

---

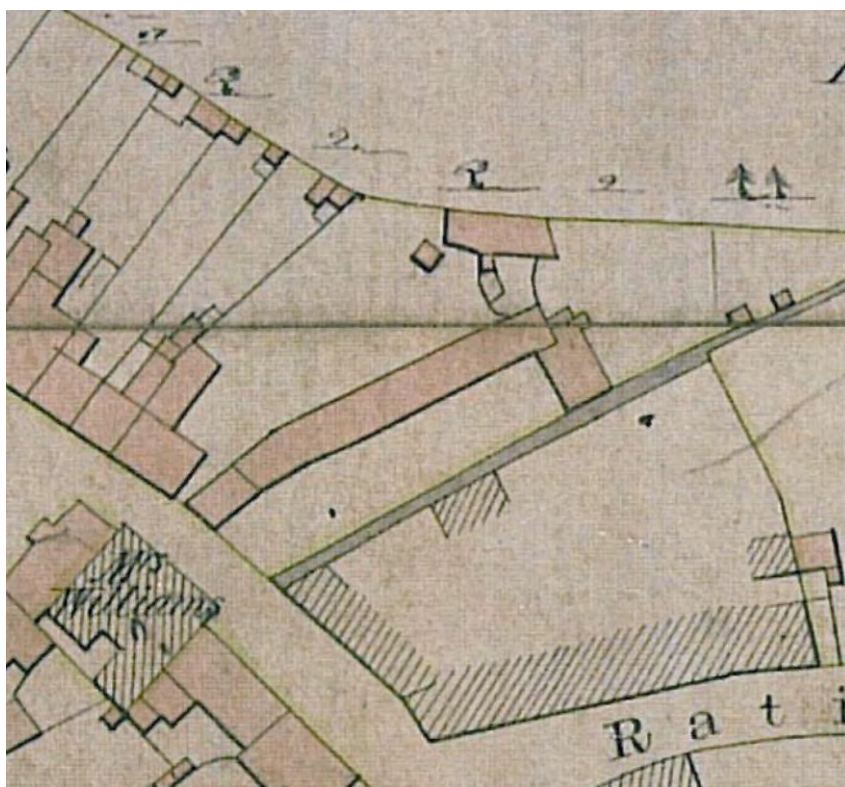
---

# 44, CHURCH STREET, BEAUMARIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

---

---

**Report No. 658  
GAT Project no. G1900**



**Prepared for Mrs N. J. Evans  
December 2006  
Revised January 2007**

**By George Smith**



**Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd  
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust**

☎ 01248 352535    ✉ 01248 370925    email : gat@heneb.co.uk



**44, CHURCH STREET, BEAUMARIS**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT and  
EVALUATION**

**GAT Report No. 658**

**GAT Project no. G1900**

**Prepared for  
Mrs N. J. Evans  
December 2006  
Revised January 2007**

**By George Smith**

**Cover: The Medieval Town Wall and The Tan House shown on the Baron Hill map of  
Beaumaris of 1861**

**Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd  
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust**



# **44, CHURCH STREET, BEAUMARIS**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT and EVALUATION**

**GAT Report No. 658**

**GAT Project no. G1900**

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>Page</b>
Illustration captions	2
Summary	3
1 Introduction	3
2 Specification and Project Design	3
3 Methods and Techniques	4
4 General Archaeological Background	5
5 Archaeological Assessment results	6
6 Evaluation excavation results	8
7 Artefactual evidence	10
8 Conclusions	12
9 References and other sources	13

**Appendix 1** List of archaeological and historic features within 100m of the proposed development area recorded in the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record and RCAHMW National Monuments Record

**Appendix 2** Definitions of categories of Impact, Field Evaluation and Mitigation

**Appendix 3** Design Brief for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation

## ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Location map of the development area.

Fig. 2 Plot of archaeological and historic features within 100m of the development area recorded in the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record and the RCAHMW National Monument Record.

Fig. 3 The development area in relation to Speed's map of Beaumaris, 1610.

Fig. 4 The development area in relation to the Baron Hill estate map of Beaumaris of 1829 (BH 6496).

Fig. 5 Plan of the Tan House and adjoining outhouse, detail from the Baron Hill map of 1861 (BH 8224).

Fig. 6 Ordnance Survey map 1889 showing the Tan House before the construction of 44, Church Street.

Fig. 7 Ordnance Survey map 1900 after demolition of the Tan House and after construction of 44, Church Street.

Fig. 8 The development area in relation to the Baron Hill estate map of Beaumaris of 1829 (BH 6496), highlighting property numbers listed in the Reference book to the map (BH 8211).

Fig. 9 Summary plan showing the position of the proposed new dwelling in relation to buildings marked on the map of 1829 and of the projected line of the Medieval town ditch.

Fig. 10 Remains of The Tan House east wall before demolition.

Fig. 11 Remains of The Tan House south wall before demolition.

Fig. 12 General plan of the excavated areas and main structures exposed.

Fig. 13 Trench 1 section through exposed layers and structures.

Fig. 14 Trenches 2 and 3 section through exposed layers and structures.

Fig. 15 Timber walls of tanning tank in Trench 2.

Fig. 16 Timber plank from tanning tank wall showing end joint.

Fig. 17 Deeper layers in Trench 2 south end.

Fig. 18 Deeper layers in Trench 3, south end.

Fig. 19 Blocked window in north wall of former Tan House, now the boundary wall.

Fig. 20 Re-used architectural fragments from demolished Tan House.

Fig. 21 Re-used architectural fragments from demolished Tan House.

Fig. 22 Summary interpretation plan of excavated remains of Tan House.

## **44, CHURCH STREET, BEAUMARIS**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT and EVALUATION**

#### **SUMMARY**

*An archaeological assessment was carried out in advance of a proposed development in the garden to the rear of 44, Church Street, Beaumaris. Part of the wall at the south side of this garden consists of one of the few surviving remains of the Medieval town wall of Beaumaris, built in the early 15<sup>th</sup> century AD. This wall is protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument An 123. The area of the development formerly contained a building known as The Tan House, shown on a map of 1829. Part of this building survived until recently, when it was demolished to make way for the proposed development. Research indicates that the Medieval town ditch, which lay outside the wall, was situated along the line of the garden of 44, Church Street and beneath the site of the proposed development. The defences later became superfluous and as the town expanded had largely disappeared by the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Investigation of the ditch elsewhere in the town shows that it had been about 6.5m wide and up to 6m deep.*

*Three trenches were excavated along the line of the foundations of the west, north and east sides of the proposed new building. The excavation revealed well-preserved remains of the wall footings and floors and of the sunken timber-walled tanning pits of the former Tan House. It also revealed a buried soil level that was contemporary with construction of the Tan House. The buried soil contained a single piece of pottery of 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century date showing that the Tan House was constructed after this date. The buried soil also contains waterlogged organic remains and so has much archaeological potential. Its surface is at about 1.0m below the modern ground surface so any intrusion below this depth is archaeologically sensitive.*

*The surviving north wall of the Tan House, which forms the existing boundary wall, was recorded by photography.*

*The stones from the recently demolished building that was presumed to be a surviving part of the Tan House were individually observed and those of architectural interest were recorded. Most stones were irregular rubble but six were of cut or dressed red sandstone re-used from an earlier building. These seemed to have derived from a large arch and are suggested to have been part of the North Gate of the Medieval town wall, which stood close by on Church Street until its demolition, probably during the 16<sup>th</sup> century.*

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust was asked by Mrs N. J. Evans to carry out an archaeological assessment and evaluation in advance of construction of a new house in the garden of 44, Church Street, Beaumaris (NGR 260300 376200). The archaeological work was requested by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS) as part of the pre-application phase of the planning process (Planning Reference 12C99B) because the garden adjoins part of the medieval town wall of Beaumaris and may lie over the Medieval town defensive ditch.

The new building will be approximately 16m by 7m so the area affected comprises about 112 sq. m.

#### **2 SPECIFICATION AND PROJECT DESIGN**

The archaeological assessment was requested, monitored by and carried out according to a brief provided by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS) on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2006. This called for an Assessment, consisting of a desk-based study and field visit and a Field Evaluation, consisting of excavation of a trial trench or trenches and assessment of the standing and demolished remains of the tannery (Appendix 3). The

work was carried out according to a project design provided by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust according to accepted guidelines for such work, as set down in the Institute of Field Archaeologists Guidelines (2001a and b). The basic requirement was for an Assessment by a field visit and desktop study, in order to assess the impact of the proposals on any archaeological features within the area concerned. The importance and condition of known archaeological remains were to be assessed, areas of archaeological potential and new sites to be identified. Measures to mitigate the effects of the construction work on the archaeological resource were to be suggested.

The evaluation was to consist of excavation and recording of trenches along the lines of the foundation trenches on three sides of the proposed new building.

It was also recommended that the stonework from the recently demolished remains of the Tan House should be carefully studied and any stones of architectural value be recorded.

This report combines the results of the Assessment and Evaluation.

The work was carried out on the basis of information supplied by Mrs Evans and by A and K Developers about the area and methods of construction and their impact on the subsoil surfaces.

### **3 METHODS AND TECHNIQUES**

#### **3.1 Desk top study**

This comprised the consultation of maps, documents, computer records, written records and reference works, which form part of the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record (HER), located at GAT, Bangor. The archives held by the University of Wales, Bangor, were also consulted. Information about listed buildings was consulted by means of Cadw records held in the Gwynedd HER and by consultation of CARN (Core Archaeological Index), which is the online index of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments, Wales.

Sites, buildings and find spots were identified within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development, as listed in the GAT HER (Fig. 2 and Appendix 1).

#### **3.2 Field Search**

The site was visited on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2006.

The archive will be filed with GAT as Project No. G1900.

#### **3.3 Evaluation excavation and architectural recording**

The excavation and stone recording were carried out on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December 2006.

#### **3.4 Report**

The available information was synthesised to set out the archaeological and historic background, followed by description of the excavation results, artefactual evidence and overall interpretation..



## 4 GENERAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

### 4.1 Topographic location

Church Street lies at the north side of the core of the historic town of Beaumaris. The ground slopes gently from north to south.

### 4.2 Archaeological and historical background

Beaumaris was founded after the sacking of Caernarfon Castle by Madog ap Llywelyn in 1294. Work began on the construction of the castle protected by a large moat in an area of low-lying marshy ground (Beau Mareys or Beautiful Marsh) in 1295. The town lay close by and was granted its borough charter in 1296. The town replaced an earlier prosperous Welsh market town that was situated nearby at Llanfaes, deriving its income from sea-trade. The population of Llanfaes was removed by Edward to a new town at Newborough on the west coast of Anglesey and Beaumaris initially prospered with 132 burgages taken up in the first ten years (Lewis 1912, 63). The political situation soon stabilised resulting in a lack of need for defences. The castle was never completed and no town walls were constructed at that time, despite a long petition to Edward II from the burgesses (*ibid* 102).

However, Beaumaris was attacked by Owain Glyndwr in 1403 and partially burnt down. English control of the castle was recovered in 1405 (Soulsby 1983, 79). In 1407 the burgesses received a royal donation of £10 'in aid of making a ditch around the aforesaid town'. Work continued in 1414, when Gilbert, Lord Talbot, the reorganiser of the decayed post-Glyndwr boroughs of Anglesey appropriated thirty burgages in order to build a new stone wall around the town. A yearly sum of £20 was set aside from 1451-5 for the repair of the walls. It seems then that the original defences consisted of just a ditch and a bank possibly with timber walls but that this was replaced by a stone wall.

The original layout of the town must have been truncated to some extent by the new defences, perhaps extending as far as Steeple Lane on the west side. Speed's map of 1610 shows the west of the town, within the town walls, as open ground around the church (Fig. 2). The town wall forms the west and north sides of this area while along the east and south are continuous rows of houses. The street at the east side of the church is labelled as Wexam Street although now the southern part is known as Church Street. The street now known as Steeple Lane, which probably ran along the edge of the town ditch was then called Clay Pitt Lane, probably referring to the ditch or to use of it for digging clay for brick-making and there may have been a brick works nearby. The map shows no trace of the north town wall or ditch, north of the present Rating Row, but the curve of Rating Row probably reflects the shape of the defended area. There are records that show that 30 burgage plots in the original town had to be removed in order to build the town wall and it seems likely, from the layout of the plots, that the burgages on the north side of Rating Row, close to 44, Church Street were truncated by the construction of the town defences.

