

Archaeology Wales

Land Adjacent to No.9 Elliston Terrace, Carmarthen

Archaeological Evaluation



By
Andrew Shobbrook & Philip Poucher

Report No. 1616

Archaeology Wales

Land Adjacent to No.9 Elliston Terrace, Carmarthen

Archaeological Evaluation

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Non-Technical Summary

In September 2017 Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) undertook a programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation prior to the commencement of ground works associated with the planned demolition of existing single storey terrapin building and construction of a two storey office building on land adjacent to No.9 Elliston Terrace, Carmarthen, centred on SN 41338 20406.

The development site is located in the northwest corner of the Roman town of Moridunum, and potentially lies on the line of some of the Roman town defences. The town also saw occupation throughout the medieval and post-medieval period, and archaeological remains relating to these periods may also survive. Consequently Dyfed Archaeological Trust, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, requested a programme of archaeological work in advance of groundworks to help identify and record the archaeological resource.

The evaluation comprised the archaeological investigation of a single machine-excavated T shaped trench sited immediately adjacent to the planned development area. The evaluation trench reached a depth of 0.96m, no natural ground was encountered, and no Roman, early medieval or medieval finds, features or deposits were encountered. All deposits were readily dateable to the 18th century at the earliest, but are considered likely to relate to levelling and construction deposits related to late 19th and early 20th century construction activity in the area, potentially infilling sunken ground overlying the former Roman ditch defences.

The potential for archaeological deposits within the proposed development area remains, however it is considered likely that the former Roman defensive ditch extends across the proposed development area, and therefore that infilling post-medieval and modern deposits also extend across the proposed development area. It is also considered likely that the ground has been further disturbed during the 20th century.

Foundations designs had not yet been finalised, but it is recommended that raft foundations may be preferable to reduce the depth of groundworks required, and therefore reduce the impact on potential archaeological remains within the proposed development site. It is further recommended that an archaeological watching brief should be maintained during groundwork in order to identify and record any archaeological remains should they be present.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been prepared by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) in response to a request from Sauro Architectural Design to undertake an archaeological evaluation ahead of a proposed development on land adjacent to No.9 Elliston Terrace, Carmarthen, centred on SN 41338 20406 (Figure 1 and 2). The associated Planning Application No. is W/33850.
- 1.2 The development site is located in the northwest corner of the Roman town of Moridunum, and potentially lies on the line of some of the Roman town defences. Part of the defensive ditch has been revealed in excavations some 60m to the southeast of this site, and it is thought that further remains of the Roman town and its defences could survive in this area. The town also saw occupation throughout the medieval and post-medieval period, and archaeological remains relating to these periods may also survive.
- 1.3 An archaeological evaluation was requested by Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management (DAT-DM) in its capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority (Carmarthenshire County Council). DAT-DM recommended that a programme of archaeological work be undertaken at the development site as a Condition of the planning permission. This work has taken the form of an intrusive evaluation undertaken prior to the commencement of ground works to assess the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource, to help inform design strategies and subsequent archaeological mitigation.
- 1.4 The recommendations made by DAT-DM are set out in a letter to Carmarthenshire County Council dated 2/6/17. The subsequent planning permission condition reads:
 - No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority.
- 1.5 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological evaluation was produced by Archaeology Wales and approved by DAT-DM (see Appendix II). The subsequent evaluation fieldwork comprised a single machine-excavated trench strategically positioned over the area of development on land adjacent to No.9 Elliston Terrace, Carmarthen. The work was designed to elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent and relative significance.
- 1.6 The evaluation took place on the 21st of September 2017. The project and fieldwork was managed and supervised by Philip Poucher. A site monitoring visit was undertaken by DAT-DM on the 21st of September.
- 1.7 All work conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014) and was undertaken by suitably qualified staff to the highest professional standards.
- 1.8 The AW project number for the work is 2553 and the site code is ETC/17/EV. The project details are summarised on the Archive Cover Sheet (Appendix III).

2 Site Description

- 2.1 The site lies in the centre of the town of Carmarthen in central Carmarthenshire. The land adjacent to No.9 Elliston Terrace lies close to the junction of Francis Terrace, Little Water Street and Barn Road, in a residential area of central Carmarthen.
- 2.2 The site occupies a corner plot, with a curving frontage along Elliston Terrace/Francis Terrace, from which the site is accessed. The site is covered with levelled hardcore, on which stands a single storey terrapin building. The terrapin building is a temporary structure, but has since been part encased in concrete blocks and render. The site is bounded to the northeast by No.46 Francis Terrace, and to the southeast by No.9 Elliston Terrace, with the boundary comprising part building and part rear garden walling.
- 2.3 The underlying geology of the area consists of mudstones of the Tetragraptus Beds. These are overlaid by sands and gravels representing glaciofluvial deposits of the Devensian (BGS viewer 2016).

3 Historical Background

- 3.1 Carmarthen itself has a long and important history as Wales's oldest town. A town was established here by the Romans in the 1st century AD, known as Moridunum, and operating as the civitas, or tribal capital, for all of Southwest Wales. In the mid-2nd century the town was provided with a planned gridded street layout, the extent of which is still preserved in many of the modern streets. Francis Terrace and Little Water Street, along with Old Oak Lane and The Parade/Esplanade, run along the former defences around the town. Elliston Terrace therefore sits within the northwest corner of the town limits. Excavations throughout Carmarthen have identified two phases to the former defences. The first phase defences, possibly constructed in the late 2nd century AD, appeared in part to be built over earlier Roman occupation levels, and comprised an internal bank with two or three external ditches, covering a width of 15m to 20m in total. Possibly within a hundred years of the construction of the original defences, these were replaced by walling (between 2.5m and 3.2m wide) along the former Phase 1 central defensive ditch, backed by a new wide rampart bank, with the possible addition of a new wide external defensive ditch. Archaeological investigations along Little Water Street identified a Phase 1 outer defensive ditch along the rear of the current properties fronting the street, with rampart clay immediately to the east. It is thought Little Water Street itself runs along the Phase 2 outer defensive ditch. It is also thought that the back lane from Andrews Road, which runs to the rear of the property boundaries of Elliston Terrace and Francis/Richmond Terrace, and lies almost immediately to the southeast of the development area (see Figure 2), represents the course of the 2nd phase defensive wall. The line of this wall has been identified in archaeological excavations lying to the rear of the properties along the south side of Richmond Terrace (James 2004, pp193-4). This would indicate that the development area lies within an area of outer defensive ditches.
- 3.2 Carmarthen is unusual, and perhaps unique in Wales, for seeing possible continued occupation after the collapse of Roman administration in the early 5th century. An important religious settlement, which later became the medieval priory of St John and St Teulyddog, was established immediately to the east of the town, possibly on the site of the former Roman cemetery. St Peter's Church, to the south of the development site, is also thought to have early medieval origins, noticeable in its location just inside the former Roman town, close to its west gate. It is likely that, during the early medieval period, settlement was

focused around these two religious sites. Settlement is likely to have spread along Priory Street to the east, and around Church Street and St Peter's Street to the south, with possible activity extending as far as Elliston Terrace.

