



eas

Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd.

**Porth Mawr, Caernarfon
Archaeological Assessment**

I.P. Brooks and D Gwyn

EAS Client report 2017/01

Porth Mawr, Caernarfon
Archaeological Assessment
Commissioned by
Donald Insall Associated for Cadw

Desktop by:
D. Gwyn

Fieldwork and Analysis by:
I.P. Brooks
Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd

Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd is
Registered in England No 286978

Porth Mawr, Caernarfon Archaeological Assessment
I.P. Brooks and D. Gwyn
Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd and Govannon Consultancy
EAS Client Report 2017/01
January 2017

CONTENTS

Introduction

Summary

Location

Archaeological Background

Methodology

Results

Desktop Study

Standing Building Recording

Outside

Inside South Range

Inside North Range

Initial cleaning of the floor in the North Range

Evaluation Trench

Finds

Conclusions

Acknowledgements

References

Appendix 1: Context index

Appendix 2: Brief

Appendix 3: Specification

Appendix 4: Specification for further work

List of Figures

Figure 1: Location

Figure 2: Plan of the ground floor

Figure 3: Eastern elevation

Figure 4: Profile of the Town wall from Greengate Street

Figure 5: Elevation of the north side of the entrance passage

Figure 6: Elevation on the south side of the entrance passage

Figure 7: Western elevation

Figure 8: Roof Plan

Figure 9: Northern wall of the Northern Gatehouse

Figure 10: Profile through the Gatehouses

Figure 11: Plan of the archaeological features revealed by the removal of the gravel

Figure 12: Location of the evaluation trench

Figure 13: Plan of the upper cobbles

Figure 14: Plan of the cobbles (Context 36)

Figure 15: Plan of the cobbles (Context 37)
Figure 16: Plan of the cobbles (Context 38)
Figure 17: Trench Sections
Figure 18: Location of the photographs (Ground floor)
Figure 19: Location of the photographs (Roof level)

List of Plates

Plate 1: The Eastern approach
Plate 2: The south tower
Plate 3: The north tower
Plate 4: Bridge leading to the gateway
Plate 5 Below the bridge
Plate 6: Eastern elevation of 3 Hole in the Wall Street
Plate 7: Wall to the north of the gatehouse.
Plate 8: Decorative column on the south side of the entrance passage
Plate 9: Capital
Plate 10: Relationship between the northern tower and the gate passage.
Plate 11: The parapet and clock
Plate 12: The roof of the entrance passage.
Plate 13: Brickwork of the entrance passage ceiling.
Plate 14: The northern side of the passageway
Plate 15: Window in the northern elevation of the passageway
Plate 16: Door in the northern elevation of the passageway
Plate 17: Slate plaque on the northern elevation of the passageway
Plate 18: Dedication
Plate 19: Windows in the south face of the passageway
Plate 20: The inner face of the gatehouse
Plate 21: One of the columns on the inner face of the gatehouse
Plate 22: Capital
Plate 23: The inner face of the northern gatehouse
Plate 24: The inner face of the south gatehouse
Plate 25: Window in the western elevation of the south gatehouse
Plate 26: Small window in the western elevation of the south gatehouse
Plate 27: Door to 3 Hole in the Wall Street
Plate 28: Roof over the gatehouse looking NE
Plate 29: The roof over 3 Hole in the Wall Street
Plate 30: Rear of the eastern clock housing
Plate 31: Rear of the western clock housing
Plate 32: Wooden cabinet in south eastern corner of the gatehouse roof
Plate 33: Arrow slot in the south-eastern corner of the gatehouse roof
Plate 34: Arrow slot on the northern side of the gatehouse roof
Plate 35: Arrow slot in the south-western corner of the gatehouse roof
Plate 36: Chimney stack on the northern side of the gatehouse roof
Plate 37: Southern gatehouse looking east
Plate 38: Embrasure with arrow slot in southern gatehouse
Plate 39: Repair to the southern gatehouse
Plate 40: Blocked fireplace in southern gatehouse

Plate 41: Southern gatehouse looking west
Plate 42: Single light window in the north wall of the southern gatehouse
Plate 43: Two light window in the north wall of the southern gatehouse
Plate 44: Arch over the southern gatehouse and modern metal supports
Plate 45: Doorway between the southern gatehouse and 3 Hole in the Wall Street
Plate 46: Main door to 3 Hole in the Wall Street
Plate 47: Fireplace in 3 Hole in the Wall Street
Plate 48: the north reveal of the window in the eastern end of 3 Hole in the Wall Street
Plate 49: First floor window in the eastern end of 3 Hole in the Wall Street
Plate 50: Southern wall of 3 Hole in the Wall Street
Plate 51: Possible surviving town wall in the north-west corner of 3 Hole in the Wall Street
Plate 52: Possible surviving town wall in the north-east corner of 3 Hole in the Wall Street
Plate 53: Northern gatehouse looking west
Plate 54: Northern gatehouse looking east
Plate 55: Eastern brick arch over the northern gatehouse
Plate 56: Modern brick repair in the eastern end of the northern gatehouse
Plate 57: Modern repairs to the embrasure
Plate 58: The double window in the northern gatehouse
Plate 59: Circular saw marks on the lintel of the double window in the north gatehouse
Plate 60: Doorway
Plate 61: Pencil inscription on the back of the door
Plate 62: Course, moderate sized block at the east end of the north wall
Plate 63: Change in building materials in the northern wall of the northern gatehouse
Plate 64: The fireplace
Plate 65: The western end of the northern wall of the north gatehouse
Plate 66: Flue in the side of the fireplace
Plate 67: Wall exposed in the floor before the removal of the gravel
Plate 68: Southern trench before the removal of the gravel
Plate 69: The northern trench before the removal of the gravel
Plate 70: The northern gatehouse after the removal of the gravel, looking west
Plate 71: The northern gatehouse after the removal of the gravel (looking east)
Plate 72: Wall (Context 6)
Plate 73: Possible threshold (Context 8)
Plate 74: Contexts 20 and 21
Plate 75: Wall (Context 10)
Plate 76: Possible post hole (Context 18)
Plate 77: Contexts 24 and 25
Plate 78: Context 27
Plate 79: Floor levels, Contexts 9 and 17
Plate 80: Floor level Context 11
Plate 81: Trenches Contexts 2 and 4
Plate 82: Hole for a service pipe below the western wall
Plate 83: Iron pipe below the western wall
Plate 84: Context 33
Plate 85: Context 34 and cut Context 35
Plate 86: Context 40
Plate 87: Cobble surface Context 36
Plate 88: Cobbled surface Context 37

Plate 89: Cobble surface Context 38

Plate 90: Wall Context 20

Plate 91: Southern end of Context 20

Introduction

Grid Reference:	SH 47901 62823
Listed Building No.	3869
Scheduled Monument reference number	CN034
NPRN	302416
PRN	3098

Summary

The standing remains of Porth Mawr have been recorded and a limited archaeological intervention has taken place within the northern gatehouse. Documentary evidence would suggest that the standing structure is largely post-Medieval in date with the “D” shaped towers being added between 1610 and 1742. The majority of the structure, however is the result of 19th century rebuilding of the gatehouse and twentieth century modifications.

The clearing of the floor from the northern gatehouse and the excavation of a trial trench suggests parts of the Medieval gate structure survives with two significant walls, each with a return suggesting the location of the entrance passage surviving below the current floor level. The evaluation trench records at least four levels of cobbling, the lowest of which probably dates from the late 1500’s or early 1600’s

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Evidential value

Porth Mawr is of high evidential value for its deeply stratified archaeological deposits, as a structure that possibly contains Medieval work, more probably contains 17th century fabric, and that is clearly for the most part of 19th century construction. It is of very high evidential value for the ways in which it demonstrates the evolution of a burgess/market town in the post-Medieval period. Should stronger evidence emerge for the towers’ origin in the War of the Three Kingdoms (the Civil War), their evidential value would thereby be increased.

Historical value

Porth Mawr is of very high historical value as a component element in a Medieval burgess town which has been inscribed as a World Heritage site; it is of very high historical value as the site of the main landward entrance to the medieval bastide, and as the location of the Exchequer, the financial and administrative centre for the shire counties of North-west Wales. It is of high historical value as the place where the Caernarfon Boroughs MPs were proclaimed; from 1890 to 1945, this was David Lloyd George, leader in wartime and peace, Prime Minister and statesman.

Aesthetic value

Porth Mawr is of moderate aesthetic value as a structure highly modified even from its 19th century appearance, which nevertheless forms an imposing entrance to an historic town that has evolved from a Medieval bastide settlement to a regional centre in the 19th century.

Communal value

Porth Mawr is of high communal value for residents and visitors alike, as a familiar and cherished local landmark, and as the entrance to the historic core of the town of Caernarfon. It is a focus of memory for the older generation of Caernarfon people as the site of a cinema which functioned until 1960.

Location

Porth Mawr is located on the junction between High Street and Styrd y Porth Mawr, Caernarfon and was originally the main eastern gateway into the town. It is attached to the town walls both to the north and south and is also incorporates the range of buildings on the inner face of the town wall along Hole in the Wall Street. Indeed 3 Hole in the Wall Street is incorporated within this study.

Methodology

The assessment of Porth Mawr was commissioned by Donald Insall Ltd on behalf of Cadw and was based on a brief prepared by Ashley Batten (Appendix 2), The Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service's Senior Planning Archaeologist.

The desktop study was carried out consulting the records of The National Library of Wales, Cadw, The Gwynedd Historic Environment Record, The Bangor University Department of Manuscripts and The British Museum Collection.

The Standing Building Record relied on the surveying carried out by Russel Geomatic Ltd in 2016 using a 3D scanner giving plans, elevations and 3D images of Porth Mawr. The resultant drawings were used as the basis for the current survey and were modified as necessary. The gravel surface of the northern gate chamber was removed by hand over the majority of the floor area, being stock piled in the south east corner of the chamber. The resultant surface was cleaned and recorded. The recording of the standing structure and the removal of the gravel took place between 1st December 2016 and 11th January 2017

After a site meeting held on 13th December 2016 it was decided that a second phase of archaeological evaluation should take place involving a trench excavated in order to test the level of survival of archaeologically significant deposits. This evaluation was commission on 17th January 2017 and the field work took place between 23rd January 2017 and 27th January 2017. All works were carried out by hand.

RESULTS

DESKTOP STUDY (D. Gwyn)

Sources

In order to carry out the desk-top research, the *Transactions of the Caernarvonshire Historical Society (TCHS)* were searched and the standard secondary sources consulted. Gwynedd Archaeological Trust report *Eastgate Street, Caernarfon: Archaeological Assessment Report 202* (1996) proved extremely useful. Online copies of the *North Wales Gazette*, *North Wales Chronicle*, *Caernarvon and Denbigh Herald*, *Baner ac Amserau Cymru* were searched under 'Porth Mawr' and 'Eastgate'.

Visual material was consulted in the British Library and the National Museum of Wales.

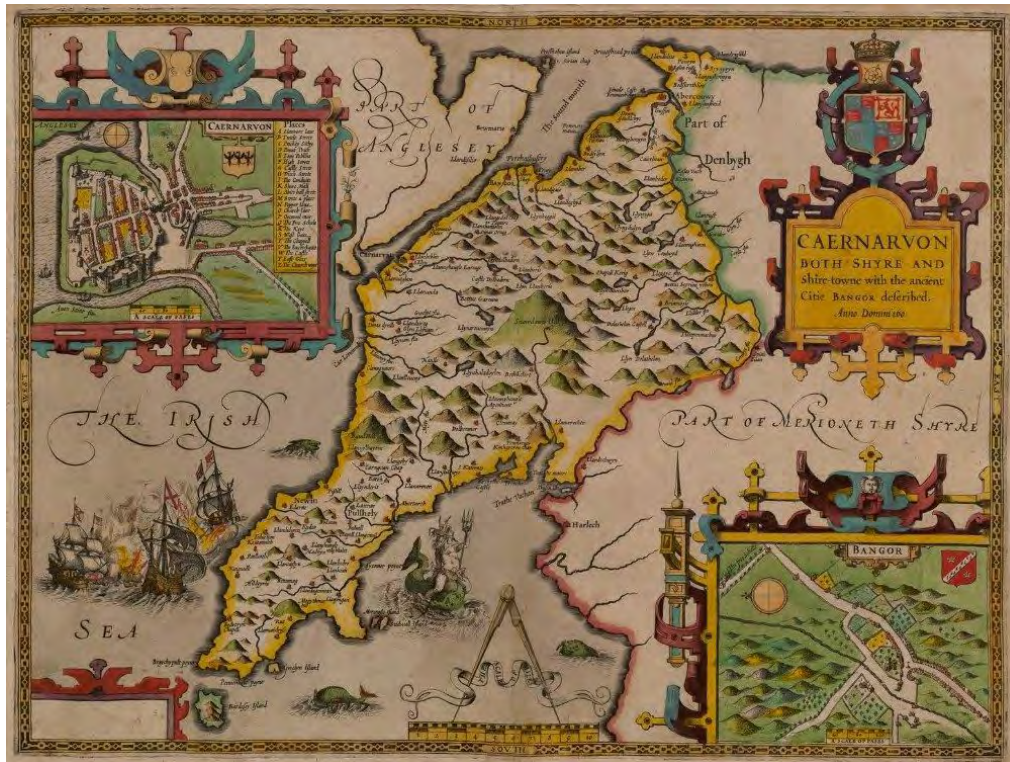
Listed building description

A Gothic-style gateway, mainly of C19 character on a medieval plan, which facing outwards to the E is flanked by single-stage round towers battered at the base. The towers, contrasting the polygonal towers of the castle, are of coursed limestone, largely rebuilt to the S and have loops to the front and to the parapet that was created when the upper stages were taken down. The C19 gateway is set back between the towers, and is of snecked stone with freestone dressings. The gateway has a segmental moulded arch with inset half-height shafts of polished pink granite and foliage capitals, above which is a coped parapet, with raised gabled central portion containing a clock face. To the L of the S tower, above a relieving arch in the Town Wall, are windows inserted on 2 storeys, all boarded up at the time of inspection. In the lower storey are 2 segmental headed windows with voussoirs, above which is a thick roll moulding, and in the upper storey is a 2-light mullioned window of 1872 with plain chamfers. The passage has a white-brick pointed tunnel vault. In its S wall is a 2-light window with shouldered heads L of centre and a similar single-light window further R. The N wall has a corresponding 2-light window, L of which is a doorway with shouldered head, a boarded door and overlight. On the R side of the doorway is a slate tablet commemorating the site of the Exchequer. On the L side is a larger slate tablet on stone corbels, signed by Trevor Roberts, that records alterations to the tower and its clock in 1833. In the W elevation, facing High Street, the arch has similar detail to the E side, including a clock face to the parapet. The straight rear elevations of the flanking towers have details of 1872. Each has a tall 3-light mullioned and transomed window with shouldered lights and beneath a pointed arch. Set back further R (known as 3 Hole-in-the-Wall Street), is a double doorway L under a shouldered lintel and replaced double doors, with a single window to its R and 2 windows in the upper storey, all with shouldered lintels.

Findings of the historical research

Eastgate Street was probably originally carried across the river Cadnant on a timber construction leading to a drawbridge. This timberwork may not have survived the 1294-5 uprising, and was in any event replaced by a stone-built causeway pierced by a number of arches. One source suggests that this was built in 1301-2 (Johns 1962), others suggest that work was going on in 1306, when four bridge-layers (*cubitores Pontis*) were at work (Colvin 1963 384). However, then and much later, the final link on the town wall side was a wooden drawbridge. Accounts dated 1304-5 record the construction of two new drawbridges, one of which may have been for the Eastgate Street: ‘to Henry of Elreton for two new bridges made of wood in the said castle at task, £8 6s 8d. And to the said Matthew of Silkeston for a device made by him for raising up the joists and other great timbers, 20s’. (*Henrico de Elreton pro ij novis pontibus ligneis faciendis in castro predicto ad tascham - vii} l. vj s vii} d. Et Mattheo de Silkestone predicto pro uno ingenio per ipsum facto pro gistis et alia grosso maeremio sursum tractanda xx s* (Lewis 1922, 269).

The drawbridge was in existence as late as 1520, when repairs were carried out (Cadw 38), but by the time of Speed's map of ninety years later, it was a thing of the past.



John Speed, *The theatre of the empire of Great Britaine* 1610



John Speed, *The theatre of the empire of Great Britaine* 1610 (detail)

Speed's map shows a square-plan tower on the site of the present Porth Mawr. A document of c. 1620 describes this as the 'Chequirtour' (exchequer tower) and states that it 'is all leaded conteyning 25 paces in length and 15 in bredth' (Peers 1915-6, 73).

Speed's map also shows, immediately to the east of where the drawbridge would have been, a barbican tower, where tolls were collected. Such a tower was in existence by 1309 (Taylor 1974, 385) and further moneys were expended on it between 1309 and 1312, when it is described as 'a certain stone barbican without the gate' (*quedam Barbecana lapidea extra portam*) (Colvin 1963 385n). After enduring civil commotion in the time of Owain Glyndwr (RCAHM[W] *Inventory* 151), it was soon afterwards damaged by a storm (Evans 1944 11n).

Over the Eastgate itself was constructed a building to provide the administrative centre for the new regime. From here North Wales was governed from the Statute of Rhuddlan (1284) to the Laws in Wales Act of 1536, and here the seals, charters and judicial means to facilitate the work of the Justiciar were kept. It also housed the Exchequer of North Wales, where royal revenues were sent, and possibly as early as January 1286 we read of a cloth bought for the Exchequer "over the gate of Caernarfon" accounted for by Robert of Belvoir (Colvin 1963 374n); these may have been wall-hangings, but possibly it was the exchequer itself, the *scaccarus* or checked cloth on which moneys were reckoned. Little else is known of the building; it had a lead roof, which required recasting in the early sixteenth century (Colvin 1975 172). It is not evident on Speed's map.

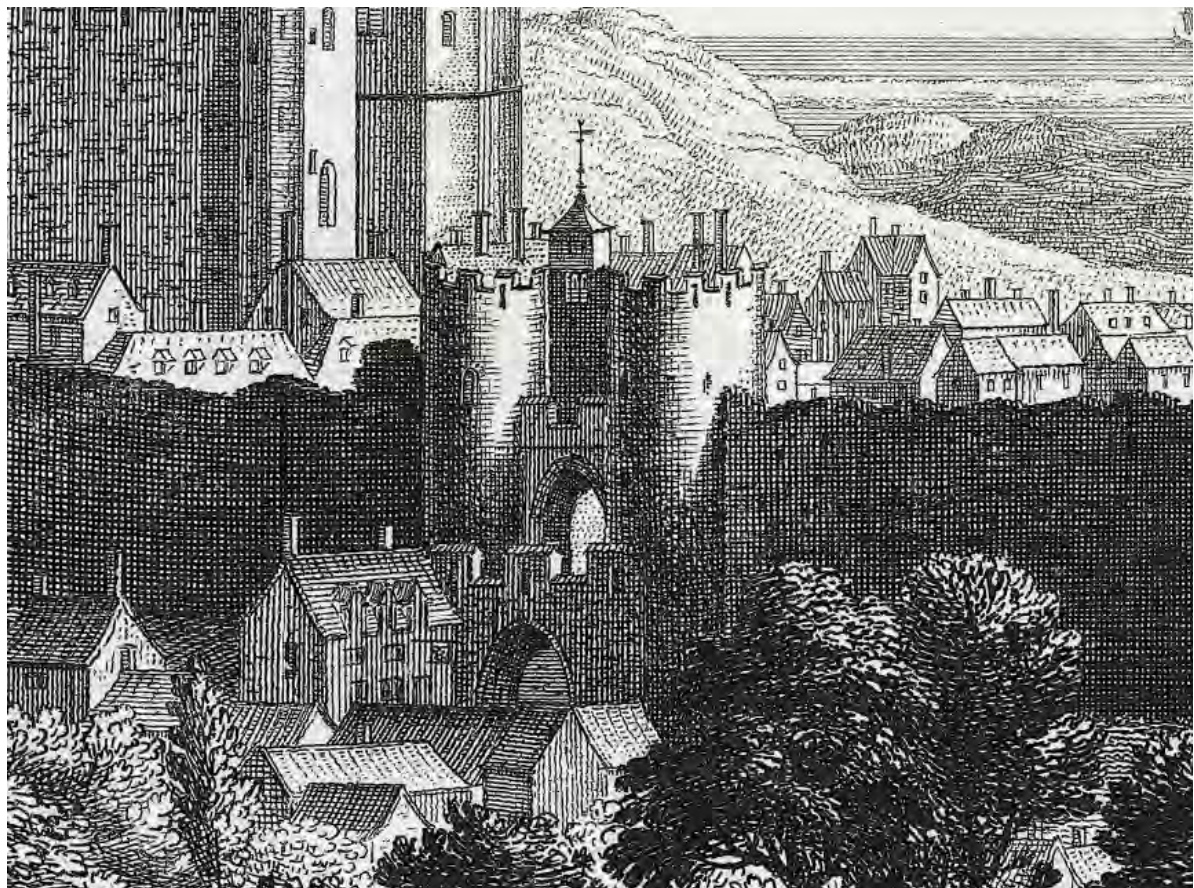
By the seventeenth century the building's functions had dwindled to those of a record office and as the venue of the meetings of the Borough Court.

Samuel and Nathaniel Buck shows two projecting round towers flanking the gate in 1742, which is at variance with the square-plan gate-tower shown on Speed's plan of 1610. It is also worthy of note that Speed does not show any of the towers in the town wall extending any higher than the walls themselves. It is therefore possible that the towers were raised and the Eastgate towers added, during the Civil War, when the town and castle were besieged three times. Civil war siege tactics have been characterised as 'very much behind the times' (Duffy 2013, 159), and building or raising the height of towers to a Medieval plan should perhaps occasion no surprise.

Buck also shows a structure above the gate tower.



Samuel and Nathaniel Buck , ‘The north east view of Caernarvon Castle’, 1742



Samuel and Nathaniel Buck , detail

By 1749 it was in a perilous state. The *Order Book* observes:

... that the Town Hall or Edifice Scituate & lying in and upon the Great Street there and com(m)only culled the Guildhull of the saide Burrough is very ruinous and in

great peril of falling into the said Street to the endangering the lives of the inhabitants passing and repassing there .. (CRO XD1/2 fol. 75r).

Porth Mawr is depicted the following year by Boydell.



John Boydell, ‘Carnarvon castle’, 1750



Boydell detail

Boydell does not show the second-level tower, and shows the battlements in better repair than Buck. The barbican was clearly still in existence at this date.

In 1763 a new Guildhall was built above the gate, with which the Burgesses seemed pleased; they recorded their gratitude to Sir John Wynn for having demolished a tenement under the Great Gate, thereby revealing it as the 'regular and uniform' structure they considered it to be (CRO: XD1/2 fol. 175r). Others were less impressed; Grimston observed 'all that can be said of it is that it is convenient.' It had a clock, whose winder was dismissed in 1770 for failing to attend to his duty (CRO: XD1/2 fol. 213r). The dials were ordered to be painted in 1786 (CRO: XD1/746 fol. 83r).

The barbican had gone by 1777, as it is not shown on the Vaynol estate survey (CRO: Vaynol 4056). Remarkably, its demolition is not recorded in the View of Court Leet and Frankpledge in the Borough Order Books for the relevant period (CRO XD1/2). The base of one of its towers may have survived to be discovered in the nineteenth century when it came to light in the construction of a cabinet-maker's shop; whatever the structure was, it was so strongly built that gunpowder had to be used to shift it (Jones 1889 103). Rowlandson's 1797 sketch shows the addition of a tower between the bastions, which have now had their battlements removed, and slate roofs added.



Thomas Rowlandson, *Carnarvon Castle, North Wales*. 1797; watercolour with pen and gray ink over graphite, smooth, blued white wove paper (14 x 41 cm)



Rowlandson detail

A sketch of 1809 largely agrees with Rowlandson, and confirms the slated roofs and chimneys on the bastions.



NLW sketch, 1809

Extensions were carried out in 1833 involving the construction of a new clock-tower and a lock-up, but it still failed to impress – ‘small and cramped ... a very disfiguring effect.’ The Trevor Roberts who built the new works (a slab affixed to the structure states ‘Trevor Roberts fecit’) is otherwise unattested. It was rebuilt in 1872-3 by the contractor R.R. Williams as part of the widening of Eastgate Street (*North Wales Chronicle* 21 September 1872). Alterations included the replacement of the old town clock with a four-faced timepiece of German pattern, whose mechanical inadequacies were often compounded by the force of the wind (Jones 1889 110-112, Evans 1944 4-11). The contractor ran out of stones for the face of the town hall similar to those he initially used, prompting the mayor to secure a supply from an unworked quarry near Plas Newydd from Lady Willoughby de Broke (*North Wales Chronicle* 10 May 1873). A new entrance was provided in 1900 (*Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald* 5 January 1900).

