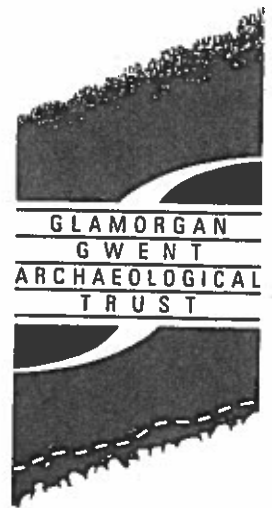


PRN 45091



**Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust
(Contracts Division)**

**Investigations at the
Drill Hall, Castle Terrace, Pembroke**

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**Report prepared for
South Pembrokeshire District Council**

**GGAT Project No: A271
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GGAT Report No: 95/057**

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Figure One: Location plan

Figure Two: East-west elevation

Figure Three: North-south section

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project background*

- 1.1.1 In July 1995, South Pembrokeshire District Council, through their agent, Sutton Davies (Architects), commissioned GGAT (Contracts) to carry out a trial investigation at the Drill Hall, Castle Terrace, Pembroke (SM 9836 0159).
- 1.1.2 The investigation was intended specifically to define the depth of the bedrock surface underlying the Drill Hall. Three points along the east side of the building were selected; at the north and south ends and the mid-point. Because of the difficulties of access to the building for a conventional cable-tool boring rig, it was decided that the investigation would be carried out by hand-drilled auger holes, in accordance with the auger-work previously undertaken on the adjacent property¹.
- 1.1.3 In practice, it was found that the buried deposits beneath the building's foundation had a greater stone content than anticipated, which prevented the auger from reaching the bedrock. The investigation was, therefore, completed by small-scale hand-dug trenches at two of the points selected and by surveying the exposed bedrock out-cropping below the town wall to the north of the building.

1.2 *Specification*

- 1.2.1 The project was carried out in accordance with a letter of instruction; no formal Specification was prepared². Although the investigation was not undertaken specifically for archaeological purposes, it was recognised that the deposits being investigated are of archaeological relevance. The recording was, therefore, carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, under the separate site number 304³. A copy of this report will be submitted to the Dyfed SMR.

1.3 *Acknowledgements*

- 1.3.1 This project has been managed for the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (Contracts Division) by Martin Locock (Project Manager - Assessments). The fieldwork was carried out by Martin Lawler, Sally Mesner and Nigel Wilson; the report was prepared by Martin Lawler. The Trust is grateful to Jonathan Douglas (South Pembrokeshire District Council) and Michael Davies (Sutton Davies), for their ready co-operation and advice throughout the project. We are also grateful to Major Ivor Ramsden (Pembroke Castle Trust) for his kind assistance during the fieldwork.

1.4 *Copyright*

- 1.4.1 The copyright of this report is held by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, who have granted an exclusive licence to South Pembrokeshire District Council to use the material contained.

¹ Lawler M 1995 Archaeological evaluation at South Quay, Pembroke: final report GGAT Report No 95/018 prepared for South Pembrokeshire District Council.

² Letter from Michael Davies (Davies Sutton) on behalf of SPDC, dated 28-7-95.

³ Institute of Field Archaeologists 1993.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 *Trial trenches*

- 2.1.1 It was originally intended that the underlying bedrock height should be defined at three points, representing the north and south ends and the mid-point of the Drill Hall. The three investigation points were positioned along the east side of the building. The south point (Location A) and the mid-point (Location B) lay within the main body of the hall; the intended north point (Location C) lay within the disused lavatory block at that end of the building.
- 2.2.2 At Locations A and B, in the main body of the hall, a section of the timber and concrete floor was removed from an area of 1.20m x 0.6m, in each instance. Augering through the underlying deposits was commenced, using a hand-operated river auger. At each location, however, it was found that the auger was impeded by the relatively high stone content of the deposits, particularly in the upper horizons. The excavation was continued by hand, therefore, to the surface of the bedrock, which was reached at a depth of 0.75m below the floor surface at Location A and 1.2m below the surface at Location B.
- 2.2.3 For archaeological purposes, the excavated deposits were recorded as conventional serial contexts. Pottery was found in only one deposit (003 at Location A); this material was recovered for finds processing and will be deposited with the Finds Archive from the previous field evaluation (site 221). The presence of small quantities of bone and shell in individual contexts was noted, but these were not retained.
- 2.2.4 A brick-lined inspection pit (covered by a wooden trapdoor) lies close to the position of Location A. An attempt was made to examine the deposits through which the pit had been excavated by removal of part of the brick lining. It was shown, however, that the loose rubble and mortar fill extended for some distance behind the brick lining, and it was not possible to examine the stratified deposits.
- 2.2.5 The trenches at Locations A and B and a smaller excavation at Location C were back-filled. The brickwork removed from the inspection pit lining was reinstated.

