, internally consistent, secure, quantified, conforming to standards required by the archive repository and signposted appropriately to ensure future use in research, as detailed in the English Heritage *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) methodology.

The archive will be assembled in accordance with the guidelines published in, *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museums & Galleries Commission 1994), *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990) and *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2007).

3.3. Timetable for Proposed Works

The proposed works were conducted in two stages with the first undertaken on the 17th May 2016. The second stage was the recording of the building interior following the stripping out of modern features to ascertain as to whether there was surviving historic fabric, and to record any surviving features. Site visits were made on the 30th September and the 5th October 2016. Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services were informed of the exact site days to allow monitoring of works.

3.3.1 Staffing

The project was managed by Catherine Rees (MCIfA, BA, MA, PgDip HEC, MCIfA) and the site work was conducted by Matthew Jones (BA, MA).

All projects are carried out in accordance with CIfA *Standard and Guidance* documents.

3.3.2 Monitoring

The project was subject to monitoring by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services. The monitor was given prior notice of the commencement of the fieldwork. GAPS were notified in writing of the commencement dates for archaeological site work.

3.3.3 Health and Safety

A risk assessment was conducted prior to the commencement of works and site staff were familiarised with its contents. A first aid kit was located in the site vehicle.

All staff were issued with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the site work.

This consisted of:

- Safety Helmets (EN397)
- Hi-visibility vests (EN471)
- Safety footwear – steel toecap and mid-sole boots and Wellingtons (EN345-47)

All staff have passed at least a CITB health and safety test at operative level and carry a Construction Related Organisation (CRO) White Card for Archaeological Technician (Code 5363).

C.R Archaeology staff also complied with all Health and Safety Policy and specific on-site instructions provided by the client and their appointed Principal Contractor or H&S coordinator.

3.4 The Report

This report clearly and accurately incorporates information gained from the programme of archaeological works. It presents the documentary evidence in such a way as to create a clear and coherent record. The report contains a site plan showing the locations of photographs taken.

The report combines the results from the various phases of works and includes:

- a copy of the design brief and agreed specification
- a location plan based on current OS mapping at an appropriate scale
- sufficient historical and archaeological detail to allow interpretation of the results and to support an assessment of significance
- full dimensional and descriptive detail of significant new features
- a full bibliography of sources consulted
- an archive compact disc

The report details the results of the Level 3 Building Recording and combines the results of the pre-commencement photographic survey, photographs taken following the stripping out of the ground floor area, the drawn record and the archival research.

Copies of the reports in Adobe PDF format will be sent to the appropriate monitoring archaeologist for approval before formal submission. A bound paper copy and PDF digital copy of the report will be submitted as part of the formal submission. A digital Adobe PDF version and a bound paper copy of the final report and will be lodged with the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record within six months of completion of fieldwork.

A summary of the work will be published in the Archaeology in Wales Journal.

3.4.1 Copyright

C.R Archaeology and sub-contractors shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides a licence to the client and the local authority for the use of the report by the client and the local authority in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

4.0 Historical Background

Extensive research into the history of the property was conducted out by Mark Shepherd of the “Discovering Old Welsh Houses” group and this data has been incorporated into the final report for this project.

The George and Dragon is located on one of the principal streets within the gridded Medieval town of Beaumaris, a name derived from the Norman French name Beau Marais meaning beautiful marsh. The public house occupies one of the original burgage plots laid out when the town was planned following the establishment of the settlement by Edward I in the 1290's. Beaumaris was the administrative centre of Anglesey and replaced the adjoining native Welsh town and port of Llanfaes, whose inhabitants were forced to relocate to Newborough on the south-western coast of Anglesey (Haslam, Orbach and Voelcker 2009: 96 – 98).

The new town at Beaumaris was described by David Longley as initially being an English frontier community and was populated by incomers from Cheshire and Lancashire (Longley 2010: 23). By 1305 Beaumaris was the largest of the Welsh “new towns” with 132 ¼ burgage tenements (Prestwich 2010: 5). The probable location of these burgage plots is laid out by Lilley (2010: 103) which shows the George and Dragon within the original street plan (figure 2).

As at Caernarfon and Conwy, Beaumaris was designed as walled town but the walls, now largely lost, were not constructed until after the revolt of Owain Glyndwr when the town was besieged and held by insurgents between 1403 and 1405 (Haslam, Orbach and Voelcker 2009: 96 – 98).

The house history compiled by the Dating Old Welsh Houses project recorded a 1410 A.D date as being mentioned when a building appeared on the site which is described as a merchant's house. There was no reference for this source.

The first confirmed dates from the George and Dragon were the results of the dendrochronology works commissioned by the Dating Old Welsh Houses project. Seven timbers were sampled which gave a close group of felling dates from the winter 1536/7 and the spring of 1541, and all timbers had originated from north-west Wales (Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory Report 2010/3). The current structure was therefore built just after 1541, which is also believed to be the date of the large fireplace uncovered during this phase of works.

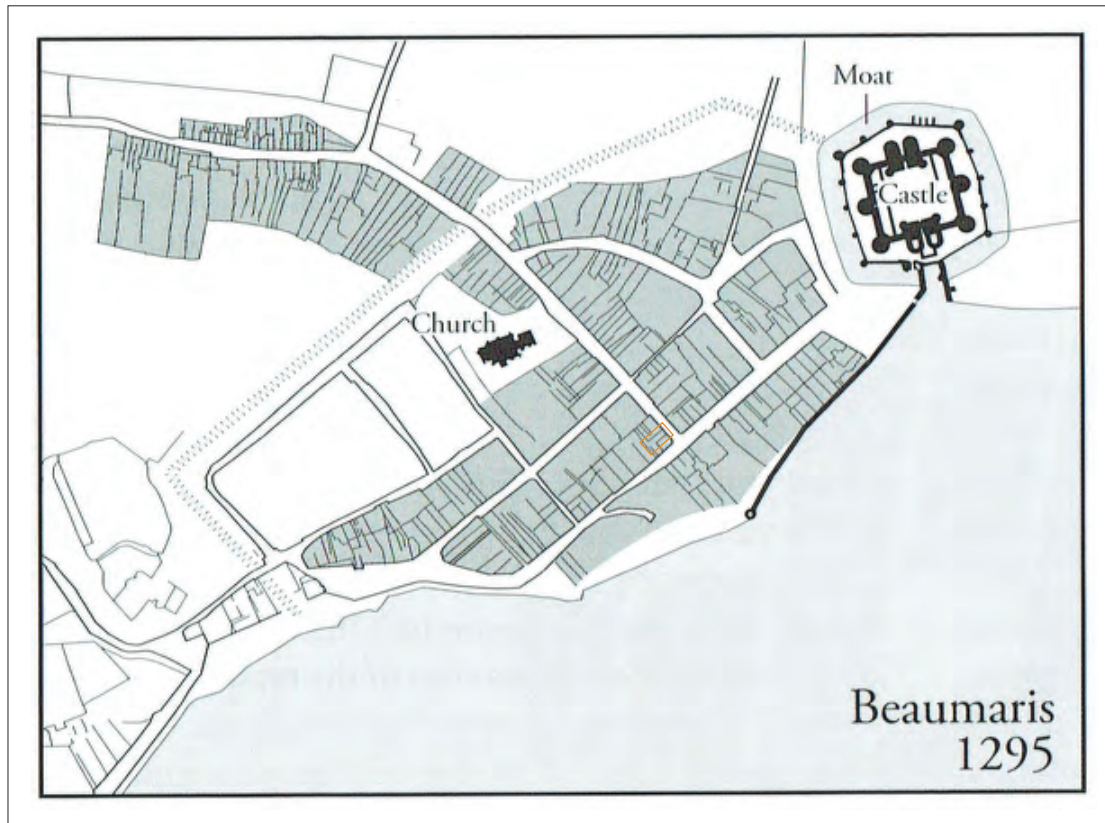


Figure 2. Location of Medieval Burgage Plots as laid out by Lilley
(Source Lilley 2010: 103)

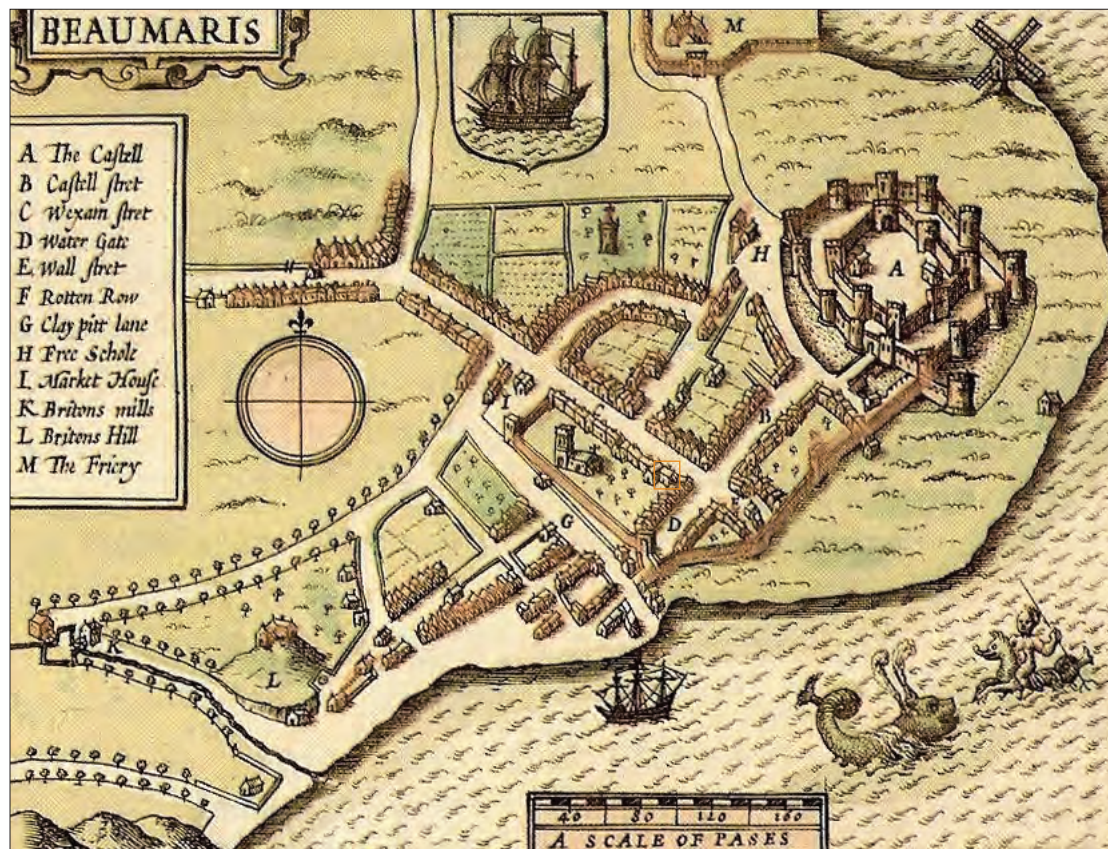


Figure 3. John Speed's 1610 Map of Beaumaris
(Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Beaumaris,_1610.jpg)

Shepherd cites a 1595 date as having been mentioned when the present George & Dragon was rebuilt as Merchants House but no reference is given.

A date of 1610 is date inscribed on one of the beams, and is taken to be the date that the paintings at the first-floor level were produced. The room in which the paintings were uncovered was known as the great room in an inventory of a will (no reference cited).

John Speed produced his town map of Beaumaris in 1610 which shows a two-storey property on the location of the George and Dragon (figure 3.) Also of interest on this map is the large property immediately to the north west of the George and Dragon which is believed to be Hen Blas (discussed below).

From the late 18th Century onwards there is a relative wealth of documentary sources for the property, beginning in 1771 (June 4 & 5). Shepard has identified the George and Dragon as having been previously named the “Red Lion” and identified an Indenture of Lease and Release by “1. John Williams of Bodelwyddan & Bennet Williams his son & heir to, 2. John Lloyd of Beaumaris, shopkeeper of the Red Lion, Church Street. Consideration £135”. (UWB, Baron Hill Ms Vol III – family, Anglesey & Caernarfon, ms 3531-3532 (taken from Shepherd’s report)

This document was followed in 1778 (February 27 & 28) by an “*Indenture of Lease and Release [Creation of Trust] by John Lloyd (1) to Thomas Hughes of Beaumaris, gentleman (2) and Janet Lloyd of Beaumaris, spinster, one of the daughters of the said Mr Lloyd (3) “In consideration of natural love and affection which said John Lloyd had and bore for the said Janet Lloyd his daughter and for settling and assigning the mortgage [...] and in consideration of £10” “all that messuage, dwelling house and shop” were transferred on trust for the use of John Lloyd for his lifetime and after that to Janet Lloyd forever*” (abstracted in UWB Baron Hill Ms Vol III – family, Anglesey & Caernarfon, ms 3700 (taken from Shepard’s report).

The next record sourced by Shepherd was the 1821 Census in which Grace Lloyd is recorded as a publican. Also at the property are recorded 1 male aged 10-15, 1 male aged 20-30, 1 female aged 10-15, 1 female aged 15-20, 1 female aged 20-30 and 1 female aged 30-40. Mark Shepherd also sourced the marriage record for 18 June 1821. In this document, John Williams, a mariner, married Grace Lloyd, widow, at Beaumaris Parish Church (Anglesey Archives PR45 WPE/70/6). He also notes that the inn was known as the George & Dragon by this date (no reference supplied).

John Williams is listed in the 1826 Publicans Recognisance as an innkeeper and mariner (Shepard, no reference supplied). Margaret Dunn added that there is also a Publicans Recognisance dated 12 September 1828 which lists John Williams at the Sign of the George and Dragon (reference given: MD notes from Robinsons documents).

Further records for the George and Dragon dated 1828 was found in two newspapers. The first was The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser (26th June 1828) which documented “*Yesterday, at Beaumaris, Mr. Ellis Williams Timothy, woollen-draper, Liverpool, to Miss Jane Lloyd, of the George and Dragon, of the former place*”. The same notice is run in the Carmarthen Journal and South Wales Weekly Advertiser on the 4th July 1828. Jane is believed to be the daughter of Grace Lloyd and her presence/involvement in the George and Dragon is returned to below.

A map of Beaumaris dated 1826 (figure 4) showed the George and Dragon as two separate buildings. There is a Market Hall located to the north-west of the block. A later version of this map was drawn in 1830 (figure 5) for the Baron Hill Estate. The numbering of the plots is the same as on the previous version. The land owner is listed as John Owen. John Williams is recorded as the innkeeper of the George and Dragon and as occupying the house and shop next door which is later



Figure 4. 1826 Map of Beaumaris (Source: Bangor University Archives Tynyngl Papers 788 BAN)



Figure 5. 1829 Map of Beaumaris (Source: Bangor University Archives BHill 6496 Map)

incorporated into the public house. Since the production of the previous edition of the map the Market Hall has been removed and has been replaced by a number of buildings. A small house has been erected adjoining the north-western elevation, long buildings line the north-western and south-west plot boundaries and a small square structure has been added behind the new house. There is an open yard shown and an access pathway to the rear of the George and Dragon and the adjacent house/shop. Shepherd records that these buildings are stables, coach houses, and a yard occupied by Mrs Reading.

The timing of this development can be directly tied to wider events in the history of the town and the region. Beaumaris was expanding during the 1820's and 30's, taking advantage of the road from the Porthaethwy ferry, which was built by Viscount Bulkeley in 1804 – 5, in anticipation of the construction of a bridge over the Menai Straits. Telford's Menai Bridge was completed in 1826 and in addition to being a thriving port town, Beaumaris became a fashionable holiday resort with visitors flocking to visit the town and castle. A flurry of building is undertaken with the first terrace constructed in 1825, the hot baths in 1828, the gaol in 1829 and the first hotel around 1832 (Haslam, Orbach and Voelcker 2009: 96 – 97).

The siting of a coach house and stables allowed the George and Dragon to capitalise on the increased influx of visitors, and set itself up as a coaching inn. A newspaper article cited by Shepard makes reference to this and, on the 2nd August 1831, notes “*The new Steam Packet ‘Eclipse’ leaves Caernarfon each morning to Conway, taking passengers to the Liverpool Packets. Mr Williams, George & Dragon, Beaumaris, is the agent*” (no source given).

References to the port trade in Beaumaris where the George and Dragon is mentioned have been sourced by Shepard. These are dated 18th August 1831 which wrote “*The Rothsay Castle Steampacket ship from Liverpool carrying 150 Passengers sank at around 1.00am when she ran aground on Dutchman's Bank. 23 passengers were rescued in the morning. The Captain, who died, was described as drunk. The inquest was held in Beaumaris, Mr John Williams, Innkeeper of the George and Dragon was later a member of the jury*”. A further article was dated August 20th 1831 read “*in a letter received this morning by Mr Watson [of the Liverpool Mercury], from Mr. John Williams of the George and Dragon, Beaumaris, dated four o'clock, it is stated that the Rothsay Castle was totally lost on the Dutchman's Bank about one o'clock on Wednesday morning. Twenty of crew and passengers were saved. The bodies of seventeen of the sufferers had been washed on the shore, and among the rest those of the steward (Jones) and his wife. The body of the captain has not yet been found. A number of boats were on the look-out, and further particulars of this melancholy event are hourly expected*” (The Preston Chronicle August 20, 1831).

As a sign of the growing popularity of the town a royal visit was made in 1832. On August 8th, the Duchess of Kent and Princess Victoria visited and stayed at the William Bulkeley Hotel on a tour of Wales. Shepherd records that a newspaper article noted “*celebrations held at the George & Dragon, and throughout Beaumaris*” (no source given). This shows that whilst the George and Dragon is not the most illustrious inn in the town, it is an important establishment which plays a prominent role in town life.

John Williams advertised himself as the proprietor of the George and Dragon in the Piggott's Directories of 1828 and 1932.

Shepherd sourced the will of John Williams who died in 1835. He records that the “*whole of his estate was given to “my beloved wife Grace Williams”*. The statement of the Valuation of the Goods and Chattels and Effects lists: Household Furniture. Drapery, Cooking Ware, China, Glass, Brewing Utensils, Stock in Trade and Outstanding Debts; 4/64 Shares in a sloop called the ‘CORNISH’ in the Port of Beaumaris, 1 Boat, 1 Cow, 1 Pig and Stack of Hay. Total value £112.10.

There is an endorsement that the will was proved on 6th April 1835 and that the deceased died "15th March last". The index to the Bangor Probate Registry states that he died aged 69". (Source: National Library of Wales, Bangor Probate Registry 1835/10).

A further will dated 1835 is also detailed by Shepard. He writes of a Will dated October 30th 1835 which reads "*I Janet Owen of Amlwch Widow [...] I give declare (?) and bequeath all that my messuage or Dwelling house with the appurtenances there unto belonging situate [...] in Church Street [...] called the George and Dragon and now in the occupation of John Williams Victualler his under tenants or assigns Unto my half-sisters Ellin Lloyd spinster and Mary Williams Widow both of Beaumaris {...} as Tenants in Common*" (Abstracted in UWB Baron Hill Ms Vol III, ms 3700-3701). Janet died on June 11th 1840 aged 88 years and was buried in Amlwch (Anglesey Archives PR 43 WPE/34/13 Amlwch Burial Register. Entry No 1967, sourced by Shepherd). She had owned the property since 1778 when she inherited it from her father.

From this will it is evident that the Owens retained ownership of the two premises and that the Williams' were the tenants. The inheritance of the property by Mary Williams and Ellin Lloyd was somewhat short lived and both women were deceased by the end of 1840.

Shepherd's work records that, in her will dated June 17th 1840, Mary Williams gave her share of the George and Dragon to her daughter, Mary Jane, the wife of William Rowlands, and her sons Hugh Williams, John Williams, and Peter Williams as Tenants in Common. Mary Williams died on or about the month of July 1840 without revoking her will (Baron Hill Ms 3703). She was buried in Beaumaris on the 15th July and was 60 years of age (Anglesey Archives PR44 WPE/70/2 Beaumaris Parish Burial Register).

In her will dated December 2nd 1840 Ellin Lloyd left her half share in the George and Dragon "now in the occupation of Grace Williams Widow" to her nieces Jane, the wife of Ellis Timothy, and Mary Jane, the wife of William Rowlands, as Tenants in Common. Ellen died aged 56 shortly after her will was made and was buried in Beaumaris on December 15th 1840 (Abstracted in Bangor University Archives, Ms 3701, Anglesey Archives PR44 WPE/70/2 Beaumaris Parish Burial Register – sourced by Shepherd).

The 1841 census lists Grace Williams (age 55) as an Innkeeper at the George and Dragon. Also living at the property are Ann Edwards (age 25) female servant, Ann Williams (aged 24) female servant and Eleanor Jones (age 16) female servant. Eleanor Jones remains at the property until at least 1850 when she married Mr Richard Wych, a boot and shoe maker from Beaumaris. Both Eleanor and Richard were living at the George and Dragon Inn and he was presumably a boarder there (The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser 28th May 1850). There is a tailor, David Williams and his family, recorded in the neighbouring property but it is unclear as to whether this is the house and shop element which would later be incorporated into the George and Dragon.

Shepherd records a conveyancing document dated April 19th 1843 where the George & Dragon was transferred from "*William Rowlands of Bangor, Coach Builder and Mary Jane his wife; Hugh Williams of Beaumaris, Sadler and Ellen his wife; John Williams, Bangor wheelwright; Peter Williams Bangor Taylor; Ellis William Timothy of the Menai Bridge and Jane his wife (1) to Rowland Williams of Lleiniog Anglesey, Gentleman (2) for the sum of £650 The property was described as "the messuage tenement or dwelling house with the shop thereto belonging [...] formerly in possession of John Williams but now or late in the tenure or occupation of Grace Williams Widow*" (Bangor University Archives: Baron Hill Ms Vol III – family, Anglesey & Caernarfon, ms 3703).

Shepherd was also able to discover that the purchaser, Rowland Williams, was christened in 1802 and died on the 17th March 1843 at Lleiniog (Anglesey Archives PR 36 No. 133). He left no issue and there was no will for him in the National Library database (Griffith's Pedigrees 134).

It is not clear who owns the property at this time but Grace Williams continues to run the George and Dragon until 1848. She is recorded in the Slater's Trade Directory 1844 and in 1848 she is listed amongst the subscribers to a fund established for the wife and children of the late Joseph Davies, the driver of a mail coach who had been killed in a tragic accident (The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser 15th February 1848). Grace had herself been widowed twice, and with the location of the coach house and stables adjacent to the George and Dragon would have presumably known Davies well.

Grace Williams died on the 2nd September 1851 aged 74 years. Her address was listed as Rating Row. She was buried in Beaumaris (Anglesey Archives PR 45 (sourced by Shepherd). It is unclear as to exactly when she left the George and Dragon, as although Henry Humphreys is listed at the George and Dragon in 1848, it is uncertain as to whether he was residing there or whether this was the Beaumaris venue which he ran his coaching business from.

By the time of the 1851 Census Hugh Rowlands (age 29) victualler, his wife Susannah (age 25) and son John (age 7) are recorded as resident at the property along with George Parke (age 20) visitor, Frederick Cooper (age 19), Jane Hughes (age 23) servant and Margaret Rhodes (age 19) servant. On the 12th August 1851, a daughter was born to Hugh and Susannah (The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser 14th August 1851). Shepard adds that the daughter was named Susannah Ann Rowlands, and was baptised at Beaumaris on the 28th August 1851 (Anglesey Archives PR45). It would seem that the George and Dragon public house now occupies the whole of the building range as the inn is the first property listed at this end of Church Street. This may have been the case in the previous census but the arrangement of the properties made identification problematic.

Possible evidence of those employed by the George and Dragon is found in the Census entry for the adjacent property – the Old Palace in which 3 grooms are listed as living with their families. The Old Palace or Hen Blas was a 15th century mansion and is described in the RCAHMW Anglesey volume as “*one of the finest and best documented houses on the island*”. The source also describes the later years of the property as “*for many years Hen Blas had been used for the accommodation of a dozen different families, some of them Paupers; it was extremely unfit for the reception of so many persons, and did not possess the commonest conveniences. The place gradually became more and more ruinous and even dangerous, it was therefore taken down in 1869*” (RCAHMW 1921: Appendix IX).

The census lists 15 families totalling 65 inhabitants as living at the property which very much supports the above source in terms of numbers. The 3 grooms listed are John Rowlands (46), who lives with his wife and two daughters aged 9 and 7, William Owen (age 54), is recorded along with his wife and three sons aged 23, 22, 10 and Thomas Ishmael (name unclear on census) age 52 is resident along with his wife and 14-year-old son.

By 1852 the George and Dragon was the staging point for the Beaumaris section of the route of the “*well-appointed coach “Snowdon”*”. An advertisement was run in the Caernarvon and Denbigh Herald which read “*The well-appointed coach “Snowdon” commenced running between Beaumaris, Menai Bridge, Caernarvon and Llanberis, on Monday May 31st, 1852, leaving Beaumaris at 8.30 a.m – returning from Dolbadarn Hotel, Llanberis, at 5.30 p.m; thus affording passengers by this conveyance six hours to ascend Snowdon, or to view the scenery of this interesting locality. Fares. From Beaumaris to Llanberis – 4s, Return day-tickets – 6s, From Menai Bridge to Llanberis – 3s, Return day-tickets 5s. H., R & E Humphreys. Further information may be*

obtained on application to E.H, Dolbardarn Hotel, Llanberis; or Mr. Hugh Rowlands, George and Dragon Inn, Church Street, Beaumaris” (Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald 26th June 1852).

Shepherd’s research has shown that the Rowlands family were not be such long-time tenants as the Williams family and unfortunately Susannah Rowlands was buried age 32 on the 13th October 1858 (Anglesey Archives PR 45 WPE 70/9). Just over a year later, on the 13th November 1859 Hugh Rowlands was buried at Beaumaris aged 38 (Anglesey Archives PR 45 WPE 70/9)

Slater’s Trade Directories of 1848 – 1856 record Henry Humphreys as the innkeeper of the George & Dragon, Beaumaris. There is no evidence that a Henry Humphreys was ever resident at the George and Dragon as he does not appear in the census documents.

The first record of the next long-term residents of the George and Dragon is the 1861 census which lists John Evans (age 29) as the innkeeper, his wife Mary (age 32), his daughter Sophia Anne (age 4), son John Evans (age 2), daughter Mary Ellen (age 5 months) daughter, and mother-in-law Catherine Jones (age 57). Also listed are servants Sidney Williams (age 22) servant and Elizabeth Parry (age 16).

Further evidence of the use of the George and Dragon as a coaching inn is found in the Census entry for the adjacent property – presumably either the small lean-to building against the inn or the small house behind it. William Owen (age 55) is recorded, along with his wife Elizabeth (age 54) and two adult children – Grace (34) and Peter (32). Both children are recorded as being married and are presumably visiting. William is a hostler and would have been employed to look after the horses in the inn. William is listed as a groom in the previous census.

The Evans family run the George and Dragon from at least 1861 until it is sold by their daughter, Mary Ellen Roberts, in 1936. The family appear in numerous sources and the George and Dragon Hotel remains a prominent building within the community, being used a meeting place, function room and sometime court house. The information gathered from their tenancy is summarised below.

In 1862 Baron Hill Rentals records John Evans Jun at the House and field (George and Dragon). £27 rent received for four quarters (Bangor University Archives Baron Hill 7431 (Sourced by Shepherd).

