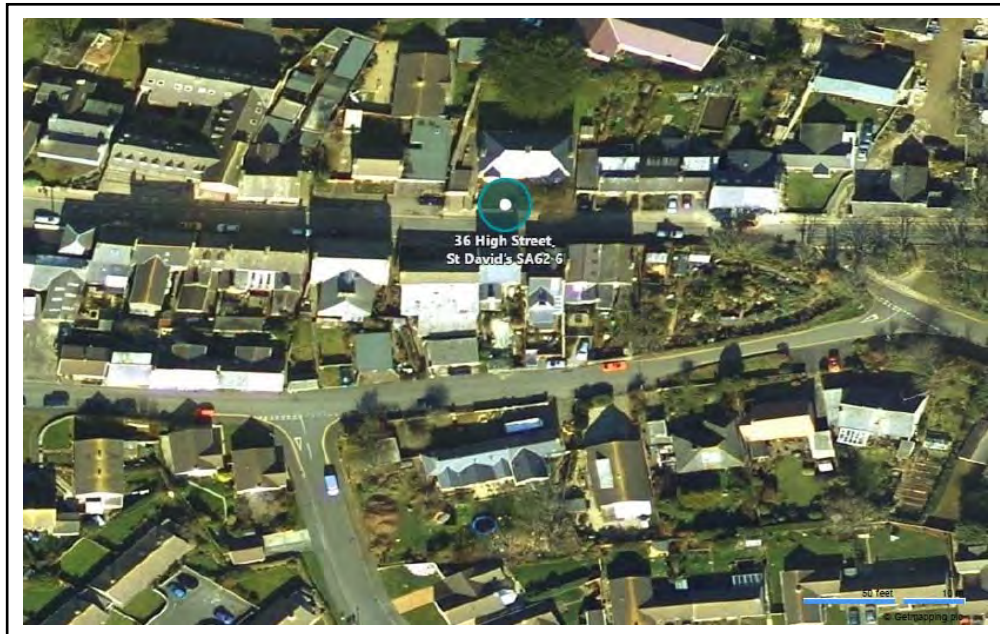


# *Archaeology Wales*

## **34-36 High Street, St Davids, Pembrokeshire**

### Archaeological Watching Brief



By Aurea Izquierdo Zamora BA (Hons)

Report No. 1509

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# Archaeology Wales

## 34-36 High Street, St Davids Pembrokeshire

### Archaeological Watching Brief

Prepared For: Jeff Tierney,  
West Castle Ltd

Edited by: Philip Poucher  
Signed:   
Position: Project Manager  
Date: 19/10/16

Authorised by: Mark Houliston  
Signed:   
Position: Managing Director  
Date: 24/10/16

By  
Aurea Izquierdo Zamora BA (Hons)

Report No. 1509

October 2016

## **Non-Technical Summary**

*This report results from work undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) for West Castle Limited. It draws on the results of an archaeological watching brief on land to rear of 34-36 High Street, St David's, Pembrokeshire. The archaeological work was undertaken to satisfy a condition of planning permission (Pembrokeshire County Council: NP/15/0656/FUL) for the erection of 1 ½ storey two bedroom holiday let unit, and landscaping works within the garden.*

*The development site is located within the historic town of St David's, which has a long history that stretches back into the early medieval period, when a religious settlement was established by St David in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. Although there is no clear indication of when settlement was established around the development site, it is close to the centre of the town, and on one of the main roads that would have been focus for commercial activity throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods.*

*The archaeological watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundations for the new dwelling, consisting of a roughly rectangular area of 9m by 6m, located on a west-east axis, and crossed in the middle by two other foundation trenches on a north-south axis. An earlier, post-medieval, surface was recorded, possibly associated with a well-built mortared-masonry wall along the eastern boundary. The function of the surface and wall are uncertain, but the wall was subsequently rebuilt as the current boundary wall, and garden soil built up across the area in the modern period, prior to more recent developments. No evidence of medieval, or earlier, archaeological activity was uncovered. Although limited in scope, the generally negative results of the archaeological investigation suggest that there is no, or limited, survival of archaeological remains within the development site.*

## **1 Introduction**

### **1.1 Location and scope of work**

1.1.1 In May 2016 Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) was commissioned by Jeff Tierney to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a 1 ½ storey two bedroom holiday let unit to the rear of 34-36 High Street, St David's, Pembrokeshire (SM 75518 25253, Figures 1 - 3).

1.1.2 The requirements for an archaeological watching brief were placed as a condition of the planning permission for the development (planning application number NP/15/0656/FUL) by Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA), on the advice of Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management (DAT-DM), in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority. This condition stated that (Condition 5):

*No development or site clearance shall commence until the local planning authority have been informed in writing of the name of a professionally qualified archaeologist who is to be present during the undertaking of any excavations in the development area so that a watching brief can be conducted. No work shall commence until the local planning authority has confirmed in writing that the*

*proposed archaeologist is suitable. A copy of the watching brief report shall be submitted to the local planning authority within two months of the archaeological fieldwork being completed.*

*Reason: To assess the archaeological value of the site.*

*Policy: Local Development Plan – Policy 8 (Special Qualities) and Planning Policy Wales (Edition 7, July 2014) – Chapter 6 (Conserving the Historic Environment).*

- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by AW in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA, 2014) for approval by DAT-DM. The WSI was designed to provide an approved scheme of archaeological work to be implemented during the construction works.
- 1.1.4 The watching brief was undertaken on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2016. The AW project number for the work is 2450 and the site code is HSSD/16/WB. The project details are summarised on the Archive Cover Sheet (Appendix III).

## **1.2 Geology, Soils and Topography**

- 1.2.1 The underlying geology of the area consists of igneous tuff of the Caerbwdy Group, formed approximately 542 to 635 million years ago (Ediacaran Period), (BGS viewer 2016).
- 1.2.2 Superficial deposits of the area consists of fluvial sand and gravel, formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period, from rivers depositing mainly sand and gravel detrital material in channels to form river terrace deposits (BGS viewer 2016).
- 1.2.3 The site occupies a brownfield site close to the centre of the small city of St David's in western Pembrokeshire (NGR SM 75518 25253, Figures 1 and 2). It is set in an urbanised space, bounded to the north by High Street and to the south by Bryn Road. It is flanked by two other houses with gardens. It is in close proximity, to the west, to the City Hall, Library, and to an ancient well. To the east are located Grove Hotel and Oriel Y Parc Art Gallery (Figure 3). St David's Cathedral, Bishop's Palace, and the River Alun, are located approximately 0.5km to the northwest of the development site.

## **1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 1.3.1 The landscape immediately surrounding the development site contains a large number of archaeological features, dating mostly from the medieval period, with the majority associated with the early medieval settlement of St David's.
- 1.3.2 St David's, or St Davids (*Tyddewi*), is located in Pembrokeshire, Wales. It is the smallest city in Britain, and the westernmost city in Wales. St David's lies on the River Alun on St David's Peninsula, just 1km away from the mouth of the river at St Brides Bay, to the south. The peninsula extends westward into the Irish Sea, with the landscape of the peninsula being a largely rural one.

