

CONWY QUAY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

REPORT NO. 273

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeoloegol Gwynedd

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

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Prepared for :

CONWY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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by

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CONWY QUAY



"I was wandering leisurely along this road, when on a sudden, a most magnificent landscape burst upon the sight. The fine old town of Conwy, with its gloomy walls and towers, appeared, with the wide river in front, and backed by the vast Caernarfonshire mountains." (Bingley 1798).

"...The economic life of the town centred as much on the public quay as on the castle" (Schofield and Vince 1994, p 25).

CONTENTS

1. Introduction	p. 2
2. Methodology	p. 2
3. Historical Background	p. 4
4. Gazetteer of Sites	p. 6
5. Bibliography	p. 12
Appendix 1: Listed building details	

CONWY QUAY

Archaeological Assessment (G1511)

1. INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust have been contracted by Conwy County Borough Council to carry out an archaeological assessment of Conwy Quay and the structures which lie between the medieval town wall and the waterfront.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Desktop

A desktop study was completed using printed literature and archive sources in the following locations: University of Wales, Bangor; Caernarfon Record Office; Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Sites and Monuments Records; Conwy town library and Conwy Guildhall. Information was sought from local people, and Mrs V Donald and Mrs E M Pattison were of particular help.

2.2 Fieldwork

Three site visits were made in November 1997 when the study area was examined on the ground. The exterior of all the properties was examined and recorded, and notes and photographs were made of each. The interior of the properties was not examined.

2.3 Report

All available information was collated and the sites were then assessed and allocated to the categories listed below. These are intended to give an idea of the importance of the site and the level of response likely to be required; descriptions of the sites and specific recommendations for further assessment or mitigatory measures, as appropriate, are given in the relevant sections of the report. The criteria used for allocating sites to categories are those used by the Secretary of State when considering ancient monuments for scheduling; these are set out in Welsh Office Circular 60/96 Planning and Historic Environment: Archaeology.

2.4 Categories

The following categories were used to define the importance of the archaeological resource.

Category A - Sites of national importance.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings of Grade II* and sites of schedulable or listable quality, *i.e.* those which would meet the requirements for scheduling (ancient monuments) or listing at Grade II* (buildings) or both. This section may also include sites currently listed at Grade II, although some of these may only be considered to be of regional importance for the purposes of this report.

Sites which are scheduled or listed have legal protection, and it is recommended that all Category A sites remain preserved and protected *in situ*.

Category B - Sites of regional or county importance.

Sites which would not fulfil the criteria for scheduling or listing at Grade II*, but which are nevertheless of particular importance within the region. This may include sites listed which are of Grade II status.

Preservation *in situ* is the preferred option for Category B sites, but if damage or destruction cannot be avoided, appropriate detailed recording might be an acceptable alternative.

Category C - Sites of district or local importance.

Sites which are not of sufficient importance to justify a recommendation for preservation if threatened.

Category C sites nevertheless merit adequate recording in advance of damage or destruction.

Category D - Minor and damaged sites.

Sites which are of minor importance or so badly damaged that too little remains to justify their inclusion in a higher category.

For Category D sites, rapid recording, either in advance or during destruction, should be sufficient.

Category E - Sites needing further investigation.

Sites whose importance is as yet undetermined and which will require further work before they can be allocated to categories A - D are temporarily placed in this category, with specific recommendations for further evaluation. By the end of the assessment there should be no sites remaining in this category.

2.5 Definition of Mitigatory Recommendations

For the purposes of this report the mitigation archaeology proposals as suggested by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust are summarised as:

Detailed recording:

Detailed recording requires a photographic record, surveying and the production of a measured drawing prior to the commencement of the works on site.

Archaeological excavation works may also be required depending upon the particular feature and the extent and effect of the impact. Some of the sites would require dismantling by hand, to provide a detailed record of the method of construction and in the case of a listed structure, the salvage of materials for re-use and re-building.

Basic recording:

This involves compiling a basic record of the site by photographic survey and written description carried out prior to the commencement of works on site. A measured drawing may be required in certain cases.

Watching brief:

This involves the observation of underground works by an archaeologist. If features of archaeological interest are noted during the watching brief, then time should be made available for the examination and recording of those features.

Preservation *in situ*:

This involves the preservation of the site, with no significant alterations undertaken.

2.6 Statutory designations

The town walls and castle of Conwy are Scheduled Ancient Monuments, and large parts of them are also in the Guardianship of the State, and are managed by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments.

Conwy town and castle have been designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, one of only 16 such sites in Britain. This does not involve additional statutory control, but inclusion does highlight the outstanding international importance of the site.

Seven of the structures listed in the gazetteer below are Listed Buildings of Grade II status (the listed building descriptions form Appendix 1).

The town and castle of Conwy are included within a defined *Landscape of exceptional and great historic interest* (Landscape No. HLW (Gw 5) (Cadw 1995).

Any works which affect a Scheduled Ancient Monument will require scheduled monument consent, and any works which affect a listed building will require listed building consent.

3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The conquest of Wales

The origin of the town of Conwy in its present form dates back to the conquest of Wales by Edward I in 1283. Before that date much of Wales had been ruled by native Welsh princes, of whom the last dominant member was Llywelyn ap Gruffydd. A variety of circumstances led to the Welsh of Gwynedd rebelling against English domination in March 1282. Llywelyn, although not initially involved in the rebellion, quickly assumed the role of military leader. Edward's response was one of "outrage and determination", and huge resources were utilised to "repress the rebellion and malice of the Welsh" (Davies 1991). Llywelyn was killed in December, 1282, but although his brother Dafydd fought on, in January 1283 Edward crossed the Conwy and captured Dolwyddelan castle, and moved his headquarters to Aberconwy in March of that year. Dafydd was finally captured in June 1283, by which time the English conquest of Wales was complete.

