

**Results of Archaeological Assessment at**

**Proposed Development**

**Gorswen, Plas Road, Holyhead**

**NGR SH 24047 82084 (Centre Point)**



**Project Number CR142-2017**



**C.R Archaeology**

Compiled by C. Rees & M. Jones  
On Behalf of Brenig Homes

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**Results of Archaeological Works at:  
Gorswen, Plas Road, Holyhead**

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## **1.0 Introduction**

**1.0.1** C.R Archaeology were instructed by Brenig Homes to conduct an archaeological desk based assessment and walkover survey at the proposed site of a residential development (figure 1). Due to the preliminary phase of the process during which these works have been undertaken there is no definitive plan of the development at this time. It is proposed that 100 – 150 houses be built on the site and an indicative site plan is included with Appendix A.

**1.0.2** This document has been prepared to supply the Local Planning Authority Archaeologist with information as to the potential archaeological impacts of the aforementioned scheme. A specification (included as Appendix A) was written with reference to emails and a telephone discussion with Jenny Emmett of GAPS as a methodology for an initial programme of works. It is intended that the results of this work will inform decisions as to the nature of any further archaeological mitigation strategies or evaluation methodologies which may be required at the site.

**1.0.3** The site is located on the western of outskirts of Holyhead town. The overall plot is orientated on an approximately north-west – south-east axis and is bounded by hedgerows. It comprises of a farmhouse and outbuildings within an enclosed field boundary system, with a large pond to the north-west of the site. The site is currently in use as a horse riding stables.

**1.0.4** There are isolated find spots of Prehistoric and Roman dates located within the vicinity of the site and the rural area of Holyhead Island is notable for Prehistoric/Romano-British remains including burial monuments, standing stones, hut circles and promontory forts.

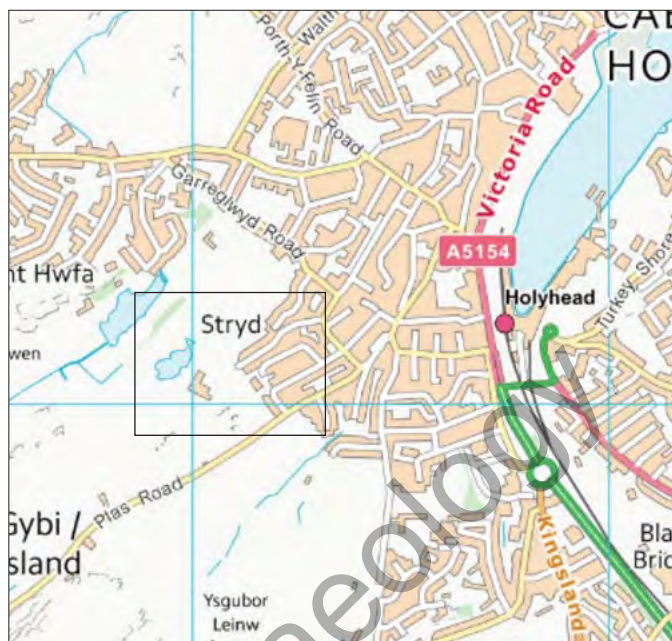
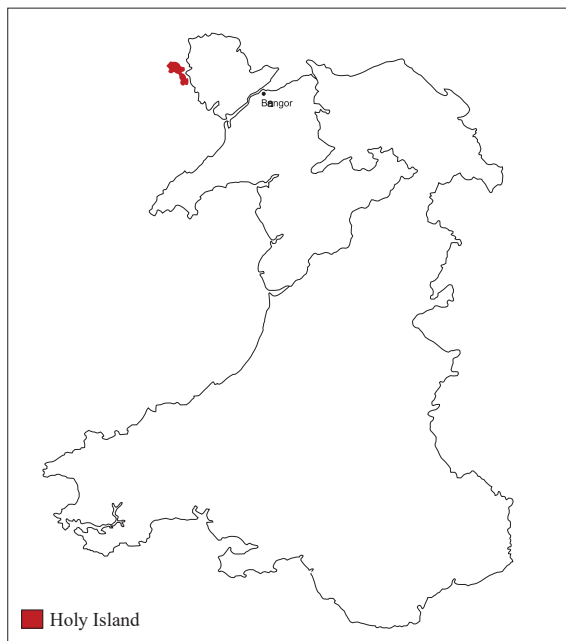
**1.0.5** This desk based assessment examined the historic context and archaeological potential of the proposed development area and has examined the possible impact of the development on the setting of Scheduled Ancient Monument in the vicinity. A photographic record of all standing buildings on the site was compiled and cartographic sources were utilised to establish their construction date.

**1.0.6** On examination the buildings on the site are Post Medieval and a single range predates a c.1790 Estate Map of site. A second range currently in use as a stable block was erected between 1790 and 1840 when it appears on the Tithe Map. The main farm house was built between 1887 and 1899, the dates of the First and Second Edition Ordnance Survey Maps. There are also a number of Twentieth Century structures of corrugated iron, breeze blocks and other more “modern” materials. This includes barns and a large manege associated with the current site use as a riding school.

**1.0.7** The large pond on the site is a modern construction and was excavated by the current owner as a trout fishing pond. The material removed was deposited elsewhere on site (field 2a). The remainder of the site was in use as a riding stables with grazing for the horses. There was a large degree of “churning up” caused by the horses and the wet ground conditions. There were schist rock outcrops on the site with gorse bushes which would make geophysical survey difficult over the majority of the site.

**1.0.8** The development of the site is not considered to have a negative impact on any designated historical/archaeological assets and will not affect the setting of any Listed Buildings or Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the area.

**1.0.9** It is considered that despite there being considerable disturbance on the site there are areas of archaeological potential and further evaluation in the form of trial trenching is recommended to examine the presence, nature and survival of any archaeological remains at the site.



**Figure 1. Site Location Map**

(Source: OS Open Data Mapping Contains Ordnance Survey data  
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## **2.0 Project Aims & Objectives**

**2.0.1** This programme of works for the proposed development site aimed to undertake a desk based assessment, walkover survey and setting examination of the development site and its relationship with Scheduled Ancient Monuments/Listed Buildings in the area. It also aimed to compile a photographic record of any standing buildings on the site and to establish their construction date.

**2.0.2** The aim of this scheme of works was to undertake desk based historical research exploring the history/archaeology of the site. The information gathered included a map progression and archival research in order to compile a coherent narrative history of the site and its environs.

**2.0.3** The Gwynedd Historic Environment Record (HER), the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments Wales (RCAHMW) database, Bangor University and Anglesey Archives and relevant publications were consulted to compile a record of known archaeological sites in the vicinity. Aerial images were also examined.

**2.0.4** It is intended that this document be utilised to inform further archaeological planning decisions and conditions at the site.

**2.0.5** The objectives of this programme of works were:

- To make full and effective use of existing information to establish the archaeological significance of the site
- To create a photographic record and establish the erection date of standing buildings on site
- To assess the impact of the development proposals on surviving sites, monuments or remains both within the development area and in the surrounding landscape
- To help inform future decision making, design solutions, further evaluation & mitigation strategies

## **3.0 Scheme of Works - Methodology**

**3.0.1** It was proposed that the archaeological works be conducted in three sections and each is detailed separately below.

### **3.1 Desk Based Research**

**3.1.1** A complete and coherent history of the site was compiled utilising material sourced from Anglesey Archives and the Bangor University Archives. This allowed as comprehensive a history as possible to be compiled. A full map progression of the area was undertaken. Where appropriate the archive information was supplemented with information from local libraries and specialist interest websites & journals.

**3.1.2** In order to identify the character of archaeological remains in the vicinity of the site a search of the Gwynedd HER was conducted examining an area within a 500m radius of the proposed works (the grid reference for the search is taken as the centre point of the development area). A more general search was conducted at a 1000m radius but as this search area included the town of Holyhead (which contains a large number of historic buildings which are not of direct relevance to this study) the information was not discussed in detail. The RCAHMW database and aerial images of the site were examined. The information collected is discussed within the main report text.

**3.1.3** The works were carried out accordance with the CIfA Standards and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (CIfA (Revised 2014).

**3.1.4** This material forms the historical background of this archaeological report which includes the results of the walkover survey.

## **3.2 Walk Over Survey**

**3.2.1** A site visit was conducted on March 31<sup>st</sup> and a photographic record was compiled which details all above ground features and illustrates the general topography of the site. Further photographs were taken to illustrate the setting of the site. The locations of any features were noted on a site plan included as Appendix B.

### **3.2.1 Equipment**

**3.2.1.1** Photographs were taken using a 14.2 mega-pixel Sony A350 digital camera with a variety of standard and other lenses. Images were captured in RAW format for later processing into high resolution JPG and TIF files.

## **3.3 Recording of Standing Buildings on Site**

**3.3.1** There are a number of standing buildings on the site and a photographic record of these structures was made detailing exterior and, where possible/safe to enter, interior elevations. All accessible facades and interior spaces were recorded. Archival research was conducted to contribute to the dating of the construction of the buildings. A short written account of the buildings was made on site.

## **3.4 Timetable for Proposed Works**

**3.4.1** The walkover survey and heritage site visits were undertaken on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Additional time was allotted for archive research, report compilation and site archiving.

## **3.5 Staffing**

**3.5.1** The project was managed by Catherine Rees (MCIfA, BA (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology) Postgraduate Diploma (Historic Environment Conservation) & Matthew Jones (BA (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology)).

**3.6.1** All staff have a skill set equivalent to the CIfA ACIfA/MCIfA level. C.Vs for all staff employed on the project can be provided on request. All projects are carried out in accordance with CIfA *Standard and Guidance* documents.

## **3.6 Monitoring**

**3.6.1** The project was subject to monitoring by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services.

## **3.7 Health and Safety**

**3.7.1** 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.

**3.7.2** All staff were issued with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the site work. This consisted of:

- Hi-visibility vests (EN471)
- Mobile Telephone (to be kept in site vehicle)
- Suitable Walking Boots & Waterproofs
- Hard Hat for Building Recording

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



### 3.8 The Report

**3.8.1** The report clearly and accurately incorporates information gained from the programme of archaeological works. It presents the documentary evidence gathered in such a way as to create a clear and coherent record. This includes illustrations of cartographic/pictorial sources. The report contains a site plan showing the locations of photographic plates (Appendix B).

**3.8.2** The desk-based assessment considered the following:

- the nature, extent and degree of survival of archaeological sites, structures, deposits and landscapes within the study area
- the significance of any remains in their context both regionally and nationally
- the history of the site - including the dates of any buildings on the site
- the potential impact of any proposed development on the setting of known sites of archaeological/historic importance
- the potential for further work with appropriate recommendations

**3.8.3** It is intended that this report will inform decisions as to the necessity and/or nature of any further archaeological mitigation strategies which may be required.

**3.8.4** A copy of the report 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 to GAPS 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.

#### 3.8.1 Copyright

**3.8.1.1** 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.

## 4.0 Geographical and Geological Context

### 4.1 Topography

**4.1.1** The proposed development site is located within the parish of Holyhead Rural and is located along the northern side of Plas Road and is bounded by hedgerows. It is located on the outskirts of the town of Holyhead. The site is currently in use as a horse riding stables with grazing within an enclosed field boundary system. There is a large pond to the north-west of the site and there appears to be a large area of ground disturbance to the north of the farm buildings. We have been informed by the client that this is the result of the excavation to create the large pond on the site.

### 4.2 Geology

**4.2.1** The bedrock geology at the site is divided between two strata. To the south of the site it is recorded as *“South Stack Formation - Psammite And Pelite. Metamorphic Bedrock formed approximately 542 to 635 million years ago in the Ediacaran Period. Originally sedimentary rocks formed in deep seas. Later altered by low-grade metamorphism. Originally sedimentary rocks formed in deep seas. These rocks were first deposited as graded clastic sediments or turbidites in the deep sea, and then later metamorphosed, though there is evidence of their sedimentary origin”*. To the north of the plot it is recorded as *“Harbour Group - Mica Schist And Psammite. Metamorphic Bedrock formed approximately 542 to 635 million years ago in the Ediacaran Period. Originally sedimentary rocks formed in deep seas. Later altered by low-grade metamorphism. Originally sedimentary rocks formed in deep seas. These rocks were first deposited as graded clastic sediments or turbidites in the deep sea, and then later metamorphosed, though there is evidence of their sedimentary origin”*.

**4.2.2** The superficial geology of the northern part of the site is recorded as “*Till, Devensian - Diamicton. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions. Ice age conditions. These rocks were formed in cold periods with Ice Age glaciers scouring the landscape and depositing moraines of till with outwash sand and gravel deposits from seasonal and post glacial meltwaters*” There are no details on the superficial geology of the southern area of the site ([www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)).

## **5.0 Historical Background**

**5.0.1** Searches of the Gwynedd HER were conducted at a radius of both 500m and 1000m of the proposed development area (taken from the central point of the proposed development). The results are summarised below. The results have been broadly divided by period. Where of significance, sites lying outside this search area are included with a note as to their location. The results of the search are shown on figure 2.

**5.0.2** There are 7 HER entries within the 500m search radius, two are Prehistoric stone axe find spots (one a single find, one a hoard), 1 entry is a Roman coin find spot and the remaining 4 entries are for Post Medieval buildings.

**5.0.3** When this search area is extended to 1000m the number of sites increases to 70, with sites of predominantly Post Medieval and Modern date. Within the 70 entries there are 4 PRN's of Prehistoric date, 3 of Roman date, 3 of Early Medieval date, 5 of Medieval date, 46 of Post Medieval date and 7 of Modern date. There is also an entry for the Holyhead Conservation Area and one for the Holyhead Settlement Landscape.

**5.0.4** This area of Holyhead Island area is described in the Anglesey Landscape Strategy as “*relatively low lying but due to the underlying geology has a number of craggy outcrops. The area has small fields typically with stone boundaries and gorse hedges. The fir trees that grow here exhibit a windblown form*” (The Isle of Anglesey County Council 2011: 13). The area is overlooked by Holyhead Mountain which is described as “*the highest point on Anglesey, rising up to 220 metres AOD. It has a distinctive rounded profile which reflects the underlying geology of metamorphic Cambrian age rocks and includes the well-known South and North Stacks on its rocky northern coastline. The resultant landscape is one of open rocky moorland with immense natural history and historic/cultural interest*” (ibid: 10).

**5.0.5** Due to the topographical range of sites it was not possible to easily define a search area within which to examine the effect of the scheme upon the designated heritage assets (Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM) and Listed Buildings (LB)). It was therefore determined that as there were a relatively small number of SAM's within the northern portion of Holyhead Island, that the vista toward each would be considered whilst onsite and that visits would be made to those sites which the development may potentially be visible from. This was particularly relevant in the case of the hillfort and watchtower on Holyhead Mountain as although it is located over a mile from the proposed development area, the extensive viewshed given the elevation of the monument has merited its inclusion within the study area.

**5.0.6** Given the proximity of the site to the town of Holyhead it is unsurprising that a number of Listed Buildings fall within the 1000m study area. The buildings were visited but due to the compact urban setting the majority were immediately discounted as being unaffected. Following an initial visit only those closest to the proposed scheme were examined in more detail. Sites discussed in detail are shown on figure 2.



