

**HVERFORDWEST CASTLE MEMORIAL
STONE, PEMBROKESHIRE
(SM 95343 15728)**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

November 2009



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HAVERFORDWEST CASTLE MEMORIAL STONE, PEMBROKESHIRE (SM 95343 15728) ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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HAVERFORDWEST CASTLE MEMORIAL STONE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

As part of the proposals to erect a new memorial stone, which is to be situated within the scheduled area of the outer bailey of Haverfordwest Castle (NGR SM 95343 15728, SAM NO. PE366, PRN3320), it was required by Cadw that an archaeological watching brief be maintained whilst digging the foundations for the memorial. This was stipulated within the Scheduled Monument Consent granted by Cadw for the proposal.

Haverfordwest Castle was an Anglo Norman Stronghold, constructed shortly after the Norman Conquest. Given the topographical and geographical nature of the site there is a possibility that the castle is situated on an earlier Iron Age Promontory fort (NGR SM 9534 1573, PRN 7,615), however, this has not been proven archaeologically thus far.

The proposed memorial stone is situated within the Scheduled area which is considered to be of great archaeological potential. The foundation for the stone, was excavated by an archaeologist down to the required depth of the footings for the new Memorial stone.

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were commissioned to undertake the watching brief (excavation of the footings) in November 2009 by Haverfordwest Civic Society.

A modern gas main was the only feature to be discovered whilst under taking the watching brief. The shallow depth required for the memorial stone penetrated through the turf and topsoil and into a layer of made up ground containing Post Medieval ceramics, animal bone, mollusc remains and a pipe stem. The full depth of the post-medieval layer was not exposed by the footings.

No further archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the excavations.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

Proposals were submitted to Cadw by the Haverfordwest Civic Society for the erection of a memorial stone within the grounds of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Haverfordwest Castle, Pembrokeshire (NGR SM 95343 15728; SAM No. PE366; Figures 1 and 4). Scheduled Monument Consent was granted for the erection of the stone, with a condition of the consent requiring that the footings be excavated by a qualified archaeologist, to the required depth of foundation or top of significant archaeological deposits, whichever was reached first.

To comply with this condition, Haverfordwest Civic Society, commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to undertake the archaeological watching brief in November 2009.

The site of the stone was located by Haverfordwest Civic Society, the footings comprising a rectangular trench measuring c.2.60m by 1.50m. The trench was hand excavated by firstly removing the turf then excavating to a maximum 0.15m in depth and a minimum of 0.10m in depth, to create a level base for the Memorial - this variation required accommodate in the slope of the land.

1.2 Scope of the Project

The project was designed to record any archaeological features or deposits exposed within the location of the foundation for the monument in the outer bailey of Haverfordwest Castle. The area was to be hand excavated to the depth required for the foundation, or to the top of significant archaeological remains, whichever was reached first.

1.3 Report Outline

This report describes the location of the site along with its archaeological background before summarising the watching brief results and the conclusions based on those results.

1.4 Abbreviations

Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR).

1.5 Illustrations

Record photographs are included at back of the report. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale and are illustrative only.

2 THE SITE

2.1 Location

The site is located at NGR SM 95343 15728 in the Scheduled outer bailey of Haverfordwest Castle, Pembrokeshire (Figures 1 to 4, 6 and 7). Topographically the site is set upon a Promontory overlooking the western Cleddau, and at which point is the western Cleddau's tidal limit. The site is situated at a height of c. 20m OD.

2.2 Archaeological And Historical Background

(The archaeological and historical timeline for Wales is included in Table 1).

The castle is situated on a commanding promontory that overlooks the western Cleddau at its tidal reaches. Due to the castles position it is likely that it is built on a much older site such as a Iron Age Hillfort (PRN 27,615), however, this has not been archaeologically proven. The Castle is first mentioned in 1110 and is recorded as being built by a certain Tancred or Tancard who was a Flemish leader. During this period it is recorded that a large number of Flemish migrants were settled within the cantref of Rhos in Pembrokeshire around the time of Henry First's sovereignty and displaced the local Welsh Population. Tancred's son, Richard Fitz Tancred, is recorded by Gerald Of Wales as being Lord of Haverfordwest Castle when Gerald visited the fortress in 1188 (Miles, 1999, p12-15). The Castle at Haverfordwest was probably at this time largely a wooden ring-work castle, with the keep being the only building of masonry construction on the site, part of which still survives. The modern inner ward and outer ward ground plan together probably form the ground plan of the twelfth-century wooden castle.

