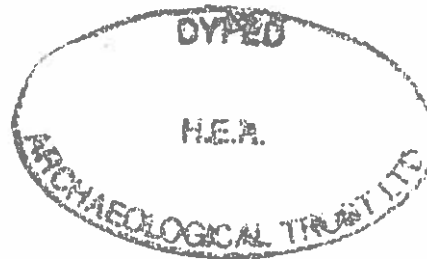


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**Archaeological Watching Brief
Of
a 3m wide roadway over Afon Wen stream for
vehicle access plus a turning area and 2 parking
spaces,
At Felindre, Long Street,
Newport, Pembrokeshire
NGR SN 0566 3916**

**on
June 18th, 21st, 23rd and July 14th 2010**

Planning Ref: NP/08/296

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Summary and Introduction

Due to the position of the property the 'Felindre' on Long Street in Newport, on the medieval roadway running down from Newport Castle and St Mary's Church, archaeological reconnaissance was required prior to the building of a 3m wide roadway over Afon Wen stream for vehicle access, plus a turning area and 2 parking spaces to the rear of the property. In brief, 'Felindre' could be early 19th C, and documentary evidence shows that it was already a built-up area during the mid 1800's when Newport was a thriving shipping port, and the area at the bottom of the garden where the proposed excavation was to take place could have been used to house small domestic animals. The house would possibly have been sited on an older building, and if it existed at a very early stage it would have been a medieval burgage plot as were many of the plots on Long Street, Market Street, and Upper and Lower St Mary's Street. Early documents show that this area, especially up to Market Street and the Castle, are very early medieval roads in Newport. The roads themselves date back to the 1200,s when Newport Castle was re-sited from the bottom of Long Street on the Nevern estuary.

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. Although the likelihood of archaeological material at the rear of the plot appears to be remote due to its distance from the road frontage of Long Street, investigations took the form of monitoring the stripping of the top soil in the area to be worked on to a 1.60m terraced depth to the stream. In addition, photographic observation was made of the site, and a thorough appraisal was made ensuring that no area was left unobserved. No discolouration or structural remains were found throughout the drop in levels.

On visiting the site on June 18th 2010, the area had been cleared of undergrowth and no archaeology was visible. A particular area of interest was the untouched bank behind the large tree stump on the southern boundary of the property as this area appeared not to have been previously landscaped, but the four foundation trenches for the bridge had to be excavated first before access to this bank was possible.

The two trenches to the north west of the stream were excavated in steps down to the level of the stream as archaeology had to be ascertained to this depth, and once the area had been monitored, the trenches were cleaned and photographically recorded. Although the likelihood of archaeological material at the rear of the plot appears to be remote due to its distance from the road

frontage of Long Street, investigations and a thorough appraisal was made ensuring that no area was left unobserved. No discolouration or structural remains were found throughout the drop in levels, and no archaeology or even refuse was found in Trenches 1 and 2.

The two trenches to the south east of the stream were excavated in steps up to the highest level suitable for building purposes. A considerable amount of refuse was found in these trenches, some burnt soil and refuse including broken slate and old building debris in the form of a grey rubble soil mixture already extremely disturbed, and probably dating to the last 50 years. Once the area had been monitored the trenches were cleaned and photographed. No archaeology was found in Trenches 3 and 4.

The tree trunk on the hedge bank of the southern boundary was then removed and the area excavated and cleaned back as a Section 1. The photographic evidence clearly showed the lower 60cm to be undisturbed, and one sherd possibly of late mediaeval date was found not *in situ*, as the mini digger pulled the tree trunk out. The section itself showed a small quantity of clay and charcoal flecks in the lower part of the section, but no structural evidence was found within this bank to support the single ceramic sherd. The upper section was of a lighter looser soil, similar to that of Trenches 3 and 4, whereas the lower 60cm was of a redder/darker brown, and was more dense but interspersed with plant roots. Section 2 on the northern boundary of the property was of very loose rubble soil and disturbed by a tree which would remain in position, no archaeology was revealed

The roadway between these trenches and between the soil banks was of a consistently dark humus brown, very loosely packed throughout the application area, except the bank above Trench 3, the southern most, as mentioned above. This investigation showed 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 what sort of dwelling was present or whether anything structural was in evidence at the rear of the burgrave plots. The foundations can undoubtedly be dated earlier than this and it will possibly be on the 1595 Rental Map of Newport (Bignall 1991). Returning to an earlier period however, this would have been one of the lanes on which medieval burgrave 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 roadway and parking spaces to a depth considered adequate for building purposes and revealing potential archaeological deposits. These levels were reached at 'Felindre' and no archaeology was found on the site.

