

***Survey Commissioned  
by  
Anglesey County Council***

***Watching Brief  
by  
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Engineering Archaeological  
Services Ltd***

***Registered in England  
Nº 2869678***

***Land off Church Street,  
Newborough, Ynys Môn***

***May 2013  
EAS Client Report 2013/08***

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## Introduction

### NGR

Centred on: SH 4226 6561

### *Location and Topography (Figures 1 and 2)*

The proposed development site lies to the south west of the cross roads in the centre of Newborough, Ynys Môn. It consists of two, linked fields, a car park and a linear plot which was previously a garden. One of the fields lies on the northern side of Church Street (Plate 1), whilst the other lies south of the lane leading to the property known as Ty'n-Lon (Plate 3). The car park is associated with the public lavatories off Church Street (Plates 5 and 6). The dis-used garden runs from Malltraeth Street back to the point where it links to the northern field.

At the time of the watching brief the southern field had been cleared of scrubby vegetation (Plate 1), whilst the northern field was under improved pasture (Plate 3). There is a general, gentle slope up from Church Street towards the north, with a slight hollow running along the western side of the southern field which appears to lead to a slight mound in the north western corner of this field (Plate 2). The two fields were separated by an earthen bank. The garden was overgrown and was not part of the current watching brief.

The car park was around the public toilets off Church Street. The plots tend to slope up towards the north, although the street frontage has clearly been terraced into the slight slope. Surrounding the hard surfaces of the car park are a series of green areas (Plates 5 and 6). In the north western corner of the plot it is clear that excess soil from the construction of the car park has been dumped in a low mound (Plate 5).

### *Archaeological Background*

Anglesey County Council plan to release the land for development and therefore are carrying out a series of investigations prior to selling the plots (D. Edwards *pers. comm.*). As an initial stage a series of trenches were dug to

test the porosity of the soils on the site. The Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service advised that this work be subject to an archaeological watching brief (Appendix 1) and that a restricted desk top study be undertaken in order to put the results from the watching brief in context. Seven small trenches were dug, five in the fields and two in the car park.

Newborough is a regionally important medieval centre. Partly sited within the earlier *maerdref* of Rhosyr, Newborough was created in 1303 to house the population of Llan-faes displaced by the construction of Beaumaris (Carr 1982, 33). The town had a mixed success, surviving inundation by sand from a storm in 1330 (Carr 1982, 23) and significant damage in the revolt of Owain Glyndŵr in the early 1400's (Carr 1982, 261) to become the county town between 1507 and 1549. The removal of the county court to Beaumaris in 1549 lead to the decline of the town (Carr 1982, 265).

## SUMMARY

Although the trenches were very narrow, two of the trenches contained midden deposits which are sealed by thick layers of windblown sand and are therefore likely to be medieval in date.

The desk-top study suggests that the southern field was within both the area of the settlement of the bond tenants of the *mardref* of Rhosyr and the later borough of Newborough. Later features include a well shown on twentieth century mapping on the boundary between the southern field and Church Street.

## Methodology

A series of seven trenches were dug with a mechanical excavator. Two of these trenches (Tr 6 and 7) were within the car park area associated with the public toilets (Plates 5 and 6), whilst the rest of the trenches were in the fields to the south west (Plates 1 and 3). Each of the trenches was only 0.3 m wide and were typically 2.5 m long. They were dug to a depth of between 1.6 and 1.8 m below the ground surface. The narrow nature of the trenches meant that it was difficult to observe the sections, however, the trenches were dug in a series of spits and it was possible to observe the spoil as it came out of the holes.

A limited desktop study was undertaken inspecting the relevant records of The Gwynedd Historic Environment Record, The Anglesey Archives and the Archives of the University of Bangor. This work was focused on the interpretation of the deposits recorded in the watching brief.

## Desk-Top Study

A limited desktop-study was undertaken looking at the archive resources of the Anglesey Archives at Llangefni, the archives of the University of Bangor and the Historic Environment Record held by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust. The online resources of Achwilio (<http://www.archwilio.org.uk/>), Historic Wales Portal (<http://jura.rcahms.gov.uk/NMW>) and Coflein (<http://map.coflein.gov.uk>) were also consulted.

### Sources Consulted

#### *Maps*

- 1837 Newborough Tithe Map (Anglesey Archives)
- 1888 Ordnance Survey First Edition, Anglesey XXII SW, Scale 1:10,560 (University of Bangor Archives)
- 1900 Ordnance Survey Anglesey XXII.10, Scale 1:2500 (Anglesey Archives)
- 1901 Ordnance Survey Second Edition, Anglesey XXII SW, Scale 1:10560
- 1920 Ordnance Survey Anglesey XXII.10, Scale 1:2500 (Anglesey Archives)

#### *Unpublished Documents*

- 1799 Lord Boston's Collecting Rental. (University of Bangor Archives, Tongongl 773)
- nd. Schedule of property belonging to Lord Boston in the County of Anglesey. (University of Bangor Archives 37205)
- 1836 Tithe Schedule for Newborough (Anglesey Archives)
- Brooks, I.P. and Laws, K. 2003 *Plots 1 and 2, Land Adjacent to Bod Iorworth, Chapel Street, Newborough*. Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd Client report 2003/03

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### **Published Sources**

Carr, 1982 *Medieval Anglesey.*

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Lynch F. 1991 *Prehistoric Anglesey. The Archaeology of the Island to the Roman Conquest.* The Anglesey Antiquarian Society

Richards A. The finds. in Johnstone N. Cae Llys Rhosyr: a court of the Princes of Gwynedd. *Studia Celtica XXXIII*

### **Results**

There is little direct evidence for prehistoric activity within Newborough, however, Mesolithic to Bronze Age activity has been recorded from Newborough Warren (Lynch 1991, 51, 116-117, 122) to the south west of Newborough. The excavations at Rhosyr, approximately 400m south west of the proposed development, although mainly being of medieval date, did recover three flint flakes which are assumed to be prehistoric in date (Richards 1999, 575).

Rhosyr was the *maerdref* (royal township and administrative centre) of the commote of Menai in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. This would have consisted of the *llys* (royal court), its associated agricultural buildings of the estate farm and the tenements of the bond tenants of the *maerdref* (Longley 2002, 5). Whilst the site of the *llys* is known and occupies an area south west of St Peter's Church (approximately 400 m south west of the development site) (Johnstone 1999) the focus for the associated settlement is unknown. Longley has argued that the focus for this settlement is a redundant cross roads only 70 m south west of the proposed development (Longley 2002, 6) (Figure 8).

The earliest possible reference to Rhosyr relates to the sacking of the churches of St Peter's and St Mary's by a Norman force in 1157 (Johnstone 1995, 50), although it is not certain whether it is St Peter's Church in Rhosyr which is being referred to. More certain is the charter signed by Llwelyn ab Iorwerth in 1237 and the visit of Edward I in 1283.

In the early 1300's the residents of Llan-faes were transferred to part of the demesne land of Rhosyr (Carr 1982, 259) and the new borough of Newborough was formed. Its first charter was granted on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1303, allowing two annual fairs and a weekly market (Carr 1982, 260). The investment in the new borough was clearly extensive, including the first known windmill on the island of Anglesey which was commissioned in 1303, cost £18 3s ½ d and began work in 1305. The precise location of this mill is now unknown. (Davidson 2002, 5)

Newborough had mixed fortunes, in 1330 a storm struck which covered 183 acres (74 hectares) with sand and tides in Rhosyr and Newborough (Carr 1982, 23). The devastation was such that by 1359 -60 the rents from manor of Rhosyr were still reduced (Carr 1982, 24).

Newborough was also hard hit by the Glyndŵr revolt in the early 1400's (Carr 1982, 261) with nineteen burgage plots being burnt. There is some evidence for a revival in the boroughs fortune in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century when Newborough was the county town for Anglesey from 1507 to 1549. It also returned a member of parliament from 1536. The revival, however, was short lived and the town went into decline after 1549 when the county court was transferred to Beaumaris (Carr 1982, 265).

The earliest mapping located during the desk top study was the Tithe map of 1837 (Figure 3). The proposed development area is largely covered by three plots on the tithe. The schedule to the map gives the ownership and tenant to each of these plots, together with a property name.

Plot 95 forms the bulk of the proposed development. It was owned by The Right Honourable Lord Boston and tenanted to an Owen Jones as part of farm called Tyn Lon.

Plot 100 relates to the dis-used garden within the proposed development. It was owned by "The poor of the parish of Newborough" and tenanted by Maud Williams. The schedule describes this plot as "house and garden".

Plot 103 covers the area now occupied by the car park. It also was owned by The Right Honourable Lord Boston. It was tenanted, however, to Hugh Evans and formed part of farm called Cae Llewellyn.

