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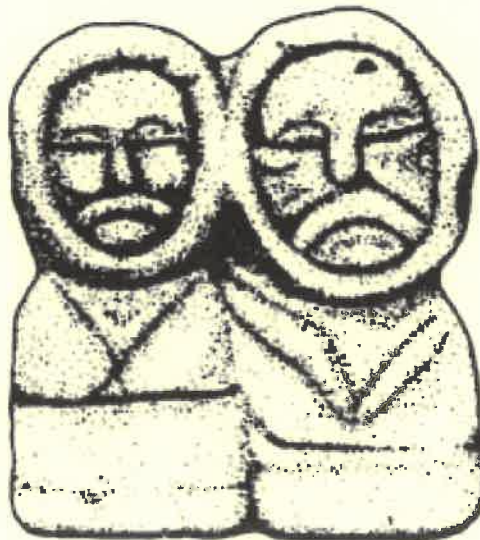


# CAMBRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS LTD.

'Castle Inn',  
Newport:

Desk-based Assessment and Archaeological Investigation  
(PRN 41327)

By Ian Halfpenney B.A. (Hons.), AIFA



**'CASTLE INN', NEWPORT:**

**Desk-based assessment and archaeological investigation**

**By I. Halfpenney B.A. (Hons.), AIFA**

Prepared for:  
**Mr. R. Campbell**  
Castle Inn  
West Street  
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Pembrokeshire

**Project No: 250**

**ACAHM PRN: 41327**

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July 2000

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## NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

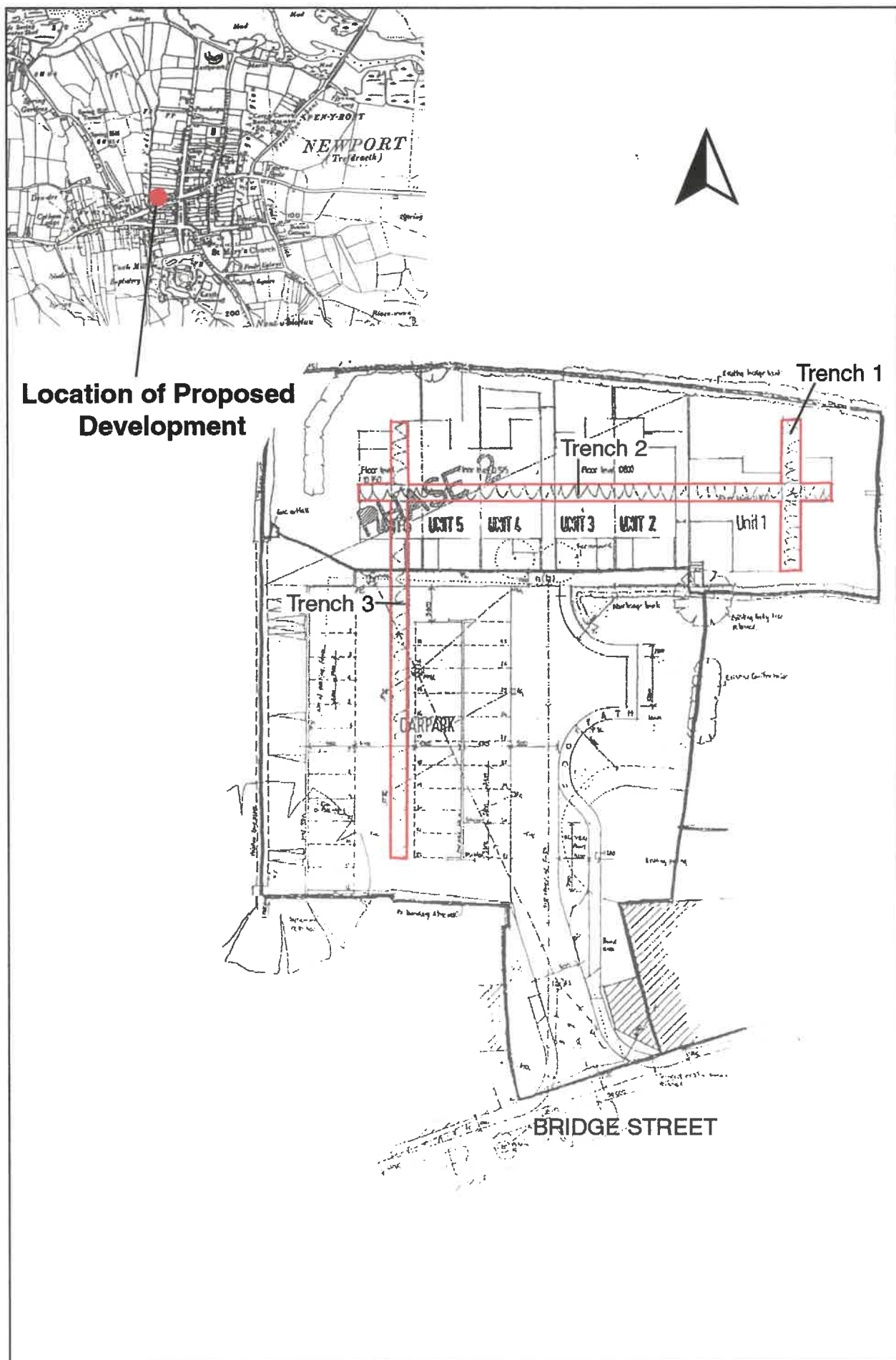
*The following report is the result of work undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd. on behalf of Mr. Campbell as part of a condition attached to a planning application submitted by Mr. Campbell to Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Planning Authority. The report has two main components; the desk-based assessment and the field investigation. The desk-based assessment is an appraisal of all readily available documentary, photographic and cartographic evidence relating to the site and its environs. The field investigation is designed to determine whether any archaeological deposits are present on the site and to excavate and record their character and significance. The investigation did reveal a number of archaeological features which appear to relate to land boundaries, cultivation and possible structures within these land parcels. This field evidence when combined with the results of the desk-based assessment provides more information as to the early planned development of Newport as a town.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION (Fig.'s 1 & 2)

- 1.1 Mr. R. Campbell, has submitted an application for planning permission (Nos. NP 99/554 & NP 00/173) to the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Planning Authority.
- 1.2 The proposed development involves the construction of six new residences with associated access, parking and landscaping, on land to the rear of the Castle Inn, Newport. The site is currently used as a car park for the patrons of the Castle Inn.
- 1.3 The site is located at NGR SM 05653913, within the present core of the town of Newport.
- 1.4 A Design Brief was prepared by Archaeolog Cambria Archaeology – Heritage management (ACAHM). According to the design brief the development lies within an area of archaeological sensitivity, which is centred around the medieval core of the town of Newport.
- 1.5 It is therefore assumed that any preserved and previously unrecorded archaeological deposits may be partially or wholly destroyed by the intended development. As a consequence, ACAHM have recommended that a desk-based assessment and archaeological investigation should be undertaken in order to excavate and record the archaeological resource, prior to the development of the site.
- 1.6 In June 2000, Mr. R. Campbell invited Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd. to tender for the desk-based assessment and archaeological evaluation in accordance with the prepared brief. The tender was successful and the work was carried out accordingly in July 2000.
- 1.7 All works were undertaken in accordance with the IFA's *Standards and guidance: desk-based assessment* and *Standards and guidance: field evaluation*.



**Fig 1 General Location Map**



**Fig. 2: Site and Trench Location Plan**



## **2 OBJECTIVES**

2.1 The ACAHM Design Brief stated that the primary objectives of this assessment were:

2.1.1 To preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the site by record and attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.

2.1.2 To record the landform and topographic development of the site, defining the property plots, extent and phasing of any associated terracing or other landscaping.

2.1.3 To define the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains associated with activity within the plots.

2.2 In order to maximise the retrieval of archaeological information it was recommended that the archaeological assessment should consist of two components:

2.2.1 Desk-based Assessment

A desk-based assessment was undertaken, of all readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, aerial/ground photographic and oral sources in order to provide a historical framework for the surviving archaeological remains.

2.2.2 Strategic Trial Trenching (Fig. 2)

It was recommended by ACAHM that three trenches should be excavated. The location of the trenches was agreed with ACAHM before work commenced on site. The trenches were 1.8m. wide and of varying lengths which combined to produce 148 sq.m. of trenches. Topsoil and modern overburden were removed with the aid of a mechanical excavator (as agreed with ACAHM), a JCB with a ditching bucket, down to the first recognisable archaeological horizons. Thereafter, the subsequent deposits were excavated and recorded manually using standard accepted archaeological techniques. The excavation of archaeological features was undertaken in order to elucidate the character, extent, quality, preservation and significance of the archaeological remains.

## **3 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT: ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

3.1 Methodology

As stated in the *Objectives* the desk-based assessment involved the systematic study of all readily available sources. These included the following:

The County Sites and Monuments Records (SMR), held by Archaeolog Cambria - Heritage Management (ACAHM), Llandeilo.

The National Monuments Records (NMR) and RAF Aerial Photograph collection, held by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (RCAHWW), Aberystwyth.

Maps and documents dating mainly from the late 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries held at The National Library of Wales (NLW), Aberystwyth.



### 3.2 *Results of the Desk-based Assessment*

Numbers in brackets within the desk-based assessment relate to those numbers assigned by ACAHM as part of their SMR database.

#### 3.2.1 *Geology*

The underlying geology is Ordovician sedimentary bedrock (BGS, 1990). However, much of the bedrock in this area including the site of the proposed development is overlain by a thick layer of glacio-fluvial deposits, the upper part of which consists predominantly of an orange tinged yellow clay.

#### 3.2.2 *Soils*

According to the map produced by the Soil Survey of England and Wales the soils present on the site belong to Soil Association Denbigh 1 (SSEW, 1983). These are typical brown earth soils and tend to be well drained fine loamy soils with sub groups such as: Powys, Manod, Sannan and Barton also having similar properties. Alteration of the soil horizons particularly in respect of the underlying glacio-fluvial deposits may give rise to localised variations.

#### 3.2.3 *Topography and Landuse*

The village of Newport is situated on the lower northern slopes of Mynydd Carningli on the southern side of the Afon Neferu estuary. This slightly elevated position provides good visibility across Newport Bay. The site of the proposed development lies immediately to the north side of West street within what is now Newport town centre. The site of the proposed development is presently used as car parking for the adjacent Castle Inn.

#### 3.2.4 *The Newport Environs (Fig. 3)*

Although this report is concerned predominantly with how the site fits in with the medieval development of Newport, the prehistoric past of this area deserves some mention. Whilst the town itself has no recorded prehistoric deposits and is likely to have developed as an early 'planted' medieval settlement this area of Wales has an extremely rich prehistoric past. Given that estuarine coastal areas offer significant advantages for exploitation due to their rich ecotones it is not surprising that they were favoured areas for settlement. This south-west Wales area would also have had the added advantage of the ameliorating effects of the Atlantic Gulf Stream which is more favourable for plant growth. Hence this area contains a number of mesolithic sites and a large number of neolithic tombs. Despite their ritual associations the prevalence of these monuments within the landscape does indicate potentially significant prehistoric occupation of this area. The lack of documented neolithic settlement sites in this area may be more due to lack of excavation rather than the lack of settlement sites. This area also contains a wealth of later prehistoric monuments, particularly relating to the Iron Age.



