

April 2001

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**HENLLYS HALL**  
**BEAUMARIS**  
**ANGLESEY**

**Assessment Report**

Henllys Hall, Beaumaris  
Anglesey

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Archaeological Assessment Report

Report no 2000-2001/065/AUA8109

Checked by Project Manager. ..... Date
Passed for submission to client. ..... Date

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April 2001

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## SUMMARY

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In February and March 2001, an archaeological desktop assessment and field survey of a 3ha site at Henllys Hall Hotel, north of Beaumaris, Anglesey (NGR SH 6005 7760), was conducted by Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU), at the request of John Moore and Partners. The assessment was designed to meet the terms of a brief set by the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service, and comprised a survey of available documentary and cartographic sources, a review of the results of recent archaeological investigations in the vicinity, and a walkover survey. It examined the evidence for the archaeology and history of a study area within c1km of the subject site, before examining the specific archaeological potential of the subject site itself.

The site lies c100m south-west of remains pertaining to the medieval settlement of Llan-faes. The settlement features were located on the ground by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT), using geophysical survey and trial excavation techniques, following the discovery of large numbers of twelfth and thirteenth century silver coins by a metal detectorist. Documentary evidence indicates that Llan-faes was the site of a medieval *maerdref*, which developed into the most significant thirteenth century trading centre in Gwynedd. Documentary sources also suggest that the *maerdref* must have been accompanied by a *llys* or royal court. Although no archaeological remains of the *llys* have yet been found, place name and topographical evidence suggests that it was located on the site of Henllys Hall itself; 'Henllys' means former court. Later, Henllys was occupied by the seat of the Hampton family, and a house and associated buildings, first mapped in 1830, may have had medieval origins. Henllys Hall was rebuilt in 1852 and at the same time the site was relandscaped to provide for a new garden layout. A doorway survives from the earlier hall, incorporated into the basement of the present building and the field survey identified features that probably predate the nineteenth century landscaping.

The proposed development involves the construction of several blocks of holiday apartments and a leisure centre on the Henllys site. This evidence suggests that the development may impact firstly upon remains of the *llys* and early gentry house on the elevated western part of the site, and secondly upon medieval features relating to the settlement of Llan-faes lower down to the east. In consequence, a programme of further fieldwork is recommended, in order to identify the location, condition, and significance of any remains that may be threatened. This would initially entail a programme of geophysical survey and evaluation trenching.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) would like to thank John Moore and Partners, and their client HPB Ltd, for commissioning this assessment; particular thanks are due to Mr IB Nicholson of John Moore and Partners, who provided information about the proposed development. In addition, the author is very grateful to Neil Johnstone of Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service, and Kate Geary of Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, for their assistance and advice during visits to the Gwynedd Sites and Monuments Record, and to the Henllys Hall site. Assistance was also given by members of staff at the Department of Archives and Manuscripts, University of Wales at Bangor, at the Anglesey Record Office, and at the Bangor office of the Countryside Council for Wales. LUAU would also like to thank the staff of the Henllys Hall Hotel for their help during the field survey.

The study was undertaken, and the report compiled by Richard Heawood, and the drawings prepared by Dan Ellsworth. Jamie Quartermaine acted as project manager, and, together with Rachel Newman, edited the report.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 A planning application has been submitted by John Moore and Partners for a holiday apartment and leisure centre development at Henllys Hall, near Beaumaris, Anglesey (NGR SH 6005 7760). As a result of the known historical interest of the site, the planning authority requested further information about the site's archaeological potential, in the form of an archaeological assessment to be carried out according to the terms of a brief set by the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (*Appendix 1*). Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) was commissioned by the John Moore and Partners to conduct the work.
- 1.1.2 The purpose of the assessment was to provide an accurate archaeological appraisal of the proposed development area, within its broader context. The study was undertaken to collate all available information relating to the archaeology of the study area and to determine the significance of the archaeological resource.
- 1.1.3 This report sets out the results of the work as a gazetteer in conjunction with a methodology statement, a brief text description of desk-based and field results, an assessment of the archaeological potential within the study area, and an evaluation of the impact that the development proposals will have upon the archaeological resource, with recommendations for any further archaeological investigation.

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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 DESK-BASED SURVEY

- 2.1.1 *Gwynedd Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)*: existing archaeological information was obtained from the SMR for an area within 1km of the subject site. Sites of all periods and types were noted. Published and unpublished archaeological reports held by the SMR were consulted, and its holding of oblique colour slide and black and white print aerial photographs was examined.
- 2.1.2 *Anglesey County Record Office, Llangefni (ACRO)*: nineteenth- and twentieth-century Ordnance Survey maps and the Llan-faes tithe apportionment map were studied in the Record Office. The office's map catalogues were also studied in an attempt to locate other relevant cartographic sources.
- 2.1.3 *Department of Archives and Manuscripts, University of Wales at Bangor (UWB)*: the Henllys Manuscripts Schedule and Baron Hill Manuscripts Schedule were both consulted in order to identify potentially relevant primary sources; personal letters, account books, and estate surveys were examined. In particular, information was sought relating to the layout of buildings at Henllys prior to the construction of the present mid-nineteenth century hall. Local and national archaeological and historical journals were studied, and the holding of Ordnance Survey 6" maps was viewed.
- 2.1.4 *Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)*: vertical aerial photographs, printed at a scale of 1:10,000, were examined at the offices of the Countryside Council for Wales in Bangor.
- 2.1.5 *Archaeological Reports and Monographs*: published archaeological reports and articles on the history and archaeology of Anglesey and Gwynedd from the University of Wales at Bangor library and also the LUAU library were examined.

### 2.2 IDENTIFICATION SURVEY

- 2.2.1 The site was visited on 22nd February 2001 and a systematic identification survey was undertaken. The study area was walked on transects spaced at intervals of approximately 20m, and sites of potential archaeological interest were identified, allocated site numbers (Site Gazetteer (*Appendix 3*), described in text, and located by distance measurement with respect to a detailed 1:500 topographic survey provided by the client. The wealth of landscape features shown by the existing survey meant that use of Global Positioning System (GPS) survey techniques was unnecessary. A photographic record consisting of colour slide, black and white, and digital photographs was made of all the sites identified.
- 2.2.2 The basement of the Henllys Hall Hotel was also inspected, and a pair of stone door jambs was recorded; the jambs were associated with short lengths of stone wall, and neither the jambs nor these wall fragments appear to relate to the present build of the hall.

### 2.3 GAZETTEER OF SITES



2.3.1 All the information concerning archaeological sites within 1km of the subject site has been collated into a gazetteer (*Appendix 3*), which provides details of their location, period, and character. Information has been drawn both from the field survey of the subject site, and from a search of existing SMR data in the vicinity. Locations are given as eight-figure National Grid References where possible, and the position of each site is indicated on Figure 2.

## **2.4 ARCHIVE**

2.4.1 A full archive has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with current guidelines (*Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990)). LUAU practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic, and plastic media) with the appropriate County Record Office.

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## 3. BACKGROUND

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### 3.1 TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1.1 Henllys Hall lies 1.5km north of Beaumaris, at the north-east end of a prominent ridge, commanding views over St Catherine's Church to the north-east, and the Menai Straights to the south; the hall is presently a hotel. The study area comprises the hall and gardens, which are in an elevated position at the end of the ridge, but also includes a much lower area of ground to the east, lying below the hall and at the bottom of a steep slope; the total area is 3ha. This bottom area is presently occupied by grassland, with clusters of trees, and by a flat rectangular car park, surfaced with stone chippings. The southern end of this eastern part of the site is occupied by a dense conifer plantation. The hall itself is a mid-nineteenth century structure, which stands on a flat platform, seemingly created both by cutting into the hillside to the south-west, and by building up the edge of the slope to the north-east. The subject site is bounded by woodland to the south; by the recently created Princes' Golf Course to the north and east; and by a former walled garden to the west.
- 3.1.2 The village of Llan-faes lies c0.5km to the north-east and east and consists of a small cluster of cottages around St Catherine's church, with a number of more recent housing developments lying to the south-east.
- 3.1.3 **Geology:** the general subsoils around the study area are boulder clay, and these overlie Ordovician, *Didymograptus murchisoni* rocks of the Llanvirn series (Geological Survey of Great Britain 1978).

### 3.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 This section reviews existing archaeological knowledge of the area within c1km of the subject site; archaeological sites lying further afield are also discussed where relevant. Site numbers refer to the site gazetteer (*Appendix 3*), which provides more information about specific sites.
- 3.2.2 **Prehistoric:** although Anglesey has been populated since at least 6,000BC (Lynch 1991, 38), the recorded evidence for prehistoric activity within the study area is confined to two stray finds. A Bronze Age hooped palstave was found by metal detecting in 1992, some 0.9km north-east of the subject site (Site 23), and an Iron Age 'Gaulish Celtic' coin was among the predominantly medieval coins recovered by metal detecting around St Catherine's Church (Site 5); its precise location is not cited (Besly 1995, 47).
- 3.2.3 **Roman and Early Medieval:** evidence for the Roman and early medieval periods is sparse. A Romano-British coin has been found 0.9km north-east of the subject site (Site 21), and single Roman and Anglo-Saxon coins were among the coinage recovered from the St Catherine's church area (Site 5; Besly 1995, 47).
- 3.2.4 **Medieval:** documentary sources and place name evidence suggest that Llan-faes was the site of a medieval *llys*, or royal court, and its associated *maerdref* (lordship centre) (*Section 3.2.5-3.2.7*). To understand these terms, a brief review of the administrative framework of pre-Conquest Gwynedd is necessary.

