INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL CABLE AT MANORBIER CASTLE, MANORBIER, PEMBROKESHIRE:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

(NGR SS 0638 9779)

DAT Archaeological Services

Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For: Manorbier Castle

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CONTENTS

FIGURES

TABLES

PHOTOGRAPHS

INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL CABLE AT MANORBIER CASTLE, MANORBIER, PEMBROKESHIRE:

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SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Katie Sore of Manorbier Castle to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the installation of a 3-phase electrical cable at Manorbier Castle, Manorbier, Pembrokeshire. The watching brief was required by Cadw as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent for the works as the service trench would be passing through the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the castle. Although the groundworks were not extensive, there was considered to be the potential for archaeological remains to be exposed, damaged or destroyed by the works. The works involved the excavation of a c.0.60m wide cable trench running between a small electrical substation transformer situated on the eastern side of the castle grounds to the 'Crypt' building within the southwest side of the main castle area.

Manorbier Castle is probably best known as the birthplace of the famous chronicler Giraldus Cambrensis (Gerald of Wales). The castle was originally built on land granted to Odo de Barri, a Norman knight, at the end of the 11th century and it remained the seat of the de Barri family until. Though nominally referred to as a castle it would be more accurate to refer to the structure as a fortified manor. Throughout its history it was only assaulted twice, the first occasion being a minor skirmish during the 14th century and the second when it was taken by Cromwell's forces during the English Civil War.

Through the 17th and 18th centuries Manorbier Castle was allowed to decay. However in 1880, the castle was partially restored by J.R.Cobb, a tenant who carried out repairs on the buildings and walls. The castle is now privately owned and as part of the continued improvement of the venue for weddings and other celebrations three phase electricity cabling is being inserted into the 'Crypt' building on the southern side of the castle.

The results of the watching brief within the main castle area from the crypt to the north wall were indicative of successive phases of development at the site, mainly horticultural in nature. Deposits were deepest adjacent to the Crypt, but were very shallow in other areas where underlying bedrock was present close to the existing ground surface. Fragments of modern and post-medieval pottery and waste materials were recovered from these layers. A length of cable trench was excavated through the floor of a former building on the northern side of the castle, but this was again shallow and cut through modern make-up layers for the floor and followed the route of an existing service trench. On the northern side of the main castle wall the trench cut through a modern causeway deposit that had been infilled into the moat.

A large piece of masonry wall was revealed on the northern side of the moat, formerly the western wall of the large barn that is present north of the main castle. The trench then led through and across make up for the present road and access areas, heading east across the lawn to the wooded area along the eastern side of the outer castle grounds. The trench headed north through this woodland to the substation. No significant archaeological deposits were revealed in this area, although the narrow width of the trench and the abundance of roots made it difficult to be certain. Overall the watching brief confirms that the works have not impacted upon significant archaeological deposits, excluding the large barn wall, due to the shallow depth and narrow width of the trench. The works have left the remains of the western wall of the barn in-situ and the cable passed beneath its footings.

1 Introduction

1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Manorbier Castle to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the installation of a 3-phase electrical cable at Manorbier Castle, Manorbier, Pembrokeshire (Figures 1 & 2). The works included newly cut trenches and the reopening of existing cable trenches for the new cabling.

1.1.2 As the works were being undertaken within the Scheduled Ancient Monument area of Manorbier Castle (SAM Number PE004), Scheduled Monument Consent was required. This was granted with conditions, including four relating to archaeology, including the requirement of a watching brief to be undertaken during the groundworks for the cabling and the need for reporting. The relevant condition stated:

3. *that the new areas of trenching … are dug under archaeological supervision. A suitable, qualified and experienced archaeologist shall be employed to provide an archaeological watching brief during these works; the names of the archaeologist to be supplied to Cadw;*

4. *that the section of trench which is dug below the path shall, similarly, be dug under an archaeological watching brief (nb. There is no requirement for a watching brief whilst gravel and path surface are scraped away. However, if unmade ground is disturbed beneath the path, an archaeological watching brief is required;*

5. that, following the re-opening of the old trenches, the archaeologist shall be given the opportunity to inspect the trenches in order to ensure that no additional features are exposed;

6. that the report of the watching brief shall be completed within 2 months of work taking place, and a copy supplied to Cadw. A copy shall also be supplied to the regional Historic Environment Record (held and maintained by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Llandeilo) and to the National Monuments Record (held by the RCAHMW, Aberystwyth). Digital copies are acceptable;

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 groundworks 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 groundworks;
- appropriately investigating and recording any archaeological deposits to be affected by the groundworks;
- 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. Some archaeological background to the castle is included.

1.4 Abbreviations

1.4.1 Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record[1] (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services – DAT-FS; Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management – DAT-HM; Scheduled Ancient Monument – SAM; Written Scheme of Investigation – WSI.

1.5 Illustrations

1.5.1 Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale.

1.6 Timeline

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

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	*c.*450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	*c.* 10,000 – 4000 BC	
Neolithic –	*c.*4000 – 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 1086	
Medieval Period –	1086 – 1536	
Post-Medieval Period –	1536 – 1750	
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.

