

# Results of Archaeological Works (Evaluation Trenching) at Ysgol y Parc, Holyhead



NGR SH 24600 82797

Project Number CR250-2024



**CR** ARCHAEOLOGY

Compiled by C. Rees and M. Jones  
On Behalf of Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn

## Summary

CR Archaeology were instructed by Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn to conduct a programme of archaeological works at the former Ysgol y Parc site, Holyhead. The proposed works at the site are the construction of a new health centre, residential units, and associated parking/landscaping. This report details the results of an Archaeological Evaluation (Evaluation Trenching) at the site.

Four evaluation trenches were excavated - two covering the area previously occupied by the school buildings, and two situated on the playing fields. The works demonstrated that during the construction of the school buildings and yard the north-eastern site area had been stripped down to the underlying natural (clay and schist bedrock) and levelled. The current hardstanding had been laid directly upon the underlying natural and no archaeological features or artefacts were identified in these trenches. This area was at a noticeably lower level than the playing fields.

The two trenches excavated on the site of the playing fields both yielded the remains of terraced housing built in 1850 and demolished in the mid-twentieth century. The houses were determined to have been located on William's Street, which was part of a larger development. The material directly related to the demolition of the structures was of mid-twentieth century date with residual nineteenth century occupation material. A large quantity of nineteenth century material related to the occupation of the housing was also used as levelling material. The artefactual material is characteristic of a domestic assemblage from a working class urban area and included architectural elements, ceramics, coins, metal objects and butchered animal bone.

Field work was undertaken in December 2024.

## Crynodeb

Cafodd CR Archaeology gyfarnyddyd gan Gyngor Sir Ynys Môn i gynnal rhaglen o waith archaeolegol ar ben safle Ysgol y Parc, Caergybi. Y gwaith arfaethedig ar y safle yw adeiladu canolfan iechyd newydd, unedau preswyl, a pharcio/tirlunio cysylltiedig. Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn manylu ar ganlyniadau Gwerthusiad Archaeolegol (Cloddio ar gyfer Gwerthuso) ar y safle.

Cloddwyd pedair ffos werthuso - dwy yn gorchuddio'r ardal a arferai fod yn adeiladau'r ysgol, a dwy wedi'u lleoli ar y caeau chwarae. Dangosodd y gwaith fod ardal y safle gogledd-ddwyreiniol wedi'i thynnu i lawr i'r craigwely naturiol gwaelodol (clai a sgist) a'i lefelu. Roedd y llawr caled presennol wedi'i osod yn uniongyrchol ar y craigwely naturiol gwaelodol ac ni nodwyd unrhyw nodweddion nac arteffactau archaeolegol yn y ffosydd hyn. Roedd yr ardal hon ar lefel sylweddol is na'r caeau chwarae.

Roedd y ddwy ffos a gloddwyd ar safle'r caeau chwarae ill dau yn ildio olion y tai teras a adeiladwyd yn 1850 ac a ddymchwelwyd yng nghanol yr ugeinfed ganrif. Ystyrwyd bod y tai wedi eu lleoli ar Stryd William, a oedd yn rhan o ddatblygiad mwy. Roedd y deunydd a oedd yn ymwneud yn uniongyrchol â dymchwel yr adeiladau yn dyddio o ganol yr ugeinfed ganrif gyda deunydd anheddu gweddilliol o'r bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg. Defnyddwyd llawer iawn o ddeunydd o'r bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg yn ymwneud â meddiannu'r tai befyd fel deunydd lefelu. Mae'r deunydd arteffactaidd yn nodweddiadol o gasgliad domestig o ardal drefol ddosbarth gweithiol ac roedd yn cynnwys elfennau pensaernïol, serameg, darnau arian, gwrthrychau metel ac esgyrn anifeiliaid wedi'u bwtisia.

Ymgymernwyd â'r gwaith maes ym mis Tachwedd a Rbagfyr 2024.

## Results of Archaeological Works (Evaluation Trenching) at Ysgol y Parc, Holyhead

Planning Application Number:	PALM/2023/5
National Grid Reference:	SH 24600 82797
Client:	Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn
Report Author:	Catherine Rees and Matthew Jones
Report Number:	CR250-2025
Date:	23/01/2025

# Contents

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introduction</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Project Aims</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Scheme of Works – Methodology</b>
3.1	Desk Based Research
3.2	Methodology for Archaeological Evaluation
3.2.1	Recording
3.2.2	Additional Mitigation/Contingency Measures
3.2.3	Recovery, Processing and Curation of Artefactual Material
3.2.3.1	Material Selection Strategy
3.2.3.2	Archive Compilation
3.2.3.3	Data Management Policy
3.3	Timetable for Proposed Works
3.4	Staffing
3.5	Monitoring
3.6	Health and Safety
3.7	The Report
3.7.1	Copyright
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Geological and Topographical Context</b>
4.1	Topography
4.2	Geology
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Historical Background</b>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Results of Archaeological Works</b>
6.1.1	Trench 1
6.1.2	Trench 2
6.1.3	Trench 3
6.1.4	Trench 4
6.2	Artefactual Material
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Bibliography</b>

## Illustrations

**Figure 1.** Site Location Map.

**Figure 2.** Trench Location Plan.

**Figure 3.** 1769 Stanley Estate Map of Holyhead.

**Figure 4.** 1820 Stanley Estate Map of Holyhead.

**Figure 5.** 1841 Tithe Map of Holyhead.

**Figure 6.** Plan of the Town and Harbour of Holyhead 1846.

**Figure 7.** Extract from Fig. 6 Showing Street Names.

**Figure 8.** 1851 Census for William's Terrace, Holyhead.

**Figure 9.** 1861 Census for Harp Street, Holyhead.

**Figure 10.** 1871 Census for William's Terrace, Holyhead.

**Figure 11.** 1881 Census for William's Terrace, Holyhead.

**Figure 12.** Larger Scale Ordnance Survey Town Map of Holyhead Published 1890.

**Figure 13.** Larger Scale Ordnance Survey Town Map of Holyhead Published 1890 with Park School Site Highlighted.

**Figure 14.** Ordnance Survey Map of Holyhead Published 1900.

**Figure 15.** Ordnance Survey Map of Holyhead Published 1924.

**Figure 16.** Aerial View Showing the Rear of Harp Street in the 1960's.

**Figure 17.** Plan of Trenches 2 and 3.

**Figure 18.** Trenches 2 and 3 Overlain on the 1890 Ordnance Survey Map.

## **Appendices**

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

**Appendix B.** Data Management Plan.

**Appendix C.** Context List.

**Appendix D.** Location and Direction of Photographic Plates.

## **1.0 Introduction**

CR Archaeology were instructed by Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn to conduct a programme of archaeological works at the former Ysgol y Parc site, Holyhead (figure 1, Planning Reference: PALM/2023/5). The proposed works at the site are the construction of a new health centre, residential units, and associated parking/landscaping. The proposed development plans are included in Appendix A.

The proposed development site is situated in an urban setting in the centre of Holyhead. It was the site of Ysgol y Parc school which was demolished in 2020. The plot is a split level site, with a lower area to the north-east where the school buildings were located, and an upper level to the south-west where the playing fields were located. The original Ysgol y Parc school was opened in 1877 and was located on Park Street. It was rebuilt on the current site in the late 1960's when this area of the town was redeveloped following extensive clearance of poor quality mid-nineteenth century terraced housing.

The town of Holyhead dates from at least the Romano-British period with the construction of Caer Gybi Fort. The core of the town grew around this monument, with the later church dedicated to St Cybi built within the enclosing fort walls (RCAHMW 1937: 28). The more recent history of the town is closely interwoven with its strategic value as a sea crossing to Ireland. Holyhead functioned on a modest scale as a centre of trade and transport until the early nineteenth century. The passing of the Act of Union with Ireland in 1801 brought improvements to infrastructure in the form of the turnpike roads and the harbour development in the mid-1800s. Housing and services were needed for the influx of workers, traders and travellers to the town.

This report details the results of an Archaeological Evaluation (Evaluation Trenching) at the site. To provide a representative sample of the archaeological resource surviving on the site four evaluation trenches were excavated - two covering the area previously occupied by the school buildings, and two situated in the undeveloped area of the playing fields. The results of these works will be utilised to assist in the determination of appropriate further archaeological mitigation at the site.

The works demonstrated that during the construction of the school buildings and yard the north-eastern site area had been stripped down to the underlying natural (clay and schist bedrock) and levelled. The current hardstanding had been laid directly upon the underlying natural and no archaeological features or artefacts were identified in these trenches. This area was at a noticeably lower level than the playing fields.

The two trenches excavated on the site of the playing fields both yielded the remains of terraced housing built in 1850 and demolished in the mid-twentieth century. The houses were determined to have been located on William's Street, which was part of a larger development. The material directly related to the demolition of the structures was of mid-twentieth century date with residual nineteenth century occupation material. A large quantity of nineteenth century material related to the occupation of the housing was also used as levelling material. The artefactual material is characteristic of a domestic assemblage from a working class urban area and included architectural elements, ceramics, coins, metal objects and butchered animal bone.

## **2.0 Project Aims & Objectives**

The aim of this programme of works was to undertake Archaeological Evaluation Trenching at the proposed development site. Four evaluation trenches were excavated targeting the area previously occupied by the school buildings, and the undeveloped area of the playing fields. This gave a representative sample of the archaeological potential of the site. These works are supported by archival research to contextualise the site and the results of the trenching works.

It aimed to examine the potential archaeological resource surviving at the site and to provide information which will be utilised to determine an appropriate methodology for any further archaeological mitigation which may be required at the site. The programme of archaeological works also aimed to assess the



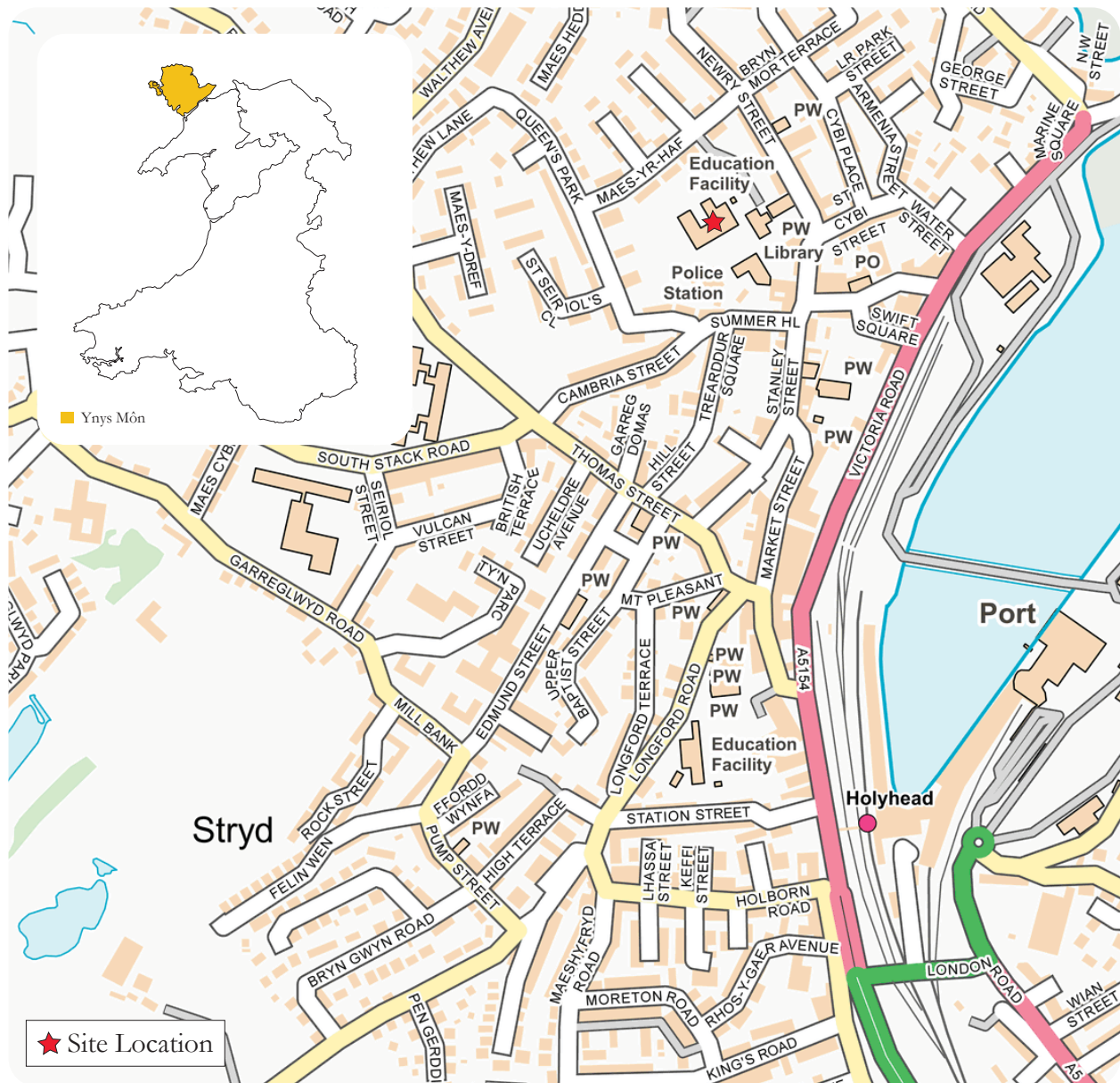


Figure 1. Site Location Plan  
 (Source: OS Open Data Mapping Contains Ordnance  
 Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2019)

survival, character and date of archaeological remains uncovered and to excavate, record and analyse all archaeological remains uncovered within the trenches.

This project aimed to fulfil the criteria for undertaking an Archaeological Field Evaluation as specified in the CIfA Standard and Guidance documents (2023 updates - <https://www.archaeologists.net/codes/cifa>).

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

The objectives of this programme of works were:

- To make full and effective use of the resulting information to establish the archaeological significance of the site
- To assess the presence, survival, character and date of any archaeological remains
- To excavate/record any archaeological remains uncovered.
- To help inform future decision making, design solutions, further evaluation & mitigation strategies.

### **3.0 Scheme of Works – Methodology**

The work undertaken at the site was an Archaeological Evaluation (Evaluation Trenches) and the following section details the methodology for the research, site work, post excavation and archiving associated with the project.

#### **3.1 Desk Based Research**

A complete and coherent history of the site was compiled utilising material sourced from the Historic Environment Record (HER), the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments Wales (RCAHMW) database, Anglesey/Bangor University Archives and relevant publications. This allows as comprehensive a history of the site 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.

In order to identify the character of archaeological remains in the vicinity of the site, a search of the 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). Due to the location of the site within an urban area of Holyhead, the Post Medieval records will be summarised unless directly relevant to the onsite findings. The information collected will be discussed within the main report text.

This material forms the historical background for a full archaeological report and was utilised to aid the interpretation of the results of the evaluation trenching.

The works were carried out accordance with the CIfA Standards and Guidance documents.

#### **3.2 Methodology for Archaeological Evaluation Trenching**

Four evaluation trenches, 1 measuring c.2m x 10m, 2 measuring c.2m x 25m and 1 measuring c.2m x 30m were excavated within the proposed development site using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. The trenches were not targeted on any particular features but rather were distributed to offer as even a coverage of the site as possible, whilst avoiding the large spoil heaps on the site resulting from the demolition of the school and the stripping of the adjacent Police Station site. The trench array is shown in figure 2.

All machine excavation was supervised by an archaeologist from CR Archaeology. The trenches were excavated until an archaeological horizon, or the bedrock/natural was reached. When it was felt that the natural had been reached, the machine was used to excavate a sondage into the deposit to confirm that

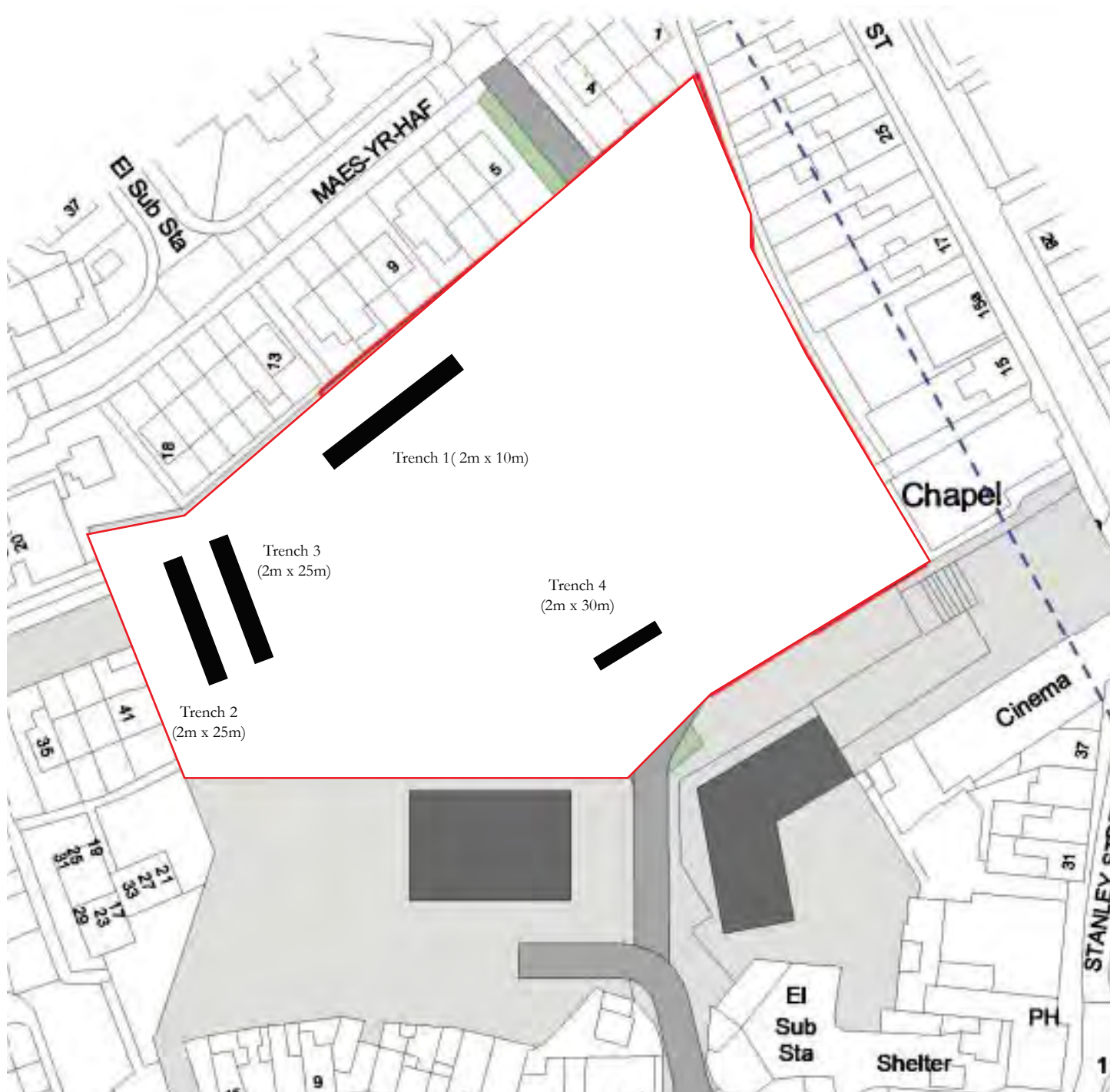


Figure 2. Trench Location Plan



it has not been redeposited and that the material is the natural. All archaeological features, structures or remains identified in the course of the evaluation were trowel cleaned by hand. Investigation of such features, structures or deposits was sufficient to determine their character, date, significance and quality. Excavation generally involve the removal of 50% of pits/posthole fills and 25% of the fills of ditches/large linear features.

No features yielded suitable material for dating/environmental processing. No significant discovery requiring additional mitigation was made during the works.

