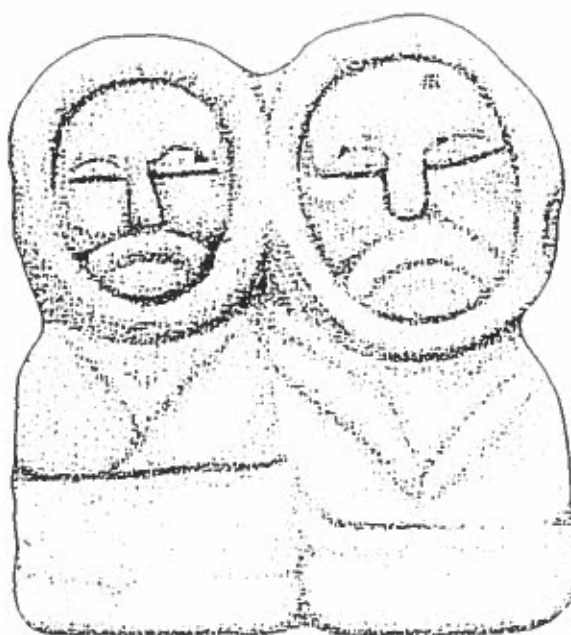


CAMBRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS

THE RED COW, BRIDGE STREET, CARMARTHEN:

Standing building recording and archaeological watching brief

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CAP Report No. 47

THE RED COW, BRIDGE STREET, CARMARTHEN:
Standing building recording and archaeological watching brief

Prepared for:
Bassett & MacGregor Housing Developments
Royal Oak Meadows
Johnstown
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Project No: 87

Date: 4 April 1998

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April 1998

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1 Introduction

1.1 Bassett & MacGregor Housing Developments sought planning consent in 1993 to carry out residential development on a plot of land on the western side of the junction between Bridge Street and Little Bridge Street (*Fig. 1*). The eastern end of the plot is occupied by an old pub known as the 'Red Cow'.

1.2 The proposed development lay at a fairly crucial position just within the boundary of the early medieval walled town of 'New Carmarthen'. The southern boundary of the plot remains delineated by the believed line of the medieval Town Wall and the 'Red Cow' stood on, or close to, the site of the medieval Bridge Street Gate (*James, 1980, Fig. 4.5 and also 4.2, 4.3, 4.4*). Adjacent to the 'Red Cow', in the Ex-Serviceman's Club, is a vaulted cellar of medieval date which is already on the local Sites & Monuments Record. As a result of these factors, a planning condition (No. 15) was placed upon the outline planning consent by the Planning Authority acting on the advice of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust's curatorial services. The planning condition called for a suitable programme of archaeological investigation and recording to be carried out prior to the development works.

1.3 Subsequent changes in the development proposals led to a new brief for archaeological works being prepared (*copy included here as Appendix 3*). The new brief allowed a scaling down of the archaeological work recommended initially (*project brief, para.1.*), because the detail changes in the new scheme meant that the shell of the 'Red Cow' was to be kept and repaired; new internal partitions would allow for conversion of the structure into two flats. The result was that below ground disturbance within the Red Cow structure would be neither deep or extensive. In addition to the development of the existing structure, the garden area to the rear (west) of the structure would be developed as 'new build' into a unit of six flats. This structure was to be founded on a complex of linear concrete footings poured into purpose dug trenches; the structure would occupy most of the garden area and abut onto the western wall of the existing 'Red Cow' (*see Fig. 3*).

1.4 The Red Cow structure had already been re-roofed and the ground floor re-laid as a concrete slab over a UPVC membrane; both alterations had been carried out within recent years. The project brief acknowledged that these refurbishments had probably destroyed most features of historical or architectural interest. Alterations to the remaining shell (i.e the four walls) of the Red Cow would be minimal, being largely confined to:-

- a) converting the existing front door opening into a window
- b) minor alterations to some of the other window openings
- c) the conversion of the north easternmost window on the ground floor into the main doorway.

1.5 The requirements of the new project brief were:-

i) a record be made of any surviving structural features of interest within the shell of the Red Cow

ii) the depths of medieval levels and natural subsoil should be recorded where encountered during the digging of the foundation trenches in the garden area to the rear of the old pub in order to provide information on the medieval topography of this area of the town.

iii) a record be made of any other archaeological features or layers that might be exposed in the already existing trial pits and also during the digging of the foundation trenches. It was also specified that this component should attempt to establish the type and date range of any finds.

In essence, component i) was intended to create a record of the interior of the standing building, whilst ii) and iii) comprised a watching brief on the digging of the foundations.

1.6 As a result, Bassett and MacGreggor Housing Developments commissioned Cambrian Archaeological Projects to undertake the work detailed above. This report details the results.

2 The site and methodology

2.1 The southern edge of the development plot was formed by a stone wall, which is believed to be on the line of the medieval Town Wall. The south face of this wall dropped nearly vertically onto Little Bridge Street, which itself drops at moderate slope downwards to the west. Thus, the south eastern corner of the garden area lay c. 2m above Little Bridge Street, whilst the south western corner lay c. 5m above that street. The western boundary of the development area was a random stone wall c. 2.3m high. Beyond this lay another garden plot, the ground surface of which lay c. 0.3m below the ground level of the development area. On the north side, the development was bounded by the Ex-Serviceman's Club, which features a vaulted cellar of medieval date. A doorway through the north wall of the Red Cow has at some stage connected the ground floor of the pub to the vaulted cellar. The east side of the development fronts onto Bridge Street. A local shopkeeper told this author that other vaulted cellars or 'tunnels' were found when buildings were demolished in the 1960's along the southern side of the junction between Little Bridge Street and Bridge Street (i.e. c. 5m to the south of the Red Cow); this may be simply local legend.