**a) Mesolithic sites**  
(Bell & Walker, 1992)



**b) Neolithic sites**  
(Bell & Walker, 1992)



**c) Iron Age sites** (Cunliffe, 1991)

**Fig .3:** Distribution of prehistoric sites in south-west Wales.

#### *Newport Town and Castle (1499 & 1468) (Fig. 4)*

The Welsh name for Newport is Trefdraeth which translates as 'settlement on the sand'. This suggests that a settlement was in existence prior to the Norman Lord's establishment of Newport, although no archaeological evidence has been recovered to support this claim. The town of Newport is widely believed to have been a planted borough which was established by the Lords of Cemaes during the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The planted town was designed to provide income from rents and markets as part of the planned Norman expansion into and domination of Wales.

The establishment of the town is intimately linked with the political wrangling and infighting which was occurring in this area during the 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the early part of the 12<sup>th</sup> century this area of Wales became the Norman Barony of Cemaes part of the Earldom of Pembroke under the control of Robert Fitzmartin. The original centre and stronghold of this area was at Nevern which is located to the north-east of Newport on the north side of the River Nevern. It was at Nevern that the Fitzmartin's constructed a strong motte and bailey castle. This castle was held by them until the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century when it was taken by Lord Rhys.

The exact sequence of events following the taking of the castle at Nevern are unclear. However, it is known that the castle at Nevern was razed at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It is following this that Newport became the focal point of the area with the establishment of a new stronghold, which records suggest was built in the space of only two years (Soulsby, 1983). There is some debate as to the location of the original Norman castle. It had been widely assumed that the present remains located on the south side of the town represented the original Norman castle remains. However, the earthwork remains (Fig. 4, PRN1468) located at the northern edge of the village which were originally believed to be those of an Iron Age enclosure are now considered to be the possible remains of the first Norman castle. Although it has not been possible to verify this archaeologically the way in which both Long Street and St. Mary's Street are deliberately laid out on either side of this site respecting its boundaries, suggests the town was planned around this feature. Also given that the site is actually referred to as 'The Old Castle' does indicate that this site could have a Norman origin.

The town was founded by William Fitzmartin, probably at the very end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. This is supported by a charter of 1241 granted by his son Nicholas Fitzmartin, confirming the continuation of those privileges granted by his father (Soulsby, 1983).

However the establishment of the town did not mark the end of conflict and Newport continued to be fought over at least until 1277. During this further period of conflict the Fitzmartins were dispossessed only retaining control over the town between 1230 and 1257. The planting of the town with non-natives, by the Fitzmartins, must have been successful as Newport was one of the few areas to resist the Welsh uprising in 1213, although homage was paid to Llyewlyn ap Iorweth when he razed the castle in 1215. The castle at Newport was razed twice during this period of conflict, the second time being by Llywelyn ap Gruffudd in 1257. Thereafter Edward I began his campaigning in Wales and the castle appears to have stayed with those loyal to the throne. It may have been as a result of this second razing of the castle in 1257 that the site on the south side of town was chosen to be the location for the new stronghold. Documentary records exist which

indicate that by 1277 the castle was constructed, with a deed of that date suggesting that part of the castle be used as a gaol (Brown, Perceival & Parkinson, 1992). The heyday of the castle was during the latter part of the 13<sup>th</sup> century and the 14<sup>th</sup> century, as by 1408 the valuation of the castle was said to be nothing having been destroyed by followers of Owain Glyndwr (Brown, Perceival & Parkinson, 1992). The castle then remained in a state of disrepair for many years until the 19<sup>th</sup> century when a house was built within the ruins of the old gatehouse.

The key time for the medieval town of Newport is from the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century through to the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, with the period of greatest prominence and importance for the town being the early 15<sup>th</sup> century. It was at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century that Newport received a charter of incorporation, including the right to a weekly market and annual fair (Soulsby, 1983). The planned town appears to have been neatly packaged between four boundary markers; to the north was the castle and sea from which two parallel streets (Long street & St. Mary's street) lead south to what is now East street and West street which is believed to be an ancient route (now the A487). To the east and west are two streams, which may have been canalized (Murphy, 1994), Afon Felin (west) and Afon Ysgolheigion (east). The town appears to have been planted within these boundaries possibly extending slightly to the south of the roadway.

Occupation at the northern end of the town appears to have been relatively short lived and the nucleus of the town shifted to the south focusing around the Castle and St. Mary's church, with the shire hall and market now being located in this part of town. Presumably the most desirable area to inhabit was close to the Castle.

By the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century the southern end of the town had acted as the focal point for some time and a number of the plots in the north had been amalgamated into small fields (Murphy, 1994). The town at this time appears to be in a state of decay and contraction with depopulation occurring something which is a feature of many parts of Wales during this time (Murphy, 1994). This depopulation continued at least until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and it is only from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards that the town has become popular once more.

#### *Previous Excavation Work (Fig. 4)*

The following numbers refer to SMR points located on fig.4. A small number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken in Newport. These have varied in size from limited watching brief work and chance finds to a much more detailed and exhaustive archaeological excavation undertaken by DAT:

31026- This was an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT) in an area of Newport to the south of the proposed development. There was a lack of good datable material, and a boundary ditch which was located running on a north-south alignment contained 19<sup>th</sup> century material.

11321- These finds were located to the west of Long street and refer to two reportedly substantial walls and 250+ sherds of medieval pottery uncovered during construction work.

1498- This kiln site was discovered on the western edge of Newport to the north of West

street in 1921. The bases of two 15<sup>th</sup> century kilns were uncovered, each with a diameter of 5ft. 8 inches, which produced local medieval wares, examples of which were taken to the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.

32130- This refers to the most exhaustive archaeological excavation so far undertaken in Newport. The excavation was carried out by Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT) in 1991 following anomalies detected during a geophysical survey of the area. Subsequent excavation work revealed intact medieval deposits relating to three burgage plots and boundaries with possible evidence of structures on the site. The work uncovered evidence to support the idea that the town was deliberately planned, although burgage plots were not necessarily a standard size with some clearly wider at the expense of others. Evidence of cultivation was also located with both spade-dug trenches and plough furrows evident within the plots. Evidence for buildings on the plots was slight, leading to the conclusion that they may have been of earth/clay construction with thatched roofs. Pottery from the site consisted of both local and imported medieval fabrics, with a total of 7337 pottery sherds recovered. The excavation confirmed that this northern end of the town was only occupied for a relatively short period of time and was then abandoned, as the emphasis of the town graduated to the south.

*Distribution of SMR points (Fig. 4)*

As part of this desk-based assessment an inventory of the Sites and Monuments Records (SMR) database for Newport was compiled and mapped (the numbers refer to the SMR database):

- 1462- Chambered Cairn
- 1468- Old Castle
- 1492- Earthwork (possibly natural)
- 1498- Medieval Kiln
- 1499- Newport Castle
- 1500- Newport Record Office
- 1501- Cross (medieval)
- 1502- Holy Well, Ffynnon Fair
- 1504- St. Mary's Church
- 2902- Whipping Post
- 2903- Stocks
- 7812- Newport Chapel
- 12915- Holy Well, Ffynnon Curig
- 15236- Woollen Factory
- 18688- Chapel
- 18691- School
- 18693- Smithy
- 18694- Lodge, Cotham Lodge
- 18698- Castle Mill
- 18704- Baptistery
- 18715- Chapel





**Fig. 4:** Map showing Distribution of SMR Points.

## Cartographic Evidence

The following maps were consulted as part of the desk based assessment:

Blau's Atlas (Extract from) originally drawn in 1534 and published in 1648 (Fig. 5).

Camden's Wales (part of Britannia) 1568 drawn by Robert Morden (Fig. 6).

Speed's map of 1611 (Fig. 7).

By the time these three maps were drawn Newport town was clearly well established. However, the scale of these maps precludes any detailed information concerning the town itself. What the maps do provide is some evidence of the scale and importance of Newport in relation to other towns in the area. Both Blau's Atlas and Speed's map depict Newport as having substantially more buildings than almost any other town in the area, clearly demonstrating its status as a local centre of importance. Camden's map of Wales does not show these town annotations, what it does show is the ancient roadway (now the A487), which runs through Newport town, was clearly one of the main arterial routes into this part of Wales.

Rental map of 1434 (Bignall, 1991)(Fig. 8)

Figure 8 demonstrates how, at this time the nucleus of the village had spread to the south of Newport with expansion also taking place to the west and east of the castle. This expansion has clearly been controlled given the formal grid pattern layout to the towns new development areas. County records state that at this time there were 76 burghage holders for the 233 plots with 4 of these 76 holding 97 plots. A further 21 people are listed as holding a single plot (Murphy, 1994). Given that there would have been a considerable number of dependents and workers attached to each burghage holder any estimates concerning the population of the town at this time are extremely unreliable.

Rental map of 1595 (Bignall, 1991)(Fig. 9)

The apportionment schedule which accompanies the Rental map of 1595 does contain more specific evidence concerning population levels within Newport town at this time. The records indicate that out of a total of 211 individual burghage plots only 44 of these had occupants. Of these 44 plots which were occupied the vast majority were located in the southern area of the town. As Murphy (1994) notes not only does this indicate that the focus of the town had clearly been shifted to the south but that the southern part of the town was also now in an advanced state of decay.

The layout of the burghage plots in the above two maps is a schematic representation of the town layout undertaken by Bignall (1991). A more precise layout is not possible due to the individual boundary changes which have occurred in the intervening years. Both rental maps indicate that the site of the proposed development was at this time composed of two linear plots extending east-west from the corner of West street and Long street, possibly extending as far as Sheerhouse. Also on both of the Rental maps the site of the proposed development has no holders names assigned. This does not necessarily indicate that these



plots were unoccupied. Attempts have been made to fit the holders names derived from the schedules onto the Rental map (Bignall, 1991). It appears that there is a shortfall between the number of holders and the number of plots. Hence the holders of individual plots as marked on these maps is a 'best fit' rather than an accurate representation.

#### Estate Map surveyed by Henry John 1758 (Fig.10)

The full title of this map is "An exact map of several tenements of land in the town of Newport in the County of Pembroke being part of the Estate of George Bowen Esq.". The apportionment schedule for this map has been lost which is unfortunate as the map was produced when Newport was almost at the lowest point in its post medieval decline. The map does demonstrate that at this time the nucleus of the town was clearly located in the south of Newport, with houses and plots becoming more dispersed as you head north through the town. However, given that the map is only that of the 'Estate of George Bowen Esq.' care must be taken when interpreting this cartographic evidence. The site of the proposed development does have an owner/occupier but unfortunately the name is too faint to be legible and no buildings appear to be located on the site at this time. The whole area surrounding the site appears to be one block of land but this may well be as a result of the way the map was produced, i.e. this land was not part of John Bowen's Estate and therefore did not need to be mapped accurately.

Although the accuracy of this map may be questionable it is clear that the original formal layout of the town has become more dispersed with many of the plots at this time differing from their original grid pattern arrangement.

