

HERITAGE
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Stag & Pheasant Public House, 34 Spilman Street, Carmarthen.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



By
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HRSWales Report No: 110
March 2007

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On behalf of:
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries PLC.

Date: March 2007

HRSW Report No: 110



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Non Technical Summary

The following report is the result of archaeological work undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales for Ken Morgan Architects, on behalf of Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries PLC. The work was as a result of a condition for an archaeological watching brief during ground work for the construction of an extension to an existing chiller or cooler room and landscaping for a new beer garden at the Stag & Pheasant Public House, 34, Spilman Street, Carmarthen.

The watching brief was designed to record any archaeological deposits that may become exposed during the groundwork, especially deposits relating to the Roman period of Carmarthen. Of particular concern was the remains of the former Roman forts, known to potentially exist within the area of the development.

The ground work for the extension cooler room cut through the present ground level at the rear of the public house, exposing and removing 17th – 19th century deposits covering an area of approximately twenty feet square to a depth of approximately five feet. At this depth Roman deposits were exposed in the form of the remains of a clay rampart and a gravel trackway, likely the former 'intervallum' road associated with a reduced Roman fort. Immediately underlying these deposits was what appeared to be an occupation level of an earlier Roman fort. Truncating through these Roman levels was one medieval pit and two post medieval rubbish pits. The exposed deposits and features were cleaned back and then partially excavated so as to identify their character, form and date. Following this the exposed deposits were recorded and then the entire area was covered in a protective terram sheeting with a layer of sand for protection, thereby being preserved in situ.

Analysis and interpretation of the results of the excavated remains conclude that the exposed Roman deposits have helped confirm the almost precise position and orientation of the northern rampart of the reduced Roman fort.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The following report is the result of archaeological work undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales (HRSW) for Ken Morgan Architects, on behalf of Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries PLC. The archaeological work was as a result of a condition for an archaeological watching brief during the ground work for the construction of an extension to an existing cooler room and landscaping for a new beer garden at the rear of the Stag & Pheasant Public House, No.34 Spilman Street, Carmarthen.
- 1.2 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and guidance: for an archaeological watching brief*, and current Health and Safety legislation.

Planning Background

- 1.3 Planning permission was granted by Carmarthenshire County Council (*Application number: W/1446*⁷) to Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries PLC, to extend the existing cellar and to improve the rear garden area with the condition that '....no development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors, in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority'
- 1.4 After being approached by Ken Morgan Design and Building Management to undertake the archaeological work, HRSW submitted a project specification (PS/110/07) in December 2006 to Cambria Archaeology, the regional Archaeological Trust in Llandeilo, detailing the schedule of works, recommending that all ground works be undertaken under archaeological watching brief conditions. This specification was approved and the watching brief began on January 8th 2007.

Site Location & Description (see Figs 1, 2, & 3)

- 1.5 The Stag & Pheasant Public House, 34 Spilman Street, is located between the old Carmarthen Castle (County Hall) and St. Peter's church on the north side of Spilman Street (NGR: SN 4142 2010) at approx. 22m O.D. Spilman Street runs in a NE – SW direction sited along a long, narrow, fluvio-glacially deposited gravel and boulder clay flat plateau ridge with a sharp break of slope on its south eastern side which runs down to the River Tywi.
- 1.6 The rear garden area of 34 Spilman Street, prior to the ground works, was accessed from the existing rear cooler room via a flight of concrete steps that climbed to a raised garden area approx. 2m above ground street level. The existing garden is best described as an 18th century stone walled garden approx. 20 feet wide x 80 feet long.

Nature of development

- 1.7 The proposed development involved an extension to the existing cooler room at the rear of the public house and the creation of a series of steps leading up to the existing raised beer garden area. In order to undertake the construction for the extension cooler room, an area of ground approx. 20 feet x 20 feet had to be cleared down to the present ground street level (Spilman Street frontage). This entailed the reduction of the ground surface at the rear of the raised garden area by approx. 1.90 meters. Once done an opening was to be cut through the existing external wall for access to the new extension. Following this, the original plan was to cut a series of three foundation trenches each approx. 600mm wide x 450mm deep for the new external, partition and retaining walls. However as significant archaeology became exposed at the 1.90m depth in the form of Roman deposits, it was decided that no further ground work should take place and the already exposed deposits recorded and preserved in situ. This condition determined that a *floating* concrete platform 8 inches above the Roman deposits be constructed instead thereby not damaging the exposed archaeology.

Geology

- 1.8 The geology of the area is a sedimentary rock of Ordovician period consisting of both Llanfyrn and Arenig types. Local geology indicates that the area consists of fluvio-glacially deposited clays, sands and gravels.

Historical & Archaeological Background

- 1.9 The development lies within the core historic area of Carmarthen town. The site lies within the area of the early Roman forts and the later medieval town. Within the Carmarthen Historic Town Survey prepared by Cambria Archaeology for CADW and Carmarthenshire County Council in 2005, it has been identified that the early Roman forts in Planning Zone 4 are a significant archaeological resource of the town.
- 1.10 Because of the importance of the Spilman Street area archaeologically, a brief history of Roman Carmarthen based on an article by Heather James has been included, as well, an overview of all of the archaeological work over the last few decades undertaken in the area of Spilman Street has also been included.

Brief History of Roman Carmarthen

- 1.11 Roman settlement began with the establishment of an auxiliary fort probably about 5 acres in size, in AD 75. The fort was located in the Spilman and King Street area and was called *Moridunum*. The garrison was scaled down and the fort reduced in size before being finally abandoned sometime between AD 95 and

105. There is evidence that buildings were demolished and that the withdrawal was orderly and planned. Occupation of an agricultural nature continued in the annex to the east of the fort. A small temple was located in this area and may have provided a focus for the occupation. Pottery from the site has been dated to AD 90-110. There is no archaeological evidence to date to identify a *vicus* type settlement outside the fort. Some time after AD 120 but before AD 150 a planned street system was laid out on either side of the main road on the east of the fort site. It is likely that this marks the official designation of *Moridunum* as the *civitas* or tribal administrative centre for the Demeta;. Outside the walls an amphitheatre was built in the late second century. A pattern of rectangular timber houses and workshops were identified during excavations in 1980-84 including a large building at the Church Street site from the mid-second century. On the southern side of the town a civic building, possibly *amansio* or an inn, has been recorded. Between the second and third centuries there appears to have been a marked change in the character of the occupation as evidence from excavations in Priory Street indicates a period of abandonment (JAMES 1991).

- 1.12 New earth and timber defences were constructed during the late second century. Their relationship to the changes noted at the Priory Street excavations is unclear. Larger, grander and more Romanized town houses were built during the third and fourth centuries. Sometime during this period the defences were remodelled on a more substantial scale; the clay bank was widened to form a low ramp behind a stone wall fronted by a shallow ditch. Fourth-century coins and pottery and the continued maintenance of the street system suggest that urban life continued until late into the fourth century. It can be speculated that the discovery of some third and fourth-century military type fittings might suggest a military presence towards the end of Roman occupation. After the collapse of Roman rule in the early fifth century it appears that *Moridunum* continued to be occupied and that new defensive arrangements were made. A large 'V' profiled defensive ditch was discovered which cut across the Roman fort site at Spilman Street. This has been dated to the mid-sixth century (JAMES 1991).
- 1.13 The detailed and thorough investigations into Roman Carmarthen have provided a wealth of material and information about the first recorded urban centre in west Wales. Its administrative functions and continued claims to be the regional capital of the area remain to this day. It was the administrative centre of Dyfed and is the county town of Carmarthenshire. No other town in Wales can boast such a lineage of administrative service. Its only rival from this era is Caerwent, the *civitas* of the Silures tribe. Nowadays this is little more than a small town (JAMES 1991).
- 1.14 There have been 5 excavations undertaken in the area of Spilman Street since 1968. The results of each of these excavations will be described (*see Figures 4-7*).
- Barri Jones excavation 1968/69
 - Church Street Excavations 1976-78
 - Emergency Control Centre Excavation 1985
 - Spilman Street Excavations 1988-89
 - Carmarthen Journal Salvage Recording 1993

Barri Jones Excavations 1968/69

- 1.15 During excavations in the car park of the Ivy Bush Hotel, by Professor Barri Jones, a ditch was uncovered which was identified with the initial auxiliary Roman fort, part of the Frontian system of conquest dating to the mid-70s AD. Early Flavian pottery was found in the sump of the ditch. As a result of Jones's work the location of the initial fort had been discovered fairly precisely to the Spilman Street – King Street area. Outside of the walls of the fort it was normal for a small township or *vicus* to develop, of traders, merchants etc., who would service the needs of the military. The large number of finds and the location of Roman remains to the east of the fort could not be effectively explained by a *vicus* alone. The second important discovery was of a massive stone revetted rampart south of the line of Richmond Terrace. This proved to mark the outline of a formalised Roman town. A date for its construction based on ceramic

evidence indicated the second half of the second century AD. Further excavations in 1969 in the area of St Peter's car park opposite St.Peters church confirmed the existence of Carmarthen or *Moridunum* as being commensurate as a regional capital. Further work in 1968-70 by Jones, east of the town, exposed the existence of an Roman amphitheatre (REES 2006).

Church Street Excavations 1976-78

- 1.16 Excavations undertaken in 1976-78 in gardens south of Church Street exposed a long sequence of Roman occupation between the late 1st – 4th centuries AD. The earliest occupation was Roman and consisted of a sequence of fenced and ditched enclosures, which continued in use until the early 2nd century. A rather straggling ditch, first identified in 1976, bisected the site and had gone out of use in the first quarter of the second century. It was originally thought to be a leat supplying water to the fort but it is now recognised that Parade Road must in origin have been a natural ravine, a channel for some long lost stream.....It is thought that the evidence from the Church Street excavations may represent an annexe to the fort to the west for stock or horses (JAMES 1992).

Emergency Control Centre Excavation 1985

- 1.17 Archaeological trial work was carried out in 1985 on the site of what was planned as a new Chairman's 'parlour' in the car park of Carmarthen District Council, Spilman Street. Work showed that substantial Roman deposits existed, buried a metre below the car park surface. Unfortunately building plans were altered at short notice to create an emergency underground shelter below the proposed parlour. A deep L-shaped cutting was dug out by contractor's machines removing almost all the archaeological deposits without record. Only a short period of time could be negotiated to record the sections and excavate any deep features still surviving below the base of the cutting (JAMES 1992).
- 1.18 It was soon apparent from finds of coins and pottery that the occupation was of late first century date and was thus likely to be military in character. Yet the features did not seem to be of the normal type for the interior of a Roman auxiliary fort. Postholes exposed in the sides of the cutting suggested that there had been two phases of timber buildings. They were set on three sides of a deep rectangular pit or tank, and all were alongside a gravelled road which had been sectioned in the western side of the cutting. The pit, 7.7 m x 4.9 m. and 1.8 m. deep, had been clay and timber lined to hold water wooden partitions divided it into four equal sized compartments. It was interpreted as a tanning pit and experts with whom the 1985 results were discussed thought it unlikely that a smelly process like tanning (which involves steeping hides in urine) would take place within the densely packed interior of a fort, not even in the workshop quarter (JAMES 1992).

Spilman Street Excavations 1988-89

- 1.19 Questions raised from the 1985 excavations were answered by the results from the 1988-89 excavations which took place further north on the sites of the demolished (and now rebuilt) 5-8 Spilman Street and the areas to the rear. This time a three month period for archaeological excavation was negotiated between demolition and rebuilding.
- 1.20 The greatest depths of Roman deposits survived on the western side of the site where a north-south aligned Roman road was discovered, undoubtedly the northward continuation of the road discovered in 1985. In the northwest corner of the excavation, alongside the entrance to the car park, were the truncated remains of a clay bank which had been revetted by turves. This was interpreted as a fort rampart and the road an *intervallum* road running around the whole interior of the fort defences. But when the clay bank and road were excavated there were the traces of rectangular timber buildings sealed below them,

similar in character and alignment to those built on the eastern side of the road. The rampart evidently belonged to a secondary, smaller fort constructed partly within the defences of the original auxiliary fort, to house a reduced garrison. Such a reduction in size has been demonstrated on most of the Roman forts excavated within Wales. We know far less about the interior plans and functions of the reduced forts than the relatively standardized layout of the auxiliary forts. There may well have been a specialization in the preparation of hides for leather and therefore a need for tanning works within the reduced fort at *Moridunum*. The Roman Army required very large quantities of leather and not just for its cavalry forces.