Figure 1: Location map based on Ordnance Survey. The red circle shows the position of the watching brief

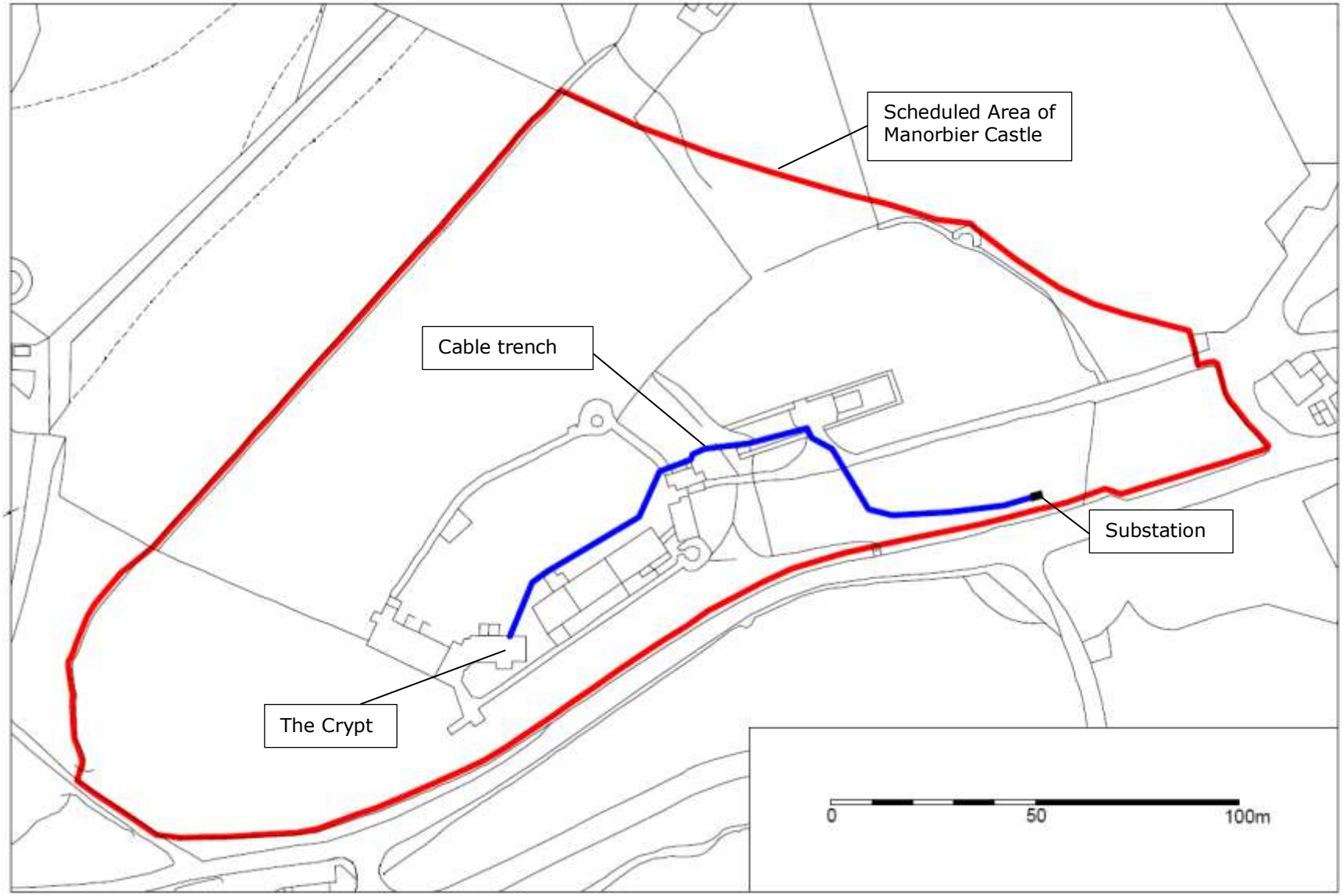

Figure 2: Approximate line of excavated cable trench leading from the Crypt to the west to the existing substation to the east

2. THE SITE

2.1 Location

2.1.1 Manorbier Castle is situated immediately to the west-southwest of the village of Manorbier in south Pembrokeshire (SS 0638 9779), approximately 10km west of Tenby and 13km east-southeast of Pembroke (Figure 1).

2.1.2 The castle lies on a natural spur extending towards the beach created by two converging watercourses. The beach itself is a further 800 metres to the west-southwest.

2.1.3 The approximate route of the 3-phase electricity cabling is shown on Figure 2. It is summarised as follows from east to west, with estimated distances:

- **Section 1:** Starting at an existing substation transformer box in the eastern part of the castle grounds the trench ran west through an area of rough woodland on the southeastern side of the castle (40m);
- **Section 2:** it then then turned north across a lawned area and across the main access road into the castle (25m);
- **Section 3:** it then turned to the west again through the interior of the former barn to the northeast of the main castle (25m);
- **Section 4:** the route then crossed the castle moat over an top of a modern causeway across the ditch (5m);
- **Section 5:** it then entered the main shell of the castle through a small doorway through the curtain wall and crossed through a former building and out into the courtyard area of the castle (8m);
- **Section 6:** the cable trench then turned to the southwest running across the central grassed area towards flower beds (12m);
- **Section 7:** it then crossed through the flower beds on the northern side of the southern range of buildings within the castle (30m);
- **Section 8:** the route then turned more sharply to the south leading directly into the building known as the Crypt on the southwestern side of the main castle (14m).

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.2.1 Manorbier Castle (PRNs 4221 and 60029) is built on land first granted to Odo de Barri, a Norman Knight, at the end of the 11th century. The initial structure was a motte and bailey castle with subsequent phases of construction resulting in the stone-built castle we see today. It is a grade 1 listed building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (PE004).

2.2.2 Odo's son William de Barri began the construction of the castle in the early 12th century with development of the structure continuing intermittently into the modern period. The architecture is not regarded as being of a particularly high standard as such, and the development has been piecemeal in nature, but the longevity of the structure is impressive and is aesthetically pleasing due to the use of limestone in its construction.

2.2.3 The castle can be divided into two main components – the inner and outer wards.

2.2.4 The inner ward is composed of a curtain wall into which are set a number of structures, both defensive and domestic.

2.2.5 Working clockwise, from the northernmost extremity of the inner ward, these structures are the north tower, the old tower, the gatehouse, the round tower and the medieval house. The last of these can be further

subdivided into the hall block, the chapel and the spur. There are also two structures within the ward itself – a kitchen adjacent to the northwest curtain wall (albeit there is some debate as to its credentials), and a barn (now partially converted to a dwelling). The latter is a post-medieval construction which bears strong similarities to another structure in the outer ward but which seems to have been constructed at least 50 years earlier.

