UPPER PARK STREET, LLANELLI: ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT



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Upper Park Street, Llanelli Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

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UPPER PARK STREET, LLANELLI ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY

Dyfed Archaeological Trust was commissioned in July 2009 to undertake a Desk-Based Assessment of a proposed redevelopment of an area around Upper Park Street, Llanelli (NGR SN 5097 0045). The assessment involved an examination of relevant documentary, cartographic and pictorial sources, combined with a rapid on-site examination, with the aim to provide enough detailed information about the character, distribution, extent and importance of any potential archaeological sites in the area to inform future decision making to protect the archaeological resource.

A Roman road is believed to pass through the Llanelli and may run through the area of proposed redevelopment. The town itself has its origins in the medieval period with a 12th century castle and church site on the north side of the Lliedi. The settlement itself remained small throughout the medieval period, concentrated to the north of the Lliedi, but of three mills recorded in the area during the medieval period it is possible one or two may have been sited within the study area. The availability of coal and proximity of the coast attracted large numbers of industries to the area from the 18th century onwards, leading to a rapid expansion of the settlement into a large town by the end of the 19th century. By the early 19th century some dispersed buildings are recorded within the study area, including a tollgate on the longstanding Water Street-Swansea Road route connecting Llanelli to Loughor and Swansea. The mid to late 19th century saw a rapid expansion of new streets and terraced housing across the study area. This new building also included schools, a public house and important chapel sites. This landscape remained virtually unchanged until redevelopment work in the later 20th century saw the creation of a nearby shopping precinct and the demolition of most of the terraced houses, schools and chapels throughout this area, replaced with a car park for the shopping centre, along with a bus depot and areas of rough ground. The Zion Baptist Chapel and school remained untouched, both Grade II listed structures. The Island House public house is now the only other remaining upstanding 19th century structure.

There is a possibility of archaeological remains existing below ground across the study area that may be affected by the proposed redevelopment. However, previous redevelopment of this area has already lead to the substantial destruction of many of these sites and changed the historic landscape of the area, therefore it is suggested an archaeological watching brief on ground breaking activities to record any revealed archaeological features and deposits may be a maximum appropriate level of mitigation. The remaining upstanding structure of the Island House public house may benefit from archaeological building recording prior to its destruction in order to preserve the site by record.

INTRODUCTION

Project Background

Asbri Planning, acting on behalf of their clients Henry Davidson Developments Ltd, requested an archaeological desk-based assessment be undertaken on an area of proposed redevelopment at the eastern end of Llanelli town centre, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN 5097 0045), prior to the application for planning in order to better inform the development proposals.

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were commissioned to undertake the Desk-Based Assessment in July 2009.

Objectives

The principal objective of the desk-based assessment is to identify the character, distribution, extent and importance of any potential archaeological sites that may be affected by the proposed development. Suggestions for further work or mitigation measures have been given where appropriate.

Methodology

This is essentially a desk-based study. The following sources have been consulted:

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

The National Library of Wales, cartographic and documentary sources.

The County Records Office cartographic, documentary and pictoral sources.

Databases compiled by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW) and Cadw-Welsh Historic Monuments.

A rapid site visit was made and a walkover survey undertaken. The purpose of the visit was to:

Review the current state of archaeological features and deposits identified during the documentary research.

Identify new archaeological features and deposits, or areas that may contain them.

Carry out rapid recording of archaeological sites, features and deposits by photography, site notes and sketch plans, if required.

Assess the vulnerability of archaeological sites, features and deposits to the proposed redevelopment of the site.

Abbreviations used in this report

All sites recorded on the county Historic Environment Record (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and all sites mentioned within this report are located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). References to cartographic and documentary evidence and published sources will be given in brackets throughout the text, with full details listed in the sources section at the rear of the report.

THE STUDY AREA

The proposed redevelopment area is approximately 1.75 hectares (4.3 acres) of land lying at the eastern end of Llanelli town centre (NGR SN 5097 0045). The site currently principally consists of a public car park and also accommodates a bus interchange, a public house, an office building and an area of rough ground. The streets of Upper Park Street and Island Place cut through the area, although Upper Park Street and its small offshoot of Zion Row are now dead-ends. Much of Island Place was formerly known as a continuation of Water Street with Island Place referring to a short stretch of street running to the north and south of Island House, the southern section has since been redeveloped. The northern half of the site is bounded by the Zion Baptist Chapel and its school buildings, both Grade II listed structures. The A484 and Stepney Place bound the site to the east and south beyond which lie urban development. To the west the site is bounded by a variety of commercial and retail buildings leading into Llanelli town centre.

The underlying geology of the Llanelli area belongs mainly to the Pennant Series of shales with coal and sandstones of the Upper Carboniferous Coal Measures. This in turn is overlaid in places by drift deposits of boulder clay and alluvium. The coal measures have undergone much folding, faulting, uplifting, erosional and depositional processes over geological time which have resulted in the complex stratification and landforms seen today. The core of Llanelli lies on the banks of Afon Lliedi on higher ground as it emerges onto relatively level lowland areas bordering the Loughor estuary, a tidal inlet of the Bristol Channel. The course of the river has been altered and runs underground through much of the town centre, and land reclamation has changed the profile of the coastline in this area allowing the town to expand southwards to the banks of the estuary. The study area itself lies c.50m to the south of the Afon Lliedi on fairly level land sloping slightly down northwards towards the river.

The proposed work involves the construction of new retail and leisure units and the creation of a new bus depot to the south and car parking to the east. This will involve the removal of the existing bus depot and car parking and buildings such as the Island House pub and nearby small office building, as well as altering the current layout of streets within the area. The Zion Baptist Chapel and Sunday School are included within the study area but are excluded from the redevelopment works.



Plate 1: View westwards across rough ground forming part of the proposed development area, Zion Chapel stands to the right.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

The following section describes the known historical development of the proposed redevelopment area. This section will also highlight the known and suggested archaeological remains, assess their condition and importance and highlight any impacts the proposed development will have on this archaeological resource.

The historical development of the area.

Little is known of the history and development of Llanelli prior to its rapid industrial-led expansion in the 18th and 19th centuries. Its earliest recorded history appears to be from the medieval period. Although prehistoric archaeology in the immediate area is scarce this does not preclude prehistoric human activity within the study area. The landscape of Llanelli has been altered a great deal during the post medieval period, prior to this the relatively shallow river valley of the Lliedi began to open out into the rich fertile flat lands and wetland fringes of the Loughor estuary, providing a rich variety of resources that could be exploited at any point prior to the establishment of a known settlement in the medieval period. This estuarine landscape also gradually changed over time as sea levels altered. Palaeoenvironmental research along the wetland areas have shown a complex development of estuarine sedimentation, peat build-up and even submerged woodlands. To date the nearest recorded prehistoric activity comes from an Iron Age hillfort within Stradey Woods to the west but this gap in recorded prehistoric sites is more likely to indicate an absence of evidence rather than evidence of absence during this long period.

