

CPAT Report No 1255

Twentieth-Century Military Project

**Bodelwyddan Castle Park Trenches & Kinnel Park Camp
Scoping Study**



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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Scoping Study**

J Spencer
March 2014

Report for Cadw



CPAT

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR

tel (01938) 553670, fax (01938) 552179

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Cover photo: Practice trenches in Bodelwyddan Castle Park (PRN23082) (CPAT 88-c-0070)

CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES	3
1 SUMMARY	4
2 INTRODUCTION	4
3 BACKGROUND	5
4 SOURCES OF INFORMATION	5
5 THE STUDY AREA	8
6 FUTURE WORK	21
7 POTENTIAL PROJECT PARTNERS	23
8 SOURCES (BY TOPIC)	25
9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	29

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LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Location plan

Figure 2: Packet of cigarettes distributed to wounded French and British soldiers by Mrs May Aitken, of Bodelwyddan Castle, Flintshire

Figure 3: The pre-war landscape of Bodelwyddan Castle Park, second edition 25" to the mile Ordnance Survey map, 1899

Figure 4: The pre-war landscape of Kinmel Park, second edition 25" to the mile Ordnance Survey map, 1899

Figure 5: The approximate extents of main areas of interest

Figure 6: Extract from RAF photo 3G/TUD/UK/33 Frame 5419

Figure 7: Trenches in Bodelwyddan Castle Park (CPAT 3657-0009)

Figure 8: Possible command post in Bodelwyddan Castle Park (CPAT 3657-0004)

Figure 9: RCAHMW GIS plot from aerial photographs of the Bodelwyddan Castle Park practice trenches

Figure 10: Kinmel Park Camp, plan 1919

Figure 11: *Bursar's Bungalow*, Bodelwyddan Castle Park (CPAT 3657-0016)

Figure 12: Stone found in 2008 inscribed 'Carly[l]e D Chamberlain, Canadian Army, Prospect, Kentucky, USA' (CPAT 3743-0014)

Figure 13: Private Carlyle D Chamberlain (at right) and comrades, possibly at Kinmel Park Camp

Figure 14: Gravestones in the churchyard of St Margaret's Bodelwyddan (CPAT 3657-0015)

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report summarises what is known about First World War practice trenches in Bodelwyddan Castle Park and Kinmel Park army camp, near Rhyl in north Wales (NGR SH 999 742, PRN23082, Scheduled Ancient Monument FL186 and NGR SH 995 752, PRN17101). It also identifies repositories where further research might prove fruitful. Proposals for future community-based research work to commemorate the centenary of the First World War are presented, along with lists of potential project partners and sources.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Trenches have come to symbolise the horrors of the Western Front during the First World War. While the fighting did not extend to home shores, trench systems were excavated and used in the training of personnel destined for the Front. One of the best-known systems of trenches surviving from the era of the First World War in Wales is that in Bodelwyddan Castle Park, Denbighshire. Within close proximity of the practice trenches are the remains of Kinmel Park Camp, where soldiers training in Bodelwyddan Castle Park were housed.
- 2.2 The aims of this scoping study are to identify the various sources of information available about the Bodelwyddan Castle Park trenches and Kinmel Park Camp, and to set the information gathered about the military use of the land in the context of the general history of the two parks. It is intended that this piece of work will form a preliminary stage of a more ambitious project to run over several years; outline proposals, together with lists of sources, key stakeholders, and potential partners are also presented.

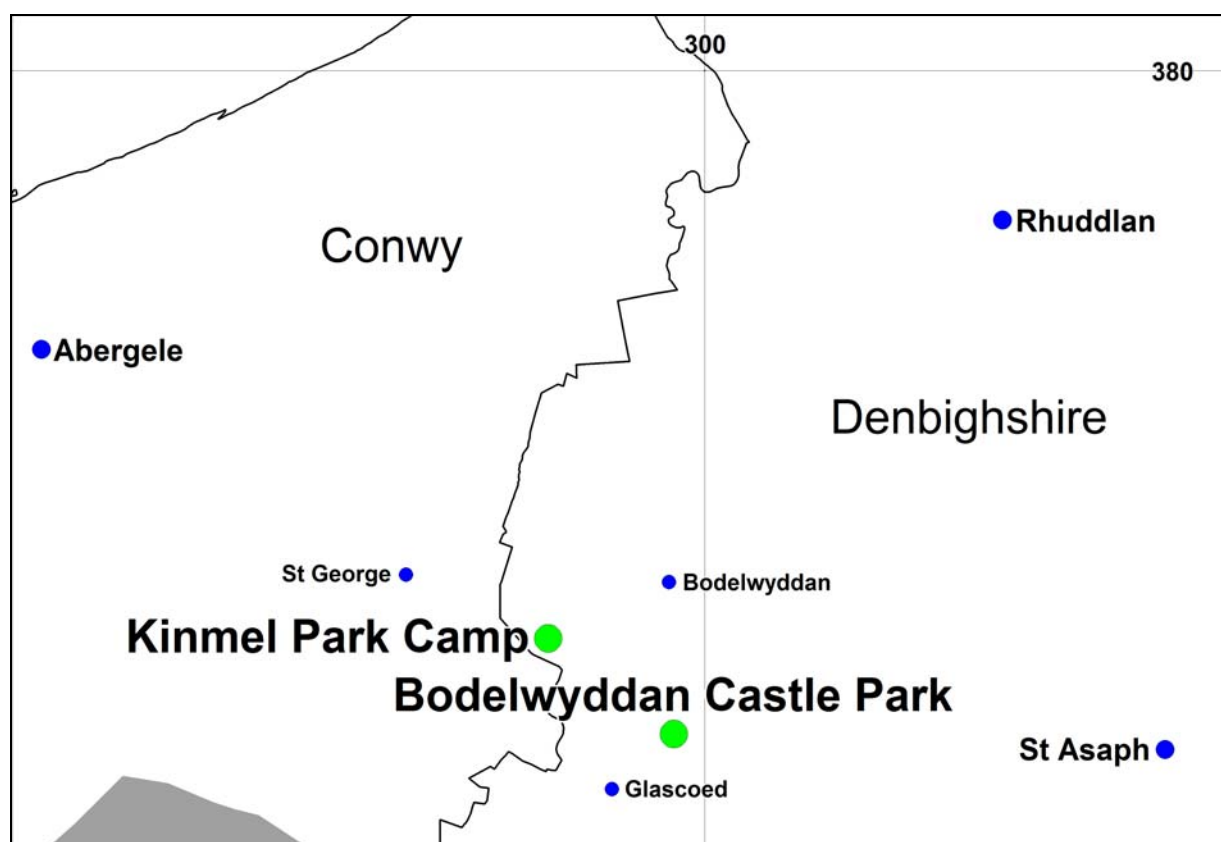


Figure 1: Location plan (land over 300m shaded grey)

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- 2.3 This project was carried out by CPAT and funded through grant-aid from Cadw as part of a pan-Wales project on 20th century military remains. Throughout this report any numbers in brackets, except where they relate to written references, refer to the Primary Record Number (PRN) assigned to the site, and which feature in the Historic Environment Record.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The project emerged from discussions at a monitoring meeting for the Cadw-funded Twentieth-Century Military Sites Scheduling Enhancement Programme (SEP) in October 2012, and at the 6-monthly meeting of the Twentieth-Century Military Sites Working Group in December of the same year. The value of commemorative events associated with the centenary of the First World War, and the suitability of archaeology to contribute to such events, were discussed, and Cadw noted that they would encourage proposals for projects focusing on the physical remains of this period.
- 3.2 CPAT began this process by conducting a scoping study in the first half of 2013-14 to attempt to understand the size and nature of the likely surviving resource of buildings, sites and structures in east and north-east Wales built or taken over for use during the First World War (CPAT Report 1226). As part of this work the First World War training area and army camp at Bodelwyddan and Kinmel, were identified as having great potential for a future project and a second scoping study was proposed.
- 3.3 In June 2013 CPAT staff visited Bodelwyddan Castle and met Dr Kevin Mason, Director of the Bodelwyddan Castle Trust. It was quickly established that both organisations felt that the practice trenches in the park there would provide an ideal focus for a First World War commemorative project and that working in partnership would be the best way forward. A subsequent meeting between CPAT staff, Dr Mason and Jonathan Berry of Cadw in September 2013 confirmed the viability of the idea.
- 3.4 Major Paul Evanson, of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation and responsible for the current Kinmel Park Camp was sympathetic to our enquiry about arranging access to his site if necessary. An approach was also made to Mr Dickon Fetherstonhaugh, owner of the Kinmel Park Estate with the aim of gaining access at some point in the future to that part of the former Kinmel Park Camp in his ownership; but unfortunately due to the nature of the activities for which it is now used (which include police dog training and deer stalking), he felt unable to grant permission.

