

# **EXTENSION & ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING BUILDING & OUTBUILDINGS AT GWAUNFA, WEST STREET, NEWPORT, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**



Prepared by:  
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For: Mr Peter Maudsley



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BUILDING & OUTBUILDINGS AT GWAUNFA,  
WEST STREET, NEWPORT, PEMBROKESHIRE:  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Gan / By  
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**EXTENSION & ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING BUILDING & OUTBUILDINGS  
AT GWAUNFA, WEST STREET, NEWPORT, PEMBROKESHIRE:  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**SUMMARY**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during ground works associated with a proposed extension and alterations to the existing building and outbuildings at the property called Gwaunfa, West Street, Newport, Pembrokeshire. (NGR SN 05508 39058) - Planning Application No. NP/12/0463. The work was commissioned from DAT Archaeological Services by Pembroke Design Ltd on behalf of their client Mr Peter Maudsley.*

*The requirement for the watching brief was placed as a condition on planning permission as the proposed development area lies within the core of the former medieval borough of Newport. Gwaunfa is a Grade II listed property (PRN 60565, Cadw ref: 84395), part of an informal terrace on the north side of West Street, the main east-west route way through the town. Map evidence shows that the present street pattern was established by 1434 and that extending back from the street frontages were the long narrow properties or 'burgage plots' that characterise a medieval town. Medieval buildings have been recorded within the plots in Newport during excavation by Dyfed Archaeological Trust in 1985 and 1991. The property Gwaunfa fronts a former burgage plot that extended to the north behind it.*

*Approximately 120m further west along West Street is the Memorial Hall and during its construction in 1921 the builders found two 15th century pottery kilns. One kiln is still preserved within a basement under the stage. This is probably the best surviving medieval pottery kiln in Wales and pottery from these kilns has been found in archaeological excavations throughout Dyfed. The site is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (PRN 1498, SAM PE 437).*

*The ground-works consisted of the demolition of outbuildings and the removal of their concrete floors and underlying soil and rubble layers. A number of foundation trenches for a boundary wall and a loggia were excavated within the raised garden area. Internally within the property the floor levels were lowered inside the dining room.*

*The watching brief was undertaken over two days on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2014.*

*Within the dining room a line of faced stones, possibly part of a stone gully or drain, was exposed roughly parallel with the outer north wall.*

*No structural remains were revealed after the removal of the outbuildings and stone paving to the north of the property but a group of features cut into the natural subsoil were exposed. Although these features were not excavated, within the top of the fills of two were fragments of locally produced pottery wares. One sherd is possibly Newport ware of 16<sup>th</sup> century date and other sherds have been classified as Dyfed Gravel Tempered wares dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Taking into consideration the date of the pottery sherds it is reasonable to assume that these archaeological features have their origins in the late medieval period and were associated with a domestic building fronting West Street; in the same position that the property Gwaunfa now occupies.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Commission**

- 1.1.1 A planning application was submitted by Pembroke Design on behalf of Mr Peter Maudsley, to Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Planning Authority (Planning Application Number NP/12/0463) for extension and alterations to the existing building and outbuildings at the property called Gwaunfa, West Street, Newport, Pembrokeshire (SN 05508 39058) (Figures 1 & 2).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development area lies within the core of the former medieval borough of Newport. Gwaunfa is a Grade II listed property (Cadw ref: 84395), part of an informal terrace on the north side of West Street.
- 1.1.3 Due to the archaeological and historical significance of the area, and the potential for medieval settlement associated with the church and castle, a recommendation for a watching brief was placed as a condition on planning permission. The condition stated:
- The developer shall ensure that a professionally qualified archaeologist is present during the undertaking of any ground works within the development area, so that an archaeological watching brief can be carried out. The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists. The planning Authority will be informed, in writing at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development, of the name of the said archaeologist*
- 1.1.4 To comply with the planning condition, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Archaeological Services (DAT-AS) were commissioned by Pembroke Design Ltd, on behalf of Peter Maudsley, to undertake the archaeological watching brief during ground-works associated with the proposed development.
- 1.1.5 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by DAT-AS and approved by the local planning authority prior to ground-works commencing, as required by the planning condition.

### **1.2 Scope of the Project**

- 1.2.1 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) document for a watching brief was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services prior to the commencement of the works. The WSI outlined methodologies for:
- monitoring ground works in order to identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits
  - establishing the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works
  - appropriately investigating and recording any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works
  - producing an archive and report of any results

### **1.3 Report Outline**

- 1.3.1 This report provides a summary and discussion of the archaeological watching brief and its results within a local and regional context.

## **1.4 Abbreviations**

- 1.4.1 Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record<sup>1</sup> (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Sites recorded on the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) database Coflein are identified by their National Primary Record Number (NPRN). Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management – DAT-HM; Scheduled Ancient Monument – SAM; Pembrokeshire – PE; Written Scheme of Investigation – WSI.

## **1.5 Illustrations**

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

## **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).

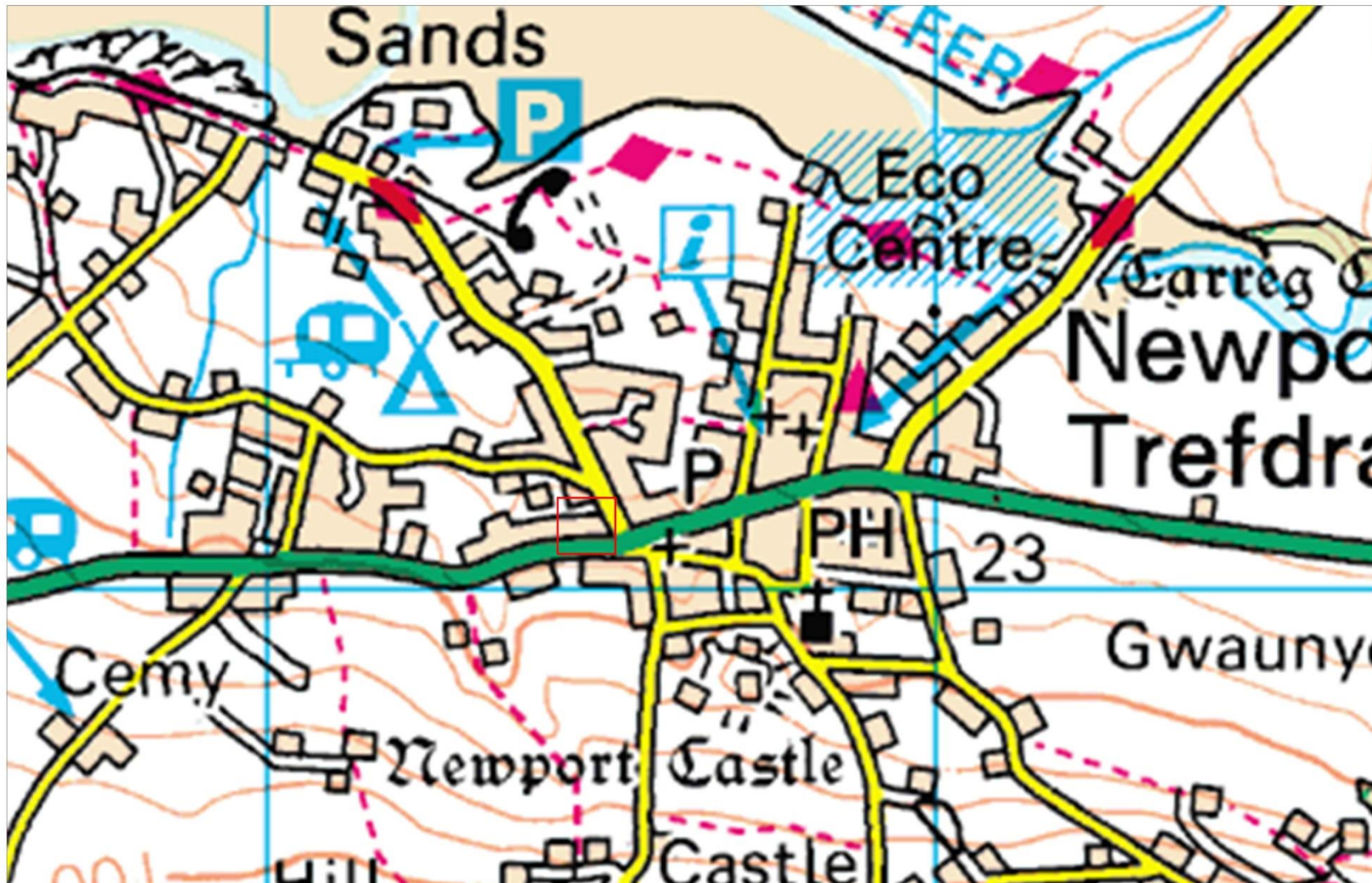
<b>Period</b>	<b>Approximate date</b>	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	<b>Prehistoric</b>
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	<b>Historic</b>
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 1086	
Medieval Period –	1086 – 1536	
Post-Medieval Period <sup>2</sup> –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20th century onwards	