Structural remains were uncovered during the works and were exposed within the trenches. Excavation was undertaken to establish the presence/absence of intact floor levels. Where floor levels were found the floors were cleaned and recorded but not excavated further at this stage.

The works were carried out in accordance with the CIfA Standard and Guidance documents for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2023 revision).

A basic photographic record of the site was made prior to the commencement of works, which will be used for reference and to aid with the interpretation of the site.

Fieldwork was conducted and managed by Catherine Rees (MCIfA) & Matthew Jones (MA) of CR Archaeology. Dr Ian Brooks provided additional fieldwork and surveying support.

The excavation works will be carried out in accordance with the CIfA Standard and Guidance documents “*Standard for Archaeological Excavation*” and “*Universal Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*” (published December 2023).

### **3.2.1 Recording**

The record forms at CR Archaeology are based on the Historic England system and full written, graphic and photographic records were made in accordance with the Historic England *Field Recording Manual*. The written record comprises completed *pro-forma* record sheets.

Plans, sections and elevations were produced on archive standard stable polyester film at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate. Representative measured sections were prepared as appropriate showing the sequence and depths of deposits. All drawings were numbered and listed in a drawing register, these drawing numbers being cross-referenced to written site records. A 'Harris matrix' diagram has been constructed for the excavated area.

A high-resolution 20 mega-pixel Sony Alpha digital camera was used to create a photographic record of the site. This is comprised of photographs of archaeological features and appropriate groups of features and structures. Included in each photograph will be an appropriate scale. General photographs were also taken in the event of a negative result.

All photographic records will be indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view will be maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number. Images from photography will be stored in a loss-less digital format in this case ‘\*.TIF’.

### **3.2.2 Additional Mitigation/Contingency Measures**

No additional mitigation or contingency measures were required at the site.

### **3.2.3 Recovery, Processing and Curation of Artefactual Material**

All recovered artefactual material was retained, cleaned, labelled and stored according to *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (Updated 2020)* and *First Aid for Finds (Watkinson & Neal 2001)*. The aim will be to create a stable, ordered, well-documented,

accessible material archive forming a resource for current and future research (CIfA 2008, revised 2014, updated 2020).

All artefactual material was bagged and labelled with the site code and context number prior to their removal from site. The archive reference number will be clearly marked on all finds. Each assemblage was examined according to typological or chronological criteria and conservation needs identified. An assessment report of all post-medieval material will be produced by Matthew Jones and lithics by Dr Ian Brooks. This will be conducted in accordance with guidelines issued by the Institute for Conservation.

Due to the vast majority of material recovered being of post medieval date and unsuitable for museum deposition the material will be retained by Isle of Anglesey County Council to be used as a handling collection for local history outreach works. It will be held by the Holyhead Heritage Townscape Initiative at their offices in Holyhead Library (The Market Hall). The paper/digital archive will be deposited with Anglesey Archives. A copy of the digital archive will be deposited with the RCAHMW.

### **3.2.3.1 Material Selection Strategy**

The material selected for retention will be determined in accordance with the National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales Archaeological Archives: Selection, Retention and Disposal Guidelines for Wales (<http://www.welshmuseumsfederation.org/uploads/online%20resources/National%20Archaeology%20standards%20wales%202017/natstandardsfinal2019.pdf>).

### **3.2.3.2 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).

All materials contained within the *Primary Site Archive (P1)* that are subsequently identified by the *Assessment Report (P2)* as appropriate for analysis will be processed by suitable specialists and the resultant *Research Archive (P3)* will be checked and ordered according to MoRPHE criteria. Due to the vast majority of material recovered being of post medieval date and unsuitable for museum deposition the material will be retained by Isle of Anglesey County Council to be used as a handling collection for local history outreach works. The paper/digital archive will be deposited with Anglesey Archives. A copy of the digital archive will be deposited with the RCAHMW.

A copy of the digital archive will be deposited with the Heneb HER and with the RCAHMW. RCAHMW will be notified in advance of the deposition of any archive created by this archaeological project and archive material will be deposited in accordance with the organisation's terms and conditions for archive deposition.

### **3.2.3.3 Data Management Policy**

A site-specific Data Management Plan has been created based upon the Historic England Archaeological Digital Archiving Protocol (ADAPt) Digital Preservation Policy ([www.historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/research/adapt-digital-preservation-policy/](http://www.historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/research/adapt-digital-preservation-policy/)). The format is based upon the Historic England pro forma document ([www.historicengland.org.uk/research/methods/archaeology/archaeological-archives/adapt-toolkit/](http://www.historicengland.org.uk/research/methods/archaeology/archaeological-archives/adapt-toolkit/)). The preliminary document is included as Appendix B.

### 3.3 Timetable for Proposed Works

Site works commenced on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 and were undertaken over a period of 6 days. Further time was allotted for archive research, report compilation and site archiving.

### 3.4 Staffing

The project was managed by Catherine Rees (MCIfA, BA (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology) Postgraduate Diploma (Historic Environment Conservation) & Matthew Jones (BA (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology)). The fieldwork was conducted by Matthew Jones, Catherine Rees and Dr Ian Brooks.

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

### 3.5 Monitoring

The project was subject to monitoring Heneb (Gwynedd) Archaeological Planning Services who were kept informed of site progress and the results of the works.

### 3.6 Health and Safety

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

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

- Hi-visibility vests (EN471)
- Mobile Telephone
- Steel toe capped boots
- Hard Hat

CR Archaeology are not the primary contractor onsite and followed all health and safety instructions from the primary contractor.

### 3.7 The Report

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. The report contains a site plan showing the locations of photographs taken.

The final report includes:

- A bilingual summary
- A copy of the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation
- A location plan
- A plan showing the locations of the evaluation trenches
- All identified features and significant finds plotted on an appropriately scaled plan
- Full dimensional and descriptive detail of all identified finds and features
- A full bibliography of sources consulted
- An archive compact disc/USB stick

A copy of the reports in Adobe PDF format will be sent to the appropriate monitoring archaeologist for approval before formal submission. A PDF digital copy of the reports will be submitted to Heneb as part of the formal submission. A digital Adobe PDF version of the final report and will be lodged with the Historic Environment Record within six months of completion of post excavation works. The 2018 Guidance for the Submission of the Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records document will be followed. A short article will be submitted to the Archaeology in Wales Journal and other publications as appropriate.

### 3.7.1 Copyright

CR 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 Geological Context

### 4.1 Topography

The site is located in an urban location with the plot bounded by development on all sides. The playing field area potentially represents a previously undeveloped plot within Holyhead town centre.

### 4.2 Geology

The bedrock is recorded as “*New Harbour Group - Mica Schist and Psammite. Metamorphic Bedrock formed approximately 541 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 sedimentary in origin, possibly graded sediments or turbiditic flows in a deep-marine environment, but have subsequently undergone metamorphism*” ([www.mapapps.bgs.ac.uk /geologyofbritain/home.html](http://www.mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html)).

The superficial deposits are 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. These sedimentary deposits are glacial in origin. They are detrital, created by the action of ice and meltwater, they can form a wide range of deposits and geomorphologies associated with glacial and inter-glacial periods during the Quaternary*” ([www.mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html](http://www.mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html)).

## 5.0 Historical Background

The earliest known structure in Holyhead is Romano-British period Caer Gybi Fort. The town core is centred around this monument and the Medieval church dedicated to St Cybi was built within the enclosing walls of the fort (RCAHMW 1937: 28). The more recent history of the town is entwined with its strategic value as a sea crossing to Ireland, with Holyhead functioning on a modest scale as a centre of trade and transport until the early nineteenth century.

A HER search was conducted covering a 500m radius from the centre of the site. As was expected, given the urban location of the proposed development site, a large number of results were returned. A total of 119 records were spanned the prehistoric to modern period, with the majority of the records of Post Medieval or Modern date.

### 5.1 The Development of the town of Holyhead – Sixteenth to Late Eighteenth Century

The fortunes of the town of Holyhead are closely interwoven with those of the harbour and the route to Ireland. As the shortest sea crossing Holyhead was of key strategic importance in the governance of Ireland, and in 1561 John ap Pierce of Holyhead was contracted by the Vice Treasurer of Ireland to supply a vessel for the conveyance of Government Messages ([www.anglesey.gov.uk](http://www.anglesey.gov.uk)).

Holyhead continued as a centre of trade and transport, albeit on a relatively modest scale through the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Development was centred around the church and along the main road. There were a number of descriptions of Holyhead written around this time which emphasise the vernacular nature of the housing. In a discussion of this period the work of Williams draws on the work of author Daniel Defoe (1660-1731) in which he describes Holyhead as unpretentious, and straw thatched but with “*good accommodation in lodgings and diet within*” (Williams 1950:53).

Rowland describes mid-eighteenth century Holyhead as undeveloped with many greenfield areas and few houses and cottages. He includes a contemporary description which details the lack of capacity of the town to house the increasing volume of visitors: “*there were so many Lords and Ladies in the town that the inns*



*were full, and they are compelled to put up at houses with thatched roofs*” (Rowland 1989: 11). A slightly earlier source dated 1770 records Holyhead as *“little more than a fishing town, rendered considerable by being the place of general passage to Ireland”* (Unknown 1783: 18). The volume of this traffic is shown in the letters of William Morris and writing in 1753 he notes that *“we had eight coaches, chariots and post chaises in the compass of 48 hours from Chester”* (Rowland 1989: 11).

In the years leading up to the Act of Union with Ireland in 1801 Holyhead underwent rapid development, spurred on by improvements in transport networks - notably the turnpike roads of the mid-late nineteenth century. These improvements began between Oswestry and Froncysyllte in 1756 and in 1765 the road across Anglesey from Porthaethwy to Holyhead was turnpiked (Quartermaine, Trinder & Turner 2003: 10). The success of these roads was however called into question in an account of the town written in 1770 which states that *“the turnpike road from Porthaethwy to Holyhead, 26 miles, is very ill kept for the first five miles, being pitched with great stones, but suffered to lie in great holes. The best part is that between Gwinde and Holyhead, 13 miles. The descent to the ferry-house is execrably rough and dirty; yet here are two tollgates on this road and one would think traffic sufficient”* (Unknown 1783:19).

A number of prominent landowning families in the area had foreseen the rising market for land in the parish. They seized upon the opportunities to add to their wealth through the increased number of visitors the improved links brought into the town. The Eagle and Child, an imposing English style inn bearing the Stanley crest, was built by Margaret Owen (Penrhos Estate) just before 1770. The Eagle and Child was the principle terminus for coaches but the erection of the nearby Hibernia Inn with a pleasure house on Salt Island and a tidal bathing pool was a direct challenge to the family by the Llanfawr Estate. Both places were run by lessees rather than family members and represented a change in the traditions of the town (Williams 1950: 63).

Penrhos Estate lands were leased for periods of three-lifetimes, and a row of three-storey houses were built on the on the seaward side of Market Street by the Parrys and Taylors in 1774. These houses were likely built on the footings of earlier structures. The ordered development of the street was however frustrated by the sale of Lligwy, Swift, Llanfawr and Treaddur lands which allowed a more piecemeal development despite attempts by the Stanley family to buy up all land appearing on the market (Williams 1950: 64-5). The practice of the lease hold development of the town was to cause huge problems for Holyhead in the following century, creating a stranglehold on development. An article appeared in The Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald on May 25th, 1888, reporting on the findings of the Select Committee on Town Holdings in Holyhead. It recorded *“There was a very strong feeling against the leasehold system”*, detailing *“The number of inhabited houses are 2100 or thereabout (65 of which are freehold, the remainder being leasehold and reverted leasehold). About 20 percent of the lessees reside in their own houses and about 80 percent of the population belong to the working class.”* The article continued, describing how when the town began to develop in the mid-eighteenth century all the land for development was owned just five individuals – W. O Stanley, Lord Boston, Mr. Herbert Williams, Mrs. Elliott, and Mr. Wynne – none of whom were prepared to sell the freehold of their plots. Charging high ground rents and selling only limited leaseholds after which the ownership of the property reverted to the landowner (three lives and 31 years in the case of Stanley, 60 in the case of Boston), actively discouraged building maintenance and investment in the town – including in desperately needed sanitary improvements. During the building boon of the mid-nineteenth century there was near full occupancy of the town, but by 1869 there were over 250 unoccupied houses in the town, with the majority having stood empty for a number of years. There was no return on the investment for those wishing to build properties. The article offered no resolution to the issue but did state that Boston and Stanley were now offering 90 year leases.

An estate map of Penrhos lands commissioned by Sir John Thomas Stanley in 1769 (figure 3) shows the proposed development area as a series of strip fields. No properties are shown in the area of the proposed development site, or the immediate area. What would become the Market Hill road is shown leading up from Stanley street. In her work Lucy Williams (1944: 55) provides an interesting description of the Morris Gardens and house. *“No trace of this building now remains, but it covered the site of William Morris's abode,*



Figure 3. 1769 Stanley Estate Map of Holyhead.  
(Source: Bangor University Archives Penrhos Manuscripts 772-3)



Figure 4. 1820 Stanley Estate Map of Holyhead.  
(Source: Anglesey Archives WMaps/ 52/ 1)



Figure 5. 1841 Tithe Map of Holyhead.  
(Source: Anglesey Archives WMaps/ 53)



Figure 6. Plan of the Town and Harbour of Holyhead, Showing the Extension of the Chester and Holyhead Railway to the Proposed Packet and Refuge Harbour 1846. (Source: Bangor University Archives BMSS 39145)



*and he (and later his daughter Jane) owned the strip of land from the Caernarfon Castle as far as the present Empire Cinema, and the row of cottages now on it is called Summer Hill Terrace. The Morris gardens covered (1) the land under the "Caernarfon Castle", Market Hill shops, Summer Hill Terrace, and the Empire Theatre, (2) the site of Harp St<sup>1</sup>. "Llain y Delyn" still called "Llain Ddrian" after Morris's famous sheep proof hedge, (3) two small fields close by inherited from Swift, (4) the ground between the National Provincial Bank and Lands' End along the north of the Roman Wall and surrounding Swift Court. These were freeholds inherited by William Morris's wife, Jane Hughes, from her ancestor Major Thomas Swift, Parliamentary Postmaster of Holyhead".*

William Morris (1705 – 1763) was one of the four 'Morrisiaid Môn' s (brothers Lewis, Richard, William and John Morris) who played a significant role in the cultural life of Anglesey and Wales in the eighteenth century. He was a keen naturalist, botanist and gardener and it is believed that his interest was aroused by his mother's knowledge of medicinal herbs. Botany was to become a lifetime passion for Morris, and he would write a number of books on the subject. He was an avid collector of exotic plants and had various family members and friends send him specimens from around the world (Ramage 1987:128 - 135).

## **5.2 The Act of Union and Thomas Telford's Holyhead Road – 1801 to 1840**

The Act of Union between the Irish and British parliaments was passed on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1801, and from this point Irish MPs and peers sat in the parliament of the United Kingdom. A fast and reliable communication route between London and Dublin therefore became necessary for the transportation of mail, members of parliament, officials and when necessary, troops. The current turnpike system, although much improved, was not sufficient to allow this - particularly around the dangerous crossings of the Afon Conwy and Menai Straits (Quartermaine, Trinder & Turner 2003: 1-2).

The period of 1800 to 1824 was period of development and expansion for Holyhead. The first elements along this route to be improved were the ports of Dublin and Holyhead, with works on John Rennie's massive Admiralty Pier to protect the Holyhead inner harbour completed in 1821 (Quartermaine, Trinder & Turner 2003: 3). Although a number of maps and plans from this development survive - most only show the seaward side of Holyhead and do not cover the proposed development area. An exception to this is an 1820 Estate Map commissioned by Lord Stanley (figure 4). This map shows a similar situation to the 1769 map with no development on the site or in the immediate area.

Additional harbour works included the building of a pier at Salt Island and the creation of a graving dock which allowed ships to be floated for cleaning and repair. The improvements allowed the Post Office to use paddle steamers rather than the traditional sailing packets to take mail between Holyhead and Dublin (Rowlands 1989: 15-16).

Despite this prosperity, the early nineteenth century was a time of great hardship for the working classes of the United Kingdom with unemployment, social unrest and rising food prices and these works provided employment for local people and the prospect of work attracted a large number of incomers to the area (Rowlands 1989: 15-16). The employment and trading opportunities offered by the harbour development in Holyhead were very attractive and the town was to benefit from the influx of money and, perhaps of greater importance, an optimism in the assured future of the town. The increase in the status of the town was exemplified in 1821 when George IV visited Holyhead. The new-found confidence in the town is reflected in the population numbers and between 1801 and 1841 the number of inhabitants increased from 2,132 to 3,869 (Rowlands 1989: 15-16). 1801 was a key year for the population of Holyhead as, for the first time, it overtakes that of the Island's previous principle town of Beaumaris ([www.anglesey.gov.uk](http://www.anglesey.gov.uk)).

The new inhabitants had to be accommodated and the remaining rural characteristics of the town which had survived the earlier part of the century were rapidly lost by the time of the production of the 1841 Tithe Map of the town (figure 5). The proposed development area remains in agricultural use at the time

---

<sup>1</sup> The significance of Harp Street will be returned to below.

of the production of the Tithe, The main street outline as surviving today is largely established, although there was continued infilling within the street layout into the early twentieth century (Rowlands 1989: 16).

The Tithe appointment shows that the area which was later occupied by the school and playing fields was owned by three different individuals, with four different tenants. The south-western area (Part of Plot 42 and Plot 47) later occupied by the playing fields. Plot 42 was part of Llwyprydd Farm and was in the ownership of Lord Stanley and occupied by William Walthew. Plot 47 was in the ownership of Jane Jones and occupied by Robert Rowland. It is part of the Summer Hill estate and when the land plots are compared with those described by Lucy Williams (1944: 55 – quoted above) it is clear that the estate has remained intact from the time of Morris (figure 5). The central plot (Plot 48) was named Newry and in the ownership of Lord Boston and occupied by Evan Owens, whilst the north-eastern plot (Plot 49) was part of a larger plot named Penrhos Arms. It was owned by Lord Stanley and occupied by John Thomas.

Telford's Holyhead road was completed in 1826 with the opening of the Menai Suspension Bridge (Quartermaine, Trinder & Turner 2003: 3) and by 1828 the coach journey from London to Holyhead had shortened to 29 hours and 17 minutes (Rowlands 1989: 24). This road, although intended primarily to take mail coaches and their passengers, generated a considerable volume of stagecoach, posting and private travel along with a more limited amount of freight transport (Quartermaine, Trinder & Turner 2003: 5). Despite being the first major civilian, state-funded infrastructure scheme of modern times the heyday of this route was limited to a relatively short period between the late 1820's and 1830's. Technological advances of the era were to rapidly supersede this great achievement and between 1837 and 1850 the successive opening of railways between London and Holyhead caused a steep decline in the traffic using the road. In 1851 Parliamentary funding for the maintenance of the road was stopped (Quartermaine, Trinder & Turner 2003: 3-4).

### **5.3 The Arrival of the Railway and the Development of the Harbour in Holyhead**

The next great phase of development in the history of Holyhead was heralded by the advent of the railway. Throughout the 1840's there was a programme to construct a railway across Anglesey and, in 1848 the first train arrived in Holyhead (Rowlands 1989: 24). The momentum of the preceding period was continued and further port improvements, in particular the building of the breakwater, attracted national attention due to the sheer magnitude of the operation (Rowlands 1989: 24). The need for workers saw the population increase between 1801 and 1841 eclipsed by that which occurred between 1841 and 1851. Numbers increased by a further 4,994 to reach 8,863 – a figure which shows a more than doubling of the population in ten years (Rowlands 1989: 16). The majority of the population increase took place after January 1848 when the breakwater construction commenced and employed over a thousand men (Hennessey 2000: 63).