4 SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Historic Environment Record (HER)

- 4.1 The first source consulted was the Historic Environment Record database, in which records containing basic information for the trenches in Bodelwyddan Castle Park and Kinmel Park Camp were identified. Also checked were event records for site visits to the trenches in 1993 and camp in 2007 to which photographs taken at the time are linked. The HER database also proved useful in establishing the pre-military land-use of the study area.
- 4.2 The HER holds sources generated as a result of planned development projects. A supporting statement for a planning application (Ref: M40/2005/1500/PO) contains a *Rapid Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* that usefully summarises key facts about Kinmel Park Camp (GVA Grimley, 2005). However, it was produced from online sources only and did not constitute a comprehensive study. An archaeological building investigation prepared for the same potential project, while concentrating on the standing buildings, is also of

value as it includes a desk-based assessment of the site of the 1930s camp and an area extending 0.5km beyond its boundaries (Vannan, Alastair and Taylor, Karl, 2007).

- 4.3 Digital Ordnance Survey historic mapping supplied by the Welsh Government was of great value in gauging the nature of the landscape at Bodelwyddan before the arrival of the military. Alignments of trees hint at the positions of former hedges removed to create parkland, and deer parks (129907 & 130108) are also identified. Mine shafts and quarries are also clearly identified and labelled on the maps; some of these are also evident on later aerial photographs, although less readily identified.
- 4.4 Information generated as a result of the earlier First World War Scoping Study (CPAT Report 1226) added detail to existing HER records and was used to create new ones, such as for a military training area in Kinmel Park Camp.

National Monuments Record (NMR) and Coflein

- 4.5 Vertical aerial photographs taken by the RAF in the 1940s and held at the National Monuments Record and the Welsh Government Central Register of Aerial Photography for Wales proved particularly helpful in identifying the full extent of the practice trenches in Bodelwyddan Castle Park. The positions of most of the trenches had been plotted in a Geographical Information System (GIS) by staff of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) (Figure 9). These photos also depict Kinmel Park Camp, albeit in its later form as a result of changes made in the 1930s and 1940s; so far no aerial images have come to light of the First World War camp. A trench system and other military excavations on a smaller scale were recognised in Kinmel Park (thanks to the assistance of Medwyn Parry of the RCAHMW). Evidence of the post-medieval and possibly medieval landscapes was also spotted in the form of cultivation ridges and relict field boundaries, and spoil tips and other earthworks indicative of mining.
- 4.6 *Coflein* (the online database for the National Monuments Record of Wales) contains records for Kinmel Park Camp and the Bodelwyddan Castle Park trenches, which have been allocated three NPRNs; one apparently a general record (NPRN 268142), one for the *Southern Command Post and Trenches* (NPRN 411351) and one for the *South-Eastern Group [of trenches] at Bryn Celyn* (NPRN 411352). Information from *Coflein* also confirmed the nature of the pre-military land-use as recorded in the HER.
- 4.7 The *Aerofilms* collection of oblique aerial photographs held at RCAHMW is a valuable resource, its study resulting in the recognition of probable First World War era huts at Bodelwyddan Castle and additionally two previously unrecorded and now apparently destroyed Second World War air-raid shelters (129911 and 129912) from when part of the castle was Lowther College, a private school for girls.

Defence of Britain project database

- 4.8 The Council for British Archaeology's Defence of Britain project database, now hosted online by the Archaeology Data Service, was searched for records of military remains in the study area. No records were returned.

Local Record Offices

- 4.9 The study site straddles the border of the historic counties of Denbighshire and Flintshire and an index of the holdings of the Clwyd Record Office (now the Denbighshire Archives in Ruthin and Flintshire Record Office in Hawarden) from the mid-1990s held at CPAT was examined. Despite being obsolete it revealed that a visit to the Flintshire Record Office at least might be worthwhile. As well as numerous references to articles about the 1919 riots at Kinmel Park Camp are a 'Reference to vast camp at Kinmel (1916)', postcards from the camp, a copy of a 'satirical poem' written c.1918 and papers regarding the burial of Canadian soldiers in Bodelwyddan churchyard.

Bangor University

- 4.10 Bangor University Library and Archives Service holds the archives of the Kinmel Park Estate (the *Kinmel Manuscripts*), however, a quick search of the online catalogue suggests their holdings for the estate all date to the 18th and 19th centuries and thus are unlikely to be of direct relevance to a study of First World War era sites.

National Library of Wales

- 4.11 Study of the online catalogue of the National Library of Wales was productive, returning references to general articles about Kinmel Park Camp; film and video articles referring to the camp and riot, and an article about graves at Bodelwyddan. In addition, there were two items of particular interest; an auction catalogue, dated 1920, for the sale of equipment from No.4 Store in No.20 Camp at Kinmel Park and a photograph of the camp railway (129738).

The National Archives

- 4.12 Having searched the online catalogue of The National Archives, this source appears not to hold any material about the trenches in Bodelwyddan Castle Park or Kinmel Park Camp. Information from Kevin Mason also suggests that original documents about the riots were officially restricted for one hundred years and so may only become available in 2019.

Imperial War Museums

- 4.13 “*The collections of the Imperial War Museums cover all aspects of twentieth and twenty-first century conflict involving Britain, the Commonwealth and other former empire countries. Created to record the toil and sacrifice of every individual affected by war, the collections include a wide range of material, from film and oral history to works of art, large objects, and personal letters and diaries*” (Imperial War Museums, online 2014).
- 4.14 An online collections search facility returned information about several recorded interviews with individuals who undertook basic training at Kinmel Park Camp or served there on the staff. One in particular, that of Ivor Watkins, is likely to prove invaluable in illustrating the daily routine at the camp while he was part of C Company, 59th Training Reserve Battalion, South Wales Borderers between November 1916 and May 1917.
- 4.15 It may be that an insight into the nature of the military hospital at Kinmel Camp can be gained by the study of the letters of Miss I E Haigh written to her parents whilst a VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) worker there between April and June 1917.
- 4.16 Also housed at the IWM is a copy of *The Third Lieutenant*, a souvenir magazine of Number Seventeen Officer Cadet Battalion believed to have been based at Kinmel Park Camp during the First World War, and archival material about the riot and various articles written about it. Lastly, an item of ephemera; a packet of cigarettes, of which 10,000 were distributed to wounded French and British soldiers at Havre on 14th September 1914, after the Battle of the Marne, by Mrs May Aitken, of Bodelwyddan Castle, Flintshire (Imperial War Museums, online 2014), see Figure 2 below.

Regimental Museums

- 4.17 It has become clear by reading some of the summaries of the interviews with veterans recorded by the Imperial War Museum that numerous units of the British and Commonwealth armies passed through Kinmel Park Camp, and by inference, the trenches in Bodelwyddan Castle Park too. Future research might be extended to the museum of the Royal Engineers in Gillingham, Kent, who may have constructed the trenches; and the museums of regiments with strong associations to the sites such as that of the Royal Welch Fusiliers (in Caernarfon) and the South Wales Borderers (in Brecon, now named the Regimental Museum of The Royal Welsh).



Figure 2: Packet of cigarettes distributed to wounded French and British soldiers by Mrs May Aitken, of Bodelwyddan Castle, Flintshire held by Imperial War Museums

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Online

- 4.18 There is a wealth of information available online. Two websites in particular are worthy of mention and will undoubtedly reward further study. *Europeana 1914-1918* brings together resources from three major European projects, each dealing with different types of First World War material. The result is an archive that allows the national collections of libraries to sit beside personal stories and treasures and important film archives (*Europeana 1914-1918*, online 2014). At the National Library of Wales, *Cymru 1914* conducted mass digitization of primary sources relating to the First World War from the libraries, special collections and archives of Wales. This digital archive brings together source materials that were previously fragmented and frequently inaccessible (The National Library of Wales, online 2014).

