

# **CLIFTON ROCK, TENBY, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF (NGR SN 1320 0062)**



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services  
For: Kate & Rhodri Evans



# DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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## CLIFTON ROCK, TENBY, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

By

**Philip Poucher**

*Paratowyd yr adroddiad yma at ddefnydd y cwsmer yn unig. Ni dderbynnir cyfrifoldeb gan Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf am ei ddefnyddio gan unrhyw berson na phersonau eraill a fydd yn ei ddarllen neu ddibynnu ar y gwybodaeth y mae'n ei gynnwys*

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**CLIFTON ROCK, TENBY, PEMBROKESHIRE:  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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Kate & Rhodri Evans

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## **CLIFTON ROCK, TENBY, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the construction of a new garden room at Clifton Rock, Greenhill Road, Tenby, Pembrokeshire (centred on SN 1320 0062). The site lay on the edge of the medieval settlement of Tenby, and close to a Grade II listed wall of potential late medieval or Civil War era date.*

*The groundworks revealed fragmentary remains of a post-medieval wall and pottery from the late 17<sup>th</sup> to mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. These were disturbed and a garden soil laid down in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. No archaeological features pre-dating the post-medieval period were uncovered.*

### **CRYNODEB GWEITHREDOL**

*Comisiynwyd Gwasanaethau Archaeolegol YAD i gynnal briff gwylio archeolegol yn ystod gwaith ddaear sy'n gysylltiedig ag adeiladu ystafell gardd newydd yn Clifton Rock, Heol Greenhill, Dinbych-y-pysgod, Sir Benfro (yn canolbwyntio ar SN 1320 0062). Gorweddai'r safle ar ymyl anheddiad canoloesol Dinbych-y-pysgod, ac yn agos at wal restredig Gradd II a allai fod yn dyddio o ddiwedd y cyfnod canoloesol neu gyfnod y Rhyfel Cartref.*

*Datgelodd y gwaith ddaear olion darniog o wal a chrochenwaith ôl-ganoloesol o ddiwedd yr 17eg ganrif i ganol y 18fed ganrif. Amharwyd ar y rhain a gosodwyd pridd gardd i lawr yn y 19eg ganrif. Ni ddarganfuwyd unrhyw nodweddion archeolegol cyn y cyfnod ôl-ganoloesol.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Proposals and Commission**

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Kate & Rhodri Evans to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the demolition and reconstruction of a garden room at Clifton Rock, Greenhill Road, Tenby, Pembrokeshire (centred on SN 1320 0062, Figures 1 and 2).
- 1.1.2 The requirement for an archaeological watching brief formed a Condition attached to the planning permission for the development works, Planning Application Ref No. NP/21/0490/FUL. This Condition had been placed upon the development proposals by Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority following advice from their archaeological advisors, Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management (DAT-DM).
- 1.1.3 The site lies just outside the medieval walled town of Tenby, and within an area of potential medieval extra-mural development (PRN 7301). A Grade II listed garden wall encloses the southwest side of the site, potentially of a late medieval, or Civil War era date, with part buried entrances suggesting potential buried levels to the rear. The site also lies within the grounds of the Grade II listed Clifton Rock House, built in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. As such there was considered the potential for archaeological remains to exist within the development area, and for subsequent groundworks to expose, damage or destroy any such remains. The recommendations by DAT-DM are laid out in a letter to the Local Planning Authority, dated 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021.
- 1.1.4 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological investigation and recording of Standing Buildings and Structures* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2014).

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

- 1.2.1 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) for a watching brief was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services prior to the commencement of the works, which was approved by the DAT-DM in their capacity as archaeological advisor to the planning authority prior to the commencement of the works. The scheme of works was summarised as:

*Archaeological attendance and recording during groundworks associated with demolition and reconstruction of a garden room at Clifton Rock, Greenhill Road, Tenby, Pembrokeshire.*

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

### 1.3 Report Outline

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

### 1.4 Abbreviations

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

### 1.5 Illustrations

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

### 1.6 Timeline

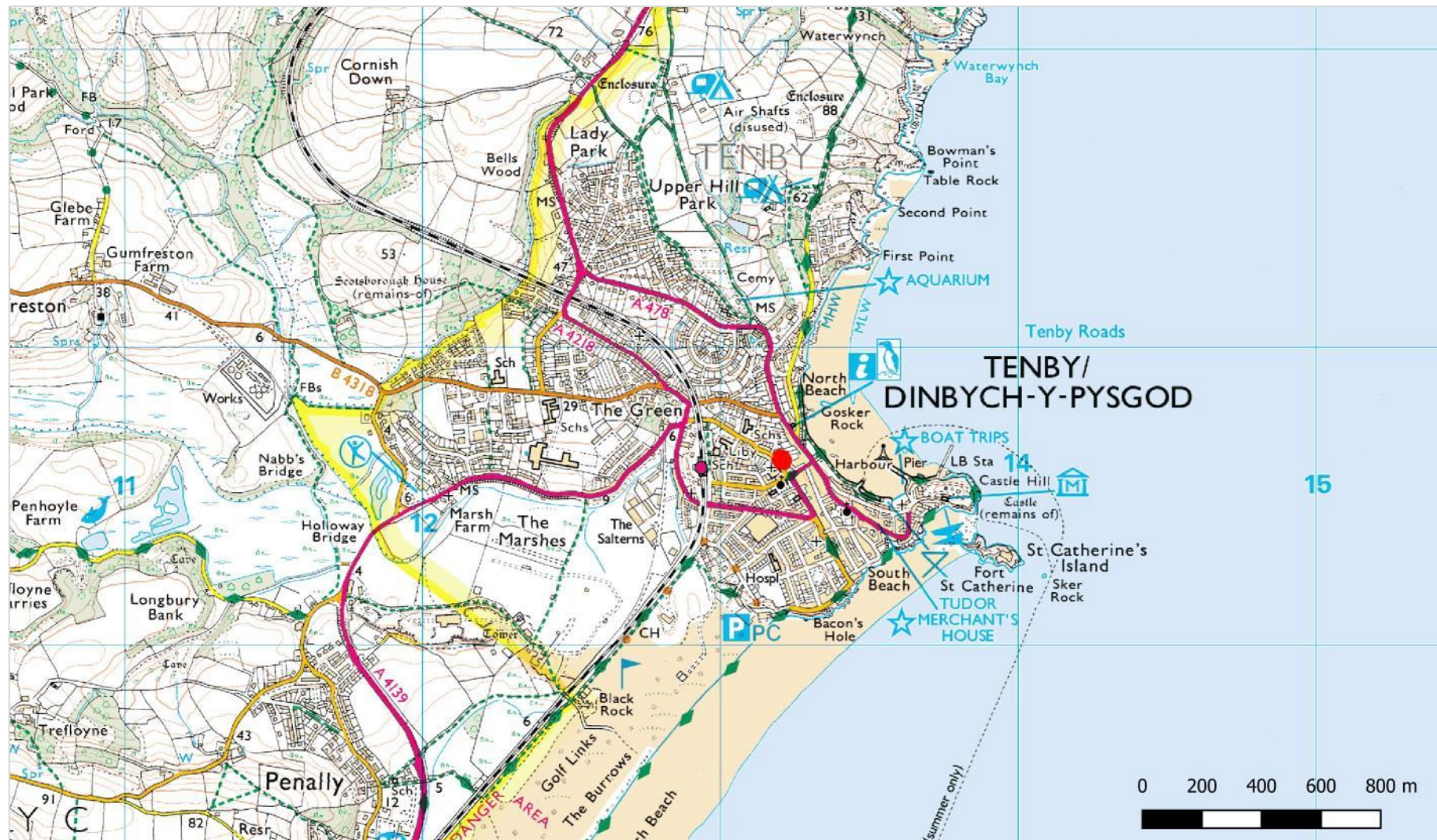
- 1.6.1 The following timeline is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text.

