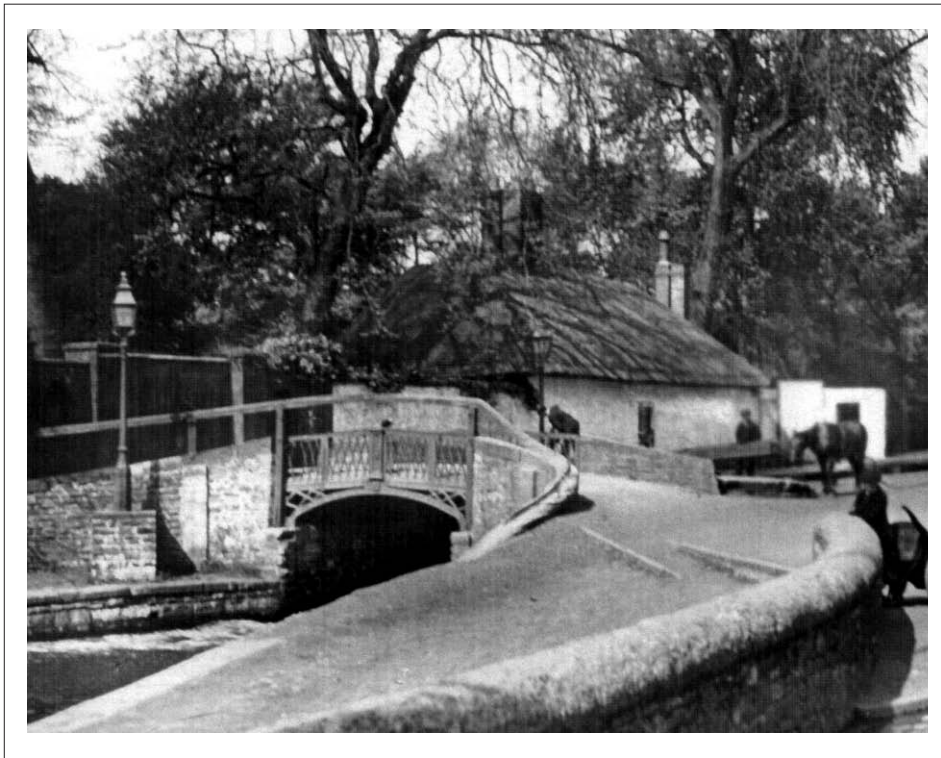




Bute Park, North Lodge Cardiff

Archaeological Watching Brief



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Report No. 655

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CAMBRIAN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECTS

Bute Park, North Lodge

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Non Technical Summary

This report results from work undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd (CAP) for Cardiff County Council. The report draws upon the investigations of a watching brief carried out during groundworks close to the site of the old North Lodge. The watching brief was carried out during the excavation of a pipe trench adjacent to the site of the old canal wall at the north eastern corner of Cardiff Castle. A section of the old canal wall was uncovered though no further remains of archaeological significance were recorded.

Location and scope of work

In September 2010 Cambrian Archaeological Projects (CAP) carried out an archaeological watching brief on North Road, Cardiff, adjacent to the entrance into Bute Park at the north eastern corner of Cardiff Castle. The site is centred around NGR ST1779076887 (Fig 1). Bute Park lies in the centre of Cardiff bounded by the River Taff to the west, Cardiff Castle and the civic centre of Cathays Park to the east, with the city centre and Castle Street to the south.

The watching brief was carried out in order record any archaeological remains present in the area of the groundworks and record them prior to the installation of the new service.

Fig 2 shows the extent and exact location of the groundworks.

Geology and topography

The present city centre is built on an almost level flood plain just 12 m above sea level. The surface was formed of gravels deposited at the end of the last glacial maximum (c. 18,000 years ago). The bedrock beneath the gravels is a red mudstone deposited in the late Triassic Period about 220 million years ago (British Geological Survey 2001).

Toward Cardiff Bay the gravels are covered by estuarine alluvium (mud) which is up to 10 m thick. The Estuarine Alluvium soils are, by their nature, highly plasticized and compact deposits.

This mud has been deposited since the last Ice Age when areas have been flooded during high tides. Most of Cardiff Bay and the area of Cardiff to the west of Westgate Street, including the assessment area, are built on reclaimed land (Smith 2007).

Archaeological and Historical Background

Bute Park is listed on the Cadw/ICOMOS register of historic parks and gardens as a Grade 1 historic landscape. It is a listed historic garden (Gm 22 CDF) (Grade I) with part of the park being preserved as a conservation area.