The history of Beaumaris is largely bound up with the fortunes of the Bulkeley family of Baron Hill who prospered and gradually acquired a large proportion of the properties in the town as well as extensive estates on Anglesey and on the mainland. The Bulkeley estate in the town of Beaumaris was built up in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries centred around a house, The Plas, to the south of the church, however the family moved to a new house Baron Hill, outside the town in 1618 after which the town estate was probably not enlarged. The old Plas survived into the 19<sup>th</sup> century but the majority of the buildings along Church Street belong to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century and several are listed buildings (Fig. 2 and Appendix 1).

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

### **5.1 General potential for survival**

### **5.2 Prehistoric and Roman periods**

There is little evidence for prehistoric activity in the immediate area of Beaumaris although Neolithic stone axes have been found at Aberlleiniog, to the east. Before the 13<sup>th</sup> century AD and the founding of the town, activity and settlement was concentrated around the Welsh market and trading town of Llanfaes not far to the north-east.

### **5.3 Medieval and later periods**

Speed's map of 1610 does not show any of the town wall north of Rating Row, even though some still survives today at the south side of the garden of 44, Church Street. This has been robbed and repaired in parts but is still a substantial wall, over 2m high and some 2m in thickness.

The line of the town wall to the east has been lost, presumably robbed away, and it is not known how or if it formed a complete circuit to join with the castle defences, as it did at the south, as shown on Speed's map. It is presumed that the town wall lay on the line of the original bank, and thus close to the town ditch, although it is possible that the wall could have taken a new line, for reasons of expediency or better defensive design.

The town ditch was clearly abandoned, filled in and lost to view by the time of Speed's map. However, two archaeological excavations by GAT seem to have identified parts of it. The first was in 1975 at the west side of the churchyard where trenches were dug by machine prior to landscaping of the churchyard. This identified the ditch as 20 feet deep and partly filled with sand, suggesting that it was deliberately backfilled with material from the beach. Steeple Lane was shown to run outside the west edge of the ditch, not along the line of the ditch as once thought (White 1975). The second excavation was in 1985 prior to the building of a new sports Centre in Castle Meadows, to the north-east of Rating Row (Fasham 1992). This is directly relevant to the development at 44, Church. Three trenches (Fig. 2, A, B and C) were dug in Castle Meadow and two of these identified parts of the town ditch, identifying it as about 6.5 wide. Projection of the line of this ditch indicates that it continued to the west along the line of the garden of 44, Church Street, alongside the surviving portion of town wall there (Fig. 9).

Speed's map indicates that there was a continuous line of houses along Church Street, or Wexam Street as it was then known, north of Rating Row across the line of the town ditch. However, Speed's map is not entirely accurate and a town map (BH 6496) made in 1829 for Sir Richard Bulkeley Williams Bulkeley shows that at that time there was no house where No. 44 Church Street now stands or on the equivalent area on the west side of the street (Fig. 4). This would be understandable if this area constituted the line of the former town defensive ditch, an area that would not be very suitable for building. The 1829 map shows a long narrow building along the north edge of the property, with another small building at its east end (Fig. 8). This property is listed in a series of rental records of the Baron Hill Estate, showing that it was not a dwelling but a Tan House (Tables 1 and 2). This would have been used for the processing of hides, a messy and smelly process that would have involved tanks for tanning liquid. This building may therefore have made use of a strip of land that was not otherwise useful for housing and which may have been used for the disposal of waste. The building at its east end may have been the outhouse listed in a rental of 1826 (Table 1).

**Table 1**  
**Extract from Baron Hill Rental 1826 BH 7430**

***Wexham St.***

<b><i>No.</i></b>	<b><i>Tenant/Occupier</i></b>	<b><i>Property</i></b>	<b><i>Rent</i></b>
90	Mr John Lloyd	Tan House	£3-3s
<i>ditto</i>	<i>Ditto</i>	Outhouse	£3-3s

**Table 2**  
**Extract from Ref to Map of 1829 BH 8211 (Fig. 8)**

***Rating Row***

<b><i>No.</i></b>	<b><i>Owner</i></b>	<b><i>Tenant/Occupier</i></b>	<b><i>Profession</i></b>	<b><i>Property</i></b>
169	RBW Bulkeley	Ellen Hayes, Spinster	Spinster	Garden
171	Wm Jones	Robert Roberts	Joiner	House, Yard, Kitchen and Garden
172	Rowland Williams	John Lloyd		House and Court
173	Richard Hughes	John Lloyd		House, Buildings and Garden

***Wexam or Wrexham St***

<b><i>No.</i></b>	<b><i>Owner</i></b>	<b><i>Tenant/Occupier</i></b>	<b><i>Profession</i></b>	<b><i>Property</i></b>
190	RBW Bulkeley	John Lloyd		Tan House and Yards
191	<i>ditto</i>	Thomas Staples		House, Building and Garden

It may be that the line of the town ditch was closer to the surviving length of town wall and that the Tan House was built on the edge of the ditch, rather than within it. However, it is likely that the town wall was built some way back from the ditch, for stability. It happens that GAT excavated a small trench in the garden of 44, Church Street at the same time that the trenches were excavated in Castle Meadow. This was Trench D (Fig. 9). The report states that it uncovered the ‘remains of a brick and stone built structure with internal partitions, possibly a stable’ (Fasham 1992). This coincides with the position of the small building at the east end of the Tan House, shown on the map of 1829. It seems that the remains of this building were not removed so nothing was discovered about the survival of any underlying layers that might relate to the adjoining Medieval town wall and ditch.

The Tan House as shown on the 1829 map still survived at the time of a Baron Hill estate map of 1861, which shows it in more detail and suggests that the building at its east end was separate and perhaps an addition to the main building (Fig. 5). These buildings still existed at the time of the 1889 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 6), but had been largely demolished and replaced by two houses fronting on Church Street, including 44, Church Street, by the time of the 1900 map (Fig. 7). Some remains of The Tan House still stood as a roofless ruin at the time of the first visit, although they had been demolished by the time of the assessment. The east wall was in quite good condition, of irregular mortared sub-angular stones and butted onto the north boundary wall and had a crudely blocked doorway at the south end (Fig. 10). The west wall was of similar build, also butted onto the north boundary wall, and with no doors or windows but a brick-built supporting buttress at the south corner. The south, long wall was similarly built but with a doorway at the west end and two low-cilled windows. These had slate cills and one had a timber lintel surviving (Fig. 11). The doorway had once had a timber frame. Observation of the demolished masonry, at the time of the assessment, showed a variety of material, including some re-used ashlar blocks of better quality stone, possibly robbed from the town wall or further afield. These are described later.

## 6 EVALUATION EXCAVATION RESULTS

### 6.1 Trench 1 (Figs 12 and 13)

This trench was excavated along the length of the north side of the proposed new building and was approximately 17m long and excavated to a maximum depth of 1m from the existing surface. A substantial wall [20] was encountered about half way along the trench and this was left *in situ*, partly to retain ground water.

The top 0.4m was either garden soil or disturbed by the recent demolition of the existing remnant of the Tan House. This depth was the level of the recent floors of the Tan House, which at the west were just of earth. To east of wall [20] was a surviving floor of laid cobbles neatly set in sand.

West of wall [20] was a deep layer of mixed clay made-ground up to 0.7m deep. This proved to cover a row of substantial vertical timber planks. These planks were of pine softwood about 35mm thick and 300mm (1ft) wide. They proved to be the lowest surviving plank of a row of four adjoining rectangular timber tanks, each about 1.1m (4ft) wide. The north wall of one tank was revealed in one place just a little beyond the north face of the trench. The tank timbers were butt tenon jointed at the corners and the timbers tarred and lined with stiff grey clay. Further, wider-spaced timbers at the east suggested two larger tanks or two tanks of similar dimensions but set east-west. Probing with a rod showed that the timber floors of the tanks still survived, about 10-20cm below the base of the trench.

The tanks had been set into the floor of the Tan House with their bases at a depth of 0.8m below floor level. Possibly the top edge of the tanks would have been above floor level. The upper walls of the tanks had been robbed out when the Tan House had gone out of use for tanning and the resulting space filled in with clay back to the floor level of the building. Wall [20] marked the end of the tank room and at its east end a large pit [22] had been dug through the backfilled area of the tanks. This was filled with a variety of layers of fine silty, iron-rich material including animal bones and much 19<sup>th</sup> century broken tableware, kitchen ware, wine bottles and leather shoe soles. This was probably a cess pit.

Wall [20] was set on dry-laid footings of sub-angular stones set at about the level of the base of the trench i.e. at about the level of the floors of the tanks. No construction trench was seen and the wall seems to have been built free-standing and then backfilled around, as the tanks were built, until floor level was reached.

To the east of wall [20] there had been no sunken tanning tanks. The surviving cobbled floor was the original floor of the Tan House. Another substantial wall [56] was encountered at the east end of the trench and this seems to have been the original east end wall of the Tan House. Like wall [20] its footings were built free-standing and the surrounding layers made up to floor level. Here the base of the wall was exposed before ground water obscured it. It was built on a thin humic layer, which seems to have been a short-lived topsoil layer (53), a surface on which construction of the Tan House was commenced. This overlay a thin layer of stiff brown re-deposited clay (54). This in turn overlay a compact humic silt horizon (55), which contained oyster and cockle shell, charcoal and fragments of wood. This seemed to be an old soil horizon that had remained waterlogged, allowing organic preservation.

### 6.2 Trench 2 (Figs 12, 14 and 17)

This trench was excavated for 6.3m along the line of the west wall of the proposed new building. It was not excavated for the full length because of the presence of a tree-bole at the south end, the removal of which would have meant disturbing the ground for some way around.

In the northern half the same layers as in the west end of trench 1 were present with remains of another timber tank at the same level, later robbed out and backfilled with clay. This tank, however, was revealed as about 1.8m (6ft) long and seemed likely to be a similar tank to the others but in long as opposed to cross-section and not on part of the same row. This would make the tanks a standard size of 6ft by 4ft. The tank west wall was found in the centre of the trench and has been projected onto the section. The presence of the tank wall clay lining and of some disturbed cobbling shows that this was close to the wall of the room

which must therefore have been on the same line as the modern boundary wall and that there was a walkway between the tank and the wall.

Towards the south end of the trench the footings of a wall [36] were found, being the south wall of the Tan House. Beyond the wall the disturbed cobbling of the outside surface contemporary with the original use of the Tan House were found at a depth of *c.* 0.40m.

The Tan House wall was built on top of a series of backfill layers first clean sand, then brown clay, then more sand. These in turn overlay a compact dark grey silty layer (45), which included marine shells, preserved wood fragments and one piece of 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery. A trial slot showed that this layer was about 0.30m deep and overlay fine gravel. Layer (45) seems to have been an old topsoil layer that had remained waterlogged and was the same layer as (55) in the east end of Trench 1.

The sand layers and the surface of 45 all sloped down gently to the north and this was interpreted as tipping into the Medieval town ditch that was believed to underlie the garden. Probing showed that these probable gravel ditch fill beneath layer (45) continued down for at least another 0.5m, i.e. to at least 1.80m below the modern surface of the garden.

### **6.3 Trench 3 (Figs 12, 14 and 18)**

This trench was excavated for 7.5m, the full length of the line of the east end wall of the proposed new building. Continually incoming ground water made it difficult to investigate the lowermost layers. Although a pump was used it was impossible to carry out any deeper trial slots as in Trench 2.

At the north end substantial wall footings [63] were encountered close to the existing north boundary wall of the garden but beyond its present corner end. This may have just been in the nature of a buttress. However, this wall was built upward from the same layer (55) as that of wall [56], but seemed to have a foundation cut through layers that were later than (55) so may itself have been a later construction or addition.

Towards the centre of the trench a number of large rectangular laid stone floor slabs were found, still *in situ*, just below the modern soil level and probably a late garden feature as they lay over the footings of another east-west wall [61]. These footings continued only for some 20cm into the east side of the trench, so the wall seemed to end there.

The footings had been laid in a trench cut into a series of layers, unlike the other walls of the Tan House, which had been built free-standing and then backfilled around. These layers were equivalent to those at the south end of trench 2, outside the south side of the Tan House. The layers included two layers of re-deposited clay over a layer of sand; each separated by thin humic layers, suggesting some interval between their deposition. The lowermost, sandy layer also lay over a thin humic layer, which overlay a thin clay layer, which in turn overlay the compact waterlogged silt layer (55) continued from Trench 1 and equivalent to layer (45) in Trench 2. Unlike in Trench 2 these layers were almost level, with no indication that they were tipping into the top of a ditch that was being backfilled. However, considering that these were dumped layers, the degree to which they were level suggests that they had been carefully spread out to produce a level surface. However, the lowermost layer (55) is likely to have developed *in situ* but could have been modified. This was probed, which indicated that there were soft deposits to at least another 1.0m in depth and continuing. Further, more extensive probing might prove if there are deeper deposits and if they lie within a ditch.