Edward's next task was to secure the conquest of Wales, and his principal method was to use the stone castle as instruments of military domination. Huge resources, on a scale not before witnessed in Britain, were commandeered from every part of the realm. Some 4,000 men were impressed to work on the castles of North Wales, and by 1301 Edward had spent some £80,000 on his eight major new castles in Wales (Taylor 1974).

3.2 Conwy castle and town

Three major new castles with associated boroughs were established in Gwynedd in 1283: Conwy, Caernarfon and Harlech; Beaumaris was started a short time after.

The site at Conwy was chosen with care: whereas the Romans had chosen to defend the crossing of the Afon Conwy further south, at Caerhun, and a medieval motte had been established just north of the Roman fort, later defences were moved to the east bank at the mouth of the river at Deganwy. But Edward, guided no doubt by his architect James of St George, chose a rock outcrop on the west side of the mouth of the Conwy which was more readily defensible and could be reached by sea.

The site was already occupied by a Cistercian monastery. The monastery had been established by monks from Strata Florida, who had first settled in north-west Caernarfonshire in 1186, but had moved to Aberconwy in 1192. The importance of the monastery grew under the patronage of Llywelyn ap Iorwerth, who was buried there in 1240, and who had kept a hall there for his use. However Edward's decision to use the site for a new town and castle required the monks to move up river to Maenan, where they were granted new lands in compensation for the loss of their old ones.

The building of the castle and town were started in March 1283, within days of the arrival of the King to the site; on 17 March Sir Peter of Brampton, who had previously been in charge of diggers at Flint, was on his way to recruit 200 woodcutters and 100 diggers; he was now ordered to hurry them to Conwy, if necessary paying their journey wages out of his own pocket (Taylor 1974). Construction was largely complete by 1287, although works continued on into the 14th century.

3.3 The Medieval Quay

Although ships would have passed up and down the Conwy estuary from earliest times, it is probable that the occupants of the Cistercian Abbey would have been responsible for the construction of the first built quay on the west bank of the mouth of the Conwy. However, no remains have been identified from this period, and given Edward's need to build a stone quay, it is unlikely that the one connected with the Abbey would have been a substantial affair.

Edward saw the construction of a quay as an essential part of the defence of the town and castle. Its purpose was two fold: to aid the delivery of building materials and goods, and to assist in the defence of the castle by allowing stores and reinforcements access during times of attack.

The quay at Conwy stretched along the east side of the town walls, along the west bank of the Afon Conwy. Access could be gained through the town walls at two points: through the Lower Gate (Porth Isaf), which was a heavily defended twin towered gateway, and through the smaller, lesser defended Postern Gate. Access to the castle was available through the water gate at its east end.

The quay was protected on the north by a spur wall which ran some 60m east from the north-east corner of the town walls, and terminated in a round tower in the Conwy. The southern end of the quay was similarly protected by a wall running south from the south-east corner of the east barbican of the castle into the Conwy. The northern wall still stands but the terminal tower has vanished, whereas only a small part of the southern wall is visible. The northern spur wall was probably built in two stages, and was designed to act as a defence against attack and as a sea defence. The stone used in the upper part of the wall is of a different character to the lower, and it would appear that whereas the lower 12ft was built in 1285-6, the upper levels may not have been completed until the early 14th century.

In 1305 a seven year murage grant was made to the burgesses for work on the town walls, and it is likely that the upper levels of the wall and terminal tower were completed at this stage, although this may not have taken place until 1325-6 (Taylor 1974, p 352). However, severe flooding took place in about 1313, and this led to damage to the eastern town wall, and in 1315 costs of £93 15s 3 ½d are recorded as being expended on the repair and emendation of the quay of Conway (Taylor 1974, p 350). Minor repairs continued to be made to the quay during the later middle ages, and official expenditure is recorded as late as 1535 (Lewis 1912 p 105).

3.4 The quay in later times

There is a quay depicted on a map of c. 1600, (reproduced in Taylor 1990); the map is not entirely accurate in detail as it shows the spur wall leaving from just north of the lower gate rather than the corner of the town walls. However, the quay is located in the area between the lower gate and the spur wall to the north. South of the lower gate there are no structures depicted. Two ships are shown drawn up on the beach outside the lower gate. This quay must be the one built by Edward I, and maintained by the Crown into the 16th century.

Two mid-18th century engravings are available, one by the Buck brothers and one by Boydell. The Buck's print of 1742, entitled "The south-east view of Conway Castle, in the County of Caernarvon" is not very clear, although it appears to show buildings lying against the town wall north of the lower gate, but once again no structures between the lower gate and the castle. Boydell's print of 1749 more clearly shows structures lying between the lower gate and spur wall, as well as the quay wall along the same length. A quay in this position is also clearly marked on Pennants plan of 1781, and he states "In front [*i.e.* of the town] is an extensive quay, from which is a delightful view up and down the river".

The next clear depiction of the quay is on the Holland map of 1777, where once again the suggestion is that a built quay existed between the lower gate and the spur wall. Lower gate street is marked "Strand", and a series of structures are shown built against the town wall. No structures are shown south of the lower gate, although a lime kiln is shown on the 1810 revision of the map. An enclosure with a small structure situated on the north side of the spur wall was marked as a pig sty. By this date the end tower on the spur wall had disappeared.

