

# **THE BLACK LION HOTEL, LAMPETER, CEREDIGION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION (NGR SN 57361 48057)**



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust  
for: Boyer Planning





# DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2015/11  
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 107907

Mawrth 2015  
March 2015



## THE BLACK LION HOTEL, LAMPETER, CEREDIGION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Gan / By

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## **THE BLACK LION HOTEL, LAMPETER, CEREDIGION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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## **THE BLACK LION HOTEL, LAMPETER, CEREDIGION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

### **SUMMARY**

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the Black Lion Hotel, Lampeter, Ceredigion (NGR SN 57361 48057) in order to address a condition placed upon the planning permission for the proposed development plot (Planning Refs. A140448, A140449, A140450, A140452 & A140453).*

*The site is immediately to the south of the Black Lion Hotel which is itself to the west of the centre of Lampeter on the south side of the A475, which forms the High Street through the town. Within 150 metres of the proposed development the Dyfed Historic Environment Record lists 37 structures and features of archaeological interest, predominantly dwellings and commercial properties from the post-medieval period. Of greatest relevance to this evaluation was the possible site of 'Mynwent Thomas' the supposed graveyard of St Thomas' Chapel which is recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps of the town and in a number of documentary references. The precise location of both the chapel and graveyard is not identified with any degree of certainty.*

*The initial evaluation plan proposed to open four trenches within the proposed development area, with one situated to the west of the hotel car park in a small grassed area and the other three in the Black Lion beer garden. Whilst in the field a decision was taken to excavate a fifth trench thus improving coverage of the development site.*

*A limited range of features were found in the trenches. In the westernmost trench (Trench 1) an area of cobbles was found, probably from a post-medieval courtyard or roadway associated with the Black Lion. Trenches 2 and 3 revealed a series of clear linear features, and a few less well-defined features, but no masonry or other material one might associate with a structure such as a chapel and definitely no evidence for graves. Trench 4 was devoid of any archaeological features. The additional Trench 5 uncovered a further ditch crossing the trench.*

*Following excavation the linear features seen within trenches 2, 3 and 5 were interpreted as boundary ditches. In Trench 2 a right angle formed by two smaller gullies has been interpreted as a possible beam slot and eavesdrip line. The other features examined were mostly interpreted as the result of bioturbation through root action.*

*Finds were sparse across the evaluation area. A total of 6 artefacts were found, all ceramic and dating from the post-medieval/modern period. As such the implication is that the boundary ditches were definitely backfilled sometime after the 16<sup>th</sup> century albeit they would have been constructed at an earlier date during the medieval period.*

*The evaluation has demonstrated the presence of plot boundaries, presumably burgage plots, potentially of medieval date, within the beer garden area of the hotel. Such boundaries are likely to be associated with burgage plots projecting back from High Street or St Thomas' Lane. A possible insubstantial timber structure was indicated by a beam slot and eaves drip gully located, possibly located within a burgage plot. The remains were not enough to determine the character of the building. The activity is mostly concentrated in the northern and northeastern part of the beer garden where new dwellings are proposed. The Black Lion Hotel car park was not trenched, as it remained in use, but the cobbled surface seen on its western side suggests buried remains associated with the post-medieval courtyards to the rear of the hotel could survive, as also evidenced by a number of the surviving standing walls of former stables and cart sheds.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. Project Proposal and Commission**

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Boyer Planning to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed residential development on land immediately adjacent to the Black Lion Hotel, Lampeter, Ceredigion (NGR SN 57361 48057; Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The proposal includes the redevelopment of the car park, outbuildings and pub garden of the Black Lion Royal Hotel, Lampeter for residential properties comprising nine new dwellings and 2 converted properties.
- 1.1.3 Following consultation on the initial application, the archaeological advisors to the planning authority (Planning Services of Dyfed Archaeological Trust) recommended that the results of an intrusive archaeological field evaluation of the proposed development area will be required prior to the determination of the planning application.
- 1.1.4 A brief for the work was prepared by the archaeological advisors which confirmed that a trial trench evaluation was needed, to include a documentary search (map regression and known archaeological information search), intrusive evaluation (trial trenches) and post excavation analysis (reporting and archiving). The brief anticipated a minimum of four trenches to be excavated at the site, two of 20m x 2m and two of 10m x 2m.
- 1.1.5 A written scheme of investigation, detailing the archaeological evaluation works that DAT Archaeological Services proposed, was prepared and approved prior to the evaluation works commencing.

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

- 1.2.1 The evaluation was designed to provide information on the character, extent, date, state of preservation and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the site area. The evaluation would record the identified remains and make a judgement in terms of whether a more detailed programme of archaeological work should be implemented in advance of the development proposals.
- 1.2.2 The evaluation plan comprised a set of four trenches (2 of c.2m x 20m and 2 of c.2m x 10m) spaced around the development plot so as to give comprehensive coverage of the site. The plan was amended in the field with the addition of another 10m long trench. This was felt sufficient to provide a clear indication of the archaeological potential within the proposed development plot.

### **1.3 Report Outline**

- 1.3.1 This report describes the location of the site along with its archaeological background, summarises the results of the evaluation and a discussion of the archaeological evaluation results. The report also makes a judgement on the need or otherwise for further archaeological investigation at the site.



## 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). Levels will be expressed as above Ordnance Datum (OD).

## 1.5 Illustrations

- 1.5.1 Photographic images are to be found throughout this report adjacent to associated text. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale.

## 1.6 Timeline

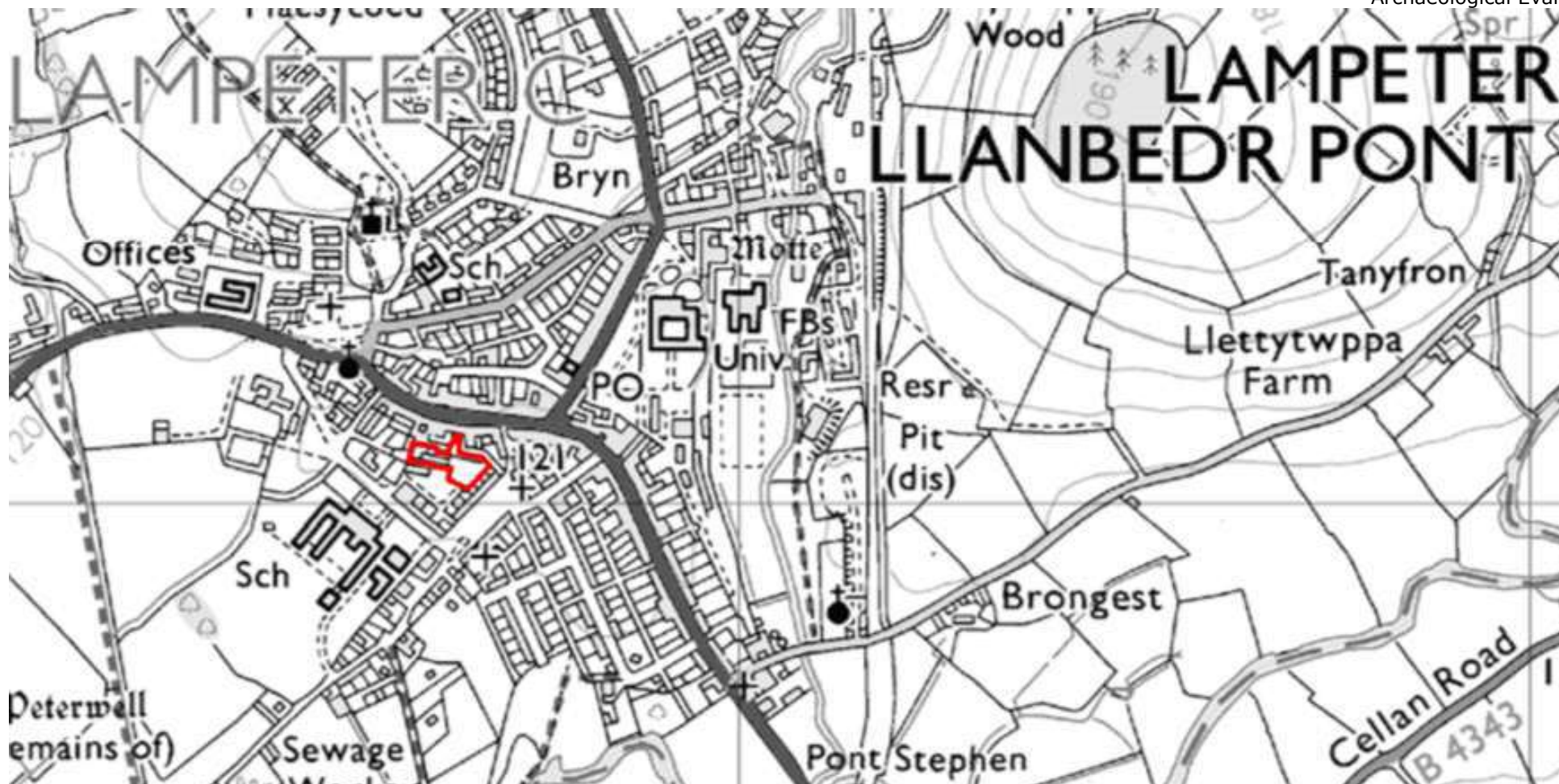
- 1.6.1 The following table illustrates the approximate dates for archaeological periods discussed in this report.

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 <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, Llandeilo.

<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 of the development plot, Lampeter, Ceredigion.

