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**Archaeological Watching Brief
Of
The foundations of a proposed extension
At The Globe, Upper St. Mary Street,
Newport, Pembrokeshire
NGR SN 03/13, 05803910**

**in
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Summary and Introduction

Due to the position of the property 'The Globe' on Upper St Mary's Street in Newport, one of the medieval roads running down from St Mary's Church, archaeological reconnaissance was required prior to the building of an extension in the garage of the property. The property was also a Public House during the 1850's when Newport was a busy harbour town, but the house can probably be dated to approx. 1820 (Julian Orbach pers.comm..). A watching brief was therefore proposed to investigate the possibility that archaeological material may extend into the application area, and that if any remains were surviving as buried archaeological features, they should not be disturbed or adversely affected by the new development. Related finds could therefore still survive below ground, and/or reveal other archaeological remains.

There is a likelihood of finding archaeological material as firstly, dwellings on the roadside would have represented the frontages of burgage plots from the ca.13th Century; and secondly, later material dated to the 19th Century period of the original house structure could be revealed.

Investigations took the form of excavating the three foundation trenches in the area to be built on in 30cm depths, with a mini-digger, to a final depth of 1.0-1.30m. This was the highest level of shale suitable for building purposes, and therefore archaeology had to be ascertained down to this depth. Once the area had been monitored, foundation trenches were cleaned.

In addition, photographic observation was made of the site, and six sections were cleaned within the trenched area opened up by the mini-digger; the site was worked over a period of 4 days. A thorough appraisal was made ensuring that no area was left unobserved. Soil samples were taken from beneath the topsoil of the site, and inspected in closer detail off site; the upper layer was a sandy loam and only appeared to the rear of the garage where the stone steps went up to the level of the house itself. Below this was a thick layer ca.80cm of broken slate and old building debris in the form of a grey rubble soil mixture already extremely disturbed, including items such as chair legs and toilet seats. Unused sewage pipes can also be seen in the sections lying on an older surface level, which was made up of earlier compacted building refuse, and this appeared throughout the foundation area. Below this earlier surface level was a mixed layer of loamy clay and refuse, and then the final level of grey shale which was consistent throughout the application area.

The photographic evidence shows how disturbed the ground was throughout and importantly the levels of building debris confirming previous building work. All of the trenches were cut under the supervision of the archaeologist and observed closely as they were dug through to examine any archaeological remains that could be in evidence. This investigation showed several different strata of debris

in the soil, but no structural remains, and no archaeological finds throughout the drop in levels.

A note to be made here is that on inspection of the 1844 Tithe Map of Newport, all the plots on Upper and Lower St Mary's Street, Market Street and Long Street are represented by a chaffred/shaded area, therefore it is difficult to say whether there was a dwelling below the house where the modern lean-to garage was built, which is the site of the new extension. Returning to an earlier period however, this would have been one of the lanes on which medieval burgage plots were laid by the Fitzmartins in the early 13th Century, or after the re-siting of Newport Castle after 1257 and therefore a potential site for medieval archaeology (<http://www.acadat.com/HLC/newportandcarningli/newport.htm>).

The main objective of the watching brief was to record any archaeological evidence during the excavation of the foundation trenches for the extension, to a depth considered adequate for building purposes and revealing potential archaeological deposits. These levels were reached at in the lean-to garage area of 'The Globe', and no archaeology was found on the site.

In light of the lack of archaeology and knowing that this property was an old Public House, it seems possible that the area for extension could have been an extended kitchen area or even privy's, which might have contributed to the layers of building debris.

During the ongoing excavation of the foundations, the lower level of grey shale level was reached consistently throughout, without compromising any archaeology, confirming that none existed at these levels.

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1. The site of the proposed extension

1.1 'The Globe' in Newport - Background History

The proposed extension onto 'The Globe', and replacing the lean-to garage, is accessed directly from the bottom of Upper St Mary's Street, positioned on the corner with East Street/Bridge Street; it lies in the parish of Newport.

The position of 'The Globe' in relation to archaeological evidence in Newport is central, positioned as it is on Upper St Mary's Street, which runs down from St Mary's Church straight down to Newport estuary and the River Nevern. This street, along with the parallel Market St. and Long St., was built up in the early medieval period when Newport was first established as a town.

William Fitzmartin founded Nevern Castle, and after its capture in 1191, the Normans moved to Newport. The Motte and Bailey site here is possibly the early castle in Newport, and the beginning of the medieval foundations of the town.

The excavation of 3 Burgage plots prior to the building of the Primary School at the bottom of Long Street in 1991, can be dated to the late 1190's, and they appear to have been abandoned after a short period around 1210 coinciding with the sack of Newport by Llewellyn the Great. Over 7000 medieval rough temper pottery sherds were found on this site, as well as evidence from a much earlier period (150 flints and a Mesolithic axe 7000B.C. - Ken Murphy 1991).

