

HERITAGE
RECORDING SERVICES **WALES**

**Picton Park
New Moat,
Pembrokeshire.**



Archaeological Watching Brief



By
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Picton Park, New Moat, Pembrokeshire.

By
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Prepared for:
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On behalf of:

Date: Sept 20th 2007

HRSW Report No: 116



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Non Technical Summary

The following report is the result of archaeological work undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales as a result of a planning condition for an archaeological watching brief during the ground work for the erection of a new two-storey extension at Picton Park, New Moat

The watching brief was designed to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

No archaeological deposits nor finds were recorded from the excavations for the new extension.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The following text is the result of archaeological work undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales as a result of a planning condition for an archaeological watching brief during the ground work for the erection of a new two-storey extension at Picton Park, New Moat, Pembrokeshire.
- 1.2 After being contacted by Mr and Mrs James of Picton Park, New Moat, to undertake the work, HRSW submitted a project specification to Cambria Archaeology, the regional Archaeological Trust in Llandeilo, detailing the schedule of works in August 2007. This specification was approved and the watching brief work was undertaken in mid August 2007.
- 1.3 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

- 1.4 Planning permission was granted by Pembrokeshire County Council (*Application numbers: 07/0125/PA*) to Mrs and Mrs James, to erect a new two-storey extension to the rear of the existing property of Picton Park (NGR: SN 0631 2543). A condition for an archaeological watching brief was attached to this permission.

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

- 1.5 The house of Picton Park in the village of New Moat is located at the south east quarter of a 'T' junction, approx. 3km from the village of Maenclochgog. The house is sites at a height of approx. 170m OD (NGR: SN 0631 2543). The proposed new extension was to be erected at the rear of the existing property, against its north facing elevation.

Geology

- 1.6 The geology of the area is a sedimentary rock of Ordovician Arenig rocks of the Carboniferous period. Local geology indicates an area of shales, mudstones and gravels and clays.

Brief Historical & Archaeological Background

- 1.7 Samuel Lewis in his Topographical Dictionary of Wales in 1833 described New Moat thus;

"NEW MOTE, or NEW MOAT, a parish in the hundred of DUNGLEDDY, county of PEMBROKE, SOUTH WALES, 10 miles (N.E.) from Haverfordwest, containing 331 inhabitants. This place derives its name from an artificial mount, which is within a short distance of the church, and is entirely surrounded by a deep moat, which may be easily filled

with water. . . The parish is pleasantly situated on a branch of the river Cleddy, and comprises a considerable portion of meadow, arable, and pasture land, which is all enclosed and in a good state of cultivation. The surrounding country is pleasingly diversified, and displays some interesting features of mountain scenery.....The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, is an ancient and venerable structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and one aisle, with a square embattled tower at the west end: the chancel appears to have been very richly embellished at no very distant period, but has of late been very much neglected; it contains several handsome monuments to the Scourfield family, of which some are of great antiquity. . ." [From *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* (S. Lewis, 1833).]

- 1.8 The mound to which Samuel Lewis refers to is the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM – Pe 241) 11th century Norman Motte (PRN: 1320). The motte is described as approx. 5 meters high mound with a 17 meter top diameter, surrounded by a 4 meter wide ditch which holds water. A counter scarp bank exists on the west, south and east side, but the best preserved exists at the southern end. In shape and form the surrounding bailey can be best described as a parallelogram with the western side alongside and beneath the present north-south road. The low earthworks of the bailey bank can be seen running parallel to the field bank along the road-side, and are less well preserved, but still visible, on the two short sides where the bank turns to join the motte on the south and, in the garden, on the north. There is no sign of any ditch. The bailey bank encloses an area of some 125m x 80m, and the entrance was probably on the south-west. The land to the east of the motte is marshy, and it would have acted as an extra defence.
- 1.9 The RCAHMW Pembrokeshire Inventory of 1925 describes the motte thus;

"This monument of antiquity is described on the Ordnance map as a "Tumulus," and a fairly rectangular piece of ground on one side of it is termed a "Roman Camp," whereas the former is a good example of a Norman mound castle, and the latter represents the enclosure which accompanied the mottes of the Norman barons. The mound is now about 35 feet high. There are no indications of a stone keep, and it is probable that the defences consisted only of wood. The moat may originally have been dry; the present watercourse having been formed (or, perhaps, only deepened) by a recent owner. The bailey is placed on the northern side of the mound, it is a fairly regular parallelogram 250 feet by 120 feet, and is surrounded by a ditch.— Visited, 80th September, 1914.