Two newspaper articles were sourced from 1864 and 1865 which provide a sample of the events held at the George and Dragon. In November, 1864 the inn hosted “*an excellent supper*” for the local volunteer military battery (The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser: 19th November 1864). In January, 1865 a supper for the Choristers at St. Mary’s Church was held. The newspaper article shows that this was a regular event and praises the hosts for “*a good and substantial supper*” adding “the repast, as on many other occasions, did great credit to the host and hostesses” (The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser: 28th January 1865).

In 1866 Baron Hill Rentals record John Evans Jun. House and field (George and Dragon) £27 received for four quarters (Bangor University Archives Baron Hill 7432 (Sourced by Shepherd).

The 1868 Slater’s Directory shows John Evans as the innkeeper of the George and Dragon, Church Street. Entries for John Evans were also found in the 1871 Worrall’s Directory, 1876 Cassey’s Directory, 1883 Slater’s Directory, 1886 Caernarfonshire & Anglesey Directory and the 1895 Slater’s Directory 1895. It is likely that there are other entries in other Directories of the period and this list has been compiled from the accessible directories held in the Bangor University and Anglesey Archives.

The 1871 Census lists John Evans (age 39) as an innkeeper along with his wife Mary (age 40), sons John Evans (age 12 and listed as scholar), William Evans (age 7 and listed as scholar), and Robert Evans (age 4) and daughter Mary Ellen Evans (age 10 and listed as scholar). Also at the property is John Lazarus, age 22, who is a domestic servant. As mentioned above Hen Blas was torn down in 1869 and although it is likely that grooms were still employed by the inn none are listed in the neighbouring properties.

The 1881 Census lists John Evans, now age 49, as a licenced victualler and the property is named for the first time in the Census documents. His wife Mary, and their four children are also all listed. John Evans, now age 22, is listed as a licenced victualler in the business and Mary Ellen Evans (now age 20) is a book keeper – also presumably for the George and Dragon. William Evans, now age 17, is an apprentice engineer whilst Robert Morris Evans (age 14) is a scholar. There are no servants recorded as living at the property.

The next document sourced by Shepard in an Indenture dated the 1st July 1884 between “1. Sir R H W Bulkeley; 2. Dame Margaret Elizabeth Bulkeley; 3. Owen Lewis Cope Williams & Henry Walleseley. Beaumaris parish: In Church Street, House & field (George & Dragon)” The tenant is listed as John Evans who paid an annual rental of £28 (Source: 1920 Abstract of Title of R. H Williams Bulkeley of freehold hereditaments; Section II Lot 227)

The Evans’ continue to function as successful hosts for the town and in 1887 were the venue for the Fire Brigade Dinner to mark the departure of fireman J.E O’Connor from Beaumaris. The article records “*covers were laid for eighteen, a capital menu being provided*”. When the toasts were described a special mention was made of John and Mary and it was written “*the Host and Hostess was next given, and received in a manner which left no doubt that Mr and Mrs Evans had succeeded in giving entire satisfaction, many of the brigade expressing a hope that would not be the last time they would meet together at the George and Dragon Hotel*” (The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser 2nd April 1887).

The three sons of John and Mary have left the George and Dragon by the time of the 1891 Census which records John Evans (age 59) as a hotel keeper, his wife Mary (age 60), daughter Mary Ellen (age 28) and Jane Morris, a 19-year-old domestic servant at the property.

In 1892 there was a scandal reported involving a resident the George and Dragon Hotel. The North Wales Chronicle reported on 27th August 1892 “*a curious case*” of “*a Liverpool Gentleman and his Anglesey Maidservant*”. It wrote “*At a special session held at the Town Hall, Beaumaris, last Wednesday, before the Mayor (Mr H. Poole) and other magistrates, Elizabeth Owen, young woman 20 years of age, now residing at the George and Dragon Inn, Beaumaris, applied for an affiliation order against Thomas Horricks, Mulgrave Street, Liverpool*”.

“*According to the girl’s evidence she went to service with the defendant (whose sister resides with him) in the spring of 1889, and remained there until April 1891 when she left. She alleged that in the months of November and December 1890 the defendant committed adultery with her. Last November she issued a summons against the defendant, but the magistrates in Beaumaris dismissed the cse. This was, therefore, her second application. Evidence for the complainant was given by hr sister, Mrs Jones, and her brother, Hugh Owen.*

Mr Mullholland, after addressing the Court, called the defendant, who denied in toto the complainant’s story.

The defendant stated that he was 70 years of age and had retired from business.

Miss Horricks also gave evidence on behalf of her brother.

After a lengthy deliberation, the Bench made an order of 2s a week – Notice of appeal was given”.

Further successful events were held at the George and Dragon in 1897 and 1898. On August 23rd, staff from the 4th Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers journeyed by coach to Beaumaris to engage in a shooting match with their old antagonists the Royal Anglesey Engineer Militia. After the match both groups dined together at the George and Dragon, where after an excellent dinner, they all participated in songs (The North Wales Chronicle: August 28th 1897 (Sourced by Shepherd). In 1898 the George and Dragon was one of three establishments recorded as hosting a dinner for the feast day of the patron saint of Wales. Dinners were noted as having taken place at the Bulkeley Arms Hotel, under the auspices of the Debating Society, at the Liverpool Arms under the presidency of Councillor W.R Jones and at the George and Dragon Hotel, under the auspices of the town band (The North Wales Express: 4th March 1898).

Research by Shepherd revealed that John Morgan married Mary Ellen Evans in approximately 1898 although he was unable to find a marriage record. He also sourced the 1900 Baron Hill Estate Rental for John Evans at the “George and Dragon” who paid £19 for four quarters (Bangor University Archives Baron Hill 7461)

Following the marriage of their daughter the 1901 Census shows John Evans (age 69) and Mary (age 70) now occupy the George and Dragon with Sarah Lewis (age 21) whose occupation is given as general servant (domestic).

The association of the Evans family with the George and Dragon is however so strong that when their son William Evans died the property is referred to in the article. *“Obituary – The sad news was wired last week of the sad death of Mr William Evans, of Margaret Street, second son of Mr John Evans (George and Dragon Hotel), which occurred on the 23rd December last, while on his homeward voyage from the West Coast of Africa. The deceased who was second engineer on Messrs Elder, Dempster and Co’s S.S “Sagara” was highly respected and greatly beloved by his fellow townspeople, and leaves behind a widow and four young children, besides his parents and relatives to mourn his loss”* (Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald: 18th January 1901).

Mary was to suffer another loss in 1904 when her husband John died. The North Wales Express reported the transfer of licence on the 5th February 1904. It simply wrote *“The license of the George and Dragon, Beaumaris, was transferred to Mrs Evans, the widow of the late licensee”*. In his research Shepard notes that in the 1905 Baron Hill Rentals neither John Evans nor the George and Dragon are listed (Bangor University Archives Baron Hill 7465) but in the 1909 the tenant was John Evans (1920 Abstract of Title of R H Williams Bulkeley of freehold hereditaments; Section II Lot 227). This is presumably the length of tenancy with had passed to his wife on his death.

The 1911 Census record for the George and Dragon records the head of the house as Mary Evans (age 80 and a widow). Her occupation is listed as hotel keeper. Her daughter Mary E Morgan (age 50) has returned to the George and Dragon with her husband John (a cashier) and daughter May (age 12). Mary is listed as an assistant hotel keeper and would take over the business following Mary’s death.

A postcard dated 1916 was sourced which was taken looking from Castle Street along Church Street which showed the George and Dragon Hotel. The building is a single unit this postcard shows the previous configuration of the south-eastern door and window prior to the arrangement seen today. The porch which can be seen beneath the “George and Dragon Hotel” lettering on the 1916 postcard has since been removed.

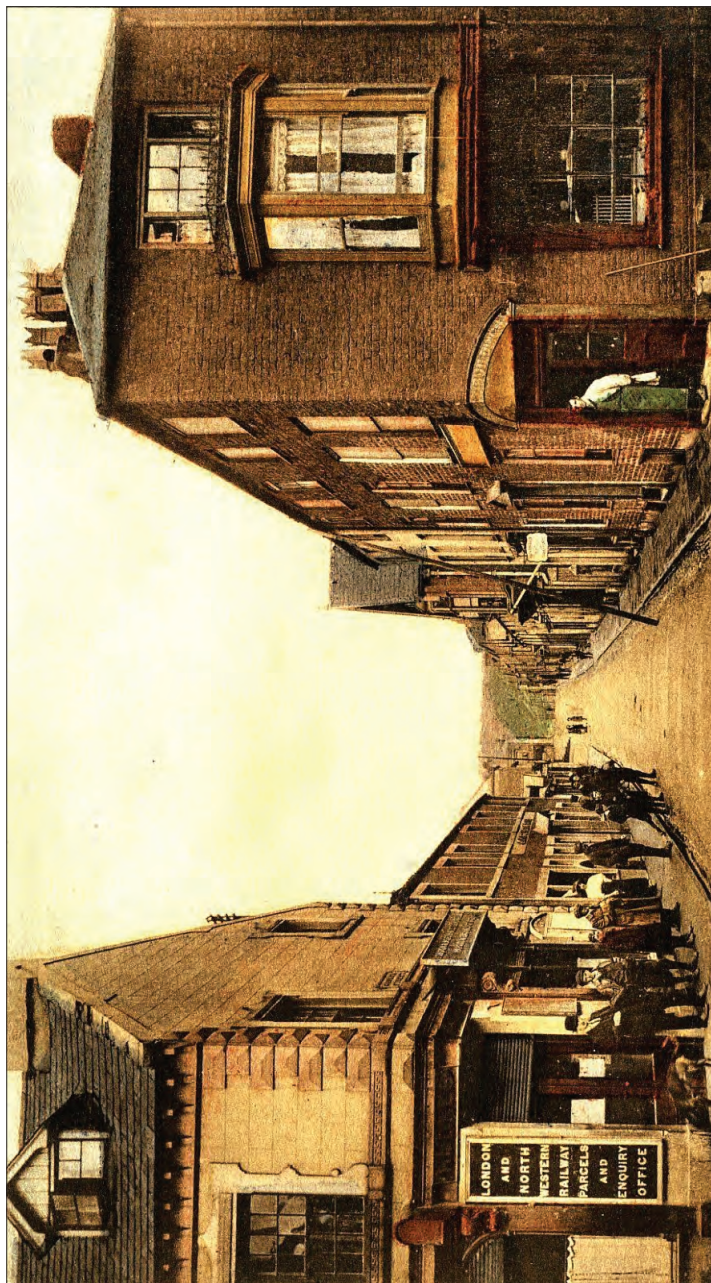


Figure 6. Early Twentieth Century Photograph Showing the George and Dragon.
It is Possible that Mary Ellen Morgan is the Women in the Southern Doorway

Mrs Mary Evan was a well-known figure in the town and when the announcement of the leave of her grandson, Sapper J Arthur Evans, R.E is announced in the local paper he is recorded not only as the son of Mrs Evans, 24 Castle Street, but also as the grandson of Mrs Evans, George and Dragon Hotel (The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser 21st December 1917).

Mary died in January 1919 and the following obituary was written in the North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser 17th January 1919: *“Obituary – Mrs Evans, of the George and Dragon Hotel, died very suddenly on Sunday morning. Her breakfast was taken to her in bed as usual, and she appeared to be in her usual state of health, but on one of the family going into her room later she was found to be dead. The deceased lady, who was in her 89th year, was well known to a wide circle, and very highly respected. She, with her late husband, Mr John Evans had been tenants of the hotel for nearly 60 years. The funeral, which was private, took place on Thursday morning, the Rev. H. J. Morgan, rector, and the Rev. T. Woodings officiating. The mourners included: Mr R. M Evans (son), Mrs Pearce and Mrs Morgan (daughters), Mrs W. Evans (daughter-in-law).*

All following information was been sourced by Mark Shepherd for the Dating Old Welsh Houses project:

On 27th October 1920, the George and Dragon was sold by direction of Sir Richard Henry Williams Bulkeley at the Williams-Bulkeley Arms Hotel, Beaumaris. It was listed as LOT 227 George & Dragon Public House. The tenants were Mrs Mary Ellen Morgan and Mr John. P. Jones. It is described as *“Fully Licensed Premises, stone built, rough cast, and slated containing on the ground floor; 2 smoke rooms, bar, tap room, kitchen & pantry, coal house & yard. On the first-floor Drawing rooms, 5 bedrooms, lumber room, box room. Also SHOP NEXT DOOR in the occupation of Mr John P. Jones. PART OF THE INN. Particulars, Plan and Conditions of Sale by Auction in Lots by Messrs Knight, Frank and Rutley”* (Source: Anglesey Archives WF/4). The two units of the sale are presumed to be the George and Dragon and the lean-to structure located to the north-west.

Mary Morgan, the daughter of Mary Evans, had been widowed by 1921 when she purchased the George and Dragon from the Bulkeley Estate. An Indenture of conveyance dated 16th April 1921 records *“1. Sir Richard Henry Williams Bulkeley, Baron Hill, Bart. 2. Sir Evelyn John Ruggles-Brise, 25 Gilbert Street, Grosvenor Square, London, K’CB; Sir Godfrey Baring, Nubia House, West Cowes, Isle of Wight, Baronet – the Trustees. 3. Mary Ellen Morgan of the George & Dragon Hotel, Borough of Beaumaris, Anglesey, widow. boundaries: NE frontage with Church St; NW with Market Place; SW & SE with 34 Castle St. The George & Dragon Hotel, Church St., and all the messuage or shop erected on part or all of it. ... sum of £800; in the occupation of John P Jones as yearly tenants; paying £400 pa to trustees”* (No Source Cited).

She sells the property on January 18th 1936 and Shepard records a *“Conveyance between 1. Mary Ellen Morgan of the George & Dragon Hotel, Beaumaris, Anglesey, widow & 2. Alfred Wallace Green, The Glanafon Hotel, Benllech for £1000”* (No Source Cited).

The burial record for Mary Ellen Morgan of 20 Castle Street, Beaumaris states that she was buried at Beaumaris aged 79 years on June 1st 1940 (Source: Anglesey Archives PR 45).

The new owner of the George and Dragon, Mr A.W Green, passed away on the 17th September 1944 and on the 5th March 1945 probate was granted to his wife Nellie Gladys Green. She sold the property on May 25th 1945 to *“John Alfred Green, The George & Dragon Inn, Church St, Beaumaris, licensed victualler”*. The sale price was £1,000 for the George & Dragon and adjoining shop (No Source Cited).

On June 4th 1945 a 5-year lease was drawn up between John Alfred Green, The Hampstall Inn, Astley Burf, Stourport on Severn, Worcs, licensed victualler (the Lessor) and The Burtonwood Brewery Company Ltd, Burtonwood, Lancaster (the Lessee). The yearly rent was £104 pa, which was to be paid quarterly (No Source Cited).

On the 23rd September 1950 the George & Dragon was designated a Grade II Listed Building. The notice was sent to Mr J. A. Green, George & Dragon Inn, Church St. Beaumaris (No Source Cited).

On the 5th May 1962 J. A. Green, of the George & Dragon Hotel, Church St, Beaumaris, Anglesey, sold the hotel to Anglesey Hotels Ltd for £4,500 (No Source Cited). On December 7th 1965 Anglesey Hotels Ltd resold the property to N & E Houses Ltd, Four Crosses Hotel, Menai Bridge, Anglesey for £14,00 - and the goodwill of the business of a licensed victualler.

A letter dated December 5th 1967 from the Borough of Beaumaris Town Clerk made enquiries about the George & Dragon Hotel. It stated that the property has for some years not been used as a shop, and as the result of recent alterations is all licensed property. The physical separation of the shop has disappeared and there is no longer a frontage to the Market Place. This would confirm that the additional shop was the property to the north-west of the hotel (No Source Cited).

The Licensee recorded on the 9th January 1968 is Mr William Broadhurst (Licensing Sessions at Menai Bridge) (MS no ref).

On May 1st 1968 N. & E. Houses Limited sold the property to the current owners - Frederic Robinson Ltd, Unicorn Brewery, Stockport, Cheshire.

On Friday October 21st 1977 a page 4 Article appears in the Times Newspapers about the old paintings discovered in the roof. The Welsh Office and the brewery take steps to preserve the inscriptions.

On the 13th July 2005, the copy of the present schedule of the listed building amended. The Dating Old Welsh Houses Group undertook research and dendrochronological work at the George and Dragon in 2010 which re-dated the structure from the 1610 date of the painting at second floor level to sometime around 1541. Gwynedd Archaeological Trust also carried out building recording work in 2010 to record the surviving historic features at first floor level (GAT Report 855).

5.0 Results of Archaeological Works

The Listed Building Description (Cadw ID: 5617) records:

“Location

Fronting the street and set back from the junction with Castle Street.

History

Probably built in 1610, the date (now concealed) recorded on a roof truss in the 1930s, and originally timber-framed with jettied upper storey. The George & Dragon is shown on the 1829 town plan and 1889 Ordnance Survey with a house and shop immediately to the S which has now been incorporated into the public house. The present front is a C20 remodelling subsequent to the amalgamation of the 2 properties, when the upper storey was under-built, with later alteration.

Interior

The lower storey has been modernised but retains cross beams and timber-framed partitions, one with exposed wattle, in the lower storey. One of the brackets that formerly supported the upper storey has also survived. The lateral fireplace on the R side survives partially, and has a timber lintel under a moulded cornice. The L gable end has a later, plainer but larger fireplace with stop-chamfered lintel.

In the upper storey, at the N end, is an arched-brace truss on a wooden bracket, and 2 timber-framed partitions, and cusped wind braces. One of the partitions, the gable end of the original building, has herringbone struts in the gable. The other partition retains fragments of wall painting, including 2 horned devils in a roundel to the R side, and a cross with bleeding heart beneath the apex. Below a beam bears the restored inscription 'PAX DEUS VOBIS REQUIE DEFUGE DEUS PROVIDEBIT ...'.

Exterior

A 2-storey public house, with a neo-Georgian style front of pebble-dashed walls with smooth-rendered architraves and upper-storey sill band, slate roof, roughcast stack L of centre and 2 tall stone stacks to the rear. In the 6-window front, the lower storey has a 12-pane hornless sash window to the L end, then a modern door, a segmental-headed, studded cellar door with small window above it, two 12-pane hornless sashes, a doorway with panel door and glazed panels, a tripartite 12-pane horned sash window and boarded door at the R end. Between storeys is a rendered inscription band with raised letters and the date 1410. In the upper storey are 4-pane horned sashes, unequally placed and including a tripartite window at the R end.

Additions have been made to the rear, on the R of which is a C17 or C18 kitchen.

Reason for Listing

Listed grade II for its exceptional interest as an early C17 house with later modification and alteration to a public house, with especially fine C17 interior detail” (www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk).*

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust carried out building recording work on the 19th March 2010 (GAT Report 855) and the building exterior has not changed from that time. Davidson and Berks describe it as “From street level the building is seen as a long two-storey building with a white painted pebble-dash front off-set by black painted architraves and a horizontal band at both sill levels, the lower sill painted as a band to floor level. There are six four-pane sash windows on the upper floor (the north one is tripartite), and four 12-pane sash windows on the ground floor (again the north one is wider). The south end was formerly a separate property, but this is now incorporated into the northern part, and a new door (the main entry from the street) now leads into this section,



Plate 1. George & Dragon Front Elevation

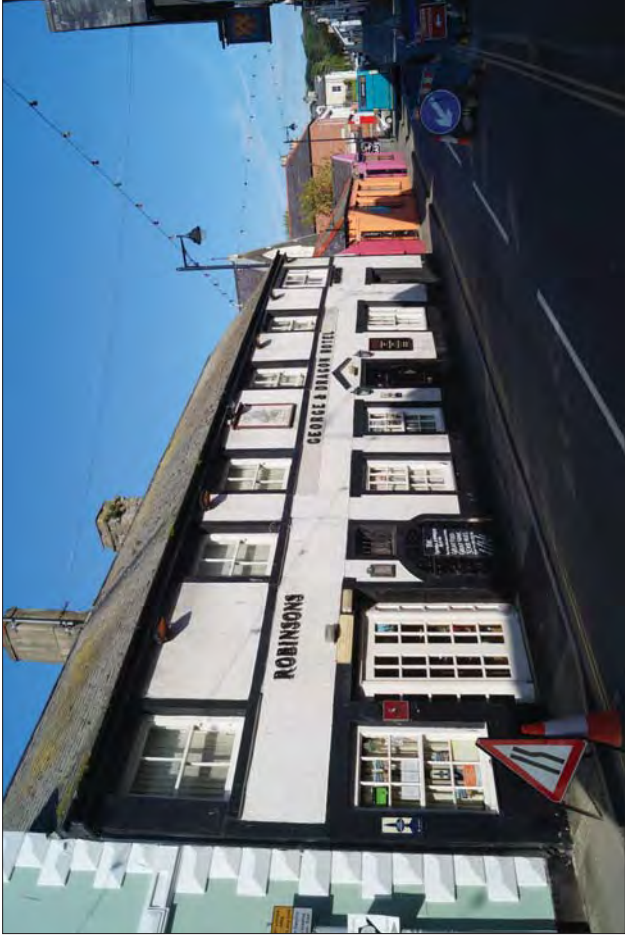


Plate 2. George & Dragon Front Elevation



Plate 3. George & Dragon Front Elevation



Plate 4. George & Dragon Front and Side Elevation

though the original door further north is also still used. Most of the work visible is of late 19th or early 20th century date. The rear of the building was not accessible, though one tall chimney is visible, and the Listed Building description records two tall stone stacks to the rear” (page 1-2). The only point which can be added to this is that there was once a porch over the northern door as is shown on figure.

Only the front of the building was accessible and plate 1 – 4 show the current frontage. No structural works were undertaken to the building exterior.

5.1 Interior

All works were undertaken to the ground floor level of the property and therefore this is the area primarily discussed in this report. Detailed recording of the first floor of the building can be found at (www.coflein.gov.uk/en/site/254/details/george-and-dragon-inn-beaumaris).

At ground floor level the space has been divided into 6 rooms: a bar, a front and rear lounge, female toilets, male toilets, and a kitchen. The kitchen and toilet areas were too confined to make a photographic record of prior to the commencement of works. The spaces were however examined and all earlier features had been obscured by later renders, suspended ceilings, fixtures and fittings.

The photographic recording works were concentrated on the bar and the two lounges where features of architectural and archaeological interest were noted. A photographic record was compiled before the commencement of works and following the stripping out of the building interior.

The cellars were not affected by the works but had not previously been recorded. A photographic record was therefore compiled of this space.

Ground Floor (Figures 7 & 8)

For ease of discussion the space will be discussed by original room layout and the features uncovered will be detailed individually within the appropriate section.

Main Bar Area (Figures 7 & 8, Plates 5 - 30)

Despite a later twentieth century “reimagining” of this room as a historical space there were features of architectural and archaeological interest visible in the main bar. As noted by Davidson and Berks (2010), the remains of the 16th Century timber framing are clearly visible. This framing includes the original axial ceiling beam (plates 6 & 8), the upright support posts for this beam (plate 6) and the transverse ceiling beams (plates 6 & 8).

The partition between the bar and the adjacent lounge is a feature of particular interest in that it is a surviving element of the original timber-framed structure. Plate 7 shows the curving bracket for the first floor jetty and a glass panel which reveals the wattle-and-daub behind the current plaster work. This wall was the partition wall between the two properties which were shown on the 1826 & 1829 maps of the town prior to their amalgamation into a single building, although when built the whole length would have been a single structure. This is evidenced by the axial beam which runs the full length of the building.

There were cupboards/storage areas in the area to the rear (south-west) of the bar area where carved masonry was observed (plates 9 – 10). This masonry appeared to be of a late Medieval style and was found to be part of a large stone fireplace which had been blocked and had the south-eastern wall removed. The fireplace is exposed at first floor level, although it has been modified with a raised hearth and fittings for a gas fire and an electricity point. The large chimney stack is visible from outside the building.