Building recording

2.2 The 'Red Cow' had been gutted and the internal rendering removed to the height of the top of the ground floor ceiling joists around *most of* the four main walls prior to the preparation of the new project brief (*Appendix 3*). No render had been removed above this level. In addition, some of the exterior render had been removed from an area around

the main entrance on the east wall. Within the Red Cow structure, the foundation trenches for the new internal partition walls were dug by 1.2 ton mini-excavator. The trenches were c. 0.4m wide and c. 0.5m deep (below the top of the floor slab).

2.3 The project brief specified that a series of overlapping colour photographs be taken of the interior of the Red Cow structure and that these be annotated with short written descriptions supported by sketch elevations at a scale of 1:50. The colour photographs were taken using various exposures both with and without electronic flash. The film and frame numbers (together with an indication of the linear horizontal extent of each group of photographic exposures) were recorded on the (archive) elevation drawings. This will facilitate reference to, and comparison of, the photographic and drawn records. Photographs were also taken of more pertinent features on the outside of the building.

2.4 The brief required that the sketch elevations show the different materials used, blocked entrances and butt joints etc. In the event, it was decided that drawing true scale elevations (at scale 1:50) of each wall would involve little extra work and so these were drawn and annotated (*the east wall is reproduced below as Fig. 4*), the few features of any note being labelled alphabetically on the elevation drawings.

The watching brief

2.5 The garden area to the west of the 'Red Cow' had been cleared of scrub vegetation shortly before the recording works were undertaken and three engineers test pits had been dug (each measuring c. 1m square).

2.6 The foundation trenches in the garden area were excavated by a 6 ton, 360 degree tracked excavator with a 0.5m toothed bucket. The ground level of the garden was first reduced by c. 0.3m, after which the foundation trenches were laid out and excavated (Fig. 3). These were c. 1.5 metres deep from the new surface on the east side of the garden adjacent to the Red Cow, decreasing to c. 1m deep at the west end (*Fig. 5*).

2.7 The project brief required that the (existing) test pits be recorded with depths of horizons related to Ordnance Datum. These test pits had been partially-back filled prior to the recording exercise. The test pits lay close to, or on the line of, the proposed foundation trench system, and in the event the information was recreated in a more widely viewable and hence more easily interpretable form during the digging of the foundation trenches.

2.8 During the digging of the foundation trenches in the garden area, context sheets were used for all significant layers and features. In keeping with the project brief, both an east-west and north-south profile (showing surface profiles and sub-surface levels) of the development plot were drawn; numbers in brackets in this report refer to context numbers allocated during the watching brief and correspond to the same layers etc. shown in Figs. 3, 5 & 6 (where they are shown without brackets). The trenches were

photographed and a copy of the original architects layout drawing (scale 1:50, showing property boundaries) was amended as a detailed trench and feature location plan and is included with the archive.

2.9 The finds consisted entirely of sherds of pottery and pieces of bottle dating to the late 19th or early 20th century; these were not kept as they would be of little research value. No contexts suitable for sampling were seen; no samples were taken.

2.10 The fieldwork was undertaken between the 17th and 26th of March 1998. The site code was REDCOW 98 and the site archive (colour photographs and drawings) will be deposited with the Sites and Monuments Record, Llandeilo in compliance with the project brief.

3 The recording of the standing building

3.1 It should be remembered that the render had only been removed from the ground floor walls up to the height of the top of the ceiling joists. The only internal features that remained were two modern (and very large) steel RSJs (features 'J' and (U)).

The east wall (Fig. 4 & archive drawing 1)

3.1 The main doorway (I) for the pub lay on this wall, which also featured three windows, (A), (B) and (C) on each floor; all four ground floor features had wooden lintels. The render had not been removed from around window (A), but ornamental brick quoins were exposed around the jambs of windows (B) and (C). Two modern RSJ floor supports (features (J) and (U)) crossed from the east wall to the west wall. The southernmost RSJ, (J), had replaced an earlier wooden cross beam that originally ran from a bricked-up socket (K) to another bricked-up socket (also labelled 'K') on the west wall. This had probably supported floor joists running northwards to a beam sited in the vicinity of RSJ (U) and also floor joists running southwards to feature (Q) on the south wall.

3.2 The whole wall was formed of random rubble 'brought to course'. The stonework was laid largely as 'stretchers' from 0.2 - 0.4m (maximum) in size and of blocky / platy nature, the whole being bonded with grey white mortar of late 18th / early 19th century type. With the exception of the feature discussed below (*para.* 3.3), the wall would seem to have been built in a single phase.

3.3 The only feature of note on this wall was fireplace (L). This was 2.4m wide, stood 2.3m tall and projected 0.29m into the room from the main alignment of the east wall. The render had only been removed from the southern side of the feature but this could be seen to be formed from large squared or snecked rubble; some of the stones appeared to be dressed. The bonding was a distinctive light yellow brown / buff mortar and the lintel appears to have been wood. The top of the fireplace was level with the original floor

boards and above this, a smaller chimney flue (M) rose from fireplace (L) and continued up the wall of the 1st floor (projecting 0.1m into the room) to the height of the eaves. Examination of fireplace (L) in the north jamb of the main pub doorway (I) revealed that the rear (i.e. eastern) part of the hearth had been removed so that the late 18th century type east wall could be continued through on line (see archive film 71/16 and 71/17). This fireplace pre-dated the Red Cow structure but had been re-used before being blocked off with late 19th century type bricks and rendered over.

The south wall (archive drawing 2)

3.6 Again, the whole wall was formed of random rubble 'brought to course'. The stonework was laid largely as 'stretchers' from 0.2 - 0.35m in size and of blocky / platy nature, the whole being bonded with grey white mortar of late 18th / early 19th century type. The wall would seem to have been built in a single phase.