5 THE STUDY AREA

The pre-military landscape

- 5.1 A number of pre-1914 features are evident on historic mapping and aerial photographs. The 1940s aerial photographic coverage shows a variety of linear earthworks, some of which may represent cultivation features of medieval or post-medieval date. A square enclosure

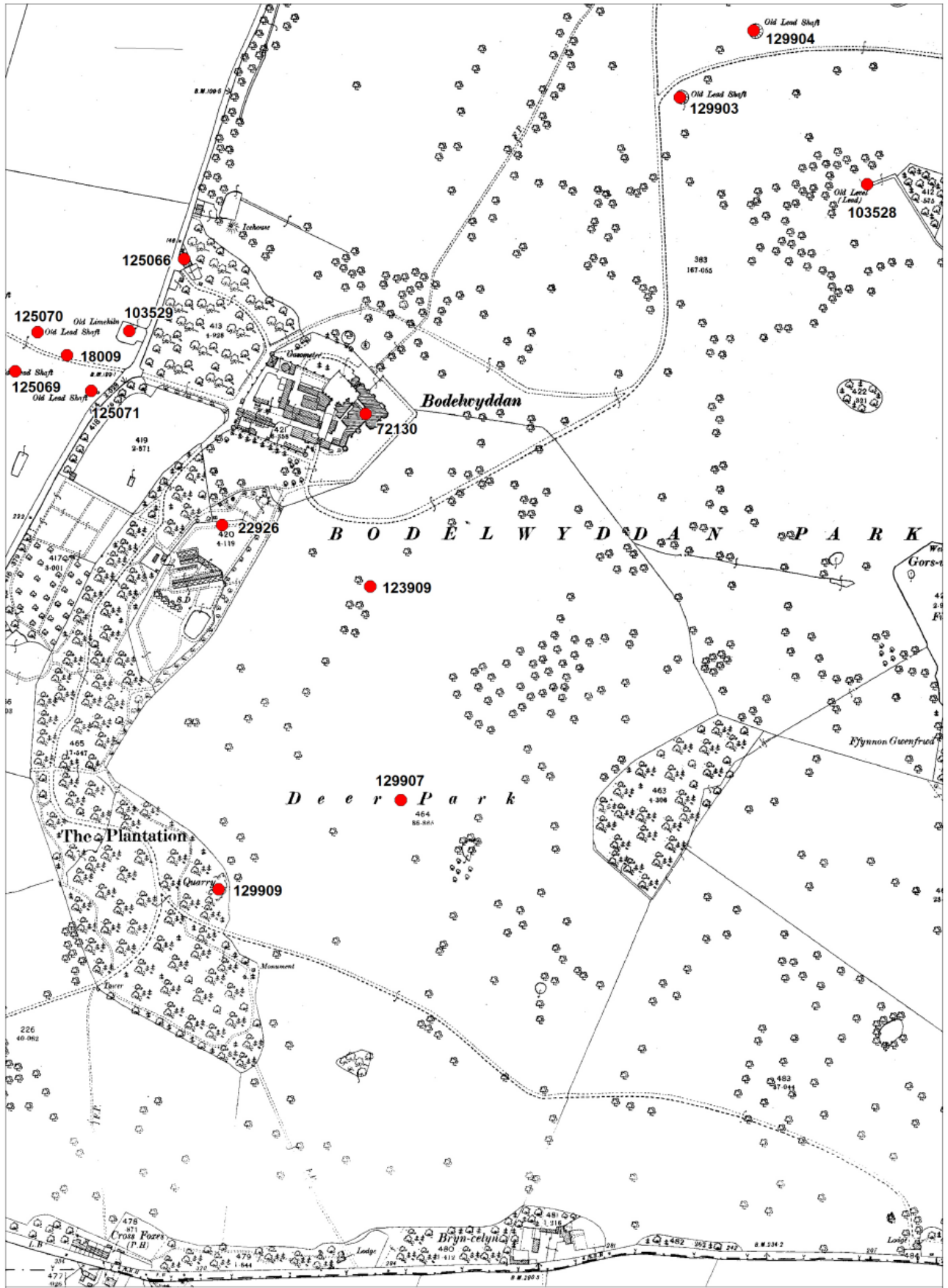


Figure 3: The pre-war landscape of Bodelwyddan Castle Park (102872)
Reproduced from the 1899 Ordnance Survey map.

(123909) in Bodelwyddan Castle Park pointed out by Dr Kevin Mason as a possible medieval moated site is also clear on an AP of 1946, but may overlies the cultivation ridges. The presence of several ponds in the study area (13744-13751) depicted on the early Ordnance Survey mapping, suggests the historic excavation of marl to spread on the fields in an attempt to improve their productivity. Aerial photographs also show the positions of former field boundaries, presumably removed when the parkland was created.

Bodelwyddan Castle Park (102872)

- 5.2 An Elizabethan or early seventeenth-century house on the site was remodelled between 1800 and 1808, but in its present form the castle was built between c.1830 and 1842 (72130); further works at this time resulted in a magnificent estate wall and formal garden. Building refurbishment took place in the 1880s although parts of the early 19th century remodelling remain visible. A well-preserved eighteenth- and nineteenth-century landscape park and garden (22926) surrounds the mansion on the north, south and eastern sides on ground that rises to the south, with views over Rhuddlan Marsh to the Irish Sea in the north. The park is largely undulating grassland dotted with large mature deciduous trees (mainly oaks). The house and pleasure grounds lie to the western side of the park, whilst to the east and south-east are a fishpond, mill and related ponds. Several picturesque additions were made in the nineteenth-century and appear on the early OS mapping (Cadw 1995).
- 5.3 A limestone quarry in the park (129909) and a second (129906) along with lime kilns (103529, 103541, 129910) beside the road called Engine Hill on the western boundary of Bodelwyddan Castle Park attest to the working life of the estate and adjacent farms, stone being extracted both for building and the production of agricultural lime.
- 5.4 Flintshire and Denbighshire became prominent lead mining areas between 1680 and 1700 (Quant in Vannan & Taylor 2007) and mining became the main income source for the estate from this period until the 19th century. A substantial mine (18009) comprising several shafts, two engine houses, a reservoir and smithy, developed to the west of the castle in the late 18th and 19th centuries and extended to east and west following the veins of ore until closure in 1862 (CPAT 1993). While construction of Kinmel Park Camp and later housing along Engine Hill have removed many of the surface traces of this industrial past, some survive in and around Bodelwyddan Castle Park (125066-125071, 129903-129905, 103528).
- 5.5 With the decline of the lead industry the fortunes of the Bodelwyddan estate declined, and by the outbreak of the First World War, the estate had been reduced in size and the house was used as a recuperation hospital. In 1920 the house and estate were sold to Lowther College, a girls' private school (Bodelwyddan Castle and Park, online 2014). The Castle and adjacent parkland are now owned by Denbighshire County Council but leased by the Bodelwyddan Castle Trust. Other parts of the park are in separate private ownerships.

Kinmel Park (17036)

- 5.6 The present Kinmel (Hall) (102556) is the fourth in a series of houses dating back to the 17th century. The remains of this 17th century house, known as Old Kinmel (105555), survive in the walled garden to the south-east of the present house. This was replaced by a house of c.1791-1802 on the site of the present house; this in turn was replaced in 1841 before the present house was built to a design by William Eden Nesfield on the same site in c.1871-74. The park (22959) is a medium-sized landscape park surrounding Kinmel on all sides. There was certainly a park here in association with the earlier buildings, the 'old' park to the east being associated with Old Kinmel, however, the exact boundaries are not known (Cadw 1995).
- 5.7 A large area of parkland to the north of the house was lost to the construction of the army camp early in the First World War. The hall was last used as a private home in 1929, after