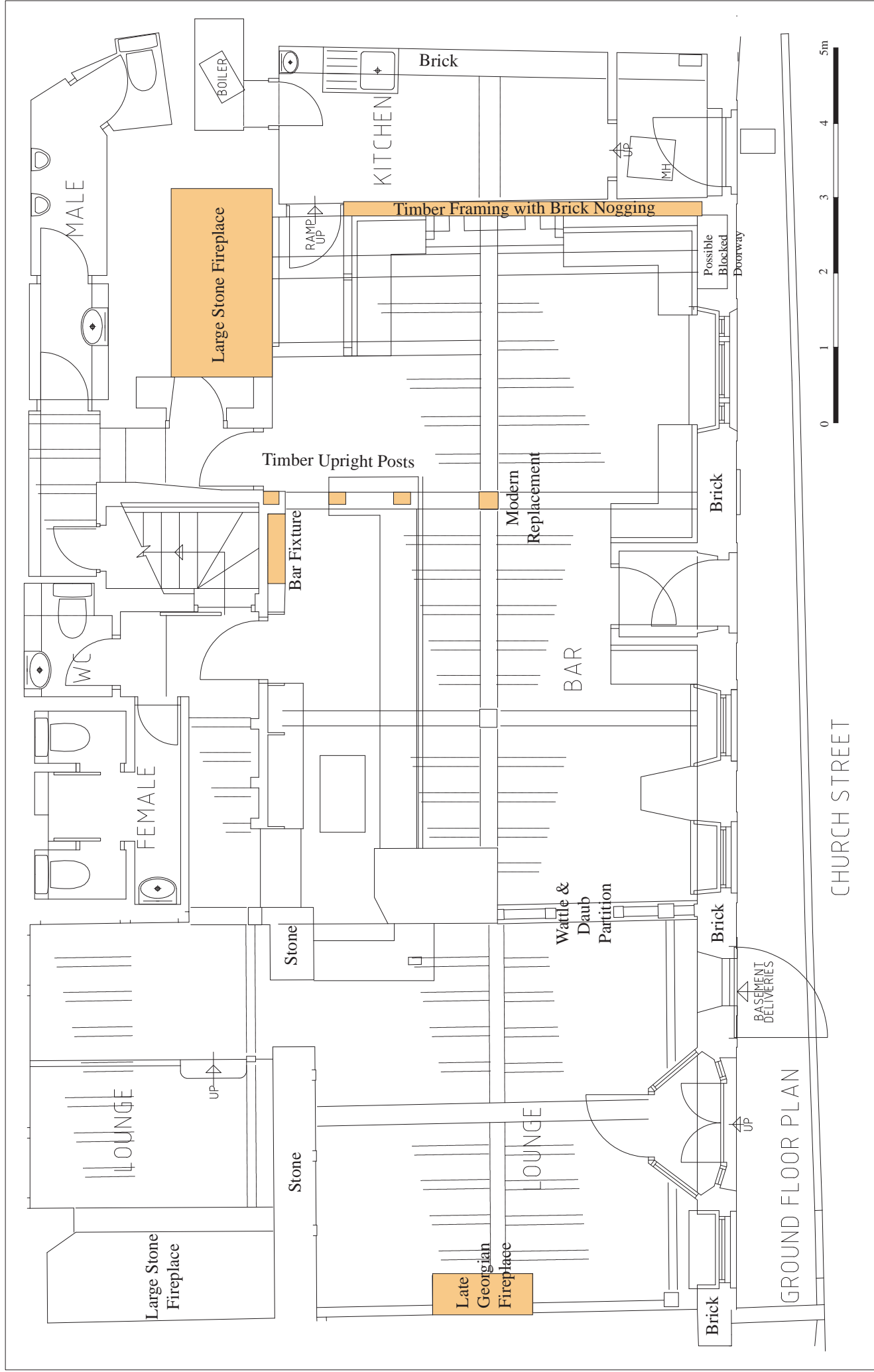


Figure 7. Annotated Ground Floor of George and Dragon. Produced and Supplied by Robinson's Brewery

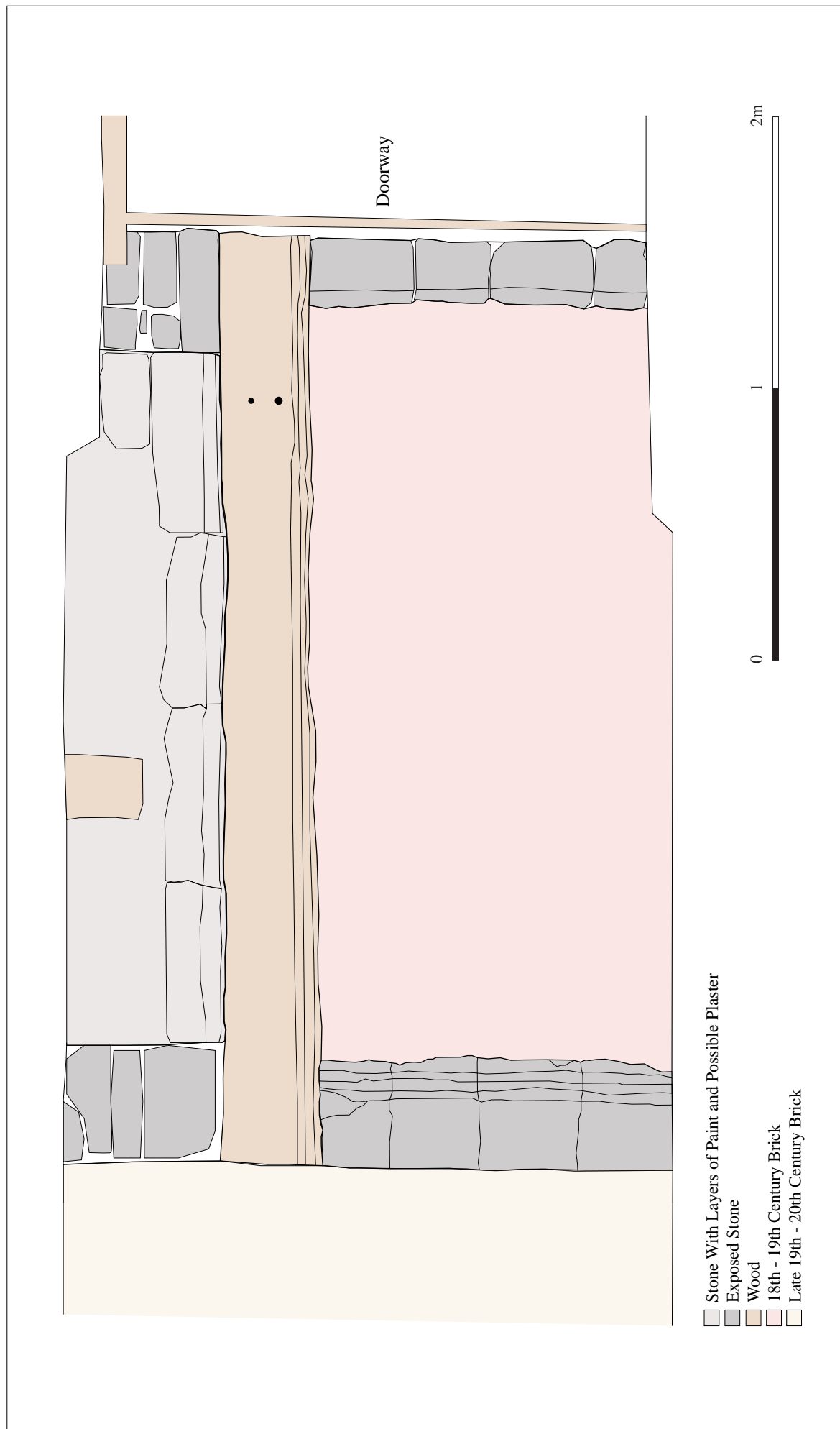


Figure 8. Original Fireplace Uncovered in Bar Area Following Stripping Out Works

**Plates 5 - 8. Ground
Floor Main Bar Area
Prior to the Commencement
Of Works**

Note small window in plate
7 which shows wattle and daub
behind modern wall render
and surviving timber framing



5.



6.



7.



8.



Plate 9. Fireplace Jamb Visible
Prior to Stripping Out Works



Plate 10. Fireplace Jamb Visible
Prior to Stripping Out Works



Plate 11. Fireplace Jamb
Following Stripping Out Works

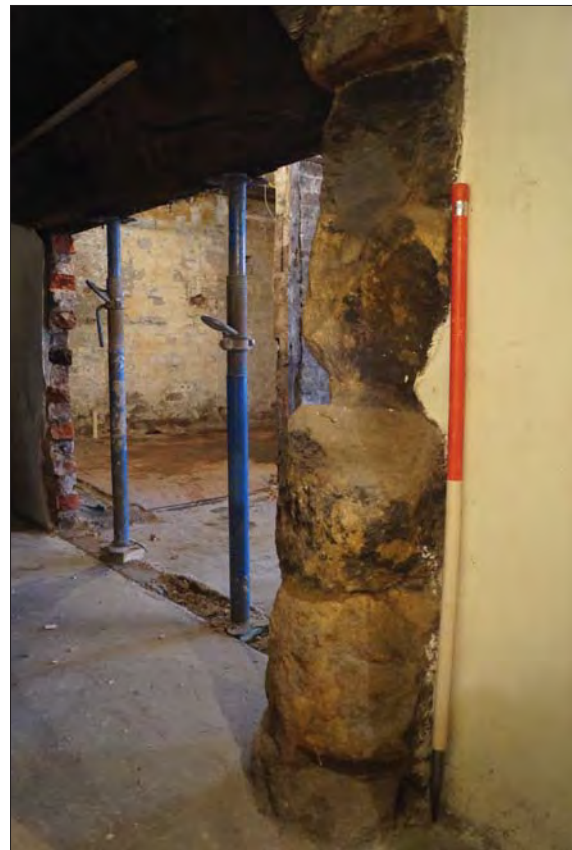


Plate 12. Fireplace Jamb
Following Stripping Out Works

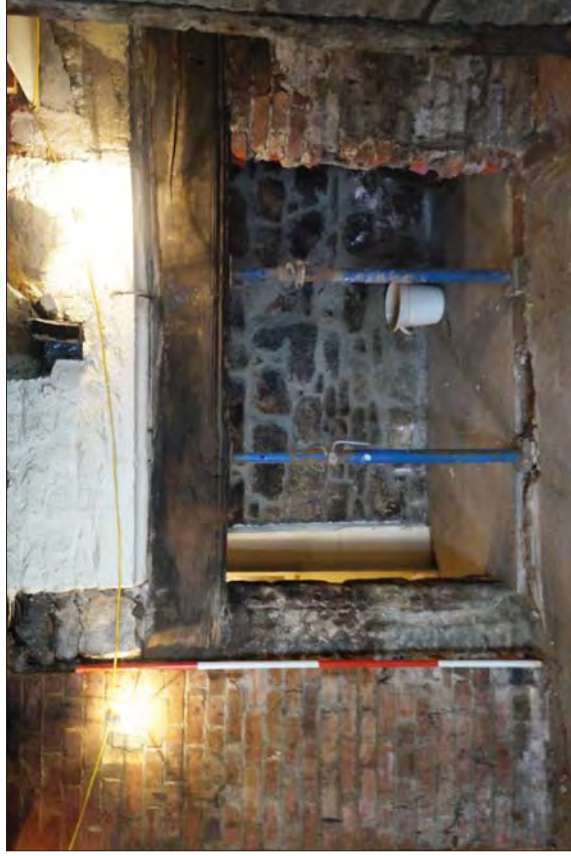


Plate 13. Exposed Late Medieval Style Fireplace



Plate 14. Exposed Late Medieval Style Fireplace



Plate 15. Exposed Late Medieval Style Fireplace
Showing Projected Carving on Stone Hood



Plate 16. Internal Chimney Structure



Plate 17. North-Western
Jamb and Brick Infill.
Note Peg Holes
In Wooden Lintel



Plate 18. Carving on
Wooden Lintel



Plate 19. Detailed
Sot of North-Western
Fireplace Jamb

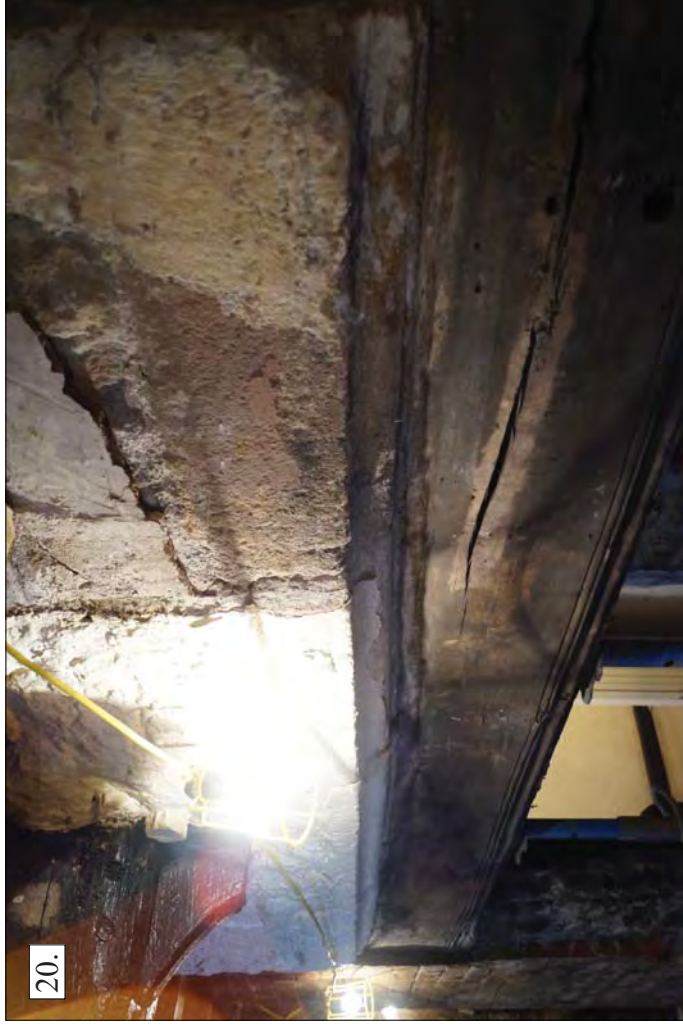


Plate 20. Transverse
Beam and Stone Hood



Plate 21. Oak Panelling Around
Large Stone Fireplace



Plate 22. Oak Panelling Around
Large Stone Fireplace



Plate 23. Oak Panelling Around
Large Stone Fireplace



Plate 24. Stone Hood Projecting
Above Oak Panelling



Plate 25. Timber Framed Partition Wall with Later Brick Nogging



Plate 26. Possible Blocked Doorway in Late 19th/Early 20th Century Frontage



Plate 27. Mortice Joint in Timber Framing

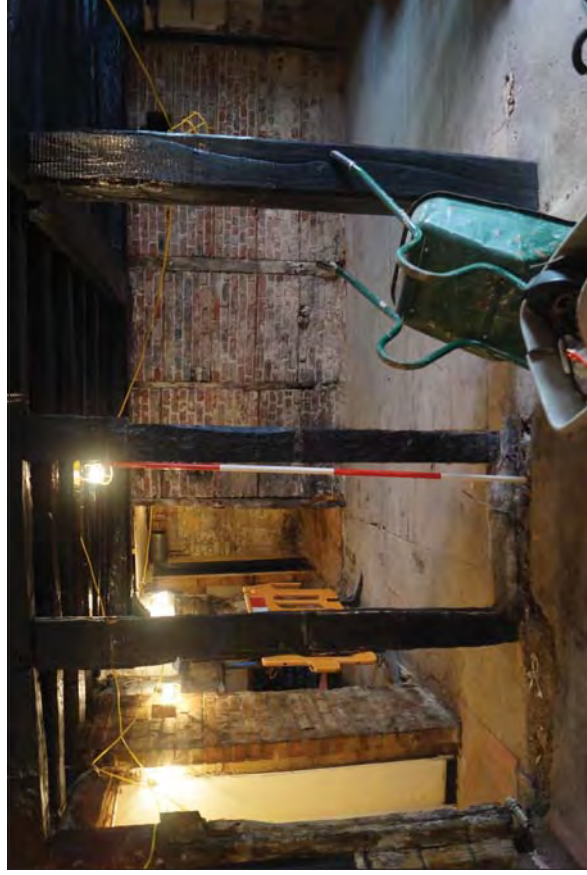


Plate 28. Background - Timber Framed Wall With Later Brick Nogging. Foreground - Timber Uprights of Internal Partition



Plate 29. Timber Uprights of Internal Partition - Note Peg Holes in the Central and Right Hand Posts

The exposed fireplace is shown on figure 8 and in plates 9 – 20 and is believed to be a feature of the 16th Century house. When built the chimney stack would have been external feature and it has become incorporated into a later building extension. Stylistically the moulding on the beam and the stone work could be Late Medieval in date but this form was utilised into the 16th Century. Chronologically this fireplace would be in-keeping with a 1540's date but the possibility that this is a reused earlier feature or salvaged from another structure cannot be ruled out.

The fireplace was blocked off using brick, a material which was not mass produced in North Wales prior to the 1760's. The uneven texture of the bricks and the absence of a frog is consistent with them having been hand-made and fired in a clamp kiln. The bricks are a standardised size of 0.22 – 0.23m in length x 0.07m in width x 0.09 – 0.10m thick indicating a single source. It is difficult to assign an exact date to the brick manufacture but the likely range is from c.1760 – 1830. These bricks were found elsewhere in the property and had been used as nogging on the partition wall described below, and in the manufacture of a fireplace in the front lounge area. The brick utilised in the elevation to the south-east of the fireplace was machine made and is of twentieth century date.

In the main bar area the blocked fireplace had been enclosed using oak panelling (plates 21 – 24) which had presumably been taken from elsewhere in the building. The existence of a later twentieth century wall behind the panelling (as can be seen on plates 13 & 15) is evidence that this movement took place relatively recently. The panelling itself can be seen to have been cut to fit the space and had not been particularly well matched together as can be seen in plate 23. Although obscured by heavy black gloss paint the panels themselves are of an early eighteenth century style.

When the modern render and electric fire were removed from the north-western wall of the bar room, a timber framed partition with later brick nogging was revealed. The use of timber in this wall indicates that it is an early feature – presumably within the first 50 – 100 years of the build date. The replacement of the earlier wattle and daub is interesting as this has not been carried out elsewhere. It is clear from the location of the fireplace that this is an internal rather than an external wall.

As mentioned above the bricks are of the same size (0.22 – 0.23m in length x 0.07m in width x 0.09 – 0.10m thick) as those used to block the adjacent large stone fireplace and to build the fireplace in the front lounge area and these features may represent a single phase of improvements to the property. The blocking of one fireplace at the same time as another is created would seem to be a sensible option.

This partition has survived from early in the architectural sequence and it is unclear as to whether the round peg holes in the fireplace lintel are related to the timber framed division or later additions, although it must be noted that they are not on the same alignment as the later wall.

The fireplace is partially obscured by this partition which creates a narrow passageway at the north-western end of the building. This area has been heavily modified and it is not possible to determine from the exposed area whether this passage once led to the upper or rear rooms, allowing the bar area to be bypassed. A doorway had been inserted between the panel and the fireplace and it remains unresolved as to whether this opening was in place when the partition was originally installed.

The removal of the bar fully revealed four upright timber supports (plates 28 & 29), one supporting the axial/transverse beams and two supporting the transverse beam. This would have formed an internal division and the peg holes survive on two of the posts as does the sill plate between them.



Plate 30. Early Twentieth Century
Bar Fixture - Case for Spirits and Glasses

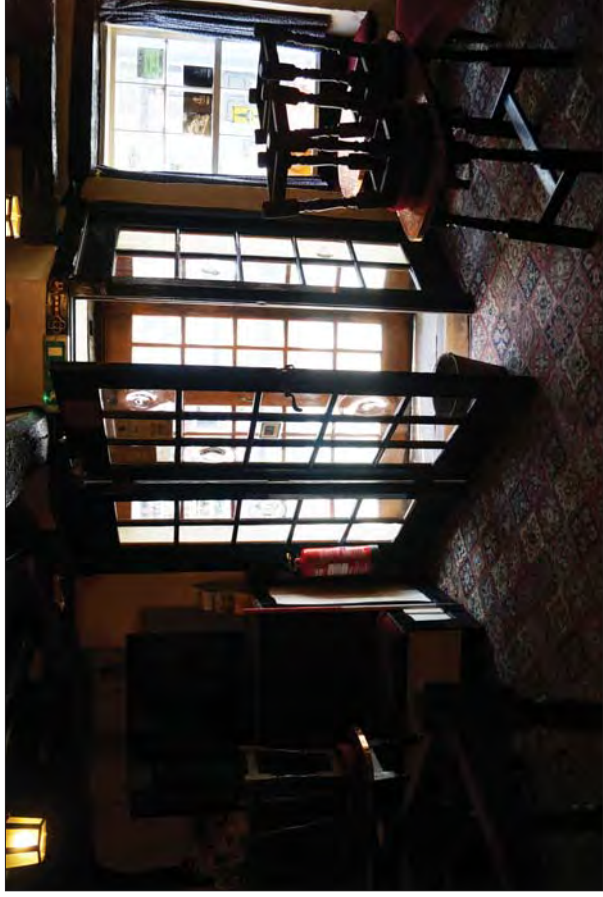


Plate 31. Lounge Area Prior to Commencement of
Works. Modern Doors and Vestibule



Plate 32. Lounge Area Prior to Commencement of
Works. Jetty and Original Partition



Plate 33. Lounge Area - Modern Fireplace with
Faux Woodwork Covering Georgian Fireplace

The axial post appears to be a modern replacement as, although it is difficult to see with the layers of black gloss paint, there are striations around the post which are also seen on other later wooden additions that have been made to appear to be timber framing but which clearly are not.

The final feature of interest uncovered in this area was the remains of a surround of an early twentieth century bar fixture. Plate 30 shows a cabinet for spirits and glasses which was located behind the modern bar.

Lounge Area – Front (Figure 7, Plates 31 - 37)

The front lounge area had again been subject to later twentieth century styling whereby faux timber framing elements had been added to the walls and original framing. There were original and earlier architectural details amongst the later additions. Plate 32 shows the partition wall with curved jetty bracket and the ceiling beams are visible in plates 32 & 33. Plate 34 shows the area leading into the rear lounge.

Following the stripping out of this area a late Georgian brick fireplace was uncovered. Brick is not mass produced in North Wales prior to the 1760's and the feature would therefore not predate this. It is difficult to assign an exact date to the fireplace but the likely range is from c.1760 – 1830.

The later part of this date range would tie in with the increase in the size and importance of Beaumaris following the completion of Telford's Menai Bridge, but the earlier dates cannot be discounted. The bricks exhibit a range of colours and many are burnt, although there are far fewer half bricks used in the fireplace than in some of the in-fill panels.

The stripping out of this room has led to the possible reinterpretation of some of the observations made during the earlier building recording conducted by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT 855). The south-eastern and south-western walls of the front lounge may well not be 19th century masonry built around a timber frame and they may represent the remains of an earlier building phase. This could not be confirmed as the plaster was not removed around the key areas where walls join but an examination of the building cellar was made. This was found to be stone built and was clearly not a later insertion below the building. What was clear when the plaster was removed is that the building frontage was that it was brick built (see plate 35) and is a later phase than the south-eastern elevation and the stonework between the back and front lounges.

Cellar (Plates 38 – 41)

The cellar is a stone built room which can be accessed through an opening in the floor of the bar area and via an arched doorway on Church Street. The Church Street doorway is a later opening and it is unclear as to whether there was an existing door here before the remodelling of the front elevation in the late nineteenth/early twentieth century. If there was an earlier opening it was completely destroyed by the current access.

The construction of the cellar walls appears very similar to that seen in the dividing wall between the front and rear lounge and it is possible that the rear cellar wall continues up to form the rear (south-western) wall of the south-eastern bays of the building.

Rear Lounge Area (Plates 42 – 46)

Very little stripping work was carried out in the rear lounge and following the removal of faux timber framing and beams which had been nailed to the walls the room was re-plastered without further stripping. There were no additional features noted which were not covered by Davidson and Berks who noted the survival of stone corbels and jetty elements in this room. The entire north-west – south-east elevation was drawn as an elements of their works (GAT Report 855).



Plate 34. Front Lounge Prior to the Commencement of Works



Plate 36. Late Georgian Brick Fireplace With Wooden Lintel Concealed Behind Later Render



Plate 35. Brick Arch Detail Above Cellar Door



Plate 37. Ceiling Above Front Lounge Showing Position Of Earlier (Original?) Stairway to First Floor



Plate 38. Cellar Drop from Bar Area
Note Stepped Rough Stone Corbelling to Left Hand Side



Plate 39. Cellar Skids from Church Street Drop
Note Possible Original Beam on Right Hand Side



Plate 40. Stone Built Cellar



Plate 41. Stone Built Cellar with Modern Upright and Concrete Floor



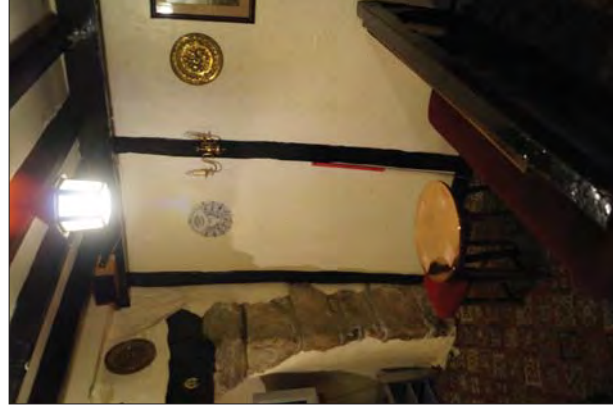
Plate 42. Stone Partition Wall and Corbel Supporting Head Beam



Plate 43. Corbel Supporting Head Beam



Plates 44. Fireplace in Rear Lounge Area Prior to
The Commencement of Works



Plates 45. Rear Lounge
Prior to Works



Plates 46. Rear Lounge
Prior to Works

Other Areas

For completeness two other plates have been included. Plate 47 shows the décor in the ladies' toilets and demonstrates the complete obscuring of any historic fabric. Plate 48 shows three of the projecting jetty joists in the area behind the bar. These were drawn during the GAT survey.

6.0 Conclusion

The George and Dragon Hotel is a well-preserved timber framed building with later façade and extensions. The refurbishment works uncovered several features of interest including a large Late Medieval fire place, the location of an earlier stairway, the remains of a timber-framed partition wall, a Later Georgian fire place and an Early 20th century bar fitting.

The possibility has arisen that the stone elements of the south-eastern range may be earlier than first thought and the interpretation of them as later 19th Century masonry may be incorrect. It would be of interest to conduct dendrochronological dating on the lintel in the stone fireplace which was uncovered and the large beam in the cellar.

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Plate 47. Ladies Toilet



Plate 48. Three Projecting Jetty Joists in Area Behind Bar

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Appendix A.

Specification for Archaeological Works

Specification for Archaeological Works at

**The George & Dragon Hotel,
Church Street, Beaumaris**

NGR SH 60519 76071

Project Number CR129-2016



C.R Archaeology

Compiled by Catherine Rees

On Behalf of Mr P. Ingham of Frederic Robinson Limited

Specification for Archaeological Works at The George & Dragon Hotel, Church Street, Beaumaris

Planning Application Number:	12C90C/LB
National Grid Reference:	SH 60519 76071
Client:	Mr P. Ingham of Frederick Robinson Limited
Report Author:	Catherine Rees
Report Number:	CR129-2016
Date:	14/05/2016

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Illustrations

Figure 1. Site Location Map

Appendices

Appendix A. Proposed Site Works

1.0 Introduction

C.R Archaeology have been instructed by Mr P. Ingham of Frederick Robinson Limited to conduct archaeological works at the George and Dragon Hotel, Church Street, Beaumaris (figure 1).

The building is currently in use as a public house with accommodation at first floor level. The works to the building will affect the ground floor only and this area undergo refurbishment. As part of this project the following alterations are to be undertaken: the existing Bar Service to be removed and installation of new fittings incorporating a salvaged timber panelled bar front, the removal of existing doors and replacement with fire doors where identified on proposed plans, the refurbishing of ladies toilets and catering kitchen, the reinstatement of existing fire place in Bar Lounge, the formation of new opening into the catering kitchen from main bar lounge area and minor internal alterations (see appendix a). It was therefore deemed necessary to record any features of archaeological/historical interest uncovered during the programme of works.

The George and Dragon is located on one of the principal streets within the Medieval walled town of Beaumaris, which was established following the conquest of Wales by Edward I. The building of Beaumaris Castle was begun in 1295 and the castle was the last royal stronghold to be built by Edward in Wales. It completed the chain of fortifications with which he had begun to enclose Gwynedd in 1277. The town received its charter in 1296 and building began at around this time.

The Town Wall at Beaumaris has not survived in as complete a state as those at Conwy or Caernarfon, although there is a substantial surviving fragment 20m long, 3m high and 1.75m wide (SAM AN123). Beaumaris Castle is a Scheduled Ancient Monuments (AN001) and together with Conwy Castle and fortifications, Caernarfon Castle and fortifications and Harlech Castle, it is a World Heritage Site (Ref 374). These fortifications are considered to be the finest examples of late 13th and early 14th century military architecture in Europe, demonstrated through their completeness, pristine state, evidence for organized domestic space, and extraordinary repertory of their medieval architectural form.

The area of the town of Beaumaris within the original circuit of the Town Wall is considered to form part of the essential setting of the World Heritage Site and the historic town core - which includes the George and Dragon, is a Conservation Area.

The George and Dragon is a Grade II* Listed Building (Cadw ID: 5617) and is Listed for its exceptional interest as an early C17 house with later modification and alteration to a public house, with especially fine C17 interior detail.

The works to be undertaken are comprised of a Level 3 Building Recording of the of the structure as it currently stands prior to the commencement of works, with follow up visits to record the building interior following the removal of modern features. Extensive historical research has previously been undertaken at the site and this information will be summarised within this document but additional research will not be undertaken.