2.2 *Survey*

- 2.2.1 Location C, at the north end of the building, lay close to the major revetment wall which marks the ends of the former burgage plots (the town wall). At this end of the site, the natural contours of the underlying rock surface fall away sharply towards the quay. Because the deposits across the site have been artificially built up to level the plot from north to south, the deposits are substantially deeper at the north end. The line of the outcropping bedrock at the base of the town wall is visible from the quayside.
- 2.2.2 Because the deposits at Location C were too deep to be excavated by hand, and the augering at that point was likely to prove unreliable, it was decided to survey the position of the outcropping bedrock beneath the town wall to establish its height. Although the outcropping rock was concealed by ivy to the east (on the direct line of the intended transect), it was visible further to the west and was surveyed by level.
- 2.2.3 All heights were related to OD by levelling.

3.0 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

3.1 Location A (ST 98363 01576)

3.1.1 Investigation was undertaken by a hand-cut trench 1.2m x 0.6m, excavated to the surface of the underlying bedrock, at between 0.67m and 0.75m below the floor surface.

3.1.2 The excavated stratigraphy was as follows:

Context	Depth below present floor	OD Height	Description
	0m	13.40m	Wooden floorboards, 28mm in thickness, on cross joists.
<u>001</u>	0.03m	13.37m	Hard, fissured, dark grey CONCRETE. Very ashy, with pockets of clinker. Some limestone rubble.
<u>002</u>	0.22m	13.18m	Pale grey crumbly lime MORTAR with a high proportion of limestone rubble and charcoal flecks.
<u>003</u>	0.41m	12.99m	Mixed, predominantly mid-brown with pale brown slightly clay LOAM. Frequent charcoal and coal flecks, limestone chips and rocks. Finds include sherds of post-medieval North Devon Gravel-tempered ware, bone and oyster shell.
<u>004</u>	0.55m	12.85m	Light brown coarse LOAM (softer and more homogenous than above) with occasional limestone fragments and charcoal flecks. Occasional bone and oyster shell and small fragments of roofing slate.
<u>005</u>	0.61m	12.79m	Pale brown very compacted coarse SILT. Packed into the fissures of the underlying weathered rock.
<u>006</u>	0.67m	12.73m	Weathered, fissured limestone rock.

3.2 Location B (ST 98366 01586)

3.2.1 As at Location A, the investigation at Location B was carried out by a hand-dug trench, 1.2m x 0.6m, to the surface of the underlying bedrock, at 1.22m below the floor surface.

3.2.2 The excavated stratigraphy at Location B was as follows:

Context	Depth below present floor	OD Height	Description
	0m	13.40m	Wooden floorboards, 28mm in thickness.
<u>007</u>	0.03m	13.37m	Hard, dark-grey CONCRETE (as <u>001</u> at Location A).
<u>008</u>	0.21m	13.19m	Very mixed, predominantly mid-brown, slightly clayey LOAM. Frequent subangular limestone fragments, coal and charcoal flecks.
<u>009</u>	0.52m	12.88m	Compacted, light brown, fairly homogenous LOAM with fewer coarse inclusions than above. Occasional limestone fragments and pebbles, and charcoal flecks.
<u>010</u>	0.65m	12.75m	Mixed, predominantly dark brown coarse LOAM with limestone fragments.
<u>011</u>	0.76m	12.64m	Mixed, predominantly dark grey-brown coarse LOAM with bands of mortar-rich loam and limestone pebbles. This layer appears to have been disturbed by a shallow feature cut from the south.
<u>012</u>	0.91m	12.49m	Dark grey-brown coarse LOAM with occasional limestone fragments, charcoal flecks and bone fragments.

<u>013</u>	1.16m	12.24m	Compacted pale brown coarse SILT with occasional limestone fragments. As <u>005</u> .
<u>014</u>	1.22m	12.18m	Weathered limestone rock.