- 3.2.5 A variety of documents, including the Welsh lawbooks, indicate that, in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, the kingdom of Gwynedd was divided into administrative units known as *Cymydau* (commotes); there are believed to have been six such units on Anglesey (Longley 1998, 3; Johnstone 2000, 167). Each commote was subdivided into smaller units, known as *trefi*; each *tref* or township probably consisted of an individual nucleated settlement, perhaps with dispersed hamlets in association. The lawbooks indicate a precise 50 *trefi* per commote but, in practice, the commotes of Anglesey are considered to have comprised between 18 and 46 *trefi* (Longley 1998, 4). In any commote, according to the lawbooks, two *trefi* would have been reserved for the king, one a summer pasture, the other the *maerdref* or lordship centre, where the royal demesne land was to be found, together with the hamlet(s) of the bond tenants who worked the demesne. In close association with the *maerdref* was the *llys*, the royal palace or court which acted as the focal point for the collection of renders and dues owed from throughout the commote (*op cit*, 5). In the earlier part of the medieval period, it was common for European rulers to exercise their authority by constantly progressing round their kingdoms, and when the prince of Gwynedd and his entourage entered each commote, it was to the *llys* that they would come for accommodation and provisions.
- 3.2.6 **Evidence for Maerdref:** documentary evidence has been used to demonstrate that the origin and development of a settlement at Llan-faes was due to the presence there of a royal estate, almost certainly organised in the form of a *maerdref* with associated *llys* (Longley 1998, 39; Carr 1982, 233). The key evidence for this is the survival of an obligation for tenants at Llan-faes to perform agricultural works, this being one of the distinctive requirements of the bond tenants who worked a *maerdref*.
- 3.2.7 **Evidence for Llys:** the place name ‘Henllys’, meaning ‘former *llys*’, represents further evidence that a medieval estate centre comprising *maerdref* and *llys* formerly existed at Llan-faes. This is corroborated by a reference to ‘the court of Llan-faes’ in a document of 1305 (Longley 1998, 40). The first surviving reference to the name ‘Henllys’ is in a document of 1584, when a member of the Hampton family was described as ‘William Hampton of Henllys’ (Longley 1998, 44); the name is thus of some antiquity.
- 3.2.8 **Evidence for Urban Development:** further, and more extensive documentary evidence indicates that during the thirteenth century, the putative *maerdref* at Llan-faes was transformed into an important trading settlement with urban attributes, which is demonstrated in part by references to burgage rents, and to a new kind of tenancy, *gwyr y farchnad*, meaning market men (Longley 1998, 5). Documents also refer to the tolls or duties levied on shoemakers, butchers, clothiers, bakers, and on brewing and the carriage of goods from the port; it has been estimated that the revenues from trade passing through the port comprised 70% of the total for the whole of Gwynedd (Carr 1982, 232). Llan-faes was to decline sharply in the final decade of the thirteenth century (*Section 3.2.9*), and the compensation given to former Llan-faes tenants when they were moved to Newborough, an English new town in the former *maerdref* of Rhosyr (Longley 1998, 44), suggests that Llan-faes had included at least 120 tenements, extending over 90 acres (Longley 1998, 44). A ferry provided regular communication with the mainland, and a Franciscan friary was founded in 1237 by Llywelyn ap Iorwerth; friars were partially dependent on alms, especially in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, and Llywelyn’s choice of

this site for the foundation is a further indication that it was a significant urban place (Longley 1998, 40). However, the original function of Llan-faes as an agricultural estate centre seems also to have been retained. In 1294, the demesne lands were said to extend over 13 carrucates (which may equate to 780 acres at 60 acres to the carrucate; *ibid*).

- 3.2.9 It is clear that Llan-faes flowered in the thirteenth century, but then quickly declined. Gwynedd was conquered by Edward I in 1283, and Beaumaris Castle was begun in 1295 in the immediate aftermath of the Madog revolt of 1294, and the town of Beaumaris was promoted as a major trading centre in place of Llan-faes; most of the Llan-faes burgesses were resettled at Newborough (Longley 1998, 44). By 1301, the Sheriff of Anglesey was making reference to decayed rents formerly due from Llan-faes, including several burgages, and a waste plot in the market place (Longley 1998, 40; Carr 1982, 236).
- 3.2.10 **Medieval Finds:** 592 coins from Llan-faes have recently been studied, many of them having been found by metal detecting in the early 1990s (Besly 1995; Site 5). A further 112 coins have been reported independently, although it is possible that some individual coins have been counted in both groups. The coins now form ‘a single-site series unmatched in size for the period anywhere in Britain’ (Besly 1995, 46). Over half the finds were Short Cross coins, spanning the years 1180-1247, and interpreted as ‘a sample lost from currency over several decades’ (*op cit*, 50); at the latest, it is considered that coin use at the site had been established by 1190-1210. Fifteen of the 21 mints in England and Wales at this time were represented among the Llan-faes Short Cross coins. Very few coins predate 1180, and all were worn. In addition to the Short Cross coins, reasonable numbers of Long Cross and Sterling down to class 4 were represented. Coins post-dating 1300 occurred in numbers suggesting deposition through agricultural processes. Although a few coins were found to the north-east of St Catherine’s Church, the great majority were derived from a single large field some 175m east of the present subject site, an area of some 259m x 150m to the south of the road linking St Catherine’s church and the friary site. The number of coins found here suggests an area of intense commercial activity, such as a market, but also reflects that there has been little subsequent development on the site (*op cit*, 49).
- 3.2.11 Although many more coins were found to the south of St Catherine’s Church than to the east, a variety of other finds have been made in the latter location. These have included sherds of medieval pottery, some from field walking (Sites 10 and 11); a ring, papal bulla, and silver annular brooch found by metal detecting (Site 9); a medieval ring brooch (Site 11); and a medieval purse lock (Site 12). Finds lying within 350m of the church, in a north-easterly direction, have included an undated bronze piece (Site 16) and a lead ampulle of probable medieval date (Site 22); eight medieval coins also appear to have been found here since the Llan-faes coins were studied by Besly (Site 14).
- 3.2.12 A linear concentration of finds of medieval pottery also exists to the south-west of the densest concentration of coins south of St Catherine’s church (Johnstone 2000, fig 11). However, the pottery distribution is in part a reflection of the extent of archaeological fieldwork in the area, as it follows the easement of an oil pipeline which was subject to archaeological recording in the 1970s (White 1977; Site 1). The pipeline passed within 50m of the north-east corner of the subject site, and some 112 sherds of thirteenth to early fourteenth century pottery were recovered from this part of the easement, concentrated between the north-east corner of the

subject site and a road 400m away which runs south-west from the road linking Llan-faes to the sea shore.

- 3.2.13 **Magnetometry and Trial Excavation:** between 1992 and 1997, magnetometer surveys were undertaken on three large areas totalling over 3ha, lying north-east and east of Henllys Hall (Longley 1998, fig 10; Johnstone 2000, fig 11). The western area lay immediately north of the north-eastern part of the proposed development (Site 3). The main feature identified in the western and central areas was a succession of tracks running from west to east, interpreted as the predecessors of the extant turf-covered track linking Henllys Hall and the cluster of buildings around St Catherine's Church; it has been suggested that the tracks may formerly have linked the *llys* and *maerdref* (Longley 1998, 44). Other linear features in the western area appeared to represent boundaries, but there was no clear evidence of house plots. A slightly curvilinear anomaly running north / south from the north-east corner of the present subject site probably represents a former field boundary mapped on the 1830 estate survey, but which was absent by 1889 (UWB Henllys ms 1191; Ordnance Survey 1889a). The same feature probably accounts for a cropmark visible on aerial photographs (CCW vertical aerial photograph line 5, 9293 68; SMR BW G100/91/05/31).
- 3.2.14 The central survey area lay c100m north-east of the subject site (Site 4), and showed a more complex pattern of features, including a probable field boundary respecting the track referred to above, and other probable boundaries on a different alignment which may be earlier. In addition, rectilinear features suggestive of house plots were present, together with stronger anomalies interpreted as hearths or pits. To the east, the third area lay some 200m south-east of St Catherine's church, adjacent to the road leading to the friary and c300m from the subject site (Site 6). Here, the anomalies all appeared to represent either field boundaries, ferrous objects, or spreads of industrial debris.
- 3.2.15 In 1992, two small assessment trenches were opened within the central magnetometer survey area, some 150m north-east of the subject site (Site 4; Johnstone 2000). Trench D spanned two of the linear anomalies which were thought to relate to plots or enclosures; two linear features were revealed and excavated, each measuring c0.8m wide x 0.3m deep. Trench E was targeted specifically at an anomaly considered to represent a rubbish pit. A pit was indeed revealed, measuring 1.1m wide x 0.6m deep, and four medieval pot sherds were recovered from the fill (Johnstone 2000, 204). Three further trenches were opened to the east in 1994, in the field which has produced the greatest concentration of medieval coins (Site 5). Trench A revealed a probable rubbish pit containing six sherds of medieval pottery, a hollow containing medieval pottery together with a modern sherd, and a short length of probable kerbing; Trench B a bank with ditches to either side, three linear features c0.75m wide x 0.35m deep, and two postholes and a possible beam slot; and Trench C four probable modern field drains and a possible ditch. In total, some 450 sherds of pottery were recovered from the five small trenches, the majority of which were of medieval date, and many were from vessels derived from Cheshire. Jugs predominated, but fragments of cooking vessels were also present, and most of the vessels could be dated to the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. The volume of pottery suggested that they were lost as a result of domestic, rather than agricultural, activity (*op cit*, 206-207).
- 3.2.16 Further excavation was conducted in 1996 as part of an evaluation of the proposed Princes' Golf Course site; this involved the hand cleaning and recording of 60% of

the areas of the seventh and ninth greens (GAT nd; Site 3). The interim statement following the field programme suggested that the ninth green was located north-east of Henllys Hall, immediately beyond the northern boundary of the present subject site; the seventh green was not located. No archaeological features were found at the seventh green, whilst nine shallow subcircular depressions recorded at the ninth green, although resembling truncated postholes, were regarded as unlikely to be of archaeological significance.

- 3.2.17 Another evaluation was conducted when the golf course was extended into land to the north of the Llan-faes to Sling road (GAT 1997; Site 7), some 250m north-north-east of the present subject site. Two further areas, totalling almost 1ha in area, were selected for magnetometer survey, and several linear features on a variety of alignments were revealed, one of which was interpreted as a possible trackway; it was considered that weaker anomalies might represent buildings. Following on from the magnetometer survey localised evaluation was undertaken. At the twelfth green, four probable post-holes were revealed, all probably of post-medieval or modern origin, as well as two ditches, one which was apparently recut on almost exactly the same line as the other, and both of these may pre-date 1750. At the access point from the road, a roadside drain and clay bank were found and medieval pottery was found overlying the drain. A second ditch and bank were found a short distance to the north. Sherds of medieval pottery, six thirteenth century coins, and a lead spindle whorl were recovered from probable ploughsoil. Further finds were recovered from ploughsoil in the vicinity of the golf course extension with the aid of a metal detector; these included seven whole coins and six half coins of twelfth to thirteenth century date, five lead spindle whorls, two lead weights, and two bronze rings. The excavator concluded that the Llan-faes to Sling road might here be of medieval origin, and that the finds suggested medieval domestic activity, though perhaps not of the same intensity as that suggested by earlier investigations to the south of the Llan-faes to Sling road (*op cit*, 5).
- 3.2.18 ***The Probable Location of the Thirteenth Century Settlement:*** evidence for the position of the *llys* is discussed below (*Section 4.1.1*), but some comment on the location of other elements of medieval Llan-faes is appropriate here.
- 3.2.19 The demolition of the friary began shortly after its suppression in 1538, but its general location, on the sea shore, some 0.9km east-south-east of Henllys Hall, is well established (Site 25); partial remains of the church may have survived as a barn until after 1855, but had gone by 1866 (Longley 1998, 42). Human burials, masonry possibly relating to the precinct wall, and a roadway, probably leading to St Catherine's Church, were recorded by the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust during an assessment excavation in 1991 (*op cit*, 43). The likely extent of the friary precinct was reconstructed, and it was suggested that the road to St Catherine's Church was of medieval origin.
- 3.2.20 St Catherine's Church itself is a nineteenth century structure, but is considered to have been rebuilt on the site of the medieval church of Llan-faes (Longley 1998, 43). It is now surrounded only by a small cluster of potentially modern cottages (*Section 3.2.21*), but lies at the convergence of four roadways, including the track leading to Henllys Hall. It has been argued that at least three of these routes are of some antiquity (*Section 3.2.15*), adding weight to the suggestion that the site of the church was a focus for the medieval community. This hypothesis has been considerably strengthened by the finds gathered from the vicinity of the church during the 1990s, and by the magnetometer surveys and limited evaluation

excavations that have been conducted. It is now hard to dispute the conclusion that the area to the south of St Catherine's Church and east of Henllys Hall was the site of intense commercial activity in the thirteenth century, and that settlement also encircled the church to the east and north-east.

