

CARDIGAN CASTLE: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SURVEY, 2009

K Murphy

INTRODUCTION

Cardigan Castle is central to the history of Wales. Although there are only limited surviving upstanding medieval remains, the castle has a well-documented and complex history, dating to at least 1093.

Despite its current ruination, Cardigan Castle is of iconic status as the birthplace of the Eisteddfod, and is a fundamental building block of the medieval town. Indeed, the medieval castle and its associated walls and roads, together with the Afon Teifi, still dominate the layout of the modern town. Further extensive evidence of the rich history of Cardigan, which includes medieval and later remains, also survive as buried deposits and upstanding structures throughout the town. Efforts to protect the undeveloped parts of the medieval town have in the past included the designation of parts of the town wall and the castle as Scheduled Ancient Monuments, and other structures as Listed Buildings.

The town of Cardigan is situated on a rocky promontory on the northern bank of the Afon Teifi, 4km from the sea. The defensive circuits of the town and castle exploit the local topography, incorporating low shale cliffs and bluffs within their walls. The castle dominates the lowest bridging point of the Teifi and thus controls the coastal land route and commanding the strategically important routeway up the Teifi valley into mid-Wales. In the mid-thirteenth century Cardigan, jointly with Carmarthen, became the centre of royal power in south Wales, and consequently developed into an important administrative, military and commercial centre.



Figure 2. Engraving of Cardigan Castle, c.1804

HISTORY

The history of Cardigan Castle is well-documented in a number of sources. It is generally accepted that a castle existed on the Teifi estuary, at a place called Din Geraint, from at least 1093, although the site might well have been fortified much earlier than that. Roger de Montgomery is credited with having built the first (wooden) castle at Din Geraint in 1093, although there is some debate as to whether this refers to the current Cardigan Castle site, or 'Old Castle', located on a promontory on the north bank of the Teifi less than a mile downstream of Cardigan town. Changes of castle site are not uncommon, with examples known from both Aberystwyth and Carmarthen. However, wherever the first castle was positioned it was almost certainly on its present site at least by 1136, when the town of Cardigan was first recorded. The earliest historical reference for the current town of Cardigan is as 'Aberteifi' when a bridge and town are mentioned, but it is possible that the medieval town may have been founded by Gilbert de Clare as early as 1110. The town would have been planned and constructed as an integral part of the castle: such an inter-relationship was a deliberate part of social, political and economic policy, especially in 12th and 13th century Wales, where there was a preference for the centralisation of economic and administrative activity to enable a greater manipulation of political power.

The first 150 years in the history of the castle were a tumultuous period, the castle being geographically situated on the frontier between the warring Anglo-Normans to the south and the independent Welsh to the north, with both sides in almost constant battle. As a consequence the castle underwent several changes of hands during this time, and both the castle and the town were razed and rebuilt in equal measure. It would seem that following the initial construction in 1093, the castle was rebuilt in 1110 by Gilbert fitz Richard de Clare, repaired in 1159 by Roger de Clare, and then in 1164 was taken by Rhys ap Gruffudd, who constructed the first stone castle on the site in 1171. Indeed, it is at this stone castle in 1176 that the celebrated first Eisteddfod was held by Rhys ap Gruffudd. He maintained ownership of the castle until his death in 1197. In 1196 William de Braose burnt the town, but was unsuccessful in his attempt to take the castle. Following several more changes of hands and having undergone recorded repairs in 1204-5, 1208 and 1227-8, the castle was eventually captured by Walter Marshall in 1240. The castle passed on to Walter's son Gilbert, but he was killed in a tournament in 1241 enabling Henry III to take regain possession and fortify the it a royal expense under the custody of Robert Waleran. These works, which included the construction of a new keep, cost £400, with a further £150 needed in 1261 for the town walls, and £284 for raising the keep a further stage. In 1271 Edward I made the castle the administrative centre for the newly founded county of Cardiganshire. By this time there was a flourishing town established around the castle. In 1279 Cardigan, along with Carmarthen, became a seat of Royal administration in the newly formed 'Principality of Wales', and in addition the castle became an important springboard for Edward's Welsh campaigns.

Despite the newly acquired status of the town Cardigan Castle once again fell into disrepair. A survey made for the Black Prince in 1343 presented a dismal story of dilapidation, ranking it as the worst of all the Royal Castles. The 'Great Watch Tower' and the curtain walls were in a state of complete decay and all the domestic buildings were in ruins, with repair costs estimated at £814. No repairs were recorded for the castle, however, until after the Glyndwr rising when, in 1410, work began on the construction of a new hall and stable at a cost of £19, with an estimate for a new tower at £129. During the latter half of the 15th century extensive repairs

and renovations were made to the 'Great Round Tower' and other buildings, and the castle was presented to Catherine of Aragon as part of her dowry when she married Prince Arthur, brother of Henry VIII.

The castle as an administrative centre declined in importance during the later Middle Ages, and largely fell from use until the Civil War, when Cardigan was once again the scene of battle. The 1610 illustration of the castle by Speed, shown in Figure 3, shows the North Tower (almost certainly the keep built by Waleran in 1250¹), as half tumbled. Speed has carefully represented a massive half-round tower of three stages, even though his orientation is somewhat askew. His Map of Cardigan also shows the extent of the town and its relationship to the castle in the early 17th century, with the former Priory (founded 1111) and St Mary's Church (dating to the 13th century) located to the east, both having been constructed outside of the medieval town wall. During the Civil War the Royalists took the town of Cardigan in 1644 and the castle was fortified with ordnance from a wrecked frigate, as well as considerably strengthened by the construction of a 'half-moon' entrenchment within the castle yard. However, despite these renewed defences the Royalists were eventually defeated, and it appears that the Cromwellians laid waste to the castle, which was once again left in a state of ruin.

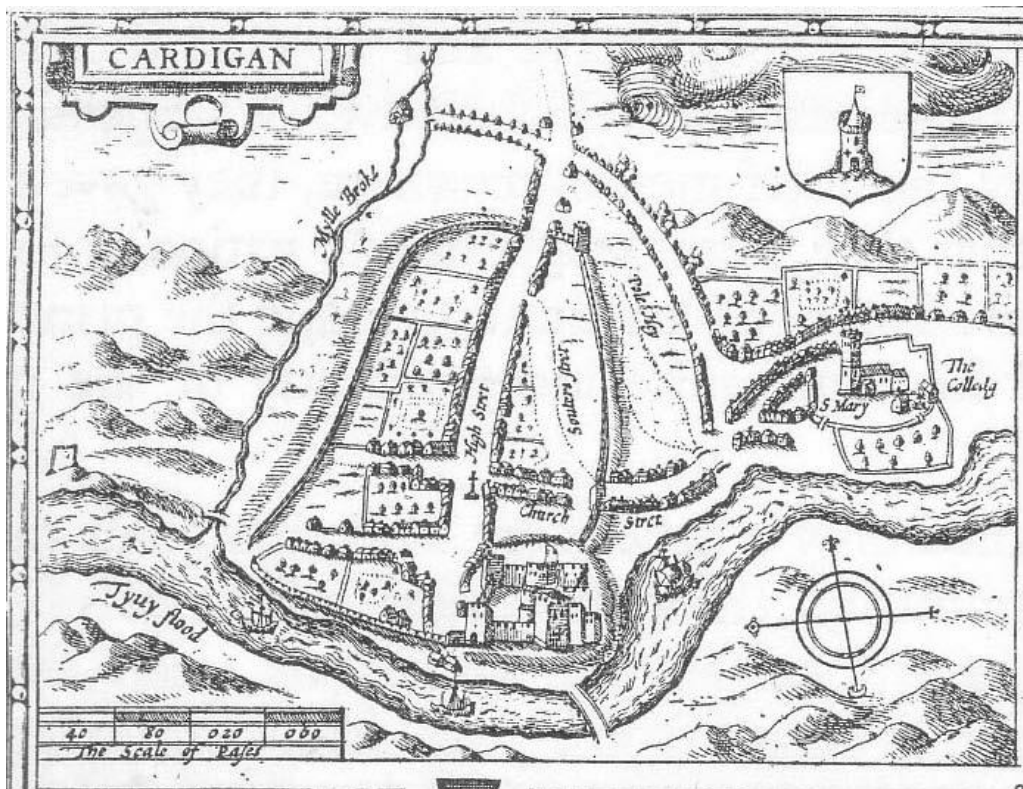


Figure 3. Speed's 1610 map of Cardigan town and castle.

¹ The new keep as built by Waleran in 1250 is almost certainly the same structure as the 'Great Watch Tower' and the 'Great Round Tower' referred to in various histories of the castle, and corresponds to what is known today as the North Tower, incorporated into Castle Green House. However, Speed depicts a free-standing keep, whereas the North Tower was clearly part of the defensive circuit of the castle at Cardigan.

The history of the castle and its environs from the mid-17th century is one of rapidly declining military importance and increasing domestic importance. Speed's 1610 map shows a row of cottages on the northwest side of the castle (presumed to be Bridge Street because of its distinctive curve), with another terrace of buildings on 'Church Street', on the northern side of the castle. This is likely to be the equivalent of 'Saint Mary's Street', illustrated by Wood on his 1834 map of Cardigan, as shown in Figure 4.

Comparison between Speed's and Wood's maps suggest that, despite the castle site being largely neglected, the town itself continued to flourish, with substantial amounts of buildings constructed during the 18th and early 19th centuries. Although largely ruinous, parts of the castle building continued to be used by Cardigan town for administrative purposes, and also as a prison. Parts of it also seem to have been retained as a residence, and had a variety of private owners during the 17th and 18th centuries. Sir John Lewis of Coedmore acquired the site in 1633, and in 1673 it was recorded as the home of Abel Griffiths, a church warden in Cardigan, who rented it from the Parry family. In 1713 the ground within the castle underwent its first landscaping when the then mayor, Lewis Price, had the grounds sculpted to create a bowling green, from whence the name 'Castle Green' was first applied to the site, with the estate open to the public. An engraving of the castle (Figure 2) is a copy of an earlier 18th century drawing made in 1741 by brothers Samuel and Nathaniel Buck, which details what appear to be timber roofed buildings lying behind the East Tower.



Figure 4. The survey area as depicted on Wood's map of 1834.

The first mention of a 'Castle House' was in 1799, when John Bowen was leasing it to Thomas Colby. Bowen had purchased the site in 1785, although it is likely that this residence was demolished to make way for what later became 'Castle Green House' in the 19th century. As shown on Wood's map, by 1834 there were a number of properties along the northeast side of the castle (Carriers Lane/The Strand), as well as additional properties behind the original Bridge Street frontage, including those flanking the entrance to site on its western side (what is today Green Villas and Ty Castell). There was also another change in the fortunes of the castle site at the beginning of the 19th century, when the site was greatly remodelled by John Bowen, who further landscaped the grounds and built the first phase of what is now Castle Green House, thus beginning another chapter in the life of Cardigan Castle.

Between 1808 and 1828 the site of the castle was intensively developed. Castle Green House, initially of Georgian style, was built within the castle yard and incorporated the North Tower into its fabric: Meyrick noted that

'The castle and the ground contained within its outer walls (called the Castle-green)...now belongs to John Bowen, Esq. who is erecting a house on the site of the keep, the dungeons now serving as his cellars.'

A survey of the house commissioned by Ceredigion District Council in 1988 and conducted by Ove Arup and Partners in 1990, suggested that the rectangular east annexe, which incorporated the dungeons of the North Tower as cellars within its build, represents the extent of the house as built by Bowen. Considerable landscaping of the grounds also took place to the front and rear of the new house, to the extent that the second stage of the medieval North Tower is now at ground level. An additional storey was probably added to the tower in 1827. Various garden features were also established during the first half of the 19th century. These included a hothouse and a fernery, a large lawned area with defined walkways to the front of the house and compartmented gardens to the rear. In 1811 the south side of the castle was recorded by Carlisle in his *Topographical Dictionary*, in which he described 'the wall between the two towers being lowered and the Green sloped down so as to form a hanging Garden'. It is likely that the Turkey oak, now an immense tree standing at the top of the slope to the Hanging Garden behind the North-east Bastion, was also planted by Bowen at this time. Bowen died in 1815, but is credited as having converted the outer ward of the ruined castle 'into a verdant lawn, tastefully disposed in pastures'.

In 1828 the site was sold to Arthur Jones, then High Sheriff of Ceredigion, who added the square-built Regency façade that gives Castle Green house its distinctive appearance today. This additional frontage also further incorporated the North Tower into its fabric, but the foundations for this build were at a much shallower depth than those for the earlier east annex, which had been built at a similar level to that of the North Tower, on lower ground prior to the 19th century landscaping. Mr Jones also commissioned the building of an additional wing, which is probably that seen on the west side of the house, abutting the medieval North Tower. The large Stables complex and the Gardener's Cottage are also likely to have been constructed during his ownership of the property, between 1828 and 1836, before the estate was then sold to David Davies Esq., a local merchant who became mayor of Cardigan in 1844.

The Castle Green estate remained in private hands for the remainder of the 19th century, and there appears to have been little change to the site during this period.

During the first half of the 19th century, when the site of the castle was being extensively altered into the Castle Green estate, cartographic sources for the immediate environs of the castle show the construction of additional cottages on the west, south-west and southerly edge of the castle. These were built sometime between 1834 when Wood's map was published (Figure 4) and the Tithe map of 1846 (Figure 5). The 1st edition 25" Ordnance Survey map, published in 1890, is the first to show the extant remains of the medieval castle and their relationship to the landscaped grounds of Castle Green House. The map shows the North East Bastion, Wall and East Tower as a continuous build, with the medieval curtain wall then disappearing until it is depicted again on the south side of the castle along with the South East Tower (as shown on Figure 6, with these areas shaded magenta). The map also clearly shows five dwellings and one public house built against the curtain wall on the south side of the castle, as well as the established planting of a screen of trees against the south curtain wall inside its boundary. The area of the Hanging Garden referred to by Carlisle in 1811 is also depicted in detail, and appears to substantiate his reports that the curtain wall was indeed lowered during its construction, with the bold line indicating the top of the slope.

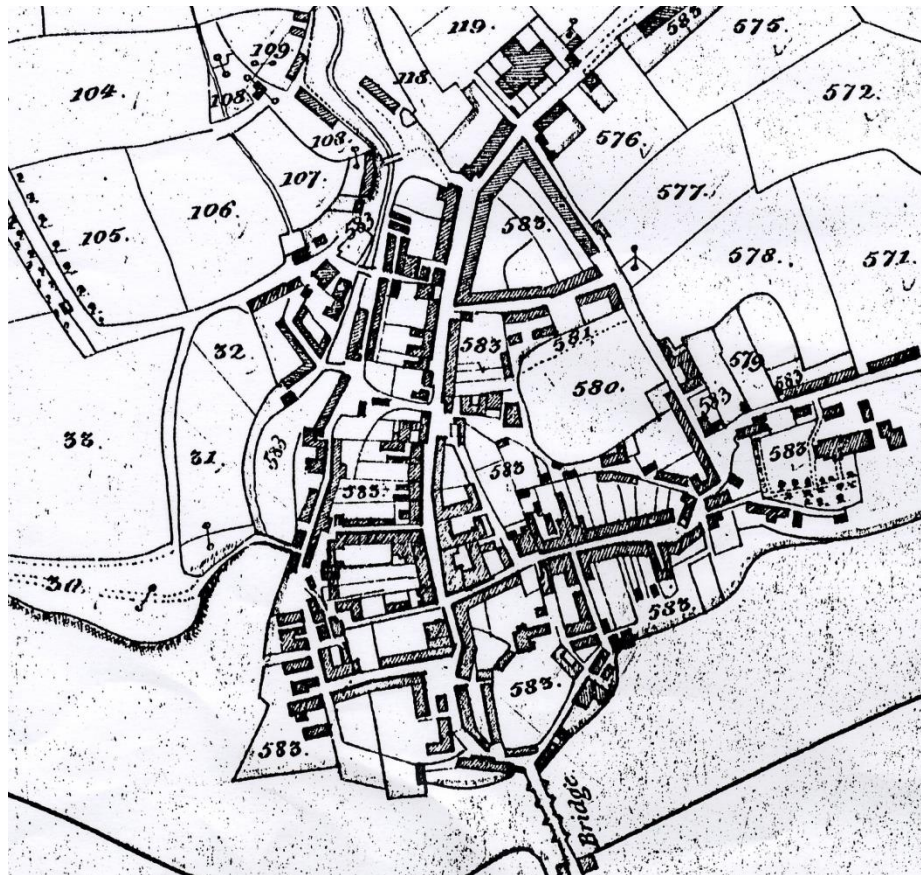


Figure 5. Tithe Map for Cardigan (1846)

Many of the other historical garden features are also depicted in detail on the 1st Edition map. Both the fernery and the hothouse are marked as cross-hatched areas to the south-west of the house, denoting them as glazed structures located on the western edge of the Castle Green estate. An additional structure is shown next to the fernery, although this has disappeared by the time of the 1906 2nd Edition 25" map. The Turkey oak is shown as a mature tree in 1888, when the planting in the Hanging Garden is also shown as well-established. The layout of the kitchen garden to the rear of the house is also depicted in detail, clearly showing the interlinking pathways leading from the rear of the Gardener's Cottage. The walkway through the Hanging Garden is also recorded, suggesting a circuit which had a gentle descent down-slope in the northern portion of the garden, which then followed the bottom of the slope before a sharper ascent was made to rejoin the curtain wall walk at the South East Tower. The plate showing the front of Castle Green House in 1872 (Figure 7) adds a further dimension to the cartographic evidence for the historic garden features: the glass hothouse is pictured, as are the lawns and pathways, with well-established shrubberies, popular in the Victorian period, also depicted.