#### Ordnance Survey Surveyor's Drawing 1817 (Fig. 11)

The scale of this map is considerably larger than the subsequent maps and therefore the quality of the detail is reduced. However, it is clear from this map that by the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the town is clearly centred around either side of the road (A487). The town also appears to becoming more intensively settled with houses spreading out east and west from the town along the road. The idea that the town is becoming more intensively settled at this time is supported by a quote from Fenton (1903) concerning Newport at the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> century "the chasms in its depopulated streets are filling up fast with buildings".

#### Tithe Map 1838 (Fig.12)

The Tithe maps were particularly concerned with mapping the size and extent of agricultural holdings. The Tithe Map for the Parish of Newport shows the site of the proposed development as part of a much larger shaded block. This is probably due to the fact these relatively small holdings were not large enough to be liable for tithe duty and therefore their ownership was not a concern for those tithe map surveyors and schedulers. Alternatively sometimes these smaller land parcels are mapped on separate maps but no such maps or schedules could be located in the National library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

#### OS 6 inch 1st edition 1886 Map (Fig.13)

By the time the Ordnance Survey First Edition map is produced in 1886 Newport has expanded with the town centre having become much more intensively settled, although this



Fig. 6: Camden's Wales (1568).



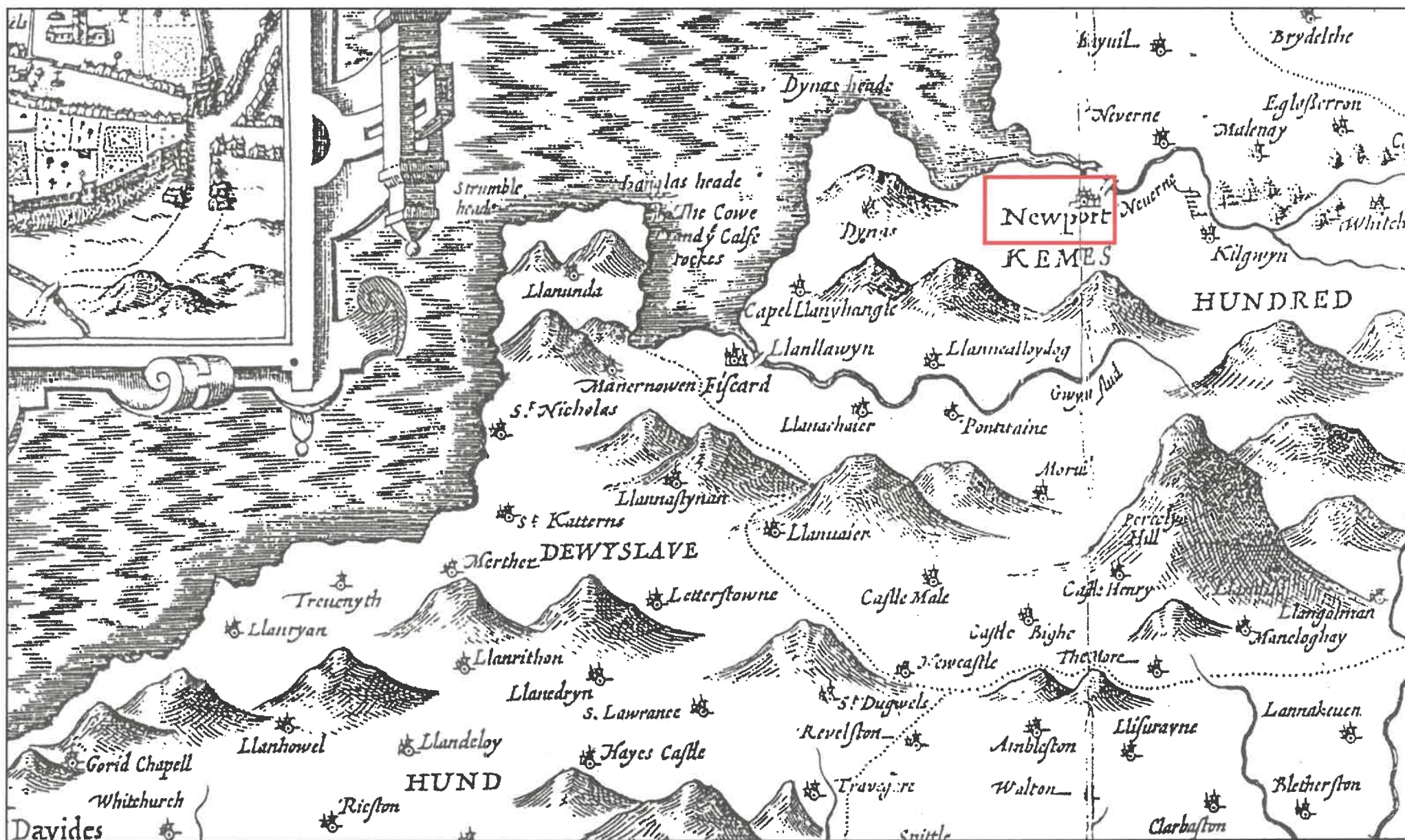


Fig. 7: Speed's map (1611).



