

eas

Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd.



**The Oval, Caernarfon
Archaeological Watching Brief**

I.P. Brooks

EAS Client report 2025/08

The Oval, Caernarfon
Archaeological Watching Brief

Survey Commissioned

by

David Dickinson

Sports Labs

Fieldwork

by

I.P. Brooks

Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd.

The Oval, Caernarfon
Archaeological Watching Brief

I.P. Brooks
EAS Client report 2025/08

registered in England

No 2869678

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|------------------|
| <i>Introduction:</i> | <i>1</i> |
| <i>NGR</i> | <i>1</i> |
| <i>Status</i> | <i>1</i> |
| <i>Location and Topography</i> | <i>1</i> |
| <i>Aims of Survey</i> | <i>1</i> |
| <i>SUMMARY</i> | <i>1</i> |
| <i>Methodology:</i> | <i>2</i> |
| <i>Background</i> | <i>3</i> |
| <i>Sources</i> | <i>3</i> |
| <i>Newspapers</i> | <i>3</i> |
| <i>Published References</i> | <i>3</i> |
| <i>Mapping</i> | <i>3</i> |
| <i>Caernarfonshire Archives</i> | <i>4</i> |
| <i>Digital Sources</i> | <i>4</i> |
| <i>Results</i> | |
| <i>Watching Brief</i> | <i>6</i> |
| <i>Eastern side of the pitch after removal of the retaining wall</i> | <i>6</i> |
| <i>Northern group of features</i> | <i>7</i> |
| <i>Middle feature</i> | <i>7</i> |
| <i>Southern group of features</i> | <i>7</i> |
| <i>Finds</i> | <i>8</i> |
| <i>Other Finds</i> | <i>11</i> |
| <i>Conclusions</i> | <i>12</i> |
| <i>Acknowledgements</i> | <i>12</i> |
| <i>References</i> | <i>12</i> |
| <i>Appendix 1: Specification</i> | <i>36</i> |
| <i>Appendix 2: Context Summary</i> | <i>43</i> |

| | |
|---|----|
| <i>Appendix 3: List of photographs in the Archive</i> | 45 |
| <i>Appendix 4: Archive selection</i> | 47 |

List of Illustrations

| | |
|--|----|
| <i>Figure 1: Location</i> | 13 |
| <i>Figure 2: Extent of the work undertaken</i> | 14 |
| <i>Figure 3: Extract from Wheeler 1921</i> | 15 |
| <i>Figure 4: Extract from the 1841 Tithe Map</i> | 16 |
| <i>Figure 5: Extract from the 1888 Ordnance Survey Anglesey XXV NE map</i> | 17 |
| <i>Figure 6: Extract from the 1889 Ordnance Survey mapping</i> | 18 |
| <i>Figure 7: Extract from the 1911 Ordnance Survey Carnarvonshire XV.4 map</i> | 19 |
| <i>Figure 8: Extract from the 1918 Ordnance Survey Carnarvonshire XV.4 map</i> | 20 |
| <i>Figure 9: Extract from the 1965 Ordnance Survey SH 4862 map</i> | 21 |
| <i>Figure 10: Extract from the 1972 Ordnance Survey SH 4862 map</i> | 22 |
| <i>Figure 11: Extract from the 1934 Aerial Photograph</i> | 23 |
| <i>Figure 12: Location of the Archaeological Features</i> | 24 |
| <i>Figure 13: Sections</i> | 25 |

List of Plates

| | |
|---|----|
| <i>Plate 1: The Oval before the works took place, looking south</i> | 26 |
| <i>Plate 2: Wall along the eastern side of the pitch</i> | 26 |
| <i>Plate 3: Central stand on the eastern side with television gallery above</i> | 27 |
| <i>Plate 4: Remnant of the concrete steps behind the retaining wall</i> | 27 |
| <i>Plate 5: Brick core of the steps behind the retaining wall</i> | 28 |
| <i>Plate 6: Build-up of deposits behind the retaining wall</i> | 28 |
| <i>Plate 7: Feature, Context 17 behind the retaining wall</i> | 29 |
| <i>Plate 8: Pit, Context 2</i> | 29 |
| <i>Plate 9: Linear feature Context 8</i> | 30 |
| <i>Plate 10: Pit Context 10</i> | 30 |
| <i>Plate 11: Linear feature Context 20</i> | 31 |
| <i>Plate 12: Band of crushed brick rubble (Context 4)</i> | 31 |
| <i>Plate 13: Concrete pad, Context 5</i> | 32 |
| <i>Plate 14: Concrete pads, Contexts 6 and 7</i> | 32 |
| <i>Plate 15: Concrete Pad Context 7</i> | 33 |
| <i>Plate 16: Flint artefacts</i> | 33 |
| <i>Plate 17: Burnt clay artefacts</i> | 34 |
| <i>Plate 18: Possible slag</i> | 34 |
| <i>Plate 19: The coin</i> | 35 |
| <i>Plate 20: Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) of the coin</i> | 35 |

Introduction

NGR

Centred on: SH 48409 62136

EVENT PRN: 49353

NPRN: 415114

Location and Topography (Figures 1 and 2)

The Oval is the home ground for the Caernarfon Town Football Club (Plate 1) and occupies the land off Marcus Street, Caernarfon.

The pitch at The Oval (Plate 1) was notorious for its slope with approximately a 2.6 m slope down from north to south (P. Evans *pers. comm.*). In order to comply with European standards, it became necessary to reduce the slope of the pitch and to provide more space between the pitch and the surrounding walls. The pitch is surrounded by a concrete block wall and there are stands to the south, west and north side. On the eastern side the concrete wall was approximately 1 m high with metal railings along the top of the wall (Plate 2). Centrally placed is a short stand with a platform for television cameras/press above (Plate 3). As part of the works this eastern wall was demolished and the ground behind cut back.

The watching brief took place between 18/08/2025 and 17/09/2025

Aims of the Survey

To record any archaeological features or deposits disturbed by the construction of the new pitch and associated works at the Oval Grounds.

SUMMARY

A watching brief on the redevelopment of the Oval Football Ground (the home ground for Caernarfon Town Football Club) took place between 18/08/2025 and 17/09/2025. It was commissioned by Sports Labs. A small group of, probably Roman, features were recorded in the north-eastern corner of the pitch together with a linear feature midway along the eastern side of the pitch which corresponds with a field boundary shown on the 1841 Tithe Map and the 1888 Ordnance Survey mapping. At the southern end of the pitch a limited number of modern features were also recorded.

A limited desk-top study shows that there was not a formal pitch on the site until about 1913 and indeed the plot was divided into two fields until, at least, 1889. Major development of the site did not take place until the 1960's, probably partly because the landowner required the site to be cleared at the end of each football season so that cattle and sheep could be grazed on the area.

Cynhaliwyd crynodeb gwylio ar ailddatblygu Maes Pêl-droed yr Oval (sef cartref Clwb Pêl-droed Tref Caernarfon) rhwng 18/08/2025 a 17/09/2025. Fe'i comisiynwyd gan Sports Labs. Cofnodwyd grŵp bach o nodweddion a oedd, yn ôl pob tebyg Rhufeinig, yng nghornel ogledd-ddwyreiniol y cae ynghyd â nodwedd linellol hanner ffordd ar hyd ochr ddwyreiniol y

cae sy'n cyfateb i ffin cae a ddangosir ar Fap Degwm 1841 a mapio Arolwg Ordnans 1888. Ym mhen deheuol y cae cofnodwyd nifer gyfyngedig o nodweddion modern hefyd.

Mae astudiaeth ddesg gyfyngedig yn dangos nad oedd cae ffurfiol ar y safle tan tua 1913 ac yn wir rhannwyd y plot yn ddau gae tan, o leiaf, 1889. Ni ddigwyddodd datblygiad mawr ar y safle tan y 1960au, yn rhannol mae'n debyg oherwydd bod y tirfeddiannwr wedi mynnu bod y safle'n cael ei glirio ar ddiwedd pob tymor pêl-droed fel y gellid pori gwartheg a defaid ar yr ardal.

Methodology

The main contractor for the works was SIS Pitches. The turf was weed killed and then removed with a smooth face ditching bucket. The topsoil, up to a depth of 250 mm was then removed by a 13 tonne back acting machine with a smooth faced ditching bucket. Although this was considered to be the base of the topsoil, for construction purposes, a further 250 – 300 mm of topsoil was left in place meaning that no archaeological features were recorded at this point, except for those associated with the development of the football grounds. Before levelling of the pitch took place the duct holding the cables for the flood lights along the northern and eastern sides of the pitch was exposed. Levelling of the pitch then took place with a series of spits being removed from the north and eastern sides of the pitch and the resultant spoil being spread towards the south and west. This revealed the interface between the base of the topsoil and the underlying natural gravels where the archaeological features were located. Because of the nature of the work only a relatively narrow strip of the underlying gravels was exposed at any one time. This work was also carried out with a 13 tonne back acting excavator with a smooth faced ditching bucket. In effect a strip along the eastern side of the pitch was reduced by up to 1.6 m, whilst the western side of the pitch was built up. Thus, the available area for archaeological inspection consisted of a roughly triangular strip along the eastern side, approximately 25 m wide to the north, but only 3 m wide at the southern end.

After the levelling had taken place the retaining wall along the eastern side of the pitch (Plate 2) was demolished, together with the concrete steps behind, and the spoil behind the wall reduced in level. The middle of the eastern side of the pitch is occupied by a short set of seats with a platform for the press and television cameras over (Plate 3). This structure was not demolished or moved. Thus, the levelling took place either side of the stand where the edge of the pitch was cut back.

Any features located were recorded with a written, drawn and photographic record being kept. Photographs were taken with a Nikon V5 Digital Camera at a resolution of 24.2 MP with the photographs recorded in RAW format, which was converted to .TIFF for the archive. Photogrammetric plans of the archaeological features were produced using a Akaso Brave 6 Plus camera, mounted on an extendable pole, at a resolution of 20 MP which were further processed with Agisoft Metashape Standard v. 2.2.1.

Background

Sources

Newspapers

The North Wales Express 26th April 1889

The North Wales Express 26th April 1889

The North Wales Express 26th April 1889

The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality 27th April 1889

South Wales Echo 2nd May 1889 (Extra special edition)

The North Wales Express 28th June 1889

The North Wales Express 9th August 1889

The North Wales Express 3rd January 1890

The North Wales Express 31st October 1890

Rhyl Record and Advertiser 15th November 1890 (Supplement)

Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald and North and South Wales Independent 1st March 1895

Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald and North and South Wales Independent 4th March 1898

The North Wales Express 5th April 1901

The North Wales Express 10th April 1908

The North Wales Express 1st July 1910

The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality 1st May 1914

Published References

Arvoniensis 1846 Excavations at Segontium. *Archaeologia Cambrensis* No. III July 1846
284-289

Casey, P.J., Davies, J.L. and Evans, J. 1993. *Excavations at Segontium (Caernarfon) Roman Fort, 1975-79: CBA Research Reports No. 90*. Council For British Archaeology

Hayter, A.G.K. 1921. Excavations at Segontium. Interim Report. *Archaeologia Cambrensis*
7th Series Vol. I 19 – 52

Squire, A. 2025. *Forgotten Clubs of North Wales (1872 – 1914)*.