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Explorer 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd., The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No 1000209030







**Figure 3:** 1:500 plan of the development proposals supplied by the developer.

## **2 THE SITE**

### **2.1 Location**

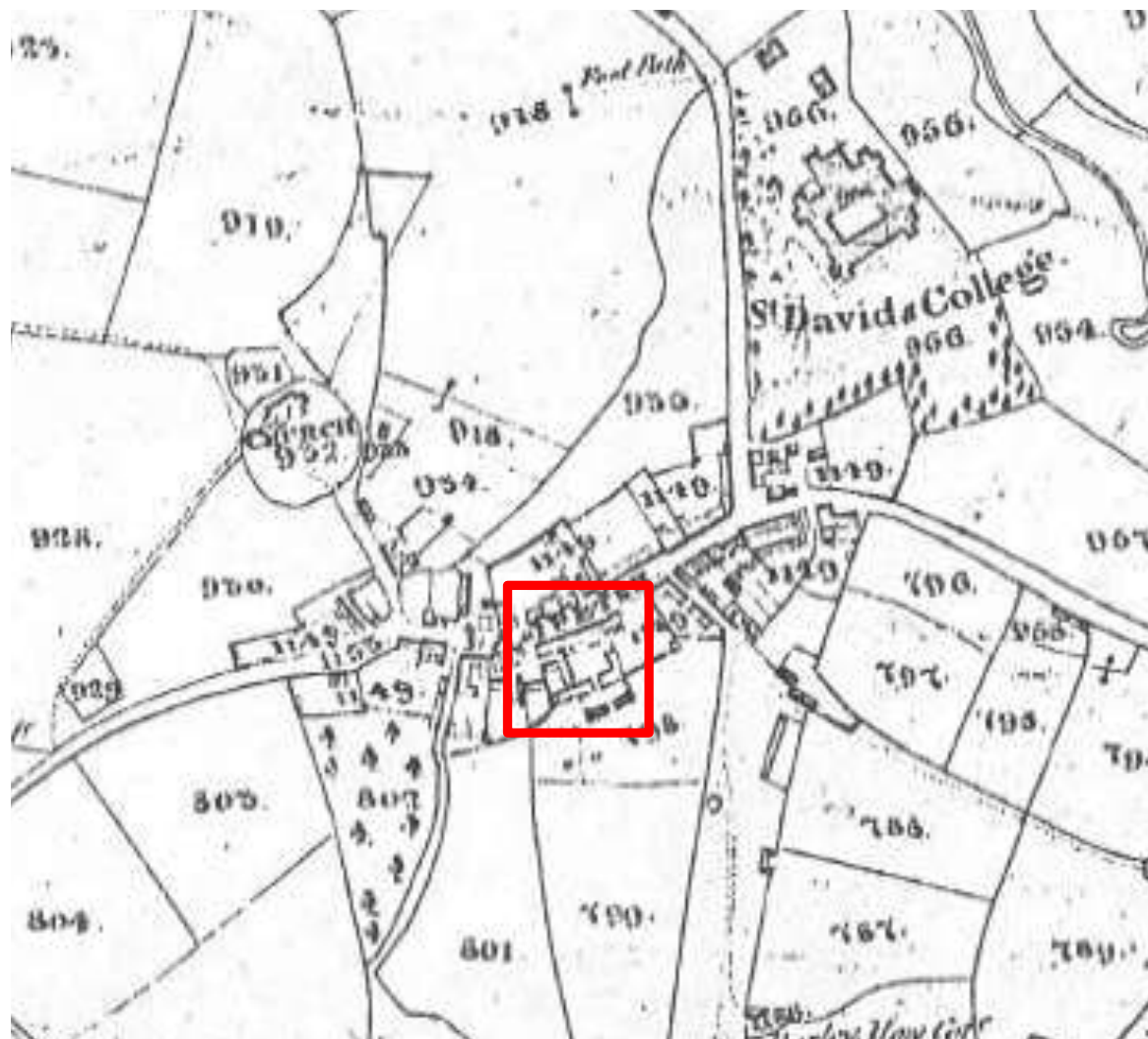
- 2.1.1 The site of the proposed residential development lies on the south side of the Black Lion Hotel, High Street, Lampeter, Ceredigion (NGR SN 57361 48057; **Figure 1**).
- 2.1.2 Topographically the plot is situated on a level area with the Teifi valley to the south and higher ground to the north.
- 2.1.3 The underlying geology is Devil's Bridge Formation Silurian mudstones and sandstones formed in a deep sea basin between 428-444 million years ago. The drift geology is composed of Devensian glaciofluvial sheet deposits dating from the period between 70,000-9,000 BC, sands and gravels deposited by seasonal and post-glacial meltwaters.
- 2.1.4 The land presently comprises part of the car park for the hotel, which is laid to tarmac.
- 2.1.5 A number of outbuildings, also associated with The Black Lion Hotel, are present as well as a number of facades and exterior walls of former buildings.
- 2.1.6 The eastern side of the proposed development area is presently an undeveloped area of grass land with a few small trees, used as the beer garden to the hotel.
- 2.1.7 A small grassed area is present on the western edge of the proposed development area beyond the extents of the car park.

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

- 2.2.1 The information described below is taken from the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, within a search area of 150m radius of the centre of the proposed residential development site. Appendix 1 summarises the results and distribution of the HER search.
- 2.2.2 All of the sites listed in the HER search are associated with the medieval and post medieval settlement.
- 2.2.3 During the Norman period a motte castle (Scheduled Ancient Monument CD110) was built on the site of St David's College, approximately 350m north east of the development site. The borough dates from 1285 and was relatively small. There was little in the way of industry in Lampeter and it appears the borough remained small for many years (Soulsby 1983).
- 2.2.4 The development site itself lies within an area of former outbuildings and other structures associated with the Black Lion Hotel (PRN 9956), an 18<sup>th</sup> century former coaching Inn and assize court. During the 1880s and 1890s it was used as the headquarters for the local branch of the cyclists' touring club. It remains in use as a public house. Many outbuildings associated with the coach house still survive, some of them are still used, whilst others are still visible as surviving exterior walls or facades.
- 2.2.5 A review of historic maps (Figures 2, 3 & 4) shows little change in the area around the development site. The 1842 Tithe map of Lampeter (Figure 2) clearly shows the Black Lion Hotel with its rear courtyard, and a second

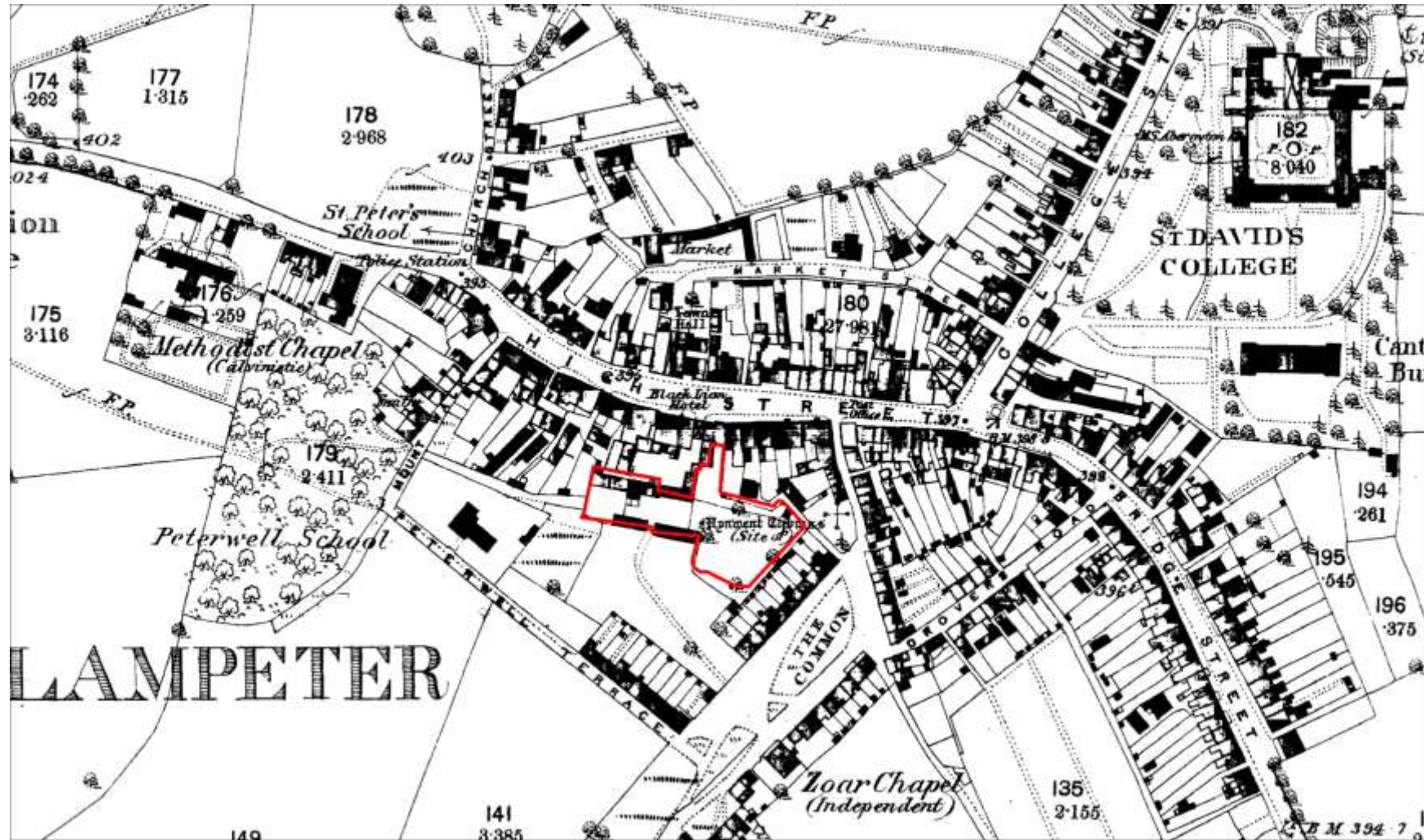
courtyard to the south of this defined by a second range of buildings (marked in black on the plan).