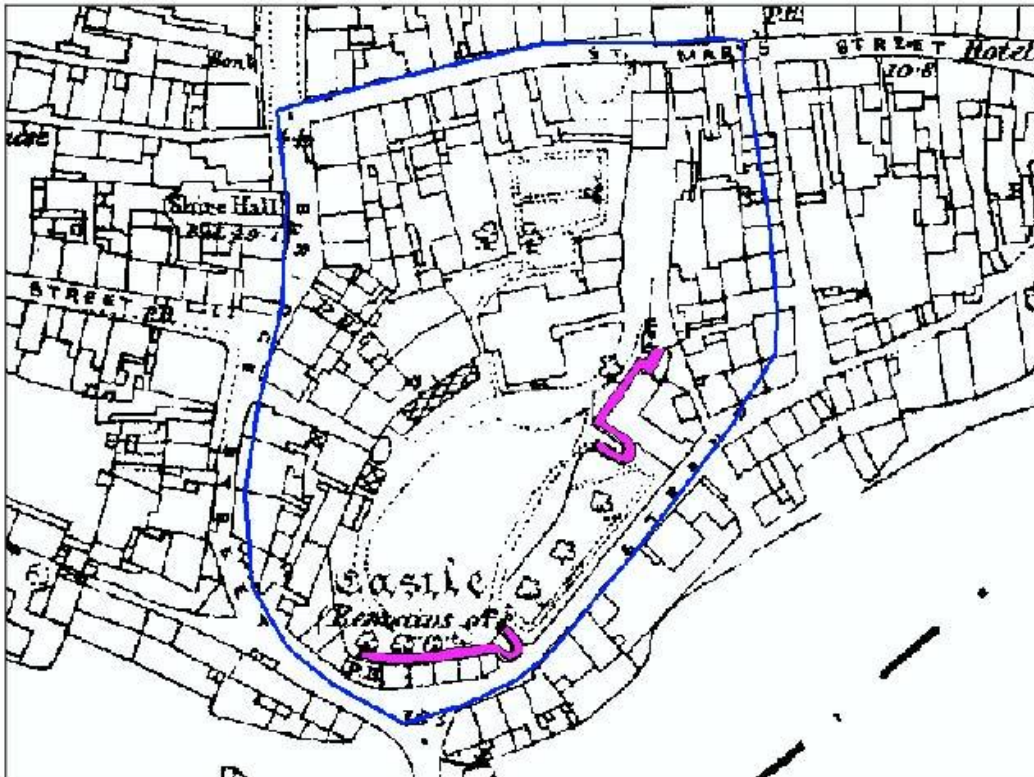


Figure 6. 1st Edition 25" Ordnance Survey Map (surveyed 1888, published 1890)

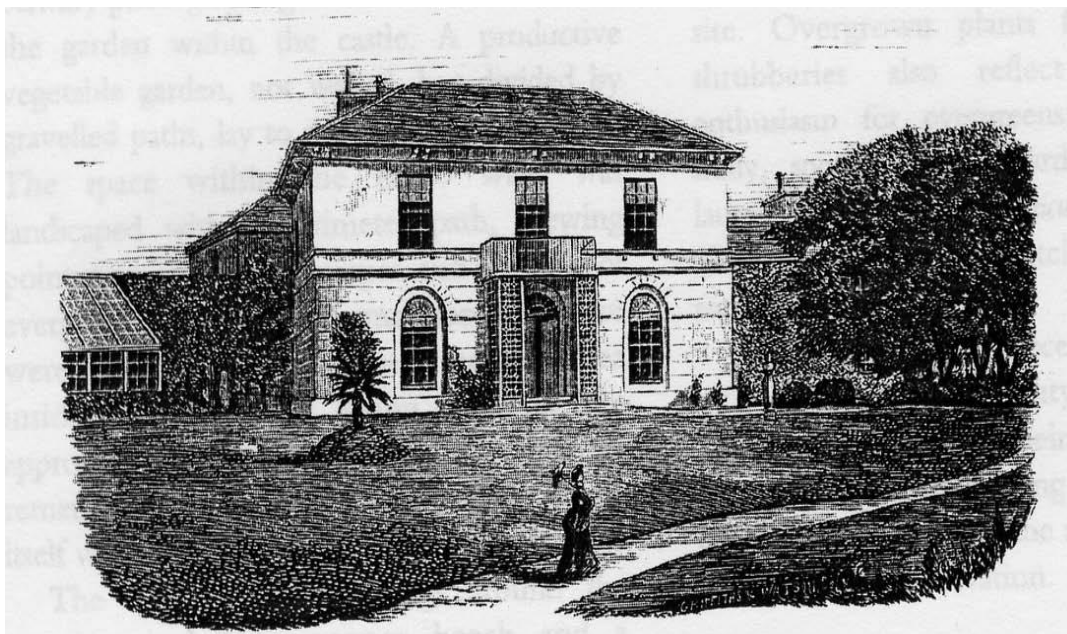


Figure 7. Castle Green House as depicted in an engraving by Nicholas (1872)

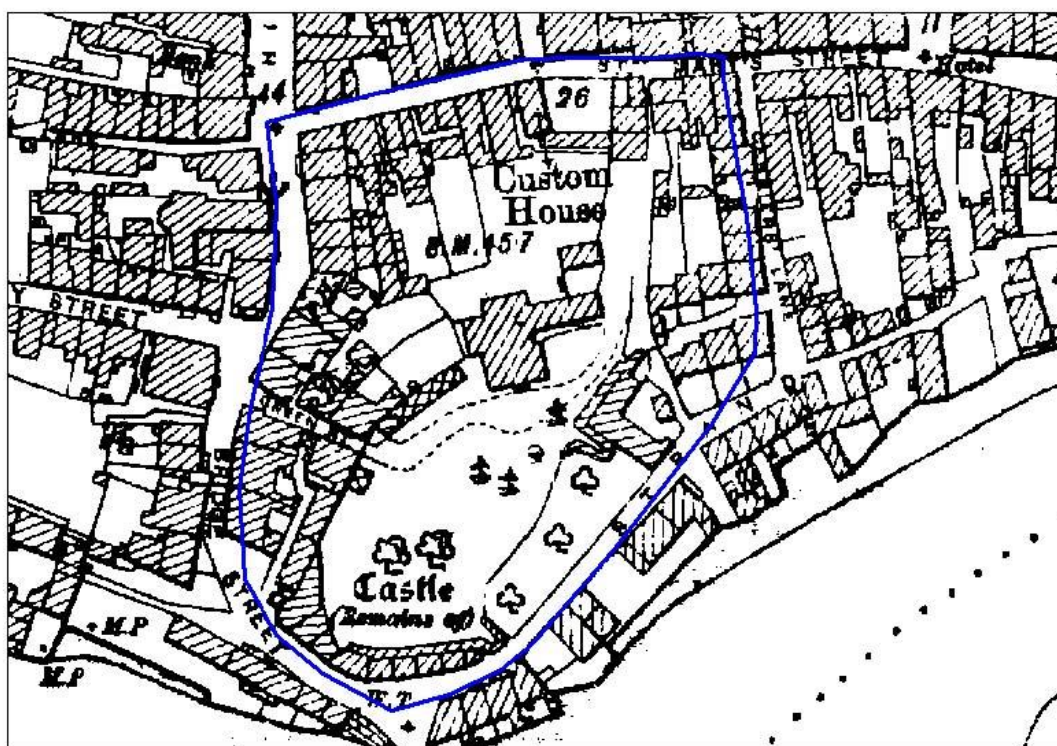


Figure 8. The 2nd Edition 25" Ordnance Survey Map (1906)

The 2nd Edition 25" Ordnance Survey map, published in 1906 (Figure 8), gives a clearer impression of the extent of the built structures within and around the castle site, although comparisons between this and the 1st Edition map suggest that few

further structural development had taken place within the castle site or its immediate environs in the intervening few years between their publication. The only noticeable change is the removal of the structure depicted adjacent to the fernery on the earlier map as noted above, and with less detail shown of the garden layout in general.

The Castle Green estate remained in the Davies family until 1923, when it was sold to Cardigan auctioneer John Evans. During the 1920s, a new period of aggrandisement began, which saw considerable changes made to the castle site and its environs. One major change was the acquisition by John Evans of a substantial part of the land adjoining Carriers' Lane, which saw the cottages there demolished and the land incorporated into the Castle Green estate as additional gardens to the east of the Carriageway. Crenellated boundary walls enclosing the new areas were constructed, and it is likely that a set of false crenellations were also added to the castle walls at the same time. The walls retaining the Hanging Garden are also attributed with a 20th century date and may have been rebuilt at the same time as the walls retaining the additional gardens were constructed. It was also during this period that the fernery and hothouse were dismantled, with the latter replaced by a lily pond and Italianate garden. A tennis court is also said to have been established on the front lawn. Outside the castle walls on the southern and western sides, a number of the 19th century cottages were also demolished during the widening of Bridge Street. This work saw the demolition of part of Green Street, the Bridge Street frontage and all the properties abutting the walls of the castle on its south side. Today the gable ends of the houses formerly built against this south side of the castle site are visible in render patterns on the wall fronting the road, demonstrating that these houses were built right up to the wall itself, and lent a certain buttress support to the curtain wall, which was lost when they were demolished. A portion of land immediately to the west of Castle Green House, lying behind the high wall dividing it from the former hothouse, had also been brought into the Castle Green estate by this time, and made into a croquet lawn.

The house and grounds fell into a state of neglect during the last private possession of the site by the Wood family, which spanned 1940 to 2003, when the Cardigan Castle site was brought back into public ownership. During the Second World War the East wing of Castle Green House was requisitioned by the War Office, and a concrete pill box was erected in the grounds to guard the fine five-arched bridge which crosses the Teifi immediately below the castle walls to the south. In 1974 the large steel raking shores and concrete haunches around the perimeter walls of the castle on its southern side were erected as a precaution against any possible masonry collapse during piling works for the construction of a new footbridge over the river. In 1984, Castle Green House was declared unfit for human habitation, and the then owner, Miss Wood, moved into a caravan in the heavily overgrown grounds.

CARDIGAN CASTLE TODAY

In spite of the current state of the site as a whole, and the dilapidated condition of the curtain wall and the steel buttresses, the appearance of Cardigan Castle from the south today remains substantial and impressive.

The current Cardigan Castle site is bounded on its southern and western sides by tall masonry revetment walls, between 4 and 8m in height, against which three steel buttresses currently stand. The area of the Hanging Garden to the southeast consists of a sloping area of overgrown planting which is retained along The Strand by a 2m high masonry wall of 20th century date (probably dating to the 1920s). The rear service entrance to the Castle Green estate is located to the east of the Hanging Gardens and consists of a 3m wide ornate gate flanked by two square pillars situated adjacent to a dilapidated stable block, above which looms the East Tower and North East Bastion. Today this entrance is boarded up at its opening onto Carriers' Lane/The Strand and there is currently no access to the site from here. The Carriageway, with its hairpin bend, leads round to the front of the Regency house, although the main, and once grand, entrance to the estate is located on its western edge and comprises an ornate rounded gateway, located along a narrow passage between Ty Castell and 1 and 2 Green Villas (the sole remnants of what was once Green Street). To the west and north-west the site is bounded by the properties on Bridge Street/High Street, whilst to the east the 20th century walls retaining the additional gardens along Carriers' Lane/The Strand mark the extent of the property on this side. Domestic gardens belonging to the properties on St Mary's Street delimit the extent of the current site to the north. A single wrought iron gate between The Old Stables and 43 St Mary Street provides a third pedestrian entrance to the property by way of a small narrow passage, which leads up to the Coach House/Garages at the northern end of the Carriageway.



Figure 9 Aerial photograph of the survey area in 1946

THE KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

Very little archaeological work has been conducted in the area in and around Cardigan Castle, and as such little is known about its exact structure and extent, with most theories about the northern portion of the castle, at least, based on conjecture. Documentary evidence from the 13th century onwards gives clues as to some of the structural elements of the castle and surrounding town, such as the 'keep' or 'Great Round Tower' built by Robert Waleran in 1250, and the walls put up at the same date as fortifications surrounding the fledgling town. In 1275 the castle structures were said to include 'a good Great Tower', 'a competent hall with a room', and also a kitchen and stable. A new tower was hurriedly completed in 1321 in fear of a baronial revolt, after Edward II ordered the 'Chamberlain to complete a turret recently begun in the angle of the wall, and also a small wooden door in the same wall'. It is possible that this might refer to a tower once located at the southwest corner of the site, where there is indeed an angle in the wall, with the possibility of a postern gate where the town wall once joined the castle. Today none of these features are visible above ground. A survey of the dilapidated state of the castle in 1343 recorded a number of buildings within the castle confines. This survey, commissioned for the Black Prince, mentions bakeries, a kitchen, a larder, and two rooms on either side of the Great Gate in which there were defects and repairs needed. A hall, garderobe, pantry, vitull and another room were all recorded as being under one roof, and are assumed to refer to the East Tower. Other structures mentioned included another room, the garret of the Great Tower, a tower adjoined to the Great Tower (called the Prison Tower), the bridge of the Great Gate and the Castle Chapel. Following the Glyndwr rising in 1410 a new tower was also built, as well as a hall and chambers within the castle, in addition to a stable. Documents recording repairs to the castle between 1428 and 1430 make reference to 'the King's Stable', 'the exchequer over the gate', 'the exchequer ward', 'the Chamberlain's stable', 'the Justiciar's room', as well as the kitchen, Great Tower, hall, larder, and garden. However there are no plans of these features, or indications of how they may have related to the little that survives of the medieval masonry today.