The west wall (archive drawing 3)

3.7 Channel (Q) entered the west wall just to the north of window (E). Some 3m to the north, the bricked-up socket for a beam (K) matches a similar socket on the east wall (*para. 3.1*). It is proposed that 'beams'(Q) and (K) supported floor joists running north south.

3.8 Another bricked up socket (P), probably also for an east - west cross beam, was located underneath socket (K). This may be an indication that there was an earlier and lower floor within the building, but there was no other evidence for this.

3.9 Below and just to the west of (P) was a substantial fireplace (R). The side jambs were of large random stone construction and the original lintel was probably wood. This feature had been bricked up in the later 19th century. There had been considerable remodelling of the wall above fireplace delimited in the north side by a vertical joint (S). Steel RSJ (J) also entered the wall above the fireplace and an existing doorway opening (F) on the 1st floor led to a steel fire escape into the garden.

3.10 To the north of fireplace was a wide doorway (T) featuring large dressed stone quoins. The south edge of this doorway lay 5m to the south of the north wall, matching the south edge of doorway (I) on the east wall and possibly indicating that the building had a straight through passageway from front to rear at one time. This door had been blocked with late 19th century bricks. The lintel was removed at a later date when RSJ (U) was inserted and the lintel area bricked-up with 20th century type bricks. RSJ (U) crossed the building to slot into the east wall on the top corner of fireplace (L). The existing doorway (G) to the garden area was situated near the north west corner of the building and may have been a replacement for doorway (T).

3.11 Apart from the above features and alterations, it could be seen that the whole wall was formed of random rubble 'brought to course'. The stonework was laid largely as

'stretchers' from 0.2 - 0.4m in size and of blocky / platy nature, the whole being bonded with a uniform grey white mortar of late 18th / early 19th century type. The wall would seem to have been built in a single phase and be of the same style and materials as the east and south walls.

The north wall (archive drawing 4)

3.12 Note:-

- a) this wall does not form a right angle with the rest of the Red Cow building,
- b) it extends on the same alignment to the west where it compliments the boundary at the west end of the plot.
- c) two early cellar walls on the same alignment were recorded in the garden area during the watching brief (para. 4.5).

3.13 This featured a blocked-off doorway opening (H) some 1.5m west of the east wall. This doorway featured ornamental quoins to the jambs of late 18th or early 19th century brick. At some stage, the door has connected the Red Cow with the medieval vaulted cellar some 0.9m to the north (in the ex-Servicemen's Club).

3.14 The most recent feature was a channel (V) along the wall at ceiling height for floor joists, the gaps between the (removed) joists being filled with late 19th century brickwork; this channel feature occurred only to the west of doorway (H). This, together with signs of a partition rising through the first floor above the east side of doorway (H) may indicate that the most recent staircase lay in the north east corner of the pub adjacent to the old fireplace (L) and window (A).

3.15 The masonry of the wall for c. 0.5m below feature (V) was identical in materials and nature to that on the west wall, i.e. random stone stretchers (W) 'brought to course' obviously selected to give a nice, flush, internal face as with all the other walls. Below this the wall featured several changes all separated by sharp boundaries. Below (W) were three course of more blocky type stones (X) in grey mortar which overlay a zone of 3 courses of crude uncoursed random stone (Y) in greyish, brownish white mortar with a very irregular and rough face; this latter featured three 18th century type bricks (X) and the same type (but without bricks) also formed most of the visible masonry of the north wall to the east of door (H). Below this, the lowest 1.4m of the wall to the west of doorway (H) was formed from crude, uncoursed rubble (Z) with a very irregular wall face and bonded with light yellow brown / buff mortar. This type of mortar occurred at two other locations:- in fireplace (L) and wall (03) (para. 4.5). It was evident that this lowest part of the wall was earlier than the courses above and hence than the other three walls. It featured a patch of buff plaster (Y) that had remnants of ochrous cobalt blue and ochrous vermilion red paint adhering to it.

4 The archaeological watching brief

4.1 Prior to the digging of the foundation trenches, c. 0.3m of overburden / rubble (01) was removed from most of the garden area in order to reduce the ground level. At the west end of the plot, this revealed a brick paved surface (16) and remnants of various beaten earth and concrete surfaces (2) extending to the Red Cow to the east.

4.2 Surface (16) was covered in old roof slates overlying numerous finds of mid-20th century date (including a 1943 farthing and a 1963 2/- piece). These indicated that the west end of the plot was a roofed building probably in use as a shed which has collapsed on it's contents. This would fit well with map evidence and Wood's map of 1834 (*Fig. 2*) shows a building at this end of the plot. The footings (15) for the eastern wall of this building were seen running roughly north-south in the northernmost foundation trench (*Fig. 5*).

4.3 An old topsoil type layer (14) c. 0.2 -0.3m deep lay below ground surface (02) / (16) around virtually all of the foundation trench system; no finds earlier than 18th century were seen in this layer. This soil lay directly on top of banded coarse sands and fine gravels (05). These were utterly sterile and extended to the bottom of the foundation trench everywhere except the locations indicated in paras. 4.5 - 4.5 below. The nature of context (05) was entirely consistent with it being a succession of deposits of water sorted sands and gravels of fluvio-glacial origin and the layer was undoubtedly subsoil. The top lay almost universally at c. 18.0m O.D.

4.4 A live sewer (17) cut through the plot running north-south from the Ex-Servicemen's Club to Little Bridge Street. The stone foundations (18) and pipework for an old outside toilet block (i.e. the 'gents') lay in the centre of the garden area. This was almost entirely removed during machining.