2.2.6 The outer ward was bounded by a walled enclosure of which little remains except for a revetment typically of around 5 feet in height and 3 feet in width implying that the superstructure was of no great size. The defences are best described as fragmentary and in some places are completely gone.

2.2.7 There are a series of earthworks extending out from the northeast wall of the inner ward around the gatehouse. These date from the English Civil War and were placed there to enhance the defensive qualities of the castle. There is a ditch adjacent to the part of the curtain wall and in one small section it has been filled to provide access to a doorway in the wall.

2.2.8 The other structure of note in the outer ward is a barn which appears to be designed along similar lines to the one in the inner ward. The age of these two buildings is disputed but the one in the outer ward seems to overly and cut through the earthworks thus implying that it is post-civil war in date.

2.2.9 Outside the castle grounds lie other structures of direct relevance to the castle (Table 2). To the northwest is an old pigeon house (PRN 4212, NGR SS 0626 9785), to the west a fishpond (PRN 8233, NGR SS 064 978), and within a broader description of the castle grounds and environs written by Giraldus Cambrensis a mill is mentioned (NPRN 310523, NGR SS 06390 97790).

2.2.10 The castle was owned by the de Barri family from its inception until sometime after 1359 and thus they must be responsible for all of the medieval construction phases. It is noteworthy as the birthplace of Giraldus Cambrensis (Gerald of Wales) the famous chronicler, archdeacon of Brecon, and campaigner for parity between the status of Canterbury and St David's, a mission that ultimately failed due to royal fears that it might encourage nationalist rebellion in Wales.

2.2.11 By 1377 the castle was no longer owned by the de Barri family. Over the preceding centuries much of their energy had been devoted to building an empire in Ireland – a policy that, on occasions, brought them into direct conflict with the crown. It is clear that this was their main point of emphasis with Manorbier, both economically and strategically, being peripheral to their interests. However, the development of the castle does owe much to the success of the Irish de Barri clan with revenues gained abroad funding works.

2.2.12 From this point forward the castle passed through many hands being granted to a succession of minor aristocrats by whichever king was in power at the time. One gets the impression of a slow decline in its structural integrity due, no doubt, to lack of investment in its fabric. By the early 17th century the buildings are largely roofless and pictures from the 18th century portray a similar scene. It seems likely that for a substantial period possibly extending from the late 18th century until the late 19th century the castle was abandoned. Then in 1880 J. R. Cobb, "a lover of castles", obtained a lease and did much work restoring and

modifying the buildings and other structures. He also levelled part of the grounds within the inner ward to make a tennis court.

2.2.13 Evidence suggests the castle has seen little conflict apart from a number of brief episodes summarised below.

2.2.14 In 1153 Welsh forces took Tenby and Manorbier Castle is recorded as being "alarmed". In 1327 Richard de Barri took the castle in a feud over family succession. One servant was killed in the conflict. In September 1645 during the English Civil War the castle was taken by Cromwell's parliamentarian forces under the leadership of Rowland of Laugharne. The castle was being leased by the pro-parliament Phillips family at the time so one imagines the doors were opened to the troops. However, while not recorded, it is possible that the castle did change hands several times throughout the course of the war. Defensive measures including alterations to the round tower and the construction of earthworks outside the entrance, and the degradation of the outer curtain, attest to activity at the site.

PRN No	Site Name and Description	Period	Grid Reference
4212	**Old Pigeon House** Circular medieval dovecote 6m in diameter and 8m high. Square nest boxes line the inside of the wall and there is a hole in the centre of the domed roof for access for the pigeons. JH based on CADW 1994	Medieval	SS 0626 9785
4221	**Manorbier Castle** Manorbier Castle is probably best known for being the birthplace of Giraldus Cambrensis. The Royal Commission record of 1925 states that the surviving structure is not earlier than the period 1275-1325, but that the present castle is built upon and incorporates an earlier building. The castle is located about 800m from the sea on rising ground in a deep valley. The inner ward, c60m x c40m, is surrounded by a curtain wall with a gatehouse in the east wall. At the north-east and south-east corners are two towers, the north tower and the round tower. There is a spur tower at the south-western corner and a turret roughly mid-way along the northern curtain wall. A range of domestic buildings, including the hall block, the kitchens and a chapel, formerly abutted the southern, western and north-western curtain walls. Some of these have been replaced by modern buildings. The hall block and the chapel survive, although the chapel was converted to secular use during the 16th century. Much restoration work was carried out on the castle in the 1860s and 1960s. In 1986 the castle was described as being "in a good state of preservation". MM March 2003.	Post-Medieval, Medieval	SS 0638 9779
8233	**Manorbier Castle** Fish pond	Medieval	SS 064 978
15930	**Manorbier Mill** A three-storey building now roofless. Some evidence of restoration on southeast end. Two-celled structure internally. No machinery or other features survive. No clear indication of where the wheel pit was located. The mill is situated against an earth dam which would have contained a mill pond, now silted up. (KM 1996)	Post-Medieval	SS 0626 9775
59517	**Manorbier Mill** Grade II listed mill	Post-Medieval	SS 0626 9774
60029	**Manorbier Castle** Grade I listed castle	Post-Medieval	SS 06395 9779
60030	**Dovecote** Grade II* listed dovecote	Post-Medieval	SS 06267 9785

Table 2: Historic Environment Record Entries within a 150 metre radius of Manorbier Castle

3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology and Timetabling

3.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on 03/03/14 at the commencement of ground works that had the potential to expose, damage or destroy underlying archaeological remains. A second visit was undertaken on 04/03/14 when the full run of the cable trench was completed.

3.1.2 The visits were made to the site during the excavation of the cable trench, which covered the full route of the trench, excluding parts of the trench where it followed an existing cable trench. Observation was not undertaken during the installation of the cable and backfilling of the cable trench.

