

ABERYSTWYTH WORKHOUSE, BRONGLAIS HOSPITAL (SN 5911 8182)

HISTORIC BUILDINGS APPRAISAL



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For: Laing O'Rourke



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BRONGLAIS HOSPITAL
HISTORIC BUILDINGS APPRAISAL**

Gan / By

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ABERYSTWYTH WORKHOUSE, BRONGLAIS HOSPITAL HISTORIC BUILDINGS APPRAISAL

SUMMARY

A planning application has been submitted for redevelopment including an extension and car park, at Bronglais Hospital, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion (Planning Application Number A080176). The application includes the demolition of a number of buildings at the site, a few of which are associated with the former Aberystwyth Union Workhouse. Planning permission has been granted with a condition that an appropriate level of historic building recording is undertaken to determine the historic significance of the structures and create a record of the surviving elements.

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were appointed by Laing O'Rourke to undertake a Historic Buildings Appraisal of the surviving structures to provide information to address the planning condition.

The proposed development site was formerly the site of Aberystwyth Workhouse, which opened in late 1840 or early 1841. The building was designed by the local architect W R Coulthart, and comprised an E-shaped structure with the western façade being the front of the building, with three eastern projecting wings.

The workhouse was largely demolished in 1966, but the south wing was retained and is still used for a variety of functions by the hospital. A later addition to the south-west corner of the south wing also survives, as do the hospital estates buildings which may also have been associated with the workhouse.

The main building of the workhouse originally had two-storeys, faced to the west, and with two-storey wings to the east. It was designed to accommodate 200 inmates. The master's quarters were at the centre with males accommodated to one side and females to the other. The centre rear wing contained kitchens and a dining hall.

The building appraisal has confirmed that much of the southern wing of the original Aberystwyth Union Workhouse survives at the Bronglais Hospital site. The original workhouse building was constructed in a mix of Gothic and Elizabethan styles, with arched windows and doorways on the western façade and large tall chimneys on the main buildings. The wings to the east of the main block were less ornate in their appearance, being the accommodation blocks for inmates comprising dormitories and day rooms. Much of the internal layout of the south wing has been altered by the construction of new office partitions and corridors.

The building on the south-western corner of the south wing was erected on the Caradoc Road frontage, sometime before 1939, presumably to create a new main entrance to the building following residential development of the area. It is likely that the conjoined property was an accommodation block for staff of the Poor Law Institution, or a specific residence for an associated medical officer.

The south wing of the workhouse has been significantly altered from its original form, and internal alterations have occurred in most of the structure. The most architecturally interesting part of the workhouse was the ornate western façade which was demolished in 1966. The buildings on the Caradoc Road frontage are stylistically more interesting than the south-wing of the workhouse, although historically are of less significance. The estate workshops may have originally been constructed as a phase of later development of ancillary buildings for the workhouse/Poor Law Institution.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 A planning application has been submitted for redevelopment including an extension and car park, at Bronglais Hospital, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion (Planning Application Number A080176). The planning application includes the demolition of a number of buildings at the site, a few of which are associated with the former Aberystwyth Workhouse.
- 1.1.2 Laing O'Rourke, the main contractors who will be taking the redevelopment of the hospital forward, appointed Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services (DAT-FS) to carry out a programme of historic building recording on the buildings formerly associated with the workhouse, in order to fulfil a condition placed on the planning approval.
- 1.1.3 A written scheme of investigation for building recording was prepared by DAT-FS which was approved by the archaeological advisors to Ceredigion County Council (Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management (DAT-HM)).
- 1.1.4 The proposed development site was formerly the site of Aberystwyth Workhouse. The workhouse was mostly demolished in the latter part of the 20th century, with the southern wing of the E-shaped workhouse retained (Figure 1 and 2) and reused. The hospital estates buildings (Figure 2) are located in an area where an ancillary building to the workhouse is shown on the earlier Ordnance Survey maps of the site (Figures 5).
- 1.1.5 The programme of building recording was undertaken in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Building Recording (Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 1994, revised 2001).

1.2 Site Location

- 2.1.1 Bronglais Hospital is located between Penglais Road to the north and Caradoc Road to the south, to the east of the Town Centre (centred at NGR SN 5911 8182; Figure 1 and 2). It lies to the west of the National Library of Wales.
- 2.1.2 The former workhouse was also located in this area, within the western part of the existing hospital site, in an area which is mostly used as car parking. Only the southern wing of the original E shaped workhouse survives, with other ancillary buildings and additions also extant.