Wheeler, R.E.M. 1921. Segontium Excavations 1921. *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 7th Series
Vol. I 170 - 204

Mapping

1841 Tithe map of Carnarvon

Ordnance Survey Anglesey XXV, 1888

Ordnance Survey Carnarvonshire XV.4.19, 1889

Ordnance Survey Carnarvonshire XV.4.24, 1889

Ordnance Survey Carnarvonshire XV4, 1911

Ordnance Survey Carnarvonshire XV4, 1918

Ordnance Survey SH4862, 1965

Ordnance Survey SH4862, 1972

Caernarvonshire Archives

XM5730/1 Minute book of the Carnarfon Ironopolis Football Club 1895

XD58/1/2/1 Management of the Oval, including:

Agreement for the use of “The Oval” between Gwilym Williams, Hendre Farm, and Caernarvon Town Football Club 1955

Alteration of the Valuation List 1961

Letter requiring that the land be handed back at the end of each season 1949

Letter complaining that the land was being used by other groups without payment 1949

Letter from the Tennant farmer requiring that all concrete pillars and tubing be removed 1949

Letter proposing a new grandstand at the Oval 1953

Letter of complaint from G Williams that the site had not been cleared at the end of the season 1953

Dispute between the club and the architects over a fee for a proposed grandstand 1953

Annual rent of £50 1958

Digital Sources

<https://archwilio.org.uk/wp/>

<https://www.caernarfontownfc.co.uk/en/information/club-history>

<https://places.library.wales/>

RESULTS

The site, sits within a landscape with a much older history, sited only 215 m from the Roman fortlet/supply depot of Hen Walia and 180 m from the 1st – 3rd century AD Roman fort of Segontium. Building encroachment of Segontium in the late nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries led to the discovery of the traces of an extensive *vicus* to the west and south of the fort (Hayter 1921, Casey *et al* 1993, 3). Archaeological work as early as 1846 (Arvoniensis

1846) showed a significant building outside the walls of the Roman fort, between the south east corner of Segontium and The Oval. This building was more accurately mapped in 1921 by Wheeler (Wheeler 1921) (Figure 3). The site of this building and a, presumably, associated wall, are also shown on the Ordnance Survey mapping from 1889 (Figure 6), 1911 (Figure 7) and 1918 (Figure 8)

The earliest mapping located was the Tithe map of Llanbeblig in the County of Carnarvon (Figure 4) from 1841. The site of what was to become The Oval consists of two fields, Cae pella and Cae nina, both occupied by J Griffith and Richard Mathias Preece and owned by Thomas Assheton Smith.

The most detailed of the early mapping is the Ordnance Survey mapping Caernarvon - Carnarvonshire XV.4.19 and XV.4.24, published in 1889 and printed at 1:500 (Figure 6). These show the site of The Oval was still divided into two fields and also marks the Roman walling, the site of a building and a furnace between Segontium, itself and the site of the, later, football pitch. Indeed, it is not until the mapping published in 1911 (Figure 7) that the site of the pitch is a single field and the mapping published in 1918, but revised in 1913, (Figure 8) that the pitch itself is mapped. The mapping published in 1965 and 1972 (Figures 9 and 10) shows the addition of stands to the west and terraces to the south of the pitch.

The local and regional newspapers from the nineteenth century suggests that the fields later to become "The Oval" were used for a range of event, in particular horse racing, jumping, and athletic competitions, organised by the Carnarvon Athletic and Recreation Company Limited, from at least 1880. It is not until 1889 (The North Wales Express 26th April 1889) that the site is first referred to as "The Oval" of Carnarvon. Also, in this year there was a petition and demonstration against the games partly because they were being held on Easter Monday, but also because of the disturbance involved. A petition of 150 names was gathered (South Wales Echo 2nd May 1889 (Extra special edition)), although the local The North Wales Express (26th April 1889) suggests that the majority of the protestors (116) did not live in the immediate area of the games, and a further 25 were illiterate and could not therefore sign the petition. The article also points out that houses in Marcus Street avoided paying the 6d entrance fee by watching from their upstairs windows.

The site was also used by circuses both in 1889 (The North Wales Express 28th June 1889) and 1910 (The North Wales Express 1st July 1910). Whilst the 1889 might be described as a traditional circus with performing horses, elephants and clowns (although there was also a performing bull) the 1910 Sanger's Circus, Hippodrome and Menagerie included re-enactments of events from the Zulu Wars. In 1890, the Carnarvon Fox and Welsh Terriers Coursing meeting (The North Wales Express 31st October 1890) was also held on the site.

The earliest football match, documented, occurred in 1889 being a match between Crewe Steam Shed and Carnarvon Town (The North Wales Express 26th April 1889), although Squire (2025, 44) states that Carnarvon Athletic played at The Oval between 1888 – 1893. The demise of Carnarvon Athletic appears to be related to the insolvency of the Carnarvon Athletic and Recreation Company Ltd in 1891. The next team to play at The Oval was Carnarvon Ironpolis between 1891 and 1903. The minute book for the season 1895-6 suggest that a resolution was passed on August 7th 1895 to drain the field. It must be remembered at this point that the map evidence suggests the area of the modern pitch was divided into two fields at this point, so presumable the football pitch occupied one of the fields alone.

An aerial photograph from 1934 (Figure 11, <https://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/en/image/WPW045189>) Shows the pitch marked out with low wall along its western side, but only as a series of posts along the eastern and northern sides. There is also an arc of posts immediately to the north of the pitch. There appears to have been a long narrow structure along the southern side of the pitch which could possibly been an early set of stands.

Records held by the Caernarfon Archives (XD58/1/2/1) suggests that the development of the site was somewhat hampered by the lease held by the football club. Between at least 1949 and 1958 the grounds were owned by Hendre Farm who required that all concrete pillars, tubing etc be removed at the end of the season so that the land could be used to graze cattle and sheep and to used for the annual show. This clearance was not always carried out as fast as the farmer would like and there are a series of letters of complaint in 1949, 1953 and 1958 about the state of the pitch. In 1958 the rent for the grounds was £50/annum which was paid to Gwilym Williams of Hendre Farm.

The lease must have changed between 1962 and 1964 as the Ordnance Survey map published in 1965 (Figure 9) shows the development of stands and other facilities not shown on earlier mapping.

As part of the pre-planning works for the development Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd were commissioned to carry out a Resistivity Survey which was carried out in early May 2025 (Brooks 2025). Conditions for the survey were not ideal; however, a limited number of anomalies were located, none of which appeared to be obviously related to archaeological activity.

Watching Brief

Three areas with archaeological features were located during the watching brief. These consisted of an area in the north eastern corner of the pitch which had a group of four archaeological features, an area in the middle of the eastern side of the pitch and the southern end of the pitch. A single archaeological feature was also located when the retaining wall was removed.

Eastern side of the pitch after removal of the retaining wall

Immediately behind the retaining wall along the eastern side of the pitch were a series of at least two concrete steps. These appeared on both sides of the central stand and presumably originally ran along the whole length of the pitch. Their construction varied along its length with the northern end the steps being made of poured concrete (Plate 4), whilst in the middle of the run it was constructed of, probably reused, bricks with a concrete skim (Plate 5). As the section was cut back, beyond the level of the steps it revealed the stratigraphy behind (Plate 6, Figure 13). Below a thin layer of pale grey stone chipping, 80 mm thick (Context 12) was a layer of crushed slate waste (Context 13) which acted as a base for the overlying stone chippings. The next layer (Context 14) was a dump of yellowish-brown clayey gravel, up to 280 mm thick, with the occasional boulder, pockets of mortar, slate, modern bricks and tiles. Context 14 merged with Context 15 below which was a dump of building rubble including large angular block, up to 400 mm, slate blocks and beams (some decorated) (Plate 7) crushed mortar, glass, crushed paint can etc. Layer up to 470 mm thick, but tending to thin towards the south where it becomes only 200 mm thick. Both Contexts 14 and 15 are designed to increase the level of the land behind the concrete steps.

Context 15 was dumped on a layer of soil (Context 16) which is considered to be the original topsoil before the site was developed. The layer was a mid-brown clayey silt, 280 mm thick, with the occasional fleck of charcoal, some post-medieval finds including clay pipe, occasional small (up to 50 mm) rounded stone. The level of this layer appears to be slightly higher than the topsoil of the pitch (Context 1), possibly suggesting the pitch had been partly levelled at some point in the past.

Only a single archaeological feature (Plate 8, Figure 13) was located below Context 16. Context 17 was a small feature, possibly a post-hole, 360 mm wide and 160 mm. It had two fills, a very dark grey/black fill with many flecks of charcoal and fragments of burnt clay (see below) (Context 18) over Grey clayey gravel Context 19). Context 17 was located in the north eastern corner of the development (Figure 12) and was therefore probably associated with the other features located in this corner of the pitch.

Northern group of features

A small group of features were located in the north eastern corner of the pitch, consisting of two small pits and a length of a linear feature or gully. All of these features were heavily truncated, possibly from an earlier attempt to flatten the pitch.

Context 2 (Figure 13, Plate 9) was a small pit, approximately 880 mm in diameter, but only 123 mm deep with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid-brown clayey silt with the occasional fleck of charcoal. There appeared to be a series of stones, up to 100 mm in size placed around the side of the feature. This feature also contained two sherds of Romano-British pottery.

Context 8 (Figure 13, Plate 10) was a linear feature, or gully, running in a NNW-SSE direction. It was up to 1.1 m wide and 250 mm deep, tending to narrow and shallow to the west, with sloping sides and a rounded base. It was traced for at least 5 m across the pitch. The feature was filled with Context 9, a pale grey-brown sticky clay with the occasional sub-angular stone up to 70 mm. Little cultural material except a single worked flint was located.

Context 10 (Figure 13, Plate 11) was a small, circular pit, 1.20 m in diameter and 120 mm deep, filled with a mid-brown clayey silt with the occasional fleck of charcoal (Context 11)

Middle feature

A single linear, feature or gully, was located near to the eastern stand (Figures 12 and 13, Plate 12). It was up to 470 mm wide and 150 mm deep with sloping sides and a rounded base running in a SW-NE direction. It was filled with a mid-yellowish-brown clayey silt with a moderate density of small (up to 60 mm) angular and sub-angular stones. This feature corresponds with the boundary shown of the Tithe and 1889 Ordnance Survey mapping (Figures 4 and 5)

Linear feature in middle of the pitch

Southern group of features

A series of “modern” features were located along the southern side of the pitch (Figure 12). These consisted of a band of crushed brick rubble and coal fragments (Context 4, Plate 13) forming a band approximately 1.8 m wide leading to Contexts 5 – 7.

Contexts 5, 6 and 7 were concrete pads, set at right angles to the southern edge of the pitch at roughly 4.2 m intervals. Context 5 (Plate 14) was 2.83 m long and 0.37 m wide, Context 6 (Plate 15) 2.77 m long and 0.42 m and Context 7 (Plate 16) 2.30 m long and 0.41 m wide. Given their similarity in form and composition and the regularity in their layout it is likely they are contemporary, possibly the support for structure shown on the 1935 aerial photograph (Figure 11).