## **7 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE**

### **7.1 Introduction**

The great majority of layers removed post-dated the Tan House and included stray pieces of post-medieval tableware and construction debris that were not kept.

A sample was kept from the lower fill (Context 18) of the cess-pit 22, which provided a close group that post-dated the end of use of the Tan House as a tannery.

Only small amounts of layers pre-dating the Tan House construction were removed and the artefacts were mainly undateable items - marine shells, wood and animal bone, except for one piece of pot from a deeply buried old soil level (Context 45) in Trench 2.

There were in addition some re-used architectural fragments in the rubble of the demolished remnant of the Tan House. These re-used items may have derived from a Medieval structure close by that was demolished at, or some time before, the construction of the Tan House.

### **7.2 Pottery and Glass by Julie Edwards, Chester Archaeology**

#### ***Methodology***

Sixteen sherds of pottery (1129g) and one piece of glass from contexts [18] and [45] were examined for this report. In accordance with MPRG Guidelines (2001) the pottery was recorded by common ware name and form by sherd count and weight within context groups. The terms used to identify the pottery are those recommended by the Potteries Museum, Stoke-on-Trent, during an English Heritage training course run in March 1999. This report summarises the examined finds; the details of individual sherds are to be found on the archive record sheets.

#### ***Condition***

Apart from one almost complete French mustard jar the assemblage is composed of fragments of vessels. Some of the pieces are relatively large and others join together to form recognisable parts of vessels but apart from the jar none join to create complete profiles or substantial parts of vessels. Most of the pieces have a fine dark red silty residue adhering to the surfaces and broken edges.

#### ***Description***

##### **Context [18]**

The assemblage is composed of table and storage wares. The table wares: bowls, dishes, a mug or tankard and a possible jug are made of transfer-printed wares. The storage vessels consist of earthenwares and stonewares. Two vessels were imported from the Continent one is a Rhenish mineral water bottle and the other the French mustard jar.

##### **Tablewares**

##### **Transfer-printed wares**

The remains of five transfer-printed ware vessels are present. Two appear to be dishes with the popular willow-pattern print which is difficult to closely date without any makers marks being present. The pattern was introduced in the late eighteenth century. Another sherd is from a hollow vessel, perhaps a jug with moulded lobed sides. It has a blue pattern that may depict a Mediterranean or Eastern scene but not enough survives to identify the pattern within the time limits of the report. Part of the base of a tankard-style mug with a moulded foot has a black and green peacock feather design; again it has not been possible to identify the design although coloured prints, other than blue, were introduced in the 1820s.

Two pieces join to form part of the base and lower body of a large bowl decorated in blue on both surfaces. The exterior has a floral pattern containing wild rose flowers. The interior has a version of the 'Wild Rose' pattern, which shows a riverside scene within a floral border containing wild roses. This pattern was one of the most popular transfer-printed patterns between the 1830s and the 1850s and was used by potters all over Britain (Coys & Henrywood 1982, 399 – 340). It shows a view of Nuneham Courtney near Oxford, a famous eighteenth-century garden which was the subject of many paintings and prints.

#### Storage wares

In addition to a tin-glazed ware mustard jar and a stoneware mineral water bottle these comprise two bowls made from brown salt-glazed stoneware and a yellow earthenware, a whiteware cylindrical jar and a creamware vase or jar. All are types present in the nineteenth century in date but the whiteware was also used in the early twentieth century.

#### Tin-glazed ware mustard jar

A cylindrical vessel (130 mm high) with a tall narrow neck and a rounded rim. It is made from a pinkish buff earthenware coated with a thick white tin-glaze. Stencilled in brown lettering is the following inscription:

*'Moutarde de MAILLE  
Vinaigrier de LL.MM.  
la Reine d'Angleterre,  
et le Empereurs  
d'Autriche et de Russie  
à Paris.'*

The jar would have been used to import and store French Dijon mustard; little appears to have been published on such pots from archaeological excavations. According to the inscription the jar appears to post-date the accession of Queen Victoria in 1837.

#### Westerwald mineral water bottle

Fragment from a cylindrical brown stoneware bottle made in the Westerwald. The remains of a circular stamp are present with the lettering 'HERZOGTHU \_' stamped below. The full expansion of the lettering reads 'HERZOGTHUM NASSAU' and the stamp should read 'Selters' enclosing an armorial symbol. The type of armorial symbol could date the bottle, in its absence a mid or late- nineteenth century date is all that can be ascribed. For a similar complete example see <http://potweb.ashmolean.org/>

#### Glass

The rim and neck of a late eighteenth or nineteenth century wine bottle.

#### Context [45]

There is one sherd from this context a small (4g) fragment of a blackware. The piece is quite highly fired with a sparse purplish black lead glaze on each surface. Blackwares appear at the beginning of the seventeenth century and are a common ware until the nineteenth century it is therefore difficult to date small sherds such as this. However recent work on blackware assemblages in Chester suggests that the fabric and glaze treatment of this sherd indicate a seventeenth or perhaps an early eighteenth century date.

#### Discussion

The sample examined from the ceramic assemblage found in context [18] is suggestive of a domestic deposit no earlier than the mid-late nineteenth century which is relatively well preserved. It is difficult to judge its relative local and regional significance as little post-medieval pottery of this later date has been published. However most of the wares present are typical finds for the period. In general nineteenth German stoneware mineral water bottles are not uncommon in Britain and small numbers of fragments and occasionally complete bottles are found on urban sites. The Continental mineral waters would have been competing with home-produced waters at this time and it is difficult to know how much consumption of Continental mineral water reflected economic status. The imported mustard however would appear to indicate that the assemblage derives from a relatively prosperous household.

The total size of the assemblage which this sample represents is unknown however the sample suggests that deposits of relatively well preserved nineteenth century pottery could be expected in any future excavations at the site. Well stratified and preserved pit assemblages that could be related to specific households would have potential in relation to socio-economic studies of the town.

The sample as it exists does not have the potential for any further work because of its fragmentary condition and the lack of any documentary evidence that may relate it to a particular household. A published note on the mustard jar and mineral water bottle fragment may be of interest locally.

#### **7.4 Architectural Fragments from the Tan House (Figs 20 and 21)**

##### *Red sandstone*

1. Voussoir from an arch. Large cut block, tapering in both face and side views. Smooth faces except for the butting faces, which have neat and regular but coarse dressing.
2. As 1 and of very similar size suggesting that they formed a matching pair in the arch.
3. Large cut block, similar to 1 but only tapering in face view.
4. A for 3 with two dressed faces.
5. As for 4 but roughly shaped, not dressed.
6. As for 4 but tapering in all three dimensions.

##### *Conglomerate*

1. Long approximately square-sectioned block dressed on two long faces, which are smooth from weathering. Probably a window lintel.

### **8 CONCLUSIONS**

New record numbers were allocated for features in this area that were not already identified on the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record:

Medieval town ditch, site of. SH604760. PRN 19664.

Medieval town north gate, site of. SH6040 7621. PRN 19665.

Tan House. Tannery, site of. SH6042 7624. PRN 19666.

The excavation revealed a large part of the lay-out of the former Tan House and showed that the part within the area of the proposed new building had consisted of two rooms (Fig. 22). That at the west was a tanning immersion room with a series of timber-walled sunken tanks, the lower walls and floors of which still survive in good condition. The room at the east had no tanks. It had a cobbled floor and connected to an adjoining small building that had been built as an extension. It had a window at the north side, which still survives as a blocked feature in its north wall, which now forms the existing boundary wall (Fig. 19). The Tan House seems to have gone out of use for tanning sometime around the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the tanning tanks were partly demolished and robbed and then backfilled with clay up to floor level.

The deepest part of the initial excavation at the west end of the area revealed a series of layers dipping gently in a northerly direction. These seemed likely to be part of the upper fill of the edge of the Medieval town ditch, which the desktop research indicated lay beneath the garden here. The lowest layer exposed was a waterlogged buried soil horizon with oyster shells and wood fragments. Excavation at the east end exposed a similar sequence of layers but the lowermost buried soil horizon was relatively level, with no indication of a dip into the top of a large ditch. However, probing into the base of the trenches at both the west and east excavated areas showed that there were underlying soft deposits continuing beneath the limit of probing at 1m below the surface of the buried soil at the base of the trench. It therefore seems almost certain that the Medieval ditch does underlie the garden but that it had already been almost entirely infilled and levelled off by the time of the construction of the Tan House. However, the overall ground level was lower than the present at the time of the Tan House construction because the walls and tanks were constructed at a lower level and then the floor levels were made up to the contemporary ground level.

It is difficult to estimate the date of construction of the Tan House but one piece of pottery of 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century date from the buried soil predating its construction showed that construction was no earlier than this date and perhaps somewhat later. The tanks were built of large planks of sawn pine. Considering



that the Tan House was already in existence in 1829, these timbers were probably from the Baltic trade, which was in operation from the late 16<sup>th</sup> century to c. 1800, after which the Napoleonic wars led to a switch to trade with Canada. This, and the date for the pottery from Context 45, shows that a date in the 18<sup>th</sup> century therefore seems most likely for the construction of the Tan House, at a time when Beaumaris was expanding.

The stones from the demolished remains of the Tan House were largely of rough rubble of mixed glacial boulders but included a few shaped stones that were evidently re-used from an earlier building. These were six tapering blocks of red sandstone. Two were carefully dressed, large matching voussoirs from a large arch. The others were less carefully dressed but had some faces. These stones are likely to all derive from a single large arch. A projected reconstruction of this arch, using the retrieved stones, and assuming others of similar design, is shown in Fig. 21.6. A possible source for these stones was from the arch of the Medieval North Gate of the town, which stood on Church Street close to the present site. The gate appears to have been demolished by the time of Speed's map of Beaumaris of 1610 (Fig. 3)). This could mean that the Tan House was built before 1610, at the time when the North gate was demolished. However, the Tan House itself is not marked on Speed's map either.

The excavations have not produced conclusive evidence for the presence of the Medieval town ditch beneath the garden of 44, Church Street. However, it has shown that there is a buried soil with well-preserved organic remains at about 1m below the modern ground surface across most of the area of the development and that there are deeper deposits to at least another 0.8m and this is likely to be the top fill of the former town ditch.

The work has shown that foundation or service trenches for the new house construction will not disturb any Medieval deposits if they are no deeper than 1.0m below the existing surface. Should any deeper excavation be required this should be accompanied by archaeological observation and allowance for recording of the exposed deposits.

## 9 REFERENCES AND OTHER SOURCES

### *Unpublished sources*

- Anon 1991. *Archaeological Assessment at the site of former Outdoor Activities Centre, Beaumaris*, Unpublished Report, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Rep. No. 28.  
BH 8211. Reference to the Map of Beaumaris of 1829. *Baron Hill Archive*, University of Wales Bangor, Archives.  
BH 7430. A Rental of the Estates of Richard Bulkeley Williams Bulkeley Esq. (1826 –1831), *Baron Hill Archive*, University of Wales Bangor, Archives.  
GAT 1217. 18-20, *Ratings Row, Beaumaris*, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Minor Report.  
Hopewell, D. 2003. *Church Room, Beaumaris, Archaeological Watching Brief*, GAT Rep no. 507.  
Llangefni WF4. *Sale of Baron Hill Properties*, 1920. Ms WF4, Ynys Mon Archives, Llangefni.  
Miscellaneous MSS. University of Wales, Bangor, Archives.  
Ward, M.A. 1994. *Old Coalyard, Steeple Lane, Beaumaris*, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Rep. No. 85.

### *Published sources*

- Coysh, A.W. & Henrywood, R.K. 1982. *The dictionary of blue and white printed pottery 1780 – 1880*, Antique Collectors' Club.  
Fasham, P.J. 1992. Investigations in 1985 by R.B. White at Castle Meadows, Beaumaris. *TAAS*, 123-30.  
Hopewell, D. 1997. Beaumaris Health Centre Excavations. *TAAS*, 9-36.  
Johnstone, N.M. 1997. Excavations at Osbourne House, Beaumaris, 1990, *TAAS*.  
Lewis, E.S. 1912. *The Medieval Boroughs of Snowdonia*.  
MPRG 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2.

RCAHMW 1937. *An Inventory of Ancient and Historical Monuments in Anglesey*. Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire, HMSO, London.  
Soulsby, I. 1983. *The Towns of Medieval Wales*, Phillimore, Sussex.  
Welsh Office 1978. *List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest: Beaumaris*.  
White, R.B. 1975. Beaumaris, *Archaeology in Wales* 15, CBA Wales.

***Cartographic sources***

Speed, J. 1610. Atlas of Wales.  
BH 6496. Plan of town of Beaumaris, 1829. University of Wales Bangor Archives.  
BH 8224. Plan of town of Beaumaris, 1861. University of Wales Bangor Archives.  
Ordnance Survey 1900. 1:2500 scale map.  
Ordnance Survey 1889, 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1:2500 scale map.  
Ordnance Survey 1969. 1:2500 scale map.

