

Cambrian Archaeological Projects Limited

**METHODS STATEMENT**

CULTURAL HERITAGE CHAPTER

FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**- HOLYHEAD WATERFRONT REGENERATION SCHEME -**

YNYS MON/ANGLESEY

*Prepared for:*

Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services (GAPS)

*On behalf of:* Axis Ltd.

*Project No:* 1028

*Date:* 15<sup>th</sup> August 2010

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This document is a method statement for a Cultural Heritage chapter in an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for a proposed regeneration scheme in the area of Holyhead Beach, Holyhead, Anglesey (centred on National Grid Reference: SH24218329, Figure 1), immediately west of Holyhead town central.
- 1.2 The Holyhead Waterfront Regeneration Scheme is a mixed-use regeneration project that is centred on a new leisure marina and encompasses residential, hotel, leisure, retail and commercial development and associated infrastructure, extending over an area of approximately 57 hectares along the Holyhead waterfront. A significant part of the built development will be constructed on land reclaimed from the sea, within the confines of the harbour.
- 1.3 This method statement has been prepared by Richard Scott Jones, Project Manager, at Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd in accordance with a design brief prepared by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services (GAPS) and further consultation and advice from *Cadw* and the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW).

## 2.0 Archaeological background

- 2.1 Recent archaeological work in advance of development at Parc Cybi, Penrhos, Holyhead has highlighted the rich archaeological landscape of Holy Island. Significant funerary, ritual and settlement remains have been discovered dating from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age through to the Medieval and Post-medieval periods.
- 2.2 Holyhead Mountain is rich in later prehistoric settlement remains whilst the regional HER records the site of a hut group (Primary Record Number, PRN 3795) to the West of Breakwater Quarry.
- 2.3 Two nearby Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) are evidence that Holyhead was a significant defensive location during the later prehistoric / Roman periods. Caer Y Twr Iron Age hillfort and Roman Watchtower (AN019) and Caergybi Roman Fort (AN031) dating to the 3rd or 4th centuries AD.
- 2.4 Although Holyhead has a significant medieval history through its association with Saint Cybi, the most significant known archaeological remains within the study area date to the Victorian period and relate to the development of the new port and harbour of refuge.
- 2.5 The Holyhead Breakwater was constructed in the middle of the nineteenth century to create a harbour of refuge for ships during stormy weather. At the time of its completion in 1873 it incorporated the longest pier in Britain. Today the structure is a grade II\* listed building (Ref. 5743) considered to be of international significance.
- 2.6 There are no SAMs recorded within the study area but there are 8 Listed Buildings. Numerous undesignated archaeological remains are also recorded. These consist of historic

wreck sites, maritime industrial buildings, World War II military remains and post-medieval coastal remains.

- 2.7 There is good potential for the survival of as yet unknown archaeological remains above-ground, below ground, in the inter-tidal zone and in the open water of the development area.
- 2.8 Historic map evidence shows that the character of the shoreline remains relatively unchanged from the production of the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1889) throughout the 20th century. However, the 20th century saw the development of numerous suburban estates to the south of the study area and further in land.

### **3.0 Aims and research objectives**

- 3.1 This specification details the first phase of a staged programme of archaeological works. The aim of this phase is to prepare an archaeological assessment undertaken according to guidelines set out in Welsh national planning guidance (*Planning Policy Guidance Wales 2010*) and Welsh Office Circular 60/96 (*Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology*). The assessment will comprise a desk-based review and field survey. The desk-based review will incorporate a characterisation exercise (Historic Character Area Appraisal / Characterisation) assessing the wider impacts of the proposals on the historic landscape.
- 3.2 The object of this programme of archaeological works will be to make full and effective use of existing information to establish the archaeological significance of the site, and thereby to assess the impact of the development proposals on the historic environment and to help inform future decision making, design solutions and potential mitigation strategies.
- 3.3 The report will include an assessment of the potential for further investigative work and give recommendations for an appropriate evaluation and / or mitigation strategy.
- 3.4 At a later date, presumed to be after the granting of outline planning approval, GAPs have indicated that they will require a second phase of archaeological works to be undertaken. This will include a programme of intrusive evaluation trenching, the objective of which will be to further assess the presence or absence of remains, their extent, nature, quality and character, before determining an appropriate mitigation strategy. The latter may be preservation *in situ*, archaeological excavation or a combination of the two. At GAP's request, one of the aims of the first phase of works will be to produce a methodology for an appropriate scheme of second phase investigations.