**Table 1:** Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales

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

<sup>2</sup> 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





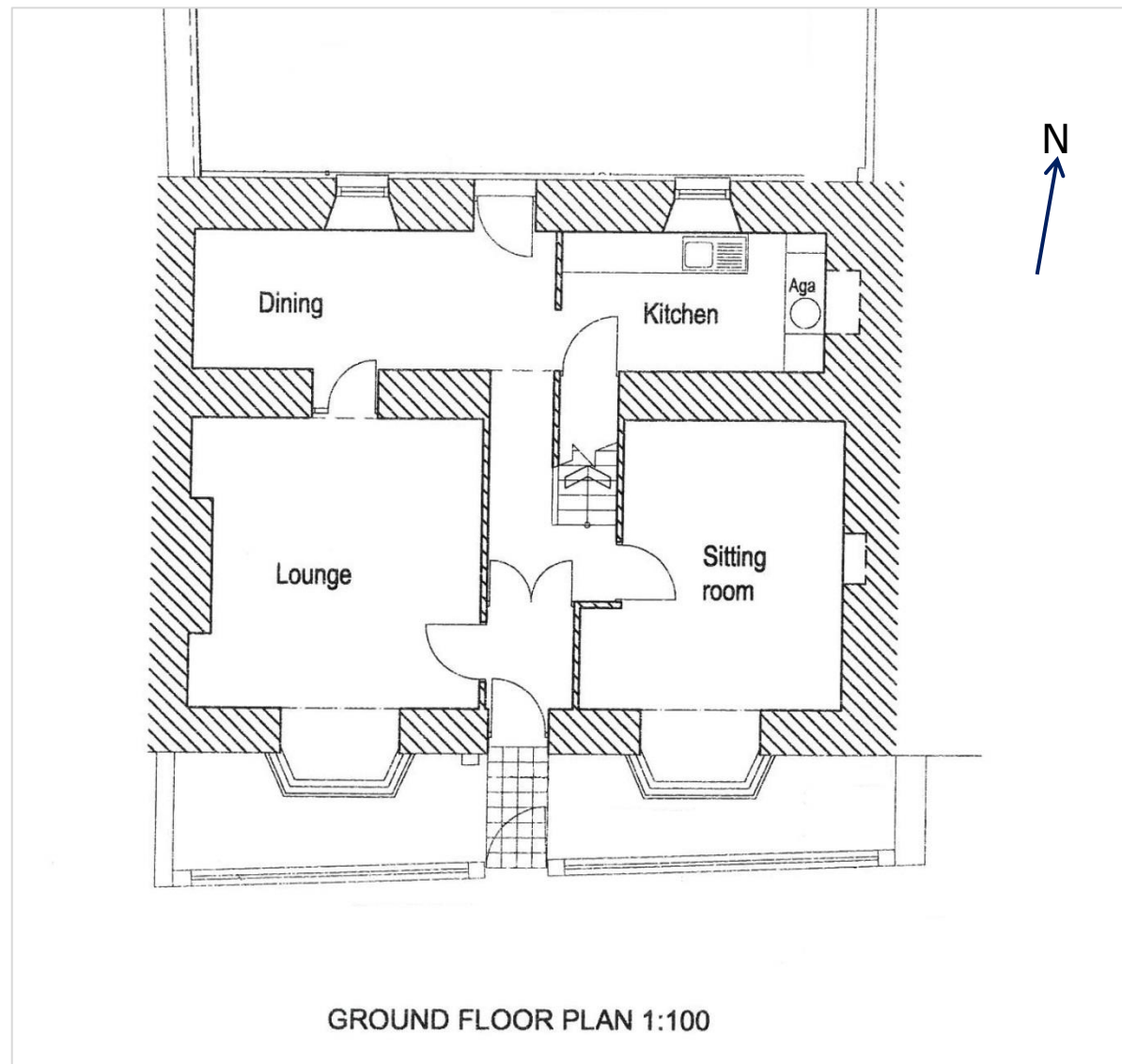
**Figure 1:** Location map based on the Ordnance Survey. The red boundary is centred on the property Gwaunfa, West Street.

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office,  
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**Figure 2:** Location plan showing the development area outlined in red and a plan of the existing building.  
Plan supplied by Pembroke Design Ltd



**Figure 3:** Plan of the ground floor layout of the Gwaunfa property. Plan supplied by Pembroke Design Ltd.

## **2 THE SITE**

### **2.1 Location**

- 2.1.1 The development is located within the small town of Newport, Pembrokeshire at NGR SN 05508 39058 (Figure 1 & 2).
- 2.1.2 Prior to development to the rear of the property Gwaunfa were a number of brick outbuildings and a paved area from which steps led up to a raised grassed garden area.
- 2.1.3 Ordovician sedimentary rocks, which outcrop in many locations, represent the solid geology of the area in and around Newport; the drift geology comprises a complex mix of fluvio-glacial deposits of sand, gravel and clay (British Geological Survey). Within the proposed development area only fluvio-glacial yellow-orange sandy clay was encountered beneath the overlying subsoil, with no representation of the Ordovician bedrock.

### **2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 2.2.1 A good outline history of Newport is contained in the Newport and Carningli parish section of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Landscape Characterisation report prepared for Cadw (Murphy and Ludlow 2003). The appropriate section, 361 Newport, is reprinted in full below:

*A small area of modern Pembrokeshire, comprising the built-up area of Newport town. It lies within the medieval Cantref Cemaes. Cemaes was brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 by the Fitzmartins who established their castle at Nevern on the site of an Iron Age fort. Cemaes remained in Angle-Norman hands until 1191 when Rhys ap Gruffudd retook it. He strengthened Nevern Castle, but Welsh supremacy was short-lived for Rhys died in 1197 and in the same year William Fitzmartin regained control of Cemaes. Instead of refortifying Nevern, William established a new castle at Newport (possibly the Old Castle earthworks by the Nevern estuary) and founded a new town. In c.1241, Nicolas Fitzmartin confirmed in a charter privileges bestowed on the town by his father, William. The early years of the town were not easy for the new settlers. In 1215, Newport Castle was destroyed by Llywelyn ap Iorwerth, and the Fitzmartins did not regain control until about 1230, but in 1257 the castle was once again razed to the ground, this time by Llywelyn ap Gruffudd. By 1276-77 the castle was back in the hands of the Fitzmartins who retained it, as well as the Barony of Cemaes, until 1326, when the Audleys succeeded them. Excavation and survey have shown that the town was originally laid out with burgage plots – long building plots – along two main streets, Long Street and St Mary's Street, with the castle now known as the Old Castle between them close to the shore of the Nevern estuary. Properties on these streets towards the estuary did not survive long, perhaps as a result of attacks by the Welsh, and by the end of the 13th century, if not earlier, these burgage plots had been abandoned and were not used again. Possibly following the attacks of 1215 or 1257 the castle was re-founded at its present site dominating the southern end of the town. A grid of new streets and the parish church of St Mary were also established in the same area. The town, however, did not flourish for in 1434 a survey lists 233 burgage plots but only 76 burgage holders. By 1594, 211 plots are recorded, but only 44 are occupied, and most of these are at the southern end of the town. Many house plots lay unused until the eve of the modern period as Richard Fenton noted the early 19th century that 'the chasms in its depopulated streets are filling up fast with buildings'. Clearly Fenton witnessed rebuilding that is evident in the town*