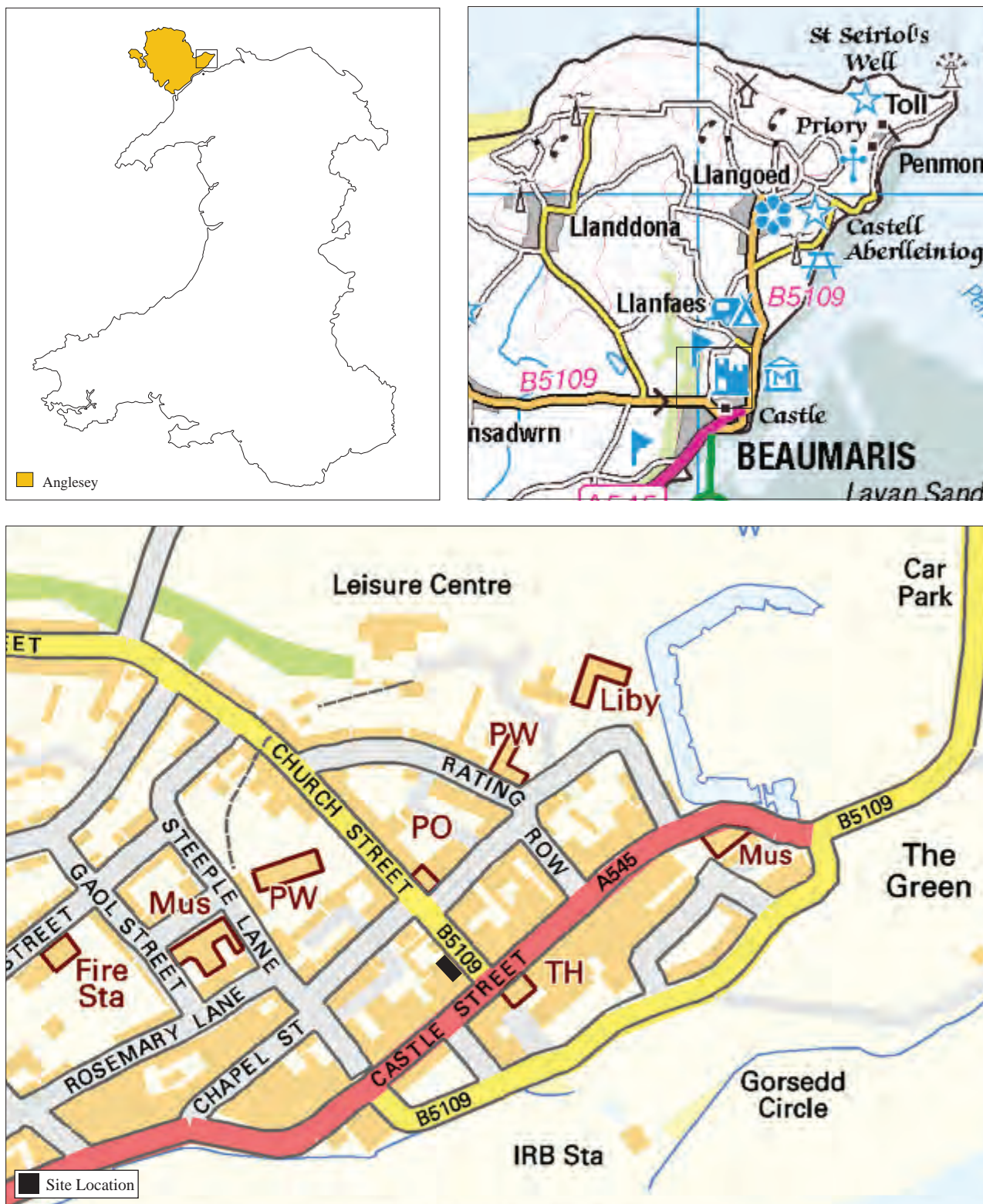


Figure 1. Site Location Map

(Source: OS Open Data Mapping. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right [2016])

2.0 Project Aims & Objectives

The aim of this programme of works is to create a Level 3 Building Record of the George and Dragon Hotel with emphasis placed on the ground floor bar area where the refurbishment works are to be undertaken.

It aims to fulfil the mitigation criteria for undertaking an Archaeological Building Recording as specified in the CIfA Standard and Guidance documents (2014).

The objectives of the archaeological programme are to provide an archive record of the building; to increase understanding of the site's history, development and significance and to make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

3.0 Brief Historical Background

This section is through necessity brief and is intended merely to provide a basic outline of the history and archaeology of the immediate area. Extensive research into the history of the property was conducted out by the "Discovering Old Welsh Houses" group and this data will be incorporated into the final report for this project. New research will not be conducted unless necessary to put newly uncovered features into a wider context.

The site is located on one of the principal streets within the medieval walled town of Beaumaris and is likely to occupy part of one of the original burgage plots laid out when the town was planned following the establishment of the settlement by Edward I in the 1290's.

The Listed Building Description records:

"Location

Fronting the street and set back from the junction with Castle Street.

History

Probably built in 1610, the date (now concealed) recorded on a roof truss in the 1930s, and originally timber-framed with jettied upper storey. The George & Dragon is shown on the 1829 town plan and 1889 Ordnance Survey with a house and shop immediately to the S which has now been incorporated into the public house. The present front is a C20 remodelling subsequent to the amalgamation of the 2 properties, when the upper storey was under-built, with later alteration.

Interior

The lower storey has been modernised but retains cross beams and timber-framed partitions, one with exposed wattle, in the lower storey. One of the brackets that formerly supported the upper storey has also survived. The lateral fireplace on the R side survives partially, and has a timber lintel under a moulded cornice. The L gable end has a later, plainer but larger fireplace with stop-chamfered lintel.

In the upper storey, at the N end, is an arched-brace truss on a wooden bracket, and 2 timber-framed partitions, and cusped wind braces. One of the partitions, the gable end of the original building, has herringbone struts in the gable. The other partition retains fragments of wall painting, including 2 horned devils in a roundel to the R side, and a cross with bleeding heart beneath the apex. Below a beam bears the restored inscription 'PAX DEUS VOBIS REQUIE DEFUGE DEUS PROVIDEBIT ...'.

Exterior

A 2-storey public house, with a neo-Georgian style front of pebble-dashed walls with smooth-rendered architraves and upper-storey sill band, slate roof, roughcast stack L of centre and 2 tall stone stacks to the rear. In the 6-window front, the lower storey has a 12-pane hornless sash window to the L end, then a modern door, a segmental-headed, studded cellar door with small window above it, two 12-pane hornless sashes, a doorway with panel door and glazed panels, a tripartite 12-pane horned sash window and boarded door at the R end. Between storeys is a rendered inscription band with raised letters and the date 1410. In the upper storey are 4-pane horned sashes, unequally placed and including a tripartite window at the R end.

Additions have been made to the rear, on the R of which is a C17 or C18 kitchen.

Reason for Listing

Listed grade II for its exceptional interest as an early C17 house with later modification and alteration to a public house, with especially fine C17 interior detail” (www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk).*

4.0 Scheme of Works - Methodology

The proposed works will be conducted in two stages with the first to be undertaken immediately. The second stage is the recording of the building interior following the stripping out of modern features to ascertain as to whether there is further surviving historic fabric and to record any surviving features.

4.1 Scheme of Works – Methodology for Building Recording

The methodology employed will conform to the requirements for a Level 3 Building Record as specified in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (English Heritage 2016) and The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (2014).

The following points are detailed in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (English Heritage 2016).

The record created for the site will consist of:

Written Account	Points 1-3, 5-9, 13-15, 17 – 22
Drawings	Points 2, 6-9
Photography	Points 1-2, 4-5, 7-9.

4.1.1 Desk Based Research

A detailed history of the site has been compiled by the “Discovering Old Welsh Houses” group and this data will be incorporated into the final report for this project. New research will not be conducted unless necessary to put newly uncovered features into a wider context.

This material will form the historical background for the archaeological report. The report will also include the results of the photographic survey and an additional compact disc containing all site images in Tiff format.

The works will be conducted in accordance with the CIfA Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment (2014) and will include the information required to fulfil points 1-3, 5-9, 13-15, 17 - 22 as specified in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (English Heritage 2016).

4.1.2 Drawn Survey

Architects plans and elevations of the building have been produced and these will be annotated and amended as necessary to reflect the current building layout and to aid in the interpretation of any building phasing. These drawings will be utilised to fulfil points 2, 6-9 as specified in *“Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice”* (English Heritage 2016). Location plans and historical material will be produced/sourced by C.R Archaeology to fulfil criteria 8-9 in the aforementioned document.

Drawn records of any undiscovered features will be produced by C.R Archaeology as necessary.

4.1.3 Photographic Survey

A photographic survey of the building will be undertaken. This will include:

- 1) A photographic survey of the exterior including general shots of the site environs
- 2) A photographic survey of the interior of the building with particular emphasis on the area which is to be renovated

The methodology employed will conform to the requirements of photographic recording to the equivalent of a Level 3 Survey, as specified in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (English Heritage 2016) and will include works specified in points 1-2, 4-5, 7-9.

4.1.3.1 Equipment

The photographic survey will be undertaken using a 20.1 mega-pixel Sony Alpha58 digital camera with a variety of standard and other lenses using a tripod where necessary. Images will be captured in RAW format for later processing into high resolution JPG and TIFF files.

Where possible all exterior and interior elevations of the building will be photographed with scales from ground level. Additional photographs will be taken detailing important architectural features and the general setting of the site.

4.2 Archive Compilation

All records created during the fieldwork will be checked for consistency and accuracy and will form part of the *Primary Site Archive (PI)* (EH 2006). The archive will contain all data collected, including records and other specialist materials. It will be ordered, indexed, adequately documented, internally consistent, secure, quantified, conforming to standards required by the archive repository and signposted appropriately to ensure future use in research, as detailed in the English Heritage *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) methodology.

The archive will be assembled in accordance with the guidelines published in, *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museums & Galleries Commission 1994), *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990) and *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2007).

4.3. Timetable for Proposed Works

It is envisaged that initial works at the site will commence as soon as possible. Initial site work (photographic building recording) is to take place over one day with further site visits during/after the stripping out of modern features has been undertaken. Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services will be informed of the exact site days to allow monitoring of works.

4.3.1 Staffing

The project will be managed by Catherine Rees (MCIfA, BA, MA, PgDip HEC, MCIfA).

All projects are carried out in accordance with CIfA *Standard and Guidance* documents.

4.3.2 Monitoring

The project will be subject to monitoring by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services. The monitor will be given prior notice of the commencement of the fieldwork. A projected time-scale and copy of the risk assessment can be provided on request to the monitoring body prior to the commencement of works. GAPS will be notified in writing of the commencement dates for archaeological site work.

4.3.3 Health and Safety

A risk assessment will be conducted prior to the commencement of works and site staff will be familiarised with its contents. A first aid kit will be located in the site vehicle.

All staff will be issued with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the site work.

Initially this is anticipated to consist of:

- Safety Helmets (EN397)
- Hi-visibility vests (EN471)
- Safety footwear – steel toecap and mid-sole boots and Wellingtons (EN345-47)

Any further PPE required will be provided by C.R Archaeology

All staff will have passed at least a CITB health and safety test at least operative level and will carry a Construction Related Organisation (CRO) White Card for Archaeological Technician (Code 5363) or a Site Visitor card.

C.R Archaeology staff will also comply with any Health and Safety Policy or specific on-site instructions provided by the client or their appointed Principal contractor or H&S coordinator.

4.4 The Report

The report will clearly and accurately incorporate information gained from the programme of archaeological works. It will present the documentary evidence in such a way as to create a clear and coherent record. The report will contain a site plan showing the locations of photographs taken.

The report will combine the results from the various phases of works and will include:

- a copy of the design brief and agreed specification
- a location plan based on current OS mapping at an appropriate scale
- sufficient historical and archaeological detail to allow interpretation of the results and to support an assessment of significance
- full dimensional and descriptive detail of significant new features
- a full bibliography of sources consulted
- an archive compact disc

The report will detail the results of the Level 3 Building recording and combine the results of the pre-commencement photographic survey, photographs/drawings taken/made following the stripping out of the ground floor area, the drawn record and the archival research.

Copies of the reports in Adobe PDF format will be sent to the appropriate monitoring archaeologist for approval before formal submission. A bound paper copy and PDF digital copy of the report will be submitted as part of the formal submission. A digital Adobe PDF version and a bound paper copy of the final report and will be lodged with the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record within six months of completion of fieldwork.

A summary of the work will be published in the Archaeology in Wales Journal.

4.4.1 Copyright

C.R Archaeology and sub-contractors shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides a licence to the client and the local authority for the use of the report by the client and the local authority in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

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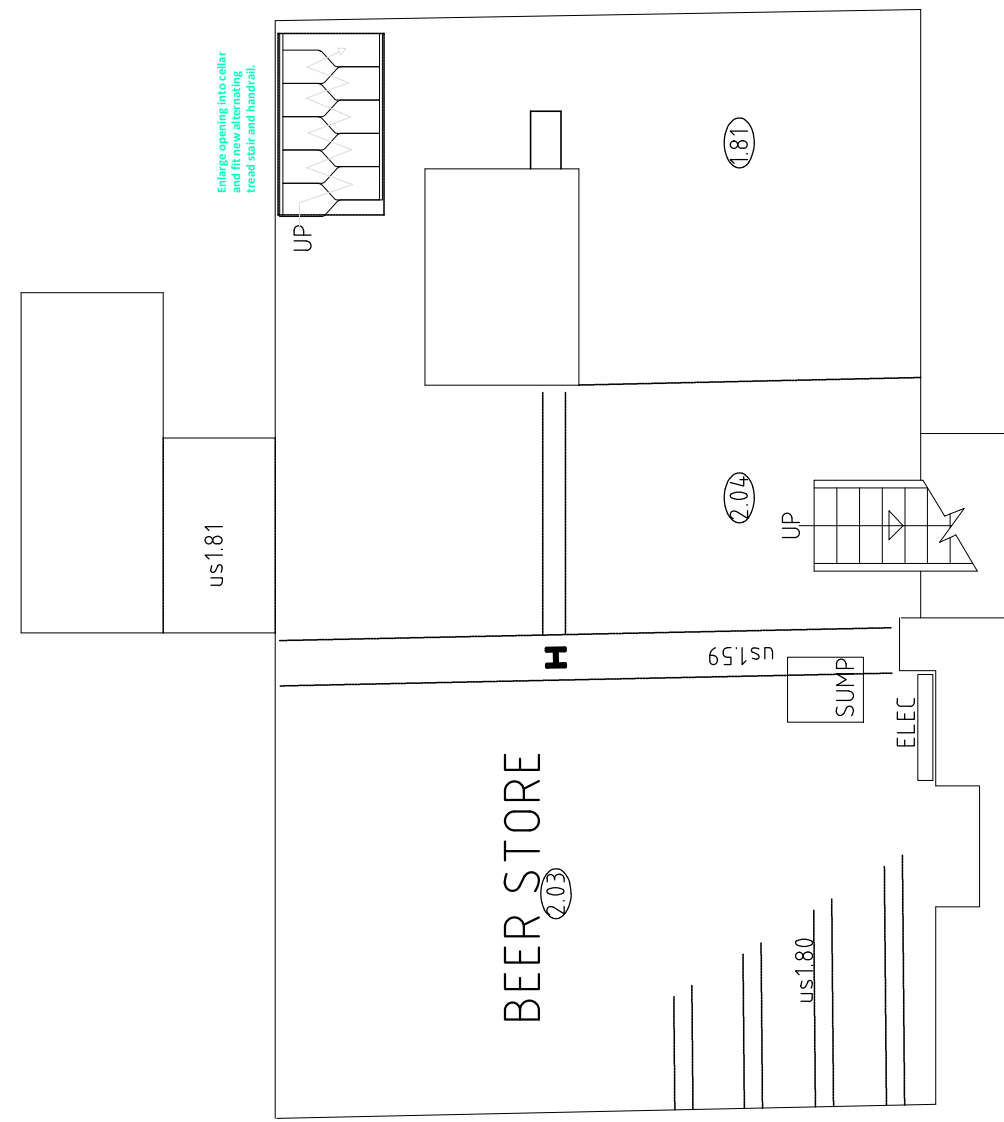
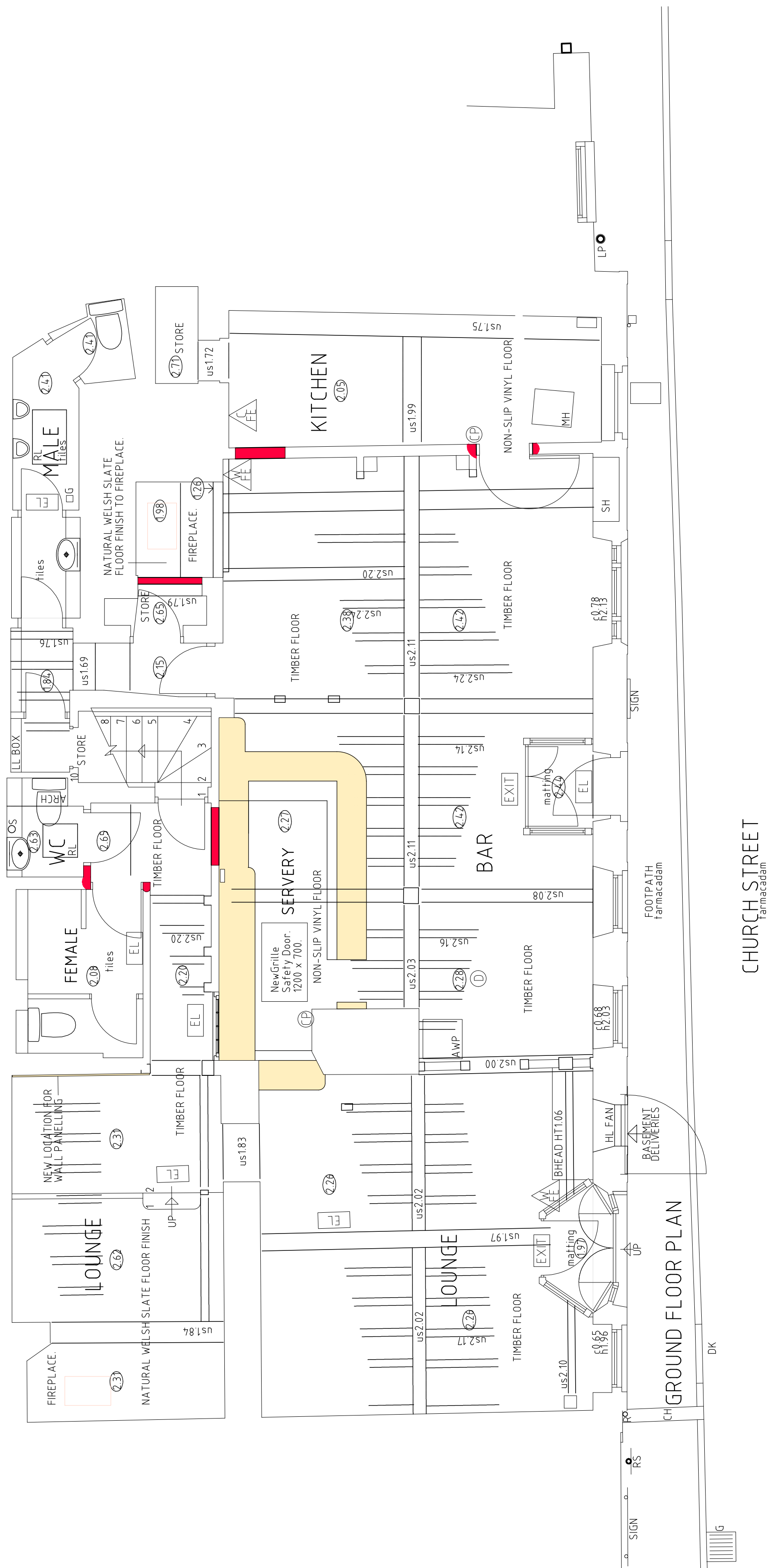
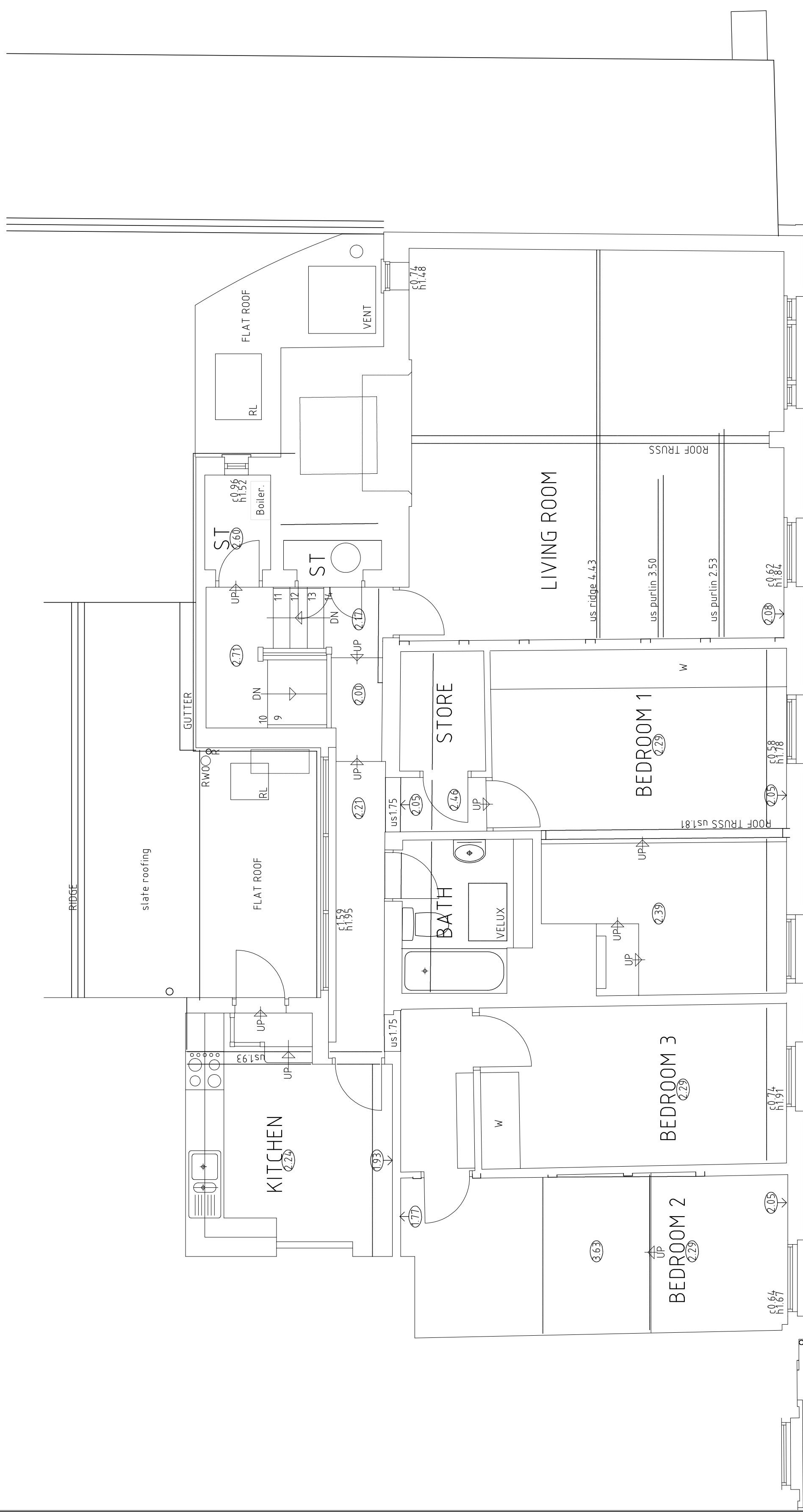
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www.coflein.gov.uk

www.historicwales.gov.uk/



KEY	FA CALL POINT
Ⓢ	ILLUMINATED EXIT SIGN
EXIT	EMERGENCY LIGHT
EL	FIRE DETECTOR
①	FIRE BLANKET
FB	EXTINGUISHER - WATER
W	EXTINGUISHER - WATER PLUS
W+	EXTINGUISHER - FOAM
F+	EXTINGUISHER - CO2
FE	EXTINGUISHER - DRY POWDER
FE	

CEILING LIGHT
WALL LIGHT
TABLE LIGHT
RECESSED DOWN LIGHT
SPOT LIGHT
FLUORESCENT STRIP LIGHTS
POWER (SS0)
RADIATOR

REVISION	NOTES	REV BY
/	INITIAL ISSUE	AA

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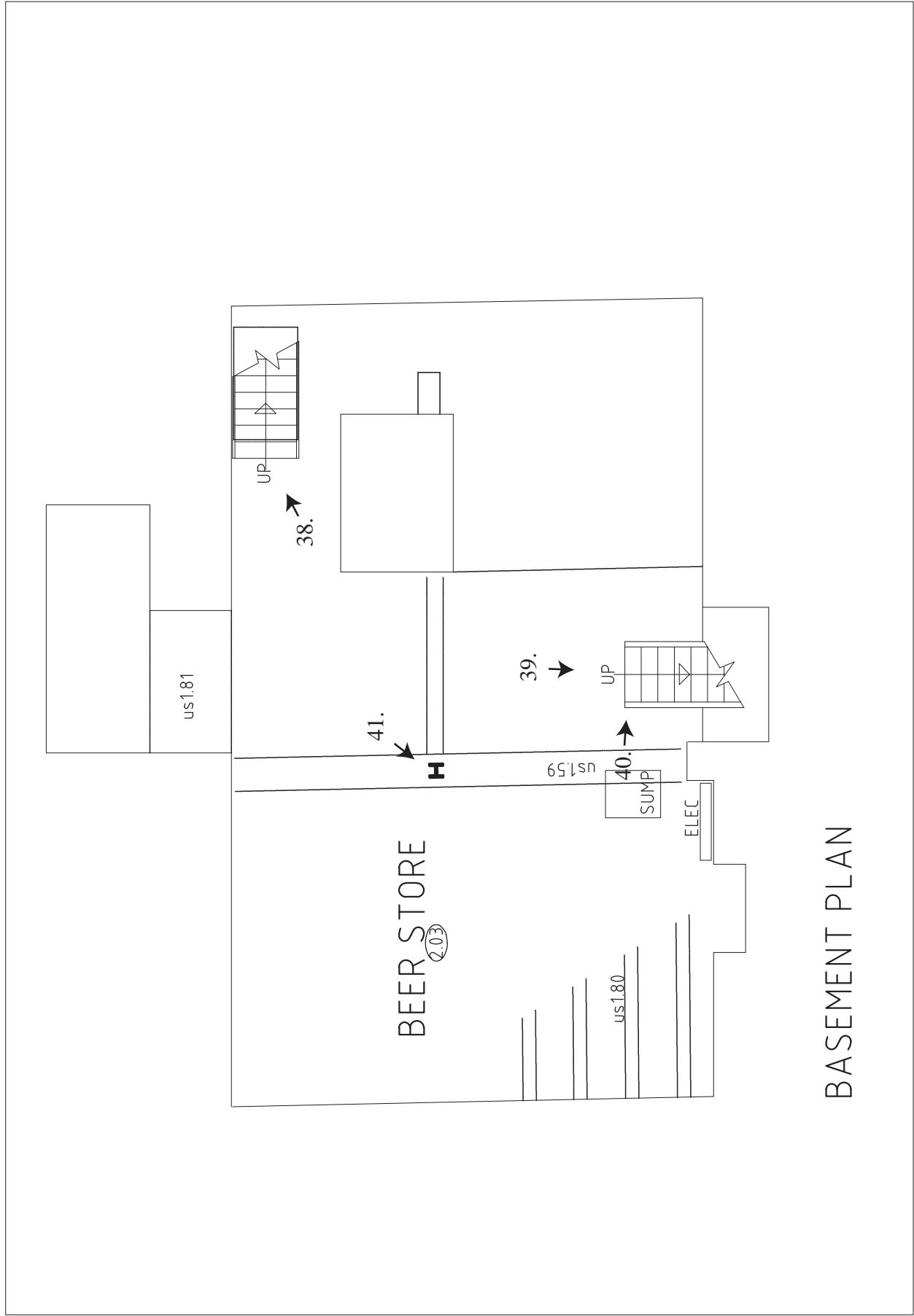
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PROPERTY DEPARTMENT
UNICORN BREWERY
STOCKPORT CHESHIRE
SK1 1JJ
Tel: +44 (0)161 480 6571
Fax: +44 (0)161 476 6011
Email: info@frederic-robinson.co.uk

OR TITLE:	George and Dragon, Beaumaris.			
DRAWING TITLE:	Cellar, Ground and First Floor Plans as Proposed.			
DRAWN BY:	PCJ	CHECKED BY:	AA	DATE: May 15
PERMISS CODE:		DRAWING NUMBER:	TO 0128	
		QUANTITY:	SCALE: 1:50	@A1
		REVISION:	201	/

Appendix B.

