

52 HANOVER QUAY, HAVERFORDWEST, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For: Mrs Brenda Mee



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PEMBROKESHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Gan / By

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SUMMARY

This report has been produced by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services in response to a request from Mrs Brenda Mee, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the erection of an extension to 52 Hanover Quay, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire (NGR SM 95648 15288). The house is a Grade II Listed Building, for which Listed Building consent was granted for the extension.

The watching brief has demonstrated that the site area had been disturbed in the past, to a depth below that which would be affected by the construction of the proposed extension (other than the minimal areas affected by pile insertion). The appearance of the deposits exposed by the groundworks implies a significantly disturbed upper layer associated with the demolition of the former extension that was located in this area of the property as well as more recent demolition of sheds.

Underlying the disturbed upper material was a layer of compacted redeposited material, with the appearance of imported decayed bedrock (rab). This layer is presumably associated with the construction of the quay which projects into the Western Cleddau on which the property is located. The date of construction of the quay is uncertain. It is assumed to be of later post-medieval date, possibly associated with the import and export of goods, when Haverfordwest was an important port within the region. The name of Hanover Quay itself is likely to originate from this time, the name reflecting trade links with Germany.

The watching brief has demonstrated that no significant archaeological remains have been disturbed by the development, although significant archaeological remains are likely to be present at a lower level associated with the construction of the quay and possible earlier processes and activities undertaken at the site.

INTRODUCTION

Project Commission

An application for Listed Building consent (Listed Building Ref: 09/0952/LB) and a planning application (Planning Ref: 09/0951/PA) were submitted to Pembrokeshire County Council, by Mrs. Brenda Mee, for alterations and extensions to 52 Hanover Quay, Quay Street, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire (NGR SM 95648 15288).

Pembrokeshire County Council's (PCC) archaeological advisors¹ requested that the following condition be placed upon the planning permission, which states:

"The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeologist is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area, so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The Local Planning Authority shall be informed in writing, at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development, of the name of the said archaeologist. Reason: To ensure the recording of any items of archaeological interest to accord with Policy 84 of the Joint Unitary Development Plan for Pembrokeshire (adopted 13 July 2006)."

The condition has been placed on the development as the site lies close to the medieval Haverfordwest Priory site (Scheduled Ancient Monument PE017). The Priory includes the remains of the Priory of Saint Mary and Saint Thomas The Martyr, a Grade I Listed building. The development site itself lies adjacent to the known locations of a medieval fulling mill and the extant post-medieval Priory Mill, a Grade II Listed building. 52 Hanover Quay is a post-medieval domestic building and Grade II Listed. To the north-west of the site lies the former site of Hanover Quay a post-medieval mansion house.

The development involves the demolition of former sheds to the rear of the property and the erection of a new extension, as well as internal improvements. The archaeological watching brief was required to observe ground works with the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains. The watching brief was undertaken during ground reduction around a series of six piles that had been inserted the previous week, for the new extension. It had been agreed that there was no need for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during pile insertion.

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services was commissioned to undertake the archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the development proposals.

An approved written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services prior to works commencing on-site. A single visit to the development area was undertaken on 28th September 2010 to following the insertion of piles.

Scope of the Project

Archaeological attendance and recording during groundworks associated with the alterations and extensions to 52 Hanover Quay, Quay Street, Haverfordwest. The groundworks had the potential to expose, damage or destroy any underlying archaeological remains, if present. The project also included preparation of this report and an archive of the results.

¹ Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Heritage Management.

Report Outline

This report describes the location of the site along with its archaeological background before summarising the watching brief results and the conclusions based on those results.

Abbreviations

Regional Historic Environment Record – HER; Primary Record Number – PRN; National Grid Reference – NGR; Scheduled Ancient Monument – SAM.

Illustrations

Record photographs are included at back of the report. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale and are illustrative only.