The ownership of Tyn Lon by The Lord Boston can be traced back as far as 1799 in a collection rental (University of Bangor Archives, Tongongl 773) when it was rented together with a property called Pen y Bryn to Ellin Williams and John Owen for £6, 6d. A second undated (but probably later) rental (University of Bangor Archives 37205) defines Tyn Lon as a house and lands covering 5 acres and 2 rood (approximately 2.23 Ha) for

a rent of £9 to O. Owens. 1.45 acres (0.59 Ha) of this is probably within the survey area.

The Ordnance Survey mapping of the area between 1888 and 1920 (Figures 4 – 7) show a constant pattern with little or no change. Best seen in the 1:2500 mapping of 1900 and 1920 (Figures 6 and 7) the main area of the proposed development can be seen to occupy agricultural land. Of particular interest is the well adjacent to Church Street which must occupy part of the frontage of the southern field. There is also a small enclosure within the northern field which is attached to a building. This building still survives (Plate 4) and is a small agricultural building which has clearly been renovated in recent times.

The car park area was occupied by a small enclosure along the street frontage which appear to be associated with a building running at right angles to the road. The form of this building would suggest that it may have been an agricultural building.

The dis-used garden was clearly occupied in the early 1900's with three buildings fronting onto Malldraeth Street and a further small building behind in the garden. The Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1900 (Figure 6) also shows a small building on the northern boundary of the plot which does not appear on the later mapping. Given its size and location it is likely that the building was an outside toilet or '*ty bach*'.

Surprisingly little archaeological work has taken place within Newborough itself. Major excavations were carried out at the *llys* site of Rhosyr by Johnstone for the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust in the late 1990's (Johnstone 1999), however within Newborough only the archaeological evaluations at Hendre Bach by Longley (2002) and the evaluation and watching brief at Bod Iorwerth carried out by Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd in 1997 and 2003 (Brooks and Price 1997, Brooks and Laws 2003) constitute the archaeological investigating of the wider environment within Newborough.

Two geophysical surveys have also taken place within Newborough. An extensive survey using three separate techniques

(magnetometry, resistivity and ground probing radar) took place on the *llys* site at Rhosyr (Stratscan 1993) and a fluxgate gradiometer survey took place at Hendre Bach (Hopewell 2002). Neither of the surveys was entirely successful, although the combination of techniques at Rhosyr did allow some anomalies to be defined which could be related to archaeological features.

An archaeological investigation did take place in advance of the construction of public toilets within the car park in 1996 (Johnstone 1996) (Figure 8). This located a buried soil below approximately 1.2 m of windblown sand. The soil was up to 0.5 m thick and was cut by a series of linear features (Johnstone 1996, 4). These features were considered to be largely agricultural in character possibly associated with activity in portions of the medieval burgrave plots. One ditch, however, was considered to possibly be a burgrave plot boundary. Johnstone's report, however, refers to an earlier evaluation carried out in 1979 by the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust which sampled the street frontage alongside Church Street in two places. Unfortunately the report on the 1979 evaluation could not be located however Johnstone (1996, 2) say there were buried soils, ditches and slots for timber buildings located in these trenches.

## Watching Brief

The watching brief took place on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013. Seven small trenches were dug with a mechanical excavator, five of these were dug in the fields, whilst two were excavated in the car park (Figure 9). A 300mm wide bucket was used to dig the trenches which were typically 2.0 – 2.9 m long and up to 1.8 m deep. It was therefore not possible to record the sections in detail, however, sketch sections based on measurements made during the excavation of the trenches were made (Figures 10 and 11)

### Tr 1 (SH 42268 65605)

Tr 1 was the closest trench to Church Road. It was 2.2 m long and reached a depth of 1.8 m (Figure 10). The top 700 mm of the trench were undifferentiated yellowish brown sandy soils (Context 1). Below this was a lens of clean yellow sand (Context 2) which divided

Context 1 from Context 3. If it was not for Context 2 it would not be possible to distinguish between Contexts 1 and 3.

At a depth of approximately 1.6 m there was a layer of cockle shells and bone fragments within a matrix of yellowish brown sandy soil (Context 4). This layer appeared to be slightly thicker towards the north east where it was closest to the field boundary. It is assumed that this layer represent a midden deposit.

The base of the trench appeared to be cut into a yellow/brown clay which is assumed to be natural till deposits.

### Tr 2 (SH 42215 65638)

Tr 2 was 2.4 m long and 1.8 m deep (Figure 10), it was located in the north western corner of the southern field on a slightly raised area. The top 0.5 m of the trench consisted of yellow/brown sandy soils (Context 5) similar in character to Context 1 in Tr 1. This layer, however proved to be a relatively modern dump as it sealed a layer of quarry waste (Context 6). This layer can be related to a modern track which links the gateway on Church Street to Ty'n-Lon (Plate 2).

Below this layer was a modern water pipe trench (Contexts 7 and 8) which cut a thick layer of yellowish brown sandy soil (Context 9) which is assumed to be largely derived from windblown sands.

### Tr 3 (SH 42220 65665)

Tr 3 was in the south western corner of the northern field and was 2.9 m long and up to 1.8 m deep (Figure 10). A relatively thin topsoil (Context 10) covered a layer of yellowish brown sandy soil (Context 11), largely composed of windblown sand.

Below this was a layer of slightly gritty, clayey, sandy soil (Context 12), 0.4 m thick, which possibly represents a mixing of the agricultural soils of Context 12 with the underlying till (Context 13).

### Tr 4 (SH 42255 65677)

Tr 4 had a simpler stratigraphy than the other trenches in the northern field. It was 2.7 m

long and up to 1.8 m deep (Figure 10) and it was located in the south eastern corner of the northern field. The topsoil (Context 14) gave way to a layer of windblown sand (Context 15) 0.8 m thick which, in turn, covered the natural till (Context 16).

#### **Tr 5 (SH 42242 65717)**

Tr 5 was in the north western corner of the northern field. It was 3.0 m long and 1.7 m deep (Figure 10). The stratigraphy in this trench was very similar to that recorded in Tr 3. A thin topsoil (Context 17) sealed a thick deposit of windblown sands up to 0.9 m thick (Context 18). Below this was a slightly clayey layer (Context 19) which probably represents a mixing of Context 18 with the natural till deposits (Context 20) below.

#### **Tr 6 (SH 42279 65651)**

Tr 6 was in the north western corner of the car park (Plate 5). It was 2.3 m long and reached a depth of 1.6 m below the level of the car park (Figure 11). This trench was clearly cut through the up cast from the construction of the car park (Context 21). Below this was a thick layer of windblown sands (Context 22) which were approximately 0.9 m thick. Below this the natural till (Context 23) was encountered.

#### **Tr 7 (SH 42309 65652)**

Tr 7 was in a border adjacent to the eastern side of the public conveniences (Plate 6). It was 2.5 m long and up to 1.55 m deep (Figure 11). Below approximately 0.3 m of topsoil (Context 24) was up to 0.5 m of windblown sand deposits (Context 25). This sealed a deposit which contained considerable numbers of marine shell, largely cockles, although some oysters were noted, in a yellowish brown sandy matrix (Context 26). It is assumed that this deposit represents a midden deposit and may relate to the linear feature recorded by Johnstone in an adjacent trench (Johnstone 1996, Fig. 2).

Below the possible midden deposits the natural till was encountered (Context 27).

## **Conclusions**

Although the trenches dug were too narrow to record the archaeology in any detail, two of the trenches did recover deposits which are of archaeological interest. Both Tr 1 and Tr 7 had layers which contained significant quantities of marine shells suggesting the possibility of midden deposits. Both of these deposits were sealed by windblown sand deposits suggesting they may be medieval in date.

Tr 1 is of significant interest. It is the closest of the trenches to Church Street and therefore the most likely to record medieval activity within the development area. This activity probably relates to the buried soils, ditches and slots for timber buildings reported from the evaluation carried out by the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust in 1979 (Johnstone 1996, 2). It is likely that any medieval occupation would have concentrated along the street frontage with agricultural activity being carried out in the burgage plots behind. Such activity is suggested by the trenches dug by Johnstone in 1996 within the car park and by the recovery of possible midden deposits within Tr 7 in the current works.

The location of the possible development area has great potential for the study of the interaction between the settlement of the bond tenants of the *maerdref* of Rhosyr and the development of Newborough. If Longley (2002) is correct and the centre of the *maerdref* settlement is at the redundant cross roads, 70 m to the south west of the development, it is likely that the frontage along Church Street may contain evidence for both the twelfth and thirteenth century occupation of the area and the later development of Newborough in the fourteenth century.

The nineteenth and early twentieth century mapping would suggest that the Church Street frontage included a well until at least the 1920's, and evidence for this feature may survive in the boundary.

In the northern field there should be evidence for a paddock attached to the agricultural buildings in the north western corner of the field. Johnstone (1995) suggest that this field was outside the extent of the medieval town,



however, the boundary of the town probably followed the field boundary between the two fields of the development area.