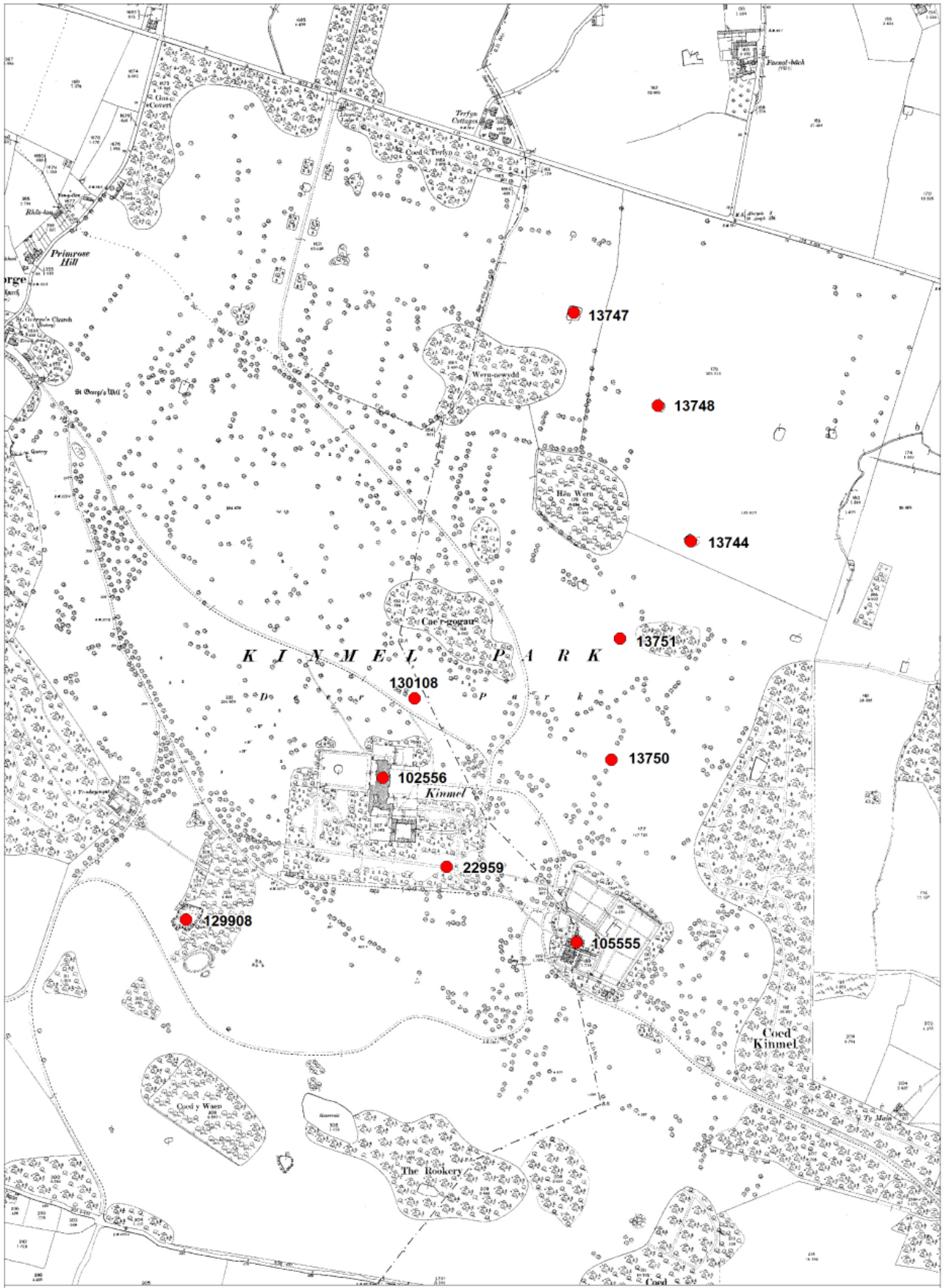


Figure 4: The pre-war landscape of Kinmel Park (17036)
Reproduced from the 1899 Ordnance Survey map.

which it was converted to a 'rheuma spa', a health centre for the treatment of people with rheumatism. The hall and estate are now in separate ownerships (Kinmel Estate, online 2007, Wikipedia, online 2014).

The military landscape

Bodelwyddan practice trenches (23082)

- 5.8 Extending over several hectares of parkland at Bodelwyddan Castle is a complex of First World War trenches. These were presumably created initially at least for instruction in how to excavate effective trenches, but were also subsequently used for infantry combat training. Firing (frontline) trenches are identifiable from their crenellated shape (or traverses), with zigzag communication trenches linking back to support and reserve lines parallel to the firing line. There appear also to be dugouts (perhaps for command posts or first aid stations), passing bays and saps (trenches dug out into 'no-man's land' from the front line). From the study of aerial photographs it seems there were several distinct groups in the parkland, some perhaps dug as opposing systems. Over much of the area circular craters suggest efforts were made to create a realistic landscape for troops to negotiate. Some of the craters have been joined by digging between them, and the fact that none of the craters appear to have damaged the trenches suggests they were created by detonating charges in the ground, rather than by shelling. In addition there is what is thought to be a remote command post on slightly higher ground (at SH 9981 7445) overlooking part of the training area. Interestingly, a similar circular earthwork (129913) appears on an air photograph (CPE/UK/2525 Frame 4029) of 1948 just to the south-east of the entrance to Kinmel Park Camp. Whatever it was, this latter site now lies beneath a housing estate. In 2001 a section of tunnel (129936) was discovered to the north-north-west of the command post, which was traced for 18 paces running from north-north-east to south-south-west (Cadw 2008).

