

**ST CATHERINE STREET,
CARMARTHEN:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF
(NGR SN 41030 20250)**



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
For: Bassett & MacGregor Construction Ltd



DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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ST CATHERINE STREET, CARMARTHEN: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF (NGR SN 41030 20250)

Gan / By

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ST CATHERINE STREET, CARMARTHEN: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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SUMMARY

Planning Application Nos. W/30541 & W/30542 were submitted to Carmarthenshire County Council for development at the junction of St Catherine Street and Market Way, Carmarthen (NGR SN 41030 20250). After demolition of the existing buildings, the groundworks consisted of digging narrow trenches along the boundary walls with neighboring properties in order to lay concrete foundations for the purpose of both underpinning old walls and supporting new ones.

The site lies on the northern edge of the medieval town of Carmarthen, and to the west of the Roman town Moridunum. There is potential for medieval remains, in particular those associated with the medieval chapel of St Catherine's that is supposed to have existed to the north of the development area. A medieval mill is also believed to have had its location nearby. There is potential for Roman remains to be present in the area associated with suburban activity outside of the main walled town or even Roman burials. Roman coins have been found close to the development area.

Due to the archaeological potential of the site a condition was placed upon planning permission requiring the attendance of an archaeologist during the groundworks, in order to undertake an archaeological watching brief. Bassett & MacGregor Construction Ltd commissioned DAT Archaeological Services to undertake the watching brief, which took place on the 9th and 10th October 2014.

The site contractors proposed it necessary to machine excavate the trenches for the underpinning of the outer walls in short sections and fill them with cement immediately afterwards because of the weather conditions. This meant that only short sections of trench could be recorded at any one time.

Over the course of two days no significant archaeological deposits or features were visible in any of the excavated trenches viewed during the watching brief, although recording was hampered by the effect of the extremely wet weather conditions on the site and the restricted area within which the machinery could work. It was decided, after discussions with the archaeological advisor to the planning authority to conclude the watching brief as it was not proving productive under the difficult conditions.

Although no significant archaeological remains or deposits were recorded within the development area, the potential for the survival of archaeological remains elsewhere in the vicinity of the development still remains.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Proposals and Commission

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Bassett & MacGregor Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at a proposed commercial development at the junction of St Catherine Street and Market Way, Carmarthen (centred on NGR SN 41030 20250; Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 Planning permission had been granted by Carmarthenshire County Council for (Planning Application Nos. W/30541 & W/30542).
- 1.1.3 The current premises comprise a single storey open plan tapered width workshop/storage area abutting Market Way and a single and two-storey portion abutting St Catherine Street (Figure 2). They are in a very dilapidated condition and will be demolished prior to the construction of offices. The re-development proposals show the new building occupying the same general footprint as the present buildings on the site.
- 1.1.4 The recommendation for an archaeological watching brief was placed on the development by the archaeological advisors to the local planning authority (Dyfed Archaeological Trust Planning Services), as the proposed works could potentially expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains.
- 1.1.5 The condition placed on planning application Nos. W/30541 & W/30542 is a 'Grampian style condition' and requires that: *'No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority.'*

Reason: to protect historic environment interests whilst enabling development.'

- 1.1.6 The condition was placed on the development by Carmarthenshire County Council following advice from Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the planning authority, as the application area lies on the northern edge of the medieval town of Carmarthen and lies relatively close to the west of the Roman town of *Moridunum*. Following discussions with the client and the archaeological advisor to the planning authority it did not appear possible to undertake a trial trench evaluation of the site area and so an archaeological watching brief during construction was proposed.

1.2 Scope of the Project

1.2.1 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) for a watching brief was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services prior to the commencement of the works, which was approved by the planning authority and their archaeological advisors prior to the commencement of the works. The project objectives were:

- Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which DAT Archaeological Services will undertake the watching brief.
- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed groundworks.
- To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the groundworks.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

1.2.2 The overall work was summarised as: *'Archaeological attendance during ground works associated with the proposed commercial development at the junction of St Catherine Street and Market Way, Carmarthen, which are likely to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains, and appropriate investigation and recording of any such remains if revealed. A report and archive of the results of the works will also be prepared.'*

1.3 Report Outline

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

1.4 Abbreviations

1.4.1 All sites recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Sites recorded on the National Monument Record (NMR) held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) are identified by their National Primary Record Number (NPRN). Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM). Altitude is expressed to Ordnance Datum (OD). References to cartographic and documentary evidence and published sources will be given in brackets throughout the text, with full details listed in the sources section at the rear of the report.

1.5 Illustrations

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

1.6 Timeline

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

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 1086	
medieval Period –	1086 – 1536	
post-medieval Period ¹ –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
modern –	20 th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and historical timeline for Wales