3.1.3 Mini excavator machines were used to excavate the trench. The results section of this report describes the trench route from east to west breaking the route up into different sections to ease description. The route was not excavated in one continuous run, but different parts were excavated at different times.

3.1.4 The route taken by the trench was chosen to avoid the area of the castle with the highest potential for buried archaeology i.e. the gatehouse, and mainly impacted on previously disturbed ground.

3.1.5 The trench was approximately 0.6m in width and excavated to varying depths depending upon ground conditions.

3.1.6 All archaeological deposits revealed during the ground works were examined and recorded to an appropriate level.

3.1.7 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual[2] used by DAT Archaeological 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 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.

[2] 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 AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Section 1 (Figure 3)

4.1.1 This part of the route started at an existing substation transformer box in the eastern part of the castle grounds (Photos 1 & 2) running roughly west through an area of rough woodland on the southeastern side of the castle for a length of around 40m.

Photo 1: View roughly east along Section 1 of cable trench towards substation transformer (green box) through woodland

Photo 2: View roughly west along Section 1 of cable trench through woodland towards castle, with drop to road on south side

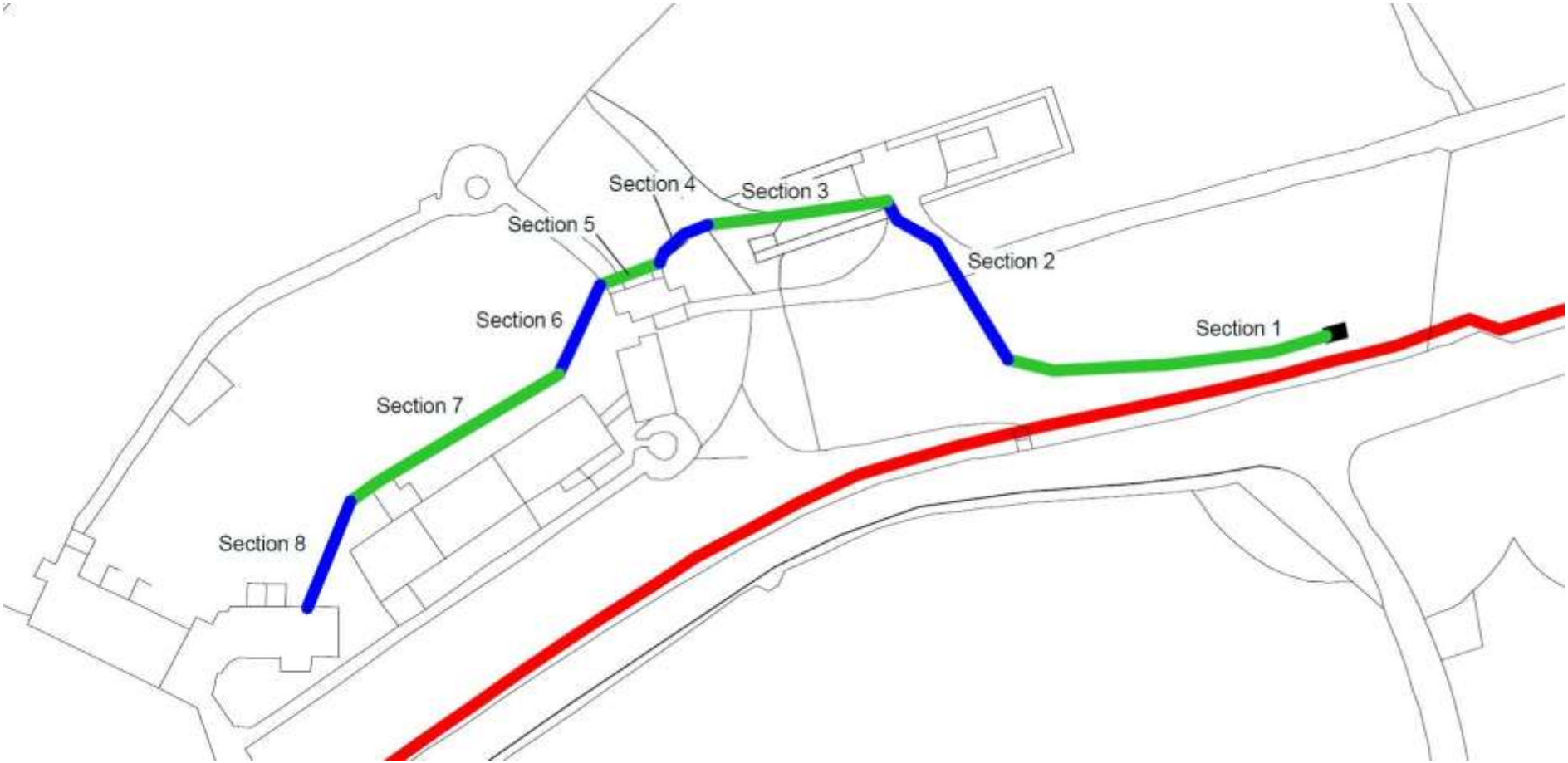

Figure 3: Plan showing the different Sections of the cable trench referred to in the text

4.1.2 Continuous archaeological observation of the excavation of this stretch of the cable trench was undertaken. In general the trench in Section 1 was 0.60m in width and between 0.60m and 0.75m in depth.

4.1.3 The trench was excavated through relatively deep topsoil, heavily disturbed by root action, around 0.60m in depth at the eastern end of the trench. The topsoil was dark, reddish brown and quite friable with a large amount of stone rubble within it. Occasional patches of mortar were also noted at the eastern end of the route where it lay closest to the revetment wall alongside the road to the south (Photo 2).

4.1.4 Around 15m to the east of the substation transformer box the depth of topsoil lessened and the orangey yellow clay natural subsoil was present around 0.30m below the ground surface. Less rubble was present in the topsoil at the western end of Section 1.

4.1.5 No archaeological features or finds were observed within this stretch of the cable run, excluding the rubble and mortar noted at its eastern end.