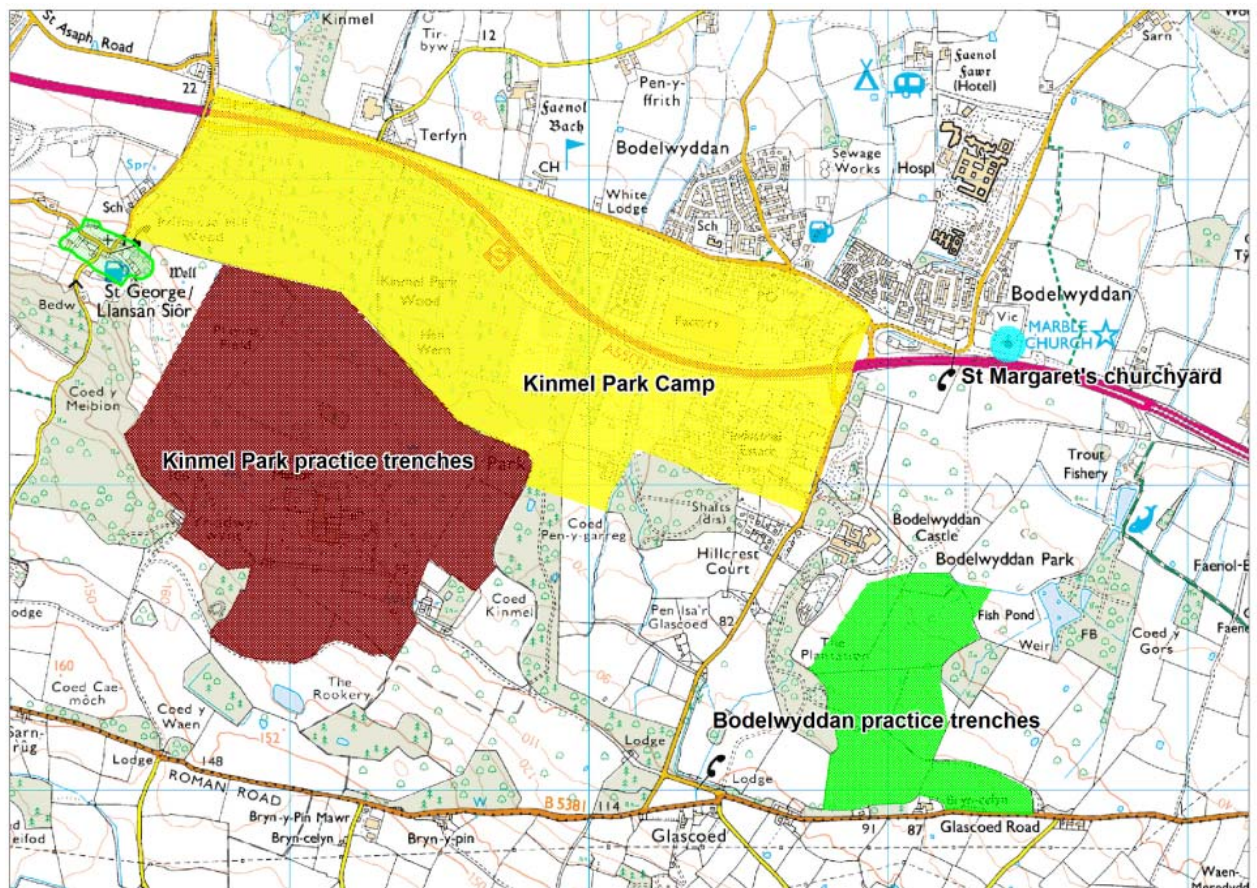


Figure 5: The approximate extents of main areas of interest
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- 5.9 The earliest photographic evidence currently available for the Bodelwyddan Castle Park trenches dates to 1946, so it is possible that the complex as seen then incorporates newly-excavated or re-excavated trenches from the inter-war period or the Second World War. The trenches were re-discovered by CPAT staff in 1992 during an assessment for development in the castle grounds and in 1995 a well-preserved section and the possible command post were given statutory protection as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM FL186). Interpretation boards have been erected by Bodelwyddan Castle Trust but AP coverage suggests the scheduled area forms only part of a more extensive trench system, or is one of a series of systems in the park no longer easily discernible at ground level. Other areas of trenches have been backfilled and are now visible only as soilmarks and marks in pasture on post-Second World War and later aerial photographs. The full extent of the trenches appears to have survived until sometime between 1948 and 1954 when an *Aerofilms* image shows the trenches in the field at the south-east extent of the area to have been backfilled. There is also the potential that the trenches extend into an area of woodland to the west of the open parkland.

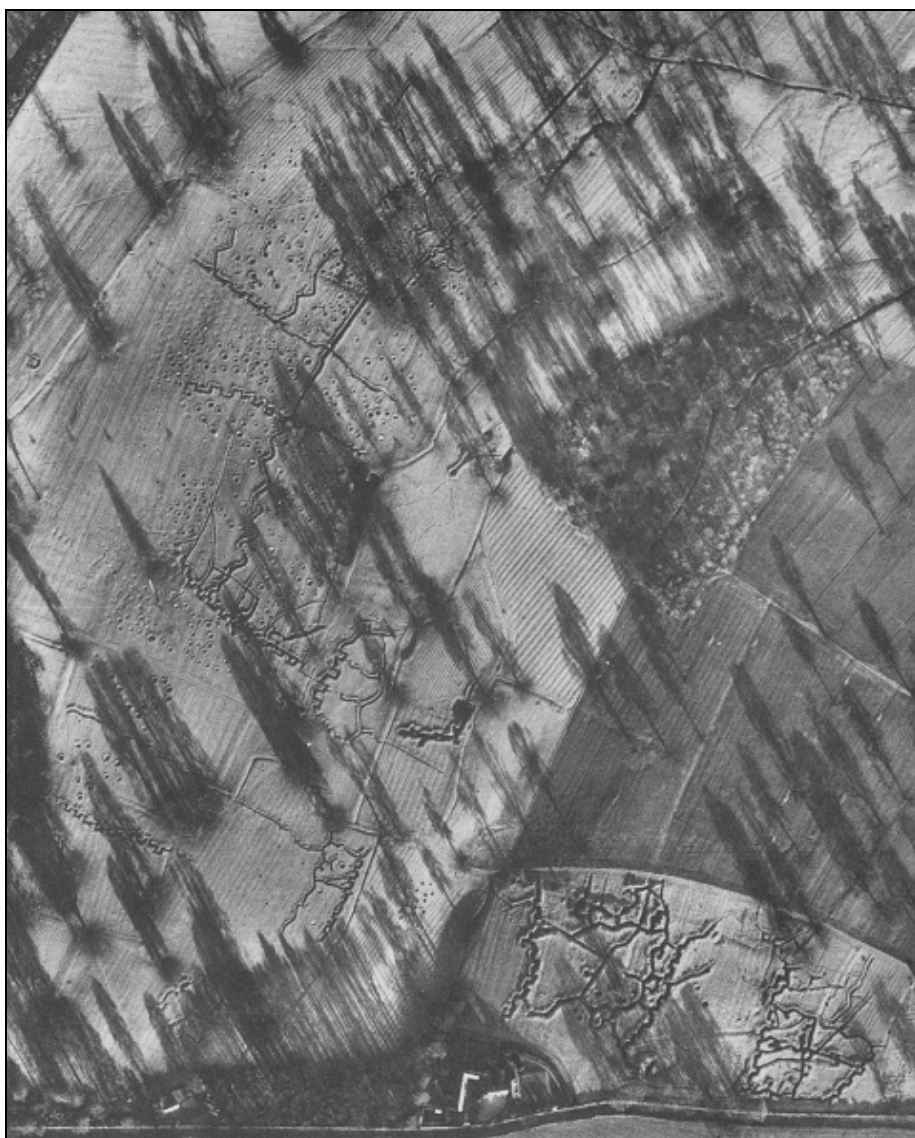


Figure 6: Extract from RAF photo 3G/TUD/UK/33 Frame 5419 reproduced in Driver and Davis 2012

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Figure 7: Trenches in Bodelwyddan Castle Park (CPAT 3657-0009)



Figure 8: Possible command post in Bodelwyddan Castle Park (CPAT 3657-0004)

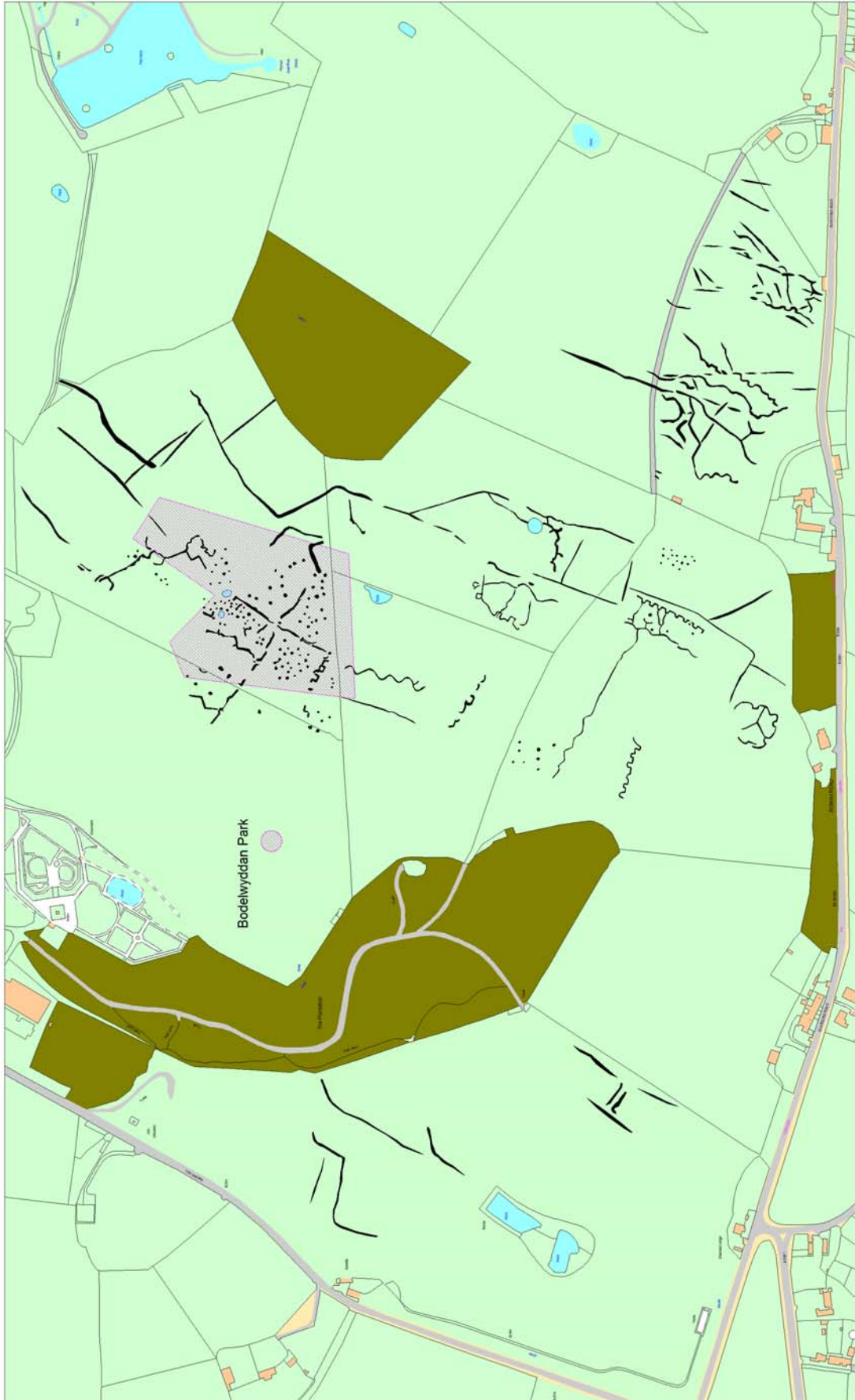


Figure 9: RCAHMMW GIS plot from aerial photographs of the Bodelwyddan Castle Park practice trenches (in black). Scheduled area (FL186) shaded pink. Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown copyright and database right 2009. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100017916. Trench plot. © Crown copyright: Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. Cadw Historic Assets Data. © Crown copyright. Cadw.