4.5 A wall (03) ran westwards from the west side of the Red Cow in the northern foundation trench at a slight diagonal to the west wall of the Red Cow, but on the same alignment as the north (internal) wall of the Red Cow (which extended to the west as the south wall of the Ex-Servicemen's Club, *see Fig. 3*). The wall, which extended below the bottom of the trench, was a single stone in width (c. 0.25m), stood c. 1m high within the trench and was bonded with buff mortar (similar to features (L) and (Z) inside the Red Cow structure).

4.6 Cellar (03) had been deliberately back filled, apparently just after the Red Cow was constructed. The lowest observed fill of cellar (03) on the west side was a dump of silty loamy soil (07), whilst to the east (09) the lowest fill was large random stone rubble that overlay the footings (11) of the Red Cow. Above these cellar fills was a layer of grey 'Caernavon' type roof slates (08) overlain by a brown silty loam (10) upon which various pathways (13) (consisting of a succession of various mortar, ash and brick surfaces) had been laid. To the west of (13) was a landfill of topsoil material that

underlay surface (02) and was probably the continuation of soil layer (14) to the west of sewer (17).

4.7 Wall (03) was the southern wall of an old cellar that definitely pre-dated the Red Cow structure, for:-

a) the footings (11) of the Red Cow also extended below the bottom of the trench at this point (and in cellar (04) below) whereas in the central trench these footings sat on top of the subsoil.

b) the lowest observed back fill (09) overlay the footings (11) of the Red Cow.

4.7 Some 7.3m to the south of wall (03), part of a second cellar was found in the southern foundation trench. The north wall (04) of this cellar lay along the southern edge of the southern foundation trench on a parallel alignment to wall (03) and was identical in size and materials to wall (03). Wall (04) was removed by machine exposing a deep landfill of rubble and 18th century type demolition materials in a silty loam matrix (06).

4.8 Within the Red Cow structure, the excavation of the foundation trenches for the internal partition walls showed that the subsoil (05) lay just below the hard-core for the concrete slab in the central are of the building whereas the northern trench contained a brick rubble fill (19) and a similar layer (20) was exposed at the south end of the structure. The boundaries between these layers and the subsoil would lie approximately on the alignment(s) of walls (03) and (04) outside the building and it is proposed that landfill (19) represented late Victorian backfill of a cellar feature that predated the Red Cow as cellar (03), but the portion that lay within the 'new' structure carried on in use. Similarly, it is proposed that (20) also represents later usage of the portion of cellar (04) that was incorporated into the Red Cow.

5 Conclusions

5.1 The materials and features noted during the recording of the interior of the ground floor of the Red Cow indicate that the east, south and west walls were a single phase of 'new build' dating to the late 18th / early 19th centuries. The basal courses of the north wall and fireplace (L)/(M) were without doubt earlier; the wall was on a different 'property alignment' (i.e. the opportunity seems to have been taken during construction of the Red Cow to 'straighten up' the plot). The masonry of the north wall above this early wall seems too have been contemporary with the rest of the Red Cow. Just outside the structure in the garden area, two earlier cellar walls were found that may have been (on the basis of identical mortar types) broadly contemporary with fireplace (L)/(M) and the lower part of the north wall. No firm date could be established for any of these earlier features. It seems likely that the portion of cellars (03) and (04) that fell within the 'new build' were re-used within the structure.

5.2 The rest of the blocked-in features were probably largely original features from the construction of the Red Cow. There seems to have been much remodelling of fireplaces and doorways in the later 19th century and again in the mid 20th century. There is a butt joint on the exterior of the south west corner of the building between the Red Cow and the Town Wall which indicates that footings of the south wall of the Red Cow were purpose built at the same time as the wall above. The detail revealed around the exterior of the doorway (I) by removal of some of the external rendering largely confirms that the east wall was of late 18th / early 19th century date.

5.3 There remains the possibility of further recording works being required should the render be removed from the rest of the exterior of the shell. It seems unlikely that detailed recording of the exterior of the shell will reveal any information that would alter the interpretations summarised above.

5.4 The watching brief in the garden revealed that the western end of the plot had been occupied until fairly recent times by a structure of almost equal ground floor plan to the Red Cow. This information is confirmed by map evidence of 1834 (*Fig. 2*), which also appears to show the Red Cow as an existing structure.

5.5 With the exception of the two cellars (03) and (04), no early features were exposed in the garden area. Instead, it seems likely that the plot had been cleared or re-terraced at the time of the construction of the Red Cow; the top of the subsoil (05) today lies consistently at 18.0 - 18.1m O.D. This part of 'New Carmarthen' lies right on the edge of the river terrace (*James, 1980*) and the materials of (05) would be entirely consistent with water sorted sands/gravels of fluvio-glacial origin. No finds earlier than the late 18th century were observed in soil (14).

6. Acknowledgements

Kevin Blockley prepared the illustrations. Thanks are extended to the machine driver, Alan MacGregor (of Bassett and MacGregor Housing Developments) for his patience, co-operation and assistance during the watching brief.

7. Bibliography

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- Wood, J. 1834 Map of Carmarthen.