In 1833 a new quay was constructed. This was designed by W A Provis, who had been the resident engineer in charge of the building of the suspension bridge. The scheme had been approved by the burgesses in 1830 (CRO XB2/16) and in 1831 the minutes state "At a general meeting of the Aldermen, Bailiffs and Burgesses held at the Guild Hall and the said Borough on the 26th day of February ordered a Contract to be made out with Messrs William Hughes, John Hughes, John Jones and William George, Masons and their Bail for the building of the New Quay under the town according to the plans and specifications of Provis for the sum of £1260". Although a copy of the specifications has not been found, this is taken to be that section of the present quay which projects beyond the line of the remainder, and is constructed of strong, squared stone blocks. A contemporary account is given by Williams (1835) who states "The harbour is now made extremely commodious by a very fine quay of excellent masonry and great extent, which was undertaken by the corporation, and completed, at an expense to them of thirteen hundred pound in 1833".

The port of Conwy in the late medieval times had not been of great economic importance, and its principal function was the import of essential goods, and its use as a fishing port (Lewis 1912 p 195). This basic use continued until the 19th century, when the expansion of the fishing industry combined with the transportation of products associated with the industrialisation of North Wales, particularly metal ores and slates, led to an increase in the demand for port facilities. In addition, a quay higher up the river had become unusable following changes in the course of the river, possibly caused by the

construction of the embankment and bridge. The flat-bottomed boats bringing slates and metal ores down-river from Trefriw were therefore now unloaded at Conwy quay. One other industry associated with Conwy was the production of pearls, which were found in the mussels collected in the estuary. An exceptionally large pearl in the Crown Jewels was presented to Catherine, the consort of Charles II by her chamberlain Sir Richard Wynne of Gwydir. In the mid 19th century there are said to have been some 40 people employed in the pearl industry, which produced an average of 160 ounces of pearl a week (Williams 1996).

The area south of the lower gate had by the late 19th century been in-filled, largely with slate waste, and a number of structures had been erected against the town walls. A wall of rougher build was constructed to extend the 1833 quay (GAT 1996).

In 1965 (CRO XB2/562) a new jetty was built together with the construction of a concrete platform by Pochin for a cost of £6,630. This is the curved stepped concrete platform north of the 1833 quay to which the existing jetty is attached.

3.5 The Crossing of the Conwy

Throughout the medieval period, and up until the early decades of the 19th century the Conwy was crossed by ferry. Indeed a ferry is recorded here before the establishment of the borough, although the exact location of the crossing is not known. In 1247 Henry III let the passage of the Conwy, and in 1256 orders were sent to the Jusiciar of Chester "to permit the Friars Preachers of Bangor and their Men to cross freely and without interference at the water of Gannoc and elsewhere" (Davies 1966 p 2). The ferry passed back to the control of Welsh princes until 1282, although the monks of the Cistercian abbey were granted free passage. After the conquest the ferry was let by the King, and it continued in use until the construction of Telford's bridge. The ferry journey was not always easy, and a number of accidents are recorded. On Christmas day 1806, owing to a heavy swell, the ferry capsized and only two of the fifteen passengers escaped (Williams 1835 p 111). In addition to the physical difficulties of crossing, it would appear that passengers were also occasioned distress by the poor behaviour of the ferry operators. Bingley in 1798 states "I have been told of many shameful impositions that are continually practised by the ferrymen at this place upon strangers" and mentions overcharging and frequent delays (Bingley 1798 p 105). Similarly in 1813 a Mr Hamilton Fulton stated that "If this last stage, and every other on the line, were in as complete a state as it is possible to put them, still the Ferry of Conway, under its present management, would deter travellers from passing this road" (Davies 1966 p 215).

The river at Aberconwy was first crossed by a suspension bridge to Telford's design, which was built between 1822-5. This was followed by the construction of Stephenson's tubular bridge to carry the railway, constructed between 1846-9. The greater part of the estuary was crossed by a long embankment from an island in the river to the east bank, a distance of 2015 ft, whereas the bridges crossed the smaller distance of some 330 ft between the west shore under the castle and the island. Access to the suspension bridge necessitated the demolition of part of the town wall to allow the road to sweep under the castle and over the bridge. Telford built a replacement tower to terminate the broken wall.

In 1958 the last road bridge was opened, it was designed by H W Fitzsimons, and constructed by the firm of Sir William Arrol and Co Ltd.

In more recent times the views of the castle and town of Conwy, including the quay, were saved from massive impact when plans for a new road bridge were abandoned in favour of the tunnel which presently carries the A55 Trunk road under the Conwy. In the words of the then Secretary of State for Wales "A bridge would have an unacceptable impact on Conwy castle and the town's walls, which have been preserved in so complete a form as to make them a monument of rare and exceptional value" (quoted in Senior 1991).

4.0 GAZETTEER OF SITES

The gazetteer contains a list of archaeological sites within the study area, an assessment of their importance, and recommendations for appropriate archaeological mitigation. The recommendations will only apply if the site is to be affected by the proposed works.

