

CPAT Report No. 1621

# Central Rhyl Coastal Flood Defence Scheme, Denbighshire




Desk-based Assessment



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS

CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:
		
Nigel Jones Principal Archaeologist	Paul Belford Director	Paul Belford Director
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YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS  
 CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR, United Kingdom

+44 (0) 1938 553 670

[trust@cpat.org.uk](mailto:trust@cpat.org.uk)

[www.cpat.org.uk](http://www.cpat.org.uk)

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## **Summary**

A desk-based assessment has been undertaken by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in connection with proposals for a coastal flood scheme at Central Rhyl in Denbighshire.

The assessment has identified a number of heritage assets along the foreshore and coastal edge which could be affected by such as scheme. These include two aircraft crash sites, 10 ship wrecks and, perhaps most significantly, a series of peat and sediment deposits relating to prehistoric land surfaces which were submerged by rising sea-levels.

The assessment concludes that further stages of investigation would be required in order to define further the extent, significance and potential impacts on heritage assets.

## **Crynodeb**

Bu Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys yn cynnal asesiad wrth ddesg mewn cysylltiad â chynigion ar gyfer cynllun rheoli llifogydd arfordirol yng Nghanol y Rhyl yn Sir Ddinbych.

Mae'r asesiad wedi nodi nifer o asedau treftadaeth ar hyd y blaen traeth ac ymyl yr arfordir y gallai cynllun o'r fath effeithio arnyn nhw. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys dau safle damweiniau awyrennau, 10 llongdrylliad ac, yn anad dim o bosibl, cyfres o ddyddodion mawn a gwaddodion yn ymwneud ag arwynebau tir cynhanesyddol a foddwyd wrth i lefel y môr godi.

Daw'r asesiad i'r casgliad y byddai galw am gyfnodau ymchwilio pellach er mwyn diffinio ymhellach graddau, arwyddocâd ac effeithiau posibl ar asedau treftadaeth.

# 1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was invited by JBA Consulting to conduct a desk-based assessment in connection with proposals for a new coastal flood defence scheme at Central Rhyl, Denbighshire (Fig. 1; SH 9994 8103 to SJ 0201 8244).



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Fig. 1 Location of Central Rhyl Coastal Defences

# 2 Methodology

- 2.1. The assessment consisted of a desk-based study of readily available primary and secondary sources in order to provide a historical framework for any surviving archaeological remains. This included relevant records held at the following repositories: the regional Historic Environment Record (HER), maintained by CPAT in Welshpool; the National Monument Record (NMR), maintained by RCAHMW in

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Aberystwyth; the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; Flintshire Record Office, Hawarden; Denbighshire Record Office, Ruthin.

- 2.2. The study area has been defined to incorporate the whole of the foreshore within the area of the proposed new coastal defences, together with an inland buffer, the extent of which is designed to assist in determining potential visual impacts.

### 3 Sources of Information & Guidance

- 3.1. Cultural heritage is deemed to include the complete range of man-made features that have been introduced into the landscape from the Palaeolithic, more than two hundred and fifty thousand years ago, up to and including the 20th century. Some of these features will be visible as upstanding remains on the ground; others will be buried and only become apparent during ground disturbance, whilst others may be objects that have been discarded, lost or deliberately deposited. Some will have an archaeological interest and importance; others will be more historical in their origin. In addition, some natural features will be relevant because of the information they contain; peat bogs, for instance, hold pollen that can throw light on past human activity in the area. Collectively, all these features are known as heritage assets.
- 3.2. The revised Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB), Volume 11 Section 3 Part 2, HA 208/07 (August 2007), though not specifically focused on developments of this nature, provides a suitable, general framework for assessing the cultural heritage. The approach to the cultural heritage which it promotes, although designed for road developments, is relevant as a methodology for the proposed development and has been adopted here.
- 3.3. The desk-based assessment was undertaken with reference to the principles and methods for assessing heritage assets laid out in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* (2014, revised 2017) produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), the regulatory body for the profession.

#### Administration

- 3.4. At a national level, it is Cadw, the historic environment service within Welsh Government, which holds the remit for the cultural heritage resource. Another national body, Natural Resources Wales, has a particular interest in historic landscapes.
- 3.5. At a regional level, the cultural heritage resource is monitored by the Heritage Sections of the regional archaeological trusts. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) act as archaeological advisers to Denbighshire County Council.
- 3.6. While the broad concern of all these bodies is with the preservation of the cultural heritage, there are inevitably differences in emphasis between regional and national organisations, and in the laws and regulations that govern the ways in which they operate.
- 3.7. The legislative framework for the historic environment in Wales was revised by The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The 2016 Act amended the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Listed Buildings

- and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. It extended the definition of scheduled monuments and enhanced their protection, as well as making changes to the process of scheduled monument consent. Changes were also made to the protection of listed buildings. The 2016 Act also provided for a statutory register of historic landscapes, a statutory list of place names, and imposed a statutory duty on Welsh Ministers to compile and maintain Historic Environment Records (HERs).
- 3.8. Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales was revised and re-issued in November 2016. Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment (TAN 24) came into force on 31 May 2017, and replaced previous Welsh Office Circulars 60/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology; 61/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas; and 1/98 Planning and the Historic Environment: Directions by the Secretary of State for Wales.
- 3.9. The revised Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB), Volume 11 Section 3 Part 2, HA 208/07 (August 2007), though not specifically focused on developments of this nature, provides a suitable, general framework for assessing the cultural heritage. The approach to the cultural heritage which it promotes, although designed for road developments, is relevant as a methodology for the proposed development and has been adopted here.
- 3.10. Welsh Government's (2017) *Heritage Impact Assessments in Wales* sets out the general principles to consider when planning changes to historic assets and applying for listed building, conservation area and scheduled monument consent. This document, together with Cadw's (2011) *Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales*, provides guidance on understanding historic assets, their significance and assessing potential impacts on them. The results of a heritage impact assessment should be summarised in a heritage impact statement and this process must be adopted in all cases where your proposals require listed building consent or conservation area consent.
- 3.11. At a local level the Denbighshire Local Development Plan 2006-2021 was adopted in 2013. The theme of 'Valuing Our Environment' is concerned with the protection and enhancement of those assets, both natural and man-made, that make up Denbighshire's unique environment. Policy VOE 1 states that 'The following areas will be protected from development that would adversely affect them. Development proposals should maintain and, wherever possible, enhance these areas for their characteristics, local distinctiveness, and value to local communities in Denbighshire: ... Sites of built heritage; and Historic Landscape, Parks and Gardens.' Policy VOE 3 - Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site, states that 'development which would harm the attributes which justified the designation of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal as a World Heritage Site and the site's Outstanding Universal Value will not be permitted.'

### ***The categorisation and conservation of the cultural heritage resource***

- 3.12. The cultural heritage resource is not a single body of equally significant assets, but an infinitely complex set of individual assets, the number of which increases and alters in form and relationships on a continual basis. They range in importance from internationally significant sites to features of minor and even negligible value. Those perceived to be of greater importance are categorised by designation (statutory) or

registration (which may be statutory or non-statutory), while those of lesser importance remain undesignated.

### *Setting*

- 3.13. Planning Policy Wales (9<sup>th</sup> edition, 2016) identifies the desirability of preserving the setting of a World Heritage Site, a nationally important ancient monument (whether scheduled or unscheduled), a listed building, a Conservation Area and a site on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens in Wales. This desirability will be a material consideration when assessing the potential impact of a development proposal on the historic environment. Recent guidance published by Welsh Government (2017) in *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* defines the setting of a historic asset as including ‘the surroundings in which it is understood, experienced and appreciated, embracing present and past relationships to the surrounding landscape. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive, negative or neutral contribution to the significance of an asset. Setting is not itself a historic asset, though land within a setting may contain other historic assets. The importance of setting lies in what it contributes to the significance of a historic asset. The setting of a historic asset can also include less tangible elements. These may include function, sensory perceptions or historical, artistic, literary and scenic associations’.

## **4 Historical Background**

- 4.1. This section provides a brief summary of the archaeology and history of the study area and its immediate surrounds, to enable the findings of the assessment to be placed in a wider context.