It is recorded in 1220 that Llywelyn the Great attacked Haverfordwest and gained access and burnt the town, however, Llywelyn was not able to breach the walls of the Castle. It is probable that at the time of Llwelyn's attack the Castle had been rebuilt in stone (Rees, 1992, p137-138).

In the late 13th century Queen Eleanor spent a considerable amount of money adding to the Castle. Owain Glyndwr attacked Haverfordwest Castle in 1405 and was repulsed by the defenders, again implying how formidable the castles defences were (Rees, 1992, p137-138). The layout of the castle in 1577 is shown on Figure 6.

The Castle was slighted soon after the English Civil war by members of the town under the instructions of Oliver Cromwell (Miles, 1999).

The Town and County Gaol (PRN 8,360) was constructed after the 1779 enabling act. This early part of the gaol was built within the inner ward of the castle, however, the later part which was built in 1821 it was situated in the outer ward of the Castle (Figures 2, 3 and 7).

3 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

The watching brief comprised of a site visit to hand excavate the foundation for the Memorial stone and record the results of the excavation.

It comprised the hand excavation of a foundation trench for the Memorial, which measured 2.60m long x 1.52m wide. The trench was hand dug to a maximum depth of between 0.15m and a minimum depth 0.10m to accommodate for the decrease in the height of the ground to the south.

4 RESULTS (Figure 5; Photos 1 and 2)

The excavation of the foundation trench for the Memorial Stone first involved the de-turfing of the topsoil (101), a dark brown silty clay with a maximum depth of 0.14m.

Underlying the topsoil layer was a layer of homogenous subsoil (102), a blackish brown silty clay, that contained large amounts of post medieval ceramics, as well as molluscs and animal bone. This layer is possibly evidence for the landscaping of the ground in the post medieval period after the castle went out of use as a fortification and when the Town and County Gaol (PRN 8630) was built in 1822.

The only feature visible within the excavated foundation was visible as a grey linear mark leading in an east-west direction across the trench (Photo 2). The feature contained a mid grey brown silty clay with large amounts of residual post medieval ceramic and a piece of plastic bag. It was clearly visible that the feature was a modern service trench. The service trench [103] was exposed for a length of 2.10m across the trench and 0.12m in width. Through careful hand excavation of the service trench, a yellow plastic tape was found with gas clearly printed on it, indicating it was a gas main.

Due to the position of the gas pipe beneath the proposed location of the Memorial Stone, it was decided that the position of the stone should be altered, in case service or repairs were required to the pipe. The new proposed location of the stone has not been confirmed as yet.

5 CONCLUSIONS

Through hand excavation of the foundation for the memorial stone it was revealed that the depth of the foundation would have no effect on the buried archaeological resource within the immediate area, due to the build up of a make up layer associated with landscaping in the post medieval period of the ground within the castle's outer ward. It is likely that this was associated with the building of the gaol in 1822. Any archaeological features, if present, would be present at a much deeper depth than that excavated for the footing (between 0.10m and 0.15m).

Due to the nature and position of the identified service it was decided to relocate the monument. It is most likely that the memorial stone will be moved to the immediate south-east of the planned foundation. Due to the identified layer of post-medieval make-up within this area, possibly associated with landscaping in the early 19th century, the excavation of the footing for the memorial stone in the new location would need minimal archaeological supervision.

No further archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the groundworks.

6 SOURCES

Map

Pembrokeshire Records Office for plan of Gaol (figure 3)

Ordnance Survey, 1890, Pembrokeshire Sheet XXVII NW 1st edition 1:10,560

Ordnance Survey, 1907, Pembrokeshire Sheet XXVII NW 2nd edition 1:10,560

Ordnance Survey 1964 Sheet SM 81 SW 1:10,560

Ordnance Survey 2002. 1:50000. St David's and Haverfordwest.

