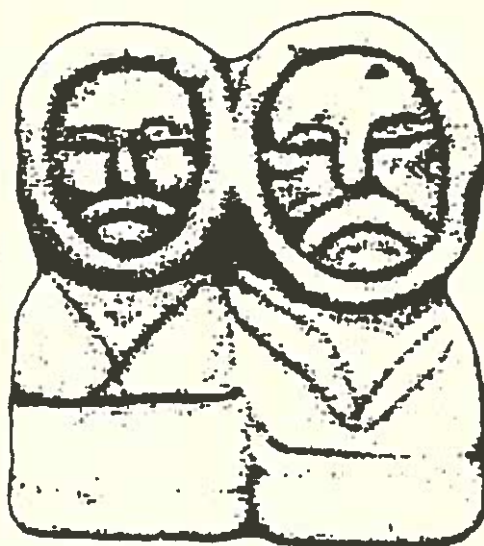


CAMBRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS



**INTRIM REPORT ON AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF SERVICE EXCAVATIONS
AROUND ABERGLASNEY MANSION**

By Phil Evans BA



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF SERVICE TRENCH EXCAVATION
AROUND ABERGLASNEY MANSION**

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March 2000

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Cambrian Archaeological Projects has been approached by the Aberglasney Restoration Trust to prepare a report on archaeological work required at Aberglasney Gardens and Mansion during the development of the project in 1998/99.
- 1.2 A report detailing the proposed archaeological scheme of investigation of the various elements of the site has already been submitted to The Aberglasney Restoration Trust (CAP Report no 39).
- 1.3 This report details the findings of the watching brief.

2 Site and methodology

- 2.1 The watching brief was undertaken on service trench excavations to the north and west of the mansion in order to record any previously undiscovered relationships between the house and the cloister garden.
- 2.2 Context records were kept for all significant layers and features.
- 2.3 All relevant features were cleaned and photographed.
- 2.4 The fieldwork commenced on the 6th March 2000 and was completed by the 22nd March 2000.
- 2.5 The ground works were excavated by machine.

3 The Watching Brief (Figures 1 & 2)

- 3.1 A service trench was cut from the manhole in the southeast corner of the cloister garden northwards along the western front of the mansion to the northeast corner of the cloister garden. The trench was cut to a maximum depth of 1.2m and a width of 0.9m. Another manhole was excavated in the northeast corner of the cloister garden and a further service trench was then excavated to the manhole at the northeast corner of the mansion.
- 3.2 A culvert ('1' Fig. 2) was located 1.5m from the manhole in the southeast corner of the cloister garden. This culvert is the same as culvert 1380 located during the excavations of the southeast corner of the cloister garden in 1999. The culvert relates to the masonry building in the southeast corner of the cloister garden and dates to the 17th century and was of a mortared stone construction with a 'cobbled' base and sealed with large flat stones.

- 3.3 Within the rest of the excavated area to the west of the mansion the only other features located were two sections of ceramic pipe, associated with 20th century drainage works, a silted up stone culvert located during the 1998 excavations, and patchy remains of the 19th century pathway in undisturbed areas ('2'- '4' Fig. 2).
- 3.4 The excavation to the north of the mansion followed the line of the previously exposed concrete pipe. The only significant archaeological features located were the 19th century pathway in front of the house and a stone built culvert running east/west along the length of the trench ('5' Fig.2). This culvert is still in use and is the same as the culvert located in the excavations in the northeast corner of cloister garden and at the eastern side of the gatehouse.
- 3.5 The excavated area to the east of the portico had previously been disturbed by landscaping works carried out during 1999 and consisted of large stone chippings which were laid to direct water into the culvert. No archaeological deposits were located in this area of the excavation.

4 Conclusions

- 4.1 The service trench excavation revealed that the area around the mansion had been heavily disturbed during the 19th and 20th centuries with the insertion of various drainage systems and pathways. Apart from the continuation of the 17th century stone built culvert in the southeastern corner of the cloister garden no other archaeological features were located.