The area of the park seems to have been an integral part of Cardiff's medieval urban landscape with the castle to the east and the bridge to the west providing an access point to the city. A Roman 'vicus' settlement is also likely to have been present within the current park grounds as Cardiff Castle is also the site of four successive Roman forts, the first fort being established c.50-70AD.

The castle, bounding the east side of the park, is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Gm 171).

A Dominican friary was also established in the area by the mid 13th century. The remains of the Blackfriars are situated in the southern half of the park, but its walls, consolidated in the 19th century, are in a very poor state of repair. This site is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Gm 173).

The park originally formed the grounds of the Castle which had passed into the Bute Family by marriage from the Earl of Pembroke to Lord Windsor. In 1776 the first Marquis decided renovations on the castle were in order.

The park was open to the public from 1783 to 1863, when privileges were withdrawn to protect the privacy of the Bute family as Cardiff's population grew rapidly.

The park was given over to the Corporation of Cardiff by the Marquis of Bute in September 1947 when the Bute family severed their ties to Cardiff and returned to Scotland.

Map research has shown that the River Taff altered its course a number of times, and was even re-directed. Much of the northern part of the park is on ground reclaimed from the river. The park, in its current state, was laid out as part of the pleasure gardens of Cardiff Castle in the 19th century and remains a good example of Victorian landscape design. A nursery complex lies halfway along the park.

Bute Park is a unique city centre "green lung" providing a large open space within the massively urbanised cityscape of Cardiff (Smith 2007).

The location of the groundworks can be shown, through map regression analysis, to be over/close to the site of the Glamorganshire Canal and the castle moat. The site of Lock No. 19 and a Weir are also clearly marked in the area (Fig 3).

Previous Work

Work has been previously carried out in Bute Park and the surrounding area by Cambrian Archaeological Projects. This includes desk based assessments of Cardiff Castle and Bute Park, geophysical survey of Bute Park and various excavations and watching briefs in both areas (Cap Report Nos. 203, 229, 246, 305, 329, 330, 341, 343, 350 & 380).

Aims and Objectives

Watching Brief

The watching brief was undertaken:

- To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.
- To provide an 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 itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.
- The main objective of a watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on a site.

Evaluation Methodology

Scope of Fieldwork

The watching brief was carried out on the excavation of small areas of service trench adjacent to the old Glamorganshire Canal wall (Plate 1). Excavation was carried out both by hand and mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision.

Project Assistant Hywel keen undertook the watching brief under the overall management of Chris Smith (MIFA). All trenches were photographed using high resolution digital photography.

All works were undertaken in accordance with the IFA's *Standards and Guidance: for an archaeological watching brief* and current Health and Safety legislation.

Finds

Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context.

Palaeo-environmental evidence

No deposits suited to environmental sampling were located during the evaluation.

Watching Brief Results

Soils and ground conditions

Generally the ground conditions were dry following periods of sunshine.

Distribution of deposits

The top and subsoils were heavily disturbed by tree roots down to a depth of around 0.7m

Trench Location and Descriptions

Trench 1 (1m x 1m x 1m, fig 2, Plate 2)

Trench 1 was located adjacent to the track leading into the underground passage beneath North Road. This trench measured 1m in length by 1m in width and depth and was excavated to accommodate bore hole drilling equipment. Removal of topsoil (a dark brown silt), revealed a subsoil level at around 0.2m deep. Removal of subsoil (a dark brown clay silt) revealed cobblestones within the context, their frequency increasing with depth. At a depth of 1m excavation ceased. No significant archaeological remains were encountered.

Trench 2 (1.4 x 0.8m x 0.7m, fig 2, Plate 3)

Trench 2 was positioned on an area of grass verge adjacent to North Road. Removal of topsoil revealed the surface of the old canal wall. Further excavation beside the wall revealed it to be made of dressed stones of differing sizes. Modern concrete repointing between the stones reveals that the wall was exposed until relatively recently. Excavation beside the wall ceased at a depth of 0.7m. The wall was recorded prior to being drilled through.

Trench 3 (10m x 0.8m x 0.5m, fig 2, Plate 4)

Trench 3 was a long thin trench excavated by mini-digger joining trenches 1 and 2. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m and was only 0.5m wide. No archaeological

remains were evident within the trench.

Finds

Finds of modern ceramic were made from the top and subsoils. These were not retained.

