Archaeological Watching Brief and Photographic Recording

at the rear of

DYFED

MEA.

8 St Mary Street Cardigan SA43 1HA





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Archaeological Watching Brief and Photographic Recording

at the rear of

8 St Mary Street CARDIGAN SA43 1HA



for

Mr Ian Harries
7 St Mary Street
Cardigan

and

Mr Peter Holden
Acanthus Holden Architects
Watermans Lane
The Green
Pembroke SA71 4NL

To meet a condition of Ceredigion County Council Planning Application A070533

Felicity Taylor PIfA Colin Harris Affil IfA Brian Milford

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2 Summary

The derelict structure to the rear of 8 St Mary Street was to be renovated and a single storey extension constructed on the north side. The north wall had been demolished and props put in place to support the roof. A trench dug on the line of the removed wall suggested the previous foundations extended to a considerable depth. Further excavations on the north side of the building established several periods of occupation had taken place on the site spanning many centuries. Medieval cooking pot was found with 17th century tin glazed wares and 19th century salt glazed drains.

3 Introduction

3.1 Location

Cardigan, or Aberteifi, is a medium sized town on the coast of the county of Ceredigion at the mouth of the river Teifi. No 8 lies on the north side of St Mary St in Cardigan town centre at National Grid Reference SN 17825 46032.



Figure 1 Location Map
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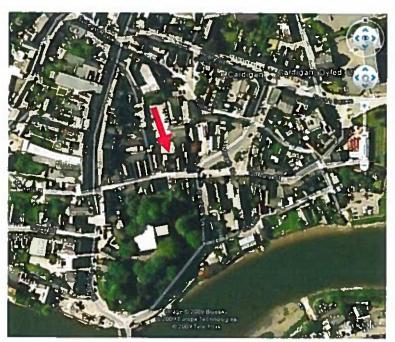


Figure 2 Aerial photograph of site – courtesy of Google Map

3.2 History and structure

Roger de Montgomery founded the Norman town and castle of Cardigan in 1093AD, but the castle was captured for the Welsh by Rhys ap Gryffudd in 1165. Edward I laid claim to the castle at the end of the thirteenth century and it remained peaceful until stormed by Cromwell in the civil war.

In Elizabethan times it was the most important port in Wales exporting fish, slate, and farm produce. It continued as an important port through to the end of the eighteenth century when the river Teifi silted up.

This derelict cottage, which is but 100m from Cardigan Castle, sits in the rear garden of 8 St Mary Street, itself a Grade II listed building. The cottage was known to have a later additional porch built against the outer north wall.

4 Objectives

The purpose of the archaeological watching brief is 'To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or potentially disruptive works' ⁴

The primary objective of this watching brief at 8 St Mary Street was to ensure that any previously unrecorded archaeological features, deposits and artefacts exposed during the ground disturbance works were adequately recorded, interpreted and reported.

5 Methodology

5.1 Methods and techniques

Digging was carried out by hand (shovel) and also using a mechanical digger fitted with a toothed bucket. The watching and recording of the trenches and the sifting of the spoil for finds was undertaken by the archaeologist.

Where necessary limited hand excavation by trowel was undertaken to further investigate those features and finds that were encountered.

5.2 Recording

The recording of the trenches was done in three formats:

- 1. Photographs were taken in digital colour format at a minimum resolution of 5 megapixels and stored as jpeg files.
- 2. Hand sketches were made on site along with measurements.
- 3. Daily records and reports were produced and stored as computer word processor files

5.3 Health and Safety

All works were carried out to the requirements of current Health and Safety regulations.

5.4 Archaeological Standards

All work was undertaken in accordance with The Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs^{11.1}.

5.5 Environmental Sampling

An environmental sampling and processing strategy was in place should the archaeological deposits warrant it.

5.6 Specialist Finds Analysis

Specialist analysis of pottery finds was carried out by Mr Steve Clarke FSA of Monmouth Archaeology. Analysis of animal remains was carried out by Ms Felicity Taylor PIFA of Church and Site Archaeological Services.

6 The Watching Brief

6.1 Work Required

The work was to repair the cottage and construct a new 2m x 2m ground floor kitchen extension. The ground works included the excavation of the old ground floor of the cottage and the digging of footings for the new extension.