A series of correspondence published in the North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality in 1857 highlighted the duality of the increased prosperity of the town. The first correspondent writes in somewhat sycophantic terms about the beneficence of various local businessmen, describing Holyhead as a “*rapidly increasing and rapidly improving town*”. It notes that in ten years the town has transformed from a mere village to “*literally the life of Anglesey, and likely to become the most important town in Wales*”. Workmen were stated to have received good salaries, whilst “*Religious buildings, large and capacious, of every denomination have been built, and a noble Church has sprung to being. Pauperism is unfrequent; filthy diseases do not prevail here; and drunkenness and lawlessness and crime are scarcely to be noticed here, when compared with other places of equal population*”. The kindness exhibited towards the poor and sick is nothing short of wonderful with the behaviour of the harbour developers detailed. “*They have been a general blessing to our rapidly improving town, and may they long live to enjoy the blessings which God has bestowed upon them, and to enjoy the contemplation of the blessings which they have bestowed upon others. They provide for the poor and indigent, and the blessings of the poor rest upon their heads; they provide for the weak and the diseased, and the invalid's gasped blessings rest upon them. They have paid their labourers regularly, provided munificent gifts for them yearly, and always have their welfare nearest their hearts. No one can doubt the ability which the Messrs. Rigby, and their representative, Mr Reitheimer, have evinced in the conducting of the stupendous quarry and breakwater works*”.



*“But the Messrs Rigby have not considered their hands full without reviewing the condition of the town of Holyhead, presenting a noble organ to St. Seiriol’s Church, towards that building of which church, they have likewise largely contributed also evincing their constant good wishes for the dissenting denominations of religion by gifts and munificence, and looking to the welfare and suppling the wants of the town and parish generally. Those of their labourers, who are unable to work from disease or accident, are supplied twice a week, or oftener, with meat, wine, and necessities, and want is not permitted to live within the bounds of their knowledge. Mrs. Rigby sometimes visits the poor and needy and extends her hand to supply their wants; she nourishes the sick, dries the tears of the lowly, and consoles and showers sunshine upon the heart of the bereaved. It is not always that we find such as these. It is not always that we find the rich bow down to notice and remove the wants of the poor, and supply, in any part the place of their dear departed”* (The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality (14<sup>th</sup> November 1857).

This letter was countered by one published in response which paints an entirely different picture of Holyhead and the conditions of the poor. An anonymous author expressed amusement at the descriptions and wrote to address the “*inaccuracies, exaggerations, and omissions*” of the previous correspondence. The author wrote “*Holyhead at present cannot truly be called a “rapidly increasing and rapidly improving town” - it is decidedly retrogressive. The working population is less, wages paid not so much, and number of children in each family greater than before. Therefore so much more poverty. There are numbers of uninhabited houses, but houses here are all of the small, poorly built kind. Those who speculated by house building, when Holyhead made such increase in population, now find how badly paying is such kind of investment. The intellectual and literary affairs of the town are invisible*”. This author fails to recognise the wealthy benefactors described writing “*I have been thinking over for a fortnight and am unable to discover; neither can any of my friends. The “character” is a myth*”. They continue “*The changes that have taken place in Holyhead of late years, in consequence of the New Harbour, must have chiefly benefitted the owners of the soil and, according to “Alpha<sup>2</sup>”, the contractors of the Works*” (The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality (28<sup>th</sup> November 1857).

The second description is supported by the work of Hennessey who researched the health and conditions of the town during the mid-nineteenth century. The population explosion created a severe lack of accommodation, and existing overcrowding and poor sanitation issues worsened. Poverty was widespread and disease rife with cholera outbreaks in 1831, 1846, 1849, 1854 and 1866 (Hennessey 2000). It also appears that there was a shortage of food entering the town resulting in very high prices for basic commodities. An English visitor to Holyhead in 1857 wrote that the price of bread and “*some other necessities of life*” were 50% higher than in London. He questioned how “*poor people with large families contrive to exist*”, finding it difficult to “*discover anything, either in the scenery or the society of Holyhead, that they should pay so dearly for residing in it*” (The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality (31<sup>st</sup> October 1857).

### 5.3.1 The Development of Harp Street and Associated Terraces

Within this period of rapid expansion, there was a need for additional housing. The area at the south-western end of the site was developed with the erection of a row and blocks of terraced housing. A map dated 1846<sup>3</sup> (figure 6) shows these properties along with two rows of terraced housing have also been built nearby – Treaddur Square and Summer Hill Terrace.

Archival research has revealed that the properties within the proposed development area were built in 1850 by three entrepreneurs – Robert Williams (a builder), Godfrey Morton (a merchant) and Owen Williams (a stone mason). An indenture between this group and the owner of the land – William Morris Wynne of Birkenhead (Gentleman) was held at Bangor University Archives (ref: CV/96, CV/110). As was common practice in Holyhead the land was leased for 70 years with an annual ground rent due. The plot was detailed as “*All that field quillet piece or parcel of land commonly called and known by the name of Llain y Delyn situate (unclear) Summer Hill in the parish of Holyhead*”. It is presumed that the maintenance of the

---

<sup>2</sup> The author of the first letter.

<sup>3</sup> Although dated 1846 this map has been updated at a later date as it shows the Market Hall which was not completed until 1855.

“William Morris” at the beginning of Wynne’s name would be a familial link back to the aforementioned William Morris (1705 – 1763). Lucy Williams states that “*Llain y Delyn*” still called “*Llain Ddrain*” after Morris’s famous sheep proof hedge” (1944: 55) and it is possible that this feature may have survived as an earthwork within the plot. The 1851 Census entries for Harp Street, Williams’ Terrace, Morton Terrace and Wynnes’ Terrace all note that the development is in “*Llain Ddrain*”.



Figure 7. Extract from Fig. 6 Showing Street Names  
(Source: Bangor University Archives BMSS 39145)

The names of the landowner Wynne, and developers Moreton and Williams were preserved in the street names as Wynne Terrace<sup>4</sup>, Moreton<sup>5</sup> Terrace and Williams’ Terrace which lead off the main ‘Harp Street’. Comparisons between the site survey following excavation and the historic mapping reveals that the houses uncovered were located on Williams’ Terrace. This street varies in how it is named, with some census records incorporating it as part of Harp Street, whilst others list it separately. The construction of these terraces was part of a larger plan to develop the Summer Hill Estate lands for residential use and Plot 38 on the Tithe map is also developed at this time and becomes Wynne Street. Research has not been conducted to establish whether the same developers were responsible for the erection of the properties on this street.

Further information on Godfrey Moreton<sup>6</sup> was sourced from contemporary newspapers listing some of his varied financial ventures. It appears that the Harp Street development was a success, and the North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality (November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1850) contains an advertisement placed by Moreton listing “*Four newly finished houses, in excellent condition, situate in Millbank Street,*

*Holyhead*”. Also in the Millbank area of the town is Moreton Road which was built during the same period. In 1855 it is recorded that “*The “John Bannerman” – Messrs. R. Evans, (of the New London House), Godfrey Morton, and others, of Holyhead, purchased “the pool” of this unfortunate vessel, the other day, for £210. They are busy raising her. This is likely to be a good speculation*” (North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality: March 24<sup>th</sup>, 1855). The final article was published in 1856 and documented the involvement of Morton in a venture to establish bathing machines for public use on the Penrhos Sands (North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality: May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1856).

The 1851 Census (figure 8) revealed that the residents of the new terraces were primarily employed in the shipping, railway and construction industries with occupations listed as farm labourers, joiners, nailers, rail labourers, quarrymen, mariners and stone masons. There were four properties on William’s Terrace, and the majority of the inhabitants were born in Anglesey, with some moving to Holyhead from elsewhere on the island and others native to the town. Others had moved from other counties in North Wales, with a quarryman having moved from Trefriw and a rail labourer having moved from Holywell in Flintshire. The fourth family had moved from York, with the occupation of the household head recorded as an engine driver. There are two children in the family with the eldest (age 2) having been born in York, whilst the youngest (age 9 months) was born in Holyhead so we can determine the move has been made within the last year or so as an element of the influx of people to the town.

<sup>4</sup> Wynne Terrace is not within the proposed development area of this project. It was located within the adjacent development plot which was recently excavated by Henneb Trust for Welsh Archaeology (Gwynedd).

<sup>5</sup> The incorrect spelling of the name is used on the Ordnance Survey map.

<sup>6</sup> A similar search was conducted for Robert and Owen Williams, but the names were too common to yield results which could be determined with any certainty to relate to these individuals.

Parish or Township of <i>Holyhead</i>	Electoral District of	City or Borough of <i>Holyhead</i>	Town of	Village of			
Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of Males Females	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind or Deaf
91 Harp Street	William Jones	Head	Single	39	Labourer	North Wales	
	Ann Jones	Wife	Single	29		North Wales	
	John Jones	Son	Single	1		North Wales	
	John Griffiths	Servant	W	21	Farm Labourer	North Wales	
92 Harp Street	Elizabeth Jones	Head	Single	31	Labourer	North Wales	
	Elizabeth Jones	Wife	Single	30		North Wales	
	William Jones	Son	Single	6	Scholar	North Wales	
	Margaret Jones	Daughter	Single	1		North Wales	
93 Williams Terrace in North Street	John Hughes	Head	Single	40	Freeman, Holp. Mail Coach	North Wales	
	Maria Jones	Wife	Single	48		North Wales	
	John Jones	Son	Single	13		North Wales	
	Ann Jones	Daughter	Single	11		North Wales	
	Ellen Jones	Daughter	Single	7		North Wales	
94 Williams Terrace in North Street	John Wynne	Head	Single	24	Rail. Lab.	North Wales	
	Maria Jones	Wife	Single	20		North Wales	
95 Williams Terrace	William Roberts	Head	Single	24	Quarryman	North Wales	
	Elizabeth Jones	Wife	Single	21		North Wales	
	Ann Jones	Daughter	Single	2		North Wales	
	Margaret Jones	Daughter	Single	1 1/2		North Wales	
	Maria Hughes	Servant	W	15	House Servant	North Wales	
Parish or Township of <i>Holyhead</i>	Electoral District of	City or Borough of <i>Holyhead</i>	Town of	Village of			
Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of Males Females	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind or Deaf
	John Hughes	Wife	Mar.	28	Quarryman	North Wales	
96 Williams Terrace	Joseph Jones	Head	Single	31	Engine Driver	North Wales	
	Mary Jones	Wife	Single	33		North Wales	
	John Jones	Son	Single	2		North Wales	
	Margaret Jones	Daughter	Single	1 1/2		North Wales	
	John Roberts	Wife	W	21	Engine Fitter	North Wales	
On the sea wall							
97 Williams Terrace in North Street	Joseph Jones	Head	Single	31	Labourer	North Wales	
	Elizabeth Jones	Wife	Single	23		North Wales	
	Mary Jones	Daughter	Single	1		North Wales	
	John Jones	Daughter	Single	1 1/2		North Wales	

Figure 8. 1851 Census for William's Terrace, Holyhead. (Source: Ancestry)

The status of the Harp Street and linked properties as a working class area is attested by the census occupation list. This area is singled out for mention in an 1857 letter by Thomas Jackson urging that Holyhead establish a Ragged School<sup>7</sup>. In his correspondence he names particularly problematic areas including Harp Street. The letter has been included in full as it details the conditions of the town's poor in the mid nineteenth century:

#### “RAGGED SCHOOL FOR HOLYHEAD.

To the Editor of the North Wales Chronicle.

Sir, - One of the most pleasing signs of the times is the great which is being shown in the welfare of the working classes, and the attention paid to the rising generation, especially to that portion of the juveniles who prowl about our streets, clad in the habits of wretchedness. In some localities the eye of pity has gazed upon these outcasts of society - the heart of compassion has yearned over them, and the hand of benevolence has been stretched out to them, gathering them together, and forming them into, what is very appositely denominated, “aged Schools”. And we are fully warranted in believing that the beneficial effects of these philanthropic Institutions, have, under the blessing of God, not only been experienced by the children themselves but have been extended, in not a few instances, to the homes and hearts of parents hitherto careless and Godless!

Of one thing I am fully persuaded, that there is no place in the Principality where a Ragged School is more needed than at Holyhead. Should anyone doubt this statement, let him visit, or walk through, **Harp Street**, Baker Street, Wynn Street, Rock Street, Peel Street, and he will be fully convinced of the need of the foregoing remark; he will meet with groups of children, with scarcely any covering - children whose raggedness would preclude them from entering any respectable school. What, I ask, is to become of them? Are they to grow up in ignorance and crime? To fill our prison cells, to crowd our assize calendars, and to supply our penal settlements? Forbid it all that is generous, patriotic, Christian!

Poverty cannot be urged as an excuse for the non-establishment of a Ragged School in this town. There is superfluous wealth sufficient to originate and sustain such an Institution. There is a class of persons in Holyhead whom God, in his providence, has blessed with plenty - their cup overflows. Only let them sincerely ask the question, “How much owe I my Lord?” and practically attend to the answer, then the “Ragged School,” will at last, form a subject of grave consideration. And while

<sup>7</sup> Ragged Schools were free schools for poor children.



*the rich are giving of "their abundance" the comparatively poor man, like the Macedonians, will willingly give out of his "deep poverty," to support a school so necessary, and so likely to confer incalculable blessings on the poor ragged wandering child.*

THOMAS JACKSON. *Holyhead, March 24, 1857* (North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality: March 28<sup>th</sup>, 1857).

There are numerous children marked as "*scholar*" on the census returns of Harp Street and associated terraces from 1851 onwards, and whilst this should mean that the children attended school daily no checks were made, and the term could be used to cover the child being illegally employed. The National School in Holyhead was founded in 1811, but only provided tuition to Anglican children and church attendance was mandatory. A weekly charge was levied on each scholar which was recorded as one penny in 1847 (<https://www.holyhead.com>). Additional education was provided by the Nonconformist chapels in the form of Sunday schools.

The "*Reports of the Commissioners of Inquiry into the State of Education in Wales*<sup>8</sup>" records that on Anglesey as a whole there were 25 Anglican schools "*provided for the benefit of the poor*" which were attended by 1,879 scholars. Also recorded for the poor were 8 non-sectarian schools educating 629 pupils (Volume 3, page 2). The language used in the schools is not subdivided by whether schools are provided for the poor or higher fee paying but it is recorded that of the 60 schools on Anglesey none taught exclusively through the medium of Welsh. The majority of the schools – 47 (78%) taught in English only with just 13 bilingual schools. The document also noted that there was capacity for the education of just 9% of the children of Wales based upon the numbers provided in the 1841 census – although we know for Holyhead that the population had increased rapidly between 1841 and the report publication in 1847, so it was presumably worse than reported (ibid: 5). Hennessey (2000: 64) recorded that in the 1853 Slater's Directory for Holyhead that there was a National School, British School, and an Independent School together with three other day schools listed. It would take until 1870 for the formation of a School Board in Holyhead and until 1877 for the original Park School which later occupied the proposed development area to be opened. This is discussed further below.

Hennessey (2000), who studied the health and living conditions of the poor, demonstrated that Holyhead displayed a similar mortality profile to the larger industrial towns of South Wales half of all deaths those of babies and children under 5. Public health in the overcrowded town was an ongoing issue and in early 1849 a Sanitary Committee was appointed. Measures needed were listed as the improvement of drainage and the administration of pigsties. A letter from Lord Stanley noted that the banning of pigsties was problematic as the raising and slaughter of pigs was used as a significant revenue source for the poor stating "*the rents are paid by the pig in great part*". Minutes of the Sanitation Committee in 1849 included a proposal that all horses, donkeys and pigs which were found to have strayed onto the roads of the town were to be impounded (Hennessey 2000:). This practice clearly continued to be an issue and in one session in 1867 there were 3 individuals from Holyhead summoned to attend court in "*A Crusade Against Donkeys*" (North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality: June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1867).

One of these animals was in the ownership of a resident of Harp Street, again demonstrating the poverty of the area. "*A respectable (though poor) looking lame man of 60 to 65 winters hopped up to the table to defend the conduct of his Jack, who had been the companion of his toil and his exertions for honest living during the long period of 16 years. The proprietor's name was Thomas Timms. P.C. No. 8, said that he had repeatedly seen the donkey on the highways during the past weeks, and had repeatedly warned Mr. Timms. Mr. Timms said that he could neither possess nor rent an inch of land, and that he had only to say peccavi. Superintendent Owen bore a very bad character to Jack, "which need no confirmation after 16 years life on the street". The bench issued Mr. Timms in a fine of 2s. 6d, and 11s. costs. Mr. Timms respectfully informed the bench that all his property in the world and his "Jack" included would not fetch that sum. After which Mr. Timms started on his four-mile hopping to Harp Street, Holyhead*" (North Wales Chronicle

---

<sup>8</sup> More commonly known as 'Blue Books', or 'Brad y Llyfrau Gleision', (the "Treachery of the Blue Books").



and Advertiser for the Principality: June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1867).

The residents of Harp Street made multiple appearances in the aforementioned Petty Sessions at the local court, and a sample of records from historic newspapers in the early 1860's revealed numerous instances of drunken behaviour and fighting – between spouses and between inhabitants (North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality 1861-2).

The census document for 1861 (figure 9) groups together Williams and Harp Street, but the continued residence of one family into the 1871 census allows the approximate position of the street to be located. Owen and Elinor Morris are recorded in both surveys with Owen's occupation in 1861 listed as a clog maker. There are two women listed as paupers on the census sheet, with others working as a gardener, carter, barman and labourer.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the												
Page [2]												
Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Typical of	Residence or Tything, etc., of	Enumeration District of						
No. of Subdivisions	Road, Street, Lane, and No. or Name of House	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, Deaf, and Dumb				
					Male	Female						
	Harp St. the Queen	William Jones	Head	Mar	16	Carter	Shropshire, England					
66		Mary Jones	Wife		15		Shropshire, Do					
		Mary Hughes	Daughter	Mar	44	Pauper	Shropshire, Do					
		Thomas Jones	Son		16		Shropshire, Do					
		Mary Jones	Daughter		15		Do					
67		Owen Morris	Head	Mar	25	Clog maker	Shropshire, Do					
		Elinor Morris	Wife		25		Shropshire, Do					
		David Jones	Son		1		Shropshire, Do					
68		Joseph Jones	Head	Mar	37	Gardener	Shropshire, Do					
		Margaret Jones	Wife		37		Do					
		John Jones	Son		15	Scholar	Do					
		Henry Jones	Son		10	Scholar	Do					
		Anna Jones	Daughter		7	Scholar	Do					
		James Jones	Son		6	Scholar	Do					
		David Jones	Son		2		Do					
69		William Jones	Head	Mar	16	Up Loh	Shropshire, Do					
		Mary Jones	Wife		16		Do					
		Ellen Jones	Daughter		7	Scholar	Do					
		Margaret Jones	Daughter		5	Scholar	Do					
70		Thomas Jones	Head	Mar	26	Barman	Shropshire, Do					
71		Thomas Jones	Head	Mar	25	Scholar	Shropshire, Do					
Total of Houses...		Total of Males and Females...		16								

Figure 9. 1861 Census for Harp Street, Holyhead. (Source: Ancestry)

[Page 69]

The undermentioned House are situate within the Boundaries of the																	
City or Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of		Parliamentary Borough of		Town of		Village or Hamlet, &c., of		Local Board, or (Dispersed) Civil Sanitary District of		Enthralled State					
No. of		Road, Street, Lane, and No. or NAME of HOUSE		NAME and Surname of each Person		RELATION to HEAD of Family		CON- DITION		AGE		Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION		WHERE BORN		Whether Blind, Deaf, or Dumb	
Subdivisions																	
55		Harp Street		Andrew Reilly	Head	Mar	9					Scholar		Ireland, Anglesey, Holyhead			
				Margaret Reilly	Wife		15							Do			
56		St. William's Ter.		Ellen Evans	Head	Mar	50					Lodging House Keeper		Shropshire, Do			
				John Jones	Son		15							Do			
				Mary Jones	Daughter		15							Do			
57				William Jones	Head	Mar	50					Mariner		Norway, Christiania, Do			
				Mary Jones	Wife		41							Anglesey, Holyhead			
				Robert Jones	Son		6					Scholar		Do			
				Thomas Jones	Son		2							Do			
				William Jones	Son		7					Scholar		Do			
58				John Jones	Head	Mar	50					Labourer		Shropshire, Do			
				Mary Jones	Wife		46							Do			
				John Jones	Son		14					Labourer		Do			
				Ann Jones	Daughter		8					Scholar		Do			
59				John Jones	Head	Mar	30					Collier		Anglesey, Holyhead			
				Mary Jones	Wife		27							Do			
				John Jones	Son		19							Do			
				Margaret Jones	Daughter		11							Do			
Total of Houses...				Total of Males and Females...													

