

# NARBERTH

## A Topographical & Historical Survey



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Dyfed Archaeological Trust 1992

# **NARBERTH - A Topographical & Historical Survey**

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## INTRODUCTION.

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### *Reasons for Survey*

The survey has been carried out by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, and funded by Cadw with support from Dyfed County Council and South Pembrokeshire District Council. The necessity for such a survey has been felt for some time. Narberth is a small town, of medieval origins, with an interesting history as a market town and an administrative and social centre, that is reflected in its buildings and town plan. Changes and decline in all these functions have led to a number of new development and heritage initiatives. The recognition and retention of the historic pattern of a town is a neglected aspect of development control. Yet without such a study the Trust has found it difficult to comment on the archaeological and topographical implications of individual development proposals.

In 1978 the main shopping and business area of Narberth was declared a Conservation Area (see Map 20, p. 55). The concern for preservation and interest in the history of the town has been manifest in the formation of The Narberth Society and the Wilson Museum. In 1988 Cadw carried out a survey of the Narberth Community Area and listed a number of buildings and other structures in both the town and surrounding area. Cadw and Dyfed Archaeological Trust drew attention to the need for a topographical survey in their comments on the Narberth Central Area Study produced in November 1989 by South Pembrokeshire District Council. In November 1991 Cadw and South Pembrokeshire District Council produced a Joint Proposal for a Narberth Town Scheme intended to provide financial assistance toward the repair and maintenance of building fabric within the Conservation area. More recently the Taf and Cleddau Rural Initiative have published for Narberth Town Council and Narberth Enhancement Committee the results of a Community Appraisal entitled 'Narberth in the 1990s'. It is hoped that this Topographical Survey will provide the information required by all these initiatives to preserve, enhance or record in advance of destruction the historic townscape of Narberth.

### *Survey Objectives:*

- to produce an overall description and analysis of the historical topography of Narberth and its development.
- to identify surviving elements, features and structures of special significance in the historical development of the town
- to draw the attention of the local Planning Authority to elements which should be preserved or otherwise subjected to some detailed recording in advance of destruction.
- to raise the level of community awareness of Narberth's historical topography.

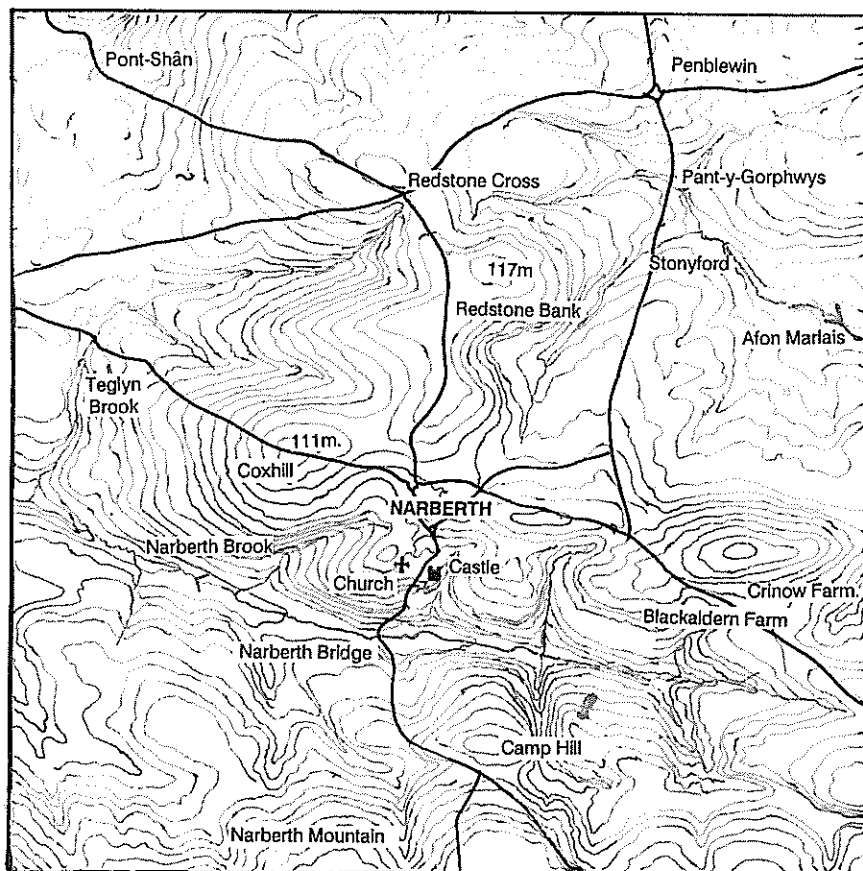
### *Structure of the Report*

The report is broadly chronological in structure, with an introduction on the physical (geology, relief, drainage) setting of the town. The evolution of the town's road and street pattern is dealt with on a thematic basis. The survey is not primarily a historical or an architectural study but some background and detail is required to substantiate the archaeological and topographical hypotheses advanced. It must be regarded as very much the first word rather than the last on the topographical history of the town. Although it can and hopefully will be read through from start to finish it has been broken down into self contained sections and the main points distinguished by bold type in the Report for those who wish for a quick summary. Wherever possible the information has additionally been summarised and presented in map form. The main recommendations are presented at the end of the Survey.

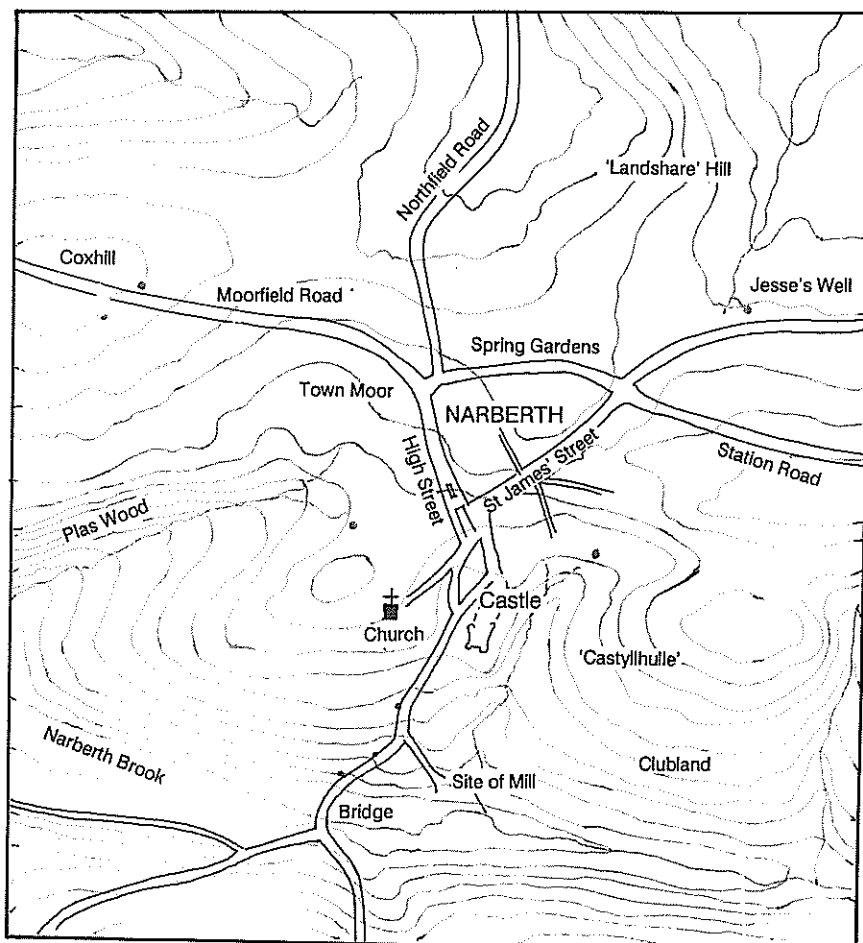
### *Acknowledgements*

It is a perilous undertaking to attempt a topographical study of this sort without much background knowledge of the town. The Dyfed Archaeological Trust is therefore very grateful to those who have assisted Heather James in assembling the material on which the Survey is based. Revd. Geoffrey Morris, author of *The Story of Narberth* generously provided full references to his source material. Miss Ray Davies and her colleagues at The Wilson Museum have walked round the town with the report's author and facilitated access to the interiors and rear of shops and houses, as well as providing a fund of unpublished information. The Trust is conscious that had time allowed, wider consultation with local historians would have produced much more information. Thomas Lloyd generously accompanied the author on a detailed perambulation of the town, commenting on the buildings and made copies of his notes available. It is hoped that he will be able to publish in sufficient detail his researches on local builders and architects and their minor as well as major buildings. The sections relating to what we may term Narberth's 'Victorian Town Vernacular' styles and designs relies heavily on his comments.

But any remaining errors of fact or misinterpretation are the responsibility of the author.



MAP 1



MAP 2

## **NARBERTH - the Physical Setting.**

### *Introduction*

A town plan in its origins and development, is both constrained and given opportunities by the physical nature of its site. The small market town of Narberth is not unique in its inland siting, though most historic towns in west Wales have a coastal or an estuarine location. Nor is it sited on a navigable waterway - the nearest source of water transport, the Eastern Cleddau, lies some 5 km. to the west. So the town has always relied on overland communications. The modern town is situated on the level summits as well as the steep slopes of two hills and an undulating plateau, the resulting changes in level of street and roofscape giving it an attractive appearance.

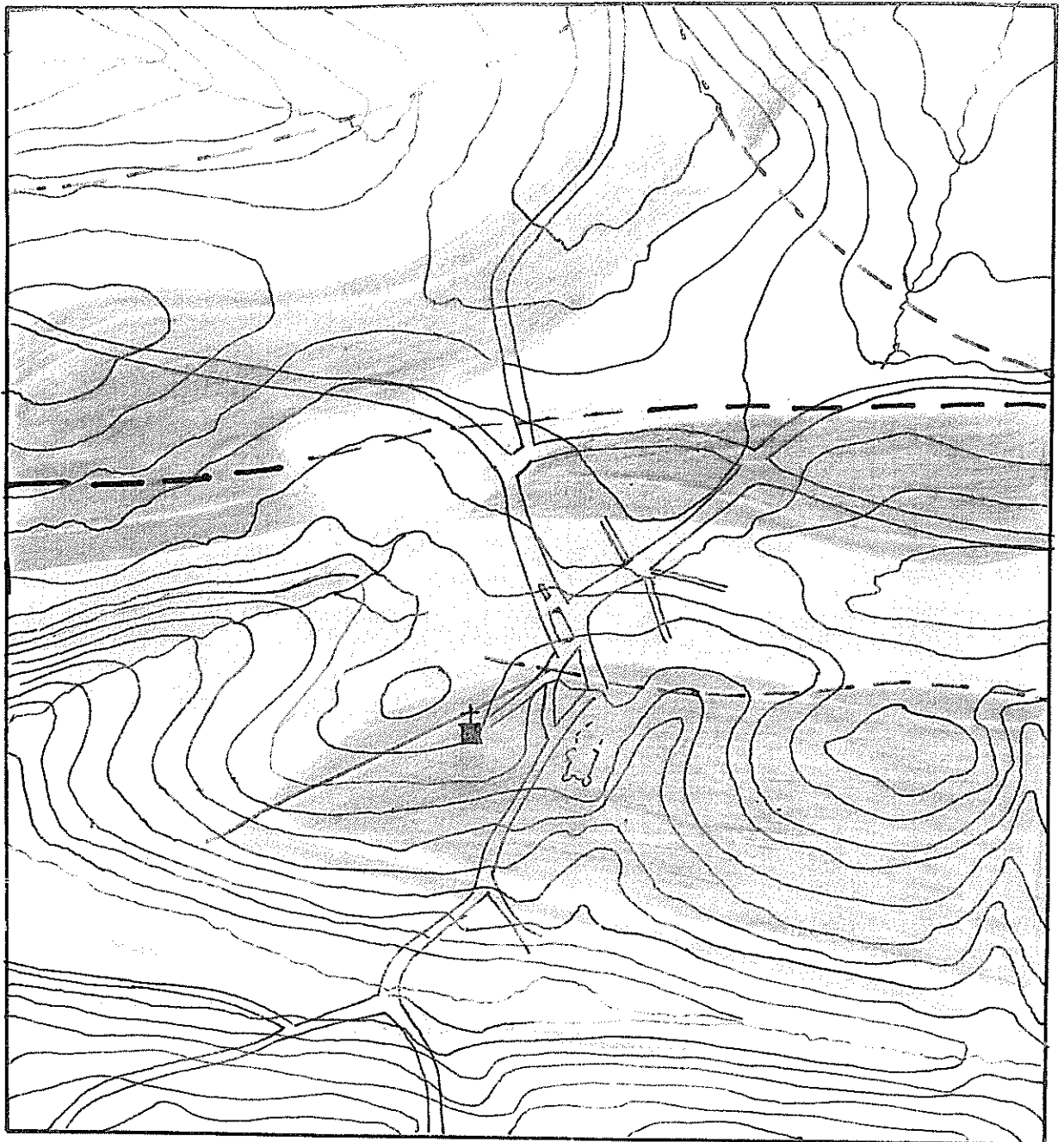
### *Relief and Drainage (Maps 1 & 2)*

The town is sited on the slopes and summit of a ridge which is dissected by small streams. At the foot of the ridge the westward draining Narberth Brook lies in a narrow, steep sided valley which rises, on the south, to the greater heights of Narberth Mountain. South-east of the town, probably on the 'Castyllhulle' of a fourteenth century document, are fields and hedges with the farm of Clubland on its southern slope. A small stream flowing south into Narberth Brook fed directly into the medieval Mill Pond. Another stream east of 'Castyllhulle' separated it from the ridge on which Blackaldernis sited. To the west of the Church the slopes of the ridge are similarly separated into two hills by a south-west draining stream. North of Market Square the ground rises more gradually both to the north-north west along High Street and to the north east along St. James Street. The Town Moor at the northern end of High Street is bounded by Moorfield Road on its northern side. Here the original ground levels have been masked by tipping and levelling. The ground falls away steeply on the south west side of the Moor in a steep sided valley traversed by Carding Mill Lane with Plas Wood on its northern side. Moorfield Road to the west and Spring Gardens to the east occupy fairly level ground across a saddle which is bounded by Cox Hill (rising to 111 m. O.D.) to the west and the more gentle slope of a spur of high ground extending south westwards from Whitley farm, known historically as Landshare Hill. The ground also rises to the north of the town forming a broad level-topped ridge over the area traversed by Redstone Road via Rushacre to the heights of Redstone Bank (117 m. above O.D.)

The south west facing slopes of the east-west aligned ridge on which Narberth is sited have, as noted above, been dissected by southward flowing streams which fall steeply into Narberth Brook. A small stream rises to the east of Narberth Castle forming a steep, now wooded, valley which separates the Castle from 'Castyllhulle' providing a strong defence. It is likely that a smaller stream rose on the western side of the Castle, long since diverted, carving out a slight depression in the slope down which the main road down to Narberth Bridge has cut a deeper 'hollow-way'.

A colour copy of this map can be produced on request.

MAP 3



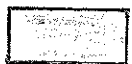
KEY



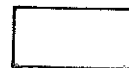
Alluvium (post-Glacial)



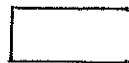
Boulder Clay (Glacial)



Gravel (Glacial)



Red Marls (Old Red Sandstone)



Mudstones (Silurian)



Cethings Sandstone (Silurian)  
Black Shales & Conglomerates



Shales & Mudstones (Ordovician)

On the northeast side of the town, a stream which rises at 'Jesse's Well' drains north east past Redstone Bank and was forded at Stonyford on the present day A478 before draining into the upper course of the Afon Marlais. Springs rise and groundwater issues at between 40 & 95 m. in the immediate vicinity of the town. On higher ground at the centre of the town several houses contain wells in their cellars or to the rear of the main house. Some are marked on the accompanying map (Map 4) but there are undoubtedly more to be recorded. They are cut into the impervious shales which virtually outcrop without any surface cover of deposits over the lower half of the town.

### *Geology (Map 3)*

Narberth is built upon an succession of conglomerate, shales and sandstone rocks. The numerous folds in this series of Slade and Redhill Beds of Ordovician date have predominantly east-west axes and a strong westerly pitch. They are further broken in continuity by faults, mainly down-throws to the south. The folds and faults have brought the basal conglomerate to the surface in a few places north and west of Narberth. There are small outcrops of the fine-grained Cethings sandstone which overlays the black shales and black flaggy mudstones and can be used for building. Above lie the 'Canaston Beds' of mudstones, a broad band which extends west from Haverfordwest, which underlie the middle of the town (see map). Both shales and mudstones are locally known as 'rab.'

The passage of the ice sheets across the area during the last glaciation has rounded off and levelled the tops of the hills. But the narrow cwms or valleys radiating from Narberth to the south-east, south-west and north-east dissecting the ridge and its slopes are the product of post-glacial erosion from the streams described above. There is a band of impervious boulder clay across the north of the town, a surface drift deposited by the melting glaciers at the end of the last Ice Age ten thousand years ago. As the map shows the whole of the Town Moor lies over boulder clay which extends north-eastwards in a narrower band across the lower part of Northfield Road, just north of Spring Gardens road, below the Rugby Pitch and widens to a broad oval area over most of 'Landshare Hill'. To the east of that, across the present day A478 outcrop beds of flags and limestones of the Llandeilo limestone, older rocks than the shaly mudstones.

### *Summary*

**Narberth is unusual in its inland and hillslope location. It is a town built on many levels which contributes to its attractive townscape. It occupies a watershed position, being ringed by springs and streams which drain away from the settlement, making wells the main water source for the town until modern times. Its underlying geology is predominantly of shales and mudstones, known locally as 'rab', close to the surface or outcropping in much of the town. However over the Town Moor and areas north and east of Spring Gardens the underlying solid geology is masked by drift deposits of impervious boulder clay deposited at the end of the last Ice Age.**

## TOPOGRAPHICAL IMPLICATIONS

### *Routes*

It will be argued in the next section that the medieval settlement of Narberth developed alongside an existing through route. This is today represented by the course of Jesse Road/St James Street, Market and Castle Streets. The road approaches the historic core of Narberth from the north-east making a gradual descent down the crest of a spur of high ground. It then changes alignment at Market Square to descend the slope more directly, at a steeper gradient. Narberth Brook can have posed no problems for crossing, so the location of the bridge, and perhaps the ford which may have preceded it, was determined by the approach line taken by the road, rather than the course of the road being dictated by a specific fording point.

### *The Medieval Castle and Parish Church*

This does not occupy the highest point along the ridge above Narberth Brook as the coloured relief and drainage map shows (Map 2). It was probably sited to command the northward approaches to a pre-existing crossing point of the Brook. The Castle builders chose a well defended site on a slightly protruding spur of high ground defined by a stream valleys to the east and to a lesser extent to the west.

St. Andrew's Church is sited 1200 m. west of the Castle in an equally prominent position above but some distance away from the through road descending to Narberth bridge. Although we cannot be certain, it is likely that the church and its graveyard were newly built on this site in the twelfth or early thirteenth centuries. The choice of site therefore will have been part of a 'plan package' for a new Norman settlement laid out between the Church and the through route along what is today Church Street and Picton Place.

### *Field Systems & Land Use.*

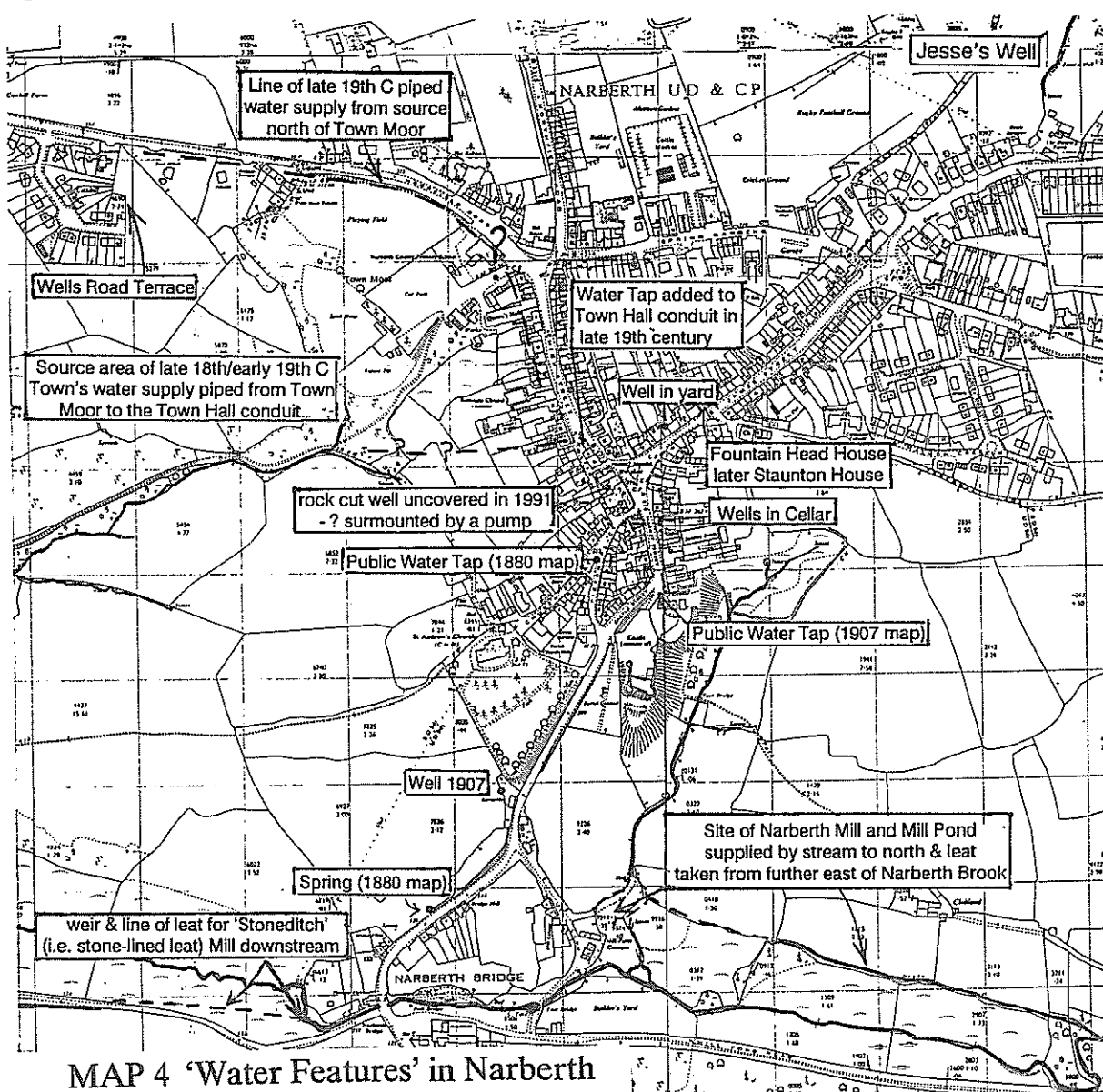
The need for large areas of arable, organised in the early Middle Ages as 'openfields' was essential to any 'vill', due to the virtual self sufficiency of the community and the very low level of medieval yields. Equally vital to the medieval farming régime were hay meadows, and rough grazing and pasture. The location of these components was topographically constrained and they are discussed in detail in the next section and shown on Maps 6 and 7.

### *Water Supply & Water Power*

The lack of any stream flowing through the settlement has meant that the main power source of all pre-industrial communities - the watermill - was sited south of the Castle and Church, to the east of the Bridge. We have no reason to doubt that it was of thirteenth century origin if not earlier. A leat was cut along the 50 m contour north of

Narberth Brook led into the small southward flowing stream on the east side of the Castle to form the mill pond. Other mills were sited further down the stream such as Stoneditch south of Narberth Brook. The topographical constraint therefore of the choice of mill sites has produced a separate small nucleus of settlement south of the town.

Despite the lack of a stream through the town and its elevated position, mainly above the numerous springs which ring the town, Narberth does not seem to have had water supply problems. Wells have been cut through the impervious shales to tap the groundwater. Miss Ray Davies has informed me of the site of several wells within the town, many are now filled in, covered over and their positions lost. A rock cut well was recently discovered at the rear of the former White Lion (now Gregory's). I was shown the site of two wells in the large cellar of no. 3, Market Street and a well just to the rear of no.4, St James Street. Until the early nineteenth century they remained the town's sole water source. The groundwater level is not far below the surface as recent flooding problems in Rock House cellar shows.



At some date in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century the town gained a piped water supply. A source on Town Moor, probably close to the spring sources, was piped to the southern end of High Street where there was a public cistern. The Town Hall of the 1830s was built over this cistern; one of the two now demolished houses which abutted the Town Hall (where the open garden & seating now is) was known as 'Old Conduit'. Water Street is probably so named because it leads north to this town cistern. Kelly's Directory of 1895 notes that the town's water supply was then derived from a reservoir near the town and piped to two public taps. Mr T. J. Adams, writing to the Western Telegraph in 1976, described a stone tank on Town Moor, (perhaps near Wells Road (see map 3) which was supplied by a spring on the north side of Rectory Field. It was perhaps this source, rather than that from 'The Old Clay Pits' on the Town Moor which supplied the public taps. One was affixed to the western wall of the Town Hall, one was erected at the junction of Picton Terrace and Church Street and the other at the southern end of Market Street. The name Fountain Head House, an earlier name for Staunton House, (no. 7, St. James Street) hints at an earlier public conduit close to Market Square. The development of the town's water supply has never been researched, it is of particular relevance to a town economy based on street markets and fairs (watering animals) and inns and taverns (watering vendors and purchasers!).

#### *Mineral Resources.*

The shales and mudstones do not make good building stone but have been used for outbuildings and storehouses and boundary walls in the town. The Castle is built of local sandstone, the Church Tower (all that survives of the medieval Church) of an iron stained sandstone and of limestone. Plas itself, probably of early sixteenth century date, has a similar mixture of building stone. The Geological Survey *Memoirs* of 1914 record a fine-grained Cethings sandstone having been quarried at some unknown date in the past east of Narberth Castle, probably at the head of the Strawberry Plantation stream. Demand for lime, as fertilizer and mortar and limestone for building was easily met by the sources south and east of Narberth. The Kilnpark limekilns are the nearest to the town, and are of a relatively late date. Whether there was good building stone or not most of the medieval and early modern buildings of Narberth would have been of earth and clay (clom) or of timber or a combination of the two.