Location and Direction of Photographic Plates

Appendix B. Location and Direction of Photographic Plates. Drawing Produced and Supplied by Robinson's Brewery



BASEMENT PLAN

Appendix B. Location and Direction of Photographic Plates. Drawing Produced and Supplied by Robinson's Brewery

Specification for Archaeological Works at The George & Dragon Hotel, Church Street, Beaumaris

Planning Application Number:	12C90C/LB
National Grid Reference:	SH 60519 76071
Client:	Mr P. Ingham of Frederick Robinson Limited
Report Author:	Catherine Rees
Report Number:	CR129-2016
Date:	02/02/2017

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Appendix A. Specification for Archaeological Works

Appendix B. Location and Direction of Photographic Plates

1.0 Introduction

C.R Archaeology were instructed by Mr P. Ingham of Frederick Robinson Limited to conduct archaeological works at the George and Dragon Hotel, Church Street, Beaumaris (figure 1).

The building is currently in use as a public house with accommodation at first floor level. Refurbishment works to the building were undertaken which affected the ground floor. The following alterations were undertaken: the existing bar service area was removed and new fixtures and fittings were installed which incorporated a salvaged timber panelled bar front, the existing doors were removed and replaced with fire doors where identified on proposed plans, the ladies toilets and catering kitchen were refurbished, the existing fireplace in the bar lounge was reinstated, a new opening was formed into the catering kitchen from main bar lounge area and minor internal alterations shown in the plans were carried out (see appendix a). It was therefore deemed necessary to record any features of archaeological/architectural interest which were uncovered during the programme of works.

The George and Dragon is located on one of the principal streets within the Medieval walled town of Beaumaris, which was established following the conquest of Wales by Edward I. The building of Beaumaris Castle was begun in 1295 and the castle was the last royal stronghold to be built by Edward in Wales. It completed the chain of fortifications with which he had begun to enclose Gwynedd in 1277. The town received its charter in 1296 and building began at around this time.

The Town Wall at Beaumaris has not survived in as complete a state as those at Conwy or Caernarfon, although there is a substantial surviving fragment 20m long, 3m high and 1.75m wide (SAM AN123). Beaumaris Castle is a Scheduled Ancient Monuments (AN001) and together with Conwy Castle and fortifications, Caernarfon Castle and fortifications and Harlech Castle, it is a World Heritage Site (Ref 374). These fortifications are considered to be the finest examples of late 13th and early 14th century military architecture in Europe, demonstrated through their completeness, pristine state, evidence for organized domestic space, and extraordinary repertory of their medieval architectural form.

The area of the town of Beaumaris within the original circuit of the Town Wall is considered to form part of the essential setting of the World Heritage Site and the historic town core - which includes the George and Dragon, is a Conservation Area.

The George and Dragon is a Grade II* Listed Building (Cadw ID: 5617) and is Listed for its exceptional interest as an early C17th house with later modification and alteration to a public house, with especially fine C17th interior detail.

The works undertaken comprised a Level 2/3 Building Recording of the of the structure as it currently stands prior to the commencement of works, with follow up visits undertaken to record the building interior following the removal of modern features. Extensive historical research had previously been undertaken at the site and this information has been incorporated into this document. Additional archive research was undertaken to supplement these existing works.

Features of archaeological/architectural interest were uncovered during these renovation works. These included a large late Medieval fire place, the location of an earlier stairway, the remains of a timber-framed partition wall, a Later Georgian fire place and an Early 20th century bar fitting.

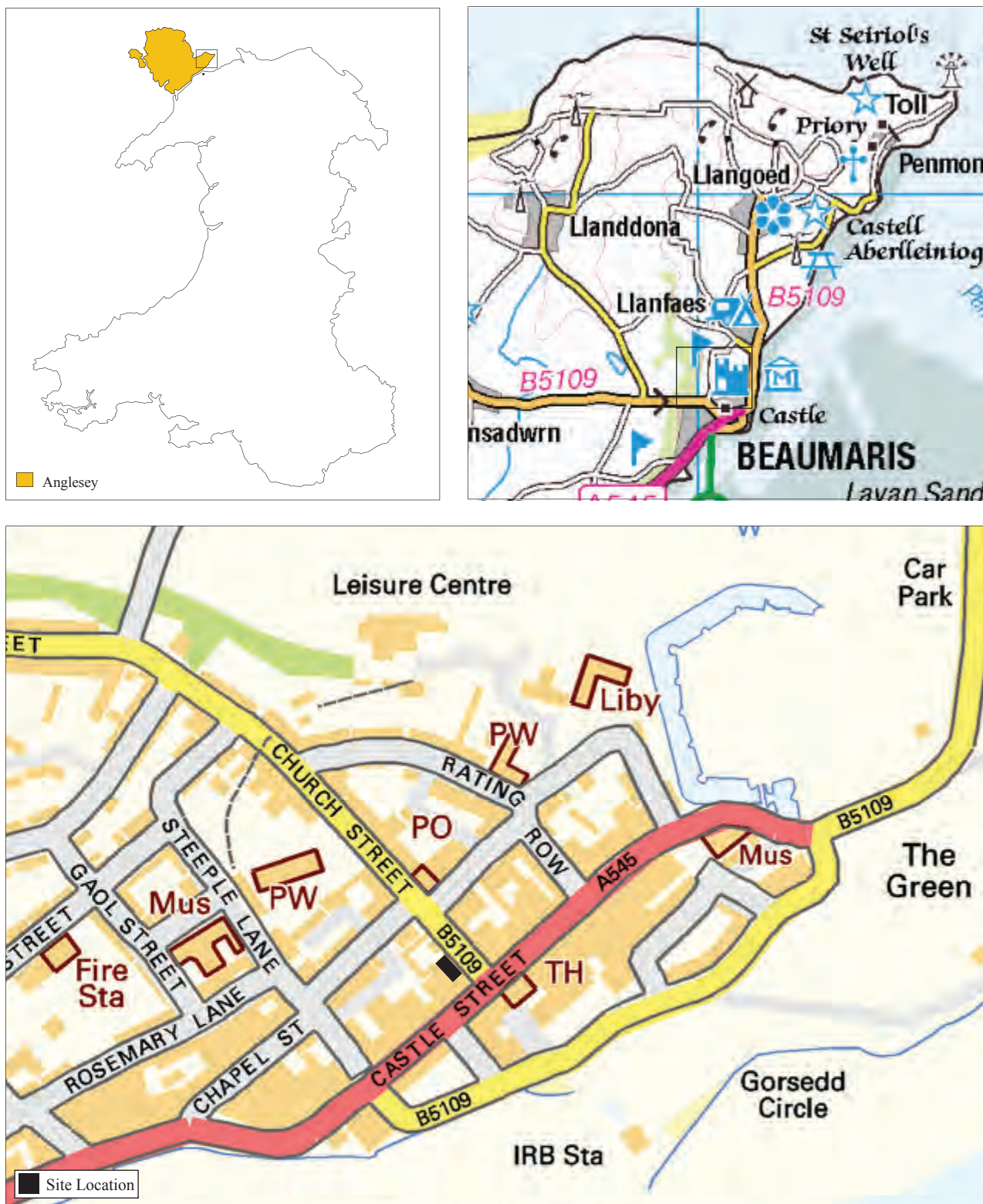


Figure 1. Site Location Map

(Source: OS Open Data Mapping. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right [2016])

2.0 Project Aims & Objectives

The aim of this programme of works was to create a Level 2/3 Building Record of the George and Dragon Hotel with emphasis placed on the ground floor bar area where the refurbishment works were undertaken.

It aimed to fulfil the mitigation criteria for undertaking an Archaeological Building Recording as specified in the CIfA Standard and Guidance documents (revised 2014).

The objectives of the archaeological programme were to provide an archive record of the building; to increase understanding of the site's history, development and significance and to make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

3.0 Scheme of Works - Methodology

The works were conducted in two stages with the first photographic survey undertaken on the 17th May 2016. The second stage was the recording of the building interior following the stripping out of modern features to ascertain as to whether there were further surviving historic fabric elements and to record any surviving features. Return site visits were made on the 30th September and the 5th October 2016.

3.1 Scheme of Works – Methodology for Building Recording

The methodology employed conformed to the requirements for a Level 3 Building Record as specified in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (Historic England 2016) and The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (2014).

The following points are detailed in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (Historic England 2016).

The record created for the site consists of:

Written Account	Points 1-3, 5-9, 13-15, 17 – 22
Drawings	Points 2, 6-9
Photography	Points 1-2, 4-5, 7-9.

3.1.1 Desk Based Research

A detailed history of the site has been compiled by Mark Shepard of the “Discovering Old Welsh Houses” group and this data was incorporated into the final report for this project. Further limited research was conducted to elaborate upon these findings. Where the research was not conducted by C.R Archaeology this is stated in the text.

This material forms the historical background for the archaeological report. The report also includes the results of the photographic survey and an additional compact disc containing all site images in Tiff format.

The works were conducted in accordance with the CIfA Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment (2014) and include the information required to fulfil points 1-3, 5-9, 13-15, 17 - 22 as specified in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (Historic England 2016).

3.1.2 Drawn Survey

Architects plans and elevations of the building have been supplied by Frederic Robinson Limited and these have been annotated and amended as necessary to aid in the interpretation of the building phasing. These drawings have been utilised to fulfil points 2, 6-9 as specified in “*Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*” (Historic England 2016). Location plans and historical material has been produced/sourced by C.R Archaeology to fulfil criteria 8-9 in the aforementioned document.

A drawn record of an undiscovered feature (a large stone fireplace) was produced by C.R Archaeology.

3.1.3 Photographic Survey

A photographic survey of the building was undertaken. This included:

- 1) A photographic survey of the exterior including general shots of the site environs
- 2) A photographic survey of the interior of the building with particular emphasis on the renovated area

The methodology employed conformed to the requirements of photographic recording to the equivalent of a Level 3 Survey, as specified in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (Historic England 2016) and includes works specified in points 1-2, 4-5, 7-9.

3.1.3.1 Equipment

The photographic survey was undertaken using a 20.1 mega-pixel Sony Alpha58 digital camera with a variety of standard and other lenses using a tripod where necessary. Images were captured in RAW format for later processing into high resolution JPG and TIFF files.

Where possible all accessible exterior and interior elevations of the building were photographed with scales from ground level. In this instance, it was only possible to photograph the front and north-west facing elevation. Additional photographs were taken showing the general setting of the site.

3.2 Archive Compilation

All records created during the fieldwork will be checked for consistency and accuracy and will form part of the *Primary Site Archive (PI)* (EH 2006). The archive will contain all data collected, including records and other specialist materials. It will be ordered, indexed, adequately documented, internally consistent, secure, quantified, conforming to standards required by the archive repository and signposted appropriately to ensure future use in research, as detailed in the English Heritage *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) methodology.

The archive will be assembled in accordance with the guidelines published in, *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museums & Galleries Commission 1994), *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990) and *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2007).

3.3. Timetable for Proposed Works

The proposed works were conducted in two stages with the first undertaken on the 17th May 2016. The second stage was the recording of the building interior following the stripping out of modern features to ascertain as to whether there was surviving historic fabric, and to record any surviving features. Site visits were made on the 30th September and the 5th October 2016. Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services were informed of the exact site days to allow monitoring of works.

3.3.1 Staffing

The project was managed by Catherine Rees (MCIfA, BA, MA, PgDip HEC, MCIfA) and the site work was conducted by Matthew Jones (BA, MA).

All projects are carried out in accordance with CIfA *Standard and Guidance* documents.

3.3.2 Monitoring

The project was subject to monitoring by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services. The monitor was given prior notice of the commencement of the fieldwork. GAPS were notified in writing of the commencement dates for archaeological site work.

3.3.3 Health and Safety

A risk assessment was conducted prior to the commencement of works and site staff were familiarised with its contents. A first aid kit was located in the site vehicle.

All staff were issued with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the site work.

This consisted of:

- Safety Helmets (EN397)
- Hi-visibility vests (EN471)
- Safety footwear – steel toecap and mid-sole boots and Wellingtons (EN345-47)

All staff have passed at least a CITB health and safety test at operative level and carry a Construction Related Organisation (CRO) White Card for Archaeological Technician (Code 5363).

C.R Archaeology staff also complied with all Health and Safety Policy and specific on-site instructions provided by the client and their appointed Principal Contractor or H&S coordinator.

3.4 The Report

This report clearly and accurately incorporates information gained from the programme of archaeological works. It presents the documentary evidence in such a way as to create a clear and coherent record. The report contains a site plan showing the locations of photographs taken.

The report combines the results from the various phases of works and includes:

- a copy of the design brief and agreed specification
- a location plan based on current OS mapping at an appropriate scale
- sufficient historical and archaeological detail to allow interpretation of the results and to support an assessment of significance
- full dimensional and descriptive detail of significant new features
- a full bibliography of sources consulted
- an archive compact disc

The report details the results of the Level 3 Building Recording and combines the results of the pre-commencement photographic survey, photographs taken following the stripping out of the ground floor area, the drawn record and the archival research.

Copies of the reports in Adobe PDF format will be sent to the appropriate monitoring archaeologist for approval before formal submission. A bound paper copy and PDF digital copy of the report will be submitted as part of the formal submission. A digital Adobe PDF version and a bound paper copy of the final report and will be lodged with the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record within six months of completion of fieldwork.

A summary of the work will be published in the Archaeology in Wales Journal.

3.4.1 Copyright

C.R Archaeology and sub-contractors shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides a licence to the client and the local authority for the use of the report by the client and the local authority in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

4.0 Historical Background

Extensive research into the history of the property was conducted out by Mark Shepherd of the “Discovering Old Welsh Houses” group and this data has been incorporated into the final report for this project.

The George and Dragon is located on one of the principal streets within the gridded Medieval town of Beaumaris, a name derived from the Norman French name Beau Marais meaning beautiful marsh. The public house occupies one of the original burgage plots laid out when the town was planned following the establishment of the settlement by Edward I in the 1290's. Beaumaris was the administrative centre of Anglesey and replaced the adjoining native Welsh town and port of Llanfaes, whose inhabitants were forced to relocate to Newborough on the south-western coast of Anglesey (Haslam, Orbach and Voelcker 2009: 96 – 98).

The new town at Beaumaris was described by David Longley as initially being an English frontier community and was populated by incomers from Cheshire and Lancashire (Longley 2010: 23). By 1305 Beaumaris was the largest of the Welsh “new towns” with 132 ¼ burgage tenements (Prestwich 2010: 5). The probable location of these burgage plots is laid out by Lilley (2010: 103) which shows the George and Dragon within the original street plan (figure 2).

As at Caernarfon and Conwy, Beaumaris was designed as walled town but the walls, now largely lost, were not constructed until after the revolt of Owain Glyndwr when the town was besieged and held by insurgents between 1403 and 1405 (Haslam, Orbach and Voelcker 2009: 96 – 98).

The house history compiled by the Dating Old Welsh Houses project recorded a 1410 A.D date as being mentioned when a building appeared on the site which is described as a merchant’s house. There was no reference for this source.

The first confirmed dates from the George and Dragon were the results of the dendrochronology works commissioned by the Dating Old Welsh Houses project. Seven timbers were sampled which gave a close group of felling dates from the winter 1536/7 and the spring of 1541, and all timbers had originated from north-west Wales (Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory Report 2010/3). The current structure was therefore built just after 1541, which is also believed to be the date of the large fireplace uncovered during this phase of works.

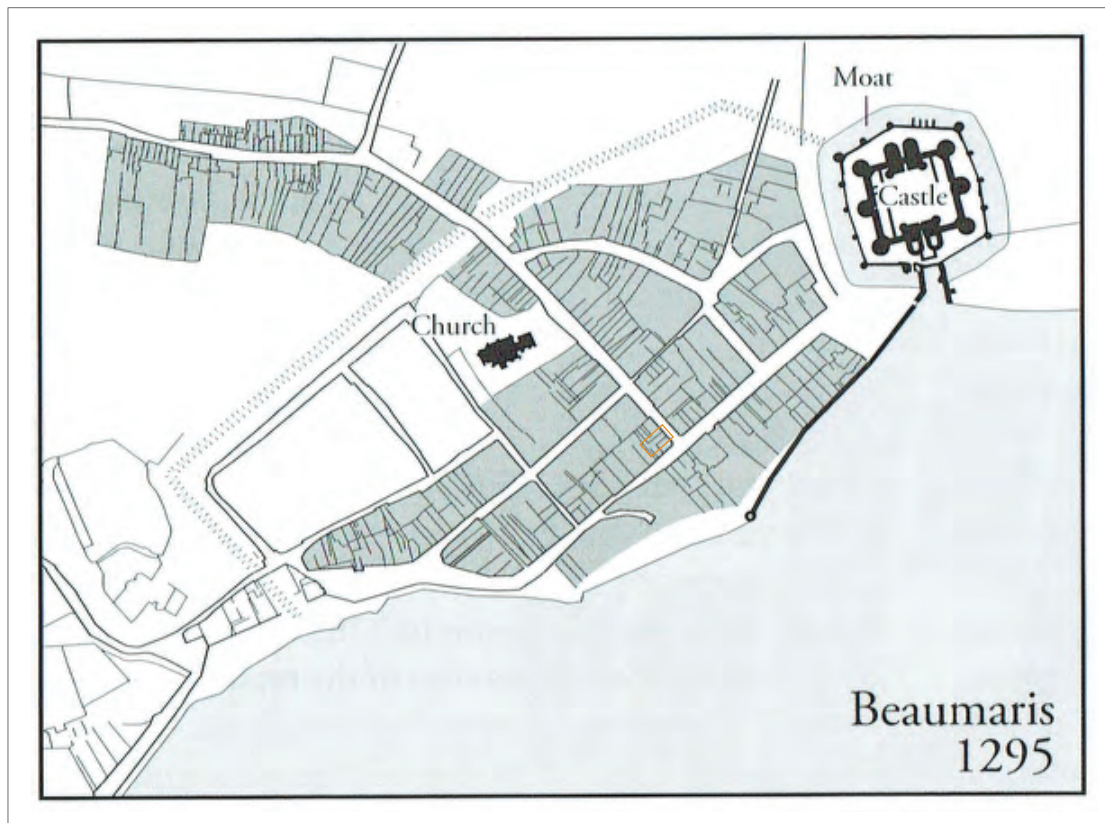


Figure 2. Location of Medieval Burgage Plots as laid out by Lilley
(Source Lilley 2010: 103)

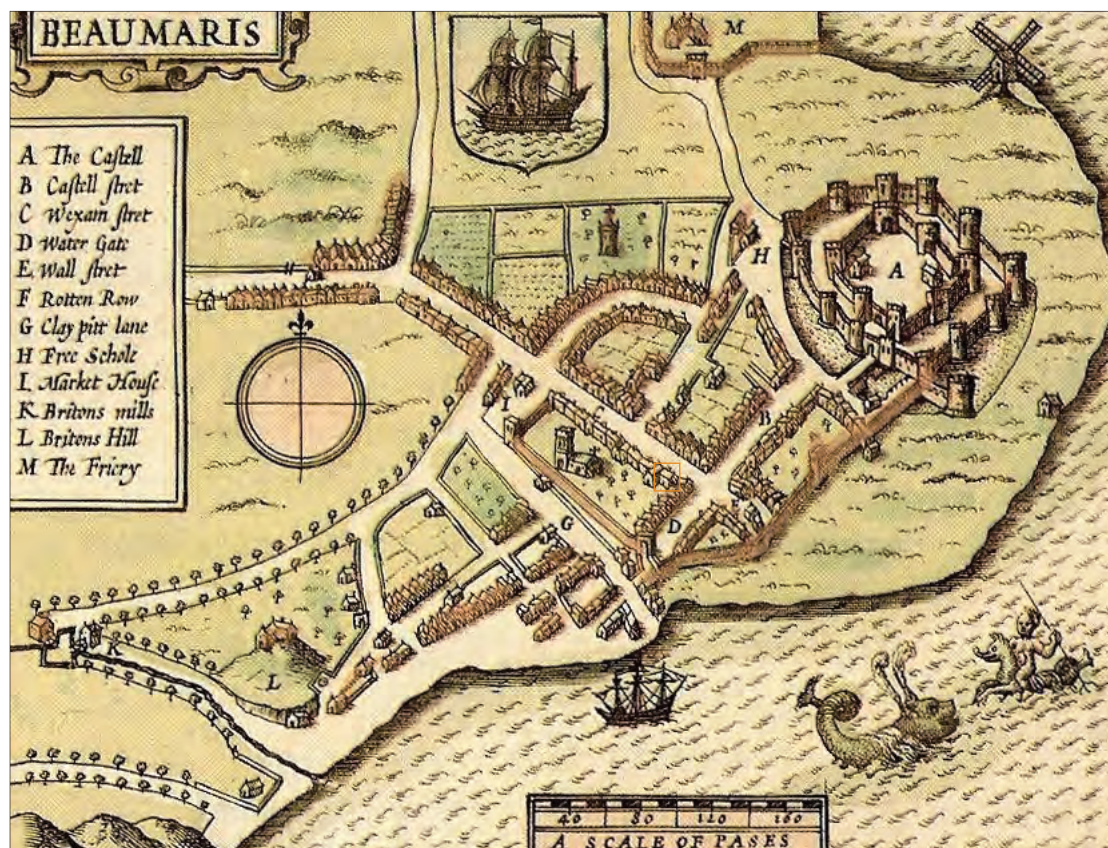


Figure 3. John Speed's 1610 Map of Beaumaris
(Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Beaumaris,_1610.jpg)

Shepherd cites a 1595 date as having been mentioned when the present George & Dragon was rebuilt as Merchants House but no reference is given.

A date of 1610 is date inscribed on one of the beams, and is taken to be the date that the paintings at the first-floor level were produced. The room in which the paintings were uncovered was known as the great room in an inventory of a will (no reference cited).

John Speed produced his town map of Beaumaris in 1610 which shows a two-storey property on the location of the George and Dragon (figure 3.) Also of interest on this map is the large property immediately to the north west of the George and Dragon which is believed to be Hen Blas (discussed below).

From the late 18th Century onwards there is a relative wealth of documentary sources for the property, beginning in 1771 (June 4 & 5). Shepard has identified the George and Dragon as having been previously named the “Red Lion” and identified an Indenture of Lease and Release by “1. John Williams of Bodelwyddan & Bennet Williams his son & heir to, 2. John Lloyd of Beaumaris, shopkeeper of the Red Lion, Church Street. Consideration £135”. (UWB, Baron Hill Ms Vol III – family, Anglesey & Caernarfon, ms 3531-3532 (taken from Shepherd’s report)

This document was followed in 1778 (February 27 & 28) by an “*Indenture of Lease and Release [Creation of Trust] by John Lloyd (1) to Thomas Hughes of Beaumaris, gentleman (2) and Janet Lloyd of Beaumaris, spinster, one of the daughters of the said Mr Lloyd (3) “In consideration of natural love and affection which said John Lloyd had and bore for the said Janet Lloyd his daughter and for settling and assigning the mortgage [...] and in consideration of £10” “all that messuage, dwelling house and shop” were transferred on trust for the use of John Lloyd for his lifetime and after that to Janet Lloyd forever*” (abstracted in UWB Baron Hill Ms Vol III – family, Anglesey & Caernarfon, ms 3700 (taken from Shepard’s report).

The next record sourced by Shepherd was the 1821 Census in which Grace Lloyd is recorded as a publican. Also at the property are recorded 1 male aged 10-15, 1 male aged 20-30, 1 female aged 10-15, 1 female aged 15-20, 1 female aged 20-30 and 1 female aged 30-40. Mark Shepherd also sourced the marriage record for 18 June 1821. In this document, John Williams, a mariner, married Grace Lloyd, widow, at Beaumaris Parish Church (Anglesey Archives PR45 WPE/70/6). He also notes that the inn was known as the George & Dragon by this date (no reference supplied).

John Williams is listed in the 1826 Publicans Recognisance as an innkeeper and mariner (Shepard, no reference supplied). Margaret Dunn added that there is also a Publicans Recognisance dated 12 September 1828 which lists John Williams at the Sign of the George and Dragon (reference given: MD notes from Robinsons documents).

Further records for the George and Dragon dated 1828 was found in two newspapers. The first was The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser (26th June 1828) which documented “*Yesterday, at Beaumaris, Mr. Ellis Williams Timothy, woollen-draper, Liverpool, to Miss Jane Lloyd, of the George and Dragon, of the former place*”. The same notice is run in the Carmarthen Journal and South Wales Weekly Advertiser on the 4th July 1828. Jane is believed to be the daughter of Grace Lloyd and her presence/involvement in the George and Dragon is returned to below.

A map of Beaumaris dated 1826 (figure 4) showed the George and Dragon as two separate buildings. There is a Market Hall located to the north-west of the block. A later version of this map was drawn in 1830 (figure 5) for the Baron Hill Estate. The numbering of the plots is the same as on the previous version. The land owner is listed as John Owen. John Williams is recorded as the innkeeper of the George and Dragon and as occupying the house and shop next door which is later



Figure 5. 1829 Map of Beaumaris (Source: Bangor University Archives BHill 6496 Map)



Figure 4. 1826 Map of Beaumaris (Source: Bangor University Archives Tynyngl Papers 788 BAN)

incorporated into the public house. Since the production of the previous edition of the map the Market Hall has been removed and has been replaced by a number of buildings. A small house has been erected adjoining the north-western elevation, long buildings line the north-western and south-west plot boundaries and a small square structure has been added behind the new house. There is an open yard shown and an access pathway to the rear of the George and Dragon and the adjacent house/shop. Shepherd records that these buildings are stables, coach houses, and a yard occupied by Mrs Reading.

The timing of this development can be directly tied to wider events in the history of the town and the region. Beaumaris was expanding during the 1820's and 30's, taking advantage of the road from the Porthaethwy ferry, which was built by Viscount Bulkeley in 1804 – 5, in anticipation of the construction of a bridge over the Menai Straits. Telford's Menai Bridge was completed in 1826 and in addition to being a thriving port town, Beaumaris became a fashionable holiday resort with visitors flocking to visit the town and castle. A flurry of building is undertaken with the first terrace constructed in 1825, the hot baths in 1828, the gaol in 1829 and the first hotel around 1832 (Haslam, Orbach and Voelcker 2009: 96 – 97).