Figure 10. 1871 Census for William's Terrace, Holyhead. (Source: Ancestry)

The 1871 census for Williams Terrace (figure 10) shows that Owen Morris is now employed as a collier, whilst one of the houses has become a lodging house run by Ellen Evans. The inhabitants remain a mixture of Anglesey natives and people who have moved from further afield including a mariner from Norway. Employment was found as labourers or at sea.

Following pressure from the National Education League to provide free, compulsory, non-religious education for children, the Education Act was introduced in 1870. Although it would take a further decade for this aim to be realised this was the first piece of legislation specifically dealing with educational provision in England and Wales. The act established a system of 'school boards' to build and manage schools in areas where needed (<https://www.parliament.uk/>). In 1875 the Holyhead Board under Chairman Rev. W. Griffith determined to purchase the Park site in the town for the construction of a new school (North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality: 10<sup>th</sup> April, 1875). The Park School opened in 1877, and an account of the school is provided at <https://www.holyhead.com/local-interest/school/park-school/>.

The prosperity of Holyhead continued throughout the late nineteenth century and the focus of the towns wealth was still largely reliant on the crossing to Ireland and the associated rail and harbour industries, both of which continued to develop apace during this period (Haslam, Orbach & Voelecker 2009: 132-134). A description of the town of Holyhead written in 1878 conveys the spirit of the time and reflects on general and population trends during this period. "*Holyhead, on the islet of Holyhead, which is separated from Anglesey by fordable sandy strait, is the most important town in the county. From the large amount of trade carried on with the sister island, Ireland it has become a port of great importance. It places London and Dublin in direct and ready communication; the principle railway, the road, and the telegraph having each their terminus here. Great improvements have been effected during the last twenty years, and a fine harbour made, which affords a safe retreat for distressed ships sailing from Liverpool, Dublin, Whitehaven, and other ports, to all parts of the world. There is a fine breakwater, constructed at the expense of the Government, the pier extending outwards 900 feet, and having a depth of 14 feet at the pier head during low water. Upon its extremity is a monster lighthouse, exhibiting a powerful light 200 feet above the level of the sea; a marble arch commemorating the visit of George IV in 1821, on his visit to Ireland, stands upon the pier. The mail steamers plying between Holyhead and Dublin are some of the finest built boats in the world and run in all weathers. Passengers may be now conveyed from London to Dublin, a distance of 260 miles, in 11 and a quarter hour. The inhabitants are principally employed in the coasting trade, ship building and repairing, improving of the harbour, fishing, and assisting in the transport of cattle and goods from Ireland (The Wales Register & Guide 1878: 9-10).*" The register describes further features of Holyhead in a later passage where it details the building of a new harbour in 1873 at a cost of almost two million sterling, and a town hall in 1875. The population figures given for Holyhead show that the population levels have stabilised with a decline in numbers from 8,773 in 1861 to 8,131 in 1871 (*ibid*: 106). This is echoed in the occupancy rate for the town which had dropped from near full in the mid-nineteenth century to 250 unoccupied houses in the town in 1869, with the majority having stood empty for a number of years (The Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald on May 25th, 1888).

The 1881 Census lists William's Terrace (figure 11) as a separate street and once more the primary occupations of the inhabitants are in shipping, the railways or construction. Similar occupations are recorded for the inhabitants of the neighbouring terraces. The 1891 Census does not record Williams Terrace separately and the location of the properties could not be determined. The occupations listed above remain represented, with additional occupations like dressmaker, grocer, charwoman and policeman added. One of the residents is recorded as a pupil teacher.

Ordnance Survey produced their first map of Holyhead in 1888, and a larger scale edition of 1890 (figures 12 and 13). This document shows the individual property boundaries, with the four structures arranged in pairs opposite each other. Two further properties faced onto Harp Street with the sides of the structures along William's Terrace. This document also shows that there has been further development on Wynne Terrace with an additional terrace built on the opposite side of the street, and infilling of the eastern edge. The 1900 Ordnance Survey map (figure 14) shows that there has been an effort to improve the sanitation of the street and there are what are likely outside privies now shown at the rear of the plots of structures facing Harp Street. It is unclear what provision was made for the William's Terrace properties.



Page 36	The unmentioned Houses are situated within the Boundaries of the									
Civil Parish (or Township) of	Civil Parish (or Township) of	Civil Parish (or Township) of	Civil Parish (or Township) of	Civil Parish (or Township) of	Civil Parish (or Township) of	Civil Parish (or Township) of	Civil Parish (or Township) of	Civil Parish (or Township) of	Civil Parish (or Township) of	Civil Parish (or Township) of
Holyhead	Holyhead	Holyhead	Holyhead	Holyhead	Holyhead	Holyhead	Holyhead	Holyhead	Holyhead	Holyhead
No. of House	ROAD STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	AGE last Birthday of Male Person	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of Male Person	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	WHERE BORN	WHERE BORN
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
126	1	1	Jane Thomas	Head	W	4	housewife	Woolston		(1) Woolston
			Henry	Wife		60	housewife	Woolston		(2) Woolston
			Thomas	Wife		50	housewife	Woolston		(3) Woolston
			Walter	Wife		50	housewife	Woolston		(4) Woolston
127	1	1	John Thomas	Head	W	28	housewife	Woolston		(1) Woolston
			John	Wife		24	housewife	Woolston		(2) Woolston
			Thomas	Wife		24	housewife	Woolston		(3) Woolston
128	1	1	Henry Thomas	Head	W	30	housewife	Woolston		(1) Woolston
			Henry	Wife		21	housewife	Woolston		(2) Woolston
129	1	1	David Thomas	Head	W	43	housewife	Woolston		(1) Woolston
			David	Wife		63	housewife	Woolston		(2) Woolston
			William	Wife		24	housewife	Woolston		(3) Woolston
130	2	1	David Thomas	Head	W	30	housewife	Woolston		(1) Woolston
			David	Wife		37	housewife	Woolston		(2) Woolston
			Richard	Wife		1	housewife	Woolston		(3) Woolston
131	3	1	John Thomas	Head	W	40	housewife	Woolston		(1) Woolston
			John	Wife		31	housewife	Woolston		(2) Woolston
			John	Wife		9	housewife	Woolston		(3) Woolston
			Richard	Wife		7	housewife	Woolston		(4) Woolston
			Walter	Wife		6	housewife	Woolston		(5) Woolston
			Walter	Wife		4	housewife	Woolston		(6) Woolston
			Walter	Wife		2	housewife	Woolston		(7) Woolston
			Walter	Wife		3	housewife	Woolston		(8) Woolston

Figure 11. 1881 Census for William's Terrace, Holyhead. (Source: Ancestry)

## 5.4 Twentieth Century Holyhead

The 1901 and 1911 census documents do not separate out the records for Harp Street and William's Terrace and it was not possible to separate out the two areas. The occupations remain the same as in the previous years. From the 1911 census we were able to determine that all the terraces were two-up-two-down houses, with all properties listed as having four rooms. An Ordnance Survey map dated 1924 appears to show the removal of many of the outside structures shown on the 1900 edition.

Following the end of the First World War in 1918 a number of episodes which were to prove disastrous for the town occurred. The first came in 1920 when the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company withdrew from the port ending 70 years of unbroken service and resulting in the loss of 350 jobs. This loss was compounded by the loss of the Royal Mail service contract to the London and North-Western Railway Company which led to the town's reliance on a single company. The dangers of this became evident when the LNWR merged with a number of other rail companies to form the much larger London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company and introduced scathing economies resulting in further job loss (Rowlands 1989: 25 – 34).

At this time relations with Ireland were changing and in 1922 Southern Ireland achieved home rule. Following this separation the diplomatic links between Britain and Ireland became strained and in 1932 a six year tariff war began which was to further feed into the precarious position of the town (Rowlands 1989: 25 – 34). In his work on the period John Rowlands records that “*The Trade War with Ireland was disastrous for Holyhead, because had it not happened the town's dependence on the LMS and the railway company's monopoly of the trade with Ireland, would have made them both relatively immune to the economic recession of the 1930's. Without those six long years of the Tariff War, Holyhead's limitations as a one company town could have been its greatest strength. In fact as events turned out the fact that Holyhead was a one company town was its greatest weakness in the 1930's*” (1989: 29-30).

The recession of the 1930's was on a global scale and unemployment was high throughout the country but for reasons detailed above Holyhead was particularly harshly hit leading Megan Lloyd George (MP for Anglesey) to claim in 1937 that Holyhead was suffering higher unemployment than all but the very worst areas of South Wales and Durham. Statistics record that unemployment in Holyhead was only to fall below 30% once during the 1930's and in December 1936 it hit the record level of 47.7%. Many



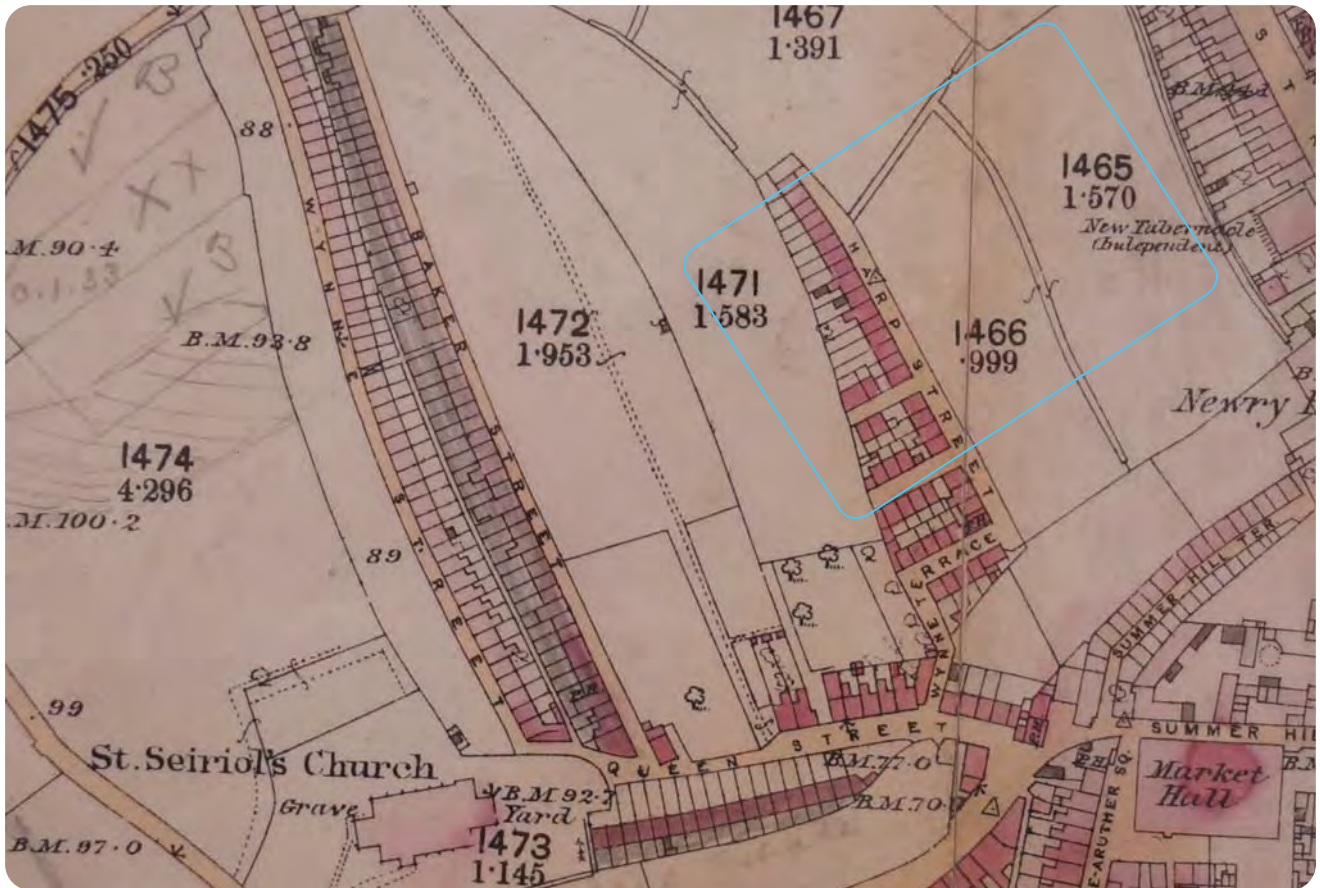


Figure 12. Larger Scale Ordnance Survey Town Map of Holyhead Published 1890. (Source: Anglesey Archives)



Figure 13. Larger Scale Ordnance Survey Town Map of Holyhead Published 1890 with Park School Site Highlighted. (Source: Anglesey Archives)





Figure 14. Ordnance Survey Map of Holyhead Published 1900.  
(Source: Anglesey Archives)



Figure 15. Ordnance Survey Map of Holyhead Published 1924.  
(Source: Anglesey Archives)

families left the town in search of work elsewhere and during the 1930's the population fell by over one thousand. Contemporary observer accounts paint a bleak picture and state that *"the town is in crisis – the most serious in its history"* (1931), *"there are hundreds of men, women and children practically destitute"* (1933), *"anyone walking through the town would at once notice that Holyhead was a dead town; there was nothing there at all"* (1938) and *"we are worse off in Holyhead today than we have been in the whole history of the town. The town is poverty stricken"* (1939). It was only with the advent of the Second World War in 1939 that there was any improvement in the towns fortune – a fact that was bitterly noted at the time by the town clerk who remarked that *"apparently you cannot get anything for Holyhead unless you get a war"*. The war did however bring employment and government contracts to the area although Holyhead was never to return to its late nineteenth century heyday (Rowlands 1989: 25 – 34).

A number of aerial images held at the RCAHMW show Holyhead in 1950 with two images (WAW049717 at <https://coflein.gov.uk/en/archive/6414676?term=holyhead> and WAW031486 at <https://rcahmw.ibase.media/en/view-item?i=214289&fullPage=1&WINID=1736429255900>) show both the front and rear elevations of Harp Street and Wynne Terrace<sup>9</sup>. The separate blocks forming William's Terrace and Moreton's Terrace which were at the rear of Harp Street have been recently demolished, and the rubble remains of William's Terrace remain visible. The field boundaries shown on the Ordnance Survey mapping remain visible.



*Figure 16. Aerial View Showing the Rear of Harp Street in the 1960's.  
William's Terrace Moreton Terrace Were Demolished Around a Decade Earlier.  
(Source: Allan Williams, Friends of Ysgol y Parc Facebook Group (Posted July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020).*

Following the Second World War government policy and intervention encouraged the diversification of the town with new factories established at Kingsland and Turkey Shore, and in the 1960's Anglesey Aluminium and Wylfa nuclear power station approximately 15 miles away. In 1965 the port was boosted by the introduction of a car ferry service, and in 1970 by the establishment of a terminal container. In tandem with the government economic involvement the requirements of the 1954 Housing Repairs and Rents Act was introduced with the aim of identifying and replacing poor quality housing. In Holyhead

<sup>9</sup> The images have not been included due to Copyright.



720 properties out of a total housing stock of just over 3,000 houses were marked for demolition. Under this legislation the surviving elements of the Harp Street development and Wynne Terrace were amongst the 1,200 houses demolished between 1964 and 1974. The Holyhead Urban District Council erected 1,000 new homes with a major redevelopment of this area of the town (Cadw 2019: 26-28).

Following the demolition of the terraces the current site boundaries were established as the perimeter of the new Ysgol y Parc, (previously Park School) which was relocated from its previous location and was opened in 1968. Figure 16 shows the area immediately prior to the demolition of Harp Street. William's and Moreton's Terraces have already been demolished. The strip of land to the rear of Harp Street remains undeveloped farmland.

The new school was on a split level with a lower section to the north-east which housed the school buildings and yard. The playing field occupied the south-western area of the site and occupied an elevated position and was accessed via steps. In 2014 Isle of Anglesey County Council resolved that three Holyhead schools – Ysgol y Parc, Ysgol Parchedig Thomas Ellis and Ysgol y Parc be amalgamated, with Ysgol Cybi established on a new site (<https://democracy.anglesey.gov.uk>). Ysgol y Parc was officially closed on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 (<https://get-information-schools.service.gov.uk>) and was demolished in 2020.

## **6.0 Results of Archaeological Works (Figures 2, 17 – 18, Plates 1 – 20)**

Four evaluation trenches were excavated at the proposed development site (figure 2). The trench positions were in part dictated by the presence of large stores of spoil and demolition rubble on the site but representative site coverage was ensured with trenches located in the area previously occupied by the school buildings and yard, the playing field area. Plates 1 and 2 show general views of the site prior to the commencement of archaeological works.

A full context list is included as Appendix C.

### **6.1.1 Trench 1 (Figure 2, Plates 3 – 5)**

Trench 1 was located within the footprint of the previous school building. The trench measured 2m x 30m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m.

The trench contained a single fill comprised of modern hardcore which had been laid upon the underlying natural. Concrete footings were visible within the trench. The underlying natural in this trench was a light yellow clay with schist outcropping and patches of iron panning.

No archaeological features were encountered in this trench and given the extensive levelling undertaken in this area of the site the survival of archaeological features is considered extremely unlikely.

### **6.1.2 Trench 2 (Figures 2, 17 – 18, Plates 6 – 12)**

Trench 2 (figure 17) measured c. 2m x 25m and was located in the area previously occupied by Harp Street and the associated terraced housing. There were two upper layers – (200) the topsoil which was a dark brown-black layer of clay-loam containing modern material and some demolition waste. This material was c. 0.15m in depth and was removed by machine. Underlying (200) was a thicker layer of subsoil (210) with large quantities of building material and domestic rubbish associated with the demolition of the mid nineteenth century terraces in the mid twentieth century. The material has been spread to create a level area for the school playing field and was approximately 0.30m in depth.

This trench contained a series of walls and surfaces related to the foundations and cellar of nineteenth century housing and a boundary wall. Overlaying the site plan upon the historic Ordnance survey mapping of the area demonstrates that the trench was located upon the remains of William's Terrace, a small block positioned at a right angle to the Harp Street Terrace (figure 18).