Figure 1: Location plan of Aberystwyth, showing location of Bronglais Hospital, based on Ordnance Survey

Reproduced from the 1995 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd., The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A

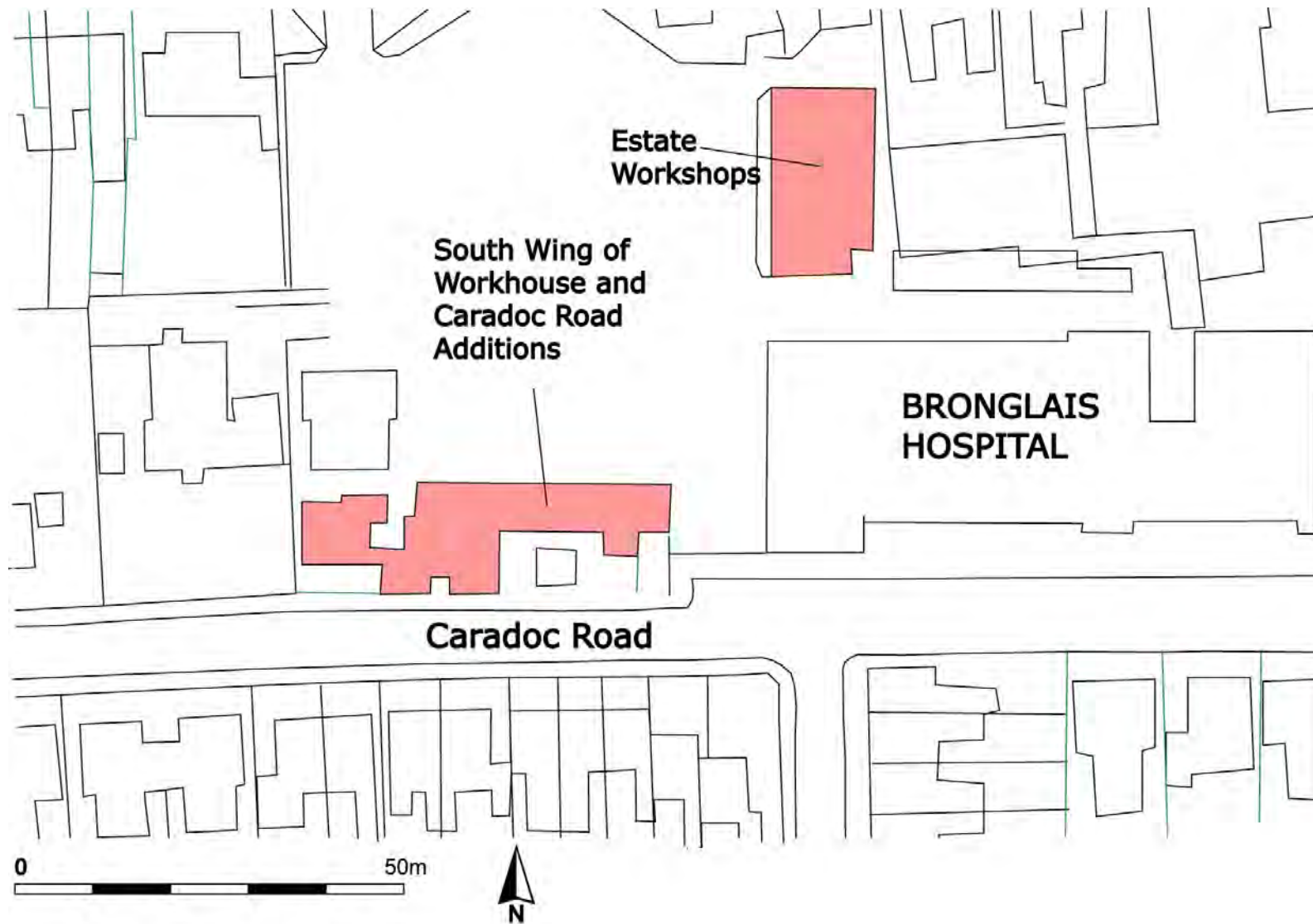


Figure 2: Location Plan of Former Workhouse Buildings and Estate Workshops

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 The following sources have been used to provide information regarding the historical background of the workhouse:

- Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record;
- Royal Commission on the Archaeological and Historic Monuments of Wales National Monuments Record (NMR);
- National Library of Wales;
- Aberystwyth Local Studies Library;
- Ceredigion Records Office;
- Walkover and Photographic surveys of the hospital buildings (undertaken on 29th and 30th April 2009); and
- Other background material (various internet sources).

2.2 The building appraisal included the following elements:

- Full photographic record of all buildings and significant features within them (high-resolution digital photography) and provide copies on CD / DVD;
- Provision of a basic floor-plan of the buildings and indication of the locations of photographed elevations and/or features (included within the archive with all photographs taken);
- An assessment of each building for its original function and importance, including internal features;
- Provision of a basic brief report on the buildings, identifying key information sources (historic maps, HER search) and discussing any obvious phasing, chronology or other features of interest which were observed during fieldwork;
- Provision of neat, annotated copies of field drawings (both paper and scanned digital copies) as an archive record;
- All buildings and features were recorded by archaeological building record sheet, sketch drawings, photography and site notebooks. The Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services' Recording Manual¹ was used.

2.3 Access was not possible into all areas of the buildings, but it was possible to view internal arrangements through windows in some cases.

