

**FORMER MAINTENANCE UNIT,
THE QUAY, CARMARTHEN:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF
(SN 4116 1986)**



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For: Mr Andrew Bassett
Bassett & McGregor Construction



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FORMER MAINTANENCE UNIT, THE QUAY, CARMARTHEN: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Gan / By

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FORMER MAINTENANCE UNIT, THE QUAY, CARMARTHEN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were commissioned by Mr Andrew Bassett, of Bassett & McGregor Construction, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new office building on The Quay Carmarthen.

The excavations revealed that structural elements of a former warehouse and associated out-buildings were present within the development area. The earlier warehouse was constructed some time between 1786 and 1834 when it is first shown on early maps of the area. The site boundaries were laid out by the late 18th century. The outbuildings to the rear were constructed by the late 19th century, with further redevelopment occurring between then and the early 20th century. The warehouse was still in existence in the mid 1950s, after which it was partially demolished and the modern brick built maintenance shed was constructed (demolished as part of this new redevelopment).

The boundary walls of the development area also revealed architectural features providing further information regarding the development of the site. Blocked ground floor windows within the wall of the former warehouse on the south west side of the area suggest that it was once an open space, possibly a yard. A blocked entrance way within the school wall provided access to a now demolished building once located within the northwestern corner of the development site, although no trace of this building was revealed during the course of the watching brief. The entrance way and building are first shown on early 20th century mapping.

The northeast boundary wall of the development site appears to represent the remains of a substantial structure first shown on late 18th century mapping. These remains have been incorporated into the adjacent schoolyard wall. A blocked window/doorway and possible ventilation loop within this wall suggest that the ground on which the school building now stands was originally much lower and was raised during construction of the school in 1883.

The archaeological remains revealed during the course of the watching brief are considered to be of local interest. The potential for further hitherto unknown archaeological remains to be present within the vicinity of the development area remains high. The depth of the excavations for the development is such that further archaeological remains of earlier periods could still be present beneath the development site.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

1.1.1 A planning application was submitted to Carmarthenshire County Council by Mr Andrew Bassett of Bassett & McGregor Construction (Planning ref W/22459) for the demolition of a vacant repair/ maintenance unit and erection of a new development on The Quay Carmarthen (NGR SN 4116 1986). The development comprises the erection of a 3 storey building to provide offices with parking and service areas at ground floor level (Planning Application Number W/22459).

1.1.2 The development site lies in an area which is likely to have contained medieval wharves or quays and potentially a river crossing point as the site lies in close proximity to Carmarthen Castle and the medieval walled town. A number of medieval mills are known to have existed in the area also. The potential for waterlogged archaeological remains was also considered to be high within the site area, with the potential to provide palaeo-environmental evidence from the prehistoric period onwards.

1.1.3 Given the archaeological and historic significance of the area, and to protect historic environment interests whilst enabling development, an archaeological condition was attached to planning permission for the development by the local planning authority, following advice from their archaeological advisors. The condition stated:

'No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority'.

1.1.4 To comply with the planning condition Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services (DAT-FS) were commissioned by Mr Andrew Bassett, of Bassett & McGregor Construction, to undertake the archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the development.

1.1.5 A written scheme of investigation was prepared by DAT-FS and approved by the local planning authority prior to groundworks commencing, as required by the planning condition.

1.2 Scope of the Project

1.2.1 The written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by DAT-FS, stated that the project objectives were:

- Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services will address the archaeological planning condition placed on the proposed development;
- To monitor groundworks in order to identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits;
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed groundworks;
- To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the groundworks; and
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

1.2.2 The overall aim of the work was to undertake archaeological attendance during the proposed groundworks at the site that had the potential to expose,

damage or destroy archaeological remains, and undertake appropriate investigation and recording of any such remains if revealed.

1.3 Report Outline

1.3.1 This report describes the location of the site along with its archaeological background, and provides a summary and discussion of the results of the watching brief.

1.4 Abbreviations

1.4.1 Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record¹ (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Written Scheme of Investigation – WSI.

1.5 Illustrations

1.5.1 Photographic images are to be found at the back of the report. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale.

1.6 Timeline

1.6.1 The following timeline is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text (Table 1).

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 1066	
Medieval Period –	1066 – 1536	
Post-Medieval Period ² –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales

¹ Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo SA19 6AF.

² The post-medieval and industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional Historic Environment Record as held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust

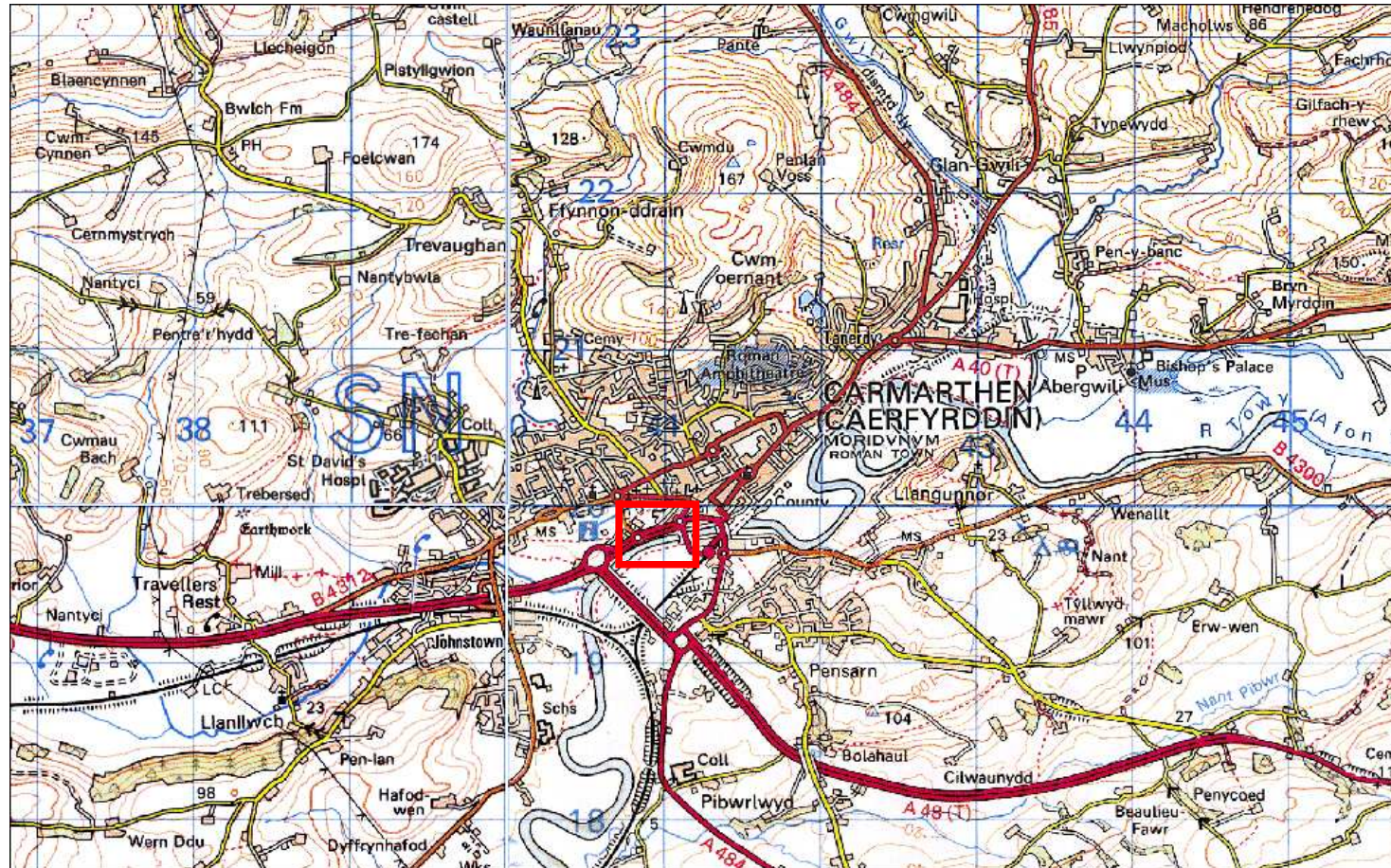


Figure 1: Site Location map of watching brief site from the Ordnance Survey

Reproduced from the 2003 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A

2. THE SITE

2.1 Location

2.1.1 The application area lies towards the western end of The Quay, Carmarthen (NGR SN 4116 1986; Figure 1).

2.1.2 The site is a level area measuring 24m x 11m with the road along the Quay forming the southern boundary. A former school, now utilised as offices, forms the eastern and northern boundaries, whilst a former warehouse, now utilised as a restaurant, forms the boundary on the western side.

2.1.3 The site was latterly occupied by a brick and sheet metal maintenance workshop.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.2.1 The Regional Historic Environment Record (HER) records that 37 archaeological sites lie within 100m of the centre of the development site (Table 2). These sites predominantly relate to buildings and structures on Quay Street, which lies directly to the north of the site area on the opposite side of Coracle Way. The majority of these buildings are 18th century in date and are Listed Buildings. The line of Quay Street follows the line of the medieval street layout and led towards Towy Gate, one of the medieval town gates. A road would have led outside of the town walls at this point leading to the river and possible wharfs, quays or a river crossing.

2.2.2 A port is known to have existed at Carmarthen during the medieval period which may have been established during the 12th century when the castle was first constructed. In 1326 Carmarthen became a *Staple Town* for the export of wool, hides and woolfells (skins with the fleece still on), much of the wool being exported to Flanders. Wine was an important commodity imported into the town during the medieval period with large quantities arriving from Gascony and Portugal (Lodwick & Lodwick 1996; 276-277).

2.2.3 The main medieval quay was located c.65m to the west of the development site where the Wynveth Stream formerly divided into two branches around an area of land just before entering the River Towy (NGR SN 4110 1985; Figure 2). This area became known as Island Wharf where larger ships berthed. At high tide smaller ships are thought to have been able to navigate the Wynveth Stream as far as the Wynveth/Dark Gate c.215m to the north east of Island Wharf. In 1796 the Wynveth Stream was covered over by the construction of Blue Street, the river culverted beneath the street. During episodes of flooding cellars of properties along Blue Street are known to flood. At No 33 Blue Street, the premises currently occupied by Bowen & Weaving Ltd, water ingress to a depth of 1m has been known. There is a local tradition that it is possible to walk the full length of Blue Street following the route of the stream, but this has not been confirmed.

2.2.4 Speed's map of Carmarthen depicts the 'Key' as running approximately from Island Wharf towards the bridge. It is not clear whether the quay structure was of timber or stone. The depiction of the quay by Speed may suggest expansion of the port, but the plan is very schematic.

2.2.5 An engraving of Carmarthen produced by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck, and published in 1748 depicts Island Wharf and the Wynveth Stream issuing into the River Towy. No depiction of a quay structure extending towards the town bridge is shown, with the area being depicted as a small wood. However, the engraving does depict boats drawn up on the river bank to the east and west of the area which may suggest boats may have been beached at low tide.

2.2.6 Thomas Lewis's map of 1786 shows that the Quay area (and that of the site) had been developed by that time with the construction of warehouses. During the 18th century Carmarthen became a substantial port with fifty seven vessels with a total tonnage of 2293 compared with Cardiff's twenty two vessels with a combined tonnage of 789 (Lodwick & Lodwick 1996; 280-281).

2.2.7 Between 1808- 1809 the present stone quay was constructed and extended eastward up to the town bridge. Between the 1820s and early 1830s shipping visiting the port increased substantially, and between 1830 and 1831 420 coasting vessels and 13 foreign vessels are known to have entered the port (Lewis 1833). In the same year fifty one vessels were registered at the port and 152 men were employed (Lodwick & Lodwick 1996; 281).

2.2.8 The opening of the South Wales Railway at Carmarthen in 1852 and the gradual silting up of the River Towy reduced Carmarthen's dependency on the river for trade. Cargoes of grain, flour, seed, timber and building materials continued to be brought in by both steam and sailing ship and photographic evidence from the 1900s shows that trade was still busy (Plate 1). One of the most familiar steamers to frequently visit the Quay was the S.S Merthyr which plied between Carmarthen and Bristol mainly carrying flour.

2.2.9 The First World War (1914-18) saw trade cease at the Quay. It resumed in the early 1920s, but tonnages fell sharply and by 1938 only five vessels carrying a total of 439 tons entered the port. The last commercial ship to leave the Quay departed in 1940 (*ibid* 284).