FIGURES: 1 - 2

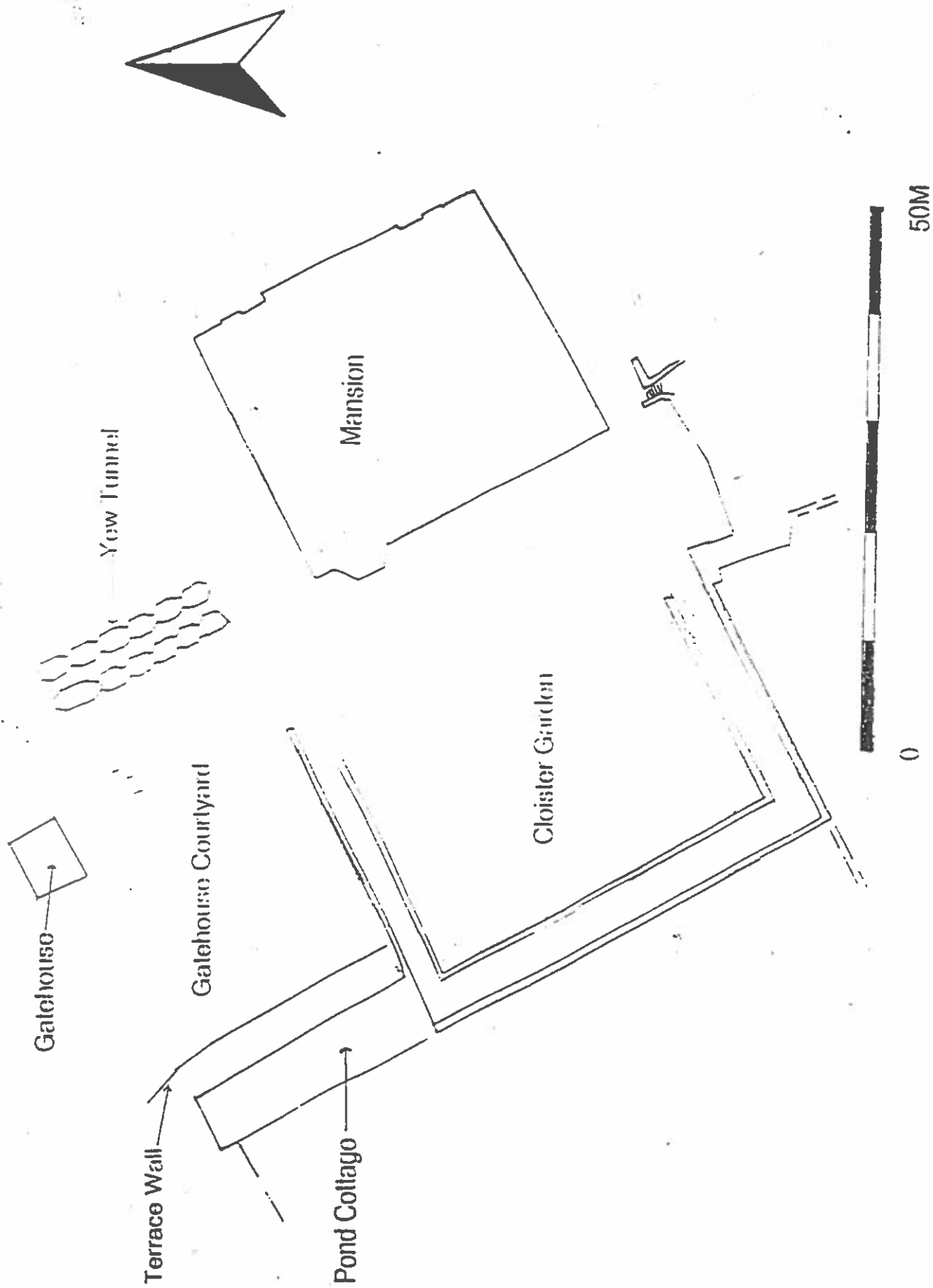


Fig 1: Location plan

