ROCH CASTLE, PEMBROKESHIRE (SM 8803 2121)

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

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RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2011/26
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 100723
Comprising:
Building recording – Project Record No. 100724;
Watching Brief – Project Record No. 100725;
Geophysical Survey – Project Record No. 100726
Mawrth 2012
March 2012

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Gan / By

JAMES MEEK
with Phil Poucher and Hubert Wilson

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131
Ffacs: 01558 823133
Ebost: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Gwefan: www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited
The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131
Fax: 01558 823133
Email: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
*Website: www.*dyfedarchaeology*.org.uk*

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HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

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ROCH CASTLE, PEMBROKESHIRE (SM 8803 2121)

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

SUMMARY

Roch Castle was built by descendants of a Flemish migrant, Godebert the Fleming. Godebert was one of a number of important Flemish families who were granted lands in the Pembrokeshire commotes of Rhos and Daugleddau during the early 12th century. A fortified site would have been erected at Roch around this time, possibly in the form of an earthwork and timber castle. Roch lies at the northern end of the Landsker Frontier, the edge of the Flemish, Norman and English held southwest Pembrokeshire and the Welsh held north.

Due to Welsh offensives at the end of the 12th century and into the early 13th century, numerous defended sites held by Flemish and Norman migrants to the area were refortified in stone (such as Wiston, Llawhaden and Laugharne). It is thought that the D-Shaped Tower at Roch was constructed at this time, primarily as a keep within a larger defended site.

In 1314 it is recorded that the tower at Roch Castle was shattered by lightning. At some point after this a square tower was added to the southeast of the castle and a stair extension containing new stair layouts and garderobes is added to the east. At this point the castle becomes more of a gentrified residence than a stronghold. By the 15th century the castle is seemingly abandoned, presumably as the castle passes through the female line into wealthy landowning families with far more salubrious properties elsewhere.

During the Civil War the castle is briefly refortified by the Royalists before changing hands three further times in two years. The castle was significantly damaged during this time and does not appear to have been inhabited afterwards until 1901. The castle changed hands a number of times between 1645 and 1899 when it was purchased by Viscount St. David's and a programme of renovation work was carried out in 1901 to convert it back to a residence (including the addition of a northern extension). Further improvement works were carried out throughout the 20th century.

In early 2009 the castle was purchased by the Griffiths-Roch foundation. A planning application and Listed Building Consent were submitted to Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA) by Acanthus Holden on behalf of the Griffiths-Roch Foundation for the renovation of the existing structure. Following permissions the castle has been renovated to a very high standard, removing inappropriate cement-based materials added during the early 20th century, and replacing them with more traditional (and suitable) lime based products. The renovation work will be very beneficial to the long term future of the castle.

During these renovation works, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were commissioned to undertake a scheme of building recording, watching briefs and a geophysical survey of the grounds. The works have been very successful in providing information on the earliest layouts of the stone castle; it has been possible to produce floor plans of the early 13th century D-shaped tower and demonstrate the locations of stairs and other features. This has also been possible for the 14th century phase of the castle. The archaeological works have also revealed evidence for the layout of the moated enclosure in which the castle sits.

INTRODUCTION

Project background

A planning application (No. NP/09/009) and Listed Building Consent (No. NP/09/010) was submitted to Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA) by Acanthus Holden on behalf of the Griffiths-Roch Foundation for the renovation of the existing structure of Roch Castle.

Roch Castle is located within the village of Roch, close to the west coast of Pembrokeshire (SM 8803 2121). The castle is located at the eastern end of the present village, to the northwest of the church.

The development area comprises the main structure of the castle, a stone-built building comprising a substantially medieval tower at the southern end, of roughly D-shaped appearance – with the apsidal end to the south, and a rectangular stone built extension of early 20th century date on the northern end.

The stone castle is built on an isolated outcrop of igneous rock within a roughly kidney-shaped enclosure of gardens, lawned areas and rough grass. Roads surround this enclosure on all but the north and northwestern sides, which are defined by field boundaries. The enclosure itself is separated into two parts, with the southern part around the castle being separated from the rough grass to the north by a scarp slope (partially defined by a stone wall).

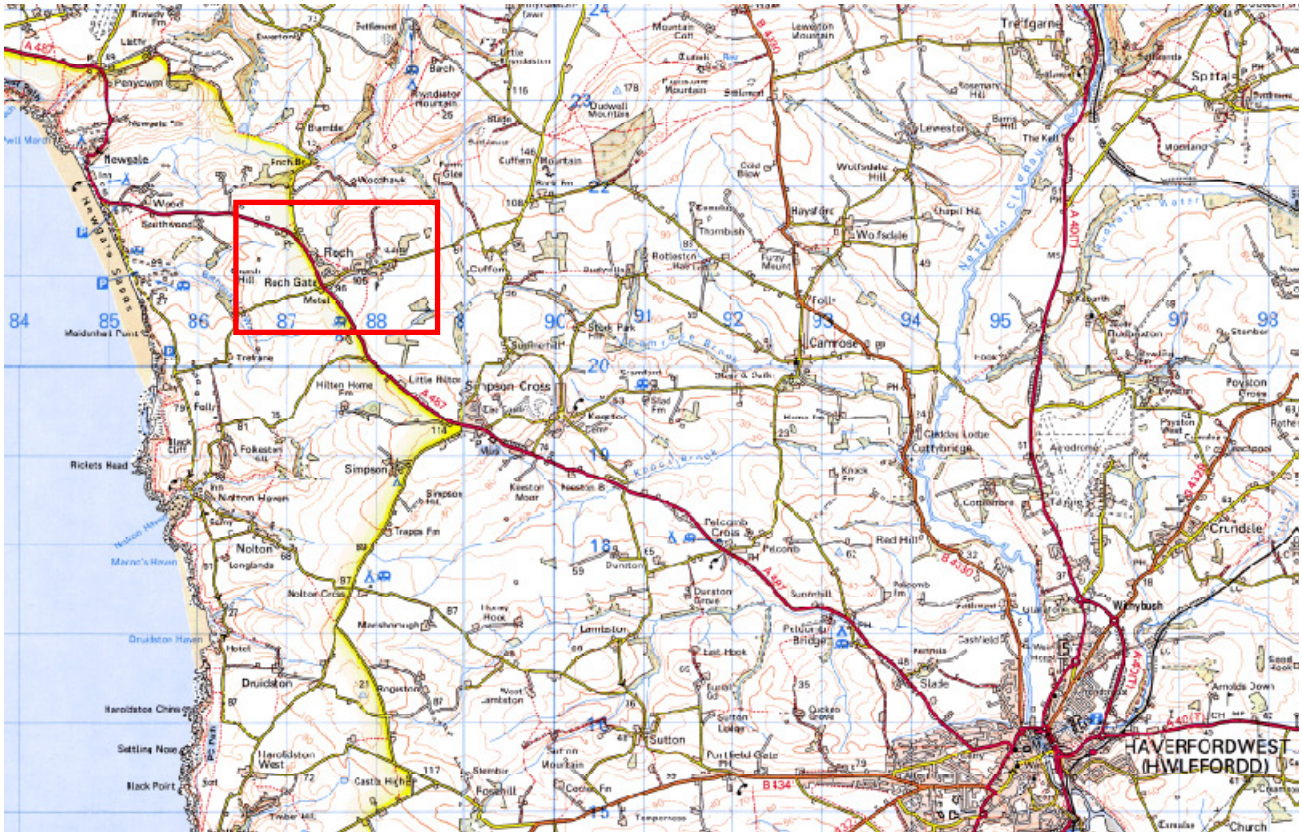

Figure 1: Location plan of Roch, based on Ordnance Survey

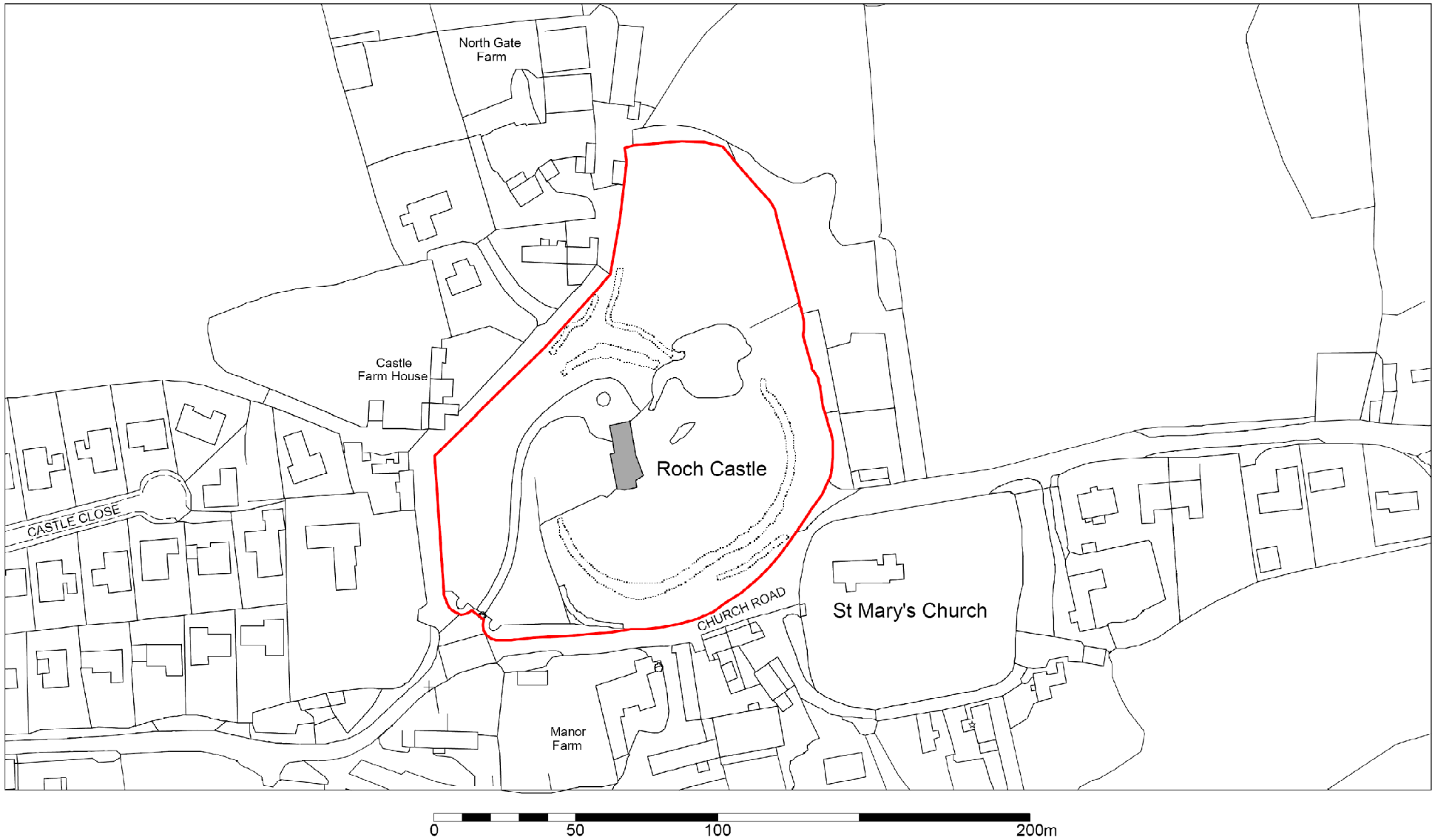

Figure 2: Location plan of Roch Castle within Village, based on Ordnance Survey

It is understood that the rough grass area in the northern part of the castle enclosure is not part of the proposed development area, as it is retained in ownership by the previous owner of the castle, Mr. Dave Berry.

Roch Castle is designated as a Grade I Listed Building (LB 11982).

Given that the development plans will involve removal of some of the early 20th century fabric of the structure, namely plastered surfaces on the interior walls of the castle, and some possible external alterations to the existing driveway and parking area, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management, as advisors to the PCNPA, recommended that initial archaeological research should be undertaken to determine the extent of existing knowledge and information regarding the castle in order that an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy could be designed to be implemented by way of a condition on any planning or Listed Building consents given for the development proposals.

To comply with this initial requirement Acanthus Holden commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to carry out this research in May/June 2009. Subsequent mitigation requirements for historic building recording during renovation works and a watching brief during external works at the castle resulted from this work. Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were again commissioned by Acanthus-Holden Architects, on behalf of the Griffiths-Roch Foundation, to undertake this mitigation work. A written scheme of investigation was prepared and approved prior to works commencing.

It is understood that as part of the consultation process for the Listed Building and Planning consents that CADW and the Society of Preservation of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) have been involved in giving advice on the development proposals. This advice is specifically to do with the development proposals and does not form part of this document.

The Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) are statutory consultees for Listed Building Consent applications, but have been involved indirectly in the consultation process, possibly through a clerical error. The RCAHMW has been consulted as part of the preparation of this document and have provide a considerable amount of the information contained herein, as the castle has been the subject of one of their research projects.

Basic Layout of the Castle

The castle comprising three main elements:

- **D-Shaped Tower** – This is the earliest phase of the castle, and the apsidal end is still visible on the southwestern side. It is characterised by massive walls of around 1.6m in width. The internal floors have changed considerably from their original positions, but the ground floor level lies directly on the rocky outcrop, and takes up the southern end of the floor layout.
- **Square Tower and Stair Extension** – The Square Tower is located on the southeastern side of the castle, and covers where the opposite side of the apsidal end of the castle would have been. It is characterised by narrow walls of around 0.6m in width, and is of three storeys (as it would have been originally). It would appear to be contemporary with the stair extension on the eastern side of the castle, which comprises the stairways accessing the floors of the castle and tower, and had garderobes within.
- **The Northern Extension** – This part of the structure was built in the early 20th century, originally of two and heightened to 3 storeys, as

currently exist. A modern sun room has been constructed on top of this extension.

The Desk-Based Assessment and Building Appraisal undertaken in 2009 provides an overview of the layout of the castle as existed at the time of the survey (Meek 2009). Room layouts were provided for the oldest part of the castle. The floor layouts and room numbering followed those given by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) in earlier surveys. No descriptions were or have been made in any detail of the 20th century northern extension. Plans, photographs and further information on this part of the castle is held by Acanthus-Holden Architects.

This Historic Building Recording Report describes the earliest part of the castle following the removal of plaster work and render. The survey was carried out to record earlier fabric and features exposed by the renovation works, in order to establish the chronological development of the castle. The results section of the report provides a description of features revealed from the bottom of the castle upwards. It is stated from the outset that all but the lowest floors of the D-Shaped Tower, Square Tower and Stair Extension were inserted in the 20th century. All internal walls and divisions were also 20th century additions.

METHODOLOGY

Method of Baseline Data Collation (updated from original Desk-based assessment)

The following sources have been consulted in the process of producing this report:

- Dyfed Archaeological Trust HER, RCAHMW online database, including data, unpublished archaeological reports, aerial photographs, and Listed Building information;
- Information held at the RCAHMW National Monuments Record (NMR) in Aberystwyth including archaeological records, bibliographic sources, plans, photographs and draft documents;
- Cartographic, photographic and bibliographic information held by the Pembrokeshire Records Office;
- Scheduled Ancient Monument and Listed Building Information (obtained from Cadw);
- Various surveys of the castle; and
- Other background material (various internet sources).

Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken with Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management; Royal Commission of Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales; Acanthus-Holden Architects; Dave Berry (former owner of the property); and Keith Griffiths (present owner).

Historic Building Recording Methodology (Project Record No. 100724)

A written scheme of investigation was prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services and approved by the archaeological advisors to the planning authority prior to the implementation of the scheme of works (FS09-014 Roch Castle Written Scheme of Investigation for Building Recording). This was prepared to comply with the archaeological condition placed on planning permission.

Photographic Record of the Renovation Works

a) Throughout the renovation works a photographic record has been maintained to document the renovation process. This has been carried out by archaeologists, Welsh Heritage Construction and Acanthus-Holden Architects. A set of photographs that document the works will be provided to the Regional Historic Environment Record held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Services.

Monitoring of the Removal of Concrete Floors

a) During the removal of the existing concrete floors an archaeologist was given the opportunity to observe the works.

b) It was not possible to undertake detailed recording of the exposed areas following removal of the concrete floors due to health and safety considerations. The methodology was such that the floor being removed was supported on scaffolding on the floor below, and the new floor

constructed again using this scaffolding. There was a considerable risk to non-trained personnel of falling debris and associated noise and dust.

Monitoring of the Removal of Internal Render

a) Intermittent attendance was made to the site during these works by a team of archaeologists to record the exposed stone walls and photographic and written descriptions were made.

b) A survey of the existing floor plans and wall outlines was initially carried out using a reflectorless Trimble total station theodolite with built-in data recorder. A framework of control stations was established within the building on which to relate ongoing surveys of floor plans and elevations of the building.

c) Detailed photographic record of the exposed walls was made, including surveyed control points used on the walls to allow future rectification of photographs if the opportunity arises. Unfortunately it has not been possible to carry this out at this stage due to timing and budget constraints (and has also not been considered necessary to complete this report). The shape of the layout of the castle was such that there were considerable difficulties in being able to take direct shots of walls, so almost all are taken at an oblique angle which will compromise the accuracy of any future rectification. The control points were surveyed to provide 3-D locations, tied in to the overall survey of the building. All photographs included a scale or survey points in order that size and scale of the photographs can be ascertained.

d) Some elements of the castle were hand drawn and measured. Written descriptions of the fabric of the building and features were also carried out during this process.

e) Areas of rebuild and repair that are evident within the wall fabric were recorded to indicate their outline.

Analysis of Results and Report Preparation

a) Following the completion of the on-site renovation works report preparation has been undertaken.

b) Resulting survey data will be manipulated using Geosite software.

c) Photographs have been indexed and manipulated into high resolution TIFF and lower resolution jpeg formats.

d) Photographs have been located on floor plans of the castle (contained in the archive).

e) Hand drawings have been collated and digitised where required.

f) Final drawings have been produced using Adobe illustrator and TurboCAD software.

g) Written descriptions have been collated.

h) A report on the results of the survey has been prepared to include details of the chronology of the fabric of the building; areas of original fabric; areas of repair; descriptions of significant features; an assessment of the locations of original floors within the building; and other significant results. Plans, photographs and illustrations have been included as appropriate.

i) All records have been collated into an archive using appropriate systems. The deposition of the archive is likely to be with the National

Monuments Record housed with the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monument for Wales in Aberystwyth and will be prepared according to NMR guidelines.

Archaeological Watching briefs undertaken during External Works at the Castle (Project Record No. 100725)

A written scheme of investigation was prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services and approved by the archaeological advisors to the planning authority prior to the implementation of the scheme of works (FS10-029 Roch Castle Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief during external groundworks). This was prepared to comply with the archaeological condition placed on planning permission.

The proposed external works comprised the following elements:

a) Improved driveway and parking areas with discrete lighting and overspill grasscrete area,

b) Improvements to entrance stairs with discrete lighting,

c) Discrete functional lighting to the grounds,

d) Green roof to obscure the oil store,

e) External store for grounds maintenance equipment, and

f) Service connection and improvements to Roch Castle.

Only those works that had the potential to expose, damage or destroy important archaeological remains were observed. This meant that the improvements to external lighting, where either no below ground disturbance was carried out, or where only very shallow and narrow cable trenches were excavated were not observed. The green roof to the fuel store was not observed as it had no physical impact on archaeological or historical remains. The foundations for the external store for ground maintenance equipment was also not observed and ground disturbance was very shallow

The archaeological watching brief covered the excavation of large service trenches Service trenches to the castle. It was also carried out during improvements to the driveway and overspill car parking area.

The scope of the driveway improvement was considerably reduced from the original plans to replace and widen the entire road (including removal of existing surface and make-up layers), to a scheme with far less potential archaeological impact. This comprised the excavation of two trenches on either side of the existing roadway for kerbs, the old tarmac road surface being removed and a new tarmac road surface being laid across new width of road.

Archaeological Watching Brief Project Objectives

a) Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which Dyfed Archaeological Trust will undertake the watching brief.

b) To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.

c) To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.

d) To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.

e) Production of an archive and report on the results.

Archaeological Geophysical Survey of lawned area at Roch Castle (Project Record No. 100726)

The geophysical survey was undertaken following a request from the Griffiths-Roch foundation following the results of the watching brief during the roadway improvements. The works was carried out to increase our understanding of the archaeology of the grounds of the castle as opposed to being a requirement of any specific condition placed on planning permission.

The objective of the survey was to detect any buried archaeological features within the grounds to the south of the castle geophysically.

A fluxgate gradiometer was used for the survey, which detects variations in the earth's magnetic field (full specifications are in Appendix 1). Readings were taken on traverses 0.5m wide and every 0.25m within 20m x 20m grids. The western part of the site area had been topographically surveyed used a Trimble TST, which was also used to tie the geophysical surveys into the Ordnance Survey grid.

The total area of geophysical survey covered an area of 0.61ha (Figure 3). This survey was undertaken in June 2011.

Geophysical and Topographic Survey Limitations. The survey was undertaken between the 7th and 8th of June 2011. Weather conditions were generally dry with the occasional heavy shower. The survey area was under short grass, with the occasional large tree and rock piles that prevented some areas being surveyed. Metallic fencing surrounded parts of the castle and restoration works being undertaken on the boundary wall to the south. Vehicles were parked on the edge of the surveyed area to the north, and remains of a telegraph post base and buried wire was also visible in places. All of these are likely to have obscured readings taken in their immediate vicinity. In general the ground was relatively level, with a significant break of slope to the south and southeast, but pacing lines were used throughout the survey and any variations in the data collections due to changes in ground slope are likely to have been small.

In general the underlying geology consists of Merioneth sedimentary rocks of the Cambrian system, although the castle itself sits on top of an outcrop of igneous rock (British Geological Survey 1994). The magnetic properties of igneous rocks have been known to produce strong variations in gradiometer surveys, which may be detectable in the readings taken in some areas of this survey, but it does not appear to have obscured potential archaeological remains.

Processing of the geophysical surveys was performed using ArchaeoSurveyor 2.5, detailed explanation of the processes involved are described in Appendix 1. The data is presented with a minimum of processing but the presence of high values caused by large ferrous objects and wire fencing tends to hide fine details and obscure archaeological features, thus the values were 'clipped' to differing ranges between 10nT and –10nT to remove the extreme values allowing the finer details to show through.

Processing of the topographical surveys was performed using Geosite software and illustrated and combined with the geophysical survey images using Adobe Illustrator ver.9.

The results of the geophysical survey are included in Appendix XX), with a summary discussion recorded within the main body of the report

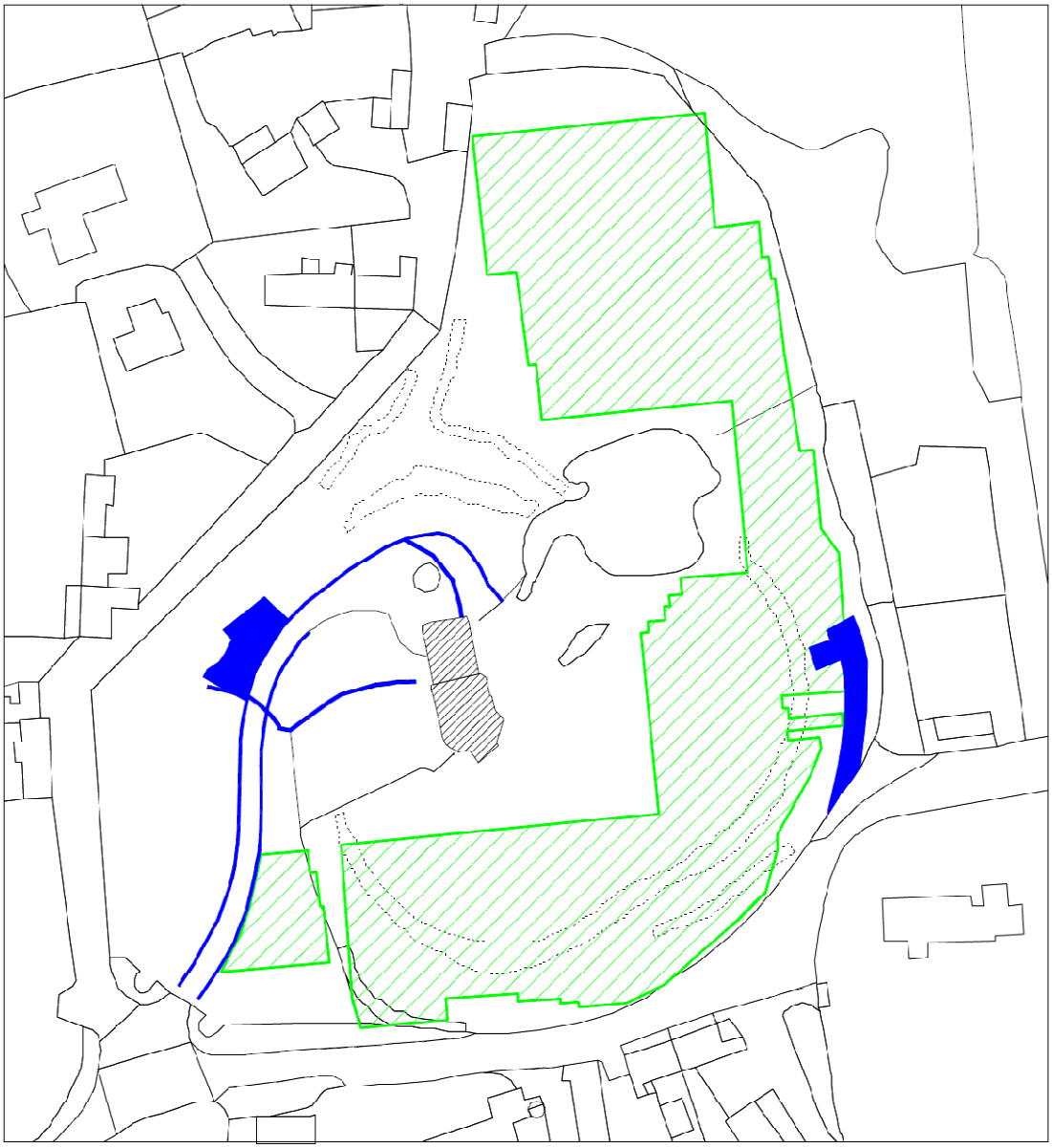

Figure 3: Plan showing approximate areas of watching briefs (Blue) and the area of geophysical survey (Green)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (updated from Meek 2009)

Historical background

The following section presents a summary of the known historical references and events relating to the history of Roch Castle. The early documentary information is based on verified references that have been compiled and checked by David Browne of RCAHMW in his ongoing research of the castle, although this has been supplemented with additional information taken from various sources to place provide further background to the post-11th century ownership of Roch parish.

Roch Castle was established by descendants of an influential family of Flemish migrants who settled in west Pembrokeshire following the Norman Conquest of 1066. A large number of Flemings migrated to west Pembrokeshire at this time, which occurred due to two possible factors (or a combination of both); firstly due to a series of floods which had laid waste to parts of the low lying Flanders area of Belgium at the turn of the 12th century; and secondly, and perhaps the most favoured view of historians, due to overpopulation of the area. The Flemish had assisted William the Conqueror during the Norman Conquest, and a number of the higher ranking families retained good relationships with the Norman rulers. Following initial migration to England, the cantrefi of Rhos and Daugleddau in west Pembrokeshire were handed to the Flemings by policies of Henry I, and were initially settled between 1107 and 1111 (Rowland 1980, p147; Oskansen 2008, p265). This was probably a deliberate act to remove concentrations of Flemish migrants from central England (where their social and political power is likely to have been seen as getting too great) and place them in west Wales to subdue to the native Welsh (Oskansen 2008, p265). It is likely that as the Flemish lords became established, that more migrants from Flanders followed gradually, increasing their numbers (Rowland 1980, p147). This effectively caused clearance of the native Welsh from their own lands.

Roch lies close to the northern end of the boundary of the settlers who moved into Rhos and Daugleddau to the southwest and the ousted native Welsh to the east. A line of defensive sites were established close to this border, referred to as the Landsker line, starting at Roch, and including Wiston, Llawhaden, Narberth and Laugharne, amongst many others. A defended settlement associated with the Flemish migrants would have thus been present at Roch from the early 12th century, although the form of any such structure is unknown.

The first castle at Roch is attributed to Adam de Rupe, the grandson of one of the first Flemish settlers, Godebert the Fleming (1094 - 1131), who was born in around 1160AD. Adam de Rupe founded Pill Priory at Milford Haven and also the church at Roch. The name of 'de Rupe', taken from the Latin for rock, changed over time to the French 'de la Roch' (of the Rock) directly referencing the rocky outcrop on which the castle sits – or alternatively is recorded as both depending upon the language of the document being written.

The earliest confirmed reference which is attributed to the lordship of Roch dates from *c.*1246 where the name of 'de Rupe' is recorded in a roll (King 1983, 403). The name of 'Rupe' is again referred to in 1259. Later records refer to 'Roche'.

Browne suggests that it is possible that an earthwork and timber castle may have been present at Roch pre-dating the stone castle. A large defensive moat may have also been present surrounding the earthwork, possibly corresponding with the remnant earthworks still visible at the site and as

indicated on illustrations of 1856 and the first and second edition Ordnance Survey (OS) maps (see below).

The exact date of construction of the stone castle is not known, but stylistically has been attributed to the late 13th century, which would imply it was built by Thomas de la Roche. The research undertaken as part of this work questions this date, and is discussed further in the conclusions. The later 13th century date was first assigned by G T Clarke in 1865 following the visit of the Cambrian Archaeological Association in 1865, to which Browne is in agreement. The description written by Clarke is included below and discussed in relation to the findings of the historic buildings survey in the conclusions.

The stone castle was definitely in existence in 1314, when an inquisition of Edward III records that the castle was struck by lightning on 6th May and the tower was 'shattered' (a timber building would not be described as having 'shattered'). It is presumed that the tower was rebuilt soon afterwards. As is discussed later in this document, it is considered likely that the rebuilding of the tower may have included the addition of the Square Tower and Stair Extension on the southeastern side of the castle. These additions may have been necessitated due to the damage to the castle and the need to strengthen it, as well as an opportunity to add more living area. It is considered by the author that it is at this stage in the 14th century that the defensive role of the castle reduces and it becomes as important as a high status residence.

The de la Roche family continued in ownership of the Barony of Roch from the early 12th to 15th century. It is understood that the sons of Godebert the Fleming were titled Richard and Rodbert fitzGodbert of Flanders, both fought alongside Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke, who invaded Ireland in 1170 (Llangwyn Local History Society 2010). Both sons acquired lands in Ireland. Rodbert fitzGodbert settled at Roch in around 1133 and had three sons, including Adam de Rupe (*ibid*). It is they who adopted the name of de Rupe/de la Roche through Royal Charter, and this name was also adopted by descendants and siblings in Ireland. The surname of Roche, presumably originating from this family, is more common in Ireland than in Wales.

A charter of Edward III dated to 1367 records that a lease was granted to Henry de la Roche which enjoined Henry to undertake necessary repairs (to the castle) and guard any prisoners within it, which implies that it was partially in use as a gaol at this time (Archaeologia Cambrensis 1852, p269-70). Even with the possible gentrification of the castle, the basement could still have been usable for detention at this time.

References to the castle being 'ruinous and deserted' exist from 1469-71, which occurred after the end of the male line of the de Roche family (Thomas de Roch), after which it was passed via marriage through the female line into different family ownership. The reference would certainly indicate that the addition of the Square Tower and Stair Extension must have pre-dated this by some time and thus supporting a 14th century date for it, as there is no indication that the castle was ever subjected to major building works until the 1900s.

In 1601 the castle was sold to William Walter of Trefan. The Walter family retained ownership of the castle until the Civil War period. No records were found during the research for this report of any further additions or alterations to the castle and grounds. Presumably if in the hands of the Walter family, it must have at least been kept in a habitable state.

During the start of the Civil War period a number of castles in Pembrokeshire that had reverted to being high status residences (such as Picton, Carew or Manorbier) or had been abandoned (such as Roch) were repaired and refortified by their owners in readiness for the hostilities (John 2008, 40). The

Walter family were Royalists and the castle was garrisoned by the Earl of Carbery in the winter of 1643, along with towns such as Tenby and castles such as Carew (Leach 1937, 60; Howells 1987, 179).

On 25th February 1644 Parliamentary forces under the leadership of Colonel Rowland Laugharne, entered Haverfordwest and two days later Roch Castle surrendered (John 2008, 64; Leach 1937, 27; Howells 1987, 184; Phillips 1874, ii 145). Roch castle was used as a gathering point for livestock to be used as supplies for Laugharne's troops (John 2008, 77). It was recaptured by Royalists under Colonel Sir Charles Gerard (Cathcart King, Kenyon, Avent 1987, 185) on the 7th July. Here were also seized 300 cattle and 1500 sheep belonging to the Parliamentary forces (John 2008, 78). The Parliamentarians recaptured the castle again in 1645.

Following the final recapture by the Parliamentarians William Walter submitted a petition dated 3rd March 1647 to the Committee for the Advance of Money, stating that he had suffered by the enemy's plundering and firing his castle and tenants' houses, to the extent of £3,000; that he had been compelled to flee to London for two years (Green 1915, 278, 279).

The daughter of William Walter, Lucy Walter became the mistress of Charles II in the later 1640s. It is recorded that she was born at Roch Castle in 1630, although this is not substantiated and seems unlikely. Lucy Walter and the King had a son together, who became the Duke of Monmouth. The liaison with Charles II did not occur until after Roch Castle had been substantially damaged during the Civil War, and so played no direct part in this affair.

Following the Civil War, the castle is thought to have been again deserted and the fabric left to deteriorate. The grounds appear to have been used for agricultural purposes.

A settlement of 3rd April 1732 provides details of the marriage settlement of Joseph Walter and Elizabeth Barlow, who was the daughter of John Barlow (deceased) formerly of the Manor and Barony and Lordship of Roch. Roch Castle and associated lands were included in the settlement (Pembs RO D/LLW/146). A conveyance of 11th November 1746 records that Roch Castle and associated were conveyed through a Chancery Grant to a number of people, including Alexander Eliot (see below) (Pembs RO D/LLW/147). A mortgage of 1813 records the castle in the ownership of John Stokes Stokes of Cuffern (D/EE/2/25). A lease and release of the land is recorded in March 1840 indicating that the castle was owned by Elizabeth Rees (widow) and the Stokes family (Pembs RO D/EE/2/32). None of the above references make it clear whether the castle was actually habitable or if just a ruin. Descriptions and illustrations of the castle from the mid-19th century provide evidence that Civil War damage was still visible and the shell of the tower was ruinous (see below).