NOTE.—New Moat is an excellent example of a Norman mound-castle, as well in its general lay-out as in its particular features. It is withdrawn a few yards from the village to which it gives its name, and from the church, which may be contemporary with the manor of its proprietor. Four or five roads radiated from the village to various points of the manor. The bailey lay nearest to the village, and the residence of the manorial lord occupied a position of dignified seclusion. The name New Moat implies an earlier structure intended to serve a similar purpose, and in the absence of indications of a second motte it may be suggested that the earlier defensive position to which the name bears witness is the strong camp of Rhyd y brwyn (No. 804). On the other hand, it is possible that the neighbouring motte castle known as Henry's Moat (No. 317) may have been constructed sufficiently in advance of that of New Moat to give it the senior place. The motte passed through the usual course of transformation into a domestic habitation. Some, time in the Middle Ages it was deserted in favour of a larger and more convenient residence on the flat ground near by, and in quite recent years this again gave place to a modern mansion, which continues the name of The Moat. As one of the most instructive of the historical monuments of the county the New Moat should be a subject of constant solicitude, to the Pembrokeshire Society for their Preservation (*RCAHMW Pembrokeshire Inventory 1925, No:805, p268*)

- 1.11 The church of St. Nicholas (PRN: 1318) is located east of the Norman motte. Despite its Norman foundation, like many churches in the county, it was solidly built and enlarged during the medieval period and extensively restored during the Victorian era. The church serves as a handsome monument to the Scourfield family who dominated the area for many centuries. The Scourfield family crypt can still

be found under the village church, where their fine lead coffins can be seen to bear the family crest.

- 1.12 The church is listed in the Taxatio documents of 1291 as a chapelry and was granted to Pill Priory in c.1200 (SOULSBY 1983). Once the chapelry was in place New Moat formed part of the estates of the bishops of St. Davids and Bishop Bek is known to have laid out a small town around it in the late 13th century. The medieval manor of the parish of New Moat is marked on the W. Rees 14th century map.
- 1.12 According to the Pembrokeshire County History Vol II, in the 13th/14th century,..... 'in his barony, the Bishop held the Manor and bourough of New Moat. Here there were 46 tenants holding 88 burgages as well as 16 other tenants. Each burgage had 8 acres of land and the Bishop had 118 acres of demesne arable, four acres of meadow and 50 of woodland. There were two annual fairs, at Michaelmas and St. Nickolas, both among the many concessions of Edward I to Bishop Bek' (*Pembrokeshire County History Vol II 2002*).
- 1.13 The origin of the Scourfield family is one shrouded in mystery and colourful local legend. One of the most popular stories told is the visit of King John to the area in 1210 who came to stay with the Bishop of Llawhaden. The Scourfields, who were then the Bishop's foresters, presented the King with a greyhound with which to race his own. When the Scourfield's hound beat the King's own hound the name 'scour the field' was given to the forester and his family. After reformation and the dissolution of the monasteries, the Scourfields went on to accumulate land in and around New Moat. Their estate stretched far and wide, with properties in Nevern, in the North and Tenby, in the South. The Scourfields abandoned New Moat in the 18th Century and from the late 19th Century resided in Williamston, near Burton.
- 1.14 In the 19th Century, the parish was vibrant with activity. Farms were generally larger than today and employed a much larger workforce. At one time the village was known as Pentreffos thus emphasising its duality regarding the so-called lansker language divide. Within the village communities the various occupations included blacksmiths, wood turners, carpenters and gamekeepers. Religion was a strong focal point within the community and in the 1800s different dominations of religion began to emerge, the majority of whom were Baptists and Congregationalists. However, the only two chapels within the parish are both Methodist.
- 1.15 A public house 'The Ivy Bush' once existed in the parish, today the building had been demolished and the site redeveloped. For educational and entertainment purposes, traditional 'penny readings' were held at the local school in Penffordd. Local community members would pay the entry fee of one penny to hear recitations and singing (usually in Welsh).