#### *i) Desk Based Assessment*

- 3.5 The objective of the desk based assessment will be to determine:
  - a) the nature, extent and degree of survival of archaeological sites, structures, deposits, landscapes and / or seascapes within the study area, which reflect the state of current knowledge of the area and provide a research framework for further work

- b) the significance of any remains in their context both regionally and nationally and in light of the findings of the desk based study
- c) the history of the site
- d) the potential impact of any proposed development on the *setting* of known sites of archaeological importance
- e) a methodology for further non-intrusive survey and / or intrusive evaluation to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

*ii) Field Visit*

- 3.6 The field visit of the application area will assess the condition of the known archaeological resource within the survey area, record any new archaeological sites or features that may be present, and assessing the current ground conditions. All archaeological sites will be considered, whatever their date. This will include standing buildings, industrial remains, garden areas, place-name and cultural elements, and historic landscape areas. A written record of any features noted will be made, together with sketch plans and, where appropriate, photographs.
- 3.7 Any topographic features that appear to be a focus for human activity will be noted even if there are no current indications of archaeological features being present (e.g. springs, level platform areas). Likewise, any activity that could have masked archaeological sites (e.g. tipped material, marshy ground, peat, etc.) will also be noted.
- 3.8 The field visit will also assess key receptor viewpoints to and from high value archaeological sites in order to assess the potential indirect impact on the issue of setting.

#### **4.0 Methodology and Sources**

- 4.1 In order to determine the objectives of both the desk based assessment and the field visit, the following areas of research will be undertaken:
  - a) Collation and assessment of all relevant information held in the HER, including listed building records up to a distance of 1.5km.
  - b) Assessment of all available excavation report and archives including unpublished and unprocessed material affecting the site and its setting.
  - c) Assessment of all extant aerial photographic (AP) evidence and, where relevant, a re-plotting of archaeological and topographic information by a suitably qualified specialist at an appropriate scale. The main source of archaeological aerial photographic records is held at the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW), Aberystwyth.

- d) Assessment of records held at the RCAHMW and University College Bangor, if considered appropriate.
- e) Assessment of the environmental potential of the archaeological deposits through existing data or by inference.
- f) Assessment of the faunal potential of the archaeological deposits through existing data or by inference.
- g) Assessment of the artefactual potential of the archaeological deposits through existing data or by inference.
- h) Assessment of all available geotechnical information for the area including the results of test pits and boreholes.
- i) Assessment of the present topography and landuse of the area through maps and site visits.

4.2 The historical research will involve the following:

- a) A review of the published resources, in particular;
  - Donald Insall Associates Ltd 2003 Holyhead Harbour Conservation Plan. Unpublished report held by Donald Insall Associates Ltd, Conwy
  - Kenney, J. 2000 Holyhead Waste Water Treatment Works: Archaeological Assessment. Gwynedd Archaeological Trust report 383. Unpublished report held by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
  - Kenney, J. (Forthcoming) Parc Cybi, Ty Mawr, Penrhos, Holyhead: Archaeological Mitigation. Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.
  - Malim, T. 2006. Porth Y Felin House: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment. Gifford report no. 13174.R01. Unpublished report held by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.
- b) An analysis of relevant maps and plans. Cartographic evidence held at both the County Record Offices in Bangor and the National Library of Wales (NLW), including Tithe Maps, Enclosure Act Plans, Estate Maps and all editions of the Ordnance Survey. Place and field-name evidence from these sources must be considered.
- c) An analysis of the historical documents (e.g. county histories, local and national journals and antiquarian sources) held in museums, libraries or other archives, in particular local history and archives library. In this case the port authority and the maritime museum may also hold relevant archive material.
- d) A review of the Aerial photographic evidence.

4.3 The assessment will also formulate an appropriate methodology for further archaeological investigation following the results of the desk based assessment and the field visit.

4.4 In considering the 'issue of setting' for scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings and other sites of national and / or regional significance, the HER will be consulted to

determine if the development falls within any designated landscape areas, such as World Heritage Sites and landscape character areas.

- 4.5 In considering the impact of the proposals on the 'wider landscape', the assessment will consider the views to and from Holyhead Mountain and along the Great Breakwater, as well as giving consideration to the overall character of the study area, to which a full characterisation study will be undertaken on the historic character of all areas immediately surrounding the proposed development boundary and those areas considered to be potentially indirectly threatened by the proposals.
- 4.6 The evaluation methodology will consider the use of the following techniques:
- a) Archaeological historic building recording / survey.
  - b) The use of geophysical / hydrographic survey.
  - c) A programme of trenching and/or test pits to investigate potentially sensitive areas identified from the desk based assessment.
- 4.7 The evaluation will aim to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened will be investigated.
- 4.8 The evaluation will aim to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened will be investigated.
- 4.9 All work will be conducted in compliance with the *Codes of Practice* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2000), and will follow IfA *Standards and Guidance for Desk-Based Assessment* (IfA 1999). Work will also be in accordance with guidelines set out in Welsh national planning guidance (*Planning Policy Guidance Wales 2010*) and Welsh Office Circular 60/96 (*Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology*).
- 4.10 Curatorial monitoring of the work will be undertaken by GAPS. To this end a regular dialogue will be maintained between the CAP project manager in charge of the work, Richard Scott Jones, and Ashley Batten of GAPS. This will include approval of work as it progresses to be formalized as a recognized part of the process within the EIA phase.