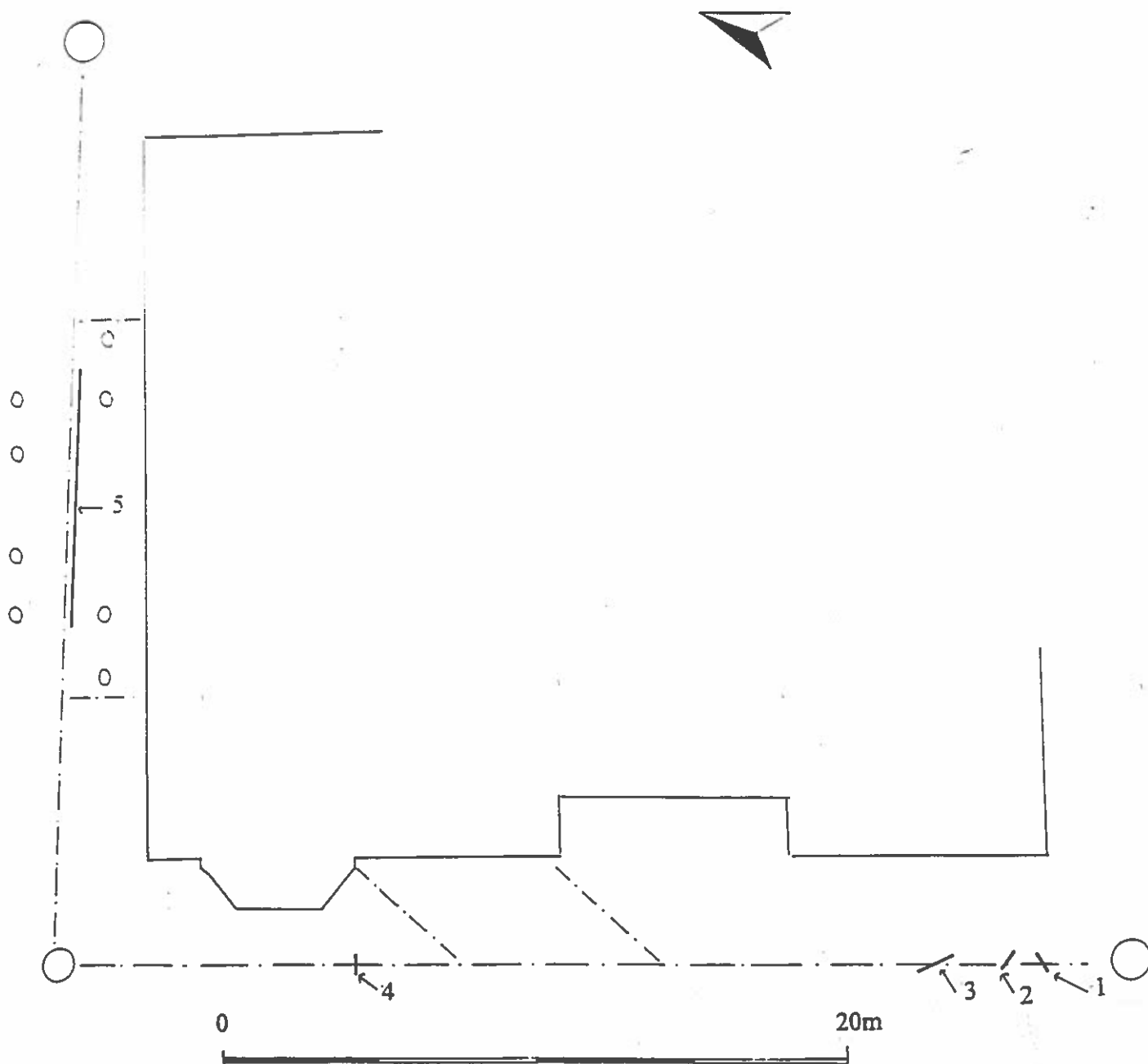


Fig 2: Service trench location and archaeological features

APPENDICES