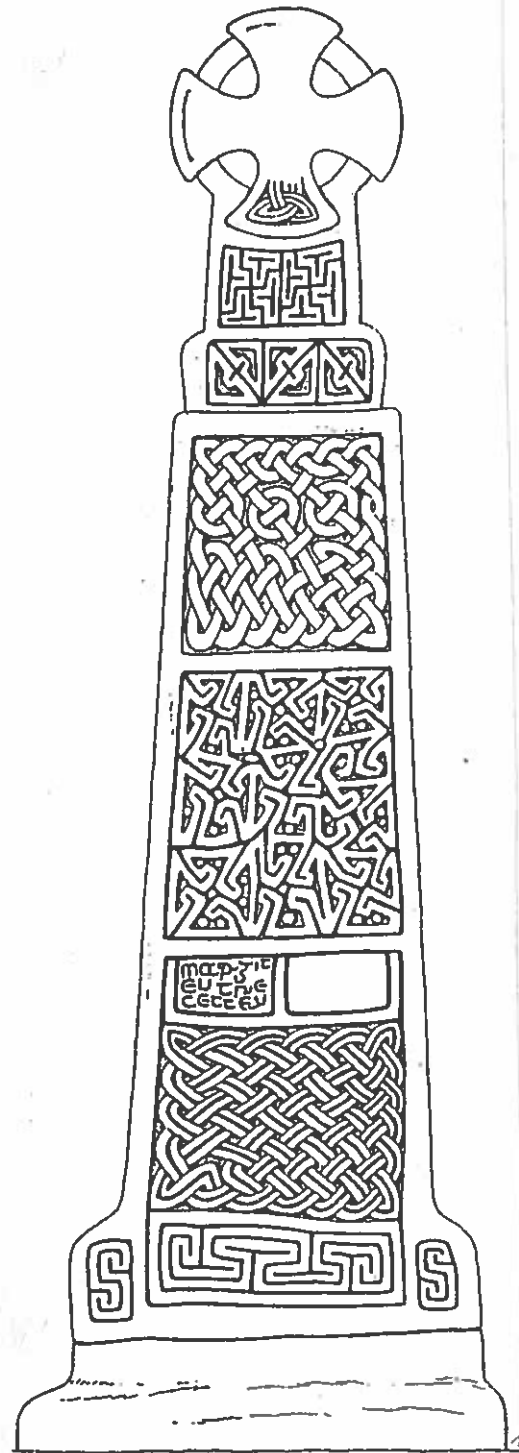


CAREW CROSS

Minor Excavation in advance of a
new access footpath.



The Brief:

In his letter of 28th September, 1990, Mr. Rick Turner, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Cadw, asked Dyfed Archaeological Trust to submit an estimate for a minor excavation over the area of a new access footpath to the rear of Carew Cross. The new approach is to be across the Castle grounds to the rear of the Cross involving the construction of a gravelled footpath, removal of existing wall and laying of new paving to the rear of the cross (see Cadw plan).

Introduction.

On agreement of Trust estimates, work was begun on 12th November and finished on site on 30th November. The excavation was carried out by Richard Ramsey, assisted by Martin Thompson. Supervision when required was provided by the Trust, at no extra charge to Cadw, from the Trust's SMR budget. The Trust is grateful to Mr M. Candler and to Mr. Dennis Lewis for providing messing and office space and the use of PCNP on-site facilities.

The Excavation.

This proved to be a straightforward operation. The area of the path and approach was marked out and deturfed. The area was then taken down to the required overall depth of 20 cm. by careful removal of soil buildup in spits. The area was divided up into approximate metre squares and all finds recovered were bagged according to square. In the event over the greater part of the approach path it became apparent that bedrock was just below the required 20 cm. depth so further soil was removed to clean down to bedrock level.

A small test pit was dug alongside the wall at the rear of the cross (which is to be removed) to check on its foundations. It was found to have been built directly onto the limestone bedrock, with no foundation trench. However the adjacent area of the trench, to be paved, was not taken down to bedrock since this would have involved excavation well below the required depths.

The sections drawn, reproduced here in a simplified and scaled down form, told a straightforward story. Over most of the approach path there was a well worm sorted, homogenous garden soil of dark brown silty loam, from below the turf to the level area of limestone bedrock. No features were present.

Mr Dennis Lewis informed us that the wall to the rear of the Cross was built c. 1946 after the War, when the stone was re-erected. Clearly the area had been deturfed and cleaned down to bedrock for the wall to be constructed on a hard level

surface. No division was visible in the section extending westwards from the rear of the Cross into the Castle grounds, although there is no reason to suppose that the whole of the area to be covered by the new path had been deturfed down to subsoil level when the wall was built.

The section shows a fairly gentle slope to the east in the level of the bedrock. Insufficient evidence was available from the limited excavation conducted to be sure whether this was a natural slope or whether some scarping had taken place. The present day level of the road east of the Castle wall is of course much lower than the Castle grounds.

The Finds

The pottery sherds consisted overwhelmingly of late post-medieval pottery, mainly later 19th and 20th century material. Most of the latter were tablewares, either transfer or plain white glazed (234 sherds). There was also a variety of earthenwares (124 sherds). These were counted, recorded by grid square, noted on the finds record forms and, after examination by Dee Brennan, the Trust's Finds Officer, discarded on site. Other modern material included thin pipe stem fragments, iron fragments, animal bone and shell, also fragments of Caerns. roofing slate. This material was found right down to the base of the soil just above bedrock.

There was a small number of Devon Gravel tempered coarsewares (16th-18th C) and some half dozen medieval sherds, also a small fragment of glazed ridge tile. These have been kept and handed to C O'Mahoney, pottery researcher for the main SDUC based Carew Castle post-excavation project.