Cartographic Information and Contemporary Accounts from the 19th Century

The earliest cartographic source to show the castle that was available for consultation during the preparation of this report is that of a plan of the Alexander Eliot estate surveyed and drawn by John Butcher in 1748 (Pembs RO: D/RTP/MLP/369; Figure 4). The plan shows that the castle and its enclosure were not owned by Alexander Eliot but by John Stokes Esq. The map shows no detail of the castle enclosure but instead uses a sketch representation to indicate the castle standing on its rock. The sketch implies that this façade of the castle was relatively intact, although the accuracy of the depiction is questionable, as the aim of the map was to indicate land ownership as opposed to architectural detail.

The sketch indicates a number of two-light windows of varying sizes were still extant. Based on the locations of the two central chimneys and higher masonry to the left and right, it is assumed the view is that from the southwest. This would be facing the apsidal end of the structure, with the location of the Square Tower to the right, although the definition of the Square Tower cannot be discerned. The sketch may thus show three windows on the tower, two larger windows to the first and second storeys, with a smaller window on the top floor. The windows on the apsidal part of the tower are less well defined, implying a large window at an upper floor, with a large window also present almost at the base of the rock. The sketch does not imply this is a doorway. Overall the illustrator has evidently seen the castle from the location from which it has been drawn, and some clear accuracy is noted in parts, but overall this was never meant to be a detailed illustration of the castle.

Figure 4: Extract of the Alexander Estate map drawn by John Butcher in 1748 (Record Office accession number D/RTP/MLP/369)

Reproduced by kind permission of R T P Williams Solicitors of Haverfordwest
Pembrokeshire Record Office, part of Pembrokeshire County Council

Illustration 1: East View of Roch Castle in Pembrokeshire 18 June 1793 (Reproduced from a watercolour by R C Hoare (in possession of Tom Lloyd))

The 1839 tithe map (Figure 5) shows little detail regarding the castle, although interestingly uses a reversed D shape to indicate its location, presumably reflecting the general shape of the building (although the apsidal end is orientated incorrectly to the west). The castle enclosure has a number of straight field boundaries indicated, which are assumed to be related to the agricultural use of the land as opposed to any earlier land divisions. The church and its enclosure are clearly indicated to the south-east.

Figure 5: Extract of 1839 Tithe Map of Roch showing village and Castle (reversed D in centre of map)

The 1839 Tithe map records the fields within the Roche Castle boundary as follows:

Field Number	Field Name	Land Owner	Occupier
Field 443	Castle Field and Rocks	Elizabeth Rees	James Lamb
Field 444	Castle Field and Rocks	Elizabeth Rees	James Lamb
Field 445	Castle Field and Rocks	Elizabeth Rees	James Lamb
Field 446	Castle Field	Elizabeth Rees	James Lamb
Field 447	Castle Field	Elizabeth Rees	James Lamb

The earliest written description and accurate representations of the castle that could be found date from 1857. The description is included within the notes section of the Proceedings of The Society of Antiquaries of London (PSAL) Vol IV 1857 No. 47. The reference includes a brief part regarding geology, history of the Roch family before a description of the fabric of the castle itself in a letter. Four illustration of the castle were also included (Illustrations 2 – 5). The reference in full reads thus:

> *'The Rev. J. Montgomery Traherne, F.S.A. exhibited four sketches illustrative of the Remains of Roche Castle, in the county of Pembroke, accompanied by the following Notes:*
>
> *'"Sir R. I. Murchinson, in his Silurian System, 4to. 1849, p.402, notices the striking trap ridge trending north-east from Roche Castle towards Trefgarn. The Castle stands on a mass of compact feldspar.*
>
> *'"Fenton in his Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire, 4to. 1811 describes the position and arrangement of the earth; but, as this has been done by a modern and more experienced hand, it would be superfluous to refer to it. Benton Castle, on Milford Haven, was also the property of the Roches.*
>
> *'"Mr Fenton is in error when he says that about the time of Henry VI, the great possessions of the family of De la Roche vested in co-heiresses; one of whom he states married Sir Thomas Longueville.*
>
> *'"Bridges, in his Northamptonshire, vol. i. P.195, gives the following monumental description, now destroyed:-*
>
> *'"Hic jacet Elizabetha nuper uxor Johannis*
> *Dyve Arm: filia Georgii Longeville Arm*
> *et Elizabetha uxoris suae unius filiarum*
> *Thomae Baronis de Roche Wallia que*
> *obit 19 die Decemb: 1458*[1]
>
> *'"The descendants of Elizabeth Dyve quartered the arms of Roche up to the middle of the last century, when the family became extinct in the male line.*
>
> *'"Brown Willis, in his Survey of St David's cathedral, states that the bearings of De la Roche appeared in the clerestory windows, on the south side of the cathedral."*
>
> *'These notes were accompanied by the following Letter from J. H. Parker, Esq. addressed to the Director:-*
>
> *"Oxford, May 12, 1857.*

[1] Roughly translated this reads: Here lies Elizabeth, late wife of John Dyve Arm: the daughter of George Longeville Arm and his wife Elizabeth one of the daughters of Baron Thomas Roche of Wales, departed on the day of 19 December 1458

"Dear Sir Henry,

"According to your request I will endeavour to give a short notice of Roche castle, of which Mr. Traherne has been kind enough to send us drawings. It is situated upon a rock on the point of a hill between Haverfordwest and St. David's, and occupies the highest point of ground for many miles round.

"There can be no doubt that it was one of the border towers to defend the English settlement on the north bank of Milford Haven from incursions of the Welch. It is a tower of the fifteenth century, built in rather irregular plan, probably following the outline of the rock on which it stands, square on three sides, but rounded on the fourth side, with the entrance gallery on the first floor in the round face of the castle. It was of three stories, and the state apartments were in the upper one. The outer wall or shell of the building remains tolerably perfect, but the interior is a mere mass of ruins. The ground-floor has been vaulted over, and the entrance gateway retains a groined vault, with ribs moulded with the hollow chamfer. The windows are square-headed, of two lights, with pointed arches within. Nearly all the ashlar masonry has been removed, but the upper part of the wall retains the parapet and water table. At one angle is a late square turret, probably for a look-out and for a beacon when required, and the lower part for a stair-turret.

"This Castle gave a name to the family of De la Roche, which was of importance in the middle ages, and had large possessions in the time of Henry VI; and it is probable that the castle was re-built about that time.

Yours sincerely, J H. Parker."'

(PSAL 1857, p101-105)

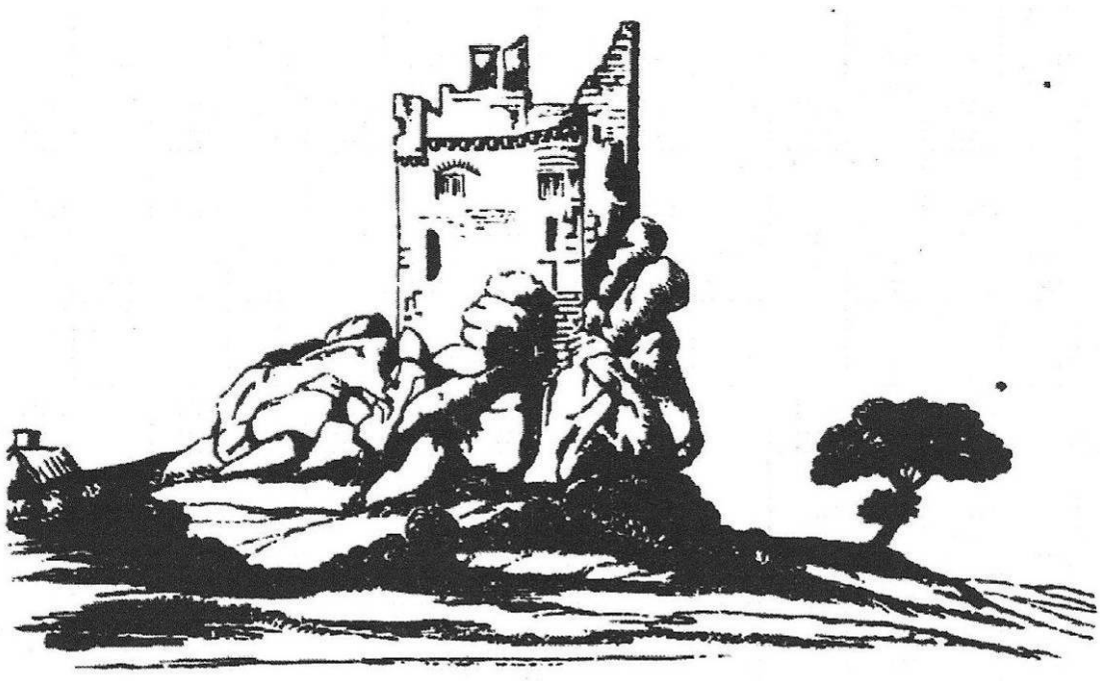

Illustration 2: The western elevation of Roch Castle (PSAL 1857, p102)

The illustration of the western elevation of the castle from 1857 (Illustration 2) is very similar in appearance to that of the 1748 sketch, in that it

has the two central chimneys framed by two areas of higher ruins to the left and right. On the northern side of the facade, the upper window is shown with a stone arch over it. The window is of two lights and does not lie centrally with the arch. Below this, and further to the left, is indicated a void in the wall structure. The windows to the south include one two light window, indicated as fairly high in the wall, with a small void below.

The Square Tower is shown as collapsed on the inside of the castle (Illustration 2), but to full height on the exterior with crenellations surviving (Illustration 3). A small two light window is shown at second floor level on the southwestern facade of the tower, with an arched opening below which indicates partial collapse of the lower part. The Stair Extension indicates a large breach in the wall.

Both of these illustrations indicate that the basic exterior fabric of the castle survived relatively intact. Corbelling is shown running around much of the western, southern and eastern sides of the castle at a higher level (as survives today). Four windows frames are shown as surviving all of two lights. They also clearly indicate the scale of the rocky outcrop on which the castle is constructed (if a little exaggerated in places).

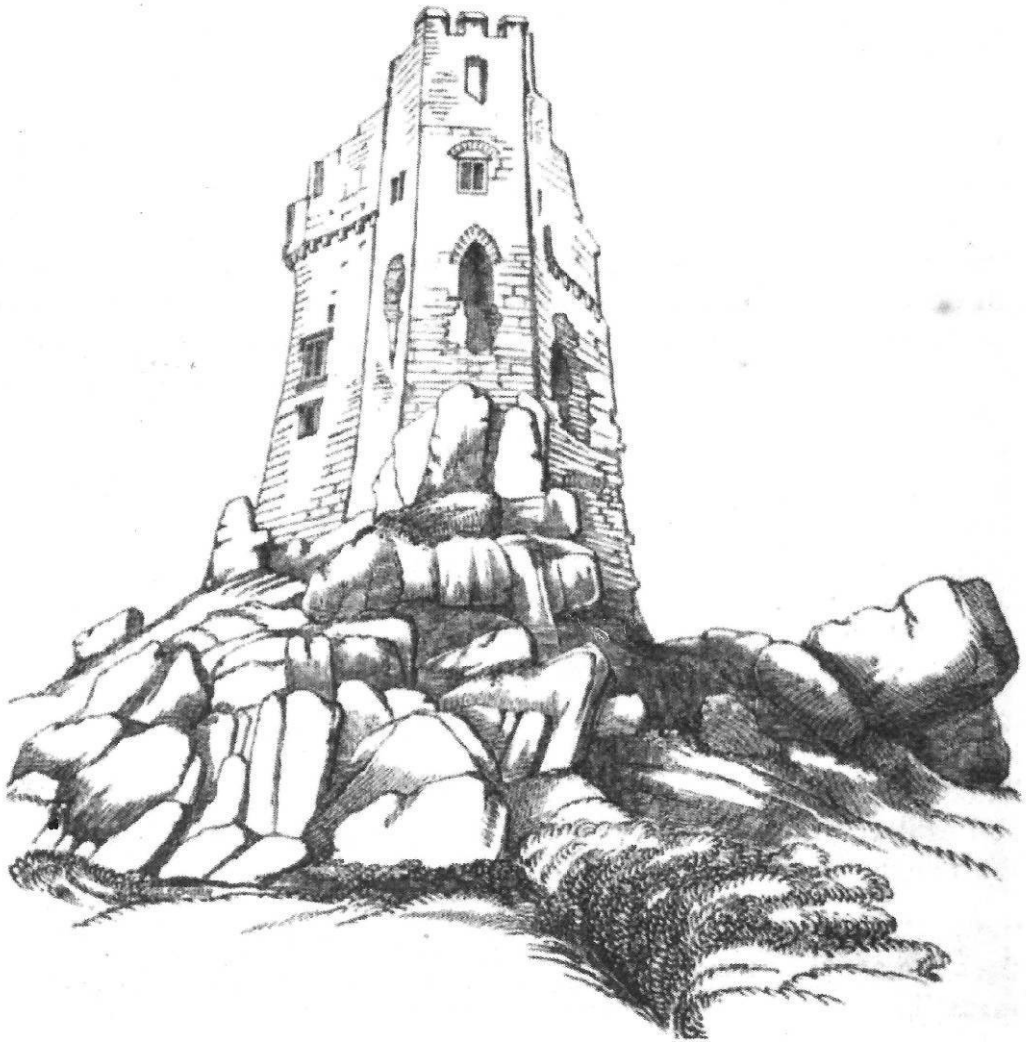

Illustration 3: The southern elevation of Roch Castle (PSAL 1857, p102)

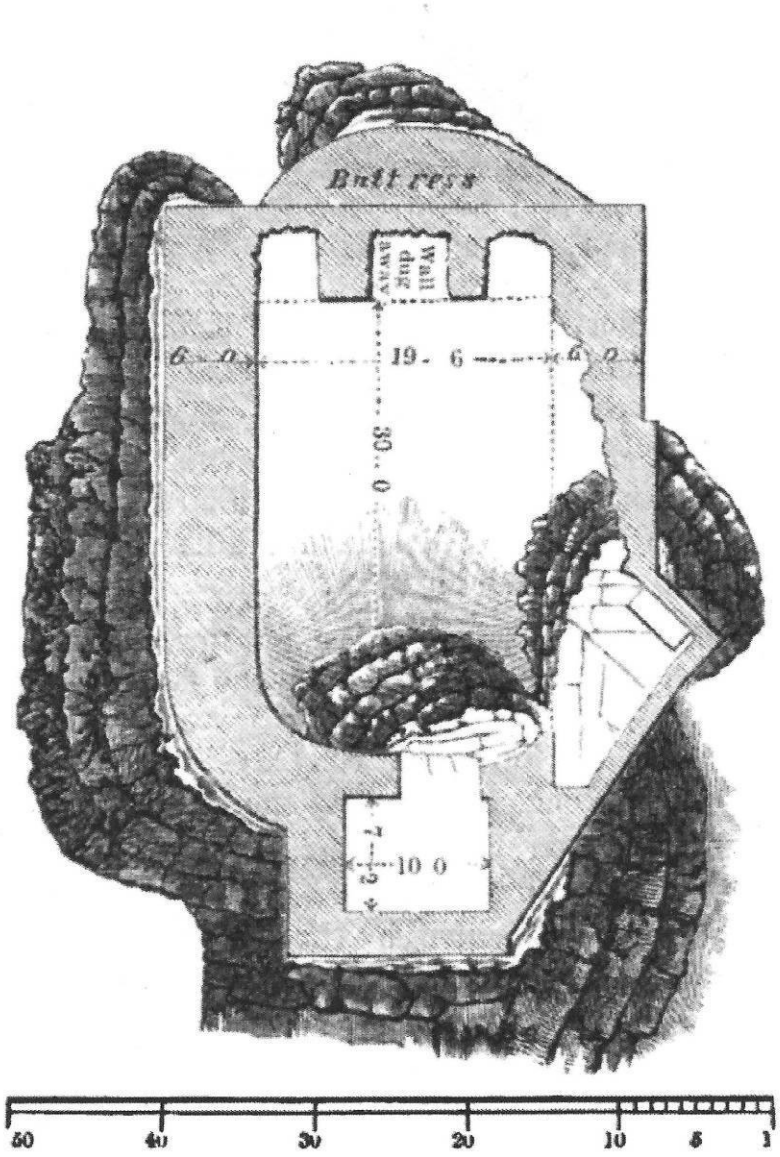

Illustration 4: Plan of the ruins of the Tower, scale in feet (PLAS 1857, p103)

The illustrations also include two plans, one showing detail of the plan of the castle (Illustration 4); the second showing a wider view of the castle indicating the surrounding moat and the locations of the two rocky outcrops (Illustration 5).

The detailed plan of the ruins (Illustration 4) provides the earliest evidence for the pre-20th century layout of the castle. The plan is of the ground floor and is interesting as it shows no obvious access at this level. The plan shows the outcrop of rock visible within the castle walls in the southern part. To the north is a roughly semi-circular projecting feature labelled as a buttress. The northern wall has three square areas cut into the width of the wall, but they are shown as not going all the way through. The interior of the eastern wall of the castle is shown as being damaged, with the thickness of the wall diminishing towards the area of the Stair Extension, which is itself indicated as lying directly upon the exposed upper part of the rocky outcrop. The Square Tower to the south is also shown as lying directly upon the rock. The mass of wall between the Stair Tower and the room within the Stair Extension is also notable as discussed in more detail below. The width of the Stair Tower walls has been exaggerated.

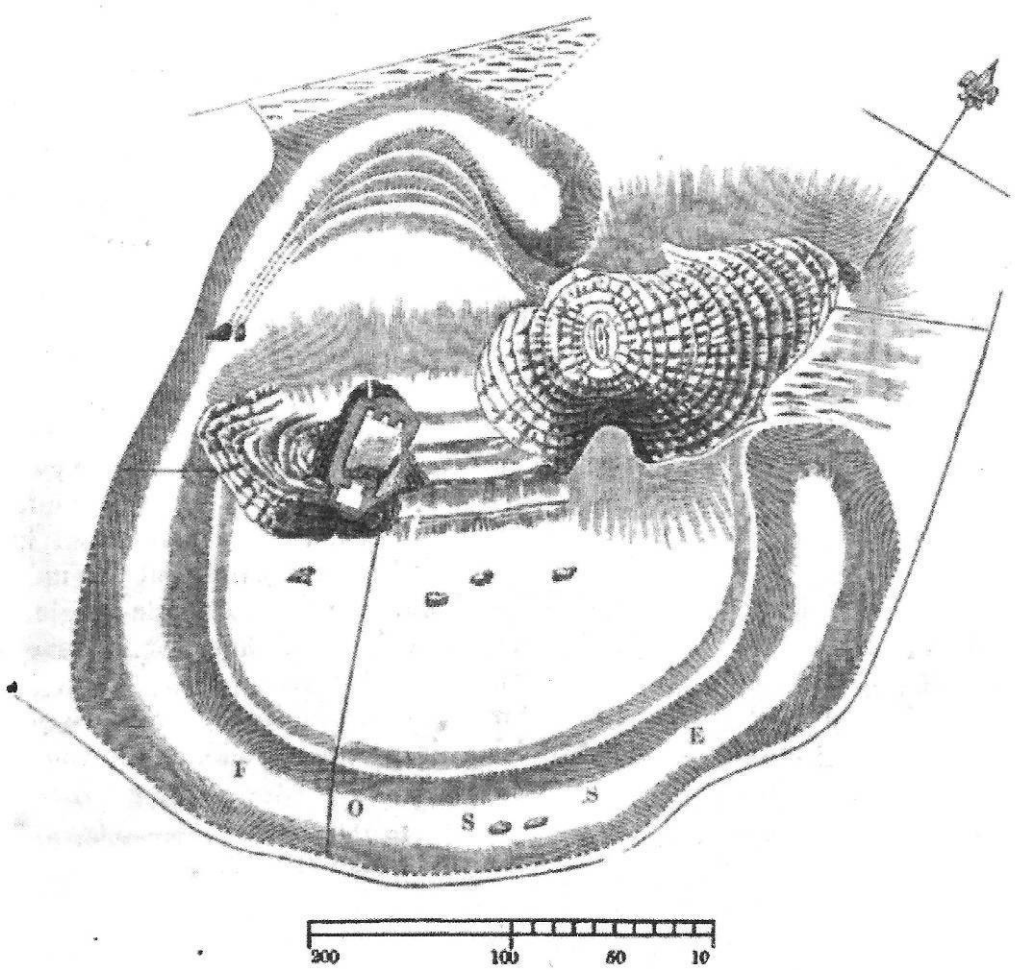

Illustration 5: General Plan of the ruins of Roch Castle and its outworks, scale in feet (PLAS 1857, p103)

The general plan of the castle (Illustration 5) clearly shows the layout of the moat which surrounded the tower. It indicates that the moat ran to either side of the second rocky outcrop which lies to the north of the tower. The way it has been illustrated gives the impression that this second outcrop was almost circular at its summit, although this is not apparent today and is presumably merely artistic representation. The moat circling the castle is shown clearly leading to either side of the second outcrop. LIDAR data and modern aerial photographs indicates that the rocky outcrops form part of the same igneous rock formation, and provide a linear raised area projected into the moated enclosure.

The written description of the castle suggests it is of 15th century date, which is clearly incorrect. The description states that the shape of the castle was dictated by the shape of the rock, but does not offer any suggestion of phased development, with no mention of an original D-shaped tower as has been confirmed by this phase of historic building recording. The description states it was of three stories, which is probably correct. The statements that the entrance gateway was the rib-vaulted room in the Square Tower at first floor level is incorrect. The description of the surviving two-light arched window openings is very interesting, as is the description of the ground-floor being vaulted over, the significance of which is discussed later in the test.

A more detailed description of the castle dates from 1864 following a visit to the site by the Cambrian Archaeological Association. The description was prepared by Mr. G. T. Clarke and is as follows:

> *'It is built on one horn of a double upburst of igneous rock, and consists of a D-shaped tower with prolonged sides, and may be of the reign of Henry III, or more probably the following one. The tower floor was probably a barrack, although filled up to one quarter of its area by a mass of rock in-situ, which must have been very inconvenient. A straight staircase marked by some broken steps and the rake of loops led from the floor past a garderobe to the front floor and the chapel. The principal room occupied the square part of the floor with three large openings to the west, north and east. South of this was a second room, and beyond this was an oratory, which consisted of a small vaulted ground chamber, occupying a projection from the south, or convex face of the tower. Above it is another such chamber vaulted, but now inaccessible. The floors seem to have been of timber. Each stage had a fire place. The stairs were enclosed within the thickness of the walls, but the inner shell had fallen. The exterior door had no portcullis but was some little height from the ground. Certain bonding stones in the tower indicate that it was at one time intended to enclose the other portion of the rock in a kind of court, but that had never been carried into effect. At the foot of the rock are a double bank and ditch enclosing a paddock. There are certain Tudor windows and other later alterations. The Tudor windows would end us to suppose that the tower was inhabited in Tudor times, as described by Leland, whose concluding remark seems to hint of a claim set up by Barlow to the ownership of this fortress.' (*as transcribed in Laws, 1995; original in Archaeologia Cambrensis of 1865*)*

As with the 1857 reference, it would appear that the main shell of the tower survived substantially intact. No floors are recorded by Clarke, except those directly on the rock, and the first floor of the Stair Tower. Clarke indicates that the floors in the tower would have been of wood and he makes no reference to the remains of a stone vaulted first floor in the main structure as was indicated in 1857.

The remains of staircases were visible within the walls of the tower, but only the lower staircase was still accessible (to the first floor above the rocky outcrop). Those visible from ground floor were encased in the thickness of the walls, although it notes that the walls on the inside of the building that surrounded the staircase had collapsed, as was also mentioned in 1857.

The description of the ground floor being a barrack is not qualified, although the small size of the available space is considered unlikely to have served as this purpose. The description refers to a chapel or oratory on the first floor (sitting directly on the top of the rock outcrop; the lowest room of the Square Tower), and has presumably been described as such as the room had a vaulted ceiling and the possibility of an arched window (as shown on Illustration 3 and 6). A garderobe is noted adjacent to the chapel.

Illustration 6 shows the southern facade as included in the 1864 article. It includes the arched window in the lower floor of the Square Tower, the room which is described as a chapel. In the 1857 article it is suggested that this was the entrance into castle, although this is considered most unlikely. The illustration depicts this façade as remarkably intact, which concurs with the earlier illustration of the same facade of 1857 (Illustration 3).

Illustration 7 depicts a view from the southeast and includes much of the eastern and part of the northern façade. A large void is shown in the wall stretching from the ground floor, almost to the second floor window on the eastern elevation (the window is shown with as being arched). The parapet at the top of the castle is also shown to have been damaged. A large void is also shown on the northern façade, seemingly stretching from the top of the rocky outcrop to the top of what appears to have been a former opening. The eastern turret is illustrated as surviving relatively intact.

Window lights for stairs are shown on the eastern facade, the first located on the stair from the basement to the first floor, and a second pair of lights rising nearer the top of the facade. Two windows are shown either side of the large void on the northern facade of the castle, with a second two light window opening above.

In the background on the top of the castle, an arched opening is shown with a small window opening adjacent to it. As the illustrations from both 1857 and 1864 indicate that although the facade of the Square Tower was intact, the rear walls had collapsed. This would indicate that this arched opening would have been within the top room.

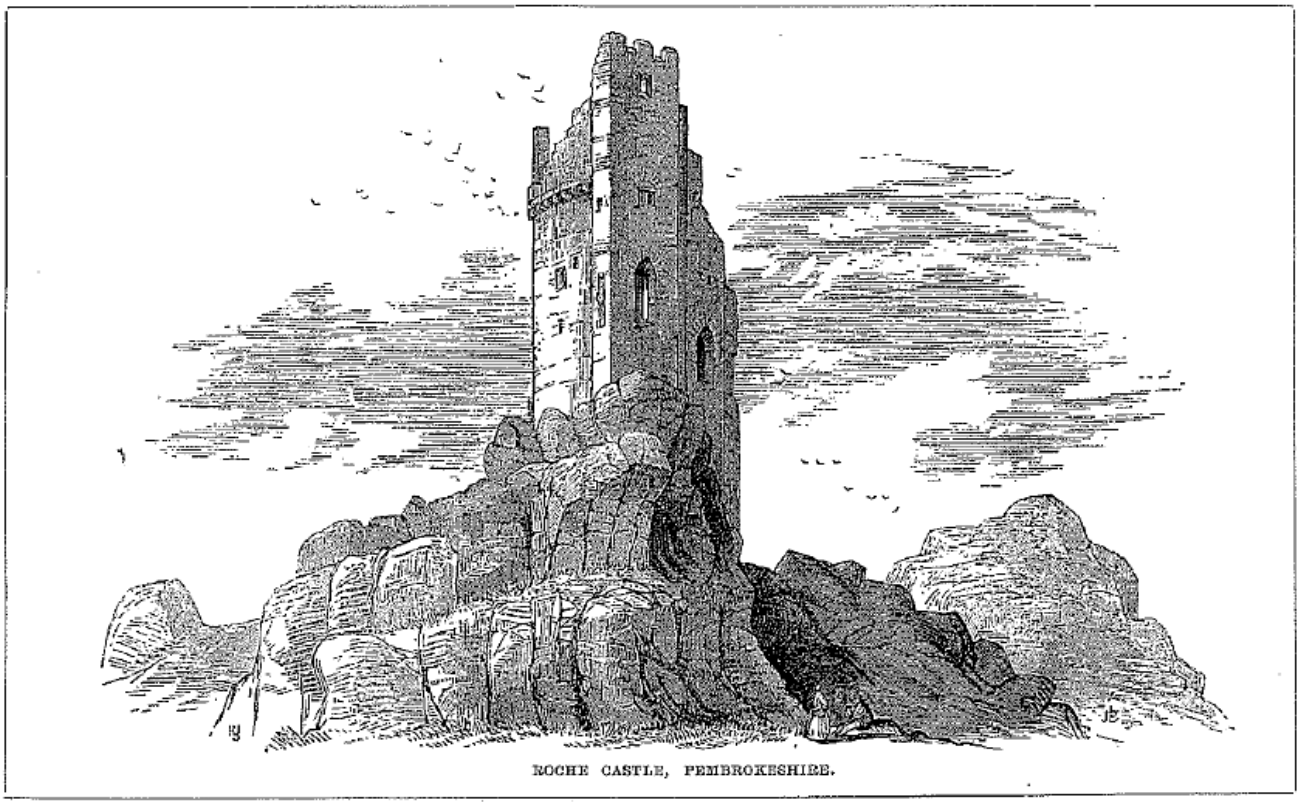

Illustration 6: Roch Castle Southern Façade (Archaeologia Cambrensis 1865)

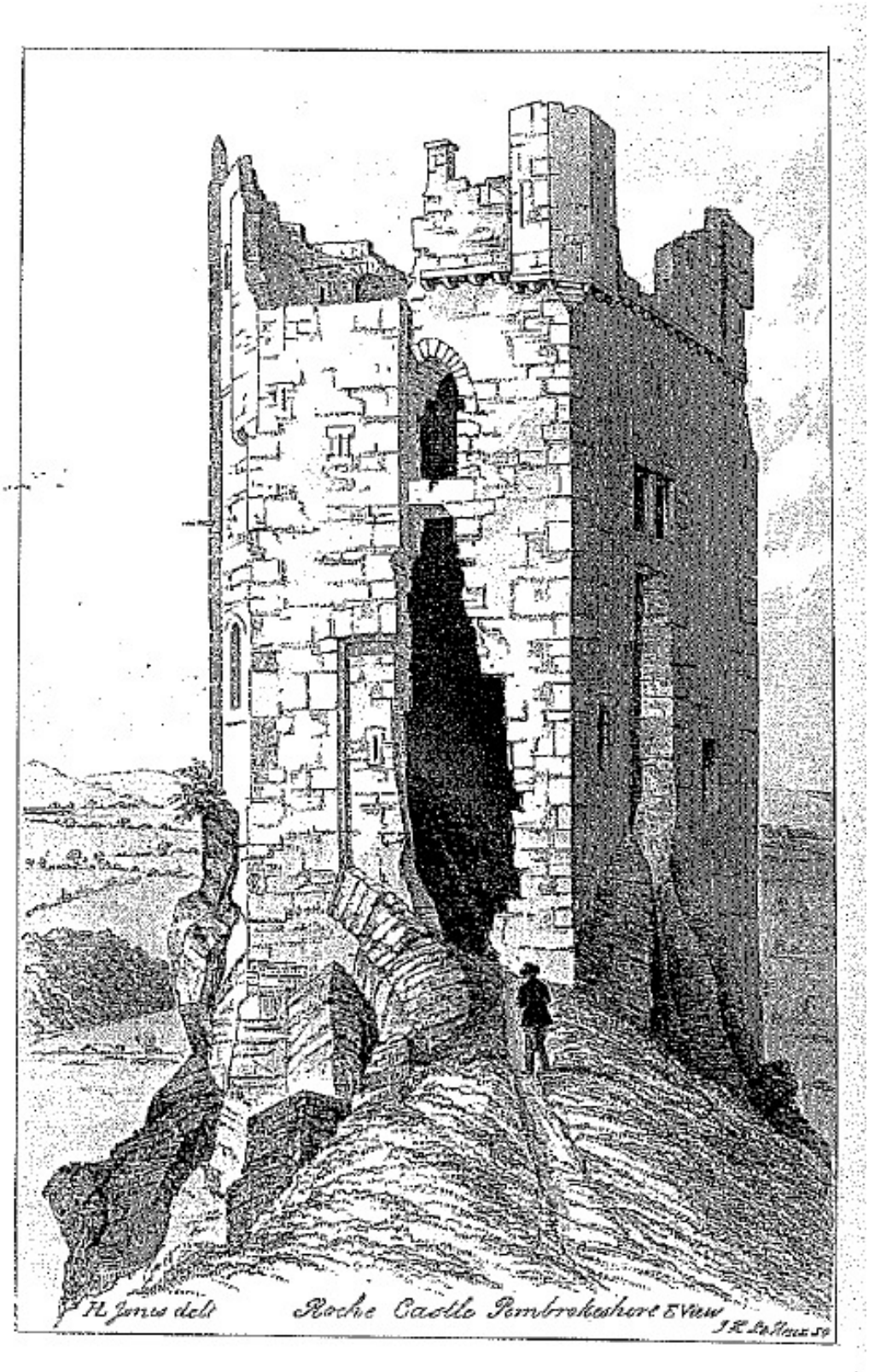

Illustration 7: Roch Castle Eastern and Northern Façades (Archaeologia Cambrensis 1865)

The earliest edition of the Ordnance Survey maps of around 1880 shows the castle soon before its renovation by Viscount St. Davids at the turn of the 20th century (Figure 6). It is labelled as 'Roch Castle (in ruins)', with the map indicating the structure survived as an empty shell. The map was surveyed a few years after the above descriptions, and it is unlikely that it would have altered much in those intervening years. The field boundaries indicated on the 1839 Tithe map are still visible, dividing up the area surrounding the castle.

The map also clearly shows the layout of the earthworks of the former moat surrounding the castle. These have been more accurately surveyed than the 1857 plan (Illustration 4), but still show basically the same layout of the moat surrounding the castle continuously until it reaches the outcrop of bedrock to the northeast, when the moat ends. The eastern arm of the moat is shown to head northwards on this plan, which differs to that of 1857. A small offshoot heads to the north from the western arm of the moat, running just inside the roadway at this point. Potentially this may indicate a second area was enclosed to the north of the castle, representing an outer bailey enclosure to the north of the castle.

The arrangement of the castle within a distinct irregular shaped enclosure is clearly shown, bounded by the moat and also road lines and field boundaries. To the southeast of the castle lies the sub-rectangular enclosure of the churchyard around St Marys Church. The two enclosures are separated by a roadway. Both maps clearly show that the village of Roch was focussed around these two structures, and is likely to be a fossilisation of the earlier medieval village layout.