*today, represented by numerous good-quality 19th century houses. The castle, which had been in decay since the late medieval period, was re-occupied in 1859 and the gatehouse was converted into a house; other additions followed. Despite the decay evidenced in the town, Newport had several small but important industries. The town's economy was based on agriculture, fishing and coastal trade. Newport had been the centre of a medieval and early post-medieval pottery industry, but the emergence of the town as a trading port really began in the 16th century when cloth and wool were exported. As a result, a considerable textile industry developed in the town's hinterland. Exports also included the products of the numerous local quarries. The town was also noted for its herring fishery. Changes in the silting of the estuary caused a new quay to be established at The Parrog, with shipbuilding facilities, storehouses and limekilns. It flourished well into the 19th century - 97 vessels visited the port in 1884 - but decline set in soon afterwards. Newport has largely not developed beyond its medieval limits, but 20th century housing occupies a pocket around Cnwc-y-grogwydd, to the west of the town, the site of a medieval gallows (and possible early medieval religious site). The economy during the later 20th century has been dominated by leisure, including a yacht club on The Parrog, and tourism, with a number of caravan parks. Newport is now an attractive option for middle-class home-buyers, which has imparted a genteel aspect to the town.*

- 2.2.2 No archaeological work has previously occurred within the development area, or in its immediate vicinity. However archaeological work elsewhere within the medieval borough of Newport has been carried out in recent years.
- 2.2.3 Excavation work carried out by Dyfed Archaeological Trust in 1985 (Stenger 1985) and 1991 (Murphy 1994) recorded medieval buildings within the burgage plots that made up the medieval borough of Newport. A 'burgage plot' is a tract of land within a medieval town which was allocated to burgesses or freemen; those who were eligible to practice a trade in the town and elect the members of the town council. The tracts could be between 12-18m in width and averaged 60m in length and formed the basis of medieval towns. The position of the proposed new house lies at the northern extent of one of these medieval burgage plots. This is visible on the extant town rental map of 1434 (Figure 4) that shows the layout of the plots in Newport.
- 2.2.4 The archaeological excavations undertaken on Long Street ahead of the building of the new primary school (Murphy 1994) revealed features representing former burgage plot boundaries, early 13<sup>th</sup> century buildings on the street frontage, gravel-filled drainage ditches, pits, plough furrows and later spade-dug trenches interpreted as the remains of lazy beds. Nearly all the features were shown to be cut into the natural clay subsoil and some were only 0.2m below the surface of the topsoil.
- 2.2.5 Approximately 160m southwest from the development area is the Memorial hall. During its construction in 1921 two 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery kilns were found. One was preserved within a basement under the stage. It is considered the best surviving example of a medieval pottery kiln in Wales, and numerous sites from across Dyfed have contained pottery fired in them. This site is a scheduled ancient monument (PRN 1498, SAM PE437) (Figure 5).
- 2.2.6 The requirement for the watching brief has been placed as a condition on planning permission as the proposed development area lies within the core of the former medieval borough of Newport. Gwaunfa is a Grade II listed

property (Cadw ref: 84395), part of an informal terrace on the north side of West Street, the main east-west route way through the town (Figures 1 & 2).

- 2.2.7 One of many listed buildings in this area as presented in Table 2, Gwaunfa is listed as being amongst the earliest vernacular town houses in Newport which retains good traditional character. Map evidence shows that the present street pattern was established by 1434 (Figure 4) and that extending back from the street frontages were the long narrow properties or 'burgage plots' that characterise a medieval town. Burgage plots are the tracts of land within a medieval town which were allocated to the burgesses, who were freemen; those who were entitled to practise a trade and to elect members of the town's ruling council. These plots were from 12-18m in width, averaged 60m in length and occupied the entire area represented by the present-day town. Medieval buildings have been recorded within the plots in Newport during excavation by Dyfed Archaeological Trust in 1985 and 1991. The property Gwaunfa fronts a former burgage plot that extended to the north behind it. This is visible on the extant town rental map of 1434 (Figure 4).
- 2.2.8 Although the street pattern has changed little over the years by 1889 (Figure 5) the burgage plots that once extended back from many of the properties fronting West Street had been reduced in size, becoming much smaller back gardens to the properties. This is not the case everywhere in Newport where traces of burgage plots can still be seen in the present field system
- 2.2.9 The known archaeological and historical evidence suggests strong potential for the survival of archaeological material of medieval and post medieval date in the vicinity of the development area.





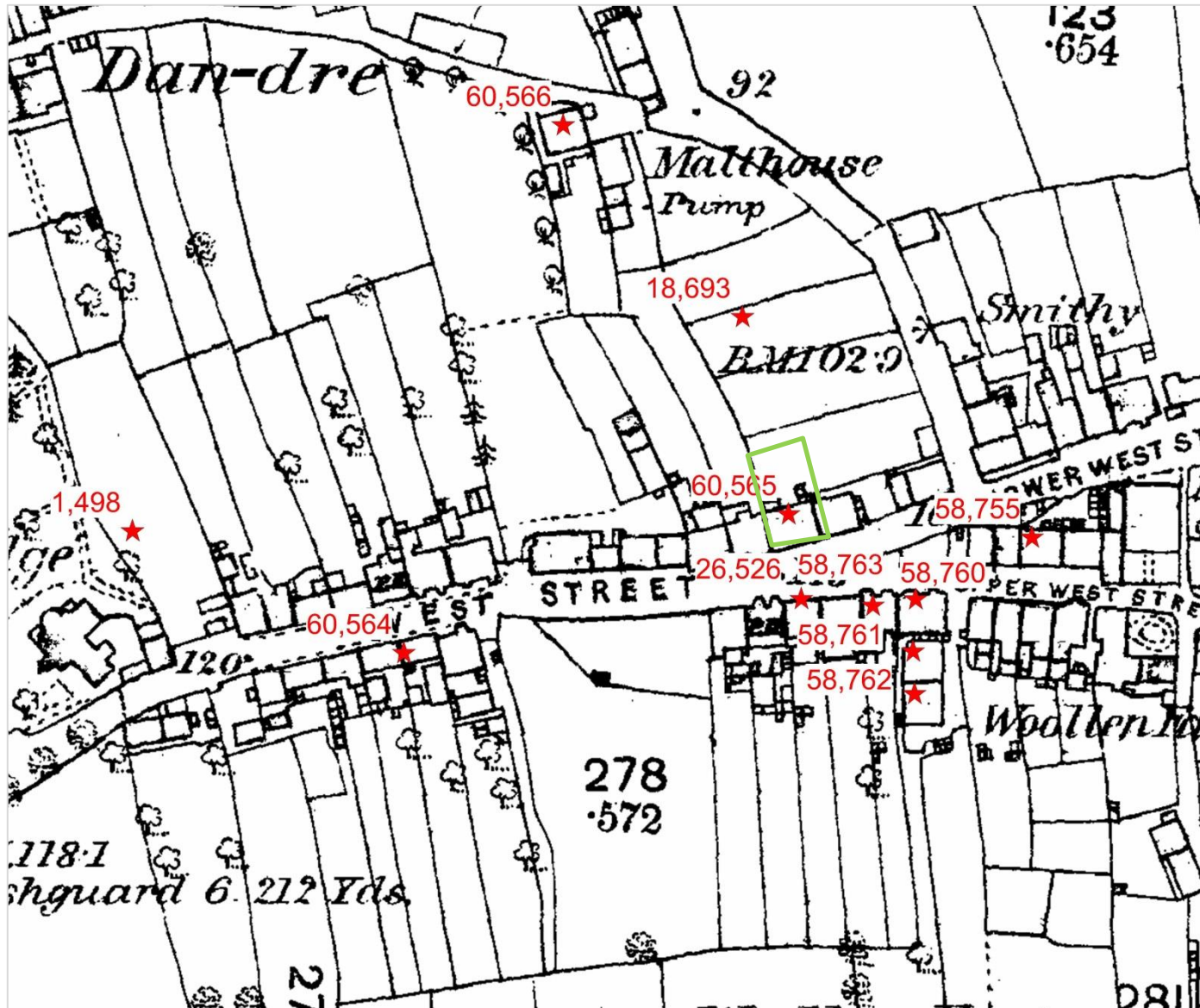
**Figure 4:** Annotated plan of the burgage plots in Newport and the tenants identified from the 1434 rental (from V. M. Bignall, 1991). The location of Gwaunfa (PRN 60565) is shown in red, with its associated burgage plot extending to the north above. The location of the two medieval pottery kilns (PRN 1498) discovered in 1921, and now a scheduled ancient monument (PE437), is outlined in pink.