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.

3 Methodology

- 3.1 With regards the watching brief, the ground work was undertaken by the contractor using a mechanical digger with a 1 meter wide grading bucket and hand shovel, when deemed necessary, under the guidance of the qualified supervising archaeologist..
- 3.2 After the overburden had been cleared back the entire 6m x 6m area was inspected for any potential archaeological features or finds. Once this had been done and no significant features noted the ground work continued to excavate down to the required depth for the foundations. Limited cleaning of the trench was undertaken in order to ascertain the existence or non existence of any archaeological features.
- 3.3 Where features were present limited excavation was undertaken to establish the date, depth, preservation, extent, function and relationship to other features, but in this case no features or finds became evident.
- 3.4 Recording of the trenches 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 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 field evaluation* and current Health and Safety legislation.

4 Results of Watching Brief (see Figs 4 and 5)

- 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.
- 4.2 Prior to the on-site ground works commencing the rear of the house was characterised by a partially quarried out space originally dug-out during the original build for the house back in the early 1800's. As such a greater part of the area had already been excavated exposing the natural geology. However, further northwards the proposed ground works intended to partially dig into an existing boundary hedge-bank that bordered the road. The upper deposit of this bank (100) was approx. 0.30m in depth and consisted of material of all periods. Below this deposit was a natural geology made up of a pale yellow/buff coloured shale (101). This deposit averaged a depth of approx. 0.50m. Below this deposit was a natural loose red sandstone (102). Below this deposit was a natural red sandstone bedrock (103). No finds were recovered earlier than the 19th century.

Summary of results

- 4.8 No features or finds were recorded in the ground work for the proposed new extension at Picton Park, New Moat, Pembrokeshire. All finds recovered were no earlier than the 19th century.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The watching brief at Picton Park, New Moat, exposed no significant archaeological deposits across the entire area of the site. The natural geology became exposed at approx. 0.80m. All finds recovered were no earlier than the 19th century.

6 Acknowledgements

Thanks to; Mr and Mrs James of Picton Park, New Moat for their patience during the ground work and archaeological recording work.

7 Bibliography

Pembrokeshire County History Vol II 2002.

RCAHMW 1925. Pembrokeshire Inventory.

Samuel Lewis 1833 Topographical Dictionary of Wales.



APPENDIX I:

Figs & Illustrations



Figure 1. Location map showing location of Picton Park, New Moat. (OS 1:25000 map)

