

**Newport (*Trefdraeth*)
in West Wales**

A study of a Norman New Town

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SYNOPSIS

Newport is a small town on the north Pembrokeshire coast in West Wales.

The town is of Norman foundation being part of a deliberate policy of town plantation in the progressive conquest and domination of Wales in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Newport is important because it retains clear topographical evidence of its original design and subsequent development. The documentation available is extensive, including charters from the thirteenth century and rentals and extents from the early fifteenth century onwards in the Bronwydd Collection at the National Library of Wales.

In this study the foundation of Newport is placed within its local historical context. A ringwork is identified as the original Norman military settlement in the area of the town and it is suggested that the Sites and Monuments Record classification of this site as belonging to the Iron Age is incorrect.

Medieval rentals are combined with topographical observation and map-work to produce town maps showing burgage plots and their tenants in 1434, and tenants and land-holders in 1594.

The distribution of the burgage plots, identified as tenanted by individual burgesses, is used to suggest economic and social conditions and changes between 1434 and 1594. The number of burgage plots tenanted and later owned by individuals suggest an inequality in status and power in peasant society.

Between 1434 and 1594 patterns of change in the use of space in the town and the consolidation of land into individually held blocks may have facilitated the enclosure of spatially related strips held in the town fields. In 1434 the possibility of an Englishry and a Welshry existing within Newport is

investigated. By 1594 the pattern of land-ownership is shown to have changed and the power of the Lord Marcher within the town is shown to have diminished.

There is still a great deal of theoretical work to be done on the data collected here. Only a few of the possibilities have been explored because of the restricted nature of the study. The restrictions also mean that other important and influential parts of Newport have had to be ignored; the Castle, the Church, the Lord's Mill and the pottery kilns. Each of them deserves a separate study in its own right, a great deal of information has been collected and deduced which it is not possible to include here.

Newport is a very good example of a Norman New Town and as such would repay further study.

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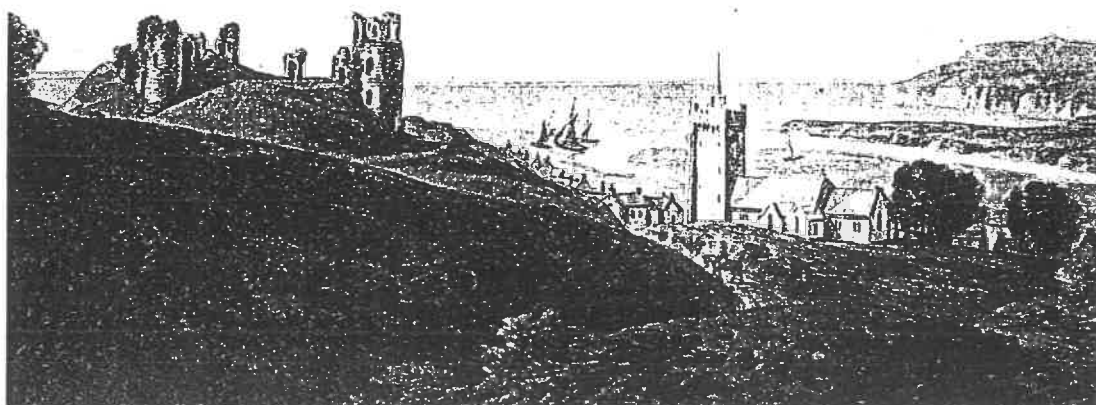
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Newport (Pemb) c 1832
Coloured aquatint by N Fielding after Price Carter Edwards



The Ruins of Newport Castle with part of the town 1787
John 'Warwick' Smith 1749-1831

CHAPTER ONE

Topography and General History

Newport is a small town of medieval foundation on the estuary of the River Nevern in North Pembrokeshire. It is called Trefdraeth (Beachtown) in Welsh. In the *Brut y Tywysogyon* (Welsh medieval chronicles written no earlier than the end of the thirteenth century) use of this name predates the Norman *Novo Burgus*, perhaps implying the previous existence of a small fishing hamlet in the area.

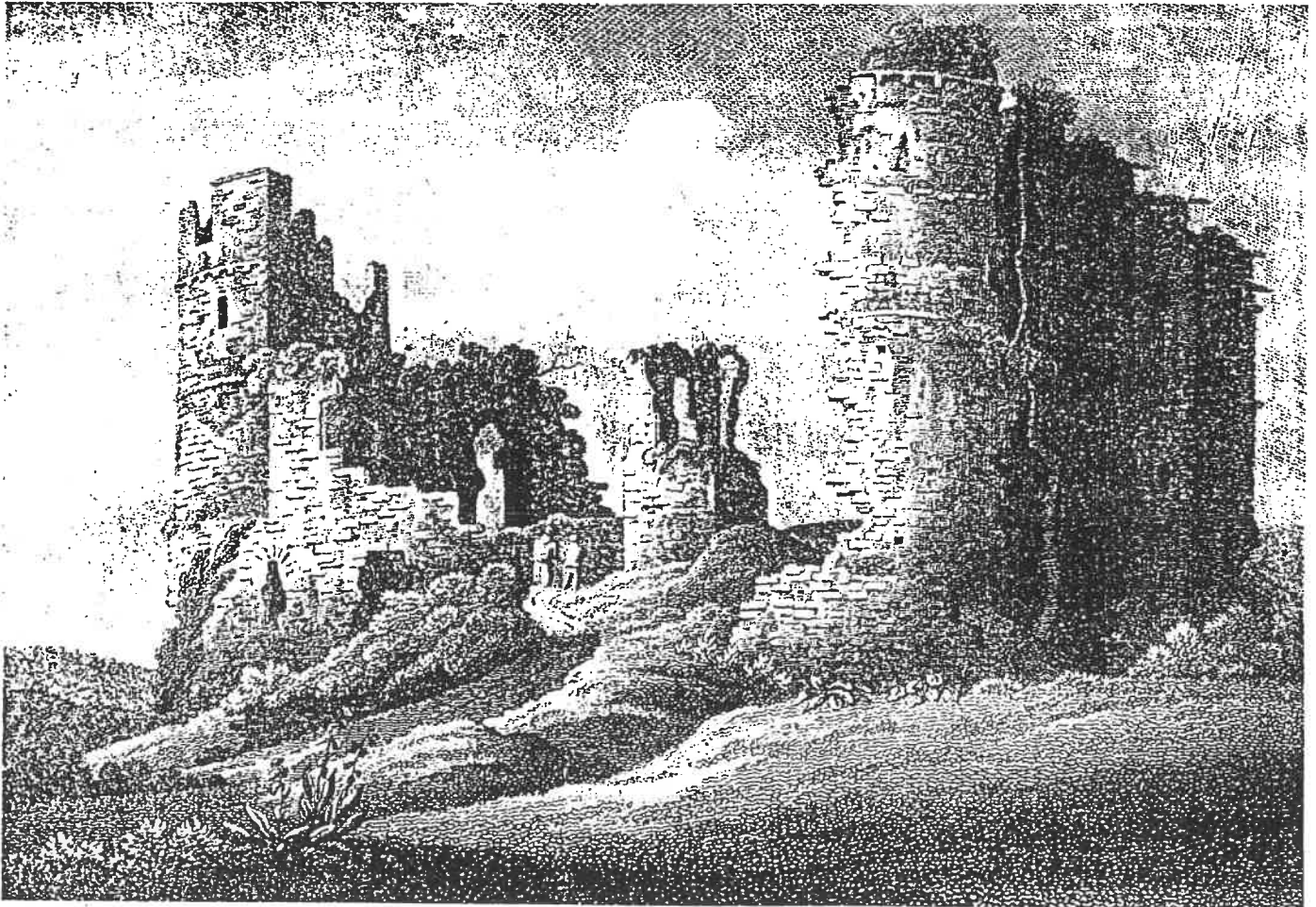
Until the 1950's the town was divided into two distinct parts; the town proper and Parrog, a group of houses that faced onto the estuary mouth. The two parts of the town are now joined by housing estates but the older inhabitants still insist that the residents of Parrog have a distinct character of their own. In the old rentals only the town proper is included, although the Elizabethan historian, George Owen, writing about Newport, says that the inhabitants depended quite heavily on the fruits of the sea for their food. It is possible that the fisherfolk of Parrog paid their rents in kind, just as some of the townspeople did, thus being excluded from the records of cash payment.

Newport occupies part of the fertile tidal valley on the south bank of the River Nevern. Behind the town the land rises until, one mile inland, there is a ridge about 1000 ft above sea-level, topped in the east by the peak of Carningli. The lower slopes are marked with boundaries of abandoned fields and nearer the town there are small irregular fields, separated by tracks once used to herd sheep and cattle onto the common land on the mountain.

The lowland strip along the coast to the west of the town still shows traces of strip fields and is used for arable agriculture or good grazing for dairy cattle. The hill slopes, though cleared of stones and drained, are unsuitable for cereals and are used mainly for grazing sheep. The mountain itself is unfenced,

covered with heather, gorse and bracken and provides a meagre pasture for sheep and a few hardy ponies.

The Nevern River to the east of Newport runs through fertile water meadows and arable land interspersed with steep, wooded gullies. To the north, on the other side of the river the land rises to a height of about 350 ft then flattens out to a broad headland fringed with steep cliffs. The south facing side of this headland was the demesne land of the castle in Newport.



NEWPORT CASTLE.

From; Fenton R 1811 Historical Tour Through Pembrokeshire

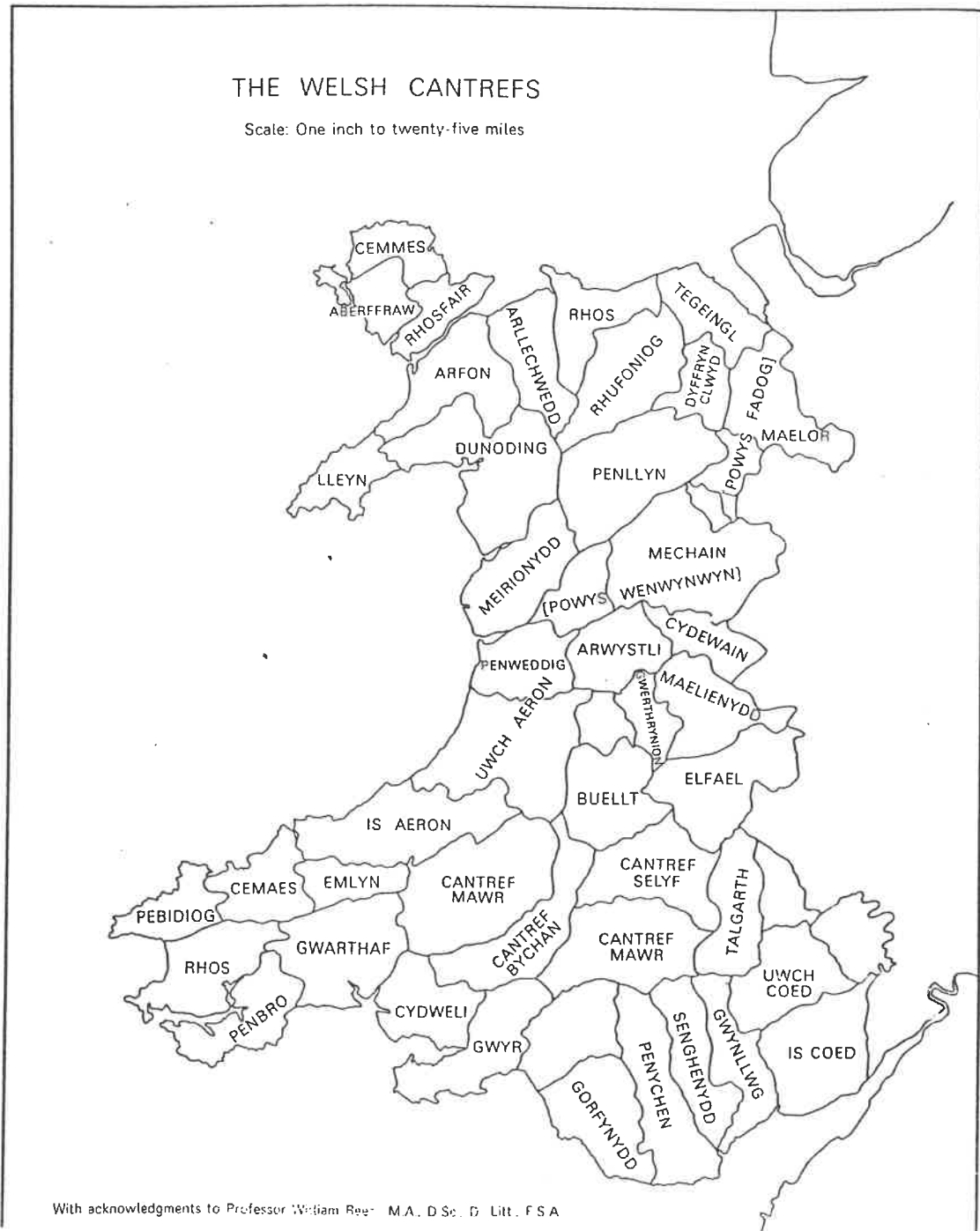
This general history is designed merely to set the scene for the foundation of the town of Newport, and outline its later development. It is not a complete record of happenings in the country, or even the county but a very narrow glimpse at a complicated and largely unknown era. It has been compiled using

several primary and secondary sources, the most important of which are the *Brut y Tywysogyon* (the Welsh Chronicles of the Princes), *Geraldus Cambrensis*, The History of St Dogmaels Abbey (1909) by Emily Pritchard, A History of Wales (1911) by J.E.Lloyd and B.E.Howells (1973) Elisabethan Pembrokeshire.

Before William the Conqueror took the throne of England there had been in that country a series of rulers who had left the Welsh much to their own devices. Gruffydd had been master of Wales and a united people had driven out many English settlers in the border areas. His Welsh army had burnt Hereford in 1055 but eventually Gruffydd swore to be faithful as an under-king to the Anglo-Saxon Edward II of England. The English overlordship of the Welsh rulers was not yet precisely defined, Gruffydd paid no fiscal dues to the English throne and kept his reclaimed land. When Gruffydd died in 1063 there was no obvious heir to the Welsh throne and the country split into cantrefs with independent rulers. The Welsh were divided politically and unprepared for the determined and practised colonising of the Normans.

In 1066 William and his Norman knights triumphed at the battle of Hastings. By the 1080's most of England was under Williams military control and his knights were paying more attention to the lands beyond Offa's Dyke. During the next few years Gwent was taken by Fitz Osborn, the new Earl of Hereford and Ceredigion was ravaged, but not held, by the men of the Earl of Shrewesbury. There were also internal divisions amongst the Welsh rulers who were competing for power and influence, for example Rhys ap Owain was defeated by Trahaearn of North Wales at the Battle of Goodwick in 1075. In 1081 King William visited St.Davids. According to the Welsh Chronicles the object of the visit was to honour the Saint, according to the English he came with an armed force and freed many hundred men, perhaps Normans involved in a struggle for land with the local noblemen. William met the ruler of Deheubarth, Rhys ap Tewdwr, who afterwards paid the King of England forty pounds a year, acknowledging his overlordship. The Normans had established temporary

military and political dominance, but the struggle for power in West Wales continued. There was no real, lasting peace in the area until the late thirteenth century, when Edward the First's campaigns forced the Welsh to final capitulation.



From; Ordnance Survey 1973 Britain Before the Normans

William Rufus succeeded his father, William the Conqueror, in England and, in West Wales, The Lord Rhys, ruler of Deheubarth, died, leaving no obvious heir. The power went to the strongest, Welsh or Norman. In 1093 Earl Roger took a site on the north bank of the River Teify and built Cardigan Castle. His son, Arnulf, settled in Pembroke. William Fitz Baldwin took the area around the old Roman Fort at Carmarthen, called Rhyd y Gors.

Robert Fitz Martin attacked and held the area of Deheubarth known as Cemaais in 1108, meeting little resistance. That same year Flemish colonists settled in Rhos and Daugleddau and Gerald de Windsor built a castle in Cenarth Bychan in Emlyn. Norman knights were sufficiently strong on the ground now to give each other military and moral support.

Robert Fitz Martin's father, Martin de Tours, is mentioned in the Battle Abbey Rolls as one of the knights who accompanied William the Conqueror to England in 1066 and fought at the Battle of Hastings. He settled in Devonshire where his holdings are recorded in the Domesday Book. William also 'granted to him, in addition, a portion of Pembrokeshire, if he could subdue it'¹. Martin is known to have been dead by 1086 when his widow, Geva, was married for the second time, to William de Falaise, although local legend insists that he led the Norman invasion of Cemaais himself.

By 1115 Robert Fitz Martin and his wife, Mathilda, were established in Nevern, where they built a motte and bailey castle. The motte is still evident, surrounded by a very deep ditch and bank on a good defensible site. There was already an established Christian Church at St Dogmaels (Llandudoch) and this Robert and Mathilda gave to the Monastery of Tirone in France. There are three Charters in the Cartulary of Tirone relating to St Dogmaels and it seems to have attained Abbey status in the Monasticon Charter, dated to King Henry the First's visit to Wales in September, 1121. By 1135, when Henry died, dependant

1. E.M.Pritchard 1909 The History of St Dogmaels Abbey page 22

Norman/English Lords had been established in Nevern, Kidwelly, Swansea, Llandovery and Llanbadarn.

The Fitz Martins became the established rulers and Robert held title as the Lord Marcher of the Barony of Cemaes, accepting tribute in pigs, cattle and honey as his Welsh predecessors had done. The custom of fostering out sons to other noble houses and the Fitz Martin habit of always calling their male offspring Robert, William or Nicholas makes the family tree difficult to trace accurately. Some of the Martin Lords Marcher may be the grandsons rather than the sons of their predecessors. Also the Lordship does on occasion pass to a brother and, unusually, can pass *via* a female member of the family or to her, in her own right.

In 1136 Robert's Castle at Nevern was attacked and taken by the Welsh and in 1138 his Abbey at St Dogmaels was attacked and despoiled by Norsemen. It is not recorded what happened to the Fitz Martins in the intervening period but by 1154 they were back in Nevern Castle and again in control of Cemaes.

In 1159 Robert died and his son William became the Lord Marcher. The Welsh were still attempting to regain control of the area, particularly from Cardigan Castle which was now held by the Lord Rhys ap Griffiths. William seems to have made an attempt to establish good relations with his neighbour in Cardigan. In 1165 he was married to the Lord Rhys's daughter, Angharad. It is not recorded whether the marriage was a success but they had at least one child, Nicholas. Many such marriages were arranged between Norman and Welsh aristocratic families; the marriage alliances and the exchange of fosterlings/hostages cemented existing relationships and forged new ones. The Normans were often prepared to use marriage or commerce rather than violence to gain influence and power, and it was power and social status that mattered in their choice of alliance, not ethnic group.

The relationship between William and his father-in-law did not remain cordial for very long. In 1191 Rhys ap Griffiths took the castle of Nevern from

William, Geraldus Cambrensis says 'in direct contravention of a whole series of oaths which he had sworn in person on the most precious relics to the effect that William should be left in peace and security in his castle'². In 1195 Rhys's son, Hywel Sais, destroyed the castle, in order to deny its use to his enemies, when he left Cemaes to further his own dynastic struggle with his brother Maelgwyn.

William, evicted from Nevern, is recorded as having moved his *caput* to Newport in the year 1191.

In 1197 the Lord Rhys died; many others also died that year in a 'great pestilence' that struck the area. William may have felt that the consequent lack of manpower and the internecine struggle between Rhys's heirs would distract the Welsh Lords from Cemaes, for it is in that year that he is supposed to have issued his foundation charter to the new town of Newport. No trace of this original Charter has survived. There is record of his gift of a burgage in Newport to the Commandery of the Knights of St. John before 1198 (Rees 1947), which suggests that the town land had already been divided up and was ready for tenants by that date.

In 1200 Maelgwyn, Lord Rhys's son, 'sold to the Saxons the lock and key of all Wales, the Castle of Cardigan, for a small worthless price'³. This presumably reassured William that his new town might be given time to become established, unhampered by Welsh military action from the North.

William's hopes were dashed when, in 1215, 'Rhys Ieuanc ap Gruffydd, son of Lord Rhys, and Maelgwyn ap Rhys, his uncle, were reconciled. And together they fell upon Dyfed and subdued all of the Welsh of Dyfed except for Cemaes. The Castle of Arberth (*Narberth*) and the Castle of Maenclochog they burned and Cemaes they plundered.....they subjugated the men of Cemaes and the Castle of Trefdraeth was surrendered to them; and by common consent of the Council of Princes it was razed to the ground.'⁴

2. Gerald of Wales; The Journey Through Wales page 171

3. Brut Y Tywysogyon translated by Thomas Jones B.C.S pages 942-9

4. Ibid

Also in 1215 William Fitz Martin issued another charter to the burgesses of Newport, perhaps to reassure his tenants and reiterate their rights and duties after the Welsh raid. The Welsh did not stay to consolidate their gains but withdrew to battle on another front, leaving William to recover.

In 1241 Nicholas Fitz Martin issued a charter which survives in the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth, to confirm all the liberties and customs which his father, William, had granted to the burgesses of Newport in 1215. (Translations of the charters are included in Appendix 1)

In 1257 the Welsh attacked again, 'Llewellyn, in that year, took the land of Cemaes.....and subdued the Castle of Trefdraeth.'⁵ This was an isolated raid and the Martins remained after the Welsh Lords and their men had plundered and burnt and moved on. Llewellyn, in that year, burnt all of Rhos and the Flemish settlements in south Pembrokeshire, except Haverfordwest, so the small town of Newport was merely one of many colonial communities so treated.

