

# CAREW CASTLE PEMBROKESHIRE

## Lift Base Archaeological Evaluation

Report No 2011/3



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust  
For: PCNPA



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### Carew Castle, Pembrokeshire Lift Base Archaeological Evaluation

Gan / By

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**Carew Castle, Pembrokeshire  
Lift Base  
Archaeological Evaluation**

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

*As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any  
comments you may have on the content or presentation of this report*

## **Summary**

*A small evaluation took place at Carew Castle on the ground floor within the room to the west of the Old Tower, in advance of a proposed lift base. A stone and mortar floor was found below modern gravel. It is recommended that this floor is not disturbed.*

## **Introduction**

A very small evaluation took place on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010 in advance of a proposed lift to allow easier access to the Lesser Hall at Carew Castle for those who are not fully able (NGR SN 044498/03764). The proposed location for the lift base is on the ground floor in the room to the west of the Old Tower (Figure 1). Due to the limited nature and result of this evaluation it is not intended to go into the history of the site or background of this project.

## **Methodology and results**

Having obtained Scheduled Monument Consent from Cadw, a small test strip, c.1.7m x 0.6m, was cleared by hand of modern gravel (Photo 1) in the area of the proposed lift base. This revealed a mortar and stone floor, c. 70mm to 100mm below the top of a concrete path which runs between the doorways on the east side of the room. It is likely that this floor extends over the whole area. A "plinth" against the north wall appeared to be built on the stone floor (Photo 2). The modern concrete path, to the east, also lies on the floor, but is separated from it by a membrane (Terram?). The floor surface was photographed but not drawn or excavated. The area was refilled again with the gravel.

## **Recommendations**

The stone and mortared floor is considered to be an historic floor surface that will need to be retained as a significant part of the historic fabric of the castle. It is considered that both the mortared stone floor and plinth should not be disturbed. Cadw do not normally allow such significant aspects of scheduled monuments to be disturbed.

It is unknown at present whether it is possible to build the lift base above this floor level. If it is possible to do so, the floor will need to be adequately protected. Any concrete base should, like the path, be separated from the archaeology with at least a membrane, and may require further protection. If this lift installation proceeds, it is recommended that all of the floor area below the gravel should be cleared and recorded prior to any new build. This would probably only take a day or two for two archaeologists – depending on the standard of floor recording required.

For the lift at first floor level there will need to be a new doorway base on the top of the wall. The impact of the lift could be minimised if it is possible to tie the top of the lift into this new base, rather than the structure of the wall. Some consolidation around this first floor doorway would appear to be necessary and therefore this stonework should be recorded adequately prior to any such works being undertaken.

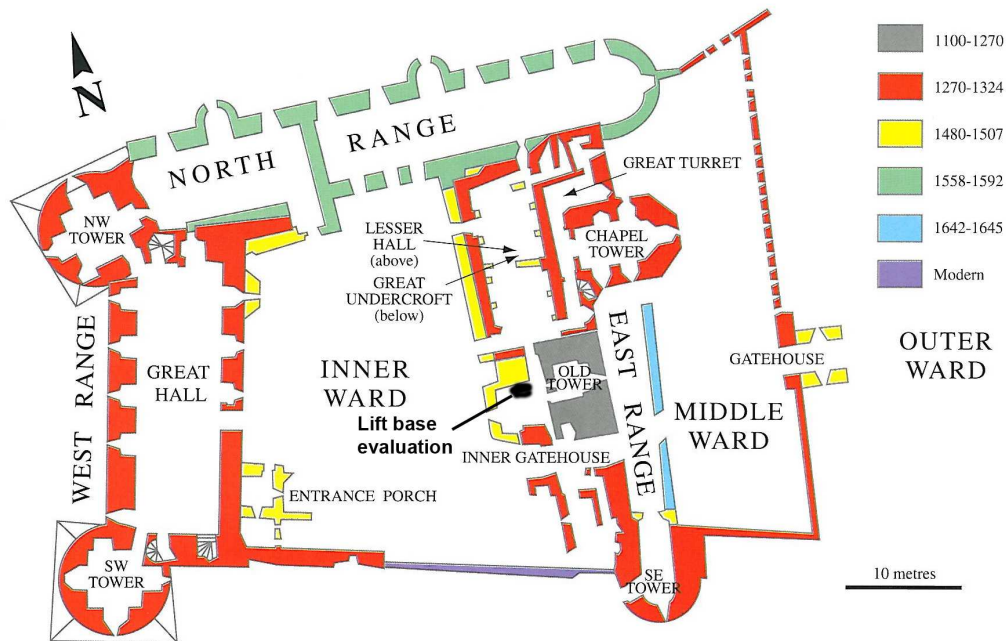


Figure 1: Location of lift base evaluation



Photo 1: Area before excavation. View N. Scales 0.5m and 1m





Photo 2: Area as excavated. View N. Scales 0.5m and 1m



Photo 3: Area as excavated. View W. Scales 0.5m and 1m