#### *Summary*

**Medieval Narberth was a planted settlement which developed alongside an existing through route. The castle was built to control the northward approaches of this route to its crossing point at Narberth Brook. The Church was probably built on a new site in the twelfth or early thirteenth century, part of a planned settlement layout between it and the castle, flanking the through route. Topographical constraints - and opportunities - dictated the location of the component elements (arable fields, hay meadows, rough pasture) of the medieval agricultural settlement. The lack of an open water source flowing through the town meant reliance on wells and, at a later date, piped sources from the springs on Town Moor. The local shales have been used for minor buildings, but good building stone (limestone) was available close to Narberth.**

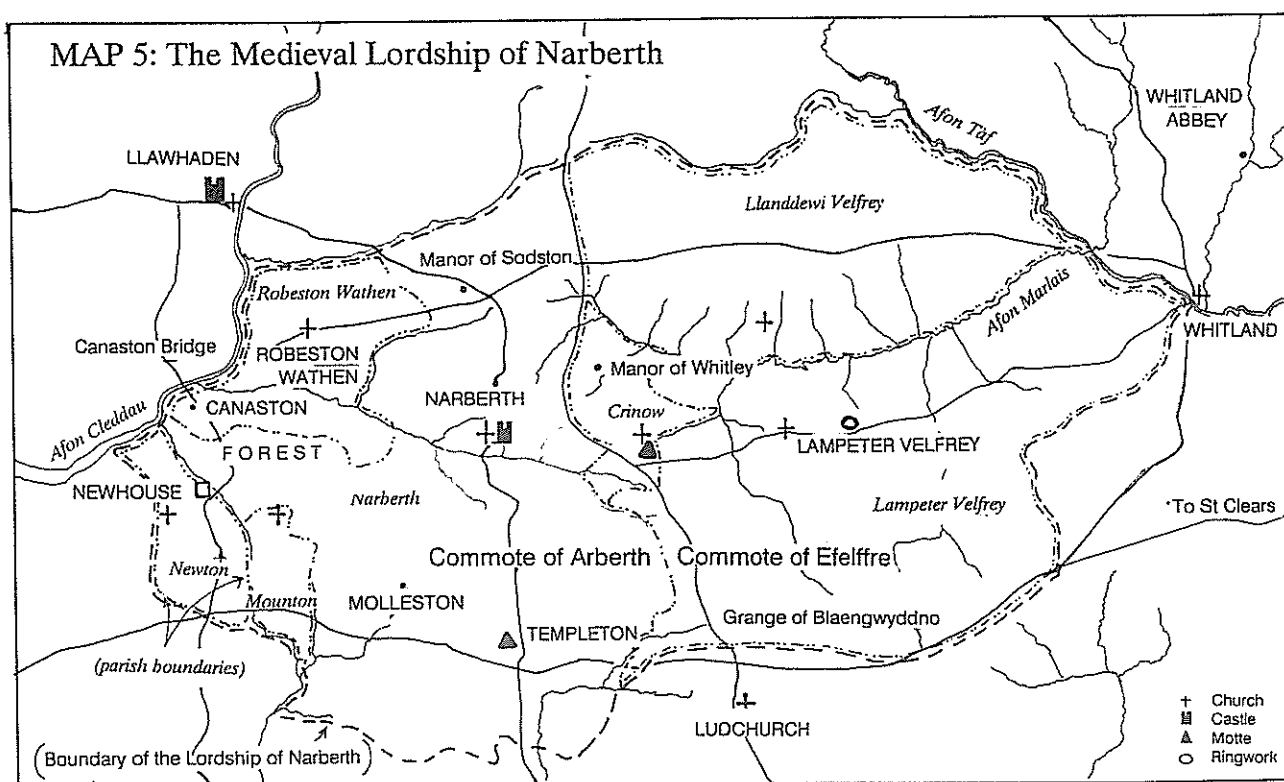
## NARBERTH - The Medieval Settlement

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### *The Lordship of Narberth.*

The Lordship of Narberth was based on the Welsh commote of that name. It is not impossible that the *llys* or court of the pre-Norman Welsh lords which features so prominently in the Mabinogion may have been on the site of the later Castle and vill. There must have been settlement and cleared land in and around the site of medieval Narberth before the twelfth century. However there is no archaeological or topographical evidence for this.

For most of the twelfth century the Lordship of Narberth remained 'frontier territory', Norman control and exploitation being resisted by the Welsh. Historical research has shown that effective English colonisation of the area took place at a relatively late date (compared to the heartlands of the Earldom of Pembroke to the south). One indication of the late English colonisation is the lack of 'knights' fees', or subsidiary holdings in the lordship which were presumably felt by the early thirteenth century to be an obsolete means of securing new settlements. Within the lordship the peasant holdings were termed 'burgages', not bovates and only light services were demanded from customary tenants. It is vital to recognise that this term does not necessarily carry the urban connotations more usually associated with the term. It has been convincingly argued by Dr. Brian Howells that this liberality of tenure is a reflection of the late attempts to attract settlers to a vulnerable and undeveloped area, only colonised after the military subjugation of the Welsh Princes. From the thirteenth century onwards Narberth functioned as the military, administrative, judicial and economic 'caput' of the lordship, which remained divided into 'englishries' and 'welshries.'



## *Narberth Castle*

The Castle remains the earliest physical evidence of settlement on the site of Narberth. The surviving masonry is of thirteenth and fourteenth century date and there are no earthwork traces for a twelfth century earth and timber castle either in the form of a motte and bailey or of a ringwork. However there are documentary references in the Welsh Chronicles to a castle at 'Arberth' being variously attacked, destroyed or captured by the Welsh in 1116, 1215, 1219 and 1257. It has been suggested that the twelfth century references are not to Narberth but Templeton (Sentence) Castle. There is no good evidence for this assertion nor any truth in the customary attribution of the foundation of the castle, church and vill to Andrew & Stephen Perrott. A possible lord of Narberth in the first half of the 12th century is Henry FitzRoi, the bastard son of Henry I by Nest of Pembroke. The twelfth century Lordship of Narberth did not contain the commote of Efelffre, which was granted by Henry II to the Lord Rhys in 1171. Even when incorporated into the Lordship in the 13th century 'Wilfray' (i.e. Efelffre) remained a welshry, subject to welsh forms of tenure and law.

## **TOPOGRAPHICAL IMPLICATIONS**

Medieval Narberth

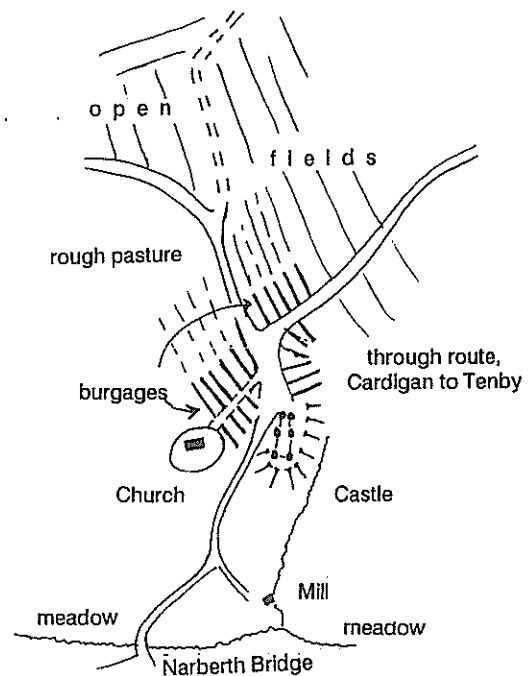
MAP 6

### *Castle*

The historical evidence suggests that Narberth castle was a military outpost for the early part of the twelfth century. The settlement and parish church may not have been created until later in the century nor colonised on any scale until the thirteenth century. Therefore the plan of the settlement need not be completely integrated with the castle. This process is seen more clearly in Templeton where the layout of the medieval village seems to virtually ignore the earlier motte and bailey castle.

### *The Medieval Economy*

The basis of the economy of the medieval settlement was agricultural. Although it had an annual fair there is nothing also to distinguish it from other Norman planned or planted settlements in the area. There is no justification for terming it a medieval town nor even a manorial borough. Therefore the relic elements of medieval settlement and land organisation which have influenced and constrained later development will relate exclusively to a medieval agricultural economy.



## *The Medieval Open Fields*

It is essential to attempt to reconstruct the position and shape of the open fields of the vill of Narberth. Most of this system had been enclosed into individual 'closes' by 1609 (when we have our first detailed survey) and probably by the later middle ages. But the boundaries of the newly hedged fields perpetuated the shapes of the open field strips. And these in turn influenced the way in which the post-medieval town expanded out into the fields around it. In the later twelfth, thirteenth and (to a diminishing extent) in the fourteenth century the hillslopes to the north, east and west of Narberth Castle, Church and Market Street were all under arable cultivation. The 'burgages' or land-holdings of the medieval peasant farmer and the 'demesne' or holdings of the lord were organised in the form of intermixed strips of land. At first sight it seems strange that so large an area of arable land was necessary to support a small population. But crop yields were very low; 1:3 or 1:4 of seed sown as compared to 1:15 of modern farming. Next year's seed had to be saved and the only fertiliser was animal manure, a scarce resource, so not all the fields could be under cultivation at the same time. Another valuable resource was hay to feed animals when grazing was not available in winter. The only sources of this were the river and stream side meadows, narrow strips of land.

Amalgamation and interchange of strips to create more compact blocks of land, then hedged as fields and known as 'closes' began to take place from the later fourteenth century onwards and with it the creation of the individual farms which ring Narberth today. But this was a slow process not fully completed until the late eighteenth century. And clearly a mixed system of farming 'in severalty' (i.e individual ownership) and 'in common' operated. As a result a number of fossil traces are left in the present day landscape which provide the evidence for the former open field system.

**It is because street lines and property boundaries can be ancient features, often the only evidence for the origins and development of a settlement in the absence of documents or archaeological excavations, that archaeologists are so opposed to their casual and thoughtless obliteration in new developments.**

## TOPOGRAPHICAL EVIDENCE OF MEDIEVAL LANDUSE (MAPS 7 & 8)

### *Field Shapes:*

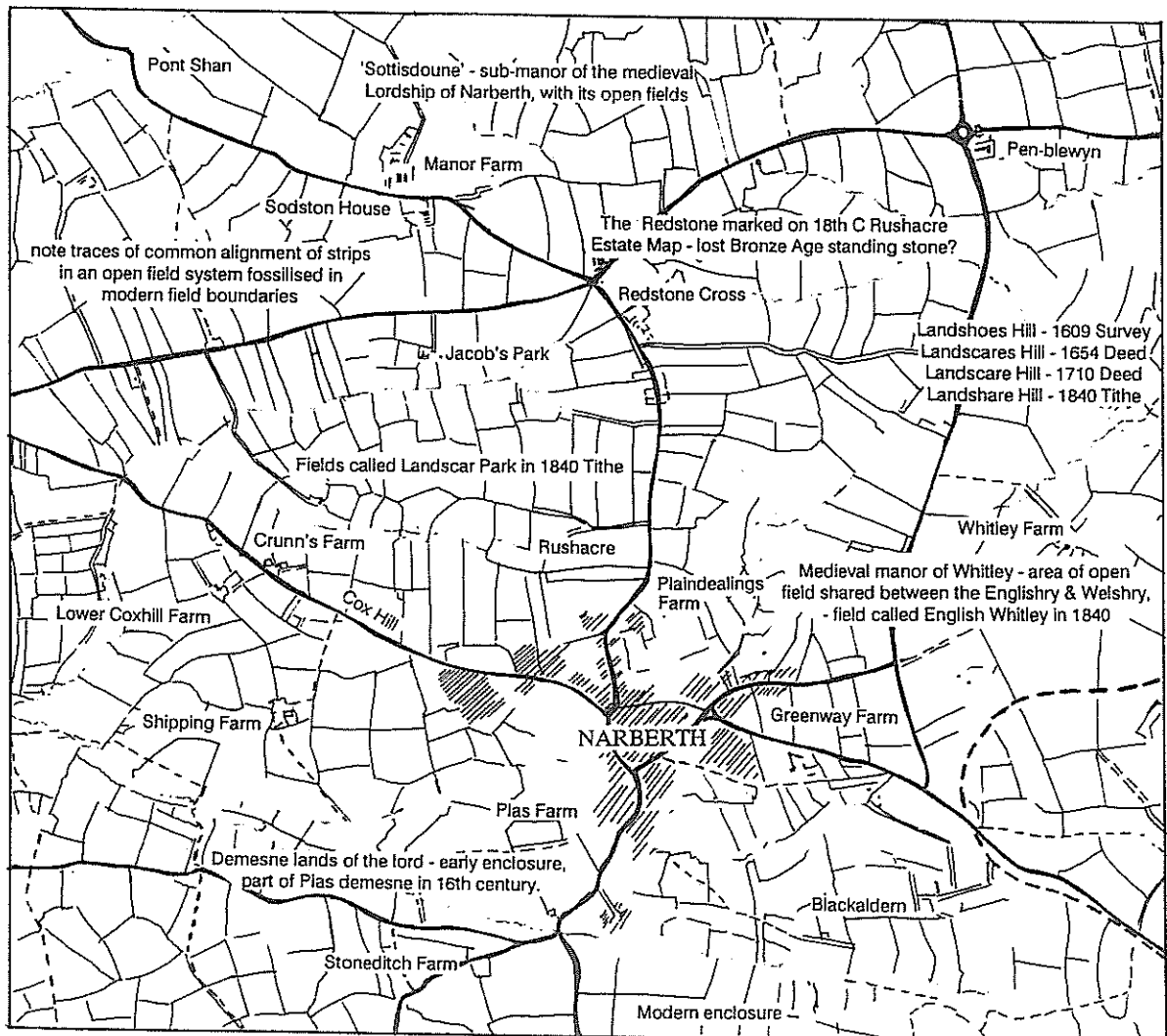
- typically long, narrow rectangular fields, formed by enclosing furlongs or 'shares' in a medieval open field. Amalgamation of groups of strips followed by enclosure into 'closes' or 'parks' might produce larger, squarer fields.
- evidence of blocks of similarly aligned field boundaries, preserving the overall alignments within an open field
- characteristic reversed 's' shape to field boundaries, reflecting the course taken by the cumbersome medieval plough team needing to approach the turn on the 'headland' at the end of the strip at an angle.
-

### *Place-name evidence:*

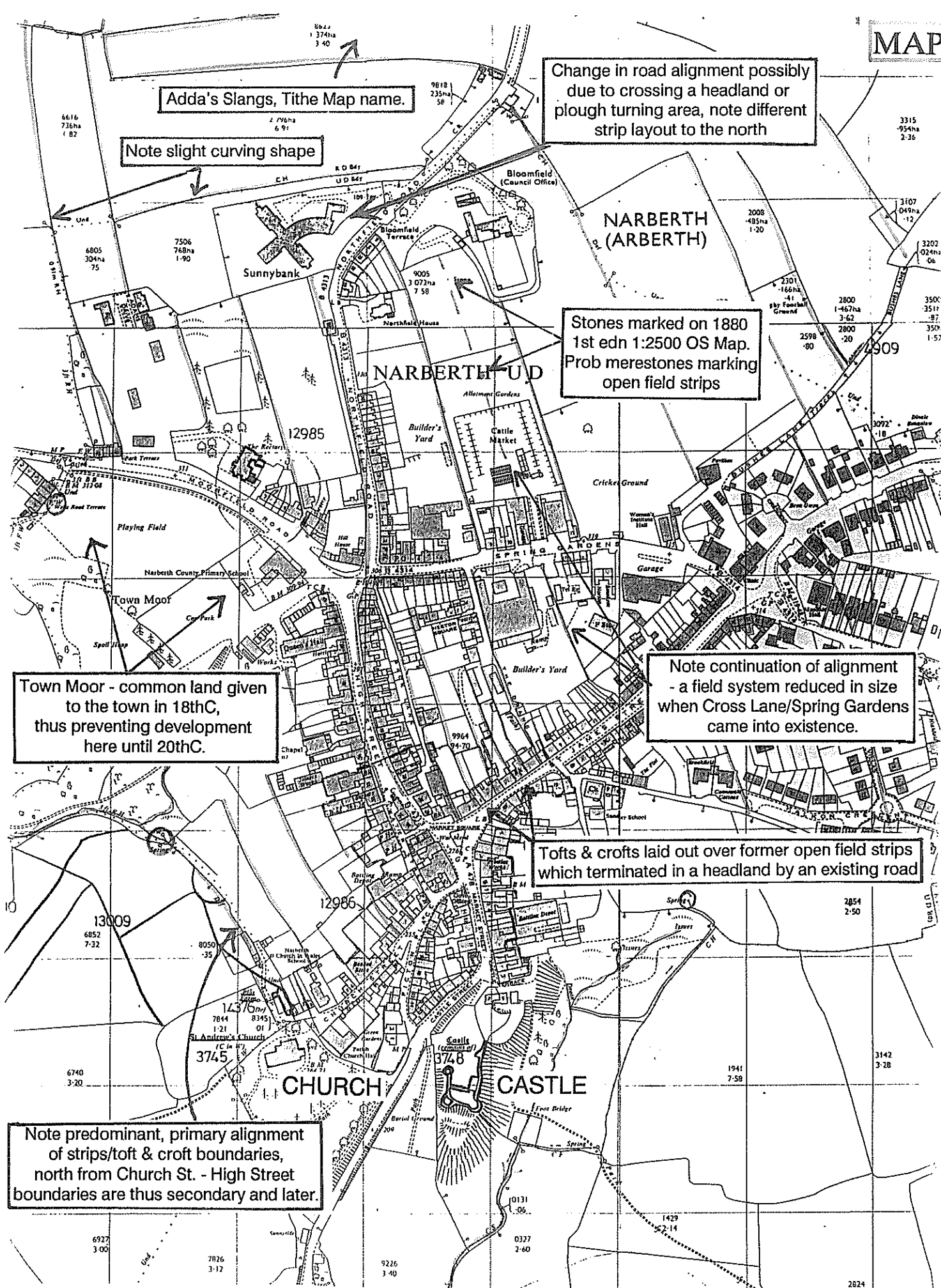
- names like 'landskers' - meaning both boundaries and shares of land, or names like 'slang' - narrow strips intermixed with separately owned land.
- field names now common to several closes' formerly a single name of a part of an open field
- name burgage, survival of the medieval peasant holdings, declines to mean a small isolated bit of land by the mid nineteenth century.

### *Earthwork and physical evidence:*

no trace of any broad 'ridge and furrow' in this area, although some narrow ridges have been noted on the steep slopes of the field south of Tabernacle Lane. More common are hedgebanks set on 'lynchets', which are terraces produced by the action of the plough across a slope. Also boundaries within the open fields might be marked by 'mere-stones', standing stones some of which might be Bronze Age in origin, others not. Many of those marked on the 1:2500 OS Map of 1880 unfortunately no longer survive.



MAP 8: Fields & Farms around Narberth



# NARBERTH - Traces of medieval field and property boundaries

### *Ownership*

Those parts of the open fields which were enclosed slowly and in a piecemeal way are often evidenced in the tithe map by mixed and small scale individual ownership and occupation, in contrast to the compact blocs of fields belonging to individual farms. Landshare Hill and 'Castyllhulle' are of very mixed ownership in the Tithe Schedule of 1840.

### *Property Boundaries*

The characteristic plan form of the medieval village and small rural borough (such as Llawhaden) was that of 'tofts and crofts'. Individual 'burgage' holdings typically consist of a house set hard against the street with a narrow toft or garden behind, itself linking directly into the open fields strips. Few medieval South Pembrokeshire planned settlements are of so classical or unchanged a plan as Templeton but these plan elements once laid out could remain remarkable constant and several can be identified in Narberth (see Map 8).

### *Summary*

**Narberth Castle may have served as a virtual frontier outpost through the twelfth century, with English control of the Lordship and the establishment of the medieval settlement only secured by the thirteenth century. During the Middle Ages it was the administrative centre of the Lordship of Narberth, but its economic base was essentially that of an agricultural settlement; it is misleading to describe it as a medieval town. The fossil traces of its medieval field systems, boundaries and trackways and the characteristic plan form of 'tofts and crofts' within the settlement were thus major factors in shaping the street pattern and property boundaries of the new seventeenth century market town**

## **NARBERTH - The Making of a Town**

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### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### *Introduction*

In the early sixteenth century Narberth was still a small village, with a partly derelict castle and an annual fair, little different from other such settlements in the surrounding area. But by the mid seventeenth century there was a small but powerful group of resident merchants who, taking advantage of the political opportunities of the Civil War, established a weekly market in the town, formalising, one suspects, what had been taking place for some years. This was strongly resisted by the merchant class of Tenby, but in 1688 Sir John Barlow, as Lord of the Manor, obtained Letters Patent from the Crown authorizing the new weekly market and three fairs per year. It is quite clear however, from a very long and involved document summarizing Barlow's Suit in Chancery, that the market had been in continuous existence from the early seventeenth century. Barlow's concern was to establish his rights as Lord of the Manor to market tolls and the proceeds from leasing market stalls, which had been, he asserted, usurped by his sub-tenants, the Castle family.

By the end of the eighteenth century the number of annual fairs had increased to four. A contemporary engraving (p.39) shows the Market on the north side of Market Square. Also the survival of some high quality eighteenth century town houses and former inns suggests that the built up area, not surprisingly, was concentrated either side of the three streets (High Street, St James Street, Market Street) leading off the Market Place. The fairs by contrast were simply held along the streets.

#### *Social and Political Background*

What were the factors which allowed Narberth to progress from a village to a small market town?

The political background is clearly important. The fall of Rhys ap Griffith, who was executed by Henry VIII in 1531, broke up the vast estates and influence built up by Sir Rhys ap Thomas. Out of the wreckage of that vast fortune new families rose to power - notably the Vaughans of Golden Grove. The forfeit lordship of Narberth was leased to several people in the 1530s and 1540s. But it was probably Sir John Vaughan and later the Eliot family who built or extended Plas Farm and consolidated the demesne lands south of the Church into the core of the Plas estate. The construction of a new gentry house and the consolidation of former 'demesne' lands into more compact farms was a process also taking place in many other areas in South Pembrokeshire.

In addition Narberth still retained an administrative role as centre of the Lordship of Narberth. It is a measure of the quickening pace of the local economy that Lords of

Manors in the seventeenth century sought to reassert their feudal powers in order to retain and develop their tolls and dues from markets, fairs and enforce attendance at their manorial court (The process of Justice, then as now, was an exceedingly profitable undertaking - for its practitioners !). The Barlows of Slebech engaged in long and protracted struggles and lawsuits with their tenants in the Lordship of Narberth to control and exploit these manorial dues.

The Acts of Union of 1536 and 1543 had severely curtailed the powers of the Marcher Lords and reorganised local government. Manors and Lordships were grouped within hundreds and Narberth became the administrative centre of a new hundred of that name. Administration was in the hands of the High Constable of the Hundred who was appointed annually by the Justices of the Peace. Much administration was handled by the Justices of the Peace through their Courts of Great and Petty Sessions and at a more local level by the parish vestries. In addition agricultural and trading affairs were as we have seen regulated through the manorial court. All this gave Narberth an importance as a 'central place'.

### *Economic Background*

More significant were changes and development in the rural economy which both caused and were the product of an increase in population. Brian Howells ascribes the marked increase in the population of Narberth Hundred in the seventeenth century to the development of the Daugleddau coalfield, to the south of Narberth. Encroachment on woodland was increasing, both by the gentry exploiting their offices as foresters of the crown or great lordships by felling, and by small scale encroachment by cottagers. Enclosure from the open fields was increasing and many of the farms of the present day were coming into being. There was probably a slight increase in the productivity of arable land due to the increasing use of lime and marl to fertilise the fields. By the late seventeenth century for example farmers around Newcastle Emlyn were carting lime from the Ludchurch quarries south east of Narberth. There was an increase in cattle raising, particularly in north Pembrokeshire to add to régimes based on arable and sheep farming. The movement and sale of cattle at regional fairs stimulated the long distance droving trade of exporting Welsh cattle on the hoof to England. The textile trade of southern Pembrokeshire had slumped in the late sixteenth century with a fall in demand for the coarse Pembrokeshire friezes but there was an increase in the export of wool, which, unlike cattle dealing, was handled in weekly markets as well as seasonal fairs.

There is no doubt that Mallett Bateman, the leading Narberth merchant of the mid seventeenth century, and a small group of fellow merchants were general traders. The trading hinterland of Narberth was too small to permit specialization. Trade was mainly in grain and livestock. A document of the 1680s refers to 'The New Storehouse' and Bowen's Map of 1740 marks an 'Old Storehouse' alongside the Eastern Cleddau south of Blackpool. This was probably a warehouse for storing grain which was then shipped out or transhipped in the Haven.

Bateman's membership of the Worshipful Company of Drapers implies some activity in the textile trade, and evidence from field names suggests some textile manufacture in Narberth itself - probably of coarse felts and friezes. Foodstuffs however were probably the staples of the weekly market.

### *Summary*

The growth of a market in Narberth then was in response to an increase in the productivity and surpluses of the economy of its region which had intensified to the point where it could sustain another marketing centre between the spheres of influence of Tenby, Haverfordwest, Carmarthen and Pembroke. Unlike all of these larger centres Narberth was sited inland - its traffic was all road traffic. The main archaeological implication from what we know of Narberth's trade is that it is unlikely that there was much manufacture within the town even for crafts and trades based on a foodstuffs and livestock. This carries general implications for the potential of post-medieval archaeology within the town.

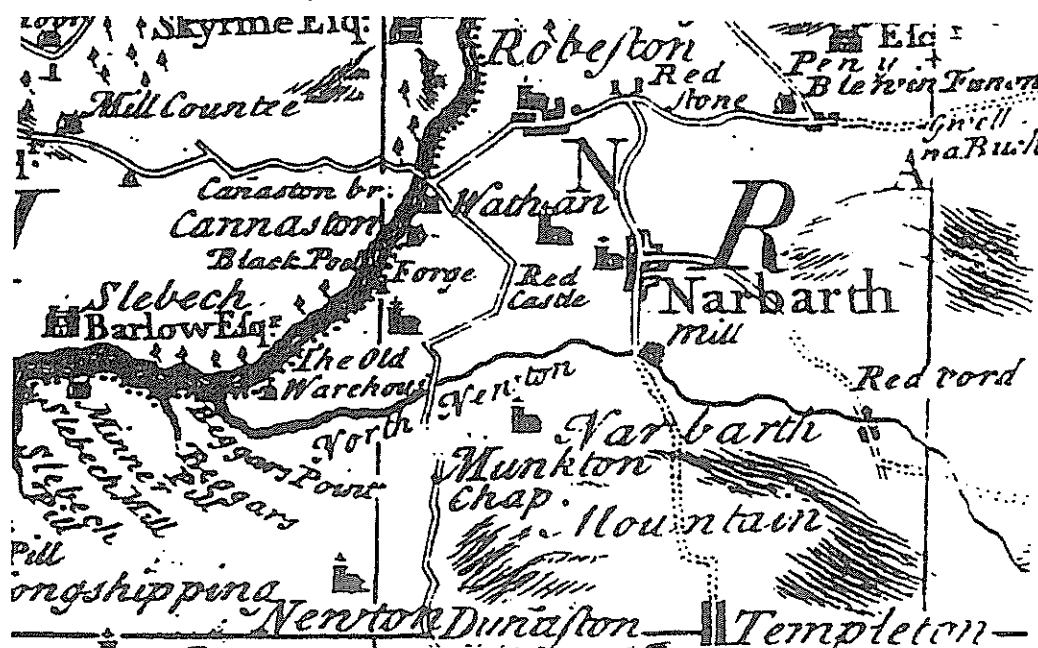
### TOPOGRAPHICAL EVIDENCE

Unfortunately there is very little detailed information on the topography of Narberth itself between the sixteenth and early eighteenth centuries. The main evidence is therefore simply listed and a sketch map given for the town in this period

#### *Leland*

In his *Itinerary* describing journeys through England and Wales in the 1530s, John Leland refers to the Castle : 'Narbarthe a litle preati pile of old Syr Rheses given onto hym by King Henri the VIII' but for the settlement itself he says only that 'Ther is a poore village'.