By 1265 Nicholas Fitz Martin held lands in Cilgerran, north of the River Teify; his influence was expanding. In 1272 Edward the First came to the throne of England and eventually Wales lost the last vestiges of its independence and peace came to Cemaes. In 1273 a supplementary charter was issued to Newport, approved by King Edward, and Newport was taxed as a borough in 1292 [Beresford 1967, E 179/242/48].

In 1326 William Fitz Martin died without issue and the Barony of Cemaes passed through his sister, Joan, to her son, James, Lord Audley. The Audleys were a powerful family with land holdings in Wales and in England. The Lord Marcher of the Barony of Cemaes no longer lived in his Castle of Newport but elsewhere; there is no record that the Audleys ever lived in Cemaes at all. The castle was kept in repair under the charge of the Constable of Cemaes. There are accounts giving details of repairs undertaken to the roof in 1395 and a stone mason was employed in 1398, along with carpenters who spent

5. Ibid

three days felling timber in Pencelly to make a new bridge for the castle (Charles 1951). The Pengelly Forest still stands in the Nevern Valley, about four miles from Newport. The castle was attacked by the followers of Owain Glyndwr in 1401 and eventually fell into complete disrepair. Much stone was stolen from it to built town houses and walls.

When James Touchet, Lord Audley, was beheaded on 24th June 1497 for high treason, all his lands were forfeited to the crown, including those in Cemaes. His son, John, was restored to the Barony of Audley in 1513 and to all his father's estates in 1534. That same year he sold the Barony of Cemaes to William Owen of Henllys who had satisfied the authorities of his descent from the original Martins and so was allowed to proceed with the transaction. William's son was the Lord Marcher and scholar, George Owen, the chronicler of Welsh life whose direct descendants hold the title today.

There is today a Lady Marcher of the Barony of Cemaes; her son will become the Lord Marcher in the fullness of time. The Lordship holds no seat in the House of Lords but the Lady Marcher's tenants still owe to her Steward, five pence a year rent for their burgage plots. The Lady Marcher still, nominally, picks her Mayor of Newport and accepts from him the token of a red rose at his installation. (In the rental of 1434 one of the burgage rents is specified as one rose). The Court Leet, an exclusively male gathering, meets four times a year, to elect new burgesses and conduct any business relating to the Common Land in their charge. The Mayor conducts, once a year, a perambulation of the boundaries of Newport and reports to the Steward any incursions onto the Common Land.

The Lady Marcher no longer lives in the Castle although her grandfather, Sir Thomas Lloyd, Lord Marcher from 1820 to 1877, restored part of the Castle and built, within its walls, a large house, now let to tenants.

The title has survived intact because of its unusual ability to pass through the female line; other similar titles, for example at Laugharne, died with their last male scion.

The town itself has survived, surprisingly intact in outline. The inhabitants have never been particularly prosperous, relying for their livelihood on the agricultural land and the sea. The population has remained comparatively small, though now it is expanding to include many retired people and, in the summer, visitors to the Pembrokeshire National Park which now surrounds Newport.

CHAPTER TWO

The Original Settlement

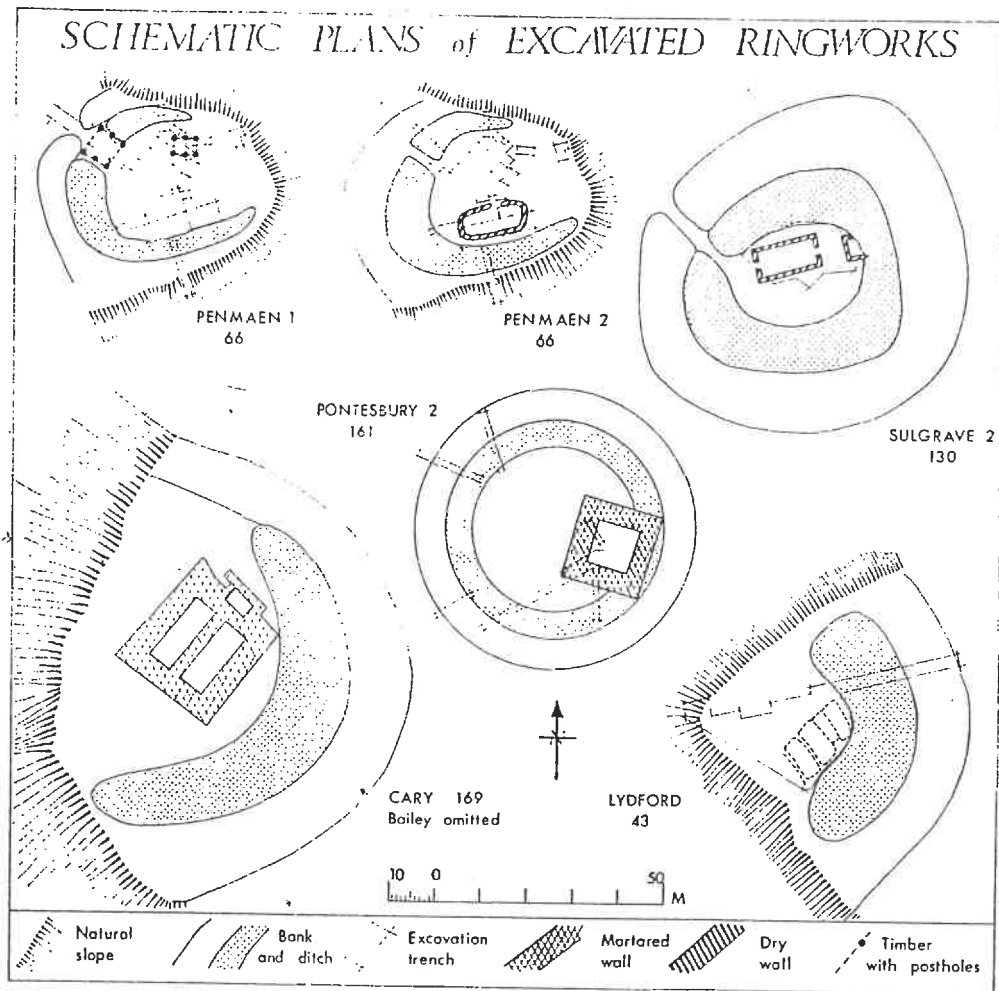
When William Fitz Martin was ejected from his castle in Nevern he moved his *caput* to Newport. There is a ringwork on the southern Bank of the River Nevern, which may be his original fortified site (SN 05833950, survey Map 8).

William fled from Nevern Castle in 1191 and the earliest date mooted for the foundation of the town of Newport is 1195. It seems more likely that it was actually founded in 1197 after the death of Lord Rhys, when internecine struggles in the Welsh ruling family meant that their attention was not directed towards resisting the Norman takeover.

William and his entourage moved to the Newport area in 1191 and, prior to the town foundation, must have been established somewhere. The ringwork is on the bank of the River Nevern, in a position to control the ford over the river and dominate any traffic on it. The site is also suitable for good sea-bourne communication with other Norman dominated areas, for example St.Davids, Pembroke and, intermittently, Cardigan.

This site is dated, in the Sites and Monuments Index of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust, to the Iron Age. There are, in North Pembrokeshire, many Iron Age Camps and many later fortified or semi-fortified raths. Most of the sites are dated by comparison with other sites rather than by excavation. All of the Iron Age sites are either very large hill-top forts like Carningli (SN 063373) or Castell Mawr (SN 05253452) or smaller defended habitation sites like those along the Gwaun Valley, for example the one at Tregynon (SN 05253452). Many of these sites contain stone hut-circles. None of the Iron Age sites have such a small enclosed area and massive ditch and bank as the Newport ringwork. Also all the known Iron Age sites are on hills or valley sides: there are no known

lowland sites, though of course this could be due to their non-survival or non-recognition.



Plans of excavated ringworks

From Cathcart King & Alcock 1966 Chateau Gaillard III for comparison with survey Map 8

The ringwork in Newport has never been excavated though a mechanically dug trench was investigated by the Dyfed Archaeological trust in 1988. The opportunity occurred when tennis courts were constructed immediately adjacent to the ringwork. The trench was dug across the putative ditch on the western side, though the monument was already decayed in this area. No definite evidence of any sort was found that could be used for dating.

The ringwork is not now a complete circle of ditch and bank. The northernmost area has been damaged in antiquity and it is unclear whether it ever was a complete ring. Many medieval ringworks found in the Glamorgan study were in fact crescent shapes built to fit their particular positions and related to other topographical features. In this case originally the ringwork was probably a complete circle damaged by erosion of the river bank and by the use of the bank in later years as a rubbish dump. The area was flattened and cleaned up comparatively recently and a fence constructed on the northern boundary of the field that the monument occupies. When this happened the ringwork was locally known as the *Entrenchment* and was not known to hold any historical or archaeological interest. The recent construction of tennis courts very close to it has focused attention upon the ringwork, as the courts stand on an area of ground that was already flat before their construction but which, if the circle was ever complete, would have been part of the monument. Also the southern ditch bank has been damaged by the drainage and construction of a rugby pitch and there are people who would very much like to see the whole monument flattened to extend the area available for recreation although it is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The position of this particular ringwork as well as its massive defences compared to its small internal diameter suggest that it may well have been misclassified. D.J.Cathcart King and L.Alcock suggest that 'where a motte and a ringwork stand close together, so that it appears that one has been occupied in succession to the other, the ringwork seems more commonly to be the older of the two'¹. Just half a mile away, overlooking the town of Newport stands the Norman Castle, occupied until the beginning of the fourteenth century. There appears to be a concentration of Norman ringworks in Pembrokeshire (see map following page). Their construction, instead of mottes, may also be related to the

¹ D.J.Cathcart King and K.Alcock 1966 Ringworks of England and Wales in Chateau Gaillard page 100

2.



itself permanently occupied and altered to suit their requirements later. The Iron Age Fort may also have been considered a high status site: the Normans that took over the site were implying their own aristocracy and their ascendancy over the local population and the small settlement in Nevern.

The building of contemporary mottes and ringworks is well attested in France, Wales and in England. Both styles of monument were being built at the same time in all areas of Norman influence. Both geology and personal preference seem to have influenced the builders in their choice.

The Royal Commission for Ancient Monuments in the Glamorgan (Inventory Volume III part I) cover Medieval Castles in that county. Of the total of 59 known examples 16 are mottes and 26 are ringworks with another 5 suspected ones. Spurgeon and Thomas suggest that 'the castle-ringwork is the overwhelmingly favoured early castle type of the Norman areas of Glamorgan and Gower'². They also suggest that ringworks 'may represent primary military settlements'³ and often mark river-crossings. The ringwork at Newport matches this pattern very well. It would seem to have been the primary military settlement in that particular area and it does dominate the ford (Map 7).

The rental of the Town of Newport of 1434 refers to the ringwork as 'veteris castri', the old castle, suggesting a relationship in time between the old castle by the river and the new one on the hill.

The position of the ringwork in relation to the street plan and Newport Castle is also significant. The two main streets of the town run parallel north to south, the extreme edges of the burgrave plots are marked by two streams that run north to south either side of the two main streets. The ringwork stands midway between those streets at the extreme north of the town and the Castle and the Church dominate them south of the town (Map 18).

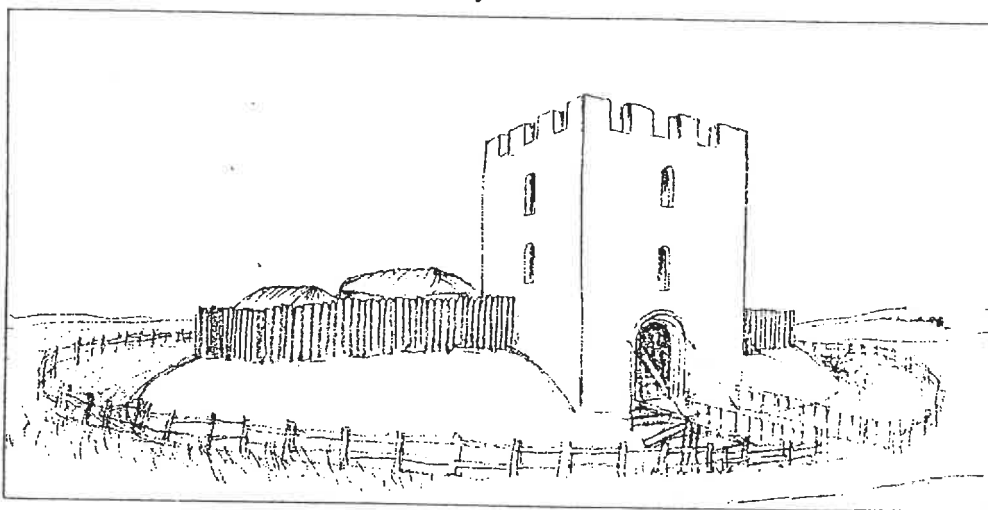
I believe the evidence points to the ringwork being the original settlement in Newport. It would be very interesting to excavate the entrance area, firstly to

². Spurgeon and Thomas C.B.A. Archaeology in Wales 1980 page 64

³. Ibid

prove or disprove its medieval date and secondly, if it did prove to be thirteenth century in date, to elucidate the sequence of events there. The castle of Trefdraeth was attacked twice, in 1215 and in 12574. On both occasions the castle was destroyed. Did the Welsh attack the ringwork or Newport Castle ?

Pontesbury Castle · conjectural reconstruction c1200



Conjectural reconstruction of Pontesbury Castle (Shropshire)

From Cathcart King & Alcock 1966 Chateau Gaillard III, the ringwork in Newport may have originally looked something like this.

Did the Martins decide to move further up the hill after the first attack in 1215, leaving their burnt wooden stronghold by the river for a safer stone keep further inland ? Or did they rebuild in stone in the ringwork ? Could they have decided to move up the hill after the second attack in 1157 ? It might be possible to find evidence for both military actions in an excavation of the gate-house area of the ringwork. The presence or absence of burnt layers and their number and sequence could help to date the foundation of the castle on the hill and the last date of occupation of the ringwork itself, as well as establishing the first place of occupation of the Martins and their household in Newport.

CHAPTER THREE

Town Reconstruction; Methodology

In order to attempt a reconstruction of the late medieval town of Newport the first thing to do was to consult the earliest maps of the area available.

There are several sixteenth century maps, such as the ones from Blau's Atlas (Map 3), Speed (Map5) and Camden (Map4), but they were drawn on too small a scale to be of much use, though they do confirm the presence of a bridge over the River Nevein in that period.

The earliest map of a scale to show the street plan is that drawn by Henry John in 1758. This is an estate map, drawn for the Llwyngwair Estate and concerned entirely with land holdings. A tracing of the map, reduced to A4 and with owners names removed, can be found as Map 12. It seems to have been surveyed in sections which were not joined together accurately to form the whole map. For example the Castle is shown to be directly south of the Church instead of to the west, and the Upper and Lower portions of St.Mary Street do not match. The town is recognisable, although part of the main road through the centre of town is called Rock Street and there is an additional named road on the east side of town called Dark Lane.

Unfortunately it's inaccuracies make the map difficult to use as evidence for the street layout, but it can be used to demonstrate the strip fields that were still in use in 1758. The map includes houses but we cannot be sure that these are all the houses in the town. It may be that Henry John only included those that paid rent to the Llwyngwair Estate. He may also have excluded property boundaries unrelated to the Estate. B.C.Charles's interpretation of the map is shown as Map 14, he has included owners names that were on the original. I agree with all his additions apart from the naming of Warrentrelak, which I would suggest is the stream nearer the town itself (see next chapter).

Another of Henry John's maps for the LLwyngwair Estate has survived, showing some land on the western border of the parish of Newport (Map 15). Compared to the modern Ordnance Survey map (Map 17) it appears to be very accurate. It shows surviving strip fields to the north, an infield-outfield system surrounding dispersed farmsteads in the centre of the map and common grazing to the south on Carningli Mountain.

The earliest Ordnance Survey map was surveyed in 1820 and shows the street layout that still survives today, but the scale is still too large to show garden boundaries (Map 6). The next Ordnance Survey map was produced in 1888 and is to the scale of 6ins/mile. This is the map that was used in the reconstruction as it is on a scale that is small enough to show all the garden boundaries and also automatically excludes all the twentieth century building development (Map 7). The map was copied, removing all those boundaries that were later in origin than the period under study, for example the areas on the street frontages of Market Street have been considerably subdivided in recent years.

Using the map based on the 1888 OS map and the surviving rentals of 1434 and 1595 Maps 22,29 and 30 were produced. The rentals are reproduced, in translations by B.C.Charles in Appendix 1.

Most of the street names in the rentals have survived to the present day and as the rent collector started at one end of each street and proceeded to the other, even noting those burgages that were untenanted and 'in the Lord's Hand', calculating the number of burgages in each street was easy. Fitting them into the map was not always as simple. Some areas, like the east side of Upper St.Mary Street (Map 11), fitted in extremely well but others, like both sides of Market Street (Long Street) have been divided and subdivided and changed so much that the suggested burgage borders on the map are really quite arbitrary. The burgages were there, in those specific areas, but their original boundaries are no longer obvious. The same is true of the areas that have reverted to open pasture-land at the northern ends of the two main streets. The area immediately to the south of the ringwork is now a school playing

field and rugby pitch and has been ploughed, reseeded and rolled so that no lychets could survive.

Some burgage plot divisions have survived as lynchets in pasture and many as garden boundaries. The town is built on a sloping area so the gardens are terraced, preserving many original boundaries.

Many of the proposed burgage boundaries on my map will not be in exactly the right place to within several metres, but the relationships between the burgage plots are as accurate as the rentals they are derived from. The information derived from the maps is not dependant on the exact location of each burgage, but its relationship to the whole town and its ownership and the tenants who lived on it.

Chapter Four

The Town

Newport was a planned and planted town, built to provide an income from rents and markets for its Lord and as part of a phase of major expansion by the Normans in the process of their conquest and eventual domination of Wales.

Though there may well have been a settled area at Parrog, called Trefdraeth, the land of the new town was almost certainly unoccupied. The local people in the pre-Norman period did not live in urban units; there are no records of towns in West Wales until those that were founded by the Normans. There were probably fishing hamlets and dispersed pastoral settlements based on kinship groups but these were not organised in the Norman way and did not involve the occupants in ownership or rental of large areas of arable land. An infield-outfield system was probably in use, producing enough cereal and legumes for self-sufficiency, but the wealth of the people was counted, not so much in land, as in cattle. Lordly tributes were paid in cattle, pigs and honey. Contemporary chronicles such as the *Brut Y Tywysogyon* imply a pastoral agricultural regime, where herds of animals were moved regularly to new pastures, their owners building comparatively temporary wooden structures for accommodation. There seems to have been a greater dependence on hunting and gathering to supplement the diet in Wales than in contemporary southern England.

Before the foundation of the new town at Newport, the Normans had built the motte and bailey castle at Nevern. The church at Nevern contains some evidence of an early foundation date. There is a stone with a funerary inscription in Ogham and Latin and an early Christian preaching cross. These suggest that there was a pre-Norman religious centre of some sort in Nevern, in the shadow of the large Iron Age defended site, and possibly a pre-Norman *maerdref*, a

Princely administration centre. It is possible that the presence of a small hamlet there attracted the Norman conquerors to the place, where they built their castle overlooking the settlement and reused the Iron Age Fort with its high status connotations.

The Normans introduced the urban way of life, with permanent places of residence and payment of rent for the use of land from which was produced food for the household, and extra for exchange in controlled markets. The foundation of a town produced far more in rental for the owner than it would be possible to earn by selling any agricultural product grown on the same land. Ferries, markets, fairs, mills and courts also brought profit, as well as the burgage rents. The population produced for the lord a supply of men for his private army, service and food for his consumption.

In 1326 William Martin owned burgages in Devon at

Barnstable	156
Bow	34
Coombe Martin	82
Ford North	68
Holsworthy	19
Ilfracombe	52
Molton South	160
Torrington	43
Totnes Little	58

as well as his holdings in Pembrokeshire (Beresford 1967).

The townspeople could have come to Newport from England, Normandy or been locals, attracted by the terms of service offered by the original charter, but they are most likely to have been English settlers, deliberately brought in to populate the new town and surround the Lord and his castle with loyal supporters. By the time of the first surviving rental of 1434 it is possible to identify originally Norman names, and there are English and Welsh names that appear to be derived from occupations, personal characteristics and places of residence, as well as those with no obvious derivations (see Appendix I).

That the system was profitable enough to the Lords to be instituted as soon as possible is evidenced by the growth of towns in West Wales over the next few years.

(Dates are given of first taxation as a town rather than original foundation.)

	Burgage Plots	Year
Aberystwyth	157	1308
Cardigan	172	1308
Carmarthen	281	1300
Haverfordwest	360	1324
Lampeter	26	1317
Newcastle Emlyn	62	1316
Newmoat	89	1326
Newport	46(?)	1324

(Beresford 1967)

The number of burgage plots in Newport had increased to 233 in 1434 and decreased again to 211 in 1594

In 1434 there were 76 named burgesses in Newport and the patria and in 1594 there were 77.