### *Prehistoric Era (10,000BC – AD 43)*

- 4.2. During the Mesolithic Liverpool Bay was a dynamic and constantly changing landscape. Soils within the bay area would have been thin and immature during the Early Holocene, but as they developed, woodland would have colonised the areas previously occupied by pioneering vegetation. As sea-level increased the lowest areas would have been affected by salinity, and the area as a whole was transformed from dry-land to areas of fen, brackish vegetation, reed swamps and saltmarsh (Fitch and Gaffney 2011, 96).
- 4.3. The majority of the recorded undesignated assets within the study area relate to a series of archaeologically and palaeoenvironmentally significant deposits representing sedimentation of tidal flats (PRN 17103) and resulting from fluctuations in and the gradual rise of sea levels after the last glaciation. While in places these deposits are currently buried beneath 1.2m to 1.8m of beach sand, there are limited exposures (see below), although this is an ever changing situation.
- 4.4. Exposures of peat and the remains of a submerged forest on the Rhyl foreshore have been documented since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and in 1912 around 200 tree stumps were observed. The peat deposits have previously been considered to be of Neolithic or Bronze Age date, in accordance with which the earliest deposits have been dated to 4725±65 BP.



- 4.5. When early Mesolithic activity took place at Rhuddlan *c* 7600 cal BC, sea level was at about 9m below Ordnance Datum, thus the main coast was about 10km to the north (see Fig. 2). By the time a Mesolithic mattock (PRN 33099) was deposited at Splash Point, Rhyl (*c* 5400 cal. BC) marine/estuarine influence was lapping at the edge of a boulder clay island or promontory at Rhyl and the estuary extended up the Vale of Clwyd probably to St Asaph. Splash Point was therefore at one side of the mouth of the extensive Clwyd estuary.

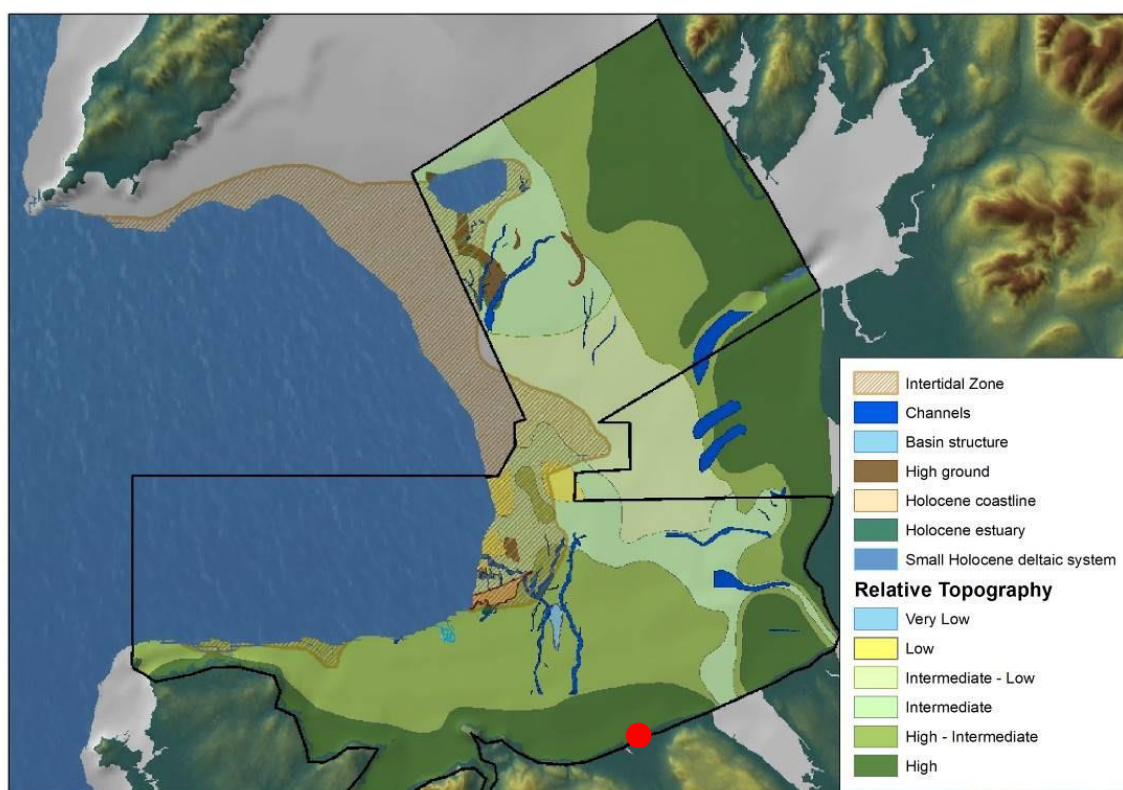


Fig. 2 Liverpool Bay in the Mesolithic, with Rhyl marked in red (after Fitch and Gaffney 2011, fig. 59)

- 4.6. Despite numerous previous observations the nature of the deposits between Rhyl and eastwards towards Prestatyn remain only partially understood. The most recent study of the area (Bell 2007) is based on data gathered in 2005/06, which identified the following stratigraphic sequence (from the latest to the oldest):
- vi) Estuarine sediments
  - v) Upper peat with submerged forest including oaks, deer and auroch prints
  - iv) Estuarine sediments with human and deer prints, possible context of Mesolithic mattock and polished axes
  - iii) Lower peat and submerged forest of willow, possible context of flint artefacts reported by Smith (1924)
  - ii) Estuarine sediments
  - i) Boulder Clay

- 4.7. The 2005/06 study identified the presence of a flint core fragment embedded in the old land surface beneath the clay-silts. The presence of two palaeochannels was also suggested, which is significant since these features often contain animal remains.



Fig. 3 Part of the submerged forest near Splash Point, recorded on 20 July 2004 (Bell 2007, fig. 20.21; photo M Bell)

- 4.8. Archaeological material has been collected from the foreshore and occasionally from within the sediments associated with the peat/clay silts outcropping on the beach. These finds range in date from a Mesolithic antler mattock to a variety of finds of Neolithic or Bronze Age date. Significantly some of these finds have been made in the estuarine blue clay underlying the forest beds. These deposits have also produced mammal remains including red deer (including a full set of unshed antlers), roe deer, ox, horse, sheep, pig, badger, fox, wolf and whale.
- 4.9. While attention has often focused on the peat deposits and the submerged forest, it should be noted that most of the archaeology and faunal remains come from the underlying clays, as do a lot of the recorded footprints, some of which are human, and to a certain extent it is those deposits that are perhaps most important rather than the overlying peats. These deposits have the potential to contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives.
- 4.10. Recent field survey associated with the East Rhyl Coastal Defence Scheme identified two areas where significant deposits are currently exposed around Splash Point, one of which included the remains of two large trees. The deposits clearly continued up the beach, where they are buried beneath beach sand.

- 4.11. The other area contains the remains of a number of structures which were first recorded in 2013 (PRN 123322; Figs 4-5). Two parallel rows of stakes, each row around 4m in length, are set 2.9m apart. The stakes within each row are offset, suggesting the former presence of wattling woven between them and indicating that they are probably part of fish traps of unknown date. A single, shorter row was also noted further to the east. Four closely-set, vertical planks were also noted, as well as a number of concrete and wooden posts likely to be associated with former groynes.



Fig. 4 Features exposed in December 2013 (PRN 123322) west of Splash Point



Fig. 5 The remains of a probable fish trap (PRN 123322) first recorded in 2013

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***Roman Period (AD 43 - 410)***

- 4.12. Roman activity in the area is attested by a small number of Roman coins found on the beach (PRN 102176), on Marsh Road (PRN 102177) and at Rhydwen Drive (PRN 102182).

***Medieval Period (410 - 1500)***

- 4.13. Although there are documentary references to Rhyl dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, these probably refer to an area rather than a settlement as such. The early form of the name is thought to be 'Hull', translatable as 'hill', and perhaps referring to the collection of low sandbanks here, raised a little above the level of the low ground which was in the past subject to flooding in high tides. Until the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the area seems to have contained only a handful of scattered farms and cottages.