**Fig. 8:** Newport Rental Map (1434).

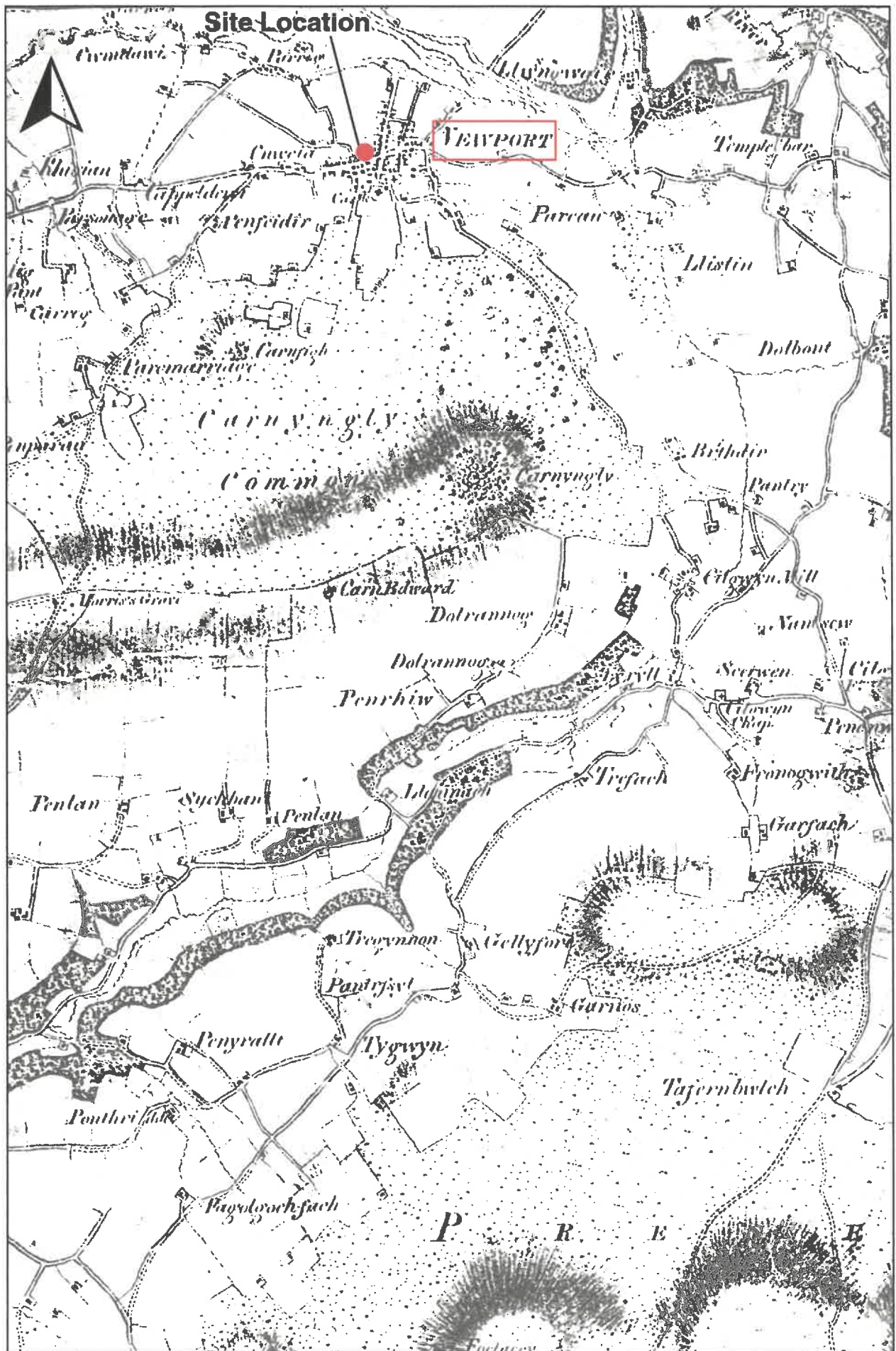






**Fig. 10:** Estate Map 1758.





**Fig. 11:** Ordnance Survey Surveyor's Drawing (1817).





**Fig. 12:** Tithe Map, Newport Parish 1838.







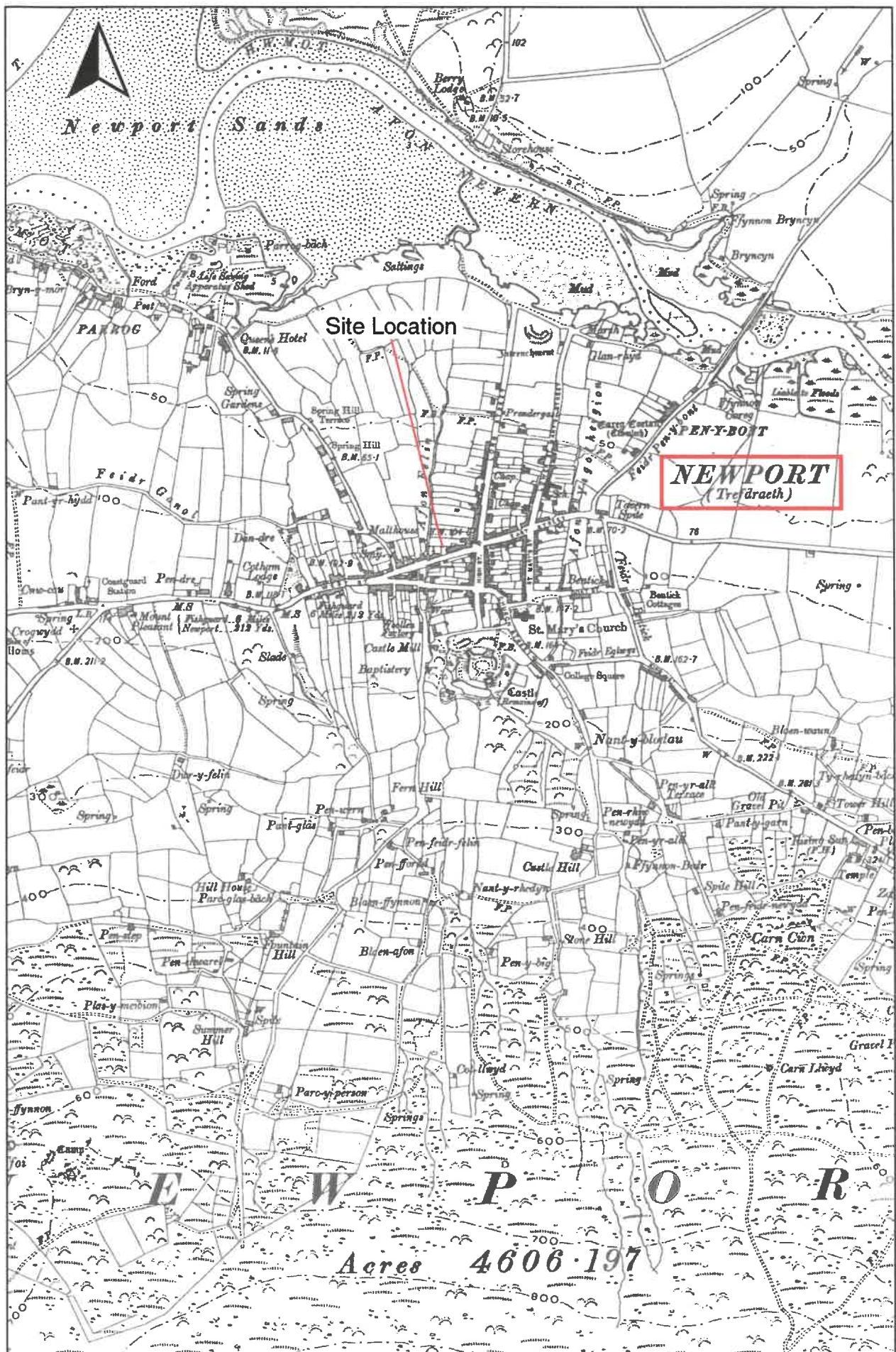


Fig. 14: Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 1908 Map.



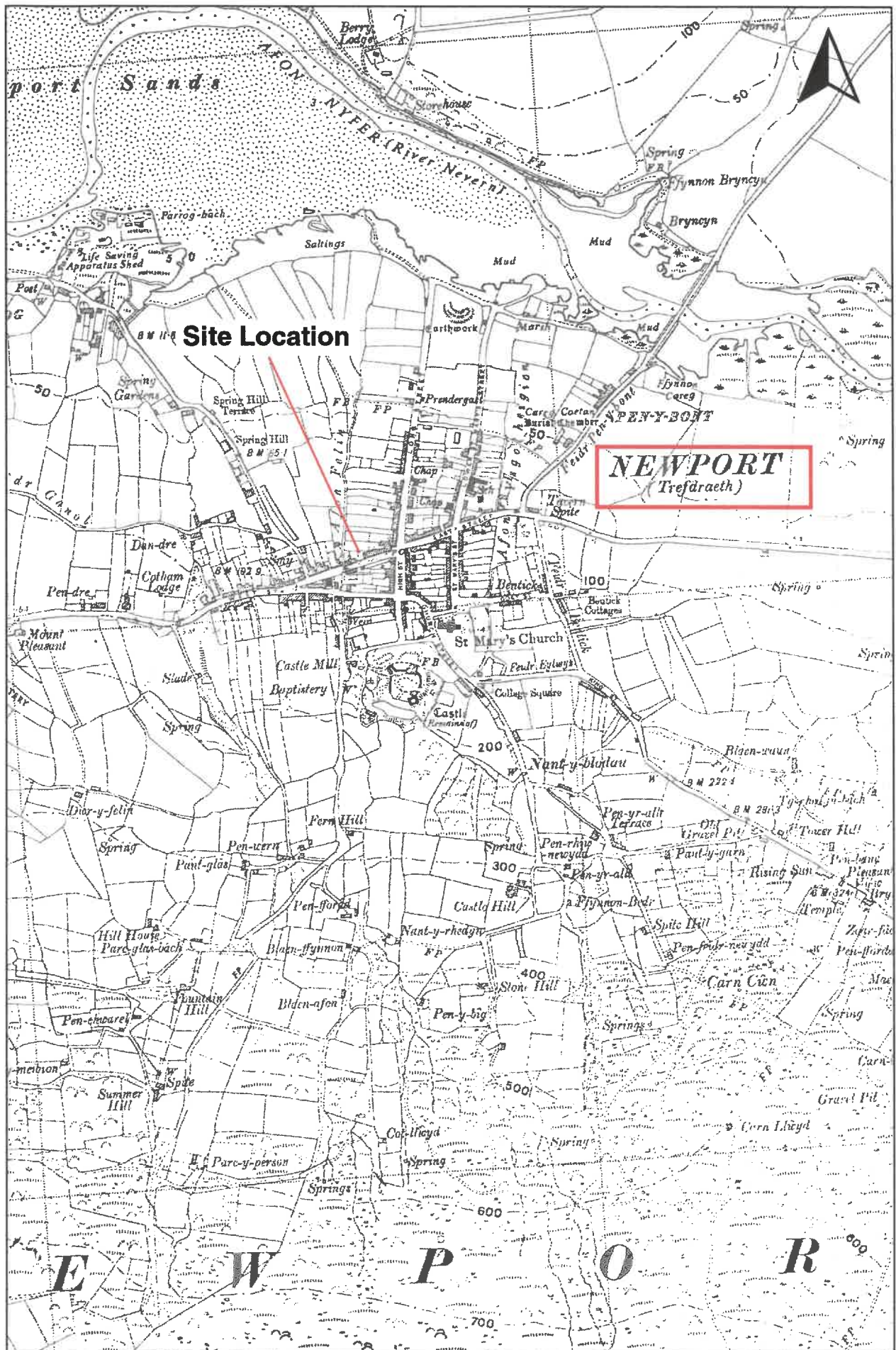


Fig. 15: Ordnance Survey Provisional Edition 1948 Map.

## **Photographic Evidence**

A number of aerial photographs of Newport were examined, in order to identify if the site of the proposed development showed any cropmark evidence for buildings or earthworks not picked up by the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century maps.

No substantial archaeological features or buildings were identified from the photographic search of the site.

The RAF photographic archive held by the RCAHM(W) was examined. This collection revealed no archaeological features on the site. The low level black and white oblique photographs held by the RCAHM(W) were also examined but did not shed any further light on the past use and occupation of the proposed development site.

The RAF photographic collection for this area is predominantly composed of frames taken in the 1970's. These photographs confirm what residents of the village had said, which was that the northern part of the site prior to the present car park had been a hedge enclosed garden with a small orchard at the western end.

The cartographic evidence indicates that no buildings have been present on the site during the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The aerial photographic evidence confirms that there has been no substantial development of the site during this time.

## **4 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION (Fig. 2)**

### **4.1 Methodology**

The ACAHM Design Brief required the excavation of three trenches. Each trench was 1.8m. wide but of varying lengths:

Trench 1- measured 14m.

Trench 2- measured 40m.

Trench 3- measured 28m.

The location of the trenches was agreed, before the work began, with ACAHM (Fig. 3). The only change to this agreement was the northernmost end of Trench 3 which could not be excavated due to soil contamination from oil and diesel tanks used during recent roadworks.

The Design Brief allowed for the use of a mechanical excavator for the removal of topsoil and modern overburden, down to the first recognisable archaeological horizons. This was carried out using a JCB fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

Thereafter the deposits within the trenches were excavated using standard accepted archaeological techniques.

Each trench was cleaned and recorded. Recording of the trenches was in three formats:

i) Photographic record shots were taken in 35mm. colour slide, colour print and black and white formats.

ii) Drawn records, plans and sections, were produced at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 on drafting film.

iii) Written records were produced using a continuous numbering sequence for all contexts.

Excavation of archaeological features was undertaken in order to ascertain their date, depth, preservation, extent, function and relationship to other features.

The natural deposits underlying the archaeology were located in at least one part of each trench section.

An environmental sampling and processing strategy was in place should the archaeological deposits warrant it. However, in this instance it was not felt that the deposits encountered warranted or needed sampling.

A metal detector survey of the site was undertaken, during the excavation and machine work.

All works were conducted whilst adhering to current Health and Safety Regulations.

## 4.2 Results and Interpretation

### *Metal detector survey results*

A metal detector survey of the excavation area was undertaken during the fieldwork and machining phases of this project. The resulting finds are listed in the appendices (Appendix II). No metal finds worthy of conservation were recovered. All of the metalwork appears to be post medieval in date and there is nothing of particular significance or note.

### *Excavation Results*

Numbers in brackets in the following report refer to context numbers allocated during the fieldwork phase of the project.

Each of the three trenches excavated was covered by a significant amount of modern levelling and infilling. In places this late 20<sup>th</sup> century dumping reached a depth of 1.5m. Therefore, it was necessary for each trench to be stepped in order to comply with Health and Safety regulations.

Removal of the modern overburden (1) revealed the pre-dumping garden levels. The original topsoil 'A' horizon (2) was clearly discernible and was described as a humic silty loam with relatively few inclusions. Depth 0.3m.

Below the topsoil was a well developed subsoil 'B' horizon (3) which was described as a friable mid brown silty clay with the clay content increasing with depth. Depth 0.4m. As with the topsoil, the subsoil contained relatively few inclusions. The boundary between the 'A' and 'B' horizons was indistinct.

The underlying natural 'C' horizon (4) across the site was a firm yellow clay which had an orange hue. Again this contained relatively few inclusions. This clay is a result of glacio-fluvial deposition at the end of the Devensian glaciation, when the glaciers were retreating. This area of Wales was at the most south-westerly extent of the glaciers which covered the British Isles (Lowe and Walker, 1984).

It was only after the removal of the 'A' and 'B' horizons that archaeological features were discernible cutting into the clay (4).



### Trench 1 (Fig. 16, Plate 1)

Trench 1 measured 14m. in length and was located in the north-east corner of the site on a north-south alignment. The northern half of this trench was covered by a deep deposit of modern dumping which had also truncated part of the earlier garden levels. Three features were investigated within this trench:

*Cut 7* – which was also evident within Trench 2 was linear in plan and aligned north-west/south-east. This cut contained two fills (5 & 6), the uppermost of which (6) was a yellow brown clay which appeared to be redeposited natural. The lower fill (5) was a mid brown silty clay with charcoal and ash inclusions. The datable material recovered from this fill was all post medieval and consisted of nine sherds of various post-medieval pottery fabrics (C17 – C19) and two fragments of clay tobacco pipe. The top of this deposit also contained late 20<sup>th</sup> century dumping contamination including pieces of carpet. The feature itself was not well defined but may represent the truncated remains of the continuation of the adjacent garden/plot boundary, which it is believed does not represent the line of the burgage plot boundary.

*Cut 37 (Plate 2)*– This was the cut of a linear ditch aligned east-west and located in the southern half of trench 1. This feature contained only one fill (36) which was a friable mid brown silty clay with small stone inclusions and appears to be the result of a gradual process of accumulation. Limited evidence of iron staining and slight gleying of this deposit suggest possible water bourne deposits or seasonal waterlogging. Two sherds of abraded pottery were recovered from this deposit one of which is a local medieval ware and the other is early post medieval in date. The gully/ditch was very well defined with steep sides and a flat base which was cut into the natural clay. Cut 37 was 0.7m. wide and 0.4m. deep.