Whatever the defects of this structure, it has one claim to fame in that it was from it that the Members of Parliament for the Borough constituency were proclaimed; from 1890 to 1945 this was David Lloyd George.

Otherwise, the Guildhall served as a general meeting place and as a theatre (*Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald* 10 April 1896; 1 December 1899). From 1910 to 1960 the Guildhall was used as a cinema, at first on an occasional basis, but from 1913 onwards on a lease, to E.O. Davies, then by his widow. The first film with sound accompaniment was shown in 1913, a ‘short’ of a train at a station in which the sound was provided by a gramophone. The Guildhall cinema competed with other cinemas in the town by charging 2d rather than 3d for children’s matinees (Hughes 2013; CRO: XM/T/353).

The upper storey of the Guildhall was taken down in 1963, when the present gabled parapet was added (listed building information).

SOURCES

Published

Cadw 1986: *Caernarfon Castle* (guide book)

Colvin HM 1963: *The History of the King's Works* I (HMSO)

Colvin HM 1975: HMSO -1975: *The History of the King's Works* III (HMSO)

Duffy C 2013: *Siege Warfare: The Fortress in the Early Modern World 1494-1660* (Routledge)

Evans K 1941: Y Porth Mawr: *TCHS* 3 33-42

Evans K 1944: *TCHS* 5, 1-11

Hughes TM 2013: *Hanesion Tre'r Cofis* (y Lolfa)

Johns CH 1962: 'Dark Age and Medieval: Caernarvonshire', *Archaeology in Wales* 2

Jones WH 1889: *Old Karnarvon*, Caernarfon, reprint by Siop y Pentan 1984

Lewis EA 1922: 'The Account Roll of the Chamberlain of the Principality of North Wales from Michaelmas I 304 to Michaelmas I 305', *Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies* 1

Peers CR 1915-6: *Carnarvon Castle* (Cymmrodorion)

Pigot's Directory 1835 (copy in CRO)

RCAHM (W) 1960: *Caernarvonshire Inventory* 2, 150-156 (HMSO)

Taylor AJ 1974: *The King's Works in Wales 1277-1330* (HMSO)

Taylor AJ 1986: *The Welsh Castles of Edward I*

Unpublished

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust report *Eastgate Street, Caernarfon: Archaeological Assessment Report 202* (1996)

Visual material

National Library of Wales

Box 254/1 – Caernarfon: 'Gateway at Caernarvon, N Wales July 15th 1809', drawing: pencil

British Library

Maps K top XLVI 45-f: Boydell 1750

Maps K top XLVI 45-c: Buck 1742

Caernarfon Record Office

XS/1497/2/2: photograph of Eastgate from the corner of High Street and Palace Street

XS/1086/5: photograph of Eastgate Street and Turf Square from Bangor Road

XS/1497 /9/6: photograph of Eastgate Street from Turf Square, showing soldiers on parade with colours

XS/638/1: photograph of Eastgate Street and Turf Square from Bangor Road, pre-1906, before construction of Lloyd's Bank, showing Pierce and Williams's shop, Yr Afr Aur, on both sides of the road, with the bridge joining them.

Sound archive

CRO: XM/T/353: reminiscences of William Norman Thomas, born 1904.

Online resources

<http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/digital-maps/john-speed-proof-maps>
(digital copy of proof of maps in Speed J 1611-2: *Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine*)

<http://collections.britishart.yale.edu/vufind/Record/1670707> (digital copy, Thomas Rowlandson, 'Carnarvon Castle', 1797, watercolor with pen and gray ink over graphite on medium, smooth, blued white wove paper)

<https://viewer.library.wales/1132788#?c=0&m=0&s=0&cv=0> (digital copy of Samuel and Nathaniel Buck, 'The north east view of Caernarvon Castle [graphic] / Smal & Nathl Buck del et sculp.', 1742, 1 print : engraving, b&w)

<https://viewer.library.wales/1132896#?c=0&m=0&s=0&cv=0> (digital copy of John Boydell, 'Carnarvon castle', 1750, 1 print: engraving, b&w)

Newspapers

North Wales Chronicle

21 September 1872: THE TOWN CLOCK. It is understood that on Friday the 120th, the contractor Mr R.R. Williams) will commence taking down the town clock tower, and the present building, as a preliminary step to the widening of Eastgate Street in a line with the new shop recently built by Mr Richard Griffith, and the rebuilding of the Guildhall, which, when finished, will be a very commodious building.

10 May 1873: The New Town Hall. The Mayor said that the contractor having informed him that he would not have a sufficient quantity of stones for the face of the town hall similar to those he was now using, he (the mayor) had written to Lady Willoughby de Broke, applying for permission to take stones from an unworked quarry near Plas Newydd. Her ladyship had replied stating that as far as she was concerned the council might have the stones free of charge, but there would, he believed, have to be a small royalty paid to the Marquis of Anglesey. He thought that this kindness on the part of her ladyship ought to be acknowledged by the council, and that their thanks should be expressed to her.

Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald

- 31 October 1874: WIDENING of EASTGATE-STREET. Great improvement has been made in the widening of this street, and the erection of five new shops therein. Mrs M. A. Williams, ironmonger, has removed to the first of the five; Messrs C. and J. Williams, clothiers, of Leeds House, Palace-street, have taken the next, and are opening today under the name of Williams Brothers, Dinorwic House. Mr Hugh Williams, cabinet-maker, has taken the third, and will open shortly. The new shops are built on the site formerly occupied by Mrs M. A. Williams' shop, and the public-house kept by Mrs Anne Evans, who has since removed to the neighbourhood of the station. This part of the town will thus have been greatly improved, and will form one of our busiest thorough-fares.
- 11 September 1875: Donation towards the cost of Widening Eastgate-street. Mr James Rees reported that, in accordance with the instructions received at the last meeting of the council, he and other gentlemen had seen Lord Newborough and had the gratification to say that his lordship had expressed his willingness to give a cheque for 960l towards the improvements connected with the widening of East-gate-street.
- 1 December 1899: THE WALFORD FAMILY. This company of musical artistes paid a visit to Carnarvon on Monday and Tuesday and drew large crowds to the Guild Hall, where their manipulation of the handbells was greatly appreciated.
- 5 January 1900: THE GUILD HALL. The improvement to the entrance to the Guild Hall has been commenced, and the old entrance in Eastgate-street has already been removed. Its place will be taken by a much more convenient and more ornamental structure.
- 9 February 1900: THE HIGHWAYS. Dr J. Williams submitted the report of the highways committee, which recommended the acceptance of the tender of Mr Owen Morris for £9 18s for plastering the Eastgate-street entrance to the Guild Hall, and that no proceedings be at present taken against the owner of the coal lurry (sic), which had been drawn over the Dinorwic-street pavement, as no damage had been caused, but that he be warned against repeating the offence.
- 10 April 1896 "TRILBY." From our advertising columns, it will be seen that Mr Arthur Carpenter's Company will next week occupy the boards of the Guild Hall, with the most successful play of the century, "Trilby." Wherever this company has appeared, the press criticisms have been most favourable, and the company is spoken of as one of the strongest, every artiste having apparently been selected for his part, with due regard to its requirements. It is needless to add of the play itself that it has caused an artistic sensation throughout the civilised world, and the general verdict is one of approval.

BUILDING RECORDING (I.P. Brooks)

Porth Mawr was the main landward gate into the town of Caernarfon and was approached by a bridge across the river Cadnant. This river has long since dried up and is now occupied by Greengate Street and Cei Banc. The gatehouse has flanking “D” towers which are either side of a passage through the town walls. This passage has an arched roof with a parapet above. To the south the gatehouse is part of a range of buildings on the inside of the town walls, including 3 Hole in the Wall Street which is incorporated in this study. To the north, the gatehouse is attached to a later house/shop, in the north western corner of the gatehouse, but is essentially a standalone structure.

Outside

To the east (Plate 1, Figure 3), the gateway is approached over a bridge over Greengate Street/Cei Banc and has “D” shaped towers flanking the entrance passage. The northern tower (Plate 2) has a facing of fossil rich limestone and has two arrow slit openings facing. These openings have been restored with new surrounding blocks. A similar pattern is also recorded in the façade of the northern tower (Plate 3). Both of the towers extend down to the ground level of Greengate Street/Cei Banc, however the flanking town walls sit on top of a bank approximately 5.4 m high. Between these two towers is the bridge linking the gatehouse to Crown Street/Mill Lane (Plate 4). This has flanking walls defining the abutment (Plate 5) below the gate passageway.

To the south the curtain wall of the town has been modified within the curtilage of 3 Hole in the Wall Street (Plate 6). There is a relieving arch at a height of 3.67 m above the current ground level, which probably related to the construction of buildings along the outside of the walls. Above this is two, arch topped windows with slate sills and segmented window heads. These are surmounted by a moulded string course with a “D” shaped profile. Above the string course is a two-pained widow with a stone mullion and stone lintels and sill. Above the lintel is a depressed relieving arch. These features appear to be in a re-built section of the town wall, presumably relating to the insertion of the windows. The slight pink staining to the south of the windows is probably related to heat damage from the fireplaces of the now lost buildings built in front of the wall.

The entrance passage is flanked by short decorative columns each of which are inset with, half-height shafts of polished pink granite, (Plate 8) drum bases and capitals decorated with foliage. The bases and capitals are of limestone. The columns sits within a façade of sandstone blocks which rises into a segmental moulded arch with a course of granite blocks above. Above these blocks is a coped parapet, with raised gabled central portion containing a clock face (Plate 11). The ceiling of the passageway consists of yellow bricks (Plate 12) arranged in a “English Garden Wall” bond (Plate 13) with four rows of stretcher bricks separated by a single row of headers. Bricks of this colour are likely to have been made in the local Sieont Brick Company, however similar coloured brick have also been recorded at the disused hospital building of Bryn Sieont which were made at the Aston Brick Company in Flintshire (Brooks forthcoming).

The northern elevation of the passageway (Plate 14, Figure 5) has a plinth of dressed sandstone blocks over which the walling is of random, squared limestone. At the top of the wall is a band of sandstone blocks arranged in a random pattern, with some rough rustication on their surfaces. There is a double window towards the eastern end of the wall (Plate 15), above the plinth. Both opening have Caernarvon arches and are separated by a chamfered,

sandstone, mullion and dressed sandstone jambs and quoins. More centrally placed is a doorway (Plate 16), also with a Caernarvon arch over and sandstone jambs and quoins. It is likely that this was originally a window which has been modified into a doorway at a later date. Either side of the doorway are slate plaques attached to the wall. That to the east (Plate 17) includes the inscription:

Site
of
THE EXCHEQUER AND CHANCERY
of the Principality of North Wales
Founded 1284

The larger plaque (Plate 18) to the west of the door reads:

*This Tower was raised Twenty eight feet and a half and the Clock
was improved and fitted up with transparent dials in the year of our
Lord 1833*
The most HONORABLE the MARQUESS OF ANGLESEA. MAYOR
WILLIAM ROBERTS ESQ^R, Deputy Mayor
DAVID ROWLAND *Bailiffs*
GRIFFITH DAVIES

Sept^r. 27th
TREVOR ROBERTS
Fecit

The southern elevation of the passageway mirrors that on the northern side (Plate 19, Figure 6), however there are no slate plaques and the single window has not been converted into a door.

The inner face of the gatehouse (Plate 20, Figure 7)) has similar flanking columns (Plates 21 and 22) with pink granite shafts and floral capitals with a coped parapet and clock above. The northern gatehouse (Plate 23) has a three light, mullioned and transomed window under a pointed arch. Each of the lights has a Caernarvon arch which are incorporated in the sandstone of the voussoirs of the main arch. The sill, mullions and transom are also in a pale sandstone.

The inner face of the southern gatehouse (Plate 24) also has a three-light window of similar design to that of the northern gatehouse (Plate 25). The elevation of 3 Hole in the Wall street, however has a double width doorway (Plate 27) and a single light window (Plate 26) on the ground floor and two single light windows on the first floor. All of the windows are of a common design with Caernarvon arch heads. The door is of double width; however, it also has a Caernarvon arch, albeit somewhat flattened to accommodate the extra width.

The roof of the gatehouse (Plate 28, Figure 8)) is essentially flat and covered in tar paper, whilst that over 3 Hole in the Wall Street is a very shallow pitched metal roof (Plate 29) with a hatch which gives access to the room below. Either side of the gatehouse roof, the low parapets incorporates housings for the clocks on each side of the gate (Plates 30 and 31). These are built of brick and are then rendered. They also have slate slabs sealing the upper surface and wooden doors giving access to the clock mechanisms. Over the southern bastion, in the south-eastern corner of the gatehouse roof is a pair of wooden door with louvered panels for a wooden cabinet presumably holding the electricity supply (Plate 32). Adjacent to

this cabinet is the remains of an arrow slot which is part of structure of the bastion (Plate 33). Similar arrow slots are also to be found in the north east (Plate 34) and south west (Plate 35) areas of the gatehouse roof. On the northern side of the gatehouse the brick parapet hides a chimney stack (Plate 36) which runs down the northern side of the wall of the gatehouse suggesting the presence of an attached building immediately to the north.

Inside the South Range

The southern gatehouse, itself, consists of a room with an apsidal eastern end (Plate 37) in which there is the embrasure for an arrow slot (Plate 38) This embrasure has been “restored” as has an area of the walling within the bastion, high on the southern side (Plate 39). Also adjacent to the embrasure, on the southern side, is a shaft within wall, approximately 0.4 m square which can be probed to a depth of 1.48 m. The function of this feature is unknown. Mid way along the southern wall of this chamber is a blocked opening, probably a fireplace, (Plate 40) which backs onto the blocked fireplace in the northern wall of 3 Hole in the Wall Street. The chimney breast for this feature also marks the change in the construction methods along this wall from relatively well coursed blocks to smaller rubble construction.

The western window (Plate 41) is the transomed and mullioned window with Caernarvon arches seen from outside, however the glazing is evident inside the building with lead comes dividing each of the lights into multiple panes. The two windows in the northern wall of the gatehouse reflect their appearances on the outside (Plates 42 and 43), however there is some evidence that the sill of the double window has been cut using a circular saw. The ceiling of the room is supported by two four centred arches made of brick (Plate 44) and there is a rolled steel joist providing stability to the upper section of the walling. This support is likely to have been inserted after 1963 when the structure on top of the gatehouse was demolished.

The southern gatehouse is linked to 3 Hole in the Wall Street by a doorway (Plate 45) with concrete lintel suggesting that it is a relatively recent feature, however, there is a low stone arch in the wall above the current lintel which may suggest that the current door has replaced an earlier opening. 3 Hole in the Wall Street is essentially a single room, however there is a half wall guarding the approach from the main door. This door (Plate 46) has a concrete lintel with brickwork infill above, however this very recent work also supports a higher level of brick infill suggesting a possible 19th century date for the opening. The doors and fittings are modern temporary partitions.

3 Hole in the Wall Street is dominated by a modern aluminium staircase which gives access to the roof. This sits on a concrete pad surrounded by the gravel floor covering which occupies most of the room. There is some evidence that the concrete pad may have a void below with the gravel pulling away from the edge, although this may be a function of compaction and moving of the gravel. Behind the staircase is the remains of a brick fireplace (Plate 47) with a sandstone lintel. The chimney breast is marked by two pillars of brickwork with random stone infill suggesting a relatively wide breast, possibly incorporating the blocked fireplace in the southern gatehouse.

Brickwork also survives around the upper eastern window, particularly in the northern reveal, where at least three bands of brick have been recorded (Plate 48). Brick is also evident around both of the windows at this end of the building suggesting that they are later insertions. The sill of the upper window (Plate 49) also has circular saw marks suggesting it was cut in the 19th century. Further brickwork exists within the south wall (Plate 50) suggesting some repairs of this wall. Some of the brickwork, however is associated with the

blocked doorway in the south-western corner of the room. This blocked opening has a concrete lintel suggesting this blocking is likely to be 20th century in date.

Two areas of more substantial stone walling have been recorded. Both of these are in the eastern section of the building (Plates 51 and 52), these are probably surviving remnant of the town wall and may therefore be Medieval in date.

Inside the North Range

The norther gatehouse consists of a single room, now open to the roof level (Plate 53 and 54). The ceiling is supported by two brick arches (Plate 55) and consist of a series of concrete beams laid longitudinally. There is also a concrete wall plate around much of the building. The upper part of the gatehouse is supported by a rolled steel joist, presumably inserted to prevent the upper portion of the walls moving after the upper structure of the gatehouse was removed. Some modern repair in brick are also evident in the eastern end of the building (Plate 56). Further modern (20th century) repairs are evident to the embrasure and arrow slit (Plate 57).

The northern wall incorporates the doorway and double window. The window (Plate 58) has sandstone mullions and frame. The sill of which has been clearly cut with a circular saw (Plate 59), assuming a similar development to the slate industry this means this sill must have been cut after the 1820's (Gwyn 2015, 115). The door (Plate 60) appears to have been modified from a single light window with brick used in the reveals and a sandstone block in the western jamb is possibly a re-used block from the original window. The door now has a concrete lintel which may relate to the last modification of the door recorded in a pencil inscription (Plate 61) on the back of the door itself which reads "Gwynfor Thomas 17.5.79".

The western wall of the gatehouse (Plate 53) contains the multi pained window with sandstone mullions and transoms and has Caernarvon arches over the top three lights. The lights are further divided into pains by lead comes. The sill of this window also has circular saw marks demonstrating that it is likely to be a 19th century feature. The arch over the window is of brick of a similar character to that used for the arches supporting the ceiling. The whole of the western wall would appear to have been inserted as there are straight joints with the both the northern and southern walls of the gatehouse. It would seem likely that the whole of this gable wall was replaced when the window was replaced, thereby suggesting a 19th century date for this phase of activity, possibly the major re-building which took place in 1872-3.

The northern wall of the northern gatehouse shows several modifications (Figure 9). The eastern end of the wall, including the apsidal end within the tower, is characterised by well coursed, moderately sized blocks (Plates 62 and 65), however in the central section of this wall (Plate 63) it is replaced by poorly coursed smaller stones in a yellowish-brown mortar. The less well built walling appears to feather over the moderate sized blocks, however there is some complexity in this section with a wooden lintel set 3.5 m above the floor (Plate 63). Below this and extending down the eastern side of the fireplace is a patch with pale coloured lime mortar and a series of sub-angular and sub-rounded stones of moderate size which is thought to be the survival of part of the wall exposed in the floor of the gatehouse.

The fireplace (Plate 64) is located immediately to the west of the wall exposed in the floor of the gatehouse. It has brick surround and a fireback of large, rectangular coursed gritstone blocks. These have some similarity to those used for the eastern end of the northern wall and

may be a continuation of that section of the wall. There is a stone platform, supported by a brick pier in the base of the fireplace. No lintel survives over the fireplace and the breast is starting to collapse. There is a ceramic pipe set in the top eastern corner of the fireplace (Plate 66) which acted as a flue for the fireplace, at least in its later phase, which leads to an iron hatch set near the eastern end of the northern wall (Plate 65) at a height of 2.86 m above the floor. It is clear that the less well built walling was inserted to hide this flue and is therefore 20th century in date.

Exposed in the floor of the gatehouse is the remains of a stone wall (Plate 67) which will be discussed in more detail below as will the two earlier trenches dug at the eastern end of the gatehouse

INITIAL CLEANING OF THE FLOOR OF THE NORTH RANGE

The gravel flooring, probably introduced into the northern gatehouse in second half of the twentieth century, was removed over the majority of the floor between 5/12/2016 and 9/12/2016 and further cleaning of specific features took place between 10/1/2017 and 11/1/2017. This revealed a number of features and deposits of potential archaeological interest (Figure 11). These contexts are summarised in Appendix 1 and are discussed below.

Two wide (approximately 1.3m) walls have been defined (Context 6 and 20, Figure 11) within the northern chamber of the gatehouse, which are assumed to be part of the original medieval structure. Context 6 (Plate 72) runs under both the northern and western walls of the gatehouse and has a return at its southern end marked by faced stone block. Possibly associated with this return are a series of worn stones (Context 8, Plate 73) continuing the line of the wall, but set back by 0.25 m. The heavily worn top faces of these stones suggest they may have served as a threshold for a passageway.

The other wall (Context 20, Plate 74) runs parallel to Context 6 at distance of 4.26 m. It extends into the fireplace and beneath the northern wall of the gatehouse. There is also some evidence that part of this wall is preserved within the northern wall of the gatehouse as a section through the wall suggesting it continued further to the north. To the south is a spread of mortar rich material (Context 21) continues the line of the wall and is the disturbed and trampled remains of Context 20. This view is enhanced by a stone block within Context 21 which aligns with the southern return to Context 6, suggesting a similar return to the wall (Contexts 20 and 21). This area of the wall was further cleaned during the Phase 2 evaluation (see below).

Crossing, and above Context 6 is a narrow, rough wall (Context 10, Plate 75) which also appears to run below the western gable wall of the gatehouse. The wall itself runs for 2.53 m, however the eastern end appears to be marked by a possible post-hole (Context 16, Plate 76) defined by two patches of mortar rich deposits (Contexts 13 and 14) and an area of orangey brown sandy silt (Context 12).

To the north is an area of crushed lime mortar (Context 15) which is distinct from the general trampled surface (Context 16) at this end of the building.

To the east of the wall, Context 20, are two features. Context 24 and 25 (Plate 77) mark an area of clay with a slight pink tinge suggesting it may have been heated, however it is also possible that this area may be the site of a consistent drip from the ceiling resulting in a change in the colour of the underlying trampled surface. Context 27 (Plate 78) is a cut feature 1.0 x 1.16 m in size filled with a disturbed layer (Context 26). This feature is clearly

relatively modern and may be the result of the previous archaeological work carried out in the gatehouse.

Two other modern features were also located (Context 23 and 29), both of these contained twentieth century sweet wrappers and crisp packets. Context 29 is probably related to the restoration work carried out in the embrasure at the eastern end of the bastion, whilst Context 23 is just inside the door and is probably related to the electrical supply at this point.

Two floor levels were detected at the western end of the gatehouse (Plates 79 and 80). The upper level (Contexts 9 and 11) are of concrete and probably had tiles, whilst the lower floor (Context 17) is of had made brick of eighteenth or early nineteenth century type. It is possible that the occasional brick exposed to the west of Context 20 are also part of this brick flooring.

The majority of the area has a trampled surface (Context 16 and 30) with the difference between these layers being marked by a difference in the level of mortar fragments within their make-up.

Parallel to the wall Context 6 are two partly open trenches (Plate 81, Contexts 2 and 4) which are divided by Context 10, but essentially form a trench across the western end approximately 1 m wide. It is likely that these were part of a previous archaeological investigation which took place in 1998 prior to a previous scheme to restore and convert the gatehouse.

Two holes were recorded at the base of the western wall, below the window. One of these (Plate 82) no longer retains is pipe, but contains sooty material, whilst the other has an iron (possibly water) pipe. These services would have crossed the top of the wall (Context 6) and probably explain the disturbed nature of the top of Context 6 below the window.

EVALUATION TRENCH

As a result of the results of cleaning the gravel from the floor of the northern gatehouse and a need to understand the deposits revealed better, a second phase of archaeological investigation was commissioned. This work consisted of the excavation of an evaluation trench on the western side of, and parallel with, wall Context 20 and the more vigorous cleaning in the southern end of Context 20 where it was obscured with Context 21 (Figure 12). A trench 1.0 m wide was excavated over the majority of the width of the room, however this was reduced to approximately 0.5 m at the southern end so that the trench would not interfere with the door. The excavation of the evaluation trench took place between 23/1/2017 and 27/1/2017.

