

1A ROCK TERRACE, PEMBROKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



Report prepared
by
Dyfed Archaeological Trust
for
Woodenbale 2000 Ltd.



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**1A ROCK TERRACE
PEMBROKE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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**1A ROCK TERRACE, PEMBROKE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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1A ROCK TERRACE, PEMBROKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

The construction of a new dwelling at 1A Rock Terrace, Pembroke (Planning Application No. 06/0867/PA – NGR SM98850120), required an archaeological watching brief. The site lies adjacent to the remains of the medieval Goose's Lane Tower, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and against the line of the former medieval town wall. Given the site's location it was considered that there was 'strong potential that the ground works for the proposed development could reveal and destroy archaeological remains'. Therefore, it was recommended that an archaeological watching brief be carried out ground works for the proposed development.

The developer, Woodenbale 2000 Ltd., commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to carry out the watching brief in May 2008.

Remains of two former walls were exposed. Both walls were on the same alignment of as the existing buildings of Rock Terrace and seem to reflect the line of the former town wall.

One of the walls was a modern brick construction that continued the line of the front elevation of Rock Terrace. The second wall was towards the rear of the plot and constructed from stone blocks. This wall appears to line up with the front wall of a building shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map against the outside of the town wall. This building appears to have been demolished sometime around the end of the 19th century.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project commission

Construction of a new dwelling at 1A Rock Terrace, Pembroke (Planning Application No. 06/0867/PA – NGR SM98850120), required an archaeological watching brief on the groundworks. The site lies adjacent to the remains of the medieval Goose's Lane Tower, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and against the line of the former medieval town wall. Given the site's location it was considered that there was '*strong potential that the ground works for the proposed development could reveal and destroy archaeological remains*'¹. Therefore, it was recommended that an archaeological watching brief be carried out ground works for the proposed development.

The developer, Woodenbale 2000 Ltd., commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to carry out the watching brief in May 2008.

1.2 Scope of the project

The project was designed to record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during the new foundation trench cutting operations.

1.3 Report outline

This report describes the physical environment of the site (Section 2) before summarising the watching brief results and the conclusions based on those results (Section 3).

1.4 Abbreviations

Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR).

¹ Information contained in the letter sent to the Pembrokeshire County Council Planning Department by their archaeological advisors, Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Heritage Management, dated 5th December 2006.

2. THE SITE

2.1 Location

The watching brief site lies on the southeast corner of the medieval town of Pembroke on Rock Terrace at NGR SM98850120. It lies outside the medieval town walls of the town, although, the northern end of the site butts the former line of the walls.