*Cut 39 (Plate 3)*– Cut 39 was located in the northern half of Trench 1 and was similar to cut 37 being a gully/ditch aligned east-west. As with 37 cut 39 was well defined with more steeply sloping sides and a relatively flat base. Cut 39 measured 0.6m. wide and 0.4m. deep and contained only one fill (38). The fill was a dark brown silty clay with gritty ash and charcoal inclusions. Dating material from this deposit was mixed and included two sherds of local medieval pottery (one base fragment) in addition to five sherds of post medieval pottery and one clay pipe tobacco stem. The feature itself had been cut on the southern side by Cut 7.

### *Trench 1 Summary and Conclusions*

The location of this trench was intended to cut across the Burgage plot boundaries and establish whether there is any evidence for activity at this end of the plots.

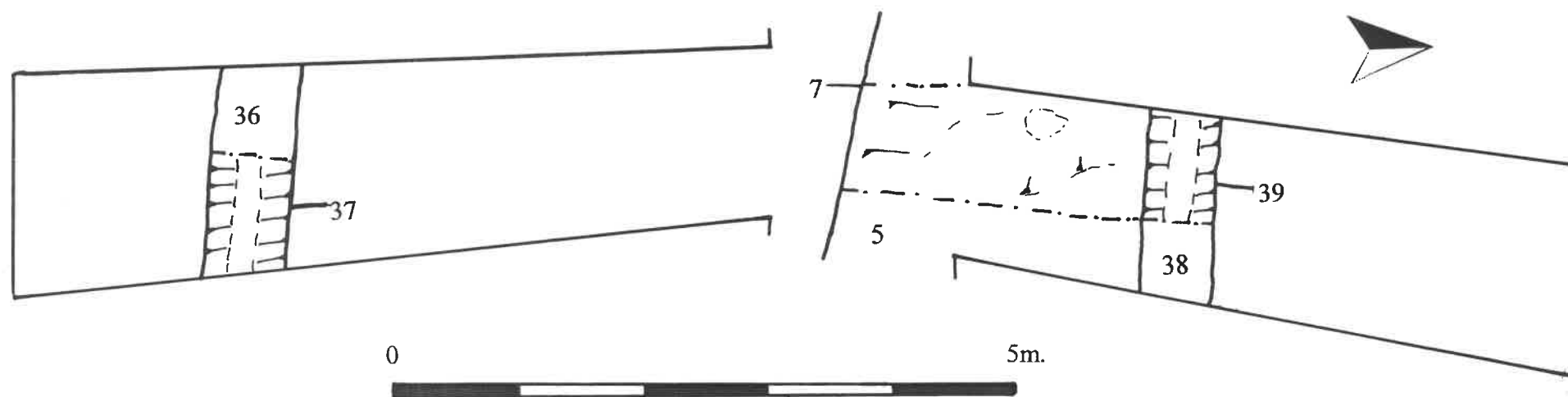
Although no evidence was found for domestic activity or cultivation within this trench there was evidence for two linear ditches, one of which (39) appears to have been deliberately infilled (38) and the other (37) seems to have silted (38) up over time. The two ditches ran parallel, were of similar size, shape and profile with a distance of 7.5m. between the two. Clearly, from the limited area of excavation it is not possible to prove that these two features are contemporary, however given their similarity in profile and

alignment and the fact that both contained medieval pottery sherds it is possible that they were in use at the same time.

A superficial comparison between cuts 37 and 39 with features excavated by DAT during their excavations at Newport School (32130) does suggest a degree of similarity between 37 and 39 and what were interpreted as burgage plot boundaries. Although 37 & 39 contained medieval pottery they do appear more likely to relate to features within the plot, possibly associated with drainage rather than burgage plot boundaries. Alternatively they may represent evidence of internal divisions within the plot.

The most northerly of the two gullies (39) was cut by 7 which is the remnants of the later plot boundary still evident to the east. However, given the very large amount of modern disturbance in this part of the site it was not possible to establish the true extent of the original boundary cut.

Fig.16 Plan of Trench 1.





**Plate 01:** View of Trench 1, looking South.



**Plate 02:** Cut 37, looking east.

## Trench 2 (Fig. 17, Plate 4)

Trench 2 measured 40 m. and was aligned east-west on the northern edge of the site. A number of features were located and excavated within this trench:

*Cuts 8 (9), 10(11), 12(13), 14(15), 16(17), 18(19), 25(24), 27(26), 29(28), 31(30) -*

The above linear cuts (fill no.'s in brackets) were all evident in Trench 2 running on a north-east/south-west alignment. Cuts 8, 10, 12, 25 and 27 ran the complete width of the trench with the rest (14, 16, 18, 29 & 31) only evident in the northern part of the trench. Excavation of these features revealed them to be irregular with some having well defined steep sides and tapered bases whilst others were much more ephemeral with less well defined sides and bases. The fills of all of these features were extremely uniform being a mid brown silty clay. This mid brown silty clay was extremely similar to the subsoil horizon (3) which was present on the site. Although clearly not precisely aligned the distance between each of these features was relatively evenly spaced, with their widths varying between 0.2 and 0.4m. No datable material was recovered from any of these features.

*Cut 35(34)-* This cut was extremely similar to the above linear features, the only significant difference being its alignment which was on a north-west/south-east axis.

*Cut 33 (Plate 5)-* Cut 33 was a large linear feature evident in the west end of the trench and aligned north-west/south-east. The fill (32) of this deposit was a mid brown silty clay which showed evidence of localised patches of gleying and iron staining in the lower parts of the horizon. There were few inclusions within this deposit although one or two moderately sized (0.2m.) rounded cobbles were evident. Two sherds of locally produced medieval pottery, including a rim fragment, were recovered from this deposit. This was a well defined feature cut into the natural clay (4) with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base.

*Cut 23 (Plate 6)-* Cut 23 was located in the eastern half of trench 2 on a north-south alignment. The cut had steep near vertical sides with a depth of 0.2m., the base was slightly concave and regular, with a width of 0.5m. There was only one fill (22) evident within this cut and this was a mid brown silty clay with small angular and rounded stone inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks. This feature was cut on the south side by cut 7.

*Cut 7 -* This feature was evident within trench 1 and was also discernible running along the eastern part of Trench 2 cutting 23.

*Cut 21 (Plate 7)-* Evident in the southern half of Trench 2 this cut had a length of 3.5m. east-west, it was not possible to establish the dimensions north-south as the feature ran past the southern limit of the evaluation trench. The feature was filled by 20 which was a very dark brown gritty silty clay with ash and charcoal inclusions. Dating from this deposit consisted of three sherds of local medieval pottery and four sherds of post medieval pottery. In plan the feature appeared to be a large pit like feature. Only the basal remains of this feature remained having been heavily truncated by the 20<sup>th</sup> century dumping. Excavation of these truncated remains revealed a feature with irregularly shaped sides and an uneven base, possibly the result of root activity.

## *Trench 2 Summary and Conclusions*

The shallow linear features encountered in Trench 2 are relatively evenly spaced and contain fills which appear to be derived from subsoil material. Overall these features are suggestive of plough scarring. However, given that we know this area has been enclosed as narrow parcels of land, aligned east-west, probably since medieval times it seems more likely that these features represent the basal remains of spade dug cultivation beds.

Although not provable from this excavation work it is conceivable that cut 33 could be a continuation of cut 37 which was located in the southern half of trench 1. The alignment of the two features and the similarity of their profile, fills and dating material do support this idea.

The profile of cut 23 is similar to that of 37, although it is much more heavily truncated. However the fill (22) is more silty and the location of this feature does not relate to any of the known boundary divisions. This feature may relate to cultivation activity within this plot or attempts at draining the clay subsoil which would have been susceptible to waterlogging. Alternatively it may represent evidence of internal divisions within the plot.

Cut 21 may represent the only evidence in trench 2 for domestic activity within this burgrave plot, being the heavily truncated remains of a pit. However, the evidence of root disturbance and the irregular nature of this feature also suggest that it could be the remains of a tree bole, as this part of the site was planted with an orchard prior to it being levelled.

The purpose of this trench was to investigate evidence for any domestic activity or cultivation within the length of the burgrave plot and to see whether this activity decreased towards the rear of the plot. The badly truncated remains of one possible domestic rubbish pit was located and there was evidence for the cultivation of this plot and possible evidence for drainage. The basal remains of what may be a rubbish pit (21) were located and partially excavated, yielding a small number of medieval pottery sherds as well as a number of post-medieval sherds. Immediately to the east of cut 21 was a linear cut (23) which appears to be too substantial for a cultivation bed but not large enough to be a boundary. It may be that this feature represents an internal division within the burgrave plot itself. Further to the west of the trench were a series of cultivation beds. Given that these beds are aligned north-south it is highly unlikely that they represent plough scars as ploughing a strip this narrow would have been extremely difficult. More likely is that these scars represent the remains of spade dug cultivation beds. Cut 37 may well represent the remains of a burgrave boundary. The excavation trench did not locate the western extent of this feature which continued past the limit of the trench.