PRN	Site Name	Date	Description	Grid Reference
1498	Medieval Pottery Kiln, Newport, Memorial Hall	Medieval	<b>Scheduled Ancient Monument PE 437</b> The site was discovered in 1921 during the construction of the hall. The foundations were modified so that one kiln base was preserved beneath the stage. This is the best preserved medieval kiln known in Wales and its products have been found in excavations throughout Dyfed.	SN05373906
18693	Blacksmiths Workshop	Post-medieval	A smithy is shown at this location on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition (1891) and 2 <sup>nd</sup> (1908) Ordnance Survey maps.	SN05503910
26526	Westleigh	Post-medieval	<b>Grade II listed house</b> An early 19th century house: 2 storeys, double fronted with a central pedimented gable. The roof is of slate and has large stone stacks. The main floors have two 12-pane hornless sashes with slate sills. Central entrance with traceried overlight.	SN05513904
58755	No 3 Temple Terrace	Post-medieval	<b>Grade II listed house</b> Mid C19 pair of houses, built in association with Bethlehem Baptist Chapel. Rubble stone with unpainted	SN0555939051

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			roughcast fronts, slate roof and yellow brick stacks to E end and ridge. Two storeys, each double fronted with hornless 12-pane sashes and slate sills. Rear stair towers are unusual and suggest early C19 date though the chimneys and scale of the facade are more typically mid to later C19.	
58760	Victoria Lodge	Post-medieval	<a href="#">Grade II listed house</a> Situated at E end of terraced row, overlooking triangular space between West and Upper West Streets. Early to mid C19 house in squared and banded brown stone with slate roof and stone end wall stacks. House is said to have been built for the Berriman family: either Richard Berriman (1813-47) or his wife Eliza Evans (1809-81). Attractive timber porch is paralleled on Major House, Upper West St and less elaborately elsewhere in Newport.	SN0553439039
58761	No 1 Berriman Terrace	Post-medieval	<a href="#">Grade II listed cottage</a> Early to mid C19 pair of cottages in rubble stone with slate roofs, end stacks and ridge stack. N end stack is stone, the other 2 are rendered. Two storeys, each cottage double fronted with 4-pane sashes each side and centre door. Recessed stone voussoirs with raised keystones to ground floor openings, timber lintels under eaves to upper windows. Rough slate sills.  To S of No 2 is stone privy built into bank with 2-sty pigsty below and 3 privies above, for Victoria Lodge and each cottage.	SN5488458902
58762	No 2 Berriman Terrace	Post-medieval	<a href="#">Grade II listed cottage</a> Early to mid C19 pair of cottages in rubble stone with slate roofs, end stacks and ridge stack. N end stack is stone, the other 2 are rendered. Two storeys, each cottage double fronted with 4-pane sashes each side and centre door. Recessed stone voussoirs with raised keystones to ground floor openings, timber lintels under eaves to upper windows. Rough slate sills.	SN0553339019
58763	Awel y Mynydd	Post-medieval	<a href="#">Grade II listed house</a> Earlier C19, altered. House with late C19 or early C20 unpainted render to front, slate roof and squat stone W stack.	SN0552539038
60564	Abertawe House	Post-medieval	<a href="#">Grade II listed house</a> A substantial urban villa, thought to have been built in 1892, though perhaps replacing an earlier house on the site (the back cottage is likely to pre-date the main house).	SN0542639032
60565	Gwaunfa	Post-medieval	<a href="#">Grade II listed house</a> Listed as a vernacular town house, perhaps amongst the earliest in Newport which retains good traditional character, including consistent later C19 detailing.	SN0550839058
60566	Trem y Don	Post-medieval	<a href="#">Grade II listed</a> Immediately behind (and attached to) Newport Pottery (a former grain warehouse or maltings), fronting a narrow lane which runs west from the west side of Parrog Road. Listed as a good representative example of a late C19 house, retaining original character and detail.	SN0546439142

**Table 2:** Historic Environment Record entries for archaeological sites in the vicinity of the development area. Entries are shown in plan in Figure 5.



**Figure 5:** Extract of the first edition 1889 Ordnance Survey 25" map showing the Historic Environment Record entries listed in Table 2. Development area outlined in green.

### **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 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014 during ground works that had the potential to expose, damage or destroy underlying archaeological remains.
- 3.1.2 The brick outbuildings had been demolished before beginning the watching brief. During the watching brief the concrete bases and the stone paved area were removed using a small mechanical excavator with a grading bucket (Photo 1).
- 3.1.3 Within the dining room (Figure 3) the scheme of works required the floor to be lowered by approximately 0.30m. The modern concrete floor and some of the underlying natural clay was removed by the site contractors during the watching brief.
- 3.1.4 The archaeological features exposed during the watching brief were photographed and sketch plans made of their locations and dimensions.
- 3.1.5 The excavated trenches did not exceed 1.0m in depth.
- 3.1.6 All archaeological deposits revealed during the ground works were examined and recorded to an appropriate level.

#### **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. The report includes a desk-based research element to ensure that the site is placed within its wider archaeological context.
- 3.2.3 A report fully representative of the results of the fieldwork has been prepared.

#### **3.3 Timetabling of Fieldwork**

- 3.3.1 The watching brief involved two site visits on 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014 to monitor the excavation works in the areas of archaeological interest.