- 5.10 An online discovery sheds light on the realistic nature of the training undertaken in Bodelwyddan Castle Park. On a webpage dedicated to military recipients of the Albert Medal, awarded for acts "performed on land...in preventing accidents in mines, on railways, and at fires, and from other perils on the shore" are three records of awards made in September and October 1916 to Lieutenant Albert Nevitt MC, 62nd Reserve Battalion, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Two were for dealing with separate grenade incidents, the third for assisting an injured sergeant after an explosion in a bomb store, the location given in all three records is *Bodelwyddan Park near Rhyl* (Chris Baker/Milverton Associates Ltd, online 1995-2014).

Kinmel Park Camp (17101)

- 5.11 Built in late 1914 by McAlpine's Kinmel Park Camp was constructed in parkland largely requisitioned from the Kinmel estate. It was at the time the largest army camp in Wales and by 1919 measured over 2km in length (WNW-ESE) by 0.75km in width (SSW-NNE) (Flintshire Observer 19th November 1914, online at *Cymru 1914*: Putkowski 1989, 10). Although it was a temporary home over several years for thousands of troops training for service, it is today best known as the site in 1919 of an infamous riot amongst troops stationed there awaiting repatriation to Canada.
- 5.12 Kinmel Park Camp consisted of twenty sub-camps, each with their own canteens and messes as well as accommodation and rooms for instruction, all in timber huts. There was also a headquarters, stores, a Post Office, bakery, theatre/cinema, Wesleyan, Free Church, Salvation Army and three YMCA buildings (Putkowski 1989). There were stables and training areas for bayonet practice and trench fighting within the camp and extensive use was made of detached training areas in parkland in the locality (Putkowski 1989). The camp was served by its own railway (129738) and near the main gate on the Abergele road (the old A55) was a 'tin-town' of corrugated iron shops that grew up to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the large concentration of potential customers in the adjacent camp. It is surprising to read that

"No physical barriers separated the camp from the surrounding countryside, even the stone wall that marked the northerly extremity of the camp was pierced to allow ready access to the sub-camps" (Putkowski 1989).

- 5.13 On the 4th and 5th of March 1919, disturbances broke out at Kinmel Park Camp amongst Canadian troops awaiting repatriation to their homeland. Several factors are thought to have contributed, including overcrowded living quarters, shortages of fuel for heating, poor discipline and easy access to alcohol. There were concerns too about the outbreak of Spanish Influenza then sweeping the nation, and tensions were exacerbated by reports of delays to ships identified for the transport of Canadian troops. Stores and canteens on the camp were ransacked, as were the shops in 'tin town', the proprietors of which were believed responsible for inflating prices, and attempts were made to release individuals who had already been arrested. In the chaos five soldiers were fatally wounded.
- 5.14 The camp was cleared in about 1920 (Kevin Mason *pers. comm.* June 2013) presumably at least in part as a consequence of the damage caused by the 1919 riots (an auction catalogue for the disposal of equipment from Camp 20 held at the National Library of Wales (see 4.11 above) would support the information from Dr Mason) and there are no upstanding remains of First World War era buildings surviving on the site. However, it would appear that several huts were dismantled, sold and re-erected elsewhere in the locality (GVA Grimley 2005). Two huts from Kinmel Park Camp were reused as a bungalow, called Bursar's Bungalow (129616), in the grounds of Bodelwyddan Castle (Figure 11). An *Aerofilms* image of 1971 shows three further single-storey huts of matchboard construction (129609, 129610, 129611) to the rear (west) of Bodelwyddan Castle, which have every appearance of being of First World War vintage and were presumably relocated from Kinmel Park Camp.

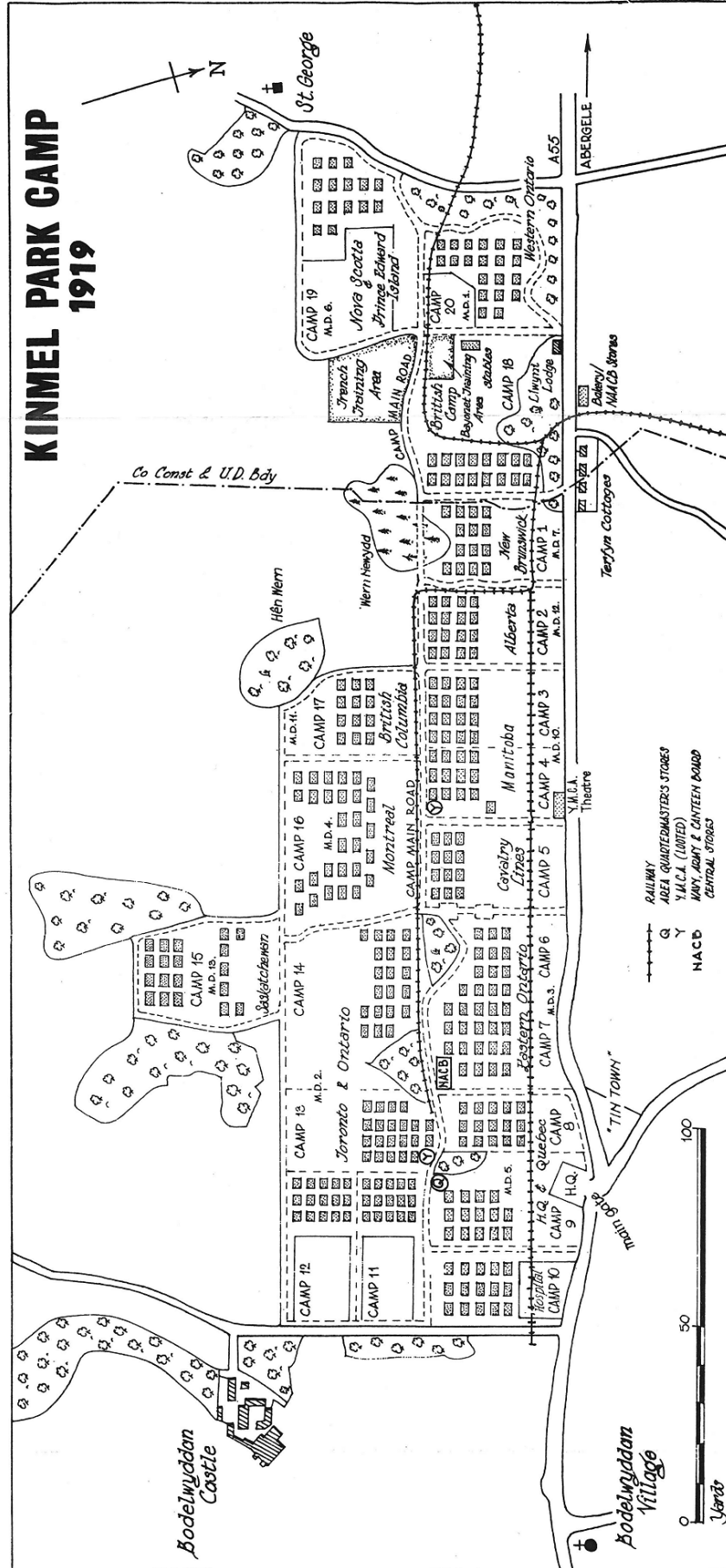


Figure 10: Kimmel Park Camp, plan 1919

(© Putkowski 1989)

They have since been demolished. Two other First World War era huts with the same likely origin have tentatively been identified being reused as the home of a boxing club in Rhyl, Denbighshire (129635) (Jerry Bone, *pers. comm.* Oct 2013).