## APPENDIX 1

### LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND BUILDINGS WITHIN 100 METRES OF THE DEVELOPMENT AREA RECORDED IN THE GWYNEDD HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

Status - Sites with Statutory Protection, LB = Listed building, SAM = Scheduled Ancient Monument

<i>PRN</i>	<i>NPRN</i>	<i>Site Name</i>	<i>NGR</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Site Stat</i>	<i>Site Type</i>	<i>Period</i>
2577	58454	Beaumaris Town Walls	SH60437623	A123	SAM	Town Defences	Medieval
2591	58467	Henblas House, Near Beaumaris	SH60437615			House	Medieval
11054	15646	Church Street, 4	SH60537616	GII	LB	Building	Post-Medieval
11061	15653	Church Street, 24	SH60467615	GII	LB	Building	Post-Medieval
11062	15654	Church Street, 26	SH60457616	GII	LB	Building	Post-Medieval
11063	15655	Church Street, 28 & 30	SH60457617	GII	LB	Building	Post-Medieval
11064	15656	Church Street, 41	SH60407619	GII	LB	Building	Post-Medieval
11065	15657	Church Street, 40 & 42; Sailor's Return Public House	SH60417622	GII	LB	Building	Post-Medieval
11066	15658	Church Street, 48	SH60397622	GII	LB	Building	Post-Medieval
11126	15757	Mount Pleasant, 1-3	SH60447619	GII	LB	Building	Post-Medieval
11127	15758	Mount Pleasant, 9	SH60467619	GII	LB	Building	Post-Medieval
11162	15814	Plas Hyfryd, 8	SH60537618	GII	LB	Building	Post-Medieval
11184	15847	Rating Row, 10; Olinda	SH60537618	GII	LB	Building	Post-Medieval
11185	15848	Rating Row, 40	SH60437621	GII	LB	Building	Post-Medieval
11186	15850	Rating Row, 42	SH60427620	GII	LB	Building	Post-Medieval
11247	15943	Victoria House, Rating Row; 38 Church Street	SH60427621	GII	LB	Building	Post-Medieval
11251	15948	Wexham Street, 1	SH60367623	GII	LB	Building	Post-Medieval
11252	15949	Wexham Street, 3 & 5	SH60357623	GII	LB	Building	Post-Medieval
11254	15951	Wexham Street, 9	SH60327627	GII	LB	Building	Post-Medieval
11260	15957	Wexham Street,	SH60347626	GII	LB	Building	Post-Medieval
11261	15958	Wexham Street, Lodge	SH60347627	GII	LB	Building	Post-Medieval

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **DEFINITIONS OF CATEGORIES OF IMPACT, FIELD EVALUATION AND MITIGATION**

#### ***1 Categories of importance***

The following categories were used to define the importance of the archaeological resource.

##### *Category A - Sites of National Importance.*

Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings of grade II\* and above, as well as those that would meet the requirements for scheduling (ancient monuments) or listing (buildings) or both.

Sites that are scheduled or listed have legal protection, and it is recommended that all Category A sites remain preserved and protected *in situ*.

##### *Category B - Sites of regional or county importance.*

Grade II listed buildings and sites which would not fulfil the criteria for scheduling or listing, but which are nevertheless of particular importance within the region.

Preservation *in situ* is the preferred option for Category B sites, but if damage or destruction cannot be avoided, appropriate detailed recording might be an acceptable alternative.

##### *Category C - Sites of district or local importance.*

Sites which are not of sufficient importance to justify a recommendation for preservation if threatened.

Category C sites nevertheless merit adequate recording in advance of damage or destruction.

##### *Category D - Minor and damaged sites.*

Sites that are of minor importance or are so badly damaged that too little remains to justify their inclusion in a higher category.

For Category D sites, rapid recording, either in advance of or during destruction, should be sufficient.

##### *Category E - Sites needing further investigation.*

Sites, the importance of which is as yet undetermined and which will require further work before they can be allocated to categories A - D are temporarily placed in this category, with specific recommendations for further evaluation. By the end of the assessment there should be no sites remaining in this category.

#### ***2 Definition of Impact***

The impact of the road development on each site was estimated. The impact is defined as *none, slight, unlikely, likely, significant, considerable or unknown* as follows:

##### *None:*

There is no construction impact on this particular site.

##### *Slight:*

This has generally been used where the impact is marginal and would not by the nature of the site cause irreversible damage to the remainder of the feature, *e.g.* part of a trackway or field bank.

*Unlikely:*

This category indicates sites that fall within the band of interest but are unlikely to be directly affected. This includes sites such as standing and occupied buildings at the margins of the band of interest.

*Likely:*

Sites towards the edges of the study area, which may not be directly affected, but are likely to be damaged in some way by the construction activity.

*Significant:*

The partial removal of a site affecting its overall integrity. Sites falling into this category may be linear features such as roads or tramways where the removal of part of the feature could make overall interpretation problematic.

*Considerable:*

The total removal of a feature or its partial removal which would effectively destroy the remainder of the site.

*Unknown:*

This is used when the location of the site is unknown, but thought to be in the vicinity of the proposed road.

### ***3 Definition of field evaluation techniques***

Field evaluation is necessary to fully understand and assess class E sites and to allow the evaluation of areas of land where there are no visible features but for which there is potential for sites to exist. Two principal techniques can be used for carrying out the evaluation: geophysical survey and trial trenching.

Geophysical survey most often involves the use of a magnetometer, which allows detection of some underground features, depending on their composition and the nature of the subsoil. Disturbed ground, such as urban areas, and areas with mineral-rich rocks are often not suitable for geophysical survey.

Trial trenching allows a representative sample of the development area to be investigated at depth. Trenches of appropriate size can also be excavated to evaluate category E sites. Trenching is typically carried out with trenches of between 20 to 30m length and 2m width. The topsoil is removed by machine and the resulting surface is cleaned by hand, recording features. Depending on the stratigraphy encountered the machine may be used to remove stratigraphy to deeper levels.

### ***4 Definition of Mitigatory Recommendations***

*None:*

No impact and therefore no requirement for mitigation measures.

#### **Avoidance**

Where possible, features that may be affected should be avoided. Sometimes this could mean a change in layout, design or route. More usually it refers to the need for care during construction to avoid accidental damage to a feature. This may be achieved by marking features or areas, for example with warning tape, before work starts, or in sensitive cases carrying out a watching brief.

*Detailed recording:*

Detailed recording requires a photographic record, surveying and the production of a measured drawing prior to the commencement of the works on site.

Archaeological excavation may also be required depending upon the particular feature and the extent and effect of the impact.

*Basic Recording:*

A photographic record and full description, and limited measured survey where applicable.

*Watching brief:*

Requiring observation of particular identified features or areas during works in their vicinity. This may be supplemented by detailed or basic recording of exposed layers or structures.

## **APPENDIX 3**

### **DESIGN BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND FIELD EVALUATION**





## DESIGN BRIEF FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT and FIELD EVALUATION

### Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service

**Site:** 44 Church Street, Beaumaris, Ynys Môn

**Applicant:** Mrs Evans

**Date:** 9 October 2006

**Planning Reference:** 12C99B

**National Grid Reference:** 260300 376200

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

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

Key elements specific to this design brief have been highlighted.

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

- 1.1 For the purposes of this brief the proposed development site comprises a plot of land to the rear of 44 Church Street, as shown on the drawing accompanying planning application 12C99B.
- 1.2 Beaumaris is located on the south-east coast of Ynys Môn, on the north bank of the Menai Straits, north-west Wales.

#### **2.0 Archaeological Background**

- 2.1 Beaumaris was founded as a borough by Edward I in 1296, shortly after construction of Beaumaris Castle began in 1295. The site chosen was one of low-lying marshland which gave its name to the new castle-borough – 'Beau Mareys' or 'Beautiful Marsh'.
- 2.2 The castle was the last of the series built by Edward I to dominate the Welsh, following the sacking to Caernarfon by Madog ap Llywelyn in 1294. The castle and walled town, together with the other three Edwardian plantation castle-boroughs at Caernarfon, Conwy and Harlech, are designated a World Heritage Site.
- 2.3 The small native settlement of Carrig-y-gwyddyl, which occupied the site, was destroyed and the nearby Welsh township of Llanfaes moved to Newborough at the southern tip of Ynys Môn. With the destruction of its nearest potential rival at Llanfaes, Beaumaris grew rapidly, with 132 burgages taken up within the first 10 years. These long, thin plots, each with a narrow street frontage, were a characteristic feature of planned medieval towns.
- 2.4 The medieval town wall only survives above-ground in one place, immediately adjacent to the proposed development. This nationally important monument is protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (reference An123).

- 2.5 Very little is known about medieval occupation in Beaumaris because only a small number of excavations have been carried out in the town. Where excavation has taken place, the results demonstrate the survival of medieval stratigraphy, in places more than a metre thick. Comparison with other urban areas built on marshy ground suggests that the potential for surviving archaeological deposits, including waterlogged deposits, is high because the ground level is likely to have been gradually raised through a process of dumping. Raising the ground surface above the water table and sea flood height reduced the risk of flooding.
- 2.6 In the early seventeenth century Beaumaris remained the principal town of Ynys Môn and a prosperous trading port, but its economic importance declined in subsequent centuries.
- 2.7 The original reports listed below must be consulted for more detailed consideration of archaeological potential.
- 2.8 Documentation
- Anon 1991. Archaeological Assessment at the site of former Outdoor Activities Centre, Beaumaris. Unpublished report. Gwynedd Archaeological Trust report 28.
- Fasham, P.J. 1992. Investigations in 1985 at Castle Meadows. *The Transactions of the Anglesey Antiquarian Society and Field Club*
- Hopewell, D. 1997. Beaumaris Health Centre Excavations, 1993. *The Transactions of the Anglesey Antiquarian Society and Field Club*
- Johnstone, N. 1997. Excavations at Osbourne House, Beaumaris, 1990. *The Transactions of the Anglesey Antiquarian Society and Field Club*
- Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire, 1937. *An Inventory of Ancient Monuments in Anglesey*. London: H.M. Stationery Office.
- Soulsby, I. 1983 *The Towns of Medieval Wales*. Sussex: Phillimore & Co. Ltd.
- Ward, M.A. 1994. Old Coal yard, Steeple Lane, Beaumaris: archaeological evaluation. Unpublished report. Gwynedd Archaeological Trust report 85.
- 3.0 The nature of the development and archaeological requirements
- 3.1 The proposed development comprises plans to build a new one-storey building, in place of a stone-built one-storey tannery, demolished in 2006.
- 3.2 This is a design brief for an **archaeological assessment and field evaluation** to be undertaken according to guidelines set out in Welsh national planning guidance (*Planning Policy Guidance Wales 2002*) and Welsh Office Circular 60/96 (*Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology*).
- 3.3 The assessment will comprise a **desk-based study and field visit**; the field evaluation will comprise the **excavation** of a trial trench (or trenches) and **assessment of standing and demolished remains** of the tannery.
- 3.4 The object of this programme of archaeological works is to make full and effective use of existing information in establishing the archaeological significance of the site to assess the impact of the development proposals on surviving monuments or remains and to formulate an appropriate mitigation strategy where the archaeological resource is threatened.
- 3.5 This *design brief* should be used by archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological *specification*. The specification

must be submitted to Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service for approval before the work commences.

3.6 The *specification* should contain, as a minimum, the following elements:

- Non-technical summary.
- Details of the proposed works as precisely as is reasonably possible, indicating clearly on a plan their location and extent.
- A research design which sets out the site specific objectives of the archaeological works.
- Reference to the relevant legislation.
- Health and Safety considerations.
- Monitoring procedures.
- Field methodology.
- Methods of recording, including the collection and disposal strategy for artefacts and ecofacts.
- Arrangement for immediate conservation of artefacts.
- Post-fieldwork methodology.
- The level and grade of all key project staff.
- Details of all specialists.
- A timetable for the proposed works including contingency costs (if appropriate).
- The intended method of publication.
- Archive deposition.