- 1.3.3 St David's is the final resting place of Saint David, Wales's patron saint, and the *de facto* ecclesiastical capital of Wales. St David's was given city status in the 16<sup>th</sup> century due to the presence of St David's Cathedral but lost this in 1888. City status was restored in 1994 at the request of Queen Elizabeth II.
- 1.3.4 From the prehistoric period, noteworthy remains comprise several find spots of lithics: knapped flint implements including blades, cores, scrapers, and also a polished axe, were located around the area (PRN 2653, 2864, 7755, 9839 and 9839) (DAT-HER 2016).
- 1.3.5 There are several Bronze Age round barrows around the area that had been documented (and some excavated) during the 19<sup>th</sup> century: PRN 2686, 4357 and 4373 (DAT-HER 2016).
- 1.3.6 The number of archaeological remains in the area ascribed to the early medieval period increase considerably. The most noted of which being the original 7<sup>th</sup> century church, with monastery and bishop house, of St David's (PRN 4348), along with St Non's Chapel (PRN 46863), located approximately 0.5km to the south of the city; and the remains of the early medieval settlement-monastery of *Glyn Rhosyn* (Rose Vale) (PRN 46855).
- 1.3.7 St David, who is traditionally thought to have born in St Non's church just to the south of the city, founded a monastery and church at *Glyn Rhosyn* (Rose Vale), on the banks of the River Alun, in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. This area was known as *Mynyw* (Meneva). The monastic brotherhood that David founded followed a very strict rule, devoted to praying, cultivating the land and crafting goods, in order to feed themselves, the poor and needy, and the many pilgrims and travellers who needed lodgings. The settlement that grew up around the monastery was called *Tyddewi* (David's house).
- 1.3.8 In 519 the diocese of *Caerleon* in the county of Monmouth was transferred to *Mynyw*, which was renamed St David's in honour of the archbishop and saint by whom the transfer was accomplished. The original cathedral built on the site was often plundered by the Vikings and was finally burnt and destroyed in 1087. The present cathedral was built by the Normans and contained many relics, including the remains of St David. It was visited by many pilgrims, many of whom were nobles and kings, including William the Conqueror in 1077, Henry II in 1171, and Edward I and Queen Eleanor in 1284.
- 1.3.9 There is also a number of early and late medieval remains of standing stones, crosses and grave markers, found originally in different locations around St David's, and now kept mostly in the Cathedral dependencies (PRN 2642-2645, 2662-2665, 2674, 46856). They were largely documented during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, more recently studied and compiled by Professor Nancy Edwards (Edwards 2003).
- 1.3.10 The 12<sup>th</sup> century Pope *Calixtus* II decreed that two pilgrimages to St David's were equivalent to one to Rome. As a result a vast income was raised from visiting pilgrims throughout the medieval period. Pilgrimages later fell out of favour due to practices such as the selling of indulgences, and the income from them faded away.
- 1.3.11 Monastic life at St David's effectively ended following the Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII (1536-1541), which disbanded Catholic monasteries, priories, convents and friaries in England, Wales and Ireland. This affected the economic mainstay of St David's town, which then acquired the status of city and shifted to a small trading economy.
- 1.3.12 During the 19<sup>th</sup> century the city of St David's was isolated and neglected, as described in the Penny Cyclopaedia (Anon. 1837):

*'At present its appearance is that of a poor village, the houses, excepting those of the clergy, being in a ruinous state. The locality is lonely, and the neighbouring district wild and unimproved; but it is still an interesting place as the seat of a large episcopal see, with a fine cathedral and the remains of other magnificent religious edifices.'*

- 1.3.13 In 1888, it had lost its city status and turned into a seaside small town. At the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, better transport and the advent of tourism helped the city prosper again. In 1994, at the request of Queen Elizabeth II, St David's was given city status again, and started developing a new economy focused on cultural and adventure tourism.
- 1.3.14 There is no clear indication of when settlement along 34-36 High Street was first established, although it lies on one of the main roads into St David's and only a short distance from the medieval town cross which is likely to have been the focus, as it is now, for commercial activity.
- 1.3.15 Historic map sources indicate that the site was clearly developed by the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The first map to give any accurate detail on the site is the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1889 (Figure 4), which shows to the rear of the house a rectangular building or enclosure that runs along the current eastern boundary of site, with a small shed attached to its western side. There is another small shed attached to the southern boundary of site. In the local vicinity of the site noteworthy remains include the rain gauge to the north, the location of two possible standing stones to the south, and a smithy workshop in the same street, to the west. In the c. 1900s edition 1:2500 OS map (Figure 5), the rectangular building or enclosure along the east boundary of the site is still present, also now incorporating a second small shed to its south side. The single shed attached to the south boundary of site is not depicted on this map. Noteworthy is the presence of a well within the development site, identified on the map as 'W'. The smithy workshop is depicted in the opposite plot of land, to the north, which could indicate an actual move or a misinterpretation. The rain gauge is not depicted in this edition, neither are the standing stones. The c. 1970s edition 1:2500 OS map (Figure 6) indicates that by that time, there were no remains of the possible well, the building or enclosure, or of the two possible sheds. In the local vicinity of site, at the place of the 1880s smithy is located the City Hall (nowadays also Library). The development site appears in its current size and shape, and all the surroundings, especially to the south, appear already developed as a residential area.

## **2 Aims and Objectives**

### **2.1. Watching brief**

2.1.1 The aims of an archaeological watching brief, as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014), and as stated within the approved WSI (Appendix III), are:

- to ensure that any buried remains located within the development area are fully investigated and recorded if revealed as a consequence of the site works;
- to provide the opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief are not sufficient to support the treatment to a satisfactory or proper standard.

2.1.2 The objectives of an archaeological watching brief as to achieve these aims comprise of:

- Project identification, planning and preparation of its specifications, to addresses the initial design stages of all forms of further investigation, normally written down on a WSI.

- The WSI should identify relevant data standards for record organisation and content that will be used in information recording systems employed by the project
- The WSI and/or project design must be agreed by all relevant parties before work commences. All work must conform to the agreed WSI or project design. Any variations must be agreed in writing by all relevant parties.
- All fieldwork, assessment and analytical work must be carried out by suitably qualified and experienced staff, who must be apprised of the project design before commencing work, and who should understand the work required of them.
- All reports must address the aims and purposes of the project design and/or WSI.

### **3 Methodology**

#### **3.1 Watching Brief Fieldwork**

- 3.1.1 The methodology for this archaeological watching brief follows the methodology set out within the approved WSI (Appendix II). In brief, this work included the following key elements:
- 3.1.2 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the foundation excavations of the building plot. The work comprised the excavation of the foundations, which typically measured between 6m and 9m in length, and approximately 0.80m in width, with a maximum depth of approximately 1m. A total of 6 slots were excavated, consisting of a roughly rectangular shape of 9m by 6m, located on a west-east axis, and crossed in the middle by two other foundational trenches on a north-south axis (Figures 7 and 8).
- 3.1.3 Groundworks were undertaken by a mechanical excavator using a 0.80m wide toothless bucket with the exception of exposed bedrock deposits, which were removed with a toothed bucket.
- 3.1.4 The exposed deposits were subsequently recorded by detailed, measured, sketch drawings, high resolution digital photographs (using a 10MP camera) and written records using AW recording systems.
- 3.1.5 The on-site archaeological work was undertaken by Tom Jamieson (AW). The overall management of the project was undertaken by Philip Poucher.
- 3.1.6 All works were undertaken in accordance with the CIfA's *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014) and current Health and Safety legislation.

#### **3.2 Finds**

- 3.2.1 No finds were recovered during the course of the works.

#### **3.3 Palaeo-Environmental Evidence**

- 3.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered during the course of the excavation.

## **4 Watching Brief Results (Figures 7 and 8, Plates 2-14)**

### **4.1 Ground Conditions**

- 4.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken in May 2016, and the ground conditions were mainly dry.
- 4.1.2 The site had previously been developed, a standing garage building had been demolished and removed prior to foundation excavations commencing. Accumulations of rubble and other building remains were frequent throughout the site.
- 4.1.3 No major features disrupted the visibility or accessibility to the development site.