There are few clues in attempts to reconstruct visually how Cardigan Castle might have looked. Speed's illustration in 1610 (Figure 3), despite its use of artistic licence, suggests a gate tower at the south-west corner of the castle (perhaps the suspected, although no longer visible, South West Bastion), with a separate gateway attached to the tower forming an entrance into the medieval town within the town wall (the possible postern?). He also shows two further towers in addition to the half-tumbled 'Great Round Tower' (assumed to be the North Tower), which Speed inaccurately depicts as standing alone inside the castle yard. One tower is depicted in the northwestern corner of the castle site and may represent the possible gatehouse. Another tower is clearly shown on the castle's southeastern side, which has two smaller towers attached (possibly representing the South East Tower, the East Tower and the North East Bastion). He also details crenellated walls linking the three. Although Speed's depiction of the North Tower is askew and cannot be wholly trusted, the care taken in depicting the main round tower as half-tumbled does indicate that his portrayal of three other main towers should not be entirely dismissed, even though they are drawn as square rather than round. Despite the caution warned by other authors, a closer inspection of Speed's illustration suggests that he does indeed capture the main structures of the castle as documented in the 14th and 15th centuries, and noted above.

Another interesting feature of the map produced by Speed lies within his depiction of

the extent of Cardigan town at the beginning of the 17th century, especially that immediately surrounding the castle. Speed depicts a number of properties on the perimeter of the castle on its northern and western sides, which is the area currently occupied by the Bridge Street frontage, Nos. 35-39 High Street and Upper St Mary's Street. Although not to scale, he nonetheless clearly depicts a continuous pattern of houses/shops following the distinctive curve of Bridge Street around the castle on its western side, leading north into the High Street and turning east onto St Mary's Street (which he annotates as 'Church Street'). This distinctive band of development, and especially the curve on Bridge Street, remained the same until the 1920s, when Bridge Street was widened and the properties fronting this part of Bridge Street were demolished. However, the distinctive shape of this area of settlement immediately outside the castle must surely have been a direct response to the extent of the fortifications pertaining to the castle on this western and northwestern side. Even though there are no longer any visible surface indications of the medieval castle structure on its western and northern sides, this pattern of settlement evidence can potentially be explained by what has been discovered through the limited archaeological excavations carried out on the castle site and its environs. These archaeological interventions are discussed in more detail below, but it is pertinent to note here that excavations at 1 and 2 Green Villas in 2003 recovered the potential remains of the 13th century gatehouse associated with the castle, as well as the inner line of a defensive ditch first recorded in 1984 during excavations in the area of the kitchen garden and croquet lawn. This ditch, into which the North Tower is also built, was found to be 7m wide and associated with a 7m wide counterscarp bank. Both features would appear to skirt the perimeter of the castle on its northern and western sides: if there was indeed a gatehouse in the area now overlain by Green Villas and the Main Gate into the Castle Green estate, then a continuation of the defensive ditch and bank around this gatehouse and as far as the southwest bastion would account for the bulge in the Bridge Street Frontage. In other words, the settlement pattern observable on Speed's 1610 map, with its origins in the medieval period, had changed little by the time Wood's map was published in 1834, and was dictated entirely by the extent of the 14m wide bank and ditch surrounding the castle on this north and western side. Eventually these features were gradually levelled and filled (the likely result of both rubbish deposition associated with the urban town and the collapse of the curtain wall as the castle went into decline), and were later built on in the 19th century.

The engraving of Cardigan Castle reproduced in Figure 2 dates to the turn of the 19th century, but appears to be based on an earlier drawing made by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck in 1741, now housed within the National Library of Wales. The picture clearly shows the impressive south and east-facing façades of the castle, with the South East and East Towers as dominant structures, and the East Tower sporting angle spur buttresses, which must be now buried within the area of the Hanging Garden. These angle spur buttresses bear similarities with those forming the fabric of the North Tower, and suggests that these builds are contemporaneous, and most likely date to the mid-thirteenth century, when expenditure on the castle was recorded in 1250 and 1261 for the building and raising of a stone keep (the North Tower) under Waleran. The snapshot of the castle as it stood in 1741 also shows that the curtain wall between the two visible towers had already been demolished (or had collapsed), possibly one of the acts of deliberate ruination of the castle's defences at the end of the Civil War, and moreover illustrates what appear to be two vaulted undercrofts within the castle yard. There also appear to be some timber-roofed buildings lying behind the East Tower within the ward, with the North East Bastion also visible further round the river.

Today there are few visible remains of the original medieval town and castle walls, with the exception of some fabric linking the East Tower and North East Bastion, against which part of the stables are constructed, although the line of the scarp extending beyond the bastion possibly indicates the original line of the medieval town wall to the north. This wall would have encircled the town, rejoining the castle at the corner of the South bastion, where there was most likely to have been an additional tower on the southwest side of the castle compound. Of the castle structure itself, visible remains include part of the North Tower, and the two curtain towers, but it appears that much of the original castle and any archaeological deposits within the castle yard were either destroyed or buried when Castle Green House was built in the early 19th century and the grounds heavily landscaped. The site and form of the castle gate is not known, although it has been suggested that the present entrance to the castle grounds and Green Villas may overlie the original medieval gateway to the castle.

The collapse of a 10m long strip in the southwestern portion of the castle wall just in December 1984 revealed that this section was of post-medieval date. The piecemeal post-medieval rebuilding of the wall along the south-western side was most likely to be the result of previous collapses, due to the great internal pressure from inside the castle, where the interior ground level was anything up to 10m higher. A structural survey undertaken by Ove Arup (1991) demonstrated that the whole of the extant castle wall on the west and south side is post medieval date, mostly early 19th century and built during landscaping of the grounds. The original medieval curtain wall would have been located on the top of a low cliff and has now been demolished and/or buried. Meanwhile, on the northwest side of the site the 1830 wall separating the croquet lawn from the hothouse/lily pond is likely to run largely on the course of the early medieval curtain, which would have joined the North Tower with the castle gate.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS

The first, and only, archaeological excavation undertaken within the grounds of the castle site was conducted in 1984 by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, with the aim of establishing the extent and nature of the archaeological deposits within the castle, and to answer some specific questions concerning the lines and courses of walls not apparent from surface evidence. Although no features pre-dating the mid-13th century rebuilding of the castle were recognised, to the north of the North Tower a defensive ditch, counterscarp bank and occupation layers were discovered, which are likely to be contemporary with the castle structures begun by Marshal in 1241 and continued by Waleran in 1250. Excavation here showed that both the bank and ditch were at least 7m wide, with the bank surviving to a height of 1.2m, although it was probably originally over 2m tall. The fact that there were no surface indications for either the massive back-filled ditch or bank prior to the dig shows the considerable landscaping and levelling of the site during the 19th century. This area to the north of the North Tower may also have formed part of the castle prior to its reconstruction in the mid-13th century, perhaps functioning as a secondary or outer bailey to the 12th century castle.

The steep drop on the northern side into St Mary's Street would have presented a suitable line for a defensive circuit. The occupation layers may equally represent domestic activity associated with buildings within the fledgling medieval town. Either way, this area, which lies currently beneath the Kitchen Garden, has a high archaeological potential to contain evidence for the early history of the castle and town, particularly within those layers beneath the counterscarp bank. The line of the defensive ditch was also found on the northwest side of the castle within an area excavated on the Croquet Lawn. In all, 17 1m wide trenches were excavated in 1984 in scattered locations within the castle site, with deposits anything from 0.3m to 2m in depth below the current ground surface. It is suggested in the excavation report that the original topography within the castle yard was a low dome-shaped hill, truncated with the landscaping of the grounds, and which would account for the lack of archaeological deposits in the middle of the area. The 1984 excavations also suggested that the area in the eastern corner of the castle and enclaves around the southern circuit of the curtain wall would also contain stratified deposits from the castle's beginnings, and therefore as such must be assumed to have a high archaeological potential.

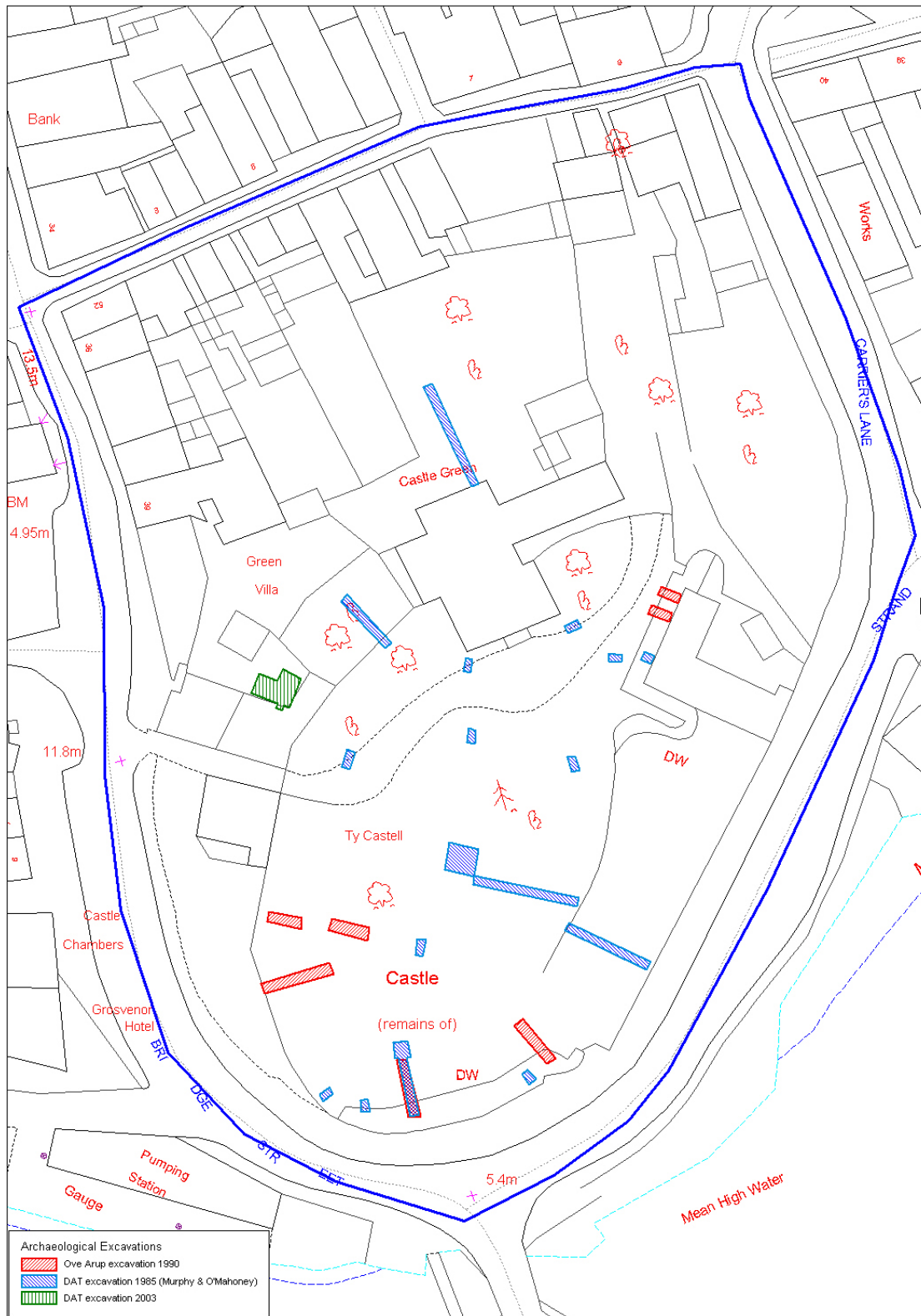


Figure 10 Location of areas excavated within the study are, up to 2010

In 1991, Ove Arup and Partners, consulting engineers, produced a structural condition survey of the curtain walls, towers and domestic premises of the Cardigan Castle site, on behalf of Ceredigion District Council. A geotechnical site investigation also took place as part of the commission, with the aim of examining the back faces of the external curtain walls and the considerable thickness of fill that had accumulated behind them. Seven engineering trial pits were machine excavated, located where possible over the earlier trenches dug by DAT in 1984. These pits were c.1.5m wide and it is stated in the report to a maximum depth of 4.2m below ground level. This is incorrect, as some of the trenches excavated against the retaining wall were 9m-10m deep. The main archaeological features were found within Pit 2 and Pits 5.1 and 5.2 and were less than 1.5m below ground level. Within Pit 2, located up to the South East Wall, the remains of the medieval curtain wall were discovered on the top of a low cliff. Thin slabs of slate stepped to form an arrow slot were also recovered. The medieval curtain wall was clearly positioned at the crest of the slope so as to utilise the natural rocky outcrop. The later (19th century) retaining wall may have been built to retain the medieval wall after a partial collapse or decay in its structure. The position of the arrow slit was also taken to suggest an original internal ground level some depth below the trial pit exposed surface, and in keeping with the levels of the North Tower. Within Pits 5.1 and 5.2, both located up to the Wall linking the East tower with the North East Bastion, 18th century building debris was recovered, including two lumps of lime render from a stud or lath-and-timber framed structure and two fragments of decorated ridge tile. These finds fit the timber-framed, roofed structures depicted on the 1741 Buck print of Cardigan Castle located behind the East Tower and wall.

In 2003, following the acquisition of Nos. 1 and 2 Green Villas by Ceredigion County Council, there followed an opportunity to excavate a small area within their rear yards to assess the potential for surviving remains associated with the medieval castle. The excavations revealed the first structural evidence of the west side of the medieval castle, and also appeared to confirm the line of the defensive ditch first discovered by DAT in 1984. The massive medieval masonry structure discovered may have been part of a putative gatehouse in this location. Certainly, this wall, like the North Tower, projected into the ditch and was clearly part of the defensive outer circuit of the castle, and may be contemporary with the construction of the North Tower. Historical accounts of the castle talk of a 'Great Gate', although this is first mentioned in the 1343 survey, with a bridge also reported in association with it. Unfortunately the excavations were too small-scale to identify any further features, but it does indicate that the area as a whole around Green Villas might overlie significant archaeological deposits relating to the little-known structure of the northwestern side of Cardigan Castle.

CHARACTER ELEMENTS

The survey area has been divided into 29 separate Character Elements, and these are illustrated in Figure 11. Figures 12 and 13 accompany this section of the report.