*Plates 1 & 2. General  
Views of Site Prior to  
Commencement of Works.*



*Plates 3 - 5. Trench 1.*





*Plate 6. Trench 2 - Boundary Wall (203).*

*Plate 7. Trench 2 - Trench 2 - Boundary Wall (203).*

*Plate 8. Trench 2 - Cellar Wall (201) Showing Excavated Area and Earthen Floor.*

*Plate 9. Cellar Wall (201) Showing Excavated Area and Earthen Floor.*

*Plate 10. Trench 2 - Bicycle Remains Within Cellar Fill.*





*Plate 11. Post Excavation Aerial Image of Trench 2.*



*Plate 12. Post Excavation Aerial Image of Trench 2 - Structural Elements.*

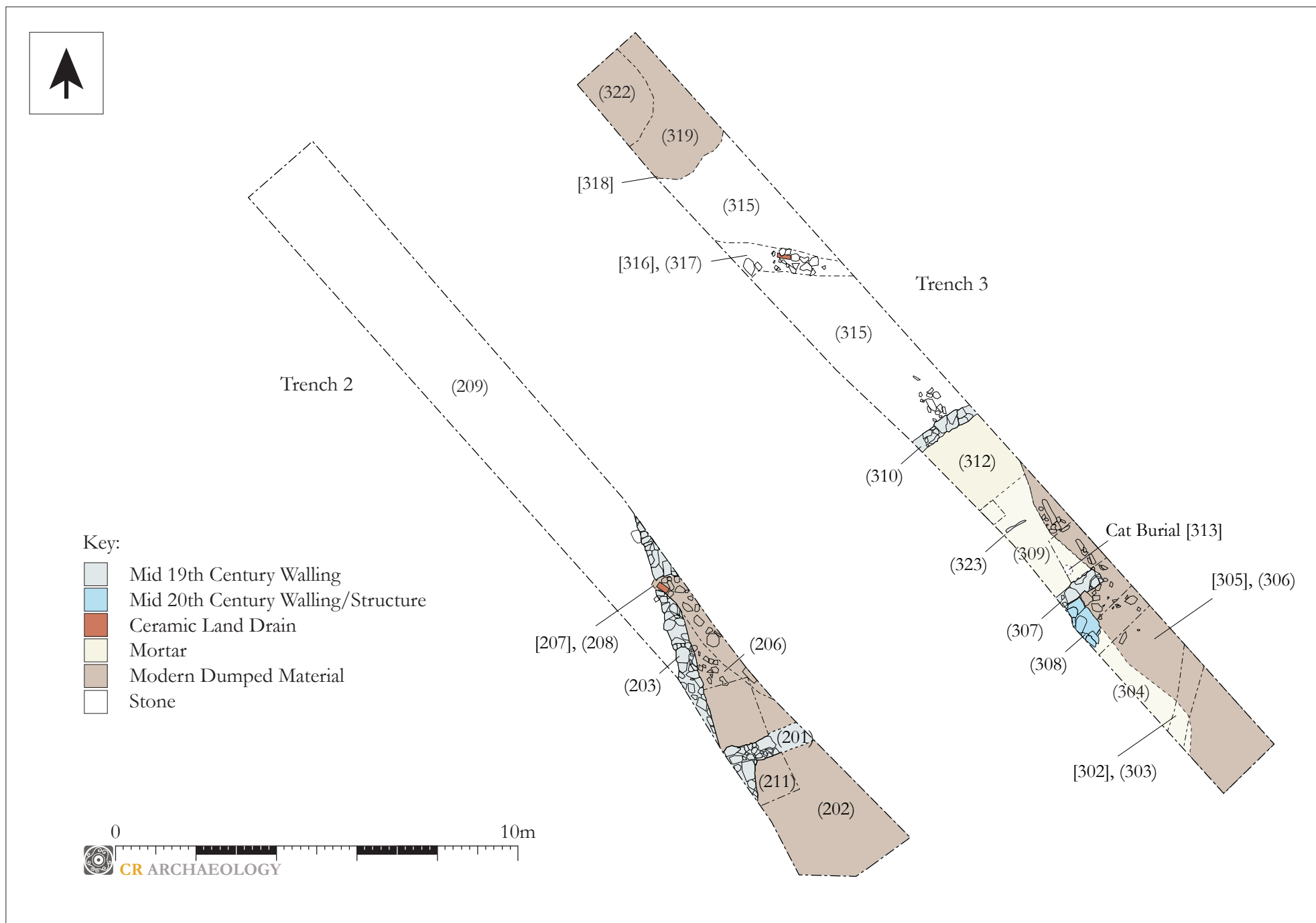
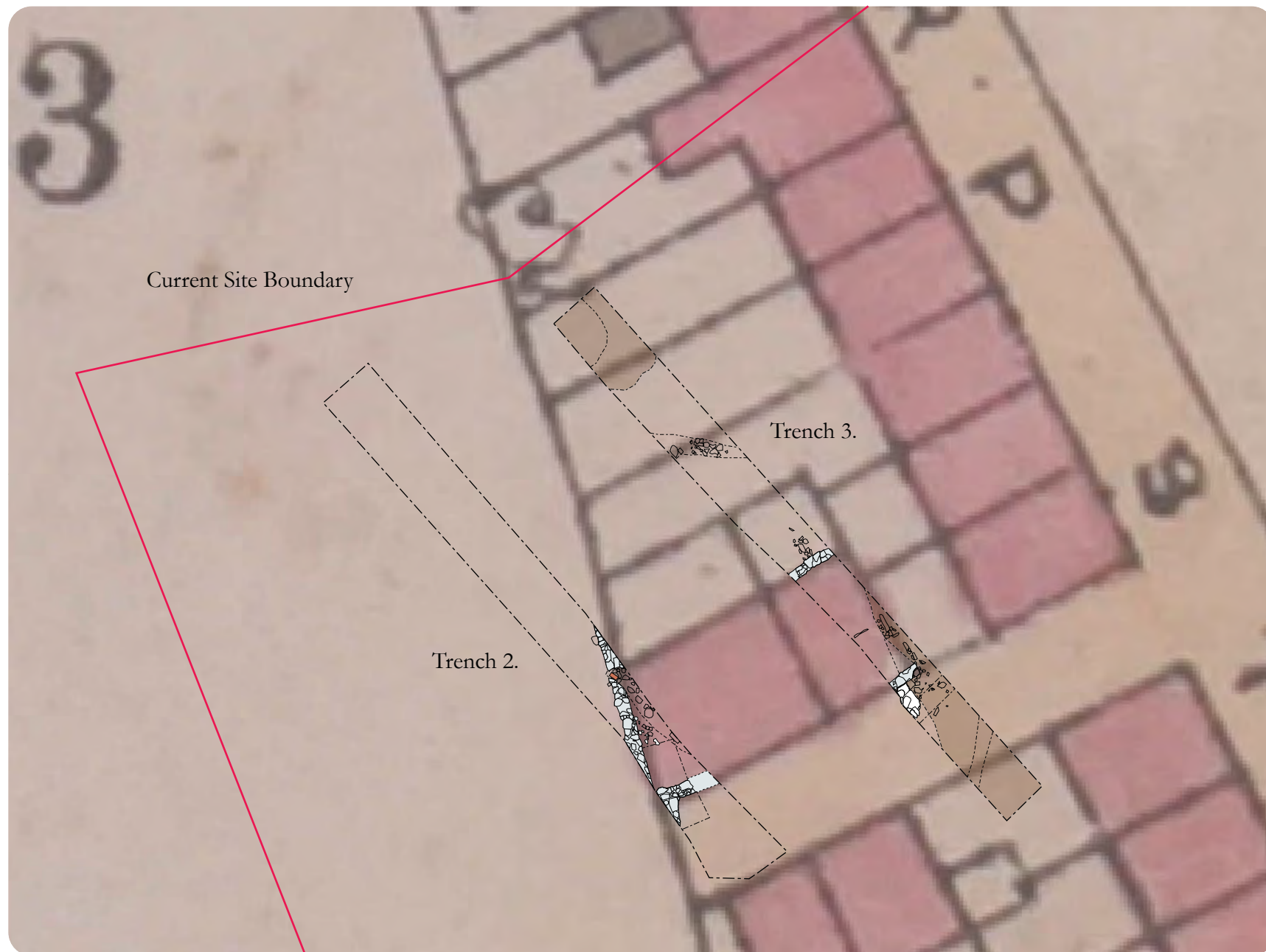


Figure 17. Plan of Trenches 2 and 3.





*Figure 18. Trenches 2 and 3 Overlain on the 1890 Ordnance Survey Map.*

There were two stone built walls within the trench – the longer of the walls was orientated on a north-south axis (203) and formed the rear boundary wall for the Harp Street terrace and associated streets. The wall can be seen on historic mapping and was constructed of roughly coursed schist slabs with earth and mortar bonding (plates 6 and 7). It was 0.6m in width and survived to a maximum of three courses in height. Six metres of the wall was uncovered within the trench area and the structure continued beyond the trench boundaries. Boundary wall (203) was cut by a modern drainage trench ([207]) with the remains of a ceramic pipe remaining in place (208).

Abutting the boundary wall were the remains of the exterior walls of the north-western property of William's Terrace (201). The walls were c. 0.45m in width and extended beyond the trench boundaries. The structure had a cellar and the remains of this were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.65m (plates 8 and 9). At this level a rammed clay floor (211) was encountered, and some lime render was recorded as surviving on the cellar wall. The cellar area had been backfilled with building debris and domestic rubbish (202) including the frame of a bicycle (plate 10).

Further waste material was encountered to the north of the cellar wall, between the building exterior and the rear terrace boundary wall (204). This material appeared to be overlying or within pit ([205]) and contained relatively modern material including discarded shirt and plastic packaging waste. Pit fill (206) underlay (204) and contained asbestos tiles. The excavation of this area was therefore abandoned due to Health and Safety concerns. Plates 11 and 12 show the aerial view of the trench.

The natural (209) was reached at a depth of 0.4 – 0.5m and was overcut in the northern end of the trench to ensure that the material was not redeposited.

### **6.1.3 Trench 3 (Figures 2, 17 – 18, Plates 13 – 20)**

Trench 3 measured c. 2m x 25m and was parallel to Trench 2. The trench was also located in the area previously occupied by Harp Street and the associated terraced housing. There were two upper layers – (300) the topsoil which was a dark brown-black layer of clay-loam. It contained modern material and some demolition waste. This material was c. 0.15m in depth and was removed by machine. Underlying (300) was a thicker layer of subsoil (301) with large quantities of building material and domestic rubbish associated with the demolition of the mid nineteenth century terraces in the mid twentieth century. The material had been spread to create a level area for the school playing field. This material was also removed by machine.

This trench contained a series of walls and surfaces related to the foundations of a nineteenth century house. Overlaying the site plan upon the historic Ordnance survey mapping of the area demonstrates that the trench was located upon the remains of William's Terrace, a small block positioned at a right angle to the Harp Street Terrace.

The structural remains correspond with the location of the adjoining property to that was identified in Trench 2. The structural remains comprised two parallel walls – (307) and (301) which formed the front and rear building elevations, with an area of mortar which was believed to have been a floor level. The walls were of schist construction, with clay and mortar bonding. The elevation of wall (307) which would have faced the street had been lime rendered with a red-brown finish (plate 13). Although difficult to determine due to having been cut by a modern drainage ditch [305], it is possible that there was a small cellar in the front part of the property, with a possible internal divide surviving (323). Wall (307) did however have a very rough stepped face which would be consistent with a slightly stepped foundation (plates 15 and 17).

A sondage was excavated against the internal face of wall (307) to determine the wall depth and whether a floor level had been preserved. The area had been backfilled with a mid-grey mortar rich silty clay deposit (309). This deposit contained frequent building material and late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century occupation material. A compact clay layer (322) was reached at a depth of approximately 0.40m, however





*Plate 13. Trench 3 - (308)  
Abutting Wall (307)*



*Plate 14. Trench 3 - Stone Feature (308) Abutting Wall (307)*



*Plate 15. Trench 3 - Section Between Wall (307) and Wall (310)*



*Plate 16. Trench 3 - Wall (310)*



*Plate 17. Trench 3 - Wall (307) and Cut [306]*



*Plate 18. Trench 3 - Section Between Wall (307) and Wall (310)*





*Plate 19. Post Excavation Aerial Image of Trench 3.*



*Plate 20. Post Excavation Aerial Image of Trench 3 - Structural Elements.*



due to later truncation and trench flooding it was unclear whether this layer was a rammed clay floor level as in Trench 2, associated with the construction of the house or was a pre-terrace deposit.

A cat burial was cut into this layer, but due to the truncation by [305] it is unclear when this burial was made. This may have taken place when the structure was abandoned and awaiting demolition – or alternatively it may have been a foundation deposit, given that folk magic for example the placement of animal remains/shoes in chimneys continued until a relatively late date. On balance, given the difference in compaction between the burial and the surrounding clay, it would seem most likely that this is a mid-twentieth century pet burial. The burial lay partially below the section edge and was not fully excavated.

Mortar layer (312) was positioned between walls (310) and (307). The layer was a very compact and coherent between wall (310) and possible internal division (323). It is almost certainly a floor level for the house.

Abutting wall (307) was a pile of stone and breeze blocks (308). Due to the material contained it was clearly a modern 'structure' and likely post-dated the demolition of the structure (plates 13-15). There were voids between the stones but due to the size of the stones and their position against the trench edge they were not removed. A large drainage ditch – [305] was cut through wall (307) and deposit (304) which was located to the south-east of wall (307). This trench clearly postdated the demolition of the terrace and contained a metal pipe and modern material in the backfill. This feature was cut by a modern water supply in a plastic pipe. As it was possible that this supply may have been active this area of the trench was not investigated further. Deposit (304) was a mortar rich deposit, which was likely associated with the demolition of the terrace.

At the north-west of wall (310) there was a mixed area of clay and garden soil (315). This deposit was not excavated. At the north-western end of the trench a series of further modern features were uncovered. A ceramic drainage system [316] was orientated east-west across the trench, cutting deposit (315). A large pit was encountered at the end of the trench. This contained a dump of building material (319), with a further recut/possible concentration of waste material within it (322). The material within this feature was modern including large quantities of plastic. It was not excavated due the likelihood of encountering asbestos given its similarity to deposit (206) in Trench 2.

#### **6.1.4 Trench 4 (Figure 2, Plates 21 - 22)**

Trench 4 was located within the footprint of the previous school building. The trench measured 2m x 10m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.46m.

The trench contained two fills, an upper thin topsoil/vegetation layer 0.05m in depth which overlay a layer comprised of modern hardcore which had been laid upon the underlying natural. The underlying natural in this trench was a light yellow clay with schist outcropping.

No archaeological features were encountered in this trench and given the extensive levelling undertaken in this area of the site the survival of archaeological features is considered extremely unlikely.

## **6.2 Artefactual Material**

Two of the four trenches excavated – Trenches 2 and 3, contained artefactual material. All artefacts retrieved from Trenches 2 and 3 were characteristically domestic and predominantly of 19<sup>th</sup> to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century date. The material is mass produced, with crockery and serving dishes dominating the ceramic assemblage. This would be in keeping with the structural and archival evidence for the site which demonstrated that Trenches 2 and 3 were positioned over the remains of a pair of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century houses in a working class area of Holyhead.

The materials recovered include slate, ceramic, glass, animal bone, shell and metalwork.



*Plates 21 & 22. Trench 4.*

*Note the recent Gwynedd Archaeological  
Trust (Heneb) Excavations Behind  
The Fencing*



### 6.2.1 Trench 2

#### Context (200) - Topsoil

##### *Plastic (Item Count 1)*

A small, decapitated Bart Simpson figure 4cm high. The back of the figure is flat with two protruding plastic pegs which suggest that it could be attached and removed from a background. This item is presumably part of a toy or branded item such as pencil case which was lost when the area was in use as a school playground. Late 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

#### (210) – Mixed levelling layer below topsoil

##### *Pottery*

All pottery described below is of late 19th to an early 20th century date. Pottery from this trench was collected from features where identified. A representative sample of the artefactual material from context (210) was collected from the site spoil heap.

##### *White Ware (Sherd Count: 20)*

- Two circular pedestal bases from two separate teacups, both 4cm diameter.
- Three fragmentary circular pedestal bases, four body sherds one with a hooped handle from four separate teacups.
- A fragmentary base sherd for a steep sided bowl or vase with a 10 cm diameter.
- A single base sherd for a flat bowl. 7 cm diameter.
- A single rim sherd for a flat plate.
- Twelve body sherds of unidentified foam White fabric and glazes.

##### *Decorated White Ware (Sherd Count: 3)*

- A fragmentary base of a small plate with partial black leaf decoration.
- A body sherd of white fabric with red transfer ware decoration showing people riding horses perhaps showing a hunt.
- A small body of black, brown transfer ware showing square medieval towers

##### *Blue and White Ware (Sherd Count: 25)*

- Two fragmentary pedestal bases from two separate forms:
- A shallow circular base of a plate. Illegible remnants of a markers stamp.
- Partial base of a either a bowl or vase. The pedestal is nearly 1cm in height.
- Four fragmentary sherds of shallow plates with a classic geometric decoration.
- Six decorated rim sherds from six separate plates, five of the plates have the classic geometric designs. The sixth has a blue outer rim with a scalloped decoration.
- One single decorated base sherd from a flat plate.
- A large sherd with an angled rim. The rim has geometric decoration surrounding an Asian inspired scene.
- A small, heavily damaged, straight sided body sherd with rim. Interior decoration is slightly faded. Images of two medieval style towers on outer face.
- Seven decorated body sherds of an unidentified form.

##### *Slip Ware (Sherd Count: 1)*

- Angled rim of a slip ware bowl of orange-brown fabric. The interior had a brown glaze with a raised, undulating, single line yellow slip decoration at the break of slope.

##### *Stone Ware (Sherd Count: 5)*

- Five sherds of cream-coloured marmalade jars, all with vertical ridge designs. All sherds have slight differences and are therefore likely to come from different pots.

#### *Coarse Ware (Sherd Count: 1)*

- A single curved rim sherd with a light brown glaze, part of a large pot or bowl

#### *Coarse Ware - Buckley Ware (Sherd Count: 17)*

- Four base sherds of large pots or bowls. A coarse orange-red fabric pottery with either a black or brown iridescent glaze: Base diameter 17cm, 8cm, 8cm and 4cm.
- One partial body sherd with a broken hooped handle attached part of a large pot.
- Two large pot rim sherds, both have straight clubbed rims
- Ten body sherds of a coarse orange-red fabric pottery with either a black or brown iridescent glaze.

#### *Ceramic Curios (Item Count: 1)*

- A broken ornamental ceramic shoe, white fabric with a light blue glaze. The remains represent the heel of the shoe with a short heel.

#### *Clay Tobacco Pipes (Item Count: 13)*

- The base of a bowl and foot with attached stem. Stem is 3.5 cm long with 0.5 diameter and a 0.2cm bore.
- Twelve clay tobacco pipe stems were recovered from this context:
  1. Pipe stem 5.2 cm long with a 0.6 cm diameter and a 0.1cm bore.
  2. Pipe stem 5 cm long with a 0.6 cm diameter and a 0.2cm bore.
  3. Pipe stem 4.5 cm long with a 0.7 cm diameter and a 0.3cm bore.
  4. Pipe stem 4 cm long with a 0.6 cm diameter and a 0.3cm bore.
  5. Pipe stem 3.5 cm long with a 0.6 cm diameter and a 0.2cm bore.
  6. Pipe stem 3.5 cm long with a 0.5 cm diameter and a 0.2cm bore.
  7. Pipe stem 3.2 cm long with a 0.6 cm diameter and a 0.2cm bore.
  8. Pipe stem 3 cm long with a 0.9 cm diameter and a 0.2cm bore.
  9. Pipe stem 2.7 cm long with a 0.5 cm diameter and a 0.1.5cm bore.
  10. Pipe stem 2.6 cm long with a 0.6 cm diameter and a 0.2cm bore.
  11. Pipe stem 2.1 cm long with a 0.5 cm diameter and a 0.2cm bore.
  12. Pipe stem 4.0 cm long with a 0.7 cm diameter and a 0.2cm bore.