### **4.2 Stratigraphic narrative**

- 4.2.1 A natural geological subsoil (111) was revealed at a depth of approximately 1m below existing ground levels. This comprised a light yellow-brown to orange-brown sandy clay with abundant stone and gravel inclusions.
- 4.2.2 Underlying the eastern boundary of site, running north-south, lay a well-built structural wall {101}, built on the natural subsoil (111). This wall was built of faced stone, fairly randomly sorted for size, with sizes ranging between 0.15m by 0.08m to 0.50m by 0.40m. The stones were bonded with a strong, very pale yellow sandy-lime mortar, with occasional inclusions of white burnt lime and very small charcoal flecks. A 4.2m long section of the wall {101} was revealed, 0.85m high.
- 4.2.3 This wall had an entrance or gateway through its south end, {102}, made of dressed stone and lime mortar, and keyed into {101}. This structure consisted in a pair of door jams or gate posts. Although severely damaged, they were well-built from sub-squared stones approximately 0.40m in width. The structure {102} was approximately 2m in length, with a maximum height of 0.90m. The entranceway itself was approximately 1.4m wide.
- 4.2.4 The space between the door jams of {102} had been infilled by deposits (104), (105) and (106). The lowest deposit infilling was (104), a deposit of pale yellow clay with frequent inclusions of small angular stones. It extended approximately 1.40m in length, with a maximum thickness of 0.08m. This overlay the natural ground (111).
- 4.2.5 Deposit (104) was overlaid by (105), a deposit of loose, mid-brown clayey-silt, with frequent inclusions of very small sub-angular stones. It extended approximately 1.40m in length, and had a maximum thickness of 0.22m.
- 4.2.6 Deposit (105) was overlaid by (106), a deposit consisting mainly of loose, very poorly sorted rubble, with a mixture of pale yellow mortar and both very small fragments and distinct pieces of sub-angular stones. It extended approximately 1.40m in length, and had a maximum thickness of 0.30m.
- 4.2.7 The upper levels of wall {101} and its entrance {102}, along with infilling deposit (106) were truncated and overlaid by the present boundary wall {103}. Also running north-south on the eastern boundary of site, this wall had been built from poorly sorted undressed stone of approximately 0.50m by 0.40m dimensions, with a fairly uneven face. It had been rendered with modern concrete, which made it difficult to examine the bonding material. It extended for approximately 6.20m and had a maximum height of 1.40m.



- 4.2.8 In the central area of the plot, running north-south roughly parallel to {101} and {103}, there were the remains of another structural wall, {110}, overlaid by deposits (108) and (109).
- 4.2.9 Wall {110} was built using undressed sub-angular stones of variable sizes, from approximately 0.10m to 0.50m in size. They were well coursed and presented an even face. Wall {110} was earth-bonded with few patches of white lime adhering to the face. The northern and southern ends of the wall had been truncated at a later date. It measured 3.40m in length, 0.60m in width, and 0.70m in height.
- 4.2.10 This wall {110} was overlaid by (108), a deposit of loose, dark brown clayey-silt garden soil, with frequent inclusions of small coal flecks and sub-rounded stones. This layer extended across the site, approximately 6m in length, 5m in width and 0.80m in thickness. A few fragments of modern glass, ceramics and butchered bones were recovered from this deposit. It was overlaid by (109), a deposit of loose, very mixed and poorly sorted fragments of concrete, bricks, rubble and sands. It is located in patches throughout the site, with very variable dimensions, its maximum thickness being 0.20m.
- 4.2.11 In the southwest corner of the site a layer (115) was revealed pre-dating the garden soil, similar in appearance to (104) that was located in-filling {102}. This deposit (115) was firmly compacted, pale yellowish grey in colour and composed of silty-clays. It contained frequent inclusions of very small sub-angular stones. It was only exposed in section, with approximate dimensions of 2.50m in width and 0.08m in thickness. It was overlaid by deposits (114), (113) and (112).
- 4.2.12 Deposit (114) was a compacted, mid brownish-red sandy-clay, with frequent small fragments of coal and burnt lime, and very small sub-angular stones. It had a maximum thickness of 0.05m. Deposit (113) was compacted, light orange brown in colour, sandy-clay in composition, with frequent inclusions of small sub-angular stones and maximum thickness of 0.07m. Deposit (112) was a 0.5m thick deposit of loose very dark brown silty soil, with frequent inclusions of small fragments of coal, slate, bricks and other ceramic building material, and poorly sorted rubble stone.
- 4.2.13 In the northwest corner of site was located another structural feature, {107}, a concrete slab of roughly rectangular shape with maximum dimensions 3.60m in length and 0.60m in width. It was located overlying the natural subsoil, 0.80m below the modern deposits, but it was obviously a modern feature relocated after lowering of ground levels.

## **5 Discussion and Interpretation**

### **5.1 Discussion**

- 5.1.1 All the features on site appear to be dateable to the post-medieval and modern periods, most likely during 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century. An original lower ground level was identified that appeared to be associated with and contemporary to a well-built structural wall {101}, which could have been part of the rectangular building that lay on the eastern boundary of site, and wall {110} which may have been part of the attached small shed to its west side, as depicted on the 1880s Ordnance Survey map. The original lower ground level, upon which these walls were built, is preserved at the lower interfaces of layers (104) and (115), these deposits being possible soil accumulation as a result of activity related to the main and secondary buildings on site.

- 5.1.2 There was some activity in the southwest corner represented by (114), which may represent a dump of household burnt material, and contained one fragment of possible late-18<sup>th</sup> century pottery. This deposit was subsequently buried with redeposited soil (113).
- 5.1.3 Ground levels were built up over time with rich dark garden soils (108), (109) and (112). These eventually reached the point where wall {110} was buried. Wall {101}, along with entrance {102}, had fallen into disrepair and the entrance blocked with redeposited soil (105). Overlying deposit 106 appears to represent material from the collapse of the wall.
- 5.1.4 Wall {101}, entrance {102} and deposit (106) were later on truncated off at a new ground level, and boundary wall {103} was built on top.
- 5.1.5 The northwest corner was later lowered back to an earlier ground level (the same as (115)), and a concrete slab {107} was built. More recently, a garage was built on the site, and then demolished with demolition material spread throughout the area.

## **5.2. Overall Interpretation**

- 5.2.1 No medieval or earlier activity or finds were recorded within the development area. There was no evidence of the medieval or early medieval settlement activity that had developed around St David's cathedral extending into this area.
- 5.2.2 An earlier surface was revealed at approximately 0.8m below current ground levels, possibly associated with a well-built dressed stone wall along the eastern boundary of the site. No precise dating was determined, but it is suggested that this is later post-medieval in date. A dumped deposit containing late 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery may indicate a change of use, and the site subsequently became a garden area with thick deposits of garden soil building up. More recently a garage was built on the site, and demolished prior to the present development.

## **6 Conclusions**

### **6.1 Watching brief conclusions**

- 6.1.1 Based on the results of the watching brief, it can be concluded that whilst intense medieval activity is present in the immediate surrounding areas, there is no evidence of any medieval activity in the parcel that comprises the development site. An earlier, post-medieval ground level was revealed, of unknown function. This was subsequently overlaid by a depth of garden soil throughout the modern period, before more recent development with the establishment of a garage on the site.
- 6.1.2 The evidence from the watching brief is of local importance, rather than regionally or nationally significant.

## **7 Acknowledgements**

- 7.1 Thanks are due to Phil Poucher for providing all the pertinent documentation and editing this report, and to Tom Jamieson for carrying out the fieldwork and collect the site archive; thanks are also due to Jeff Tierney from West Castle Ltd, for providing with the pertinent development documentation; and Jane Gibson from Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority for assisting with the planning application.