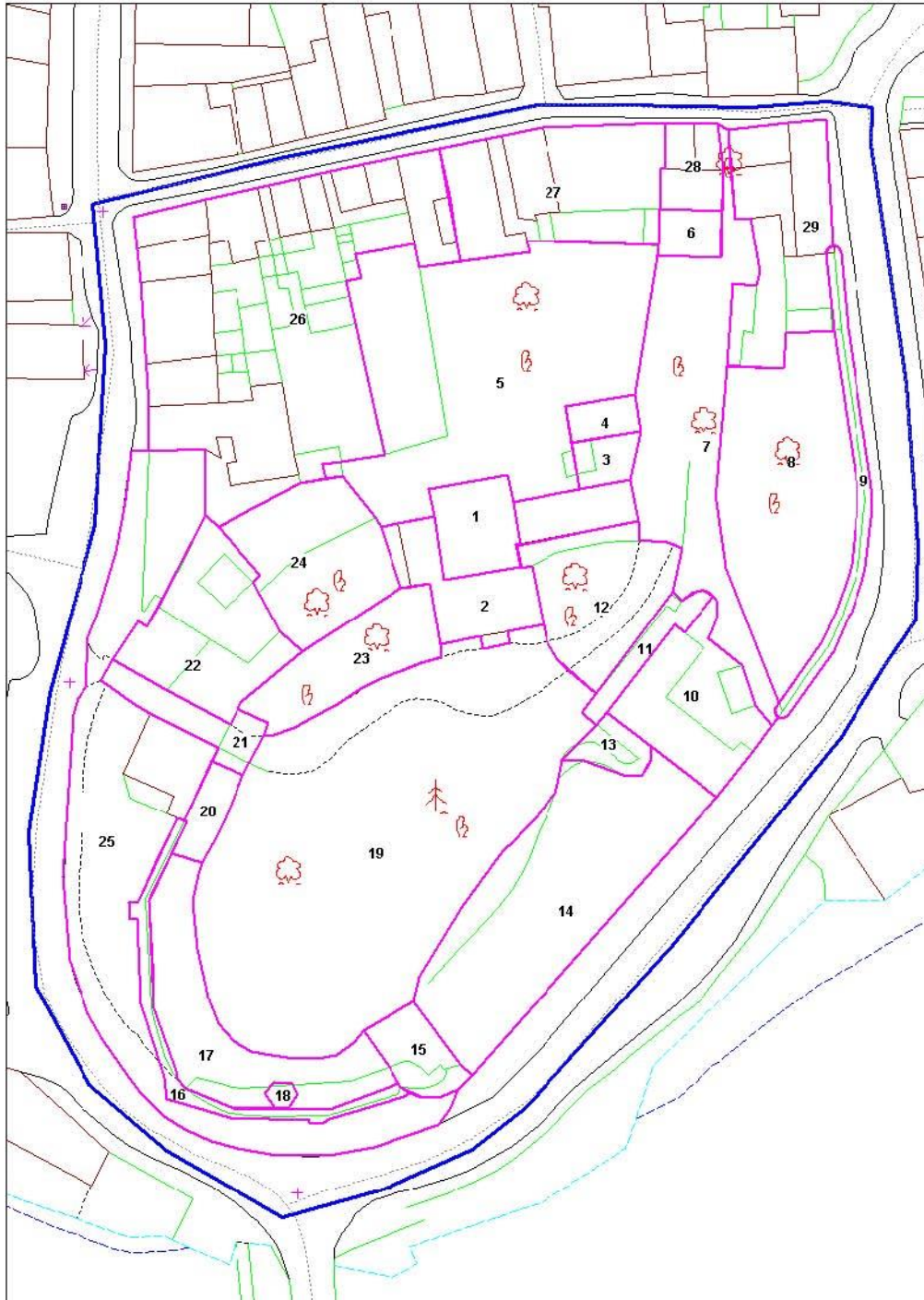


Figure 11. Locations of the various Character Elements identified within the survey area

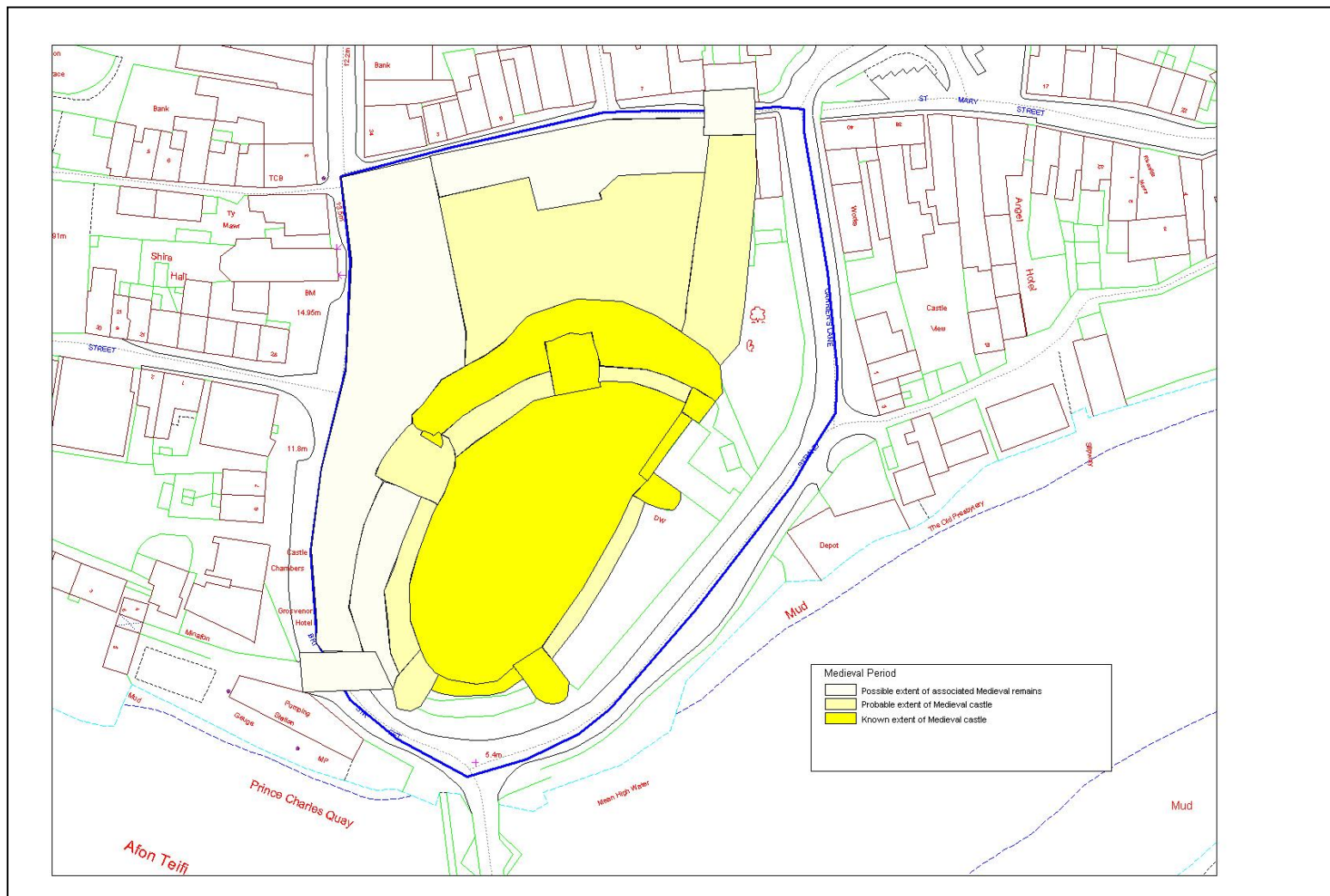


Figure 12. Extent of the Medieval Castle and associated remains.

1. The North Tower

One of the few surviving portions of medieval masonry from the original stone-built castle, the three-storey North Tower is now incorporated into the 19th century Castle Green House. Originally this would have been an imposing tower, and is likely to be the 'Great Round Tower' or 'Great Watch Tower' mentioned in historical references to the site. Currently the tower is under scaffold. The basement of the tower is rectangular, with part of its foundations lying on bedrock. Within the basement, which is almost completely buried outside by an artificially raised ground level, there are three arrow slits: the eastern one enlarged for access, the northern one adapted as a coal chute, and the western one just visible above the surrounding garden soil (see Photo 1).

The 'dungeons' of the North Tower were incorporated into the Georgian house built by Bowen in 1810 and re-used as a fruit and wine cellar. When the Regency frontage was added in 1834 the south side of the tower was also incorporated into the new house, with the first floor of the tower re-used as a kitchen on the ground floor of Castle Green House. Above the kitchen a first-floor bedroom (the Rainbow Room) has made use of the top storey of the medieval tower, although the stonework demonstrates some 19th century rebuild.

The foundations of the earlier east annexe and the North Tower are both some 3m below those of the Regency frontage. Massive pyramidal buttresses taper from the base of the North Tower to join the circular tower at second storey level. A large proportion of these buttresses are currently buried beneath the ground level, which was raised during the 19th century landscaping of the castle site. The North Tower was almost certainly part of the defensive circuit of the medieval castle, and not a free-standing keep as depicted by Speed in 1610. It is thought that these buttresses extend down to the bottom of a defensive ditch, which was found during excavation in 1984 encircling the castle perimeter on its northern side.



Photo 1 Submerged arrow slit on the west side of the North Tower

2. Castle Green House

The current Castle Green House comprises a substantial Regency period property, which was built in two phases during the first part of the 19th century. The east annexe is thought to be the earlier of the two, with Meyrick noting in 1808 that '...John Bowen Esq... is erecting a house on the site of the keep, the dungeons now serving as his cellars'. Bowen died in 1815 but is attributed with the large-scale landscaping of the grounds, which re-modelled substantial parts of the original castle site, destroying significant archaeological deposits in the process. In 1827 the house as it was then was bought by Arthur Jones, a solicitor and High Sheriff of Cardiganshire, who added the Regency front range which characterises the house today. Jones also ordered the building of the substantial stable block, as well as the Gardener's Cottage.



Photo 2a Front of Castle Green House c.1990 (from <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/programmes/restoration/gallery/?9>)

The house is currently boarded up and largely behind scaffold. Some of the impressive architectural features are still visible, such as the large round arched windows on the south elevation flanking the entrance porch, with its surrounding wooden trelliswork, above which stands an ornate wrought iron balustrade. At the rear of the property the ground floor of the east annexe is partly submerged by the current ground level of the Kitchen Garden.

Details of the interior of the house are beyond the scope of this report: a detailed condition survey was undertaken by Ove Arup and Partners in 1990, which contains elevation drawings and descriptions of the architectural features within the house. An earlier survey was also made in January 1987 by Adam Greenland and Glen Johnson of 'Cardigan Castle Volunteers', a copy of which is held in the NMR, Aberystwyth, and contains a floor-plan of the rooms.



Photo 2b Rear of Castle Green House c.1990 (from <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/programmes/restoration/gallery/?9>)



Photo 2c Front of Castle Green House today

The Dairy

An entrance off the Carriageway gives access to the servant's quarters in the rear of the East Wing, with a courtyard area linking the main house to the Gardener's Cottage. Within the courtyard there is an outside toilet, and two roofed storage areas, one housing a deep slate trough, and a long slate work/cool bench. It is believed that at one time this area was used as a dairy, and certainly the 3m long slate bench could have been used for this purpose. The courtyard itself has a flagstone floor. It is clear that this area functioned as a 'tradesman's entrance' serving the main house. There is a doorway into the east wing in one corner (the former butler's quarters), whilst the door to the Gardener's Cottage opens onto the courtyard on its northern side. Within the central roofed storage area there is also the remains of a doorway leading into the rear Kitchen Garden.



Photo 3a View of the entrance to the courtyard and the slate bench



Photo 3b View of the courtyard from the entrance, looking west

4. The Gardener's Cottage

The doorway into the cottage was accessed via the tradesman's entrance and courtyard mentioned above. The cottage is currently derelict and overgrown, and was apparently abandoned in 1954. It is a detached cottage, attached to the main house via enclosure walls, and appears to have been built during Jones' ownership of Castle Green House sometime after 1827, but certainly before 1834, as the cottage clearly appears on Wood's map with an attached small shed (located within the Dairy).



Photo 4a Rear of Gardener's Cottage



Photo 4b North elevation of Gardener's Cottage

5. The Kitchen Garden

Revetment walls flank a low passage-like entrance into the Kitchen Garden, which is entered through a grand opening in the enclosing modern curtain wall, accessed along the Carriageway. These gardens were originally planted with fruit trees, soft fruit and vegetables, in an area located to the rear of the main Castle Green mansion. Pathways ran through the various compartments and are first shown on the 1st Edition OS 25" map published in 1890. Some of these pathway elements are still visible today by way of their slate borders. The area today is largely overgrown, although there has been some recent clearance work. An additional plot of land on the west side of the garden was brought into the Castle Green estate sometime after Wood's map of 1834 and before the 1st Edition 25" map.



Photo 5. Remnants of pathways within the Kitchen Garden

The level of earth within this area has been artificially raised and is evidenced by the depth to which the North Tower, the East annexe of the main house and the Gardener's Cottage are partly submerged. Beneath the area of the kitchen garden are the likely remains of the secondary bailey of the early medieval castle, and excavations in 1984 also recovered evidence of a substantial defensive ditch and bank associated certainly with the mid-13th century North Tower.

The area of the kitchen garden to the north is bounded by the rear of the properties along Upper St Mary's Street, such as the Customs House (Area 27) and those forming Area 26, which also delimit the extent of the gardens on their west side. Against the south-facing rear wall towards the corner of the gardens are the 1m high remains of an area of brick walling, which are taken indicate the site of a former greenhouse. In a small corner of the gardens to the northwest of the North Tower and behind the Croquet Lawn a pathway leads to a small, derelict building, possibly some kind of shed.

6. The Garages (former Coach House)

A derelict double garage in a state of collapse is located at the northern end of the Carriageway (Area 7) and behind The Old Stables (Area 28). A pedestrian entrance through an ornate wrought iron gate on St Mary's Street leads up to the garages by way of a short narrow passage between The Old Stables and 43 St Mary's Street (part of Area 29), which was the later dwelling of the Castle Green gardener, whose duties also included that of chauffeur.

Within the dilapidated garages can just be seen the remains of two cars (an Armstrong-Siddeley and a Morris 8), onto which the garage roof has now collapsed. A small slate trough stands just outside the garages against the Kitchen Garden wall. An ornate wrought iron fence separates 43 St Mary's Street from the other properties in Area 29 and demarcates the boundary of the Castle Green estate in this area, eventually linking up with the crenellated Victorian wall separating the Carriageway from the Additional Gardens (Area 8). The garages, which re-used the former coach-house, came into use in the early 20th century, and the remains of a fireplace is still visible.



Photo 6 View of the derelict garages

7. The Carriageway

This area comprises a number of elements and was the 'rear' 19th century entrance into the Castle Green estate.

A service driveway with a hairpin bend leads up from an entrance accessed through gated piers opening just after the Stables (Area 10) via The Strand. On its east side the Carriageway is bounded by a crenellated wall of 19th century build, which separates the drive from what is now the Additional Gardens (Area 8), but which was originally an area of cottages outside of the Castle Green estate.

On its western side the Carriageway is bounded partly by the North-east Bastion (Area 11) and a battered dry-stone revetment wall against the steep, rocky slope. In this area and built into the outer side of the wall is a circular, stone-lined well of unknown date, but which may be contemporary with the medieval castle. The hairpin bend, which swings sharply to south, is located to the rear of the Gardener's Cottage (Area 4), and leads onto the main forecourt at the front of the main house.

The slope that the hairpin bend negotiates is the likely course of the medieval town wall, which can be projected back along the Carriageway to the north towards the Garages (Area 6) and The Old Stables (Area 28). Within the crenellated wall on the east side of the driveway there is a small, gated entrance, which gives access to the top of the Additional Gardens.



Photo 7a View of the Carriageway showing the hairpin bend and the rear of the Gardener's Cottage



Photo 7b View showing the 19th century crenellated wall and entrance to the Additional Gardens



Photo 7c Entrance gate and stone piers to the Carriageway

8. Additional gardens

When the Castle Green House and estate were first established this area was filled with cottages, possible also of 19th century date or earlier, which largely fronted onto, or were accessed by, Carriers' Lane. During the 1920s, presumably at the same time as Bridge Street was being widened, these cottages fronting Carriers' Lane were demolished, and the roadway enlarged. The remaining land was brought into the Castle Green estate as additional gardens, and a modern crenellated wall built to retain the sloping ground, matching the earlier 19th century walls along the Carriageway – although this wall may lie on the line of the medieval town wall, even incorporating medieval elements in it.

The gardens, which are currently largely overgrown, were accessed via a gateway in the 19th century wall along the Carriageway, and comprise two terraces. The upper terrace consists of a moderate slope with views over the river and Carriers' Lane, and is quite exposed. At the southern end of this terrace a set of slate steps lead down to a lower terrace, passing the inglenook of one of the demolished cottages that is still visible in the fabric of the 19th century crenellated wall. The lower terrace, altogether more private, is enclosed by an embanked stone wall, which divides these sloping gardens into their two terraces. Although heavily overgrown, this lower terrace did yield traces of a patio area, with a slated footpath running adjacent to the embanked wall, and a slate seat against the outer wall on its east side. Traces of a rockery were also noted during our site visit in May 2006, as was also a tree within a metal planter. A possible makeshift bird-table was discovered, comprising a thick ceramic tile mounted on a small stone pillar. It seems this area was designed to be a secluded and restful garden area, although the volume of current traffic makes the area far from tranquil today. The gardens lie below the line of the projected medieval town wall, but may still overlie areas of significant archaeological deposits, not least the 18th/ 19th century dwellings.