- 2.2.6 A similar arrangement of the Black Lion Hotel buildings is visible on both the first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps (Figures 3 & 4). The eastern half of the development site remains undeveloped throughout the sequence from the 1842 tithe map to the 1972 Ordnance Survey at which point a single small building is shown within the area of the beer garden, although no visible evidence of this survives today.
- 2.2.7 The Black Lion has a number of associated records on the Historic Environment Record which cover these outbuildings and include the following: PRN 43405, comprising a possible stone built servants quarters building; PRN 43406, a small square stores building; PRN 43407, a boundary wall of slate and stone; PRN 43408, a former coach or cart house; PRN 43409, a former Carriage House; PRN 43410, a two storey stone stable block; PRN 43411, a possible lean-to stable building; and PRN 43412, the surviving wall of a building which may have been some form of barn/storage area.
- 2.2.8 The first and second edition OS maps (Figures 5 & 6) refer to the eastern half of the area (beer garden) as "Mynwent Thomas". This is believed to be the site of the medieval St Thomas' Chapel (PRN 9559) and graveyard. The chapel was first mentioned in a 14<sup>th</sup> century source and masonry remains were apparently visible up until the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but by 1833 no evidence remained of the chapel. However, up until this date fragments of lead coffins were supposedly still being "frequently dug up" (Soulsby 1983). In a number of directories and short published histories of the town the following paragraph is used
- "a plot of ground, Black Lion Royal Hotel, High Street, Lampeter Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation DAT Archaeological Services 8 Project Number FS14-078 to the south-west of the town, being still called Mynwent Twmas, 'St. Thomas's Churchyard', where fragments of leaden coffins have been frequently dug up: the street leading towards it is also called St. Thomas's Street, and tradition reports the ruins of the edifice to have been visible about two hundred years ago"
- 2.2.9 Overall the archaeological potential of the site is greatest for medieval – post-medieval remains relating to the settlement. The potential for the Mynwent Thomas can also not be discounted, although the reference to the frequent recovery of fragments of lead coffins is considered unlikely and misleading.



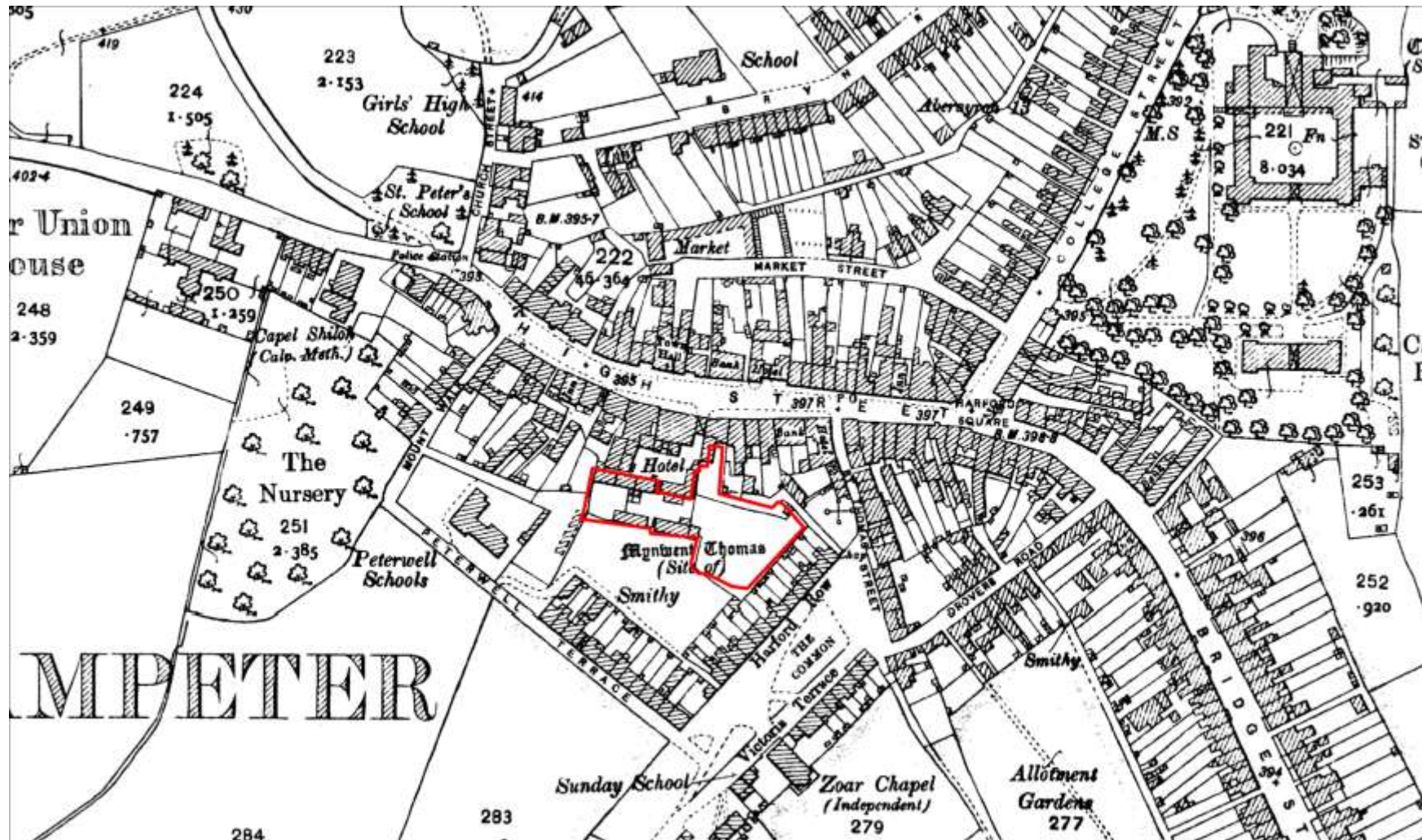
**Figure 4:** Extract of 1842 Lampeter Tithe Map with approximate location of development marked by red box.





**Figure 5:** Extract of First Edition OS map of 1889 with development area marked in red.





**Figure 6:** Extract of Second Edition OS map of 1905 with development area marked in red.

PRN	Name	Summary	NGR	Period
9556	Black Lion	This large 19th century Hotel is constructed with stone and brick rendered with stucco finish. Grade II Listed Building	SN5762548099	Post Medieval
9559	St Thomas' Chapel	The place-name 'Mynwent Twmas' in Lampeter town marks the site of the medieval St Thomas' Chapel, a chapelry to Lampeter parish which was mentioned in a 14th century source (Anon. 1878, 334). Masonry remains were apparently visible in the 17th century (Soulsby 1983, 157), but had gone by 1833 when however coffins were still being 'frequently dug up' (Lewis 1833). The site is now a car park. There is no current evidence for an early medieval date.	SN577480	Medieval
9560	Bridge Street	No summary provided.	SN57714809	Post Medieval
17203	Soar	Building of stone and brick construction. based on UWL field report RJ. Grade II Listed Building	SN5767547942	Post Medieval
17274	Lampeter Town Hall	2 storey building with central clock tower. Red brick and sandstone fabric. Grade II Listed Building	SN5762448133	Post Medieval
20407	St Thomas Methodist Church	Restored building, refurbished hexagonal window based on UWL field report RJ 2001	SN57724804	Post Medieval
25708	No's 30 31 and 32 High Street	Constructed c1830-40 formal design consisting of a terrace of three large houses. Grade II Listed Building.	SN5756248157	Post Medieval
25709	Royal Oak Inn	constructed c1842. Painted stucco finish with slate roof and stone or rendered stacks. Listed as group value with other listed items in High Street. Grade II Listed Building	SN5766848122	Post Medieval
25710	Lloyds Bank	Part of a terrace, 3-storey building of stone/brick construction. 8 symmetrical window with decorated reveals. Grade II Listed Building.	SN5767848094	Post Medieval
25711	No13 High Street	No summary provided.	SN5761448103	Post Medieval
25712	Tabernacle	1806 Former Calvinistic Methodist Chapel disused from 1874 and converted to 3 cottages. Subsequently gutted internally and used as workshop. CADW. BSAHI. Lampeter 1992. Grade II Listed Building.	SN5756648103	Post Medieval
35298	Lampeter Cattle Market	No description provided.	SN57634819	Post Medieval/Modern
36898	Dologau	Field clearance cairn, 8m by 4m and 0.3m high. Probably of recent origin. (This PRN was given in error to PRN 94207 and this has now been corrected)	SN57634819	Post Medieval
37105	Lampeter Cattle Market	Development site. EMB 12/98.	SN57634819	Post Medieval