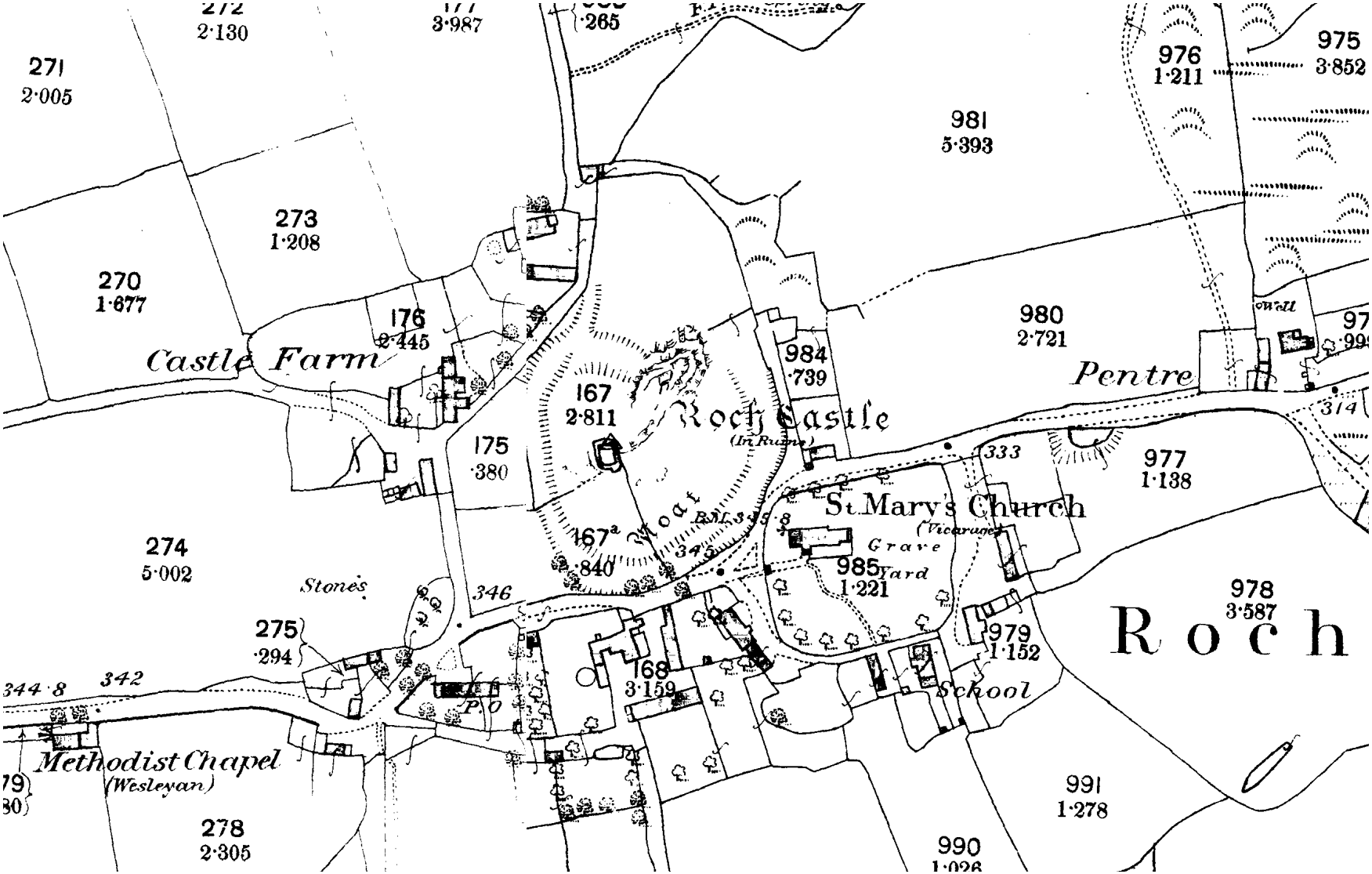

Figure 6: Roch Castle shown on 1st edition 1:2500 scale map

Photo 1: View of Roch Castle from Southeast Pre-1900
(reproduced from Acanthus Holden Design and Conservation Statement 2008)

Photo 1 above was taken at some point prior to the 1900s renovations by Viscount St Davids. It corresponds with the information shown on the 1857 and 1864 illustrations, showing the well preserved facade of the Square Tower, including crenellations at the parapet. The lower window in the Square Tower is clearly shown as arched within the illustrations, but in this photograph only a hint of the arched opening is visible back from the damaged façade. The void in the wall on the eastern façade is clearly shown, which corresponds with the present entrance. A large void is also shown in the southeastern facade of the Stair Extension, which corresponds with the top of the rock outcrop at first floor level.

The relieving arch is shown below this opening which is still extant today, which presumably provided support for the exterior wall where it crossed a fissure in the underlying outcrop. The photograph confirms the survival of much of the fabric of the eastern turret.

Photo 2: Southwestern view of Roch Castle taken pre-1900
(reproduced from Acanthus Holden Design and Conservation Statement 2008)

Photo 2 also dates from pre-1900, showing a view of the southern façade. The photo clearly shows that the upper part of the Square Tower, from the third storey window to the top of the crenellated parapet is missing. The fact that it is shown as surviving on the other photograph and illustrations from 1854 and 1867, and the fact that internally there seems to be no evidence for a large scale rebuild of this part of the wall, it is considered possible that the photograph has been altered to create a more 'ruinous' look.

The Castle During the 20th Century

The castle was purchased by Sir John Wynford Philips in 1899, who was later to become Lord St. Davids, and latterly Viscount St. Davids, with the express purpose of restoring the castle and turning it into an imposing residence.

The main phase of restoration work was commenced between 1901 and 1904 to designs of the architect William Thomas, with the builders Edwin G Thomas Builders of St. Davids. This initial renovation included the insertion of the main reinforced concrete floors within the tower and the addition of a two storey extension to the north (Photo 3). The internal room layout of the tower is not known, but assumed to have remained unchanged until the present renovation works. Photo 3 does not show a turret on the western side of the castle.

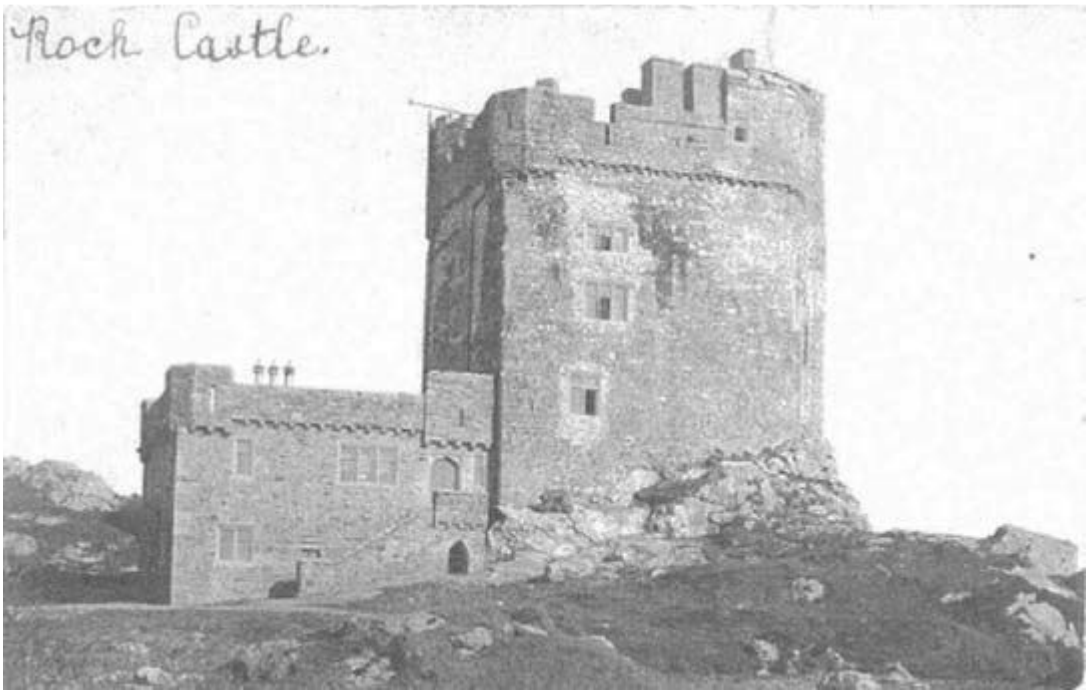

Photo 3: Western view of Roch Castle taken pre-1922, after first phase of restoration showing two storey northern extension
(reproduced from Acanthus Holden Design and Conservation Statement 2008)

The second edition OS map of the early 20th century (Figure 7) was surveyed following the initial renovation of the castle by Viscount St. Davids. The shape of the structure is amended to show the northern extension. A driveway and parking area is depicted on the north and northeastern side of the castle, the driveway leading from the southwestern corner of the castle enclosure. The ditched 'moat' is shown in an identical layout as for the earlier map, except where the driveway crosses it to the west of the castle. In general, except for the castle, very little change is indicated between this and the first edition map.

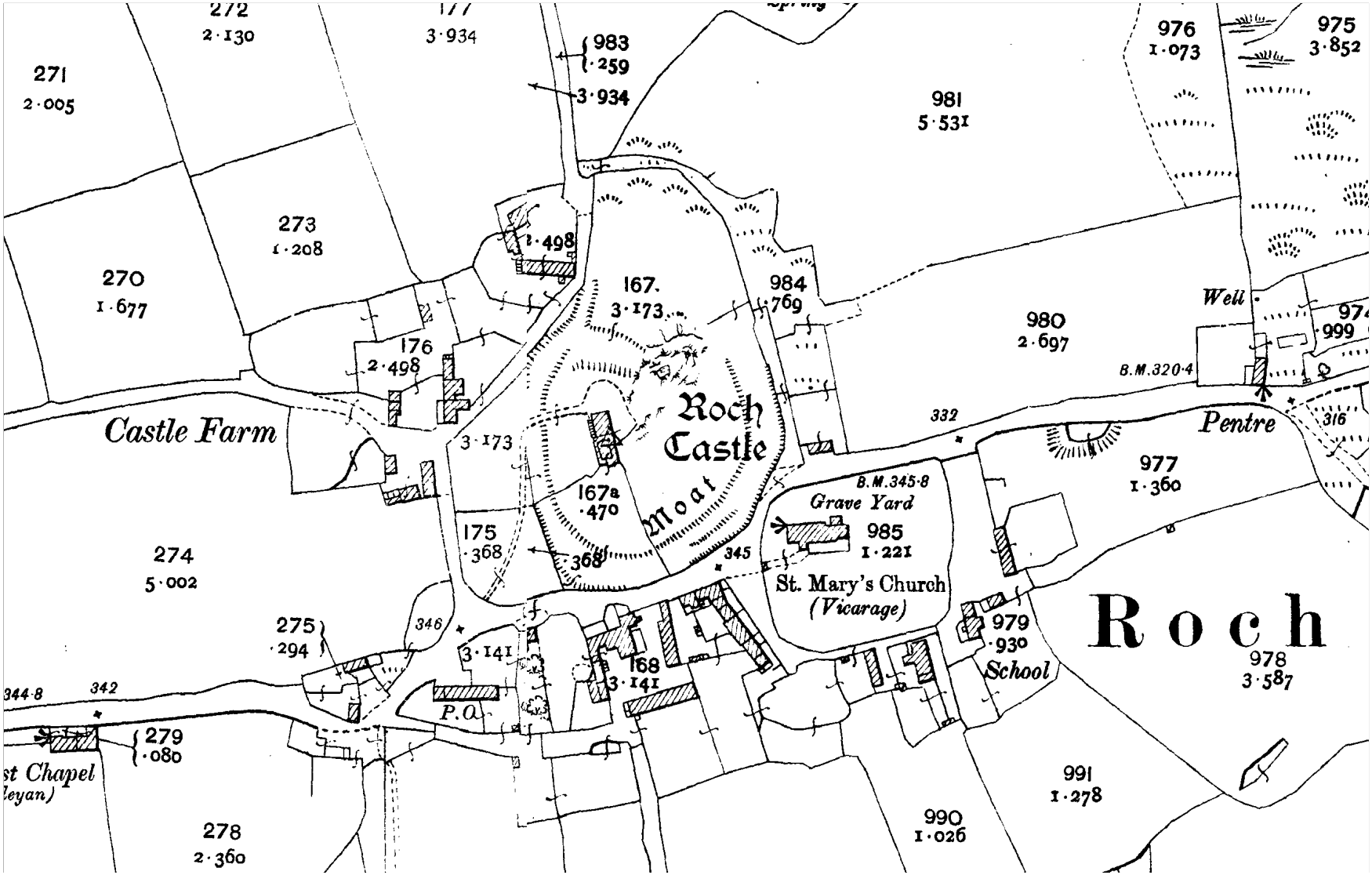

Figure 7: Roch Castle shown on second edition 1:2500 scale map *c.*1904

Ledger books dating from 1904 to 1914 are held (Pembs. RO: D/RKL/1121) which indicate that sums of money were still being spent on the castle after the main period of renovation.

Letters and correspondence was also viewed (Pembs RO: D/RKL/1128 – 1147) spanning the period to 1927 which give details of further monies spent on the castle, many of which relate to repairs of the roofs which seem to have leaked almost as soon as they had been built.

Correspondence indicates that Viscount St. Davids visited the property occasionally. Caretakers were appointed to look after the property, working on behalf of the land agents – initially Sgt Hugh Thomas, and from the mid-1920s a Mr K. Lucas. The house was also let out to various acquaintances of Viscount St. Davids, including Lord and Lady Churton, although by 1920 they no longer wanted to stay at the castle mostly due to the damp problems and leaks. On 4th March 1920 a letter is sent to Lady Churton from Hugh Thomas which states that 'The castle is extremely damp, and will need a great deal of firing before it will be fit for you to live in'. Evidently she never returned.

Due to the persistent damp problems Viscount St. Davids had a number of repairs carried out on the castle roofs, including the spreading of 'Matex' (a patent composition of asphalt) across the roof areas and also infilling cracks and voids in the roof with the material (letters dating from 1918).

A second phase of building works was undertaken in 1922 when the additional floor was added to the northern extension and other repairs and re-pointing was carried out to improve the state of the castle. These works were designed by D. F. Ingleton. The majority of the building work (including the additional floor of the extension) was completed by September 1922. Further improvements, including the replacement of electric generators and batteries was also undertaken following 1922. In 1926 all of the metal framed windows were replaced with gun-metal windows, as they had corroded badly and leaked or did not open.

The castle was sold in 1954 to the Honourable John M H Whitfield (son of Lord and Lady Kenswood, who occupied the property) for £10,250. Photographs of the interior of the property dating from the mid-1950s show that internal improvements had been undertaken to 'Baronialization' the castle. Improvements included including the addition of black painted gothic-medieval styled wooden doors with false strap hinges (by Baldwin's of America) and leaded light internal screens (Photos 4 – 7).

During the 1950s, whilst the castle was in the ownership of the Lord Kenswood a number of internal photographs were taken which showed the layout of the two principal rooms on the ground and first floors. The photographs indicate the extent of the faux-medieval décor that was placed within the castle, including the fireplaces and door furniture (Photos 12 – 14).

Photo 4: The Entrance Hall looking southwest, taken during the 1950s
(reproduced from Acanthus Holden Design and Conservation Statement 2008)

Photo 5: The Entrance Hall looking east towards entrance doorway and refurbished stairway to first floor taken during the 1950s
(reproduced from Acanthus Holden Design and Conservation Statement 2008)

Photo 6: The Court Room looking northwest towards window opening and entrance way through to the northern extension, taken during the 1950s (reproduced from Acanthus Holden Design and Conservation Statement 2008)

Photo 7: The Court Room looking southeast, taken during the 1950s (reproduced from Acanthus Holden Design and Conservation Statement 2008).

Lord Kenswood sold the castle on to Mr. Hollis M Baker (of Grand Rapids, Michigan) in 1965. Mr. Baker was also responsible for undertaking some internal alterations during this time, although no specific details could be found. Mr. Baker sold the castle in 1972, when it was bought by Mr. Dave Berry.

During the latter part of the 20th century the castle was rented out as holiday accommodation. Internal decoration and improvements associated with its use as a holiday let were carried out, and it is understood that two stairs were closed off within the castle and internal partitions were reorganized to separate the holiday lettings between the annexe and the tower.

The castle was sold by Mr Berry to the present owner in early 2009.

Photo 8: Western view of Roch Castle taken in 2009, prior to the works commencing showing three storey northern extension
(reproduced from Acanthus Holden Design and Conservation Statement 2008)

The RCAHMW also hold a number of photographs taken of the interior of the castle during recent years when it was still owned by Mr. Dave Berry and in use as a holiday rental. These photos provide a good record of the condition of the building before the investigative works that have been undertaken more recently as part of the structural analysis of the building. These photos are not reproduced here.

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING RESULTS

The following section describes the castle in an upwards direction, highlighting features recorded on a floor by floor basis. As room divisions were removed during the works, individual rooms are not described. Descriptions are based on the floor levels that existed in the D-Shaped Tower and Square Tower at the time of survey (Figure 8), which corresponds with the floor levels reinstated as part of the renovation work. The Stair Extension levels correspond with both the D-Shaped Tower and Square Tower, linking the various floor levels with only the 'Study' at first floor level and garderobe at second floor level discussed individually. The floor levels within each comprise:

- **Basement / Ground Floor**
  - ***D-Shaped Tower* -** Basement / Ground Floor
- **First Floor**
  - ***D-Shaped Tower* -** First Floor
  - ***Square Tower*** – Lower Floor
  - ***Stair Extension*** - Study
- **Second Floor**
  - ***D-Shaped Tower* –** Second Floor
  - ***Square Tower*** – Middle Floor
  - ***Stair Extension*** - Garderobe
- **Third Floor**
  - ***D-Shaped Tower* –** Third Floor (lower)
    Third Floor (upper)
  - ***Square Tower*** – Upper Floor
- **Roof**
  - ***D-Shaped Tower* –** Roof (lower)
    Roof (upper)
    Walkway
  - ***Square Tower*** – Roof

Castle Entrance at Basement / Ground Floor Level

The existing access to the castle is via a set of stone and concrete steps leading into the eastern side of the castle. The stone steps circuit around the Northern Extension of the castle leading from the driveway and parking area on its northwestern side.

The doorway is an early 1900s addition, being located in an area where the walls had been breached previously, possibly during the Civil War. Photographs and Illustrations from the 19th century clearly show this void through the wall (Photo 1; Illustration 7). The stairs were constructed on built-up material, allowing access to the level of the doorway (Photo 9). The eastern wall of the castle is situated on the very edge of the rocky outcrop. This part of the façade has been significantly rebuilt, with the repair of the collapsed area of walling and insertion of the doorway.

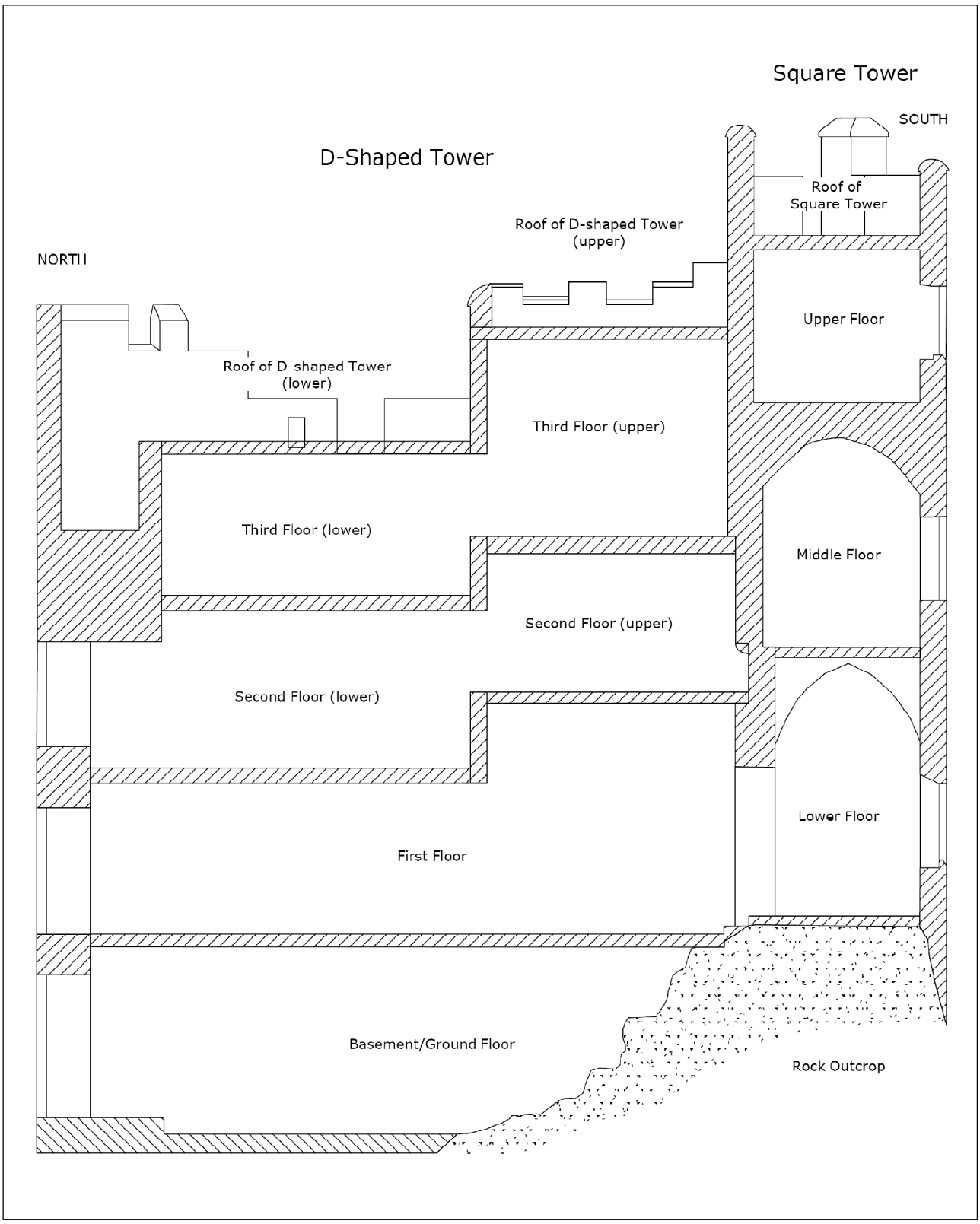

Figure 8: Schematic section through Roch Castle (North to South) showing basic floor layouts present during the building recording

Photo 9: Raised stair and entrance doorway constructed between 1901 and 1904

Basement / Ground Floor

The basement room layout was altered significantly in the 1900s renovations. As is noted in the 1857 and 1865 descriptions of the castle, no access to the upper floors was possible and the internal walls of the D-shaped tower had collapsed, as very clearly shown on the eastern wall of the castle on Illustration 3. With the insertion of the new entrance doorway, a new concrete stair was also constructed to the south of the door, curving at its base towards the middle of the room.

The Basement / Ground Floor was subdivided with a rough built stone and cement wall during the early 1900s renovations to hide the area of the rock outcrop. Photographs 4 and 5 above shows the layout of the room in the 1950s, with the entranceway, stair and dividing wall (partially covered by a wooden dresser). The area behind the dividing wall was also divided with a second stone and cement wall creating a mock 'prison cell' (Photo 10).

During the survey the dividing wall was still in place, with the original intention to retain it, as well as the dresser. Due to contamination issues with asbestos being present within the dividing wall and behind the dresser, these were eventually removed to create an open-plan basement level. Survey and photographic record was difficult behind the dividing wall (Photos 10 -13).

Photo 10: recording within the mock 'prison cell'

Photo 12: Surveying behind the dividing wall

Photo 11: Surveying through the doorway of the dividing wall

Photo 13: Surveying the rock outcrop behind the dividing wall

Within the southern end of the basement it is very clear how the walls of the castle have been built directly upon the rock outcrop (Photo 14). There is little evidence both on the inner and outer faces of the castle for the walls to have been tied in to the underlying rock. It is presumed that the thickness of the walls in this area (of over 1.6m width) was sufficient for the rubble core of the wall to knit together with the rough surface of the outcrop. It is also evident that the outer face of the castle wall descends lower than the interior wall in front of the rock outcrop (Photo 15).

A single window light is present within the southern part of the basement, encompassed within the apsidal end of the original D-shaped tower (Photos 14 – 16). This is located on its southwestern side and comprises a sloping light well leading down from a window light at the same level as the existing ceiling. The internal window opening measured 0.75m in width and with 0.45m in height exposed below the existing ceiling. The window was splayed on either side leading to an external window opening of approximately 0.60m x 0.20m. This may be the only original window opening at this level

Photo 14: Southwestern outer wall of the castle built directly upon rock outcrop in southwestern part of basement (window light visible in top right)

Photo 15: Approximate height of basement floor and rock outcrop (red line) in relation to the exterior southwestern wall of the castle

Photo 16: Window light exposed within the Basement / Ground floor

Photo 16: Small area of projecting stonework on eastern internal wall (located directly below 0.5m ranging rod)

A small area of projecting stonework was also noted within this part of the basement, located on the internal western wall of the castle (Photo 16). The feature suggests an area of rebuild, although this is by no means certain. The projection does not appear uniform enough to suggest a former doorway or opening, and no opposing edge was visible. No indication of the feature is present on the external wall.

The dividing walls within the basement were removed early in 2011 to expose the rock outcrop within the southern end of the castle (Photo 17). Prior to cleaning the rock had an uneven, but generally quite smooth surface, as if it had been worn down over the years during the use of the castle and from weathering once it had been abandoned. The rock has since been cleaned showing that the smoothness had actually been formed by compacted dust and dirt which had accumulated within the small cracks and fissures of the igneous rock.

Photograph 17 shows that the Basement / Ground Floor of the castle is generally D-shaped, with only a slight projection to the east for the Stair Extension. There is no indication of the Square Tower's presence at this level.

Photo 17: Rock outcrop in southern part of Basement / Ground floor following removal of dividing walls (2m ranging rod against retained concrete pillar support)

The plan of the castle from 1857 (Illustration 4) indicates that the northern end of the Basement / Ground Floor had three large recesses, the central one labelled as having been dug away, although none are shown through the full thickness of the wall. Potentially the two outer ones were recessed window openings, with the central one associated with damage from the Civil War. The sketch from 1867 (Illustration 7) indicates two window openings on either side of a large void in the northern façade (collapsed section of wall). During the 1901-1904 renovations these were all opened fully providing access into the North Extension (Photos 18 & 19). The central opening was evidently completely rebuilt with stone and cement to form the doorway to the third floor of the Northern Extension when this was built in the 1920s, prior to this it would have accessed the roof. The upper part of the opening is formed by the concrete ceiling of the First floor / roof of the Northern Extension.

Photo 18: Western opening in northern wall of Basement / Ground Floor

Photo 19: Eastern opening in northern wall of Basement / Ground Floor

The western window is set slightly lower than the eastern, but both are constructed with a segmental arch above, with more regular shaped decorative voussoirs visible on the wall face, with smaller stone work forming the underside of the arch above the opening. This may suggest that the voussoirs were left visible, whereas inside and around the arch was rendered. The former external face of the castle had been substantially rebuilt and is now mostly obscured by the Northern Extension. It is presumed that both openings were for windows, as shown in Illustration 7, and are considered later additions to the original D-shaped tower. Adjacent to the western opening, within the western wall of the castle was a third opening, formed by a segmental arch with facing voussoirs (Photo 20). Again this is considered a later addition to the D-Shaped Tower.

Photo 20: Window opening and covered fireplace in western wall of Basement / Ground Floor

A fireplace was also present on the western wall which had been covered and protected during the building recording works (Photo 20). The fireplace is best seen in Photo 4 from the 1950s, which shows a mock medieval style surround. The location of the fireplace on the western wall of the castle does tie in with the flues that exit in two places on the roof of the castle, as seen surviving on the 19th century illustrations and which are still present today. It is therefore possible that a fireplace originally existed in this location, although all evidence except for the rear flue, had been removed. There is no indication of a fireplace here on the 1957 plan of the castle, although this may be due to the low level of detail included on the plan.

As noted above, the existing stairway leading from the Basement / Ground Floor dates from the 1900s restoration (Photo 5). Evidence revealed during the works indicate that stairs were originally located here when the D-Shaped Tower was built. Two window lights are present rising with the stairs, but both are located slightly below and are obscured by the tops of the 1900s steps (Photos 21 – 23). The 1865 description by Clarke states that '*A straight staircase marked by some broken steps and the rake of loops led from the floor… …to the first floor',* which would have had to be located in this same position.

Photo 21: Pair of window lights looking down to Basement / Ground Floor, with modern concrete partition at bottom

Photo 22: Upper window light on stairs to First Floor

Photo 23: Lower window light on stairs to First Floor window

Both windows were constructed in a similar way, having an arched headed opening, splayed in to a smaller opening on the external face of the castle. The interior opening of the upper window (Photo 22) was *c.*1.45m in height, rising to 1.72m at its centre, and a width at its base of 0.93m. The external window aperture measured 1.48m in height and 0.33m in width. The lower window (Photo 23) internal opening was *c.*1.00m in height rising to *c.*1.19m in its centre, and of 1.08m width at its base. The external window aperture was *c.*0.97m in height and 0.37m in width. The window heads of both windows on the internal face were constructed of fairly neat voussoirs. Externally both windows were of simple surround with stone lintel above. The wall in which the window lights are present was *c.*0.60m in width.

At the base of the stairs, adjacent to the entrance doorway, a modern concrete partition had been built with a replica window light / arrow loop built within it. This was a relatively recent addition as it is not shown on the 1950s photographs, and was probably contemporary with the addition of the faux portcullis formerly above the entrance doorway and the mock 'prison cell' (presumably adding to the medieval feel of the castle for holiday makers renting the property).

The original stairs located within tower would have started in a similar position to the extant stairs, although would have been straight as opposed to having the turn at the bottom which presently exists. The staircase would thus have been set lower than the existing, and would have corresponded well with the rising window lights. Any remains of broken steps protruding from the wall for the original stairs has been obscured by the new stairs. Evidence for supports for the original stairs were potentially indicated in the mock 'prison cell' in the southeastern part of the floor, although the remains were difficult to characterise further.

First Floor Level of D-Shaped Tower

The top of the flight of stairs from the Basement / Ground Floor level provides access to the existing First Floor of the D-Shaped Tower. A partial wall is present on the inside of the stair which was built in the early 20th century restoration (Photo 24). It incorporates large faced quoins on the exterior of the wall segment and stone corbels at the top of wall which supports a concrete beam above. A 1900s stone archway projects into the room, which has been retained. The 2010 replacement concrete floor can be seen tied in to the earlier concrete beam and wall (Photo 24).

Photo 24: Wall segment on the inside of the stair way from the Basement / Ground Floor level showing stone corbels and archway

The present First Floor level of the D-Shaped Tower was constructed in 1901-1904. It does not correspond with the original first floor level of the medieval castle. This is confirmed by a number of observations made during the building recording, most of which will be discussed later. Other reasons include the fact that the small window seen in the southwestern wall of the Basement / Ground Floor is almost entirely obscured by the concrete floor (Photo 16); and the stairs rising to this floor level are of 1901 – 1904 date, and do not correspond with the original stairs layout.

The 1857 description states that '*The ground-floor has been vaulted over'* (PSAL 1857) whereas Clarke in 1865 stated that '*The floors seem to have been of timber'* with no mention of a vault over the ground floor. Following removal of the 1901-1904 concrete first floor, no evidence for the material of the original floor was revealed. The insertion of the original 1900s floor had evidently required substantial removal and rebuilding of the internal face of the wall above and below the new floor level to facilitate the insertion of concrete support beams.

The 1865 description by Clarke indicates that the First Floor level was sub-divided into two rooms '*The principal room occupied the square part of the floor* (northern part) *with three large openings to the west, north and east. South of this was a second room..'.* No further details of the second room are given, and no evidence for a dividing wall has been revealed during the building recording work.

The three large openings in this floor correspond with large windows to the east and west, and the opening which provides access onto the roof of the Northern Extension. The eastern and northern openings are both similar in character, comprising squared recesses through the thickness of the walls (of around 1.60m width) from existing floor level to existing ceiling. These squared recesses are 1901-1904 adaptations of earlier window openings. They correspond with the concrete floors and not the original floor levels (Photos 25 – 27). The western window opening has a row of bricks inserted at a level *c.*0.8m above the concrete floor level which could correspond with infill of construction hollows for the former floor level (beam slots or similar).

Photo 25: Window opening in western wall of First Floor of D-Shaped Tower

Photo 26: Western side of doorway opening in northern wall of First Floor of D-Shaped Tower

Photo 27: Eastern side of doorway opening in northern wall of First Floor of D-Shaped Tower

The dimensions of the western window include the main squared aperture on the internal face of 2.07m width and 2.53m height. The window recess, to the jutting window sill, measured 1.01m deep, with the window sill itself 0.53m in depth. The actual window aperture measures *c.*1.64m width by *c.*1.45m in height. A slight splay is present on the sides of the window aperture.

The dimensions of the northern opening (doorway through to roof of the additional floor added in the 1920s to the Northern Extension) were 1.96m in width, 2.54m in height and 1.32m in depth to the extant doorframe (Photo 27).

Photo 28: Window in eastern wall of tower at First Floor level of tower, rising to apex at Second Floor level (oblique near vertical view)

The window opening on the eastern wall was directly opposite that to the west, but was located within a main stairwell. The window recess was visible to the height of its apex at Second Floor level (Photo 28). The width of the exterior wall of the castle in this location had been considerably reduced. This seems to have been partially due to the insertion of a new concrete stair during the 1900s renovations, and possibly also as a result of the collapse of the inner face of the wall as noted by Clarke in 1865, indicative of a former stair within the thickness of the wall. The full window measured 4.03m in height and 1.97m in width. Towards the base of the window a jutting step was present in the thickness of the wall, the function of which was unclear, but seemed to relate to the 1900s renovations. The window rose 3.64m from this step to its apex. The width of the external wall at the apex of the window was substantially larger than that below.

