

CARMARTHEN CASTLE

PHASE 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

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CARMARTHEN CASTLE: PHASE 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

Gan / By
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1.0 SUMMARY

An extensive programme of consolidation and enhancement has been under way at Carmarthen Castle since 1993, exposing its standing remains and making them accessible to the public. Phase 3 of the scheme was completed in 2003. The work, which is under the overall management of the Wrexham-based firm TACP on behalf of Carmarthenshire County Council, has been accompanied by a full programme of archaeological recording. Phases 1 and 2 involved the structures on the south side of the site. Phase 3 has concentrated on the motte and shell-keep at the northwest corner of the castle, a stretch of high walling which may partly represent the medieval north curtain wall, the main gatehouse facing the town and its environs, and the line of the west curtain wall, which has now gone. In addition a wall, built to enclose the gaol which occupied the site from the late 18th century until the 1930s, was recorded.

Further evidence for the shell-keep and associated structures was revealed during Phase 3 including a wall that possibly belonged to an internal building, and a mural stair in the thickness of the shell-wall, as well as more evidence for the garden laid out on the site in the early 20th century. The walled enclosure containing the stairway up to the shell-keep is now regarded as possibly medieval in origin.

The high wall leading east from the motte is now also regarded as being medieval in origin. It is built directly onto the motte. Evidence for two cottages and a garden, built against this wall in the 19th century, was recorded.

The twin-towered gatehouse was fully recorded enabling its original form and extent to be suggested. It originally covered twice the area of the present structure, the rear half having been demolished during the post-medieval period. In addition a turret, that lay in the angle with the west curtain wall, was also removed during the post-medieval period when most of the south wall of the gatehouse was robbed out. The gatehouse tower ground floors were later infilled with rubble masonry during the post-medieval period, possibly during the Civil War as a measure against artillery. Evidence of a medieval drawbridge-pit within the gate passage was also suggested.

The line of the former west curtain wall was not revealed, but an extensive deposit of redeposited natural soil here may be the remains of a defensive bank, on which the wall was built. This was later truncated, removing all evidence for the wall, and of a flanking tower which may have occupied its line.

The site was later used as a gaol, which was rebuilt in 1789-92 by the renowned Regency architect John Nash. Only one Nash structure survives, the east wall of his infirmary which is fossilised within the later 19th century gaol enclosure wall. It features a number of blocked openings and signature detail. This was recorded, along with other gaol-phase buildings and structures revealed in the area immediately behind the gatehouse.

Phase 4 of the scheme has commenced with the excavation of the cellars built into the castle ditch, in front of the gatehouse, during the post-medieval period, and the archaeological excavation of the medieval bridge/causeway that crossed the ditch to the gatehouse. Phase 4 will recommence in May 2004, and will involve the finishing off of the area in front of the gatehouse, and around the shell-keep.

This report brings together the results of the archaeological work undertaken during Phase 3, and assesses the evidence in relation to the map and historical evidence that has so far been examined. It highlights the need for an integrated approach to the understanding of this complex site, and the controlled management of the various archaeological elements. Further documentary research will be undertaken during the forthcoming preparation of a report, for publication, on the entire programme of archaeological work at the castle.

It is suggested that the unblocking and consolidation of Nash's infirmary features, and possibly the gatehouse first floor openings, is considered.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Carmarthen Castle (PRN 57 in the Sites and Monuments Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire; National PRN 100053) lies at NGR SN 4135 1995. It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM Cm 008). It was, in many respects, a typical masonry castle from the medieval period. Like many urban castle sites, it has suffered much alteration and loss of fabric through time. However, like many royal castles, particularly those situated in county towns, its site continued to be used for administrative and judicial purposes. First established as a timber castle in 1109 or 10, it was refortified in stone during the 13th to 15th centuries. The site was neglected - although used as a prison - after the Civil War, until the construction of the new County Gaol, which was designed by the eminent Regency architect John Nash, in 1789-92. The gaol closed in 1925. It was largely demolished in 1938 to make way for the present County Hall, which was completed in the early 1950s. County Hall was designed by Sir Percy Thomas, who was also responsible for Swansea's acclaimed Guildhall. Like the castle, County Hall dominates the southern approaches to the town, allowing the prominence of the site to be appreciated.

Nearly a hectare in overall area, Carmarthen Castle was one of the largest in Wales. In southwest Wales only Pembroke Castle, at 3 acres, was larger. Much buried archaeology may still remain beneath County Hall and the car park. However, very little archaeological work at all was done here prior to 1993 when a large-scale programme of consolidation and enhancement works at the castle got underway. Initiated by Dyfed County Council, the work has been continued by their successors Carmarthenshire County Council, under the overall management of the Wrexham-based firm TACP. It has been accompanied by a full programme of archaeological recording, concentrating on the standing remains and their environs. The aim is to permit the entire ensemble to be accessible to the public as an amenity.

This report is a summary of the archaeological work which accompanied Phase 3 of the consolidation and enhancement works at the castle. It incorporates the two interim reports produced during Phase 3 (Crane 2001; Ludlow and Crane 2002), the results of which are re-interpreted in the light of further discoveries. It will form part of a wide-ranging monograph on Carmarthen Castle, incorporating the results of Phases 1-4, earlier archaeological work, and a comprehensive history and discussion of the site, which will be prepared for publication. An interim summary has been published in the *Carmarthenshire Antiquary* (Ludlow 2003).

2.1 Brief description of site (Fig. 1; Photos 1 and 2)

Carmarthen Castle was pivotal to the medieval history of Wales. It was one of the main springboards for the Anglo-Norman annexation of the southwest region. One of only two royal castles in the region, it became the centre of Crown - and therefore governmental - authority in west Wales, an area predominantly given over to baronial 'Marcher' holdings. We have seen how the castle's later use as a gaol and then an administrative centre - County Hall - continued two of its roles from the medieval period. It was the hub around which the medieval walled town of Carmarthen developed, and it still dominates the townscape. The medieval history of the site is summarised in previous archaeological client reports, most fully in Ludlow 1996, where the site is also described in detail. A brief summary is provided here.

The castle follows the motte-&-bailey plan, with both an inner and outer bailey. It may have remained entirely of timber until the 1180s when the expenditure of £170 suggests that some rebuilding in stone took place. However, most of the recorded expenditure took place between 1230 and 1300, and sources from the mid 13th century onwards consistently refer to the castle's 'five towers', presumably referring to the defences of the inner bailey. Inside, the castle was crammed with buildings, even by the standards of the day. The accounts mention the King's Hall and Chambers, a Knights' Hall, the Queen's Chamber, the Exchequer for west Wales, the Justiciar's Hall and lodgings, at least two kitchens, possibly up to three chapels and at least three stables - as well as the more mundane buildings that get no mention in the accounts.

The internal buildings have all gone, but substantial elements of the masonry defences survive on the west side of the castle (Fig. 1). They are -

- the motte, and the shell-keep which largely dates from the 1220s-1230s
- the main gatehouse, rebuilt in c.1409, and the remains of the entrance causeway
- the large Southwest Tower, from the late 13th century (and the adjacent remains of domestic buildings immediately within the castle bailey)
- the Square Tower, which is probably 15th century
- lengths of altered or rebuilt medieval curtain wall connecting these elements

Much of the castle's administrative importance disappeared with the passage of the Act of Union in 1536. However, the office of constable continued to be granted well into the 1570s, on condition that the castle was repaired and maintained (Green 1914, 60-64, citing Exchequer K. R. Account, 489/20), while it continued to be used as a gaol (Cal. Pat. Rolls 1560-1563, 604). John Leland, writing in 1534, described the castle as 'very fair' implying that it was still in good condition (Smith 1910, 59), while John Speed's plan of Carmarthen town, of c.1610, shows the castle as entirely intact (see Appendix 1, Map 1).

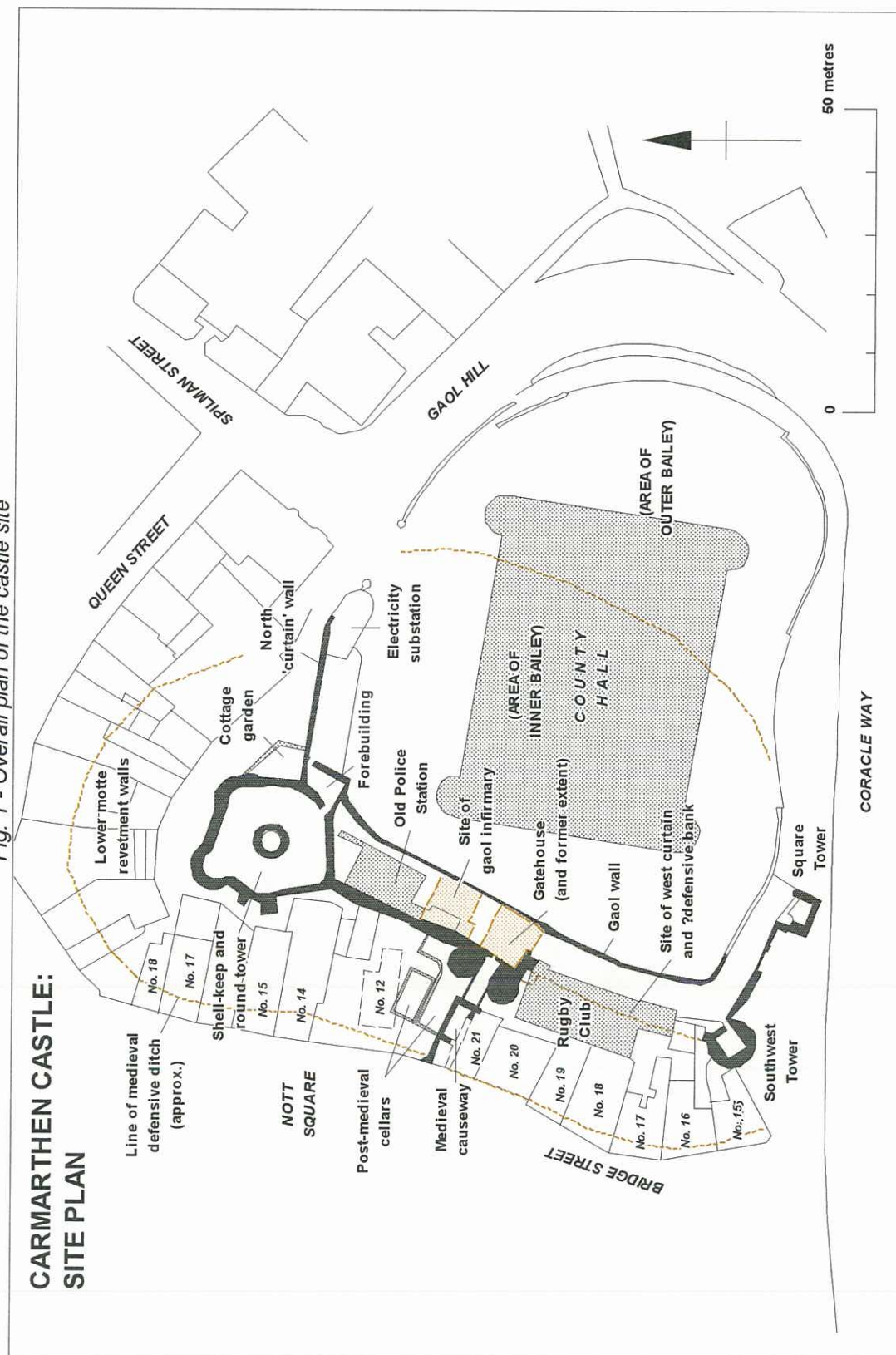
History is in the main silent about the role of Carmarthen Castle during the Civil War of the 1640s, and the documentation may have been lost. Carmarthen changed hands twice. The town declared for the king and was taken by Parliament in 1644. They apparently met with little resistance, but that some blood was shed is hinted at in a contemporary poem and it appears that the Parliamentary troops ran amok in the town (James 1991, 27). It was regained by the Royalists but finally capitulated in October 1645, many townsfolk deserting to the Parliamentary cause. The castle may ultimately even have been slighted - it was reported to be 'quite demolished' in 1660 (James 1980, 35) and indeed precious little of it seems to be standing in the Buck Brothers' engraving, from the 1740s (see Appendix 2, Plate 1), in which little more than today's remains are shown. However the remains continued to be used as a prison and were 'repaired' in 1774 (Lodwick 1972, 28).

John Nash's new County Gaol, commenced in 1789, was confined to the area of the inner bailey. It was partly rebuilt during the 1860s-70s, and enlarged to extend over both the inner and outer baileys of the castle, removing the last traces of the dividing wall between the two. Various elements of the County Gaol still survive (Fig. 1), including -

- A section of wall from a Nash period building, probably the infirmary. This is fossilised in the fabric of the gaol wall
- the gaol wall, which lies behind, and parallel with, the gatehouse and west curtain wall. Part of this wall is contemporary with the infirmary, but most of it is from the rebuild and enlargement of the gaol in the 1860s-70s
- A later 19th century building - the Old Police Station
- gaol-phase alterations to the medieval fabric

It is suggested that the unblocking and consolidation of Nash's infirmary features, and possibly the gatehouse first floor openings, is considered.

Fig. 1 - Overall plan of the castle site



2.2 The recent enhancement works

Phase 3 was the penultimate phase of the current programme of consolidation and enhancement work at the castle (Phases 1 - 4), that has been ongoing since 1993.

The site was acquired by Carmarthenshire County Council on the closure of the gaol in 1925. The gaol had been demolished by 1938, when the design and preparation work for the building of County Hall had already begun. This work was completed during the early 1950s.

Little work on the castle fabric was undertaken during this period and the first enhancement scheme for the site was prepared by the County Planning Department in 1965. This involved the purchase and demolition of the Swan Inn public house (No. 11 Nott Square) to reveal more of the castle gatehouse. This scheme, which was funded by Carmarthenshire County Council, was implemented in 1972.

Dyfed County Council took over the ownership of the castle following local government reorganisation in 1974 and carried out repairs to parts of the 'curtain' walls and gatehouse, with grants from Cadw, in the late 1970s and 1980s. Limited excavation and recording of the bailey buildings next to the Southwest Tower was carried out by Heather and Terry James, of Dyfed Archaeological Trust, in 1980 (Sites and Monuments Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire, PRN 57). Dyfed County Council also carried out some temporary structural works in 1981 following the collapse of the southern retaining wall between the Southwest Tower and the Square Tower (to the rear of Nos.10 - 14 Bridge Street).

The shell-keep was consolidated and repointed in the 1980s - and part of the shell-wall was rebuilt in 1986 - accompanied by some archaeological recording by Terry James. A small enhancement scheme was also carried out, in the 1980s, between the gaol wall and the former castle curtain wall, in the paved area between the gatehouse and the Southwest Tower and the Square Tower.

The current scheme of consolidation and enhancement work began in 1989 when the County Council had purchased all of the buildings butting against the Southwest Tower, the Square Tower and the southern retaining wall (Nos.10 - 14 Bridge Street). A scheme was designed for the repair and enhancement of this southern flank of the castle.

Phase 1 of the current scheme was carried out between 1993 and 1995. This included the demolition of Nos.10 - 14 Bridge Street, removal of late infill from the basement of the Southwest Tower, stabilisation of the Southwest Tower with a concrete plug, and rebuilding of a post-medieval entrance into the basement of the tower. These works were carried out as four small separate contracts, with grant aid coming from Cadw and the WDA, as well as the County Council's own resources. Phase 1 works were accompanied by a full programme of archaeological recording including a trial excavation within the Square Tower (see Crane 1994 and Ludlow 1996).

Phase 2 included the completion of the consolidation works to the Southwest Tower, the stabilisation and partial rebuilding of the southern retaining wall, the creation of public concourses at the top of, and the foot of, the retaining wall, with access through the wall and the Southwest Tower, and repair of the Square Tower. These works were funded with a Regional Development Grant from the EC, a grant from Cadw, and the County Council's money. These works were started in 1995, and completed after local government reorganisation in 1996 by which time the new Carmarthenshire County Council had taken over the ownership and responsibility for the castle. They were accompanied by a full programme of archaeological recording (see Ludlow 1996).

Phase 3 involved the demolition of a number of buildings - the Carmarthen Quins Rugby Club (built against the line of the western curtain wall between the gatehouse and the Southwest Tower), No.12 Nott Square and the rear extension to No.21 Bridge Street (both in front of the gatehouse). It also included the opening, to public access, of the shell-keep and gatehouse, and the creation of concourses on the site of the Rugby Club and between the gatehouse and gaol wall, as well as the building of a new wall to connect the gatehouse with the Southwest Tower.

Phase 3 was carried out between 2001 and 2003, and funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, Cadw and Carmarthenshire County Council. The programme is described in detail in Section 2.3 below, and is the subject of this report.

In addition, two archaeological evaluation excavations were undertaken within the shell-keep during 1997 (see Ludlow and Allen, 1997 and Page 1998), while test-pits were excavated between the gatehouse and gaol wall (see Ramsey 1998). These works were additional to, and occurred between, Phases 2 and 3 of the scheme.

Phase 4 will formally commence in late Spring 2004, although one element was undertaken during 2003 - the exposure and excavation of post-medieval cellars and associated structures between the gatehouse and Nott Square, and an archaeological excavation within this area (see Schlee 2004). Phase 4 will also include the capping of the cellars and the creation of a public concourse above them, the rebuilding of an adjoining property (No.13 Nott Square), the demolition of extensions to the rear of No.14 Nott Square (built against the motte), the creation of the walkway around the outside of the shell-keep, and the renovation of the Old Police Station (and of No. 21 Bridge Street, outside the gatehouse). It is hoped that it will be funded by Heritage Lottery, Cadw and the County Council.

2.3 The Phase 3 programme

The scope of the Phase 3 enhancement work has been outlined above. This section will describe the scheme in relation to the various features of the castle, and its archaeological implications. It concentrated in the area of -

- The motte, with the shell-keep and its 'forebuilding'
- The north 'curtain' wall, east of the shell-keep, and a walled cottage garden built against it
- The gatehouse and its environs, including the yard between the gatehouse and the gaol wall
- The line of the former west curtain wall between the gatehouse and the Southwest Tower
- The gaol wall

The programme of associated archaeological work, Project Record No. 42641, comprised 11 main elements. These mainly accompanied aspects of the enhancement works, but a number of elements were dictated by archaeological research objectives.

- 1 - Summer 2001 - The demolition of two modern structures - the former Carmarthen Quins Rugby Club, south of the gatehouse, and the former No. 12 Nott Square, northwest of the gatehouse - and the de-rendering of part of the castle gatehouse south tower. A watching brief was undertaken, and three evaluation trenches were archaeologically excavated in the area of the former Rugby Club to establish the line of the former west curtain wall. See Section 6.0.
- 2 - Summer 2001 - The unblocking of a gatehouse ground floor opening, and partial excavation within the gatehouse north tower. A watching brief was undertaken. See Section 5.1.3.
- 3 - Summer-Autumn 2001 - Archaeological evaluation excavation in the gatehouse passageway. See Section 5.1.4.
- 4 - Summer 2001 - A survey and photographic record of the gatehouse. See Section 5.1.
- 5 - Autumn 2001 - A survey and photographic record of the gaol wall. See Section 7.1.
- 6 - Autumn 2001 - The excavation of a 11,000 volt ring-main renewal trench through the yard area to the east of the medieval gatehouse, and County Hall car park. A watching brief was undertaken. See Section 8.0.

- 7 - Summer 2002 - The demolition of the 20th century east wall of the former Carmarthen Quins Rugby Club, to the south of the gatehouse, and its rebuilding in masonry. A watching brief was undertaken and the deposits/structures revealed were recorded. See Section 6.1.
- 8 - Summer-Autumn 2002 - The excavation, for resurfacing, of the yard area to the east of the medieval gatehouse, between it and the gaol wall. A watching brief was undertaken and the deposits/structures revealed were recorded. See Section 7.2.
- 9 - Autumn 2002 - The excavation of 40 trenches on top of the motte, within the shell-keep, for a new timber deck walkway. A watching brief was undertaken and half of the trenches were fully recorded. See Section 3.2.3.
- 10 - Autumn 2002 - A survey and photographic record of the shell-keep 'forebuilding', and the north 'curtain' wall. See Section 3.2.1 and Section 4.1.
- 11 - Autumn 2002 - The excavation of a trench through the walled garden of a former cottage against the north 'curtain' wall, in order to assess the implications of retaining the garden as a feature. A watching brief was undertaken and the trench was recorded. See Section 4.2.

Two further elements of archaeological work, although belonging to Phase 4 of the scheme, were also undertaken in 2003. They have been reported on separately (Schlee 2004; Project Record No. 48083), but are briefly summarised in Section 5.2. They were -

- 1 - Spring 2003 - The excavation of post-medieval cellars between the gatehouse and Nott Square, beneath the former Nos. 11 and 12 Nott Square, in order to assess their stability and suitability for presentation.
- 2 - Summer 2003 - The archaeological excavation of structures and features between the gatehouse and Nott Square including the medieval entrance causeway. This has been reported on separately (Schlee 2004), but is briefly summarised in Section 5.2.

Photo 1 – Aerial photograph of the castle site, from the northwest, prior to the current works. The size and height of the motte can be appreciated (courtesy Carmarthenshire County Council)

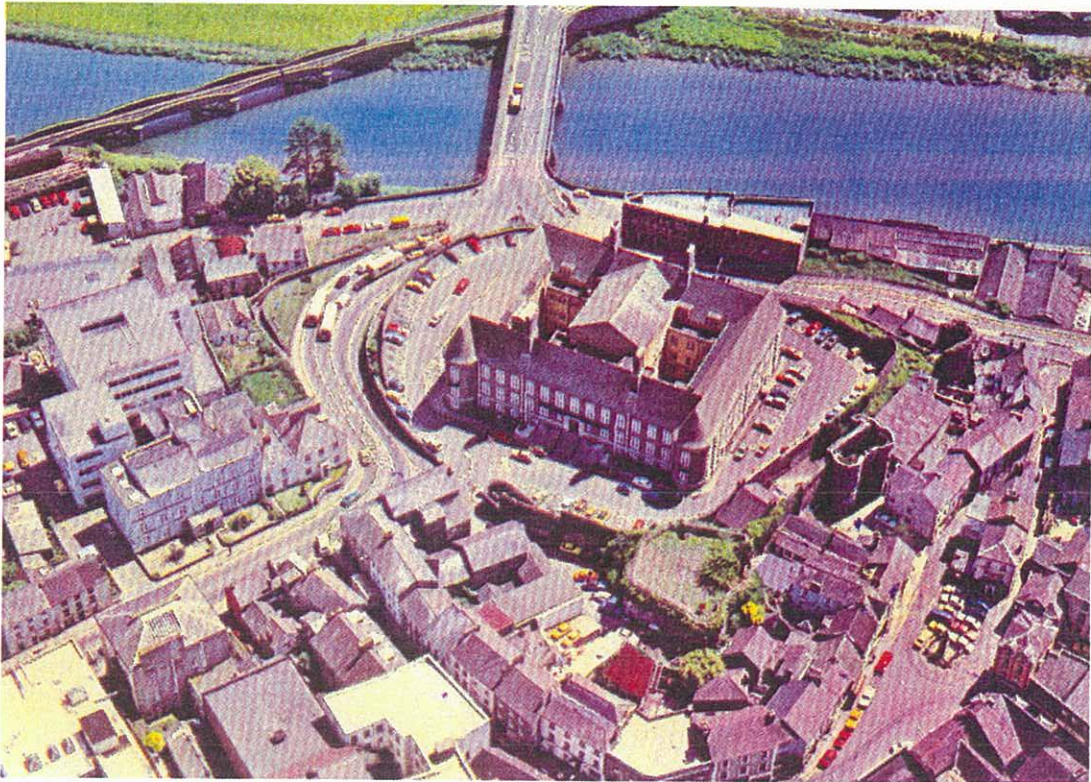


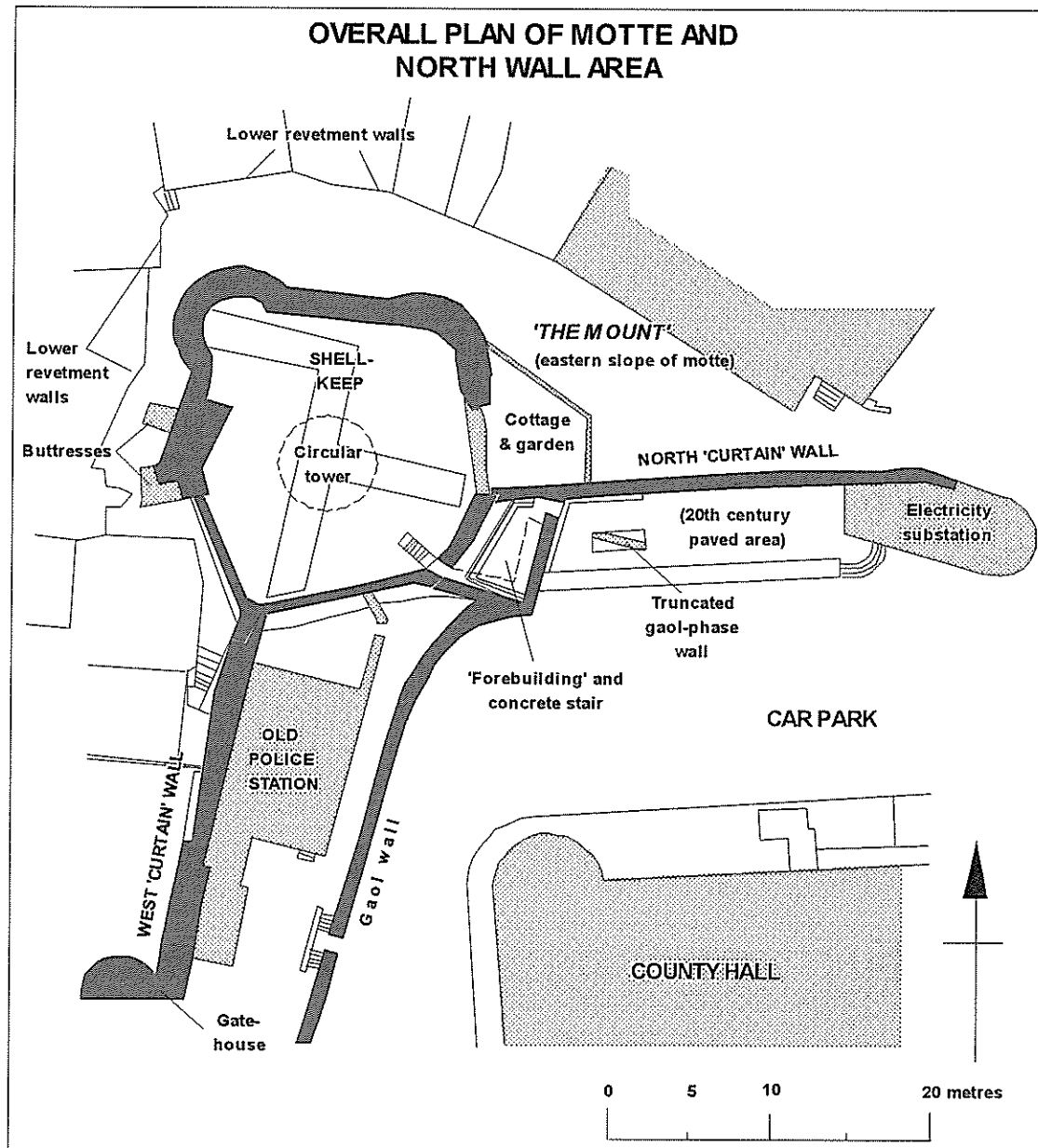
Photo 2 – Aerial photograph of the castle from the southeast, prior to the current works. All the elements discussed in this report can be seen, and the Southwest and Square Towers (© Cambria Archaeology, DAT AP 93-48.2)



3.0 THE MOTTE AND SHELL-KEEP

The motte and shell-keep stand at the northwest corner of the castle site (Figs. 1 and 2). The motte belongs to the initial phase of the castle's history and formed the core of the defences, still dominating the site, and also the town. Its summit was later crowned by a round tower, which was replaced by a masonry shell-keep, probably before the mid-13th century. This was subsequently largely rebuilt. During the modern period, the prison Governor maintained a garden, with a fruit tree, within the interior of the shell-keep.

Fig. 2 - overall plan of motte and north wall area



3.1 The motte (Fig. 2)

The motte has been greatly altered, during both the medieval and post-medieval periods, and its original form is now difficult to discern. However, its make-up was partially exposed in 1914 when part of the castle wall collapsed, and was examined by the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society who reported that it was entirely artificial with a gravel/rubble core and a clay capping (James 1980, 35).

It is currently represented by an earthen mound, 9m high, with a summit diameter averaging 18m. It is now almost entirely revetted by two concentric walls (Fig. 2). The upper half (5m) is revetted by a wall which, in part, follows the line of a medieval shell-keep, originally constructed probably in the 1220s-1230s, but much altered during the post-medieval period and largely rebuilt, or at least refaced, in 1901. This wall descends to present ground level around the south and southeast sides of the motte, ie. that part of the motte which lay within the castle bailey interior.

The north, west and east sides of the motte lay outside the bailey defences. Here, the lower half is revetted by a second series of walls, averaging 5m in height, which are concentric to the shell-wall and lie, on average, 4m beyond its line. These revetment walls belong to the backyards of adjacent properties, along Queen Street and Nott Square, and are probably from many periods. It is not known whether they result from cutting into the motte from adjoining properties, in order to increase their backyard space, or whether they may represent (at least in part) a second, lower revetment deliberately constructed during the medieval period.

However, the absence of this second revetment in a narrow area to the east of the shell-keep suggests that the lower revetment is in fact entirely post-medieval. The ground in this area slopes gently down from the foot of the medieval shell-keep walls, towards Spilman Street, and is now occupied by a lane called 'The Mount' (Figs. 2 and 10). However, the absence of the lower revetment within the castle bailey suggests that here, the motte was cut back - and its ditch presumably infilled - during the medieval period, when the shell-keep was built.

The line of 'The Mount' suggests that the motte, as originally constructed, had a basal diameter of approximately 60m. Queen Street, to the north of the site, follows a curving line which was undoubtedly influenced by the line of the motte ditch, which may then have been up to 10m in width. The ditch has now been backfilled and underlies the backyards of the Queen Street properties. This was probably a piecemeal process that, like the cutting back of the motte, resulted from infringement and infilling by individual properties. This process appears not to have begun until the post-medieval period; the south side of Queen Street is shown as empty of properties by John Speed in his map of Carmarthen of c.1610 (see Appendix 1, Map 1).

3.2 The shell-keep and 'forebuilding' (Figs. 2 - 8; Photos 3 - 10)

The wall revetting the upper levels of the motte is regarded as medieval in origin - the shell-keep of the medieval castle - but has been much altered and modified during the subsequent centuries. The full extent of the later rebuilds is at present unknown.

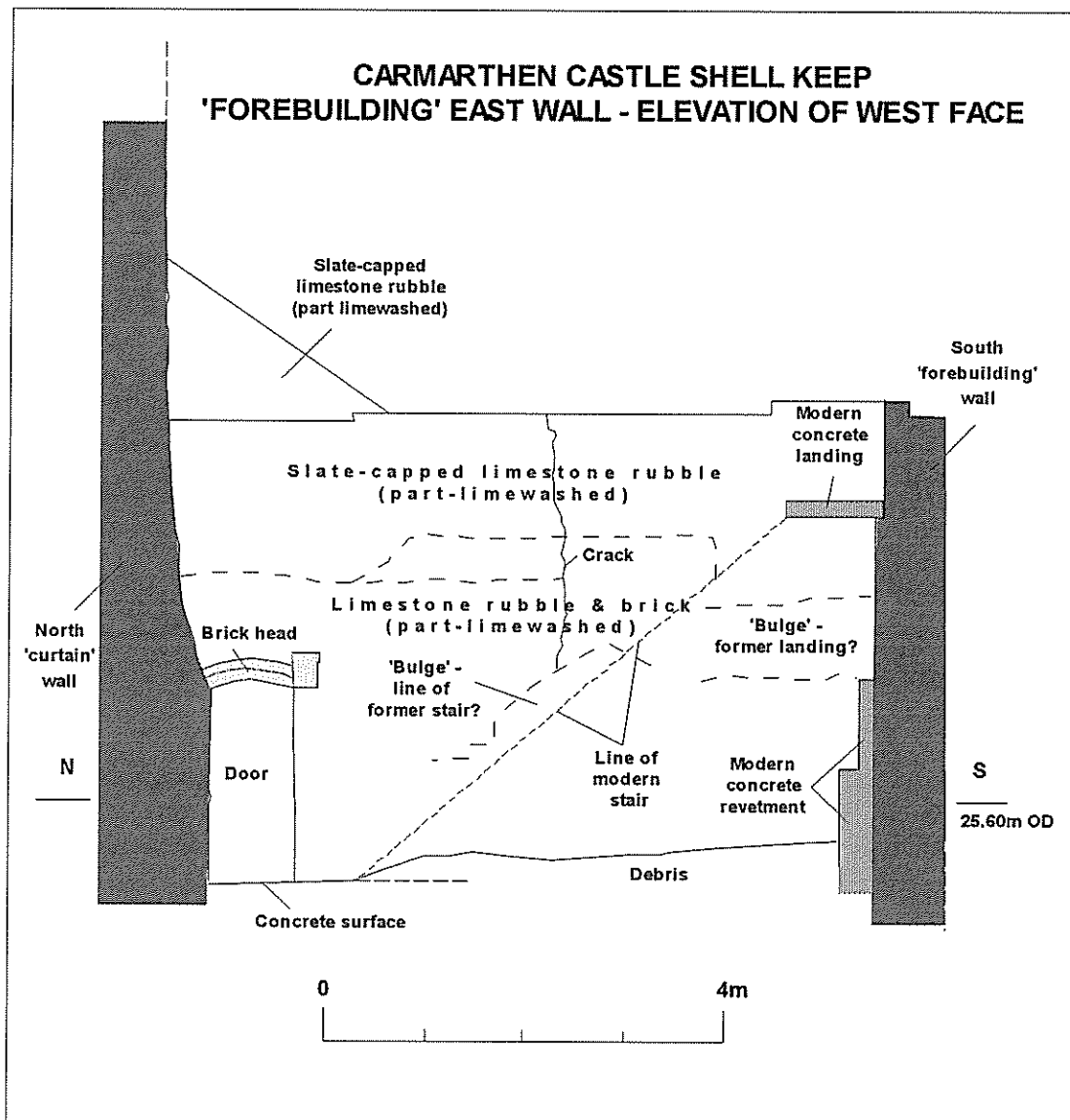
Similarly unknown is the level from which the medieval (and later) shell-walls were constructed; are their footings immediately below the present ground level of 'The Mount', or do they extend further into the body of the motte? A small test-pit was excavated by the contractors at the foot of the exterior of an area of wall, on the east side of the motte (Fig. 11), that was rebuilt in the 1980s (see below). This trench encountered relatively shallow concrete footings, not far below the surface and apparently sitting on redeposited fluvio-glacial deposits including gravels, pebbles, silts and sands. They were entirely sterile, and given their height above the suspected level of the natural soil here they probably represent the motte. However, this footing level may only apply to the 1980s rebuild. It is anticipated that further investigation of the shell-keep footings will be undertaken during Phase 4.