#### *Emmanuel Bowen's map of 1740*



This is the first detailed map of the area which can be directly related to modern Ordnance Survey Maps and is a useful indication of the contemporary road network. Whilst the plans of towns are schematized and further distorted by large symbols for churches and castles, they do bear some relation to the actual extent of the built up area and street pattern. Narberth is shown with only a single north-south street from Redstone crossing the brook where Narberth Mill is marked and then proceeding over Narberth Mountain to Templeton. The other road shown could either be Jesse Road or Station Road proceeding south-east across Redford Bridge (Red vord). But only the Market Square area was then built up.

### *Plâs Farm*

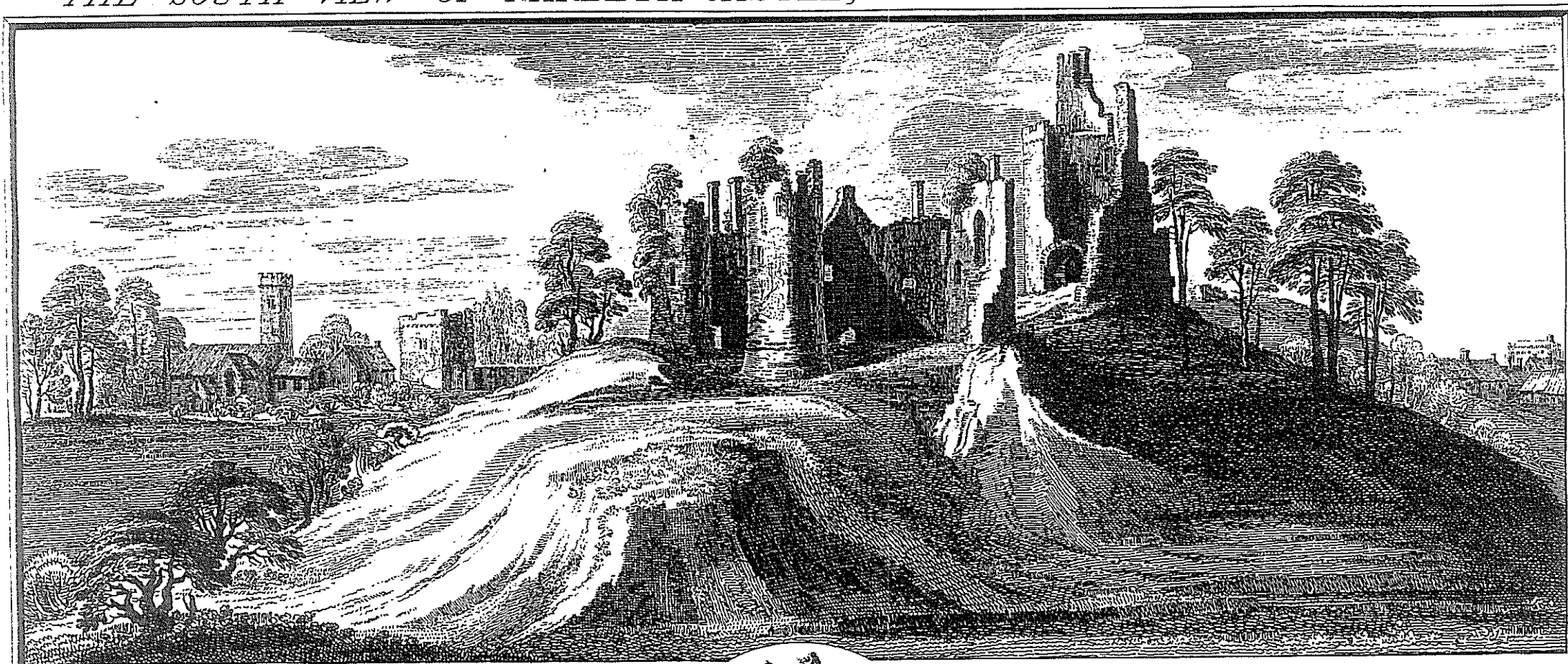
It is likely that Plâs Farm was newly built as a mansion in the early sixteenth century by John Vaughan. It then passed into the hands of the Eliot family and was the principal residence in Narberth besides the castle. It is clear from surviving architectural detail that the present day front of the house was originally the rear, also that it was one storey higher. The lateral chimney at the present day rear of the house and the fine window, now half obscured by the eaves of the lower roof, indicate the former presence of an upper storey and that this was the front of the house. It may well have been flanked by a courtyard. Revd. Geoffrey Morris has suggested to me that the tower shown in the Buck print of the 1740s between the castle and the church might be a gatehouse to Plâs. (See reproduction on p. 21). There are parallels in sixteenth century west Wales for such a plan (Castell Moel/Green Castle Carmar; Pentre Ifan, Pembs.)

What this means for the topography of Narberth is that by the later Middle Ages medieval settlement along Church Street may have contracted or been in decay to permit allow a new mansion and its walled surrounds to be built adjacent to the church. Equally the present street lines and property boundaries along both sides of Church Street are likely to have been considerably remodelled in the eighteenth century when Plas declined to a working farm and any gatehouse or walled enclosure was cleared away.

### *The Hearth Tax & other late seventeenth century sources.*

This does not differentiate between Narberth Town and the parish but once we subtract from the list large houses with more than one hearth like Henry Garlick at Molleston with 6 hearths or Henry Poyer of Grove with 4 it is clear that there cannot have been many large town houses once the Plâs, and probably a residence in the Castle itself have been taken into account. The leading merchants were Mallett Bateman and George Owen, and it is the former's trade token which is the only one known from the town. The two families intermarried. In his will of 1699 it is evident that Griffith Elliott had leased Plâs, or Narberth House, to Mallett Bateman who had in turn sublet it to his son in law George Owen. He left to his wife another 'dwelling house and shop' adjoining - possibly therefore on Church Street which was sublet to Benjamin Mortimer, glover and also 'a smith's shop or forge adjoining Benjamin Mortimer's. This may have been leased by James Husband (a John Husband is listed with 3 hearths in the Hearth tax of

THE SOUTH VIEW OF NARBETH-CASTLE, IN THE COUNTY OF PEMBROKE.



To George Barlow Esq.  
This Prospect is humbly Inscrib'd by  
his most Oblig'd. Servants.  
Sam<sup>l</sup> & Nath<sup>l</sup> Buck.



THIS Castle is said to have been built by S<sup>r</sup> Andrew Perrot, whose  
Ancestor came out of Normandy with Will<sup>m</sup> Conqueror, adjoining to a  
Market Town of that Name, about 6 Miles east of Haverford West, & placed  
there a Garrison of Flemings. The Proprietor is George Barlow Esq.  
Sam<sup>l</sup> & Nath<sup>l</sup> Buck delinet Sculp. Published according to Act of Parliament April 5 1740

This View is from the south, on the lower slopes on the south side of Narberth Brook, near the Mill. St. Andrew's Church is on the left. The tower between the Church and the Castle may be a former Gatehouse to Plas, which is perhaps the building next to the Church. The few town buildings on the right hand side of the engraving indicate the existence by 1740 of some decently sized two and three storey town houses, adjacent to the Market Square, but they cannot be relied upon as accurate representations. The Town as seen by the Buck brothers is very much a backcloth to the Castle ruins.

1670 and in Mallett Bateman's will there is mention of two burgages and gardens, late John Husband's). There are hints of larger 'burgages' along Church Street in the later seventeenth century which would fit the descriptions of 'burgages and gardens' in the deeds.

From this somewhat imprecise documentary evidence it seems likely that there were a few substantial Town Houses in the area of Church Street, predating the properties set at right angles to and on the west side of High Street. The narrow strip boundaries of fields north of Plas Farm to the rear of High Street are the fossilized evidence of the primacy of the Church Street properties (see Map 8). Had the High Street properties been earlier one would have expected the long narrow boundaries of their yards and gardens behind the frontages to have extended back at right angles to High Street.

A Jury Presentment of 1684 records that Griffith Howell of Ridgeacre (Rushacre), a farm north of the town alongside the road to Redstone Cross, was 'seized in fee' of a house and garden 'beinge in the streete in the towne of Narberth'. It is described as lying 'without the garden walls of Mallett Bateman which is to the southe with a way on the east and on the north and on the west side'. Such locations are notoriously imprecise but the implication of only a single street to the settlement is of more importance. Barlow's Chancery Suit makes it clear that a wooden market hall and shambles had been built by the mid seventeenth century most probably in Market square.

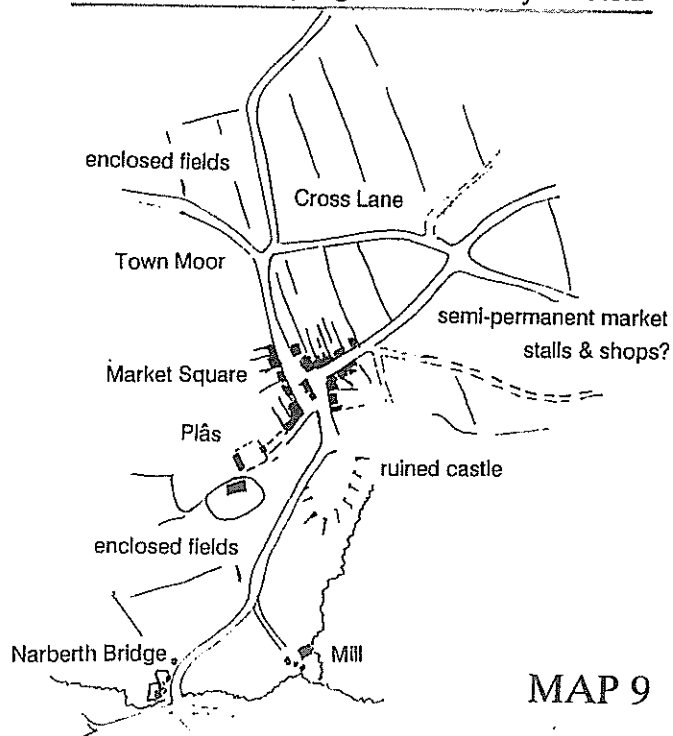
### *The Town Moor*

As noted in the preceding section on geology, the area of the Town Moor is covered in Boulder Clay, which makes it poor, ill- drained land, suitable only for rough pasture. The whole of the area had become part of the Plas demesne and was given to the town as Commons by Miss Anne Elliott in the early eighteenth century. This constituted a 'constraint' on development and it was not seriously encroached upon until the late nineteenth century. In recent years parking and leisure uses have succeeded earlier tipping of rubbish.

### *Cross Lane*

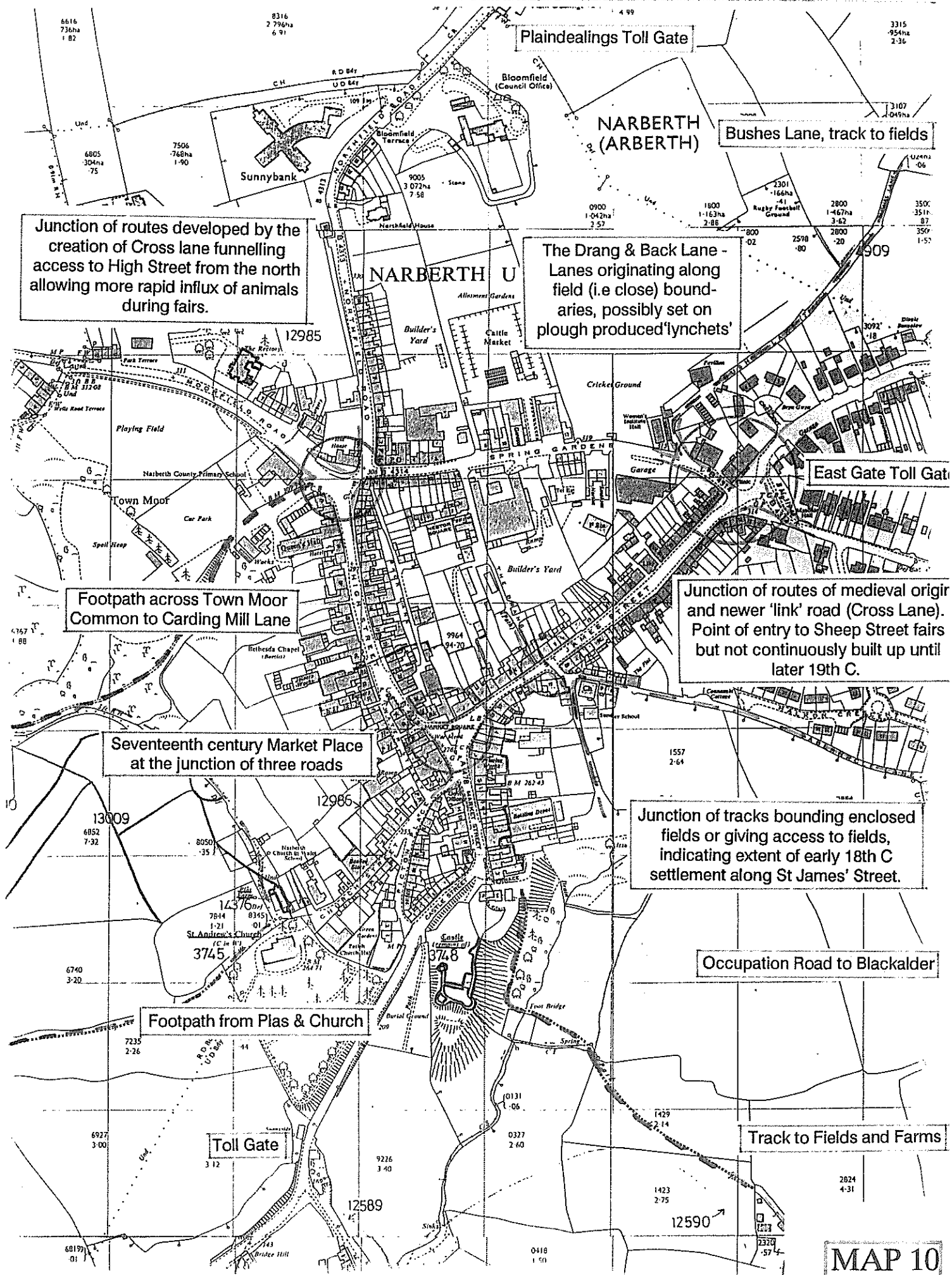
It is likely that Spring Gardens/Cross Lane was in existence by the seventeenth century. As we have seen, by 1609 much of the open fields around the settlement

Seventeenth & Early Eighteenth Century Narberth



MAP 9

## NARBERTH - The effect of Fairs and Markets on the Town Plan.



had been enclosed into individual 'closes' or hedged fields. It is possible that an area north of St James Street/Sheep Street was withdrawn from the open fields forming the two closes known as Ewe Park in 1776. A similar arrangement of closes may have taken place on the south side of the street. Cross Lane then marked the northern boundary of this new 'intake'. It is further discussed in the next section on the Road network.

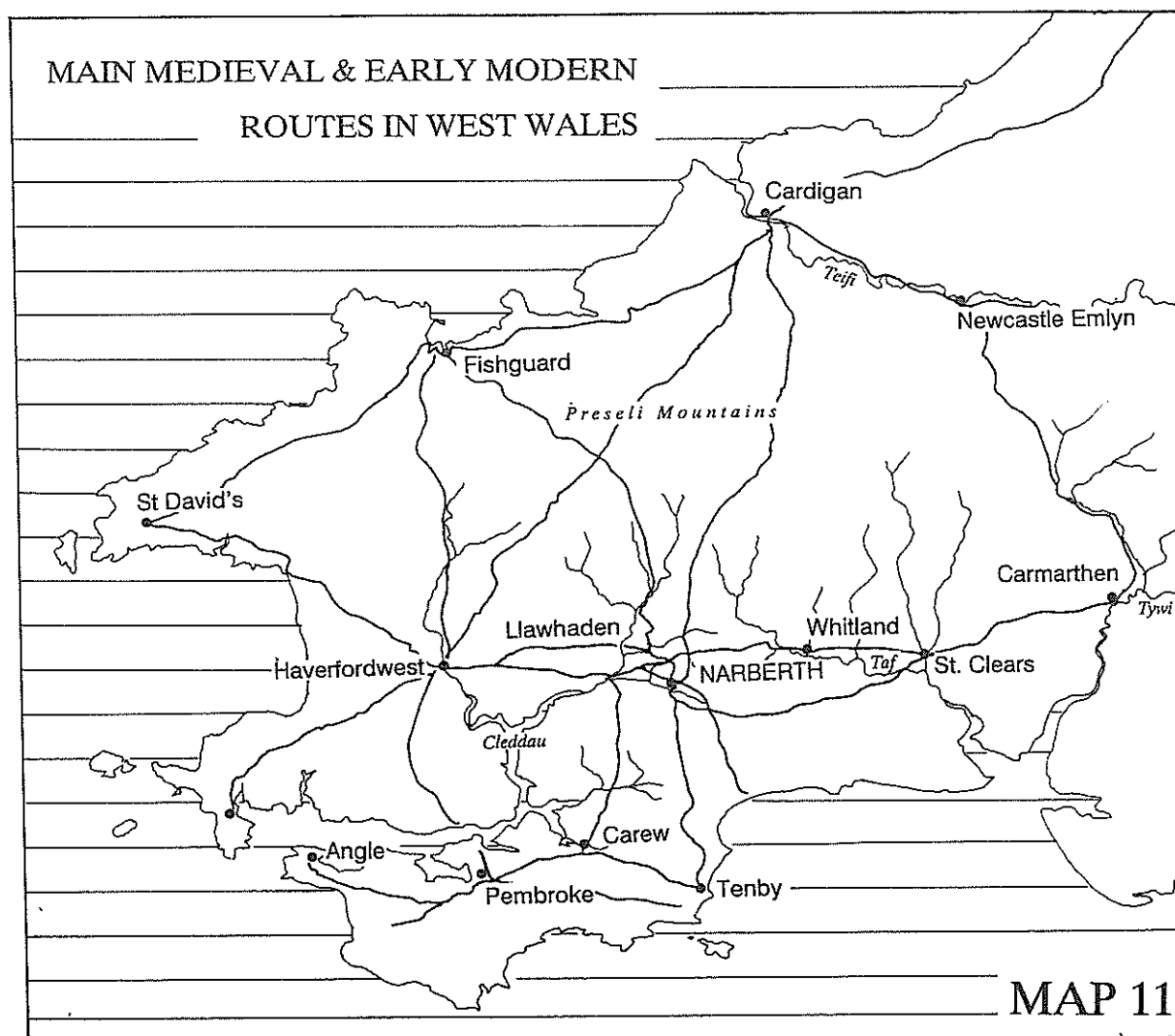
Hints of the limit of settlement along St James Street and the entry points to the street and its market and fair area are preserved in the junction of lanes and tracks and a slight widening out of the Street itself. The Drang, a narrow lane on the north side of St James Street is entered between nos.6 & 7, St James Street. Opposite is Tabernacle Lane and a shorter track giving access to the closes south east of the street to the rear of the premises. (see Map 10). The existence of such closes probably reflects the needs of the weekly markets and fairs for some areas to fold and water cattle or sheep immediately before the fairs in addition to penning or tethering them in the streets.

### *Comparative Plan Forms.*

Although no two market town plans are identical due to the differences of topography there are two or three basic shapes to market places. The simplest and typical of the small country towns is a single long wide street expanding in the middle and narrowing at the ends like a sausage. Others were triangular formed by the meeting of three roads. The market house was the main building and in very many towns in England and Wales its former site in modern town centres is betrayed by the characteristic row of buildings on an island site with a narrow lane on one side and a wide street on the other. In addition market towns in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries possessed shops and shambles. The latter were often temporary structures, lean-tos around the market building for the sale of meat and fish. Shops were more permanent structures but originated as pentices out at the front of burgage tenements and with awnings spread out in front into the streets on market day. They gradually became more permanent leading to encroachment out onto formerly much wider streets. All these possibilities can be suggested for Narberth, but without more detailed documentary sources it is difficult to be precise.

### *Summary*

**Narberth was a small decayed settlement in the early sixteenth century when Plâs Mansion and its adjacent farm created from the lord's demesne was built adjacent to the Church. This formed a 'magnate core' on the western side of the medieval settlement which has inhibited development of the urban area there ever since, a process completed when Town Moor was given to the town as commons by Miss Anne Elliott in the early eighteenth century. The mid to late seventeenth century market town was small with a few large town houses adjacent to Market Square and at the eastern end of Church Street and the southern end of Water Street. Cross Lane was probably created in the seventeenth century by making an intake of land from the open field system which formerly extended south to St. James Street.**



## **NARBERTH - The Road Network**

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### *Introduction*

The history of Narberth's roads, streets, tracks and footpaths is central to understanding the origins and the subsequent development of the medieval settlement and the seventeenth century small market town. It is basically a story of the development of some routes and the decline in importance of others. Unlike some other settlements in South Pembrokeshire its plan has not been altered or modified by the construction of totally new routes in modern times. But the dominance of today's A40 from the mid nineteenth century onwards as the main east-west route across the area to the north of Narberth, and the outlying position of the railway station have both exerted a strong northward 'pull' on modern development. Routes radiating southwards from the town have, by contrast remained undeveloped, many surviving only as footpaths.

### *Pre-Norman Route*

As discussed in Section 2, it is reasonable to assume the existence of a north-south route (which has become today's A478) pre-dating the medieval settlement at Narberth, since the control of such a route at its river crossing point was presumably the main strategic objective in building the twelfth century Castle. It is also possible that such a route divided in the Kilnpark area one branch progressing south westwards, via Narberth, Templeton and Begelly to Tenby, the other south eastwards via Ludchurch to Amroth.

### *The Development of Medieval Roads & Tracks*

The English colonisation of the Lordship of Narberth involved, as we have seen the creation of village settlements and the laying out of open field systems together with the establishment of outlying small hamlets or individual manors where the land was generally enclosed. The open fields were crossed by a network of tracks to give access to the individual furlongs which made up a 'burgage' holding. These tracks also served as footpaths between settlements; some have developed into modern roads, others have become tracks to farms, some remain footpaths or bridleways or have gone out of use.

The road to Robeston Wathen over Cox Hill together with the ancient route northwards via Penblewin were the two major medieval routes in and out of Narberth on its northern side in the Middle Ages. The Cox Hill road links Narberth and the other main planted settlement (Robeston Wathen) within the Lordship. It was also the most direct route to Canaston Bridge, the lowest bridging point of the eastern Cleddau, and thence to Haverfordwest. It proceeds north westward in the characteristic fashion of 'pre-turnpike' roads - namely straight up and over the heights of Cox Hill itself. It is possible that the medieval field systems were laid out on either side of this ridgeway route. By contrast, it is likely that High Street/Northfield Road/Redstone Road originated as a track through the open fields (see Map 8, p. 15 for explanation).

Other tracks giving access to the open fields, stream-side meadow land and rough grazing on moory or marshy land are now obscured or have vanished. A 'road' is shown on the 1835 map (Map 11) leading northwards from Moorfield Road which is now blocked by Bryn Hyfryd. Bushes Lane to meadows and Landshare/Great Horsestone open field is still in existence.

### *Pre-Turnpike Roads*

The main roads shown by Emanuel Bowen in his 1740 Map (see p. 20) suggest the extension of building along what became High Street, for the direct north-south road from Redstone Cross past Rushacre and south over Narberth Mountain is shown. But the major orientation of the route was still as a northward one turning at Pen-blewyn to head northwards to Cardigan. The road eastwards to Whitland (today's A40) is shown as a more minor route. Bowen's map shows that the main road west from St. Clears in the eighteenth century proceeding via Llanddowror and Tavernspite swinging north-westwards at what was later Princes Gate to enter Narberth along Station Road. Although the scale of the Bowen Map makes it difficult to be certain whether it is Jesse or Station Road which is shown. But the latter is the more likely. It was known as 'the Greenwaie' in the 1609 Survey of the Lordship and that in turn gave its name to the Farm. It may not have come into existence until there was some enclosure of the open field strips into closes and the construction of Greenway Farm but the fact that the farm took its name from an existing feature and that it springs as a routeway from the early north-south road suggests an early origin.

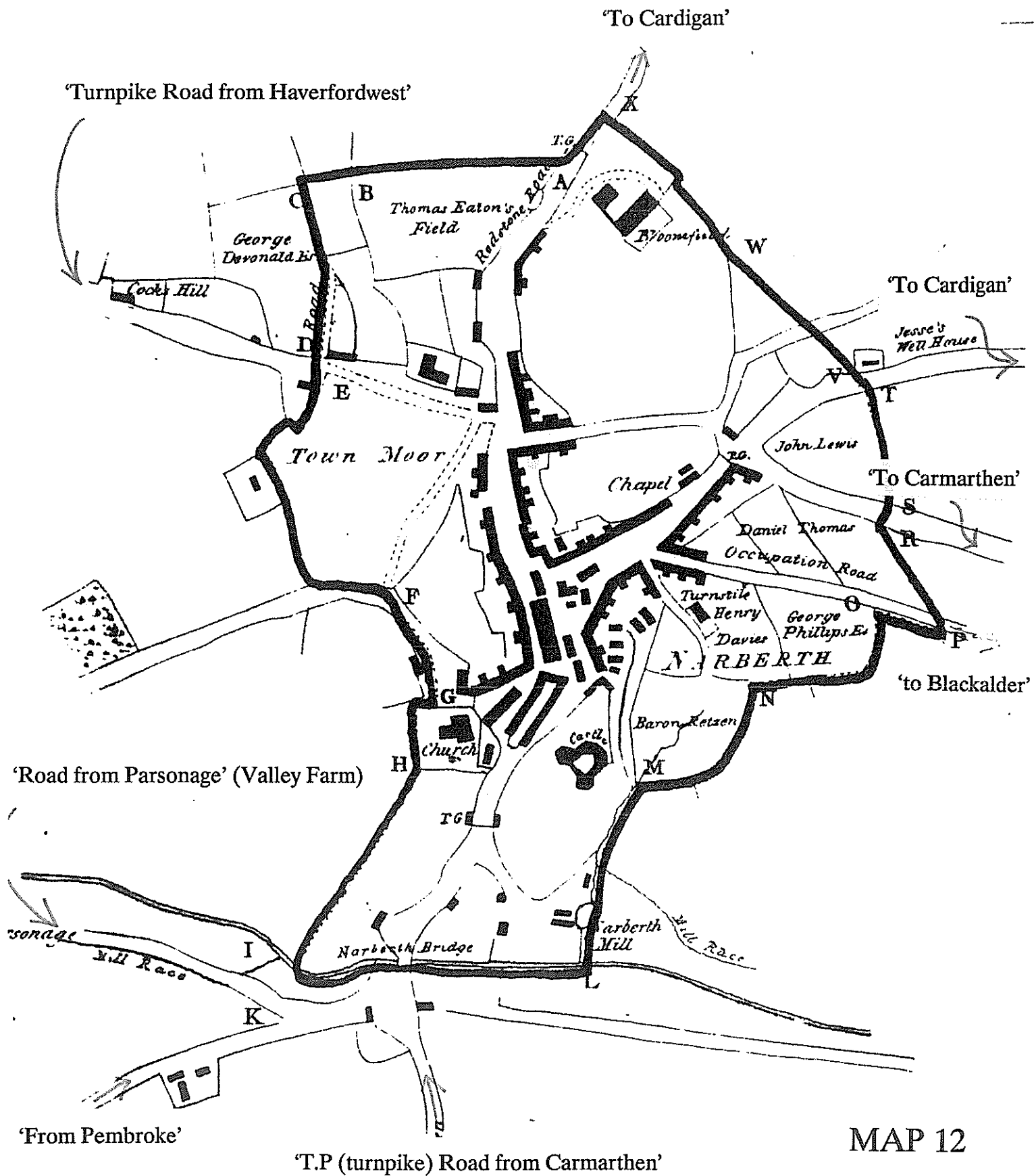
### *The Mail Coach Road.*

Michael Scott Archer, in his study *The Welsh Post Towns before 1840* shows that Narberth was a Post Town in the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. This was because it was on the main road from Carmarthen to Haverfordwest and from there via first Dale then Milford by packet to Ireland. By the late seventeenth century therefore Narberth was sufficient of a town to support the necessary stabling and accommodation requirements of mail and travellers situated as it was between the two main centres. The Royal Mail Coach which ran from 1784 entered the town from the south across Narberth Bridge (having come over Brandy Hill to Tavernspite, Princes' Gate, Cold Blow & Narberth Bridge) and then went via Market and High Street through the town and over Cox Hill to Robeston Wathen, Canaston Bridge to Haverfordwest. The physical reflection of this era in terms of buildings were the coaching inns and hotels. The De Rutzen Arms at the southern end of Market Street was the latest of a number of such buildings (see Map 8).

