

Results of Archaeological Works at

Henblas Stable Range, Bodorgan, Anglesey



NGR 242322 372372

Project Number CR166-2018



C.R Archaeology
Compiled by Catherine Rees
On Behalf of Ms H. Barrett

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Henblas Stable Block, Bodorgan, Anglesey**

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1.0 Introduction

C.R Archaeology were instructed by Ms H. Barrett to conduct archaeological recording works at Henblas Stable Block, Bodorgan, Anglesey (figure 1).

Henblas Stable Block is an element of the Henblas Farmstead, a mid 19th century planned farmstead. It is located in a rural setting just off the B4422. It is a Grade II Listed Building (Cadw ID 21068).

The Listed Building describes the structure as a *“mid C19 stable range built in 3 main phases; the central range first with the abutting ranges to each side forming a splayed U-plan around 3 sides of a yard, the 2-bay cartsheds built to the ends of each abutting range in the final stage of development. The range now forms part of a tourist attraction 'Henblas Farm', the building used to house office, shop, tearoom and toilets; a smithy is housed in one of the cartsheds.*

A single-storey range of stables built to a splayed U-plan, opening to the E, and with 2-bay cartshed blocks to the end of each arm. Built of local rubble masonry with limestone dressings and massive quoins. Roof of small old slates, part grouted, and hipped over cartsheds; with red clay ridge tiles and short brick ridge stack to the W end of the S arm (part of the roof has been re-roofed using profiled asbestos sheeting). Each of the doorways leading out on to the yard has an elliptical head of limestone voussoirs; the central range, of 2 units, each unit with doorways at each end, each arm with 6 doorways evenly spaced. The cartsheds have wide, elliptically-arched, voussoir-headed openings; in facing walls of limestone ashlar. The rear of the range has a projecting stack along the N arm, and evenly spaced ventilation slits, with some doorways and windows inserted in later cuts.

Listed, notwithstanding alteration to detail, as a planned farmstead of the mid C19, illustrating the renewed investment in agriculture, and attention to planning associated with the larger estates during the C19”.

The works undertaken at the property were a photographic survey of the site prior to its conversion into accommodation for a wedding venue which is being built in the barns opposite. A drawn survey has been produced by JMD Design & Build Ltd which was utilised to note the location and direction of the photographs taken.

Historic research into the site was not undertaken as it was considered that the Listed Building description for the structure is sufficient to provide the context needed for the project.

2.0 Project Aims & Objectives

The aim of this programme of works was to create a Level 2 Photographic Record of the site prior to its conversion to accommodation.

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

The objective of the archaeological programme was to provide an archive record of the building.

3.0 Scheme of Works - Methodology

3.1 Scheme of Works – Methodology for Building Recording

The methodology employed conformed to the requirements for a Level 2 Photographic Record as specified in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (Historic England 2016) and The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (2014).

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

The record created for the site consists of:

Written Account	Points 1-5, 7-8
Drawings	Points 2, 8
Photography	Points 1-8.

3.1.1 Desk Based Research

A detailed history of the site was not deemed to be a necessary component of this programme of works. The Listed Building description has been included to provide the historical context required.

3.1.2 Drawn Survey

Architects plans of the site were utilised to fulfil points 2 & 8 as specified in “*Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*” (Historic England 2016).

3.1.3 Photographic Survey

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

- 1) A photographic survey of the exterior including general shots of the site environs
- 2) A photographic survey of the interior of the building

The methodology employed conformed to the requirements of photographic recording to the equivalent of a Level 2 Survey, as specified in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (Historic England 2016) and includes works specified in points 1-8.

3.1.3.1 Equipment

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

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

3.2 Archive Compilation

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

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

Copies of the digital archive will be deposited at Anglesey Archives, Llangefni.

3.3. Timetable for Proposed Works

Site works commenced on April 23rd. Site work (photographic building recording) took place over one day with additional time allocated for the compilation of the report & archive.

3.3.1 Staffing

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

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

3.3.2 Monitoring

The project was subject to monitoring by GAPS. The monitor was given prior notice of the commencement of the fieldwork.

3.3.3 Health and Safety

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

All staff were issued with the following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the site work:

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

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

3.4 The Report

The report clearly and accurately incorporates information gained from the programme of archaeological works. The report contains a site plan showing the locations of photographs taken.

The report includes:

- a copy of the agreed specification
- a location plan based on current OS mapping at an appropriate scale
- a full bibliography of sources consulted
- an archive compact disc

The report details the results of the Level 2 Photographic Record. A sample of images is included within the report text and the full archive is included on accompanying compact discs.

Copies 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 as part of the formal submission. A digital Adobe PDF version and a bound paper copy of the final report and will be lodged with the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record within six months of completion of fieldwork.

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

3.4.1 Copyright

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

4.0 Brief Historical Background

This section is through necessity brief and is intended merely to provide a basic outline of the history of the property. Further research is not required within the scope of this project. The following text is the Cadw Listed Building description for the site.

“Mid C19 stable range built in 3 main phases; the central range first with the abutting ranges to each side forming a splayed U-plan around 3 sides of a yard, the 2-bay cartsheds built to the ends of each abutting range in the final stage of development. The range now forms part of a tourist attraction 'Henblas Farm', the building used to house office, shop, tearoom and toilets; a smithy is housed in one of the cartsheds.

A single-storey range of stables built to a splayed U-plan, opening to the E, and with 2-bay cartshed blocks to the end of each arm. Built of local rubble masonry with limestone dressings and massive quoins. Roof of small old slates, part grouted, and hipped over cartsheds; with red clay ridge tiles and short brick ridge stack to the W end of the S arm (part of the roof has been re-roofed using profiled asbestos sheeting). Each of the doorways leading out on to the yard has an elliptical head of limestone voussoirs; the central range, of 2 units, each unit with doorways at each end, each arm with 6 doorways evenly spaced. The cartsheds have wide, elliptically-arched, voussoir-headed openings; in facing walls of limestone ashlar. The rear of the range has a projecting stack along the N arm, and evenly spaced ventilation slits, with some doorways and windows inserted in later cuts.

Listed, notwithstanding alteration to detail, as a planned farmstead of the mid C19, illustrating the renewed investment in agriculture, and attention to planning associated with the larger estates during the C19” (www.cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=en&id=21068).

5.0 Results of Archaeological Works

A site visit was conducted on 23rd April 2018. A full photographic record of the site was compiled, and a sample of these images were selected and incorporated into the report text as plates 1-16.

The remaining photographic archive has been included on the set of compact discs which accompany the report. Appendix A contains site drawings detailing the location and direction of the photographic plates and the numbering system used for the internal areas of the stables. The images on the compact discs are arranged by interior and interior shots, and the interior by contained spaces.



Plate 1. East Facing Gable Elevation



Plate 2. North-East Facing Front Elevation



Plate 3. North-East Facing Front Elevation



Plate 4. East/South-East Facing Front Elevation



Plate 5. East Facing Gable Elevation (at North of Building)



Plate 6. South-West Facing Rear Elevation



Plate 7. South-West Facing Rear Elevation



Plate 8. North-West Facing Rear Elevation



Plate 9. General Shot of Southern Part of Stable Block (Front Elevation)



Plate 10. General Shot of Northern Part of Stable Block (Front Elevation)



Plate 11. General Shot of Rear Elevation of Stable Block



Plate 12. General Shot of Rear Elevation of Stable Block



Plate 13 - 16. Sample Shots of Building Interior Prior to Commencement of Works

6.0 Bibliography

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