THE SITE

Location and Topography

The site area lies directly to the north-west of the medieval Haverfordwest Priory site (Scheduled Ancient Monument PE017). The site lies on the eastern side of Quay Street, with the eastern property boundary running along the bank of the Western Cleddau (Figures 1 and 2). The site comprises the existing Grade II Listed 52 Hanover Quay building (Photo 1) and a yard area to the rear (between the building and the waterfront to the east). The site area is flat and had previously contained an extension which had been demolished some time ago, following which two sheds had been erected. The area had also been used as a garden. The sheds had been demolished prior to the archaeological watching brief commencing.

To the south of the house runs a sewer serving this and the adjacent property. A large culverted stream runs on the south-western side of the road, in a easterly direction, down the adjacent hill into the Western Cleddau. This culvert would appear to run directly through the southern part of the garden to the property (Photos 2, 3 & 4).

Archaeological Background

The regional HER, held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, records seven known sites within 125m radius of the proposed development area. These include the Grade II Listed Building of 52 Hanover Quay itself (PRN 7880). On the western side of the road lies the former site of the mansion of Hanover Quay (PRN 8646), of which little information exists other than a report of massive balustrades being found when a tannery was built on the site in the 19th century (Brown 1882). Now itself demolished, the site of the former tannery is marked by the parking area on the opposite side of Quay Street from No. 52 Hanover Quay.

Haverfordwest Priory lies to the south-east of the development area (Scheduled Ancient Monument PE017; PRN 3322 and 58579). The Priory includes the remains of the Priory Of Saint Mary and Saint Thomas The Martyr, a Grade I Listed building. The northern gateway into the Priory grounds lies directly to the south-east of 52 Hanover Quay.

The proposed development site itself lies adjacent to the known locations of a medieval fulling mill associated with the Priory (PRN 12507) and the post-medieval Priory Mill (PRN 267), a former Grade II Listed building which was demolished over many years between 1976 and 1986. The mill is recorded in 1783 as a corn and paper mill, but was a paper mill until the first quarter of the 18th century (information from PRN 267 further information file).

The sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record a 125m radius from the centre of the site are laid out in the table below (**table 1**).

PRN	Site Name	Grid Reference	Description
267	Priory Mill	SM 9565 1528	Post-Medieval Mill; Listed Building
269	Clay Lane	SM 956 152	Structure of unknown provenance
3322	St Mary & St Thomas The Martyr; Haverfordwest Priory	SM 9568 1523	Medieval Priory, Scheduled Ancient Monument
7880	Hanover Quay No.52	SM 95648 15288	Post-Medieval Dwelling, Listed Building
8646	Hanover Quay	SM 956 153	Post-Medieval Mansion
12507	Haverfordwest Priory	SM 9565 1528	Medieval Fulling Mill
58579	Remains Of Priory Of Saint Mary And Saint Thomas The Martyr	SM 95691 15219	Post-Medieval Priory Remains; Listed Building

Table 1: Historic Environment Record entries within a 125m radius of the site centre

Early Ordnance Survey (OS) maps show 52 Hanover Quay from the 1880s first edition maps onwards. The 1:500 scale first edition OS map (Figure 3) clearly shows the layout of buildings of 52 Hanover Quay, and also indicates a number of probable walls within the yard area to the north of the house within which the extension is to be built. The function of the walls is uncertain. The map indicates a partially stone lined quay projecting into the Western Cleddau to the north of the building. Directly to the east of the building the line of a stream entering the Cleddau is indicated which has been partially culverted beneath the line of Quay Street. Buildings associated with the former Tannery on the south-western side of Quay Street are also indicated, including a number of tanks. This would have been the location of the former Hanover Quay mansion.

The extract of the 1906 1:2500 OS map (Figure 4) also shows the location of Hanover Quay, the adjacent stream and culvert and quay, although in less detail than the 1:500 map. The map shows the site of the Priory to the south-east.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Methodology

The archaeological watching brief consisted of a single visit being made to the site to observe groundworks associated with the main phase of ground reduction. The work was carried out on the 28th September 2010.