1. The site of the proposed extension

1.1 'Felindre' in Newport - Background History

The proposed work to the rear of 'Felindre', is accessed from the Parrog Road and through a modern estate, Cysgod y Dderwen. It lies on Long Street between 'Green Cottage' and 'Cartref', positioned four properties below the Post Office on Newport Square; it lies in the parish of Newport.

The position of 'Felindre' in relation to archaeological evidence in Newport is central, positioned as it is on Long Street, which runs down from Market Street and Newport Castle, straight down to Nevern estuary. This street, along with the parallel Upper and Lower St Mary's Streets 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 interest and 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.

Long Street is an extension of Market Street, which starts just below the Castle and down 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. 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 burgage plots"

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

'Felindre' is therefore in an important position archaeologically, as early evidence could have come to light associated with this initial period of building when the street first came into existence in the medieval period.

1.2 The proposed 3m wide roadway over Afon Wen stream for vehicle access plus a turning area and 2 parking spaces

The 2 parking spaces will be built directly onto present levels to the rear of the property, and the roadway is bridging the north and south bank of the stream Afon Wen. The site is on a southwest-to-northeast slope and is the fourth residential dwelling on the north side going down Long Street, with a small garden fronting onto the road.

1.3 The Field Evaluation

Archaeological works on the site included:

- Observation and recording of any differences within subsoil levels
- Section cleaning of the four terraced foundation trenches for the bridge within the area opened; Trenches 1 and 2 facing southeast, Trenches 3 and 4 facing northwest.
- 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 Long Street, and the possibility of an underlying burgage plot; as well as 18th-19th Century structural evidence. The site could potentially have

related archaeological finds surviving 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.

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2. Summary of Watching Brief Results

2.1 Location

The proposed site of the new extension occupies the plot NGR SN 056 / 391, on a southwest-northeast downward facing slope towards Nevern Estuary, at a height of ca.28.5m above Ordnance Datum.

The new roadway, bridge and parking places are being constructed to the rear of the property 'Felindre' on Long Street, Newport Pembrokeshire. Archaeology on the site was hoped for based on the proximity of the site with the medieval roadway, as well as the possibility of discovering finds related to domestic garden use, or an earlier structure for housing animals.

The 1844 Tithe Map of Newport shows this block of housing on Long Street and 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. The plot is possibly present on the 1595 Rental Map of Newport (Bignall 1991), therefore archaeology associated with either period within the area could have appeared 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 area to the rear of the 'Felindre' showed no underlying pale brown/yellow boulder clay which represents the lowest building levels typical for Newport. Firstly this depth was not required for this application, and possibly due to the proximity of the excavation to the stream, the material was very loose, consisting mainly of debris and rubble dumped at the bottom of the garden. This underlying clay retains water extremely well and the whole area becomes saturated even after a minimum of rainfall due to its oily and sticky consistency (noted in other areas of Newport).

In the four foundation trenches at 'Felindre' the underlying red/brown soil reached for building purposes was consistent throughout the application area at a depth of 50cm steps, and yielded no archaeological deposits.

2.3 Methodology

The foundation trenches 1-4 were terraced in 40-60cm depths down to the stream, reaching a final depth of ca.1.6m below the road level, and to the point where a solid level was reached suitable for building. The area was visually examined and notes were taken on soil type and any evidence. All sections were cleaned in the foundation trenches. One 24 print photographic film was 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 roadway area, and in general terms consisted of a rich brown material with some gravel at stream level. The northern earth bank at the bottom of Felindre garden was of rubble mix with dark brown soil and loose debris, whereas the southern bank was less disturbed and showed clear sectional evidence of untouched material, however only 1 sherd of interest was unearthed out of *situ*.

No archaeological features were recorded in any areas of the proposed new roadway 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 at 'Felindre'.

No archaeology was found on the site to be built on and it is likely that a zone with more archaeological potential could have been in the southern bank on the boundary of the property however the tree stump caused too much ground disturbance to produce anything of significance. Although the ground was disturbed by debris and earlier building activity, 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 roadway can go ahead without jeopardising any potential archaeological deposits in the plot.