Published Sources

Carthcart King, D, J. 1999. '*Haverfordwest Castle C.1110-1577*' D A History of Haverfordwest. Llandysul: Gomer Press.

Miles, D.1999. '*A HISTORY OF HAVERFORDWEST*'. Gomer Press, Llandysul.

Rees, S,1992. *A Guide to Ancient and Historic Wales. Dyfed*. London: HMSO

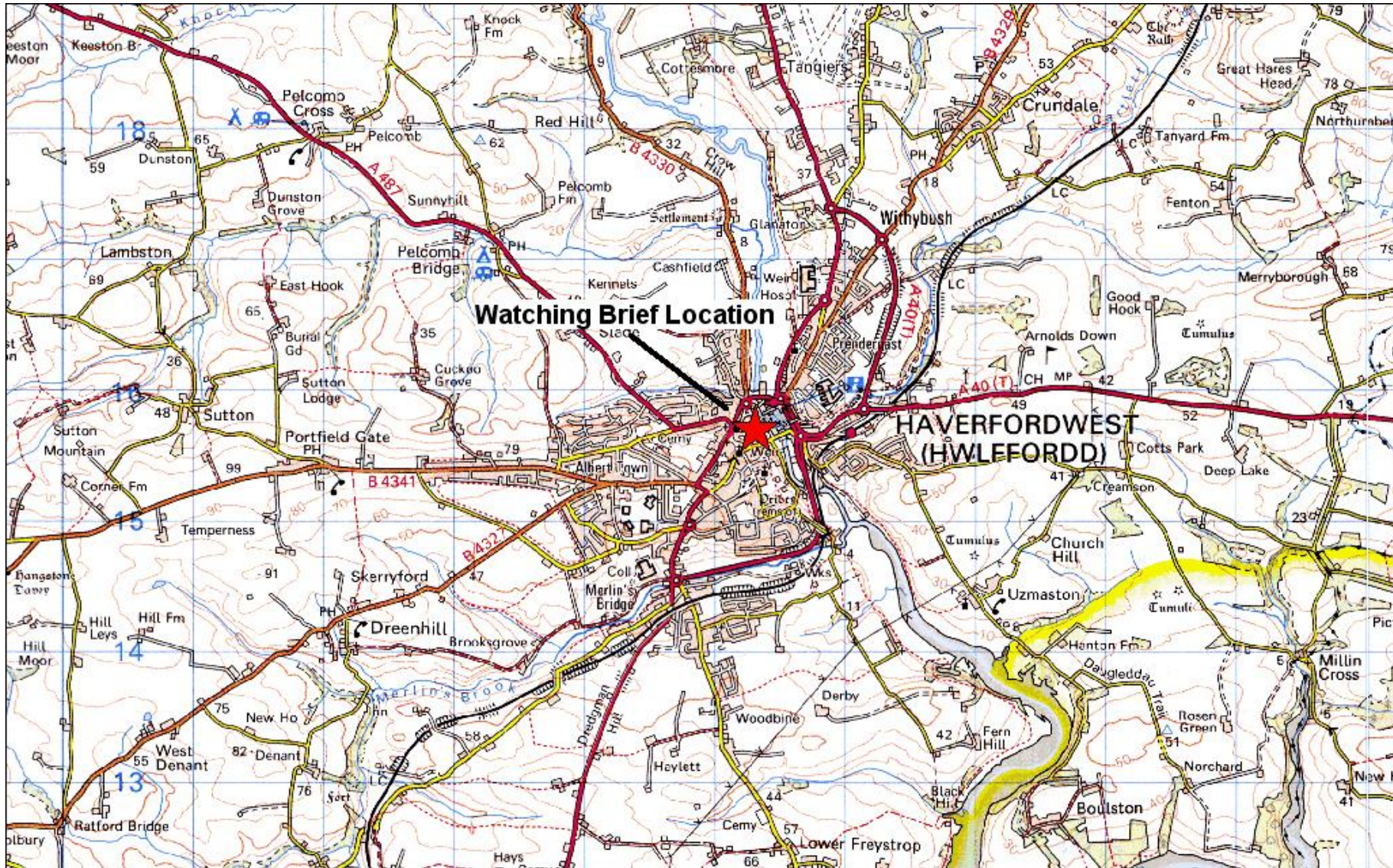


Figure 1: Location map of site based on Ordnance Survey.