Street Plan and Water Courses

The Main Road

Newport was laid out on a modified grid system. It has been suggested that the present Fishguard to Cardigan road is a modern addition laid on top of the original grid (Soulsby 1983). This, I think is arguable.

There was a route of sorts between St.Davids and St.Dogmaels by 1188 when Geraldus Cambrensis travelled through the area on his mission, with Archbishop Baldwin, to raise forces for the Crusade. It is now called the Pilgrim's path and seems to have been well trodden by people making the Pilgrimage to St.David's, (two visits to St.David's being as virtuous as one Pilgrimage to Rome). From a study of Gerald's writings Lewis Thorpe has constructed an itinerary in the Penguin Classics Edition :

"Monday 28th March 1188; early in the morning ('summo diliculo', with no mention of the day) Baldwin said Mass in St Davids's Cathedral, left Gerald to preach and set off through Cemaes to meet Rhys ap Gruffydd again in Cardigan. There is talk of Llanhyver Castle in Nevern. Baldwin probably stayed the night there.

Tuesday 29th March; Gerald joined Baldwin in the Monastery in St Dogmaels and they spent the night there."

On the Wednesday they travelled the short distance to Cardigan and met the Lord Rhys, preached there and moved on.

There was no mention, at that time, of a new town at Newport because the Martins were still in possession of the Castle at Nevern and had not yet moved to Newport or founded the town. But there is, at Trefdraeth, a ford over the River Nevern that is later overlooked by the ringwork. The easiest way to get from Fishguard to Nevern may well have been over this ford. Geraldus mentions in his Journey the story of the man who was plagued by frogs. This story is connected with the farm of Trelyffaint which is on the north side of the River Nevern between the ford and Nevern Castle.

It seems reasonable to expect a religious party to follow the route of the old Pilgrim's Path from St.David's to St.Dogmaels. There was a way-chapel, a place of rest for travellers following the Path, called Capel Dewi on the present Fishguard Road just outside the town of Newport (SN04283898). The spot was marked on the 1909 Ordnance Survey map. A house called 'Llys Dewi' has been built there since.

From the ford the Pilgrim's Path follows the northern bank of the River Nevern to Nevern itself, then on to Velindre. In Velindre there is a bridge known as 'Pont Baldan', where, according to local tradition, Bishop Baldwin stopped to preach to the people when he was on his way to St Dogmaels Abbey. This bridge spans a small tributary of the Nevern called the Duad. Baldwin

could have ridden up the Duad Valley to within a very few miles of St.Dogmaels.

If the ford at Newport was in constant use by people travelling between the St.David's area and St.Dogmaels and Cardigan it would go some way towards explaining why, strategically, the Martins chose Newport to settle in.

The original road, then, probably ran into Newport, from Fishguard, where it does now, but ran out of Newport over the ford and not along the present road to Velindre (Maps 2 and 7).

Once towns were established at Cardigan and Newport a shorter route might have come into use which avoided the diversion to Nevern and St Dogmaels. The present road to Cardigan passes over an area of what was very marshy land just outside Newport, a place to be avoided in an era of dirt roads or tracks. The road over the present bridge is still called the 'old Cardigan Road'.

Bridge Street

The first available rental calls the road from the town to the ford 'Bridge Street', the present Pen Bont (Map 11) so by 1434 there could have been some kind of causeway and wooden bridge over the estuary; it is certainly too wide to have been completely bridged over. Access to the other side of the river must have been reasonably easy for the Lord's Demesne to have been established there, as it was, according to later rentals which specify its leasing (Bronwydd Manuscripts 1 872 in 1562).

The map of Pembrokeshire printed in Blau's Atlas, published in 1648 from an original of 1534, shows a bridge over the Nevern at Newport, as does Camden's in 1586. John Speed's map of Pembrokeshire shows a bridge rather than a ford at Newport in 1610, but this bridge was later demolished, according to local legend, to stop the passage of pestilence from Nevern to Newport. There is a series of stepping stones across the estuary that would have enabled a person to travel dry-shod from one side of the estuary to the other at low tide. Some of

the stones were apparently removed and used in the construction of the present bridge in 1894.

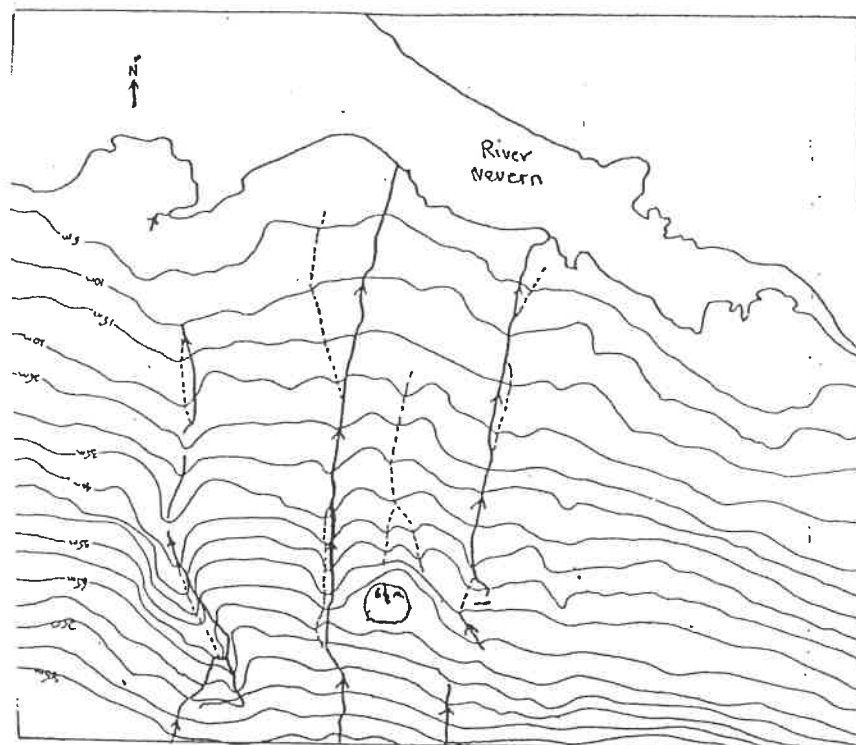
Richard Fenton mentions the visible remains of a bridge in 1811 and in 1890 a contemporary observer, the Rev.E.Jones mentioned, in his *Historical Sketch of Newport*, that the stone foundation of the old bridge was still visible.

There is no other area in Newport where Bridge Street could have been apart from the present Pen Bont if the specified burgages are to fit. The space between the Nevern Bridge and the stream now known as Afon Ysgolheigion accommodates the burgages very easily. The alternative, the present Upper Bridge Street, has no space at all for burgages when the ones from West Street and Long Street are in place (Map 11).

There was no bridge over the Nevern at this point from the seventeenth century until 1894; the earliest Ordnance Survey map of the area shows a ford passable at low tide.

The Streams

The two streams that border the original burgage plots are now called Afon Ysgolheigion (Scholars Brook) and Afon Felin (the Mill Stream). They do not follow their original courses and appear to have been deliberately straightened and canalised to run parallel with the two original streets. The map included shows the original courses of the two streams and the diversions.



South bank of the River Nevers including contour lines and suggested previous stream beds

When water runs naturally it automatically follows the line of least resistance. The water scours out a bed for itself which shows in the contour lines on a map. Even if the water is diverted the original course can still be plotted by looking for the old course in the V shapes left in the land which still show in the contour lines.

Afon Ysgolheigion has been diverted to run around the small field near the castle. This field seems to have contained burgages in 1434 but there is no clue as to the reason for the diversion of the stream, especially as the original course was in line with the rest of the plan. Perhaps there were abandoned plans for another mill on that site to balance the one in a similar position on the other side of the Castle, or this could have been the site of some other industrial activity such as tanning or brewing.

The other diversions are minor and just serve to straighten the stream course. The stream is called Gilyslak in the 1434 rental, implying that somewhere along its course there must have been a pond. To the south of the castle the stream passes through a deep gully. Another old water course, now dry, runs from this gully to the castle moat. The mouth of this dry stream bed is far above the present water level in Gilyslak, but if there had been a dam at this

point the water level could have risen enough to allow water to run along the dry bed. This could have served to fill the moat of the castle and also put water into the deer leap that ran along one side of the castle land. The dammed stream could then have had the 'lak' that forms part of its medieval name.

The water system south of the Castle is very complex and the water appears to have been used in different ways at different times, being diverted to fill both the Castle Moat and the Mill leet.

Afon Felin is, and was in medieval times, the Mill Stream, though it is also sometimes called Nant Mawr (Big Stream). It's course has been extensively tampered with. The diversion near the castle takes the water through a very deep, artificial gully and a field where there are traces of a pond. The mill site itself is very interesting. A mill was still in use here for corn milling in the early years of this century. At first the mill leet ran across the western slope of Carningli collecting water from all the little streams that occurred naturally there and carrying the water, via a header pond directly to the mill wheel. Later, when the castle became ruined the moat was used as a header pond and a new stream bed was carved out between the moat and the mill. This has now silted up and the water from the mountain runs again down the original mill leet although it is very much reduced in volume, a great deal being extracted by the farming population. There is still a damp overflow from the Castle moat part of which was dammed to be used as a boating lake in the last century. The lower diversion straightens the Mill Stream to bring it parallel to Afon Ysgolheigion.

The other stream mentioned in the 1434 rental is Warrentrelak. It has been suggested, (see the map published in the Journal of the National Library of Wales, Map 14), that this is a water course that runs to the sea to the west of the town. The rental gives the number of burgages between the town centre and Warrentrelak, the area between the suggested stream and the town appears to be too large for the number of burgages given in the rental.

I would suggest that the unnamed stream that runs through the Slade to Parrog is Warrentrelak (Map 11). The burgages fit in very well between the stream and the town, the lanes mentioned in the rental are still there, some now forming field entrances.

Warrentrelak has been assumed to be the more westerly water course because the name Warrentree is a Pembrokeshire term for a gallows and George Owen in c1600 stated that the Warrentree in Newport was at Cnw cw y Grogwydd. He said that the rotting wooden stump of the gallows could still be seen on the tump. There is now no trace of a mound in the area, which has been obliterated under a road widening scheme. The stream which runs there now could, in medieval times, have been one of the many small water sources diverted into the mill leet, leaving Warrentrelak as the nearest stream to the gallows tump. The name Warrentrelak also implies the existence of a pond and the stream flows through a very deep gully at Slade which could easily have been dammed. Its course is certainly no longer natural.

The contour lines between the castle and the sea imply the presence at some time of another stream that ran in the area of Long Street. Several people, building on the western side of Market street have come across a large drain running north from the castle. The drain is described as being about three feet in diameter and seems to be the source of a local legend concerning a secret passage that runs from the Castle to the river. The stream may have been piped down this drain or diverted into the castle moat, which had a overflow into the mill stream (see earlier map).

The Burgage Plots

The original town probably consisted of the burgages either side of Long Street and St.Mary Street; the burgages on Bridge Street and West Street being later additions. The burgesses who lived on the north side of West Street, either side of Cock Lane, in 1434 (Map 19), paid their rents in service, this may indicate that the Castle and Mill were not built when the town was originally laid

out, but that when they were the newly settled burgesses in West Street had to agree to provide labour instead of cash for their rents. The Bridge Street burgesses paid their rent in cash as usual (Map 18).

The most southerly part of the medieval Long Street has almost disappeared. It is possible to see traces of a sunken lane, curving round to where the barbican would have been, in the field beneath the Castle. The curve extends into a narrow lane that leads down into the top of Long Street, also known as Market Street. This part of Long Street, south of the main Fishguard-Cardigan road is very wide and has certainly been used as a market place during recent history. The market cross stood on the site of the present Lloyds Bank, once known as Cross House, on the south-west corner of Market Street and the Fishguard-Cardigan road. The road's width and position under the shadow of the Castle would suggest that it was the market area of the new town after the Castle was built. The burgages extended the full length of Long Street either side of the road to the River Nevern in the north.

The other main thoroughfare was St. Mary Street which ran, parallel with Long Street, from its southern limit, at the Church of St. Mary, to the river. The foundation date of the Church is probably contemporary with the building of the Newport Castle. The Norman tower is still standing and an early Norman pillow-font is still in use inside the Church. The burgages on the eastern side of Upper St. Mary Street seem to be the best preserved in the town. The area available to be divided up for plots has not changed, and the number there today matches the number that were there in 1434. The road is not level but falls considerably along its length; because of this there are steps between the level gardens, lynchets varying from 50 cms to as much as 1.50m.

'William Owen declared in a Bill of Complaint to the Council of the Marches that at the foundation of Newport each Burgess had been granted room for a house and a garden together with 4.5 acres to make a burgage, and that 7.5 acres of land were assigned to each burgage in addition' (Bronwydd MS 508,

translated by B.G.Charles in J.N.L.W 1951). Each burgage in Upper St.Mary Street is approximately 0.23 modern acres, though the Pembrokeshire acre of medieval times was not the same size. In George Owen's time one acre equalled four stangs: a stang was an area eight poles by twenty poles or four poles by forty. Each pole was twelve feet in length. If we assume that a foot was roughly the same then as today, then the Pembrokeshire medieval acre was about 2560 square yards compared to the modern standard 4840 square yards. Thus the burgages in medieval measurements are less than half an acre. It is probable that the plots in town are the 'room for a house and garden' referred to above and that the burgesses had in addition two lots of land to farm in a two field system with the burgesses having strips in each large field.

The town burgages seem to vary considerably in size, those in the centre of town are much smaller and closer packed than those on the outskirts. Probably this is the result of population pressure on particularly desirable areas rather than the layout as originally envisioned. Many of the burgesses had more than one burgage, presumably living on one but possessing the rights and obligations that accrued to the tenancy of the others. Half burgages are probably the result of divided inheritances.

CHAPTER FIVE

The 1434 Burgage Map

There are seventy-six burgage holders named in the rental who hold land either within the town or in the patria. Nine of the burgesses with holdings within the town also hold land in the patria. Twenty-one burgesses hold only one burgess in the town and nothing in the patria. There are seventeen land-holder in the patria, six of whom have no burgages in the town. One piece of land in town is held by the Knights of St. John and one in the patria by the Abbot of St. Dogmaels Abbey. (See Appendix I)

Some of the burgesses only hold one burgage, these have been plotted on Map 23. It is possible that these are shop-keepers or craftsmen who earned their living without the need to farm additional strips. They do not appear to cluster in the centre of town, but this may be because they did not sell their manufactured goods from their homes, but in regular markets. It is possible that the single burgage holders also had land on the north side of West Street or on Parrog, areas which do not pay rent in cash and do not appear in the rental. At the extreme end of town, on the north side of West Street were two pottery kilns. One of these is still visible, preserved under the Memorial Hall. As the land holders in this area did not pay rent in cash the Lord Marcher probably received his dues in the products of the kilns. In the last century, during extensive alterations undertaken within the Castle grounds, two complete jugs were found that had been fired in the Newport Kilns. They are now on display in Scolton Museum in Haverfordwest.

Four men appear to control the major part of the town land: Jankyn Picton holds 42 burgages, John ap Rotpart holds 25.5 burgages, Thomas Dovenold (Clerk) holds 16.5 burgages and Thomas Jordan holds 13 burgages.

These are plotted on Map 25, which shows the large amount of the town, and presumably the town fields that they controlled. It would certainly not have been possible for Jankyn Picton, on his own, to farm 42 burgages, this implies either sub-letting which does not appear in the rental, the employment of independent free-men or the use of bonded labour.

In 1434, there could still have been a Welshry and an Englishry in Newport, that is the town could have been divided into two distinct sectors the inhabitants of which were of different cultural and ethnic groups. It was possible to pick out some names that appeared to be impeccably Welsh (Jenkyn ap Llewelyn ap Oweyn, John ap Rotpart, Meredith ap Oweyn. Margaret Llewelyn, Alson verch Robyn, Griffith ap David Hyr, Robyn Da, Llewelyn ap Res ap Llewelyn ap Oweyn, Sir Phillip Lloid, Howel Badour, Ievan ap Llewelyn ap Oweyn, Wolcock Coch) and plot those on the Map 24. There appears to be no correlation between the ethnicity of the names and the positions of the burgage plots within the town. By this time the townspeople appear to be an integrated, Welsh speaking, whole. Certainly the clerk who wrote out the rental used Welsh words when he did not use Latin, for example he used *verch* for daughter. He also appears to have used Welsh phonetic spelling, for example *Mull* for Mill.

In 1434 there does not appear to have been an egalitarian peasant society within the town of Newport. Certain burgesses held a great deal more land than the norm and presumably held the status and power that went with it. They were not part of the aristocratic Norman elite, who by this time had left the castle and were living elsewhere, but they may not have lived in the town itself either. This rental does not include house sites or residents names, just the burgage holders, so these comparatively wealthy people could have been living elsewhere and receiving the profits from others farming the lands they rented from the Barony.

CHAPTER SIX

The 1594 Burgage Map

In 1594 there were two hundred and eleven burgages in town and twenty more mentioned in the patria. Seventy burgesses are named as having land within the town itself and seven more have land in the patria, seventy-seven altogether.

In this rental there are two categories of people who are paying rent to the Barony, land holders and tenants. Some of the land is 'in the Lord's hands for want of heirs', implying that the right to live on and farm certain plots of land could be passed down from one generation to the next. When there was no-one to inherit the land passed into the Lord's hands and according to another document in the Bronwydd collection (translated by B.G.Charles in J.N.L.W. 1951) "the custome is that the Lordes officers there maye demise and sell the decaied burgages to whome he listeth to make the most profytt thereof to the Lorde". Only forty-seven of the town burgages were able to be let directly from the Lord Marcher to tenants and thirty-five of those were 'in the Lord's hands through want of heirs'. The other burgages were either held directly or tenanted from other land holder, especially Sir John Perrot, who had about forty plots of land. Sir John Perrot, called blankly 'Perrot' for most of the rental, was already dead by the time this rental was produced. He died of natural causes in the Tower of London having been convicted of Treason against Elisabeth the First. His estate had probably not yet been sorted out as he had died in 1592, only two years previously and there may have been some dispute over the property ownership. He was a gentleman of some standing, reputed to be Elisabeth's half-brother and had, by the evidence of the burgage plot ownership, been extending his sphere of influence to include north Pembrokeshire. He had lived at Carew Castle in the south of the county.

Map 31 shows the land 'in the Lord's hands for want of heirs' and that held by Sir John Perrot. It can be seen that much of the land to the south of the ringwork is untenanted. The map also shows the extent of Sir John's land holdings.

Both Map 31 and Map 33 show the trend towards consolidation of land-holdings into blocks. The plots in the town bore a spatial relationship to the land in the patria and if all the land held in town was adjoining, then so too would the strips in the patria. Enclosure of land was being practised at this time in the move away from communal agricultural effort and towards individual ownership and decision making. Maps 35 and 36 show the evidence that remains of the strip-field system in the patria.

Map 32 shows those plots of land that are stated to have people living upon them in 1594. There are forty-four occupied plots, they cluster under the Castle and along the main road. Also mentioned in this rental are 'The Big House where Henry Stydman lives' on Market Street, the Wollhouse, the Sheerhall (formerly called the Tolehouse) and le jaile (now a burgage). The jaile and the sheerhall were mentioned in 1434 but not the existence of the wollhouse or presence of a large private residence, other than the Castle. The commercial and social centre of the town appears to be in Market Street, right away from the original area of settlement at the river's edge.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Conclusions

Newport was founded in c.1197 as part of a planned imposition of urban life upon rural Wales, this was to make money for the Norman elite but was also part of their wider ambition to dominate the whole country, commercially and politically.

The settlement started out as a military establishment, a ringwork overlooking the ford where a main route from St.Davids to St Dogmaels crossed the River Nevern. The new town was laid out between the river and that road to the south of the ringwork. The backs of the plots were marked by two streams which were canalised to conform to the rectangular town plan.

The power-base of the Martin family moved from the ringwork, south to a knoll overlooking the town where a stone castle was built. The burgage plots were extended to the west of the town and along the road to the ford. The Church was established close to the Castle to the east and the Lord's Mill to the west.

The town focus moved at this time from the riverside to the area immediately to the north of the Castle, where the main road of the town, Long Street, was used as a market place.

The area on the estuary, called Parrog, is never mentioned in the rentals. There are also farm names mentioned in the charters that do not appear to be paying rent to the Barony. It is possible that when the Norman Lord who conquered the area took charge he came to some agreement with the indigenous inhabitants so that they retained the ownership of their own land and owed their new Lord no rent.