4.0 **Desk-based assessment detail**

4.1 The assessment must consider the following:

- a) The nature, extent and degree of survival of archaeological sites, structures, deposits and landscapes within the study area through the development of an **archaeological deposit model**. This deposit model should reflect accurately the state of current knowledge and provide a research framework for further work if necessary. [See 4.2 below for further details]
- b) The **history of the site**. [See section 4.3 below for further details]
- c) The potential impact of any proposed development on the **setting of known sites of archaeological importance**. [See section 4.4 below for further details]
- d) A **methodology for non-intrusive survey and intrusive evaluation** to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. [See section 4.5-4.7 below for further details]

4.2 The **archaeological deposit model** will involve the following areas of research:

- a) Collation and assessment of all relevant information held in the HER, including listed building records.
- b) Assessment of all available excavation report and archives including unpublished and unprocessed material effecting the site and its setting.
- c) Assessment of records held at the RCAHMMW and University College Bangor, if appropriate.
- d) Assessment of the environmental potential of the archaeological deposits through existing data or by inference.
- e) Assessment of the faunal potential of the archaeological deposits through existing data or by inference.
- f) Assessment of the artefactual potential of the archaeological deposits through existing data or by inference.
- g) Assessment of all available geotechnical information for the area including the results of test pits and boreholes.
- h) Assessment of the present topography and landuse of the area through maps and site visits.

**4.3 Historical research** will involve the following:

- a) An analysis of relevant maps and plans. Cartographic evidence is held at the County Record Offices, including Tithe Maps, Enclosure Act Plans, Estate Maps and all editions of the Ordnance Survey. Place and field-name evidence from these sources must be considered.
- b) An analysis of the historical documents (e.g. county histories, local and national journals and antiquarian sources) held in museums, libraries or other archives, in particular local history and archives library.
- c) The Baron Hill Estate papers, held at the University of Bangor, and any original documentary evidence relating to the proposed development site, must be examined.

**4.4** When considering the **issue of setting** for scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings and other sites of national and/or regional significance, the HER should be consulted to determine if the development falls within any designated landscape areas, such as World Heritage Sites and landscape character areas.

**4.5** The **evaluation methodology** must consider the use of the following techniques:

- a) Building recording.
- b) Ground survey within the core area.
- c) A programme of trenching and/or test pits to investigate the deposit model in more detail.

**5.0 Archaeological field evaluation detail**

- 5.1** The purpose of the **archaeological field evaluation** is to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development, in order to make an assessment of their importance, leading to one or more of the following:



- the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research;
  - the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the archaeological resource.
- 5.2 The evaluation should carefully consider any artefactual and environmental information and provide an assessment of the viability (for further study) of such information. It will be particularly important to provide an indication of the relative importance of such material for any subsequent decision making regarding mitigation strategies.
- 5.3 All aspects of the evaluation shall be conducted in accordance with Institute of Field Archaeologists guidance (see general requirements below). The use of metal detectors on site to aid the recovery of artefacts is encouraged.
- 5.4 Given the present land-use, non-destructive methods of field evaluation such as geophysical survey are unlikely to be effective.
- 5.5 The evaluation should carefully consider any artefactual and environmental information and provide an assessment of the viability (for further study) of such information. It will be particularly important to provide an indication of the relative importance of such material for any subsequent decision making regarding mitigation strategies.
- 6.0 Results**
- 6.1 The results must be presented in a report and should be detailed and laid out in such a way that data and supporting text are readily cross-referenced. **The HER Archaeologist should be contacted to ensure that any sites or monuments not previously recorded in the HER are given a Primary Recognition Number (PRN) and that data structure is compatible with the HER.** The historical development of the site must be presented in phased maps and plans comprising clearly, the outline of the site.
- 6.2 The deposit model should be presented graphically in plan and, where appropriate, in profile and at a scale that is commensurate with subsequent use as a working document.
- 6.3 Within the report an attempt should be made to indicate areas of greater or lesser archaeological significance and the sites should be ranked in level of overall archaeological importance (locally, regionally and nationally).
- 6.4 All relevant historic maps must be included and be fully referenced.
- 6.5 The report should specifically include the following:
- a) a copy of the design brief
  - b) a location plan
  - c) all located sites plotted on an appropriately scaled plan of the development
  - d) a gazetteer of all located sites with full dimensional and descriptive detail **including grid reference and period**
  - e) all located sites plotted on an appropriately scaled plan of the development
  - f) a gazetteer of all located sites, including full dimensional and descriptive detail

- g) a full bibliography of sources consulted
- h) a drawn, written and photographic record of any archaeological structures and deposits that may be revealed
- i) preparation of full archive report.

## **7.0 General requirements**

- 7.1 The archaeological assessment must be undertaken by an appropriately qualified individual or organisation, fully experienced in work of this character. Details, including the name, qualifications and experience of the project director and all other key project personnel (including specialist staff) should be communicated to the development control archaeologist and all written work attributed to an author (s).
- 7.2 Contractors and subcontractors are expected to conform to standard professional guidelines, including the following:-
  - English Heritage's 1991 Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2).
  - Richards, J. & Robinson, D. 2000. *Digital Archives from Excavation and Fieldwork: Guide to Good Practice*. Second Edition. The Archaeology Data Service Guide to Good Practice. Oxbow Books.  
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/goodguides/excavation/>
  - The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1985 (revised 2006) Code of Conduct.
  - The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1990 (revised 2002) Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.
  - The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2001) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.
  - The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2001) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment.
  - The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2001) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation.
  - The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2001) Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief.
  - The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1995 (revised 2001) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation.
  - The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1996 (revised 2001) Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures.
  - The Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001 Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials.
- 7.3 Many people in North Wales speak Welsh as their first language, and many of the archive and documentary references are in Welsh. Contractors should therefore give due consideration to their ability to understand and converse in Welsh.

- 7.4 Where relevant, specialist studies of environmental, economic and historical data must include a *statement of potential*. All specialist reports used in the preparation of this study must be reproduced **in full** in the desk-based study.
- 7.5 A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project should be prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions should be labelled, cross-referenced and lodged in an appropriate place (to be agreed with the archaeological curator) within six months of the completion of the project.
- 7.6 Two copies of the bound report must be sent to the address below, one copy marked for the attention of the Development Control Archaeologist, the other for attention of the HER Archaeologist, who will deposit the copy in the HER.
- 7.7 The involvement of Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service should be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.
- 8.0 **Glossary of terms**
- 8.1 *Archaeological Contractor*  
A professionally qualified individual or an organisation containing professionally qualified archaeological staff, able to offer an appropriate and satisfactory treatment of the archaeological resource, retained by the developer to carry out archaeological work either prior to the submission of a planning application or as a requirement of the planning process.
- 8.2 *Archaeological Curator*  
A person, or organisation, responsible for the conservation and management of archaeological evidence by virtue of official or statutory duties. In north-west Wales the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authorities is the development control archaeologist, who works to the Welsh Archaeological Trust's Curators' Code of Practice.
- 8.3 *Archive*  
An ordered collection of all documents and artefacts from an archaeological project, which at the conclusion of the work should be deposited at a public repository, such as the local museum.
- 8.4 *Assessment*  
A desk-based archaeological assessment (also known as a *desk-top assessment*) is a detailed consideration of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area or site (land-based, intertidal or underwater), consisting of a collation of existing written and graphic information in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource in a local, regional or national context as appropriate.
- 8.5 *Brief*  
The Association of County Archaeological Officers (1993) defines a *brief* as an outline framework of the planning and archaeological situation which has to be addressed, together with an indication of the scope of works that will be required.
- 8.6 *Evaluation*  
A limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site; and, if present, defines their character and extent, and relative quality. It enables an

assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context, as appropriate. The programme of work will result in the preparation of a report and archive.

8.7 *Historic Environment Record (HER)*

A documentary record of known sites in a given area. In north-west Wales the HER is curated by the curatorial division of the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust. Formerly known as the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).

8.8 *Specification*

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

**9.0 Further information**

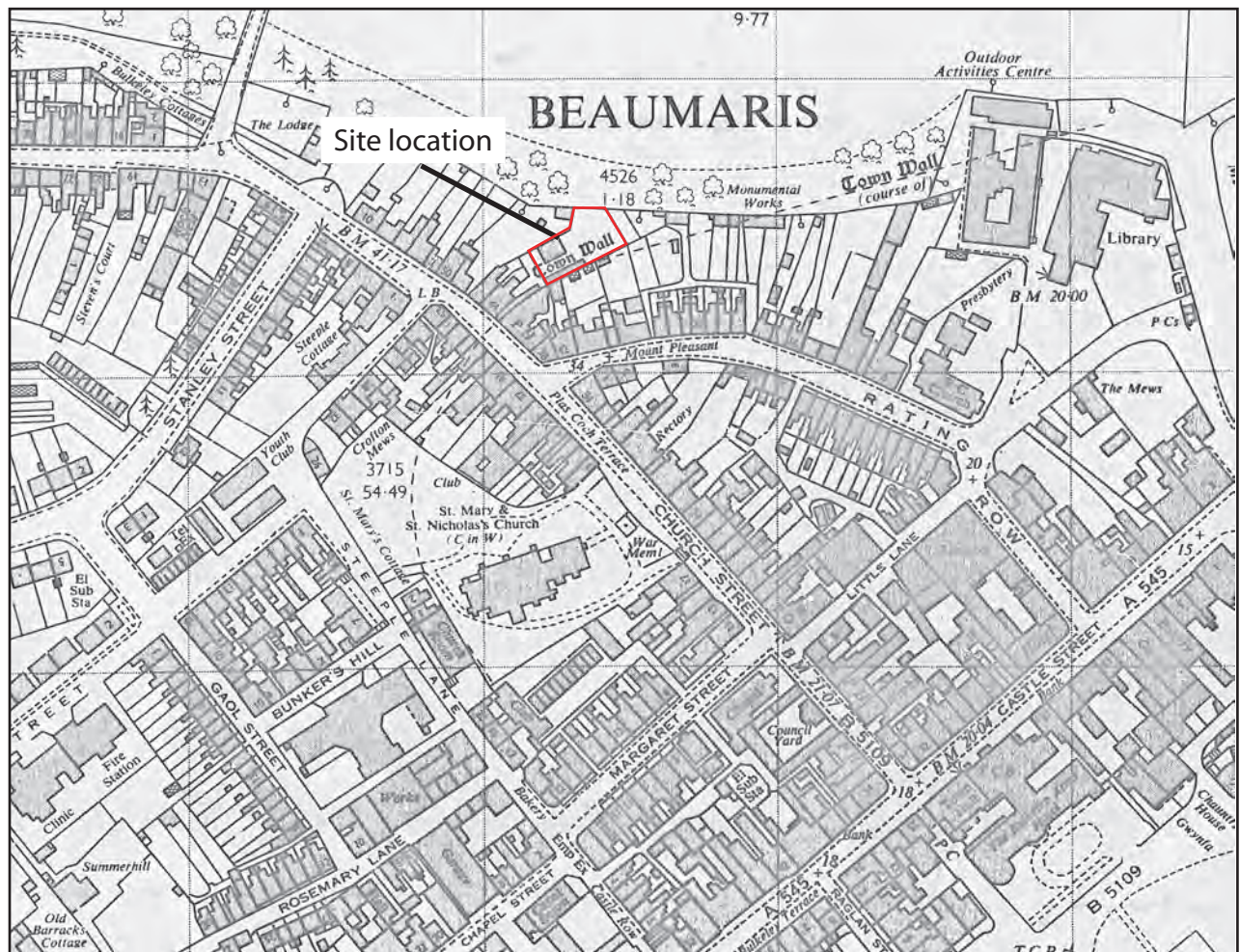
9.1 This document outlines best practice expected of an archaeological assessment but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. If requirements of the brief cannot be met they should only be excluded or altered after gaining written approval of Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service.

9.2 Further details or clarification of any aspects of the brief may be obtained from the Development Control Archaeologist at the address below.