- 1.21 Careful excavation of seemingly insignificant features like spreads of burnt clay and deposits of charcoal, layers found directly above the original floor levels of the Roman timber buildings (where they survived) showed that many of the buildings had been destroyed by fire. Yet there was insufficient debris to suggest that this was the result of an attack, capture and destruction of the fort. A deliberate, thorough and systematic programme of demolition, salvage, slighting of defences and final clearance of the site by burning had taken place on both the areas excavated. This can only have been carried out by the Roman Army as part of a planned withdrawal of the Carmarthen garrison (JAMES 1992)..

Carmarthen Journal Salvage Recording 1993

- 1.22 The following text has been extracted from Heather James's '*Roman Carmarthen*', chapter 2 pp 42-43. The text is a review of Neil Ludlow of Dyfed Archaeological Trust's salvage report following building work for the new Carmarthen Journal Offices in 1993, which happened to be next door to the Stag & Pheasant Public House, 34 Spilman Street, Carmarthen..

1.23 *Earliest features*

A full and, in parts, truncated, buried soil profile was noted in different trench locations across the site. This was the characteristic reddish-brown clay loam over a fluvio-glacially deposited mixture of stiff clays and gravels familiar from all excavations of Roman levels in Carmarthen. It was noted along the lengths of Trenches A, B and C and also in Trenches E and F. Over the southern half of the site, the top of the buried soil (i.e. the original Roman ground level) was recorded at depths of 0.7 and 0.8m below the prepared surface level for the floor of the new building, a level comparable to the previous floor levels of the demolished printing works. The bottom of the construction trenches across the southern half of the site were cut into subsoil clays and gravels, but these were not visible over the northern half. This reflected the former degree of slope dipping to the south from a ridged crest of high ground, now wholly levelled off, between King and Spilman Streets.

Features noted at buried soil level included a charcoal-filled stakehole in Trench C, close to a shallow clay-lined pit, with a clay loam fill containing charcoal and burnt clay. There were two recorded areas of compact gravel either laid down over the buried soil or directly onto a subsoil base, implying stripping off of soil for a firmer foundation, the first at the northern end of Trench A, the second in Trench C. This latter deposit might be part of an east-west road.

Road surface

The most significant early feature recorded was, however, a series of compact, superimposed gravel layers. This was sectioned along its length by Trench B and transversely by Trenches E and F. It is hard to interpret this as anything other than a road surface. The maximum depths recorded were 0.9m and the minimum, at the northern end of the trench, 0.45m. The transverse sections of this road seen briefly in Trenches E and F did not provide conclusive information on the edges of the road to allow its width and precise alignment to be recorded and plotted, but the varying depths recorded undoubtedly reflect the edge and centre of a substantial, frequently resurfaced road. In Trench E, the western edge of an approximately 3m width of road surfacing was deposited over the edge of an infilled linear feature which might have been a marking-out

ditch. The same feature was also observed in Trench F where a better profile of the 3m wide ditch was recorded. This gives some indication of the line of the western edge of the road. Apart from the series of surface levels there were other indications that the road was not all of one phase of construction since a layer of charcoal was sealed between two gravel surfacings at the northern end of the trench. The lens of burnt material appeared to mark the limit of a much more extensive layer extending further north and east.

Clay bank

Truncated remains of a substantial clay bank were recorded in Trenches A and C, though not, significantly, in Trench B. In Trench A clay deposits over the edge of the gravel noted above occurred over a 10m length of trench, albeit truncated and cut through by later features. A clear sloping edge to the stiff yellow clay deposit was observed on its southern side. In Trench C similar spreads of clay were noted over an 11m length again considerably truncated. But the same rising slope from south to north was noted, best interpreted as the weathered profile of the rear or interior face of the bank.

Burnt deposits

Burnt layers, either predominantly of charcoal, or of clay loam, heavily flecked with charcoal and heat-reddened clays, occurred across the site and at different levels. The circumstances of observation and recording could not provide a complete account of their character and inter-relationships. However, the most extensive areas observed were located over the northern half of the site and recorded in Trenches A, B, C, and E and F. The key stratigraphic relationships, however, were the relationship of the burnt material to the north-south road and to the clay bank. Thin lenses of burnt and disturbed material lay over the edges of the road. Only in Trench C was a limited 'keyhole' view available for the relationship between burnt material and the clay bank and the position was not entirely clear. It was, however, concluded, on balance, that the burning was secondary to the bank.

Interpretation

The interpretation of the sequences of what was undoubtedly Roman activity on the *Carmarthen Journal* site (though diagnostic material was very sparse) was made in the light of the Spilman Street excavation results. There was evidence across the whole site of an initial phase of occupation whose principal feature was a north-south aligned road. This may be interpreted as one of the main axial roads of the original auxiliary fort (see below for further discussion). The clay bank was secondary to this phase of occupation. It was not, however, built across the north-south road and it is reasonable therefore to conclude that the gap marked an entrance to a smaller area of defended enclosure, namely the reduced fort clearly evidenced at Spilman Street from the 1988-89 excavations. The large amounts of burnt material within a build-up of material above the buried soil were concentrated over the northern part of the site. They may be traces of the deliberate slighting and clearance of the superfluous defences and interior buildings of the auxiliary fort occasioned by the construction of a reduced fort. The uppermost levels were very disturbed and widely spread but burnt material was again present, perhaps indicating a final slighting and clearance when the reduced fort was itself abandoned (JAMES 1993 pp42-43).

2 Aims and Objectives

2.1 In accordance with IFA's *Standards and guidance*, the aims of an archaeological watching brief are:

- 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 other potentially disruptive works.
- to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested

parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

- 2.2 A watching brief is not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.
- 2.3 The objective of a watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site. The primary objective of this assessment was to ensure that any previously unrecorded archaeological features and deposits exposed during the ground disturbance works and subsequent development of the site were adequately recorded and interpreted.

3 Methodology

- 3.1 After the modern concrete paving slabs had been lifted from the raised garden area, initially all ground work was undertaken manually using hand-shovels. This was done only to a depth where enough room was made so the necessary part of the external wall could be punctured through so as to make the proposed new opening into the cooler room extension. Once the new entrance was made however a small mechanical excavator with a 1 metre wide toothless grading bucket was employed to remove all of the earth covering an area of approx. 20 feet x 20 feet, to a depth of approx. 1.90m below the raised garden ground surface.
- 3.2 Where exposed features were present at this depth limited excavation was undertaken to establish the date, character, depth, extent, and function of the feature and its relationship if any to other features.
- 3.4 All recording was undertaken in three formats:
- i) *Photographic record* - Photographs were taken in digital format using a 5 mega-pixel camera recording in high resolution JPEG files. Where deemed necessary standard 35 mm film format in Black and White was also appropriated
 - ii) *Drawn record* - Site drawings, plans and sections, were produced at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 on drafting film, where deemed necessary. Finished drawings have been related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.
 - iii) *Written record* - Written records were produced using a continuous numbering sequence for all contexts.
- 3.5 An environmental sampling and processing strategy was in place should the archaeological deposits warrant it. However, in this instance it was not felt that the deposits encountered required sampling.
- 3.6 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and guidance: for an archaeological watching brief* and current Health and Safety legislation.

4 Results of the Watching Brief (see Figures 8-12)

- 4.1 In the following, numbers contained within brackets (), refer to context numbers allocated during the watching brief. A detailed list of all contexts is given in Appendix III of this report. Contexts start at 100.
- 4.2 The major part of the area of ground being excavated was completely covered in modern 2' x 2' concrete

slabs (100). At the far northwest end however was a modern breeze-block constructed building being used as a bottle store. This building was demolished so as to entirely clear the area being excavated. Once the concrete slabs were lifted a dark brown garden soil was exposed immediately (101). This deposit was approx. 0.40m deep. At the far northwest end were two cuts (140 / 141) for the footings of the bottle store building (102). Both of these cuts had been filled with rubble including shingle and shale (105) as well as concrete footings. Below this dark brown soil clearance exposed the remains of a stone garden wall (108). Being retained between this stone-wall (108) and the far west garden wall (129) was a *rust* coloured sandy soil with charcoal flecks (106). This deposit averaged a depth of approx. 0.60m. Finds within this deposit included 19th century glass and ceramic fragments. On the east side of this stone-wall was a dark brown garden soil with mortar and charcoal flecks (107). Two thin lenses of mortar and charcoal also overlay this deposit (103 / 104). Once the deposit (106) was removed a fairly thick and compact yellow mortar deposit was exposed (110). Finds recovered from this deposit were glass and ceramic fragments, all late 18th century in date. This deposit gave the impression of an early platform or floor for a former potting shed. Once removed a thin layer of burnt ash, dark sand and charcoal was exposed (111). This deposit was only approx. 0.10m thick. Below this was a 0.18m deep mortar and red brick rubble deposit (112) that had been thrown down onto an early cobbled floor (113). Directly on top of this cobbled surface finds recovered included early 18th century ceramic fragments. It became clear at this point that the small garden wall (108) had been built directly on top of the cobbled surface (113). On the east side of the remains of the garden wall feature (108) clearance of early 18th century garden soils (107 and 109) showed that the cobbled surface only extended across half of the garden area. Removal of the cobbled surface (113) showed that the cobbles had been bedded into a dark brown silty sand *loam* with charcoal, lime and lime mortar flecks (114). This deposit appeared to cover the entire excavated area. Within this deposit recovered finds were predominantly late 17th century in date and included pottery fragments and clay pipe stems. The average depth of this deposit was approx. 0.45m. Directly below this layer was a dark beige/yellow clay (115) with charcoal inclusions averaging approx. 0.5% of the deposit.

- 4.3 This dark beige/yellow deposit (115) covered approx. one third of the entire excavated area, at the far north end. The central and area south was covered in a mid dark beige/pink clay with charcoal inclusions averaging approx. 0.5% of the deposit (133). Parts of this clay deposit, especially at the far south-west end, were heat-reddened. Truncating these clay deposits were three cuts (121 / 123 / 127). At the far north-east corner was a circular feature approx. 1.25m round. The upper fill (122) of this feature contained post-medieval pottery fragments c. 1650 and animal bones (sheep). The upper fill of the other two cuts at the far southern end of the area (123 / 127), both contained post medieval and late medieval pottery fragments. Following the reduction of the ground surface by a further 0.45m, thereby removing much of the clay deposits (115 and 133), a gravel deposit became exposed with an apparent edge following an east-west orientation (118). This gravel deposit was interpreted as a former track or road. Closer inspection of the clay deposit (115) exposed in the south facing section managed to recover several fragments of Roman pottery c. 2nd century AD implying that this deposit was Roman in date and likely part of the former clay rampart of the reduced Roman fort.
- 4.4 Following the retrieval of these Roman pottery fragments the reduction of the ground levels was halted and all exposed features and deposits were partially excavated and recorded in order to ascertain their character, form and date. Each of the exposed features and deposits will be discussed in turn in the following text. Following the partial excavation of the exposed features and their preservation *in situ* with a covering of protective *terram* sheet, the central area of the south-east facing section, above the clay rampart (115) deposit, was cut back for the insertion of a series of stone steps that were to lead up to the raised beer garden area. No features or finds were recovered during this ground work earlier than the 18th century.

Round Pit (121 and 122)

- 4.5 The cut for the round pit truncated the beige/yellow clay deposit (115) at the far north-east end implying that the feature post dated the potential clay rampart (115). In order to ascertain this features character,

date and form it was half-sectioned and the beige clay/loam fill removed (122), however after a depth of approx. 0.50m with sherds of post-medieval and medieval pottery appearing, the feature was then quarter sectioned so as to get an idea of its depth, which was approx. 1.50m, however the actual depth of the feature with the upper deposit (115) still in place, was approx. 1.75m. The base of the pit reached natural, a yellow/pale orange gravel shale (147). Finds recovered included post-medieval (18th century) and medieval (15th – 16th century) pottery fragments and a few animal bones. Also recovered was a small sherd of a close copy of 2nd century AD Black Burnished 1 ware (BB1).

- 4.6 From the dateable pottery sherds recovered from the fill of this feature it was interpreted as a rubbish pit with a likely medieval date. The BB1 sherd of 2nd century AD date is interpreted as being residual.