¹ *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*

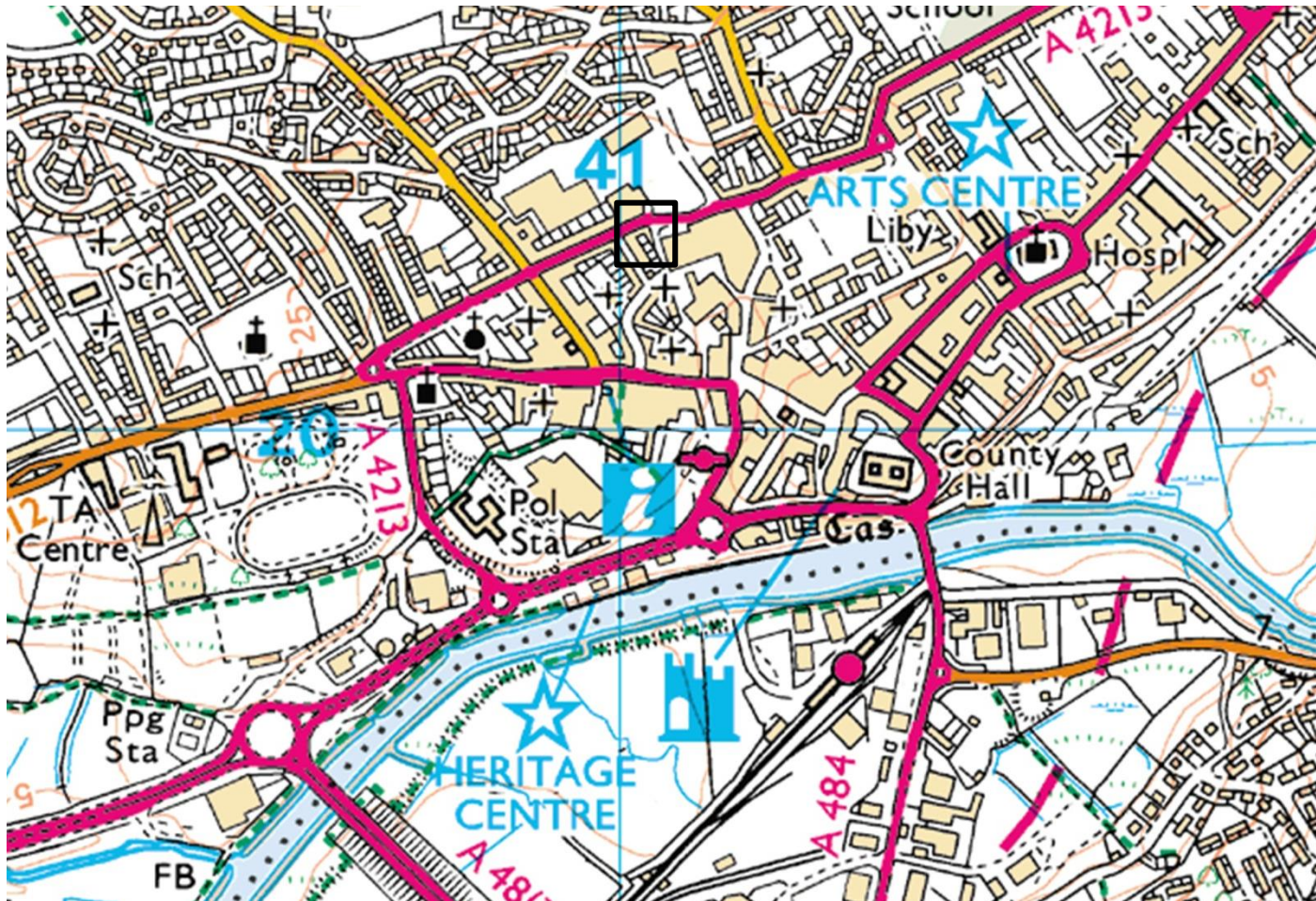


Figure 1: Map of Carmarthen town centre, with site location indicated by the black square

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office,
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SITE BLOCK AND LOCATION PLAN

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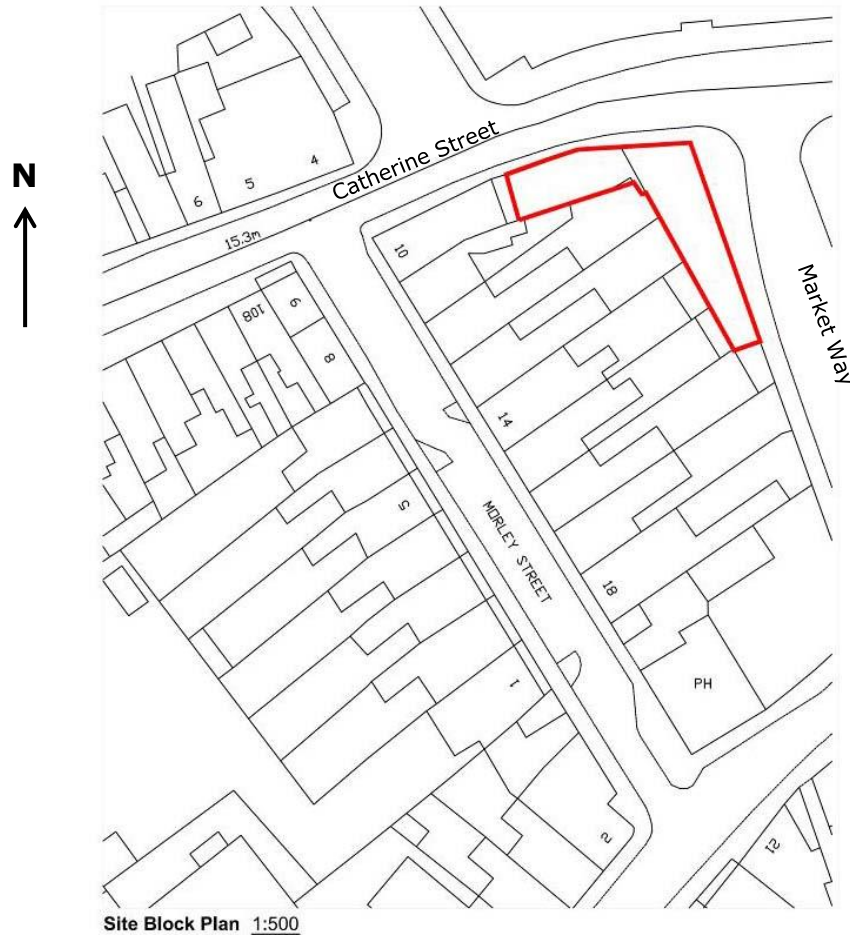


Figure 2: Approximate development boundary in red; plan supplied by client

2. SITE LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1 The site lies near to the heart of Carmarthen town centre, on the junction of St Catherine Street and Market Way (centred on NGR SN 41030 20250; Figure 1). The recently constructed St Catherine's Walk shopping centre lies across the road to the north and east of the site. Also adjacent to the site, to the north, is a recently built multi-storey car park.
- 2.2 Two buildings existed on the site before demolition took place (shortly before the watching brief). The first was a single-storey garage; the second a garage and storage building, one-and-a-half storeys high. Offices are to be constructed on the site.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A search of the Dyfed HER and the NMR indicates that there are currently 89 known sites of archaeological and historical importance within a 200m radius centred on the site (Table 2; Figure 3).

PRN <i>NPRN</i>	Name	Listed Building Number	Description	Period	NGR
28	John Street		A Roman coin dated to between 276AD and 282AD was found in a garden behind John Street in Carmarthen.	Roman	SN 4115 2025
40	Cambrian Place		A Roman coin, dated to between 96AD and 98AD, was found at Cambrian Place in Carmarthen in 1927.	Roman	SN 412 202
47	St Catherine's Chapel		Site of chantry chapel to Carmarthen St Peter's parish, not included in 16th century Minister's Accounts but mentioned in the late 17th century (James 1980, 37; RCAHM 1917, 260 No. 735). Up to 6 chaplains lived there at the expense of the borough.	medieval	SN 4102 2028
72	High Cross		Speed's Map of 1610 shows a cross at this point, and Lewis (1833) records that Dr Ferrars, Bishop of St Davids, was burnt at the stake for heresy at the High Cross in 1555. There are no visible or known remains of the cross.	medieval	SN 4098 2006
12757	Carmarthen		A Fulling Mill marked on William Rees' map of South Wales in the 14th century. Rees marks it on the south bank of the river, but it has also been suggested to lie on the corner of Morley Street and Catherine Street.	medieval	SN 410 202
48 <i>309682</i>	St Catherine's Mill		A woollen mill sited on the Tawelan Mill Stream (PRN 45), shown on Lewis' map of 1786, Wood's map of 1834 and the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1891.	Post- medieval	SN 4102 2027
75	Carmarthen Tannery		A Tannery is first shown at this point on Wood's map of Carmarthen in 1834, and is also shown on the 1st (1890) and 2nd (1907) edition Ordnance Survey maps.	Post- medieval	SN 4113 2026
98	St Catherine's Mill		A large long mill pond above St Catherine's Mill (PRN 48) shown on Wood's map of 1834 and the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891.	Post- medieval	SN 4100 2033
*110 <i>6245</i>	Water St Chapel	<i>9616</i>	Grade II listed building. Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, built 1831. In the 1760's the congregation were meeting in a house on Water Street, in 1771 a chapel was built behind the house, rebuilt in 1813 and again (the current chapel) in 1831.	Post- medieval	SN 4088 2014