- 3.3 After the Normans had invaded and secured territory in the area towards the end of the 11th century, they established a castle and settlement in Carmarthen. Remains of the castle are still visible to the west of the County Hall (which also sits within the grounds of the castle), and settlement was established initially to the northwest along Notts Square, and subsequently to the northeast along Spilman Street and King Street. This settlement was established separately to the pre-existing 'native' settlement that was still focused around St Peter's church and along Priory Street to the east. Carmarthen therefore remained an important settlement throughout the medieval period, with much of the new Norman settlement subsequently becoming a walled town, the existing settlement to the east may also have still been defended by the Roman defences. The Priory also became one of the richest in Wales.
- 3.4 The two adjacent settlements were finally amalgamated in 1546, and the town became the judicial and administrative centre for the new county of Carmarthenshire. From the 16th century to the early 18th century Carmarthen was the largest town in Wales, only surpassed by the emerging new industrial towns of southeast Wales in the 18th century. During the 17th century the town was fortified during the civil war, it is likely that this also included utilising the former Roman defences, which may have affected development in the Elliston Terrace area.
- 3.5 One of the earliest detailed maps of Carmarthen in 1786 depicts the site area as part of a partly wooded parkland or garden (PRN 100), fronted along the roadside to the west by a mill stream (possibly running along a former Roman defensive ditch), hence the name Little Water Street (Figure 5). Woods map of 1834 still shows the site area as part of an enclosed wooded park, but Elliston Terrace had been established to the south and east of the development site by the 1880s. The 1888 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 6) shows development along the western edge of the proposed development site.
- 3.6 By the early 20th another open-sided structure had been built against the eastern boundary, although the bulk of the proposed development area remained apparently undeveloped. At some point during the 20th century the site was redeveloped. The Ordnance Survey map of 1969 illustrates that the late 19th and early 20th century structures had been removed, and a square building constructed on the site, covering much of the area of proposed development. This building was presumably subsequently removed prior to the installation of the current Terrapin building, although the foundations may be the same.

4 Methodology

- 4.1 Prior to the evaluation fieldwork, a Written Scheme of Investigation was produced detailing the methodology for the archaeological evaluation. This was agreed by DAT-DM and a copy is included in Appendix II.
- 4.2 A single machine-excavated evaluation trench was placed within the development area, adjacent to the location of the planned foundations (Figures 2 & 3). The presence of the terrapin building on the site restricted the area available within which to place an evaluation trench. The trench was T-shaped, and measured 6.5m long by 0.9m wide, orientated northeast to southwest, with a 3m long spur to the northwest. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1m below current ground levels.

- 4.3 The trench was machine-excavated using a combination of flat-bladed and toothed-buckets in order to penetrate areas of compacted ground deposits. All excavation was undertaken under close archaeological supervision. The trenches were excavated to a safe working depth below the level of any anticipated foundation excavations.
- 4.4 All areas were hand-cleaned to prove the presence or absence of archaeological features and to determine their significance. Recording was carried out using Archaeology Wales recording systems (pro-forma context sheets, etc), using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.
- 4.5 Context numbers (100) to (114) were allotted during the fieldwork. These contexts are summarised in Appendix I.
- 4.6 Written, drawn and photographic records of an appropriate level of detail were maintained throughout the course of the project. Digital photographs were taken using cameras with a resolution of 10 mega pixels or above.
- 4.7 Plans and sections were drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10, as required.
- 4.8 The fieldwork took place on the 21st of September 2017.
- 4.9 A project archive will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure, as laid out in the project design (Appendix III).

5 Results of the Evaluation (Figure 4, Photos 1-8)

5.1 Evaluation Trench

- 5.1.1 During the evaluation no natural ground was encountered and all deposits recorded comprised of a series of tip lines and areas of hard standing yard surfaces dated to the post-medieval period and recent works.
- 5.1.2 Sequentially the earliest deposit found within the confines of the trench comprised a compact light-brown silty-clay (**deposit 106**), which contained frequent inclusions of small sub-angular stones, small pieces of coal and flecks of lime mortar. This was encountered at a depth of 0.28m below current ground level and was present within both arms of the trench. This deposit is considered to be the remains of deliberate backfilling associated with post-medieval landscaping. Overlying (106) a moderately compacted mid grey brown clay-silt had been deposited (**deposit 113**), which contained frequent inclusions of medium to large sized sub angular stones, charcoal, small pieces of mortar with occasional brick fragments, sub-rounded to sub-angular in shape. These appeared to have been tipped in from the south. This deposit measured 0.40m thick and had been deposited within the northwest-southeast arm of the trench. This in turn was covered by another deposit (**deposit 112**) that appears to have been tipped in from the south east. Deposit (112) comprised a moderately compacted light reddish brown sandy-clay, containing very frequent small to medium sized sub angular stones with some occasional brick, mortar and coal inclusions, measuring 0.30m thick. This deposit was similarly confined to the northwest-southeast arm of the trench.
- 5.1.3 Within the northeast-southwest arm of the trench the remains of an ephemeral cut was observed within the north west facing section of the trench [**cut 110**]. The cut where exposed measured approximately 3.5m wide by 0.38m deep with a moderate sloping north eastern edge that had been cut through earlier deposit (106). The remains of a loosely compacted light to mid brown silty-clay (**deposit 108**) had formed within the confines of cut [110], containing frequent inclusions of small sub angular stones, flecks of lime mortar and moderate

flecks of coal. Overlying (108) a loosely compacted light to mid brown silty clay had formed (**deposit 107**), containing frequent inclusions of small sub angular stones, small pieces of coal and flecks of lime mortar. This deposit is considered to be the remains of a tip line and measured 0.30m deep.

- 5.1.4 The remains of a steeply-sided pit [**cut 111**] was recorded within the central area of the trench, measuring roughly 1.64m in diameter by 0.58m deep. The pit had been cut from relatively high in the sequence of deposits, and was visible in both arms of the trench, cutting earlier contexts (106), (113), (108) and (107). Two separate fills were viewed within the confines of the pit, the lower fill (**deposit 114**) comprised a moderately compacted dark greyish-brown clay-silt and was noted to contain large inclusions of broken lime mortar mainly confined to the basal area of the deposit. This was overlain by a loosely compacted, dark greyish brown silty-clay (**deposit 109**), which was found to be very rich in artefacts, containing frequent finds of Victorian glass bottles, china, metal and pottery. This deposit also contained frequent inclusions of lime mortar flecks with occasional small sub-angular stones measuring 0.50m deep.
- 5.1.5 A previous hard standing surface (**deposit 101**) constructed entirely of waste coal ash was revealed in section throughout the entire evaluation trench, varying between 0.08m and 0.25m deep. This deposit was relatively firm throughout and appears to have been compacted.
- 5.1.6 Two separate modern clay service pipes were revealed, both of which were located within the northeast-southwest arm of the trench and are considered to relate to waste water disposal. Both service pipes had been cut through the ash hard standing deposit (101) making these features a relatively late event in the history of the site. The north-eastern pipe [**cut 105**] measured roughly 0.50m wide by 0.60m deep and contained a single fill of compact mid greyish brown silty-clay (**deposit 104**). The south-western pipe [**cut 103**] measured roughly 0.70m wide by 0.55mm deep and contained a single fill of compact mid brown silty clay (**deposit 102**).
- 5.1.7 The modern existing hard standing surface was recorded as the latest feature present on site, constructed of very compacted small pale grey angular stones, with the surface measuring between 0.08m and 0.22m deep.

5.2 *Artefactual and Environmental Data*

- 5.2.1 A number of finds were retrieved during the archaeological evaluation from all stratigraphic deposits and pit fills. Finds included fragments of pottery, glassware and ceramic building materials. All finds could readily be identified as 19th and 20th century in date, and represented mixed waste material distributed throughout the deposits. Deposit (109), the upper fill of pit [111] contained a greater concentration of artefacts, including several near-complete glass bottles and fragmented transfer-printed white-glazed pottery. These finds were dateable to the late 19th and early 20th century, and indicate the pit was used to dump waste household material. Once noted, these finds were not retained.
- 5.2.2 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered during the course of the evaluation.