¹ Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services have adopted the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available for inspection if required.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Historical Background

- 3.1.1 The Aberystwyth Poor Law Union was formed on 5th May, 1837 and the Aberystwyth Union Workhouse opened in late 1840 or early 1841. It was located on the south side of the Penglais Road on the eastern side of the town, on land purchased from Sir Pryce Pryce. On the 2nd March 1839 an advertisement was placed in The Cambrian newspaper inviting tenders for erecting the Union Workhouse. On 2nd September 1840 the Demetian Mirror reported that the workhouse was 'nearly complete and forming a striking feature on the approach to Aberystwyth from the north'.
- 3.1.2 The workhouse was designed by local architect W R Coulthart, with the two-story main building faced to the west and had an E-shaped layout (Figure 3, 4 and 5). It was designed to accommodate 200 inmates. The master's quarters were at the centre with males accommodated to one side and females to the other. The centre rear wing contained kitchens and dining hall.
- 3.1.3 Following the completion of the Workhouse a description was placed in the Welshman on 23rd April 1841. The description read as follows:

"Aberystwyth Union Workhouse: The building is now completed and reflects great credit on all who have been concerned in its erection. It's physiognomy is very prepossessing, being the antipodes of the old 'parish poorhouse', so graphically described by Crabbe and others. The house is calculated to accommodate 200 inmates, and is situated about a quarter of a mile from Aberystwyth, on the Machynlleth Road; sheltered on all sides by the surrounding hills, and commanding panoramic views of the town, shipping and surrounding scenery; and has a constant and never failing water supply of the finest water conveyed through the building. The style is a mixture of old English of the Elizabethan era and the simple Gothic of the earlier ages. The roofs are gabled and pointed, and the latter surmounted with octagonal ornaments, representing pinnacles etc. The chimneys are of various forms, and built in groups in the old English fashion; and being very numerous, add to the beauty of the building. The effect of the whole is picturesque, domestic and somewhat collegiate. The west of principal front, looking towards the town, is upwards of 200ft in length. It has two projecting wings, and the chapel, which is in the centre, also projects. The chapel is lighted by a large Gothic window, 15 foot high and 8 feet wide, with ornamental Gothic mouldings. The doorways, also Gothic, and ornamented in the same manner. The windows of the wing buildings are ornamented with moulded labels. The interior comprises, on the ground storey, the chapel and boardroom, which are exactly in the centre of the building, and divide the men's and women's apartments; on one side the master's and matron's parlour, porter's lodge, men's first and second class day rooms, and boy's schoolroom; on the other side the clerk's office (which opens into the boardroom), store rooms, women's first and second class day rooms, girl's schoolroom. The centre building at the back consists of a large kitchen, larder, wash-house, bake-house etc. The back wing buildings consist of the boys and girls dormitories, receiving rooms, bath rooms and refectory rooms, and other offices. On the one pair storey are the master's and matron's bedrooms, lying inwards, large airy dormitories for the men and women, first and second classes, and room for the sick and 'infirm'. Each ward has a large exercise yard, and there is a good space of ground for a garden attached to the building. Too much praise cannot be given to Mr W R Coultart, the architect, for the work."

- 3.1.4 Documentary records indicate that the workhouse never had many inmates at any one time, with only 6 paupers recorded in August 1843, 24 paupers on Christmas Day in 1845, 26 inmates and 2 vagrants in March 1847. These numbers fall well short of the 200 inmate capacity of the workhouse, which partly shows the effectiveness of the workhouse system, with them being a place which is very much a last resort, and somewhere people strived not to go. Even though the exterior of the workhouse, as described above, was ornate and had an aesthetically pleasing appearance, the living conditions within and the stigma attached to being admitted to a workhouse meant that it was not a place people chose to go to.
- 3.1.5 The 1891 census records 71 inmates at the workhouse. By this time its function (like many others in the UK) had become more that of an infirmary housing the infirm, blind and those with mental problems (such people being described as 'imbeciles', regardless of their actual condition).
- 3.1.6 The workhouse also temporarily housed tramps, vagrants or travelling homeless who did not officially belong to any district. When necessary they would be housed in very basic accommodation called casual wards or vagrants wards (often no more than small cells with a brick floor and straw mattress). The conditions were much worse than those of the true 'inmates'. They would be admitted in the evening, all possessions removed, clothes taken and fumigated, the vagrants would have to bathe and then wear workhouse nightshirts. In return for their accommodation they would have to undertake some manual work. At Aberystwyth the casual ward was known as the 'Beggars Hostel', and is said to have been built in around 1880 as an extension on the northern wing of the workhouse (RCAHMW records). The hostel comprised a number of small cells, with a large opening on the outer wall, which had a metal hood and grid covering the opening (photo 2). The Cardiganshire County History Volume III (Jenkins & Jones 1998) calls this building the 'stone breaking workshops and hoppers', which would follow with the grilled opening (stone would be broken in the rooms and fed through the grill to ensure the stone was below a certain size). Whether the cells of the 'Beggars Hostel' were adapted, or the rooms served both functions is uncertain (stone breaking rooms by day, and vagrant accommodation by night).