*112 6246	Zion	9498	Grade II listed building. Calvinistic Methodist Chapel built in 1849-50 for the English speaking members of the Water St Chapel (PRN 110). A schoolroom was built behind in 1851-62. The chapel was modernised in 1875.	Post-medieval	SN 4100 2016
*113 6247	Parc Y Felfet	9500	Grade II listed building. A Unitarian chapel built in 1849 for Dr.David Lloyd, minister of the SN all Carmarthen congregation. The interior of the chapel was altered in 1915. A school (PRN 26691) was built to the rear in c.1856, now demolished.	Post-medieval	SN 4106 2017
114 6248	English Baptist	9471	Grade II listed building.A baptist chapel of 1869-70 built by George Morgan on the site of the Black Horse Inn (PRN 309).	Post-medieval	SN 4106 2009
115 6249	Ebenezer Chapel;Wesley House		The chapel was a plain gable fronted chapel built in 1824, altered in 1856, closed in 1895, reopened and possibly renovated in 1914 and closed in 1920. The chapel was demolished in 1994 and rebuilt as offices.	Post-medieval	SN 4118 2026
116	Cambrian Place Mission		Spurrell (1879) records the laying of the foundation stone for 'St. Peter's School-Church' in Cambrian Place in 1869, opened in the following year.	Post-medieval	SN 4122 2019
132	Borough Office		A new Borough Gaol was built here, on the site of an old bowling green, in 1810. In 1847 alterations were made to the building to fit it up as a temporary infirmary, presumably until the new infirmary was built in 1857.	Post-medieval	SN 4119 2019
134	Merlin Brewery		Brewery opened by D E Lewis & Son in 1867. Only tower brewery in the town. Merged with Nortons Brewery (PRN 125) to form Carmarthen United Breweries in 1890. Company purchased by Buckley's Brewery of Llanelli in 1891.	Post-medieval	SN 4117 2015
137	Malt House The		According to Lewis (1833) a Slaughter House was established at this point in 1813. The Lancastrian School for boys was opened in 1814 'in a room lent by the Corporation over the old slaughter house'.	Post-medieval	SN 4120 2022
*139 32625	Fusiliers Monument	9474	Grade II listed building. Monument erected in 1858 to the memory of the soldiers of the 23rd Royal Welch Fusiliers who fell in the Crimean War. It was built at the expense of Colonel Lysons and officers of the regiment.	Post-medieval	SN 40960 20066
*175 32650	Market Clock Tower	18287	Grade II listed building. The clock tower of Carmarthen market (PRN 17319) built in 1846 by F.E.H.Fowler of London. Tower was restored in 1981.	Post-medieval	SN 41095 20215
298	Angel;Lammas Street No 15		The 'Angell' is first mentioned in a Rent Roll of 1573, mentioned again in 1657, although it is not clear if it actually refers to this site.	Post-medieval	SN 4102 2007
302	Apple Tree;Catherine Street No 2?		A Public House that does not appear to be marked on either 19th century maps or early 20th century maps.	Post-medieval	SN 4101 2025
305	Barley Sheaf Water Street		A Public House located somewhere along Water Street. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 marks several pubs along this road, not all	Post-medieval	SN 409 201

			have been named.		
306	Bear Between Water St. Chapel And Farmers Arms;75 Water St		The Bear, marked in this building on Wood's map of 1834, no longer marked as a pub on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888. The building is listed, described as an early 19th century town house, with possible earlier origins. (PP 14/6/04)	Post-medieval	SN 40912016
307	Bird In Hand;John Street No 18		A Public House marked on the 1st (1888) and 2nd edition (1906) Ordnance survey maps.	Post-medieval	SN 4115 2015
308	Black Bull;Water Street		A Public House located somewhere along Water Street. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 shows several Public Houses, only some of which are named.	Post-medieval	SN 409 201
309	Black Horse;Lammas Street		A Public House marked on Wood's map of 1834. The site is now occupied by buildings possibly associated with the English Baptist Church (PRN 114) which was opened in 1870.	Post-medieval	SN 4106 2007
310	Black Horse;Water Street No 25		A Public House first recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888.	Post-medieval	SN 4085 2025
311	Black Swan;Guildhall Square		A record of a public house believed to be located in Guildhall Square, Carmarthen, date unknown.	Post-medieval	SN 411 201
313	Blue Boar;Water Street No 3		A Public House first marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888.	Post-medieval	SN 4096 2011
315	Boot And Shoe;Lammas Street		Public House thought to have been located somewhere in Lammas Street.	Post-medieval	SN 40975 20066
316	Buckingham Lammas Street		Public House thought to have been located somewhere in Lammas Street	Post-medieval	SN 40975 20066
320	Bunch Of Grapes;John Street No 16		The Freemasons met at this pub in 1733.	Post-medieval	SN 4116 2015
321	Butcher's Arms;Barn Road No 12		A Public House first shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888.	Post-medieval	SN 4114 2029
323	Cardigan Arms;Water Street Nos 52 And 53		Recorded as a Public House, but not shown on Wood's map of 1834 or early editions of the Ordnance Survey maps.	Post-medieval	SN 4083 2026
325	Carpenter's Arms; Lammas Street		Public House thought to have been located somewhere in Lammas Street	Post-medieval	SN 40975 20066
328	Castle;Swansea Castle;Water Street No80		A Public House formerly located at no.80. First shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888, its licence was revoked in 1930.	Post-medieval	SN 4094 2012
333	Cock; Lammas Street		Public House thought to have been located somewhere in Lammas Street	Post-medieval	SN 40975 20066
334	Coopers Arms;Lammas Street Nos 19 And 20		A Public House first shown on Wood's map of 1834. Still visible on the 4th edition Ordnance Survey map of 1936.	Post-medieval	SN 4097 2008