A small fireplace opening is present in the western wall, just before the curve of the D-Shaped Tower begins. This was a roughly made opening starting at floor level and rising *c*.1.7m in height. The northern side of the reveal for the fireplace aperture had a stone quoins at its lower level rising to a height of approximately 0.82m, possibly indicating an earlier opening, although there were no corresponding quoins on its southern side, so it may represent a step in the width of the wall, possibly associated with the point where the curving wall begins. The remainder of the aperture had been cut into the existing wall and the edges were left rough. A substantial 20th century fire surround and hood had existed in front of this fireplace, so there had been no need for this opening to have been made very neatly as it was not exposed. Two small cuts had been made on either side of this opening in which the hood had been tied to the wall, one being visible in Photo 29.

Photo 29: Fireplace in western wall of First Floor Level of D-Shaped Tower

The curving wall of the D-Shaped Tower survives in the south and southwestern part of the First Floor level. The exterior wall was at least 1.6m in width (where it survives as a curving wall on the exterior of the castle) and had a single window facing southwest. This window opening would appear to be an original medieval opening, the base of which had been remodelled during the 1900s renovations (Photos 30 & 33). Four steps led up to the base of the window opening, which had been cut through the width of the wall and formed of concrete (a height of *c*.0.83m). The small window light seen in the basement lay directly below this window, and the light well lies directly below these steps.

Photo 30: Window in southwestern wall of D-Shaped Tower at First Floor level

The top of the window was arched on the interior wall, formed of roughly coursed stone. The interior of the opening measured 2.20m in height and 1.37m in width. The height of the apex of the window to the floor level (base of steps) measured 2.80m. The upper arch of the window was created in two runs, with the outer one slightly lower and offset to the inner part. This may have been a necessary form of construction to create a stable arch through the curving wall, it may indicate modification or an adaptation of a former garderobe corridor. This drop was located 0.83m into the wall, and continued for the remaining 0.85m to the window aperture.

Within the central southern part of the curving wall was a rectangular recess. This measured 1.34m in height, 1.23m in width and was 0.49m in depth (Photos 31 & 33). A large stone lintel formed the upper part of the recess, with a segmental relieving arch above. No flues or other features were present within the recess to provide indications of what its original function was, although

indications of a possible flue within the thickness of the wall were noted in the back of the wall within the rooms of the south-eastern tower. The base of this recess was *c.*0.80m above the inserted concrete floor level.

Photo 31: Rectangular recess within south wall of first floor

The internal curve of the D-shaped tower continues towards the southeastern part of the first floor level, although this has been heavily modified during the early 20th century renovations. A pointed arch doorway leads from the first floor into the lower floor of the Square Tower to the southeast (Photos 32 & 33). This would appear to be a modern doorway opening, the original entrance to the Square Tower is discussed below. It measured 1.18m in width and had a height to the apex of the arch of 2.45m from floor level within the Square Tower (*c.*2.75m depth to first floor level of the D-Shaped Tower). Two steps led up into the room from the first floor level.

Photo 32: Entrance from first floor of D-Shaped Tower to Lower floor of Square Tower

Photo 33: Overall shot of southern end of First Floor room of D-Shaped Tower

Lower Floor of Square Tower

The Lower floor of the Square Tower measured *c.*2.10m x 3.00m in plan. The room was accessed from the door on its northwestern side leading from the first floor of the D-shaped tower (Photos 32 & 33). The ceiling of the room was a rebuilt as a replica of the ribbed and vaulted roof as survives in the Middle Floor of the Square Tower (see below). It was created using concrete ribs with a thin skim of plaster laid on a wire mesh frame to create the shape of the vaulted ceiling (Photo 34). The floor of the room lay directly upon the bedrock with a concrete skim to create a level floor.

Photo 34: Part of the replica ribbed and vaulted ceiling of the Lower Floor of the Square Tower, facing northeast with small alcove below

A small alcove was present on the northeastern side of the room (Photo 34), which measured 0.68m in width, 0.42m height and 0.52m in depth. A stone lintel covered the alcove. The northeastern elevation appeared to be built in a single phase of construction which could easily have been original medieval fabric, although the other side of this wall (within the Study of the Stair Extension) suggested a 20th century rebuild (see below).

The southeastern side of the room contained the centrally located main window (Photo 35). The internal aperture measured 1.45m in height and 1.65m in width. The window opening was 0.48m in depth and splayed on either side to the main window aperture, with a large stone lintel above.

The southwestern side of the room had a single narrow splayed window opening measuring 1.48m in height and 0.9m in width, with a depth of 0.20m to the window frame (Photo 36).

Photo 35: Window in southeastern wall of Lower Floor of Square Tower

Photo 36: Window in southwestern elevation of Lower Floor of Square Tower

The northwest corner of the room contained a patch of stonework which projected slightly into the room, such that there was not a sharp corner (Photo 37). A few fragments of brick were located on the surface, which appeared to be facing to the projection as opposed to its structural fabric (perhaps to smooth off rough rubble stonework to allow it to be plastered over).

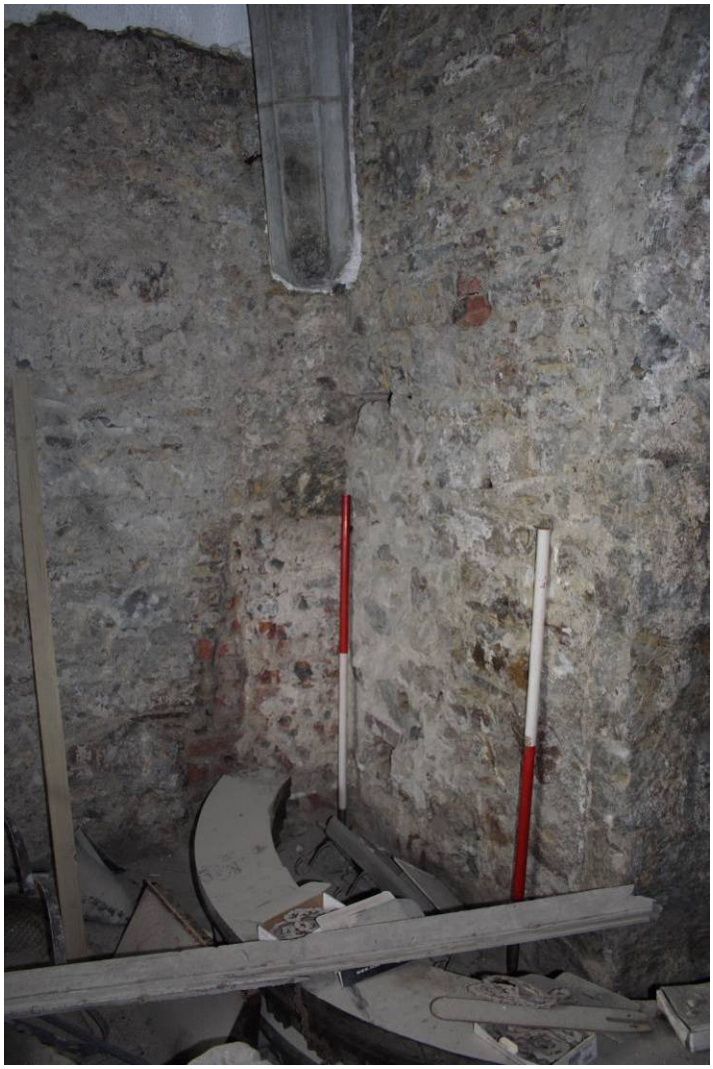

Photo 37: Northwest corner of Lower Floor of Square Tower showing projecting stonework

The Study within Stair Extension

To the east of the doorway from the First Floor of the D-Shaped Tower to the Lower Floor of the Square Tower was a second pointed arch doorway leading into the Study in the Stair Extension. This was also of modern date and lay adjacent to the archways at the top of the flight of stairs to the First Floor as discussed above (Photo 24). The arch leading into the Study was taller than the others (Photo 38). This is also a 20th century addition.

The Study room was trapezoidal in shape 2.50m in maximum length and 1.75m maximum width. The main wall on its southeastern side contained a large ornate window containing two tall arched lights with a round window placed centrally above all encased within large pointed arch, moulded stone frame (Photo 39). The window dates from the 1901 – 1904 renovations and was evidently inserted to fill a large void which is shown on the 19th century illustrations and photographs of the castle. The window is a basic copy of those within the northern facade of St Marys Church at Roch which is visible from the window to the southeast.

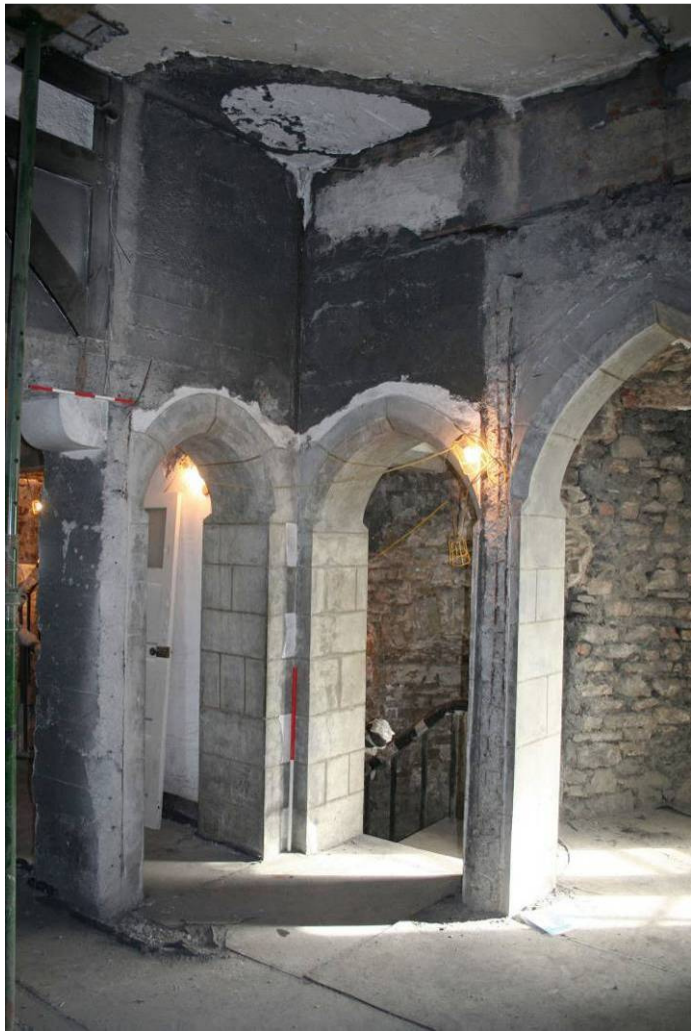

Photo 38: Eastern side of first floor showing doorway to stairs and Study on right hand side of photograph

Photo 39: 1901-1904 Window within southeast wall of Study

Photo 40: 1901-1904 northeastern wall blocking of possible former garderobe

Photo 41: Possible blocked passageway, which may have led to the First Floor of Square Tower

The northeastern wall of the room also dates from the 1901 – 1904 renovations, and suggests blocking of a former void (Photo 40). It is possible that this may have been a medieval garderobe, inserted as part of the Stair Extension (as is present directly above on the second floor). A garderobe is noted in Clarke's 1865 description in this location. Above this wall within the ceiling are possible indications of the underside of winders for a former curved stairway above, which do not correspond with any existing stairs.

The southwestern part of the Study narrows into a short passage with pointed corbelled ceiling (Photo 41). The ceiling appears to project over the end wall of the passage, which may indicate the passageway has been blocked, although the fabric of the end wall could not be conclusively said to be separate from the side walls. If this was a former passageway, it would have led directly into the Lower Floor of the Square Tower in a similar arrangement to that above.

Stairs to Second Floor Level of D-Shaped Tower

The stairway leading from the First to the Second Floor of the D-Shaped Tower is made of concrete and is an insertion dating to 1901-1904. A contemporary iron balustrade with wooden handrail is present (Photo 42). The stairs pass a large tall window on the eastern side (as discussed above). The thickness of the exterior wall in this location is far thinner than that to the north and east and may suggest a former stair was present in the thickness of the wall, but had collapsed, as had the inner face of the wall prior to the 1901-1904 renovations.

Photo 42: 1901-1904 concrete stairs leading from
First to Second Floor of D-Shaped Tower

Second Floor Level of D-Shaped Tower

The Second Floor Level of the D-Shaped Tower was split into two rooms, within the northern room at a lower level than that to the south. The north room comprised two modern partition walls of concrete to the south dividing the adjacent room and to the east, separating the stairwell from the main part of the room. The room was rectangular in plan measuring *c.*4.7m north to south and

*c.*4.9m east to west. Two windows were present in the western and northern walls, both rising from the concrete floor level to the apex of Tudor style arches forming alcoves within the majority of the width of the walls. The western window alcove (Photo 43) measured *c.*2.00m in width and 1.45m in depth, with slightly splayed reveals adjacent to the window itself. The window arch rose to a height of 2.00m at its apex, formed of stone voussoirs on the wall facade and stone corbelling. Inserted bricks on the outer edges of the reveal may suggest partial 1901-1904 infilling.

Photo 43: Window in western wall of northern room of the Second Floor of D-Shaped Tower

Photo 44: Window in northern wall of northern room of the Second Floor of D-Shaped Tower

The window alcove in the northern wall (Photo 44) measured *c.*1.96m in width and 1.45m in depth. The height to the apex of the arch was 2.07m. There were no splayed reveals adjacent to the window, but brick insertions were noted on the internal facade suggesting rebuilding of the external face of the window, probably during the 1901-1904 renovations. Brickwork was also noted on the edges of the reveal, again suggesting partial infilling in the early part of the 20th century. The arch was again faced with stone voussoirs with corbelling forming the remainder of its roof.

Both the western and northern windows lie directly above the openings seen at First Floor Level and originally formed part of the same window apertures, since subdivided by the inserted concrete floor levels during the 1901-1904 renovations. Taken with the window seen on the eastern side of the D-Shaped Tower, which rises to an almost identical height as the apexes of the other window arches, it suggests that there were three larger window openings present at the northern end of the castle. These are all likely to have been serving a single large hall area. Indications of the possible original medieval floor height are present in the First Floor below, including: the brick infill to the west of the western window, the top of the 20th century steps leading up to the southwestern window and the base of the rectangular alcove on the southern wall. All of these were at a level of approximately 0.80 to 0.83m above the 1901-1904 concrete floor level. If this represents the first floor level of the 13th century medieval D-Shaped Tower, then both the northern and western windows seen in the First and Second Floors would have had a height of almost 4m.

To the south of the western window lay a 20th century fireplace (Photos 43 and 45). It is likely to have reused an earlier fireplace as a stone arch was present above the opening. This arch continued through the adjacent modern partition wall and was then visible in the upper part of the First Floor below (visible beneath the floor level of the adjacent southern room). Its full span would have been around 2m, with the top of the arch some 2.8m from the possible medieval floor level below. The feature may represent a tall medieval fireplace or alternatively a doorway to a stairway in the thickness of the walls curving to the south (although no further evidence for this could be conclusively seen). The height of this feature may fit better with the doorway theory.

Photo 45: Earlier arch above 20th century fireplace

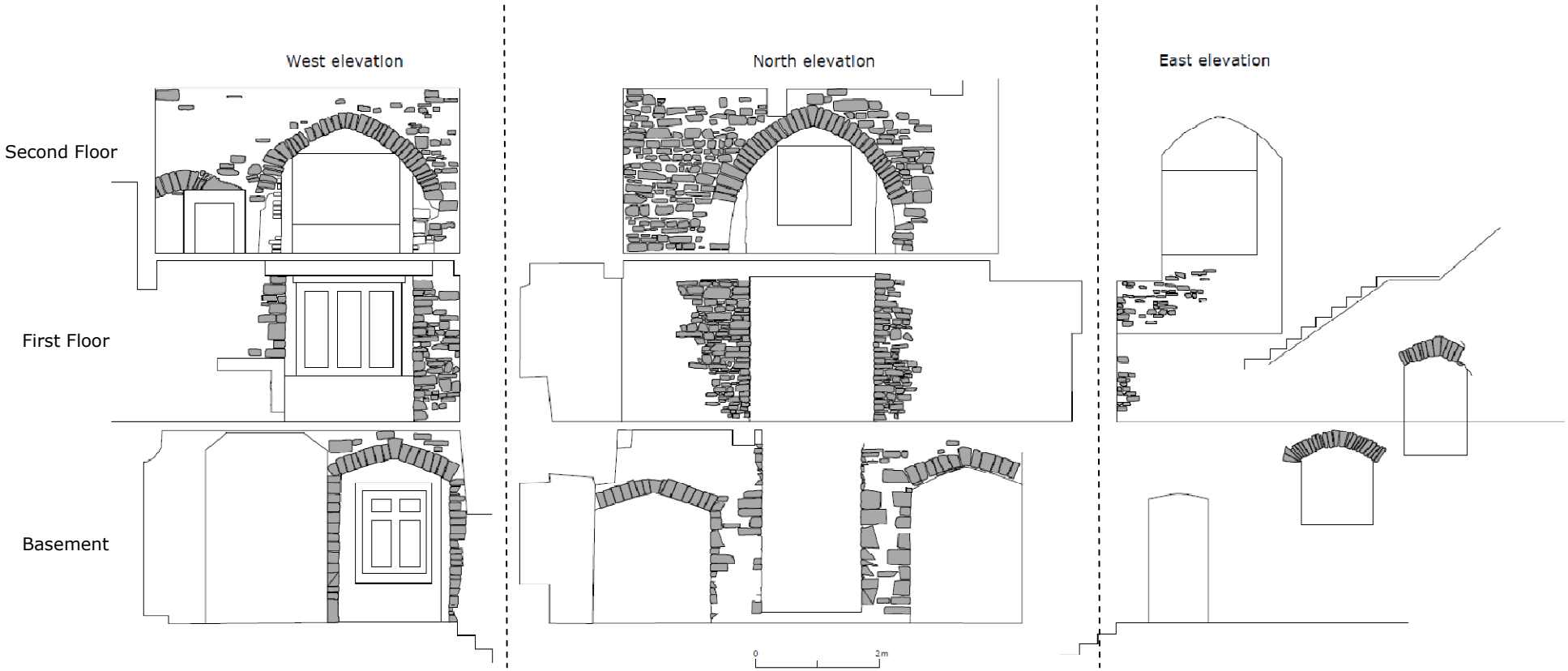

Figure 9: Elevation drawings showing west, north and east elevations of northern end of D-Shaped Tower for Basement, First and Second Floors

The southern room is at a higher level than that to the south, as can be seen in the modern concrete ceiling of the First Floor below. The room measured *c.*6.4m east to west and *c.*4.0m maximum north to south (the southern end being apsidal). The northern wall of the room is a modern partition with no features and much of the eastern wall was of modern brick build (Photo 46). The entrance into the room was formed by the modern brick wall to the north and a stone wall to the south.

Photo 46: Northern and eastern walls, including entrance into southern room of Second Floor Level of D-Shaped Tower

Photo 47: Southeastern part of southern room of Second Floor showing corbels and section of brick infill

Within the stone wall adjacent to the doorway were a series of four corbels with the wall widening above (Photo 47). This area of the room had evidently been subject to considerable remodelling and rebuilding, with the 1901-1904 brick wall to the north and an area of brick infill to the southwest of the corbels. The northern corbel appeared to have been cut through as the ragged cut marks were visible on its exposed end, and for the block of stone above. The doorway is evidently a modern insertion (dating from 1901-1904). The area of brick infill to the southwest covers the middle part of the southern facade of the room. A small vent was present in the brick wall. The brick infill was taken down during the renovation works and it was confirmed that it covered a chimney flue behind. Further to the west, the wall returns to stone construction with little evidence of repair or rebuild, other than a ceramic pipe built against and into the wall, a remnant of its former use as a bathroom (Photo 48).

Photo 48: Southern wall of southern room of Second Floor
(bricks and plastered area to west mark the reveal of the western window)

The southern and western walls of the room comprise part of the curve of the D-Shaped Tower. A single window is present located on the western side measuring 2.25m in height from floor to ceiling and was 1.66m in width (Photo 49). The total depth to the window frame was 1.56m, with a window cill was present of for the final depth of 0.74m of the window. The window cill was raised 0.71m from the floor level of the room and was constructed of roughly faced stonework, as opposed to having been cut back. The whole window aperture has been substantially remodelled during the 20th century renovations, with the majority of the northern reveal faced in brick from the top of the window cill level upwards and with patches of repair on the southern one.

To the north of the window the facade of the western wall was mostly of stone construction although there again appeared to be infill or repairs of uncertain date (presumably earlier than the 1901-1904 renovations due to the lack of brick used). At a level of 2.26m above the floor level was a small stone arch, which had been infilled below (Photo 50).

Photo 49: Window in western wall of southern room of Second Floor showing brick infill and repairs

Photo 50: Wall to north of western window in southern room of Second Floor showing stone arch at top

It seems likely that the western wall of the southern room of the Second Floor Level of the D-Shaped Tower was originally narrower in the vicinity of the window. This could suggest an earlier window opening was present or alternatively there may have been a stair enclosed within the thickness of the wall. If the inner face of the wall had partially collapsed prior to the 1901-1904 renovations (as the information recorded by Clarke in 1865 may suggest), then it may have been an opportunity to insert a new window opening through the full thickness of the wall, perhaps utilising an existing window light. The location of the entrance to the stairs is not known, but potentially could be indicated by the stone arch seen to the north of the window opening or alternatively this is an arch over a former small fireplace.

The Garderobe within Stair Extension

Opposite the doorway into the southern room of the Second Floor lies a small level area in the rise of the stairs with a door leading to the east into a small room. The room measures roughly 1.50m north to south maximum by 0.70m east to west maximum. Immediately above the entrance to the room the ceiling has stone corbels forming a simple domed stone ceiling (Photo 51).

Photo 51: Corbelling forming small stone domed ceiling within garderobe

A small window opening was present on the eastern wall *c.*1.20m in height, 0.55m in width and 0.25m depth to the window frame (Photo 52). The window reveals were splayed on either side. The base of the window had been significantly modified and reduced in height for a sink unit which was formerly located within the room. A small vent was also located to the north of this window with a metal cover (Photo 53).

Well constructed stone walls were present on the eastern and western sides of the room, whereas the northern end was significantly rebuilt and patched (Photo 53). The patching included brickwork, with bricks laid normally and also rows with bricks laid on their sides. A modern toilet had been located at this end of the room previously.

The room would have been one of at least two garderobes built into the Stair extension on the southeastern side of the castle. The garderobe directly below this one was blocked up during the 1901-1904 renovations.

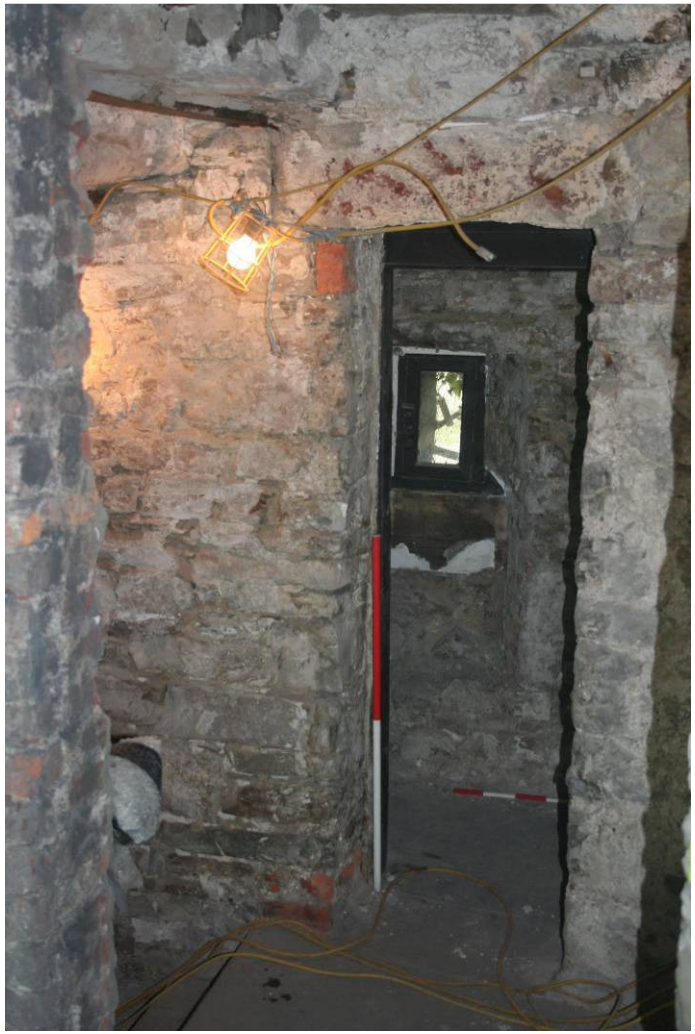

Photo 52: View into Garderobe within Stair Extension showing window

Photo 53: Northern wall within Garderobe in Stair Extension showing brick patched walling, with small vent to east

Middle Floor of Square Tower

From the garderobe the stairs rise a little further and split in two directions. A curve in the stair to the southwest provides access to the middle floor of the Square Tower, the other curves sharply on a partial stone spiral stair with central newel leading to the Third Floor Level. The room forming the Middle Floor of the Square Tower measures *c.*2.60m north to south and *c.*3.3m east to west. The roof comprised a ribbed and vaulted stone ceiling comprising mostly original fabric, although a number of replacement re repaired stones were noted on the ribs.

Photo 54: Part of ribbed and vaulted ceiling of Middle Floor of Square Tower

The doorway measured a maximum height of 2.15m from floor level and 0.74m in width (Photo 55). Stone voussoirs forming a simple arch were visible on the internal face of the wall over the doorway. The doorway would appear to be the original entrance into the room. To the south of the doorway in the northeastern elevation was an alcove, measuring 1.97m in height and 0.85m in width, with a maximum depth of 0.64m. The sides of the alcove were splayed on both sides leading back to a central join. A concrete lintel was present over the alcove. The sides of the alcove were obscured and it is uncertain if the alcove was a modification of an existing one or a new addition, although it seems unlikely that such a large alcove would have been cut into a solid wall, so it is presumed that it was a modified existing feature.

The main window of the room was again located in the centre of the southeastern wall, measuring 1.20m in width and 1.19m maximum height (Photo 56). The window cill was 0.31m in depth. A stone arch was visible above the window which is likely to be original. The reveals of the window were splayed on either side. The window cill was formed by a large mass of concrete forming a beam. This could be seen in the fabric of the wall on either side of the window and into the southwestern wall and is a repair dating to the 1901-1904 renovations underpinning formerly unstable fabric above. A further smaller window was present on the southwestern wall which used the concrete beam as its cill. The window opening measured 1.15m wide by 1.06m in height, with a depth of 0.31m to the window frame. The reveals on either side were sharply splayed and it had a concrete lintel above. This is presumed to be a 1901-1904 remodelling of an earlier window.

Photo 55: Northeastern elevation of Middle Floor of Square Tower, showing doorway and adjacent alcove

Photo 56: Window in southeastern wall of Middle Floor of Square Tower, showing stone arch and concrete cill

Photo 57: Window in southwestern wall of Middle Floor of Square Tower, showing concrete lintel and cill

Photo 58: Curving stone stairs and newel from Second to Third Floor of the D-Shaped Tower

Stairs from Second to Third Floor Level of D-Shaped Tower

As noted above, the stairs leading from the Second to Third Floor Level of the D-Shaped Tower were formed by a curving stone stair with central stone newel, which turned 90 degrees before heading upwards to the north (Photo 58). The stairs had been partially repaired with concrete levelling spread on the treads of some of the steps. The stairs are considered to be largely original associated with the addition of the Stair Extension.

The stairs led up to the third floor of the D-Shaped Tower, the roof area and a return of the stairs then led to the southwest and the Upper Floor of the Square Tower.

Third Floor Level of D-Shaped Tower

The Third Floor of the D-Shaped Tower was again divided into two rooms, with the southern room again being at higher level than that to the north. Access to the northern room was via a small part of the roof with four few steps dropping down onto the floor level (Photo 59). Prior to the renovations a staircase led from the second floor directly to this room in the northeastern corner. The roof was constructed of concrete laid upon vaulted corrugated iron sheets suspended between iron beams. The roof is presumed to date from the 1901-1904 renovations with later alterations and repairs. The room measures *c.*5.5m east to west by *c.*4.9m north to south.

The room was a mix of 1901-1904 brick construction and concrete roof built onto areas of probable medieval stonework along the lower parts of the wall and in the northeast corner. On the eastern wall two modern windows had been inserted through a mix of stone and brick built walling (Photo 59). The windows viewed the roof walkway with stone parapet behind. The northeastern part of the wall had a void in the floor where the former stairway had been removed. A projecting area of stonework in the northeast corner represents the corbelled base of the northeastern turret (Photo 60).

Photo 59: Eastern wall of northern room of Third Floor Level of D-Shaped Tower

Photo 60: Corbelled base of turret projecting into northeast corner of room

The southern wall of the Third Floor was of modern concrete construction, with the adjacent western wall a mix of brick with stone built lower parts (Photo 61). A modern window had been inserted to provide light, which again overlooked the roof walkway and stone parapet behind. A modern fireplace had been inserted into the southern end of the western wall.

Photo 61: Southern concrete wall and western wall of brick with lower parts of stone construction, and fireplace

The northern wall of the northern room of the Third Floor Level of the D-Shaped Tower was again constructed of brick for the upper parts of the wall and with stonework for the lower parts (Photo 62). Another modern window had been inserted in this wall overlooking the roof walkway and stone parapet behind.

Photo 62: Northern wall of northern room showing stone and brick built walls, with stone turret base in northeast corner

The top of the stone built lower parts of the walls correspond with the roof walkway level, as can be seen in the doorway (Photo 59). It is possible that this wall is of medieval date although it had been heavily modified and raised with later brick construction.

Photo 63: View of northern wall and eastern doorway into southern room of Third Floor Level

The southern room of the Third Floor Level of the D-Shaped Tower measured a maximum of 5.8m east to west and a maximum of 3.9m north to south. The southern end of the room was apsidal following the curve of the D-

Shaped Tower. The roof was constructed of concrete laid upon vaulted corrugated iron sheets suspended between iron beams (Photo 63). The lower part of the northern wall was constructed of concrete to the height of the roof of the adjacent room to the north, with a brick built wall above with two modern windows within it (Photo 63). These looked out over the roof of the northern room.

The western side of the room had a brick built alcove in the northwest corner, constructed against a stone built projection (Photo 64). The western wall comprised the curve of the D-Shaped Tower, but was noticeably narrower in this area. The wall is over 1.6m thick on the Basement to Second Floor, whereas here it is *c.*0.45m thick. The stone projection lies above the location of a fireplace on the First Floor Level and a possible smaller one on the Second Floor. With the narrowness of the wall in this location, it is presumed the projection houses a chimney flue. This projection was adapted at some point during the 20th century with the construction of a brick walled cupboard. The base of the cupboard was of stone construction, and matched the width of the stone wall below, although it is uncertain if this was a later addition or an original feature. The continuation of the western wall has two windows within its curve (Photo 64). Evidence of cut stone and areas of cement infill suggest that both of these windows are later insertions, associated with the 1901-1904 renovations.

Photo 64: Northwest corner of southern room of Third Floor Level showing brick and stone projection

Photo 64: Western wall of southern room of Second Floor Level

To the south of the windows, the western wall substantially increased in width (Photo 65). The remainder of the southern wall continued the line of this increased width, with a fireplace centrally placed. A step in the wall was present, rising to a level area 1.16m above floor level. The step projected out diagonally from the wall, a length of 1.64m, with the inside edge measuring *c.*0.65m in length and the length against the internal wall face *c.*1.50m in length. A brick partition wall had been built on the inside edge of the step to ceiling height to create a storage area, the brick construction seemingly more recent than the 1901-1904 renovations style. The facade of the stone work below the step and the facade above appeared to be later blocking of uncertain date.

Photo 65: Southern wall of southern room of Third Floor Level showing increased wall width and step

During the renovation work three blocked window lights were exposed within the western wall of this room. The light below the northern window on the western wall was partially unblocked indicating that the internal aperture measured 0.30m in width and at least 0.38m in depth (some blocking may have remained) (Photo 66). The possible base of this light was 0.40m above the room floor level. A stone lintel sat above the opening. The reveals on either side were splayed to a narrow opening.

Photo 66: Northern window light on western wall

Photo 67: Southern window light on western wall obscured by floor level

A further window light was revealed to the south, below and to the southwest of the other window in the western wall (Photo 67). This was only just

visible as it was mostly covered by the concrete floor level. A stone lintel sat above the aperture. Although mostly obscured by the 1901-1904 concrete floor, no sign of splayed reveals were shown and the window aperture was a similar width to the internal opening (*c.*0.20m).

The third window light was located above the step in the wall. This was not unblocked and was evident only as a large stone lintel with an area of patching below (Photo 68). The lintel projected behind stonework to the southwest of the step in the wall, indicating that this was later blocking. The lintel measured at least 0.84m in length.

Photo 68: Stone lintel and blocked aperture below above step on southern wall

The evidence within the southern room suggests substantial remodelling of the original wall layout. The narrow external curved wall is considered to be original medieval construction. It is very probable that a curving stair was present within the thickness of the castle walls at this point, the inside of the wall having collapsed and adapted to create the wall layout as exists today (with the two new windows). The stairs would have risen from the north to the southwest, further evidenced by the two southern window lights which are at two different levels rising with the stair. Further evidence for the stair comes from the wall layout of the room below on the Second Floor Level, as well as within the Upper Floor of the Square Tower (discussed below).

Upper Floor of Square Tower

The Upper Floor of the Square Tower is accessed via a modern concrete stair rising from the level of the entrance to the southern room of the Third Floor. The room measures *c.*3.3m from southeast to northwest and a maximum of 3.1m from northeast to southwest. The room has a modern flat concrete ceiling with no evidence for any vaulting as seen in the room below. The walls outside the doorway on either side of the stairs to the room comprise stonework, brick built additions and concrete patches. It is possible that the stairs follow the line of medieval ones, but this is discussed further below.

