

Excavations at Victoria Terrace, Narberth, Pembrokeshire

Archaeological Field Evaluation Report

NGR: SN 11051 14478

Planning #: **09/0208/PA**

Project #: AD026

13th September 2016

ARCHAEODOMUS
AD026 - VICTORIA TERRACE, NARBERTH
BANK SECTION 2
9/9/2016



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Field Evaluation, Victoria Terrace, Narberth, Pembs.

Field Evaluation Report

Summary

ArchaeoDomus Archaeological & Heritage Services was commissioned by Steve Hole Architects LLP to prepare a Specification and undertake an Archaeological Field Evaluation prior to the commencement of development on site.

Planning permission (09/0208/PA) was granted on 21st May 2009 for the 'Erection of Apartment Building comprising 8 units with integral garage and car parking area'. With permission Archaeological Conditions were set by Pembrokeshire Planning Authority with recommendations for a Field Evaluation prior to development, to which a Grampian Condition was applied.

The Field Evaluation was undertaken from the 7th - 9th September 2016, where three planned evaluation trenches and two bank sections were excavated, evaluated and recorded. The evaluation demonstrated that the bank is comprised of deposited materials from other construction sites from within the past c.50 years, with no natural or early sequences being uncovered or disturbed. No archaeological deposits were found during the course of excavation, therefore no mitigation or further archaeological works are recommended at Victoria Terrace.

Acknowledgements

With thanks to Steve Hole Architects LLP for commissioning this programme of archaeological work and getting ArchaeoDomus involved with another of their projects. To Neil Jolley for arranging a machine and driver for the two days of excavations, and to Rob Goldworthy for operating the machine and providing good company whilst on site. Also to David Cook for assisting with setting site levels and recording, and Mike Ings and Zoe Bevans Rice for their continued support. A final thank you to Dr. Ros Coard, UWLAS, for analysing the bone fragments.

Abbreviations used in this report

DAT-DM	- Dyfed Archaeological Trust Development Management.
HER	- Historic Environment Record; sites recorded and held by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts.
LPA	- Local Planning Authority.
NGR	- National Grid Reference.
NMR	- National Monuments Record.
NPRN	- National Primary Record Number; sites recorded by the Royal Commission and Ancient Monuments of Wales.
OS	- Ordnance Survey.
RCAHMW	- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

All other abbreviations will be referred to in text.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project

1.1.1 ArchaeoDomus was commissioned by Steve Hole Architects LLP to undertake an archaeological field evaluation at Victoria Terrace, Narberth, Pembs. (hereafter also referred to as 'the site'), prior to the development of 8 apartment and associated garage/parking.

1.1.2 Planning permission (**09/0208/PA**) was granted by Pembrokeshire County Council for the development of 8 apartments with integral garage and associated car parking, with a Grampian Condition for an archaeological field evaluation. The condition stated:

'16. Development shall not take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.'

1.1.3 This condition was applied after advice was provided by DAT-DM, stating:

'Our records reveal that the proposed development lies within immediate proximity to a nationally important, grade I listed medieval castle (PRN 3748; PE040). As this development may impact upon the setting of this nationally protected monument we strongly advise that you consult with Cadw with regard to this issue. Monuments such as these often comprised of both a motte (mound), and bailey, a defended area associated with the mound. An area such as this would have contained castle buildings such as stables and granaries etc. Consequently, there is a strong possibility that archaeological material, may extend into the application area and that any remains surviving as buried archaeological features will clearly be adversely affected by the proposed development, should consent be forthcoming. (09/0208/PA/ZBR)

1.1.4 Narberth Castle (**PRN 3784; PE040**), a site with origins sometime around 1116, bounds the site to the south-west and the historic town of Narberth to the north.

1.1.5 The fieldwork was commenced on 6th September 2016 and concluded on 9th September 2016, in accordance with the guidance given by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Fieldwork Evaluation* and the methodology as specified in the WSI.