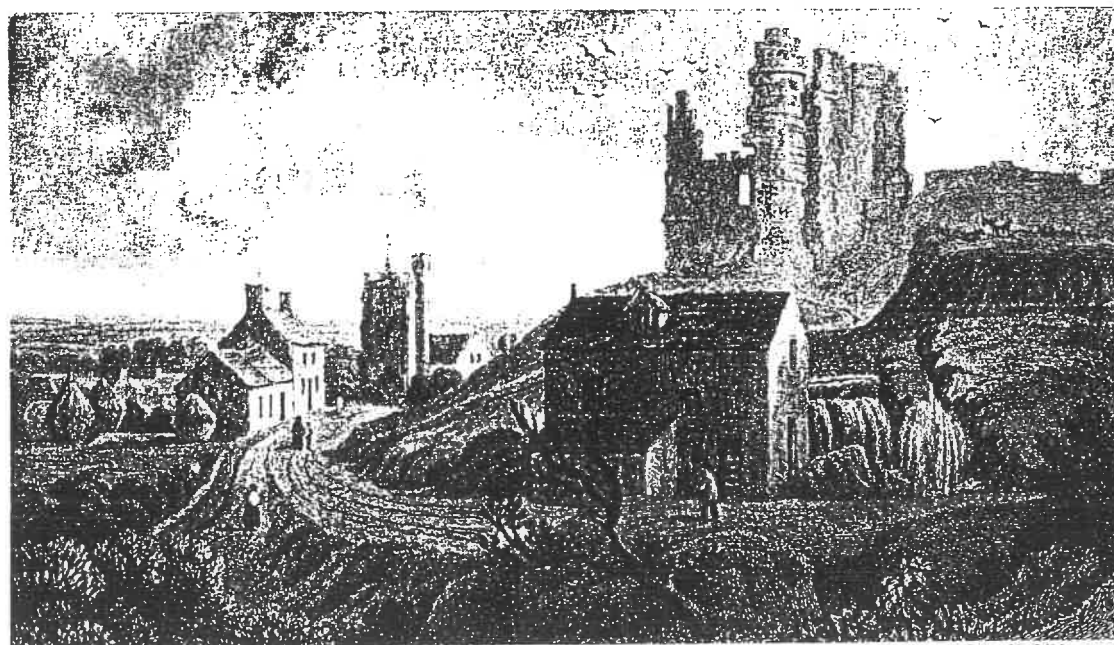
There were, and still are, a series of farms on the hill-slopes of Carningli, positioned so that they are able to take advantage of the lower-lying good arable land and also the grazing on the mountain (Map 36). These might

be the remnants of the dispersed farmsteads in which the pre-Norman inhabitants of the area made their living.

Recent investigations of the area of land immediately to the south of the ringwork in Newport have revealed the double-ditches of burgage plot boundaries and one house site. The house contained a hearth and appeared to be a wooden building of sill-beam construction (K.Murphy pers.com.).

This study has, because of its restricted length, had to concentrate upon the town plan to the exclusion of other areas which are equally interesting. The main town buildings, the Castle and the Church, have barely been mentioned, and the industrial side of town life has also had to be ignored despite the existence of superbly preserved medieval pottery kilns and a mill site with intriguing topography.

A great deal of work remains to be done in Newport, its preservation and excellent documentation make it a marvellous example for study of a Norman New Town.



Drawn by H. Cartwright

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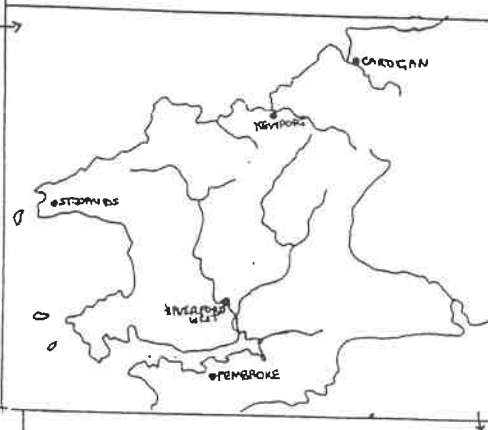
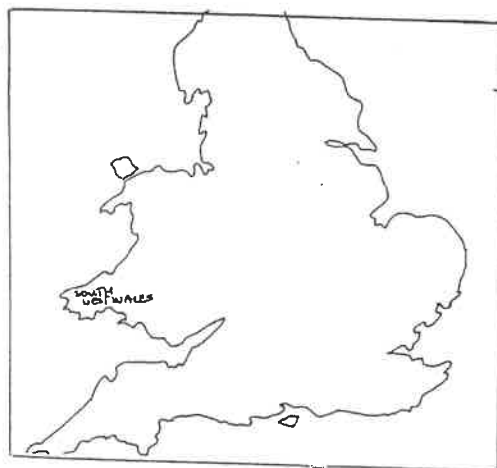
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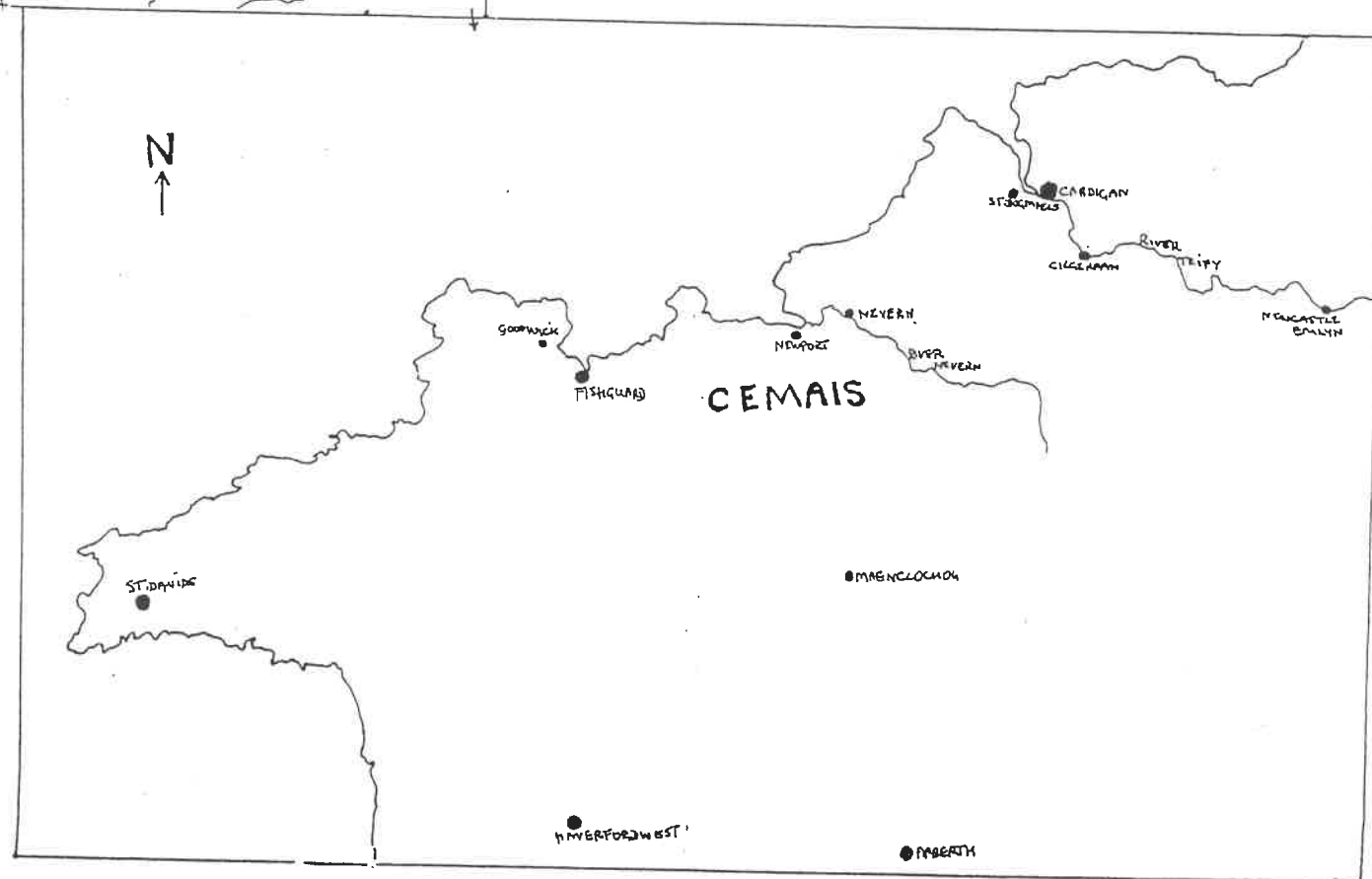
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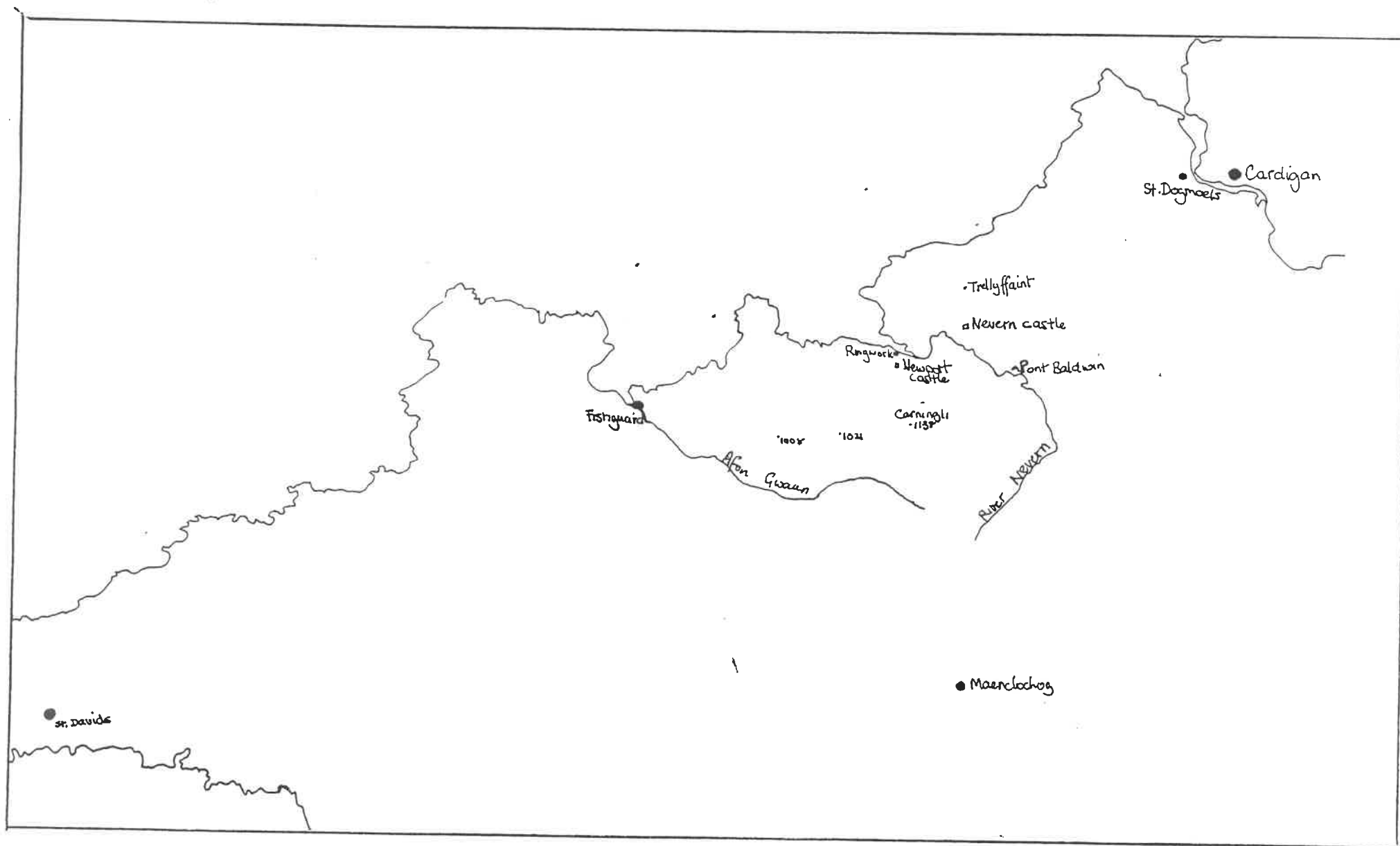
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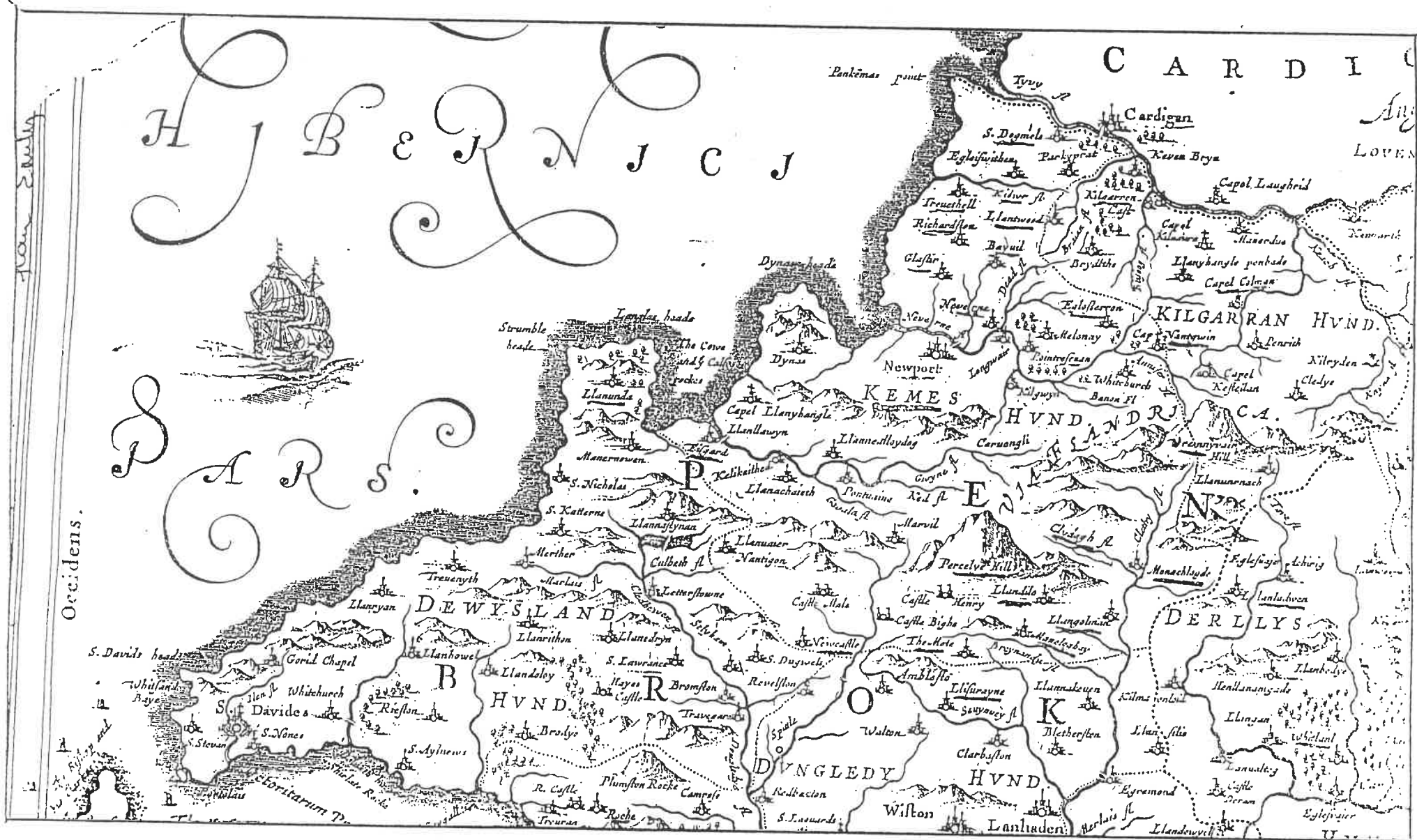


Location Map





North Pembrokeshire



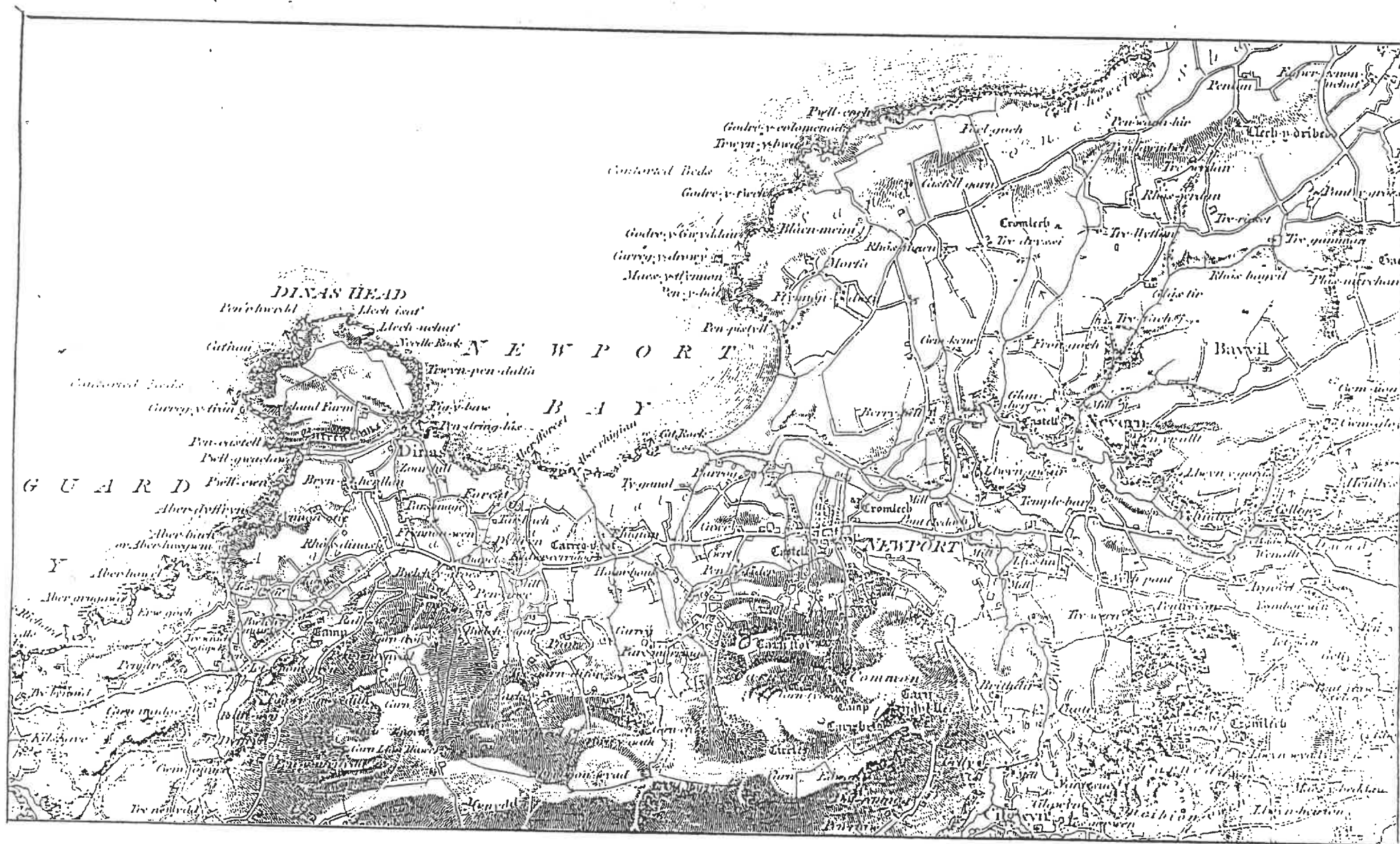
From Blau's Atlas published 1648,
from an original map drawn in 1534



From Camden's Wales (part of Britannia) published in 1568
map drawn by Robert Morden