3.2.1 The 'forebuilding' and stair (Figs. 2 – 4; Photos 3 and 4)

The shell-keep entry lies on its southeast side, 9m above the level of County Hall car park (Fig. 2). It is approached up a steep, free-standing 20th century concrete stairway. The stairway ascends through an open, walled enclosure measuring 7m N-S by 5m E-W. The enclosure is defined by the shell-keep, the north 'curtain wall', and a level-topped wall 7m in height (partly heightened in the northeast corner), built in the angle between them, and adjoining the late 18th century gaol wall to the south (Fig. 2).

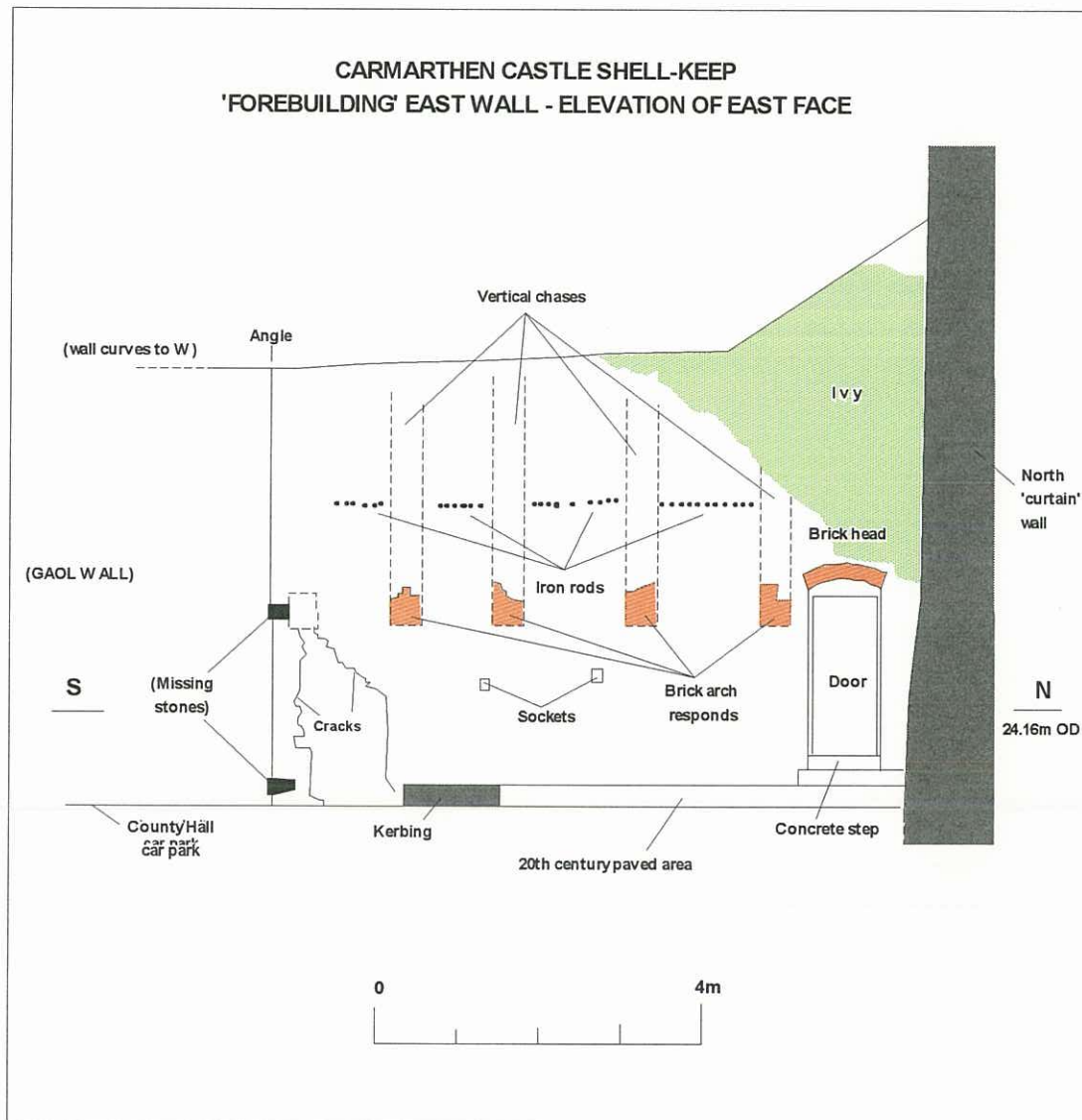
This enclosure is broadly comparable to the 'forebuildings', or original defences, that housed the stairways leading to a number of medieval keeps, including the shell-keep at Berkeley Castle, Gloucs., which also revets the motte (see Appendix 3, Fig. 2). However, the enclosure - with walls constructed from random limestone rubble, with areas of brickwork - now exhibits no evidence for any roof-lines or floors, or for any openings except its entrance doorway which, with its segmental brick head, is late 18th-19th century in character. This is in contrast to the majority of medieval forebuildings which were well-lit, roofed and floored. However, its walls are relatively robust, being 0.9m thick.

Fig. 3 - 'Forebuilding' east wall: elevation of internal (west) face



The majority of masonry may then be post-medieval - in the absence of earlier openings, a medieval date cannot be confidently suggested for the 'forebuilding'. It is not shown on Thomas Lewis' map of Carmarthen of 1786 (see Appendix 1, Map 2); however, as this map omits the southeast corner of the shell-keep altogether, this does not mean that the 'forebuilding' was not present. Moreover, it is possible that the irregular 'bulges' occurring on the interior face of its east wall, halfway up, may represent the truncated remains of an earlier stair (Fig. 3). This earlier stair may also have been post-medieval. However, it might have been earlier, meaning that the enclosure walls may incorporate the core of a medieval forebuilding, much altered and much concealed by later rebuilding and alteration; the shell-keep would always have had to be approached by some kind of stairway. If so this means that at least the adjoining section of the north 'curtain' wall may in fact incorporate part of the medieval curtain wall (Figs. 2 and 9).

Fig. 4 - 'Forebuilding' east and south walls: elevation of external (east/southeast) face



However, much of the 'forebuilding' fabric, at least in its present form, may be gaol-phase, and associated with the construction of a range of debtors' cells to the south of the forebuilding in 1789-92. These are shown in a plan by Richard Suggett, of RCAHMS (Suggett 1995, 25), which attempts a reconstruction of the gaol, as built by John Nash, in the early 19th century (see Appendix 3, Fig. 1). Suggett shows the debtors' range running east from the forebuilding, from which it is shown as separated by a vaulted passage. These cells have gone, and their site is now represented by a 20th century paved area (Fig. 2). It is noteworthy that the external face of the 'forebuilding' east wall exhibits four deep, vertical chases which retain the springers for brick arches, 2.2m above present ground level (Fig. 4; Photo 4). These may then belong to Suggett's vaulted passage, and belong to John Nash's gaol rebuild of 1789-92. The present enclosure entrance doorway may be contemporary. Moreover, no joint is now visible between the 'forebuilding' and the gaol wall, also from 1789-92, which adjoins its south wall (Figs. 2 and 4; Photo 4).

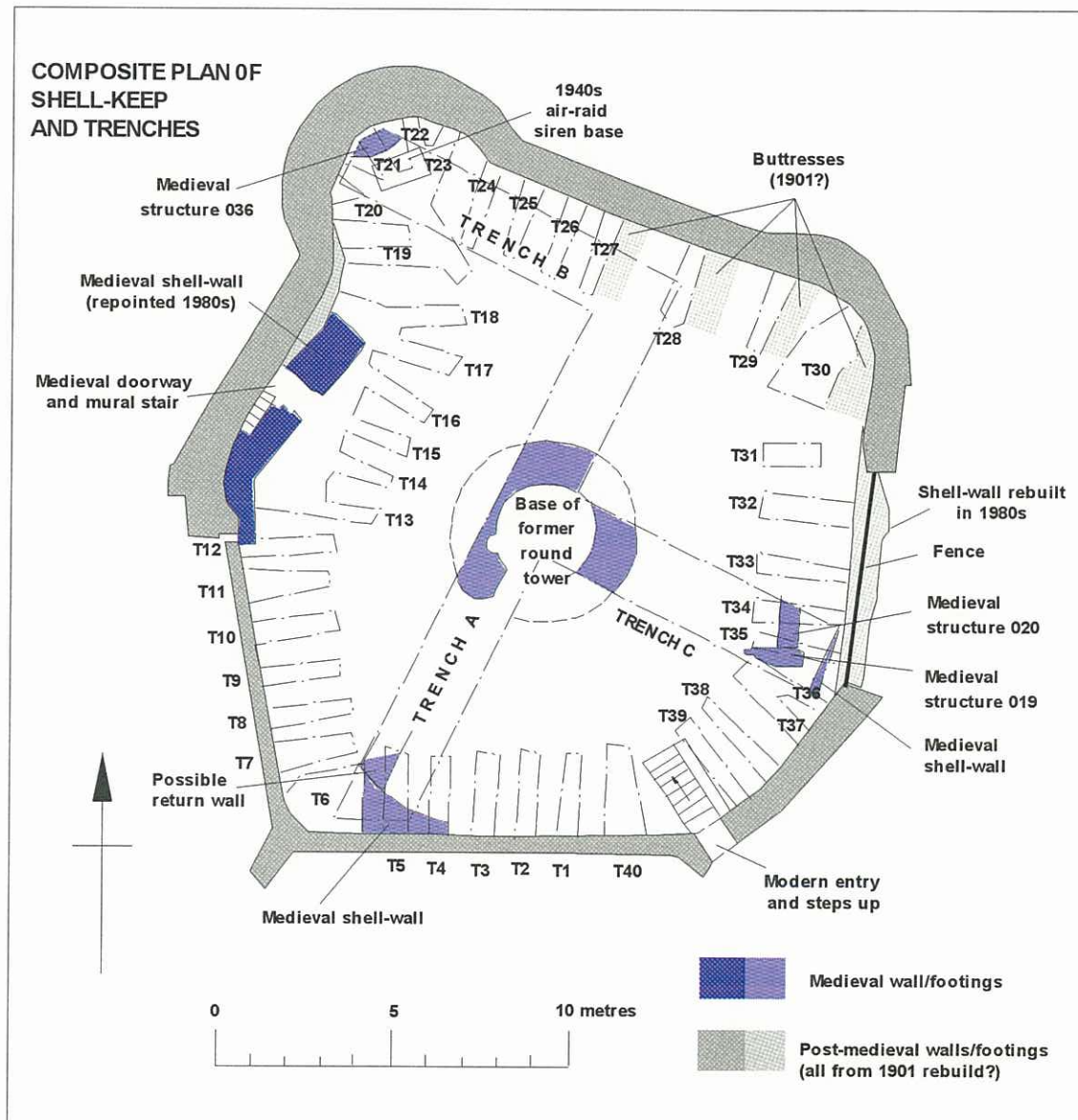
3.2.2 The present shell-wall (Figs. 2 and 5; Photo 5)

The shell-keep wall encloses an area of 280 square metres - rather smaller than most medieval shell-keeps - and now stands to a height of just 1.5m above the interior. However, little of the fabric that is now visible appears to belong to the medieval shell-wall, which was probably much higher (evidence from the north curtain wall suggest at least 3m higher - see Section 4.1). During the gaol period, a lower masonry wall was constructed, not always following the course of its medieval predecessor which had partly collapsed, or had been destroyed. However, much of the medieval wall may still have been standing in 1740, when the Buck Brothers engraved the castle apparently depicting a section of high walling on the motte (see Appendix 2, Plate 1) - artistic convention?

This wall, which averages 1m in thickness, forms an irregular polygon in plan, with open, semicircular projections to the northeast and northwest, giving it a lobate appearance, and two rectangular buttresses to the west; the latter do not rise to the full height of the wall. These features appear superficially to be medieval in origin, and indeed are shown on Thomas Lewis' map of 1786 (see Appendix 1, Map 2). However, excavations have shown that, where excavated, the medieval wall occupies a rather different line than the present shell-wall. Much rebuilding evidently occurred during the post-medieval period, with a further major campaign - including the re-facing of the exterior - traditionally thought to have occurred in 1901 (John Llewellyn, CCC, *pers. comm.*); the upper parts of the south and southwest walls appear to have been entirely rebuilt at this time and are slighter, only averaging 0.5m in thickness. A section of the east side collapsed in 1914, and was rebuilt. The lower half of the southeast side was encased within a massive, stepped concrete revetment or 'plinth' during the mid 20th century; this plinth was partly extended around the forebuilding and north 'curtain' walls (Figs. 2, 3 and 9). The eastern section was again rebuilt - and its external corework deliberately left exposed, to distinguish it from earlier masonry - in 1986 during a campaign which saw the consolidation of much of the above-ground masonry throughout the shell-wall. This campaign was, unfortunately, unaccompanied by any programme of archaeological recording although sketches and notes were made by Terry James (formerly of Dyfed Archaeological Trust).

The present entry, near the southeast angle, is post-medieval, with a segmental brick head from the late 18th-19th century. Its sill lies 1.2m below interior ground level, which is approached up a flight of stone-flagged steps set into the ground (Fig. 5). Threshold level, and the doorway itself, probably then pre-dates the importation of garden soil onto the site when it was laid out as the Governor's garden, which appears to have occurred after 1901 (see below). No other openings are present within the shell-wall, apart from a small, narrow recess, now blind, in the 1901 shell-wall on the west side of the motte (Fig. 7); this area was consolidated in the 1980s and the original form of the opening is not known.

Fig. 5 - Composite plan of the shell-keep at summit level, showing archaeological and construction trenches



3.2.3 Internal features (Figs. 5 – 8; Photos 6-10)

An archaeological evaluation trench was excavated within the shell-keep in Spring 1997 (see Ludlow and Allen 1997). It was 18m long, extending N-S for nearly the full width of the motte summit, and 2m wide (Fig. 5, Trench A). Prior to the evaluation the interior of the shell-keep was overgrown with soft vegetation, and an old fruit tree in the centre of the area had been recently removed.

Medieval deposits were encountered at an average depth of 1.1m; above them was an extensive deposit of garden soil which was imported onto the site in the early 20th century, when the motte top was laid out as a garden. At some point prior to this, it appears that a large amount of material, presumably largely building debris from the medieval shell keep, had been removed from the site. The curving inner face of the medieval shell-keep wall (probably from the 1220s-30s), was exposed in the southern end of the trench, 2m north of the present southwestern corner (Fig. 6). Surfaces, of probable medieval date, were also revealed, and the rubble infill that was used to level the top of the motte prior to the

construction of the wall. In addition, the remains of a truncated circular masonry structure - probably a medieval round tower - were exposed, at the centre of the motte-top. This structure was seen to pre-date the shell wall and may account for the £170 spent on the castle during the 1180s (Colvin 1963, 600). However, it may have been built during one of the episodic Welsh occupations of the castle, ie. between 1215 and 1223. With an external diameter of only 6m, and a wall-thickness of 1m, it was notably small and it may have been of half-timbered construction. Its relatively early date will affect the interpretation of all such towers on a national basis.

A further archaeological evaluation took place in Autumn 1997 (see Page 1998). Two more trenches were dug, at right-angles to Trench A (Fig. 5, Trenches B and C). More of the circular structure was revealed, as well as two more sections of the medieval shell-wall. One section (036) lay 1m inside the northwestern projecting 'lobe'; it was rather amorphous but may suggest that this 'lobe' is not a medieval feature. A further section lay just inside the rebuilt shell-wall along its east side. A possible internal, rectangular medieval structure was suggested by two conjoining walls in this latter area, (019) and (020), but these were again rather amorphous and slight. The evaluation confirmed the chronology of all these features -

- i) the construction of the circular tower sometime in the 12th century, or very early 13th century
- ii) the abandonment of the tower and construction of the perimeter shell-wall, probably during the 1220-30s
- iii) the construction of the secondary structure(s) 019 and 020 (13th-16th century)
- iv) the abandonment of the shell-keep (16th century?)

The evaluation confirmed the enormous archaeological and display potential of the site, and the circular structure was replicated in the design of the surfacing installed within the shell-keep in 2002-3.

An interesting nod to the castle's defensive role was given by the installation of an air-raid siren in the north-west corner of the shell-keep, during the Second World War, the concrete-and-brick base of which still partially survives in Trench B (Fig. 5; Fig 8, Trench 20).

Fig. 6 - Plan of medieval shell-wall at southwest corner, and possible internal wall

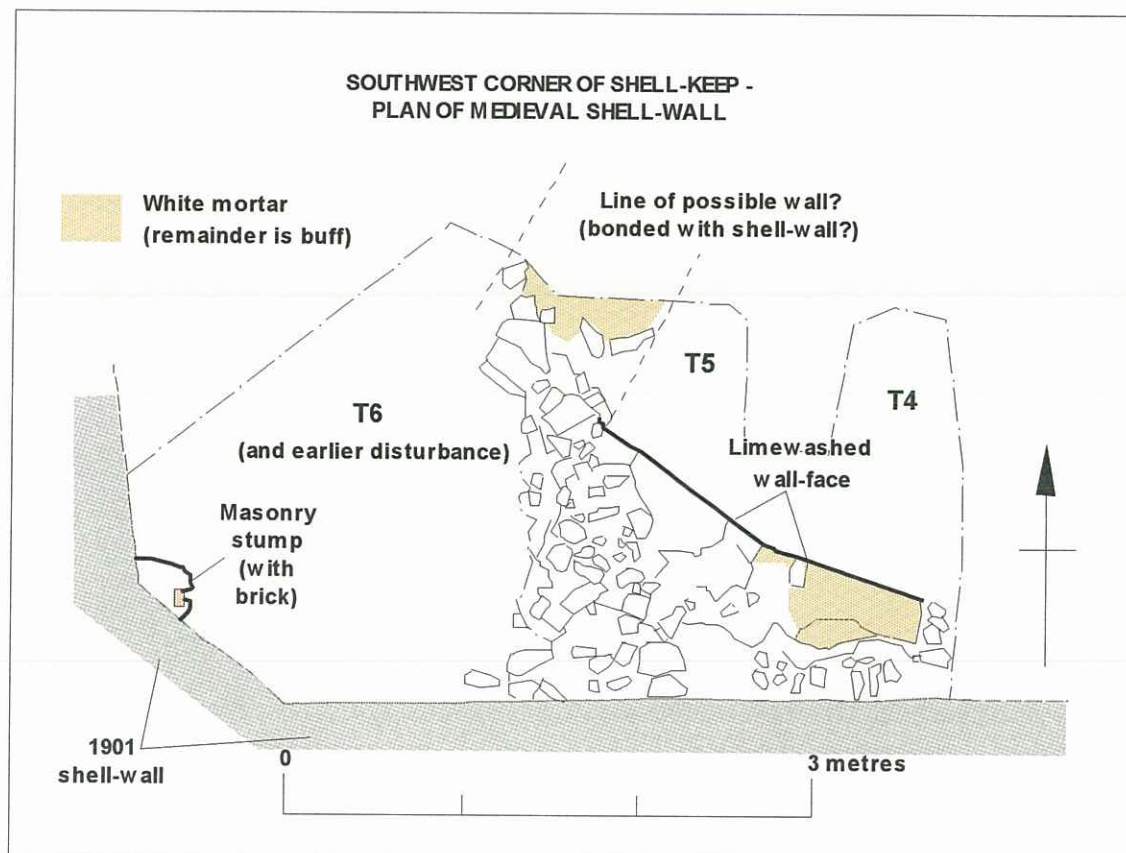
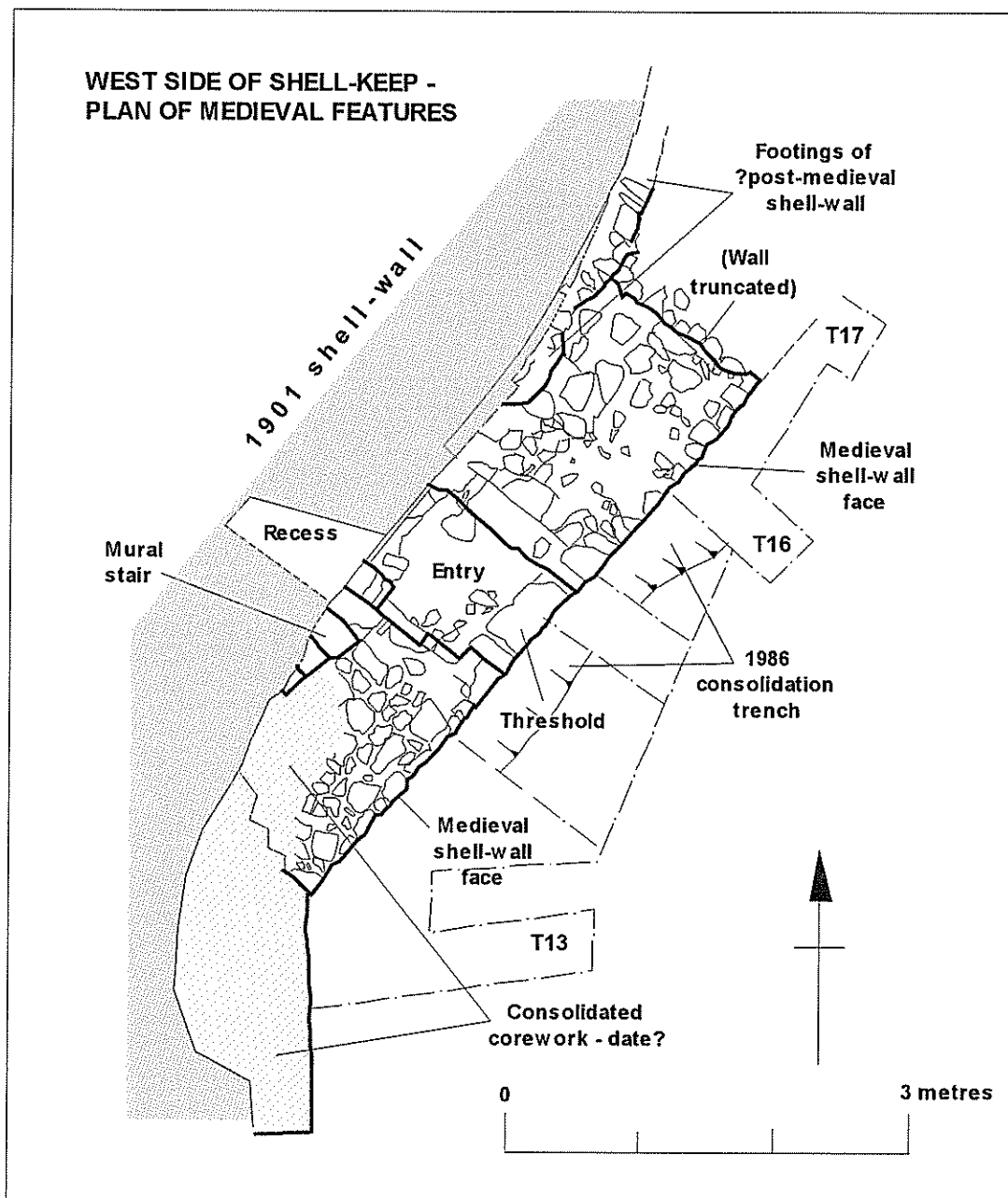


Fig. 7 - Plan of medieval features on the west side of the motte



The erection of a timber deck walkway around the interior of the present shell-wall, in 2002, entailed the excavation of 40 trenches around the periphery of the motte (Fig. 5, T1 - T40; Photo 6). It is unfortunate that such a damaging method was chosen for the installation of such a slight structure. Each trench was approximately 2m in length, radial to the centre of the motte-top, and averaged 0.4m in width and 0.5m in depth. All trenches were photographed, and every second trench (ie. half of the total number) was fully recorded through drawn sections.

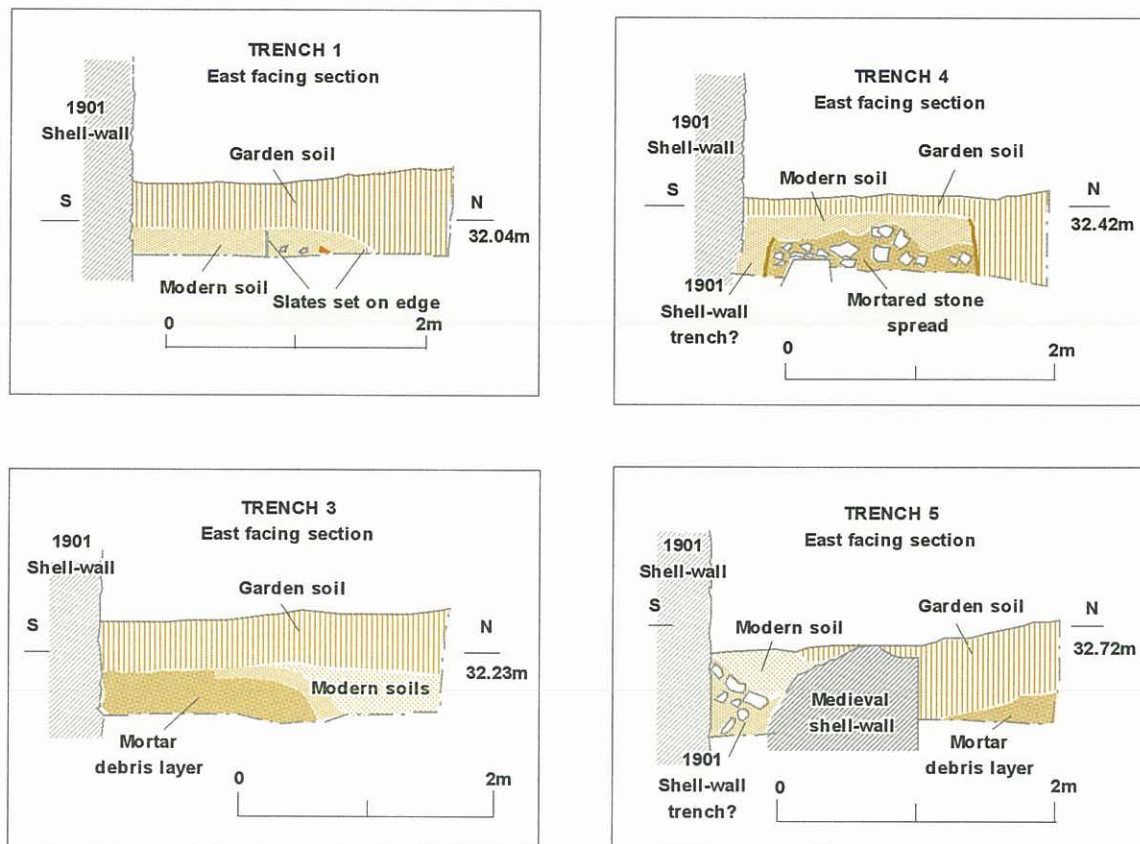
These trenches exposed further sections of the 13th century shell-wall. More of the southwestern line was exposed, and was seen to have been partly removed, or robbed out, during the post-medieval period (Fig. 6; Photo 7). A very amorphous area of mortared masonry, not fully exposed, appeared both to be bonded to the perimeter wall and to be leading towards the centre of the motte; this may represent the side wall of a further medieval internal building (Fig. 6).

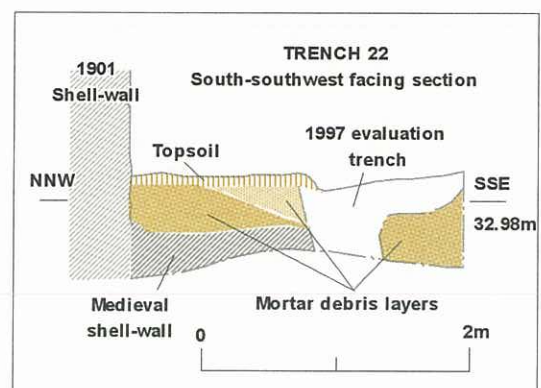
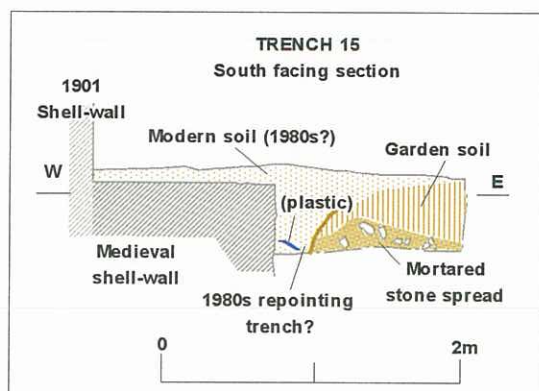
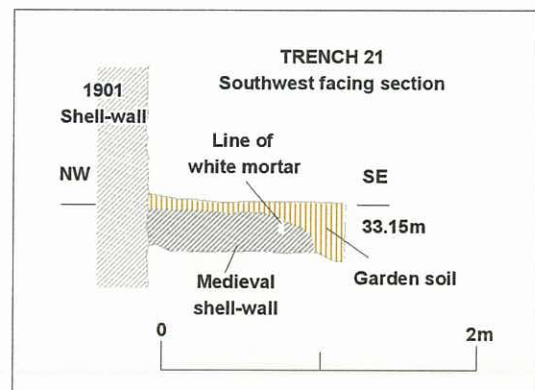
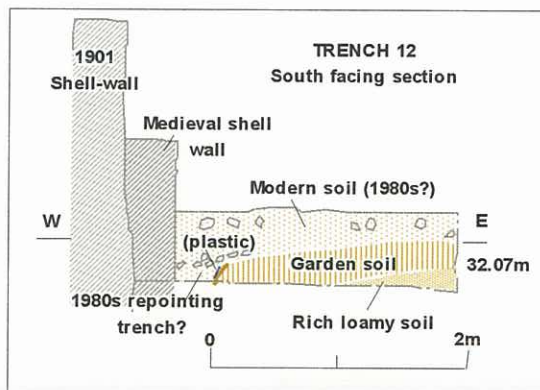
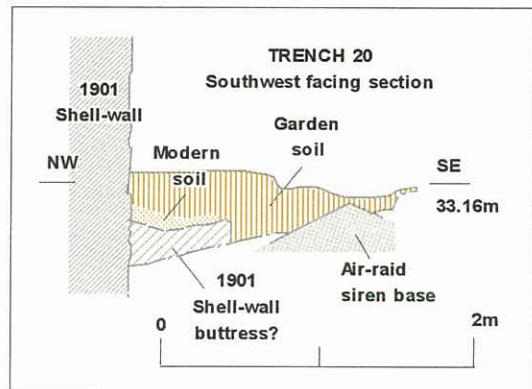
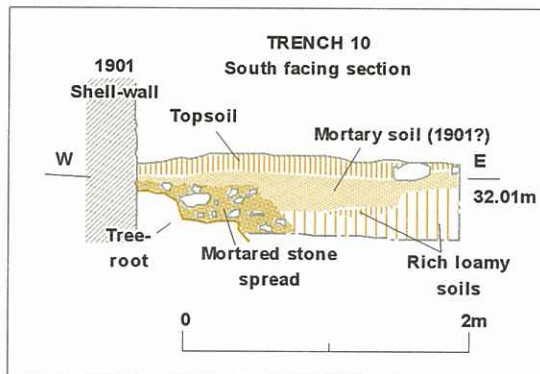
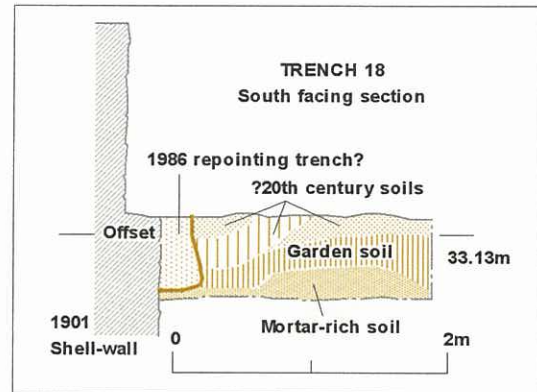
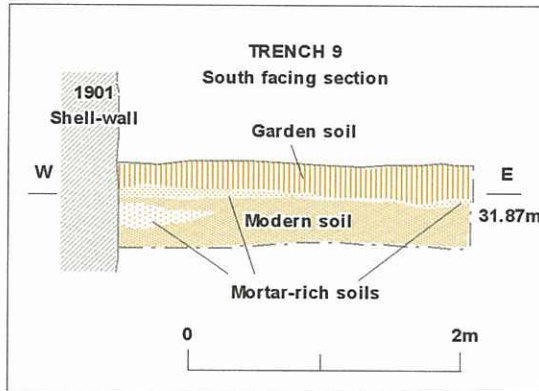
The face of the medieval shell-wall was also exposed on the west side of the motte (Fig. 7; Photo 8). Here, the internal wall-face lay 1.5m inside the line of the 1901 shell-wall, which was seen to have been built over a medieval doorway and threshold leading to a former mural stair, lying within the thickness of the wall, but obscured and overlain by the 1901 wall. This feature had been previously exposed, and partly consolidated, in the 1980s (Terry James *pers. comm.*), but was covered over again; it has now been fully consolidated and exposed, and the decking diverted around it.

The section drawings of 18 of the recorded trenches are reproduced here as Fig. 8. Most of the trenches were not deep enough to affect the medieval surfaces and deposits, but Trench 32 partly revealed the walling (019 & 020) that had been encountered during the 1997 evaluation. Remnant demolition/collapse debris from the medieval shell-keep, which was not removed for the Governor's garden, was also revealed in a number of trenches, overlain by the garden soil. Trenches 27-30 revealed (and were dictated by) a series of at least 4 masonry buttresses built against, and probably contemporary with, the internal face of the 1901 shell-wall (Figs. 5 and 8; Photo 10). These were at least 2m long, running N-S, and were truncated to present ground level, possibly at a later date. The trench for the 1901 shell-wall was also exposed in some trenches. In most of the trenches, the garden soil could be seen to post-date the 1901 shell-wall, while Trenches 1 and 39 showed evidence of two phases of garden soils, both probably post -1901. The earlier soils appeared to show bedding divisions, defined by vertical slates in Trench 1. The garden deposits contained a considerable amount of animal bone, some gaol-phase ceramics and metal prisoners' plates (see Section 9.0). The fruit tree may have been a later introduction still; an aerial photograph from c.1930 shows the current levels on the motte-top, apparently grassed, but no tree is visible (see Appendix 2, Plate 4), and so the tree may have in fact post-dated the gaol.

Also visible within a number of the trench sections was the pointing trench for the 1980s consolidation work, indicated by plastic debris exposed within its fill. The motte-top has now been landscaped.