Emily La Trobe-Bateman  
Senior Development Control Archaeologist

**Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service, Craig Beuno, Ffordd Y Garth,  
Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2RT**  
**Ffon/Tel: 01248 370926 Ffacs/Fax: 01248 370925**  
**[emily@heneb.co.uk](mailto:emily@heneb.co.uk)**

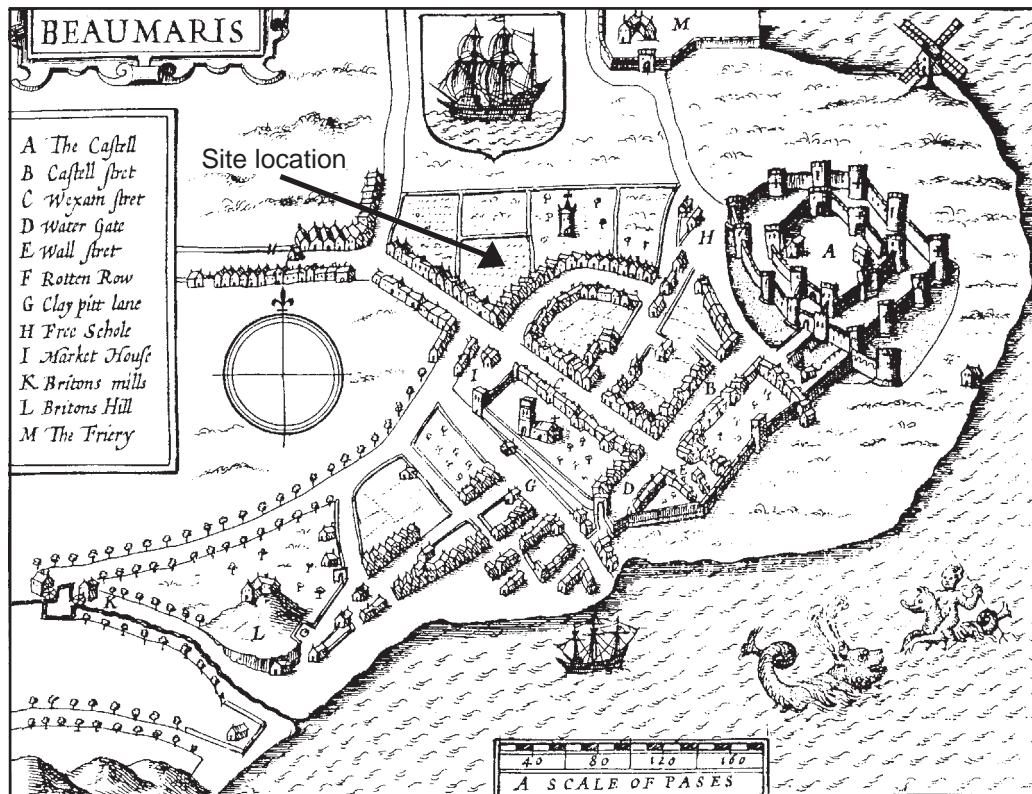




44, Church Street, Beaumaris Fig. 1 Development site location.  
Based on OS 1:2500 scale map 1969. © Crown copyright.  
All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100020895.







44, Church Street, Beaumaris Fig. 3 The location of the proposed development area in relation to Speed's map of Beaumaris 1610

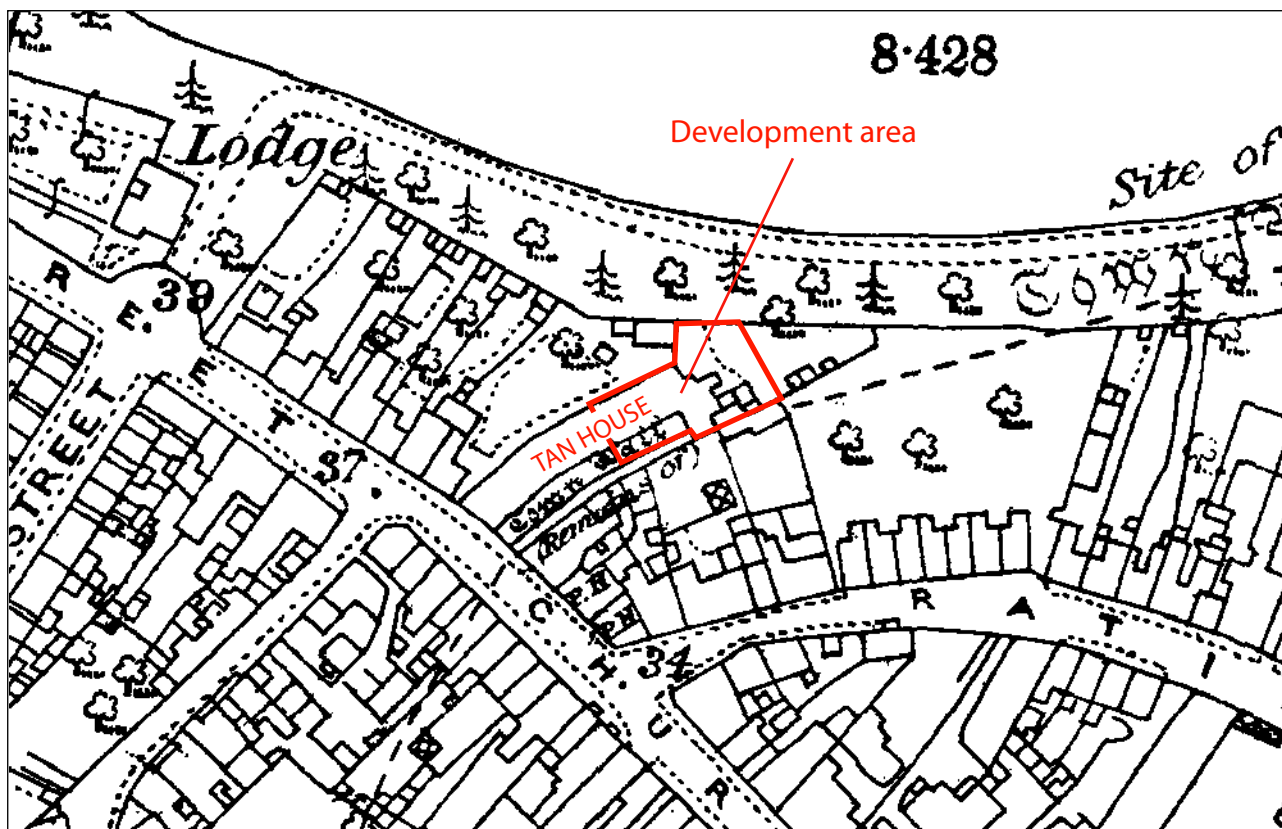


44, Church Street, Beaumaris Fig. 4 The location of the proposed development area in relation to the Baron Hill Estate Map 1829 (UWB 6496)

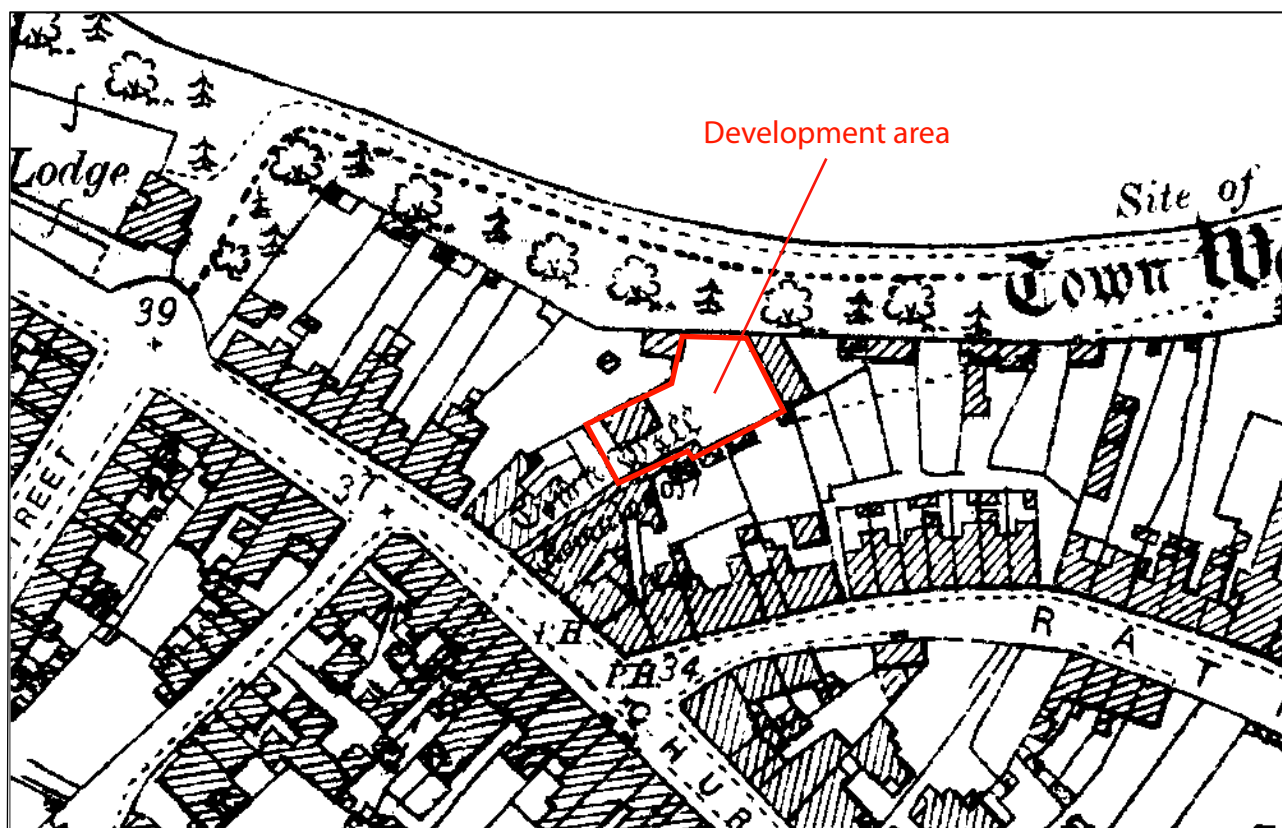




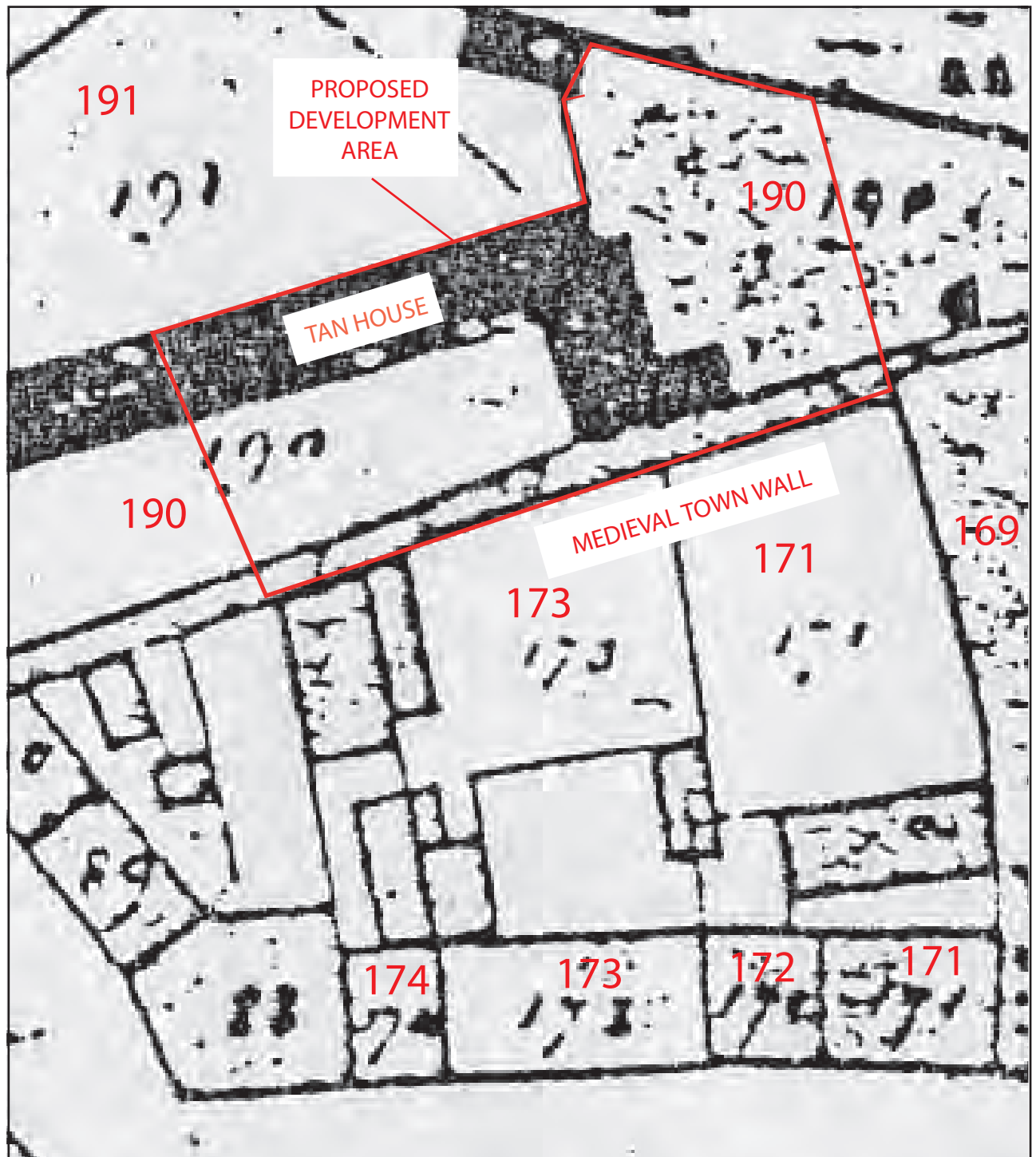
44, Church Street, Beaumaris  
Fig. 5 Plan of The Tan House and adjoining outbuilding.  
Detail from the Baron Hill map of 1861 (BH 8224)



