

May 2012

PARK STREET/ISLAND TERRACE, LLANELLI, CARMARTHENSHIRE:

PHOTOGRAPHIC BUILDING RECORD



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For: Carmarthenshire County Council



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Gan / By

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SUMMARY

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services was commissioned by Carmarthenshire County Council to make a photographic record of standing buildings on Park Street, Llanelli, and to identify the need for any further archaeological recording prior to the demolition of the buildings.

The buildings are thought to have 19th century origins, but although their exteriors appear relatively unchanged, extensive alterations have been made to the interior, to the extent that the original functions and floor plans of the buildings are no longer apparent.

The photographic record of the interior of the buildings was made after they were vacated, but little or no evidence of original floor plans, fixtures and fittings was apparent.

No features were identified that justified further recording of the buildings before they were demolished.

INTRODUCTION

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services was commissioned by Carmarthenshire County Council to make a photographic record of standing buildings on Park Street, Llanelli NGR SN5091300459 (Figures 1 & 2), and to identify the need for any further archaeological recording prior to the demolition of the buildings.

The demolition of the buildings did not require planning permission, but following concerns about the loss of buildings with historic character in the Llanelli town centre area being expressed by local residents, and as a result of discussions with the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority, Carmarthenshire County Council agreed to fund a survey and photographic record of the buildings prior to their demolition.

Scope of the Project

The overall scope of the project was to provide a photographic survey record of the buildings on Park Street / Island Terrace, Llanelli in their present state prior to demolition.

Illustrations

Record photographs are included at back of the report. Printed map extracts are not reproduced at their original scale.

METHODOLOGY

A measured sketch was made of the interior floor plans of each property in the building. This was superimposed upon a plan of the footprint of the building derived from 1:500 Ordnance survey mapping. Discrepancies between the sketch plans and the mapping were 'averaged out'. As a consequence, the room dimensions depicted on the floor plans are not necessarily wholly accurate.

Photographs of all elevations of each room were taken where this was possible (the dimensions and shapes of some rooms made meaningful photography impossible).

A selection of exterior and interior photographs is included in this report. All the photos indicated on the floor plans are included in the accompanying CD.

The building record was undertaken to a 'Level 2' standard, as defined in the English Heritage *'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice'* (2006). This level of recording is described thus:

Level 2

This is a **descriptive record**. It may be made of a building which is judged not to require any fuller record, or it may serve to gather data for a wider project. Both the exterior and the interior will be viewed, described and photographed. The record will present conclusions regarding the building's development and use, but will not discuss in detail the evidence on which these conclusions are based. A plan and sometimes other drawings may be made, but the drawn record will normally not be comprehensive and may be tailored to the scope of a wider project.

The following will be undertaken:

- Roughly dimensional sketch floor plans of the buildings showing the locations and direction of accompanying photographs.
- Record photographs of the exterior and interior of the buildings (including any architectural details, fixtures and fittings of relevance)
- A report including the location of the buildings, a summary description of their form, function, date and sequence of development, the sketch plans and selected photographs.
- An archive of the building record.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

An in-depth archive search for documents that might clarify the past history of the buildings was not required as part of this project.

It is apparent from comparing historic maps that whereas the buildings themselves have remained largely unaltered the surrounding road system has changed considerably (Figures 3 & 4). Further research might identify more sources and more detailed information on the manner in which the building has developed over time.

BUILDING DESCRIPTION (Figures 5 & 6)

Exterior

The exterior views display most of the surviving historic character of the buildings.

Most of the original window openings survive on the 'Copy Tech' and 'Hollywood Hair' buildings, with all ground and first floor windows (except the main display windows) retaining original 16 pane sash window frames and rendered façade (Photos 1, 2, 3 and 5).

Having been re-rendered, the domestic dwelling at the south end of the block has lost its original exterior appearance (Photo 4). In addition, the windows have been replaced with double glazing, and the dimensions of the window openings themselves have been altered.

To the rear of the buildings (Photos 6 and 7) it appears that the single storey ground floor parts differ from the footprint of the buildings represented in the historic mapping, suggesting these back yards structures have been altered over the years.

