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Watching brief on replacement of electricity substation, Llandaff pound

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Abstract

An informal watching brief was undertaken on groundworks during March 2021 associated with the replacement of the Llandaff Pound electricity substation, which dated back to 1962. These works immediately abutted the areas covered by a previous watching brief on developments in the Pound to the NE and expanded into the 'alley' between he Pound and Castle to the SW..

The groundworks initially involved a small area of superficial topsoil clearance around the existing concrete plinth (on which the previous substation was sited) to provide for its extension. These works were very shallow and only encountered disturbed deposits.

Subsequently groundworks were undertaken to expose the existing cabling (one high voltage cable and four low voltage cables) over sufficient length to permit its jointing, temporary re-routing to a temporary cabinet mounted at the SW end of the alley between the Pound and the castle gatehouse, and then rejointing to the new permanent cabinet.

These works firstly involved the re-excavation of existing service trenches with the Pound. This revealed the local survival of the late 19th century clinker surface of the Pound (224), as well as a section of one of the associated land drains (223) (the continuation of drain (037)). These overlay a thin brown-red soil with stone and mortar (225), typical of post-medieval soils elsewhere within the Pound, below that a reddish stony soil more typical of medieval deposits (226) and finally (at approximately 800mm below the level of the top of the substation plinth) a reddish clay deposit with very large stones (227) that continued in the floor of the trench through into the alley.

The expansion of the trench in the alley outside the Pound to provide for the temporary distribution cabinet involved more substantial excavations outside the line of the existing trench. These works produced evidence for a number of substantial brick wall fragments, drains, a lead water supply pipe and an inspection chamber, beneath multiple modern asphalt surfaces and a disturbed clay layer. These are tentatively identified as evidence for undocumented toilets, maybe simply urinals, perhaps constructed in the 'alley' in lieu of that proposed inside the Pound in 1914, for which design plans exist, but for which there is currently no evidence for implementation. This phase is tentatively assigned a short lifespan, from perhaps the 1920s into the early 1930s.

A small area of earlier archaeological deposits survived between the cut for the deep-level drain of these toilets and that for the electricity cables. This survived from a depth of approximately 500mm below surface down to 950mm. The undisturbed archaeological deposits were a single context (227) of very soft clay bearing large river cobbles (interpreted as being equivalent to deposit (227) inside the Pound). This yielded many oyster shells, a single mussel shell, pieces of sandstone roofing tile, fragments of glazed ceramic roofing tile and a few fragments of pottery, all compatible with a 13th century age. The base of the deposit was not seen with any certainty, but both at the north and south ends of the investigated area it appeared to pass downwards (at approximately 950mm below surface) into a clay-rich deposit lacking boulders.

The surviving medieval deposit (227) shows close similarity with context (170) observed immediately NW of the substation in the previous development works. The two contexts are likely to be parts of the same deposit which appears have been constrained to the west of a boulder-revetted bank (or clay-cored wall?; (1009)) . If this is the case, then the surface of the boulder deposit would have been approximately horizontal, or very gently rising, from the boulder wall through to the gatehouse wall, 6m to the west.

The purpose of bank/wall (1009) remains unclear. It appears too significant a feature to be intended solely for the retention of a 0.5m deposit. The orientation of the structure and its coincidence with a 'footing' in the castle interior suggests that it may predate the NW curtain. Whether it does so as a relict from a previous structure on the site or simply as a temporary structure required during construction of the gatehouse is unknown.

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1 Background

1.1 General

The disused public conveniences within the site of the former Llandaff Pound were the subject of a conversion and extension project by the Llandaff 50+ (supported by the Welsh Government, Cardiff YMCA (1910) Trust, the National Lottery Community Fund and the Waterloo Foundation) to provide a 50+ community activity centre and heritage room. The project was the subject of Planning Application 19/01605/MNR. The architects were Downs Merrifield Architects and the principal contractor was A&N Lewis.

The area (Figure 1) not only has historic significance for having been the site of Llandaff Pound, but it is also immediately adjacent to the Bishop's Castle, a medieval fortified palace of the Bishops of Llandaff (NPRN 94548/96079, SM GM073, Cadw Listed Grade I Buildings Record number 13718). The boundary of the Scheduled Monument of Bishop's Castle bisects the area of the Pound. The development site described here lies immediately outside the Scheduled area to the NW. The site is centred on NG coordinates [315556, 178020.

The site was tested in summer 2019, through observation of engineer's testpits (Young 2019a).

Because of local interest in the site and the likely need to have archaeological work undertaken as a result of the development, the Llandaff 50+ developed a project for a small community excavation for two weeks in September 2019, involving volunteers from the community and school groups, to encourage local engagement with Llandaff's heritage.

An archaeological watching brief on development was stipulated by the Planning Consent to mitigate any impact of the subsequent development works on the archaeological resource, in accordance with policies KP17 and EN9 of the Cardiff Local Development Plan, reflecting the requirements of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The methodology agreed with the Archaeological Advisers to the LPA (GGAT Curatorial Division) is contained within a Written Scheme of Investigation produced in September 2019 (Young 2019b). The watching brief was intended to cover those aspects of the development not covered by the prior public excavation (principally within the building itself) and any areas outside the building that were not fully resolved by the excavation. The watching brief comprised investigations over 5 distinct areas (Young 2020).

It had been anticipated that a planned replacement of the electricity substation (which dated back to 1962) would be able to be undertaken in advance of the refurbishment of the Pound buildings. In the end, Western Power were able to replace the substation in March 2021. There was no formal requirement for any archaeological intervention but given the overlap with the investigated area within the Pound and the proximity to the castle walls and informal watching brief was undertaken.

The background sections presented in this report below are largely dependent upon the previous iterations of the development of the site (Young 2019a, 2019b, 2020) but incorporate some updated interpretations arising from the on-going post-excavation work on the Pound site.

1.2 Geological and geomorphological setting
The site lies on a low ridge separating the valleys of the Ely and Taff. The ridge is bounded to the NE by a steep bluff above the floodplain of the Taff. The Bishop's Castle lies on the crest of the bluff immediately southeast of the project site. The old road from Cardiff to Llandaff (and thence towards Llantrisant) followed this ridge from Canton Cross to Llandaff, passing just 25m SW of the site. In the area of this development the top of the ridge lies at approximately 29m aOD, with the floodplain below the bluff at approximately 15m aOD.

The Pound is abutted to the northwest by Cathedral Close (formerly Heol y Pound), which lies in a slight gully passing down the bluff.; this gully may have enhanced the natural defensibility of the castle on the N side. To the NE the site abuts the gardens of Well Cottage, which lie at a lower level below a high retaining wall. The W end of the castle hall is now missing, with the ground falling steeply into the garden of Well Cottage. The SE boundary of the grounds of Well Cottage is, as in the Pound, a post-medieval wall on the approximate line of the north curtain.

The site is underlain by Triassic rocks. The marginal facies of the Mercia Mudstone Group crops out on the bluff (Young 2001), and over much of the ridge to the west. This facies comprises rocks formerly known as the "Dolomitic Conglomerate". Where fresh these rocks are hard, massive conglomerates, bearing boulders of dolomitised Carboniferous limestone. Near the edge of the bluff (particularly seen in the east quadrant of the walled garden,100m SE of the site) the conglomerates are deeply altered and degraded to a red gravelly material; the alignment of the bluff is close to the projected position of the Tongwynlais Fault, seen further north. Furthermore, over much of the areas of the Cathedral School campus the conglomerates are penetrated by fissures (presumably intensely weathered joints) trending 105-109° (grid) with fills of dark green-red clay. These clays are often stained black (probably by manganese oxides) along the contacts with the conglomerate. The fissures have sub-vertical sides, are 0.5–1.5m wide, and extend to at least 2m below surface. In some areas, a similar manganiferous clay can be seen as a weathered mantle over the conglomerates. The detailed nature of the Triassic bedrock below the castle and Pound has not been recorded.