4.2 **Section 2** (Figure 3)

4.2.1 This part of the cable trench ran in a northerly direction from the woodland across the grassed area and driveway into the castle, towards the barn. It ran for some 25m (Photos 3, 4 & 5).

4.2.2 The excavation of the southern end of this part of the cable was carried out, but the northern stretch and that beneath the castle driveway was observed following excavation.

4.2.3 The trench was around 0.60m deep, excavated through topsoil with the underlying natural subsoils beneath. The natural ground was somewhat stonier than seen in Section 1.

4.2.4 No archaeological features or finds were observed within this stretch of the cable run.

Photo 3: View northwards along Section 2 of the cable trench across grassed area from woodland towards barn

Photo 4: View southwards along Section 2 of cable trench across grassed area and driveway to castle towards woodland (following sand infill in readiness for cable)

Photo 5: End of Section 2 of cable run, where it turns to the west through the former barn

4.3 Section 3 (Figure 3)

4.3.1 This section of the cable run ran westwards through the inside of the former barn located to the northeast of the castle. It ran for a length of around 25m (Photos 6 & 7).

4.3.2 The trench through this area was generally between 0.50m and 0.60m in depth. The majority of this trench was excavated through previously disturbed ground and so it was observed following excavation.

4.3.3 The trench was excavated through the upper surface of stone chippings/hardcore which formed the ground surface within the former barn. This was of less than 0.10m depth. Below this was a mix of stone rubble with fragments of brick, mortar and 19th century and modern detritus (ceramics, glass, and brick). Natural subsoil was encountered at around 0.30m to 0.40m below ground level, which comprised red sandstone and clay.

4.3.4 Close to the western end of this section of the cable trench a rubbish pit was encountered, adjacent to the north end of the small lean-to garage within the western end of the barn (Photo 8). The pit was filled with rubble stone and 19th and 20th century detritus. Finds from the pit included ceramics and brick and two near complete bottles: one a beer bottle from the Cromwell brewery in Pembroke of probable early 20th date (the brewery closed in 1914); and the second a soda syphon bottle etched with 'George Thomas, Tenby & Pembroke Dock' dated to 1910.

4.3.5 On the northern side of the cable run at the western end of the barn the ground level rose by over 1m in height where it appeared stone rubble had been piled up (Photos 7 & 8).

4.3.6 Excavation of the cable trench uncovered the wall footing of the former western wall of the barn (Photos 7, 9, 10, 11 & 12)

Photo 6: View east along Section 3 of the cable trench through the former barn

Photo 7: View southeast at western end of barn showing cable trench and line of observed wall (marked by the 1m scale)

Photo 8: Rubbish pit observed at the western end of the barn (marked by 1m scale and edges highlighted in red)

Photo 9: View south along exposed western wall of barn in Section 3 of cable trench

Photo 10: View east of exposed western wall of barn in Section 3 of cable trench showing shallow depth of wall and the void for the cable excavated beneath

Photo 11: View northeast showing footing for western wall of barn in relation to north wall

4.3.7 The exposed western wall footing lay around 0.10m below the ground surface on the southern side. The wall measured 1.25m wide, was visible for a length of 1m on its eastern side (where a small area of additional hand excavation took place) (Photos 7, 9, 10 & 11). The wall comprised neatly faced stones on its outer edges with rubble and mortar core (Figures 4 & 5).

4.3.8 The wall had evidently been taken down and levelled sometime in the past. It survived to a depth of 0.40m, comprising two courses of stone lying on top of a thin mortar and rubble stone lower base (0.14m maximum depth) (Photo 10). It was presumably the former southwestern end of the former barn buildings (Figure 6).

4.3.9 It was agreed with the site contractors that the wall footing would be retained and that the cable would be passed beneath the wall, which was possible due to the shallow depth of the surviving wall footing.

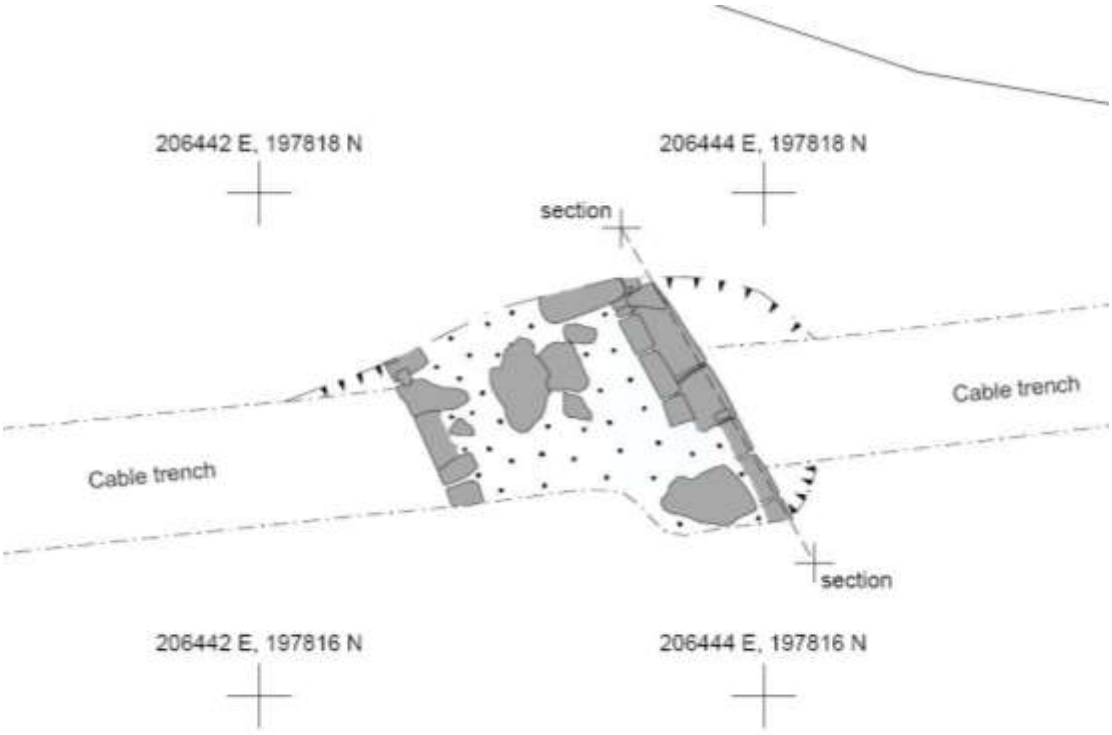

Figure 4: Detail of wall observed within Section 3 of cable trench, grid points are 2m apart