Interior - ground floor

Due to the extent of later alterations and replastering, it is not clear to what extent the modern layout of the ground floor rooms may differ from the earlier layout of the buildings.

The ground floor walls of 'Copy tech' (rooms 1, 2 and 3) and 'Hollywood Hair' (rooms 4 and 5) all appear to be of original masonry. The stairwells to the rooms above 'Copy tech' (rooms 9, 10, 11 and 12) and 'Hollywood Hair' (room 6 and 7) also appear to be original.

Broadly speaking it seems that the current property divisions are probably the same as the earlier ones, although there may have been ground floor access between rooms 3 and 4.

In the domestic dwelling (Rooms 13, 14 and 15), most of the ground floor room divisions and the stairwell appeared to be more recent, probably of plasterboard. They may not therefore reflect the original layout of rooms in the building, although no evidence of earlier and different room divisions was visible.

As can be seen from the photographic record (Photos 8, 9, 12, 13, 14), no original fixtures and fittings were apparent, and no original doors or fireplace surrounds had survived.

No evidence of what any of the buildings may originally have been used for is visible.

Interior – first floor

Due to the extent of later alterations and replastering, it is not clear to what extent the modern layout of the first floor rooms may differ from the earlier layout of the buildings. Most, if not all of the room divisions appear to be of modern? plasterboard construction.

As can be seen from the photographic record (Photos 10 and 15), no original fixtures and fittings were apparent, and no original doors or fireplace surrounds had survived.

No evidence of what any of the buildings may originally have been used for is visible.

CONCLUSIONS

Although externally, the two retail units (Copy tech and Hollywood Hair) both to a large extent retained their period character, this was not the case with the interiors. The absence of surviving original fixtures and fittings, and the possibility that the first floor floorplans had to a large extent been remodelled mean that the original form and layout of the buildings is uncertain.

In the light of this there was insufficient potential in the surviving fabric of the buildings to warrant additional recording of prior to their demolition.