Reproduced from the 2002 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Cambria Archaeology, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A



Figure 2: Pembroke 1st edition map showing Castle and town.

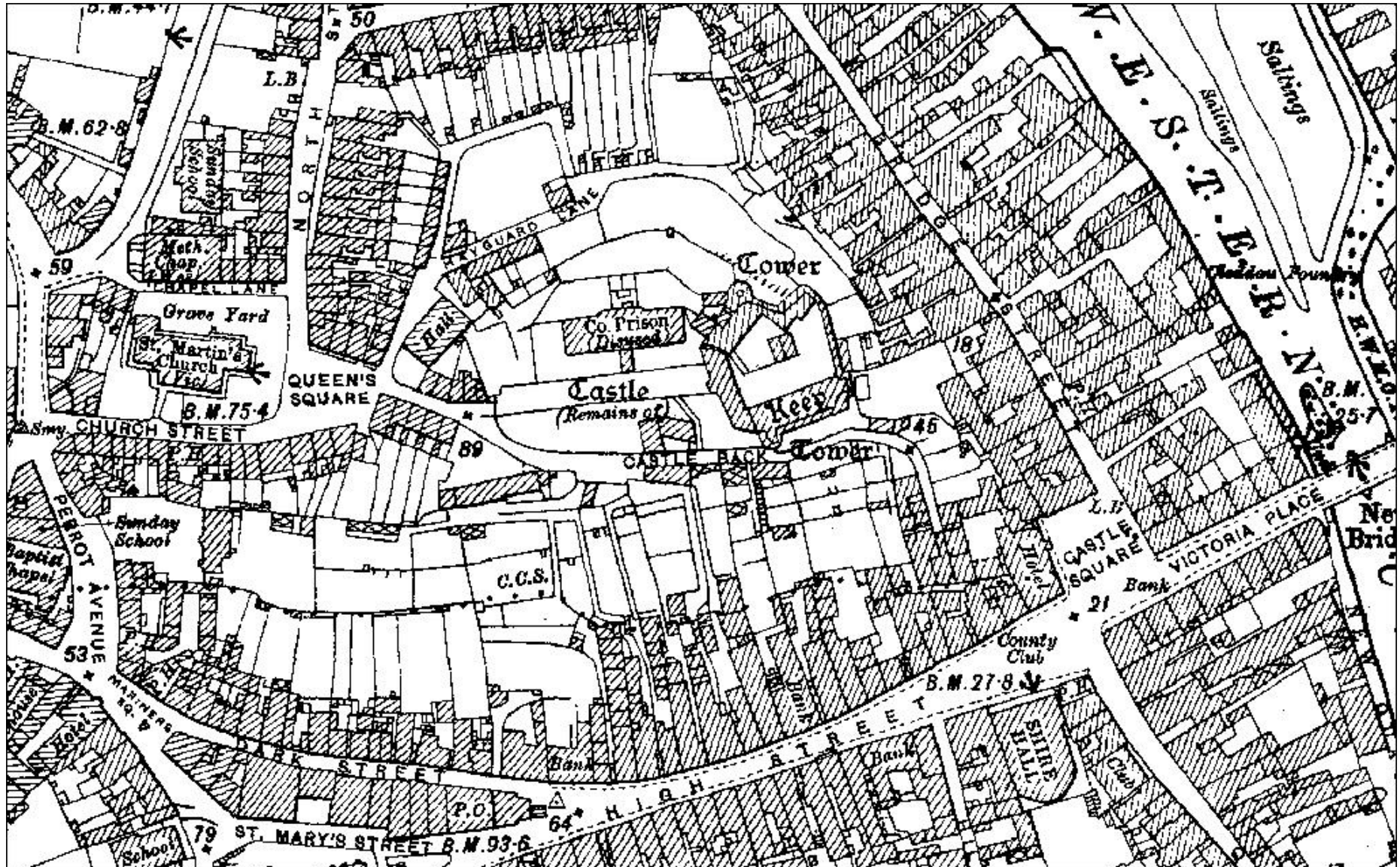


Figure 3: Pembrokeshire 2nd edition map showing Castle and town.