The siting of a coach house and stables allowed the George and Dragon to capitalise on the increased influx of visitors, and set itself up as a coaching inn. A newspaper article cited by Shepard makes reference to this and, on the 2nd August 1831, notes “*The new Steam Packet ‘Eclipse’ leaves Caernarfon each morning to Conway, taking passengers to the Liverpool Packets. Mr Williams, George & Dragon, Beaumaris, is the agent*” (no source given).

References to the port trade in Beaumaris where the George and Dragon is mentioned have been sourced by Shepard. These are dated 18th August 1831 which wrote “*The Rothsay Castle Steampacket ship from Liverpool carrying 150 Passengers sank at around 1.00am when she ran aground on Dutchman's Bank. 23 passengers were rescued in the morning. The Captain, who died, was described as drunk. The inquest was held in Beaumaris, Mr John Williams, Innkeeper of the George and Dragon was later a member of the jury*”. A further article was dated August 20th 1831 read “*in a letter received this morning by Mr Watson [of the Liverpool Mercury], from Mr. John Williams of the George and Dragon, Beaumaris, dated four o'clock, it is stated that the Rothsay Castle was totally lost on the Dutchman's Bank about one o'clock on Wednesday morning. Twenty of crew and passengers were saved. The bodies of seventeen of the sufferers had been washed on the shore, and among the rest those of the steward (Jones) and his wife. The body of the captain has not yet been found. A number of boats were on the look-out, and further particulars of this melancholy event are hourly expected*” (The Preston Chronicle August 20, 1831).

As a sign of the growing popularity of the town a royal visit was made in 1832. On August 8th, the Duchess of Kent and Princess Victoria visited and stayed at the William Bulkeley Hotel on a tour of Wales. Shepherd records that a newspaper article noted “*celebrations held at the George & Dragon, and throughout Beaumaris*” (no source given). This shows that whilst the George and Dragon is not the most illustrious inn in the town, it is a important establishment which plays a prominent role in town life.

John Williams advertised himself as the proprietor of the George and Dragon in the Piggott's Directories of 1828 and 1932.

Shepherd sourced the will of John Williams who died in 1835. He records that the “*whole of his estate was given to “my beloved wife Grace Williams”*. The statement of the Valuation of the Goods and Chattels and Effects lists: Household Furniture. Drapery, Cooking Ware, China, Glass, Brewing Utensils, Stock in Trade and Outstanding Debts; 4/64 Shares in a sloop called the ‘CORNISH’ in the Port of Beaumaris, 1 Boat, 1 Cow, 1 Pig and Stack of Hay. Total value £112.10.

There is an endorsement that the will was proved on 6th April 1835 and that the deceased died "15th March last". The index to the Bangor Probate Registry states that he died aged 69". (Source: National Library of Wales, Bangor Probate Registry 1835/10).

A further will dated 1835 is also detailed by Shepard. He writes of a Will dated October 30th 1835 which reads "*I Janet Owen of Amlwch Widow [...] I give declare (?) and bequeath all that my messuage or Dwelling house with the appurtenances there unto belonging situate [...] in Church Street [...] called the George and Dragon and now in the occupation of John Williams Victualler his under tenants or assigns Unto my half-sisters Ellin Lloyd spinster and Mary Williams Widow both of Beaumaris {...} as Tenants in Common*" (Abstracted in UWB Baron Hill Ms Vol III, ms 3700-3701). Janet died on June 11th 1840 aged 88 years and was buried in Amlwch (Anglesey Archives PR 43 WPE/34/13 Amlwch Burial Register. Entry No 1967, sourced by Shepherd). She had owned the property since 1778 when she inherited it from her father.

From this will it is evident that the Owens retained ownership of the two premises and that the Williams' were the tenants. The inheritance of the property by Mary Williams and Ellin Lloyd was somewhat short lived and both women were deceased by the end of 1840.

Shepherd's work records that, in her will dated June 17th 1840, Mary Williams gave her share of the George and Dragon to her daughter, Mary Jane, the wife of William Rowlands, and her sons Hugh Williams, John Williams, and Peter Williams as Tenants in Common. Mary Williams died on or about the month of July 1840 without revoking her will (Baron Hill Ms 3703). She was buried in Beaumaris on the 15th July and was 60 years of age (Anglesey Archives PR44 WPE/70/2 Beaumaris Parish Burial Register).

In her will dated December 2nd 1840 Ellin Lloyd left her half share in the George and Dragon "now in the occupation of Grace Williams Widow" to her nieces Jane, the wife of Ellis Timothy, and Mary Jane, the wife of William Rowlands, as Tenants in Common. Ellen died aged 56 shortly after her will was made and was buried in Beaumaris on December 15th 1840 (Abstracted in Bangor University Archives, Ms 3701, Anglesey Archives PR44 WPE/70/2 Beaumaris Parish Burial Register – sourced by Shepherd).

The 1841 census lists Grace Williams (age 55) as an Innkeeper at the George and Dragon. Also living at the property are Ann Edwards (age 25) female servant, Ann Williams (aged 24) female servant and Eleanor Jones (age 16) female servant. Eleanor Jones remains at the property until at least 1850 when she married Mr Richard Wych, a boot and shoe maker from Beaumaris. Both Eleanor and Richard were living at the George and Dragon Inn and he was presumably a boarder there (The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser 28th May 1850). There is a tailor, David Williams and his family, recorded in the neighbouring property but it is unclear as to whether this is the house and shop element which would later be incorporated into the George and Dragon.

Shepherd records a conveyancing document dated April 19th 1843 where the George & Dragon was transferred from "*William Rowlands of Bangor, Coach Builder and Mary Jane his wife; Hugh Williams of Beaumaris, Sadler and Ellen his wife; John Williams, Bangor wheelwright; Peter Williams Bangor Taylor; Ellis William Timothy of the Menai Bridge and Jane his wife (1) to Rowland Williams of Lleiniog Anglesey, Gentleman (2) for the sum of £650 The property was described as "the messuage tenement or dwelling house with the shop thereto belonging [...] formerly in possession of John Williams but now or late in the tenure or occupation of Grace Williams Widow*" (Bangor University Archives: Baron Hill Ms Vol III – family, Anglesey & Caernarfon, ms 3703).

Shepherd was also able to discover that the purchaser, Rowland Williams, was christened in 1802 and died on the 17th March 1843 at Lleiniog (Anglesey Archives PR 36 No. 133). He left no issue and there was no will for him in the National Library database (Griffith's Pedigrees 134).

It is not clear who owns the property at this time but Grace Williams continues to run the George and Dragon until 1848. She is recorded in the Slater's Trade Directory 1844 and in 1848 she is listed amongst the subscribers to a fund established for the wife and children of the late Joseph Davies, the driver of a mail coach who had been killed in a tragic accident (The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser 15th February 1848). Grace had herself been widowed twice, and with the location of the coach house and stables adjacent to the George and Dragon would have presumably known Davies well.

Grace Williams died on the 2nd September 1851 aged 74 years. Her address was listed as Rating Row. She was buried in Beaumaris (Anglesey Archives PR 45 (sourced by Shepherd). It is unclear as to exactly when she left the George and Dragon, as although Henry Humphreys is listed at the George and Dragon in 1848, it is uncertain as to whether he was residing there or whether this was the Beaumaris venue which he ran his coaching business from.

By the time of the 1851 Census Hugh Rowlands (age 29) victualler, his wife Susannah (age 25) and son John (age 7) are recorded as resident at the property along with George Parke (age 20) visitor, Frederick Cooper (age 19), Jane Hughes (age 23) servant and Margaret Rhodes (age 19) servant. On the 12th August 1851, a daughter was born to Hugh and Susannah (The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser 14th August 1851). Shepard adds that the daughter was named Susannah Ann Rowlands, and was baptised at Beaumaris on the 28th August 1851 (Anglesey Archives PR45). It would seem that the George and Dragon public house now occupies the whole of the building range as the inn is the first property listed at this end of Church Street. This may have been the case in the previous census but the arrangement of the properties made identification problematic.

Possible evidence of those employed by the George and Dragon is found in the Census entry for the adjacent property – the Old Palace in which 3 grooms are listed as living with their families. The Old Palace or Hen Blas was a 15th century mansion and is described in the RCAHMW Anglesey volume as “*one of the finest and best documented houses on the island*”. The source also describes the later years of the property as “*for many years Hen Blas had been used for the accommodation of a dozen different families, some of them Paupers; it was extremely unfit for the reception of so many persons, and did not possess the commonest conveniences. The place gradually became more and more ruinous and even dangerous, it was therefore taken down in 1869*” (RCAHMW 1921: Appendix IX).

The census lists 15 families totalling 65 inhabitants as living at the property which very much supports the above source in terms of numbers. The 3 grooms listed are John Rowlands (46), who lives with his wife and two daughters aged 9 and 7, William Owen (age 54), is recorded along with his wife and three sons aged 23, 22, 10 and Thomas Ishmael (name unclear on census) age 52 is resident along with his wife and 14-year-old son.

By 1852 the George and Dragon was the staging point for the Beaumaris section of the route of the “*well-appointed coach “Snowdon”*”. An advertisement was run in the *Caernarvon and Denbigh Herald* which read “*The well-appointed coach “Snowdon” commenced running between Beaumaris, Menai Bridge, Caernarvon and Llanberis, on Monday May 31st, 1852, leaving Beaumaris at 8.30 a.m – returning from Dolbadarn Hotel, Llanberis, at 5.30 p.m; thus affording passengers by this conveyance six hours to ascend Snowdon, or to view the scenery of this interesting locality. Fares. From Beaumaris to Llanberis – 4s, Return day-tickets – 6s, From Menai Bridge to Llanberis – 3s, Return day-tickets 5s. H., R & E Humphreys. Further information may be*

obtained on application to E.H, Dolbardarn Hotel, Llanberis; or Mr. Hugh Rowlands, George and Dragon Inn, Church Street, Beaumaris” (Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald 26th June 1852).

Shepherd’s research has shown that the Rowlands family were not be such long-time tenants as the Williams family and unfortunately Susannah Rowlands was buried age 32 on the 13th October 1858 (Anglesey Archives PR 45 WPE 70/9). Just over a year later, on the 13th November 1859 Hugh Rowlands was buried at Beaumaris aged 38 (Anglesey Archives PR 45 WPE 70/9)

Slater’s Trade Directories of 1848 – 1856 record Henry Humphreys as the innkeeper of the George & Dragon, Beaumaris. There is no evidence that a Henry Humphreys was ever resident at the George and Dragon as he does not appear in the census documents.

The first record of the next long-term residents of the George and Dragon is the 1861 census which lists John Evans (age 29) as the innkeeper, his wife Mary (age 32), his daughter Sophia Anne (age 4), son John Evans (age 2), daughter Mary Ellen (age 5 months) daughter, and mother-in-law Catherine Jones (age 57). Also listed are servants Sidney Williams (age 22) servant and Elizabeth Parry (age 16).

Further evidence of the use of the George and Dragon as a coaching inn is found in the Census entry for the adjacent property – presumably either the small lean-to building against the inn or the small house behind it. William Owen (age 55) is recorded, along with his wife Elizabeth (age 54) and two adult children – Grace (34) and Peter (32). Both children are recorded as being married and are presumably visiting. William is a hostler and would have been employed to look after the horses in the inn. William is listed as a groom in the previous census.

The Evans family run the George and Dragon from at least 1861 until it is sold by their daughter, Mary Ellen Roberts, in 1936. The family appear in numerous sources and the George and Dragon Hotel remains a prominent building within the community, being used a meeting place, function room and sometime court house. The information gathered from their tenancy is summarised below.

In 1862 Baron Hill Rentals records John Evans Jun at the House and field (George and Dragon). £27 rent received for four quarters (Bangor University Archives Baron Hill 7431 (Sourced by Shepherd).

Two newspaper articles were sourced from 1864 and 1865 which provide a sample of the events held at the George and Dragon. In November, 1864 the inn hosted “*an excellent supper*” for the local volunteer military battery (The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser: 19th November 1864). In January, 1865 a supper for the Choristers at St. Mary’s Church was held. The newspaper article shows that this was a regular event and praises the hosts for “*a good and substantial supper*” adding “the repast, as on many other occasions, did great credit to the host and hostesses” (The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser: 28th January 1865).

In 1866 Baron Hill Rentals record John Evans Jun. House and field (George and Dragon) £27 received for four quarters (Bangor University Archives Baron Hill 7432 (Sourced by Shepherd).

The 1868 Slater’s Directory shows John Evans as the innkeeper of the George and Dragon, Church Street. Entries for John Evans were also found in the 1871 Worrall’s Directory, 1876 Cassey’s Directory, 1883 Slater’s Directory, 1886 Caernarfonshire & Anglesey Directory and the 1895 Slater’s Directory 1895. It is likely that there are other entries in other Directories of the period and this list has been compiled from the accessible directories held in the Bangor University and Anglesey Archives.

The 1871 Census lists John Evans (age 39) as an innkeeper along with his wife Mary (age 40), sons John Evans (age 12 and listed as scholar), William Evans (age 7 and listed as scholar), and Robert Evans (age 4) and daughter Mary Ellen Evans (age 10 and listed as scholar). Also at the property is John Lazarus, age 22, who is a domestic servant. As mentioned above Hen Blas was torn down in 1869 and although it is likely that grooms were still employed by the inn none are listed in the neighbouring properties.

The 1881 Census lists John Evans, now age 49, as a licenced victualler and the property is named for the first time in the Census documents. His wife Mary, and their four children are also all listed. John Evans, now age 22, is listed as a licenced victualler in the business and Mary Ellen Evans (now age 20) is a book keeper – also presumably for the George and Dragon. William Evans, now age 17, is an apprentice engineer whilst Robert Morris Evans (age 14) is a scholar. There are no servants recorded as living at the property.

The next document sourced by Shepard in an Indenture dated the 1st July 1884 between “1. Sir R H W Bulkeley; 2. Dame Margaret Elizabeth Bulkeley; 3. Owen Lewis Cope Williams & Henry Walleseley. Beaumaris parish: In Church Street, House & field (George & Dragon)” The tenant is listed as John Evans who paid an annual rental of £28 (Source: 1920 Abstract of Title of R. H Williams Bulkeley of freehold hereditaments; Section II Lot 227)

The Evans’ continue to function as successful hosts for the town and in 1887 were the venue for the Fire Brigade Dinner to mark the departure of fireman J.E O’Connor from Beaumaris. The article records “*covers were laid for eighteen, a capital menu being provided*”. When the toasts were described a special mention was made of John and Mary and it was written “*the Host and Hostess was next given, and received in a manner which left no doubt that Mr and Mrs Evans had succeeded in giving entire satisfaction, many of the brigade expressing a hope that would not be the last time they would meet together at the George and Dragon Hotel*” (The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser 2nd April 1887).

The three sons of John and Mary have left the George and Dragon by the time of the 1891 Census which records John Evans (age 59) as a hotel keeper, his wife Mary (age 60), daughter Mary Ellen (age 28) and Jane Morris, a 19-year-old domestic servant at the property.

In 1892 there was a scandal reported involving a resident the George and Dragon Hotel. The North Wales Chronicle reported on 27th August 1892 “*a curious case*” of “*a Liverpool Gentleman and his Anglesey Maidservant*”. It wrote “*At a special session held at the Town Hall, Beaumaris, last Wednesday, before the Mayor (Mr H. Poole) and other magistrates, Elizabeth Owen, young woman 20 years of age, now residing at the George and Dragon Inn, Beaumaris, applied for an affiliation order against Thomas Horricks, Mulgrave Street, Liverpool*”.

“*According to the girl’s evidence she went to service with the defendant (whose sister resides with him) in the spring of 1889, and remained there until April 1891 when she left. She alleged that in the months of November and December 1890 the defendant committed adultery with her. Last November she issued a summons against the defendant, but the magistrates in Beaumaris dismissed the cse. This was, therefore, her second application. Evidence for the complainant was given by hr sister, Mrs Jones, and her brother, Hugh Owen.*

Mr Mullholland, after addressing the Court, called the defendant, who denied in toto the complainant’s story.

The defendant stated that he was 70 years of age and had retired from business.

Miss Horricks also gave evidence on behalf of her brother.

After a lengthy deliberation, the Bench made an order of 2s a week – Notice of appeal was given”.

Further successful events were held at the George and Dragon in 1897 and 1898. On August 23rd, staff from the 4th Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers journeyed by coach to Beaumaris to engage in a shooting match with their old antagonists the Royal Anglesey Engineer Militia. After the match both groups dined together at the George and Dragon, where after an excellent dinner, they all participated in songs (The North Wales Chronicle: August 28th 1897 (Sourced by Shepherd). In 1898 the George and Dragon was one of three establishments recorded as hosting a dinner for the feast day of the patron saint of Wales. Dinners were noted as having taken place at the Bulkeley Arms Hotel, under the auspices of the Debating Society, at the Liverpool Arms under the presidency of Councillor W.R Jones and at the George and Dragon Hotel, under the auspices of the town band (The North Wales Express: 4th March 1898).

Research by Shepherd revealed that John Morgan married Mary Ellen Evans in approximately 1898 although he was unable to find a marriage record. He also sourced the 1900 Baron Hill Estate Rental for John Evans at the “George and Dragon” who paid £19 for four quarters (Bangor University Archives Baron Hill 7461)

Following the marriage of their daughter the 1901 Census shows John Evans (age 69) and Mary (age 70) now occupy the George and Dragon with Sarah Lewis (age 21) whose occupation is given as general servant (domestic).

The association of the Evans family with the George and Dragon is however so strong that when their son William Evans died the property is referred to in the article. *“Obituary – The sad news was wired last week of the sad death of Mr William Evans, of Margaret Street, second son of Mr John Evans (George and Dragon Hotel), which occurred on the 23rd December last, while on his homeward voyage from the West Coast of Africa. The deceased who was second engineer on Messrs Elder, Dempster and Co’s S.S “Sagara” was highly respected and greatly beloved by his fellow townspeople, and leaves behind a widow and four young children, besides his parents and relatives to mourn his loss”* (Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald: 18th January 1901).

Mary was to suffer another loss in 1904 when her husband John died. The North Wales Express reported the transfer of licence on the 5th February 1904. It simply wrote *“The license of the George and Dragon, Beaumaris, was transferred to Mrs Evans, the widow of the late licensee”*. In his research Shepard notes that in the 1905 Baron Hill Rentals neither John Evans nor the George and Dragon are listed (Bangor University Archives Baron Hill 7465) but in the 1909 the tenant was John Evans (1920 Abstract of Title of R H Williams Bulkeley of freehold hereditaments; Section II Lot 227). This is presumably the length of tenancy which had passed to his wife on his death.

The 1911 Census record for the George and Dragon records the head of the house as Mary Evans (age 80 and a widow). Her occupation is listed as hotel keeper. Her daughter Mary E Morgan (age 50) has returned to the George and Dragon with her husband John (a cashier) and daughter May (age 12). Mary is listed as an assistant hotel keeper and would take over the business following Mary’s death.

A postcard dated 1916 was sourced which was taken looking from Castle Street along Church Street which showed the George and Dragon Hotel. The building is a single unit this postcard shows the previous configuration of the south-eastern door and window prior to the arrangement seen today. The porch which can be seen beneath the “George and Dragon Hotel” lettering on the 1916 postcard has since been removed.



Figure 6. Early Twentieth Century Photograph Showing the George and Dragon.
It is Possible that Mary Ellen Morgan is the Women in the Southern Doorway

Mrs Mary Evan was a well-known figure in the town and when the announcement of the leave of her grandson, Sapper J Arthur Evans, R.E is announced in the local paper he is recorded not only as the son of Mrs Evans, 24 Castle Street, but also as the grandson of Mrs Evans, George and Dragon Hotel (The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser 21st December 1917).

Mary died in January 1919 and the following obituary was written in the North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser 17th January 1919: *“Obituary – Mrs Evans, of the George and Dragon Hotel, died very suddenly on Sunday morning. Her breakfast was taken to her in bed as usual, and she appeared to be in her usual state of health, but on one of the family going into her room later she was found to be dead. The deceased lady, who was in her 89th year, was well known to a wide circle, and very highly respected. She, with her late husband, Mr John Evans had been tenants of the hotel for nearly 60 years. The funeral, which was private, took place on Thursday morning, the Rev. H. J. Morgan, rector, and the Rev. T. Woodings officiating. The mourners included: Mr R. M Evans (son), Mrs Pearce and Mrs Morgan (daughters), Mrs W. Evans (daughter-in-law).*

All following information was been sourced by Mark Shepherd for the Dating Old Welsh Houses project:

On 27th October 1920, the George and Dragon was sold by direction of Sir Richard Henry Williams Bulkeley at the Williams-Bulkeley Arms Hotel, Beaumaris. It was listed as LOT 227 George & Dragon Public House. The tenants were Mrs Mary Ellen Morgan and Mr John. P. Jones. It is described as *“Fully Licensed Premises, stone built, rough cast, and slated containing on the ground floor; 2 smoke rooms, bar, tap room, kitchen & pantry, coal house & yard. On the first-floor Drawing rooms, 5 bedrooms, lumber room, box room. Also SHOP NEXT DOOR in the occupation of Mr John P. Jones. PART OF THE INN. Particulars, Plan and Conditions of Sale by Auction in Lots by Messrs Knight, Frank and Rutley”* (Source: Anglesey Archives WF/4). The two units of the sale are presumed to be the George and Dragon and the lean-to structure located to the north-west.

Mary Morgan, the daughter of Mary Evans, had been widowed by 1921 when she purchased the George and Dragon from the Bulkeley Estate. An Indenture of conveyance dated 16th April 1921 records *“1. Sir Richard Henry Williams Bulkeley, Baron Hill, Bart. 2. Sir Evelyn John Ruggles-Brise, 25 Gilbert Street, Grosvenor Square, London, K'CB; Sir Godfrey Baring, Nubia House, West Cowes, Isle of Wight, Baronet – the Trustees. 3. Mary Ellen Morgan of the George & Dragon Hotel, Borough of Beaumaris, Anglesey, widow. boundaries: NE frontage with Church St; NW with Market Place; SW & SE with 34 Castle St. The George & Dragon Hotel, Church St., and all the messuage or shop erected on part or all of it. ... sum of £800; in the occupation of John P Jones as yearly tenants; paying £400 pa to trustees”* (No Source Cited).

She sells the property on January 18th 1936 and Shepard records a *“Conveyance between 1. Mary Ellen Morgan of the George & Dragon Hotel, Beaumaris, Anglesey, widow & 2. Alfred Wallace Green, The Glanafon Hotel, Benllech for £1000”* (No Source Cited).

The burial record for Mary Ellen Morgan of 20 Castle Street, Beaumaris states that she was buried at Beaumaris aged 79 years on June 1st 1940 (Source: Anglesey Archives PR 45).

The new owner of the George and Dragon, Mr A.W Green, passed away on the 17th September 1944 and on the 5th March 1945 probate was granted to his wife Nellie Gladys Green. She sold the property on May 25th 1945 to *“John Alfred Green, The George & Dragon Inn, Church St, Beaumaris, licensed victualler”*. The sale price was £1,000 for the George & Dragon and adjoining shop (No Source Cited).

On June 4th 1945 a 5-year lease was drawn up between John Alfred Green, The Hampstall Inn, Astley Burf, Stourport on Severn, Worcs, licensed victualler (the Lessor) and The Burtonwood Brewery Company Ltd, Burtonwood, Lancaster (the Lessee). The yearly rent was £104 pa, which was to be paid quarterly (No Source Cited).

On the 23rd September 1950 the George & Dragon was designated a Grade II Listed Building. The notice was sent to Mr J. A. Green, George & Dragon Inn, Church St. Beaumaris (No Source Cited).

On the 5th May 1962 J. A. Green, of the George & Dragon Hotel, Church St, Beaumaris, Anglesey, sold the hotel to Anglesey Hotels Ltd for £4,500 (No Source Cited). On December 7th 1965 Anglesey Hotels Ltd resold the property to N & E Houses Ltd, Four Crosses Hotel, Menai Bridge, Anglesey for £14,00 - and the goodwill of the business of a licensed victualler.

A letter dated December 5th 1967 from the Borough of Beaumaris Town Clerk made enquiries about the George & Dragon Hotel. It stated that the property has for some years not been used as a shop, and as the result of recent alterations is all licensed property. The physical separation of the shop has disappeared and there is no longer a frontage to the Market Place. This would confirm that the additional shop was the property to the north-west of the hotel (No Source Cited).

The Licensee recorded on the 9th January 1968 is Mr William Broadhurst (Licensing Sessions at Menai Bridge) (MS no ref).

On May 1st 1968 N. & E. Houses Limited sold the property to the current owners - Frederic Robinson Ltd, Unicorn Brewery, Stockport, Cheshire.

On Friday October 21st 1977 a page 4 Article appears in the Times Newspapers about the old paintings discovered in the roof. The Welsh Office and the brewery take steps to preserve the inscriptions.

On the 13th July 2005, the copy of the present schedule of the listed building amended. The Dating Old Welsh Houses Group undertook research and dendrochronological work at the George and Dragon in 2010 which re-dated the structure from the 1610 date of the painting at second floor level to sometime around 1541. Gwynedd Archaeological Trust also carried out building recording work in 2010 to record the surviving historic features at first floor level (GAT Report 855).

5.0 Results of Archaeological Works

The Listed Building Description (Cadw ID: 5617) records:

“Location

Fronting the street and set back from the junction with Castle Street.

History

Probably built in 1610, the date (now concealed) recorded on a roof truss in the 1930s, and originally timber-framed with jettied upper storey. The George & Dragon is shown on the 1829 town plan and 1889 Ordnance Survey with a house and shop immediately to the S which has now been incorporated into the public house. The present front is a C20 remodelling subsequent to the amalgamation of the 2 properties, when the upper storey was under-built, with later alteration.

Interior

The lower storey has been modernised but retains cross beams and timber-framed partitions, one with exposed wattle, in the lower storey. One of the brackets that formerly supported the upper storey has also survived. The lateral fireplace on the R side survives partially, and has a timber lintel under a moulded cornice. The L gable end has a later, plainer but larger fireplace with stop-chamfered lintel.

In the upper storey, at the N end, is an arched-brace truss on a wooden bracket, and 2 timber-framed partitions, and cusped wind braces. One of the partitions, the gable end of the original building, has herringbone struts in the gable. The other partition retains fragments of wall painting, including 2 horned devils in a roundel to the R side, and a cross with bleeding heart beneath the apex. Below a beam bears the restored inscription 'PAX DEUS VOBIS REQUIE DEFUGE DEUS PROVIDEBIT ...'.

Exterior

A 2-storey public house, with a neo-Georgian style front of pebble-dashed walls with smooth-rendered architraves and upper-storey sill band, slate roof, roughcast stack L of centre and 2 tall stone stacks to the rear. In the 6-window front, the lower storey has a 12-pane hornless sash window to the L end, then a modern door, a segmental-headed, studded cellar door with small window above it, two 12-pane hornless sashes, a doorway with panel door and glazed panels, a tripartite 12-pane horned sash window and boarded door at the R end. Between storeys is a rendered inscription band with raised letters and the date 1410. In the upper storey are 4-pane horned sashes, unequally placed and including a tripartite window at the R end.

Additions have been made to the rear, on the R of which is a C17 or C18 kitchen.