**Figure 2.** Gwynedd HER  
Entries for Sites Located  
Within 1000m of the  
Development Site

Prehistoric Sites

- 1) PRN 5667
- 2) PRN 5668
- 3) PRN 1750
- 4) PRN 1768
- 5) PRN 1761

Roman Sites

- 6) PRN 3799
- 7) PRN 1769
- 8) PRN 1762

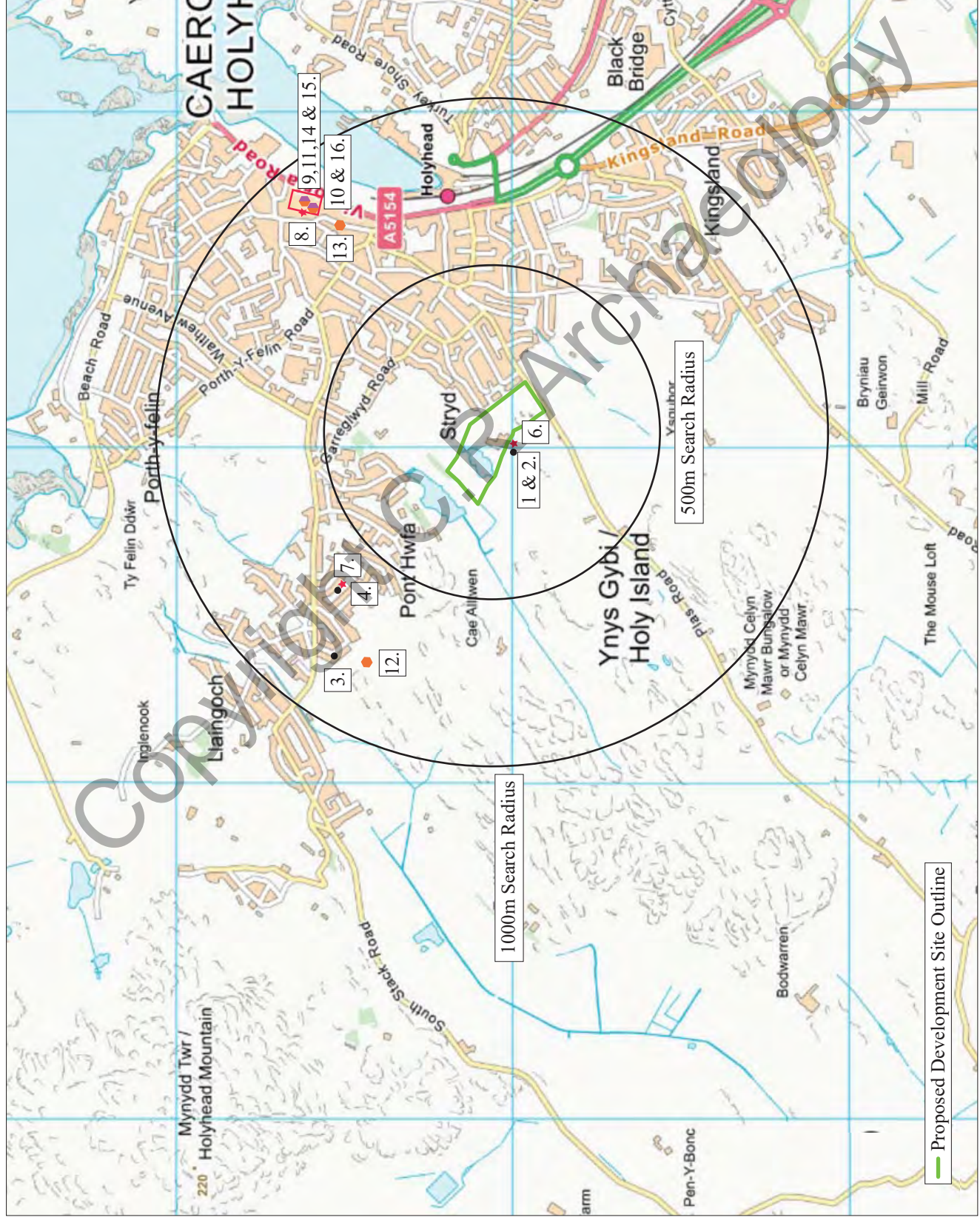
Early Medieval Sites

- 9) PRN 1547
- 10) PRN 6894
- 11) PRN 1828

Medieval Sites

- 12) PRN 1761
- 13) PRN 61481
- 14) PRN 6915
- 15) PRN 1763
- 16) PRN 1764

(Source: OS Open Data  
Mapping Contains Ordnance  
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## 5.1 Prehistoric and Roman Sites (Figure 2)

**5.1.1** The HER holds two Prehistoric records located within 500m of the centre of the proposed development area. Two further sites were located between 500m and 1000m of the study area.

**5.1.2** The two entries within the 500m search radius were find spots for stone axes. PRN 5667 was a hoard of 4 flint axes which were recorded as having been found at Cwm, Holyhead. Three of these axes have since been lost, and the fourth is held by the British Museum. PRN 5668 was a single stone axe, found at Ty Du which is now held by the British Museum.

**5.1.3** It must however be noted that although these axes were found in this general area the grid reference given is 4 figures only and this has resulted in their placement in such close proximity to the farm. This may therefore not be an accurate representation of their actual location although it does highlight the high archaeological potential of the general area.

**5.1.4** The third site, PRN 1750 was the possible site of a burial chamber, Nr Ffynnon Gorllan. The HER entry records a R. Lloyd Hughes trying to visit the "*cromlech in a field adjacent to the farm of Ffynnon Gorllas and Cae Serri Farm*" which was reported by T. Jackson in his 1853 book "*5 Days Ramble in Holyhead*". He could not find the burial chamber and he recorded that when questioned the farmer knew nothing of it. The attribution is considered doubtful, but possible, with the qualification that the exact site location is not known. A site visit recorded that nothing was now visible at the site, which has presumably been cleared for agriculture.

**5.1.5** PRN 1768 was the site of a Hut Group at Tre Hwfa. The period for the entry is recorded as unknown but it is presumably of Iron Age/Romano British date. The description of the site stated that circular foundations were visible in dry weather and that a Roman coin had been found at the site. A housing estate has since been built on the ground previously occupied by Tre Hwfa Farm and there are now no traces of the hut circles.

**5.1.6** Although not assigned an individual PRN, there is a mention of a burnt mound having been discovered during trial trenching at the Medieval site of Capel Gorlas (PRN 1761). The burnt mound was uncovered during trial excavations in 2003 which were undertaken to the east of the Medieval well, between two redundant farm buildings. The burnt mound is presumed to be of Prehistoric date.

**5.1.7** Within a 500m search radius of the centre of the development site was a single entry of Roman date, a Roman coin find spot - PRN 3799. The entry states that the discovery was recorded in an old catalogue of Bangor Town Museum. The coin is listed as belonging to the reign of Tetricus I. As was the case with the stone axe finds detailed above, it must be noted that although this coin was found in this general area, the grid reference given is 4 figures only. This has resulted in its placement in such close proximity to the farm and may therefore not be an accurate representation of their actual location although it does highlight the archaeological potential of the general area.

**5.1.8** When the search radius was extended to 1000m 2 further sites of Roman date were identified. PRN 1769 was a Roman coin which was found at the Tre Hwfa Hut Group (PRN 1768 described above).

**5.1.9** PRN 1762 (SAM AN031) is the remains of the Roman Fort, Holyhead (Caer Gybi) which lies approximately 850m from the proposed development site. All that remains of the Roman Fort at Holyhead is a Roman wall enclosing St Cybi's Church and churchyard. The enclosure is rectangular measuring c.76m x 50m and is oriented north-south. The original wall survives on the north, south and western sides of the churchyard but has been partially obscured by modern housing. The fourth side of the fort is formed by a steep cliff of rock c.15ft high. The walls are nearly 2m thick in places and is built of cemented rubble faced with dressed stones. The walls have traces of a parapet walk and round towers at the four corners. For some time Caer Gybi has been classified as a late Roman



fort (though there has always been an element of doubt). More recent work by Richmond has compared the site with the fortified ship landings or beach points detected by Dr. Schleiermacher on the Rhine and these comparable sites are dated to the last quarter of the 4<sup>th</sup> Century. The fort is interpreted as a small coastguard fort of the late Roman period. These structures had three fortified sides only, the fourth side, on the water front, being open and secured solely from flank attacks by walls which went down to low water level and ended in towers.

### **5.1.1 Further Prehistoric/Roman Sites Lying Outside 1000m Study Area (Figure 3)**

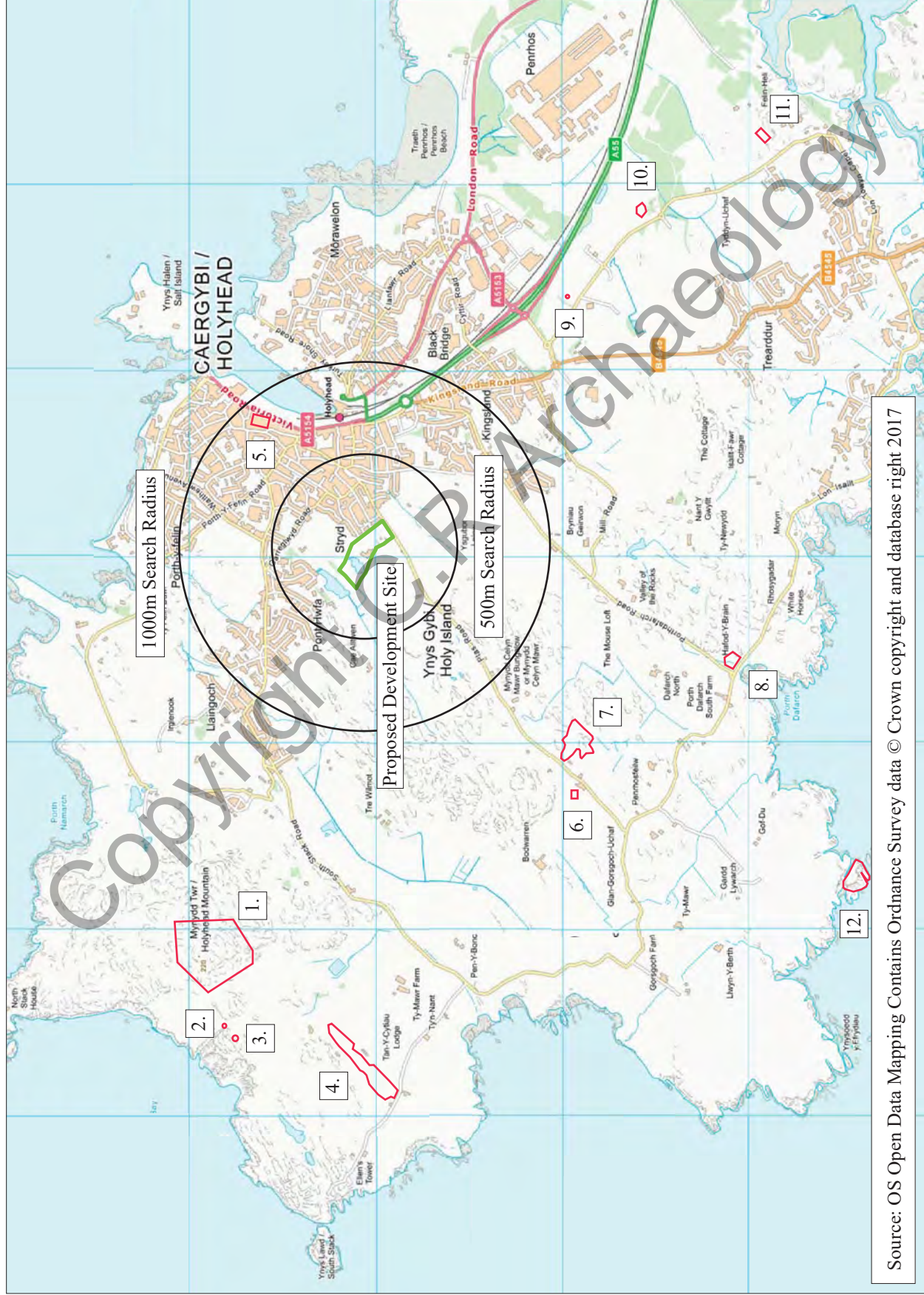
**5.1.1.1** As discussed above it was difficult to easily define a search area within which to examine the effect of the scheme upon the designated heritage assets, in this instance Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM's). It was therefore determined that as there were 12 SAM's within the northern portion of Holyhead Island, that the vista toward each would be considered whilst onsite and that visits would be made to those sites which the development may potentially have a visual impact on (see figure 3).

**5.1.1.2** Of the 12 SAM identified within the northern portion of Holyhead, 11 are of Prehistoric date with 2 standing stones, 1 round cairn, 1 burial chamber, 5 hut circle groups and 2 promontory forts. The remaining entry is for the Roman Fort at Caer Gybi. This is in keeping with the results of the HER searches at a more localised level and demonstrates the wealth of known sites of Prehistoric/Romano-British date in the Holyhead area.

**5.1.1.3** Although only Caer y Twr was visible from the site, for completeness of record the following sites were visited to ensure that there was no visual impact from the development: Caer y Twr, Penrhos Feilw Standing Stones, Plas Meilw Hut Circles, Ty Mawr Standing Stone, Trefignath Burial Chamber, Holyhead Mountain Hut Circles, Roman Wall Surrounding St Cybi's Churchyard. The site visits confirmed that the site was only visible from Caer y Twr and the associated Roman Signal Station. The SAM descriptions have therefore been limited to the site which will potentially be impacted upon: AN019 Caer y Twr – a promontory fort on Holyhead mountain. The following passage is taken from the Cadw Scheduling report:

**5.1.1.4** *“Caer y Twr comprises an Iron Age hillfort situated on the top of Holyhead Mountain. It is defended by a strong 3 m thick dry-stone wall enclosing some 17 acres. The wall runs around the north and east sides of the fort; the south and west sides are naturally protected by steep cliffs. The wall has not survived so well on the north-west side, but on the north and east sides it survives in places to a height of nearly 3m. It has been suggested that a rampart walk was a feature of the wall, but there is less evidence for this now. On the north-east side of the fort is a simple in-turned entrance, about 3m wide, which makes use of a natural gully. The interior of the fort is rough and rocky, with no sign of any contemporary habitation sites. However, recent excavation has revealed the possible remains of a Roman signal station on the summit, adjacent to the Ordnance Survey trig point. There has recently been fairly extensive refurbishment of the footpaths, including repairs, the creation of rough steps, and the piling of stone to discourage use of alternative routes. This monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of prehistoric domestic life, social organisation and defensive practices”* ([www.cadwpublicapi.azure-websites.net/reports/sam/FullReport?lang=en&id=2509](http://www.cadwpublicapi.azure-websites.net/reports/sam/FullReport?lang=en&id=2509)).

**5.1.1.5** The impact on the site is largely due to the extensive vista from the hillfort site, which occupies the highest point on the island, rather than the development itself being a prominent feature within the landscape. This impact is addressed in section 6.



Source: OS Open Data Mapping Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017



## 5.2 Medieval (Figure 2)

**5.2.1** There were no sites of Medieval date recorded within a 500m search radius of the centre of the development area. When the radius is extended to 1000m there are 8 sites recorded - 3 of Early Medieval date and 5 of Medieval date.