Finds

Archaeological Artefacts Recovered by Dr. I. Brooks, EAS Ltd from Caernarfon Football Club (Oval 2025).

M. Jones and C. Rees

Artefactual material was recovered from two contexts at the site. Context (01) contained the majority of the material, and all material from this context was of Post Medieval date.

Context (02) contained two sherds of pottery – both belonging to the Roman period. They were manufactured between the late 1st to 3rd century AD.

Context (01)

All material from Context (01) was of Post Medieval date. It was predominantly pottery with glass, clay pipe and iron work also present.

The following section has been divided by material, with the pottery section further subdivided by type.

Pottery

White Ware (5 sherds)

Context (01) contained five sherds of White Ware. All are late 19th – 20th century in date:

1. Chunky rolled rim. Part of a 19th - 20th century jar.
2. Small rim sherd with a straight edge. Teacup rim with a gold dot decoration below the interior edge. Twentieth century date.
3. Incomplete circular pedestal base from a bowl. 40 mm diameter.
4. Incomplete circular pedestal base from a bowl. 60 mm diameter.
5. A single base and body sherd for a flat shallow bowl with a 50 m diameter.

Blue and White Ware (6 sherds)

Context (01) contained five sherds of Blue and White ware. All are late 19th – 20th century in date:

1. Rim sherd of a plate or shallow bowl. Scalloped decoration along the rim. Blue glaze.
2. Rim of a small plate with an indistinct blue and white design. Possibly a factory second.
3. Rim of a small plate. Floral and a repeating diamond design along the rim.

4. Rim and body sherd of a straight sided cup. Chinese pattern inspired by the 'Two Temple 1' pattern introduced in 1820. This design is likely to be a later interpretation.
5. Body sherd with an Asiatic pheasant and floral design. Likely platter or serving dish. Late 19th – 20th century in date.
6. A circle base or domed lid.

Slip Ware (1 sherd)

Context (01) contained a single Slip Ware sherd:

1. Body sherd with an orange-cream fabric. The interior has a yellow glaze with a brown combed line decoration. The design is possibly of late 18th century date.

Coarse Ware (3 sherds)

Context (01) contained three Coarse Ware sherds:

1. Rim sherd of an orange ware bowl. Internal yellow glaze with a single, brown band decoration on the rim. Unglazed exterior. 19th century date.
2. Rim sherd of an orange ware bowl. Internal and external brown glaze with a single yellow band decoration below the rim. A smaller bowl than above. 19th century date.
3. Base sherd of an orange ware. Internal and external yellow glaze with a square splayed base. Part of a pot or tankard. Early 18th century date.

Coarse Domestic Ware (5 sherds)

Context (01) contained five sherds of Coarse Domestic Ware:

Five sherds of a coarse purple-grey fabric. Rough mottled internal and external glaze. All sherds are ribbed. The vessel form could not be identified although it likely that they represent domestic items. The darker fabric is often associated with earlier pottery and therefore an early to mid-18th century date has been attributed.

Stone Ware (2 sherds)

Context (01) contained two Stone Ware sherds:

1. Body and base sherd. Part of a condiment jar. Late 19th - 20th century date.
2. A top and partial rim of a small ink pot known as pork pie pot. Cream white fabric with a tanned salt glaze. 19th century date.

Buckley Ware (16 sherds)

Context (01) contained sixteen Buckley Ware sherds. All sherds were of a coarse orange-red fabric with either a black or brown iridescent glaze. All sherds likely date from the late 18th - 19th century and would have been domestic items from a kitchen or washroom.

This assemblage contained rim sherds from three separate vessels:

1. Chunky sherd with squared rim extended 40 mm from the body. Rough internal black glaze which was unevenly applied. Part of a large shallow bowl/Pantheon. 19th century date.

2. Rounded rolled rim. Dark brown-black internal and external glaze. Part of a flat-sided pot. 19th century date.
3. Squared folded rim extending 18 mm from the body. Part of a bowl/Pancheon. 19th century date.

Thirteen body sherds of a coarse orange-red fabric. Either black or brown iridescent glaze. All sherds had rib banding around the body. Only two of the sherds could be refitted. Although it is likely that there are multiple sherds of the same vessel it was not possible to calculate the number of vessels represented.

Ceramic Tobacco Pipes

Context (01) contained six ceramic tobacco pipe stems:

1. Pipe stem 65 mm long with a 0.8 mm diameter and a 1 mm bore
2. Pipe stem 40 mm long with a 6 mm diameter and a 2 mm bore
3. Pipe stem 40 mm long with a 7 mm diameter and a 1.5 mm bore
4. Pipe stem 35 mm long with a 6 mm diameter and a 2 mm bore
5. Pipe stem 38 mm long with a 6 mm diameter and a 1.5 mm bore
6. Decorated Pipe stem. Pipe stem 42 mm long with a 6 mm diameter and a 1mm bore. The decoration appears to be a spiral floral designs the impression is very faint, Similar decoration has been noted on early 19th century finds.

Glass

Bottles (3 sherds)

Context (01) contained two glass bottle sherds and one complete vessel:

1. Fragment of the neck and mouth of an onion bottle. The neck is 40 mm long before it starts expanding out to the body. The mouth is 15 mm in diameter and has a rough-cut finish. Late 18th century.
2. Branded Sherd - small green glass sherd fragment with raised lettering VAN. Brand could not be identified. Late 19th – 20th century date.
3. Small circular green glass medicine bottle - complete. 60 mm from mouth to base and 20 mm in diameter. The mouth is 10 mm in diameter. The neck of the bottle is 15 mm in length and has a raised spiral for a screw cap. Mid to late 20th century date.

Glass Sherds (5 sherds)

Mixed selection of five glass sherds. Small size makes vessel identification problematic although the most likely identification would be from bottles. Late 19th to early 20th century date.

Marble (1 item)

A 1930s glass fibre industrial made marble. The marble has creases and the classic off green colouring common from mass produce marbles from this period. This is a purpose made toy rather than a marble obtained from a Codd bottle.

Metal

Iron (1 item)

A complete keg (u-shaped) horseshoe. Weight 333g. Approximately 15 mm thick. The distance between the heel is 70 mm. There are two opposed raised tabs for fitting and to help secure the hoof. Late 19th early 20th century in date.

Context (02)

Two sherds of Roman era pottery were recovered from context (02):

1. Sherd 1 - An abraded sherd measuring 60 mm by 5 mm with an approximate thickness of 5 mm. Orange fabric with a cream colour coating.
2. Sherd 2 - A single abraded sherd measuring 50 mm by 40 mm with a thickness of 10 mm. Evidence of banding/ribbing in the interior. Orange fabric.

Orange ware is one of the common colours associated with the Roman period. The largest locally known producer for this period was the legionary pottery works at Holt where a large range of pottery types were produced in a distinctive orange red fabric (Greene 1977). Both sherds were produced in the late 1st to 3rd century AD.

Other Finds

I.P. Brooks

Flint

Two flint artefacts were recovered during the course of the watching brief (Plate 17) A large primary flake of dark yellowish brown translucent flint was recovered from the topsoil (Context 1). The freshness of the break would suggest this might be an artefact created by the topsoiling.

The second artefact was from Context 9. It is the distal end of a thick blade, 19.5 mm long, 18.2 mm wide 10.6 mm thick and weighs 4.4 g. It was made on a very pale grey (N8) opaque flint.

Burnt Clay

Four fragments of burnt clay (Plate 18) were recovered from Context 18, the fill of a small feature (Context 17). These consist of:

1. A fragment 60.4 x 35.0 x 28.2 mm weighing 26.0 g. with one smoothed roughly surface and impressions of vegetation in the rear surface.
2. A fragment 47.8 mm x 45.5 x 2.8 mm, weighing 32.5 g. It has one smoothed surface. One end has a reduced (dark) colour whilst the other end is oxidised.
3. A small fragment 19.4 x 19.1 x 13.9 mm, weighing 2.2 g. a small shapeless fragment
4. A pellet, 25.2 x 22.1 x 18.6 mm weighing 8.2 g. This pellet of clay has roughly smoothed surface all over.

Possible Slag

A single fragment of possible metalworking slag (Plate 19) was recovered from Context 11, the fill of a small pit of possible Romano-British date (Context 10). The fragment is 80.7 x 78.3 x 68.5 mm in size and weighs 365.5 g. The fragment includes a pebble approximately 60 x 33 x 24 mm and several smaller stone fragments. There is also areas of ferrous rich deposits.

Coin

A single Victorian penny was recovered from the fill associated with the conduit carrying the electricity supply to the floodlights. The coin is heavily rubbed and worn, but Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) reveals this to be an 1896 penny.

Conclusions

Only limited number of archaeological features were located during the watching brief. These can be divided into three broad groupings. At the southern end of the pitch is a group of features including three concrete pads (Contexts 5, 6 and 7) which are probably the supports for an earlier stand or structure at this end of the pitch. It is possible that this may be the structure shown on the 1935 aerial photograph (Figure 11). The current stand was bought, second hand from Shrewsbury Town (<https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/415114/>).

In the middle of the pitch a single linear feature (Context 20) corresponds with a boundary shown on the Tithe and early Ordnance Survey mapping of the area (Figures 4 and 5). Thus, this feature was still in existence in the late nineteenth century.

