

**KIDWELLY POUND, KIDWELLY
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

**A WATCHING BRIEF
DECEMBER 2003**

A regeneration scheme at Glan yr Arfon, Kidwelly, had originally proposed the retention of the pound (PRN 20449) at Kidwelly (SN 40620689) as a feature. Subsequent changes in the access to the site were brought about by problems with the sale of neighbouring land. This resulted in the need to demolish the pound. Advice provided to Carmarthenshire County Council by Cambria Archaeology (Heritage Management), requested that the surviving standing remains of the pound be recorded before its demolition. Consequently, a visit was made to the pound by Cambria Archaeology (Field Operations) in December 2003 to record the surviving standing remains of the feature. A measured sketch plan of the surviving masonry and a photographic record was made, but no further archaeological recording was undertaken.

The Wesleyans bought the freehold of the pound when they purchased the land for their chapel in 1866. As condition of sale stipulated that a replacement pound was to be erected elsewhere. The site they chose was by the 'Boot and Shoe' pub. The pound by the chapel has therefore been disused since soon after 1866. The feature was still shown on the 1911 ordnance survey map but not on later editions.

Approximately one quarter of the pound survived above ground as a curved length of wall incorporated into a later wire fenced property boundary. The area that would have been occupied by the rest of the pound appears to have been landscaped in recent years, and the extent to which wall foundations may survive beneath the present ground surface is not certain. It was noted, however, that the northern external face of the wall stands to a height of 1.70 meters high, while the interior height is 1.0 meter. This suggests that there is potentially 0.70 meters height of walling of the rest of pound beneath the ground.

The surviving masonry is a slightly curved length of wall 6.60 meters long constructed from rough stonework bonded with a lime mortar with gravel and coal inclusions. The wall is 0.54 meters thick. The eastern end of this wall is a vertical face, perhaps suggesting that the entrance to the pound was located at this point. This suggestion is supported by the evidence of property boundaries represented on the 1:1250 scale OS map of 1911 (Carm. LIIL.6.NE). The width of the entrance is not known. Parts of the wall, especially the eastern end have been re pointed with cement, and possibly rebuilt. The surviving masonry is in on the verge of total collapse in some places. The internal diameter of the pound was approximately 9.30 meters.

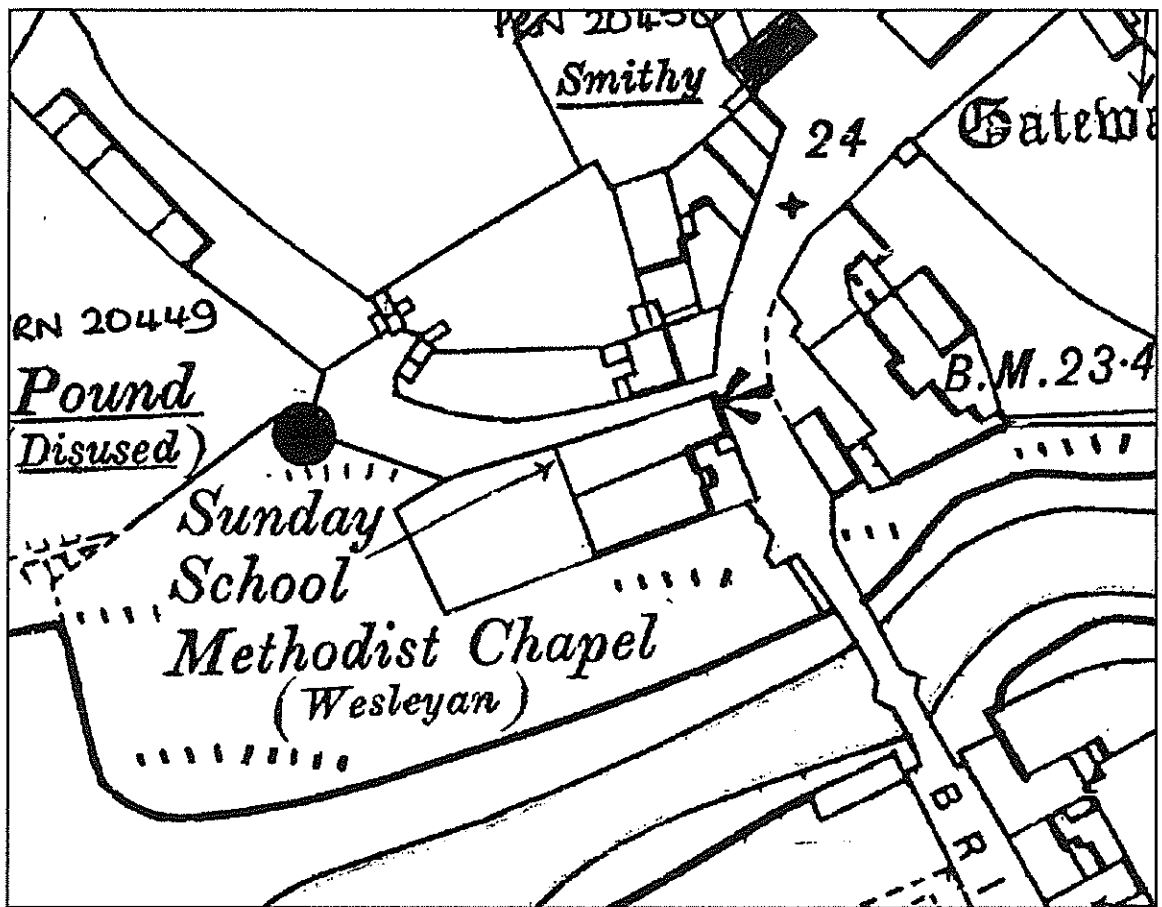
Included below are an enlargement from the OS map, and photographs of the site and a plan showing the surviving section of masonry and the projected circumference of the pound in its entirety.