43360	Stable	The Stable showing phased development. The soffit overhangs by approximately 0.5m Based on UWL 2001 project RJ	SN5757648173	Post Medieval
43361	Priordy	This double fronted L shaped building is decorated with Fleur de lys roof finials, moulded ridge tiles and Tudor rose decor above windows. Based on UWL 2001 project RJ	SN5771748054	Post Medieval
43376	9-14 Harford Row	An example of Post med terraced house 6 off. Two storey with slate roof, centre dwelling has plaque "AD 1885" Based on UWL 2001 project RJ	SN5765648002	Post Medieval
43377	1-8 Harford Terrace	Block of 8 (off) terraced two storey housing, with slate roofing. Digital image available	SN5768648030	Post Medieval
43383	No.44 High Street	This 19th century 3 storey building of stone construction with slate roof. The facade has decorative mouldings around upper floor windows. Marked on 1905 OS as Post Office	SN5770748120	Post Medieval
43395	National Westminster Bank	The building is shown on the OS 1st ed and 2nd editions. It comprises of 2/3 storey construction with the 3rd storey at a central position within gable. Facade rendered, decorated, ground floor modelled to imitate ashlar finish. Roof constructed of slate Based on UWL 2001 project RJ	SN5764848126	Post Medieval
43399	Castle Hotel	The Hotel is marked on OS 2nd ed 1905. The Hotel is a 3 storey late 19th century building, which shows signs of continual modernisation. Facade rendered in 'rough cast' finish and also contains two large 'plaques' giving the name of the establishment in Welsh and English approx 1.5m square. Based on UWL 2001 project RJ	SN57694809	Post Medieval
43400	No23 High Street	The Building is a 3 storey late 19th century property with slate roof. The building is possibly marked on OS 1st ed 1887 and the 1905 revision. It has a rendered 'stucco' finish and the facade contains sash windows with half windows at top floor Based on UWL 2001 project RJ.	SN5753348152	Post Medieval
43401	Bank House	The property is a late 19th century date built on the site of the 'ship Inn (Lewis 1984) in 1853. It comprises of a two storey stone built structure with rendered facade and slate roof	SN5754948133	Post Medieval
43403	Mount Street-Outbuildings	The building is a two storey stone built structure of dimensions is 8m by 5m with slate roof. Based on UWL 2001 project RJ	SN5752648131	Post Medieval
43404	Ivy Bush Inn	A late 19th century coach Inn, the building has been successively remodelled since construction and now exists as two separate premises. Stable block to rear. Based on UWL 2001 project RJ	SN5774048093	Post Medieval
43405	Black Lion Coaching Inn Complex	The building is of stone construction built into boundary wall, roof destroyed. Keystone above doorway has sculpted face painted black, which has tentatively been suggested as a servants quarters? Based on UWL 2001 project RJ	SN5760248078	Post Medieval
43406	Black Lion Complex	The store is a small square building constructed of stone with slate roof. Based on UWL	SN5764148082	Post Medieval

		2001 project RJ		
43407	Wall-Black Lion Inn	A boundary wall of Slate/Stone, "L" shaped delineating extent of holding of Black Lion. The line of wall matches that of building on 2nd ed., wall contains evidence of window positions. Based on UWL 2001 project RJ	SN5758848063	Post Medieval
43408	Black Lion-Coach House/Stables	The coach/cart house? is constructed of stone and slate roof. To the front there are two large doorways. Based on UWL 2001 project RJ	SN5762748074	Post Medieval
43409	Black Lion-Carriage House	The rectangular building has five arches, three on the north side and two to the south. It has been constructed with stone bonded with Lime mortar, with slate roof over. The walls contain evidence of in-filled windows The building has been renovated	SN5761548058	Post Medieval
43410	Black Lion-Stables	The stables consist of a two storey stone building with slate roof over. Access to upper floor by means of external stairway. The building also has a large doorway facing into court yard. Based on UWL 2001 project RJ	SN5760148089	Post Medieval
43411	Black Lion-Stable?	The lean-to building is constructed with stone, and has been extensively modified and is covered with a modern roof. Based on UWL 2001 project RJ	SN5759548081	Post Medieval
43412	Black Lion-Wall	The surviving wall is the remains of a building. It has a long rectangular slit within wall which may suggest some form of barn/storage area. Based on UWL 2001 project RJ	SN5760248078	Post Medieval
43583	No.2 High Street	A 2.5 storey mid to late 19th century building, facade rendered with stucco finish and plaster work around openings. The building is topped with a Welsh slate roof. From outward appearance of building it may have been originally constructed as a retail premises with living accommodation over. Based on UWL 2001 project RJ	SN57744810	Post Medieval
43584	The Ivy Bush Inn	The building has 2.5 storeys, the upper contains two dormer windows. This 19th century building is constructed with stone and has a slate roof, and has been remodelled since construction. Based on UWL 2001 project RJ	SN57744809	Post Med
57341	No.31 High Street	Grade II listed house	SN5757148151	Post Medieval
57342	No.32 High Street	Grade II listed house	SN5758048145	Post Medieval

**Table 2:** Sites recorded on the Dyfed Historic Environment Record HER within 150m of the development site.

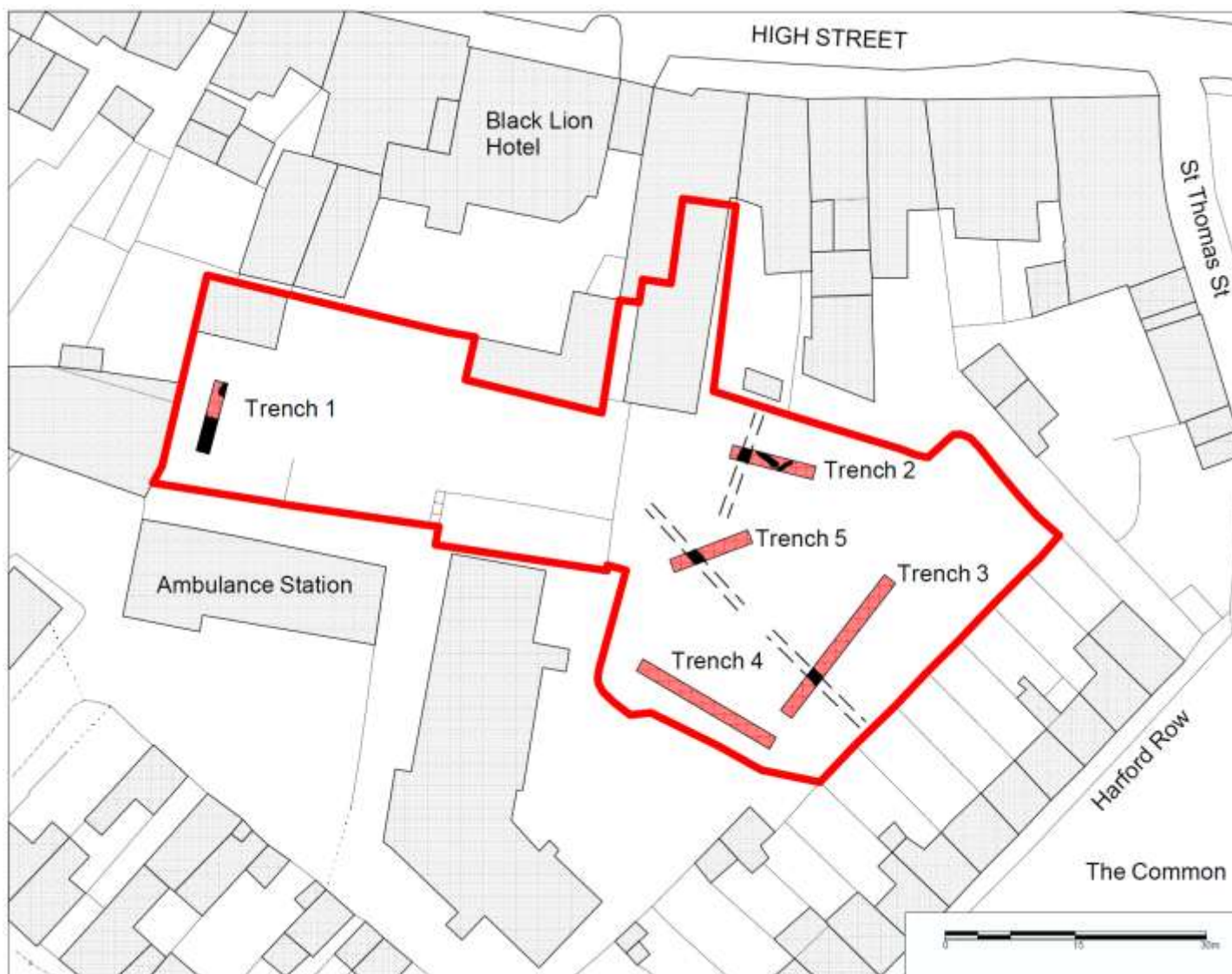
### 3. METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The proposed scheme of evaluation included the preparation of a written scheme of investigation, which was prepared and approved prior to the works commencing.
- 3.2 The following trenches were excavated during the evaluation (Figure 6).
- TRENCH 1** (8.4m in length) – located on the western side of the site area in an area of rough (not tarmacked) ground behind the ambulance station and adjacent to the existing footpath. The trench was aligned roughly north to south.
- TRENCH 2** (9.9m in length) – running roughly ESE to WNW across the northern part of the beer garden area. This may cross the area of the small building shown on the 1972 Ordnance Survey map.
- TRENCH 3** (19.6m in length) – aligned roughly NE to SW along the eastern edge of the beer garden on the eastern side of the proposed development area. This would have to be sited to avoid the trees within the garden, but also to be located as close as possible to the recorded location of Mynwent Thomas on earlier OS maps.
- TRENCH 4** (17.8m in length) – aligned ESE to WNW across the southern part of the beer garden area.
- TRENCH 5** (9.7m in length) – aligned ENE to WSW on the western side of the central part of the beer garden
- 3.3 They were excavated using a tracked excavator fitted with a flat bladed bucket. All non-archaeologically significant overburden was removed and the trench was excavated down onto archaeological levels.
- 3.4 Following machine excavation, the trench was hand cleaned using trowels to expose the character, distribution and extent of the archaeological remains. Sample excavation was undertaken of the archaeological features.
- 3.5 All deposits were recorded by archaeological context record sheet, scale drawing and photographs. All individual deposits were numbered using the open-ended numbering system in accordance with DAT Archaeological Services Recording Manual<sup>3</sup>. The trench plan was recorded by means of measured drawings and sketches. A photographic record was maintained using digital cameras.
- 3.6 The trench was located in relation to surrounding features and buildings using a Trimble 5600 TST and the results imported into GIS.
- 3.7 As part of the preparation of the WSI a desk-based element was undertaken to provide further information on the area and its archaeological and historic background, which is also included in this report. An assessment of significance of the remains and the impact that the development proposals would have upon them is included.
- 3.8 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

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<sup>3</sup> Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services use the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available for inspection if required.