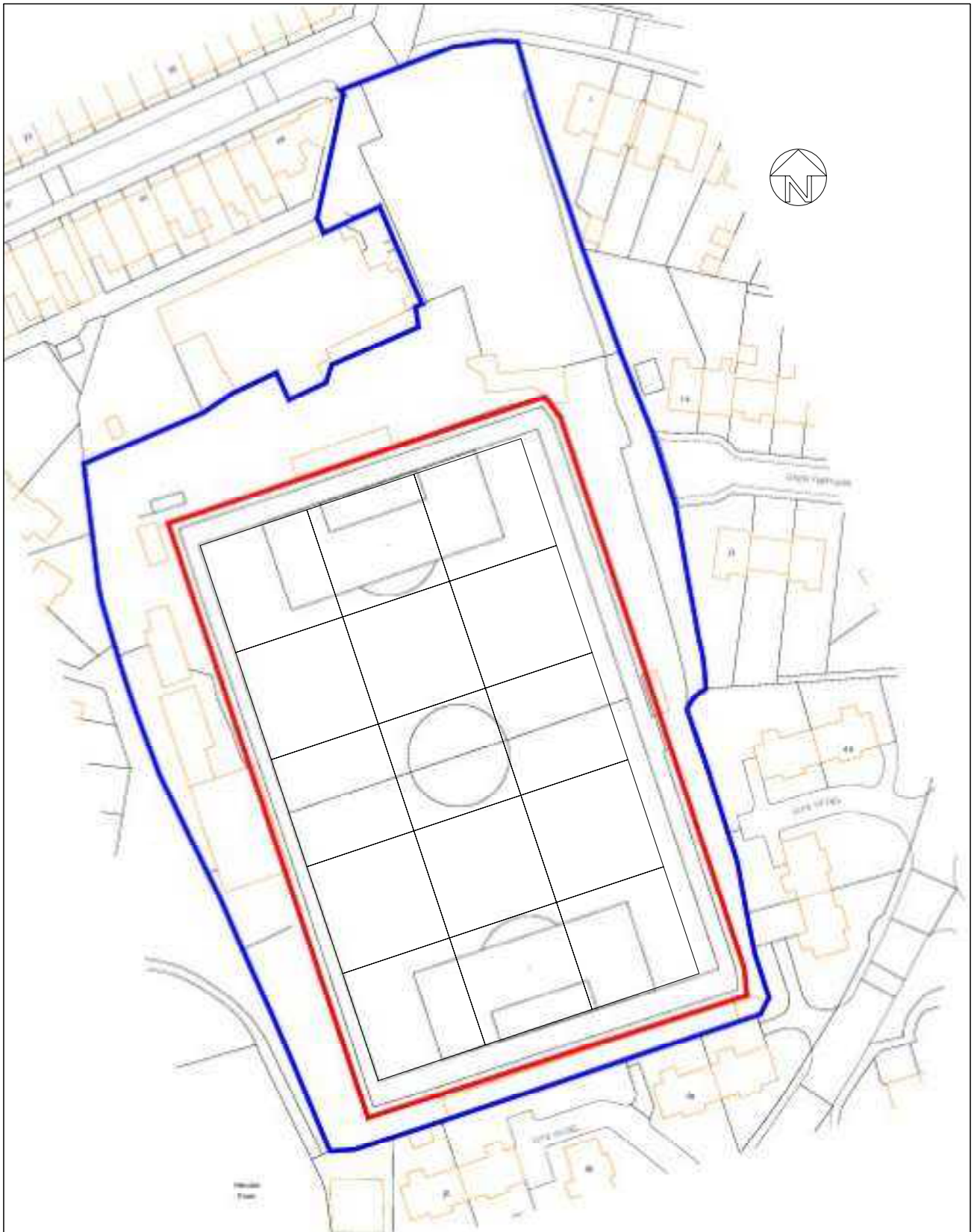
Probably most importantly is a small group of features in the north east corner of the pitch, which is the nearest point of the development to Segontium. Whilst only one of the features is directly datable, as it contains Romano-British pottery, it is likely that all four of the features are from this period. The date range of the pottery recovered is similar to the dates for activity within the Roman fort of Segontium and it would seem likely that these features are part of the *vicus* surrounding the fort. The presence of both burnt clay and probable metalworking slag, although in different features, suggest that craft activities were being carried out in this part of the *vicus*.

Acknowledgements

The watching brief was commissioned by David Dickinson for Sports Labs. The groundworks were carried out by SIS Pitches and their help is gratefully acknowledged. The project was monitored by Jenny Emmett for Heneb.

References

- Ayto, E. (2002) *Clay Tobacco Pipes*. Shire Library. Shire Publications. Oxford
- Greene, K. (1977) *Legionary pottery and the significance of Holt, in Roman pottery studies in Britain and beyond. Papers presented to John Gillam, July 1977* (eds J Dore & K Greene). BAR Suppl Ser 30. Pp 113–32.
- Jones, N. (2019) *The Buckley Potteries: Recent Research and Excavation*. Oxford. Archaeopress.
- Morgon R, (1976) *Sealed Bottles: Their History and Evolution: 1630-1930*. Burton Upon Trent. Midland Antique Bottle Publishing.
- Webster, G. (1976) *Romano British Course Pottery: Student Guide*. Research Report 6. York. Council for British Archaeology.



Based on Drawing 3335-SL-DR-010-LP-R00 by Sports Labs

Figure 2: Location of the Survey
Scale 1:1,000

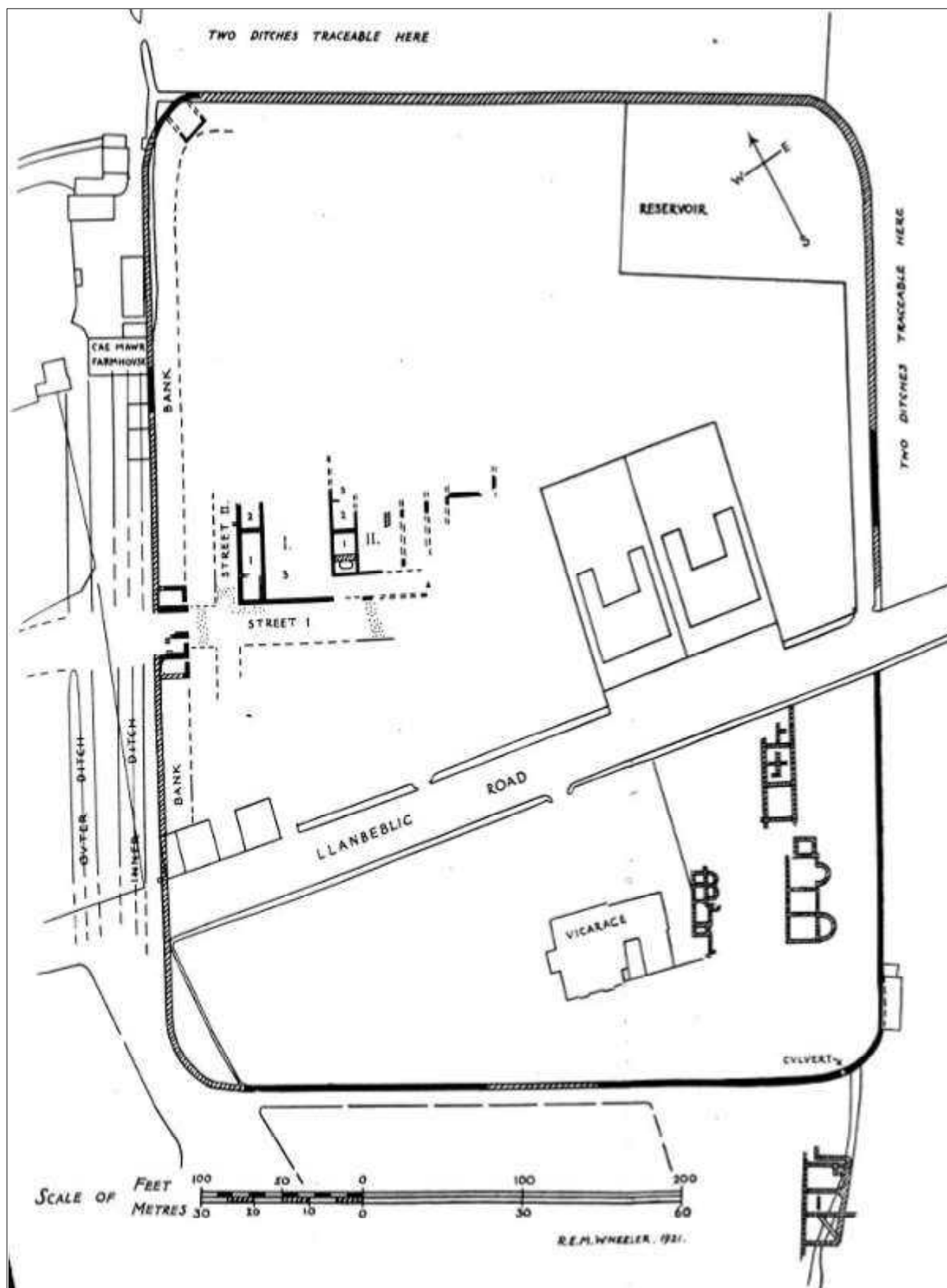


Figure 3: Extract from Wheeler 1921 showing the Roman building between Segontium and The Oval
Re-scaled to 1:1,000