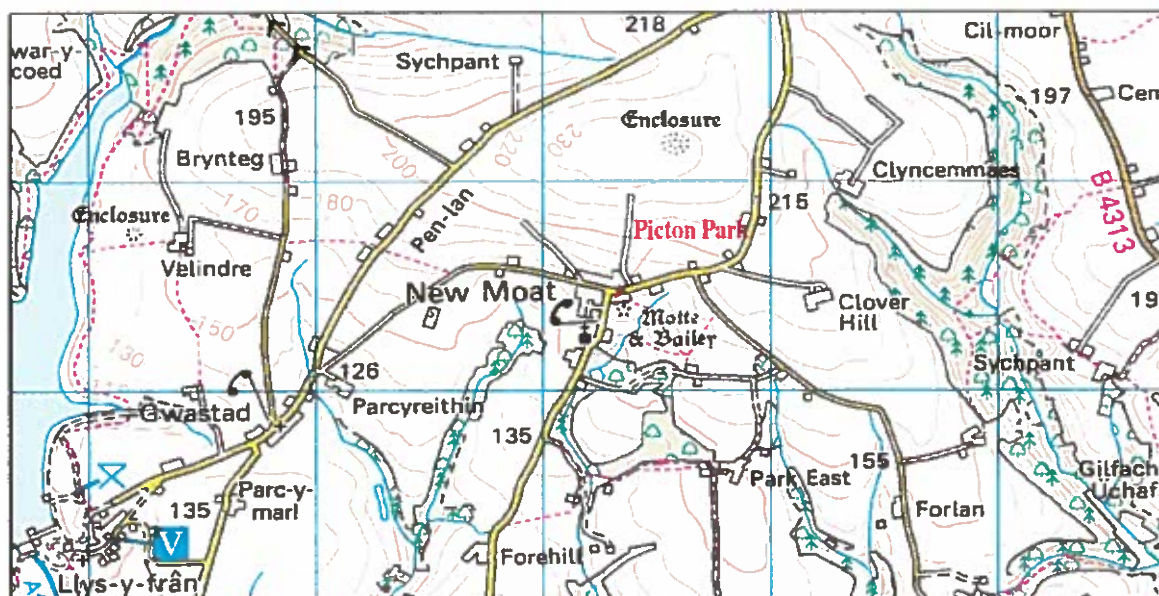


Figure 2. Enlarged view of location map showing location of Picton Park, New Moat. (OS 1:25000 map)

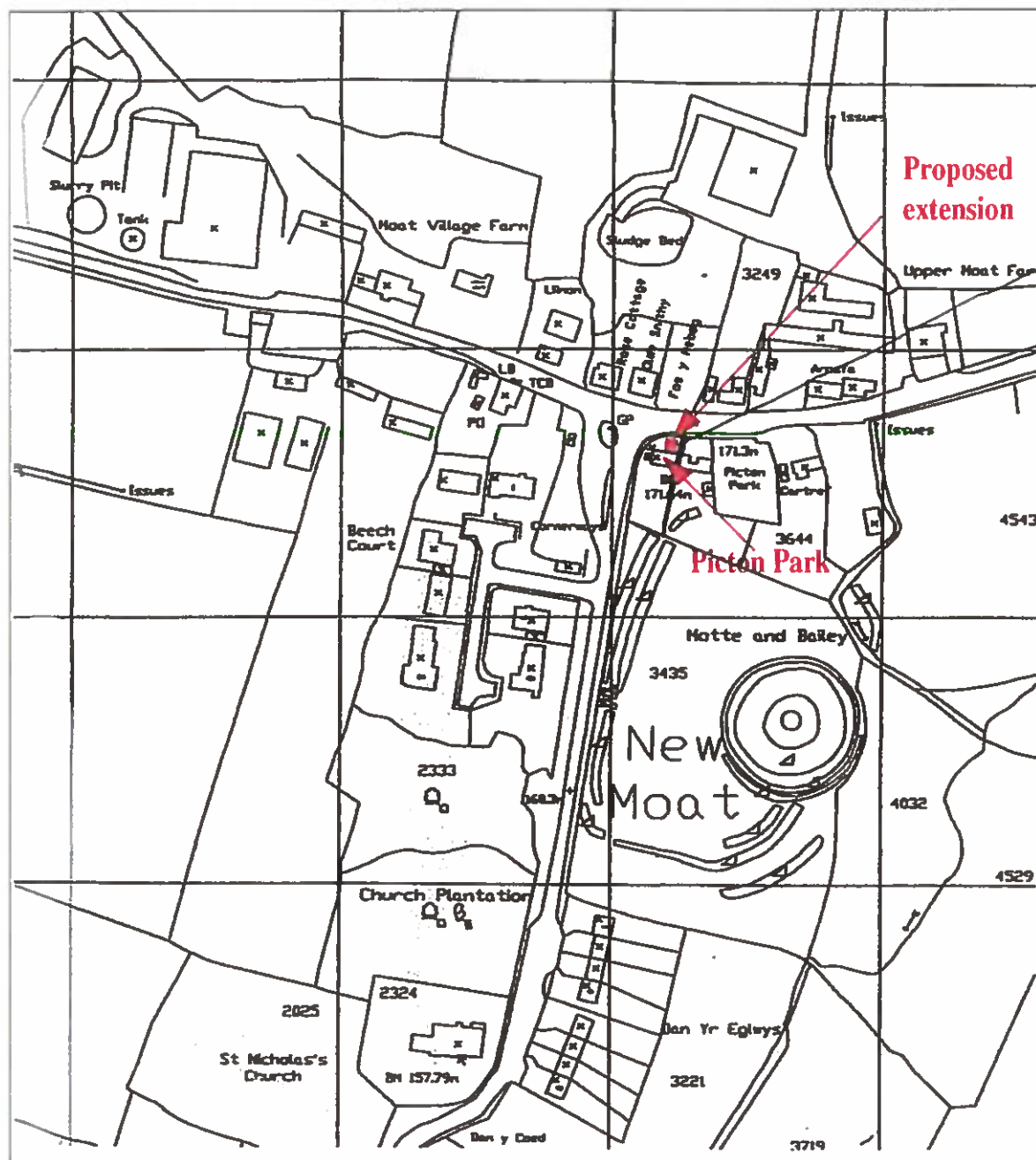


Figure 3. Site plan showing location of Picton Park and proposed extension (OS 1:25000 map)