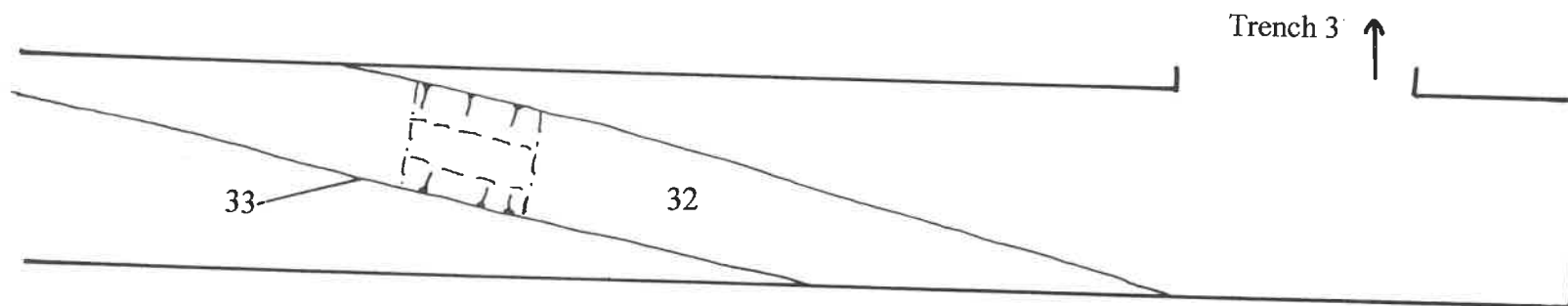
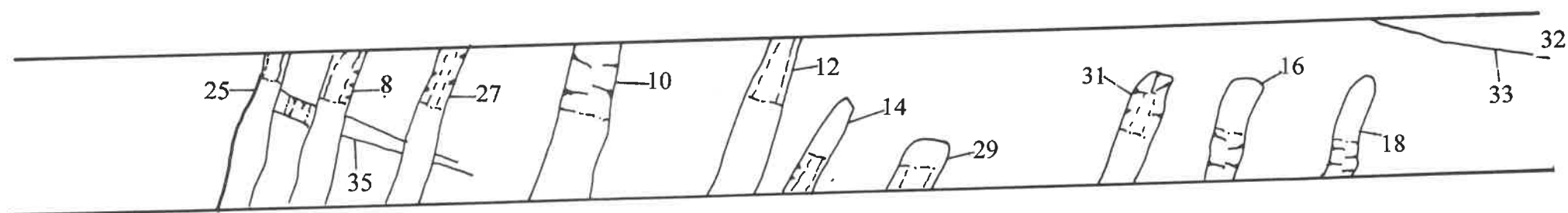
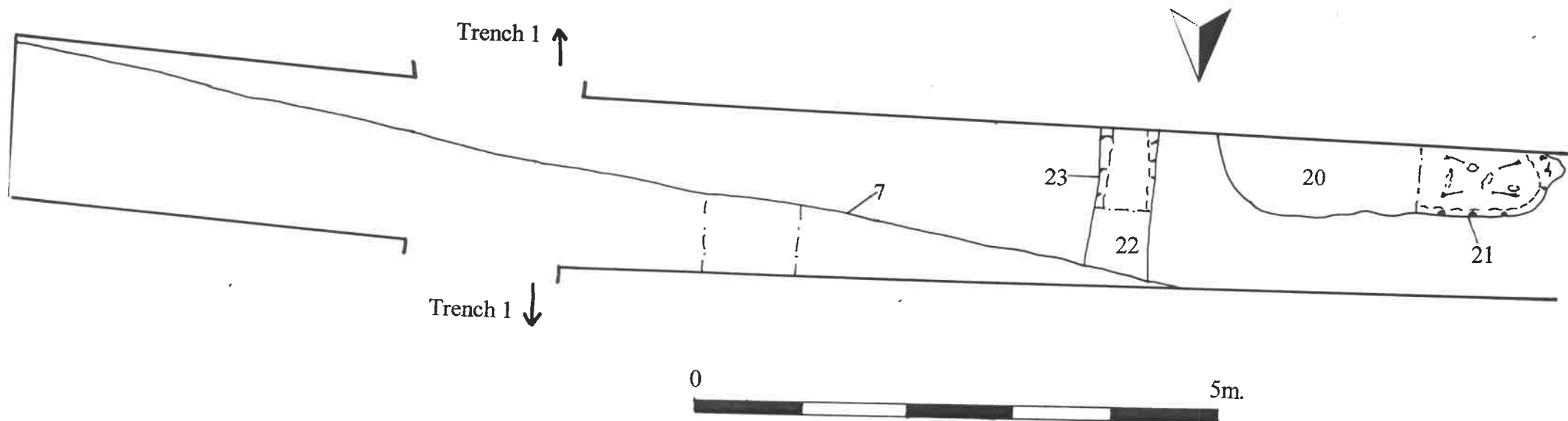


Fig.17 Plan of Trench 2.



**Plate 04:** View along Trench 2 , looking west.



**Plate 05:** Cut 33, looking north-west.



**Plate 06:** Cut 23, looking south.





**Plate 07:** Cut 21, plan shot.

### Trench 3 (Fig. 18, Plate 8)

Trench 3 measured 28m. and was aligned north-south. Thirteen potential archaeological features were located and investigated within this trench.

*Cut 45* (Plate 9)– This was the most substantial feature excavated within Trench 3. Cut 45 was evident running on an east-west alignment across the width of the trench. The overall depth of this feature was 0.5m. with a width of 1.8m., the first 0.6m. of each side being very gradually sloping. The centre of this feature was very well defined with a sharp break of slope at the top edge and uniform steeply sloping sides with an even flattish base. The lower fill (68) of this feature was a mid brown silty clay with small stone inclusions. No datable material was recovered from this deposit which was confined to the central ‘gully’ of this feature. The upper fill (44) was also a brown silty clay but contained higher concentrations of stones. These stones varied from small angular fragments to occasional very large blocks (Plate 9). Although only a small number of these larger stones were present they are clearly deliberately dumped to infill this feature and may well be derived from an earlier structure which stood on the plot. The stones were only evident on the north side of this feature which, given their size, may indicate that this was the side they were tipped in from. Dating from this deposit was mixed with five sherds of local medieval pottery, one clay tobacco pipe stem and four sherds of post-medieval pottery.

*Cuts 49(48) and 70(69)* - Both of these features were evident aligned north-east/south-west in the northern half of Trench 3. Sample excavation of these features revealed them to be identical to those linear cultivation beds encountered in Trench 2.

*Cuts 42(43), 47(46), 51(50), 61(60), 63(62), 65(64), 67(66)* (Plate 10)– All of these features were evident in Trench 3 running on an east-west alignment. Sample excavation of these features revealed them to be similar to the linear features encountered within Trench 2. The main difference between the two sets of features is their alignment (east-west as oppose to north-south). Two of these features (47 & 51) were wider than the other beds, with more pronounced evidence of root disturbance in their bases. Two of these fills (50 & 62) produced datable material. Fill 50 contained 1 sherd of glazed medieval pottery and fill 62 produced two sherds of local medieval pottery.

In the southern half of the trench four posthole type features were encountered:

*Cut 53* – Excavation of the fill (52) of this feature revealed it to be a very modern cut i.e. latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*Cut 59* (Plate 11)- In plan this feature was slightly oval in shape. Excavation of this feature revealed it to have steeply sloping sides and relatively flat even base. No datable material was recovered from the fill (58) of this feature.

*Cut 57* (Plate 12)- Cut 57 was located 3m. to the north of cut 59. In plan cut 57 was circular in shape. Excavation of this feature revealed it to be 0.1m. deep and 0.3m. in diameter with steeply sloping sides which taper to a rounded base. There was some evidence of root disturbance at the base of this feature. No datable material was

recovered from this fill (56).

*Cut 55 (Plate 12)*- Cut 55 was located immediately to the north of cut 57. In plan this feature was 'pear' shaped and measured 0.7m. north-south and 0.3m. east-west. Excavation of the fill (54) of this feature yielded one abraded sherd of medieval pottery. The sides of this cut were steeply sloping and the base was rounded but slightly irregular.

### *Trench 3 Summary and Conclusions*

The purpose of excavating Trench 3 was to investigate whether any evidence for plot boundaries could be located, and to assess any evidence for different activities within these plots.

The fact that the linear features within Trench 3 are so similar to those in Trench 2 suggests that they may be the result of similar activities i.e. cultivation. The different alignment of the two sets of features possibly relates to different methods of cultivation. As mentioned earlier the burgage plots would have been too narrow to plough in a north-south direction which suggests features aligned north-south are probably spade-cut. However, features aligned east-west are more likely to be the result of ploughing, given that these plots measured some 60m. in length. The close proximity of these features to each other indicates cultivation which was continued over time, rather than a single incidence of ploughing.

Cut 45 was a substantial feature with a central profile which was similar to cuts 33, 37 & 39, although the overall size of cut 45 was larger than these other linear cuts. Previous excavation work within Newport (Murphy, 1994) suggested that burgage plot boundaries tend to vary in width between 11 and 18m. The distance between cut 45 and 33 was approximately 14m., which would be a sufficient distance to indicate that these two features may be the remains of burgage plot boundaries. However, the alignment between these two features is slightly different with 45 orientated east-west and 33 orientated slightly north-west/south-east rather than squarely east-west. Dating from cut 45 indicates that it may have a medieval origin and that by the 19<sup>th</sup> century had been deliberately backfilled.

The postholes encountered are difficult to interpret as only one piece of dating evidence was recovered from them and no detailed stratigraphic relationships exist which could link them. Therefore, it is not possible within the scope of this work to confirm whether these features are contemporary or inter related. It is possible however that they relate to a structure within the boundaries of this burgage plot. Given that structural evidence was also located within the fill of cut 45 (masonry), structural occupation of the plot within this vicinity is quite conceivable. Unfortunately, no occupation horizons or floor hollows were located during the excavation work.



