

August 2001

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

**Evaluation Report**

Henllys Hall, Beaumaris  
Anglesey

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Report no 2000-2001/090/AUA 8148

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Storey Institute  
Meeting House Lane  
Lancaster  
LA1 1TF

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## SUMMARY

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An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU), on behalf of John Moore and Partners, at Henllys Hall, Beaumaris, Anglesey (NGR SH 6005 7765), in June and July 2001, in advance of a proposed holiday apartment development. The hall is thought to stand on the site of a *llys* or court of the thirteenth century princes of Gwynedd. The work followed an earlier archaeological assessment of the site, combining a desk-based study with a walk-over survey, also conducted by LUAU. The present project involved the detailed landscape survey of three features identified during the assessment, the fabric survey of a relict doorway within the basement of the hall, and also a programme of evaluation trenching to examine the grounds of the hall.

A plan of the landscape features was produced, together with a plan and elevation of the doorway. The latter would appear to be a relatively early feature, possibly medieval; its presence suggests that medieval structures may once have stood in the footprint of the present house, but such features are likely to have been disturbed by subsequent builds on the site. With the exception of a possible rock-cut slot to the south of the hall, no other structural features were identified which might predate the rebuilding of the structure documented from 1852-3. Several undated ditches were revealed by evaluation trenching in the eastern part of the development area, which appear to represent repeated attempts to drain an area of damp ground; no finds were recovered from these features.

On the present evidence, the area of greatest archaeological potential that will be affected by the proposed development is a proposed passageway between the hall and the proposed leisure centre. It is therefore recommended that this area be subject to an intensive archaeological watching brief, whereby the initial soil strip is entirely within the control of an archaeologist and the stripped area should then be manually cleaned prior to proceeding within the development works. Elsewhere, an archaeological watching brief should be conducted wherever groundworks are undertaken. Care should be taken to avoid damage to the relict doorway during refurbishment of the lower ground floor of the hall.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Lancaster University Archaeological Unit would like to thank John Moore and Partners for commissioning the project, and in particular Ian Nicholson, who gave support and assistance; the help of the golf professionals at the Princes' Golf Course, at Henllys Hall, was also much appreciated. The programme was monitored by Emily La Trobe-Bateman on behalf of the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service, and valuable advice was also given by Neil Johnstone.

The excavation was conducted by Richard Heawood, John Roberts, and Andrea Scott. Christine Howard-Davis studied the finds, and Emma Carter produced the illustrations. The report was written by Richard Heawood, and edited by Jamie Quartermaine and Rachel Newman. The project was managed by Jamie Quartermaine.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In February 2001, Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological assessment (LUAU 2001) of the Henllys Hall site by John Moore and Partners, in advance of proposed redevelopment. The proposed works involve the conversion of the hall, previously a hotel, to accommodate apartments and associated leisure facilities; architects' plans show that it is intended to make a number of additions to the north-western end of the hall, to install new changing rooms and kitchen facilities at lower ground floor level, and to construct two new pools to the east and south-east of the hall (Plan SK52, John Moore and Partners). In addition, the construction of new apartment blocks and access roads is envisaged to the south-east and south of Henllys Hall, whilst new tennis courts and a car parking area are planned to the south-west, in the vicinity of the golf course 1<sup>st</sup> tee (Fig 3).
- 1.1.2 The assessment (LUAU 2001) indicated that the proposed development might impact upon important archaeological remains of medieval date (*Section 1.3*). In view of this, the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service recommended that a field evaluation of the site be conducted in order to identify the location, condition, and significance of any archaeological remains that might be threatened. The evaluation was to include a detail survey of earthwork remains identified by the assessment at the southern end of the site, a fabric survey of a relict doorway in the cellar of the hotel, a programme of geophysical survey centred on the lower, eastern part of the site, and evaluation trenching across the area of new development. LUAU was commissioned by John Moore and Partners to carry out this work which was undertaken during June and July 2001.

### 1.2 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY, AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.2.1 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 Straits to the south. The hall was used as a hotel until spring 2001. The study area comprised the hall and gardens, which are in an elevated position at the end of the ridge, but also included 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 c3.5ha. 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.
- 1.2.2 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.

- 1.2.3 **Geology:** the general subsoils around the study area are boulder clay, and these overlie Ordovician, *Didymograptus purchisoni* rocks of the Llanvirn series (Geological Survey of Great Britain 1978).

### 1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been thoroughly considered in the earlier archaeological assessment report (LUAU 2001), and no more than a brief summary is given here.
- 1.3.2 Place-name and documentary evidence indicates that Henllys Hall was probably the site of a *llys* or royal court belonging to the thirteenth century princes of Gwynedd. The name 'Henllys' means former court, the first known reference occurring in a document of 1584 (Longley 1998, 44) and this is corroborated by a reference to 'the court of Llanfaes' in a document of 1305 (*op cit*, 40). The name was first applied explicitly to the present site in the 1630s, but the site would appear to have had earlier origins; eighteenth and nineteenth century maps indicate the former presence of a road from Rhosyr to Llan-faes, passing immediately west of Henllys Hall, suggesting that the site was important before the construction of Beaumaris by the English in the early fourteenth century (*op cit*, 44). The location of Henllys Hall at the north-east end of a prominent ridge, overlooking the Menai Straits, suggests an advantageous position for a *llys*, especially in view of the likelihood that, in the commotes of Degannwy and Dolbenmaen, the *llys* was sited in a prominently positioned castle (LUAU 2001, 14). 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 (Johnstone 2000, 167-169).
- 1.3.3 By the 1630s at the latest, Henllys was occupied by the seat of the Hampton family (Longley 1998, 40); a house and associated buildings, first mapped in 1830 (UWB Henllys ms 1191), may have had medieval origins. Henllys Hall was rebuilt in 1852-3, but a doorway incorporated into the present building appears to be a remnant from an earlier structure. The grounds of the hall were landscaped in the mid-nineteenth century (LUAU 2001, 16-18), a levelled platform identified by the assessment (*op cit*, Site 28) to the south of the house perhaps being the southern approach to the hall that was in use in the early nineteenth century.
- 1.3.4 The lower part of the proposed development area, to the east of Henllys Hall, lies within 100m of finds and features pertaining to the medieval settlement of Llan-faes (LUAU 2001, Sites 4 and 5). Evidence of settlement was located on the ground by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) using geophysical survey and trial excavation, following the discovery of large numbers of twelfth and thirteenth century silver coins by a metal detectorist (*op cit*, 16). Documentary evidence indicates that Llan-faes was the site of a medieval *maerdref*, which developed into the most significant medieval trading centre in Gwynedd (LUAU 2001, 9-10); a *maerdref* was a lordship centre which accompanied a *llys*, and would typically encompass the hamlet(s) of the bond tenants who worked the demesne (*ibid*).

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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with a project design (*Appendix 1*), which was designed to fulfil a verbal brief from Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service.

### 2.2 DETAILED LANDSCAPE SURVEY

- 2.2.1 A detailed landscape survey was conducted of the features identified in the southern part of the site (LUAU 2001, Sites 28-30), to LUAU level 2b (see *Appendix 1*). Survey control was established by closed traverse using a Zeiss ELTA3 total station, and was able to maintain an internal control accuracy of better than +/- 0.05m. The control was locally orientated and the final plan was superimposed onto the topographic base provided by John Moore and Partners. Surface features were surveyed by EDM tacheometry using the total station linked to a data logger, and printouts were generated for manual enhancement in the field. The results are presented in Figure 2, and are discussed below (*Section 3*).

### 2.3 FABRIC SURVEY OF RELICT DOORWAY

- 2.3.1 The plan and elevation of the relict doorway were surveyed by EDM tacheometry using the total station linked to a data logger. The resulting data were downloaded and translated into a Computer Aided Draughting (CAD) system (AutoCAD 14) to allow manipulation of the data and generation of the elevation drawing (Fig 4). The plan data were superimposed onto the architects' plans of the lower ground floor of the hall. The survey was supplemented by photographic recording in order to provide a general perspective record of the structure. Detailed visual inspection, in conjunction with the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service Development Control Officer and Mr Neil Johnstone, has enabled the structure to be analysed and interpreted as far as is possible given the isolation of the feature (*Section 4*).

### 2.4 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

- 2.4.1 An area of some 5,600m<sup>2</sup> (0.56ha) in the lower eastern part of the site was subject to magnetometer survey by Stratascan; a smaller area of some 800m<sup>2</sup> was also investigated to the south-west of the hall, beyond the golf course 1<sup>st</sup> tee (Fig 3). The results of the magnetometry (*Section 5 and Appendix 4*) were used to inform the placement of evaluation trenches in the relevant areas. In other parts of the site, the ground cover was not amenable to magnetometry, or the position of evaluation trenches was dictated by the footprints of proposed buildings and therefore did not warrant geophysical survey to inform their placement.

## 2.5 EVALUATION TRENCHING

- 2.5.1 Sixteen trenches of varied size were excavated, the trench positions being defined in consultation with Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service. The trenches were of necessity targeted on proposed buildings and roads with the potential to disturb archaeological remains but, within this constraint, trench positions were also intended to allow investigation of geophysical anomalies, whilst also providing investigation of wall-lines and landscape features depicted on nineteenth century maps (LUAU 2001, 16-17).
- 2.5.2 In some instances, the trench positions were subject to small alterations, made either to minimise disturbance to trees, or to gain further information about archaeological features discovered during trenching. The final layout of the trenches is shown in Figure 3.
- 2.5.3 A wheeled mechanical excavator, with a toothless ditching bucket, was used to remove topsoil down to the surface of the natural subsoil, or to the top of significant archaeological deposits. The trenches were then cleaned by hand, and sample manual excavation was carried out where appropriate.
- 2.5.4 Manual excavation was undertaken in a stratigraphic manner, and features and deposits were recorded using *pro forma* context sheets based on those designed by the MoLAS and English Heritage's Centre for Archaeology (CFA). Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate, and a photographic record was created in colour slide and black and white print formats. Planning was carried out using a total station and data logger, allowing digital plans to be produced, and superimposed on a digital topographic plan of the site provided by the client. Where necessary, more detailed plans were drawn by hand on drafting film at a scale of 1:20.

## 2.6 FINDS STRATEGY

- 2.6.1 All artefacts and ecofacts were recorded using the same system as the contextual information, and were handled and stored according to standard practice, following current Institute of Field Archaeologists' guidelines. The assemblage was subject to analysis by the LUAU in-house finds specialist and the results are presented below (*Section 6.18*).
- 2.6.2 Visual inspection suggested that the potential for the survival of significant macrobotanical evidence was limited, and the lack of dating evidence from almost all archaeological deposits further restricted the potential for macrobotanical analysis. In view of these considerations, macrobotanical samples were not collected.

## 2.7 ARCHIVE

- 2.7.1 A full archive to modern professional standards has been compiled in accordance with the project design. The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project, and includes *pro forma* recording sheets, the photographic archive, field drawings, and digital plans.

2.7.2 Following consultation with Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service, it is proposed that the archive be deposited with the Anglesey Record Office, at Llangefni.

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## 3. DETAILED LANDSCAPE SURVEY

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### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1.1 Landscape survey work was conducted in response to a requirement for detailed landscape survey of Sites 28-30, identified in the archaeological assessment (LUAU 2001). The survey has accurately established the location and plan form of these landscape features, allowing the interpretation of Site 28 to be modified. The landscape survey is reproduced as part of Figure 2.

### 3.2 INTERPRETATION

- 3.2.1 Site 29 is interpreted as a drain with associated bank, and Site 30 as a pair of pits, both probably being the product of modern works in the grounds of the hall (LUAU 2001, 36-37). Site 28 is a levelled platform, terraced into the south-east-facing slope, with banks intermittently present on either side. It was suggested in the assessment report that the feature might correspond to the former southern drive to Henllys Hall shown on the estate map of 1830 (UWB Henllys ms 1191). However, as a result of the refinement of the survey, it would now appear that it lies to the north-east of the former drive depicted in 1830. While this may reflect inaccuracies of the earlier mapping, it cannot be confirmed that Site 28 is either a nineteenth century parkland feature or the remnant of the earlier roadway.