## **4 RESULTS & DISCUSSION**

### **4.1 External works – fieldwork 16<sup>th</sup> July & 18<sup>th</sup> July**

- 4.1.1 Figure 7 shows the locations and directions of the photographs taken during the watching brief of the external works.
- 4.1.2 The watching brief commenced after the brick outbuildings at the back of the property had been demolished. The watching brief was undertaken during the removal, using a small mechanical excavator, of the stone paving (Figure 2; Photo 1).
- 4.1.3 The removal of the stone paving exposed clean yellow/light brown sandy clay visible across the whole of the stripped area (Photo 2), representative of the area's natural fluvio-glacial sandy clays.
- 4.1.4 Cutting into this clay were a group of irregularly shaped, discrete features, visible as areas of darker, looser soil, in contrast to the surrounding lighter coloured clay, (Photos 3-6) that lay some 2.5m north of the north wall of the property. As the scheme of works did not necessitate removing the natural clay to greater depth there was no requirement to excavate any of the features as they would not be disturbed. Therefore the depths of the features were not determined.
- 4.1.5 The area was cleaned by trowelling and the features recorded in plan. Two of the features were sub-circular in shape (A & D; Figure 6) and the other were more rectangular (B & C) but all contained similar fills of loose, dark brown, friable sandy silt. Within the fills were noticeable quantities of charcoal, slate fragments, pieces of brick and pottery sherds.
- 4.1.6 The approximate measurements of the features as visible on the ground surface were: A = 1.0m in diameter, B = 1.40 x 0.85m, C = 1.60m x 1.2m and D 0.75 x 0.50m.
- 4.1.7 Four sherds of pottery were recovered from the top fills of features B & C. Three sherds were of probable 16<sup>th</sup> date and could possibly come from a local Newport pottery production site; (Photos 15 & 16) the remaining sherd of local Dyfed Gravel Tempered ware is possibly 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century date (D. Williams 2014, pers comm., 14 Sept).
- 4.1.8 Cutting feature C was a linear feature (E), approximately 0.50m wide, running in a southwest-northeast direction. The linear terminated at and cut feature A (Figure 6). This linear feature was filled by compacted medium brown sandy silty clay containing visible amounts of charcoal, clay lumps, mortar and numerous slate fragments. This would appear to be a 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century drain trench.
- 4.1.9 The section line shown in Figure 6 marks the line where the stone dwarf wall was removed (Photo 7). This wall acted as a retaining wall to a grassed area to the north approximately 1.00m higher than the level of the clay subsoil recorded below the stone paving.
- 4.1.10 After the removal of the wall the resulting section was quickly sketched and is shown in Figure 6. This showed that in the past roughly 0.40m of clay subsoil had been removed before laying the stone paved area. In section a number of shallow features/possible pits can be seen cutting through the natural clay subsoil but not to the depth as those recorded in plan (namely features A, B, C & D). These shallower features contained a large amount of broken slate and very loose silty soil.
- 4.1.11 The cut for drain (E) was recorded at the east end of the section, cut from below the topsoil.

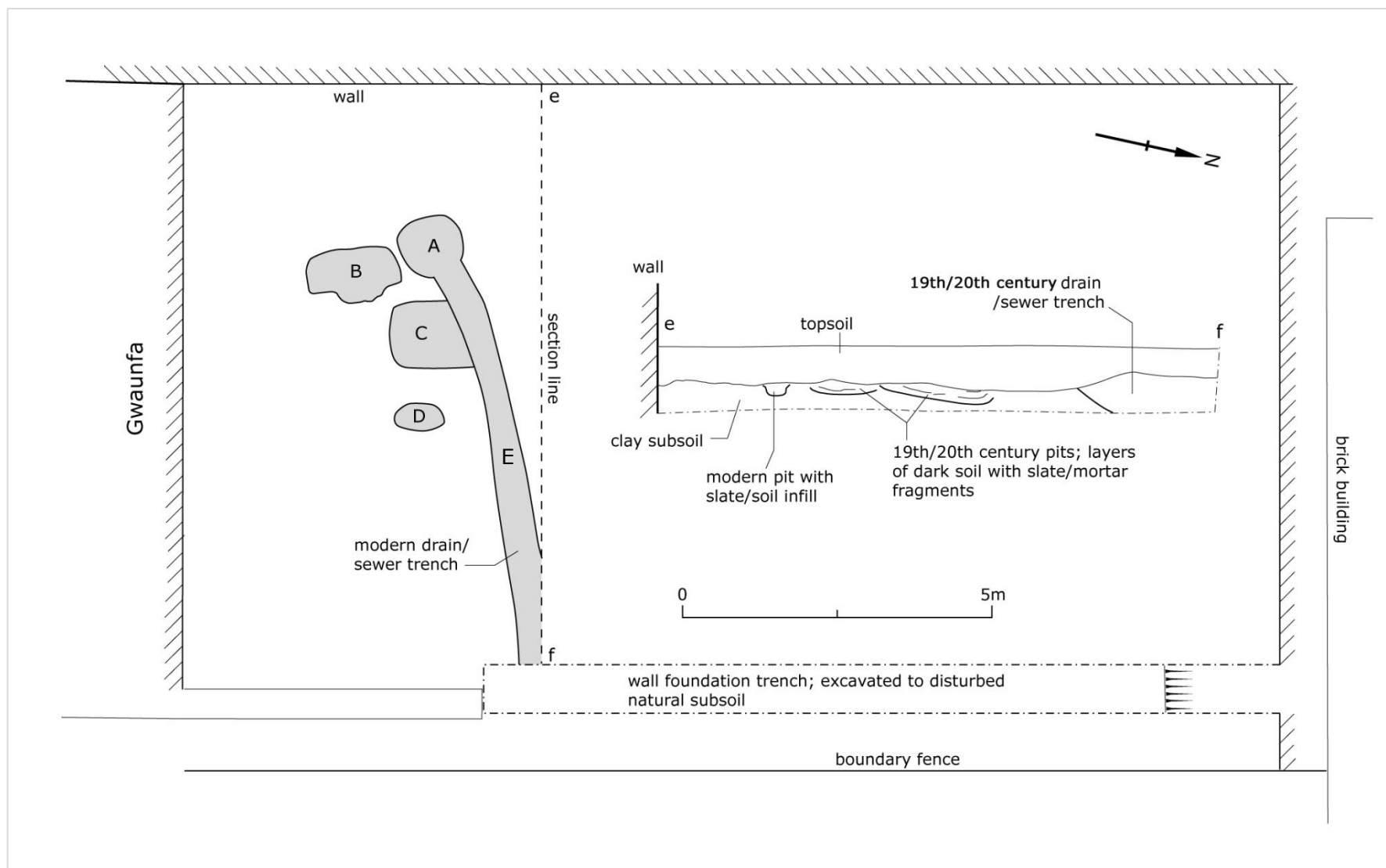


- 4.1.12 A trench was excavated for the construction of a new eastern boundary wall (Photo 8). The trench was 0.80m wide and was approximately 0.90m deep and was excavated to roughly the boundary between the garden soil/topsoil and the natural clay subsoil (Photo 9). At the southern end the cut for drain (E) was visible continuing across the bottom of the trench.
- 4.1.13 The topsoil visible in the eastern trench was a consistent loose dark brown loam/garden soil, measuring 0.80-0.90m in depth (Photo 9). This garden soil/topsoil was very clean and contained little in the way of inclusions, but at the interface with the clay subsoil was found a large sherd of 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery (D. Williams 2014, pers comm., 14 Sept).
- 4.1.14 Towards the northern end of the trench the clay subsoil dropped steeply downwards; to a depth of 1.60m below the surrounding ground level. However, this was at the location of a former retaining wall between the raised garden area and the brick building to the north that had been removed prior to the watching brief, so it was difficult to ascertain whether it was a foundation cut for an earlier retaining wall or possible evidence of a boundary ditch (Photos 10 & 11).