Fig. 8 - Section drawings of selected decking construction trenches





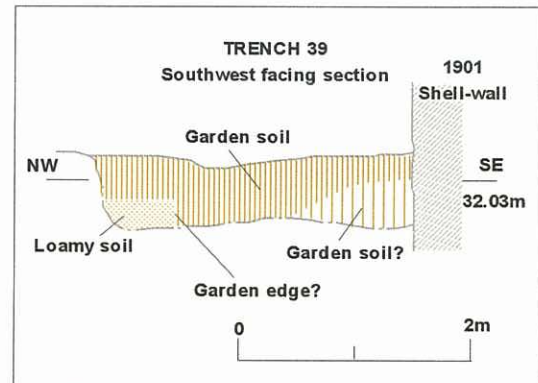
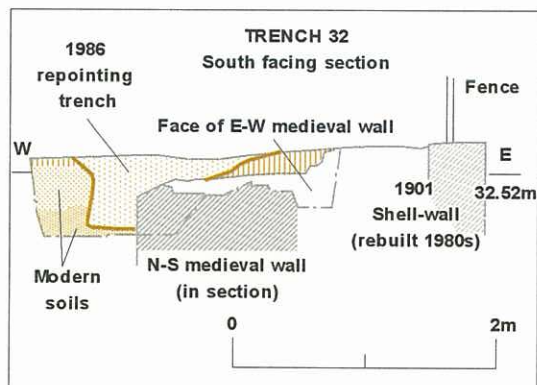
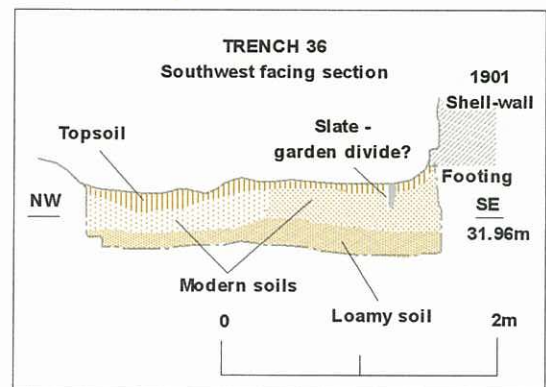
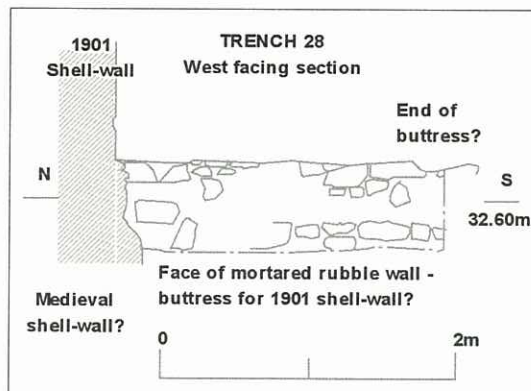
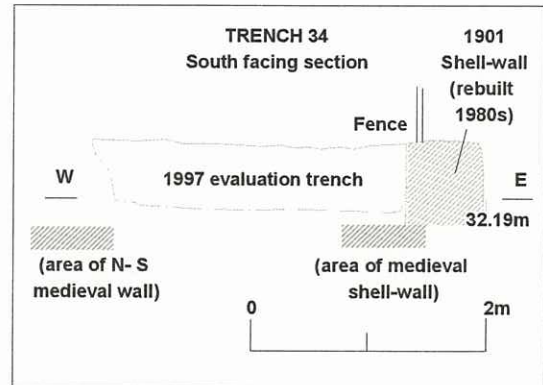
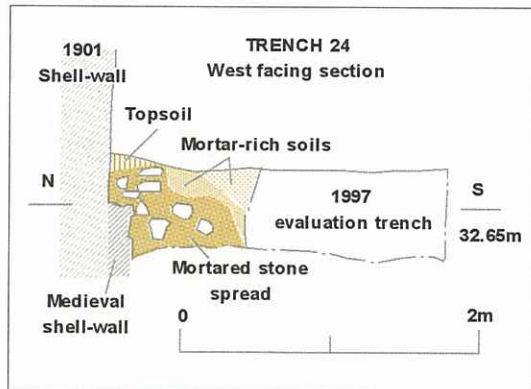


Photo 3 – The interior of the forebuilding, looking down from the shell-keep entry (facing northeast). The stepped concrete revetment, and modern stair, can be seen (see Fig. 3)



Photo 4 – The exterior of the forebuilding east wall, showing chases for the gaol-phase passage arches. The shell-keep, and its entry, can be seen beyond (see Fig. 4)



Photo 5 – The shell-keep seen from The Mount, facing west, showing the lobate projections at the northern angles. The facework, and possibly much of the fabric, is from 1901

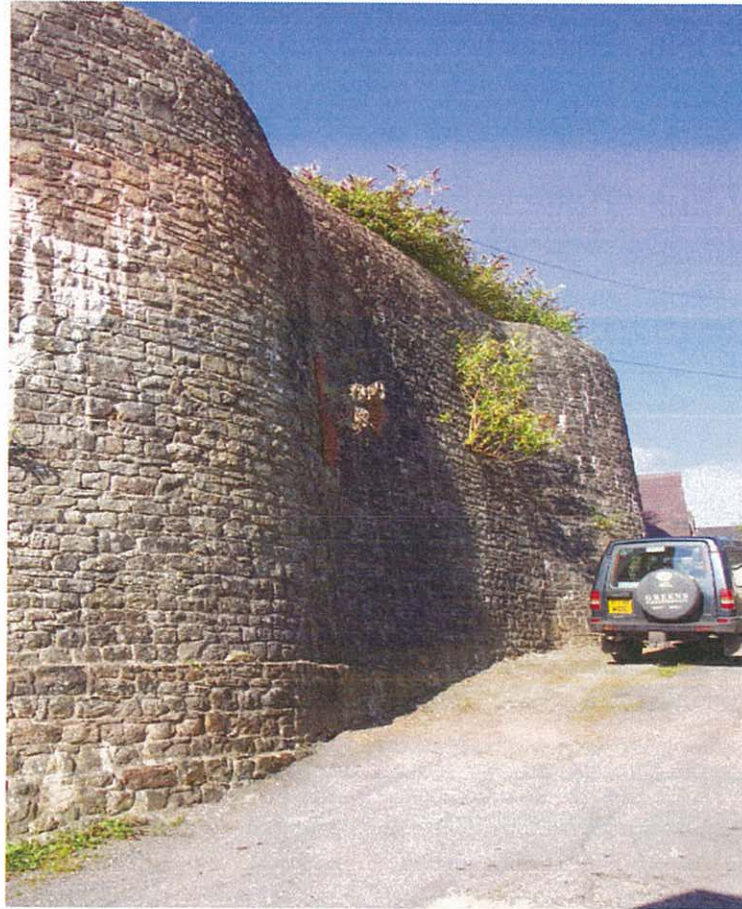


Photo 6 – The decking construction trenches along the shell-keep south wall, facing south. The present shell-keep entry is to the left (see Fig. 5)



Photo 7 – The inner face of the medieval shell-wall on the south side of the shell-keep, revealed by construction trenches 4–6, facing west (see Fig. 6)



Photo 8 – The inner face of the medieval shell-wall on the west side of the shell-keep, revealed by construction trenches 13–17, facing southwest. The base of the mural stair, and doorway, can be seen (see Fig. 7)



Photo 9 – The inner face of the medieval shell-wall on the east side of the shell-keep, revealed by construction trench 34, facing east (see Fig. 8)



Photo 10 – The ?c.1901 buttresses against the internal face of the northern shell-wall, revealed by construction trenches 27 - 29, facing northeast (see Fig. 8)



4.0 THE NORTH 'CURTAIN' WALL

A section of high masonry walling leads ENE from the east side of the motte and shell-keep, towards the main County Hall car park entrance (Fig. 2), which was formerly also the main entrance to the County Gaol. It now represents the boundary of the County Hall curtilage, and of the castle enhancement scheme and scheduled area. Its height and construction suggest that it may, at least in part, represent the medieval north inner bailey curtain wall, or at least follow its line, but it exhibits evidence for several rebuilds. Its north face exhibits evidence for a number of former post-medieval, domestic buildings ('cottages'), and the walled enclosure of a garden still survives in the angle with the shell-keep. This was included within the scheme as its presence had a potential affect on the structural integrity of the wall, the shell-keep, and the scheme as a whole. Both sides of the 'curtain' wall were drawn and digitally photographed so that a stone by stone drawing could be produced at a later date if required, and four test pits/trial trenches were excavated within the cottage garden enclosure in order to assess its affect on the scheme.

4.1 The 'curtain' wall (Figs. 9 and 10; Photos 11 and 12)

The wall is 25m in length from east to west (Figs. 9 and 10). It rises from a height of 7.2m above the castle interior at the east end, to a height of 10m where it joins the shell-keep, and averages 1m in thickness.

Its east end is butted by the blockwork walling of a modern electricity substation, the west end joins the shell-keep wall (see Fig. 10), while the south face is joined by the forebuilding east wall (see Fig. 9); the nature of the latter two joints is not known. However, it may be butted by the 'forebuilding', which would suggest that the lower sections of the wall, at least, are medieval. A medieval date is also suggested by the fact that while the south face is constructed from the level of the castle interior (Fig. 9), ie. in the area where the motte was cut away for shell-keep - and its ditch presumably infilled - during the medieval period, the north face appears to follow the downhill slope of the remnant motte, ie. 'The Mount' (Fig. 10). Moreover, a contractors' test pit, cut through the cottage garden here (Figs. 10 and 11), demonstrated that here, at least, its footings lay c.0.5m beneath the garden surface and were constructed directly upon redeposited fluvio-glacial deposits including gravels, pebbles, silts and sands. These deposits were investigated to a total depth of 1.5m. They were entirely sterile, and given their height above the suspected level of the natural soil here they probably represent the base of the motte.

The lower 7m of the wall is represented, on both faces, by a fairly uniform, random rubble facework. In the eastern half, this is capped by ceramic tile coping. Its summit line is represented by a chamfer on the north face (Fig. 10), which slopes up westwards towards the shell-keep. It has now been truncated but the slope suggests that the shell-keep wall would have been at least 3m higher than at present.

The west half of the wall has been heightened by 2m and steps vertically up. It exhibits evidence for at least two successive heightenings, predominantly in Old Red Sandstone. Much of the limestone facework may then be medieval, and the wall is in fact shown, in its present extent, on the earliest pre-gaol plan, from 1786 (see Appendix 1, Map 2). An aerial photograph of the gaol, from c.1930, shows the wall as today (see Appendix 2, Plate 4).

The south face of the wall is relatively featureless (Fig. 9; Photo 11), but is partly concealed behind the electricity substation. Much of the facework lies beneath the remnants of a limewash finish, but this is insufficient to obscure the facework, and no evidence of blocked openings etc. is present. There are two slight vertical cracks in the facework, and the slight impression, in the limewash fish, of a vertical line which may be derived from the former presence of an abutting structure. However, no structures are shown in this area on the 1786 plan, or on Suggett's reconstructed plan of Nash's gaol (see Appendix 3, Fig. 1), or on a plan of the enlarged gaol from 1881 (see Appendix 1, Map 5). The subsequent Ordnance Survey maps do not show the interior in any detail. Nor are any buildings shown against this face on the c.1930 aerial photograph (see Appendix 2, Plate 4).

Fig. 9 - The south face of the north 'curtain' wall

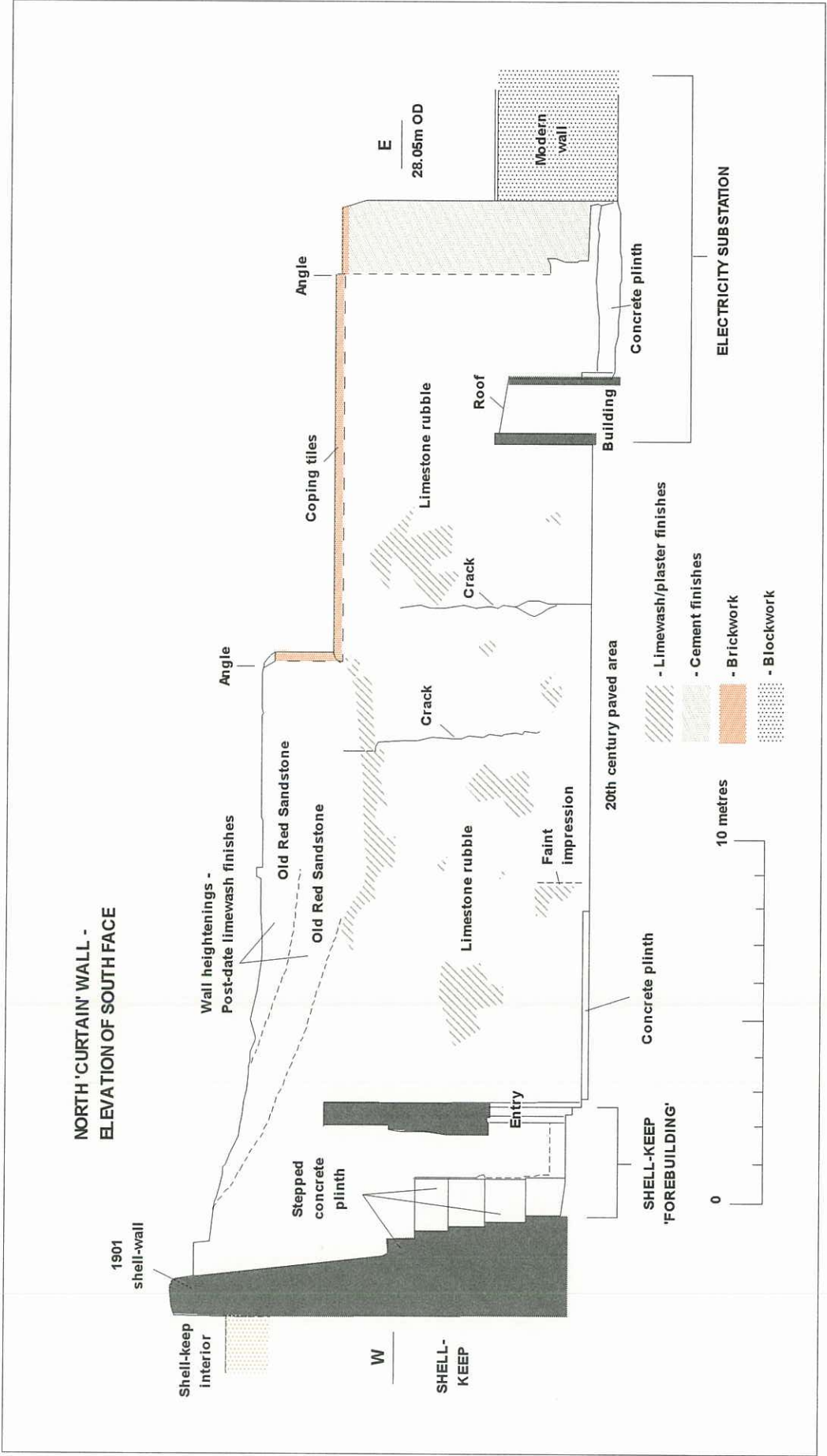
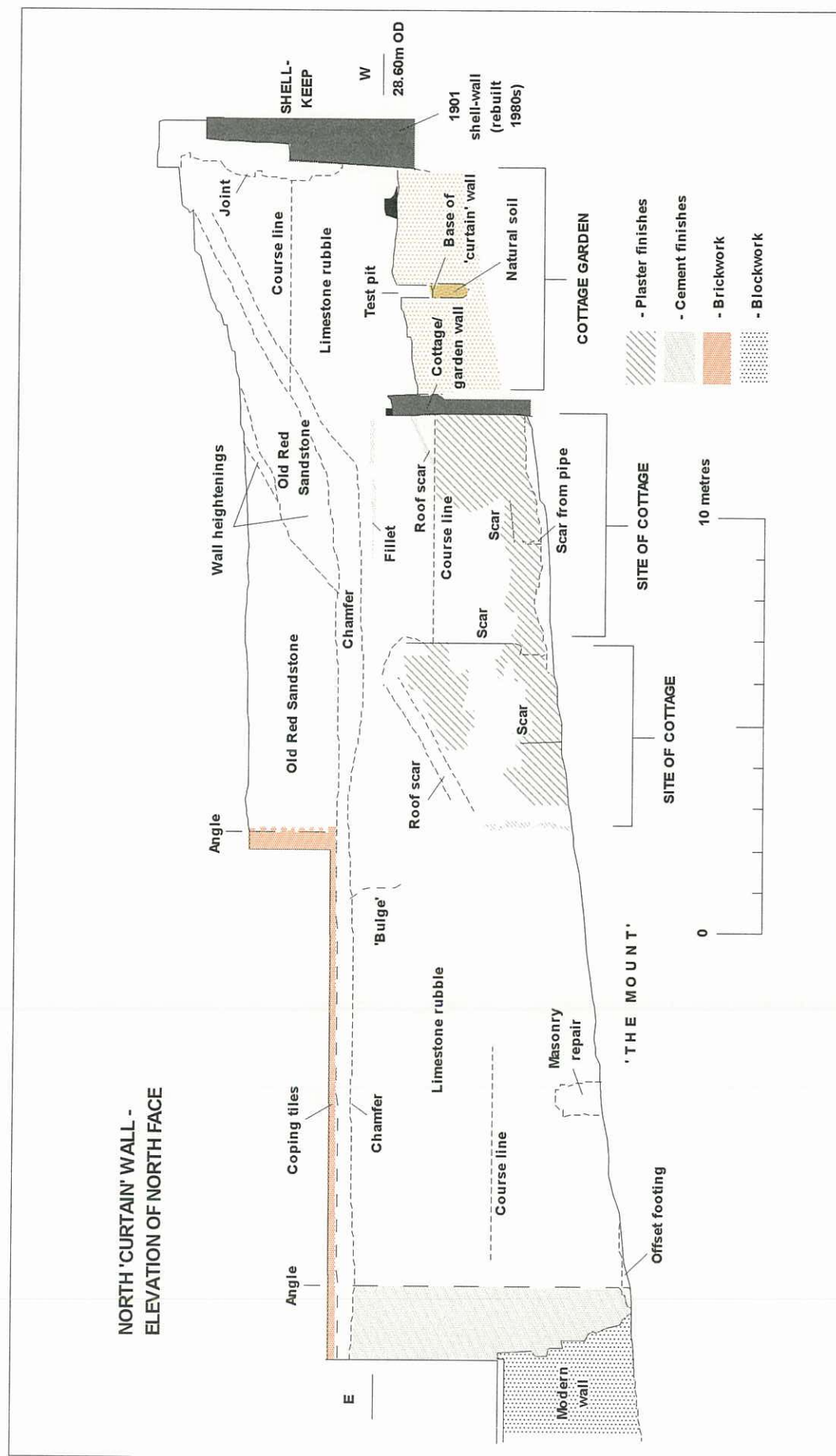


Fig. 10 - The north face of the north 'curtain' wall

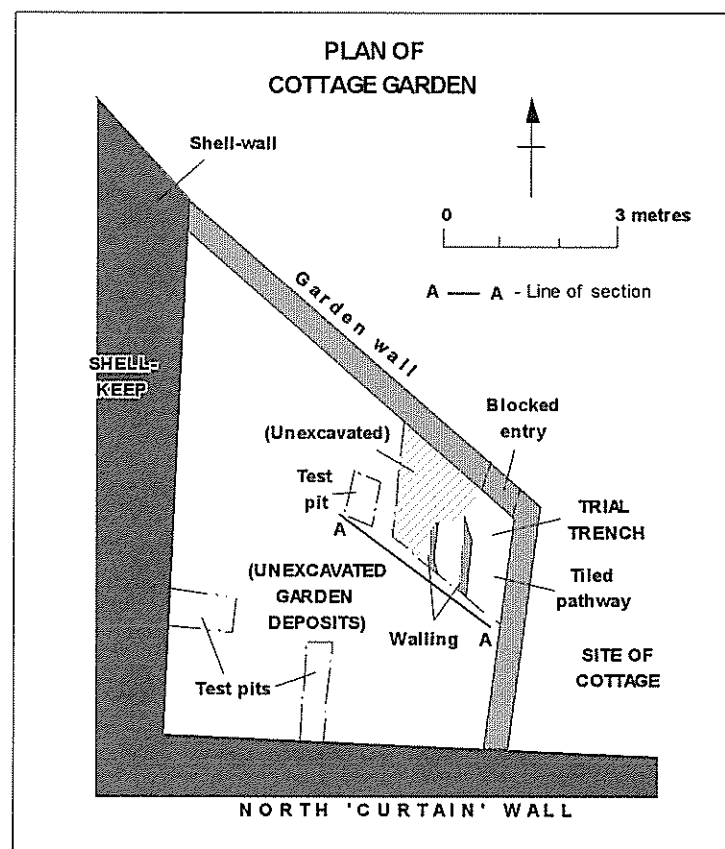


4.2 The cottages and garden

The north face of the wall exhibits evidence for a number of former abutting buildings (Fig. 10; Photo 12). This presents itself as the roof scars, and limewash and plaster finishes from two cottages built against the wall, alongside the lane now called 'The Mount'. The eastern cottage was small, only measuring 4.2m from east-west, with a lean-to roof that sloped up to the west, between 2.5m and 4m in height. The cottage shared a common wall with that to the east, which survives as a scar on the 'curtain' wall. This cottage was also small, only 5.8m from east-west. It is not possible to determine how this cottage was roofed although the line of a lean-to roof, possibly belonging to a small extension, can be seen on the west side. The west wall of this cottage still survives to a height of 3.6m - its full height? - and revets a former walled garden to the east (Figs. 10 - 12).

The garden is now represented by a walled enclosure between the north and curtain wall and the west side of the shall-keep, measuring 8m N-S and 6m E-W. The north wall follows the slope of The Mount, being only 1.7m high at its west end, with an average thickness of 0.5m. The wall is in mixed, predominantly limestone rubble.

Fig. 11 - Plan of the cottage garden showing the test pits and archaeological trench



The ground level within the garden averaged 2.5m above the level of 'The Mount', and was very overgrown. Three small test pits were excavated within the deposits by the contractors, in order to assess their nature, and affect on the neighbouring structures (Fig. 11). Two of these have been described above. They all revealed modern deposits. A further archaeological trial trench, measuring 1.5m N-S and 2m E-W, was excavated to a depth of 1.5m in the northeast corner of the enclosure, in order to obtain more information about its character (Figs. 11 and 12). Here, the garden soil lay 1.2m above the level of the Mount, beneath a 0.5m build up of modern soil and debris. A red-&-black quarry-tiled garden path, accessed from The Mount, was also revealed; the entry was subsequently blocked. The path

ran along the west side of the enclosure - in a narrow, masonry-revetted well - towards a flight of steps leading up to the garden (Fig. 12). The stairwell was filled by a similar deposit of modern soil and debris. Evidence for a further N-S retaining wall, just west of the path, was also revealed.

According to a former occupant, the cottages and garden were inhabited well into the 1960s. They are not shown on Thomas Lewis' map of 1786 (see Appendix 1, Map 2), and first appear on John Wood's map of Carmarthen, from 1831 (see Appendix 1, Map 4). They had assumed their final form by 1886, at least, when both cottages and the garden are shown on the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map (see Appendix 1, Map 6). A further cottage had also been built against the north wall of the garden enclosure, but no evidence for this now survives.

The cottage garden lies outside the County Hall curtilage, the scheduled area and the present consolidation and enhancement scheme. However, its owner wished it to be removed and requested that this should be undertaken as part of the scheme, under archaeological conditions, rather than removing it himself. The test-pits were excavated in order to assess the viability of the proposal, but demonstrated that its removal would have implications for the stability of the north 'curtain' wall and shell-keep, and it has been retained.

Fig. 12 - Section through the cottage garden deposits, showing the path and steps

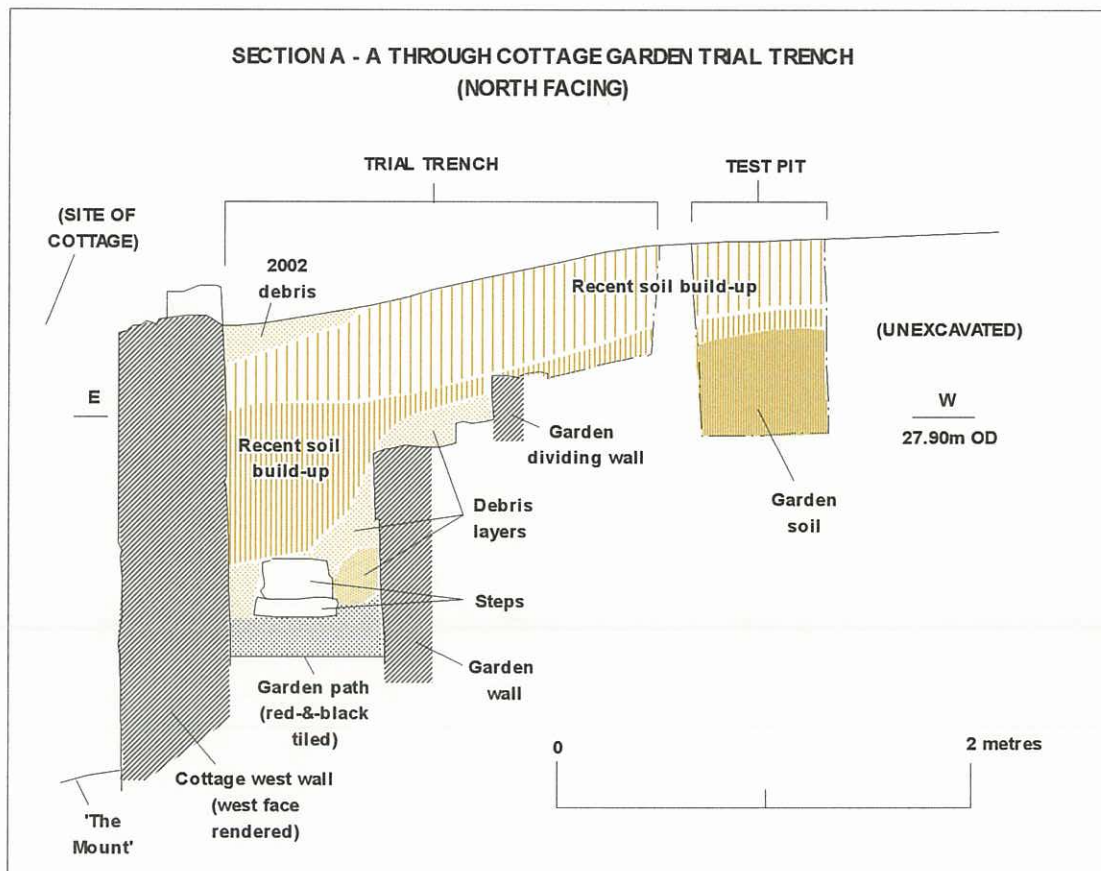


Photo 11 – The south face of the north 'curtain' wall, facing north. The modern electricity substation is to the right (see Fig. 9)



Photo 12 – The north face of the north 'curtain' wall, facing south. The roof-crease of the former cottage, and the cottage garden wall, are at the bottom (see Fig. 10)



5.0 THE GATEHOUSE, CAUSEWAY AND CELLARS

The twin-tower gatehouse now represents the most complete and visible part of the medieval castle fabric and still dominates the town. It appears always to have been the main entry to the castle from the town, facing Nott Square which was the site of a medieval market (Fig. 1). From the 1790s, the gaol was entered from the north, on the site of the present entry to County Hall Car Park, where John Nash built an elaborate semi-Classical gateway. However, the castle gatehouse was retained, presumably as a second 'show' entrance, and perhaps partly also because of the labour required to demolish it. It was fully recorded during Phase 3.

The gatehouse and west (inner bailey) curtain wall were, during the medieval period, fronted by a deep, wide, dry defensive ditch, lying between the castle and Nott Square/Little Bridge Street (Fig. 1). This was gradually infilled during the late-medieval and post-medieval periods, and now lies beneath the backyards of Nott Square and Little Bridge Street properties, although still evidenced by breaks of slope. Groundworks associated with Phases 3 and 4 revealed part of the ditch and the medieval bridge/causeway that crossed it, leading to the gatehouse (Fig. 13), which was later incorporated into post-medieval cellars cut into the ditch fill. These were recorded, and archaeologically excavated, as part of Phase 4.

The high wall connecting the gatehouse with the shell-keep appears to be from many periods, but possibly follows the line of - and may incorporate elements of - the medieval west curtain wall. It was not included in the scope of the Phase 3 works and has therefore not been recorded; it is anticipated that a full record will be made during Phase 4. The inner face is largely obscured by the 19th century Old Police Station which lies against it (see Section 7.2).

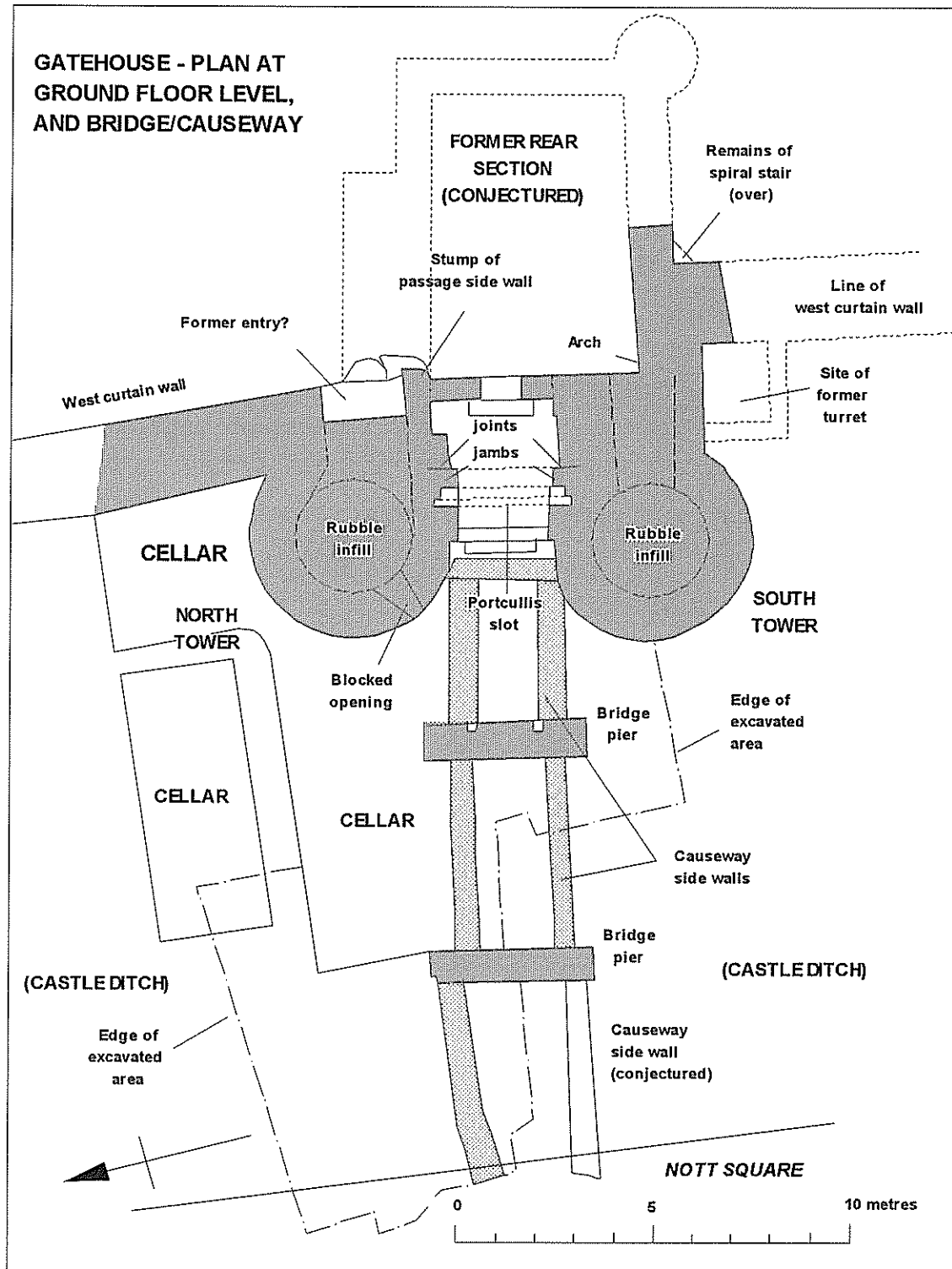
5.1 The gatehouse (Figs. 13 – 26; Photos 13 - 30)

The gatehouse is a complex structure, comprising a gate-passage flanked by circular towers. The passage is 3m wide, and each tower has a diameter of 5m giving the structure a total width of 13m. The gatehouse comprises two storeys, beneath a parapet that was formerly crenellated, features rainwater chutes, and is supported on a bold corbel table, giving a total height of 12.5m. The present fabric is largely from 1409, when £100 was spent rebuilding a structure that had been damaged during the Glyndwr rebellion of 1405-6 (Colvin 1963, 601). The fabric is largely in locally-quarried Old Red Sandstone, with some limestone, and the present detail is all consistent with an early 15th century date (see Photos 13 and 23). However, it may incorporate part of an earlier gatehouse (discussed below), whilst it underwent considerable alteration - and loss of fabric - during the post-medieval period, especially during the County Gaol phase of the late 18th - 20th centuries. This alteration included the infilling, with rubble masonry, of the tower ground floors; the first floor is still open.

The main, west frontage, facing Nott Square, was very much a show front as exhibited by the remaining dressings (Fig. 15; Photo 13). These include a bold, flying arch between the two towers, at first floor level, forming a machicolation for a chute, emptying over the entry from the first floor; it comprises four chamfered orders in imported oolitic limestone, springing from moulded, corbelled imposts. Above this, and just beneath the corbel table, a second series of three machicolations arise from bold, stepped oolite corbels of late-medieval form. The first floor openings retain, to varying degrees, their oolite surrounds; that to the south is the most complete, comprising a single light, with a chamfered surround and a sunk-cusped trefoil head, of 15th century Perpendicular character. Where the original door surrounds survive, they are chamfered, in the four-centred Perpendicular style, and in oolite or red sandstone.

During Phase 3, the gatehouse was fully recorded through plans, elevation drawings and photography. The blocking of a ground floor opening was removed, and the fill of the north tower was partially excavated by the contractors. A modern concrete screed over the first floor was removed, and the medieval slabbed surface was drawn and recorded. In addition, an archaeological evaluation excavation was undertaken in the gatehouse passageway.