**Table 1:** Archaeological and historical timeline for Wales

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

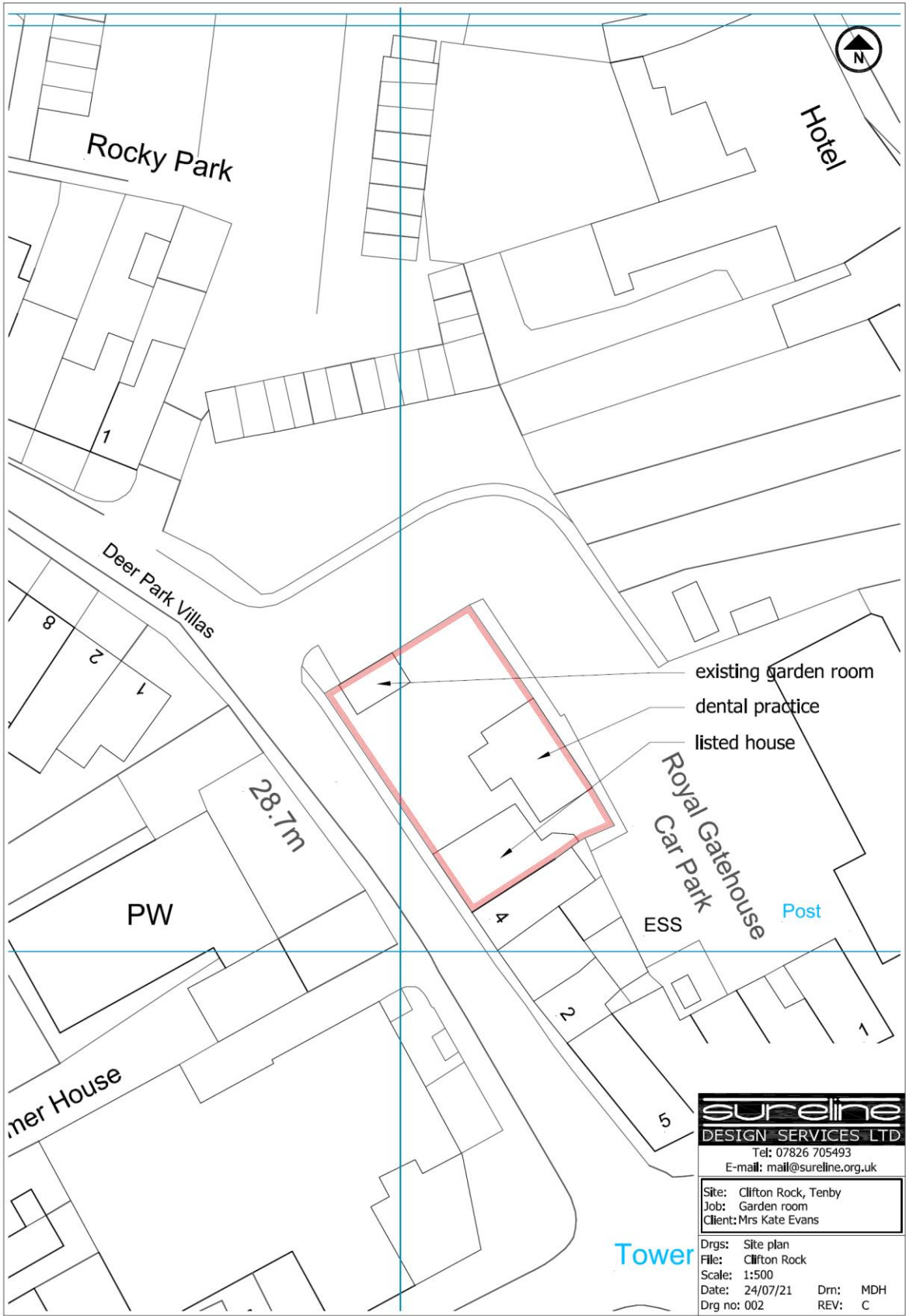
<sup>1</sup> The post-medieval and industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the regional Historic Environment Record as held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust





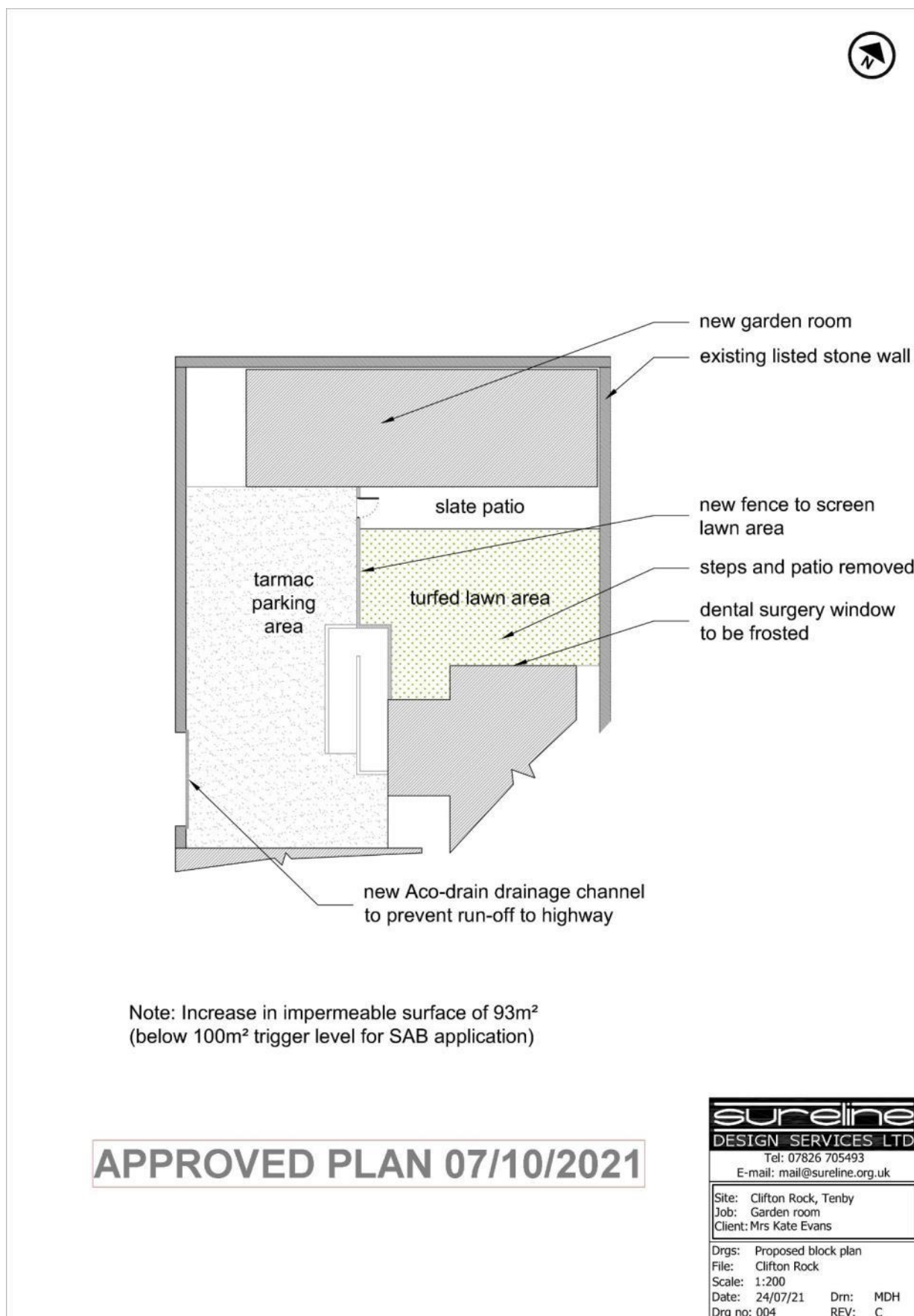
**Figure 1:** Location map (site in red dot)