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## 4. FABRIC SURVEY OF RELICT DOORWAY

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### 4.1 SURVEY RECORDING

- 4.1.1 **Plan:** a plan record of the doorway was created, sufficient to allow its depiction on existing plans of the building, and to show its general context within the hotel basement (Fig 4).
- 4.1.2 **Elevation:** the north-west-facing elevation of the doorway, and of the wall through which it passes, was recorded; the elevation is reproduced in Figure 4.

### 4.2 INTERPRETATION

- 4.2.1 The elevation shows two door jambs which are keyed into blocks of masonry which appear to be earlier than the present building (**168** and **169**). Both blocks of masonry appear to have been cut through, so that the only definite faces to survive are on the inside of the doorway, where the jambs are located. The bases of the jambs stand c1.1m above present floor level, and are now supported on upstanding pillars of bedrock, the implication being that the floor level relating to the doorway was 1.1m higher than the present basement floor. The north-west face of each jamb is slightly chamfered, suggesting that the contemporary door opened to the south-east. The jambs belong to a basic form of frameless door, which is not closely datable, but is consistent with a broad medieval to early post-medieval date range (Brunskill 1978, 132-4).
- 4.2.2 A second phase of building is represented by the wall aligned north-east / south-west through which the relict doorway now provides access (**170**). This wall appears to have cut through masonry associated with the door jambs to the south-west of the doorway. The wall is of a generally uniform style, without apparent breaks, which extends between the present ceiling and floor of the basement. This would indicate that the wall relates to a lower floored room than that of the door jambs. The wall is interesting because it is completely unpointed on its north-west face; this suggests that it was a retaining wall, built from the south-east side against bedrock and earth to the north-west. This would imply that the wall was built before the present cellar room to the north of the relict doorway was excavated.
- 4.2.3 The third phase of construction is represented by the external wall of the present hall (**171**), which is dressed and pointed internally and butts against and the retaining wall (**170**). The wall contains a light well, confirming that it post-dates the excavation of the basement. It appears integral with the north-east façade of the hall, and is therefore likely to date from the rebuilding of 1852-3.
- 4.2.4 **Conclusion:** the fabric survey has suggested that evidence remains for two phases of construction prior to the mid-nineteenth century, with the relict doorway belonging to the earlier of the two phases. In the last phase of construction the basement room to the north-west of the doorway had been established, which was in a similar form to that at present. In the middle constructional phase there was a doorway in existence and a routeway or corridor extending through the south-western part of the present basement room, at a floor level corresponding to that of the present room. The main bulk of the room, to the north-east, however, did

not exist, as the wall (**170**) retained earth/bedrock. The earliest phase was the doorway which had a floor level some 1.1m higher than the present basement, and the door opened into a room to the south-west.

- 4.2.5 While the latest phase undoubtedly relates to the 1852-3 construction, the middle phase potentially relates to the building depicted in 1830 (UWB Henllys 1191), or even an earlier structure. If it relates to the hall standing in the early nineteenth century, its position would suggest either that it served as an external doorway giving access to the south wing at the angle with the north wing, or that it was an internal doorway joining the two wings (Fig 6); the difficulty of superimposing the 1830 plan onto modern mapping does not allow for greater precision. The doorway may have stood at cellar level rather than ground floor level, especially if it is accepted that the later wall to the north-east was a ground-retaining wall built from the south-east.
- 4.2.6 The earliest phase of construction was very different from that represented in the middle phase and was probably from a different building. While this must have related to a building predating the earlier hall, it cannot be established on the present evidence if this was an early post-medieval or a medieval structure.

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## 5. RESULTS OF MAGNETOMETER SURVEY

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### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 Magnetometry was conducted by Stratascan in the lower, eastern part of the site, and at the top of the hillside to the south-west of the hall, where Trench 4 was later excavated (Fig 3). In the eastern part of the site, a rectangular area measuring 130m x 40m was surveyed, together with a single 20m square immediately to the east. In the vicinity of Trench 4, an area measuring 40m x 20m was subject to magnetometry survey.

### 5.2 RESULTS

5.2.1 To the east of the hall, extensive areas proved to be magnetically noisy or disturbed, and it was suggested that rubbish tips might be present (*Appendix 4*). However, several such anomalies took the form of broad linear bands, which it was considered might have had some archaeological significance. Attention was also drawn to a positive 'halo'-shaped anomaly, but no cut features could be detected.

5.2.2 Survey to the south-west of the hall produced two positive linear anomalies and one strong magnetic linear anomaly. It was suggested that the strong magnetic anomaly might represent a cinder path.

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## 6. RESULTS OF EVALUATION TRENCHING

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### 6.1 INTRODUCTION

6.1.1 Summary results of the evaluation trenching are presented below. The context list is presented in *Appendix 2*, and the trench locations and features are shown graphically in Figures 3 and 5. All the trenches were between 1.6m and 1.7m wide, except where additional steps were cut for reasons of safety to allow deeper trenching.

### 6.2 TRENCH 1

6.2.1 Trench 1 was positioned within the footprint of a proposed extension to the north-west of the east wing of the present hall (Fig 3 and 5). The trench measured 9.2m long and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.5m, with steps being dug at the north-east end of the trench to ensure safe working conditions at depth. The trench was aligned north-east / south-west.

6.2.2 Deposits of modern tarmac, hardcore, and make-up, in total 0.35m deep, were removed from the top of the trench by machine (**100**). Below, three further deposits of overburden were identified and removed; the total thickness of overburden varied from 0.15m at the south-western end of the trench, to 1.4m towards the north-east end, reflecting the slope of the underlying bedrock where the ground falls away sharply to the north-east of Henllys Hall. The two upper overburden layers, **101** and **102**, consisted respectively of dark greyish brown clay sand, and mid orange brown clay sand with 10% small and medium stones; both contained darker, 'dirty' mottles, and appeared to be relatively modern in character. No artefacts were recovered. Below, a homogeneous deposit of yellowish brown clay sand with 5% small stones, **103**, lay directly over the bedrock. This layer was partially removed by machine and partially hand-excavated; it was a maximum of 0.68m thick, and a sherd of black-glazed redware pottery of eighteenth to nineteenth century date was recovered during hand excavation, as well as a residual sherd of possible late medieval date (*Section 6.18*). It is suggested that deposits **101**, **102**, and **103** were all the product of dumping intended to produce a level surface where the bedrock begins to fall away, although it is not impossible that deposit **103**, which was very clean, was a naturally occurring subsoil which had formed above the bedrock. The surface of the bedrock varied in height from 48.97m OD at the south-west end of the trench, to 47.5m OD some 7m to the north-east.

6.2.3 A single cut feature (**105**) was present within Trench 1, which extended beyond the northern, eastern, and western limits of excavation, but appeared to be the cut of a stone-lined pit. In section, the feature could clearly be seen to post-date deposits **102** and **103**, but was also tentatively identified truncating deposit **101**. Cut **105** measured at least 1.6m x 1.6m x 1.2m deep, and was near vertical with a flat base. A rough dry stone lining remained in the base of the cut on the western, southern, and eastern sides, but was only one to two courses deep; it seems likely that the lining had once extended higher up the cut, but had been removed by robbing. A single fill was recorded, **104**, which sealed the upper surface of the extant lining, and may represent post-abandonment deposition. Fill **104** contained

several sherds of late nineteenth to twentieth century pottery and glass, fragments of animal bone and oyster shell, and a fragment from a leather boot sole, potentially of the same date as the pottery and glass. The form of the feature suggested a possible function as a cess pit, but no cess-like deposits were found *in situ*.

### 6.3 TRENCH 2

- 6.3.1 Trench 2 was excavated in a confined space between two wings of ancillary buildings, to the north-west of the main hall, in an area likely to be disturbed by the proposed extension of existing structures. The trench measured 8.65m long, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.5m; for reasons of safety, staff did not enter the trench once it had been excavated below 1.25m. Because of the presence of thick, sterile dumps of make-up, the trench was entirely excavated by machine. It was aligned north-west / south-east.
- 6.3.2 Concrete, hardcore, and redeposited bedrock with a total depth of 0.66m covered the entire length of the trench (**110**). Below this level, a modern ceramic drain or sewer was encountered in the central part of the trench, and a baulk was left in place, dividing one end of the trench from the other. A further layer of redeposited bedrock was present below **110** on either side of the baulk; this layer, **111**, varied in depth from 0.54m at the north-west end, to 0.37m at the south-east. A deposit of dark yellowish brown clay sand with 5% stones and 0.3m thick (**112**), was recorded below **111** south-east of the baulk, and a further deposit of shattered redeposited bedrock, **114**, lay exposed in the trench base at a depth of 1.25m below ground level (49.97m OD).
- 6.3.3 North-west of the baulk, clay sand deposit **112** was again present, but the redeposited bedrock (**114**) was absent; deposit **112** here proved to be at least 1.3m deep, being present in the base of the trench when excavation was discontinued at a depth of 2.5m below ground level (48.45m OD). Two sherds of eighteenth to nineteenth century pottery, and a fragment of late nineteenth to twentieth century glass, were recovered from **112**.
- 6.3.4 The present ground surface where Trench 2 was excavated was some 1.9m higher than that in the vicinity of Trench 1. The thick layers of shattered rock and clean clay sand should thus be regarded as dumped deposits, intended to raise the ground surface artificially. They probably date to the period when the present hall was rebuilt, in the mid-nineteenth century.

### 6.4 TRENCH 3

- 6.4.1 Trench 3 was excavated within the footprint of the proposed apartment block to be sited to the south-west of the main hall buildings. It was also positioned with the aim of examining the external wall-line of a building, which predated the present hall, depicted on the estate plan of 1830 (UWB Henllys ms 1191). Trench 3 was aligned north-west / south-east, and measured 11.3m long; it was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.65m.
- 6.4.2 A thick deposit of turf and topsoil was removed by machine to reveal the surface of the bedrock immediately below, at a height of 53.11m OD. A single linear feature was identified, cut into the bedrock (**115**), which was aligned north-east / south-west, and extended for the full 1.6m width of the trench. It was 1.5m wide

and 0.24m deep, with gently sloping sides and a relatively flat base, and contained a single fill of orange brown clay sand with 80% shattered rock fragments. The position of cut **115** corresponds to the north-west wall of the structure depicted on the 1830 estate map, and it is suggested that the feature may represent a shallow rock-cut foundation trench. One sherd of late nineteenth to twentieth century pottery was recovered from the topsoil, but there were no other finds from Trench 3.

## 6.5 TRENCH 4

- 6.5.1 Trench 4 was excavated within the footprint of two proposed tennis courts, which will be terraced into the hillside to the west of Henllys Hall. The trench was also positioned to investigate one of two positive anomalies, possibly representing cut features, produced by magnetometry survey of this area (*Appendix 4*). Trench 4 was 11.7m long and a maximum of 1.2m deep, and was aligned north-east / south-west. The ground fell away steeply to the north-east.
- 6.5.2 A depth of c0.26m of topsoil was removed by machine to reveal the surface of natural deposits below, which ranged in height from c66.4m OD in the south-west, to c 64.8m in the north-east. A clean orange brown clay sand (**117**) was exposed at the north-east end of the trench. It was stratified above a thick deposit of dark yellowish brown clay sand with 10% small stones (**118**) which was exposed further south-west. Both layers resembled glacial deposits; a sondage excavated by machine through **118** demonstrated that it was at least 0.9m thick. No explanation for the positive magnetic anomaly was found.

## 6.6 TRENCH 5

- 6.6.1 Trench 5 was sited in an area where it is proposed to create an overflow car park, some 5m south-west of a walled garden. The trench was 5.25m long, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.5m. It was aligned north-north-west / south-south-east.
- 6.6.2 Topsoil, 0.2-0.3m thick, and a deposit of orange brown sandy clay (**120**), 0.6-0.9m thick, were removed by machine, to reveal the surface of a natural deposit of orange brown clay sand at c51.22m OD. A single linear feature (**122**) was identified, sealed by deposit **120**, and cutting the natural clay sand; it was aligned north-west / south-east, and measured 0.4m wide x 0.15m deep, with sides sloping at a gradient of approximately 1:1, and had a relatively flat base. A single sherd of a redware with a streaky clear glaze, of eighteenth / nineteenth century date, was recovered from the single orange sandy clay fill (**121**). Cut **122** appears to represent the base of a post-medieval ditch, which lies parallel to the south-west wall of the walled garden, some 5m to the north-east.

## 6.7 TRENCH 6

- 6.7.1 Trench 6 was positioned c5m north-west of Trench 5, where the modern ground surface was significantly lower. It was excavated on the same alignment as Trench 5, and was 7.1m long and a maximum of 0.95m deep.