Square Pit (123 and 124)

- 4.7 The square pit (123) appeared fairly high up in the soil horizons. It appeared to cut through a late 18th century deposit (114). The fill of this pit outlined the full extent of this feature. It measured approx. 2.10m x 2m. After half-sectioning the feature and removing the dark soil fill (124), so as to get an insight into the features character and date, it became apparent that the feature was a post-medieval pit which averaged a depth onto the natural gravel shales (147) at approx. 0.50m. Again, as with the former round pit, this pit would have been at least 1 metre in depth had the ground-work not cut through its upper levels. At the far southern end of the pit was a further small cut (126). This cut was likely associated with the foundation cut for the external north wall of the cooler room (131). Finds recovered from the fill of this feature included animal bones and fragments of pottery from the post-medieval periods including several fragments of 18th century slipware and 17th century North Devon gravel tempered wares. Medieval pottery sherds were also recovered in the form of glazed local red earthen wares and one 12th – 13th century body sherd that appeared to be an import, probably from the Bristol area. Also recovered were two small fragments of 1st – 2nd century South Gaulish Samian ware.
- 4.8 From the nature of the fill and the dateable pottery sherds recovered from the fill of this feature it was interpreted as a rubbish pit with a post-medieval date. The medieval and Samian sherds recovered were interpreted as being residual.
- 4.9 Investigation and recording of the west facing section of this pit showed that two significant features were present (*see Figure 12*). First, the remains of what appeared to be a gravel deposit which may have been a continuation of the gravel track (118) already exposed. This feature had also been partially cut through by another small cut (117) which mirrored the cut already evident in the east facing section. Secondly, what has been interpreted as a further cut was also cutting through this clay deposit at the southern end (138). This appeared to be filled by a beige clay deposit with charcoal flecks, similar in character to that recorded in the south-east facing section (*Figure 11*).

Square Pit (127 and 125)

- 4.10 This feature was located at the far south-west end of the excavated area. At first the full extent of this feature wasn't seen as it was partially covered in a clay deposit (133), which gave the impression that the feature pre-dated the clay deposit (133), which had been interpreted as the possible spread remains of the reduced Roman fort, as pottery sherds dating to the 2nd century AD had already been recovered from this context. All that was visible was a thin line of lime mortar and an area where the ground dipped implying a loose fill beneath the overlying clay (133). However it soon became clear that below the clay deposit (133) was a dark brown soil with lumps of lime inclusions, averaging approx. 5% of the fill (125). Within the fill were pottery sherds of post-medieval (18th century North Devon Ware and Slipware) and a few small fragments of 1st – 2nd century Roman Samian ware and a small sherd of 2nd century Severn Valley Ware. Because of this it became apparent that the overlying clay appeared to have been cut through to create a square rubbish pit and then back-filled with a dark soil and also the original clay deposit (133). This made excavation and interpretation of the line of the cut for the feature very hard to discern. After

quarter sectioning the feature and cleaning along the edges of the fill, in order to define the features edges, it became apparent that the feature measured approx. 2m x 1.80m and reached a depth to natural (147) at approx. 0.60m.

- 4.11 From the nature of the fill and the dateable pottery sherds recovered from the fill of this feature it was interpreted as a rubbish pit with a post-medieval date. The Samian and Severn Valley Ware sherds recovered were interpreted as being residual, likely associated with the clay deposit (133) or else a thin occupation layer (116).

Gravel Track (118)

- 4.12 During the watching brief a gravel deposit (118), interpreted as a track and likely the remains of the *intervallum* north track of the later reduced Roman fort, appeared at the far west end of the excavation area and appeared to begin at the edge of a beige/yellow clay deposit (115), which was itself interpreted as the remains of the north clay rampart of the reduced Roman fort. The width of the gravel deposit (118) was only approx. 2m and appeared to be running in an east-west direction as was evident from a further patch of gravel deposit exposed in the central area of the excavation area. Only a small length of this gravel layer became fully exposed during the excavation but its slightly 'cambered' profile was very clear in the east facing section below the east facing garden wall (128). Along the central spine of the gravel track was a small cut (117) filled by a beige/reddened clay (133). To aid interpretation of this cut feature and to help identify the character and date of the gravel track, a 2m x 1m slot was cut through the overlying clay (133). This slot showed that beneath the gravel track was a beige/pink clay/sandy deposit (116). Within the upper horizon of this deposit (116) were several dark patches of soil staining indicative of residual timbers since rotted away. These residual marks were interpreted as either the remains of the earlier fort timber wattling below the later *intervallum* road of the later reduced fort or else were contemporary in date to the gravel track itself, possibly having been timber planking laid down as a support base for the gravel road. Within the upper surface horizon of this deposit (116) was recovered a very small sherd of South Gaulish Samian Ware.
- 4.13 The small cut (117) also followed the line of the gravel track and appeared to cut below the depth of the overlying gravel deposit. At its lowest soil horizon of the fill of this cut was a gravel deposit, identical in form to the gravel track. This cut obviously post-dates the gravel trackway (118) but the presence of gravel identical to the track causes some confusion with regards interpretation. It may be that when the cut was made that some of the gravel track fell back into the cut, or that the cut did not cut all the way through the gravel deposit but a heavy weight, possibly a large timber, once filled the cut, thereby pushing gravel down further and deepening the cut. If this latter interpretation were to be the case then the cut could be a former timber slot contemporary in date to the trackway. The same cut also appeared to be present in the west facing section of the post-medieval rubbish pit at the far east end of the area, implying that the slot continued in an east – west direction, running parallel to the track and the former rampart. Although this interpretation is indeed possible, it is hindered by the fact that directly overlying the gravel track, as is evident in the south-east facing section (*see Figure 11*), that the cut had also cut through a thin band of soot and charcoal (134) and a very compacted heat-reddened clay (135). Both of these deposits imply an abandonment of the fort with the burning of timber. Sealed within the compacted heat-reddened clay deposit (135) several fragments of 2nd century AD Severn Valley ware recovered, which could be interpreted as giving a fairly precise date for the abandonment and burning of the reduced fort. Because the cut (117) cuts through these two *fort abandonment* deposits, this implies that the slot is later in date, possibly medieval and may merely have been a small drainage channel. Another possibility is that the gravel track is in fact the remains of an earlier internal track of the early fort, possibly the remains of a *Via Quintana* or *Via Decumana*, and the cut (117) represents the marking out of the extent of the new reduced fort rampart following slighting and clearing of the internal buildings of the early fort.
- 4.14 A further large cut (138) was also evident along the southern edge of gravel track. This cut was approx. 0.80m, but the gravel track and the overlying charcoal and heat-reddened clay deposits appeared to be

running down into the cut, implying that the cut may have been a parallel running drainage channel contemporary in date to the gravel track (118).

- 4.15 Due to the exposed Roman deposits, the initial development design of the proposed extension cooler room had to be redesigned, making sure that the exposed remains were *preserved in situ*. In order to do this it was decided that a floating concrete platform had to be constructed approx. 8 inches in depth, thereby creating a step up from the present ground level at street level. This new design also meant that the far west stone garden wall (128) also had to be removed, because it was unsafe, and a new wall built onto the base of the new concrete platform. Removal of this garden wall exposed a further 0.50m of excavated area, and of especial significance, the continuation of the gravel track (118) and cuts (117 and 138), which helped confirm their character and orientation.

Clay Rampart Deposits (115 and 133)

- 4.16 What has been interpreted as being the clay rampart (115) of the later reduced fort consisted of a beige/yellow clay with charcoal flecks making up approx. 0.5% of the whole context. As is clear in the profile of the gravel track and rampart in the east facing section, this clay deposit was only approx. 0.45m in depth and appeared to run in an east – west direction, running parallel with the remains of the gravel track (118). This clay deposit only seemed to occupy the northern area of the excavated area but its surface was hard to distinguish from the other clay deposit (133) until visible in profile in the section. This other clay deposit (133) was interpreted as being the spreading of the clay rampart following abandonment and burning of the interior timber buildings of the later reduced fort. To add to the confusion with regards interpretation of this context (133), fragments of red facing brick had been trampled into the clay. These have been interpreted as being construction fragments following construction of the 18th century rear external cooler room wall, which has red facing brick reveals along its corner edges (131).
- 4.17 At the far north-east end of the excavation area, alongside the post-medieval rubbish pit (121) the depth of the reduced fort clay rampart (115) was discerned by a patch of beige/pink deposit (116) which had thin lenses of charcoal and sand incorporated into its upper horizon. This deposit was interpreted as being an occupation layer likely associated with the early Roman fort. At the far north-west corner of the area, embedded within the clay was a further area of burnt charcoal and burnt timber remains, again, likely the timber remains of the early fort. Both these features were left unexcavated and *preserved in situ*.
- 4.18 Pottery recovered from this clay deposit included 1 small body sherd from a Roman amphora, a Dressel type 20 (PEACOCK + WILLIAMS 1986), used for the transport and storage of olive oil, dated to between the 1st – early 3rd century AD. Other pottery sherds sealed within the clay rampart included 3 body sherds of Severn Valley Ware dated to between AD. 75-350 and two fragments of local variants of Black Burnished Ware (BB1) and one small fragment of Black Burnished Ware (BB1) each dated to the 2nd century AD.

Heat-reddened clays

- 4.19 At the far south-west of the excavated area was a large patch of inter-mixed heat reddened clays and heat reddened sands. At its most southern point this deposit (135) was fairly loose in character, however further north and overlying the gravel track (118), the heat-reddened clay became very compact, implying that either the greatest point of heat was on top of the gravel track or else the track was still in use for a time as a trackway, and the clays becoming compacted through time.
- 4.19 Within the heat-reddened clays and sands at the far south-west end small heavily eroded and oxidised fragments of Roman terracotta floor tiles, *tessala*, and roof tiles, *tegula*, were recovered. Also recovered from within this deposit were several fragments of Severn Valley Ware dated to between AD. 75-350.

This deposit was interpreted as a deliberate slighting and clearance of the now superfluous ramparts and internal burnt building remains, ceramic evidence implying that this seems to have occurred at some time in the 2nd century AD.

Ceramics and Finds

- 4.20 For a full list with details of all pottery and finds recovered during the watching brief please see the Finds Register in Appendix III.

Summary of Results

- 4.21 The excavation for the proposed development exposed the remains of Roman deposits in the form of a clay rampart and a gravel trackway, likely the former *intervallum* road of a reduced fort. These two features appeared to be directly overlying the remains of an earlier auxiliary fort running in an east-west direction evidenced by residual timber markings and burnt timbers embedded and protruding through areas of the reduced fort clay rampart. The excavation also exposed heated clay and burnt timber deposits overlying the later reduced forts *intervallum* road, which have been interpreted as the spreading of the ramparts and burnt internal timber building remains following abandonment of the reduced fort. This seems to have occurred at some time post the 2nd century AD, as was evident from pottery sherds of Severn Valley Ware and fragments of Black Burnished Wares found sealed within the clay rampart deposit. Within the upper horizon of the exposed occupation level of the early fort a fragment of South Gaulish Samian ware was also recovered.
- 4.21 Truncating the Roman deposits were three rubbish pits, one of them circular in form with fragments of medieval pottery sherds and animal bones, the other two pits square in form with fragments of a variety of pottery sherds spanning the Roman, Medieval and Post-medieval periods.
- 4.22 Following the abandonment of the reduced fort there doesn't appear to have been any early medieval or indeed late medieval activity in this immediate area. Although fragments of medieval pottery sherds were recovered from the excavation, these were sparse and likely residual following levelling of the site at some time in the 17th century. The stratigraphy of both the north-east and south-west facing sections show that there appears to have been a long period of non-activity in the area until the mid – late 17th century when the area appears to have been re-levelled and a cobbled floor laid down. This cobbled surface (113) appeared to pre-date the west garden wall as it continued beneath it to the west.