6 Conclusions & Recommendations

- 6.1 One of the primary aims of the evaluation was to locate and describe, by means of strategic trial trenching, archaeological features that may be present within the development area. The work also aimed to elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance.
- 6.2 Research into previous archaeological investigations undertaken in the area (James 2004) suggest that the development site overlies an area of both Phase 1 and Phase 2 outer defensive ditches relating to the Roman town of Moridunum. In some areas these defences have been shown to overlie earlier Roman occupational deposits, although this only appears to be sporadic.
- 6.3 During the evaluation no natural ground was encountered, and all deposits encountered appeared to have been deposited at the earliest from the 18th century onwards. The lower deposits encountered (106), (107), (108), (113) and (112) may represent a series of clearance and landscaping efforts being conducted within the area prior to the construction of Elliston Terrace and Francis/Richmond Terrace during the 19th century. This hypothesis is based on the bulk of the finds being late 19th to early 20th century in date, the inclusions of mortar and rubble found within these deposits as well as indications these deposits were tipped into the evaluation area from a south easterly and south westerly direction.
- 6.4 The remains of a large pit [111] was recorded within the centre of the evaluation and was found to be rich in finds dating to the Victorian period, suggesting that this feature was a Victorian domestic refuge pit. However, the lower fill of the pit (114) contained large fragments of lime mortar near to the basal area, suggesting that it may have originally functioned as a mortar-mixing pit, possibly relating to the construction of Elliston terrace during the this period.
- 6.5 No evidence of defensive features associated with the Roman town was revealed, nor were any Roman finds, features or deposits. Similarly no early medieval, or medieval, finds, features or deposits were encountered. The evaluation trench reached a depth of 0.96m below current ground levels (19.14mOD). Given the depth of post-medieval deposits it is possible that they infill a depression left by the Roman defensive ditch belonging to the northwest corner of the Roman town of Moridunum.
- 6.6 The depth of modern disturbance and presence of archaeological remains with the footprint of the planned development could not be ascertained due to an existing structure on the site. Although no finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were discovered, it is possible that depths of potential archaeological deposits could vary across the site, especially given the anticipated rise of the inner ditch edge towards the corner of the Roman town. However, the projected line of the Phase 2 defensive wall, which itself overlies one of the Phase 1 external ditches, is believed to lie to the southeast of (outside) the development area (James 2004, Figure 2), suggesting the entire development site may overlie ditch deposits. A recent watching brief on the neighbouring property of No.9 Elliston Terrace (Shobbrook & Poucher 2017) also identified only post-medieval deposits to a depth of 0.7m below current ground levels. An examination of historic mapping also indicates a former building stood on the site by 1969, and it is presumably these foundations that were used for the current building, therefore 20th century ground disturbance across the proposed development site is likely.
- 6.7 Foundation solutions have not been finalised for the planned development. It is suggested however that raft foundations would present the best opportunity for reducing the likelihood

of disturbing archaeological remains by reducing the depth required for foundation excavations. It is also recommended that clearance work and any subsequent ground-disturbing works on the site should be archaeologically monitored in the form of an archaeological watching brief. Contingencies should also be built in to the planned development programme to allow for more extensive archaeological excavations on the site should significant archaeological remains become apparent within the development area.

7 Storage and Curation

- 7.1 The project archive will be prepared in accordance with: *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (ClfA, 2014), the requirements of the National Monuments Record (Wales) and the *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales* (National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017). The archive will be deposited with the RCAHMW.

8 Bibliography and References

Published / Unpublished

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014, *Standards and Guidance for a Field Evaluation*.

James, H 2003 *Excavations in Roman Carmarthen: 1973-1993* Britannia.

RCAHMW. 1917, *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments of Wales and Monmouthshire V: County of Carmarthen*. London.

Shobbrook, A & Poucher, P 2017 *9 Elliston Terrace, Carmarthen: Archaeological Watching Brief*. Archaeology Wales Report No.1565

Cartographic

Anon 1839 Carmarthen St Peter's Parish Tithe Map & Apportionments

Lewis, T1786 Map of Carmarthen

Ordnance Survey 1888 1st Edition 1:2,500 map Carmarthenshire

Ordnance Survey 1906 2nd Edition 1:2,500 map of Carmarthenshire

Ordnance Survey 1953 1:10,560 map of Carmarthenshire

Ordnance Survey 1972 1:2,500 map

Internet Sources

British Geological Survey:

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (Accessed 12.01.17).