- 6.7.2 A depth of c0.12m of topsoil was removed by machine, revealing the surface of a natural deposit of clay sand (**I26**) at c49.70m OD. No archaeological features were identified. A sondage was excavated by machine through **I26**, demonstrating that it was at least 0.83m deep.

## 6.8 TRENCH 7

- 6.8.1 Trench 7 was positioned on the lower part of the site, below and to the east of Henllys Hall, in the footprint of one of the proposed apartment blocks. It was 10m long and a maximum of 2m deep, and was aligned south-west / north-east.
- 6.8.2 The trench was mechanically excavated through 0.2m of topsoil and 0.95m of mid brown silty sand (**I27**), revealing the surface of a deposit of reddish brown silty sand (**I72**) in the base of the trench. A sondage excavated at the north-east end of the trench demonstrated that the latter deposit was 0.75m thick, and that it overlay a deposit of clean brownish yellow sand (**I73**) at c38.30m OD. No archaeological features were identified. The trench was positioned at the base of a relatively steep east-facing slope, and the thick layer of brown silty sand (**I27**), immediately below topsoil, almost certainly represents a colluvial deposit; the underlying reddish brown silty sand (**I72**) may also be colluvial, although there is also the possibility that it was a glacial deposit.

## 6.9 TRENCH 8

- 6.9.1 Trench 8 was sited to investigate the only positive magnetic anomaly produced by the magnetometer survey of the lower, eastern area (*Section 5* and *Appendix 4*). It measured 11.5m long, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.90m. The trench was aligned north-west / south-east.
- 6.9.2 Layers of topsoil (0.26m deep) and brown clay silt, **I27** (0.6m deep) were removed by machine to reveal the surface of a natural deposit of brownish yellow clay sand, which varied between 37.30m OD and 36.66m OD in height, falling away to the east. Three linear features were identified, all sealed by the overburden described above, as well as two modern drains, and one feature of probable natural origin.
- 6.9.3 Ditch **I65** lay towards the centre of the trench, aligned north-east / south-west. It measured 1.3m wide and 0.56m deep, with relatively gently angled sides and a gently rounded base. A lower fill of mid brownish grey clay silt (**I64**) was sealed by an upper fill of mid brown clay silt (**I66**), but no finds were recovered from either deposit; the grey colouration of the lower fill suggested that it might represent water-lain sediment.
- 6.9.4 Ditch **I55** was revealed immediately to the north-west, but had no stratigraphic relationship with **I65**. It was aligned east-south-east / west-north-west, and measured 1.00m wide x 0.28m deep, again with gently sloping sides and a gently rounded base, and was filled by a deposit of grey clay silt (**I61**). No finds were recovered, and again the fill resembled water-lain sediment.
- 6.9.5 Ditch **I54** lay to the north-west of **I55**, its alignment being roughly parallel to that of ditch **I65**. The north-west edge of the feature was also seen within Trench 9 running across the slope; it was slightly curvilinear, suggesting that the feature curved round towards the north. On excavation, the ditch proved to be 0.9m wide

and 0.45m deep, with a 'V'-shaped profile. No finds were recovered from the single grey clay silt fill, which was probably water-lain in origin.

- 6.9.6 In addition to these ditches, an irregular curvilinear feature (**163**) was recorded between **165** and **155**. The feature measured >2.7m long by >0.95m wide, and varied in depth from 0.25m to 0.40m. The gradient of the sides was variable, and the base was uneven, the underlying natural deposit being mottled with grey sand; the fill, **162**, was a single deposit of brownish grey clay silt. The irregularity of the feature, and the lack of good edges in places, suggested that this was of natural origin, possibly a tree bole.
- 6.9.7 Ditches **154** and **165** appear to correspond to the position of the two ends of the 'positive halo' produced by the magnetometry conducted in this area; the ditches may account for the presence of this anomaly, though it is not clear why a 'halo' rather than a pair of linear anomalies was generated.

## 6.10 TRENCH 9

- 6.10.1 Trench 9 extended out from the north-west end of Trench 8, and was positioned in the footprint of a proposed apartment block. It was aligned north-north-east / south-south-west, was 12.5m long, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m.
- 6.10.2 Layers of topsoil (0.25m deep) and brown clay silt, **127** (0.7m deep), were removed by machine to reveal the surface of a natural deposit of brownish yellow clay sand, which lay at a height of 37.55m OD. The western edge of ditch **154** was visible extending along the full length of Trench 9, and displayed a slight curvature towards the north; again the feature was sealed by the excavated overburden, which may have been colluvial in origin.
- 6.10.3 Two further features (**131** and **133**) were revealed towards the north of the trench, which took the form of almost contiguous subcircular depressions in the natural clay sand. Depression **131** measured 0.71m long by 0.41m wide by 0.38m deep, and had steep or undercutting sides and a flat base; **133** measured 0.69m long by 0.47m wide by 0.22m deep, but the sides varied from steep to relatively gentle in gradient. Both fills, **130** and **132**, contained a jumble of large angular and rounded stones. The irregularity of the features, and the quantity of stones which they contained, suggested that these were natural features which had formed as silt accumulated around clusters of rock in the boulder clay. However, both features were recorded in detail because of their superficial similarity to postholes.

## 6.11 TRENCH 10

- 6.11.1 Trench 10 was positioned in an area where a new footpath is proposed. The trench measured 10.2m long, was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.55m, and was aligned north-north-east / south-south-west.
- 6.11.2 A depth of 0.25m of dark brown clay silt topsoil was removed by machine, exposing the surface of a natural deposit of yellowish brown clay sand at c36.25m OD. A single ditch and two modern field drains were visible in the base of the



trench. Ditch **147** was aligned north-west / south-east; it was 0.65m wide and 0.18m deep, with concave sides at a gradient of 1:1 or less, and a gently rounded base; no finds were recovered from the fill (**146**).

## 6.12 TRENCH 11

- 6.12.1 Trench 11 was sited to investigate the footprints of two proposed apartment blocks. The trench measured 11.2m long, was a maximum of 0.88m deep, and was aligned north-north-east / south-south-west.
- 6.12.2 Layers of topsoil (0.16m deep) and brown clay silt, **127** (0.6m deep), were removed by machine to reveal the surface of a natural deposit of orange grey clay sand, which lay at a height of 37.75m OD. A ditch (**153**) was recorded toward the north of the trench, aligned north-east / south-west. It was 0.72m wide and 0.22m deep, with a 'U'-shaped profile, and no finds were recovered from the fill, **152**.
- 6.12.3 Towards the southern end of the trench, one end of a rectangular pit (**151**), of modern appearance, extended into the trench. The pit measured at least 1.3m long by 1.0m wide by 0.35m deep, and had very sharply defined edges, vertical sides, and a flat base; no finds were recovered from the dark greyish brown clay silt fill, **150**.

## 6.13 TRENCH 12

- 6.13.1 Trench 12 was sited to investigate a linear magnetic anomaly identified by the magnetometer survey (*Section 5* and *Appendix 4*). The trench measured 10.12m long, was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m, and was aligned roughly east / west.
- 6.13.2 Layers of topsoil and dark greyish brown clay silt, **127** (0.34-0.5m deep) were removed by machine to reveal the surface of a natural deposit of yellowish brown clay silt, which fell away from 38.3m OD at the west end of the trench, to 37.67m OD at the east end.
- 6.13.3 A modern field drain and a single shallow ditch, aligned north-east / south-west, were identified in the base of the trench. Ditch **129** was 0.55m wide and 0.17m deep, with relatively steep sides, an almost flat base, and a single mid greyish brown clay silt fill, **128**. The feature had a distinct kink near the western end of the trench; one explanation is that this was a drain which had been dug from either end, with the kink being necessary to make the two sections meet. No feature corresponding to the magnetic anomaly was found; it seems likely that the anomaly was caused by ferrous or other debris in the overburden.

## 6.14 TRENCH 13

- 6.14.1 Trench 13 was positioned on the proposed site of an access road. It was aligned roughly north-east / south-west, measured 11.9m long, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.6m.
- 6.14.2 Layers of topsoil, **127** (0.2m deep) and greyish brown silty clay (0.35m deep) were removed by machine to reveal the surface of a natural deposit of orange clay sand, varying between 37.18m OD and 37.38m OD.
- 6.14.3 A modern field drain and a ditch were identified. Ditch **135** was aligned roughly east / west; it measured 0.85m wide by 0.30m deep, had an irregular profile, with

a steep southern side, a gently angled northern side, and a flat base. A single brown clay silt fill was recorded, **I34**.

## 6.15 TRENCH 14

- 6.15.1 Trench 14 was sited to investigate a linear feature tentatively identified during the assessment walkover of the site (Site 32), and also a linear band of magnetic debris identified by the magnetometer survey (*Section 5* and *Appendix 4*). The trench measured 11.3m long, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.4m. It was aligned roughly north-west / south-east.
- 6.15.2 Layers of topsoil (0.2m deep) and yellowish brown clay silt (0.4m deep) were removed by machine to reveal the surface of a natural deposit of yellowish brown clay sand, dipping down to the east, and varying between 36.36m OD and 36.06m OD in height. Two multi-phase linear features were revealed cutting the natural deposit, both aligned north-east / south-west.
- 6.15.3 At the west end of the trench, the latest feature was stone a culvert with large flat capstones (**I38**), that had been constructed in a near vertical cut (**I39**), backfilled with shattered bedrock, **I37**. Culvert **I38** was 0.7m wide, its base lying 1.3m below present ground level. This had been inserted into an earlier ditch, **I43**, which had completely silted up. Ditch **I43** was 4.1m wide and 0.7m deep, its base lying 1.3m below present ground level. It had gently angled but irregular sides, a slightly rounded base, and a lower fill of mottled grey and yellowish brown silty clay, **I42**. The western edge of the feature had cut through a small earlier ditch (**I45**) with a 'U'-shaped profile, 0.6m wide and 0.4m deep. Ditch **I45** had a distinctive grey silty clay fill, **I44**, with the appearance of water-lain sediment.
- 6.15.4 Approximately 2m east of this group of features, two more ditches were recorded, lying on the same orientation. Ditch **I49** was 1m wide and 0.45m deep, with a 'U'-shaped profile, but relatively gently angled sides. It had a single fill of greyish brown silty clay, **I48**. The feature had been cut through the edge of a larger, earlier ditch (**I60**), which was c1.8m wide and 0.8m deep, and had a distinctive profile; the upper sides were relatively gently angled, with a gradient of 1:1 or less, but towards the flat base, the sides were near vertical. Three fills, **I57**, **I58** and **I59**, were identified, the basal fill consisting of dark grey silty clay.
- 6.15.5 The linear feature recorded as Site 32 corresponds to the position of ditch **I60**, and may represent a surviving physical trace of this ditch. The magnetic anomaly was undoubtedly caused by the dumping of ferrous rubbish and burnt materials in a depression over the top of culvert **I38**; the rubbish included the remains of a sprung mattress.

## 6.16 TRENCH 15

- 6.16.1 Trench 15 was sited in the footprint of a proposed apartment block. It was aligned north-east / south-west, was 10.5m long, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.85m.
- 6.16.2 Layers of topsoil (0.2m deep), brown clay silt (0.35m deep), **I74**, and dark greyish brown clay silt, **I75** (0.25m deep), were removed by machine to reveal the surface of a natural deposit of yellowish brown clay sand, dipping down to the north-east, and varying between 36.32m OD and 36.93m OD in height. No

archaeological features were present, but four modern field drains on three different alignments were recorded. It is suggested that the brown clay silt, **174**, identified below the topsoil may have been dumped, and that the darker horizon below, **175**, represents a buried soil, albeit one that may have formed comparatively recently.

## **6.17 TRENCH 16**

- 6.17.1 Trench 16 was sited in the footprint of a proposed apartment block. It was aligned roughly east / west, was 13m long, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4m.
- 6.17.2 A layer of topsoil, **127**, 0.3m deep, was removed by machine, revealing, at the eastern end of the trench, the surface of a natural deposit of yellowish brown clay sand, at a height of 37.53m OD. At the western end of the trench a substantial area of modern disturbance was discovered. A ceramic pipe led down into a large pit filled with loose stone, and covered with a sheet of black plastic to prevent the feature from silting up. The feature was identified by the machine driver as a soakaway of a type commonly employed on Anglesey; it was not excavated. No archaeological features were present elsewhere in the trench, but two modern plastic field drains were encountered.