Photo 8 Patio area within the lower terrace

9. Northeast boundary wall

As noted above, this wall was built to retain the Additional Gardens and to form the boundary of the Castle Green estate with Carriers' Lane. The wall was built during the 1920s and was clearly constructed to match the earlier 19th century crenellated walls, which had previously bounded the Carriageway and extent of the estate grounds on this eastern side of the site. Currently a doorway through the wall from Carriers' Lane provides public access to a viewing platform, which overlooks the east elevation of Castle Green house, the Gardener's Cottage, the Kitchen Garden curtain wall, the Garages and the rear of the properties on the corner of St Mary's Street and Carriers' Lane (Area 29).



Photo 9a General view of the modern wall, retaining the Additional Gardens.



Photo 9b Embanked stone wall forming the upper and lower terrace

10. The Stables

Lying just to the south of the pierced rear gateway of the Carriageway is a wide entrance, with similar piers, leading into the stable complex. The buildings here were likely to have been commissioned by Arthur Jones during his expansion of the Castle Green mansion. The range consisted of stables, stores, a workshop and accommodation, and must have largely rendered The Old Stables (Area 28) obsolete, unless they were intended as a separate extension of this and the former Coach House (now the Garages). A cobbled courtyard fronts the stable buildings, which are constructed on the northwest and southwest sides of the yard. Those buildings on the northwest used the medieval castle wall (linking the East Tower and the North East Bastion) as a rear elevation, and their remains indicate that they rose three storeys, utilising the full height of the 13th century curtain wall. Brick arch features noted within the middle room of the north stable block range might be an indication of a possible forge: there are no chimneys present to indicate a functional fireplace. On the southwest side of the stable complex the groom's cottage occupied the southeast end of the building.



Photo 10a Possible forge within NW stable block, built against the medieval wall

In the southeast corner of the yard there is a small slate-lined sunken area with a drain, whilst in the north corner, by the entrance, there is a slate trough and another drain. There are also some indications of a former rectangular structure that had been built against the Carriageway wall on the east side of the yard. Although shown on the OS 1st and 2nd Edition 25" maps this building has since been flattened, although a few courses of stonework are still visible.

Located just outside of the entrance to the Stables and between here and the entrance piers to the Carriageway lies a small stone building. It has a simple arched

doorway and is built of coursed stone against the medieval castle wall just below the North-east Bastion.



Photo 10b Entrance to the Stables taken within the cobbled yard



Photo 10c Small stone building lying between the Stables and the entrance to the Carriageway

11. Northeast Wall and Bastion

This area, along with the East Tower (Area 13), has one of the few surviving lengths of original medieval curtain wall and castle structure still visible within the Cardigan Castle site. As mentioned above the northwest block of the Stables complex used the medieval wall as their rear elevation. Today the wall is heavily overgrown with hanging vegetation and is embanked with earth at the top. The crenellated wall lies adjacent to the immense Turkey oak, which is nearly 200 years old, and appears to have been planted within a metre of the wall.

Test pits machine excavated by Ove Arup in 1990 found elements of 18th century building rubble in the area immediately behind the wall, which would indicate that archaeological deposits of timber structures (possibly those depicted by the Buck brothers on their 1741 drawing of Cardigan Castle) are liable to be present in the area, which may themselves overlie earlier medieval deposits contemporary with the 13th century castle.

The steep scarp-slope that runs up to the Northeast bastion from the north (forming the hair-pin bend on the Carriageway) may also represent the line of the medieval town wall, with the bastion itself potentially the remains of another tower.



Photo 11 Northeast Wall and Bastion, also showing the Turkey Oak

12. Turkey Oak

An immense tree, with its character area identified according to the reach of its canopy. Although the tree is part of character area 19 (Main Gardens), it has been separated out for special recognition for its ecological role and also its archaeological impact on likely remains of the medieval castle in area 11 (North East Bastion), which the tree adjoins. The Turkey Oak is thought to have been planted by John Bowen during his landscaping of the grounds, c.1810. The reach of the canopy extends over the driveway, which separates the tree from the main house, and into the grassed area in front of the east annexe of Castle Green House. The tree currently plays an important role in the roosting of the rare Greater Horseshoe Bat, amongst other bat species.

The area covered by the reach of the Turkey oak overlies the presumed course of the original medieval castle wall linking the North Tower with the North East Bastion, although no visible remains survive above ground. It is possible that some damage occurred to these archaeological deposits during the construction of the east annexe of Castle Green House, given the depth of its foundations, but equally it is possible that some evidence for the wall may lie buried beneath the current ground surface in this area. There are certainly archaeological deposits relating to the 18th century use of the castle site hard up against the curtain wall, as discovered during the geotechnical investigations by Ove Arup in 1990, and the 1984 excavations revealed in situ archaeological deposits between 0.4m and 0.5m beneath the driveway and associated paths.

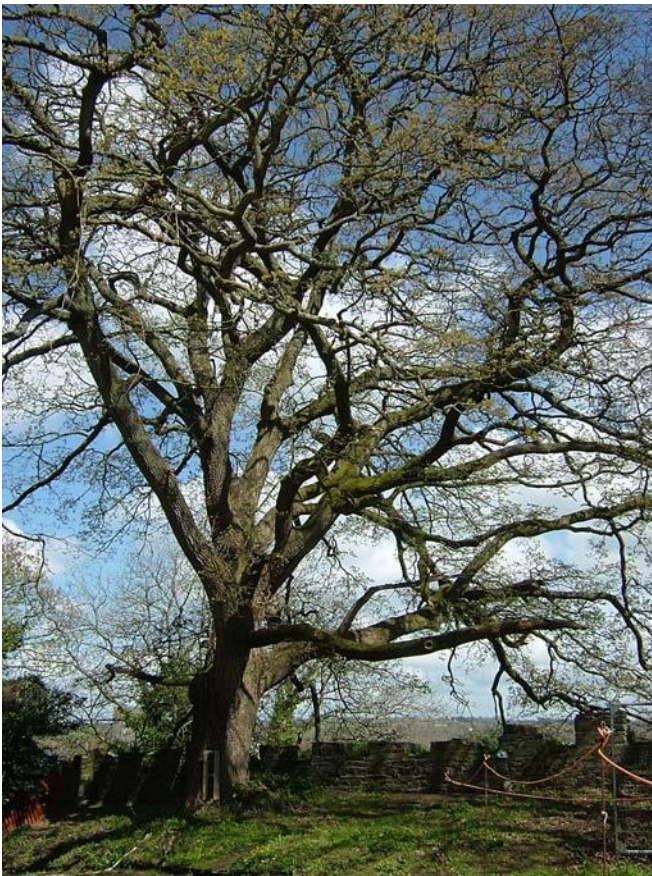


Photo 12. The immense Turkey oak, with the North-east Wall lying behind

13. East Tower

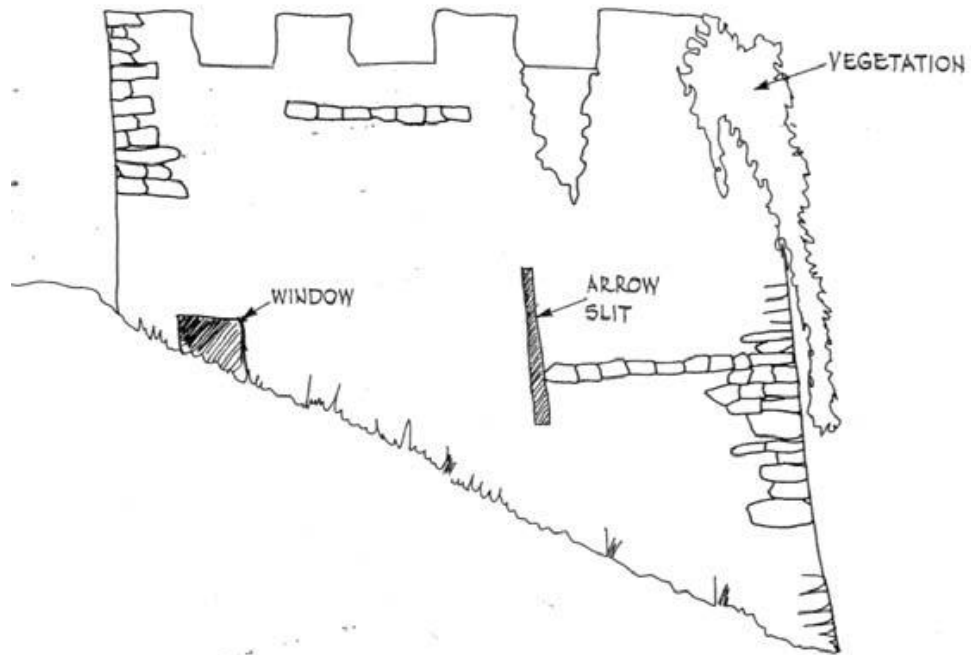
Adjoining the Northeast Wall is the concentrically-walled East Tower, which protrudes 8m out from the line of the wall, and measures 7m across, being half-elliptical in plan. It is an excellent example of the medieval castle fabric, and consists of two flights of steps descending from the present ground surface to two separate garderobes. The 1343 survey of the castle reported a 'hall, garderobe, pantry, vitull and another room – all under one roof', which is presumed to refer to this tower.

The Buck print of 1741 (reproduced by several others, including Eastgate in 1804 as pictured in Figure 2) depicts angle-spur buttresses at the base of the tower, which are most likely today to be buried within the area of the Hanging Garden (Area 14). Also, the print shows that the curtain wall between this tower and the next one at the southeast corner of the castle site was already ruinous, and may have collapsed some time after the Civil War (1642-8). The river is also likely to have lapped at the bottom of this and the South-east Tower during the early history of the site.

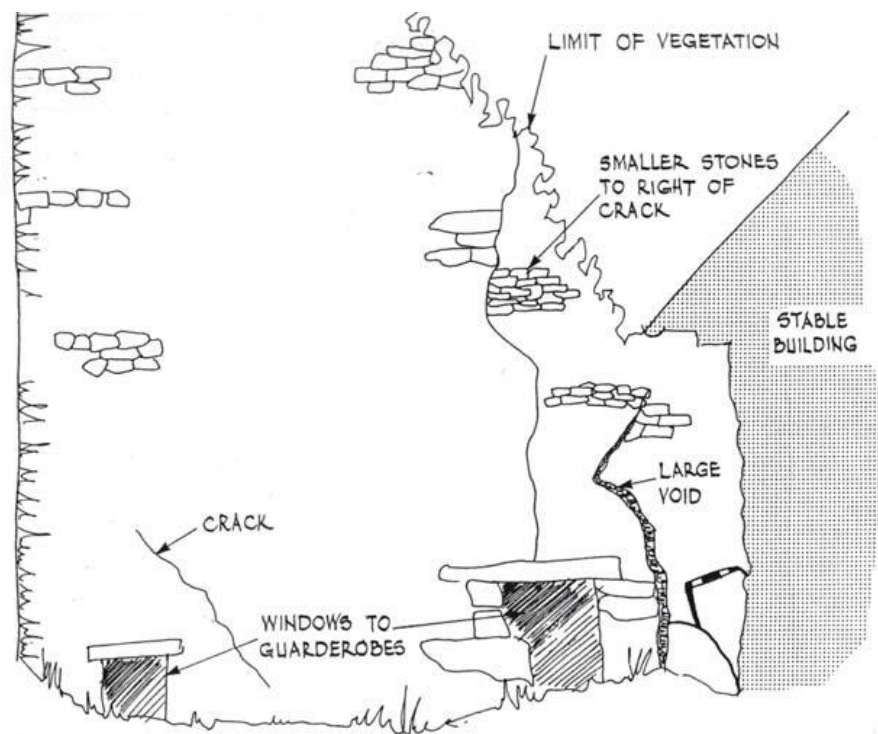
The East Tower is of similar height to the South East Tower (Area 15) and therefore stands c.9.5m above the current pavement level. The current battlements have been embanked with earth and slate seats, probably during the 19th century landscaping of the grounds, when the area was probably used as a viewing platform. From within the Hanging Gardens and on the southwest flank of the tower can be seen an arrow slit and window, whilst at current ground level on the northeast flank are visible the two windows of each garderobe.



Photo 13. General view of the East Tower



Reproduction of Ove Arup sketch of the East Tower southwest flank (1991 Figure 13)



Reproduction of Ove Arup report sketch of East Tower northeast flank (1991 Figure 14)

14. Hanging Gardens

This is an area of overgrown sloping ground lying between the East and the South East Towers of the medieval castle and currently retained by a modern 2m high masonry wall alongside the roadway forming the boundary to the Castle Green estate along The Strand. A series of cast iron posts, likely to be part of a chain-link fence, now mark the start of the Hanging Garden, which was accessed by way of some small steps, with a structured pathway through the garden as illustrated on the 1st Edition OS 25" map of 1890.

The 1741 print of Cardigan Castle by the Buck brothers already shows the medieval curtain wall between the East and South-east Towers as having largely collapsed, although it was also noted by Carlisle in 1811 that 'the wall between the two towers was lowered and the Green sloped down to form the hanging Garden'.

It is likely that the course of the medieval curtain wall linking the East Tower with the South East Tower ran along the top of the slope. The 1984 excavations uncovered a wide shelf cut into bedrock at the top of the slope, presumably for a firm foundation for the medieval curtain wall. The 'Green sloped down' as referred to by Carlisle is assumed to be the bowling green constructed within the castle yard in c.1713, when the first real landscaping of the castle site began. It may even have been at this point that further destruction of the curtain wall took place. Some levelling of the castle would almost certainly have taken place at this point, with further sculpting under Bowen's ownership interfering with any traces of likely structures associated with the medieval castle in the process.



Photo 14. Detail of posts and steps at the top of the Hanging Garden

15. South East Tower

This fine tower, located at the southeast corner of the castle and once joined to the East Tower by a curtain wall, stands c.9.4m above the current pavement level. As a

structure it does not appear to be as complex as the East Tower, but the current relationship of the tower to the Retaining Wall (Area 16) creates a false impression of the original line of the medieval fortifications.

The area of the Wall Walk (Area 17) embanks the Curtain Wall and the Southeast tower, but it is clear that the southwest corner of the tower originally extended further back into the grounds, with the line of the medieval curtain wall now likely to lie beneath the wall walk embankment. 20th century crenellations are visible overlying earlier crenellations, which may themselves be a post-medieval rebuild of the original medieval fabric. There is currently a seating area in front of the tower walls and the tower forms part of the Wall Walk from which excellent views of the river could be achieved.



Photo 15. View of tower

16. Retaining Wall

The current Retaining Wall, which is visible on the south and southwest sides of the castle site, is a post-medieval construction (19th century), probably built to retain the castle following a collapse in the earlier medieval revetment. It is not all of one build. The Ove Arup report shows that it is of varying thicknesses, suggesting several periods of rebuilt, perhaps following collapses. The extent of this zone bounds the castle around its roadside, and is the imposing wall seen when approaching the castle from the south over the bridge. Currently three steel raking shores, erected in 1974, act as buttresses to the wall, which up until the 1920s had cottages built up against it all round its length. An embanked Wall Walk (Area 17) follows the line of the Curtain Wall and affords excellent views over the surrounding landscape.

A section of wall at the northern end of this character area collapsed in 1984, revealing the wall and material behind it to be of post-medieval date. This information together with data from the Ove Arup survey demonstrates that the retaining wall was constructed at the foot of a low cliff or slope, and that the space between the wall and the cliff was filled with rubble and other material from the demolished castle.



Photo 16. View of the south Curtain Wall

It is very possible that a second bastion existed at the southwest corner of the medieval castle, although no visible evidence of this Southwest Tower survives today. However, it is thought that the original medieval town wall would have met the castle at this point, and so a tower here would have been most likely. Any archaeological indicators for this are likely to be buried within deposits behind the Retaining Wall, which was built downslope of the original medieval curtain wall, and also beneath the embanked Wall Walk.

17. Wall walk

A deliberate embankment following the line of the post-medieval Retaining Wall, which was designed as a way of perambulating the grounds of the Castle Green estate on its south side, and from which to achieve excellent views.