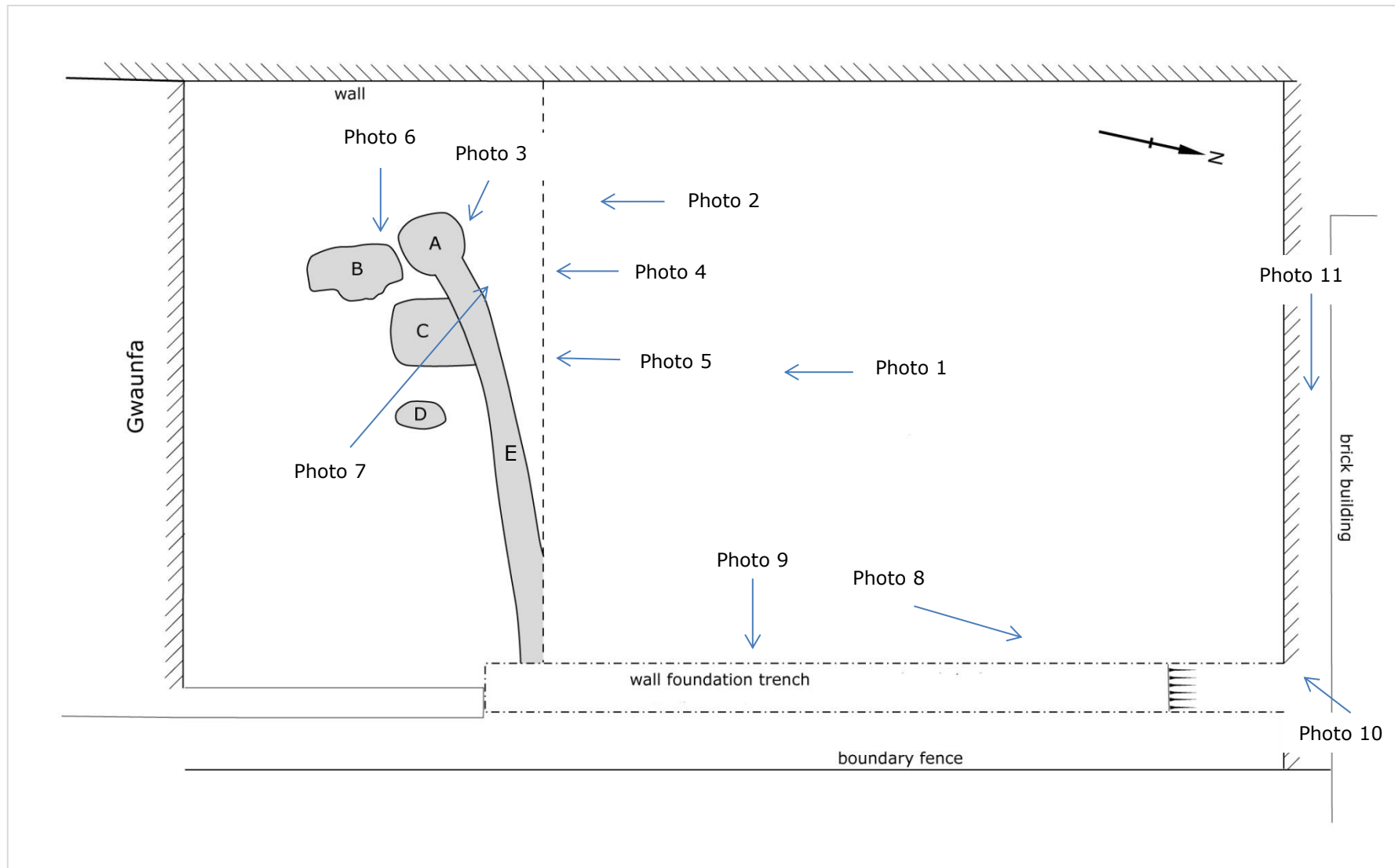
#### **4.2 Internal works in the Dining Room – fieldwork 16<sup>th</sup> July**

- 4.2.1 Within the dining room (Figure 3) the scheme of works required the floor to be lowered by approximately 0.30m. Four trial holes were excavated by the site contractors in the four corners of the room to determine whether there was anything of archaeological significance worth recording in the area.
- 4.2.2 Within the northeast corner trial hole large faced stones could be seen in section. Thereafter it was decided with the site contractor that they would carry out the ground works in the dining room during the watching brief so anything of archaeological significance could be recorded.
- 4.2.3 The concrete floor and underlying deposits were removed by the site contractor, reducing the overall ground surface in the dining room by 0.30m.
- 4.2.4 Below the concrete floor, that measured roughly 0.15m deep, was a thin layer of crushed slate, below which was the natural yellow/light brown clay subsoil seen elsewhere. Therefore the clay subsoil was reduced by approximately 0.12m in the dining room.
- 4.2.5 During the removal of the concrete, crushed slate and underlying clay subsoil an arrangement of large faced stones were revealed somewhat parallel with the north wall of the dining room (Photos 12-14). It would appear that they sat within a shallow cut within the clay subsoil, the evidence of which was somewhat removed during the process of reducing the ground surface in this area.
- 4.2.6 However, it was still possible to see that the line of stones curved towards and under the present north wall of the property some 0.70m east of the northwest corner of the room.
- 4.2.7 The stone line was unfortunately removed towards the eastern side of the dining room, during the excavation of the trial hole, but could still be seen in section continuing under the concrete floor.
- 4.2.8 The stones were all faced to the north and in the area of the window embrasure there was evidence of a remnant of an opposing parallel line of faced stones. It is possible the stones formed a possible stone edged drainage gully, the stones having been packed tightly within a cut into the clay subsoil.

- 4.2.9 There was no evidence of any stonework on the outside of the north wall after the removal of the stone paving.
- 4.2.10 One sherd of glazed pottery was found within the area of stones (Photo 17). This was of probable 18<sup>th</sup> century date, locally made and somewhat similar to press moulded Staffordshire/Bristol slipware types (D. Williams 2014, pers comm., 14 Sept).



**Figure 6:** Plan showing the archaeological features recorded during the watching brief in the back garden of Gwaunfa.



**Figure 7:** Plan of the archaeological features recorded during the watching brief in the back garden of Gwaunfa – showing locations of photos.

## **5 CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 The rental of 1434 shows the focus of the town at its current centre, just to the north of the castle and the church. The burgage plot within which the property Gwaunfa is located is shown on this rental stretching northwards from West Street.
- 5.2 Gwaunfa, with its long low proportions, would appear to have pre 19th century origins (Listed Building Ref: 84395), and architectural details suggest it originated as a single storeyed cottage. The linear stone feature exposed within the dining room is very difficult to date or categorise when such a small section is visible but it is definitely earlier than the north wall of the property (which could have been remodelled in the 19th century) and therefore could be 17th or 18th century in date. What little could be seen of the structure indicates that it might be part of a stone lined drain or gully placed within the natural clay subsoil, but what it does demonstrate is the long use of the site, indicating that it is very likely that there are earlier phases of building on this site.
- 5.3 Excavations elsewhere in Newport have recorded evidence of much earlier 13<sup>th</sup> century buildings within burgage plots (Murphy 1994); identified from surviving floor hollows and drainage gullies that survived because the sites in question were not occupied in later periods. This evidence and the lack of other structural remains, suggested that the building's walls were constructed from natural materials – perhaps clay and chopped straw (clom as it is called in Pembrokeshire and western Carmarthenshire). It is probable that the first phase of occupation fronting West Street in the Gwaunfa burgage plot would have been a similarly constructed building, evidence of which may have been removed by later use of the site.
- 5.4 Although not fully excavated, the form, size and their position relative to the property, of the group of features (A, B, C & D) exposed after removing the stone paving, suggests they are rubbish pits of probable 16<sup>th</sup> century or later date. By today's standards, hygiene in medieval England was poor. Families had to get rid of their own rubbish and often discarded it in their own back yards. However, without investigating the features further it is impossible to say with any certainty what their function was.
- 5.5 The few, possibly residual, 16<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds from the top fill of features B & C appear to be very similar to recognised locally produced Newport ware and may even have come from the kiln site (PRN 1498, Figure 5) that lies only a short distance away.
- 5.6 The homogenous dark loose loamy garden soil in the back garden area was of a substantial depth; in places nearly 1.0m deep. It lay directly above the natural clay subsoil. The soil had evidently been well worked over the years to create such a homogenous loam, through which later 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century drains and small pits had been cut. Pieces of Dyfed Gravel Tempered ware pottery, broadly dating from 16th to 18th centuries were found at the interface between the garden soil and clay subsoil, and this and the fact that the garden soil appears to seal features A to D, therefore post-dating them, suggests that the garden soil might first have been created in the late 17<sup>th</sup> – early 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5.7 The archaeological features are consistent with the documentary evidence of settlement within the medieval borough of Newport and the watching brief has highlighted the likelihood that evidence of medieval settlement surely lies beneath the gardens of the modern urban spread, and the very few undeveloped areas in the town.