- 3.2.21 ***Post-medieval and Modern:*** the relatively small volume of both pottery sherds and coins from the Llan-faes area which post-date the fourteenth century suggests that the area of settlement rapidly decreased in size and density (Johnstone 2000, 206; Besly 1995, 46). The post-medieval finds from both metal detecting and archaeological excavations in the fields around Llan-faes are not large in number and are suggestive of agricultural processes such as manuring, rather than domestic activity. The settlement area seems to have shrunken, to consist only of a few properties around St Catherine's Church. The present church was rebuilt in the nineteenth century (Site 8), and some of the cottages now standing in the vicinity may be of similar date (Sites 17-19).

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## 4. ASSESSMENT RESULTS

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### 4.1 EVIDENCE FOR MEDIEVAL LANDUSE

- 4.1.1 ***Historical and Topographic Evidence for the Site of the Llys:*** although a body of evidence suggests that Llan-faes was a royal estate that would have been provided with a *llys* or royal court (*Section 3.2.7*), the exact location of the *llys* has yet to be established with certainty. The ‘Henllys’ name, meaning ‘former *llys*’, is known to have been used as long ago as 1584, when reference was made to ‘William Hampton of Henllys’ (*Section 3.2.7*), but it cannot be proved that in the medieval period, or indeed in 1584, the name referred to the site of the present Henllys Hall Hotel. The first clear link between the name and the proposed development site appears in the 1630s; the Hamptons’ holding was then described in detail for the first time, and the family seems to have been in possession of the present Henllys site (Longley 1998, 40).
- 4.1.2 Despite this uncertainty, there are grounds for believing that the ‘Henllys’ name has not been transferred from elsewhere, and that the *llys* may have stood close to the present Henllys Hall. David Longley has drawn attention to the depiction of a road running south-west from the site of Henllys Hall on the 1830 map of Henllys Demesne (UWB Henllys ms 1191; Longley 1998, 44). The road runs only as far as a field labelled *Cae Glas Uchaf*, but the schedule describes the field as ‘including the present old Road’. Longley uses eighteenth century estate maps to reveal another portion of the old road 200m to the south-west, and thereafter traces its line, almost continuously, as far as Rhosyr, the site of the *maerdref* and *llys* of the commote of Menai (*ibid*). To the north of Henllys Hall, the same road appears to curve round towards St Catherine’s Church, a probable focus for the medieval town of Llan-faes (*Section 3.2.18*). Longley argues that it is very likely that the commotal centres were linked by lines of communication, and the fact that a road of some antiquity, linking two important thirteenth century centres, passes Henllys Hall provides a further indication that the site may have been significant in the thirteenth century and earlier as, after the thirteenth century, Beaumaris eclipsed Llan-faes, removing the rationale for a direct route from Rhosyr to Llan-faes (*ibid*).
- 4.1.3 The present Henllys Hall occupies a commanding position at the north-east end of a prominent ridge, overlooking St Catherine’s Church and the Menai Straits. To the modern eye, this would be an advantageous position for the site of a *llys*. It is sometimes suggested that a *llys* was at the nucleus of its *maerdref* (Longley 1998, 5), perhaps suggesting that it lay in the middle of a settlement, and that strategic factors were not important in choosing a site. However, in mainland Gwynedd, only five *maerdrefi* were not associated with an earthwork castle, and it has been argued that, for the commotes of Degannwy and Dolbenmaen, the *llys* was sited in a prominently-positioned castle. Thus, even if the *maerdref* at Llan-faes was situated close to the proto-urban settlement in the vicinity of St Catherine’s Church (see above), there are no grounds for arguing that the *llys* could not have been prominently sited at modern Henllys. In this connection, one might cite a documentary reference of 1305 to 3.5 acres of meadow ‘under the court of Llan-faes’ (Longley 1998, 40), and there is a possibility that this implies that the *llys* was in an elevated position.
- 4.1.4 ***Evidence for any Medieval Structures at Henllys:*** there is no particular reason to believe that the name ‘Henllys’ was transferred to Henllys Hall from elsewhere,



and the balance of evidence suggests that the *llys* stood within the study area. What structures, then, might have stood there in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries? The thirteenth century Welsh law books suggest that the court complex might have consisted of as many as ten buildings, including a hall, chamber, kitchen, stable, and granary (Johnstone 2000, 167). The law books may give a somewhat idealised picture of the *llys* and, in some texts, only two of these buildings are allocated to the *maerdref* (Johnstone 1995, 10). However, this information can now be supplemented by excavated evidence from *llysoedd* at Cae Llys (Rhosyr), and Ty'n y Mwd (Aber). At Cae Llys, a timber hall measuring 15m x 9m was accompanied by a masonry chamber block, both enclosed by a perimeter wall, whilst at Aber, remains belonging to a large masonry hall of medieval date were found adjacent to the motte-and-bailey castle (Johnstone 2000, 169). It is thus possible that a variety of large structures, built of either timber or stone, may formerly have stood at Henllys Hall.

- 4.1.5 **Field Survey:** the only evidence recorded during the field survey of the proposed development site that potentially pertains to the medieval period lies within the present Henllys Hall. In the hall's cellar, a pair of stone door jambs were identified, each of which is keyed into a block of masonry, that appears to be the remains of a doorway predating the present building (Site 27); both blocks of masonry appeared to have been cut through when the present building was erected. The jambs are not closely datable, but are broadly consistent with a medieval or earlier post-medieval date range. The base of the jambs lies c1.5m below the ground floor of the present building and one possible interpretation is that they relate to an earlier structure which had a floor level 1.5m lower than the present hall's floor, but this should be treated with caution, as it is not known whether the relict doorway was originally at ground floor or basement level. The doorway stood some 8m west of the eastern corner of the hotel. Its orientation was such that it could, but need not have, been part of the earlier hall which stood on the site prior to the rebuilding of 1852-3 (Section 4.2.3).
- 4.1.6 Ten stone plaques mounted in the porch also appear to predate the present hall. The plaques are of a type typically displayed on the exterior of gentry houses, and one reads 'William Hampton Hampton 1460', perhaps suggesting that a previous hall stood on the site by the fifteenth century (De Lewandowicz 1998, 4).
- 4.1.7 The SMR suggests that Henllys Garden was designed for the first Sheriff of Anglesey in the fifteenth century (Site 2), but although a possible track and traces of an avenue were revealed by field survey (Sites 31 and 32), no evidence was found to suggest that these might relate to fifteenth century parkland (Section 4.2.1).
- 4.1.8 **Evidence from Nineteenth Century Maps:** the 1830 map of Henllys Demesne shows that, before the rebuilding of 1852-3, Henllys Hall consisted of two large ranges, which were detached, but roughly parallel (UWB Henllys ms 1191); both were aligned north-east / south-west, and were at an orientation of roughly 90° different to that of the present hall (Fig 8). It is possible that one of the ranges housed the main domestic accommodation of the family, and that the other consisted of ancillary buildings. The largest range stood to the south-east of the site, and was 'L'-shaped. At the north-east end, it appears to have projected slightly further north-east and south-east than the present hall, so that its facades here may have been aligned with the revetment walls which presently retain the platform on which the present building stands. The plan form of the structures shown in 1830

may have been the product of the gradual extension of an original house, the date of which is not known, and it is quite possible that this building was in origin a medieval structure. The plaques now mounted in the porch are likely to be derived from this building, and the doorway described above may have been part of it, or indeed part of an earlier structure.

- 4.1.9 Although parts of the putative medieval house lie beneath the footprint of the present hall, and appear to have been largely destroyed by nineteenth century cellars, large elements of both ranges shown in 1830 project to the south-west of the present building, and their remains potentially still survive.
- 4.1.10 ***Probable Medieval Landuse in the Eastern Part of the Site:*** the evidence reviewed above suggests that the *llys* and a later medieval house may both have occupied the elevated western portion of the subject site, where the present hall stands. However, a large part of the site lies further east, at the foot of a steep slope, and much of the proposed development is focused on this latter area. This part of the site extends to within 50m of a concentration of find spots of Short Cross coins probably associated with the thirteenth century proto-urban settlement concentrated around St Catherine's church (Site 5; Johnstone 2000, fig 11), and to within 80m of an area in which possible house platforms were revealed by magnetometer survey (Site 4). The western extent of the settlement around the church has not been adequately determined, and it is quite possible that domestic activity extended as far as the foot of the slope leading up to the present hall; it is understood that work on the construction of the golf course was already advanced when an evaluation of its impact was conducted, and that archaeological recording was confined to the seventh and ninth greens (GAT nd, 2). Medieval settlement features may thus be present in the eastern portion of the subject site.

## 4.2 EVIDENCE FOR POST-MEDIEVAL AND MODERN LANDUSE

- 4.2.1 ***Cartographic Sources:*** the earliest detailed plan of the subject site is an estate map of 1830 (UWB Henllys ms 1191). As indicated above (*Section 4.1.8*), it shows two large parallel buildings oriented north-east / south-west crossing the footprint of the present hall at 90°, and protruding beyond it a considerable distance to the south; three additional small ancillary structures are also visible. The structures are of unknown date; parts may have originated in the medieval period but, equally, all may be post-medieval, but what is certain is that these buildings represent the seat of the Hampton family in 1830. The accompanying schedule labels the whole elevated, western portion of the subject site as: '*house, buildings, flower garden*'. A further 'garden and melon ground' lay to the west, beyond the road to Llanfaes, and beyond the limit of the proposed development. Access to the house was apparently gained either via a track from the south, perhaps slightly to the east of the line of the present drive (*Section 4.2.3*), or via a track leading north-west to Llan-faes, part of the possible medieval roadway referred to above (*Section 3.2.14*). The southern track led to an open area, presumably metalled, in front of the south-east façade of the house, where the swimming pool now stands. The eastern and north-eastern portion of the development area, at the foot of the steep slope down from the house, was labelled 'orchard', whilst to the south, the ground to either side of the drive was a 'wood'. The map shows no trace of the possible medieval park/garden which the SMR locates to the south of the hall (Site 2), suggesting that parkland features depicted on later maps, some of which are visible today, were the product of the

late nineteenth century. The eastern boundary of the orchard lay slightly to the west of the present site boundary, but was much straighter having only a slight curve; it continued north beyond the north-east corner of the site. To the south, the eastern boundary of the wood also seems to have been further west than its modern counterpart.