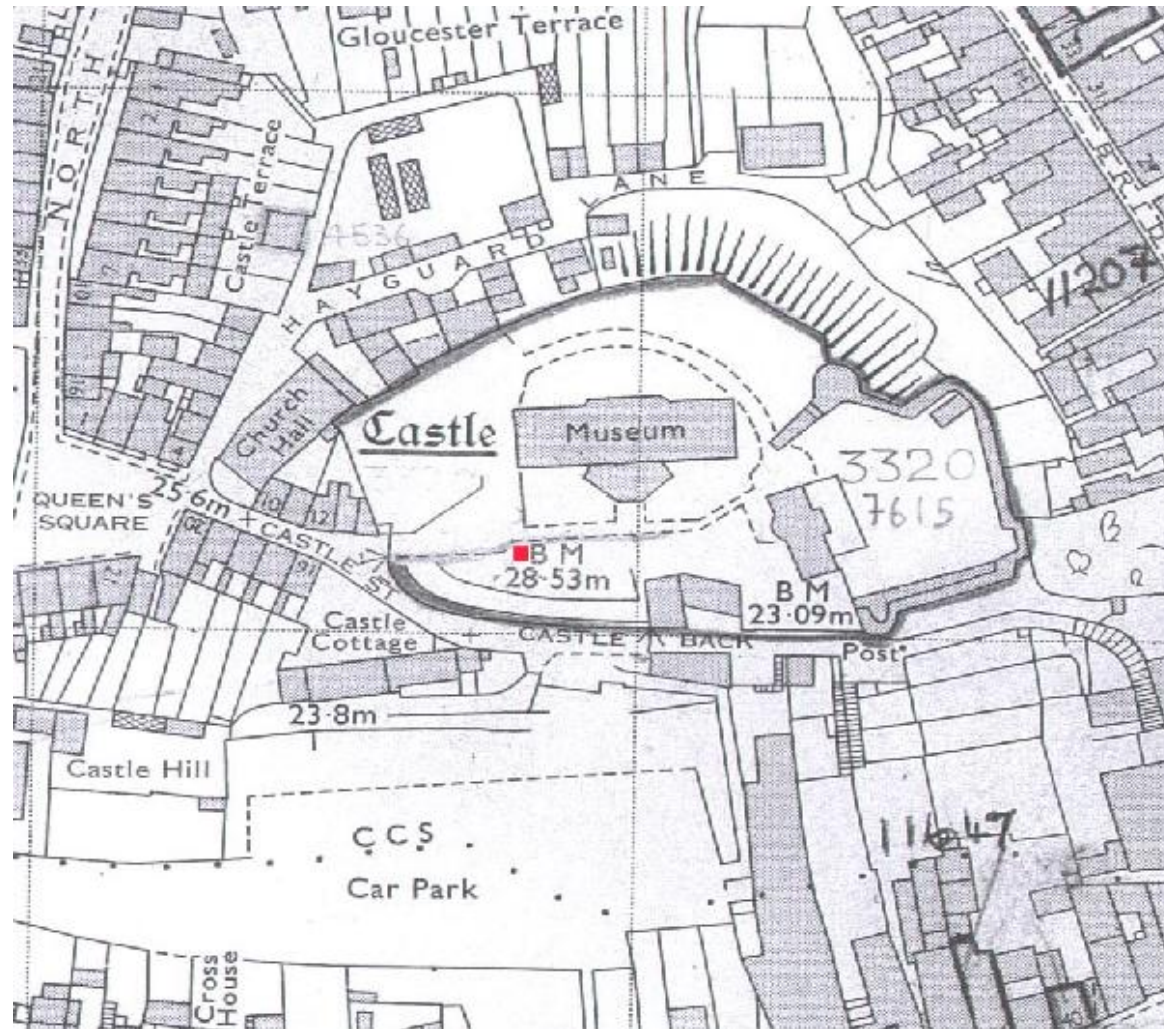


Figure 4: Map Showing Castle and Trench location.