### 5.2.1 Early Medieval (Figure 2)

**5.2.1.1** All of the Early Medieval entries for the HER search are for sites which are located within the churchyard of St Gybi, Holyhead.

**5.2.1.2** The first entry is PRN 1547, the find spot of an Anglo-Saxon coin. It is of Mercian origin and has been dated to c.790 AD. It is recorded that the coin was “*supposedly found within Caer Gybi*”.

**5.2.1.3** PRN 6894 records the discovery of Early Christian Burials Beneath Eglwys y Bedd (PRN 1764), in the south-western corner of the churchyard.

**5.2.1.4** PRN 1828 records the site of a “dark age” monastery which existed at Holyhead and was founded by St. Cybi (c.540) who is said to have been given the Roman fort later known as Caer Gybi. In 961 it was plundered by the Vikings. By 1291 it had become a college, said to have been founded in the early c.12th. It was suppressed c.1547 and no remains of the monastery survive.

### 5.2.2 Medieval (Figure 2)

**5.2.2.1** PRN 1761 records the site of Capel Gorlas or Capel y Goilles. It is recorded in antiquarian sources as lying between Holyhead and Mynydd Twr, where it was described by Pennant as being in ruins. Capel Gorlas is one of several chapels, each with an associated well, which lay on Holy Island. The exact location of Capel Gorlas is unknown, though the name is utilised in the house and buildings called Ffynon Gorlas. A well surrounded by a stone wall is reached by a track from the present house. It is believed that this well is likely to be the original Ffynon Gorlas.

**5.2.2.2** A description of 1775 describes the site as “*Capal y Gorlas*”, which has “*in the east end a famous spring called Ffynon y Gorlas*”. It is not clear from this description whether the well lay within the chapel (an unlikely event) or outside and to the east of the chapel. If the chapel lay to the west of the present well, then a possible location is on the site of two farm buildings, one a cart shed, which from their masonry and roof remains appear to be of 19th century date. In 2003 Gwynedd Archaeological Trust conducted a trial excavation to the east of the well, between the two redundant farm buildings which revealed a burnt mound presumed to be of Prehistoric date.

**5.2.2.3** PRN 61481 records the possible remains of a road. During a Gwynedd Archaeological Trust project a 6.6m long area of bedrock was identified which appeared to be sealed by a possible metallated surface which lay directly on the bedrock. The identification of this surface as metallated is by no means certain and the report states that the metallated surface may have been fragmented bedrock. It does however also note that the stones forming the surface appeared to lie quite flat and level, giving the appearance of a metallated surface. It was considered by the excavators that this could be the remnant of a Medieval, or earlier, road surface.

**5.2.2.4** PRN's 6915 and 1763 are both entries for Caergybi Parish Church. The Medieval church of St. Cybi, was built in 13th century and was altered and enlarged in 15th and 16th centuries. It is situated within the Roman fort of Caer Gybi. St Cybi, the son of Selyf - a Cornish King, was given the Roman fortification of Caer Gybi where he founded a Dark Age monastery c.540 (see PRN 1828 above). The oldest part of the church is the Chancel, which was predominantly built in the 15th century on 13th century foundations. Other parts of the building were erected in 16th, 17th and 19th centuries.

**5.2.2.5** The building is a Grade I Listed Building (ID 5413) and was listed as an example of “*an outstanding Late Medieval church in North Wales*”. It has Group value with Capel y Bedd (Grade II Listed, ID 5414) and Upper Churchyard walls (Grade I Listed, ID 5415).

**5.2.2.6** The following text has been taken from the Cadw Listed Building description:

**5.2.2.7 “History**

*Church traditionally founded by St Cybi within the walls of a fort of the late Roman period. Present building dates mainly from late C15/early C16 rebuilding. Late C15 chancel incorporating C13 masonry; transepts (circa 1480), N aisle (circa 1500), S aisle and porch with stair turret (circa 1520). C17 tower. Early C19 vestry to N of tower. Restoration of 1877-1879 by Sir Gilbert Scott. South (Stanley) chapel of 1896-97.*

**5.2.2.8 Exterior**

*“Brown stone; mainly late Perpendicular style with battlemented parapets. Two-stage W tower has pyramidal roof (C18 weather vane dated 1753), embattled parapet, louvred openings to upper stage, square-headed doorway to S. Elaborate south porch has battlemented parapets, stepped buttresses with finials to E and W angles, moulded string courses and plinth, 4-centred doorway with traceried spandrels; E and W windows with 4-centred arches, 3 lights of 5-foil ogee heads, tracery over, transom with cusped lights below. Entrance doorway 4-centred with hoodmould and decorated frame (carved decoration to spandrels includes heraldic shield). Wall above doorway has elaborate relief carving including a trinity beneath tiered canopy, to each side, arms of Llywarch ap Bran (to R in wreath of twisted cord), rest of wall has panels of tracery designs enclosed by arch of trefoil cusping. Fan vaulting (of 1877-79) carried by angle shafts with moulded capitals and bases (S side), and angle niches (N side). S aisle has 2 windows each of 3 trefoil lights, perpendicular tracery heads. In angle between aisle and S transept, polygonal stair turret with (C19) steep pyramidal roof, band of quatrefoil decoration below, slit windows. South transept has battlemented parapet (finials to angles) with sculptural reliefs including angel, lions, mitred heads, fantastic beasts; band of sunk quatrefoil decoration below. Two-light window has trefoil lights; between window and gable, sundial (dated 1813). South chapel (1896-7) has 2 broad 2-light windows to S (W of these C16 moved from chancel), and broad 3-light window to E. Lancet at return to chancel. E end of chancel has diagonal buttresses (C19) and window (2-centred arch) of three cusped lights with intersecting tracery in head, hoodmould over. N wall of chancel has two lancets, and small C16 window with segmental head. North transept has battlemented parapets; to E, 4-centred window with 3 trefoiled lights; to N, 4-centred window with 2 trefoiled lights. North aisle has two 3-cusped light windows with perpendicular tracery; N doorway with 4-centred arch. Small vestry in angle between aisle and tower. Stanley chapel (to S of chancel) Italian marble monument with angles and effigy by Hamo Thorneycroft. Window by Morris & Co, designed by Sir E Burne-Jones Roofs restored 1813-14, and 1877-79, mostly re-using old moulded timbers.*

**5.2.2.9 Interior**

*Nave of 3 bays, 4-centred arches (S arcade at higher level). Round arch to tower. Four-centred arches to transepts and crossing. Rough semi-circular chancel arch. E wall of N transept has late C15 painting of Tudor rose. In S transept reset C12 stones with chevrons ([www.cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=en&id=5413](http://www.cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=en&id=5413))*

**5.2.2.10** Eglwys y Bedd (PRN 1764, ID 5414) is a Grade II Listed Building. It stands in the south-western corner of the churchyard of St. Cybi. The Listing description records “*Nave of C14 church converted to school in 1748. Also known as Chapel. Llan-y-Gwyddel, and Old Vestry*”. The exterior is described as “*Grey stone, slate roof. Former chancel arch to E (now blocked) 2 continuous moulded orders, inserted doorway; to N, 2 square windows. To W, window (C14?) originally 2 lights, with moulded jambs and label; head of blocked C15/C16 doorway below*” ([www.cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=en&id=5414](http://www.cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=en&id=5414)).

### **5.3 Post Medieval/Modern Period (Figure 4)**

**5.3.1** There were 4 Post Medieval sites recorded within a 500m search radius of the centre of the development area. All entries are for Post Medieval buildings - Millbank (PRN 7672), Chapel (PRN 8152), Mortuary Chapel (PRN 8155) and the site of Melin Ucheldre (PRN 36155) which was identified from cartographic sources.

**5.3.2** When the radius is extended to 1000m there are 46 sites recorded of Post Medieval date and 7 of Modern date. There is also an entry for the Holyhead Conservation Area and one for the Holyhead Settlement Landscape. The large number of entries from this period is a function of the proximity of the site to the urban area of Holyhead. These sites have not been plotted or studied in detail. A summary of the character of the town of Holyhead has been provided below.

**5.3.3** The following account of the town is taken from Haslam, Orbach & Voelcker (2009: 127): “*The town on Holy Island has been the principle port for Ireland since 1800. Rennie’s harbour improvements began in 1810, Telford’s road from London was built from 1815 and Stephenson’s railway from 1844. These have all but erased the pre 19<sup>th</sup> century character, but Holyhead was a port long before. Jonathan Swift sailed from here in 1727, and the government communication with Dublin was via Holyhead from the late 16<sup>th</sup> century. The parish church testifies to Medieval importance, continuing from the early Christian monastery of St Cybi founded in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. The town is largely 19<sup>th</sup> century, the terraces, chapels and other buildings mostly of the modest sub-classical type found throughout the industrial expansion in NW Wales. Collectively they form a weaker townscape than that at Dun Laoghaire, the corresponding port on the Irish side*”.

**5.3.4** There are 4 Listed Buildings within 500m of the proposed development site and a further 25 Listed Buildings when the search area is extended to 1000m. These are shown on figure 4. Due to the topography and urban density of the town of Holyhead the proposed settlement will have no impact, visual or otherwise on those buildings lying outside of the 500m radius of the site. There are therefore not discussed further in this document.

**5.3.5** The following 4 Listed Buildings lie within 500m of the proposed development area. All were visited to assess whether the proposed development was likely to have any implications on their setting. The following text is taken from the Listed Building descriptions.

**5.3.6** ID 87588 - Boundary Wall to Cybi Building, Holyhead High School (Grade II Listed). “*The wall defines the boundary of the school grounds to South Stack Road and to the west, and encloses the former head-masters house (Gwynant) to the east. Walls are limestone rubble with cock and hen copings copings; Piers at angles and to entrances, with ornate moulded caps surmounted by ball finials (some missing); the eastern return between school grounds and garden of former head-master’s house is a lower wall of snecked stonework with ramped ashlar copings, surmounted by cast-iron railings with intermittent scroll-work panels. 2 further gate-piers in this wall, and in boundary to Seiriol Street. Listed for group value as an integral part of the design of the school*” ([www.cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=en&id=87588](http://www.cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=en&id=87588)).



**Figure 4. Post Medieval Sites Within 500m & Listed Buildings Within 1000m of Proposed Development Area**

### HER Entries

1. Millbank PRN 7672
2. Chapel PRN 8152
3. Mortuary Chapel PRN 8155
4. Melin Ucheldre PRN 36155

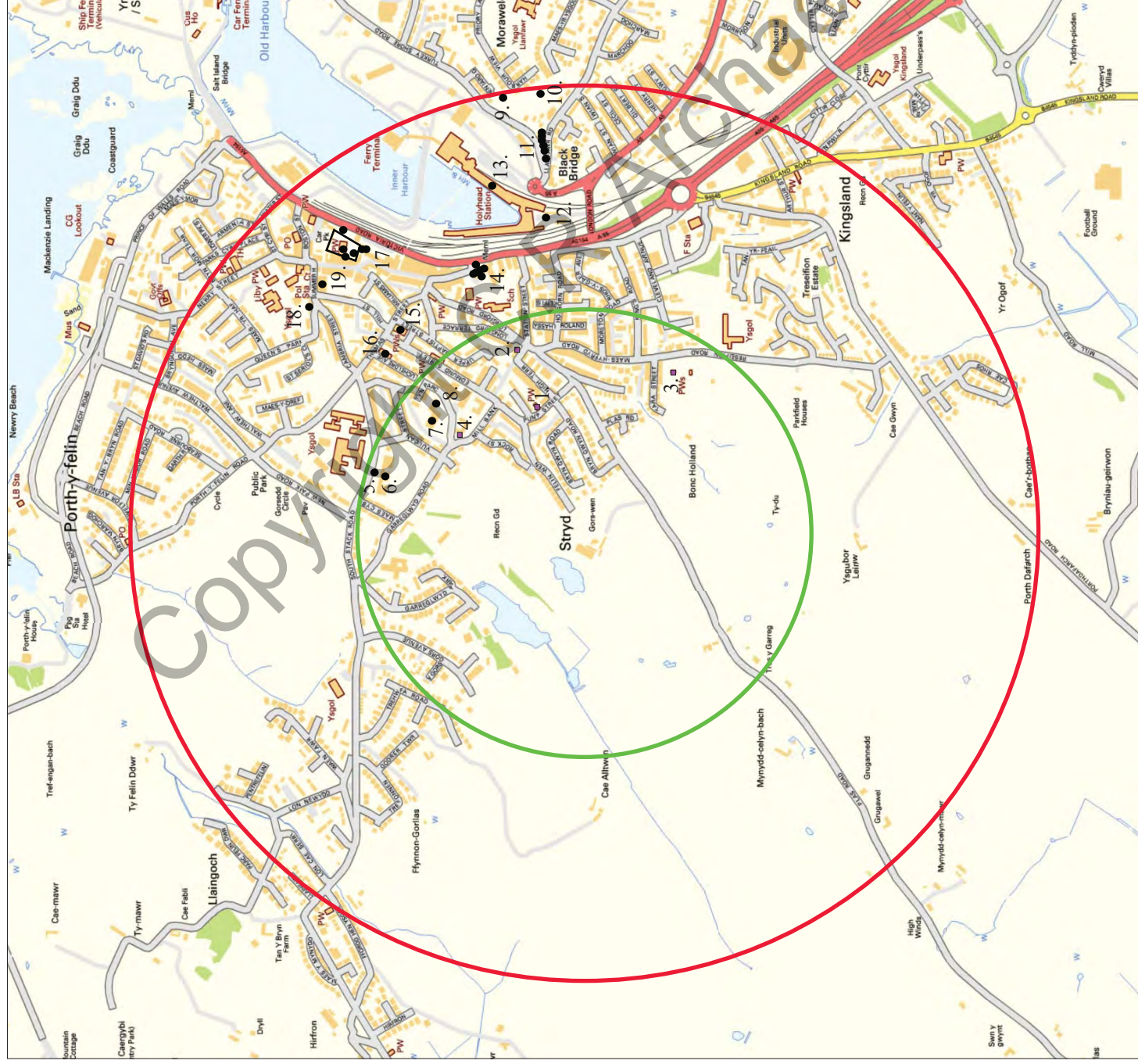
### Listed Buildings (500m)

5. ID 87588 - Boundary Wall to Cybi Building, Holyhead High School
6. ID 87587 - Cybi Building, Holyhead High School
7. ID 5741 - Ucheldre Centre (Former Bon Sauveur Convent Chapel)
8. ID 14728 - Ty'n Parc

### Listed Buildings (1000m)

9. ID 5417 - Skinner Monument
10. ID 14741 - Pillbox near Skinner's Monument
11. Tan Alltran Complex Comprised of:  
ID 14734 - Tanalltran Cottages, ID 5726 - Tanalltran Cottages,  
ID 5728 - Stable Block to Plas Alltran, ID 5729 - 1, Turkey  
Shore Road, ID 14740 - 2, Turkey Shore Road
12. ID 14735 - Clock Turret in Station Approach
13. ID 14739 - Train Shed at Holyhead Station
14. Victoria Terrace Complex Comprised of:  
ID 14754 - 6, Victoria Terrace, ID 14753 - 5, Victoria Terrace,  
ID 14752 - 4, Victoria Terrace, ID 14751 - 3, Victoria Terrace,  
ID 5724 - 2, Victoria Terrace, ID 14749 - Cenotaph
15. ID 14737 - Tabernacl Chapel
16. ID 14738 - Hyfrydle Chapel
17. St Cybi's Church Complex Comprised of:  
ID 5415 - Walls of upper churchyard, ID 5413 - St Cybi's  
Church, ID 5414 - Capel y Bedd, ID 14750 - Lower  
Churchyard Walls and Gateway, ID 14726 - Stanley House,  
ID 14727 - The Captains Table
18. ID 14736 - Caernarfon Castle P H
19. ID 5763 - Market Hall