345	Farmer's Arms;Water Street No 72		Public House first marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888.	Post-medieval	SN 4089 2017
346	Farmer's Arms; Lammas Street		Public House though to have been located somewhere in Lammas Street	Post-medieval	SN 40975 20066
348	Fountain;Red Street No 7		A public house at No.7 Red St., Carmarthen. First marked on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906.	Post-medieval	SN 4115 2011
352	Friend's Arms;Water Street No 69		A Public House first marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888.	Post-medieval	SN 4088 2019
356	Gloster Arms;John Street No 15		Public House marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map in 1888.	Post-medieval	SN 4116 2017
361	Grey Cow;Tally Ho;John Street No 9		Public House first marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888.	Post-medieval	SN 4117 2020
376	Lamb;Nelson;Red Street No 6		Originally named the Lamb, known as the Nelson from the late 1860's. Marked as a Hotel on the 1st (1888) and 2nd (1906) edition Ordnance Survey maps.	Post-medieval	SN 4115 2013
382	Mansel Arms;Mansel Street No 1		Public House first marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888.	Post-medieval	SN 4104 2019
383	Market House;Red Street		A Public House apparently adjoining the Merlin Brewery (PRN 134). A malthouse is marked here on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888, a Public House possibly marked here as well on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906.	Post-medieval	SN 4117 2015
389	Morgan Arms;Darkgate		Public House thought to have been located in Dark Gate.	Post-medieval	SN 411 201
394	New Vine;Mansel Street No 21		Public House marked only on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888.	Post-medieval	SN 4105 2017
408	Red Cow;Water Street		A Public House apparently located next to the Swansea Castle Public House (PRN 328). Not marked on Wood's map of 1834 or early editions of the Ordnance Survey maps.	Post-medieval	SN 4093 2012
414	Sadler's Arms;Water Street No 4		A Public House marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888, no longer marked on the 2nd edition map of 1906.	Post-medieval	SN 4098 2012
420	Temple Bar;Tin Jug		A Public House behind nos.11 & 12 Lammas Street, adjacent to Temple Bar Villa. Marked on the 1st (1888) and 2nd (1906) edition Ordnance Survey maps, the building no longer appears to be standing.	Post-medieval	SN 4105 2009
427	Stag's Head;John Street No 19		Public House first marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888, now the New Stags Head in the town centre service area.	Post-medieval	SN 4113 2013
432	Tanner's Arms;Barn Road No 12		A Public House first marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888.	Post-medieval	SN 4111 2026

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438	Three Salmons;Water Street No 5		A Public House first recorded on Lewis' map of Carmarthen in 1786.	Post-medieval	SN 4095 2012
445	Vine;New Vine		A hotel/public house at the corner of Water Street and Lammas Street. Marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 as the Vine hotel, appears to have also been known at some time as the Garden Hotel.	Post-medieval	SN 4098 2008
447	Weaver's Arms;Water Street No 60		A Public House first marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888.	Post-medieval	SN 40852023
448	White Horse;Chapel Street No 7		A Public House marked only on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888.	Post-medieval	SN 4118 2012
450	White Lion;Lammas Street No 23		Grade II listed building. A record of the White Lion public house at no.23 Lammas Street. It is known that the Golden Lion public house (PRN 395) was located at this address before moving to no.102 Lammas Street.	Post-medieval	SN 4093 2008
452	The Curriers Arms;John Street No 12?		A Public House thought to be located at No.12 John Street, a building shown as a market house on Wood's map of 1834 and the Malthouse of Merlin Brewery on early Ordnance Survey maps. (PP 18/6/04)	Post-medieval	SN 4116 2018
16161			It is unclear what site this record is referring to, there may be a confusion with St Catherine's Mill (PRN 48) at SN 41022027.	Post-medieval	SN 4095 2027
17319 23310	Market Precinct		A market was built in 1846 large enough to accommodate the goods that had previously been sold in various parts of the town. The clock tower (PRN 175) was part of the original construction.	Post-medieval	SN 411 202
*20227 17483	Lammas Street No.7	9475	Grade II listed building. A mid to late 19th century building, possibly contemporary with the English Baptist Church (PRN 114) opened in 1870. Built as a pair with no.8. Used as a photographers shop c1902 and an auctioneer in 1926.	Post-medieval	SN 4106 2007
*20228 17484	Lammas Street No.8	9478	Grade II listed building. Mid to late 19th century building, possibly contemporary with the English Baptist Church (PRN 114) opened in 1870. Built as a pair with no.7, either built as a shop or converted soon afterwards.	Post-medieval	SN 4106 2007
*20229 17486	Lammas Street No.22;Waverley House	9479	Grade II listed building. An early 19th century 3-storey terraced house, with a through arch to a rear yard. A building is marked here on Woods map of 1834. Occupied by a veterinary surgery in 1926. Since 1981 the building has been restored with renewed glazing.	Post-medieval	SN 40935 20081
*20238 17494	Rose And Crown Public House	9492	Grade II listed building. An Inn, probably of the late 18th to early 19th century, the building is marked on Wood's map of 1834. Externally it has mid 19th century stucco detail.	Post-medieval	SN 41021 20051

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*20288 3009	St.Catherine Street 23 24	9574	Grade II listed building. Terraced cottages, one and a half storeys high, probably built as a mirrored pair in the late 18th century. They were substantially restored after dereliction in 1991.	Post-medieval	SN 4086 2019
*20320 17086	Barn Road Nos.2 3 4	9422	Grade II listed building. Nos. 2 and 3 are part of a single brick house of the early 19th century, possibly part of a row of 4 marked on Woods map of 1834. No.4 was added but may also be one of the buildings shown on Woods map. All have been altered in the late 20th century.	Post-medieval	SN 41198 20316
26691	Parc-Y-Velvet;Parc-Y-Felfed		The building is in a dilapidated state. The roof has partly broken in and the first floor has largely collapsed. It is a two-storey stone rubble building with an extended stair to the first floor.	Post-medieval	SN 4106 2014
*61628	Listed Building In Carmarthen Community	82113	Grade II listed house and shop	Post-medieval	SN 40925 20081
*61629 17779	Nos 23 And 24 St Catherine Street	82114	Grade II listed house	Post-medieval	SN 40855 20190
*61634	Nos 2-4 (Consec) Barn Road	82119	Grade II listed house	Post-medieval	SN 41187 20309
*61648	Listed Building In Carmarthen Community	82134	Grade II listed house	Post-medieval	SN 41005 20121
*61652	Listed Building In Carmarthen Community	82138	Grade II listed accountants office	Post-medieval	SN 41007 20114
*61713	Tomb (B) And Railings In Burial Ground Of The Former Ebenezer Chapel	82208	Grade II listed tombstone	Post-medieval	SN 41178 20276
*61716	Ty Mansel	82211	Grade II listed unknown	Post-medieval	SN 41000 20129
*61719	Walter Lloyd And Son Pharmacy	82214	Grade II listed chemists. Shop retains partial 19th century mahogany shop fittings. First recorded as a chemist in 1858 under the ownership of William Thomas Phillips who was still trading from premises in 1875. c.1883 business owned by James Jones with	Post-medieval	SN 41035 20080
*61831	Railings And Gate To Former Ebenezer Chapel Burial Ground	9458	Grade II listed dwarf wall, gate& railings	Post-medieval	SN 41162 20275
*61832	Tomb (A) And Railings In The Burial Ground Of The Former Ebenezer Chapel	9459	Grade II listed tombstones and memorials	Post-medieval	SN 41178 20273
*61839	Gates, Gateposts And Railings To English Baptist	9476	Grade II listed gates, gateposts & railings	Post-medieval	SN 41060