Discussion and Interpretation

Reliability of field investigation

As the area under investigation is well covered by old map information, the field investigation was deemed very reliable.

The overall findings of the watching brief were consistent with that suggested by the cartographic and photographic data.

Overall interpretation

The overall interpretation from the watching brief is that the map coverage of the area is very reliable. Use of the maps will, therefore, be useful in determining how future ground works are carried out in the area.

Significance

The watching brief results are significant in that they highlight the large amount of archaeological remains which survive in and around this area. This should be borne in mind when any future ground works are proposed.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks are due to Hywel Keen for his carrying out of the fieldwork. Thanks are also due to Jon Green for his liasing and supply on information.

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ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

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Site Code:	BPC/10/WB
PRN:	-
NPRN :	-
SAM:	-
Other Ref No:	-
NGR:	NGR ST1779076887.
Site Type:	Modern
Project Type:	Watching Brief
Project Manager:	Chris E Smith
Project Dates:	September 2010
Categories Present:	-
Location of Original Archive:	-
Location of duplicate Archives:	None
Number of Finds Boxes:	-
Location of Finds:	-
Museum Reference:	-
Copyright:	CAPLtd
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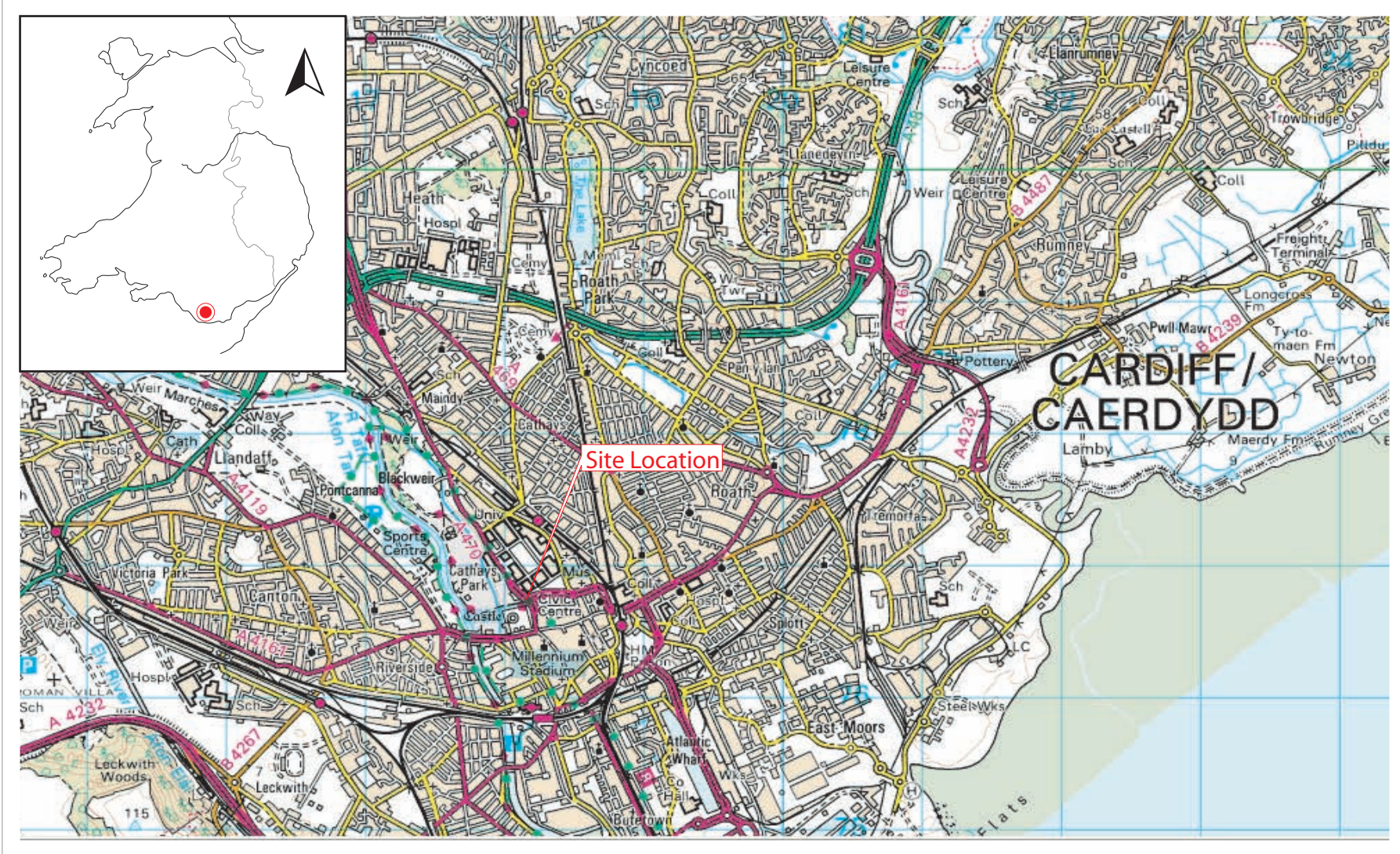