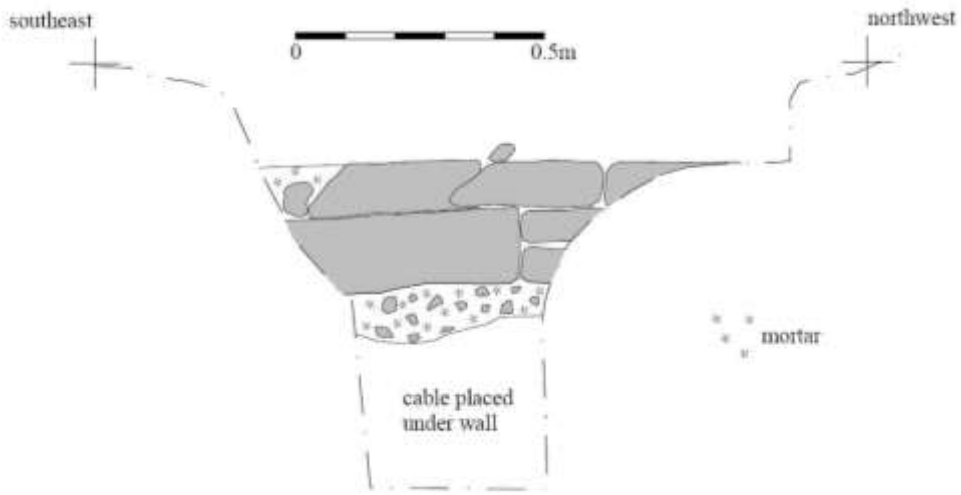

Figure 5: Northeast section across face of wall exposed in cable trench

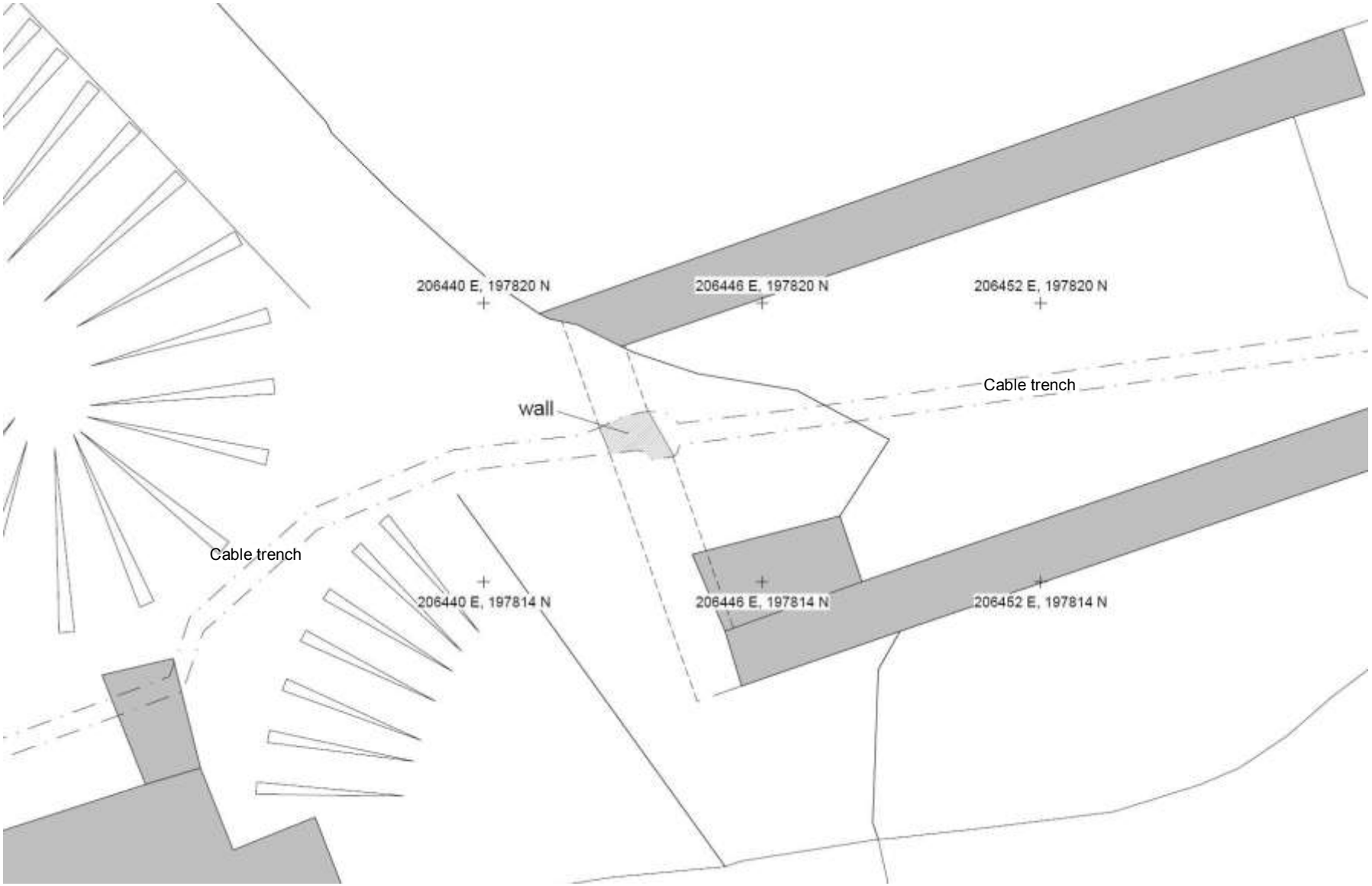

Figure 6: Location of wall and projected alignment in relation to former barn buildings and castle moat

4.4 **Section 4** (Figure 3)

4.4.1 This section of the cable trench crossed the castle moat ditch via a modern causeway across the ditch for a length of approximately 5m (Photo 12). The trench was around 0.50m deep and cut through a mixed re-deposited topsoil and rubble layer (the causeway material).