Discussion

- 4.22 The excavation for the proposed development exposed the remains of a gravel deposit and a clay deposit running parallel to each other along with what appeared to be a drainage ditch. These deposits have been interpreted as being the former *intervallum* or *Via Sagularis* road and northern clay rampart of the reduced Roman fort running in an east-west direction. Below these exposed features appeared to be the remains of the earlier auxiliary fort. Pottery analysis seemed to imply that the later reduced fort features are 2nd century in date, which ties in with earlier evidence from the former 1988-89 excavations undertaken further south. Taken together, the results from the 1988-89 and 1993 excavations and this excavation give a fairly precise position and orientation of the western and northern clay ramparts. Accepting that the reduced fort would have followed the conventional rectangular *Hyginian* plan, and only extended as far as Church Street overlooking the *Vicus*, the entire reduced fort appears to have been most likely running in an east-west direction. This would mean that the entire area of this reduced fort would only have covered approximately 1.8-2 hectares in size. With this in mind a clearer picture of the size and orientation of the earlier auxiliary fort may also be deduced. Topographically, as the reduced fort was orientated east-west and the northern rampart appears to have been located along the ridge, it is very likely that the earlier fort's northern rampart crossed over the ridge, as far as what is now King Street. If

this were to be the case and the western rampart went as far as the natural ridge alongside Carmarthen Castle and the southern rampart as far as the natural slope that drops down to the river, then the area of the earlier auxiliary fort would only have covered approximately 3.5 - 4 hectares in size.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The ground work for the construction of an extension cooler room at the Stag & Pheasant Public House, 34 Spilman Street, Carmarthen, exposed 17th – 19th century deposits in the form of early garden levels and the remains of a cobbled surface with a low garden wall running in a north-south direction. Below the bedding of the 17th century cobbled surface were discovered Roman deposits in the form of the remains of a clay bank and what appeared to be the partial remains of an early gravel track running in an east-west direction. These features were interpreted as the remains of the northern clay rampart of the reduced Roman fort and the remains of an associated gravel track, possibly an internal *intervallum* road that ran parallel with the clay rampart. Overlying the gravel track was a thin lens of charcoal and a layer of compact heat-reddened clay. These deposits have been interpreted as the spreading of the defensive ramparts and clearing and burning of the internal fort buildings of the reduced Roman Fort. Pottery fragments recovered from within these deposits seem to imply that this event occurred some time in the 2nd century AD.
- 5.2 Partial excavation of the exposed areas and features associated with the clay rampart and the gravel track of the reduced fort revealed that directly beneath these deposits appeared to be the remains of an earlier occupation level. This level was interpreted as the internal remains of an earlier auxiliary fort. This interpretation ties in with the results of the 1988-89 excavations. Unfortunately a large part of the southern area of the excavation had been cut through by two post-medieval rubbish pits. A further medieval rubbish pit had also cut through the north-east part of the clay rampart.
- 5.3 Following partial excavation and recording of the exposed features, the entire excavation area was covered in a protective terram sheet and a covering of sand was thrown over the top, thereby preserving the site *in situ*.

6 Acknowledgements

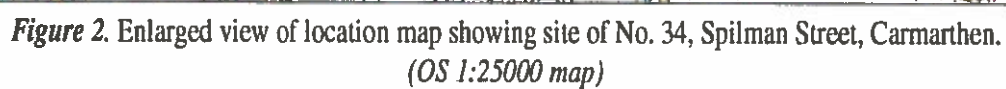
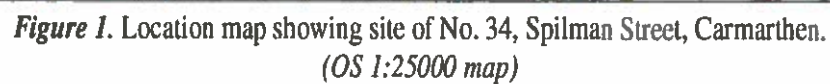
Thanks to; Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries PLC for allowing access to the public House for the watching brief. Also thanks to Ken Morgan Architects and the contractors for their patience during the recording work. Also many thanks to Charles Hill of Cambria Archaeology for his help and advice during the work. A special thanks to Dee Brennan of the University of Wales, Lampeter for pottery analysis.

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APPENDIX I: Figs & Illustrations



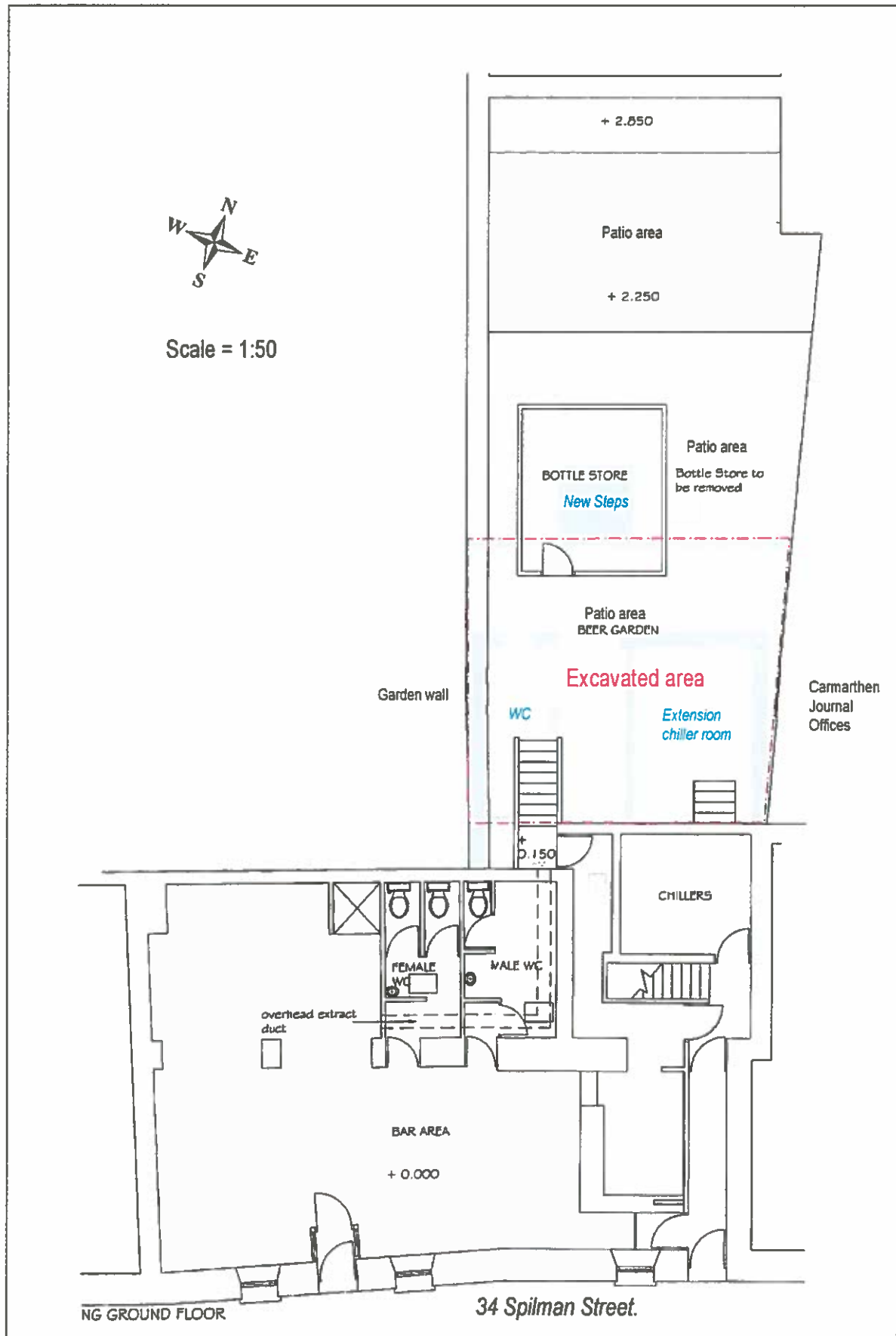


Figure 3. Site plan showing area of excavation outlined in red overlying existing site prior to proposed extension to existing chiller room and steps to raised beer garden level outlined in blue.

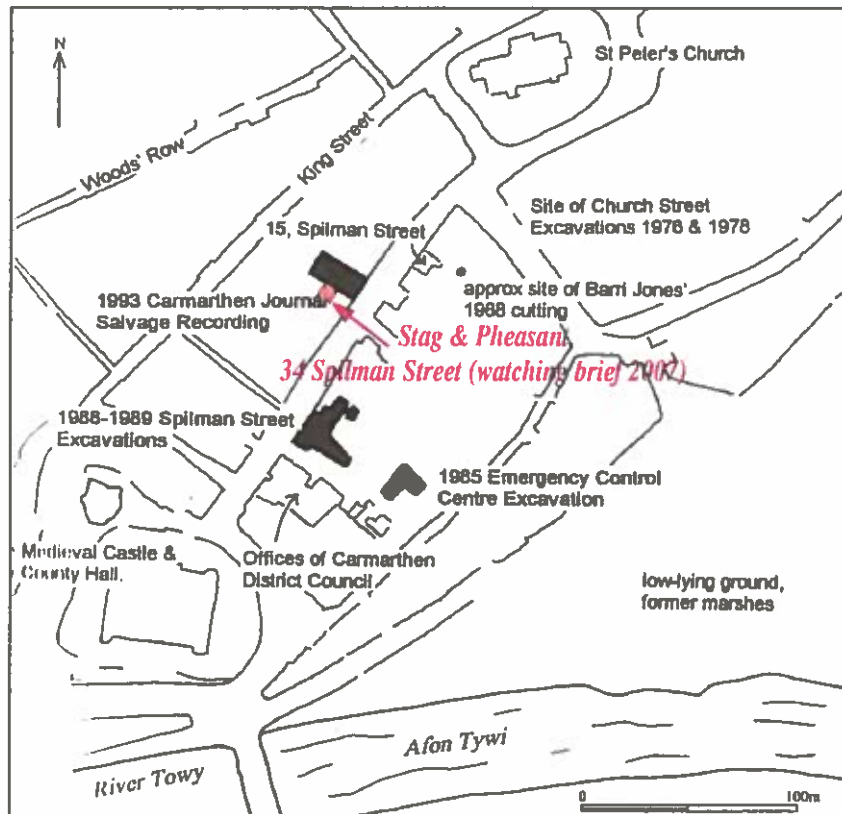


Figure 4. Former excavations in area of Spilman Street, Carmarthen. Area of watching brief highlighted in red.

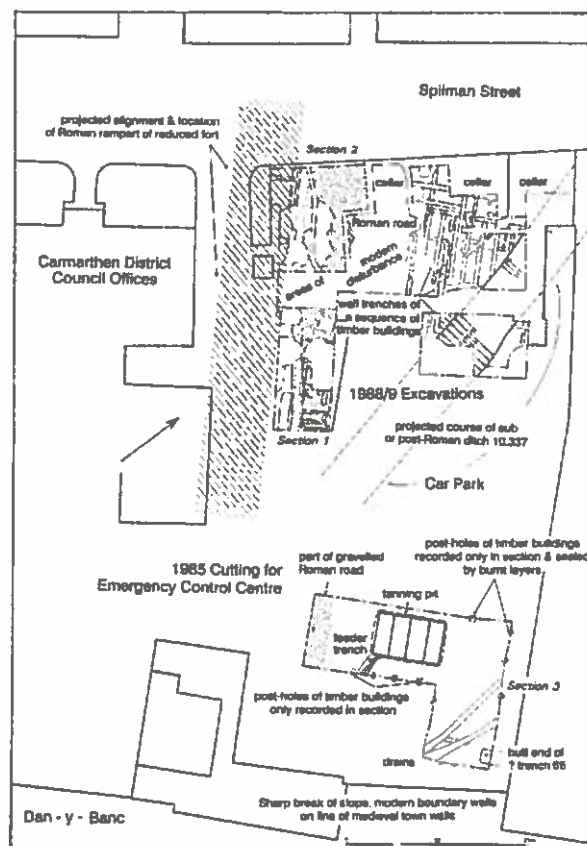
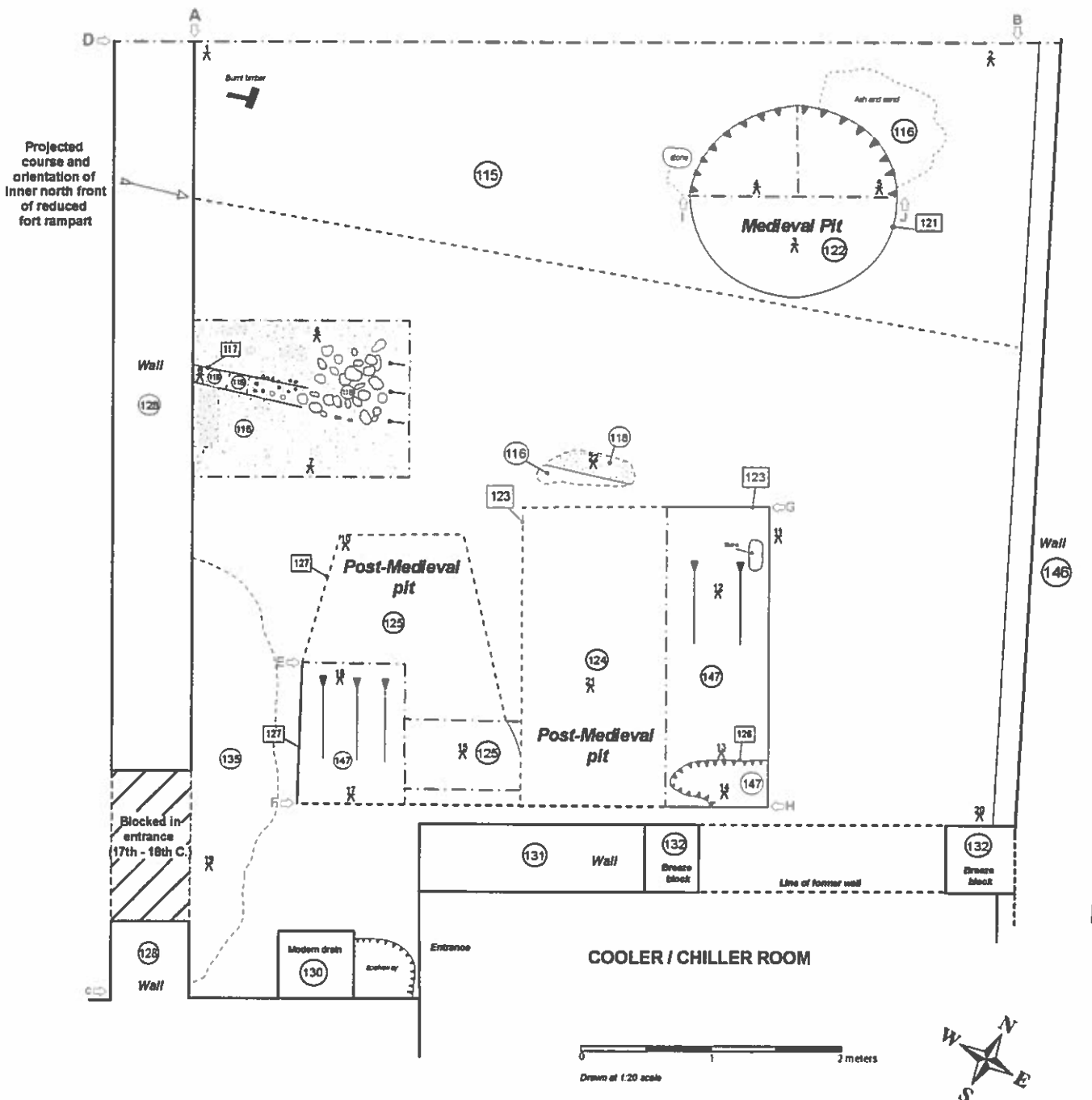


