

PICTON RISING MAIN HAVERFORDWEST PRIORY ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

APRIL 1997
Project No. 33206

Commissioned by: HYDER

Report by: K Murphy
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PICTON RISING MAIN HAVERFORDWEST PRIORY WATCHING BRIEF

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DRAWING 3. Engraving of Haverfordwest Priory by S and N Buck, 1740

SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during the excavation of a sewer-pipe trench within the scheduled area of Haverfordwest Priory. Little of direct archaeological interest was noted in the trench, though the recording of peats, clays and other geological deposits will assist in placing the Priory in its topographic and environmental setting. It would seem that until very recently a shallow tidal inlet existed to the east of the Priory buildings. Works supplementary to the main trench, including the digging of a drainage ditch, revealed archaeological evidence. The drainage ditch clipped the south-east corner of an earthwork on which medieval gardens attached to the Priory, and the Priory itself stand. Fortunately no structural evidence for the gardens or Priory was damaged, and the excavation permitted the recording of the character of the earthwork and the underlying geological deposits. No evidence for the precinct wall depicted on an 18th century engraving on the eastern side of the Priory was seen during the watching brief.

INTRODUCTION

Archaeological monitoring of five geotechnical pits had been carried out in 1996 (Dyfed Archaeological Trust Report 33206, August 1996), during the planning stage for the Picton Rising Main. As the proposed line of the rising main lay within the scheduled area of Haverfordwest Priory, Hyder applied to the Secretary of State for Wales for scheduled monument consent for construction. Permission was granted to Hyder in a letter from Cadw dated 13 January 1997 subject to ten conditions, including:

That prior to the commencement of works, the applicants shall appoint a professionally qualified archaeological organisation, to be approved in writing to Cadw, to carry out a watching brief.

That the approved archaeological organisation shall be afforded the opportunity to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the course of the construction works.

That works involving ground disturbance within the monument's scheduled area shall be limited to the cutting of the trench for a pipeline.

That the applicants shall arrange for the preparation by the approved archaeological organisation of a report on the archaeological watching brief.

Hyder contacted Dyfed Archaeological Trust on 16 January requesting a quotation for carrying out a watching brief. This was supplied and accepted by Hyder in a letter dated 27 January.

Prior to the excavation on the trench for a pipe, the digging of a drainage trench and additional topsoil stripping was undertaken. As this was in breach of the original

consent, Cadw request modifications to the consent. These were stated in a letter dated 26 March 1997 and included:

Cambria Archaeology shall be afforded the opportunity to clean down and draw the western (eastern facing) section on the drainage ditch, for a length of 13m (at the position indicated on the plan). The section shall be drawn at 1:20 scale and recorded photographically with a series of overlapping prints. The drawn and photographic record shall be incorporated into the final report on the archaeological work.

Cambria Archaeology shall be permitted to carry out a watching brief during the removal of the topsoil from the bed of the medieval garden, and its re-siting on the original ground to the east, so as to obviate the threat of damage to the garden-bed during site restoration works.

The section of the drainage trench was drawn at 1:20 by the author before Hyder or Cambria Archaeology received Cadw's letter of 26 March. The trench was then immediately back-filled, prior to being photographed in the manner outlined above. General photographs were, however, taken.

A copy of the schedule monument consent and Cadw's letter of 26 March are included here as an appendix.

SITE HISTORY

The Augustinian Priory was founded c. 1200 by Robert fitz Richard, Lord of Haverfordwest. Its construction entailed digging into the base of the hill slope to the west and depositing the resulting material around the middle and eastern area of the church footings to form a raised platform out onto what was then tidal salt-marsh. On the edge of this artificial platform a precinct wall was constructed (Drawing 4) which overlooked on the east side a creek; this may have been a landing place for vessels. The Priory was of modest status. Outside the inner precinct there would have been a number of ancillary buildings including a mill, the site of which is now cut off from the Priory by Freemans Way and the railway line. Around the religious enclave there grew a secular settlement of Haverford Parva (Little Haverford); now absorbed by expansion of the main town.