Photo 1: 'Beggars Hostel' / stone breaking workshops and hoppers
(Jenkins & Jones 1998)

3.2 Cartographic Information

- 3.2.1 The earliest map showing the workhouse that was found during the research for this project, is a 1877 plan showing proposed terraced housing development between the Militia Depot / Barracks to the west and the Workhouse to the east ("Plan of Proposed Houses on Land Belonging to Sir Pryse Pryse Bart. Between the Workhouse and Militia Depot, Aberystwyth" held by National Museum of Wales). At this time the land was undeveloped, with the proposals showing a new road to be constructed to the south of the area and a connecting road between the proposed housing. The western frontage of the workhouse is shown in outline only and no further detail is included. The development was never completed, although the proposed roads, corresponding to Caradoc Road were constructed by the turn of the 20th century.
- 3.2.2 Some housing was built in this area by the time of the 1899 Ordnance Survey 25" Map Sheet VI.9 (Figure 3), as was the north-south stretch of Caradoc Road, including Havelock Villa, three pairs of semi-detached housing fronting Penglais Road, and a detached building called 'Endernion' fronting Caradoc Road (all of these structures are still extant). The workhouse is shown on this map as comprising the overall E shape, with gardens and main driveway to the western frontage (as shown in photograph on report cover/ Photo 2), with this frontage being the main access. It is labelled as 'Aberystwyth Union Workhouse'. A number of extensions to the main E shape of the workhouse are shown to the north and on the south-western corner. Two further detached structures are shown on the eastern side. There are no details available to indicate what the functions of these buildings were, although from the information held

by the RCAHMS it is assumed the northern extension comprises the tramp wards and stone breaking cells. Other structures may have included laundries and a boiler house.



Photo 2: Aberystwyth Workhouse Western façade circa 1960

- 3.2.3 By the 1905 OS 25" Map Sheet VI.9 (Figure 4) the east-west stretch of Caradoc Road had been constructed, providing roadway access to the southern side of the workhouse. The map shows little change in the layout of the workhouse, although further development has occurred to the west, with more house built along the Penglais Road to the north west and east. A detached structure has been erected between the workhouse and 'Endernion' (still extant). The workhouse is still labelled as 'Aberystwyth Union Workhouse'.
- 3.2.4 The 1939 OS 25" Map Sheet VI.9 (Figure 5) shows greater changes to the workhouse, with a change to the layout of the northern extension, and a larger structure built on the south-western corner of the workhouse. At this time the building is labelled as 'Poor Law Institution'. The south-western structure is still extant, and was evidently built to provide a new access to the workhouse from Caradoc Road. There is a fairly grand entrance with steps leading up to the building. A larger structure has also been erected to the east of the workhouse, which is still partially extant and used as the estates workshop. Further housing has been erected to the south of the workhouse on Cae'r-gog Terrace and Iorwerth Road.
- 3.2.5 In 1963 the first foundation stone for Bronglais Hospital was laid. The hospital was to replace Aberystwyth Infirmary which was located to the west of the workhouse on North Road. The majority of the workhouse buildings were demolished in 1966 when the hospital was officially opened and patients were moved from the infirmary. Only the southern wing of the workhouse was retained, including the south-western extension first shown on the 1939 OS map (Figure 5).