The only other find of note was a copper alloy trade token,, at present undecipherable, which will be forwarded to UCC Conservation Lab. once Cadw has indicated which budget provision will pay for its conservation

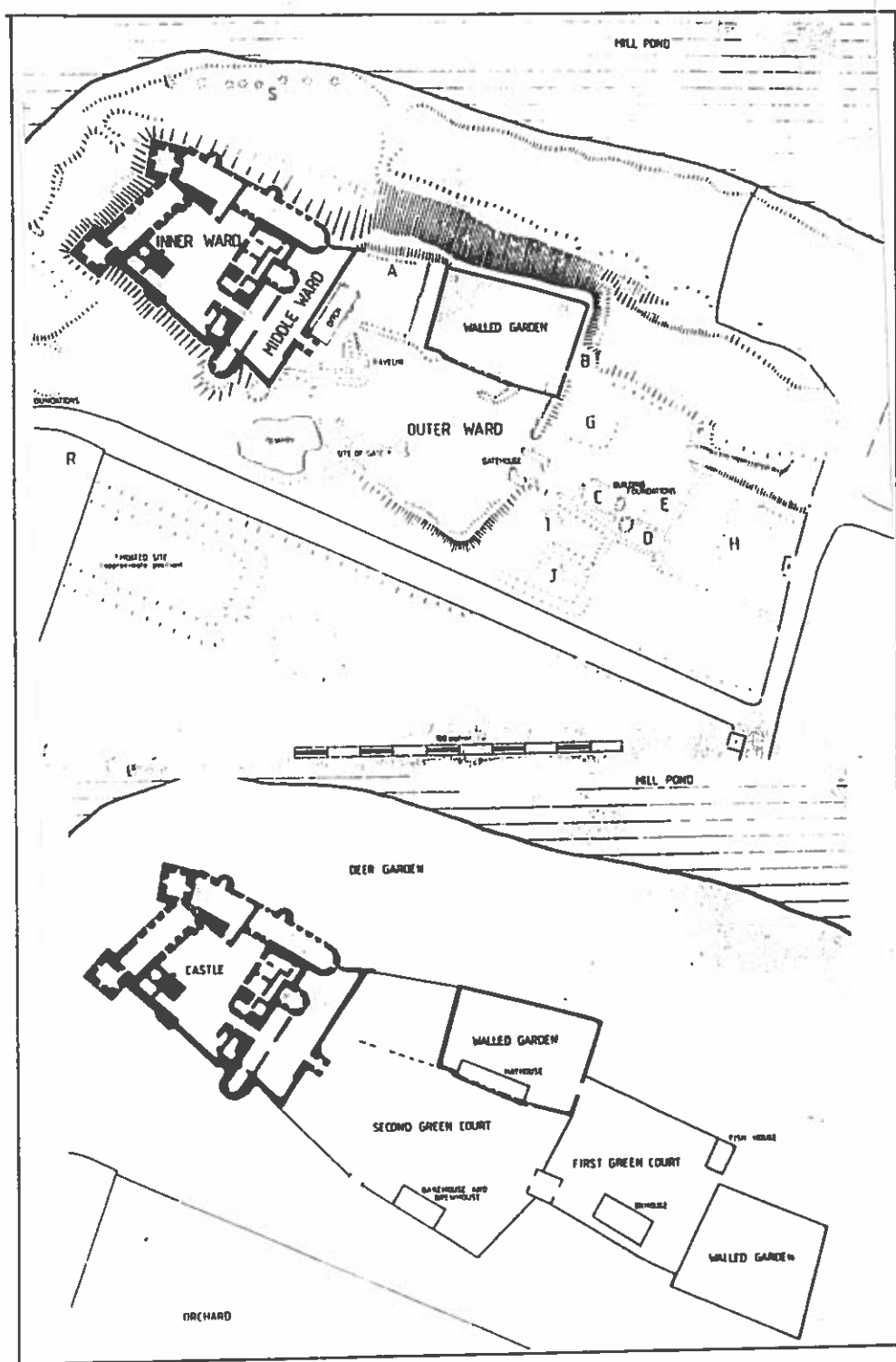
Site Archive : 1 sheet of 1:10 section drawings, finds record sheets by alphabetically numbered squares, context record sheets, 4 Polaroid photos of Trench (included in top copy of report to Cadw.).

Interpretation of Results:

The base information is derived from a revised Report by Ken Murphy for Dyfed Archaeological Trust in 1984 of his earthwork survey, excavation recording work and documentary evidence from the 1592 Survey of the Castle. (DAT prn. 3493). This in turn drew much from J. Howells unpub. SDUC undergraduate dissertation on 'The Outworks of Carew Castle, .. in the late 15th/early 16th C'(1980)

The Trench was sited in Area H of the DAT survey, well to the east of the Outer

Ward Gatehouse. The possibility of house platforms was noted in Area H at the time of survey. The suggested layout of structures recorded in the 1592 Survey puts the footpath trench firmly in the area of the walled garden. The featureless, deep, well worm sorted soil profile supports this interpretation. The mass of modern finds can be explained by proximity to the road and the proclivities of modern man in terms of disposing of rubbish when road and adjacent park wall coincide, the whole close to a public house.



Plan of Trench after Excavation

Section drawn on S. side

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limestone bedrock

dark brown soil

TEST PIT

CAREW CROSS

Existing footpath to Carey Cross

New path footpath to cemetery

New MS. Kias up

It's horizontal for sleep face

Extend path east to match with existing stone path

Existing stone wall to be removed

Konting

Relocate Kias of
the main road
to the site to
be used

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