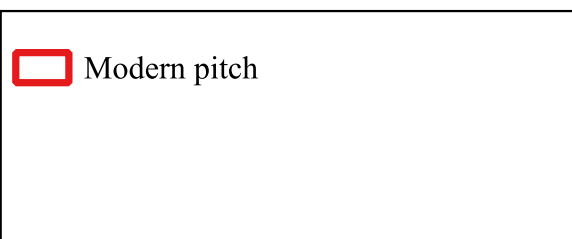
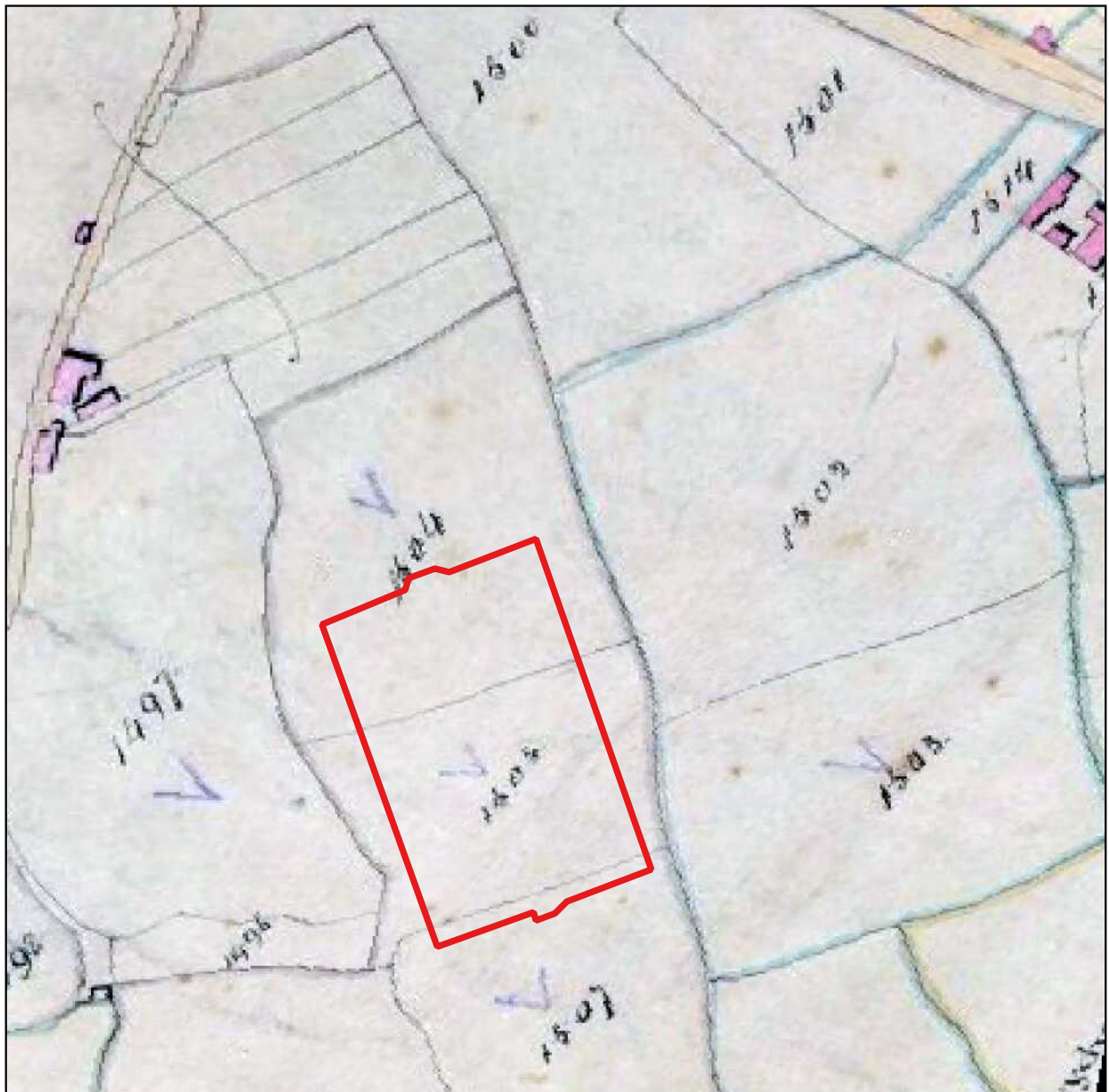
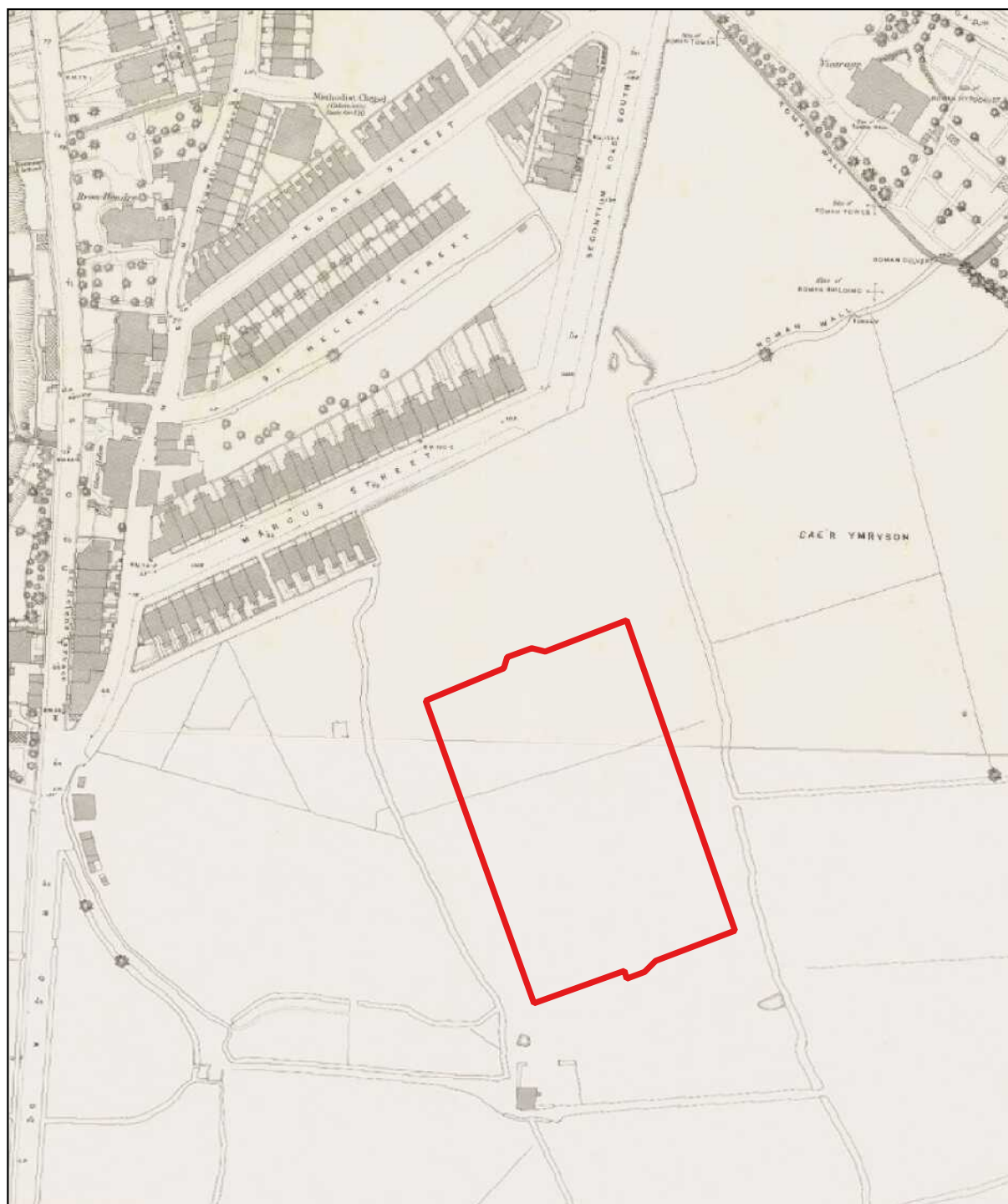


Figure 4: Extract from the 1841 Tithe Map
Rescaled to 1:2000



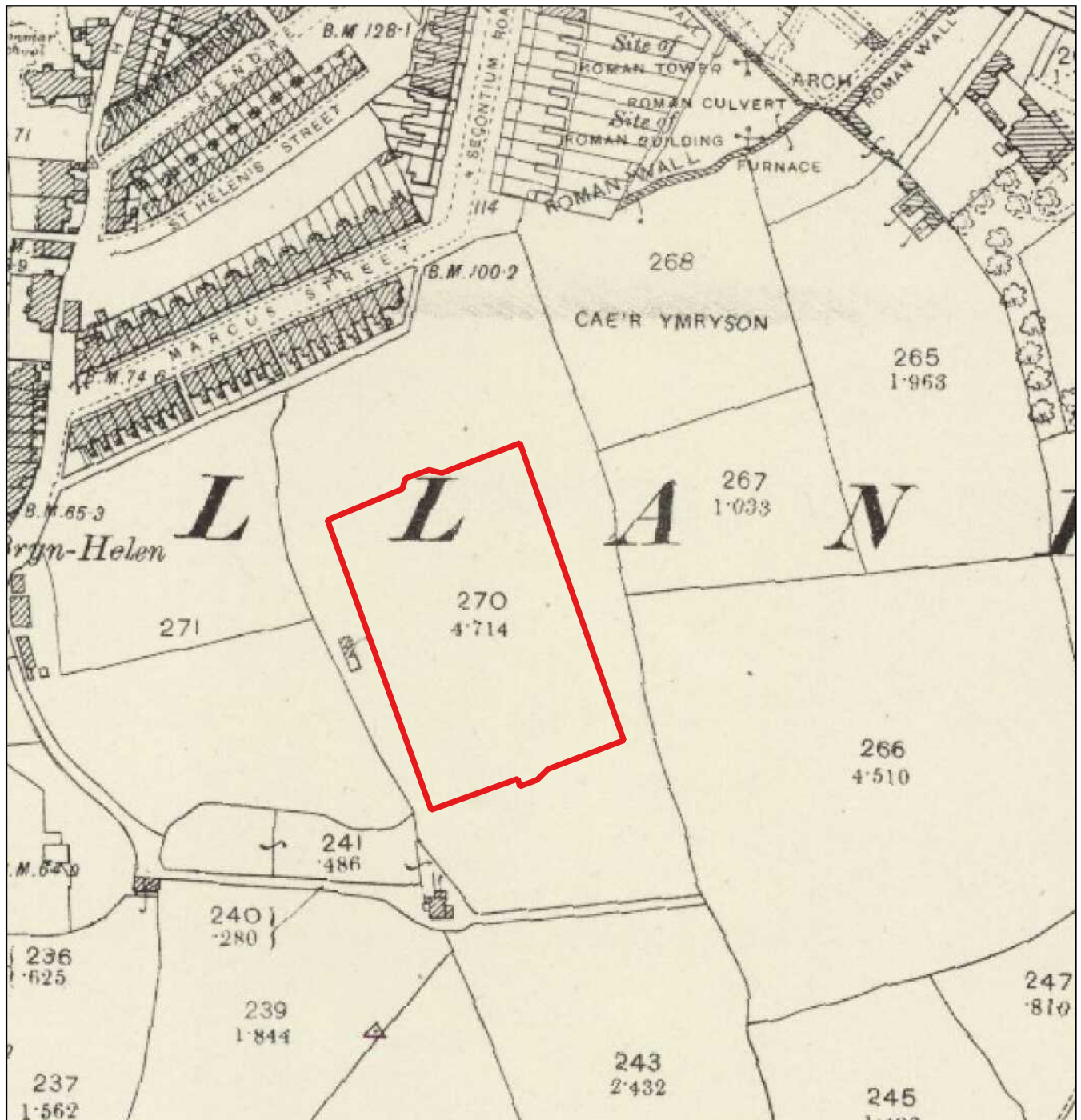
 Modern pitch

Figure 5: Extract from the 1888 Ordnance Survey Anglesey XXV NE Map
Rescaled to 1:2,000



 Modern pitch

Figure 6: Extract from the 1889 Ordnance Survey Mapping
Rescaled to 1:2,000



 Modern pitch

Figure 7: Extract of the 1911 Ordnance Survey Carnarvonshire XV.4. Map
Rescaled to 1:2000

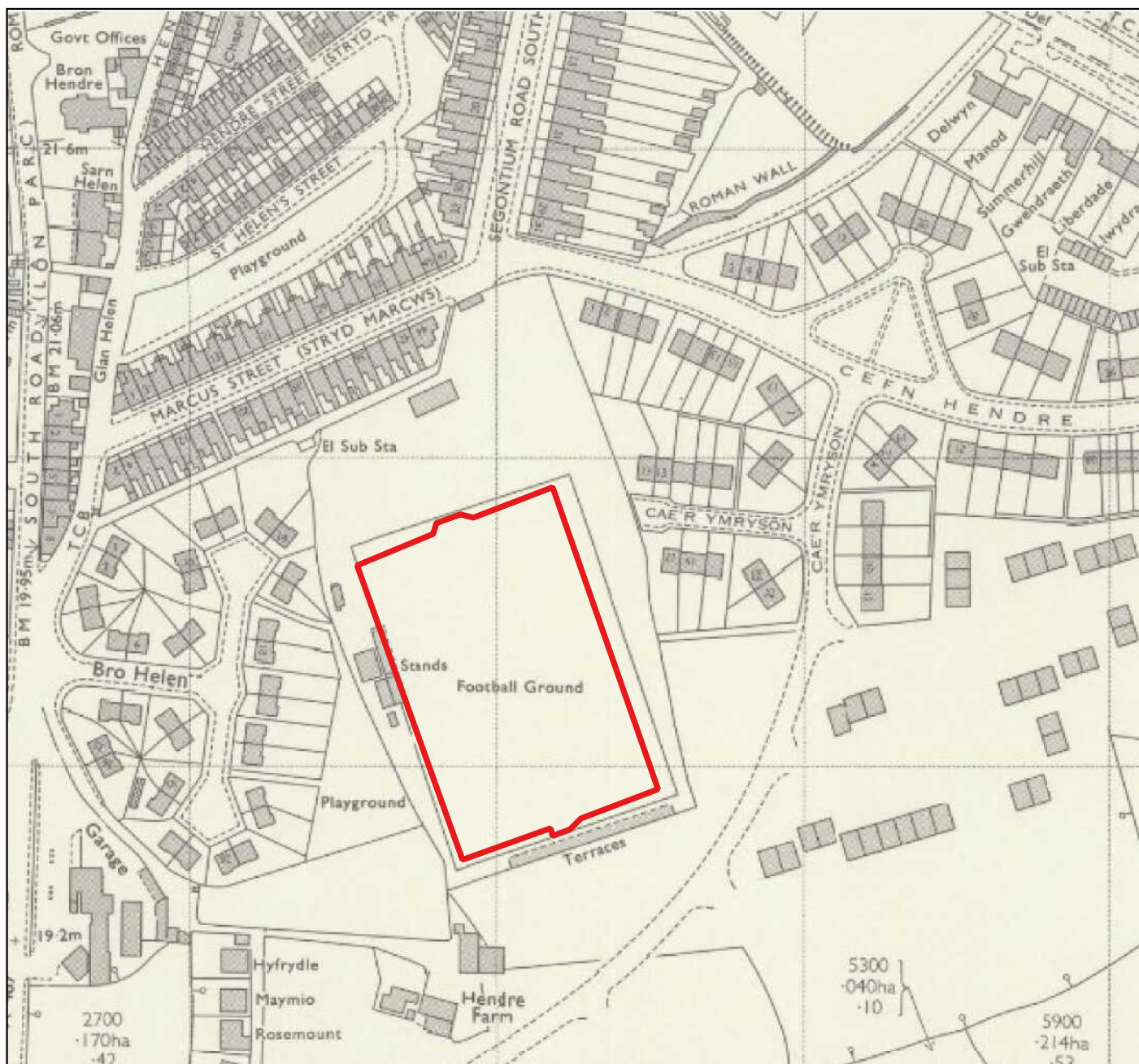


Modern pitch

Figure 8: Extract from the 1918 Ordnance Survey Carnarvonshire XV.4 map
Rescaled to 1:2,000