All roads and tracks experienced much heavier use during the course of the eighteenth century due to the lime traffic, the overland transport of coal and the droving traffic too and from Narberth's weekly market and increasing annual number of fairs. Many of the limestone quarries south of Narberth begin to be exploited in the eighteenth century and the Kilnpark limekilns probably date from this period.

# NARBERTH.

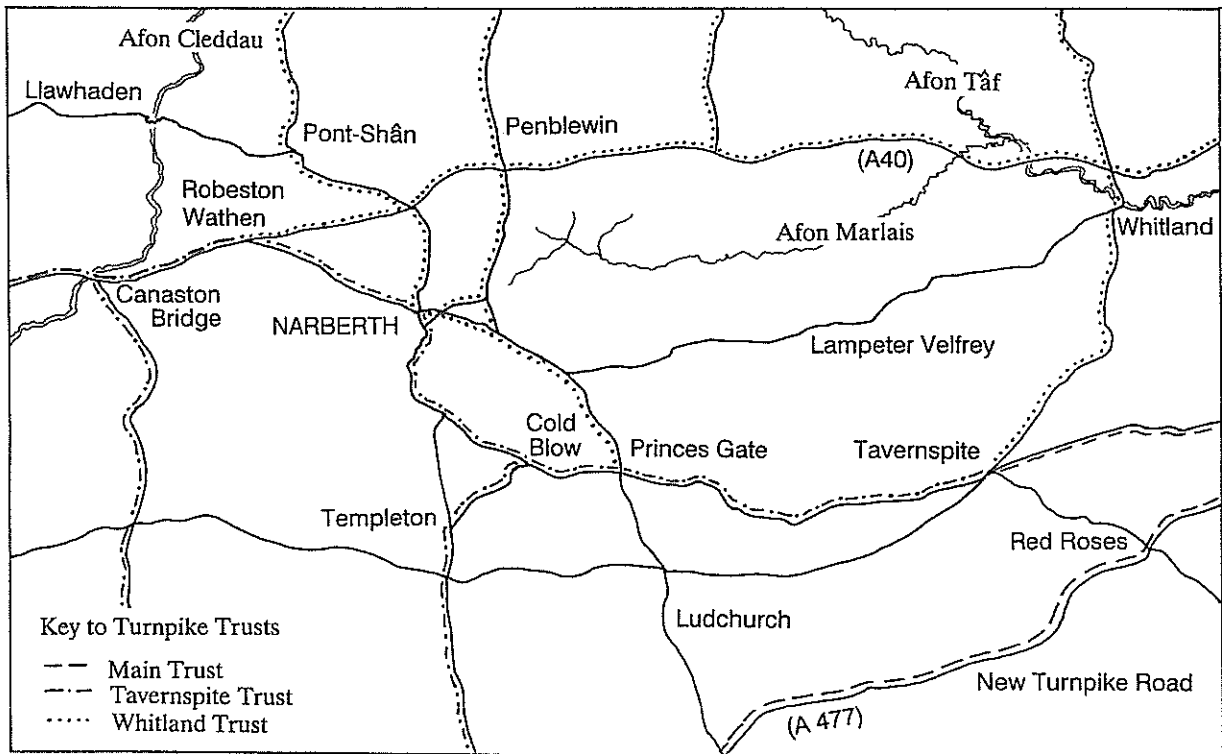
enlargement of 1835 Municipal Corporations Boundaries Map



MAP 12

### *Turnpike Roads*

No new roads were built in the immediate vicinity of Narberth, but all the main approach roads were turnpiked and the town was ringed with toll-gates. Map 13 shows the different Trusts and Map 12 the position of the toll-gates. Only Eastgate Toll Gate seems to have caused any intensification of settlement around the gate position but this is simply due to it being placed at an existing junction of routes. The map which was produced for the 1835 Municipal Corporations Boundary Commission shows the developed early nineteenth century road network and the road destinations (Map 12).



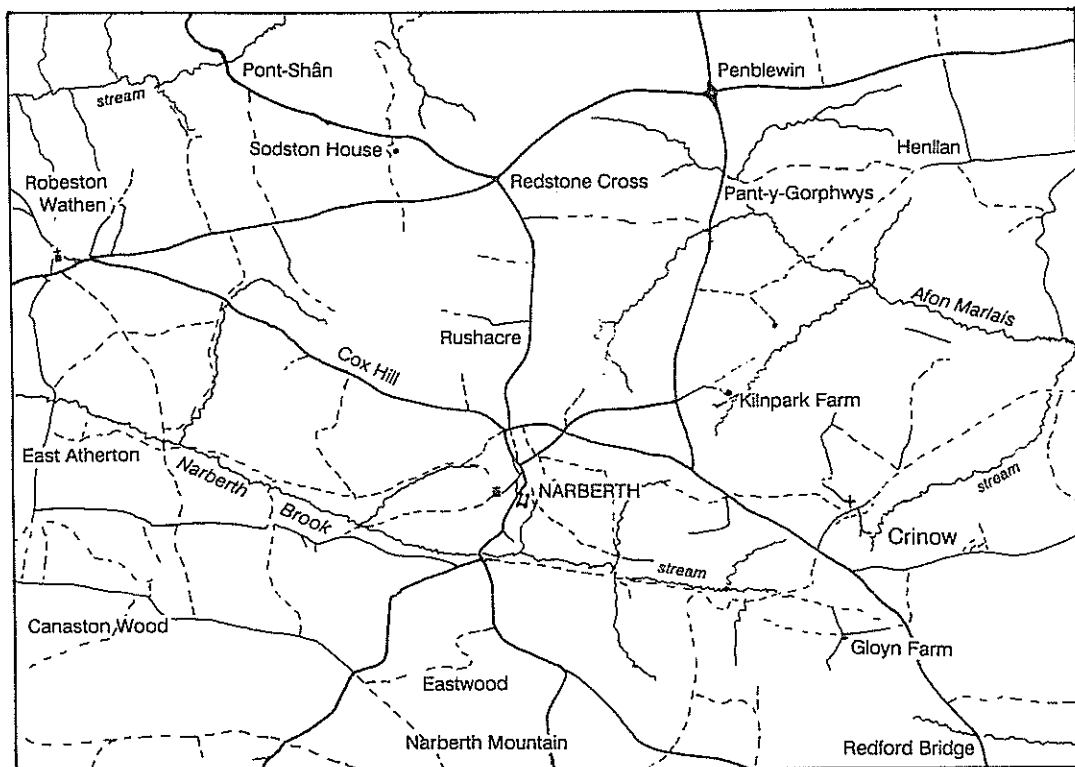
MAP 13 Turnpike Trusts operating in the Narberth area

### *Cross Lane & Spring Gardens*

It is very difficult to be certain of the date of Spring Gardens/Cross lane. A late seventeenth century date has been suggested in the preceding section, where it is argued that it bounded a planned intake of new land for the developing market town. The desire to improve communications may have been as important - or even a more important reason. There were obvious advantages in cross linking routes out of the town to the north east, north and north west which was achieved by linking the Jesse Road/Station Road/Sheep Street junctions and the Moorfield/Northfield/High Street junction. Probably the name Spring Gardens came into use for the western end of Cross Lane when houses were built there, which was no earlier than the early nineteenth century. Its continuing importance as a modern road by-passing the town centre is reflected in the late twentieth century uses of the area.

### *Roads and Tracks on the south side of Narberth*

The main road leading south from the settlement, bridging Narberth Brook and preceding across Narberth Mountain via Camp Hill (where there is a probable Iron Age enclosure) has remained the only major route to the south. There are numerous tracks radiating out from the settlement but they are now either disused or survive only as footpaths. This undeveloped route network is in marked contrast to the northern side of the town and indicates the 'pull' which the east west routes to the north have exercised on the growth of the town. This is reflected today in the almost deserted appearance of the southern end of Market Street.



MAP 14 : Roads, Tracks and Footpaths around Narberth

Yet some of the major components of medieval and early modern Narberth's economy were located south of the Town. Narberth Mill (see section above) was reached by a side track branching south eastwards from the road to the bridge. The persistence of the name burgage and the existence of a small group of cottages and a smith's forge in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries on the western side of the road close to the Bridge strongly suggests an individual burgage and/or a small hamlet being on this site in the medieval period. Carding Mill Lane was developed with a gated entrance at the southern end of the Town Moor to give access to workers at Shipping Factory woollen mill. The lane was entered from the cross roads of Northfield and Moorfield Roads,

High Street and Spring Gardens. It may originally have only led from or to Plas Farm as double hedged banked field edges suggest. It is a route which follows the contours of the steep valley now partly covered by Plas Wood.

Yet another path proceeds south westwards from Plas to cross Narberth to link with an east-west road (Valley Road) on the south side of the Brook. The Old Rectory was here and just possibly an earlier church site. The road was turnpiked with a Toll Gate at Valley gate. This footpath may originally have crossed open field strips but certainly survived the early enclosure of the lord's land (demesne land) which created Plas Farm. On the south east side of the town footpaths extended from below the castle to what is today Clubland, crossing the small stream and steep sided narrow cwm which forms the eastern defence of the castle. The lane proceeding eastwards from St James Street (now Tabernacle Lane, formerly Occupation Road) possibly originated as track along the ends of furlongs against which subsequent 'close' hedged boundaries were planted. It lies opposite the Drang and the two may indicate an early limit of the built up frontage along St. James Street. The name Occupation Lane refers to its later use as a track to the woollen factories at Dyffryn and Lan Mills.

**The footpaths which are maintained and still used are now wholly for leisure purposes. It is easy to forget that, well within living memory, they were the means of getting to and from the surrounding farms into the town and for people to get to work. They are a vital component of the historic landscape and most are likely to be of medieval if not earlier origin.**

### *Street Names*

The original through route has today a variety of names. The name of the road, Jesse Road, for the section approaching the town is derived from a well of that name. It is possibly a fairly modern coinage - like Bellman's Well southeast of the town. It leads today into St James Street. Historically only the western end of this Street - presumably what was built up by the 1830s, was so known, the remaining length was known as Sheep Street. Fields on the north side of Sheep Street were known as Ewe Park in 1776 and remained open until the second half of the nineteenth century, even though the frontage along the north side of Sheep Street became more continuously built up. Market Street may have assumed its present name in the eighteenth century, the admittedly sparse late seventeenth century records talk only of 'The Street' in Narberth. Castle Street may also be a coinage of the early nineteenth century when houses were built alongside the road.

The name of High Street is probably contemporary with the spread of the street market and the construction of high quality Town Houses in the later eighteenth century. But it was also known as 'Pig Market Street' - an indication of some separation of livestock in market and fair organisation. Water Street is a name probably used when the public conduit below the Town hall was constructed. Picton Place suggests an early nineteenth century origin to the street since the Napoleonic War hero was widely commemorated in street names. Back Lane was no doubt only so-called once High Street itself had

become built up on both sides. But 'The Drang' is of earlier origin. In his *English Dialect Dictionary* Wright attests its common use in south west England and Pembrokeshire meaning 'a narrow passage or lane between two walls or hedges'.

### *Railway*

The first and major stage of railway construction by-passed Narberth altogether. Brunel had to alter his scheme to construct a rail link from London to the port at Fishguard as an Irish and Atlantic crossing point due to engineering difficulties and the line was diverted to Neyland. But from 1853 a carrier link connected Narberth with 'Narberth Road' Station, i.e. Clynderwen. It was the Pembroke and Tenby line from the south which built the Station at Narberth in 1866 and linked through to Whitland. But it was impossible to travel directly to London from Narberth by train until standardization of rail gauges in 1872. The pull of the rail-link has not, surprisingly, led to ribbon development all along Station Road. But stimulating as it did the growth of Whitland and the present A40 route way, it has led to continued development on the northern, rather than the southern side of the town.

### **TOPOGRAPHICAL IMPLICATIONS - SUMMARY**

- **Narberth is a settlement which was founded to control a pre-existing through route. It expanded as a settlement along existing roads.**
- **The medieval settlement, although a military and administrative centre, was based on a wholly rural economy. Most of the roads and tracks radiating from the settlement thus originated as access ways to open fields, valley bottom meadows or upland rough grazing or woodland. These tracks were also the links between the component manors, hamlets and outlying farms of the Lordship of Narberth.**
- **The creation of a weekly market and annual fairs in the seventeenth century was both the product of and the stimulus to increased traffic in livestock, and transport of coal, lime and grain within the area between Carmarthen and Haverfordwest. Within the town this led to the intake of a new area from the open fields bounded by the 'link road' of Cross Lane.**
- **Existing 'agricultural' constraints as well as the nature of the fairs led to development of town buildings along streets to the north (High Street) and north-east (Sheep Street) to preexisting 'nodal points' of road, lane and track junctions (see Map 10, p. 23). The development in size and number of fairs led to the specialization of different streets in different animals but all were simply lined up and tethered or penned along the streets accentuating the existing linear character of the built-up frontages.**

## **NARBERTH - The Nineteenth Century Town**

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### *Introduction:*

It can be convincingly argued that Narberth reached its zenith as a market town and a local administrative centre in the second half of the nineteenth century. There is an abundance of documentary sources for this period and in addition detailed maps become available for the town. Again there is scope for an in-depth study of the town in this period. How much truth is there for instance in Professor Harold Carter's categorisation of Narberth as a 'sub-town'? He defines such settlements as carrying out some specifically urban functions, but without the equipment or institutions to justify being classed as a fully fledged town. In Narberth 'the possibility of minor service functions for an area remote from the superior services of Carmarthen and Haverfordwest has resulted in an odd array of characteristically urban services, including a local newspaper'. An administrative network however can, and in Narberth's case, did give it an importance greater perhaps than its size and location might have justified on their own. Certainly, as with other 'sub-towns', Narberth has been vulnerable to progressive encroachment on its administrative functions. (Carter, H. *The Towns of Wales: A Study in Urban Geography*, 1965).

This topographical survey will however concentrate on three aspects:

- The changes in the town plan and its modern growth
- The surviving topographical evidence for the trade and industry of Narberth.
- The town's buildings considered as evidence for local industry and as an indication of the social structuring of the town.

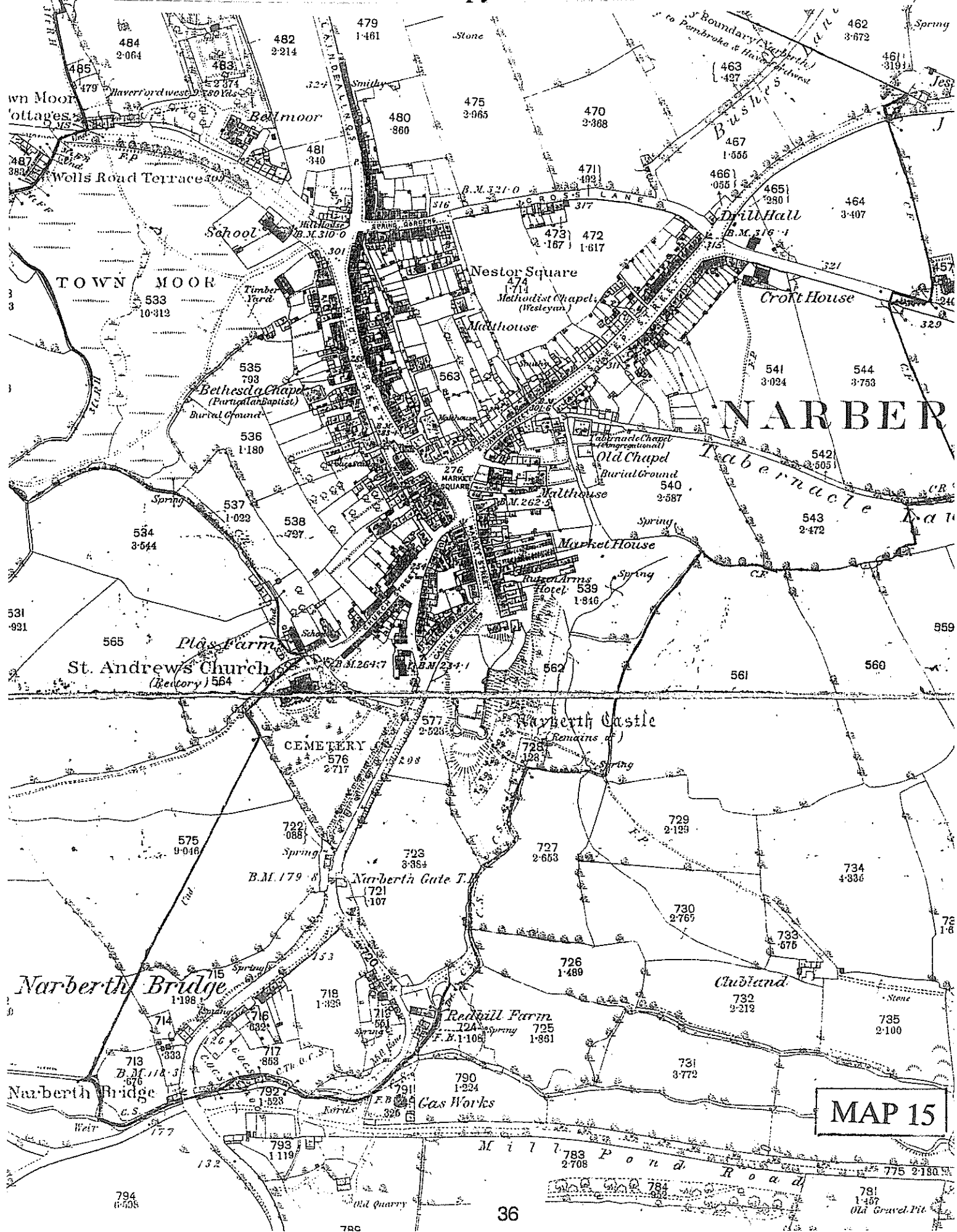
## **CHANGES IN THE TOWN PLAN**

### *Introduction*

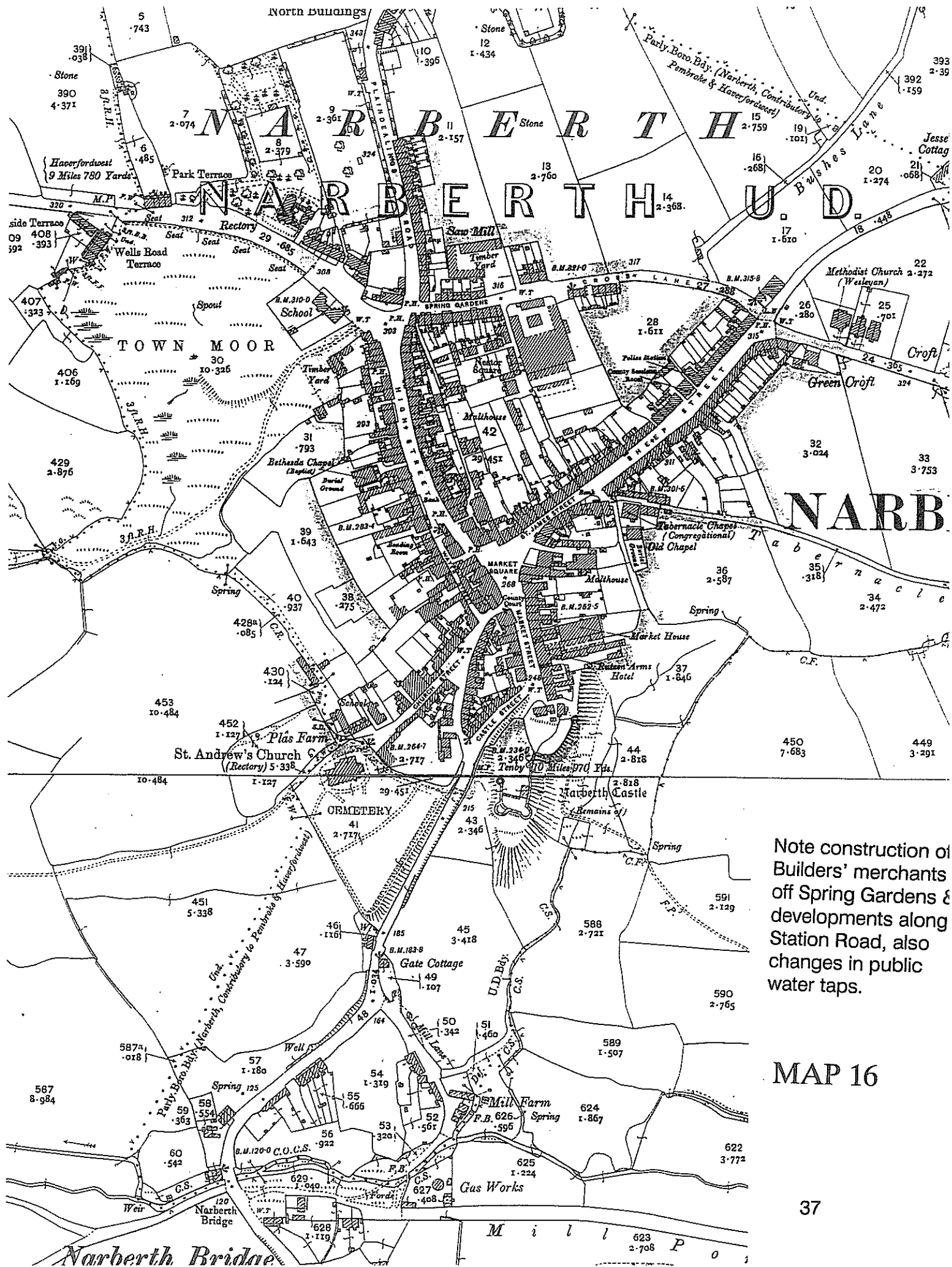
The basic shape of the town was established by the mid-eighteenth century. Nineteenth and twentieth century development has therefore been of two kinds: an infilling along street frontages and to the rear of properties and a ribbon like expansion of settlement along the northern routes leading into the town.

The earliest map of the whole town is that produced to accompany the 1835 Municipal Corporations Boundary Commission Report (Map 12, p.29). Combined with the Tithe Map of 1840 which covers the areas around the town it gives a good idea of the built up area but is semi-schematic in form and cannot be immediately related to the large scale OS 1:2500 maps of the later 19th century. Reduced copies of the 1880 and 1907 1:2500 OS Maps have also been included in this survey for reference. (Maps 15 & 16 overleaf)

NARBERTH - Reduced copy of 1880 first edition 1:2500 (OS)



# NARBERTH - Reduced copy of 1907 2nd edition OS 1:2500 Map



### *Early nineteenth century street layout*

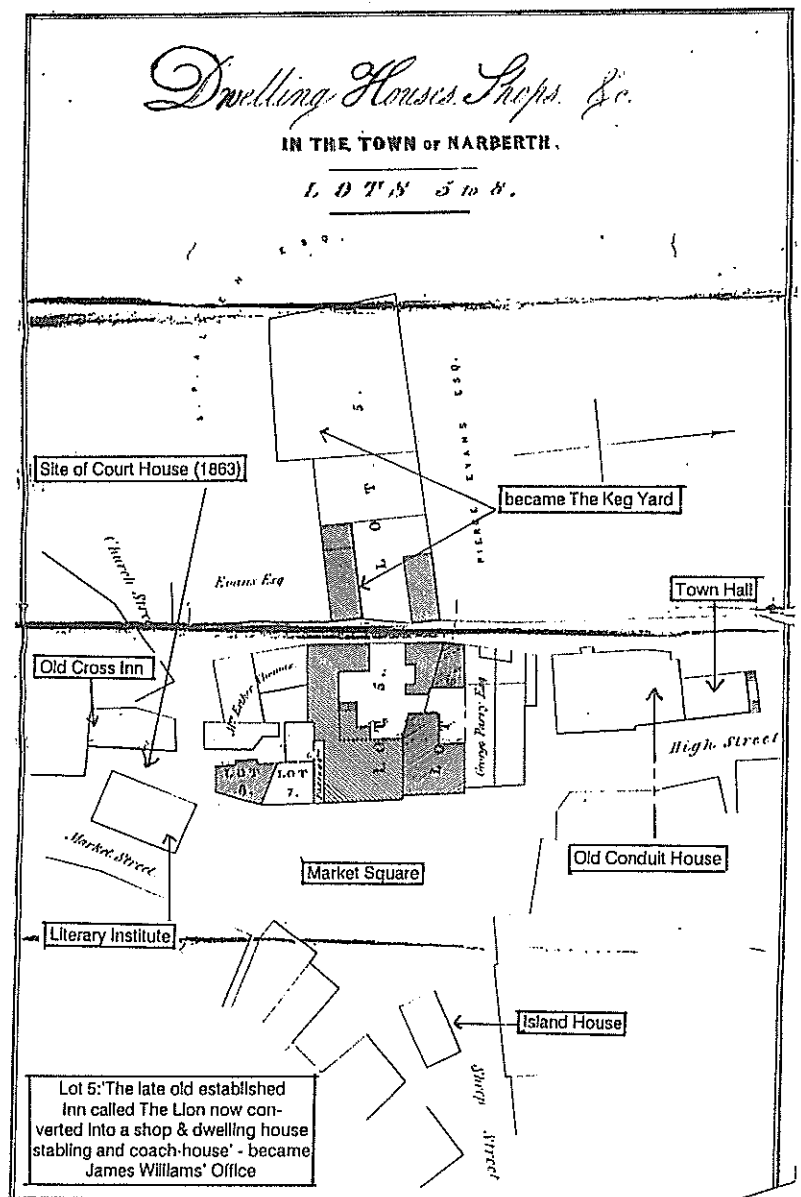
"The town is pleasantly situated on an eminence above a narrow valley . . . it consists principally of three narrow streets diverging obliquely from the market-place, which is in the centre. The houses are irregularly built and of mean appearance; and the town, which is neither paved, nor lighted, and is indifferently supplied with water, fails in realising the expectations which the distant view of it excites."