- 4.2.2 The layout depicted in 1830 is also shown on the Tithe apportionment map of 1847 (ACRO); the scale is much smaller, and provides much less detail for the study area.
- 4.2.3 The next large-scale map is the Ordnance Survey first edition 1:2500 map of 1889, which gives the first depiction of the rebuilt house of 1852-3, that stands today. Although the building has a cross wing on the same orientation as the earlier structures, its main alignment is north-west / south-east. Its eastern wing lies on top of a wing of the old house (Fig 8), and its south-western wing also crosses the western range of the old complex of buildings, but it was built to a completely new design, and mostly avoids the older building footprints. Whilst the eastern wing makes use of the elevated platform, on which part of the old house stood, the wing was displaced slightly to the west, giving room for an open terrace between the north-east façade, and the revetment wall of the platform. The 1889 map also shows that the grounds had been subject to considerable landscaping works since 1830, reflecting emparkment associated with construction of the new house. The woodland to the south of the old house had been extended, and the orchard to the east and north-east appears to have been removed, and this area was also given over to woodland. Several new tracks through the woods are also depicted. A notable new feature at the foot of the slope to the east of the house was a long narrow rectangular area measuring 104m x 18m, and aligned north / south. This area has recently been metalled to form an overflow car park, but the boundaries appear little disturbed, suggesting that the ground here was first levelled prior to the 1889 mapping. The feature may have been simply a lawn or walkway, but its distinctive shape suggests that it was created for some unspecified sporting activity. Curves were also introduced into the eastern boundary of the grounds to give the new woodland a more pleasing shape. The southern driveway led to a metalled courtyard to the south of the new house, and there was a lawn in a similar position, probably, to that surviving today. South-west of the lawn, where the modern tennis court stands, a rectangular garden feature was created, consisting of a low walkway or pond which enclosed a central raised platform (Site 34).
- 4.2.4 Two further large-scale Ordnance Survey maps were published in the following 30 years. The 1:2500 map of 1900 shows no changes to the use of the subject site since 1889, with the exception of the re-routing of some of the paths through the woodland to the south-east of the house; the 1919 map shows no change since 1900.
- 4.2.5 Smaller scale Ordnance Survey six inch maps of the subject site have also been viewed. Those of 1887 and 1920 show the same information as the larger scale maps of 1889 and 1919 and that of 1949 shows no significant alteration to the site since 1920. The six inch maps are held by the Department of Archives and Manuscripts, University of Wales at Bangor, in bound format, and cannot be copied, and have therefore not been reproduced in this report.
- 4.2.6 **Documentary Sources:** no documentary sources describing the layout of Henllys Hall as it stood before the mid-nineteenth century have been found, but some

evidence was traced for the rebuilding of 1852/3. An account book for those years records payments made to stone masons and joiners, and other sums paid for stone. In January 1852, a payment was made 'to labourers for digging brick clay' (UWB Henllys ms 1103). Although the present building is mostly of stone, some of the basement vaults were turned in brick, hence the need for brick clay (De Lewandowicz 1998, 11). It has been suggested to Neil Johnstone that clay digging was carried out towards the north-east of the proposed development area (N Johnstone pers comm), but it has not been possible to corroborate the suggestion.

- 4.2.7 **Field Survey:** a number of features recorded during the field survey relate to the post-medieval and modern landscaping of the grounds of Henllys Hall. A linear levelled platform (Site 28) was traced roughly parallel with the present drive; comparison of the 1830 estate map with later maps suggests that this could be the southern approach to the hall that was in use in the early nineteenth century, lying a short distance to the east of the present drive (UWB Henllys ms 1191 (the overlaying of the 1830 map with later OS maps was difficult to achieve with precision)). A nearby drain may be a more recent feature associated with the planting of a conifer plantation which is still in evidence (Site 29). To the north-east, two possible avenues of trees were found (Sites 31 and 32) and again, although accurate comparison of the 1830 estate map with later mapping was problematic, it seems likely these avenues mark the eastern boundary of the orchard depicted in 1830 (UWB Henllys ms 1191). To the west of the northern avenue, a patch of uneven ground was recorded, where relatively recent dumping had occurred (Site 33), and this represents a possible location for the clay pits which may have been dug in the nineteenth century (*Section 4.2.6*). Further south, a hollow was recorded which may be no more than a deep tree throw hole (Site 30). Finally, elements of the garden feature shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1889 were found to survive, immediately to the east of the tennis court (Site 34).
- 4.2.8 The levelled platform and possible avenues have been described as post-medieval because of their correspondence to the 1830 estate map; however, they may have had earlier origins, although no evidence was found to link them specifically to the possible fifteenth century park (Site 2).

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## 5. CONCLUSION

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### 5.1 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

- 5.1.1 This assessment suggests that the twelfth to thirteenth century *llys* or royal court of Llan-faes is likely to have stood on the site now occupied by the buildings and gardens of the Henllys Hall Hotel; more specifically, the *llys* may have occupied the elevated western portion of the subject site. By analogy with other sites, the *llys* may have consisted of a cluster of timber and/or stone buildings, including both hall and chamber, together with ancillary structures; the complex may or may not have been enclosed. The Prince of Gwynedd and his entourage would have stayed at the *llys* during circuits around the principality; Edward I may also have stayed there when he visited Llan-faes in the aftermath of the English conquest.
- 5.1.2 The lower, eastern part of the subject site lies *c*100m from a complex pattern of settlement features revealed by geophysical survey and trial excavation, and which relate to the medieval proto-urban settlement at Llan-faes (Site 4). The western extent of this settlement has not been established, and medieval settlement features may extend into the subject site.
- 5.1.3 An estate map of 1830 shows the location of the house which stood on the site before the present hall was built, and may potentially have had medieval origins. A doorway which survives in the cellar of the present hall would appear to predate the present structure and almost certainly was a part of the earlier structure. Slight earthworks found in the southern and eastern parts of the subject site may relate to a drive and field boundary shown on the 1830 plan.
- 5.1.4 The earlier house depicted in 1830 was only partially covered by the present hall; large parts of the two main structures on the 1830 plan project south-west of the present building, beneath the area now occupied by the carpark and front lawn. While it is possible that extensive landscaping, and therefore truncation of earlier structures and deposits, occurred in the course of the construction of the present hall, there equally remains the possibility that there is good sub-surface survival of the earlier remains on the site.
- 5.1.5 The lower, eastern part of the site, into which the medieval settlement of Llan-faes may have extended, was partially occupied by an orchard, and then by woodland, in the nineteenth century. The effect of tree roots on any archaeological features present in this area has yet to be established.
- 5.1.6 The documentary potential for important medieval settlement, coupled with the potential for sub-surface survival, means that the subject site should be regarded as being of high archaeological potential. The *maerdref* of Llan-faes has been described as an invaluable archaeological resource (Longley 1998, 45).

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## 6. IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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### 6.1 THE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 6.1.1 A site plan provided by the client (dated 22/02/01) shows that it is proposed to build eight blocks of apartments on the lower, eastern part of the site, together with associated access roads and car parking spaces. The foundations of these apartments and access roads threaten to have a severe impact on any settlement features surviving here, as well as on the undated earthworks recorded during the field survey (Sites 28, 31, and 32).
- 6.1.2 A further block of apartments is planned for the higher, western part of the site, to occupy the north-west end of the lawn which lies south-west of the Hall. The foundations of this structure threaten to impact upon the footprint of the western range of buildings shown on the estate map of 1830, and possibly on structures relating to the earlier *llys*. Any improvement to the specification of the existing drive passing south-west of the hall, past the main entrance, might also threaten remains of the main range of the previous Henllys Hall building, and potentially elements of the *llys*.
- 6.1.3 It is planned to build a leisure centre to the south-east of the present hall, and an external pool to the north-east. These appear to be sited where the ground at present drops away sharply from the platform occupied by the hall. It is possible that evidence for the original construction and levelling of the platform might be revealed during the works.
- 6.1.4 A lower ground floor plan of the hall indicates that locker rooms, toilets, and stores are planned for the basement of the eastern wing of the present hall. The plans suggest that the old doorway (Site 27) will be retained, but that building work may have some impact upon it. The nature of the impact on the present house of the changing rooms and kitchens planned for the central and western wings at basement level is not at present clear. It is also planned to add some additional buildings to the north-western end of the present Henllys Hall. LUAU was not aware that these alterations to the present hall building were planned when the field survey was conducted.
- 6.1.5 The site plan also indicates that tennis courts and overflow parking spaces are to be provided to the south-west of Henllys Hall. These works appear to be outside the subject site as defined when the archaeological assessment was initiated.
- 6.1.6 The evidence available at the present time suggests that the proposed development would have a destructive impact upon any surviving archaeological remains within the development areas. However, whilst it has been possible to define broad areas where there is archaeological potential, specific information about the location, character, and depth of remains under threat cannot be provided without further fieldwork.

### 6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.2.1 **Detailed Survey:** it is recommended that a detailed survey should be conducted of the earthwork remains identified towards the south of the eastern part of the site (Site 28), in order that this feature might be better understood and related to historic maps. As this relates to relatively late landscaping it must be regarded as having a low priority in terms of the overall recording and evaluation programme.
- 6.2.2 The relict doorway surviving in the hotel cellar should be subject to building recording, which would involve a drawn elevation record coupled with a photographic record.
- 6.2.3 **Geophysical Survey:** it is recommended that a single day of geophysical survey should be carried out in the first instance, to assess the usefulness of the technique for this site. Investigation should be concentrated on the lawned area south-west of the present hall, especially in the footprint of the proposed apartment block. A sample area should also be investigated in the lower eastern part of the site, to see if useful results are obtainable despite the former presence of trees. Further geophysical work might be required in these two areas, depending on the results of the initial trials.
- 6.2.4 **Evaluation Trenching:** evaluation trenching should be conducted in the eastern part of the site, to assess whether archaeological remains are present, and whether such remains have been damaged by the orchard and parkland trees which stood here in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. An initial sample of 2% is suggested until the potential survival of archaeological features has been assessed. The presence of a dense conifer plantation at the southern end of the site should be noted
- 6.2.5 An evaluation trench should be excavated in the footprint of the apartment building planned for the lawned area south-west of the hotel. Further trenching should be established in the areas of proposed new build extending north-west out from the present Henllys Hall and also in the adjacent area of car parking to the north-east of the hall. Further evaluation trenching should be considered if the specification of the road running round the southern side of the hotel is to be improved. Consideration should also be given to undertaking either evaluation trenching or a watching brief in the area of the proposed new tennis courts and overflow to the west of the study area.
- 6.2.6 **Watching Brief:** a watching brief should be maintained whilst ground works are being conducted for the proposed leisure centre and external pool and machining should be under archaeological control in areas of sensitive remains. A watching brief should also be considered whilst other works are being conducted to the hotel basement in the event that there is further surviving fabric from the earlier building.
- 6.2.7 Subject to the results of the evaluation trenching and geophysical survey, a further programme of mitigation recording may be required.