In the 1st century AD the Romans arrived in the area, establishing a fort at nearby Loughor. From this point they pushed westwards across the Afon Loughor, laying down a new road in the process. This road may have passed through Llanelli. The exact route has not been proven, but there is a suggestion that it passed along a now lost route to the south and west of the study area to continue along present day Thomas Street-Old Road-Stradey Road and beyond. However, there is a strong possibility that this Roman road formed the precursor to the old Swansea Road between Loughor and Llanelli, which passes through this study area in the form of Island Place and Water Street. The curving nature of the road in this particular area however suggests the current route, although clearly old in origin, may not follow the line of the Roman road closely, if at all. 19th century commentators also suggested that the Romans built a camp within Llanelli, described as a 'square green camp' that was disappearing in the 1880s (Innes 1902;4) and had been developed upon by 1897 (Jones Davies 1897;7). This site would appear to be 'Pen y Castell', earthworks recorded between John Street, Station Road and Murray Street. Being too close to Loughor to be a fort in its own right it has been suggested this site represented the remains of a Roman practice camp. Further slight evidence of Roman activity comes from the discovery of a single coin of Dioclecian (ad.284-305) found at 'Llanelly Church'. It is possible this coin represents the passage of people and goods along the road which is believed to pass by the church rather than an indication of more intensive settlement in this area, although the road and bridging point across the Lliedi could have provided the focus for some degree of roadside activity in this general area.

The church itself may be evidence of activity in the area in the post Roman period, prior to the Anglo-Norman invasions in the late 11th/early 12th century. St Elli/Ellyw is a 7th century Celtic saint, which may be an indication of a pre-Norman religious foundation, and there is a late 11th century reference to it in the Book of Llandaf (Soulsby 1983;164). To the east lie the former chapels of St Gwynllyw and Capel Berwick, both of which may also have early medieval origins and all

lying alongside the Old Swansea Road suggesting this routeway, which, as mentioned, passes through the study area, was in use during the early medieval period. There is however no indication of the extent of activity surrounding any of these religious sites and archaeology of this period within the study area may be limited to the line of the road.

Soulsby describes the history of settlement at Llanelli as being 'firmly rooted in the medieval world' (Soulsby 1983;164). It appears likely that a castle and small settlement was established at Llanelli in the 12th century to function as the Anglo-Norman caput of the lordship of Carnwyllion. The castle is first mentioned in 1190 when it was destroyed, and is mentioned again in 1215 when it was under the control of Rhys Ieuanc (Brut y Tywysogion;90). This would appear to be a reference to the castle remains now situated in Old Castle Pond. No further references to the castle are recorded but St Elli's church is mentioned in the Inquisitions Post Mortem of 1282-3 and the Taxation of 1291 (Innes 1902;163). No reference is recorded for a settlement in Llanelli suggesting a medieval village is likely to have been a small place clustered around either the castle or church on the north side of the Lliedi rather than a town, although three fulling mills are recorded throughout Llanelli in the 14th century (Jack 1981;107). In the 1530s when the area was visited by the antiquary John Leland Llanelli is described as 'a village where the inhabitants digge Coles' (Smith 1906). In 1565 a report by the Piracy Commissioners describe Llanelli as a village of only 12 households, although it is also clear that the village was activity engaged in maritime trade by this time (Morgan 1962).

By the beginning of the 17th century a survey for the Duchy of Lancaster lists only 59 freeholders within the village although the coastal trade in coal had now expanded to western England and the coast of France. By 1724 Llanelli 'drove a pretty good trade in coal' (Morgan 1962) but the village was still slow to expand, and was recorded by Fenton in 1804 (Fenton 1804-11;338) as containing a mere 51 houses. Emmanuel Bowens' map of 1729, although at a small scale, appears to suggest the early 18th century settlement was still concentrated on the northern side of the Lliedi around the churchyard. A detailed map of 1761, however, clearly shows that settlement had crossed the river and was spreading down Water Street and on to the Old Swansea Road, with at least a handful of buildings within the study area. This settlement was still described as 'the miserable village of Llanelly' in 1798 (Mavor 1798, in Innes 1902;161) and 'a poor small town, inhabited principally by fishermen and colliers' in 1803 (Evans 1803 in Innes 1902;161).

The Cholmondeley map of 1814 shows few additions within the study area, although a tollgate had been added at the junction of Water Street and the Old Swansea Road, roughly where the Island House pub now stands. The coal industry was still expanding during this period with the Bres Colliery working only a short distance to the southwest of the study area. The Cholmondeley map also shows that a leat or watercourse had been cut through the study area presumably to help power machinery at Bres. To the south, along what is now Als Street, a railroad had been built to link Box Colliery to the east to the expanding Llanelli docks. Between the railroad and the watercourse the farmland was being reorganised into narrow strips, possibly divided between multiple owners and accessed from Water Street within the study area. This was the start of a period of rapid change and expansion within Llanelli. Although coal mining had now been underway for centuries the quality and availability of Llanelli coal now attracted other large industries to the area during the early 19th century including copper, iron, lead, tin and brick works. This also led to the creation of extensive docks and a network of canals of tramways throughout the Llanelli area. The Pigot & Co. Directory of 1835 now describes Llanelli as 'a respectable market and borough town...of late years the town has wonderfully increased in importance, in trade, and in population'. By this time the town contained around 800 houses with a population of just over 17000 (Edwards 2001;81). 19th century maps indicate the bulk of this expansion was taking place on the north side of the Lliedi as well as being dispersed around the surrounding countryside. Very little expansion is noted within the study area until the mid to late 19th century. However, some important buildings were being built within this area in the early 19th century. There was an expansion of religious buildings at this time, both in number and scale. It is possible an earlier Zion Chapel was constructed in the 1820s (Edwards 2001;46) and in the 1840s a Mormon Chapel was also built within the study area, only the 2nd to be built in the world (Lloyd et al 2006;275). By the 1860s continued expansion lead to the start of concentrated development on the south side of the Lliedi. Terraced houses now lined both sides of Water Street as far as Island Place, presumably replacing the earlier, more agricultural buildings, of the 18th century. Markets Street, Park Street (and Upper Park Street) and Park Einion Lane were all laid out in the late 1840s/1850s and the current impressive Zion Baptist Chapel was constructed in 1857 on the newly created Zion Row. Expansion was now rapid and Ordnance Survey maps of 1880 show the establishment of a large new market and the creation of Stepney Street and Murray Street, shifting the central focus of town to the south of the Lliedi, surrounded by ever increasing terraced housing to accommodate the expanding population (now over 65000). This housing now swamped the study area, lining both sides of Water Street and then continuing along both sides of Island Place. Stepney Place had been laid out to the south, with continuous rows of terraced housing along both sides. Similar housing also now lined the south side of Upper Park Street and the West side of Zion Row. The Island House pub has also been built, as had the Park Street Boys School.