	Church				20070
*61849	Forecourt Railings And Gates To Zion Chapel	9499	Grade II listed forecourt wall railings and gates,	Post-medieval	SN 41004 20140
*61851	Forecourt Piers And Railings To Parc-Y-Felfet Unitarian Chapel	9501	Grade II listed forecourt walls& railings	Post-medieval	SN 41054 20188
*61928 <i>17901</i>	Listed Building In Carmarthen Community	9614	Grade II listed house	Post-medieval	SN 40908 20155
*61929	Gates, Piers And Railings To Capel Heol Dwr Forecourt	9615	Grade II listed walls, railings, gates and gate piers	Post-medieval	SN 40917 20151
*61931	Dwarf Walls, Railings And Gate To No 2	9618	Grade II listed dwarf wall, railings & gate	Post-medieval	SN 41197 20358
*61983 <i>17571</i>	Former Midland Bank	9749	Grade II listed commercial building	Post-medieval	SN 40979 20084
100733	16 Lammas Street; Medical Hall		Former chemists shop established in 1818 by Edward Bowen Jones who continued to run the business until the latter part of the 19th century.	Post-medieval	SN 4099 2008

Table 2: Sites recorded on the Dyfed HER and the NMR within c.200m of the proposed development (NMR data is recorded in *blue italics*). Some of the listed buildings shown in Figure 3 are marked with a star.

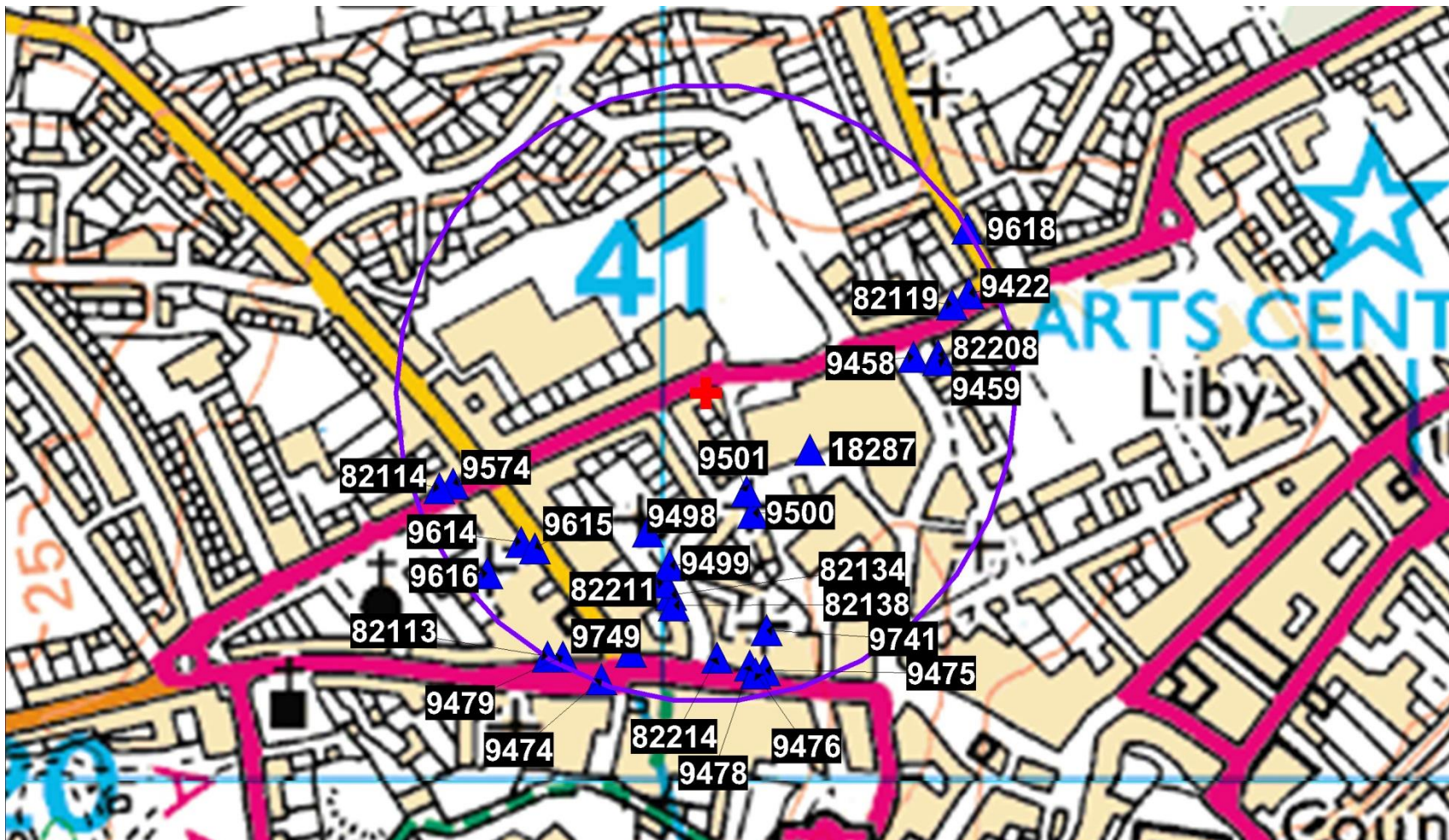


Figure 3: Map of Listed Buildings within 200m of the development site (marked with red cross).

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No. 100020930

- 3.2 The majority of the sites recorded in the Regional HER and the NMR (Table 2) are of post-medieval date relating to 19th and 20th century development within the town of Carmarthen. The street frontages of St Catherine Street were developed by the 18th century (Austin et al, 2005, Carmarthen Historic Town Survey).
- 3.3 Included in the HER and NMR records are twenty seven grade II listed buildings and one grade II* listed building, all of post-medieval date (Figure 3). The grade II* listed building is the English Baptist Church on Lammas street, 160m SSE of the development site. None of the listed buildings are closer than 70m to the site.
- 3.4 Early Ordnance Survey maps indicate that the part of the development area fronting St Catherine Street has changed very little since the 1880s. Two of these maps, of 1888 and 1936, are shown in Figures 4 and 5 respectively. The eastern boundary of the site is likely to form the back wall of stalls that used to surround the former provisions market in the town.