150m south of the development area, in the developments at 'The Lodge', the Triassic clays were observed to be penetrated by complex sub-vertical fissures filled with unconsolidated coarse sand (Young 2013). These are interpreted as periglacial features and indicative either of the development of ice wedges, subsequently filled by sand, in a humid periglacial environment, or of sand wedges formed in an arid periglacial environment; in either case possibly forming part of a system of polygonal cracking.

1.3 Topographic setting
The Pound occupies a small area of 240m^2 (15m NE-SW and 11m to 18m NW-SE), equivalent to just over 9 perches (as stated on the Tithe assessment).

The area within the Pound is relatively level and flat at present, with the lowest point in the area of the proposed extension, lying at approximately 28.1m aOD, with the intended floor level of the extension at approximately 28.45m. The adjacent lane, however, drops sharply NE; floor level in the Pound is approximately 1.0m above road level (i.e. at 27.35m) at the west end and 2.4m at the north-east (i.e. at 25.9m). The north-east side of the pound is supported by a retaining wall to the rear of Well Cottage, which therefore retains a maximum of 2.4m at its northwest, decreasing southeastwards. To the NW the Pound is separated from the castle gatehouse by a narrow alley, with the same surface elevation as within the Pound, and only slightly below that of the Castle entrance.

Ground level within the adjacent part of the castle interior is at approximately 29.0m to 29.1m, suggesting that the ground level is 0.4m above that of the pound immediately external to the wall. In the area of the Great Hall, the floor level was reported (RCAHMW 2000) to be 1.67m below modern ground (i.e. at approximately 27.3m, with walls preserved to approximately 1m above that level (i.e. 28.3m). The southwestern wall of the hall block lies on approximately the same line as the retaining wall behind Well Cottage. The floor level within the undercroft of the Great Hall therefore lies at approximately 1.4m above the floor level of Well Cottage.

The castle gateway shows no sign of having housed a drawbridge and is has been uncertain until the present phase of works whether the ditch present on the southwest side of the castle (as suggested by the low-level of the SE-facing embrasure and by the ditch continuing this line within the grounds of the Cathedral School, Young 2001) continued around to the entrance to the gatehouse. Similar evidence is lacking to the north because the ground floor of the tower housed the prison, so embrasures could not be provided. The embrasure on the upper floor of the tower could not provide enfilading fire along the curtain wall because of its angle. It would seem likely that the projecting hall block was provided with embrasures for this role.

The similarity of the gatehouse to the Outer East Gatehouse at Caerphilly (c. 1277-1283) is often remarked upon. The are some significant differences, most notably the lack of evidence for a drawbridge at Llandaff. In Caerphilly, the spurs continued downwards into the corners of a vertically-side rectangular platform dropping into the moat. A similar vertical face can be seen on the outer angle of the NE gateway tower, adjacent to the pound, but any similar change in orientation is below modern ground level on the other sides. The spurs are also very short at Llandaff, those at Caerphilly rising to approximately door-top height.

1.4 Archaeological and historical context
The site lies (centred on NG coordinates [315556, 178020]) to the SE end of Llandaff Green, abutting the walls of Bishops Castle, at the head of Cathedral Close (formerly Pound Lane). The land division associated with the Public Toilets falls partly within the limits of the Bishops' Castle Scheduled Monument (Monument GM073; NPRN 96079; Listed Building Grade 1, No. 13718). The development, and the community excavation area fall entirely outside, but immediately abut, the Scheduled Monument.

The supposedly medieval spring surround of 'St Teilo's well' (PRN 00150s; listed grade II) lies on the opposite side of Cathedral Close just below the site. Directly opposite the site lies the Grade II listed White House Cottage. Cathedral Close (formerly Heol y pound) is sunken below the natural ground level to its north (and potentially south); it is unclear if it is a sunken lane or whether lies along the northern margin of a natural gully.

This following account of the archaeological context focuses specifically on the immediate context of the site, for a discussion of the entire historic core of Llandaff is not appropriate here.

i. Prehistoric (up to approximately AD75):
prehistoric activity in the area is evidenced only by the occasional finds of residual worked flint during previous watching briefs with the Cathedral School Campus to the southeast of the site. None was closely dateable, and none was recovered from a prehistoric deposit. There are no known prehistoric sites within 0.5km of the site.

ii. Roman period (AD75 – AD410):
there is likewise very little direct evidence for Roman activity. It has been commonly assumed, however, that aspects of the local road system are of Roman origin. This includes the route from Canton Cross to Llandaff (passing through the Cathedral School grounds, alongside the SW side of the castle, just 25m SW of the site, and thence along Cathedral Green, Bridge Street and northwards towards Radyr. This has been interpreted as the likely line of a Roman road, following the ridge west of the Taff, to link Cardiff with the iron mines of Lesser Garth and perhaps (following approximately the line of the modern A4119) with the early fort at Caergwanaf with its iron production site. A second route, often interpreted as of Roman origin, leaves the Roman road between Cardiff and Cowbridge at Ely Bridge, following the line of Ely Road and High Street, to meet (and perhaps cross) the first route adjacent to the present site, possibly crossing the Taff and passing eastwards to join the Cardiff-Caerleon road. Such routes remain, however, entirely speculative and no field evidence currently exists to support either; if these two are of Roman origin, then the lack of evidence for the Roman period at their crossing point in Llandaff is remarkable.

Physical evidence for the Roman period is provided by a single Roman coin recovered from spoil dump of the excavations across the line of the road within the Cathedral School campus 250m SE of the site, undertaken by the Llandaff Society in 1984-5 (James and Lewis 1987, 21) and by two sherds of grey ware from Clarkes Field held by NMW (greyware base sherd, in 3 parts, object 42.57/1 and a greyware rim sherd, object 42.57/2; probably from 340m SE of the site, although contamination through the work of Clarke's involvement with excavations such as those at Gelligaer earlier in the century cannot be excluded). There is thus no certain archaeological evidence for Roman occupation in Llandaff.

iii. Early medieval period (AD410 – AD1066):
there is abundant, if controversial. documentary evidence for activity in Llandaff, about which there is a substantial literature. Archaeological evidence for the period remains much more limited.

The site lies a short distance S of the later Cathedral which is believed to overlie the early medieval church (replaced in AD1120). The seat of a bishopric was probably established at Llandaff in the late 10th or 11th century, possibly under Bishop Joseph (1022-1045), and possibly replacing an earlier clas church. A late 10th to early 11th century cross, discovered built into the wall of the 'Dairy Well' in the 19th century is the sole surviving physical piece of evidence from this period from Llandaff (Redknap & Lewis 2007, G36, 320-323). The well surround is unlikely to be contemporary with the cross, but a 12th-13th century origin is possible (see below).