1.1.6 This report documents the results of the field evaluation and presents an assessment of the results of this work.

1.2 Site and Location

- 1.2.1 The site is located c.75 metres above sea level on the southern edge of Narberth town, being bounded by the Narberth Castle (**PRN 3784; PE040**) to the west, and pasture to the east and south. Castle Spring, a small stream, flows at the bottom of the embankment the site sits atop, and down to a tributary of the Cleddau Ddu. The northern edge of the site is immediately bounded by Castle Terrace, which adjoins Market Street.
- 1.2.2 The local bedrock is a Silurian and Ordovician mudstone deposit known as the the Portfield Formation and Haverford Mudstone Formation (BGS) with no Quaternary deposits recorded (BGS), and a soil layer of a free draining slightly acidic clayey loam (UKSO).

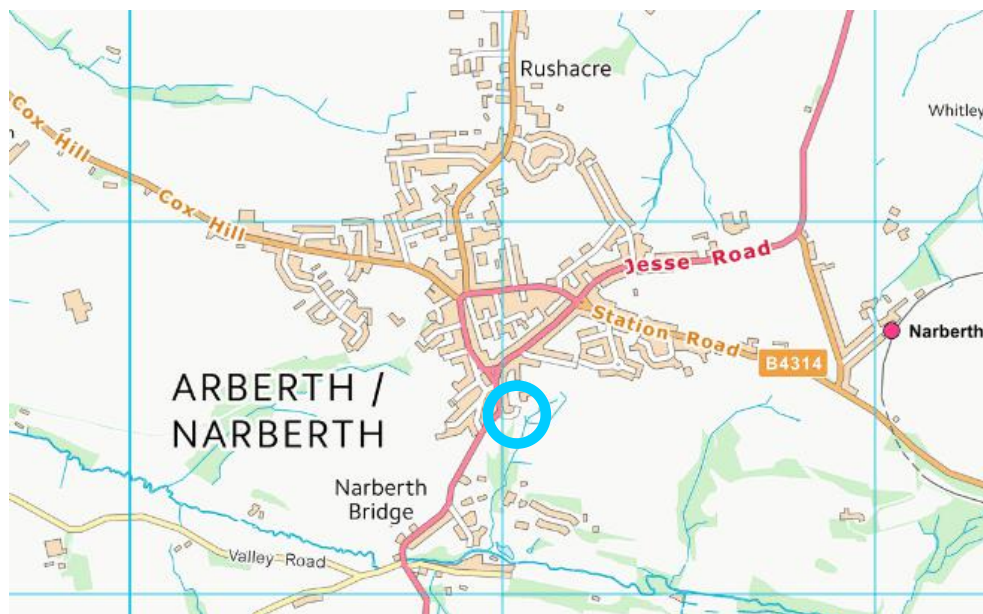


Fig. 1 - Location plan showing development site.
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database rights 2016



Fig. 2 - 1907 OS Six-inch to One Mile Map Second Edition - Pembrokeshire XXIX.NW & SW
All rights reserved National Library of Scotland 2016

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.2 A historic environment search to a radius of 1.5km was undertaken and showed there to be 1 Scheduled Ancient Monument, 54 Listed Buildings, plus 63 sites registered by the National Monuments Record and 108 by the Regional Historic Environment Record.

2.2 Designated and Undesignated Sites

- 2.2.1 Victoria Terrace occupies a site bounding the southern edge of Castle Terrace, a minor residential road, just to the north of which is the De Rutzen Arms Public House & Hotel (**UID 6498; Appendix 4**). Bounding the site to the south-west is Narberth Castle (**PRN 3784; PE040**). The town contains a further 38 listed buildings and structures, largely centring around High Street and St James Street.
- 2.2.2 In 1996 human bones were unearthed by Paul Bevan of 6 Castle Terrace, when cutting back a steep slope to the rear of his house (**PRN 30836**). Two medieval, possibly post-medieval, graves were confirmed present and recovered.
- 2.2.3 A Bronze Age winged axehead was found c.1140m to the south-west.
- 2.2.4 Heritage Assets identified with a visual to the site:
Narberth Castle - PRN: 30836 - SN 10980 14400
De Rutzen Arms Public House & Hotel - PRN: 33839 - SN 11000 14510