**Figure 7:** Trench location plan showing overview of identified archaeological features.

#### 4. RESULTS OF EVALUATION

##### 4.1 Trench 1

- 4.3.1 Trench 1 was located in the small grassed area on the western side of the proposed development area (Figures 6 & 7; Photos 1 & 2).
- 4.3.2 Machine excavation indicated that the grass was merely a thin spread of soil and turf overlying a modern crushed stone layer (100). This in turn overlay a former topsoil layer (101), possibly indicative of gardening activities. This buried topsoil sealed a subsoil layer (102), which looked less like it had been subject to horticultural activity.
- 4.3.3 At the southern end of the trench a cobbled surface was present directly beneath the subsoil layer (102) (Photos 1, 2 and 3), lying 0.40m below the existing ground surface. The cobbled surface comprised standard cobbling (large rounded pebbles) and setts (flat stones laid on edge) in two linear arrangements – one aligned northwest to southeast (Photo 3) and another abutting it aligned northeast to southwest. The cobbles were set directly into the underlying natural clays (106).
- 4.3.4 A lens of mortar was also noted lying within the buried topsoil (101) above the cobbled surface.
- 4.3.5 At the northern end of the trench a feature cut [104] was recorded. This contained a fill of degraded mortar and slate fragments (105), the upper surface of which lay just below the current land surface (Photo 4), indicating it is a modern feature.
- 4.3.6 The only finds from the trench were two fragments of ceramic material from the base of the subsoil layer (102), both post-medieval in date.

Context No.	Description	Dimensions / depth	Artefacts where recovered/Notes
100	Thin grass overlying crushed stone layer	8.5m x 0.10m max	Former modern car park surface on to which soils had built up and grass / weeds grown
101	Topsoil Friable/Loose, dark brown, sandy clay 5% angular large stones and slate, 10% medium angular stones and slate, 10% small angular stones and slate	8.5m x 1.5m x 0.20-0.32m in trench	Likely to be evidence of gardening activity – anecdotal evidence from a local resident that this activity did take place on the development plot
102	Subsoil Friable/Loose, dark brown, silty clay Occasional small angular/subangular stones	See above, up to 0.26m deep	2x post-medieval pot sherds
103	Cobbled surface Compact, grey, mainly large rounded stones with some angular elements acting as kerbing	3.75m x 1.5m in trench	2 sets of kerbing aligned NW-SE, another 2 sets aligned SSW-NNE – the latter section abuts the former
104	Modern cut Rectangular shape in trench, rough alignment NW-SE	1m x 1m in trench	Feature does not reach surface of topsoil but cuts down through this layer and the subsoil into the natural
105	Fill Loose, light grey,	1m x 1m in trench	

	mortar/cement (degraded), occasional small shale		
106	Natural Friable, yellow/orange brown, silty clay Occasional small subangular/round stones		

**Table 3:** Context descriptions for Trench 1.

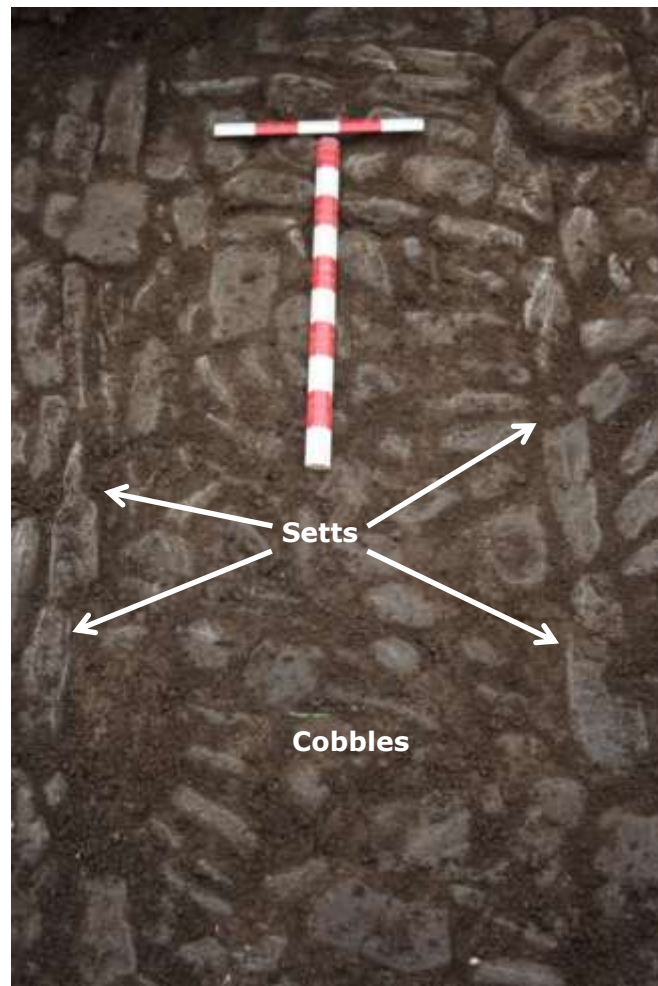




**Photo 1:** Trench 1 facing NNE.  
Scales - 2 x 1m



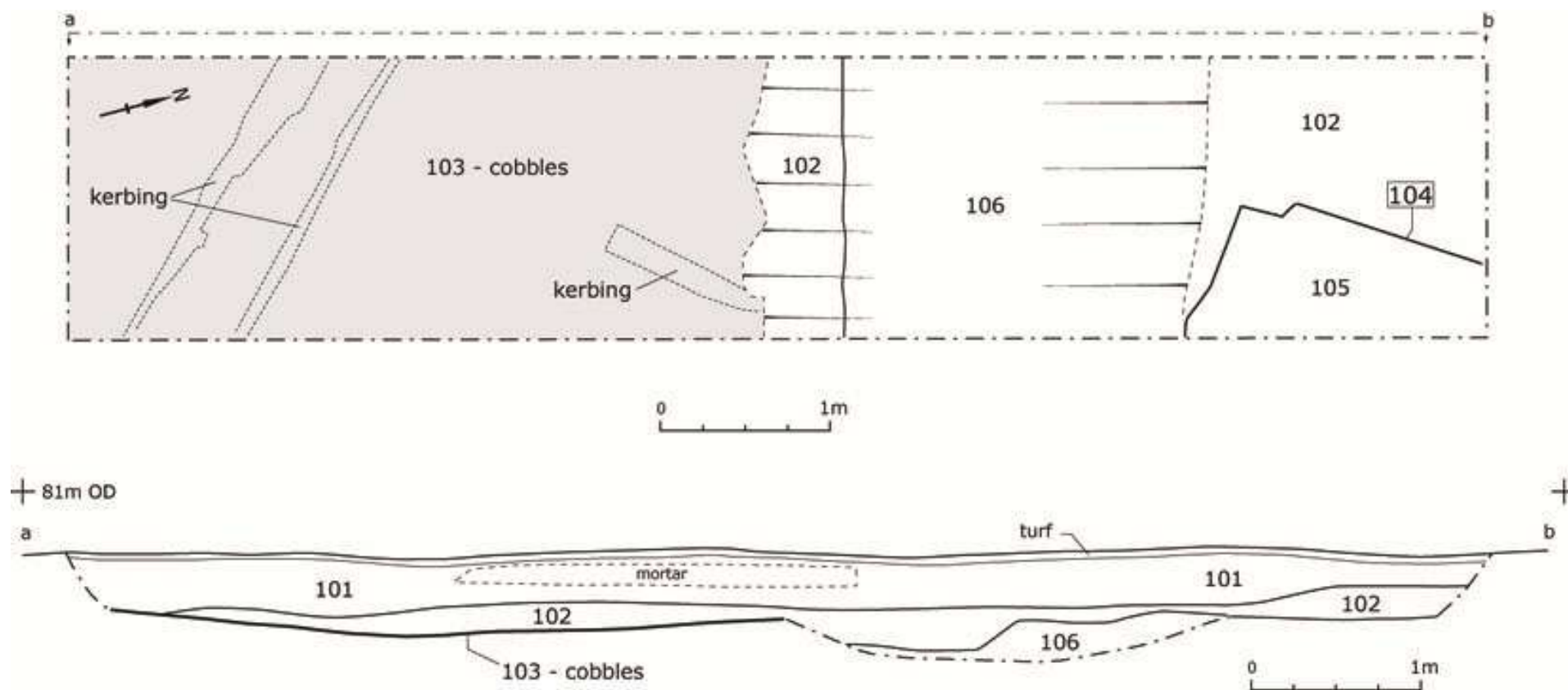
**Photo 2:** Trench 1 facing SSW.  
Scales - 2 x 1m



**Photo 3:** Close-up of cobbles showing two main features facing NW.  
Scales – 0.5m and 0.25m.



**Photo 4:** Top right is cut [104] and fill (105) of modern feature in Trench 1 facing NNE. Scales – 2 x 1m.



**Figure 8:** Plan of Trench 1 and east facing section of trench.



#### 4.4 Trench 2

- 4.4.1 Trench 2 was located in the northwestern part of the beer garden (Figures 6 & 8; Photo 5). The topsoil (200) was composed mainly of silt with some sand and clay and was approximately 0.50m deep throughout the length of the trench. This overlay a subsoil (201) which was orange/yellow brown in colour, seemingly a common deposit throughout the site. There were no finds in these layers.



**Photo 5:** Trench 2 facing ESE.  
Scales – 2x 1m.

- 4.4.2 A linear feature was recorded crossing the trench towards its western end, fill (202) and cut [203]. The fill (202) was a mid-brown silt with clay, with pebble and gravel inclusions. The cut [203] was aligned north to south

across the trench with a shallow U-shaped profile, with a depth of c.0.32m and a width of 1.05m. There was the suggestion of another deposit at the base of the cut composed of gravel eroded from the sides of the ditch.