By the early 20th century development had spread beyond the study area and new blocks of terraced housing laid out to the east. Within the study area there was little change, although Market Place school expanded into the western part of the area, and new industrial units or warehouses were built at the end of Park Einion. This appears to have remained the case throughout much of the 20th century resulting in what Davies was to describe as 'an old-world corner of the town, on the fringe of the business centre and up to 1985 still relatively undisturbed' (Hughes 1985;162). A general industrial decline from the 1970s onwards resulted in the eventual closure of many of Llanelli's industries. In more recent years this has lead to a great deal of regeneration including the remodelling of the adjacent shopping centre, Canolfan St Elli, in the 1990s. Many of the houses and buildings within the study area were also cleared for the construction of a car park and bus station. The last block of domestic dwellings along Upper Park Street have been cleared in more recent years leaving Zion Baptist Chapel and School and the Island House pubic house as the only remaining 19th century structures within the area.

Previous archaeological work.

There has been no previous recorded archaeological investigations carried out within the proposed redevelopment area, however several archaeological investigations have been undertaken throughout Llanelli, with two pieces of work in close vicinity to the study area (Ratty 2009 & Crane 2006).

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on water main refurbishment works in 2009 along nearby Thomas Street close to St Ellwys Church (Ratty 2009). Nothing of archaeological interest was noted although a great deal of the work was undertaken without an archaeologist present and therefore archaeological deposits that may relate to this study area remain unknown.

The former Buckley Brewery building just to the north of the study area was subject to building recording and an archaeological watching brief in 2006 as works were undertaken there (Crane 2006). This provided a record of the brewery building itself but revealed little of any archaeological deposits or features that may impact on this study area.

The North Dock area of Llanelli was subject to a series of archaeological reports prior to its recent redevelopment. In 1999 Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (Roberts 1999) carried out a cultural heritage assessment examining the history of the North Dock area and specific archaeological sites there. Dyfed Archaeological Trust also undertook a Desk-Based Assessment of the North Dock area in 2007 (DAT 2007) giving a brief description of the Llanelli area before describing the history and development of the North Dock.

Similarly in 2004 Dyfed Archaeological Trust undertook and archaeological Desk-Based Assessment on the Carmarthenshire Docks in Llanelli (Evans 2004) ahead of enhancements works.

In 2007 Cotswold Archaeology undertook an archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of the Old Castle Tinplate Works in Llanelli (Morton 2007).

A variety of archaeological Desk-Based Assessments and watching briefs have also been undertaken ahead of and during development works at Machynys and the wetland areas in southern Llanelli (eq. James 1992, Page 1997 & Page 1999).

Archaeological sites within and adjacent to the proposed redevelopment area.

Prior to this Desk-Based Assessment there were three known archaeological sites recorded within the proposed redevelopment area with four further un-located or undefined sites in the vicinity that may extend into the proposed redevelopment area. Eleven new sites have also been recorded during the course of this assessment.

Table 1 (below) lists these known and possible archaeological sites within the proposed redevelopment area.

PRN	SITE NAME	SITE TYPE	PERIOD	NGR
3401	Via Julia Maritima	Road	Roman	SN 50 05
8429	Bres Pit	Coal Mine	Post Medieval	SN 5080 0020
12703	Llanelli	Water Mill	Medieval	SN 51 00
12949	Island Place	Fulling Mill	Medieval	SN 508 005
16212	Zion Baptist	Chapel	Post Medieval	SN 5093 0052
	Chapel			
16229	Elim Chapel	Chapel	Post Medieval	SN 5102 0044
25784	Zion Baptist	Sunday	Post Medieval	SN 5092 0050
	School	School		
97362	Island House	Public	Post Medieval	SN 5102 0046
		House		
97363	Upper Park Street	Terrace	Post Medieval	SN 5098 0049
97364	Water Street	Terrace	Post Medieval	SN 5096 0045
97365	Zion Row	Terrace	Post Medieval	SN 5096 0053
97366	Park Einion Lane	Terrace	Post Medieval	SN 5089 0041
97367	Stepney Place	Terrace	Post Medieval	SN 5096 0040
97368	Park Einion Lane	Industrial	Post Medieval	SN 5091 0042
		Sheds/Ware		
		house		
97369	Park Street	Tramway	Post Medieval	SN 5093 0048
97370	Market Street	School	Post Medieval	SN 5087 0037
97371	Park Street	School	Post Medieval	SN 5099 0053
97372	Island Place	Toll Gate	Post Medieval	SN 5102 0046

Table 1: Known and possible archaeological sites within the proposed redevelopment area.

PRN 3401 Via Julia Maritima Roman Road SN 50 05

This PRN has been given to the suggested route of Roman road RR60d from Loughor to Carmarthen. An authentic Roman itinerary refers to a road leading to Carmarthen via south-east Wales. This was named Via Julia Maritima by Colt Hoare and Fenton based on a forged itinerary. The current suggested route for the road (RR60c) is one suggested by Margary, but this is largely conjectural and has not been confirmed by direct evidence. Part of a road to the south of Carmarthen has been confirmed from aerial photographs, between SN42431662 and SN42041363 (PRN 7459). This road appears to be heading towards Kidwelly, suggesting either that the Road to Loughor from Carmarthen in fact ran via Kidwelly, or that there are two different roads running towards Carmarthen from the south and southeast. To date, there has been no confirmation of the rest of the suggested road line of PRNs 3401 or 7459, from aerial photographs or other sources of evidence.

The exact course of the Roman road through this area of Llanelli, if indeed it runs through Llanelli, is still conjectural and although the route of the Old Swansea Road is favoured by some, several other routes are also suggested. The Old Swansea Road however appears to have been in use during the medieval period due to the location of medieval chapels along its route and its appearance on early maps, and is therefore clearly a longstanding routeway.

PRN 8429 Bres Pit Coal Mine SN 5080 0020

Bres Pit is one of several collieries within the Llanelli coalfield but it is the closest to this study area, with the main pit entrance lying c.200 m to the southwest. Consequently some workings or associated features may have extended into or under the study area. 19^{th} century maps indicate a leat associated with the mine working did cross the study area.