6.2 The Watching Brief

The cottage was tucked behind 8 St Mary Street. On its west side was a tall stone building with a single pitch roof (Figure 3).

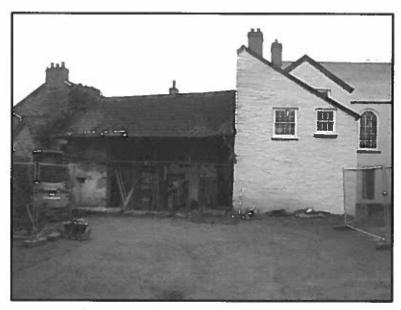


Figure 3 View from the north

The east wall of the adjoining building forms the west wall of the cottage and a blocked door through the wall suggests there was once a connection between the two (Figure 4). At the east end of the cottage there is an impressive deep fireplace. It has a timber lintel that is slightly bowed and a smaller brick fireplace has been built into the corner. On the outer north side of the fireplace is a small chimney that links into the main flue (Figure 6 & Figure 7).

A doorway had opened into the cottage in this north east corner; the threshold stone was still in place with a square insert for the door post (Figure 8). It appeared that the north wall, now demolished, was not keyed into the east wall (Figure 8)

In the south wall another door led out into a yard area and at the west end of this wall a passage-way linked in with the blocked door and the back yard of No 8. The stair access to the first floor was probably in this corner. The area to the north of the cottage had been tarmac'd over and used as a car park. To the east there was a massive retaining wall dropping 3m to a lower level.



Figure 4 Blocked doorway in west wall



Figure 5 View up main fireplace chimney

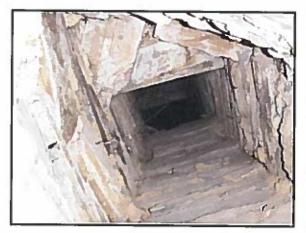


Figure 6 View up small side chimney



Figure 7 Small chimney on north side of fireplace



Figure 8 Door post hole and threshold at north east corner Note north wall not keyed in to east wall

A small extension was to be built on the north side of the cottage in the tarmac area (001). The north wall of the building had been removed completely to ground level and the roof propped (Figure 9).

A trench (Trench 1) was dug by machine to a length of 6.4m along the line of the demolished wall leaving 1m at each end (Figure 9).



Figure 9 Trench along north wall

The foundations of the demolished wall (004) extended to a depth of at least 1.10m below the level of the internal slate floor (003). A very large slab of slate was encountered at a depth of 600mm at the east end (Figure 10).



Figure 10 Large slate slab at east end of Trench 1 (500mm scale)

At the east end of Trench 1 a second trench was dug at right angles to it and parallel with the boundary retaining wall. Trench 2 revealed the ground to the west consisted of loose material (006), including slate and bricks, to a depth of over 1.75m (Figure 11). The remaining ground between Trench 2 and the boundary wall appeared to be clean. As a result the whole area of the extension was reduced by 40cm to investigate the ground conditions. This exposed a series of walls (Figure 15).



Figure 11 Trench 2 viewed from east (2m scale)

Running parallel to Trench 1 and only 460mm from the demolished north wall of the cottage were the remains of another stone wall (013, Figure 14). This extended to a depth exceeding



Figure 12 Bricks in situ below tarmac



Figure 13 Bricks after removal

1.22m and was constructed of poor quality slate. There was no clear termination of this wall in the east end of Trench 1 and it did not appear in Trench 2. Between the foundations of the demolished north wall and the remains of wall 013 were two remnant walls and buttresses. (014 and 029, Figure 36)



Figure 14 Wall 013 and remains of 014 butting against the foundations of the demolished north wall of the cottage (600mm scale)

Below the tarmac (001) was a compacted layer of what appeared to be crushed slate (002). In some areas this was lying

directly over bricks (015) and where there were no bricks there was a layer of hardcore (011). The bricks were clean and apparently unused and contained ten holes (Figure 12 & Figure 13). They had been carefully laid in three layers and extended over all but the east end of the excavated area. Below the bricks there were deposits of white lime mortar over slate flags and walls. Removing the bricks (015) exposed the outline of three rooms or compartments and a flagged floor.