The drainage trenches were excavated using a tracked mini-excavator fitted with a 1m wide toothed bucket.

The observed excavations were located in the eastern half of the extension area. The contractors undertook test excavations prior to the main stages of earthmoving in order to allow the attending archaeologist ascertain the overall nature of the underlying soils within the area of the extension.

Results

A number of piles had been located within the footprint of the proposed extension prior to the archaeological watching brief commencing. The insertion of these piles did not involve any groundbreaking (other than in their specific locations) and it was not considered appropriate to monitor this stage of work. The piles themselves were approximately 0.45m in diameter, filled with reinforcing bars set in concrete.

The main phase of ground reduction monitored by an archaeologist was to create a level surface into which the concrete floor base for the new extension would be laid. This pile supports would then act as a frame for the superstructure. This construction methodology meant that little depth of material needed to be removed from the footprint of the extension. Due to a slight slope across the site, around 0.6m depth was removed on the northern side of the proposed extension, and around 0.20m depth at the southern end.

Brick and stone footings for the wall of the previous extension on the site were visible at its southern end. Evidence that this wall had been keyed into the stone wall of the property was also apparent (Photo 5). This extension had been previously demolished and replaced with garden sheds, which themselves had been demolished before the works commenced.

The north-western façade of the property was built of stone rubble construction, on larger stone block footings and some brick patching was also visible (Photo 6). The wall had been partially breached, adjacent to a chimney, in readiness to create a new access into the proposed extension.

Following removal of the former sheds and concrete floors a mixed topsoil was exposed, through which the piles had been inserted (Photo 7). This soil comprised a very dark brown silty soil with a fair quantity of building rubble and modern debris (breeze block, pottery and glass, which was not retained).

The footprint of the proposed extension was excavated down to the required formation depth using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket. The deeper excavations at the northern end of the site revealed heavily disturbed soils to a depth of around 0.40m (Photo 8). Below this was a compact layer of reddish brown stoney soil (similar to rab; Photo 8). Although no finds were recovered from this lower layer, they had clearly been redeposited and laid down. At the southern end of the site the upper layers of disturbed dark brown soil were still visible at the base of the formation level for the concrete floor slab that was to be laid (Photo 9).

CONCLUSIONS

The watching brief has demonstrated that the site area had been disturbed in the past, to a depth below that which would be affected by the construction of the new extension (other than the minimal areas affected by pile insertion). The appearance of the deposits exposed by the groundworks implies a significantly disturbed upper layer of around 0.40m in depth. This may be associated with the demolition of the former extension that was located in this area of the property as well as more recent episodes of demolition and groundwork.

Below this disturbed soil was a redeposited layer, seemingly made up of rab like material (the natural geology of much of the surrounding area, formed by decayed bedrock). The compaction of this layer and its location directly on the waters edge is considered to be associated with the construction of the quay itself which projects into the Western Cleddau, on which the building stands. The date of construction of the quay is uncertain, and no finds that might have indicated a date for its construction were recovered in the layer. It is assumed to be of later post-medieval date, possibly associated with the import and export of goods, when Haverfordwest was an important port within the region. The name of Hanover Quay itself is likely to originate from this time, the name reflecting trade links with Germany. The north and south corners of the quay projecting into the Cleddau, as shown on the 1:500 OS map from the 1880s are still visible today (Photos 10 & 11).

The watching brief has demonstrated that no significant archaeological remains would be disturbed by the development proposals, although significant archaeological remains are likely to be present at a lower level associated with the construction of the quay and possible earlier processes and activities undertaken at the site.