## **6 PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Photo 1:** Photograph taken looking south showing the machining of the stone paving.

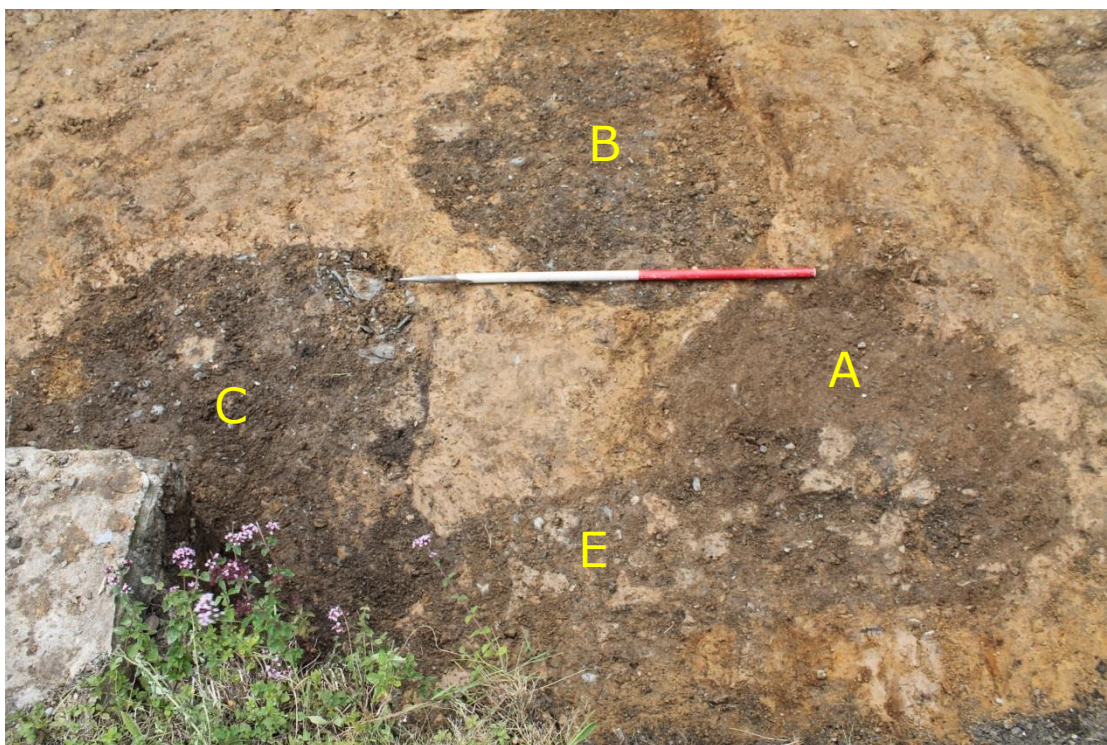


**Photo 2:** Photograph taken looking south showing the natural yellow/brown clay subsoil revealed after the removal of the stone paving. A modern drainage trench runs parallel with the west wall.





**Photo 3:** Photograph taken looking southeast showing evidence of the dark filled features emerging from under the stone paving

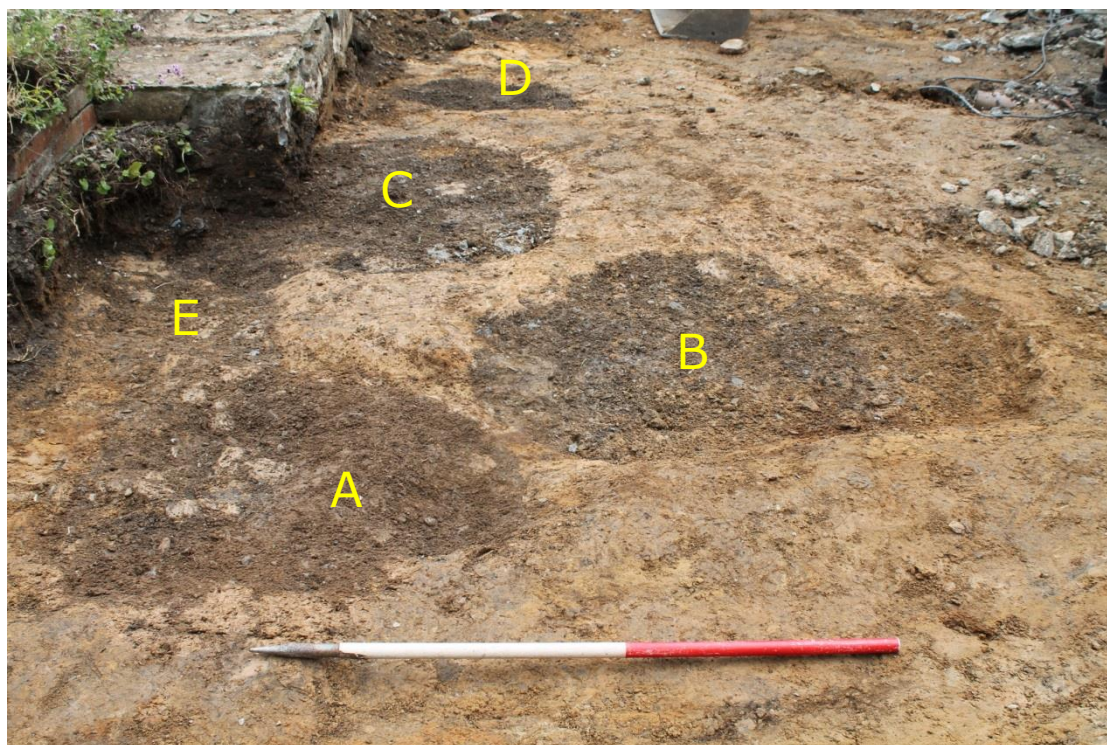


**Photo 4:** Photograph taken looking south showing the three larger dark filled features A, B & C. Note how feature A is cut by drain cut E. 1m scale





**Photo 5:** Photograph taken looking south showing features B, C & D.  
1m scale



**Photo 6:** Photograph taken looking east showing features A, B, C & D and  
drain cut E. 1m scale





**Photo 7:** Photograph taken looking northwest showing the section left after the removal of the stone dwarf wall and steps. Note the small depressions cut into the natural yellow clay subsoil recorded in Figure 3. 1m scale



**Photo 8:** Photograph taken looking northeast showing the machine excavation of the eastern wall foundation trench.





**Photo 9:** Photograph taken looking east showing the machine excavated wall foundation trench. Note the homogenous loamy garden soil above the natural yellow clay subsoil seen at the bottom of the trench. 1m scale



**Photo 10:** Photograph taken looking roughly southwest showing the corner of the eastern wall foundation trench and the trench parallel to the brick building. Note the drop in the natural clay subsoil at this position. 1m scale





**Photo 11:** Photograph taken looking roughly east showing the trench parallel to the brick building.



**Photo 12:** Photograph taken facing roughly northeast showing the line of stones revealed after the removal of a modern concrete floor and some underlying natural clay subsoil in the dining room. 1m scale



**Photo 13:** Photograph taken facing north showing the line of stones curving under the present north wall of Gwaunfa's dining room. 1m scale