The area of the car park has been highly disturbed by the construction of the public conveniences and the associated car park, however, Tr 7 suggest that archaeologically sensitive deposits survive, at least in places. Johnstone (1996, 4) has shown that there were archaeological features which probably relate to agricultural activities in the burgage plots behind medieval buildings at least 30 m from the line of Church Street.

No trench was dug in the dis-used garden, however, the nineteenth and early twentieth century mapping suggests that there should be significant activity along the frontage with Malldraeth Street. It is also likely that there will be further activity in the burgage plot behind.

## **Recommendations**

The current work can only be regarded as an initial assessment of the archaeological potential of the development. Further archaeological investigation will be needed to define the level of survival, particularly along the street frontage with Church Street. The southern field, in particular, may contain evidence of both the twelfth and thirteenth century settlement associated with the *maerdref* of Rhosyr and the fourteenth century development of Newborough itself.

## **Acknowledgements**

The watching brief was commissioned by Dafydd Edwards for Anglesey County Council. The ground works were carried out by Gareth Hughes of R G Hire Ltd. The archaeology was monitored by Jenny Emmett for the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service. The help of the staff in various archives consulted is gratefully acknowledged, including Amanda Sweet at the Anglesey Archives and Angharad Stockwell at the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record.



Plate 1: Field containing Tr 1 and Tr 2, looking NW



Plate 2: Track in area of Tr 2, looking NNW





Plate 3: Field containing Tr 3, Tr 4 and Tr 5, looking NNW



Plate 4: Agricultural building abutting field containing Tr 3, Tr 4 and Tr 5, looking NNW





Plate 5: Location of Tr 6, looking NW



Plate 6: Location of Tr 7, looking NE

## **Appendix 1: Brief**

### **DESIGN BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION**

**Site:** Land at Church Street, Newborough

**Date:** 29th April 2013

**National Grid Reference:** 242250, 365667

**Planning reference:** Pre-Planning

**Applicant:** Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn

This design brief is only valid for six months after the above date. After this period Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service should be contacted.

It is recommended that the contractor appointed to carry out the archaeological work visits the site of the proposed development and consults the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) for north-west Wales before completing their specification. Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service cannot guarantee the inclusion of all relevant information in the design brief.

Key elements specific to this design brief have been highlighted.

#### **1.0 Site Location and Description**

- 1.1 For the purposes of this brief the proposed development site comprises a plot totalling approximately 1 hectare within the village of Newborough, in the south of Anglesey.
- 1.2 The site is currently composed of four parcels of land, one of which is occupied by a public convenience and car park, while the remainder are understood to comprise a combination of pasture and scrub land. The broad boundaries of the site are defined to the north by a minor access road, to the east by Malltraeth Street and to the south by Church Street, with property boundaries bordering the individual parcels and the western edge of the site.

#### **2.0 Archaeological Background**

- 2.1 Newborough was established in 1303 by Edward I to accommodate the inhabitants of Llanfaes displaced by the construction of Beaumaris. The new town was built close by the existing settlement of Rhosyr, the maerdref and regional administrative centre of the commote of Menai. The llys at Rhosyr is located approximately 340m to the south-west of the site (scheduled monument An129).
- 2.2 Newborough sustained this regionally important role despite repeated sand incursions, most notably in 1330, which caused significant damage to property. Although no upstanding medieval buildings survive within the town, it is possible to trace the layout of the medieval street pattern and burgess plots, centred on the present crossroads (Malltraeth Street-Chapel Street/Church Street-Pen-Dref Street).
- 2.3 Relatively little archaeological investigation has been undertaken within the medieval towns of north-west Wales and as such, any surviving evidence of medieval occupation is of high significance. Newborough has been subject to several small-scale investigations associated with previous development proposals,

which indicate the survival of buried medieval deposits, although in places these appear to have been truncated by subsequent activity.

- 2.4 During 1996 an evaluation was undertaken within the site in connection with the then-proposed public convenience and car park (GAT report 191). This built on a previous investigation of 1979, with the combined results identifying medieval features and buried soils, covered with a deep sandy deposit. The report suggested the potential for evidence of former domestic structures fronting Church Street and recommended a programme of archaeological mitigation, which does not appear to have been undertaken. The extent to which archaeological deposits were affected by this development are therefore unknown.
- 2.5 The application site is located within the pattern of plots believed to have been laid out as part of the establishment of Newborough, with the parcel extending to Malltraeth Street and Church Street possibly having been occupied by medieval dwellings and associated activity. However, the site is also close to the postulated location of the earlier settlement of Rhosyr, inferred from historic analysis and place-name indicators such as Hendre (see GAT report 461). Evidence for either period would be of high archaeological importance to understanding of the development of the town and medieval urban settlement in north-west-Wales more generally; but because of its location, the site may provide evidence for the extent and the relationship between the two settlements.
- 2.6 Much of the site appears relatively unchanged from the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map (1889) and the Tithe map (1843), until the public convenience development in the 1990s. It is unlikely that any archaeological deposits have been disturbed or truncated across much of the site, which must therefore be considered of high archaeological potential.
- 2.7 The proposed ground investigations entail limited, dispersed excavation across the site. However, in view of the nature and significance of the potential archaeological remains, a programme of archaeological work is appropriate to ensure the identification and recording of any archaeology encountered during the works.
- 2.8 The following references must be consulted in relation to this brief:

Church Street, Newborough: Archaeological Evaluation, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, February 1996 (GAT report 191)

Hendre Bach, Newborough: Archaeological Assessment, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, October 2002 (GAT report 461)

Archaeological Assessment at Hendre Bach, Newborough: Field Evaluation Part 1 – Geophysical Survey, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, November 2002 (GAT report 466)

Land adjoining Bod Iorwerth, Newborough: Archaeological Evaluation, Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd, June 1997

Plots 1 and 2, Land Adjacent to Bod Iorwerth, Chapel Street, Newborough, Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd. (EAS report 2003/3)

### **3.0 The nature of the development and archaeological requirements**

- 3.1 An application is in preparation for outline planning consent for a small residential development, comprising 19 dwellings with associated infrastructure and landscaping.

- 3.2 This is a design brief for the first stage of a staged programme of archaeological works to establish the archaeological significance of the site, to be undertaken prior to planning consent, in accordance with guidelines set out in Planning Policy Wales 2012 and Welsh Office Circular 60/96 (Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology). This first stage will comprise a programme of archaeological observation and recording, termed an archaeological watching brief, during preapplication ground investigation works.
- 3.3 The object of this programme of archaeological works is to ensure the identification, assessment and recording of any archaeological remains that may be encountered during the ground investigations. The results of this work will be used to inform subsequent stages of archaeological investigation, including an archaeological assessment, to be covered by a separate brief.
- 3.4 Any additional stages of work further to that described by this brief (for example in the event of significant discovery which cannot adequately be addressed by the resources of a watching brief) will require prior approval of a new detailed specification by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service.
- 3.5 This design brief should be used by the archaeological contractor as the basis for the preparation of a detailed written archaeological specification. The specification must be submitted to the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service for approval before the work commences.
- 3.6 The specification should contain, as a minimum, the following elements:
- non-technical summary
  - details of the proposed works as precisely as is reasonably possible, indicating clearly on a plan their location and extent
  - a research design which sets out the site-specific objectives of the archaeological works
  - scope of supporting desk-based research
  - field methodology
  - methods of recording, including the collection and disposal strategy for artefacts and ecofacts
  - arrangement for immediate conservation of artefacts
  - post-fieldwork methodology
  - the level and grade of all key project staff
  - details of external specialists
  - a timetable for the proposed works, including contingency if appropriate
  - the intended method of publication
  - archive deposition
  - reference to relevant legislation
  - health and safety considerations
  - monitoring procedures

#### **4.0 Archaeological works detail**

- 4.1 The archaeological work to mitigate the impact of the pre-application ground investigation works will entail an archaeological watching brief supported by appropriate desk-based research.
- 4.2 The archaeological programme will include the following:
- observation on a comprehensive basis, of all ground disturbing work, including topsoil stripping, excavation of porosity test pits, and any other ground works e.g. for access tracks and temporary compounds/ construction areas
  - a full drawn, written and photographic record of any significant archaeological features, structures and deposits that may be revealed

- sufficient desk based research to enable informed interpretation (see 4.5 below)
  - preparation of a full archive report
- 4.3 The monitoring of works is to be undertaken in a manner that allows for the immediate cessation of works for the recording of archaeological evidence. Agreement must be reached between the archaeologist and developer in order that this is achieved.
- 4.4 Recording methodology should be in accordance with Institute for Archaeologists guidance (see general requirements below).
- 4.5 Desk-based research should comprise as a minimum:
- consultation of the regional Historic Environment Record (HER)
  - all relevant published and unpublished sources (e.g. from regional or specialist journals, excavation reports, etc)
  - all relevant cartographic, illustrative and historical sources (e.g. trade directories) pertaining to the historical development of the site

Relevant sources may be found at the Ynys Môn Archives in Llangefni, the University of Bangor and the regional Historic Environment Record (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust)

- 4.6 Any relevant desk-based sources included for the purposes of interpretation and analysis must be fully referenced, and related to both the archaeological work and the development proposals.
- 4.7 The archaeological contractor will ensure that sufficient resource is made available for a post-excavation programme to result in an archive report.
- 4.8 The final report should specifically include the following:
- a) a copy of the design brief and agreed specification
  - b) a location plan based on current OS mapping at an appropriate scale
  - c) sufficient historical and archaeological detail to allow interpretation of the results and to support assessment of significance
  - d) all identified features and significant finds plotted on an appropriately scaled site plan
  - e) full dimensional and descriptive detail of all identified features and significant finds
  - f) a full bibliography of sources consulted
  - g) an archive compact disc
- 4.9 Where relevant, specialist studies of environmental, economic and historical data must include a statement of potential. All specialist reports used in the preparation of this statement must be reproduced in full in the report.