Reason for Listing

Listed grade II for its exceptional interest as an early C17 house with later modification and alteration to a public house, with especially fine C17 interior detail” (www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk).*

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust carried out building recording work on the 19th March 2010 (GAT Report 855) and the building exterior has not changed from that time. Davidson and Berks describe it as “From street level the building is seen as a long two-storey building with a white painted pebble-dash front off-set by black painted architraves and a horizontal band at both sill levels, the lower sill painted as a band to floor level. There are six four-pane sash windows on the upper floor (the north one is tripartite), and four 12-pane sash windows on the ground floor (again the north one is wider). The south end was formerly a separate property, but this is now incorporated into the northern part, and a new door (the main entry from the street) now leads into this section,

A photograph of the George & William Hotel, a two-story building with a white facade and dark timber framing. The building features large windows and a prominent entrance. The street in front is paved and has a blue circular arrow sign. The sky is clear and blue.

A photograph of the George & Dragon Hotel, a three-story building with a white facade and dark window frames. The hotel name is written vertically on the side. A sign above the entrance reads 'ROBINSONS' and another sign below the entrance lists 'THE GEORGE & DRAGON HOTEL' and 'THE DRAGON HOTEL'.

Plate 4. George & Dragon Front and Side Elevation

though the original door further north is also still used. Most of the work visible is of late 19th or early 20th century date. The rear of the building was not accessible, though one tall chimney is visible, and the Listed Building description records two tall stone stacks to the rear” (page 1-2). The only point which can be added to this is that there was once a porch over the northern door as is shown on figure.

Only the front of the building was accessible and plate 1 – 4 show the current frontage. No structural works were undertaken to the building exterior.

5.1 Interior

All works were undertaken to the ground floor level of the property and therefore this is the area primarily discussed in this report. Detailed recording of the first floor of the building can be found at (www.coflein.gov.uk/en/site/254/details/george-and-dragon-inn-beaumaris).

At ground floor level the space has been divided into 6 rooms: a bar, a front and rear lounge, female toilets, male toilets, and a kitchen. The kitchen and toilet areas were too confined to make a photographic record of prior to the commencement of works. The spaces were however examined and all earlier features had been obscured by later renders, suspended ceilings, fixtures and fittings.

The photographic recording works were concentrated on the bar and the two lounges where features of architectural and archaeological interest were noted. A photographic record was compiled before the commencement of works and following the stripping out of the building interior.

The cellars were not affected by the works but had not previously been recorded. A photographic record was therefore compiled of this space.

Ground Floor (Figures 7 & 8)

For ease of discussion the space will be discussed by original room layout and the features uncovered will be detailed individually within the appropriate section.

Main Bar Area (Figures 7 & 8, Plates 5 - 30)

Despite a later twentieth century “reimagining” of this room as a historical space there were features of architectural and archaeological interest visible in the main bar. As noted by Davidson and Berks (2010), the remains of the 16th Century timber framing are clearly visible. This framing includes the original axial ceiling beam (plates 6 & 8), the upright support posts for this beam (plate 6) and the transverse ceiling beams (plates 6 & 8).

The partition between the bar and the adjacent lounge is a feature of particular interest in that it is a surviving element of the original timber-framed structure. Plate 7 shows the curving bracket for the first floor jetty and a glass panel which reveals the wattle-and-daub behind the current plaster work. This wall was the partition wall between the two properties which were shown on the 1826 & 1829 maps of the town prior to their amalgamation into a single building, although when built the whole length would have been a single structure. This is evidenced by the axial beam which runs the full length of the building.

There were cupboards/storage areas in the area to the rear (south-west) of the bar area where carved masonry was observed (plates 9 – 10). This masonry appeared to be of a late Medieval style and was found to be part of a large stone fireplace which had been blocked and had the south-eastern wall removed. The fireplace is exposed at first floor level, although it has been modified with a raised hearth and fittings for a gas fire and an electricity point. The large chimney stack is visible from outside the building.

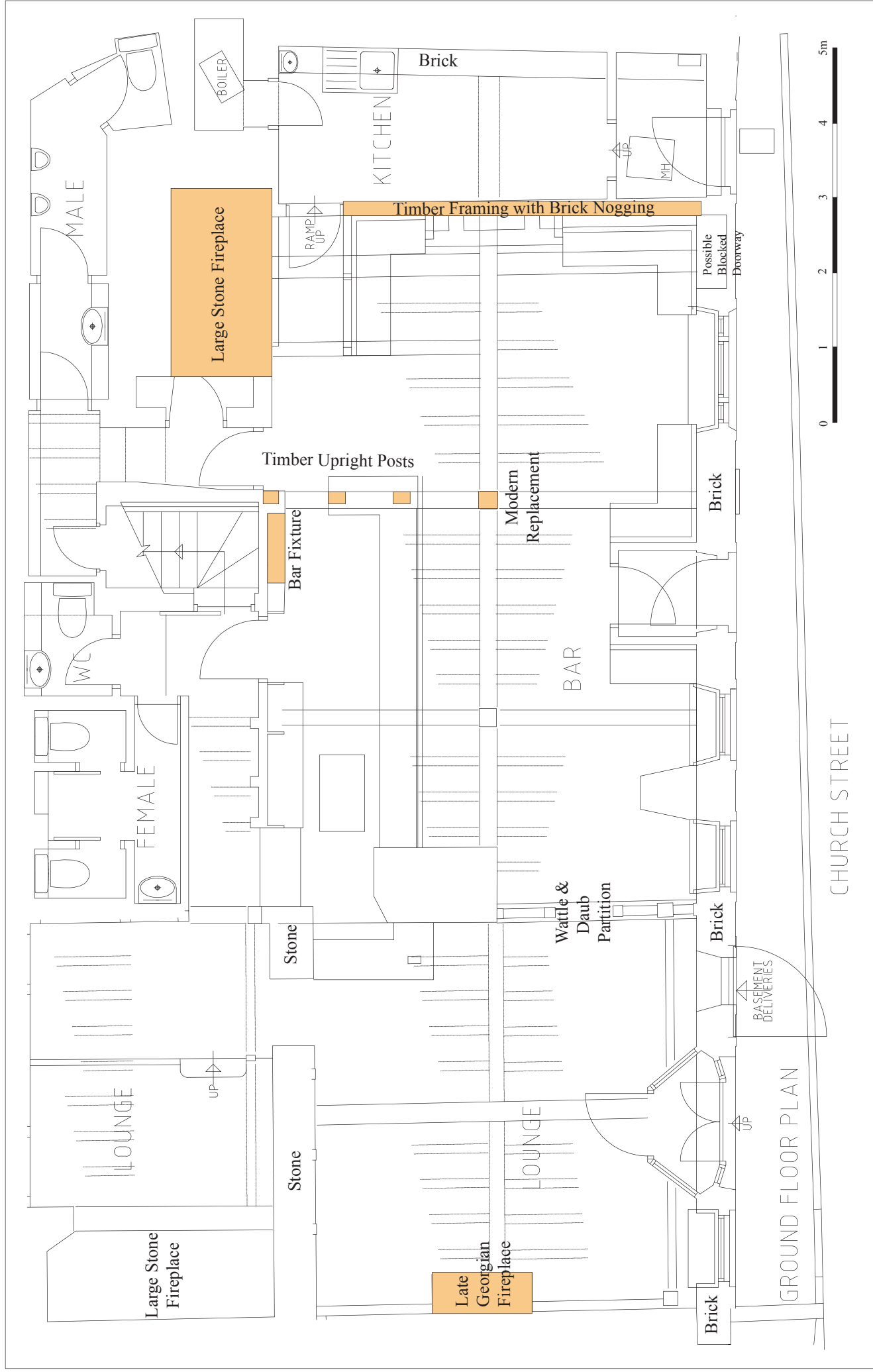


Figure 7. Annotated Ground Floor of George and Dragon. Produced and Supplied by Robinson's Brewery

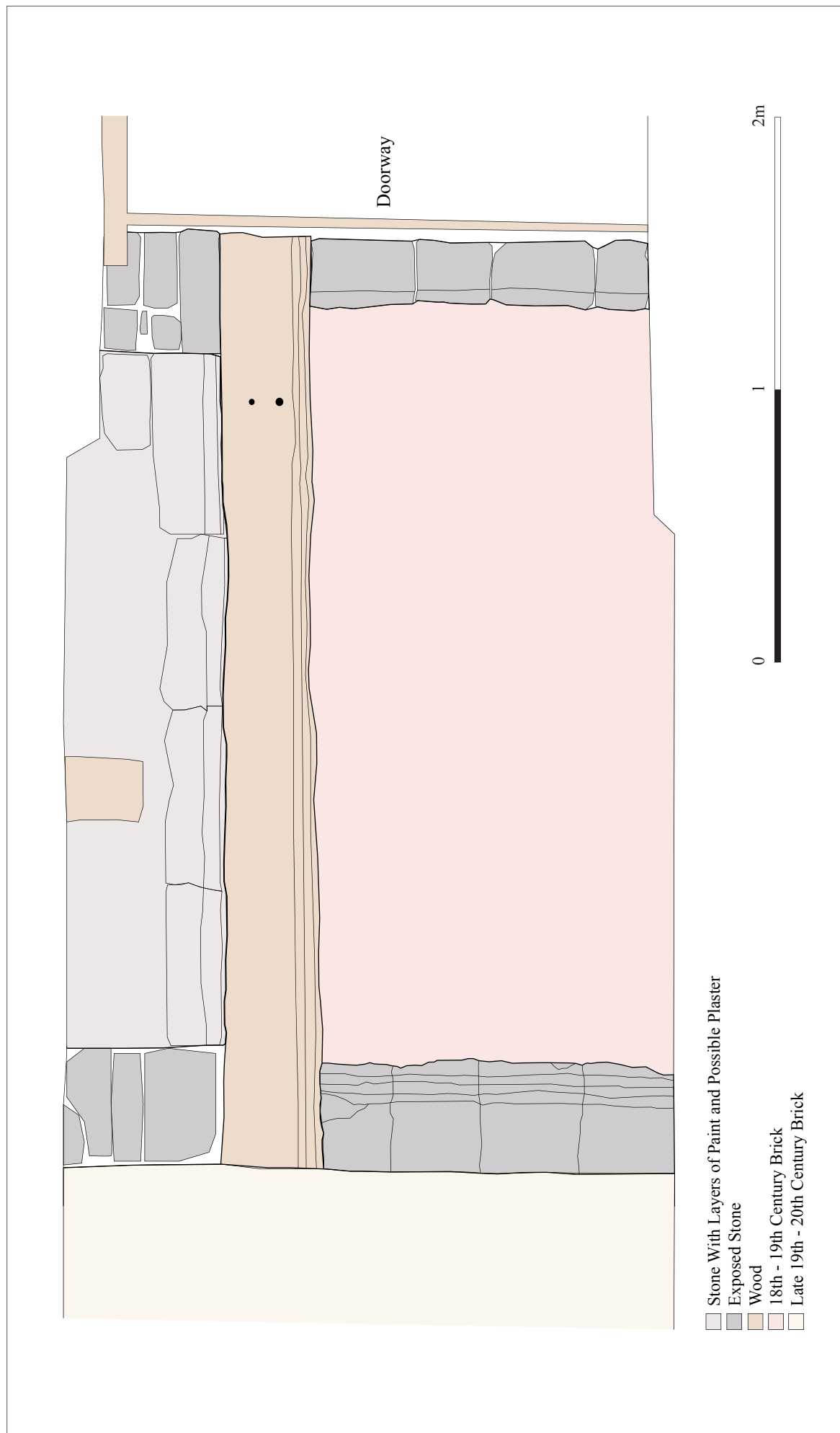


Figure 8. Original Fireplace Uncovered in Bar Area Following Stripping Out Works

**Plates 5 - 8. Ground
Floor Main Bar Area
Prior to the Commencement
Of Works**

Note small window in plate
7 which shows wattle and daub
behind modern wall render
and surviving timber framing





Plate 9. Fireplace Jamb Visible
Prior to Stripping Out Works



Plate 10. Fireplace Jamb Visible
Prior to Stripping Out Works



Plate 11. Fireplace Jamb
Following Stripping Out Works

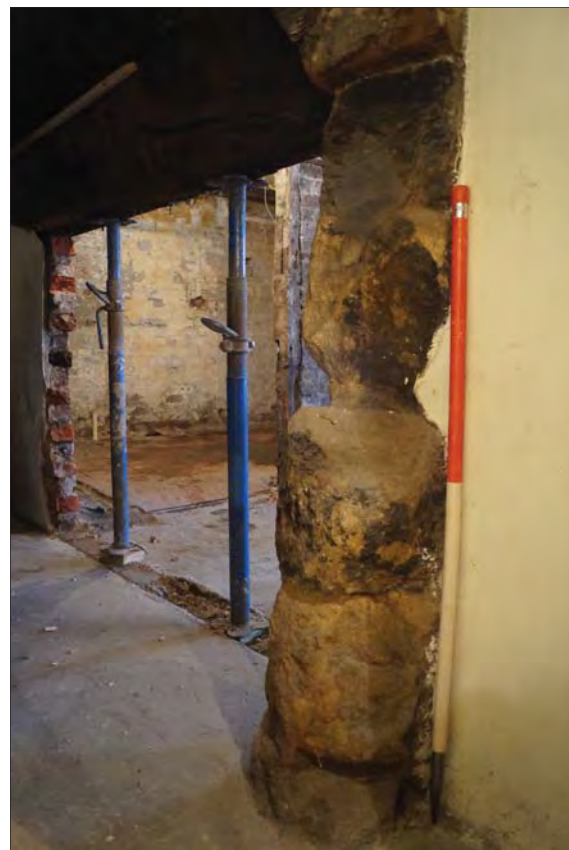


Plate 12. Fireplace Jamb
Following Stripping Out Works



Plate 13. Exposed Late Medieval Style Fireplace



Plate 14. Exposed Late Medieval Style Fireplace



Plate 15. Exposed Late Medieval Style Fireplace
Showing Projected Carving on Stone Hood



Plate 16. Internal Chimney Structure



Plate 17. North-Western
Jamb and Brick Infill.
Note Peg Holes
In Wooden Lintel



Plate 18. Carving on
Wooden Lintel



Plate 19. Detailed
Sot of North-Western
Fireplace Jamb



Plate 20. Transverse
Beam and Stone Hood



Plate 21. Oak Panelling Around
Large Stone Fireplace



Plate 22. Oak Panelling Around
Large Stone Fireplace



Plate 23. Oak Panelling Around
Large Stone Fireplace



Plate 24. Stone Hood Projecting
Above Oak Panelling



Plate 25. Timber Framed Partition Wall with Later Brick Nogging



Plate 26. Possible Blocked Doorway in Late 19th/Early 20th Century Frontage



Plate 27. Mortice Joint in Timber Framing

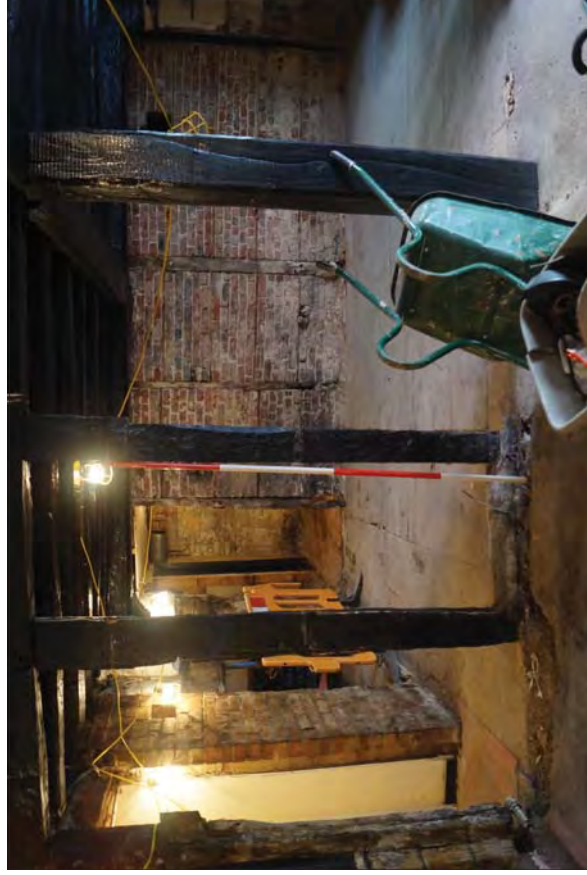


Plate 28. Background - Timber Framed Wall With Later Brick Nogging. Foreground - Timber Uprights of Internal Partition



Plate 29. Timber Uprights of Internal Partition - Note Peg Holes in the Central and Right Hand Posts

The exposed fireplace is shown on figure 8 and in plates 9 – 20 and is believed to be a feature of the 16th Century house. When built the chimney stack would have been external feature and it has become incorporated into a later building extension. Stylistically the moulding on the beam and the stone work could be Late Medieval in date but this form was utilised into the 16th Century. Chronologically this fireplace would be in-keeping with a 1540's date but the possibility that this is a reused earlier feature or salvaged from another structure cannot be ruled out.

The fireplace was blocked off using brick, a material which was not mass produced in North Wales prior to the 1760's. The uneven texture of the bricks and the absence of a frog is consistent with them having been hand-made and fired in a clamp kiln. The bricks are a standardised size of 0.22 – 0.23m in length x 0.07m in width x 0.09 – 0.10m thick indicating a single source. It is difficult to assign an exact date to the brick manufacture but the likely range is from c.1760 – 1830. These bricks were found elsewhere in the property and had been used as nogging on the partition wall described below, and in the manufacture of a fireplace in the front lounge area. The brick utilised in the elevation to the south-east of the fireplace was machine made and is of twentieth century date.

In the main bar area the blocked fireplace had been enclosed using oak panelling (plates 21 – 24) which had presumably been taken from elsewhere in the building. The existence of a later twentieth century wall behind the panelling (as can be seen on plates 13 & 15) is evidence that this movement took place relatively recently. The panelling itself can be seen to have been cut to fit the space and had not been particularly well matched together as can be seen in plate 23. Although obscured by heavy black gloss paint the panels themselves are of an early eighteenth century style.

When the modern render and electric fire were removed from the north-western wall of the bar room, a timber framed partition with later brick nogging was revealed. The use of timber in this wall indicates that it is an early feature – presumably within the first 50 – 100 years of the build date. The replacement of the earlier wattle and daub is interesting as this has not been carried out elsewhere. It is clear from the location of the fireplace that this is an internal rather than an external wall.

As mentioned above the bricks are of the same size (0.22 – 0.23m in length x 0.07m in width x 0.09 – 0.10m thick) as those used to block the adjacent large stone fireplace and to build the fireplace in the front lounge area and these features may represent a single phase of improvements to the property. The blocking of one fireplace at the same time as another is created would seem to be a sensible option.

This partition has survived from early in the architectural sequence and it is unclear as to whether the round peg holes in the fireplace lintel are related to the timber framed division or later additions, although it must be noted that they are not on the same alignment as the later wall.

The fireplace is partially obscured by this partition which creates a narrow passageway at the north-western end of the building. This area has been heavily modified and it is not possible to determine from the exposed area whether this passage once led to the upper or rear rooms, allowing the bar area to be bypassed. A doorway had been inserted between the panel and the fireplace and it remains unresolved as to whether this opening was in place when the partition was originally installed.

The removal of the bar fully revealed four upright timber supports (plates 28 & 29), one supporting the axial/transverse beams and two supporting the transverse beam. This would have formed an internal division and the peg holes survive on two of the posts as does the sill plate between them.



Plate 30. Early Twentieth Century
Bar Fixture - Case for Spirits and Glasses

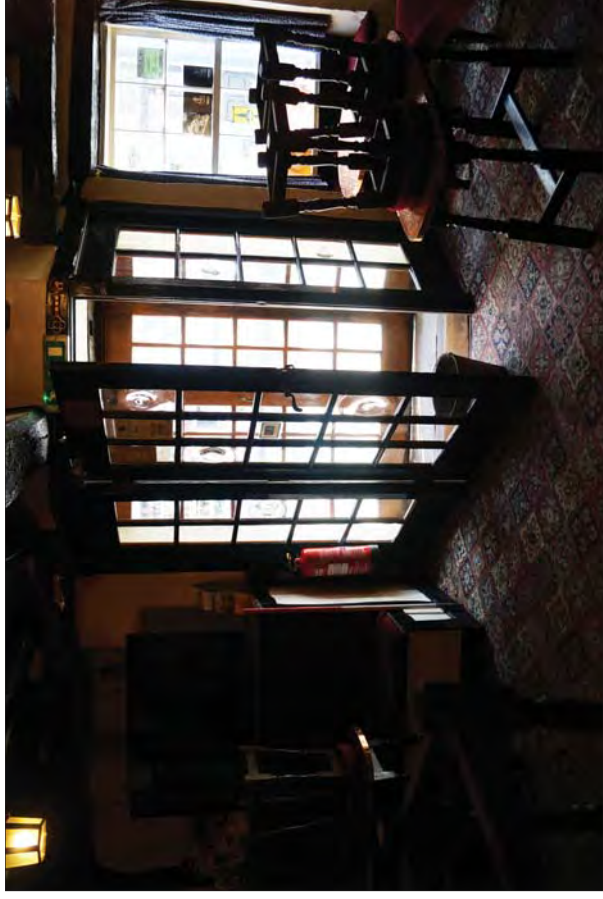


Plate 31. Lounge Area Prior to Commencement of
Works. Modern Doors and Vestibule



Plate 32. Lounge Area Prior to Commencement of
Works. Jetty and Original Partition



Plate 33. Lounge Area - Modern Fireplace with
Faux Woodwork Covering Georgian Fireplace

The axial post appears to be a modern replacement as, although it is difficult to see with the layers of black gloss paint, there are striations around the post which are also seen on other later wooden additions that have been made to appear to be timber framing but which clearly are not.

The final feature of interest uncovered in this area was the remains of a surround of an early twentieth century bar fixture. Plate 30 shows a cabinet for spirits and glasses which was located behind the modern bar.

Lounge Area – Front (Figure 7, Plates 31 - 37)

The front lounge area had again been subject to later twentieth century styling whereby faux timber framing elements had been added to the walls and original framing. There were original and earlier architectural details amongst the later additions. Plate 32 shows the partition wall with curved jetty bracket and the ceiling beams are visible in plates 32 & 33. Plate 34 shows the area leading into the rear lounge.

Following the stripping out of this area a late Georgian brick fireplace was uncovered. Brick is not mass produced in North Wales prior to the 1760's and the feature would therefore not predate this. It is difficult to assign an exact date to the fireplace but the likely range is from c.1760 – 1830.

The later part of this date range would tie in with the increase in the size and importance of Beaumaris following the completion of Telford's Menai Bridge, but the earlier dates cannot be discounted. The bricks exhibit a range of colours and many are burnt, although there are far fewer half bricks used in the fireplace than in some of the in-fill panels.

The stripping out of this room has led to the possible reinterpretation of some of the observations made during the earlier building recording conducted by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT 855). The south-eastern and south-western walls of the front lounge may well not be 19th century masonry built around a timber frame and they may represent the remains of an earlier building phase. This could not be confirmed as the plaster was not removed around the key areas where walls join but an examination of the building cellar was made. This was found to be stone built and was clearly not a later insertion below the building. What was clear when the plaster was removed is that the building frontage was that it was brick built (see plate 35) and is a later phase than the south-eastern elevation and the stonework between the back and front lounges.

Cellar (Plates 38 – 41)

The cellar is a stone built room which can be accessed through an opening in the floor of the bar area and via an arched doorway on Church Street. The Church Street doorway is a later opening and it is unclear as to whether there was an existing door here before the remodelling of the front elevation in the late nineteenth/early twentieth century. If there was an earlier opening it was completely destroyed by the current access.

The construction of the cellar walls appears very similar to that seen in the dividing wall between the front and rear lounge and it is possible that the rear cellar wall continues up to form the rear (south-western) wall of the south-eastern bays of the building.

Rear Lounge Area (Plates 42 – 46)

Very little stripping work was carried out in the rear lounge and following the removal of faux timber framing and beams which had been nailed to the walls the room was re-plastered without further stripping. There were no additional features noted which were not covered by Davidson and Berks who noted the survival of stone corbels and jetty elements in this room. The entire north-west – south-east elevation was drawn as an elements of their works (GAT Report 855).



Plate 34. Front Lounge Prior to the Commencement of Works



Plate 35. Brick Arch Detail Above Cellar Door



Plate 36. Late Georgian Brick Fireplace With Wooden Lintel Concealed Behind Later Render



Plate 37. Ceiling Above Front Lounge Showing Position Of Earlier (Original?) Stairway to First Floor



Plate 38. Cellar Drop from Bar Area
Note Stepped Rough Stone Corbelling to Left Hand Side



Plate 39. Cellar Skids from Church Street Drop
Note Possible Original Beam on Right Hand Side



Plate 40. Stone Built Cellar



Plate 41. Stone Built Cellar with Modern Upright and Concrete Floor



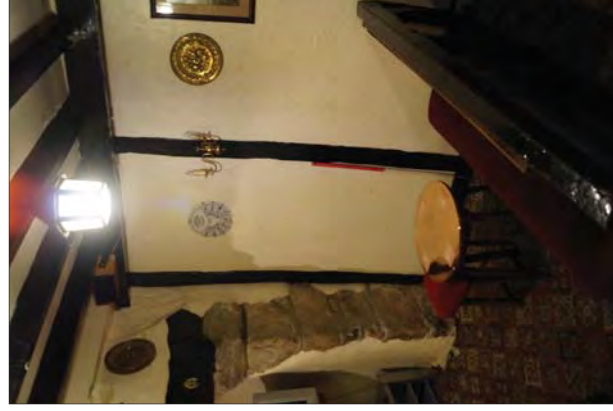
Plate 42. Stone Partition Wall and Corbel Supporting Head Beam



Plate 43. Corbel Supporting Head Beam



Plates 44. Fireplace in Rear Lounge Area Prior to
The Commencement of Works



Plates 45. Rear Lounge
Prior to Works



Plates 46. Rear Lounge
Prior to Works

Other Areas

For completeness two other plates have been included. Plate 47 shows the décor in the ladies' toilets and demonstrates the complete obscuring of any historic fabric. Plate 48 shows three of the projecting jetty joists in the area behind the bar. These were drawn during the GAT survey.

6.0 Conclusion

The George and Dragon Hotel is a well-preserved timber framed building with later façade and extensions. The refurbishment works uncovered several features of interest including a large Late Medieval fire place, the location of an earlier stairway, the remains of a timber-framed partition wall, a Later Georgian fire place and an Early 20th century bar fitting.

The possibility has arisen that the stone elements of the south-eastern range may be earlier than first thought and the interpretation of them as later 19th Century masonry may be incorrect. It would be of interest to conduct dendrochronological dating on the lintel in the stone fireplace which was uncovered and the large beam in the cellar.

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Plate 47. Ladies Toilet



Plate 48. Three Projecting Jetty Joists in Area Behind Bar

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Abstract of Title

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Wales Trade Directory 1930-33. George and Dragon listed under hotels but no proprietor
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Appendix A.