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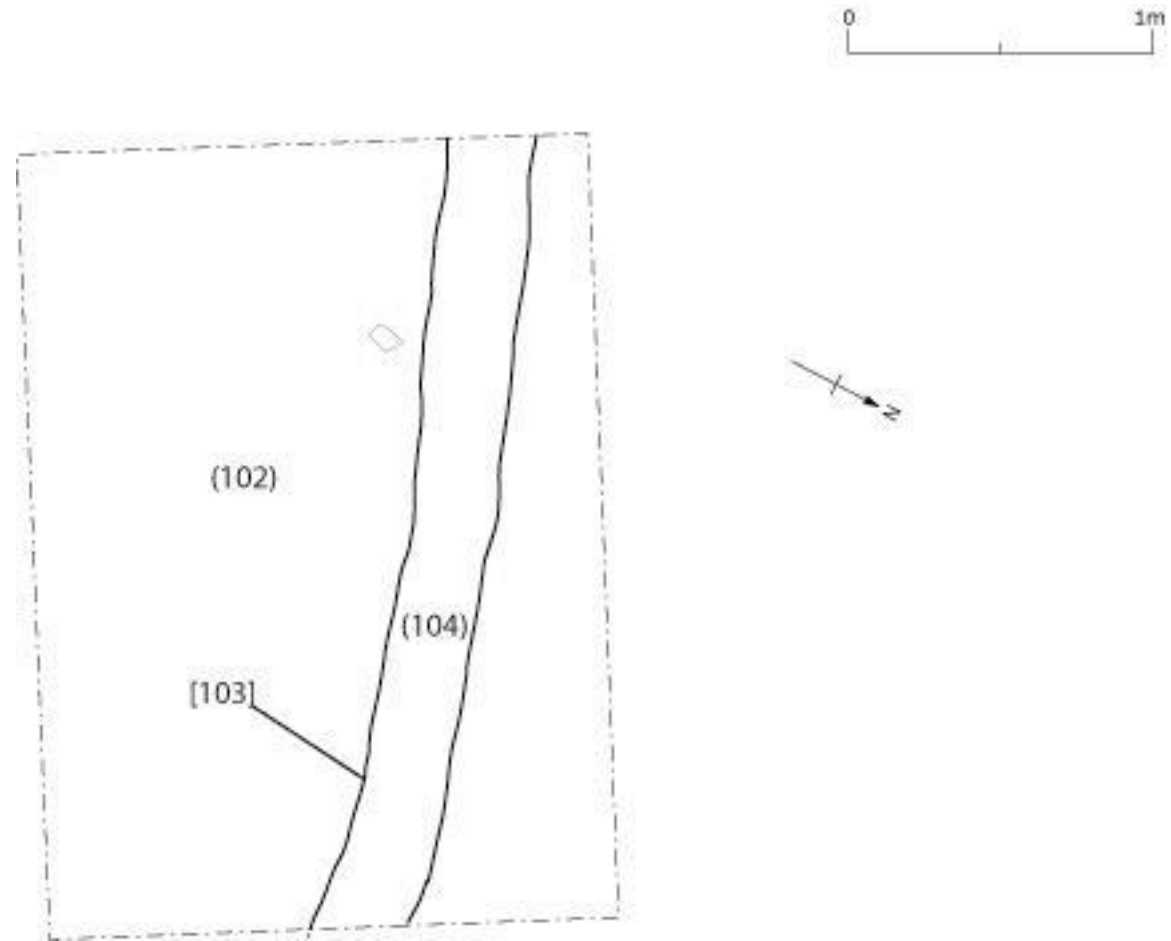


Figure 5: Plan of trench showing service.