The tramples surface (Context 16) covered the whole of the top of the trench reaching a depth of 50 mm over much of the area (Figure 17). This was clearly a relatively modern layer as it incorporated a plastic button and a fragment of 35 mm plastic film. Below this layer was a deposit of loosely packed, mortar rich material (Context 31). Over the majority of the trench this layer was up to 0.38 m deep, however at the southern end of the trench it was only 0.17 m deep. This disparity is explained by a cut (Context 35) which had removed approximately the top 0.4 m of the deposits over most of the width of the gatehouse. This cut would have been approximately 3.80 m wide leaving only 0.9 m wide baulk along the southern wall of the gatehouse. The fill, Context 31, proved to be relatively modern, incorporating fragments of a reinforced concrete beam, possibly a window lintel, suggesting a twentieth century date. Whilst this deposits had some large stones within, there was a concentration of large stone blocks (Context 33, Plate 84) along the line of the cut (Context 35). At least two of the block within Context 33 are large, rectangular, faced blocks similar to

those recorded in the returns to the two possible Medieval walls (Contexts 6 and 20) and were originally thought to mark the position of a wall running between these features. However, it would appear, that whilst these blocks were probably originally part of Context 20 they have been dumped in the edge of the large feature (Context 35). Context 31 extends beyond the limits of Context 35 to the south suggesting the dumping of materials represented by Context 31 was not necessarily the result of the digging of the feature (Context 35)

At the southern end of the trench Context 31 gave way to a relatively clean orange brown gritty, sandy clay which was clean with no finds (Plate 85). This layer was 0.2 m deep lying over an area of rough cobbling (Context 40, Figure 13, Plate 86). This layer of cobbling is clearly at a higher level than the other cobbled surfaces recorded in the trenches and is therefore later. One possibility is that it relates to the worn block (Context 8) thought to be a threshold, however they are 0.36 m lower than the top of the worn blocks.

Over the majority of the trench Context 31 gave way to a soot rich layer (Context 32 which spread over the whole wider section of the trench. Whilst it was very thin at the southern end it became thicker the near to the fireplace at the northern end of the trench reaching a maximum depth of 0.15 m. This would suggest that it was related to an earlier configuration of the fireplace and possibly relates to a phase of relative abandonment where the products of the chimney were allowed to spread over floor. Below Context 32 was a well-made cobbled surface (Context 36, Figure 14, Plate 87) which covered the whole of the wider section of the trench and appeared to extend below the large blocks of Context 33.

In order to test the deposits below this cobbled surface, a sondage, was dug through Context 36. This was approximately 1 m long and was the full width of the trench. Context 36 sat immediately over a second surface (Context 37, Figure 15, Plate 88). This was a relatively rough surface made up of sub angular to rounded cobbles and up to 350 X 300 x 100 mm in size with a smooth, worn surface forming a rough surface. This were set in an orangish brown clayey silt with many small fragments of slate (both purple and grey) fleck of mortar and coal which possibly suggest the accumulation of debris before the surface was hardened up using the cobbles. This layer sat on top of a layer which was high in coal fragments (Context 39) which formed a band approximately 340 mm wide and up to 100 mm deep alongside the wall Context 20. This would suggest that the gatehouse was used for the storage of coal at some point, possibly contemporary with the cobble surface below this layer.

The lowest layer of cobbles exposed (Context 38, Figure 16, Plate 89) was more consistent. Even within the small area exposed it was possible to suggest that there may be a gully running at right angle to the trench and the surface to the north of this appeared to be cambered. This pattern of a longitudinal gully and slightly raised area adjacent is common within agricultural building where animals are stalled and if the pattern from this small exposed area is accurate it is possible that the building was being used as stables at this point. Two sherds of pottery were found pressed into the cobbled surface, one of which was dated to the late 1500's or early 1600's (See below).

All of the cobbled surfaces recorded are not of a quality that would be expected to form the floor of a prestigious civil building, indeed they are more similar to the cobbling used as yard surfaces or with agricultural buildings. Their levels are also curious, with the lowest level being approximately 1 m below that of the modern road they are not deep enough to represent a cellar below the gatehouse, and yet would suggest the need to step down into the building. It is likely that the road level has risen somewhat, although whether this is sufficient to explain the disparity in the level is not known.

The wall (Context 20) which formed the eastern side of the trench is assumed to be Medieval in date forming part of the original gatehouse. It is surprisingly well persevered extending down to below the depth investigated (Figure 17, Plate 90) with at least 1 m of wall surviving. It is well built with squared blocks forming the outer surfaces and rubble and lime mortar fill. There is some disturbance at its southern end, where some blocks appear to have been levered out of the face. The similarity in character to Context 6 is marked and it is assumed that these two walls define the extent of at least one chamber within the gatehouse, if not the full extent of the Medieval gatehouse itself. It is noticeable that Context 20 roughly aligns with the Town Walls, however the illustration of the gatehouse on Speed's map of 1610 suggest that the gatehouse projected forward, so it is possible that the two wall only represent one chamber within a greater structure. Both of the walls have well defined returns at their southern ends, but within the limited work so far undertaken there is no sign of a wall forming the southern side of the chamber. It is possible that there were doorways adjacent to both walls, however it would seem more likely that the chamber was an open bay, possibly behind the gatehouse proper, used for animals or storage. This however remains highly speculative with only further excavation having the potential to resolve this speculation.

The cleaning of the southern end of wall Context 20 (Figure 12, Plate 91), confirmed that it terminated with a flat return, however it also revealed two, relatively modern post-holes cut into its eastern side. These were 1.79 m apart and although they contained fragments of debris which had dropped into the holes were essentially voids. It is likely they represent a late partition dividing the gatehouse, probably in the twentieth century.

Finds Assessment

Post Medieval Assemblage, Porth Mawr, Caernarfon By Matt Jones

For ease of discussion, and to allow for the dating of specific archaeological layers, finds are divided by context number. They are further subdivided by material and artefact type.

Context (16)

Metal objects

Six metal objects were recovered from this context. They were:

1. A single square-headed iron peg. Measured 5.2 cm in length and 0.8cm in width
- 2 - 4. Three heavily corroded rolled nails. All three were 10cm in length and 0.6cm in width. Rolled nails are a later development in nail manufacture and these items postdate 1900.
5. A galvanised steel curved diamond shaped washer 5.5cm x 4.5cm with a central circular fitting of 1cm diameter. Almost certainly a piece of modern scaffolding.
6. An iron U-shaped object. Measured 10cm in length, 4.8cm in width and 0.8cm in thickness. Possibly some form of wall fitting although it has strong similarities in form with boot jack.

No metal artefacts from this context can be definitively attributed a pre-date 1900 and most are modern. Should item 6 prove to be a boot jack then this artefact could conceivably be a hundred years or so earlier but the form does not alter sufficiently enough to be used as a dating tool.

Ceramic Artefacts

A single sherd of pottery was collected from this context:

- 1) It had a hooped handle with a d-shaped profile. The sherd measured 4cm by 2cm and was

1cm in thickness. It had a dark brown glaze and a dark grey fabric.

Date: Late 19th to Early 20th Century

Clay Pipe

A single clay pipe was recovered from this context and the properties are summarised below:

Context	Part	Length	Bore	Diameter	Decoration
16	Stem	5.6cm	1.1mm	7mm	no

Plastic Objects

Two plastic objects were recovered from this context. They were:

- 1) Fragment of a 35mm camera film
- 2) A white plastic circular button with a domed back and a four-hole sew through attachment.

Both objects are of later Twentieth Century date.

Context (31)

Metal object

A single metal artefact was recovered from this context:

- 1) A possible cast iron window frame corner. Dimensions - 11cm x 10cm.

Date: Late 19th to Early 20th Century.

Ceramic Artefacts

Two ceramic sherds were recovered from this context:

- 1) A fragment of coarse ware of a pink fabric with white grit inclusions. It had an internal brown glaze with yellow striping. The sherd measured 3.2cm x 2.4cm and was too small to make a presumption on vessel type.
- 2) Coarse ware body sherd of pink-orange fabric with white quartz inclusions. The sherd was glazed internally with a cracked brown glaze. The sherd measured 8.2cm x 4.8cm.

Both sherds have been attributed a general Late 19th to Early 20th Century date.

Pipe clay objects

A single pipe clay object was recovered from this context:

- 1) A pipe clay hair curler (bigoudis). Measured 4.5 cm in length with a 1.1cm body diameter. The curler had a 1.4 cm diameter at the end (dumbbell type). Pipe clay curlers originated in the Late Sixteenth Century and were predominantly in use from the Later Seventeenth to Early Nineteenth Century when they were largely replaced by wooden curlers made either from cane or boxwood (Le Cheminant 1978: 187). Similar examples are recorded from excavations in Carmarthen which have been dated to 1830-50 (Brennan et al 1994).

Stone Artefact

A single stone artefact was recovered from this context:

A stone cuboid measuring 5cm x 3cm and weighing 191 grams. All sides were smooth and

uniform and there are the stumps of an iron hoop fitting surviving. It is difficult to date this item other than to give a broad Later Post Medieval date.

Context (32)

Ceramic Artefacts

Twenty-seven sherds of coarse earthen ware fabric were recovered from this context. Sixteen of the sherds were from recognisable vessel types which were identified as primarily consisting of jars and pans (a type of deep sided bowl). There were eleven body sherds which could not be attributed to any vessel type but are likely to be classic coarse ware forms - pans, pots and jars and large pans or bowls. All artefacts have been dated to the Late Nineteenth to Mid Twentieth Century. The descriptions have been summarised in the table below.

Part	Dimension	Fabric	Glaze	Vessel Type	No of Sherds	Notes
Rim	Length 8cm, width 5cm, rim width 2.8cm, diameter 20-25cm	Orange-red with quartz, fine gravels evenly spread	Dark brown-black salt glaze	Large jar	1	A ribbed rim
Rim	Length 11cm, width 6.5cm, rim width 2cm, diameter 17cm	Light pink, fine gravels evenly spread	Dark brown-black salt glaze	Large jar	1	Square rim , with evidence of heat damage
Rim	Length 12cm, width 6cm, rim width 3.2cm, diameter 30cm	Grey, fine white gravels evenly spread	Internal only, dark brown salt glaze	Large pan	1	Elongated square rim
Rim	Length 11cm, width 4cm, rim width 3.2cm, diameter 30cm	Pink, fine white gravels evenly spread	Internal only, dark brown salt glaze	Large pan	1	Elongated square rim
Rim	Length 5.4cm, width 3cm, rim width 2 cm, diameter 14cm	Pink/light red, fine white gravels evenly spread	Black salt glaze	Jar	1	Square rim with a clubbed ribbed
Rim	Length 7.2cm, width 6.5cm, rim width 1.7 cm	Pink, fine white gravels evenly spread	Internal, brown glaze	Bowl or pan	2	Squared rim
Rim	Length 5.4cm, width 3cm, rim width 2 cm, diameter 35cm	Pink/light red, fine white gravels evenly spread	Internal and rim, light brown	Plate/shallow bowl	1	Thicken rim
Base	Length 13cm, width 10cm, diameter 17cm	Pink/light red, fine white gravels evenly spread	Internal only, dark brown salt glaze	Base of jug/jar	3	

Part	Dimension	Fabric	Glaze	Vessel Type	No of Sherds	Notes
Base	Length 16cm, width 9cm, diameter 20cm	Grey, fine white gravels - evenly spread	Internal only, dark brown salt glaze	Base of large jar or pan	3	
Base	Length 3.5cm, width 2.3cm, diameter 15cm	Red, fine grey gravels - evenly spread	Dark brown salt glaze	Base of jar or jug	1	
Misc Body Sherds		Grey, fine white gravels evenly spread	Dark black salt glaze	N/A	3	
Misc Body Sherds		Red, fine grey gravels - evenly spread	Dark black salt glaze	N/A	8	Buckley type
Misc Body Shard		Grey, white grit /quartz inclusions	Brown salt glaze external, Black salt glaze internal	N/A	1	

Clay Pipe

Nine pipe stems, one bowl and one fragment of bowl were recovered from this context. Two of the stems have boarder decoration.

- 1) A complete pipe bowl. Measurements - bowl height 4.5 cm, internal diameter 1.8cm. Cut rim. The connection to the stem was broken at the bowl base. Also a broken foot scar evident. There was no decoration on this bowl.
- 2) Fragment of similar bowl type to bowl 1.

Similar design types from a Chester study date this style to between the 1830's and 1900's. It is likely that the stems are from the same period and unless otherwise stated this is most likely date attribution.

The properties of the clay pipe stems are summarised in the table below:

Part	Length	Bore	Diameter	Decoration
Stem	5.6cm	1.1mm	7mm	no
Stem	4.1cm	2mm	5.5mm	no
Stem	3.6cm	1.1mm	6mm	no
Stem	2.1cm	2mm	5mm	no
Stem	2.6	2mm	4mm	no
Stem	1.9cm	1.1mm	6mm	no

Part	Length	Bore	Diameter	Decoration
Stem	1.5cm	2mm	4mm	no
Stem	4.1cm	1.2mm	7mm	Tendril decoration with borders showing a crescent design
Stem	2.5cm	1mm	7mm	An oval stamp with a possible arrow centrally. Pellet mark above this image, double lined boarder and distorted pellet boarder above these towards the bowl. Dated to 1760-90 as has Chester markers mark

Shells

Two shells were recovered from this context:

- 1) A larger oyster shell measuring approximately 10cm x 10cm and 0.2cm in thickness.
- 2) A single half cockle shell measuring 3cm by 2.5cm.

Glass Artefacts

A single glass sherd was recovered from this context. It was the base of a small green glass bottle with a 4cm diameter. It had a push up or kick up base. This vessel type is of Late Nineteenth to Early Twentieth Century date.

Context 36

Ceramic Artefacts

Fifteen ceramic sherds were recovered from this context. For ease of discussion these artefacts have been divided by fabric type.

Coarse Ware

Eleven sherds of coarse earthen ware fabric were recovered from this context. Three of the sherds were from recognisable vessel types which were identified as primarily consisting of jars and pans (a type of deep sided bowl). They are summarised in the table below:

Part	Dimension	Fabric	Glaze	Vessel Type	No of Sherds	Comments
Base, Foot ring	Length 3.5cm, width 2.5cm. Base diameter 6cm	Pink, grey grit inclusions	Exterior brown salt glaze, clear internal glaze	N/A	1	Partial circular foot ring

Part	Dimension	Fabric	Glaze	Vessel Type	No of Sherds	Comments
Base	Length 7.5cm, width 2.5cm. Base diameter 30cm	Pink, grey grit inclusions	Internal black salt glaze	Poss Jar or Pitcher	1	
Base	Length 4cm, width 3.8cm. Base diameter 0.9cm	Cream, rare black grits	Light brown internal and external glaze	Poss Bowl or jar	1	Splayed clubbed foot
Rim	Length 4.2cm, width 3cm, rim width 1.5 cm, diameter 35cm	Pink, white grit inclusions	Internal Brown salt glaze with a decorative yellow slash	Bowl	1	
Misc Body Sherds		Red, fine grey gravels evenly spread	Dark black salt glaze internal and externally	N/A	5	Buckley type
Misc Body Shard		Grey, white gravels	Dark black salt glaze internal and externally	N/A	1	
Misc Body Shard		Pink	Dark black salt glaze internally	N/A	1	

Fine ware and Decorative Ceramics

Two fine ware sherds were recovered from this context:

- 1) Handle. A fragment of a decorative handle with an oval profile was recovered from this context. It was constructed of a fine yellow clay with black grit inclusions and had a brown salt glaze. It measured 3.5cm in length, 1.2cm in width and 0.6cm in thickness.
- 2) A single base fragment of a white ware cup or small plate with the remains of a foot ring. It is a small fragment with ribbed decoration.

Both date from the Late Nineteenth to Early Twentieth Century.

Clay Pipes

5 clay pipe stems were recovered from this context. They are summarised below:

Context	Part	Length	Bore	Diameter	Decoration
36	Stem	4.1cm	2mm	5.5mm	no
36	Stem	3.6cm	1.1mm	6mm	no
36	Stem	2.1cm	2mm	5mm	no
36	Stem	2.6	2mm	4mm	no
36	Stem	4.1cm	2mm	5.5mm	no

Shell

A single oyster shell measuring 6.5cm by 6cm was recovered from this context.

Stone Artefact

A single stone object was recovered from this context. It was a whetstone measuring 10cm x 3.5 cm x 3.5cm (hyperrectangle). The material used was a coarse-grained stone and all sides were very smooth and appear to have been used. The two larger sides have indented grooves which would have been caused by the thin edge of a blade.

It is tempting to assign the whetstone a Medieval date, especially given the rich Early and Later Medieval history connected to the area. Although unproven it should certainly be considered a strong possibility. This must however be qualified somewhat as to date there has been very little syntheses on whetstones from any period. Styles rarely change it would therefore be difficult to confidently assign a secure date to the stone.

Clay Pipes

A single clay pipe stem was recovered from this context. It is summarised below:

Context	Part	Length	Bore	Diameter	Decoration
37	Stem	1.9cm	1.1mm	6mm	no

Context (38)

Ceramic Artefacts

Two ceramic artefacts were recovered from this context:

- 1) A partial base and body shard with a diameter of 6cm. Part of a medium - fine ware small cup or drinking pot. There are bands of ribbing leading to the base. This form is similar to cups excavated in the Chester Bridge Street works which were assigned a date range of between 1599-1610 (Garner 2008).
- 2) A thick course ware hammer head rim sherd. The lip of the rim was 2.3cm in width, the body was 0.7cm thick. The fabric had a coarse clay matrix with white and grey grit inclusions. There is a red oxidation on the outside of the sherd with a light grey core. There is a rough internal brown splashed glaze. This vessel was in use during the Early Nineteenth Century.

Context (39)

Metal Object

A heavy iron object, rounded in shape (semi-spherical). Appears to have an internal slot/fitting. Weight 1096 grams. There are a number of suggestions for the use of this object but it is most likely a bell clapper or some form of bar shot for a cannon. The date of this object is uncertain.

Ceramic Artefacts

Eight sherds of coarse earthen ware fabric were recovered from this context. One recognisable vessel type was identified as a large jar or pot. There were five body sherds which could not be attributed to any vessel type but are likely to be classic coarse ware forms dating from the Late Nineteenth to Mid Twentieth Centuries. The sherds are summarised in the table below.

Part	Dimension	Fabric	Glaze	Vessel Type	No of Sherds	Comments
Base and body shard	Length 13cm, Width 8cm. Base diameter 15cm	Mid brown with black grit	Black Salt glaze interior	Large jar, pot	3	
Body Sherds	Length 11cm and 9cm/ Length 9cm by 5cm	Pinkish with black grit	Black Salt glaze interior		3	Ribbed
Handle	Length 2cm Width 1.5cm and 0.5cm thick	Red with rare white grit inclusions	Black Salt glaze		1	Hoopd, ring handle
Fragment	2cm by 1cm 0.6cm thick	Pinkish with black and white grits	Brown glaze		1	

Clay Pipes

Two clay pipe stems were recovered from this context. They are summarised below:

Context	Part	Length	Bore	Diameter	Decoration
39	Stem	1.5cm	2mm	4mm	no
39	Stem	4.1cm	1.2mm	7mm	no

Shell

A single oyster shell was recovered from this context. It measured 6.5cm by 5cm and was 0.2cm in thickness.

Stone Artefacts

Four pieces of slate were recovered from this context. Three were thick rectangular roof slates (summarised in the table below).

Roof Slates

Length	Width	Thickness	Shape, Notes
26cm	8cm	1.1cm	Irregular shape (clearly a damaged rectangular shape)
12.5cm	9.5cm	1.1cm	Rectangular there is a partial square nail hole 7cm wide
21cm	10.1cm	1.1cm	Rectangular roof slate with angled working underneath

The fourth item was part of a large slate lid. It would have had a 35cm diameter and 12 cm long when measured towards the centre. Stone lids of this type were in use from the Medieval period onwards and it is not possible to securely date this item. They fell out of use in the Later Post Medieval period.

Conclusions

Although the standing structure of Porth Mawr and 3 Hole in the Wall Street would appear to be post-Medieval with even the “D” shaped bastions having been constructed after 1610 the gatehouse occupies an important part of the history of Caernarfon. The current structure occupies a similar space to the original gatehouse and indeed part of the original gatehouse is preserved within the deposits below at least the northern gatehouse. The building recording and the associated archaeological works have defined a long sequence of construction, use and modifications which can be divided into at least 14 separate phases of activity. These are outlined below

- Phase 1: Probably Medieval walls (Contexts 6 and 20) forming two side of a room 4.25 m wide. The southern side of this room would appear to be open, possibly with a passageway adjacent. The position of the northern side of this room is unknown, but the room was at least 4.25 m long with both walls Context 6 and 20 running beneath the current northern wall of the gatehouse.
- Phase 2: The construction of the “D shaped towers either side of the gateway. These would appear to have been constructed between 1610 and 1742 based on documentary evidence. One possibility is that they are part of the Civil War defences of Caernarfon
- Phase 3: Lowest cobbled surface (Context 38), is approximately 1 m below the current road surface. The possible drain running longitudinally and possible cambered surface to the north may suggest the use of this part of the structure as stables. One of the pottery sherd from this context dates from the late 16th or early 17th century, however the other may be as late as the early 19th century. If so then all the cobbled surfaces above would be 19th century.
- Phase 4: There is some evidence for the build-up of deposits on the lowest level of cobbles (Context 36 and 39). This included a coal rich deposit possibly, suggesting the storage of coal, and a more clayey deposit which is characteristic of a more trampled layer. Both of these deposits are contain 19th century ceramics
- Phase 5: The rough cobbled surface (Context 37) appear to be a temporary surface, possibly hardening up a damp patch on the floor
- Phase 6: A good cobbled surface (Context 36) over most of at least the western end of the northern gatehouse. It character would suggest a utilitarian surface rather than that of a prestigious building. It is therefore possible that all of the important rooms were at a first-floor level. Given its position within the stratigraphy this layer is likely to be 19th century.
- Phase 7: Sitting on the cobbled floor (Context 37) there is a soot rich layer (Context 32) which appear to be related to the fireplace in the northern wall of the gatehouse. The pottery from this layer would suggest a late 19th century date as the earliest possible date for this layer.
- Phase 8: The small patch of rough cobbling (Context 40) at a higher level is difficult to relate to the other deposits recorded whilst it is probably a late phase of flooring, later than

Context 36 this is not clear. Also uncertain is the relationship between this layer and the worn stone of the possible threshold (Context 8)

Phase 9: Rebuilding of the gatehouses took place in 1833, attested by the slate plaque on the outside of the north gate chamber.

Phase 10: More extensive rebuilding took place in 1872-3 which probably included the insertion of the window

Phase 11: Some modification of, at least, the northern gate chamber took place in the twentieth century with a flue from the fireplace being hidden behind a roughly built wall. It is also likely that the remains of the concrete floor (Contexts 9 and 11) relates to this phase of activity. Prior to the concrete floor the floor of this chamber would appear to have had a brick surface.

Phase 12: In 1963 the height of the gatehouse was reduced and it is likely that the brick arches in both of the gatehouses were inserted to support the new lower roof. It is possible that it was at this date that the concrete floor was removed and a large hole was dug into the floor (Context 35) which was then filled by the dumped debris of Context 31.

Phase 13: The exposed floor after the removal of its concrete surface was then trampled, over an indeterminate period (Context 16)

Phase 14: There have been various phases of modern consolidation within both gatehouse and 3 Hole in the Wall Street. This includes the insertion of rolled steel joists in both gatehouses, the gravel flooring in the northern gatehouse and 3 Hole in the Wall Street, The construction of the aluminium staircase, repair/consolidation to the arrow slots and the insertion of an electricity supply to both sides of the building.

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Franziska Sieck of Donald Insall Associates on behalf of Cadw. It was monitored for Cadw by Ian Halfpenny and for the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service by Ashley Batten and the support of these people is gratefully acknowledged. The project is managed for Cadw by Chris Wilson. Cadw's staff at Caernarfon Castle are thanked for making access to the gatehouse easy.