## **5.0 General requirements**

- 5.1 The results must be presented in a report and should be detailed and laid out in such a way that data and supporting text are readily cross-referenced. The HER Officer should be contacted to ensure that any discoveries not previously recorded in the HER are given a Primary Record Number (PRN) and that data structure is compatible with the HER.
- 5.2 The archaeological programme must be undertaken by an appropriately qualified individual or organisation, fully experienced in work of this character.



- 5.3 Details, including the name, qualifications and experience of the project director and all other key project personnel (including specialist staff) should be communicated to the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service and all written work attributed to an author(s).
- 5.4 Contractors and subcontractors are expected to conform to standard professional guidelines. The following are of particular relevance to this project:
- English Heritage, 1991. Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)
  - English Heritage, 2006. Management Of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE)
  - Brown D. H., 2007. Archaeological Archives A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, Transfer and curation. Archaeological Archives Forum
  - Richards, J. & Robinson, D., 2000. Digital Archives from Excavation and Fieldwork: Guide to Good Practice (Second Edition). The Archaeology Data Service Guide to Good Practice: Oxbow Books <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/goodguides/excavation/>
  - The Institute for Archaeologists, 1985 (revised 2010). Code of Conduct
  - The Institute for Archaeologists, 1990 (revised 2008). Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology
  - The Institute for Archaeologists, 1994 (revised 2009) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
  - The Institute for Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2008) Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief
  - The Institute for Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2008) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation
  - The Institute for Archaeologists 1995 (revised 2008) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation
  - The Institute for Archaeologists, 2001 (revised 2008). Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials
  - The Institute for Archaeologists, 2008. Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives
- 5.5 Many people in North Wales speak Welsh as their first language, and many of the archive and documentary references are in Welsh. Contractors should therefore give due consideration to their ability to understand and converse in Welsh.
- 5.6 The archaeological contractor must satisfy themselves that all constraints to groundworks have been identified, including the siting of live services, Tree Preservation Orders and public footpaths. Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service bears no responsibility for the inclusion or exclusion of such information within this brief.
- 5.7 Any changes to the specifications that the archaeological contractor may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated to Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service and approved before implementation.
- 5.8 Care must be taken in dealing with human remains and the appropriate environmental health regulations followed. Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service and the local Coroner must be informed immediately human remains are discovered.
- 5.9 Arrangements for the long-term storage and deposition of all artefacts must be agreed with the landowner and Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service before the commencement of investigation.
- 5.10 The involvement of Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service should be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

- 5.11 A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project should be prepared in accordance with standard guidance. All plans, photographs and descriptions should be labelled, crossreferenced and lodged in an appropriate place (to be agreed with Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service) within six months of the completion of the project.
- 5.12 Two copies of the bound report must be sent to the address below, one copy marked for the attention of the Development Control Archaeologist, the other for attention of the HER Officer, who will deposit the copy in the HER.
- 5.13 Additional copies of the report may be required by the local planning authority where the work forms part of a project being implemented through the planning process.

## **6.0 Curatorial monitoring**

- 6.1 The project will be monitored by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service to ensure the fulfilment of the brief and specifications. The Development Control

Archaeologist will normally review the progress of reports and archive preparation. The archaeological contractor must inform Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service in writing of the proposed start dates for the project and any subsequent phases of work.

## **7.0 Glossary of terms**

### **Archaeological Contractor**

A professionally qualified individual or an organisation containing professionally qualified archaeological staff, able to offer appropriate and satisfactory treatment of the archaeological resource, retained by the developer to carry out archaeological work either prior to the submission of a planning application or as a requirement of the planning process.

### **Archaeological Curator**

A person, or organisation, responsible for the conservation and management of archaeological evidence by virtue of official or statutory duties. In north-west Wales the archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authorities are the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service, who work to the Welsh Archaeological Trusts' Curators' Code of Practice.

### **Archive**

An ordered collection of all documents and artefacts from an archaeological project, which at the conclusion of the work should be deposited at a public repository, such as the local museum.

### **Assessment**

A desk-based archaeological assessment (also known as a desk-top assessment) is a detailed consideration of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area or site (land-based, intertidal or underwater), consisting of a collation of existing written and graphic information in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource in a local, regional or national context as appropriate.

## **Brief**

The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (1993) defines a brief as an outline framework of the planning and archaeological situation which has to be addressed, together with an indication of the scope of works that will be required.

## **Evaluation**

A limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site; and, if present, defines their character and extent, and relative quality. It enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context, as appropriate. The programme of work will result in the preparation of a report and archive.

## **Historic Environment Record (HER)**

A documentary record of known sites in a given area. In north-west Wales the HER is curated by the curatorial division of the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.

## **Specification**

The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (1993) defines a specification as a schedule of works outlined in sufficient detail to be quantifiable, implemented and monitored.

## **Watching brief**

A formal programme of observation during non-archaeological works in order to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains which may be present.

## **8.0 Further information**

- 8.1 This document outlines best practice expected for a programme of archaeological mitigation but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. If requirements of the brief cannot be met they should only be excluded or altered after gaining written approval of the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service.
- 8.2 Further details or clarification of any aspects of the brief may be obtained from the Development Control Archaeologist at the address below.

Jenny Emmett

Archaeologydd Rheoli Datblygiad - Development Control Archaeologist  
Gwasanaeth Cynllunio Archaeolegol Gwynedd - Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service  
Craig Beuno, Ffordd Y Garth, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2RT  
Ffôn/Tel: 01248 370926  
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[jenny.emmett@heneb.co.uk](mailto:jenny.emmett@heneb.co.uk)

## **Appendix 2: Specification**

### **Specification for the Archaeological Watching Brief at the Land at Church Street, Newborough, Ynys Môn.**

Planning application number Pre-planning

Specification written by I.P. Brooks 30 April 2013

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1. It is intended to dig a series of seven porosity test hole in advance of a development adjacent to Church Street, Newborough, Ynys Môn.
- 1.2. Newborough was established as a “new” town in 1303 by Edward I to accommodate the inhabitants of Llan-faes displaced on the construction of Beaumaris. The town was based on the pre-existing settlement of Rhosyr with its *llys* which is located approximately 340 m to the south west of the development area.
- 1.3. This specification is based on:
  - 1.3.1. The brief D1777 dated 29<sup>th</sup> April 2013 by Jenny Emmett of the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service
  - 1.3.2. A telephone conversation with Jenny Emmett on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013
  - 1.3.3. A telephone conversation with Dafydd Edwards, Senior Technical Officer (Architectural), Isle of Anglesey County Council on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

#### **2. Aims**

- 2.1. To record any archaeologically significant deposits disturbed or exposed by the development.

#### **3. Assessment program**

- 3.1. The programme of works shall include:
  - 3.1.1. Watching brief on the ground works associated with the development
  - 3.1.2. Limited desk-based research.
  - 3.1.3. Analysis and report preparation

#### **4. Methodology**

- 4.1. Watching Brief
  - 4.1.1. A suitably qualified archaeologist will be present during excavation of the porosity test pits.
  - 4.1.2. All features or archaeologically significant deposits revealed by the ground works will be fully recorded including:
    - 4.1.2.1. A written description of deposit: type, components etc.
    - 4.1.2.2. Drawn plans and sections at suitable scales
    - 4.1.2.3. Photographs will be taken with a Nikon D80 Digital SLR Camera at a resolution of 10.2 MP
    - 4.1.2.4. Plan drawing showing extent of deposit.
    - 4.1.2.5. Section drawing of any feature recorded to record vertical stratigraphy

- 4.1.3. The detail recording will only take place if it is safe to do so. If not, the best description and record possible will be made.
- 4.1.4. The Gwynedd Archaeological Planning service will be notified immediately if significant archaeological deposits, features or artefacts are located.
- 4.1.5. The photographs will include metric scales
- 4.1.6. All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded by context.
- 4.1.7. Each deposit, feature or layer will be identified by a unique context number to which all other records will be related
- 4.1.8. Where possible, features will be sampled to obtain dating and functional evidence.
- 4.1.9. Where possible, elevation drawings of feature half sections to record vertical stratigraphy.
- 4.1.10. Where appropriate, deposits will be sampled for environmental, dating or technological evidence. Samples will be fully recorded and packed appropriately for future analysis.
- 4.1.11. Sampling will be carried out in accordance with the procedures outlined in 'A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis' - P Murphy and P Wiltshire 1994.
- 4.1.12. All features recorded will be tied in to the National Grid.
- 4.1.13. All features revealed by the ground works will be recorded as above if safe working practices allows.
- 4.1.14. If human remains are encountered all works will stop until the appropriate permissions have been obtained.