PRN	Site Name	Description	NGR
60	Towy Gate	Medieval Town Gate: It was part of the town defences built after Carmarthen obtained a grant of murgage in 1233.	SN 4114 1990
156	Nos. 4 & 5 Quay Street	18th century, 3 storey building. Grade II Listed.	SN 4120 1996
157	Gwynne House, No. 6 Quay St	18th century substantial town house. Grade II Listed.	SN 4119 1995
158	Nos. 7 & 8 Quay Street	A later 18th century town house. Grade II Listed.	SN 4118 1994
159	No. 9 Quay Street	A later 18th century town house. Grade II Listed.	SN 4118 1993
160	Golden Grove House, No. 10 Quay St,	An earlier 18th century town house, 2-storey high. Grade II* Listed	SN 4117 1993
161	Cartref, Nos. 11 & 12 Quay St	A later 18th century terraced house. Grade II Listed.	SN 4116 1992
162	Nos. 13 & 14 Quay Street	18th century building, 2 to 3-storey building.	SN 4115 1991
186	The Quay	The quay, originally located at Island Wharf, was first built in stone in the mid 16th century. The visible remains date mainly from the 19th century. It is a Grade II Listed building.	SN 4120 1985
368	Hope & Anchor, The Quay	Post medieval Public House shown on 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888	SN 4110 1986
373	Jolly Tar, No 18 The Quay	Post-medieval Public House first shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1888.	SN 4118 1988
418	Ship Aground; The Quay	Post-medieval Public House located somewhere in The Quay.	SN 411 199
419	Shipwright's Arms; Blue Street	Post-medieval Public House thought to be located down Blue Street.	SN 411 199
421	Sloop; No. 22 The Quay	Post medieval Inn marked on the 1st (1888), 2nd (1906) and 4th (1936) edition OS maps.	SN 4108 1984
446	Waterloo; No. 7 The Quay	Post medieval Public House recorded at No. 7 The Quay, adjacent to Waterloo Steps.	SN 4126 1987
10600	Medieval Fulling Mill	The mill had decayed and its mill race was blocked by 1352. The mill was probably located on the Wynveth Brook.	SN 411 199
10601	Medieval Fulling Mill	In 1469 John Du ab Ieuan Teg was allowed to build a fulling mill between Cockymill and the mill next to the quay in New Carmarthen, probably therefore on the Wynveth Brook near the river.	SN 411 199
20135	Section of Medieval Town Wall	Possibly part of the medieval 1233 town wall. 5m high, now used as rear garden wall of No. 6 Quay Street and to No. 3 St Mary Street. It is a Grade II Listed structure.	SN 4122 1992
20266	Llys-Y-Barn, No. 28 Quay St	Town house probably dating to the later 18th century. A Grade II Listed building.	SN 41161 19949
20267	Medieval Town Wall	Part of the original medieval town wall. Now used as a garden wall between Nos. 27 and 30 Quay Street. The wall is 4.3m high. A Grade II Listed structure.	SN 411 199
20310	No. 26 Quay Street	A later 18th century town house. Three-storeys high. Grade II Listed.	SN 41148 19925
20522	David Thomas' School, Bridge St	A Commercial and Mathematical School. Post-medieval	SN 412 199
20636	Blue Street	A record of 1820 tells of a lease for the building of a theatre in Blue Street.	SN 411 199
25698	Ebenezer Gospel Hall	First marked as a chapel on the 2nd edition OS map of 1906. Current maps as Ebenezer Gospel Hall. Post-medieval	SN 4112 1992
30033	Crane on River Towy	A crane marked on the 1st edition OS map, 1888, standing upstream of Pothouse Wharf. Post-medieval/Modern	SN 4109 1983
30034	Wharf on River Towy	A modern wharf - Bridge Wharf - immediately downstream of Carmarthen Bridge.	SN 4121 1978
61616	Nos. 11 & 12 Quay Street	Grade II listed house. Post-medieval	SN 41162 19918
61653	Nos. 7 & 8 Quay Street	Grade II listed house. Post-medieval	SN 41183 19942
61845	Section Of Medieval Town Wall	Grade II listed town wall. Medieval/Post-medieval	SN 41216 19922
61864	Section Of Medieval Town Wall	Grade II listed town wall. Medieval/Post-medieval behind Nos. 27 to 30 Quay Street	SN 41164 19962
61892	Quay Wall and Bollards	Grade II listed quay wall& bollards. Post-medieval	SN 41206 19852
61894	Gwynne House	Grade II listed house. Post-medieval	SN 41191 19956
61895	Nos. 7 & 8 Quay Street	Grade II listed houses. Post-medieval	SN 41186 19948
61896	Listed Building	Grade II listed house. Post-medieval	SN 41179 19936
61897	Golden Grove House, Steps and Railings	Grade II* listed house, steps& railings. Post-medieval	SN 41173 19928
61898	Walls and Railings 9 & 10 Quay St	Grade II listed forecourt wall& railings. Post-medieval	SN 41169 19937
61899	Cartref, Quay Street	Grade II listed houses. Post-medieval	SN 41164 19923

Table 2: Archaeological sites recorded on the HER within 100m of the centre of the development site

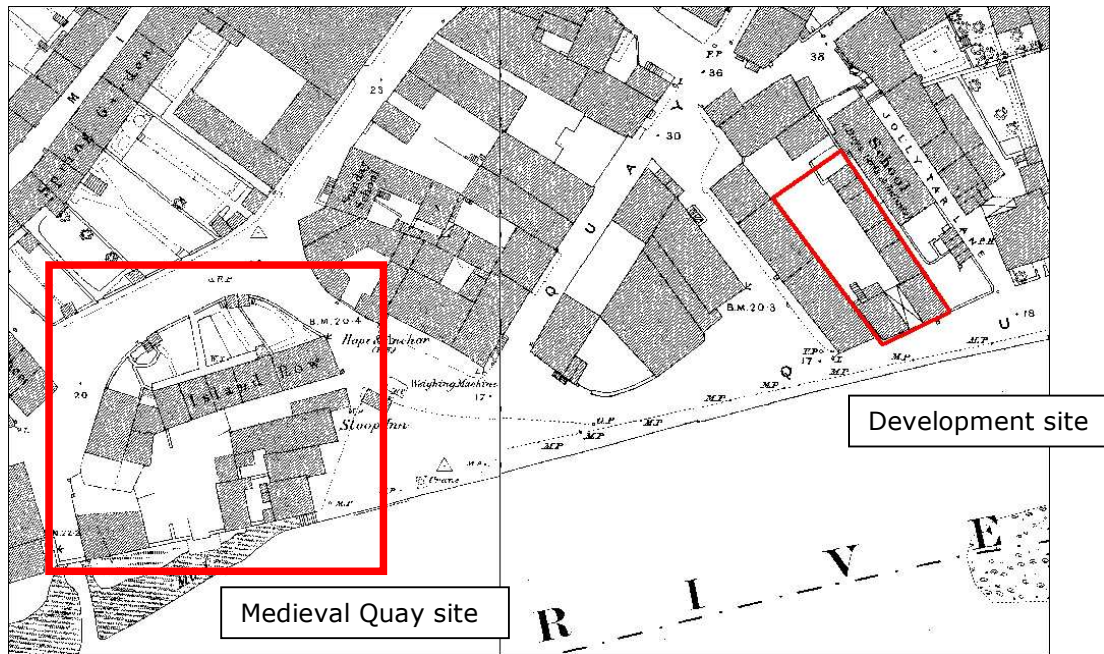


Figure 2: Extract of 1888 OS Map of the area with red boundaries marking locations of development area and medieval quay site.



Plate 1: The Quay from Pothouse Wharf c.1902-03 (Private Collection)

3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

The detailed methodology for the watching brief was laid out within the WSI. The relevant methodology can be summarised as follows.

3.1 Fieldwork

3.1.1 A 'watching brief' was undertaken during ground level reduction works at the site which had the potential to expose, damage or destroy underlying archaeological remains.

3.1.2 All archaeological deposits revealed during the groundworks were examined and recorded to an appropriate level.

3.1.3 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual³ used by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services.

3.2 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving

3.2.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork will be collated into a site archive structured in accordance with the specifications in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2007), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.

3.2.2 The results of the fieldwork have been assessed in local, regional and wider contexts.

3.2.3 This report is fully representative of the results of the fieldwork.

3.3 Timetabling of Fieldwork

3.2.7 The watching brief methodology involved monitoring of the topsoil stripping of the footprint of the new accommodation and administrative building. The watching brief was undertaken on the 26th and 27th October 2011.

³ Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services have adopted the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available on-site for inspection if required.

4. RESULTS

4.1 The initial visit to the site was made on the Wednesday 26th October following communication from the site developer to monitor ground level reduction works. Excavations were undertaken with a mini digger and JCB JS 130 360° tracked excavator, both using toothless grading buckets. The resulting spoil was removed from site using lorries.

4.2 At the northeast end of the development site the ground level was reduced by 1.1m. This revealed a stratigraphic sequence comprising a mid red brown clay silt containing large quantities of 19th century building rubble (100), overlying a dark grey brown firmly compacted clay silt (101) (Photo 1). A number of late 19th – early 20th century ceramic material and glass finds were recovered from (100), but these were not retained. A single sherd of black tin glazed earthenware was also recovered from (101) which could date from the 18th century, although such material was still manufactured in the 20th century.

4.3 During the course of the ground level reduction works it was possible to view that the footings of the wall of the adjacent restaurant building (102) forming the southwestern boundary extended below the level of the ground reduction works. Wall (102) was of stone construction and contained two blocked windows at ground floor level, each with red brick surrounds. At first floor level two further windows, again with red brick surrounds, were present. The southwestern-most window was blocked, whilst that to the northeast retained a sash window (Photo 2).

4.4 The footings of the school wall (103) forming the northwest boundary of the development site were found to be very shallow and lay 0.3m below the ground surface. At the northwest end of this wall a 2m wide blocked opening that may represent a former access route was revealed (Photo 3).

4.4 The partially surviving end wall and entrance way to the former maintenance unit lay at the southeast end of the proposed development area. The wall to the southeast of the entrance was of red brick and concrete construction and considered to be of relatively recent date. On the southwest side the wall was constructed of mortared rubble (104) and may be an element of an earlier structure incorporated into the maintenance unit (Photo 4).

4.5 Examination of the former school yard wall forming the northeastern boundary of the development site (105) revealed that the brickwork had been constructed upon an existing stone wall. A possible blocked window or doorway with stone lintel was identified at the northwest corner of the development area (Photo 5) and within wall (105). This was partially obscured by a red brick pillar and therefore the full dimensions were unclear. Circa 3.5m to the southeast of the blocked window/doorway a narrow opening was identified which may represent a ventilation slit akin to those found on agricultural buildings (Photo 6).

4.6 As ground reduction works continued towards the street frontage of the Quay, an approximately east – west aligned wall of stone and red brick construction was revealed (106). Wall (106) survived to a height of 0.5m and at its western end was seen to abut the adjacent restaurant wall (102) (Photo 7).

4.7 As clearance work at the eastern end of wall (106) was being undertaken, it was found that it abutted a further stone wall aligned northwest – southeast. Agreement was reached with the developer to follow the line of this stone wall using the mini digger to expose the outer face of the wall and clear any overburden from its top. During the course of exposing this wall it quickly became apparent that it formed part of a fairly substantial structure (107) running for much of the length of the northwest side of the development area (Photos 8 & 10). A single doorway, with brick surround, was revealed within the structure that provided access to the interior (Photo 9). No details of the

complete internal arrangement of the structure were revealed by these groundworks. One room was partially excavated revealing it had a flagged slate floor. The tops of two wall returns were also identified that may once have abutted wall (105) suggesting that this structure was subdivided into rooms and not a single open space. Clearance works in the vicinity of the doorway recovered a slate former window sill/lintel that potentially may once have formed part of this structure.

4.8 No further archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the course of the watching brief. No medieval or earlier finds were recovered from the depth of groundworks within the development site. No waterlogged deposits were revealed within the depth of the groundworks.

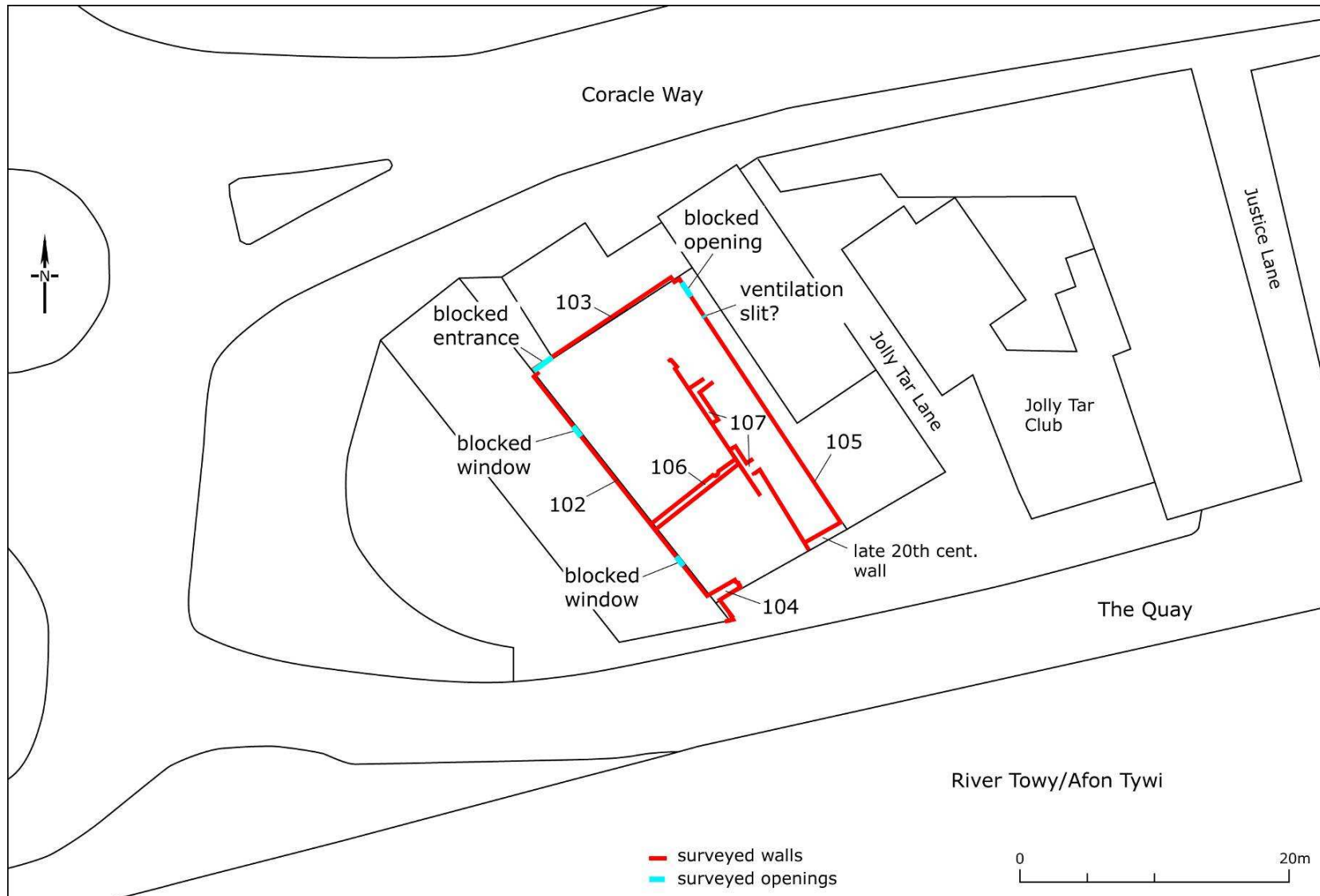


Figure 3: Overall site plan showing archaeological features revealed.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1.1 The archaeological watching brief undertaken at the Quay development site revealed a number of archaeological features and deposits.