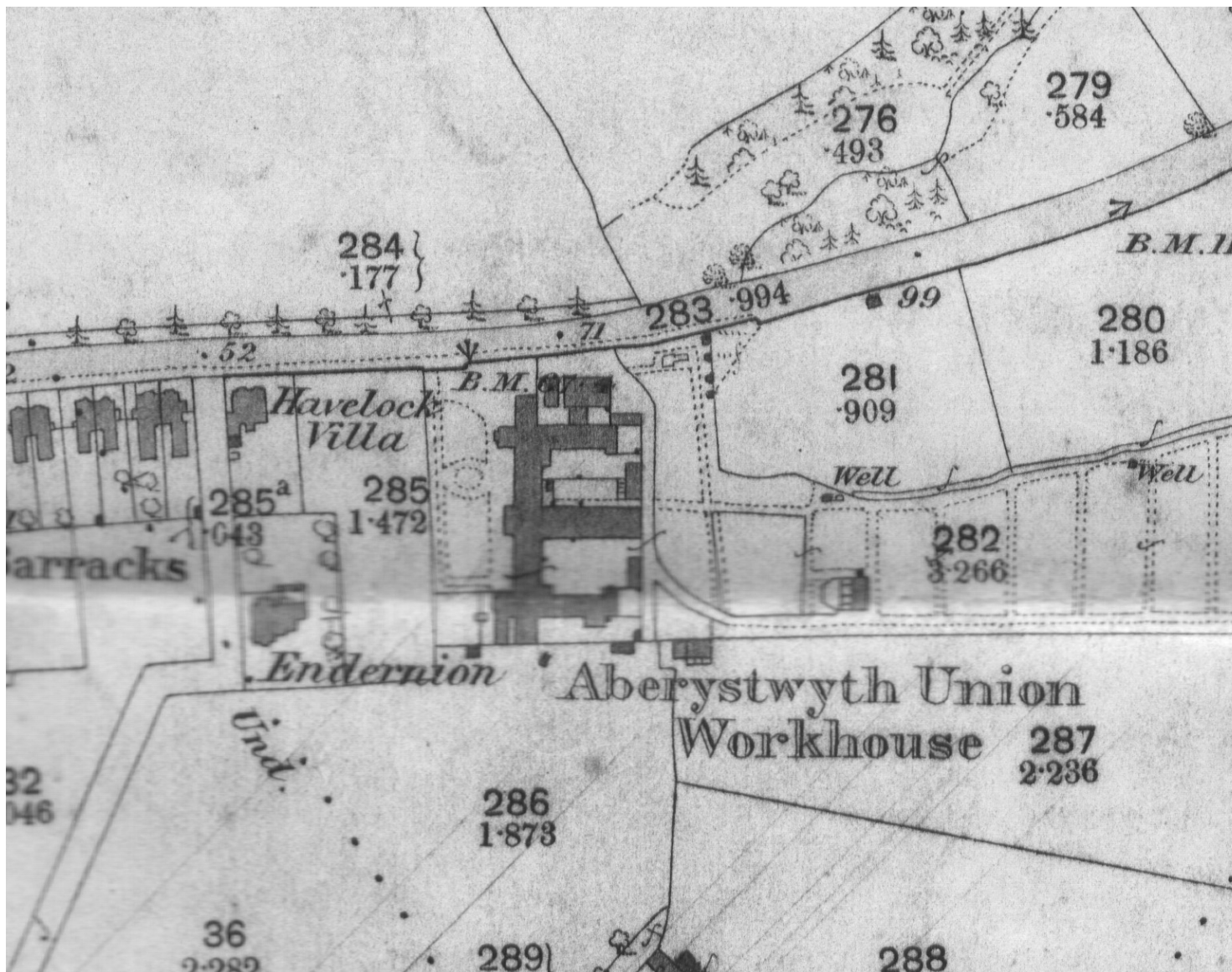


Figure 4: Extract of First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1899