Closed by Henry VIII in 1536, the Prior soon fell into decay, and its roofs, windows and finer stone were soon removed. Recent excavations by Cadw indicate that there may have been a track running from the Priory to its mill, and that light industrial activities, possibly including shipbuilding continued on the site into the 19th century. After this period, the site of the Priory seems to have been given over to rough pasture. The present river position was probably not established until the construction of the railway. From this date the area between the railway embankment and the Priory became a peat bog. By the early years of this century the Priory ruins had become very overgrown.

Neither during the construction of the bypass (Freemens Way) nor during the excavation of a gas main (parallel to the current pipe, adjacent to the road) were any archaeological records made.

The first archaeological investigations of the Priory were undertaken in the 1920s. In the early 1960s Cadw took the site into guardianship and have been implementing a programme of excavation and consolidation to enable the site to be put on public display. The whole of the field in which the Priory is located is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Drainage ditch

In order to assist in the draining of the marsh in the pipeline wayleave to the east and south-east of the Priory a ditch was excavated roughly parallel and c. 2-4m to the west of the proposed sewer. Shallow at its southern end, this ditch deepened towards the river, cutting through archaeological deposits where its course was closest to the restored medieval gardens. The east-facing section of this ditch was drawn where archaeological deposits were noted (Drawings 2 and 3). The following is a description of deposits recorded in the section (Drawing 3):

1. Topsoil. Mostly removed from the section edge at the time of recording. A thin layer, 0.15m thick, supporting a coarse turf.
2. Modern dump of hard-core. Yellowish-brown deposit of varying thickness consisting of angular stones and boulders. Almost certainly laid down during the construction of the road bridge over which Freemans Way runs.
3. A stiff dark-blue/grey silt mottled by iron staining. Fairly stone-free, though a few small rounded stones and fragments of ceramic were present. Towards the extremes of the drawn section this layer becomes more pronounced, the mottling stronger and the inclusions fewer. At the centre of the drawn section this layer merges with the soil, 5.
4. A mixed deposit, several tip-lines were evident. Basically it comprised a dark-grey - black silt mixed with a high proportion of gravel and small angular stones. Also present were some roofing-slate fragments, large angular stones, pieces of mortar, flecks of bone and small abraded pieces of ceramic (a few larger tile fragments were also present). At the south end of the section layers 3 and 4 merge. At the north end layer 4 underlies layer 3.
5. Soil formation. This was clearly the topsoil formation prior to the dumping of layer 2. It comprised a dark-brown silty-loam with few inclusions. Up to 0.15m thick. It merges at both ends with layer 3. From the section drawing it is clear that prior the deposition of layer 2 a considerable earthwork, the surface represented by layer 5, was sited here.

6. A layer of shattered medium-sized stones. This seemed to be a lens within layers 3+4. It probably served as a foundation for the deposits 4 and 5.

Below 6, noted in the main pipe trench to the east, deposits consisted of a stiff blue-grey clay, giving way to a coarse gravel at c. 2.4m below the present ground surface.

Conclusions: No structural elements of the medieval gardens were damaged by this drainage ditch, though the platform on which the gardens, and the Priory, sits was cut through (represented by layers 4, 5 and 6). This platform was also noted in the main pipe-trench, but here it was less substantial, thinning out to almost nothing on the east side of the trench. There was not evidence for the Priory precinct wall considered to be present in the area of the drainage ditch.

General Observations

The following are a series of general observation made during the watching brief. The letters refer to locations on Drawing 2:

Chamber close to river bank. Though almost 10m deep, this chamber was excavated in a area which had been previously disturbed. Modern make-up (layer 2, above) was here 1.7m thick; below this was a concrete storm-drain. Undisturbed deposits in the form of blue-grey clay were noted beginning at about 3m below the present ground surface. In a similar chamber on the opposite river bank, timbers apparently from a boat were reported as coming from the blue-grey clay at a depth of c. 5m below the present ground surface: these were not seen by the writer.