References

- Blair, D. 2001. *British Buttons*. Greenlight Publishing. Essex
- Brennan, D. Evans, G. James, H and Dales-Jones, E. 1994. Excavations in Carmarthen, Dyfed, 1976-1990. Finds from the Seventeenth to the Nineteenth Centuries, Glass, Clay Pipes and Bone. In *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales. Bulletin of the Welsh Medieval Pottery Research Group No 14*
- Brooks, I.P. (forthcoming). Archaeological watching brief on the construction phase of Bryn Sieont
- Davey, P. 1980. *The Archaeology of the Clay Tobacco Pipe III*. BAR. British series 78

- Davey, P. J and Longworth, C.M. 2001. The Identification of Buckley Pottery. *Archaeology of Wales* 41, 62-72
- Fearn, J. 2010. *Domestic Bygones*. Shire Library. Shire Publications. Oxford
- Garner, D. 2008. Excavations at Chester: 25 Bridge street 2001, Two Thousand years of Urban Life in Microcosm. *Archaeological Service Excavation and Survey Report No 1*. Chester City Council
- Gwyn, D. 2015 *Welsh Slate. Archaeology and History of an Industry*. Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. Aberystwyth
- Hedges, A.A.C. 1994. *Bottles and Bottle Collecting*. Shire Publications. Oxford
- Jackson, W.A. 2012. *The Victorian Chemist and Druggist*. Shire Publications. Oxford
- Laing, L. 2003. *Pottery in Britain 4000BC to AD 1900: A Guide to Identifying Pot Sherds*. Greenlight Publishing. Essex.
- Le Cheminant. 1978.'The Development of the Pipeclay Hair Curler-a Preliminary Study' *London Archaeologist Vol 3 No7*, 187-191
- McGarva, A. 2000. *Country Pottery: Traditional Earthenware of Britain*. A&C Black. London
- Medieval Pottery Research Group. 1998. A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms. *Medieval Pottery Research Group. Occasional Paper No 1*
- Rutter, J. A and Davey, P J. 1980. Clay pipes from Chester. In Davey 1980, 41-272

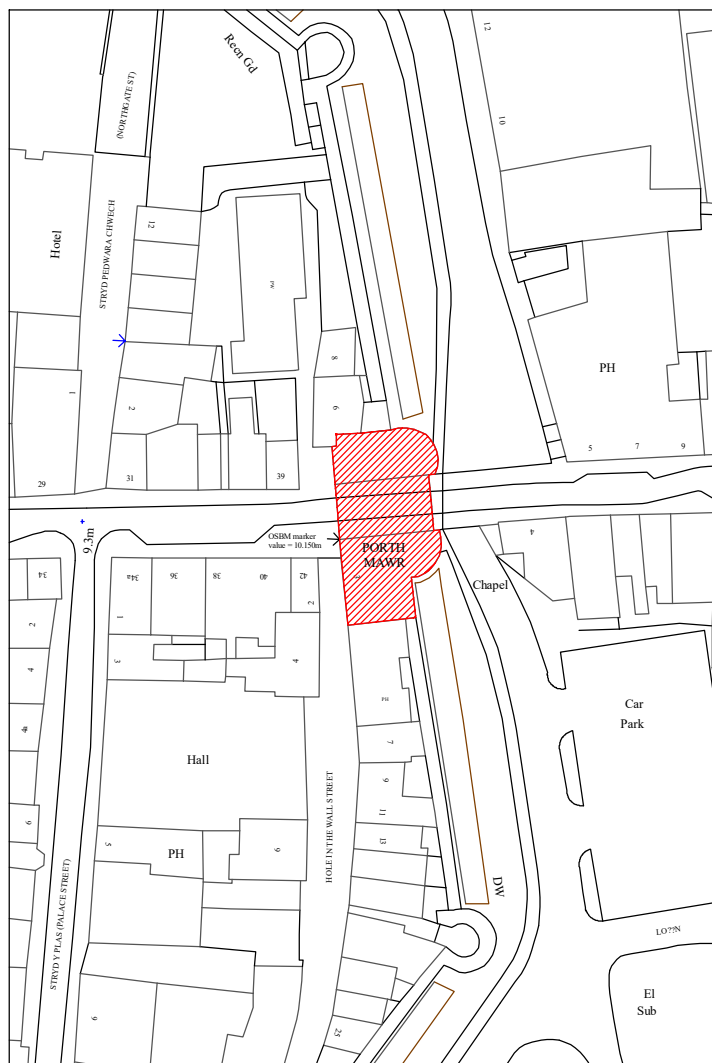


Figure 1: Location
Scale 1:1000

Based on drawing QD1217/01
by Russell Geomatics Ltd

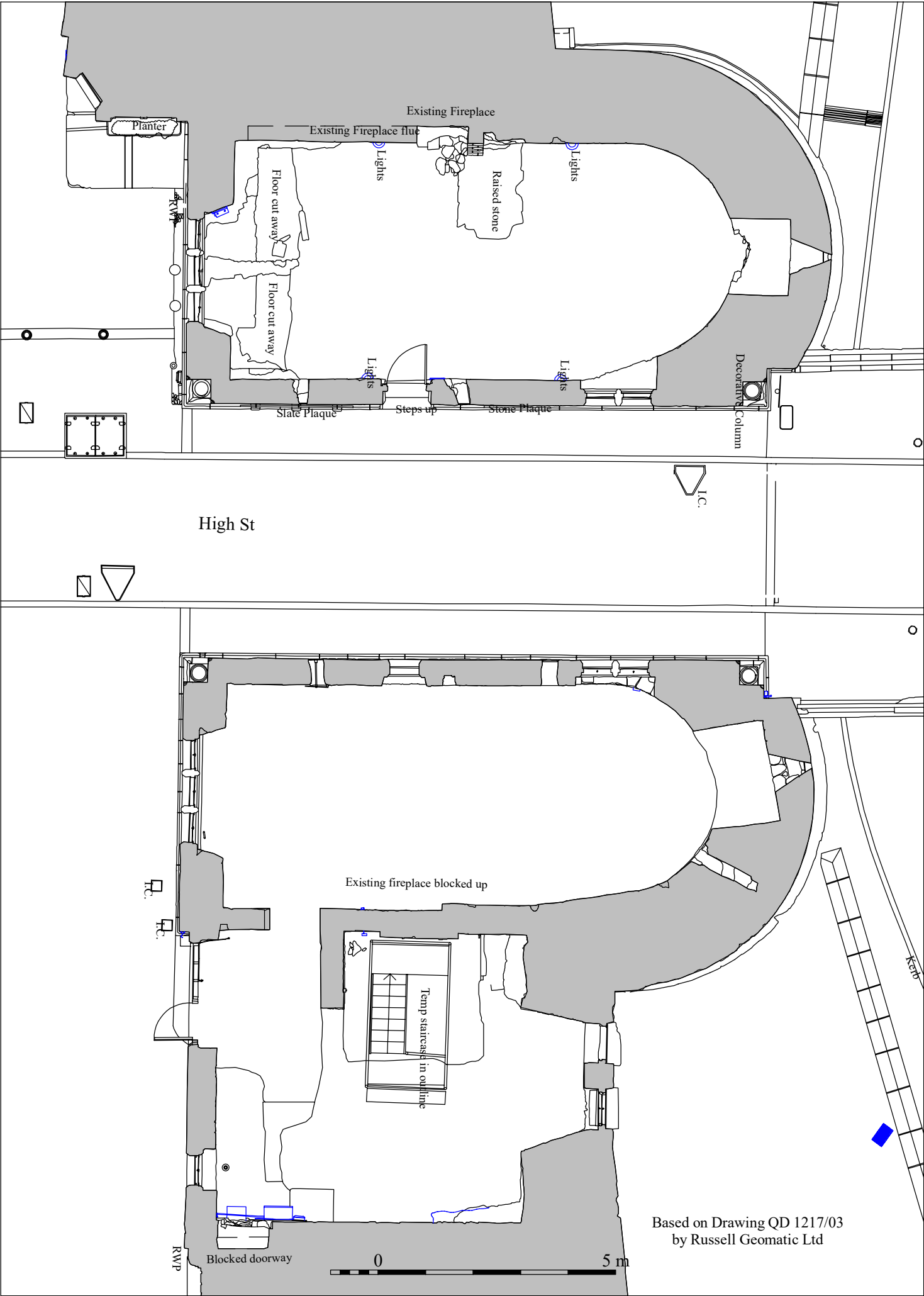
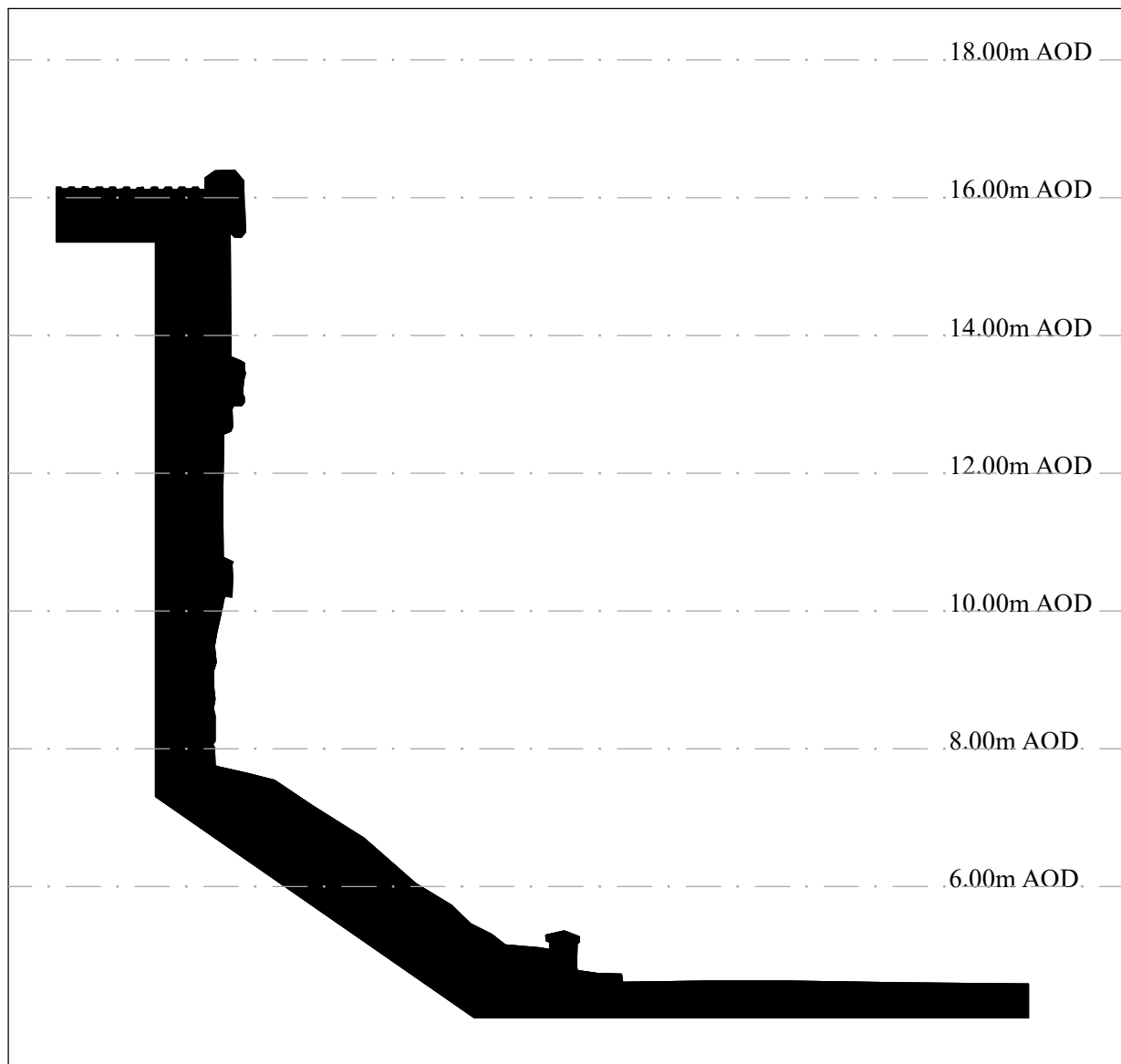


Figure 2: Ground Floor Plan
Scale 1:100



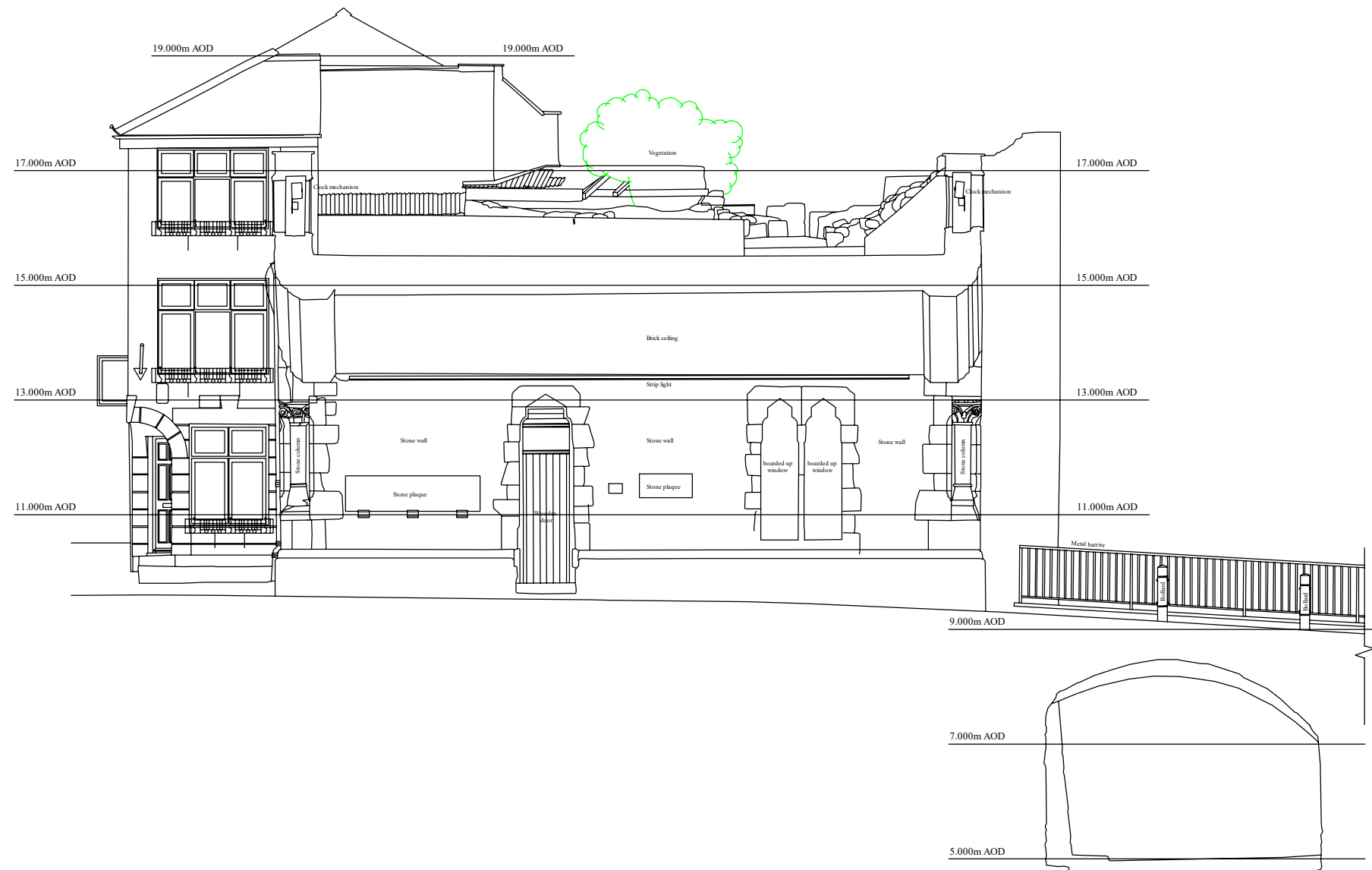
Figure 3: Eastern Elevation
Scale 1:100

Based on Drawing QD1217/10
by Russel Geomatics Ltd



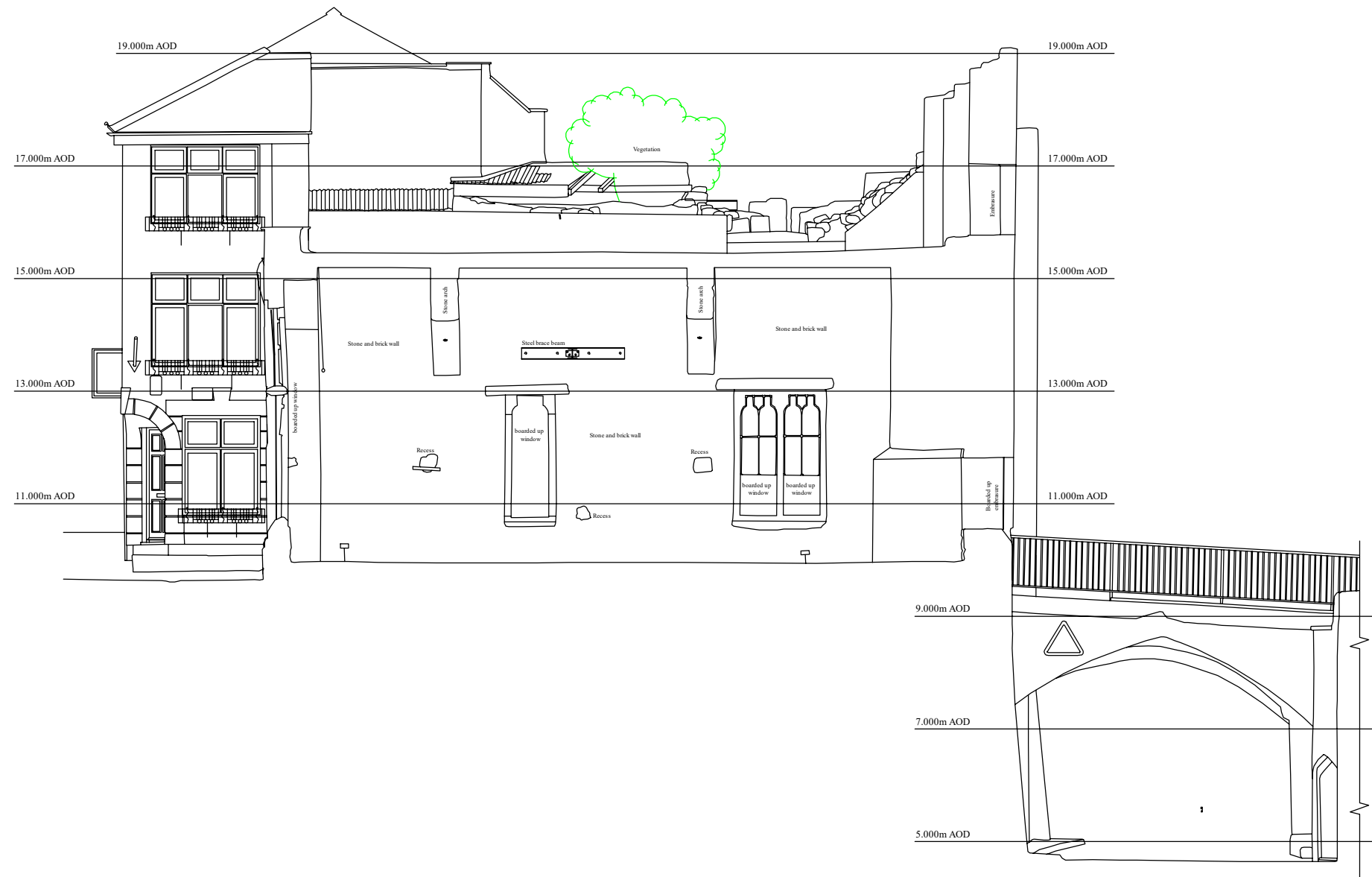
Based on Drawing QD1217/14
by Russell Geomatics Ltd