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

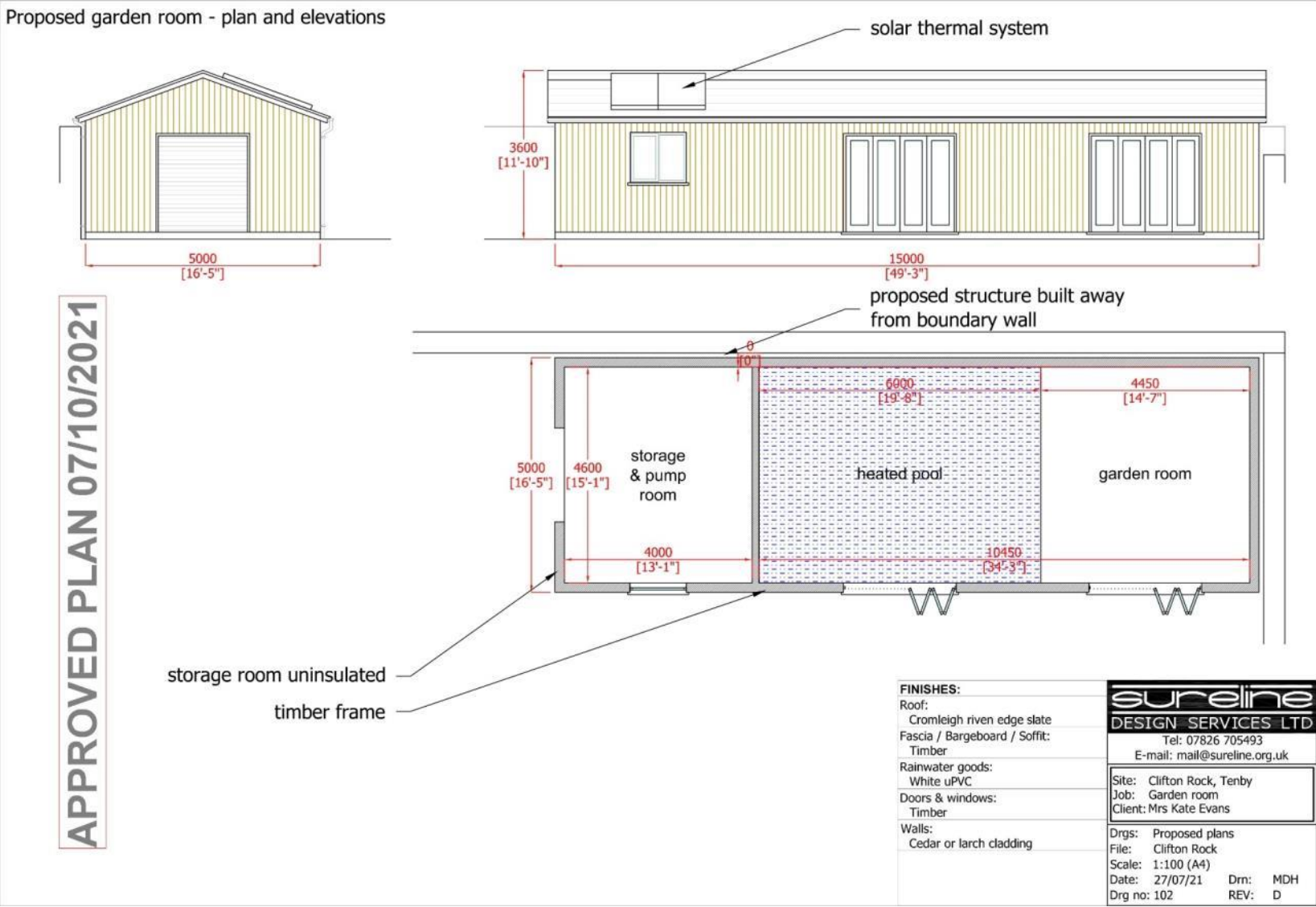


**Figure 2:** Detailed site location plan, showing the layout prior to development (supplied by client).





**Figure 3:** Approved development plan. Groundworks were concentrated on the area of the 'new garden room' along the northwest boundary of the site.



**Figure 4:** Approved development plan showing the layout and dimensions of the new garden room. Observed groundworks included the excavation of foundation trenches around the perimeter, and the excavation of the pool area.

## **2. THE SITE**

### **2.1 Location and Topography**

- 2.1.1 The site is situated in the grounds to the north of Clifton Rock house, which lies alongside Greenhill Road in Tenby, Pembrokeshire, centred on SN 1320 0062 (Figure 1, Photos 1 & 2).
- 2.1.2 Clifton Rock house is a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century villa built within the urban area of Tenby to the northwest of the walled town. A modern building lies along the northeast side of the north of the house, and the site is currently used as a dental surgery. The grounds of the house extend to the northwest, prior to development comprising an area of hardstanding along the roadside, with a lawned area to the northeast, and a small outbuilding and further area of hardstanding along the northwest boundary. The site is enclosed by stone walling, the earliest being the roadside walling which incorporates semi-submerged blocked doorways and possible arrow loops, potentially of a late medieval or early post-medieval date, pierced by a 19<sup>th</sup> century entrance to the house and grounds towards its southern end. The northwest and northeast side of the grounds are enclosed by a later high stone wall of mortared random rubble build. Both the main house, and the earlier roadside wall, are grade II listed (ref. number 26359).
- 2.1.3 Greenhill Road continues southeast to the corner of the walled town, continuing along the outer walls as South Parade. To the northwest it continues down falling ground and under the railway line, forming one of the two main northerly routes into Tenby. Parking lines the outer side of the boundary wall to the northwest and northeast, with a road and foot access between Greenhill Road and White Lion Street. Terraced residential properties line the street to the northwest and southeast, with the Deer Park Baptist Church and adjacent former Post Office building on the opposite side of the road to the west.
- 2.1.4 Tenby occupies a limestone outcrop on the south Pembrokeshire coast, with the traditional harbour occupying a sheltered location at the southern end of North Beach to the east of the site. A further sandy beach lies to the south, the two separated by Castle Hill headland. The landscape falls away to the northwest, an area occupied by the later urban spread of Tenby with farmland beyond. The River Ritec runs to the south, currently culverted, but defining the southern edge of the Tenby promontory.

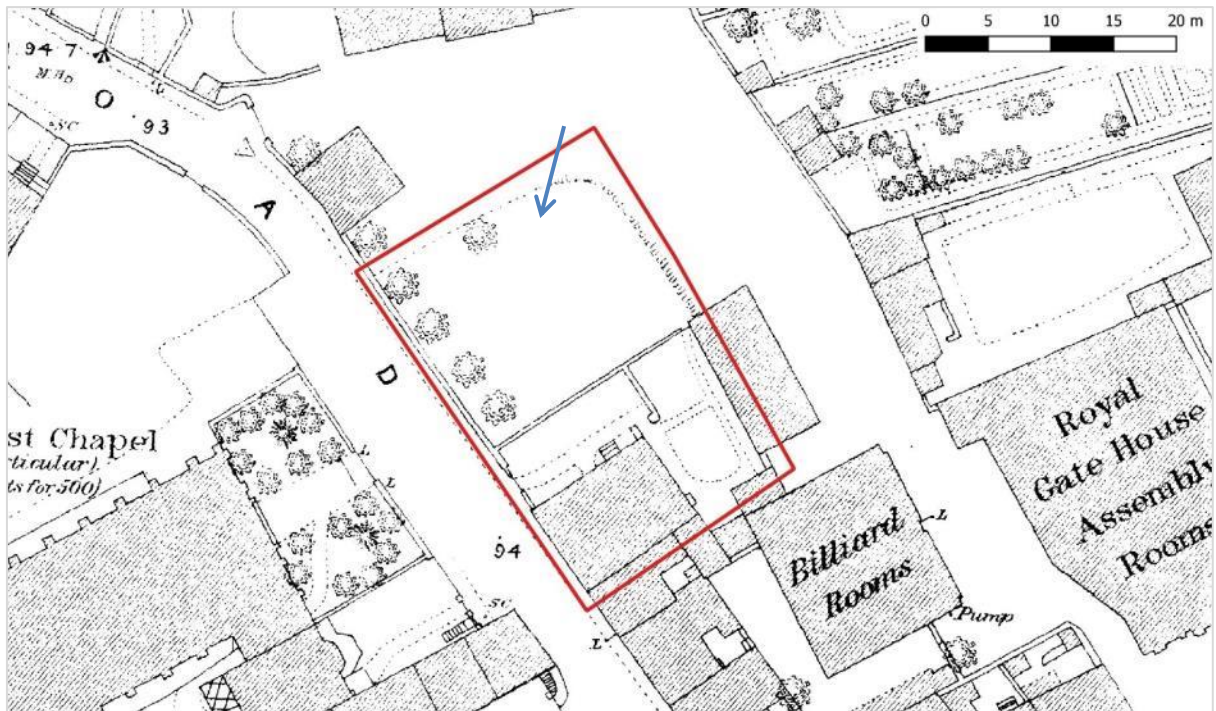
### **2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 2.2.1 This corner of Pembrokeshire was an active area during the early medieval period, with 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> century religious site located around Penally to the south, and a possible monastic settlement on Caldey Island. Tenby is mentioned in a 10<sup>th</sup> century poem, Etmic Dinbych, but the form any settlement in Tenby took during that period is unknown.
- 2.2.2 In the late 11<sup>th</sup> or early 12<sup>th</sup> century the Anglo-Norman invaders established a castle at Tenby, situated on the rocky promontory known as Castle Hill. A settlement would have quickly developed around the castle, likely focused around the harbour on North Beach. Potentially defended from the late 12<sup>th</sup> century, the emerging town was enclosed by a stone wall during the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries appear to be periods of gradual growth for the town, largely confined to within the walled limits, but with extra-mural development spreading to the north in Norton, and outside the southern gates. The extra-mural development to the north appears to have developed as a ribbon settlement along the main road to