A. Trench 2.4m deep. Modern make-up (layer 2) overlay the silty-clay layer 3. Layer 3 continued almost to the bottom of the trench before giving way to blue-grey clay. This clay containing a small proportion of organic material, including rootlets, possibly of reeds.

B. As noted above, evidence of the platform recorded in the section of the drainage was seen here. Below this lay blue-grey clay and below this, at the base of the trench, c. 2.4m below ground surface, a coarse gravel was noted.

C. The modern layer of hard-core, 2, here directly overlay the silty-clay layer 3 which overlay the blue-grey clay. At a depth of about 2m the clay gave way to coarse gravels with lenses of yellow clay.

D. An infilled hollow or channel. This hollow/channel was infilled with the hard-core, layer 2, and by pieces of scrap metal and timber planking. The hollow/channel seemed to run obliquely across the trenches and was 5.5m wide and 1.4m deep. Layer 3 which lay beneath and on either side of the hollow/channel contained a higher organic content that was noted at points A, B and C. It would seem that this hollow/channel would have contained standing water prior to its infilling.

E. Surface, superficial rubble was noted in the side of the drainage trench.

F. The hard-core layer, 2, was here 0.7m thick. Below this layer 3 changed its character from a mineral deposit to an organic deposit; a black peaty-clay.

G. From here to the south the layer of hard-core, 2, faded out. The sequence here was peat, 1 - 1.2m thick overlying blue-grey and yellowish brown clays. The peat was laminated, some layers being of mid-brown colour, fibrous and woody, others being of compacted, black organic material.

Conclusions: The infilled hollow/channel noted in the pipe trench clearly demonstrates the presence standing water the east and south-east of the Priory until recent times. It is uncertain whether this can be equated with the tidal creek shown on early engravings of the Priory (see Drawing 4). There was no evidence in the pipe trench for the precinct wall shown on Drawing 4. The peat deposit up to 1.2m thick noted at location F and to the south maybe of relatively recent origin; it may not have begun to form until after the construction of the railway embankment. This is not however certain; it may contain important palaeoenvironmental evidence relating to the history of the Priory. Any palaeoenvironmental analysis of this peat must be undertaken in the near future as the pipe trench will function as a drain, causing the peat to dry and decay.

**APENDIX 1. COPY OF SCHEDULE MONUMENT CONSENT
AND FOLOW-ON LETTER**



CADW

WELSH HISTORIC MONUMENTS

Mr C C Moody
Design Engineer
Hyder Consulting Ltd
Ffynnon Menter
Phoenix Way Enterprise Park
Llansamlet Swansea SA7 9HW

Eich Cyfeirnod
Your Reference CCM/MP/F0298/5

Ein Cyfeirnod
Our Reference CAM 1/2/1099/4

Dyddiad
Date 13 January 1997

Llinell Uniongyrchol 01222 82
Direct Line 01222 822 222

Dear Sir

**ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979
SECTION 2 AND SCHEDULE 1
APPLICATION FOR SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT
PROPOSED WORKS AT: HAVERFORDWEST PRIORY, HAVERFORDWEST, PEMBROKESHIRE (Pe17)**

I am directed by the Secretary of State to refer to your application of 15 August 1996, on behalf of Dŵr Cymru - Welsh Water, for scheduled monument consent to lay a sewage rising main on land adjacent to Haverfordwest Priory, a scheduled ancient monument, in the guardianship of the Secretary of State. The Priory is also a Grade I listed building, and is situated within the Haverfordwest Conservation Area.

Your clients declined the opportunity of appearing before, and being heard by, a person appointed for that purpose, afforded to you by Cadw, on behalf of the Secretary of State in the letter of 20 December 1996, a copy of which is annexed. Nor have you submitted further representations in support of their case.