## **8 Sources and references**

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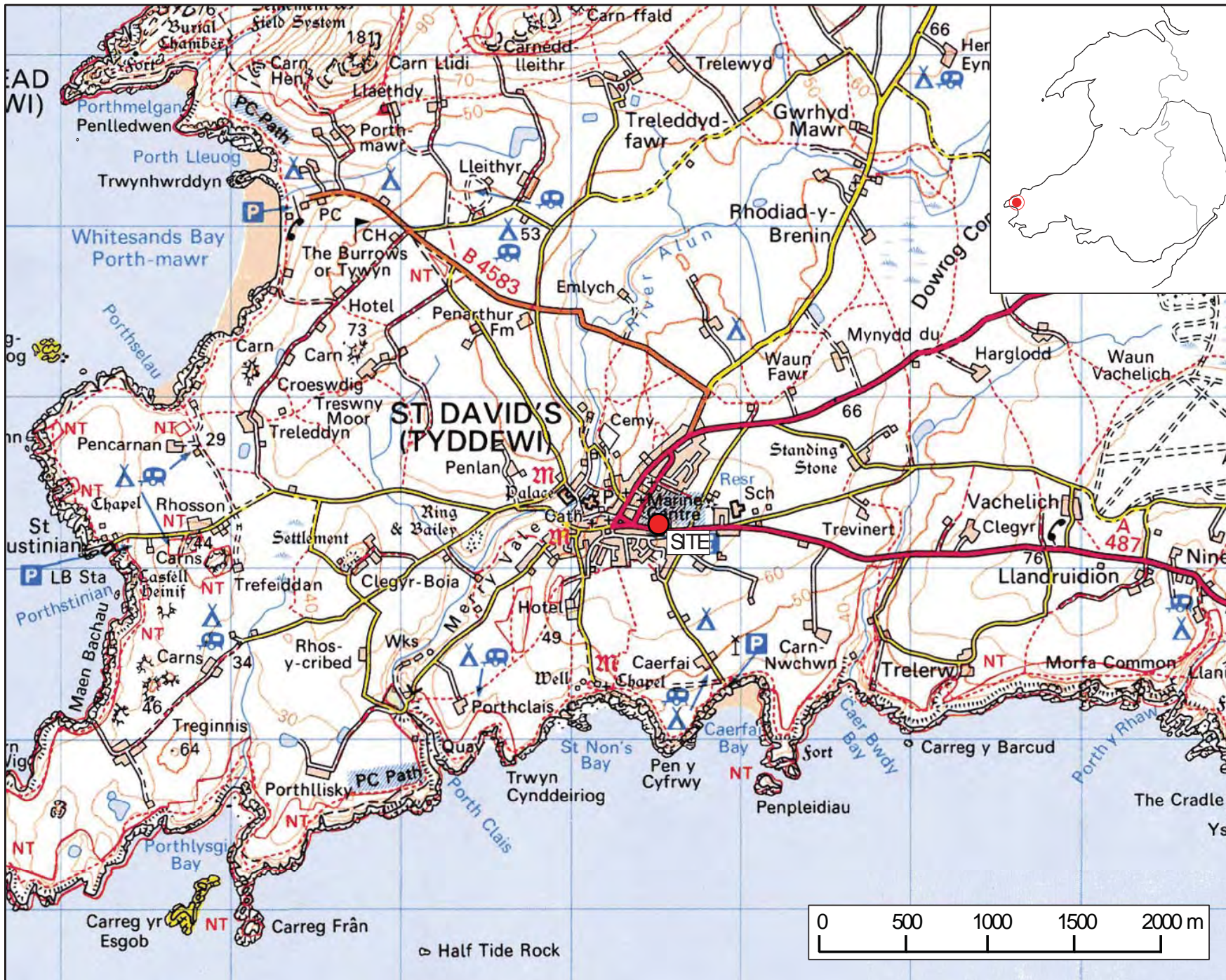
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# *Archaeology Wales*