Samuel Lewis *Topographical Dictionary of Wales*, 2 vols. 1833

The descriptions in Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary* of 1833 reflect the tastes and expectations of the time. It is evident that the form and layout of the streets of Narberth at that date did not conform to the conventional ideal of an urban streetscape: a paved, lit street with an even facade of buildings. Lewis's comments tended to be picked up and repeated by the Trade Directories of the 1830s and 1840s.

The Market Place was edged on its eastern side by a building called Island House, surrounded by streets on all sides, not demolished until the 1870s. It stood in front of The White Hart Inn, and a lane, White Hart Lane, down its northern side led to coachhouses and outbuildings to the rear. The White Hart declined as an important coaching inn due to the preferences of its owner Baron de Rutzen, anxious in the 1830s to promote the trade of his newly built De Rutzen Arms at the southern end of Market Street. Late nineteenth century and early twentieth century postcards give a good idea of the extent of the triangular 'Cross' as Market Square was colloquially known after the demolition of Island House. This sense was lost once the War Memorial was completed in 1926.

The construction of the Court House in 1863 also effected changes to the street frontage of Market Street. Another isolated

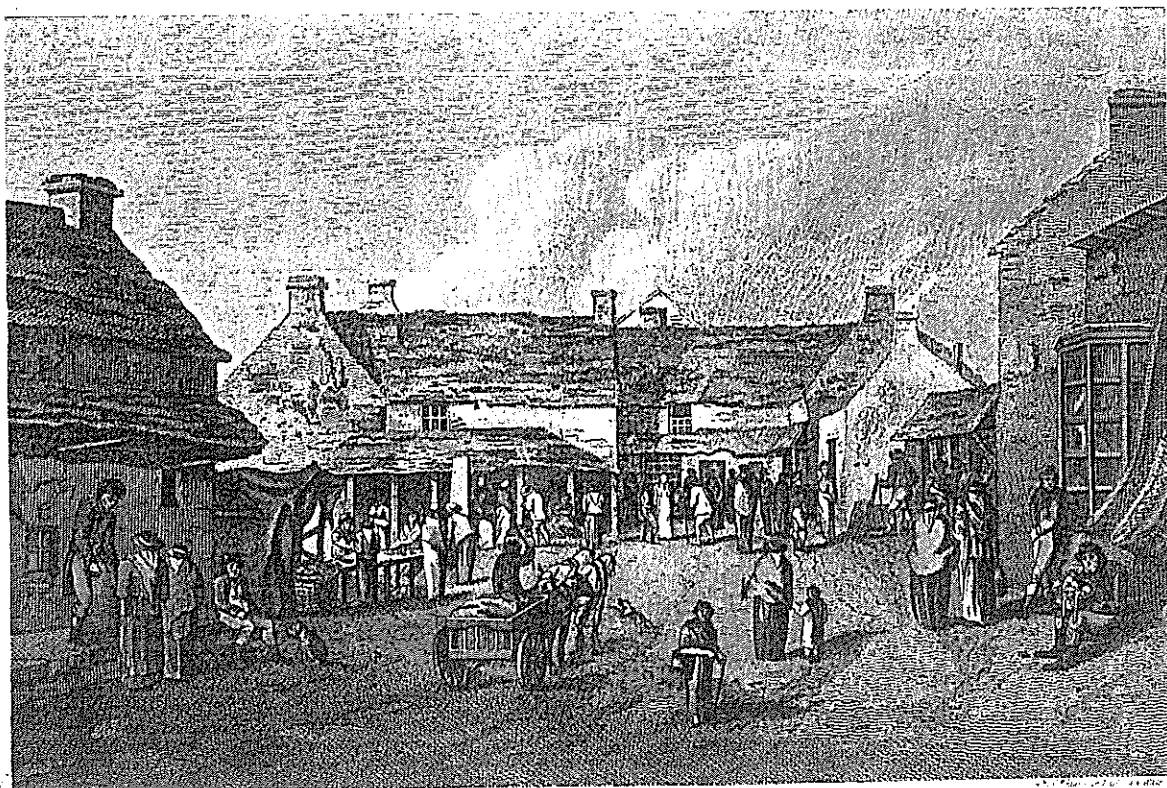


building, The Literary and Scientific Institution, was sited out in the middle of Market Street. It was demolished to make way for the new Court House as was the Old Cross Inn. The Institute, later The Mechanic's Institute, was transferred to the present Town Hall, completed in the late 1820s/early 1830s. Both these buildings are shown in a mid nineteenth century Sale Catalogue shown on p. 38.

**There were therefore areas of early nineteenth century Narberth where the streets were narrower, with buildings in front of the modern frontage lines. But there were also more open areas along the streets with gaps between houses. The present day continuously-built up street frontages are very much a creation of the mid and later nineteenth century.**

### *Paving, Lighting and Services*

No detailed records have been found to give anything other than a very sketchy account of the provision of public services in the town. The water supply has already been discussed and Lewis's description tends to suggest that the public taps and improvement to the town cistern took place shortly after his visit. The well known engraving of Narberth Market, from Thomas Rees's *Beauties of England and Wales* 1815 (see below) is difficult to relate exactly to the surviving streetscapes. It makes the point very strongly that the town was virtually rebuilt and greatly extended in the 1820s, 1830s and 1840s. This is not to say that the two storey houses around the Market Square do not survive behind the new facades and upper floors of some of the present early nineteenth houses but detailed examination would be necessary to establish this, opportunities usually only available when a building is re-rendered. Perhaps more important evidence of the engraving is the unimproved state of the roads.



Engraved by J. G. Smith & Co. from a Drawing by J. G. Smith

NARBERTH MARKET.

The natural slope of ground is preserved in front of the house on the right hand side of the engraving. This may have persisted for some time. It is noticeable in some of the late nineteenth century postcards of Markets and Fairs in the streets of Narberth that the 'pavements' were quite wide areas sloping down to a much narrower street than today. This may be an ancient feature.

In the Slebech records are several reports by the Constable of his attempts to collect higher tolls from the street traders at the weekly markets, part of Baron de Rutzen's often high-handed campaign to increase his revenues from the Market to offset his expenses in building the new Market Hall. The dues for 'Toll, Stallage and Pickage' were ancient ones. Evidently the traders paid for set lengths or standings - 3 or 6 feet for stalls (pickage being an ancient due paid for breaking up ground to erect temporary stalls), or for spaces to lay out baskets. The constable records seizures of hats, tin kettles, fowls 'turkies', butter, bread and cakes from 'baskets' and legs of mutton from stalls. There is even a suggestion in one case of a trader renting his pitch from the householder, in front of whose property he traded. It may be in these tantalisingly brief records of 1833 we see how the weekly markets were organised in the previous centuries.

Although the Parish Vestry adopted the provisions of an Act in 1847 which permitted them to form a Gas Company no action was taken until 1866 when The Narberth Gas Company was formed. Its works were down by the Mill site at Narberth Brook, a site leased from Baron de Rutzen. The Town was however more advanced in its adoption of electric street lighting. The only surviving lamp standard is that now Listed, standing next to the war memorial, but shown in solitary and pristine splendour in late nineteenth century postcard views of Market square.

**The demands of modern traffic have changed the use and thus the layout of the town's streets in which the fairs and markets were held. Any future pedestrianisation and off street parking schemes could provide an opportunity to recreate or mark out on the ground the wider sloping pavements for the market stalls. In addition the Victorian public taps and water cistern could be restored as features in a 'heritage streetscape' scheme.**

### *The New Market*

The most conscious effort of economic development was Baron de Rutzen's new covered Market Hall and the Hotel and housing development in front of it at the southern end of Market Street - the saga of whose building has been studied in detail by Thomas Lloyd. It was the architect Thomas Rowlands, of Haverfordwest who took over the new market scheme for Baron de Rutzen, following the untimely death of James Hughes, builder, of Narberth. Rowlands excavated a large trench down the lower side of Market Street to win spoil to extend and level out the site of the new Market Building. He then persuaded his client to build a hotel and 5 houses on the Street frontage site since the cellars had already been excavated and the site cleared. The Market was opened in 1832, the Hotel a few years later. It is evident that there can have been no buildings on the site just north of the castle in the early nineteenth century.

The Market Hall was demolished in 1988/9 having been used as a Bottle Store for Messrs James Williams for some years.

I have been informed that there was some separation in the market trade that remained around 'Cross', cheese and butter in one area, meat in another. But the poultry and dairy goods were by the later nineteenth century sold from de Rutzen's new market. Undoubtedly the rail link stimulated the livestock trade. Later nineteenth century Trade Directories mention wholesale supply of poultry to English dealers. The livestock Fairs seem to have become increasingly specialised. Sheep, not surprisingly, were sold along Sheep Street. Pigs (and by the 1830s there was a special Pig Market) were sold from High Street, also known as Pig Market Street. Narberth was particularly noted for the sale of Castlemartin Black Cattle. A specialised Cattle Mart came late to the town (1909) in comparison with Whitland, its nearest rival. It survived only until the 1930s.

**The demolition of the former Market Hall (latterly a James Williams bottling depot) and the redevelopment of the area for housing have removed the last physical evidence for this aspect of the town's history, re-inforcing the desirability of some kind of streetscape scheme as outlined above. Narberth owes its existence to the markets and fairs and any heritage schemes which do not give this aspect due recognition lack validity and meaning.**

#### *Town Hall and other official buildings*

It is not the purpose of this survey to discuss the architectural merits of the town's surviving stock of Georgian and Victorian buildings which has been done elsewhere, rather to concentrate on their siting. The Town Hall stands today isolated at the southern end of High Street, but until relatively recently (?1930s) was abutted to the south by two much larger properties. Only a narrow lane separated them from the large 'island-type' block on the west side of Market Square, dominated by the premises of Messrs James Williams, brewers and wine and spirit merchants. The oldest buildings in this bloc are late eighteenth century, but it is not known at present (though detailed research might provide an answer) when the island bloc came into existence. The Town Hall was built in the 1830s over the town's cistern, supplied from Town Moor. A clock was affixed to its turret in 1881 and a top storey added as a new Mechanic's Institute in 1912. Undoubtedly it faced north simply because there were buildings to the south but it reflects the increased importance of High Street by the early nineteenth century and gives an elegance to the street scape both in its scale, design and position.

#### *The Court House, 1863*

"The courts are held monthly in the new court-house, lately built at a cost of over £3000. It is a handsome structure with a stone frontage and will bear comparison with many public buildings of a like nature in much larger towns"

Slater's *Directory* 1868.

This description, and other details in later nineteenth century Trade Directories give us a sense of the civic aspirations of the Victorians, in the same way that Samuel Lewis betrays the value-judgements of his day. Kelly's Directory of 1895 considered that 'the removal of several blocks of old buildings and the erection of new houses' carried out in 1870 'considerably improved' the town. But the commentator deplores the existence of 'a number of unoccupied and almost ruinous buildings'.

**The Victorians believed that their public and official buildings gave the Town its status. Every effort therefore should be made to find an alternative use for The Court House which represents the highwater mark of Victorian civic aspirations for the town as well as being architecturally worthy of its recent elevation to the status of a Listed Building.**

### *Church and Chapels*

Again it is the siting and planning aspects of these buildings which are considered here not their religious, social or architectural significance. It is a mark of the civic aspirations as well as the resources of the parish that the church of St Andrew was twice rebuilt in the nineteenth century. First in 1828 it was enlarged by James Hughes, the Narberth architect and builder whose work has been studied by Thomas Lloyd. A fund raising restoration campaign in the late 1870s permitted the church to engage the services of a London architect, T.G. Jackson whose new church was opened in 1881.

Between these two dates, in 1856, a new and much enlarged burial ground was opened, dignified by new iron gates cast by Messrs Morgan and Thomas of Narberth. The provision of new cemeteries was a concern of the mid century Public Health movement; their design and internal organisation also reflect the civic aspirations and social differentiation of the time - they are in effect historical documents in their own right far too easily destroyed by thoughtless 'clearance' and 'tidying'.

**Narberth's churchyard and the extension across the road below the Castle are on a truly urban scale and the monumental record they contain worthy of better maintenance and record.**

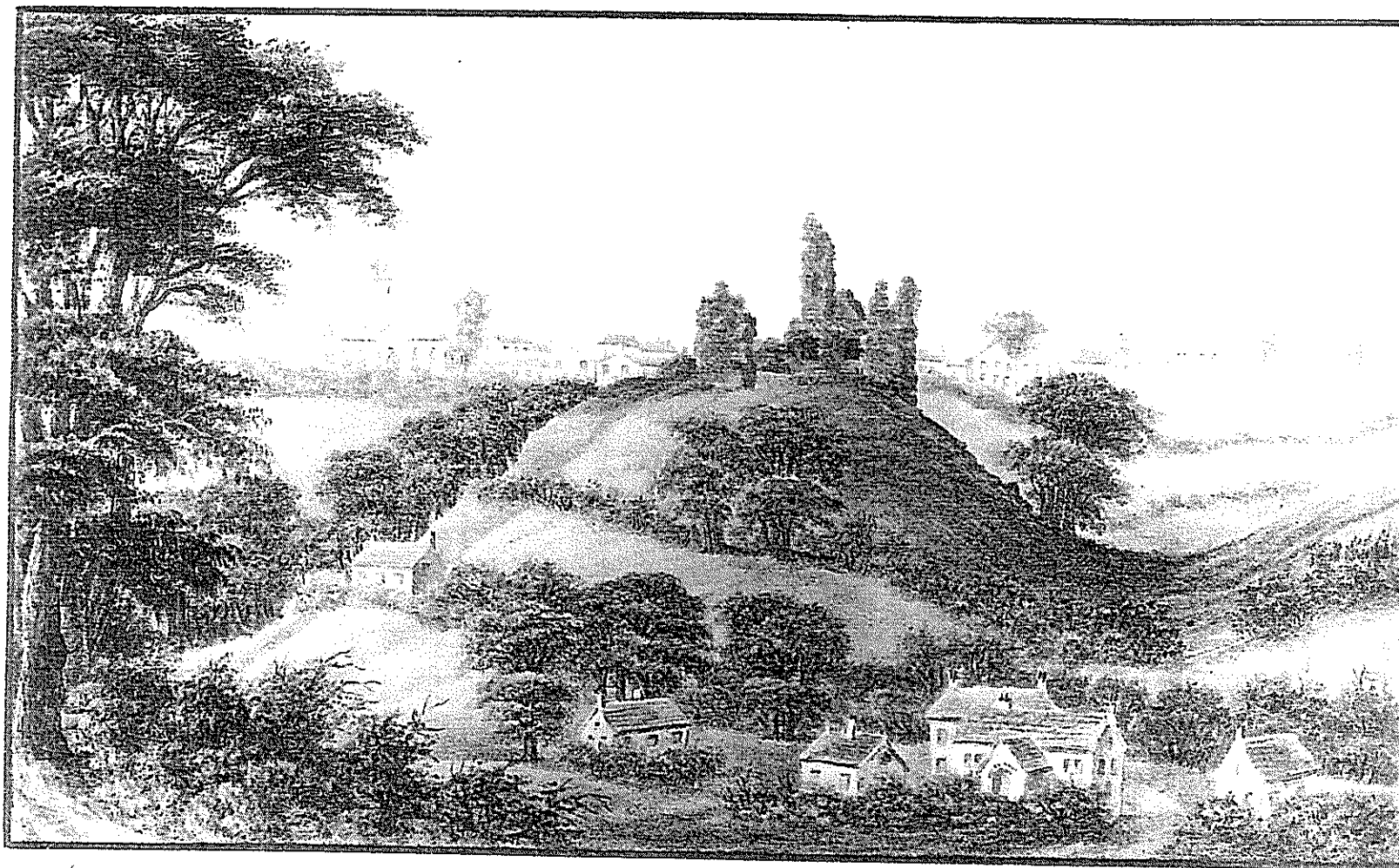
The location of the town's chapels is interesting. The Baptist cause began in 1808 and following independence from the mother church of Molleston in 1816 and the powerful ministry of Revd. Benjamin Thomas of Whitley a new chapel was built in 1837. This is now the schoolroom below the larger chapel built above in 1891. The site is not quite a street frontage one on High Street because the building is set back to the rear of its adjacent premises. But the fine gates and narrow entrance from the street give an imposing view of the facade in a central position in the town, yet with the advantages of space for a larger building and cemetery to the rear. A similar situation prevails for the Baptist Chapel off Lammas Street Carmarthen.

Tabernacle Chapel was built as an Independent Chapel in 1822 on a site off a main street frontage on the edge of the fields south of St James Street and east of Market

Street yet easily accessible. The old chapel became, like the Baptist's, the schoolroom to the new which was a larger, more imposing building with a facade visible from the main street. The first Wesleyan chapel was built on open ground at the upper end of Sheep Street in 1849. A new Wesleyan Church, architect J.Preece Jones was opened in 1905 (now the Masonic Hall). This is a good example of the spread of development along the Streets leading in to the town for it is sited at Eastgate at the town end of Station Road. A similar situation prevailed with the purpose built schools of the later nineteenth century which are marked on Map 17. These required far more space than the small privately run establishments which had proceeded them and were therefore built on open spaces on the edges of the town.

### *Nineteenth century housing*

Details of building materials and local styles will be given in the following section; the location of housing will be described here. It was, overwhelmingly, street frontage building. Only in the later nineteenth century working class housing development of Nestor Square off the northern end of The Drang do we find off-street housing with its own approach lane. It is of course this kind of housing, whether in large or small estates which has characterized late twentieth century Narberth. Many of the two storey cottages which predominate in Church Street at the southern end of the town date from the 1810s and 1820s. The upper part of Sheep Street did not present a continuously built-up frontage until late in the nineteenth century. It would require detailed research to correlate the type of nineteenth century town housing with social status and income which could be established from Census data. A little known watercolour of Narberth in 1830 by a French artist, Alfred Dousseau, is reproduced here, though unfortunately not in colour. It conveys the impression of a well built town and forms a striking contrast with the view of the area close to the Church in Buck's print of 1740.(see p. 21).



### *Narberth Castle*

This watercolour is from a bound volume of Views of Wales & Ireland by a French artist, A. Dousseau in the National Library of Wales. The watercolours were produced during a tour made in 1830. The view is taken from further east and from higher up the slopes on the south side of Narberth Brook than the prospect engraved by the Buck brothers in 1740 (see p. 21). In the foreground are the buildings of Narberth Mill and other cottages. There has been a notable change in the buildings adjacent to the church since 1740. There is probably no great accuracy in the individual buildings depicted, but rather a representation of the early nineteenth century townscape. The church tower behind the houses of Sheep Street (St. James' Street) on the upper right hand side of the picture can only be Robeston Wathen. Unfortunately this illustration could not be reproduced in colour

## **NARBERTH - The topographical evidence for its trade & industry**

### *Textiles.*

There is every reason to suppose some late medieval cloth making, probably of the fairly coarse Pembrokeshire friezes, in Narberth. There was a fulling Mill on Narberth Brook. Field names for the fields in the steep slopes of the valley east of the Castle and south of Sheep Street (Rack Park, Hatter's Park) suggest the presence of tenter's racks for stretching and preparing the cloth with teasles. The hat trade, said to have flourished in the town in the early nineteenth century, was but one use of local felts and coarse cloths. Later in the century the Narberth area was a centre for the larger scale development of the textile industry in west Wales with no less than twelve woollen factories. However these were located out of town nearer to the sources of water power on which they at first depended. They are really only relevant to the town's topography in two indirect ways. Firstly they supported a fairly large labour force, most of whom lived in Narberth thus stimulating the local economy and housing market. Secondly workers going to work on foot continued to use and develop older footpaths south of the town (Occupation Lane, Carding Mill Lane) to walk to work at Lan and Dyffryn Mills and Shipping Factory.

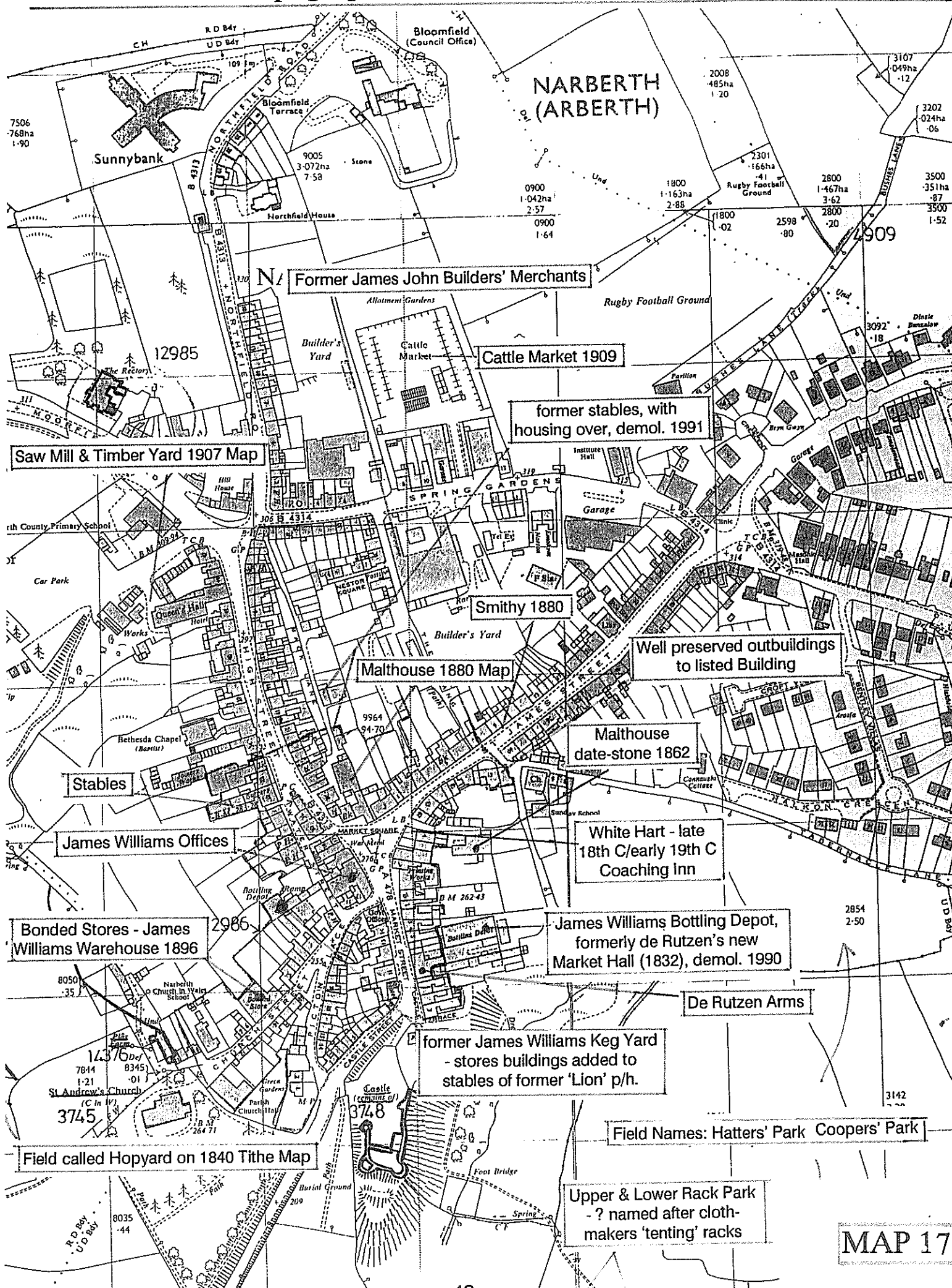
### *Brewing*

Barley was grown much more widely in Narberth Hundred in the early modern period than today. Brewing was very much a home or farm based cottage industry. However during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries malting began to be organised on a commercial scale. At present our earliest records of malting in Narberth are nineteenth century. It is likely that many of the inns and taverns brewed their own beer and that small malthouses and kilns at the rear of the premises were common. Field names like Coopers' Park (see Map 17) may record the once vital trade of barrel making. It is worth noting that malting was very much the trade of small country towns since even on a small scale it required space unavailable in larger urban centres.

**Only two Malthouses remain today out of a much larger number. That at the southern end of Back Lane is the older. That surviving to the rear of 4 & 5, Market Street (now CKM Kitchens) has a date stone of 1862. Deeds and Sale Catalogue mention other malthouses to the rear of properties on the west side of High Street. Both these buildings are threatened and failing maintenance of the structures or finding an alternate use every effort should be made to fully record them before they are demolished.**

The topography of Narberth has been affected by its biggest industry - Messrs James Williams, Narberth. There is a tombstone in the churchyard to a 'James Williams, Innkeeper' who died, aged 72 in 1828. The full history of the business has yet to be written, but it got under way from the 1850s when the former Red Lion premises were bought - the site today of 'Gregory's Coffee House' and the Wilson Museum. It is

# NARBERTH - Topographical Evidence for Crafts, Trades & Industries



probable that beer was brewed on the premises, but the business soon moved into the secondary processing - blending and bottling which continues today.

Beer from the Midlands was transported by rail and bottled in Narberth. The Market Hall was used for bottling and storage in the first half of this century. The 'Keg Yard', across Water Street was formerly the stables and coach yard of the Red Lion Inn (see 1850 Sale Catalogue, p. 00). These buildings were extended and are now empty and likely to be demolished. A large new Bonded Stores warehouse was built at Church Street in 1896 for blending and storage of spirits. Bottling and warehousing has now shifted to the northern side of the town, to Spring Gardens where there is more space for modern transport vehicles.

### *The Building Trade*

In many ways the surviving legacy of the nineteenth and early twentieth century building trade is the townscape itself. It is not the purpose of this report to consider the town's buildings from the architectural point of view. This has been done by Cadw with regard to the listed buildings and by certain conservation documents. But until well into this century it was a trade which depended on locally produced building stone (particularly limestone), on bricks and to a lesser extent slate (Preseli phyllite roofing slates). These were products of Narberth's hinterland rather than the town itself; there were brick-works for instance in Templeton.

Another craft which is evident in many buildings is that of the carpenter - and glazier. There is a distinctive Narberth style of fanlight dating to the early nineteenth century (See Olieme House). Detailing in the consoles for door hoods or supporting shop window is often quite idiosyncratic. The Joiner's Workshop on the south side of Town Moor would have provided most of the windows, doorframes, barge boards and finials still to be looked for in the town's buildings (note especially the unlisted Castle Inn in Castle Street). Timber yards and sawpits are shown on the nineteenth century maps. Local foundries provided gates and railings. The development of the Building trade in later nineteenth century Narberth is evidenced by the large Builders Merchants, James John, the red brick facade of whose works in Spring Gardens has been incorporated into a housing development.

**The value of locally distinctive details of doors, windows and shopfronts needs to be fully recognized in Townscape schemes.**

### *Service structures*

There was little specialist industrial, craft or manufacturing building in Narberth itself other than the malthouses mentioned above. But the increased number of professions represented in the Town (in Law, Medicine, Government, Education) is reflected in the middle class Victorian and Edwardian housing of the town and its fringes, as well as 'villas' and gentry houses. In addition the fairs and markets supported a very large number of Inns and Taverns.

A primary requirement therefore was stabling. Most of the small buildings, shown on and adjacent to the Drang and Back Lane in the nineteenth century maps have been knocked down. Some were quite well built stone structures, with accommodation for a coachman or stable hand above the horses. The photograph of Narberth Pig Fair of 1903 shows the small size of the traps and carts that were the ubiquitous transport vehicles of the day. Many were kept in Back Lane. Some of these buildings have had long and changing uses, others were purpose built as stables.