2.3 Archaeology and History

- 2.3.1 The site lies 20 metres east of Narberth Castle (**PRN 3784; PE040**), a late 13th century castle occupying the site of an earlier Norman fortification. The castle has associations with the Mabinogion, but is first clearly mentioned in 1116 as a fortress, when it was included as a fortress of the Lansker Line. The castle came under the control of the Anglo-Norman soldier and statesman William Marshal, 1st Earl of Pembroke, in 1199 and remained in the Marshal family until 1246. Henry III is known to have provided assistance in c. 1220 for the repair of Narberth, however it wasn't until the castle passed as a dowry to William de Braose, Lord of Abergavenny, in 1246, that the rebuilding of Narberth Castle was begun. By the late 13th century the castle was finished to the extent that remains today. In 1404 Thomas Cerrewé was rewarded with the Lordship of Narberth after his defence of the castle during the Glyndwr rebellion. The castle remained in Cerrewé hands until the Lordship was reverted to Edmund Mortimer in the early years of the 15th century, by the courtesy of Henry V. Mortimer died childless in 1425, with no heir the castle reverted to royal possession where it was held by the king's retainers. The castle remained a residence until the 17th century, falling out of use sometime during this period and by 1744 it was described as ruinous.
- 2.3.2 In the former Victoria Hall, just to the north of the site, a bottle plant for James Williams Brewery was in operation for much of the mid and late 20th century, it

rubbish tip was just to the south of Castle Terrace, where the development site currently lies. By the 1980s the bottling plant had ceased business and was demolished to make way for a small housing development, some of the demolition rubble was spread across the site and down the bank, on which the development site is located. This was made apparent with a site visit on 18th August 2016, whereby a large quantity of broken bottles and building material was observed.

- 2.3.3 Local knowledge confirmed that the previous developers had been using this area of the site for the tipping of excavated and demolished materials from other construction sites.
- 2.3.4 The Ordnance Survey Surveyors map of 1809, does not indicate any potential buildings or earthworks with the area to be developed. The Narberth Tithe Map of 1842 again shows the area with no developments and demonstrates that the surrounding field system had been established by this time. The 1889 First Edition Ordnance Survey 25inch to One Mile does not show any buildings in the development area; subsequent editions in 1907, 1937 and 1967 also reflect this.
- 2.3.5 In 1996 human bones were unearthed by Paul Bevan of 6 Castle Terrace, when cutting back a steep slope to the rear of his house (**PRN 30836**). Two graves were confirmed present and recovered.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Field Evaluation

- 3.1.1 The aims of the archaeological field evaluation, as set out in the *Specification*, were:
- To determine, as far as reasonable and practically possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains or deposits.
 - Use the results to inform any mitigation for the protection of archaeological deposits and evaluate the requirement for further archaeological works.
- 3.1.2 With site specific aims identified to:
- Seek to identify evidence for, or lack therefore of, archaeological remains, deposits or finds associated with medieval and post-medieval castle and town development.
- 3.1.3 To compile any findings into a report for submission to the client and LPA to fulfil their planning obligations.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 All archaeological works has been conducted by a qualified archaeologist in accordance with the methodology set out in the *Specification for an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation* (ArchaeoDomus 2016) and in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

4.2 Fieldwork

- 4.2.1 Three evaluation trenches and two bank sections were planned for the site, the planned trenches measured:

- Trench 1: 22m x 2m
- Trench 2: 12m x 2m
- Trench 3: 8m x 2m
- Bank Section 1
- Bank Section 2

- 4.2.2 Prior to machine excavation, two temporary benchmarks were located using A-GPS + GLONASS, providing an accuracy of 1.5m:

- **TBM01:** SN 11044 14492 - 82 mASL
- **TBM02:** SN 11030 14476 - 83 mASL

- 4.2.3 Trial trenches were then plotted using triangulation from the TBMs, pegged and marked using yellow line marking spray paint.

- 4.2.4 The excavation of the trial trenches and bank sections was undertaken by mechanical excavation using a 1.7 tonne 360° excavator with a toothless bucket.

- 4.2.5 During the course of the evaluation it became apparent that the bank was not stable enough to enable the trenches to extend beyond its apex, therefore trenches 2 and 3 were shortened (**Fig. 3**):

- Trench 2: 4.6m x 2m
- Trench 3: 6m x 2m

- 4.2.6 4.2.5 was discussed and agreed with DAT-DM during the course of the evaluation.

- 4.2.7 A 5.3m section was left unexcavated from Trench 1 due to the instability of the bank, the line of the trench was then continued in stable ground. This resulted in Trench 1.1 (**Fig. 4**).

- 4.2.8 Machine excavation continued to the top of the first archaeological horizon, the top of natural geology or to a depth of no more than 1m.