The proposed works can be carried out without detriment to the historic or archaeological integrity of the monument. Accordingly, the Secretary of State hereby grants scheduled monument consent for the works described at paragraph 4 of the application dated 15 August 1996, subject to the following conditions:-

1. That Cadw, on behalf of the Secretary of State, shall be provided with at least two weeks' notice, in writing, of the date of the commencement of works.
2. That prior to the commencement of works, the applicants shall appoint a professionally qualified archaeological organisation, to be approved in writing by Cadw, on behalf of the Secretary of State, to carry out a watching brief.
3. That the approved archaeological organisation shall be provided with a copy of the report prepared by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd on the preliminary investigation works which they undertook ("Picton Rising Main, Priory Trial Pits, Haverfordwest - August 1996).

Adeilad y Goron, Parc Cathays, Caerdydd CF1 3NQ. Crown Building, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NQ.
Ffôn/Telephone: 01222 500200 Ffacs/Fax: 01222 826375

Asiantaeth Weithredol o fewn y Swyddfa Gymreig yw Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments
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4. That the approved archaeological organisation shall be afforded the opportunity to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the course of the construction works. No works shall be carried out within the monument's scheduled area (as shown outlined in red on the enclosed plan) without the presence on site of a representative of the approved archaeological organisation.
5. That during the course of the scheme, representatives of Cadw shall be afforded access to the site to monitor the progress of both the archaeological watching brief and the construction works.
6. That the approved archaeological organisation shall be permitted to stop the mechanical cutting of the trench for the pipeline, to record, by means of photographs and/or drawings, any features, strata or artefacts of archaeological significance encountered at any stage, during the course of the work.
7. That works involving ground disturbance within the monument's scheduled area shall be limited to the cutting of the trench for the pipeline, along the route identified on the drawing accompanying the application for scheduled monument consent (Drawing No FO298/C1).
8. That all ancillary works, vehicular access routes, contractor's compounds, etc, shall be kept clear of the monument's scheduled and guardianship area (as identified on the enclosed plan).
9. That the applicants shall ensure that the contractors engaged on the scheme are fully briefed on the scheduled status of the monument, and the legal constraints that this implies, and of the terms and conditions of this grant of consent.
10. That the applicants shall arrange for the preparation by the approved archaeological organisation of a report on the archaeological watching brief, even if no features of interest are encountered. A copy of the report shall be deposited with Cadw within one month, at the latest, of the completion of the archaeological work.

Section 2(6) of the 1979 Act provides that non-compliance with a condition attached to a grant of scheduled monument consent shall be an offence.

By virtue of Section 4 of the 1979 Act if no works to which this consent relates are executed or started within 5 years from the date of this letter, the consent shall cease to have effect at the end of that period (unless it is revoked in the meantime).

This letter does not convey any approval or consent required under any enactment, bylaw, order or regulation other than Section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

Your attention is drawn to the enclosed note which sets out your clients right to challenge the above decision.

Yours faithfully

MS J M Woodward

MS J M WOODWARD
Ancient Monuments
Administration



CADW
WELSH HISTORIC MONUMENTS

RECEIVED
26 MARCH 1997

Mr C C Moody
Design Engineer
Hyder Consulting Ltd
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Eich Cyfeirnod
Your Reference CCM/MP/F0298/5

Ein Cyfeirnod
Our Reference CAM 1/2/1099/4

Dyddiad
Date 26 March 1997

Llinell Uniongyrchol 01222 82
Direct Line 01222 82 6415

Dear Mr Moody

ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979
SECTION 2 AND SCHEDULE 1
SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT (SMC)
WORKS AT: HAVERFORDWEST PRIORY, HAVERFORDWEST, PEMBROKESHIRE
(PE17)

I refer to the site meeting held on 14 March between Cadw's regional Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Dr S E Rees, and Mr A John of Welsh Water, to review progress on the scheme to lay a sewage rising main on land adjacent to Haverfordwest Priory. Scheduled monument consent (SMC) was granted for this work in Cadw's letter of 13 January (a copy of which is enclosed, for ease of reference).