## **APPENDIX I:**

Figures



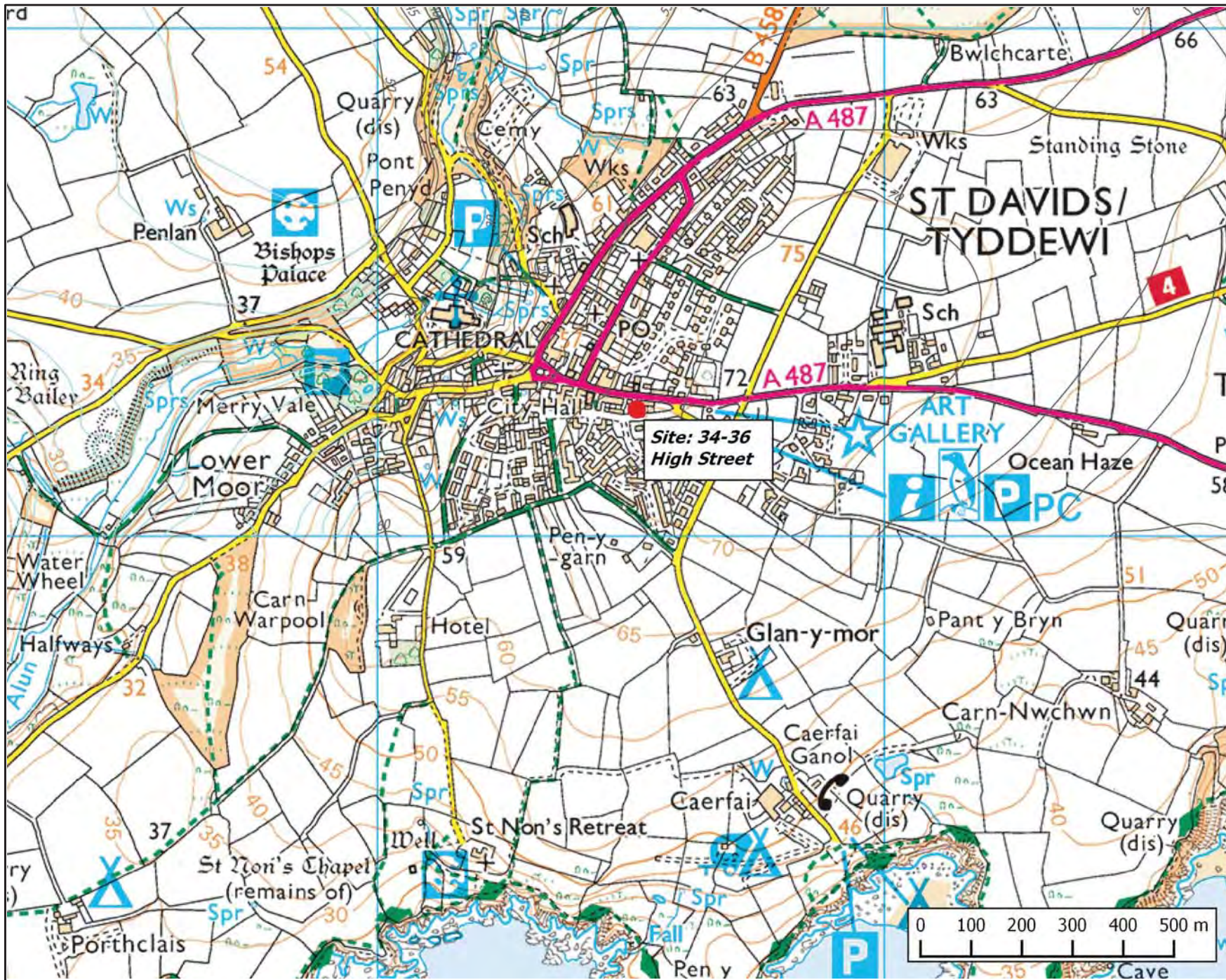


**Figure 1**  
**Location map**  
**Scale:** 1:30000 A4  
**Date:** 04.10.2016

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**Figure 2**

**Location of site**

**Scale:** 1:10000 A4

**Date:** 04.10.2016

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**Figure 3**

**34-36 High Street**

**Scale:** 1:1000 A4

**Date:** 04.10.2016

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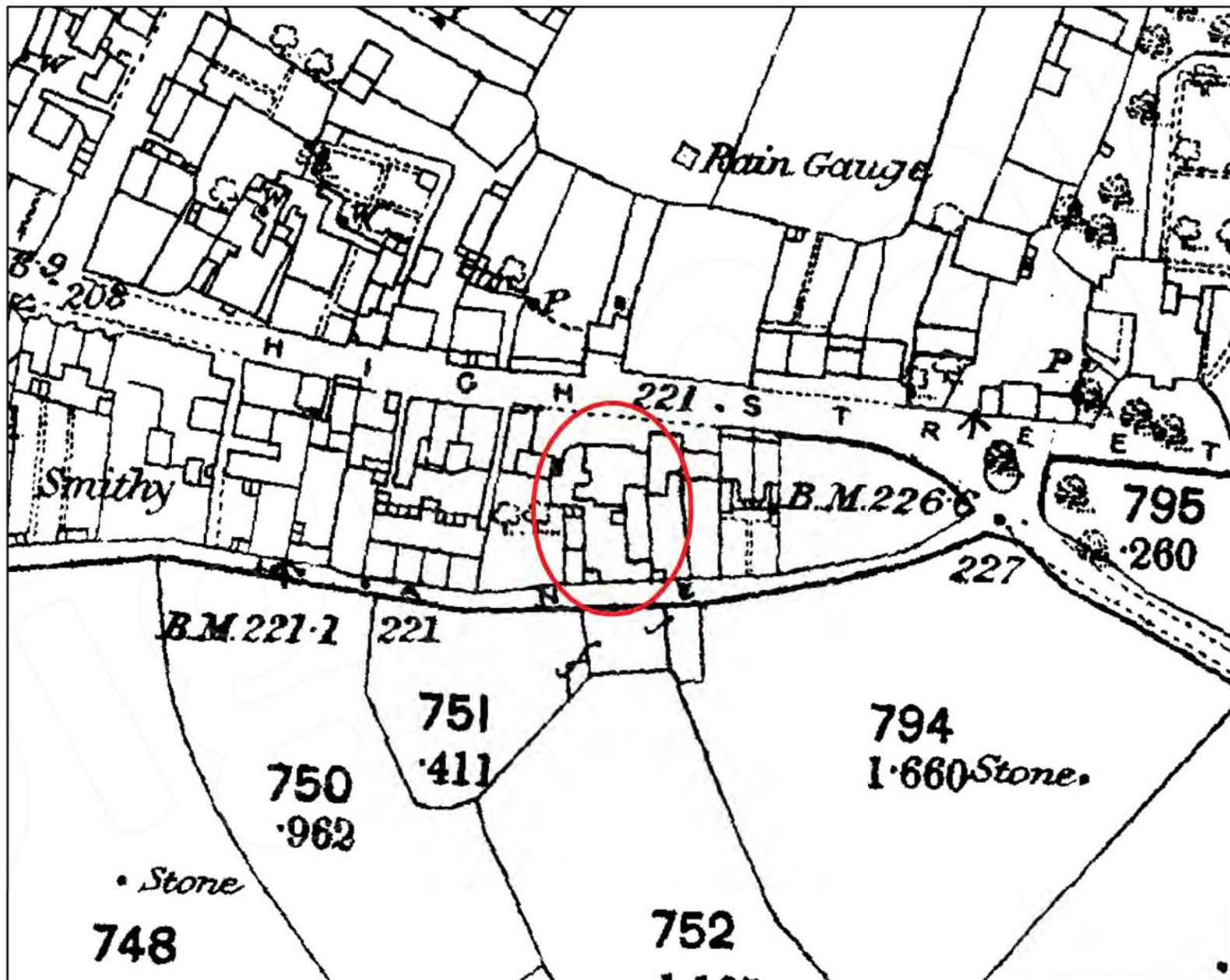


Figure 4

OS 1880s Edition

Scale: 1:1000 A4

Date: 04.10.2016

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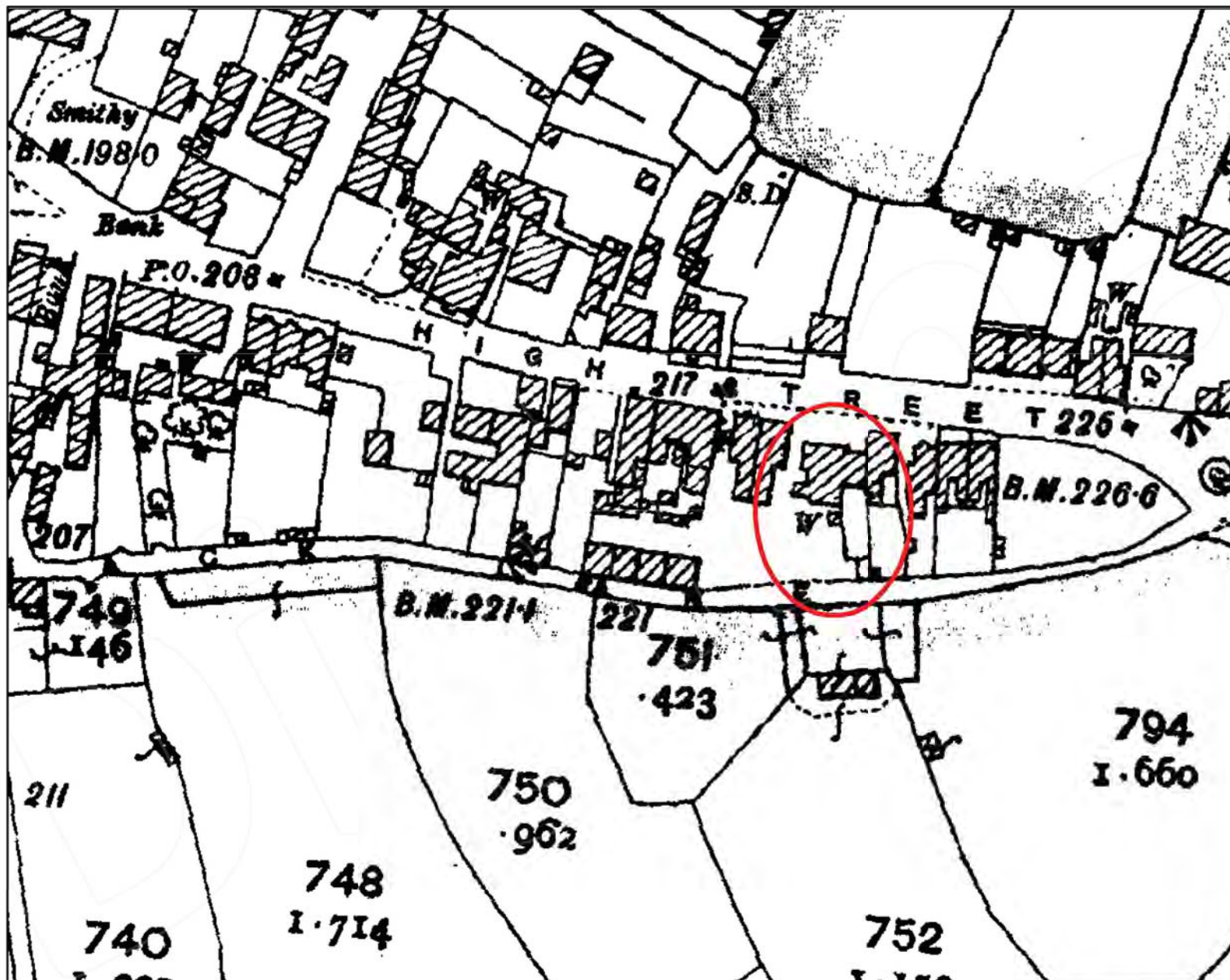