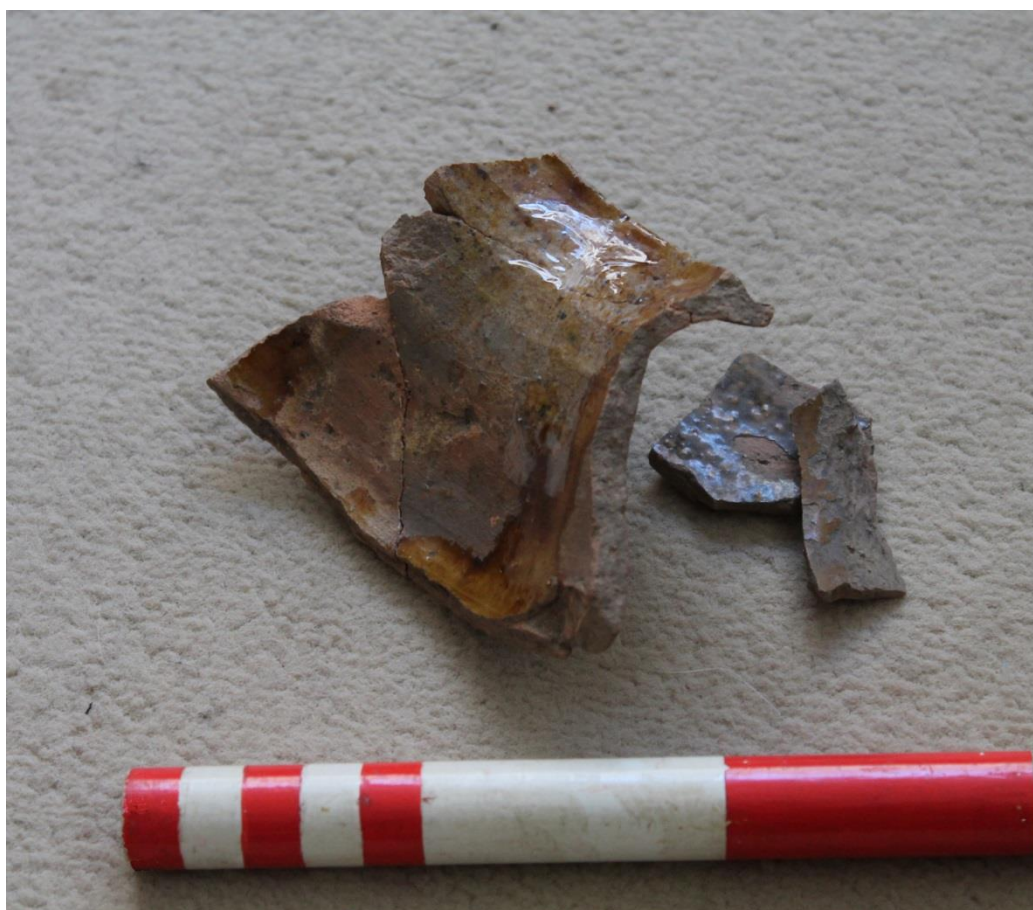


**Photo 14:**

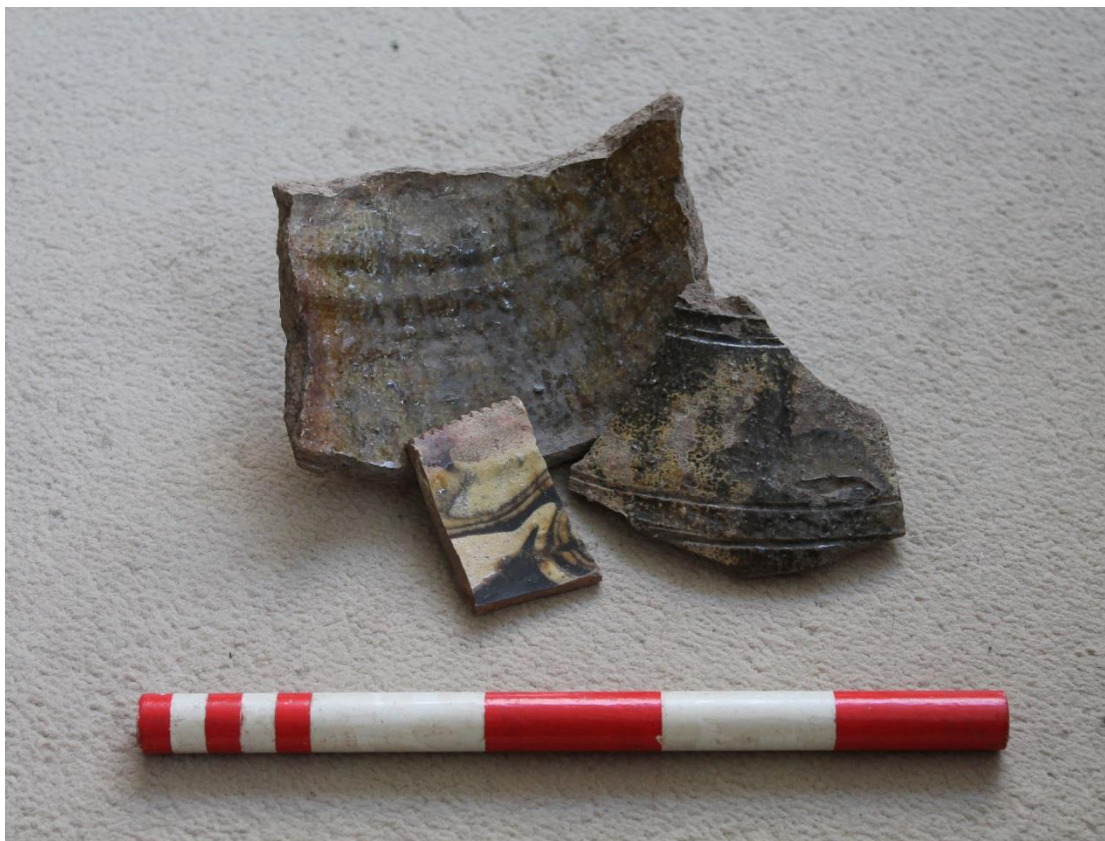
Photograph taken facing east showing the line of stones revealed after the removal of a modern concrete floor and some underlying natural clay subsoil in the dining room. 1m scale



**Photo 15 & 16:** Two views of the pottery sherds from the top of features B & C – identified as possible 16<sup>th</sup> century Newport ware. 0.15m scale







**Photo 17:** Pottery sherds recovered during the watching brief – all identified as of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century date, probably locally produced wares. The sherd in the foreground was found in the dining room during the removal of the floor – it is a locally produced ware similar to press moulded Staffordshire/Bristol slipware types.

## **7 SOURCES**

### **Databases**

Regional Historic Environment Record held at the Dyfed Archaeological Trust,  
Shire Hall, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AF

Coflein database held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical  
Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)

### **Cartographic sources**

Tithe Map and Apportionment for the Parish of Newport 1844

Ordnance Survey 1889 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1:2500 map, Pembrokeshire XL.04

Ordnance Survey 1907 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 1:2500 map, Pembrokeshire XL.04

### **Published and Unpublished**

Bignall, V. E., 1991, *Newport (Trefdraeth) in West Wales. An analysis of the origins, planning and development of a Norman new town* (unpublished undergraduate dissertation, University of Wales, Lampeter)

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Murphy, K., 1994, 'Excavations in three burgrave plots in the medieval town of Newport, Dyfed, 1991' *Medieval Archaeology* Vol. 38

Murphy, K & Ludlow, N 2003 *Historic Landscape Characterisation of Pen Caer, Newport and Carningli, Manorbier, and Stackpole Warren*. Dyfed Archaeological Trust Unpublished Report No. 2003/6 for CADW.

Stenger, C. M., 1985 Long Street, Newport, *Archaeology in Wales* 25.

# **EXTENSION & ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING BUILDING & OUTBUILDINGS AT GWAUNFA, WEST STREET, NEWPORT, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO.2014/32  
RHIF Y DIGWILLIAD / EVENT RECORD NO. 107364

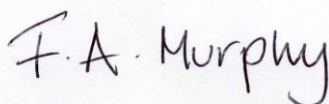
Ionawr 2015  
January 2014

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

**FRAN MURPHY**

Swydd / Position: PROJECT MANAGER DAT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Llofnod / Signature



Date 07.01.2015

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 DAT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Llofnod / Signature



Date 07.01.2015

*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.*





