

The importance of the Pembroke area is illustrated today not merely by the **Castle** and sections of town wall remaining, but also by a number of smaller survivals, the best known being the **group of houses (31)** built on a rocky outcrop just south of the Castle, which though restored with some whimsical detail, give an excellent flavour of the early town. On the same side of the town lies the early house, visible clearly from the road, that lies behind the **York Inn (6)**. This house, with a vaulted undercroft, is emblematic of many similar that stood across South Pembrokeshire, sometimes, like this one, downgraded to outbuildings, sometimes like **Flimston (11)** and **Cosheston Rectory (33)**, incorporated in later structures.

In nearby Monkton, the **Old Hall (5)** is perhaps the best documented and restored of early Pembrokeshire houses, but on the other side of the Church, the tower house known as **Priory Farm (4)**, heavily restored in recent years, is scarcely discernable for what it is, though a row of corbels high on the front indicate an early core to a perceptive eye.

The castle was founded in 1093, but the exact date of establishment of Pembroke as a town is unknown. The first town charter was issued in the reign of Henry I. The initial nucleus of the town was in the present outer ward of the castle, then lying outside the castle gate. The town expanded eastwards during the 12th with a secondary focus at the northern bridge.

A wall was erected in late 13th/early 14th with three gates containing 200-220 burgage plots. There was little expansion in the early post med period.

JH based on NH 1993.