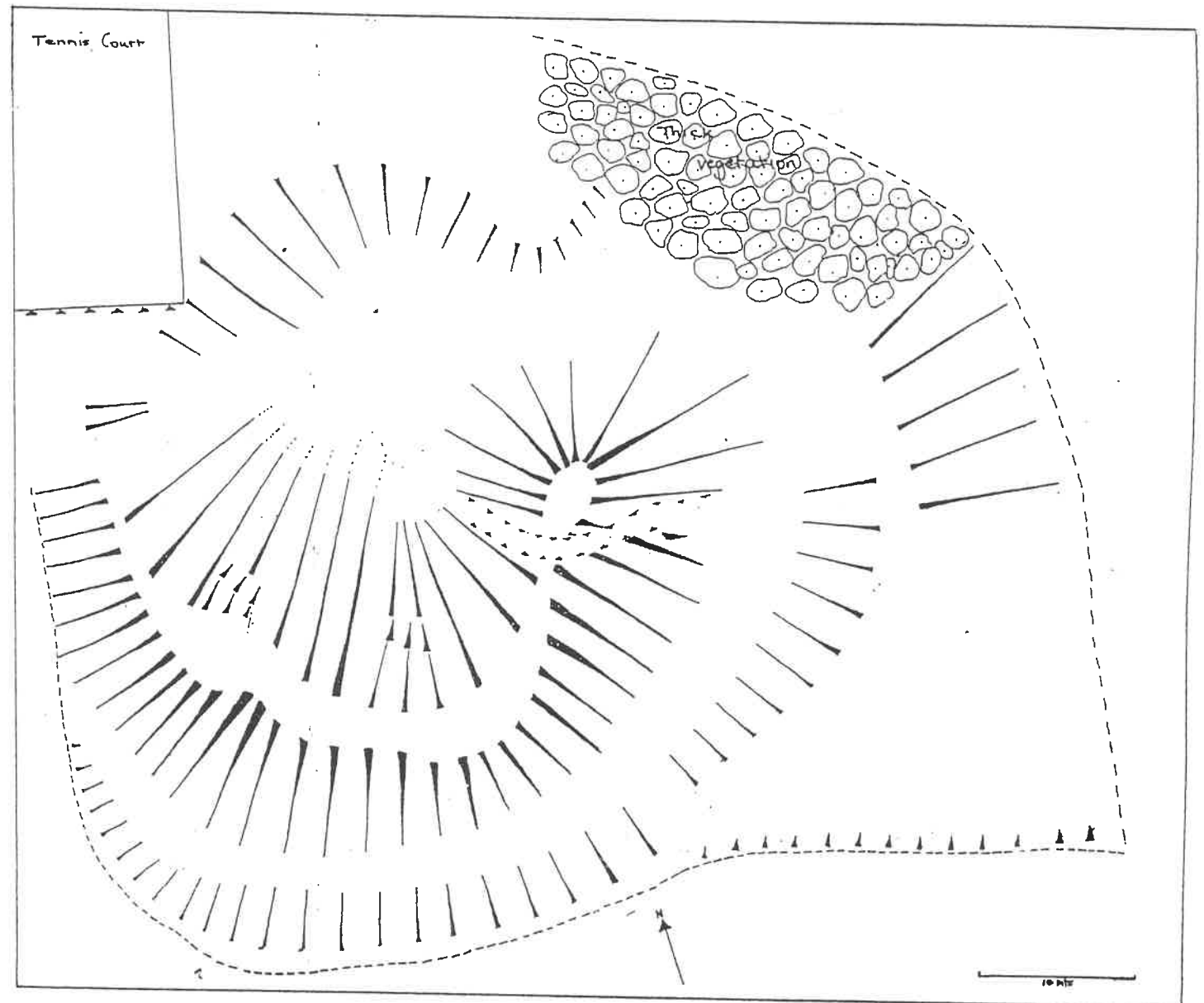


From John Speed's 1611 Theatre of the Empire
of Great Britain



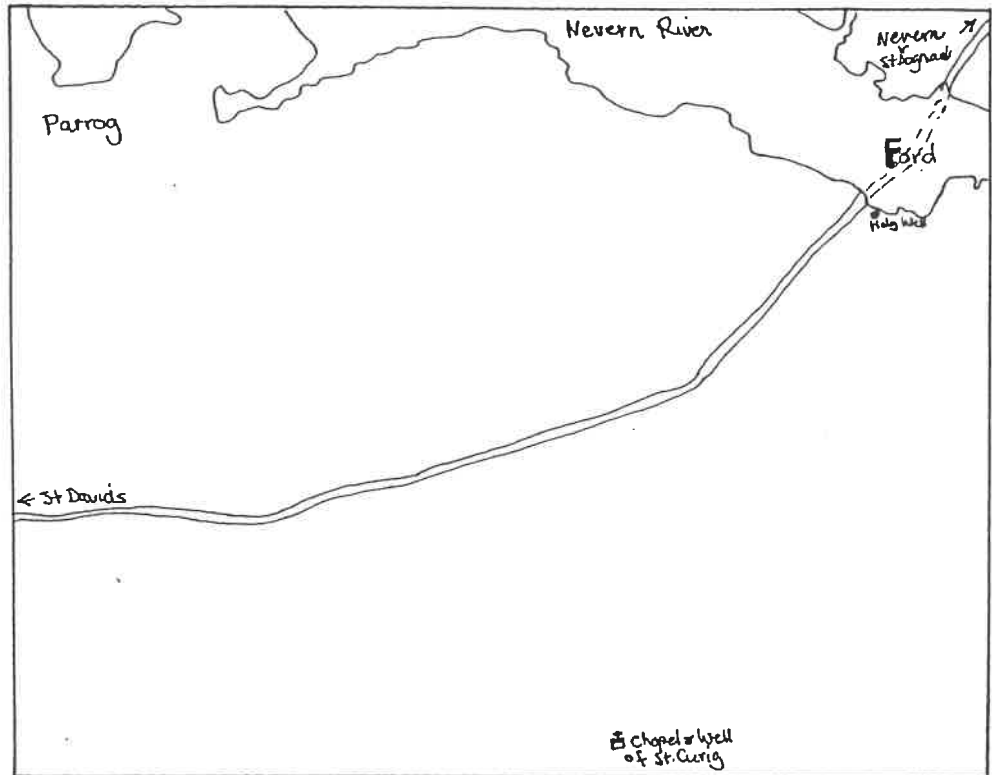


Ordnance Survey 1888 6 inches to the mile



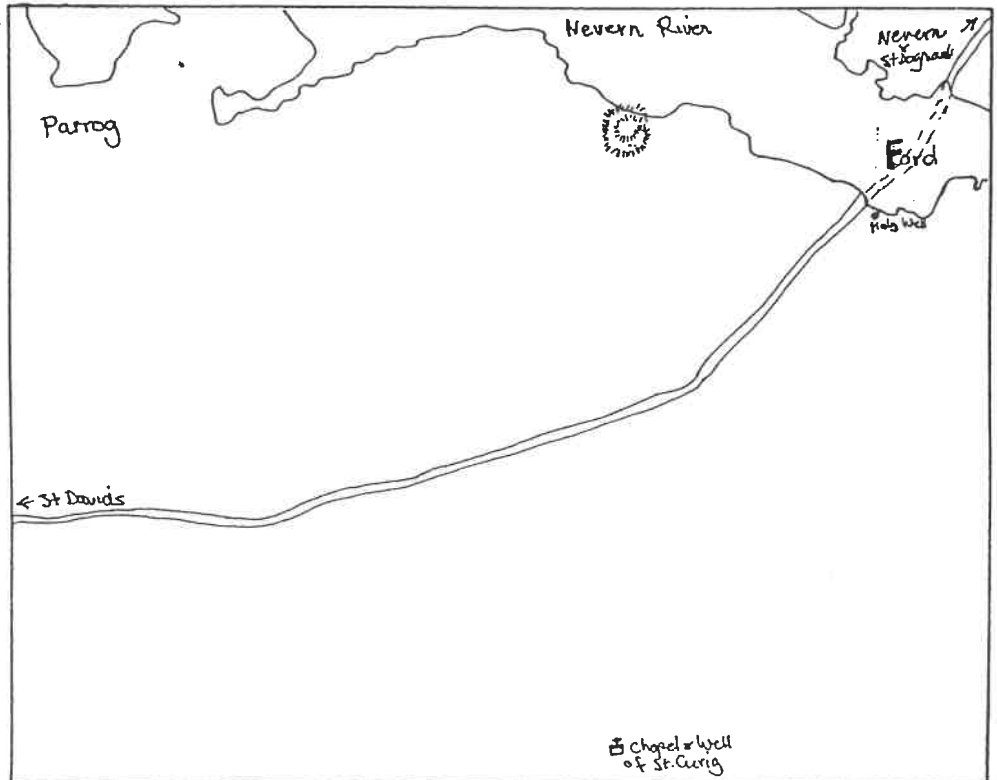
Ringwork on the south bank of the River Nevers

a)



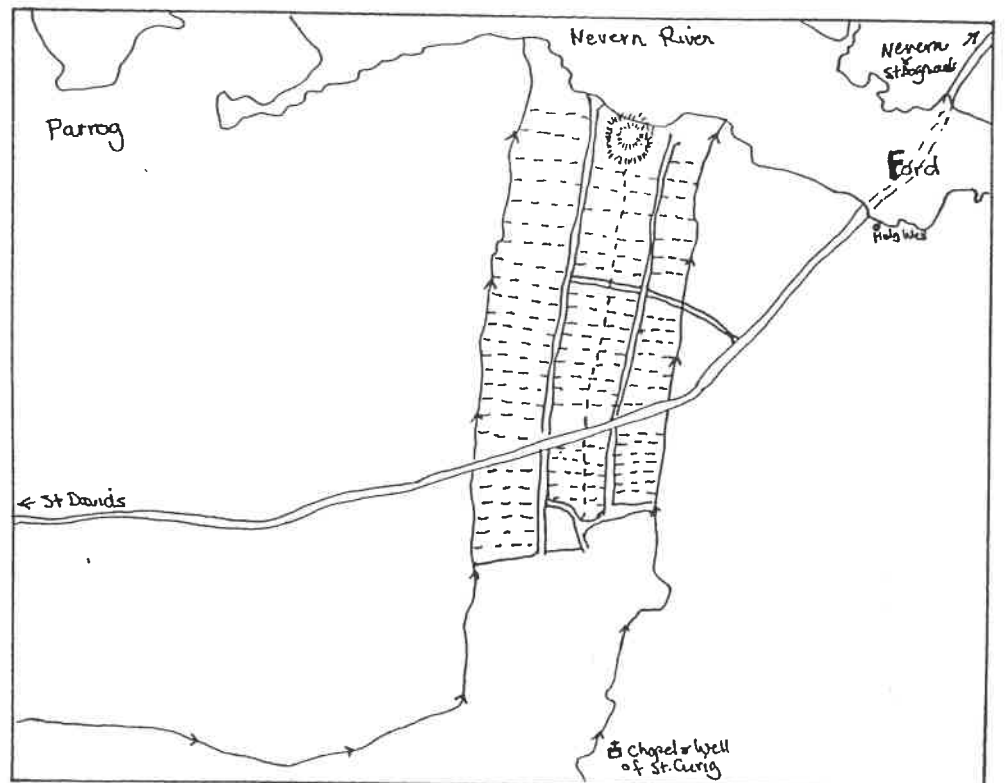
Pre-Norman

b)



Post 1191

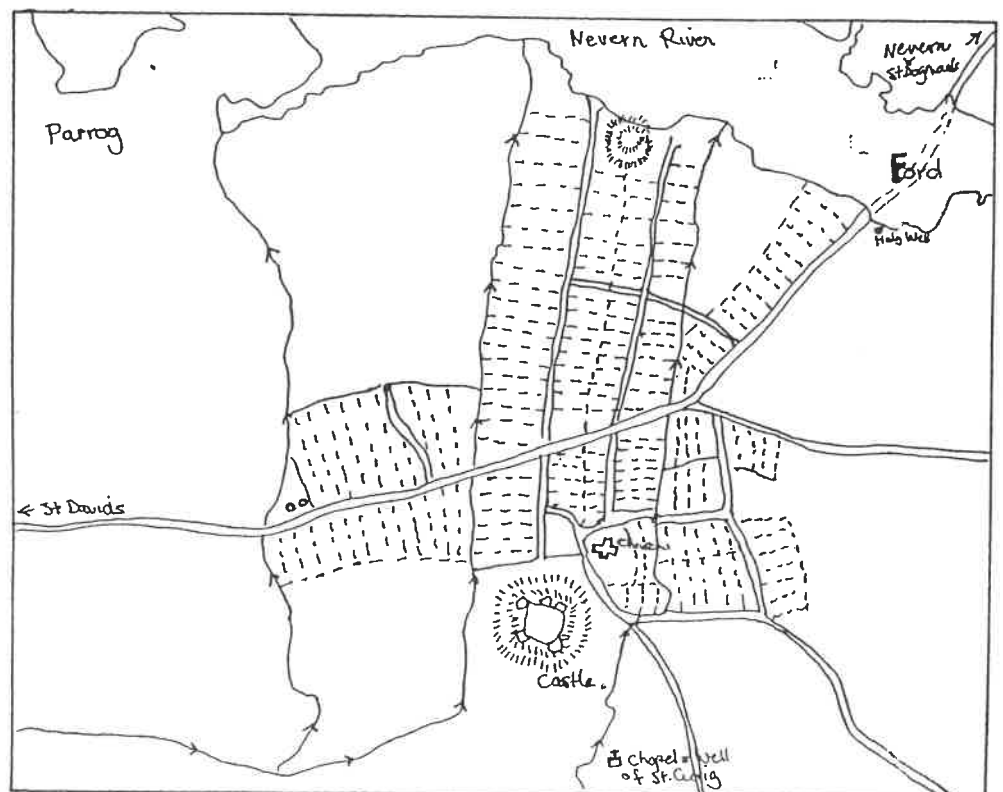
c)



c. 1197

6 inches = 1 mile

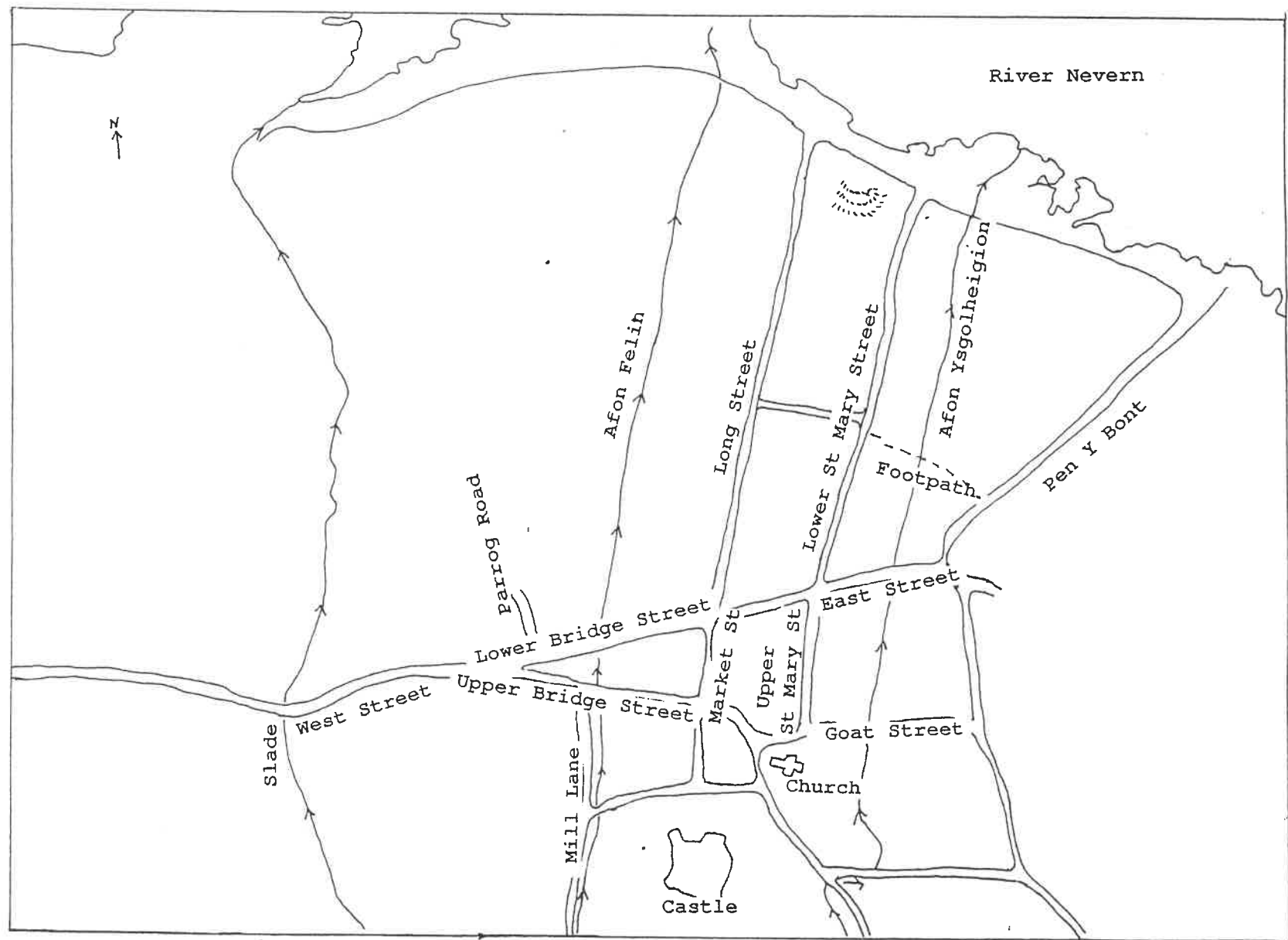
d)



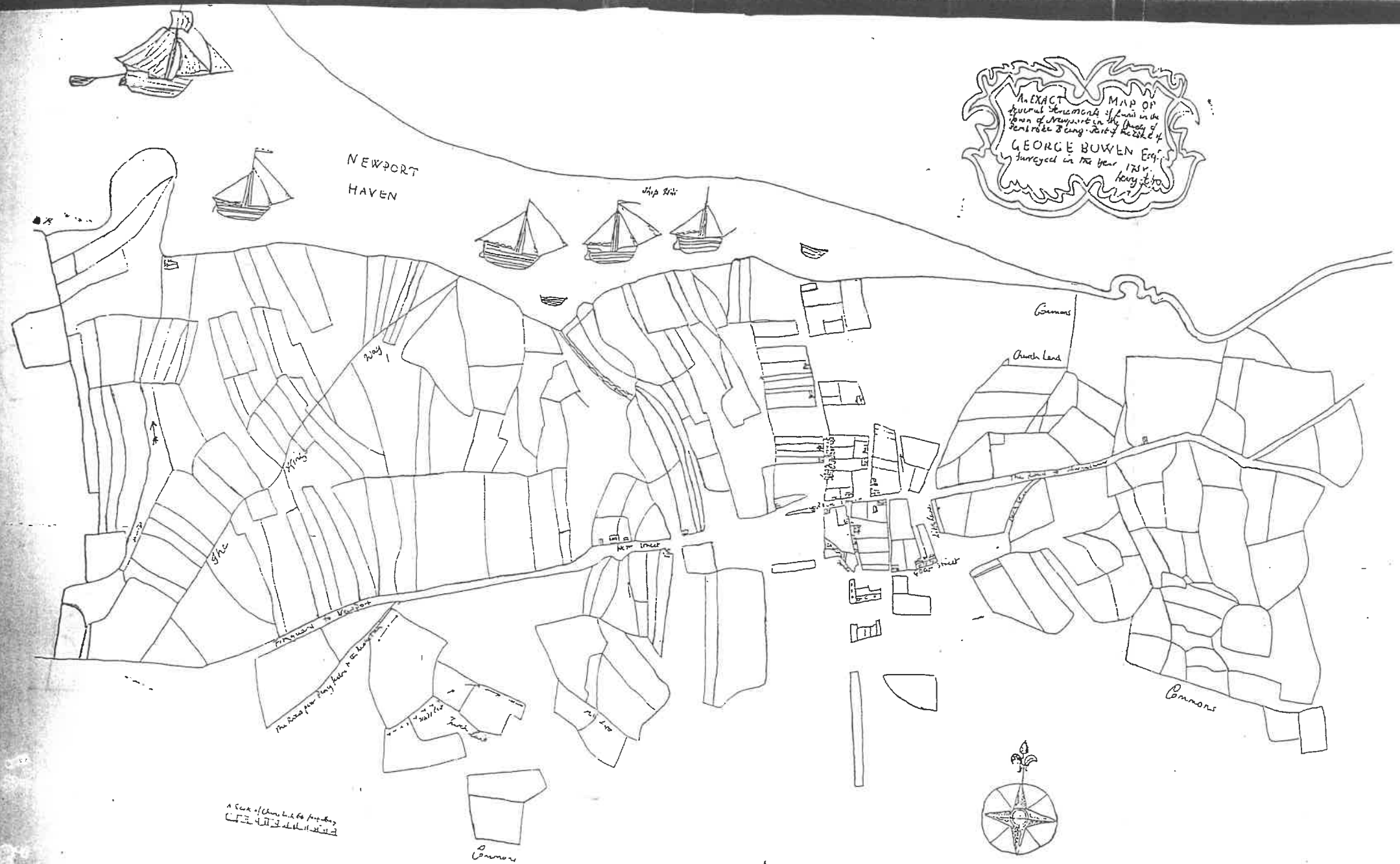
by 1434

6 inches = 1 mile

(burgage boundaries not shown exactly)