#### 4.2. Finds

- 4.2.1. Any flint artefacts will be studied by I.P. Brooks for Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd.
- 4.2.2. Any pottery will be studied by an appropriate specialist to be agreed in consultation with the Development Control Archaeologist
- 4.2.3. Any metal or other special finds will be studied by an appropriate specialist to be agreed in consultation with the County Archaeologist
- 4.2.4. All ceramic, bone and stone artefacts will be cleaned and processed immediately following the watching brief.
- 4.2.5. Metal artefacts will be stored and managed on site according to the UK Institute of Conservation Guidelines.
- 4.2.6. Any samples taken for environmental analysis will be assessed and studied by an appropriate specialist to be agreed in consultation with the Development Control Archaeologist
- 4.2.7. If specialist reports are required these will not be commissioned without the express permission of Isle of Anglesey County Council.

#### 4.3. Desk-based research

- 4.3.1. The following archives will be consulted for relevant sources:

- 4.3.1.1. The Historic Environment Record held by the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
- 4.3.1.2. The Ynys Môn Archives at Llangefni
- 4.3.1.3. The archives section of the University of Bangor
- 4.3.2. All desk-based sources included for the purpose of interpretation and analysis will be fully referenced.
- 4.3.3. The desk-based assessment will include:
  - 4.3.3.1. Relevant published and unpublished sources
  - 4.3.3.2. Relevant cartographic, illustrative and historical sources pertaining to the historical development of the site.

## **5. Reporting**

- 5.1. A summary report on the findings of the investigations will be prepared and completed within one month from completion of the project. This will summarise the results of the project including;
  - 5.1.1. Results of the Watching Brief.
  - 5.1.2. A location plan at a suitable scale
  - 5.1.3. A plan showing the location of any features or significant finds at an appropriate scale
  - 5.1.4. Section drawings of any archaeological significant deposits disturbed
  - 5.1.5. The results of the desk-based assessment
  - 5.1.6. A copy of the design brief and the agreed specification
  - 5.1.7. Any specialist reports commissioned
  - 5.1.8. A full bibliography
  - 5.1.9. Copies of reports will be sent to the client, The Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service and the Historic Environment Record held by The Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
  - 5.1.10. Up to five hard copies of the report will be produced together with a digital copy in PDF format

## **6. General**

- 6.1. IFA Code of Conduct
  - 6.1.1. All staff will abide by, and all procedures be carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct.
- 6.2. Health and Safety
  - 6.2.1. EAS Ltd adopt and adhere to safe working practices at all times. A copy of the company's general statement of policy is available on request.
- 6.3. Staff
  - 6.3.1. The project will be directed by Dr I.P. Brooks MIFA
  - 6.3.2. Project Staff will include Dr I.P. Brooks MIFA

## 6.5. Timetable

6.5.1. The timetable is dependent on the construction programme and therefore only a day rate can be quoted for the watching brief

### 6.5.2. Desk-top study

6.5.2.1. Visit Historic Environment Record: 1 man day

6.5.2.2. Visit Archive held by Bangor University: 1 man day

6.5.2.3. Visit Ynys Môn Archives at Llangefni: 1 man day

6.5.2.4. Analysis: 1 man day

6.5.3. Analysis and report preparation is dependent on the results of the fieldwork.

## 6.6. Insurance

6.6.1. EAS Ltd carries all necessary Public and Employee Liability Insurances.

6.6.2. EAS Ltd carries Professional Indemnity Insurance.

## 6.7. Copyright

6.7.1. EAS Ltd shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documentation, under the Copyrights, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved: excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive license to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

6.7.2. EAS Ltd is prepared to assign copyright at the request of the client.

### Appendix 3: Context Summary

Context	Trench	Relationships	Description
1	1	Above 2	Yellowish brown sandy soil with few other inclusions except roots. [Topsoil]
2	1	Below 2 Above 3	A lens of clean yellow sand on the ENE side of the trench. This lens probably relates to the field boundary located immediately to the east of the trench.
3	1	Below 2 Above 4	Yellowish brown silty sand [Windblown sand deposit]
4	1	Below 3	Layer of marine shells (largely cockles) and the occasional animal bone in a matrix of yellowish brown sand. [Midden deposit]
5	2	Above 6	Yellowish brown sandy soil with few other inclusions except roots. This layer would appear to have been dumped and spread over this area of the field as it seals a track of quarry waste leading to Ty'n-lon.
6	2	Below 5 Above 7, 8 and 9	A layer of crushed stone and quarry waste with little or no matrix except stone dust. [Modern track leading from the gateway on Church Street to Ty'n-lon]
7	2	Below 6 Within 8	Mixed layer of yellowish brown silty sand with lenses of mid brown topsoil. There is a modern water pipe within this layer. [Fill of trench for a water pipe leading to Ty'n-lon]
8	2	Below 6 Filled with 7 Cuts 9	Trench for a water pipe leading to Ty'n-lon. The trench was at least 0.6 m wide and was up to 0.65 m deep.
9	2	Below 6 Cut by 8	Yellowish brown silty sand [Windblown sand deposit]
10	3	Above 11	Yellowish brown sandy soil with few other inclusions except roots. [Topsoil]
11	3	Below 10 Above 12	Yellowish brown sandy soil with few inclusions [Windblown sand].
12	3	Below 11 Above 13	Mid brown slightly clayey sandy soil with a slightly gritty feel. The layer has a moderate quantity of stone chips.
13	3	Below 12	Bright yellow clayey sandy gravel with the occasional erratic [Till]
14	4	Above 15	Yellowish brown sandy soil with few other inclusions except roots. [Topsoil]
15	4	Below 14 Above 16	Yellowish brown sandy soil with few inclusions [Windblown sand].
16	4	Below 15	Mid brown slightly clayey sandy soil with a slightly gritty feel. The layer has a moderate quantity of stone chips
17	5	Above 18	Yellowish brown sandy soil with few other inclusions except roots. [Topsoil]
18	5	Below 17 Above 19	Yellowish brown sandy soil with few inclusions [Windblown sand].
19	5	Below 18 Above 20	Mid brown slightly clayey sandy soil with a slightly gritty feel. The layer has a moderate quantity of stone chips
20	5	Below 19	Bright yellow clayey sandy gravel with the occasional erratic [Till]



Context	Trench	Relationships	Description
21	6	Above 22	A mixed layer of yellowish brown sandy soil containing fragments of concrete kerbstones and some modern debris including sweet wrappers. [Up cast from the construction of the car park.]
22	6	Below 21 Above 23	Yellowish brown windblown sand with few other inclusions
23	6	Below 22	Dark yellowish brown sandy clay with gravel lenses [Till]
24	7	Above 25	A layer of yellowish brown sandy topsoil up to 300 mm thick. The layer contained many roots from the shrubs planted to the east
25	7	Below 24 Above 26	Yellowish brown windblown sand with few other inclusions
26	7	Below 25 Above 27	A layer of marine shells including cockles and a few oysters in a matrix of yellowish brown silty sand. [Possible midden deposit]
27	7	Below 26	Dark yellowish brown sandy clay with gravel lenses [Till]



Figure 1: Location  
Scale 1:25,000

Reproduced from the Explorer 263, 1:25,000 scale map  
by permission of the Ordnance Survey ® on behalf of  
The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office  
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All Rights Reserved Licence Number AL 100014722