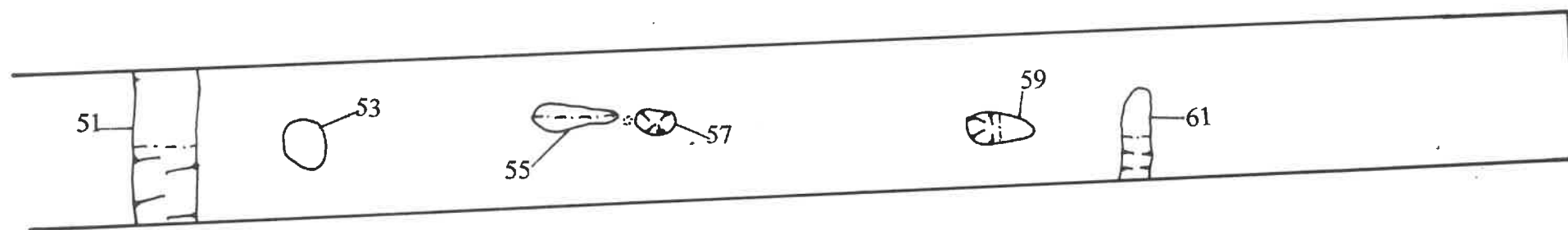
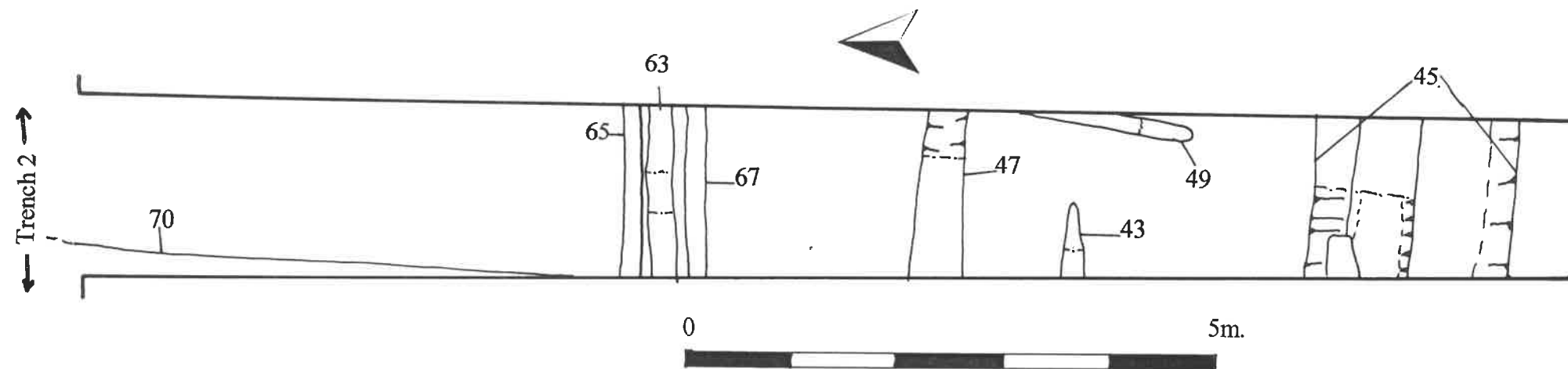
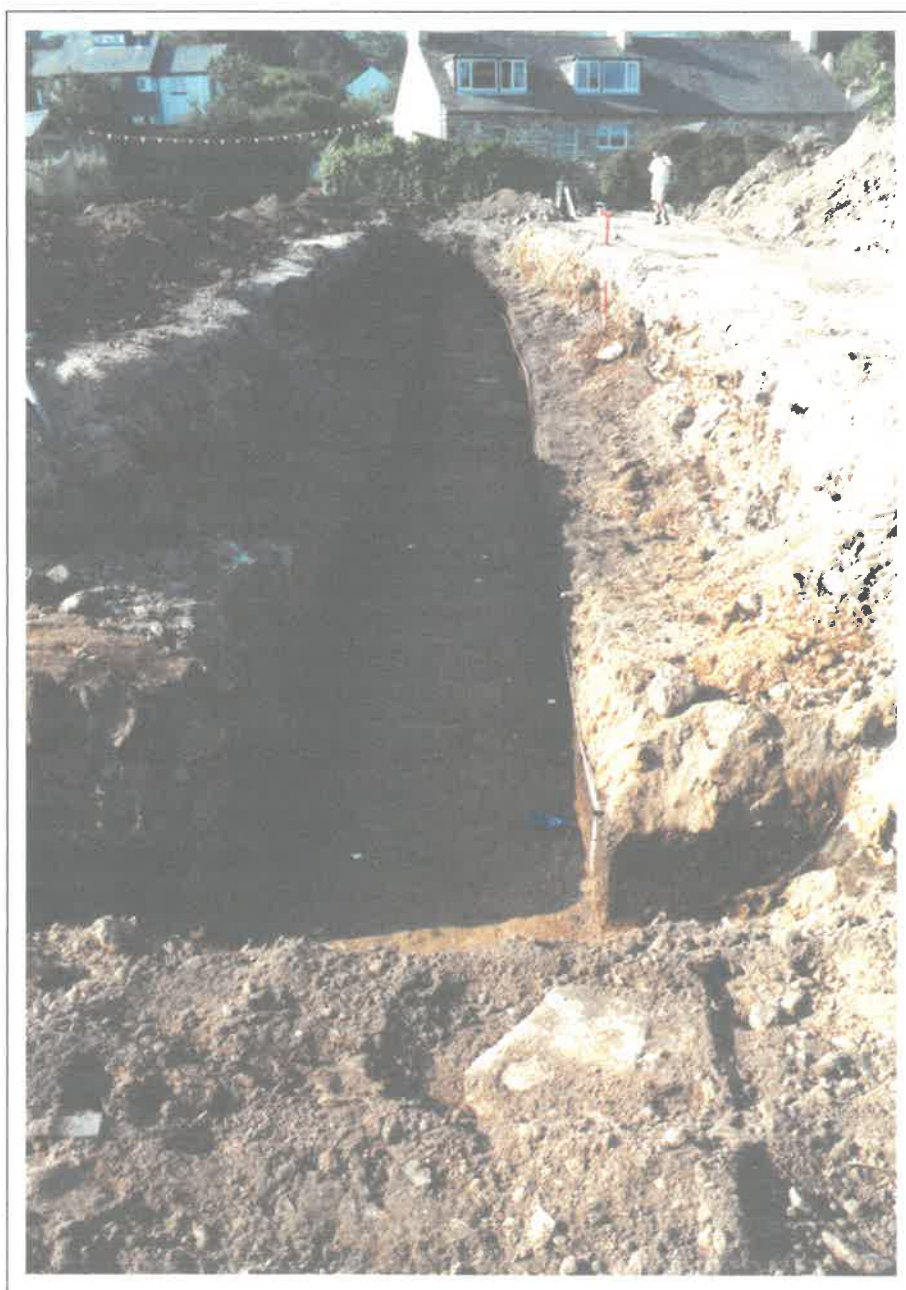


Fig.18 Plan of Trench 3



**Plate 08:** View along Trench 3, looking south.

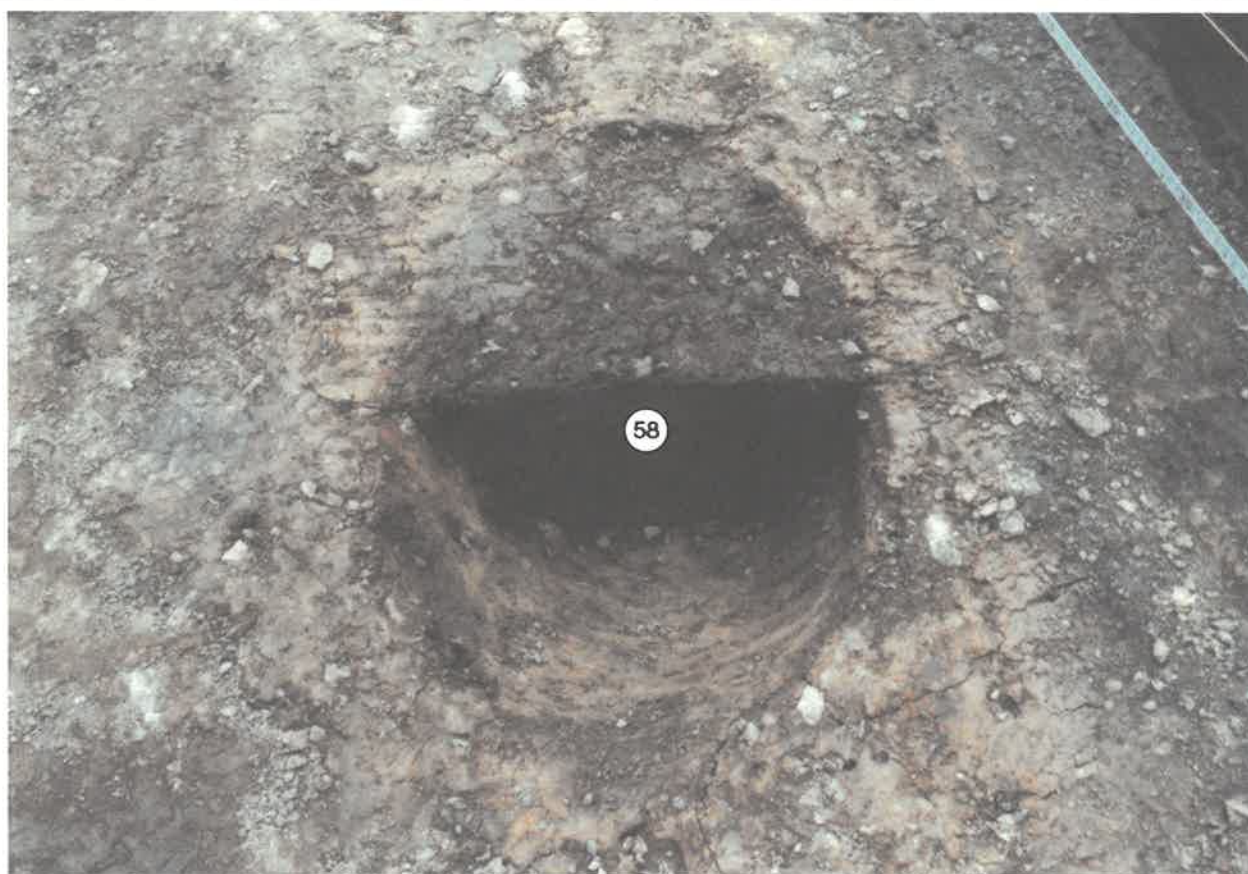


**Plate 09:** Cut 45, looking east.



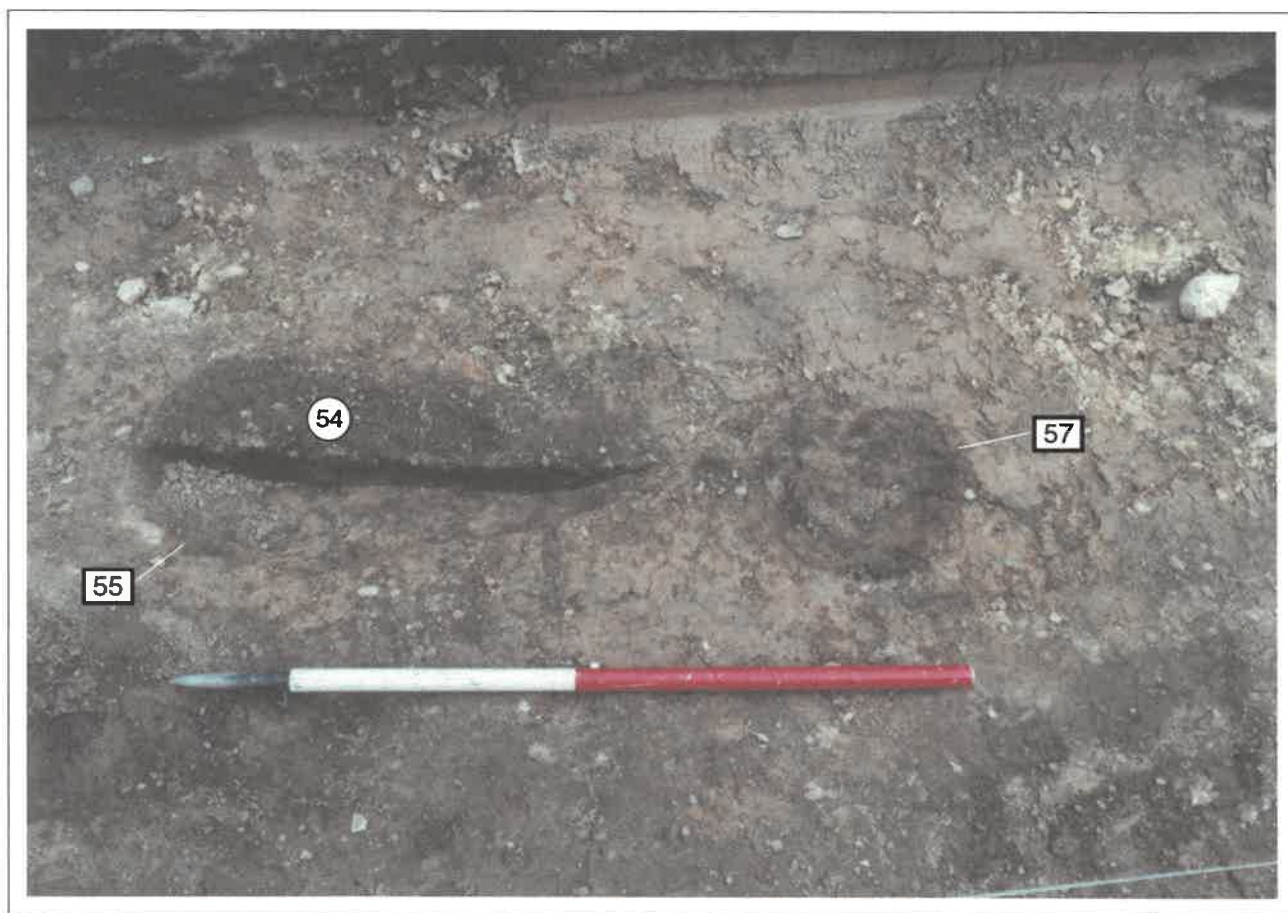
**Plate 10:** Cut 63, looking west.