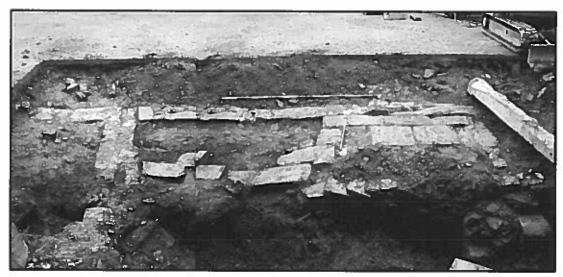


Figure 15 Composite photograph of walls/floors exposed – viewed from inside the cottage (2m & 500mm scales)

6.2.1 Area 1

At the west end, the removal of the bricks (015) revealed a small iron grating (017) and associated salt glazed drain pipe (019 Figure 16). The drain (019) extended from below the iron grating and past under the stone slab (018) and appeared to have emptied into a stone chamber (023) at the corner of the adjacent occupied building (Figure 17)

A second ceramic drain (020) was found close to the west end of Trench 1. This started between two bricks (021a/b) and extended in three sections of pipe through a brick wall (008), turned to the west, crossed over a stone wall (022), and into the stone chamber (023 Figure 17 & Figure 18)

It was clear that the stone wall (022) had been modified to take the drain (018). Further excavation revealed that this wall continued to the north and joined a wall (024) of similar character running east / west. This wall continued below the tarmac to the west and extended eastward to create two small rooms associated with 013 (Figure 36).



Figure 16 Small iron grating 017 below bricks 015

The chamber (023) into which the ceramic drains 020 and 019 0would have emptied measured 470mm x 480mm and was situated on the corner of the adjacent building. Running along the north wall of this building was a stone lined and covered channel culminating at the chamber (Figure 17) The west side of wall 022 had been utilised as the east wall of the chamber (023).





Figure 17 Chamber (023) and associated stone covered channel (025) (500mm scale)

The second ceramic drain (020) had passed through a brick wall (008) that had been built on top of the stone wall 013 - but only at its west end (Figure 18). The extent of the surviving brick wall was 930mm from the east side of wall 022 and only a single brick depth remained. If the east arm of wall 024 had formed the north wall it would have created a small space 930mm x 910mm. Given the presence of the two drains in this space perhaps this had been a washroom or toilet. Any floor surface that may have covered the floor of this room had not survived. There was nothing to indicate an east wall - only the extent of the surviving brick wall 008.



Figure 18 Ceramic drain 020 viewed from west (2m scale)



Figure 19 Viewed from east the same space with bricks and drains removed

However, further investigation revealed a stone wall (026), running north/south in line with the nub end of truncated wall (029) on the south side of 013. This created a space 1.91m x 1.82m (Figure 19). In the east wall of this 'room' was a possible threshold (034) marked by three stones set across the line of the wall. Wedged in the south east corner of this 'room' a flat stone (027) had survived with a square hole, 100mm x 100mm cut into it (Figure 20 and Figure 21). The depth of this hole was investigated but it was found to contain an indeterminate depth of soft earth with no apparent sides to it. Its function was not

confirmed and it may have been a drain predating 019 and 020 or perhaps a hole to support an upright post.

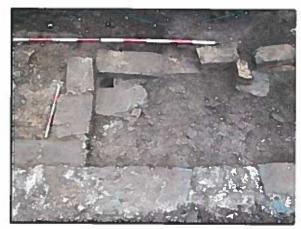


Figure 20 Stone with square hole (027) 2m and 500mm scales



Figure 21 Stone with square hole 027 and possible threshold in lower right

The brickwork of 008 appeared to extend on the west side of the stone wall 022 but it was insubstantial and fragmented (030).

6.2.2 Area 2

This central section had a surviving stone flagged floor (031) covering its northern half. These flags were bedded in bright orange clay (035 Figure 22). The southern half had no surviving floor surface and contained an homogenous mound (033) of slate and clay. The wall on the east side of this space appeared to be associated with the remnant wall (014). Both walls 027 and 032 were only 240mm wide and were constructed of narrow stones rather than the fragile slate used in the wall 013. Wall 024 formed the north wall of this space. On its exposed upper surface there was a distinct deposit of white lime mortar (029) that continued to the east end of the cleared area. The presence of this mortar suggests there was a structure of a later date using the wall 024 as a foundation - perhaps the porch shown in the survey (Figure 37 and paragraph 3.2).