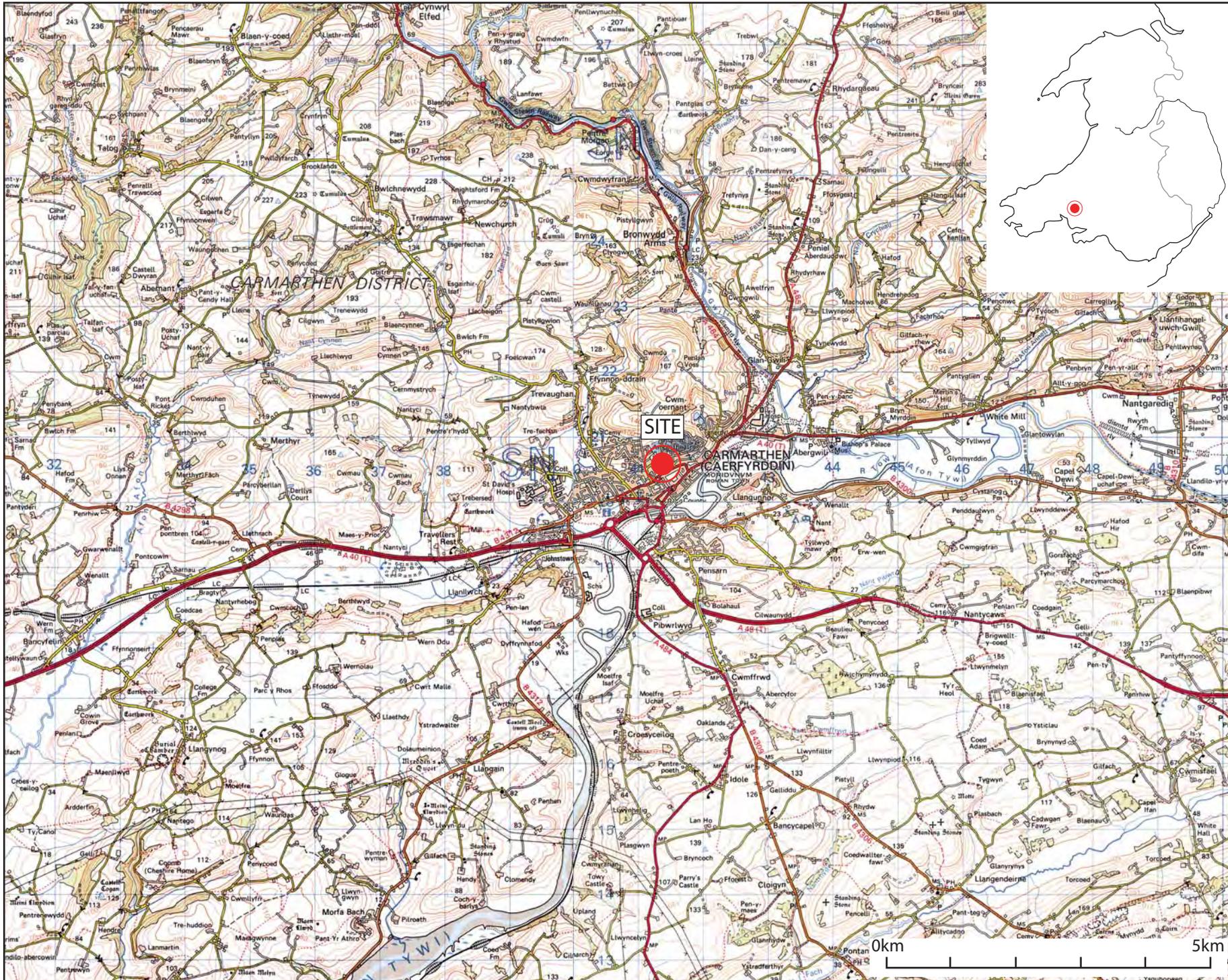


Figure 1: Location map,

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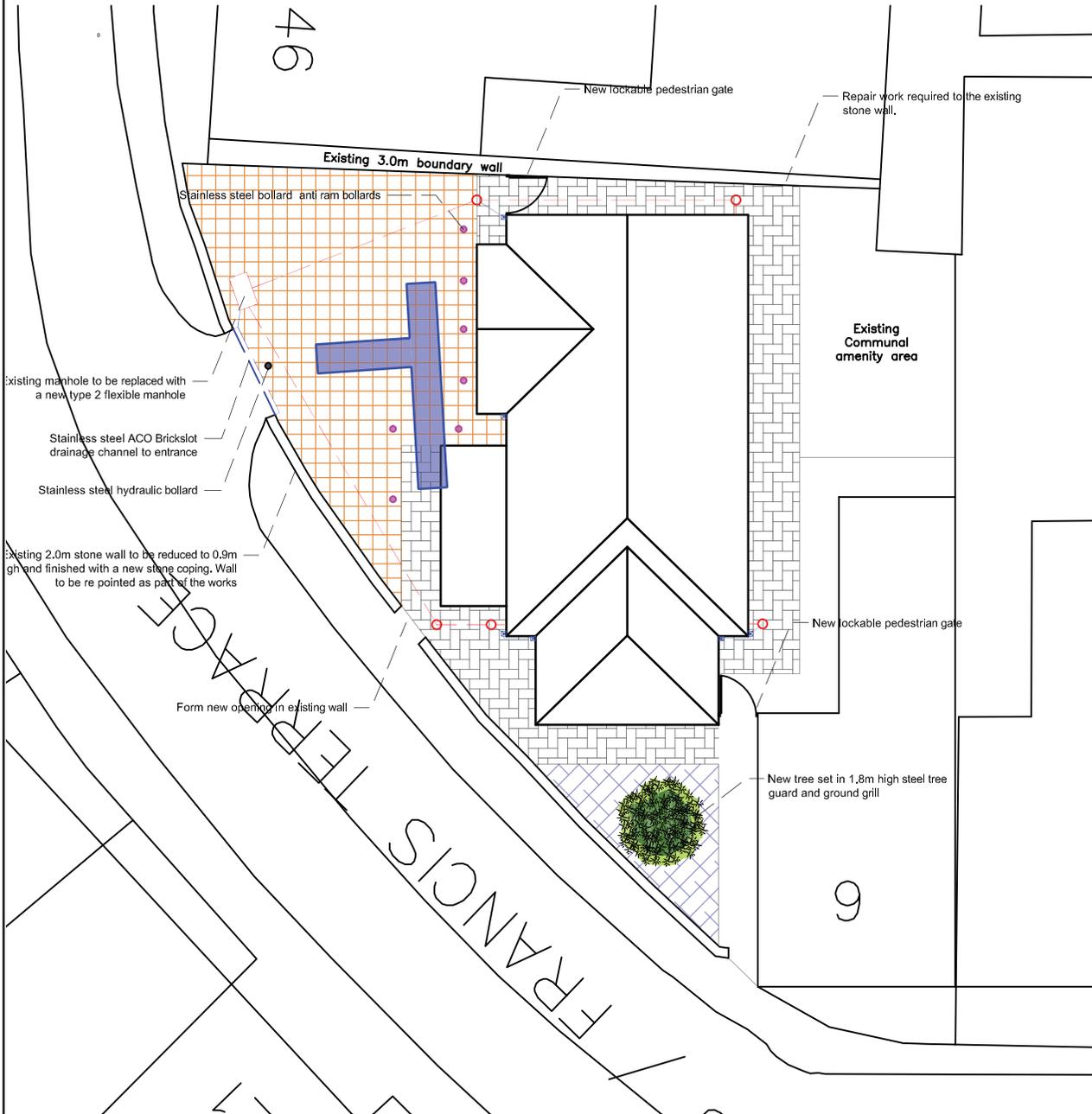


Figure 2: Site layout, showing existing building and trench location

1:500 @ A4

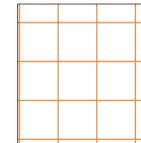
PROPOSED SITE PLAN

NOTE: THESE DRAWINGS HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR BUILDING REGULATION PURPOSES ONLY AND ARE NOT TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION USE

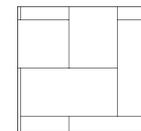


Foul water drainage. Invert level of exiting connection is to be confirmed on site prior to commencement of work.

Surface water drainage to be connected to existing combined system.



Feature paving to proposed car parking area



Tegular paving to perimeter paths



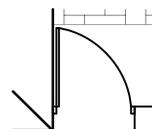
Feature paving to communal areas



Stainless steel anti ram bollards



Stainless steel hydraulic bollard



Lockable pedestrian gate

Figure 3: Proposed development plan, overlaid with evaluation trench location (in blue). Reproduced from original drawing provided by Sauro Architectural Design SAD-01, Drawing No.4 (26.09.2017). Not reproduced to original scale