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Henllys mss schedule

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Henllys mss 1191 A map of Henllys demesne in the parish of Llan-faes (1830)

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APPENDIX 1  
PROJECT BRIEF

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APPENDIX 2:  
PROJECT DESIGN

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**DECEMBER 2000**

**Lancaster  
University  
Archaeological  
Unit**

**HENLLYS HOTEL  
BEAUMARIS,**

**Anglesey**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

***Proposals***

*The following project design is offered in response to a request from John Moore and Partners for an archaeological assessment of Henllys Hall, Beaumaris, Anglesey.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) have been requested by John Moore and Partners to submit a project proposal for an archaeological assessment of Henllys Hall, Beaumaris, Anglesey SH 6005 7765 to inform a planning application for a proposed residential development. The requirement is for a basic level of survey to identify the extant and documented archaeological resource.

## 1.2 BACKGROUND

1.2.1 The present Henllys Hotel overlooks the historic village of Llan-faes, which was the largest town in Gwynedd in the thirteenth century, although it subsequently rapidly declined to the extent that it had ceased to be a town by 1352. The site of Henllys is not presently well understood. It was the former home of the Hampton's family and the place name indicates that it was a former court. What survives of the earlier structure is not known and there is a need to undertake archaeological work in advance of the present development to establish its impact upon any archaeological resource.

## 1.3 LANCASTER UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT (LUAU)

1.3.1 LUAU has considerable experience of the assessment of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects during the past 18 years. Assessments and evaluations have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables. LUAU has considerable experience of the undertaking archaeology assessments in the general locality, and has recently completed a major documentary and landscape survey of Telford's Holyhead road through North Wales and Anglesey for Cadw.

1.3 LUAU has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. LUAU is a registered organisation (No 27) with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA).

## 2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 The following programme has been designed in accordance with a brief by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service to provide an accurate archaeological assessment of the designated area. The principal purpose of the assessment is to collate existing information about the archaeology of the site, to determine the significance of the identified archaeological resource, and to provide recommendations for any further archaeological investigation. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

2.2 **Desk Top Survey:** to accrue an organised body of data to inform the identification survey and the assessment report.

2.3 **Identification Survey:** to record the character of the surface archaeology within the study area and provide an assessment of the archaeological significance of any remains.

2.4 **Assessment Report:** a written assessment report will be generated for the site, which will assess the significance of the data generated by this programme within a local and regional context. This will advise on the requirements for further recording measures as necessary.

## 3. METHODS STATEMENT

3.1 The following work programme is submitted in line with the stages and objectives of the archaeological work summarised above.

### 3.2 DESK TOP SURVEY

3.2.1 The following will be undertaken as appropriate, depending on the availability of source material. The level of such work will be dictated by the time scale of the project.

3.2.2 **Documentary and cartographic material:** this work will rapidly address the full range of potential sources of information. It will include an appraisal of the Gwynedd Sites and Monuments Records, as well as appropriate sections of County histories, early maps, and such primary documentation (tithe and estate plans etc.) as may be reasonably available. Particular attention will be paid to field

and place names recorded on early cartographic sources as these often provide important evidence of archaeological activity. Any photographic material lodged in either the County Sites and Monuments Records or the County Record Offices will also be studied. Published documentary sources will also be examined and assessed. This work will involve a visit to the University College Library, Bangor. The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments Wales (Aberystwyth) will be consulted. It is understood that there are few if any primary sources that have not previously been consulted and therefore considerable emphasis will be applied to secondary sources. Local and national journals and also contemporary published accounts will be consulted.

3.2.3 **Aerial photography:** a survey of the extant air photographic cover will be undertaken. This may indicate the range and survival of archaeological and structural features in the designated area, and if appropriate coverage is available, allow an assessment of the rate and progress of erosion of archaeological features. It will also facilitate the rapid recognition and plotting of archaeological features including those no longer visible at ground level. Identified features will be plotted at an appropriate and consistent scale and presented within the report. Aerial photographic work will entail liaison with the RCAHMW, Gwynedd SMR and the Countryside Commission in Bangor (01248) 370444. The latter has a comprehensive collection of Vertical Air Photographs for the region

3.2.4 **Physical environment:** a rapid desk-based compilation of geological (both solid and drift), and topographical information will be undertaken. This will not only set the archaeological features in context but also serves to provide predictive data, that will increase the efficiency of the field inspection.

### 3.3 IDENTIFICATION SURVEY

3.3.1 **Access:** liaison for basic site access will be undertaken through John Moore and Partners.

3.3.2 It is proposed to undertake an LUAU 'level 1' survey (*Appendix 1*) of the study area. This is a rapid survey undertaken alongside a desk top study as part of a site assessment. It is an initial site inspection intended to identify the extant archaeological resource. It represents the minimum standard of record and is appropriate to exploratory survey aimed at the discovery of previously unrecorded sites. Its aim is to record the existence, location and extent of any such site. The emphasis for the recording is on the written description which will record type and period and would not normally exceed c50 words. The extent of a site is defined for sites or features greater than 50m in size and smaller sites are shown with a cross.

3.3.3 The reconnaissance will be undertaken in a systematic fashion, walking on approximately 20m wide transects, within the extent of the defined study area. It is proposed to use a combination of Global Positioning System (GPS) techniques and manual survey techniques to locate and record the features. GPS instrumentation uses electronic distance measurement along radio frequencies to satellites to enable a positional fix in latitude and longitude which can be converted mathematically to Ordnance Survey National Grid. The use of GPS techniques has proved to be an essential and extremely cost effective means of locating monuments, and can achieve accuracies of better than +/- 0.5m.

3.3.4 A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously. An early surface inspection such as this is highly recommended, as such work can frequently double the amount of archaeological information for an area. This fieldwork will result in the production of plans at a scale of 1: 2500 or any other appropriate scale required, recording the location of each of the sites listed in the gazetteer. All archaeological information collected in the course of field inspection will be recorded in standardised form, and will include accurate national grid references. This will form the basis of a gazetteer, to be submitted as part of the report.

3.3.5 LUAU provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1997) and risk assessments are now being implemented for all projects.

### 3.4 ASSESSMENT REPORT

3.4.1 **Archive:** the results of Stages 3.2-3.3 will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition, 1991*). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. It will include summary processing and analysis of any features and finds recovered during fieldwork. The deposition of a properly ordered

and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct.

- 3.4.2 This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Central Archaeology Service format, both as a printed document and on computer disks as ASCII files (as appropriate), and a synthesis (in the form of the index to the archive and the report) will be deposited with the Gwynedd Sites and Monuments Record, as appropriate. A copy of the archive will also be available for deposition in the RCAHMW in Aberystwyth. LUAU practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic, and plastic media) with the appropriate County Record Office, and a full copy of the record archive, should any material be recovered, with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples, at this stage from surface collections) with an appropriate museum.
- 3.4.3 **Collation of data:** the data generated by 3.2 and 3.3 (above) will be collated and analysed in order to provide an assessment of the nature and significance of the known surface and subsurface remains within the designated area. It will also serve as a guide to the archaeological potential of the area to be investigated, and the basis for the formulation of any detailed field programme and associated sampling strategy, should these be required in the future.
- 3.4.4 **Assessment Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of the report will be submitted to the Client, and a further copy submitted to the Gwynedd Sites and Monuments Record. The report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above and will include a full index of archaeological features identified in the course of the project, together with appropriate illustrations, including maps and gazetteers of known or suspected sites identified within or immediately adjacent to the study area. It will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which the data has been derived, and a list of further sources identified during the programme of work, but not examined in detail. It will include all pertinent cartographic sources and also the transcribed plots from the aerial photographs.
- 3.4.5 The report will identify areas of defined archaeology, an assessment and statement of the actual and potential archaeological significance of any features within the broader context of regional and national archaeological priorities will be made. Illustrative material will include a location map, which can be tailored to the specific requests of the client (eg particular scales etc.), subject to discussion. The report will be in the same basic format as this project design; a copy of the report can be provided on 3.5" disk (IBM compatible format).
- 3.4.6 **Confidentiality:** the assessment report is designed as a document for the specific use of the client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and this project design, and should be treated as such; they are not suitable for publication as an academic report, or otherwise, without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the project brief and project design, or for any other explicit purpose, can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.

#### 4. WORK TIMETABLE

The phases of work will comprise:

- 4.1 **Desk Top Study**  
A five day period is required to collate all the available data.
- 4.2 **Identification Survey**  
A one day period is required for the identification survey.
- 4.3 **Prepare Assessment Report**  
A four day period would be required to complete this element.
- 4.4 LUAU can execute projects at very short notice once an agreement has been signed with the client.
- 4.5 **Staffing:** the project will be under the management of **Jamie Quartermaine, BA, Surv Dip, MIFA** (Unit Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. All Unit staff are experienced, qualified archaeologists, each with several years professional expertise.

### APPENDIX 3 GAZETTEER OF SITES

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<b>Site number</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PRN</b>	2592
<b>NGR</b>	SH 60 77
<b>Site name</b>	Llan-faes Township
<b>Site type</b>	Settlement
<b>Form</b>	Documentary evidence, Finds scatter, Geophysical survey, Excavation evidence
<b>Period</b>	Medieval
<b>Notes</b>	One of the principal settlements of thirteenth century Anglesey, this proto-urban settlement comprised at least 120 tenements and 600 people. Originating as a <i>maerdref</i> , it developed to become a major trading centre, before declining in the last decade of the thirteenth century. Findspots of coins and pottery, geophysical surveys, and trial excavations have combined to suggest that the settlement was focused around St Catherine's Church. The site can not be reliably located and is not shown on the survey map (Fig 2).
<b>Sources Consulted</b>	SMR; Besly 1995, 46-82; GAT nd; GAT 1997; Johnstone 1995, 36-38; Johnstone 2000, 179-180, 202-207; Longley 1998, 39-45; White 1977, 463-90
<b>Visit date</b>	-

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<b>Site number</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>PRN</b>	4444
<b>NGR</b>	SH 600 773
<b>Site name</b>	Henllys Garden
<b>Site type</b>	Garden
<b>Form</b>	Documentary Evidence
<b>Period</b>	Medieval?, Modern
<b>Notes</b>	Forty acres of lawns, gardens, and woodland reputed originally to have been designed for the first Sheriff of Anglesey in the fifteenth century. The parkland was developed in the mid-nineteenth century, and it is not clear how much of the fifteenth century layout remains. The NGR provided in the SMR suggests the park was centred to the south of the hall, and south of the subject site. The present LUAU field survey revealed at least one parkland feature dating from the later nineteenth century (Site 35), but no evidence for a medieval park.
<b>Sources consulted</b>	SMR
<b>Visit date</b>	22/02/01

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<b>Site number</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PRN</b>	-
<b>NGR</b>	SH 6015 7770 (centred)
<b>Site name</b>	Geophysical Survey B1, Llan-faes
<b>Site type</b>	Track, Boundaries
<b>Form</b>	Geophysical survey, Excavation evidence
<b>Period</b>	Medieval
<b>Notes</b>	Geophysical survey carried out in two phases between 1992 and 1997 revealed anomalies suggestive of a multi-phase track, and boundary features (Longley 1998, 44-45). Evaluation excavation immediately north-east of Henllys Hall at the Princes' Golf Course ninth green revealed nine shallow features, but it was uncertain whether these were of archaeological significance (GAT nd, 2-3).
<b>Sources consulted</b>	GAT nd; Johnstone 2000, 179-180, 202-207; Longley 1998, 39-45
<b>Visit date</b>	-