Figure 4: Profile of the Town Wall from Greengate Street
Scale 1:100



Based on Drawing QD1217/08
by Russell Geomatics Ltd

Figure 5: Elevation of the North Side of the Entrance Passage
Scale 1:100



Based on Drawing QD1217/08
by Russell Geomatics Ltd

Figure 6: Elevation of the South Side of the Entrance Passage
Scale 1:100

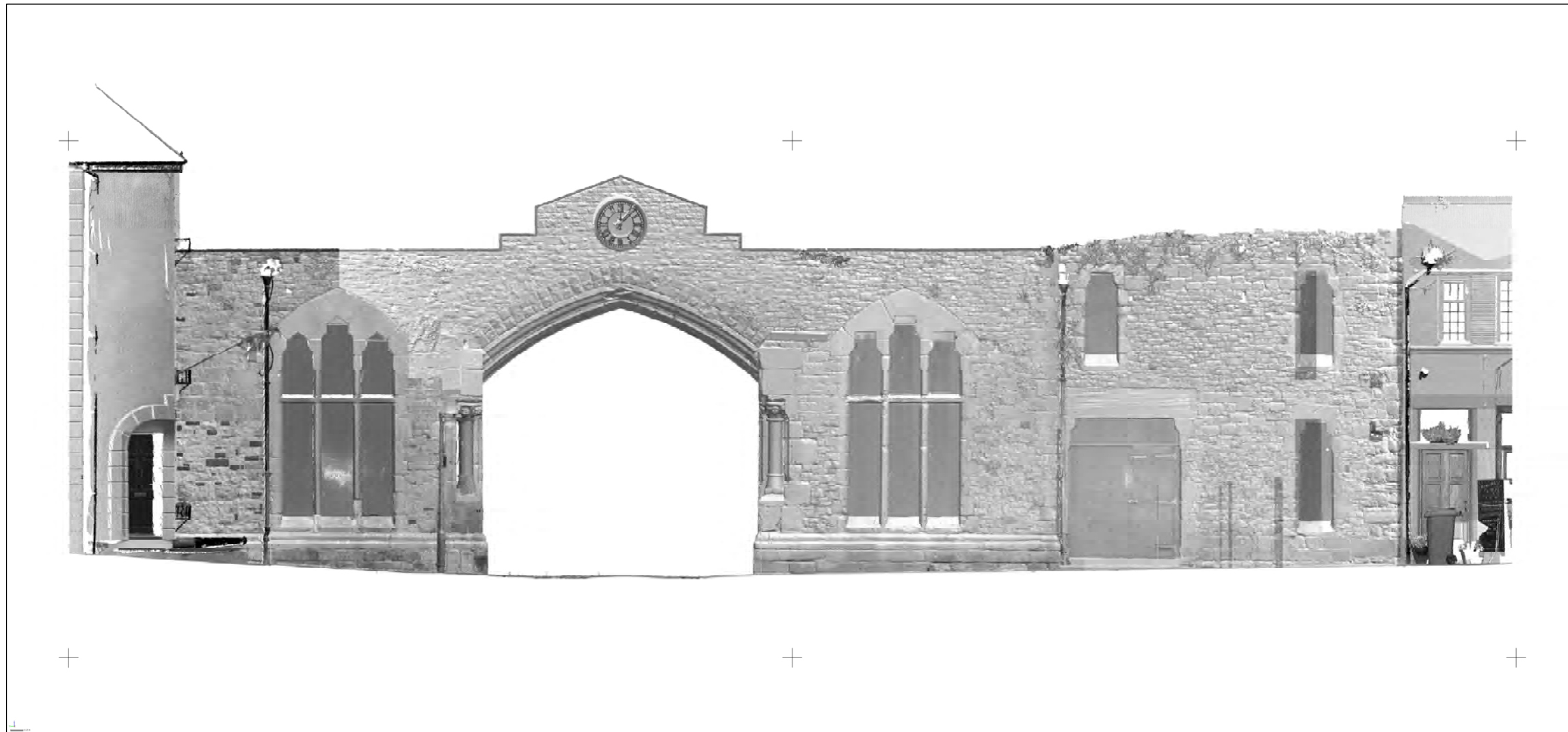


Figure 7: Western Elevation
Scale 1:100

Based on Drawing QD1217/09
by Russell Geomatics Ltd

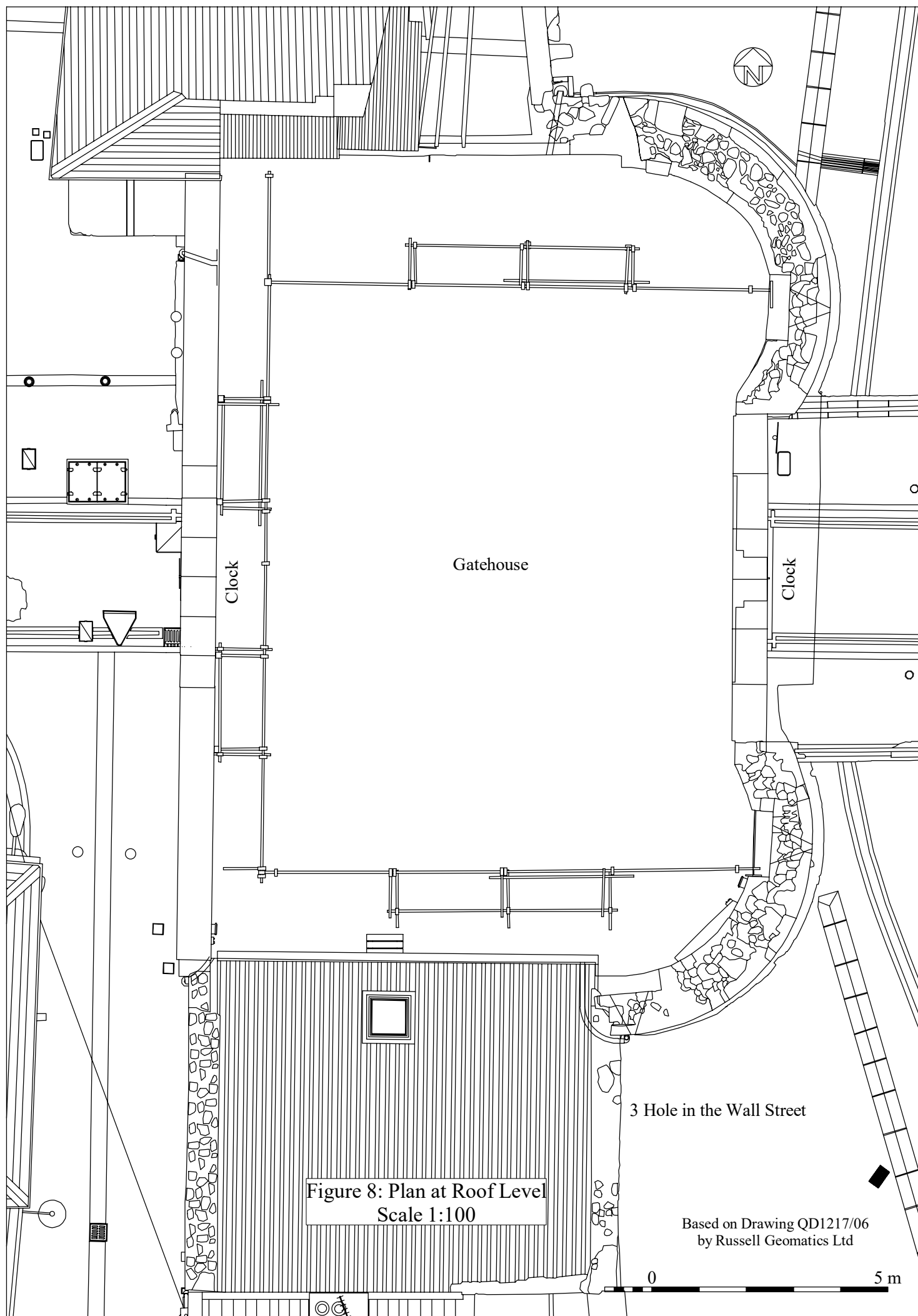
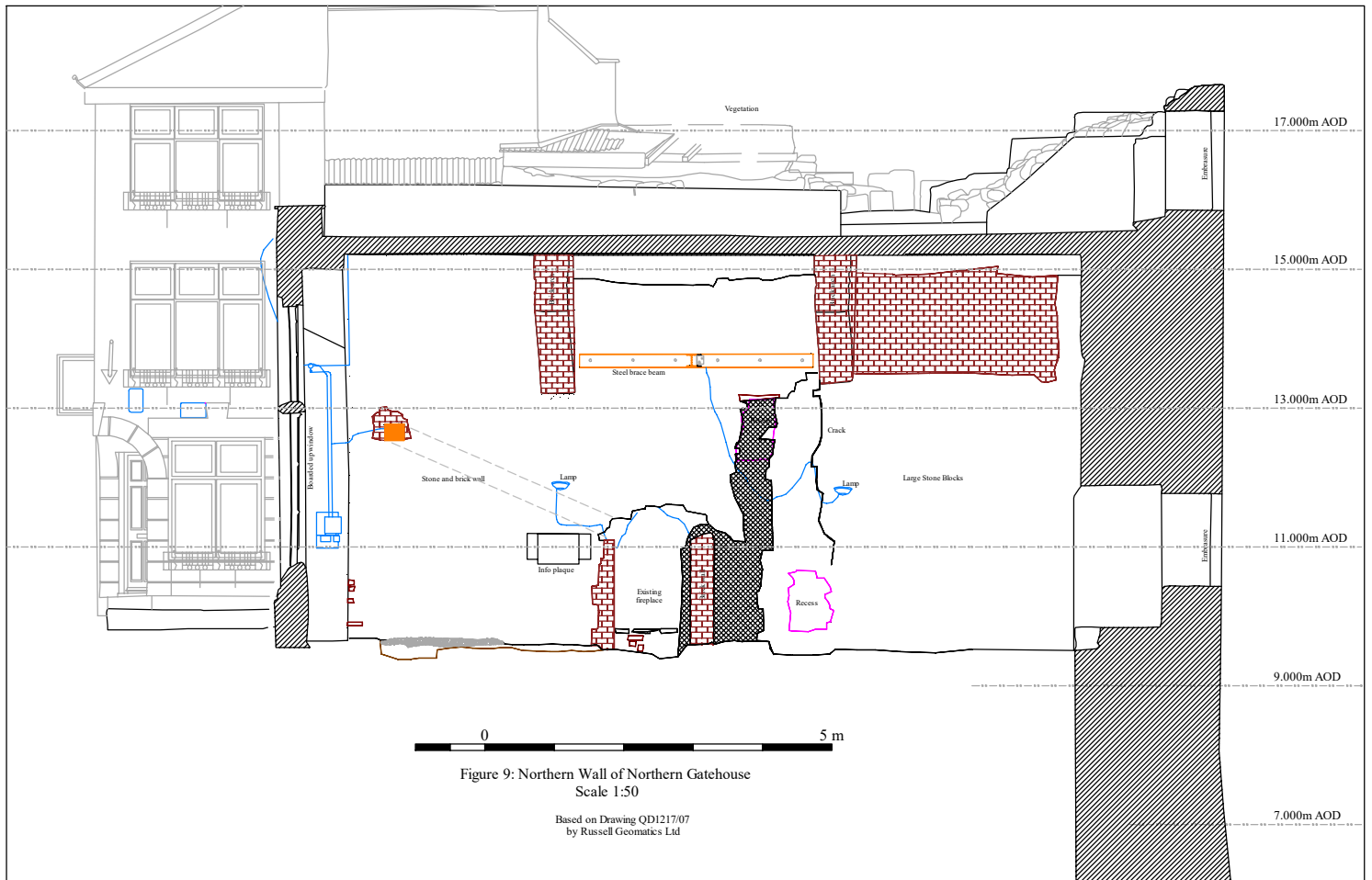


Figure 8: Plan at Roof Level
Scale 1:100

Based on Drawing QD1217/06
by Russell Geomatics Ltd



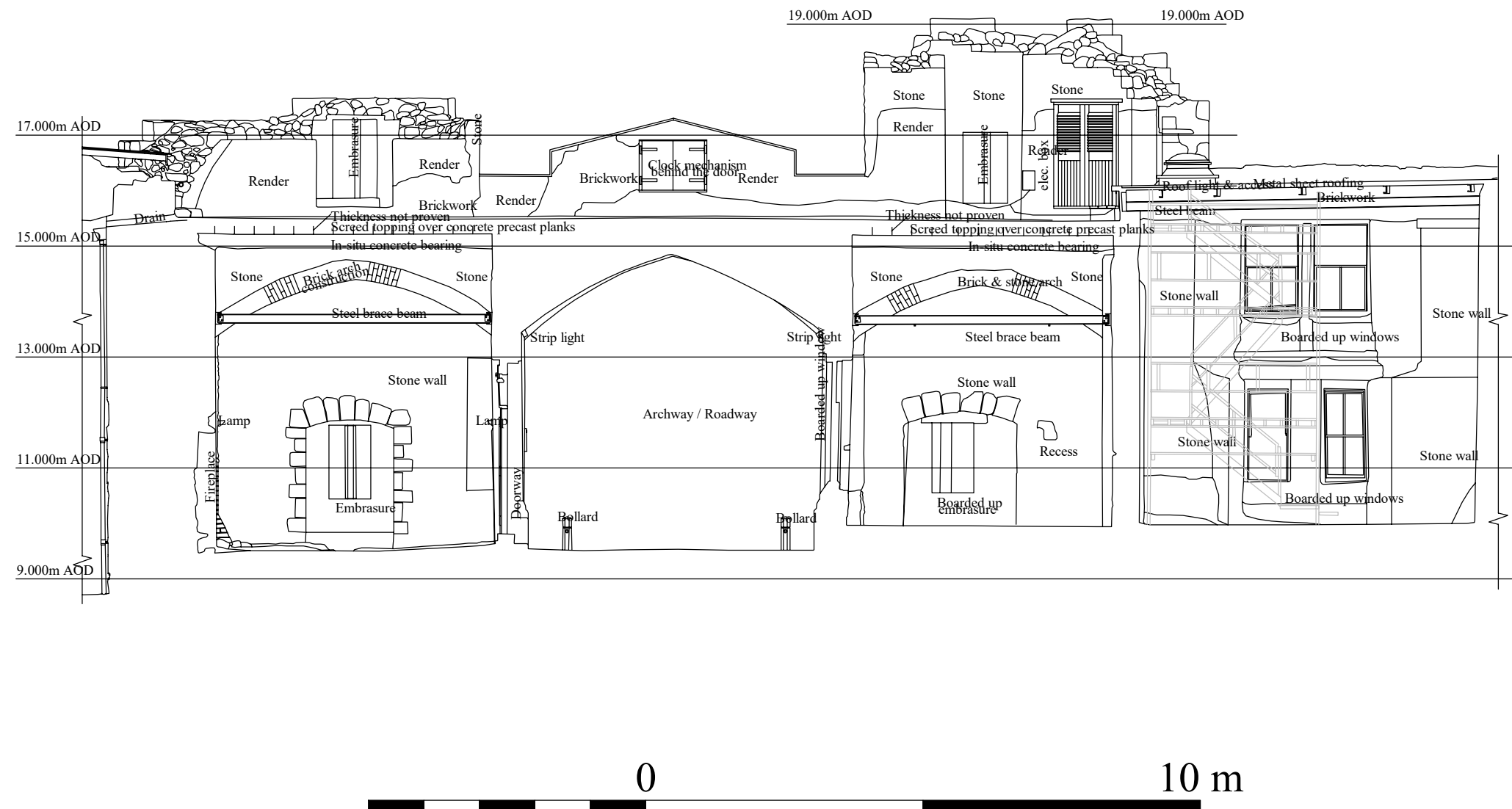


Figure 10: Profile through the Gatehouse
Scale 1:100

Based on Drawing QD1217/07
by Russell Geomatics Ltd

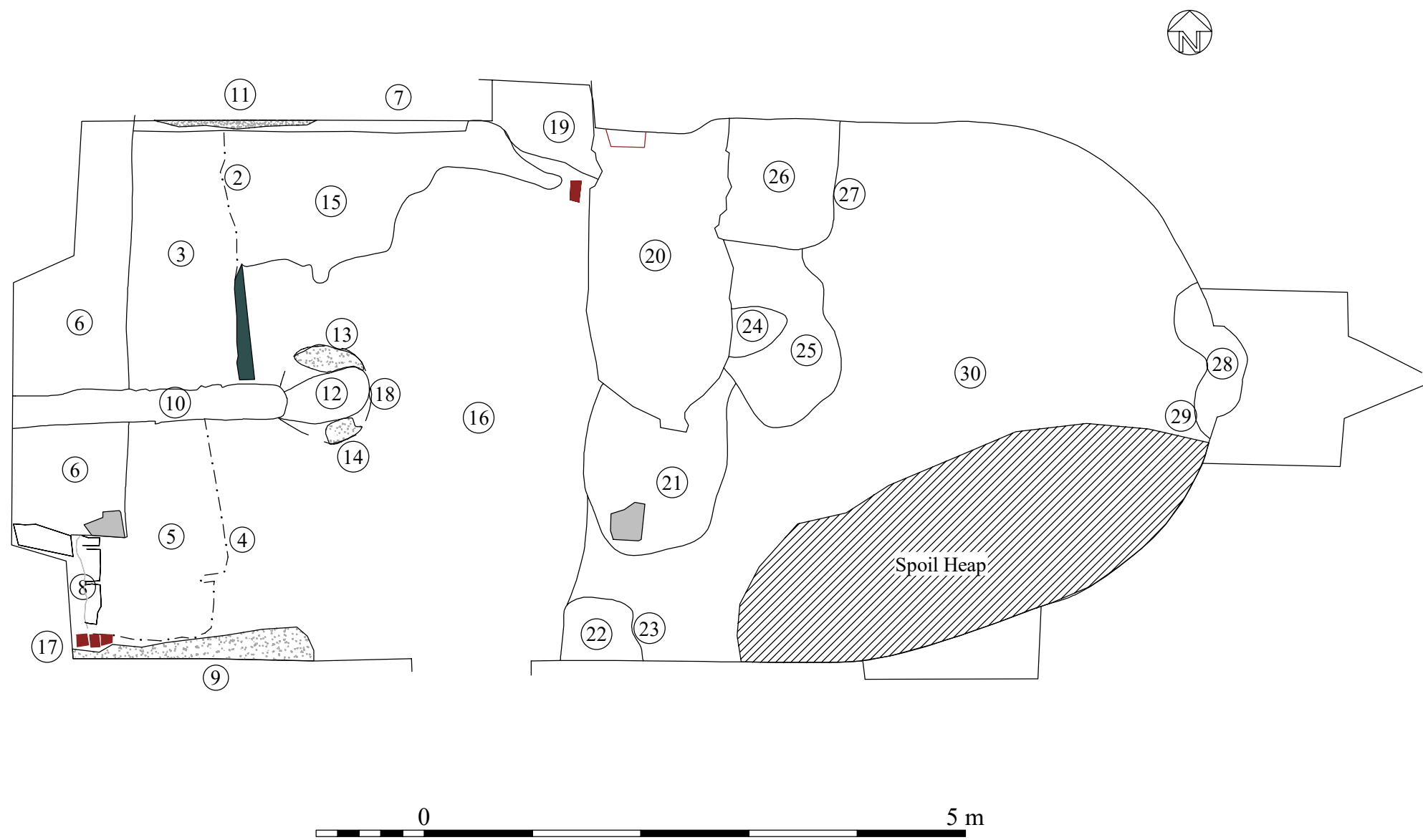


Figure 11 : Plan of the archaeological feature revealed by the removal of the gravel
Scale 1:50