- 4.3.3 Two fragments of post-medieval ceramic and one fragment of charcoal were recovered from fill (202).



**Photo 6:** Trench 2 facing NE, contexts (202) and [203],  
section c-d on Figure 9.  
Scales – 1x 0.5m and 1x 0.25m.

- 4.3.4 A second linear feature was recorded in the trench to the east of cut [203]. This was again a linear feature aligned roughly northwest to southeast (Figure 8). The fill (204) was light pinkish brown in colour, comprising silt with clay, with frequent small subangular/subrounded stone inclusions. The base of the ditch contained larger rounded stones. The cut was 0.3m in depth and 0.69m wide, steep-sided on the southern edge with a flattened base. The feature was 2.8m long and seemed to butt end at its southeastern end within the trench. No finds were recovered from the feature.



**Photo 7:** Trench 2 facing NNW, contexts (204) and [205], section e-f on Figure 9  
Scale 1x 0.5m.

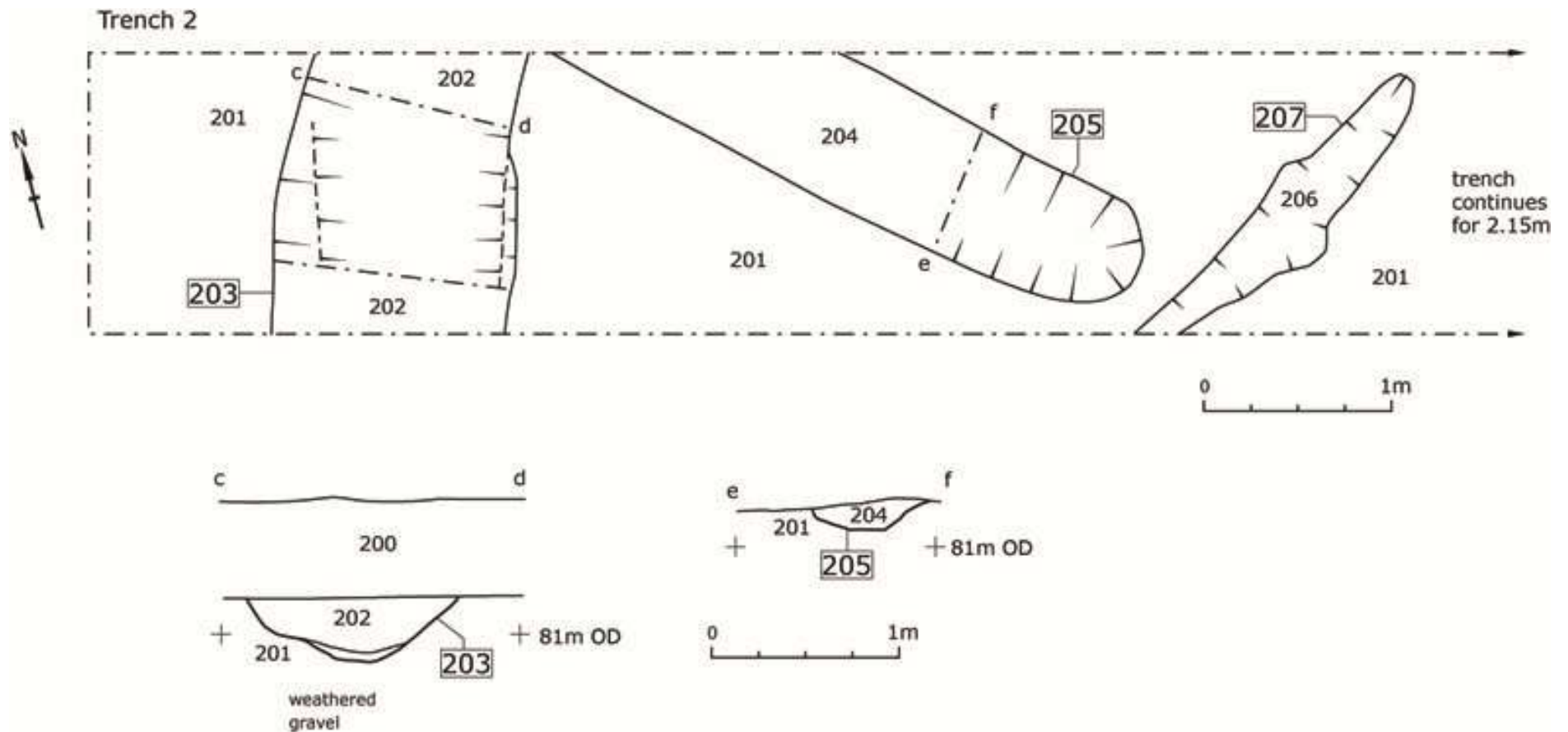
4.3.5 The final feature in Trench 2 was a shallow cut [207], which was linear in plan but with an irregular base and edges. It was 0.04m deep and 0.28-0.38m wide. It was aligned roughly southwest to northeast, seemingly at right angles to (204) / [205]. It was filled with a brown silty clay containing small grit inclusions (206).

Context No.	Description	Dimensions / depth	Artefacts where recovered/Notes
200	Topsoil Friable, mid grey, silt with clay and sand Various sized stony inclusions from cobbles down to fine gravel	Across trench, up to 0.52m deep	Recorded as topsoil/garden soil on context sheet – the latter would make sense on the basis of anecdotal evidence
201	Subsoil Loose, mid orangey-yellow, silty clay Frequent small/medium subangular/round stones	Seen across trench	Shows evidence of alluvial processes at site
202	Fill Friable, mid brown, silt with clay Rounded pebbles and gravels of various sizes towards base of deposit derived from weathered ditch sides.	1.6m x 1.05m x 0.32m in trench	3x post-medieval pot sherds, 1 x piece of charcoal Fill of linear ditch going across trench N-S Initial interpretation of weathered material derived from edges of ditches may be incorrect. Components of deposit make it sound like glaciofluvial deposits i.e.

			natural.
203	Ditch cut Linear N-S across trench, shallow bowl-shaped profile with slight shelf on the west side, some gravel has eroded from the ditch sides	1.6m x 1.05m x 0.32m in trench	Possible boundary ditch
204	Fill Friable, light pinkish brown, silt with clay Frequent subang/subround gravels, bottom of ditch contains natural cobbles	2.8m x 0.69m x 0.2 m in trench	Fill of a shallow ditch or possible beam-slot Bottom of ditch shows alluvial deposits
205	Ditch cut Linear, aligned NNE-SSW, flat bottomed, steep sided on south edge, more gradual on north edge	2.8m x 0.69m x 0.2 m in trench	Overdug due to sandy/gravelly natural below Feature is shallow with deeper, rounded base at terminus, very possibly a beam-slot with a post setting, nearby feature (context [207]) could be a eavesdrip gully related to this structure
206	Fill Friable, light brown, silty clay Grit and gravel	2.0m x 0.28- 0.38m x 0.04m in trench	
207	Gully cut Linear, E-W across trench, irregular base and edge	2.0m x 0.28- 0.38m x 0.04m in trench	Irregular edges become indistinct in places, irregular base with stones jutting up from natural below Probable drip gully from eaves of structure to north, inferred from irregular edges and base, and the orientation of the feature is perpendicular to [205]

**Table 4:** Context descriptions for Trench 2.





**Figure 9:** Plan of western end of Trench 2 and sections through linear features [203] and [205].



#### 4.5 Trench 3

- 4.5.1 Trench 3 was located along the eastern edge of the beer garden (Figures 6 & 9; Photo 8). The topsoil (301) was a dark brown silty clay-loam with occasional small rounded pebbles and abundant roots due to the close proximity of trees. The subsoil (302) was a reddish-brown silty clay with occasional small subangular stones. This too was well laced with roots. There were a number of areas of root disturbance revealed in the base of the trench on top of the exposed natural soils, a number of which were sample excavated to confirm they were caused by root action. A small fragment of post-medieval ceramic was recovered from subsoil (302).



**Photo 8:** Trench 3 facing NE. Scales - 2x 1m.

- 4.5.2 A linear ditch, aligned northwest to southeast was recorded towards the southern end of the trench, cut [303] (Photo 9). The cut [303] was approximately 0.35m deep by 1.2m wide, with a shallow U-shaped profile. The upper fill of the feature, (304), was composed of a grey-brown silty clay with approximately half its volume comprising subangular/rounded stones up to 0.1m in size. The lower fill (305) was similar but was redder in colour, more compact and had significantly less stones in it. No finds were recovered from the feature.