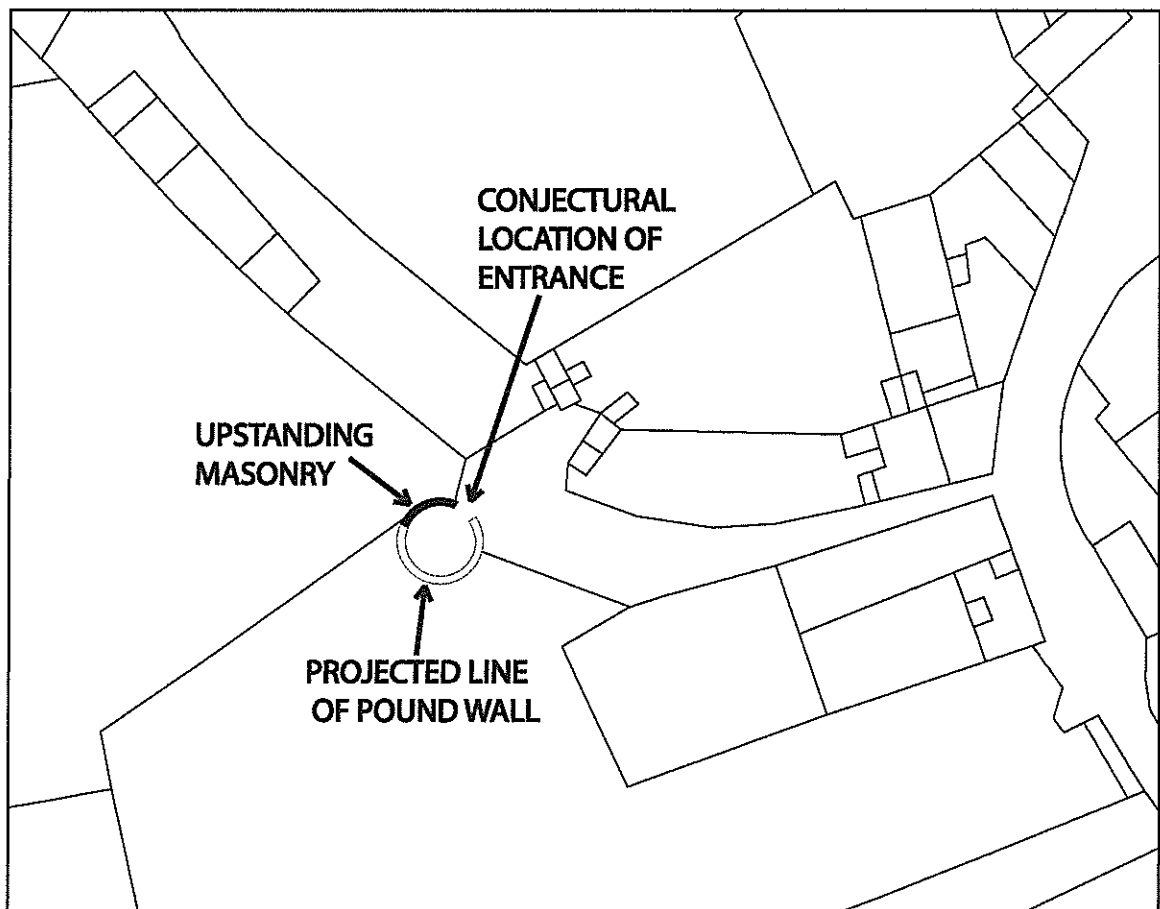
Photo 1: Surviving masonry of pound looking north.