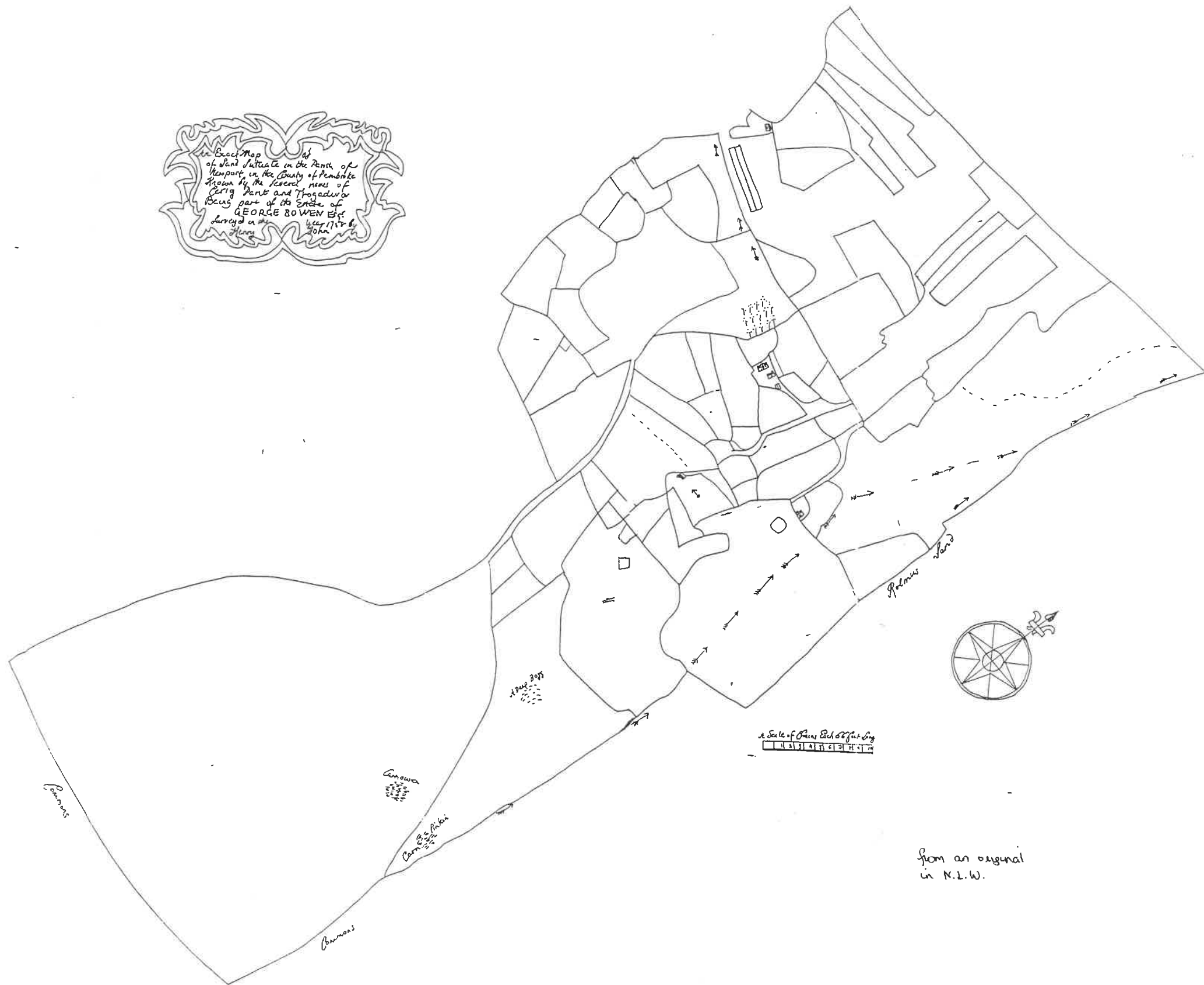
Modern Nomenclature



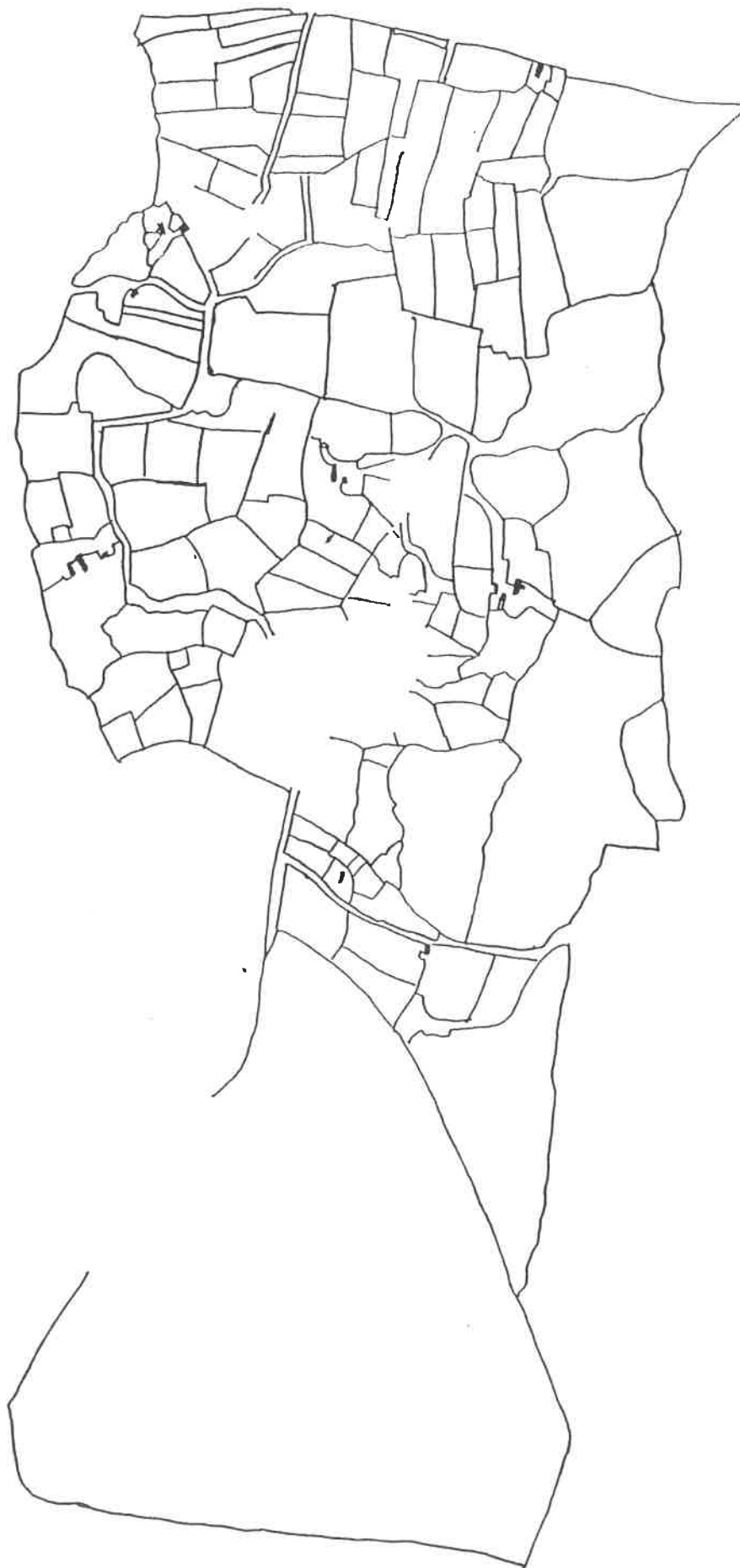
from an original in N.L.W.

Henry John's map of Newport in 1758

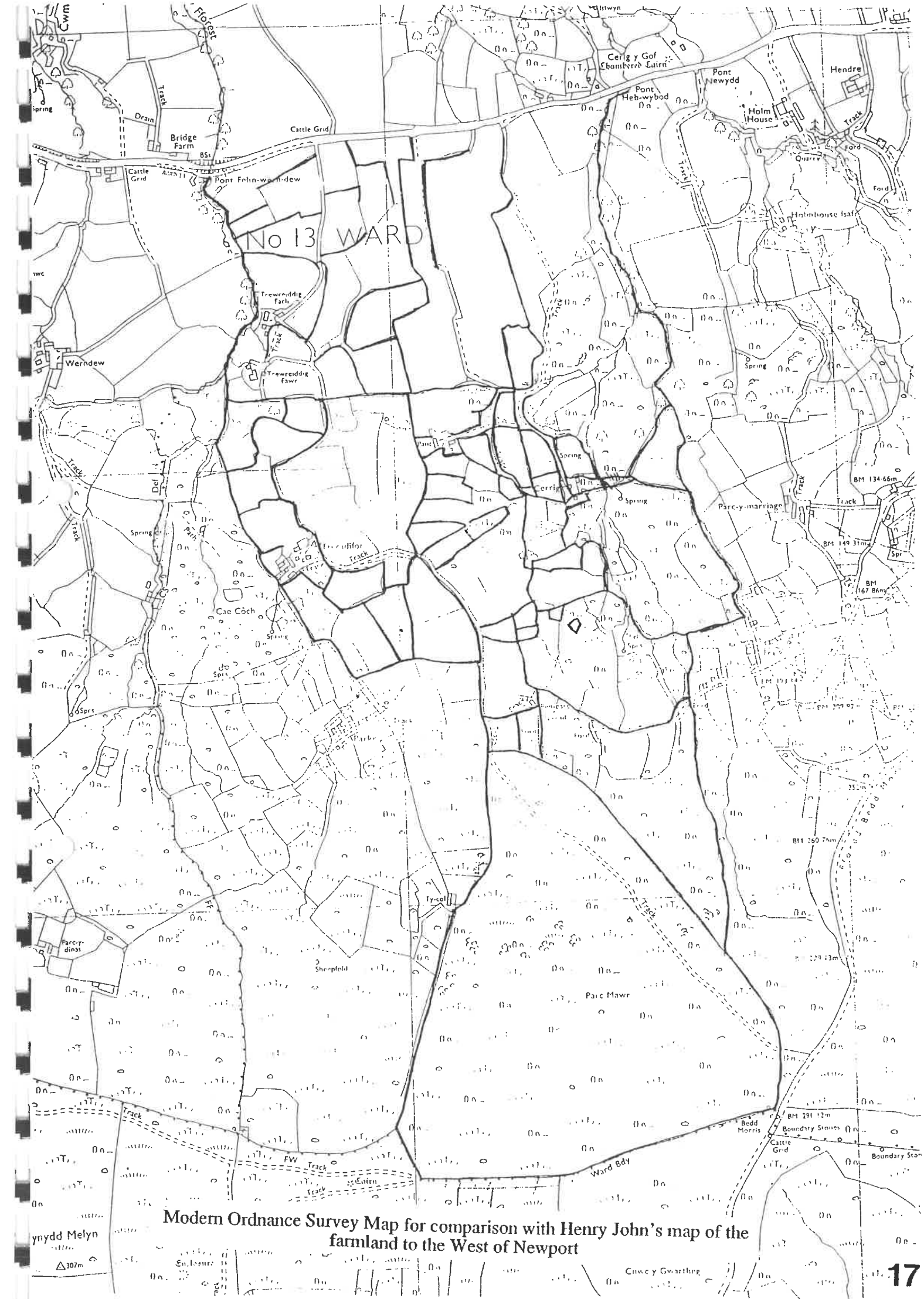
An Exact Map of
 of Land Situate in the Parish of
 Newport, in the County of Pembroke
 known by the several names of
 Little Park and Trogador
 being part of the Estate of
 GEORGE BOWEN Esq
 Surveyed in the Year 1715 by
 John Henry



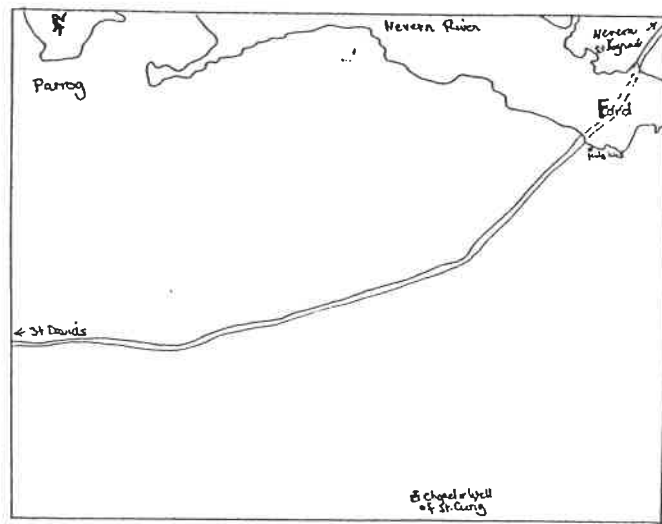
from an original
 in N.L.W.



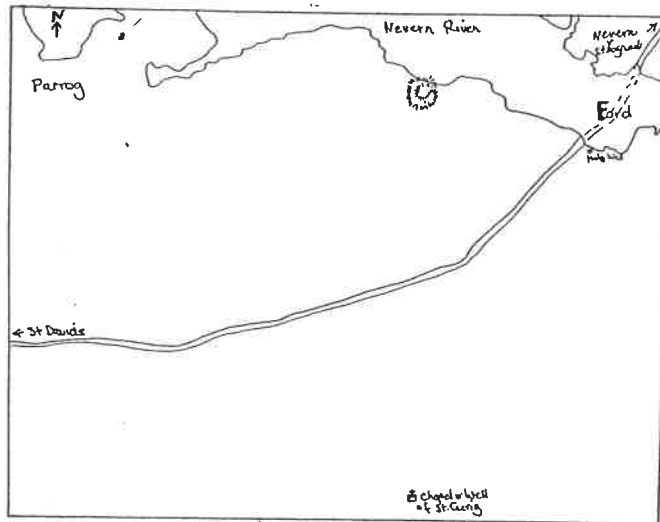
The area covered by Henry John's Map of 1758
taken from the Tithe Map of 1840



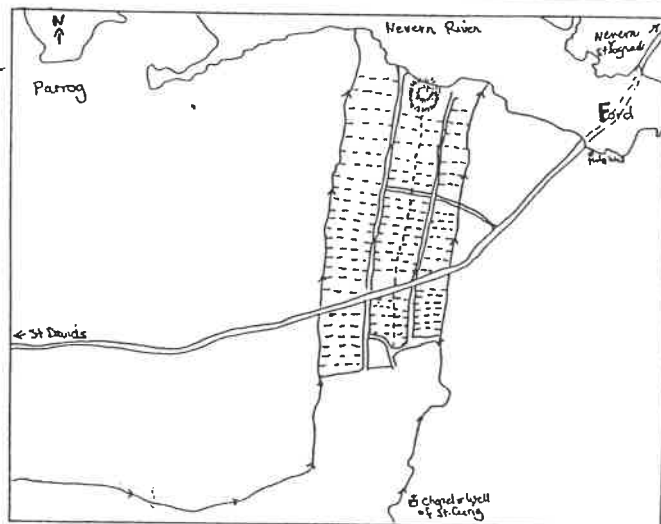
Suggested Development Sequence



Pre Norman

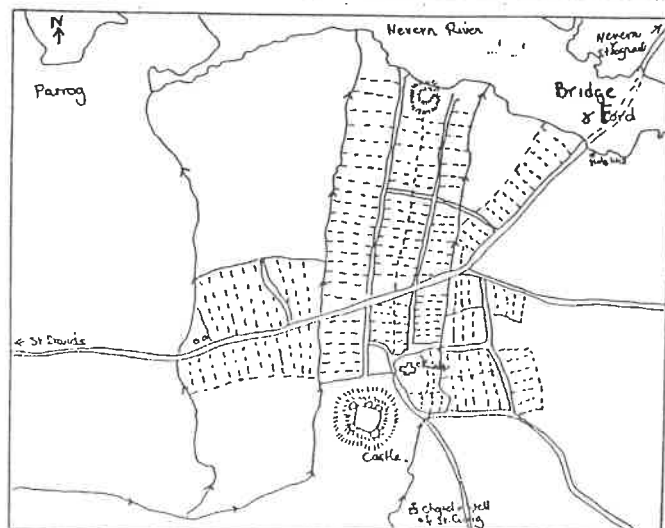


Post 1191



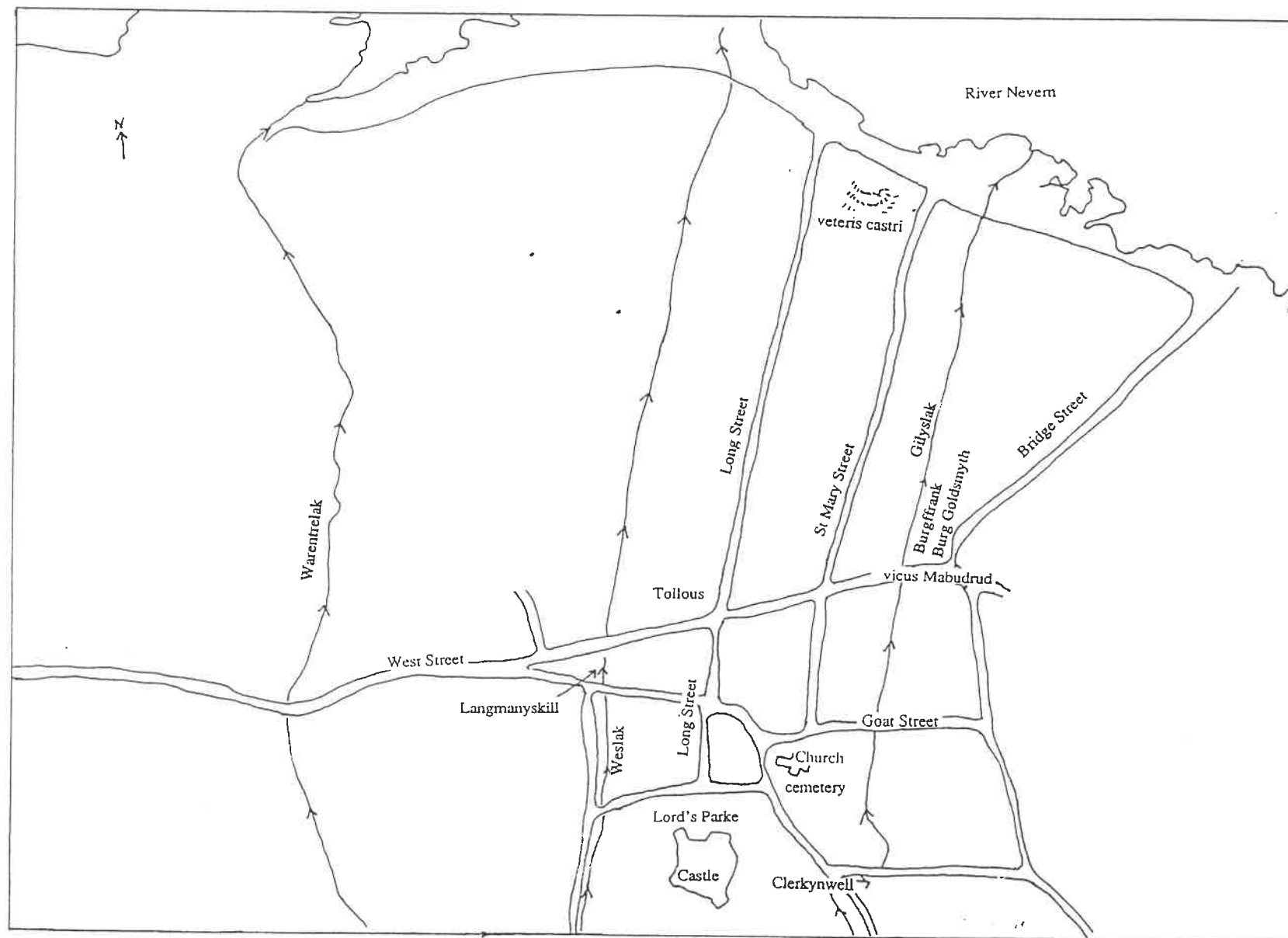
(Burgage plots not accurate)