1. Town walls

Category A (Scheduled Ancient Monument; Guardianship Ancient Monument; World Heritage Site; Landscape of historic interest)

The town walls of Conwy are recognised as being the finest example of medieval town walls remaining in Britain. They were built simultaneously with the castle, and were largely completed by 1286. The west side which fronts the river is defended by four half-round towers and a corner tower; it contains the principal lower gate, which opened onto the medieval quay, and a smaller gate, the postern, designed to provide access to the west end of the castle from the ferry. Although the wall originally ran from the castle straight to the first tower, a section has been removed for the road to go through, and a new tower was built by Telford to terminate the main wall, with a new small door immediately alongside the tower. The wall is 1.75m wide, but at a height of about 5m the wall is corbelled out on the inner side to form a wall walk 1.5m wide. To defend the walk was a crenellated parapet 1.7m high, of which only a part now remains. The small poster gate has been widened on the south side, but the north jamb is original. The lower gate is the smallest of the three main gates, and is the most poorly preserved, as the tower interiors have been utilised by the town hall on the south and the Liverpool Arms on the north, thus largely destroying the interior arrangements. Some modern windows have been inserted in the towers. Alongside the north side of the quay is the spur wall, which flanks the lower gate and protected the quay. This wall is double the width of the normal town wall, and has battlements on both sides. It formerly terminated in a round tower, but this collapsed during the 17th century. However an archaeological watching brief during works connected with the sewage disposal works identified collapsed masonry 8m from the present end of the wall, whereas a trench dug 18m from the end of the wall produced no evidence at all, thereby locating the centre of the former tower some 20m from the present end (GAT 1994). There is a single small gate (known as Porth yr Aden) through this wall, which has been enlarged by widening at an oblique angle.

Recommendations: *The town wall is a site of national importance, and must be preserved in situ. However, certain works may need to be carried out in the vicinity of the town hall. It will be necessary for scheduled monument consent to be gained for this. It is recommended that a detailed record of the wall is made prior to the start of any work.*

2. Quay

i) Southern section

Category C

At the south end of the quay is a modern slipway running parallel to the quay wall. At this point, and for the next 120m the present quay is retained by a roughly coursed wall of quarried undressed stone. This then joins on to the 1833 quay designed by Provis. Photographic evidence would suggest that the southern quay wall is early 20th century in date, although a rough wall existed prior to this on the northern part. The monitoring of trial pits in advance of the construction of the existing mussel purification unit led to the conclusion that the west side of the quay was built up in the late 18th early 19th century with shale and metal working debris, whereas the fill on the east side was more recent, and consisted of quarried stone. The steel training wall which protects the southern section of the quay was erected in the 1960's but has since been repaired.

Recommendations: *Although there is no evidence for structures east of the town wall until the 18th century, any underground disturbance should be monitored to aid a clearer understanding of the development of the present quay. No evidence has been noted for the presence of structures in the vicinity of the training wall, however timber structures may have formerly existed here, and if this is the case then the evidence should be well preserved. Therefore a watching brief should be maintained during any disturbance of the sediments.*

ii) The quay of 1833

Category A (Listed Building Grade II)

This quay was built in 1833 to a design by W A Provis (see above). It is faced with large blocks of coursed quarried stone, and is some 100m long and projects some 5m into the river. There is a flight of stone steps at the north end. Also at the north end on the quay is a stone commemorating the crew of the fishing vessel Katy, which left Conwy on 16th January, 1994 but did not return.

Recommendations: *Preservation in situ. A basic record should be made of the quay prior to the start of any works.*

iii) The 1965 jetty and platform

Category C

This feature adjoins the 1833 quay, and consists of a stepped, projecting concrete platform, which curves at the south end. A wooden jetty is attached to the platform. This platform and jetty were built in 1965 by Pochin (CRO XB2/562). The contract states "This contract is for the demolition of the existing timber jetty at the quay, Conwy, and the construction of a new 215 ft long timber jetty together with the construction of a concrete platform at its landward end". It cost £6630 to build.

Recommendations: *None.*

iv) Northern section

Category C

The north end of the quay, which runs from the 1965 jetty to the medieval spur wall, is a shingle beach, which separates the river from Lower Gate Street. In the late 19th and early 20th century the area against the spur wall was used for the docking of steam ships, and a timber jetty formerly ran from the end of the spur wall out into the river. This jetty is marked on the 1898 OS map. Also running from the end of the spur wall, and pre-dating the jetty, was a timber structure, probably another jetty, which ran south parallel to the river bank. This feature was recorded during an archaeological watching brief, but its exact date and function are not known (GAT 1993). A large boathouse was situated against the spur wall until the 1940's, which was owned by Trefriw Steam Ship Company.

Recommendations: *A watching brief should be carried out during any underground disturbance.*

v) Lower Gate Street and the medieval quay

Category A

The name "Lower Gate Street" is usually applied to that part of the street which lies north of the Lower Gate and as far as the spur wall. The present area is on two levels, the lower level being nearer the houses on the west side. This would appear to be the street proper, and is called the "Strand" on Holland's 1777 map. The east side is separated from the street proper by a stone revetment 10cm high. This revetment appears to be shown on the 1777 map, and is clearly marked on the 1898 map. It is difficult to interpret its original date and function. However pictorial and documentary evidence suggests the medieval quay formerly ran from the lower gate to the spur wall. This is backed up by archaeological evidence: a strong stone wall has been noted during watching briefs just to the north of the lower gate running parallel to the street, but turning at the south end towards the towers of the gate. This was interpreted as a former quay of at least 18th century in date, which was buried some time in the 19th century (GAT 1994). However, it is unlikely that a quay was built between medieval times and the 18th century and it is therefore probable that this is the medieval quay. It is also therefore possible that the stone revetment along Lower Gate Street marks the west side of the Medieval quay.

Recommendations: *A watching brief during any underground disturbance. The present height difference along Lower Gate Street should be retained.*

3. Custom House Terrace

Category C

A row of five terraced houses backing on to the medieval town wall. They are late 19th century in date, but have all been modernised. No. 5 has a large wing projecting to the east.