Appendix 1: Plans and Photographs

I.1 Plans and section drawings of the proposed site

1.2 Photographs of the site



Foundation trenches 1 (Top) and 2 (Bottom) from the southeast





Foundation Trenches 3 (Bottom) and 4 (Top) from the northwest





Top: The stream pipe and Trenches 1 and 2 from the southeast

Bottom: Section 1 with the tree stump in *situ* from the north





Top: Section 1 cleaned showing the hedge bank from the north with tree stump

Bottom: Section 2 of opposite hedge bank from the south





Section 1 Area of hedge bank after tree stump has been removed from the north and northeast





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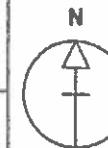
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Special thanks to Mr Morris Evans, who kindly provided the plans and drawings of the site, and was extremely helpful at all times.



PEMBROKESHIRE / SIR BENFRO

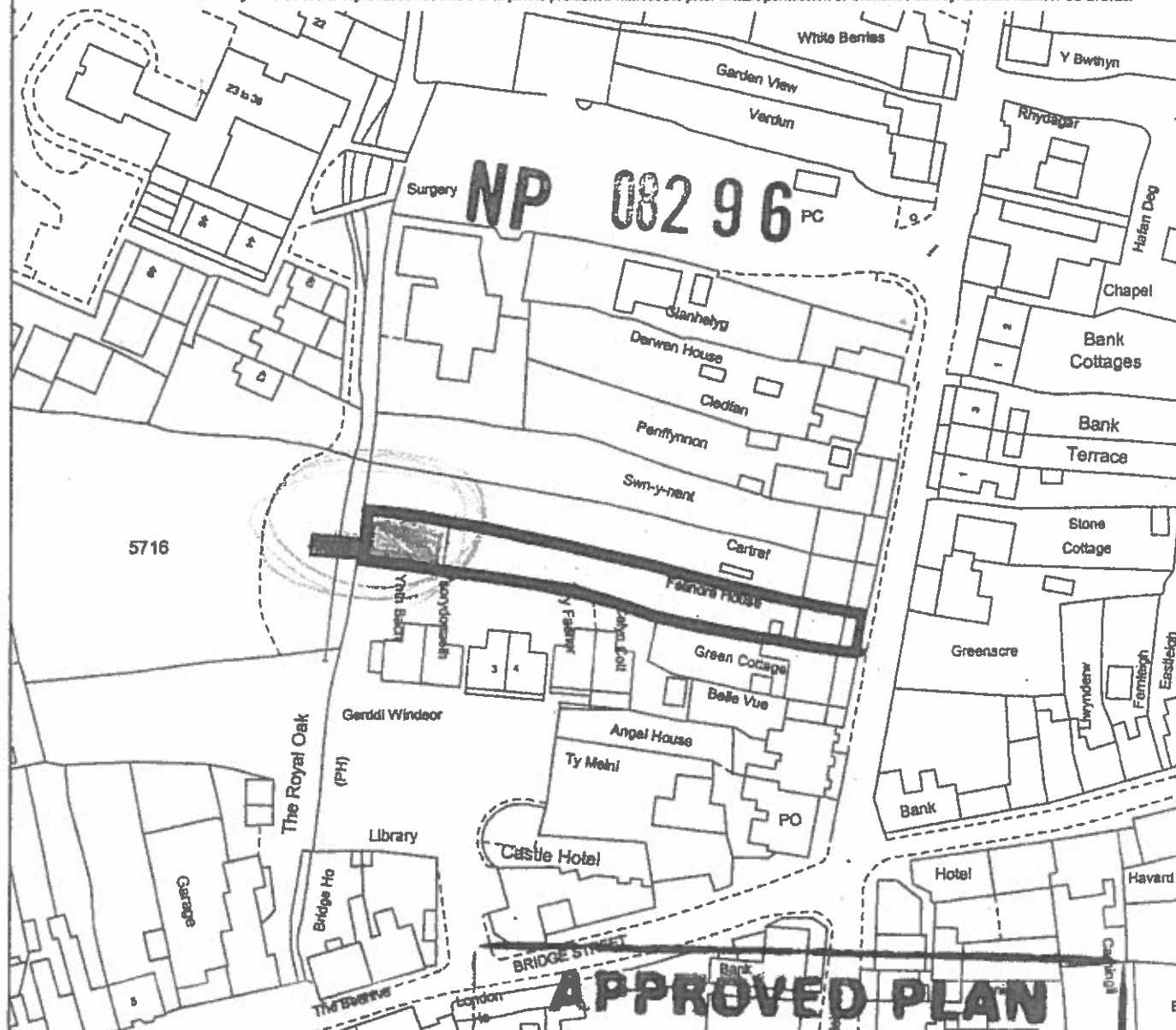


DOMINANCE SURVEY MAP REFERENCE:

SND5385F

SCALE 1:1250

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SEE PLAN N° 3 OF SECTION THROUGH E

STREAM

4300 (REF)

3300 (REF)

TAI CANTREF

ISH PLACED TO A
40mm WITH
BLINDING TO BASE
WITH NO CONCRETE
TO BASE

GRADE RC35 CONCRETE TO BS8110
MINIMUM CEMENT 300 KG/M³
TO BE USED FOR FOUNDATIONS
AND ROADWAY/DRIVEWAY

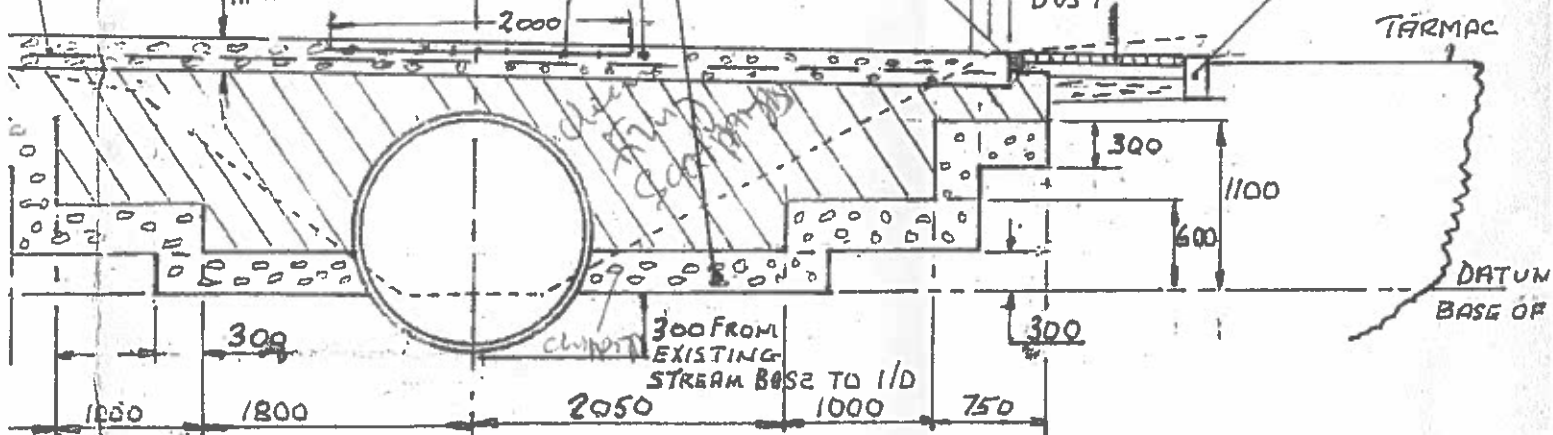
150
HEPWORTH POLY
CHANNEL RUNNING
WIDTH OF DRIVEWAY
SURFACE WATER
TO BE DIRECTED
INTO STREAM

TAI CANTREF FENCE POST. REF. ON
CONCRETE PAVEMENTS LAID ON 50mm
COMPACTED DROPPED KERB.
DUST

TARMAC

E FENCE POST. REF ONLY

180 THICK CONCRETE / ROAD SURFACE
AND LONGITUDINAL REINFORCEMENT BARS 18 ϕ x 2000



UP STREAM VIEW

SCALE 1:50

NOTES: CONTOUR OF EXISTING
AND SEE PLAN N° EX (1)

TYPICAL SECTION OF PROPOSED DRIVEWAY FOR
MR. M. EVANS FELINDRE LONG ST. NEWPORT

*changed
1/10/96
disb.*

THROUGH CENTRE OF

NP 0029

4300

STREAM

3300

CENTRE OF HOLLY TREE

APPROVED PLAN
(SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS, WHERE APPLICABLE)
AS REFERRED TO IN
PLANNING CONSENT REF: NP/08/296

513

TAI CANTREF

TAI CANTREF FENCE

KERB

TARMAC

RED OF STREAM

1310

900

1600

1500

DATUM

SCALE 1:50

DIMS. MM

2 JUL 2008