Figure 9: Extract from the 1965 Ordnance Survey SH 4862 map
Rescaled to 1:2000



Modern pitch

Figure 10: Extract from the 1972 Ordnance Survey SH 4862 map
Rescaled to 1:2000



Figure 11: Extract from the 1934 Aerial photograph
(<https://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/en/image/WPW045189>)

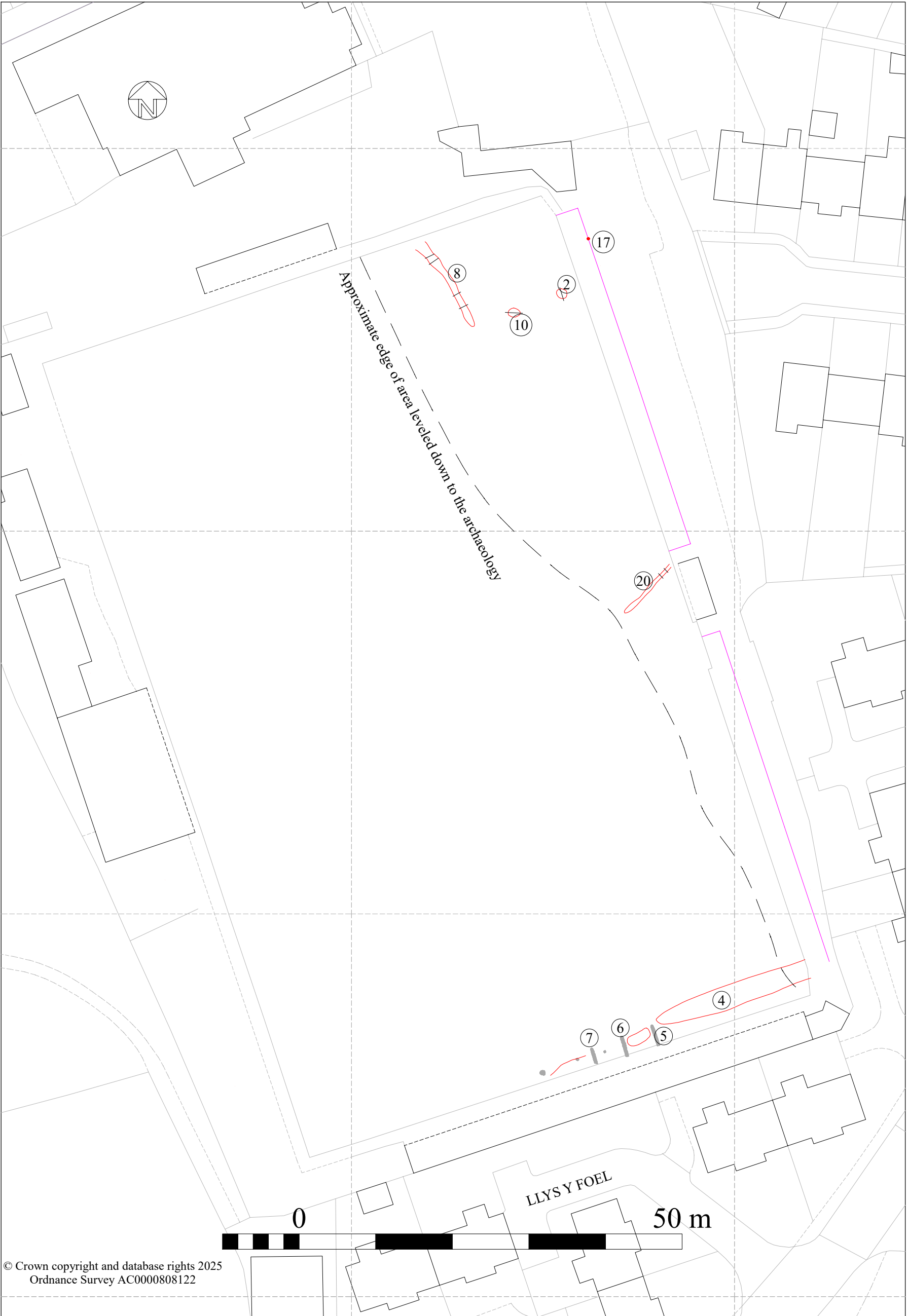


Figure 12: Location of the Archaeological Features
Scale 1:500

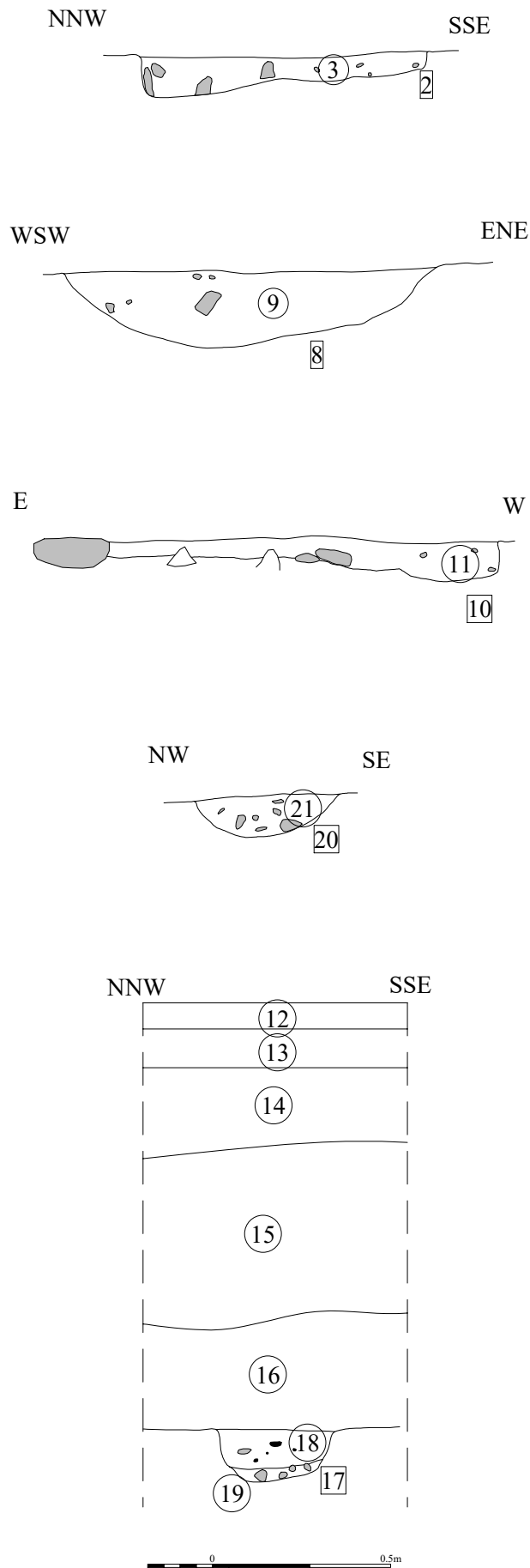


Figure 13: Sections
Scale 1:20



Plate 1: The Oval before the works took place, looking south



Plate 2: Wall along the eastern side of the pitch



Plate 3: Central stand on the eastern side with television gallery above



Plate 4: Remnant of the concrete steps behind the retaining wall



Plate 5: Brick core of the steps behind the retaining wall



Plate 6: Build-up of deposits behind the retaining wall



Plate 7: Carved slate from Context 15



Plate 8: Feature, Context 17 behind the retaining wall



Plate 9: Pit, Context 2



Plate 10: Linear feature Context 8



Plate 11: Pit Context 10



Plate 12: Linear feature Context 20



Plate 13: Band of crushed brick rubble (Context 4)



Plate 14: Concrete pad, Context 5



Plate 15: Concrete pads, Contexts 6 and 7



Plate 16: Concrete Pad Context 7



Plate 17: Flint artefacts



Plate 18: Burnt clay artefacts



Plate 19: Possible slag



Plate 120: The coin



Plate 21: Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) of the coin

Appendix 1: Specification

Specification for the Archaeological Watching Brief at Caernarfon Town FC, Caernarfon Town Football Pitch, The Oval Marcus Street, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 2HT.

Planning Ref. C25/0245/14/LL

Specification compiled by I.P. Brooks.

11 August 2025

1. *Non-Technical Summary*

2. It is intended to improve and rebuild the football pitch within the grounds for Caernarfon Town Football Club. The proposed development is within an area of high archaeological potential given its location near to the known Roman remains at Segontium and Hen Walia.

3. *Background*

- 3.1. Cymru Football Foundation wish to upgrade and re-build an existing stadium pitch at The Oval, the football grounds for Caernarfon Town Football Club.
- 3.2. The football ground itself is a historic asset, being recorded on the National Monuments Record of Wales as having been established in the 1880s (NPRN 415114) and identifiable on historic mapping from this period onwards.
- 3.3. The site lies within a broader landscape which includes Segontium Roman Fort and Hen Walia Roman Fort and their associated extra-mural activities including burials, temporary occupation, and chance artefact discoveries
- 3.4. During the pre-planning stage a resistivity survey was commissioned by The Cymru Football Foundation, from Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd. The results of this survey were equivocal, given the dry condition at the time.
- 3.5. The Heneb Planning have recommended the inclusion of archaeological conditions within the planning permission for this development which were included by Gwynedd Planning Department. The recommended response is for a watching brief on the development.

4. *Objectives*

- 4.1. The principal objective of the proposed watching brief are as follows:
 - 4.1.1. To record any archaeological features disturbed by the ground works associated with the construction of the new pitch.