3.3 *Outcropping bedrock below town wall (ST 98361 01603)*

3.3.1 The outcrop of bedrock beneath the town wall, immediately to north of the drill hall, occurs at a height of 10.32m OD on the *west* side of the hall. It may be noted that there is a pronounced general slope in the natural topography from west to east across the South Quay site, and it is likely that the bedrock surface on the east side of the hall will be somewhat lower than on the west side (see elevation). The exposed line of bedrock beneath the wall is largely obscured by vegetation further to east of the point surveyed, but it can be traced beneath the wall on the adjacent plot (No 7), where it reaches the level of the car park.

3.3.2 In summary, therefore, the trial trench and survey evidence agrees with the general site topography of the South Quay area, which indicates a general fall in the bedrock surface beneath the drill hall, both from south to north and (probably) from west to east.

3.4 *Archaeological implications*

3.4.1 Although the investigation was not intended primarily for archaeological purposes, it may be helpful to consider the potential archaeological implications of the evidence revealed.

3.4.2 Beneath the modern foundation material at Locations A and B there were stratified archaeological deposits, extending to the depth of the bedrock. Some correlation is indicated between the two sets of data, particularly the upper deposits (ie Contexts 003 at Location A and 008 at B). Most of the material at Location A appears to be post-medieval, with sherds of 17th or 18th century date occurring less than 15cms above the bedrock surface. At Location B, the archaeological stratigraphy is both deeper and more complex. The evidence of the earlier field evaluation at Plot No 6¹ suggests that the deposits behind the town wall, at the north end of the drill hall site, may consist of a sequence of levelling horizons, laid down over a long period from medieval times.

¹ GGAT Report No 95/018 (cited previously).

EAST

WEST

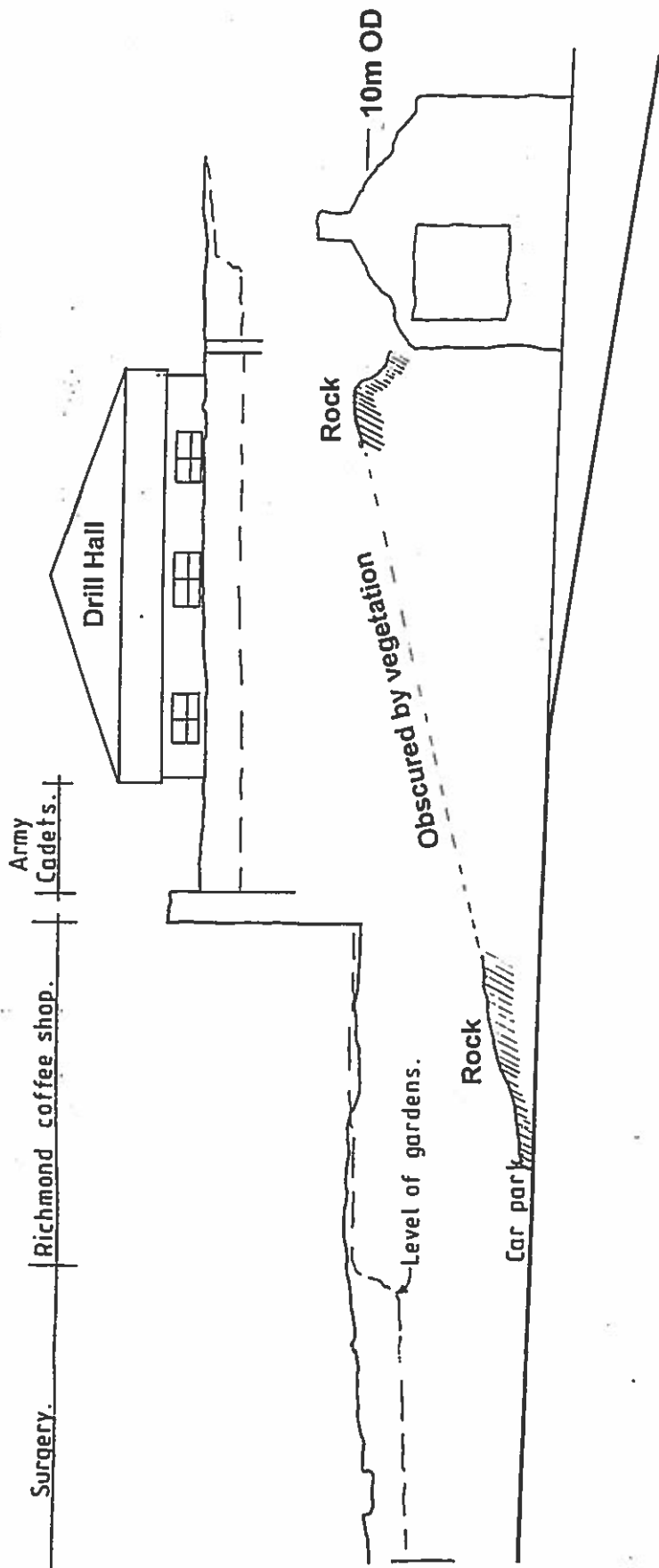


Figure Two: East-west elevation view, showing position of exposed bedrock beneath the town wall.