- 4.2.9 The excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision until it

was apparent that the required level had been reached. Excavated material was inspected for finds and a representative sample was collected.

- 4.2.10 Excavated material was stored adjacent to the trench and scanned for artefacts. A metal detector was initially used, but abandoned due to the nature of the material containing large amounts of building rubble.
- 4.2.11 After machine excavation was completed, each trench was cleaned by hand, where possible - the loose nature of the dumped material produces unstable trench sides.

4.3 Recording

- 4.3.1 A representative drawn record was produced of two sections (Trench 3 - Section 1; Bank Section 1), and drawn to scale on site at 1:50 (**Fig. 3**).
- 4.3.2 Section recording was undertaken using a datum set from TBM01 (**Fig. 4**).
- 4.3.3 Section drawings were digitised and scaled to 1:1 using AutoCAD 2013, and saved in DWG and DXF formats. Drawings were exported at 1:50 at A4 to PDF.
- 4.3.4 Altered trench locations were recorded using triangulation to TBM01 and TBM02, and plotted using QGIS.
- 4.3.5 A digital photographic record was maintained throughout with a Canon EOS 500D 15.1 megapixel digital camera, with a Canon EFS 18-55mm lens. 2 x 1m ranging rods were used for scale where appropriate.
- 4.3.6 Image Composite Editor (Microsoft Research Labs) was used to create stitched images of trench long sections (**Plates 1 - 6**).
- 4.3.7 Finds will be recorded and stored with the site archive, unless otherwise specified.

4.4 Reinstatement

- 4.4.1 Once trench excavation was complete and to the satisfaction of DAT-DM, the trenches were backfilled and levelled using the excavated material.

4.5 Health and Safety

- 4.5.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work Act 1974* and Health and Safety Advice in Archaeology (BAJR 2005).

5 FIELDWORK RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.2 In this section the results of the field evaluation are presented. The location of the excavations and section drawings are shown in **Appendix 1 (Fig. 4)**, and the photographic archive in **Appendix 2 (Plates 1 - 23)**.

5.2 Stratigraphy

- 5.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence is entirely comprised of modern material deposited on site from demolished buildings and excavated materials from construction sites. These comprised soils and clays of varying compositions, and stone, concrete, plastics, glass and brick building materials (**Fig.3; Plates 1 - 6**).
- 5.2.2 The site comprises greater than 15 successive dumping sequences (**Fig. 3**).
- 5.2.3 The composition of the dumped layers represents activity from the last c.30-50 years.
- 5.2.4 Resulting from this, the sequence comprises successive layers of clay, soil and rubble, with no natural soils or parent material observed.

5.3 Archaeological Result

- 5.3.1 The field evaluation was undertaken between the 6th and 9th September 2016, and monitored the excavation of all areas outlined in 4.2.1.
- 5.3.2 The area of the field evaluation comprised of a plot known as Victoria Terrace, an area of bank running adjacent to Castle Terrace and Narberth Castle, an area measuring approximately 0.21 acres. No topsoil was present on site or were any natural soil, subsoil or bedrock layers reached.
- 5.3.3 An arbitrary context number (**101**) has been assigned to the site for the finds record, no further context or feature reference numbers were used to identify difference horizon, due to the nature of the site being identified as a modern dump.
- 5.3.4 Part of the site (**Fig. 4**) had previously been excavated and the spoil removed from site. However, Bank Sections 1 & 2 (**Fig. 3; Plates 4 & 5**) demonstrated that this material was modern dumped material and therefore its removal had no impact on potential archaeological deposits or the results of this field evaluation.
- 5.3.5 *No archaeological deposits, features or remains were observed during the field evaluation.*
- 5.3.6 A representative small finds assemblage (**Appendix 3**) was recovered from the excavated material. These finds have been rapidly assessed and recorded by ArchaeoDomus and presented in the table below. Bone fragments were assessed

by Dr. Ros Coard, University of Wales, Lampeter - Archaeological Services.

Context	Material	No.	Wt (g.)	Comments
101	Animal Bone	2	216	Undated: Bos: ulna, adult, left proximal end, teeth marks; dog. Bos: mandible, adult, left.
101	China	2	20	19 th and early 20 th century china, Willow Pattern, plain white.
101	Glass	3	814	Mid-late 20 th century glass bottles, complete. 1 x Milton bottle.
101	Clay Pipe	1	1	Early 19 th century clay pipe.
101	Plastic	2	38	Modern plastic bottle tops/bungs.