1:400 @ A4

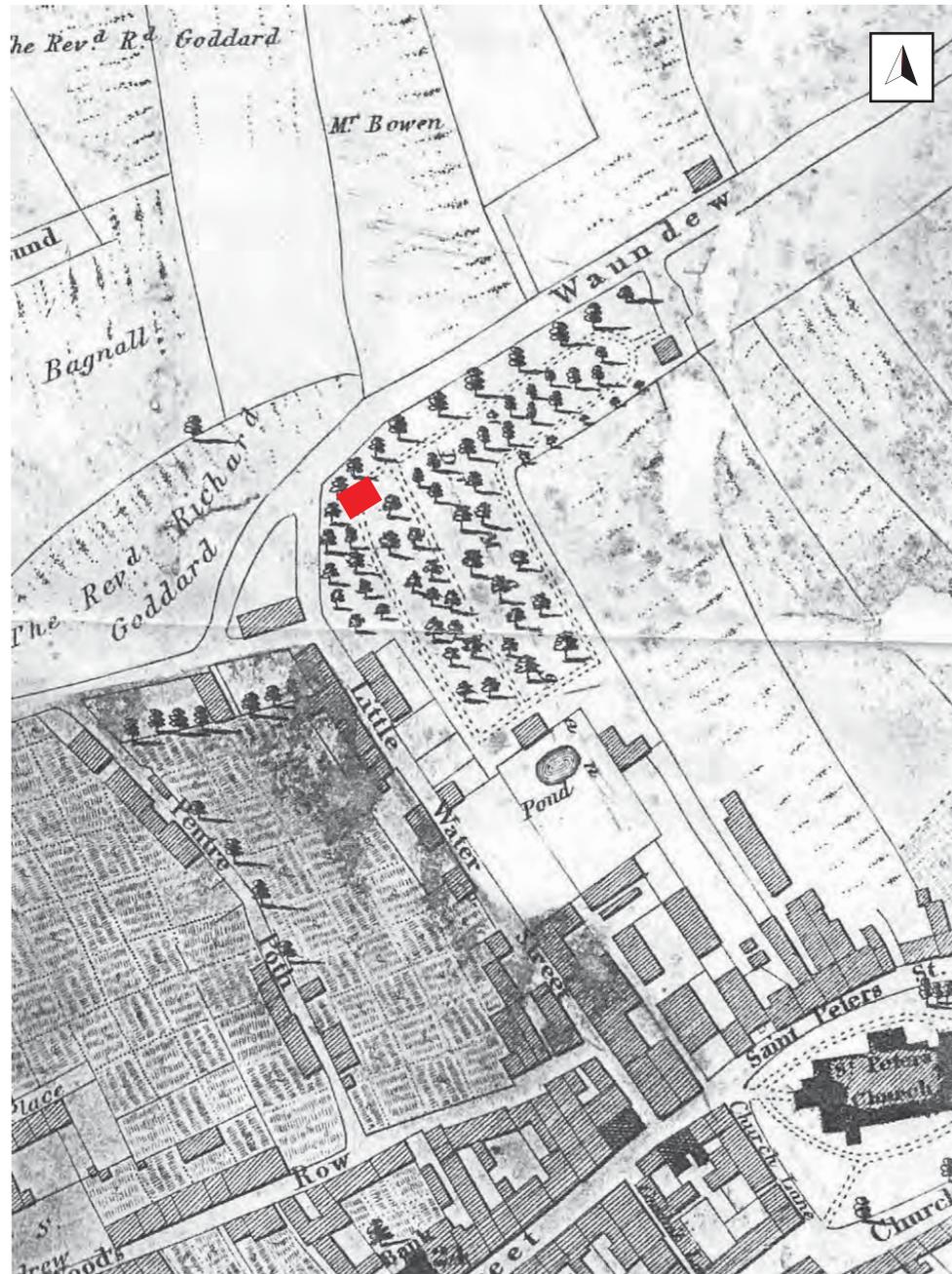


Figure 5: Extract from Lewis's map of Carmarthen in 1786 (left) and Woods map of Carmarthen in 1834 (right). Approximate location of proposed development site shown in red.



Figure 6: Site location and evaluation trench location overlaid on the Ordnance Survey map of 1888.

1:500 @ A4



Photo 1: General view of development area, facing southeast. Planned development to replace single-storey building.



Photo 2: General view of development area, facing northeast. Planned development to replace single-storey building.



Photo 3: General view of evaluation trench within the development area, facing south.



Photo 4: Section of the northwest-southeast orientated arm of the evaluation trench. Photo taken facing northeast. 2m & 1m scales.



Photo 5: Section of the northeast-southwest arm of the evaluation trench, northeast end. Photo taken facing southeast. 2m & 1m scales.



Photo 6: Section of the northeast-southwest arm of the evaluation trench, southwest end. Photo taken facing southeast. 2m & 1m scales.



Photo 7: Oblique shot of the northeast-southwest arm of the evaluation trench. Photo taken facing east. 2m & 1m scales.



Photo 8: Evaluation trench section, showing pit [111] at the junction of the two arms of the trench. Photo taken facing northeast. 1m scale.

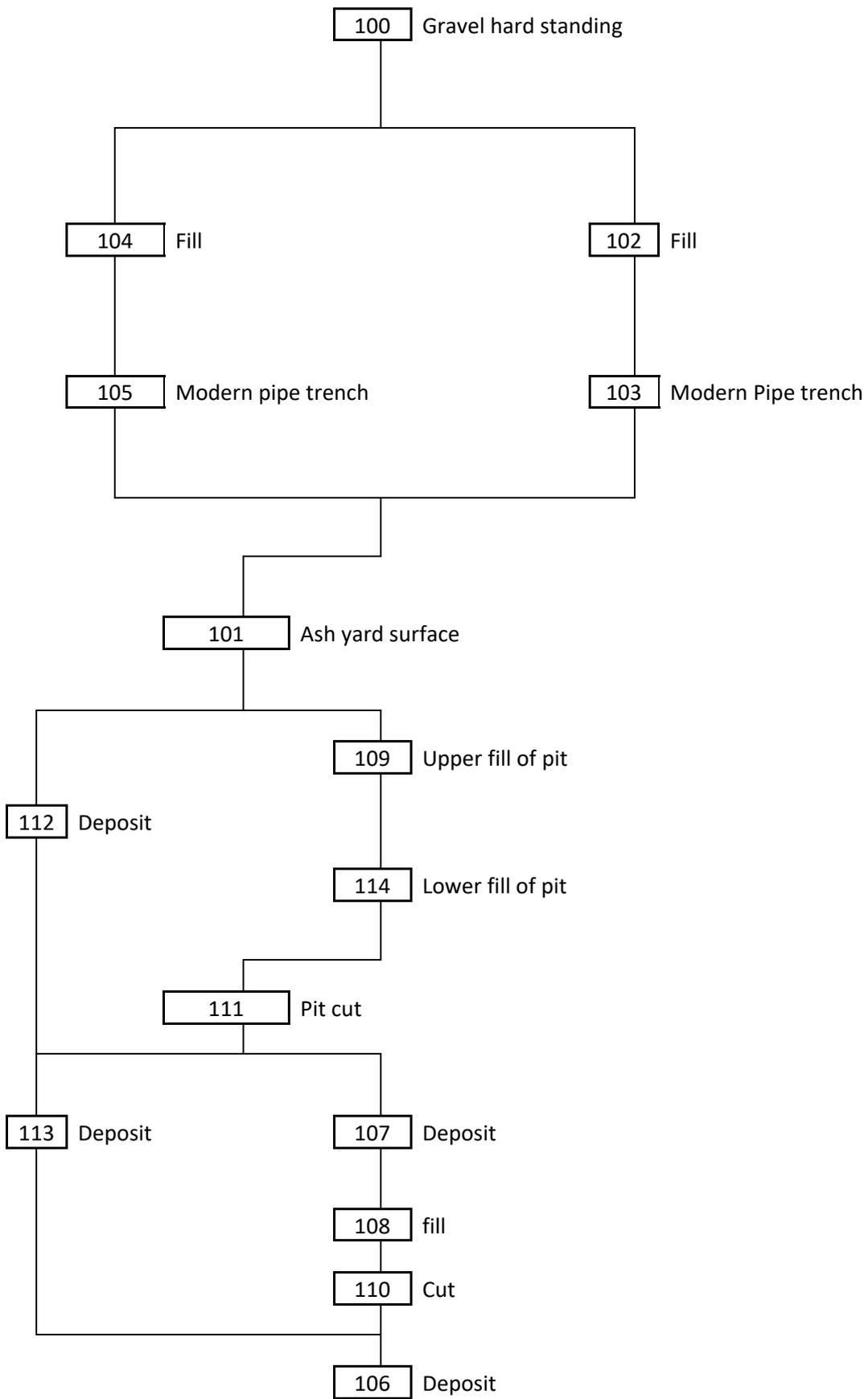
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APPENDIX I: Context List

Appendix 1 – Context List

Cable trench

Context	Description
100	Modern hard standing-compact angular grey gravel
101	Hard standing surface comprised of compact ash/waste coal deposit
102	Compact mid-brown silty-clay
103	Modern service pipe cut
104	Compact mid greyish-brown silty-clay
105	Modern service pipe cut
106	Compact light-brown silty-clay, which contained frequent inclusions of small sub-angular stones, small pieces of coal and flecks of lime mortar
107	Loosely compacted light to mid brown silty-clay, containing frequent inclusions of small sub-angular stones, flecks of lime mortar and moderate flecks of coal.
108	Loosely compacted light to mid brown silty-clay
109	Loosely compacted, dark greyish brown silty-clay, containing frequent finds of Victorian glass bottles, china, metal and pottery
110	Cut of tip line
111	Cut of pit
112	Moderately compacted light reddish brown sandy-clay, containing very frequent small to medium sized sub-angular stones with some occasional brick, mortar and coal inclusions.
113	Moderately compacted mid grey brown clay-silt, which contained frequent inclusions of medium to large sized sub-angular stones, charcoal, small pieces of mortar with occasional brick fragments.
114	Moderately compacted dark greyish-brown clay-silt and was noted to contain large inclusions of broken lime mortar.