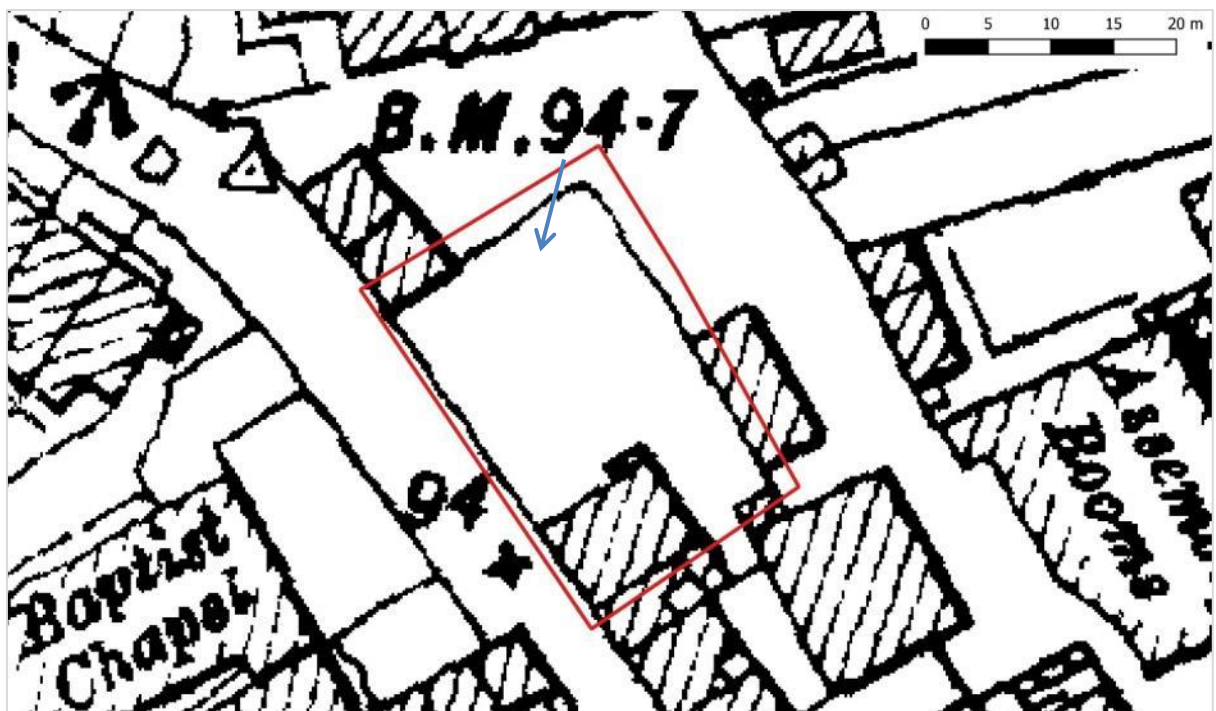
Carmarthen (The Norton/A478). The medieval layout of this site is not clear, but the later tithe map of 1841 includes the whole east side of Greenhill Road (including this site), as far north as Wallsfield Lane, as part of the town of Tenby, with agricultural land to the north and west, and it is not thought that the medieval boundaries of the town in this area altered greatly until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

- 2.2.3 Tenby played a prominent role in the Civil Wars of 1642-1649, largely held by the Parliamentarians, although briefly held by Royalists in 1643 and subject to Parliamentary siege. It is likely that some form of extra-mural defences around Tenby existed during this period, although the form they took is not clear. It has been considered that the early roadside wall around the site may date to this period of Civil War defences, and the wall was originally Scheduled as such, but this has since been reconsidered and the Scheduled status removed (although it remains Grade II listed). Laws (1896) refers to the remains of civil war defences forming part of the stable block behind the Royal Gatehouse Hotel (formerly standing at the junction of White Lion Street and The Norton), and this wall has sometimes been associated with that mention.
- 2.2.4 Tenby suffered a decline in fortunes during the 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries but began to gain popularity as a resort town from the 1780s onward, and throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The arrival of the railway in the 1860s providing an additional spur to tourism. As a consequence, extensive rebuilding took place throughout the town to provide houses, hotels and recreational venues. It is the buildings of this period that give the town much of its present-day character and appearance.
- 2.2.5 Clifton Rock House (Listed Building red.26359) is believed to have been built in 1860 for George Chiles, a wine merchant and subsequent mayor of Tenby in 1903. The site is visible on the detailed 1:500 Ordnance Survey map of Tenby in 1889 (Figure 5). The house itself is shown on its current footprint. To the south lie adjoining buildings all along the roadside frontage. The immediate grounds to the house lie to the north and east. These are enclosed by a wall, roughly in line with the northern wall of the dental surgery. The development site lies beyond this, potentially beyond the Clifton Rock property boundary. The area is defined by the roadside wall, but the north and east sides are defined only by an apparent change in ground level, with trees along the western boundary suggesting a garden area. By the time of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1907 (Figure 6) the area had been acquired and enclosed as part of the Clifton Rock grounds, indicating the walls to the north and east likely date to the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century at the earliest. Aerial photography from the 1940s and 1950s indicates that both the walls were backed by buildings throughout much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, which were only cleared in redevelopment works beyond the walls within the last 10 years. The same photographs indicate much of the development area appears to have been a garden, with a small outbuilding built into the northeast corner in the early 1950s.