- 5.3.7 Given the unstratified nature of the finds, no further work has been taken on them. The finds will be retained and form a part of the Project Archive.

5.4 Environmental

- 5.4.1 No environmental deposits for sampling were identified during the field evaluation.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The archaeological field evaluation demonstrated that Victoria Terrace is an area of land has been built up from the successive dumping of materials over a c. 50 year period. These layers are comprised of materials deposited as waste from the former bottling plant, demolition material from a number of buildings, and soils and clays from groundworks to other sites.
- 6.1.2 These findings demonstrates that the bank on which the new development is to be built, is not a continuation of the earthworks that comprise part of Narberth Castles medieval defences.
- 6.1.3 The representative small finds assemblage and sections help to further clarify the areas development in the late 20th century.
- 6.2 *No mitigation or further archaeological works are recommended at Victoria Terrace.*

7 ARCHIVING

- 7.1 The results of the field evaluation is a written report and a photographic archive. This will be held by ArchaeoDomus Archaeological & Heritage Services and will be deposited with the regional HER, DAT-DM and a further copy to the RCAHMS for

archiving. Field notes and the small finds assemblage will be stored by ArchaeoDomus. A PDF copy of the report will be made available from www.archaeodomus.co.uk.

8 SOURCES

8.1 Online Sources

British Geological Survey: www.bsg.ac.uk
Accessed: September 2016

UK Soil Observatory: www.ukso.org.uk
Accessed: September 2016

RCAHMW: www.coflein.gov.uk
Accessed: September 2016

Historic Wales: www.historicwales.gov.uk
Accessed: September 2016

Cynefin Project - The Tithe Maps of Wales: www.cynefin.archiveswales.org.uk
Accessed: September 2016

British Listed Buildings: www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk
Accessed: September 2016

Archwilio: www.cofiadurcahcymru.org.uk
Accessed: September 2016

8.2 Maps

1889 OS Six-inch to One Mile Map Second Edition - Pembrokeshire XXIX.NW & SW

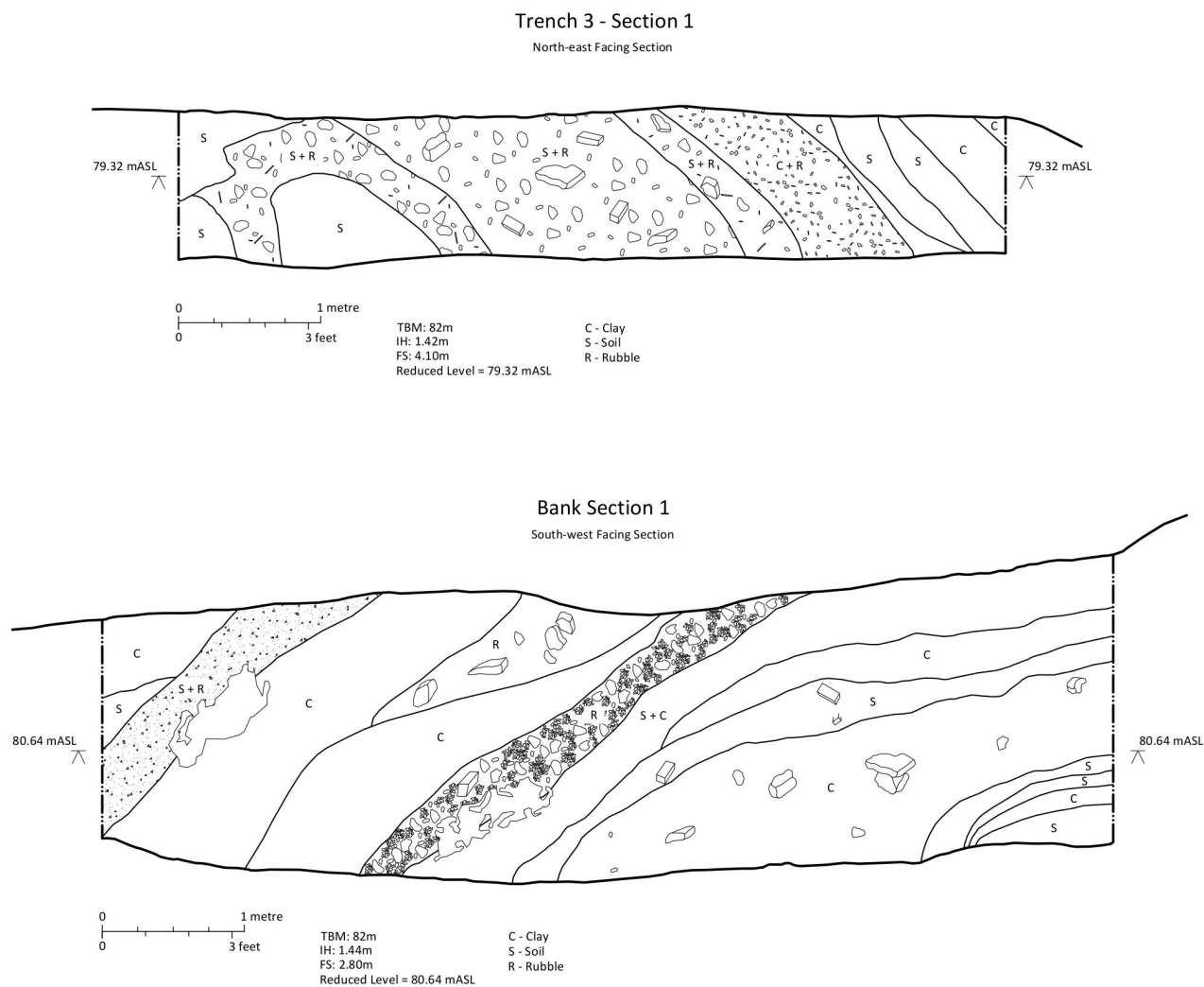
1907 OS Six-inch to One Mile Map Second Edition - Pembrokeshire XXIX.NW & SW