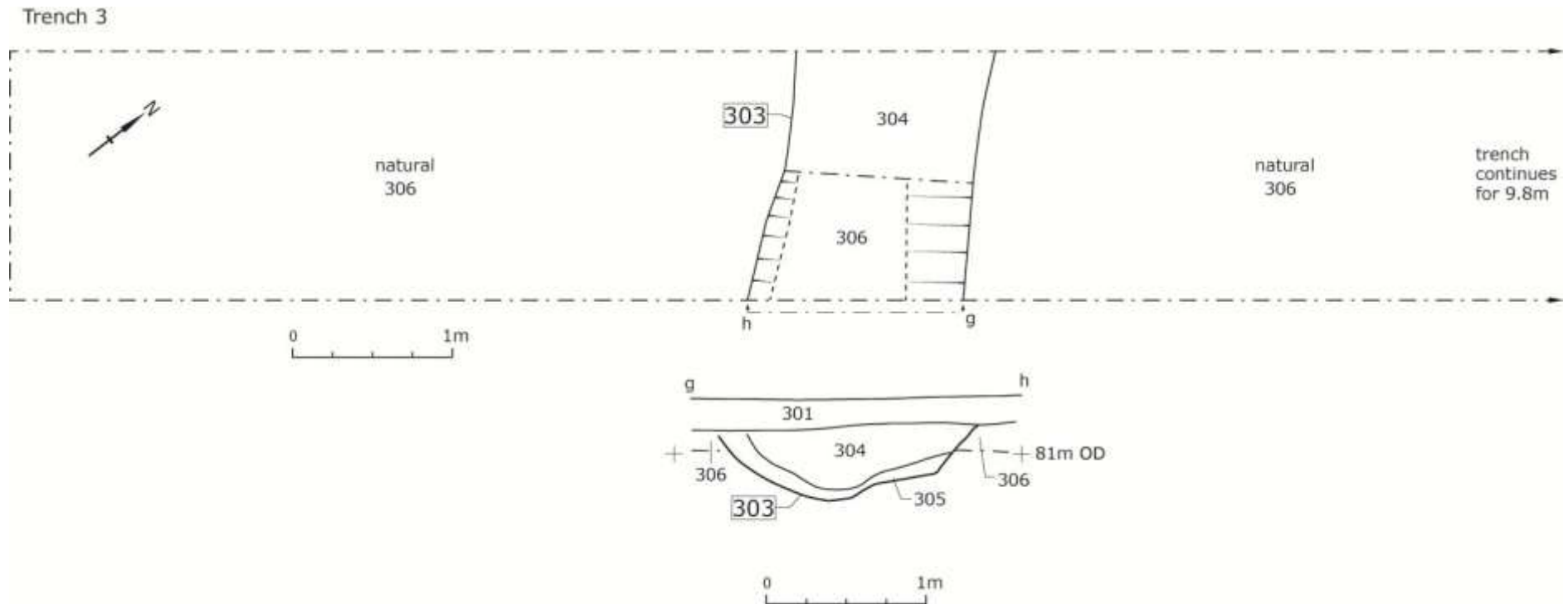


**Photo 9:** Trench 3 facing SE, contexts (304), (305) and [303], section g-h on Figure 10.  
Scales - 1 x 1m and 1x 0.25m.

Context No.	Description	Dimensions / depth	Artefacts where recovered/Notes
301	Topsoil Friable, dark brown, silty clay loam Occasional small rounded pebbles	20m x 1.6m x 0.24m in trench	Garden soil, rooty due to close proximity of trees
302	Subsoil Friable, reddish brown, silty clay Occasional small subangular stones	20m x 1.6m x 0.15m in trench	1x post-medieval pot sherd
303	Ditch cut Linear, NW-SE alignment, south side steeper than north side, at bottom of south side it flattens out then drops again slightly, south edge almost vertical, north edge has steep slope, cut through the natural – yellow/orange silty clay with occasional patches of	1.6m x 1.2m x 0.35m in trench	Ditch may be a continuation of the ditches revealed in T2 and T5

	gravels		
304	Fill Friable, grey-brown with a hint of red, silty clay 50% subangular and rounded stones up to 0.1m diameter, occasional charcoal fragment	1.60m x 1.44m x 0.28m in trench	Secondary fill of ditch
305	Fill Friable/compact, reddish brown, silty clay Occasional small subangular stones	1.44m x 0.18m	Primary fill of ditch

**Table 5:** Context descriptions for Trench 3



**Figure 10:** Plan of southern end of Trench 3 and section through cut [303].



#### **4.6 Trench 4**

- 4.6.1 Trench 4 was located along the southern part of the beer garden (Figure 6; Photo 10). The topsoil (400) was loose, mid grey-brown in colour, and composed mainly of silt with some clay. Inclusions included occasional shale fragments and pebbles. The subsoil (401) was friable, pale yellow-grey in colour and similar to (400) in composition but with a higher clay content. Inclusions comprised occasional shale fragments and pebbles. No features were apparent after cleaning and there no finds were recovered from the trench.



**Photo 10:** Trench 4 after cleaning facing ESE.

Context No.	Description	Dimensions / depth	Artefacts where recovered/Notes
400	Topsoil Loose, mid-grey brown, silt with clay Occasional shale and pebbles	20m x 1.8m in trench	Topsoil/garden soil
401	Subsoil Friable, pale yellow-grey, silt with clay Occasional shale and pebbles	See above	No features visible other than root holes

**Table 6:** Context descriptions for Trench 4.

#### 4.7 Trench 5

- 4.7.1 Trench 5 was located on the eastern side of the beer garden, and was excavated as an additional trench once it was ascertained that no features were present within Trench 4 (Figures 6 & 11; Photo 11). The topsoil (501) was a dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional subangular and rounded stones. It yielded the only finds from the trench – 2 fragments of modern ceramic.



**Photo 11:** Trench 5 facing SSE.  
Scales – 2 x 1m.

- 4.7.2 A single linear feature was recorded in the trench, aligned north-northwest to south-southeast, cut [506]. The feature was 0.40m deep and 1.4m



wide with a flattened profile towards its base, although possibly slightly overcut into the underlying natural strata.

- 4.7.3 The upper fill (502) was a dark reddish-brown silty clay with approximately 10% medium-sized subangular/rounded stone inclusions.
- 4.7.4 The other three contexts associated with Trench 5 all appear to be variants on natural deposits. Context (503) corresponds to the glaciofluvial deposits underlying the site – light yellow-grey in colour and composed of cobbles of various sizes, gravel and silt. Context (504) corresponds with the light orange/yellow silty clays found elsewhere. Context (505) is an anomaly being a red-brown deposit at first glance analogous to other deposits found around the site. However, after reconsideration it is a subsoil overlying context (504) (Photo 12 below).



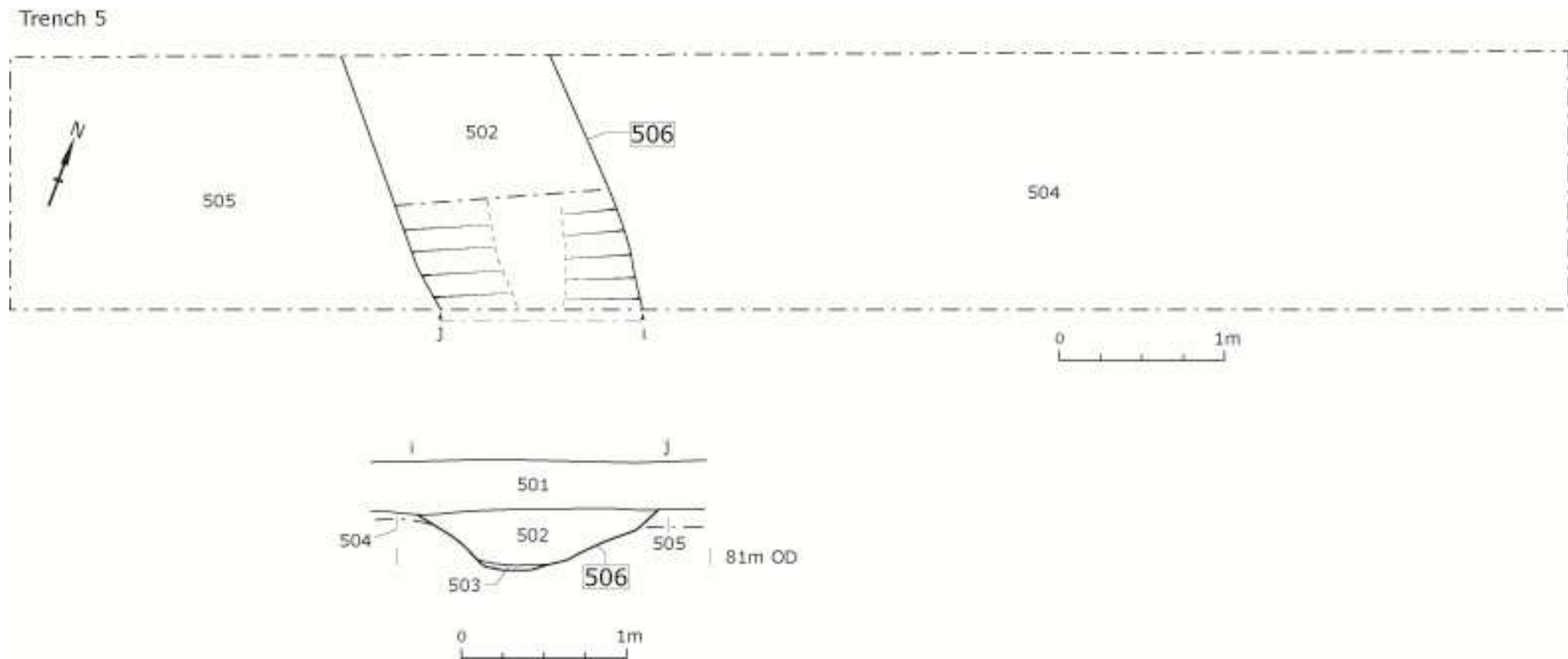
**Photo 12:** Trench 5 feature facing WSW.  
Scales – 1 x 1m and 1 x 0.5m.