Figure 5

OS 1900s Edition

Scale: 1:1000 A4

Date: 04.10.2016

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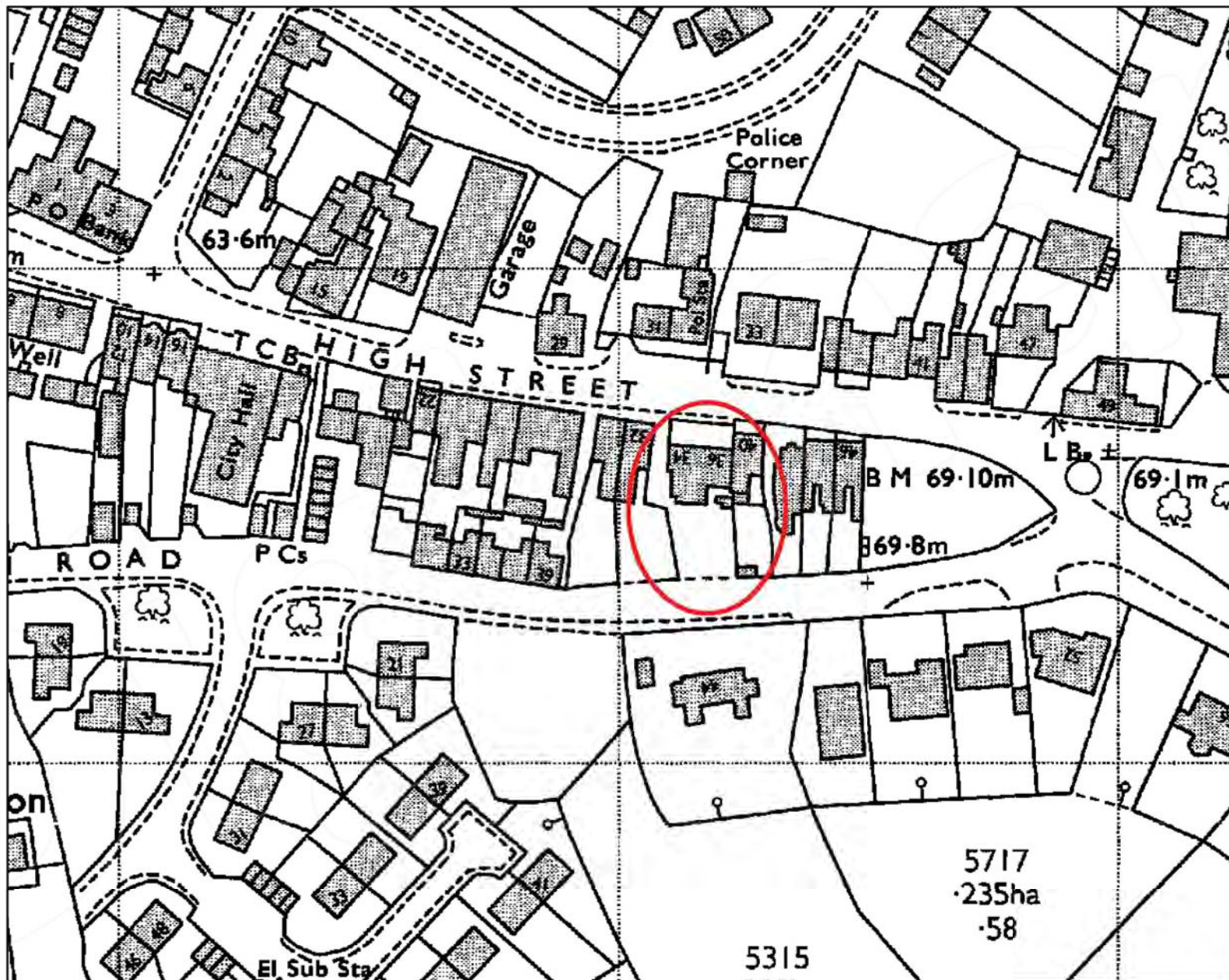