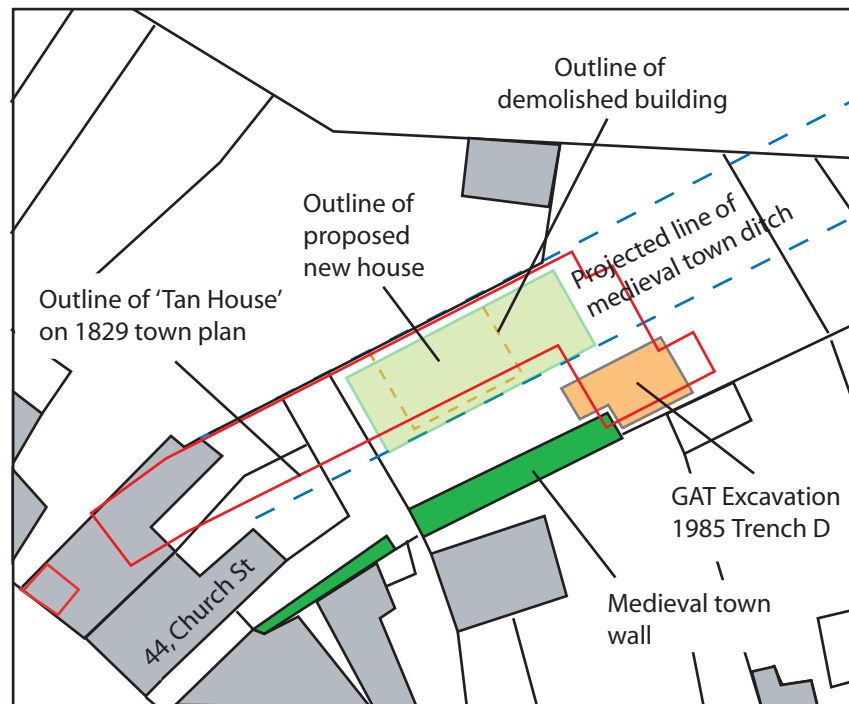
44, Church Street, Beaumaris Fig. 6  
Ordnance Survey map 1889 showing the Tan House still in existence



44, Church Street, Beaumaris Fig. 7  
Ordnance Survey map 1900 after demolition of the Tan House and after construction of 44, Church Street.



44, Church Street, Beaumaris Fig. 8 The location of the proposed development area in relation to the Baron Hill Estate Map 1829 (UWB 6496), highlighting the numbers of the properties listed in the Reference book (BH 8211)



44, Church Street, Beaumaris Fig. 9

Summary showing the position of the proposed new dwelling, the projected position of the Medieval town ditch and the position of the archaeological excavation in 1985 in relation to existing buildings and boundaries. Scale 1:500



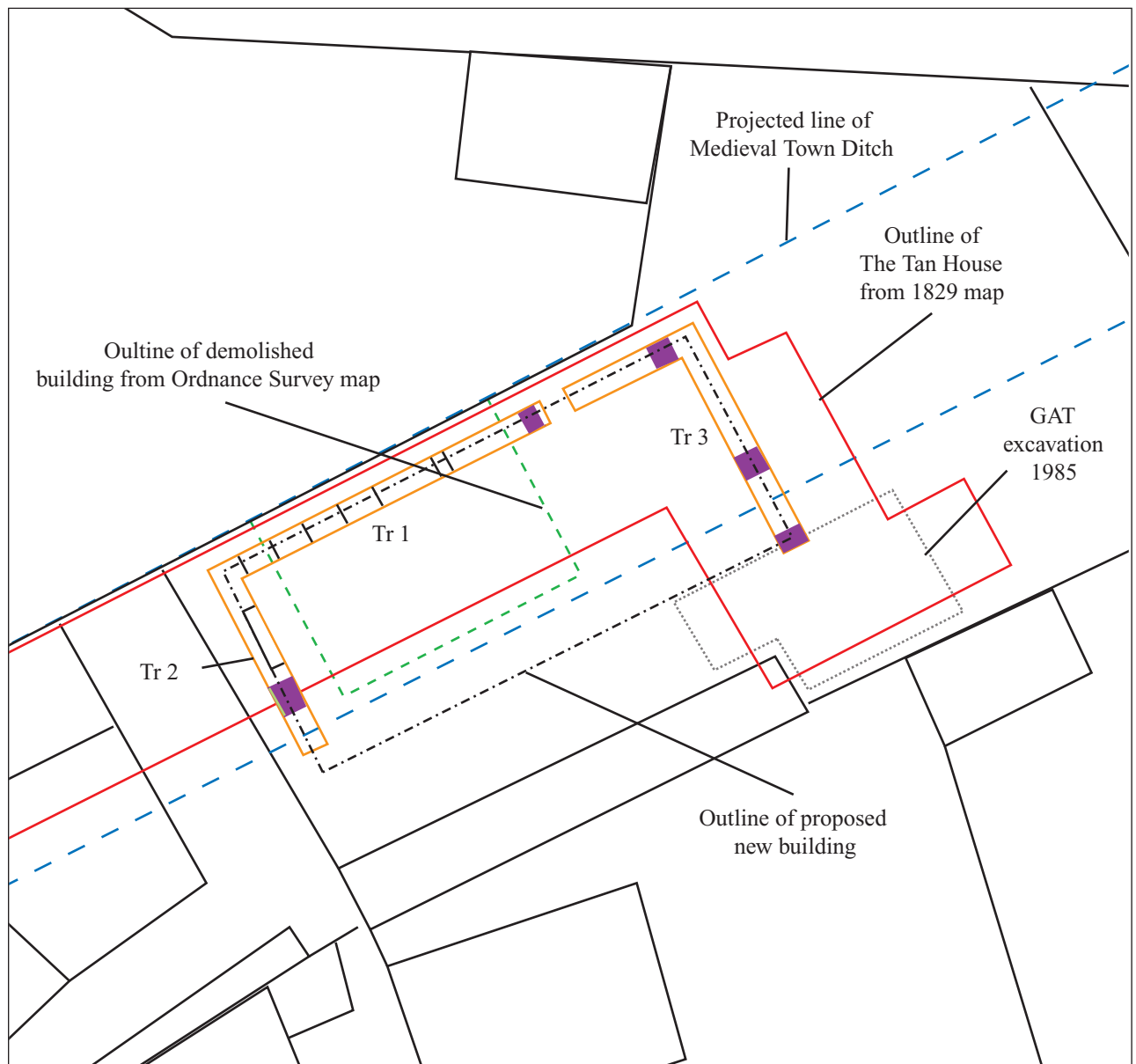


44, Church Street, Beaumaris  
 Fig. 10 Remains of the east wall of The Tan House before demolition



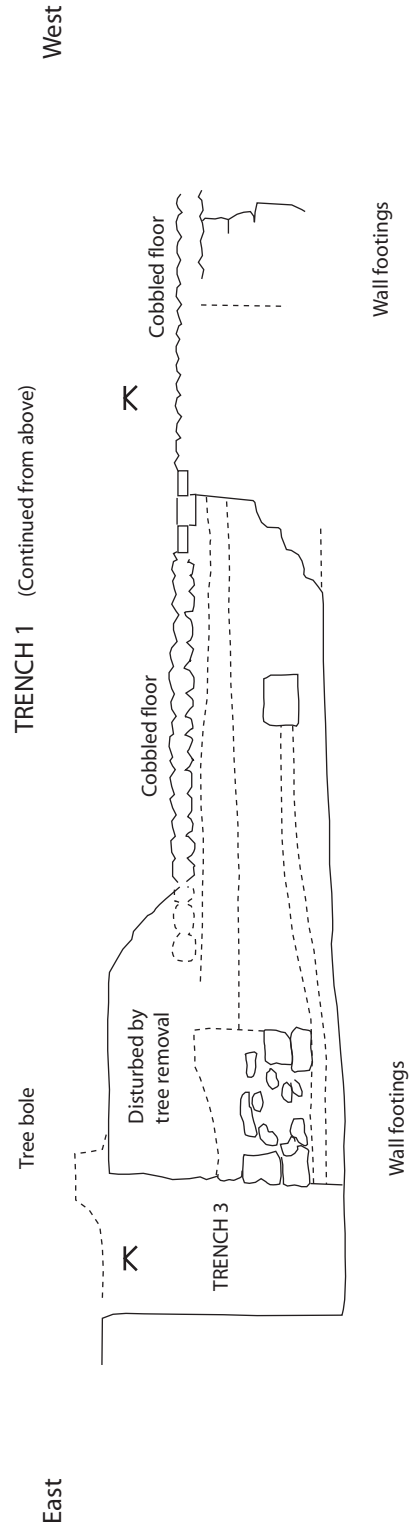
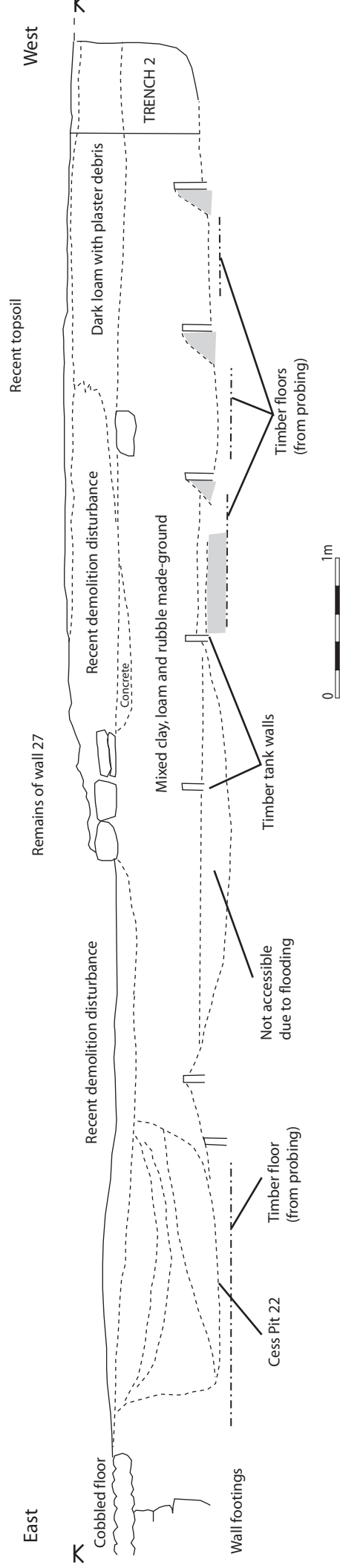
44, Church Street, Beaumaris  
 Fig. 11 Remains of the south wall of The Tan House before demolition