The 'Book of Llandaff' purports to include the charters of Llandaff extending back to the 6th century. The collection of charters is now generally accepted as a 12th century attempt to justify the holdings of the new see of Llandaff using both genuine charters of Llandaff and charters of the preceding Bishops of Teilo, the whole suitably edited to the needs of the 12th century See under Bishop Urban. The documents conceal rather than illuminate the true early history of the church in Llandaff.

iva. Medieval i (11th to mid-13th centuries):
the cathedral sought to exert its dominance over the church in southeast wales during this period. Redknap and Lewis (2007, 569) suggest that Joseph (died 1045) may have been the bishop who created the enlarged diocese, but that he was 'Bishop of Teilo' and the relics of Teilo may have become housed at Llandaff at that period. The following two bishops, Herwald and Urban, were both closely associated with, and probably related to, members of the clas at Llancarfan. Whether either Joseph or Herwald was ever known as Bishop of Llandaff appears unlikely, with that term first being used with certainty by Urban in 1119 (he had used the title bishop of Glamorgan in 1107; Crouch 1989, 11). Urban built a new Cathedral which was started in 1120 and he appropriated the cults of St Euddogwy (Oedoceus) and St Dyfrig to add status to the church of Teilo, as well as dedicating it to St Peter and St Paul, probably to curry papal favour in his disputes with the other Welsh dioceses. The 10th century cross, formerly embedded in the wall of the Dairy Well (75m southeast of the development; sometimes known as St Teilo's or St Oedeceus' Well and which also probably contained the Llandaff ivory diptych, Redknap 2014) may suggest the well head was part of a constructed landscape to encourage pilgrimage to the newly imported Saints' relics. No other earlier medieval remains are known from the immediate area, but the development area may have fallen within the constructed landscape.

Although it was once assumed that the castle was also have been initially constructed by Urban, limited archaeological excavation with the castle (Johns 1971), analysis of its fabric (RCAHMW 2000) and the investigations to date within the area of the walled garden of Llandaff Court (Young 2001, 2019) have all failed to produce any evidence for the castle from before the third quarter of the 13th century.

ivb. Medieval ii (mid-13th to mid-14th centuries):
the immediate area is intimately associated with the Bishops' Castle. Although Urban began the great new church in 1120, accompanied by new dedications (Ss Peter & Paul to curry papal favour) and the acquisition of relics (those of Euddogwy and Dyfrig to try to establish the primacy of Llandaff in Wales), there is no evidence yet to support his construction of a Bishop's residence with a status to match. Excavations on the site of the Bishops' Castle (RCAHMW 2000) have found no evidence for occupation there prior to the 3rd quarter of the 13th century.

The Bishops' Castle currently appears to represent a new development on a fresh site in the third quarter of the thirteenth century. The unusual plan of the castle, together with the ditched compound to its SE which forms part of the castle complex, but which contains industrial waste of the early fourteenth century, may

suggest the castle to have been constructed in two phases. The initial phase probably included the impressive gatehouse of very similar style to contemporary parts of Caerphilly Castle and arguably by the same master mason. At Caerphilly a single gate (on the south barbican) employed angle spurs (with rounded towers) in the first work of 1268-1271, but such spurs on polygonal towers (as in the Bishops' Castle gateway) were ubiquitous in the third and fourth works of 1277-1282. Similar towers are known from Llanblethian (1307-1314), Ewenny (c.1300), and Llangibby (?1286-1314) castles. There is a particularly close parallel between Llandaff and the outer east gatehouse at Caerphilly, although externally Ewenny has the greatest similarity. These dates suggest construction of the gatehouse, one of the earlier sections of the castle, was undertaken under William de Braose (Bishop 1266-87). He was from a marcher family and the militaristic construction would be appropriate for someone of such a background. Construction of the castle may then have been interrupted during the vacancy in the See in the later 13th century (1287-1297; probably because of interference by Gilbert de Clare, Lord of Glamorgan, the competing power in the region; RCAHMW 2000) and perhaps eventually completed in the fourteenth century to a less grandiose design than originally intended.

It has been assumed that the area of the current project was at least cleared and possibly quarried to create a scarp or perhaps even a ditch between the line of Cathedral Close and the north-western curtain wall.

Of a somewhat similar age to the castle is the medieval belfry (PRN 00147s, SM, NPRN 32796), which stands on the Green 100m northwest of the site. This was formerly partially encased in the post-medieval Red Lion Inn, that features in the discussion below.

ivc. Medieval iii (mid-14th to early 16th centuries):
between 1333 and 1419 the seat of the Bishops (progressively?) transferred from Llandaff to Mathern. Although it is commonly stated that the castle's abandonment as a residence by the Bishops in the fifteenth century was a result of attack during the Glyndŵr rebellion, there is no evidence that this was the case and is probably incorrect.

The Dairy Well was probably the site of concealment of a 14th century ivory diptych (Redknap 2014) found in 1836. It is not known when the diptych was concealed there.

The evidence from the public engagement project on the Pound site (see also below) suggests that the substantial medieval building was constructed in this late medieval period. The backfill of the chimney yielded a very fresh French jeton of c. 1330-1365. The bath stone fireplace is, however, probably more likely to be 15th than 14th century. The features of the fireplace include the use of Bath stone, the lateral chamfer with a horizontal stop, its inclusion within the gable end of the structure, a possible corbelled bressumer and its location with a ground floor room in a storeyed building – all of which suggest a late 15th century is most likely.

va. Early post medieval (mid-16th to mid-17th centuries).
The manor was granted to Sir George Mathew of Radyr in 1553. The castle probably continued to be used for administration of manorial activities after this date. Rice Meyrick (1578) stated that the castle was held by William Mathew, who kept it in repair. Work on the gatehouse, including new windows, suggests significant alteration in the 1580s (RCAHMW 2000). The refuse dumped into the abandoned medieval building at the Pound is provisionally dated to approximately this same period. The castle provided a strongpoint refuge for the inhabitants of Llandaff in a civil disturbance in 1596 and it appears to be intact in the Speed map of c.1610 (by which time the Pound appears to have been present with no indication of the former building, see below). The Hearth Tax listing of 1670 gives 'Lord Bishops Pallace' with 9 hearths, suggesting it was still largely intact at this date.

Following the relocation of the family of Mathews of Radyr to Ireland c. 1625, George Mathew retained Llandaff castle and manor. By 1695 the castle appears to have been in the hands of John Miles of Llandaff who that year in his will stated that it should be rented for 20s. per annum to Philip Maddocks (Matthews 1901); by 1710 it was leased to Thomas Mathews of Fairwater, who then conveyed it by his will to his daughter Ann, specifically 'the lease of rents and profits from Castle & Arlls to Ann d. of Thomas Mathews of Fairwater in his will 'for a certain term'' (Matthews 1901). It is unclear whether Miles was a leasee of the castle from the Mathews of Ireland, or whether he under-leased the property from the Mathews of Fairwater.

Speed's map of c.1610 also shows an enclosure abutting the castle to the north that is probably includes the area identified as the pound in 1776. The location, at the head of the green where fairs were held and adjacent to the eastern gatehouse tower with its prison emphasises its manorial role.

vb. Later post medieval (mid-17th to mid-20th centuries):
the Castle and walled garden appear to have been held together as a single garden attached to Llandaff Court during this period. The first reference to this arrangement is in Popish Register for the County of Glamorgan of 1717 (Matthews 1901). Those properties owned by George Mathew Junr, of Landaff, and of Thurles in Ireland, included 'The Castle of Landaffe cum p'tin' & Land called Arles in ten' of Jane Mathews vid.'

Jane Mathews was the widowed mother of the then Commodore (later Admiral) Thomas Mathews, who managed his estates while he was away serving with the navy (Mathews 1884). Her lease on the Castle probably dates from the period 1690x1717. After 1717 an increasingly frequent series of mentions of the lease of the castle may be found, suggesting the arrangement was long term, only ending with actual purchase of the property from the Romilly estate by the Church Commissioners in 1851.