Specification for Archaeological Works

Specification for Archaeological Works at

**The George & Dragon Hotel,
Church Street, Beaumaris**

NGR SH 60519 76071

Project Number CR129-2016



C.R Archaeology

Compiled by Catherine Rees

On Behalf of Mr P. Ingham of Frederic Robinson Limited

Specification for Archaeological Works at The George & Dragon Hotel, Church Street, Beaumaris

Planning Application Number:	12C90C/LB
National Grid Reference:	SH 60519 76071
Client:	Mr P. Ingham of Frederick Robinson Limited
Report Author:	Catherine Rees
Report Number:	CR129-2016
Date:	14/05/2016

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Appendices

Appendix A. Proposed Site Works

1.0 Introduction

C.R Archaeology have been instructed by Mr P. Ingham of Frederick Robinson Limited to conduct archaeological works at the George and Dragon Hotel, Church Street, Beaumaris (figure 1).

The building is currently in use as a public house with accommodation at first floor level. The works to the building will affect the ground floor only and this area undergo refurbishment. As part of this project the following alterations are to be undertaken: the existing Bar Service to be removed and installation of new fittings incorporating a salvaged timber panelled bar front, the removal of existing doors and replacement with fire doors where identified on proposed plans, the refurbishing of ladies toilets and catering kitchen, the reinstatement of existing fire place in Bar Lounge, the formation of new opening into the catering kitchen from main bar lounge area and minor internal alterations (see appendix a). It was therefore deemed necessary to record any features of archaeological/historical interest uncovered during the programme of works.

The George and Dragon is located on one of the principal streets within the Medieval walled town of Beaumaris, which was established following the conquest of Wales by Edward I. The building of Beaumaris Castle was begun in 1295 and the castle was the last royal stronghold to be built by Edward in Wales. It completed the chain of fortifications with which he had begun to enclose Gwynedd in 1277. The town received its charter in 1296 and building began at around this time.

The Town Wall at Beaumaris has not survived in as complete a state as those at Conwy or Caernarfon, although there is a substantial surviving fragment 20m long, 3m high and 1.75m wide (SAM AN123). Beaumaris Castle is a Scheduled Ancient Monuments (AN001) and together with Conwy Castle and fortifications, Caernarfon Castle and fortifications and Harlech Castle, it is a World Heritage Site (Ref 374). These fortifications are considered to be the finest examples of late 13th and early 14th century military architecture in Europe, demonstrated through their completeness, pristine state, evidence for organized domestic space, and extraordinary repertory of their medieval architectural form.

The area of the town of Beaumaris within the original circuit of the Town Wall is considered to form part of the essential setting of the World Heritage Site and the historic town core - which includes the George and Dragon, is a Conservation Area.

The George and Dragon is a Grade II* Listed Building (Cadw ID: 5617) and is Listed for its exceptional interest as an early C17 house with later modification and alteration to a public house, with especially fine C17 interior detail.

The works to be undertaken are comprised of a Level 3 Building Recording of the of the structure as it currently stands prior to the commencement of works, with follow up visits to record the building interior following the removal of modern features. Extensive historical research has previously been undertaken at the site and this information will be summarised within this document but additional research will not be undertaken.

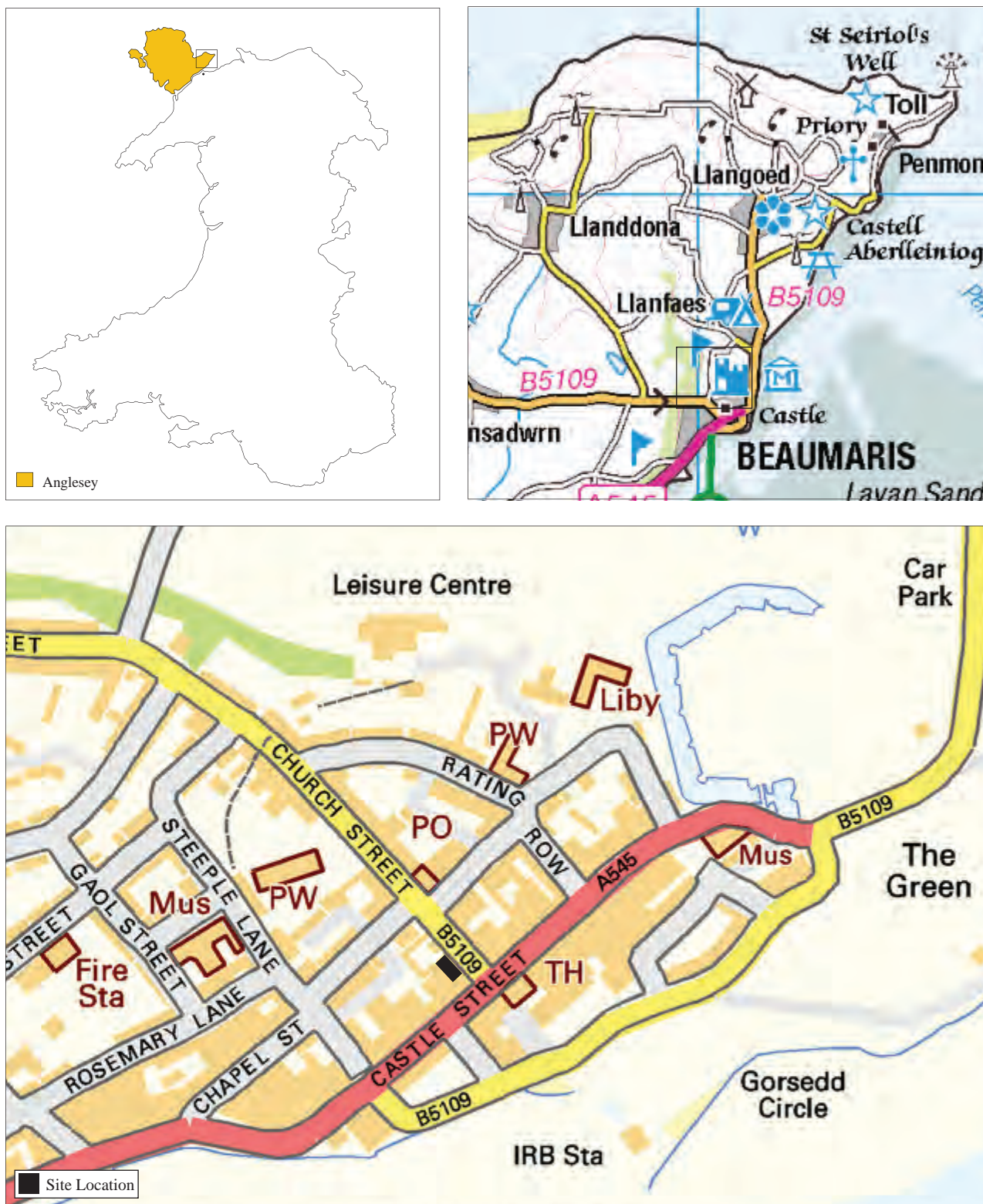


Figure 1. Site Location Map

(Source: OS Open Data Mapping. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right [2016])

2.0 Project Aims & Objectives

The aim of this programme of works is to create a Level 3 Building Record of the George and Dragon Hotel with emphasis placed on the ground floor bar area where the refurbishment works are to be undertaken.

It aims to fulfil the mitigation criteria for undertaking an Archaeological Building Recording as specified in the CIfA Standard and Guidance documents (2014).

The objectives of the archaeological programme are to provide an archive record of the building; to increase understanding of the site's history, development and significance and to make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

3.0 Brief Historical Background

This section is through necessity brief and is intended merely to provide a basic outline of the history and archaeology of the immediate area. Extensive research into the history of the property was conducted out by the "Discovering Old Welsh Houses" group and this data will be incorporated into the final report for this project. New research will not be conducted unless necessary to put newly uncovered features into a wider context.

The site is located on one of the principal streets within the medieval walled town of Beaumaris and is likely to occupy part of one of the original burgage plots laid out when the town was planned following the establishment of the settlement by Edward I in the 1290's.

The Listed Building Description records:

"Location

Fronting the street and set back from the junction with Castle Street.

History

Probably built in 1610, the date (now concealed) recorded on a roof truss in the 1930s, and originally timber-framed with jettied upper storey. The George & Dragon is shown on the 1829 town plan and 1889 Ordnance Survey with a house and shop immediately to the S which has now been incorporated into the public house. The present front is a C20 remodelling subsequent to the amalgamation of the 2 properties, when the upper storey was under-built, with later alteration.

Interior

The lower storey has been modernised but retains cross beams and timber-framed partitions, one with exposed wattle, in the lower storey. One of the brackets that formerly supported the upper storey has also survived. The lateral fireplace on the R side survives partially, and has a timber lintel under a moulded cornice. The L gable end has a later, plainer but larger fireplace with stop-chamfered lintel.

In the upper storey, at the N end, is an arched-brace truss on a wooden bracket, and 2 timber-framed partitions, and cusped wind braces. One of the partitions, the gable end of the original building, has herringbone struts in the gable. The other partition retains fragments of wall painting, including 2 horned devils in a roundel to the R side, and a cross with bleeding heart beneath the apex. Below a beam bears the restored inscription 'PAX DEUS VOBIS REQUIE DEFUGE DEUS PROVIDEBIT ...'.

Exterior

A 2-storey public house, with a neo-Georgian style front of pebble-dashed walls with smooth-rendered architraves and upper-storey sill band, slate roof, roughcast stack L of centre and 2 tall stone stacks to the rear. In the 6-window front, the lower storey has a 12-pane hornless sash window to the L end, then a modern door, a segmental-headed, studded cellar door with small window above it, two 12-pane hornless sashes, a doorway with panel door and glazed panels, a tripartite 12-pane horned sash window and boarded door at the R end. Between storeys is a rendered inscription band with raised letters and the date 1410. In the upper storey are 4-pane horned sashes, unequally placed and including a tripartite window at the R end.

Additions have been made to the rear, on the R of which is a C17 or C18 kitchen.

Reason for Listing

Listed grade II for its exceptional interest as an early C17 house with later modification and alteration to a public house, with especially fine C17 interior detail” (www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk).*

4.0 Scheme of Works - Methodology

The proposed works will be conducted in two stages with the first to be undertaken immediately. The second stage is the recording of the building interior following the stripping out of modern features to ascertain as to whether there is further surviving historic fabric and to record any surviving features.

4.1 Scheme of Works – Methodology for Building Recording

The methodology employed will conform to the requirements for a Level 3 Building Record as specified in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (English Heritage 2016) and The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (2014).

The following points are detailed in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (English Heritage 2016).

The record created for the site will consist of:

Written Account	Points 1-3, 5-9, 13-15, 17 – 22
Drawings	Points 2, 6-9
Photography	Points 1-2, 4-5, 7-9.

4.1.1 Desk Based Research

A detailed history of the site has been compiled by the “Discovering Old Welsh Houses” group and this data will be incorporated into the final report for this project. New research will not be conducted unless necessary to put newly uncovered features into a wider context.

This material will form the historical background for the archaeological report. The report will also include the results of the photographic survey and an additional compact disc containing all site images in Tiff format.

The works will be conducted in accordance with the CIfA Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment (2014) and will include the information required to fulfil points 1-3, 5-9, 13-15, 17 - 22 as specified in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (English Heritage 2016).

4.1.2 Drawn Survey

Architects plans and elevations of the building have been produced and these will be annotated and amended as necessary to reflect the current building layout and to aid in the interpretation of any building phasing. These drawings will be utilised to fulfil points 2, 6-9 as specified in *“Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice”* (English Heritage 2016). Location plans and historical material will be produced/sourced by C.R Archaeology to fulfil criteria 8-9 in the aforementioned document.

Drawn records of any undiscovered features will be produced by C.R Archaeology as necessary.

4.1.3 Photographic Survey

A photographic survey of the building will be undertaken. This will include:

- 1) A photographic survey of the exterior including general shots of the site environs
- 2) A photographic survey of the interior of the building with particular emphasis on the area which is to be renovated

The methodology employed will conform to the requirements of photographic recording to the equivalent of a Level 3 Survey, as specified in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (English Heritage 2016) and will include works specified in points 1-2, 4-5, 7-9.

4.1.3.1 Equipment

The photographic survey will be undertaken using a 20.1 mega-pixel Sony Alpha58 digital camera with a variety of standard and other lenses using a tripod where necessary. Images will be captured in RAW format for later processing into high resolution JPG and TIFF files.

Where possible all exterior and interior elevations of the building will be photographed with scales from ground level. Additional photographs will be taken detailing important architectural features and the general setting of the site.

4.2 Archive Compilation

All records created during the fieldwork will be checked for consistency and accuracy and will form part of the *Primary Site Archive (PI)* (EH 2006). The archive will contain all data collected, including records and other specialist materials. It will be ordered, indexed, adequately documented, internally consistent, secure, quantified, conforming to standards required by the archive repository and signposted appropriately to ensure future use in research, as detailed in the English Heritage *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) methodology.

The archive will be assembled in accordance with the guidelines published in, *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museums & Galleries Commission 1994), *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990) and *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2007).

4.3. Timetable for Proposed Works

It is envisaged that initial works at the site will commence as soon as possible. Initial site work (photographic building recording) is to take place over one day with further site visits during/after the stripping out of modern features has been undertaken. Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services will be informed of the exact site days to allow monitoring of works.

4.3.1 Staffing

The project will be managed by Catherine Rees (MCIfA, BA, MA, PgDip HEC, MCIfA).

All projects are carried out in accordance with CIfA *Standard and Guidance* documents.

4.3.2 Monitoring

The project will be subject to monitoring by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services. The monitor will be given prior notice of the commencement of the fieldwork. A projected time-scale and copy of the risk assessment can be provided on request to the monitoring body prior to the commencement of works. GAPS will be notified in writing of the commencement dates for archaeological site work.

4.3.3 Health and Safety

A risk assessment will be conducted prior to the commencement of works and site staff will be familiarised with its contents. A first aid kit will be located in the site vehicle.

All staff will be issued with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the site work.

Initially this is anticipated to consist of:

- Safety Helmets (EN397)
- Hi-visibility vests (EN471)
- Safety footwear – steel toecap and mid-sole boots and Wellingtons (EN345-47)

Any further PPE required will be provided by C.R Archaeology

All staff will have passed at least a CITB health and safety test at least operative level and will carry a Construction Related Organisation (CRO) White Card for Archaeological Technician (Code 5363) or a Site Visitor card.

C.R Archaeology staff will also comply with any Health and Safety Policy or specific on-site instructions provided by the client or their appointed Principal contractor or H&S coordinator.

4.4 The Report

The report will clearly and accurately incorporate information gained from the programme of archaeological works. It will present the documentary evidence in such a way as to create a clear and coherent record. The report will contain a site plan showing the locations of photographs taken.

The report will combine the results from the various phases of works and will include:

- a copy of the design brief and agreed specification
- a location plan based on current OS mapping at an appropriate scale
- sufficient historical and archaeological detail to allow interpretation of the results and to support an assessment of significance
- full dimensional and descriptive detail of significant new features
- a full bibliography of sources consulted
- an archive compact disc

The report will detail the results of the Level 3 Building recording and combine the results of the pre-commencement photographic survey, photographs/drawings taken/made following the stripping out of the ground floor area, the drawn record and the archival research.

Copies of the reports in Adobe PDF format will be sent to the appropriate monitoring archaeologist for approval before formal submission. A bound paper copy and PDF digital copy of the report will be submitted as part of the formal submission. A digital Adobe PDF version and a bound paper copy of the final report and will be lodged with the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record within six months of completion of fieldwork.

A summary of the work will be published in the Archaeology in Wales Journal.

4.4.1 Copyright

C.R Archaeology and sub-contractors shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides a licence to the client and the local authority for the use of the report by the client and the local authority in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

5.0 Bibliography

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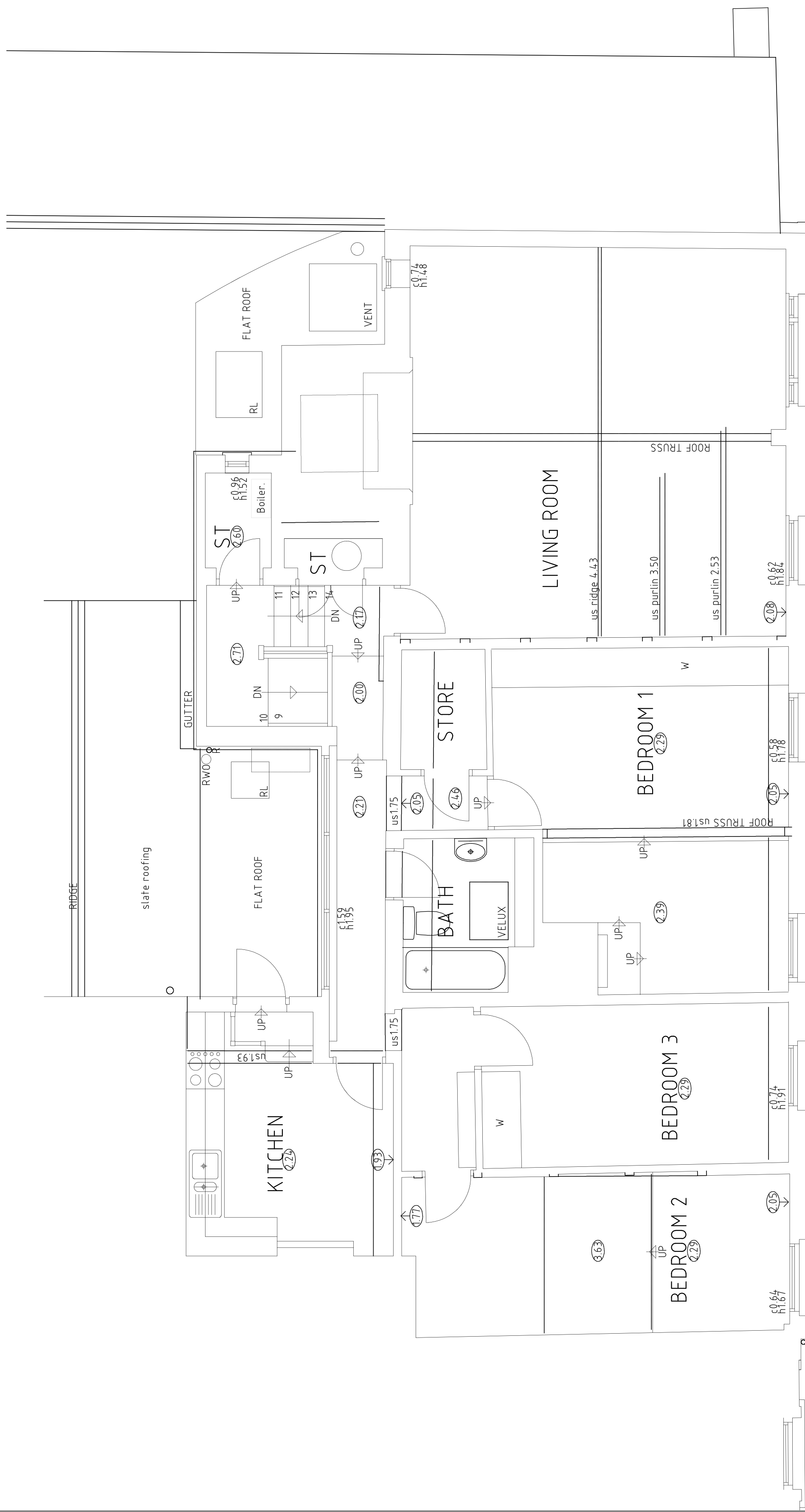
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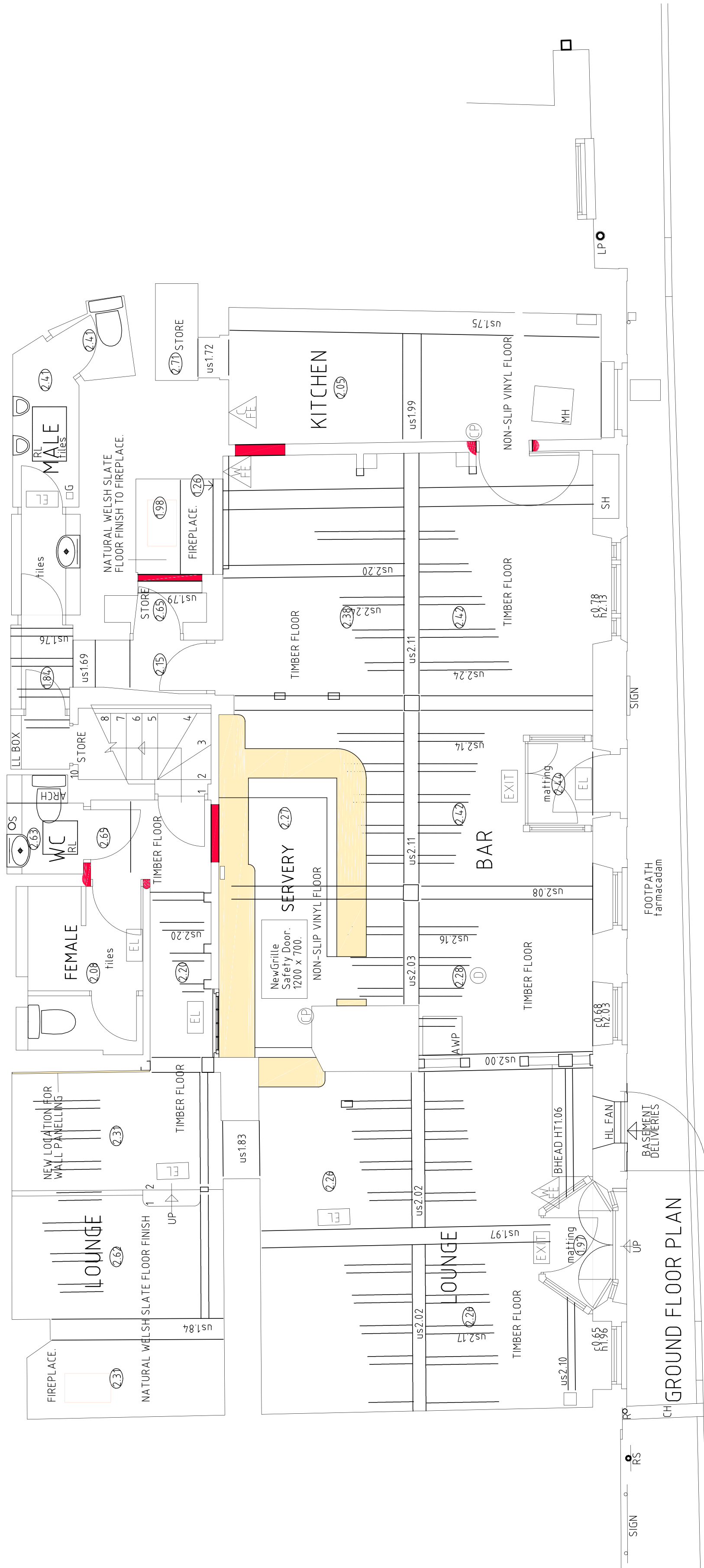
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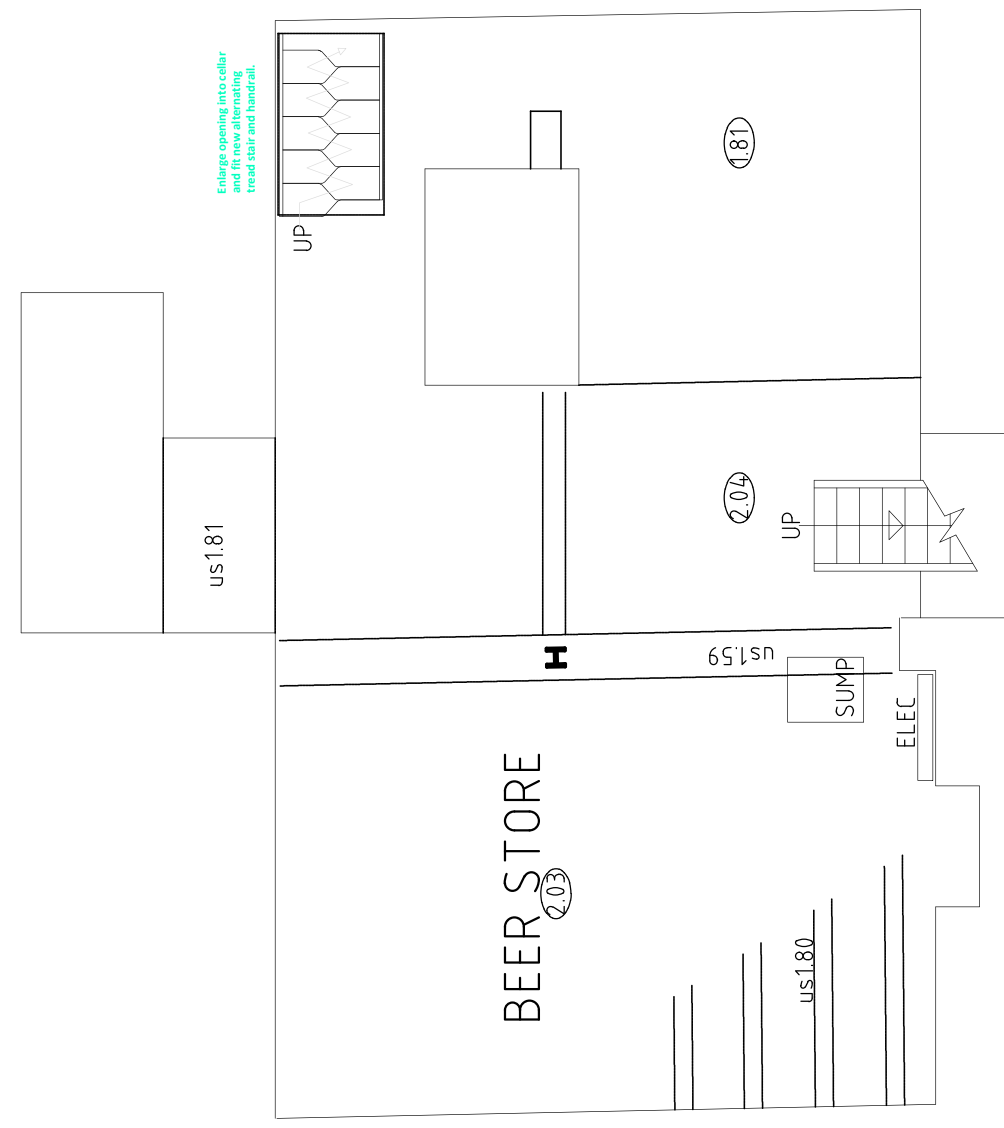
www.historicwales.gov.uk/



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



BASEMENT PLAN

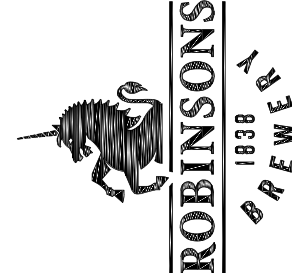
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JOB TITLE:	George and Dragon, Beaumaris.			
DRAWING TITLE:	Cellar, Ground and First Floor Plans as Proposed.			
DRAWN BY:	PCI	CHECKED BY:	AA	DATE: May 15
PREAMBLE CODE:		DRAWING NUMBER:	201	
		SCALE:	1:50@A1	
		QUANTITY:	-	
		REVISION:	201	

Appendix B.

Location and Direction of Photographic Plates



Appendix B. Location and Direction of Photographic Plates. Drawing Produced and Supplied by Robinson's Brewery

Appendix B. Location and Direction of Photographic Plates. Drawing Produced and Supplied by Robinson's Brewery

Appendix B. Location and Direction of Photographic Plates. Drawing Produced and Supplied by Robinson's Brewery