- 5.15 Earthworks and structures were identified by CPAT during a site visit as part of a 2011 *Better Woodlands for Wales* application to an area thought to have been at the western end of the First World War camp. These appear to be the remains of the trench training area (115308), with trenches surviving to a depth of 0.5m-0.75m in places and around 1m-1.5m in width. Building bases (115310, 115311, 115313, 115314) and other structures, the purposes of which are unclear (115309, 115312), may be survivals of Camp 20, or 'Western Ontario' as it was known in 1919. This suggests that there may be more surface and sub-surface remains of Kinmel Park Camp surviving than initially thought. Local researcher Jerry Bone also claims to have located a second site where at least 5 building bases remain, along with surface scatters of artefacts. If the remains at either of these sites can be established with confidence as dating to the First World War they would be significant remains in the context of the First World War in Wales.



Figure 11: *Bursar's Bungalow*, Bodelwyddan Castle Park (CPAT 3657-0016)

- 5.16 Kinmel Park Camp was rebuilt, probably before the mid 1930s, was used briefly by the United States Army during the Second World War and by the British Army until the 1960s (Pratt, D & Grant, M, 2000); several buildings in the south-east section dating to the inter-war and later periods survive and are in still use by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation and the Cadet Force.
- 5.17 There is an intriguing and more personal story linking Kinmel Park Camp to the wider archaeology of the region. Private Carlyle D Chamberlain (an American who enlisted in the Canadian Army) evidently spent time visiting archaeological sites while based at the camp in 1919, and left a stone with his name and hometown engraved on it in a Bronze Age cairn

within Penycloddiau hillfort. The stone was found and the graffiti spotted during excavations by CPAT in 2008. Carlyle D Chamberlain subsequently became curator of Louisville Museum (Grant and Jones 2008; Grant and Jones 2009).

- 5.18 The poet Robert Graves was put in command of the officers' cadet battalion of the Royal Welch Fusiliers at Kinmel Park Camp in 1917 after recovering from serious wounds sustained on the Western Front. He makes brief mention of his time there in his memoir *Goodbye to All That*. Another notable individual to pass through the camp was David Milne, a Canadian artist who painted scenes of life there in the months after the end of hostilities for the Canadian War Records (National Gallery of Canada, online 2014).



Figure 12: Stone found in 2008 inscribed 'Carlyle D Chamberlain, Canadian Army, Prospect, Kentucky, USA' (CPAT 3743-0014)

Kinmel Park practice trenches

- 5.19 Approximately 1.5km to the west of the trenches in Bodelwyddan Castle Park was a second training area, in Kinmel Park (129623). To the south of the hall a very crisp, symmetrical trench system with a semi-circular, crenellated firing trench faces an opposing trench system (129617), each is linked to a support trench. There are at least five other areas of trenches or military excavations and a building in the park visible on RAF aerial photographs taken in 1946 (129618, 129619, 129620, 129621, 129622). Modern aerial photography shows that these trenches have all been backfilled, although they have left traces in differential growth patterns in the grass of the parkland. It is not currently known to what extent these are visible on the surface nor how old they are.

Kinmel Park Military Hospital

- 5.20 There is known to have been a military hospital (70245) at Kinmel, which treated sick and wounded prisoners of war as well as British and Dominion troops, but there is some confusion as to its precise location, nothing of it being known to survive. Putkowski describes a 'small hospital' and places it in Camp 10 in the north-east corner of Kinmel Park Camp at the junction of the old A55 and Engine Hill (Putkowski 1989). This is supported by information online, which states that an 890-bed hospital was established at the army base at Kinmel Park Camp (Chris Baker/Milverton Associates Ltd, online 1995-2014). After 1918 it specialised in treating venereal disease, by which time it is reported to

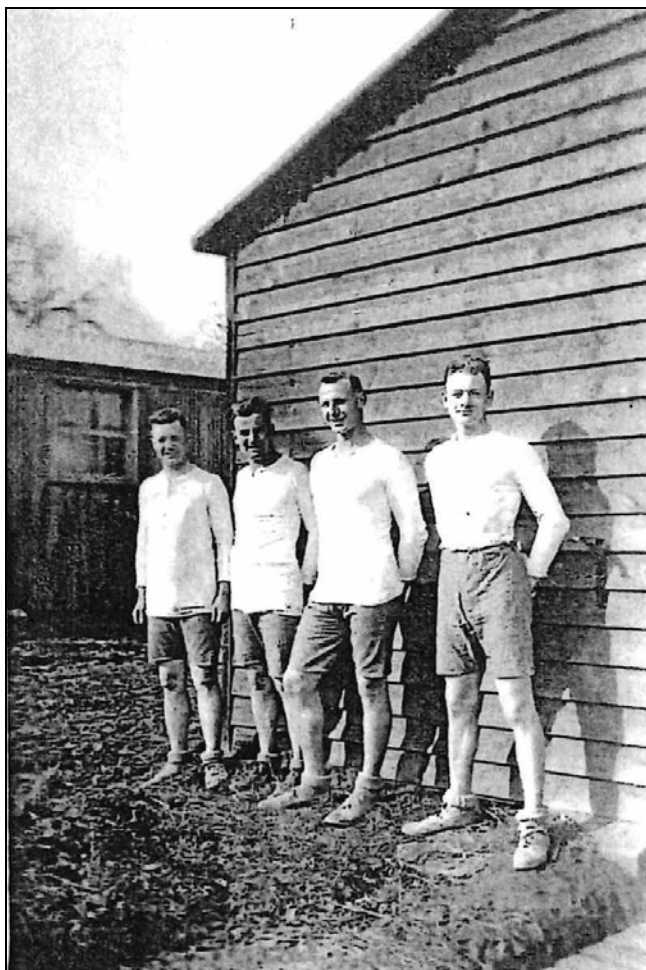


Figure 13: Private Carlyle D Chamberlain (at right) with comrades, possibly at Kimmel Park Camp

(Courtesy of the family of Carlyle Chamberlain via Denbighshire Countryside Services)

have grown to 1290 beds, in huts and under canvas (CWGC 2014). Local contact Mr Jerry Bone believes the military hospital actually lay a little further to the east-south-east opposite St Margaret's Church in Bodelwyddan Castle Park (Jerry Bone, *pers. comm.*, October 2013) and it also appears on a list sent to CPAT in 1999 as part of *The Prisoner of War Internment Camp Project 1914-1920*, albeit wrongly located in Denbigh. It is tempting to see the site of the modern Ysbyty Glan Clwyd as that of Kimmel Park Military Hospital, the former perhaps developing from the latter, but Ysbyty Glan Clwyd was built on a new site, opening in 1980 (Wikipedia, 2014).

St Margaret's Churchyard, Bodelwyddan

- 5.21 In the churchyard of St Margaret's Bodelwyddan (known as The Marble Church) are over 100 military graves with distinctive Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) headstones. An urban myth has grown up that states they all belong to victims of the 1919 riot but in actual fact the majority (over 80, including two female nurses) succumbed to the post-war Spanish Influenza epidemic. One or two may have been the victims of training accidents, while others died elsewhere and were brought for burial at St Margaret's. The number of troops who died as a result of the rioting is five; four of whom are buried at St Margaret's, the fifth having been repatriated to Canada. Amongst the CWGC headstones are two larger, cross-topped memorials; one to Private David Gillan, aged 22, killed in the rioting and presumably erected by his family, and the other 'To the Memory of Canadian

Soldiers Who Died at Kinmel Park Camp During the Great War' and erected by their comrades.

6 FUTURE WORK

- 6.1 CPAT has secured grant aid from Cadw for a project in 2014-15 that will focus on camps and training areas in the Clwyd-Powys region. Further desk based research will be



Figure 14: Gravestones in the churchyard of St Margaret's Bodelwyddan (CPAT 3657-0015)

undertaken using archival sources. This could include material in the various repositories introduced in Section 4. The HER will always benefit from enhancement; for instance, records could be created for the sites of the First World War-era buildings and training areas within Kinmel Park Camp and if identifiable, discrete trench systems amongst the mass of earthworks in Bodelwyddan Castle Park.