**Plate 11:** Cut 59, looking south.





**Plate 12:** Cuts 55 & 57, looking east.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

The town of Newport still retains good evidence for its planned medieval origins, despite some alterations to individual land boundaries.

Central to Newport are the burgrave plots which were the backbone of these towns and are also intimately linked to the development and wealth of medieval Wales. The plots tended to have an 'infield' and an 'outfield', with self-sufficient cereals being grown in one area with the rest of the plot given over to livestock, particularly cattle, which were an important measure of wealth and status.

Despite the site having been covered by a substantial amount of dumped 20<sup>th</sup> century material, which in places had truncated the archaeological horizons, preservation was relatively good. The pre 20<sup>th</sup> century garden horizons were evident sealing the basal remains of archaeological features which were cut into the underlying natural clay.

No well preserved environmental deposits were located during the archaeological investigation, therefore no environmental samples were taken.

Despite the small and intermixed nature of the pottery assemblage recovered from this archaeological investigation, enough was evident to confirm that there had been some medieval activity on the site and that this could have included cultivation, domestic activity and possibly even evidence of a building on these plots.

A number of the features appear to have been open for a considerable time prior to being deliberately backfilled, suggesting a degree of continuity within this part of the town from the medieval into the post medieval.

The results of the excavation work tie in with the findings from the desk-based assessment and also contain parallels with the excavation work undertaken by DAT in the north of the town (Murphy, 1994).

Clearly modern Newport is based around what was an extensive planned medieval settlement and much of the evidence for this settlement is still visible in the layout of the town today.

Future archaeological investigations within Newport need to be aware that there is good potential for the preservation of medieval sub surface deposits, with any structural evidence being of particular interest and significance. The abandonment of the north part of the town in favour of the south and the subsequent shrinkage of the southern area should also be a focus for research.

Apart from the kiln site nothing has been excavated which relates to industrial medieval activity within the town. Once there is an understanding of the industrial nature of a settlement, such as Trelech where there was evidence of furnaces and iron smelting (Howell 1990 & 1992), a greater understanding of both the development of the town and its relationship with other settlements in the area is possible.

## 6 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Also thanks: to the Curatorial staff at ACAHM, The National Library of Wales and The Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments (Wales), for their help during the desk-based assessment.

Thanks to the Campbell family for all their help and hospitality during the fieldwork phase.

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1434 Burgage Tenants Map (Bignall, 1991).

1595 Burgage Tenants Map (Bignall, 1991).

1568 Camden's Wales (part of Britannia)(Bignall, 1991).

1611 John Speed's map (Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain)(Bignall, 1991).

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1838 Tithe Map of Newport Parish in the County of Pembrokeshire.

1891 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6" Map Pembrokeshire Sheet V SE.

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## Photographic Sources

### RCHAM(W) ARCHIVE:

#### *RAF Aerial Photographic Sources*

Sheet 138:	Sortie	Frame	Date
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	75-207	580	08/06/75

#### *Low Level Photographs*

Back and White:	Sortie	Frame
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	“	19
	“	20
	“	21
	“	22

## **APPENDICES**

## APPENDIX I: CONTEXT REGISTER

1	modern overburden
2	Topsoil
3	Subsoil
4	Natural clay
5	Fill of 7
6	Fill of 7
7	Cut of linear
8	Cut of cultivation scar
9	Fill of 8
10	Cut of cultivation scar
11	Fill of 10
12	Cut of cultivation scar
13	Fill of 12
14	Cut of cultivation scar
15	Fill of 14
16	Cut of cultivation scar
17	Fill of 16
18	Cut of cultivation scar
19	Fill of 18
20	Fill of 21
21	Cut of pit
22	Fill of 23
23	Cut of linear
24	Fill of 25
25	Cut of cultivation scar
26	Fill of 27
27	Cut of cultivation scar
28	Fill of 29
29	Cut of cultivation scar
30	Fill of 31
31	Cut of cultivation scar
32	Fill of 33
33	Cut of linear
34	Fill of 35
35	Cut of cultivation scar
36	Fill of 37
37	Cut of linear
38	Fill of 39
39	Cut of linear
40	Fill of 41
41	Cut of cultivation scar
42	Fill of 43
43	Cut of cultivation scar
44	Fill of 45
45	Cut of ditch
46	Fill of 47
47	Cut of cultivation scar



48	Fill of 49
49	Cut of cultivation scar
50	Fill of 51
51	Cut of cultivation scar
52	Fill of 53
53	Modern posthole
54	Fill of 55
55	Cut of posthole
56	Fill of 57
57	Cut of posthole
58	Fill of 59
59	Cut of posthole
60	Fill of 61
61	Cut of cultivation scar
62	Fill of 63
63	Cut of cultivation scar
64	Fill of 65
65	Cut of cultivation scar
66	Fill of 67
67	Cut of cultivation scar
68	Fill of 45
69	Fill of 70
70	Cut of cultivation scar.

## APPENDIX II: FINDS REGISTER

### Key to Pottery Fabric Abbreviations:

**BSW** – Brown Stoneware  
**BSS** – Bristol/Staffordshire Slipware  
**BSM** – Bristol/Staffordshire Mottled  
**BW** – Blackware  
**BC** – Bone China  
**CB** – Coalmeasures Buff  
**CMB** – Coalmeasures Black  
**CMR** – Coalmeasures Red  
**CW** – Cream Ware  
**DW** – Delft Ware  
**DWW** – Industrially produced Developed White Wares  
**ESW** – English Stone Ware  
**FP** – Flower Pot  
**GRE** – Lead-Glazed Red Earthenware  
**ISW** – Industrial Stone Ware  
**IYW** - Industrially produced Yellow ware  
**LRE** – Local Red Earthenware.  
**LRE (LG)** – Local Red Earthenware Lead Glazed  
**MP** – Midland Purple  
**ND** – North Devon Gravel Tempered Ware  
**PW** - Pearlware  
**SGW** – South Glamorgan Ware  
**SW** – Slipware  
**SWW** – Surrey Whiteware (Tudor Green)  
**SRS** – Staffs Red Stoneware  
**TG** – Tudor Green  
**ESG** – English Salt Glazed Stoneware  
**WdSW** – Westerwald German Stoneware  
**YSW**- Bristol or Staffs Buff Coalmeasures

## **CASTLE INN FINDS 2000**

### **Unstrat, trench 3**

- 1 Fragment BC. 2g.
- 5 Fragments siltstone tempered. (Dyfed or Powys origin) medieval. 38g
- 2 Fragments CMR. C17-mid C18. 450g

### **Context 5**

- 1 Fragment TP stem. 3g
- 1 Fragment TP mouthpiece. 1g
- 2 Fragments CMR. 7g C17-mid C18
- 1 Fragment ND. 8g
- 1 Fragment stoneware. C19-C20. 3g
- 1 Fragment BC. 4g C18-C20
- 2 Fragments CW. 6g C18
- 1 Fragment BSW. C19
- 1 Fragment PW. 1g late C18- early C19

### **Context 20**

- 1 Fragment BSM. 2g
- 3 Fragments siltstone tempered (Dyfed-Powys origin.) Medieval 6g
- 2 Fragments ND. 6g
- 1 Fragment sandy LRE. 3g

### **Context 32**

- 2 Fragments siltstone tempered (Dyfed-Powys origin). Medieval 15g

### **Context 36**

- 1 Fragment siltstone tempered (Dyfed-Powys origin). Medieval 4g
- 1 Fragment ND. 4g

### **Context 38**

- 1 Fragment TP stem. 1g
- 3 Fragments CW. 5g C18
- 2 Fragments siltstone tempered (Dyfed-Powys origin). 65g
- 1 Fragment CMR. 8g
- 1 Fragment GRE. C17-C18 5g

#### **Context 44**

- 1 Fragment TP head. 5g
- 1 Fragment sandy LRE. 75g
- 5 Fragments siltstone tempered. (Dyfed or Powys origin) medieval. 25g
- 1 Fragment BC patterned. 2g
- 1 Fragment Lusterware. 3g
- 1 Fragment BSM. 25g

#### **Context 50**

- 1 Fragment siltstone tempered. Glazed. 2g medieval

#### **Context 54**

- 1 Fragment siltstone tempered. Glazed. 5g medieval

#### **Context 62**

- 2 Fragments siltstone tempered. (Dyfed or Powys origin) medieval. 6g

#### **Discussion of the pottery (Kevin Blockley and Paul Courtney)**

The above assemblage of pottery is of mixed date.

The small assemblage of medieval pottery is typical of SW Wales with locally produced medieval forms in two fabrics (those with Dyfed siltstone inclusions, and the sandy fabrics).

By the 16<sup>th</sup> century local potting had probably died out and all the post-medieval wares were imported from some distance via the coasting trade. North Devon wares predominate in the 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Coal Measure red wares with black glazes could come from both the Buckley (Flints.)/ Preston (Lancs.) kilns and the West Midlands.

## CASTLE HOTEL METAL DETECTOR FINDS

- 1 Silver spoon handle, with initials J.H., hallmarked
- 2 Seal, with letters C.T. on one side and P.O. on the other
- 3 Two fragments moulded metal casing
- 4 Musket ball, shot
- 5 Pen knife
- 6 Lead waste, X3
- 7 Washer riveted together + remains of iron sheet in middle
- 8 A sixpence coin dated 1957
- 9 Brass handle plate
- 10 Stud
- 11 Silver twisted wire decorative piece, hallmarked
- 12 Stud
- 13 Oval metal object, buckle?
- 14 Decorated button, faint illegible markings on the back
- 15 Silver thimble, with lettered markings.
- 16 One penny coin, dated 1927
- 17 Part of stud
- 18 Chinese? coin, with markings
- 19 Commemorative decoration, with 'H.R.H. THE DUKE OF YORK MARRIED PRINCESS MAY JULY 8<sup>th</sup> 1893' inside a crest, and underneath it, two oval metal carved pictures of duke & princess. Below that, more writing - 'ENGLANDS HOPE'
- 20 Brooch decorated with patterned flowers
- 21 Metal object, purpose unknown.



## **APPENDIX III: ARCHIVE COVER SHEET**

### **CAMBRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS LTD**

Site Name:	Castle Inn, Newport.
Site Code:	CHOO
PRN:	41327
NPRN :	N/A
SAM:	N/A
Other Ref No:	CAP Report No. 146
NGR:	SM 05653913
Site Type:	Medieval Burgage Plots
Project Type:	Desk-based Assessment and Archaeological Investigation
Project Officer:	Ian Halfpenney
Project Dates:	July 2000
Categories Present:	N/A
Location of Original Archive:	Scolton Museum (delivery to be arranged)
Location of duplicate Archives:	N/A
Number of Finds Boxes:	1
Location of Finds:	Scolton Museum
Museum Reference	Not assigned
Copyright:	CAP Ltd.
Restrictions to access:	None