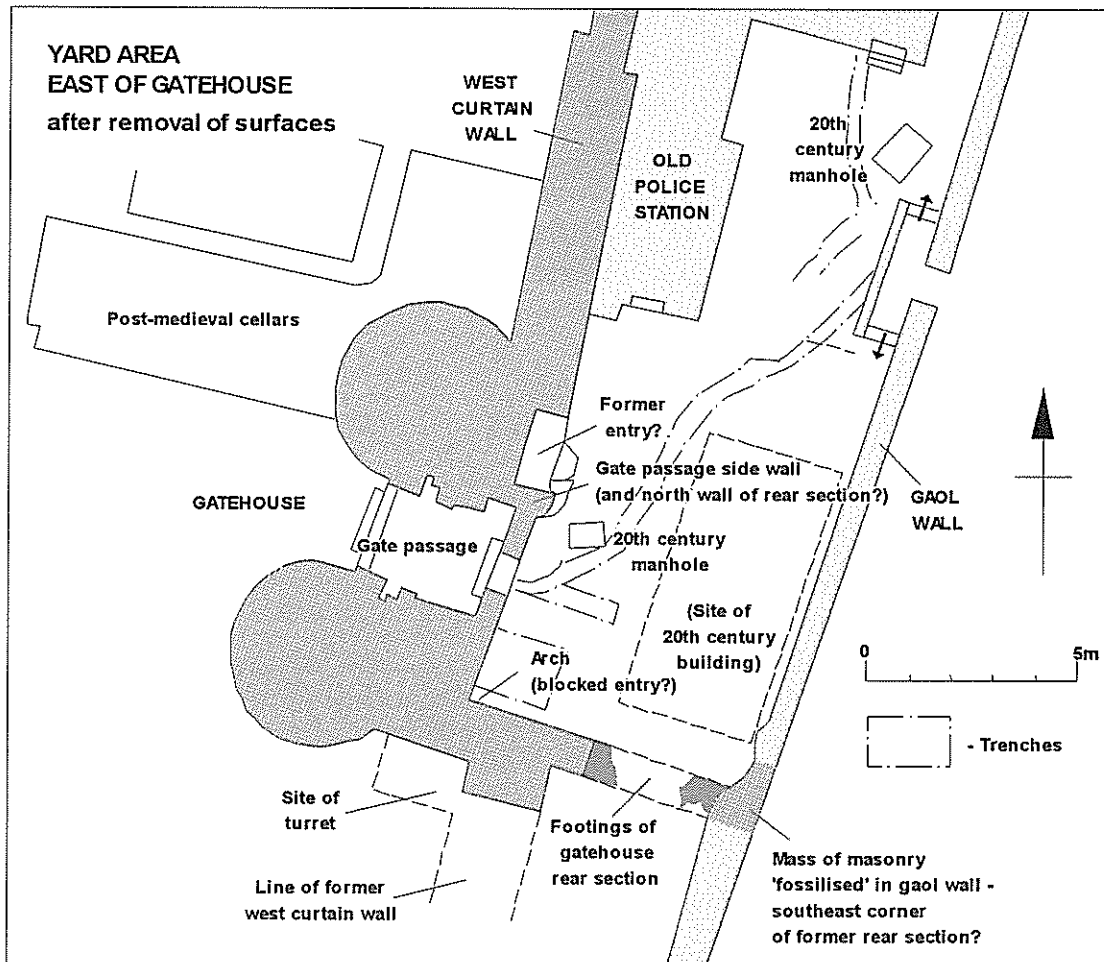
Fig. 13 - Plan of gatehouse at ground floor level,
 showing the remains of the bridge/causeway as excavated



5.1.1 The former rear section (Figs. 13 and 14)

As it survives, the gatehouse only represents half of the medieval structure (Fig. 13). Enhancement works to the rear of the gatehouse, in 2002, involved the removal of the existing tarmac surface and some of its underlying make-up so that resurfacing with stone slab paving could take place; trenches for new drainage were also dug. A wall, or footing, running E-W, was revealed just below the surface (Fig. 14), apparently representing the south wall of a former, rectangular rear section, that had long been suspected from other features in the gatehouse. Most of the top of this wall was exposed, and was of a similar fabric and width (1m) to the standing remains of the gatehouse. Part of the wall footing had been lost to a post-medieval trench.

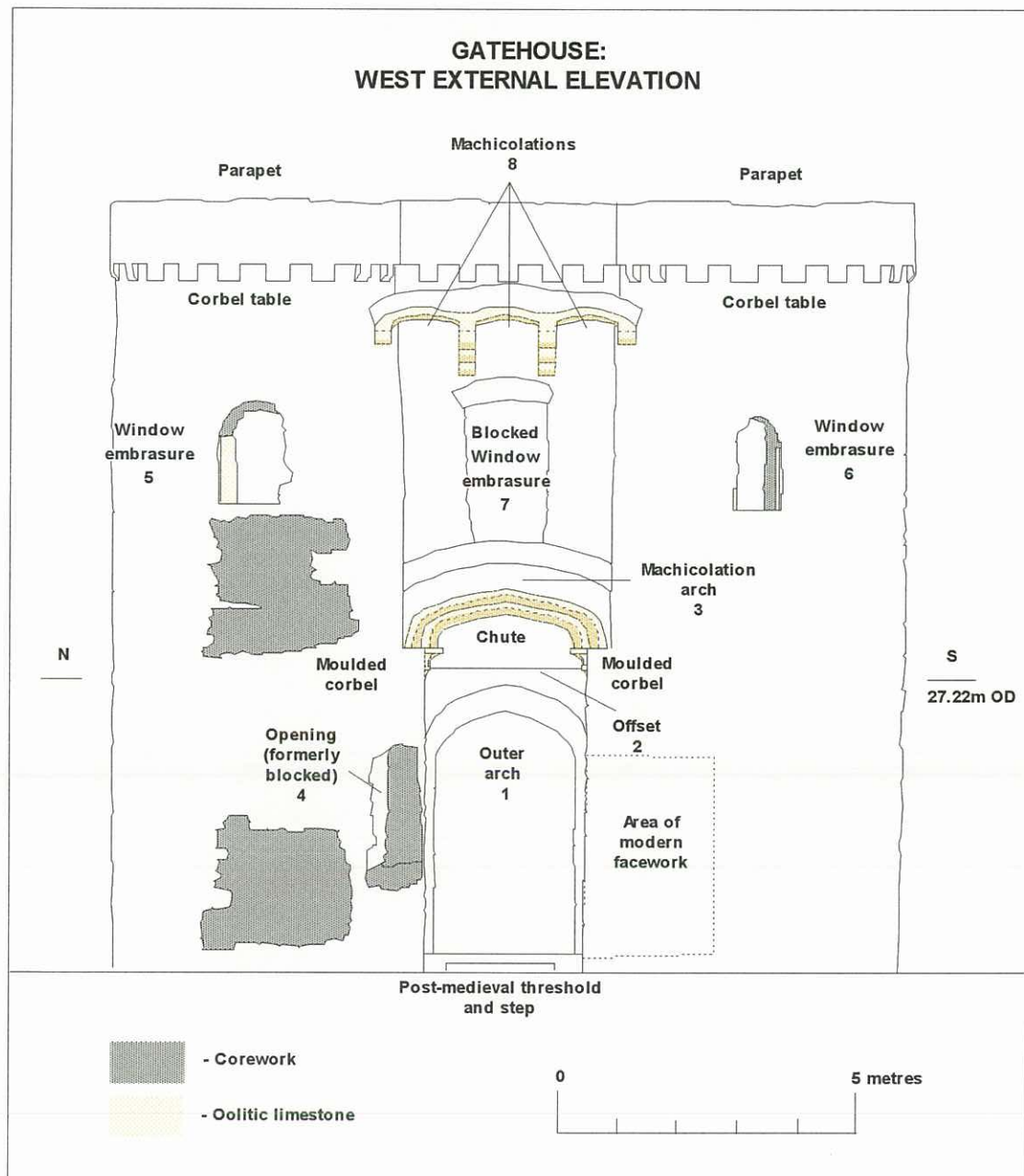
Fig. 14 - Plan of the area to the east of the gatehouse, after removal of surfaces, showing medieval walling



The former presence of a rear section accounts for a curious feature shown on a plan of the site from 1819 (see Appendix 1, Map 3). The two gatehouse towers are shown, but a third tower is marked and labelled immediately behind the gatehouse on the line of the present gaol wall, which had, by this time, presumably been largely completed. The gaol wall now exhibits, at this point, an irregular 'bulge' where it is noticeably thicker, and in a different fabric from the remainder of the wall (Figs. 14 and 33; Photo 20). Taken together, the evidence suggests then that this area of wall - presumably equating with the 'tower' shown in 1819 - in fact represents the remnant southeast corner of the former gatehouse rear section. The various features suggest that the rear section measured 8m E-W, giving the gatehouse a total E-W dimension of 15m. The N-S dimension of the rear section cannot be assessed from the excavated evidence alone, but will be discussed below in Section 5.1.6.

The former rear section also accounts for the plethora of openings in the present gatehouse east wall - which does not appear to be an external wall - and certain anomalies in their disposition, which are discussed below, Section 5.1.2. It may, moreover, have been a remnant of the pre-1409 gatehouse, as 17s 9d was spent on 'making.... the stone flooring of the Constable's Chamber over the large gate' in 1354-5 (Green 1913, 63-4, citing PRO, Ministers' Account 1221, 10), suggesting that a substantial structure already existed prior to 1409. This is also discussed below, Sections 5.1.3 and 5.1.5. The rear section appears to have been lost by 1740 and thus well before the construction of Nash's County Gaol; it is not shown on the Buck Brothers' engraving of the castle, from 1740 (see Appendix 2, Plate 1), which depicts the gatehouse much as today. Thomas Lewis' 1786 map does not show any detail in this area (see Appendix 1, Map 2).

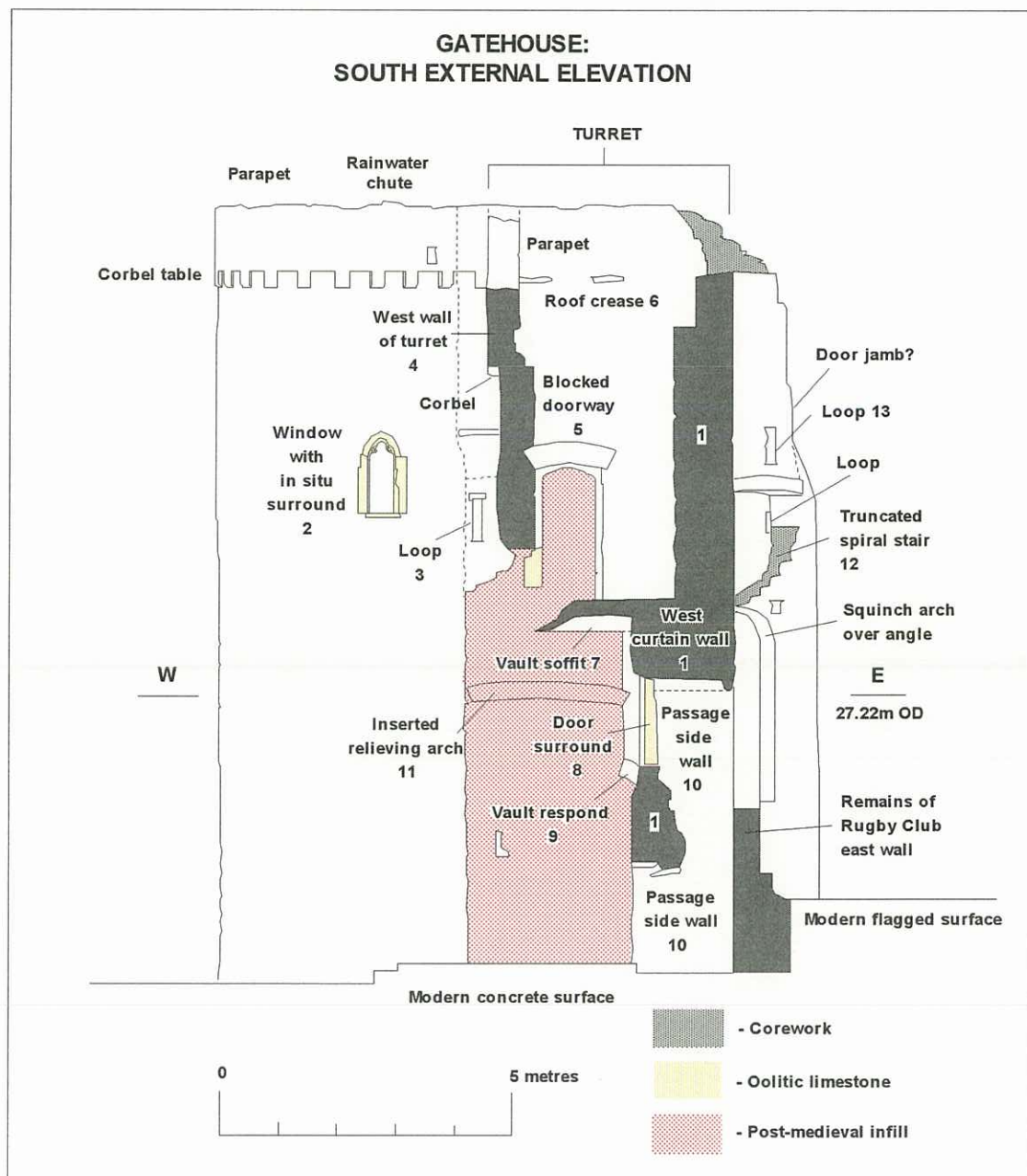
Fig. 15 - External elevation of the main, west face of the gatehouse



5.1.2 External features (Figs. 15–18; Photos 13–18)

The gatehouse is entered from the west, at ground floor level, through a wide entrance archway that is 2.3m wide and 4m high (Fig. 15, 1). The arch is four-centred and plain, without a freestone surround, and lies beneath a similar outer arch. An offset just above its head (Fig. 15, 2) and beneath the level of the first floor, flying machicolation arch (Fig. 15, 3), see Section 5.1 above. The entry was flanked by an opening, later blocked, in the north tower (Fig. 15, 4) - this has been badly damaged but may have represented an arrow-loop. The blocking was removed in 2001. At first floor level, the west face is pierced by three openings, all with segmental heads. The two towers exhibit single-light openings, whose dressings have been largely lost (Fig. 15, 5 & 6); the third opening, over the entrance arch, has lost its surround entirely and is blocked, but may have been of two lights (Fig. 15, 7). The machicolations beneath parapet level (Fig. 15, 8) have been described above, Section 5.1. Some areas of facework had been removed from this west face; these have been consolidated.

Fig. 16 - External elevation of the south side of the gatehouse



The south side of the gatehouse (Photo 14) was formerly joined by the west curtain wall, the scar from which can be seen towards its east end (Fig. 16, 1), indicating that it lay mostly outside the line of the curtain. The ground floor of the southern tower appears always to have been blind, but the first floor is pierced, on this side, by the single-light opening with the well-preserved surround mentioned above in Section 5.1 (Fig. 16, 2). A further, small loop (Fig. 16, 3) lies in the angle between the tower and a turret, measuring at least 2m square, that is shown by the structural evidence to have formerly occupied the angle between the south face of the gatehouse and the adjoining west curtain wall (see Fig. 13). The scar of the west wall of this turret, which was 0.6m thick, can be seen 2.5m west of the west curtain wall (Fig. 16, 4), proving that the turret rose to the full height of the gatehouse and was integral with it (ie. not a secondary addition), the corbel table having been interrupted by the turret, but carried around beneath its parapet at a lower level. The turret was occupied by a series of chambers. A blocked doorway into the first floor chamber, with a four-centred surround in oolite and sandstone, can be seen leading from the southern gatehouse tower (Fig. 16, 5); above it are the remnants of the turret's roof-crease (Fig. 16, 6), giving the chamber a height of 5.5m. The evidence for the lower levels of the turret has largely been removed by the post-medieval disturbance described below; however, it appears that it comprised two storeys, each 2.5m high, corresponding to the gatehouse ground floor. The remains of an E-W barrel-vault can be seen to overlie the upper of these two storeys (Fig. 16, 7), which was entered from the east via a passage through the west curtain wall; the passage facework, and part of its oolite door surround, are still preserved within the stump of the curtain wall (Fig. 16, 8). The lower of the two turret storeys apparently lay beneath a N-S barrel-vault whose eastern respond survives (Fig. 16, 9). This again was entered via a passage through the west curtain wall (Fig. 16, 10), but no door jamb survives here.

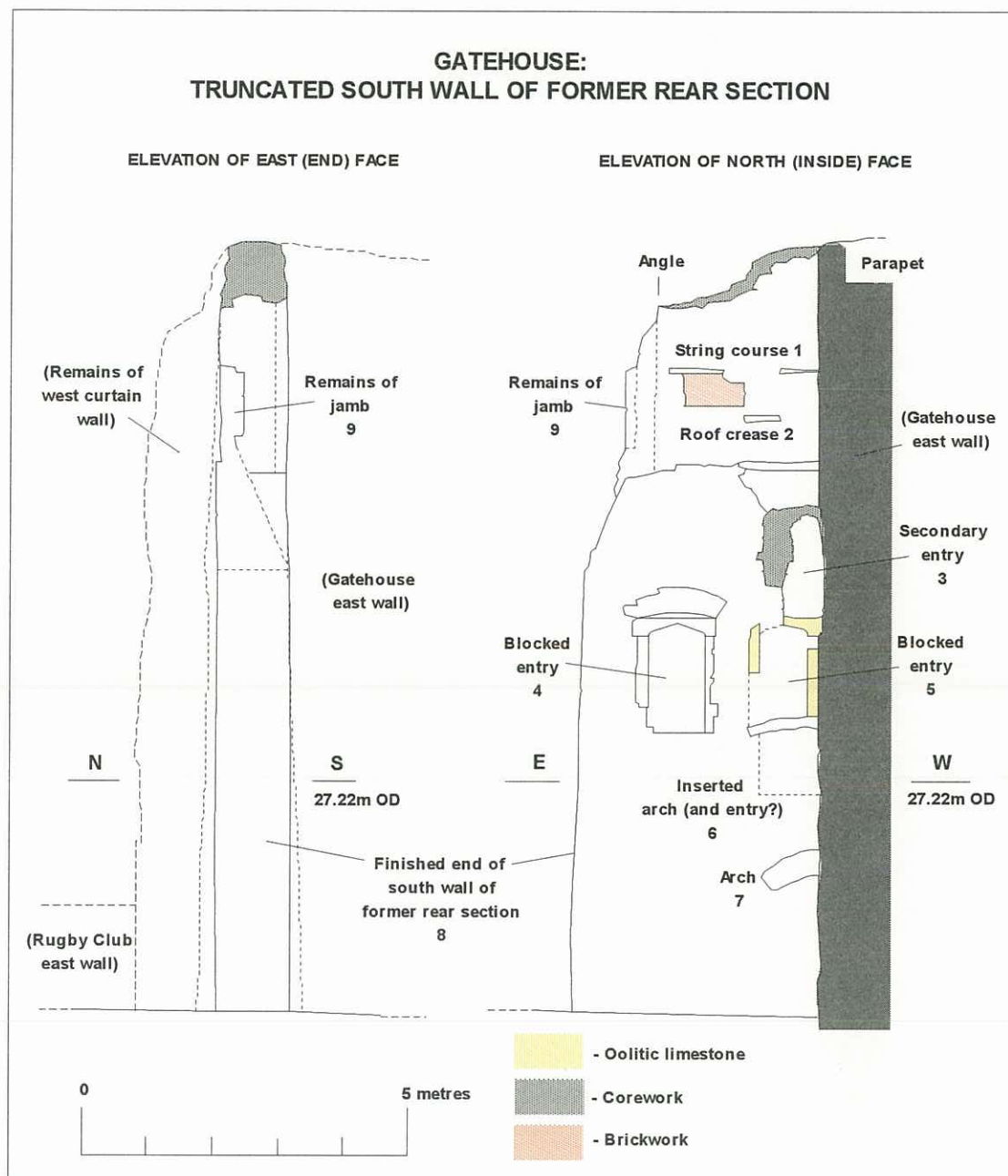
Much of the evidence for the turret chambers was lost during the post-medieval period when the lower two-thirds of this part of the gatehouse was removed, to create access from the adjoining property to the south - an apparently immense undertaking simply in order to increase domestic floor space, but paralleled in both the Southwest Tower and the Square Tower. The open 'gorge' so formed was subsequently infilled with rubble masonry, with a relieving arch halfway up (Fig. 16, 11). The lower half of this area formed the north wall of a lavatory block, that belonged to the former Rugby Club, and lay beneath a thick render finish which was removed in 2001.

East of the stump of the west curtain lie the fragmentary remains of the south wall of the missing rear section, which on this side extend eastwards for 1.5m before being truncated and finished off. They include, at first floor level, the truncated remains of a spiral stair in the angle between the two walls (Fig. 16, 12). This begins at first floor level where it is squinched out over the ground floor angle, but apparently terminates 4m below parapet level at a further, squinched-out segmental arch. Above this the wall is external, and is carried diagonally across the angle between the two walls to house a second spiral stair, lit by a small loop (Fig. 16, 13), in the wall thickness (see below and Section 5.1.6). Where did the lower stair lead? The evidence is now lost.

The present gatehouse east wall (Photo 15) represents the internal dividing wall between the gatehouse towers and the missing rear section, but at 1m thick it is the same thickness, at first floor level, as the external walls. Its east face, now external, exhibits a plethora of openings (Fig. 17). The gate passage formerly emerged through this wall, but was partly infilled after 1789, and a new, smaller doorway was inserted (Fig. 17, 1). This has a four-centred surround in yellow oolite. The northern passage side wall can be seen as an area of corework, 0.7m wide, north of this infill (Fig. 17, 2), extending into the yard as some surface slabbing (see Fig. 13). To the north, the east wall face appears to have been external ie. outside the former rear section (see Section 5.1.6). A recess at ground floor level, immediately north of the former passage side wall, is 1m deep, 2.3m wide and 2.2m high beneath a segmental arch (Fig. 17, 3); it is rather wide but may represent a former entry into the north gate tower chamber from the castle interior, later blocked (presumably when the ground floor chambers were infilled). All evidence for the southern passage side wall has been lost on this face of the gatehouse, and no former entry to the south gatehouse tower can be distinguished; this area may then have been extensively re-faced, but see below and Fig. 18, 6.

South of this wall scar, the wall face appears to have been internal ie. within the former rear section whose presence is betrayed by the creasing for its roof-line. Two lines of string-courses are present - one just above parapet level (Fig. 17, 10) and one just below (Fig. 17, 11); the lower line is at a level more consistent with being a roof-line, but stops just short of the suggested rear section north wall line (Fig. 17, 7). An opening at first floor level (Fig. 17, 12), 2.5m high, has the appearance of a blocked doorway, but cannot be distinguished internally and may therefore have been always blind; it appears to have lost its surround (or lintel). It lies hard up against the suggested rear section north wall. A smaller opening (Fig. 17, 13) appears always to have been blind; it is 0.3m deep, 1.2m wide and 0.8m high beneath a segmental arch, and may have been a cupboard, although it backs onto a fireplace in the first floor chamber beyond (see Section 5.1.5 below). The two levels of square sockets just above the recess (Fig. 17, 14) may have been structural, rather than scaffold sockets; it is unlikely that a floor occurred at this level and they may have been associated with the roof structure.

Fig. 18 - East and north elevations of the truncated south wall of the former rear section



The east wall terminates at an E-W return, 3.8m in length, that represents the truncated south wall of the former rear section (Fig. 18; Photo 16), around which the roof-crease and string course are continued (Fig. 18, 1 & 2) demonstrating that the rear section had a hipped roof. An opening, at first floor level (Fig. 18, 3; Fig. 23), now leads to the surviving gatehouse first floor; however, this is a post-medieval entry, having been secondarily broken through (see Section 5.1.6). Just below it can be seen the remains of the four-centred surrounds of two original doorways which are both now blocked. The eastern of the two (Fig. 18, 4) appears to have led onto the spiral stair visible on the south face of this return wall (Fig. 16, 12). The western doorway (Fig. 18, 5) may originally have led onto a stepped passage, later altered, leading up to the first floor chamber; this was adapted during the breaking of the secondary entry 3. The sill of original entry 5 has been removed by the insertion of a secondary arch (Fig. 18, 6) which appears to be associated with an area of infill, representing a further secondary entry? At ground floor level the remains of an arch can be seen in the angle with the present gatehouse east wall (Fig. 18, 7), its head 2.2m high. The arch rises to the junction with the wall, then disappears. However, the pattern of infill visible in the slabbed floor surface of the first floor (Fig. 23) suggest that this arch may represent an original ground floor entry to the south tower, in the angle between the walls

The lower half (6m) of this return wall has been finished off at its east end (Fig. 18, 8) but above this level it exhibits some original features, including the remains of a possible door-jamb or surround (Fig. 18, 9); however, it is not certain what any entry here would have led onto, lying 1m east, and below parapet level, of the former west curtain wall (see Fig. 16) .

The west side of the gatehouse is obscured by the remains of the west curtain wall, and the Old Police Station that was built against it. It was inaccessible during Phase 3 and it is hoped that it may be possible to gain some access, for recording, during Phase 4. The north tower first floor exhibits a blocked opening, presumably single-light, on this side. The entry onto the curtain wall-walk here, through the east wall, has been mentioned above (Fig. 17, 5).

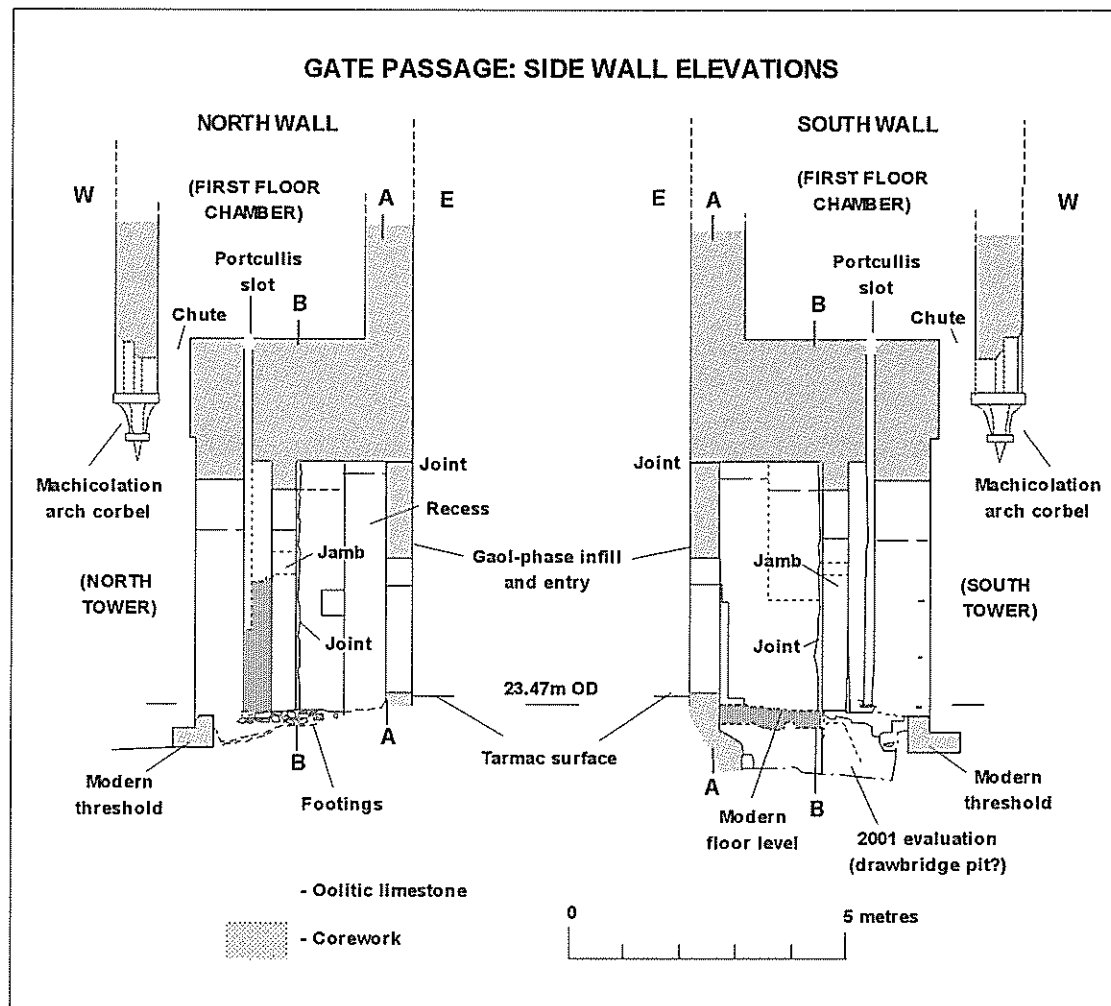
5.1.3 The ground floor and passage (Figs. 13, 19-22)

The gate passage lies between the two flanking towers (Fig. 13). It is now 4.1m long, 3m wide and 4m high, and segmentally barrel-vaulted throughout (Fig. 20). Its approach was covered by the 'flying' machicolated chute from the first floor and a portcullis slot still survives (Fig. 19). The surviving section exhibits the jams for only one pair of doors (Figs. 13 and 19), but it is likely that the east end was sealed by a second pair of doors in the former rear section. A full-height recess at the east end of the north side wall (Figs. 13 and 19), 0.8m wide and 0.2m deep, is of unknown function, but appears to be primary. The east of the passage is now closed off by the inserted gaol-phase wall, and smaller doorway, described above (Section 5.1.2; Fig. 17, 1, and Figs. 19 -20).

Immediately east of the jambs, ie. about halfway along, both side walls exhibit a pronounced vertical joint, which rise the full height of the passage (Fig. 19). They suggest that the passage comprises at least two building phases. Given the consistency within the rest of the fabric, it is possible that the east half of the passage is a remnant of the pre-1409 gatehouse (see Section 5.1.6).

The passage has been altered during the post-medieval period, many of the walls having been partly rebuilt and apparently poorly consolidated. It is entered from the west up two late 19th - early 20th century steps, with gated iron railings, and at the east end two steep steps lead to a further step into the gaol period. The floor was of concrete, and featured a manhole cover.

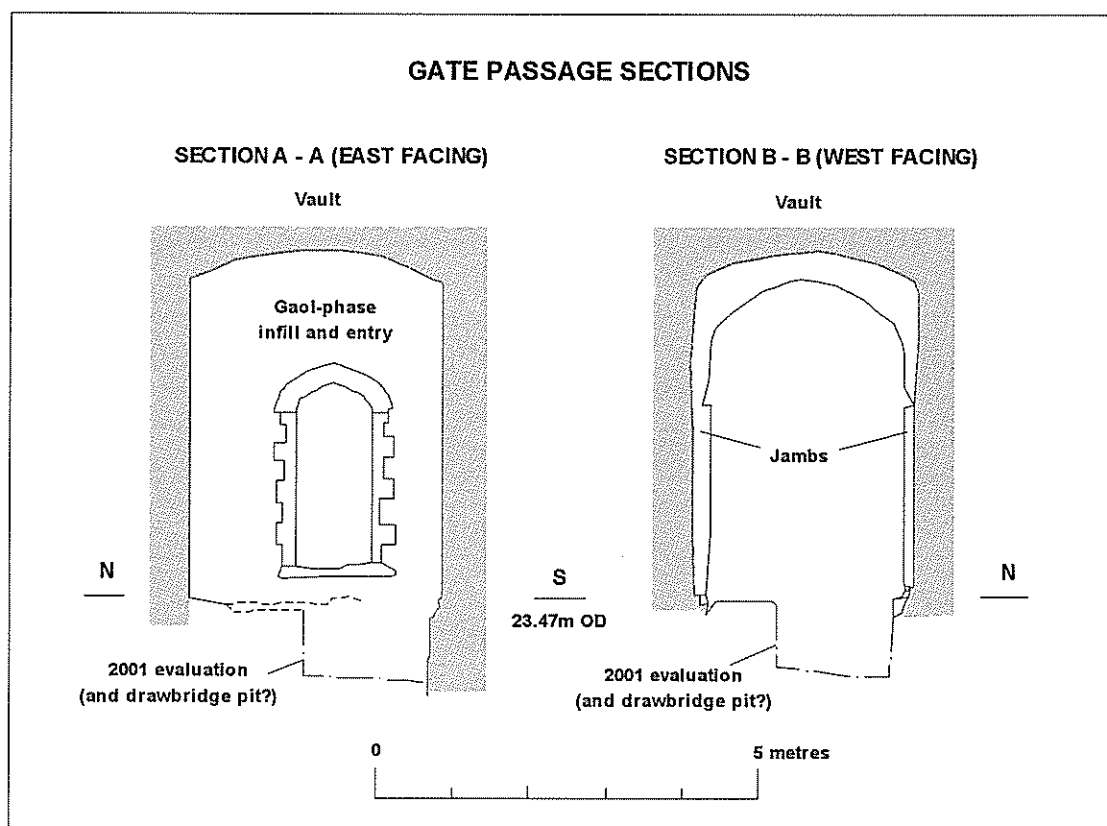
Fig. 19 - North and south elevations of the gate passage



The flanking towers were originally open at ground floor level, evidenced by an opening, later blocked, in the north tower. This has been badly damaged but may have represented an arrow-loop covering the gatehouse approach. It was unblocked during Phase 3 (Photos 17 and 18). It was hoped that, as part of the Phase 3 enhancement, these ground floor chambers might be re-opened. However, it soon became apparent that the chambers had been secondarily infilled (Fig. 13). This was partly removed from the north tower, by the contractors, in order to assess its potential for total removal (see Photo 19). Initially, the fill was found to comprise a loose, mortary soil containing stones, brick fragments, some animal bone and one clay pipe bowl of 18th – 19th century date. However, this gave on to solid, mortared rubble. After removal of the modern concrete screed on the first floor, the south tower was seen also to be filled by mortared rubble.

This rubble infill is clearly secondary (and was apparently partly removed from the north tower prior to being backfilled with loose mortary soil). In the south tower, the joint between it and the tower wall being clearly visible at first floor level (Fig. 23) indicating that the ground floor chambers had an internal diameter of 3m (external tower diameters are 5m), with walls 1m thick.

Fig. 20 - Sections A-A and B-B through the gate passage

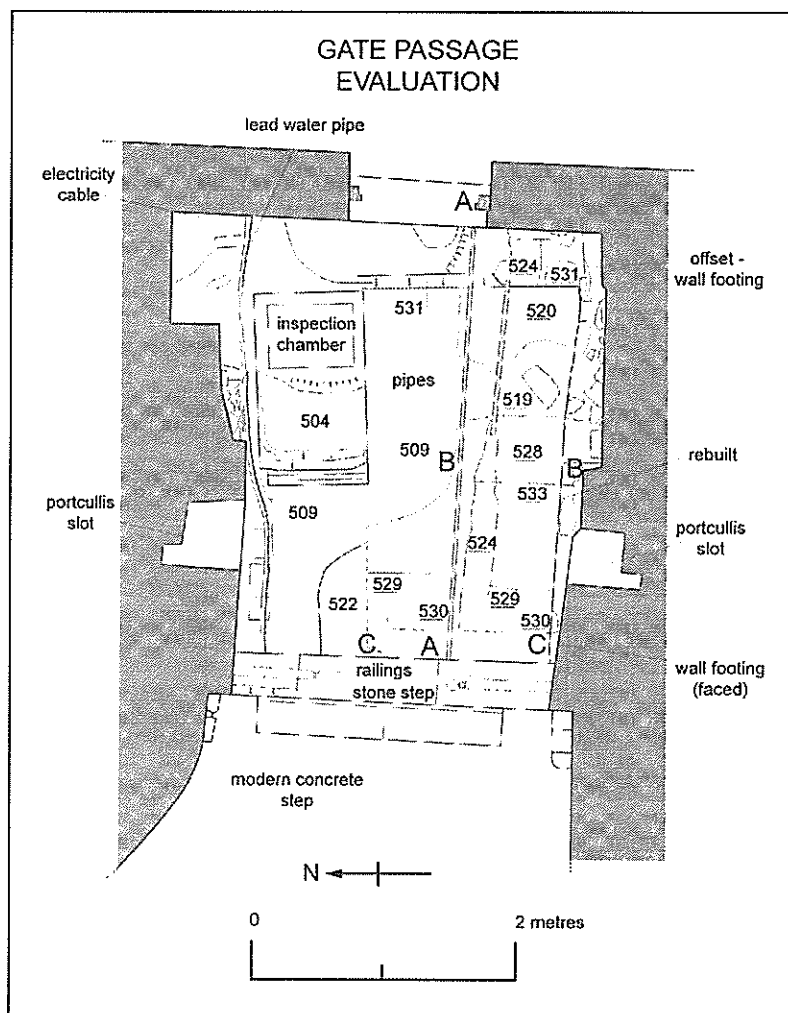


5.1.4 The passage evaluation (Figs. 21 and 22; Photos 21 and 22) - by Pete Crane

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in the gate passage in 2001 (Figs. 21 and 22). The purpose of this was to ascertain, by removal of modern disturbances, the underlying archaeology, to provide information for future design and display options. The concrete surface (502) was removed and proved to post-date the manhole construction (504). The interior of the manhole was voided down to c.1m, to a soil fill. There were no visible pipes at that level. When the eastern steps were removed, they showed wear underneath indicating that some of them had been re-used. Above or associated with an electricity cable, and below the rear step, a self-seal bag dated 23rd Feb '90 was found. Owing to the presence of the manhole, a live water pipe, an electricity cable and a further live high power cable below bricks (Fig. 21), excavation had to be restricted to the south side of the passageway. The depth of digging was halted at an artificial depth of c. 1.2m (Photos 21 and 22), as all modern material had been removed and no further practical progress could be made without the removal of service pipes also running across this side of the passageway.