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<b>Site number</b>	<b>4</b>
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**PRN** -  
**NGR** SH 60307775 (centred)  
**Site name** Geophysical survey B2, Llan-faes  
**Site type** Enclosures  
**Form** Geophysical survey, Excavation evidence  
**Period** Medieval  
**Notes** Geophysical survey carried out in two phases between 1992 and 1997 revealed anomalies suggestive of house plots and pits (Longley 1998, 44-45). Trial excavation in 1992 (Trenches D and E) confirmed the presence of linear features and a pit (Johnstone 2000, 204).  
**Sources consulted** Johnstone 2000, 179-180, 202-207; Longley 1998, 39-45

**Site number** 5  
**PRN** 5234  
**NGR** SH 60457765 (centred)  
**Site name** Medieval coins findspot 1, Llan-faes  
**Site type** Findspot  
**Form** Finds scatter  
**Period** Medieval  
**Notes** Over 100 early thirteenth to mid-fourteenth century silver coins were discovered by metal detecting in 1991/1992, to the south, east, and north-east of St Catherine's church, but concentrated in the field centred on the cited NGR. The coins were generally silver pennies and cut fractions, and may indicate that the medieval market place lay south of St Catherine's church.  
**Sources consulted** SMR; Besly 1995, 46-82; Johnstone 2000, 179-180, 202-207  
**Visit date** -

**Site number** 6  
**PRN** -  
**NGR** SH 60557760 (centred)  
**Site name** Stratascan geophysical survey, Llan-faes  
**Site type** Field boundaries, Ditches  
**Form** Geophysical survey, Excavation evidence  
**Period** Medieval  
**Notes** Geophysical survey carried out in 1993 in the same field as Site 5. It revealed anomalies suggestive of field boundaries and ditches (Johnstone 2000, 204). Trial excavation in 1994 (Trench C) revealed a linear feature and modern field drains, but two further trenches, further west of the geophysics grid, but in the same field (Trenches A and B), produced medieval pits and linear features (Johnstone 2000, 204).  
**Sources consulted** Johnstone 2000, 179-180, 202-207; Longley 1998, 39-45  
**Visit date** -

**Site number** 7  
**PRN** -  
**NGR** SH 60157792 (centred)  
**Site name** Henllys Hall golf course extension, Llan-faes  
**Site type** Enclosures, Roads  
**Form** Geophysical survey, Excavation evidence  
**Period** Medieval?  
**Notes** Geophysical survey carried out in 1996 or 1997 revealed possible enclosures fronting onto a probable medieval road. Evaluation excavation revealed ditches that may also be of medieval date.  
**Sources consulted** GAT 1997  
**Visit date** -

**Site number** 8



**PRN** 3180, 6982  
**NGR** SH 60457787  
**Site name** St Catherine's Parish Church, Llan-faes  
**Site type** Church  
**Form** Building  
**Period** Modern  
**Notes** The present nineteenth century building is thought to have been built on the site of the thirteenth century church, which stood within the medieval town of Llan-faes.  
**Sources consulted** SMR  
**Visit date** -

**Site number** 9  
**PRN** 5233  
**NGR** SH 605 778  
**Site name** Medieval metal findspot, Llan-faes  
**Site type** Findspot  
**Form** Find scatter  
**Period** Medieval  
**Notes** In 1992, finds recovered by metal detecting to the south and east of Llanfaes church were brought to the National Museum of Wales. They included a ring, papal bulla, coins, and a silver annular brooch.  
**Sources consulted** SMR  
**Visit date** -

**Site number** 10  
**PRN** 5376  
**NGR** SH 60557784 (centred)  
**Site name** Medieval pottery findspot 1, Llan-faes  
**Site type** Findspot  
**Form** Finds scatter  
**Period** Medieval  
**Notes** In 1994, a quantity of medieval pottery was recovered during field walking.  
**Sources consulted** SMR  
**Visit date** -

**Site number** 11  
**PRN** 6594  
**NGR** SH 60537785  
**Site name** Ring Brooch Findspot, Llan-faes  
**Site type** Findspot  
**Form** Find  
**Period** Medieval  
**Notes** Medieval ring brooch findspot.  
**Sources consulted** SMR  
**Visit date** -

**Site number** 12  
**PRN** 6595  
**NGR** SH 60537785  
**Site name** Medieval purse-lock findspot, Llan-faes  
**Site type** Findspot  
**Form** Find  
**Period** Medieval  
**Notes** Medieval purse-lock findspot.  
**Sources consulted** SMR  
**Visit date** -

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**Site number** 13  
**PRN** 6596  
**NGR** SH 60537785  
**Site name** Medieval pottery findspot 2, Llan-faes  
**Site type** Findspot  
**Form** Finds Scatter  
**Period** Medieval  
**Notes** Medieval pottery findspot within 25m of Site 10.  
**Sources consulted** SMR  
**Visit date** -

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**Site number** 14  
**PRN** 7095  
**NGR** SH 60557782C  
**Site name** Medieval coins findspot 2, Llan-faes  
**Site type** Findspot  
**Form** Finds scatter  
**Period** Medieval  
**Notes** Eight coins or coin fragments were found in the field south-east of Llan-faes Church and sent to the National Museum of Wales for further recording.  
**Sources consulted** SMR  
**Visit date** -

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**Site number** 15  
**PRN** 5224  
**NGR** SH 60457787  
**Site name** Pommel findspot, Llan-faes  
**Site type** Findspot  
**Form** Find  
**Period** -  
**Notes** A pommel was found close to St Catherine's Church in 1992.  
**Sources consulted** SMR  
**Visit date** -

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**Site number** 16  
**PRN** 6597  
**NGR** SH 60657792  
**Site name** Decorated bronze piece findspot, Llan-faes  
**Site type** Findspot  
**Form** Find  
**Period** -  
**Notes** An undated decorated bronze piece was found to the north-east of St Catherine's Church.  
**Sources consulted** SMR  
**Visit date** -

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**Site number** 17  
**PRN** 11133  
**NGR** SH 60437787  
**Site name** North Cottage, Llan-faes  
**Site type** Cottage  
**Form** Building  
**Period** Modern?  
**Notes** A one storey detached cottage dating to the nineteenth century or earlier.

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**Sources consulted** SMR  
**Visit date** -

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**Site number** 18  
**PRN** 11196  
**NGR** SH 60447786  
**Site name** South Cottage, Llan-faes  
**Site type** Cottage  
**Form** Building  
**Period** Modern?  
**Notes** A one storey detached cottage dating to the nineteenth century or earlier.  
**Sources consulted** SMR  
**Visit date** -

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**Site number** 19  
**PRN** 11811  
**NGR** SH 60387787  
**Site name** The Old Smithy, Llan-faes  
**Site type** Smithy  
**Form** Building  
**Period** Modern  
**Notes** A one storey rubble building with a hipped roof, dated 1811.  
**Sources consulted** SMR  
**Visit date** -

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**Site number** 20  
**PRN** 7096  
**NGR** SH 60747809 (centred)  
**Site name** Medieval coins findspot 3, Llan-faes  
**Site type** Findspot  
**Form** Finds scatter  
**Period** Medieval  
**Notes** Nine coins found in a field to the north-east of the church at Llan-faes, which were sent to the National Museum of Wales for further recording.  
**Sources consulted** SMR  
**Visit date** -

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**Site number** 21  
**PRN** 7097  
**NGR** SH 60747809 (centred)  
**Site name** Romano-British coin findspot, Llan-faes  
**Site type** Findspot  
**Form** Find  
**Period** Roman  
**Notes** Roman coin findspot.  
**Sources consulted** SMR  
**Visit date** -

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**Site number** 22  
**PRN** 7098  
**NGR** SH 60747809 (centred)  
**Site name** Lead ampulle findspot, Llan-faes  
**Site type** Findspot  
**Form** Find  
**Period** Medieval?

**Notes** Lead ampulle in the form of a wheatsheaf.  
**Sources consulted** SMR  
**Visit date** -

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**Site number** 23  
**PRN** 5223  
**NGR** SH 607782  
**Site name** Palstave findspot, Llan-faes  
**Site type** Findspot  
**Form** Find  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Notes** Bronze Age hooped palstave found by metal detecting.  
**Sources consulted** SMR  
**Visit date** -

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**Site number** 24  
**PRN** 5225  
**NGR** SH 607-782-  
**Site name** Tool findspot, Llan-faes  
**Site type** Findspot  
**Form** Find  
**Period** -  
**Notes** Possible soldering iron found by metal detecting.  
**Sources consulted** SMR  
**Visit date** -

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**Site number** 25  
**PRN** 2573  
**NGR** SH 60927734  
**Site name** Franciscan Friary, Llan-faes  
**Site type** Friary  
**Form** Excavation evidence  
**Period** Medieval  
**Notes** Franciscan friary founded in 1245 by Llywelyn the Great. Burials, probable parts of the perimeter wall, and a road were revealed by excavation in 1991 (Longley 1998, 41). The foundations of both the church and of ancillary structures are thought to survive below ground.  
The site is not shown on the assessment map (fig 2).  
**Sources consulted** SMR; Longley 1998, 41  
**Visit date** -

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**Site number** 26  
**PRN** 5471  
**NGR** SH 59117720  
**Site name** Bulkely Memorial, Llan-faes  
**Site type** Obelisk  
**Form** Monument  
**Period** Modern  
**Notes** Modern commemorative obelisk.  
**Sources consulted** SMR  
**Visit date** -

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**Site number** 27

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<b>PRN</b>	-
<b>NGR</b>	SH 60077762
<b>Site name</b>	Relict doorway, Henllys Hall
<b>Site type</b>	Doorway
<b>Form</b>	Masonry
<b>Period</b>	Post-medieval / Medieval ?
<b>Notes</b>	In the hall's cellar is a pair of stone door jambs, with each jamb keyed into a block of masonry; this appears to be the remains of a doorway which predates the present building. Both blocks of masonry appeared to have been cut through when the present building was erected. The jambs do not appear to be closely datable, but a medieval origin is considered possible. The bases of the jambs lie c1.5m below the ground floor of the present building, but below the level of the jambs, the masonry is supported by projecting islands of bedrock 1.0m high. One possible interpretation of the doorway is that it related to an earlier structure with a floor level at least 1.5m lower than the present hall's floor, but this should be treated with caution, as it is not known whether the relict doorway was originally at ground floor or basement level. The doorway stood some 8m west of the eastern corner of the hotel. Its orientation was such that it could, but need not have, been part of the earlier hall which stood on the site prior to the rebuilding of 1852-3.
<b>Sources consulted</b>	LUAU field survey
<b>Visit date</b>	22/02/01

<b>Site number</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>PRN</b>	-
<b>NGR</b>	SH 60067750
<b>Site name</b>	Levelled platform, Henllys Hall grounds
<b>Site type</b>	Trackway?
<b>Form</b>	Earthwork
<b>Period</b>	Post-Medieval?, Modern?
<b>Notes</b>	An undated levelled platform, with banks intermittently present on either side, aligned north-north-west / south-south-east. The feature is at least 70m long and 12m wide, petering out at either end. Although it might relate to nineteenth century landscaping, it is also close to the position of the former southern drive to Henllys Hall shown on the estate map of 1830 (UWB Henllys ms 1191), raising the possibility that the feature is a trackway, which may have had an earlier origin.
<b>Sources consulted</b>	LUAU field survey
<b>Visit date</b>	22/02/01

<b>Site number</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>PRN</b>	-
<b>NGR</b>	SH 60067749
<b>Site name</b>	Drain, Henllys Hall grounds
<b>Site type</b>	Drain
<b>Form</b>	Earthwork
<b>Period</b>	Modern
<b>Notes</b>	A drain aligned north-east / south-west, with an associated bank to the north-west. A closely spaced avenue of conifers lies on either side of the drain, and it may be a late twentieth century feature associated with the planting of the conifer plantation which stands here.
<b>Sources consulted</b>	LUAU field survey
<b>Visit date</b>	22/02/01

<b>Site number</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>PRN</b>	-
<b>NGR</b>	SH 60087750
<b>Site name</b>	Hollow, Henllys Hall grounds
<b>Site type</b>	Pit?