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Wales

APPENDIX II:
Written Scheme of Investigation

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL

EVALUATION

AT LAND ADJACENT TO No.9 ELLISTON TERRACE,
CARMARTHEN

Prepared for:

Sauro Architectural Design

Planning Application Number: W/33850
Project No: 2553

September 2017



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Figure 1. Site location

Figure 2. Site location plan

Figure 3. Detailed plan of the site, showing areas of proposed investigation

Summary

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details a programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation to be undertaken by Archaeology Wales at the request of Sauro Architectural Design.

The programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation will be undertaken prior to the commencement of ground works associated with the planned demolition of existing single storey terrapin building and construction of a two storey office building on land adjacent to No.9 Elliston Terrace, Carmarthen, centred on SN 41338 20406. The associated Planning Application No. is W/33850.

The development site is located in the northwest corner of the Roman town of Moridunum, and potential lies on the line of some of the Roman town defences. Part of the defensive ditch has been revealed in excavations some 60m to the southeast of this site, and it is thought that further remains of the Roman town and its defences could survive in this area. The town also saw occupation throughout the medieval and post-medieval period, and archaeological remains relating to these periods may also survive. Consequently Dyfed Archaeological Trust, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, requested a programme of archaeological work in advance of groundworks to help identify and record the archaeological resource.

All work will be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

1. Introduction and planning background

This WSI details the methodology for a programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation to be undertaken in association with the proposed demolition of existing single storey terrapin building and construction of a two storey office building on land adjacent to No.9 Elliston Terrace, Carmarthen, centred on SN 41338 20406 (Figure 1 and 2). The associated Planning Application No. is W/33850.

The development site is located in the northwest corner of the Roman town of Moridunum, and potential lies on the line of some of the Roman town defences. Part of the defensive ditch has been revealed in excavations some 60m to the southeast of this site, and it is thought that further remains of the Roman town and its defences could survive in this area. The town also saw occupation throughout the medieval and post-medieval period, and archaeological remains relating to these periods may also survive.

This WSI has been prepared by Philip Poucher, Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of Sauro Architectural Design.

The methodology set out in this WSI has been agreed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management (DAT-DM) in its capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority (Carmarthenshire County Council). DAT-DM has recommended that a programme of archaeological work be undertaken at the development area as a Condition of the planning permission. Further consultation has determined that the preferred programme of work should be an intrusive evaluation undertaken prior to the commencement of ground works to assess the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource, which would help inform subsequent archaeological mitigation.

The recommendations made by DAT-DM are set out in a letter to Carmarthenshire County Council dated 2/6/17. The subsequent planning permission condition reads:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

The purpose of the proposed programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation is to provide the local planning authority with the information that they have requested from the client in response to their planning application, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy (revised edition 9, 2016), Section 6.5 and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017).

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

2. Site Description

The site lies in the centre of the town of Carmarthen in central Carmarthenshire. The land adjacent to No.9 Elliston Terrace lies close to the junction of Francis Terrace, Little Water Street and Barn Road, in a residential area of central Carmarthen.

The site occupies a corner plot, with a curving frontage along Elliston Terrace/Francis Terrace, from which the site is accessed. The site is covered with levelled hardcore, on which stands a single storey terrapin building. The site is bounded to the northeast by No.46 Francis Terrace, and to the southeast by No.9 Francis Terrace, with the boundary comprising part building and part rear garden walling.

The underlying geology of the area consists of mudstones of the Tetragraptus Beds. These are overlaid by sands and gravels representing glaciofluvial deposits of the Devensian (BGS viewer 2016).

3. Archaeological background

Carmarthen itself has a long and important history as Wales oldest town. A town was established here by the Romans in the 1st century AD, known as Moridunum, and operating as the civitas, or tribal capital, for all of Southwest Wales. In the mid-2nd century the town was provided with a planned gridded street layout, the extent of which is still preserved in many of the modern streets. Francis Terrace and Little Water Street, along with Old Oak Lane and The Parade/Esplanade, run along the former defences around the town. Elliston Terrace therefore sits within the northwest corner of the town limits. Remains of the town defences were uncovered **in excavations on Water Street in 1976, and in St Peter's Car Park in 1984 (James 2003).**

Carmarthen is unusual, and perhaps unique in Wales, for seeing possible continued occupation after the collapse of Roman administration in the early 5th century. An important religious settlement, which later became the medieval priory of St John and St Teulyddog, was established immediately to the east of the town, possibly on **the site of the former Roman cemetery. St Peter's Church, to the south of the development site,** is also thought to have early medieval origins, noticeable in its location just inside the former Roman town, close to its west gate. It is likely that, during the early medieval period, settlement was focused around these two religious sites. Settlement is likely to have spread along Priory Street to the east, and around **Church Street and St Peter's Street to the south, with possible activity extending as far as Elliston Terrace.**

After the Normans had invaded and secured territory in the area towards the end of the 11th century, they established a castle and settlement in Carmarthen. Remains of the castle are still visible to the west of the County Hall (which also sits within the grounds of the castle), and settlement was established initially to the northwest along Notts Square, and subsequently to the northeast along Spilman Street and King Street. This settlement was established separately to the pre-existing **'native' settlement that was still focused around St Peter's church and along Priory Street** to the east. Carmarthen therefore remained an important settlement throughout the medieval period, with much of the new Norman settlement subsequently becoming a walled town, the existing settlement to the east may also have still been defended by the Roman defences. The Priory also became one of the richest in Wales.

The two adjacent settlements were finally amalgamated in 1546, and the town became the judicial and administrative centre for the new county of Carmarthenshire. From the 16th century to the early 18th century Carmarthen was the largest town in Wales, only surpassed by the emerging new industrial towns of southeast Wales in the 18th century. During the 17th century the town was fortified during the civil war, it is likely that this also included utilising the former Roman defences, which may have affected development in the Elliston Terrace area.

One of the earliest detailed maps of Carmarthen in 1786 depicts the site area as part of a partly wooded parkland or garden (PRN 100), fronted along the roadside to the west by a mill stream, hence the name Little Water Street. Woods map of 1834 still

shows the site area as part of an enclosed wooded park, but Elliston Terrace had been established on the site by the 1880s.

4. Objectives

This WSI sets out a program of works to ensure that the intrusive trial trench evaluation will meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for **Archaeologist's** *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014)*.

The objective of the intrusive trial trench evaluation will be to locate and describe, by means of strategic trial trenching, archaeological features that may be present within the development area. The work will elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance. The work will include an assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within national and regional research frameworks.

The intrusive trial trench evaluation will result in a report that will provide information of sufficient detail to allow informed planning decisions to be made which can safeguard the archaeological resource. Preservation *in situ* will be advocated where at all possible, but where engineering or other factors result in loss of archaeological deposits, preservation by record will be recommended.

4.1. Site Specific Research Aims

It is important to recognize that whilst primarily designed to mitigate impacts, developer-led archaeology is also regarded as research activity with an academic basis, the aim of which is to add to the sum of human knowledge. Curators recognize the desirability of incorporating agreed research priorities as a means of enhancing the credibility of the development control process, ensuring cost-effectiveness and legitimately maximizing intellectual return.