5. *Fieldwork Program*

- 5.1. It is intended to carry out an archaeological watching brief on the ground works.
 - 5.1.1. A partial watching brief will be carried out on all groundworks associated with the development.
- 5.2. Analysis
- 5.3. Archive preparation
- 5.4. Report preparation

6. Methodology

6.1. Fieldwork

- 6.1.1. A suitably qualified archaeologist will be present during selected soil moving activities, allowing for the location and recording of any archaeological features or deposits within these areas.
 - 6.1.1.1. The selection of the activities will be discussed with the main contractor; however, key targets will be the areas closest to Segontium and any areas where the construction of the current pitch suggests the ground has been built up.
- 6.1.2. Selective hand cleaning will be undertaken to define any archaeological features recorded during soil moving activities.
- 6.1.3. A minimum of 10% of each of the linear features and 50% of each discrete feature will be excavated.
 - 6.1.3.1. All relationships between archaeological features will be investigated.
 - 6.1.3.2. Specific features of significant archaeological importance (such as graves or features with significant deposits) will be fully excavated.
- 6.1.4. All features or archaeologically significant deposits revealed will be fully recorded including:
 - 6.1.4.1. A written description of deposit: type, components etc.
 - 6.1.4.2. Hand drawn plans and sections at suitable scales. Typically plans will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 or greater and sections at a scale of 1:10.
 - 6.1.4.3. Photographs will be taken with Nikon V5 Digital Camera at a resolution of 24.2 MP
 - 6.1.4.4. If appropriate photographs will be taken with a Panasonic Lumix DC-FT7 camera on an extendable pole. These photographs will be processed with Agisoft Metashape v. 1.6.3 to produce photogrammetric images of any archaeological features revealed by the works.
 - 6.1.4.5. Plan drawings showing the extent and nature of any archaeological deposits or features encountered.
 - 6.1.4.6. Section drawings of any features recorded to record vertical stratigraphy.
- 6.1.5. The photographs will include metric scales
- 6.1.6. All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded by context.
- 6.1.7. Each deposit, feature or layer will be identified by a unique context number to which all other records will be related
- 6.1.8. Where possible, elevation drawings of feature half sections to record vertical stratigraphy.
- 6.1.9. Where appropriate, deposits will be sampled for environmental, dating or technological evidence. Samples will be fully recorded and packed appropriately for future analysis.
 - 6.1.9.1. Sampling will be carried out in accordance with the procedures outlined in English Heritage. 2011. Environmental Archaeology. A guide to the

theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation.

6.1.9.2. Bulk samples are likely to be in the range of 10 – 40l depending on the reason for the sample and the availability of suitable material.

6.1.10. If human remains are encountered all works will stop until the appropriate permissions have been obtained. A further specification will be submitted to detail the excavation of any human remains and the subsequent specialist reports.

6.2. The planning section of Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology will be notified immediately if significant archaeological deposits, features or artefacts are located.

6.3. Post Excavation Analysis

6.3.1. If there is little, or no, archaeological deposits/features or remains recorded during the watching brief will progress immediately on to the archive report.

6.3.2. If significant archaeological remains/features/deposits are encountered. On completion of the fieldwork an assessment of the archaeological record from the site, will be made and the project design updated. Including an estimate on the cost of the post-excavation process.

6.3.3. On approval of the updated project design the full archaeological report will be undertaken to including the commissioning of all specialist reports recommended by the revised project design.

6.4. Finds

6.4.1. The intention is to archive any suitable finds with Storiell in Bangor.

6.4.2. Any flint artefacts will be studied by I.P. Brooks for Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd.

6.4.3. Any pottery will be studied by an appropriate specialist to be agreed in consultation with the Curatorial Archaeologist.

6.4.3.1. It is intended that M. Jones (CR Archaeology) will report on the post-medieval finds including any pottery collected

6.4.4. Any metal or other special finds will be studied by an appropriate specialist to be agreed in consultation with the Curatorial Archaeologist

6.4.5. All ceramic, bone and stone artefacts will be cleaned and processed immediately following the watching brief.

6.4.6. Metal artefacts will be stored and managed on site according to the UK Institute of Conservation Guidelines.

6.4.7. Any samples taken for environmental analysis will be assessed and studied by an appropriate specialist to be agreed in consultation with the Curatorial Archaeologist

6.4.8. All finds will be bagged by context with the exception of closely datable or “special” finds which will be recorded with a 3 D position and will be bagged separately

6.4.9. The requirement for specialist archaeological reports will be discussed with the Curatorial Archaeologist. The extent and cost of any such report will be discussed with the client and a suitable level of response formulated in discussion between the Archaeologist and the Curatorial Archaeologist.

6.4.10. The initial report will include an assessment of the finds from the work and a recommendation for further study if require.

6.5. Archive Preparation and Report Preparation

6.5.1. On completion of fieldwork an archive of the results will be prepared.

6.5.2. The digital records will be archived with the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales

6.5.3. The digital archive will be prepared in line with Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales. 2015. Guidelines for digital archives

6.5.4. The deposition of any find with a local museum will be discussed with the owner and the development control archaeologist with a strong recommendation that any finds are deposited in a suitable local museum. This is likely to be Storiol in Bangor.

6.5.5. A summary report on the findings of the investigations will be prepared and completed within four weeks from completion of the project. This will summarise the results of the project including;

6.5.5.1. A site location plan

6.5.5.2. A plan of the site locating any features or archaeological deposits located.

6.5.5.3. An outline methodology

6.5.5.4. The results of the Watching Brief.

6.5.5.5. A full bibliography

6.5.5.6. A copy of the agreed specification

6.5.5.7. An assessment of the potential for further archaeological investigation

6.5.5.8. Up to five copies of the report will be provided.

6.5.5.9. A digital copy of the report will also be provided.

6.5.5.10. A digital copy of the report will be supplied to the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record

6.5.5.11. A digital copy of the report will be supplied to Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service

6.5.5.12. The preparation of the report will conform to the Welsh Archaeological Trusts 2018 "Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)"

7. *Selection Strategy*

7.1. A Selection Strategy will be completed and drawn up within the final report to list those items of the archive which will be retained or discarded.

8. *Staff*

8.1. The project will be carried out by Ian Brooks, PhD, BA, MCIfA, FSA

9. *Timetable*

9.1. The timetable will be defined by the construction programme and is therefore beyond the control of the archaeologist.

9.2. It is intended to start the watching brief on 18th August 2025

10. General

10.1. CIfA Code of Conduct

10.1.1. All staff will abide by, and all procedures be carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct

10.2. Health and Safety

10.2.1. EAS Ltd adopt and adhere to safe working practices at all times.

10.2.2. A copy of the company's general statement of policy is available on request.

10.3. Staff

10.3.1. The project will be directed by Dr I.P. Brooks MCIfA FSA

10.4. Curatorial Monitoring

10.4.1. The Planning Section of Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology will be informed as to the start date and progress of the fieldwork.

10.5. Insurance

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

10.5.2. EAS Ltd carries Professional Indemnity Insurance

11. Data Management

11.1. Photographs will be taken in Nikon NEF (Raw) format

11.1.1. These will be converted to TIFF for archiving and JPEG for illustrations and general use.

11.1.2. Photographs for photogrammetry will be taken in JPEG format and processed using Agisoft Metascape v. 1.6.3. Orthographically corrected elevations photos will be produced in JPEG format and converted to TIFF for archiving.

11.2. Any topographic survey will be carried out using a Leica TS06 total station with the data processed using NRG Engineering Surveying System V2016.00.

11.2.1. Survey files will be converted to DXF format.

11.3. Initial written notes will be made on an "i Pad" using the "Pages" app. These will be converted to WORD format (.docx) format on downloading

11.4. The text for the report will be produced in Word (.docx) format

11.5. Drawing will be made in TurboCad 2021 v. 28.0 and stored in .TCW format. These will be converted into .DXF or .DWG format for archiving.

11.6. The report will converted to .PDF format using Expert PDF 15.

11.7. All files will be stored on the company laptop computer and backed up onto a suitable storage device.

12. Copyright

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

12.2. EAS Ltd is prepared to assign a licence to the client for the use of the report and any associated data.



Reproduced from the Outdoor LeisureTM OL17, 1:25,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey ® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office
© Crown Copyright 2009

All Rights Reserved Licence Number AL 100014722

Figure 1: Location

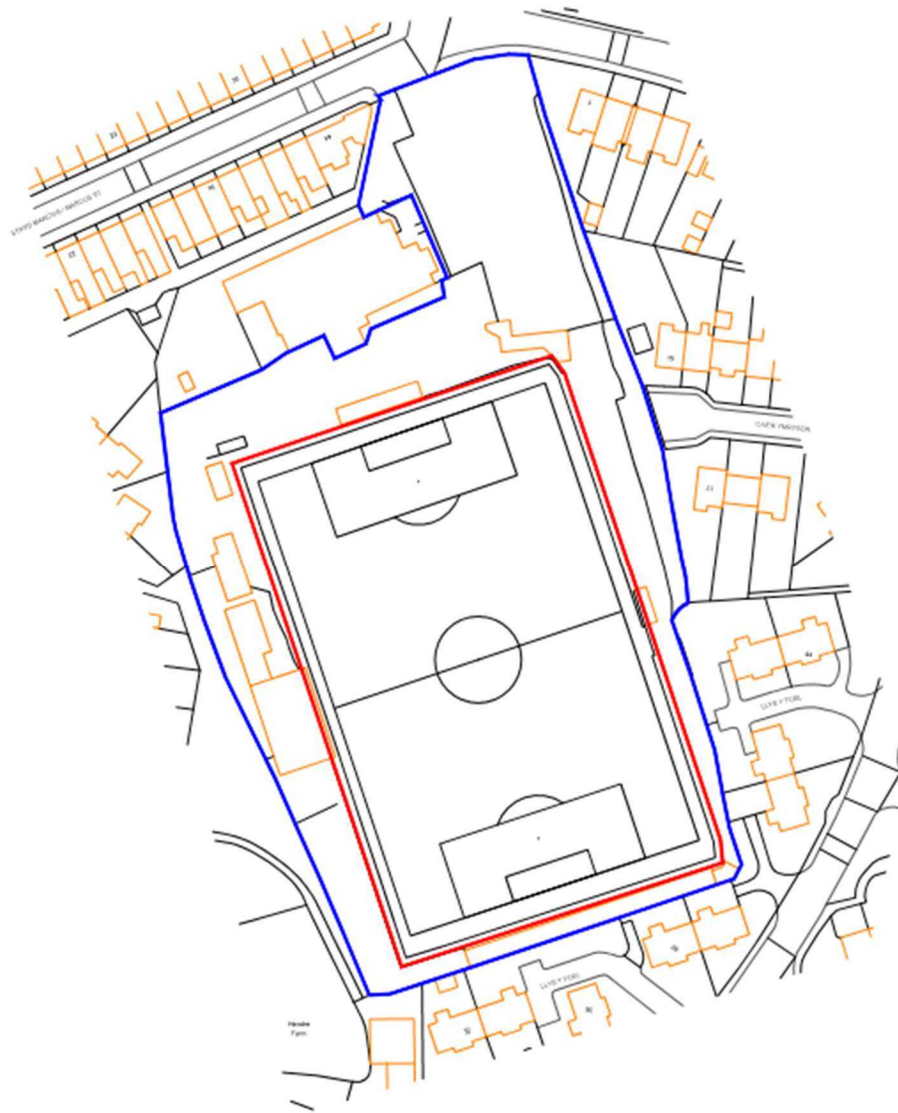


Figure 2: Extent of the development. Not to scale. (Development area shown in red, ownership in blue)