Context No.	Description	Dimensions / depth	Artefacts where recovered/Notes
501	Topsoil Friable, dark grey-brown, silty clay 5% small subangular/round stones	9.5m x 1.6m in trench	2x modern pot sherds
502	Fill Friable, dark reddish brown, silty clay 10% medium subangular/round stones	1.60m x 1.40m x 0.36m in trench	
503	Natural Loose, light yellow-grey, gritty silt		Interpreted as alluvial deposit underlying whole/most of site due to similar deposits in Trench 2,



	60% large rounded/round stones, 15% medium rounded/round stones, 10% small rounded/round stones		matrix is loose around densely packed stones
504	Natural Friable, light orange/yellow brown, silty clay 5% medium subangular/rounded stones	6m x 1.6m in trench	Different to other natural contexts in trench (503) and (505) hence separate entry, suggests different processes at work in different areas and at different depths
505	Subsoil Friable, reddish brown, silty clay 5% large subangular stones, 5% medium subangular stones, 5% small subangular stones	2m x 1.6m in trench	Originally interpreted as a natural deposit
506	Ditch cut Linear, aligned NW-SE, steep sides tending to convexity, flat bottom which is partly due to overexcavation	1.4m x 0.36m	May align with the ditch in Trench 3 and intersect with that in at the western end of Trench 2, if that were so it would give the boundary for two sides of a plot

**Table 7:** Context descriptions for Trench 5.



**Figure 11:** Plan of Trench 5 and section through cut [506].

## **5. DISCUSSION**

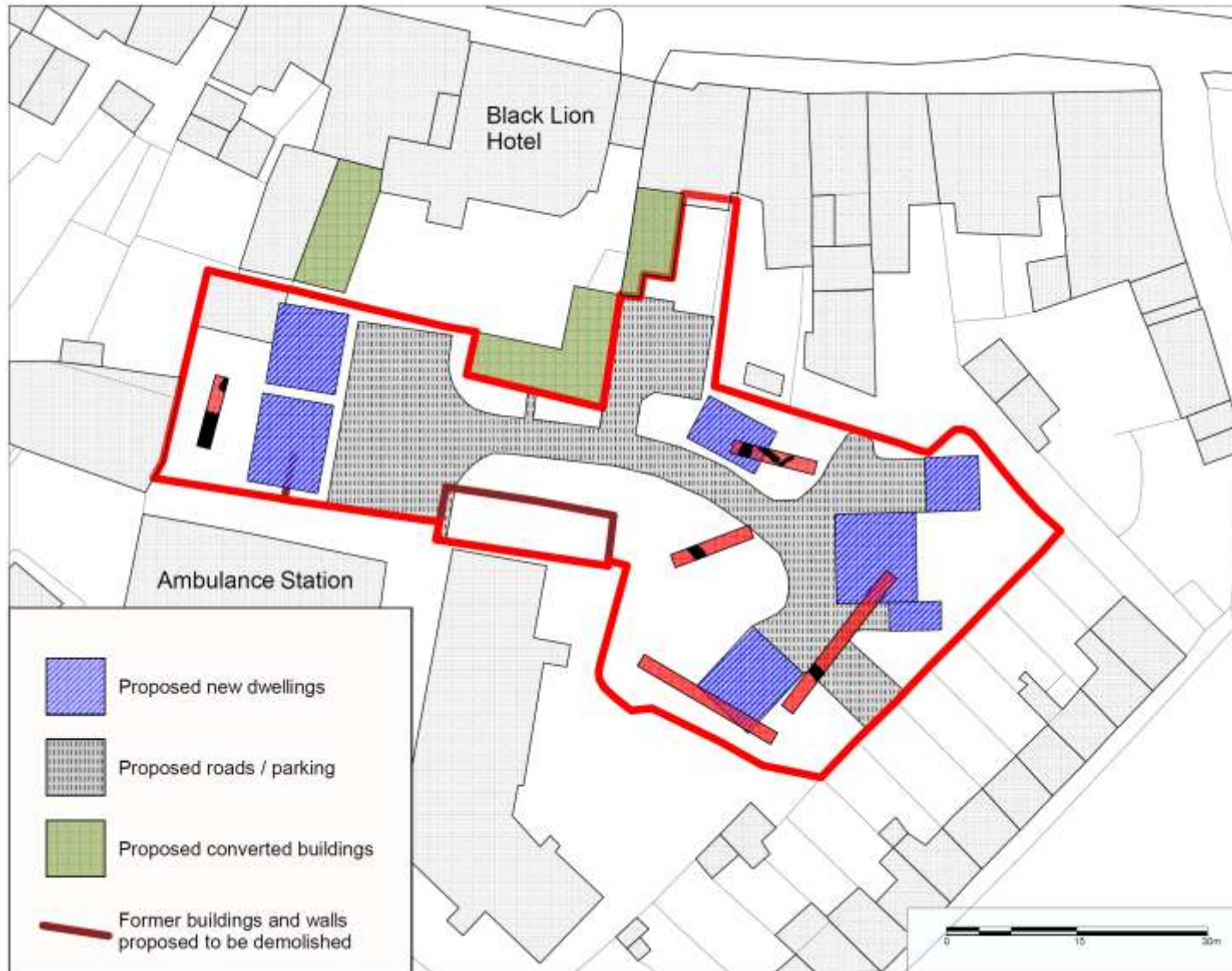
- 5.1 The evaluation has indicated the presence of archaeological remains within the site area, mostly in the form of linear ditches or gullies within the eastern part of the proposed development area.
- 5.2 The cobbled area to the west of the car park is probably a remnant of a former courtyard or possible trackway associated with the Black Lion Hotel. The age of this feature is uncertain but could date from the early 19th century or possibly earlier. It is evident on the Tithe Map of 1842 that the Black Lion Hotel comprises the buildings on the High Street frontage, a courtyard behind this and a second courtyard further to the south. This arrangement is visible on the later Ordnance Survey maps and is still visible today with the surviving shells of the former cart shed and standing walls representing facades of earlier structures. The double courtyard arrangement would indicate that the hotel was of some importance presumably as a coaching inn for travellers, and was well used requiring the extra space for horses and carts (perhaps also livestock). The cobbled surface with its delineating setts could suggest fairly ornate cobbled yards existing within and around the Black Lion Hotel courtyards. It should also be noted that lines of setts were sometimes used for practical reasons to ensure neat cobbling.
- 5.3 The ditches found in trenches 2, 3 and 5 are possibly contemporary, perhaps representing burgage plots running back from the High Street frontage or St Thomas Street. Burgage plots originate in the medieval period and are urban rental properties owned by a king or a lord. They normally consist of a long, thin plot of land with a house extending away from a thoroughfare. The boundaries of burgage plots would have been demarcated by ditches similar to those found during this evaluation.
- 5.4 The ditches in Trenches 3 and 5, which are in loose alignment, are within the parameters set out for typical burgage plots. It is therefore possible that they are a continuous feature. However, they are not in alignment with the current High Street but point towards the junction of St Thomas Street and the High Street at approximately 45°. This could mean they are associated with plots projecting back from St Thomas Street or a former road layout which has been superseded by the modern layout. Certainly by 1842 the layout is broadly similar to the current one.
- 5.5 The ditch in Trench 2 is in alignment with the current High Street. It is possible therefore that it postdates those in Trenches 3 and 5 and indicates a reorganisation of the burgage plots in Lampeter. If this is the case then one would expect to find that it cuts through the other ditches thus establishing its chronological relationship. However, this was not visible within the trenches opened and would require further investigations to enable verification.
- 5.6 One thing that is implied by the existence of these probable burgage plot boundaries is that St Thomas' Chapel and graveyard were not located on the Black Lion Hotel site as it appears to be purely associated with domestic/horticultural activities. The absence of a graveyard, masonry or any other signs that St Thomas' Chapel is in the vicinity should not be taken as an unequivocal indication that it does not exist nearby. The early maps clearly label the area as Mynwent Thomas and it is therefore highly likely that the graveyard lies just beyond the eastern boundary of the evaluation area.
- 5.7 The evaluation trenches have demonstrated that the archaeological levels survive at a shallow depth beneath the existing ground surface. Within

the beer garden the possible burgage plot ditches lay less than 0.30m below the ground surface, sealed below a thin turf and topsoil. The cobbled surface in Trench 1 to the west of the site was also located at a shallow depth below ground surface. This means that the archaeological deposits at the site could be easily exposed, damaged or destroyed by most groundwork activities associated with the new development. This could include site clearance, topsoil stripping, removal of existing car park and yard surfaces. New structures are proposed for the beer garden area and on the western edge of the site adjacent to Trench 1 (Figure 12).

- 5.8 It should be noted that the evaluation has shown that the archaeology is not deeply stratified, and so would not be complicated to deal with. Further archaeological investigation work is likely to be required at the site, possibly in the form of excavation within the northern part of the beer garden area and a watching brief, with contingency for excavation, across the remainder of the site area.
- 5.9 Also noted above is the presence of surviving remains of former courtyard buildings within the development area. It is proposed that a number of these walls are demolished as part of the development (Figure 12). These walls are of significance, associated with the development of the Black Lion Hotel. A scheme of building recording for these structures is likely to be required, especially where they are to be demolished. Overall the development proposals will retain overall layout of the former courtyard area for car parking, with conversion of at least one of the former stables and the new proposed dwellings located to the east and west of this.

### ***Conclusions and Recommendations***

- 5.10 Overall the evaluation has not identified any archaeology of such significance that it could preclude development at the site.
- 5.11 The recorded archaeology lies at a shallow depth below the existing ground surface and could be impacted upon by ground works associated with the development.
- 5.12 Further archaeological mitigation could be implemented by way of a pre-commencement archaeological condition at the site.
- 5.13 Archaeological mitigation is likely to include: recording of the standing structures associated with the Black Lion Hotel within the development area; further archaeological investigation of the northern part of the beer garden; archaeological watching briefs for the remainder of the development area (with contingency for more detailed recording should significant remains be identified).



**Figure 12:** Development proposals overlaid on trench plan

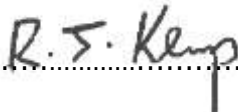
**THE BLACK LION HOTEL,  
LAMPETER, CEREDIGION:  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
(NGR SN 57361 48057)**

**RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2015/11  
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 107907**

**Mawrth 2015  
March 2015**

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

Swydd / Position: **Archaeologist**

Llofnod / Signature .....  ..... Dyddiad / Date 06/03/15

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

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

Swydd / Position: Head of DAT Archaeological Services

Llofnod / Signature .....  ..... Dyddiad / Date 06/03/15

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