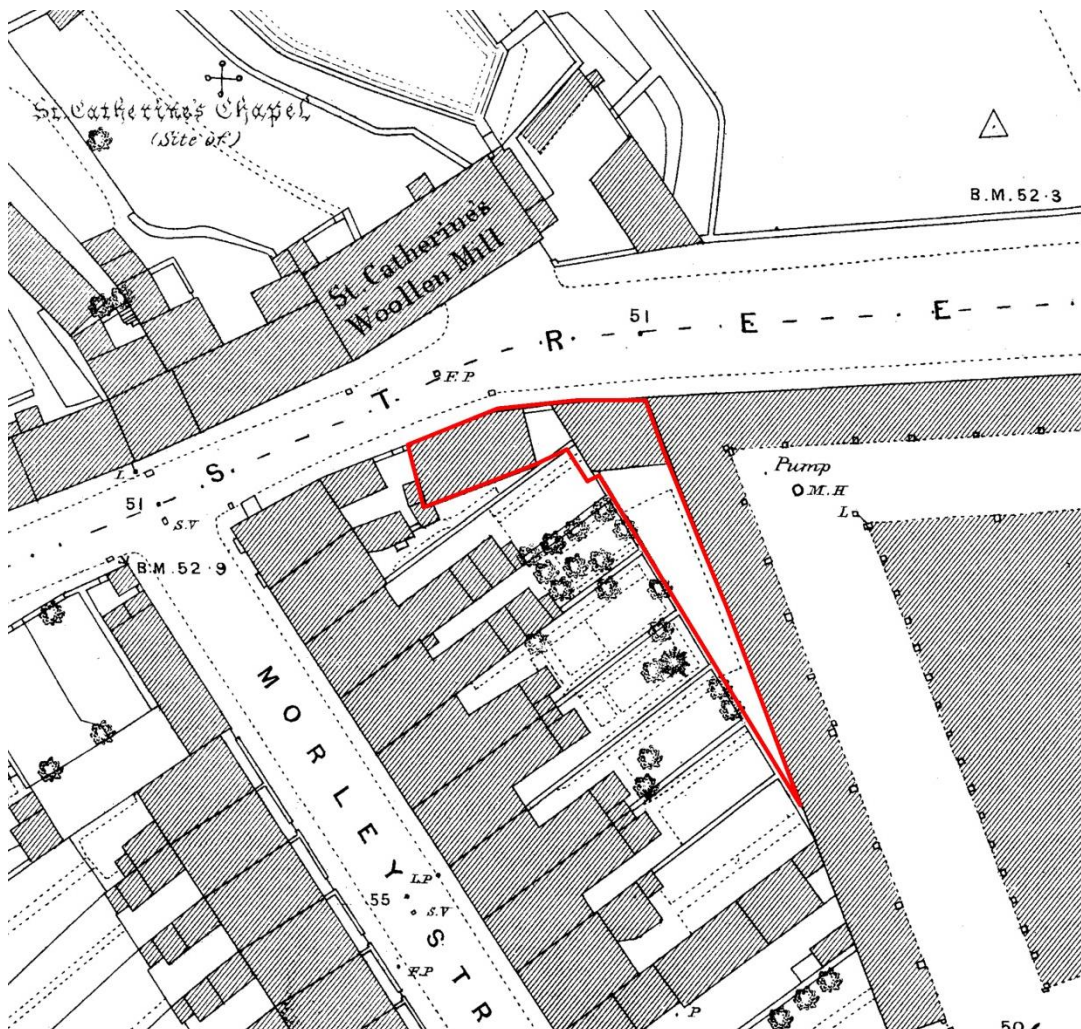


Figure 4: Extract from the 1888 1:500 Ordnance Survey Town Plan of Carmarthen, with development area outlined in red.

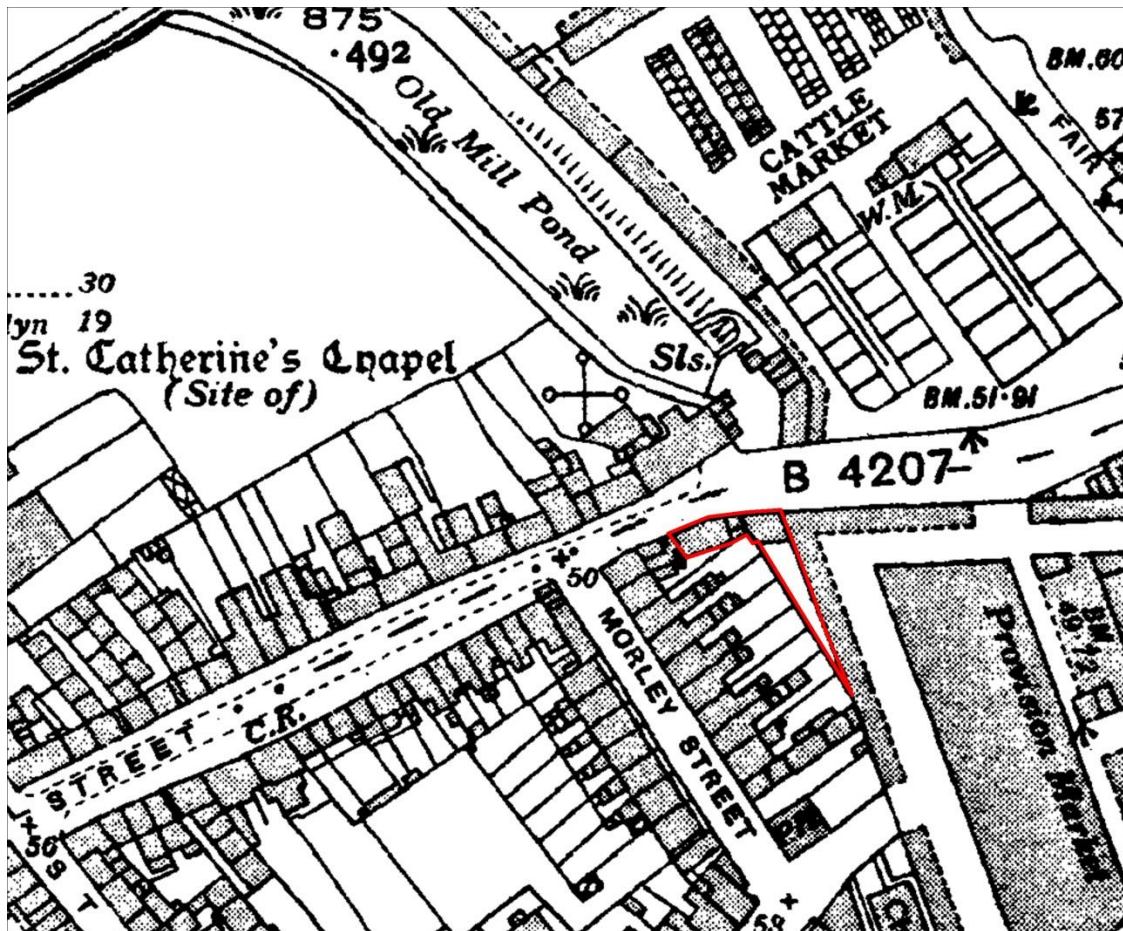


Figure 5: Extract from the 1936 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of Carmarthenshire, with development area outlined in red.