Bres is first mentioned in 1663 when Charles Stepney leased the right to the coal there to John Vaughan. The scale of these early workings is unclear but by 1794-5 Roderick & Bowen, pioneers in the Llanelli coalfield, began sinking a pit and built a canal from the pit to the docks. The coal seam proved too deep for their machinery and they abandoned the pit in c.1797. In 1804 the Pemberton family took over control of Bres Pit and installed a more powerful steam engine to drain the workings. The pit became operational in 1808, initially exploiting the Fiery and Rosy veins, but eventually reaching depths of 177m (the deepest in the Llanelli coalfield at that time) and exploiting the Bushy and Golden veins as well. In 1829 the Pembertons withdrew from the area, subletting Bres to George Bruin for 20 years, but he ran it down and abandoned the pit before 1841. In 1852 the Llanelly Copperworks Company acquired the former Pemberton pits and reopened Bres pit, working it until it was finally abandoned in 1889.

Local newspapers report two accidents at the Bres Pit, one in 1808 when a worker fell down the pit, and a second in 1835 when five men were killed after a failure in the winding engine causing the basket they were coming up the shaft in to fall 90 fathoms (c.160 m).

The site has since been extensively redeveloped.

PRN 12703 Llanelli Water Mill SN 51 00

This record refers to the unknown location of a medieval mill within Llanelli. The mill is roughly marked on Rees reconstructed map of South Wales in the 14th century, and although four mills are recorded by Jack (1981) in Llanelli he is able to locate only three. The unlocated mill was a fulling mill, built in c.1474 by Henry ap Thomas close to the river Lliedi, but in ruins by 1888. The river runs only 50m to the north of the study area, and 'Island Place' and 'Water Street' may also suggest further former watercourses crossed the study area, all of which could have been utilised by a mill site.

PRN 12949 Island Place Fulling Mill SN 508 005

Jack (1981) records a fulling mill valued at 20s in 1361-2, one of three such mills in Llanelli. In 1436 the old mill was replaced by a new building by John ap Harry who held a 20-year lease at 3s 4d a year. John was still paying this in 1451-2 but by 1488 the mill had fallen down.

The exact location of this mill has not been conclusively ascertained. It is originally described as being next to 'le Rockgardyn', and Jack suggests this may be the site of a later Victorian flour mill at the northern end of Mill Lane SN 5099 0074 but the possibility remains that it may once have stood within the bounds of the study area.

PRN 16212 Zion Baptist Chapel SN 5093 0052 Grade II listed

It has been suggested Zion Chapel was originally built in 1823 as a Nonconformist Chapel, which by 1840 had 400 members (Edwards 2001;46). The current Welsh Baptist Chapel appears to have been a complete new built in 1857-8 by Henry Rogers of Llanelli. It is a two-storey building built from squared rubble stone with blue lias ashlar dressings and a slate roof. The front is in a pedimented Italianate Classical style with giant Tuscan pillars, plain cornice and pediments with an oval date plaque inscribed 'Zion Baptist Chapel 1857'. The side elevations are plain with sash windows containing 'Florentine' window tracery. Inside a three-sided panelled gallery dating from 1929 is preserved, supported on iron columns, together with original box pews. The organ recess at the back of the choir gallery is framed with Corinthian columns. Beneath the pulpit is a built-in immersion font and at the north end of the building are various chapel rooms and the gallery stairs.

This building has been Grade II listed as a fine example of the classical tradition in chapel building, one of a series of similar Baptist chapels in Llanelli. The listing also includes the front railings, built in 1913 to match the adjacent Sunday School.



Plate 2: Zion Baptist Chapel

PRN 16229 Elim Chapel SN 5102 0044

A small chapel site established on the edge of Llanelli in the late 1840s by the Mormons, apparently the first to be established in the UK and only the 2nd in the world. It is unclear how long it operated as a Mormon chapel as large numbers of Mormons left Llanelli for the Salt Lake Valley in the mid 19th century, but it is still marked as the Latter Day Saints (Mormon) chapel on the Ordnance Survey map of 1880. A newspaper article of 1914 describes it as a 'dingy looking place' with seated accommodation for about 200 people (Hughes 1984, 305), no longer a Mormon chapel but recently used (in 1914) as a Mission Hall. The newspaper article indicates it had only been in use as a mission hall for a few months but goes on to relate local stories of miraculous healings and apparitions within the building which had recently resulted in increased congregations. This may represent its use as a Baptist chapel. It is still shown as a chapel on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1951, when the name Elim Chapel is recorded. At some point in the 20th century the congregation moved to Calfaria Chapel. The building has been demolished.

PRN 25784 Zion Baptist Sunday School SN 5092 0050 Grade II listed

A Sunday School associated with the adjacent Zion Baptist Chapel. Built in 1911-13 by William Griffiths of Llanelli. A two-storey building built of rock-faced snecked rubble stone with extensive ashlar dressings and a slate roof. The tripartite front has a broad centrepiece with a raised pediment and a date plaque inscribed 'Ysgoldy Sion 1913'. Inside there was a full-height hall with an end gallery on iron columns but a false ceiling has since been inserted at gallery level. The forecourt is enclosed by a low stonewall topped with iron railings, with stone gate piers and iron gates. A Welsh school was established here in 1947 by the Llanelli Division of the Carmarthenshire Education Authority, apparently the first Welsh School to be established by an Education Authority (Hughes 1984, p409). The school, along with its walls, railings and gates, is grade II listed for its group value with Zion Baptist Chapel.



Plate 3: Zion Baptist Sunday School

PRN 97362 Island House Public House SN 5102 0046

An altered mid 19th century public house, now standing as an isolated structure surrounded by new roads and car parks. The building does not appear on the tithe map of 1842 but is apparently first listed in the Pigot & Co. trade directory of 1844, when David Griffiths is listed as the innkeeper (information from Llanelli History Website). The building is marked on map of Llanelli in 1860, and again on the Ordnance Survey map of 1880, which shows it has expanded to the south. Although altered it would appear the current structure is still mid to late 19th century in date.



Plate 4: Island House public house

PRN 97363 Upper Park Street Terrace SN 5098 0049

Park Street appears to have been laid out and developed at some point between the tithe map of 1842 and a map of 1860. By 1860 it is clear that Upper Park Street had also been laid out but it was still undeveloped at this point. By the 1880 terraced dwellings lined the southern side of the street, similar in ground plan to the terraces that can still be seen along Swansea Road.

These houses stood until recent clearance works removed any above ground remains.