#### *Glass (Item Count: 15)*

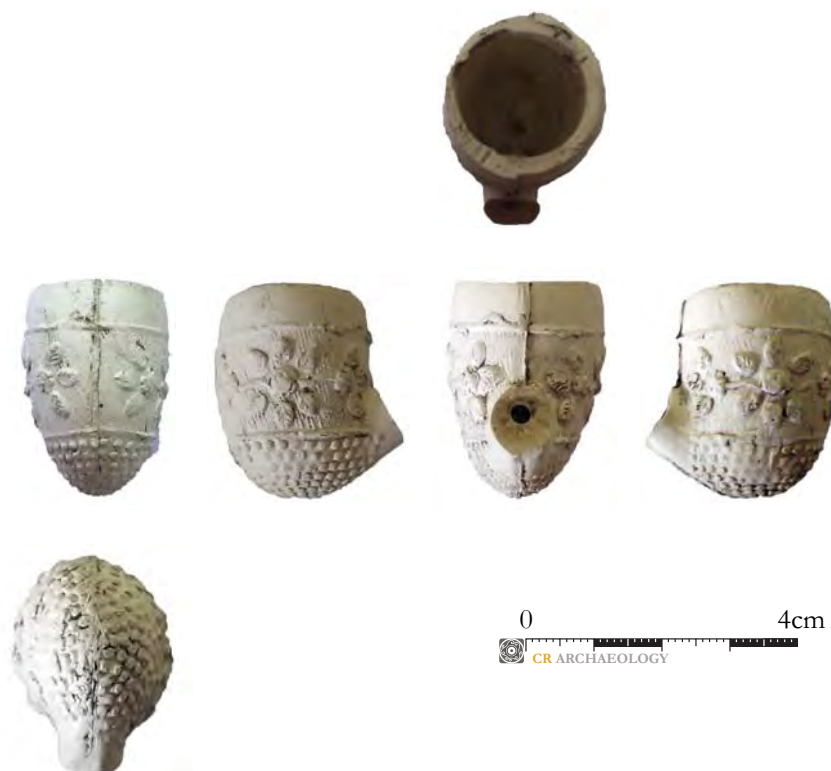
- Clear glass base for a stemmed glass or ornament. 7cm diameter and 0.4cm thick. Possibly part of an early 19th century drinking glass.
- A heavy blue glass stopper from a medical bottle. 19th century to early 20th century date.
- A blue glass base with a partial body attached of a soda bottle. The body part has the raised letters OL representing part of the word Holyhead suggesting it's a local maker.
- The rounded shoulder of a green glass bottle, with raised lettering WORCE. Worcester Sauce bottle. First made available to the public in 1838, glass bottles were used from the 1860s onwards. The Worcester Sauce band lettering along the shoulder of the bottle appears in the late 1880s continuing into the 1920s. This bottle dates from the 1880-1920 period (Shurtleff & Aoyagi 2012: 37-40).
- A light green glass base with a partial body. Soda bottle. The body part has the raised letters HOL representing part of the word Holyhead.
- Base of a thick bodied black glass wine bottle with a shallow punt, the internal base is uneven which suggest a date range of 1860-1900.
- Nine sherds of white, green and black glass. Unidentifiable forms.

#### *Slate (Item Count – 3)*

- Three large fragments of decorated slate fireplace surround (plate 23).



*Plate 23. Slate Fire Surround Fragments*



*Plate 24. Decorated Clay Pipe Bowl*



#### *Animal Bone (Item Count – 6)*

- Cattle and sheep bone – clear cut marks and signs of butchery.

#### *Shell (Item Count – 8)*

- Two oyster shells.
- One cockle shell.
- Five limpet shells.

### **Context (202) – Cellar Fill**

#### *Pottery*

All the pottery described below is late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century in date.

#### *White Ware (Sherd Count: 3)*

- Three sherds from a straight sided mug. Although of similar design none of the sherds join representing three separate vessels. White fabric and glazes.

#### *Decorated White Ware (Sherd Count: 2)*

- Rim sherd of a small plate with a scalloped decoration. The plate is slightly concave and is decorated with a coloured floral design.
- Rim sherd of a shallow saucer. Slightly concave decorated with an orange and white floral design.

#### *Blue and White Ware (Sherd Count: 5)*

- Five sherds of a single teacup. Sherds connect showing a wooded rural scene with timber-built houses.

#### *Coarse Ware (Sherd Count: 2)*

- An orange ware fabric bowl rim sherd and partial base. An internal brown glaze with a double lined yellow band decoration on the rim.
- An orange ware fabric bowl rim sherd with an internal brown glaze and double lined yellow band decoration on the rim. A smaller bowl than above.

#### *Glass (Sherd Count: 2)*

- Neck of blue glass medicine bottle. A straight sided neck 2.5cm high. Medicine bottle with a flat topped mouth 3cm in diameter with a 2cm diameter opening for a cork stopper.
- Neck of blue glass medicine bottle. A straight sided neck 3cm high. Medicine bottle with a flat topped mouth 2.5cm in diameter with a 1.5cm diameter opening for a cork stopper.

#### *Metalwork (Item Count: 1)*

The frame of a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century bicycle (see plate 10).

### **6.2.2 Trench 3**

#### **Context (301) - Mixed levelling layer below topsoil**

#### *Stone – Flint (Item Count: 1)*

Struck mid brown coloured beach flint, prehistoric date. (Examined by Dr Ian Brooks).

#### *Pottery*

#### *White Ware (Sherd Count: 5)*

- A small, hooped handle on a straight sided body sherd. Possibly part of a coffee cup.
- Body sherd of a shallow cup. 6.5cm deep from rim to the turn for the base. The mouth of the cup has a 10cm diameter.

- Small body sherd of a teacup with a flared mouth and partial remains of a handle attachment.
- The base of a rounded teacup with a 4cm diameter foot. There is an unclear printed maker's mark on the foot. It is a circular print surrounding a crown with a rectangular box underneath with some unclear text inside. Below this there is two lines of text again unclear; the upper lines reads 'FABIUCKITON BELGU' 'MADE IN BELGIUM'.
- A sherd of white cracked glaze plate. 24cm diameter with a scalloped edge.

#### *Blue and White Ware (Sherd Count: 3)*

- Sherd of white glaze pottery with the characteristic blue coloured decoration. The partial base of a large bowl with a blue leaf print. Date c. 1850-1900.
- Sherd of white glaze pottery with the characteristic blue coloured decoration. Fragment of a plate rim with a repeated figure of 8 design.
- A pendant keyhole cover white fabric and glaze with a gold floral decoration.

#### *Coarse Ware*

##### *Colour Decorated Coarse Ware (Sherd Count: 3)*

- Two decorated plate rim sherds.
- Straight sided mug white glazed and a single black line decoration at the mouth.

#### *Plant Pot*

An orange coarse ware plant pot base with a single drainage hole, 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### *Clay Tobacco pipe (Item Count: 4)*

- Three pipe stems.
  1. 5cm long with a 0.7cm diameter and a 0.2cm bore diameter.
  2. 2cm long with a 0.6cm diameter and a 0.1.5 bore diameter.
  3. 3.6cm long with a 0.8cm diameter and a 0.2cm bore diameter, this stem also has a cut mouthpiece. Date late 1700s - 1860.
- A small, decorated pipe bowl (plate 24). Cut undecorated rim with a 1.5cm diameter mouth. Centrally there is a repeated flower design, and the base of the bowl is a dimpled acorn design. The stem is angled at 0.15 degrees from the bowl. Date: 1850-1900.

#### *Glass (Item Count: 5, Plate 25)*

- A small cylinder shaped medicine bottle with a rounded base with an X embossed on it, approximately 3cm in diameter. Measured from the base 10cm to the neck and 13cm to the lid. The lip is rounded with a flat top for a cork with a 2.5cm diameter. Late 19th to early 20th century.
- Glass Oxo jar. 7cm in height with an Octagonal base 4cm in width. Thick rounded rim 4.5cm in diameter. The bottle is covered in an embossed chevron design with two opposing circular panels. One of these panels is embossed with the text 'Package in OXO Limited London'. The name OXO name was trademarked in 1899. This bottle design dates from the 1920s-1930s (<https://www.oxo.co.uk/>).
- A small circular glass jar with a screw top. Approximately 6cm in height with a 4cm diameter. Embossed on its base are the words 'Chesebrough London'. Chesebrough was an American company which produced petroleum jelly products. They became more well known for the brand name Vaseline. The company opened their London premises in 1924 (Lambert 1941: 101).
- A small green glass bottle in a wine bottle style. 11cm in height and 3cm in diameter at the base with a shallow punt. The lip is rounded with a flat top for a cork 1.5cm in diameter. 1900 cure all or medicine bottle (Hedges 1994: 25-7).





*Plate 25. Glass Bottles from Context (301)*



*Plate 26. Bronze Open Face Pocket Watch Cover*



*Plate 27. Cattle Scapula with Cut Marks from Context (301)*



- Sherd of light brown glass with the embossed letters HEAD. End part of Holyhead. Part of a soda or beer bottle of a local maker. Late 19th century.

#### *Metal*

##### *Tin Lids (Item Count: 1)*

- Robertson's jam jar lid. 6cm in diameter. The lid is white with a red border. Centrally there is the racist caricature of the now discontinued Robertsons figure wearing a blue jacket and red trousers with hands on hips and a single raised leg (having a jig). This style of lid was used in the 1930-40s (Joseph 2014: 43).

##### *Pocket Watch Case (Item Count: 1)*

- A bronze, open face pocket watch case with a hinged back (plate 26). The turning mechanism is a pumpkin type and is a typical form utilised in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (Shenton 1995).

##### *Coins (Item Count: 2)*

- A George V 1913 halfpenny.
- Modern (post 1990) five pence piece.

##### *Buttons (Item Count: 2)*

- Two buttons were recovered from this context
  1. A copper alloy button 1.5cm diameter with a central circular dimple which contains four eyelets.
  2. A copper alloy button 1.5cm diameter with four central eyelets. Lettering around button face. The majority of the text is illegible, but it is possible to make out the word 'Dublin'.

##### *Animal Bone (Item Count: 7)*

- Cattle and sheep bone. Clear signs of butchery.

##### *Shell (Item Count: 2)*

- Periwinkle shell.

### **Context (309) – Cellar Fill**

#### *Pottery*

All the pottery described below is of late 19th to an early 20th century date.

##### *White Ware (Sherd Count: 2)*

- Base sherd of a small side plate with a faded black lined decoration. The internal base has a tree in a Chinese garden setting and the rim is a repeated geometric pattern.
- Rim sherd of a straight sided pot. Decorated with a speckled yellow background with flowers and plants painted over.

##### *Stone Ware (Sherd Count: 1)*

- Fragment of white stone ware marmalade pot. Some partial printed text on the outside but could not be attributed to any maker.

##### *Coarse Ware (Sherd Count: 3)*

- Three sherds of a single bowl (1 rim, 1 body sherd, 1 circular base fragment). Light orange fabric with a tan glaze with black speckles.

##### *Tea Pot (Sherd Count: 7)*

- Seven teapot sherds. Dark red-brown fabric with a speckled light and dark brown glazed decoration.

*Buckley Ware (Sherd Count: 2)*

- Two sherds from two separate vessels of orange fabric Buckley ware. Dark black iridescent glaze.

*Clay Tobacco Pipes (Item Count: 6)*

- Six ceramic tobacco pipe stems were recovered from this context.
  1. Pipe stem 3.2cm long with a 0.7cm diameter and a 0.3cm bore
  2. Pipe stem 3cm long with a 0.7cm diameter and a 0.3cm bore
  3. Pipe stem 2.7cm long with a 0.6cm diameter and a 0.2cm bore
  4. Pipe stem 3.6cm long with a 0.6cm diameter and a 0.1cm bore
  5. Pipe stem 2cm long with a 0.8cm diameter and a 0.3cm bore
  6. Pipe stem 1.6cm long with a 0.5cm diameter and a 0.2cm bore

*Metal (Item Count: 1)*

- Rusted tin lid of a Cherry Blossum Boot Polish Tin Black size 3. The company started in 1907. The lid design comes from the late 1940s or early 1950s.

*Animal Bone (Item Count – 5 pieces)*

- Cattle and sheep – clear cut marks and signs of butchery. Pos. cat bone

*Shell (Item Count – 1)*

- Limpet shell.

**Context (312) – Mortar Layer**

*Pottery*

All the pottery described below is of late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

*Decorated White Ware (Sherd Count: 2)*

- A fragment of a plate or tray. Blue transfer willow pattern decoration. On the base there are three letters STO. It is likely that these represent the Stoke pottery with this name used by James Plant & Co 1889-1900. Grimwades Ltd brought James Plant in 1900 but the stamp design was changed. This item therefore belongs to the earlier period (Henrywood 2002).
- Base sherd of a plate or tray with purple transfer decoration depicting a street scene. A slightly damaged image of a bank or chapel has a name on the front 'Nt DONOTH' with a lower more obscured word below.

*Clay Tobacco Pipes (Item Count: 1)*

- Pipe stem 4.2cm long, with a 0.5cm diameter and a 0.2cm bore.

*Coin (Item Count: 1)*

- A George VI 1949 half penny showing George with no crown and on the reverse a sailing ship. This coin was second issue, with the first issue coming out in 1937 (Spink 2007: 485).

*Animal Bone (Item Count: 1)*

- Sheep

**Context (314) – Cat Burial.**

*Animal Bone*

- Partial remains of a cat. Inhumation. Entire animal presumed to have been buried but grave not fully exposed as in section.



### **Context (315) – Mixed Clay Layer.**

*Stone ware (Sherd Count: 12)*

- Twelve large sherds of a stone ware vessel possible a cistern or large washing tub.

## **7.0 Conclusion**

To provide a representative sample of the archaeological resource surviving on the site four evaluation trenches were excavated - two covering the area previously occupied by the school buildings, and two situated in the undeveloped area of the playing fields.

The works demonstrated that during the construction of the school buildings and yard the north-eastern site area (Trenches 1 and 4) had been stripped down to the underlying natural (clay and schist bedrock) and levelled. The current hardstanding had been laid directly upon the underlying natural and no archaeological features or artefacts were identified in these trenches. This area was at a noticeably lower level than the playing fields. This site area is not considered to have any archaeological potential.

The two trenches excavated on the site of the playing fields (Trenches 2 and 3) both yielded the remains of terraced housing built in 1850. The material directly related to the demolition of the structures was of mid-twentieth century date, with residual nineteenth century occupation material. A large quantity of mixed nineteenth century material related to the occupation of the housing was also used as levelling material. The artefactual material is characteristic of a domestic assemblage from a working class urban area, and included architectural elements, ceramics, coins, metal objects and butchered animal bone. Given the wealth of archival material and the assemblage collected, the site is of significant importance in telling the story of the working class of Holyhead and has strong potential for outreach works and research projects.

It is extremely unlikely that earlier (pre-mid nineteenth century) remains survive within the footprint of the houses. There does however remain the possibility that fragmentary earlier remains survive within the garden plots and the area to the west of boundary wall (203). This may include possible features associated with the William Morris gardens including "*Llain Ddrain*" detailed above or scattered remains of prehistoric, Roman or Medieval date.

The remains of the mid-nineteenth century housing are of local significance – although it may be argued that given the surviving photographic, cartographic and archival material together with excavations undertaken at this and the neighbouring Wynne Terrace site sufficient information has been gathered to interpret and understand the site appearance, development, occupation and destruction.

Beyond the remains enclosed within the Roman fort and church at St. Cybi's, relatively little is known of the prehistoric, Roman or Medieval periods in Holyhead. Remains of these periods would be of local and regional significance in understanding the wider archaeological resource of the town and surrounding area.

## 8.0 Bibliography

- AAF. 2007. *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation.*
- Ayto, E. 2002. *Clay Tobacco Pipes.* Shire Library. Shire Publications Ltd. Peterborough.
- Blair, D. 2002. *British Buttons: Civilian Uniform Buttons 19<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> Century.* Greenlight Publishing. Essex.
- Cadw. 2019. *Holyhead: Understanding Urban Character.* Cadw: Cardiff.
- Copeland, R. 2010. *Blue and White Transfer Printed Pottery.* Shire Publications. Oxford.
- Drakard, D. & Holdway, P. 1988. *Spode: Transfer Printed Ware 1784-1833.* Antique collectors club Ltd. Suffolk.
- English Heritage. 2006. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE).*
- Goss, S. 2011. *British Tea and Coffee Cups 1745-1940.* Shire Publications. Oxford.
- Great Britain Commissioners of Inquiry into the State of Education in Wales. 1847. *Reports of the Commissioners of Inquiry into the state of education in Wales.*
- Hennessey, A. 2000. *Holyhead: 1845 – 1865: The Town, the People, and the People's Health.* Anglesey Antiquarian Society and Field Club Transactions. Pages 61 - 75.
- Henrywood, D. 2002. *Staffordshire Potters 1781-1900.* Antique Collectors' Club. Woodbridge.
- Hedges, A.A.C. 1994. *Bottles and Bottle Collecting.* Shire Album No6. Shire Publications Ltd.
- Joseph, F. 2014. *The Golly Collector's Handbook.* Francis Joseph Publications.
- Lambert, I. E. 1941. *The Public Accepts: Stories Behind Famous Trademarks, Names and Slogans.* University of New Mexico Press.
- Oswald, A. 1975. *Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist.* British Archaeological Reports 14.
- Quartermaine, J. B Trinder & R Turner. 2003. *Thomas Telford's Holyhead Road. The A5 in North Wales.* York. Council for British Archaeology
- Randall, D & J. Davies. 1977. *Hen Caergybi.* Llangefni. Cross Keys Printing Works
- Rowlands, J. 1989. *Holyhead – People, Prosperity and Poverty.* Gwynedd Library Service
- Shenton, A. 1995. *Pocket Watches 19th & 20th Century.* Antique Collectors' Club
- Shurtleff, W & Aoyagi, A. 2012. *History of Worcestershire Sauce 1837-2012: Bibliography and Sourcebook.* Soyinfo Center.
- Spink. 2007. *Coins of England and the United Kingdom: 42<sup>nd</sup> Edition Standard Catalogue of British Coins.* Spink and Son Ltd, Design to Print Ltd. Cambridge.



The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014 – Revised 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. ***Code of Conduct: Professional Ethics in Archaeology.***

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014 – Updated 2020. ***Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives.***

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014 – Updated 2020. ***Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials.***

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2019 – Revised 2024. ***Regulations for Professional Conduct***

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2023. ***Standard for Archaeological Investigation.***

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2023. ***Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording.***

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2023. ***Universal Guidance for Archaeological Excavation.***

Walker, K.1990. ***Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage.***  
United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) Archaeology Section

Williams, L. 1950. ***The Development of Holyhead.*** Transactions of the Anglesey Antiquarian Society and Field Club. Pages 51-70

### **Archival Material**

#### *Bangor University Archives*

BMSS 39145. Plan of the Town and Harbour of Holyhead, Showing the Extension of the Chester and Holyhead Railway to the Proposed Packet and Refuge Harbour 1846.

CV/96. Draft demise 1850.

CV/110. Draft assignment of a field called Llain y Delyn near Summer Hill in the parish of Holyhead.  
Date 25 June 1850.

Penrhos Manuscripts 772-3. 1769 Stanley Estate Map of Holyhead.

#### *Anglesey Archives*

WMaps/52/1. 1820 Stanley Estate Map of Holyhead.

Larger Scale Ordnance Survey Town Map of Holyhead Published 1890.

Ordnance Survey Map of Holyhead Published 1900.

Ordnance Survey Map of Holyhead Published 1924.