The earliest features encountered were walls (or wall footings) on the east side (531) and south side (532 and 533) of the excavation (Fig. 21). The sequence in which these walls were constructed is uncertain. At the junction in the southeast corner the upper part of the walls (531 and 532) had been disturbed by a service trench and lower down there was an angled stone at the junction (Photo 22). On the south side there was a vertical butt-joint between the walls (532 and 531 – Photo 21). All of the walls or footings had good faces, mostly of red sandstone. Bonding of all the walls was in sandy soil - that of the east wall (531) and the adjacent southern wall (532) was very similar. The east wall (531) had a battered face (Fig. 22). The westernmost of these walls (533) had lime mortar pointing. Although this wall had a modern patch towards the front, its style suggests that it may predate the wall section (532) to the east.

Fig. 21 - Plan of gate passage evaluation trench
 (from Crane 2001)

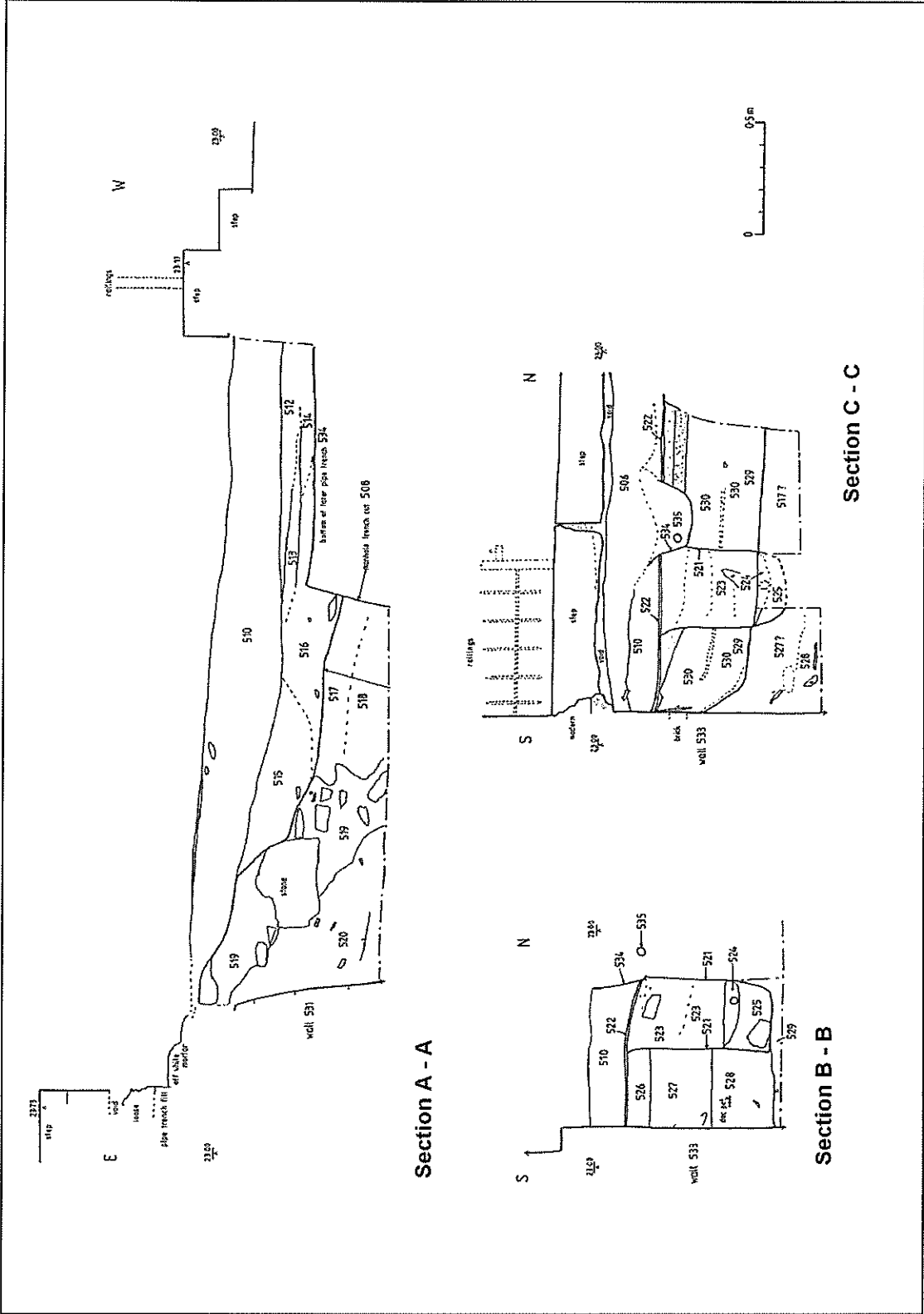


The earliest deposit (520) was at the eastern end of the excavated area (Figs. 21 and 22) and contained roof slate some pitched at an angle, indicating rapid deposition. This deposit contained one late medieval or early modern pottery sherd. Above and to the west there was re-deposited clay bonded walling (519). Above this was a deposit 518/528, recorded separately, but almost certainly the same, that contained one 18th century pottery sherd (Fig. 22) as well as handmade brick fragments. Above this there was a loose layer of soil (517/527), which lay under another deposit (526). These deposits all appeared to follow one after the other, from east to west.

At the west end of the excavation, one side of a probable trench (529), ran N-S. This had cut deposits (517, 526 and 527) that extended to the west end of the excavation. The fill (530) of the trench (529) contained a fragment of glazed medieval ridge tile. The patch of more recent material in the wall to the south (533) was in line with this feature.

A pipe trench (521, fills 512-516 and 523-5) cut the above deposits. The pipe was of iron, about 40mm in diameter, and surrounded by a deposit of hard ash. Above the upper fill of this pipe trench there was a 0.20m thick layer (522) of off-white mortar, and over this a layer of fairly loose soil. Both of these layers and some of the fills of the earlier pipe trench (521) were cut by another pipe trench (534, fill 535) (Fig. 22) with a similar pipe. Above this was a loose layer of soil (506); this appeared to be cut by the trench (508, fill 509) for the manhole (504). If the manhole trench did not cut the loose soil layer (506) it certainly cut the later pipe trench (534) and its fill (535).

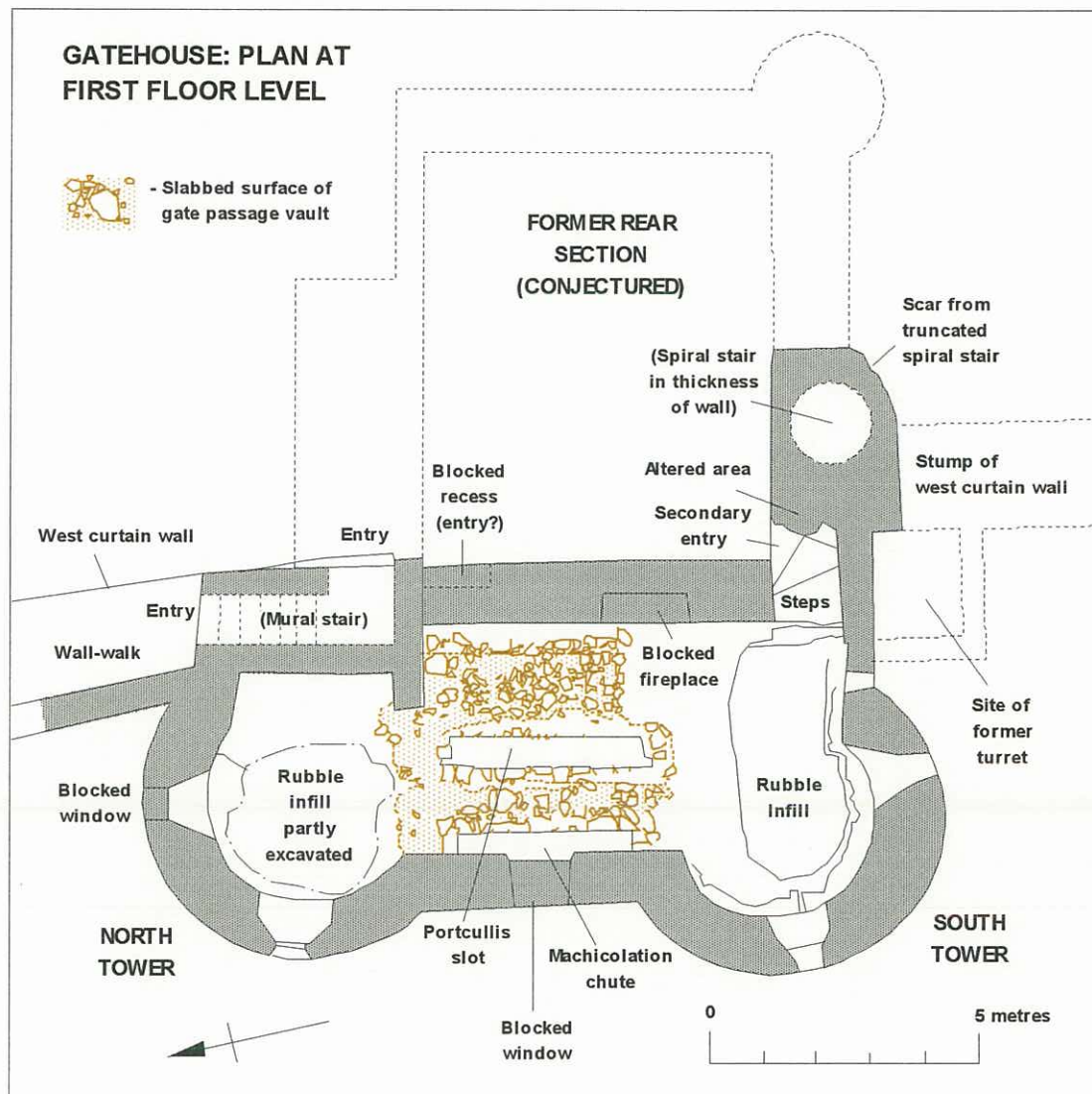
Fig. 22 - Sections of gate passage evaluation trench (from Crane 2001)



5.1.5 The first floor and parapet (Figs. 23 – 25; Photos 23 – 28)

The gatehouse first floor is now represented by a single, open chamber overlying the gate-passage and tower ground floors (Fig. 23). It measures 11m in length (N-S), averages 4.5m in width (E-W) and is 5m high to roof-crease level. It was lit by openings, described above in Section 5.1.2, in its north, west and south walls. All have splayed embrasures beneath segmental heads, except the small, lintelled loop on the south side (see Fig. 16, 3). There is a blocked fireplace, 2m wide and 1.6m tall, beneath a similar segmental arch in the east wall, which represents the dividing wall with the former rear section (Figs. 23 and 24d). The remains of an E-W return wall against this wall face suggest that the north tower was divided off as a separate chamber, but the wall does not seem to have been full height (Fig. 24c and d). The east wall is thicker here where it houses the mural stair to the west curtain wall-walk (see Fig. 17, 4 & 5; Photo 26).

Fig. 23 - Plan of gatehouse at first floor level



The floor was obscured beneath a modern concrete screed that was removed in 2001. It revealed the flagging - predominantly in Old Red sandstone slabs - overlying the gatehouse passage, and the top of the infill of the tower ground floor chambers (Fig. 23) - see Section 5.1.3 above). This could be seen not to extend to the foot of the internal wall faces, which are set back from the ground floor faces by 0.5m, the walls here being, at 0.8m, thinner than the ground floor walls.

Fig. 24 - Internal elevations of the gatehouse first floor

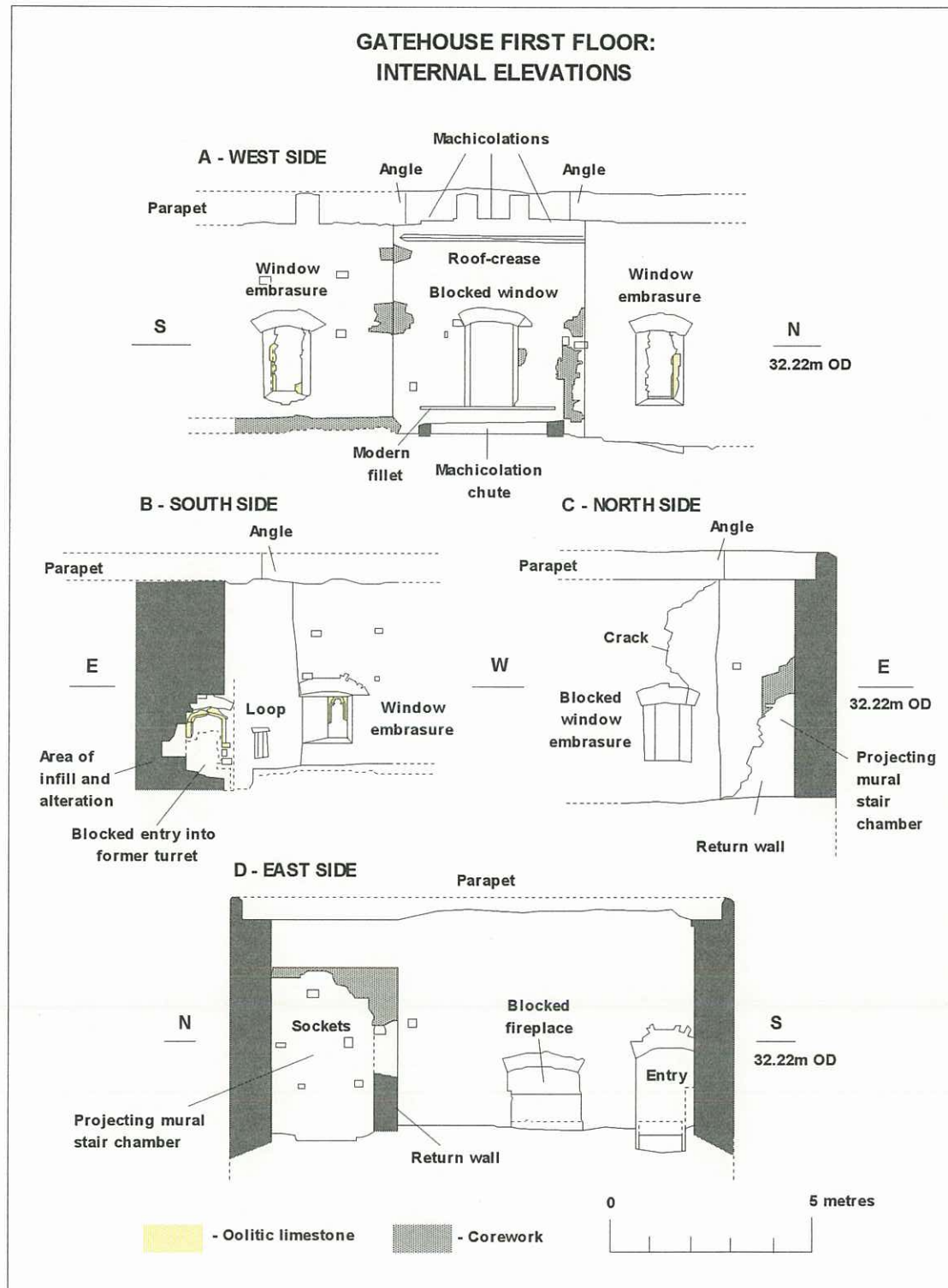
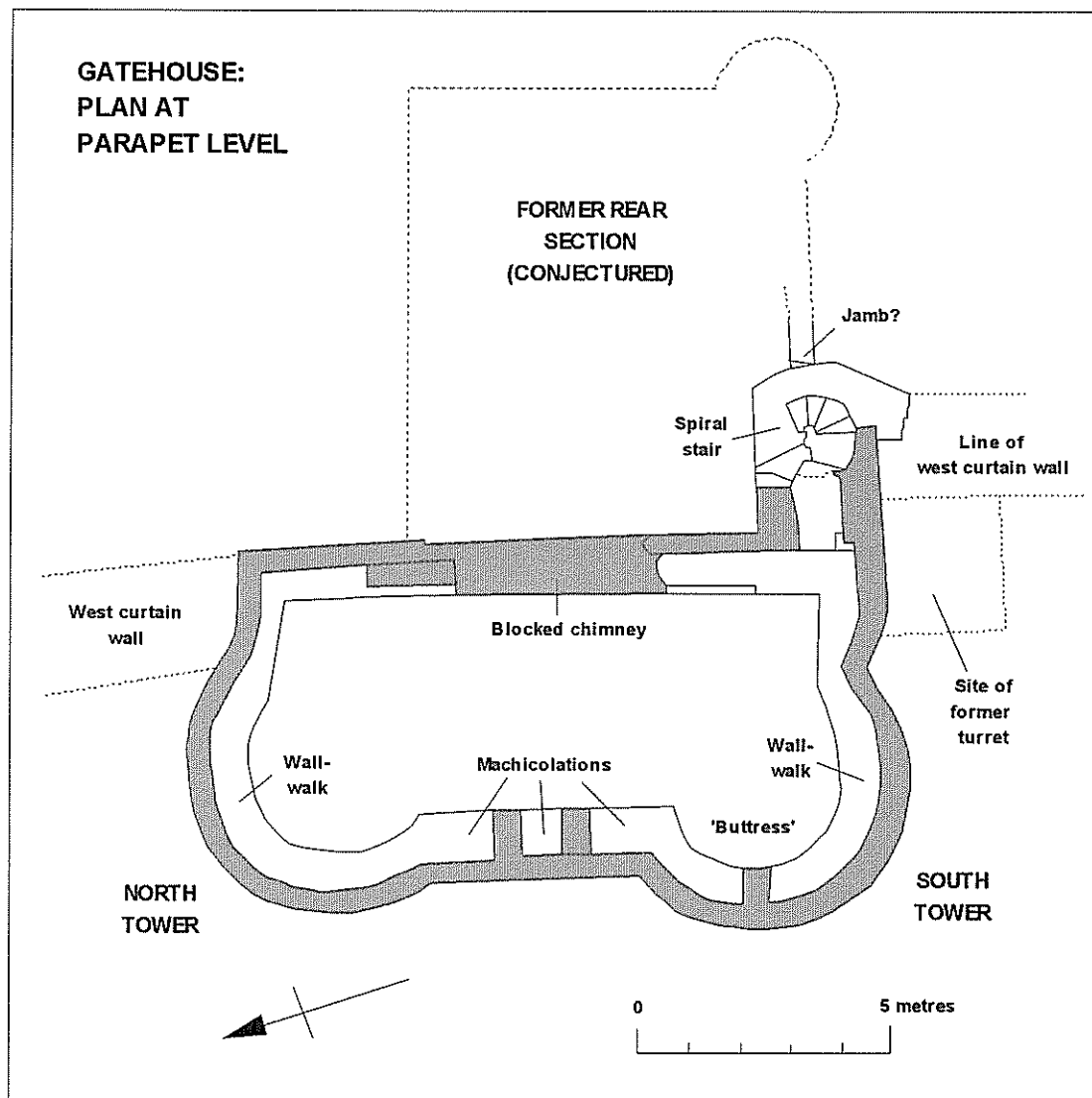


Fig. 25 - Plan of gatehouse at parapet level



The machicolated chute, through the flying arch on the west face, had always been visible, beneath a sloping glass cover, in the concrete floor. Removal of the concrete also revealed the portcullis slot, which had been slabbed over at some point during the post-medieval period. These slabs have been removed to expose the slot (Fig. 23; Photo 27).

Evidence for the method of roofing is slight. Surviving creasing is limited to the area of the west wall between the towers (Fig. 24a), and there are no sockets for rafters or tie-beams. Such sockets that exist - they are concentrated within the south tower, and the east wall of the north tower (Fig. 24b & c) - do not appear to be structural, but the latter may indicate a superstructure associated with some special use of this separate area.

The first floor is entered from the east, through a doorway at the south end of the east wall (Figs. 23 and 24d). It has a segmental head similar to the other openings. It leads from a short passage, 0.8m wide, in the thickness of the south wall of the former rear section (Fig. 23). This has been much altered, and is now entered from a post-medieval breach in the angle with the main east wall, described above in Section 5.1.2 (see Fig. 18, 3). It is thought that it originally featured a flight of steps leading down to an earlier doorway, also described above, that retains its surround but is now blocked (see Fig. 18, 5). The uppermost two steps remain, but the remainder of this mural stair has been subsequently infilled and is now only 2m

in length (Fig. 23). The uppermost step forms a fairly wide landing and, in the south wall, can be seen the four-centred oolite interior surround of a doorway (Figs. 23 and 24b; Photo 24). This formerly led into the turret in the angle between the gatehouse south side and the west curtain wall, and has been described above in Section 5.1.2 (see Fig. 16, 5). The south wall now terminates at the remains of the spiral stair described in Section 5.1.2 (Fig. 23; see also Fig. 16, 12).

Parapet level is largely featureless (Fig. 25; Photo 28). The parapet itself now only stands to an average height of 0.5m, and has lost its crenellations, but they are shown on the Buck engraving of 1740 (see Appendix 2, Plate 1). The wall-walk averages 0.8m in width, and the parapet wall is 0.7m thick. That the parapet always oversailed the former rear section is demonstrated by the fact that the wall-walk continues around the east side, although interrupted by the chimney from the first floor fireplace. This chimney stack, which is not shown by the Buck Brothers, was subsequently truncated and blocked, but can be seen to have a very wide base (4.5m N-S). The three, square openings for the upper level of machicolations over the gate passage entry can be seen on the west side, separated by low lengths of walling; a 'buttress' of similar masonry appears to form some strengthening for the parapet on the west side of the south tower.

The wall-walk was accessed from a spiral stair (Fig. 25), the upper of the two spiral stairs described above in Section 5.1.2 (see also Fig. 16, 13, and Fig. 18). This has been truncated, but its shaft probably continued upwards to oversail the parapet as a caphouse or turret; there is slight evidence for the sill of a loop on its north side. However, it can be followed down for some distance before being blocked by earth fill. The lower levels of the stair, and its point of origin, are therefore unknown.

5.1.6 Discussion

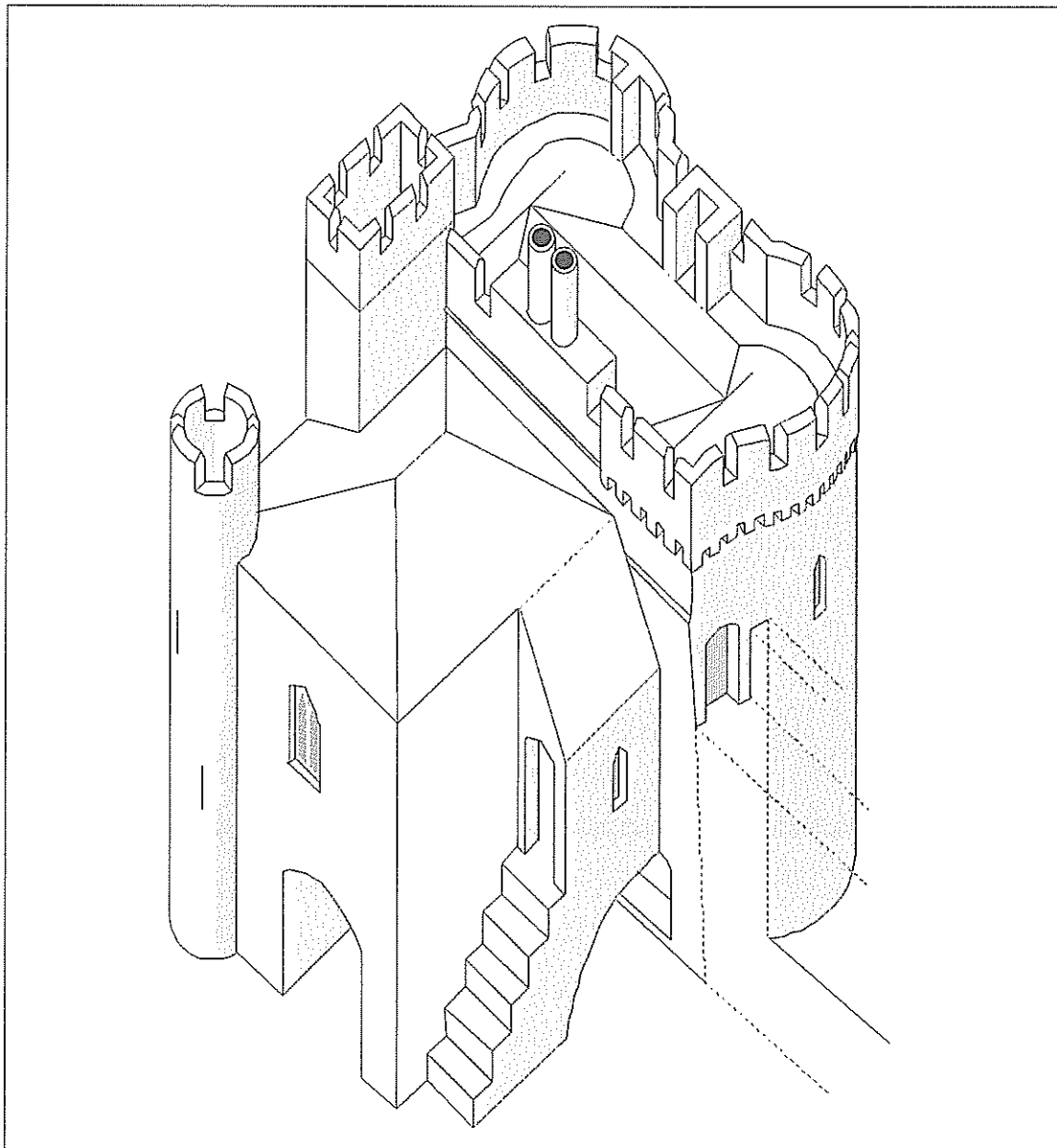
The gatehouse is a complex structure that has been much altered and was formerly larger, with a rear section that, with the exception of a short length of its south wall, has now gone. However, the evidence suggests that this rear section formerly extended eastwards to the gaol wall, within which its southeast corner is fossilised, and northwards to the scar shown on Fig. 17, which appears to represent the junction with its north wall (see Fig. 17, 7, 8 & 9) and is a continuation of the north wall of the gate-passage (see Fig. 17, 2). The scar however coincides with, and partly incorporates, a number of openings. This section will attempt to reconstruct the missing section (Fig. 26).

The scar from this suggested north wall replicates the coping, and string-course, over the projection housing the mural stair in the present gatehouse east wall (see Fig. 17, 6 & 7), indicating that they were both outside walls. It is one and the same as the scar from the gate passage north wall (see Fig. 17, 2). However, it runs around both sides of the mural stair doorway (see Fig. 17, 4), and fills in the whole of the wall face between the sill of this door and the opening below (see Fig. 17, 3). The only plausible explanation is that the doorway was integral with the suggested rear section north wall, which perhaps formed a covered lobby in front of the door (Fig. 26), reached by a flight of steps that was also integral with the wall. This lobby may have had a lean-to roof; the top right-hand corner of the scar over the door appears to follow the line of the coping, suggesting that the steps may also have led to the main first floor entry into the gatehouse. The suggested rear section north wall, however, appears to interfere with the ground floor opening/?tower entry (see Fig. 17, 3). Nevertheless, the steps may have run from east to west, carried by an arch that rose from ground level to the eaves of the present gatehouse, over the ground floor opening, to its junction with the present east wall which is marked by this scar (see Fig. 17, 9).

The fact that this suggested north wall was not revealed by the 2002 groundworks to the rear of the gatehouse may not be significant - the area had been much disturbed and only limited areas were trenched for Phase 3 (see Figs. 14 and 35).

The suggested arrangement is shown in Fig. 26. An arrangement of similar complexity existed in the gatehouse at Caldicot Castle, Monmouthshire, from about 50 years earlier ie. the mid 14th century (see Appendix 3, Fig. 3). The evidence suggests that the rear section lay beneath a E-W hipped roof, lying below - and oversailed by - the present gatehouse eastern parapet. The awkwardness of the junction between this rear section and the surviving gatehouse, and the fact that, at 7m from north to south it would be 3m narrower than the rest of the gatehouse, may suggest that the rear section was retained from the pre-1409 gatehouse which, as has been seen, comprised at least two storeys, with a constable's chamber on the first floor, in 1354 (Green 1913, 63-4, citing PRO, Ministers' Account 1221, 10).

Fig. 26 – Conjectural reconstruction drawing of gatehouse inc. rear section, from the northeast, based on structural and map evidence



It is possible that the masonry from the southeast corner of the rear section, fossilised within the gaol wall (see Fig. 14), may represent the much-truncated remains a circular spiral stair turret (Fig. 26) - it was, as noted above, labelled 'tower' on the 1819 plan (see Appendix 1, Map 3). Corner stair turrets occupy a similar location in all the large gatehouses built from the later 13th century onwards - Beaumaris, Caerffili, Harlech, Llansteffan etc. - and were usually, but not always, built as a pair.

Other elements of the gatehouse that have been lost include the turret that formerly occupied the angle between the south face of the gatehouse and the west curtain wall (see Figs. 13 and 16). The chambers in this turret may have represented something more substantial than mere garderobes (latrines) and other 'service' rooms and, superficially at least, equate with the concept of 'cellular lodgings' that arose during the 14th century when additional accommodation was required for household officers, clerks etc. (Thompson 1987, 46-57). They may be compared with the cellular lodgings that are similarly arranged vertically in the keep at Ashby-de-la-Zouch Castle, Leics., built during the 1470s (Thompson 1987, 93) and therefore may be further evidence of a 15th century date for most of the surviving gatehouse fabric.

The gatehouse tower ground floors were originally open. They may have been infilled with rubble as a measure against artillery, possibly during the Civil War of 1642-8; however earth was the normal choice of fill in such circumstances, as at Chepstow Castle, Monmouthshire. The loose mortary soil overlying the rubble in the north tower would appear to represent the fill of an excavation. This cannot be closely dated but it appears to have been backfilled soon after the rubble was removed. This backfill could be from any date after the late 18th century, but probably represents gaol-phase activity.

The removal of much of the south wall and turret, to create access from the neighbouring properties (see Fig. 16), either took place prior to 1740, or was infilled after that date, as no buildings are shown against the south face of the gatehouse on the Buck Brothers' engraving (see Appendix 2, Plate 1). Indeed it probably occurred in the late 16th - early 17th centuries, as the rubble infill of the tower ground floor - which appears to have been from the Civil War period (see below, Section 5.1.3) - must post-date this infill.

It may be that the wall faces/footings encountered beneath the present gate passage walls, during the evaluation, belong to the pre-1409 gatehouse (see Figs. 21 and 22). They are respected by the possible earlier, eastern half the passage. The space between these footings, given the date of the deposits, appears not to have been infilled until the post medieval period and it is possible that it represents a medieval drawbridge counterbalance pit. A drawbridge would, in all probability, have been a feature of the pre-1409 gatehouse.

The earliest detailed illustration of the west front of the gatehouse is Ogilvie's watercolour of c.1860 (see Appendix 2, Plate 2), in which the three first floor windows shown in Fig. 15 appear to have been blocked. No ground floor openings are shown, while a wall appears to have been built, closing off the gateway entrance

5.2 The causeway and cellars (Figs. 13, 14 and 27; Photos 29 and 30)

The area between the gatehouse and Nott Square was, until its demolition in 2001, occupied by a building - No. 12 Nott Square - that was erected in the 1980s over the site of two earlier properties, Nos. 11 and 12 (see Fig. 1). Landscaping works were undertaken in this area in 2002-3. They formed part of Phase 4 of the consolidation and enhancement scheme but will be summarised here for the sake of completeness. The works resulted in the exposure of three of the many cellars lying beneath the buildings that formerly lay between the gatehouse and Nott Square (see Figs. 13 and 14). They had been blocked off, and backfilled, during the 20th century and were accordingly emptied. The cellars - which have brick vaults carried on masonry walls - are post-medieval, and probably date to the late 18th- mid 19th century. They belonged to a public house, the Swan Inn (No. 11 Nott Square), which occupied the site from at least 1819 (see Appendix 1, Map 3), until its demolition in 1965-72 to improve the view of the gatehouse (John Llewellyn, CCC, *pers. comm.*). One cellar still featured the barrel stillages (Photo 29). Another showed the remains of a fireplace, illustrating the extremes of urban overcrowding, even in a small town like Carmarthen - and in comparatively recent times. A family memory of this kind of domestic use must be preserved in the town. However, in local memory the cellars appear to have transformed into 'tunnels'.

The cellars had been built within the fill of the deep defensive ditch that formerly lay between the castle and the town, and the southernmost cellar wall preserves part of the masonry causeway that formerly connected the gatehouse with the town (Photo 29).

Archaeological excavation, during Summer 2003, targeted this important area - the 'dynamic interface' between castle and town. This has been separately reported (Schlee 2004) but will be summarised here. More of the causeway was revealed, suggesting that it initially comprised two masonry piers, supporting a timber bridge, that was subsequently converted into a continuous masonry causeway by the construction of walling between the piers (Fig. 13; Photo 30). However, the development of the structure was a complex process - six phases of construction and alteration were identified. The subsequent five phases of the development of the site as a whole reflect the processes of gradual reclamation of the ditch in response to pressures of urban development, the partial re-excitation of the ditch - probably during the Civil War period - and the subsequent backfilling and redevelopment of the area.

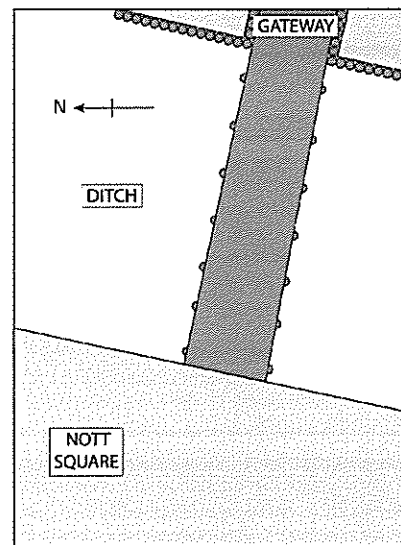
The piers appear to pre-date the 15th century gatehouse and perhaps represent the 'new bridge' referred to in an account from 1318-19 (PRO/E159/92, Memoranda Roll 12 Ed II), corresponding with Phases 2 - 4 in Fig. 27. The structure was not connected with the 1409 gatehouse as it was initially built, providing further evidence that the gap was spanned by a moveable drawbridge. This was probably a 'turning-bridge' - a timber structure which rotated about its central axis - the inside end of which was received by the counterbalance-pit suggested by the 2001 evaluation within the gatehouse passageway (see Section 5.1.4 above). A substantial masonry buttress was revealed at the Nott Square end of the causeway, where a barbican appears to be depicted on John Speed's map of 1610 (see Appendix 1, Map 1). However the buttress appears to be a Civil War addition when the ditch was re-cut (Fig. 27, Phase 8) - this may have removed all evidence for any pre-existing barbican or related structure.