PRN 97364 Water Street Terrace SN 5094 0044

Water Street, now in part called Island Place, was the main link route between the early village of Llanelli, across the Lliedi, joining up with the Old Swansea Road to Loughor and beyond. This road is shown as early as Emmanuel Bowens' map of 1729 and is likely to be medieval, if not earlier in origin. The first detailed map of 1761 shows several dispersed buildings along this route within the study area, presumably mainly agricultural in nature on the fringes of the village. At some point between the tithe map of 1842 and a map of 1860 these dispersed buildings were replaced or incorporated into a row of terraced buildings that extended along the southern edge of Water Street and partway along its northern edge. The census of 1851 suggests this street was occupied by a mixture of tradesmen and labourers in what must have also been a mix of shops and dwellings. The more detailed Ordnance Survey map of 1880 shows a mixture of terraced buildings along the southern edge of the street, with more uniform

buildings all along the northern edge, presumably under construction when half were recorded on the 1860 map.

These terraces within the study area were removed during redevelopment works of the late 20th century.

PRN 97365 Zion Row Terrace SN 5096 0053

Zion Row was a short street laid out as an offshoot from the junction of Park Street and Water Street. It is likely the street was first laid out during the construction of the current Zion Baptist Chapel in 1857-8, but terraced dwellings were not laid until the later 19^{th} century, first appearing on the 1880 Ordnance Survey map.

The dwellings within the study area were demolished during the construction works on the adjacent roundabout and A484 although a short section of Zion Row, Nos. 10 - 14, survive on the northern side of the A484.

PRN 97366 Park Einion Lane Terrace SN 5089 0041

Park Einion Lane was a small back lane running parallel to Park Street presumably laid out at a similar point sometime between 1842 and 1860. By 1860 it is lined with a terrace of small dwellings along it southern edge. The census of 1851 indicates these were small houses inhabited by some of the poorer elements of Llanelli's population, including labourers, miners and paupers. By the time of the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1907 the lane also appeared to give access to possible warehouses at its eastern end (PRN 97368). These terraces have since been removed during redevelopment work in the later 20th century.

PRN 97367 Stepney Place Terrace SN 5096 0040

Stepney Place appears to have been laid out as a street and housing development in the later 19^{th} century, first recorded on the 1^{st} edition Ordnance Survey map of 1880. Terraced rows of houses with rear yards were laid out on both sides of Stepney Place, but the 30 houses along the northern side have since been removed.

PRN 97368 Park Lane Industrial Sheds/Warehouse SN 5091 0042

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1880 shows a collection of larger buildings set at the end of Park Lane, also accessible via an alleyway from Upper Water Street and a back lane to Stepney Street. These buildings are not labelled, but their size and back-street location suggest they are industrial in character rather than the mix of domestic and commercial properties that front the surrounding streets. These buildings also appear to have access to a large open yard behind. By the time of the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1907 the adjacent school (PRN 97370) had encroached into this yard but the buildings of 1880 had been replaced by long sheds and warehouses more typically industrial in appearance. These buildings continued to expand, as recorded on the 1916 Ordnance Survey map, but all have since been removed, and the area redeveloped as a bus station and car park in the later 20th century.

PRN 97369 Park Street Tramway SN 5093 0048

By the time of the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1907 a public tramway had been laid up centre of Park Street as far as the western end of Upper Park Street, giving access to the main train station and town centre via Stepney Street. By the time of the 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1916 the tramway had been expended along Upper Park Street and Swansea Road.

Initially the trams were horse-drawn, but were replaced by electric powered trams in 1911. The trolley bus succeeded the trams in 1932 and lasted until 1951 (Hughes 1985;281-3).

PRN 97370 Market Street School SN 5087 0037

A school was built at the southern end of Market Street in 1848, initially known as Llanelly School. The foundation stone was laid by David Morris and the school cost £800 to build. The first master was David Nicholas of Brecon College and a short while later Miss Jones from Rotherhithe was appointed mistress. The school days started, and finished, with singing and prayer and the curriculum also included 'the Principles of Horticulture' and 'diverting exercises'. Excessive or severe corporal punishment was avoided and although the Scripture was taught care was taken to avoid any denominational subjects. By 1880 the school is marked as a school for girls and infants.

The main school itself does not extend into the study area although by the early 20th century the playgrounds and outbuildings did. The school no longer stands, presumably demolished when Canolfan St Elli was built over the site.

PRN 97371 Park Street School SN 5099 0053

Park Street school for boys was built at some point between 1860 and 1880 when it is first shown on the Ordnance Survey map between Upper Park Street and Zion Row. The school had been demolished by the late 20th century and a small modern brick-built office block now stands on the site.

PRN 97372 Island Place Toll Gate SN 5102 0046

A tollgate is marked at the junction of the Old Swansea Road and Water Street, roughly where the Island House pub now stands, on a map of 1814. There appears to be few documentary references to this gate, although it was likely it was owned by the Kidwelly Turnpike Trust. The gate does not appear to be marked on the tithe map of 1842 and may therefore have been removed by this time. It does not appear to have been attacked during the Rebecca riots that peaked around 1843, further suggesting the gate was no longer in place by that time.

Condition of the archaeological sites

The sites will be assessed using a classification system that assigns each site to one of five categories for their condition and value. The categories are:

- A Intact.
- **B** Substantially Intact, but with some damage or loss.
- **C** Largely destroyed, but with some surviving elements.
- **D** Destroyed, no above ground remains.
- **E** Unknown potential, buried sites in particular.

The majority of the sites mentioned within the text have since been cleared but the late 20th century development, such as the establishment of a car park and bus station, may not have involved the excavation of deep foundations and therefore this may have left many of the deeper deposits associated with these archaeological sites relatively intact. However, the degree of clearance prior to the establishment of the car park and bus station is unknown, and the foundations of earlier structures may have been removed.

The exact location of the mill sites and the Roman road are unknown, therefore the condition of these sites can not be ascertained. The Bres Colliery and Market Street School lay mainly outside the limits of this Study Area with only associated elements of these sites possibly effected.

PRN	SITE NAME	SITE TYPE	NGR	CONDITION
3401	Via Julia Maritima	Road	SN 50 05	E
8429	Bres Pit	Coal Mine	SN 5080 0020	D
12703	Llanelli	Water Mill	SN 51 00	Е
12949	Island Place	Fulling Mill	SN 508 005	E
16212	Zion Baptist Chapel	Chapel	SN 5093 0052	А
16229	Elim Chapel	Chapel	SN 5102 0044	D
25784	Zion Baptist School	Sunday School	SN 5092 0050	Α
97362	Island House	Public House	SN 5102 0046	А
97363	Upper Park Street	Terrace	SN 5098 0049	D
97364	Water Street	Terrace	SN 5096 0045	D
97365	Zion Row	Terrace	SN 5096 0053	D
97366	Park Einion Lane	Terrace	SN 5089 0041	D
97367	Stepney Place	Terrace	SN 5096 0040	D
97368	Park Einion Lane	Industrial Sheds/Ware house	SN 5091 0042	D
97369	Park Street	Tramway	SN 5093 0048	D
97370	Market Street	School	SN 5087 0037	D
97371	Park Street	School	SN 5099 0053	D
97372	Island Place	Toll Gate	SN 5102 0046	D

Table 2: Condition of the archaeological sites within and adjacent to the proposed development area.