As you will see, condition 4 of the SMC letter states that "No works shall be carried out within the monument's scheduled area..... without the presence on site of a representative of the approved archaeological organisation". During the course of her inspection, Dr Rees was concerned to learn that works had been carried out without the presence on site of representatives of Cambria Archaeology (Dyfed Archaeological Trust), the approved archaeological organisation engaged by Welsh Water to monitor the scheme. She also noted that condition 7 had been contravened and that more ground disturbance had been undertaken than that necessary for the cutting of the trench for the pipeline.

The unsupervised works consisted of the removal of topsoil from the 10m wide working area, the cutting of a drainage ditch, to a depth of 1m, along the entire length of the working area (at the approximate position indicated on the enclosed plan), and the dumping of topsoil onto the bed of the medieval garden, the one known archaeological feature within this area, situated immediately outside the Priory's guardianship area (shown on the plan). The ditch has **also** cut through a feature of archaeological interest, which is most probably a silted-up tidal creek, running around the southern side of the Priory ruins.

Adeilad y Goron, Parc Cathays, Caerdydd CF1 3NQ. Crown Building, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NQ.
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Asiantaeth Weithredol o fewn y Swyddfa Gymreig yw Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments
Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments is an Executive Agency within the Welsh Office

Under Section 2(6) of the above Act it is an offence not to comply with any condition attached to a consent, unless it can be proved that all reasonable precautions were taken and all due diligence exercised to avoid contravening the conditions, which does not appear to be the case here. However, I should be grateful for a written explanation of why the work proceeded without a representative of Cambria Archaeology being present and why more ground disturbance was undertaken than that for the cutting of the trench, in contravention of conditions 4 and 7 respectively.

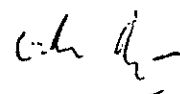
We are most concerned to learn about the breach of conditions. In order to rectify this I understand that Welsh Water has agreed to modify the terms of the existing watching brief with Cambria Archaeology, as follows:-

- i. Cambria Archaeology shall be afforded the opportunity to clean down and draw the western (eastern facing) section of the drainage ditch, for a length of 13m (at the position indicated on the plan). The section shall be drawn at 1:20 scale and recorded photographically with a series of overlapping prints. The drawn and photographic record shall be incorporated into the final report on the archaeological work (to be prepared in accordance with condition No 10 of the SMC letter); and
- ii. Cambria Archaeology shall be permitted to carry out a watching brief during the removal of the topsoil from the bed of the medieval garden, and its re-siting on the original ground to the east, so as to obviate the threat of damage to the garden-bed during site restoration works.

I should be grateful if you would confirm that Welsh Water agrees to these conditions. If it would be helpful, we should be pleased to arrange a site meeting between the contractors, representatives of Cadw and Cambria Archaeology, to clearly establish the areas in which the additional archaeological work should be undertaken.

I am copying this letter to Cambria Archaeology, for information.