Figure 5. Plan of main features from the 1985 and 1988-89 excavations at Carmarthen District Council Offices, Spilman Street.

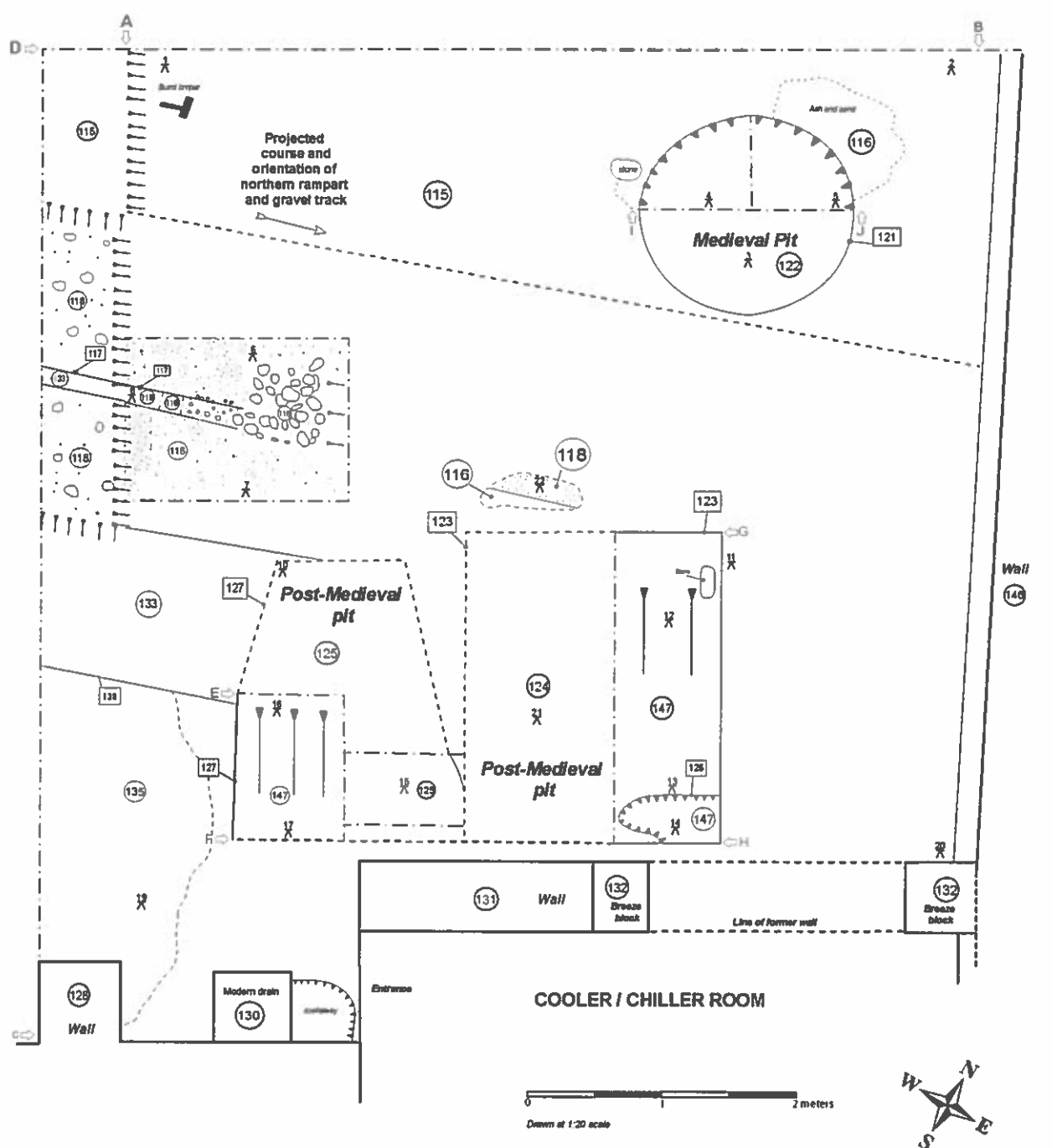




Contexts

- | | |
|--|---|
| 115 - Beige / yellow clay with charcoal flecks (Roman rampart 1st - 2nd c. AD) | 130 - Modern drain (20th c.). |
| 116 - Beige/pale pink silty clay with charcoal flecks (1st c. AD) | 131 - Rear snorth facing stone wall of house (18th c.). |
| 117 - Cut through 135 and 118 (2nd c. AD?) | 132 - Modern breeze block (Recent). |
| 118 - Gravel track (1st - 2nd c. AD) | 133 - Beige clay with charcoal flecks (2nd c. AD?) |
| 121 - Cut of round pit (15th c.) | 134 - Burnt timber remains / charcoal (2nd c. AD) |
| 122 - Fill of round pit (15th c.) | 135 - Very compact pink heated clay (2nd c. AD) |
| 123 - Cut for Post-medieval rubbish pit (18th C.) | 136 - Grey / beige soil |
| 124 - Fill of post medieval rubbish pit 123 (18th c.). | 137 - Yellow clay |
| 125 - Fill of post medieval rubbish pit 127 (18th c.) | 138 - Cut of ditch or drain (1st - 2nd c. AD) |
| 126 - Cut in base of post medieval rubbish pit (18th c.) | 142 - Modern tarmac surface (20th c.) |
| 127 - Cut of post medieval rubbish pit (18th c.). | 143 - Red brick rubble layer (20th c.) |
| 128 - East facing stone wall (17th c.). | 144 - Dark brown soil (19th c.) |
| 129 - Block-in of former entrance through stone wall 128 (18th c.). | 145 - Demolition or construction deposit (19th c.) |
| | 146 - Fill if cut for wall foundation. |
| | 147 - Natural yellow clay/shales. |

Figure 8. Ground plan of excavation area.



Contexts

- 115 - Beige / yellow clay with charcoal flecks (Roman rampart 1st - 2nd c. AD)
- 116 - Beige/pale pink silty clay with charcoal flecks (1st c. AD)
- 117 - Cut through 135 and 118 (2nd c. AD?)
- 118 - Gravel track (1st - 2nd c. AD)
- 121 - Cut of round pit (15th c.)
- 122 - Fill of round pit (15th c.)
- 123 - Cut for Post-medieval rubbish pit (18th C.)
- 124 - Fill of post medieval rubbish pit 123 (18th c.)
- 125 - Fill of post medieval rubbish pit 127 (18th c.)
- 126 - Cut in base of post medieval rubbish pit (18th c.)
- 127 - Cut of post medieval rubbish pit (18th c.)
- 128 - East facing stone wall (17th c.)
- 129 - Block-in of former entrance through stone wall 128 (18th c.)

- 130 - Modern drain (20th c.)
- 131 - Rear snorth facing stone wall of house (18th c.)
- 132 - Modern breeze block (Recent)
- 133 - Beige clay with charcoal flecks (2nd c. AD?)
- 134 - Burnt timber remains / charcoal (2nd c. AD)
- 135 - Very compact pink heated clay (2nd c. AD)
- 136 - Grey / beige soil
- 137 - Yellow clay
- 138 - Cut of ditch or drain (1st - 2nd c. AD)
- 142 - Modern tarmac surface (20th c.)
- 143 - Red brick rubble layer (20th c.)
- 144 - Dark brown soil (19th c.)
- 145 - Demolition or construction deposit (19th c.)
- 146 - Fill if cut for wall foundation.
- 147 - Natural yellow clay/shales.

Figure 9. Ground plan of excavation area following removal of west garden wall.