6.2.3 Area 3

The east end of this cleared area, up to Trench 2, was devoid of features. Bounded by wall 013 on its south side and by wall 024 on its north side it did not have any surviving floor surface. The extent of the area may have been truncated by Trench 2 or it may have continued to the boundary wall or even been an open space.



Figure 22 Stone flagged floor (031) covering northern half of Area 2

6.2.4 Discussion

The whole of the cleared area appeared to be made-up ground that had seen various episodes of building, alteration, rebuilding and finally clearance. One of the later stages must have occurred during the 19th century given the presence of the ceramic drains, china and bottle fragments. The finds suggest a span of occupation from the medieval period to modern. Problems would have been inherent for any structure built on this site due to the grounds obvious instability.

The relationship between each of the areas was inconclusive. Area A had obvious 19th / 20th century activity that had post dated a previous phase. No finds came from the floor of this area but pottery was retrieved from the south section when wall 013 was investigated and produced late medieval and 17th century wares.

When the residual clay and mortar was cleared from above the flagstones in Area 2 the pottery assemblage included 2 small and abraded fragments of medieval cooking pot and a sherd of Saintonge Ware. These were found in association with 17th and 18th century pottery.

6.2.5 The cottage floor

The interior of the building had a slate flagged floor (003), some of the slabs being 70mm thick. With the flags removed a very gritty dark soil, containing broken slate shale, broken roof slate and occasional water washed pebbles, (005), was excavated to a depth of 200mm. Below the flags in the hearth (Figure 23) there were layers of flat slates (036). Several fragments of white china were found associated with this context.

From a hole (037) in the south wall a stone lined gully (038) crossed the floor at an angle, south east to north-west, to the north wall (Figure 23). The gully had been carefully constructed with flat slates bedded in yellow clay as a base and edging slates to create a channel 200mm wide. Where it entered the building through the 150mm high x 100mm wide hole (037) the channel was 200mm higher than where it met the north wall (Figure 26). In its original condition slates had probably covered the gully and one remained at the north end (039). The gully contained the same material as was removed from the floor 005.

Below the threshold (040) of the door in the south wall there were layers of slates that suggested the floor level in the cottage had been lower at one time, presumably level with the slates that covered the gully.

6.2.6 Discussion

There was no indication that the gully had continued through the north wall of the cottage in its recent layout. It was apparent that the north wall was not part of the same build as the rest of the cottage having been added later - after the structures on the north side had been demolished. The gully must have emptied into a drain at some point as it was sloping to the north - perhaps the channel along the north side of the adjacent building had continued through the earlier buildings in some form and was later utilised as a chamber at the corner of Area 1.

7 Photographs



Figure 23 The hearth looking east. 1m scale



Figure 24 Threshold and gully looking west. 1m scale



Figure 25 South door threshold. 1m scale



Figure 26 North end of gully with slab cover. 1m scale



Figure 27 Finds from trench 1 with cork insitu



Figure 28 Finds from cottage floor 005



Figure 29 Fill of gully 038



Figure 30 Pot from 028 in Area 2



Figure 31 Finds form trench 2



Figure 32 Slipware and pancheon from 016 in Area 1

8 Contexts

001	Tarmac surface to car park
002	Compacted hardcore below 001
003	Cottage - slate floor
004	Stone foundations of dismantled north wall of cottage - dug out for Trench 1
005	Cottage - below slate floor 003 - gritty black deposit containing broken slate and water washed pebbles
006	Trench 2 - made-up ground visible in west section
007	Trench 1 - foundations of cottage north wall in base of trench
800	Area 1 - line of bricks (thought to be base of a wall) constructed above stone wall 013
009	Trench 2 - clean earth seen in east section
010	Cottage – remnant of threshold in NE corner
011	Hardcore below 002
012	Sand below 011
013	Stone wall parallel to demolished cottage wall 004
014	Trench 1 - possible truncated wall between 013 and 004, may be a continuation of wall 032 between Areas 2 and 3
015	3 layers of bricks below 002 and covering Areas 1 and 2