Photo 69: Doorway into Upper Floor of Square Tower from east, with area of brick build and door to stairs accessing roof

Photo 70: Modern fireplace in eastern wall of Upper Floor of Square Tower

The entrance is in the eastern wall, *c.*2.14m in height and 0.76m in width. A stone arch is present above the doorway, which appears to be an original feature although the door frame and stairs leading to the room are constructed with concrete and cement. This may indicate adaptation of an earlier opening. A modern fireplace lies to the southeast of the doorway.

Photo 71: Window in southeastern wall of Upper Floor of Square Tower

The southeastern wall has the main window for the room, which measures 1.20m in width and 1.23m in height to the apex of the arched opening (Photo 71). It was *c.*0.29m in depth. The wall fabric suggested the area had been repaired to some degree, but no indications of substantial rebuild were noted. The window aperture was slightly splayed.

The southwestern wall of the Upper Floor has a smaller window within it, which may be a modern insert or modification as it is had a large concrete lintel and substantial cement and brick edging on the northeastern reveal (Photo 72). To the northeast of the window was an irregular shaped alcove with stone arch above and corbelled stone roof (Photo 72) sloping back. The base of the alcove was 1.25m in width, with a maximum height to the apex of the arch of 1.52m. The alcove curved to the northwest measuring *c.*1.19m deep on its southern side and *c.*0.55m deep to the north.

It is probable that the alcove represents part of the original entrance into the Upper Floor of the Tower. The floor level of the room was presumably altered during the 1901-1904 renovations and raised. If the earlier floor level was lower

by as little as 0.5m, then the alcove would form an entrance of around 2m height. The rear of the alcove had been blocked with stonework, similar to that seen on top of the step in the southern room of the Third Floor of the D-Shaped Tower below. The projected line of the staircase within the width of the wall, which may have started at a level within the Second Floor of the D-Shaped Tower, would lead directly to this alcove. It is possible that the stair pre-dates the tower and would have led onto battlements on the roof (discussed further below).

Photo 72: Southwestern wall of Upper Floor of Square Tower showing window and arched alcove

The northeastern wall of the Upper Floor of the Square Tower had a single feature of interest, and was otherwise stone built with few indications of rebuild or phasing. The feature comprised a vent for a flue behind which led through the central part of the southern wall of the D-Shaped Tower, serving the possible fireplaces seen on the floors below.

The Roof

The Roof of the castle was split into four areas. The lowest comprised the walkway on the inside of the parapet which led around the upper part of the northern room of the Third Floor of the D-Shaped Tower. The modern concrete ceilings of the northern and southern rooms of the Third Floor of the D-Shaped Tower formed the roofs for the majority of the D-Shaped Tower (Photos 73 & 74). These were split into two levels, reflecting the difference in the floor levels of the rooms. No specific stairways led to these roofed areas.

The roof walkway around the northern room was accessed directly from the medieval stone stairs leading from the Second Floor (Photo 58). Two turrets were located on the northwest and northeast corners of the D-Shaped Tower (Photo 73), with the walkway leading below both. The northeastern turret would appear to be of substantially medieval fabric. The base of the turret was seen in the northeastern corner of the room below. A corbelled dome supports the floor of the turret which can be seen from the walkway beneath. A series of blocks projecting from the inside of the parapet wall in front of the turret would have originally held a wooden staircase leading up to the turret floor (Photo 75). The

northwestern turret had been rebuilt during the 20th century, with steel beams forming the support for the floor and other obvious signs of rebuilding. No indications of step supports were present associated with this turret.

Photo 73: Southern roof layout of D-Shaped Tower and turrets prior to renovation work (asbestos roofed structure housed a water tank)

Photo 74: Northern roof layout of D-Shaped Tower and Square Tower roof behind

Photo 75: Walkway around northern room and stone projections in parapet wall for former wooden stairs leading to northeastern turret

Photo 76: Stairs leading to roof of Square Tower

The highest roof structure was that above the Square Tower. It was formed by the modern concrete ceiling of the Upper Floor room. A staircase gained direct access to this roofed area, which ran on the outside of that leading to the Upper Floor room (Photo 76). These stairs were of modern concrete construction, but it is possible they followed an earlier alignment. The stair to the roof was accessed via a small door in the wall of the adjacent stair to the Upper Floor room (as can be seen in Photo 69).

The parapet contained crenellations of various sizes, many of which would have been rebuilt during the 1901-1904 or later works. Early pictures of the castle indicate that the parapet was in a poor state of repair by the 18th century, but that a number of larger vertical projections were present. These features correspond with chimneys above the flues noted in the western and southern walls of the castle. The two largest chimneys (Photo 77) were located on the western wall and served the fireplaces on each of the three floors of the D-Shaped Tower. These chimneys had been subject to repairs, but are probably substantially of medieval build. The chimneys on the Square Tower are visible on Photo 76.

It is uncertain how the existing roof level relates to earlier medieval layouts. It is presumed that as the height of the larger parts of the parapets (chimneys) are shown on earlier pictures, then these may be substantially of medieval fabric. The original flight of stairs from Second to Third Floor Level of the D-Shaped Tower suggests that this was the level at which roof access was made, perhaps with the walkway level corresponding with the original roof of the medieval castle. The former stairway accessing the upper floor of the Square Tower is set within the D-Shaped Tower Wall, and may be an original stair giving access to the roof for the original castle. This stair rises higher than that for the parapet walkway and would suggest the southern end of the D-Shaped Tower was higher than the northern end, or had a raised platform or turret. If the theory that the blocked stairs in the Upper Floor of the Square Tower reached a level some 0.5m below the existing floor level of that room, and this would still be around 1.4m higher than the walkway level.

Photo 77: Chimneys on western parapet of D-Shaped Tower

Observations within the Northern Extension

The remit of the building recording exercise was concentrated on the works being undertaken to the medieval castle. The works being undertaken to the northern extension were not recorded in any detail, as the original layout of the structure, its date of construction and phasing is already documented. The ground and first floor were constructed between 1901 and 1904 and the upper floor added in 1922.

When the northern extension was built, the northern facade of the original D-Shaped Castle was covered over to the height of the existing Basement level. An entrance way was cut through the northern facade to provide access between the Basement Level of the castle and the roof structure upper floor of the 1901-1904 extension. This can be seen at Basement level within the D-Shaped Tower. Two window openings at this level on the northern facade were also opened out to provide access to the lower floors within the extension and a storage area (see Basement Level above, Photos 18 & 19). The difference in height between the ground floor of the northern extension and the Basement Level of the castle is around 4.5m. The rock is stepped in this area, with one corresponding to the first floor level of the extension, and the next for the ground floor level. This indicates that the ground and bedrock on the northern facade was dug away to some extent when the extension was built to facilitate construction and joining of the two structures. The sketches of the castle from 1857 and 1865 both indicate that there was a substantial drop on the northern side of the castle prior to this.

Photo 78: Curved structure (adjacent to scales) recorded at first floor level of Northern Extension on northern facade of the castle

Photo 79: Detail of curving structure following removal of stairs recorded at first floor level of Northern Extension on northern facade of the castle

The 1857 plan also shows a buttress was present on the northern facade. The remains of a semi-circular stone built feature were recorded in this location at first floor level of the Northern Extension (Photos 78 & 79). It had been significantly altered when the Northern Extension had been built, with the curving facade removed above the first floor level of the Northern Extension. A large mass of walling was present above and set back from the curving structure (Photo 78). This mass of wall was substantially stone built with rough brick patching on its face. A large concrete support had been inserted above the exposed area of the curved structure and the wall above.

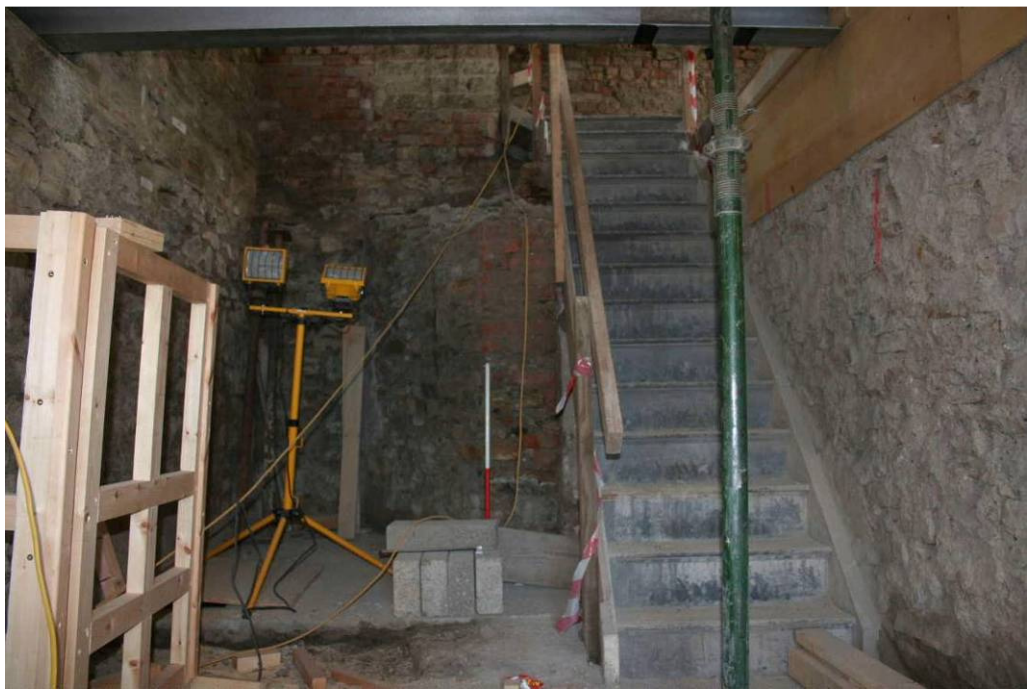

Photo 80: Possible indications of continuation of curved feature on northeastern side of basement below stairs adjacent to scale

On the southeastern side of the basement of the Northern Extension there was a possible indication of the other side of the feature showing within the end wall (Photo 80). A slightly projecting feature was noted curving out from the wall rising the entire height of the basement floor level. The face contained a number of areas of brick facing. Unfortunately this was not recorded in any more detail, as it was not recognised as being very significant at the time of the survey.

It is possible that the mass of walling is the modified remains of the feature labelled as a buttress on the 1857 plan. It is uncertain if this would have been a buttress providing structural support, as it would appear to lie almost entirely below the superstructure of the original castle. The function of this feature is unclear, it may well have served as a buttress, but had been substantially collapsed by the 19th century. It could also possibly be a feature associated with gaining entrance to the castle, such as a raised platform to gain access to the D-Shaped Tower, possibly at First Floor Level.

Photo 81: External view of northern facade of castle showing doorway from First Floor Level of D-Shaped Tower and opening below
(taken following removal of roof structure for Northern Extension)

Following the construction of the upper storey of the Northern Extension in 1922, a doorway was constructed giving access between the First Floor of the D-Shaped Tower and the new roof level of the Northern Extension. It is not known what form this opening took between 1904 and 1922, and is presumed to have been a window. The opening corresponds with a large fissure in the northern facade which is shown on the 1865 illustration of the castle (Illustration 7), which

ran from below the arch of the window in the Second Floor to the rock outcrop at basement floor level. It is assumed that during the 1901-1904 renovations, this void in the wall was utilised to create access between the castle and extension, and this was subsequently modified in 1922 to create a new doorway onto the extension roof (Photo 81). A small kitchen was built on the roof of the Northern Extension at a later date, accessed via this doorway, when the castle was used as holiday accommodation. When the roof of the Northern Extension was removed (prior to a new one being constructed) it was possible to view the majority of the northern facade from the Basement Level of the D-Shaped Tower upwards (Photo 81). This showed the continuation of vertical sides of the central doorways in the northern facade between the floor levels, which indicates the fissure seen on the 1865 illustration was probably modified as one large single opening during initial renovations works.

EXTERIOR OF CASTLE

The recent renovation work has used different methods of pointing the stonework to extenuate the main phases of the early 1900s Northern Extension (flush pointed), the D-Shaped Tower (with rougher 'parged' pointing) and the Square Tower and Stair Extension (covered with a lime mortar shelter coat).

Western Elevation

Photo 83: Western elevation in September 2011

The western elevation of the castle includes that of the Northern Extension (Photo 83). Based on internal layout it is known that the windows on the northern part of the façade are replacement windows but in original window locations. As noted above, the northwestern turret was a modern rebuild (and completely rebuilt as part of these renovations), although may have some original fabric on the outer wall above the corbel course.

The corbel course which surrounds the D-Shaped Tower (and which continues on the northern and part of the eastern facade) would appear to be an original medieval feature, but which has been repaired in places during the 20th century renovations. These may have served a structural purpose, to allow a slightly wider parapet wall and walkway around the top of the main structural walls at roof level. The corbel course around the Northern Extension is purely decorative and mirrors the original.

The two stone work projections in the centre of the parapet on this facade are chimneys as discussed above.

The D-Shaped Tower is built directly upon the rock and it is assumed that the majority of the lower stonework is original fabric, including the quoins on the northwestern corner. Patches of the wall face will have been repaired or refaced during the 20th century, but would substantially be medieval fabric. The areas around the windows will have been repaired and remodelled.

The western elevation shows the difference in levels of the Northern Extension in relation to the castle. The windows on the upper floor of the extension corresponding with the basement level of the D-Shaped Tower.

Southwestern Elevation

The southwestern elevation comprises the curving wall of the original D-Shaped Tower and the later Square Tower (Photo 84). Illustrations and photographs indicate that this was the most intact part of the original structure and all but the upper parts would be of medieval date (although with re-facing and re-pointing associated with the 1900s and recent renovations).

The windows on the curving part of the structure below the line of corbels are original window locations, which have been heavily modified. The two windows above the corbels are 1901-1904 additions.

The window locations on the western side of the Square Tower may be modifications of earlier window openings. The tall and narrow slot aperture at Lower Floor level suggests an original feature (such as an arrow loop).

The small window light serving the southwestern end of the Basement Level can be seen below the main window, in the southwestern wall of the First Floor. This is an original window opening. A second feature lies to the east of the larger window, which has the appearance of a waste chute from a garderobe. The probable location of stone stairs within the curve of the wall above this point (noted at Second and Third Floor Level) may indicate that garderobes were also incorporated within the walls next to the stairs (a common location), although no clear structural evidence was revealed within the building. The Square Tower is built directly upon the highest part of the rock outcrop.

Photo 84: Southwestern elevation of Roch Castle September 2011

Southern Elevation

Photo 85: Southern elevation September 2011

The southern elevation (Photo 85) comprises the main facade of the Square Tower. Early photographs and illustrations indicate that this survived relatively intact. The windows within this southern elevation correspond with original window locations, although they have been remodelled and rebuilt.

Eastern Elevation

Early photographs and illustrations indicate that the eastern elevation had survived in a poor state of preservation before the 1901-1904 renovation, with a large void in the wall at the first floor and in the area of the existing castle entrance, as well as significant disturbance to the upper levels of the castle. The facade was substantially repaired and remodelled.

The elevation comprises the Stair Extension and the northern end of the D-Shaped Tower to the south (Photo 86) and the Northern Extension to the north (Photo 87). The main facade of the Stair Extension faces to the southeast and includes the large arched gothic window in the Study within the Stair Extension. This was inserted during the 1901-1904 renovations and filled a large void indicated in this area on early photos and illustrations. Below this window is an original relieving arch built into the fabric of the wall, to span the differences in heights and layout of the rock outcrop beneath. This is shown on earlier photographs and illustrations.

Photo 86: Eastern elevation (September 2011) showing Stair Extension and part of D-Shaped Tower

Also present on this elevation are three sets of projecting stones to the right of the relieving arch which are those as described by Clarke in 1865 which are thought to indicate the intention of a further wall projecting off from the main castle. No evidence for a projecting wall ever having been built has been revealed. It is possible that these stones were associated with the construction of the Stair Extension, as supports for scaffolding or ladders. They may have been left for to facilitate later repairs.

Early photographs and illustrations indicate a large void running down a sizeable portion of the centre of the eastern facade. This void was utilised during the 1901-1904 renovations to create a new entrance at the Basement Level of the D-Shaped Tower (as discussed above, Photo 9). An external stairway was constructed to access the entrance curving around the eastern side of the castle from the north end of the Northern Extension.

To the south of the entrance doorway are two narrow window openings providing light for the stairs within the D-Shaped Tower. A pair is present leading from the Basement to First Floor of the Tower and a further pair is present above for the stair leading from the First to Second Floor, although only the lower one provides light for the staircase, the other for the garderobe.

An arch is present over the window above the door. This relates to the large arched window opening seen on the internal eastern elevation of the D-Shaped Tower. The window beneath is a modern rebuild.

On the northern end of the upper part of this elevation a small stretch of corbelling is visible, leading from the base of the northeastern turret to a point where the wall widens, above the arched window. This corbel course is present around the entire visible elevations of the D-Shaped Tower, but is not present on the Stair Extension or Square Tower. It is surmised that the corbel course was an original feature of the D-Shaped Tower, and built over and not replaced with the addition of the Square Tower and Stair Extension.

A small area of corbelling is also present at a lower level on the Stair Extension southeastern facade above the gothic arched window. This is an original structural feature, presumably to strengthen the construction and allow a slight widening of the wall above. It is shown on early photographs and illustration of the castle.

Photo 87: Eastern elevation (September 2011) showing main entrance and stairs and Northern Extension with new D-shaped construction on top

Northern Elevation

Much of the northern elevation of the D-Shaped Tower has been remodelled with the construction of the northern extension during the renovations of 1901-1904 and 1922 (Photos 88 & 87). The lower parts of the D-Shaped Tower elevation are discussed above.

The northern facade of the Northern Extension has been constructed to mirror that of the earlier castle behind (Photo 88) with upper corbel course and imitation turrets at the corners.

Above the Northern Extension roof, the D-Shaped Tower facade has the two turrets visible and the corbel course around the base of the parapet wall (this can be seen obliquely on Photo 87). A central window is that seen on the northern wall of the northern room of the Second Floor of the D-Shaped Tower.

Photo 88: The northern elevation showing Northern Extension with turrets of D-Shaped Tower just visible above (September 2011)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEFS

In total, 14 visits were made to the castle during the undertaking of the external works. These included: excavation of new drainage runs and service ducts; the excavation through the floors of the northern extension; the construction of kerbing on either side of the driveway to increase its width; areas of car parking; investigation of a 20th century stone chamber to the east of the castle; a small groundkeeper access track and parking / turning area to the east of the castle; and during the construction of the maintenance shed.

Dates	Description
5th February 2010	Excavation through floors of Northern Extension
6th to 9th September 2010	Service run across driveway and excavation of footings for maintenance shed
20th October 2010	Service run from doorway of Northern Extension to join that in driveway
27th to 28th April 2011	Service runs adjacent to driveway
3rd and 4th May 2011	Area of car parking adjacent to driveway
6th, 9th, 13th, 16th to 18th May 2011	Excavation of kerbing runs alongside the driveway
22nd September 2011	Investigation of chamber revealed to east of Castle
18th November 2011	Excavation associated with the groundkeeper's access track and turning area to the east of the castle
17th January 2012	Service run across grassed area between areas of the driveway to west of Castle

Area Adjacent to and Within Northern Extension

In the area closest to the Northern Extension a depth of made ground was observed which contained late 19th century and early 20th century debris within it (Photo 89). The ground may have been raised to create a level area outside of the Northern Extension both for the later driveway and also to assist with its construction. The nature of the debris within the soil would indicate that material had been imported onto the site (there would be no reason for debris of this date to be at the castle prior to its restoration). Such material may well have also been used in the construction of the ascending external stairs to the entrance doorway on the eastern side of the castle (as exists today).

The floors within the base of the Northern Extension were removed in order that they could be replaced. The floors and associated make-up were in p-laces 0.8m in depth, comprising rubble stone lower levels with subsequent concrete screed and floors layers above (Photo 90). It is probable that the floors had been resurfaced on a number of occasions. In places the bedrock was much higher and the floors were laid directly upon it. This was more evident in the southern part of the extension. A dark loose silty soil was present under many parts of the flooring. It is possible that this may be the original soil surface that was present before the Northern Extension was constructed, although no finds were recovered from the soil to provide a date.

The evidence would indicate that in advance of the Northern Extension being constructed, the ground level had to be prepared. This involved some reduction in height of outcrops of bedrock and in other areas material was infilled into hollows in the rock. It is probable that the stone cut from one area was used as a base for the floor in others. This process has seemingly removed or totally obscured any earlier archaeology that may have been present. In this area adjacent to the main tower, it would be likely that features such as rock cut postholes or the remains of other stone structures could have been present. Rubbish and debris associated with medieval use of the castle would have also potentially been in this area although no such remains or any finds were visible.

Photo 89: Service trench excavated directly outside of the entrance on the northern end of the Northern Extension (footing of wall at top of photo)

Photo 90: Excavation through floor levels below Northern Extension showing depth of make-up (not bedrock at top of photo)

The Driveway - North

A number of service trenches were excavated across the driveway and around its perimeter. The majority of these trenches were shallow at less than 0.50m depth. The trench excavated across the northern part of the driveway (Photo 91) revealed no archaeological deposits, the trench not deep enough to penetrate through the make-up layers of the drive. The driveway had evidently been resurfaced and repaired a number of times.

The service trench excavated around the northern edge of the driveway was outside of the former tarmacced area and cut through topsoils and subsoils (Photo 92). The topsoil was a very loose, dark reddish brown, humic soil of around 0.30m depth which lay above a yellowish brown subsoil containing fragments of weathered bedrock. This subsoil appeared to be undisturbed natural ground. The only finds recovered from these trenches were of 20th century date lying in the topsoil. It is considered possible that the area was landscaped, possibly when gardens were laid out for the castle in the early 1900s. This is suggested by the complete lack of finds of any earlier date, although it should also be noted that the trenches were only of around 0.50m width and represent a very small sample of the overall area.

Photo 91: Service Trench across northern part of driveway

Photo 92: Service trench around perimeter of driveway

A service trench excavated on the western side of the castle between the northern part of the driveway across a lawned area back to the drive further down slope indicated a different make up of soils (Photo 93). The trench was excavated along an earlier 20th century water pipe, which had previously disturbed the ground surface for the majority of the length of the trench. At its northern end it was close to the exposed outcrop of rock on which the castle sits. A number of loose and angular fragments of broken bedrock were present in the topsoil, which was around 0.5m deep in the end of the trench nearest the castle. The rock fragments were very angular and had the appearance of being more recently broken (ie. not associated with the medieval construction of the castle) and presumably originate from levelling associated with the 1900s construction phase. Nearer to the castle, the topsoil contained fragments of brick, ceramic material and modern detritus indicating it derived from a mix of the 1900s phase of construction and also more recent building work (the area was used as a temporary car park during this phase of renovation). As the service trench ran down slope the topsoil became shallower and contained far less modern material.

Photo 93: Service trench excavated across lawned area to west of castle with rock outcrop behind

Photo 94: Service trench excavated across lawned area to west of castle (viewing southwest down-slope)

The Driveway - Central

In the central part of the driveway a watching was undertaken during both the excavation of trenches for new kerbs for the driveway widening, an area for car parking and the base of the maintenance shed. The shed was constructed on a lawned area close to the edge of the castle grounds to the west of the driveway. The area comprised a dark topsoil on top of natural subsoils. No archaeological features or finds were made in this area. A number of small service trenches were also excavated to the maintenance shed.

A car parking area was also constructed to the west of the driveway which involved a topsoil strip across its footprint (Photo 95). The topsoil strip was undertaken under full archaeological supervision. Following the discovery of a large piece of possible stonework within the trench and possible associated features a second archaeologist assisted with the work and the area was hand cleaned and surveyed. The stonework was revealed to be a large outcrop of bedrock, and the nearby features a mix of remains of vegetation (root holes for trees and shrubs) and hollows in the underlying bedrock. No finds or features of archaeological significance were revealed within this area.

Photo 95: Car Parking area following topsoil strip showing outcrop of bedrock

The trenches for the new kerbs for the road were excavated on either side of the driveway, and were approximately 0.6m in width and a maximum depth of 0.50m. The constraints of the trenches was such that little archaeological information was recorded. The topsoil within the trenches was *c*.0.25m to 0.35m in depth and overlay a yellowish brown subsoil comprising quantities of clay and decayed bedrock. In a number of places within the kerb trench patches of accumulated rock were encountered (Photo 96). These were investigated further to see if they were the remnants of collapsed walls or other features, but all were considered to be either of natural origin or as a result of clearance during the layout of the gardens. The stones accumulations in the central part of the

driveway were randomly arranged with no sign of any bonding material either in-situ or still adhering to the stone to suggest they had been used in a medieval or later structure.

Photo 96: Area of accumulated rock within kerb trench

The Driveway - South

The kerb trenches excavated on either side of the driveway at its southern end were again mostly archaeologically sterile with no finds or features revealed. In the eastern kerb trench in fairly close proximity to the gated entrance to the castle a further accumulation of stone was revealed. Unlike the other accumulations, this one did not appear randomly arranged and was seemingly neatly laid (Photos 97 & 98).

Photo 97: Probable wall within eastern kerb trench at southern end of driveway, plan view taken from western side

Photo 98: Probable wall within eastern kerb trench at southern end of driveway showing depth within section (facing east)

The feature comprised a large stone block to the south which rose 0.20m from the base of the trench, and a large broken stone forming the central part of the feature (Photo 97). A further stone block was found to the north after further excavation, again rising slightly from the trench base. The feature measured 1.4m in width and was visible crossing the trench, but was not present in the kerb trench on the eastern side of the driveway. The feature is thought to represent the remains of a large wall of uncertain date. No finds were recovered from the area and no bonding material was recorded between the stones.

The remainder of the kerb trenches were devoid of archaeology, and comprised a shallow topsoil on top of a yellowish brown natural subsoil with decayed and broken bedrock (Photo 99). Overall the extent of disturbance caused by the insertion of the kerbing was minimal (Photo 100), and was a far better methodology in terms of minimising archaeological disturbance, than a complete removal of the existing driveway surface and rebuild as was originally proposed.

Photo 99: Typical section of kerb trench with topsoil upon lower subsoil with broken bedrock

Photo 100: View north along driveway following insertion of kerbing along eastern trench, with western trench still open

Modern Stone Chamber Revealed To East of Castle

Following a machine tracking across the gardens to the east of the castle, a slate slab covered stone built chamber was revealed within the gardens. The

chamber was investigated in order to ascertain its date, significance and function (Photos 101 & 102).

Photo 101: Stone chamber to east of castle from east

Following removal of collapsed material from within the chamber, it was possible to see that a modern ceramic drain pipe fed into its western side (Photos 101 & 102). The stone chamber was bonded with concrete and had a few brick inserts in as well. It measured 0.9m north to south by 1.1m east to west and was 1.3m in depth. The base of the chamber was directly onto underlying subsoils and bedrock. It could be seen that a drain pipe on the rock outcrop that formerly connected to pipes from the castle, projected towards this chamber (Photo 103). It is presumed that the feature is a soakaway of early 1900s date associated with water management at the castle. It is very likely that other such chambers lie within the grounds close to the castle.

Photo 102: Stone chamber to east of castle showing drain pipe on western side

Photo 103: Location of stone chamber with castle behind
(note drain pipe on side of castle in line with the chamber)

Groundkeeper's Driveway and Turning Area

A watching brief was undertaken during the topsoil strip for a small driveway on the eastern side of the castle. The construction of the driveway required only a shallow depth of soil to be removed before a geotextile membrane and subsequent make-up layers for the road surface were laid.

The driveway was accessed via the existing entrance from the road to the east of the castle in front of St Marys Church. The topsoil in this area was very dark brown and contained quantities of post-medieval and later pottery, as well as other more modern rubbish. A single sherd of 13th or 14th century medieval pottery was also recovered from the topsoil in this area.

The driveway mostly followed the line of the moat around the castle (Photo 104), and it is presumed that the post-medieval pottery recovered from the stripped surface represented material that had been backfilled into the ditch. The area stripped closer to the roadway, and clearly over the top of the backfilled moat, comprised a mix of very damp dark clay soil (Photos 105 & 106).

At the northern end of the driveway its alignment left the moat and crossed the probable embanked area on its western side (inside of the bailey). The soils here did not appear to be directly onto natural ground, but the suggestion of embanked soil comprising a fine and compacted reddish brown soils. This would indicate a raised earthwork bank was formerly present inside the moat (Photo 107).

Photo 104: View southeast across driveway showing raised ground on the inside of the moat

Photo 105: Topsoil stripping of driveway at southern end, viewing southeast with St Marys Church behind (note dark soils revealed)

Photo 106: View north of northern end of driveway with turning area to west, showing darker soils to south and lighter brown material to north

Photo 107: Area of fine and compact soil indicating a possible bank on the inside of the moat, with darker soil of moat to top of photo (viewing south)

At the very northern end of the driveway bedrock was encountered as would be expected on the rising ground heading up to the outcrop to the northeast of the castle (Photo 106). At the western end of the turning area (small spur of driveway heading towards the castle) an irregular shaped feature was revealed which contained rotting vegetation, branches and organic matter. The feature was not investigated further as it was seemingly of quite recent date and may have contained human waste. Although probably originating from a modern cess pit, the feature was not itself a cess pit, perhaps a dump of material removed from an overflowing or blocked cess pit, on top of which vegetation and garden waste was dumped in an attempt to mask the smell or provide a temporary cover.

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

(summarised from Poucher 2011; Appendix II)

The geophysical survey was undertaken following the discovery of part of possible stone wall close to the existing entrance to the castle in 2011. The wall suggested that some form of stone built defence could have been present on the outside of the moat that surrounded the castle. It was requested that a survey be undertaken of the area adjacent to this find and also across the available areas of the lawned areas to the north, east and south of the castle. The survey was undertaken in June 2011.

The survey revealed a complex range of possible archaeological activity throughout the surveyed area. Due to the nature of geophysical surveys, it was not possible to confirm the nature or date of many of these anomalies and only major features have been put forward for archaeological interpretation. Any interpretation from these geophysical results is by its nature speculative and precise details about the context, function, state of preservation and date of any archaeological features would require further intrusive investigation. The full report is included within Appendix II, including plots of the raw and processed survey data. The following Figure 10 shows identified groups of anomalies from the survey (labelled No. 1, No. 2 etc) and suggests possible interpretations of these (from Poucher 2011).

Anomaly Group No. 1 – The Castle Moat

The most prominent topographic feature within the area surveyed is the break of slope that represents the line of the moat, as depicted on late 19th/early 20th century map sources. At the base of this slope the geophysical survey shows a curvilinear band of darker, more magnetically positive, readings. Such responses are often indicative of buried ditches. The relatively narrow band and weak responses may be an indication that much of the infilling material of the moat has previously been removed, leaving only the lowest deposits intact. Interestingly, sections of this curvilinear feature appear to consist of rows of more individually discrete areas of positive magnetic readings, which may suggest a series of pits or postholes along the base of the moat. Alternatively it could be a feature of the mixed deposits or undulating nature of the base of the moat cut.

Anomaly Group No. 2 – Possible Timber Palisade

A further series of these more discrete individual areas of magnetically positive responses runs along the inside of the edge of the moat on raised ground for a distance of *c*.20m. Such readings may be indicative of a series of pits or large postholes. Their location at the top of the slope may indicate a connection between the two, possibly associated with an inner line of defences such as a timber palisade. Such a palisade could be either of medieval date, or even potentially associated with Civil War refortification of the castle. The size of these anomalies, if the posthole theory is correct, is far larger than would be needed for a simple stock proof fence.

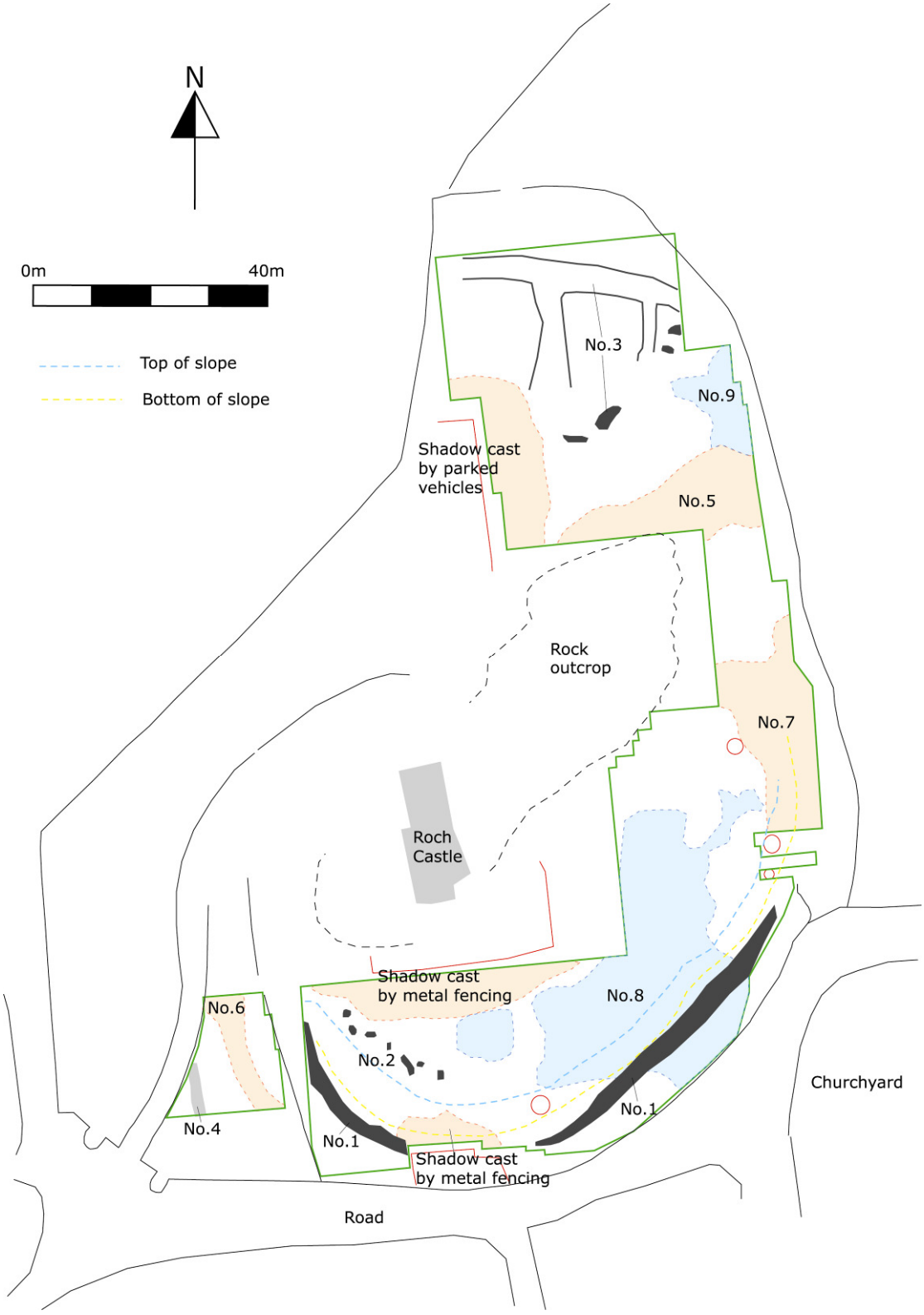

Figure 10: Interpretation of geophysical survey results, overlaid with local topographical detail. The survey area is outlined in green, the numbers refer to the geophysical interpretation' below

Anomaly Group No. 3 – Plot Boundaries in the Northern Bailey

At the northern end of the site are a series of rectilinear anomalies, represented by areas of magnetically negative readings flanked by magnetically positive readings. Such readings are often found to represent buried banks, or possibly walls, flanked by ditches. Their rectilinear appearance is a strong indication that these are man-made features, representing enclosures with a suggestion of more disturbed ground within the enclosures. The current topography of this area is one of relatively flat ground enclosed by a field bank to the north and east, and a wall to the west. On the outer side of all these boundaries the ground drops away sharply on to lower ground (the possible outer bailey lies to the north of this). This line is considered to be a continuation of the castle moat visible to the south indicating a possible enclosed second area to the north of the castle. Their location hints at the possibility that these enclosures could be associated with settlement activity and division of land within the inner castle bailey enclosed by the moat. However, they may also be unconnected features, such as later field boundaries or enclosures. These features do not appear on any earlier mapping and so are most unlikely to be later than 1700.