APPENDIX 1: Summary of structural features in the Red Cow and Contexts

Structural features

- (A) existing window opening on east wall (archive drawing 1)
- (B) existing window opening on east wall (archive drawing 1)
- (C) existing window opening on east wall (archive drawing 1)
- (D) existing window opening on south wall (archive drawing 2)
- (E) existing window opening on south wall (archive drawing 2)
- (F) existing doorway opening, 1st floor on west wall (archive drawing 3)
- (G) existing doorway opening, ground floor on west wall (archive drawing 3)
- (H) existing doorway opening, ground floor on north wall (archive drawing 4)
- (I) existing doorway opening, ground floor on east wall (archive drawing 1)
- (J) modern RSJ floor support and socket (east & west walls), (archive drawings 1 & 3)
- (K) bricked-up socket, floor support beam, east & west walls (archive drawings 1 & 3)
- (L) fireplace on east wall, pre-dating Red Cow structure (archive drawing 1)
- (M) chimney flue on 1st floor rising from fireplace (L) (archive drawing 1)
- (N) bricked-up fireplace on south wall (archive drawing 2)
- (O) chimney flue rising from fireplace (N) (archive drawing 2)
- (P) bricked-up socket for floor support beam, west wall below (K), (archive drawings 3)
- (Q) channel along south wall for floor joists (archive drawings 1, 2 & 3)
- (R) bricked-up fireplace on west wall (archive drawing 3)
- (S) butt joint, vertical, above north side of fireplace (R), (archive drawing 3)
- (T) doorway, bricked-up, on west wall (archive drawing 3)
- (U) modern RSJ floor support and socket (east & west walls), (archive drawings 1 & 3)
- (V) channel along north wall for floor joists (archive drawings 4)
- (W) random masonry of north wall below feature (V) (archive drawing 4)
- (X) masonry courses of north wall below feature (W) (archive drawing 4)
- (Y) patch of early buff mortar on (Z) and (X) on north wall featuring patches of ochrous cobalt blue and vermillion red paint masonry (archive drawing 4)
- (Z) ?old wall, mortar/masonry of north wall below feature (Y) (archive drawing 4)

Contexts (for the watching brief)

- (01) landfill - recent soil and demolition rubble
- (02) surface - recent ground / yard pre-dating (01)
- (03) south wall of cellar in northern foundation trench
- (04) north wall of cellar in southern foundation trench
- (05) subsoil
- (06) fill of cellar (04)
- (07) dump - lowest observed fill of cellar (03)
- (08) dump - slate fill of cellar (03) above fill (07)
- (09) dump - rubble fill of cellar (03)
- (10) dump - soil fill of cellar (03) above (08)

- (11) masonry footings - west wall of the Red Cow
- (12) deposit - soil ?landfill above (10)
- (13) surfaces - successive ?pathways alongside wall (11)
- (14) ?old topsoil - below (02) and (16)
- (15) wall - east wall of old building at west end of garden area
- (16) paved surface - floor of old building at west end of garden
- (17) cut and fill - live sewer service from Ex-Servicemen's Club
- (18) structure - old toilet block in centre of garden area
- (19) cellar fill - inside Red Cow at north end
- (20) cellar fill - inside Red Cow at south end

APPENDIX 2: Contents of the site archive

Brief by Cambria Archaeology Curatorial (Appendix 3)

a. Original Site Drawings

Sheet 1:- elevations

Sheet 2:- site profiles

Paper location plan

b. Client Report

c. Context sheets 1-20

d) Colour print films (CAP Film nos 70, 71 and 72)

e) Photographic record sheets (3 off)

f) Various photocopies of engineer's drawings

APPENDIX 3: The project brief

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROGRAMME OF WORK

Development at the Red Cow, Bridge Street, Carmarthen.

Introduction

This revised brief has been prepared at short notice on behalf of Carmarthenshire County Council, and for the contractors on the above site, Bassett and McGregor to submit to the Planning Authority to discharge condition 15 in their outline planning consent (REF) for the above residential development. It revises a draft brief prepared for the Planning Authority by the then Dyfed Archaeological Trust's curatorial services in 1993. Changes in the development proposals have now allowed for a scaling down of the archaeological work initially recommended. This Brief is being forwarded both to Bassett and McGregor and to the Planning Department of Carmarthenshire County Council. In order for it to constitute the 'written programme of archaeological work' required to discharge the condition, both the Authority and the applicants must agree to the document and a professional archaeologist must be engaged by the applicants to carry out the work.

Archaeological Interest:

This has been spelled out in the previous draft brief and in correspondence with the Local Planning Authority contained within the planning applications files. Briefly the building and garden to the rear lie within the heart of the early medieval walled town of New Carmarthen, adjacent to the former Bridge Street Gate, and bounded on the south side by the medieval Town Wall, a listed structure within the town's Conservation Area. Adjacent to the 'Red Cow', in the ex-Serviceman's Club, is a vaulted cellar of medieval date which gives some indication of the type and quality of medieval town house that was located within this area. It is recognized that whatever architectural interest the Red Cow building may once have had, the more recent conversions and re-roofing have destroyed most features of interest. It is also recognized that the shell of the building will now be utilized for a new structure and there is unlikely to be extensive below ground disturbance on its site.

Purpose of Archaeological Work.

The purpose of the archaeological work is to make a record of what survives of structural interest in the shell of the former Red Cow, now exposed after removal of rendering. In the open area to the rear a record should be made of the depths at which medieval levels are encountered and the subsoil, thus indicating the original ground levels and providing information on the medieval topography of this area of the town. A records should be made of any features encountered in the existing trial pits and that may be exposed in the foundation, strip trench for the new 'wing' to the rear to be built in the garden. The type and date range of any finds should be recorded and, subject to the agreement of the landowner, they should be deposited in Carmarthen Museum, after their advice has been taken on what should be retained and what discarded.

Specifications for work to fulfill the above archaeological purposes:

The record of the inside of the building now exposed by removal of rendering shall be made by means of a series of overlapping colour photographs annotated with short written descriptions and sketch elevations to a 1:50 scale, showing the different materials used, blocked entrances and butt joints. This is intended as a rapid survey only. If the rendering on the outside of the building is removed, the contracting archaeologist shall be afforded the opportunity to correlate the survey records with the exterior elevations and take a fresh set of photographs.

A record, with depths relateable to Ordnance datum, shall be made of soil depths and horizons exposed in the test pits. This should take the form of a profile of surface and excavated levels both down the length of the garden and carried through to Bridge Street and across incorporating the town wall and its base in lower Bridge Street. (see attached sketch for explanation). Details can be added, by projection if necessary from a watching brief of the strip trenches.