016 Made-up ground associated with 013 and 008 in Area 1 017 Area 1 - Iron drain cover associated with wall 022 Area 1 - slate slabs below 015 associated 018 with drain 017 019 Area 1 - ceramic drain no 1 - pipe associated with 017 020 Area 1 - ceramic drain No 2 situated on south wall associated with brick wall 008 and stone wall 022 021a/b Area 1 - bricks either side of mouth of 018 within the 'room' 022 Area 1 - stone wall running north / south along west side, associated with walls 013 and 024 023 Stone chamber into which 019 and 020 emptied, at corner of building adjacent to cottage. The chamber comprised the west side of wall 022 024 Areas 1, 2 & 3 - east / west stone wall along the north side of site associated with 022 and 026 025 Stone lined and covered channel alongside building adjacent to cottage associated with chamber 023 026 Dividing Areas 1 and 2 - Stone wall running north / south associated with 013, 029 and 024

027	In Area 1 at south east corner - flat stone with square cut hole associated with 026 and 013
028	Area 2 & 3 - deposit of white lime mortar and clay below bricks 015
029	Possible continuation of wall 026, the remains of truncated wall south of wall 013, surviving as a low stub
030	Remnant of possible brick wall extending from west side of wall 022 in line with line of bricks 008
031	Area 2 - slate flagstones below 028
032	Area 2 & 3 - wall dividing Area 2 and Area 3, associated with wall 013 and remnant wall 029
033	Area 2 - Indeterminate mound of clay and stone occupying southern half
034	Area 1 & 2 - possible threshold on line of wall 026. Made up of a line of 3 stones.
035	Area 2 and Cottage; Orange clay used to bed flags 031 and gully 038
036	Cottage - layers of flat slates below flags 003 in fireplace hearth
037	Cottage - hole in south wall for gully 038
038	Cottage - stone gully crossing the floor associated with 035 and 037
039	Cottage - one remaining covering slate at north end for gully 038
040	Cottage - south door threshold

9 Finds from Cardigan Cottage

9.1 Trench 1

- 1 neck of bottle clear glass
- 1 neck of bottle brown glass cork intact
- 1 sheep/goat radius
- 1 fragment cow metacarpal

9.2 Trench 2 from 006

- 1 fragment 13th century West Wales Fabric variation mostly as Newcastle Emlyn kiln but with lots more quartz. A different fabric
- 1 18th century tin glazed Delftware drug jar
- 1 fragment tin glaze bowl with red & blue pattern (3 dogs)
- 1 fragment 18th century cream-ware with vine leaf design
- 1 fragment18th century Staffs fine brown glaze
- 1 fragment 18th /19th century yellow/brown fine slipware
- 3 fragments19th century Willow pattern plate
- 5 fragments plates, blue transfer pattern on white, 3 designs
- 7 fragments white china plates / bowls
- 1 short length of clay tobacco pipe stem
- 4 pieces of brick
- 1 piece wall plaster
- 1 proximal end sheep/goat tibia with cut marks dog chewed
- 1 rib sheep/goat
- 2 oyster shells

9.3 Area 2 - from fill (028) above flagged floor (031)

- 1 sherd later 13th to 15th century, south west France (Saintonge) ware probably a jug (abraded)
- 2 rim sherds of two different pots, West Wales Fabric cooking pots. Fabric as Newcastle Emlyn kiln (abraded)
- 1 fragment late 17th or early 18th century pancheon rim
- 1 fragment 18th century tin glazed earthenware
- 2 fragments 18th century tin glazed ware
- 3 fragments 18th century cream ware
- 3 brick fragments
- 1 short length clay tobacco pipe stem

- 1 small piece of plaster
- 1 fragment cow rib
- 1 proximal end sheep/goat tibia (juvenile)
- 1 vertebra spine sheep/goat
- 3 oyster shells

9.4 Area 1, from below bricks (008) in south section

- 1 fragment late 17th/ early 18th century pancheon rim, from Bideford or Barnstable
- 1 fragment late 17th century yellow and brown slipware base (local fabric)
- 1 fragment late medieval jug (late 13th to 16th century), possibly North Devon
- 1 humerus of bird larger than domestic fowl, smaller than goose
- 1 fragment bird bone unidentified