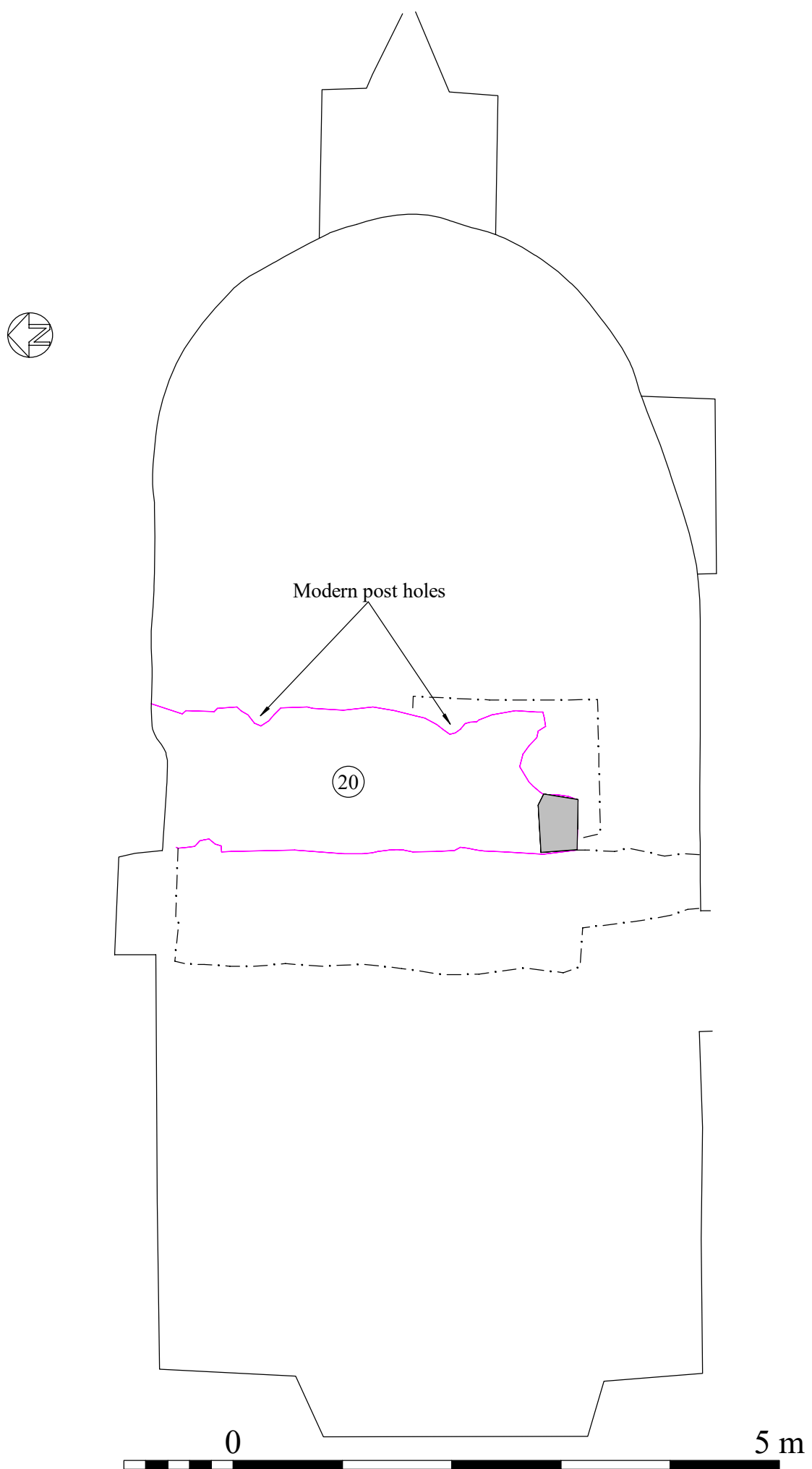


Figure 12: Location of the Evaluation Trench
Scale 1:50

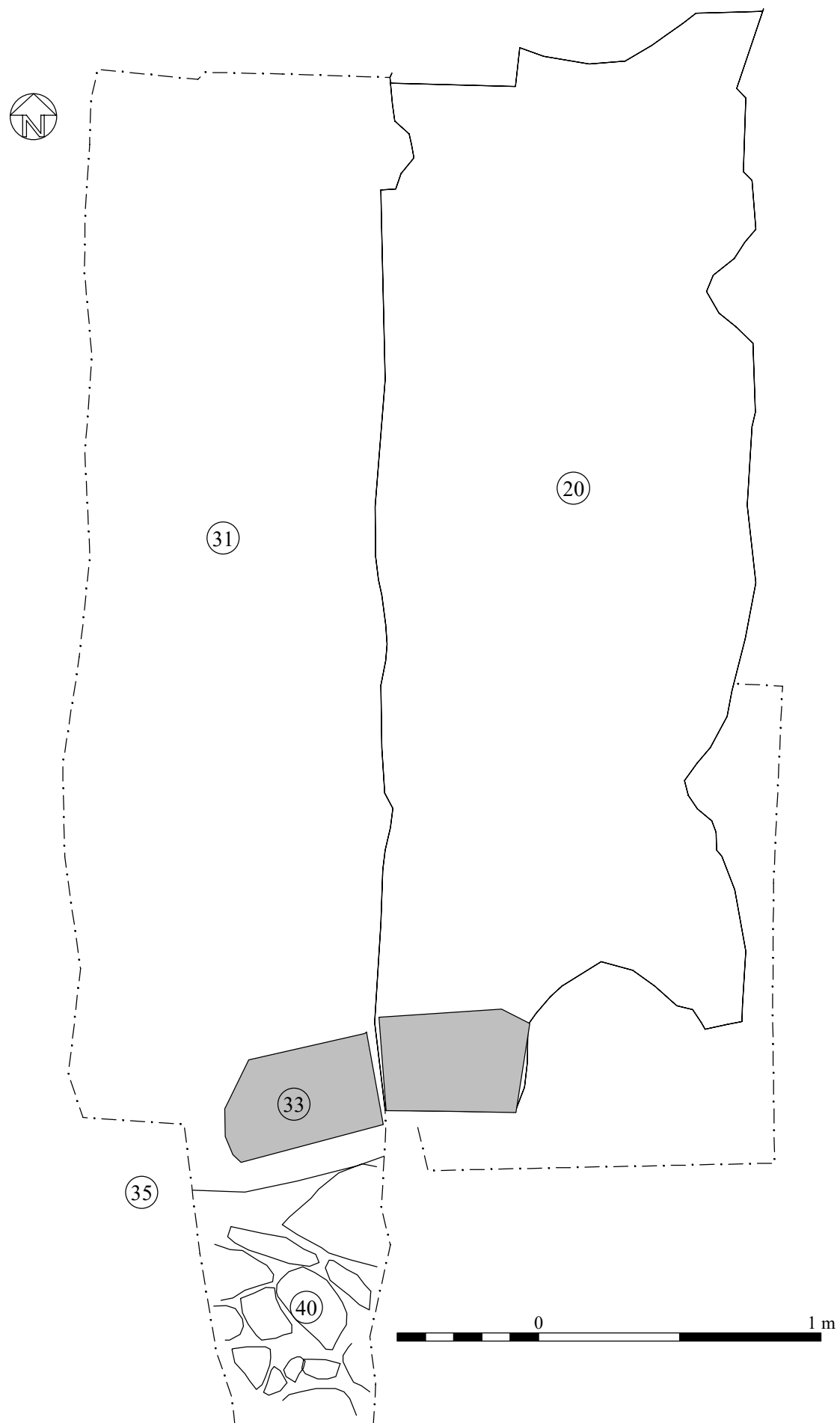


Figure 13: Plan of the upper cobbles
Scale 1:20

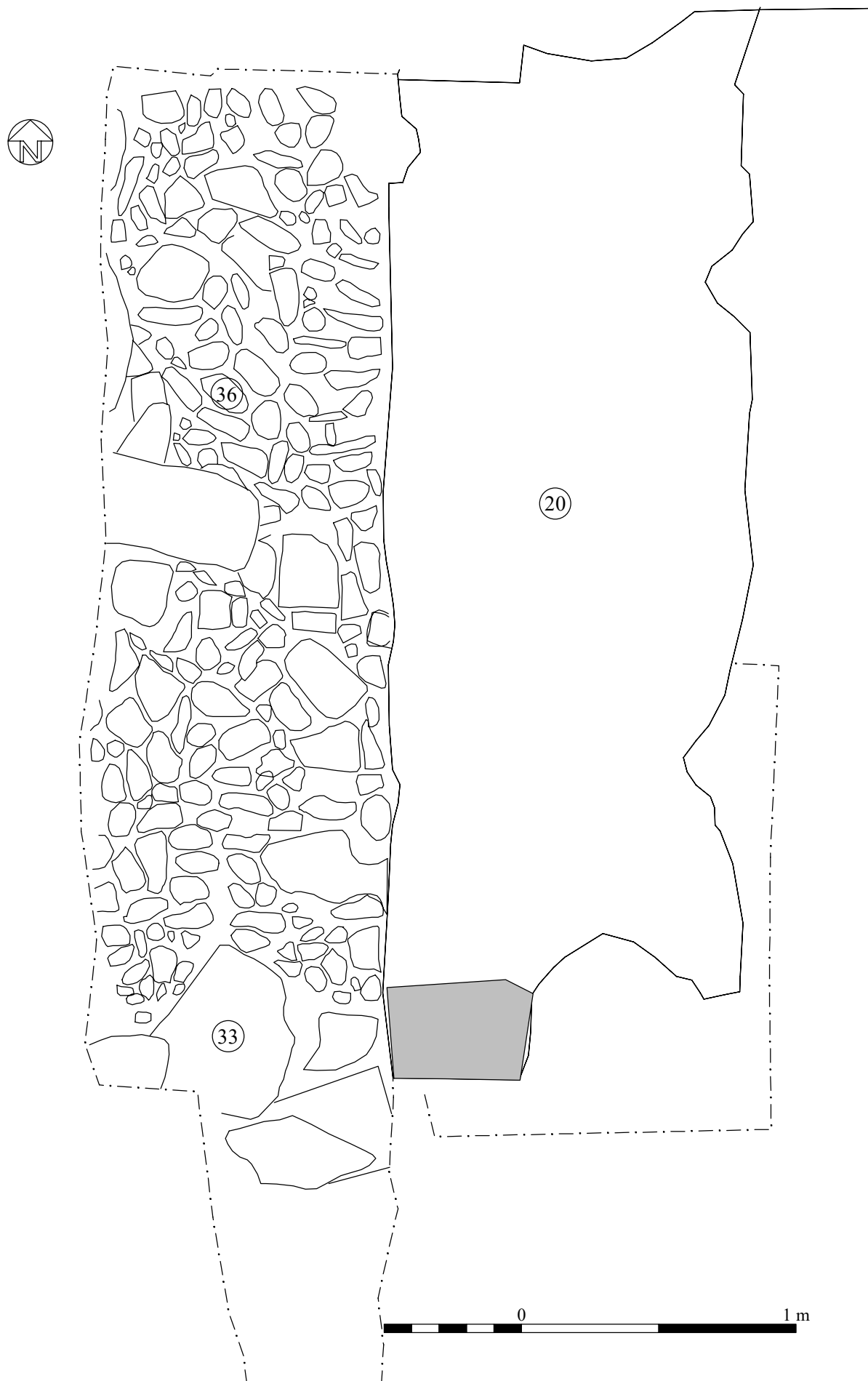


Figure 14: Plan of the cobbles (Context 36)
Scale 1:20

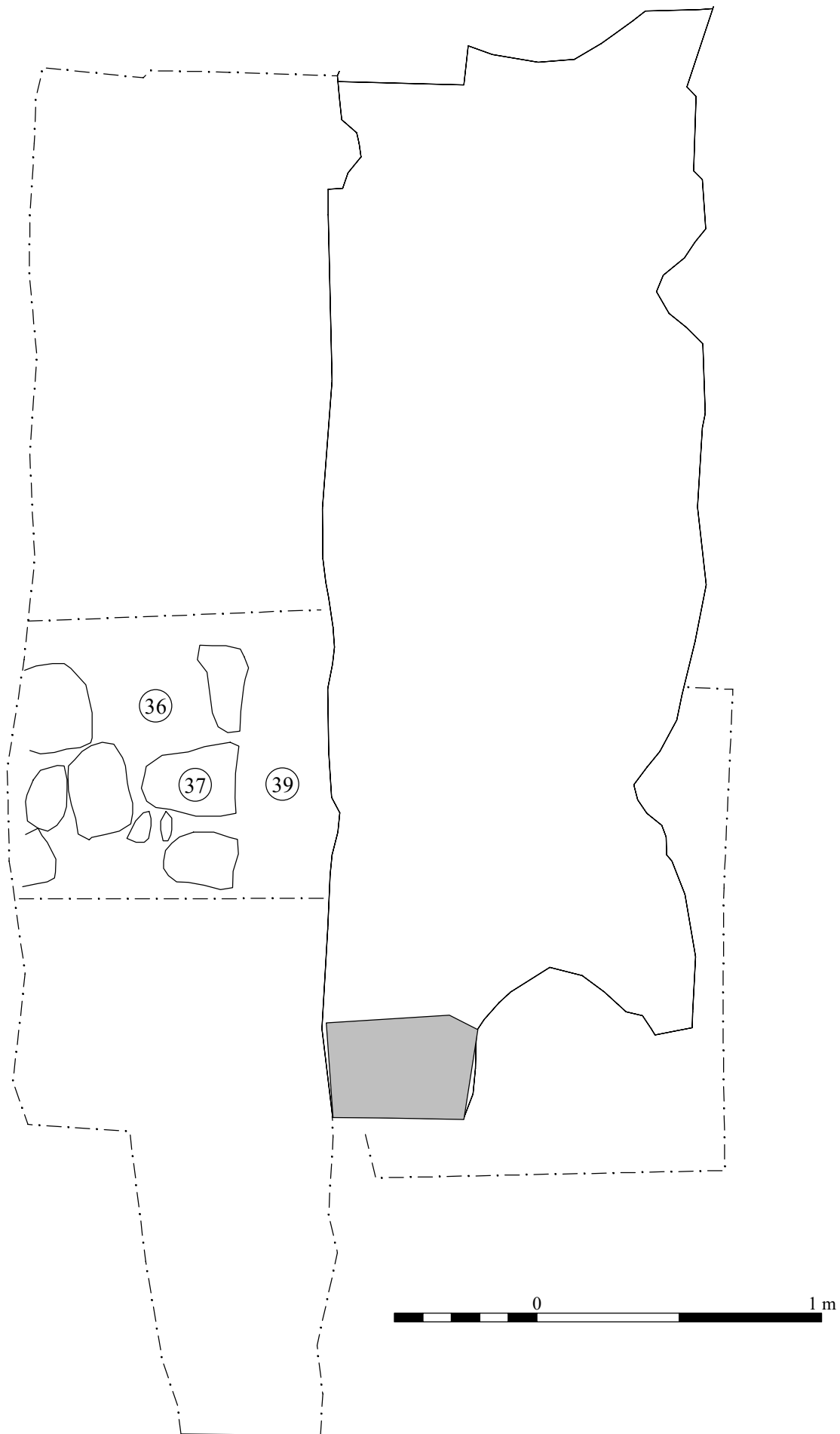


Figure 15: Plan of the cobbles (Context 37)
Scale 1:20

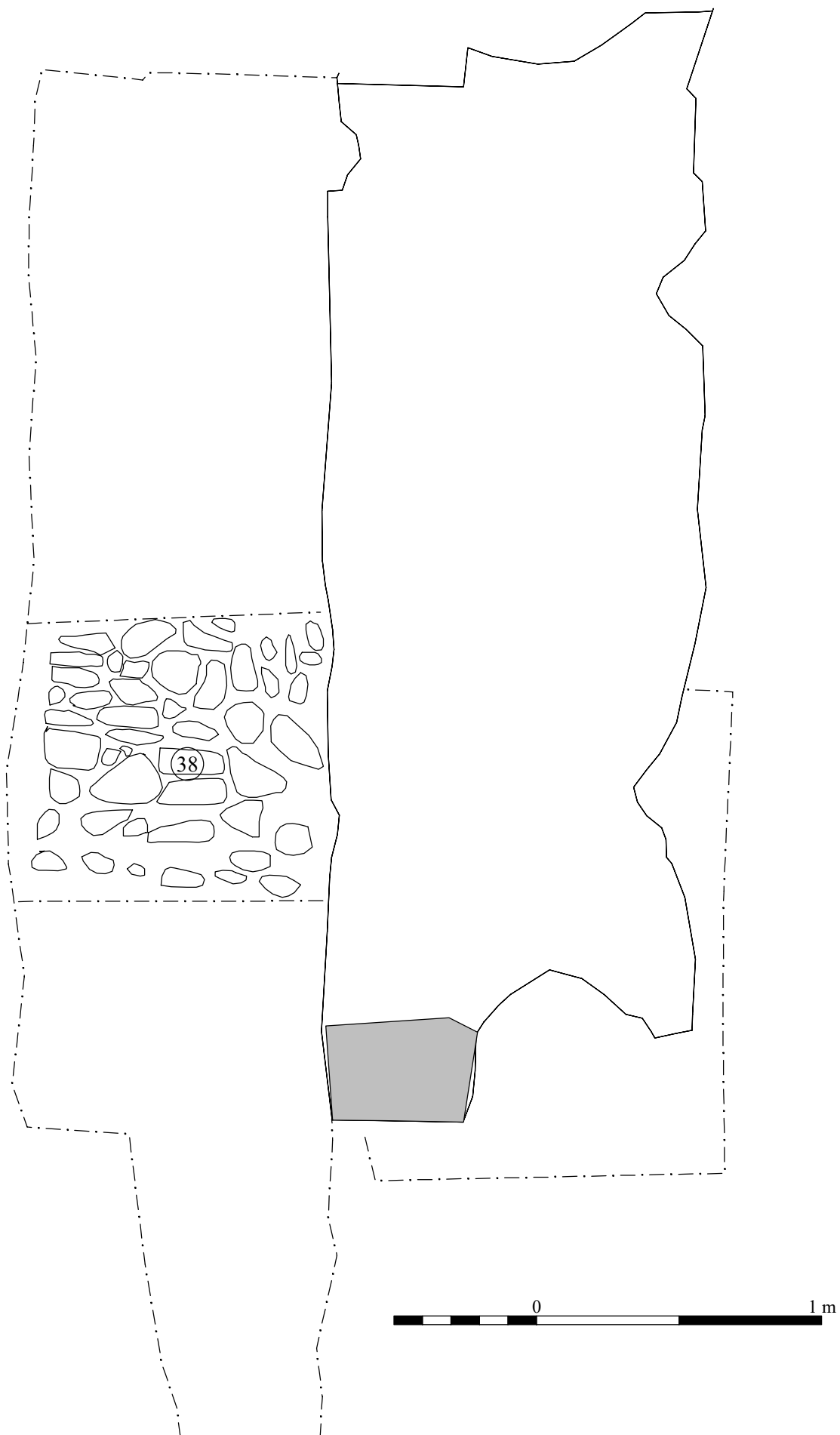


Figure 16: Plan of the cobbles (Context 38)
Scale 1:20

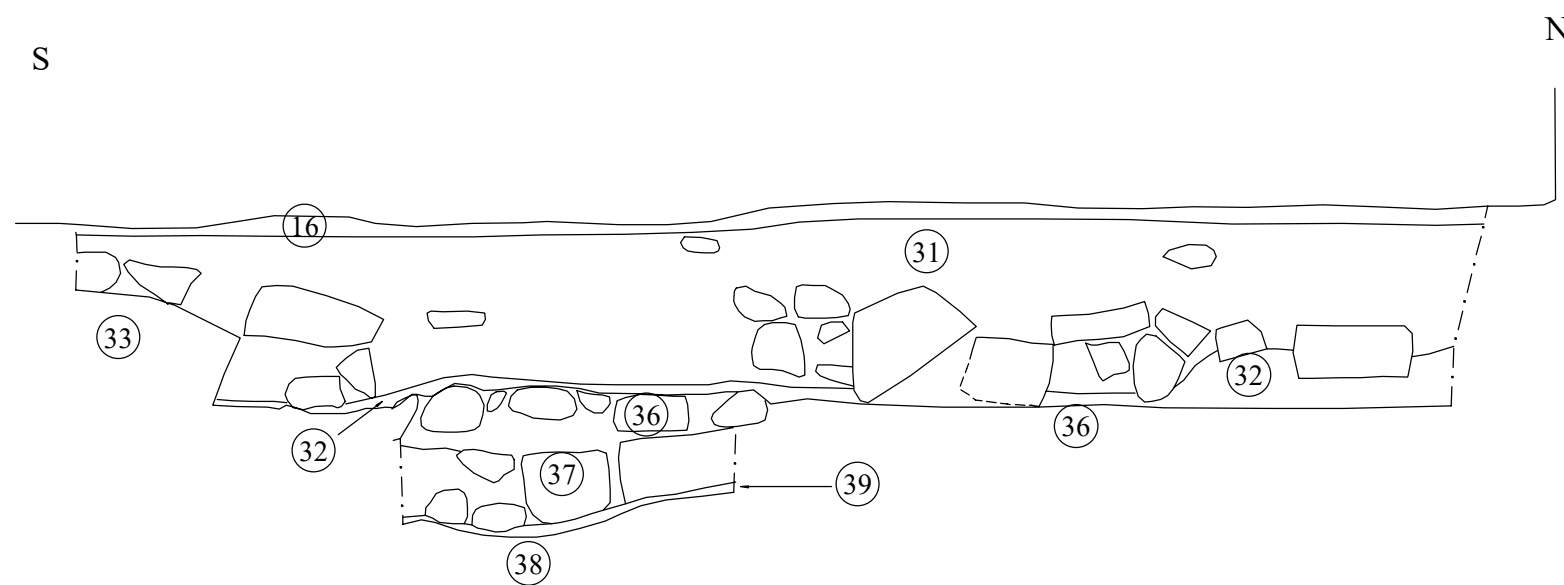
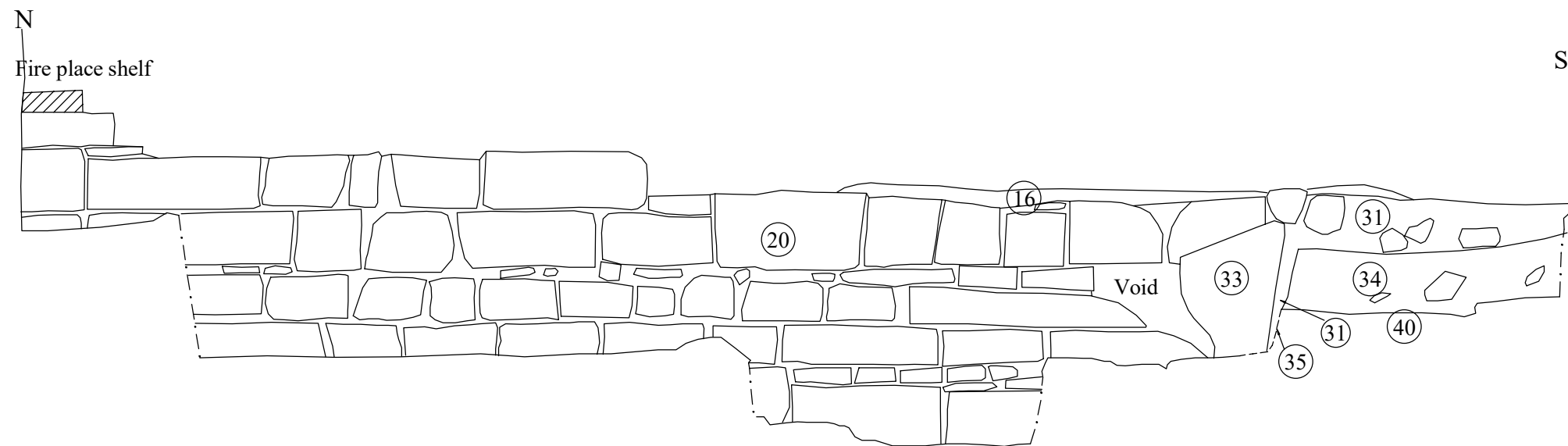


Figure 17: Sections
Scale 1:20

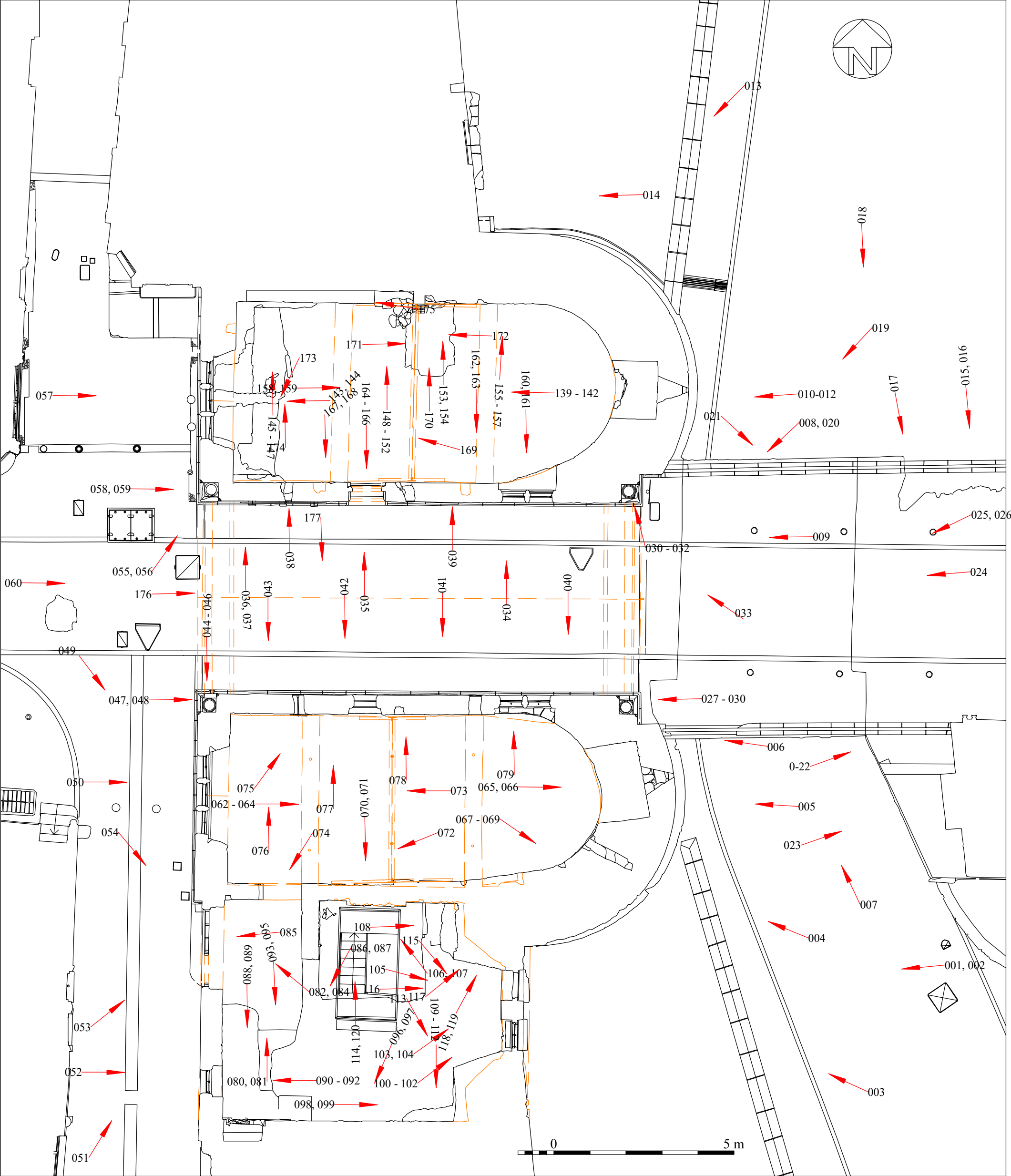


Figure 18: Location of the Photographs (Ground floor)
Scale 1:100

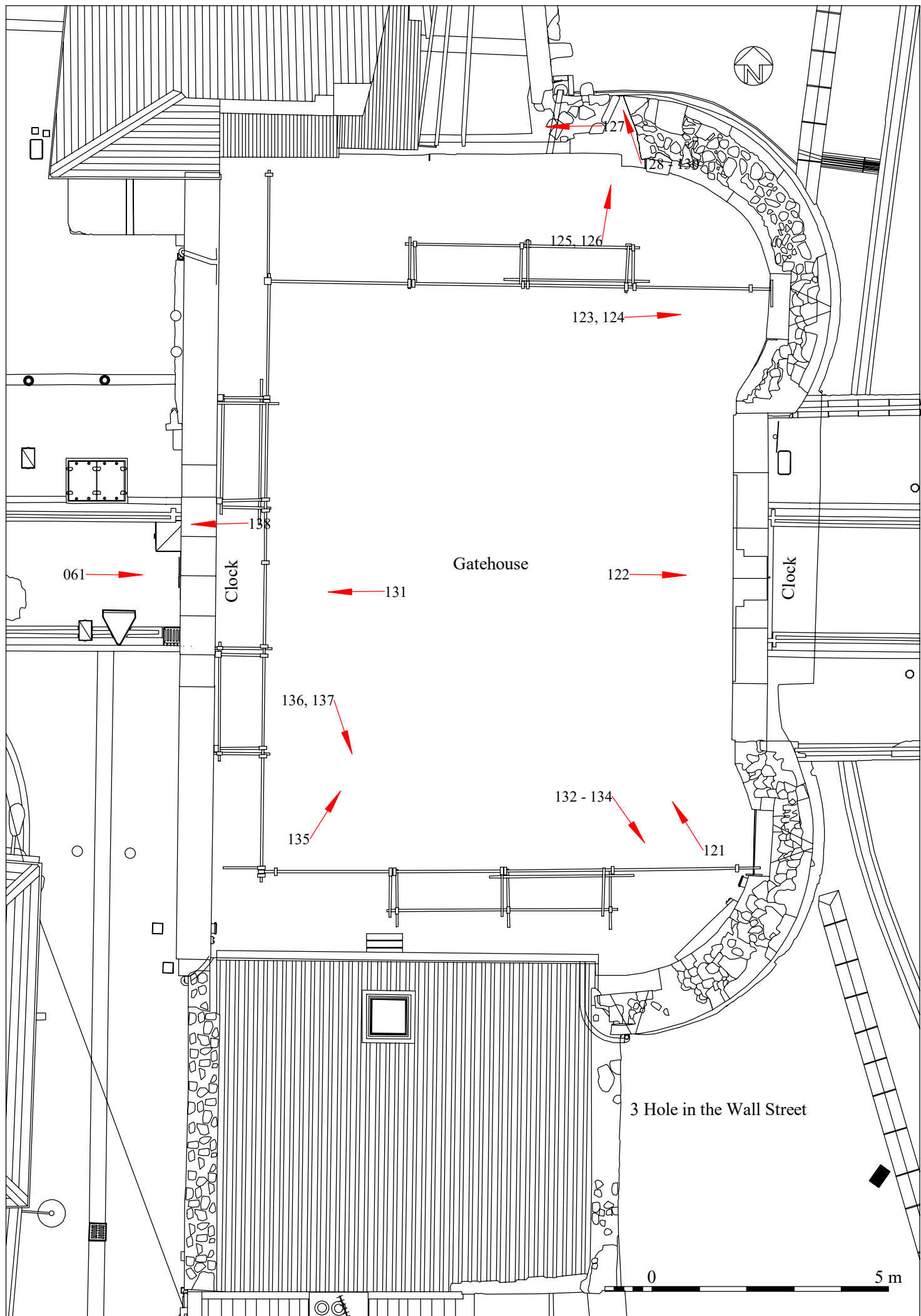


Figure 19: Location of the Photographs (Roof level)
Scale 1:100



Plate 1: The Eastern approach



Plate 2: The south tower



Plate 3: The north tower



Plate 4: Bridge leading to the gateway



Plate 5 Below the bridge



Plate 6: Eastern elevation of 3 Hole in the Wall Street



Plate 7: Wall to the north of the gatehouse.



Plate 8: Decorative column on the south side of the entrance passage



Plate 9: Capital



Plate 10: Relationship between the northern tower and the gate passage.



Plate 11: The parapet and clock



Plate 12: The roof of the entrance passage.



Plate 13: Brickwork of the entrance passage ceiling.