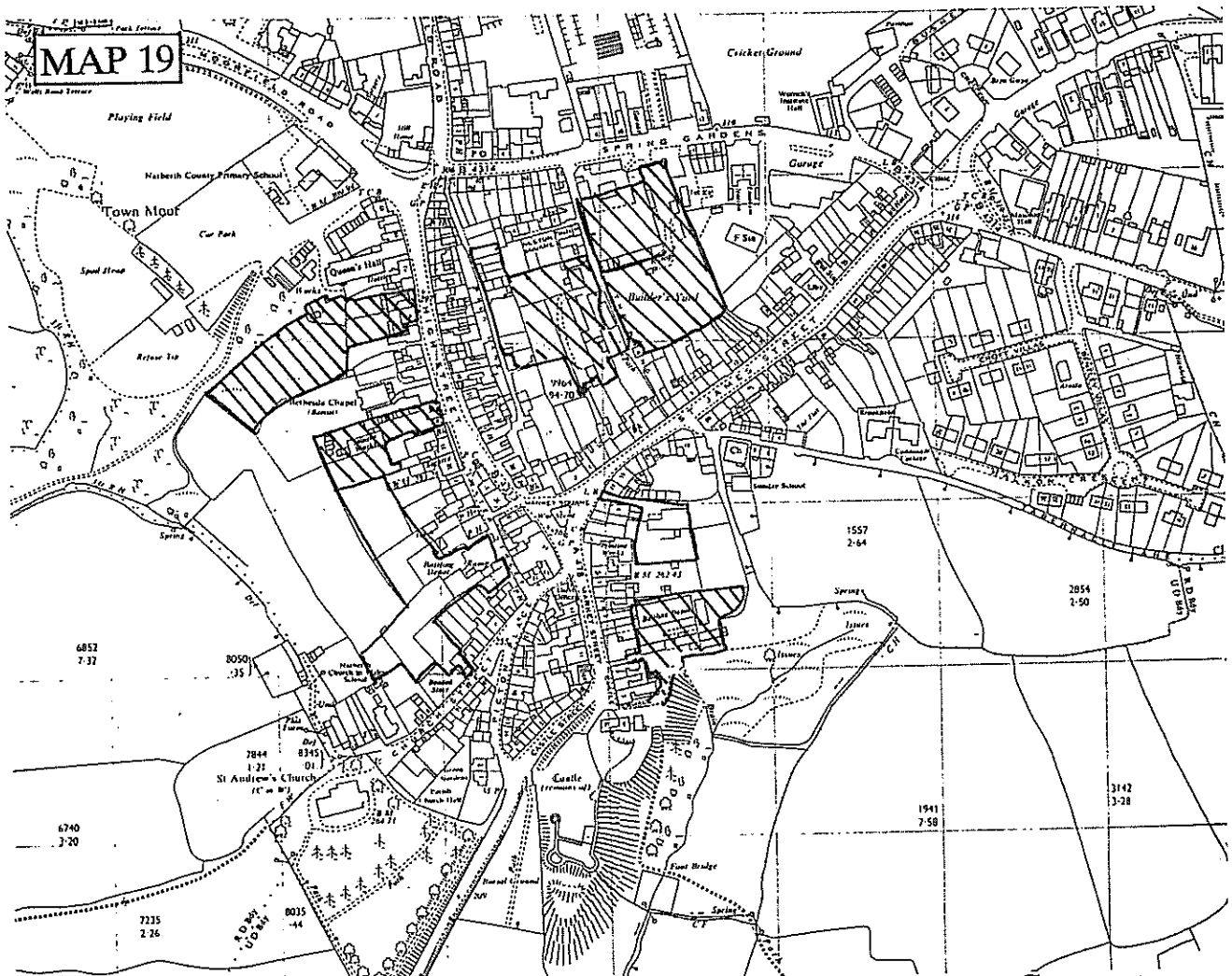
Another distinctive vernacular feature of nineteenth century housing in the centre of Narberth is the existence of a narrow side passage, entered by a side door all part of the fairly broad facade of the house.

**Again these features are worthy of further study. Much attention has been paid by social and architectural historians to the plans and uses of interior space of working class industrial housing in south east Wales for example, or, most particularly to the houses of the rural poor, and to farm buildings. But the artisan and middle class housing of small towns has been little studied in Wales. This makes Thomas Lloyd's pioneering work on nineteenth century architect/builders and their products all the more valuable. Narberth has a very interesting stock of such buildings and also a number of local builders. Not all their products can or should be Listed, but their buildings - in their entirety with yards and outbuildings - should be recognised, evaluated and studied before they become isolated survivors in totally altered street-scapes.**

## Narberth - A Topographical Survey: Recommendations for Future Action

### *Introduction*

As Map 19 below shows, there has already been quite large scale redevelopment for housing in off-street areas in Narberth, some within or close to the historic core. Little or no archaeological observation was carried out on these sites. In addition there are two large areas with outstanding planning consents which are of archaeological and topographical interest. These are 'The Old Keg Yard', Water Street and the former malthouse, now GKM Kitchens, both due for demolition and housing development. This makes the remaining areas of historical, architectural and archaeological interest of even higher value.



**NARBERTH : Recent Developments & Outstanding Consents**  
(Only large scale schemes in or adjacent to the historic core).

### *Archaeological Potential*

There are areas of high and low archaeological potential within the historic core of the town due to the physical nature of its site. Where buildings have been cut back into a slope to create a level platform on which to build it is likely that earlier occupation deposits will have been removed or truncated. But over more level areas a greater build-up of deposits may be expected.

In the lower half of the town along the steep rises of Picton Place, Castle Street and Market Street and the house sites which front them shaly rock is never far from the surface. This has been noted at several points by the author of this survey (see Map 20) during field visits to the town in 1991 and 1992. There is therefore little chance of the survival of any stratified archaeological deposits below the street surfaces and the present houses (even where the latter are not cellared). Only rock-cut features (wells, pits, foundation trenches, drains) are likely to survive. Although unlikely to be threatened by redevelopment the Church and churchyard are also areas of good archaeological potential and are therefore included on Map 20

Plas Farm, the frontages and garden areas to the rear of properties on the north side of Church Street and the lower parts of Picton Terrace and Castle Street have the highest potential for archaeological evidence on the medieval settlement and the ways in which that settlement changed and developed in the early medieval period.

#### **Recommendation:**

**It is therefore recommended, in accordance with Welsh Office Guidance Note 16, 'Archaeology and Planning' (1991), that any future development applications within the areas outlined on Map 19 be subject to an Archaeological Assessment before the application is determined.**

### *The Historic Town Plan*

The existing town plan is the main 'document' for Narberth's origins and development. As the Survey has shown it is the product of 800 years of continuous yet changing use and development.

#### **Recommendation:**

**It is recommended that any future developments which involve radical modifications of that plan should be subject to an archaeological assessment before any planning consent is given.**

**Map 19**

The map depicts the town of Narberth, Wales, and its surrounding areas. Key locations and features include:

- Streets:** Major roads like Moorfield Road, Spring Gardens, and Castle Street are shown. Other streets include Queen's Hall, Builder's Yard, and Brookfield.
- Buildings and Landmarks:** Narberth County Primary School, St Andrew's Church, Narberth Castle (remains of), and the Narberth Bridge are prominent. Other buildings include Queen's Hall, Builder's Yard, and Brookfield.
- Geographical Features:** The River Rye flows through the town, with several bridges crossing it. The map also shows a Cricket Ground, a Women's Institute Hall, and a Garage.
- Grid System:** The map is overlaid with a grid of numbers and letters, likely for reference. Numbers include 8050, 7844, 8035, 7826, 9226, 9519, 9514, 9916, 0312, 0327, 0418, 1423, 1429, 1557, 1815, 2320, 2824, 2854, 3092, 3142, and 3112. Letters include A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z.

### *Unlisted Buildings within & outside the Conservation Area*

There are interesting buildings in Narberth which display the particular skills of the town's nineteenth and twentieth century architects, builders, carpenters and glaziers. As the details in earlier sections of this survey have shown there is a distinctive 'Narberth vernacular' evidenced in features like fanlights, side doors and arches and plasterwork. In addition there are outbuildings and workshops of little architectural but strong historical interest.

A set of photographs of these buildings and features has been deposited with South Pembrokeshire District Council's copy of this Survey report. Copies of the annotated colour prints therein are obtainable at cost from Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

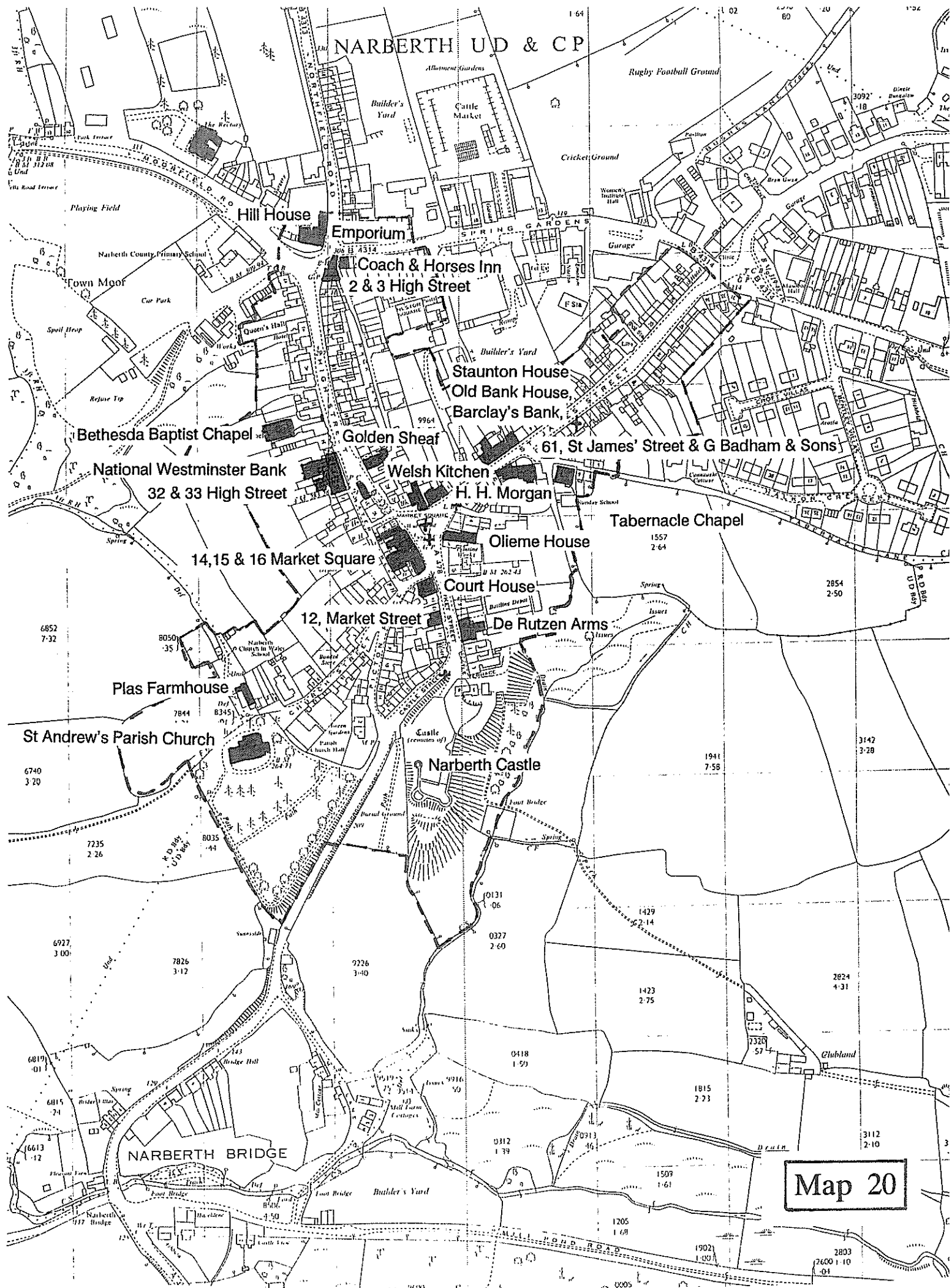
### **Recommendations:**

**It is recommended that this be consulted for reference in any Townscheme applications for grant aid.**

It is recommended that in the case of conversion and of demolition (see Joint DOE/DO Circular 33/92 Planning controls over Demolition) a condition should be included in any consent requiring a written, drawn and photographic record to be made of the buildings which are of interest for the above reasons. Such a record should be deposited in the National Monuments Record.

### *Interpretation and Presentation*

Greater use could and should be made of the topographical features which have been analysed in this survey for promotion and conservation in Town Trails or Interpretation Boards and in streetscape improvements in addition to Buildings or Monuments already noted in previous Surveys, notably Narberth Castle.



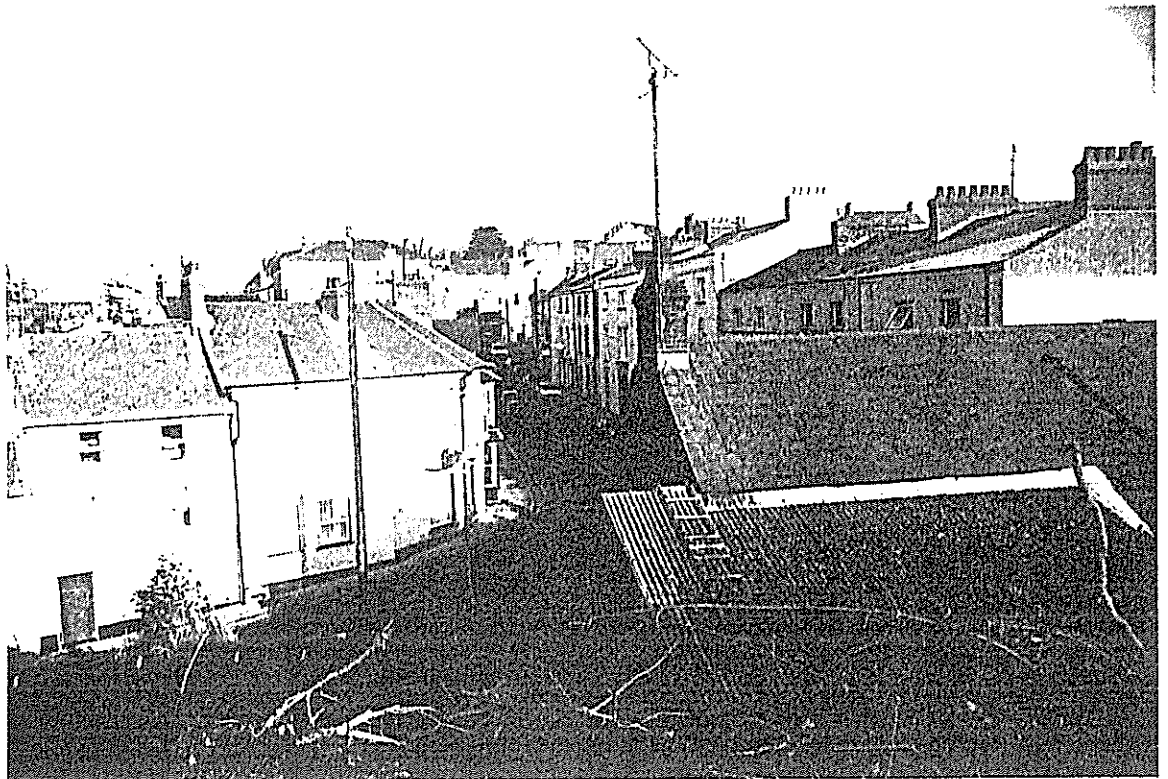
**NARBERTH - Conservation Area, Listed Buildings & Scheduled Ancient Monuments**

This collection of annotated photographs is in no way intended as a complete record of the architecture of Narberth. It complements the Cadw Survey:*Narberth List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest* and does not therefore replicate the information on Listed Buildings contained in that report and shown on Map 18. It is intended to highlight those features of 'urban vernacular' interest mainly of the 19th century mentioned in the text and illustrate the main features of the topography of the Town. I have relied heavily on the knowledge and comments of Thomas Lloyd for this section.



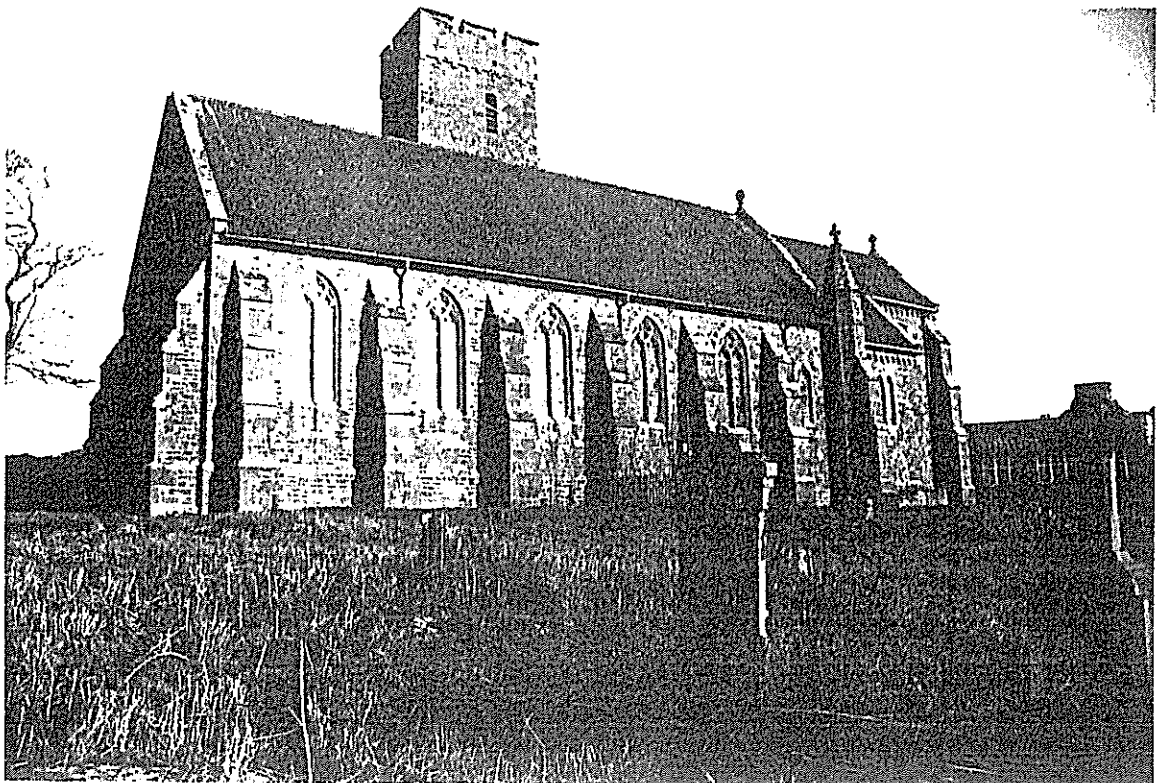
Four Views from the drastically 'cleared' north west side of the Castle above Castle Street which forms an ideal vantage and viewing point from which to appreciate the general rise in level from south to north and the more minor variations in level from east to west which, together with the different heights, roof pitches and alignment of the buildings produces an attractive and distinctive townscape - good position for an Interpretative Panel?





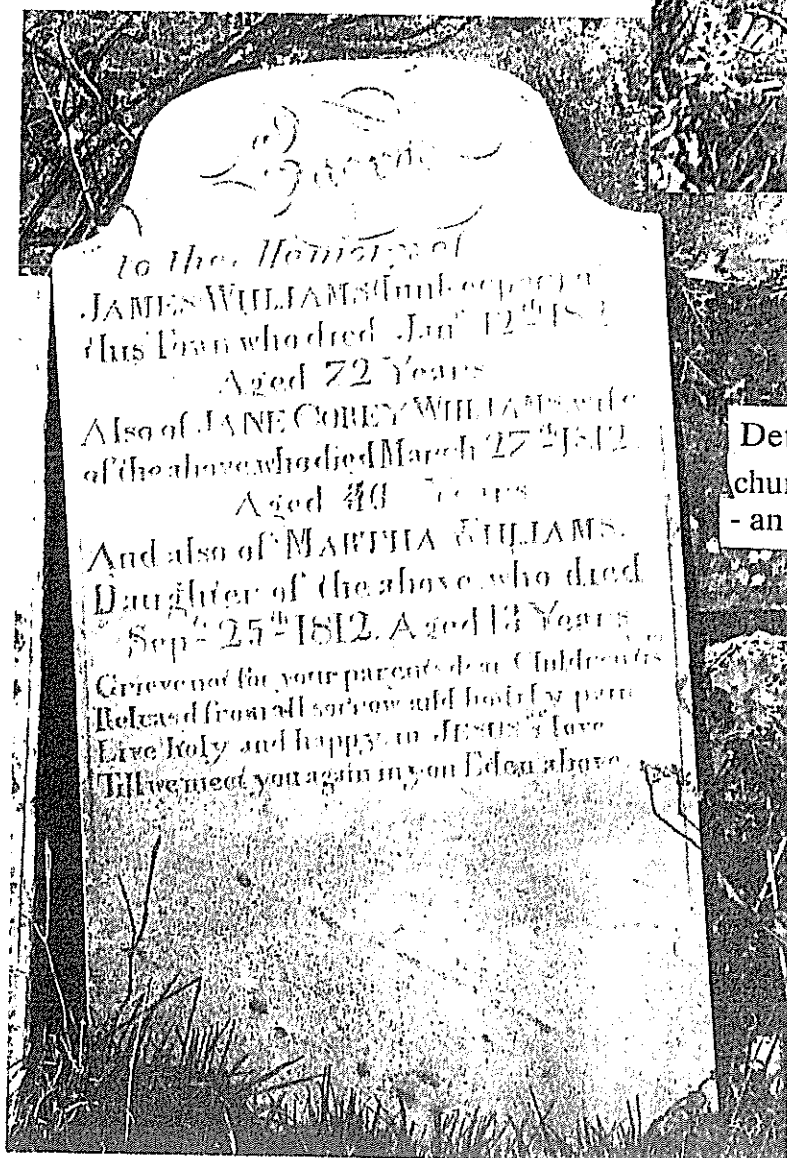
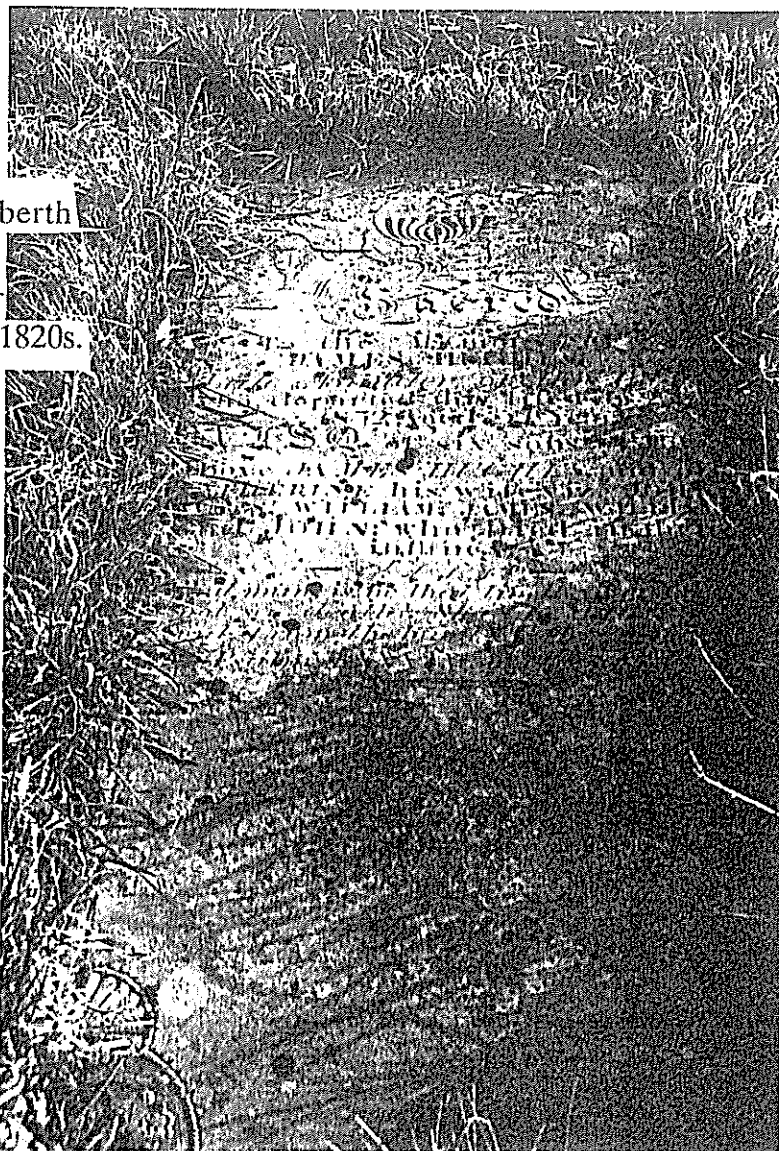


St. Andrew's Parish Church, Narberth. Note iron gates and railings, in need of some attention, which were cast by Messrs Morgan and Thomas of Narberth in 1856 - a good example of local foundry work, which could be made more of.



St. Andrew's parish Church Narberth from the south, the work of Sir Thomas Jackson, an accomplished Victorian architect, quite grand in scale, design and workmanship, (1882). Grade II Listed Building. Note fallen cross-within-a circle pinnacle from western gable end

In situ grave slab of James Hughes, the Narberth architect/builder of the early 19th century, deserves to be better known - responsible for an addition and repairs to the Church in the 1820s.



Detached grave slab propped up against the north churchyard wall, readily accessible - an ancestor of the James Williams brewing family?



The large graveyard in high summer, hints of the imposing scale of the cemetery and variety of Victorian gravestones and monuments, from the period of the town's greatest prosperity - plenty of potential for display as part of a trail given sufficient interest and (?voluntary) work in keeping parts at least trashed.





Lower part of Picton Place and views east and west along Church Street - buildings of various 19th century dates, mainly of 'artisan' scale.