Archaeological evidence for this period is mainly derived from recent interventions within the Cathedral School Campus and associated with the structural features of Llandaff court and its grounds, together with the backfill of the former Cardiff-Llandaff road, which had developed into a sunken lane. The excavation of a trial trench across the medieval moat in 2003 revealed evidence for well-preserved features

(paths, spade-dug beds) within the garden deposits, but these have not been closely dated. When held by the Bishops, Llandaff Court (Bishops Court) was connected to the Cathedral via the walkway though the walled garden and castle (the path surviving today).

The earliest recognised documentation of the pound is the 1717 registration of properties owned by George Mathew Junr, of Landaff, and of Thurles in Ireland, which includes "Part of the Com[m]on Pound, in ten' of Thos Thomas, joyning to the Castle Gate in Landaffe". In addition, 'The Bellhouse & Garden & Backside in ten' of Morgan John' suggests either the location of the later Red Lion Inn property (1776: parcel 16; Tithe parcel 844) or perhaps more likely the adjacent property (1776: parcel 16; Tithe parcels 843).

It can be tentatively suggested that the reference to 'part of the Comon Pound' implies that the part of the pound was no longer manorial property by 1717. The most likely explanation for this would be that part, probably the land on which Well Cottage was built, had already been disposed of (since subdivision of such a small plot as the later pound seems unlikely).

Browne Willis 'Survey of the Cathedral Church of Llandaff' (1719) states (p31) 'The Bishop's Castle stood, before it was demolish'd, South East of the Church: it was heretofore a very stately building, if we may judge by the Gate-House, which is still remaining... …The site of the Castle is now turn'd into a garden, which belongs to Thomas Matthew Esq. of the Court of Llandaff, (a House so call'd just adjoining) who is Tenant to a Descendant of the House of Aradir, now living in Ireland.'

After the Speed map of 1610, there is no known cartographic representation until the Edwards estate plan (A Book of Maps of the Estates of Thomas Edwards, 1776), on which the pound is parcel 23, stated as belonging to Thomas Edwards Esq.. It is unlikely that this was freehold, since the pound later (in 1844) still formed part of the Romilly manorial holdings. Parcel 22, to the north (the site of Well Cottage) is depicted as a garden (possibly belong to the Mathews' estate, but the formatting of the list makes this ownership uncertain). The 1776 map shows building outlines that differ slightly from those on the Tithe Map (1844), but the Red Lion corresponds to parcel 17 (House & Gardens, Thos Mathew Esq.). The map of Chapter Lands dated c. 1777 (GRO D/D DH23) does not depict the Pound and a building depicted alongside Cathedral Close is probably not the medieval house (most closely corresponding to the depicted location), but Well Cottage (or a precursor building on that site), although other interpretations are possible.

At some period in the medieval or early post-medieval period the northern curtain wall of the castle either largely collapsed or was demolished, to be replaced by a much narrower wall. Browne Willis' description (see above) suggests that the dereliction had occurred before 1719. The replacement wall may be illustrated in an engraving of 1773 (Figure 3), but in both this image, and one of c. 1830 (Figure 5) it is possible the wall is incomplete and therefore the narrow wall bounding the pound dates to after 1830. This question is currently unresolved (but see discussion below). This picture apparently shows the pub extending both from the front of the gatehouse and extending northwards (into what is now the alley).

The area immediately to the southwest of the site, comprising the pavement adjacent to the N tower of the castle gatehouse and part of the roadway at the head of Cathedral Close, were occupied by a public house, supposedly The Bush (also apparently sometime The Crown), until some date between the date of the Gastineau drawing the engraving of which was published in 1830 (Figure 5) and 1844. If the identification of Wiiliam Evans, publican, resident at Llandaff Castle with his family with this alehouse is correct, then the alehouse was demolished between 1841 and 1844. William Evans had married, as second wife, the widow of a fellow butcher, Thomas Thomas (with both mentioned as butchers in the 1830 Pigot's directory). The families of Thomas, Evans, Crow and David are all intimately intermixed in the ownership of Llandaff alehouses and inns at least as far back as the 1750s. It appears likely that one of these butcher publicans held the pound, with the Bush alehouse from the 1820s.

A lease of 1784 of Llandaff Court by Thomas Mathews (of Llandaff Court) to John Price of Whitchurch, includes two walled gardens, a decayed castle gatehouse and a pond/pound. The precise scope of this lease (GRO DMM/PR/210) requires further investigation. However, Thomas Mathews would have only been leasee of the castle, walled garden and pond/pound at this time, either directly from Mathews of Ireland, or indirectly from their assignees (perhaps Mathews of Leckwith).

The manor remained in the family of Mathews of Ireland although practically in various local hands (it forms part of the subject of the will of Anthony Mathew of Leckwith in 1777 who left it to his nephews), until 1818, when Francis Mathew, Earl of Llandaff, conveyed it to Sir Samuel Romilly. The pound, however, was part of a package of manorial rights previously leased to the Reverend Powell Edwards. William Powell Edwards mortgaged properties including the manor pound (also Llandaff House, Precisely farm, Public House adj. Ely Bridge, dwelling house near the Bishop's Palace, cottages and houses and tolls of fairs at Ely and Llandaff) in 1850 (GRO DXGE96/235). The manor was later sold in 1852 to William Cartwright with the clause:
'And also all that pound, being the Lord's Pound of the Manor or Lordship of Llandaff, situate in the City of Llandaff, with the profits arising from the empounding of estrays within the said Manor (which said tolls and pickages of the said fairs at Llandaff and the said pound were with other hereditaments, by Lease dated 15 January 1808, demised by Francis Lord Landaff to the Reverend Powell Edwards from the date thereof for the lives of the said Powell Edwards, Thomas Williams Richards and Edward Windsor Richards at the yearly rent of 130l.)'

By the time of the Tithe Map (the process of its creation was started in 1838, an opportunity to review the draft apportionment and map was made in the Red Lion in June 1843; the apportionment is dated 14th November 1844, the map 1846), the northeastern plot (925) contains a house (now Well Cottage; occupied by Evan Hopkins, agricultural labourer in 1841, and part of the Revd Thomas' Llandaff Court Estate). This is presumably the 'messuage under the castle wall adjoining the pound' for which a lease and release confirmed Rev George Thomas' title from the heirs of Anthony Mathew of Leckwith in January 1837 and suggests Well Cottage predates 1837 (and it predates 1777, if the building depicted on the plan of Chapter Lands). The southwestern plot (924) continued as the Pound. It was at that time still part of the Romilly estate but was in the occupation of Elizabeth Locke (d. 13/10/54).

Elizabeth Locke also leased stables on the opposite side of the Green (Tithe parcel 867), also (as the Red Lion) held from Edward Evans. She also held parcel 840 (ruins and gardens; attributed to the 'Treasurer's House', NPRN 00151s) at the bottom of Cathedral Close (land now occupied by No. 6 Cathedral Close) and the small parcel 845 to the rear of the Red Lion, both from the Cathedral Chapter.