## **5.0 Historic Character Area Appraisal / Characterisation**

- 5.1 The characterisation exercise will consider the following:
- a) Geographic circumstance of each identified character area
  - b) Historical development of each identified character area
  - c) Identification of key themes and processes identified within each character area.

- d) Historical topography of each character area.
- e) Character of the built environment within each identified character area.

Photographs, drawings, plans and other historic sources will form an integral part of this exercise.

- 5.2 Although formal curatorial monitoring of the work will be undertaken by GAPs (see 4.10 above) Cadw will also be consulted during the compilation of the characterisation exercise.

## 6.0 Results

- 6.1 Following the results of the desk based assessment and the field visit, a report will be integrated into the final EIA for the project.

- 5.2 A digital report in pdf format will be supplied to the HERs.

- 5.3 The report will include the following:

- Site code/project number; planning reference number and SMR casework number; dates of fieldwork visit; grid reference; location plan; and a plan showing the limits of the study area.
- Non technical summary.
- Introduction.
- Aims and objectives of the study.
- Methodology and sources consulted.
- Summary and synthesis of the archaeological results.
- An assessment of importance of sites within national and regional frameworks.
- Recommendations and Mitigation measures in advance of development.
- Appendices including a gazetteer of sites, with classification, period, NGR, HER reference, brief description, source, and a list of consultees.
- Figures and plans.
- References to all primary and secondary sources.

- 5.4 The Cultural Heritage section of the EIA will be provided with the following sub-headings:

- Introduction
- Relevant consultative bodies, legislation and policies
- Methodology used in the study
- Baseline Position: heritage resource, LANDMAP study, Conservation Area assessment, Characterisation appraisal, gazetteer of known archaeological and architectural features
- Predicted effects of proposed development.
- Assessment of significance of effects
- Mitigation measures
- Conclusions

- 5.5 All new sites identified from the assessment will be given a Primary Record Number (PRN) and the new generated digital site data will be submitted to the regional HER in a compatible format.

## **6.0 Site archive**

6.1 The archive will be deposited with an appropriate local museum and will include:

- A copy of the report
- Original illustrations and tracings that are not included in the report
- A digital copy of the report and illustrations

6.2 Contact with the local museum and HER will be made prior to starting work on the project to make arrangements for the archive and obtain an HER code.

6.3 The archive will be submitted within six months of completion of the project, subject to confidentiality of the material.

## **7.0 Publication**

7.1 Following completion of the project a summary of the project will be prepared for the *CBA Archaeology in Wales* annual publication.

7.2 A short report will also be submitted to a local journal if appropriate.

## **8.0 Resources and programming**

8.1 The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified Cambrian Archaeological Projects staff.

8.2 The principal member of staff undertaking the Cultural Heritage assessment will be Richard Scott Jones (BA, MA, MIFA), who has undertaken numerous desk based assessments and Environmental Impact Assessments since 1999. The project will be directed by CAP Unit Director Mark Houlston (MIFA).

### *Equipment*

8.3 The project will use existing Cambrian Archaeological Projects equipment.

### *Programming*

8.4 The archaeological presence on site will conform to the requirements of the client. It is hoped that the desk-based assessment and field walkover will be undertaken in August 2010.

### *Insurance*

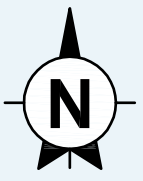
8.5 Cambrian Archaeological Projects is an affiliated member of the CBA, and holds Insurance through the CBA insurance service. Public Liability Insurance is for £2,000,000 in any one accident.

### *Health and Safety and IFA Code of Conduct*



- 8.6 Staff of Cambrian Archaeological Projects will adhere to the *Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974*.
- 8.7 All work will be undertaken with due regard to the *Institute of Field Archaeologist's Code of Conduct*; the *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*; *Guidelines for Finds Work*; *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations*.

**Richard Scott Jones**  
**Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd**  
**15<sup>th</sup> August 2010**



**Legend**  
 Proposed development area

CAMBRIAN  
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
 PROJECTS



HOLYHEAD WATERFRONT

Figure 1

Proposed Development Area

Approximate Scale  
 1:10,000@ A3

Date  
 August 2010

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