***Post-medieval and Modern Periods***

- 4.14. A Bill was passed in 1794 authorising the construction of a sea defence and land drainage channels to control flooding. The remains of possible early sea defences or fish traps (PRN 123322) have been identified within the study area, close to Splash Point, comprising a series of wooden posts set in roughly parallel short trenches filled with stone. These are recorded to have been cut through the peat deposits, rather than being associated with the prehistoric finds that have been recovered from the immediate surrounding area.
- 4.15. Rhyl was the earliest of the North Wales coast resorts to develop. Growth of the town began in the late 1820s with the building of two hotels and a number of lodging houses. By the time of the Tithe survey in 1839, a number of roads had been set out, but there were very few new buildings. Large areas of common still survived on the land nearest to the sea. Inland, there was much arable land and a large number of strip fields and quillies were depicted, and some of these were visible along the southern edge of the Study Area.
- 4.16. It is also evident that the depiction of the sea front on the Tithe map is some 140m further inland than the present front, which has undergone considerable redevelopment, particularly for the leisure and tourism industry.
- 4.17. The Royal Alexandra Hospital along Marine Drive was used for the care of wounded soldiers during the First World War and German prisoners of war were recorded at Rhyl, and were possibly accommodated in a camp there, in the years after the Second World War.

## **5 Baseline Assessment**

- 5.1. Details of designated and undesignated heritage assets within the study area are provided in Appendix 1.

**Designated and Registered Heritage Assets within the Study Area**

- 5.2. The assessment includes designated and registered heritage assets within the Study Area, which are summarised in Table 1.

## 5.3. Table 1: Designated and Registered Heritage Assets within the Study Area

Designated Asset	Totals
World Heritage Site	0
Scheduled Ancient Monument	0
Listed buildings	27
Registered historic parks and gardens	0
Registered Battlefields	0
Designated wrecks	0
Aircraft crash sites	2
Conservation areas	2

**Listed Buildings**

5.4. These are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, as amended by the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016. All listed buildings are nationally important, but are graded in order of significance as Grade I, II\* or II. Grade I buildings are considered to be of equal status to Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Local planning authorities must have special regard to the desirability of preserving the setting of a listed building regardless of its grade, and it also requires planning proposals to meet the test of determining the extent to which a development affects views to and from a listed building. Planning Policy Wales (9th edition, 2016) requires a 'general presumption in favour of the preservation of a listed building and its setting, which might extend beyond its curtilage' (6.5.10).

5.5. Twenty-seven Listed Buildings have been identified within the Study Area, all of which are grade II (Fig. 7 and Table 2).

Table 2: Listed buildings within the Study Area.

List entry	Grade	Name	Period	NGR
1510	II	Lookout Tower in Boundary Wall at Nos 39 and 40 East Parade	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0108881897
1521	II	Sussex Street Baptist Church	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0070681502
14136	II	No 4 The Gables, Bath Street (East side)	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0093381701
14137	II	Boundary Wall and Gate Piers at No 4 The Gables, Bath Street	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0092581691
14273	II	Marine Villa, Crescent Road (E Side)	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0057581417

14276	II	War Memorial, East Parade (North side)	20 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0100681935
14279	II	Crescent Public House, Edward Henry Street (Ne Side)	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0054481355
14280	II	No 21 Grafton Lodge, Fairfield Avenue (East side)	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0101481800
14281	II	No 23 Grafton Lodge, Fairfield Avenue (East side)	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0100581804
14290	II	Royal Alexandra Hospital	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0148182102
14297	II	No 40-42, Queen Street (W Side)	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0065981464
14298	II	No 44-46, Queen Street (W Side)	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0065581467
14320	II	No 42, (Ellis's Bar), Water Street (W Side)	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0060581423
14321	II	No 44, (Ellis's Bar), Water Street (W Side)	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0059881429
14325	II	No 47, Water Street (E Side)	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0060781459
14326	II	No 49, Water Street (E Side)	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0060281463
14327	II	No 46 Water Street (W Side)	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0059181433
14328	II	No 48, Water Street (W Side)	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0059081441
14329	II	No 50, Water Street (W Side)	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0059281443
14330	II	No 52, Water Street (W Side)	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0058981445
14331	II	No 54, Water Street (W Side)	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0058181447
14332	II	No 56, Water Street (W Side)	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0057681454
14333	II	No 71, West Parade (S Side)	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0019281188
14334	II	No 72, West Parade (S Side)	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0018181185
14335	II	No 73, West Parade (S Side)	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0017481178
14336	II	No 74, West Parade (S Side)	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0016881172
14337	II	No 75, West Parade (S Side)	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	SJ0015881166

### *Conservation Areas*

- 5.6. These are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. This Act requires local planning authorities to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the setting of a Conservation Area, and it also requires planning proposals to meet the test of determining the extent to which a development affects views to and from such an area. Planning Policy Wales (9<sup>th</sup> edition, 2016) states

that there 'will be a strong presumption against the granting of planning permission for developments ... which damage the character of appearance of a conservation area or its setting to an unacceptable level' (6.5.19).

- 5.7. There are two Conservation Areas within the Study Area, Rhyl Central Conservation Area and Rhyl, River Street Conservation Area, which are depicted on Fig. 7.

### *Aircraft Crash Sites*

- 5.8. All military aircraft crash sites in the United Kingdom, its territorial waters, or British aircraft in international waters, are controlled by the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986. Under this act it is an offence to tamper with, damage, move, or unearth any remains without a licence from the Ministry of Defence.
- 5.9. There are two aircraft crash sites within the Study Area, which are depicted on Fig. 7 and listed in Table 3.

Table 3 Aircraft crash sites within the Study Area

NPRN	Name	NGR
515475	Armstrong Whitworth Whitley V Bd204	SJ0078282558
515607	Boulton Paul Defiant I N1770	SJ0059582522

### **Undesignated Assets**

- 5.10. The assessment has identified 51 undesignated assets within the Study Area. Of these, 12 are find spots and 10 are ship wrecks. These listed in Tables 4 and 5 and their distribution shown in Fig. 8.

Table 4: Undesignated Assets within the Study Area recorded in the regional HER.

PRN	Name	Period	Type	NGR
17103	Rhyl foreshore submerged landscape	Prehistoric	Submerged landscape	SJ023824
17613	Rhyl Roman Coin	Roman	Find only	SJ0081
33099	Rhyl foreshore (Splash Point) antler mattock	Mesolithic	Find only	SJ020825
34208	Rhyl Pier	Modern	Pier	SJ00658185
34292	Foryd Shipyard	Modern	Shipyard	SH996807
37700	Rhyl, Volunteers' rifle range	Post-medieval	Firing range	SJ0278882579
58795	Rhyl foreshore post-medieval finds	Post-medieval	Find only	SJ02388247
58796	Rhyl foreshore macehead	Bronze Age; Neolithic	Find only	SJ02388247

83516	Foryd landing stage east II	Post-medieval	Wharf	SH9961080710
83523	Foryd landing stage	Post-medieval	Landing stage	SH99648077
100565	Rhyl Marine Lake Roman Coins	Roman	Find only	SH999808
101903	Rhyl foreshore bronze spearhead	Bronze Age	Find only	SJ015822
101936	Rhyl foreshore Neolithic axes	Neolithic	Find only	SJ02388247
101937	Rhyl foreshore bronze chisel	Bronze Age	Find only	SJ02388247
102176	Rhyl foreshore Roman coin	Roman	Find only	SJ00598158
106402	Rhyl foreshore causeway	Post-Medieval	Trackway	SJ019825
106441	Rhyl, West Promenade Roman Coin	Roman	Find only	SJ006816
120560	Rhyl, Axehead	Neolithic	Find only	SJ0182
120705	Rhyl, High Street, Royal Hotel	Post-medieval	Hotel	SJ0075981536
120706	Esplanade/Church Street, Belvoir Hotel	Post-medieval	Hotel	SJ0083081679
120707	Rhyl, West Parade 18	Post-medieval	House	SJ0057881508
120709	Rhyl, Bath Street 5-9, Morfa Hall	Post-medieval	House	SJ00908166
123322	Rhyl foreshore (Splash Point) structures	Post-medieval; Prehistoric	Coastal defence; Fish trap; Occupation site	SJ0205082470
124733	Rhyl, Abbey Street (nos. 11-33)	Post-medieval	Terraced Housing	SJ0046181328
129248	Rhyl, Wellington Road, Ocean Beach Site	Post-medieval	Funfair	SH9981280807
141424	Rhyl, wood and metal object	Unknown	Find only	SJ025826
142079	Rhyl Prisoner of War camp	Modern	Prisoner of war camp	SJ015820



Table 5: Undesignated Assets within the Study Area recorded in NMR.