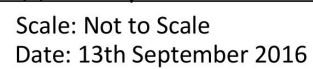
1937 OS Six-inch to One Mile Map Second Edition - Pembrokeshire XXIX.NW & SW

1967 OS Six-inch to One Mile Map Second Edition - Pembrokeshire XXIX.NW & SW

Ordnance Survey Surveyors Drawing, 1809
Source: www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/ordsurvdraw

Appendix 1 - Drawn Record & Location





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Appendix 2 - Photographic Archive



Plate 1 - AD026_T01 - Trench 1 - Section 1 (not to scale)



Plate 2 - AD026_T01.1 - Trench 1.1 - Section 1.1
(not to scale)



Plate 3 - AD026_T02 - Trench 2 - Section 1 (not to scale)



Plate 4 - AD026_T03 - Trench 3 - Section 1 (not to scale)



Plate 5 - AD026_B01 - Bank Section 1 (not to scale)



Plate 6 - AD026_B01 - Bank Section 2 (not to scale)



Plate 7 - AD026_001 - General view of site towards west.



Plate 8 - AD026_002 - General view of location of Bank Section 2, towards west.



Plate 9 - AD026_003 - General view of site towards east.



Plate 10 - AD026_004 - General view of eastern end of site, location for trial trenches 1 and 2.



Plate 11 - AD026_005 - General view of site towards north east.



Plate 12 - AD026_006 - General view of site towards east.



Plate 13 - AD026_007 - Bank Section 1.



Plate 14 - AD026_008 - Bank Section 2.



Plate 15 - AD026_009 - Trench 1.1 plan view.



Plate 16 - AD026_010 - Trench 1 plan view.



Plate 17 - AD026_011 - Trench 2 plan view.



Plate 18 - AD026_012 - Trench 3 plan view.



Plate 19 - AD026_013 - Trench 3 end section, towards east.



Plate 20 - AD026_014 - General view north-east, Bank Section 2 and Trench 3.



Plate 21 - AD026_015 - General view, Trench 2.



Plate 22 - AD026_016 - General view south-east, Trench 1 and 2.



Plate 23 - AD026_017 - General view south-east, Trench 1.