(Source: OS Open Data Mapping Contains Ordnance  
Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017)



**5.3.7 ID 87587 - Cybi Building, Holyhead High School (Grade II Listed).** *“Built 1904 as part of Holyhead”'s new county school. An early example of a county school, following the 1902 Education Act, which transferred responsibility for educational provision from School Boards to County Councils. The building was used within Anglesey's new comprehensive system from 1954 as an integral part of the comprehensive school in Holyhead. Latterly used as the sixth form centre for the school, but closed in 2006. A large school complex, planned and designed according to clear principals in which each component is separately expressed, in the mild Queen Anne style favoured for school building from c1880. Bright red brick with ashlar dressings including some banding; render on rear elevations; slate roof with red tiled crestings and tall chimneys with ornate capping detail. Single storeyed, the main range comprises 3 distinct working areas arranged as two symmetrical blocks either side of a central section. Front elevation is therefore articulated around the central block which loosely comprises 3 gables, corresponding to principal areas within, linked to flanking blocks by short 3-window ranges. Recessed central gable offset to right of tower over infant”'s entrance: ornate doorway with transomed segmental overlight, with circular window alongside; octagonal tower with stone broaches, now missing the original spire. Gable has tripartite window in ashlar frame, circular window at apex, and ball finial at segmentally arched gable apex. Left-hand gabled range has segmentally arched window; right-hand gable has simpler row of 3 windows. To either side of this central block, flanking blocks each comprise 3 gables corresponding to three principal areas within. The central gable is recessed, and has greater architectural enrichment, dominated by a composite window in 3 sections, each with a segmentally arched head. The transoms continue as pilasters terminating in ball finials. Shaped gable also has ball finial. Balanced flanking gables: the outer gable having a broad segmentally arched windows with banded voussoirs and entrance porch against its inner angle: shaped buttress and segmental pediment over raised lettering - ”’Boys”’ to left, ”’Girls”’ to right. Right hand gable is plainer and has 3 simple windows. At either end a further recessed bay also has 3 windows. Rear elevation also reflects the essential tripartite division of the building, with 3 discrete blocks to the rear of the 3 main areas of the front range. Each of these comprises 2 parallel ranges, roofed in parallel to the main alignment of the building (but at right-angles to the gables which structure the front range). Architectural character is derived from the striking asymmetrical gables which give emphasis to windows in the main elevations facing the yard. Listed as a good example of an Edwardian county school, with a clearly articulated plan, and good architectural detail” (www.cadwpublicapi.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=en&id=87587).*

**5.3.8 ID 5741 - Ucheldre Centre - Former Bon Sauveur Convent Chapel (Grade II Listed).** *“Romanesque style; 1934-37 by Professor R M Butler, architect, of Dublin. Former attached early C20 school closed and demolished 1980’s. Under conversion to community centre at time of inspection. Grey-green stone with pale stone dressings over inner concrete core, grey-green slate roofs. Romanesque apsidal plan with low aisles, flanking vestry blocks, and saddle entrance tower. Simple round-arched openings to six bay sides. Saddle tower with parapetted gables, twin-arched openings with shafts and linked hood moulds, tall single light with twin nookshafts between clasping buttresses, blind arcade over 3-order doorway. To L of tower, 3 arches to service block with long return in grey stone; doorway flanked by groups of 3 round-headed windows; towards rear, two windows with 7 narrow arched lights; modern block with hipped roof to rear. To R of tower, arched screen wall in exposed stone connects to Ty’n Parc. Undivided interior of 6 bays with concrete tunnel vault and semi-dome to apse, half-shafts to transverse ribs. Full-height arched bays interpenetrate main vault; single clerestorey lights over segmental aisle openings. Timber gallery in front of tower arch. Group value with Ty’n Parc” (www.cadwpublicapi.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=en&id=5741).*



**5.3.9** ID 14728 - Ty'n Parc (Grade II Listed). Early C19 house enlarged early C20 as part of Bon Sauveur Convent. Convent founded 1907, house substantially enlarged to rear 1919/1924. 3-storey, 3-window front; slate roof with end chimneys; rendered walls. Upper storey has, at eaves level, inserted small pane casement windows to attic. First floor has outer 12-pane sashes with smaller central French doors to porch roof. Central castellated porch with polygonal buttresses, shallow pointed doorway with panelled door, side windows. To each side of porch, large tripartite sash windows with sills at ground level. Castellated screen wall to L. Very large rear 3-storey extensions, rendered walls, slate roof. Group value with neighbouring Ucheldre Centre ([www.cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listed-building/FullReport?lang=en&id=14728](http://www.cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listed-building/FullReport?lang=en&id=14728)).

### **5.3.1 Cartographic Sources (Figures 5 – 12)**

**5.3.1.1** The earliest map showing the site which could be sourced was a Penrhos Estate Map dated to the late Eighteenth Century (figure 5). This map, despite clear inaccuracies, shows elements which could be identified on later sources. The most obvious survival was the distinctive triangular shaped plot in the bottom left portion of the development area. It is linked to the farmstead via a long trackway which has survived in part. The division of the proposed development area into 5 fields with a 6<sup>th</sup> plot around the house seen in the late tithe is established by the time of this map, although the two fields to the west appear to have been parts of larger land units. There is a single building shown in the farm yard which is in the location of current building 6.

**5.3.1.2** The main elevation of the building has reversed over time as it is clear from this source that the farm was accessed via a lane from the north-west rather than via the lane off Plas Road which is first shown on the Tithe map.

**5.3.1.3** The Tithe map of the early 1840's (figure 6) shows the proposed development area is comprised of 5 numbered plots with a 6<sup>th</sup> plot around the house. Field 233 has what may be a further internal division or pathway running across the field. There is also a small square area defined adjacent to the house area. Only one of the fields is named in the document – field 227 which is recorded as Cae Pigfair or Cae Pigfain (it is a little unclear on the document). The former can be roughly translated as Fair Point or corner which could conceivably be down to the triangular shape of the plot, Fair may possibly be a mutation of Mair so Mair's point or corner is also an option. Pigfain translates as speedwell, a small blue flower which thrives on cultivated land. Neither alternatives offer any indication as to any archaeological associations. There are two buildings shown on the farm complex, neither of which is in the location of the current farmhouse. They equate to the locations of current building ranges 3 and 6.

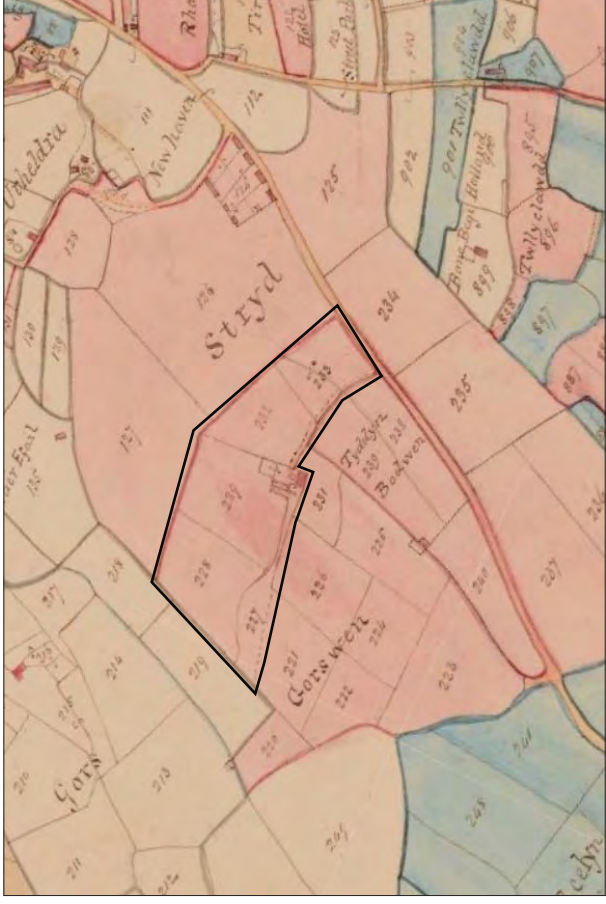
**5.3.1.4** The First Edition Ordnance Survey map, surveyed 1887 (figure 8), shows that the divisions between fields 232 and 233 which appear on the tithe map have been removed, as has the boundary between fields 227 and 228. The building complex has been enlarged and additional buildings including the north-eastern wing of the current farmhouse have been added.

**5.3.1.5** The main block of the current farmhouse has been constructed by the time of the 1899 survey (figure 9). There have been further pens/enclosures added around the farmyard, which are again added to in the 1920 edition (figure 10). A small structure along the entrance into the farmyard first appears on this map edition. There are no changes shown on the 1938 and 1949 editions (figure 11 & 12). The division between the north-western fields (228 and 229 on the Tithe map) has been removed at some point following the 1949 survey of the land. The large pond in field 2b is a modern construction and was excavated by the present owner.

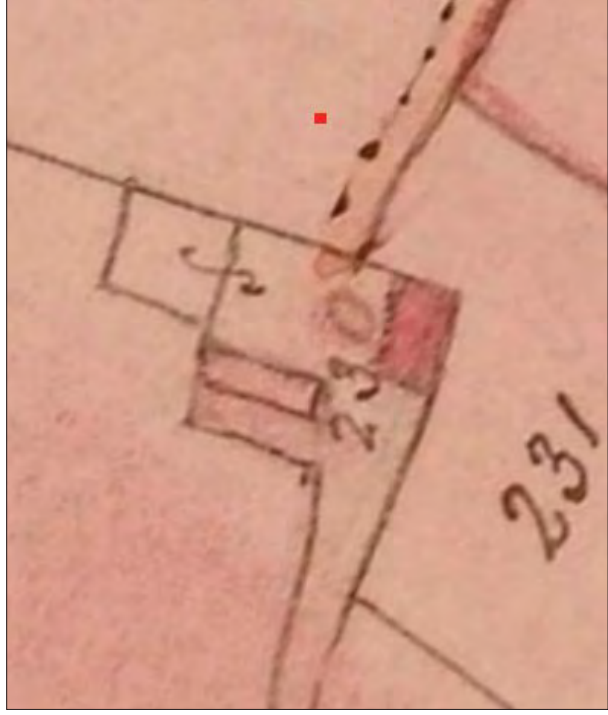




**Figure 5.** Late Eighteenth Century Estate Map of Proposed Development Area (Bangor University Archives: Penrhos V3 223)



**Figure 6.** 1840's Tithe Map of Proposed Development Area



**Figure 7.** 1840's Tithe Map Showing Details of Farm Buildings



**Figure 8.** First Edition Ordnance Survey Map Surveyed 1887, Published 1889

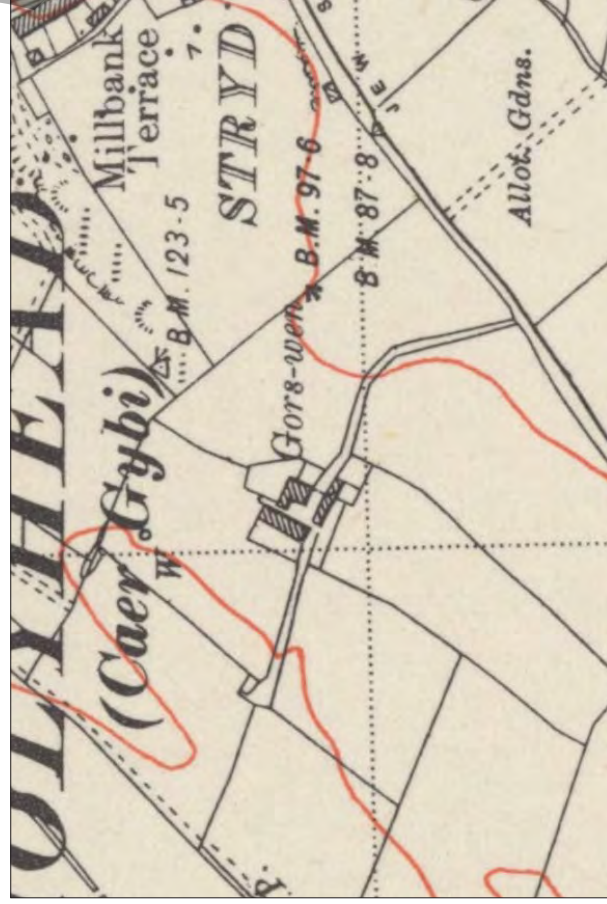




**Figure 9.** Ordnance Survey Map  
Revised 1899, Published 1901



**Figure 10.** Ordnance Survey Map  
Revised 1920, Published 1926



**Figure 11.** Ordnance Survey Map  
Revised 1938, Published 1949



**Figure 12.** Ordnance Survey Map  
Revised 1949, Published 1953

## **6.0 Results of Walk Over Survey & Desk Based Works**

**6.0.1** The walk over survey was conducted on Friday the 31<sup>st</sup> March. The weather was warm and dry with clear blue skies. The site consisted of two fields and an agricultural building complex which included a farm house, stables and associated buildings.

**6.0.2** Figure 13 shows the location of the building (B) and field (F) numbers. The building erection dates have been determined utilising the cartographic data gathered during the desk based works and observations made during the site visit. This does not imply that the buildings have not undergone significant remodelling since their erection, or that certain elements are not multi-phase. Figure 14 has been compiled to show the dates at which each of the building elements first appears on historical sources. Appendix B shows the location and direction of the photographic plates.

### **6.1 Farm Buildings**

#### **6.1.1 Building 1 – Shed/Outbuilding Built into Boundary Wall (Plates 1-2, 23-24)**

Building 1 is a small stone shed with a sloping corrugated plastic roof. It is incorporated into the boundary wall. The building has a single opening - a door which opens out onto the trackway into the farm. The door was locked and the interior could not therefore be accessed or recorded. This structure does not appear on the Ordnance Survey mapping although stylistically it would appear to be of later nineteenth or early twentieth century date.

#### **6.1.2 Building 2 – Modern Garage (Plates 1, 3 & 10)**

Building 2 is a modern lean-to construction built against an earlier farm building. It is a garage which has been built using breeze blocks on a concrete slab base. The rear gable wall is part of an earlier boundary wall (plate 10).