NPRN	Name	Period	Type	NGR
8133	Crescent Road Plymouth Brethren Meeting House	Post-medieval	Chapel	SJ00558140
23440	Gaiety Theatre; The Amphitheatre, Rhyl Promenade Pier	Post-medieval	Theatre	SJ0074681765
35826	Foryd Hall	Post-medieval	Dwelling	SH99808085
84920	Foryd Hall, Garden, Rhyl	Post-medieval	Garden	SH9979180796
408337	The Grange Hotel, 41- 42 East Parade.	Post-medieval	Hotel	SJ01158192
409676	Royal Floral Hall	20th Century	Glasshouse	SJ0084381786
411715	Rhyl Library, Museum And Arts Centre, Church Street	Modern	Arts centre, museum, public library	SJ0089581620
412353	Queen's Palace	Modern	Hotel	SJ0066581568
413371	Royal Hotel, Sussex Street, High Street	19th Century	Hotel	SJ0075981537
414696	Open-Air Swimming Baths, East Parade	20th Century	Swimming pool	SJ008818
416914	Queen's Theatre (Cinema)	20th Century	Cinema	SJ0066881570
416915	Palladium (Cinema)	20th Century	Cinema	SJ0074581530
417071	West Parade, Nos 21- 24, Crescent Road, Nos 2 & 4	Post-medieval	Club	SJ00538147
544025	Rhyl Lifeboat Station	Post-medieval	Lifeboat station	SJ0095681935

- 5.11. The NMR records 10 undesignated wrecks within the study area, which are listed in Table 6 and their approximate locations shown on Fig. 8.

Table 6 Undesignated wrecks within the Study Area

NPRN	Name	Period	NGR
442	City of Ottawa	Post-medieval	SH9959780738
271374	William Henry	Post-medieval	SJ0013382405
271431	Sir Peregrine	Post-medieval	SJ0027281756

271527	Raven	Post-medieval	SJ0052981907
271558	Saint Olaf	Post-medieval	SJ0246882901
506949	Unnamed Wreck	Post-medieval	SH9959780738
524837	Albion	Post-medieval	SJ0003981533
524863	Good Intent	Post-medieval	SH9995181851
525214	Sarah	Post-medieval	SJ0054681805
525228	Mayflower	Post-medieval	SJ0089282244

- 5.12. The Rhyl foreshore contains evidence for former land surfaces (PRN 17103) which were inundated during the prehistoric period as a result of rising sea-levels after the last glaciation. The peat and clay deposits contain the remains of substantial trees, as well as human and animal footprints and are likely to preserve significant palaeoenvironmental evidence.

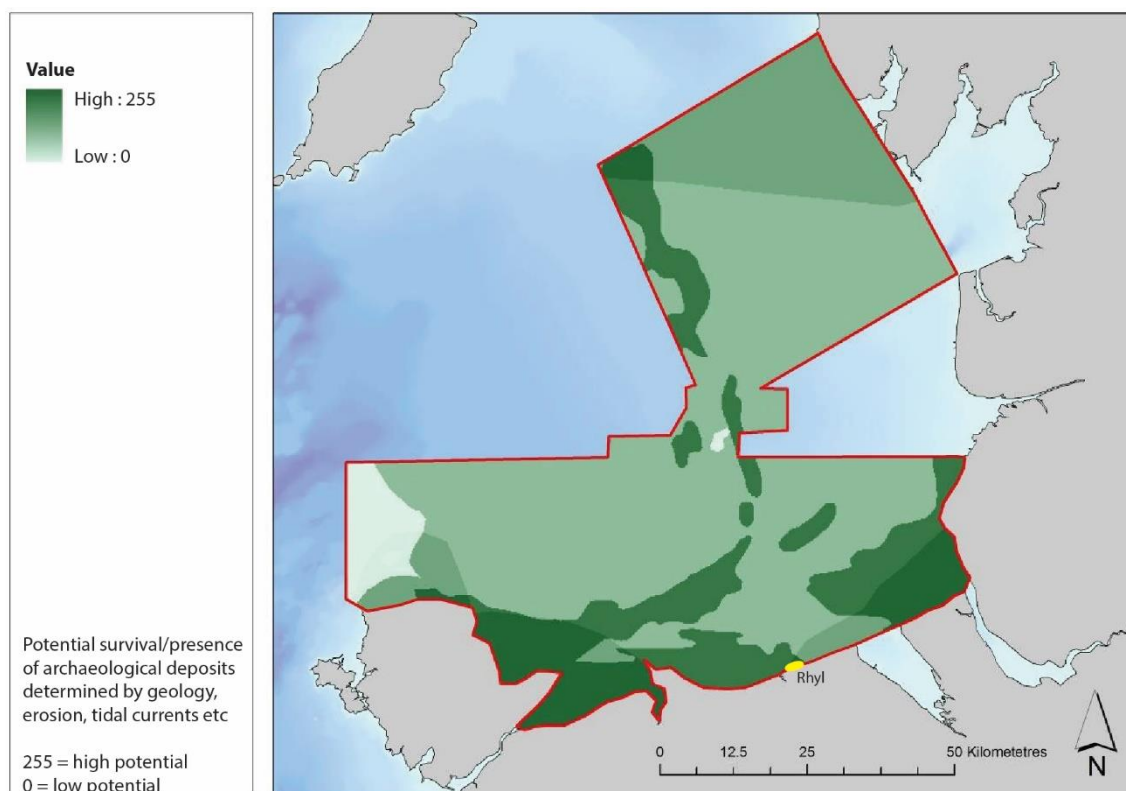


Fig. 6 Potential survival of archaeological deposits (combination of tidal stress, erosion, geology etc) within the Liverpool Bay (after Fitch and Gaffney 2011, fig. 53)

- 5.13. An analysis of data produced as part of assessments relating to off-shore wind farms (Fitch and Gaffney 2011) suggests that the potential for surviving archaeological deposits at Rhyl is high (Fig. 6), although further assessment would be required to elucidate this further.

## 6 Potential Impacts

- 6.1. At this stage it is only possible to discuss potential direct and indirect impacts in general terms. A more detailed assessment would be required as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment, which would inform an Environmental Statement.
- 6.2. The desk-based assessment has identified potential direct impacts on a series of heritage assets (PRN 17103) on the foreshore which are associated with sea-level changes since the last glaciation and have the potential to contain significant palaeoenvironmental evidence, as well as artefactual and other evidence for human activity from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age. Other structures recorded on the foreshore which relate to changing sea-levels include possible fish traps (PRN 123322) and a causeway or track (PRN 106402), which could also be subject to impacts.
- 6.3. Two aircraft crash sites are recorded, although it is not clear whether any of the wreckage remains on the foreshore.
- 6.4. The foreshore also includes the site of 10 undesignated ship wrecks which may have significant structural remains, although their locations have not been confirmed, as well as the site of Rhyl Pier (PRN 34208).

Table 7 Potential direct impacts on known heritage assets

PRN	Name	Value	NGR
17103	Rhyl foreshore submerged landscape	High	SJ023824
34208	Rhyl Pier	Low	SJ00658185
106402	Rhyl foreshore causeway	Unknown	SJ019825
123322	Rhyl foreshore (Splash Point) structures	Medium	SJ0205082470
NPRN	Name		NGR
442	City of Ottawa	Unknown	SH9959780738
271374	William Henry	Unknown	SJ0013382405
271431	Sir Peregrine	Unknown	SJ0027281756
271527	Raven	Unknown	SJ0052981907
271558	Saint Olaf	Unknown	SJ0246882901
506949	Unnamed Wreck	Unknown	SH9959780738
515475	Armstrong Whitworth Whitley V Bd204	Unknown	SJ0078282558
515607	Boulton Paul Defiant I N1770	Unknown	SJ0059582522

524837	Albion	Unknown	SJ0003981533
524863	Good Intent	Unknown	SH9995181851
525214	Sarah	Unknown	SJ0054681805
525228	Mayflower	Unknown	SJ0089282244

- 6.5. The proposals are unlikely to have any long-term visual impacts on listed buildings within the town, or the two Conservation areas, although short-term, temporary impacts could arise, depending on the location of site compounds or other infrastructure during the construction period.