Newport is representative of an area steeped in archaeology, with several scheduled sites, as well as many listed buildings (Cambria Archaeology Archive). This increases the potential of archaeological finds being unearthed on the proposed new extension site.

The 'Historic Landscape Characterisation' of Newport, is a report produced by Cambria Archaeology and provides information on the extent of these sites.

"Most of the recorded archaeology is related to components of the town – the castle and church – or to other standing buildings such as a late 18th century mill. Other sites such as several 19th century limekilns testify to the former importance of maritime trade; unusually for a town, a Neolithic chambered tomb, Carreg Coetan Authur, is a prominent historic component", with the Town overlooked by Carningli Mountain and the imposing Iron/Bronze Age fort.

www.cambria.org.uk/HLC/newportandcarningli/newport.htm

The present castle was constructed early 13th C. The Town Charter was given to the town by William Martin's son ca.1210, giving the townspeople the right to elect a mayor and to establish markets and fairs. It is possible that the capture of Newport by Llewellyn resulted in the end of this early castle and the lower medieval town around Long Street around 1210-1215. Newport became the seat of the Lords of Cemais and a new castle was built at the top of Market Street.

Upper St Mary's Street starts at the Church, and the first written evidence of St Mary's Church is from the Life of St Brynach in the 12th Century, although we know that William Martin built a Church after he had built the castle in the 13th Century. It is therefore possible that a Church stood here before the Normans built, but the oldest structural remains of the Church today is the 15th-16th Century West Tower. This was an important centre of the town and Upper St Mary's Street runs straight down from it probably representing one of the oldest roads in the town and therefore likely to have some archaeology in evidence at undisturbed levels. The "late 12th-13th C. layout of the town still exerts a strong influence over modern topography, with many houses located hard against the street frontage within medieval burgrave plots"

(www.cambria.org.uk/HLC/newportandcarningli/newport.htm).

'The Globe' is therefore in an important position archaeologically, as early evidence may come to light associated with this initial period of building when the street first came into existence. We are also told from written records that it was a Public House in the mid 19th Century (Dilwyn Miles 1995), and from the spread of the base of the north wall of the house, it would seem that there was probably no structure below the property or attached to it, which is the position of the proposed extension. It is therefore doubtful that any 19th Century structural remains will be unearthed.

(Note: The Client did not request extended research of local estate maps due to the lack of archaeological evidence during the excavation period).

1.2 The proposed new extension

The new extension will be built directly onto the north wall of the 'The Globe' situated on Upper St Mary's Street. The site is on a southwest-to-northeast slope on the corner with East Street/Bridge Street, which is situated some 6m north of the plot.

1.3 The Field Evaluation

Archaeological works on the site included:

- Monitoring the stripping of the topsoil for the foundation trenches.
- Subsequent observation and recording of any differences within subsoil levels
- Section cleaning of the three foundation trenches within the area opened; facing west, south and north, with soil samples being taken from the same areas

- Photographic reconnaissance of the work done over a 4-day period

There are three main reasons for archaeological observation of this plot:

- The position of the proposed new development next to the medieval road Upper St Mary's Street, and the possibility of an underlying burgage plot frontage; as well as the possibility of 19th Century evidence of the structure when it was Public House. The possibility that related archaeological finds could still survive below ground, and/or reveal other archaeological remains that would need to be recorded.
- To allow, within resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence of which could not be established sufficiently or accurately prior to any development or building disturbance.
- To give the watching archaeologist an opportunity, if required, to inform all interested parties that an archaeological find has been made, before the disturbance or destruction of any such material occurs, at which point the watching brief will no longer be sufficient to deal with the situation to a satisfactory and proper standard.

Note: There are several crucial factors to be noted; extensive building work on the plot from the 19th Century structure; the possibility that the application area was a lean-to structure in this period, possibly an outside kitchen and therefore built on at different levels; and also that the site is right up against Electricity Board property where a substantial 70,000 volt store is kept, the building of which would have disturbed the ground there to a considerable depth.

2. Summary of Watching Brief Results

2.1 Location

The proposed site of the new extension occupies the plot NGR SN 03/13, 05803910 on a southwest-northeast downward facing slope towards Nevern Estuary, at a height of ca.26.5m above Ordnance Datum.

The new extension is being constructed onto the north wall of the house called 'The Globe' on Upper St Mary's Street, Newport Pembrokeshire. Archaeology on the site was hoped for based on the proximity of the site with the medieval roadway and the Church, as well as the possibility of discovering finds related to the 19th Century structure.