**Figure 5:** Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1889, with the current site and grounds of Clifton Rock (as illustrated in Figure 2) approximately outlined in red. The location of the new garden room is shown by the arrow.



**Figure 6:** Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1907, with the current site and grounds of Clifton Rock (as illustrated in Figure 2) approximately outlined in red. The location of the new garden room is shown by the arrow.

### **3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork**

- 3.1.1 A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at the site which had the potential to expose, damage or destroy underlying archaeological remains.
- 3.1.2 Previous structures on the site and overlying turf had been cleared prior to groundworks commencing. The groundworks were undertaken in two stages. The initial stage involved the excavation of a trench along the inner face of the northern garden wall in order to establish secure foundation before the second stage. The outer foundation trenches for the new garden building were also excavated at this point. The second stage then comprised the excavation of the pool area.
- 3.1.3 The initial trench along the north garden wall was 15m long, x 0.5m wide. It was cut to a depth of 0.5m in line with the wall foundation, dropped to a depth of 1.4m in the area of the pool. The foundation trenches around the outer edge of the building were 0.5m wide, and typically 0.5m to 0.6m deep, up to 0.7m in places due to the uneven nature of the ground surface. These trenches were subsequently infilled with concrete and allowed to harden before the excavation of the pool area.
- 3.1.4 The pool excavation covered an area 7m wide (east – west), by 4.5m, excavated to a depth of 1.5m.
- 3.1.5 All excavations were carried out using a mechanical mini-digger using a combination of toothless and toothed buckets due to the nature of the material being excavated.
- 3.1.6 All archaeological deposits revealed during the groundworks were examined and recorded to an appropriate level.
- 3.1.7 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual<sup>2</sup> used by DAT Archaeological Services.
- 3.1.8 The work followed the Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief as laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) and adhered to their code of conduct (CIfA 2014).

#### **3.2 Timetabling of Fieldwork**

- 3.2.1 The watching brief took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2022.

#### **3.3 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving**

- 3.3.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork was collated into a site archive structured in accordance with specifications in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2011), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 3.3.2 The results of the fieldwork have been assessed in local, regional and wider contexts. The report includes a desk-based research element to ensure that the site is placed within its wider archaeological context.
- 3.3.3 A report fully representative of the results of the fieldwork has been prepared.

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



#### **4. RESULTS**

- 4.1 All numbers within the text within brackets []/()/{} refer to the unique context number given to all individual deposits using the open-ended numbering system in accordance with the DAT Archaeological Services' Recording Manual . A context register is provided as Appendix II. Square brackets [] refer to a cut feature, rounded brackets () to a deposit and curly brackets {} to a structure.
- 4.2 Excavations within the pool area revealed two naturally occurring deposits. The earliest was a firm layer of light yellow-grey sand (100), revealed at a typical depth of 1.1m. This was overlaid by a 0.3m thick layer of firm mid orange-brown clayey-sand (101), with small angular stone inclusions. This was revealed at a typical depth of 0.8m (Photos 3 – 7).
- 4.3 Overlying layer (101) was a 0.15m thick layer of friable mid orange-brown clayey-silt (102), containing some charcoal fragments. The interface with deposit (101) below was indistinct in places.
- 4.4 Within the centre of the site the fragmentary remains of a wall were revealed cutting into layer (102), first uncovered at a depth of 0.65m below the current ground surface. The construction cut [103] for the wall comprised a 1.6m wide linear trench, with a flat to slightly concave base, and a moderate break of slope to a concave side on the west, with a sharper break of slope to a stepped eastern side (Photo 4). The wall {104} was approximately 0.5m wide and was built along the eastern edge of the construction cut, and comprised large unworked blocks of local limestone set within a soft lime mortar with small coal inclusions (Photo 8 & 9). No facing stones were present, and the stones appeared to be roughly packed into the mortar. Both the wall and the construction cut were aligned northwest – southeast, parallel to the existing boundary walls and the road. Only a height of 0.3m of the wall survived, which was located 5.8m from the east boundary wall, 9.1m from the west boundary wall. A length of approximately 1m of the wall was exposed, which appeared to stop 3.7m from the northern boundary wall. The construction cut was infilled with a friable, mid grey-brown clayey-silt (105) with common medium sub-angular stone inclusions and the occasional small fragment of coal and lime mortar.
- 4.5 Visible to the west of the wall, and seemingly overlying it (although the relationship was indistinct) was a 0.1m thick layer of firm mid grey-brown clayey-silt (106) with common to abundant sub-angular stone and mortar fragment inclusions (Photo 5). To the west this deposit was overlaid with a mixed deposit of mid reddish-brown clayey-silt (107), up to 0.3m thick, with an increase in the frequency of the stone inclusions, which also included a layer of charcoal towards the base, red-ashy clash mixed in, and broken roofing slate towards the top (Photos 10 & 11). This deposit also contained a large amount of pottery fragments that have been dated to the late 17<sup>th</sup> to late 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 4.6 Lying across site was a 0.4m thick mixed friable deposit of dark brown clayey-silt (108), containing frequent inclusions of shell and sub-angular small to medium stone (Photos 4 – 10). This deposit also contained a variety of pottery fragments dating from the late 17<sup>th</sup> to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and coal fragments.
- 4.7 To the north a large pit was revealed cutting into deposit (108). This pit [109] was 2.8m wide, its length was not recorded, although it extended below and beyond the northern garden wall (Photo 12). The pit had steep

straight sides, and a flat base, 0.75m deep. It was filled with a single deposit of loose, mid grey-brown stony silty-clay (110).