Yours sincerely



G R BEYNON
Ancient Monuments Administration

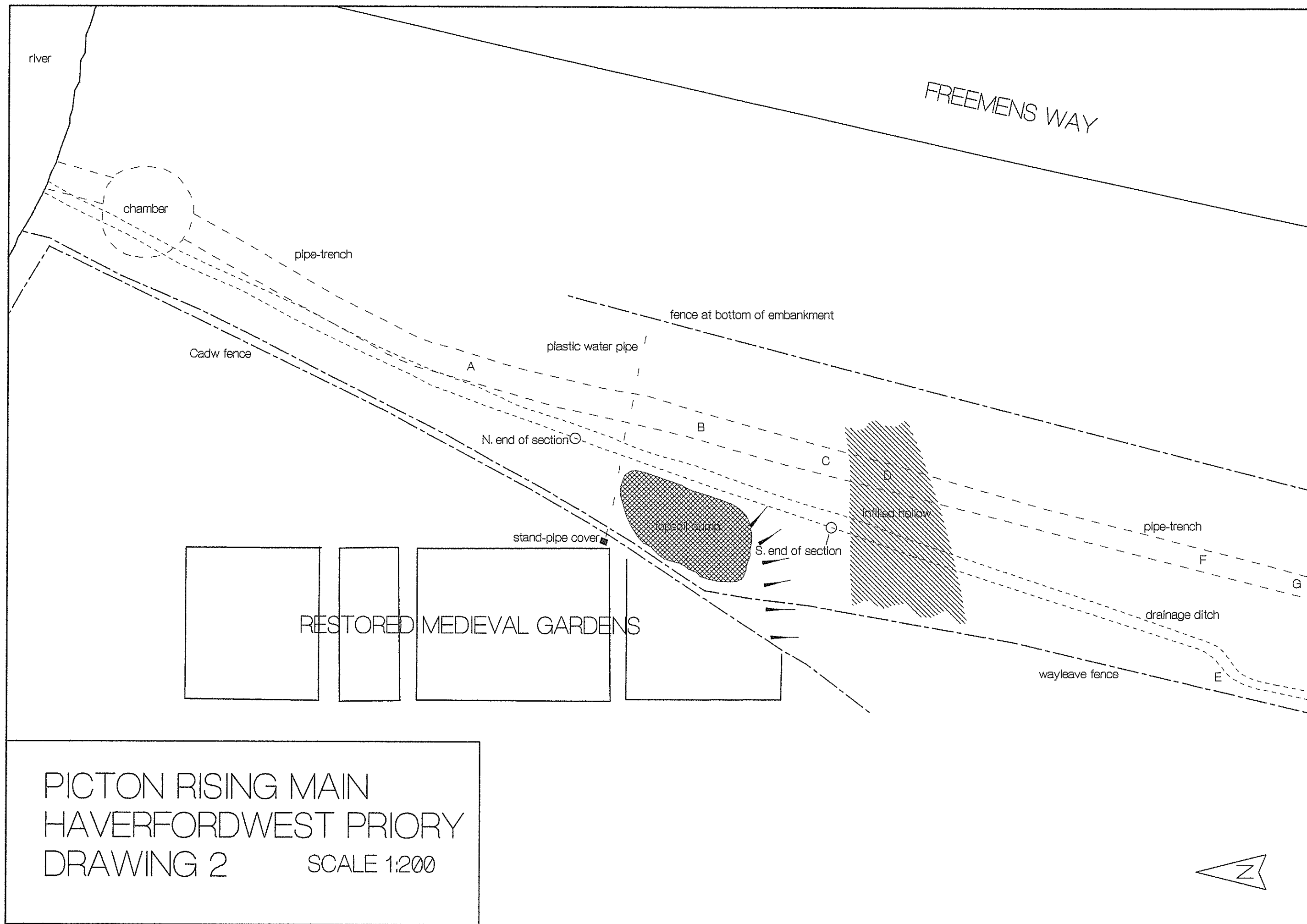
DRAWINGS