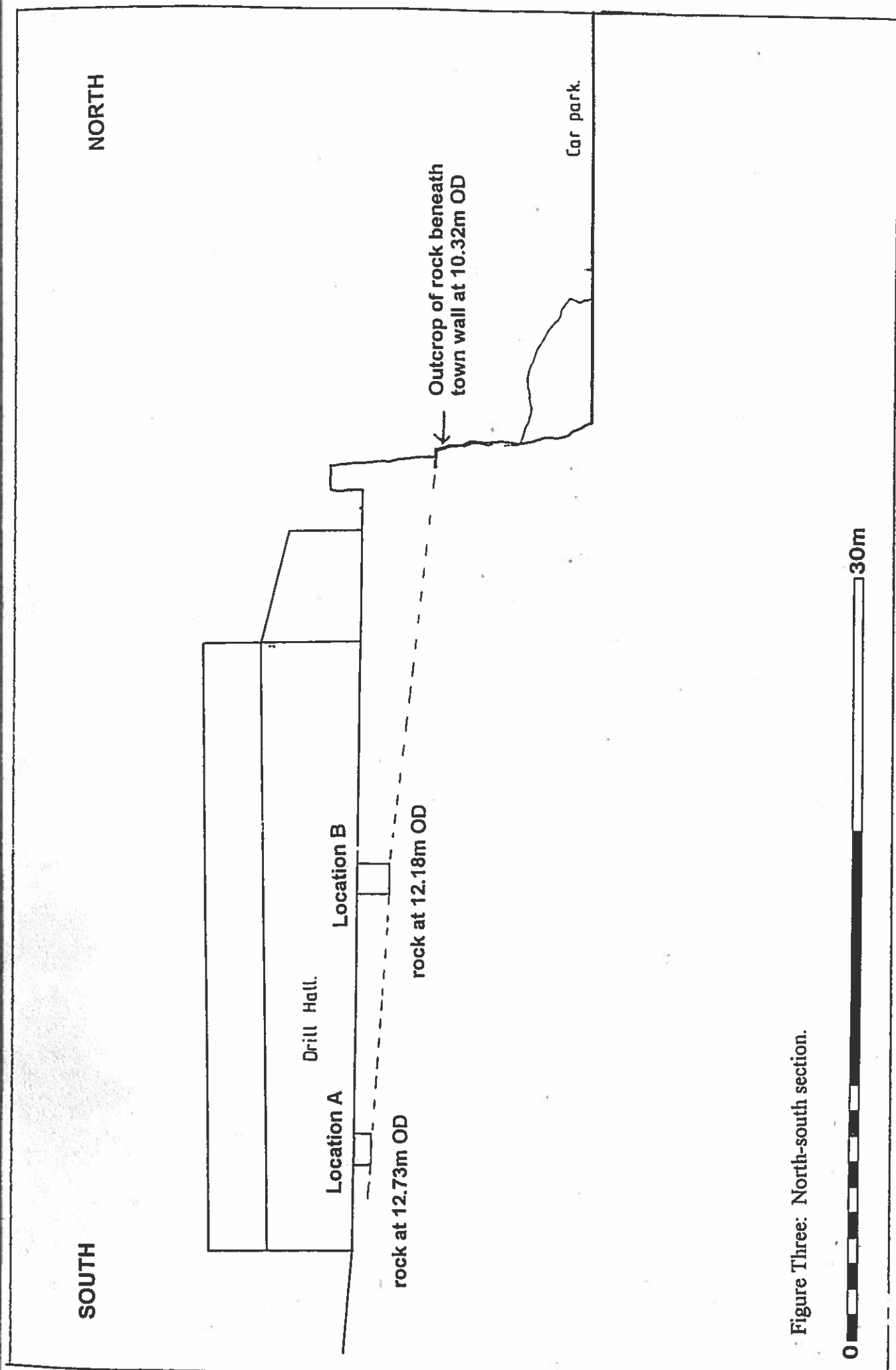


Figure Three: North-south section.