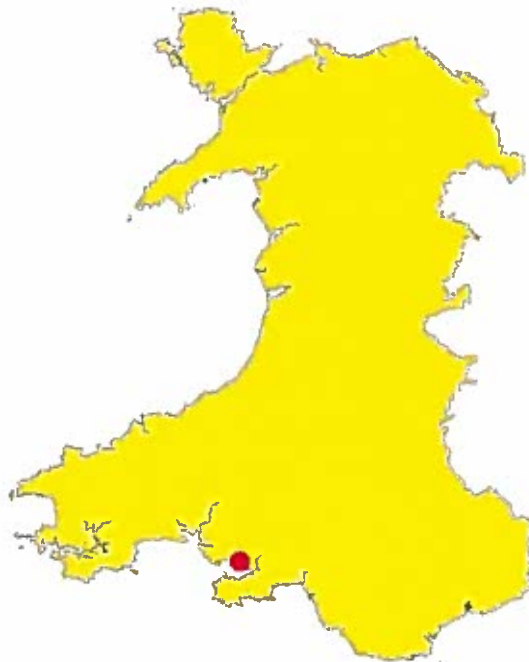


Figure 1: Location of Llanelli

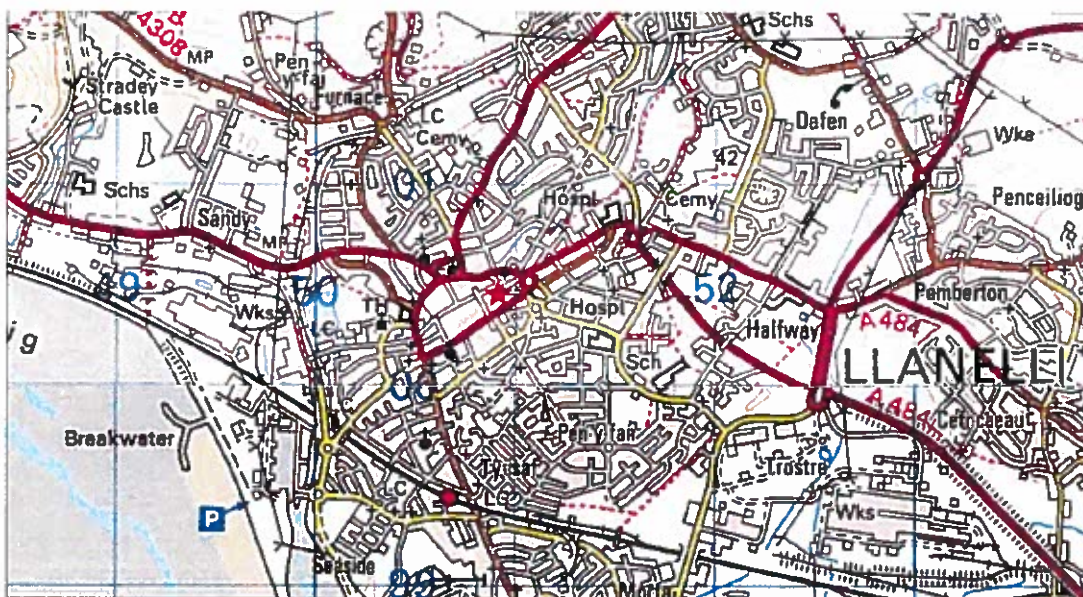


Figure 2: Location of site within Llanelli

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

Park Street/Island Terrace, Llanelli:
Photographic Building Record

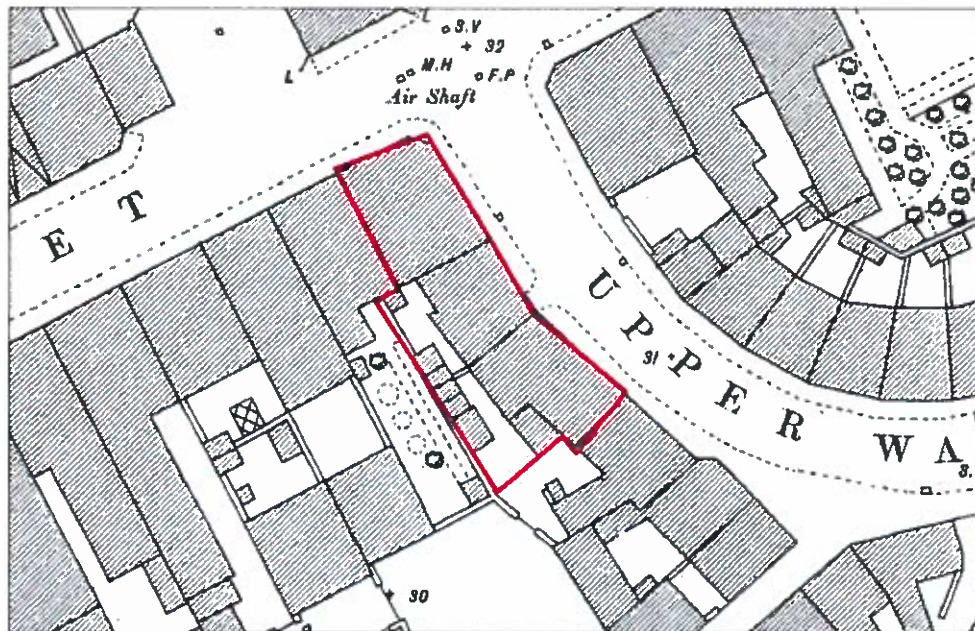


Figure 3: Location of site as represented on Ordnance Survey 1:500 scale map of Llanelli of 1880.