9.5 Cottage - 200mm deposit (005) below flagstones (003)

- 1 fragment18th century Nottingham stoneware (brown) neck of jar
- 2 fragment 18th century South Wales 'farmhouse ware'
- 2 pieces17th/18th century North Devon gravel-tempered ware
- 1 fragment 18th century Tin-glazed earthenware
- 5 pieces18th century Porcelain
- 5 fragments 19th century china white
- 1 fragment 19th century blue on white china
- 1 short-neck of bottle brown glass
- 1 body shard of bottle brown glass
- 3 cow ribs (2 with cut marks)
- 1 sheep / goat scapular
- 1 sheep / goat metacarpal
- 1 sheep / goat metatarsal
- 1 sheep / goat radius
- 1 sheep / goat femur fragment abraded
- 4 small bone fragments unidentified
- 2 halves of furcula (wishbone)
- 1 fragment bird bone unidentified
- 2 oyster shells

- 9.6 Cottage fill (005) of gully (038)
 - 1 fragment 17th/18th century North Devon gravel-tempered ware
 - 2 fragments blue on white china
 - 1 fragment white china
 - 1 small fragment of black glass with rolled rim and painting white stripes

10 Deposition of Report and Finds

Copies of this report have been deposited with:

- Cambria Archaeology Heritage Environment Record
- Acanthus Holden Architects
- Ceredigion County Council Planning Department
- Church and Site Archaeology, Monmouth

Copies of this report and the finds have been deposited with Cardigan Heritage Centre.

11 References and Bibliography

- 11.1Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief, Pub Oct 1994, Revised Sep 2001
- 11.2 A manual for the identification of bird bones 'Bird bones from Archaeological Sites', Alan Cohen & Dale Serjeantson, 1996
- 11.3'A Medieval Pottery Kiln Site at Newcastle Emlyn, Dyfed', Early, V and Morgan, D., Archaeology in Wales 44, 2004, p97-100.

12 Acknowledgements

- To the contractor, Mr Paul Edwards, and his staff for their help and forbearance.
- To Steve Clarke of Monmouth Archaeology for the pottery report.
- To Julie Bowen for her help in the preparation of this report.
- To Acanthus Holden for the photographic recording.