If any features are observed in the sides or base of the strip trench (maximum depth said to be 0.9 m. below existing surface levels), they and the trench outlines shall be plotted onto a 1:50 plan of the garden area showing the property boundaries.

Any finds shall be retrieved and a summary list made of their type, approximate quantity, and date range. Subject to consultation with Carmarthen Museum, a selection shall be made for deposit in Carmarthen Museum. The provisions of the Treasure Act and the Burials Act shall be adhered to.

Any requirements made by Carmarthenshire County Council's Conservation Officer, in respect of the protection and refurbishment of the Listed section of Medieval Town wall, shall be in addition to, and separate from, these archaeological requirements.

Reporting Arrangements.

A report on the archaeological work shall be produced for the client, the Local Planning Authority and the *Sites and Monuments Record*, maintained by Archaeolog Cambria Archaeology, Heritage Management Section. (This record has been adopted by Carmarthenshire County Council as its archaeological record for planning purposes). The report shall be produced with 6 weeks of the conclusion of the work and once deposited with the above bodies, together with a letter from the Heritage Management Section of the Trust, confirming that it fulfills the brief, constitute the discharge of outline planning condition 15.

The top copy Report for deposit in the SMR shall contain the colour photographs and negatives, with the annotations and written descriptions and sketch elevations; the other two copies of the Report need only contain photocopies.

The other archaeological records shall take the form of profiles and sections to the format suggested, and a summary list of all the finds, together with a provisional list in more detail, of any material deposited in Carmarthen Museum.

prepared by Heather James BA FSA MIFA,
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12th March 1998.