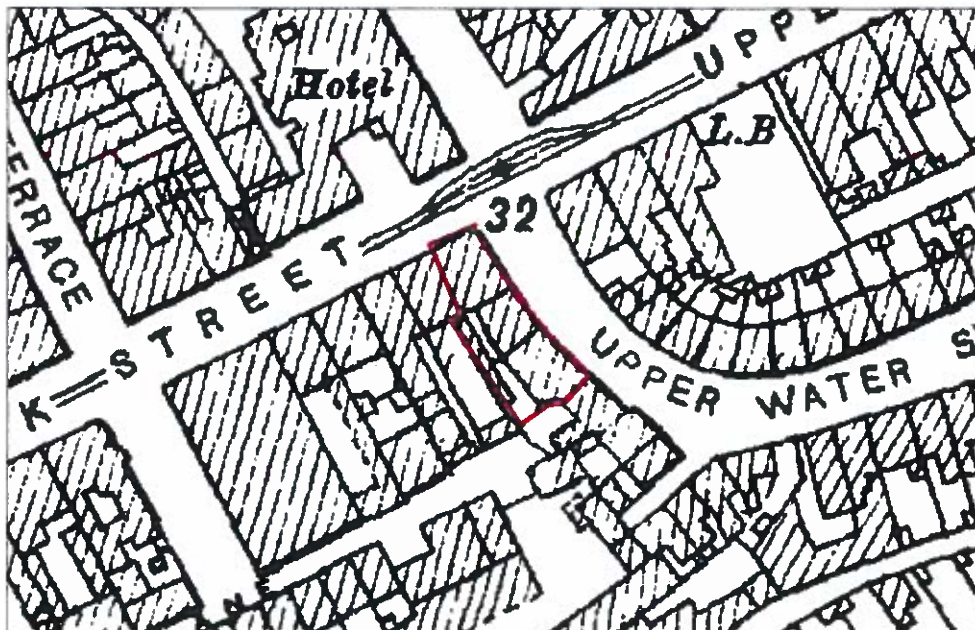


Figure 4: Location of site as represented on Ordnance Survey 1:2500 scale map of Llanelli of 1907.