It is highly probable that the area of the Wall Walk overlies the original medieval curtain wall surrounding the 13th century castle, with the current Retaining Wall having been shown to be of post-medieval date. As noted above, there may also be traces of what was once the South West Bastion, located at an angle in the castle wall, where the town walls met those of the castle.



Photo 17. Detail of post-medieval crenellated wall and the Wall Walk

18. Pill Box

In 1940 the War Office requisitioned the east wing of Castle Green House and also constructed a concrete hexagonal pill box at a strategic point along the curtain wall on the south, at a point overlooking the five-arched bridge crossing the Teifi. A well-preserved flight of slate steps leads up to the pill box, which is built within the route of the Wall Walk.



Photo 18. Detail of steps leading up to the pill box

19. The Main Garden

This area relates to the main ornamental garden in front of Castle Green House, which occupies the former castle yard. Landscaping first began in this area at the beginning of the 18th century when the area was levelled to create a bowling green for public use.

The current layout of the gardens is largely the result of the considerable landscaping which took place in the early 19th century by Bowen, when the castle site was once again in private ownership. What remained of the medieval castle was altered, incorporated or even destroyed in the creation of Castle Green House and its pleasure gardens.

Bowen had the garden laid out with a central lawn, circuit and side paths accompanied by informal planting, which incorporated some of the surviving fabric of the castle. The gardens remained largely the same, with few alterations, until the 1920s when a tennis court was laid out on the lawn. A whalebone arch was placed in its present location around 1900.

The front garden occupies and thus overlies the entire area of the former medieval castle ward. As such the area might contain significant archaeological deposits associated with the medieval castle, and provide evidence for the location of structures associated with the castle, such as a great Hall. However, excavations in 1984 demonstrated the little in the way of medieval archaeological deposits survive in this area. In most trenches thin topsoil either overlay natural geological deposits or post-medieval levelling which then overlay geological deposits. However, some archaeological deposits were located between 0.6 and 1.4m below the current ground surface. Despite the largely negative results from the excavations, this area is still considered likely to have a high archaeological potential.



Photo 19. Current view of the Main Garden at the front of Castle Green House

20. The Fernery

Both this and the Hothouse (Area 23) were built by Arthur Jones in c.1830. The fernery was located immediately to the south of the main entrance to the estate (Area 21) and would have been under glass. The fernery remained *in situ* for a century until 1931, when the head gardener, Victor Reed, demolished it and replaced it with a small, sheltered seat and flagstone patio visible today.

The fernery lies adjacent to Ty Castell, and possibly overlies the line of the medieval castle curtain wall, which is thought to run from the South West Bastion to the gatehouse, which is possibly located beneath the current gateway and Green Villas (Areas 21 and 22).



Photo 20. View of the site of the former fernery

21. Main Gate

The main gateway into the Castle Green estate is located at the end of Green Street, accessed via Bridge Street, along a narrow passage flanked by Nos. 1 and 2 Green Villas to the north, and Ty Castell to the south.

The gateway consists of two sets of dressed square blue lias pillars, c.2.5m high, set back from each other and joined by low, outward-curving stone walls and spear-headed iron railings. This was clearly intended to be the main, grand entrance to the property, as evidenced by the placing of cast iron urn finials adorning the piers: by comparison, the entrance to the Carriageway off Carriers' Lane is quite plain.

It is likely that the current Main Gate into the Castle Green estate overlies part of the original medieval gateway into the castle site.



Photo 21. View of the Main Gate and showing its detailed construction

22. Green Villas

The Green Villa cottages appear to date from the early 19th century and have at various times been public houses and private dwellings. Nos. 1 and 2 Green Villas, along with opposite cottage Ty Castell, are the sole remnants of what was once Green Street and the frontage of Bridge Street (Area 25), an area which was demolished during the widening of Bridge Street in the 1920s.

Following the acquisition of the cottages in 2003 by Ceredigion County Council an excavation took place in the irregular yard in the rear of the properties, which was bounded by the wall of a former stable to the east, the Victorian curtain wall of the castle to the north and the High Street to the west. Excavation revealed medieval remains consisting of part of a massive, well-built mortared stone wall, with a flared appearance, thought to possibly be evidence for a 13th century gatehouse contemporary with the North Tower. Part of the inner line of the defensive ditch which ran around the perimeter of the castle on its northern side, and discovered during previous excavations to the rear of Castle Green House in 1984, was also recorded.

The cottages, Green Street, the Main Gate and Ty Castell are all likely to have been built over the main gateway into the medieval castle and its curtain wall. No traces of the medieval curtain wall, nor any other structural features of the castle on its western side, are currently visible above ground.



Photo 22. Nos. 1 and 2 Green Villas

23. Hothouse/Lily Pond

To the east of the main entrance into the Castle Green estate a length of curtain wall was built in 1830 which bounded the current extent of the estate at that time, separating the gardens and west side of the mansion from a portion of land owned by EP Lloyd Esq., as depicted on Wood's 1834 map. The wall, c.4m high, also served as the back wall against which the hothouse was constructed, and the flues for the hothouse are still visible today as red brick bands within the otherwise stone-built wall. At the southwestern end of the hothouse area, within the wall, can be seen the remains of a filled-in chimney, which was presumably the boiler for the glasshouse. The hothouse was dismantled in the 1920s and refashioned as a Lily Pond and Italianate Garden.

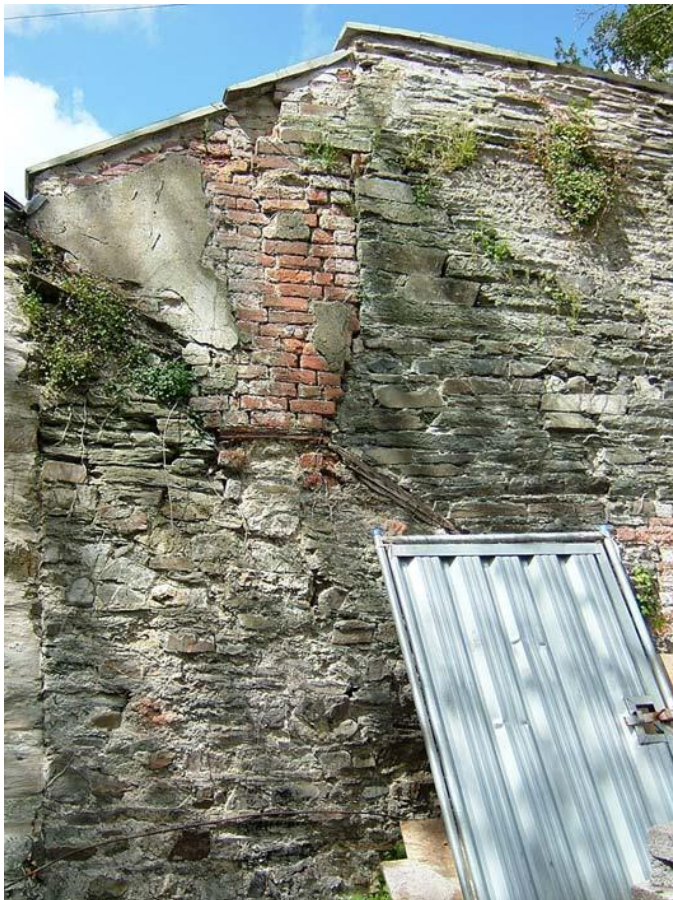


Photo 23a. Infilled chimney of the former hothouse boiler

Today the footings for the original hothouse are visible as a low wall which bounds the area, whilst against the back wall is a wooden sheltered seat, similar to the one built on the site of the former Fernery in 1931. The remains of the sunken ornamental lily pond are still in evidence, with a small arched bridge spanning the pond where it narrows. The pond no longer holds any water. Access to the pond is via a wrought iron gate situated adjacent to a slate water tank. The slate tank once collected water from the roof of the hothouse, but once this was dismantled the water collected was used instead to replenish the lily pond.



Photo 23b View along the length of the hothouse/lily pond, with red brick flues visible along the back wall, the arched bridge over the lily pond and the 1930s seat, with the slate water tank (now infilled) in the foreground.

This area also seems to have been referred to as an Italianate garden, although this seemed to consist of little more than ornamental terracotta pots within the lily pond area.

The area of the former hothouse and its back wall are likely to overlie the original medieval curtain wall which linked the likely site of the gatehouse with the North Tower, completing the defensive circuit of the 13th century castle. No trace of the original castle wall is visible above ground today.

24. Croquet Lawn

This area, located to the west of the main house, was brought into the grounds of the Castle Green estate at some point during the late 19th/early 20th century, when it was used as a croquet lawn. The southeast wall of the enclosure is of Victorian date, and separates this area from the site of the former hothouse, which lay on the other side. In the south-west corner of the 4m high wall, at the point where the wall angles to bound the rear of the Green Villas properties, there is a slate plaque built into it which says 'THIS WALL BUILT WERN NEWYDD ESTATE 1830'. During the 1930s a glasshouse was built in this area, and it remained lawned, but is currently heavily overgrown.



Photo 24. Victorian curtain wall separating the Croquet lawn from the hothouse

It is likely that the southeast wall of this area overlies the original course of the medieval curtain wall linking the possible gatehouse on the west side of the castle with its North Tower. Beneath the former croquet lawn is it highly probable that there are further surviving buried remains of the 7m wide defensive ditch and counterscarp bank which extended around the perimeter of the northern half of the 13th century castle. As such this area has significant archaeological potential to reveal more about this side of the castle, about which little is known.

25. Bridge Street frontage

Wood's 1834 map and both the 1st and 2nd edition OS 25" maps illustrate that this area around the perimeter of the castle on its south and west sides was originally densely populated with a likely mixture of dwellings and commercial properties. Today all that survives is Ty Castell cottage, located opposite Green Villas, with the remainder of the area given way to pavement, grassy banks at the foot of the castle walls, and an area of seating overlooking the rear of Green Villas where Bridge Street meets the High Street (Area 26).



Photo 25a Area of Bridge Street Frontage, formerly buildings, demolished in the 1920s and now a pedestrianised seating area overlooking the rear of Green Villas

Ty Castell is a Grade II Listed Building of early 19th century date. It is marked on Wood's 1834 map and forms the approach to the Main Gate into the Castle Green estate. It is possible that beneath the upstanding two-storey house are the remains of earlier medieval structures, associated either with the castle gatehouse and the curtain wall, or potentially features associated with the medieval town.

On the south and southwest face of the Bridge Street frontage there are now three steel raking stores acting as buttresses against the post-medieval curtain wall retaining the castle grounds. The 1940 Pill Box is visible above the battlements and the South East Tower adds to the impression of the castle when viewed from across the river. There are no traces of the nine or so cottages that once stood here, demolished in the 1920s, save for the render patterns of the gable ends visible on the wall fronting the road, opposite the bridge. When the road was widened in the 1920s the three large (commercial?) properties which fronted Bridge Street to the

west of Ty Castell were also demolished, as were those to the north of Ty Castell, backing onto Green Villas. There are no visible traces of these buildings today.

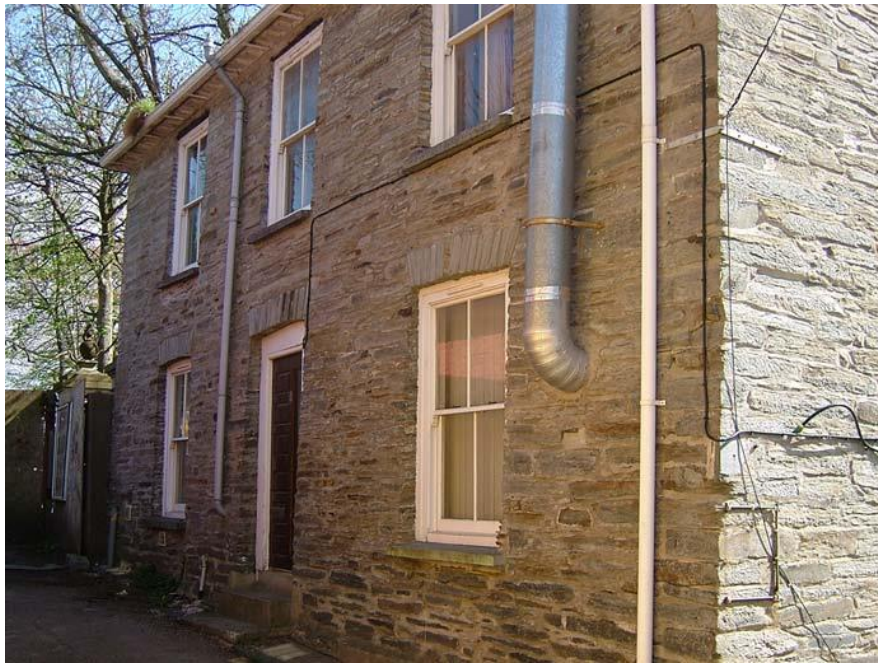


Photo 25b Ty Castell



Photo 25c. View of the south side of the castle, c.1900



Photo 25d. View of the south side of the castle today

On the west-southwest side of the castle fronting Bridge Street an area of the curtain wall collapsed in 1984 behind Ty Castell, and this has been left as a grassed-over tumble of earth.



Photo 25e Area of collapse located behind Ty Castell

26. Upper St Mary's Street/High Street

This area consists of mostly 19th century buildings fronting the High Street and St Mary's Street to the north-west of the castle site, with the rear of these properties backing onto the Kitchen Garden area, behind Castle Green House to the north.

Three of the buildings fronting the High Street are listed, and include Nos. 35 and 36 (the corner house and bakery) and No. 37 (a militaria, games and period costume shop). Nos. 38 and 39 High Street are not listed, but form a terrace with the Nos. 35-7, and are currently in use as a family butcher and a pound shop.



Photo 26a Nos. 35 & 36 High Street



Photo 26b No.37 High Street

All five buildings appear to be of 19th century construction and consist of commercial shops with accommodation above. Continuing round into St Mary's Street the area of this character element is arbitrarily taken to extend to No. 46 St Mary's Street, which is situated next door to the Custom House (Area 27). All the properties here, bar the 20th century Halifax building, are of similar 19th century construction to those fronting the High Street, and includes the quaint Seagull music shop. At the present time, No. 51 High Street, neighbouring the Grade II Listed corner house (No.35 High Street), is undergoing redevelopment, with certainly the ground floor frontage having been entirely removed.

Properties have existed within the High Street/Upper St Mary's Street area since at least 1610, when a series of dwellings were first depicted by Speed on his map of Cardigan. Speed portrays dwellings running along the distinctive curve of the Bridge Street Frontage on the west side of the castle, which are seen also on Wood's 1834 map and the OS 1st and 2nd Edition 25" maps, before the road was widened and these buildings largely demolished. In the 17th century properties continued into the High Street (currently Nos. 35-39 High Street) before turning east into Upper St. Mary's Street, which Speed records as Church Street.

It is highly likely that the buildings in this area, along with neighbouring zones along St Mary's Street and the Bridge Street Frontage, overlie much earlier structures, not simply those of 17th century date but also what might be the first foundations of the medieval town located outside the 12th and 13th century castle. As excavations showed within the rear yards of Nos. 1 and 2 Green Villas, archaeological features contemporary with the 13th century castle were encountered at a depth of just 0.45m below the current ground level, which indicates the significant archaeological potential for remains within this and the surrounding area. Pottery from the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries was also found, which not only relates to the development of the medieval town but also shows a continuous usage of the area for the last 800 years.



Photo 26b View east along St Mary's Street



Photo 26d. No.35 High Street

27. Customs House

Within the history of Cardigan town the Customs House was both a large and very important building along St Mary's Street. Cardigan once boasted a very busy port, and the Customs House was responsible for the administration not only of this port, but also for trade along a large area of the coast extending from St Justinian's Chapel, near St David's, to Newquay. It is a Grade II Listed Building.

The former Customs House (divided into Nos. 44 and 45 St Mary's Street) is in use as a shop and gallery, and the current building dates to the early 19th century. However, Speed's map of 1610 marks buildings in this location, and the site is likely to overlie archaeological deposits relating to the development of the town from at least the 16th century, if not before. The rear of the property backs onto the Kitchen Garden of Castle Green House, which may originally have been the secondary bailey of the early medieval castle. Any excavations in the rear yard of the Customs House are highly likely to yield significant archaeological deposits pertaining to the character of the early castle and town.