4.4.2 The causeway had evidently been created in more recent years to provide a second access across the castle moat to a doorway through the inner precinct wall into the castle. The moat may date from the Civil War period when the castle defences were improved, although it seems most likely that it would have been a redevelopment of an existing medieval moat.

Photo 12: Line of cable run through raised ground across the former moat, looking southwest

4.5 **Section 5** (Figure 3)

4.5.1 The cable run then passed through the doorway in the inner curtain wall and crossed through a former building and out into the courtyard area of the castle. This stretch ran for around 8m (Photo 13).

4.5.2 This stretch of the cable run was very shallow (less than 0.30m in depth) and followed the line of existing service runs (Photo 13) through previously disturbed ground. No significant archaeological remains were disturbed in this stretch of trench.

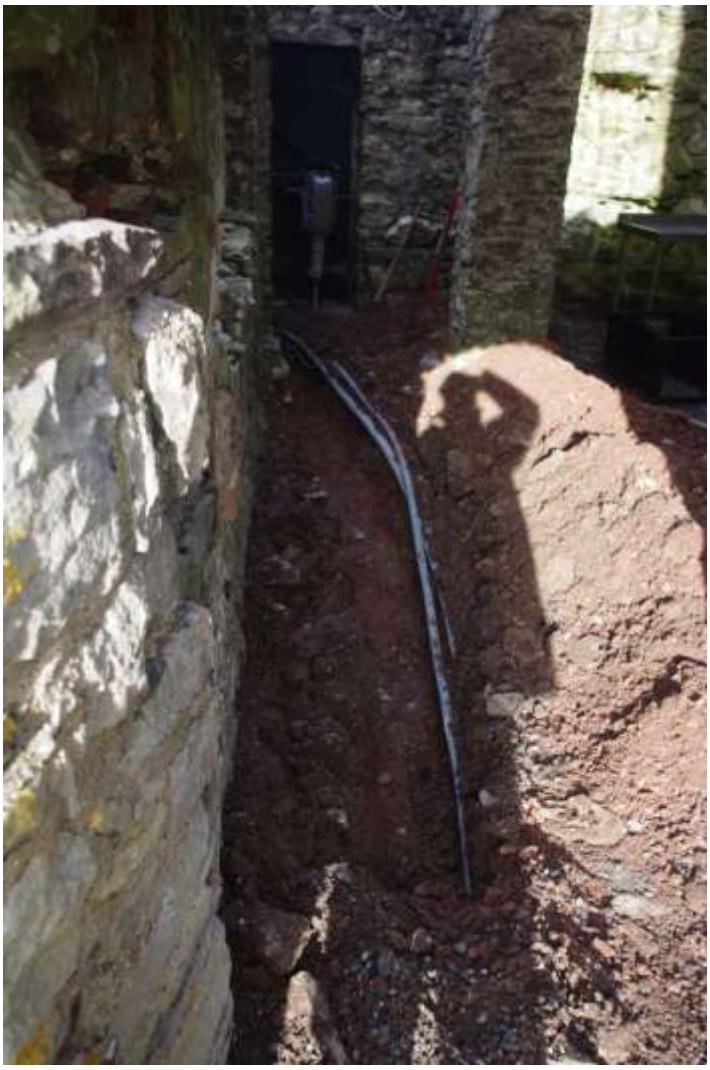

Photo 13: Cable run through buildings on inside of inner curtain wall, following the route of existing services, looking northeast

4.6 Section 6 (Figure 3)

4.6.1 The next stretch of the cable run continued to follow the existing service trench from the buildings on the inside of the curtain wall and running across the central grassed area towards flower beds. This stretch of the run was around 12m in length.

4.6.2 This part of the cable run was not archaeologically monitored as it was clear that it followed the existing service trench. This was confirmed in a test pit excavated through the lawned area (Photo 14).

Photo 14: Section 6 of the cable run across the lawn within the inner ward of the castle. Note the test pit with visible existing service. Looking northeast.

4.7 **Section 7** (Figure 3)

4.7.1 The cable trench then crossed through the flower beds on the northern side of the southern range of buildings within the castle for a length of approximately 30m (Photo 15). The cable route was aligned roughly east to west.

Photo 15: View east across inner ward of castle showing Section 7 of the cable run across the northern edge of the flower beds

4.7.2 At the western end of Section 7 the cable trench passed adjacent to a large masonry block protruding from one of the buildings on the inside of the inner curtain wall (Photos 16 & 17).

Photo 16: View southeast across Section 7 of the cable trench showing substantial masonry block

Photo 17: View southeast across Section 7 of the cable trench showing detail of the exposed part of the masonry block in the side of the trench

4.7.3 The masonry block appeared to represent a substantial wall projecting into the centre of the inner ward of the castle. The excavated cable trench clearly demonstrated that the masonry did not continue into the trench route. It appeared to be neatly faced at its eastern end (Photo 17), where it was exposed in the edge of the cable trench, possibly suggesting an entranceway through a structure.

4.7.4 The trench in the section through the flower beds was excavated to a maximum depth 0.5m through very dark topsoil which had been subject to cultivation. The trench was deeper at the masonry block at its western end, where undisturbed natural subsoils were present beneath the stonework and across the base of the trench (being around 0.7m to 0.8m deep in this part).