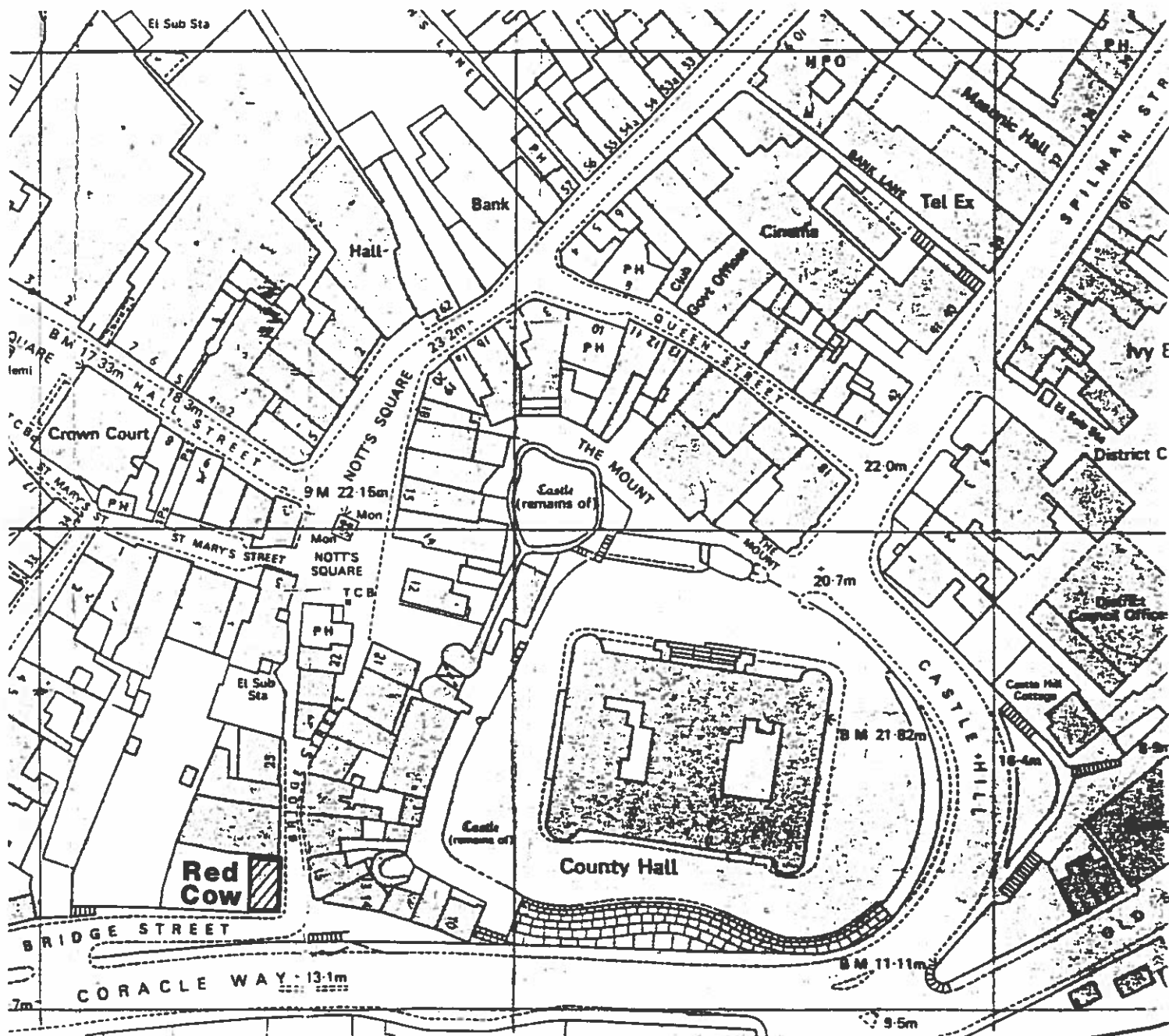


Fig. 1 Location plan of Red Cow and Carmarthen Castle



Fig. 2 Part of John Woods map of 1834

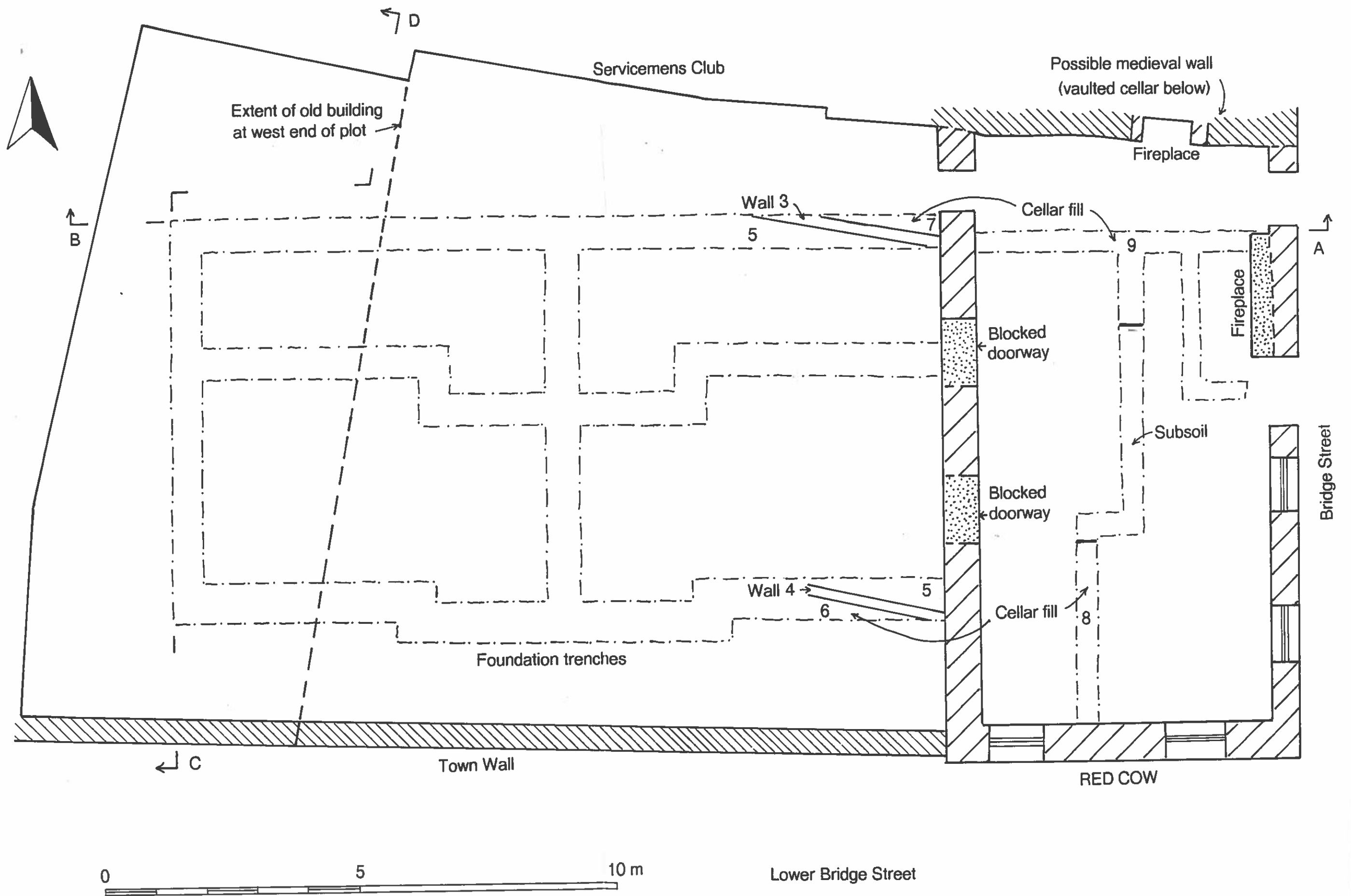


Fig. 3 Ground plan of the existing Red cow structure showing layout of new foundation trenches and location of elevations and profiles