DRAWING 1. Location map

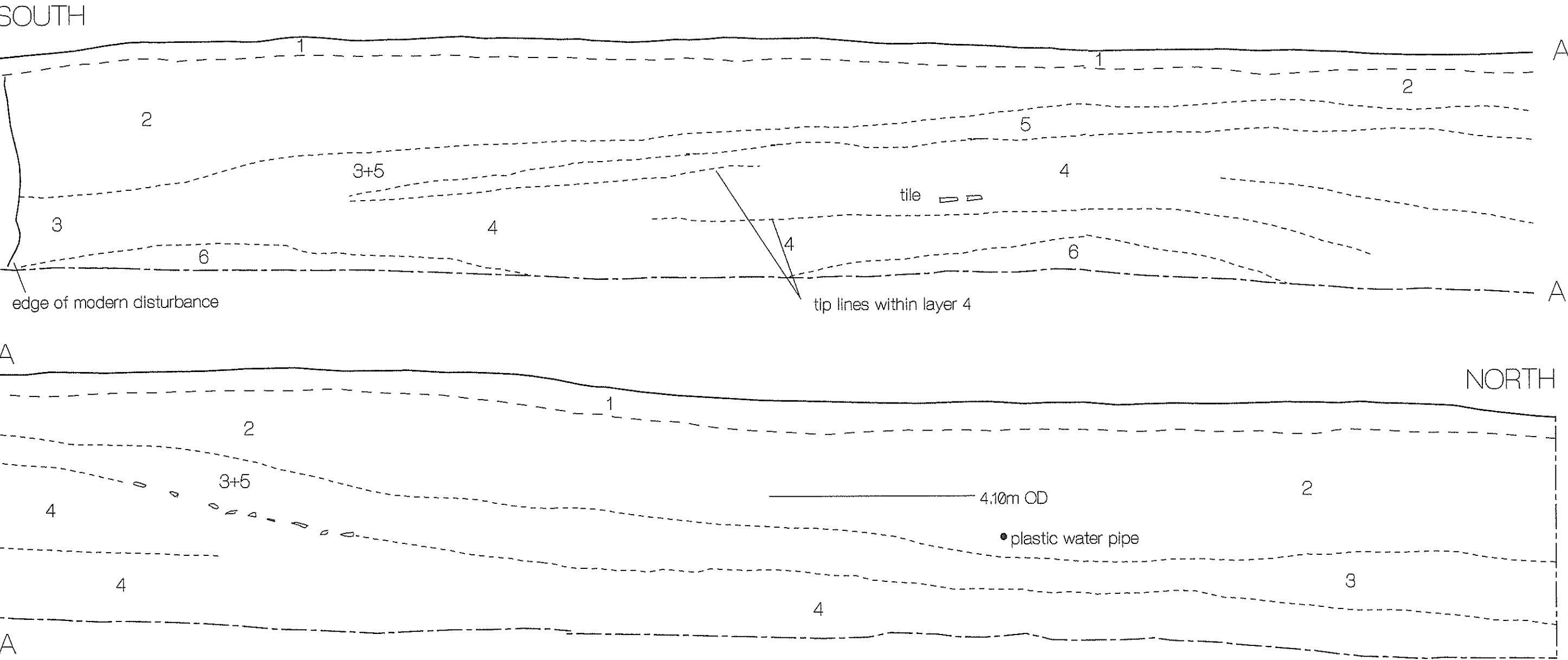
DRAWING 2. Location of works in relation to Haverfordwest Priory