- 3.5 The site lies on the northern edge of the medieval town of Carmarthen. There is documentary evidence for at least two medieval buildings in close vicinity to the development area, although no visible trace remains today of the medieval St Catherine's chantry chapel (PRN 47) which is supposed to have given its name to St Catherine Street, and the medieval mill (PRN 48) of that name. A chantry chapel was founded with an endowment that funded a priest or priests to celebrate masses for the soul of the founder. Although documentary evidence survives for both buildings, some of which points to the structures being in this area, their exact locations are not known but it is possible either of them might have lain within the proposed development area.
- 3.6 The site lies relatively close to the west of the Roman town of *Moridunum*. There is potential for Roman remains to be present in the area associated with suburban activity outside of the main walled town or even Roman burials. Roman coins (PRNs 28; 40) have been found in the vicinity of the development area. Three Roman coins have also been recorded as finds by the Portable Antiquities Scheme, 50m northwest of the site.

4. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork

- 4.1.1 A watching brief was undertaken during ground level reduction works at the site which had the potential to expose, damage or destroy underlying archaeological remains.
- 4.1.2 Excavation work was conducted by a small excavator with a narrow ditching bucket. All archaeological deposits revealed during the groundworks were examined and recorded to an appropriate level.
- 4.1.3 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual² used by DAT Archaeological Services.

4.2 Timetabling of Fieldwork

- 4.2.1 The watching brief took place at the junction of St Catherine Street and Market Way on the 9th and 10th of October 2014.

4.3 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving

- 4.3.1 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.
- 4.3.2 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.
- 4.3.3 A report fully representative of the results of the fieldwork has been prepared.

² **DAT Archaeological Services have adopted the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available on-site for inspection if required.**

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The groundworks recorded during the watching brief consisted of narrow trenches machine excavated along the boundaries of the development with neighboring properties in order to lay concrete foundations for the purpose of both underpinning old walls and supporting new ones.
- 5.2 The nature of the underpinning work, the restricted and confined nature of size of the site, and the wet weather conditions meant that it was not possible to excavate the underpinning and foundation trenches in one phase. Therefore sections of trench were individually excavated and filled with cement shortly after being opened.
- 5.3 The development area lies on the corner between St Catharine Street and market way and is made up of two narrow parts: an east – west section and a north – south section (Figure 6).
- 5.4 On Thursday 9th October 2014, narrow trenches were excavated in positions A and C as shown in Figure 6 and Photos 1-3. Photo 1 shows the north-facing section at position A, where deep loamy deposits over a meter deep reflect the use of the neighbouring plot as a garden for a long period of time. This trench had been filled with cement before an archaeologist could attend on site. Photos 2 and 3 show the trench excavated at the far west end of the development area (position C), where a boundary wall existed and the deposits beneath it were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.50m. A possible linear feature running in an east-west direction under the wall was visible as an area of darker soil fill in the bottom of the trench. The only finds from the top of the fill were post-medieval pottery sherds and iron nails.
- 5.5 On Friday 10th October 2014, narrow trenches were dug in positions B and D as shown in Figure 6 and photos 4 and 5. The deposits were of similar depth and composition to those described in the previously excavated sections of trench and the finds were typically sherds of post-medieval pottery.
- 5.6 The inclement weather conditions quickly turned the confined space within which the machinery could move into an area of deep, churned up mud. This, together with the revised scheme of works of only excavating short sections of trench at any one time hampered any useful recording being undertaken. Upon discussion with the archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, and bearing in mind that only post-medieval deposits has so far been revealed, it was agreed unlikely that significant archaeological deposits would be found and/or would be recordable under these conditions. Therefore, no more site visits were made after the initial two on the 9th and 10th October.