The castle ditch was not bottomed in 2003, but a trench was dug within the fill proving that it was at least 4m deep. A number of important finds were retrieved from a waterlogged layer within the ditch-fill, including an assemblage of leather shoes and wooden bowls, as well as metal objects and paleoenvironmental evidence. At the end of the excavation, the site was backfilled excepting two of the cellars. Various possibilities for retaining the excavated features for public display have been considered and will be further explored during Phase 4. It is hoped that it will be possible to allow public access to the cellars, in some form, and to display the remnants of the medieval bridge/causeway.

Fig. 27 - Diagrams illustrating the development of the castle bridge/causeway, by Duncan Schlee

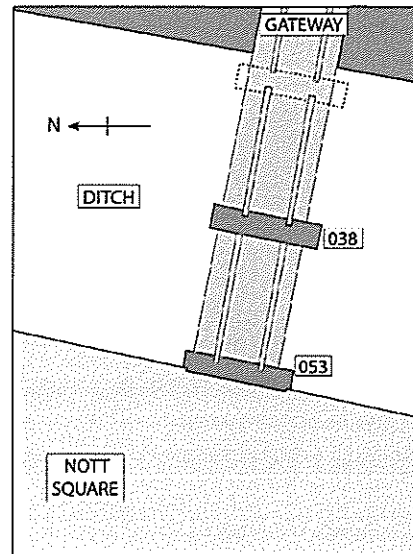
Phase 1 (c.1109-1223)

In this phase, a bridge constructed entirely of timber is hypothesised. This would have been associated with the earliest phases of the castle. No direct evidence for the location or character of the bridge, the width of the ditch or the nature of the castle defences in this phase has been revealed. The evidence for this phase is likely to have been destroyed or obscured by the later phases of the castle.



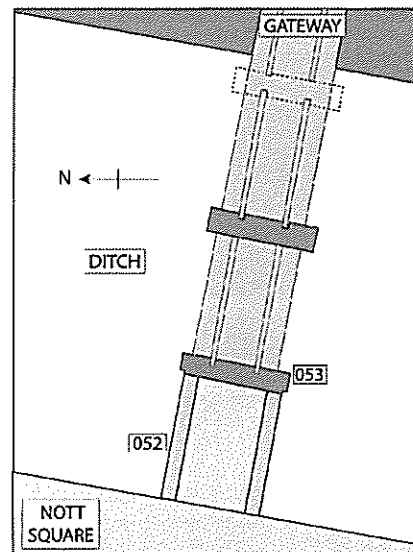
Phase 2 (c. 1223-1409?)

In this phase, the supports for the timber bridge have been replaced by stone piers (the 'New Bridge' mentioned in 1318-19?). Slots to house the bridge timbers are visible on the east side of [038]. There may have been a third pier to the east of [038], upon which a drawbridge would have rested. Pier [053] may mark the edge of the castle defensive ditch at this time. Evidence for this ditch edge would have been destroyed when the ditch was widened. The form of the gateway is unknown.



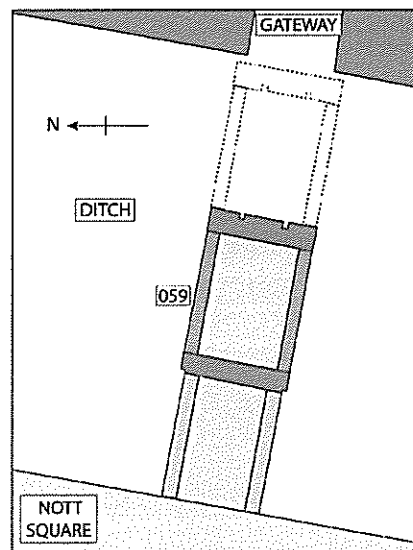
Phase 3 (c. 1223-1409?)

In this phase, the ditch may have been widened to the present-day edge of Nott Square, a width of 18m. Wall [052] and its equivalent to the south, were built to the west of pier [053] and filled with rubble to form a solid abutment, projecting out into the defensive ditch. East of [053] the bridge was probably still of timber construction. The form of the gatehouse in this phase is not known.



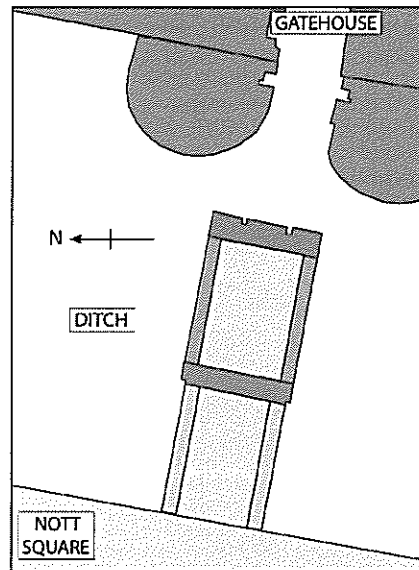
Phase 4 (c. 1223-1409?)

In this phase, wall [059] and its southern equivalent were constructed. These walls may have supported a timber superstructure, or may represent the infilling of this section of the bridge to create a more permanent masonry causeway. It is possible, but has not been proven, that the section to the east of [038] was also filled in, in the same manner, during this phase to create a solid causeway spanning the entire ditch. Alternatively, this section may have been of timber construction.



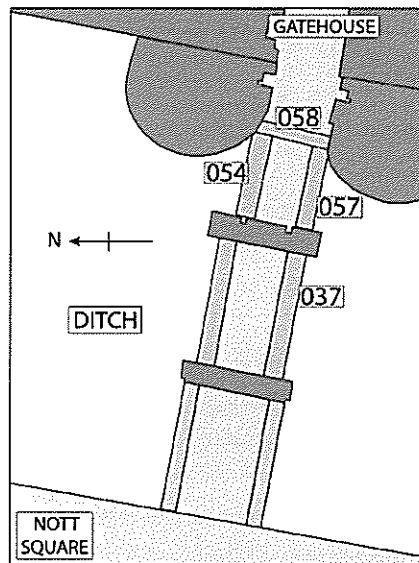
Phase 5 (c. 1409-1536?)

This phase represents the possibility that Phase 4 could have existed after the construction of the gatehouse that exists today (built in 1409). Much of the evidence for the earlier gatehouse would have been destroyed at this time. A drawbridge may have spanned the gap between the causeway and the new gatehouse. This phase may have existed for a while, gradually falling into disrepair, to the extent that in Phase 6, entirely new walls were built, rather than simply repairing the walls of Phase 5.



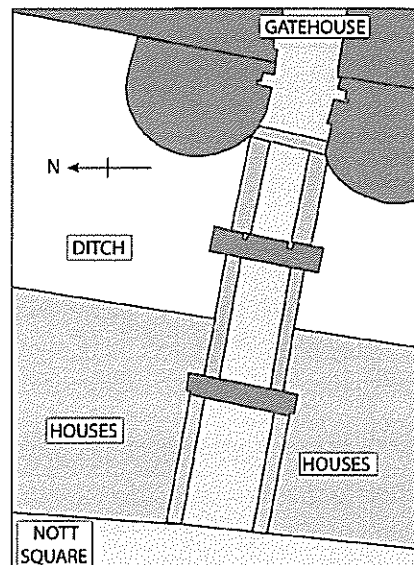
Phase 6 (c. 1409-1536?)

In this phase, walls [058, 037, 057, and 054] were constructed and the space between them filled with soil, to form a continuous solid causeway, associated with the new gatehouse construction. This causeway remains in use until the defensive ditch is filled in. The ditch will have gradually filled in through a variety of deposition processes, but may also have been cleared out from time to time. The construction of a permanent causeway suggests that the need to defend the castle had reduced.



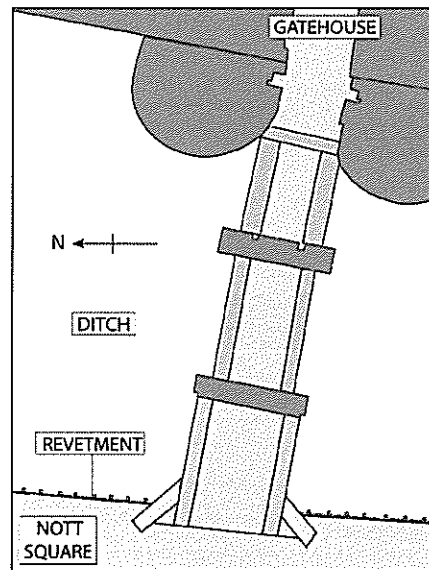
Phase 7 (c.1536-1642?)

Either through gradual in-filling or intentionally in response to increased pressure for room to build within the town, the ditch is made narrower, creating space for buildings to be built in front of the castle on land that was previously within the area of the ditch. The area between the new houses and the castle may have remained as open ditch, or may have been back yards for the houses. This is the phase that is represented on John Speed's map of Carmarthen drawn circa 1610. Because of events in later phases, no direct physical evidence for this phase has survived.



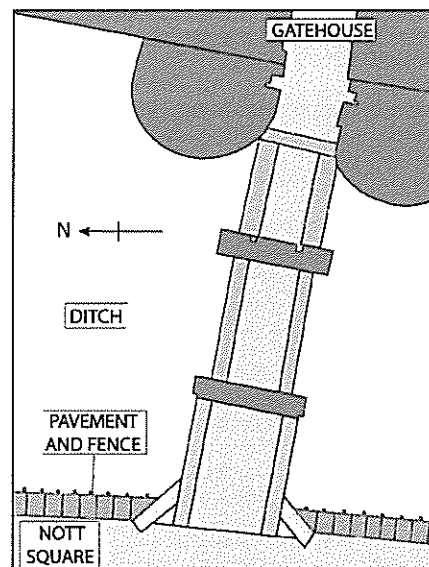
Phase 8 (c. 1642-1645?)

The houses of Phase F may have been demolished and the defensive ditch re-cut as part of the improvement of the castle defences during the Civil War (1642-5). This possibility explains the absence in the archaeological remains of evidence for the buildings depicted by John Speed including the possible barbican, which may have been destroyed. Angled buttress walls are built to strengthen the point where the causeway joins Nott Square. A timber revetment is also built to strengthen the edge of the ditch.



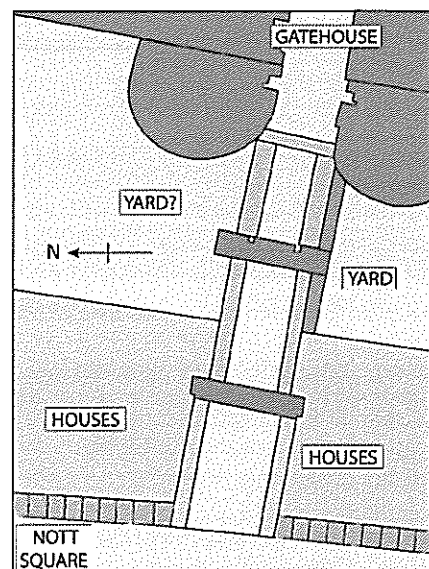
Phase 9

In this phase the ditch appears to have been fairly rapidly backfilled with rubbish. Although backfilled, the ditch appears not to have been built upon immediately. Instead a stone pavement and a fence were constructed along the edge of the ditch. This phase may have been short-lived, since after the Civil War, pressure for space to build within the town would have resumed.



Phase 10 (1645-1688?)

In this phase, the ditch was rapidly backfilled with rubbish deposits so that new buildings could be built to replace those that were demolished in Phase 8. The size and character of these new houses is not known. Only mortar and earth floor surfaces were revealed during the excavation, the walls, without stone footings, were truncated by later phases. Stone walls built against the south side of the bridge are possibly part of this phase, they suggest the space between the castle and the houses was open ground used as yards and that the causeway was still standing.



Phase 11 (c. 1786?- 2004)

The buildings of Phase I are replaced by the construction of buildings with vaulted brick cellars and stone wall footings (No. 11 Nott Square, and No. 21 Bridge Street). These are cut into the ditch infill, destroying much of the evidence of the earlier phases. By now, the ditch has been entirely filled in and the causeway has gone out of use and is no longer upstanding. The new buildings are on a different alignment and have cut through some of the walls of the causeway. Access to the castle remains as a passage between the buildings.

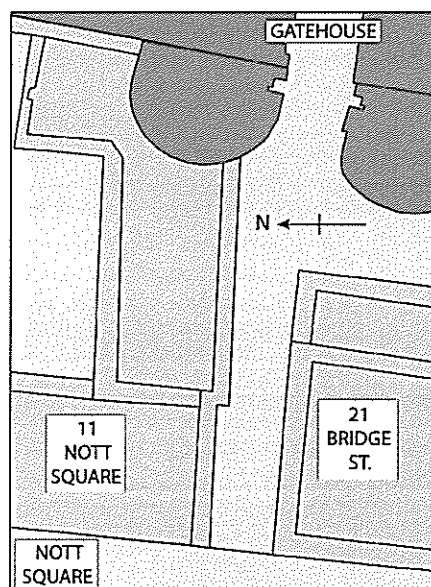


Photo 13 – The gatehouse from the west, before consolidation and excavation (see Fig. 15)



Photo 14 – The gatehouse from the south, after the demolition of the Rugby Club. The truncated west curtain wall, and the remains of the turret in its angle, can be seen, and the large area of robbing and infill in the central lower half (see Fig. 16)



Photo 15 – The gatehouse east face, facing northwest. The gaol-phase infill and entry are to the left, and to the right are the scar of the rear section north wall and the doorway to the west curtain wall-walk (see Fig. 17)



Photo 16 – The remains of the gatehouse rear section south wall, facing south, showing the blocked first floor entries, and secondary entry (see Fig. 18)



Photo 17 – The gate-passage entry from the outside, facing east, before excavation. The early 15th century dressings can be seen. The flanking opening in the north tower has been unblocked (see Fig. 15)



Photo 18 – The opening in the north tower, flanking the gate-passage entry, before unblocking, facing northeast (see Fig. 15)



Photo 19 – The secondary infill in the north gate-tower, during removal of later fill, seen at first-floor level (facing southwest). The flagged surface over the gate passage can be seen beyond (see Fig. 23)

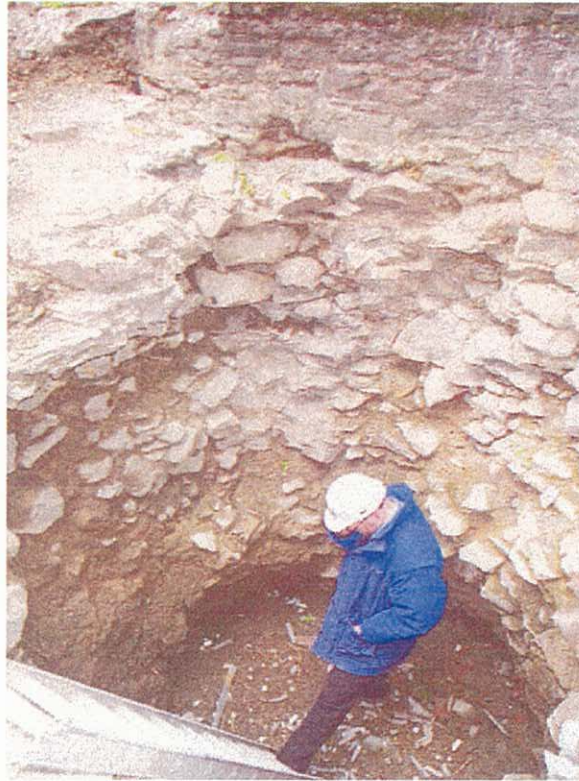


Photo 20 – The gaol wall from the west, showing the joint between the gaol-phase wall (left) and the remains of the southeast corner of the gatehouse rear section (right). See Fig. 33



Photo 21 – The gate passage evaluation trench, facing southwest showing the joint in the passage south wall where it forms the side wall of the probable drawbridge pit (see Fig. 19)



Photo 22 – The gate passage evaluation trench, facing east showing the inserted gaol-phase doorway and infill (see Fig. 20)



Photo 23 – The gatehouse first floor, facing south, showing the surviving 15th century surround in the window opening, and the top of the ground floor infill (see Fig. 24b)



Photo 24 – The blocked entry into the former turret from the south side of the gatehouse first floor, facing southeast. The area to the left has been damaged and altered (see Fig. 24b)



Photo 25 – The gatehouse first floor facing north, showing the blocked north tower window opening, and part-excavated ground floor infill below it (see Fig. 24c)



Photo 26 – The northeast corner of the gatehouse first floor, facing northeast, showing the coped vaulting over the mural passage to the west curtain wall-walk (see Fig. 24c and d)



Photo 27 – The gatehouse first floor, facing south, during removal of later slabbing from over the portcullis slot (see Fig. 23)



Photo 28 – General view of the gatehouse parapet, facing northeast (see Fig. 25)



Photo 29 – The post-medieval cellar beneath No. 11 Nott Square, facing east. The gatehouse north tower can be seen beyond. The north wall (to the right) incorporates elements from the medieval bridge/causeway. The plinths lining both walls were barrel stillages



Photo 30 – The south side of the medieval bridge/causeway, during excavation, facing northeast. The photo shows the eastern bridge pier and later connecting walls, and the gatehouse south tower (right)

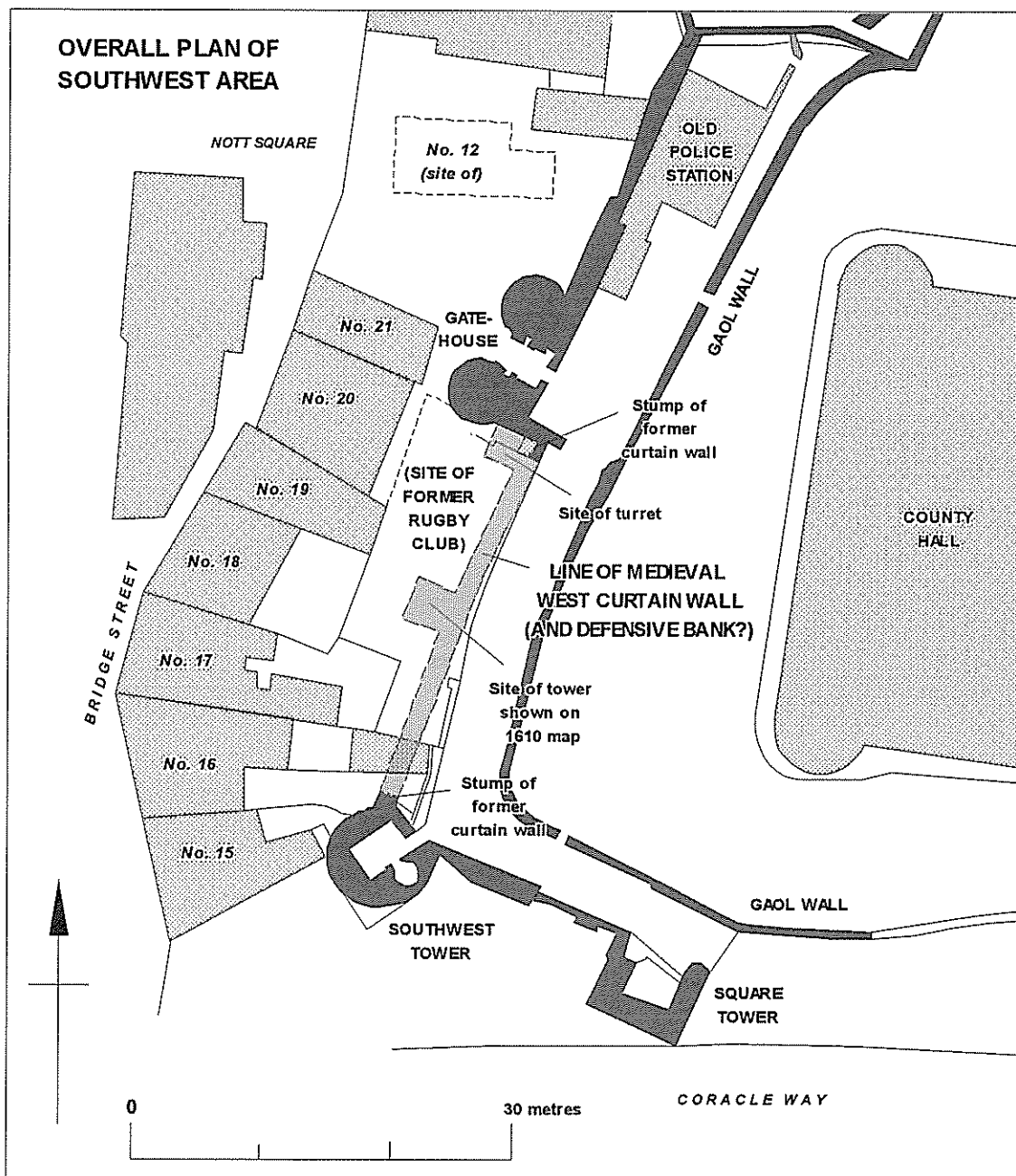


6.0 THE FORMER WEST CURTAIN WALL AND DEFENSIVE BANK

A medieval curtain wall formerly connected the gatehouse to the Southwest Tower, running N-S for 30m along the west side of the castle site (Fig. 28). This had gone by 1740 and is not shown on the Buck Brothers' engraving (see Appendix 2, Plate 1) but its line was maintained, and is depicted on Thomas Lewis' map of 1786 (see Appendix 1, Map 2).

The truncated stump of the medieval wall can be seen on the north face of the Southwest Tower. Its junction with the gatehouse has been described above, Section 5.1.2, where the scar on the south side indicates a basal thickness of at least 1.8m (Fig. 16, 1). Here, the curtain also formed the east wall of a former turret, in the angle with the gatehouse, and its differing thickness higher up suggests that this section of the curtain wall, at least, was rebuilt when the turret and gatehouse were built in 1409. The line of the curtain wall was apparently more-or-less straight, but a square interval tower is shown halfway along its length on John Speed's map of Carmarthen of c.1610 (see Appendix 1, Map 1).

Fig. 28 - Overall plan of southwest area of castle showing line of medieval west curtain wall



The line of the curtain wall was formerly occupied by the east wall of the Carmarthen Quins Rugby Club, which lay west of the castle site and over the presumed castle ditch, behind Nos. 18 - 20 Bridge Street. The Rugby Club appeared to be a late 20th century building. It was demolished in 2001. Its east wall was temporarily retained as it apparently revetted ground levels to the east, within the castle interior, which lay over 1m above that to the west. It was subsequently proposed that the wall, which in the main was a thin, brick-built structure, would be demolished and replaced with a masonry wall more sympathetic with the character of the castle remains. A watching brief was undertaken on the demolition of the wall.

Plaster stripping revealed that the southern end of the Rugby Club wall was of masonry. It was recorded, and a small test pit was excavated in order to assess its relationships. It was concluded that the lower part of the wall may date to the gaol period, although the upper part was modern and contained brick. Where it joined the Southwest Tower, there survived the lower part of a very late post-medieval or modern outhouse (Fig. 29). This was removed, the floor being photographically recorded. The material below the floor was excavated to a depth of c.0.5m, producing late 19th century ceramics, and it was discovered that there were no footings beneath it, either for the medieval curtain wall or the Rugby Club wall to the east. Therefore no further excavation took place.

The northern three-quarters of the Rugby Club wall were of 20th century brick. During its demolition, the revetted deposits behind were slightly disturbed, revealing stratified archaeology. It became apparent that the contractor intended to excavate a 0.60m strip from these stratified deposits to facilitate the construction of the new wall. Neither Cambria Archaeology nor TACP had been aware of the contractor's method statement for this work, although one was said to have been submitted. The watching archaeologist called a halt to these groundworks and arranged a meeting the following day with the contractor and the regional archaeological curator, where it was agreed that the wall line should be moved forwards, so as to avoid disturbing the stratified archaeological deposits. The new wall line would now lie in front of the masonry southern wall section. The section revealed by removal of the brick part of the Rugby Club wall, and the construction trench for the new wall, were drawn and photographed.

In addition, three evaluation trenches were archaeologically excavated in the area of the former Rugby Club to establish the line of the west curtain wall and the site of the tower shown by Speed.

6.1 The evaluation in the former Rugby Club (Figs. 29 and 30) - by Pete Crane

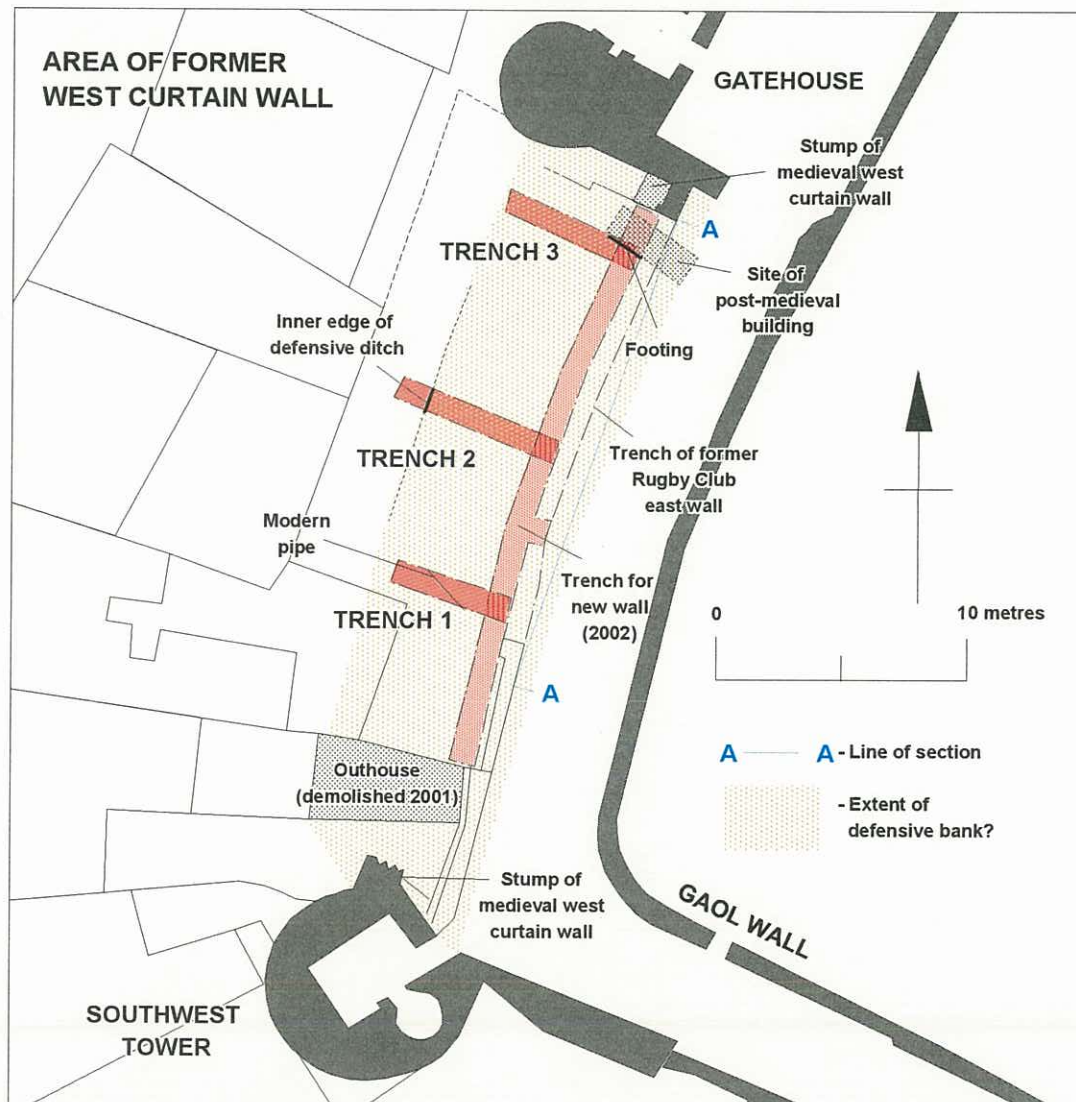
After the demolition of the Rugby Club and the removal of the floor and floor make up, three evaluation trenches were machine-excavated by a mini-digger, using a 0.6m wide toothless bucket. The trenches were then hand cleaned (Fig. 29). The trenches were all 1m wide and between 6m and 8m in length. All were excavated up to the foot of the Rugby Club east wall.

The southernmost, Trench 1 (Fig. 29), was 6m in length. It was excavated to locate both the tower and the curtain wall. The trench was machined, to a depth of c.0.8m, into natural glacial layers of orange or orange-grey clay and gravel. Above was a layer of brown clay loam, which was overlain to the west by a floor surface of bricks and cobbles. A gully containing a concrete encased pipe cut the floor at an angle across the trench. No evidence was found of either the tower or curtain wall. The layer of brown clay loam was probably a natural buried soil horizon.

Trench 2 (Figs. 29 and 30) was 8m in length. It was situated halfway along the area and was again excavated to locate the tower and curtain wall. It was machined to a maximum depth of 1m, into natural deposits (101) similar to those encountered in Trench 1 but with more gravel. These natural deposits were disturbed by a cut, 6.4m west of the Rugby Club east wall (112). This cut (102) was parallel to the projected curtain wall and appeared to be the edge of a ditch. Three fills (103, 104 and 105) of this probable ditch all contained mortar flecks which would not be inconsistent with late medieval or post-medieval deposits. Above the natural there was again a layer of brown clay loam (106). This clay loam was overlain by a mortary soil (107), which was disturbed, especially in its upper regions, and contained brick

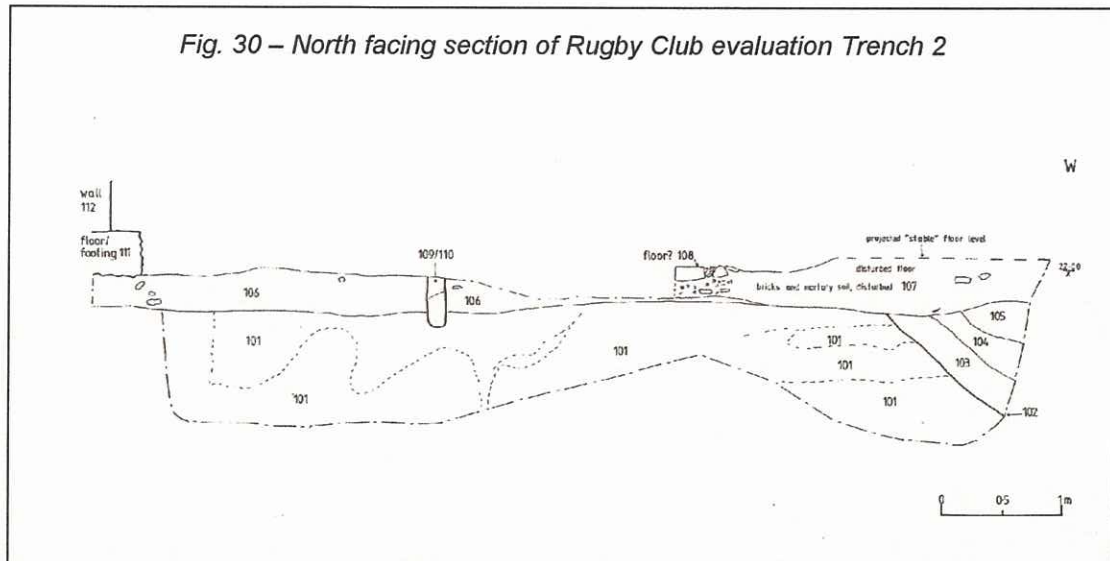
fragments, along with two sherds of post-medieval pottery. A floor (108) above this layer, although very disturbed, appeared very similar to that in Trench 1. A post-hole (109) was cut through the brown clay loam (106). This post-hole fill (110) contained a piece of wood and a nail, and appeared to be a modern deposit. The concrete floor and footing (111) appeared to be the same deposit, on which the Rugby Club wall (112) had then been constructed.

Fig. 29 - Plan of area of west curtain wall, showing evaluation and construction trenches



Trench 3 (Fig. 29), was 6m in length. It was excavated to locate the curtain wall and also to test for any remains of the turret which formerly lay in the angle with the gatehouse. This trench was machined to the top of the natural. A narrow flat-based gully, 0.3m wide by 0.3m deep, cut through the natural at an angle to the trench. The fill of this feature contained no artefacts but was similar to that found within Roman features elsewhere around Carmarthen. Above the natural there was a layer of brown clay loam, similar to that found in both Trenches 1 and 2. This layer was cut, on the north side of the trench, by a 1.2m wide feature with a flat base. On its west side, the fill of this feature contained flat stones laid upon each other, while the majority of the eastern fill comprised two layers of mortar soil. The stones appeared to be footings, while the rest of the fill was consistent with the robbing of those footings. At the west end of the trench was a flat bottomed cut, 0.6m deep, which also cut through the brown clay loam. The fill of this feature contained a very large quantity of animal bone and broken roof slate and, although there was no datable evidence, appeared to be quite modern.

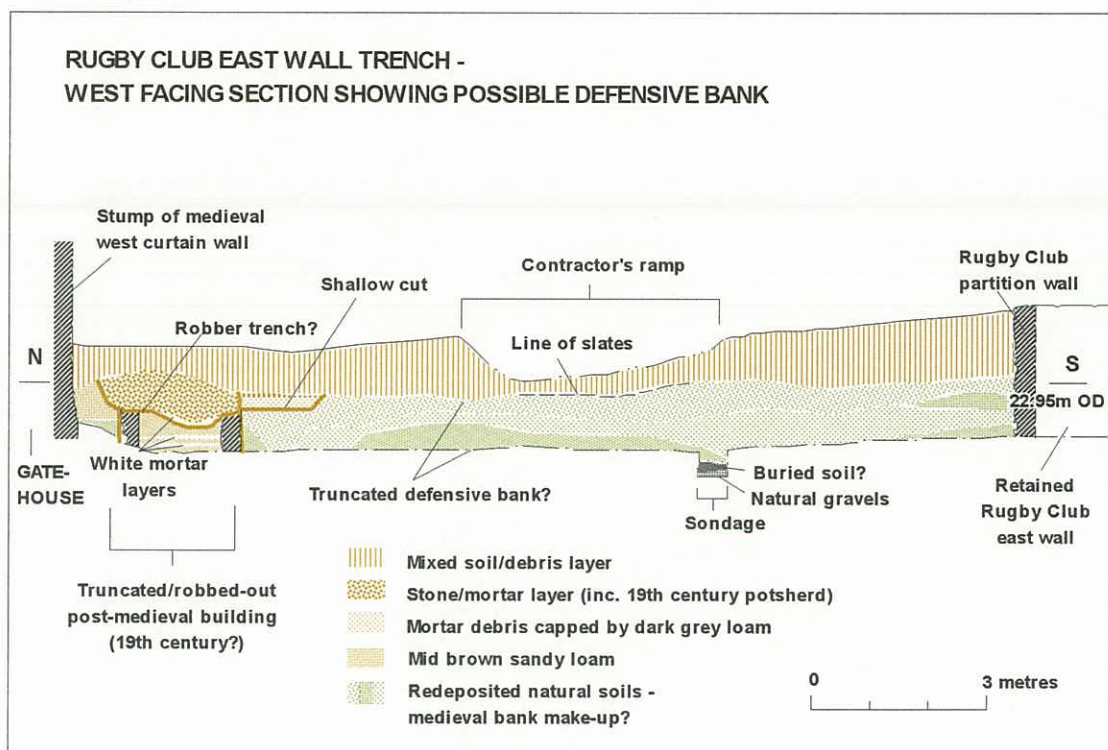
Fig. 30 – North facing section of Rugby Club evaluation Trench 2



6.2 The defensive bank (Figs. 29 and 31; Photos 31 and 32)

The section revealed by removal of the Rugby Club wall was 2m high, above Rugby Club ground level, and 16m long (N-S). It was cleaned and recorded. In most of the section, a depth of 1m of mixed, 19th -20th century deposits, belonging to the gaol phase, was seen to directly overlay a sandy clay deposit, 1m thick (Fig. 31; Photos 31 and 32). The latter was entirely sterile and appeared to be natural subsoil, but evidence for stratification within it suggested that it had been redeposited. Moreover, it was seen in a deeper sondage to overlay a brown clay loam that appeared to be a buried soil, probably the same as that observed during the 2001 evaluation (see Section 6.1 above). It is argued below, Section 6.3, that the redeposited subsoil represents a defensive rampart or bank. The buried soil beneath it in turn overlay natural fluvioglacial gravels.