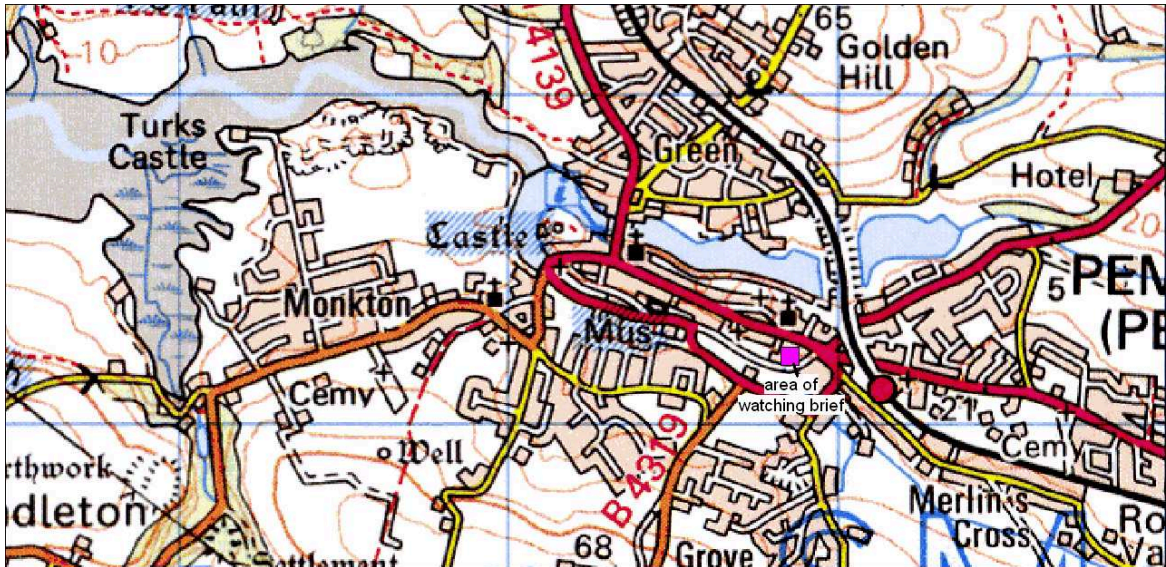


Figure 1: Location map showing the watching brief area (pink square).

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2.2 Pembroke town walls

The town walls at Pembroke were probably constructed in stone sometime between 1290-1325, possibly to replace earlier timber defences (Crane 2007, 2). The line of the walls in the area of the watching brief ran from the former East Gate, at the eastern end of Main Street, south along Goose's Lane to a tower that was formerly at the northern end of the development plot. From the tower the defences turned westward running towards the surviving Gazebo Tower and Gun Tower a short distance to the west.

3. SUMMARY OF WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

3.1 Methodology

The watching brief consisted of a site visit to monitor the excavation of the new foundation trenches. Time was made available to examine any revealed archaeological features, which were recorded through photographs and rapid site notes and sketches.

3.2 Results

The remains of two former walls were exposed during the excavation of the new foundation trenches. One was a modern wall (Wall 1) that had been removed as part of this development towards the front of the plot and the other was older, possibly post-medieval/early modern (Wall 2) towards the rear of the plot. Both were on the same alignment as the standing buildings of Rock Terrace.

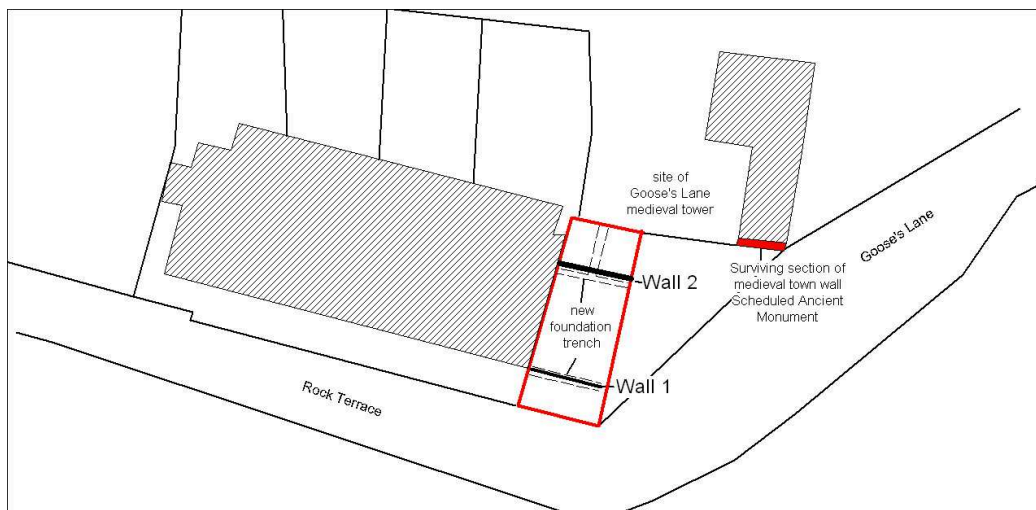


Figure 2: Plan of new foundation trenches and old wall lines (heavy black lines) encountered during the watching brief.