Her husband Thomas predeceased her (d. 22/10/1834; their burials were marked by a slab in the south side of the Cathedral churchyard, Cardiff Records, vol 3, Memorial Inscriptions: Llandaff Cathedral: "Thomas Locke; ob. 1834, aet. 33. Also Elizabeth, his widow"). A document in the GRO (D869/35) records a 'Locke' of the Red Lion in 1831. Thomas Locke's will records him as a victualler and Elizabeth Lock is recorded a publican in the 1841 census, more specifically of the Red Lion in the 1851 census, repeated in Wakefield's Directory of Cardiff in 1855, which after Elizabeth's death Helen Jane Evans (the daughter of Elizabeth) held with her husband David Evans in the 1861 census (they married in Llandaff in 1856). David Evans disappears abruptly from newspaper articles in 1861 after the annual licence renewal. There is note of a brawl between a David Evans and James Parkman at the Red Lion in 1862 (but it is unclear if this was David Evans the landlord). All references to the pub in newspapers from 1862 to 1866 refer to Mrs Evans as the landlady. No certain record of David Evans' death has been traced, but burial of a David Evans was recorded on 7/8/1863 at Llandaff Cathedral.

Mrs Evans was recorded as owing the pound in 1865 (The Cardiff and Merthyr guardian, Glamorgan, Monmouth, and Brecon Gazette 30th November 1865).

In July 1866 newspaper adverts were placed (The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian Glamorgan Monmouth and Brecon gazette 12th and 19th July 1867) by Charles Henry Evans (later described as 'Guardian for the owners of the Red Lion Inn, Llandaff' in March 1870, see discussion below) giving notice that the Red Lion would be re-let from 1st November 1867. The new landlord, John Moore, is also named as pound keeper on public notices issued from 1870-1880 (and probably from 1869). In around 1877 plans for rebuilding of the Red Lion were drawn up.

In the 1871 census Helen Jane Evans lived next door to the Maltsters Arms (and her occupation is still recorded as innkeeper). In 1881 she is recorded at 2 Landscape Passage (probably near the Heathcock). A Helen Jane Evans was buried at Llandaff cathedral on 22/11/1885.

The documentation of the holding of the pound by the publican of the Red Lion in 1844, 1865 and from 1869-1880 demonstrates the duality of pound use at this time. This period shows Elizabeth Locke, later her daughter Hel(l)en Evans and finally John Moore (all publicans of the Red Lion, leased from Evan Evans) also leasing the pound from the Romilly Estate, at a period when the Estate had leased the rights of the pound to Reverend Powell Edwards (Llandaff House estate).

The first edition 1:2500 OS of 1880 shows the pound as a simple enclosure with no internal structures.

Although John Moore and his family were still recorded as resident at the Red Lion in the 1881 census, he was in injured in gas explosion in March 1881 (Cardiff Times 5/3/1881) and appears to have then moved from the pub to St Andrews Crescent (1891 census).

Richard Williams took the pub on behalf of John Moore, but there is no documentation of his operating the pound. Williams was convicted of numerous licensing violations, the pub closed in 1884 with the withdrawal of its license, and an attempt by John Moore to license it in his own name again in 1885 was refused. The building was used as a hostel for Howells School for a while, before reverting to a private dwelling (as The Tower House) and being badly damaged by fire in 1889 (e.g. see summary in The Tenby Observer of 25/7/1889).

There are no further public notices of impounded stock in the newspapers until 1889, when Wm. C Shepstone appears as pound keeper. No Wm. C Shepston(e) can be located in the census records, so it is possible that this is actually an error for 'Mrs C(aroline) Shepstone'.

Most of the remaining demesnes lands of the manor (mostly the 'wastes') were subsequently placed in into the public ownership of the Cardiff Corporation in 1885, but this does not appear to be the case with the pound.

The 1871 census shows Thomas Shepston (a. 37, butcher) with wife Caroline with children Lavinia, Esther, Edmund, Elizabeth, Caroline and Alfred at an un-numbered house in St Peter Street. The 1881 census shows Joseph Shepstone (butcher, a.50, born Sandford, Oxon.), with wife Caroline (a.44) and offspring Annie, Edmund (a.16, under gardener), Elizabeth, Alfred, Joseph and Sidney at an un-numbered property in High Street.

The 1891 census shows Edmund Shepstone (butcher; a. 26 born Llandaff), with wife Emily and children Edmund and Emily Maria at No 3 High Street. Caroline Shepstone (butcher; a. 51, born Caerphilly) with offspring Lavinia, Alfred, Joseph and Sydney (all born Llandaff), at another un-numbered property in the same road. Edmund is named on impoundment notices from 1893-1897 (although not all notices are styled to include the pound-keeper's name).

The South Wales Daily News 8th July 1896 records a decision by Llandaff Parish Council 'with regard to the improvement of the Pound and granting the District Council the use of a portion of it'. The first revision 1:2500 OS of 1901 shows new structures along the NW side of the pound (roofed towards the west and open in the east), an open structure in the east corner and a roofed structure in the middle of the west side. The creation of these structures may have been the subject of this improvement, perhaps with the building and division to the north side representing division of the area between the two councils.

The second revision OS of 1920 shows the structure in the northeast and a larger structure in the southeast, but neither of the previously-depicted roofed structures is shown. Plans (GRO RDC/S/2/1914/33) were drawn up in 1914 for the creation of a urinal within the pound, adjacent to its western wall. These plans allow interpretation of the two structures on the 1920 OS, for the one in the northeast is labelled store and the block against the curtain wall open shed to the west and stable to the east. Despite approval of the urinal plans in November 1914, it is not known if they were ever constructed.

The western part of the extant toilet block was previously believed to have been built c. 1924 at the same time as the construction of the War Memorial (which entailed clearance of the Green and demolition of the Tower House, the old Red Lion Inn). However,

the design drawings for the block have now been examined (GRO BC/S/1/32024) and they show approval on 10th June 1937, so the block would have been built in 1937/8. That block, probably along with the survival of the earlier 'store' to the east, is depicted on the third revision 1:2500 OS of 1940 (surveyed 1938) and clearly visible on an aerial photograph of 1942. Anecdotal oral evidence suggests that Shepstone butchers may have still been keepers of the pound until the 1930s. Continued use of the pound was apparently the rationale between the external access to both the gents and ladies toilets, involving steps up from Cathedral Close for the later rather than the simpler access through the area of the pound.

The cartographic evidence suggest that both the structures associated with the pound survived into the 1970s. The roof supports for the southern building still remain (2020) in the external face of the castle wall.

vc. An early relationship of the pound and The Red Lion?

From before 1889 into the 20th century the pound was kept by members of the Shepstone family (butchers). Previously, the landlord of the Red Lion had been pound-keeper during a period from before 1844 to 1881. The first documented connection between the pub and pound is that Elizabeth Locke held the pound in 1844, but the passage of the role with the tenancy of the public house over some 50 years until its demise suggests a link. The documentary history for the Red Lion prior to Locke tenancy has been investigated, to determine whether there might have been a prior link with holding of the pound.

The Red Lion may correspond to part of the holding of Morgan John in 1717 (see above), 'The Bellhouse & Garden & Backside'. Morgan John has not yet been identified. It is perhaps more likely however, that the holding was Tithe parcel 843/parcel 16 of the Thomas Edwards estate plan of 1776. The Red Lion corresponds to parcel 17 of 1776 the Edwards map, appearing as 'House & Gardens, Thos Mathew Esq.'. The property next appears in a notebook (GRO D351/1; attributed to 1793), which is described as a 'Survey of Estate Lands' but, as well as containing a list of lands and other properties with their calculated values, it contains short descriptions of each estate and thus appears to be a draft sale catalogue from the period when 'Captain' Thomas Mathews was considering the sale of his Llandaff Estate. The Red Lion is listed with a rent of £10, with a field with a rent of £6, let to Mr Thomas Lott(?). There is also a note concerning a 'barn or stable, let for £4-10-0. The next mention of the Red Lion is on Feb. 6th 1807, with a draft release by Mark Wood (then owner of Llandaff Court) to John Wood snr of Cardiff (NLW Lockwood Estate Records D 1/108) of 'a messuage and garden called the Red Lion in Llandaf in the tenure of Edward Lewis, victualler, a cottage adjoining in the tenure of William John, a barn and shed with a court behind, almost opposite the said Red Lion on the road from the Old Palace to Llantrisant, and a parcel of land (3a.) called Penhill Field, all in p. Llandaf, co. Glam. Consideration: £438'.