**Form** Earthwork  
**Period** Modern  
**Notes** A partially infilled hollow, measuring 5m x 4m x 1.5m deep. It was uncertain whether this feature was a partly filled pit, or simply a deep tree throw hole.  
**Sources consulted** LUAU field survey  
**Visit date** 22/02/01

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**Site number** 31  
**PRN** -  
**NGR** SH 60147757  
**Site name** Avenue 1, Henllys Hall grounds  
**Site type** Avenue?  
**Form** Alignment of trees  
**Period** Post-Medieval?, Modern?  
**Notes** Two parallel alignments of ash and yew trees were tentatively identified, suggesting the former presence of an avenue c8m wide. This feature was found to be close to the position of the former eastern boundary of the orchard shown on the estate map of 1830 (UWB Henllys ms 1191).  
**Sources consulted** LUAU field survey  
**Visit date** 22/02/01

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**Site number** 32  
**PRN** -  
**NGR** SH 60167762  
**Site name** Avenue 2, Henllys Hall grounds  
**Site type** Levelled area?, Avenue?  
**Form** Earthwork?, Alignment of trees?  
**Period** Post-medieval?, Modern?  
**Notes** The north-western side of another length of avenue was tentatively identified, roughly in line with Site 31. To the south-east were possible traces of a levelled area. This feature may again relate to the former eastern boundary of the orchard shown on the estate map of 1830 (UWB Henllys ms 1191).  
**Sources consulted** LUAU field survey  
**Visit date** 22/02/01

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**Site number** 33  
**PRN** -  
**NGR** SH 60167763  
**Site name** Uneven ground/dump, Henllys Hall grounds  
**Site type** Dump  
**Form** Earthwork  
**Period** Modern  
**Notes** An area where earth and dead timber had been recently dumped. The ground in the vicinity was observed to be slightly uneven, raising the possibility that the dumping had been carried out originally to infill an area of pitting.  
**Sources consulted** LUAU field survey  
**Visit date** 22/02/01

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**Site number** 34  
**PRN** -  
**NGR** SH 60027755  
**Site name** Rectangular garden feature, Henllys Hall grounds  
**Site type** Garden feature  
**Form** Earthwork  
**Period** Modern

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**Notes** A rectangular mound revetted to the north-east and south-west with mortared stone walls, and surrounded by a levelled area thought to represent a former bed or pond. The feature was not mapped in 1830, but is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1889.

**Sources consulted** LUAU field survey

**Visit date** 22/02/01

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**Site number** 35

**PRN** -

**NGR** SH 60107758 (centred)

**Site name** Rectangular levelled area, Henllys Hall grounds

**Site type** Levelled area

**Form** Earthwork

**Period** Modern

**Notes** A levelled rectangular area measuring 114m x 16m was observed. Although it had recently been surfaced with roadstone for use as an overflow carpark, it was first mapped on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1889. The established nature of the eastern boundary confirmed that the levelling was not a recent event. This appears to be a parkland feature, though perhaps one intended for a specific sporting activity.

**Sources consulted** LUAU field survey

**Visit date** 22/02/01

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

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- Figure 1: Henllys Hall, Beaumaris Location Map
- Figure 2: Overall Site Map
- Figure 3: Excerpt from Map of Henllys's Demesne in the parish of Llan-faes (UWBHenllys MS 1191) (1830)
- Figure 4: Tithe Apportionment Map, Llan-faes parish
- Figure 5: Excerpt from the OS first edition 1:2500 map (1889)
- Figure 6: Excerpt from the OS second edition 1:2500 map (1900)
- Figure 7: Excerpt from OS 1:2500 map, 1919
- Figure 8: Plan showing relationship between present hall, and buildings demolished c1851
- Figure 9: Survey Map showing landscape features



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## PLATES

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- Plate 1: Henllys Hall viewed from the south
- Plate 2: Early doorway in the basement of the present Henllys Hall
- Plate 3: Site 28, levelled platform within Henllys Hall grounds, looking south
- Plate 4: Site 31, tree-lined avenue looking south-west



based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:50000  
with the permission of the controller of HMSO

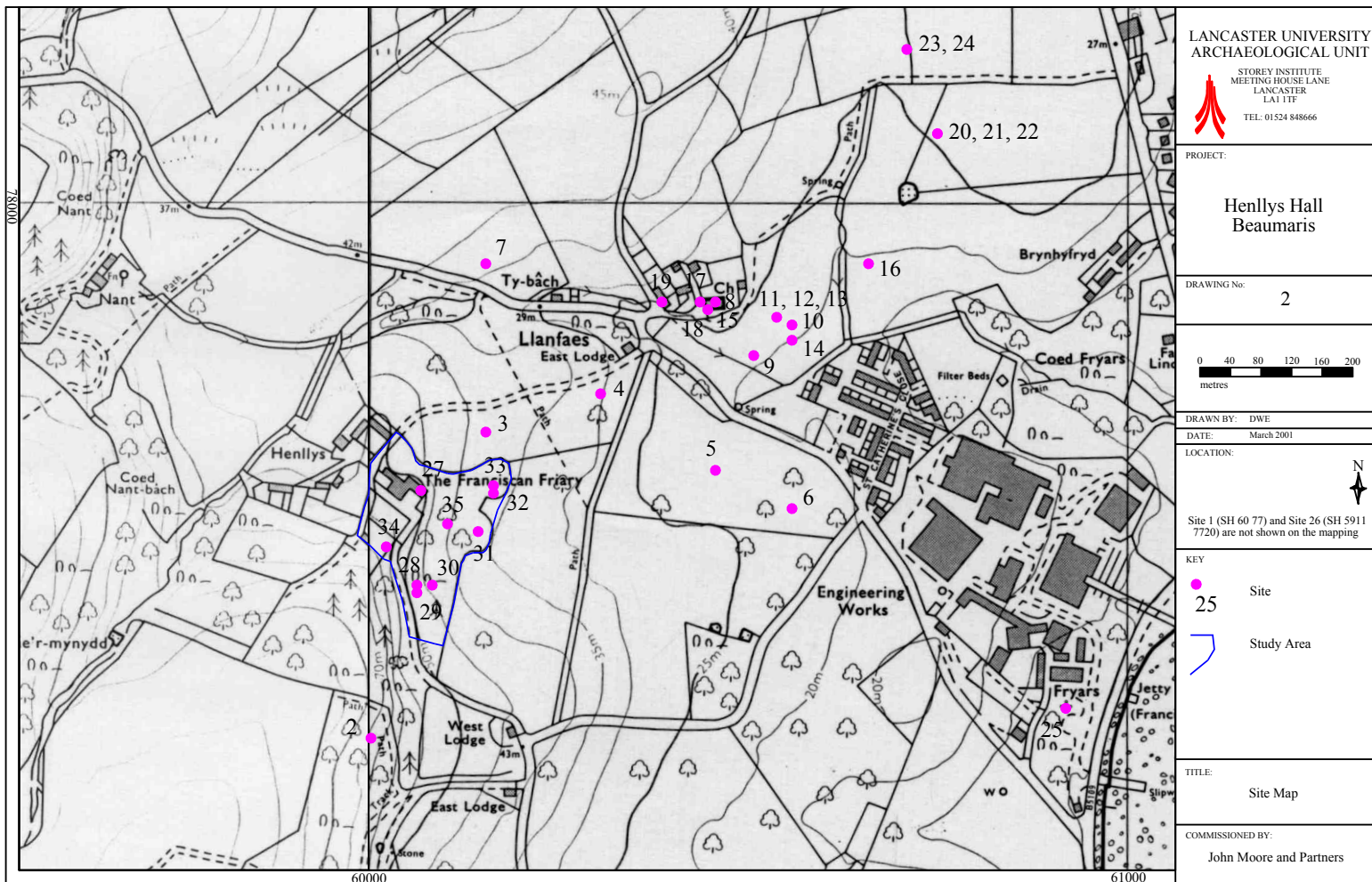
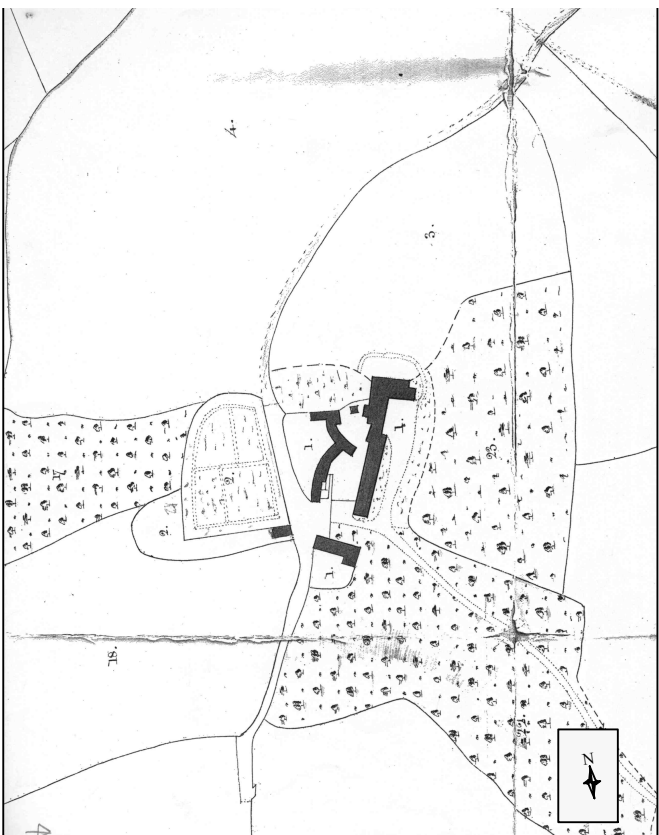
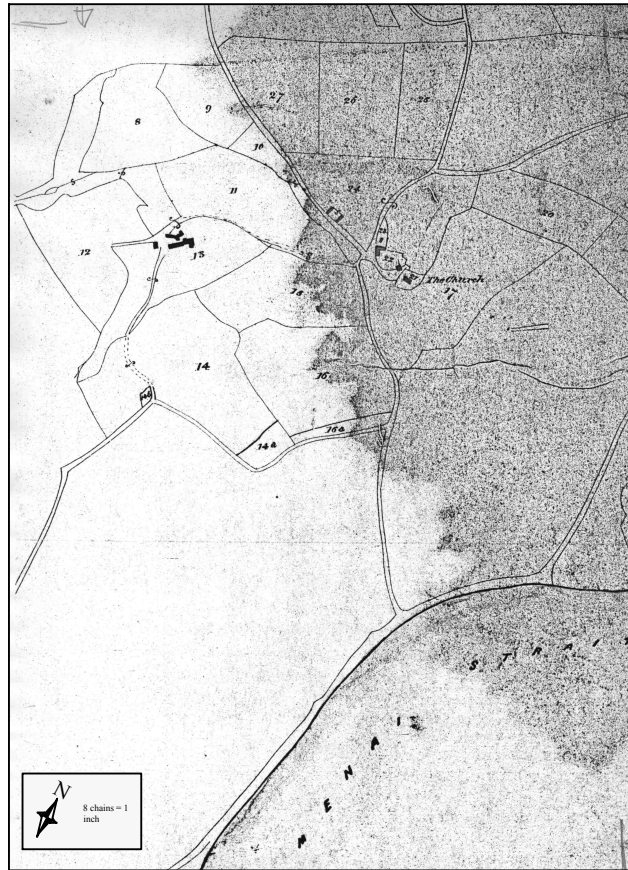