## 7 Further Stages of Assessment

- 7.1. The results from archaeological mitigation associated with a programme of coastal defence works at Borth, Ceredigion (Meek 2012), provide a useful strategy in relation to potential further stages of assessment at Rhyl.
- 7.2. The conclusions from the work at Borth were that 'the method of construction for the coastal defence structures was not one that was ideal for archaeological recording. The excavation of the footings of the structures was undertaken using a number of large machines to enable rapid excavation and laying of foundations between the receding and incoming tides. This window of opportunity was smaller depending on the height of the tides and reduced the further to the west the works were undertaken. The excavated areas were also often unstable and filled with water.' The situation at Rhyl is likely to be very similar.
- 7.3. Following on from the work at Borth discussions were held with the Archaeological Coastal Forum Group, which included representation from Cadw, the National Trust, RCAHMW, the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts and UWTSO, which resulted in suggestions as to how archaeological mitigation might be implemented on similar intertidal developments on areas of peat beds and submerged forests in the future. It was recognised, however, that in some cases this methodology for mitigation may not be possible.
- The presence of peat beds and submerged forests should be identified at the outset of the project;
  - Coastal monitoring should be undertaken over a period of at least 6 months to observe and define possible extents of peat beds and submerged forests, with the results feeding in to the design of the development or coastal defences scheme;
  - In all cases where intertidal development is proposed, it is recommended that some form of detailed geophysical survey of the sea bed is carried out at the early design stage of identify wreck sites or the presence of fish traps.
  - Where possible, structures to be constructed on the foreshore should be designed to avoid impacting upon these deposits, or minimising any impacts;
  - Prior to the commencement of development a scheme of archaeological evaluation of the deposits should be undertaken. This could include observation of the

exposed surfaces of any peat beds and initial assessment of tree stumps (identification of species and assessment for suitability for dendrochronology dating). A number of test pits should be excavated through the peats, where they will be impacted upon, to obtain palaeoenvironmental evidence for assessment. Radiocarbon dates should be obtained at this stage;

- Should significant remains be identified, such as artefacts or footprints, a scheme of detailed recording should then be implemented. This would include further palaeoenvironmental sampling. Alternatively this information may indicate that redesign of the proposals would be appropriate;
- If few or no significant remains are identified then a scheme of intermittent watching brief may be appropriate;
- Full assessment of the palaeoenvironmental and dendrochronology samples should then be undertaken, preferably before or during the construction phase in order that if highly significant information is revealed, further sampling can be undertaken; and
- Full reporting and archiving of all results.

7.4. A programme of further assessment should be considered as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment, to assist with developing the design and construction programme for the new coastal flood defences, the results from which should also be incorporated into an Environmental Statement.

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1871 Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25" map, Flintshire 1.10  
1871 Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25" map, Flintshire 1.11  
1889 Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 25" map, Flintshire 1.10  
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## 9 Archive deposition Statement

- 9.1. The project archive has been prepared according to the CPAT Archive Policy and in line with the CIfA *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives guidance* (2014). The archive is entirely digital and will be deposited jointly with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and the National Monuments Record (RCAHMW).

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## Appendix 1: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets

### Designated Assets

#### Listed Buildings

##### *1510 Lookout Tower in Boundary Wall at Nos 39 and 40 East Parade: Grade II*

Said to have been built by Mr John Tarleton as a semaphore signalling station for the paddle steamers which operated between the Foryd Harbour, Rhyl and Liverpool. Probably built some time after 1831. Circular two-storey tower, of rubble construction with freestone dressings, corbelled and crenellated parapet.

##### *1521 Sussex Street Baptist Church*

Built 1862-3; with F D Johnson of Birmingham as architect, and James Taylor Jnr of Rhyl, the builder. Foundation stone laid July 1862 and chapel opened 1863. Major renovation in 1917, and another in 1951-63, especially to the front. The English Baptist Church was founded by a number of local Baptists together with some industrialists from Cheshire and Lancashire who came to Rhyl each summer, and originally the church was only opened in the summer months.

##### *14136 No 4 The Gables, Bath Street (East side): Grade II*

Built in 1893, to the designs of Henry Beswick, architect, of Chester. Used as holiday or long-let flats since c1924. Brick with terracotta and painted brick dressings and hipped slate roof with axial and end wall stacks. Arts and Crafts style.

##### *14137 Boundary Wall and Gate Piers at No 4 The Gables, Bath Street: Grade II*

Low brick and terracotta wall, with pairs of gate-piers to either end, built 1893, and probably also designed by the architect of the house, Henry Beswick of Chester.

##### *14273 Marine Villa, Crescent Road (E Side)*

Built as a private house and now used as offices. The Crescent Road area was laid out for development upon the enclosure of Rhyl Marsh between 1831-1836, and a map of 1842 shows the plots marked out but still unbuilt. Marine Villa is clearly shown on a map of 1852. The roof and chimneys may date from a later 19<sup>th</sup>-century remodelling.

##### *14276 War Memorial, East Parade (North side): Grade II*

Originally erected to commemorate those who died in the Boer War, and unveiled in 1904, its original site was further west on the promenade near High Street. It was moved to its present site and the Garden of Remembrance opened in 1948. White ashlar. Two short cenotaph pylons flank a high central plinth on which stands the statue of a uniformed soldier.

##### *14279 Crescent Public House, Edward Henry Street (NE Side)*

A building on this site was sketched in on a map of 1852, but does not seem to have been built until c1861-1871. Initially it seems to have comprised a pair of houses, with the corner building used as a public house from the outset, but the two properties were probably combined in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. Present public house frontage to ground floor may date from c1880.

##### *14280 No 21 Grafton Lodge, Fairfield Avenue (East side): Grade II*

Probably c1820-30, one of the earliest private villas to be built after the sale of land for building by the Rhuddlan Marsh Embankment Trust between 1807 and 1827. A house on the site is



clearly shown on a map of 1852, and in a lithograph of c1855-7. The original house was extended and remodelled in the mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and may have been subdivided laterally at some time (it is shown divided in this way in the Ordnance Survey map of 1871). Some alterations were made in 1885, when Fairfield Avenue was laid out. The rear wings now form a separate dwelling.

***14281 No 23 Grafton Lodge, Fairfield Avenue (East side): Grade II***

Probably c1820-30, one of the earliest private villas to be built after the sale of land for building by the Rhuddlan Marsh Embankment Trust between 1807 and 1827. A house on the site is clearly shown on a map of 1852, and in a lithograph of c1855-7. The original house was extended and remodelled in the mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and may have been subdivided laterally at some time (it is shown divided in this way in the Ordnance Survey map of 1871). Some alterations were made in 1885, when Fairfield Avenue was laid out. The rear wings now form a separate dwelling.

***14290 The Royal Alexandra Hospital: Grade II***

The Royal Alexandra Hospital was built as a children's hospital and convalescent home, designed by Alfred Waterhouse, architect of Manchester, and probably finished by his son, Paul Waterhouse. The west wing and central block are dated 1899 and 1900, and opened in 1902 - these are the work of Alfred Waterhouse. The east wing was completed 1908-10, and is possibly by Paul Waterhouse. The hospital's siting on the sea-front and its plan - notable for the integral open balconies and verandahs of the west wing - reflected the importance then attached to fresh-air treatment. The chapel had originally been built for an earlier hospital building on another site in c1874 but was incorporated in Waterhouse's plans from the outset. It was designed by John Douglas, architect of Chester.