A number of larger anomalies possibly representing pits have also been identified in this area, although there date, function and association is unclear.

Anomaly Group No. 4 – Possible Stone Outer Defence

Close to the southwestern corner of the surveyed area there is the suggestion of a linear feature of magnetically negative readings running in a roughly north-south direction. Such readings are often indicative of buried banks or walls, although too small a segment of this feature is revealed to gain a clear understanding of its character. This feature lies in close proximity to the remains of the wall revealed during the watching brief and could conceivably represent the same feature, if its interpretation of a wall is correct. The geophysical survey would suggest it continues to curve around the outside of the moat, although projects beyond the edge of the geophysical survey area to the west. It would be most unusual for an outer wall beyond a moat, but could relate to a later phase of defence, perhaps indicating the moat was backfilled and the bailey area enlarged.

Alternatively this feature could be associated with a former stone building that stood outside of the castle moat. It is known that cottages were present close to the castle (as indicated during the claim for compensation after the Civil War damage by William Walter). There are no buildings marked in this area on earlier mapping, so would suggest a pre-1700s date. A building in this location close to the entrance to the castle may have been demolished as part of the refortification of the site during the Civil War if it obscured the line or view or fire from the castle defences to any attacking forces.

Anomaly Groups Nos. 5-9

Throughout the area surveyed are several large areas encompassing magnetically dipolar readings (associated conjoining positive and negative readings). Such strong readings of this nature are often indicative of buried ferrous items or areas of intense burning. These results may also be complicated by magnetic responses from disturbed igneous bedrock, which is prevalent in this area.

In some areas these readings can clearly be associated with buried cables that are still partly visible on the surface (No. 5), or have the appearance of modern services (No. 6). The presence of late 19th and early 20th century pottery

and glass amongst disturbed ground also indicates the readings of No. 7 are as a result of more recent landscaping activities.

The remaining areas (Nos. 8 & 9) could be the result of a wide variety of possibilities. It is clear that landscaping activities have taken place within these grounds, and relatively large modern ferrous items have already been recovered, such as spades and metal piping, but some ferrous items or areas of intense heat activity could also be associated with earlier phases of activity within the castle grounds. Drainage runs and soakaways are known to be present on the eastern side of the castle close to Anomaly Group 8, which date to the early 1900s works. It has also been stated by the previous owner, Mr Berry, that he also landscaped the lawned area on the eastern side of the castle, levelling the lawns and removing loose stone. All of these activities would suggest that the anomalies are more likely to be of modern date than earlier activity.

DISCUSSION AND PHASED DEVELOPMENT OF CASTLE

Phase 1: Early 12th Century - Earth and Timber phase

This phase is conjectural based on comparisons elsewhere. The pre-cursors to numerous Norman or Flemish stone castles within this region are of earth and timber, such as at the nearby Wiston and Llawhaden, but also further afield on the Landsker frontier such as at Llansteffan and Kidwelly.

Summary of Historical Background

During the early part of the 12th century Henry I granted lands within the Cantrefi of Rhos and Daugleddau to 'doughty Flemish colonists' (Howells 2002). This was done to secure the lordship of Pembroke, and the adjacent Monkton Priory. By this time Bernard, the Queen's chaplain was elected to the See of St David's. Thus by 1115 much of the western area of Dyfed was lorded over by the Norman and Flemish. By 1116 the Norman hold widened further included parts of Ceredigion (Cardigan and Nevern), Carmarthen, Llandovery and Kidwelly, although much of this hold was lost following the death of Henry I in 1135.

The Cantref of Daugleddau (*Deugledyf*) was separated into two commotes, governed by the centres at Wiston and Llawhaden (*Castell Hu* and *Llan y Hadein*), both of which have important Landsker frontier castles. The Cantref of Rhos had two commotes, that of Haverfordwest (*Hawlfford*) and Walwyn's Castle (Castell Gwalchmei). Wiston was named after the Flemish Wizo, who took over Castell Hu in the reign of Henry I. Wizo was from another wealthy and influential family, similar to Godebert the Fleming.

The significance of Roch at this time is unknown, and must have been a lesser estate centre to those at Walwyn's Castle and Haverfordwest. It is thought that Godebert the Fleming established the Barony of Roch (and later of Pill as well) at some time between 1110 and 1130 (Ludlow 2002). The castle site must have been fortified at a similar time. During the 12th century the sons of Godebert take the name of de Rupe / de la Roch. The descendants of Godebert also appear to have been influential in the region and take over other areas of Pembrokeshire. The Roch family is said to have been established in Ireland by David de Rupe who came to Ireland with Robert Fitzstephen in 1176 (O'Laughlin 1996). 'The surnames of Fitzgerald, Barry, Carew, Roch, Prendergast and Nangle all became common in southern Ireland' (Howells 2002, 28) following the sorties of Henry II into Ireland at this time, and all of which have Pembrokeshire origins.

Layout of the Castle (Figure 11)

The archaeological watching briefs undertaken within the vicinity of the castle have failed to provide any evidence for an earlier earth and timber phase, other than the confirmation of the location of the moat to the east of the castle and probable internal bank. The small size of the watching brief areas and their location within an area which has been heavily landscaped since the 1900s is such that the lack of evidence revealed cannot be seen to demonstrate that no early pre-stone build phase was present. There is still a high potential for such remains to survive within the castle area.

There is no obvious earth mound at Roch, suggestive of a man-made motte. The area of the roundabout in the driveway to the west of the castle suggests a slight rise in the ground level although this may be a natural topographic feature caused by the underlying geology as opposed to a man made earthen mound. The rocky outcrop to the northeast of Roch castle is a more regular dome shaped features than that on which the present castle is built. It is conceivable that a timber tower was present on this outcrop, which may have, with rock cut postholes, although to-date no such features have been identified. This outcrop is the more level of the two and perhaps would have been the first

choice on which to site a tower. There is a good probability that a tower may also have been present on the rocky outcrop on which the stone castle now sits.

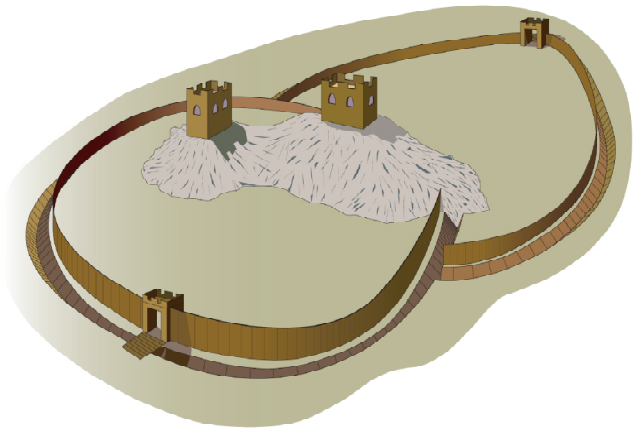

Figure 11: Possible layout of
Phase 1: Early 12th Century - Earth and Timber phase

The castle site is surrounded by a large moat which is still visible curving around to the west, south and east of the present castle. The remains of the moat and internal bank were recorded during the watching brief on the eastern side of the castle. The geophysical survey also indicated the presence of the moat and an internal bank. Earlier maps indicate that this moat curved around to meet the northeastern rocky outcrop and thereby create a continuous defensive circuit. A second area to the north of the castle is also surrounded by a ditched feature, or at least by a distinct man-made step in the ground level, enclosing a flatter area of land. Both enclosed areas would suggest inner bailey areas for the main castle, which would have contained service buildings and further accommodation. The dates of these earthworks are uncertain, but are typical of the sort associated with early castle defences. The total area enclosed by the ditches is around 1.05ha (0.6ha to the south and the area to the north of around 0.45ha).

The geophysical survey indicated a series of possible boundary ditches in the enclosed area to the north of the castle. Although undated, it is possible that these relate to early settlement and plot boundaries within the northern part of the bailey. The series of large pits located on the inside of the moat could also suggest the presence of large postholes for a timber palisade.

Phase 2: *c.*1200 - D-Shaped Stone Tower

The second phase of the castle is considered to be represented by the construction of a stone D-Shaped Tower or Keep (Figure 11). This form of this tower comprises the majority of the existing medieval castle at Roch. It is thought to have had three floors, basement, a Great Hall at first floor level and chambers at second floor level (Figure 12).

Summary of Historical Background

The first stone castle is attributed to Adam de Rupe (1160 – *c.*1200). He is also attributed as the founder of Pill Priory probably around 1180 – 1190 (Ludlow 2002, 45). Adam is likely to have been the grandson of Godebert the Fleming. The parish church of St Mary at Roch was granted to Pill Priory around *c.*1200 by Adam de Rupe (Ludlow 2000). The chancel and Nave of the church

may well be substantially of 13th or 14th century date (although heavily rebuilt in the 1860s). It is possible that some of this fabric could be contemporary with the granting of the church to Pill priory.

Although there is no definitive archaeological evidence to date the D-Shaped Tower to a period of around 1200, its attribution to Adam de Rupe would infer the first stone castle was built around this date. There are no further documentary references to construction of the stone castle at any later date. The D-shaped tower has been previously dated to around 1270 (Clarke 1865), based on its similarity (D-Shape) to Welsh Castles built around this later date, to defend against the English.

A number of Norman or Flemish held castles were improved with stone additions in the early 1200s, including elements at Wiston and Carew (Kenyon and Cathcart King 2002, 539-540). Stone elements are also noted at Llawhaden and Laugharne (Cadw booklets). This refortification in stone may have been as a result of the Welsh uprisings led by Lord Rhys between 1189 to his death in 1197. At this time both Llawhaden and Wiston were defeated by the Welsh and temporarily changed hands. There are no accounts of Roch being overtaken by the Welsh at this time, and as far is known it remained in the hands of the de Rupe / de la Roch family until the end of the male line of the family at the start of the 15th century. It is possible that the uprisings were a factor in the erection of a stone tower at Roch.

The uncertainties and changes that occurred during the first English Civil War (1215-1217) also affected the status quo in Wales. Llewellyn ap Iorwerth Prince of North Wales commenced offensives into South Wales during 1215 and this led to the fall of the castles at Carmarthen, Kidwelly, Llansteffan, Laugharne, St Clears, Narberth and Newport (Howells 2002, 40). By 1218 Haverfordwest was under threat, but saved through negotiations by the Bishop of St David's (*ibid*). The proximity of these offensives would have put the Barony of Roch also under threat, although there are no records of military action at the castle. Again, these actions would no doubt have prompted refortification at Roch, even though it may have been seen as a lesser castle in comparison to those that are recorded to have fallen.

Layout of the Castle *(*Figure 12)

The proposed date of construction for the D-Shaped Tower of *c.*1200 is thus based more on reasoned conjecture, a lack of contradictory evidence and assumption, as opposed to hard facts. A stone tower pre-dating the D-Shaped Tower is still possible, although the *c.*1270 dating given by Clarke (1865) is considered most unlikely. As noted above, this has been based on incorrect comparison with castles attributed to the Welsh Princes, in Welsh held lands defending against English aggressors, the antithesis of Roch.

No other examples of D-shaped towers from the *c.*1200 date have been identified during research for this project, but it is suggested that Roch was a bespoke construction necessitated by the shape of the rock on which it was built. The apsidal end fits with the irregular shape of the rock to the south. Thus Roch is probably a more unique structure, almost ahead of its time (perhaps its shape even influencing the later Welsh castles).

This first stone tower would have had a primarily defensive role, but at the same time also indicating the status and strength of the owner. It would have been an imposing edifice, enhanced by the additional height of the rock on which it was built presumably as a deterrent to any Welsh offensives that may have been launched against it. In its defensive role, it would have been a stronghold or keep located within the centre of the wider castle defences (moated enclosure). It is possible that a second timber built stronghold was retained on

the other rock outcrop during the construction of the stone tower, to maintain the defensive function of the site. It is possible this other tower was retained.

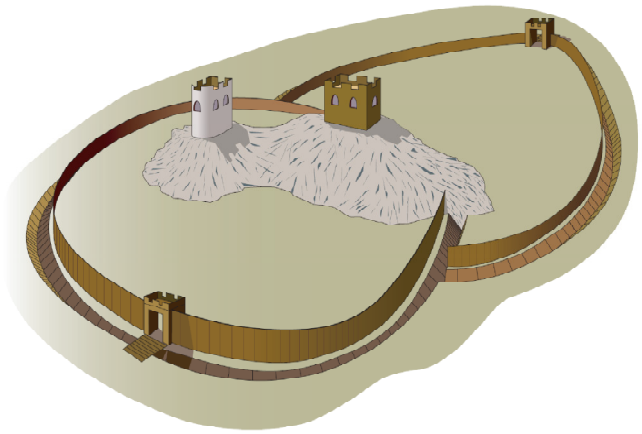

Figure 12: Possible layout of
Phase 2: *c.*1200 - D-Shaped Stone Tower and Wider Defences

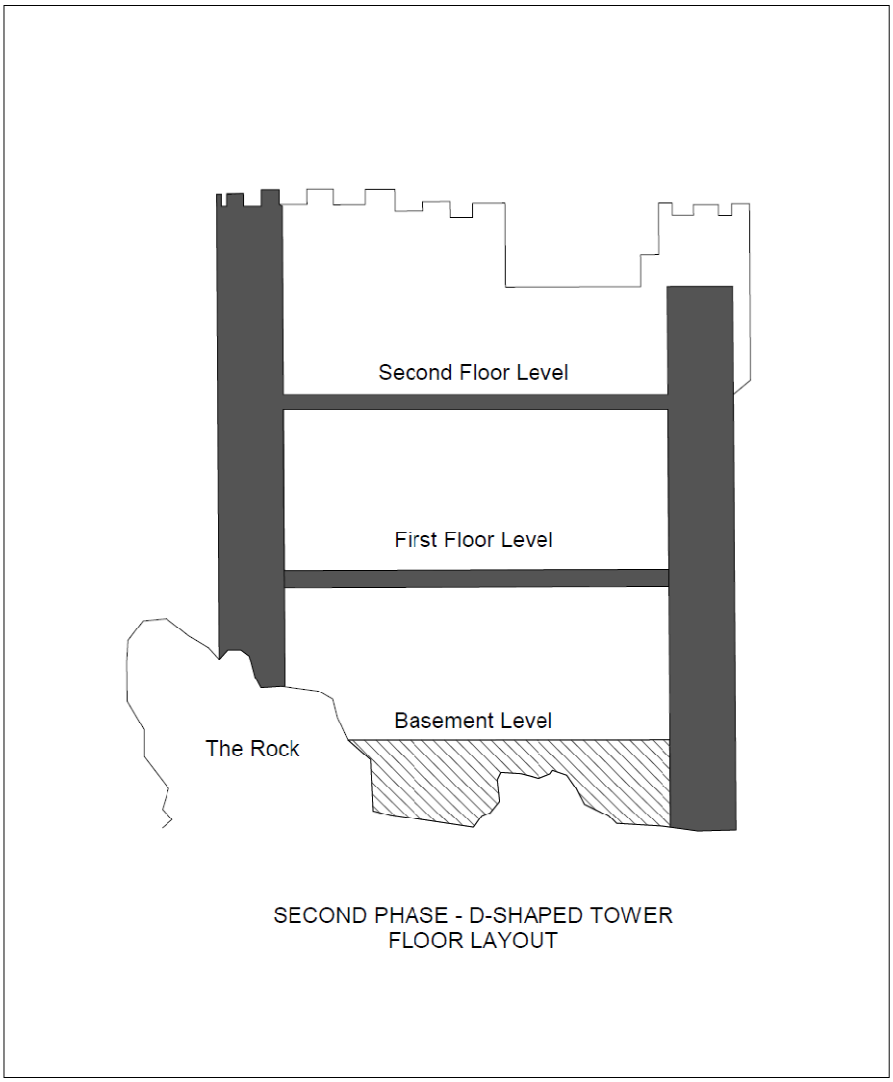

Figure 13: Floor Layout of D-Shaped Tower *c.*1200, north to south section

The Basement Level (Figure 14)

It is likely that the basement floor of the tower, within which lies the projecting rock outcrop (Photo 17) would have been used as a store room, and as is often the case with similar keep structures, and there may have been no entrance at the basement level (a short-term defensive measure). The presence of the exposed rock outcrop would certainly suggest that it would have had a utilitarian function as opposed to a state room or as chambers. The basement contains a single surviving window light at its southwestern end within the curve of the wall (Photo 16). The opening of the light is much higher and narrower than the bottom part of the window splay. This is a typical defensive form of window opening, the splay providing as much light into the room as possible from a small window opening. A fireplace located on the western wall may have utilised an original chimney flue, as a number are present within this wall in the floors above.

The window openings at the northern end of the basement to the west (Photo 20) and the two on the northern wall flanking the later entrance through to the northern extension (Photos 18 & 19) are all large openings. The sides of the windows are straight and not splayed, maximising light entering the room, but minimising security. It is considered that these are later openings when the defensive role of the castle has become of lesser importance. It is possible they are adaptations of earlier openings, but there is no evidence to confirm this. The doorway opening on the eastern side of the basement is a far later insertion.

The basement appears to have been accessed via stairs that ran through the wall on the eastern side of the D-Shaped Tower, although the layout was changed with the construction of the later Stair Extension. The two windows rising up the stairs are splayed suggesting an early date, although the lower would seem to be contemporary with the later Stair Extension (Photos 23). The upper window has a much deeper splay, indicating a wider wall at this point and perhaps suggesting it is an earlier window modified with the construction of the Stair Extension. There is no indication of a stair on the western side of the basement, so it is assumed that the stair was on the eastern side, but modified at a later date.

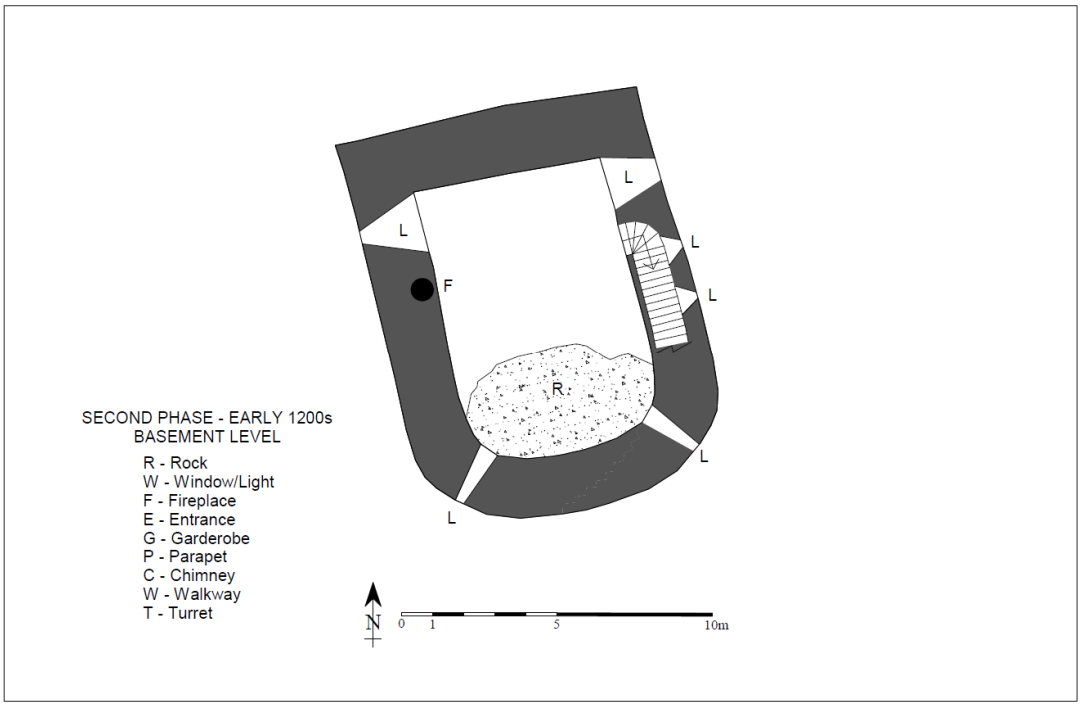

Figure 14: Basement Level of D-Shaped Tower *c*.1200

First Floor Level (Figure 15)

As noted in the discussion, the first floor level was lowered during the 1900s restoration. The original floor level would have been located at the base of the window in the southwestern curve of the tower (Photos 30 & 33), the base of the adjacent recess (Photos 31 & 33) and the cill of the window to the west (Photo 25). The 1857 description of the castle suggests a vaulted stone floor was present at the first floor level, although this is not noted by Clarke (1865). All evidence for the floor construction has been removed by the 1900s renovations, with the inner face of the wall having been largely rebuilt where the evidence would have been. Perhaps this rebuilt face may have been necessitated by the removal of vaulting stonework projecting from the walls at this level?

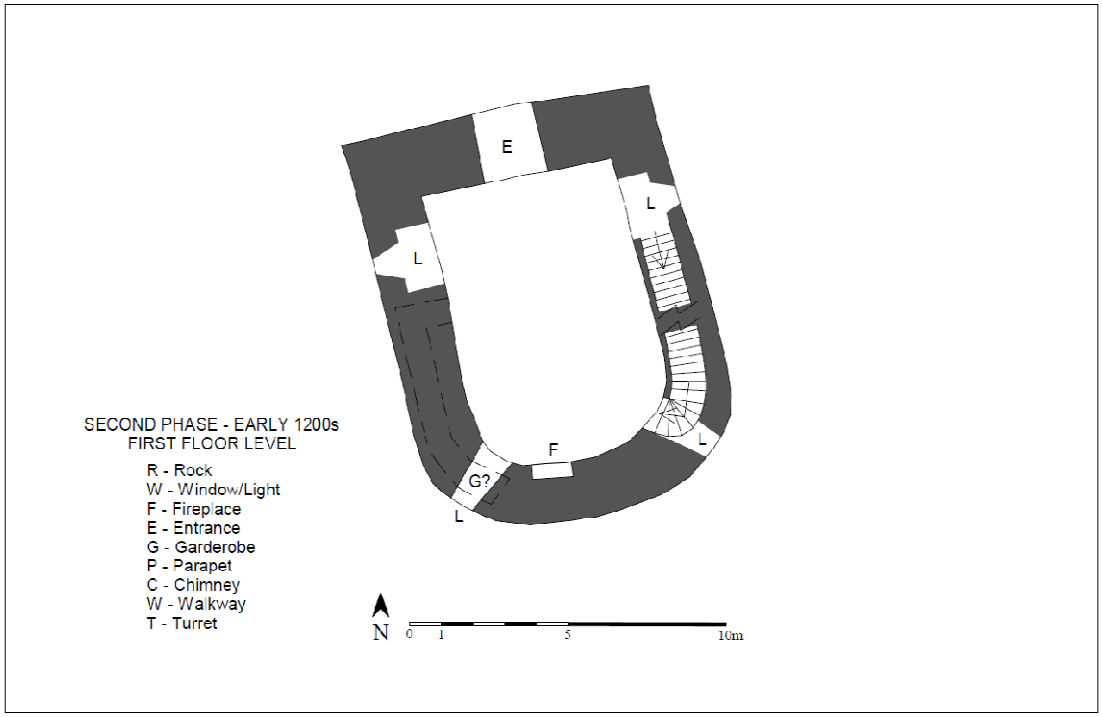

Figure 15: First Floor Level of D-Shaped Tower *c*.1200

The first floor would have contained the Great Hall. The window openings at this level have again all been altered, although that in the southwestern curving wall may be largely original (Photo 30). It is slightly splayed and the stepped arch above either indicates a construction method necessitated by the curved wall, or could alternatively be evidence for alteration at a later date, or a garderobe passage. The three windows to the west south and north in the northern end of the first floor level have all been significantly altered both in the medieval period and during the 1900s renovations (Photos 25 to 28). It is probable that the window openings in the 1200s phase of the castle were splayed recesses to narrower openings for security and strength, which were later widened. A fireplace is present on the western wall utilising the flues on this side of the castle which may be original (Photo 29). The recess in the centre of the southern curving wall may also have been an original fireplace (Photo 31).

Stairs to the upper floors were located within the thickness of the walls possibly to the east. The eastern stair has been altered by the later Stair Extension and 1900s alterations, but follows roughly the original alignment. An archway on the western wall visible at the existing second floor level (Photo 45) indicated a former tall opening in the wall which may have led to a garderobe passage. A garderobe may also have been positioned within or adjacent to the stair on the southeastern wall, although evidence is lacking.

It is suggested that the original entrance to the stone tower would have been on its northern side at first floor level. Even if the entrance had been at the basement level, there would still be a significant drop from to ground level around the rocky outcrop, and thus created a secure keep. It is likely that timber structures were constructed to provide access to the tower, perhaps utilising pre-existing ones associated with the earlier earth and timber phase. The small apsidal projection on the northern facade of the tower may be associated with such an entrance structure (Photos 78 & 79).

Second Floor (Figure 16)

A second floor was present above the Great Hall accessed from the eastern stair. This was presumably divided into chambers and service apartments. The floor was probably constructed of timber as there is no evidence for any vaulting or large-scale rebuilding of the internal face at this level. It is considered that the floor level would have been located directly above the window arches as seen in the existing northern room of the second floor level (Photos 43 & 44; Figure 9). This would be very similar level to the ceiling within that room as exists today. Inconclusive suggestions of lug holes for timber rafters were present directly below the concrete ceiling during the building recording, but it was uncertain if these were associated with more recent ceiling materials.

The existing southern room of the second floor is at a slightly higher level than that to the north, although originally they would have been at the same level. The conjectured floor level projected from the room to the north would correspond roughly with the level above the corbels visible in the curving wall to the southwest (Photo 47). As noted above, it is thought that a stair was present in the western wall in front of the existing window opening, which curved around the southwestern side of the castle leading to an upper level.

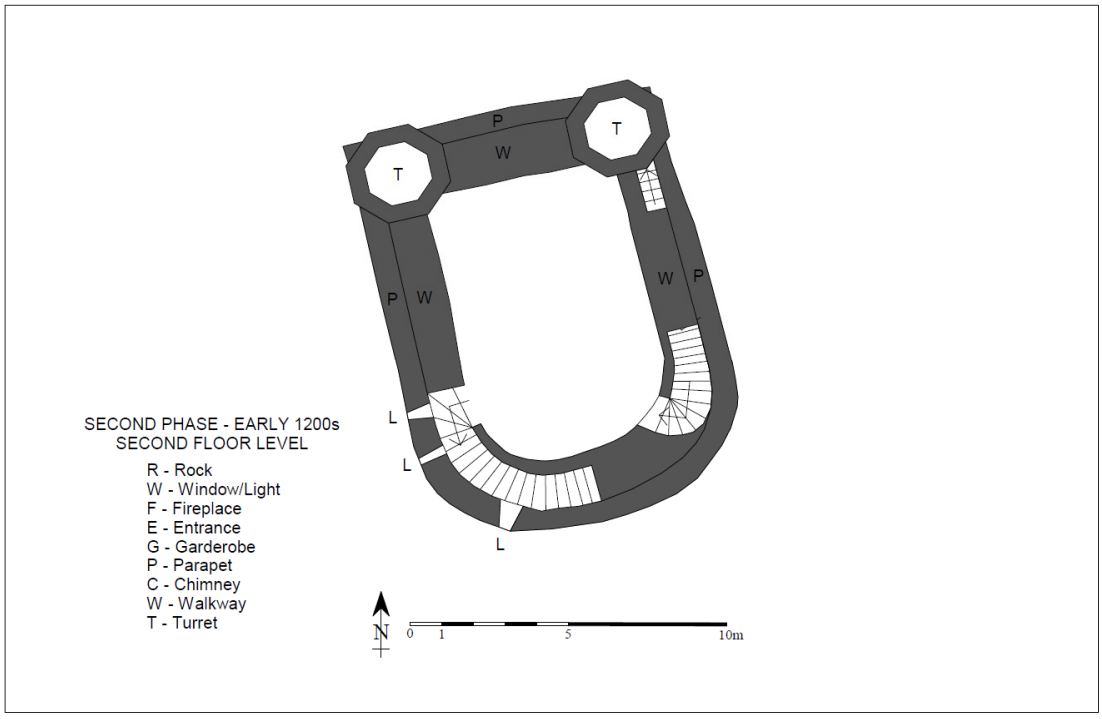

Figure 16: Second Floor Level of D-Shaped Tower *c*.1200

The northern half of the second floor level would have been substantially stone built, but presumably with a timber superstructure, in a similar layout as is now present, with a walkway between the room and the parapet. To the south the stone walling is present to a higher level and may suggest a stone walled room with a timber roof.

On the exterior of the southwestern curve of the castle a waste chute is visible, adjacent to and just above the southwestern window opening at first floor level (Photo 84). This was presumably from a garderobe which would have been present at the original second floor level of the D-Shaped Tower. No clear evidence for how it was accessed was visible on the interior face of the wall due to later re-facing. A small window light just visible above the concrete floor in the room above could be the remains of the window to the garderobe lying directly below the projected stair curving to the upper level (Photo 67).

Roof Level

The layout of the roof level of the D-Shaped Tower is unclear. There is good evidence for stairs leading up to it on the southwestern side, as discussed above and also from the two staggered window lights at the existing third floor level (Photos 65 & 66). The layout of the step in the wall of this room (Photo 65) provides further evidence for a former stairway curving through the wall in this part leading to the curved arched alcove seen in the Upper Floor of the Square Tower (Photo 72).

A walkway and parapet would have been present around the top of the castle in the northern part around the roof and some timber superstructure for the second floor. It was almost certainly a pitched roof allowing water to run off into drains leading from the top of the stone walls through the parapet. The two small turrets in the northern corners of the tower could well have been present during this phase, although this is by no means certain.

The southern part of the roof of the tower was probably higher than that to the south, with stairs accessing either a raised level or turret at the southern end.

The corbelling visible around the perimeter of the surviving visible elements of the D-Shaped Tower is likely to be original, providing a slightly wider top of the wall to allow for a stable parapet and walkway.

Phase 3: Post-1314 – Addition of Square Tower and Stairs and Gentrification of Castle

The third phase of the castle's development involves significant rebuilding with the addition of the eastern Stair Extension and Square Tower to the southeast.

Summary of Historical Background

The early 14th century appears to have been one of relative calm and political stability for the area of Roch and Pembrokeshire in general. The majority of military campaigns involving the major landowning families of Pembrokeshire were being fought in Northern England, Scotland and France.

The de la Roch family is evidently fairly wealthy at this time, with John de la Roche being buried at Pill Priory and in return providing for three chaplains to celebrate divine mass (Ludlow 2002, 47). Similarly in 1330 William de Roche founds St Catherine's chantry chapel which is again associated with Pill Priory. At this time it is uncertain if the de la Roch family is actually living at Roch Castle or at Pill. It is suggested by Howells (2002, 178) that 'Judging from the dating clauses of their charters the lords of Roch preferred living at Pill, with its priory and harbour, to living at Roch castle, which can never have been comfortable.'

The lightning strike of 6th May 1314, as recorded in an inquisition of Edward III (note that Howells (2002, 178) gives the date a 1324) 'shattered' the tower. This would imply significant damage that would have required repair. As the majority of the D-Shaped Tower is still visible except on the south

eastern/eastern side, it is considered most likely that this was the area where the lightening strike occurred. It is thought that damage may have compromised the structure of the tower and the area of the stairs in the curve of the apsidal walls. In order to implement adequate repairs a new stair extension is added, and in order to improve the standard of living at the castle, the Square Tower is added to provide small additional chambers and solars. Other adaptations of the castle may also have taken place at this time of relative political calm, to change its role from a defensive structure, to one relating more to a gentrified residence.

A charter of Edward III dated to 1367 records that a lease was granted to Henry de la Roche which enjoined Henry to undertake necessary repairs (to the castle) and guard any prisoners within it. It is possible that this charter was the impetus for the improvements and repairs following the lightning strike, although this would have meant that the castle was left for over 50 years in a bad state of repair. Alternatively the charter may relate to general repairs. The suggestion that prisoners may have been held at the castle indicates it was occupied at this time, even if only by prisoners and their guards. It is presumed that any prisoners would have been held at basement level, and if so, would suggest that access was restricted to that area (possibly providing further evidence for first floor entry).

Layout of the Castle (Figures 17 & 18)

At some point following the lightening strike in the 14th century significant repairs are made to the castle, remodelling the stairs on its eastern side and addition of the Square Tower to the southeast. The additions both clearly project from the original D-Shaped Tower, and the absence of the circuit of corbelling is also apparent.