The 'House and premises called The Red Lion, Llandaff' were part of the property (listed in a lease and release of 1819, GRO DART/W/5) left by John Wood (snr) at his death in 1817. The property was held in trust, but later passed to John Wood (jnr). It was one of a number of properties (along with a malthouse in Shoemakers Street, alias Duke Street, and a house called the Three Horseshoes adj. Town Hall, in Cardiff) mortaged by Nicholl Wood in 1821 (GRO DART/W/11), but at some time before 1833 Messrs. Curtis had sold the property as part of the John Wood (jnr) bankruptcy proceedings (together with Penhill field and Canton Acre, Llandaff). Title to the property was probably the reason behind an assignment of 1826, copied in 1832 between (1) William Joseph Lockwood of Dews Hall, co. Essex, esq., (2) Sir William Curtis, bart, Abraham Wildey Robarts, esq., and William Curtis, esq., all of Lombard Street, London, bankers, and (3) Charles Stephens of Lombard Street, gent., of such hereditaments comprised in deeds of 30-31 Jan. 1800 and 10 Aug. 1821, as are also comprised in deeds of 5-6 Feb. 1807 and 31 March and 1 April 1826, including (among others) the m. and garden called the Red Lion in Llandaf, a barn and shed opposite it with a court behind, and a parcel of land (3a.) called Penhill Field, all in p. Llandaf, co. Glam., for the residue of terms of 600, 700 and 800 years' (NLW Lockwood Estate Records D 1/125).

It may be the sale of the freehold which prompted Thomas Dunn to leave the Red Lion (before 21/11/1829) and for Thomas Locke to become landlord (in or before 1831). Elizabeth Locke later held the Red Lion from Edward Evans and in 1870 Charles Henry Evans was described as 'Guardian for the owners of the Red Lion Inn'. This allows the identification of the Edward Evans who owned the Red Lion in 1844 as Edward Evans (snr) surgeon of Cardiff. He appears to have purchased the group of lots of ex-Mathews property from the sale of assets of John Wood jnr.His eldest son (Edward Evans Jnr, who amongst other jobs was District Surgeon for Llandaff) died in 1860 (his wife before him in 1856), before his father who died it would seem in the mid-1860s (it is probably his burial recorded for St Johns on 27/2/1866). It seems likely property was settled on the offspring of the oldest son, but in 1866 Edward Evans (jnr)'s offspring were approximately 22, 20, 19 and 16 years old, so the inheritance presumably was held by their guardian (Charles Henry Evans) until all of age. It was Charles Henry Evans who advertised for a new landlord to take the lease in 1867.

The tenant of the Red Lion prior to Thomas Locke may have been Thomas Dunne, who left the Red Lion to run the Kings Head at Usk in 1829 (Monmouthshire Merlin, 21/11/1829). Before Thomas Dunne, the landlord of the Red Lion had been Edward Lewis, who had held it since c.1792. Edward Lewis came from a Whitchurch family who were long-time landlords of the Three Elms, Whitchurch. There was a close association between the Lewis family and the Cardiff racecourse on the Heath. Edward Lewis appears also to have been a tenant of part of the Gabalfa estate in the early 19th century (The Cambrian 21/8/1819). Edward appears to have thus been a farmer (possibly ending in 1822 with his advertised sale of possessions and farming effects), a publican and a horse dealer (not perhaps a very honest one given the adverts in the Cambrian of 4/11/1815, 20/4/1822, 27/8/1822, 25/3/1826 and 9/8/1828). The tenancy of the Red Lion was offered in 1824 (The Cambrian 22/5/1824) because Edward was then leaving in ill health, and his effects were later to be auctioned (The Cambrian 12/5/1827). In September 1827 he was imprisoned as a debtor (The Cambrian 22/9/1827) and a meeting called to determine disposal of his assets (The Cambrian 19/1/1828). His last advertisement for horses was in August 1828, when he was stated as of Llandaff, but the Red Lion was not given as the address (The Cambrian 9th and 16th August 1828). Despite this extensive documentation of Edward Lewis' interests, there is no reference to the pound.

The pre-1841 history of the ownership of the pound is even harder to trace. Thos Thomas had been pound keeper in 1717 (see above). This may possibly be the Thomas ap Thomas of Llandaff whose will of 20/3/1720 divided his property between two daughters Catherine and Alice, overseen by Philip David. Both Thomas Thomas and Philip David were sadlers, but Philip David, at least, also appears to have been an innkeeper. There is insufficient evidence at present to say much more, but it is possible Thomas Thomas was also a publican – and potentially running the alehouse adjacent to the pound. The link is speculative, but plausible.

Thomas Edwards, estate plan (1776) stated that the pound (parcel 23) belonged to Thomas Edwards Esq, presumably, as suggested above, leasehold, since in 1844 the pound still formed part of the Romilly manorial holdings

As mentioned above, a lease of 1784 of Llandaff Court by Thomas Mathews (of Llandaff Court) to John Price of Whitchurch, includes two walled gardens, a decayed castle gatehouse and, apparently, the pound (GRO DMM/PR/210). This requires further investigation to confirm it refers to the pound and not to rights to fish in the millpond or to a pond as abstracted by GRO. Thomas Mathews was leasee of the castle and walled garden at this time and possibly the pound also. The Thomas Edwards plan of only a few years earlier had recorded Edwards as the leasee and a few years later in 1793 no entry for the pound has been found in the draft Mathews sale catalogue.

In summary, exploration of the pre-1844 history of the pound suggests that until demolition of the 'Bush', the pound keeper was probably not associated with the Red Lion, but were the publicans of that small alehouse adjacent to the pound, where they were also butchers. That two members of the Thomas family were associated with the pound at periods separated by a century, may suggest that relationship passed through the family, but further documentary and genealogical work would be required to demonstrate that conclusively. That possible family link was broken with the demolition of the alehouse in 1841x1844 and the pound became held by Elizabeth Locke at the closest inn, the Red Lion.

1.5 Llandaff Pound excavations and watching brief 2019-20

The community excavation intended to engage the people of Llandaff with the Pound site was successful in its engagement aims, but the archaeology proved rather more extensive than expected. On the final day of the project, a mortared cobble wall with a Lias quoined return was discovered extending just a few millimetres into the excavation. If this was to prove to be part of a building, it would have to lie direct below areas to be affected by the development, but which were not part of the public excavation because of the thickness of overlying concrete containing the services of the 1980s toilet extension. The decision was taken in collaboration with the Llandaff 50+ group and their architect to resolve this with a second campaign of volunteer work, rather than risk complications during the subsequent development. The second campaign ran for six weeks from mid-October 2019 until the end of November 2019.

The excavations were back-filled and the development redesigned in accordance with the discoveries. Footings for the extension were redesigned to have a shuttered rise of the strip foundations over the top of the medieval walls but the slab was extended into a thick concrete mass to replace the void-rich 1980s backfill and levelling discovered in the north of the site and the large buried water tank which would have required removal of a section of the early culvert was replaced by a surface-mounted tank.