A research framework for the archaeology of Wales has been produced (2011-2014) and is currently in the process of review. As the archaeological work is anticipated to reveal and record evidence of the Roman town of Moridunum the framework for the Romano-British period (Davies 2016) is of particular relevance. This framework includes five main research themes, that of (1) Settlement Patterns; (2) Interaction between Roman occupiers and the indigenes; (3) the Archaeology of the Campaigning years; (4) Funerary and Ritual, and (5) Technology and Industry. Any excavations within Roman Carmarthen has the potential to add to these main research themes. Similarly it has the potential to add to the research framework for the archaeology of Medieval Wales. Particular themes of interest within this framework include urban studies (Davidson et al 2016).

5. Timetable of works

5.1. Fieldwork

The programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation will be undertaken prior to the commencement of ground works associated with the proposed development. No start date has yet been confirmed, but it is anticipated to be in September/October 2017. Archaeology Wales will update DAT-DM with the exact date.

5.2. Report delivery

The report will be submitted to the client and to DAT-DM within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional HER.

6. Fieldwork

6.1. Detail

The work will be undertaken to meet the standard required by **The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014)**.

The archaeological project manager in charge of the work will satisfy him/herself that all constraints to ground works have been identified, including the siting of live services and Tree Preservation Orders.

The agreed evaluation area will be positioned to maximise the retrieval of archaeological information within accessible areas and to ensure that the archaeological resource is understood.

It is proposed that a T-shaped trench, measuring 7m by 1.6m northeast to southwest, with a 3m long spur, will be machine-excavated within the planned development area (Figure 3). The exact positioning of the trenches will depend on the position of any extant services or other obstructions that come to light during the initial phase of ground works. The locations and dimensions of the trenches will be agreed with DAT-DM prior to the commencement of works.

The evaluation trench will be excavated to the top of the archaeological horizon by a machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under close archaeological supervision. All areas will be subsequently hand cleaned using pointing trowels and/or hoes to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features and to determine their significance. The excavation of the minimum number of archaeological features will be undertaken, to elucidate the character, distribution, extent and importance of the archaeological remains. As a minimum small discrete features will be fully excavated, larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated) and long linear features will be sample excavated along their length - with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature and to investigate terminals, junctions and relationships with other features. Should this percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form

and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined full excavation of such features/deposits will be required.

Sufficient excavation will be undertaken to ensure that the natural horizons are reached and proven, where this can be practically and safely achieved. If safety reasons preclude manual excavation to natural, hand augering may be used to try to assess the total depth of stratification within each area. The depth of the excavation will conform to current safety requirements. If excavation is required below 1.2m the options of using shoring will be discussed with the client and DAT-DM.

Where potentially significant archaeological features be encountered during the course of the evaluation then DAT-DM and the client will be informed at the earliest possible opportunity. DAT-DM may subsequently request that further archaeological work is undertaken in order to fully evaluate areas of significant archaeological activity. Such work may require the provision of additional time and resources to complete the archaeological investigation.

6.2. Recording

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc) using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

All features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries.

Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 12MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

The archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will have access to the AW metal detector and be trained in its use.

6.3. Finds

The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for **Archaeologists' Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological (2014)** will form the basis of finds collection, processing and recording.

All manner of finds regardless of category and date will be retained.

Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under *The Treasure Act 1996* will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (normally Phil Parkes at Cardiff University).

6.4. Environmental sampling strategy

Deposits with a significant potential for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental material will be sampled, by means of the most appropriate method (bulk, column etc). Where sampling will provide a significant contribution to the understanding of the site AW will draw up a site-specific sampling strategy alongside a specialist environmental archaeologist. All environmental sampling and recording will follow **English Heritage's** *Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology* (2002).

6.5. Human remains

In the event that human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established and the coroner informed. All human remains will be left *in situ* and protected during backfilling. Where preservation *in situ* is not possible the human remains will be fully recorded and removed under conditions that comply with all current legislation and include acquisition of licenses and provision for reburial following all analytical work. Human remains will be excavated in accordance with the Chartered **Institute for Archaeologist's** *Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains: Technical Paper Number 13* (1993).

6.6. Specialist advisers

In the event of certain finds, features or sites being discovered, AW will seek specialist opinion and advice. A list of specialists is given in the table below although this list is not exhaustive.

Artefact type	Specialist
Flint	Kate Pitt (Archaeology Wales)
Animal bone	Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall (APS)
Clay pipe	Hilary Major (Freelance)
Glass	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst (University of York)/Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy (University of Leicester)/ Quita Mold (Freelance)
Metal work and metallurgical residues	Dr Tim Young (GeoArch)

Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson (Bradford University)
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby (Freelance)
Roman Pottery	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)/ Peter Webster (Freelance)
Post Roman pottery	Stephen Clarke (Monmouthshire Archaeology)
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot (Freelance)
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling (University of Wales – Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers (Freelance)

6.6.1. Specialist reports

Specialist finds and palaeoenvironmental reports will be written by AW specialists, or sub-contracted to external specialists when required.

7. Monitoring

DAT-DM will be contacted approximately five days prior to the commencement of archaeological site works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

Any changes to the WSI that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to DAT-DM for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.

Representatives of DAT-DM will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the field evaluation. No area will be back-filled, until DAT-DM has had the opportunity to inspect it, unless permission has been given in advance. DAT-DM will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

8. Post-fieldwork programme

8.1. Archive assessment

8.1.1. Site archive

An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2006) upon completion of the project.

The site archive (including artefacts and samples) will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and deposited with an appropriate receiving organisation, in compliance with ClfA Guidelines (*Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, 2014). The legal landowners consent will be gained for deposition of finds.

8.1.2. Analysis

Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of analysis and reporting will be undertaken. This will result in the following inclusions in the final report:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the watching brief, all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings (if features are encountered) with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- Written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate.
- An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development
- A discussion of the local, regional and national context of the remains by means of reviewing published reports, unpublished reports, historical maps, documents from local archives and the regional HER as appropriate.
- A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples finds and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.

8.2. Reports and archive deposition

8.2.1. Report to client

Copies of all reports associated with the intrusive trial trench evaluation, together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, including photographs and illustrations, will be submitted to the client and DAT-DM upon completion.

8.2.2. Additional reports

After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of all reports will be deposited with the relevant county Historical Environment Record, the National Monuments Record and, if appropriate, Cadw.

8.2.3. Summary reports for publication

Short archaeological reports will be submitted for publication in relevant journals; as a minimum, a report will be submitted to the annual publication of the regional CBA group or equivalent journal.

8.2.4. Notification of important remains

Where it is considered that remains have been revealed that may satisfy the criteria for statutory protection, AW will submit preliminary notification of the remains to Cadw.

8.2.5. Archive deposition

The final archive (site and research) will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution, usually the relevant Local Authority museums service. Arrangements will be made with the receiving institution before work starts.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, copies of all reports and the final archive will be deposited no later than six months after completion of the work.

Copies of all reports, the digital archive and an archive index will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER. A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to DAT-DM.

8.2.6. Finds deposition

The finds, including artefacts and ecofacts, excepting those which may be subject to the Treasure Act, will be deposited with the same institution, subject to the agreement of the legal land owners.

9. Staff

The project will be managed by Philip Poucher (AW Project Manager) and the fieldwork undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced AW archaeologists. Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of DAT-DM and the client.

Additional Considerations

10. Health and Safety

10.1. Risk assessment

Prior to the commencement of work AW will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. A copy will be sent to the client (or their agent

as necessary) for their information. All members of AW staff will adhere to the content of this document.