#### **6.1.3 Building 3 - Farm House (Plates 3–8, 23-24, 46)**

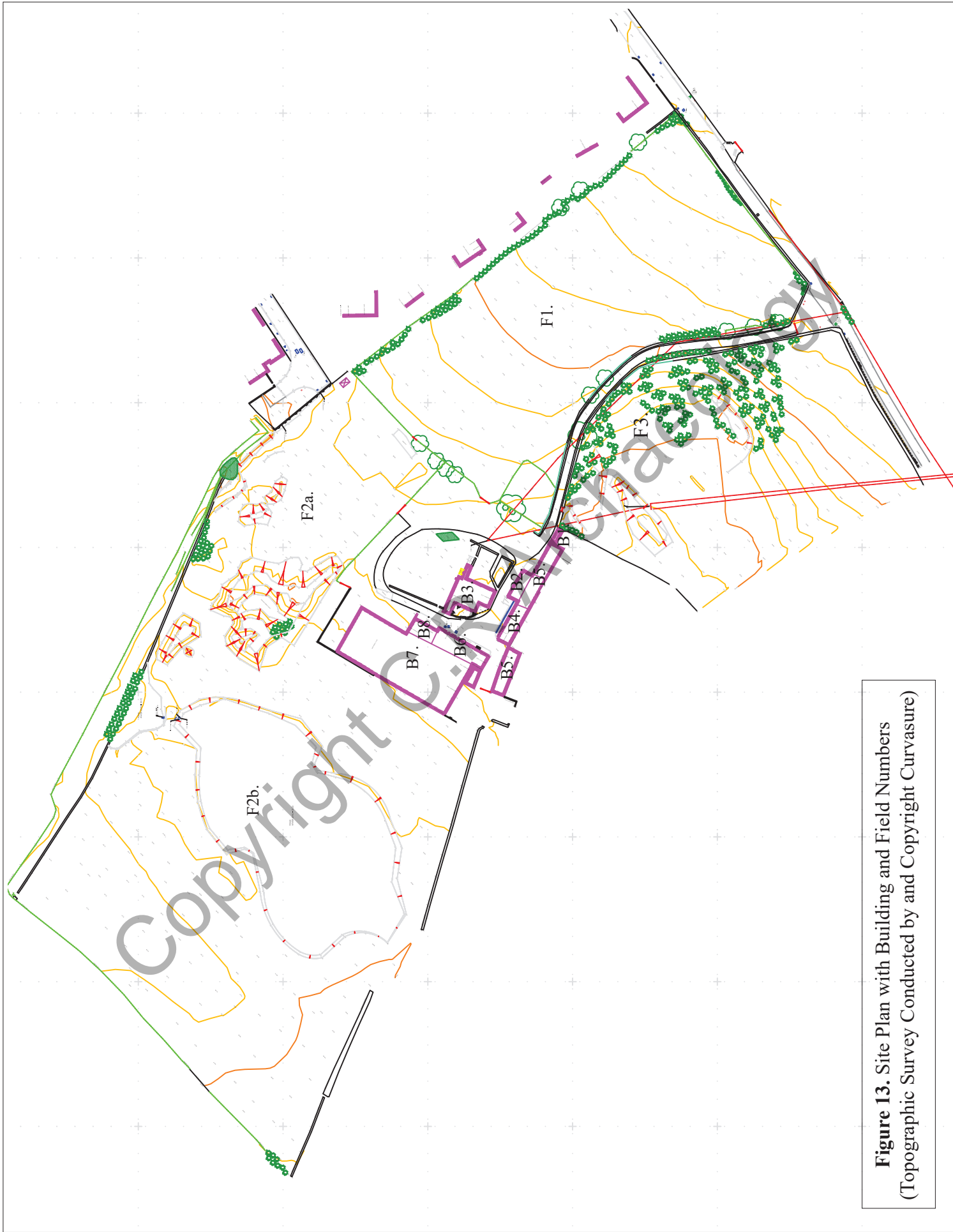
The main farm house at Gorswen is a multi-phase structure, with the first element – the north-eastern wing being built between c.1840 and 1887. This main house was built between the time of the first and second editions of the Ordnance Survey mapping, 1887 – 1899 and is architecturally typical of this period. There is a modern conservatory extension to the rear of the property.

#### **6.1.4 Building 4 – Stable Block (Plates 9-12, 17-20, 25-6)**

Building 4 is a stone-built stable divided into three stalls, which at the time of recording were all occupied. The building was cement rendered and had been painted white. The building has two clear phases, both of which were built between the late Eighteenth century and the early 1840's. The windows and door ways are irregular which would suggest that this entire range was unlikely to have originally been built as stabling. The cement render obscures the identification of modified or blocked openings. The northern corner of the building is rounded to avoid injury to livestock, a not uncommon feature of agricultural buildings of this period.

#### **6.1.5 Building 5 – Barn (Plates 11-12, 17, 29, 37-39)**

Building 5 is a barn which utilises an earlier boundary wall as its northern elevation. This wall has a slight slope to it and is stone built and white washed. The remaining elements of the building consisted of a wooden frame and corrugated iron roof and walls. There is a large wooden door on its western gable and an entrance way to the eastern gable. The interior had a heavily disturbed mud floor. The building postdates the 1949 Ordnance Survey map.



**Figure 13.** Site Plan with Building and Field Numbers  
(Topographic Survey Conducted by and Copyright Curvasure)



Key:

First Shown on Estate Map

First Shown on Tithe Map

First Shown on 1887 OS Map

First Shown on 1899 OS Map

First Shown on 1920 OS Map

Post Dates 1949 OS Map

Not on OS but Likely Late 19th/  
Early 20th Century

**Figure 14.** Basic Coloured Building Phases of Structures At Gorswen

Building 9.

Building 6.

Building 7.

Building 3.

Building 5.

Building 4.

Building 2.

Building 8.

Building 1.

Copyright C.R Archaeology

### **6.1.6 Building 6 – Riding Stables: Tack Room and Stable Block (Plates 13-16, 30-33, 40-45)**

Building 6 is the oldest building range on the site and first appears on the Penrhos Estate map of the late Eighteenth Century. It is stone built and aligned on a south-west to north-east axis and is composed of two elements: a two-storey building at the south-western end which was in use as an office for the riding stables and a tack room, and a single-storey three stall stable at the north-eastern end. The front elevation of the building is cement rendered with timber cladding to the upper portions of the building.

**6.1.6.1** An examination of the gable ends of the south-western building showed that the building was not originally a single-story structure which had been extended, but had been built with two floors. The modern pointing, render and cladding all obscure earlier details and the building has a relatively new roof with an overhang which almost certainly does not follow an earlier design.

**6.1.6.2** The window in the gable end (plate 30) had the remains of a wooden frame but may have been an enlarged pitching hole. The ground floor window in this structure is a modern addition, but the doorway is likely to be in the original position, although the door and frame are modern. The second-floor windows are also modern replacements in original openings as the position of the windows right under the eaves is mirrored at the rear of the property. Part of the rear portion of the structure is obscured by a later lean-to structure and it is evident from the rear elevation that this once ran the length of this building (see plate 32).

**6.1.6.3** This building element may postdate the adjoining single storey structure and although it is difficult to be certain as the structure could not be examined without the cladding and render it would seem reasonable to hypothesise that this building could have been added as a house when the fortunes of the family which occupied the adjacent single-storey possible long house improved. This is in no way proven however as there are certain features such as the lack of any discernible fireplace/chimney in the adjoining structure pointing to its origin as an agricultural building.

**6.1.6.4** The building would have become redundant as the main farm residence when the new farmhouse was built between 1887 and 1899 and the building appears to have been used as butchers/abattoir at around this time. There is evidence of metal hanging bars and a sloped cement floor for drainage. There has been a suggestion that the farm was owned in the late 1800's by the Magee family - a well-known butcher and meat trader with shops based in Holyhead and Valley.

**6.1.6.5** The single storey section of Building 6 had been split into three stable stalls which were all in use at the time of the survey. As with the adjoining building the modern cladding and render made it impossible to determine whether all openings were original or whether they had been modified. There is a much larger opening at what is now the rear of the building is believed to be the original front entrance (plate 31).

**6.1.6.6** The roof structure has survived reasonably well and there is evidence of the lime grouting of the roof slates in the building interior and exterior. There is also a partially surviving wooden partition at roof height shown on plate 45.

**6.1.6.7** This part of the building may have been a traditional longhouse, although if this is the case the form is much altered from the original appearance. It is difficult to date this structure due to the continuity of style over a long period of time but it may conceivably predate the north-eastern structure by a generation or so. There is however no conclusive evidence of this and the range may have always functioned as a contemporary ancillary agricultural building for the adjoining house.





**Plate 1.** Road into Gorswen Farmyard,  
Building 1 is on the Left of the Plate



**Plate 2.** Building 1 Front Elevation



**Plate 3.** Road into Gorswen Farmyard, Building 2 is in  
The Foreground, Building 3 is to the Right



**Plate 4.** Tarmac Area of Farmyard in Front of Farmhouse  
(Building 3). Building 2 Shown in Background





**Plate 5.** Main Farmhouse (Building 3) Front Elevation and Enclosing Wall



**Plate 6.** Main Farmhouse (Building 3) Front Elevation



**Plate 7.** Main Farmhouse (Building 3) Rear Elevation



**Plate 8.** Main Farmhouse (Building 3) South-East Facing Elevation





**Plate 9.** Stable Block Front Elevation (Building 4)



**Plate 10.** Stable Block Front Elevation (Building 4)  
Earlier Stone Gable of Building 2 Visible in Foreground



**Plate 11.** Stable Block - Curved Building Corner (Building 4)



**Plate 12.** Stable Block - Curved Building Corner  
(Building 4) Building 5 is to the Right





**Plate 13.** Riding Stables and Tack Room with Adjoining Stable Block (Building 6)



**Plate 14.** Riding Stables and Tack Room (Building 6)



**Plate 15.** Riding Stables and Tack Room with Adjoining Stable Block (Building 6). Part of Building 7 Visible



**Plate 16.** Building 7 - Small Stable Block with Earlier Gable Wall





**Plate 17.** Rear of Stable Block 4, Barn 5 and Later Building 8



**Plate 18.** Rear Elevation of Stable Block 4



**Plate 19.** Building 8 - Built Against Earlier Boundary Wall



**Plate 20.** Building 8 - Built Against Earlier Boundary Wall





**Figure 21.** Building 8 Partially Obscured by Caravan  
Area of Hard-standing in Front of Building



**Figure 22.** Area of Hard-standing in Front of Building



**Figure 23.** Buildings 8 and 1 Roof-line  
(Building 1 in Foreground)



**Figure 24.** Buildings 1 Gable Elevation  
(Building 3 in Background)

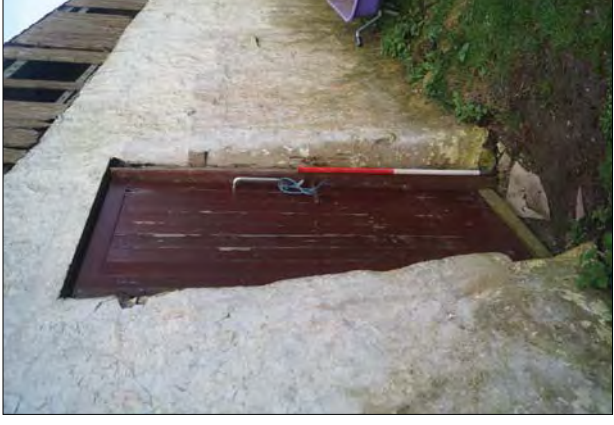




**Plate 25.** Curved Wall  
Of Building 4



**Plate 26.** Gable End of Building 4 and Elevation  
Of Barn 5 Utilising Earlier Boundary Wall



**Plate 27.** Building 5  
Doorway

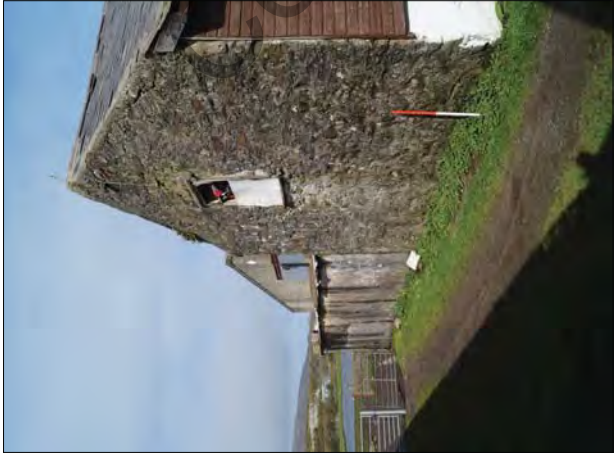


**Plate 28a & b.** Rear Elevation of Building 7  
Showing Blocked Opening



**Plate 29.** South-West Facing Elevation of Manège - Building 9  
Barn - Building 4 Rear Elevation





**Plate 30.** Building 6 Gable -  
Modern Lean-to at Rear



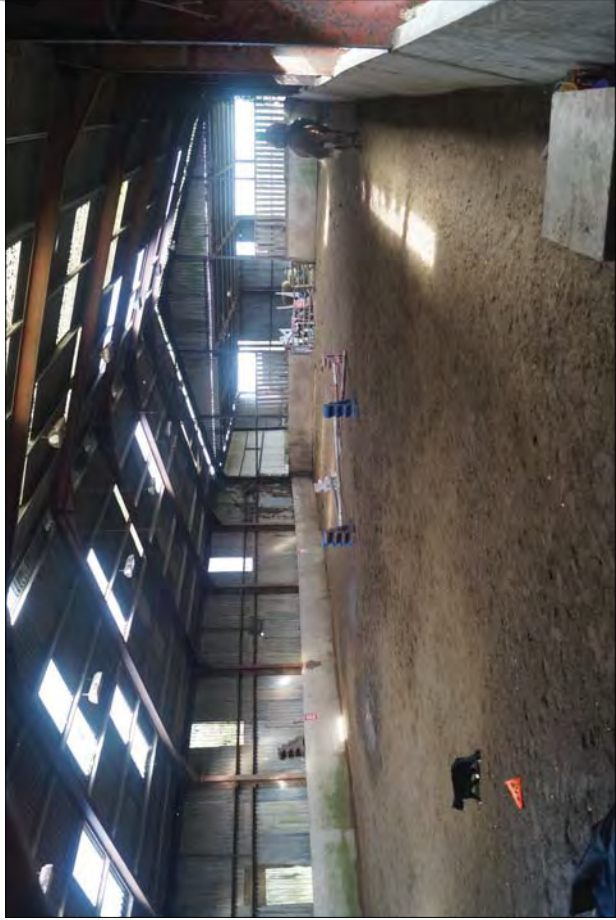
**Plate 31.** Opening in Rear  
Of Building 6



**Plate 32.** Narrow Passage  
Between Buildings 6 & 9



**Plate 33.** Window in Rear  
Of Building Buildings 6



**Plate 34.** Interior of Building 9 (Manege)



**Plate 35.** Narrow Passage Between Buildings 6 & 9





**Figure 36.** Interior of Building 9 - Manège



**Figure 37.** Interior of Building 5 - Barn. Showing Earlier Boundary Wall Incorporated into Structure

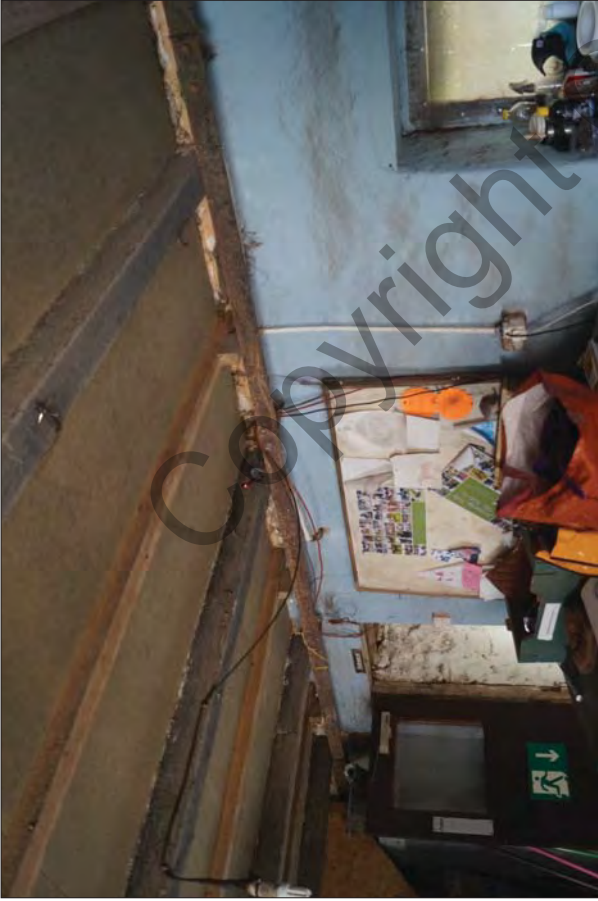


**Figure 38.** Interior of Building 5 - Barn. Showing Earlier Boundary Wall Incorporated into Structure



**Figure 39.** Interior of Building 5 - Barn. Showing Differing Construction Materials





**Figure 40.** Interior of Building 6 - Riding School Office and Tack Room Ground Floor



**Figure 41.** Interior of Building 6 - Riding School Office and Tack Room Ground Floor



**Figure 42.** Interior of Building 6 - Riding School Office and Tack Room Ground Floor



**Figure 43.** Interior of Building 6 - Tack Room First Floor





**Figure 44.** Interior of Building 6 -  
Stables Element



**Figure 45.** Interior of Building 6 -  
Stable Element



**Figure 46.** Shed and Wall in Front Garden Area of  
Building 2 - Front Elevation



**Figure 47.** Shed and Wall in Front Garden Area of  
Building 2 - Rear Elevation

**6.1.6.8** It is of interest to note that, as mentioned above, the main elevation of these structures has been reversed and the farmstead was originally approached from the north-west, rather than from the south-east as it is now.