## **6.18 FINDS**

- 6.18.1 Fifty-four fragments of artefacts and ecofacts were recovered, most of them large and unabraded (*Appendix 3*). The majority derive from ceramic vessels dating from the late nineteenth to about the mid-twentieth centuries; their forms are typical of kitchenwares and storage vessels. A single residual sherd of late medieval / early post-medieval pottery was found, in the same layer (**103**, Trench 1) as an eighteenth to nineteenth century sherd (OR 1003).
- 6.18.2 Glass vessels revealed a similar date and function to the majority of the ceramic vessels. Their association with food debris such as butchered animal bone and oyster shell suggests a domestic midden of relatively recent date. A fragment of leather from layer **104** derived from a nailed boot sole, which was presumably contemporary with the pottery from the same context and therefore probably modern. A single clay pipe bowl found unstratified (**108/1001**; Trench 1) is one of the older objects recovered, dating to AD 1660-1680.

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## 7. CONCLUSIONS

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### 7.1 SUMMARY

- 7.1.1 The fabric survey has established that the relict doorway in the basement of Henllys Hall predates both the present structure and also the earlier hall shown on the 1830 estate map (UWB Henllys ms 1191), and is potentially of medieval origin. However, the only other structural feature of potentially early date, identified by the evaluation trenching, was a shallow rock-cut slot revealed in Trench 3, positioned to the south-west of the present hall. No finds were recovered from the feature, but its position corresponds to the north-west wall of a range of buildings depicted on the 1830 estate map (UWB Henllys ms 1191; LUAU 2001, 16). It is thus possible that the rock-cut feature represents a shallow foundation trench relating to this building which was demolished in *c*1852. Two subcircular features, which resembled postholes containing packing stones, were investigated in Trench 9, in the lower, eastern part of the site; however, on excavation, the features were found almost certainly to have had a natural, geological, origin.
- 7.1.2 A stone-lined pit was sample excavated in Trench 1, positioned to the north-east of the present hall. The fill of the pit contained relatively large amounts of modern pottery and glass, and the feature had cut through a deposit which appeared to be modern in character. It is suggested that the pit may have been infilled in the earlier nineteenth century; the stone lining indicates a possible function as a cess pit, although no cess deposits were encountered. A deposit of relatively clean yellowish brown clayey sand was revealed between relatively modern layers cut by the pit, and the surface of the shale bedrock. A single sherd of green-glazed pottery of probable medieval date was recovered from this deposit; it is uncertain whether the deposit represents a natural accumulation of subsoil overlying the bedrock, or if it was the product of dumping intending to makeup the ground surface.
- 7.1.3 The remaining features identified were all drainage or boundary ditches. One such feature was identified in Trench 5; it ran parallel to the southern wall of the walled garden, which lies some 5m to the north, and a single sherd of probable seventeenth century pottery was recovered from its fill. However, with this exception, the drainage-type ditches were all located in the lower, eastern portion of the site. The ditches discovered there probably represent successive attempts to drain an area of damp ground; the natural subsoil is clayey sand, and the presence of rushes suggested that the ground remains poorly drained. Most of the ditches identified were filled by homogeneous grey clays and silts, which probably represent water-lain sediment. No artefactual evidence was recovered from the lower part of the site, and the dating of the features recorded there remains uncertain. Some of the ditches are probably post-medieval or modern in origin, but others may be earlier. One ditch, identified in Trench 8, and following a north/south alignment, may correspond to a field boundary depicted on the estate survey of 1830 (UWB Henllys ms 1191), but the remaining features could not be related directly to nineteenth or twentieth century mapping. Two multi-phase ditches revealed in Trench 14 followed the same alignment as a field boundary depicted on the 1830 survey, but lay *c*10m west of the estimated position of the field boundary. Trench 14 had been positioned to investigate an anomaly produced by the earlier geophysical survey of this part of the site but, on

excavation, the anomaly appeared to reflect the presence of dumped ferrous rubbish and burnt material. Nowhere was there evidence that any of the geophysical anomalies reflected the presence of archaeological features, with the possible exception of a halo feature investigated by Trench 8.

## **7.2 DISCUSSION**

- 7.2.1 The evaluation has allowed the accurate recording of the relict doorway within the hall's basement, and of landscape features surviving towards the south of the site, but has produced only limited evidence for structures pre-dating the rebuilding of 1852-3. On the basis of present evidence, it seems likely that medieval remains, including any relating to the *llys*, may have stood on the site now occupied by the present hall, and may not have survived the later building activity. However, the area of greatest potential for the recovery will be in the area of the south-eastern wing of the present hall, which incorporates the relict doorway.

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## 8. IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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### 8.1 IMPACT

- 8.1.1 The rock-cut feature identified in the lawned area to the south-west of the hall, and the relict doorway within the hall's cellar, were the only structural features identified of potential medieval or earlier post-medieval date. On the basis of present evidence, it seems likely that medieval structural remains relating to the *llys* were concentrated on the site now occupied by the present hall, and may not have survived post-medieval and modern building activity. The proposed alterations to the hall lie mostly within the present nineteenth century building and its associated ancillary structures; the areas of new building have been evaluated, with the exception of the terrace east of the hall, where it is proposed that a passageway should be built linking the basement with a proposed new pool and leisure centre to the east, and also the area around the present swimming pool, which will be removed and the area landscaped.
- 8.1.2 The evaluation has, however, revealed a large number of undated drainage/boundary features in the lower, eastern part of the site, and some of these may be medieval in origin. The construction of apartments, with associated access roads and services, will certainly impact upon these features.
- 8.1.3 The proposed car park to the west of the hall will lie close to a historic walled garden, and damage to the wall itself, or to the setting of the garden, is a possibility.

### 8.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.2.1 It is recommended that the groundworks associated with the removal of the swimming pool, and the associated landscaping between the pool and the hall, should be subject to an archaeological watching brief. In this instance, it is recommended that an archaeologist be required to supervise the stripping of overburden, and should be allowed to direct machining down to a level appropriate for the identification of archaeological remains. Provision should then be made for this area to be cleaned by hand, and for archaeological features to be recorded if present, prior to further excavation for the development.
- 8.2.2 Elsewhere, an archaeological watching brief should be conducted whenever groundworks are undertaken. An undated rock cut feature has been identified on the lawn to the south-west of the hall, and several undated ditches were found in the lower eastern area. A watching brief may allow additional elements of these features to be uncovered and dated.
- 8.2.3 Care should be taken to avoid damage to the relict doorway during refurbishment of the lower ground floor of the hall.
- 8.2.4 Care should be taken to avoid damage to the walled garden whilst the overflow carpark is being constructed in the vicinity of Trenches 5 and 6. Consideration should be given to the provision of sympathetic landscaping to ensure that the car park does not detract from the setting of the garden.

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## 9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1  
PROJECT DESIGN

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**MAY 2001**

**Lancaster  
University  
Archaeological  
Unit**

**HENLLYS HALL HOTEL  
BEAUMARIS,**

**ANGLESEY**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

***Proposals***

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



## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) has been requested by John Moore and Partners to submit a project proposal for an archaeological evaluation of Henllys Hall, Beaumaris, Anglesey (SH 6005 7765) as an anticipated condition of a planning application for a proposed residential development. The work follows on from an assessment undertaken by LUAU (2001) which identified the potential for significant archaeological remains. The proposed work programme is in accordance with a verbal brief from the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service. The requirement is for a detailed survey of earthwork remains at the southern part of the site, a fabric survey of a relict doorway in the cellar of the hotel, and a programme of evaluation trenching across the area of the development.

## 1.2 BACKGROUND

1.2.1 The site lies c100m south-west of remains pertaining to the medieval settlement of Llan-faes. Evidence of the settlement was 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 landscaped to provide for a new garden layout. A doorway survives from the earlier hall, incorporated into the basement of the present building and the assessment identified features that probably predate the nineteenth century landscaping.

1.2.2 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 by the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service in order to identify the location, condition, and significance of any remains that may be threatened.

## 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 20 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 archaeological 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. LUAU undertook the assessment phase of the present study.

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 verbal brief by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service to provide an archaeological evaluation of the designated area. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

2.2 **Detailed Landscape Survey:** a detailed survey will be undertaken of the earthwork remains identified at the southern part of the site which relate to later landscaping.

2.3 **Fabric Survey of the Relict Doorway in Henllys Hall Hotel:** the relict doorway in the cellar of the hotel will be subject to fabric survey and this will generate elevation drawings and rectified photographs of the early structural elements.

- 2.4 **Evaluation Trenching:** trenching will be undertaken across the lower eastern part of the site and will examine 2% of the overall study area. Further trenches will be located in the footprint of the apartment building in the lawned area to the south-west of the present hotel, in the area of proposed new-build to the north-west of the hotel, and also in the adjacent area of proposed car park. Two trenches should also be located in the area of the proposed new tennis courts and overflow parking area to the west of the hotel.
- 2.5 **Evaluation Report:** a written evaluation report will be compiled 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 DETAILED LANDSCAPE SURVEY

- 3.2.1 It is proposed to undertake a LUAU level 2b survey (equivalent to RCHM(E) level 2, see LUAU survey levels, *Appendix J*) of the sites identified by the identification survey (LUAU 2001) in the southern part of the site (Sites 28-30).
- 3.2.2 **Reconnaissance:** following on from the earlier identification survey, systematic field walking of the survey area will be undertaken to identify all components relating to the sites.
- 3.2.3 **Instrument Survey:** all appropriate topographical detail will be recorded to provide an appropriate context for the archaeological detail. Although the survey data will include altitude information this will not be used for the production of the level 2b survey (unless the contour survey option is adopted).
- 3.2.4 Survey control will be established over the site by closed traverse and internally will be accurate to +/- 15mm; the control network will be located onto the existing survey of the site by tying into clearly defined topography.
- 3.2.5 The surface features will be surveyed by EDM tacheometry using a total station linked to a data logger, the accuracy of detail generation being appropriate for a 1:500 output. The digital data will be transferred onto a portable computer for manipulation and later transfer to other digital or hard media. Film plots will be output via a plotter. The archaeological detail will be drawn up in the field as a dimensioned drawing on the plots with respect to survey markers. Most topographical detail will also be surveyed, particularly if it is archaeologically significant or is in the vicinity of archaeological features. The survey drawings will be generated within a CAD system and will be merged with the initial phase 1 survey (*Section 3.2*). The results can be output at any scale.
- 3.2.6 **Photographic Survey:** in conjunction with the archaeological survey a photographic archive will be generated, which will record significant features and general landscapes. It will be undertaken in 35mm black and white and colour slide film.
- 3.2.7 **Site Gazetteer:** the survey will be enhanced by a gazetteer description of individual archaeological features, which will relate directly to the survey mapping.

#### 3.3 FABRIC SURVEY OF RELICT DOORWAY

- 3.3.1 **Plan Recording:** detailed plans of the building are available and it is proposed to augment these by manual survey to incorporate the plan form of the doorway and its general context within the hotel basement. The final plan will be incorporated within a CAD system and presented alongside the elevation record.
- 3.3.2 **Elevation Recording:** the doorway is in a multitude of planes, which makes it difficult to record by rectified photography. It is therefore proposed to use a Leica reflectorless total station to record the elevation of the doorway. The survey will be undertaken with respect to local survey control. Information is captured as primary three-dimensional data and then translated into a 3D cad system (AutoCad LT) using TheoLT software. The resulting data are plotted out in the vertical plane and then drawn up in the field using manual techniques. The graphic results of the survey will be digitised into an industry-standard Computer Aided Draughting (CAD) system to enhance the manipulation and presentation of the results. The general elevation drawings will show all significant architectural detail, ashlar and moulded and dressed stone.