Park Street/Island Terrace, Llanelli:
Photographic Building Record

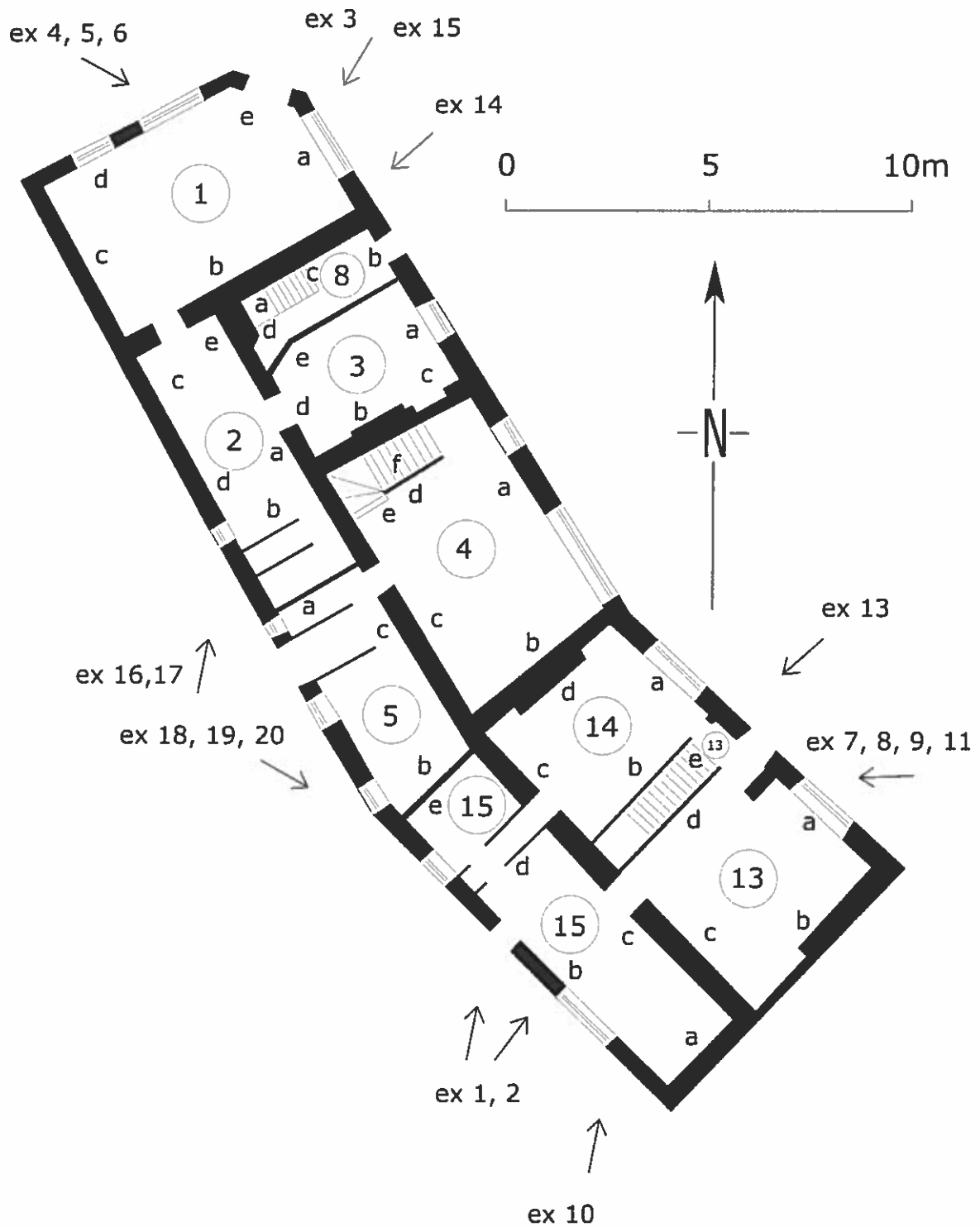


Figure 5: Ground floor plan with room and photograph references

Park Street/Island Terrace, Llanelli:
Photographic Building Record

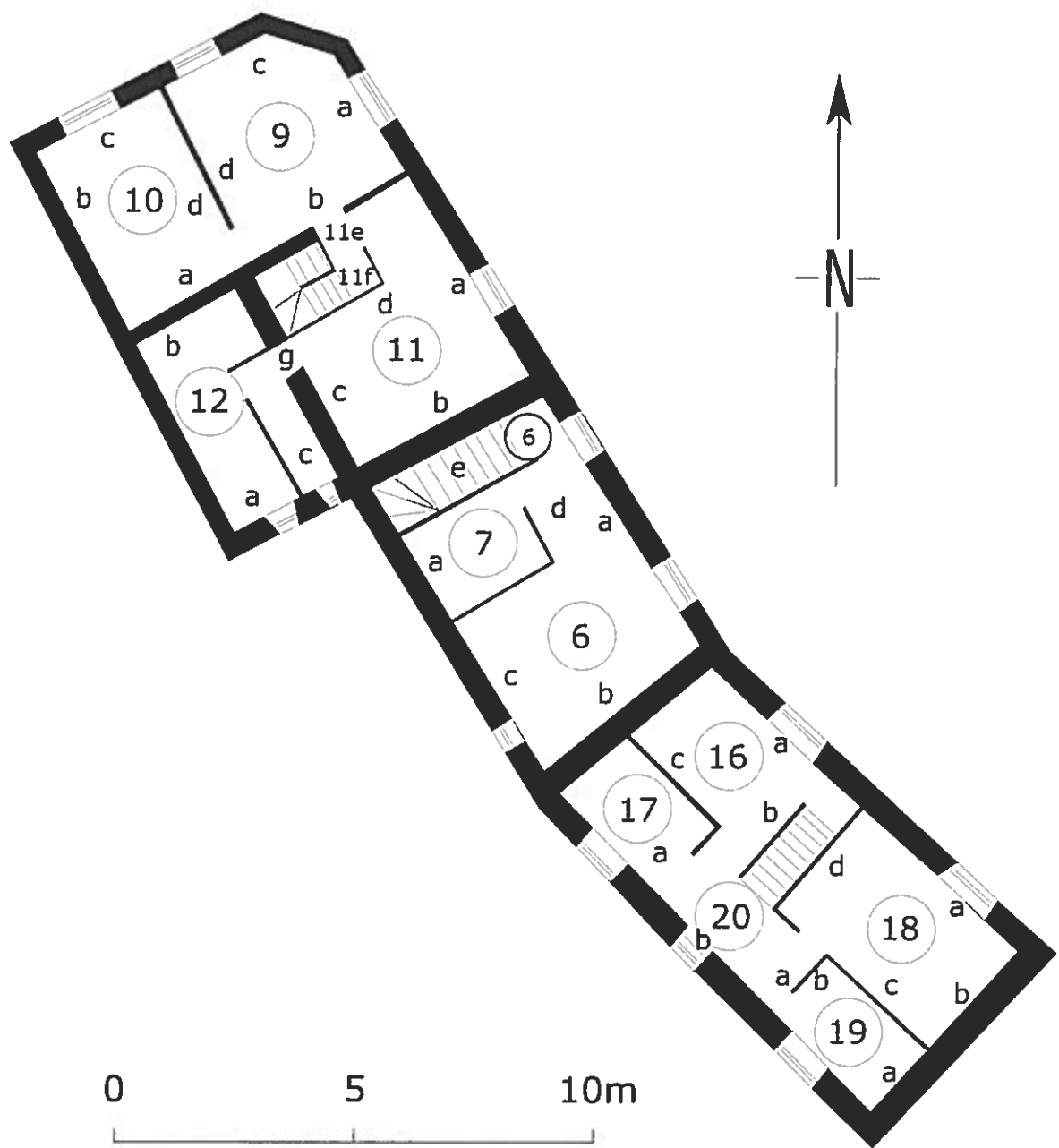


Figure 6: First floor plan with room numbers and photograph reference letters

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Exterior looking southwest

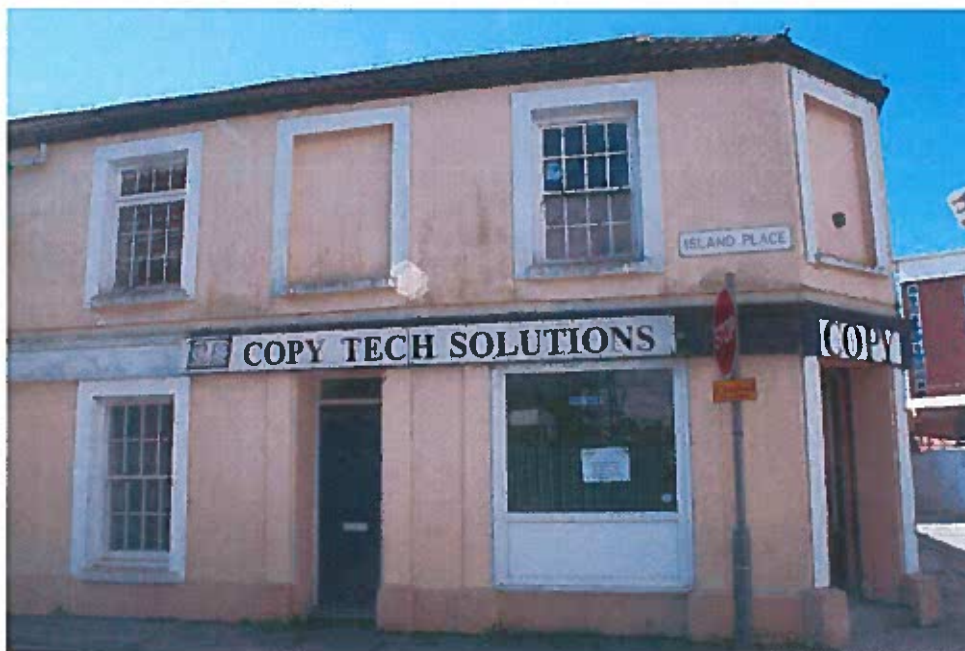


Photo 2: Exterior looking west



Photo 3: Exterior looking southeast



Photo 4: Exterior looking northwest



Photo 5: Exterior looking northwest



Photo 6: Exterior looking southeast



Photo 7: Exterior looking northeast



Photo 8: Interior, room 13(b)



Photo 9: Interior, room 15(a)



Photo 10: Interior, room 15(e)



Photo 11: Interior, room 20(a)



Photo 12: Interior, room 1(e)



Photo 13: Interior, room 2(b)



Photo 14: Interior, room 4(b)



Photo 15: Interior, room 6(c)

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

Swydd / Position: Field Services Project Manager

Llofnod / Signature.



Dyddiad / Date

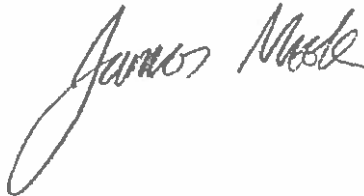
Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
This report has been checked and approved by

James Meek

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

Swydd / Position:

Llofnod / Signature



Dyddiad / Date

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