10.2. Other guidelines

AW will adhere to best practice with regard to Health and Safety in Archaeology as set out in the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (2002)*.

11. Community Engagement and Outreach

Wherever possible, AW will ensure suitable measures are in place to inform the local community and any interested parties of the results of the site investigation work. This may occur during the site investigation work or following completion of the work. The form of any potential outreach activities may include lectures and talks to local groups, interested parties and persons, information boards, flyers and other forms of communication (social media and websites), and press releases to local and national media.

The form of any outreach will respect client confidentiality or contractual agreements. As a rule, outreach will be proportional to the size of the project.

Where outreach activities have a cost implication these will need to be negotiated in advance and in accordance with the nature of the desired response and learning outcomes.

12. Insurance

AW is fully insured for this type of work, and holds Insurance with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hiscox Insurance Company Limited through Towergate Insurance. Full details of these and other relevant policies can be supplied on request.

13. Quality Control

13.1. Professional standards

AW works to the standards and guidance provided by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*. AW fully recognise and endorse the Chartered Institute for **Archaeologists' Code of Conduct**, *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* and the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs* currently in force. All employees of AW, whether corporate members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists or not, are expected to adhere to these Codes and Standards during their employment.

13.2. Project tracking

The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

14. Arbitration

Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision **in accordance with the Rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' Arbitration Scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists** applying at the date of the agreement.

15. References

James, H 2003 *Excavations in Roman Carmarthen: 1973-1993* Britannia

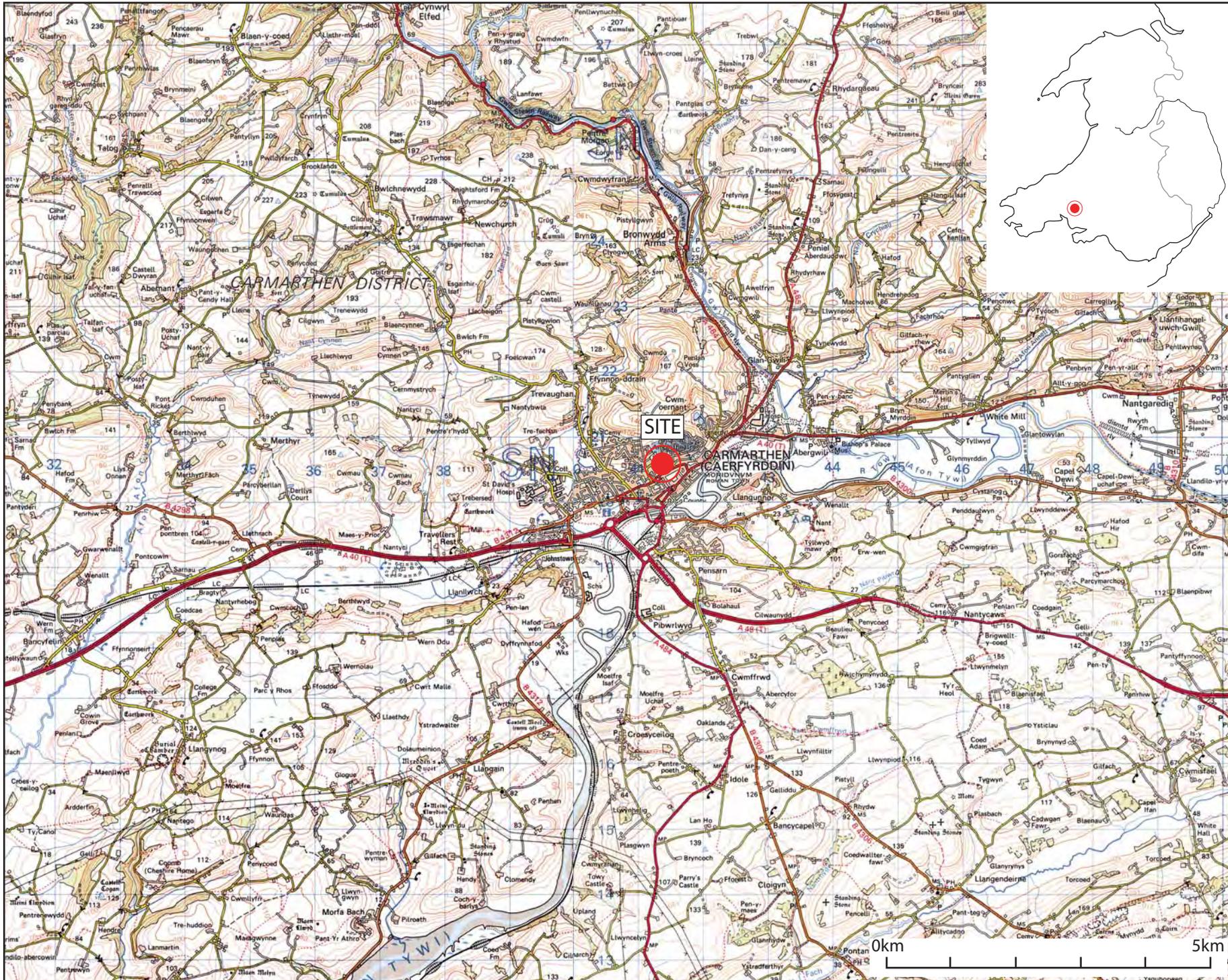


Figure 1: Location map,

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SITE BLOCK & LOCATION PLAN

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Site Block Plan 1:500



Site Location Plan 1:1250

THIS SCHEME IS SUBJECT TO LOCAL PLANNING AND ALL OTHER NECESSARY CONSENTS. ALL DIMENSIONS, SITE LEVELS AND AREAS WHERE GIVEN ARE APPROXIMATE AND SUBJECT TO SITE SURVEY UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE. ALL DIMENSIONS MUST BE CHECKED ON SITE. DO NOT SCALE OFF THIS DRAWING. THIS DRAWING IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALL RELEVANT CONSULTANTS' AND/OR SPECIALISTS' DRAWINGS OR DOCUMENTS. SAURO ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN MUST BE NOTIFIED OF ANY VARIATIONS OR DISCREPANCIES BEFORE THE AFFECTED WORK COMMENCES. ALL QUERIES RELATING TO DESIGN OF FOUNDATIONS, FLOOR SLABS AND ANY OTHER STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS ARE TO BE REFERRED TO THE STRUCTURAL ENGINEER FOR CLARIFICATION.

Revision	Description	Date



Project Client
Sauro Architectural Design Ltd

Project Title
Development adjacent to 9 Elliston Terrace, Carmarthen, SA31 1HA

Drawing Title
Site Block & Location Plan

Scale 1:500-2500
Drawn by 03

Date 26.06.2017
Job No. SAD-01
Drawing No. LP-01

Rev.No. Checked Sheet Size
A3

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Figure 3: Trench location plan (in red), overlaid on site plan as existing (7/9/17).
1:200 @ A4

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Archaeology
Wales

APPENDIX III:
Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Land Adjacent to No.9 Elliston Terrace, Carmarthen

Site Name:	Elliston Terrace, Carmarthen
Site Code:	ETC/17/EV
PRN:	33 (Roman Town Defences) 69 (Moridunum-Roman Town) 100 (Furnace Gardens)
NPRN:	94432 Moridunum Roman Town
SAM:	
Other Ref No:	-
NGR:	NGR SN 41338 20406
Site Type:	Urban development
Project Type:	Evaluation
Project Manager:	Philip Poucher
Project Dates:	September - October 2017
Categories Present:	Paper
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of duplicate Archives:	Paper copies with RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.
Number of Finds Boxes:	0
Location of Finds:	-
Museum Reference:	-
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to access:	None

Archaeology Wales

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