Recommendations: *Basic recording of any original features.*

4. Harbour Master's Office

Category B (Listed Building Grade II)

A 19th century building of two storeys with a slate gable roof. The walls are heavily pebble dashed, and decorated with flat rendered bands. The gabled front elevation has a projecting bay window on the first floor with horned sash windows, and on the ground floor a much shallower bay window with small panes. There is a flat roofed extension to the north.

Recommendations: *Detailed recording in advance of any work which may affect the structure. Listed building consent would be required for any alterations.*

5. Lifeboat station and former cottages called 'Rodyn

Category C

A modern building with pebble dashed walls and pitched slate roof which houses the Inshore Rescue Boat. A row of cottages formerly stood on this site, which were taken down in the 1920's. They were called "'Rodyn" after the lime-kiln (*odyn*=kiln) which preceded them and which is shown on the 1777 Holland map. The cottages are visible on a number of photographs and on a painting by Warren Williams (information kindly supplied by Mrs Pattison).

Recommendations: *Watching brief during any underground disturbance.*

7. Mussel Purification Plant*Category D*

A modern building erected in 1996. This also overlies the site of the 'Rodyn cottages. A watching brief carried out during the digging of test pits located two different types of fill which relate to different stages of in-filling for the present quay (see 2(i) above).

Recommendations: *None.*

8. Stone wall**Category D**

A stone built boundary wall at an angle to the medieval wall, of 19th century date. It forms the boundary wall to the ice plant. It is marked on the 1896 map. The angle of the wall reflects that of the 1833 quay, it may therefore be of similar date, although in appearance it is late 19th century.

Recommendations: *Basic recording.*

9. Brick house – ice plant*Category C*

A pebble-dash rendered brick building, where ice was produced for use by the fishing industry. It has a slate pitched roof. The gabled front has a 16 pane sash window on the first floor, and a small door and shuttered horizontal window on the ground floor. The south side has a door and 3 sash windows on the first floor, and 2 doors on the ground floor. There is a brick chimney towards the east end of the building. It probably dates from the last part of the 19th century, or early part of the 20th century. A modern lean-to is attached to the north side.

Recommendations: *Basic recording prior to any disturbance.*

10. Boat yard*Category D*

An open area, presently used for storing boats. A building is shown in this location on the 1898 OS map, but nothing is depicted on the 1777 map.

Recommendations: *Watching brief if there is to be any underground disturbance.*

11. Sea Food Bar*Category C*

A small stone built structure, painted white, with pitched slate roof. It is linked to the adjacent structure, but is only some quarter of its length.

Recommendations: *Basic recording prior to any disturbance.*

12. Conwy Harbour Boat Shop*Category C*

Two warehouse style buildings, which run back to the medieval wall. Both have low pitched corrugated steel roofs, although the south building is of stone, whereas the north one appears to be rendered concrete block and therefore later in-fill.

Recommendations: *Basic recording prior to any disturbance*

13. Harbour boat shop Registered Office*Category B*

A brick building of the late 19th century or early 20th century. It has a pitched slate roof with a half-hipped gable facing the river. Within the gable wall is a door to the north, and a central sash window with a single vertical glazing bar and horns: the top of the sash window is arched to fit the segmental brick arch above. The first floor has a similar window to the ground floor. Above the first floor window, and level with the eaves, is a decorative horizontal string. There is a chimney on the south side wall.

Recommendations: *Basic recording prior to any disturbance*

14. Warehouse*Category C*

A large warehouse with rendered external walls and a shallow pitched corrugated iron roof. There are large sliding doors on the front. Described as a garage on the 1955 OS map. The building is probably of mid 20th century date.

Recommendations: Basic recording of the above ground structure prior to any disturbance. Watching brief during below ground disturbance.

15. Aquarium

Category C

Another warehouse style building, with stone walls of roughly coursed rubble and a low pitched corrugated iron roof. There are large sliding doors on the front gable. There is evidence of different phases of building in the stonework.

Recommendations: Basic recording of the above ground structure prior to any disturbance. Watching brief during below ground disturbance.

16. Public Lavatories

Category C

Stone built public lavatories of roughly coursed local stone. The front has a central door with pointed arch, and two small windows either side. Low crenellated parapet. Photographic evidence would suggest they were erected in the mid-20th century, probably 1940's, but an exact date has not been found. The 1896 OS map shows a small structure in a wedge shaped enclosure attached to the south tower of the gatehouse, but its function is not known. In the 1920's, the yard behind (i.e. that behind and to the south of the town hall) was used as an abattoir by a butcher on Castle Street (information from Mrs Pattison).

Recommendations: Basic recording of the above ground structure prior to any disturbance. Watching brief during below ground disturbance.

17. Town Hall/Library

Category B (Listed Building Grade II: Front wing of civic hall and library)

A stone building which was originally built in the mid 19th century on the site of an old town house called Plas Isa, owned by the Holland family. Plas Isa was in ruins by the mid 19th century, and has been described as "a stone building, of two or three storeys, with boxed in shutters; while the staircase was handsome." (Lowe 1912 p 324). A market place was built on the site of the house in the 1850's, and this was replaced by the present town hall in 1897. Detailed plans have not been located, but the Borough records record that the Borough Surveyor presented plans for the "alterations to and the conversion of the market hall to Public Buildings and Municipal Offices" in 1893 (CRO X/B/2/29). In 1897 the Council accepted the tender of Edward Thorpe and Sons of Llandudno for "the erection of new municipal buildings", but whether to the plans drawn up in 1893 or not is not made clear. In December 1898 the Council accepted a report from Richard Davies, an architect from Bangor, where additional work was approved, and Thorpes were also given the contract for this work which cost £67 9s 6d. It is possible that Richard Davies was the architect for the main building, but this is not stated anywhere. The rear part of the building burnt down in the 1960's, and was rebuilt in its present form, which is a large square concrete structure sitting over the lower part of the earlier stone building, following the fire. The rear wall of the building partly uses the part of the building uses part of the medieval town wall on its east side, and also part of the lower gate on the north-east.