### **Census Entries**

(Source: Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.co.uk>))

1851 census Williams Terrace

1861 census Harp Street

1871 census Williams Terrace

1881 census Harp Street

1891 census Harp Street

1901 census Harp Street

1911 census Harp Street

## **Websites – all sites were visited 03/01/2025**

<https://www.blancoandbull.com/boot-cleaning/cherry-blossom-polish/>  
<https://bygonesderby.wordpress.com/2012/02/14/iconic-shoe-polish-came-about-through-need-to-use-waste-tin/>  
<https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/32990/images?term=holyhead>  
<https://democracy.anglesey.gov.uk/ie/IssueDetails.aspx?IID=6059&PlanId=0&Opt=3>  
<https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>  
<https://get-informationschools.service.gov.uk/Establishments/Establishment/Details/400053#school-dashboard>  
<https://www.holyhead.com/local-interest/school/park-school/>  
<https://www.library.wales/discover-learn/digital-exhibitions/printed-material/the-blue-books-of-1847/north-wales-comprising-anglesey-carnarvon-denbigh-flint-meirioneth-and-montgomery>  
<https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/transformingsociety/livinglearning/school/overview/1870educationact/#:~:text=The%201870%20Education%20Act%20stands,provision%20on%20a%20national%20scale.>

## **Newspaper Archives**

### **The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality (9<sup>th</sup> November 1850)**

<https://newspapers.library.wales/view/4521057/4521058/1/morton%2BAND%2Bholyhead>

### **The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality (24<sup>th</sup> March 1855)**

<https://newspapers.library.wales/view/4463108/4463112/20/morton%2BOR%2Bwilliams%2BOR%2Bwynne>

### **The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality (24<sup>th</sup> May 1856)**

<https://newspapers.library.wales/view/4463655/4463656/1/morton%2BAND%2Bholyhead>

### **North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality (March 28<sup>th</sup>, 1857)**

<https://newspapers.library.wales/view/4464054/4464061/96/>

### **The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality (31<sup>st</sup> October 1857)**

<https://newspapers.library.wales/view/4464397/4464399/6/>

### **The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality (14<sup>th</sup> November 1857)**

<https://newspapers.library.wales/view/4464415/4464417/14/holyhead%2BOR%2Brapidly%2BOR%2Bincreasing>

### **The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality (28<sup>th</sup> November 1857)**

<https://newspapers.library.wales/view/4464433/4464441/103/holyhead%2BOR%2Brapidly%2BOR%2Bincreasing>

### **1861 court judgements for multiple people on Harp Street**

<https://newspapers.library.wales/view/4510684/4510692/68/harp%2BAND%2Bholyhead>

<https://newspapers.library.wales/view/4510870/4510874/16/harp%2BAND%2Bholyhead>

### **1862 court judgements for multiple people on Harp Street**

<https://newspapers.library.wales/view/4511598/4511606/71/harp%2BAND%2Bholyhead>

<https://newspapers.library.wales/view/4511510/4511514/23/harp%2BAND%2Bholyhead>

### **North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality (June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1867)**

<https://newspapers.library.wales/view/4449064/4449067/18/harp%2BAND%2Bholyhead>

### **North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality (10<sup>th</sup> April, 1875)**

<https://newspapers.library.wales/view/4514304/4514311/43/holyhead%2BAND%2B Bowen%2BOR%2Bmorris%2BOR%2Broberts>

## **Appendix A.**

### **Specification for Archaeological Works.**



**Written Scheme of Investigation -  
Archaeological Evaluation (Evaluation Trenching) at  
Ysgol y Parc, Holyhead**

**NGR SH 24600 82797**

**Project Number CR250-2024**



**CR ARCHAEOLOGY**

Compiled by C. Rees and M. Jones  
On Behalf of Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn

**Written Scheme of Investigation Archaeological Evaluation (Evaluation  
Trenching) at Ysgol y Parc, Holyhead**

<b>Planning Application Number:</b>	PALM/2023/5
<b>National Grid Reference:</b>	SH 24600 82797
<b>Client:</b>	Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn
<b>Report Author:</b>	Catherine Rees and Matthew Jones
<b>Report Number:</b>	CR250-2024
<b>Date:</b>	16/11/2024

# Contents

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introduction</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Project Aims</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Brief Historical Background</b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Geological Context</b>
4.1	Topography
4.2	Geology
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Scheme of Works – Methodology</b>
5.1	Desk Based Research
5.2	Methodology for Archaeological Evaluation
5.2.1	Recording
5.2.2	Additional Mitigation/Contingency Measures
5.2.3	Recovery, Processing and Curation of Artefactual Material
5.2.3.1	Material Selection Strategy
5.2.3.2	Archive Compilation
5.2.3.3	Data Management Policy
5.3	Timetable for Proposed Works
5.4	Staffing
5.5	Monitoring
5.6	Health and Safety
5.7	The Report
5.7.1	Copyright
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Bibliography</b>

## **Illustrations**

**Figure 1.** Site Location Map

**Figure 2.** Trench Location Plan

## **Appendices**

**Appendix A.** Proposed Development Plans

**Appendix B.** Data Management Plan



## 1.0 Introduction

CR Archaeology have been instructed by Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn to conduct a programme of archaeological works at the former Ysgol y Parc site, Holyhead (figure 1, Planning Reference: PALM/2023/5). The proposed works at the site are the construction of a new Health Centre, residential units, and associated parking/landscaping. The proposed development plans are included as Appendix A.

The proposed development site is situated in an urban setting in the centre of Holyhead. It was previously the site of Ysgol y Parc school which has been demolished. The site is a split level site, with a lower area to the north-east where the school buildings had been located, and an upper level to the south-west where the playing fields had been located. Ysgol y Parc was originally built in the nineteenth century, and was rebuilt in the late 1960's.

The town of Holyhead dates from at least the Romano-British period with the construction of Caer Gybi Fort. The core of the town centred around this, and the later church dedicated to St Cybi which was built within the enclosing walls of the monument (RCAHMW 1937: 28). The more recent history of the town is closely interwoven with its strategic value as a sea crossing to Ireland, with Holyhead functioning on a modest scale as a centre of trade and transport until the early nineteenth century. The passing of the Act of Union with Ireland in 1801 brought improvements to infrastructure in the form of the turnpike roads and the harbour development. Housing and services were needed for the influx of workers, traders and travellers to the town.

This Written Scheme of Investigation details a programme for an Archaeological Evaluation (trenching) at the site. Four evaluation trenches will target the area previously occupied by the school buildings and the undeveloped area of the playing fields to give a representative sample of the site. The results of these works will be utilised to assist in the determination of appropriate further archaeological mitigation at the site.

## 2.0 Project Aims & Objectives

The aim of this programme of works is to undertake Archaeological Evaluation Trenching at the proposed development site. Four evaluation trenches will be excavated targeting both the area previously occupied by the school buildings, and the undeveloped area of the playing fields to give a representative sample of the site. These works will be supported by archival research to contextualise the site and the results of the trenching works.

It aims to examine the potential archaeological resource surviving at the site and to provide information which will be utilised to determine an appropriate methodology for any further archaeological mitigation which may be required at the site.

The programme of archaeological works also aims to assess the survival, character and date of any archaeological remains uncovered and to excavate, record and analyse all archaeological remains uncovered within the trenches.

This project aims to fulfil the criteria for undertaking an Archaeological Field Evaluation as specified in the CIfA Standard and Guidance documents (2023 updates - <https://www.archaeologists.net/codes/cifa>).

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

The objectives of this programme of works are:

- To make full and effective use of the resulting information to establish the archaeological significance of the site

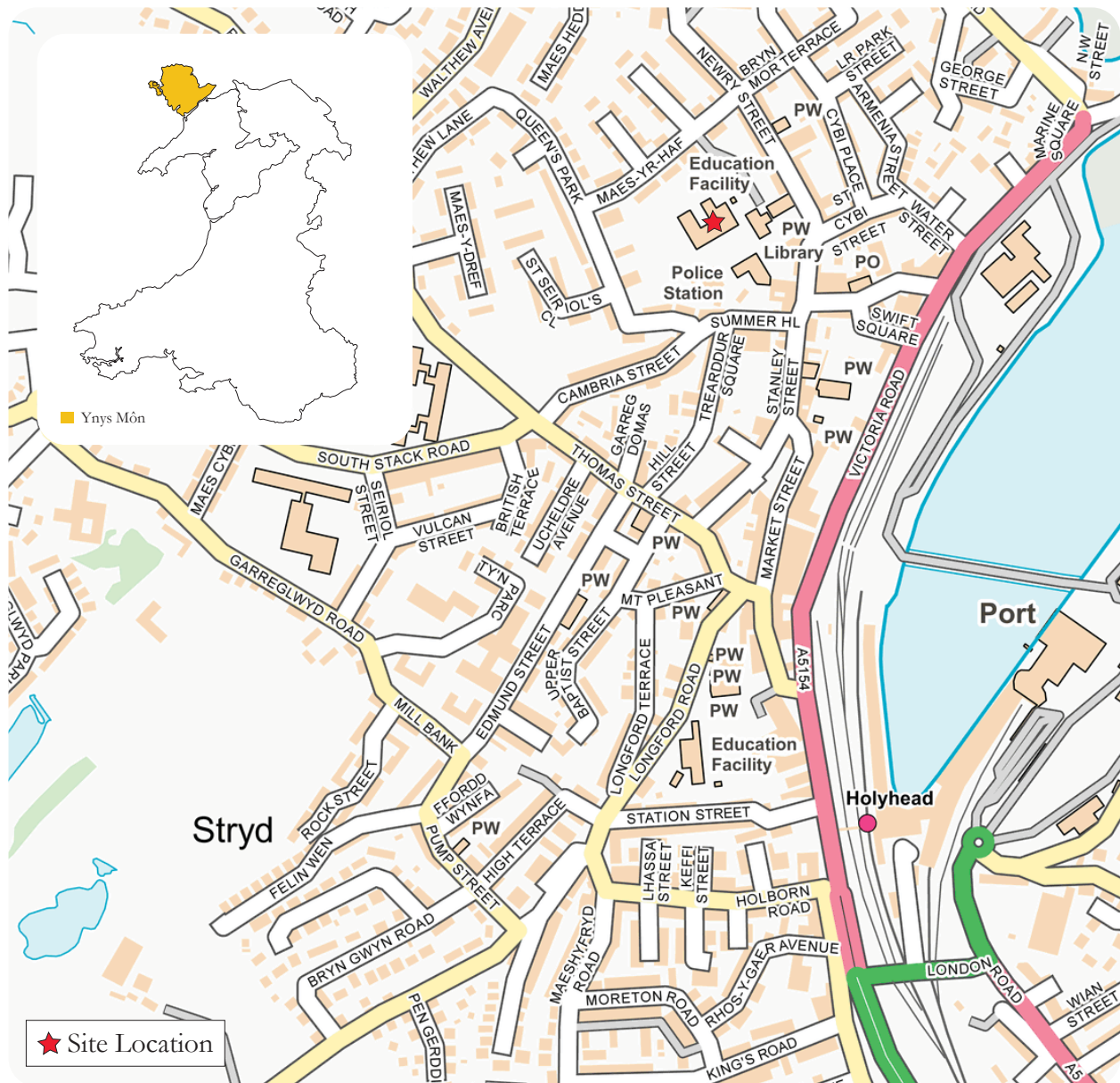


Figure 1. Site Location Plan  
 (Source: OS Open Data Mapping Contains Ordnance  
 Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2019)

- To assess the presence, survival, character and date of any archaeological remains
- To excavate/record any archaeological remains uncovered.
- To help inform future decision making, design solutions, further evaluation & mitigation strategies.

### 3.0 Brief Historical Background

The following section is 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 origins of Holyhead date from at least the Romano-British period construction of Caer Gybi Fort, with the core of the town centred around this and the later church dedicated to St Cybi which was built within the enclosing walls of the monument (RCAHMW 1937: 28).

The more recent history of the town is closely interwoven with its strategic value as a sea crossing to Ireland, with Holyhead functioning on a modest scale as a centre of trade and transport until the early nineteenth century. The passing of the Act of Union with Ireland in 1801 brought improvements to infrastructure in the form of the turnpike roads and the harbour development. Housing and services were needed for the influx of workers, traders and travellers to the town and between 1801 and 1841 the population of Holyhead increased from 2,132 to 3,869 (Rowlands 1989: 15-16).

The momentum of the increase in population and development of the town continued apace throughout the later nineteenth century, and the population increase between 1801 and 1841 was eclipsed by that which occurred between 1841 and 1851 when it increased by a further 4,994 to reach 8,863 – a figure which shows a more than doubling of the population in ten years (Rowlands 1989: 16).

The period from the 1840's through to the 1860's was a boom time for Holyhead and this prosperity continued throughout the late nineteenth century. The focus of the town's wealth was still largely reliant on the crossing to Ireland and the associated rail and harbour industries, both of which continued to develop apace during this period (Haslam, Orbach & Voelecker 2009: 132-134).

The original Ysgol y Parc was a late nineteenth century construction which was rebuilt in the late 1960's. The school has been demolished.

## 4.0 Geological Context

### 4.1 Topography

The site is located in an urban location with the plot bounded by development on all sides. The playing field area potentially represents a previously undeveloped plot within Holyhead town centre.

### 4.2 Geology

The bedrock is recorded as “*New Harbour Group - Mica Schist and Psammite. Metamorphic Bedrock formed approximately 541 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 sedimentary in origin, possibly graded sediments or turbiditic flows in a deep-marine environment, but have subsequently undergone metamorphism*” ([www.mapapps.bgs.ac.uk /geologyofbritain/home.html](http://www.mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html)).

The superficial deposits are 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. These sedimentary deposits are glacial in origin. They are detrital, created by the action of ice and meltwater, they can form a wide range of deposits and geomorphologies associated with glacial and inter-glacial periods during the Quaternary*” ([www.mapapps.bgs.ac.uk /geologyofbritain/home.html](http://www.mapapps.bgs.ac.uk /geologyofbritain/home.html)).



## **5.0 Scheme of Works – Methodology**

The work to be undertaken at the site is an Archaeological Evaluation (Evaluation Trenches) and the following section details the methodology for the research, site work, post excavation and archiving associated with the project.

### **5.1 Desk Based Research**

A complete and coherent history of the site will be compiled utilising material sourced from the Historic Environment Record (HER), the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments Wales (RCAHMW) database, Anglesey/Bangor University Archives and relevant publications. This will allow as comprehensive a history of the site 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 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. Due to the location of the site within an urban area of Holyhead, the Post Medieval records will be summarised unless directly relevant to the onsite findings. 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 2009 & 2014, 2020 update).

This material will form the historical background for a full archaeological report and will be utilised to aid the interpretation of the results of the evaluation trenching.

### **5.2 Methodology for Archaeological Watching Brief**

Four evaluation trenches, 1 measuring 2m x 10m, 2 measuring 2m x 25m and 1 measuring 2m x 30m will be excavated within the proposed development site using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. The trenches are not targeted on any particular areas or features, but rather have been distributed to offer as even a coverage of the site as possible, taking into account the location of large spoil heaps on the site resulting from the demolition of the school and the stripping of the adjacent Police Station site. The proposed trench array is shown in figure 2. This plan is an indication of the trench locations and will be revised slightly onsite to consider any services or obstacles which might be encountered.

All machine excavation will be supervised by an archaeologist from CR Archaeology. The trenches will be excavated until an archaeological horizon or the bedrock/natural is reached. When it is felt that the natural has been reached, if possible the machine will be used to excavate a sondage into the deposit to confirm that it has not been redeposited and that the material is the natural.

In the event of modern hard standing being uncovered, a sondage will be machine excavated to determine the depth of this deposit. If safe to do so the modern deposit will be removed to assess the survival of underlying deposits. If the deposit is of a considerable depth it will not be removed and the trench will be excavated to this level to attempt to determine the extent of the modern disturbance.

Any archaeological features, structures or remains identified in the course of the evaluation will be trowel cleaned by hand. Investigation of such features, structures or deposits will be sufficient to determine their character, date, significance and quality. Excavation will generally involve the removal of 50% of pits/posthole fills and 25% of the fills of ditches/large linear features. Due to the limited areas available for trenching trenches will not be extended to chase features which extend beyond the trench area.

If features yield suitable material for dating/environmental processing, then samples will be taken for processing off site. The size of these samples will depend on the size of the feature but for smaller features a sample of up to 95% will be taken. For larger features a sample of up to 40 litres will be taken.

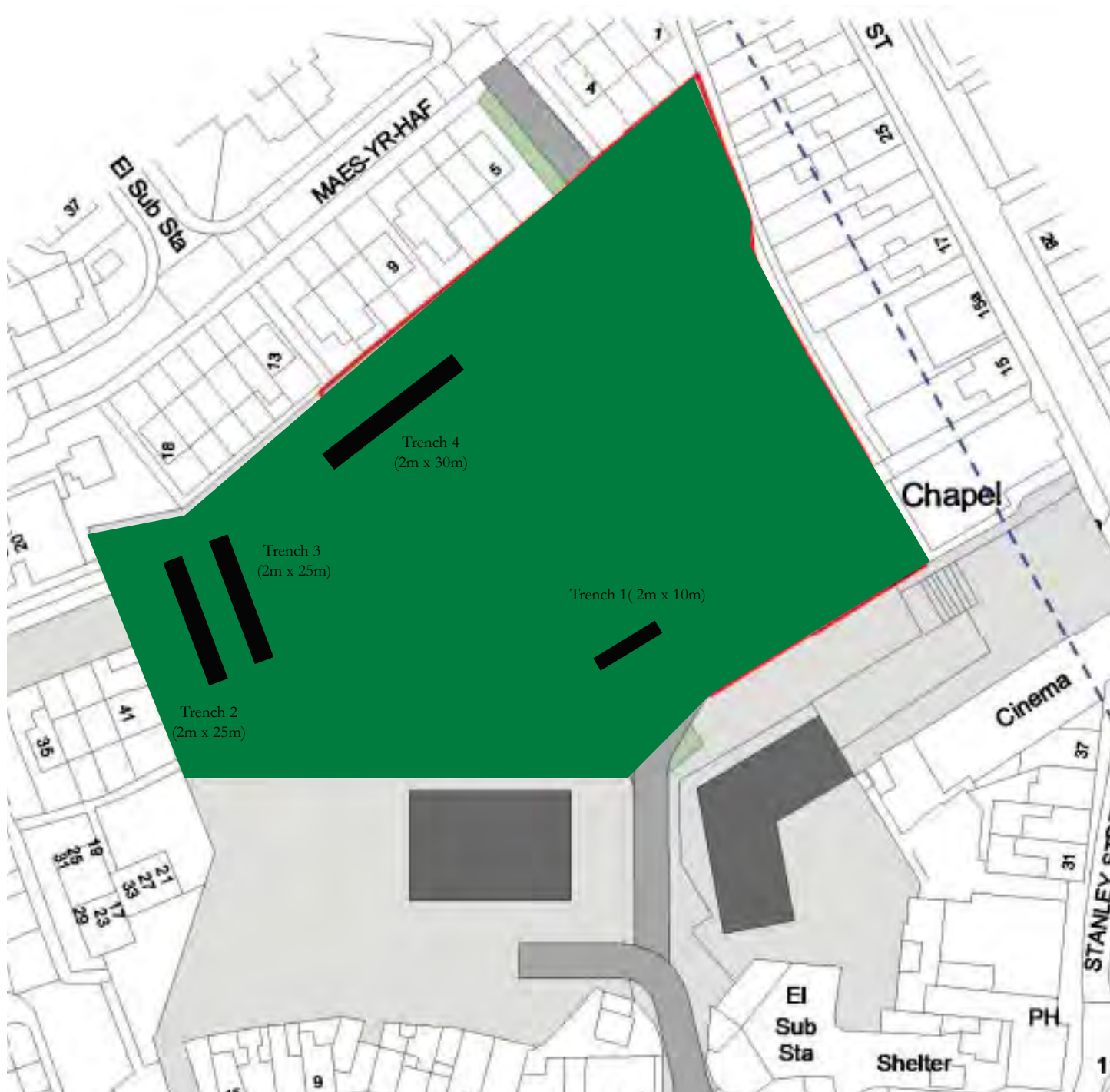


Figure 2. Trench Location Plan

In the event of a significant discovery Heneb (Gwynedd) Archaeological Planning Services will be informed of the discovery and a mitigation strategy agreed before works will progress.

The works will be carried out in accordance with the CIfA Standard and Guidance documents for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2023 revision).