13 Plans and Drawings

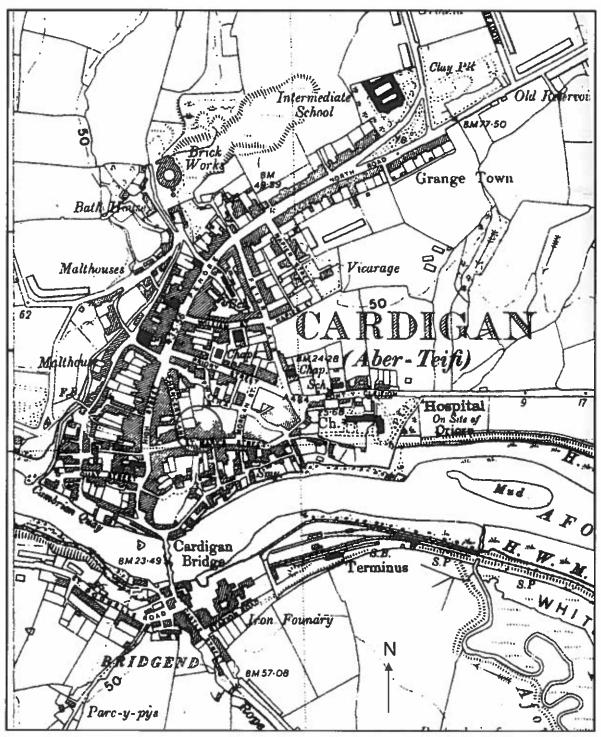
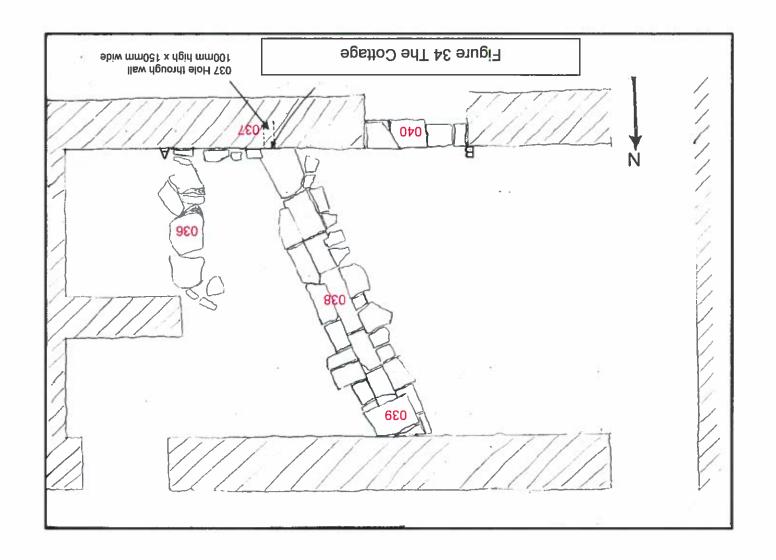
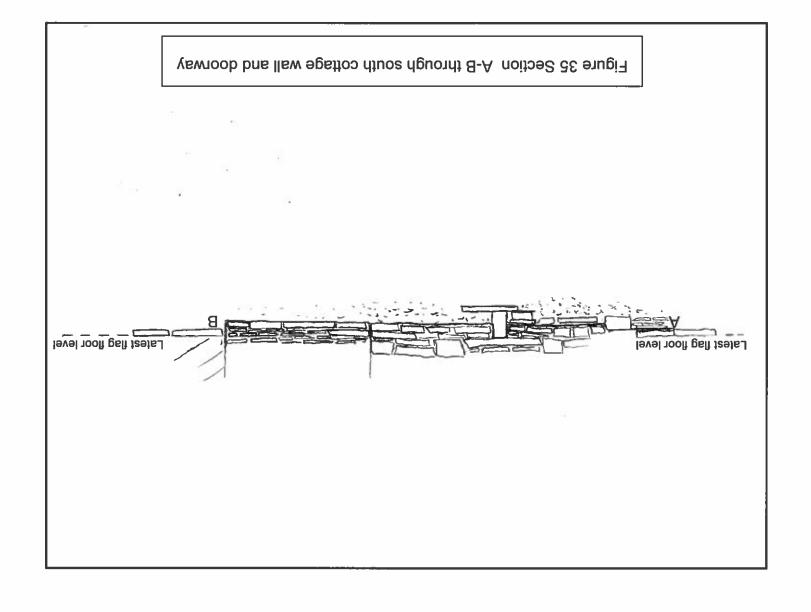
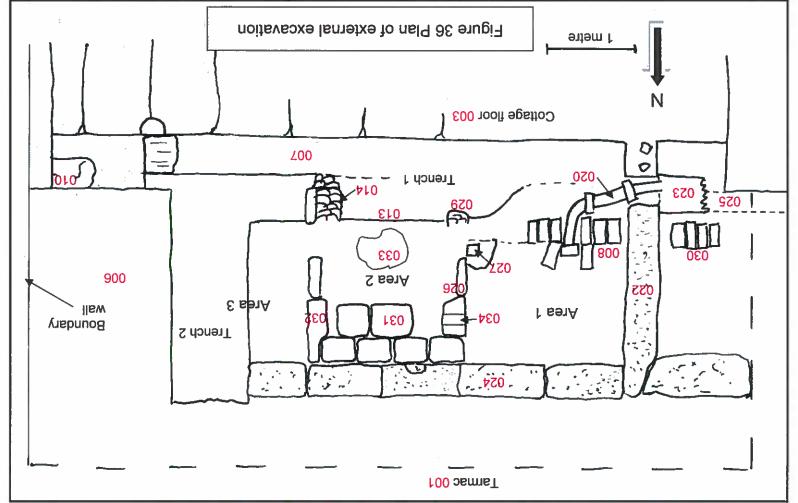


Figure 33 Ordnance survey map 1908 revision (with additions in1938) showing non-specific outline of 8 St Mary Street