***14297-8 Nos 40-42 and No 44-46 Queen Street (W Side)***

Built as a pair of houses c1850 as part of the early development of Rhyl as a new town, and adapted for use as shops in the latter C19 (c1870-80). The building is a good surviving example of the style characteristic of Rhyl's urban development, and includes a good late 19<sup>th</sup>-century shop front and interior.

***14320-1 Nos 42 and 44 Water Street (W Side)***

An excellent well-detailed example of the buildings which once typified Rhyl's early development as a resort.

***14325-6 Nos 47 and 49 Water Street (E Side)***

Built as a pair of houses forming part of a longer terrace, probably between 1836 and c1850. A typical pair of houses from the first major phase of Rhyl's urban expansion, which survives almost intact.

***14327-32 Nos 46, 48, 50, 52, 54 and 56 Water Street (W Side)***

Dated 1903, and purpose-built as a terrace of shops with accommodation above and to the rear, to designs of T Lockwood of Chester.

***14333-7 Nos 71-75, West Parade (S Side)***

Built in stages to form a terrace of purpose-designed boarding houses, and dated 1889. The terrace is of exceptional interest as a purpose-built boarding house development which retains

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almost all its original detail. The best example of its type in Rhyl, it shows the characteristic multi-storeyed form with prominent bay windows, which served as a model for the sea-side boarding house in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Aircraft Crash Sites**

#### ***NPRN 515607 Boulton Paul Defiant I N1770, Crash Site***

This Defiant was built by Boulton Paul, Wolverhampton, and, at time of loss, was assigned to 256 Squadron. The aircraft's engine cut out and it crash landed on the beach at Rhyl on 31 August 1941.

#### ***NPRN 515475 Armstong Whitworth Whitley V BD204, Crash Site***

This Whitley V was built by AWA, Baginton, and was assigned to 24 OTU. On 17 May 1943, the aircraft's engine cut out and it belly-landed on mudflats at Rhyl.

## **Undesignated Assets**

### **Ship Wrecks**

#### ***NPRN 442 City of Ottawa***

The City of Ottawa was built as a three-masted vessel with square rigging in 1860 by built by Jean Elie Gingras. The ship was by named the City of Ottawa to celebrate Queen Victoria's choice of a new Canadian capital just three years earlier. The City of Ottawa traded to various English ports and Australia, Asia, South America, the United States of America and Canada. The ship was brought to Rhyl in 1906 after being damaged in a storm and was soon afterwards was abandoned as beyond economic repair. In January 2007, Denbighshire Council began a major regeneration programme for the waterfront at Rhyl including a new road constructed from in front of the May Quay public house to the former timber yard, repairs to the timber yard quay wall, the creation of a secure boat storage area with wash-down facilities and a new cycle route link. In May 2007, the Council requested the removal of four sunken vessels to facilitate dredging and the development of the marina. Subsequently an initiative has been launched to recover part of the vessel, possibly consisting of up to 200 tons of timber, for a display in the Quebec City Hall. In November 2007, Denbighshire Council began a feasibility study to assess the desirability of preserve all or part of the wreck.

#### ***NPRN 271374 William Henry***

The William Henry was a 77nt wooden Mersey flat (or jigger) built in 1869. At time of loss on 21 October 1895, the vessel was owned by P Speakman of Runcorn. The flat was carrying limestone from Llandulas to Widnes under the command of T Hoxworth when it was caught in a northerly force 7. Unable to claw off the land, the flat was wrecked off Rhyl with the loss of three crewmembers.

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***NPRN 271431 Sir Peregrine***

The Sir Peregrine was a wooden schooner registered at Liverpool. At time of loss 5 January 1843, the vessel was under the command of master O'Connell. The vessel went ashore on Rhyl beach.

***NPRN 271527 Raven***

The Raven was a 56ft wooden sloop built in 1837. At time of loss 8 November 1878, the vessel was owned by H Kneeshaw of Liverpool. The vessel was caught by a north-northeasterly force 6 and went ashore near Rhyl.

***NPRN 271558 St Olaf, Wreck Site***

The Saint Olaf was a 128ft wooden brig built in 1852 and registered in Norway. At time of loss on 14 May 1884, the vessel was owned by A Hansen of Mandal. The brig was carrying pit wood from Mandal to Connah's Quay when it was blown ashore during a north-westerly force 6 gale.

***NPRN 506949 Unnamed Wreck***

The wreck is reported to lie with its keel orientated 030/210 degrees and has a length of 44m. The tops of the timbers are just visible above the sand/mud. The wreck was identified on aerial photographs taken in July 1987.

***NPRN 524837 Albion***

The Albion was a wooden smack built at Aberystwyth in 1831. Technical and configuration specifications are given as 40 8/94 tons; 41.9ft length x 13.9ft breadth x 7.9ft depth in hold; 1 deck, 1 mast, smack rigged with a running bowsprit, square sterned, carvel built. The smack's subscribing owners for the Port of Aberystwyth Shipping Register included Foulk Evans (24 shares) and John Evans (20 shares), shipbuilders; Thomas Evans, master mariner (16 shares); and Ann, wife of Lewis Evans, joiner (4 shares) - all of Aberystwyth. On the death of Foulk Evans in 1839, some of his shares passed to existing partners. However, 4 shares were placed into trust overseen by Thomas Jones the younger, merchant of Aberystwyth, and Evan Morgan, school master of Aberystwyth, for the benefit of the children Edward and Maria Evans. The smack's register entry is closed with annotation 'The above vessel was wrecked near Rhyl, North Wales, on 28 October 1843, and totally lost'.

***NPRN 524863 Good Intent***

The Good Intent was a wooden square-rigged ship (brig?) built at Appledore in 1818. Technical and configuration specifications are given as 47.1ft length x 15ft breadth x 8.7ft depth in hold; 1 deck, 2 masts, Square rigged with a standing bowsprit, square sterned, carvel built, frame and plank wood; official number 1717. At time of loss, the vessel was owned by Owen Parry of Felinhele, master mariner (48 shares); John Bowen of Llanelli, grocer (4 shares); David Williams of Llanelli, shopkeeper (8 shares); and George Llewellyn of Llanelli, master mariner (4 shares). The vessel's port of Caernarfon Shipping Register entry is closed with the annotation 'The vessel was lost near Rhyl, North Wales, on the 21 June 1869'.

***NPRN 525214 Sarah***

The Sarah was a Mersey flat built at Runcorn in 1823. Technical and configuration specifications are given as 52.42gt; 61.3ft length x 14.8ft breadth x 6.3ft depth in hold; 1 deck,

1 mast; rigging flat; stern square; build carvel; framework wood; official number 1561. At time of loss, the vessel was owned by Robert Owen of Caernarvon, coal merchant. The flat's port of Caernarvon Shipping Register entry is closed with the annotation 'Vessel wrecked on Rhyl beach 17 October 1879'.

***NPRN 525228 Mayflower, Wreck Site***

The Mayflower was a wooden sloop built in 1784 at Cardigan. Technical and configuration specifications are given as 22 tons burthen; 37ft 2in length x 12ft 6in breadth x 6ft 3in depth in hold; 1 deck, 1 mast, sloop rigged with a standing bowsprit, square sterned, carvel built. At time of loss, the vessel was owned by John Evans of Beaumaris, mariner (28); Charles Evans of Beaumaris, marine (20); Owen Richard of Beaumaris, blacksmith (12); and Jane Hughes of Bangor, spinster (4). The sloop's Port of Beaumaris Shipping Register entry is closed with the annotation 'Wrecked off Rhyl 13 September 1837'.

## **Undesignated Assets**

***PRN 17103 Rhyl foreshore submerged landscape***

Peat and boulder clay along Rhyl foreshore from which Neolithic and Bronze Age finds have been recovered. New borings indicate the presence of a lower peat which may indicate a former coastline some 100-400m south of the present coast. Upper peat may be dated by analogy to c.4000-3000 BC (late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic).