An archaeological watching brief on development was stipulated by the Planning Consent to mitigate the impact of the works on the archaeological resource, in accordance with policies KP17 and EN9 of the Cardiff Local Development Plan, reflecting the requirements of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The methodology agreed with the Archaeological Advisers to the LPA (GGAT Curatorial Division) was contained within a Written Scheme of Investigation produced in September 2019 (Young 2019b). The watching brief was intended to cover those aspects of the development not covered by the prior public excavation (principally within the building itself) and any areas outside the building that were not fully resolved by the excavation.

Groundworks into undisturbed ground monitored by the watching brief were limited to five areas (Figure 2):

1. Within the former ladies' toilets and 1980s extension.
2. Within the former gents' toilet
3. An area within the extent of the new building extension that was not able to be excavated by the public project because of a small degree of asbestos contamination.
4. A small machine-dug hole to the SE of the ladies' toilets
5. A machine cut trench for a drainage pipe close to the electricity substation

Areas 1, 2 and 4 were undertaken in December 2019, Area 3 was undertaken in January 2020 and Area 5 in February 2020. The watching brief was reported upon on completion of all works in September 2020 (Young 2020).

The post-excavation investigations for the whole site are being treated as single process and have been interrupted by the Covid19 pandemic. The work is on-going and the results as described here are only provisional.

1.6 Interpretation of the 2019-20 interventions

The following section provides a synthesis of the interpretation of work on the site up until the start of the cable trench watching brief. This text is an updated version of previous iterations, incorporating interpretations made since the completion of the previous watching brief in early 2020.

Natural deposits were not reached anywhere in the works. A provisional synthesis, however, suggests that prior to construction of the castle in the late 13th century the ground surface in the area probably sloped to the NW or N.

Phase 1: (late 13th century) the earliest feature encountered was the substantial culvert (109), possibly taking water from the direction of what is now the Green, or even from the postulated moat on the SW side of the castle. An alternative interpretation is suggested by the height of the capping slabs which are very close to level of the basement floors in the castle gatehouse for which it could therefore have provided drainage. This was followed by (almost certainly; some slight irregularity in the cobbles above the culvert

leaves slightly open the possibility that the cobble walls were reinstated above the culvert) the construction of two parallel un-mortared cobble retaining walls ((103)/(165) and (169)). Although an interpretation as concentric revetments to a waste dump was initially considered, probably the most likely interpretation is that the two walls are opposing revetments for a bank formed of redeposited natural. In this interpretation not only the cobbles/boulders incorporated within later the deposit (043) to the NE, but also the mass of boulders forming deposit (170) to the SW could have been derived by collapse of the higher sections of this bank. These contexts together have been grouped as Group (1009).

This composite revetted bank (or clay-cored wall) lies on the same line as a structure recorded inside the castle in an excavation trench dug in 1971. The line of the structure also corresponds to the point north of which the castle curtain wall has collapsed or been demolished. These coincidences suggest that the feature might be more significant than initially appreciated. It could predate construction of the NW curtain wall, either as an earlier work altogether or as a component of the castle-construction process.

Deposits accumulated over these early dumps and walls (043), containing some domestic waste (sherds of cooking pot and bone), but also spills of lime mortar, suggesting that building works were continuing, even after collapse/demolition of the boulder walls.

It seems likely that the thick mortared wall (155) parallel to the lane is also of this phase. The thickness is not easily explained by the relatively small amount of deposit it is apparently retaining in the area within which it is currently known and a tall early wall in front of the castle would appear unlikely. The course of the wall if it continues to the SW would be immediately in front of the gatehouse, so one possible explanation of this wall would be that it forms the SE side of a moat-like feature in front of the gatehouse on the line of the modern lane. There is no evidence that the gatehouse had any form of drawbridge, but a wooden bridge over a ditch would not be an unreasonable addition to the moderately elaborate defences of the gatehouse,

Whatever the origin of the thick mortared cobble wall, it appears likely that it lies in continuity with the NE wall of the Phase 3 late medieval house (and perhaps had the late medieval building inserted through it).

Phase 2: (13th-15th centuries) in both the SW and NE parts of the excavations there appears to have been a gradual subsequent build-up of clay- and silt-rich sediments on a slope dipping from the base of the curtain wall down towards the lane, with both top and bottom of this slope only slightly below modern ground level.

Phase 3: (15th-16th centuries) later in the medieval period, probably but not certainly in the 15th century (on the basis of the style of the fireplace) a substantial high-status building was constructed facing the lane. The building was founded at lane level, and the ground floor incised into the slope. Redeposited material and building waste occur within the medieval succession that accumulated on the slope above, but it is not yet possible to determine whether these relate to castle construction or to house construction. It survives locally (in the area close to the W end of the former ladies' toilets) to ground floor ceiling height. The structurally similar, although possibly even thicker, wall (155) discovered beneath the gents' toilets during the watching brief, might be of this phase (i.e. coeval with the house), but an earlier date has also been suggested above.

The late medieval house was demolished, with the upper floor of the building dumped into the lower effecting a levelling of the site, creating the extended and elevated flat area that was employed as the Pound (first illustrated on Speed's map of c. 1608). The demolition must predate 1608 on cartographic evidence, and a possible context might be the refurbishment of the gatehouse in the 1580s.

Phase 4: (16th-19th centuries) probably saw the use of the site as a Pound (although the open areas may well have done so earlier) and the lack of any evidence for discrete surfaces probably means it was a grassed area from c. 1600 until some point in the 19th century. During this phase, the medieval wall forming the NE boundary of the plot appears to have been replaced by a retaining wall. The most likely scenario for this would be that the creation of Well Cottage involve a 'cut and fill' operation, removing both the sloping ground NE of the Pound and the (fallen?) end of the castle's hall block. The date of construction of what is now Well Cottage (apparently so-called because it has a Well under its kitchen, not because it faces St Teilo's well across Cathedral close), is uncertain. It was presumably the 'messuage under the castle wall adjoining the pound' for which a lease and release confirmed Rev George Thomas' title from the heirs of Anthony Mathew of Leckwith in January 1837 and suggests Well Cottage predates 1837. Anthony Mathew had died in 1825 having acquired some manorial properties from Lord Llandaff, presumably between 1812, when the manorial property was first offered for sale and 1818 when Sir Samuel Romilly acquired the bulk of the estate. Some properties were sold in 1813x1816? (GRO DMAT 155/1-3) and some in 1818 (GRO DMAT 2-3/1-3), but it not been confirmed that this parcel was one of them. Rev George Thomas bought Llandaff Court in 1834 and he made many changes to that estate over the following few years. It is likely he acquired Well Cottage between 1834 and 1837 (the date of the lease and release). Further archival work is required to determine whether Well Cottage (and thus the retaining wall) predates the sale of the plot to Anthony Mathew in c.1813x1818 (if indeed it was sold then). The plot is marked as a 'garden' on the 1776 Edwards Estate plan (property of Thomas Mathews Esq) whereas the Pound was property of Thomas Edwards. A plan of the properties of the Cathedral Chapter from 1777 (Plan of Chapter Lands c1770? GRO D/D DH23) shows a building NE of the gatehouse. The map is rather inaccurate, but it probably represents Well Cottage (or less probably perhaps the ruin of the medieval house).

It seems likely that the original pound included both properties (explaining its apparent large size on the Speed map), but that the property was divided between 1610 and 1717, when the Mathews of Thurles holding included '*Part of the Com[m]on Pound, in ten' of Thos Thomas, joyning to the Castle Gate in Landaffe' and 'The Castle of Landaffe cum p'tin' & Land called Arles in ten' of Jane Mathews vid.*'.