5.1.2 Deposit (100) represents possible demolition material from former structures pre-dating the maintenance unit. This material could have been imported from elsewhere to raise the ground level prior to the construction of the former maintenance shed. Deposit (100) is considered to be of minimal archaeological interest.

5.1.3 The presence of windows in wall (102) would suggest that the development site was once an open space or yard area. Late 18th century mapping shows that the development site was undeveloped at this time, and that the adjacent warehouse had been constructed.

5.1.4 The late 18th century map also shows a substantial structure forming the northeastern boundary of the site. The structure is also marked on Woods map of 1834 (Figure 4). It is possible that the stonework of wall (105) represents the remains of this structure that was incorporated into the later schoolyard wall. The possible blocked window/doorway and ventilation loop would suggest that the ground level was raised significantly during construction of the school in 1883.

5.1.5 Woods map of 1834 (Figure 4) also shows a building occupying the street frontage of the Quay with a passageway providing access to the rear yard area. It remains little changed up until the early part of the 20th century. Wall (104) is considered to represent the rear wall of this building which was later incorporated into the fabric of the maintenance unit.

5.1.6 Early 20th century photographic images of the Quay show that a substantial four storied building with centrally placed doorway occupied the site (Plate 2). Two rows of five windows are visible on the façade along with a further small window set about half way up the building on its eastern side (Plate 5). By the 1950s it appears that the original central doorway had been significantly enlarged (Plate 5 & 6). The east gable appears to contain further windows and a possible doorway providing access to a walled enclosure on the west side of Jolly Tar Lane (Plates 3, 4 & 5). The eastern gable contained two windows on the upper floors, one set slightly higher than the other. The gable end on this side also appears to have been slate hung (Plate 3 & 4). Mid 20th century photographs show that the building was still in existence in 1955 (Plates 6 & 7).

5.1.7 It is considered that the building was constructed as a warehouse sometime between 1786 and 1834. Structure (107) is considered to be a later addition to the warehouse, as it is first depicted on the 1888 1:500 scale Ordnance Survey map of the area (Figure 5). It is shown on this map as a range of at least five roofed rooms with an open enclosure at the north east end an arrangement (Figure 5). This arrangement is also shown on the 1890 1:2500 scale OS map of the area (Figure 6).

5.1.8 By 1906 redevelopment work had been undertaken on the site of structure (107) when it appears to have been replaced with a larger building occupying the full width of the former yard area (Figure 7). It is possible that wall (106) may represent an internal dividing wall of this later structure as it lies in the middle of the building and does not correspond with the divisions shown on the 1888 and 1890 maps. It is likely that these buildings formed additional storage areas for the adjacent warehouse.

5.1.9 A search of readily accessible trade directories for the period 1835 – 1912 (Pigot 1835, Slaters 1850, Worrals 1875, Trades 1912) indicates that premises on the Quay were not listed with property numbers making it difficult to determine who and what type of business occupied these specific premises. Early to mid-

20th century photographic images show that the building had a sign on the front wall, but it has not been possible to decipher the text (Plates 5 & 6).

5.1.10 Wall (103) is likely to date from the early part of the 20th century, and possibly indicates that the adjacent school was extended to the west sometime between 1890 and 1906. The access route identified as a blocked opening in (103) is first shown on early 20th century mapping of the area (Figure 7) and is probably an entrance way to a building marked at NGR SN 4115 1987 within the northwestern corner of the development site. No trace of this building was revealed during the course of the archaeological watching brief.

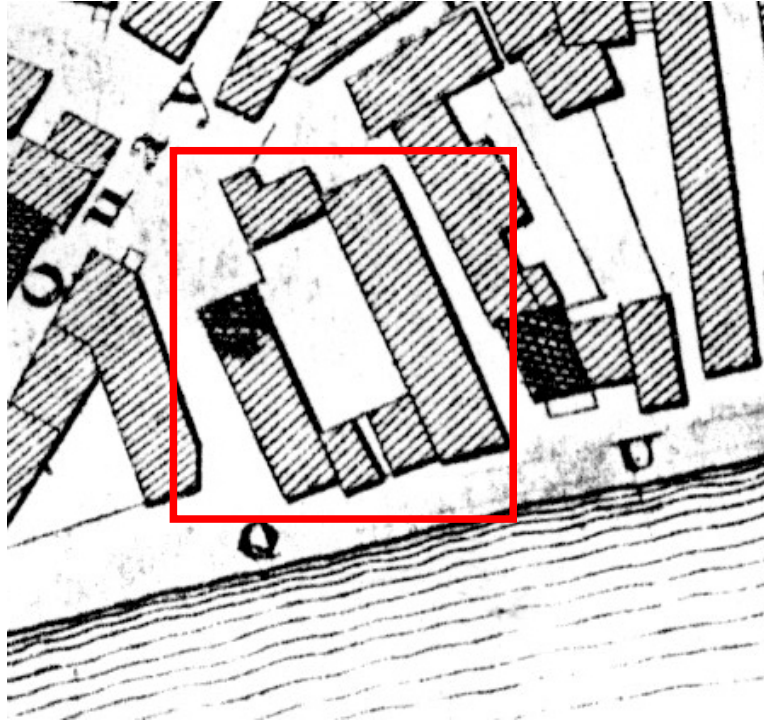


Figure 4: Extract of Wood's Map of 1834.