A basic photographic record of the site will be made prior to the commencement of works, which will be used for reference and to aid with the interpretation of the site.

In the event of a significant discovery Heneb (Gwynedd) Archaeological Planning Services will be informed of the discovery and an appropriate mitigation strategy agreed before works will progress. Fieldwork is to be conducted and managed by Catherine Rees (MCIfA) & Matthew Jones (MA) of CR Archaeology.

The excavation works will be carried out in accordance with the CIfA Standard and Guidance documents (2014 and will include 2023 updates).

### **5.2.1 Recording**

The record forms at CR Archaeology are based on the Historic England system and full written, graphic and photographic records will be made in accordance with the Historic England *Field Recording Manual*. Sample forms can be provided on request. The written record shall comprise completed *pro-forma* record sheets.

Plans, sections and elevations will be produced on gridded, archive standard stable polyester film at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate. Representative measured sections will be prepared as appropriate showing the sequence and depths of deposits. All drawings will be numbered and listed in a drawing register, these drawing numbers being cross-referenced to written site records. A 'Harris matrix' diagram will be constructed for the excavated area.

A high-resolution 20 mega-pixel Sony Alpha digital camera will be used to create a photographic record of the site. This will be comprised of photographs of archaeological features and appropriate groups of features and structures. Included in each photograph will be an appropriate scale, north arrow and a record board detailing the site name, number and context number. General photographs will also be taken in the event of a negative result.

All photographic records will be indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view will be maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number. Images from photography will be stored in a loss-less digital format in this case '\*.TIF'.

### **5.2.2 Additional Mitigation/Contingency Measures**

In the event of a significant archaeological discovery being made during the excavation, CR Archaeology will immediately inform both the client and the development control archaeologist. Consultation will take place between CR Archaeology, Heneb (Gwynedd) Archaeological Planning Services and the client with regards to the most suitable course of action.

In the event that human remains are encountered site work will cease with immediate effect. The coroner, client and monitoring body will be informed immediately. The company will abide by the requirements of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857. Any arrangements regarding the discovery of human remains will be at the discretion of HM Coroner whose instruction/permission will be sought.

All human remains are to be preserved *in situ*, covered and protected. They will only be removed in exceptional circumstances and with the appropriate Ministry of Justice licence, environmental health regulations, Coroner's permission and, if appropriate, in compliance with the Disused Burial Grounds



(Amendment) Act 1981 or other local Act, with adequate security provided in such cases. Should this be undertaken a separate specification for works will be prepared detailing the excavation and post-excavation strategies.

Any artefacts recovered that fall within the scope of the Treasure Act 1996 will be reported to the landowner, Henneb (Gwynedd) Archaeological Planning Services and to HM Coroner.

### **5.2.3 Recovery, Processing and Curation of Artefactual Material**

All recovered artefactual material will be retained, cleaned, labelled and stored according to *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (Updated 2020)* and *First Aid for Finds (Watkinson & Neal 2001)*. The aim will be to create a stable, ordered, well-documented, accessible material archive forming a resource for current and future research (CIfA 2008, revised 2014, updated 2020).

All artefactual material will be bagged and labelled with the site code and context number prior to their removal from site. The archive reference number will be clearly marked on all finds. Each assemblage will be examined according to typological or chronological criteria and conservation needs identified. An assessment report of all post-medieval material will be produced by Matthew Jones, prehistoric pottery will be examined by Frances Lynch and lithics by Dr Ian Brooks. A list of further specialists will be submitted if necessary and the relevant expertise will be sought. Any specialist conservation necessary will be undertaken by Cardiff Conservation Services, Cardiff University. This will be conducted in accordance with guidelines issued by the Institute for Conservation.

Following analysis, it is proposed that archaeological material recovered will be deposited in the local museum and the paper/digital archive deposited with Anglesey Archives. A copy of the digital archive will be deposited with the RCAHMW.

Processed assemblages will be boxed according to issued guidelines and a register of contents compiled prior to deposition. The works will be carried out in accordance with The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2023).

#### **5.2.3.1 Material Selection Strategy**

The material selected for retention will be determined in accordance with the National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales Archaeological Archives: Selection, Retention and Disposal Guidelines for Wales (<http://www.welshmuseumsfederation.org/uploads/online%20resources/National%20Archaeology%20standards%20wales%202017/natstandardsfinal2019.pdf>).

#### **5.2.3.2 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).

All materials contained within the *Primary Site Archive (P1)* that are subsequently identified by the *Assessment Report (P2)* as appropriate for analysis will be processed by suitable specialists and the resultant *Research Archive (P3)* will be checked and ordered according to MoRPHE criteria. It is hoped that any

archive/artefactual material created/discovered during this archaeological project will be deposited at the county museum. Archive material will be deposited in accordance with the museum's terms and conditions for archive deposition. In the event that no artefactual material is recovered or that the material is retained by the landowner the paper/digital archive will be deposited at the RCAHMW.

A copy of the digital archive will be deposited with the CPAT HER and with the RCAHMW. RCAHMW will be notified in advance of the deposition of any archive created by this archaeological project and archive material will be deposited in accordance with the organisation's terms and conditions for archive deposition.

#### **5.2.3.3 Data Management Policy**

A site-specific Data Management Plan has been created based upon the Historic England Archaeological Digital Archiving Protocol (ADAPt) Digital Preservation Policy ([www.historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/research/adapt-digital-preservation-policy/](http://www.historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/research/adapt-digital-preservation-policy/)). The format is based upon the Historic England pro forma document ([www.historicengland.org.uk/research/methods/archaeology/archaeological-archives/adapt-toolkit/](http://www.historicengland.org.uk/research/methods/archaeology/archaeological-archives/adapt-toolkit/)). The preliminary document is included as Appendix B.

#### **5.3 Timetable for Proposed Works**

It is envisaged that the works will commence on in late November/early December 2024 and up to two weeks has been allotted for the works. Further time has been allotted for archive research, report compilation and site archiving.

#### **5.4 Staffing**

The project will be managed by Catherine Rees (MCIFA, BA (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology) Postgraduate Diploma (Historic Environment Conservation) & Matthew Jones (BA (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology)). The fieldwork will be conducted by Matthew Jones and/or Catherine Rees.

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

#### **5.5 Monitoring**

The project will be subject to monitoring Henneb (Gwynedd) Archaeological Planning Services who will be kept informed of site progress and the results of the works. A site visit will be arranged as necessary.

#### **5.6 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
- Steel toe capped boots
- Hard Hat

Any further PPE required will be provided by CR Archaeology.

CR Archaeology are not the primary contractor onsite and will follow all health and safety instructions from the primary contractor.

## **5.7 The Report**

The reports 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. The report will contain a site plan showing the locations of any photographs taken.

The final report will include:

- A bilingual summary
- A copy of the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation
- A location plan
- A plan showing the locations of the evaluation trenches
- All identified features and significant finds plotted on an appropriately scaled plan
- Full dimensional and descriptive detail of all identified finds and features
- A full bibliography of sources consulted
- An archive compact disc/USB stick

A copy of the reports in Adobe PDF format will be sent to the appropriate monitoring archaeologist for approval before formal submission. A PDF digital copy of the reports will be submitted to Heneb as part of the formal submission. A digital Adobe PDF version of the final report and will be lodged with the Historic Environment Record within six months of completion of post excavation works. The 2018 Guidance for the Submission of the Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records document will be followed.

A short article will be submitted to the Archaeology in Wales Journal and other publications as appropriate.

### **5.7.1 Copyright**

CR 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.



## 6.0 Bibliography

AAF. 2007. *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*

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

Quartermaine, J. B Trinder & R Turner. 2003. *Thomas Telford's Holyhead Road. The A5 in North Wales*. York. Council for British Archaeology

Randall, D & J. Davies. 1977. *Hen Caergybi*. Llangefni. Cross Keys Printing Works

Rowlands, J. 1989. *Holyhead – People, Prosperity and Poverty*. Gwynedd Library Service

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014 (Last Revised 2022). *Code of Conduct: Professional Ethics*.

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2019 (Revised 2021). *Regulations for Professional Conduct*.

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 1990 (Revised 2014). *Code of Approved Practice For the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014 (Last Revised 2020). *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment*.

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

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014 (Last Revised June 2020). *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*.

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2023. *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

Walker, K.1990. *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage*. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) Archaeology Section

Williams, L. 1950. *The Development of Holyhead*. Transactions of the Anglesey Antiquarian Society and Field Club. Pages 51-70

**Websites – all sites were visited 16/11/2024**

<https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>

**Appendix A.**  
**Proposed Development Plans**

# PROPOSED SITE PLAN

- Road
- Car Parking
- Hard Standing / Pathways
- Soft Landscaping / Planting
- Proposed Building
- Additional Areas Within Masterplan
- Access Routes





## **Appendix B.**

### **Data Management Plan**



## Data Management Plan

### Project Outline

<b>Project Manager</b>	Catherine Rees
<b>Project Number</b>	CR250-2025
<b>Project Name</b>	YsgolyParc_Eval
<b>Author(s)</b>	C. Rees
<b>Origination Date:</b>	18-10-2024
<b>Reviser(s)</b>	C.Rees
<b>Date of last revision</b>	08-02-2025
<b>Project stages covered</b>	Archaeological Evaluation – Trial Trenching
<b>Version</b>	1.1
<b>Status</b>	Final
<b>Summary of Changes</b>	n/a
<b>File Name/Location</b>	H: CR Archaeology 2024-2025 Projects: CR250-2024_ YsgolyParc_Eval
<b>Related Policies</b>	CR250-2024_ YsgolyParc_Eval_Selection_Strategy

### Data Collection/Creation

<b>Data to be Collected/Created</b>	<p>The CR Archaeology standard pro forma recording system used on site. Images will be created according to standards set out in ADAPt Guidance. All file formats created will meet the standards set out in ADAPt.</p> <p>Drawings will be created by hand on polyester drawing film, using 4H/6H Staedtler Mars Lumograph pencils and scanned in at standards set out in ADAPt.</p> <p>The documentary archive will consist of: Text: Various Word Documents; including Project Design, Assessment Reports, Site Archive Completion Report.</p> <p>Databases: Access/Excel databases</p> <p>Images: Hard copy drawings, digital images including x-rays, site photography (JPEG &amp; TIFF), scanned drawings</p>
-------------------------------------	---

<b>How Data will be Collected/Created</b>	The data will be created according to the CR Archaeology Recording Manual, and ADAPt
<b>Relations</b>	If the data collection was derived in whole or in part from published or unpublished sources, whether printed or machine-readable, please give references to the original material. Please give details of where the sources are held and how they are identified there (e.g. by accession number). If the collection is derived from other sources please indicate whether the data represent a complete or partial transcription/copy and the methodology used for its computerisation. Clearly state whether the data represents a clear enhancement of this previous dataset

### Documentation and Metadata

<b>Metadata</b>	Metadata will be created to the standard set out in ADAPt
<b>Documentation</b>	Describe the types of documentation that will accompany the data to help secondary users to understand and reuse it.

### Ethical and Legal Compliance

<b>Data Security Issues</b>	Document if there are any issues such as: Does the data need to be embargoed to protect the site(s)? Is some of the data protected under data protection legislation? Does the dataset contain commercially sensitive data? Detail how any issues are to be dealt with.
<b>Intellectual Property Rights</b>	The data and reports created by any external specialists will be CR Archaeology Copyright; this will be managed through their contracts.

### Data Storage

<b>Storage and Backup</b>	Data will be stored on the CR Archaeology Network and during excavation will be managed in line with Project Procedures for backing up data and transfer to network.
<b>Access and Security</b>	Data will be made available to the project team through the CR Archaeology network. There are no security issues.

### Selection and Preservation

<b>Preservation Plan</b>	In the event of archaeological material being recovered on site the physical archive, the documentary archive and the digital archive will be deposited with the artefactual material at the local museum/archive.
--------------------------	--



	<p>The documentary archive will contain any hard copy data reports the repository wish to receive.</p> <p>A copy of the digital archive will be sent to the RCAHMW.</p> <p>In the event of a negative result or no artefactual material being recovered the documentary and digital archives will be deposited with the RCAHMW.</p> <p>Copies of the project report and photographs will be deposited with the appropriate HER.</p>
--	---

### Data Sharing

<b>Data Sharing Plan</b>	The data generated from this project will be made publicly available through the digital repositories. Awareness of the work will be raised through publication, and documentation with the HER.
<b>Data Sharing Restrictions</b>	There are no restrictions on the use of this data after project completion.

### Responsibilities and Resources

<b>Responsibilities</b>	The Project Manager and Archaeological Archives Curator are responsible for ensuring the data management plan is followed.
<b>Resources</b>	Resources required to deliver this plan are covered by standard CR Archaeology resources and the project design. The costs of deposition of the archive are covered by the client.

**Appendix C.**

**Context List.**

**Trench 1.**

Context Number	Context Description
101	Modern hardcore. Max depth 0.5m.
102	Natural – light yellow clay with schist stone outcrops.
103	Modern concrete footings – embedded in clay natural.

**Trench 2.**

Context Number	Context Description
200	Topsoil - dark brown-black layer of clay-loam containing modern material and some demolition waste. Max depth 0.15m.
201	Cellar Wall – Rough coursed schist construction with clay and lime mortar bonding. Depth – 0.65m.
202	Cellar infill – building rubble and mid-20 <sup>th</sup> century rubbish. Depth – 0.65m.
203	Boundary wall - constructed of roughly coursed schist slabs with earth and mortar bonding. Depth – 0.40m.
204	Infill between cellar wall and boundary wall. Depth – 0.16m.
205	Cut of modern rubbish pit
206	Fill of [205] – excavation stopped due to asbestos.
207	Cut of modern drainage ditch
208	Fill of drainage ditch [207] – contained ceramic pipe.
209	Natural – light yellow clay.
210	Mixed dark brown-black layer of clay-loam levelling material under topsoil. Contained demolition and nineteenth century occupation material. Depth - 0.30m.
211	Rammed clay floor in cellar.

**Trench 3.**

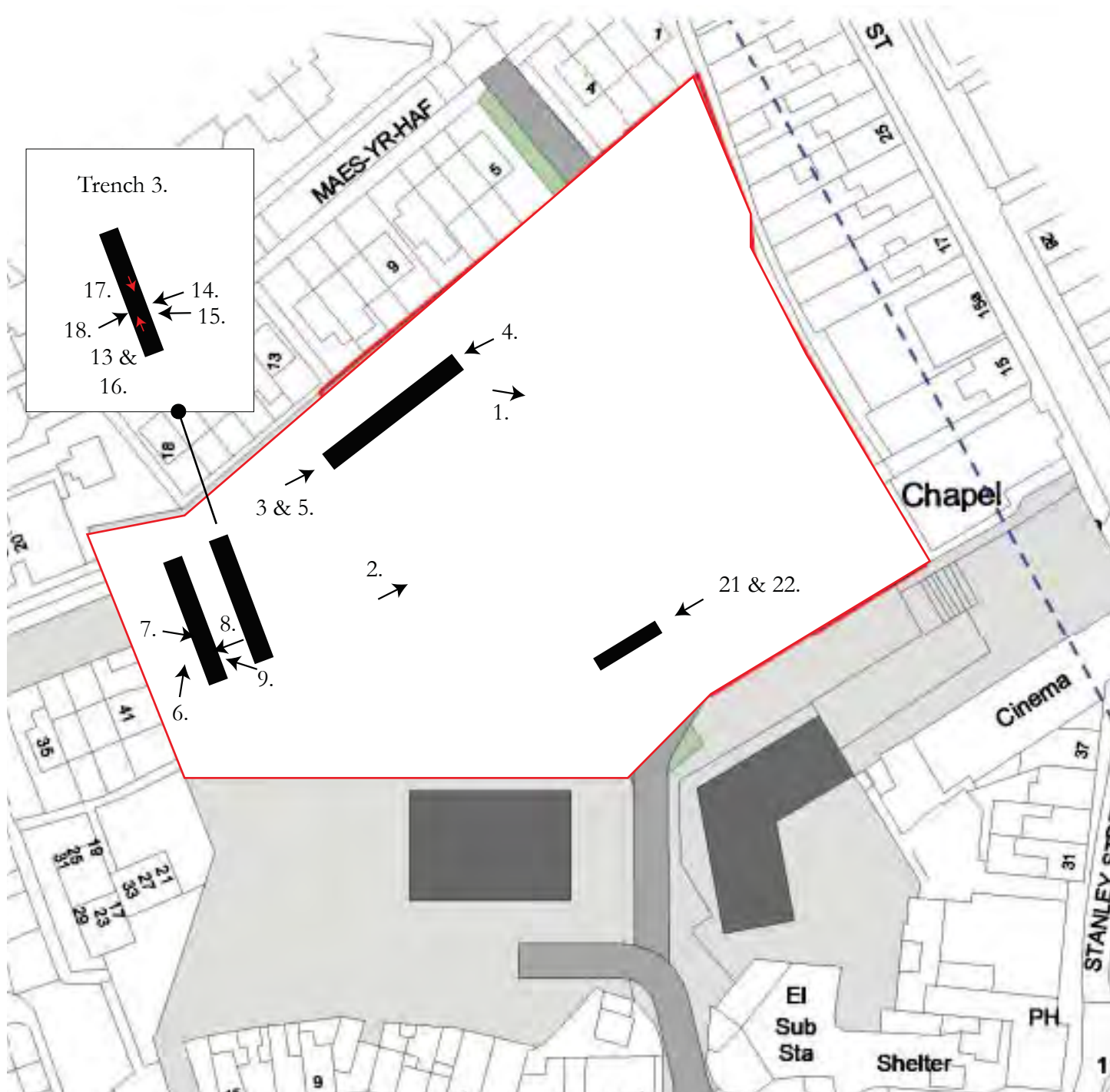
Context Number	Context Description
301	Topsoil - dark brown-black layer of clay-loam containing modern material and some demolition waste.
302	Mixed dark brown-black layer of clay-loam levelling material under topsoil. Contained demolition and nineteenth century occupation material.
303	Cut of modern drainage ditch.
304	Fill of drainage pipe ditch [303] – contained plastic pipe.
305	Cut of mid-20 <sup>th</sup> century pipe trench.
306	Fill of [305] – contained mixture of modern materials such as plastic, together with demolition and nineteenth century occupation material.
307	East – West orientated wall, front house wall. Schist, roughly coursed with earth and lime mortar bonding. Red-brown lime render facing on exterior wall.
308	Area of stone against wall [307]. Appeared to have structure but difficult to determine due to location in trench. Contained breeze blocks.
309	Area of infill against wall (307). Mortar rich, grey-brown silty clay deposit. Contained 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century occupation material and building waste.
310	East – West orientated wall, rear wall of house. Schist, roughly coursed with earth and lime mortar bonding.
311	Tipping layer above floor (312), against wall (310).
312	Mortar floor surface within structure.
313	Cut of small pit containing the burial of a cat.
314	Fill of pit [313].
315	Layer of demolition and mixed material in trench between wall (301) and the north-western end of the trench.
316	Field drain in north-western end of trench.
317	Fill of field drain – contained ceramic pipe.
318	Cut of modern rubbish pit.



319	Fill of rubbish pit [318]. Not excavated due to likelihood of containing asbestos.
320	Cut of modern pit cut into pit [318].
321	Fill pf [320]. Contained modern material and clay/rubble. Not excavated due to likelihood of containing asbestos.
322	Possible clay floor beneath deposit (309). Unexcavated.
323	Possible remains of internal division in house between walls (307) and (310).

#### **Trench 4.**

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Context Description</b>
401	Thin topsoil layer, vegetation. Maximum depth 0.05m
402	Modern hardcore. Maximum depth 0.46m.
403	Natural – light yellow clay with schist stone outcrops



*Appendix D. Location and Direction of Photographic Plates.*