Based on Drawing 3335-SL-DR-010-LP-R00 by Sports Labs

Appendix 2: Context Summary

| Context | Location | Description | Relationships |
|---------|-----------------------|--|--|
| 1 | All of pitch | Topsoil. Mid grey/brown sandy loam with flecks of coal, modern brick fragments and rare block of modern concrete. The layer tends to become stonier towards its lower half. Up to 450 mm deep. Removed by machine to a depth of c.300 mm rest removed as part of the cut and fill. | Above 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 19, 20, 21 Equivalent to 16 |
| 2 | SH 48427 62181 | Circular feature with steep sides and a flat base | Below 1 Filled with 3 |
| 3 | SH 48427 62181 | Mid brown clayey silt with the occasional fleck of charcoal. There appears to be a series of stones, up to 100 mm in size placed around the side of the feature | Below 1 Within 2 |
| 4 | SH 48450 62090 | Band of crushed brick rubble and coal fragment forming a band approximately 1.8 m wide leading to Contexts 5 - 7 | Below 1 |
| 5 | SH 48440 62084 | Concrete pad, 2.83 m long and 0.37 m wide running at right angles to the end of the pitch. [relatively modern feature probably contemporary with 6, 7 and 4] | Below 1 |
| 6 | SH 48436 62083 | Concrete pad, 2.77 m long and 0.42 m wide running at right angles to the end of the pitch. [relatively modern feature probably contemporary with 5, 7 and 4] | Below 1 |
| 7 | SH 48432 62081 | Concrete pad, 2.30 m long and 0.41 m wide running at right angles to the end of the pitch. [relatively modern feature probably contemporary with 5, 6 and 4] | Below 1 |
| 8 | SH 48412 62182 | Ditch running in a NNW-SSE. Up to 1.1 m wide and 250 mm deep. Tending to narrow and shallow to the west. Runs for at least 5 m | Below 1 Filled with 9 |
| 9 | SH 48412 62182 | Pale grey brown sticky clay with the occasional sub-angular stone up to 70 mm. Little cultural material except a single worked flint. | Below 1 Within 8 |
| 10 | SH 48421 62179 | Circular pit 1.20 m in diameter and 120 mm | Below 1 Filled with 11 |
| 11 | SH 48421 62179 | Mid brown Clayey silt with the occasional fleck of charcoal. | Below 1 Within 10 |
| 12 | Eastern side of pitch | Thin layer, 80 mm thick of pale grey stone chippings forming the surface behind the wall around the eastern side of the pitch | Above 13 |
| 13 | Eastern side of pitch | 120 mm of crushed slate waste, sub-base to Context 2 | Below 12 Above 14 |

| Context | Location | Description | Relationships |
|---------|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 14 | Eastern side of pitch | Yellowish brown clayey gravel with occasional boulder, pockets of mortar, slate, modern brick, tile. Make-up below the modern surface. Layer 280 mm thick | Below 13 Above 15 |
| 15 | Eastern side of pitch | Dump of building rubble including large angular block, up to 400 mm, slate blocks and beams (some decorated) crushed mortar, glass, crushed paint can etc. Layer up to 470 mm thick, but tending to thin towards the south where it becomes only 200 mm thick | Below 14 Above 16 |
| 16 | Eastern side of pitch | Buried soil layer. Mid brown clayey silt 280 mm thick. Occasional fleck of charcoal, some post-medieval finds including clay pipe, occasional small (up to 50 mm) rounded stone. The layer appears to be slightly above the original pitch level suggesting the pitch had been levelled to some degree in the past. | Below 15 Above 17 and 18 |
| 17 | SH 48431 62188 | Cut for feature, probably a post-hole. | Below 16 Filled with 18 and 19 |
| 18 | SH 48431 62188 | Very dark grey/black fill with many flecks of charcoal and fragments of burnt clay | Below 16 Within 17 Above 19 |
| 19 | SH 48431 62188 | Grey clayey gravel | Below 18 Within 17 |
| 20 | SH 48439 62142 | Linear feature corresponding with the field boundary on both the tithe map and the 1888 Ordnance Survey mapping. Up to 470 mm wide and 150 mm deep with sloping sides and a rounded base | Below 1 Filled with 21 |
| 21 | SH 48439 62142 | Mid yellowish brown clayey silt with a moderate density of small (up to 60 mm) angular and sub-angular stones. | Below 1 Within 20 |

Appendix 3: List of Photographs in the Archive

| File | Looking | Scale | Description |
|------------------|----------------|--------------|---|
| Oval 2025_01 Tif | S | none | General view of the pitch during topsoiling |
| Oval 2025_02 Tif | SE | none | General view of the pitch during topsoiling |
| Oval 2025_03 Tif | WSW | 2 m | Context 4, band of crushed brick etc. |
| Oval 2025_04 Tif | WSW | 2 m | Context 4, band of crushed brick etc. |
| Oval 2025_05 Tif | WSW | 2 m | Context 4, band of crushed brick etc. |
| Oval 2025_06 Tif | WSW | 1 m | Contexts 5, 6 and 7, concrete pads |
| Oval 2025_07 Tif | WSW | 1 m | Contexts 5, 6 and 7, concrete pads |
| Oval 2025_08 Tif | SSE | 1 m | Context 5, concrete pad |
| Oval 2025_09 Tif | SSE | 1 m | Context 5, concrete pad |
| Oval 2025_10 Tif | WSW | 1 m | Contexts 6 and 7, concrete pads |
| Oval 2025_11 Tif | SSE | 1 m | Context 6, concrete pad |
| Oval 2025_12 Tif | SSE | 1 m | Context 7, concrete pad |
| Oval 2025_13 Tif | E | 1 m | Context 2, small pit |
| Oval 2025_14 Tif | SE | 1 m | Context 2, small pit |
| Oval 2025_15 Tif | E | 1 m | Context 2, small pit |
| Oval 2025_16 Tif | NW | 1 m | Context 2, small pit |
| Oval 2025_17 Tif | NW | 1 m | Context 2, small pit |
| Oval 2025_18 Tif | E | 2 m | Retaining wall and duct for the electricity supply to the floodlights. Northern end |
| Oval 2025_19 Tif | E | 2 m | Retaining wall and duct for the electricity supply to the floodlights |
| Oval 2025_20 Tif | SE | 2 m | Retaining wall and duct for the electricity supply to the floodlights |
| Oval 2025_21 Tif | E | 2 m | Retaining wall |
| Oval 2025_22 Tif | E | 2 m | Retaining wall |
| Oval 2025_23 Tif | E | 2 m | Retaining wall |
| Oval 2025_24 Tif | SE | 2 m | Retaining wall |
| Oval 2025_25 Tif | E | 2 m | Detail of the structure of the retaining wall |
| Oval 2025_26 Tif | E | 2 m | Interface between the retaining wall and the eastern stand |
| Oval 2025_27 Tif | NE | 2 m | Retaining wall |
| Oval 2025_28 Tif | E | 2 m | Interface between the retaining wall and the eastern stand |
| Oval 2025_29 Tif | E | 2 m | Eastern stand |
| Oval 2025_30 Tif | E | 2 m | Interface between the retaining wall and the eastern stand, southern interface |
| Oval 2025_31 Tif | E | 2 m | Club armorial adjacent to the eastern stand |
| Oval 2025_32 Tif | E | 2 m | Retaining wall |
| Oval 2025_33 Tif | ENE | 2 m | Retaining wall |
| Oval 2025_34 Tif | SW | none | Southern stand |
| Oval 2025_35 Tif | E | 2 m | Gate to the pitch in the SE corner of the pitch |
| Oval 2025_36 Tif | E | 2 m | Turn style in the SE corner of the pitch |
| Oval 2025_37 Tif | E | 2 m | Turn style in the SE corner of the pitch |
| Oval 2025_38 Tif | NNW | 2 m | Behind the retaining wall south of the eastern stand |
| Oval 2025_39 Tif | NNW | 2 m | Northern side of the eastern stand |

| File | Looking | Scale | Description |
|------------------|----------------|--------------|--|
| Oval 2025_40 Tif | SSE | 2 m | Metal sewer behind the eastern stand |
| Oval 2025_41 Tif | SSE | 2 m | Metal sewer behind the eastern stand |
| Oval 2025_42 Tif | NNW | 2 m | Area behind the retaining wall, north of the eastern stand |
| Oval 2025_43 Tif | SSE | 2 m | Northern side of the eastern stand |
| Oval 2025_44 Tif | SSE | 2 m | Area behind the retaining wall, north of the eastern stand |
| Oval 2025_45 Tif | W | 2 m | Steps in the NE corner of the pitch |
| Oval 2025_46 Tif | SW | 2 m | Steps in the NE corner of the pitch |
| Oval 2025_47 Tif | S | 1 m | Context 8, gully before excavation |
| Oval 2025_48 Tif | S | 1 m | Context 8, gully before excavation |
| Oval 2025_49 Tif | S | 1 m | Context 8, gully before excavation |
| Oval 2025_50 Tif | S | 1 m | Context 8, gully before excavation |
| Oval 2025_51 Tif | S | 1 m | Context 8, section |
| Oval 2025_52 Tif | S | 1 m | Context 8, section |
| Oval 2025_53 Tif | S | 1 m | Context 8, section and extent of feature |
| Oval 2025_54 Tif | S | 1 m | Context 10, small pit |
| Oval 2025_55 Tif | S | 1 m | Context 10, small pit |
| Oval 2025_56 Tif | S | 1 m | Machine cut section through Context 8 |
| Oval 2025_57 Tif | S | 1 m | Machine cut section through Context 8 |
| Oval 2025_58 Tif | NE | 1 m | Context 20, linear feature/gully |
| Oval 2025_59 Tif | NE | 1 m | Context 20, linear feature/gully |
| Oval 2025_60 Tif | E | 2 m | Concrete steps behind the retaining wall, north of the eastern stand |
| Oval 2025_61 Tif | E | 2 m | Concrete steps behind the retaining wall, north of the eastern stand |
| Oval 2025_62 Tif | N | 2 m | Concrete steps behind the retaining wall, north of the eastern stand |
| Oval 2025_63 Tif | E | 2 m | Concrete steps behind the retaining wall, north of the eastern stand |
| Oval 2025_64 Tif | E | 0.5 m | Context 17, feature |
| Oval 2025_65 Tif | E | 0.5 m | Context 17, feature |
| Oval 2025_66 Tif | NE | 2 m | Stratigraphy behind the retaining wall |
| Oval 2025_67 Tif | E | 2 m | Stratigraphy behind the retaining wall |

Appendix 4: Selection Strategy

1. The digital archive will include: the report, photographs and CAD files of the figures in the report
2. A selection of the photographs will be made weeding out any photographs that are:
 - 2.1. Out of focus
 - 2.2. Duplicates
 - 2.3. Not directly relevant to the project
3. The CAD files will include Figures 12 and 13 only. The other figure being converted to .PDF format within the report.

Emails, text messages etc. will not be included in the archive