DAT Report No. 2009/51

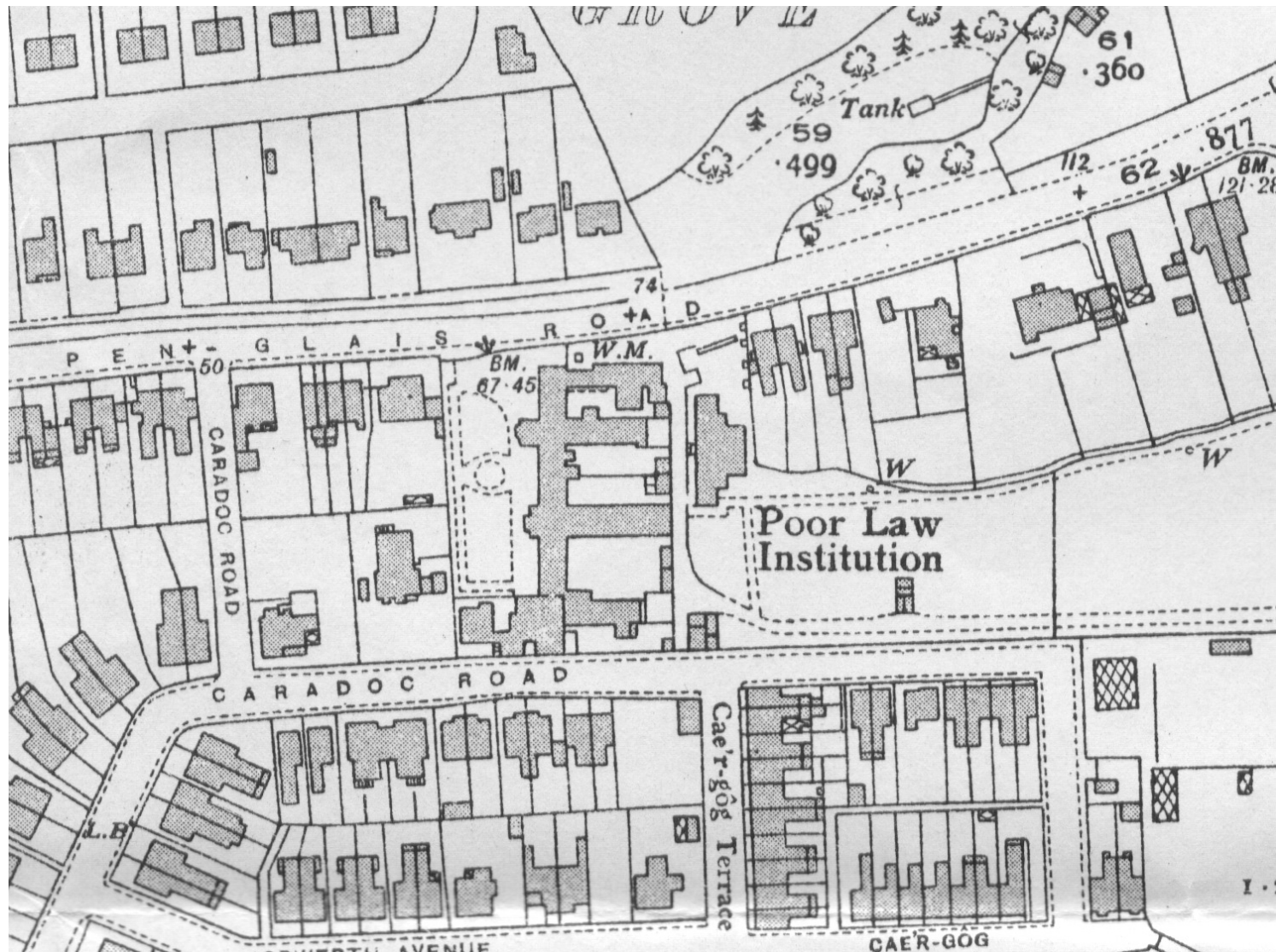


Figure 6: Extract of 1939 Ordnance Survey Map

4 BUILDING DESCRIPTION

4.1 South Wing of Workhouse – External

- 4.1.1 The northern façade of the south wing of the workhouse comprises three parts, a taller two storey element to the west which has been substantially rebuilt following demolition of the rest of the workhouse; a slightly lower and shorter two storey block in the eastern part; and a very narrow and shorter still addition at the very eastern end. It would appear that the majority of the eastern part of the northern façade is original, and as far as can be ascertained, the eastern block of the building (left hand side of photo 3) contains mostly original window openings and doorways. The original windows are all simple 4 paned sashes, mostly located in the eastern part of the building, with two visible in the upper storey of the western block.
- 4.1.2 At the western end of the building are more modern windows (photo 4), which were inserted within the area of the wall which must have been constructed in the 1960s when the majority of the workhouse was demolished. New doorway openings have also been added into this area. One single more ornate sash window (8 paned) is present on the first floor level at the very western end of the northern façade, which is similar in appearance to some of those located within the building erected on the Caradoc Road frontage (dating between 1905 and 1939), with a wide wooden divider between the sashes (photo 5). A similar window is also visible on the second storey on the western gable end of the building (photo 6) which also originally had a third row of windows above the sashes very similar to those on the southern façade of the Caradoc Road building.



Photo 3: Northern façade of southern wing



Photo 4: Area of rebuilt wall on northern façade, with modern windows.



Photo 5: Sash window of style similar to the Caradoc Road frontage building



Photo 6: West facing gable end wall with sash window upper storey and new roller shutter door to ground floor

- 4.1.3 Some rebuild of the western end of the roof must have occurred when the remainder of the workhouse was demolished in the 1960s, although this was not clearly evident. This may indicate the whole of the roof of the western block was redone at this time, or perhaps tiles were reused. An ornate chimney in yellow brick is present on the western block before the change in level to the block to the east, as is clearly seen on a view of the southern façade (photo 7). The chimney is an original feature of the workhouse.



Photo 7: Chimney between western and eastern blocks of building
as viewed on from south

- 4.1.4 The southern façade was not as clearly visible as that of the north, due to the presence of a large boundary wall enclosing an inaccessible area (photo 8).



Photo 8: Southern façade of building from south-east



Photo 9: Southern façade, eastern block of building

4.1.5 The southern façade of the eastern block (photo 8) appears to have survived relatively intact with three windows visible on the second floor, one 4-paned sash window (now altered for an extractor fan), and two

narrow 2-paned sashes to the east (photo 9). The small additional block to the east has a single window on the second storey (another narrow 2-paned sash). The presence of numerous drainage and soil pipes would imply that narrow and shorter build on the eastern end would have been a toilet block (photos 8 and 9).

- 4.1.6 The western block has been significantly altered by the additional structure added to the south-western corner of the workhouse by 1939, which provided a new entrance from Caradoc Road. Only three windows were visible at second storey level, two narrow 2-paned sash window (the same as those seen on the eastern block façade) and a more recent metal framed window to the east, which is considered to be a later replacement (photo 10 and 11).



Photo 10: Southern façade, western block of building



Photo 11: Junction between western block and additional structure fronting Caradoc Road

4.2 South Wing of Workhouse – Internal

4.2.1 The inside of the south wing of the former workhouse has been considerably altered. Numerous partition walls within the western block obscure a clear understanding of the original internal arrangement of the building. Some of the upper floor rooms were not accessible, but it was possible to see that the rooms above the eastern block contained numerous large pieces of equipment.



Photo 12: Ground floor of eastern block facing west towards covered fireplace



Photo 13: Ground floor of eastern block facing east towards breezeblock addition

4.2.2 The ground floor of the eastern block was vacant when the buildings appraisal was undertaken. This allowed full view of the groundfloor of this building (photo 12 and 13) which was 10.80m x 4.85m in size. A covered fireplace was visible at the western end of the room (photo 12), corresponding with the large chimney above at the junction between the western and eastern blocks of the workhouse. A modern breeze-block internal addition was present at the south-eastern end of the building (photo 13) associated with the extension to the building that projected from the southern façade at ground level.

4.2.3 A steel column is present midway along the room supporting the second storey floor (photos 12 and 13). The column has a simple band decoration at a height of 1.84m from floor level (photo 14). There would appear to have been some alteration in the ceiling as there is a change in height just after the pillar,

and a non-continuous ceiling beams stops just to the east of the column (photo 12).



Photo 14: Detail of steel column decoration

4.2.4 Two windows and two doorways are present in the northern wall of the room. The two windows are both 8-paned sashes (photo 15 and 16), and the windows openings are roughly the same sizes (eastern – 1.18m wide x 1.62m in height; western 1.15m wide x 1.56m in height). The windows themselves are very basic with no decoration or horns and may be simple functional windows placed within one of the day rooms. The doorways have been modernised and no original features remain. It is possible that one of the doorways is an adapted window opening, but this could not be confirmed.