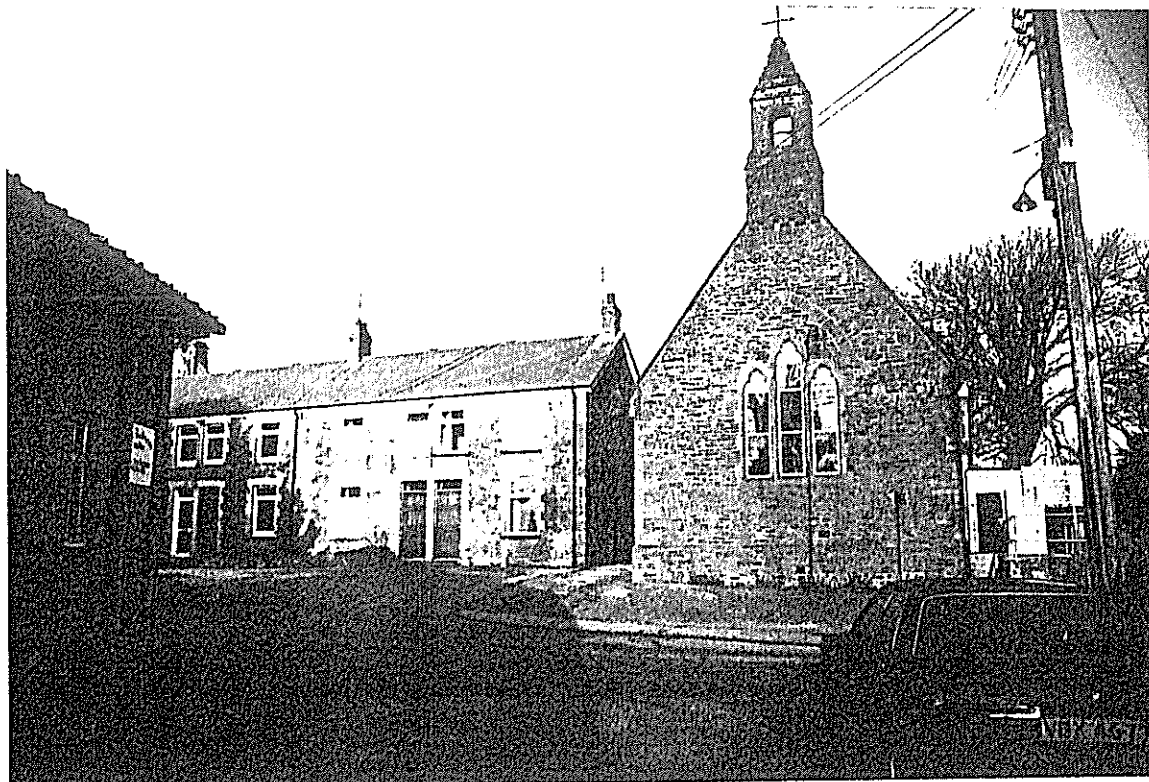
Bonded Stores Warehouse - an unusual and interesting 'industrial' building of a scale and location which fits in well with the general two storey height and small scale of the buildings in the lower part of Narberth.



Church Street, looking north eastwards from the junction of Church Street and Picton Place, and view below from the junction of Picton Place and Water Street looking westwards.



Note changes in ground level and slight 'terracing' of some houses to gain a level base. See remarks on survival of archaeological deposits on p. 52



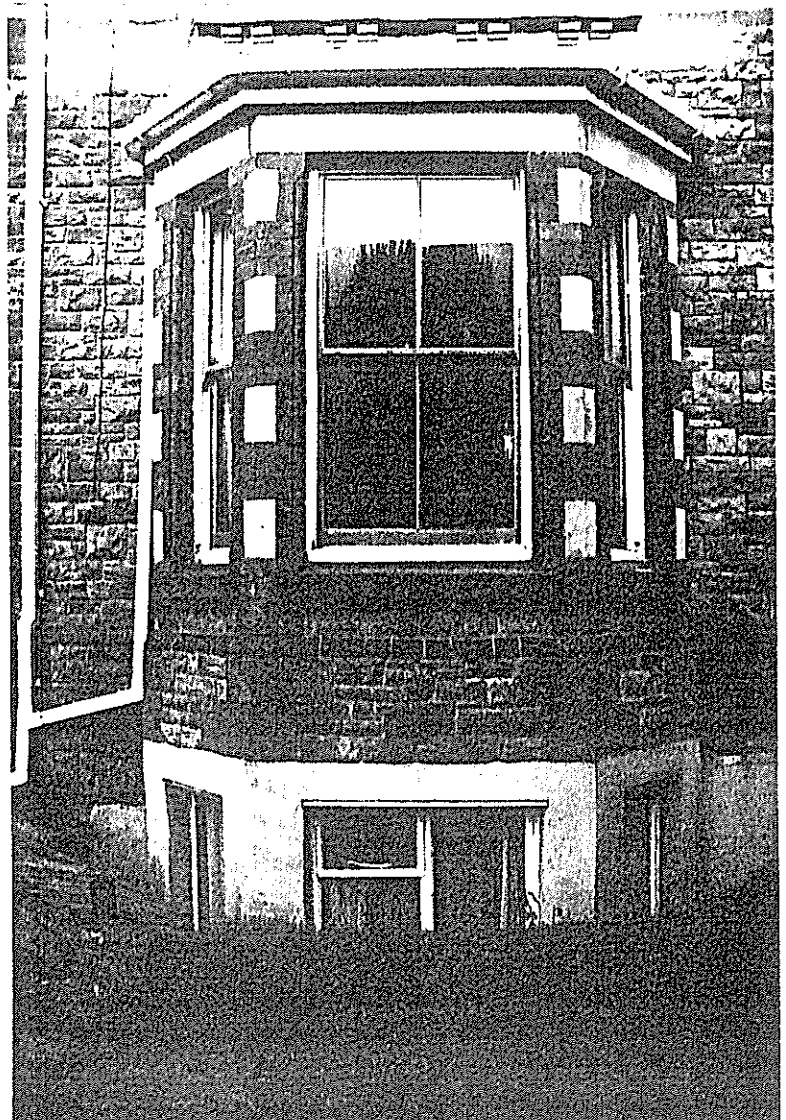
Roman Catholic Church, Church street, converted from the 'National' School of the later 19th century, part of the town's interesting repertoire of school buildings. An 'off-the peg' standard design, but skilled use of Forest of Dean sandstone in the tracery and local limestone, complemented by the sandstone, with brick window and door facings of the adjacent late 19th C. Terrace.



Present day Narberth County Primary School, built by the Narberth North School Board in 1872 and designed by J. M. Thomas, a Narberth architect.



Rock House, 11, Picton Place. Considered worthy of listing by T. Lloyd. Built by a local architect J. Thomas in 1870, perhaps to 'advertise' his skills - all the materials are there, decorative brickwork, local limestone sills and quoins, well-cut sandstone sills and perhaps the local 'cethings' sandstone as the main building material; a variety of window sizes and shapes, yet blended together into an attractive whole.



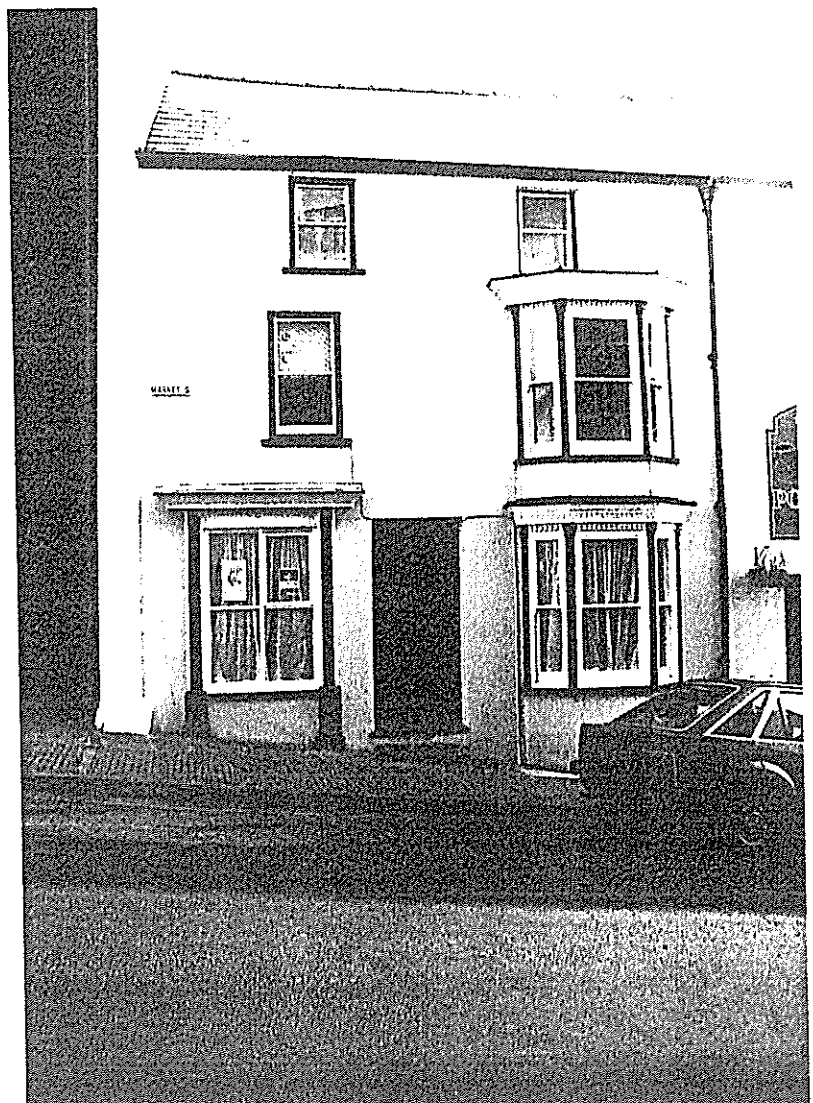
No. 10 Market Street, Castle Inn, Grade II Listed Building, flanked by unlisted buildings shown below which have good examples of local joiners, carpenters and stone-masons craftmanship, producing a varied, pleasing and distinctive streetscape. Nos 12 and 13, Market Street, pleasing symmetry to no. 12 enhanced by retention of 19th C windows, varied by the two storeyed bays of no. 13 good local carpenter/joiners' workmanship. No. 14, Market Street adjacent to the now Listed Court House, note the prominent treatment given to the limestone quoins which reduce in size as they approach the roof line - a good example of a minor feature of local 'town vernacular' which nevertheless achieves an individual, even quirky, effect difficult to achieve at reasonable cost with today's standard, uniform, off-the-peg building materials.





Market Street leading down to the Listed de Rutzen Arms. Note at 'Headlines' the characteristic Narberth small side door; a separation from the main body of the house marked by facing stones, now accentuated, pleasingly, by being picked out in white paint.

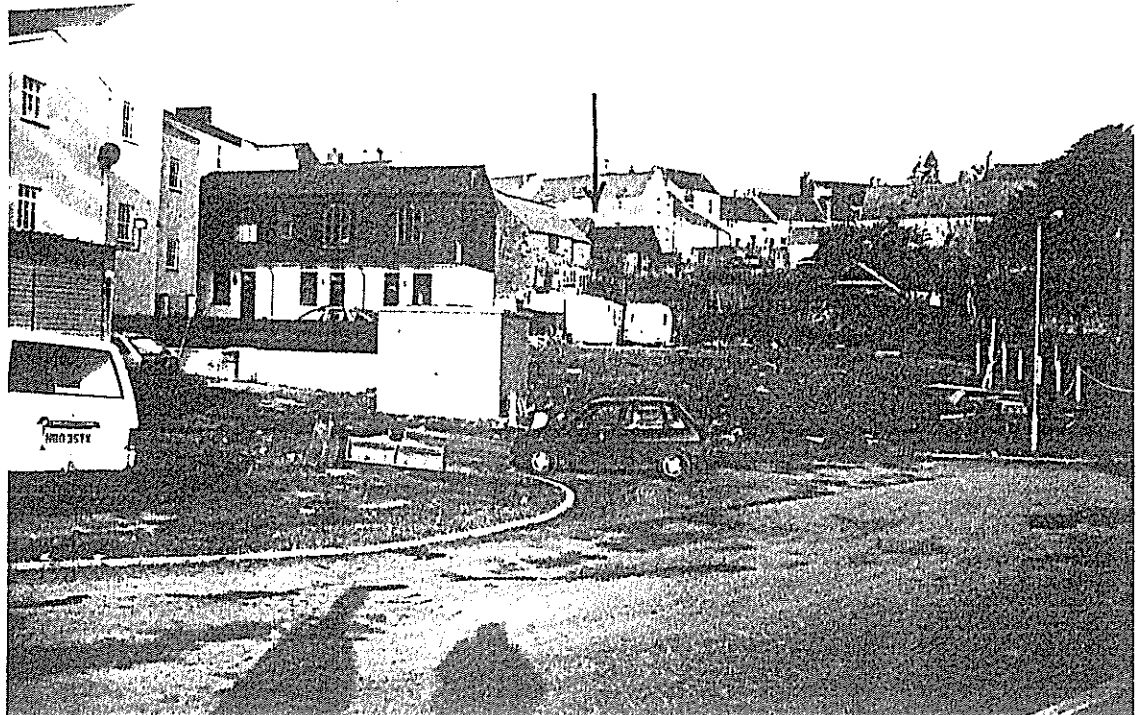
No 1, Market Street, irregular spacing and variant sizes and type of windows give variety to this facade and are evidence of the different functions and therefore status of the rooms behind - ie bays for the parlour and best bedroom, small upper windows of the servants' rooms. If the owners agreed this kind of thing could be brought out in a trail leaflet or exhibition or educational schools project by being correlated with the mid 19th C Census returns for the people living there.

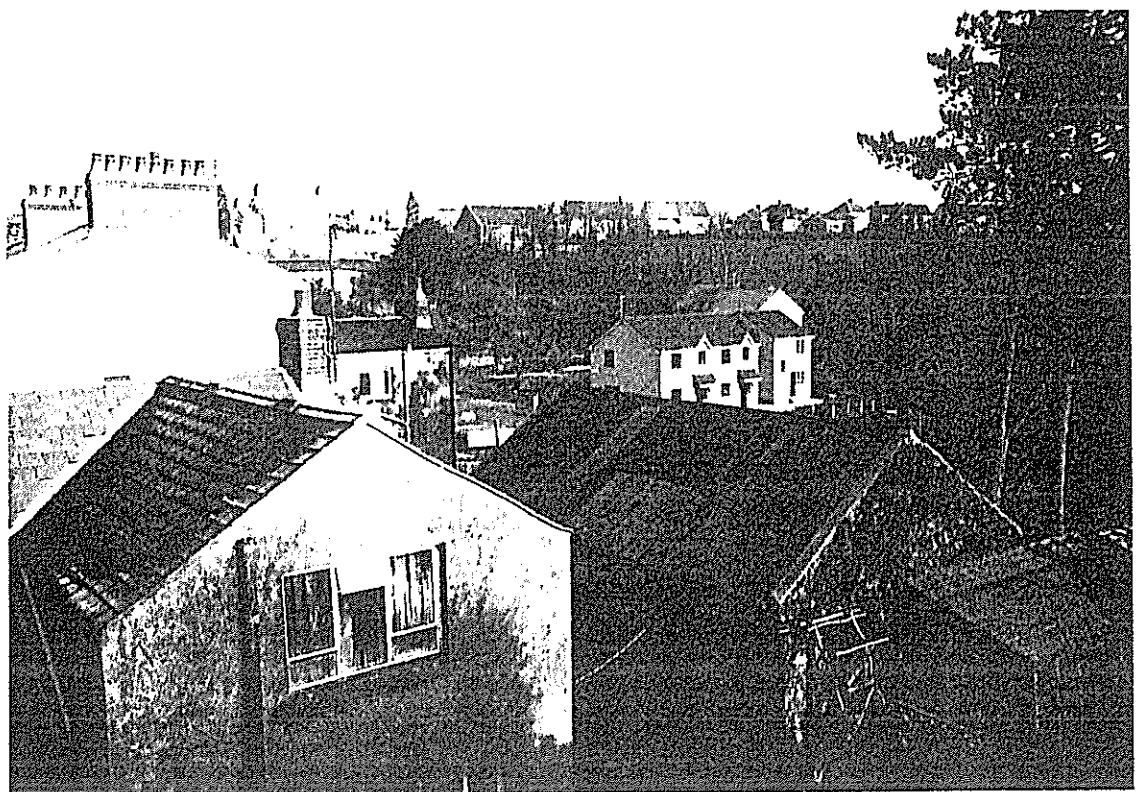


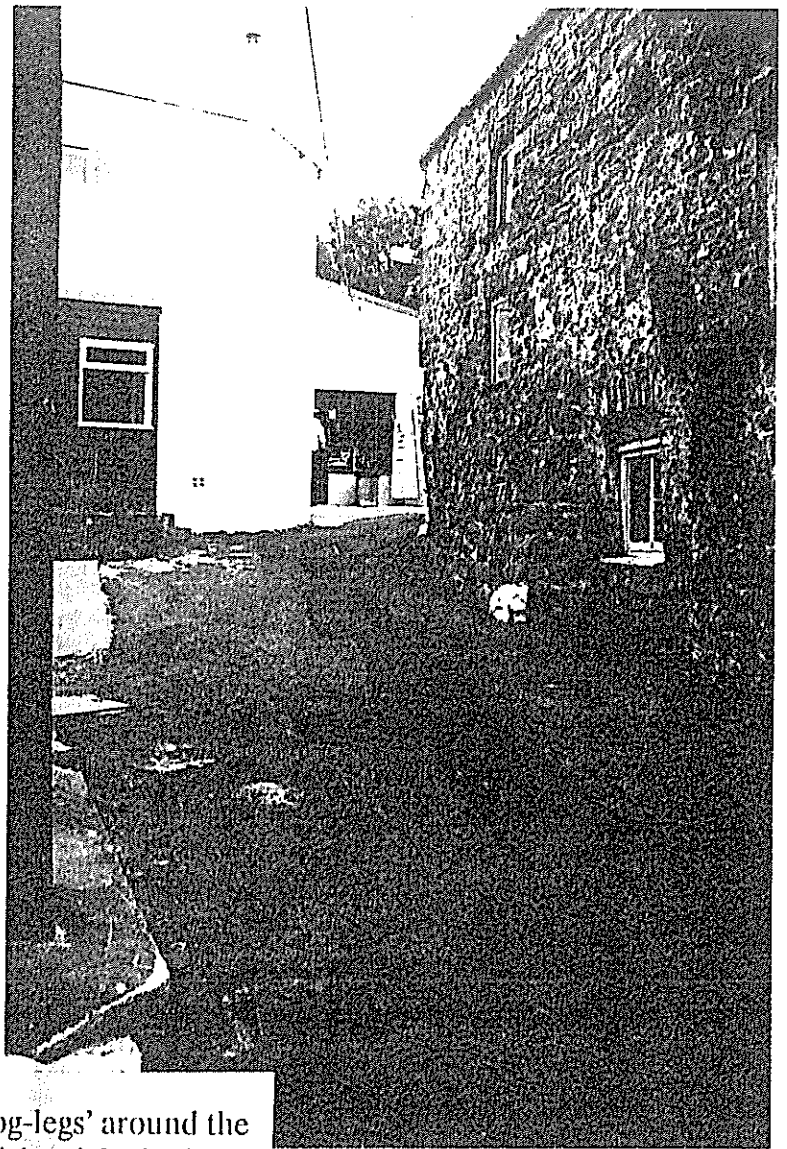


Malthouses:

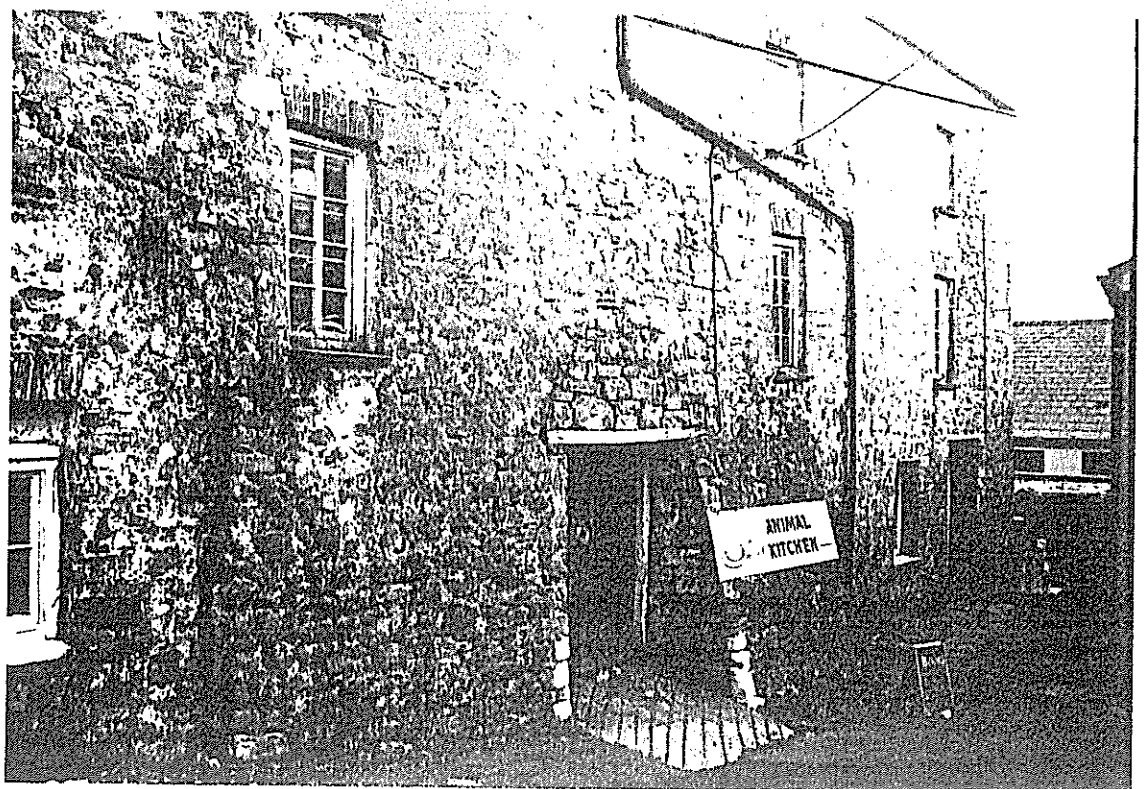
CKM Kitchens, with planning permission to demolish and rebuild. Should be properly recorded in advance of destruction. The second view shows the site viewed from the south. There are many changes in ground level over this area masking the original topography. For instance the Old Printing Works (?11, Market Street) can be entered across the yard in front of CKM kitchens at a much higher level now than when it was built, the now sunken ground floor garden/yard proves this. In addition the fine ogee shaped stair light (arrowed) on the photo, "a nice Regency touch" (T. Lloyd) suggests that the building may originally have been approached and entered from the now partially obscured rear. This process of levelling up is most recently seen in the tipping and extension out over the edge of the valley as part of the recent housing developments to the rear of the De Rutzen Arms which has adversely affected the footpath on the east side of the castle.

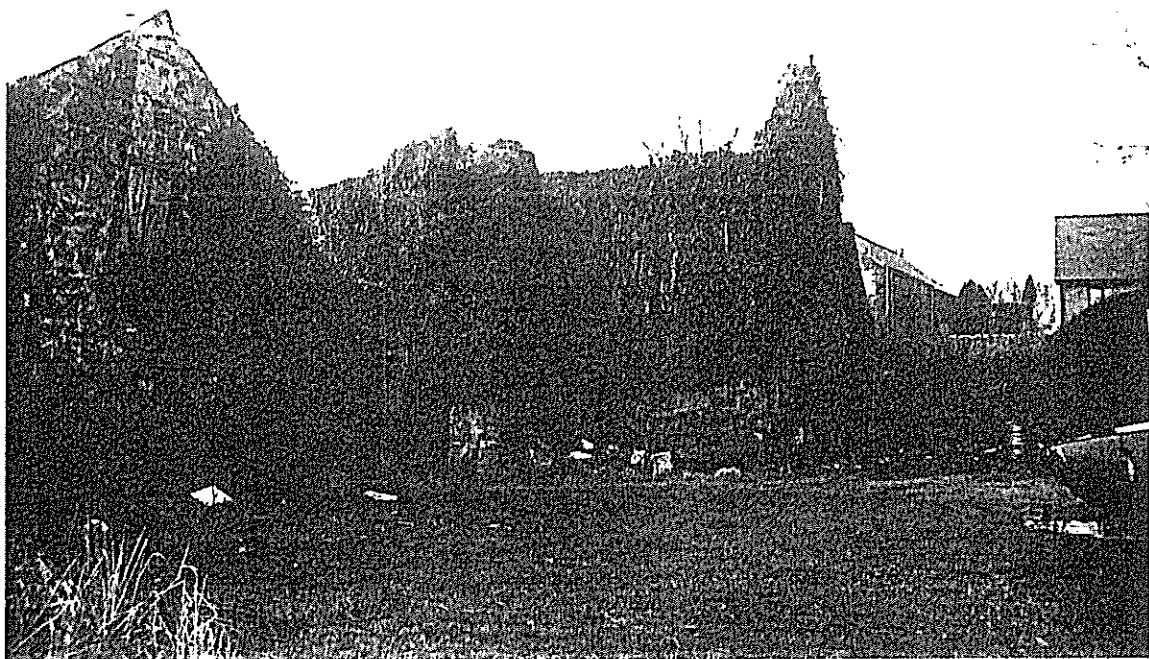




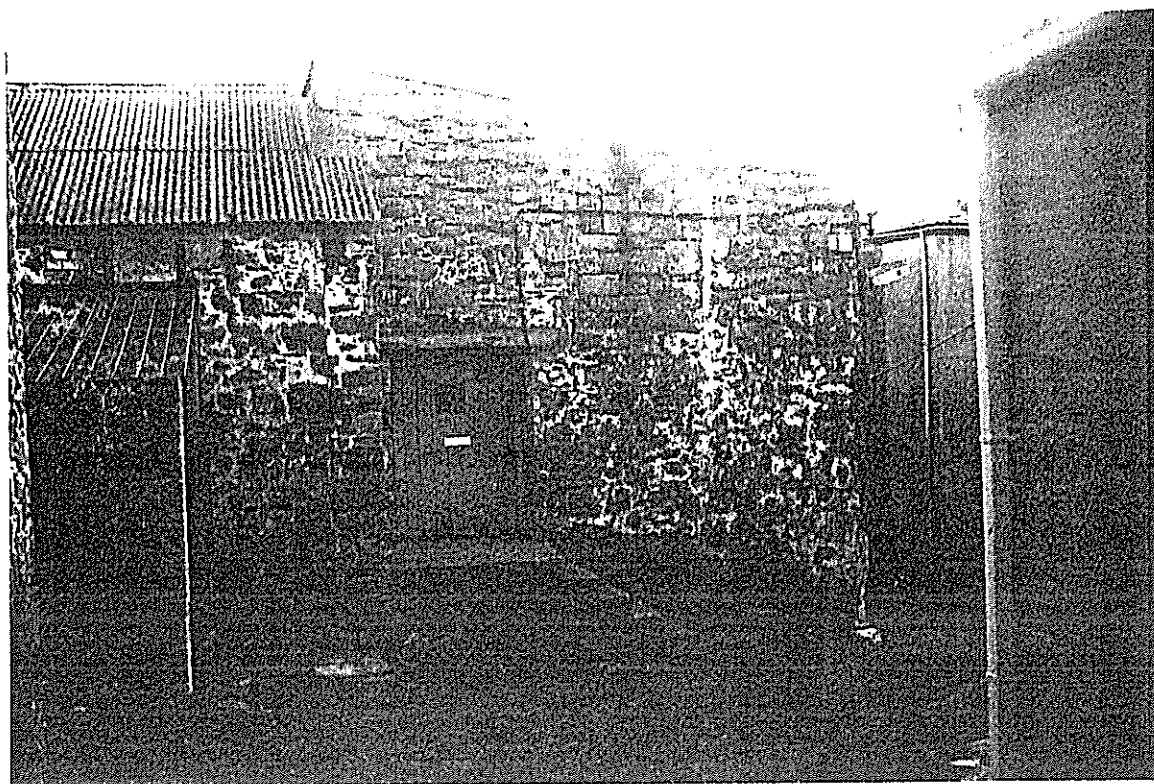


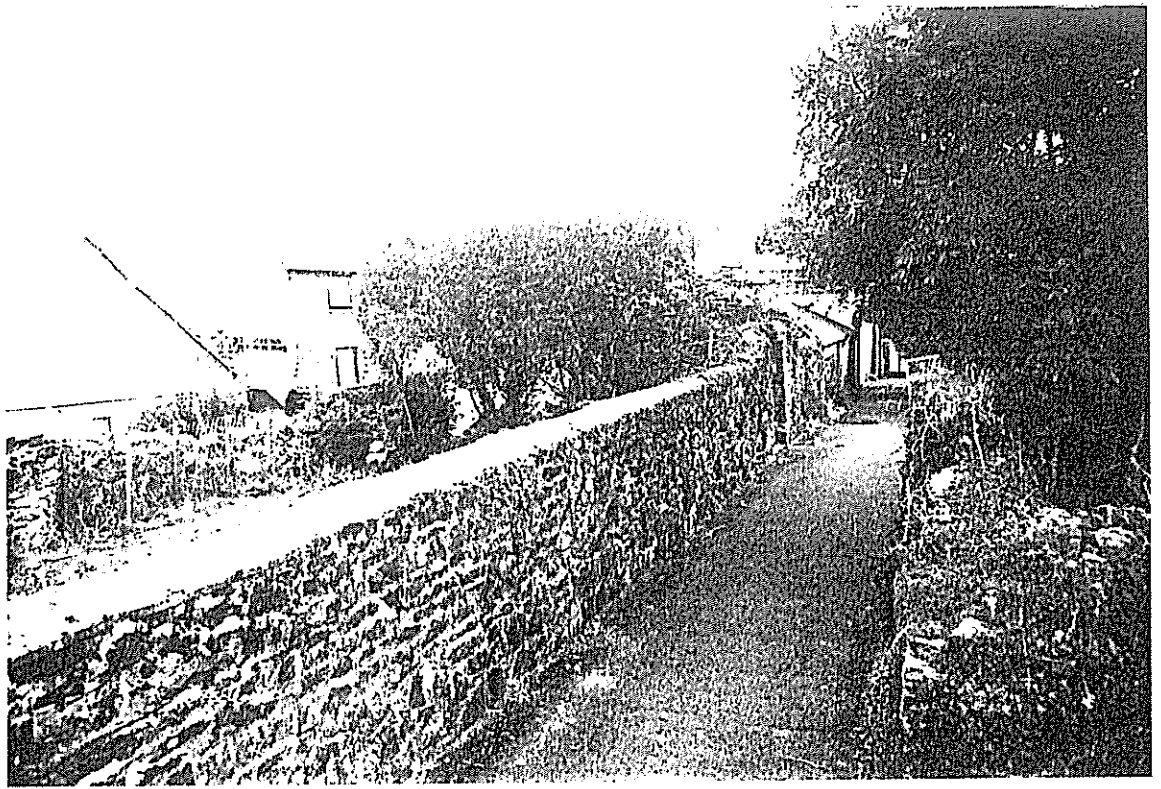
Note how Back Lane 'dog-legs' around the former malthouse - which might indicate that the building, or at least its predecessor, was on this site before Back Lane was constructed. See pp 14 and 15, 32,49 and 50.