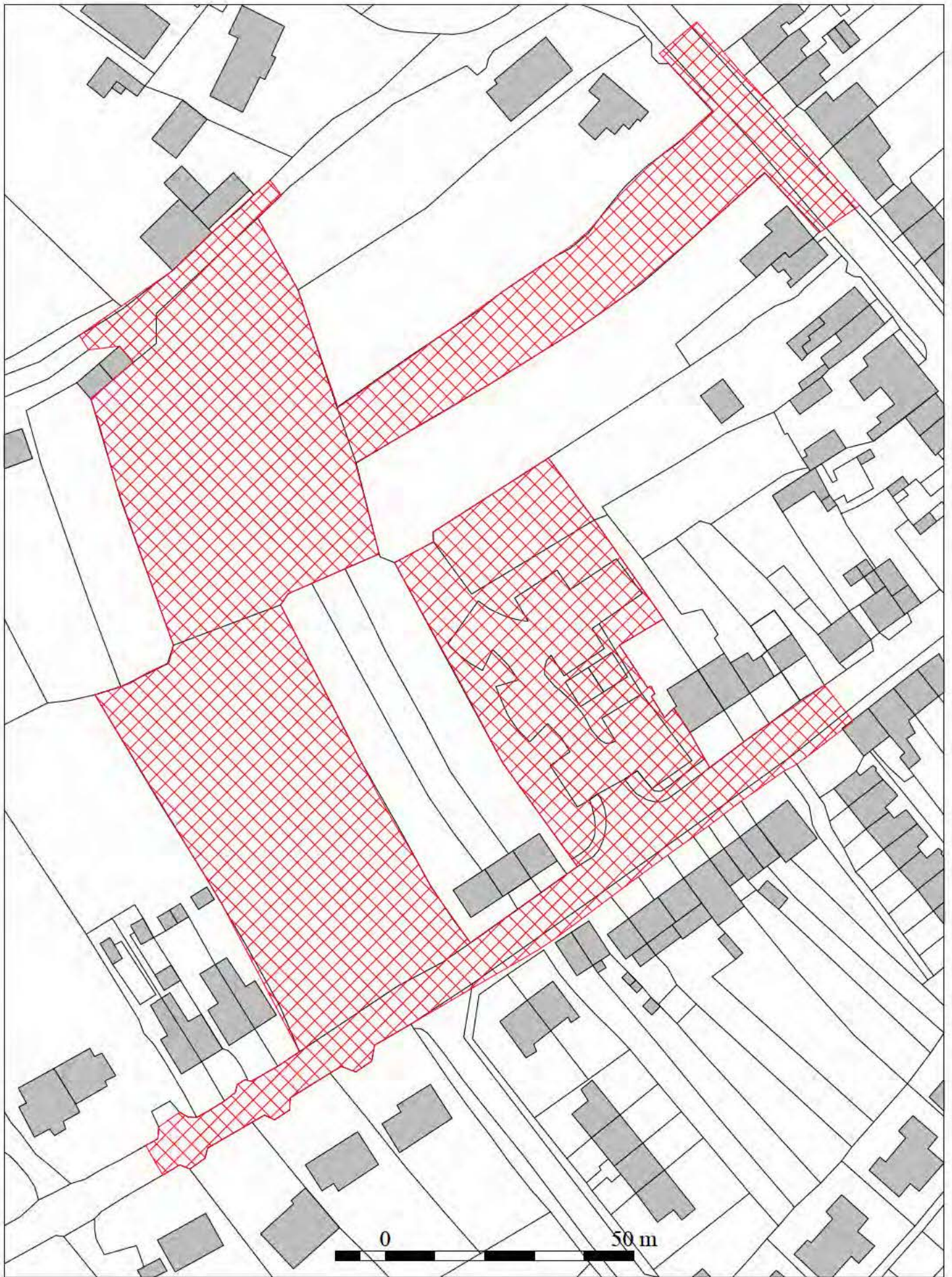


Figure 2: Location of the Proposed Development Area  
Scale 1:1000



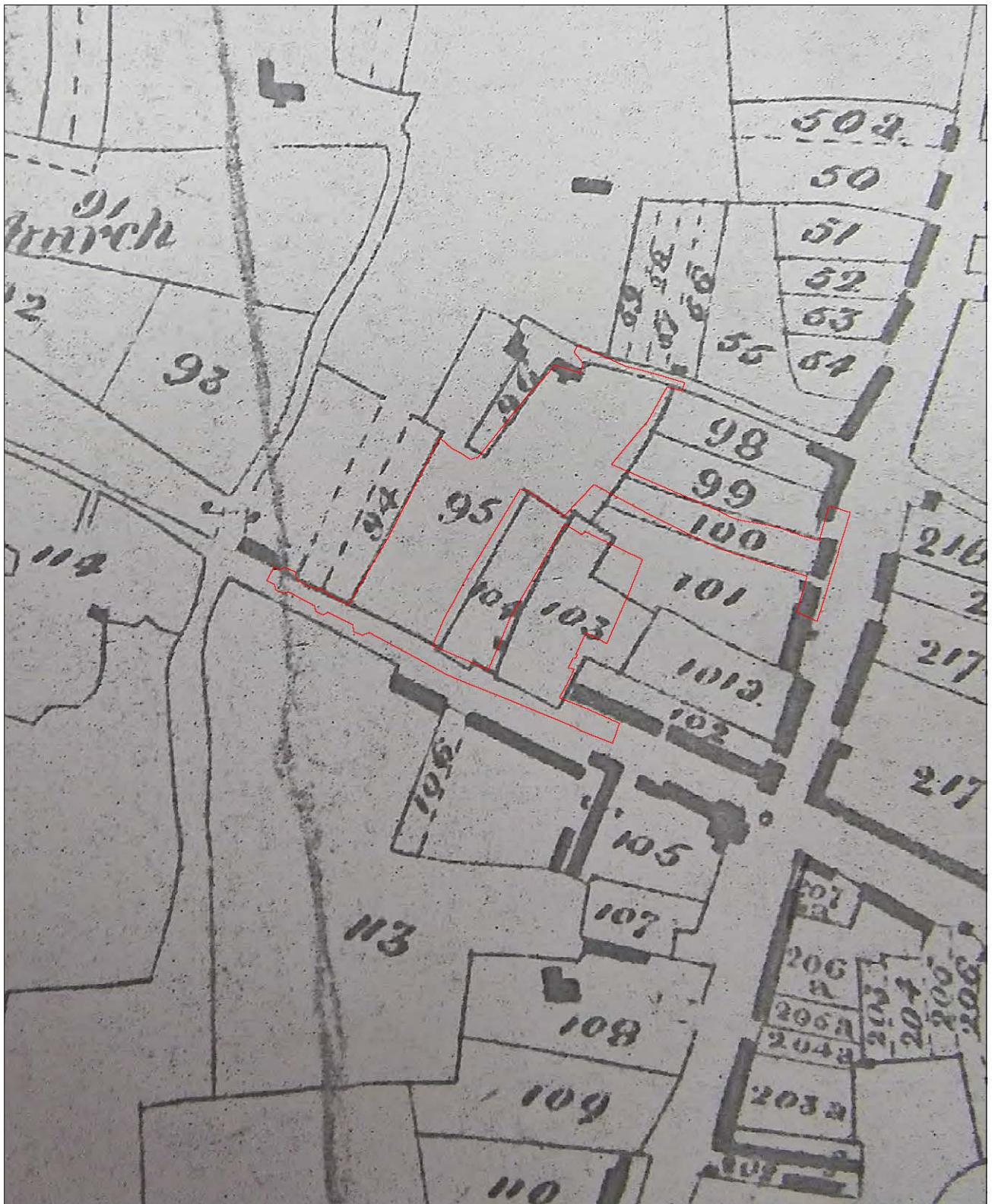


Figure 3: Extract from the 1837 Tithe Map of Newborough  
Re-scaled to approximately 1:2500



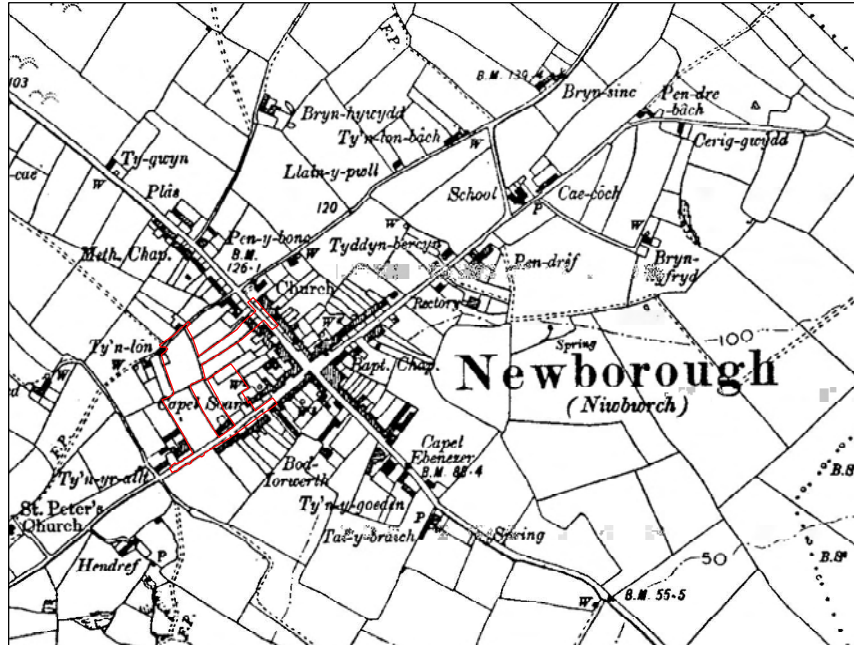


Figure 5: Extract from the Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1901  
Anglesey XXII SW  
Re-scaled to 1:10,000