Assessing the value of the archaeological sites

The importance of all previously recorded and newly identified sites is categorised according to the following criteria, based on those given in the Department of Environment, Transport and Regions Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Volume II Section 3 Part 2 (1993):

- A National importance: Scheduled Monuments; Listed Buildings or sites worthy of consideration for Scheduling or Listing, well preserved historic landscapes, registered parks and gardens and historic battlefields.
- **B** Regional importance: sites not considered worthy of scheduling or listing, but considered of regional or county importance which should be retained where possible.
- **C** Local importance: sites that are considered important to an understanding of the development of a local area, or are characteristic of that particular area but generally common features at a national or regional level.
- **D** Negligible: Minor sites or sites that are heavily damaged, or where too little remains for inclusion in a higher category.
- **E** Unknown: Sites of unknown potential, including buried sites, which should be subject to further assessment and evaluation to determine whether or not they should be assigned to a higher category.

Using these categories it is possible to define the level of archaeological response for each individual site and for the proposed development site as a whole. However, assessing the value of archaeological sites is not intended to identify sites of little or no archaeological value as all sites are, or have been, integral to the development of the historic landscape. Therefore, they are all considered important, but not all of them will require the same level of archaeological protection or mitigation. There are a number of factors that will effect and influence the levels of protection and mitigation for individual sites such as their condition, rarity and vulnerability, for example much of the former Bres Colliery and the Market Street School both lie outside this area and have already been removed leaving just associated elements such as leats and outbuildings within this area, therefore its 'value' is reduced and is placed in the D category for sites that are heavily damaged, or where too little remains for inclusion in a higher category. This is also true for the rows of 19th century terraces that have already been removed to at least ground level, and for which similar example still exist in the vicinity.

The location and extent of the medieval mills and Roman road and any associated activity has not yet been determined as there no definite above ground indicators, therefore it has been included in E category for sites of unknown potential, including buried sites, which should be subject to further assessment and evaluation to determine whether or not they should be assigned to a higher category.

PRN	SITE NAME	SITE TYPE	NGR	ARCHAEOLOGICAL VALUE
3401	Via Julia Maritima	Road	SN 50 05	E
8429	Bres Pit	Coal Mine	SN 5080 0020	D
12703	Llanelli	Water Mill	SN 51 00	D
12949	Island Place	Fulling Mill	SN 508 005	D
16212	Zion Baptist Chapel	Chapel	SN 5093 0052	Α
16229	Elim Chapel	Chapel	SN 5102 0044	D
25784	Zion Baptist	Sunday	SN 5092 0050	Α
	School	School		
97362	Island House	Public House	SN 5102 0046	С
97363	Upper Park Street	Terrace	SN 5098 0049	D
97364	Water Street	Terrace	SN 5096 0045	D
97365	Zion Row	Terrace	SN 5096 0013	D
97366	Park Einion Lane	Terrace	SN 5089 0041	D
97367	Stepney Place	Terrace	SN 5096 0040	D
97368	Park Einion Lane	Industrial	SN 5091 0042	D
		Sheds/Wa		
		rehouse		
97369	Park Street	Tramway	SN 5093 0048	D
97370	Market Street	School	SN 5087 0037	D
97371	Park Street	School	SN 5099 0053	D
97372	Island Place	Toll Gate	SN 5102 0046	D

Table 3: Archaeological value of the known archaeological sites within and adjacent to the proposed development area.

THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

Without specific design plans it is not possible to be definitive about the impacts of development on the archaeological resource within the project area. However, the processes of development are well enough known to be able to make general statements that can be used to inform the final design plans.

New building has a range of processes that have immediate and obvious archaeological implications. The main processes are:

- 1. Site Clearance
- 2. Demolition of standing remains.
- 3. Excavations for new foundations and service trenches.
- 4. Construction of new roads.
- 5. Landscaping.
- 6. Heavy machinery moving across the site.

All building works require physical intervention, from site clearance works, to topsoil stripping, levelling, through to the excavation of foundation and service trenches prior to construction. All of these carry the obvious potential of damaging or destroying surface features. They also have the potential to damage or remove previous unknown buried archaeological sites or deposits. New development may also alter the historic landscape or impact on the visual setting of existing historic features.

To assess this impact the following definition of magnitude of direct and visual effects has been used:

- **A** High: Complete or substantial destruction of the key components of a site, or high visual intrusion into monument setting.
- **B** Medium: Loss of or damage to some of the major components of a site. Moderate visual intrusion into monument setting.
- **C** Low: Loss of or damage to a small proportion of the components of a site. Slight visual intrusion into monument setting.
- **D** Negligible: Negligible destruction of the components of a site or visual intrusion into monument setting.

E – None: No effect

To assess the significance of the physical effects of the development on the historic features the following matrix has been used:

Magnitude of effect	Archaeological Value				
	High (A)	Medium (B)	Low (C)	Negligible (D)	
High (A)	Substantial	Substantial/Major	Major/Moderate	Minor	
Medium (B)	Major/Moderate	Moderate	Moderate/Minor	Minor	
Low (C)	Moderate	Moderate/Minor	Minor	Minor/Neutral	
Negligible (D)	Moderate/Minor	Minor	Minor/Neutral	Neutral	

Within this matrix the following levels of significance of effect have been used:

Neutral - No significant effects

Minor - Not noteworthy or material – impacts are of low magnitude

Moderate - Noteworthy, material – impacts are of moderate magnitude

Major - Impacts are likely to be of a high magnitude

Substantial - Impacts will be of a consistently high magnitude

PRN	SITE NAME	SITE TYPE	NGR	ARCHAEO -LOGICAL VALUE	MAGNITUDE OF EFFECT	SIGNIFIC -ANCE OF EFFECT
3401	Via Julia Maritima	Road	SN 50 05	E	D	Neutral
8429	Bres Pit	Coal Mine	SN 5080 0020	D	D	Neutral
12703	Llanelli	Water Mill	SN 51 00	D	D	Neutral
12949	Island Place	Fulling Mill	SN 508 005	D	D	Neutral
16212	Zion Baptist Chapel	Chapel	SN 5093 0052	A	D	Minor
16229	Elim Chapel	Chapel	SN 5102 0044	D	D	Neutral
25784	Zion Baptist School	Sunday School	SN 5092 0050	A	D	Minor
97362	Island House	Public House	SN 5102 0046	С	A	Major/ Moderate
97363	Upper Park Street	Terrace	SN 5098 0049	D	D	Neutral
97364	Water Street	Terrace	SN 5096 0045	D	С	Minor/ Neutral
97365	Zion Row	Terrace	SN 5096 0053	D	D	Neutral
97366	Park Einion Lane	Terrace	SN 5089 0041	D	С	Minor/ Neutral
97367	Stepney Place	Terrace	SN 5096 0040	D	D	Neutral
97368	Park Einion Lane	Industrial Sheds/ Warehou se	SN 5091 0042	D	С	Minor/ Neutral
97369	Park Street	Tramway	SN 5093 0048	D	D	Neutral
97370	Market Street	School	SN 5087 0037	D	D	Neutral
97371	Park Street	School	SN 5099 0053	D	D	Neutral
97372	Island Place	Toll Gate	SN 5102 0046	D	D	Neutral