Haverfordwest Castle 1577

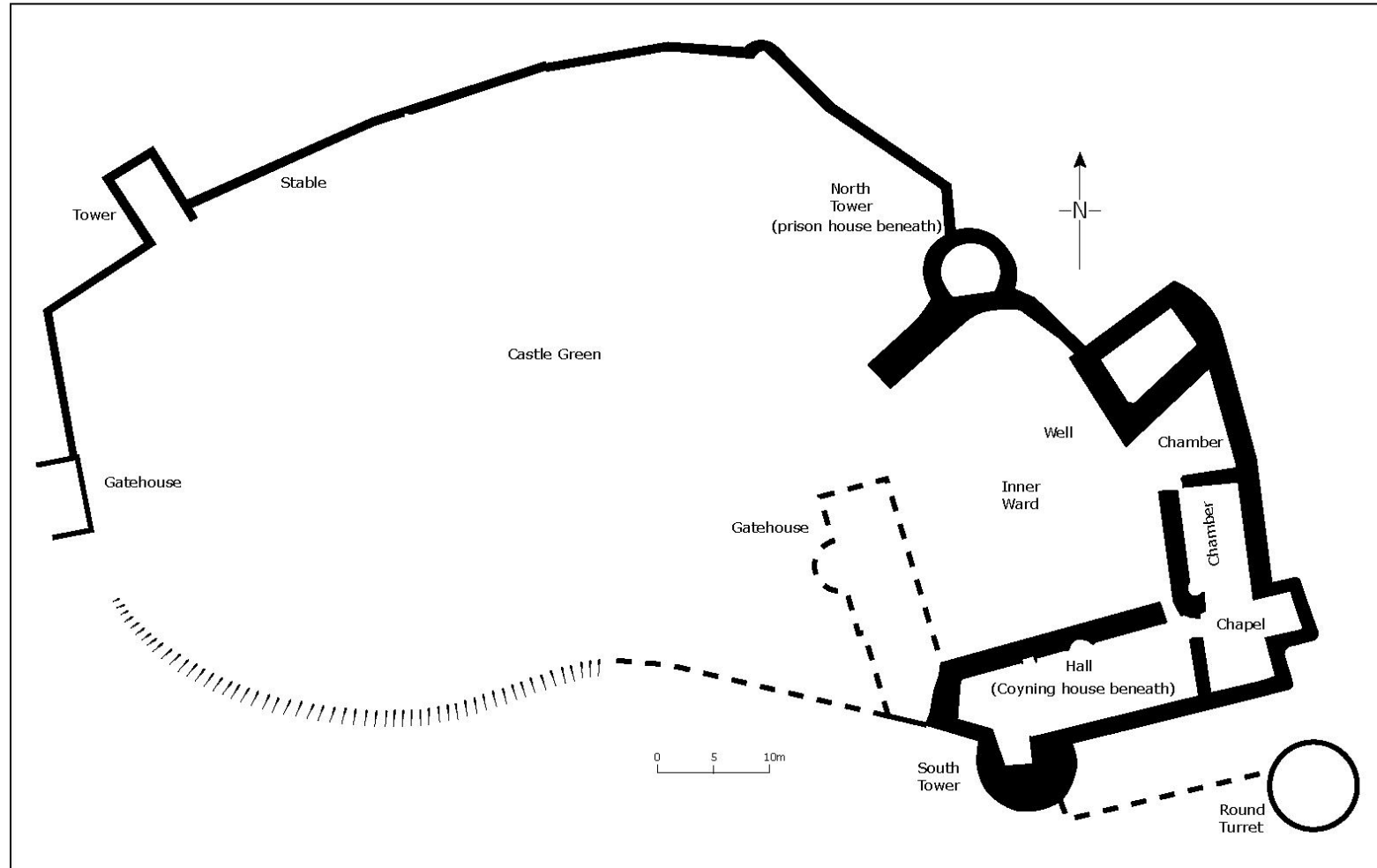


Figure 6: The Haverfordwest Castle Inner and Outer Wards. From Cathcart King (1999)