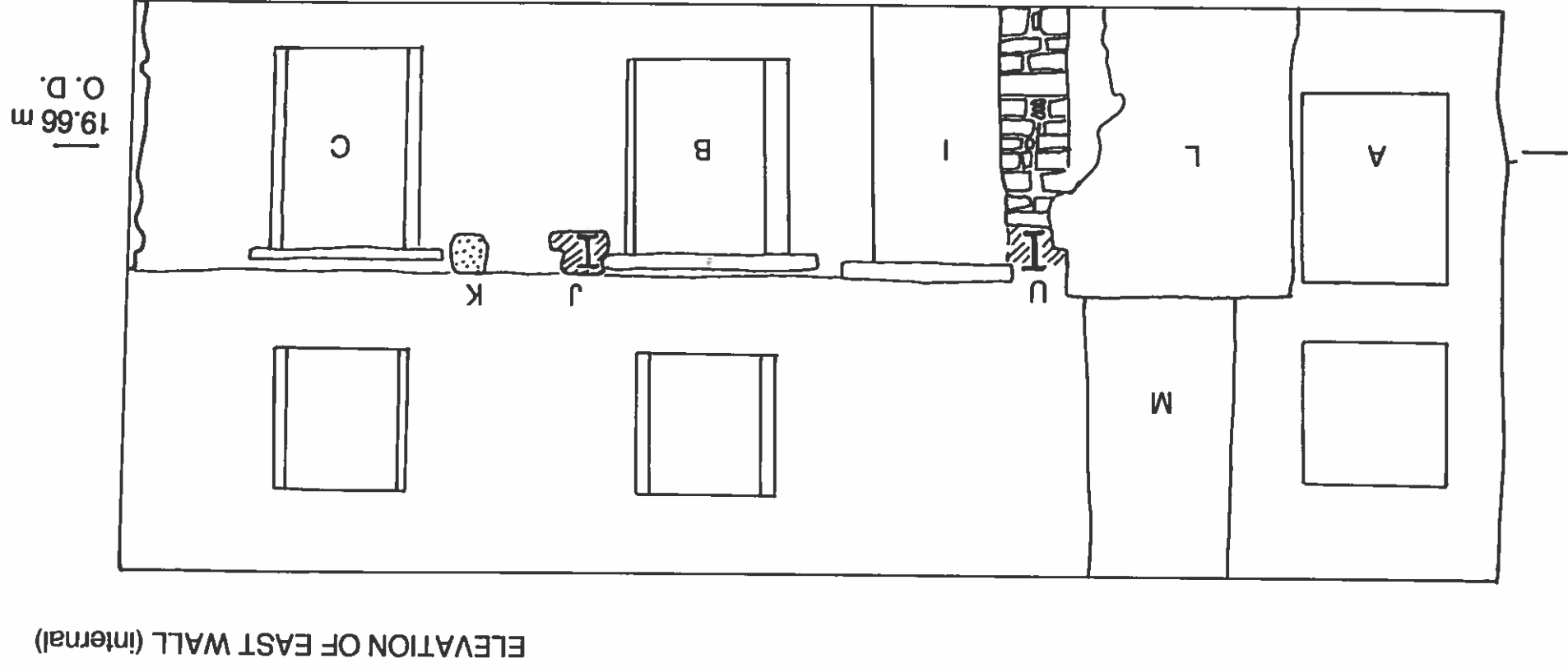


Fig. 4 Elevation (internal) of east wall of the Red Cow

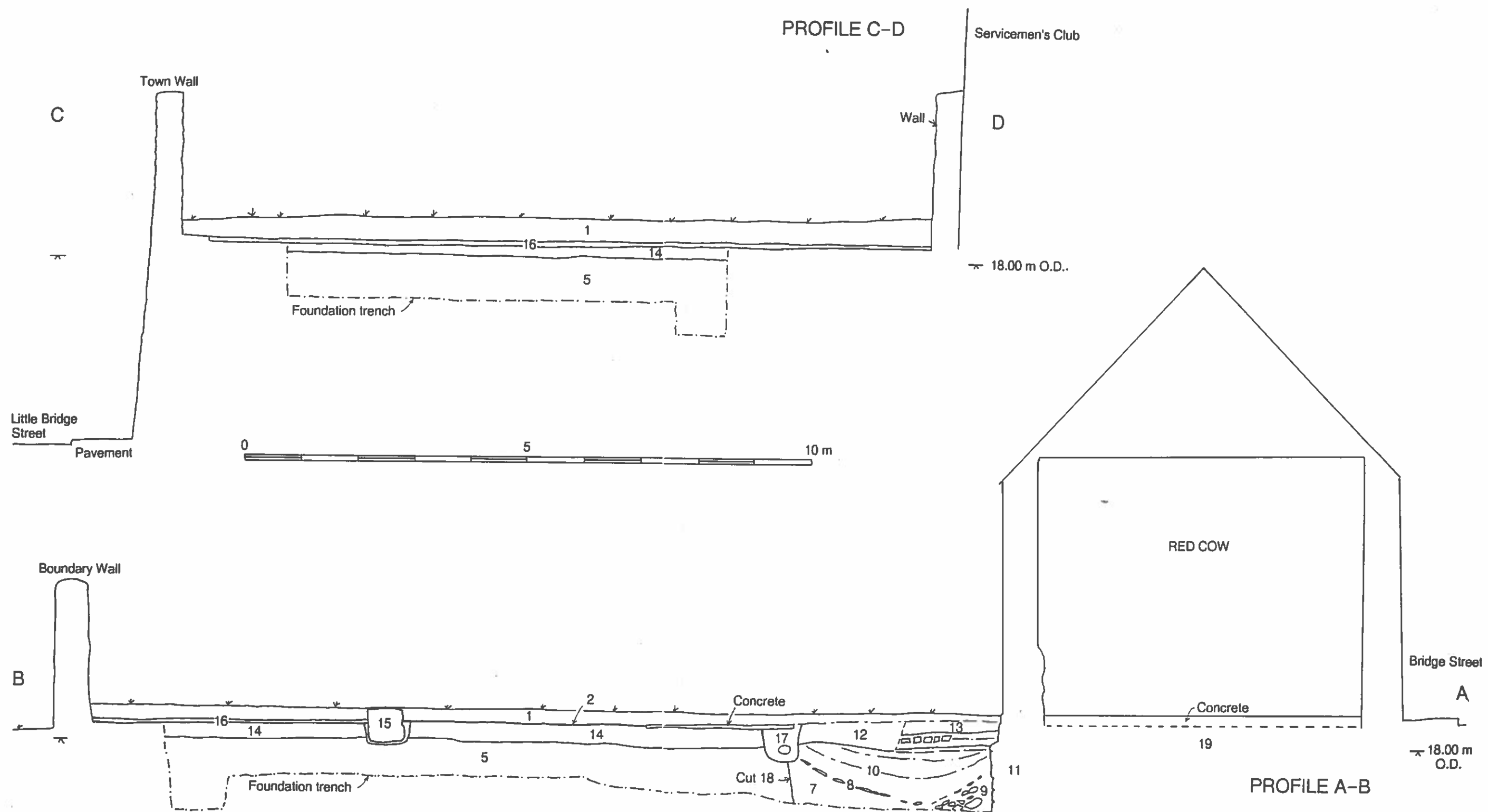


Fig. 5 Profiles A-B (east-west across development area) and C-D (north-south across development area)