Table 4: Summary of possible magnitude of effect of proposed development and assessment of significance of effect.

The nature and potential of the underlying archaeological deposits has yet to be assessed, it is not known how much, if anything, survives below ground. It is possible that remains of the 19th and earlier 20th century landscape of terraced housing, industrial sheds and schools may survive below ground, but this previous destruction has reduced the value of these archaeological sites which in turn has reduced the significance of the impact on these sites. PRNs 97364, 97366 & 97368 lie in an area where the construction of leisure and retail units may involves deeper foundations and therefore greater below ground disturbance, resulting in a slightly higher magnitude of effect, although the value of these sites is already reduced due to previous later 20th century development on the site.

Similarly, although earlier Medieval and Roman sites may be considered of greater value as these sites are un-located the significance of the impact of this development on these sites is reduced.

The Island House pub (PRN 97362) is the only standing structure within the proposed development area that will be directly affected. Clearly the removal of this building increases the magnitude and significance of the effect of the development. The remaining standing structures of Zion Baptist Chapel and school (PRNs 16212 & 25784) are both Grade II listed structures and will not be directly affected by the proposed development.

Historic Landscape

The proposed development leisure and retail units with car and bus parks will be fundamentally different from the historic landscape of domestic and religious buildings. However, this historic landscape has already been greatly compromised by previous development work on this site removing the terraced houses for example, as well as the construction of nearby shopping centres and the establishment of car parks associating this area with new commercial development. The historic landscape of this area is now isolated in the two islands of Zion Baptist Chapel and School and the Island House pub, both now surrounded by open car parks and new road schemes. Perhaps the main fundamental change to the historic landscape will be the loss of the historic route of Water Street and the Old Swansea Road (now Island Place within the study area) which is likely to have been in use since at least the medieval period and may even have Roman origins. Other historic boundaries within the area have already been removed.

SUGGESTED FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

One of the main objectives of this report was to provide enough detailed information to allow informed decisions to be made regarding the protection of the archaeological resource. As such, any works outlined below are suggestions only as the final decision of the scope and extent of work required will be made by the Local Planning Authority's archaeological advisor.

The levels of significance will define the likely level of archaeological (or other) mitigation that might be needed to lessen or nullify that impact. The appropriate level of mitigation will be judged on the following criteria:

Substantial – full or large-scale recording will be required

Major - a moderate level of recording will be required

Moderate - some recording may be required

Minor - minor recording may be required

Neutral - no further action required

PRN	SITE NAME	SITE TYPE	NGR		SIGNIFICA -NCE OF EFFECT	SUGGESTED MITIGATION
3401	Via Julia Maritima	Road	SN 50		Neutral	Minor
8429	Bres Pit	Coal Mine	SN 0020	5080	Neutral	Minor
12703	Llanelli	Water Mill	SN 51	00	Neutral	Minor
12949	Island Place	Fulling Mill	SN 50	8 005	Neutral	Minor
16212	Zion Baptist Chapel	Chapel	SN 0052	5093	Minor	Neutral
16229	Elim Chapel	Chapel	SN 0044	5102	Neutral	Minor
25784	Zion Baptist School	Sunday School	SN 0050	5092	Minor	Neutral
97362	Island House	Public House	SN 0046	5102	Major/ Moderate	Major
97363	Upper Park Street	Terrace	SN 0049	5098	Neutral	Minor
97364	Water Street	Terrace	SN 0045	5096	Minor/ Neutral	Minor
97365	Zion Row	Terrace	SN 0053	5096	Neutral	Minor
97366	Park Einion Lane	Terrace	SN 0041	5089	Minor/ Neutral	Minor
97367	Stepney Place	Terrace	SN 0040	5096	Neutral	Minor
97368	Park Einion Lane	Industrial Sheds/Wa rehouse	SN 0042	5091	Minor/Neutr al	Minor
97369	Park Street	Tramway	SN 0048	5093	Neutral	Neutral
97370	Market Street	School	SN	5087	Neutral	Neutral

			0037			
97371	Park Street	School	SN 0053	5099	Neutral	Minor
97372	Island Place	Toll Gate	SN 0046	5102	Neutral	Minor

Table 5: Suggested mitigation for physical effects of development.

In the absence of detailed construction plans and a better understanding of the survival of below-ground archaeological remains it is difficult to anticipate the affects of the development of this site and therefore what specific mitigation may be appropriate. The archaeological mitigation works outlined below are therefore suggestions only, decisions regarding the scope and extent of any further works will be taken by the Local Planning Authority's archaeological advisor.

Watching Brief

Due to the potential for archaeological sites within the study area but the possibility of relatively low impact on many, either due to their survival belowground or to the level of disturbance incurred during the works, an archaeological watching brief may be appropriate during ground-breaking works to record any archaeological features that become visible. However, given the low value of the archaeological sites a watching brief may not be considered necessary.

A watching brief comprises the presence of one or more archaeologists on site, recording, drawing and photographing archaeological remains as they are revealed during any ground clearance or ground penetrating works carried out on the site. Sufficient time should be provided to allow adequate archaeological recording. This can sometimes cause interruption and delay to construction programmes.

Building Recording

As the proposed development required the removal of the Island House public house (PRN 97362) building recording may be appropriate prior to and during its destruction to enable preservation by record. However, as the building has been heavily modified it may be considered that building recording is not required.

Several levels of building recording are available, ranging from detailed research into the structure and measured surveys of all plans and elevations, through to just a detailed photographic record of the structure.