#### **6.1.7 Building 7 – Stable Block (Plates 15-16, 28)**

Building 7 is a small, double-stalled stable block which was locked during the site visit. There is clear evidence that the north-eastern wall is earlier than the structure itself (see plates 26 & 28) which appears to be a boundary wall but which also once formed part of an earlier building which joined this structure to Building 6. It was observed when recording the back of the building that the stone wall running the length of the building had blocked doorways and windows but this area was overgrown and difficult to access.

#### **6.1.8 Building 8 – Collapsed Outbuildings Previously Used for Livestock (Plates 17-20)**

Building 8 is range of partially collapsed stone and brick buildings, with various later phases of blocking and infilling evident. Only part of this range could be accessed and recorded. There is no roof surviving over this building element but the wooden frame which supported the roof structure is present in places. The remains of an entrance incorporating dressed stone has survived. The structure was a lean-to, built against an earlier boundary wall and would presumably have had a corrugated iron roof.

**6.1.9** It is possible that this area was open pens or only partially enclosed originally and the low doorways and area of hardstanding associated with these structures indicates that this area was once a pig sty.

#### **6.1.10 Building 9 – Manège (Plates 29, 32, 34-36)**

The manège is an entirely modern construction which was purpose built of steel and corrugated iron.

### **6.2 The Fields**

#### **6.2.1 Field 1 (Plates 48-51)**

Field 1 is located to the south-east of the farm complex and is orientated on an approximately north-west to south-east axis. The field is bounded by a stone wall along the Plas Road which runs immediately to the south-east of the field. The farm access road runs along the south-western field boundary. To the east of the field there is an earth bank with wooden fencing which backs onto the housing which adjoins the proposed development area. Along the western boundary of the field there is a dump of concrete slabs, barbed wire and mixed rubble which protrudes approximately a meter into the field. There were no observable archaeological features, earthworks or cropmarks recorded within this area. There were areas of schist rock outcropping in this area, particularly near the farm track into the field. The field was in use as grazing for the riding stables.

#### **6.2.2 Field 2a (Plates 55-59)**

Field 2a is located to the north-east of main farm complex. This area has been heavily disturbed and held a large quantity of standing water. To the south and west there is a wood and wire boundary fence. To the east and north there is a slight raise due to an outcrop of bedrock which had been quarried flat in line with the fencing. It is unclear as to how far this originally extended into the field. To the north-west there are large piles of rubble, rubbish and soil, predominantly the result of the excavation of the large pond in field 2b. There is a large concrete foundation slab in the southern end of the field (see plates 56-57). It is unclear as to how far this hardstanding extends into the field but it appears to have disturbed a minimum of 10 – 15m<sup>2</sup>. There were no observable archaeological features, earthworks or cropmarks recorded within this area. The field was in use by the riding stables.





**Plate 48.** South-East Facing View of Field 1



**Plate 49.** Badger Set in Boundary Bank of Field 1



**Plate 50.** North-West Facing View of Field 1 -  
Looking Towards Farmstead With House Visible



**Plate 51.** North-East Facing View of Field 1





**Plate 52.** Field Boundary Road With Rock Outcropping



**Plate 53.** Field Boundary Road With Rock Outcropping



**Plate 54.** Field Boundary Road With Rock Outcropping



**Plate 55.** North Facing View of Field 2a





**Plate 56.** Concrete Hard-standing in Field 2a



**Plate 57.** Field 2a Showing Disturbed Ground and Rubble Piles



**Plate 58.** Field 2a Showing Disturbed Ground and Rubble Piles



**Plate 59.** Field 2a Showing Rubble Piles





**Plate 60.** Modern Artificial Pond in Field 2b.  
Note Rock Outcrop in Background



**Plate 61.** Field 2b Facing South-East Showing Pond and Farmstead

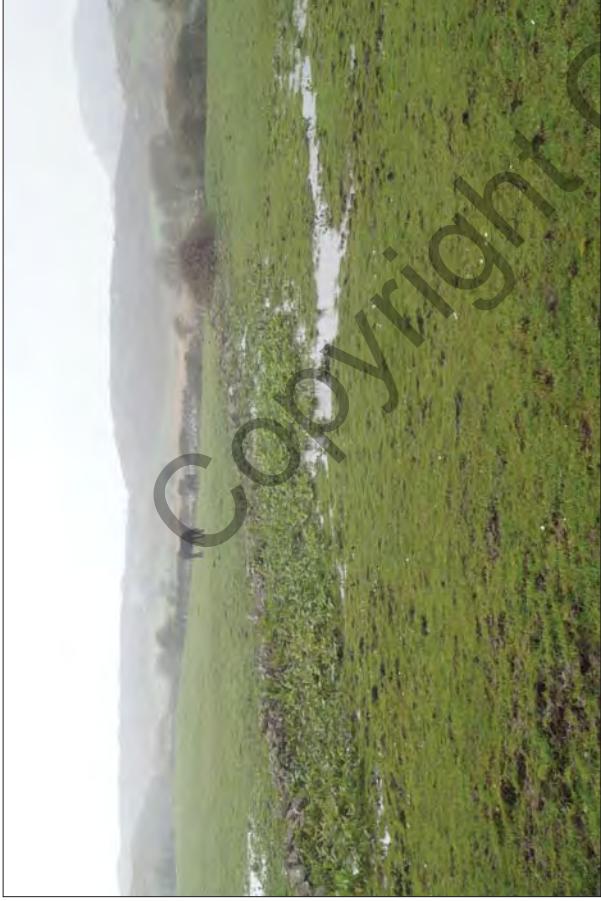


**Plate 62.** Field 2b Facing South-East Showing Pond and Farmstead



**Plate 63.** Field 2b Facing East





**Plate 64.** Field 2b Facing North-West  
Note Rock Outcrop in Background



**Plate 65.** Field 2b Facing North Showing Pond



**Plate 66.** Field 2b Facing North-East Showing Pond and Farmstead



**Plate 67.** Field 3 South-East Facing View

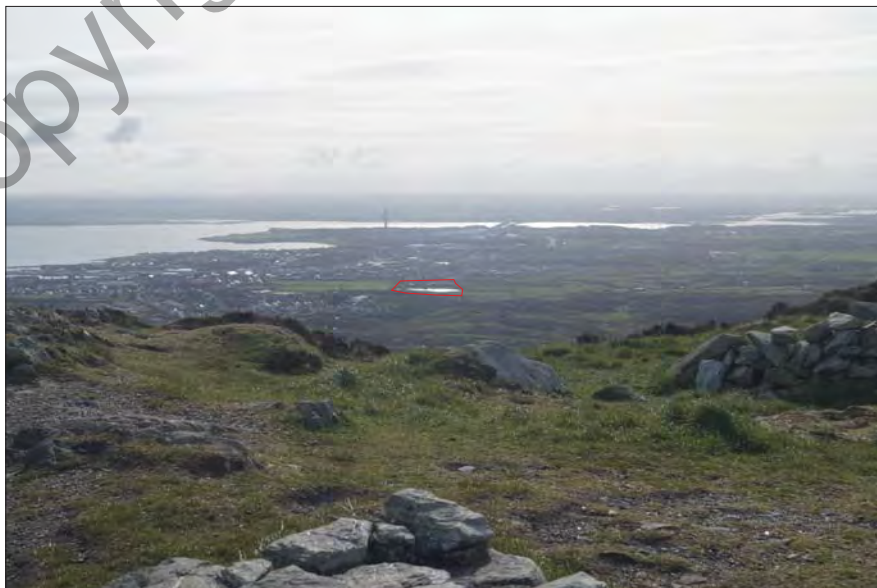




**Plate 68.** View from Highest Point on Caer y Twr



**Plate 69.** View from Ramparts on Caer y Twr



**Plate 70.** View from Roman Signal Station  
On Caer y Twr. (Site Marked in Red on all Plates)

### **6.2.3 Field 2b (Plates 60-66)**

Field 2b is a large field located to the north-west of the of the main farm complex. This field has been heavily landscaped and a large artificial lake had relatively recently been excavated in the centre of the area. The area between this lake and the farm buildings has been heavily rutted and turned over by the horse's hoofs. The western end of this field was still grassed with bedrock visible beneath the turf in certain areas. There were no observable archaeological features, earthworks or cropmarks recorded within this area. The field was in use as grazing for the riding stables.

### **6.2.4 Field 3 (Plate 67)**

The area of Field 3 which will be affected by the proposed development is limited to a narrow strip at the north-eastern tip of the field in the area immediately adjacent to the farm access track. This area of the field was grassland to the south-east with no noticeable features, the remainder of the strip was covered by gorse and characterised by protruding rock outcrops. There were no observable archaeological features, earthworks or cropmarks recorded within this area. The field was in use as grazing for the riding stables.

## **6.3 Results of Desk Based Assessment**

**6.3.1** The results of the background research are detailed in the Historical Background section above (Section 5). This research has shown that the proposed development site is within an area of known Prehistoric, Roman/Romano-British, Medieval and Post Medieval activity.

### **6.3.2 Assessment of the Archaeological Potential of the Proposed Development Area**

The following section will examine the potential of archaeological remains of different time periods to be present at the proposed development site. It will assess the significance of these remains and the potential impact of the proposed development.

### **6.3.3 Assessment of Potential for and Impact on Archaeological Remains**

Although there are no known Prehistoric remains located within the proposed development area, this area of Anglesey has been identified as having a concentration of Prehistoric monuments, settlements and find spots. There are records of Prehistoric sites and find spots in the immediate vicinity of the site. Should Prehistoric remains of this period be identified on the site they are likely to be of local, regional and quite possibly national significance. They would have a group value with similar monuments in the immediate vicinity and would enhance the understanding of the wider landscape during this period.

**6.3.3.1** Although there are no known Roman/Romano-British remains located within the proposed development area, this area of Anglesey has been identified as having a concentration of hut circle groups and coin find spots. The site is also within 850m of the SAM AN031 Caer Cybi Fort. Should Roman/Romano-British remains of this period be identified on the site they are likely to be of local, regional and quite possibly national significance. They would have a group value with similar monuments in the immediate vicinity and would enhance the understanding of the wider landscape during this period.

**6.3.3.2** There are no known Early Medieval/Medieval remains located within the proposed development area, and there were no records dating from this period within a 500m search radius of the site. The three Early Medieval records within a 1000m of the site are all associated with the St Cybi's Church, Holyhead, as are the majority of the Medieval records. There is some potential for previously unknown Medieval burial sites, such as one discovered during the Parc Cybi works, to be uncovered during works but there are no strong indicators that this is likely to be the case. Should remains of this period be identified on the site they are likely to be of local, regional and quite possibly national significance.



**6.3.3.3** Cartographic sources show that the field boundaries within the development area have altered over time and it is highly likely that evidence of these features, along the possible remains of other Post Medieval agricultural activity will survive on the site. These features are considered to be of low significance and of local importance only. The farmstead itself is largely of nineteenth and twentieth century date, although there is a single range which is of eighteenth century origin. The earlier farm buildings have been heavily modified and retain few of their original characteristics. They are obscured by later buildings and modern renders. A photographic and written record of the site has been compiled detailing these structures.

**6.3.3.4** The desk-based element of this report has indicated that the potential for encountering archaeological remains, particularly of Prehistoric and Romano-British/Roman date within the proposed development area is high, and that the significance of these remains would also be considered to be high. This potential must however be weighed against the results of the walkover survey which has shown that large areas of the site are heavily disturbed by modern activity such as the excavation of the pond in field 2b, the concrete hardstanding in field 2a and damage by livestock.

**6.3.3.5** Groundcover was found to be shallow in certain areas with the bedrock just below or protruding from beneath the turf area in places. This will have had a negative impact on any buried remains which may have previously survived on the site and the level of survival of features on site is unknown. It is however considered unlikely that the disturbance in certain areas will have resulted in the total destruction of features across the entire site. The material which was removed during the excavation of the pond is evidence that there are parts of the site where the bedrock is much deeper than in others.

**6.3.3.6** It is highly likely that the proposed development will have a negative impact on buried archaeological remains of this period should they be present on the site. It is therefore considered that further mitigation is required to establish the presence, nature and level of survival of any remains which may be on the site, and to determine the most effective method for the preservation/excavation of the remains.

## **6.4 Identification of and Assessment of Impact on Designated Heritage Assets within a 1000m Radius of the Proposed Development Area**

**6.4.1** In addition to the searches of the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record and the RCAHMS database a search was conducted to identify all sites within a 1000m radius of the site which were subject to any specific heritage designations. The following designations were considered:

### **6.4.2 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

The proposed development site is not located within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The site southern site boundary is located approximately 300m from the limit of the Ynys Lawd AONB.

### **6.4.3 Conservation Areas**

The proposed development site is not located within a Conservation Area. The northern site boundary lies approximately 550m from the limit of the Holyhead Central Conservation Area.

### **6.4.4 Registered Historic Landscapes**

The proposed development site does not lie within a Registered Historic Landscape.

### **6.4.5 Historic Landscape Character Areas**

The proposed development site does not lie within a Historic Landscape Character Area.

#### **6.4.6 Historic Parks and Gardens**

There are no historic parks and gardens within 1.0km of the proposed development area.