Figure 5: Site plan overlain on 1888 1:500 scale OS map

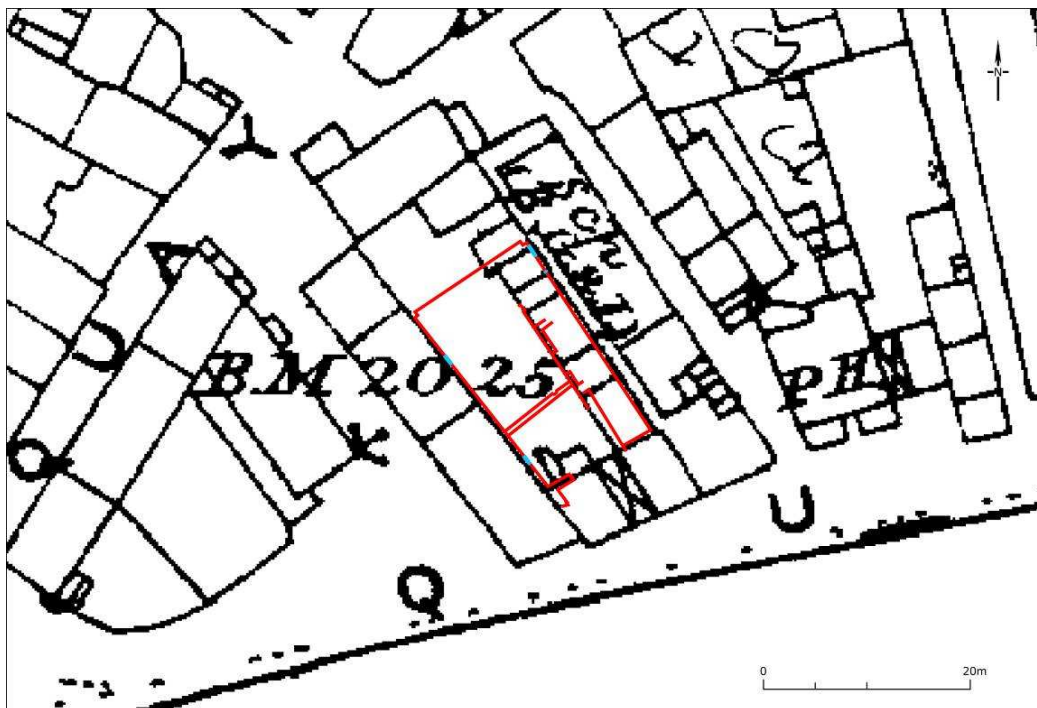


Figure 6: Site plan overlain on 1890 1:2500 scale OS map.

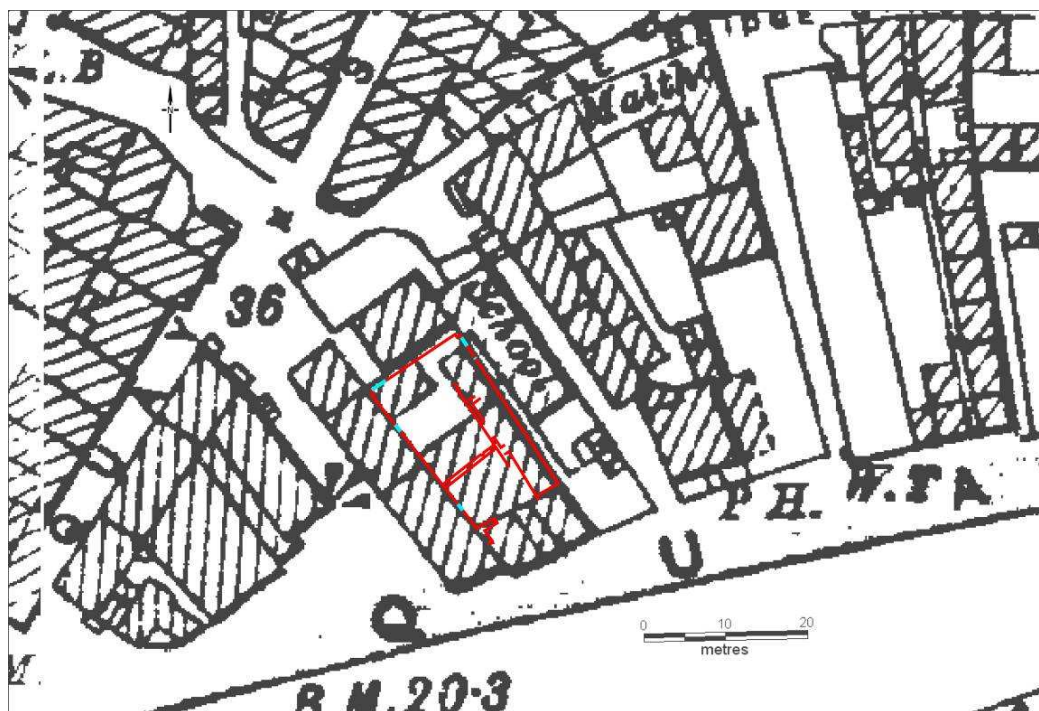


Figure 7: Site plan overlain on 1906 1:2500 scale OS map.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The archaeological watching brief undertaken at the former maintenance shed at the Quay, Carmarthen has revealed a number of archaeological features relating to the Industrial and Modern period use of the development site. No evidence for archaeological remains of earlier periods was revealed.

6.2 The remains of a former warehouse constructed sometime between 1786 and 1834 were identified that had been incorporated into the modern maintenance unit that stood on the site until demolished for this new development. Also revealed were the remains of two phases of additional buildings to the rear of the warehouse, the earliest of which is likely to date from at least the latter part of the 19th century.

6.3 Boundary wall (102) which forms part of a surviving warehouse is considered to date from at least the late 18th century when the structure is first shown on maps. The presence of windows within this wall suggests that the development site was originally an open space, possibly a yard.

6.4 Wall (103) probably dates from between 1890 and 1906 and suggests that the adjacent school was extended to the west at this time. A former entrance way was identified within the wall that would have provided access to a now demolished building which formerly stood in the northwestern corner of the development site, of which no trace was revealed.

6.5 The lower portion of wall (105) is considered to represent surviving masonry of a building constructed on the eastern side of the development site which possibly dates from the 18th century. A blocked doorway/window and possible ventilation slit suggest that the ground level has been raised, possibly when the school was constructed in 1883.

The archaeological remains revealed during the course of the watching brief are considered to be of local importance. The potential for further hitherto unknown archaeological remains to be present within the vicinity of the development area remains high. The depth of the excavations for the development is such that further archaeological remains of earlier periods could still be present beneath the development site.

7. SOURCES

Map

Lewis T 1786 Street Plan of Carmarthen

Ordnance Survey 1888 1:500 Carmarthen Town

Ordnance Survey 1890 1:2500 Carmarthenshire Sheet XXXIX.6 and 7

Ordnance Survey 1906 1:2500 Carmarthenshire Sheet XXXIX.6 and 7

Speed's Map of Carmarthenshire 1610

Wood's Map of Carmarthen 1834.

Published and Unpublished

Buck, S. & N., 1748, *The South East View of Carmarthen*. Middle Temple: London

James, T., 1980, *Carmarthen an Archaeological and Topographical Survey*, Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society/Dyfed Archaeological Trust: Carmarthen

Lewis, S., 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales Vol I*, S Lewis & Co: London

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Pigot & Co's Directory of North and South Wales, 1835, Pigot & Co: London and Manchester.