c. 1197



by 1434

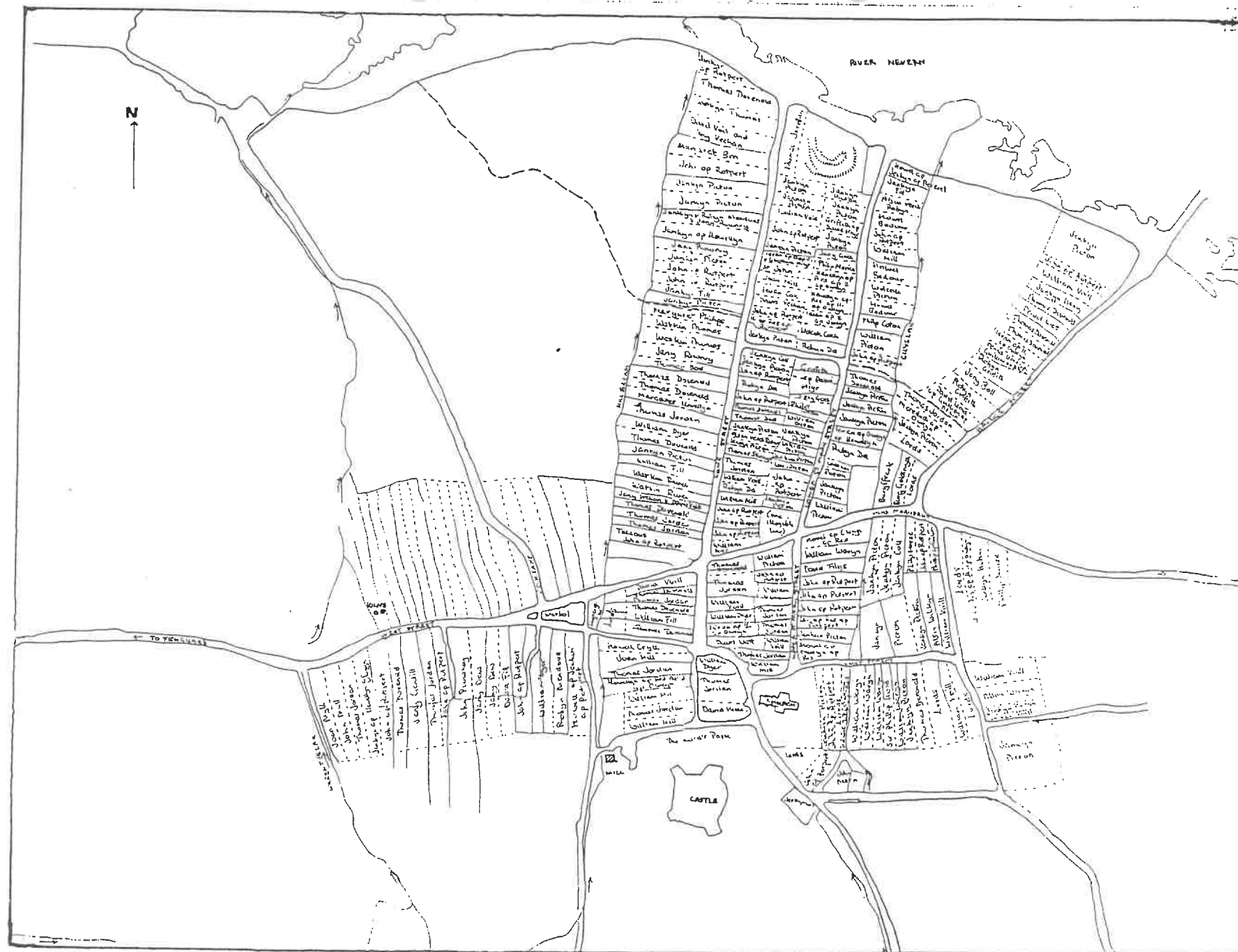
4cms = 1 mile



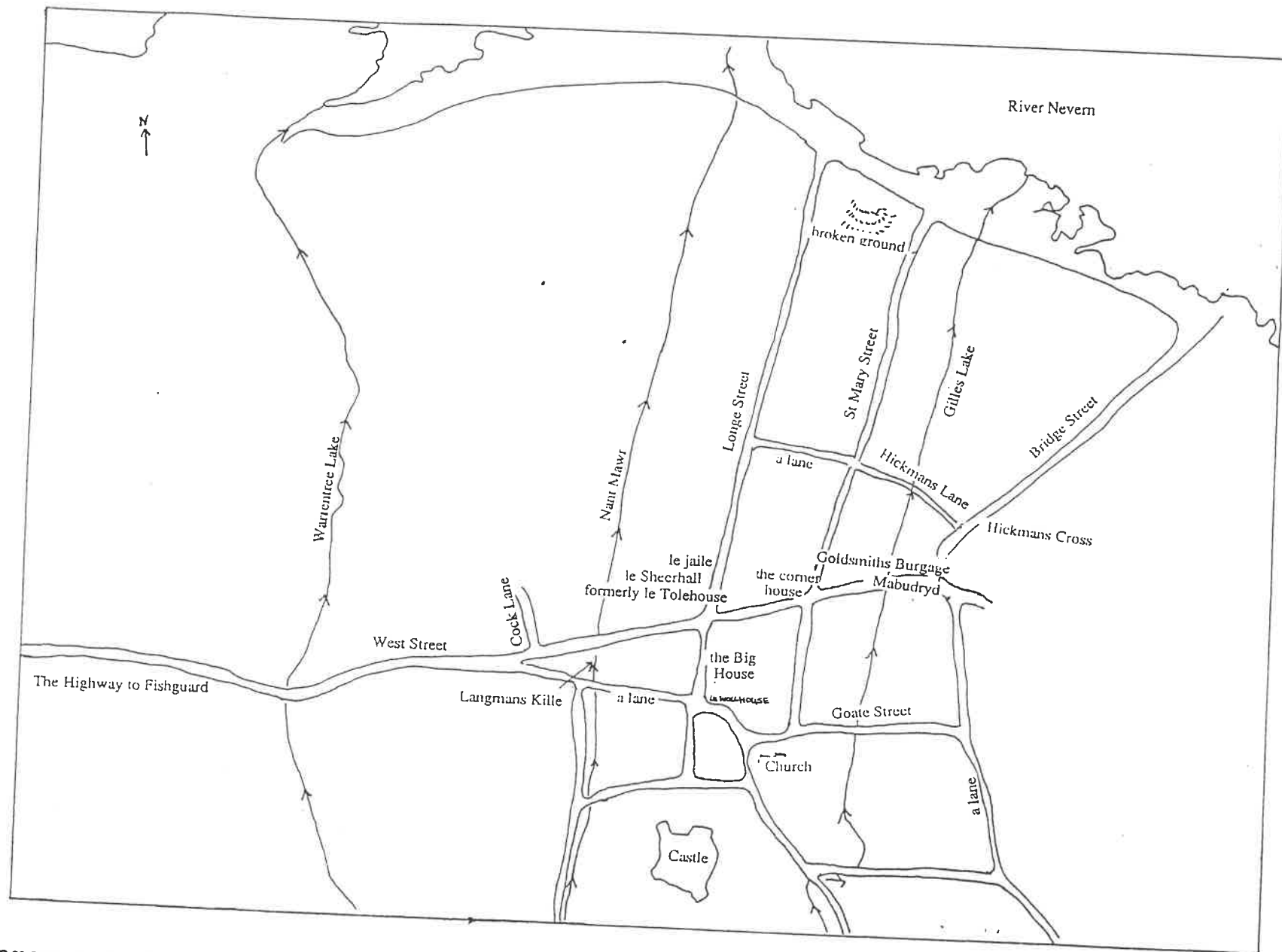


Newport; taken from the
1888 Ordnance Survey
Map.

1000
ft



Newport; tenants of the
burgage plots in 1434



Streets and Watercourses Identified from 1595 Rental

1000 ft


1595




1595 Rental Map showing Burgage Holders and Tenants



From Ordnance Survey Map published 1888 with added dotted lines indicating suggested burgage plot boundaries


 burgages held by
Sir John Perrot,
knight.


 burgages "in the
hands of the lord for
want of heirs"





1594 Rental Map showing Land Holders only


Burgages held by:


 Owen Phillip Younge

 Griffith John y gove

 David John Hodge

 Henry Stydman

 John Denenald/Derenallt

 John Lewis Harrie



1944 Rental Map showing Burgage Holders and Tenants

THE SOUTH VIEW OF NEWPORT-CASTLE, IN THE COUNTY OF PEMBROKE.



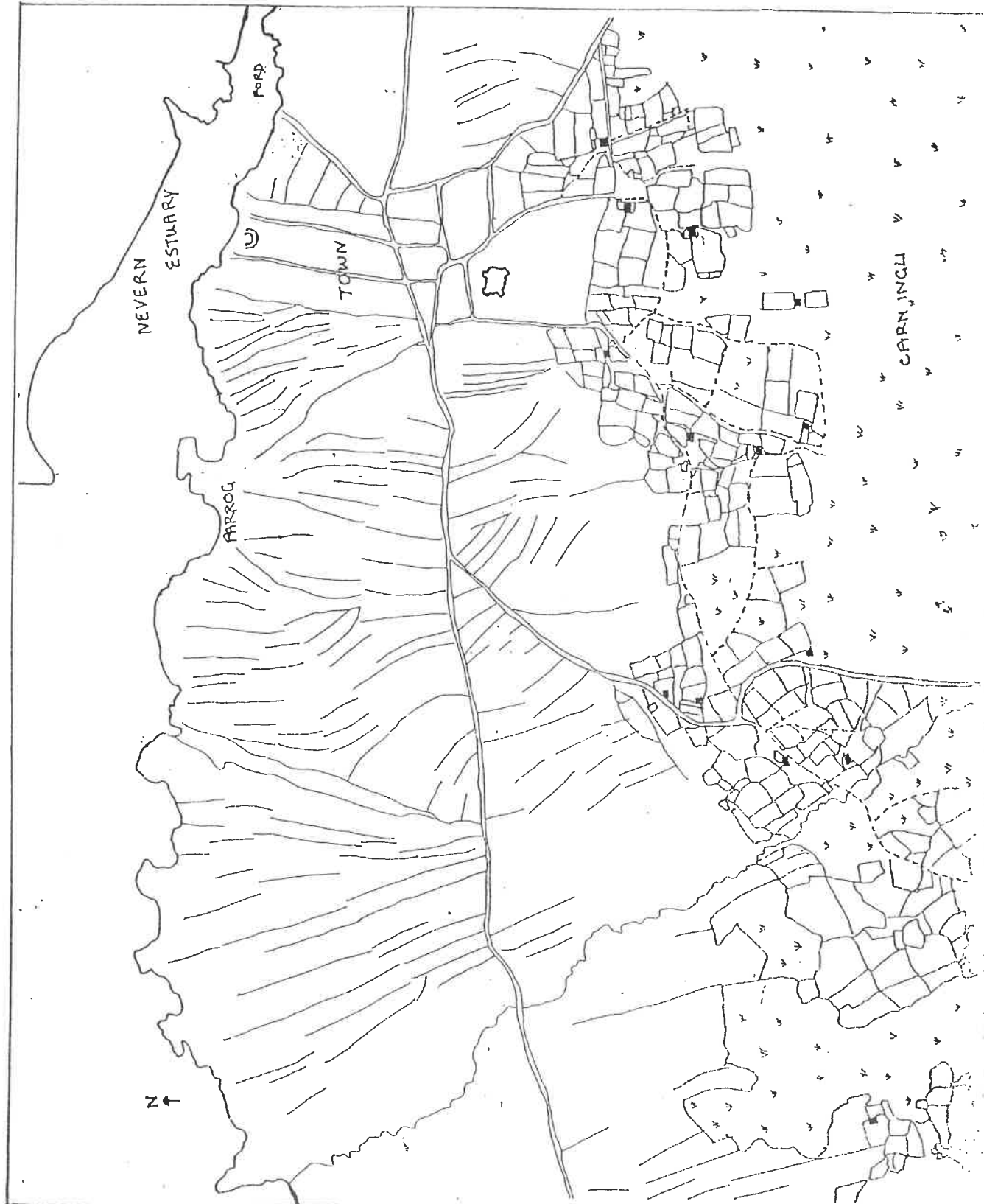
THIS Castle was call'd by the Britains Trevedraeth, it is in the Hundred of Hemaes, and is situated on the River Nevern. It is said to have been built by the Posterity of Martin of Tours, and was their chief Seat. A.D. 1215, it was demolish'd by Llewellyn Prince of South Wales, being then possess'd by the Flemings. In process of time it came to the Family of the Owens, who also became Lords of Hemaes, and for want of Issue Male it fell to John Saughthorne of Llanidhan Gent. and to M^{rs} Lloyd of Bronnith, who are the present Proprietors.

From a View Book del. or Imp. & published according to the Act of Parliament April 1720.



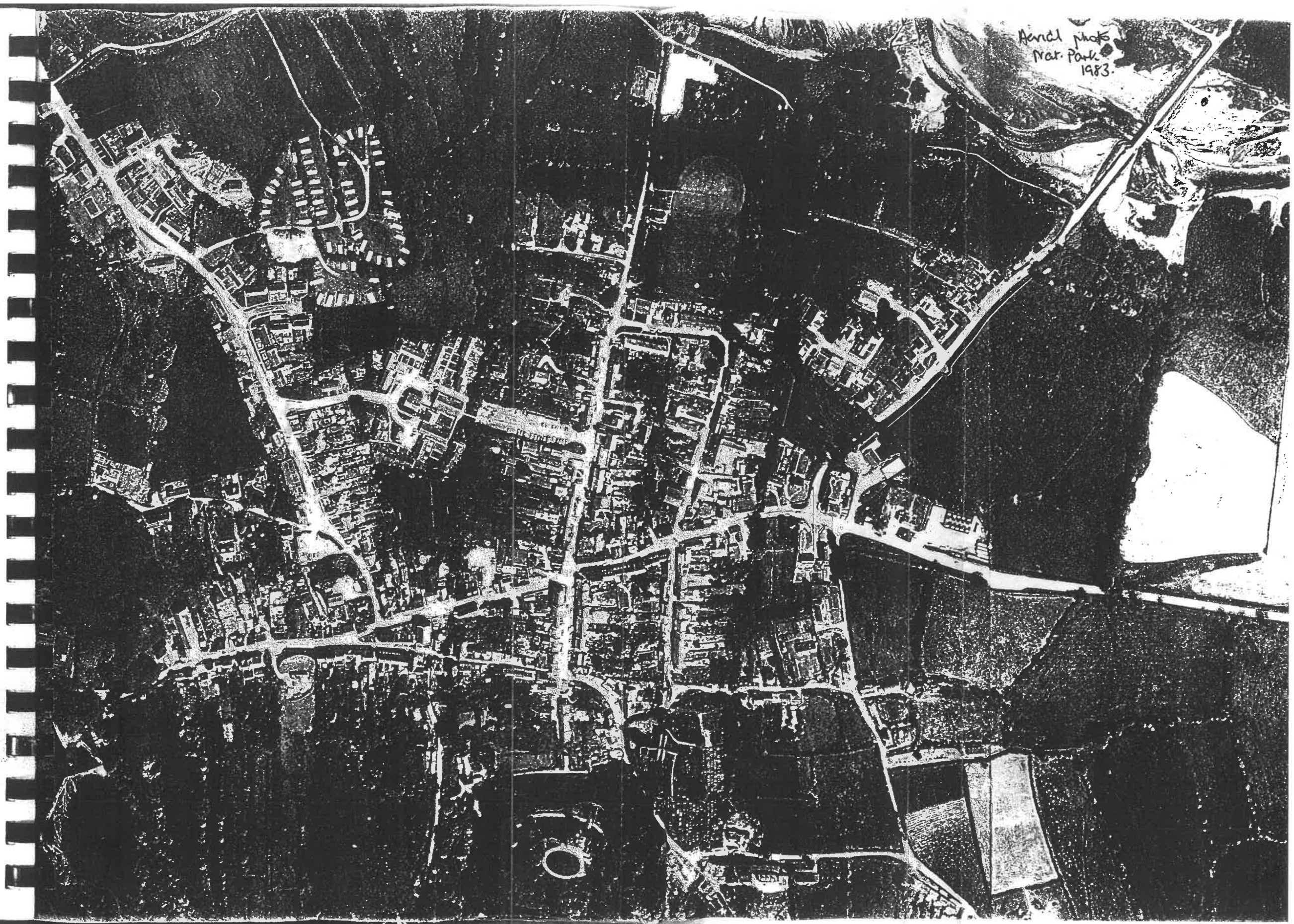
Remnant strip-fields from the Tithe Map of 1840,
also showing small sub-rectangular fields
along the Common edge

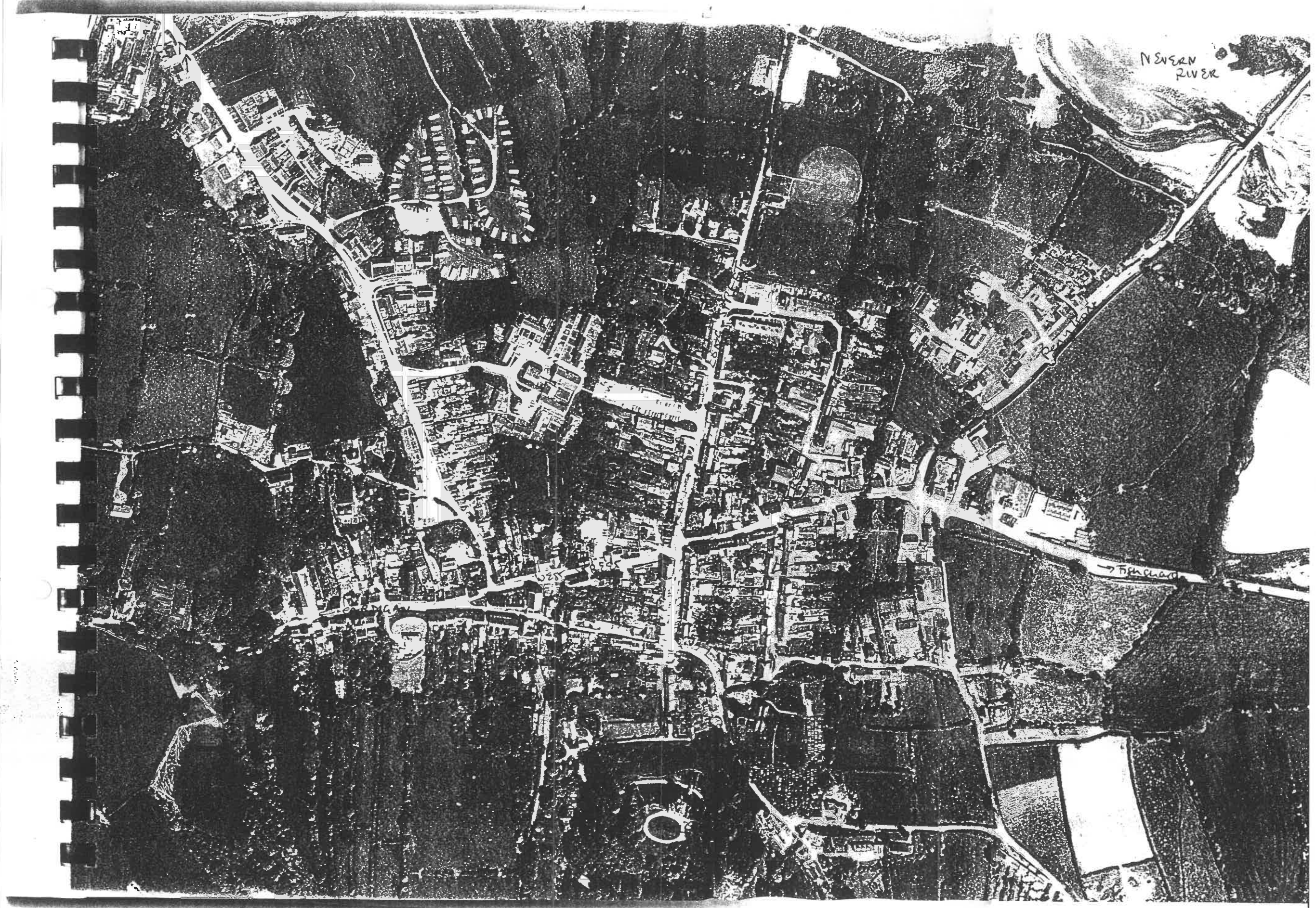
Remnant strip-field system, from O.S. map 1888



Farms mentioned in the rentals as being part of the 'parish' of Newport.

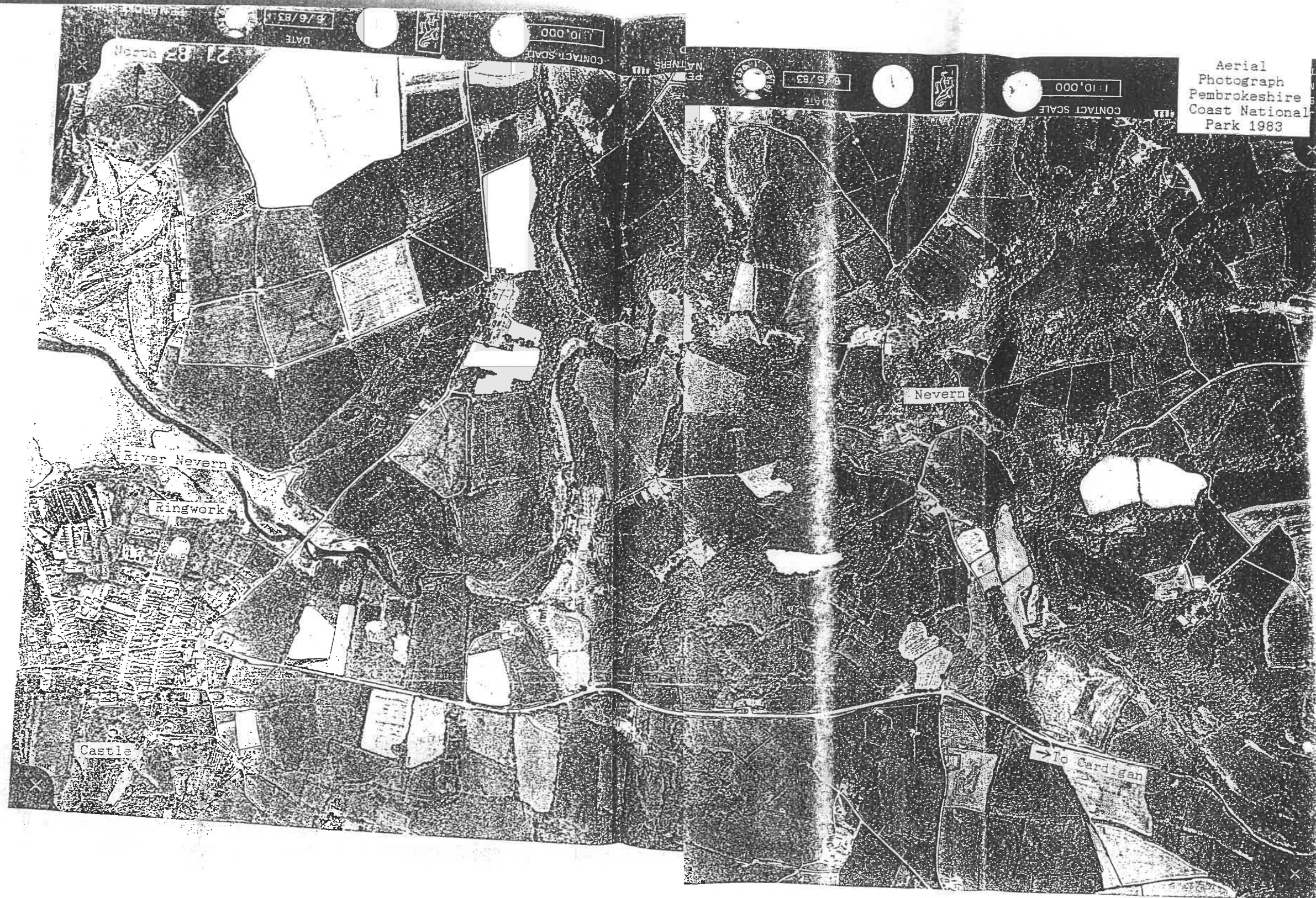
Aerial photo
Mar. Park
1983.





NEVERN
RIVER

FISH CATCH



Aerial
Photograph
Pembrokeshire
Coast National
Park 1983



Fig. 100. Flint; looking SW, June 1956.