DRAWING 3. Section of drainage ditch

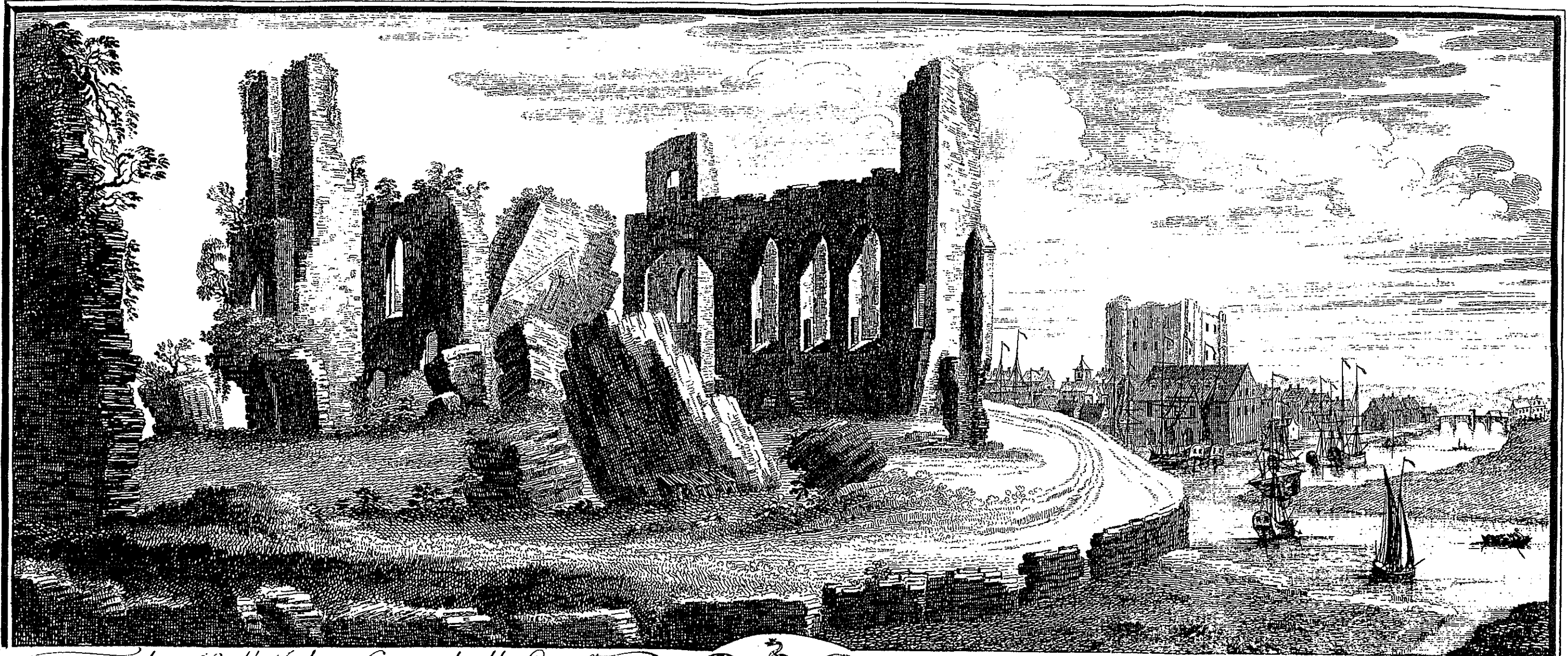
DRAWING 3. Engraving of Haverfordwest Priory by S and N Buck, 1740



PICTON RISING MAIN: HAVERFORDWEST PRIORY
 SECTION OF DRAINAGE DITCH - SEE DRAWING 2 FOR LOCATION
 Scale 1:20



THE SOUTH-EAST VIEW OF HAVERFORD-WEST-PRIORY, IN THE COUNTY OF PEMBROKE.



To the Hon^{ble} John Campbell Esq^r
 one of the Lords of the Admiralty & Knight of the Shire
 for the County of Pembroke.
 This Prospect is humbly Inscrib'd by
 his most Oblig'd Servants
 Sam^l & Nath^l Buck.



THIS Priory of Black Canons was founded by Robert de Haverford, he gave to it divers Churches & Tithes, in his Barony of Haverford; all which King Edward 3^d in 13th Year of his Reign confirm'd to them. About 70 Years ago, an Effigie was dug up, which seem'd to represent a Bishop, & is suppos'd to be that of David Cherbury, Bishop of Tremore in Ireland, & Arch. Deacon of Brecknock, who by his last Will, dated November 9th 1456. order'd himself to be Bury'd here, & left a Legacy towards y^e rebuilding of y^e Cloysters of this Priory. It is at present the Property of the Hon^{ble} John Campbell Esq^r. Ann^o 1740. *Aug. 1. 1740. 11. 1. 1740. 11. 1. 1740. 11. 1.*
 Sam^l & Nath^l Buck delin et. Sculp. Publish'd according to Act of Parliament. April 5. 1740.