PHOTOGRAPH No. 1



PHOTOGRAPH No. 2



PHOTOGRAPH No. 3a



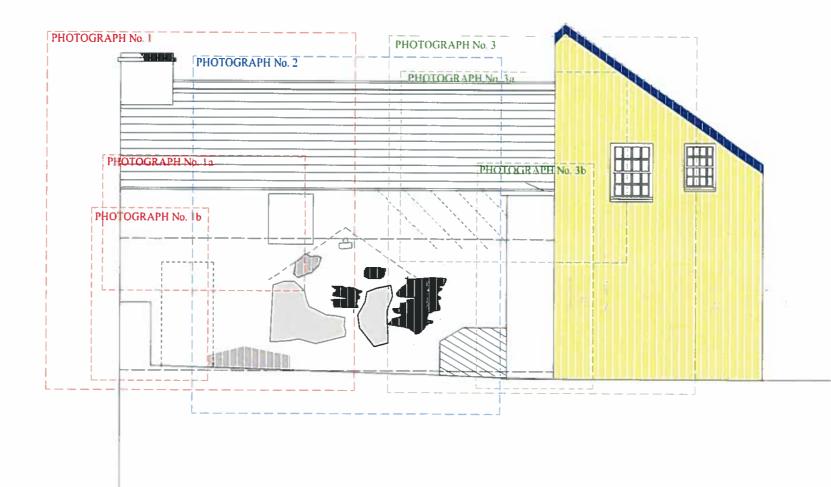
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PHOTOGRAPH No. 1a



PHOTOGRAPH No. 1b



EXISTING NORTH ELEVATION Figure 37



PHOTOGRAPH No. 3b

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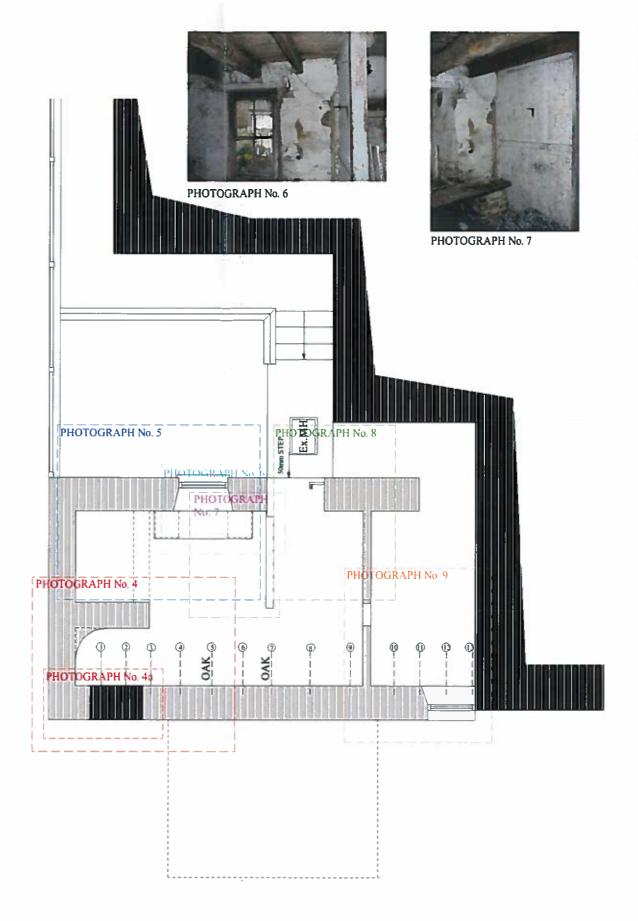
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PHOTOGRAPH No. 4a



PHOTOGRAPH No. 4



EXISTING GROUND FLOOR PLAN



PHOTOGRAPH No. 8



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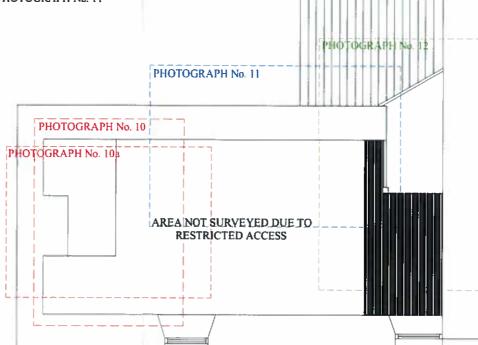
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PHOTOGRAPH No. 10



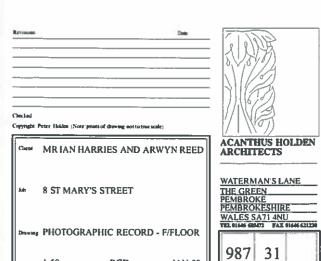
PHOTOGRAPH No. 11



EXISTING FIRST FLOOR PLAN



PHOTOGRAPH No. 12



Scale 1:50 Drawn By RCD Date JAN 08