4.8 Section 8 (Figure 3)

4.8.1 The final stretch of the cable run led down from the masonry block, directly to the doorway into the Crypt, a length of approximately 14m (Photo 18).

Photo 18: Section 8 of the cable run looking southwest towards 'The Crypt'

4.8.2 At the northeastern end of Section 8 a natural outcrop of the natural red sandstone bedrock was exposed around 0.2m below the ground surface (Photo 19). The bedrock outcrop was only visible for around 1.5m length before it dropped down quite sharply to the southwest.

4.8.3 Beyond this bedrock outcrop the material removed from the cable trench was very loose reddish brown topsoil containing numerous fragments of small stones, pieces of pottery (dating from the post-medieval to modern period) and occasional pieces of animal bone. The natural ground surface was not exposed within the remainder of the trench. No significant archaeological remains were noted within the trench.

Photo 19: Red sandstone bedrock exposed in the northeastern end of Section 8

Photo 20: Northeast view along Section 8 showing loose brown soil across most of the trench, with the red sandstone bedrock at the northeastern end

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 The watching brief during the installation of 3-phase electric cabling at Manorbier Castle has demonstrated that the works have not significantly disturbed or exposed archaeological remains.

5.2 Section 1 of the cable run was located to the east of the castle through woodland along the southern boundary of the castle grounds. The topsoil excavated for the cable trench contained stone rubble, which was densest nearest the southern boundary of the castle outer ward. Fragments of mortar were also noted in this area closest to the revetment wall between the castle and the lower road level to the south. The stone rubble is likely to have originated from a former upstanding wall around the outer ward and above the existing revetment wall (which presently only stands to ground level).

5.3 The cable trench of Section 2, across the lawned area of the outer ward and main access road to the castle, revealed no significant archaeological remains. Potentially this area may have formerly been occupied by medieval timber buildings within which would be difficult to identify within the confines of the narrow cable trench.

5.4 Section 3 of the cable trench ran through the stone barn on the northeastern side of the castle. For the majority of its run no significant remains were identified. A post medieval rubbish pit and other post-medieval debris were noted within the trench. At the western end of Section 3 the former western wall of the barn was identified. The wall was of a fairly substantial width, although the footings were relatively shallow. It appeared that the when the wall had been demolished it was levelled off to a depth below ground level and buried. It was possible to pass the cable beneath the wall due to the shallow depth of the footings and thus the works caused minimal damage to the structure.

5.5 The barn is thought to date from the later 17th century, as it is said to cut through the Civil War defences. The watching brief casts some doubt on this as the building appeared to end in front of the Civil War defences. However the presence of the barn in this location may still support a later 17th century date as it is unlikely that a structure which could obscure a line of fire from the inner ward of the castle to the east, across the most likely area of attack, would have been left in place. No dating evidence for the western wall of the barn was recovered and further work would be needed to securely date the building.

5.6 Section 4 of the cable trench ran across the post-medieval causeway that had been constructed across the ditch surrounding the eastern side of the inner ward of the castle. The ditch is said to date from the Civil War period and the causeway from a later period in the castle's history. Existing cables and services cross over this causeway, although they were not seen during the watching brief.

5.7 The cable trench then passed into the inner wall of the castle following the line of existing service runs through buildings on its eastern edge (Section 5). The trench was very shallow in this area (as were previous service runs) and caused no further disturbance to buried archaeological remains. Section 6 of the run followed the same existing service runs across the lawned area of the inner ward and again caused no disturbance to archaeological remains.

5.8 Section 7 ran along the northern edge of the flower beds in front of the building range on the southern side of the inner ward. The ground in this area has evidently been (and still is) cultivated ground. No significant

archaeological remains were revealed by the works in this section, other than at its western end.

5.9 At the western end of Section 7 the cable run passed adjacent to a large stub of masonry projecting from the building range along the southern side of the inner ward of the castle. The cable trench uncovered a small part of the face of this wall stub which indicated a neatly faced wall below ground level, implying that the wall stopped in this location, possibly for a doorway into a former building. No indication of a threshold into the building was noted, nor any sign that the wall continued in any form across the cable trench (unless present at a level below the base of the trench), although this is unlikely due to the presence of an outcrop of bedrock immediately west of the wall.

5.10 Section 8 ran from adjacent to the stub of wall down to the Crypt. As mentioned above, red sandstone bedrock was revealed at a shallow depth below the ground surface at the eastern end of this section. Southwest of this the ground level appeared to dip substantially. The material excavated for the remainder of the trench comprised loose topsoil suggesting the area may have been backfilled or levelled in the post-medieval period. Other than finds of post-medieval ceramics and animal bone, no significant archaeological remains were identified, such as former wall lines. The base of the trench beyond the bedrock outcrop did not reach the natural ground surface so it is very possible that significant archaeological remains could lie below the base of the excavated trench.

5.11 The results of the watching brief during the excavation of the cable trench indicate that the works caused minimal disturbance to any archaeological remains within the area. This is partly due to the fact that the required cable trench was relatively shallow and also that it followed existing service runs for parts of its length. The narrow width of the cable run was such that it would be difficult to identify smaller archaeological features such as postholes or small gullies and so it is possible that such features could have been overlooked. This would have been most likely within the lawned area within the outer ward, although the lack of pottery or other artefacts suggest that this area had been previously levelled to create the gardens (suggesting archaeology could still survive at depth).

INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL CABLE AT MANORBIER CASTLE, MANORBIER, PEMBROKESHIRE:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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Mai 2015
May 2015

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Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
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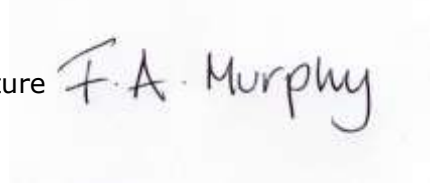
Llofnod / Signature  Dyddiad / Date 26/05/2015

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

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