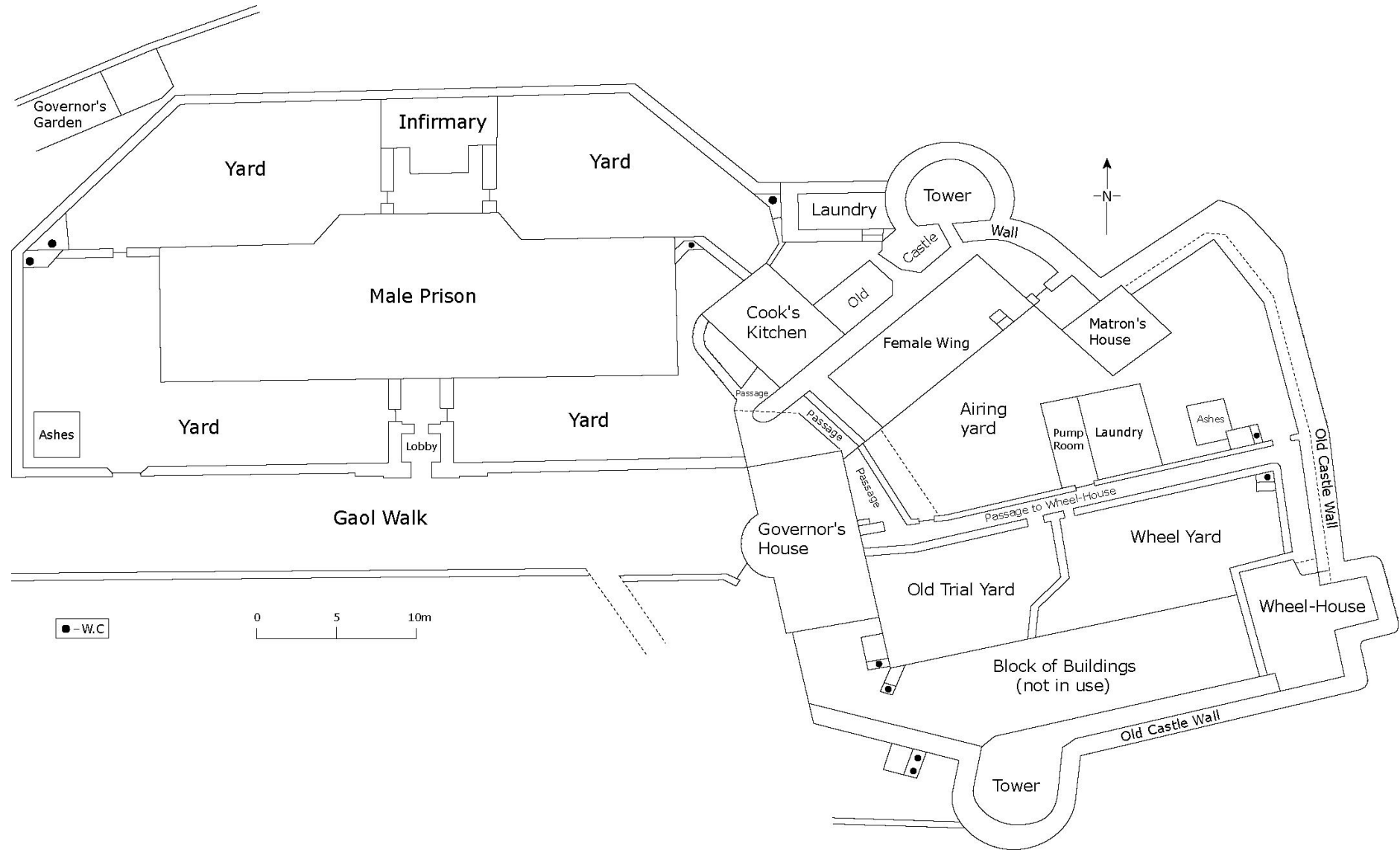


Figure 7: The later prison within Haverfordwest Castle. Redrawn from map held in Haverford west Record office

<i>Period</i>	<i>Approximate Date</i>
Palaeolithic	c.225,000 BC – 10,000 BC
Mesolithic	c.10,000 BC – c.3500 BC
Neolithic	c.3500 BC – c.2000 BC
Bronze Age	c.2000 BC – c.600 BC
Iron Age	c.600 BC – 43 AD
Roman	43 AD – 410 AD
Early Medieval	410 AD - 1066
Medieval	1066 - 1485
Post Medieval	1485 – c.1900
Modern	c.1900 onwards

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales.



Photo. 1: North east facing shot of trench.



Photo. 2: East facing shot of linear service.

HAVERFORDWEST CASTLE MEMORIAL STONE, PEMBROKESHIRE (SM 9533 1573) ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
This report has been checked and approved by

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*Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau
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