3.2.1 Wall 1

Wall 1 was constructed from red and yellow bricks and ran across the site in line with the front wall of the existing properties of Rock Terrace. The wall was two bricks wide and bonded with a hard grey mortar. A concrete or mortar floor lay on the south side of the wall. This wall was demolished during this development and may be re-used as the foundation for the new building.

The line of the wall also appears to be close to the line of the rear wall of a building that was shown in this position on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2500 map (Figure 3).

3.2.2 Wall 2

Wall 2 was built from shaped stone blocks and bonded with a hard yellow/grey mortar. It was 1m high x 0.4m wide and on the same alignment as Wall 1, although, they did not appear to be associated. The northern face of the wall had a lime plaster finish.

The wall may be the south wall of a building that was shown approximately in this location on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2500 map of the later 19th century

(Figure 3). The building was aligned roughly east-west and built against the outside of the medieval town wall. The building had been replaced by the existing buildings of Rock Terrace by 1906.

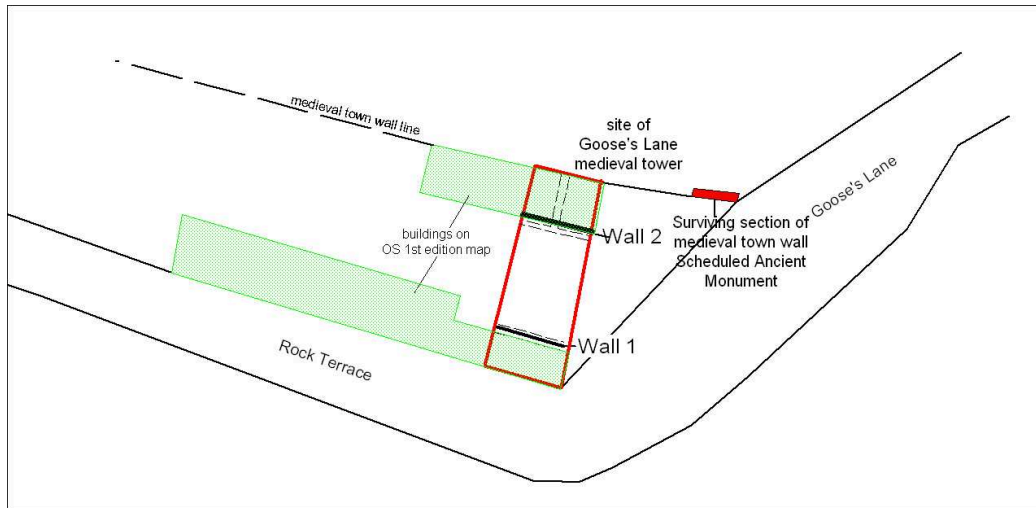


Figure 3: Plan of the watching brief site showing former buildings and Walls 1 and 2.



Plate 1: Wall 2.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The two walls show that this site has been developed in the past. Wall 1 was a modern brick wall that continued the front elevation of the buildings on Rock Terrace and possibly respected the line of the rear of an earlier building. Wall 2 appears to have been part of a post-medieval or early modern building that was constructed against the exterior of the medieval town wall. This building was shown on the Ordnance Survey map of the later 19th century, but it had been replaced by the buildings that now make up Rock Terrace by the early 20th century.

Neither building is considered to be of high archaeological value, and as both walls will probably be retained the development of the site has had little archaeological impact.

SOURCES

Crane P 2007 *Robinson Retail premises rear extension, Pembroke: archaeological watching brief*. Llandeilo. Cambria archaeology report 2007/87.

**1A ROCK TERRACE, PEMBROKE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
SPECIFICATION**

REPORT NUMBER 2008/52

April 2008

This report has been prepared by Nigel Page

Position: Head of Field Services

Signature Date

This report has been checked and approved by Ken Murphy
on behalf of, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position: Director

Signature Date

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comments you may have on the content or presentation of this report