- 4.8 The trench along the inner face of the northern garden wall revealed the wall appeared to cut into, or partly sit upon, the dark soil deposit (108), as well as overlying pit [109] (Photos 12 & 13). Overlying both deposit (108) and (110) (fill of pit [109]) in this area was a 0.15m thick layer of firm mid orange-brown silty-clay (111). This appeared to act as the base layer for the garden wall, which rested upon it. The garden wall {112} was 2.7m high, only the lower 0.35m being buried and acting as the foundations (Photos 1 & 14). The wall was built of random rubble, with brick inclusions, with concrete coping, and set within a solid mortar which had largely being repointed in cement mortar. The wall butted against the Grade II listed roadside wall, but otherwise formed a continuous L-shaped line to enclose the northern and eastern edges of the garden.
- 4.9 Within the garden area deposit (108) was overlaid, and in places cut into, by modern foundations related to the structure demolished prior to groundworks commencing. These modern deposits comprised a base layer of mixed orange clay (113), overlaid by crushed stone hardcore (114), and then concrete slab (115). These were in total 0.25m to 0.35m thick.
- 4.10 The Grade II listed roadside wall remained unaffected by the groundworks. The wall was approximately 19m long, and stood 1.8m high to the road, 1.6m high to the interior (Photos 15 – 17). A blocked doorway was visible on both faces at the northwest end of the wall, although lintel stones were only visible to the exterior. The doorway extends approximately 1m above the current interior ground level. A protruding stone lies approximately 1.4m south of the doorway on the interior face. The remaining wall was not examined in detail, but it appears to have been repointed on this interior face, and later concrete coping has also been added.



**Photo 1:** General view of site prior to groundworks, looking north.



**Photo 2:** View southwest showing the Grade II listed garden wall, and the Deer Park Chapel beyond. 2m scale.



**Photo 3:** View northeast of the excavated pool area, showing natural deposit (100). 1m scales.





**Photo 4:** View southeast showing the section of the pool area excavation, and the construction cut [103] for wall {104} (arrow). 1m scales.



**Photo 5:** View southeast, showing the rest of the section of the pool area excavation. 1m scales.





**Photo 6:** View southwest of the section of the pool area excavation. 1m scales.



**Photo 7:** View northeast of the section of the pool area excavation.





**Photo 8:** View south. The remains of wall {104} revealed during excavation. 1m scale.



**Photo 9:** View southwest. Profile of wall {104}. 1m scales.





**Photo 10:** View southwest, showing detail of stony deposit (107) between the orange natural deposits below, and the darker garden soils above. 1m scales.



**Photo 11:** View east. Showing the surface of deposit (107) in plan during excavation. 1m & 0.5m scales.





**Photo 12:** View north, showing pit [109] underneath the rear garden wall {112}, infilled by the loose material (110) to the right of the scale. 2m scale.



**Photo 13:** View northwest, showing the base of the rear garden wall {112} sat upon orange clay deposit (111), with darker soil deposit (108) below that. 1m scale.





**Photo 14:** View northwest, showing detail of rear garden wall {112}. 2m scale.



**Photo 15:** View east of the exterior of the Grade II listed wall, with Clifton Rock to the rear. 2m scale.



**Photo 16:** View northeast, showing detail of Grade II listed wall and blocked opening. 2m scale.



**Photo 17:** View southwest, showing detail of the interior of the Grade II listed wall, with blocked opening evident, including excavated foundation trench in the foreground. 2m & 0.5m scales.



## **5. ARTEFACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 Pottery, and a small amount of glassware and clay pipe stems, were recovered from two deposits during the excavations works, namely a stoney, mid reddish-brown, clayey-silt (107) and an overlying dark brown clayey-silt (108). The assemblages were very similar from both deposits, and during excavation it was not possible to distinguish the deposits and ascribe individual artefacts to individual deposits. Artefacts have therefore been catalogued together and listed in table 2 below. The artefacts catalogued comprise a representative sample of the pottery assemblage within the excavated deposits, as not all artefacts were retained. Detailed specialist assessment of these artefacts has not been undertaken. The following assessment was undertaken by the author, with advice on some artefacts from pottery specialist Dee Williams.
- 5.2 The bulk of the pottery assemblage comprised gravel-tempered red earthenware with an internal glaze either brown, olive green or dark green in colour (Photo 18). The pottery fragments include rim, base and body fragments from a range of vessels, including jugs and bowls, that appear to be general kitchen and dairy vessels. The pottery is typical of north Devon gravel-tempered wares, which have their origins in the later medieval period, but these vessels likely date to the late 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century, which was their main period of importation into this area of Wales.
- 5.3 Other earlier pottery also from north Devon was a selection of sgraffito-ware, comprising fragments from large shallow bowls (Photo 19). The 'sgraffito' designs are created by incising lines through the white slip to expose the red earthenware below, all then covered in a lead glaze making the slip appear yellow, and the incised lines a dark brown. This pottery also dates to the later 17<sup>th</sup> and into the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5.4 More distant pottery sources are represented by a fragment of tin-glazed earthenware, likely from a Bristol pottery.
- 5.5 Later pottery artefacts included numerous fragments of blue and white transfer-printed glazed creamwares of 19<sup>th</sup> century date (Photo 20). A smaller number of hand-painted blue and white glazed pottery was recovered of potential 18<sup>th</sup> century date. Fragments of 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century salt-glazed stoneware jars were also recovered, and a variety of other glazed pottery fragments of likely 19<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 5.6 The bulk of the artefact assemblage was pottery, but one fragment of clay pipe stem was recovered, but this could not be dated any more accurately than the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century, and one fragment of an olive-green glass, of general 19<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 5.7 The quantity and range of material would suggest it comes from a domestic rubbish dump; the material consistent with an urban setting such as this. The date range suggests a concentration of activity in the late 17<sup>th</sup> to mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, but the occurrence of later 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery suggests this earlier deposit was disturbed and spread across the area in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The presence of a large quantity of pottery from North Devon is also typical of pottery assemblages from the Tenby area, the proximity of North Devon and its coastal location would provide easy access to the North Devon potteries.