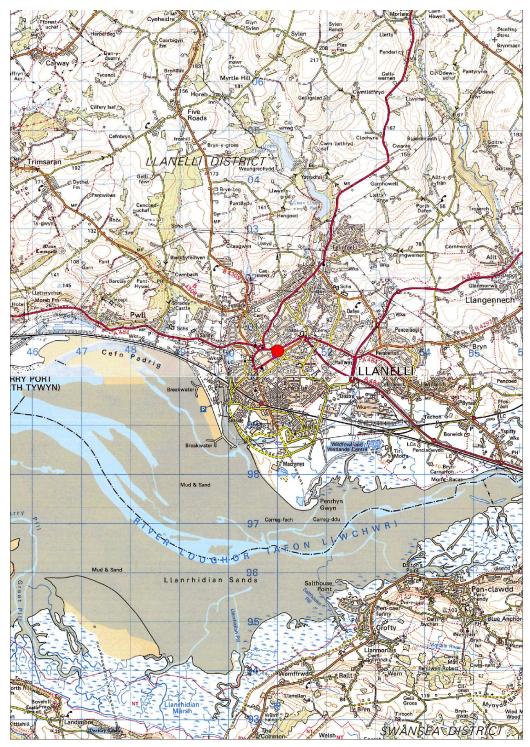


Figure 1. Location map, based on the Ordnance Survey.

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 Cambria Archaeology, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A

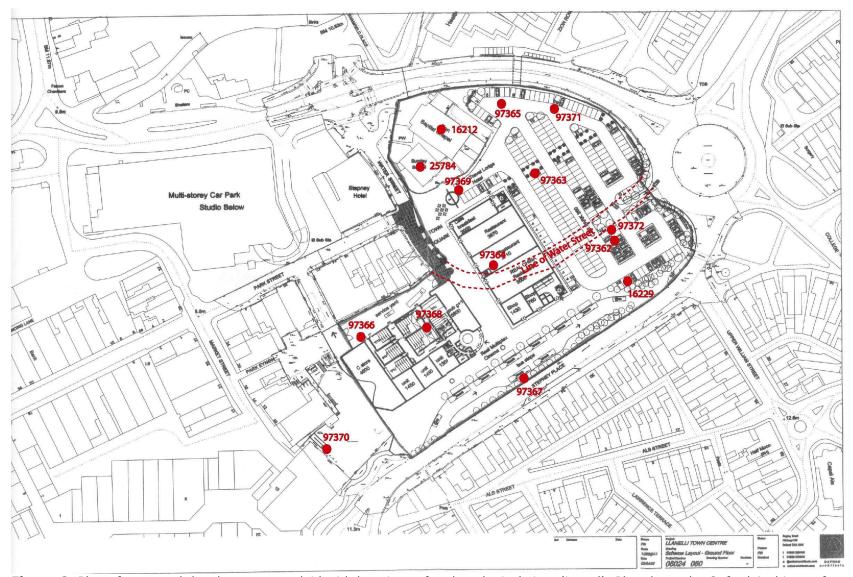


Figure 2. Plan of proposed development overlaid with locations of archaeological sites (in red). Plan drawn by Oxford Architects for Henry Davidson Developments, provided by AsbriPlanning. Plan not to original scale.

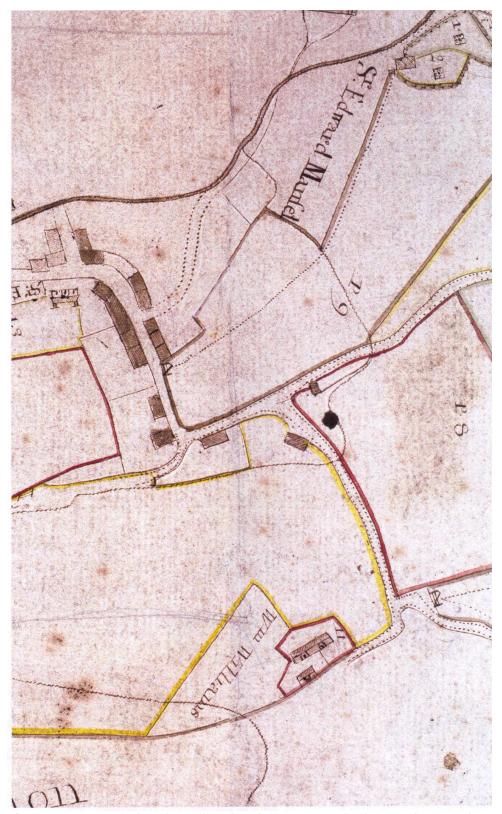


Figure 3. Section taken from the Chambers Map Book of 1761 showing the study area. Map provided by Carmarthenshire Record Office.



Figure 4. Section of the Cholmondeley map of Llanelli in 1814 showing the study area. Map provided by Carmarthenshire Record Office.



Figure 5. Section of the Llanelly Parish tithe map of 1842.

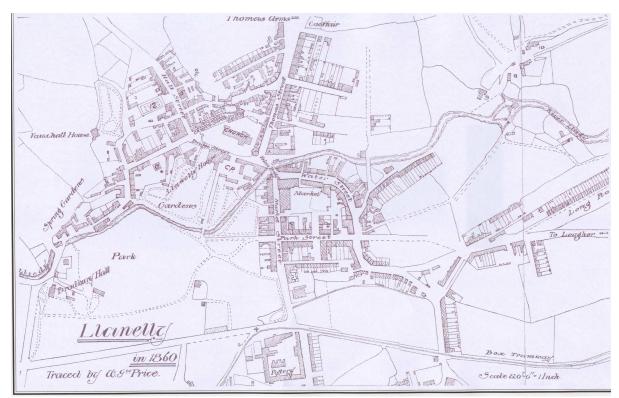


Figure 6. Map of Llanelli in 1860, reproduced in Innes 1902. Map provided by the Carmarthenshire Record Office.

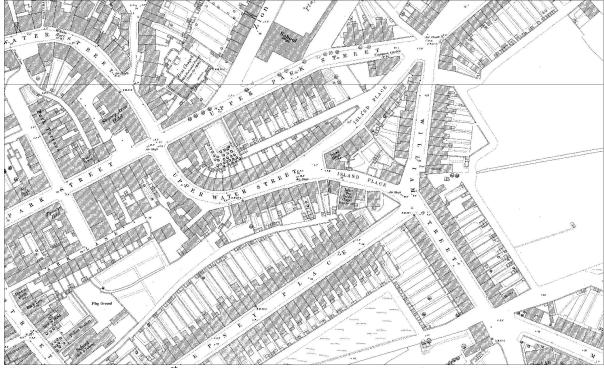


Figure 7. Section of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1;500 map showing the study area.

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UPPER PARK STREET, LLANELLI: ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2009/61

Awst 2009 August 2009

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by
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Swydd / Position: Archaeologist
Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date
Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith This report has been checked and approved by
ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf. on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.
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Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date
Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau sydd gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

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