***PRN 34208 Rhyl Pier***

The pier was built in 1867 to a design by James Brunlees. It was 2355 feet in length (705 yards) and stood 11 feet above high water level on cast iron screw piles. The Gaiety Theatre, or Amphitheatre, (NPRN 23440) stood at the landward end and it initially included a pier railway. Steamer excursions ran to other resorts and to Liverpool with Admiralty Sailing Directions dating to 1870 noting 'at the head there is a depth of 16ft at springs and 10 at neaps; and a white light is shown from it about half flood to half ebb'. The Bijou pavilion was opened in 1891 with variety artists providing the entertainment. Other attractions included restaurants, tea-rooms, a band-stand, shops and private baths. In 1901, a fire destroyed the pavilion and part of the structure was closed. A succession of storms in 1909 caused the collapse of a section of the pier. By 1913, the pier had become unsafe and was closed. It remained derelict until Rhyl Council acquired it in the 1920s. The seaward end was demolished, but the shoreward end was developed including the building of an amphitheatre. The pier re-opened from 1930 to 1966 when it was again closed on safety grounds. By then, the pier measured just 330 feet. Demolition began in March 1973

***PRN 34292 Foryd Shipyard***

No further details.

***PRN 37700 Rhyl, Volunteers' rifle range***

Local volunteer force rifle range recorded on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25" 1871, but not on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 25" map of 1899.

***PRN 83516 Foryd landing stage east II***

Landing stage depicted on OS 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 25 inch 1899.

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**PRN 83523 *Foryd landing stage***

Landing stage depicted on OS 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 25 inch 1899.

**PRN 106402 *Rhyl foreshore causeway***

Stretch of stones visible at low tide, possibly a causeway measuring 5-8m wide. Composed of angular stones. Around 15m in length was visible, before disappearing into the rising beach.

**PRN 120705 *Rhyl, High Street, Royal Hotel***

Rhyl's first hotel, completed c.1825, later known as 'Fieldings'

**PRN 120706 *Esplanade/Church Street, Belvoir Hotel***

Hotel, built sometime before 1840.

**PRN 120707 *Rhyl, West Parade 18***

A lodging house where the American writer Nathaniel Hawthorne stayed while on holiday with his family in 1854.

**PRN 120709 *Rhyl, Bath Street 5-9, Morfa Hall***

Three storey, yellow brick building with a conical tower. Built as a private house, then became the Parade and Pier Hotel, later a women's convalescent home.

**PRN 123322 *Rhyl foreshore (Splash Point) structures***

A series of wooden posts set in roughly parallel short trenches filled with stone. At least three trenches set roughly at right angles about a common axis. Large wooden posts set roughly axially may be the remains older groynes and unrelated to the trenches. Apparently dug through peat deposits exposed on Rhyl beach at Splash Point. Possibly part of fish traps or some sort of redundant sea defence. However, note presence of antler mattock, stone axes, a stone macehead and other prehistoric finds from Splash Point and presence of apparent stone causeway nearby.

**PRN 124733 *Rhyl, Abbey Street (nos. 11-33)***

Terrace of original seaside town houses constructed between 1877 and 1899, subject of photographic survey in 2014 prior to demolition and redevelopment.

**PRN 129248 *Rhyl, Wellington Road, Ocean Beach Site***

Amusement Park. Photographic survey undertaken in 2007 ahead of development.

**PRN 14079 *Rhyl Prisoner of War camp***

German prisoners of war were recorded at Rhyl, and were possibly accommodated in a camp there, in the years after the Second World War.

**NPRN 8133 *Crescent Road Plymouth Brethren Meeting House***

Crescent Road Plymouth Brethren Meeting House was built before 1877 and demolished by 1993.

**NPRN 23440 *Gaiety Theatre; The Amphitheatre, Rhyl Promenade Pier***

The Gaiety Theatre, or Amphitheatre, stood at the landward end of Rhyl Promenade Pier (NPRN 34232), which was demolished in 1972

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***NPRN 35826 Foryd Hall***

No further details.

***NPRN 84920 Foryd Hall, Garden, Rhyl***

This garden is depicted on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch map.

***NPRN 408337 The Grange Hotel, 41-42 East Parade.***

The Grange Hotel was originally built as a pair of private villas known as Morannedd and Boddonnan. No. 42 (Boddonnan), to the east, is dated 1855, but the buildings are shown on a map of 1852 and it seems likely that they date from c1840-50 with some later remodelling. Both are shown on a lithograph of c1855-57. No. 41 was in use as a private school for some time before becoming a hotel. They are both good examples of the type of large private villa which characterised development on the east side of Rhyl in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, using a distinctive architectural vocabulary and exploiting the seaside location in the orientation of the plan.

***NPRN 409676 Royal Floral Hall***

The Royal Floral Hall, Rhyl, was situated on the eastern promenade opposite Bath Street. It opened in 1959 as a council-owned attraction and became one of the resort's most popular features. It later passed into the hands of a private company and became 'Butterfly Jungle'. The building was demolished in the early 1990s.

***NPRN 411715 Rhyl Library, Museum And Arts Centre, Church Street***

Rhyl Library, Museum and Arts Centre is a modern complex. It houses a small museum illustrating the social and maritime history of the former fishing village and its development as a major holiday resort. There are models of local ships, the lifeboat 'Caroline Richardson' and a photographic collection.

***NPRN 412353 Queen's Palace***

Queen's Palace, Rhyl, was built 1901-02 as an entertainment complex with theatre and ballroom. A fire in 1907 destroyed most the building, including the glass-domed roof gardens.

***NPRN 413371 Royal Hotel, Sussex Street, High Street***

Built in the early nineteenth century, the Royal Hotel reflects the emergence of Rhyl as a seaside resort. It was the headquarters of Rhyl Cycling Club (founded 1878). It was also the headquarters of the Rhyl branch of the Cyclists Touring Club.

***NPRN 414696 Open-Air Swimming Baths, East Parade***

The Open Air Swimming Baths were opened shortly before 1930, the pool was around 100m long and 21m wide with a large area for spectators.

***NPRN 416914 Queen's Theatre (Cinema)***

No further details.

***NPRN 416915 Palladium (Cinema)***

No further details.

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***NPRN 417071 West Parade, Nos 21-24, Crescent Road, Nos 2 & 4***

Believed to have been built in the 1840's or 1850's, a large three-storey terraced building. It has a horseshoe layout around an inner courtyard occupied by a single storey infill.

***NPRN 544025 Rhyl Lifeboat Station***

OS 2nd edition mapping shows a small rectangular building on the beach with the annotation 'Lifeboat Station'. Modern aerial photography shows that lifeboat station has been formalised into the promenade and extended with a small slipway.

**Find Spots*****PRN 17613 Rhyl Roman Coin***

Single copper alloy Gallic As. Find spot unknown.

***PRN 33099 Rhyl foreshore (Splash Point) antler mattock***

Perforated Mesolithic antler mattock found near Splash Point, Rhyl.

***PRN 58795 Rhyl foreshore Post Medieval finds***

Various post medieval objects of bronze found on submerged land surface in this area in the early 20th century.

***PRN 58796 Rhyl foreshore macehead***

Pebble macehead found on submerged land surface in this area in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

***100565 Rhyl Marine Lake Roman Coins***

Late 1<sup>st</sup>- and 4<sup>th</sup>-century coins found near Marine Lake in 1934.

***PRN 101903 Rhyl foreshore bronze spearhead***

Bronze socketed spearhead 4.4 inches long found on the Rhyl beach. Now lost.

***PRN 101936 Rhyl foreshore Neolithic axes***

Various Neolithic objects found on submerged land surface in this area in the early 20th century including three Graig Lwyd axes (in the NMW) and two polished stone axes.

***PRN 101937 Rhyl foreshore bronze chisel***

Bronze chisel found in 1913 on a peat bed. The blade is 2.5 inches long and 1.25 inches wide and is housed at the National Museum of Wales.

***102176 Rhyl foreshore Roman coin***

A third brass of Licinius (AD 307-24) found 1937 on the beach.

***106441 Rhyl, West Promenade Roman Coin***

Bronze Roman coin located by metal detector.

***PRN 120560 Rhyl, Axehead***

Axehead of a dark grey, fine-grained stone, very hard and heavy. Stone slightly mottled, with inclusions, some of which have been leached out. Signs of wear/abrasions, perhaps from being moved around on the beach by the sea.