Recommendations: Detailed recording of the town wall and other medieval masonry prior to any work being undertaken. The medieval masonry should not be disturbed unless it is necessary for maintenance purposes. Watching brief during any underground works. Listed building consent and scheduled monument consent will be required for any work to the town hall and library, although the listed building description does not include the 1960's addition at the rear of the hall.

18. Liverpool Arms

Category B (Listed Building Grade II)

A building of the late 18th century (Cadw Listed building detail), which incorporates the north tower of the lower gate on the south side and the town wall on the west side. The front gable faces the river, and has a central door with pediment and two sash windows with stuccoed surrounds on the ground floor, three similar windows on the first floor, and two similar window on the second floor. All but one of the windows are without glazing bars. There is a chimney stack on the north side of the building, and a flat roofed extension on the north-west. There is a small extension on the south side which is in the same character as the main building.

Recommendations: Detailed recording of the above ground structure prior to any disturbance. Watching brief during below ground disturbance.

19. Bandstand

Category E

A paved area between the Liverpool Arms and No. 10 Lower Gate Street. Formerly on this site were a row of cottages to the north, and a large three or four storey building adjacent to the Liverpool Arms. This latter was used, and may have been built as, seaman's lodgings, although in its latter days it was the office of the North Wales Weekly News. The cottages were also taken over by the Newspaper group before their demolition. Information from local inhabitants suggest the cottages and the larger structure were demolished in the 1920's or 30's, and that a smaller building was put up to house the newspaper offices, which was in turn cleared after the Newspaper group moved to Llandudno Junction in 1972.

Recommendations: *Watching brief during any below ground disturbance*

20. No. 10 Lower Gate Street (The smallest house)*Category A (Listed Building Grade II)*

A small two storey house built against a tower of the town wall, with a single pitch slate roof which slopes from back to front. Its south wall is higher than the roof, and belongs to an earlier set of cottages, whereas the north wall is formed from the house to the north. It has been suggested that it was built in a small gap between two existing rows of cottages, and this would certainly appear to be the case. The exterior walls are painted red. The front wall contains a single door to the south and a small window on the ground floor, and a two-light casement window above. It is advertised as the smallest house in Britain.

Recommendations: *Preservation in situ.*

21. No. 11 Lower Gate Street*Category B (Listed Building Grade II)*

A two storey stone built house with pitched slate roof. Painted stucco surrounds to the windows, door, quoins and dado. On ground floor is central door with a 16 pane sash window on either side. Two similar windows, but with only 12 panes, above. Probably late 18th century in date.

Recommendations: *Preservation in situ.*

22. No. 12 Lower Gate Street*Category B (Listed Building Grade II)*

A stone built house of two storeys and attic, and pitched slate roof. Similar stuccoed surrounds to No. 11, but sash windows have no glazing bars. Two small gabled dormers in roof. This building was formerly a public house called the Royal Oak.

Recommendations: *Preservation in situ.*

23. No.'s 13 to 18 Lower Gate Street*Category C*

A row of two storey stone built cottages with pitched slate roofs and brick chimneys. They are probably mid-19th century in date, but have been modernised in recent times.

Recommendations: *Basic recording of the above ground structure prior to any disturbance.*

Watching brief during below ground disturbance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am extremely grateful for help from a number of people, but in particular Mrs E M Pattison has been of great help both by showing me photographs and prints from her collection, and also by answering numerous questions, many of which must have seemed extremely mundane. I would also like to thank Mrs R Aldrich, County librarian, Mrs S Ellis, Conwy archivist, Mrs V Donald of the Cambrian Academy and Mrs M Battersley at the Guildhall for their interest and help.

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5.2 Archive Sources

Gwynedd Archives

Photographs:

CHS/1112/34; XS/1948/9/19; CHS/1112/36; CHS/1392/11

Maps:

XM/MAPS/503; XM/MAPS/1398/1; XM/MAPS/1049/1; XM/MAPS/1683/5;

Documents:

XM/5345/1-2; XB2/16; XB2/15a; X/B/2/29; X/B/2/123

UWB Archives

UWB 8257; UWB 8258; UWB 8258a; UWB 8260

APPENDIX 1

COPY OF CADW LISTED BUILDING DETAILS

AND

MAP OF SCHEDULED AND GUARDIANSHIP AREAS

Authority Conwy
Community Conwy

Grade II
Date Listed 06/05/1970
Date Amended 08/10/1981

Grid Ref SH 7877
Record No 3317

Name NOS.10,11 & 12 LOWER GATE STREET

Location

Exterior

No 10: C18 to early C19. Small two-storey house with single pitch roof built against a tower of the Town wall. Colourwashed stone rubble front wall. Slate roof with tall brick stack. Small two-light casement above. On ground floor, ledged door to left hand and small window to right hand. Contents of interior include wooden stair at front, rear fireplace, cupboard and chest seat along wall.

Measurements: Frontage 72 inches; back front 100 inches; height 122 inches. Advertised as the smallest house in Great Britain.

No 11: C18 probably. Much higher eaves. Pebbledash cladding with painted stucco dado, end quoins, eaves and first floor cill bands and door and window surrounds. Two sash windows with glazing bars and horns in slightly cambered headed openings on ground floor, one to each side of doorway. Left hand ground floor room with double ceiling.