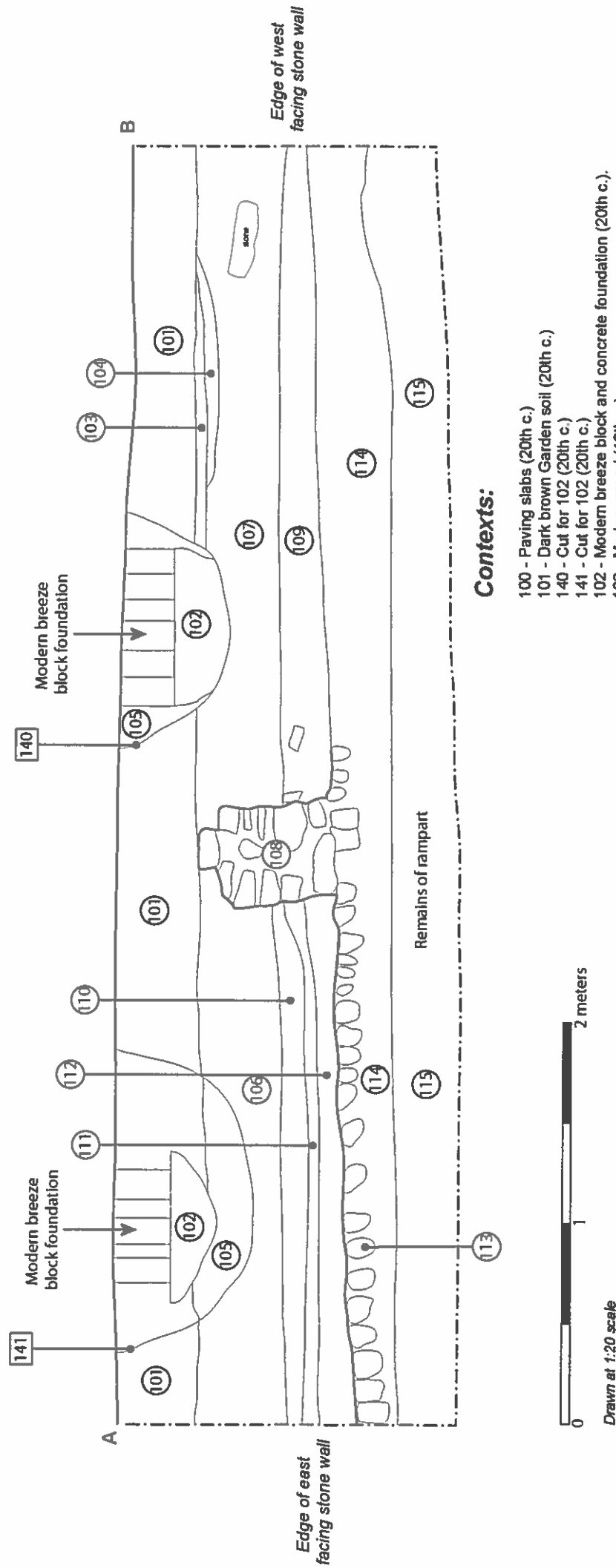
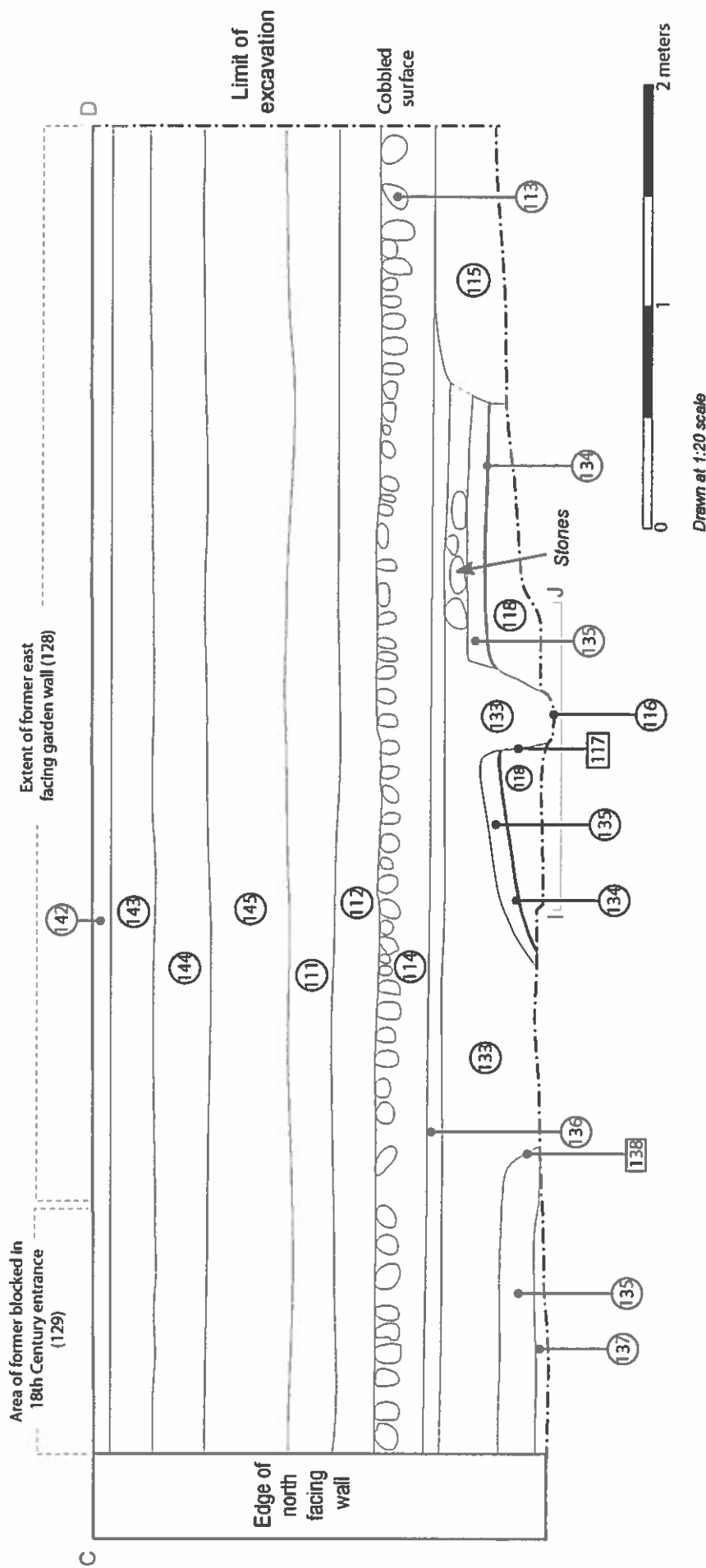


Figure 10. South east facing section A-B.



Contexts

- 111 - Dark ash / charcoal / silty sand
- 112 - Mortar / red brick / clay / ash
- 113 - Cobbled surface (Late 17th c.)
- 114 - Dark brown silt / loam / charcoal and mortar flecks.
- 115 - Beige / yellow clay with charcoal flecks (Roman rampart 1st-2nd c. AD)
- 117 - Cut through 135 and 118 (2nd c. AD)
- 118 - Gravel track (1st-2nd c. AD)
- 133 - Beige clay with charcoal flecks (2nd c. AD?)
- 134 - Burnt timber remains / charcoal (2nd c. AD)
- 135 - Very impact pink heated clay (2nd c. AD)
- 136 - Gray / beige soil
- 137 - Yellow clay
- 138 - Cut of ditch or drain.
- 142 - Modern tarmac surface
- 143 - Red brick rubble layer.
- 144 - Dark brown soil
- 145 - Demolition or construction deposit.

Figure 11. East facing section C-D.

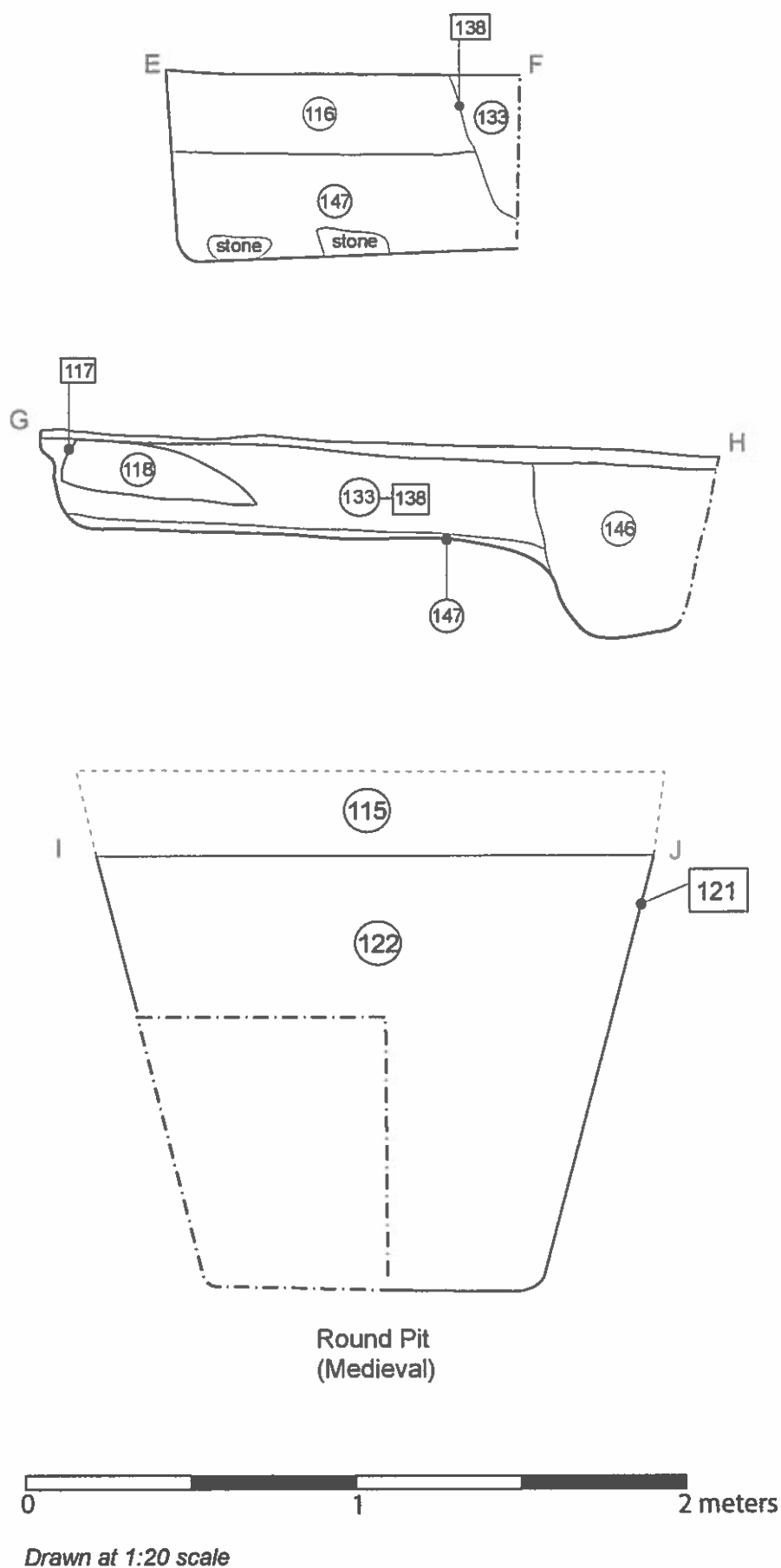


Figure 12. Sections E - F, G - H and I - J.
(see ground plan)

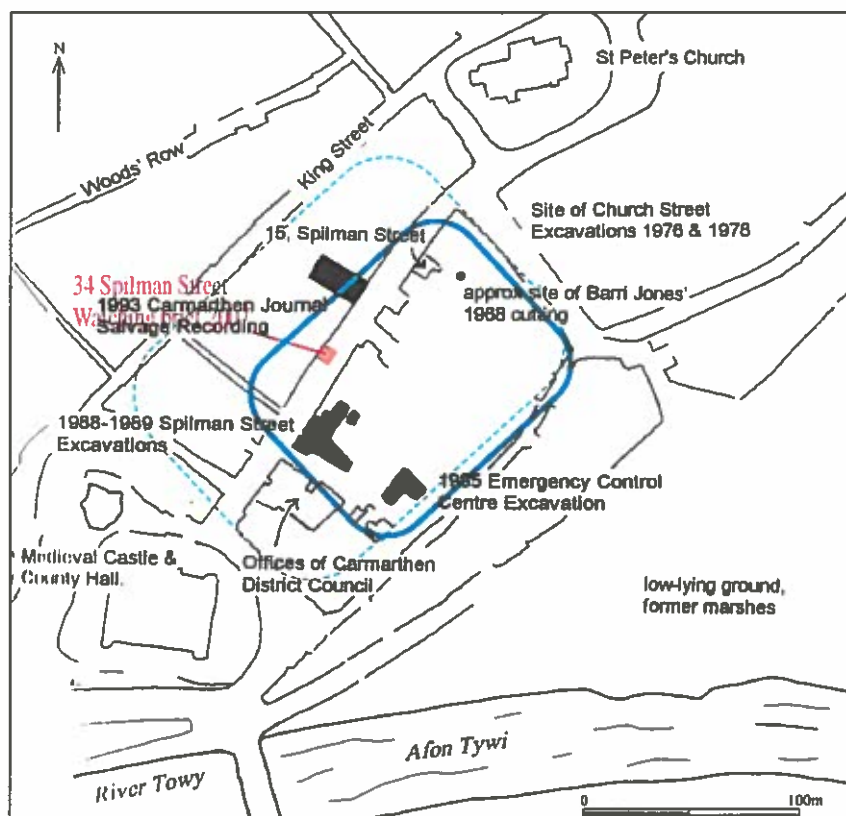


Figure 13. Likely position of reduced fort (dark blue) based on results from former excavations and watching brief at 34, Spilman Street, Carmarthen. Earlier fort position is still conjecture, possible position suggested (light blue).

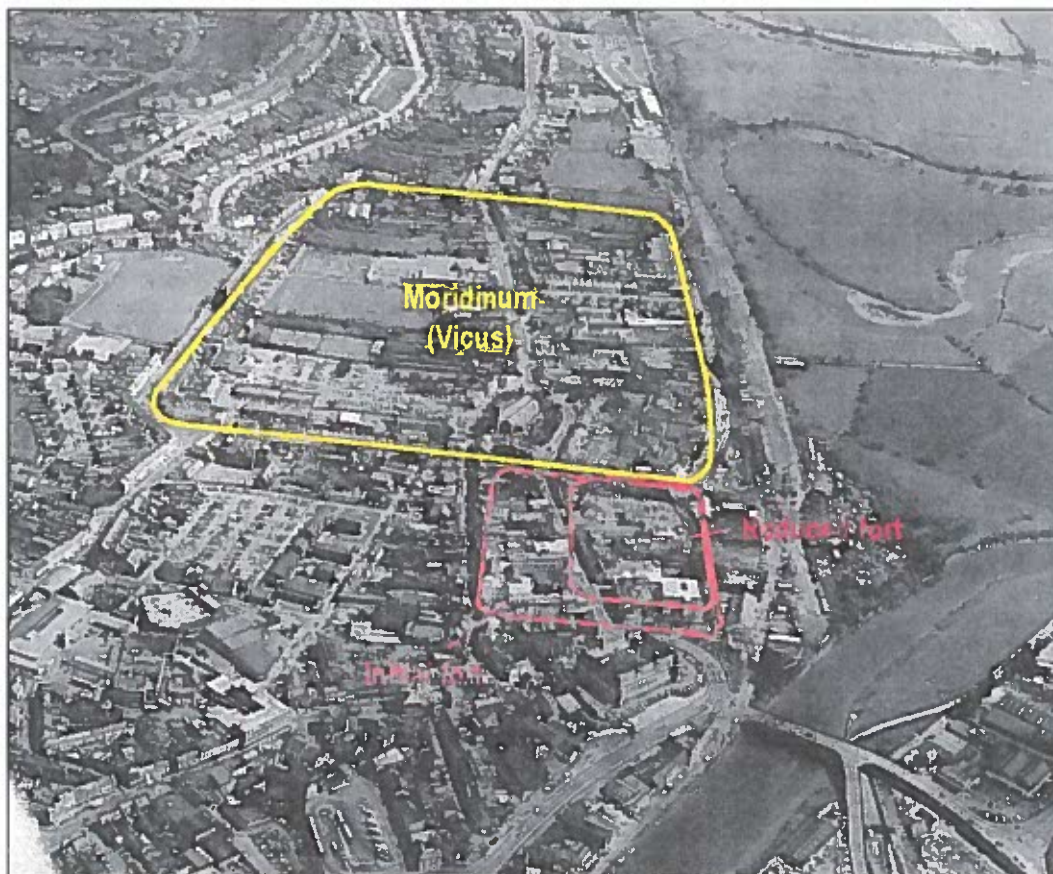


Figure 14. Aerial Photo of Carmarthen showing approximate position of Initial fort and reduced fort and the walled town (Vicus).