- 3.3.3 **Photographic Survey:** a general and detailed oblique photographic record will be produced of the elevations and detail shots of relevant and significant features. This will provide a general perspective record of the structure and will provide a general contextual record of the door.
- 3.3.4 **Interpretation and Analysis:** a visual inspection of the site will be carried out and a descriptive record maintained of the structure utilising the appropriate LUAU pro forma record sheets to the Royal Commission on Historic Buildings in England (RCHM(E)) Level II standard. The visual inspection will allow for the interpretation and analysis of the structures and where possible it will define the form and character of the structure within a regional context.
- 3.4 EVALUATION**
- 3.4.1 The programme of trenching will establish the presence or absence of any previously unsuspected archaeological deposits and, if established, will then test their date, nature, depth and quality of preservation.
- 3.4.2 **Lower Eastern Area:** 2% of the lower area should be examined, which encompasses c9500m<sup>2</sup>, and will necessitate the excavation of 190m<sup>2</sup> of trenching. It is proposed, therefore, to excavate ten 10m x 1.7m trenches. The configuration and layout of these trenches will be subject to the results of the initial geophysical survey (presently being undertaken on behalf of the client) and discussions with the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service; these trenches will target areas of greatest archaeological potential as well as areas of greatest development impact. Allowance will be made for any identified services within the study area.
- 3.4.3 **Hotel Area:** three trenches will be excavated on the higher land around the present Henllys Hall Hotel, and will be targeted on areas of proposed development. A single north-east / south-west orientated 10m x 1.7m trench will be excavated within the footprint of the proposed apartment building in the lawned area to the south-west of the hotel (see attached figure). A further 10m x 1.7m trench will be excavated on the footprint of the proposed new-build to the immediate north-west of the present hotel buildings, and finally a single 10m x 1.7m trench will be excavated in the area of proposed car park to the north of the hotel.
- 3.4.4 **Tennis Court and Overflow Parking Area:** the area to the west of the hotel complex, which will be utilised for the construction of tennis courts and overflow car parking, was not incorporated within the study area of the earlier assessment (LUAU 2001); however, it is an area of archaeological potential and warrants investigation in advance of the development. It is proposed that two trenches be excavated within this area, the precise locations of which will be subject to discussions with the client and the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service.
- 3.4.5 **Methods:** the trenches will be excavated by a combination of mechanised and manual techniques; the topsoil will be removed by JCB excavator, fitted with a 1.7m wide toothless bucket, and stratified archaeological deposits beneath will be excavated by hand. The machine excavation will not intrude into any potential archaeological stratigraphy and all machine excavation will be undertaken under careful archaeological supervision. Manual excavation techniques will be used to evaluate any sensitive deposits, and will enable an assessment of the nature, date, survival and depth of deposits. The trenches will not be excavated deeper than 1.25m to accommodate health and safety constraints; any requirements to excavate below this depth will involve recosting.
- 3.4.6 All trenches will be excavated in a stratigraphical manner, whether by machine or by hand. Trenches will be accurately located by use of total station equipment with respect to existing site surveys provided by the client and altitude information will be established with respect to Ordnance Survey Datum. Archaeological features within the trenches will be planned by manual techniques.
- 3.4.7 Samples will be collected for technological, pedological, palaeoenvironmental and chronological analysis as appropriate. If necessary, access to conservation advice and facilities can be made available. LUAU maintains close relationships with Ancient Monuments Laboratory staff at the Universities of Durham and York and, in addition, employs artefact and palaeoecology specialists with considerable expertise in the investigation, excavation and finds management of sites of all periods and types, who are readily available for consultation. Any requirements for conservation of artefactual material would be undertaken by Jennifer Jones, University of Durham.
- 3.4.9 **Recording:** all information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and both black and white and

colour photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times.

- 3.4.10 Results of the field investigation will be recorded using a paper system, adapted from that used by Centre for Archaeology of English Heritage. The archive will include both a photographic record and accurate large scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20, and 1:10). Levels will be tied into the Ordnance Datum. All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded using the same system, and will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines) in order to minimise deterioration.

### 3.5 EVALUATION REPORT

- 3.5.1 **Archive:** the results of the fieldwork 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 all features, finds, or palaeoenvironmental data recovered during fieldwork, which will be catalogued by context. All artefacts will be processed to MAP2 standards and will be assessed by our in-house finds specialists. This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format, both as a printed document and on computer disks as ASCII files, and a synthesis (in the form of the index to the archive and the report) will be included in the Gwynedd Sites and Monuments Record. 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 (microform or microfiche) together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) with the appropriate museum.

- 3.5.2 **Evaluation Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Client, and further copies submitted to the Local Planning Authority and to the County 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, with an assessment of the overall stratigraphy, together with appropriate illustrations, including detailed plans and sections indicating the locations of archaeological features. Any finds recovered from the excavations will be assessed with reference to other local material, any particular or unusual features of the assemblage will be highlighted, and the potential of the site for palaeoenvironmental analysis will be considered. The report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of further sources identified during the programme of work, but not examined in detail. The report will incorporate all drawings created by the landscape and fabric surveys.

- 3.5.3 This report will identify areas of defined archaeology, the location of trenches, and whether the results of the sampling were positive or negative. An assessment and statement of the actual and potential archaeological significance of the site within the broader context of regional and national archaeological priorities will be made. Illustrative material will include a location map, and section drawings and plans if appropriate; it 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.

### 3.6 GENERAL CONDITIONS

- 3.6.1 **Access:** liaison for basic site access will be undertaken through John Moore and Partners and it is understood that there will be access for pedestrian and plant traffic to the site.

- 3.6.2 **Health and Safety:** full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services) during the survey, as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. The LUAU Health and Safety Statement conforms to all the provisions of the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Unit Managers) Health and Safety manual. Risk assessments are undertaken as a matter of course for all projects. The Unit Safety Policy Statement will be provided to the client, if required. If there is a requirement to excavate trenches deeper than 1.25m the trenches will be stepped out to minimise section collapse.

- 3.6.3 **Confidentiality:** the report is designed as a document for the specific use of the client for the particular purpose as defined in this project design, and should be treated as such. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties or for any other explicit purpose can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.

- 3.6.4 **Project Monitoring:** any proposed changes to this project design will be agreed with Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service. If required a meeting with the archaeological curator and the client can be established at the outset of the project.
- 3.6.5 **Insurance:** the insurance in respect of claims for personal injury to or the death of any person under a contract of service with the unit and arising out of an in the course of such person's employment shall comply with the employers' liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 and any statutory orders made there under. For all other claims to cover the liability of LUAU, in respect of personal injury or damage to property by negligence of LUAU or any of its employees, there applies the insurance cover of £1m for any one occurrence or series of occurrences arising out of one event.
- 3.6.6 **Contingencies:** a contingency cost is submitted to cover the eventuality of further machining or additional areas of trenching, the requirements for conservation of artefacts. The defined contingency cost is an upper limit, inclusive of all required contingencies; the actual cost for any element will be agreed with the client prior to implementation. Any further work will be subject to discussions with the archaeological curator and the client.
- 3.6.7 **Reinstatement:** it is understood that there will be no requirement for reinstatement of the ground beyond backfilling. The ground will be backfilled so that the topsoil is laid on the top, and the ground will be roughly graded with the machine.

#### 4. WORK TIMETABLE

The phases of work will comprise:

- 4.1 **Detailed Landscape Survey**  
A one day period is required for the survey.
- 4.2 **Fabric Survey of Relict Doorway**  
A one day period is required for the survey.
- 4.3 **Evaluation Trenching**  
A nine day period would be required to complete this element.
- 4.4 **Evaluation Report**  
A ten 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. The evaluation would be directed by **Richard Heawood, BA MA AIFA** (Unit Project Officer) who undertook the initial assessment and who has considerable experience of the excavation of medieval sites.

## APPENDIX 2 CONTEXT LIST

<b>Number</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	1	Tarmac / hardcore
101	1	Layer
102	1	Layer
103	1	Layer
104	1	Fill of 105
105	1	Cut of pit
106	3	Turf / topsoil
107	3	Fill of 115
108	1	Unstratified finds
109	-	Not used
110	2	Concrete / hardcore
111	2	Layer
112	2	Layer
113	1	Stone lining of pit 105
114	2	Layer
115	3	Linear cut through bedrock
116	4	Topsoil
117	4	Natural deposit
118	4	Natural deposit
119	5	Topsoil
120	5	Colluvial deposit
121	5	Fill of 122
122	5	Linear cut
123	5	Natural deposit
124	6	Topsoil
125	6	Natural deposit
126	6	Natural deposit
127	7-16	Overburden deposit
128	12	Fill of 129

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129	12	Linear cut
130	9	Fill of 131
131	9	Natural hole
132	9	Fill of 133
133	9	Natural hole
134	13	Fill of 135
135	13	Linear cut
136	-	Not used
137	14	Fill of 139
138	14	Stone culvert within 139
139	14	Linear cut for culvert
140	14	Top fill of 143
141	14	Middle fill of 143
142	14	Lower fill of 143
143	14	Wide linear cut
144	14	Fill of 145
145	14	Narrow linear cut
146	10	Fill of 147
147	10	Linear cut
148	14	Fill of 149
149	14	Wide linear cut
150	11	Fill of 151
151	11	Cut of pit
152	11	Fill of 153
153	11	Linear cut
154	8	Linear cut
155	8	Linear cut
156	3	Fill of 154
157	14	Upper fill of 160
158	4	Middle fill of 160
159	14	Basal fill of 160
160	14	Wide linear cut
161	8	Fill of 155
162	8	Fill of 163
163	8	Cut of subcircular ? natural feature
164	8	Lower fill of 165

165	8	Linear cut
166	8	Upper fill of 165
167	8	Deposit at base of 127
168	cellar	North-east jamb of doorway
169	cellar	South-west jamb of doorway
170	cellar	Wall through which doorway passes
171	cellar	North-east wall of cellar
172	7	Silty sand layer
173	7	Sand layer
174	15	Clay silt layer
175	15	Grey brown clay silt layer



## APPENDIX 3 FINDS LIST

Context	OR	Material	Category	No	Description	Date
103	1002	ceramic	vessel	1	Body fragment, black-glazed redware	eighteenth- nineteenth century
103	1003	ceramic	vessel	1	Body fragment, green-glazed oxidised fabric	late medieval/early post-medieval
104	1011	bone	animal	2	Butchered	not closely dateable
104	1009	ceramic	vessel	10	Brown stoneware bottle, complete?	late nineteenth/twentieth century
104	1009	ceramic	vessel	7	Rim-base fragments white-glazed earthenware, plates. Two vessels represented	late nineteenth/twentieth century
104	1009	ceramic	vessel	2	Rim fragments underglaze transfer printed plate with overglaze polychrome enamel	late nineteenth/twentieth century
104	1009	ceramic	vessel	2	Rim fragments underglaze transfer printed plate	late nineteenth/twentieth century
104	1009	ceramic	vessel	1	Body fragment, black-glazed redware. Large open vessel	late nineteenth/twentieth century
104	1009	ceramic	vessel	1	Brown stoneware bottle, complete	late nineteenth/twentieth century
104	1009	ceramic	vessel	3	Lid, cream ?stoneware. Co-operative Boot Co	late nineteenth/twentieth century
104	1010	glass	vessel	2	Body fragments, dark olive green bottle	late nineteenth/twentieth century
104	1010	glass	vessel	1	Body and base fragment, natural bluish medicine bottle	late nineteenth/twentieth century
104	1013	iron	peg	1	Large peg with round section and tapered end	post-medieval?
104	1005	leather	shoe	3	Thick nailed boot sole	late nineteenth/twentieth century
104	1012	shell	oyster	2	Small fragments, native oyster	not closely dateable
106	1005	ceramic	vessel	1	Rim fragment, cast earthenware plate, green glaze	late nineteenth/twentieth century
108	1001	ceramic	clay pipe	1	Bowl fragment, possibly Oswald's type 17 (Oswald 1975)	1660-1680?
111	1006	shell	oyster	2	Complete valves, native oyster	not closely dateable
112	-	ceramic	vessel	1	Body fragment, black-glazed redware	eighteenth- nineteenth century
112	1008	ceramic	vessel	1	Body fragment, black-glazed redware	eighteenth- nineteenth century
112	1007	glass	vessel	1	Body fragment, dark olive green bottle	late nineteenth/twentieth century
120	1014	ceramic	vessel	4	Joining fragments, terra cotta gardenware	late nineteenth/twentieth century
121	1015	ceramic	vessel	4	Joining rim and body fragments of a single dish. Redware with streaky clear glaze	eighteenth-nineteenth century

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APPENDIX 4  
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