- 6.2 A programme of field assessment is intended to examine both the existing Scheduled area and other areas (subject to landowner permission) at Bodelwyddan. Geophysical survey will be used to characterise the likely extent and nature of infilled parts of the trench system; this will also enable identification of target areas for trial trenching.
- 6.3 Trial trenching is intended not only to characterise the resource, but also to understand the relationships between the practice trenches at Bodelwyddan and the wider European resource of First World War trenches generally. This will enable the remains at Bodelwyddan to be placed within a broad context of trench warfare as it evolved from the later nineteenth century through to the mid-twentieth century.

- 6.4 The project will also collaborate closely with a military re-enactment of trench construction, to be undertaken by the Royal Engineers, as an ‘experimental archaeology project’ to provide an ethnographic perspective.
- 6.5 Fieldwork, and some elements of the historical research, will have a strong community element. In particular, the project will seek to engage with family historians, military historians and non-professional researchers. We also hope to work closely with local schools and youth groups to develop innovative art-based approaches to heritage interpretation.
- 6.6 At the start of February 2014 a Project Enquiry Form was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund and it is hoped that in due course CPAT will apply to the *Our Heritage* grant programme and secure funds to enable use of the archaeological remains at Bodelwyddan and Kinmel as the focus for an ambitious project of interpretation, learning and commemoration during the period of the centenary of the First World War. It is hoped that this project will run alongside and complement the Cadw-funded project.
- 6.7 If funding is secured, the project will involve a variety of communities, and will provide opportunities for groups and individuals to make significant contributions to enhancing understanding of the domestic impact of the First World War, while also developing new skills. Communities will include local heritage groups, local schools and youth groups, and individual members of the public. We are also keen to draw in wider ‘heritage communities’ from around Wales, the UK and internationally to contribute to the project. We also intend to build partnerships with the Defence Archaeology Group, to provide opportunities for wounded service personnel to be involved.
- 6.8 Although the archaeological remains, and other aspects of the historic environment, would provide the focus, the main aim of the project is to go beyond physical remains and explore memories, emotions and understanding of the whole nature of conflict and its impact on civilians and military personnel. Around the archaeological work outlined above we will build an ambitious programme of engagement with historical and genealogical sources, interpretation using creative writing, art and other installations, a suite of interactive web-based tools, and a series of workshops and open days with schools and the general public. We will make use of local artists and other specialists to broaden the project as widely as possible.
- 6.9 Outcomes will include an enhanced pride amongst local people in their heritage, increased appreciation of and engagement with this potentially difficult heritage, better local knowledge of the archaeological process generally, and better presentation and management of the remains at Bodelwyddan and Kinmel into the future.
- 6.10 Specific topics for research might include identification of the army units based at Kinmel Park Camp during and immediately after the First World War and those involved in the construction and use of the trenches in Bodelwyddan Castle Park. Mapping of the full extent of the trenches, attempting to phase their development across both Bodelwyddan Castle Park and Kinmel Park and comparing what remains with survivals elsewhere in the UK and beyond might also be attempted. As well as excavation, metal detector survey might yield artefactual evidence of the units involved and evidence for how and when the various elements were constructed.
- 6.11 The land at the western end of Kinmel Park Camp warrants further investigation. This might confirm whether building bases noted previously were constructed during the First World War. Structured collection and recording of surface artefacts might also prove useful in discovering more about everyday life at the camp.

7 POTENTIAL PROJECT PARTNERS

7.1 One of the main objectives of the scoping study is to identify and make contact with a range of interested parties who might have a role to play, or want to be involved in future projects at Bodelwyddan or Kinmel. The following is a list organised into categories.

7.2 Landowners

Bodelwyddan Castle Trust – Director, Dr Kevin Mason
 Kinmel Park Estate – Owner, Mr Dickon Fetherstonhaugh
 Defence Infrastructure Organisation, Kinmel Park Camp – Commandant, Maj Paul Evanson
 Reserve Forces Cadet Association, Kinmel Park Camp

7.3 Heritage Partners

Cadw – Jonathan Berry, Fiona Grant & Will Davies
 Denbighshire County Council – County Archaeologist, Fiona Gale
 National Museum Wales – Archaeology Learning Officer, Ken Brassil
 No Man’s Land, The European Group for Great War Archaeology – Martin Brown
 RCAHMW – Toby Driver & Louise Barker
 Royal Engineers Museum – Learning Team
 Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum – Museum Education Officer, Shirley Williams
 Regimental Museum of The Royal Welsh - Education Adviser and Outreach Officer, Janet Holcroft

7.4 History and archaeology societies

St Asaph Archaeology Society – Secretary, A S Phipps
 Rhyl History Club – Secretary, Mrs Maggi Blythin
 Rhuddlan Local History Society – Secretary, Naomi J Hughes
 Abergele Local History Society
 North Wales Association of U3A – Secretary, Gillian Causer

7.5 Interested individuals

Jerry Bone, local enthusiast
 Julian Putkowski, author
 Andy Hawkins, The Durand Group & University of Bristol

7.6 Military

Defence Archaeology Group
 160 (Wales) Brigade - Major Jonny Greatrex
 Explosive Ordnance Disposal

7.7 Education

Primary Schools

Ysgol Y Faenol, Bodelwyddan - Headteacher, Mrs Rhian Jones
 Ysgol Llansansiôr, St George – Headteacher, Mr Andrew Roberts
 Ysgol Maes Owen, Foryd, Towyn - Headteacher, Mrs S Cartmel
 Ysgol Y Castell, Rhuddlan - Headteacher, Mrs Vicki Cotgreave
 Ysgol Bryn Hedydd, Rhyl – Headteacher, Mr John Cannon

Secondary Schools

Ysgol Glan Clwyd, St Asaph – History Subject Leader, Ms Siwan Evans
 Blessed Edward Jones R.C. High School, Rhyl – Headteacher, Mr D Tobin
 Rhyl High School - Headteacher, Mrs Claire Armitstead
 Ysgol Emrys ap Iwan, Abergele - Headteacher, Mr Lee Cummins

Further Education College
Coleg Llandrillo College, Abergele

7.8 **Youth Groups**

North Wales Adolescent Service, Abergele
Scouts Wales, Clwyd Area - Area Commissioner, Gordon Richardson
Girl Guiding Cymru, Llandinam
1st North Wales Company, Boys' Brigade Wales

7.9 **Artists and creative groups**

Sean Harris – artist and animator
Tim Pugh – Environmental artist
Clarrie Flavell - Blue Earthworm Art Studio
Rhyl Library Art Club

7.10 **International**

Canadian Military History Gateway
Canadian Great War Project

8 SOURCES (BY TOPIC)

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2nd edition 1899-1905 25" to the mile

3rd edition 1914-15 6" to the mile

4th edition 1938-53 6" to the mile

Aerial photographs

- RAF black and white vertical

3G/TUD/UK/33 Frames 5411-21 (16/01/46)

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- Next Perspectives 2006 colour vertical

8.2 Agriculture

Aerial photographs

- CPAT colour oblique

88-C-0069

88-MB-0374 to 0376

8.3 **Parkland**

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- CPAT colour oblique

88-c-0069 and 70

88-mb-0377

89-c-0119 and 0120

89-mb-0509 to 0512

90-mb-1085 to 1087

- *Aerofilms* black and white oblique

A217939 (18/9/71) – Bodelwyddan Castle in the foreground, 3 low huts at the back of the castle, Kinmel Park Camp at left of image and St Margaret’s Church in the background.

A217940 (18/9/71) - 3 low huts at the back of Bodelwyddan Castle, possibly WWI vintage.

A217942-3 (18/9/71) – the trenches at Bodelwyddan before area N of diagonal fence improved and trenches all but destroyed. Also show fairways and 6 golf greens as square fenced areas.

R16866-8 (27/06/52) – Bodelwyddan Castle with practise trenches in the background.

18776 (date lost, but prob 1927) - 2 of low military type huts bottom left of shot.

18783 (08/07/27) - 2 of low military type huts just visible in background.

Terrestrial photographs

- CPAT colour digital

Film 1643

Film 2336

- CPAT colour slides

cs93-022-0033 to 0037

cs93-036-0001 to 0037

cs93-056-0001 to 0019

- National Library of Wales

Military Camp Railway R.E. Kinmel Park

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