Fig. 31 – West facing section left by the removal of the Rugby Club east wall, showing possible bank deposits



At the north end of the section, two truncated E-W walls were visible, each 0.3m thick and 1.4m apart. They were cut into the redeposited natural. They represent the north and south walls of the post-medieval building whose south wall footing was recorded in Trench 3 of the 2001 evaluation (see Section 6.1 above). The building contained a sandy loam deposit, with two bands of white mortar. It has been demolished, and apparently partly robbed out by a large cut containing stone and mortar debris (and a 19th century potsherd), prior to the deposition of the latest deposit, the mixed, 19th -20th century soil, a shallow cut to the north having been cut during the intervening period. It had clearly gone by the time the Rugby Club east wall was built.

The construction trench for the new wall was 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep, also extending N-S for 16m. It cut directly through the natural buried soil, and no archaeological features were observed (Photo 32).

6.3 Discussion

The absence of any evidence for either the curtain wall or the tower, even though a buried soil was revealed, may suggest that the wall was built without footings, as elsewhere within the castle eg, the Southwest Tower and Square Tower. However, it is unusual that absolutely no footprint could be discerned. It is therefore more likely that the redeposited natural soil seen in the east wall section, which overlays the buried soil encountered throughout this area, represents the remains of a defensive bank or rampart, on which the curtain wall was built. The top of the bank appears to have been subsequently truncated during the post-medieval period, removing the curtain footings (if it had any). It was probably further truncated in more recent times - the remains of the bank are overlain by 19th-20th century material - possibly during the construction of the Rugby Club?

The square interval tower shown by Speed may have occupied the western slope of the defensive bank. This side of the bank appears to have been cut back from the backyards of the neighbouring Bridge Street properties during the post-medieval period, down to the level of the buried soil, removing all evidence for the tower. This bank was probably thrown up as part of the initial castle defences in c.1109, from upcast material quarried from the castle ditch, accounting for its composition and sterility.

The cut found in Trench 2 is probably the inner edge of the castle ditch. It lies 9m west of the projected line of the curtain wall. This was thought to indicate a very wide 'berm' but it is more likely that it marks the line of the 'tail' of the defensive bank, ie. the bottom of its western slope, which would have coincided with the edge of the ditch. The ditch edge would not have been encountered in Trenches 1 and 3 as they did not extend westwards as far as Trench 2.

The footing seen in Trench 3 was thought by the excavator to belong to the medieval turret that formerly lay in the angle with the gatehouse (see Section 5.1.2 above). However, it was not parallel to the gatehouse south wall and it was subsequently seen to belong to the demolished building that was later recorded in the section of the Rugby Club east wall. This building was clearly post-medieval as it straddled the line of the medieval curtain wall and was cut into the truncated remains of the defensive bank. The building may already have been demolished, and partly robbed-out, when the 19th-20th century material was laid down over the remains of the bank (when the Rugby Club was built?).

The finding of a possible Roman feature in Trench 3 was not unexpected, as the site is not a great distance from the walled Roman town and even closer to the earlier fort. It lies at an angle to the castle walls increasing the likelihood of an earlier date. The post-medieval flooring in Trenches 1 and 2 predates the Rugby Club and may belong to an outhouse or stable belonging to No. 18 Bridge Street.

Photo 31 – The section left by the removal of the Rugby Club east wall, facing northeast. The gatehouse south tower is to the left. The remains of a post-medieval building are visible to the left of the section (see Fig. 31)



Photo 32 – The section left by the removal of the Rugby Club east wall, and the new wall trench, facing southeast. The bottom half of the section shows the redeposited subsoil (bank material?) and the buried soil can be seen in the new trench. See Fig. 31



7.0 THE GAOL WALL AND YARD

The post-medieval gaol was rebuilt in 1789-92 by the renowned Regency architect John Nash, who began his career in Carmarthen. It was rebuilt following criticism of the old gaol by the reforming philanthropist John Howard, and in a period of general prison reform (Lodwick 1972, 20). John Nash designed two more county gaols, at Cardigan, built 1791-96, and Hereford, built 1792-96 (Suggett 1995, 25-27). They share certain stylistic elements - the entrance facades at Carmarthen and Hereford, for example, were similar bold, rusticated neo-Classical designs, ultimately based on Newgate in London (*ibid.*, 28-29) - but none has survived to any degree of entirety. Map evidence shows that Carmarthen Gaol was added to during the early 19th century, but that it was always confined to the area of the inner bailey, the outer bailey to the east being occupied by a street of cottages called 'Castle Green' (Appendix 1, Map 4). This was acquired by the gaol in 1868 (Carms. Record Office, Appointment and Release of Castle Hill, 1868) and the gaol was enlarged, to extend over both the inner and outer baileys and removing the last traces of the dividing wall between the two. This work was complete by 1881 (Carms. Record Office, plan of gaol, 1881 - see Appendix 1, Map 5).

The high, masonry enclosure wall lying 8m to the east of, and parallel with, the gatehouse and west curtain wall belongs to the County Gaol. It now forms the west side of County Hall car park where levels are 1.2m lower than those behind the gatehouse. The wall is mainly from the period when the gaol was rebuilt and enlarged during the 1860s-70s, beginning in 1868. However a section at the north end dates from the pre-enlargement gaol phase, before 1868, and it was apparent that it incorporates the remains of the east wall of a contemporary building, probably the gaol infirmary. The gaol wall was to undergo minor repairs and alterations as part of the consolidation scheme and was drawn and photographed, on both sides, for its entire length. All major structural features were noted. This recording technique was employed so that a stone by stone drawing could be produced if required at a later date.

The area between the gatehouse and the gaol wall formed a yard which was occupied by a succession of buildings during the 19th - 20th centuries. Further evidence for the infirmary building was revealed, and recorded, during groundworks in this area during 2002. It was replaced, at some point in the 19th century, by the Old Police Station. Evidence for further buildings was also revealed in 2002. The area between the two walls, south of the gatehouse, appears always to have remained open.

7.1 The gaol and infirmary walls (Figs. 32 – 34; Photos 16, 33 and 34)

The gaol wall, as it now exists, stretches nearly 70m from N-S and incorporates four distinct sections (Figs. 32 and 33) -

- 1 - towards the north, the remains of the east wall of a building, probably representing Nash's gaol infirmary, from 1789-92
- 2 - north of the infirmary, a length of broadly contemporary walling connecting it to the shell-keep 'forebuilding'
- 3 - a length of broadly contemporary walling leading south from the infirmary, connecting it to the remains of the gatehouse rear section (see above, 5.1.1).
- 4 - a long stretch of walling, representing nearly half of the total length of the gaol wall, leading south from these medieval remains. This section was new built in the 1860s-70s. It leads towards the southwest corner of the castle, where it curves round to the east.

These elements now appear to form a single entity with a level summit, on average 6.5m above present County Hall car park level, and an average thickness of 0.8m. There is now only one entry through the wall, in the area of the former infirmary wall.

Fig. 32 - Elevation drawing

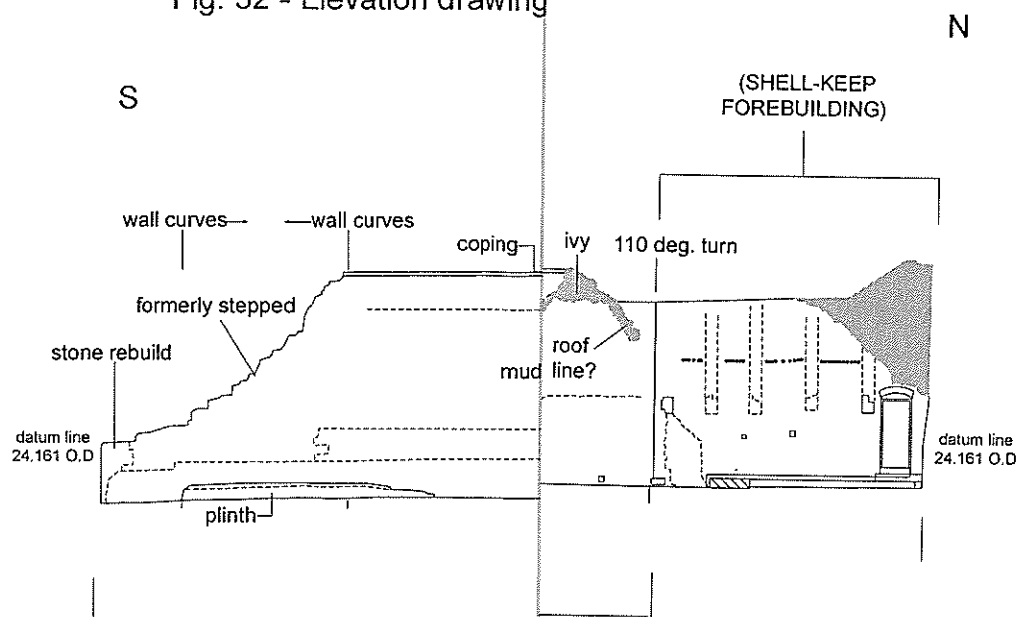
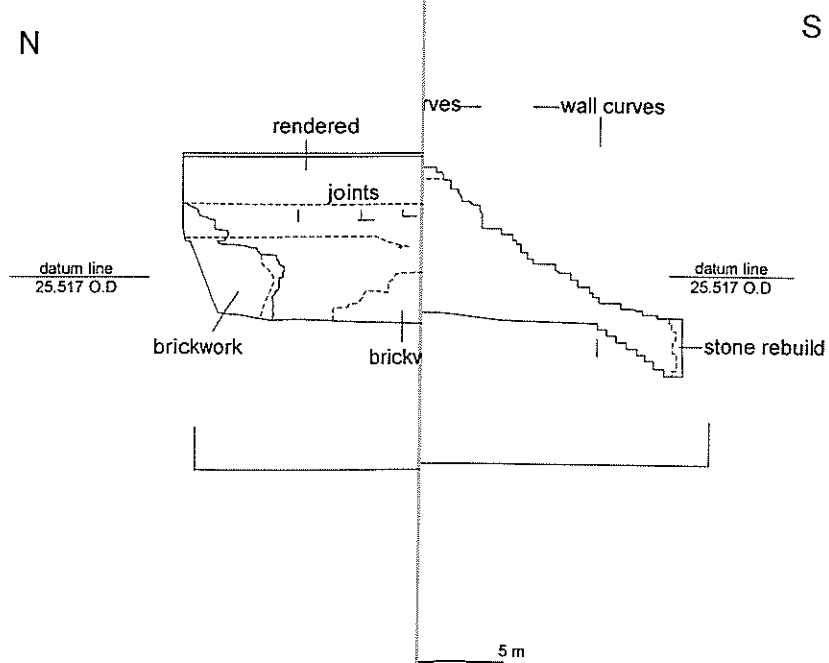


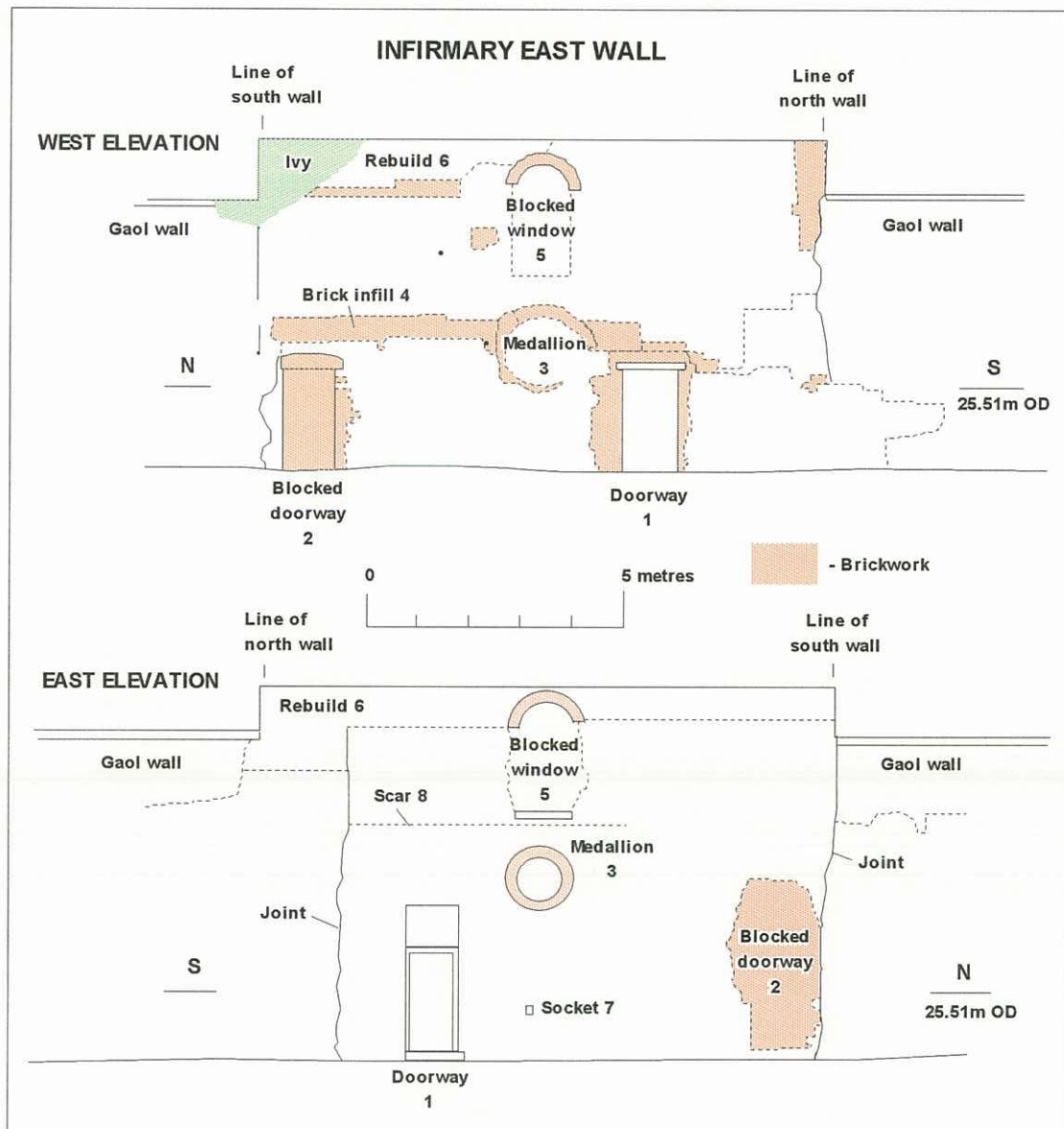
Fig. 33 - Elevation drawing



7.1.1 The infirmary east wall (Fig. 34; Photos 34 and 35)

Nash's infirmary is shown on Richard Suggett's reconstructed plan of the early gaol (see Appendix 3, Fig. 1). It butted against the rebuilt, medieval west curtain wall, whose inner face shows a distinct dog-leg at the junction with the northwest corner of the infirmary. Its north and south walls have gone, but their footings were revealed in 2002 (see Fig. 35 and Section 7.2 below). The surviving remains of the east wall are separated from the remainder of the gaol wall by a vertical joint at either end (Fig. 34). With the footings, they show that the building measured 8m square. The wall shows the building to have been at least of two storeys. It is now flat-topped, and appears to have been a side wall, but it may have been truncated (and was thus perhaps an end wall, formerly gabled?). It now rises 1m above the walling on either side, with a total height of 7.5m on the east side. The facework is predominantly in Old Red Sandstone.

Fig. 34 - Elevation drawings of infirmary east wall



The wall shows evidence for a number of openings and/or detail, two of which are stylistically consistent with a late 18th century date, and indeed with John Nash's own architectural signature (Photos 33 and 34). However, the present entry through this wall is an insertion (Fig. 34, 1), probably from the mid 20th century - it does not appear to be present on an aerial photograph of c.1930 (see Appendix 2, Plate 4) - and has a brick surround beneath a

concrete lintel. A second ground-floor entry, to the north (Fig. 34, 2), was also a secondary insertion but, with its segmental brick head, may have been earlier. It has subsequently been blocked, in brickwork and stone which, on the east face, entirely obscures the original opening.

Central to both wall faces, between the two entries, is a slight recess in the form of a medallion, with a brick surround, 0.9m in diameter (Fig. 34, 3). It is clearly an original Nash motif. It lies between ground- and first floor level, and appears to interrupt the floor-line to the west, where a horizontal chase (Fig. 34, 4) has been infilled in brick. The recess then appears always to have been blind, rather than an open *oculus*. It now exhibits a masonry infill to the west, where much of the surround has gone, and a brick infill to the east. Above the recess is a central, first floor window (Fig. 34, 5), 2.2m tall, now blocked with masonry. Any surround has been lost but the graceful, full-centred semicircular brick head survives on both faces. The window is also an original Nash feature. The wall has been partly rebuilt, in masonry, above this level (Fig. 34, 6). There are few other features; a socket on the east (external) face may or may not be original (Fig. 34, 7), while a horizontal scar halfway up the same face (Fig. 34, 8) may have belonged to a lean-to building, now gone, and not present on historic maps the aerial photograph of c.1930 (see Appendix 2, Plate 4).

The infirmary appears to have replaced an earlier, three-storey gable building that is shown on the Buck Brothers' print of the castle, from 1740 (see Appendix 2, Plate 1). All features of the infirmary east wall appear to be stylistically consistent with a late 18th century date, and Nash's own signature, so it is likely that this earlier building was entirely demolished. The infirmary appears to have been used as the general hospital for Carmarthen town between c.1846 and 1858 (Lodwick 1972, 143) but was demolished later in the 19th century, the Old Police Station being erected in its place. This probably occurred during the 1860s-70s enlargement programme, the Old Police Station being marked on a map of 1895 (see Appendix 1, Map 7).

7.1.2 *The remainder of the gaol wall*

Section 2 of the wall runs north from the infirmary for 20m, to join the shell-keep 'forebuilding' (Figs. 32 and 33). Although it butts against the infirmary east wall, it may be broadly contemporary and is shown by Suggett on his reconstructed plan of the early gaol (see Appendix 3, Fig. 1). Facework is in limestone and Old Red Sandstone rubble. The wall shows evidence for numerous repairs, in brick, and may be partially rebuilt. What appears to be a gabled roof line is visible on the east face, so a further building may be fossilised within the wall; however no building is shown here by Suggett, or on any historic maps (see Appendices 1 and 3). A joint is visible halfway up the east face, while the upper third (1.5m) appears to represent secondary heightening, which is rendered to the west. A number of cracks are also visible. A blocked doorway, with a brick surround, can be seen centrally on the east side. It corresponds with a low semicircular arch on the west side, in brick, whose head is only 1m above ground level here. This appears to occupy the original fabric and so the doorway may be an original feature, leading through the low arch to a below-ground space - a cellar? or cells? (Suggett's plan shows steps here - see Appendix 3, Fig. 1). The east face also exhibits a line of cut-off iron rods, halfway up. These may have been associated with adjoining buildings - a plan of 1881 shows the area between the gaol wall and the west curtain, north of the gatehouse, as fully built over (see Appendix 1, Map 5). The coping at the wall-top is from the 1860s or later.

Section 3, a 10m length of walling leading south from the infirmary (Figs. 32 and 33), butts against the remains of the southeast corner of the gatehouse rear section (see above, 5.1.1). It also butts against the infirmary but like the above section, appears to be broadly contemporary and is similarly shown on Suggett's reconstructed plan, where it defines a rectangular area, labelled 'yard', behind the gatehouse (see Appendix 3, Fig. 1). In its current form, however, it appears not to be all of one build. To the west, the facework is entirely in a muddy limestone while to the east, a vertical joint separates similar muddy limestone facework from Old Red Sandstone facework, the latter heightened in limestone to the same level. No other features are visible. The coping at the wall-top is from the 1860s or later.

The remains of the southeast corner of the gatehouse rear section (see above, 5.1.1) form a rather amorphous pillar of predominantly limestone rubble masonry, 2m wide (Figs. 32 and 35; see Photo 16). It is not visible on the east face where it lies behind 19th century facework, but the west face of the wall bellies out to give a thickness of 1.8m at this point.

Section 4 represents nearly half of the total length of the gaol wall and extends south from the medieval remains for 25m (Figs. 32 and 33). This section was newly built in the 1860s-70s, and is first shown on plan of the gaol from 1881 (see Appendix 3, Map 5). The wall is all of one build, although the facework, especially to the west, is in alternate bands of grey limestone and muddy limestone rubble, which is coursed and roughly squared. The coping at the wall-top is from the 1860s or later and incorporates a secondary arched feature. The wall leads towards the southwest corner of the castle where it curves round to the east, dropping down (formerly dropping in finished steps, now gone) to form a lower wall on the south side of the castle site. This lower wall has been entirely rebuilt since the 1930s. An aerial photograph of the gaol, from c.1930, shows the gaol wall, in all other respects, as today (see Appendix 2, Plate 4).

7.2 The yard (Figs. 14 and 35; Photo 35)

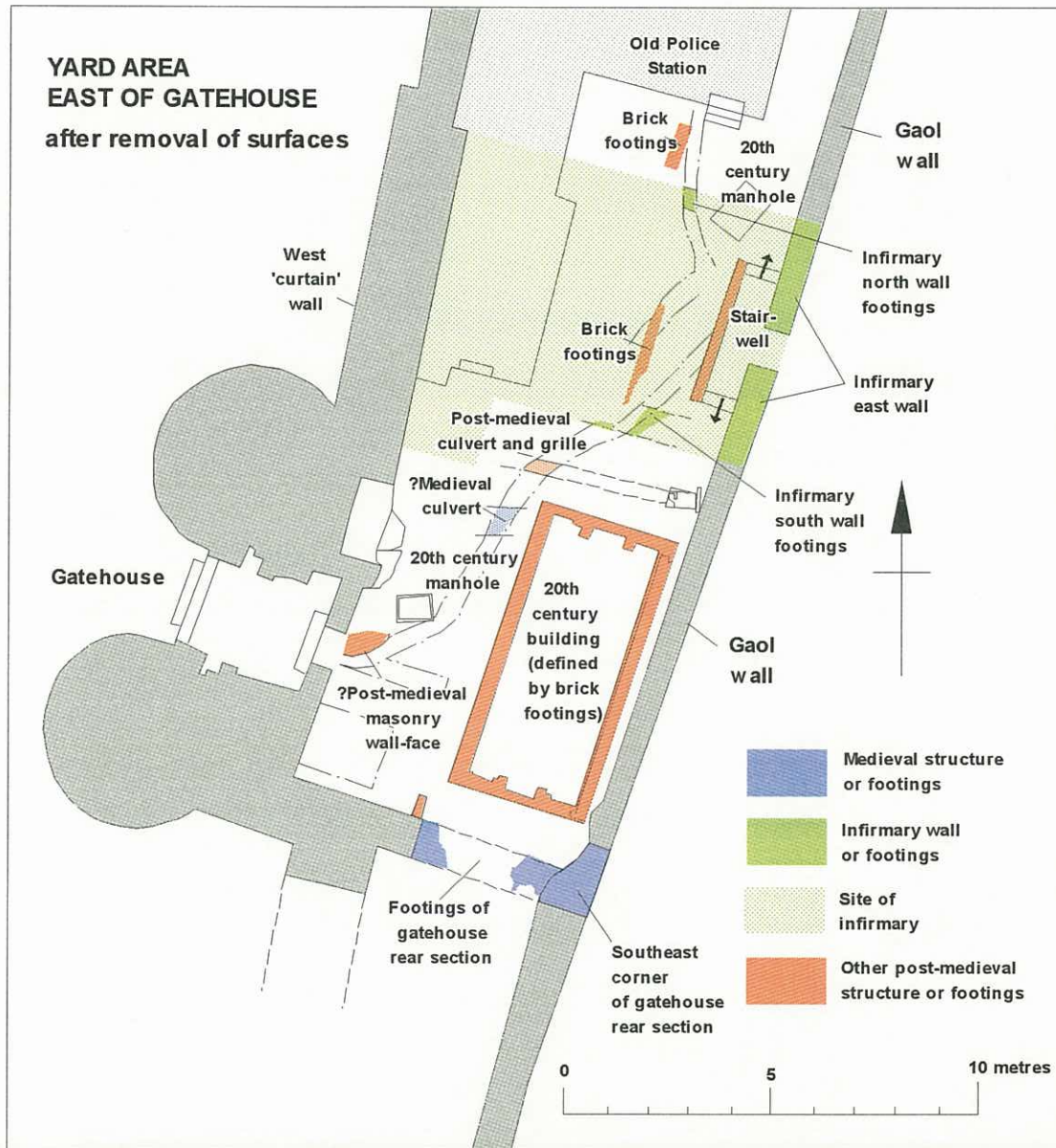
The area between the medieval gatehouse and the late 18th century gaol wall was, prior to 2002, a level tarmac-surfaced yard, within which the Old Police Station lay hard up against the N-S 'curtain wall' running north from the gatehouse (Fig. 35). The enhancement works here involved the removal of the existing tarmac surface, and a 0.3m depth of its underlying make-up, so that resurfacing with stone slab paving could take place. New drainage was also installed, together the base for a spiral stair to provide access to the first floor of the gatehouse. During this work the opportunity was taken, by Western Power, to renew the 11,000 volt ring-main that runs across the site. A series of small test-pits were recorded in this area by Cambria in 1998, but revealed no significant archaeological features (Ramsey 1998). In fact, it was apparent that this area had undergone considerable disturbance during the post-medieval period, being crossed by a plethora of drains, culverts and other trenches. However, many of these culverts are significant archaeological features in their own right, belonging to a period fairly early within the gaol phase of the site's history. Moreover, damage to underlying deposits has been by no means complete - the removal of the tarmac and its underlying make-up revealed a considerable number of archaeological features, some of them just below the surface.

Suggett's reconstructed plan shows this as a rectangular area, labelled 'yard', between the gatehouse, the infirmary and the gaol wall (see Appendix 3, Fig. 1), its south side defined by the south wall of the former gatehouse rear section – curiously, as this appears to have gone by 1740 (see Section 5.1.1 and Appendix 2, Plate 1). As noted above, the infirmary had gone by the late 19th century when it was replaced by the Old Police Station.

The 2002 groundworks revealed two E-W wall footings (Fig. 35), corresponding with the ends of the infirmary east wall (see Section 7.1.1 above). They clearly represent the infirmary north and south wall lines. The north wall was 0.6m thick, but the south wall was noticeably thicker at 0.9m. Both were in a similar Old Red Sandstone fabric to the infirmary east wall, leading the watching archaeologist to assume that they were medieval. As noted above in Section 5.1.1, the groundworks also revealed the south wall of the medieval gatehouse rear section while a large, stone-capped culvert, aligned E-W and observed in a trench immediately east of the gatehouse (Fig. 35), was thought by the watching archaeologist to be possibly medieval (Pete Crane, *pers. comm.*).

An area of masonry immediately beneath the east side of the gatehouse, and extending into the yard, was probably all of post-medieval date, as it contained some brick fragments. It may represent the footings for the 1789-92 blocking, and doorway, in the rear of the gatehouse. A brick-built culvert was found immediately north of the gatehouse when a dumper truck broke through the stone slab above an inspection hole or drain. Within this culvert was a substantial iron grille, possibly to prevent prisoner access. The brickwork would suggest an earlier gaol-phase date, and it appeared to rise at a point immediately west of the gaol wall (Fig. 35).

Fig. 35 - Plan of yard to the east of the gatehouse, after removal of surfaces, showing modern trenches and archaeological features



To the south of the culvert the tarmac removal revealed the brick footings, and one brick course, of a long, N-S rectangular building, probably with a fireplace at either end (Fig. 35; Photo 35). It measured 7.5m N-S and 3.5m E-W and occupied most of the space between the gatehouse and gaol wall. The bricks indicate an early 20th century date. The building is partly shown on a photograph taken through the gatehouse entrance passage in the c.1920s (see Appendix 2, Plate 3), in which it appears to be a rendered structure with simple square window openings which had possibly lost their frames. It is hidden by the gaol wall in an aerial photograph from c.1930 (See Appendix 2, Plate 4). The course above the footings was removed to facilitate the laying of the new stone slab paving.

To the south of the rectangular building, on the line of the southern medieval wall, was a substantial iron bar set in concrete; possibly others had been removed and could be part of a late gaol-phase structure. A few other lengths of brick footings were partly uncovered within this general area (Fig. 35) but not sufficient to make meaningful interpretations. Other 20th century structures include a large brick manhole and chamber just to the north-east of the gatehouse.

The space between the gaol wall and the Rugby Club east wall (see above, Section 6.0), south of the gatehouse, lay beneath a flagged stone surface that was laid during the 1980s. This was left *in situ*.

The Old Police Station is marked, and labelled 'County Police Station', on the OS 1:500 map of 1895 (see Appendix 1, Map 7), but the extension to the south is not shown and it may be early 20th century. The buildings were not included in the scope of the Phase 3 works and have therefore not yet been recorded; it is anticipated that a full record will be made during Phase 4. However, the east face of the wall connecting the Old Police Station with the shell-keep - which is contemporary with the building, ie. probably 1860s-70s, was drawn and photographed (Fig. 36).

Fig. 36 - Wall between the shell-keep and the Old Police Station:
elevation drawing of east face

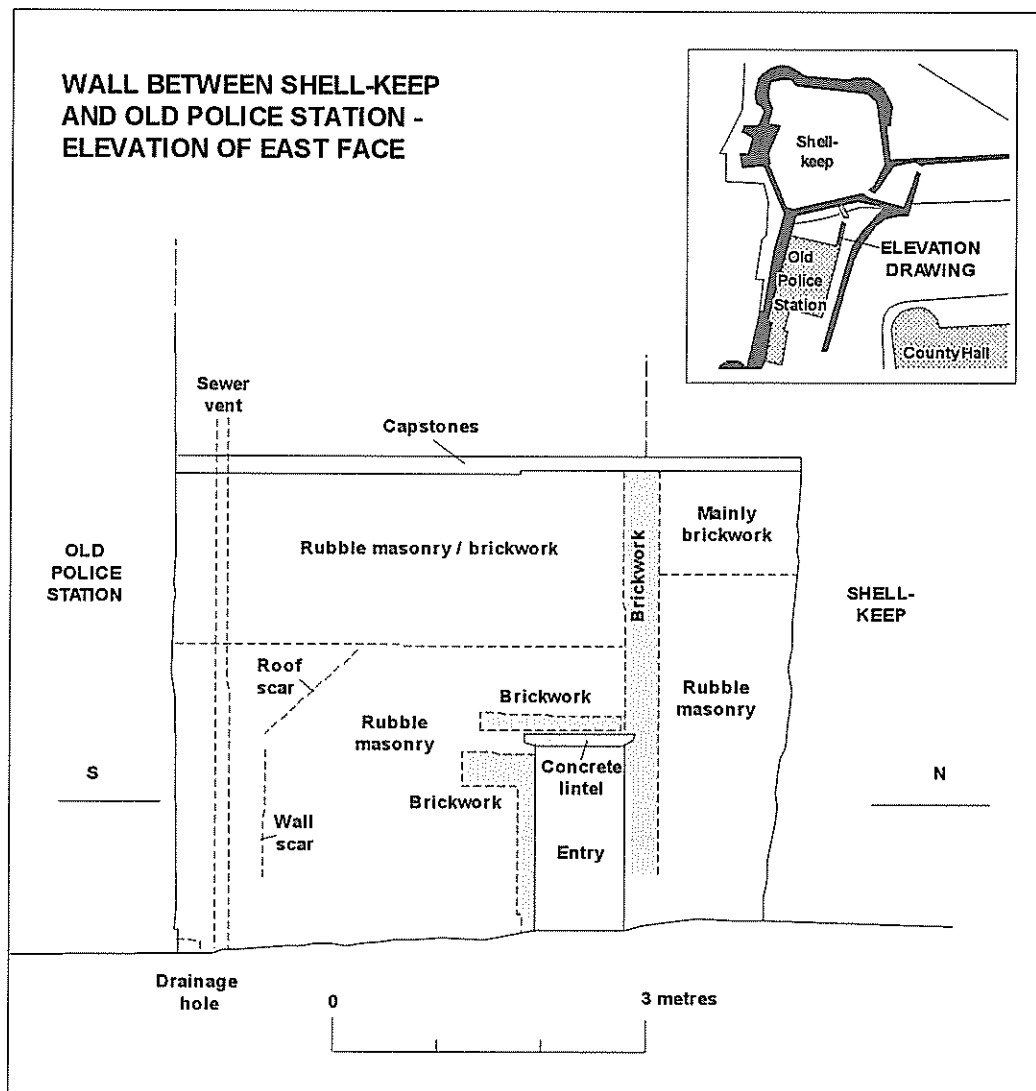


Photo 33 – The east face of the infirmary east wall, showing the blocked window and medallion (right), and the joint with the gaol wall (left). See Fig. 34



Photo 34 – The west face of the infirmary east wall, showing the medallion and the infill of the ?first floor chase (see Fig. 34)



8.0 THE REMAINDER OF THE SITE

The body of the castle and gaol interior, east of the gaol wall, is occupied by County Hall and its car park which was laid out during the 1940s - 50s. County Hall was designed in the 1930s by Sir Percy Thomas, who was also responsible for the acclaimed, abstract neo-Classical Swansea Guildhall, built in 1934, the similar Temple of Peace and Health in Cathays Park, Cardiff, from 1938, and who designed a large part of the Aberystwyth University campus at Penglais (Hilling 1976, 196-8).