Figure 6

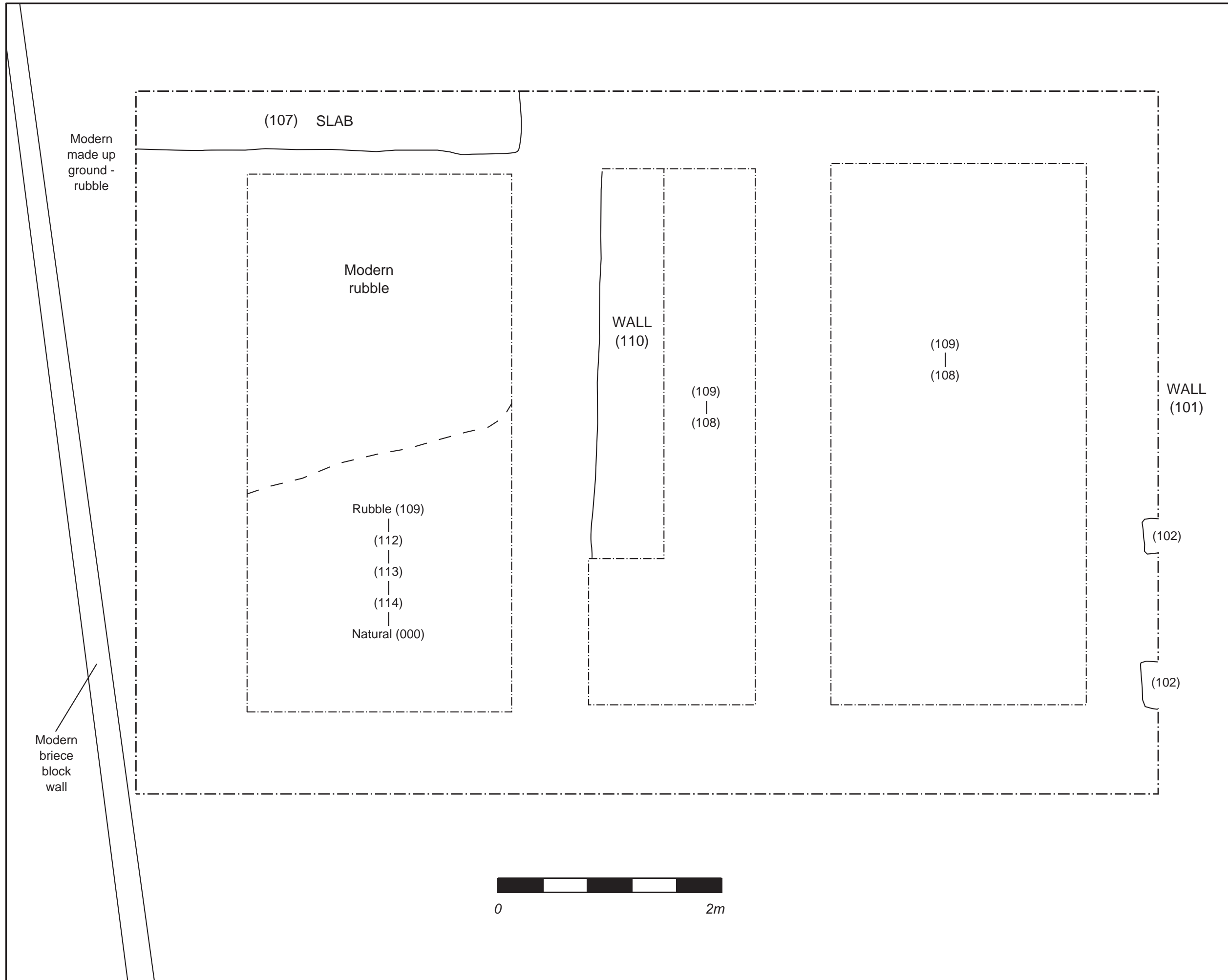
OS 1970s Edition

Scale: 1:1000 A4

Date: 04.10.2016

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**Figure 7**

**Plan of excavation**

**Scale:** 1:40 A3

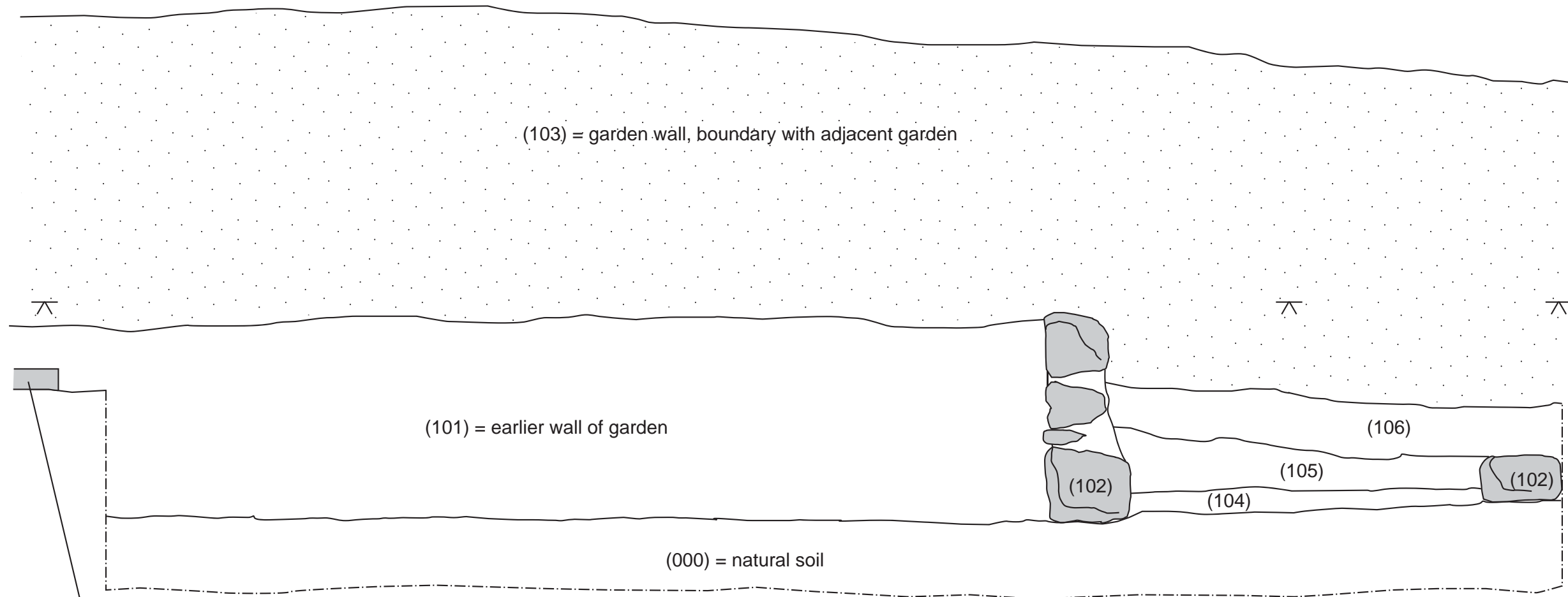
**Date:** 05.10.2016

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### WEST FACING ELEVATION OF SITE



Concrete slabs  
for patio



**Figure 8**

**W facing elevation**

**Scale:** 1:20 A3

**Date:** 05.10.2016

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# *Archaeology Wales*

## **APPENDIX II:**

Plates





**Plate 1:** Bird-eye view of site, 34-36 High Street, in St. Davids.



**Plate 2:** View along slot 1 (northern) and (107), shot facing west.





**Plate 3:** Oblique view of slot 1 (northern), shot facing northwest.



**Plate 4:** Concrete slab (107) in slot 1 (northern), shot facing west.





**Plate 5:** View of blocked entrance of earlier garden wall (101), in slot 2 (eastern).



**Plate 6:** Oblique view of slot 2 (eastern), showing earlier wall (101) and wall (103).





**Plate 7:** Oblique view of slot 3 (middle), (108) and (109), shot facing southeast.



**Plate 8:** Oblique view of slot 4 (middle), with wall (110), shot facing southeast.





**Plate 9:** Detail of wall (110) in slot 4 (middle), shot facing east.



**Plate 10:** Machine opening slot 5 (western), shot facing west.





**Plate 11:** Modern rubble for made up ground, in slot 5 (western), shot facing west.



**Plate 12:** Stratigraphy exposed in slot 6 (southern), (112, 113, 114 and 115).





**Plate 13:** Stratigraphy exposed in slot 6 (southern), (112, 113, 114 and 115).



**Plate 14:** Oblique view of slot 6 (southern), shot facing west.

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **APPENDIX III:**

Archaeology Wales  
Specification

# *Archaeology Wales*

SPECIFICATION

FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

34-36 High Street, **St David's**, Pembrokeshire,

Prepared for:

Jeff Tierney

June 2016

Archaeology Wales Limited  
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## NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

*This Specification details the proposal for an archaeological Watching Brief during groundworks associated with development work to the rear of 34 – 36 High Street, St David's, Pembrokeshire. It has been prepared by Archaeology Wales Limited for Jeff Tierney.*

### 1. Introduction and archaeological background

The scope of the construction work undertaken at the site includes the construction of a bedroom holiday let unit to the rear of **34-36 High Street, St David's**, Pembrokeshire (SM 75518 25253). The planning application number is NP/15/0656/FUL and the planning authority is the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (henceforth - CCC).

This Specification has been prepared by Philip Poucher, Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of the Jeff Tierney. It provides information on the methodology that will be employed by AW during an archaeological watching brief at the site.

The methodology set out in this Specification, and all work subsequently undertaken, will conform to the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). An archaeological watching brief has been set as one of the conditions of the planning permission for the site, it states (Condition 5):

*No development or site clearance shall commence until the local planning authority have been informed in writing of the name of a professionally qualified archaeologist who is to be present during the undertaking of any excavations in the development area so that a watching brief can be conducted. No work shall commence until the local planning authority has confirmed in writing that the proposed archaeologist is suitable. A copy of the watching brief report shall be submitted to the local planning authority within two months of the archaeological fieldwork being completed.*

*Reason: To assess the archaeological value of the site.*

*Policy: Local Development Plan – Policy 8 (Special Qualities) and Planning Policy Wales (Edition 7, July 2014) – Chapter 6 (Conserving the Historic Environment).*

### 2. Site description and historic background

The site occupies a brownfield site close to **the centre of the small city of St David's** in western Pembrokeshire (NGR SM 75518 25253, Figure 1), between High Street to the north and Bryn Road to the south.