APPENDIX II:

Photo plates



Plate 1. Beer garden at rear of Stag & Pheasant public house. Concrete paving slabs covering area to be excavated.



Plate 2. Working shot of ground clearance once paving slabs lifted.



Plate 2. Working shot showing ground level being reduced and entrance way inserted through rear wall of pub.



Plate 4. Working shot showing ground level reduction. Looking north-west.



Plate 5. East facing garden stone wall with ground levels reduced and wall still in place.



Plate 6. Ground level reduced exposing Roman deposits. Prior to clean-up. Looking north-west.



Plate 7. East facing garden stone wall with ground levels reduced. Upper half of wall removed for safety.



Plate 8. Ground level reduced exposing Roman deposits. Prior to clean-up. Looking east.



Plate 9. Ground level reduced exposing Roman deposits. Prior to clean-up. Looking south-east.



Plate 10. Ground level reduced exposing Roman deposits. Initial clean-up of surface. Looking east from top of west garden wall.



Plate 11. Ground level reduced exposing Roman deposits. Initial clean-up of surface. Looking south-east from top of west garden wall.



Plate 12. South facing section. Looking north.



Plate 13. East facing section with wall still in place. Looking west.



Plate 14. Half-sectioned post-medieval rubbish pit (123/124). Looking west.



Plate 15. Half-sectioned post-medieval rubbish pit (123/124). Looking east.



Plate 16. Quarter-sectioned post-medieval rubbish pit (125/127). Looking west.



Plate 17. Quarter-sectioned post-medieval rubbish pit (127/125). Looking east.



Plate 18. Half-sectioned post-medieval oval rubbish pit (121/122). Looking west.

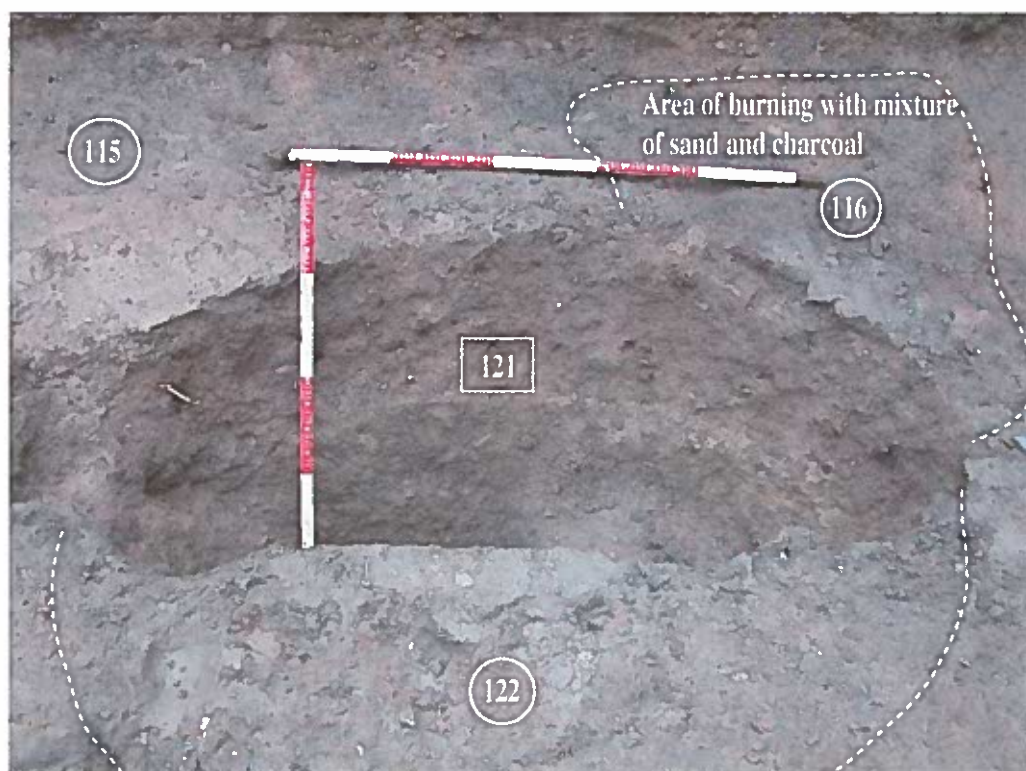


Plate 19. Half-sectioned post-medieval rubbish pit (121/122) with area of burning and mixture of sand and charcoal exposed below clay deposit. Possible earlier fort level. Looking north.



Plate 20. East facing section prior to stone wall removal. Showing gravel track 118, cut 117, compacted heated clay 135 and clay rampart 115. Looking west.



Plate 21. East facing section prior to stone wall removal. Showing gravel track 118, cut 117, compacted heated clay 135 and clay rampart 115.



Plate 22. East facing section prior to stone wall removal. Showing gravel track 118, cut 117, charcoal deposit 134 and compacted heated clay 135 overlying. Looking west.



Plate 23. East facing section prior to stone wall removal. Southern end of section showing cut or channel 138 through compacted clay 135.

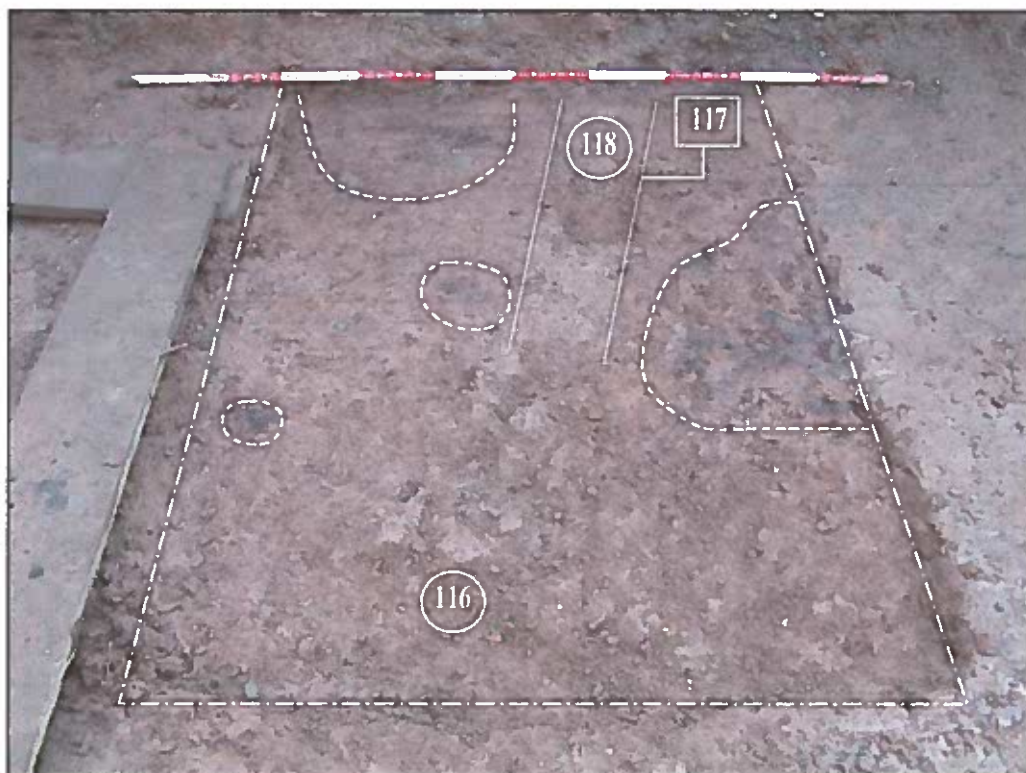


Plate 24. Partially excavated surface underlying remains of gravel track 118. Residual timber markings outlined, early fort deposits. Looking west.

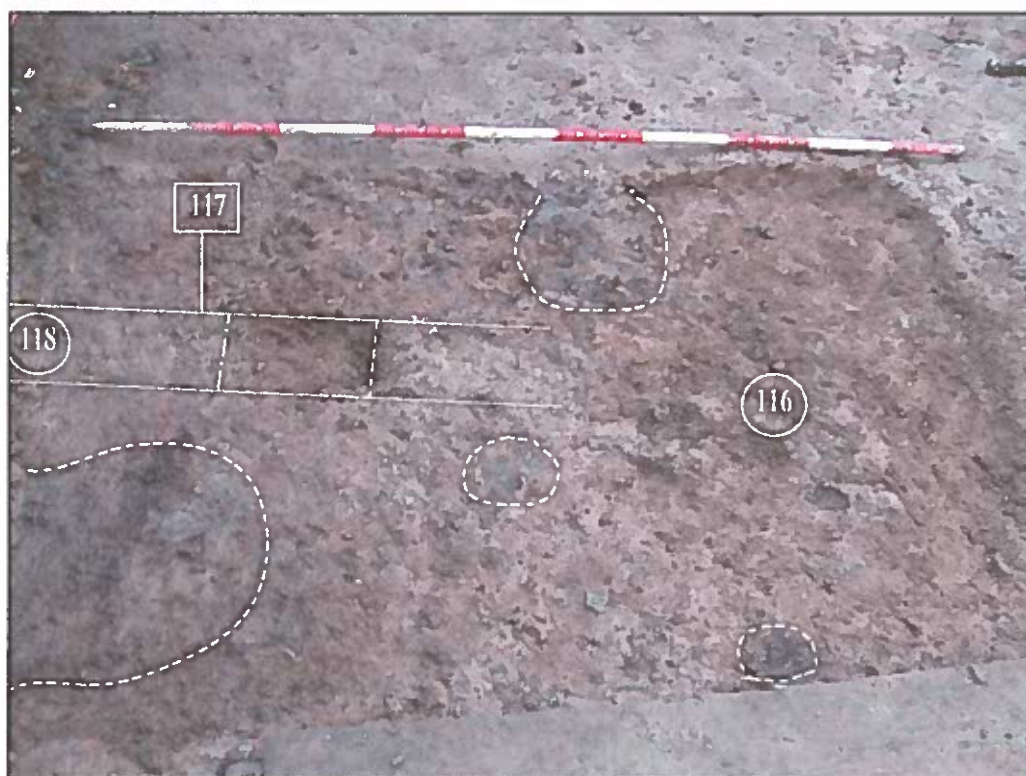


Plate 25. Partially excavated surface underlying remains of gravel track 118. Residual timber markings outlined, early fort deposits. Looking north.