Slater's Directory of North and South Wales, 1850, Isaac Slater: Manchester

Trades Directory of Wales (North and South), 1912, Trades Directories Ltd: Edinburgh and Birmingham

Worrall's Directory of South Wales, 1875, John Worrall: Oldham

Aerial Photographs

Meridian Air Map 1955 240/210 Image 27088

PHOTOGRAPHS

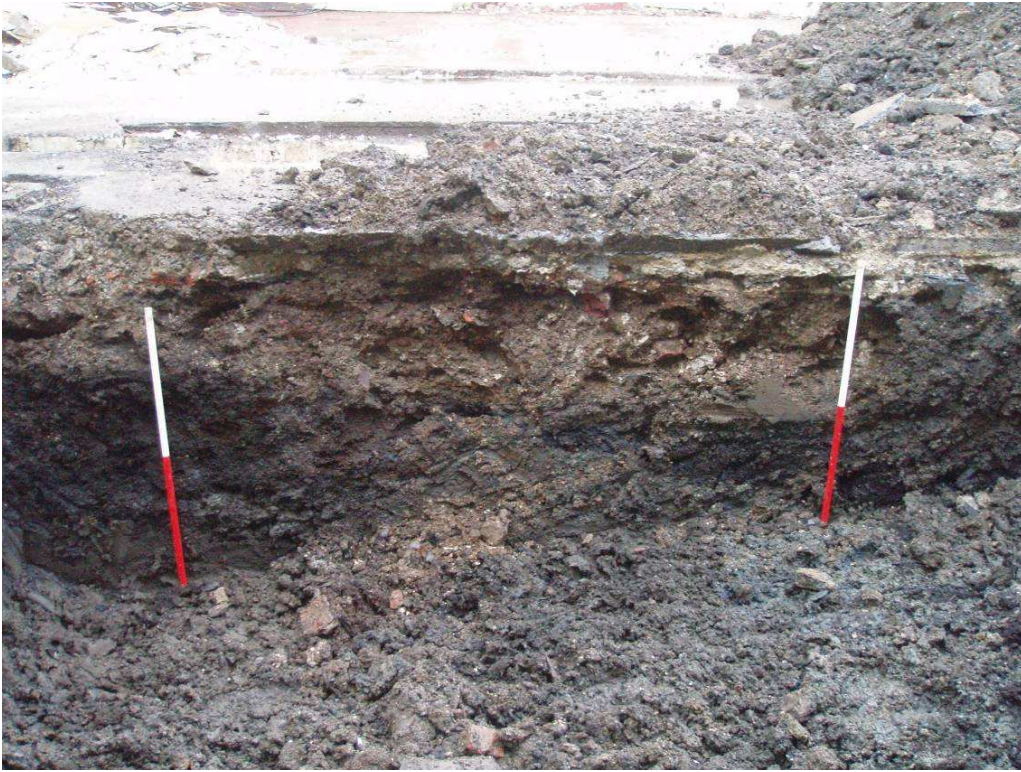


Photo 1: West facing representative section showing (100) & (101)



Photo 2: Oblique elevation of wall (102)



Photo 3: Blocked entrance within wall (103)



Photo 4: Former warehouse wall (104)

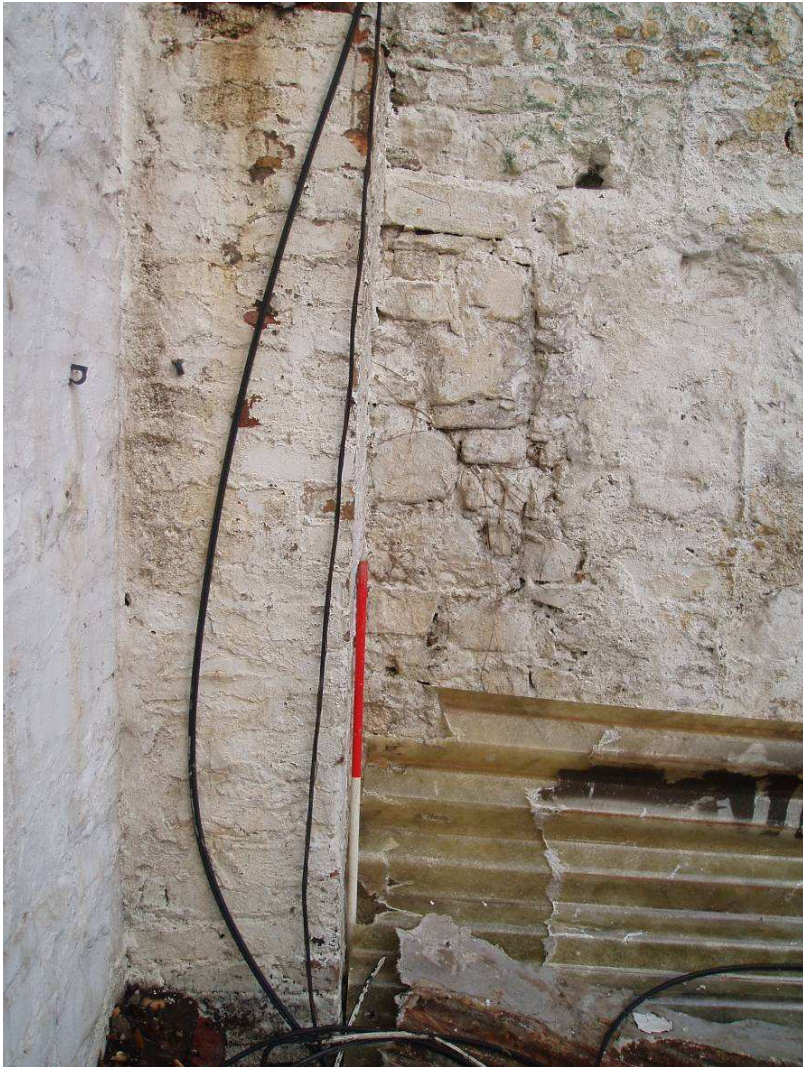


Photo 5: Blocked doorway/ window within wall (105)