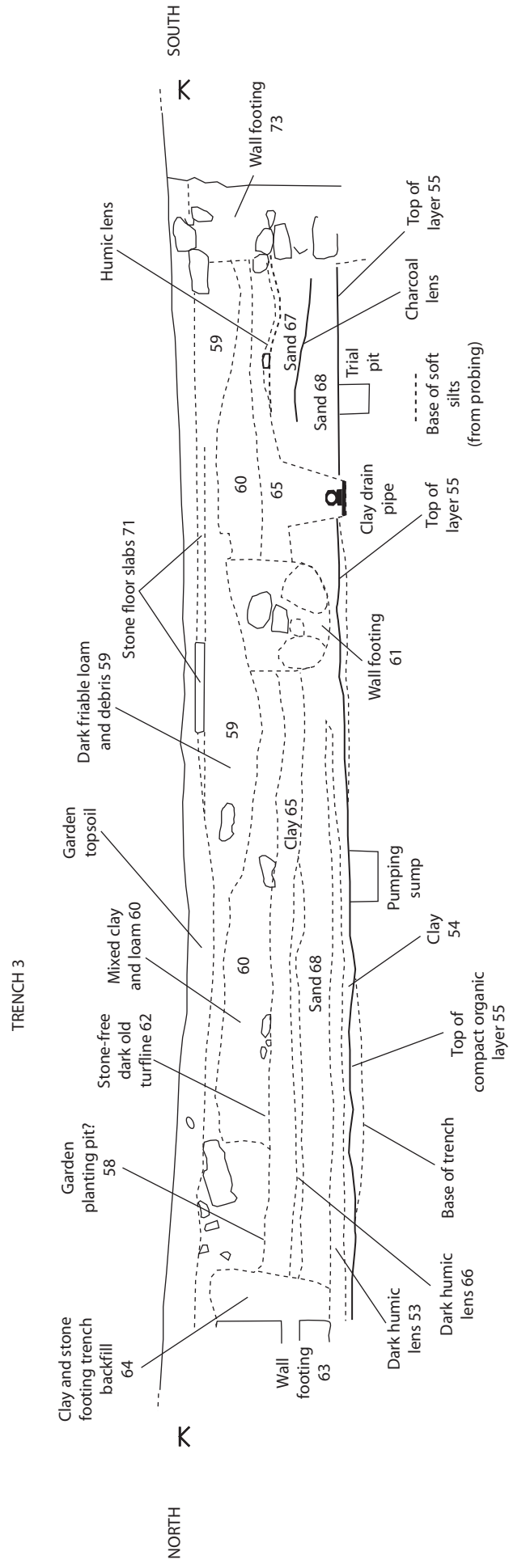
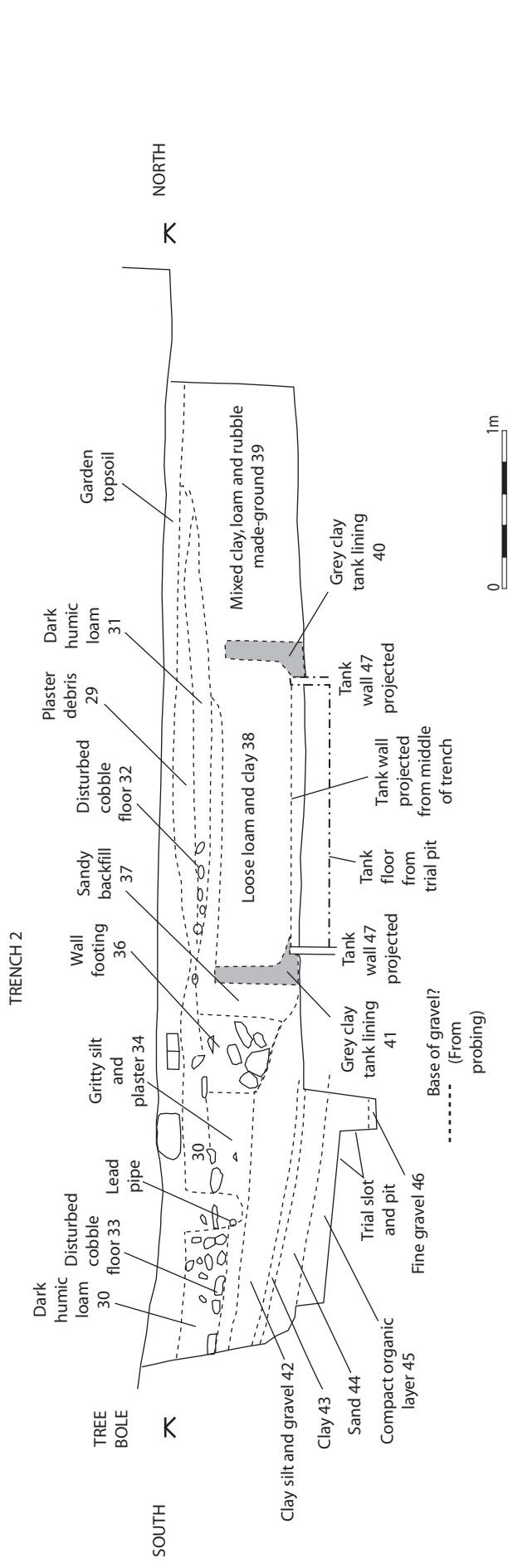


44, Church Street, Beaumaris  
 Fig. 12 General plan of excavated trenches (orange) and main features  
 Purple - wall footings, Black - timber tank walls.

# TRENCH 1 (Continued below)



44, Church Street, Beaumaris Fig. 13 Trench 1 section



44, Church Street, Beaumaris Fig. 14 Trenches 2 and 3 sections



44, Church Street, Beaumaris

Fig. 15 In situ plank wall of timber tanning tank, Trench 1. Scale with 50cm divisions



44, Church Street, Beaumaris

Fig. 16 Part of lower plank wall of timber tanning tank. Scale with 50cm divisions





44, Church Street, Beaumaris  
 Fig. 17 Lowermost sand and buried soil layers at the south end of Trench 2.  
 Scale with 50cm divisions



44, Church Street, Beaumaris  
 Fig. 18 Lowermost sand and buried soil layers at the south end of Trench 3.  
 Scale with 50cm divisions

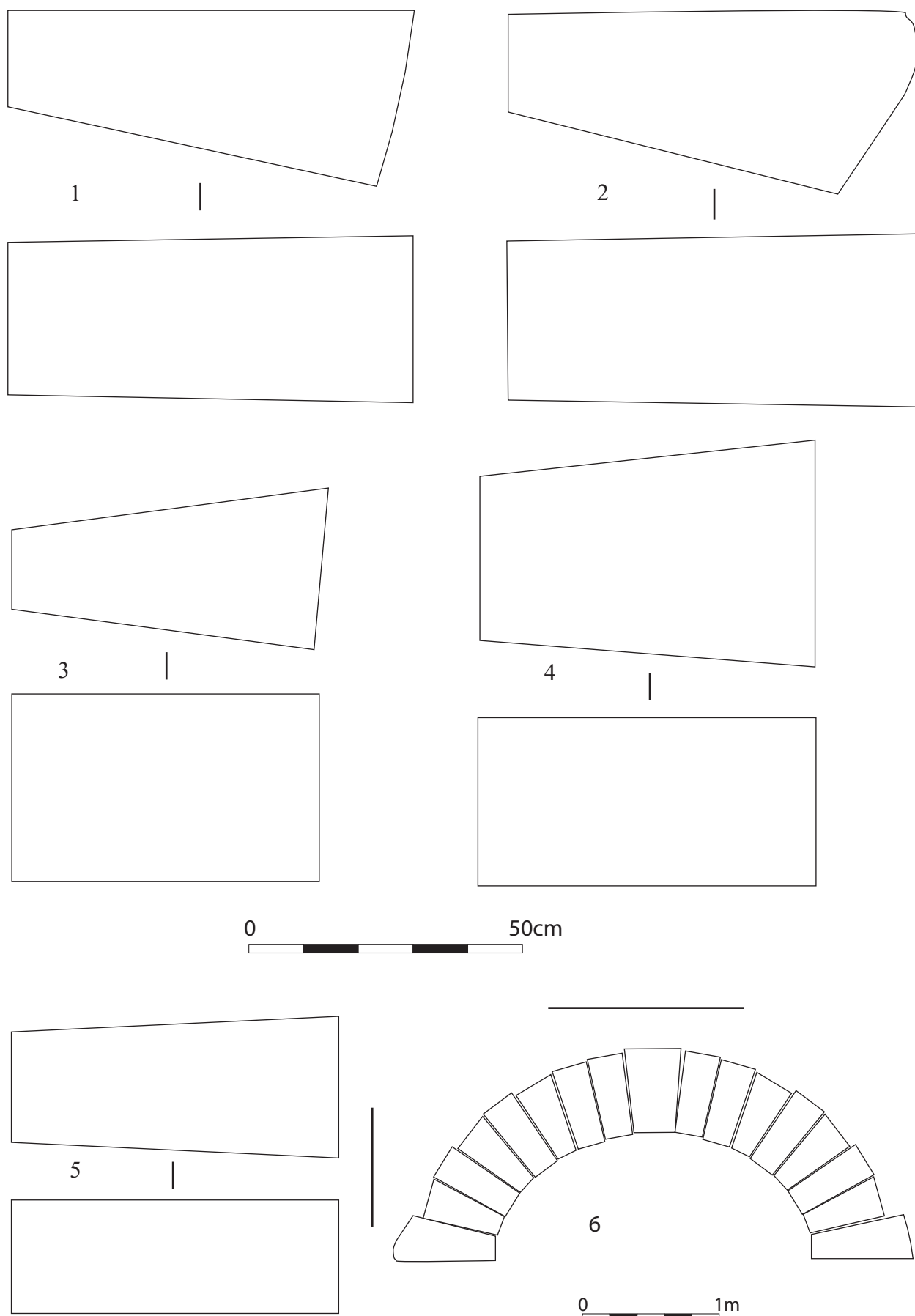




44, Church Street, Beaumaris  
 Fig. 19 Blocked window in north wall of former  
 Tan House, now the boundary wall

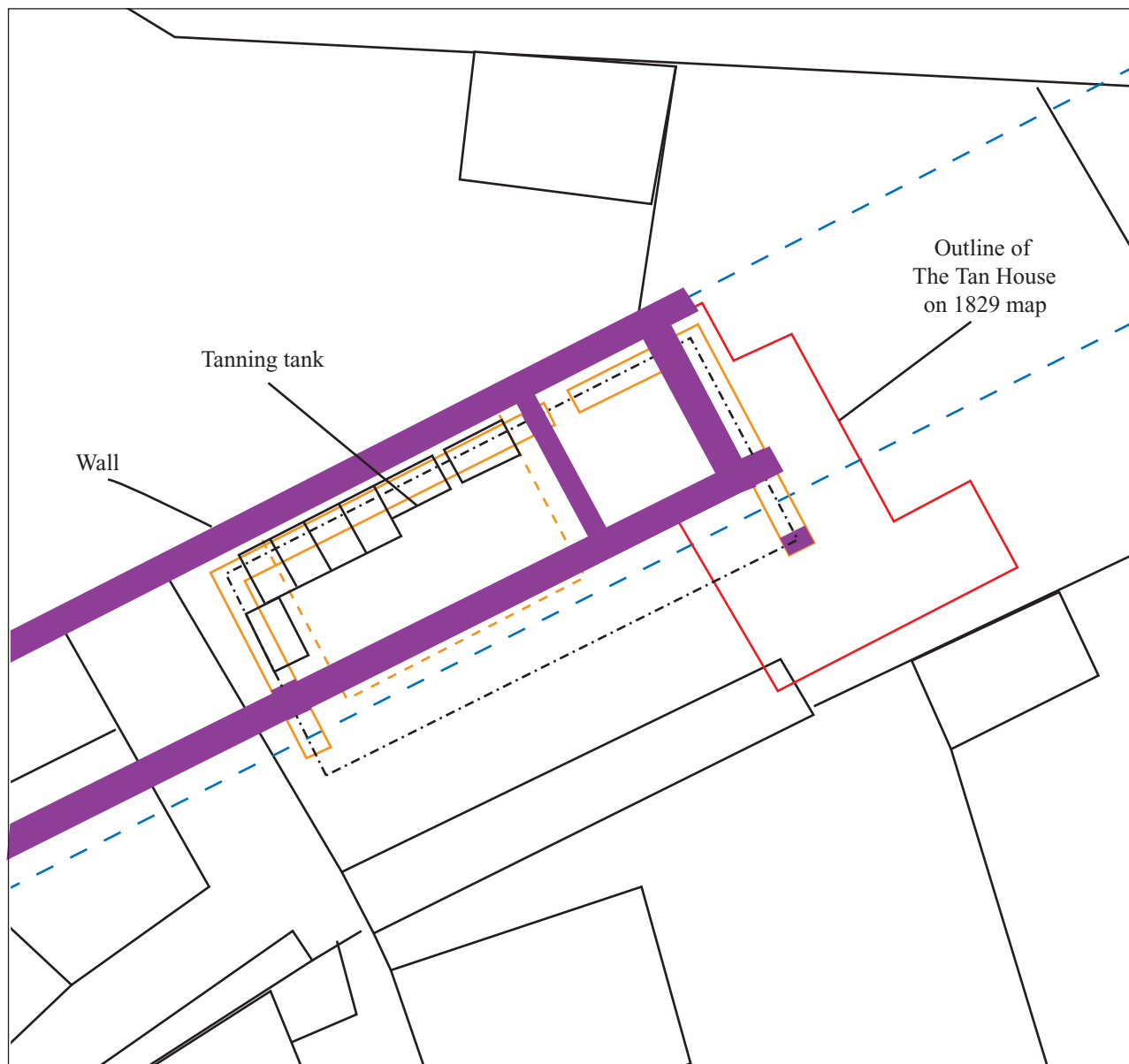


44, Church Street, Beaumaris  
 Fig. 20 Re-used architectural fragment 1 from the former Tan House. Scale with 1cm divisions



44, Church Street, Beaumaris

Fig. 21 1-5 Architectural fragments re-used in The Tan House, retrieved from the demolition rubble.  
6 Projected elevation of arch using fragments retrieved as examples



44, Church Street, Beaumaris  
Fig. 22 Interpretation plan of excavated remains of The Tan House







Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd  
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

Craig Beuno, Ffordd y Garth, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2RT Ffon/Tel 01248 352535 Ffacs/Fax 01248 370925  
e-mail: [gat@heneb.co.uk](mailto:gat@heneb.co.uk) web site: [www.heneb.co.uk](http://www.heneb.co.uk)