**Table 2:** Quantified list of selected artefacts recovered from the site.

Context	Description	Date	No. of fragments	Weight
107 / 108	North Devon gravel-tempered red earthenware, internal brown-green glaze.	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> cent.	26	1340g
	English tin-glazed earthenware	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> cent.	1	50g
	North Devon Sgraffito-ware	Mid/late 17 <sup>th</sup> -mid 18 <sup>th</sup> cent.	6	267g
	Salt-glazed stoneware jar fragment	19 <sup>th</sup> cent.	2	80g
	Hand-painted blue & white glazed creamware	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> cent.	1	25g
	Transfer-printed blue & white glazed creamware	19 <sup>th</sup> cent.	3	28g
	Assorted glazed creamware	19 <sup>th</sup> cent.	3	26g
	Clay pipe stem	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> cent.	1	5g
	Dark olive-green bottle glass	19 <sup>th</sup> cent.	1	22g



**Photo 18:** Selection of the North Devon gravel-tempered ware pottery recovered from the site.



**Photo 19:** Examples of the North Devon Sgraffito-ware pottery from the site.



**Photo 20:** Examples of the blue & white glazed pottery from the site.

## **6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 A watching brief was carried out during groundwork associated with the construction of a garden room at Clifton Rock, Greenhill Road, Tenby (centred on SN 1320 0062). The site lies close to the medieval walled town of Tenby, and potentially within the medieval extra-mural settlement of Norton. A Grade II listed wall of potential late medieval or Civil War era date encloses one side of the site, which also lies in the grounds of a Grade II house built circa 1860. The presence of these sites highlighted the potential for associated archaeological remains to extend into the development area.
- 6.2 Groundworks included the excavation of foundation trenches, and a larger excavation for a pool area. Naturally occurring sandy deposits (100) and (101) were uncovered at depths of around 0.8m below current ground levels.
- 6.3 A fragment of walling {104} was uncovered in the centre of the site, running parallel to existing property boundaries. The rough nature of the remains suggests they represent buried foundation deposits, no facing stones or dressed stonework was uncovered. The presence of coal within the lime mortar would suggest a post-medieval date for the walling. The overlying deposit (106), which was spread to the west of this wall, contained large quantity of stone, along with ash and broken roofing slate, all typical of a demolition deposit or construction debris. This material may have, at least in part, come from whatever structure is represented by the walling. The nature of this structure is unclear however, no related walling, or wall return, was uncovered, and it may have represented a simple boundary feature.
- 6.4 The demolition/construction material, and overlying deposit, contained a significant amount of late 17<sup>th</sup> to mid-18<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The inclusion of later, 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery, indicates this material has been disturbed, but the pottery would indicate domestic activity in the immediate area during the late 17<sup>th</sup> to mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. It would appear to be largely waste domestic wares, potentially therefore from rear yard rubbish pits. No direct relationship was established with the Grade II listed roadside wall, but the relative depth at which the pottery was recovered (0.3m to 0.7m deep), and the likelihood that the lower part of the roadside wall is buried by up to 1m, suggests a potential link. The fragmentary remains of wall {104} may also be associated. If linked, this may indicate the roadside wall was a little later than the suggested Civil War era date of the 1640s.
- 6.5 The presence of the 19<sup>th</sup> century material would appear to date the period of potential demolition and clearance, redeveloping the area behind the earlier roadside wall. The thick layer of dark soil that overlies the demolition/construction material has the appearance of garden soils, again dateable to the 19<sup>th</sup> century from the later pottery contained within it, but clearly mixed in with earlier deposits. The establishment of this soil may however pre-date its acquisition by Clifton Rock, as it appears to run underneath the rear garden wall, which mapping evidence suggests represents the extension of the Clifton Rock grounds in the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 6.6 No archaeological evidence of medieval activity was uncovered by the groundworks.

## 7. SOURCES

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**APPENDIX I:**  
**Context Register**

Context	Description	Interpretation
100	Layer - Firm, light yellow-grey sand	Natural
101	Layer - Firm, mid orange-brown clayey-sand. Common, small, angular stone inclusions. 0.3m thick	Natural
102	Layer - Friable, mid orange-brown clayey-silt. Occasional charcoal fleck. 0.15m thick	Disturbed natural / buried soil
103	Cut – Linear (SE-NW). Flat to slightly concave base, moderate BoS to W, sharp BoS to E. Concave W side, stepped E side. 1.3m+ long, 1.6m wide, 0.3m deep. Contains 104 & 105.	Construction cut
104	Wall – Large unworked limestone blocks. Roughly set in a lime mortar with coal inclusions. 1.3m+ long, 0.5m wide, 0.3m high	Wall foundations
105	Fill – Friable, mid grey-brown clayey-silt Common, medium, sub-angular stone inclusions. Occasional small coal & mortar inclusions. 1.3m+ long, 1.6m wide, 0.3m thick	Construction cut infill
106	Layer – Firm, mid grey-brown clayey-silt Abundant sub-angular stone. 3.1m+ wide, 5m+ wide, 0.1m thick	Demolition/ construction debris
107	Layer – Friable, mid red-brown clayey-silt Abundant sub-angular stone. Common charcoal fragments. Common broken roof slate. 3.1m+ wide, 5m+ wide, 0.3m thick Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> century pottery	Demolition/ construction debris
108	Layer – Friable, dark brown clayey-silt Abundant small-medium sub-angular stone. Common, shell fragments. 0.4m thick Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> century pottery	Garden soil
109	Cut – Steep, straight sides. Flat base 2.8m wide, 0.75m deep. Contained 110	Pit



110	Fill – Loose, mid grey-brown silty-clay Abundant, small-medium, sub-angular stone 2.8m wide, 0.75m thick	Fill of 109
111	Layer – Firm, mid orange-brown silty-clay 0.15m thick	Foundation deposit
112	Structure – L-shaped, random rubble set in cement mortar. Occasional brick inclusion, concrete coping. 2.7m high	Garden wall
113	Layer – Firm, mid orange-brown clay	Construction layer
114	Layer – Loose, mid grey gravel	Hardcore
115	Layer – Concrete slab	Modern surface