SOURCES

Brown, J., 1882, *History of Haverfordwest*, p90

Map

Ordnance Survey 1880s 1:2500 – Pembrokeshire

Ordnance Survey 1880s 1:500 - Pembrokeshire

Ordnance Survey 1906 1:12500 – Pembrokeshire

Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Land Ranger No.157

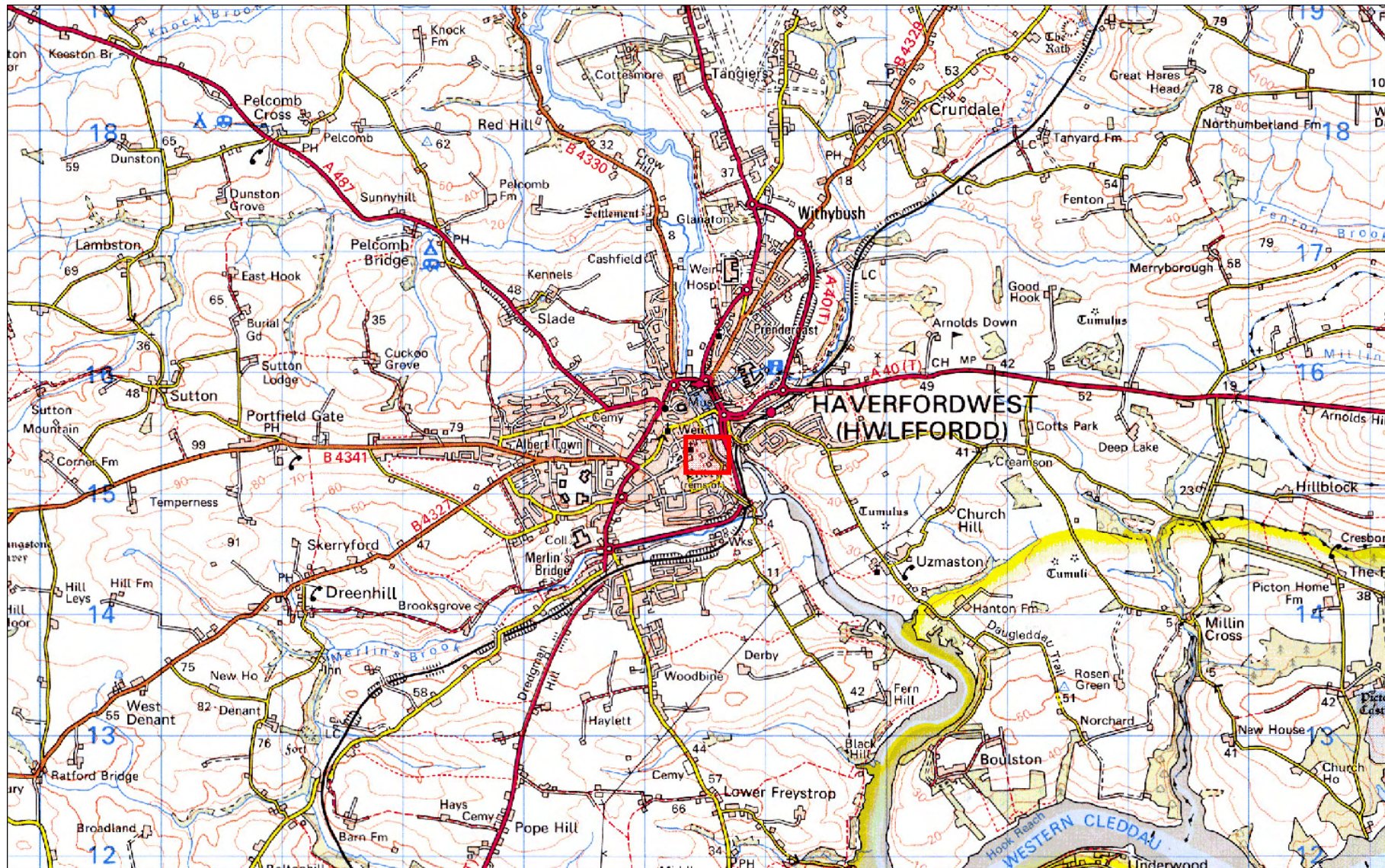


Figure 1: Location map of watching brief site based on Ordnance Survey.