County Hall and the car park lie, in the main, beyond the scope of the current consolidation and enhancement scheme. Very little archaeological work has taken place in this area and, to current knowledge, no below-ground deposits have been archaeologically recorded. However, the potential for surviving archaeological deposits in this area, particularly below the car park, is very high. Only two observations were made in this area during Phase 3

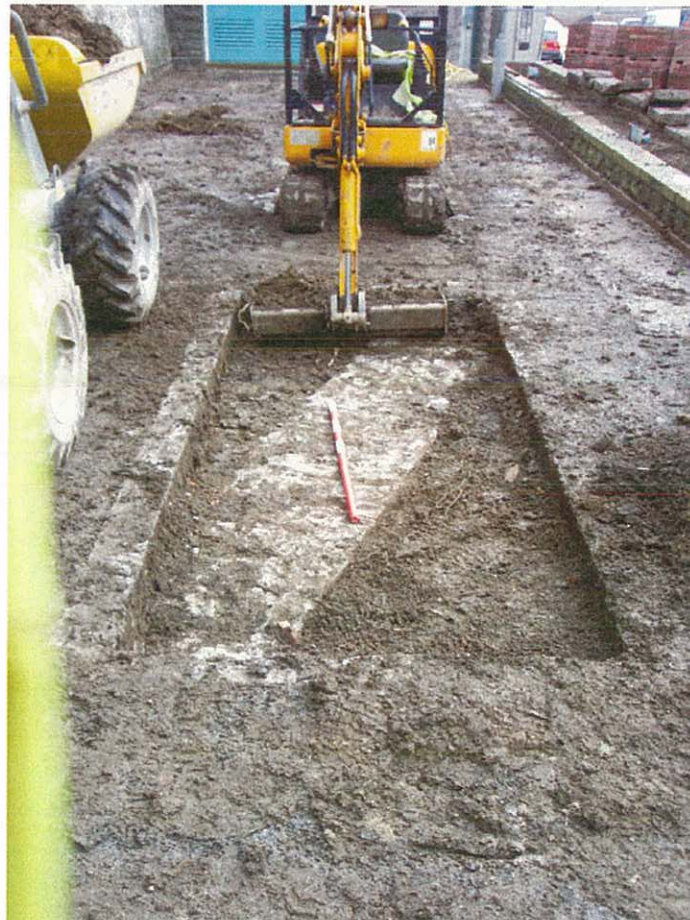
In 2002 Western Power intended to run a renewal trench, for an existing 11,000 volt ring-main, for a distance of c.30m into the car park area, running N-S between the gaol wall and County Hall. However, due to the presence of archaeological features at a shallow depth to the east of the gatehouse, it was agreed between Western Power and Cambria Archaeology that the new cable would be laid within the pre-existing cable trench. This was demonstrated to have minimised the impact because the trench sections revealed stratified deposits, probably relating to the gaol-phase rather than the medieval castle, 0.45m beneath the car park surface.

The area between the shell-keep forebuilding and the north 'curtain' wall lay beneath a modern paved surface, with raised flower-beds. Removal of one of these beds in 2002 revealed top a 3m length of truncated brick walling, or footings, 0.3m in width, running approximately E-W (Photo 36; shown in Fig. 2). This appears to have belonged to the gaol, and is shown on Suggett's reconstructed plan where it divides the Debtors' Cells from an open area or yard at the foot of the north 'curtain' wall (see Appendix 3, Fig. 1).

Photo 35 – The yard during removal of surfaces, facing north, showing the footings of an early 20th century gaol building. The gaol wall is to the right, and the Old Police Station can be seen beyond (see Fig. 35)



Photo 36 – Excavation south of the north 'curtain' wall, revealing the footings of a gaol-phase wall, facing east (see Fig. 2)



9.0 THE FINDS

With the exception of the two evaluations, in the gate passage and in the area of the former Rugby Club, no finds were retrieved from stratified deposits. However, analysis of the few finds recovered during the evaluation concluded that the medieval material is residual. A detailed report is in the project archive and will form part of the publication report.

10.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive will be indexed according to the National Monuments Record material categories, and held by *Cambria Archaeology*, Shire Hall, 8 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo SA19 6AF.

11.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Overall management of the Phase 3 archaeological work was by Neil Ludlow. The fieldwork was undertaken by Neil Ludlow, Pete Crane, Hubert Wilson and Duncan Schlee. This report was researched and written by Neil Ludlow, who will be compiling the publication report. Thanks to all colleagues at *Cambria Archaeology*, particularly to Hubert Wilson who supplied the survey drawings that form the basis of the figures in this report, and who provided Figs. 21-22, 30, and 32-33. Thanks also to TACP and Carmarthenshire County Council, in particular to John Llewellyn for a wealth of additional information.

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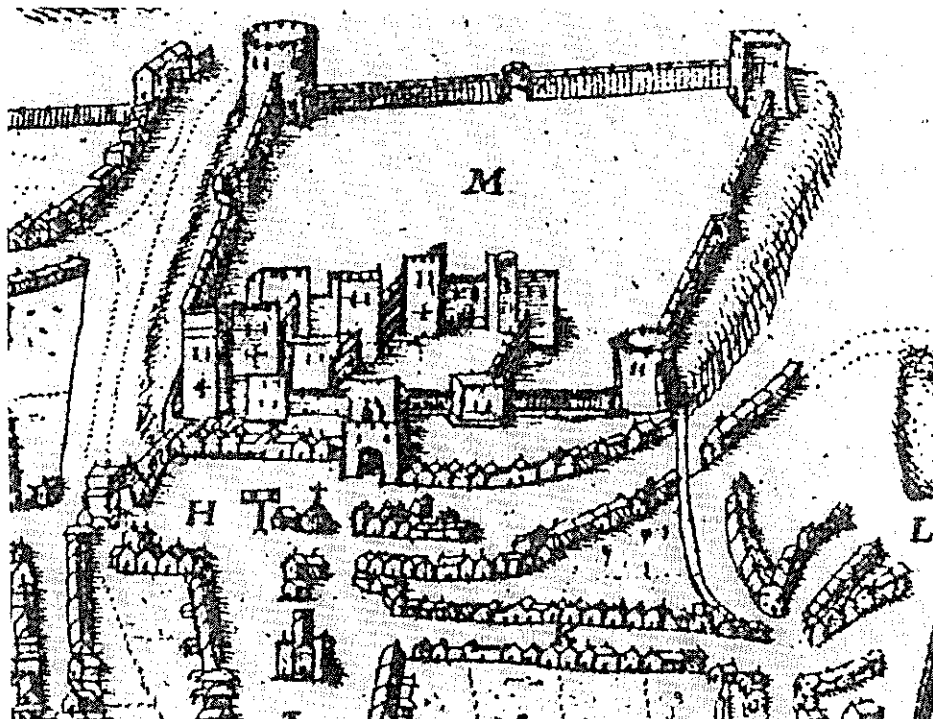
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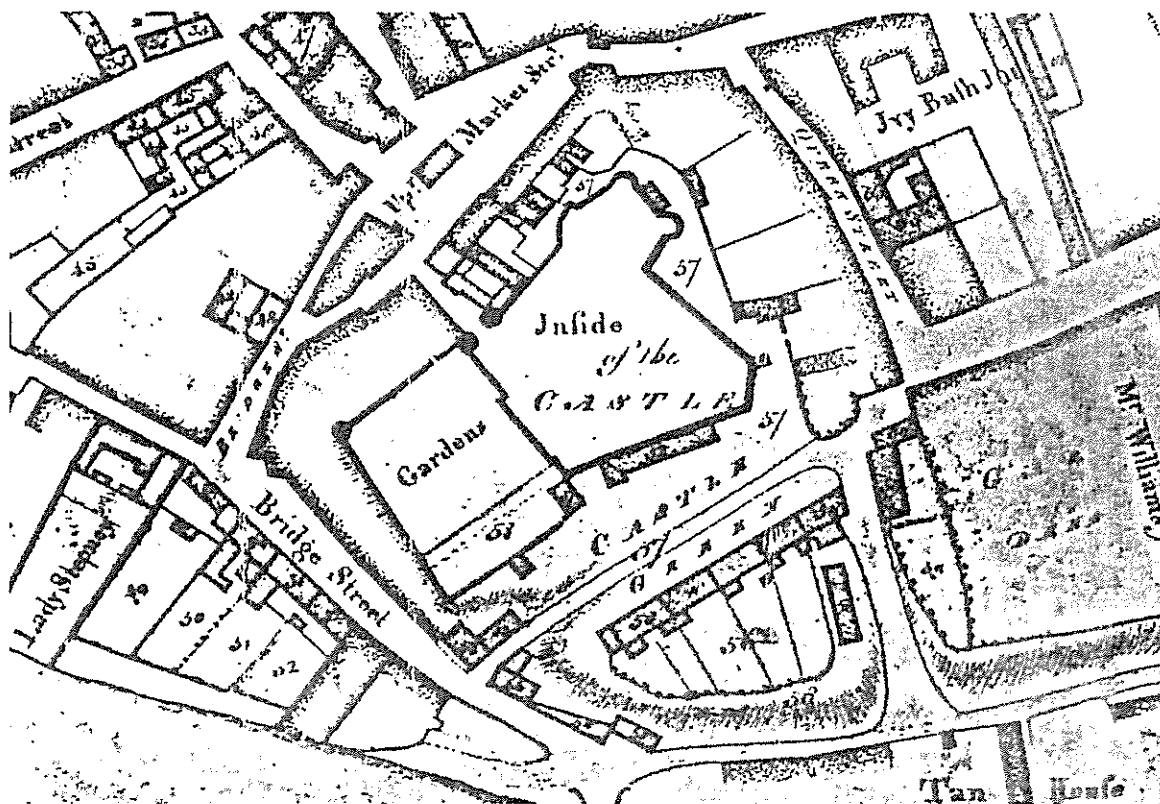
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APPENDIX 1 - HISTORIC MAPS AND PLANS

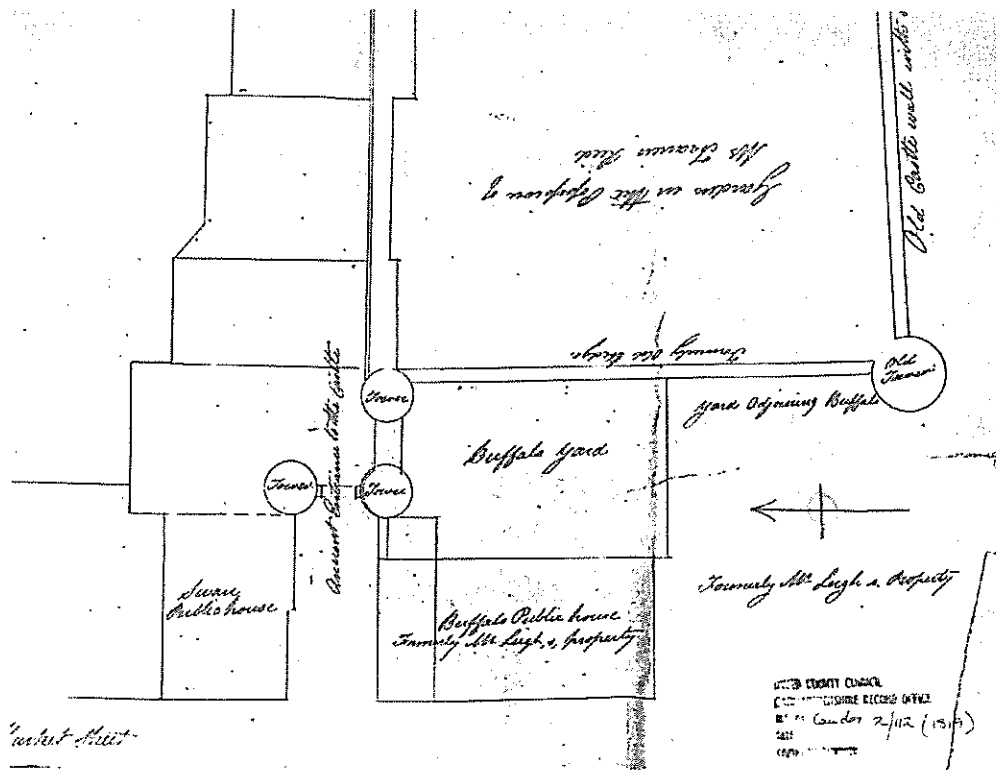
Map 1 - Detail from John Speed's map of Carmarthen, of c.1610,
showing the castle from the west



Map 2 - Detail from Thomas Lewis' map of Carmarthen, of 1786,
showing the area of the castle
(Carmarthenshire Record Office, Cawdor maps, Map of Vaughan properties in Carmarthen)



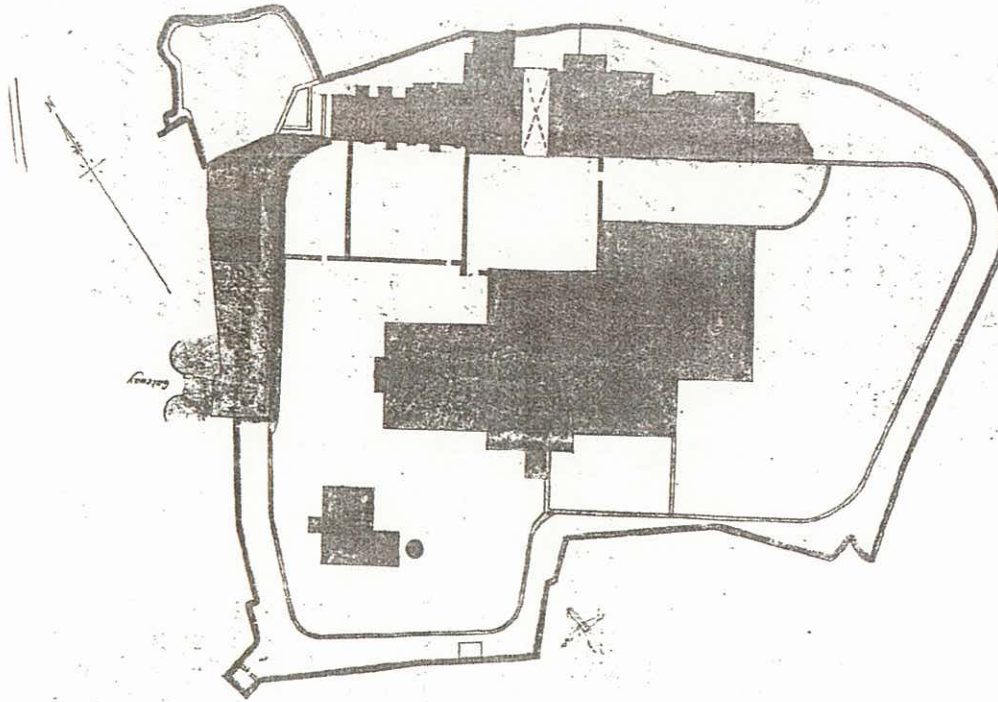
Map 3 - Plan of gaol, from 1819
(Carmarthenshire Record Office, Cawdor 2/112)



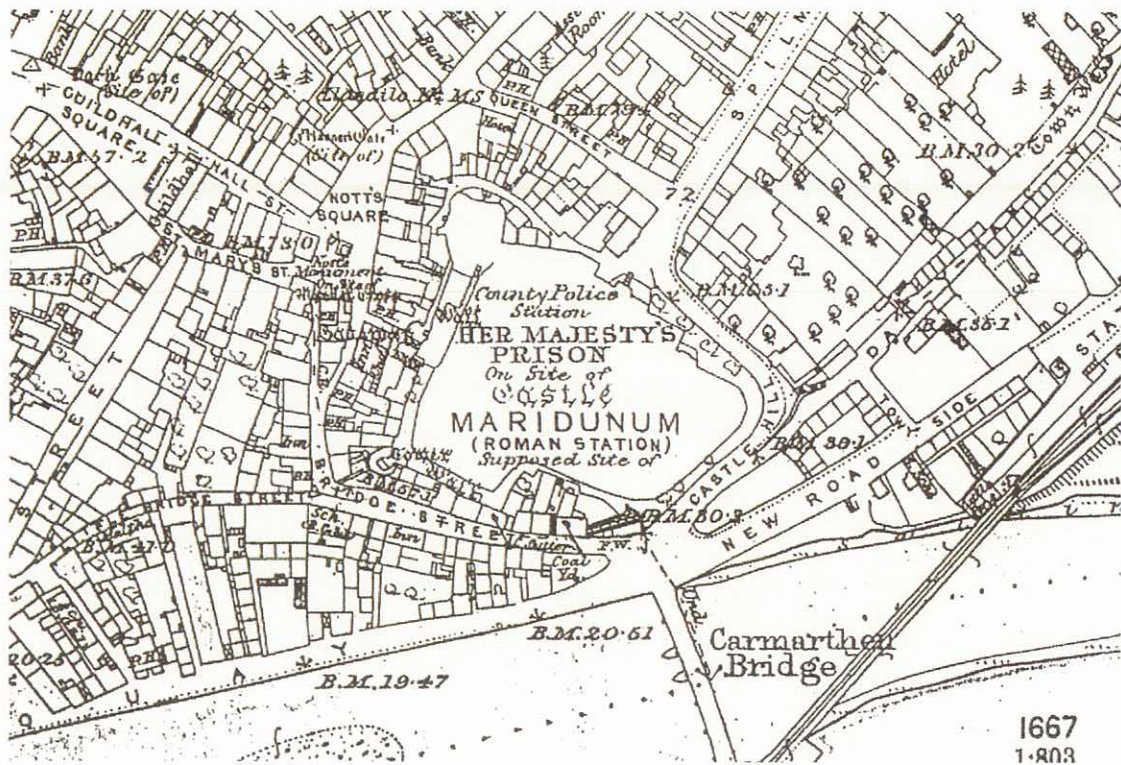
*Map 4 - Detail from John Wood's map of Carmarthen, from 1834,
showing the area of the castle
(Carmarthen Museum)*



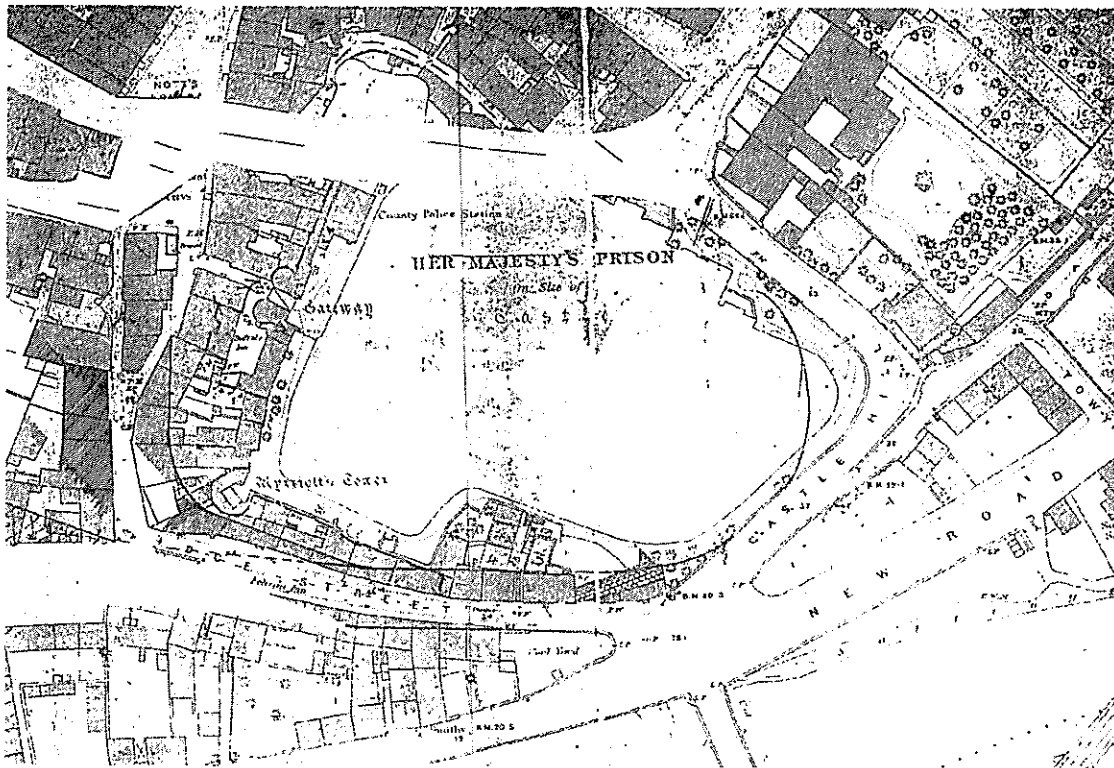
Map 5 - Plan of Carmarthen gaol in 1881
(Carmarthenshire Record Office)



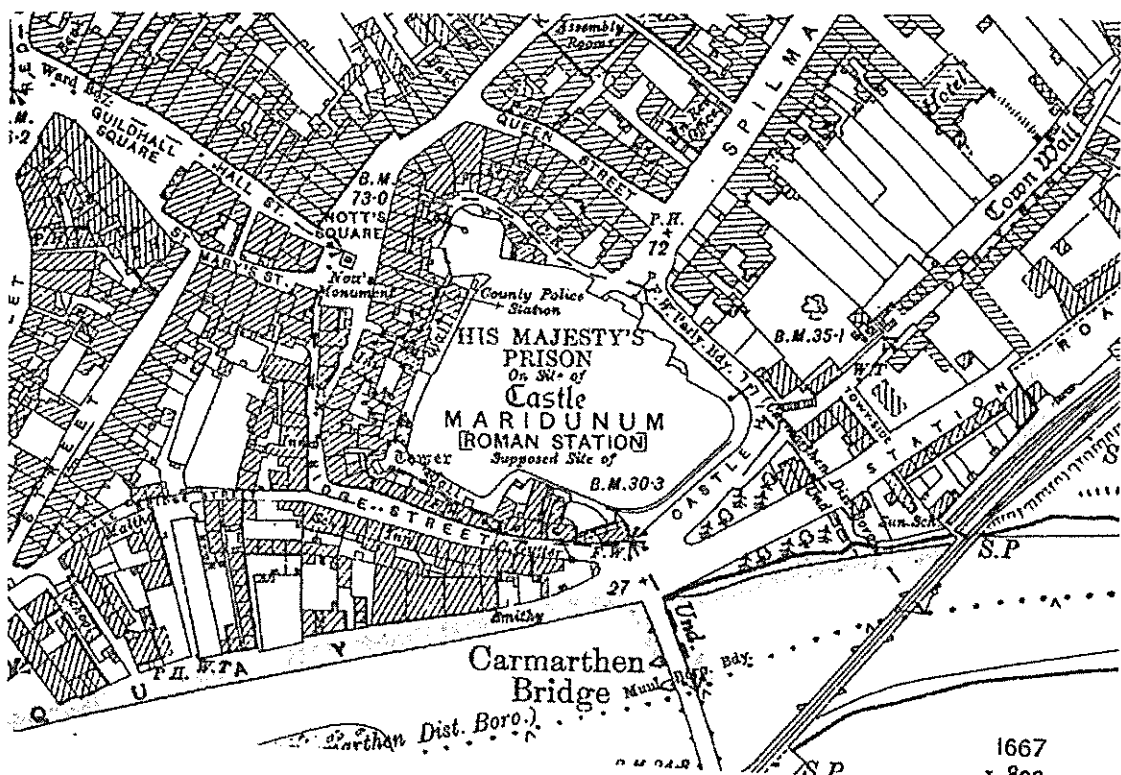
Map 6 - Detail from Ordnance Survey 1:2500 First Edition, Carmarthenshire Sheet XXIX.7,
from 1886, showing the area of the castle
(National Library of Wales)



Map 7 - Detail from Ordnance Survey 1:500, Carmarthenshire Sheet XXIX.7.6,
from 1895, showing the area of the castle
(National Library of Wales)

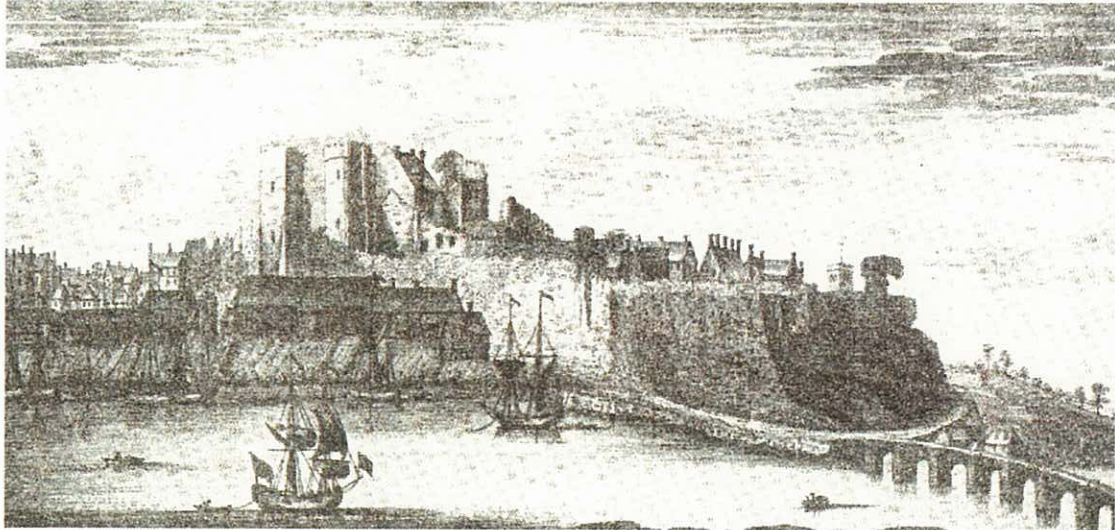


Map 8 - Detail from Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Second Edition, Carmarthenshire Sheet XXIX.7,
from 1906, showing the area of the castle
(National Library of Wales)



APPENDIX 2 - HISTORIC PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

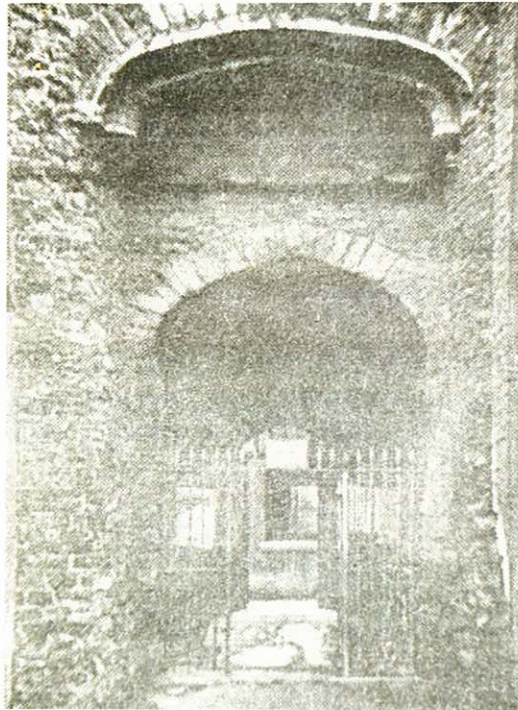
*Plate 1 - Engraving showing Carmarthen Castle from the south,
by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck, 1740
(Carmarthen Museum)*



*Plate 2 - Watercolour showing Carmarthen Castle gatehouse from the west,
by William Bagnall Ogilvie, c.1860
(courtesy of Thomas Lloyd)*



*Plate 3 - Photo of former yard building, seen through the gatehouse, taken around the 1920s
(Carmarthenshire County Council)*



*Plate 4 - aerial photograph of Carmarthen Castle from the southeast, taken c. 1930
(Carmarthen Museum)*



APPENDIX 3 - OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS

*Fig. 1 - Reconstructed plan, by Richard Suggett, of Carmarthen Gaol as built by John Nash, 1789-92
(from Suggett 1995)*

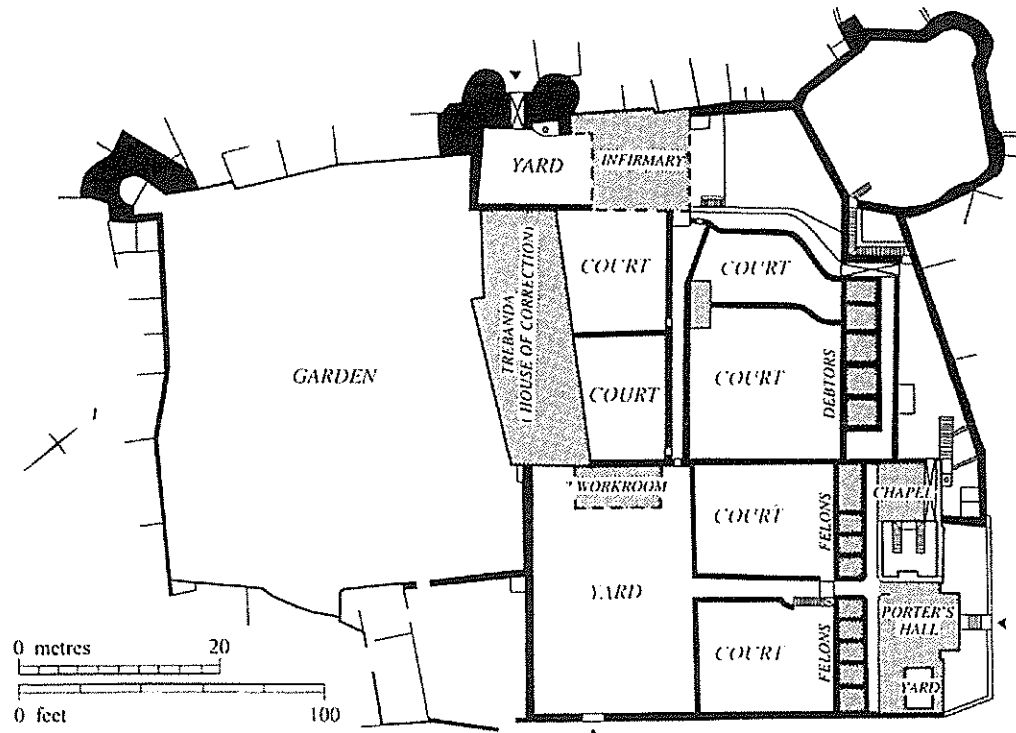


Fig. 2 - Plan of Berkeley Castle showing shell-keep, which revets the motte, and the stairway in a forebuilding

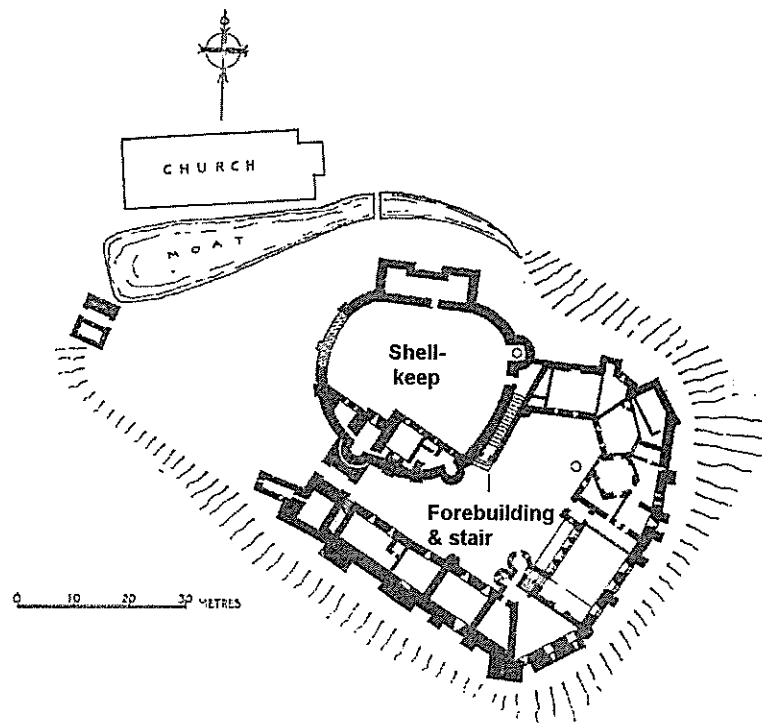
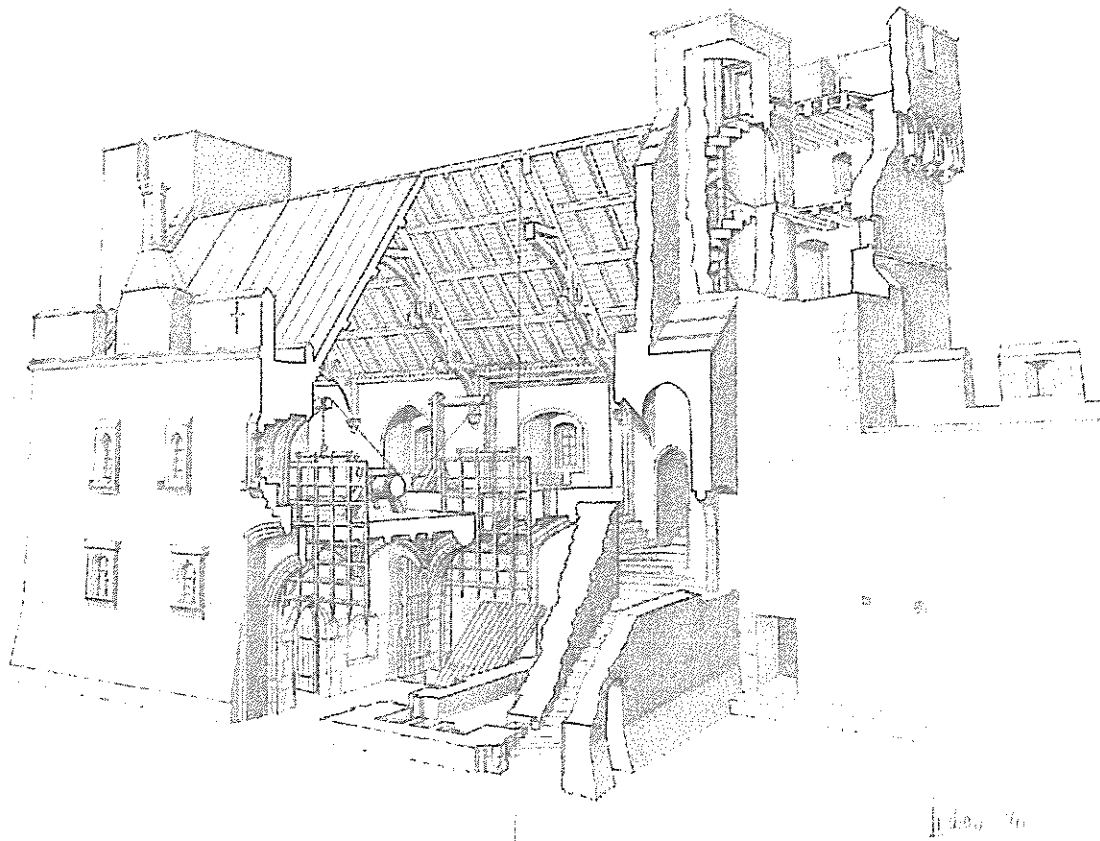


Fig. 3 - Cutaway reconstruction drawing of the rear of Caldicot Castle gatehouse, from the mid 14th century, showing stair arrangement (courtesy of Monmouthshire Museums Service)



**CARMARTHEN CASTLE:
PHASE 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK**

**RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER
2004/59**

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by Neil Ludlow

Swydd / Position: Project Manager

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date 11 May 2004

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

Gwilym Hughes

ar ran Archaeoleg Cambria, Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Director

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date 11 May 2004

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau sydd
gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you
may have on the content or presentation of this report