Appendix 3 - Small Finds





Appendix 4 - Listed Buildings

Building Description	Narberth Castle	Cadw ID	6473
Grade	I	Locality	Narberth
Date Listed	25/09/1951	County	Pembrokeshire
NGR	SN 10980 14400	Postcode	SA67 7BE
Listing Text: History Single-ward stone castle built soon after 1257 following destruction of Sentence Castle by Llywelyn ap Gruffydd. Burnt in 1299, but rebuilt. Granted to Sir Rhys ap Thomas in 1516. Reverted to the crown in 1531 following act of attainder on Sir Rhys ap Gruffydd, when said to be in state of decay. It was, however, inhabited as late as 1657. Exterior Rectangular site. Half moon outwork covers S front. Ruins of 2 quarter-engaged drum towers with battered bases. SE tower (bakehouse and chapel tower), has aumbry to 1st storey former reveal; window opening to 2nd storey. SW tower survives to 3 storeys. (Larder with 2 chambers over) pointed arches to 2nd floor openings, broad internal splays to ground floor openings. At right angles to N, fragment of walling rises to 1st storey height (former kitchens with hall over). Cambered openings to ground floor - modern blocking. Traces of arched openings to 1st floor level. Corbels. On W of enclosure tracers of curtain with 2 semicircular bastions, one with drain. On E vaulted cellar with 3 openings, centre enlarged to form doorway. Original door to S end but with modern work. Section of wall over bear evidence of window to former great chamber. Also on E remains of tower with battered base below stringcourse. Evidence of 2 garderobes with chutes to angle with curtain. Flues to 1st and 2nd floors. (Buttery with 2 chambers over). The site of the Great Tower with its forebuilding and adjoining gatehouse lie obscured at N end of site. Scheduled Ancient Monument.(PE040) Reference Public Record Office. Treasury of Receipt, Misc Books Vol 151, m 12 (Survey of 1531) D J Cathcart King, Castellorium Anglicanum Vol II, Pg 395 S Lewis, Topographical Dictionary of Wales.			

Building Description	De Rutzen Public House & Hotel	Cadw ID	6499
Grade	II	Locality	Narberth
Date Listed	21/08/1986	County	Pembrokeshire
NGR	SN 211005 214511	Postcode	SA67 7AX
Listing Text: Exterior Major section of terraced group near the bottom of the street and to N of the castle. Dated 1833, built for Baron de Rutzen; ceased to be a hotel circa 1940 and has since been used as a warehouse.			

Later Georgian stepped 3-storey stucco main elevation with plinth, parapet and painted ground floor. Four-window front forward to the right with outer bays advanced and 3-window front set back to left with central bay flanked by pilaster strips; both fronts symmetrical. Slate roofs, brick and cement render chimney stacks. Small-pane sash glazing including one tripartite window to centre of the 3-window section which has lintels to the 1st floor. Outer 1st floor windows to right are set in semi-circular headed recesses over elliptical arched openings with imposts, gated to right and filled in with sash window to left. Arched and gated coach entrance to centre of the 3-window front with raised lettering above reading; "Erected in the Year MDCCCXXXIII By Charles Frederick Baron de Rutzen KM"; flanking arched entrances below blind tablets, architrave and keystone to left with Masonic emblem.

Whitewashed rubble entrance passage of left opens into service courtyard with timber lintel below semi-circular relieving arches formerly with lean-to right. Cross range to left and right. The former has a jetted brick 1st floor over whitewashed and sash glazed ground floor with plinth; tripartite segmental windows to 1st floor lighting former Masonic hall, Victoria Hall, formerly the Market Hall, to rear. Rubble rear to the main building with breeze block infill.

Interior

The staircase leading to the Masonic Hall retains floral carving to the newel post.

Appendix 5 - Misc

Period	Approximate Dates
Palaeolithic	<i>circa</i> 225,000 BCE - 10,000 BCE
Mesolithic	<i>circa</i> 10,000 BCE - 3500BCE
Neolithic	<i>circa</i> 3500 BCE - 2000 BCE
Bronze Age	<i>circa</i> 2000 BCE - 600 BCE
Iron Age	<i>circa</i> 600 BCE - 43 CE
Roman	43 CE - 410 CE
Early Medieval	410 CE - 1066 CE
Medieval	1066 CE - 1485 CE
Post Medieval	1485 CE - 1700 CE
Early Modern	1700 CE - 1900 CE
Modern	1900 CE - Present

Table 1 - British Archaeological and Historical Time Periods.