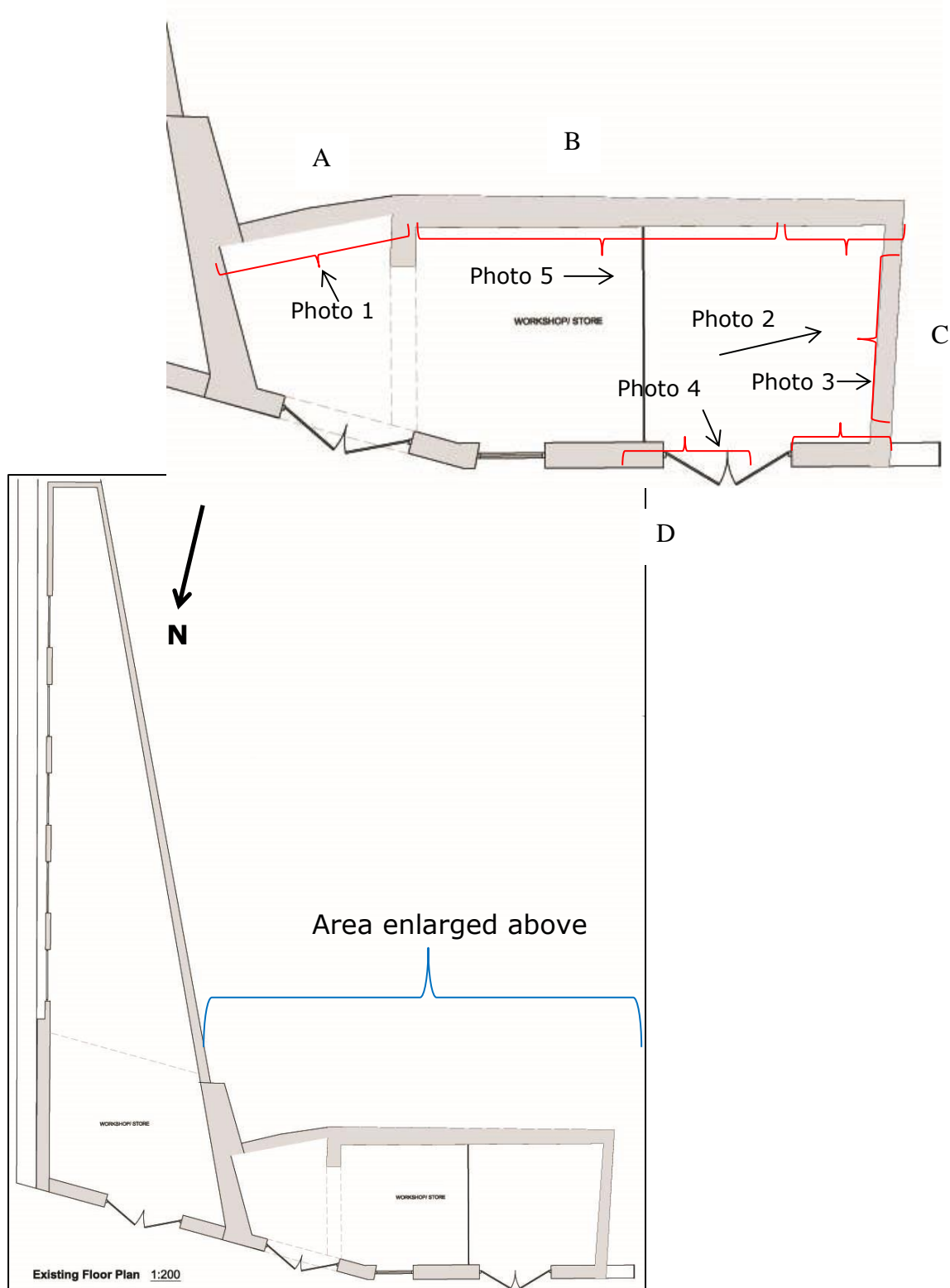


Figure 6: Plan of site showing positions of photos. Extract of plan supplied by client



Photo 1: North-facing section of trench A after it had been filled with cement
(see Figure 6)



Photo 2: Overall photo of excavated trench C (see Figure 6)



Photo 3: Detail of the east-facing section of trench C, showing a possible linear feature running in an east-west direction under the wall; visible as an area of darker soil in the bottom of the trench to the right of the 1m scale (see Figure 6)



Photo 4: South-facing section of trench D (see Figure 6)

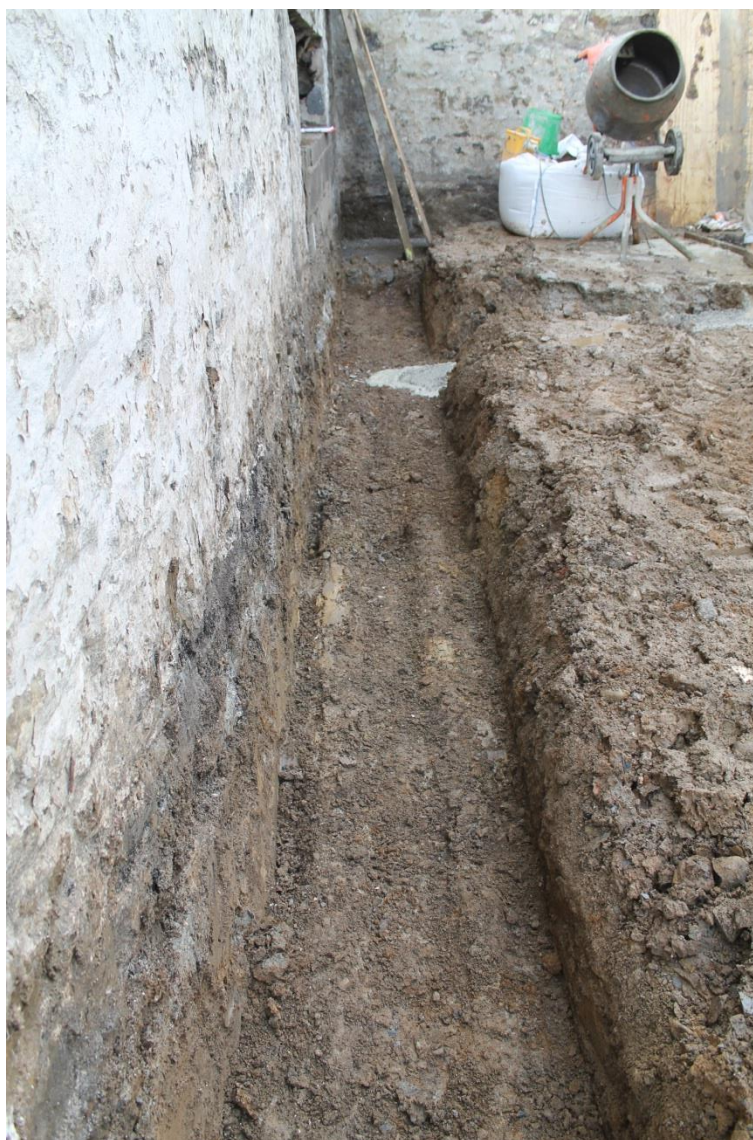


Photo 5: Looking west along the excavated trench B (see Figure 6)

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 A watching brief was carried out during groundworks at a commercial development on the corner of St Catherine Street and Market way in Carmarthen. Narrow trenches were dug along the boundaries with some neighbouring properties in order to lay concrete foundations for the purpose of both underpinning old walls and supporting new ones.
- 6.2 Groundworks at the east – west section of the site were watched on the 9th and 10th October 2014. Trenches A and B were excavated on the 9th October and trenches C and D were excavated on the 10th October.
- 6.3 Deep loamy deposits over a metre deep were revealed at the boundary with a neighbouring property's garden (trench A), reflecting its use as a garden for a long period of time. Elsewhere the excavated trenches revealed no archaeologically significant deposits or remains and any artefacts retrieved during the excavation of the trenches were of post-medieval or modern date.
- 6.4 Although no significant archaeological remains or deposits were recorded within the development area, the potential for the survival of archaeological remains elsewhere in the vicinity of the development still remains.

7. SOURCES

Unpublished

Austin, L et al, 2005, *Carmarthen Historic Town Survey*, Cambria (DAT)
Archaeology Unpublished Report Number 2005/21

Database

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record, housed with
Dyfed Archaeological Trust in The Shire Hall, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire,
SA19 6AF

RCAHMW Coflein Database <http://www.coflein.gov.uk/>

Cartographic

Ordnance Survey 1888 1:500 *Ordnance Survey Town Plan of Carmarthen*

Ordnance Survey 1936 1:2500 2nd edition *Carmarthenshire*

ST CATHERINE STREET, CARMARTHEN: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF


RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2014/55
RHIF Y PROSIECT / EVENT RECORD NO. 107532

Rhagfyr 2014
December 2014

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

Alice Day

Swydd / Position: **Assistant Archaeologist**

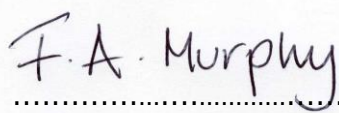
Llofnod / Signature  Date 15th Dec 2014

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

Frances Murphy

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

Swydd / Position: **Project Manager DAT Archaeological Services**

Llofnod / Signature  Date 15th Dec 2014

*Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau
sydd gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn*

*As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any
comments you may have on the content or presentation of this report*

ymddiriedolaeth archaeolegol