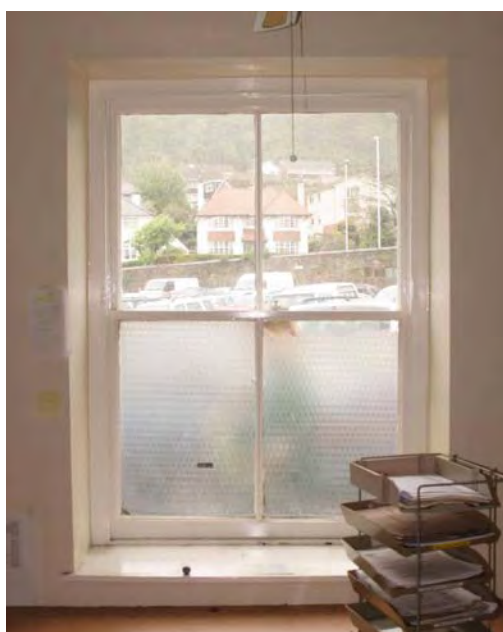


Photo 15: Detail of western window
north wall

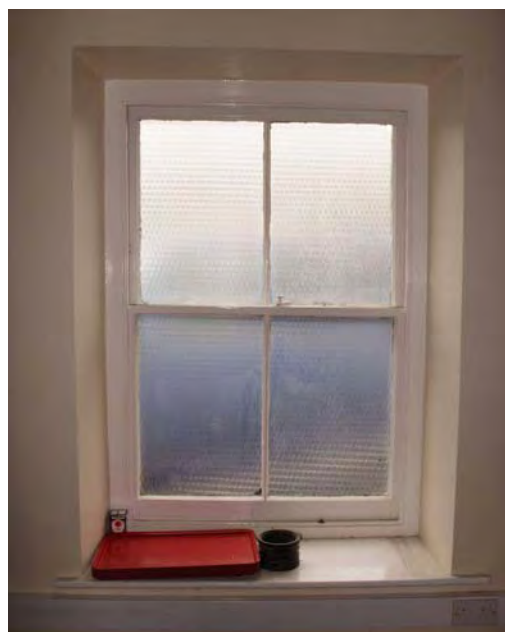


Photo 16: Detail of eastern window
north wall

4.2.4 The south wall has only two windows visible (photo 17). A doorway may be present behind the breeze block addition. The eastern window is an 8-paned sash, whereas the western one is a 12-paned casement window. The window openings are different sizes (eastern – 1.18m wide x 1.18m in height; western 1.14m wide and 1.00m in height). The western window opening may be original but adapted (height reduced), although this is unclear. The sash window is basic but does have vertical horns at the top of the lower frame.



Photo 17: South wall showing (view south) showing window openings

4.2.5 The room would appear to be a very basic space, with any original features other than windows removed or covered over. There is no real clue to its original function, although it is presumed that it was a day room for men or women, with a door (or doors) which would have lead into the yard area formed by the southern and central wings of the workhouse. A further yard area may have been accessed to south of the workhouse (possibly walled area as exists today). Such separation would have been typical in a workhouse segregating the sexes and adults and children.

4.3 Caradoc Road Building and Adjacent Building



Photo 18: Caradoc Road frontage of Caradoc Road building

- 4.3.1 As noted above, the main building which currently fronts Caradoc Road (and which is attached to the south wing of the former workhouse), was constructed before 1939. The building has an ornate entrance with moulded stone architrave and a stone flat hood/cornice above leading onto Caradoc Road comprising a set of large slate steps leading into the building to a main entrance way (photos 18 and 19). A frieze is present below the cornice, but no evidence of engraving or removed plaque / sign is visible.
- 4.3.2 The building has a hipped roof to the west and partially hipped to the east, leading into a projection which is joined into that of the main workhouse (as can be seen in photo 8). The building is tiled in slate, with red ceramic ridge tiles along the apexes of the roof.



Photo 19: Slate steps leading up from Caradoc Road to main entrance of Caradoc Road building



Photo 21: Detail of central sash window above main entrance of Caradoc Road

4.3.2 The sash windows within this building are of a more ornate type than the original ones on the south wing of the workhouse. Those on the frontage are all 15-pane windows comprising a standard 12 paned sash with a bottom opening casement of three panes above. The central window above the entrance (photo 21) also has narrow 5 paned windows to either side (4 paned sashes, with single bottom opening casement above) separated by wide wooden dividers. Similar styled windows with the wooden dividers are present in places on the southern wing of the workhouse, although the top row of bottom opening casements are not present. The sashes have simple moulded horns.

4.3.3 To the west of the main building fronting Caradoc Road is another presumably contemporary structure (photo 22 and 23). The structure is simpler in nature, and has the appearance of a dwelling. The structure may have provided new living quarters for the staff of the Poor Law Institution, at which point it would have acted more as an infirmary for the elderly, frail, disabled and mentally ill, requiring more specialised nursing care. Alternatively it may have been a single residence for the medical officer of the infirmary or similar. A number of features are very similar between the two buildings, including the stone flat hood/cornice above the front door (photo 24) and the slate tiled roof with red ceramic ridge tiles (photo 22 and 23).