Reproduced from the 1995 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd., The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A

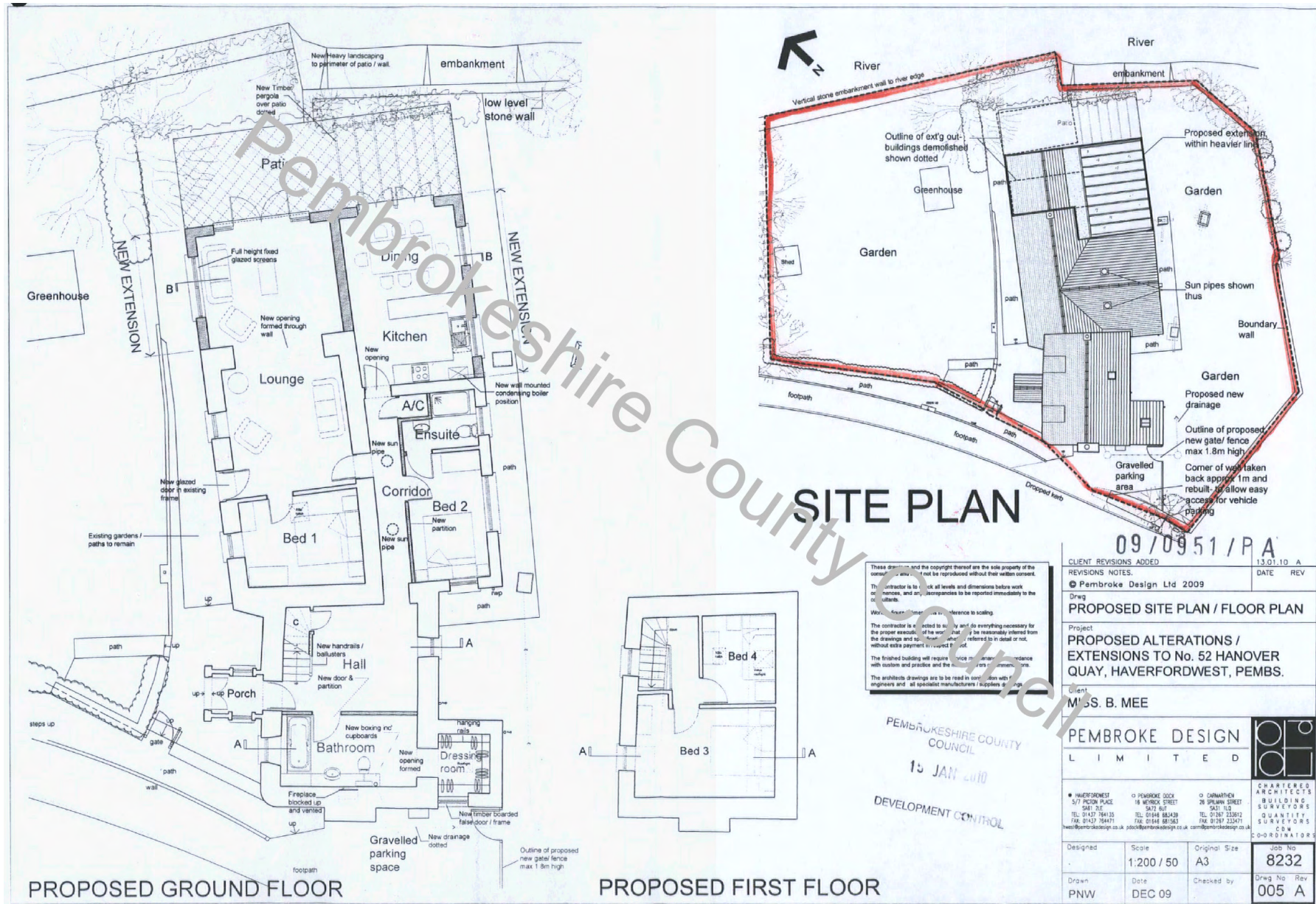


Figure 2: Development Proposal (from Planning Application information available on Pembrokeshire County Council Website)