Photo 2: Possible north side of entrance to pound, looking northeast.



Map 1: Ordnance Survey map 1:1250, Carm. LIII.6.NE (1911)



Map 2: Plan of Pound showing surviving masonry and possible entrance.

Gareth Davies
Carmarthenshire County Council
Business Resource Centre
Parc Amanwy
New Road
Ammanford
Carmarthenshire
SA18 3EP

31st October 2003
Kidwelly Pound

Dear Gareth

Stone Pound, Kidwelly at SN40620869

Thank you for your phone call and fax yesterday, this letter is a summary of the advice I provided by phone.


Your original plan as part of the regeneration scheme at Glan yr Arfon Kidwelly was to retain the stone pound as part of the scheme, however following problems over sale of land (i.e. an owner not selling) the access issues now focus on the location of the pound.

The freehold of the pound (PRN20449) was bought by the Welseys when they purchased the land for their chapel in 1866. As part of the condition of sale they had to re-erect a pound elsewhere. The site they chose was by the 'boot and shoe' pub. The pound by the chapel therefore had been discussed since soon after 1866, but was still shown on the 1911 Ordnance survey map, but not on later additions.

According to you there is $\frac{1}{4}$ of the circle of the pound remaining, with this $\frac{1}{4}$ standing up to 5' high.

While it would be desirable to retain this feature, it will be acceptable to preserve it by record prior to demolition.

This record would need to consist of scale photographs of the elevations of the structure, and a plan showing its location, circumference curve etc. This is so the dimensions etc of the complete pound could be re-constructed on paper. Assuming it is possible to re-create it on paper from the upstanding information, a watching brief during the ground works should not be necessary.

I  discussed the time/cost necessary to undertake this work and produce a report to be placed with the Regional Sites and Monuments Record. Nigel Page of Cambria Archaeology Field Operations has suggested a figure of £300-350 (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ days).

I trust this is clear, but if not, please contact me

Yours sincerely

Lucy Bourne
Planning Archaeologist
Cambria Archaeology Heritage Management



Gareth Davies
Carmarthenshire County Council
Business Resource Centre
Parc Amanwy
New Road
Ammanford
Carmarthenshire
SA18 3EP

26th January 2004

Dear Mr Davies

Stone Pound, Kidwelly at SN40620869

I have received a copy of the recording of the stone pound at Kidwelly from Duncan Schlee of Cambria Archaeology Field Operations.

The information gathered and record made of the wall satisfies the requirements of my letter of 31st October 2003.

As it was possible to re-create the dimensions of the entire pound from the upstanding masonry, a watching brief during demolition or site works is not required.

Yours sincerely

Lucy Bourne
Planning Archaeologist
Cambria Archaeology Heritage Management

J:\Lucy planning\DC 2004\Carms\kidwelly pound.doc