Figure 6: Extract from the 1900 Ordnance Survey Map  
Anglesey XXII.10  
Scale 1:2500

Source Anglesey Archives

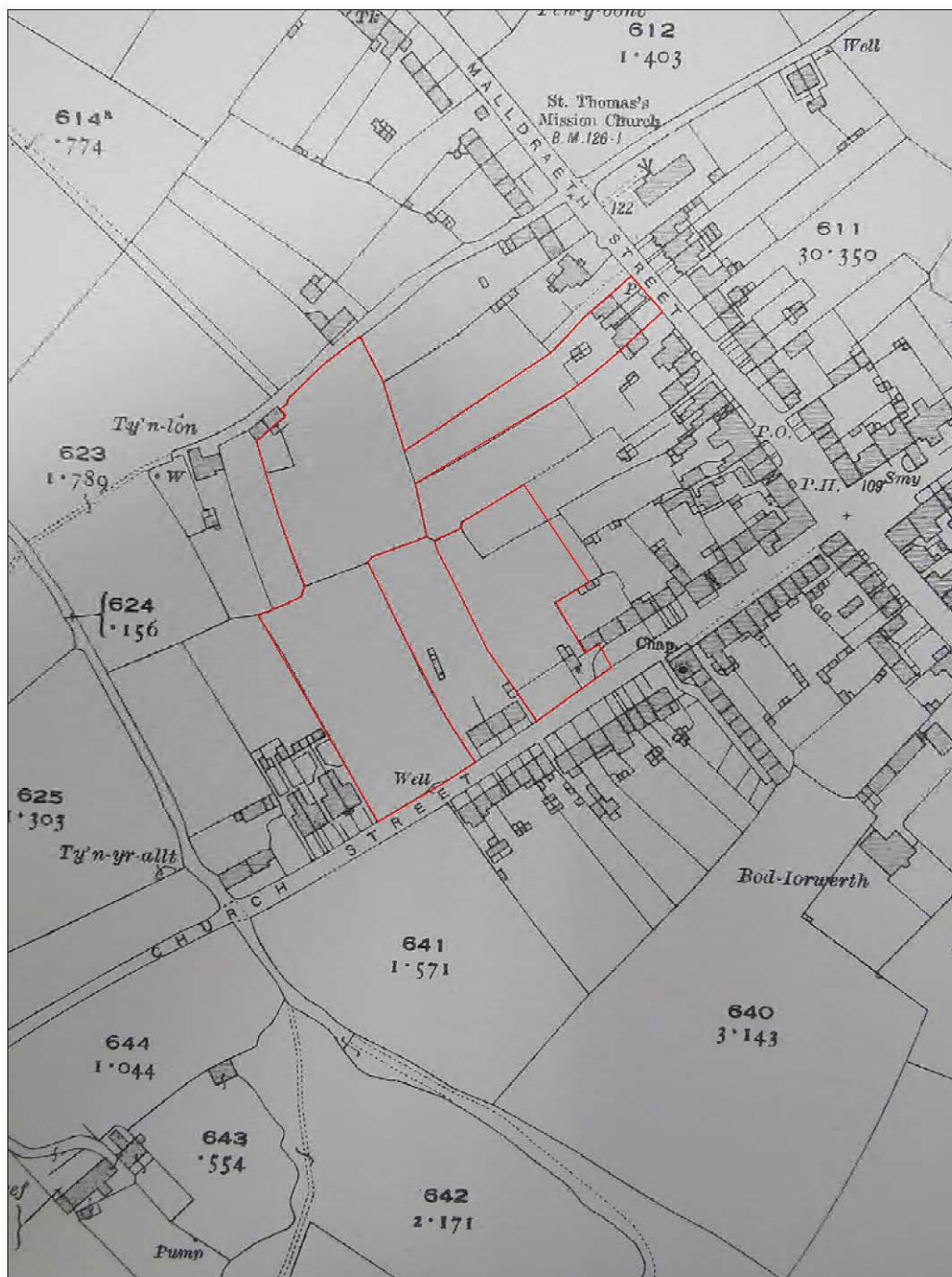


Figure 7: Extract from the 1920 Ordnance Survey Map  
Anglesey XXII.10  
Scale 1:2500

Source Anglesey Archives



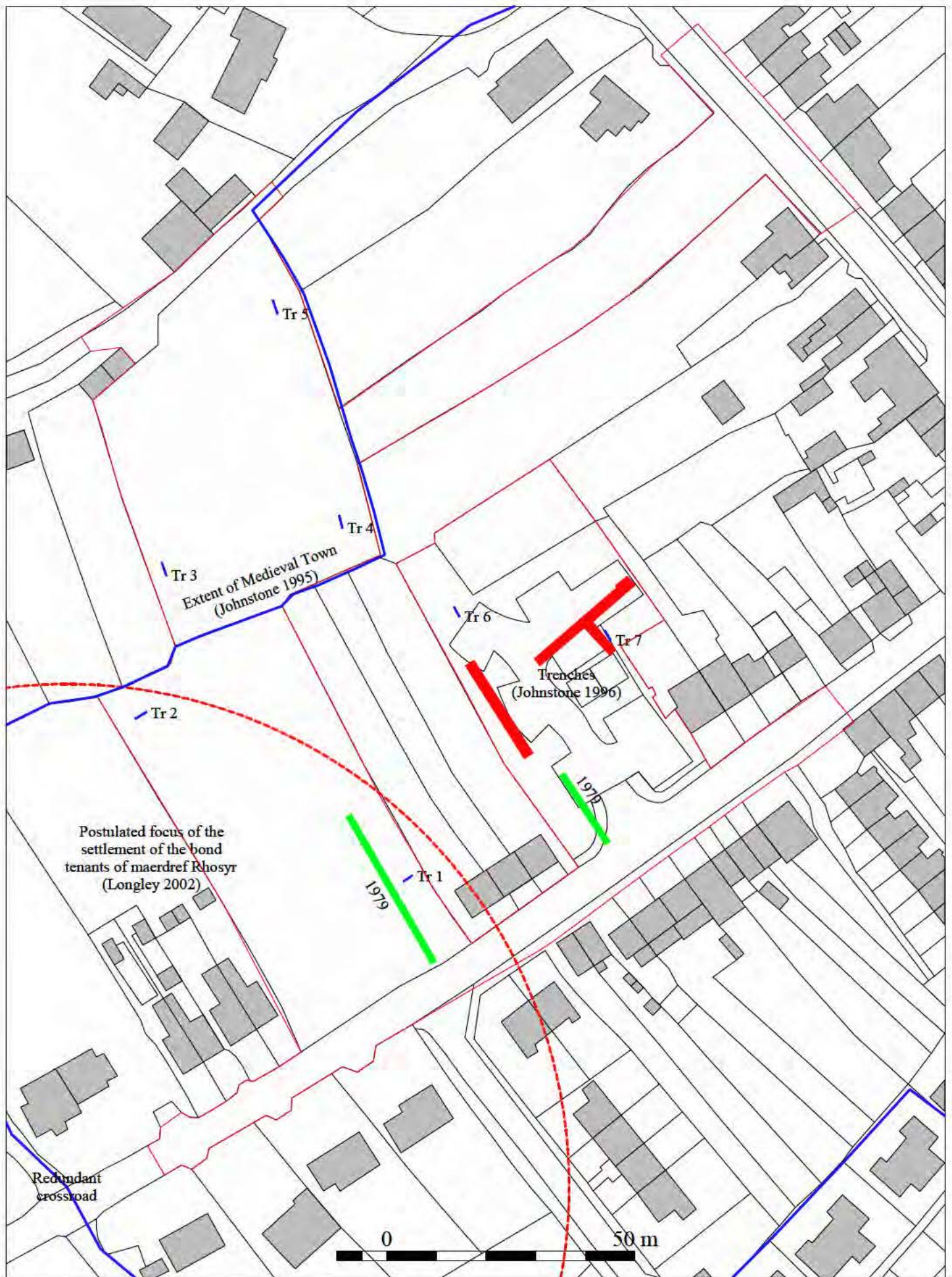


Figure 8: Summary of the Previous Archaeological Work  
in the Immediate Area of the Development  
Scale 1:1000