Figure 2: Overall Site Map

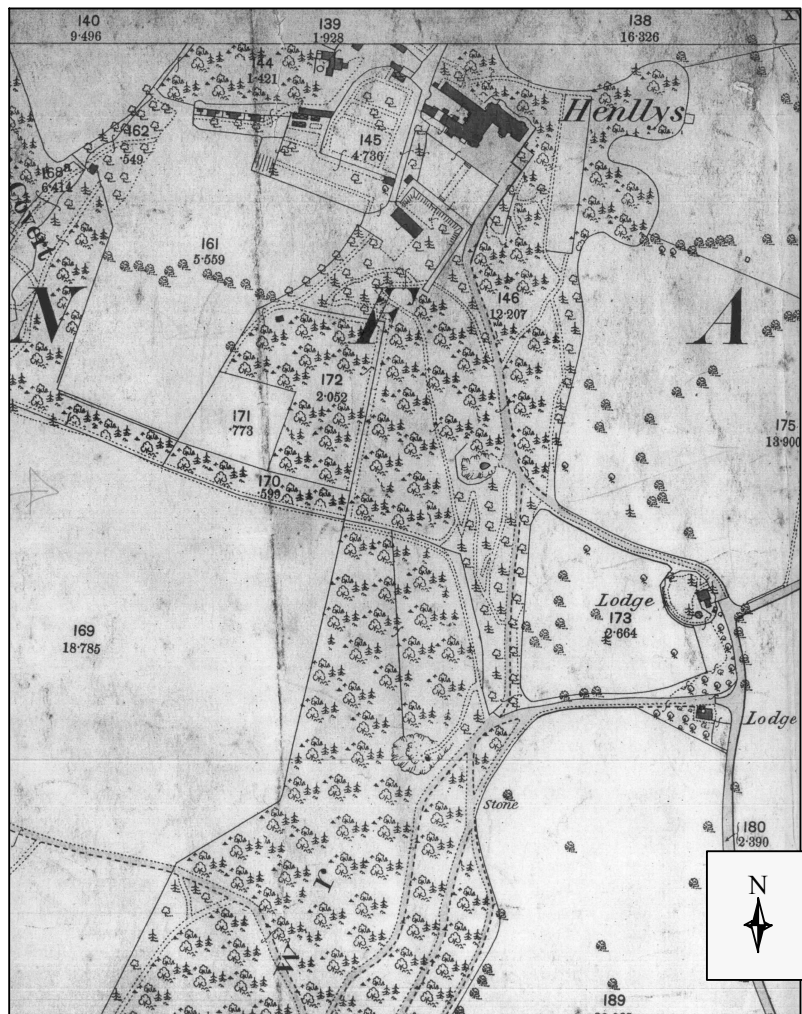










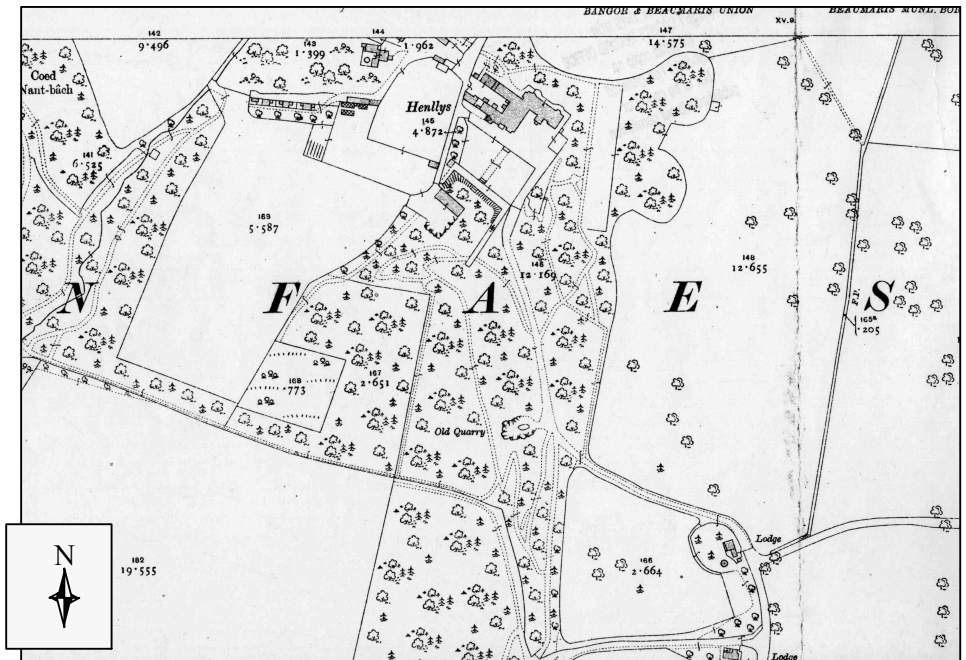




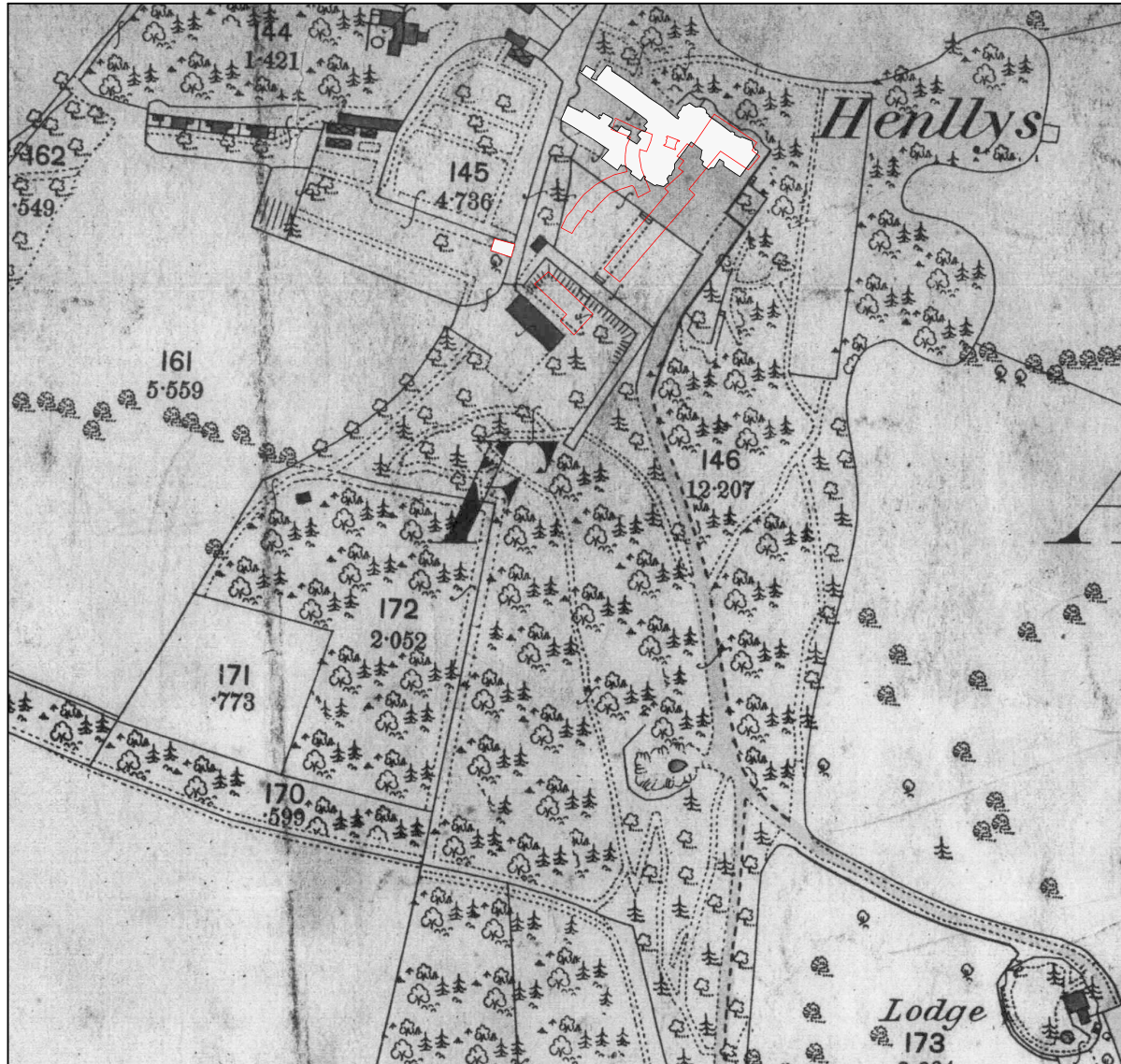
















TEL: 01524 846000

PROJECT:

# Henllys Hall Beaumaris

DRAWING No:

9



DRAWN BY: JQ

DATE: March 2001

LOCATION:



Base Topographic Survey By  
SPATIAL DATA LIMITED

KEY

- 16 Site
- Fence
- Tree Canopy
- Hedge

TITLE:

Survey Map





Plate 1: Henllys Hall viewed from the south



Plate 2: Early doorway in the basement of the present Henllys Hall





Plate 3: Site 28, Levelled platform within Henllys Hall grounds, looking south



Plate 4: Site 31, tree lined avenue looking south-west