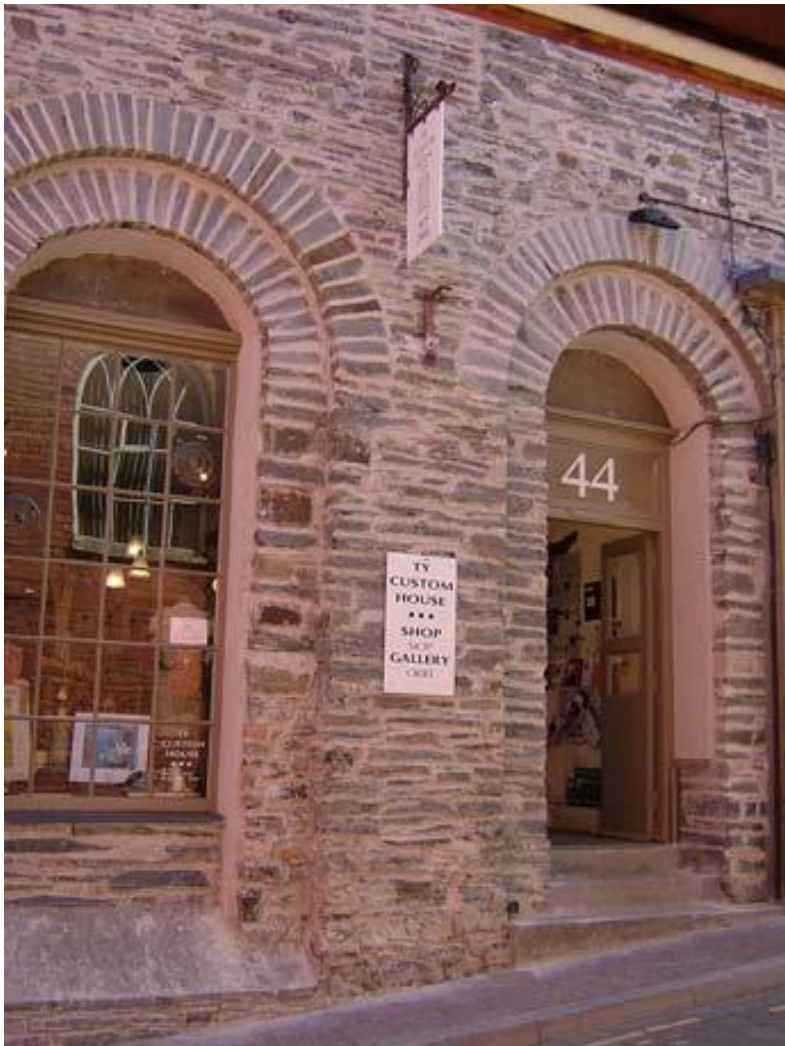


Photo 27a Detail of front, showing the tall, rounded arches (former openings) and their cut stone voussoirs



Photo 27b Customs House

28. The Old Stables

The Old Stables, built in the early 19th century for Castle Green House, is now in use as offices and is a Grade II listed building. The building consists of a two-storey main block set back from the street, with a low single-storey wing and attic coming forward to the street line. Inside the former stables there are timber posts supporting a 3-bay arcade, formerly fronting stalls and rear wall hollows for hayracks. The buildings here back onto the Garages (Area 6), which re-used the former Coach-house most likely associated with the Old Stables.



Photo 28a The northeast wing of The Old Stables

It is likely that The Old Stables were built by John Bowen, with the larger Stable block range fronting Carriers' Lane (Area 10) built c.1828 for Arthur Jones when he expanded Castle Green House. Adjacent to The Old Stables, and separating it from No. 43 St Mary's Street (part of Area 29) is a narrow passageway leading up to the Garages/former Coach House and the northern end of the Carriageway (Area 7) at the rear of Castle Green House. This passageway is accessed via an ornate gate, which fronts St. Mary's Street.

The Old Stables may be built over the projected line of the medieval town wall, which extended from the North East Bastion of the 13th century castle. There are no visible traces of the medieval town wall remaining save the scarp slope which forms the hair-pin bend on the Carriageway, and from which the line of the medieval wall is thus projected northwards towards the Garages and The Old Stables.



Photo 28b The Grade II listed ornate wrought iron gate separating The Old Stables from No. 43 St Mary's Street



Photo 28c The Old Stables

29. Carriers Lane/St Mary's Street

This character element includes No. 43 St Mary's Street, a 19th century Grade II Listed Building, and the neighbouring property, No. 42, which now occupies the corner of St Mary's Street and Carriers' Lane.

These properties back onto the area of the Additional Gardens (Area 8), which was first brought into the Castle Green estate in the 1920s following the widening of Carriers' Lane. Prior to this there was an additional property next to No. 42 St Mary's Street, which was the original house on the corner of the two roads, but this, and all the other cottages on the west side of Carriers' Lane (visible on both Wood's 1834 map and the 1st and 2nd Edition OS 25" maps) were demolished when the road was widened.



Photo 29 Rear of the properties

These properties probably lie just to the east of the projected line of the medieval town wall, which ran northwards from the North East Bastion of the 13th century castle. Although it is possible that the town wall ran across this area, as either of two retaining walls at different levels could be the line of the medieval wall, and indeed could incorporate medieval masonry in their construction.

Speed's map of 1610 depicts the line of the town wall, which by the beginning of the 17th century appears to be shown dividing St Mary's Street in half. If, therefore, the projected line of the medieval town wall is accepted as running through the area occupied by the Garages and The Old Stables, then the current properties in Area 29 are likely to be built on the foundations of some of the earlier buildings depicted by Speed on the east side of the town wall, before Carriers' Lane was built. Carriers' Lane itself seems to have run below the embanked fortifications of the medieval castle, and immediately outside the line of the early medieval town, although it is first depicted on Wood's map of 1834. Cardigan town clearly underwent considerable expansion during the 14th and 15th centuries, with buildings flourishing beyond the

13th century town walls as shown by Speed in 1610. The properties in Area 29 have their origins in this later medieval expansion.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

Figures 14, 15 and 16 illustrate the archaeological potential of the castle site, which has been assessed and divided into three broad phases of activity: medieval, early post-medieval, and the Castle Green House stages.

Medieval Archaeological Potential (Figure 14)

This map illustrates the archaeological potential of remains thought likely to date from the establishment of Cardigan Castle to the end of the medieval period. A castle was established in this location by the early 12th century, and appears to have been centred around the main lawn of the current Castle Green house. The castle was rebuilt, repaired and altered throughout its subsequent history, but it remained in occupation throughout much of the medieval period, although possibly deteriorating by the end of the 15th century. Visible 13th and 14th century elements of the castle walls and towers remain, but sources record a variety of buildings and activities contained within the castle walls. It is unclear how far north the castle extended. Lying beneath the area now occupied by the kitchen garden of Castle Green House are a defensive ditch, counterscarp bank and occupation layers thought to be contemporary with the 13th century castle. There were no surface indications for these features, which shows not only the considerable landscaping and levelling of the site in the 19th century, but also highlights the potential for significant archaeological features hidden beneath the surface elsewhere within the Castle Green site. The area of the kitchen garden may also have formed part of the castle prior to its reconstruction in the mid-13th century, perhaps functioning as a secondary or outer bailey to the 12th century castle. Bridge Street may also have seen some urban activity during the medieval period, but for much of the time it would appear that St. Mary's Street was kept clear of buildings, although the route was in use and is likely to have seen some level of activity during this period. The 13th century town walls also extended from the castle walls both northwards along the edge of the current driveway and eastwards crossing the southern end of Bridge Street.

Well Preserved Archaeology

These areas indicate where medieval archaeology is either still upstanding, or known through archaeological excavation and watching briefs to be well preserved below ground.

Current upstanding medieval remains are visible within the fabric of the main North Tower, incorporated into the 19th century house, as well as both the East Tower and Southeast Tower. Sections of the retaining wall, although mostly later post-medieval in date, contain elements in places that are believed to be medieval fabric. Stonework at the southwest corner suggests a medieval tower may be incorporated into this section, and walling behind the stables is believed to contain some medieval elements, having made use of the curtain wall linking the East Tower with the North East Bastion for its rear elevation. Sections of the town wall could also be preserved running north from the castle, along the edge of the current driveway, and the build-up of material behind may preserve further medieval archaeological remains.

Within the interior of the medieval castle (in the area currently occupied by the Main Gardens associated with Castle Green House), a series of small exploratory excavations demonstrated that pockets of medieval archaeology may survive, such as in the area of the Turkey Oak.

To the north of Castle Green House, in the area of the kitchen gardens, excavations have shown a great deal of later post-medieval build-up preserving earlier deposits. The castle ditch and bank surrounding the main North Tower have been positively identified as well-preserved features in these excavations, which also suggests that any possible features to the north of this in the garden area can also be expected to show similar levels of preservation, albeit quite deeply buried.

Possible Truncated Archaeology

This includes areas where archaeological remains dating to the medieval period are likely to have been disturbed through later development, although potential damage to these remains is considered to be of low-medium impact, with some medieval remains potentially expected to survive.

Within the main area of the castle excavations indicate that the central section may have been initially slightly raised or situated on a small hillock, which was later levelled during the post-medieval garden landscaping. Small archaeological investigations within this area in 1984 did not positively identify any medieval archaeological layers, suggesting such deposits may indeed have been damaged or removed during this landscaping. However it is still possible that deep-cut medieval features may survive within this area, especially as it lies within the central area of the castle yard.

The line of the castle's Curtain Wall at the top of the Hanging Gardens is recorded as having been taken down in the early 19th century during the construction of the gardens, although again, wall foundations from the medieval period may still survive in this area.

Below the later Regency Castle Green house some medieval deposits may also be preserved. The areas to the north and northeast of the main castle site have been heavily compromised by later post-medieval urban development, but their rear yard areas are likely to have undergone less intrusive below-ground development, and may therefore be covering earlier medieval deposits relating to both the castle and the development of the early town.

Possible Heavily Disturbed Archaeology

This includes those areas unlikely to have seen activity during the medieval period (e.g. on the southeast side of the castle, where the river lapped against the castle walls) and those areas of intensive post-medieval development on the northern and western sides of the castle site which are considered to have caused a greater degree of disturbance to any earlier medieval remains.

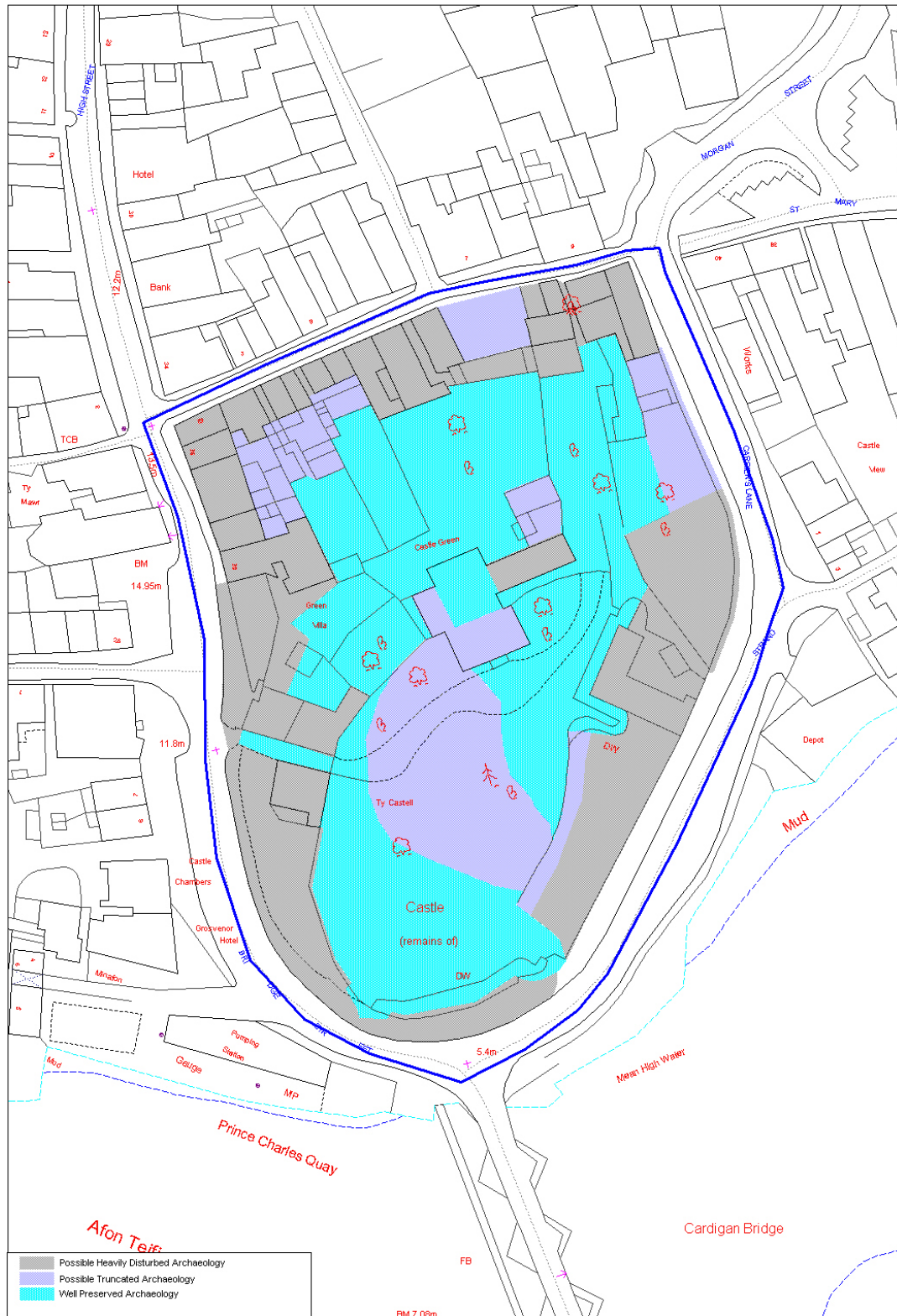


Figure 14 Medieval archaeological potential

Historical sources do not record suggest any urban development on the southeastern side of the castle, and various prints of the castle show the river lapping at the bottom of the castle walls on this side. Excavations within the castle and examinations of the current Castle Green boundary indicate that the medieval curtain wall stood on top of a natural cliff, which is now hidden by the current retaining wall, constructed in the post-medieval period. The area to the north and west of the castle was intensively developed throughout much of the post-medieval period and such development is likely to have heavily disturbed any archaeological remains relating to the castle and the foundation of the early town. However, it should be stressed that pockets of medieval archaeology could still survive, with the potential for upstanding medieval fabric having been incorporated into these later developments, e.g. within their cellars.

Early Post-Medieval Archaeological Potential (Figure 15)

This illustrates the archaeological potential for remains dating from the end of the medieval period and the decline of the castle, until the late 18th/early 19th century, when the current Castle Green House and grounds were established.

By the end of the medieval period the importance of the castle as an administrative centre had waned, although it still appears to have housed the court, mayor's parlour and town gaol. The defences were probably dilapidated by this stage but the site was refortified during the Civil War by the Royalists who built a half-moon entrenchment within the castle, which was subsequently slighted by the Parliamentarians. Part of the site appears to have been used as a private residence, with various owners recorded, and the castle remains appear to have continued functioning as the court house and gaol until the early 18th century when these were moved elsewhere in the town. In 1713 the grounds were landscaped to create a bowling green. By the late 18th century the site had been bought by John Bowen who first started work on the mansion house and gardens.

During this period urban development continued along Bridge Street and St Mary's Street, and may have also begun along Carriers Lane.

Well Preserved Archaeology

This area includes upstanding medieval remains possibly still in use, and areas where archaeological layers are known or thought likely to survive below 19th century deposits.