Plate 14: The northern side of the passageway



Plate 15: Window in the northern elevation of the passageway



Plate 16: Door in the northern elevation of the passageway



Plate 17: Slate plaque on the northern elevation of the passageway

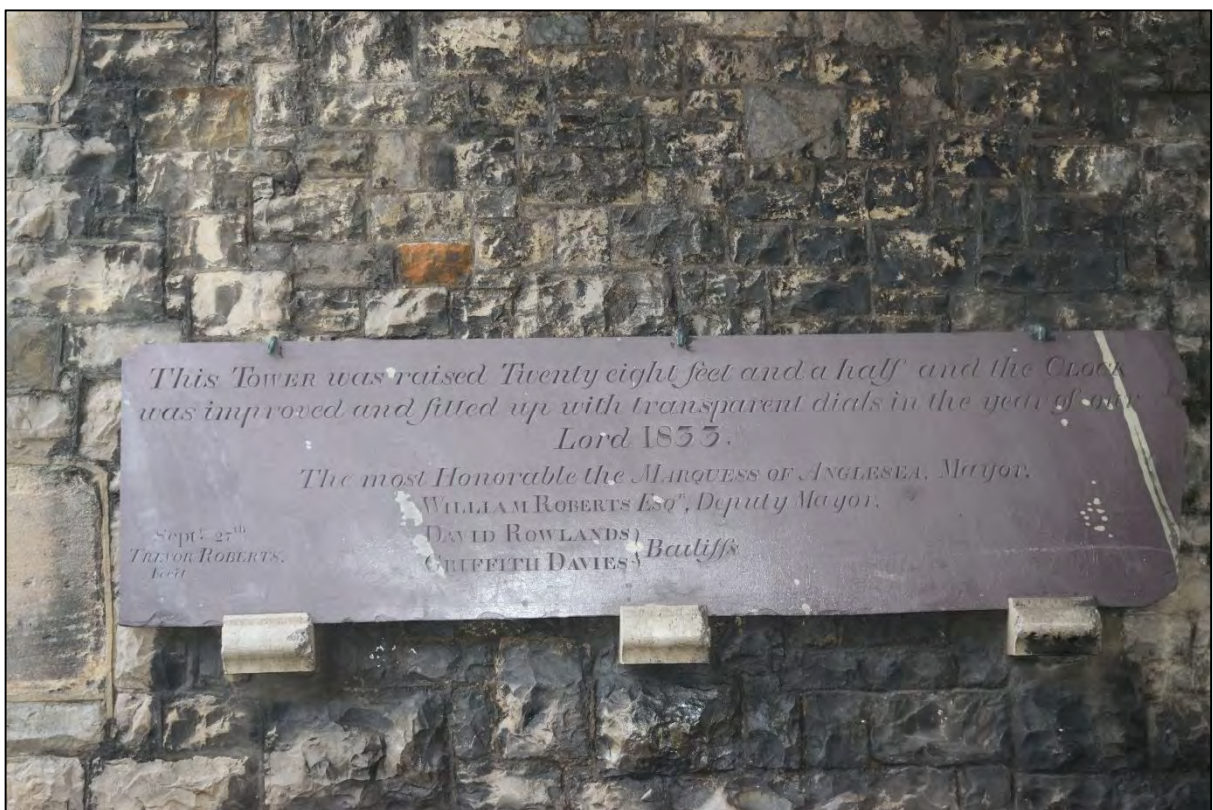


Plate 18: Dedication



Plate 19: Windows in the south face of the passageway



Plate 20: The inner face of the gatehouse



Plate 21: One of the columns on the inner face of the gatehouse



Plate 22: Capital

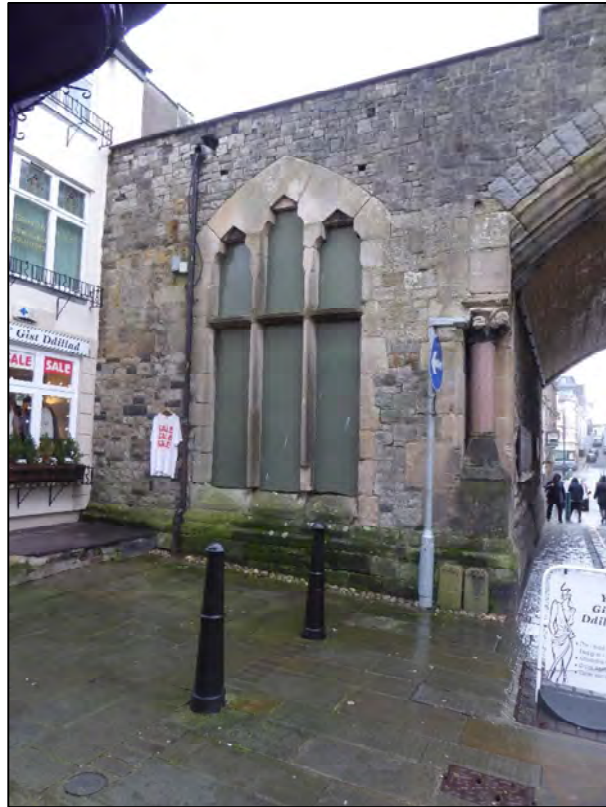


Plate 23: The inner face of the northern gatehouse



Plate 24: The inner face of the south gatehouse



Plate 25: Window in the western elevation of the south gatehouse



Plate 26: Small window in the western elevation of the south gatehouse



Plate 27: Door to 3 Hole in the Wall Street



Plate 28: Roof over the gatehouse looking NE



Plate 29: The roof over 3 Hole in the Wall Street



Plate 30: Rear of the eastern clock housing



Plate 31: Rear of the western clock housing



Plate 32: Wooden cabinet in south eastern corner of the gatehouse roof



Plate 33: Arrow slot in the south-eastern corner of the gatehouse roof



Plate 34: Arrow slot on the northern side of the gatehouse roof



Plate 35: Arrow slot in the south-western corner of the gatehouse roof



Plate 36: Chimney stack on the northern side of the gatehouse roof



Plate 37: Southern gatehouse looking east



Plate 38: Embrasure with arrow slot in southern gatehouse



Plate 39: Repair to the southern gatehouse



Plate 40: Blocked fireplace in southern gatehouse



Plate 41: Southern gatehouse looking west



Plate 42: Single light window in the north wall of the southern gatehouse



Plate 43: Two light window in the north wall of the southern gatehouse



Plate 44: Arch over the southern gatehouse and modern metal supports



Plate 45: Doorway between the southern gatehouse and 3 Hole in the Wall Street



Plate 46: Main door to 3 Hole in the Wall Street



Plate 47: Fireplace in 3 Hole in the Wall Street



Plate 48: the north reveal of the window in the eastern end of 3 Hole in the Wall Street



Plate 49: First floor window in the eastern end of 3 Hole in the Wall Street



Plate 50: Southern wall of 3 Hole in the Wall Street



Plate 51: Possible surviving town wall in the north-west corner of 3 Hole in the Wall Street



Plate 52: Possible surviving town wall in the north-east corner of 3 Hole in the Wall Street



Plate 53: Northern gatehouse looking west



Plate 54: Northern gatehouse looking east



Plate 55: Eastern brick arch over the northern gatehouse



Plate 56: Modern brick repair in the eastern end of the northern gatehouse



Plate 57: Modern repairs to the embrasure



Plate 58: The double window in the northern gatehouse



Plate 59: Circular saw marks on the lintel of the double window in the north gatehouse



Plate 60: Doorway



Plate 61: Pencil inscription on the back of the door



Plate 62: Course, moderate sized block at the east end of the north wall



Plate 63: Change in building materials in the northern wall of the northern gatehouse



Plate 64: The fireplace

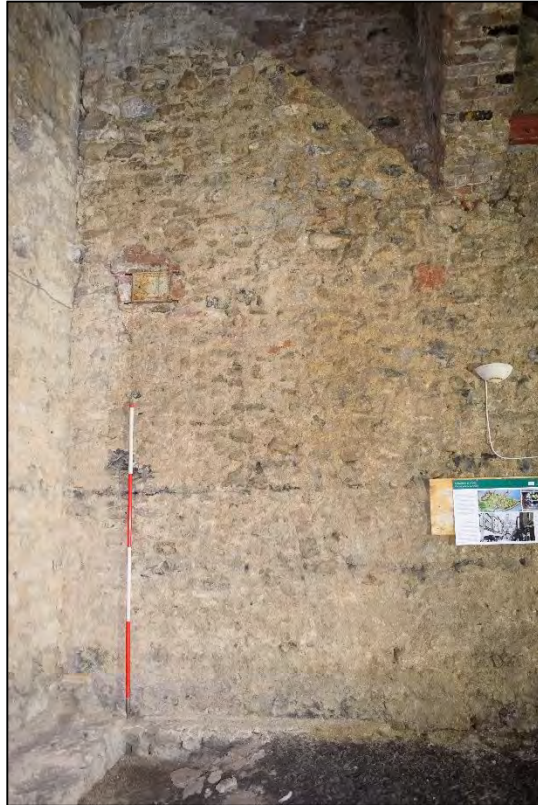


Plate 65: The western end of the northern wall of the north gatehouse



Plate 66: Flue in the side of the fireplace



Plate 67: Wall exposed in the floor before the removal of the gravel



Plate 68: Southern trench before the removal of the gravel



Plate 69: The northern trench before the removal of the gravel



Plate 70: The northern gatehouse after the removal of the gravel, looking west



Plate 71: The northern gatehouse after the removal of the gravel (looking east)



Plate 72: Wall (Context 6)



Plate 73: Possible threshold (Context 8)



Plate 74: Contexts 20 and 21



Plate 75: Wall (Context 10)



Plate 76: Possible post hole (Context 18)



Plate 77: Contexts 24 and 25



Plate 78: Context 27



Plate 79: Floor levels, Contexts 9 and 17



Plate 80: Floor level Context 11



Plate 81: Trenches Contexts 2 and 4



Plate 82: Hole for a service pipe below the western wall



Plate 83: Iron pipe below the western wall



Plate 84: Context 33



Plate 85: Context 34 and cut Context 35



Plate 86: Context 40



Plate 87: Cobble surface Context 36



Plate 88: Cobbled surface Context 37



Plate 89: Cobble surface Context 38



Plate 90: Wall Context 20



Plate 91: Southern end of Context 20

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context	Description	Relationships
1	Layer of slate gravel with crushed slate pieces up to 40 mm in size. The layer is up to 150 mm thick, although more typically up to 100 mm thick. Related to the last work by CADW on the gatehouse as protective floor covering	Above 15, 12, 13, 16, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 28 Abuts 2 and 5
2	Rectangular cut 2.35 m long and 0.8 m wide on the north side of a dividing wall (context 10), running north-south in front of western gable end. Probably excavation trench dug in 1990's. At least 0.3 m deep although not bottomed	Abuts 1 Contains 3
3	Backfill in trench	Within 2
4	"L" shaped trench to the south of the dividing wall (context 10). The main leg of the trench is 0.7 X 1.95 m in size and at least 0.4 m deep. This leg runs roughly north-south, at the southern end there is an extension 0.4 X 0.88 m in size to the west. Archaeological trench dug in the 1990's.	Abuts 1 and 10 Contains 5
5	Backfill within 4	Within 4
6	Footings of a wall at least 1.10 m thick running for 3.75 m parallel to, and below the western gable of the gatehouse. Faced with stone blocks, typically 0.6 X 0.2 X 0.3 m in size to the east. The core of this wall has white lime mortar with a mixture of stone blocks (up to 0.2 X 0.2 X 0.3 m) and a series of angular stone chips up to 50 mm in size. The wall runs below both the western gable and the northern walls of the gatehouse. Probably original medieval wall	Below 10 and western and northern walls Abuts 2 and 4
7	Footings for north wall of gatehouse. Running for at least 3.1 m these footing protrude from the north wall by 120 mm. Where exposed in the excavation trench (context 2) a series of roughly coursed stone blocks up to 250 X 150 mm in size with gobbets of white lime mortar between. Rather rough appearance.	Below 11 Abuts 2, 6, 15, 16
8	Footing for the western gable running from the end of context 6 towards the southern wall. Protruding from the western gable wall by 250 mm the footings consist of stone blocks 320 mm long and at least 60 mm deep and 100 mm wide in a yellowish sandy lime mortar.	Below 17 Abuts 5
9	Thin layer (up to 30 mm) of gritty greyish white lime mortar with a smooth to surface possibly suggesting tiles above.	Cut by 4

Context	Description	Relationships
10	Narrow wall running laterally at the western end of the gatehouse, more or less centrally placed. Wall 330 mm thick, but only surviving for a single course it can be traced for 2.55 m from the western gable. Stone blocks up to 330 X 160 X 100 mm in a yellowish white lime mortar. The eastern end of the feature is only shown as a mortar spread. It appears to be related to contexts 12, 13 and 14 which appear to define the eastern end of the wall, possibly with a post. This wall appears to be older than the gable end wall, but younger than context 6	Below west wall Abuts 12, 13, 14, 16
11	Mortar remnant of the flooring at this end of the gatehouse. Thin strip of greyish white lime mortar with a marked flange at the wall edge suggesting the presence of tiling. Below the mortar contains slate, packing pieces up to 100 mm in size.	Below 1 Abuts north wall
12	Orangey brown sandy silt forming a patch 600 X 330 mm in size at the eastern end of Context 10. Possibly the fill of a post hole at the end of the wall.	Below 1 Abuts 12 Within 18
13	Patch of yellowish white lime mortar 400 mm X 100 mm in size forming a slight crescent on the northern side of Context 12. Possibly packing within a post hole forming the eastern end of Context 10.	Below 1 Abuts 12 Within 18
14	Patch of yellowish white lime mortar 400 X 120 mm in size to the south of context 12 forming a slight crescent. Possibly packing within a post hole forming the eastern end of Context 10	Below 1 Abuts 12 Within 18
15	Layer of crushed lime mortar 0.9 X 2.0 m in size, possibly the remains of the floor (Context 11). Fragments of lime mortar up to 80 mm in size in a matrix of lime mortar dust and grey silt.	Below 1 Abuts 7
16	Trampled surface of orange/brown sandy silt with the occasional patch of crushed lime mortar. In places, various iron objects, mostly nails, are trampled into the surface. There is some suggestion of an eastern edge to this layer following the line of the cross wall (20). When excavated, this layer proved to be the trampled remnant of a mortar surface, possibly the base of the overlying concrete floor.	Below 1 Above 31 Abuts 15, 20 Cut by 18, 19

Context	Description	Relationships
17	Old floor surface in south western corner of the gatehouse. At least three brick laid in a thin, yellowish gritty lime mortar. Each brick is 250 X 105 X 60 mm in size and are clearly hand made. Fairly hardly fired to a dark colour.	Below 9 Above 8
18	Cut for possible post hole 700 mm in diameter. Possible post defining the eastern end of the lateral wall Context 10.	Below 1 Contains 12, 13, 14
19	Patch of disturbance in front of the remains of the fireplace 1.10 X 0.6 m in size. Slightly darker version of 16, with some bricks, coal fragments and organic waste	Abuts 20, 30
20	Wall 1.35 m thick and running for at least 2.6 m from the northern wall and part forming the eastern side of the fireplace. Stone blocks up to 300 X 200 X 150 m in size forming the facing blocks for this wall with the interior formed of stone blocks of a simile size in a yellowish white lime mortar. It is likely that Context 21 is an extension of this feature, however it is less well preserved than this context. Possible a medieval wall. It is of similar size and character to Context 6 to which it runs parallel. At least 0.9 m deep.	Below 1 Abuts 16, 21, 24, 25, 27
21	Spread of yellowish white lime mortar with the occasional stone block up to 200 X 150 mm in size. The south-western extent of this layer is marked by a large stone block at least 300 X 400 m in size. Probably the disturbed extent of the wall Context 20	Below 1 Abuts 20, 30
22	Fill of a disturbed area 0.7 X 0.6 m in size. Very loosely packed fragments of lime mortar and stone in a thin matrix of mid grey brown sandy silt. Modern disturbance as the fill contained twentieth century sweet wrappers. Possibly associated with the electricity duct above.	Below 1 Within 23
23	Sub rectangular cut 0.7 X 0.6 m in size filled with modern debris	Below 1 Cuts 30 Contains 22
24	Small patch of crushed lime mortar and small (up to 30 mm) angular stone forming a patch 400 X 300 mm in the centre of Context 25. Possibly part of fireplace against wall 20.	Below 1 Above 24 Abuts 20
25	Large sub-circular patch approximately 0.8 m X 1.2 m in size of heat altered orange brown sandy clay. Possibly the position of a fireplace against wall 20.	Below 24 Abuts 30

Context	Description	Relationships
26	Fill of a sub-rectangular feature, loosely packed stone and lime mortar fragments, together with the occasional brick fragment in a mid-grey sandy silt matrix.	Below 1 Within 26
27	Sub rectangular cut feature 1.10 X 0.9 m in size. Probably modern disturbance, possibly a trench from 1990's excavations	Below 1 Contains 26
28	Loosely packed fill of a clearly modern disturbance with fragments of stone and mortar up to 150 mm in size in a yellowish grey sandy silt matrix. This layer also contained a "Golden Wonder" crisp packet of later twentieth century type.	Below 1 Within 29
29	Irregular cut 600 X 900 mm in size around the disturbed end to the embrasure in the bastion. This bastion embrasure has clearly been "conserved" and it is assumed that this disturbance is of the same date,	Below 1 Contains 29
30	Similar to context 16, but more clayey. Located on the eastern side of Wall 20.	Below 25 Cut by 27, 29 Abuts 20
31	Very loose dumped layer consisting of many fragments of crushed mortar up to 100 mm in size and a lower density of angular stone blocks up to 400 X 350 x250 mm in size, but majority up to 250 X 200 X 200 mm some with shaped surfaces. Low down within this deposit (400 mm below the current ground level) were fragment of reinforced concrete with moulded surfaces (possible window lintel) the layer is up to 400 mm thick. There is a pile of dumped larger stones in the mid-section of the layer with one very large Boulder 500 X 300 X 200 mm in size and a number of smaller stone block, however these appear to be a dump within the general layer. The layer contained the occasional handmade brick fragment, the bricks were 65 mm thick	Below 16 Above 32, 33 Within 35
32	Very dark, almost black very loose layer with many flecks and small (up to 20 mm) of coal. The layer thins considerably to the south. Possibly related to an earlier phase of the fireplace in the north wall. Contains ?19th century materials with blue and white ceramics, "Buckley Ware" clay pipe fragment etc. Layer is 240 mm thick below the fireplace but only 40 mm thick adjacent to the possible wall 33.	Below 31 Above 36 Abuts 20

Context	Description	Relationships
33	Large stone blocks roughly aligning with the return on wall 20 and wall 6. The blocks are up to 400 X 300 X 300 mm in size with carefully cut faces. Now slightly displaced their position and relationship to a hollow in the western face of Wall 20 suggests a cross wall at this point. These blouses appear to occupy the southern extent of (35) and are possibly part of the modern make up, however the good cut shape, similar to that used as the return to wall 20 suggest this stone may not have moved far.	Below 32 Within 35
34	Orange brown gritty, sandy clay with the occasional stone block up to 100 mm in size. No other finds were located.	Below 16 Above 40 Cut by 35
35	Cut running parallel to possible wall 33	Below 16 Contains 31, 33
36	Cobbled surface consisting of water worn cobbles up to 250 X 200 mm in size and the rare large stone block up to 450 X 250 mm in size. Directly below 32 with some of the ceramics lodged in the gaps between the cobbles. Probably 19th century in date. Located 550 mm below the current floor surface. The surface tends to slope down towards the Wall (20) by about 50 mm over the width of the trench. The surface is slightly uneven giving the impression of an exterior yard rather than a floor, however, this would mean a period of abandonment with no roof which seems unlikely.	Below 32 Above 37
37	Layer of large stones laid flat immediately below the cobbled floor (36). The stone are sub angular to rounded in character and up to 350 X 300 x 100 mm in size. They appear to be the remains of a rough surface as all of the top surfaces are smoothed and worn. Around these stones is an orangish brown clayey silt with many small fragments of slate (both purple and grey) fleck of mortar and coal. The northern side of this layer was not present as the cobbles used for context 36 were deeper at this point.	Below 36 Above 38, 39
38	Cobbled surface, well laid with rounded pebbles typically 150 mm X 60 mm in size and some more angular pieces. The full extent of this layer is unknown	Below 37, 39

Context	Description	Relationships
39	Coal rich layer adjacent to the wall, but below the cobbled layer (36). A band 340 mm wide running parallel to wall (20). Orange brown clayey sand with many fleck and small pieces (up to 20 mm) of coal together with some flecks of mortar and crushed slate. The layer is up to 100 mm thick.	Below 36, 37 Above 38
40	Rough layer of cobbles. Sub angular and sub rounded stones up to 300 X 300 mm in size, but more typically 150 X 150 mm set in a fairly random pattern, but all closely packed and with well-worn top surface. At approximately 380 mm below the current floor surface, this clearly a higher surface than (36).	Below 34 Cut by 35

Appendix 2: Brief

1. DESIGN BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT, HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING, STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND LIMITED EVALUATION

Site: Porth Mawr / East Gate, Caernarfon

Date: 9th September 2016

National Grid Reference: SH4790162823

Planning reference: Pre-application

Applicant: Donald Insall Associates on behalf of Cadw

This design brief is only valid for six months after the above date. After this period Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service should be contacted. It is recommended that the contractor appointed to carry out the archaeological work visits the site of the proposed development and consults the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) for north-west Wales before completing their specification. Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service cannot guarantee the inclusion of all relevant information in the design brief.

Key elements specific to this design brief have been highlighted.

1.0 Site Location and Description

1.1 For the purposes of this brief the site comprises the Porth Mawr / East Gate, Caernarfon, also known as the Exchequer Gate.

1.2 This study must investigate the north and south towers, the central passageway and parapet and no. 3 Hole in the Wall Street as illustrated on Donald Insall Associates drawing PMAC.01.

1.3 Porth Mawr forms part of Caernarfon Town Walls, a Scheduled Monument (Scheduled Monument reference number CN034) and part of the World Heritage Site, The Castles and Town Walls of King Edward I in Gwynedd.

1.4 The gate is also a grade II* Listed Building (Listed Building Reference number 3869) and falls within Caernarfon Town Conservation Area.

2.0 Archaeological Background

2.1 Caernarfon was founded by Edward I under the Statute of Wales in 1284 on the site of Earl Hugh's Norman motte and bailey. It was the centre of government for the historic counties of Caernarvon, Anglesey and Merioneth and was protected by the erection of Caernarfon Castle and the fortified Town Wall which surrounded the borough.

2.2 Porth Mawr or East Gate was the main landward entrance to the medieval town. It accommodated the Exchequer, the financial and administrative headquarters of North West Wales throughout the medieval period.

2.3 After significant damage to the town walls in 1294-95 Porth Mawr was rebuilt in 1301-2 along with a five arched stone bridge which included a barbican (illustrated Porth Mawr /

East Gate, on Boydell's engraving of 1750) and a draw bridge over the river Cadnant (now canalised).

2.4 The exact appearance of the medieval gate is not known however the exchequer chamber is thought to have been lit from above by the provision of a louvre. The successor to this louvre, a tall spire-like structure, can be seen in the three Buck engravings of Caernarfon published in 1742.

2.5 The East Gate was altered in 1767 and again in 1833 in order to accommodate Caernarfon Town Hall.

2.6 The town hall was in turn replaced by the Guildhall in 1872. This involved extensive modifications to the original form of the gate. The guildhall was demolished in 1963 and the present parapet redesigned.

2.7 Whilst the National Monuments Record holds an excellent photographic survey of the exterior of the gate and guildhall taken in the 1950s there is little record of the internal layout of the building at any period.

2.8 The internal elevations of the gate retain blocked openings, redundant fire places and evidence of former walls and floors. There are no upper floors extant inside either of the towers or within Number 3, Hole in the Wall Street.

2.9 The ground floor of the north tower is covered with modern slate chippings. Some masonry is visible projecting through the chippings and Cadw recently undertook some limited investigation of this masonry (see Tim Morgan's study in the Cadw archive). Further work will be required to understand the potential for surviving below ground archaeological remains and deposits within this tower.

2.10 The south tower and the adjoining Number 3 Hole in the Wall Street both contain solid floors, comprising in part stone paving alongside large areas of concrete hardstanding. Whilst the below ground archaeological potential in these areas is currently unknown, it is hoped that investigations inside the north tower will be used to help inform an understanding of the potential within the south tower.

3.0 The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

3.1 The proposed scheme comprises plans to conserve and better manage the monument which is in state ownership and the guardianship of Cadw. This will be achieved by addressing the current conservation issues within the north tower and providing access to the town wall by the provision of a stair and lift within the north tower. It is proposed that the south tower and adjoining number 3 Hole in the Wall Street will be entirely refurbished and redeveloped as holiday accommodation. See Donald Insall Associated drawings (project reference PMAC.01).

3.2 This is a design brief for a staged programme of archaeological works, to be undertaken prior to planning consent, in accordance with guidelines set out in Planning Policy Wales 2016 and Welsh Office Circular 60/96 (Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology). This phase will comprise:

3.3 See section 4 for further detail.

3.4 The objective of this programme of archaeological works is to make full and effective use of existing information to establish the archaeological significance of the site; to assess the impact of the development proposals on surviving masonry, features and/or below ground remains; and to help inform future decision making, design solutions and potential mitigation strategies.

3.5 The objectives of the study are: To provide a comprehensive archaeological historic building record To develop a statement of significance for Porth Mawr To develop a mitigation strategy to support a planning application for the proposed scheme of work (see 3.1 above) To provide a level of understanding that can inform design, conservation, management and interpretation for the site

3.6 The following documentation must be consulted in relation to this brief:

Cadw 2011. Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the sustainable management of the Historic Environment in Wales. Welsh Government, Cardiff

Davidson, A & Gwyn, D, 1996. Archaeological Assessment Eastgate Street, Caernarfon. Unpublished report prepared by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, report no. 202.

English Heritage, 2016. Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice. English Heritage, London.

ICOMOS, 2011. Heritage Properties. ICOMOS, Paris Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World

RCAHMW 1960. An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Caernarvonshire Volume II. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London

Taylor, A.J. 1953. Caernarvon Castle and Town Walls – Department of the Environment Official Handbook. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London

3.7 Any additional stages of work further to that described by this brief will require prior approval of a new detailed specification by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service and Cadw.

3.8 This design brief should be used by the archaeological contractor as the basis for the preparation of a detailed written archaeological specification. The specification must be submitted to the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service and Cadw for approval before the work commences.