It is unknown if the external defences were still in use at this time, or whether the castle now stood alone within the moated area. There would seem to have been little need for external defences during this period. In reference to rebuilding of castles within Pembrokeshire it is stated by Kenyon and Cathcart King (*in* Howells 2002, 529) that 'most of the work of the fourteenth century, and indeed much of the later thirteenth, is of a domestic character'.

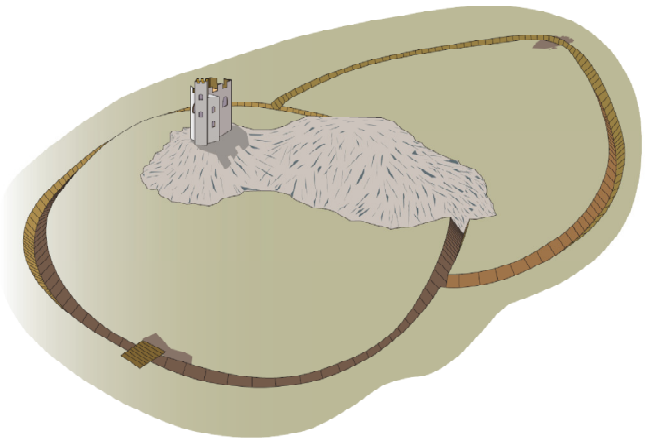

Figure 17: Possible layout of Post-1314 –
Addition of Square Tower and Stairs and Gentrification of Castle

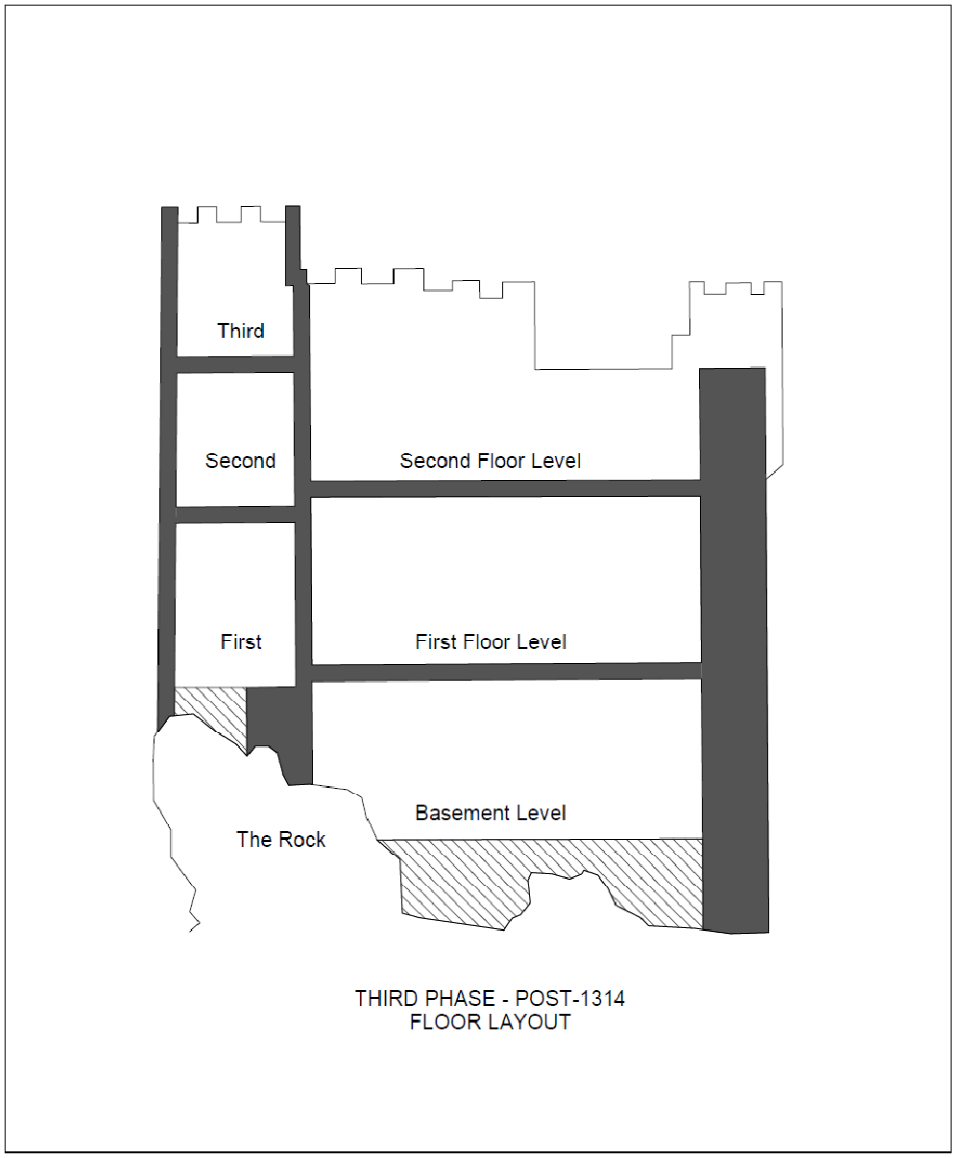

Figure 18: Floor Layout of Phase 3 of Castle Post-1314, north to south section

Stair Extension

The Stair Extension added modified staircases leading from the basement to first floor level, with the reuse of the lower window and possible adaptation of the upper window (Photos 21 to 23; Figure 19). The existing stairs are new concrete additions inserted in the 1900s following the line of the earlier, but offset to the north. It is uncertain if the lower doorway was added at this time or if it is a 1900s addition.

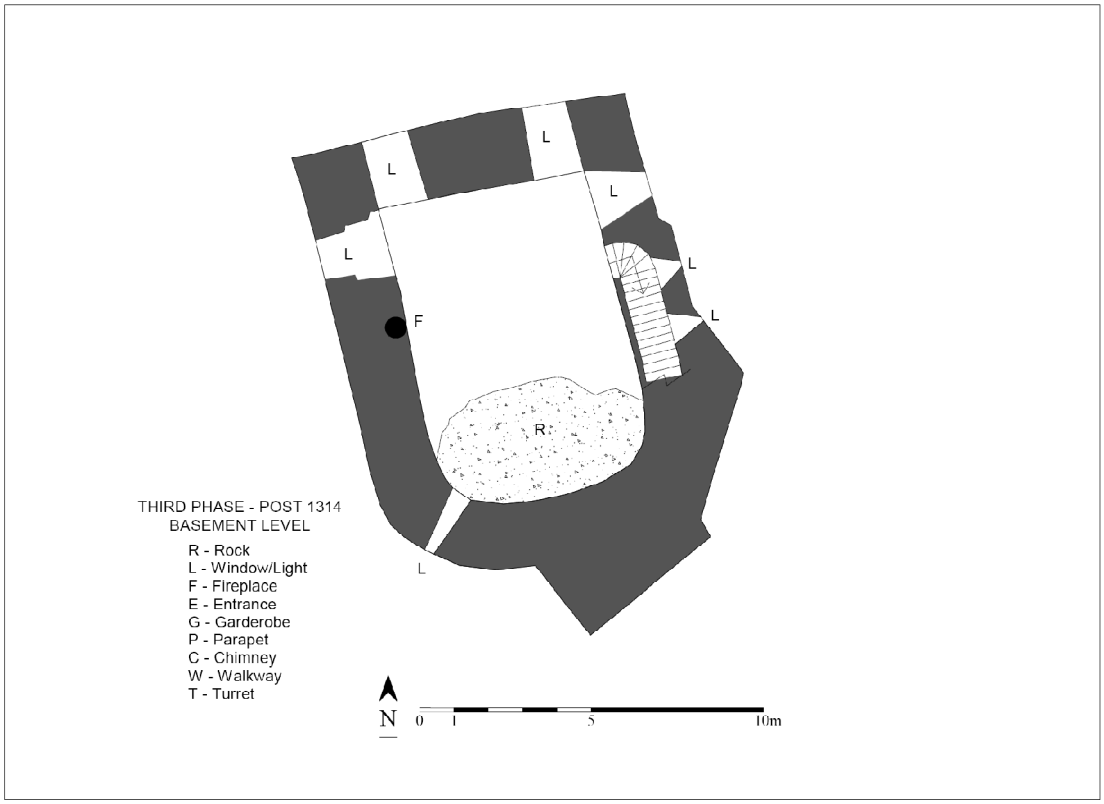

Figure 19: Basement Level of Phase 3: Post-1314 Castle

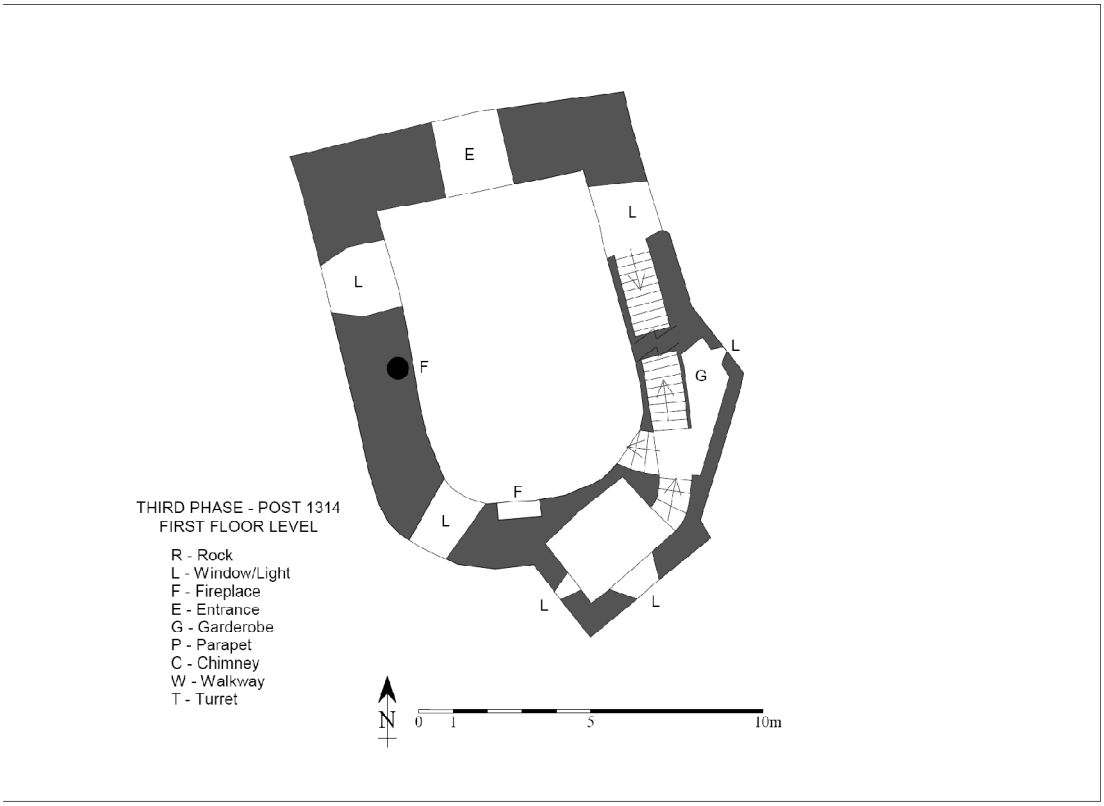

Figure 20: First Floor Level of Phase 3: Post-1314 Castle

The stairs would have led to the Great Hall at first floor level (Figure 20), but also appear to have continued in an arc accessing the Lower Floor of the Square Tower. The former line of these stairs can be seen in the blocked passageway leading from the Study towards the Tower. To the north of this passageway a second area of blocking probably represents a former garderobe mirroring the one at the next level above, but heavily altered during the 1900s renovations.

The stairs to the second floor level followed directly above those from basement to first floor reusing the majority of the original alignment (Figure 21). A garderobe is present leading from the stairway to the east (Photos 51 to 53) directly above the blocked one below. The stairs would have then led upwards to provide access to the second floor level of the D-Shaped Tower (Figure 21) and also the Middle Floor of the Square Tower. An offshoot of this stairway also curved back on itself within the Stair Extension to lead to the third floor level (Photo 58; Figure 22) of the tower (possible roof space and parapet).

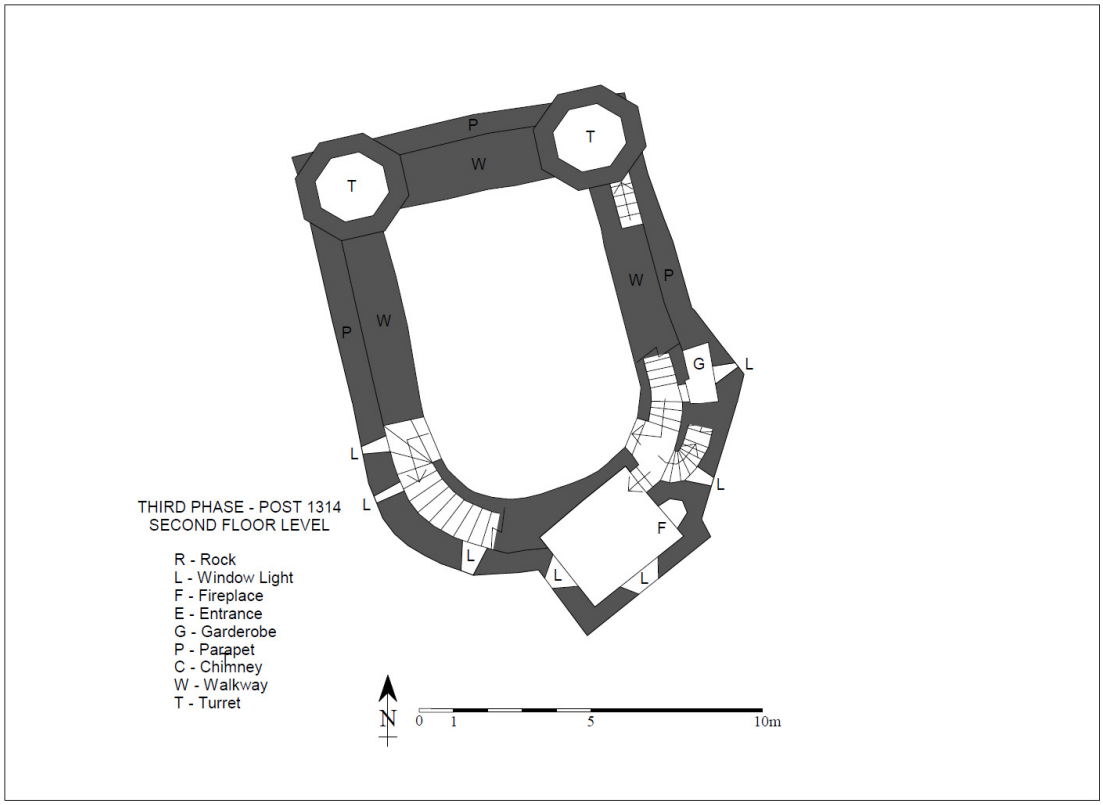

Figure 21: Second Floor Level of Phase 3: Post-1314 Castle

Square Tower

As noted above, the Lower Level of the Square Tower was originally accessed via a curving stair leading into the northeastern side of the room, but which was blocked at a later date (Figure 17). The existing entrance from the existing First Floor level is a modern insertion. The floor of this room lies directly upon the top of the rocky outcrop (and subsequently re-floored with concrete). The roof was presumably ribbed and vaulted as survives relatively intact in the Middle Floor level, but which was rebuilt in this room in the 1900s. The windows in the room are all in the original locations although heavily modified.

The Middle Floor level was also accessed via stairs from the Stair Extension on its northeastern side (Figure 18). The windows in this floor level are

also in the original locations, but have been heavily modified. The ceiling of this room contains relatively intact ribbed vaulting (Photos 54 to 57).

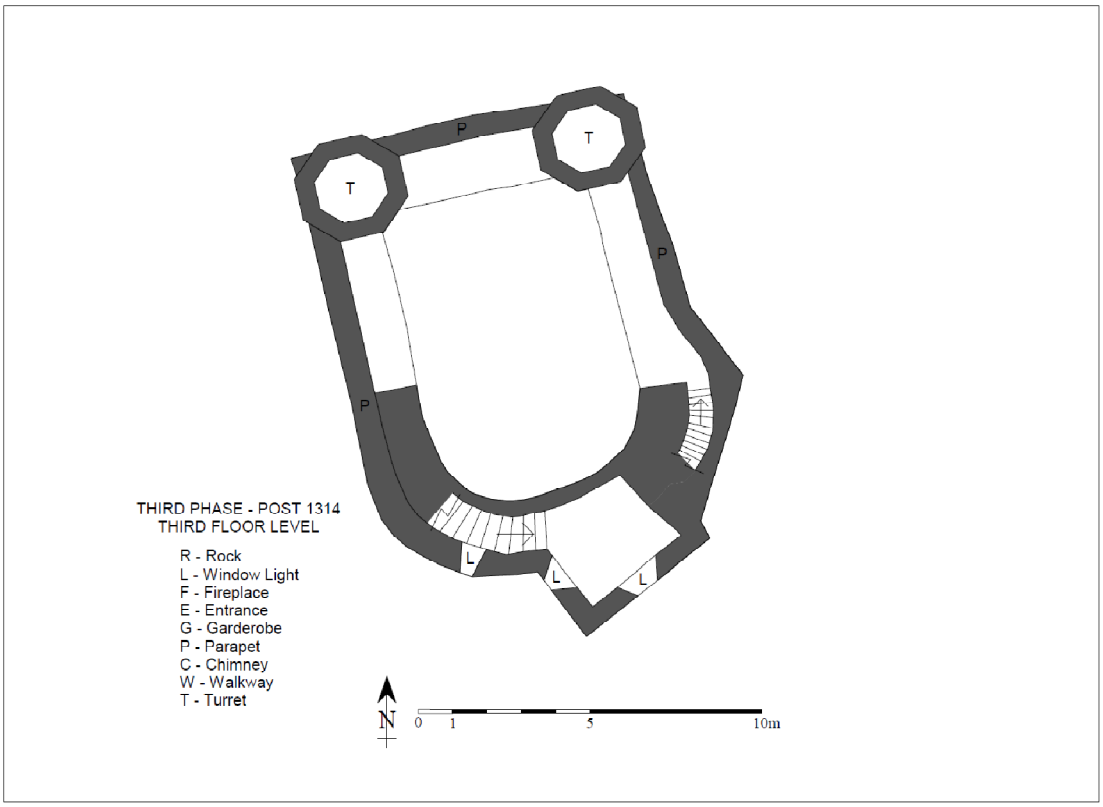

Figure 22: Third Floor Level of Phase 3: Post-1314 Castle

The Upper Floor level of the Square Tower has been much altered. The window positions are relatively original, but heavily modified. The doorway entrance on the northeastern side of the room appears to be modern, with the original accessing the room on the northwestern side from the curving stair seen in the rooms below (Photo 72; Figure 22). The floor level of this room has been raised somewhat (perhaps by around 0.5m) from the original level as far as can be ascertained (Figure 18). This would give adequate headroom for the stairwell to access the room. The roof of the Upper Floor has been rebuilt in concrete and it is assumed that it was originally of timber. As the room would appear to have had only one original entrance, this would have been a fairly private room which may be of significance.

Other Alteration in D-Shaped Tower

Whether the following alterations were contemporary with the addition of the stair tower, or later modifications is uncertain. At some point during the main occupation of the castle the windows in the first floor seem to have been enlarged to wider window openings (assuming that the windows were originally splayed in the D-Shaped Tower). Possibly at a similar time, the windows in the Basement level are widened or even inserted. These modifications would have made the castle far lighter than previously, and presumably improved the quality of life of the residents.

Phase 4: 15th century – Abandonment

By the later part of the 15th century the castle is no longer maintained and falls into a ruinous state.

Summary of Historical Background

Following the death of John de Roch in 1376, who had no children, the Barony of Roch and Pill was temporarily placed in the king's hands (Howells 2002, 178). After a number of inquests it led to the Barony being divided up between the representatives of the four sisters of William de Roch, the probable father of John de Roch, although due to various issues this took many years (*ibid*). The eventual recipient of Roch Castle was Thomas de Roch, the great-grandson of the eldest sister Joan and her husband David de Roch of Llangwm at some point around the start of the 15th century (*ibid*). The Llangwm de Roch family were also descendants of Godebert the Fleming. There is no mention of Roch being under threat during the Owain Glyndwr uprisings, perhaps as by then the status of Roch was no longer of strategic importance, especially with the Barony having been subdivided.

The history of the castle during the 15th century is very unclear, with the suggestion that the end of the male line of the de Roch family in 1420 when Thomas de Roch died meant the castle and estate was then divided between his two daughters and the families into which they married (given as the de Ferrars and de Longeuville families – see transcription of inscription mentioned in 1857 article p17 above). It is likely that Roch castle was not again used as a main residence for these subsequent families, as they would have had held substantial properties and lands elsewhere, that were presumably far more comfortable than Roch Castle. References to the castle being 'ruinous and deserted' exist from 1469-71, may attest to this, with there no longer being any need to live in or maintain the substantially early 13th century castle.

In 1601 the castle and its associated land was sold to William Walter of Trefan. It is again unlikely that the castle was used as a main residence for the Walter family, although no doubt the title granted with the castle and the associated lands around would have been the desirable factor in purchasing the property. There are no records of any further maintenance or building at the castle and it is assumed that it remained in a ruinous and uninhabited state. The Walter family retained ownership of the castle until the Civil War period.

A number of references suggest that the castle was modified during this period with the insertion of Tudor mullioned windows (Hull 2005). The basis for this assertion is unclear.

Layout of the Castle

There is no definitive archaeological evidence surviving at Roch Castle associated with this phase in its history.

Phase 5: 1640s – Civil War Damage

During the Civil War the castle and its lands are fought over and the castle sustains significant damage.

Summary of Historical Background

It is possible that some repairs and refortification of the castle may have occurred prior to the start of the English Civil War (John 2008, 40). The castle was garrisoned by Royalist forces under the Earl of Carbery in the winter of 1643 (Leach 1937, 60; Howells 1987, 179). It was taken by Parliamentary forces on 27th February 1644 by Colonel Laugharne (John 2008, 64; Leach 1937, 27; Howells 1987, 184; Phillips 1874, ii 145). The Royalists recaptured the castle again in July 1644, before the Parliamentarians again recaptured it in 1645.

The castle is said to have been severely damaged after the Civil War and the owner William Walter submitted a claim for £3000 for repairs (Green 1915,

278, 279). The extent of damage is not recorded, nor is it recorded if repairs were ever carried out. The castle is then left in a ruinous state until the first years of the 20th century.

Layout of the Castle

The best evidence that we have for the extent of damage caused to the castle during the Civil War comes from the illustrations of the castle drawn in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The Hoare water colours of 1793 (Illustration 1) show extensive damage on the eastern side of the castle, with breaches shown in a number of places, especially in the area of the doorway and where the arched window was inserted in the Study in the 1900s. The parapet appears to be largely missing on this side also.

The sketches from 1857 indicate damage the western side of the Square Tower (Illustration 2) and also on its southern facade and on the eastern side of the Stair Extension as described above (Illustration 3). This is also very similar to the sketch of the southern side of the castle from 1865 (Illustration 6). The sketch of the eastern and northern facades indicates breaches in the wall from the second floor down in the area of the entrance on the eastern side and a similar breach is shown on the northern facade from the area of the doorway that now leads onto the top of the Northern Extension. The parapets above these facades are also shown to be badly damaged. These areas of damage are also clearly visible on the photographs of the late 19th century (Photos 1 & 2). The damage to the top of the Square Tower shown on Photo 2 is considered to be from alteration of the photograph and not a real area of collapse.

Phase 6: 1900s Restoration

The early 1900s restoration undertaken Sir John Wynford Philip (latterly Viscount St David's) include the addition of the northern extension, insertion of new floors, roofs and alterations of the internal stairs of the castle.

Summary Historical Background

The castle was purchased by Sir John Wynford Philips in 1899. The main phase of restoration work was commenced between 1901 and 1904. This included the insertion of the main reinforced concrete floors within the tower and the addition of a two storey extension to the north. A driveway and parking area were added and it is presumed that landscaping works are carried out within the gardens area (former moated enclosure). The gateway to the south is added at this time. The archaeological watching briefs have demonstrated that during the construction of the Northern Extension and driveway in the area next to the castle, significant groundworks were undertaken resulting in removal of bedrock and subsequent levelling with imported material (containing late 19th and early 20th century detritus).

In 1922 a second phase of building works is carried out to improve the damp conditions within the castle and adding a third floor to the northern extension. In 1926 gun metal framed windows are added throughout.

Layout of the Castle

It is during the initial phase of restoration that the floor levels as they exist today are laid out. It is presumed that the layout was designed by an architect and was certainly not an attempt to reproduce the original floor layout of the medieval castle. The floor layouts are as shown in Figure 8 and the plans

included within the original desk-based assessment (Meek 2009, Figures 6, 7 & 8).

Basement and Entrance

The 1901 – 1904 works include the insertion of the new entrance doorway at Basement level, and the construction of the steps leading up to the doorway (Photo 9). A partition wall is built at basement level to hide the exposed bedrock and a new fireplace is placed on the western wall (Photo 4). New concrete stairs are built on the eastern side of the Basement leading to the first floor, the position of which is slightly offset to the north from the original stair layout (Photos 5 & 21 to 23).

The windows in the northern wall were adapted into doorways with stairs leading into the lower floors of the northern extension (Photos 18 & 19). The central opening was a new construction, adapting the tall breach probably caused by canon damage during the Civil War as shown on the 19th century illustrations. This would have originally provided access onto the roof of the northern extension.

First Floor

The reinforced concrete floor inserted for the first floor is added at a level lower than the original medieval floor. The new stairs lead to this floor level and there is then a partition wall separating it from the Study at the top. The Study seems to have been created from the badly damaged Stair Extension at first floor level. A probable former garderobe is blocked (Photo 40) and the top of the stair area opened out to create a small room, and a large arched window is inserted into a breach in the war presumably caused during the Civil War (Photo 39). It is thought likely that the stairs originally led into the Lower Floor of the Square Tower, but in order to make a more private room, this passageway was blocked off (Photo 41) and a new entrance to the Tower added leading from the north (Photo 32).

The windows within the former Great Hall were adapted to work with the new floor level, including the insertion of three steps at the base of the southwestern window leading up to its cill, which is thought to be the original medieval floor level (Photo 30). The western window in the northern part of the first floor is enlarged, removing wall fabric below the original aperture down to the new floor level to create a walk in recess for the window (Photo 25). This is also undertaken on the window in the northern end of the room (Photos 26 & 27). The window to the east is repaired and rebuilt with new concrete stairs constructed to provide access to the second floor level (Photo 28).

The Lower Floor of the Tower is rebuilt, replacing what must have been a badly damaged rib vaulted ceiling (as noted by Clarke 1865) with a replica built from modern concrete blocks and plaster board (Photo 34). A new door is inserted into the northern side of the room (Photo 32).

Second Floor Level

A new set of concrete stairs were inserted to give access up from the First Floor level (Photo 42). The second floor was constructed in two levels, with the northern part being lower than that to the south. The northern room bisected the windows to the west and north leaving the arched openings visible (Photos 43 & 44). A new fireplace was inserted in the western wall (Photo 45).

In the room to the south, the floor level rises up. A window in the western wall is heavily modified, with wall fabric possibly removed below its cill (Photo 49). The walls in this room seem to have been substantially rebuilt and patched at this time (Photos 47 & 48), possibly indicating that the inner shell of the walls had collapsed and stairs had been present in the thickness of the walls behind.

The new stairs leading up to the second floor incorporated elements of original stair lines, and included reuse of the garderobe room at the second floor level (Photo 52). The stairs continued into the Middle Floor of the Square Tower, which probably used an original doorway and possibly some stair fabric. Corbelling is present above the doorway into this room which would suggest it was an original entrance. The Middle Floor room contained a substantially intact ribbed and vaulted stone ceiling, although many of the stones in the ribs were modern replacements (Photos 54 to 57).

A split in the stairs was present adjacent to the garderobe with a flight of original stone steps doubling back within the Stair Extension arranged with a stone newel in the centre similar to a spiral stair case (Photo 58). The upper part of these stairs may well have been modern replacements, although the corbelled ceiling suggests it followed the line of an original stair.

Third Floor Level

The Third Floor Level was again split into two halves, with the northern room being at a lower level than that to the south. The northern room contained stone masonry in the lower part of the walls and new brick build above with a concrete roof (Photos 59 to 62). The stone parts of these walls were presumably original and were the inside face of the wide stone walls of the D-Shaped Tower.

The southern room contained more stone fabric within the western and southern walls to a greater height than that seen in the northern room (Photos 64 to 66), with brick patching and areas of rebuild. The stone wall comprised mostly original medieval fabric, although the thickness of the wall was vastly reduced from that below. The western and southern walls were evidently modified parts of the parapet walls around the top of the castle that were adapted and roofed during this phase of works to create an additional room. The stairway that ran within the thickness of the walls to the southwest to the Upper Floor of the Tower was modified to create storage space (Photo 65). A projection in the wall in the northwestern corner of the room utilised a possibly original chimney flue and a new brick walled storage cupboard was added (Photo 64).

Upper Floor of Square Tower

The stairs on the eastern side of the castle were further added to creating a new set of concrete steps leading up to the Upper Room of the Square Tower and a new doorway inserted (Photo 69). The floor level of this room had been raised, which had the affect of truncating the former stairway that led from the Second Floor into this part of the Tower (Photo 72). A further stairway was constructed on the outside of the new stairs leading into the Tower, which led onto the roof of the Square Tower (Photo 69 and 76). A new concrete roof was added to the tower.

The Roof

A walkway was constructed around the parapet of the castle on its northern half, which probably followed the original medieval location (Photos 73 & 75). This was accessed from the curving stone stair with newel post from the Second Floor. The walkway was not present in the southern part of the tower, as it had been incorporated into the third floor rooms.

The 1901-1904 renovations included repairs to the northeastern turret and also the complete rebuild of that to the northwest (Photo 73). Much of the parapet was also rebuilt or repaired at this time.

1922 Renovations

As far as can be ascertained, little change was carried out within the main part of the castle during the 1922 renovations. The main works involved the

addition of a third storey to the Northern Extension of 1901-1904 date. The central doorway at Basement Level was adapted to create a doorway through to the upper floor of the extension. At First Floor Level, the central window must have been modified to create a doorway onto the new roof of the Northern Extension (Photos 26 & 27).

It is documented that in response to significant damp problems reported within the castle, that an asphalt based covering called 'Matex' is laid over all of the flat roofs and parapets. The walls were also re-pointed at this stage with cement based mortars.

Further minor alterations and additions (including a small kitchen on the Northern Extension roof) were undertaken during the remainder of the 20th century, but overall little other than decorative changes were made.

Phase 7: 2009 - 2011 Renovations

Roch Castle was purchased in 2009 by Retreats Group Limited with the intention of repairing the building and converting it into the first of a chain of retreats set within historic buildings, offering luxurious accommodation in spectacular settings.

The overall objective of the renovation has been to introduce all the facilities associated with five star accommodation in the heart of the medieval building using careful design to protect and enhance its significance.

One of the first tasks undertaken was the removal of inappropriate cement based mortars and rendering used throughout the castle, as these had caused significant damp problems within the castle and were leading to the rapid deterioration of the building fabric.

The following information regarding the 2009 to 2011 renovations is taken from an article published in the 2012 edition of the Conservation Directory (Holden and Meek 2012):

'*Repairs and alterations were designed to ensure that the surviving medieval fabric was protected and consolidated, and new work was designed with reversibility in mind. Structural components such as roofs, for example, were attached to the structure, not built into it, so that if necessary the new components could be removed with minimum disruption to earlier fabric.*

'The external repair of the medieval fabric using matching Pennant sandstones and hydraulic lime mortars has been extensive and time consuming. Internally, the masonry walls have been plastered with hemp lime plaster.

'Last re-pointed in sand and cement in the early 20th century, all the pointing has now been renewed in hydraulic lime (NHL 3.5) and sand mortar. The main body of the medieval tower has been hacked out to an average depth of 60mm and pointed in three 'passes'. The final coat was troweled and brush finished over much of the rubble face work in what is locally known as a 'parged' finish. In addition the 15th-century square tower on the exposed south face has received two shelter coats of the same mix, brush applied. The roughly coursed masonry of the 20th-century annexe has been flush pointed in two passes. (These external finishes are such that the three main phases of construction of the stone castle can be clearly seen and differentiated).

'To avoid confusing the history of the building, the internal fit-out is uncompromisingly modern, incorporating polished limestone floors, glass screens with aluminium frames and bespoke joinery. In the one location where the new interior extends outside, in the form of a structure which tops the annexe roof,

the modern vocabulary is continued, although it interacts with the original fabric by reflecting the D-shaped form of the original tower.

'This dialogue between new and old is continued internally through the use of hemp lime plasters for many of the new suspended ceilings and partitions.

'Completed in the autumn of 2011, it is hoped that the quality of the repairs and alterations will sustain the next chapter in the life of this important building, both physically and economically.' (*Peter Holden*)

CONCLUSIONS

In summary the historic building recording and archaeological investigation work undertaken during the renovations at Roch Castle have been successful in enabling a broad chronology of the development of the castle to be established.

Although specific dating evidence has been lacking, theories are put forward for the date of the first stone castle and subsequent medieval modifications. It is possible, if not expected, that the early 1200s date attributed to the first stone built D-Shaped Tower will be questioned. This may also be the case for the 14th century addition of the Square Tower and Stair Extension. The author has tried to provide historical facts on which to base these theories and by drawing similarities with other castles with similar origins in the region.

The first fortified site at Roch would have been established in the early 12th century at the time when Godebert the Fleming was granted land in the commote of Rhos in Pembrokeshire by Henry I. This was done as part of a deliberate settlement of the west of Pembrokeshire by Flemish, Norman and English migrants as a means to ensure that territorial gains made in the region following the Norman Conquest were maintained. A number of fortified sites were established by the lords and barons who had been granted these lands, and castle sites constructed to protect the Landsker Frontier, including at Roch, Wiston, Llawhaden, Narberth and down to Llansteffan, Laugharne and Kidwelly on Carmarthen Bay. These castle sites initially started as earthwork and timber constructions. During the later 12th and early 13th century this border region was subject to numerous offences by the ousted Welsh to try and regain the land which had been forcibly taken from them. It is during this period that refortification of the castles occurred and stone elements constructed.