Fig. 01: General Site Location Plan

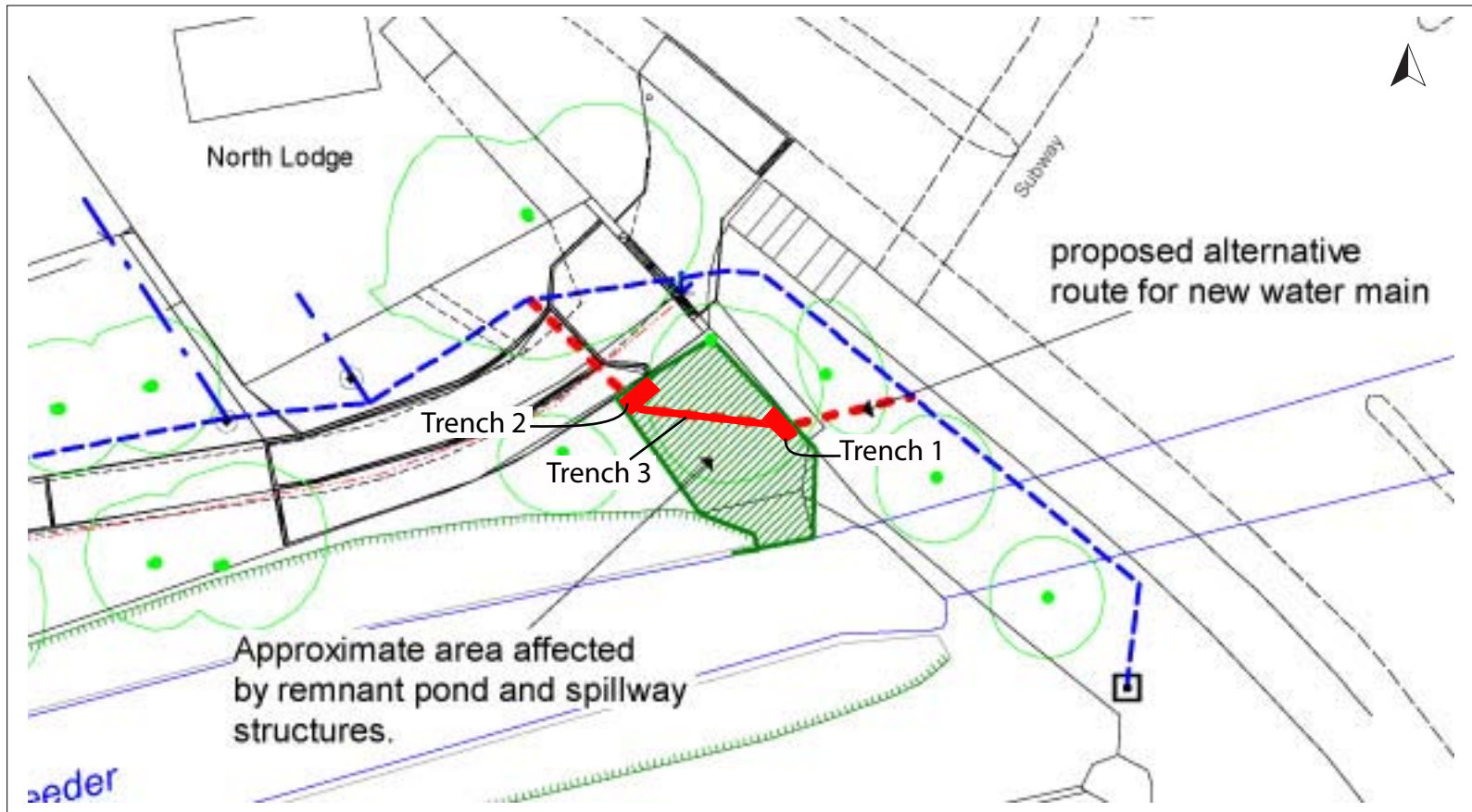


Fig 2: Plan showing exact location of trenches

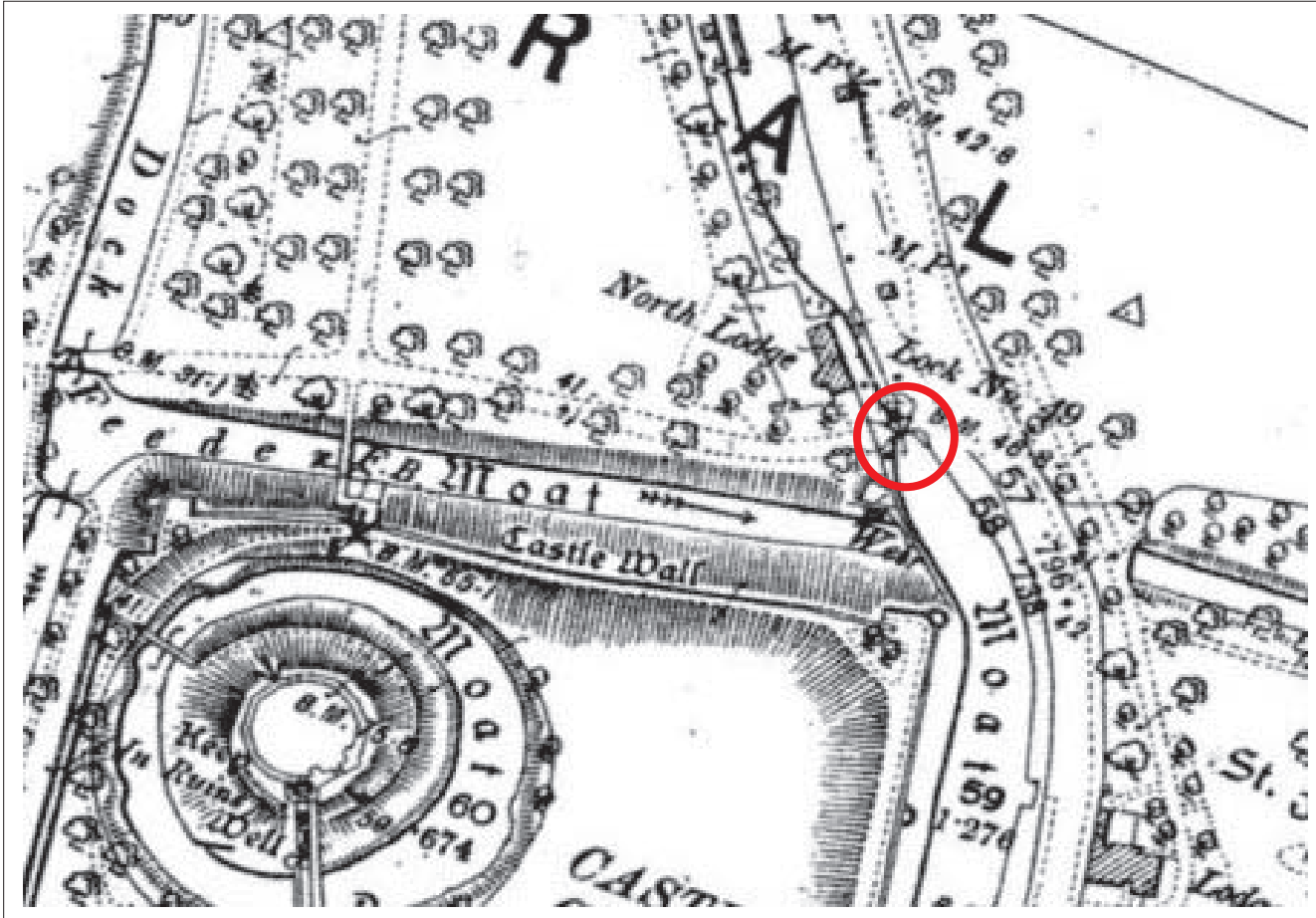


Fig 3: Section of the 1901 OS map showing area of groundworks



Plate 1: Early nineteenth century photograph of North Lodge. Note Canal wall in foreground



Plate 2: View of trench excavated for bore



Plate 3: View of canal wall within trench 2, scale 1x1m



Plate 4: View along trench 3.



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