#### **6.4.7 Listed Buildings**

There are 4 Listed Buildings within 500m of the proposed development site and a further 25 Listed Buildings when the search area is extended to 1000m. Due to the topography and urban density of the town of Holyhead the proposed settlement will have no impact, visual or otherwise on those buildings lying outside of the 500m radius of the site. They are therefore not discussed further in this document.

**6.4.7.1** The following 4 Listed Buildings lie within 500m of the proposed development area. All were visited to assess whether the proposed development was likely to have any implications on their setting:

ID 87588 - Boundary Wall to Cybi Building, Holyhead High School (Grade II Listed)

ID 87587 - Cybi Building, Holyhead High School (Grade II Listed)

ID 5741 - Ucheldre Centre - Former Bon Sauveur Convent Chapel (Grade II Listed)

ID 14728 - Ty'n Parc (Grade II Listed)

**6.4.7.2** The site visits revealed that, due to the enclosed urban locations of the four sites, the proposed development would have no negative impact on the settings of or views to and from any of the Listed Buildings and they would be unaffected by the proposed development.

#### **6.4.8 Scheduled Ancient Monuments**

There is a single Scheduled Ancient Monument – Caer Cybi Roman Fort (AN031) within 1.0km of the proposed development site. This site is however situated at the heart of the urban centre of Holyhead and the proposed development site will have no impact on the setting of the site, nor will it affect the views to or from the monument.

**6.4.8.1** As discussed above it was difficult to easily define a search area within which to examine the effect of the scheme upon the designated heritage assets, in this instance Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM). It was therefore determined that as there were 12 SAM's within the northern portion of Holyhead Island, the vista toward each would be considered whilst onsite and that visits would be made to those sites which the development may potentially have a visual impact on. The sites considered were: AN019 - Caer y Twr, AN133 – Enclosed Hut Circle Settlement at Capel Llochwydd, AN147 – Gogarth Bay round cairn, AN016 – Holyhead Mountain Hut Circles, AN031 – Roman Wall Surrounding St Cybi's Churchyard, AN017 – Penrhos Feilw Standing Stones, AN033 - Plas Meilw Hut Circles, AN034 – Porth Dafarch Hut Circles, AN012 - Ty-Mawr Standing Stone, AN011 – Trefignath Burial Chamber, AN092 - Tre-Arddur Hut Group and AN121 – Dinas Porth Ruffydd.

**6.4.8.2** Although only Caer y Twr (and the associated Roman Signal Station) were visible from the site (see plates 56, 57 & 60), for completeness of record the following sites were visited to ensure that there was no visual impact from the development: Caer y Twr, Penrhos Feilw Standing Stones, Plas Meilw Hut Circles, Ty Mawr Standing Stone, Trefignath Burial Chamber, Holyhead Mountain Hut Circles, Roman Wall Surrounding St Cybi's Churchyard. The site visits confirmed that the proposed development area is only visible from parts of Caer y Twr.



**6.4.8.3** This is due to the extensive vista from the hillfort site, which occupies the highest point on the island, rather than the development itself being a prominent feature within the landscape (see plates 68-70). The potential impact of the proposed development would be entirely of a visual nature. The proposed development will not impact upon any key vistas either to or from the monument and will not obscure indivisibility between Caer y Twr and other sites of archaeological significance. The proposed development will have no effect on the ability of the visitor to understand the monument within its landscape context.

**6.4.8.4** The development will represent an extension to the urban area of the town of Holyhead which lies within a palimpsest landscape visible from the hillfort. The reduction in the size of the large pond on site may be considered to be a reduction on the visual impact of the site as it is currently a rather prominent feature which from a distance appears to be a natural watercourse.

## **7.0 Conclusion**

**7.0.1** Although there are no known Prehistoric/Romano-British/Roman remains located within the proposed development area, this area of Anglesey has been identified as having a concentration of monuments, settlements and find spots from these periods. There are records of Prehistoric/ Romano-British sites and find spots in the immediate vicinity of the site. Should Prehistoric remains from these periods be identified on the site they are likely to be of local, regional and quite possibly national significance. They would have a group value with similar monuments in the immediate vicinity and would enhance the understanding of the wider landscape during this period.

**7.0.2** There are also Post Medieval buildings and field systems evident on the site including the farmstead of Gorswen which is currently in use as a riding stables. Cartographic evidence has dated the earliest site elements to the late eighteenth century or earlier, although they survive in a much-altered manner. The majority of the buildings on the site are of nineteenth and twentieth century date and some are in a poor state of repair. The proposed development will demolish this complex of buildings but a full photographic record has been made during the compilation of this assessment.

**7.0.3** It was established during the walkover survey that there was a great deal of disturbance at the site which in places (such as the pond area in field 2b) is almost certain to have destroyed any trace of archaeological features. It is unknown how extensive the damage caused the horses has been to the underlying deposits, or what effect the laying of a concrete pad has had as the ground cover and soil depths on site were found to vary. It is recommended that further evaluation be undertaken to establish the presence or otherwise of archaeological deposits and to determine the potential for the survival of archaeological remains on the site.

**7.0.4** The schist outcropping onsite and patchy bedrock which was observed during the walkover will make geophysical survey problematic, as will the boggy areas with standing water, gorse bushes and rubble/refuse piles on the site. It is therefore recommended a programme of trial trenching would be the most effective method to establish the character, survival and potential of the archaeological remains on the site.

## 8.0 Bibliography

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The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 1985 (Revised 2014). *Code of Conduct*

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The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. (Revised 2014). *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*

The Isle of Anglesey County Council. 2011. *Anglesey Landscape Strategy Update 2011*

### Archival Information

#### Bangor University Archives

Penrhos Papers Volume 3 223 Holyhead divisions – Gorswen Plans map used in deed of 1812 but map earlier date

### Maps

1840's Tithe Map

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map Surveyed 1887, Published 1889

Ordnance Survey Map Revised 1899, Published 1901

Ordnance Survey Map Revised 1920, Published 1926

Ordnance Survey Map Revised 1938, Published 1949

Ordnance Survey Map Revised 1949, Published 1953

### Websites – all sites were visited 02/03/2017

[www.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html)

[www.cadw.gov.wales](http://www.cadw.gov.wales)

[www.data.gov.uk/data/map-preview](http://www.data.gov.uk/data/map-preview)

[www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk)



**Appendix A.**  
**Specification for Archaeological Works**

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**Specification for Archaeological Works at**

**Proposed Development**

**Gorswen, Plas Road, Holyhead**

**NGR SH 24047 82084 (Centre Point)**

**Project Number CR142-2017**



**C.R Archaeology**

Compiled by C. Rees

On Behalf of Brenig Homes



Copyright C.R Archaeology

**Specification for Archaeological Walkover Survey:  
Gorswen, Plas Road, Holyhead**

<b>Planning Application Number:</b>	Pre-planning
<b>National Grid Reference:</b>	NGR SH 24047 82084 (Centre Point)
<b>Client:</b>	Brenig Homes
<b>Report Authors:</b>	C. Rees
<b>Report Number:</b>	CR142-2017
<b>Date:</b>	27-03-2017

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#### **Appendix A.** Topographic Survey



## **1.0 Introduction**

C.R Archaeology have been instructed by Brenig Homes to conduct an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment at the proposed site of a residential development (figure 1). Due to the preliminary phase of the process during which these works are to be undertaken there is no definitive plan of the development at this time. It is proposed that 100 – 150 houses be built on the site.

This document has been prepared to supply the Local Planning Authority Archaeologist with information as to the potential archaeological impacts of the aforementioned scheme.

This specification has been written with reference to emails prepared by and a telephone discussion with Jenny Emmett of GAPS as a methodology for an initial programme of works. It is intended that the results of the works outlined in this document will inform decisions as to the nature of any further archaeological mitigation strategies or evaluation methodologies which may be required.

The site is located on the western outskirts of Holyhead town. The overall plot is orientated on an approximately north-west – south-east axis and is bounded by hedgerows. It comprises of a farmhouse and outbuildings within an enclosed field boundary system, with a large pond to the north-west of the site. The site is currently in use as a riding stables.

There are isolated find spots of Prehistoric and Roman dates located within the vicinity of the site and the rural area of Holyhead Island is notable for Prehistoric remains including burial monuments, standing stones, hut circles and promontory forts.

This Desk Based Assessment will examine the historic context and archaeological potential of the proposed development area and will determine the possible impact of the development on the setting of any Scheduled Ancient Monument in the vicinity. It also aims to compile basic photographic record of any standing buildings on the site and to attempt to establish their construction date.

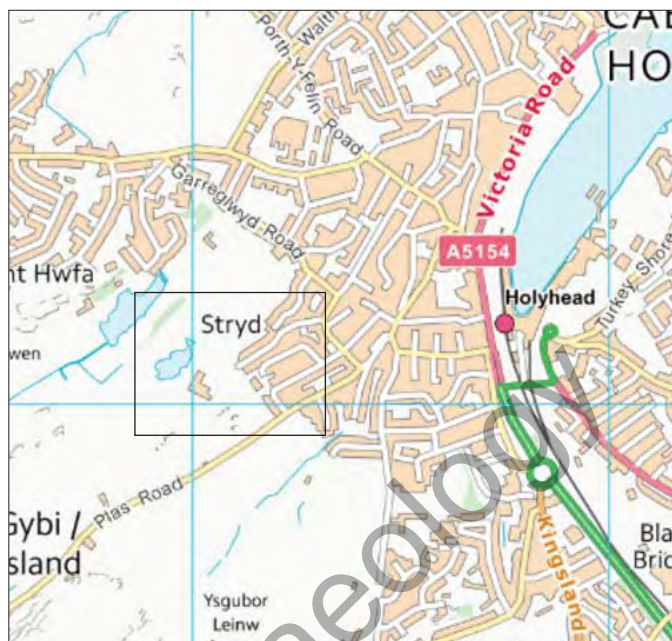
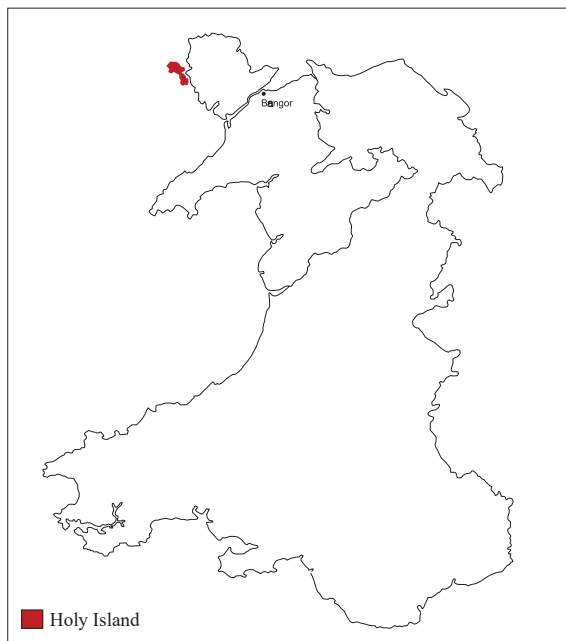
## **2.0 Project Aims & Objectives**

This programme of works for the development site aims to undertake a Desk Based Assessment, Walkover Survey and setting examination of the development site and its relationship with Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the area. It also aims to compile basic photographic record of any standing buildings on the site and to attempt to establish their construction date.

The aim of this scheme of works is to undertake desk based historical research exploring the history/archaeology of the site. This information will include a map progression and archival research in order to compile a coherent narrative history of the site and its environs.

The Gwynedd Historic Environment Record (HER), the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments Wales (RCAHMW) database, Bangor University and Anglesey Archives and relevant publications will be consulted to compile a record of known archaeological sites in the vicinity. Aerial photographs will also be examined.

It is intended that this document be utilised to inform further archaeological planning decisions and conditions at the site.



**Figure 1. Site Location Map**

(Source: OS Open Data Mapping Contains Ordnance Survey data  
© Crown copyright and database right 2017)



The objectives of this programme of works are:

- To make full and effective use of existing information to establish the archaeological significance of the site
- To create a photographic record and establish the erection date of standing buildings on site
- To assess the impact of the development proposals on surviving sites, monuments or remains both within the development area and in the surrounding landscape
- To help inform future decision making, design solutions, further evaluation & mitigation strategies

### 3.0 Brief Historical Background

The following section is, through necessity, very brief and is intended to merely place the site in context. A more detailed history of the site will form a key element in the proposed works.

The proposed development site is located within the parish of Holyhead Rural.

It is within 850m of St Cybi's Church and Roman Fort (Listing Building 5413, SAM AN031), Holyhead and approximately 1500m from the Plas Meilw Hut Circles (SAMAN033).

Early Ordnance Survey mapping shows the current field boundaries in place, with a further subdivision in the north-western land portion. The Tithe Map shows further subdivisions and there are 5 fields within the current outline. There are buildings shown on both the OS and Tithe Maps although neither show the large pond on the site.

#### 3.1 Topography

The site is located along the northern side of Plas Road and is bounded by hedgerows. It is located on the outskirts of the town of Holyhead. The site is currently in use as a horse riding stables with grazing within an enclosed field boundary system. There is a large pond to the north-west of the site and there appears to be a large area of ground disturbance to the north of the farm buildings and we have been informed by the client that this is the result of the excavation to create the large pond on the site.

#### 3.2 Geology

The bedrock geology at the site is divided between two strata. To the south of the site it is recorded as *"South Stack Formation - Psammite And Pelite. Metamorphic Bedrock formed approximately 542 to 635 million years ago in the Ediacaran Period. Originally sedimentary rocks formed in deep seas. Later altered by low-grade metamorphism. Originally sedimentary rocks formed in deep seas. These rocks were first deposited as graded clastic sediments or turbidites in the deep sea, and then later metamorphosed, though there is evidence of their sedimentary origin"*. To the north of the plot it is recorded as *"Harbour Group - Mica Schist And Psammite. Metamorphic Bedrock formed approximately 542 to 635 million years ago in the Ediacaran Period. Originally sedimentary rocks formed in deep seas. Later altered by low-grade metamorphism. Originally sedimentary rocks formed in deep seas. These rocks were first deposited as graded clastic sediments or turbidites in the deep sea, and then later metamorphosed, though there is evidence of their sedimentary origin"* (www.bgs.ac.uk).

The superficial geology of the northern part of the site is recorded as *"Till, Devensian - Diamicton. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions. Ice age conditions. These rocks were formed in cold periods with Ice Age glaciers scouring the landscape and depositing moraines of till with outwash sand and gravel deposits from seasonal and post glacial meltwaters"* There are no details on the superficial geology of the southern area of the site. (www.bgs.ac.uk).

## **4.0 Scheme of Works - Methodology**

It is proposed that the archaeological works be conducted in three sections and each is detailed separately below.

### **4.1 Desk Based Research**

A complete and coherent history of the site will be compiled utilising material sourced from Anglesey Archives and the Bangor University Archives. This will allow as comprehensive a history as possible to be compiled. A full map progression of the area will be undertaken. Where appropriate the archive information will be supplemented with information from local libraries and specialist interest websites & journals.

In order to identify the character of archaeological remains in the vicinity of the site a search of the Gwynedd HER will be conducted examining an area within a 500m radius of the proposed works (the grid reference for the search is taken as the centre point of the development area). A more general search will be conducted at a 1000m radius but as this search area will include the town of Holyhead (which contains a large number of historic buildings which are not of direct relevance to this study) the information will not be discussed in detail. The RCAHMW database and aerial photographs of the site will be examined. The information collected will be discussed within the main report text.