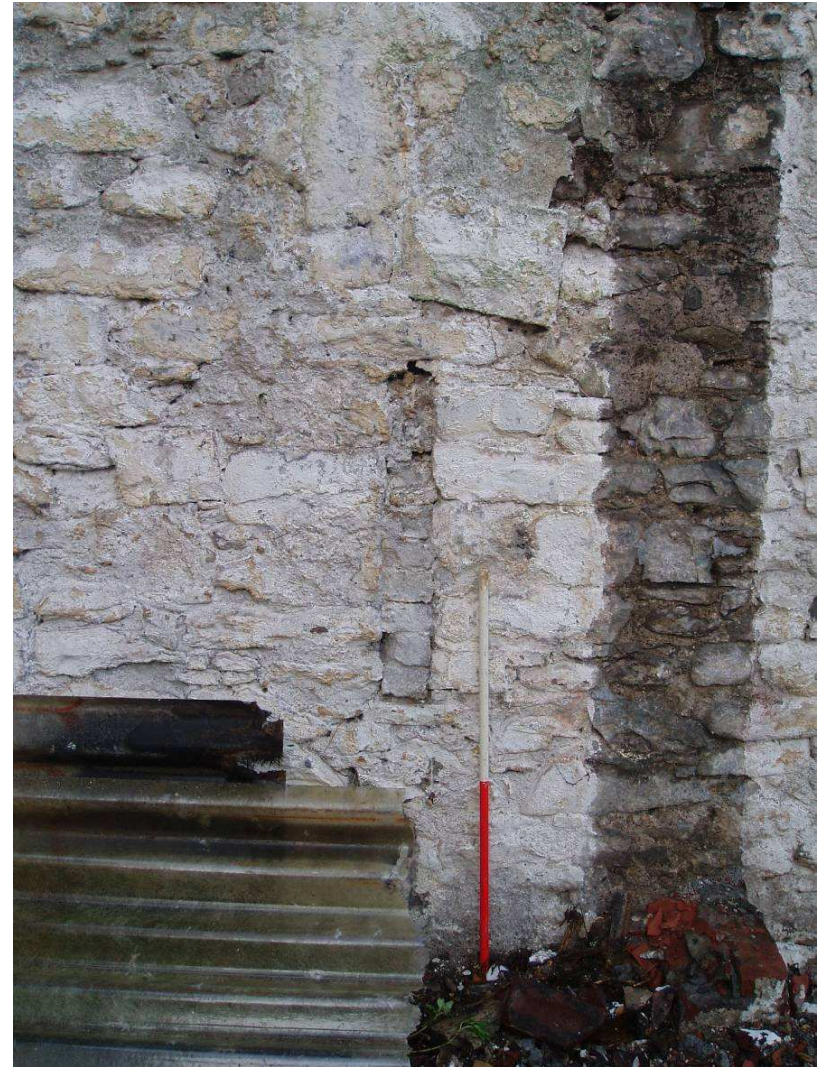


Photo 6: Possible ventilation loop within wall (105)

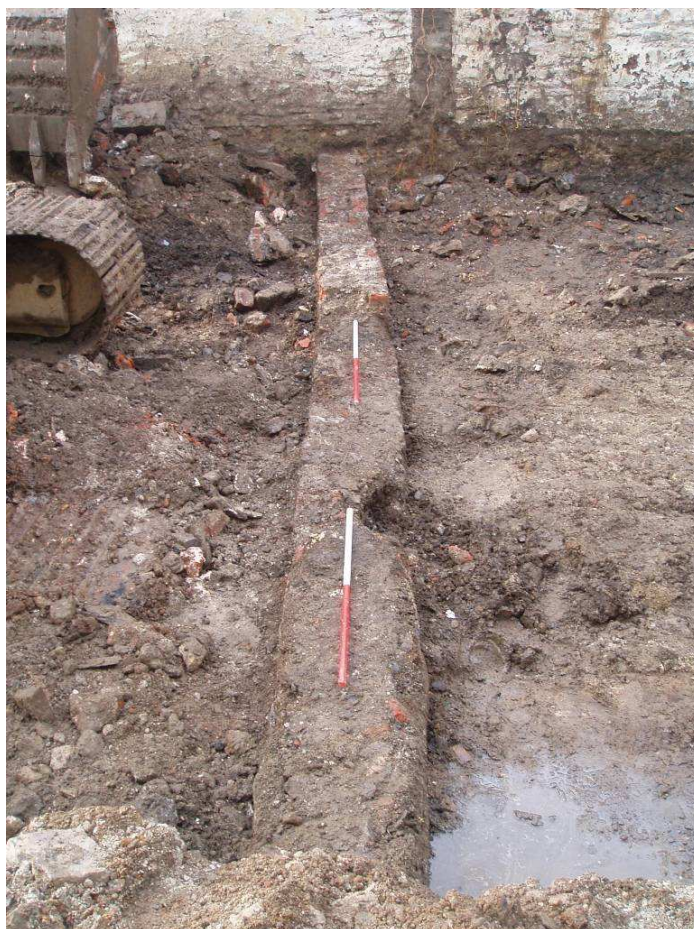


Photo 7: Wall (106) facing west.



Photo 8: Structure (107) facing NE



Photo 9: Doorway and flagged floor, structure (107)



Photo 10: Structure (107) facing south.



Plate 2: Pre 1902 view of Quay, warehouse indicated with red arrow
(Private Collection)

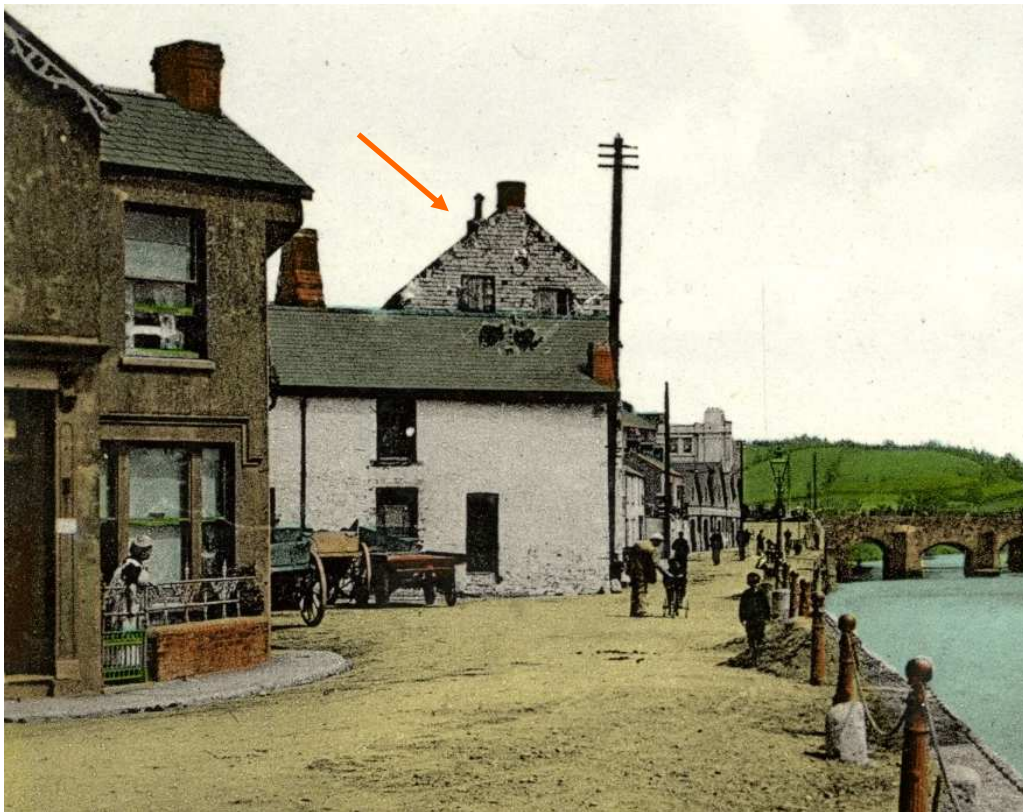


Plate 3: c.1905 view of Quay, slate hung gable of warehouse indicated with
arrow (Private Collection)



Plate 4: Quay in 1948 gable end of warehouse indicated with red arrow
(Private Collection)



Plate 5: 1950s view of Quay from Towry Works, warehouse indicated with red arrow (Private Collection)



Plate 6: View of warehouse from 'The Bulwarks' c.1955



Plate 7: Aerial view of development area showing warehouse 1955.

FORMER MAINTENANCE UNIT, THE QUAY, CARMARTHEN: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 102588

Ionawr 2012
January 2012

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

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Llofnod / Signature Date 04/01/2012

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

JAMES MEEK

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

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

Llofnod / Signature  Date 04/01/2012

*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*