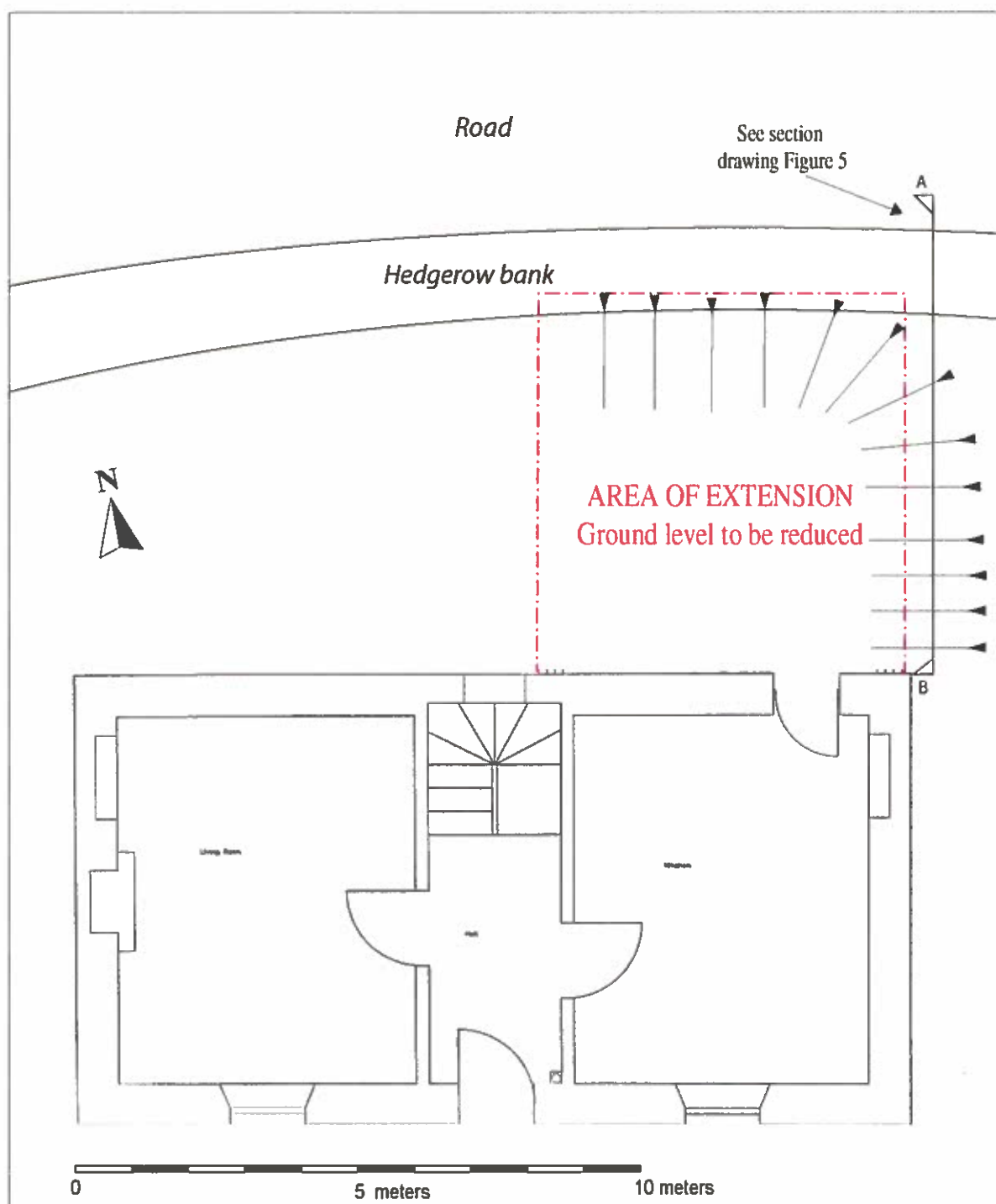


Figure 4. Ground plan of Picton Park House showing proposed area of ground works at rear of main house for extension.