At Roch an initial earthwork and timber castle is very likely to have been present during the 12th century, seemingly centred on the outcrop of igneous rock on which the present castle is built. The descendants of Godebert the Fleming take the name de Rupe or de la Roch in direct reference to the rock outcrop. A moat surrounds the castle site both to the south and north, which is considered to be a remnant of the earliest defensive phase of the site. At many other locations in this region motte and bailey castles are constructed with large earthen mounds on top of which strongholds or keeps were erected. At Roch it seems that the rocky outcrops may have been used as 'ready made' mottes, with the moated enclosure to the north and south forming the bailey. It is possible that wooden towers or keeps were erected on both of the highpoints of the rock outcrop. Existing topographic evidence as well as cartographic and geophysical survey evidence demonstrates the layout of the moated enclosures. The archaeological watching brief to the east of the castle also indicated the location of the ditch and provided evidence for an internal earthen bank. The geophysical survey also provided indications of a possible timber palisade around the inside of the moat

In *c.*1200 Adam de Rupe is attributed as building the first stone castle at Roch. The majority of this structure is thought to survive at the site, represented by the original D-Shaped Tower. Adam de Rupe is also attributed to founding Pill Priory and the adjacent St Mary's Church at Roch, indicating that he was not only an influential and wealthy man, but also that he was well used to constructing stone buildings. At a similar time stone elements are added to many of the other castles along the Landsker Frontier (although surviving remains are far less than at Roch due to later rebuilding and refortification). The D-Shape of the tower was necessitated due to the shape of the rock on which it was built, as opposed to it being a stylistic design (which would put the castle at a later 12th century date).

The historic building recording evidence indicates this castle was of three storeys, a lower basement built directly on the rock, probably only accessible via

stairs from the first floor. This would create a typical stronghold form of keep, where access was restricted at lower levels to enhance the security of the building. The stairs were located within the thickness of the wall on its eastern side and led up to the Great Hall at first floor level. The probable entrance to the castle would have been at the northern end of the tower at this level, which would have necessitated a large timber constructed stairway. At second floor level, again accessed by stairs within the eastern wall, were apartments and chambers. Stairs led to a walkway around the parapet and a possible raised platform or tower at the tower's southern end. A garderobe may have been situated in the western wall at first floor level. Fireplaces were present on the western wall on all levels and possible on the southern wall in the Great Hall.

In 1314 a lightning strike is recorded as having shattered the tower. At a later date repairs are implemented, which would have been at a time of relative political calm in this part of west Wales. It is proposed that the importance of the defensive role of the castle has diminished by this time, and the structure is gentrified with the addition of larger windows and a Square Tower on its southern end with small chambers or solars. The construction of this Square Tower addition necessitated a partial realignment of the stair layout to provide access and thus the Stair Extension is also built at this time. The Stair Extension also contains two garderobes. With these additions the 1200s keep is updated to provide more comfortable and 'modern' facilities for the then Baron of Roch and Pill, another member of the de la Roch family.

By the end of the 14th century, the male line of the de la Roch family ends and a long running inquest into the inheritance of the castle and associated estate is commenced, leading to the division of the Barony of Roch and Pill into four parts. The castle eventually passes to Thomas de Roch, the grandson of the sister of the last owner of the castle. It is most likely that Thomas de Roch would have had property and significant amounts of land elsewhere and unlikely that he would have used the castle as his main residence. It then passes down to his two daughters, both of whom have wealthy husbands with considerable estates in England and Wales (members of the De Ferras and De Longueville families). Again it is most unlikely that the castle would have been used as their main residences and it is recorded during this time that the castle falls into disrepair.

In 1601 it is purchased by the Walter family, who most probably bought the castle and associated lands as an investment as opposed to a family seat, renting the lands and associated cottages around the castle for profit. There is no record of the castle being renovated or improved during this time. By 1643 and the commencement of the English Civil War the castle is held by the Royalists, and possibly refortified (most likely with the re-digging of the earthwork defences). It was soon lost to the Parliamentarians who used the site as a stockade for livestock that was to be used to supply their army. It then fell again, along with the livestock, to the Royalists before again being taken back by the Parliamentarians by 1645. Following the war William Walter puts a claim in to the government for £3000 as compensation against the damage done to the castle and associated tenants cottages, although it is not recorded if this was either successful or ever implemented.

Until 1899 the castle and its lands changes hands a number of times. It is unclear if anyone actually lived in the castle or whether the lands were merely rented out to tenants. Records and illustrations of the castle from the mid-1800s indicate that it was a ruin, merely a shell with significant breaches in the walls which may have been a result of Civil War damage. In 1899 it was purchased by Viscount St Davids. A large-scale restoration programme was undertaken between 1901-1904, when new reinforced concrete floors were constructed within the tower and stairs rebuilt and replaced. A two storey extension is added to the north of the castle, to improve the size and comfort of the building. Constant

problems with damp in the ensuing years led to further renovations in 1922 when a third floor was added to the Northern Extension and a asphalt based material liberally spread over all roofs and walls. The archaeological watching briefs undertaken in the area of the Northern Extension indicate that a substantial amount of ground works was undertaken during its construction, resulting in the removal of any evidence for earlier archaeological remains beneath its footprint. It is possible that some areas outside of the extension may still contain archaeological remains, but these have again been subject to ground works and in places will have been removed, but in others may be sealed beneath material imported onto the site to raise ground levels.

Throughout the 20th century further changes in owner, decoration regimes and internal changes occurred to the castle. It was latterly used as a rentable holiday home.

Due to the extensive use of inappropriate cement based renders in the early 1900s, and with asphalt covering the roofs, damp continued to be an issue. Water seeped into the building and corroding the reinforcing bars in the concrete floors. In 2009 the castle was purchased by the Griffiths–Roch foundation with the intention of renovating the castle to the highest standards to create a sustainable corporate retreat. The works have included the rebuilding of the failing concrete floors, removal off inappropriate cement based renders and pointing and replacement with lime base products. The works have been done to ensure the long-term future of the castle. The historic building recording and archaeological investigations were undertaken as part of these works.

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APPENDIX I - SITE VISIT INFORMATION RELATING TO THE ENVIRONS OF THE CASTLE TAKEN FROM THE DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT (Meek 2009)

An initial description of the environs is included prior to discussing the actual castle structure itself. This places the structure in its wider context and relates more specifically to the cartographic description above.

The earliest known site located within a 1km radius of Roch Castle is a pair of Bronze Age standing stones that were formerly located at Castle Farm, around 125m to the southwest of the castle (DAT HER 2809; Grid ref SM 8791 2116). The stones were removed during construction of a housing estate in the area. No associated sites or remains have been located elsewhere.

An undated rectangular enclosure has been recorded as a cropmark on an aerial photograph, located some 200m to the southeast of the castle, which may indicate the presence of a later prehistoric enclosure, although the site has not been dated (RCAHMW Ref. 410458; Grid Ref. SM 882 212).

Known medieval remains in the vicinity of the site include the castle itself (DAT HER 2803/RCAHMW Ref. 102780; Grade I Listed Building 11982; Grid Ref. SM 88029 21212); ST, Mary's Church less than 100m to the south-east (DAT HER 2804 and 59635; Grade II Listed Building 19080); Grid Ref. SM 8811 2117); and the medieval Holy Well of Lady Well around 500m to the west-northwest (DAT HER 12143/RCAHMW Ref. 32486; Grid Ref. SM 8751 2126). The churchyard around St. Mary's is also included on the DAT HER, and there is a suggestion that the churchyard could be located on an earlier enclosure, perhaps a reused Iron Age enclosure, although there is no evidence to confirm this (DAT HER 7565; SM 8811 2116). These sites confirm the known medieval activity in the vicinity of the castle.

Post-Medieval to modern sites include the entrance walls and gatepiers surrounding Roch Castle (DAT HER 59634; Listed Building Grad II Ref. 19079; Grid Ref. SM 87978 21158); Castle Farm located 125m to the southwest (RCAHMW Ref. 21725; Grid Ref. SM 8804 2114); the Toll Gate known as Roch Gate 700m to the west-southwest (DAT HER 16143; Grid Ref SM 874 209); Roch Methodist Chapel 250m to the west-southwest (DAT HER 17973/RCAHMW 11032; Grid Ref. SM 8780 2110); and Roch School located 150m to the southeast (DAT HER 17974; Grid Ref. SM 8815 2112). The sites merely demonstrate the continued development of the area from the 18th century onwards (most sites being 19th century or later).

The ditched moat shown on the early OS maps was mostly removed during landscaping of the gardens during the 20th century. A slight depression in the lawned area to the southeast of the castle is still visible, although the previous owner, Dave Berry (pers. comm. 06/05/09), mentioned that the land had been cleared and levelled fairly recently (Photo 109).

Photo 109: Lawned area to southeast of castle showing possible depression of former moat (view southeast)

A change in ground level is present to the northwest of the castle (dropping own from the castle), following roughly the line of the ditch marked on the earlier OS maps which suggests the line of this feature is still visible, although possibly slightly further to the north than shown on the maps) (Photos 110 & 111). Stone work is present within this change in level, which may indicate a stone wall was formerly present, although the remains do not suggest a very substantial wall (ie. not a massive curtain wall that formerly surrounded the castle, but perhaps a revetment wall) (Photo 112). A breach is present through this area associated with a modern vehicle access track (Photo 110). It is understood that the land to the north and east of this ground level change is outside of the property boundary of the castle (as sold in 2009).

Photo 110: View south towards castle, showing change in ground level

Photo 111: View southeast, showing change in ground level

Photo 112: Stone wall along edge of change in ground level to the north of castle

To the northeast of this level change is a short stretch of a former road or trackway (Photo 113), which has been levelled and improved in more recent years (Dave Berry pers. comm., 06/05/09). The trackway is shown on all of the earlier maps, running from opposite the church, heading north around the outside of the 'moat'. The 1748 and 1839 maps show that the road ran around the perimeter of the castle enclosure, with building present on its northern/eastern side. The stone footings of some of these buildings are still visible, although are in a poor state of repair and have been affected by more recent clearance activities (Photos 114 and 115). The original dates of these structures is uncertain, but none except the cottage directly opposite the church are shown on the second edition OS map.

The castle enclosure contains numerous piles of stone, and numerous large stone blocks are present. These accumulations have come about through clearance works associated with modern gardening and clearance activities. It is assumed that the stone mostly originates from the ruination of the castle during the Civil War, although it is also likely that the material was associated with other structures in the area (such as those to the north and east of the castle, Photos 116 to 117).

Photo 114: View southwards along trackway towards church, also showing raised ground associated with wall

Photo 115: Stone walls of former building on northeastern side of castle enclosure, of uncertain date and function (view south)

Photo 116: Stone walls of former building on northeastern side of castle enclosure, of uncertain date and function (view west)

Photo 117: Stone walls associated with former cottage directly opposite the church

APPENDIX II ROCH CASTLE, PEMBROKESHIRE: GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY (P Poucher 2011)

SUMMARY

A lawned area around Roch Castle, Pembrokeshire (NGR SM 8803 2121) was surveyed using a fluxgate magnetometer (gradiometer) in an attempt to detect buried archaeological features that may be associated with the castle (PRN 2803) and its environs. The castle is currently undergoing restoration works and although this survey was not a requirement of planning permission or Listed Building Consent the client, Acanthus Holden Architects commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to undertake the survey. The fieldwork was undertaken in June 2011.

The geophysical survey detected remnants of an enclosing ditch or moat to the south of the castle, with fragmentary remains of a possible inner palisade. Enclosures were also revealed to the north of the castle, which may have been situated within a castle bailey defined by the current field boundaries to the north and east of the castle. Tentative remains of a further bank or wall were revealed to the southwest of the castle. Large areas of mixed magnetic readings were spread throughout much of the survey area to the east and southeast of the castle. These mixed readings are of uncertain origin, some may be archaeological although it is clear some of these readings relate to 20th century disturbance.

INTRODUCTION

Project commission

Roch Castle is a stone built D-shaped structure built upon a large isolated outcrop of rock (PRN 2803, NGR SM 8803 2121). The original part of the castle substantially dates from the 13th century, and has undergone alterations and repair throughout its history, most noticeably at the beginning of the 20th century when a large stone-built extension was added on the northern side. The castle and rock outcrop is surrounded by a lawned area that almost encircles the castle in a clockwise direction from the north to the southwest. The castle itself is grade I listed.

The castle is currently undergoing restoration works. A geophysical survey was not a requirement of the planning permission or Listed Building Consent, but it was felt it could offer further useful information about possible buried archaeological features within the lawned area that surrounded the castle. As a result the clients, Acanthus Holden Architects, commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to undertake a fluxgate magnetometer (gradiometer) survey.

The fieldwork was undertaken in June 2011.

Scope of the project

This project aimed to characterise by geophysical survey, using a gradiometer, possible buried archaeological features that could be associated with the castle and its environs.

Report outline

This appendix report is restricted solely to the results of the geophysical survey.

THE SITE

Location and Archaeological Potential

The castle is a prominent landmark in the landscape, sitting upon an isolated outcrop of igneous rock within the village of Roch, close to the west coast of Pembrokeshire (SM 8803 2121; see Figures 1, 2 and 3 of main report). The castle is located at the eastern end of the present village, to the northwest of the church. The rock outcrop is surrounded from the north to the southwest by a roughly kidney shaped enclosure of gardens, lawned areas and rough grass. Roads surround this enclosure on all but the north and northwestern parts, which is defined by field boundaries.

The survey area (0.61 hectares) encompassed much of the surrounding lawned area. This lawned area is relatively level but with a significant break of slope curving around to the south of the castle, that may represent remains of a former enclosure ditch or moat. These remains are then incorporated into the field boundaries that encircle the eastern and northern edges of the survey area. A stone wall crosses the site to the southwest, this adjoins a stone boundary wall to the south and southeast, separating the castle grounds from a road through the village. A tumbled stone wall and field bank enclose the eastern and northern edges of the survey area.

A detailed history of the castle is provided within the main report of which this forms Appendix II.

Cartographic evidence (Meek 2009, 8-12 and in the main body of this report) indicates the enclosing boundaries to the south, east and north have been in place since at least the mid 19th century. A field boundary running south from the castle has been removed at some point in the 20th century, as has a shorter boundary running east from the edge of the rock outcrop. The stone wall that crosses the survey area to the southwest appears to have been added at some point in the late 19th or early 20th century. A wide ditch encircles the castle to the west, south and east, labelled as a 'Moat' on the 1st (1889) and 2nd (1907) edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey maps. The inner edge of the moat is still visible as an earthwork to the south and southeast of the castle.

METHODOLOGY

A fluxgate magnetometer (gradiometer) was used for the survey. This detects variations in the earth's magnetic field (full specifications are in appendix 1). Readings were taken on traverses 0.5m wide and every 0.25m within a 20m x 20m grid across the whole site. In total an area of 0.61 hectares was surveyed.

The survey was tied in Ordnance Survey grid using a Trimble TST, which was also used to record some local topographical detail of the survey area.

Limitations

The survey was undertaken between the 7th and 8th of June 2011. Weather conditions were generally dry with the occasional heavy shower. The survey area was under short grass, with the occasional large tree and rock piles that prevented some areas being surveyed. Metallic fencing surrounded parts of the castle and restoration works being undertaken on the boundary wall to the south, vehicles were parked on the edge of the surveyed area to the north, and remains of a telegraph post base and buried wire was also visible in places. All of these are likely to have obscured readings taken in their immediate vicinity. In general the ground was relatively level, with a significant break of slope to the south and southeast, but pacing lines were used throughout the survey and any

variations in the data collections due to changes in ground slope are likely to have been small.

In general the underlying geology consists of Merioneth sedimentary rocks of the Cambrian system, although the castle itself sits on top of an outcrop of igneous rocks (British Geological Survey 1994). The magnetic properties of igneous rocks have been known to produce strong variations in gradiometer surveys, which may be detectable in the readings taken in some areas of this survey, but it does not appear to have obscured potential archaeological remains.

Processing and presentation

Processing of the geophysical survey data was performed using ArchaeoSurveyor 2.5, detailed explanation of the processes involved are described at the end of this report. The data is presented with a minimum of processing but the presence of high values caused by ferrous objects, metal fencing and vehicles tends to hide fine details and obscures archaeological features, thus the values were 'clipped' to remove the extreme values allowing the finer details to show through. The survey was clipped to a range from 15nT to –15nT (Figures 23 & 24).

The processed data is presented as grey-scale plots overlaid on local topographical features (Figures 23 & 24). The main magnetic anomalies have been identified and plotted onto the background topographic detail as a level of interpretation (Figure 25).

Processing of the topographical detail was performed using Geosite software and illustrated and combined with the geophysical survey images using Adobe Illustrator ver.9.

RESULTS

Geophysical Interpretation

(Results Figure 23 & 24 and interpretation Figure 25)

The geophysical survey shows a complex range of archaeological activity throughout the surveyed area, therefore only the major features are discussed. Any interpretation from these geophysical results is by its nature speculative and precise details about the context, function, state of preservation and date of any archaeological features would require further intrusive investigation.

The following section is included and adapted in the main text above (see Geophysical Survey section).

Anomaly Group No. 1

The most prominent topographic feature within the area surveyed is the break of slope that represents the line of the moat, as depicted on late 19th/early 20th century map sources. At the base of this slope the geophysical survey shows a curvilinear band of darker, more magnetically positive, readings. Such responses are often indicative of buried ditches. The relatively narrow band and weak responses may be an indication that much of the infilling material of the moat has previously been removed, leaving only the lowest deposits. Interestingly sections of this curvilinear feature appear to consist of rows of more individually discrete areas of positive magnetic readings, which may suggest a series of pits or postholes along the base of the moat. Alternatively it could be a feature of the mixed deposits or undulating nature of the base of the moat cut.

Anomaly Group No. 2

A further series of these more discrete individual areas of magnetically positive responses runs along the top of the moat slope for a distance of *c*.20m. Such readings may be indicative of a series of pits or large postholes. Their location at the top of the slope may indicate a connection between the two, possibly associated with an inner line of defences such as a timber palisade.

Anomaly Group No. 3

At the northern end of the site are a series of rectilinear anomalies, represented by areas of magnetically negative readings flanked by magnetically positive readings. Such readings are often found to represent buried banks, or possibly walls, flanked by ditches. Their rectilinear appearance is a strong indication that these are manmade features, representing enclosures with a suggestion of more disturbed ground within the enclosures. The current topography of this area is one of relatively flat ground enclosed by a field bank to the north and east, and a wall to the west. On the outer side of all these boundaries the ground drops away sharply on to lower ground, a possible continuation of the castle moat visible to the south. A shallow gully appears to cross from east to west, roughly a third of the way up this northern area. This gully does not appear to be represented on the geophysical survey results but may define the area to the north where the rectilinear anomalies are present. Their location hints at the possibility that these enclosures could be associated with some form of castle bailey enclosed by a moat. However, they may also be unconnected features, such as later field boundaries. Further more intrusive archaeological investigation would be required to confirm this.

Anomaly Group No. 4

Close to the southwestern corner of the surveyed area there is the suggestion of a linear feature of magnetically negative readings running in a roughly north-south direction. Such readings are often indicative of buried banks or walls, although too small a segment of this feature is revealed to gain a clear understanding of its character.

Anomaly Group Nos. 5-9

Throughout the area surveyed are several large areas encompassing magnetically dipolar readings (associated conjoining positive and negative readings). Such strong readings of this nature are often indicative of buried ferrous items or areas of intense burning. These results may also be complicated by magnetic responses from disturbed igneous bedrock, which is prevalent in this area.

In some areas these readings can clearly be associated with buried cables that are still partly visible on the surface (No. 5), or have the appearance of modern services (No. 6). The presence of late 19th and early 20th century pottery and glass amongst disturbed ground also indicates the readings of No. 7 are as a result of more recent landscaping activities.

The remaining areas (Nos. 8 & 9) could be the result of a wide variety of possibilities. It is clear that landscaping activities have taken place within these grounds, and relatively large modern ferrous items have already been recovered, such as spades and metal piping, but some ferrous items or areas of intense heat activity could also be associated with earlier phases of activity within the castle grounds.

CONCLUSIONS

The geophysical survey has revealed a variety of archaeological features across the survey area. Remains of the castle moat are indicated passing through the grounds on the south side of the castle, with the suggestion of the partial remains of associated line of pits or postholes that may represent an inner palisaded defence. Topographic evidence suggests the moated boundary may also be preserved in the current field boundaries around the eastern and northern boundaries of the survey area.

Possible enclosures were also identified within this boundary on the north side of the castle. These enclosures may be associated the active life of the castle, possibly representing activity within a castle northern bailey, but further more intrusive archaeological investigations would be required to establish a more accurate date and character for these archaeological remains. There is also a hint of a buried bank or wall to the southwest of the castle.

There has clearly been a significant degree of modern disturbance in specific locations, visible on the survey results, but large spreads of magnetic anomalies, particularly in the southeastern part of the survey area, need not necessarily be the result of modern disturbance. Such responses could have resulted from a variety of activities, some of which could be archaeological in origin but would require further archaeological work to determine.

The survey was undertaken by P Poucher and H Wilson of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

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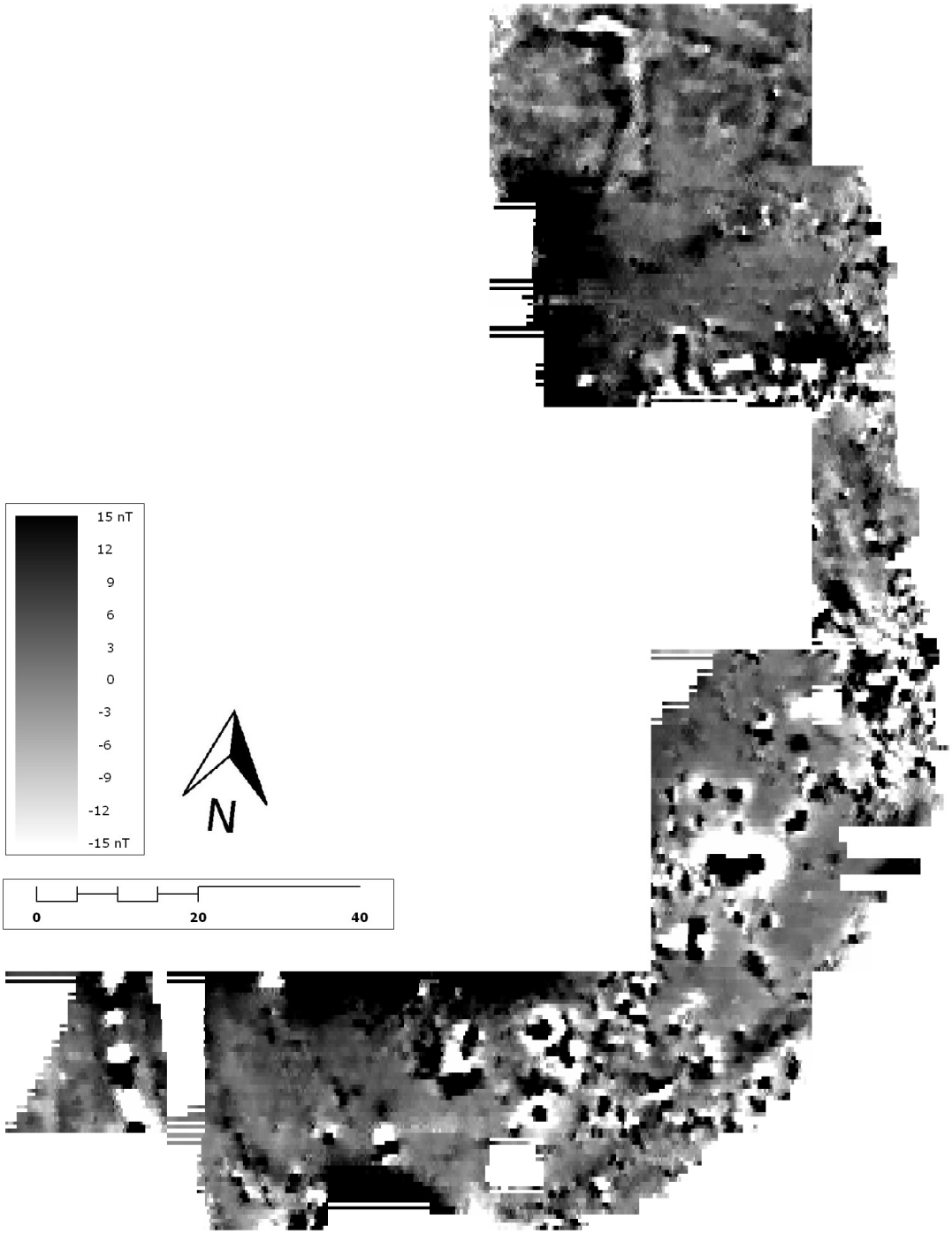

Figure 23: Geophysical survey results presented as a greyscale plot, clipped to a range from 15nT to –15nT. Measurement scale is in metres.

Figure 24: Geophysical survey results overlaid with local topographical detail.

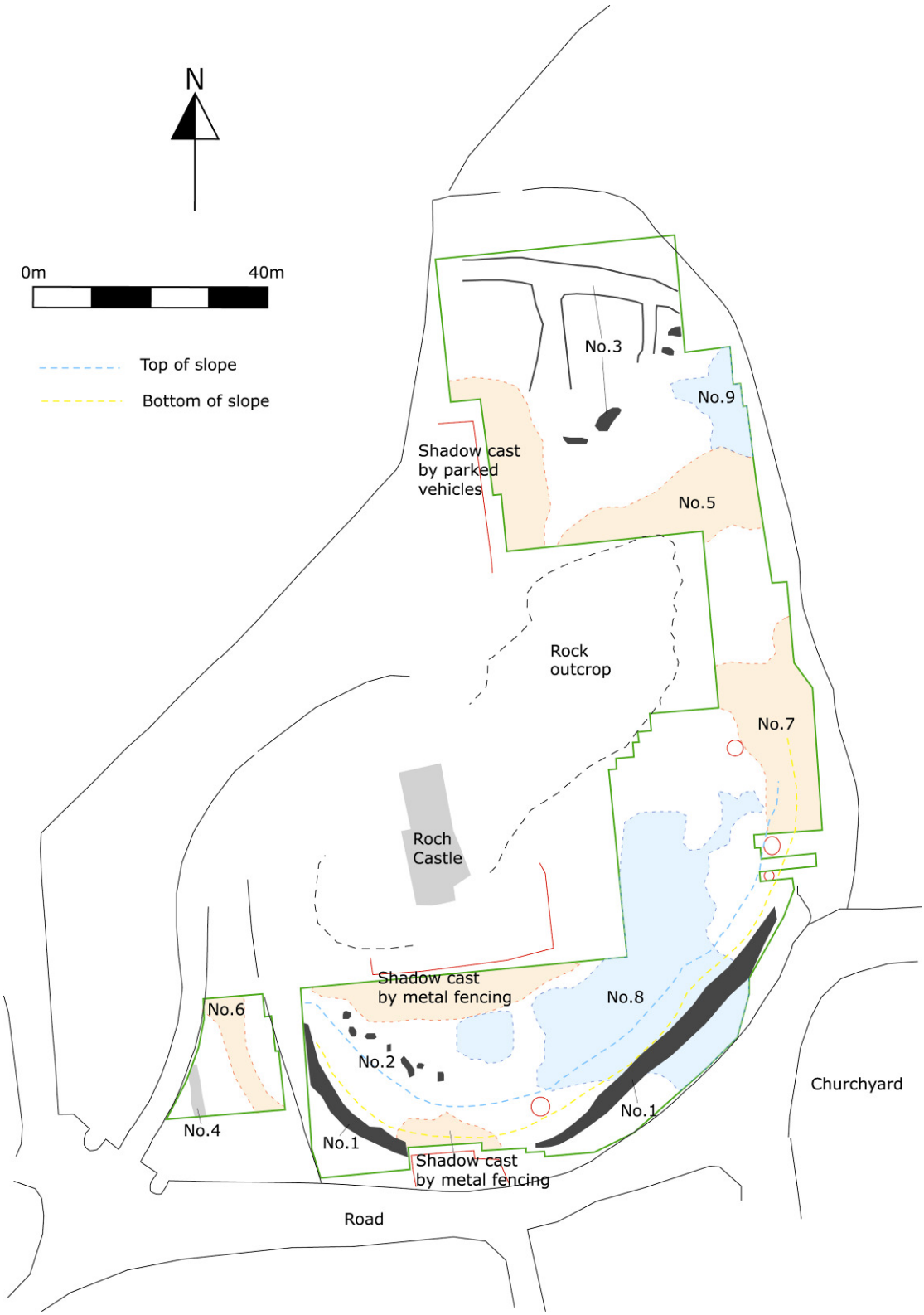

Figure 25: Interpretation of geophysical survey results, overlaid with local topographical detail. The survey area is outlined in green, the numbers refer the 'Geophysical interpretation' section of the main text document and above

METHODOLOGY AND INSTRUMENTATION

Geophysical Survey Instrumentation

A fluxgate gradiometer survey provides a relatively swift and completely non-invasive method of surveying large areas.

The survey was carried out using a Bartington Grad601-2 dual Fluxgate Gradiometer, which uses a pair of Grad-01-100 sensors. These are high stability fluxgate gradient sensors with a 1.0m separation between the sensing elements, giving a strong response to deeper anomalies.

The instrument detects variations in the earth's magnetic field caused by the presence of iron in the soil. This is usually in the form of weakly magnetised iron oxides, which tend to be concentrated in the topsoil. Features cut into the subsoil and backfilled or silted with topsoil therefore contain greater amounts of iron and can therefore be detected with the gradiometer. There are, however, other processes and materials that can produce detectable anomalies. The most obvious is the presence of pieces of iron in the soil or immediate environs, which usually produce very high readings and can mask the relatively weak readings produced by variations in the soil. Archaeological features such as hearths or kilns also produce strong readings because fired clay acquires a permanent thermo-remnant magnetic field upon cooling. This material can also get spread into the surrounding soil leading to a more generalised magnetic enhancement around settlement sites.

Not all surveys produce good results as anomalies can also be masked by large magnetic variations in the bedrock or soil or high levels of natural background "noise" (interference consisting of random signals produced by material within the soil). In some cases, there may be little variation between the topsoil and subsoil resulting in features being un-detectable. It must therefore be stressed that a lack of detectable anomalies cannot be taken to mean that that there are no below ground archaeological features.

The Bartington Grad601 is a hand-held instrument and readings can be taken automatically as the operator walks at a constant speed along a series of fixed length traverses. The sensor consists of two vertically aligned fluxgates set 1.0m apart. Their Mumetal cores are driven in and out of magnetic saturation by an alternating current passing through two opposing driver coils. As the cores come out of saturation, the external magnetic field can enter them producing an electrical pulse proportional to the field strength in a sensor coil. The high frequency of the detection cycle produces what is in effect a continuous output (Clark 1996).

The gradiometer can detect anomalies down to a depth of approximately one metre. The magnetic variations are measured in nanoTeslas (nT). The earth's magnetic field strength is about 48,000 nT; typical archaeological features produce readings of below 15nT although burnt features and iron objects can result in changes of several hundred nT. The instrument is capable of detecting changes as low as 0.1nT.

Geophysical Survey Data Collection

The gradiometer includes an on-board data-logger. Readings in the surveys were taken along parallel traverses of one axis of a grid made up of 20m x 20m squares. The traverse intervals were either 0.5m or 1.0m apart. Readings were logged at intervals of 0.25m along each traverse giving 3200 readings per grid square (medium resolution on 0.5m traverses), or 1600 readings per grid square (low resolution on 1.0m traverses).

Geophysical Survey Data Presentation

The data was transferred from the data-logger to a computer where it was compiled and processed using ArchaeoSurveyor 2.5 software. The data is presented as grey-scale plot where data values are represented by modulation of the intensity of a grey scale within a rectangular area corresponding to the data collection point within the grid. This produces a plan view of the survey and allows subtle changes in the data to be displayed. A separate grey-scale plot with interpretation of the main features is also included as necessary.

Geophysical Survey Data Processing

The data is presented with a minimum of processing although corrections are made to compensate for instrument drift and other data collection inconsistencies. High readings caused by stray pieces of iron, fences, etc are usually modified on the grey scale plot as they have a tendency to compress the rest of the data. The data is however carefully examined before this procedure is carried out as kilns and other burnt features can produce similar readings. The data on some noisy or very complex sites can benefit from 'smoothing'. Grey-scale plots are always somewhat pixellated due to the resolution of the survey. This at times makes it difficult to see less obvious anomalies. The readings in the plots can therefore be interpolated thus producing more but smaller pixels and a small amount of low pass filtering can be applied. This reduces the perceived effects of background noise thus making anomalies easier to see. Any further processing is noted in relation to the individual plot.

Reliability

Geophysical survey is an immensely useful tool but it should be realised that while a survey will detect a wide range of features, it may not detect *all* buried features. A gradiometer survey detects changes in magnetic flux density and relies on there being a detectable difference between the archaeology and the substrate. This may not occur for many reasons (e.g. a cut feature being backfilled with subsoil). It must therefore be stressed that a lack of archaeological responses from a geophysical survey does not prove that there is no archaeology present.

Grid Locations

The survey grids were located by measurements to fixed points such as field boundaries, buildings and previous survey markers located during the survey.

Philip Poucher
Dyfed Archaeological Trust

July 2011

ROCH CASTLE, PEMBROKESHIRE (SM 8803 2121)

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2011/26
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 100723
Comprising:
Building recording – Project Record No. 100724;
Watching Brief – Project Record No. 100725;
Geophysical Survey – Project Record No. 100726
Mawrth 2012
March 2012

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by

JAMES MEEK

Swydd / Position: **HEAD OF FIELD SERVICES**

Llofnod / Signature ..... Date 26/03/12

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
This report has been checked and approved by

KEN MURPHY

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: **TRUST DIRECTOR**

Llofnod / Signature ..... Date 26/03/12

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

ymddiriedolaeth archaeolegol

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