No 12: Two storeys and attic. Two bays and centered door bay. Steeply gabled slate roof with much higher ridge. Cladding to front elevation similar to no 11. Two gabled dormers with two-light casements. Window openings with cambered heads but with sash windows without glazing bars. Doorway with sloping hood on brackets. Inside, right hand ground floor room with large fireplace in rear wall and with exposed ceiling beam.

Authority Conwy

Grade II

Date Listed 06/05/1970

Community Conwy

Date Amended 08/10/1981

Grid Ref SH 7877

Record No 3316

Name LIVERPOOL ARMS PH, LOWER GATE STREET

Location

Exterior

Late C18 probably; a gable ended building shown here in view of Conwy in Baker's Guide through Wales and the Marches of 1795; present building shown in print published by J Seacombe of Chester, 1828. Gabled front elevation with stuccoed cladding. Sash windows without glazing bars in painted stucco surrounds, two on second floor, three on first floor and one each side of ground floor doorway; doorway with pediment and six-panelled door. To left hand, single-storey extension with curved front wall built up against Northern tower of Porth Isaf. Slate roofs.

Authority **Conwy**

Grade **II**
Date Listed **08/10/1981**

Community **Conwy**

Grid Ref **SH 7877**
Record No **3315**

Name **RETAINING WALL OF QUAY INCLUDING STEPS AT NW END &
CONTINUATION OF WALL TO NW LOWER GATE STREET.**

Location

Exterior

1833. Surface of quay now asphalted but retaining walls of quay faced with large blocks of stone. Flight of probably contemporary stone steps at North-west end; northwards from steps, retaining wall continues North-west as far as flight of curved modern steps.

Authority Conwy
Community Conwy

Grade II
Date Listed 08/10/1981

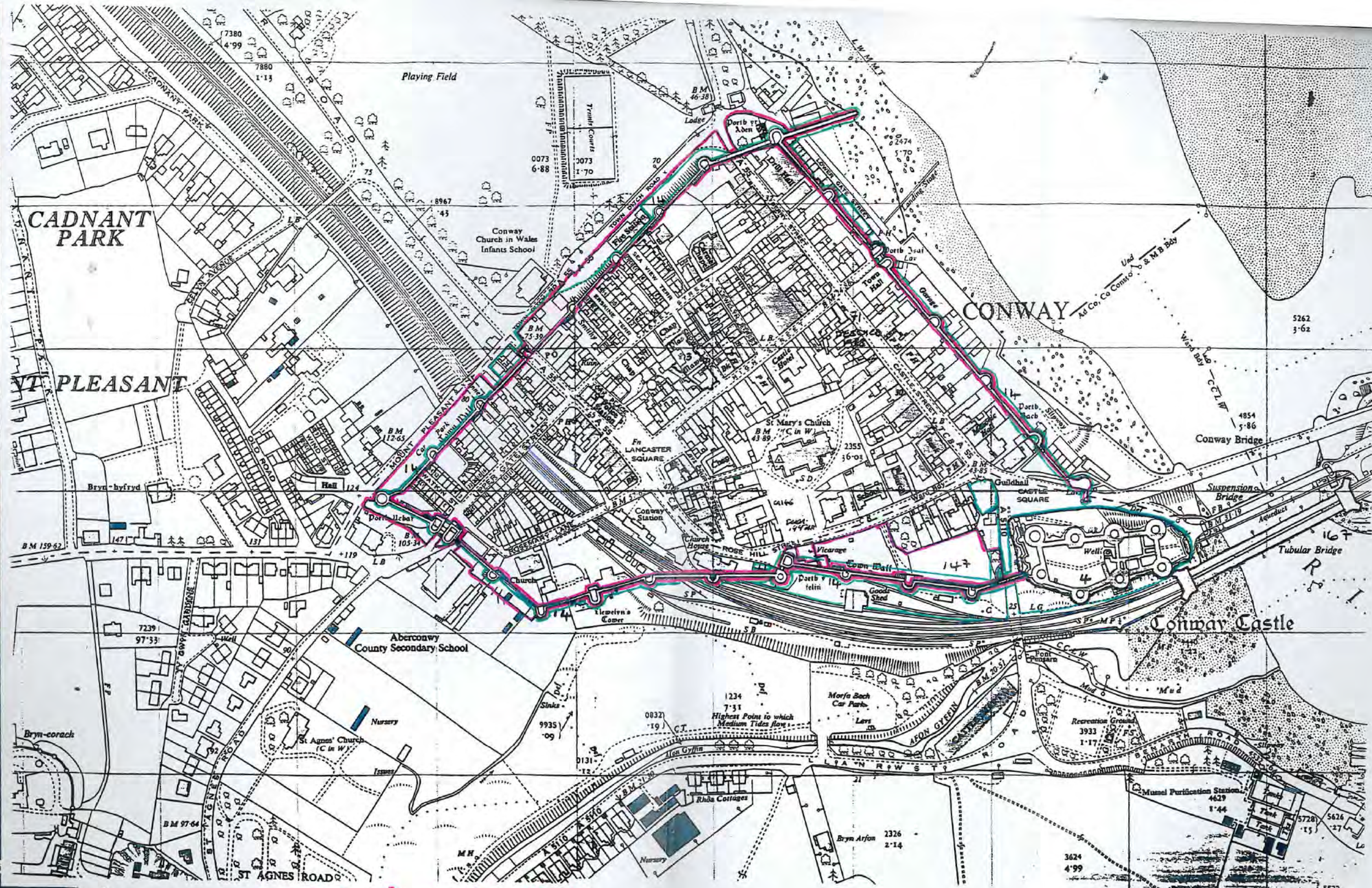
Grid Ref SH 7877
Record No 3281

Name HARBOUR MASTER'S OFFICE,CUSTOM HOUSE TERRACE

Location

Exterior

C19, built against the tower of the medieval town wall by Porth Bach. Two storeys. slate gable roof. Pebbledash cladding framed by narrow rendered bands, at ends at heads of first and ground floor openings. Side elevation with small ledged door with head at eaves level, small window to right hand and ledged ground floor; gabled front elevation with sash lights without glazing bars and with horns to canted three-light oriel bay window on first floor. On ground floor, set slightly to left hand, very shallow canted bay window with small panes; window seat inside. Inside also, window shutters and small C19 round-headed iron grate.