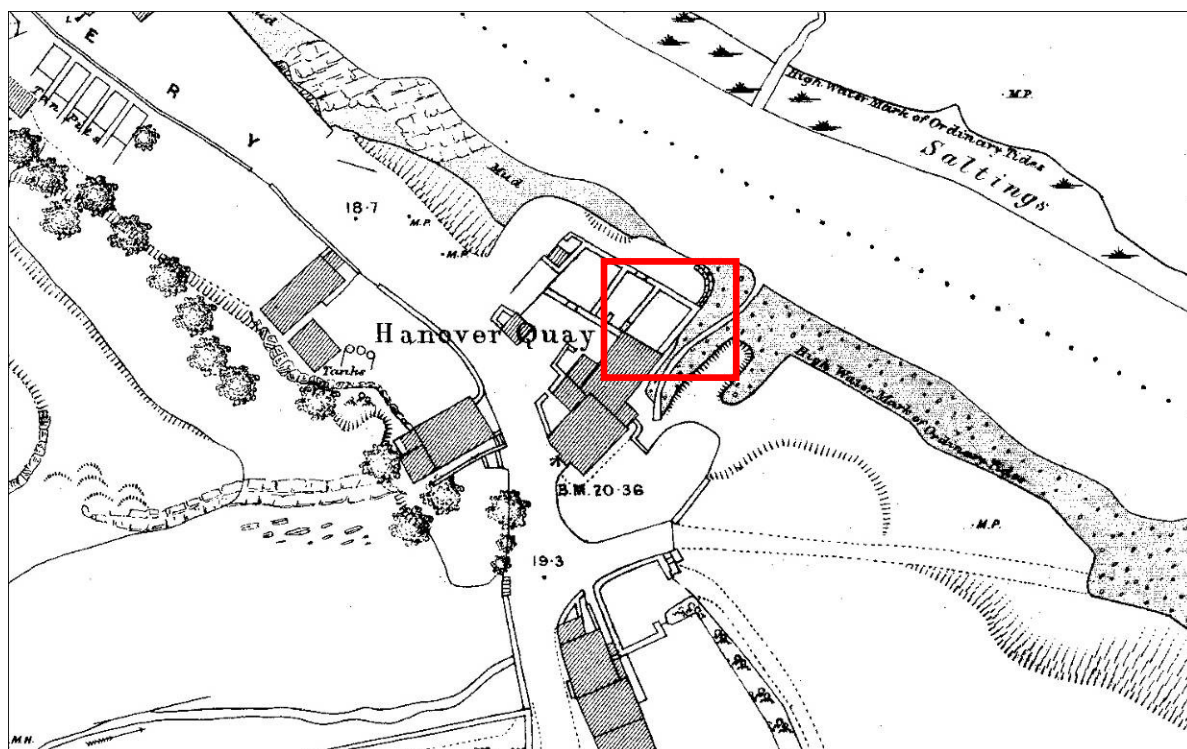


Figure 3: Extract of 1:500 scale Ordnance Survey map showing detail of the Hanover Quay area (1880s) with watching brief area within red boundary