The medieval castle's East and South East Towers are still visible both along the southern castle boundary, with the large North Tower later incorporated Castle Green House. The North Tower may have been the site of the remaining civil administrative activity and the gaol during the early post-medieval period, although there were seemingly other buildings within the castle grounds, as suggested by the Buck depiction of Cardigan Castle in 1741 (see Figure 2, an 1804 engraving which copied the Buck print, which appears to show a timber roofed structure close to the East Tower). Further visible elements of medieval walling were incorporated into the later walls built along the southern and eastern edges, and the refortification of the site during the 17th century may also be evidenced within the masonry.

Excavations within the castle grounds have revealed that areas of earlier deposits and layers survive below 19th century deposits. Excavations have also shown this to be true to the north of the main castle area, under the later Kitchen Gardens, the

Croquet Lawn and behind the Green Villas properties. In particular, in the area of the North East Bastion, excavations by Ove Arup in 1990 found elements of 18th century building rubble, possibly representing the remains of structures associated with the early post-medieval usage of the site before Castle Green House was established, which may themselves be overlying earlier medieval remains contemporary with the 13th century castle.

A section of medieval town wall is also believed to survive to the northeast of the castle area, which is shown as still standing on Speeds map of 1610. It is likely that deposits may be preserved beneath the later build up forming the Castle Green house driveway (The Carriageway).

Possible Truncated Archaeology

This includes areas that are known or thought to have been developed during the 19th/20th century but are still likely to contain below ground archaeological remains from this period.

Within the main castle area it is believed that the defences may originally have been built on and around a small hillock, with the ground flattened to its current level during the 18th/19th century garden landscaping work. At this time a section of the castle curtain wall was removed during the construction of the Hanging Gardens. This activity is likely to have removed much of the archaeology of this period but some deposits and lower levels may still survive, and it is possible that remnants of the medieval curtain wall and the Civil War entrenchments might survive as buried remains. Similarly some archaeology may survive below the current Regency house, as it is clear that ground levels were raised here prior to its construction, possibly preserving earlier archaeological remains.

To the north of the house, in the Kitchen Gardens, excavations have shown there is likely to be well preserved remains surviving below the 19th century build-up of soil, which may relate to both activity associated with the medieval castle and also the developing town. Excavations also showed the castle ditch running to the north of the North Tower and within the area now overlain by the Croquet lawn, which appears to have still been open during the early post-medieval period and may contain deposits associated with the developing town. Also to the north lie the yard areas of the properties fronting St. Mary's Street and the High Street, which may have both medieval and early post-medieval material surviving as buried remains beneath the build-up of deposits associated with the later post-medieval urban expansion in the town.

To the east, Carriers' Lane/The Strand had been built up by later post-medieval period (see Figs. 4, 6 and 8), but these buildings were subsequently demolished during road widening works in the early 20th century. This area was then turned into gardens belonging to Castle Green, possibly preserving some below-ground archaeology dating to the early post-medieval urban expansion.

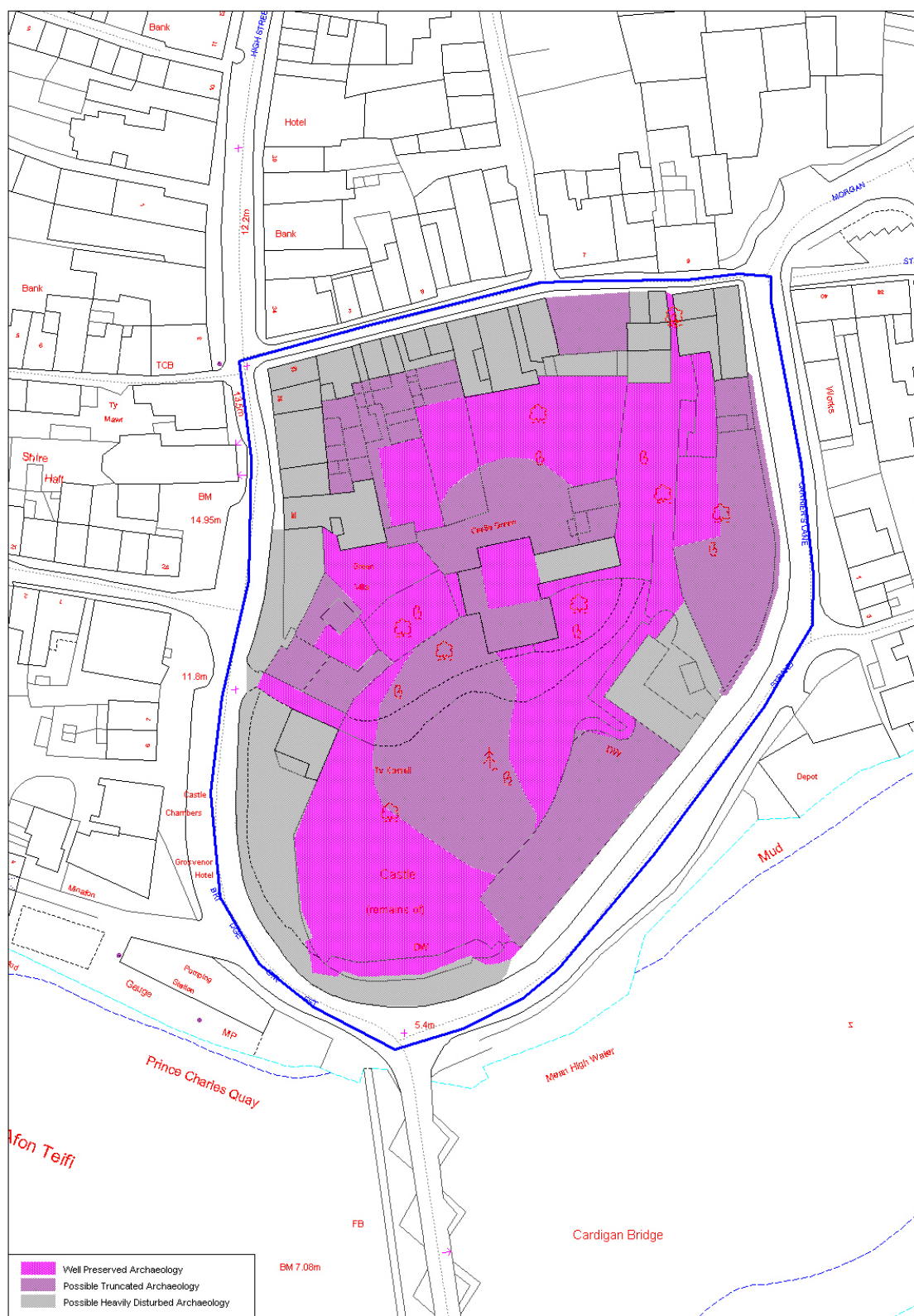


Figure 15 Early post-medieval archaeological potential

Possible Heavily Disturbed Archaeology

This includes later post-medieval building activity and 20th century redevelopments.

The Regency elements of Castle Green house were built on a raised ground level when compared with the original range of the house, which had been built around the North Tower and at a lower level on a par with that of the basement. The construction of the first phase of the house is therefore likely to have heavily disturbed any archaeological remains lying beneath.

The areas along High Street and St. Mary's Street were intensively developed during the later post-medieval period, which is likely to have heavily disturbed any below-ground remains. Similarly, the area along the eastern side of Bridge Street has both been part of the later post-medieval development as well as undergoing considerable redevelopment during the 20th century.

However, it is possible that earlier archaeological deposits do survive within these areas of heavily disturbed archaeology, with later buildings constructed over, and incorporating, the fabric and foundations of much earlier structures. However such remains are only likely to be visible below street level, within their cellars and basements, if accessible.

Castle Green House Archaeological Potential (Figure 16)

This map illustrates the archaeological potential of remains dating from the late 18th/early 19th century, when the site was purchased by John Bowen, and work began on the construction of Castle Green House and the landscaping of the gardens.

Bowen purchased the site in 1785, but the initial period of building and landscaping appears to have delayed until the start of the 19th century, when the main house, front lawn, the Hanging Gardens and the kitchen gardens were developed. As well as garden landscaping and planting, a hothouse and fernery were also established within the grounds. A change of ownership in the late 1820s subsequently included the adding of the Regency façade and possibly also the construction of the modern Stables and Gardener's Cottage. The 1920s and 1930s saw the next main period of aggrandizement, with the hothouses replaced by a seating area and Italianate Garden, and a tennis lawn established on the main lawn. Additional gardens to the east were also acquired.

By the 19th century urban development entirely surrounded the castle area, but road widening work in the earlier 20th century removed those dwellings in front of the castle walls on Bridge street and along the western edge of Carriers Lane, with the latter eventually absorbed as additional gardens into the Castle Green estate.

Well Preserved Archaeology

This area covers both the well-preserved upstanding remains of the 19th century Castle Green House and associated gardens, as well as the upstanding buildings and features in existence in the 19th century surrounding Castle Green.

Castle Green House itself is now derelict, but both the original and slightly later 19th century house are still standing. Associated buildings such as the Gardener's Cottage, Stables and Garage are in a similar state of dereliction but are also still standing.

The surrounding gardens have been neglected for much of the later 20th century although elements of its Edwardian layout are still discernable, as are the boundary walls.

Most of the buildings that line the High Street and St Mary's Street have 18th and 19th century origins, and retain much of the visible fabric from that period.

Possible Truncated Archaeology

This area includes elements of the 19th century layout of Castle Green gardens and associated features, which were subsequently removed during redesigning of areas of the garden in the 1920s and 1930s.

Glasshouses formerly stood against the inner side of the garden boundary walls to the west of the main house. These were taken down and replaced with an Italianate garden and ornamental seating area in the 1920s/30s. Although much of the glasshouses were removed their layout and associated features are still visible above ground.

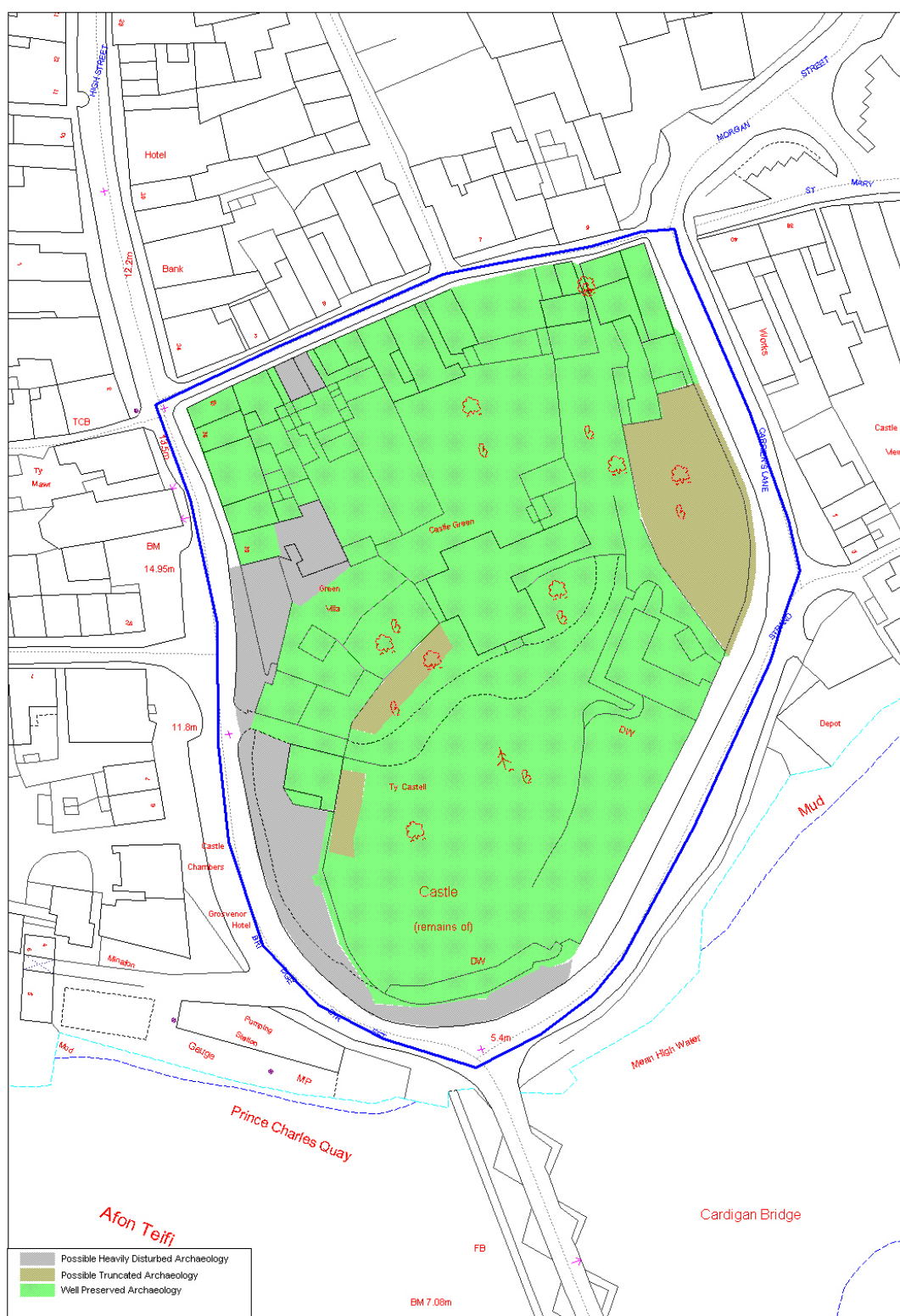
The area along the western side of Carriers Lane was originally outside the Castle Green estate and consisted of houses and yards in the 19th century, as seen on the earlier editions of the Ordnance Survey maps. Many of these buildings were subsequently demolished in the early 20th century when Carriers Lane was widened. The remaining area was acquired by Castle Green and redeveloped as an area of additional garden. It is likely that elements of these buildings may still survive below ground.

Possible Heavily Disturbed Archaeology

This area of shading consists largely of the late post-medieval development outside the Castle Green estate on its southern and southwestern side (Bridge Street), which was subsequently demolished and redeveloped in the 20th century.

Although most of the area along St. Mary's Street still evidences well preserved 18th and 19th century buildings, the Halifax Building Society is a later 20th century re-build, replacing the previous structure visible on historic map sources and retains none of the original architectural features from the Georgian or Victorian periods.

The area along the eastern side of Bridge street against the castle walls had itself been redeveloped by the later post-medieval period, but in the 20th century road widening work resulted in the demolition of these buildings and the removal of any visible above-ground remains. There is, however, the possibility of below-ground archaeology surviving from this period throughout this area, although deposits are likely to be heavily disturbed.



LISTED BUILDINGS, SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS

Listed Buildings

CARDIGAN CASTLE Grade I

CASTLE GREEN HOUSE Grade II*

TY CASTELL Grade II

GATEPIERS & GATES TO CASTLE GREEN HOUSE Grade II

1 & 2 GREEN STREET, INCLUDING ATTACHED STABLE AND BOUNDARY WALL Grade II

NO.37 HIGH STREET Grade II

NO.36 HIGH STREET Grade II

NO.35 HIGH STREET Grade II

THE OLD STABLES, ST. MARY'S STREET Grade II

PEDESTRIAN GATE BETWEEN NO.43 & THE OLD STABLES, ST. MARY'S STREET Grade II

NO.43 ST. MARY'S STREET Grade II

BOUNDARY WALL TO CASTLE GREEN HOUSE, CARRIER'S LANE Grade II

RETAINING WALL IN CASTLE GREEN GROUNDS TO E. OF HOUSE, BRIDGE STREET Grade II

OUTBUILDINGS AT CASTLE GREEN HOUSE STABLE YARD, BRIDGE STREET Grade II

Scheduled Ancient Monument

CARDIGAN CASTLE CD123

Registered Park and Garden

CARDIGAN CASTLE PGW (D

y) 72 (CER)

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