Scheduled Area in Red.
 Guardianship Area in Green.



CONWY CASTLE AND TOWN WALL CASTELL CONWY A MUR TREF




COUNTY AUTHORITY: GWYNEDD COUNTY COUNCIL


DISTRICT AUTHORITY: ABERCONWY BOROUGH COUNCIL


ORDNANCE SURVEY SHEET No: SH 7877-7977
SH 7677-7777

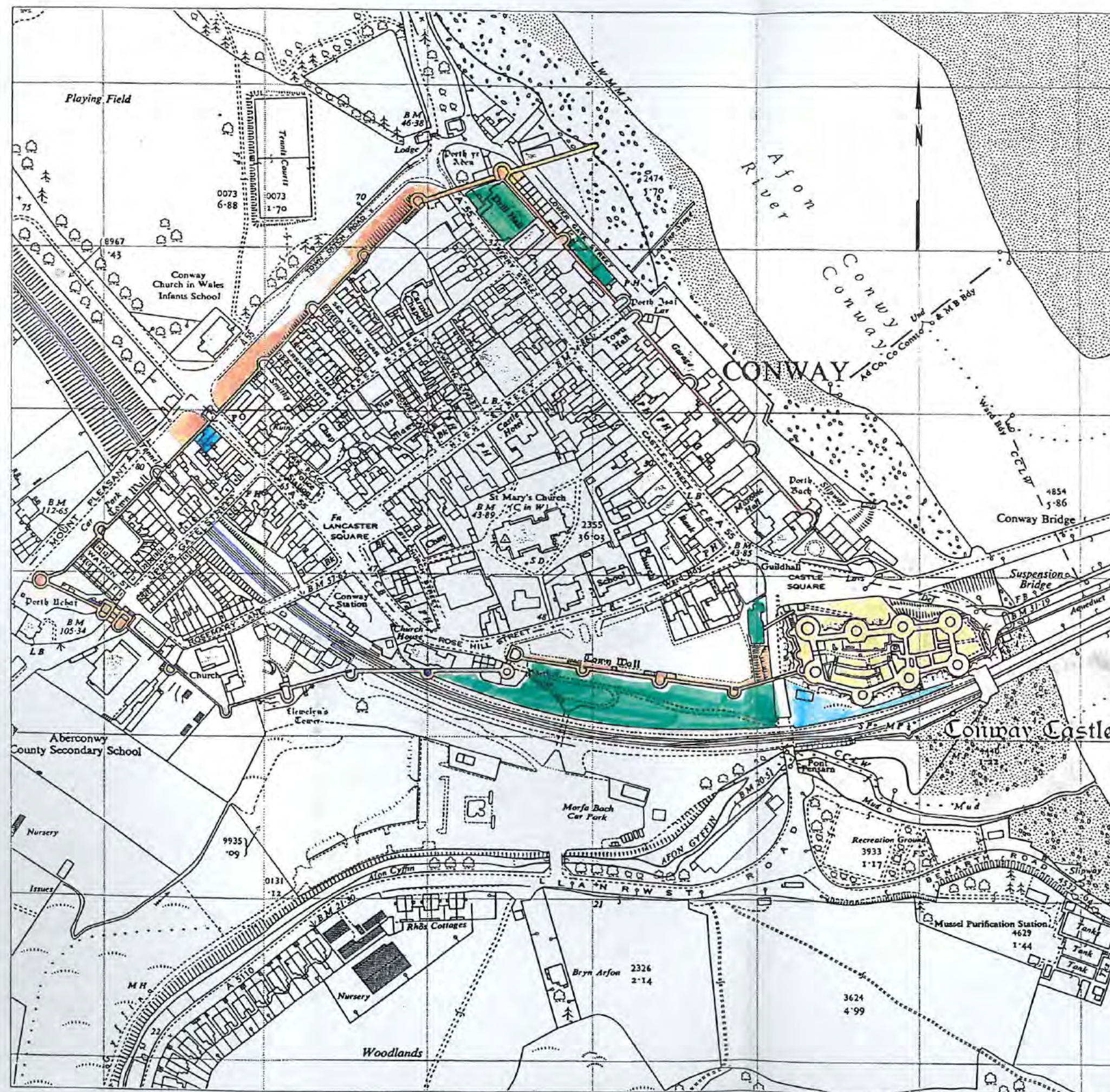
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: SH 781776

General Plan showing land categories of the Monument

 Freehold property vested in the Secretary of State for Wales.

 Long Leasehold property vested in the Secretary of State.

 Short Leasehold Tenancy vested in the Secretary of State.



PROPERTY TERRIER

Scale: 1/1250 Produced by: WKO/MF Drawing No: 6214/ Date: February 1994



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Welsh Health Common Services Authority
Awdurdod Gwasanaethau Cyffwrdd
Iechyd Cymru