The works will be carried out accordance with the CIfA Standards and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (CIfA (Revised 2014).

This material will form the historical background for an archaeological report which will include the results of the walkover survey.

### **4.2 Walk Over Survey**

A site visit will be conducted and a photographic record will be compiled which will detail any above ground features and show the general topography of the site. Further photographs will be taken to illustrate the setting of the site. The location of any features will be noted on a site plan.

#### **4.2.1 Equipment**

Photographs will be undertaken using a 14.2 mega-pixel Sony A350 or a 20 mega-pixel A58 digital camera with a variety of standard and other lenses. Images will be captured in RAW format for later processing into high resolution JPG and TIF files.

### **4.3 Recording of Standing Buildings on Site**

There are a number of standing buildings on the site and a basic photographic record of these structures will be made detailing exterior and, where safe to enter, interior elevations. All accessible facades and interior spaces will be recorded. Archival research will be conducted to contribute to the dating of the construction of the buildings. A short written account of the buildings will be made on site.

### **4.4 Timetable for Proposed Works**

It is envisaged that the walkover survey, archival research and heritage site visits will be undertaken as soon as possible. Time has been allotted for archive research, report compilation and site archiving.

### **4.5 Staffing**

The project will be managed by Catherine Rees (BA (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology) Postgraduate Diploma (Historic Environment Conservation) & Matthew Jones (BA (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology)).



All staff will have a skill set equivalent to the CIfA ACIfA/MCIfA level. C.Vs for all staff employed on the project can be provided on request. All projects are carried out in accordance with CIfA *Standard and Guidance* documents.

#### **4.6 Monitoring**

The project will be subject to monitoring by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services. 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.

#### **4.7 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:

- Hi-visibility vests (EN471)
- Mobile Telephone (to be kept in site vehicle)
- Suitable Walking Boots & Waterproofs
- Hard Hat for Building Recording

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). 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.

#### **4.8 The Report**

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

The desk-based assessment will consider the following:

- the nature, extent and degree of survival of archaeological sites, structures, deposits and landscapes within the study area
- the significance of any remains in their context both regionally and nationally
- the history of the site - including the dates of any buildings on the site
- the potential impact of any proposed development on the setting of known sites of archaeological/historic importance
- the potential for further work with appropriate recommendations

It is intended that this report will inform decisions as to the necessity and/or nature of any further archaeological mitigation strategies which may be required.

A copy of the report 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 to GAPS 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.

#### 4.8.1 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.

#### 5.0 Bibliography

English Heritage. 2006. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE)*

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The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. (Revised 2014). *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*

**Websites – all sites were visited 02/03/2017**

[www.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html)

[www.cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/protection/worldheritage/cstlsedward1/?lang=en](http://www.cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/protection/worldheritage/cstlsedward1/?lang=en)

[www.data.gov.uk/data/map-preview](http://www.data.gov.uk/data/map-preview)

[www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk)



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- 20 No. Apartments
- 69 No. Affordable houses
- 19 No. Market houses



Rev.	No.	Date	Rev.	By	CHK.
C	3/20/16	1/20/16	1/20/16	1/20/16	1/20/16
B	1/20/16	1/20/16	1/20/16	1/20/16	1/20/16
A	1/20/16	1/20/16	1/20/16	1/20/16	1/20/16

Scale	1000 @ A2	Date	Aug 2016	Drawn by	CHK.
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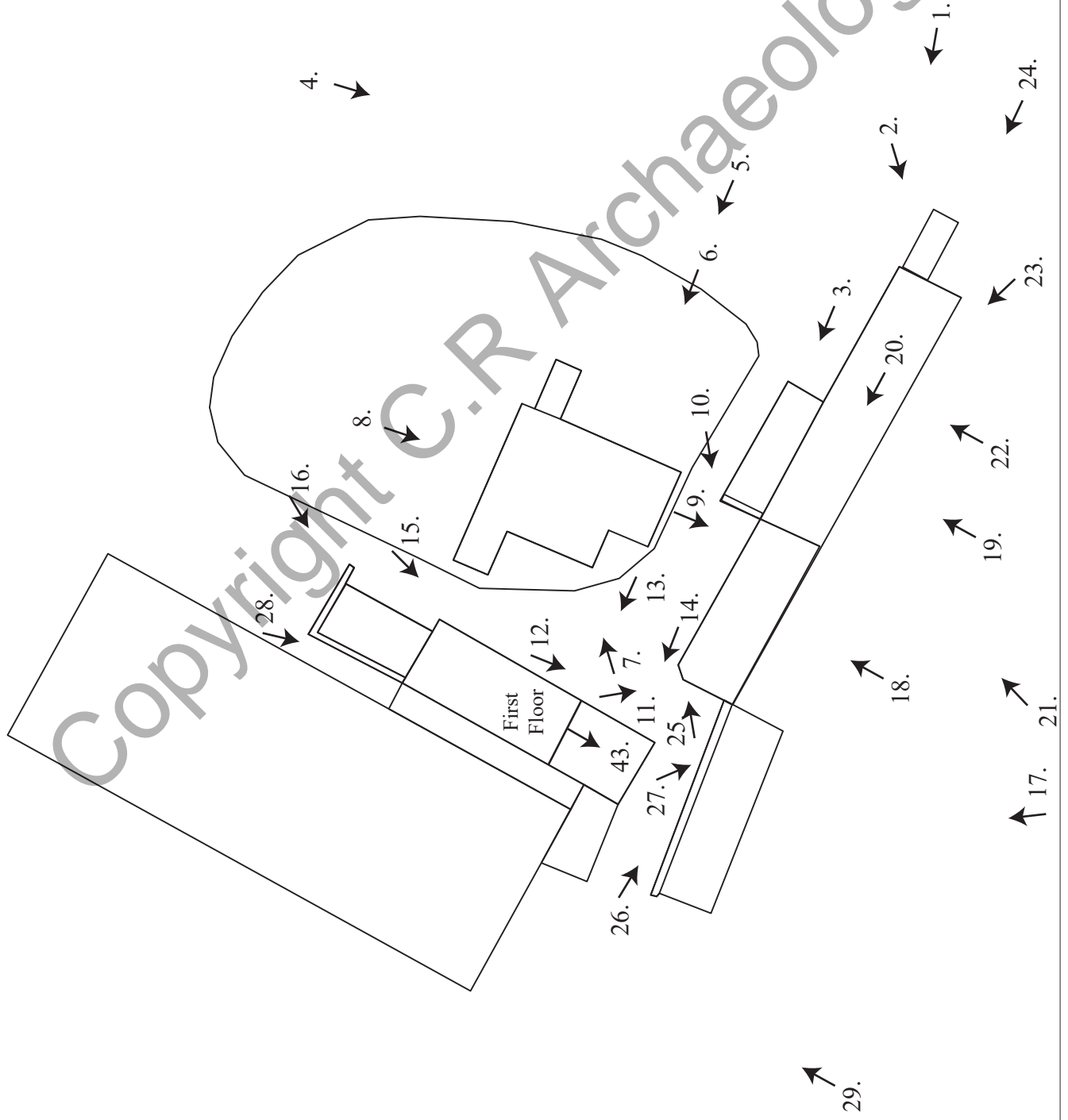
## **Appendix B.**

### **Location and Direction of Photographic Plates**

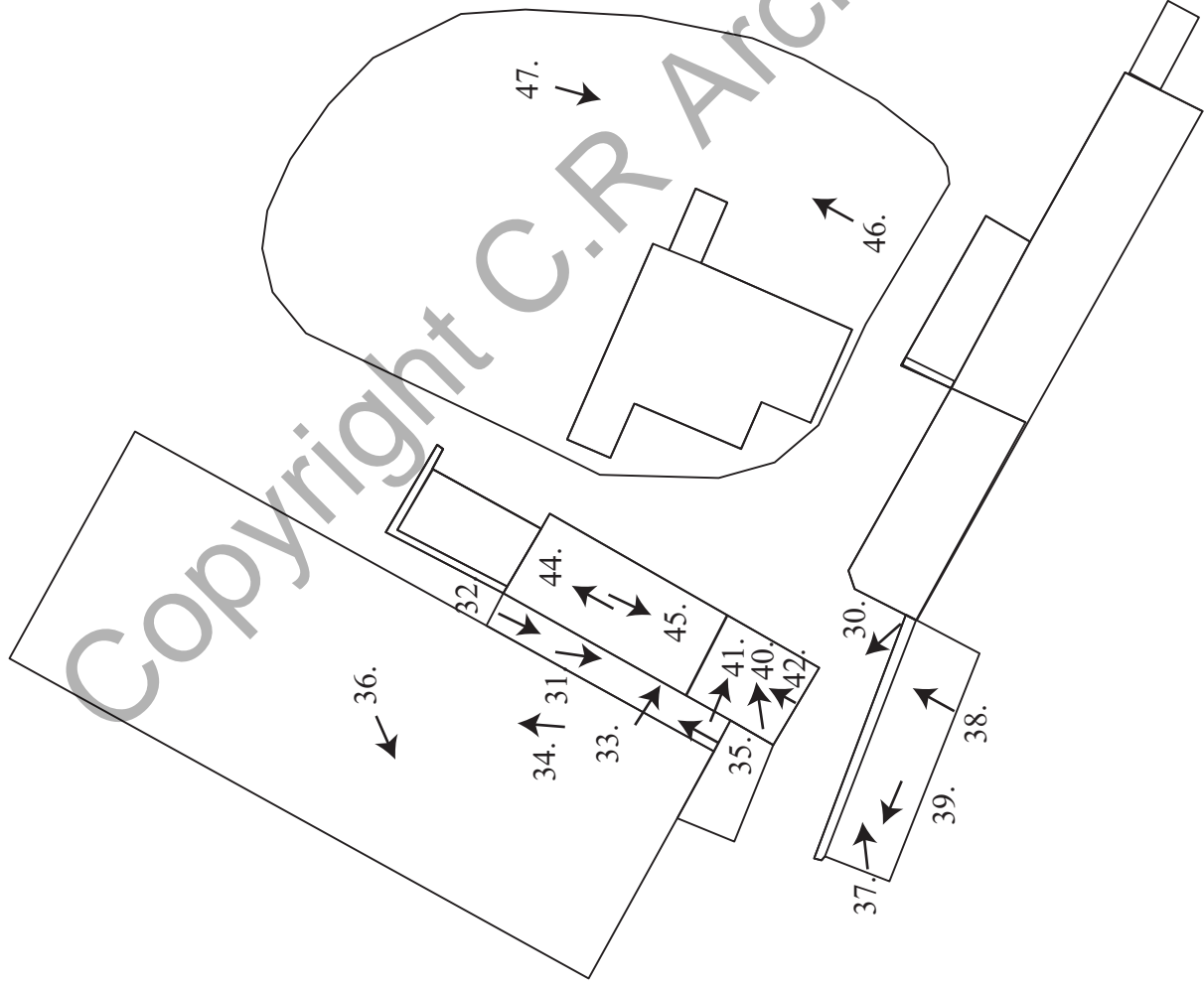
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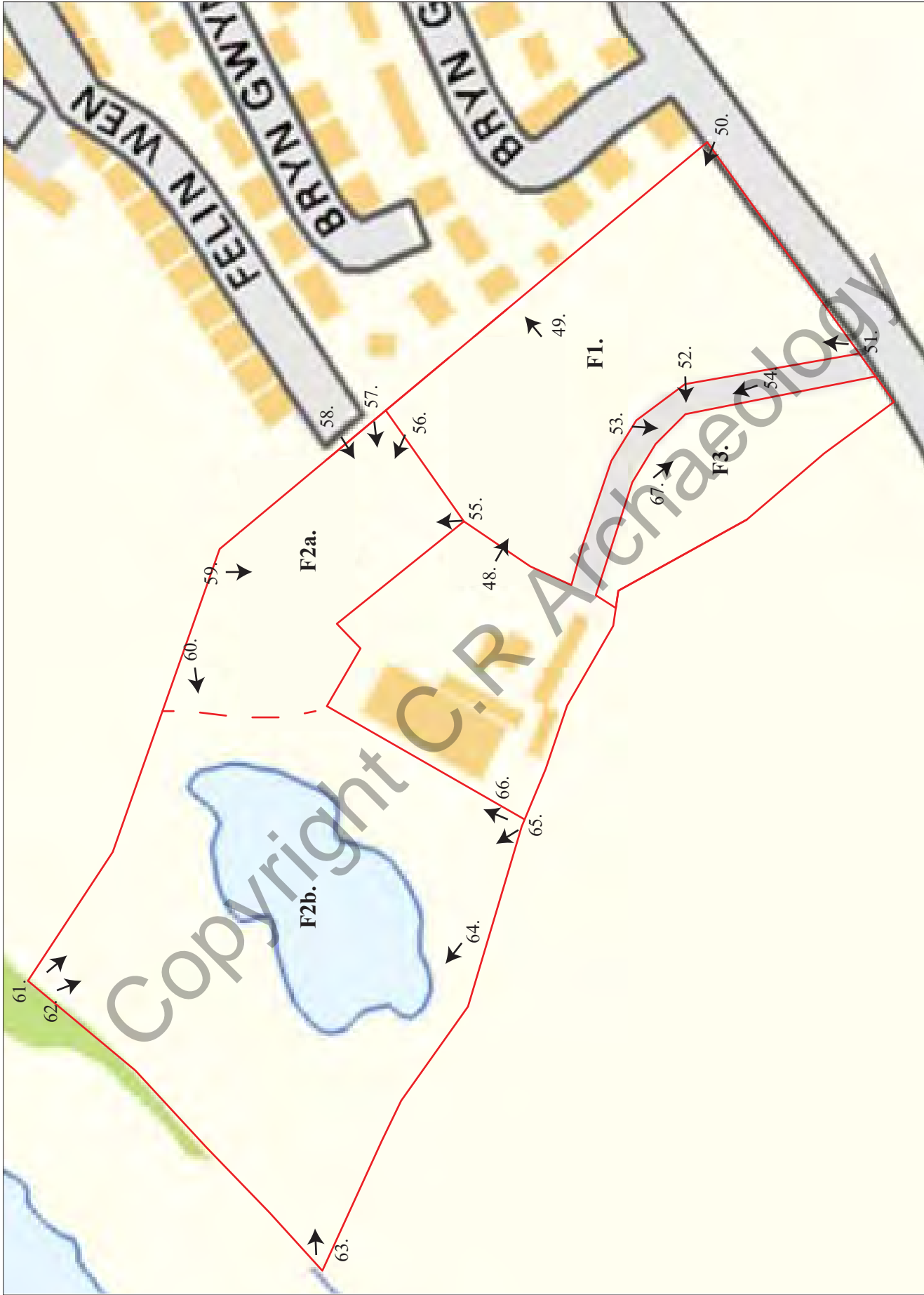
**Appendix B.** Location and  
Direction of Photographic  
Plates 1 - 29 & 43.



**Appendix B. Location and  
Direction of Photographic  
Plates 30 - 47.**







**Appendix B.** Site Location Map With Location and Direction of Photographic Plates 48 - 67  
(Source: OS Open Data Mapping Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017)