Photo 22: View from south-west showing the two buildings fronting Caradoc Road



Photo 23: Building attached to the west of building on south-western corner of former workhouse (Caradoc Road frontage)



Photo 24: Stone cornice above doorway entrance of western building on Caradoc Road frontage

4.4 Estates Workshop



Photo 25: Estate Workshops western façade viewed from Penglais Road

4.3.3 The estates workshop lies to the north-east of the south wing of the former workhouse. The building is first shown on the 1939 Ordnance Survey map, and it is unclear if the building was actually part of the Poor Law Institution. The building is single storey. All of the windows have been replaced with modern double-glazing. The roof is hipped, a similar

style to those buildings on Caradoc Road frontage, but have grey ceramic ridge tiles. The building has been extended externally on its eastern side, with flat roofed additions surrounding the original hipped roof, as can be seen on photo 26. The building may have been associated with the workhouse, but its original function is not known.



Photo 26: North gable ends of estates workshops viewed south from Bronglais Road (the eastern end of the surviving wing of the workhouse is just visible on the right hand side of the photograph)

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The building appraisal has confirmed that much of the southern wing of the original Aberystwyth Union Workhouse (opened late 1840 or early 1841) survives at the Bronglais Hospital site. The remainder of the workhouse was demolished in 1966 following the official opening of the new Bronglais Hospital site and patients were moved from the Poor Law Institution infirmary (as the workhouse was latterly known).
- 5.2 The original workhouse building was constructed in a mix of Gothic and Elizabethan styles, with arched windows and doorways on the western façade and large tall chimneys on the main buildings. The buildings along the western façade were utilised for the Master and Matron of the workhouse and their staff, with the Aberystwyth Union meeting room and offices. The chapel was also located in this area. The wings to the east of the main block were less ornate in their appearance, being the accommodation blocks for inmates comprising dormitories and day rooms.
- 5.3 The south wing is certainly less ornate than the original frontage of the workhouse, although it has one substantial Elizabethan style chimney. Following demolition of the remainder of the workhouse the northern façade of the building was substantially altered, with the connecting walls between the demolished parts being rebuilt.
- 5.4 The rooms in the surviving south wing would have originally comprised day rooms and dormitories. Whether these were for men, women, boys or girls could not be determined. Latterly the wing may have been used as a ward block for patients within the infirmary once the function of the building changed from the Workhouse for paupers to a place to care for the elderly, infirm, disabled and mentally ill.
- 5.5 Much of the internal layout of the south wing have been altered with the construction of new office partitions and corridors. One room survives relatively intact on the ground floor at the eastern end of the workhouse building.
- 5.6 On the south-western corner of the south wing a new building was erected on the Caradoc Road frontage, sometime before 1939, presumably to create a new main entrance to the building once access from Penglais Road was restricted with the construction of housing to the west of the workhouse. This building still survives as does an adjacent and conjoined property to the west. It is considered likely that the conjoined property was an accommodation block for staff of the Poor Law Institution, or a specific residence for an associated medical officer.
- 5.7 The estate workshops which lie to the north-east of the south wing, also date from some time before 1939. On the Ordnance Survey map of that year it is unclear if the buildings are associated with the Poor Law Institution or not. The original roofs of the building are hipped in a similar style to those buildings on the Caradoc Road frontage so potentially they are from the same phase of building.
- 5.8 In terms of archaeological or historic significance, it is considered that the surviving south wing of the workhouse is of low importance. The structure has been significantly altered from its original form, and internal alterations have occurred in most of the structure. The most architecturally interesting part of the workhouse was the western façade that was demolished in 1966 when the new Bronglais Hospital was opened, as it contained the majority of stylistic elements as visible on the cover photograph of the report. The rear wings were plain in comparison.

This building appraisal is therefore considered to represent an appropriate record of the building.

- 5.9 The buildings on the Caradoc Road frontage are stylistically more interesting than the south-wing of the workhouse, although historically are of less significance. The buildings survive in a far more intact state than the former workhouse wing. These buildings are not of exceptional character and merely represent an episode in the development and changing function of the workhouse through to Poor Law Institution. It is considered that this buildings appraisal represents an adequate record of the buildings.
- 5.10 The estate workshops are not considered to be of particular historical or architectural significance, other than they may have originally been constructed as a phase of later development of the workhouse/Poor Law Institution.
- 5.11 Bearing in mind the above conclusions, and the degree of recording undertaken for this report, no need for further, more detailed recording of the buildings has been identified.

6. SOURCES

Jenkins, G. & Jones I., 1998, *Cardiganshire County History III, Cardiganshire in Modern Times*, RCAHMMW

Ordnance Survey Maps of 1899, 1905 and 1939, Map Sheets VI.9

The Regional Historic Environment Record, housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust in Llandeilo

The Welshman 23rd April 1841, extract

ABERYSTWYTH WORKHOUSE, BRONGLAIS HOSPITAL HISTORIC BUILDINGS APPRAISAL


RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2009/51
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Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by

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Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
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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***