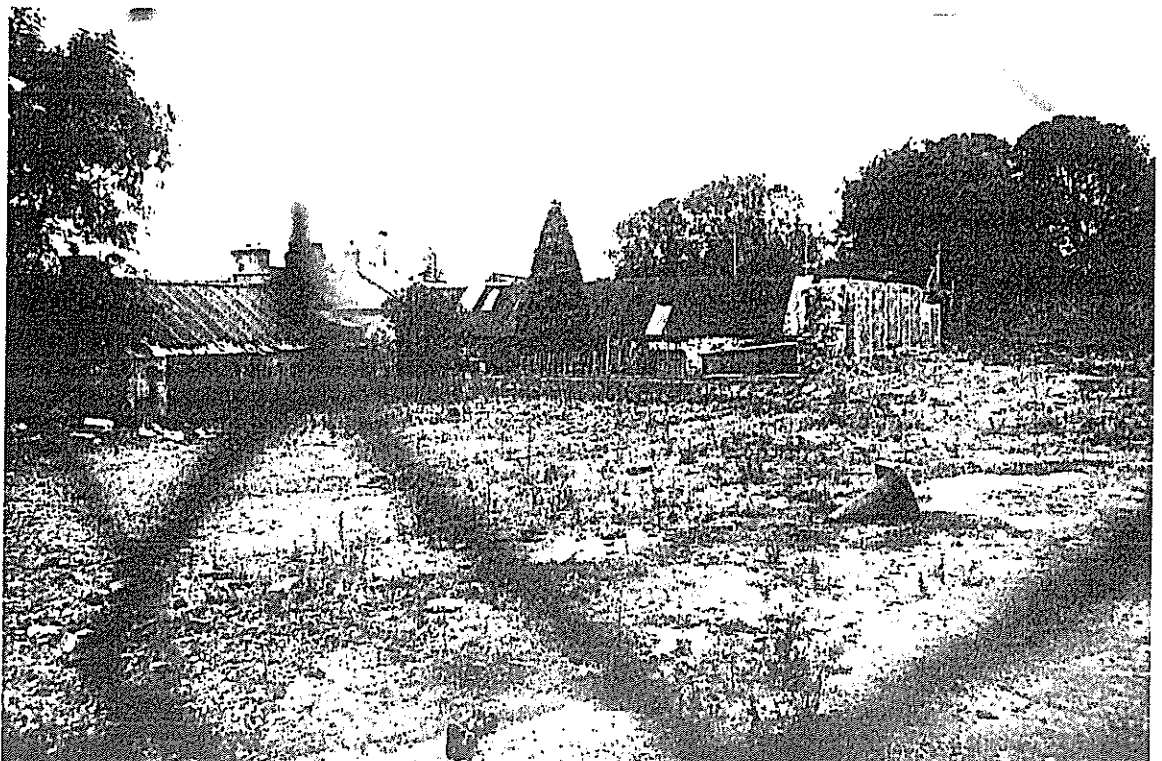


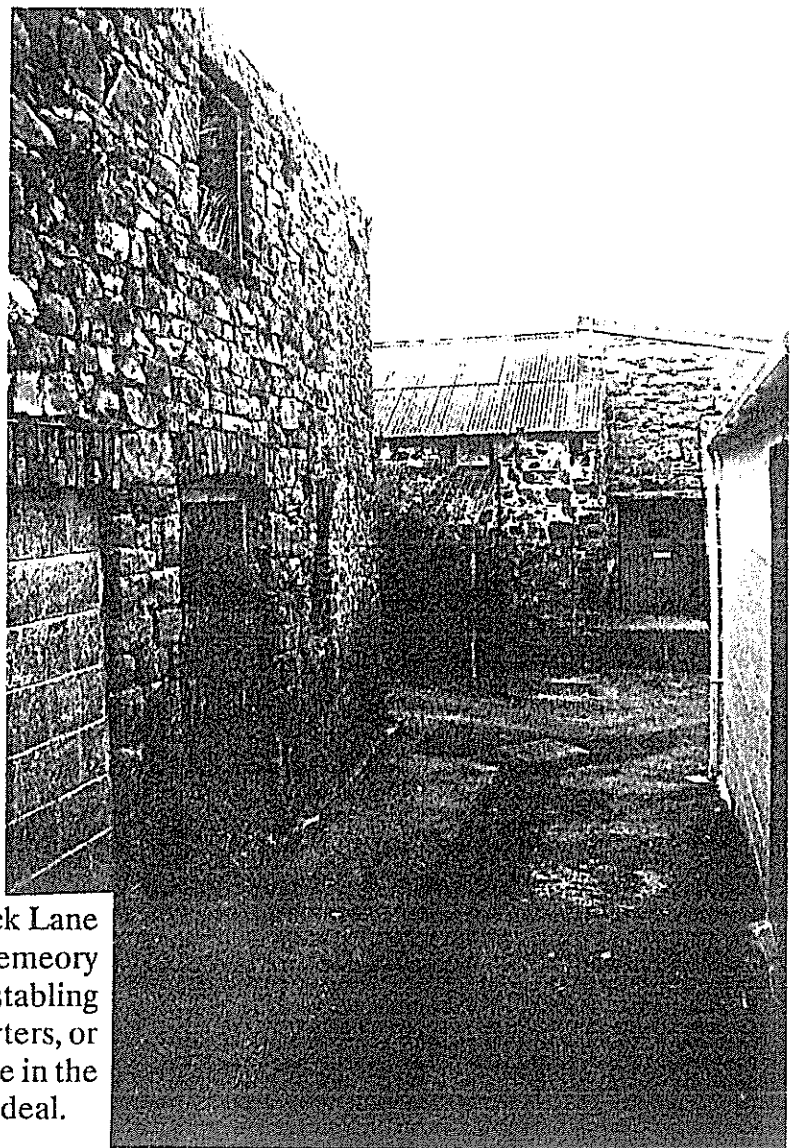
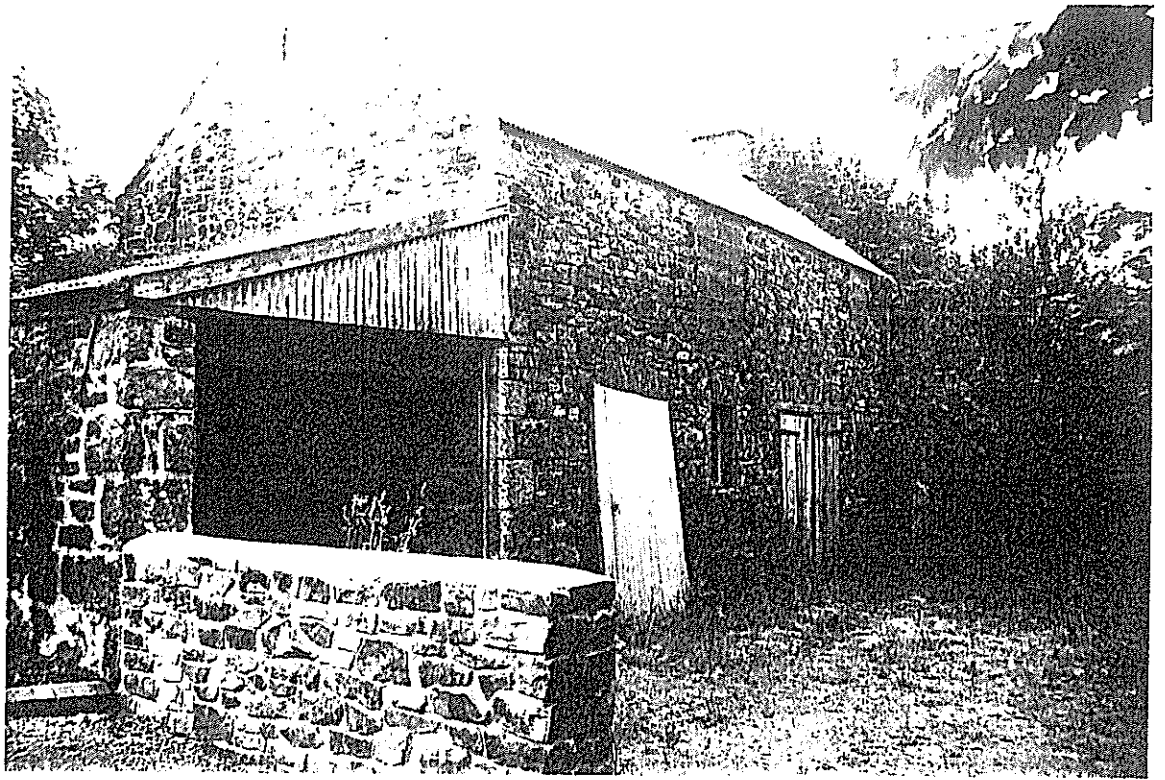
Malthouse at the southern end of Back Lane, now (partly) Animal Kitchen - a large partly ruinous warehouse, workshop(s) and former malthouse which clearly has a long and complex structural history, it should be properly recorded and investigated if it has to be demolished, but consideration should be given as to how it might be retained.





The change in level between Back Lane, the narrow gardens on its western side and the rear of the High Street premises is very pronounced. This survey suggests that the original ground level which sloped gently from east to west was accentuated by medieval cultivation to produce a lynchet or long narrow terrace (see Map 9, p. 15. As High Street developed in the later 17th and 18th centuries the ground was cut back on the eastern side of the street to make a level site for the houses, a cutting back which produced a vertical face bounding the back yard of the High street premises. Back Lane came into existence to ease access to the rear yards of the High Street premises and for a time there must have been strip fields only on its eastern side. Such terracing and cutting back can now be seen in the cleared Old Keg Yard sitewhere the Church Street gardens are at a lower level.





These surviving buildings along Back Lane are quite well built, within living memory at least they served as carhouses, stabling and with living accommodation for carters, or coachmen above. Any alternative use in the form of small workshops would be ideal.



St James Street: the present continuously built up frontages along both sides of this street were only achieved by the late 19th century and may almost be said to represent the 'high tide line' of Victorian expansion and prosperity in Narberth. The most obviously architecturally important 'Georgian' buildings are at the western Market Square end of the street, but there are other features and buildings worthy of note from the mid to late 19th century further up the street.

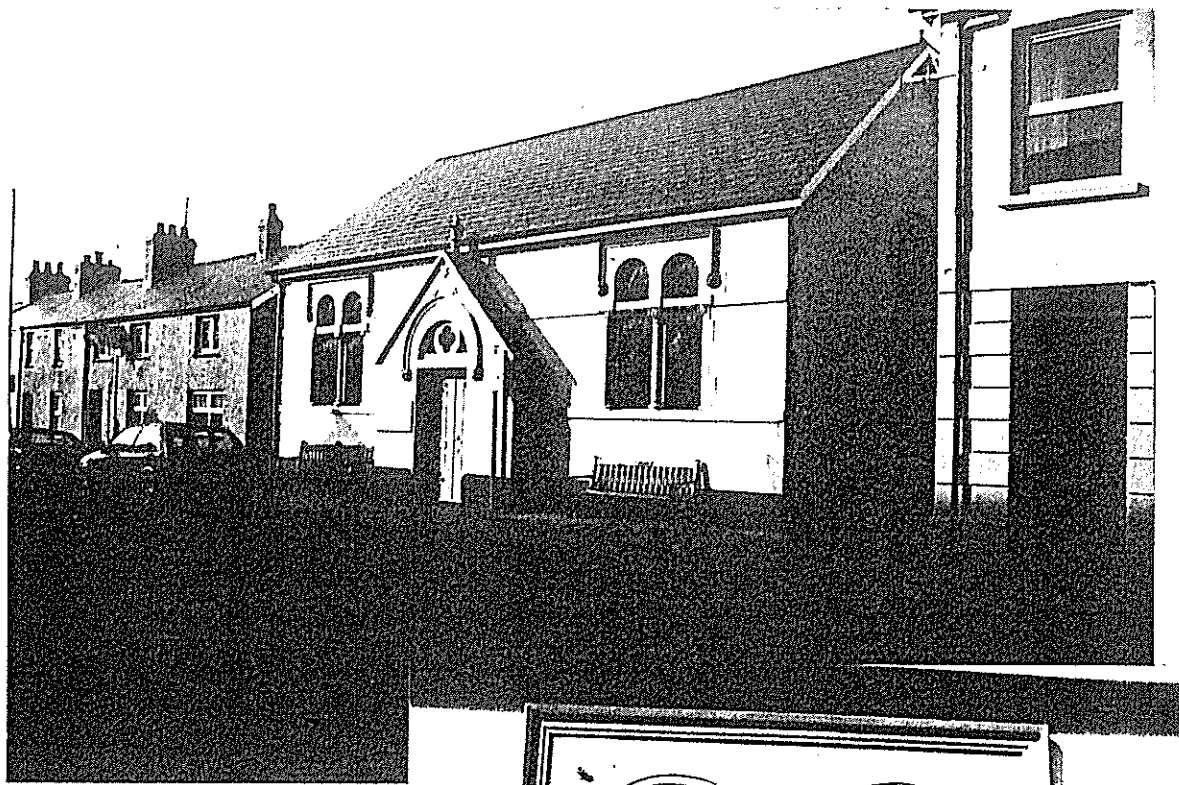
As indicated on Map 10 the opposing 'entry points' of The Drang and Tabernacle may mark the late 17th/early 18th C limits of built-up street frontages along St James Street.



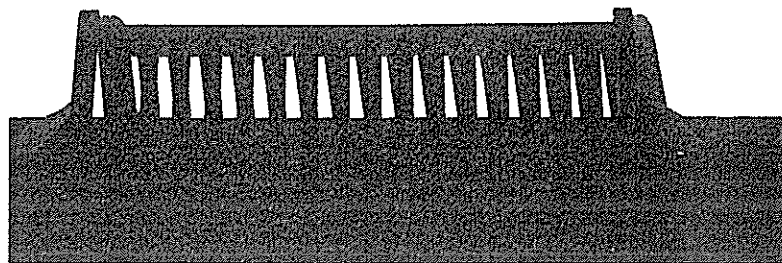
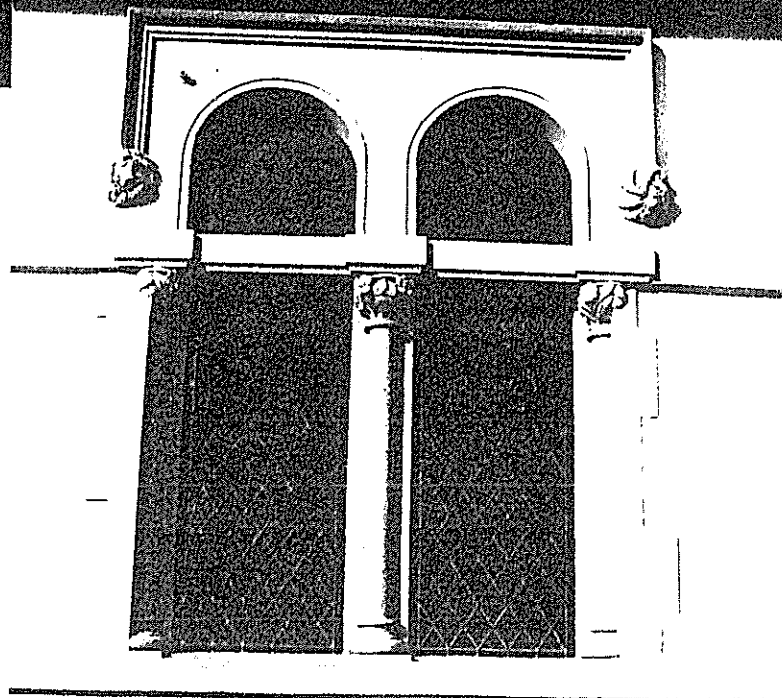


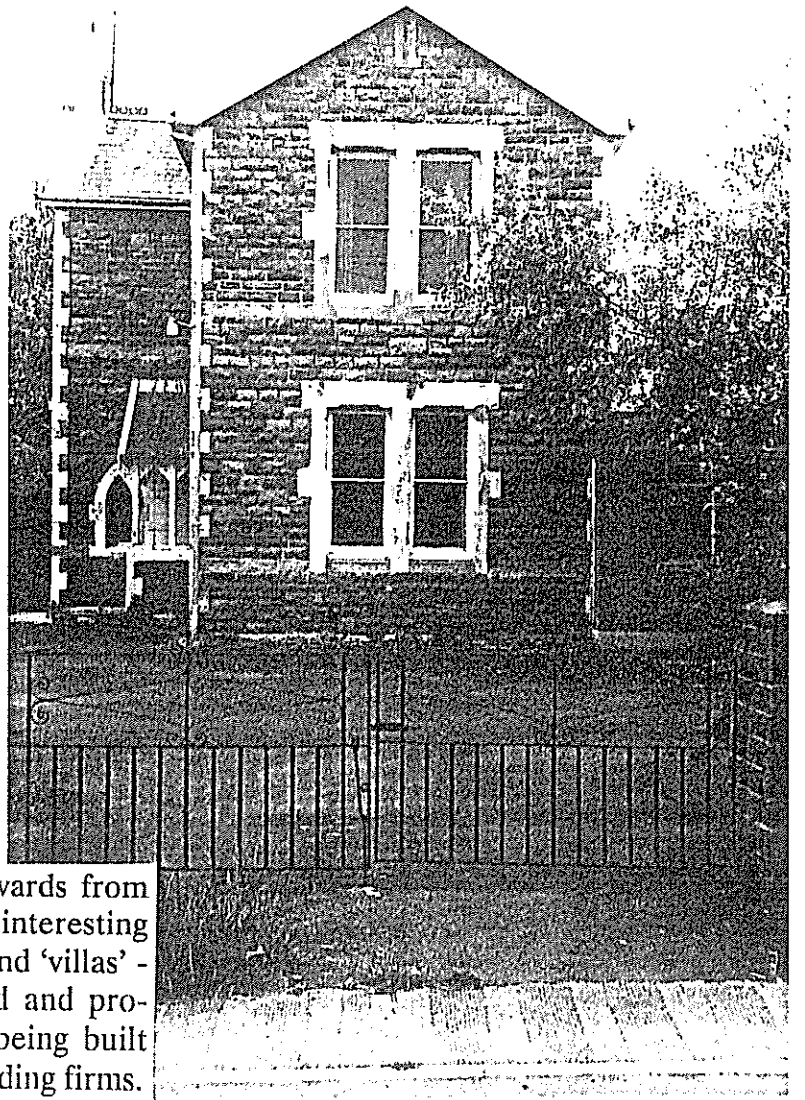
St James Street





The Library, formerly a Wesleyan Methodist Library/Sunday School was converted to the Petty Sessions House in 1904. It is an unusual and idiosyncratic building - the gothic features of the decoration (architect unknown) were pretty old fashioned by 1904, it doesn't really conform to any style but provides variety to the St James Street facades.





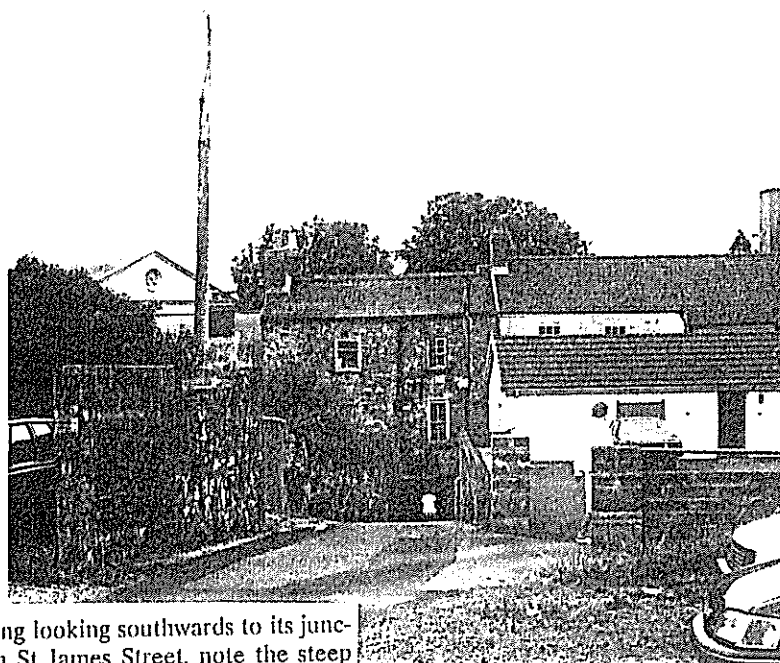
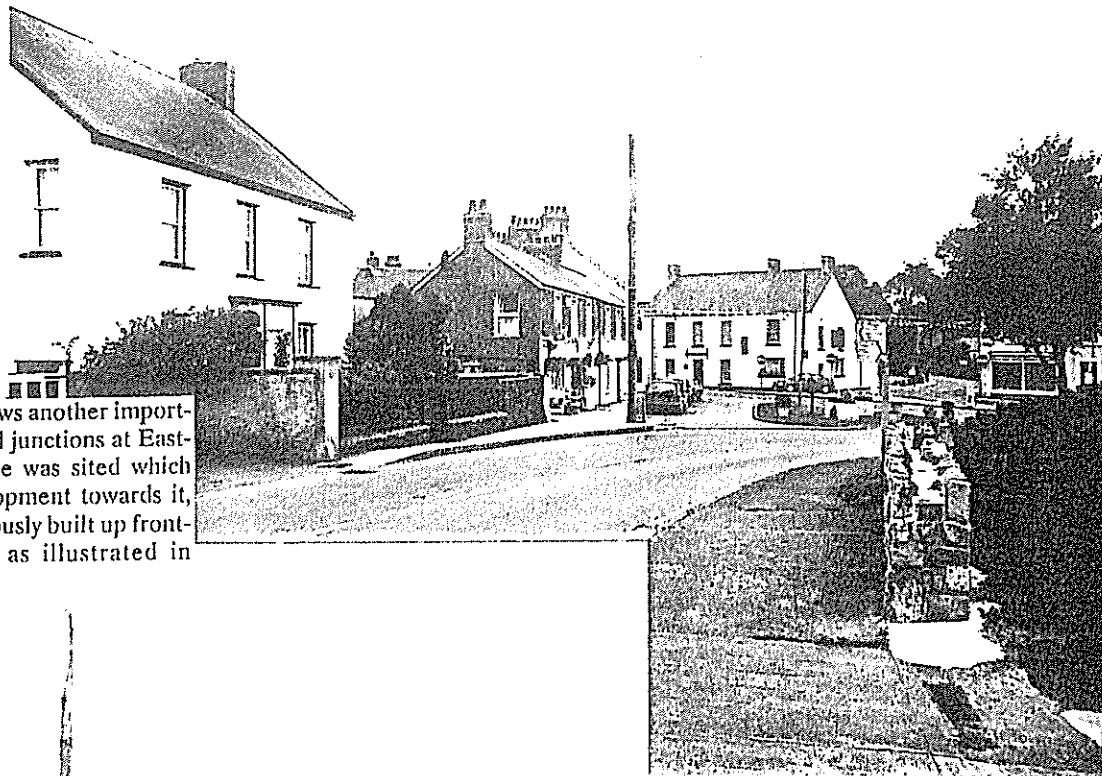
Station Road proceeding eastwards from the masonic Hall contains some interesting Edwardian 'suburban' houses and 'villas' - still using locally manufactured and produced building materials and being built and often designed by local building firms.



These two views at the north end of High Street are intended to illustrate Map 10 on p.23 showing the different route junctions and 'entry points' to the long streets on the north side of the town where the fairs and markets were held.



The top photograph shows another important entry point and road junctions at Eastgate, where a Toll Gate was sited which tended to 'draw' development towards it, resulting in the continuously built up frontages of James Street as illustrated in preceding pages.



The Drang looking southwards to its junction with St James Street, note the steep slope.

The entry point to Back Lane from Spring gardens (left) viewed from Northfie Road (foreground). Buildings on this corner including the Grade II Listed Coach and Horses shown here are early 19th C. date. It looks as though the Coach and Horses was built over an existing Lane suggesting that Back lane comes into existence during the 18th century as High Street was extended.