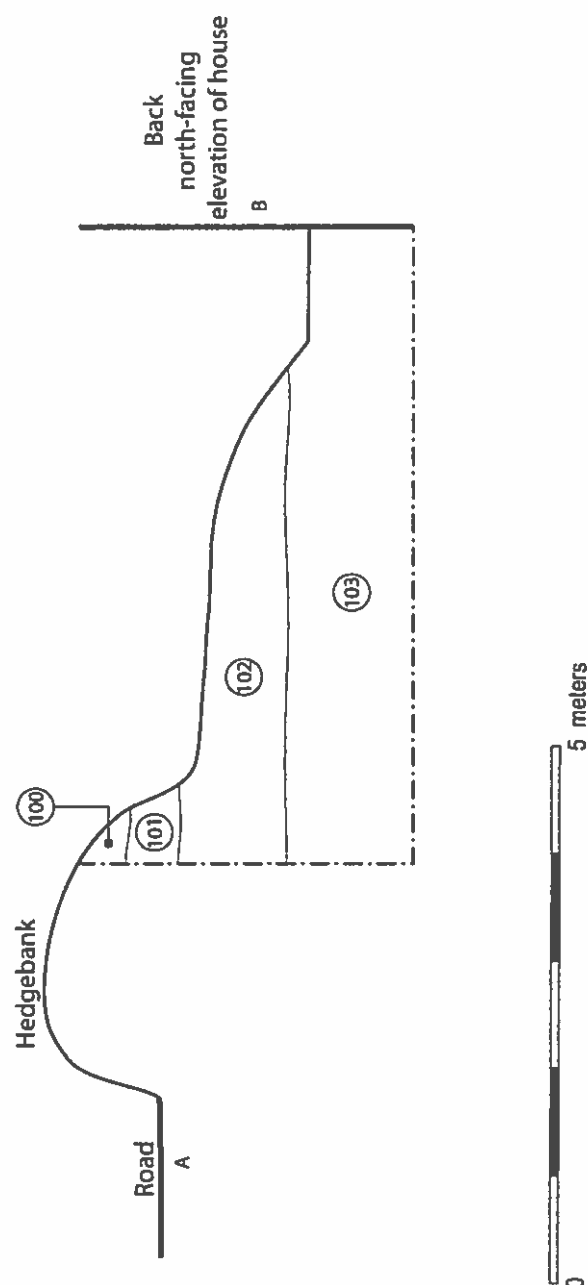


Figure 5. Section drawing A-B through bank and ground works for foundation



APPENDIX II:

Photo plates



Plate 1. Area of extension prior to foundation trench being excavated. Looking east.



Plate 2. Area of extension prior to foundation trench being excavated. Looking east.



APPENDIX III: Context Register

SUMMARY OF CONTEXTS

Picton Park, New Moat, Pembs.

CONTEXTS

- 100. Overburden
- 101. loose shale
- 102. Loose natural red sandstone
- 103. Natural bedrock



APPENDIX IV: Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Picton Park, New Moat, Pembs.

ARCHIVE DESTINATION – RCAHMW

Site Name: **Picton Park, New Moat, Pembs.**

Site Code: **PP/07/WB**

PRN:

NPRN : **N/A**

SAM: **N/A**

Other Ref No: **HRSW Report No. 116**

NGR: **SN 0631 2543**

Site Type: **Norman Motte**

Project Type: **Watching Brief**

Project Officer: **Richard Scott Jones**

Project Dates: **August/Sept 2007**

Categories Present: **N/A**

Location of Original Archive: **RCAHMW**

Location of duplicate Archives: **DAT, Llandeilo**

Number of Finds Boxes: **N/A**

Location of Finds: **N/A**

Museum Reference: **N/A**

Copyright: **HRSW**

Restrictions to access: **None**