The 1944 Tithe Map of Newport shows this block of housing on Upper St Mary's Street as a chaffred/shaded area, which suggests that it was all estate owned or at least all the property's had one owner only, possibly the Barony of Cemaes or even the Llwyngwair Manor estate. However, the plot is present on the 1595 Rental Map of Newport (Bignall 1991), although it is difficult to ascertain whether it was the bottom plot which has two tenants, or the one above which appears slightly above the present day position of 'The Globe'.

It appears therefore that archaeology associated with either period within the area could appear on this plot, despite a mixture of observations during excavation work on other sites in Newport.

Archaeological watching briefs on Lower St Mary's Street and Market Street in the 1996 produced no artefactual evidence, despite both being situated on the oldest medieval roads in the town, possibly due to later building disturbance.

Rescue excavation in 1985 by Dyfed Archaeological Trust just north of Long Street, however, did reveal substantial masonry walls (Stenger 1985) and some local medieval pottery. Two Archaeological Watching Briefs were reported on at the bottom of Long Street in 2002 and 2006 respectively (Manley Jones), both of which were opposite the Primary School; however no archaeological remains were discovered on these sites. Ystrad Fflur, however, on the road frontage opposite and just below the school produced medieval pottery sherds during the building of the structure in 1986 (Steadman pers.comm.). The basement of the Memorial Hall is also the site of the medieval pottery kiln (Dilwyn Miles 1995), pointing to the potential of ceramic evidence anywhere within the peripheries of Newport town.

The location of the plot is therefore crucial and could have provided evidence to add to the increasingly detailed map of historic Newport.

2.2 Soil and Geology

The geological map of North Pembrokeshire is complex as it comprises coastal and mountain range outcrops. The area is underlain by Ordovician sedimentary rock and shales, and Newport therefore comes into Ordovician rock formation range (www.pembrokeshire-online.co.uk/geolmap.htm) with Carningli in the Volcanic Ordovician range.

The excavation of the foundations below the north wall of 'The Globe' revealed deposits typical for Newport, with the top layer in orange sandy boulder clay, below this it is mixed with grey shale and loamy soil. The lowest strata reached by the mini-digger, was a mixed grey shale with some light clay, this underlying layer retains water extremely well if saturated, even after a minimum of rainfall due to its oily and sticky consistency (noted in other areas of Newport, Cerdd y Don: Manley Jones).

In the three foundation trenches at 'The Globe' the upper layer of orange boulder clay mix had been in-filled at some stage by ca.80cm of building debris, and only the lower shale strata was evident. This layer consisted of broken slate, large stones, lead piping, recent sewer pipes and broken bottles, throughout the application area, and yielded no archaeological deposits.

2.3 Methodology

The stripping of the topsoil was worked using a mini-digger with a pronged narrow-bladed scoop measuring 0.5m wide by ca. 0.8m deep. Due to the ground level being of old building debris with no original surfaces left, the digger started excavating in depths of 15-20cm. Once observations had been made at this initial depth, work progressed downwards in 20cm depths. The foundation trenches reached depths of between 0.80-1.10m to the point where the grey loamy shale was reached, and the area was visually examined and notes were taken on soil type and any evidence. Five sections were cleaned; Trench 1 east section, Trench 2 north section, Trench 3 east and west sections, and the extended Trench 3 section of the north-facing wall of 'The Globe'. Two 24 print photographic films were taken using colour print and monochrome 35mm film (see Appendix I).

2.4 Objectives

To identify and record any archaeological features and deposits of interest exposed after the opening of the areas for the foundation trenches of the extension.

2.5 Fieldwork Results

The soil sequences exposed by the excavation of the trenches were consistent throughout the excavated area, and in general terms consisted of a mix of accumulated building debris. It was predominantly a grey rubble mix interspersed with orange loamy soil.

No archaeological features were recorded in any areas of the proposed new extension or adjacent to it.

2.6 Conclusions

The information gained by this observation work over 4 days left no doubt that although the area potentially held archaeological deposits, lack of any evidence meant that this interpretation could not be extended into the proposed development site next to 'The Globe'.