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- Figure 1 Henllys Hall, Beaumaris: Location Map
- Figure 2 Landscape Survey Map
- Figure 3 Trench Location Map
- Figure 4 Plan and Elevation of the Relict Doorway
- Figure 5 Evaluation Trench Plans
- Figure 6 Plan showing relationship between present hall, and buildings mapped in 1830
- Figure 7 Sections from Trenches 1, 3, 8 and 14, and Plans of Trenches 8 and 9





based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:50000  
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Figure 1 : Henllys Hall, Beaumaris: Location Map



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MEETING HOUSE LANE  
LANCASTER  
LA1 1TF



TEL: 01524 848666

**PROJECT:**

**Henllys Hall, Beaumaris  
Archaeological Evaluation**

**DRAWING No:**

**2**

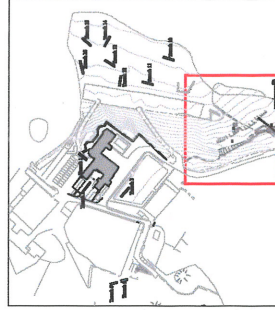


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**DATE:** July 2001

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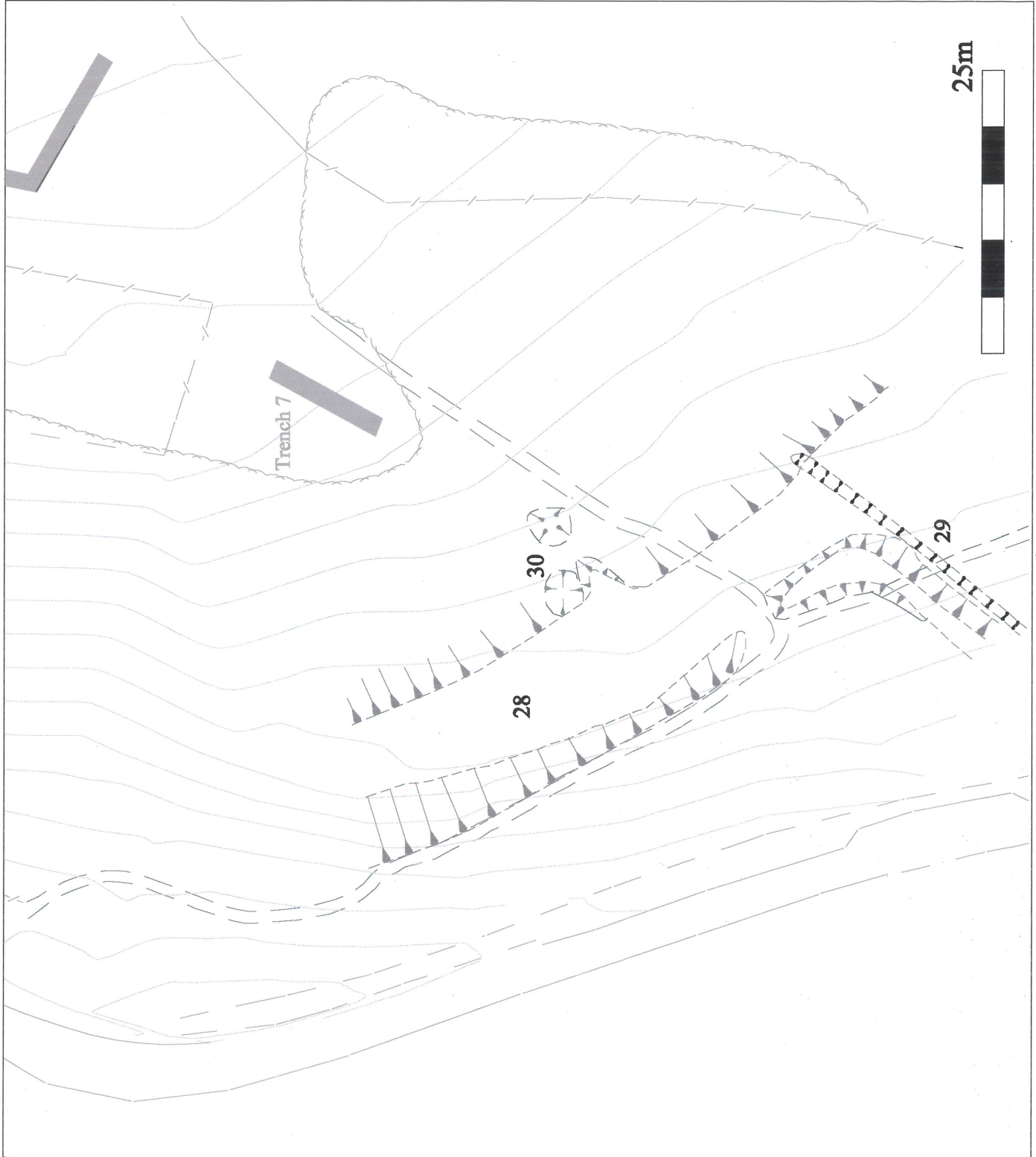


**TITLE:**

**Landscape Survey Map**

**COMMISSIONED BY:**

**John Moore and Partners**



**Figure 2: Landscape Survey Map**

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LANCASTER  
LA1 1TF

TEL: 01524 848666



**PROJECT:**

**Henllys Hall, Beaumaris  
Archaeological Evaluation**

**DRAWING No:**

**3**



**DRAWN BY:** ELC

**DATE:** July 2001

**LOCATION:**

**KEY**



**Geophysical Survey  
Areas**



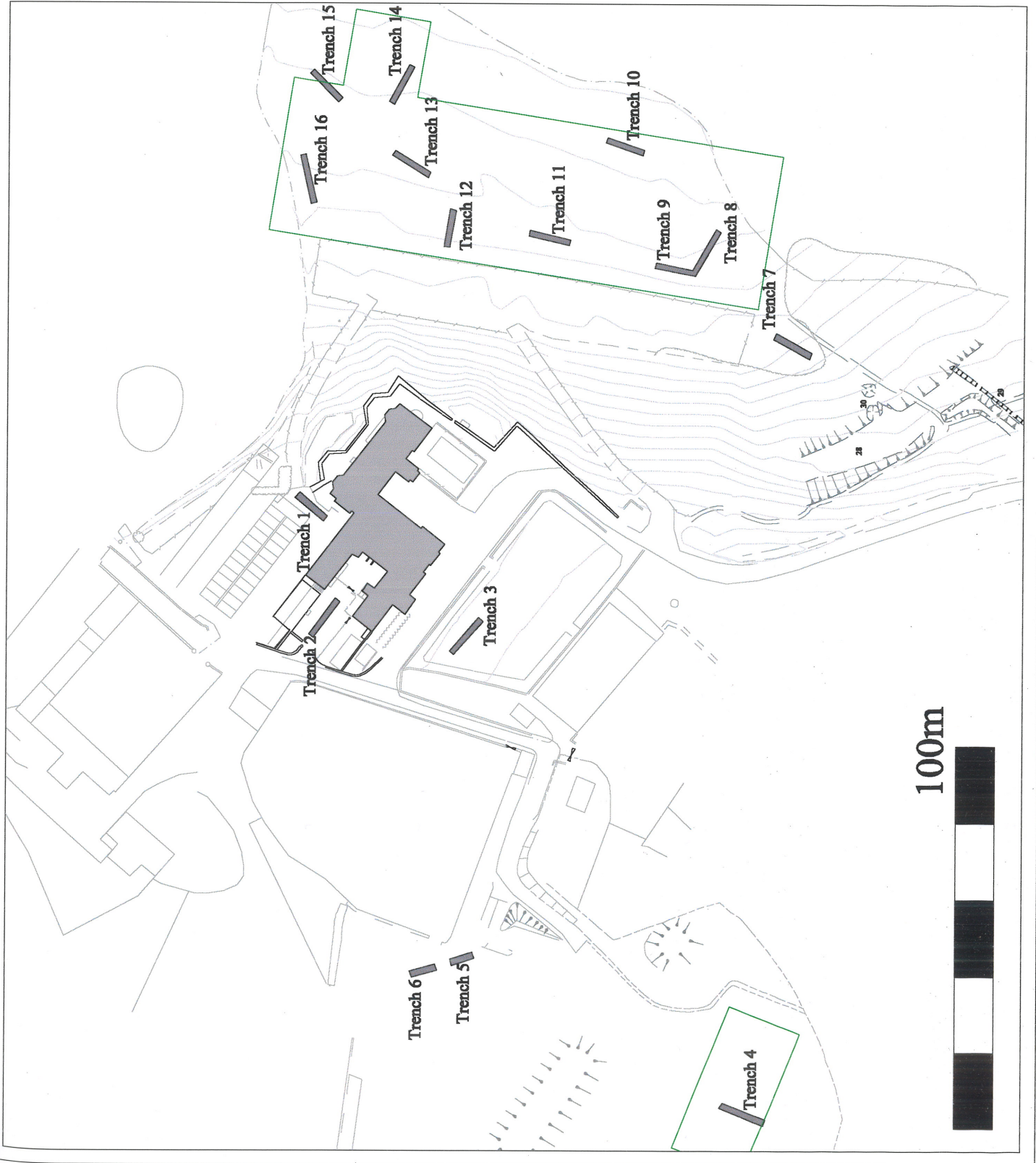
**Trench Locations**

**TITLE:**

**Trench Location Map**

**COMMISSIONED BY:**

**John Moore and Partners**



**Figure 3: Trench Location Map**



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LA1 1YF  
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PROJECT:

Hemllys Hall, Beaumaris  
Archaeological Evaluation

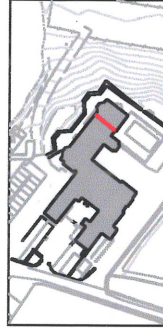
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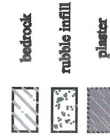
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DATE: July 2001

LOCATION:



KEY



TITLE:  
Plan and Elevation

COMMISSIONED BY:

John Moore and Partners

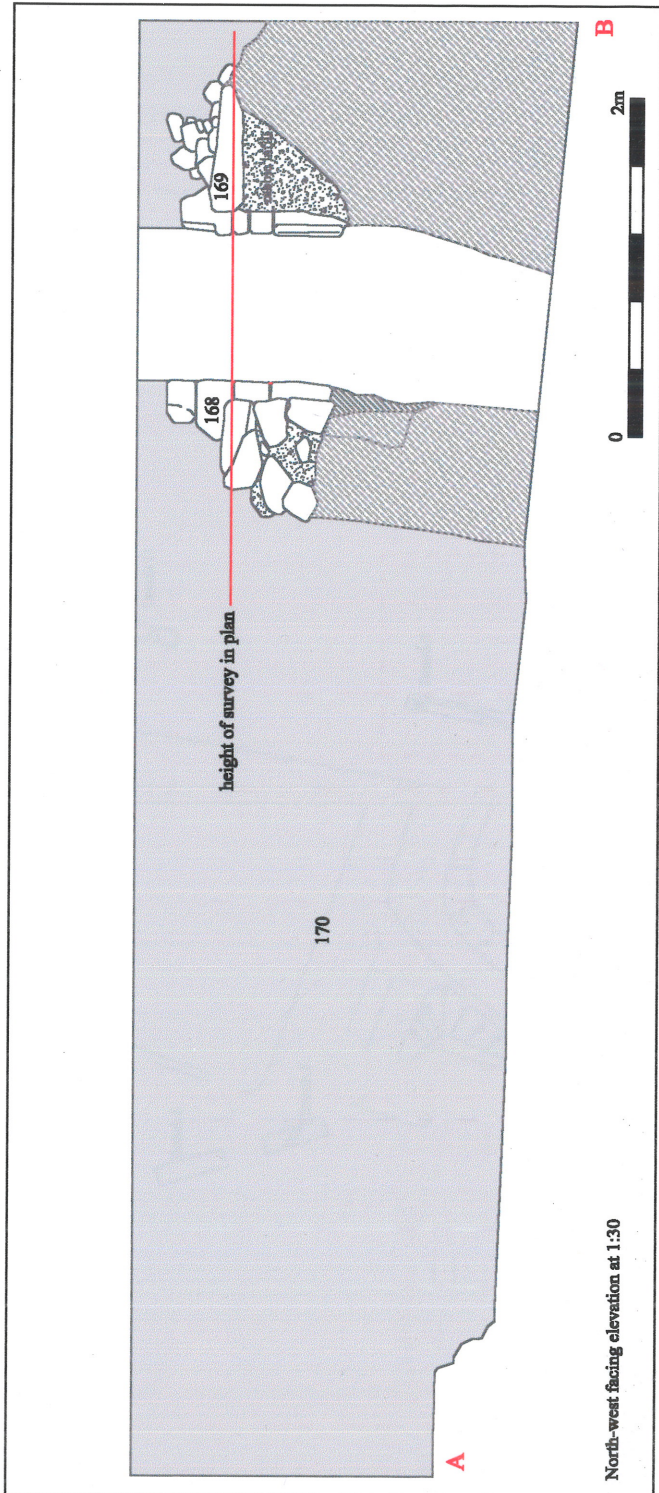
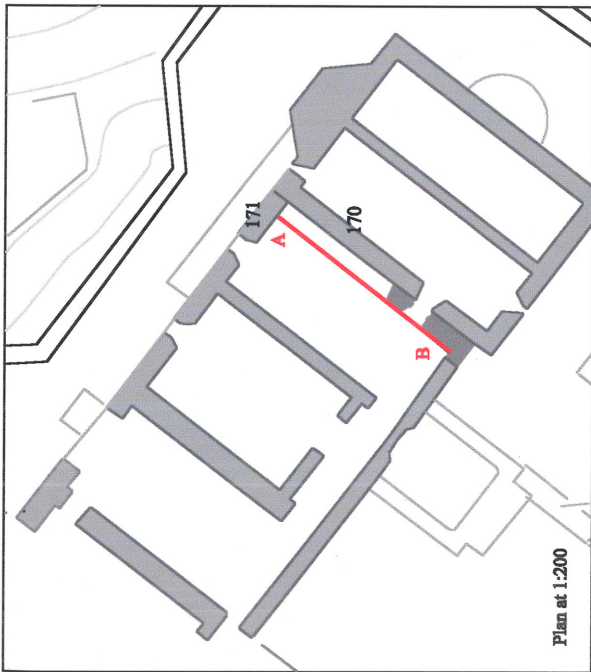
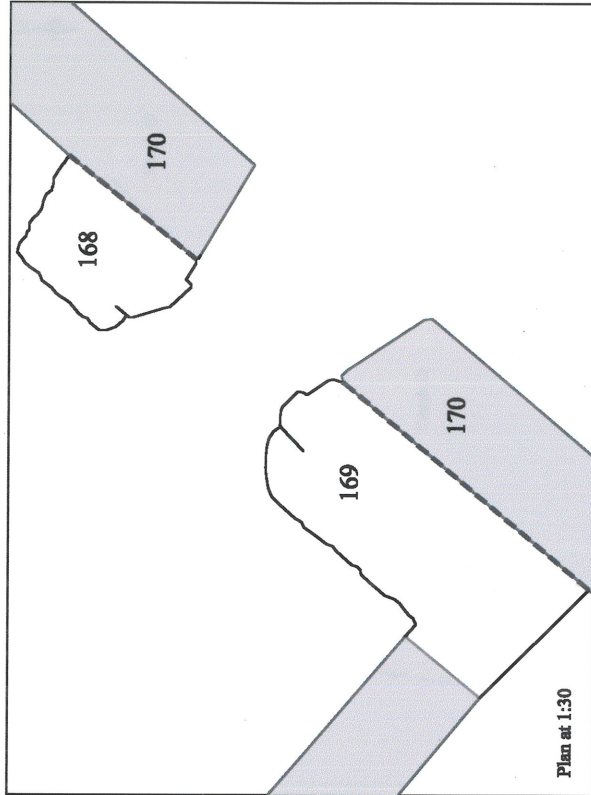


Figure 4: Plan and Elevation of Relict Doorway



PROJECT:

Henllys Hall, Beaumaris  
Archaeological Evaluation

DRAWING No: 5



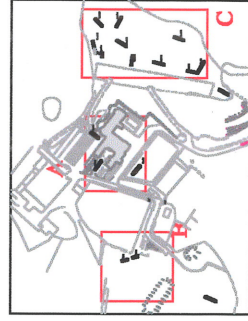
Base Topographic Survey by  
SPATIAL DATA LTD

Scale 1:500

DRAWN BY: EC

DATE: July 2001

LOCATION:



KEY

excavated segment of  
cut feature

TITLE:

Trench plans

COMMISSIONED BY:

John Moore and Partners

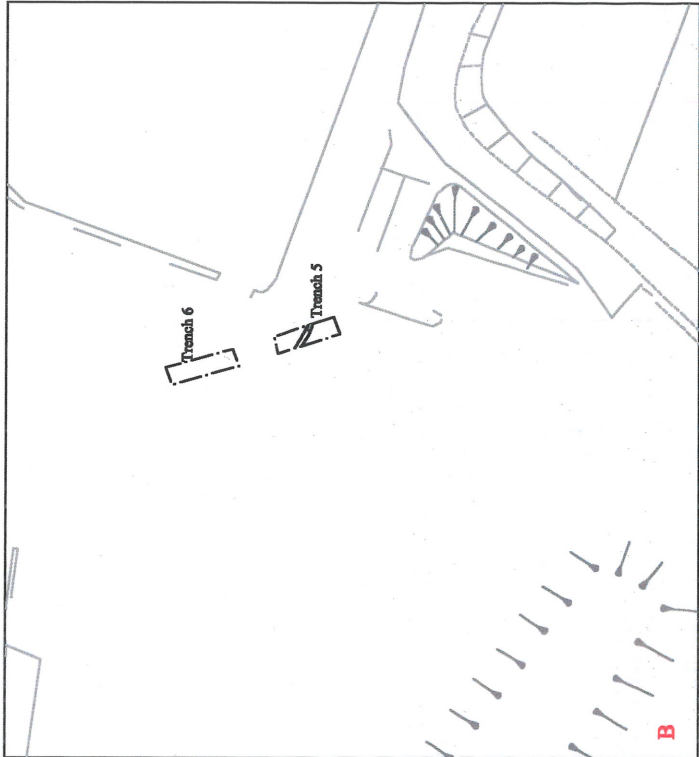
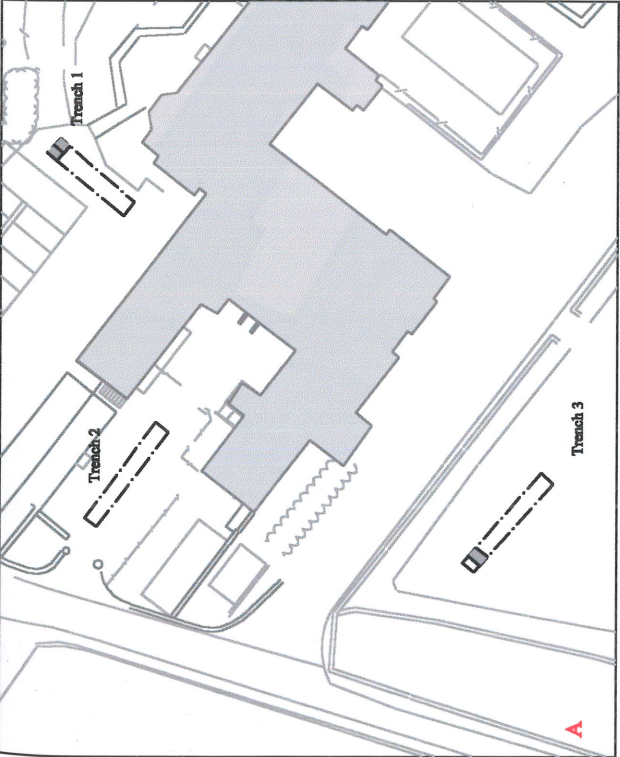
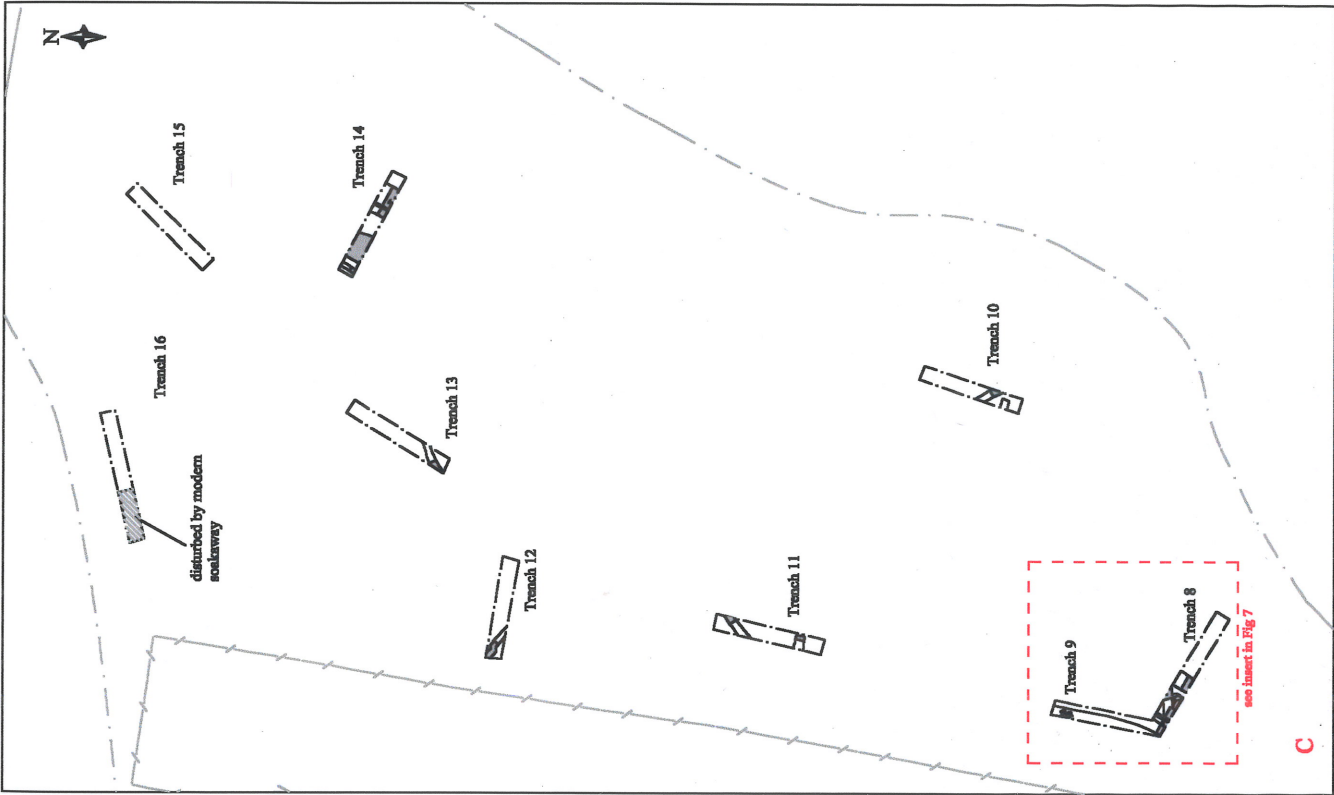


Figure 5: Evaluation Trench Plans



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PROJECT:

Henllys Hall

DRAWING No:

6



DRAWN BY: DWE

DATE: March 2001

LOCATION:



KEY



Later building



Earlier building

TITLE:  
Plan showing relationship between  
present hall, and buildings  
demolished c1851

COMMISSIONED BY:

John Moore and Partners

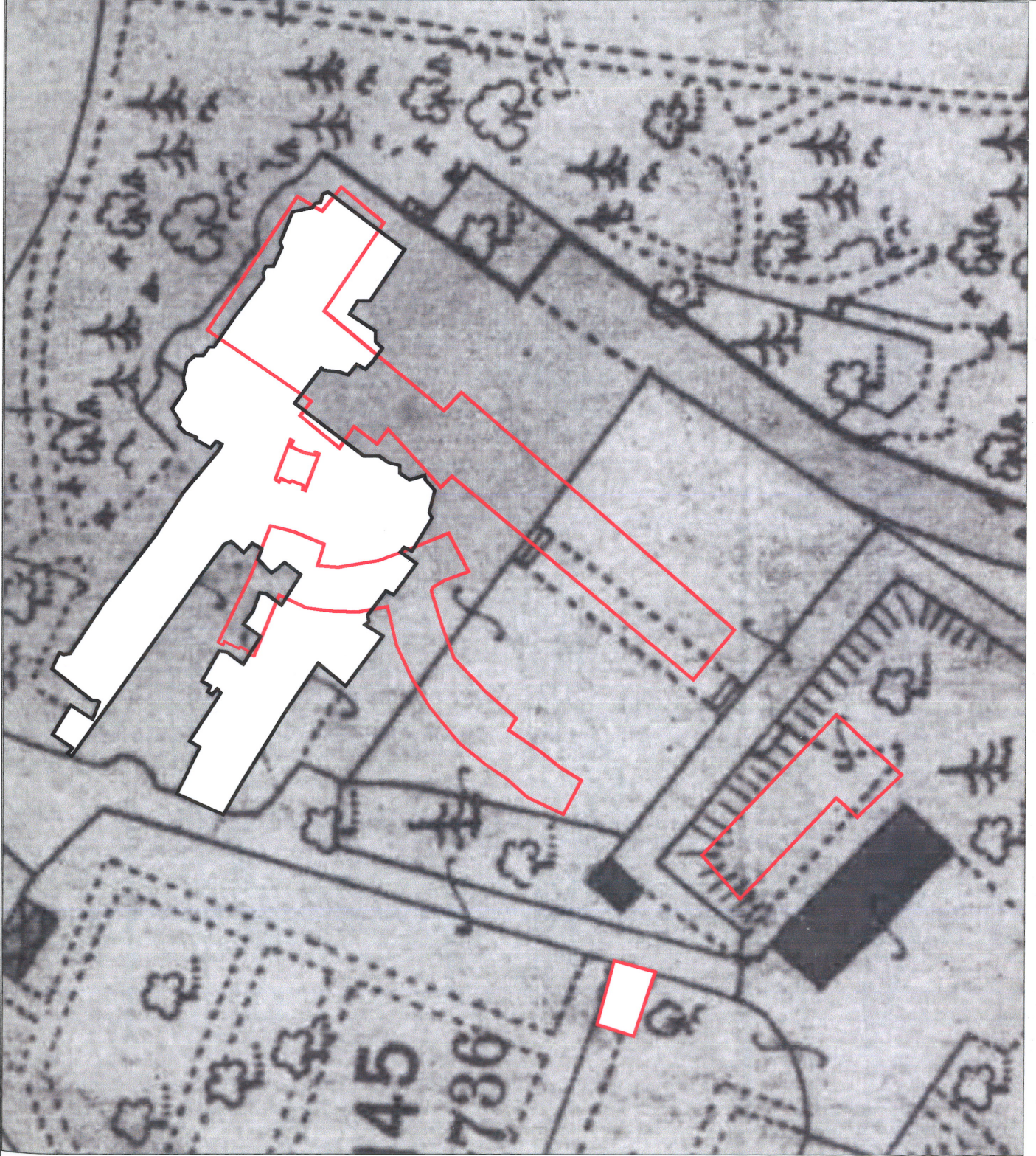


Figure 6: Plan showing relationship between present hall, and buildings mapped in 1830



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LANCASTER  
LA1 1YF  
TEL: 01524 848666



PROJECT:

**Henlys Hall, Beaumaris  
Archaeological Evaluation**

DRAWING No: **7**

Scale 1:50 (sections) 1:200 (plan)

DRAWN BY: ELC

DATE: July 2001

LOCATION:

KEY

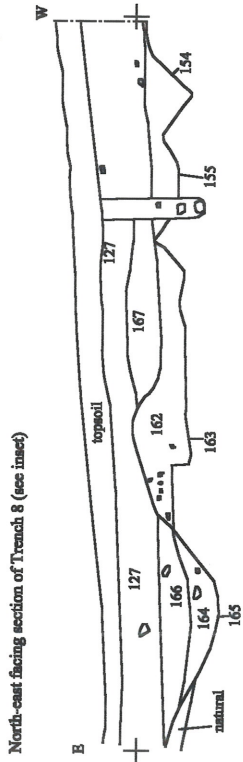
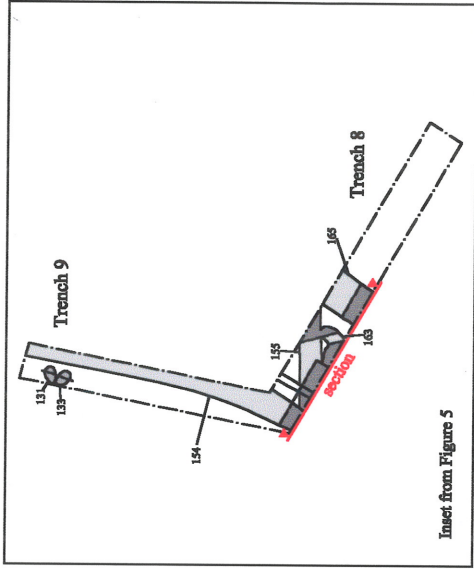
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-  excavated segment of archaeological feature

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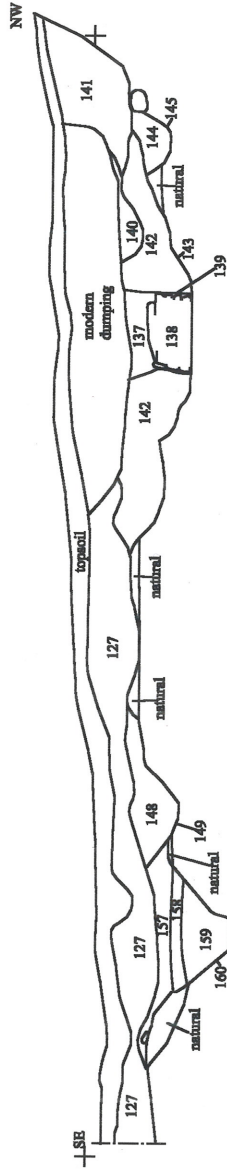
**Sections and plan**

COMMISSIONED BY:

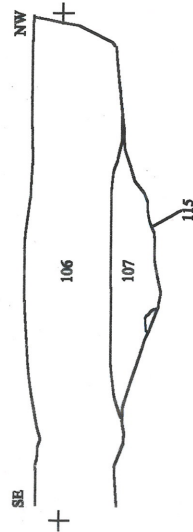
**John Moore and Partners**



North-east facing section of Trench 14



North-east facing section of Trench 3



South-east facing section of Trench 1

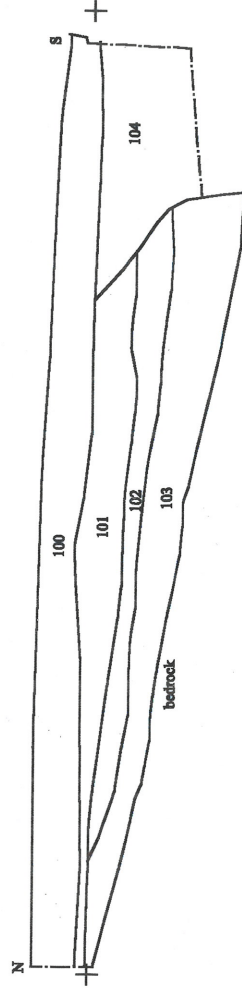


Figure 7: Sections from Trenches 1, 3, 8 and 14, and Plan of Trenches 8 and 9

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## PLATES

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- Plate 1 General view over the lower eastern area
- Plate 2 Relict Doorway looking south-east
- Plate 3 Relict Doorway and pillar of bedrock viewed from the north
- Plate 4 Interface of walls 170 and 171 in the basement
- Plate 5 Pit 105 in Trench 1 viewed from the south-west
- Plate 6 Rock cut ditch in Trench 3 looking south-west
- Plate 7 Trench 8 looking east
- Plate 8 Ditch 160, Trench 14 looking north-west



Plate 1 General view over the lower eastern area



Plate 2 Relict Doorway looking south-east





Plate 3 Relict Doorway and pillar of bedrock viewed from the north

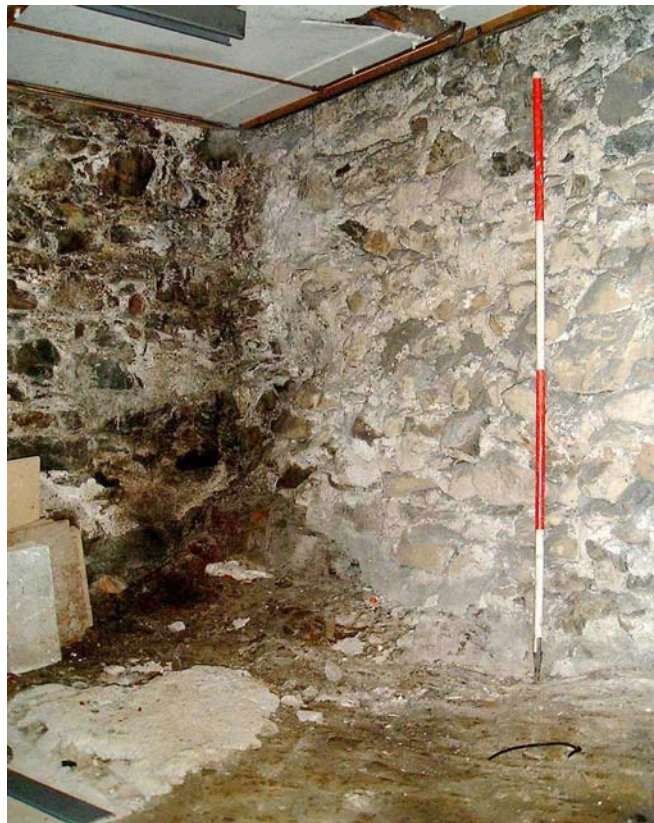


Plate 4 Interface of walls 170 and 171 in the basement





Plate 5 Pit 105 in Trench 1 viewed from the south-west



Plate 6 Rock cut ditch in Trench 3 looking south-west





Plate 7 Trench 8 looking east

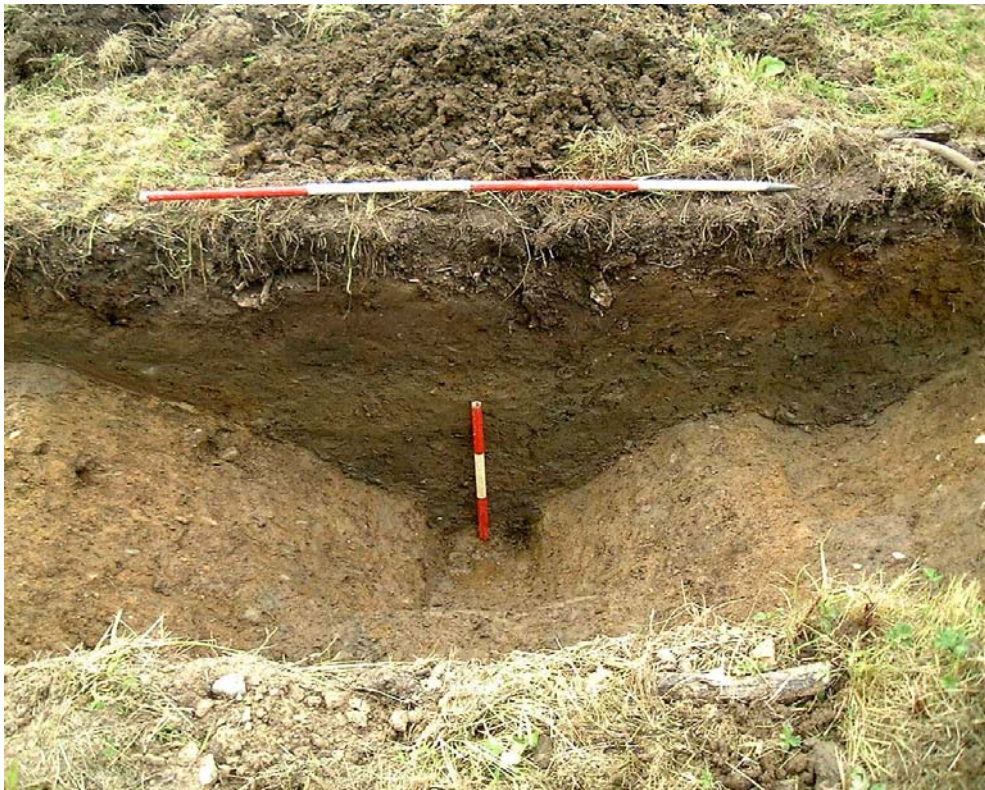


Plate 8 Ditch 160, Trench 14 looking north-west