The city has a long history stretching back into the early medieval period, when a religious settlement was established by St David in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. Although focused on the area around the cathedral and cathedral close to the west, settlement is likely

to have expanded out from this centre from an early period. There is no clear indication of when settlement along this part of High Street was established, **although it lies on one of the main roads into St David's and only a short distance** from the medieval town cross which is likely to have been the focus, as it is now, for commercial activity. There is therefore the potential for medieval and early medieval archaeological remains to exist in the area of the planned development. Historic mapping shows general urban development in this area since at least the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, but with no indication as to the specific use of the site.

The underlying geology of the area consists of igneous tuff of the Caerbwdy Group (BGS viewer 2016).

### 3 Site specific objectives

The aims of the watching brief, as defined by the ClfA (2014) are:

- To allow a rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features that are uncovered during the proposed groundworks within the application area.
- To provide the opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief are not sufficient to support the treatment to a satisfactory or proper standard.

### 4 Watching Brief Methodology

#### General

The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice.

All work will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist with relevant level membership of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) and will follow the ClfA Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (2014).

#### Detailed

The Watching Brief will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist during any groundworks associated with the erection of the holiday let unit (topsoil stripping, excavation of foundation trenches) where the sub-soil is likely to be exposed or cut into. The mechanical excavation will be undertaken by a machine using a toothless ditching bucket unless ground conditions render this impossible.

If archaeological features, finds or deposits are uncovered, work will be stopped in the area of the exposed feature in order that the supervising archaeologist can clean and identify the extent, nature and significance of the feature and for recording to take place.

All archaeological deposits that are identified will be mapped (as outlined in **'Recording' below**), cleaned, recorded and fully excavated. The developer will provide a safe working area and sufficient time to record and excavate all features to the satisfaction of AW and DAT-PS. Full excavation of identified features will not be compromised by the construction programme.



### Contingency Arrangements

In the event of significant archaeological features being discovered all activities in this area of the site can be temporarily suspended. This will allow a period of consultation with DAT-PS and if required the opinion of specialists.

Following such consultation, recommendations will be presented to the Developer and the Local Planning Authority.

### 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. This can be achieved through measured triangulation from various points within the site boundary due to the proximity of adjacent field boundaries and their known locations. If required this could be further supplemented using a Topcon GTS725 total station.

Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 14MP 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.

### Artefacts

Archaeological artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be cleaned and labelled using an accession number, which will be obtained from the local museum. A single number sequence will be allocated to all finds. The artefacts will be stored appropriately until they are deposited with a suitable local museum.

All finds of gold and silver will be removed to a safe place and Natural Resources Wales, Cadw and the local coroner informed, within the guidelines of the Treasure Act 1996.

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

### Human remains

In the event of burials or cremations being found all work will be halted in the area of the burials and their extent and nature established. The client, DAT and the Ministry of Justice will be informed and a methodology of excavation agreed which will adhere to Ministry of Justice Guidelines.

### Environmental and technological samples

Environmental samples will be taken where necessary when significant deposits are located. Technological samples will be taken where necessary when significant deposits are located.

### Specialists

In the event of certain finds/features etc. being discovered, the site archaeologist may have to seek specialist opinion for assistance. Such specialists will be accessed either internally within AW itself or from an external source. A list of external specialists is given in the table below.

Type	Name	Tel No.
Flint	Dr Amelia Pannett	02920 899509
Animal bone	Jen Kitch	07739 093712
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall	01305 259751
Clay pipe	Hilary Major	01376 329316
Glass	Andy Richmond	01234 888800
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst	01759 368483
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy	01652 658261
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson	Bradford University
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby	01453 882851
Post Roman pottery	Mr Stephen Clarke	
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot	01388 772167
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling	University of Wales (Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham	01992 552256
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers	01443 233466

## 5 Post-Fieldwork Programme

### Conservation

After agreement with the client, DAT-PS and any identified landowner arrangements will be made for the long term conservation and storage of all artefacts in an appropriate local or county museum.

### Archive

The site archive will be prepared in accordance with MAP 2, Appendix 3 (English Heritage 1991). It will comprise all the data recovered during the fieldwork and shall be quantified, ordered and indexed and will be internally consistent. The archive will be

deposited with the finds in a suitable local museum (contact will be made in the first instance with Scolton Manor Museum, Haverfordwest). If no finds are recovered the paper and digital photography archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Wales, held and maintained by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Aberystwyth.

### Reporting

The results of the watching brief will be submitted in an illustrated and bound report, which will include the following material:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the watching brief, all artefacts, structures and features found
- An examination of all photographic material provided by the client taken during the initial groundworks undertaken prior to the archaeological watching brief commencing at the site
- 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
- Statement of local, regional and national context of the remains
- 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.

Copies of the report will be sent to the client and DAT-PS and for deposition in the HER. The HER is open for public consultation.

### Monitoring

Any changes to the specification that the contractor may wish to make after commencement of the watching brief will be communicated to DAT-PS for approval on behalf of the planning authority.

Representatives of DAT-PS will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the watching brief. DAT-PS will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during any potential post-excavation.

### Archive Format & Deposition

The full site archive will be deposited within one month of the completion of the client report.

The paper/drawing/digital archive will be deposited at the appropriate regional archival store with the finds will be deposited with the appropriate local museum. AW will agree

the location and timing of the deposition of the archive before the contract commences.

The archive will include all site notes, finds, documents, drawings, photographs, digital data and a copy of the final report and any prior draft versions. All of these items will be clearly quantified in tabular form in an **'archive deposition statement'** located at the rear of the clients report, and their ultimate location and proposed date of deposition stated.

## 6 Resources and timetable

### Standards

The watching brief will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice.

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidelines of the ClfA.

### Staff

The project will be undertaken by Hywel Keen, and managed by Philip Poucher.

### Equipment

The project will use existing AW equipment.

### Timetable of archaeological works

The watching brief will be undertaken at the convenience of the client, an anticipated start date of mid-June is expected.

### Insurance

AW is fully insured for this type of work. AW holds Public Liability Insurance through Aviva Insurance Ltd, with a £5,000,000 Limit of Indemnity (expires 05/12/16), Employers Liability Insurance through Aviva Insurance Ltd, with a £10,000,000 Limit of Indemnity (expires 05/12/16) and Professional Indemnity Insurance through Hiscox Insurance Company Ltd, with a £1,000,000 Limit of Indemnity (expires 05/12/16).

### Arbitration

In the event of any dispute arising out of this Agreement (including those considered as such by only one of the parties) either party may forthwith give to the other notice in writing of such a dispute or difference and the same shall be and is hereby referred for decision in accordance with the Rules of the Chartered Institute of **Arbitrators' Arbitration scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists applying at the date of this Agreement.**

### Health and safety

All members of staff will adhere to the requirements of the *Health & Safety at Work Act, 1974*, and the Health and Safety Policy Statement of AW.

A site-specific risk assessment will be compiled prior to attendance on site, and a copy given to the on-site construction manager.







Figure 1: Location map, 1:30,000 @ A4

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## **APPENDIX IV:**

Archive

Cover Sheet

## ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

### High Street, St David's, Pembrokeshire.

Site Name:	High Street, St David's
Site Code:	HSSD/16/WB
PRN:	-
NPRN:	-
SAM:	-
Other Ref No:	-
NGR:	SM 75518 25253
Site Type:	Urban – private house garden
Project Type:	Watching brief
Project Manager:	Philip Poucher
Project Dates:	May - October 2016
Categories Present:	Report, photographs, maps, plans
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of duplicate Archives:	DAT
Number of Finds Boxes:	NA
Location of Finds:	NA
Museum Reference:	-
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to access:	None



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