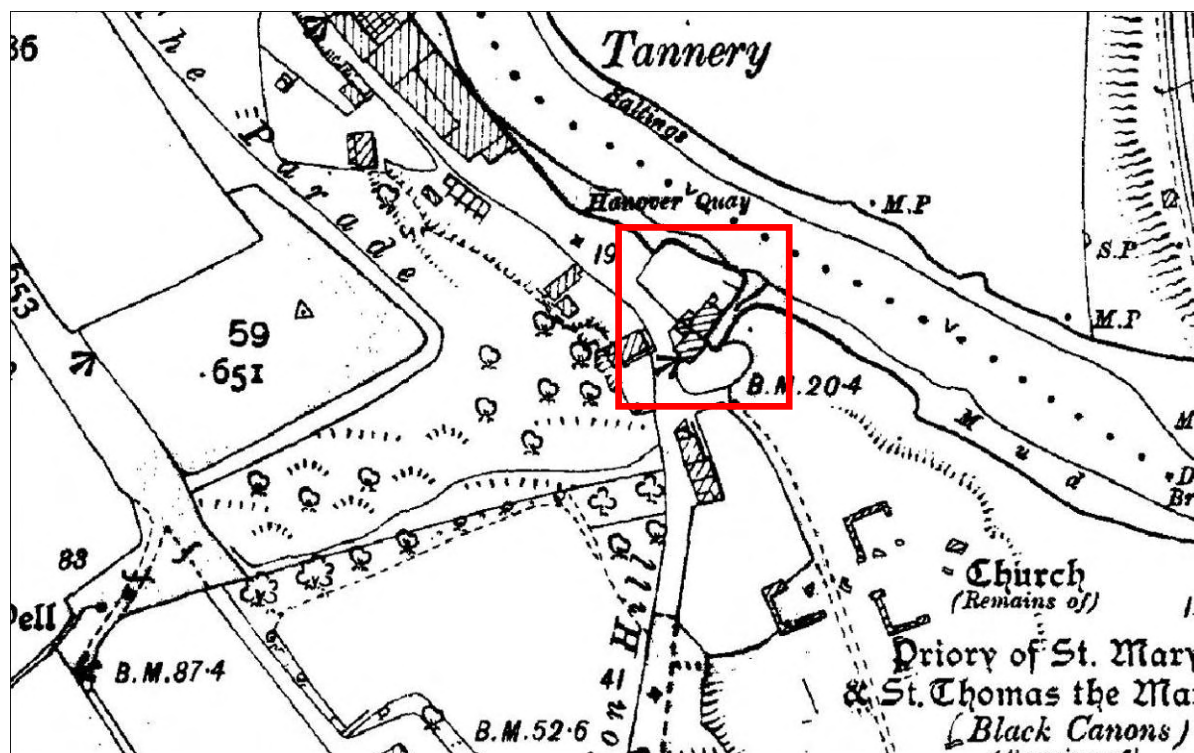


Figure 4: Extract of Ordnance Survey Map of 1906 showing 52 Hanover Quay within red boundary



Photo 1: Number 52 Hanover Quay from the west



Photo 2: Line of stream course culvert to south-west of 52 Hanover Quay (viewing south-west)



Photo 3: Culvert cover taking stream under Quay Street (viewing east)



Photo 4: Culvert covers within road looking across Quay Street from culvert cover, leading directly through the south-eastern part of the garden



Photo 5: North-east facing end wall of 52 Hanover Quay, showing bricks inserted into stone wall to key in former extension



Photo 6: North-west facing wall showing partial breach in wall, which wall form access into new extension. Note the stone rubble construction of the wall, with some earlier brick inserts to the lower left



Photo 7: Site area, viewing south-east, following demolition of former sheds and removal of upper overburden (flooring and concrete) and insertion of piles



Photo 8: North-western corner of excavation area following excavation to required depth for new extension. Section shows heavily disturbed upper layers, with redeposited clays and stone (lighter fill) towards base



Photo 9: South-eastern corner of excavation area following excavation to required depth for new extension. Section shows heavily disturbed layers only



Photo 10: North-western edge and corner of quay projecting into the Western Cleddau, on which 52 Hanover Quay is located.



Photo 11: South-eastern edge and corner of quay projecting into the Western Cleddau, on which 52 Hanover Quay is located

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November 2010

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Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
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ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

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Llofnod / Signature  Date 02/11/2010

*Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau sydd
gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn*

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may have on the content or presentation of this report