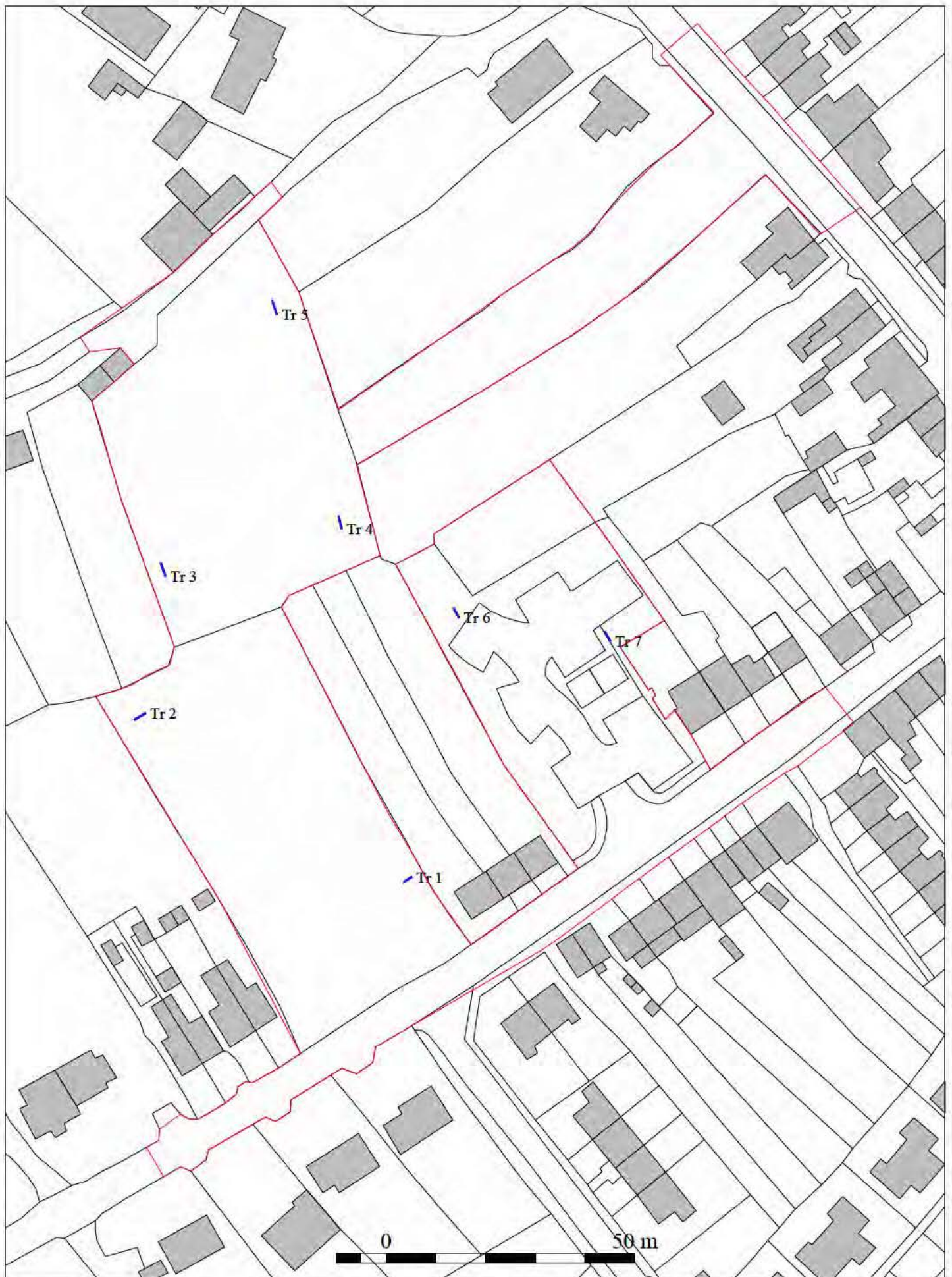


Figure 9: Location of the Trenches  
Scale 1:1000

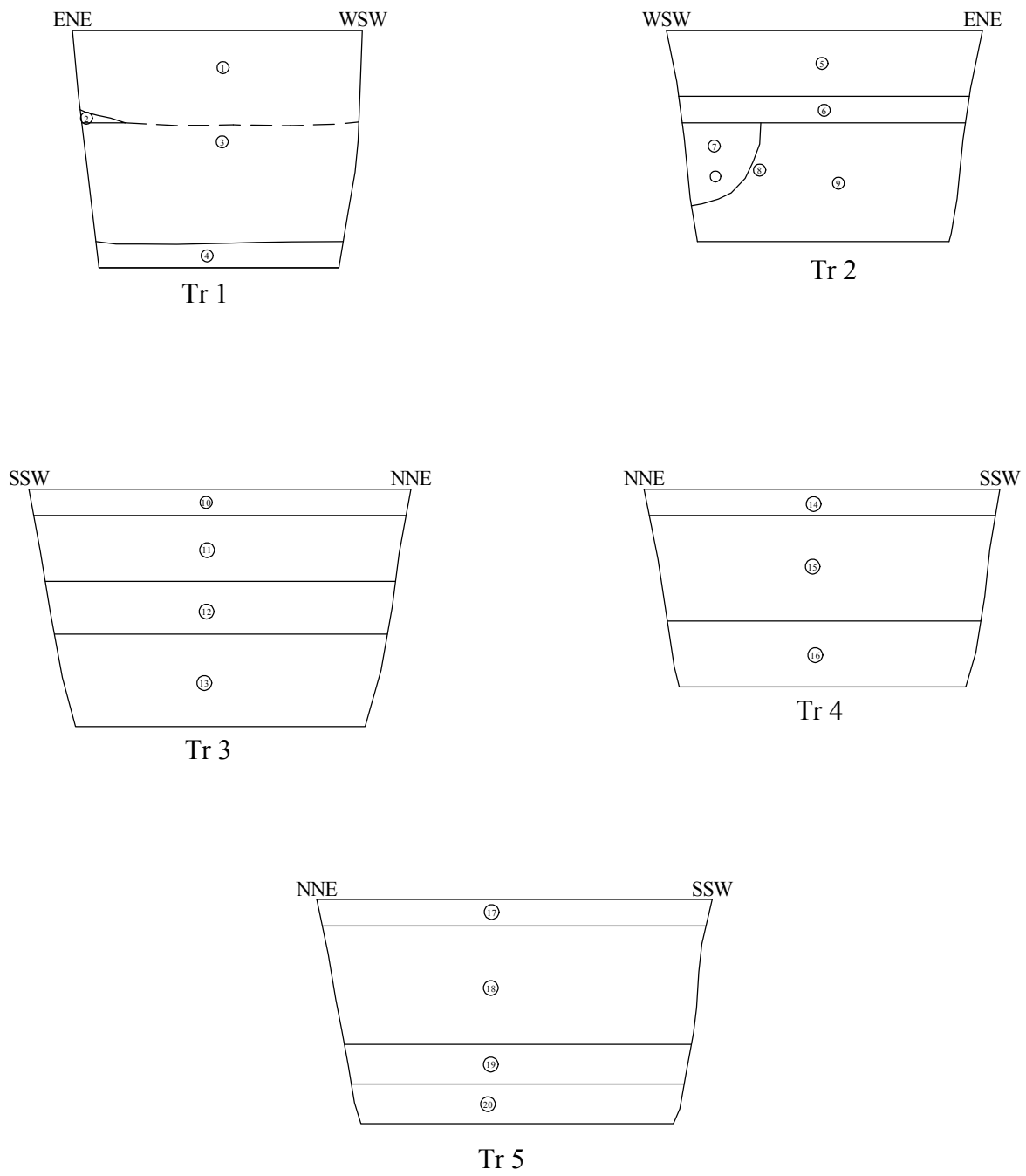


Figure 10: Sketch Sections of the Trenches in the Fields  
Scale 1:50 (Approx)

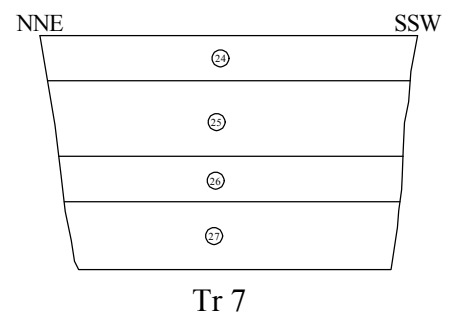
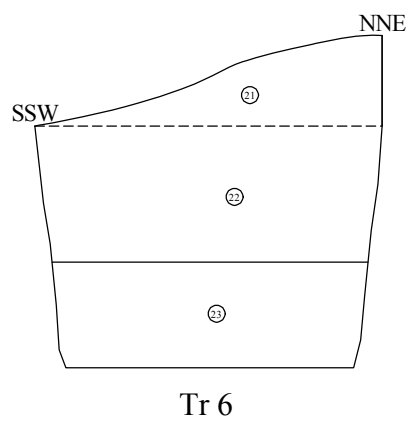


Figure 11: Sketch Sections of the Trenches in the Car Park  
Scale 1:50 (Approx.)