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*PRN 141424 Rhyl, wood and metal object*

An unidentified object of possible modern date. The object consists of a curved sub-oval piece of wood, one edge of which has been covered in copper alloy. The wood is cracked and frayed due to drying out and the copper alloy encrusted and corroded. Seven circular rivets attach the copper alloy to the wood. Possibly nautical, though its size suggests perhaps from a smaller vessel rather than ship. Possibly the copper/bronze tipping of an oar blade, a fitting off a cutter or lifeboat? Although found within a blue clay layer the rivets suggest a more modern date.



## APPENDIX 2: DMRB Assessment Criteria

Table 1: Definition of Value of Heritage Assets

Very High	World Heritage Sites (including those nominated) Assets of acknowledged international importance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged international research objectives.</li> </ul>
High	Scheduled Ancient Monuments (including those proposed) Undesignated monuments which could potentially be worthy of scheduling Listed Buildings – Grade I, II* and II Registered Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undesignated assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives.</li> </ul>
Medium	Conservation Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undesignated assets that contribute to regional research objectives.</li> </ul>
Low	Undesignated assets of local importance Assets compromised by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assets of limited value, but with the potential to contribute to local research objectives.</li> </ul>
Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assets with very little or no surviving cultural heritage interest.</li> </ul>
Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Importance of the asset not ascertained.</li> </ul>

The assessment of the magnitude of effect considers the extent to which a heritage asset may be changed or affected by the proposed development through the introduction of new structures or the infrastructure. The thresholds for assessing magnitude of effect are set out in Table 2 which is derived from the DMRB Volume 11 Section 3 Part 2, Annex 5/13, 2007, although in a slightly form for each cultural heritage sub-topic (archaeology, buildings, etc) has its own set of determining factors, which are set out in detail in the DMRB.

Table 2: Definition of Magnitude of Effect

Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes to most or all of the key cultural heritage elements such that the assets</li> </ul> <p>Comprehensive changes to setting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extreme visual effects</li> </ul>
Moderate	<p>Changes to many key cultural heritage elements such that the asset is clearly modified</p> <p>Considerable changes to setting which affect the character of the asset</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual changes to many key elements</li> </ul>
Minor	<p>Changes to key cultural heritage elements such that the asset is slightly altered or different</p> <p>Sight changes to setting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slight visual changes to a few key elements</li> </ul>
Negligible	<p>Very minor changes to cultural heritage elements, or setting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virtually unchanged visual effects</li> </ul>
No Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No change</li> </ul>

A part of the EIA process is to extrapolate the degree of significance from the predictions of impact. No formal guidance from Welsh government currently exists for the assessment of significance of effects on heritage assets, but the DMRB does provide an alternative. The severity of the effect on heritage assets depends on both the magnitude of effect and the value or importance of the asset, as exemplified in the two tables above. Table 3 illustrates how information on the value of the asset and the magnitude of effect can be combined to arrive at an assessment of the significance of effect. This process ensures consistency in assessing the significance of effect, and serves as a check to ensure that judgements regarding value, magnitude and significance of effect are balanced. While the correlation of these two sets of criteria is a mechanical process, professional judgement provides the reasoned explanation of the rationale behind the conclusions that are drawn. For example, a highly valued heritage asset may require only a limited amount of change to result in an effect that is assessed as moderate or major, whereas a greater magnitude of change is likely to be required to result in equivalent effects on a less sensitive asset.

Table 3: Matrix for assessing significance of direct and indirect impacts on heritage assets

Magnitude of Effect	Value of Heritage Asset				
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Negligible
Major	Very Large	Large/ Very Large	Moderate/ Large	Slight/ Moderate	Slight
Moderate	Large or Very Large	Moderate/ Large	Moderate	Slight	Neutral/ Slight
Minor	Moderate/ Large	Moderate/ Slight	Slight	Neutral/ Slight	Neutral
Negligible	Slight	Slight	Neutral/ Slight	Neutral/ Slight	Neutral
No change	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral

In the context of the EIA Regulations an impact judged to be moderate or greater is deemed to be 'significant'. Any effect which is considered significant under the EIA Regulations is flagged as such in the text of the main report.

Fig. 7 Designated heritage assets within the study area, outlined in green

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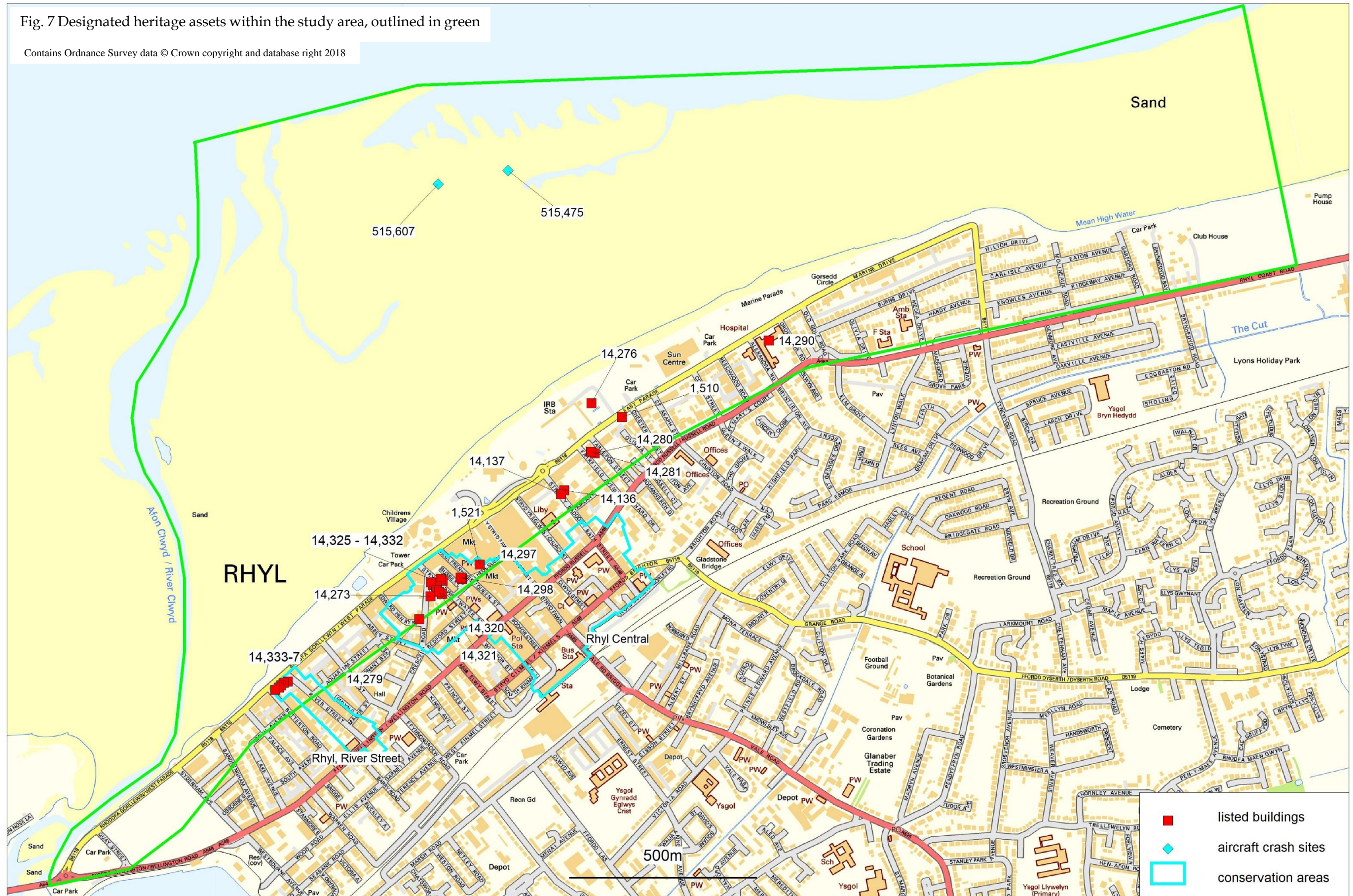


Fig. 8 Undesignated heritage assets within the study area, outlined in green

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