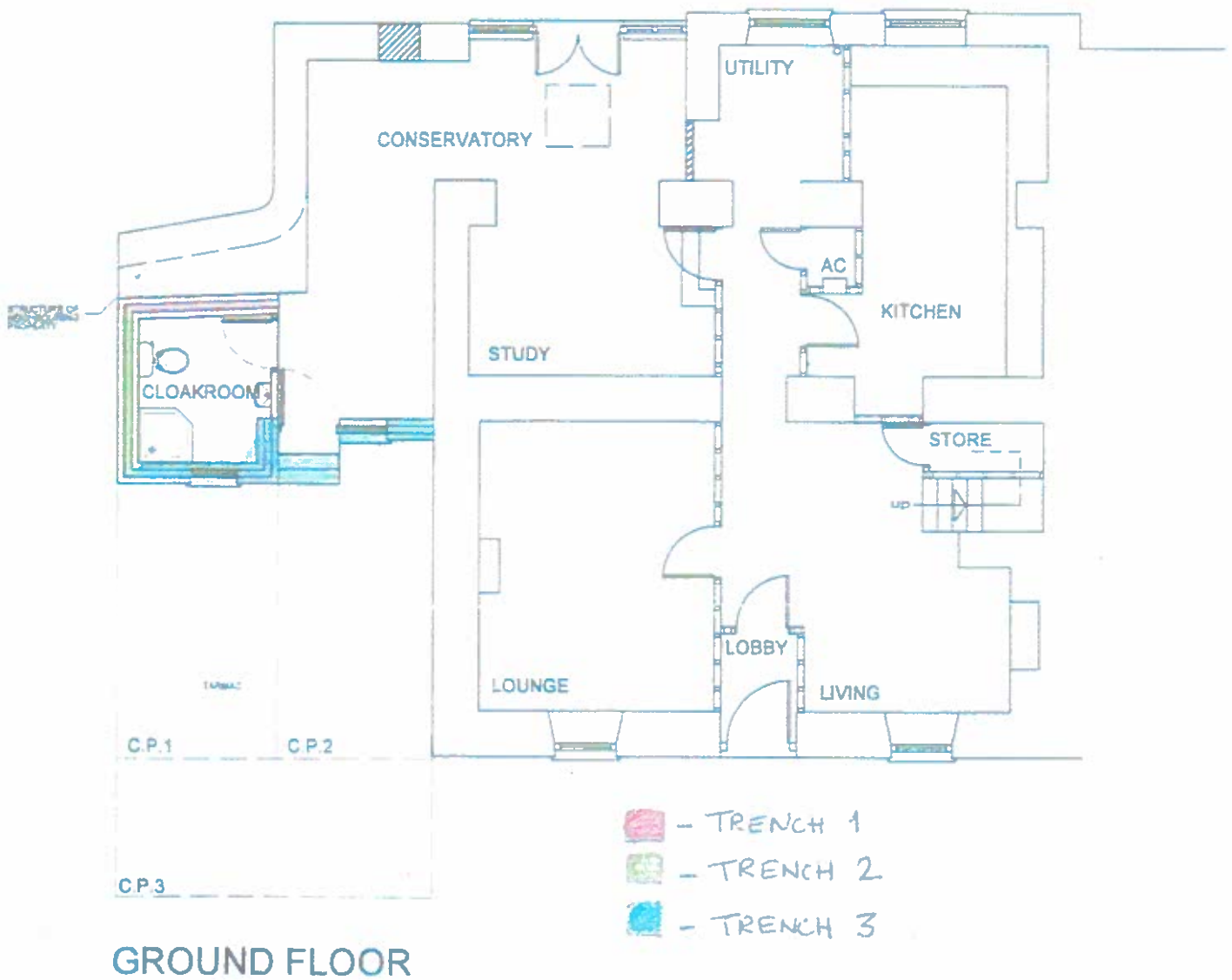
No archaeology was found on the site to be built on and it is likely that a zone with more archaeological potential could be to the rear of the house in the garden area where there has been less ground disturbance. Although the ground was disturbed by building activity in the lean-to garage area where the extension is to be built, the depth of the foundation trenches went below these recent intrusions down to a layer that would have remained intact archaeologically. Despite this no features or finds were observed.

Therefore, a recommendation can be given that building work on the new dwelling can go ahead without jeopardising any potential archaeological deposits in the plot.

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Appendix 1: Plans and Photographs

I.1 Plan of the site of proposed new extension



SCALE 1:100 AT A3 SIZE

SCHEME

'THE GLOBE,' UPPER ST. MARY'S STREET,
NEWPORT, PEMBROKESHIRE.

1.2 Photographs of the site



The site prior to building work





Top: Trench 1 east section under steps
Bottom: Trench 1 extended east section onto bungalow next door





Top: Trench 1 looking north-east
Bottom: Trench 2 north section





Top: Trench 2 looking north-west, Electricity Board slab on left

Bottom: Trench 3 looking north to Trench 2





Top: Trench 2 south section

Bottom: Trench 3 west section, adjacent to above





Top: Trench 3 east section, later removed for extended east section
Bottom: Trench 3 extended east section





Top: Trenches 1, 2 and 3 looking north
Bottom: North wall of 'The Globe' and Trench 3





Top: Trench 3 looking south at section below north wall of house
 Bottom: Trench 3, close-up of east section and sewage pipe





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