From St Joseph and Beresford 1979

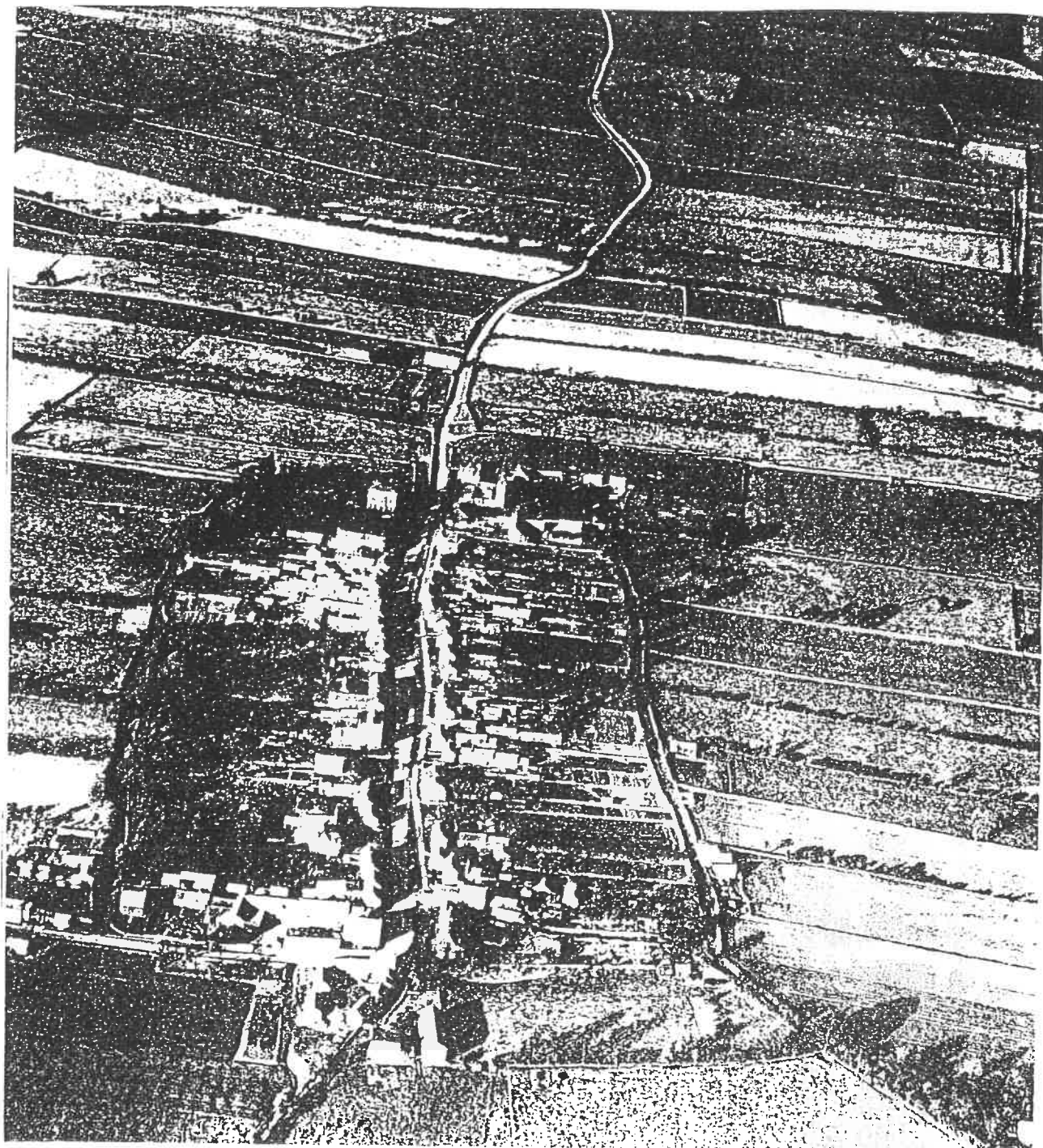


Fig. 55. Appleton-le-Moors; looking N, January 1967.

From St. Joseph and Beresford 1979

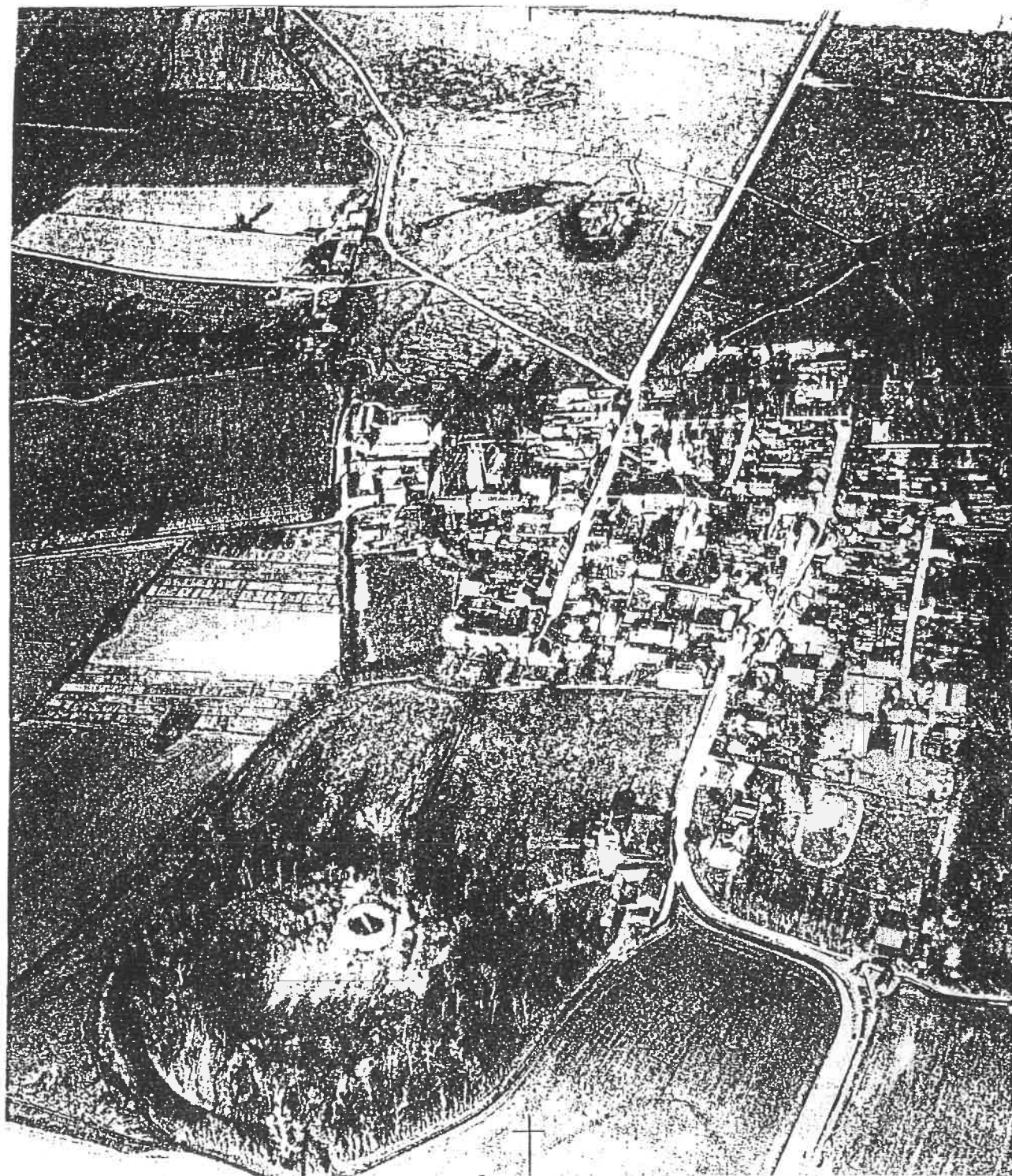


Fig. 97. New Buckenham; looking NE, April 1965.

Nov 61K

From St. Joseph and Beresford 1979

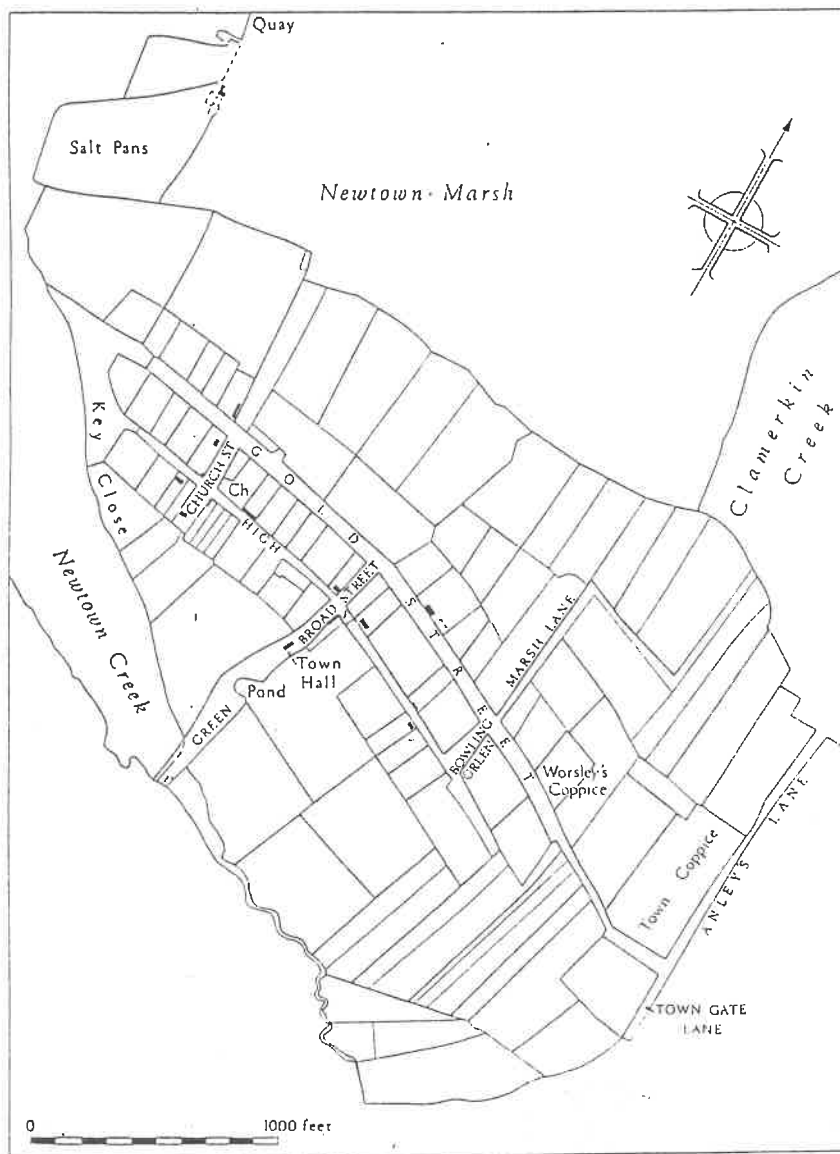
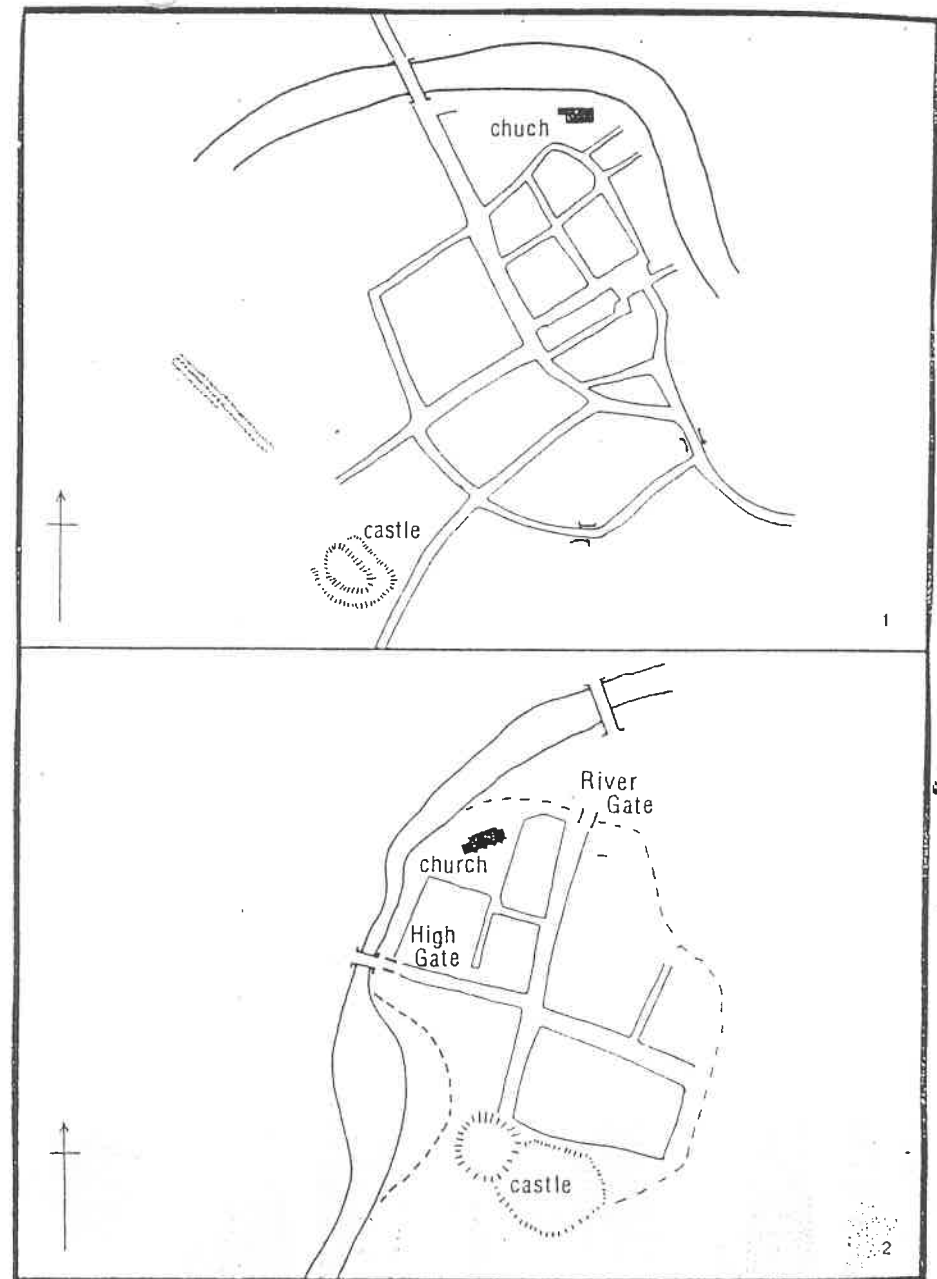


Fig. 104B. Newtown in 1768, after Mallet.

From St. Joseph and Beresford 1979



Medieval town plans: (1) Newtown; (2) Llanidloes. (After: Soulsby 1983, figs. 79, 59)

Towns, of approximately the same foundation date, with sub-rectangular plans, for comparison with Newport

RENTAL
Terra Tenement et proprium Georgij Owen
de Scyllipia Comitatus Denbigh et
Caernarvon factu ac renovatu vicesimo die
Augusti No^{re} Regine Elizabethhe dei gra 1^a 2000^a
1583

Tempore villa et Burgus

Adit burgag redditus Burgagiorum ville predictae ultra omnes decimas
per annum

pro^a servit^u Prisi servit^u ibi per annum valet xij^s m^s s^d deniss^u vij^s m^s d.

Molendinu^m domini ibi iuxta castellu^m vocat the castell
mille deniss^u lewis glover pro vij^s m^s s^d ultra
xxx^s de d^uct tenentiu^m de Burg^u unde reddit^u p^{er} annum vij^s m^s m^s

Meditas vniu^s gurgitis super aquam de Nevarne
in manib^us Eignou p^{re}s^u aruigeri et reddit^u per annum vij^s vij^s d

Sma^a v^u m^s m^s d

Redditus Terra dominicalium in manib^us gabularioru^m

Thomas John griffeth tenet ibi dimid^u vniu^s burg^u
gagij ex parte occidentali vici qui dicitur long
streete quod vocatur le gaole quod nullus Owen
arunger perquisivit una in vnuam prellam terr^u
apud voelgoz et vnuam prellam terr^u iuxta comideroy
et reddit^u per annum

Vnam thausuram terr^u dominicalis iuxta castellu^m
vocat the castell park de miss^u hugoni lewis et
reddit^u per annum m^s m^s d

Owen ap Owen gen^u tenet omnia terr^u domi^u
mial^u vocat le fforest Rhygwian et reddit^u
per annum m^s m^s d

~~It^{em} ab Joh^{an}e Owen tenet ibi vnu burgagij et park vocat m^s d~~

Dnas gallinas annuatim reddend^u valent vij^s d

Dno dieb^u metiendi anglice p^{er} p^{er} p^{er} valent vij^s d

Sma^a totalis villa

De Newport

reddit burgag vij^s m^s d
pro^a servit^u xij^s m^s s^d deniss^u
molend^u vij^s m^s m^s d
gurgit^u vij^s vij^s d
terr^u dominical^u m^s m^s d
gallinas vij^s d

vij^s m^s d

Rental Analysis; 1434

According to George Owen 15 burgages and 16 half burgages pay rent in service in addition to the ones in the rental.

+also have land in the Patria 10

● have only one burgage in town and nothing in the patria
(may have land at Parrog or on the north side of Westret)

Alphabetical list of Burgesses of Newport 1434

	burgages in town	shared
Howel Badour	3	
Margaret Bon	1.5	
● Jan boll	1	
● Howel Cryth	1	
Phillip Cotton	2	
Ievan Cok		
● Wolcock coch	1	1 with David Vechan
+Jankyn Coll the younger	1.5	
Jankyn Dany	2	
● Janey Dew	1	
+Thomas Dovenold (Clerk)	16.5	
William Dyer	5	
Thomas Dod	2	
Robyn Da	3.5	
● David Fil	1	
Jankyn Fill	2	
William Fill	2	
● David Filys	1	
● Jany Gentill	1	
● Jany Goch	1	
Robyn Griffith	2	
● Phillip ap Gwillim	1	
Griffith ap David Hiyr	2.5	
Gwillim Hir		1 with Ievan ap Llewelyn ap Oweyn
● Howel ap Jenkin (ap Rotpart)	1	
● Howel ap Jankyn Feuerell	1	
+Thomas Jordan	13	
Ievan ap Llewelyn ap Oweyn	4	1 with Gwillim Hir
David Lloid ap Gwillim ap Atkin	2	
● Sir Phillip Lloid	1	
● Margaret Llewelyn	1	
● Jankyn ap Llewelyn ap Oweyn	1	
William Mill (Myll)	4.5	
Mull	0.5	

	2	
Joan Myll	2.5	
● Phillip Morice	1	
Jankyn Mendous		1 with Jany Rowney and Robyn Mendous
Phillip Morse	2	
● Robyn Mendous	1	
Howel ap Owen ap Res	3	parcus near cemetary
Margaret Phillips	1	
.....Picton	-	
+ Jankyn Picton	42	1.5 with William Voil
John Picton (Reeve)	3	
William Picton	8.5	
● Wolcock Picton	1	
Watkin Revell	2	
+ John ap Rotpart	25.5	
Walter Rotpart	0	
John Rowney	1.5	
Jany Rowney	2	
● Llewelyn ap Res ap Rotpert	1	
Llewelyn ap Res ap Llewelyn		
ap Dweyn	2	
+ Alson verch Robyn	2	
● Thomas Sturmyn	1	
Watkin Thomas	2.6	
Watkin Thomas	0	
David Vechan		1 with Ievan Cok
John Vechan	0	
Jany Vechan	2	0.3 with David Voil
● David Voil	1	1 with Jany Vechan
+ William Voill (Voil)	9	1.5 with Jany Vechan
		0.5 with Jankyn Picton
		1 parcus veteris castri
+ William Waryn	5	
+ David Watt (Wate)	2	
Alson Wilkyn	2	

Land Holders outside the Town

● do not have burgages in town |

the abbot 1 at Gwernggrandoyte

Jankyn Coll the younger terra ypylle
mill at Cleudach

Thomas Dovenold (Clerk) 1.5 at Milbourg

- Ieuan David
terra Cadmanyspark
- Phillip ap Gwillim ap
ap Llewelyn ap Phillip
1 at Voilgoch
terra eua at Coidcadw
Llystynisaf
1 near Vroches
- Ievan Howell
0.5 at Dewiscome
- Ievan Jankyn
Thomas Jordan
1 at terra Magyn
0.5 at Trefkedivori
- David Lloid ap Gwillim
ap Atkin
1 with Jankyn ap Rotpert and Jankyn
Picton at Morfacestellcarn
- heirs of Jany Mann
● Ievan ap Oweyn
Howel ap Oweyn ap Res
0.6 near Trefuoriddig
1 at Carnlloric
0.5 at Brownsclif
Knokbayvil
1 at Pantylludu
- Meredith ap Oweyn
Jankyn Picton
1 with Jankyn ap Rotpert and David
Lloid at Morfacestellcarn
1 at Minyglas
1e marshe
percus Knokbodi
1.5 at Holmys
1 at Voilgoch
1 at Castellicarn
1 at Pantlludu
- John ap Rotpert
Alson verch Robyn
0.5 at Trkedivori
terra Seyse
1 at Pantylludu
1 at Camallit near Cleudach
- Willaim Voill
1 at Knok Jankyn
- William Waryn
1 at Brithdir
1e a Harpland
Bchtyovspark
terra Keholyn
- David Watt