3.9 The specification should contain, as a minimum, the following elements:

- details of the proposed works as precisely as is reasonably possible, indicating clearly on a plan their location and extent
- a research design which sets out the site-specific objectives of the archaeological works
- field methodology
- the level and grade of all key project staff along with details of their relevant experience and a brief resume
- details of external specialists (where applicable)
- a timetable for the proposed works, including contingency if appropriate

- the intended method of publication
- archive deposition
- reference to relevant legislation
- health and safety considerations
- monitoring procedures

4.0 Archaeological Programme Detail

Desk-based assessment detail

4.1 The assessment must consider the following: a) the nature, extent and degree of survival of archaeological and masonry features, structures and deposits within the study area through the development of an archaeological deposit model. This deposit model should reflect accurately the state of current knowledge and provide a research agenda for further work if necessary [See 4.2 below for further details] b) the significance of any remains in their context both regionally and nationally c) the history of the site [See section 4.3 below for further details] d) the potential impact of the proposed development on the setting of masonry and archaeological features of importance.

4.2 Development of the archaeological deposit model will involve the following areas of research:

- a) collation and assessment of all relevant information held in the HER
- b) assessment of all available excavation reports and archives (including unpublished and unprocessed material) affecting the site and its setting
- c) assessment of all extant photographic, pictorial or other evidence
- d) assessment of archive records held at Gwynedd Archives, Caernarfon, and as appropriate, RCAHMS and University College Bangor
- e) assessment of the archive records held by Cadw (a visit to Cadw's offices in Nantgarw will be required)
- f) assessment of the environmental potential of the archaeological deposits through existing data or by inference
- g) assessment of the faunal potential of the archaeological deposits through existing data or by inference
- h) assessment of the artefactual potential of the archaeological deposits through existing data or by inference
- i) assessment of available geotechnical information for the area including the results of test pits and boreholes
- j) assessment of the present topography and land use of the area through maps and site inspection

4.3 Assessment of the history of the site will involve the following:

- a) a review of relevant published sources

b) an analysis of relevant maps, plans and other relevant illustrative material. Cartographic evidence is held at the County Record Offices, including tithe maps, enclosure act plans, estate maps and all editions of the Ordnance Survey. A visit to Bangor University

c) an analysis of the historical documents (e.g. county histories, local and national journals and antiquarian sources) held in museums, libraries or other archives, in particular local history and archives library.

d) a review of the records held by National Library Wales, British Museum Collection and Cadw (a visit to Cadw's office in Nantgarw to review the archive material held there will be required)

Archaeological Historic Building Record The archaeological building record will comprise a Comprehensive Record of the building.

4.4 Recording methodology should be in accordance with Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidance (see 5.0 General Requirements below).

4.5 The detailed building record elements should be roughly commensurate with the English Heritage 'Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice' (2006) Level 4 and should include the following elements (in the case of historical sources, where such sources exist):

- written account 1-3, 5-22;
- drawings 2-11;
- photographs 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9.

4.6 A laser scan has been undertaken of the entire building (Russell Geomatics Ltd August 2016 Project Reference QD1217) allowing elevations and long sections to be constructed through the structure. The very detailed survey data will mean that limited additional fieldwork will be required in this respect. The survey data will require annotation, analysis and interpretation, supported by photographic, cartographic and other source material and presented in an archaeological format.

4.7 Further detailed drawings may be required of particular architectural elements. All window openings are currently boarded up and some details which require recording may therefore be obscured at present.

4.8 Photographs must be high quality, suitably lit and including a metric scale; both black-and-white and colour photography should be used where appropriate.

4.9 Each plate should be clearly labelled with the subject, orientation and the date taken, and cross-referenced to its digital file.

4.10 If utilising digital technology, high resolution images must be taken (preferably in RAW format and archived as TIFF files). Selected images should be presented within the report as a hard copy and a compact disc of all photographs must be included as an archive to accompany the report.

4.11 The internal spaces have no natural or artificial light and lighting will be required to facilitate both the Archaeological Historic Building Survey and the Archaeological Field Evaluation. Archaeological field evaluation detail

4.11 The following intrusive field evaluation techniques must be employed as part of this phase of work:

- Clearance of the slate chippings in the north tower by hand
- Hand cleaning within the north tower until archaeological horizons are exposed

4.12 This work should be informed by the desk-based research and building recording exercises.

4.13 Once archaeological horizons have been exposed the appointed archaeologist will arrange a site meeting with Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service, Cadw and Donald Insall Associates to agree a strategy for intrusive archaeological excavation and recording (Phase 2).

4.14 A Further Archaeological Works Design / Updated Project Design will be prepared by the appointed archaeologist and agreed by all parties prior to beginning Phase 2.

4.14 Research objectives for phase 2 will be agreed within the Further Archaeological Works Design / Updated Project Design. The methodology must consider the use of the following techniques:

- a) a programme of archaeological trial trenching, test pitting and/or cores to investigate the archaeological deposit model in more detail
- b) potential to preserve remains in situ
- c) further archaeological building recording
- d) archaeological excavation
- e) archaeological survey / recording

4.15 The effectiveness of the selected technique should be established through a test area before undertaking survey of the whole area and alternative methods of evaluation considered if necessary. 4.16 Any variation to the agreed evaluation technique must be agreed in advance with GAPS and Cadw.

Statement of Significance

4.17 The above must be used to aid in the preparation of a Statement of Significance which will be included within the final report.

4.18 The statement of significance will be prepared with reference to:

- Cadw's Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the sustainable management of the Historic Environment in Wales 2011.
- The adopted Statement of Significance for the Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site.
- The draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site.
- The Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site management plan.

4.19 The statement should be detailed and supported by an appropriate level of evidence on which conclusions have been reached.

5.0 Results and Reporting

5.1 The results must be presented in a bound report and should be detailed and laid out in such a way that data and supporting text are readily cross-referenced. The HER Officer should be contacted to ensure that any sites or monuments not previously recorded in the HER are given a Primary Record Number (PRN) and that data structure is compatible with the HER.

5.2 The deposit model should be presented graphically in plan and, where appropriate, in profile and at a scale that is commensurate with subsequent use as a working document.

5.3 Within the report an attempt should be made to indicate areas of greater or lesser archaeological significance and potential and the masonry and archaeological features should be ranked in level of overall importance (locally, regionally and nationally).

5.4 All relevant historic maps, photographs, drawings or other archive data must be included and be fully referenced.

5.5 Any site photographs included in the report should be appropriately captioned and clearly located on a suitably scaled site plan.

5.6 The final report should specifically include the following:

- a copy of the design brief and agreed specification
- a location plan based on current OS mapping at an appropriate scale
- A Statement of Significance
- sufficient historical and archaeological detail to allow interpretation of the results and to support an assessment of significance
- full dimensional and descriptive detail of significant features
- all identified features and significant finds plotted on an appropriately scaled site plan
- a gazetteer of all located sites with full dimensional and descriptive detail including grid reference and, where possible, period
- a full bibliography of sources consulted
- an archive compact disc

5.5 Any relevant desk-based sources included for the purposes of interpretation and analysis must be fully referenced, and related to both the archaeological work and the development proposals.

5.6 The report should include an assessment of the potential for further archaeological investigation and give recommendations for an appropriate future strategy.

6.0 General requirements

6.1 The archaeological assessment and evaluation must be undertaken by an appropriately qualified individual or organisation, fully experienced in work of this character.

6.2 Details, including the name, qualifications and experience of the project director and all other key project personnel (including specialist staff) should be communicated to the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service and all written work attributed to an author(s).

6.3 Contractors and subcontractors are expected to conform to standard professional guidelines. The following are of particular relevance to this project:

- English Heritage, 1991. Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)
- English Heritage, 2006. Management Of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE)
- Brown D. H., 2007. Archaeological Archives A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, Transfer and curation. Archaeological Archives Forum
- Richards, J. & Robinson, D., 2000. Digital Archives from Excavation and Fieldwork: Guide to Good Practice (Second Edition). The Archaeology Data Service Guide to Good Practice: Oxbow Books <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/goodguides/excavation/>
- The Institute for Archaeologists, 1985 (revised 2010). Code of Conduct
- The Institute for Archaeologists, 1990 (revised 2008). Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology
- The Institute for Archaeologists, 1994 (revised 2009) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
- The Institute for Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2008) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation
- The Institute for Archaeologists, 2001 (revised 2008). Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials
- The Institute for Archaeologists, 2008. Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives

6.4 Many people in North Wales speak Welsh as their first language, and many of the archive and documentary references are in Welsh. Contractors should therefore give due consideration to their ability to understand and converse in Welsh.

6.5 The archaeological contractor must satisfy themselves that all constraints to groundworks have been identified, including the siting of live services and any potential Health and Safety issues/constraints. Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service bears no responsibility for the inclusion or exclusion of such information within this brief.

6.6 The archaeological contractor must take responsibility for the management, removal and appropriate disposal of all spoil, including slate waste, including for the application for and receipt of all necessary Licences from the local authority. The contractor will need to liaise fully with Cadw/WG and owners of neighbouring properties who may be affected during the course of the works.

6.7 Any changes to the specifications that the archaeological contractor may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated to Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service and Cadw and approved before implementation.

6.8 Care must be taken in dealing with human remains and the appropriate environmental health regulations followed. Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service, Cadw and the local Coroner must be informed immediately if human remains are discovered.

6.9 Arrangements for the long-term storage and deposition of all artefacts must be agreed with the landowner and Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service before the commencement of investigation.

6.10 The involvement of Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service and Cadw should be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

6.11 A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project should be prepared in accordance with standard guidance. All plans, photographs and descriptions should be labelled, cross-referenced and lodged in an appropriate place (to be agreed with Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service) within six months of the completion of the project.

6.12 Two copies of the bound report must be sent to the address below, one copy marked for the attention of the Senior Planning Archaeologist, the other for attention of the HER Officer, who will deposit the copy in the HER.

6.13 A digital copy of the report should be sent to Cadw – email:

ian.halfpenney@wales.gsi.gov.uk

6.14 A second digital copy of the report should be archived with The National Monument Record held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) - email: Gareth.Edwards@rcahmw.gov.uk

7.0 Curatorial monitoring

7.1 The project will be monitored by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service and Cadw to ensure the fulfilment of the brief and specifications. The Senior Planning Archaeologist will normally review the progress of reports and archive preparation. The archaeological contractor must inform Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service and Cadw in writing of the proposed start dates for the project and any subsequent phases of work.

8.0 Further information

8.1 This document outlines best practice expected for a programme of archaeological mitigation but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. If requirements of the brief cannot be met they should only be excluded or altered after gaining written approval of the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service.

8.2 Further details or clarification of any aspects of the brief may be obtained from the Senior Planning Archaeologist at the address below.

Ashley Batten Uwch Archaeolegydd Cynllunio – Senior Planning Archaeologist

Gwasanaeth Cynllunio Archaeolegol

Gwynedd - Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service

Craig Beuno,

Ffordd Y Garth,

Bangor, Gwynedd

LL57 2RT

Ffôn/Tel: 01248 370926

Ffacs/Fax: 01248 370925

ashley.batten@heneb.co.uk

Appendix 3: Specification

Specification for the Archaeological Assessment of Porth Mawr, Caernarfon.

Specification written by I.P. Brooks 27/09/2016

1. Background

- 1.1. There are plans to conserve and better manage the Porth Mawr, which is in state ownership and the guardianship of Cadw. This will be achieved by addressing the current conservation issues within the north tower and providing access to the town wall by the provision of a stair and lift within the north tower. It is proposed that the south tower and adjoining number 3 Hole in the Wall Street will be entirely refurbished and redeveloped as holiday accommodation
- 1.2. This tender is a joint venture between Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd and Govannon Consultancy
 - 1.2.1. The lead on this project will be Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd
- 1.3. This specification is based the brief dated 9th September 2016 by Ashley Batten

2. Aims

- 2.1. To make full and effective use of existing information to establish the archaeological significance of the site; to assess the impact of the development proposals on surviving masonry, features and/or below ground remains; and to help inform future decision making, design solutions and potential mitigation strategies..

3. Assessment program

- 3.1. The programme of works shall include:
 - 3.1.1. Desktop study
 - 3.1.2. Building recording
 - 3.1.3. Archaeological Field Evaluation
 - 3.1.4. Preparation of Statement of Significance
 - 3.1.5. Analysis and report preparation

4. Methodology

- 4.1. Desktop Study
 - 4.1.1. The desktop study will be carried out by Dr. D. Gwyn MCIfA, FSA of Govannon Consultancy
 - 4.1.2. The following records and cartographic materials will be consulted as part of the desktop study:
 - 4.1.2.1. The Gwynedd Historic Environment Record
 - 4.1.2.2. The Bangor University Department of Manuscripts.
 - 4.1.2.3. The Archives held by Cadw at Nantgarw.
 - 4.1.2.4. The National Monuments Record held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales.
 - 4.1.2.5. The National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth

- 4.1.2.6. The British Museum Collection
- 4.1.2.7. Other records, both digital and published will be consulted as necessary
- 4.1.3. If the copyright holder agrees copies of any maps or images will be included within the report.
- 4.1.4. All sources will be fully listed and shall include accession numbers
- 4.2. Standing Building Recording
 - 4.2.1. Porth Mawr will be recorded to a level equivalent to Level 4 of English Heritage (2006) *'Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice'*
 - 4.2.2. The record will include written, drawn and photographic recording of the structure.
 - 4.2.2.1. The Written Record will include:
 - 4.2.2.2. The precise location
 - 4.2.2.3. A note of the statutory designation
 - 4.2.2.4. Date of the record
 - 4.2.2.5. A table of contents
 - 4.2.2.6. An expanded summary of the building's type or purpose, historically and at present, its materials and possible date(s)
 - 4.2.2.7. An introduction, setting out the circumstances in which the record is being made, methods, scope and limitations, and the constraints on the works
 - 4.2.2.8. Acknowledgements
 - 4.2.2.9. A discussion of published sources
 - 4.2.2.10. A discussion of primary documentary sources
 - 4.2.2.11. An account of the buildings overall form
 - 4.2.2.12. An account of the past and present uses of the building
 - 4.2.2.13. Any evidence for the former existence of demolished structures
 - 4.2.2.14. A summary of the findings of any specialist reports
 - 4.2.2.15. A discussion of the building's past and present relationship to its setting
 - 4.2.2.16. An assessment of the potential for further investigative or documentary work
 - 4.2.2.17. A discussion of the architectural and historical context and significance of the building
 - 4.2.2.18. Copies of historic maps, drawings, views or photograph illustrating the development of the building
 - 4.2.2.19. Copies of other records of the buildings
 - 4.2.2.20. Any further information from documentary sources
 - 4.2.2.21. Relevant information from the owners, builders, architects or others
 - 4.2.2.22. Full bibliography

4.2.3. The drawn record will be based on laser scanning of the building carried out by Russell Geomatics Ltd. It will include:

- 4.2.3.1. Measured plans
- 4.2.3.2. Measured drawings recording the form or location of significant structural details
- 4.2.3.3. Measured cross and long sections
- 4.2.3.4. Measured drawings showing the form of any architectural decoration
- 4.2.3.5. Measured elevation
- 4.2.3.6. Site plan
- 4.2.3.7. A plan showing the location and direction of accompanying photographs
- 4.2.3.8. Copies of earlier drawings
- 4.2.3.9. Three-dimensional projections if of value
- 4.2.3.10. Reconstructional drawings and phased drawings

4.2.4. The photographs will be taken with a Nikon D5300 digital camera with a resolution of 24.2-megapixel. Photographs will be taken in raw (NEF) format and converted to Tiff format for archiving.

- 4.2.4.1. The photographic record will include:
- 4.2.4.2. General views of the building
- 4.2.4.3. The buildings external appearance
- 4.2.4.4. The overall appearance of the principal rooms
- 4.2.4.5. Any external or internal structural or decorative details
- 4.2.4.6. Any dates or other inscriptions, any signage, maker's plates or graffiti
- 4.2.4.7. Any building contents or ephemera
- 4.2.4.8. Copies of maps, drawings, views and photographs present in the building.

4.3. Archaeological Evaluation

4.3.1. The slate chipping presently covering the floor of the will be cleared and the underlying deposits cleaned by hand until archaeologically significant deposits are exposed.

4.3.2. Given the restrictions of the site it is likely that this will be achieved in two phases with the chippings being moved to one end of the tower to allow the archaeological evaluation of the bulk of the floor to be undertaken. Once this has taken place the area of the spoil heap will then be assessed.

4.3.3. All features or archaeologically significant deposits revealed by the ground works will be fully recorded including:

4.3.4. A written description of deposit: type, components etc.

4.3.5. Drawn plans and elevations (if necessary) at suitable scales

4.3.6. Photographs will be taken with a Nikon D5300 Digital SLR Camera at a resolution of 24.2 MP

- 4.3.7. The photographs will include metric scales
- 4.3.8. All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded by context.
- 4.3.9. Each deposit, feature or layer will be identified by a unique context number to which all other records will be related
- 4.3.10. Plan drawing showing extent of deposit.
- 4.3.11. Elevation drawing of any feature recorded to record vertical stratigraphy.
- 4.3.12. Once the archaeological deposits have been revealed a meeting will be arranged with Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service, Cadw and Donald Insall Associates to agree a strategy for any intrusive archaeological excavation and recording (Phase 2)

4.4. Statement of Significance

- 4.4.1. A statement of significance will be prepared taking into account:
 - 4.4.1.1. Cadw's Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the sustainable management of the Historic Environment in Wales 2011.
 - 4.4.1.2. The adopted Statement of Significance for the Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site.
 - 4.4.1.3. The draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site.
 - 4.4.1.4. The Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site management plan.

5. Reporting

- 5.1. A summary report on the findings of the investigations will be prepared and completed within one month from completion of the project. This will summarise the results of the project including;
 - 5.1.1. Results of the Desktop Study
 - 5.1.2. Results of the Standing Building Recording.
 - 5.1.3. Results of the Archaeological Evaluation
 - 5.1.4. The Statement of Significance
 - 5.1.5. A copy of the Brief
 - 5.1.6. A copy of the agreed specification
 - 5.1.7. Copies of reports will be sent to the client, the Historic Environment Record held Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
 - 5.1.8. Up to five hard copies of the report will be produced together with a digital copy in PDF format
 - 5.1.9. Two hard copies and a digital copy will be supplied to the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (one for the HER)
 - 5.1.10. A digital copy of the report will be supplied to Cadw
 - 5.1.11. A digital copy will be supplied to the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales

6. General

6.1. IFA Code of Conduct

6.1.1. All staff will abide by, and all procedures be carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct.

6.2. Health and Safety

6.2.1. EAS Ltd adopt and adhere to safe working practices at all times. A copy of the company's general statement of policy is available on request.

6.2.2. A risk assessment will be carried out prior to any fieldwork

6.3. Staff

6.3.1. The project will be directed by Dr I.P. Brooks MCIfA, FSA

6.3.2. Project Staff will include Dr I.P. Brooks MCIfA, FSA, for Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd, and Dr D Gwyn MCIfA, FSA for Govannon Consultancy

6.4. Timetable

6.4.1. Desktop study

6.4.1.1. Consult records of the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record and The archive section of Bangor University: 1 day

6.4.1.2. Consult the records of The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales and The National Library: 1 day

6.4.1.3. Consult records of Cadw: 1 day

6.4.1.4. Consult records of British Museum: 1 day

6.4.1.5. Standing Building Recording

6.4.1.6. Fieldwork: 1 day.

6.4.1.7. Archaeological Evaluation

6.4.1.8. Fieldwork: 5 days

6.4.1.9. Statement of Significance: 2 days

6.4.1.10. Analysis and report preparation: 6 days

6.5. Liaison

6.5.1. The Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service and Cadw will be informed in advance of the works being carried out.

6.5.2. Procedures will be put in place for the monitoring of the project by the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service and Cadw

6.6. Insurance

6.6.1. EAS Ltd carries all necessary Public and Employee Liability Insurances.

6.6.2. EAS Ltd carries Professional Indemnity Insurance.

6.7. Copyright

6.7.1. EAS Ltd shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documentation, under the Copyrights, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved: excepting that it hereby provides an

exclusive license to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

EAS Ltd is prepared to assign copyright at the request of the client

Appendix 4: Specification for further work

Revised Proposal for Further Archaeological Works at Porth Mawr, Caernarfon

Proposal Written by I.P. Brooks 15/11/2016

1. Background

- 1.1. After being awarded the contract to investigate Porth Mawr, Caernarfon (PMAC.01) the majority of the fieldwork has now been carried out with the fieldwork for the building recording and the majority of the gravel on the floor of the northern chamber having been removed. This work has revealed the potential archaeological features which are considered suitable for further study in order to help inform future decision making, design solutions and potential mitigation strategies in the conservation and modification of the gate house.
- 1.2. A meeting was held on 13/12/2016, on site, with Chris Wilson (Cadw), Ian Halfpenney (Cadw), Franziska Sieck (Donald Insall Associates), Matt Osmont (Donald Insall Associates) and Ashley Batten (GAPS) to discuss the results of the current project and to suggest possible courses of action. This proposal is a result of these discussions.

2. Summary of the current works (Figure 1)

- 2.1. Two wide (approximately 1.3m) walls have been defined (Context 6 and 20, Figure 1) within the northern chamber of the gatehouse, which are assumed to be part of the original medieval structure. Context 6 runs under both the northern and western walls of the gatehouse and has a return at its southern end marked by faced stone block. The other wall (Context 20) runs parallel to Context 6 at a distance of 4.26 m. It extends into the fireplace and probably beneath the northern wall of the gatehouse. To the south is a spread of mortar rich material (Context 21) which continues the line of the wall and is probably the disturbed remains of Context 20. This view is enhanced by a stone block within Context 21 which aligns with the southern return to Context 6, suggesting a similar return to the wall (Contexts 20 and 21).
- 2.2. Crossing, and above Context 6 is a narrow, rough wall (Context 10) which also appears to run below the western gable wall of the gatehouse. The wall itself runs for 2.53 m, however the eastern end appears to be marked by a possible post-hole defined by two patches of mortar rich deposits and an area of orangey brown sandy silt.
- 2.3. To the north is an area of crushed lime mortar (Context 15) which is distinct from the general trampled surface (Context 16) at this end of the building.
- 2.4. To the east of the wall, Context 20, are two features. Context 24 and 25 mark an area of clay with a slight pink tinge suggesting it may have been heated. Context 27

is a cut feature 1.0 x 1.16 m in size filled with a disturbed layer (Context 26). This feature is clearly relatively modern and may be the result of the previous archaeological work carried out in the gatehouse.

- 2.5. Two other modern features were also located (Context 23 and 29), both of these contained twentieth century sweet wrappers and crisp packet. Context 29 is probably related to the restoration work carried out in the embrasure at the eastern end of the bastion.
- 2.6. Two floor levels were detected. The upper level (Contexts 9 and 11) are of concrete and probably had tiles, whilst the lower floor (Context 17) is of had made brick of eighteenth or early nineteenth century type. It is possible that the occasional brick exposed to the west of Context 20 are also part of this brick flooring.
- 2.7. The majority of the area has a trampled surface (Context 16 and 30) with the difference between these layers being marked by a difference in the level of mortar fragments within their make-up.
- 2.8. Only the loose material within the two previous archaeological trenches has been removed. No attempt was made to remove the backfill within these features (Context 2 and 4)

3. Proposed

- 3.1. The trampled nature of the majority of the floor make the determination of significant archaeological feature or deposits extremely difficult. Of particular concern is the trampling over the southern end of the cross wall (Context 21) which obscures the extent of the wall and the possibility of a return at its southern end. It is therefore proposed to remove this trampled layer with the aim to define extent of the cross wall.
- 3.2. The excavation of a trench, generally 1 m wide to be aligned along the western side of the cross wall (Context 20) and to run the full width of the northern gate chamber (Figure 2). This trench is to test the theory that the walls (Contexts 6 and 20) form two sides of a gate chamber, to inspect the deposits between the two walls and to see if there are any contemporary floor levels between the two walls. This trench will also evaluate the archaeological potential for the site of the proposed lift.
 - 3.2.1. Excavation will be carried out by hand with deposits being removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon (such as a floor), to natural bedrock or to an agreed depth, whichever occurs first. The maximum depth will be agreed with Ian Halfpenney (Cadw) and Ashley Batten (GAPS)

4. Timetable

- 4.1. Removal of the trampled layers and cleaning the deposits below: 1 day
- 4.2. Excavation of a trench to the west of Context 20: 7 days

4.3. Analysis and reporting: 2 days (above that already agreed)