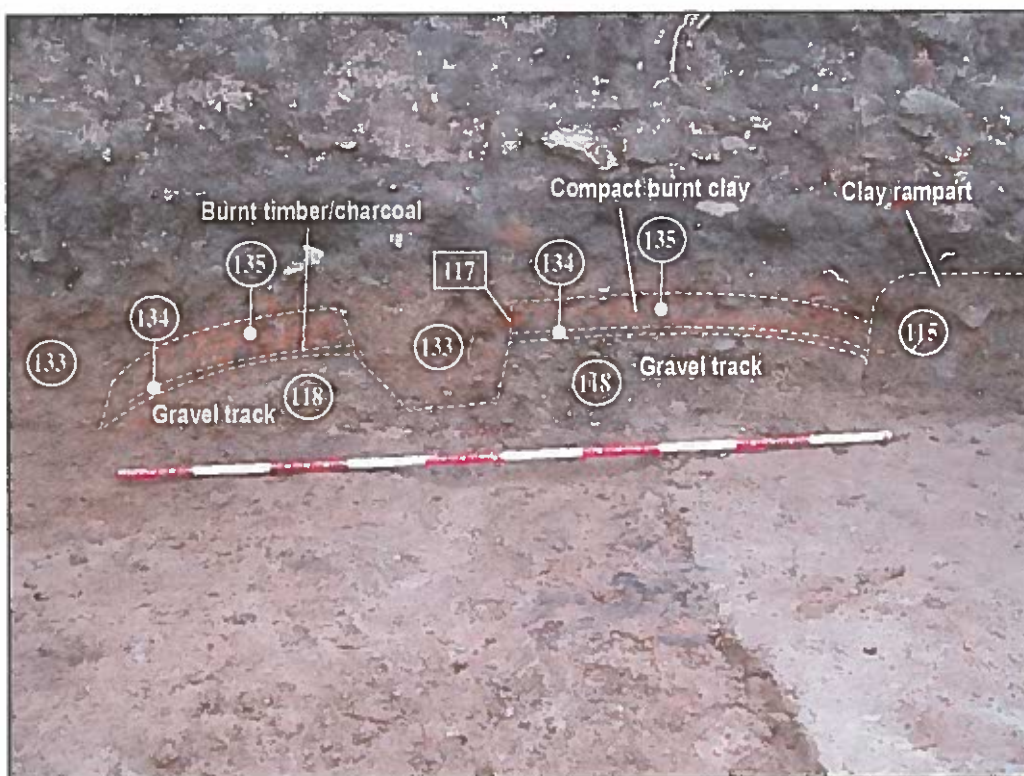


Plate 26. Partially excavated surface underlying remains of gravel track 118. Residual timber markings outlined, early fort deposits. Looking west.



Plate 27. East facing stone wall removed exposing section behind. Looking north-west.



Plate 28. Top of gravel track (118) (intervallum) exposed once wall removed.



Plate 29. East facing stone wall removed exposing section. Looking south-west.



Plate 30. Area preserved in situ with protective terram sheeting and layer of sand. Looking north-west.



Plate 31. Area preserved in situ with protective terram sheeting and layer of sand. Looking south-west.

FINDS REGISTER

Stag & Pheasant Public House,
34 Spilman Street, Carmarthen.

POTTERY

Context 115 – Rampart spreading of Reduced fort

No. of Sherds	Form	Fabric	Source	Date
6 body	Jars?	Severn Valley Ware	Severn Valley Kilns	Roman, 75-350 A.D.
2 neck & body	Flagon?	Oxidised fine sandy fabric with red grog and small white inclusions	Unclassified	Roman, 1 st – early 2 nd century A.D.
2 joining base sherds	Hand made jar	Coarse granular sand-tempered fabric.	Local variant of BB1	Roman, 2 nd century A.D. ?
1 rim	Flat rimmed bowl	Black Burnished Ware 1	Dorset	Roman, 2 nd century A.D.

Context 116 – Earlier fort?

No. of Sherds	Form	Fabric	Source	Date
1	Unclassified	Samian	South Gaulish?	1 st or 2 nd century A.D.

Context 122 – Fill of Round Pit

No. of Sherds	Form	Fabric	Source	Date
1 rim	Jar/cooking pot	Hard reduced grey sandy fabric with abraded surfaces	South Wales origin likely	Roman, close copy of 2 nd century BB1 form
1 rim	Jug	Local gravel-tempered ware.	West Wales	Medieval
1 body	Jug	Local gravel-tempered ware.	West Wales	Medieval
1 tile fragment	Ridge tile	Local gravel tempered ware	West Wales	Medieval
1 body	Jug	Hard sandy fabric with oxidised interior and reduced exterior	Unclassified regional import.	Medieval
1 body	Cup	Cistercian type ware. Hard reddish-brown fabric containing quartz and red brown inclusions	Unclassified	Late 15 th - 16 th centuries
1 basal sherd	basin	Hard reduced fabric with	Unclassified.	19 th century date.

		oxidised red exterior	Possible local red earthen ware.	
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Context 123

No. of Sherds	Form	Fabric	Source	Date
3 body	unclassified	Samian	South Gaulish?	Roman, 1 st or 2 nd century A.D.
2 tegula fragments	Roof tile	Fully oxidised	Unclassified	Roman
1 tessera fragment	Floor tile	Fully oxidised	Unclassified	Roman
1 body	Jug	Hard sandy fabric with oxidised surfaces and reduced grey core	Regional import, probably Bristol area.	Medieval, 12 th -13 th century.
1 body	Unclassified	Local gravel-tempered ware	West Wales	Medieval.
1 body	Unclassified	Oxidised sandy fabric	Unclassified	Late medieval/post medieval
2 body	Bowl	North Devon Sgraffito in a gravel-free fabric	North Devon	Late 17 th century
1 rim	Bowl	North Devon gravel tempered ware	North Devon	17 th /18 th century
5 body	Bowl/beaker	Brown glaze with cream interior	Unclassified	Late Medieval
5 body	Bowls/jars	North Devon gravel tempered ware	North Devon	17 th /18 th century
7 body	Bowl	Slipware, brown on yellow.	Bristol area.	17 th -18 th century.
2 clay pipe stems	Clay pipe	Creamy white	local	17 th century.

Context 127

No. of Sherds	Form	Fabric	Source	Date
2 base	Unclassified forms	Samian	South Gaulish?	Roman, 1 st or 2 nd century A.D.
1 rim	Jar with rolled everted rim	Severn Valley Ware	Severn Valley Kilns	Roman, 2 nd century
3 tegula fragments	Roof tile	Fully oxidised	Unclassified	Roman
1 tile fragment	Unclassified	Unclassified	Unclassified	Roman?
16 body/base	Jars/bowls	North Devon gravel-tempered ware	North Devon	17 th -18 th century
1 body	Unclassified hollow form	Bristol/Staffordshire type yellow slipped ware	Bristol or Staffordshire	Late 17 th – 18 th century.
6 basal sherds	Unclassified utilitarian ware	Red earthen ware	Unclassified	19 th century
2 body	bowl	White china ware with hand-painted design	Unclassified	18 th century

Context 133 - Clay Deposit

No. of Sherds	Form	Fabric	Source	Date
1 body	Amphora, Dressel 20 for the transport and storage of Olive oil.	Hard and granular, buff with reduced core and damaged interior	Region of Baetica, Southern Spain	Roman, 1 st – 3 rd century A.D.
3 body	Unclassified	Severn Valley Ware	Severn Valley Kilns	75-350 A.D.

Context 135 – Burnt clay deposit above trackway

No. of Sherds	Form	Fabric	Source	Date
4 body	Unclassified	Severn Valley Ware	Severn Valley Kilns	75-350 A.D.
1 base	Unclassified	Severn Valley Ware	Severn Valley Kilns	75-350 A.D.
2 tile fragments	Roof tile, possibly <i>tegula</i>	Fully oxidised	Unclassified	Roman.

Unstratified

No. of Sherds	Form	Fabric	Source	Date
2 basal	Unclassified	Samian	South Gaulish	Roman, 1 st or 2 nd century A.D.
1 foot-ring base	Cup, beaker or small bowl	Fine, fully oxidised, buff with red core.	Possibly Caerleon red slip ware	Roman, Early 2 nd century A.D. likely
3 body	Indeterminate	Severn Valley Ware	Severn Valley Kilns	Roman, 75-350 A.D.
1 tile fragment	Roof tile, possibly <i>tegula</i>	Fully oxidised	Unclassified	Roman.
1 body	Hand made jug	Ham Green Ware	Near Bristol	Medieval, 12 th - 13 th century.
1 rim	Jug	Local gravel-tempered ware	West Wales	Medieval, 15 th century?
1 body	Jug or jar	Hard fully oxidised sandy fabric with gravel and white inclusions.	Unclassified	Late Medieval?
1 body	Indeterminate	Hard oxidised sandy fabric	Unclassified	Post medieval
1 body	Jug or jar	North Devon plain slipware	North Devon	17 th -18 th century.
3 body	Jug or jar	North Devon gravel tempered ware	North Devon	17 th century
1 rim	Jug/jar	North Devon plain slipware	North Devon	17 th -18 th century.
1 clay pipe bowl	Caly pipe bowl	Creamy white clay	Unclassified	c.1680

CONTEXT REGISTER & LEVELS DATA

**Stag & Pheasant Public House,
34 Spilman Street, Carmarthen.**

CONTEXTS

- 100 - Paving slabs (20th c.)
- 101 - Dark brown Garden soil (20th c.)
- 140 - Cut for 102 (20th c.)
- 141 - Cut for 102 (20th c.)
- 102 - Modern breeze block and concrete foundation (20th c.) (Bottle store).
- 103 - Mortar spread (19th c.).
- 104 - Cinder/charcoal/soot (19th c.).
- 105 - Fill of cut 140/141 (20th c.).
- 106 - Rust coloured sand with charcoal flecks (19th c.).
- 107 - Dark brown garden soil with mortar flecks (19th c.).
- 108 - Stone wall (early 18th c.).
- 109 - Light/mid brown garden soil (18th c.).
- 110 - Yellow lime mortar (18th c.).
- 111 - Dark ash/charcoal/silty sand (18th c.).
- 112 - Mortar/red brick/clay/ash (18th c.).
- 113 - Cobbled surface (Late 17th / early 18th c.).
- 114 - Dark brown silt / loam / charcoal and mortar flecks(Late 17th / early 18th c.).
- 115 - Beige / yellow clay with charcoal flecks (Roman rampart 2nd c. A.D)
- 116 - Beige/pale pink silty clay with charcoal flecks (1st c. AD)
- 117 - Cut through 135 and 118 (2nd c. AD?)
- 118 - Gravel track (1st - 2nd c. AD)
- 121 - Cut of round pit (15th c.)
- 122 - Fill of round pit (15th c.)
- 123 - Cut for Post-medieval rubbish pit (18th C.)
- 124 - Fill of post medieval rubbish pit 123 (18th c.).
- 125 - Fill of post medieval rubbish pit 127 (18th c.)
- 126 - Cut in base of post medieval rubbish pit (18th c.)
- 127 - Cut of post medieval rubbish pit (18th c.).
- 128 - East facing stone wall (17th c.).
- 129 - Block-in of former entrance through stone wall 128 (18th c.).
- 130 - Modern drain (20th c.).
- 131 - Rear snorth facing stone wall of house (18th c.).
- 132 - Modern breeze block (Recent).
- 133 - Beige clay with charcoal flecks (2nd c. AD?)
- 134 - Burnt timber remains / charcoal (2nd c. AD)
- 135 - Very compact pink heated clay (2nd c. AD)
- 136 - Grey / beige soil.
- 137 - Yelow clay.
- 138 - Cut of ditch or drain (1st - 2nd c. AD)
- 142 - Modern tarmac surface (20th c.)
- 143 - Red brick rubble layer (20th c.)
- 144 - Dark brown soil (19th c.)
- 145 - Demolition or construction deposit (19th c.)
- 146 - Fill if cut for wall foundation.
- 147 - Natural yellow clay/shales/gravels.

LEVELS DATA

1)	1.42
2)	1.38
3)	1.57
4)	2.25
5)	2.04
6)	1.66
7)	1.72
8)	1.75
9)	1.77
10)	1.75
11)	1.55
12)	1.95
13)	2.04
14)	2.23
15)	1.78
16)	2.04
17)	1.58
18)	1.57
19)	1.57
20)	1.56
21)	1.58
22)	1.57

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

**Stag & Pheasant Public House,
34 Spilman Street, Carmarthen.**

ARCHIVE DESTINATION – Carmarthen Museum

Site Name: **34 Spilman Street, Carmarthen.**

Site Code: **SP/07/WB**

PRN:

NPRN : **N/A**

SAM: **N/A**

Other Ref No: **HRSW Report No. 110**

NGR: **SN 4142 2010**

Site Type: **Roman Fort**

Project Type: **Watching Brief**

Project Officer: **Richard Scott Jones**

Project Dates: **March 2007**

Categories Present: **N/A**

Location of Original Archive: **HRSW**

Location of duplicate Archives: **Cambria Archaeology, Llandeilo**

Number of Finds Boxes: **1**

Location of Finds: **Carmarthen Museum**

Museum Reference: **Accession No. CAASG 2007.0369**

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