Phase 5: (19th-20th centuries) the improvements made to the Pound initially included a new bounding wall to the NE and a crude metalled surface. These were followed in the very late 19th or early 20th century by ceramic land drains and a (temporary?) fence parallel

to the NE bounding wall, which was reconstructed (and is extant around 3 sides of the Pound). The Pound contained various short-lived structures.

The 1:2500 1st Edition OS (published 1880) shows only a small enclosure (pig stye?) in the E corner, but the 1st Revision (published in 1901) shows a structure approximately where the later gents' toilets came to be built, a division along the line of the medieval wall, a diagonal barrier across the present 'bin area' and a small structure where the urinals were planned in 1914. The 1914 urinal design shows the pound entrance where the gents' was; the proposed urinal would involve the creation of a new entrance, with Cattybrook blue pressed bricks forming the walls, with brick edging to the new entrance and brick capping to the walls – apparently to keep the styl of existing walling.. The 2nd Revision (published 1920) shows two structures in the Pound, in the same locations as the 'Store' and 'Stable' shown on the urinal design plans of 1914 and which apparently survived into the 1980s. The 1937 toilet block design documents show the new structure lying above the base of the windows and the ladies' door head on the road side, a new low wall outside the gents' entrance and a new termination for the SW wall of the pound forming the SE side of the new pound entrance. The pound gates are bridged by a lintel, the top of which is at the same height as the eaves of the toilet block.

Thus, did the pound entrance lie approximately in the modern position in 1901, but move the location of the gents by 1914, only to be moved back to the modern position in 1937?. The obvious location for the entrance, in particular to provide cart access, would be where the gents' lies.

Round-cornered blue bricks locally form the top of the NE wall of the pound and rectangular bricks the quoins of the N corner of the pound. Furthermore round-cornered blue bricks similarly form the low wall between footpath and road SW of the toilets, with rectangular bricks forming the quoins of the SW end of that wall in front of the gatehouse. The 1937 toilet design shows the low screening wall outside the gents' as having a stone block top, and also shows the wall NE of the toilets block with a parapet at a level above that of the sills of the toilet windows. The 1985 drawings documenting the state of the toilets prior to the extension of the toilet block, shows a situation regarding the roadside wall outside the gents' and the height of the wall to the NE of the 1937/8 block essentially as at present.

The surviving wall to the NE side of the 'alley' has a black mortar as do the surviving fragments of the walls within the toilet block and has a blue brick capping. The pillar forming the SE gatepost has a sandstone cap similar in form to the capping bocks of the screening wall outside the gents' door. The pillar was interpreted as having been constructed in the 1937/8 works to form the S side to a new entrance, truncating the fragment of late 19th century wall to its south, but new evidence may challenge that.

The earliest identified photograph of the gatehouse (by Francis Bedford, c. 1880) shows a rather rubbly approach to the pound in front of the gatehouse, with a grassy slope down the road.

Another early photograph shows what appears to be this grassy slope descending to the road in front of the approach path to the Pound (which is covered by a large pile of stone probably precluding cart access to the pound) and a lean-to roof against the SE wall (although the detail is ambiguous). This image (Ref: 34654, Cabinet 952981, Col Linley Blathwayt colln, Plate 193, Bath Central Library) is undated although assigned to c.1902 by the library. Another image in this collection (952982, Plate 195) taken from almost exactly the same spot, but facing west, shows the Red Lion Inn, bearing the name painted on the wall, together with the proprieter, R. Williams. Williams, as described above, was landlord from 1881 - 1884/5. The image shows the cross on the green in its original orientation (the head was rotated 90 degrees in 1897) and the frontage of the Red Lion with no creeper (the front is covered by foliage, probably ivy, to a great extent in postcards probably of 1903/4 and to a lesser extent at the west end only in images of 1905? to 1919). The Red Lion also retains is large front (lounge?) window and older ridge tiles and chimneys. All these features were subsequently removed/replaced, probably after the serious fire at the pub in July 1889. It is therefore very likely that the image of the gatehouse and pound also predates 1889. Unfortunately, the view of the gatehouse does not cover the area to the west where a gas lamp was sited in c. 1888. Plate 198 is of Penarth Public Baths (which opened in 1885). There are no other photographs from Wales, so these probably represent a single trip, sometime between 1885 and 1889 and probably in, or soon after, 1885.

Other images of the front of the gatehouse taken soon after 1897 also appear to show the grassy slope, although the background detail of postcards is often not well resolved. Better copies of the images might resolve this. One image shows the gas lamp and the grassy slope (thus the grass slope persisted after 1888). The OS mapping published in 1901 (surveyed 1898-99) shows a linear feature on the line of the low walling, rather than the curvilinear road margin shown on the 1880 mapping and thus it seems likely the low roadside wall was in position by 1899. The earliest postcard certainly showing the low wall dates from between 1901 (the probably date of erection of the large electricity pole adjacent to the castle) and 1903 (the date of posting).

If this is so, then it is possible that the low walling at least dates to a period between 1897 and 1899. This would approximately correspond to the date of decision by Llandaff Parish Council 'with regard to the improvement of the Pound and granting the District Council the use of a portion of it'. (The South Wales Daily News 8th July 1896), and of the cessation of newspaper notices about impounded animals (which cease in 1897). If aspects of this walling date from this period, then so may other parts of enclosure. The blue brick capping on the low roadside wall and the recommendation for Cattybrook blue brick for the urinal of 1914 (GRO BC/S/1/32024) may be to conform with the use of such brick in detailing in the pre-existing wall.

The late 19th century Pound wall survives, probably to approximately original height, encased within the NW toilet wall, as well as alongside the 'alley'. In sections to the north of the pound it appears to have been replaced.

The late 19th-early 20th century improvements made to the Pound initially included a new bounding wall to the NE (and probably NW) and a crudely metalled surface. These were followed by ceramic land drains (before 1914, but probably almost immediately). The drains made use of recycled pantiles, so a local prior use of these might be sought. The (temporary?) fence parallel

to the NE bounding wall may have been associated with this phase of wall construction.

The siting of the sump for the pre-1914 land drains shows clear knowledge of the details of the medieval wall (the SE wall of the late medieval building). In this context, it is worth noting the subdivision of the Pound into two along the line of the wall on the 1st Revision OS 1:2500, surveyed in 1898-99. This division may reflect the subdivision of the Pound between the two Councils involved in its management. The building in the W corner of the Pound at this time might have had the hard yellow clay and limestone floor.

Clarke's Bill Book 7, page 153, contains an entry for replacing the corrugated iron on the roof of the shed at Llandaff Pound for L&DPRDC in January 1904, refixing ridge and facia boards and making good a wall.

By 1914 this subdivision had been removed, and the Pound contained two new structures (a shed or store near the N corner and a stable/shed against the SE wall). These changes followed the purchase of the Pound by Llandaff Parish Council (Decision to accept Cartwright's offer to dispose of manorial rights agreed April 1908; Copy conveyance dated 15th June 1909; GRO DSA/12/3734/2).

The upshot of the rather complex evidence for dating of the late 19th- early 20th century structures, both those seen in excavation and those upstanding, may be that the pound changed in nature rapidly once the local councils became involved in its management in the late 1890s. The period 1896-c.1910 saw much change and reorganisation.

The status of the urinal block planned in 1914 (design document 2984, received by Llandaff & Dinas Powis RDC October 18th 1914 and approved 4th November 1914, signed off by representatives of both the PC and RDC; GRO BC/S/1/32024) is unknown. There is no local tradition of it having been built and it does not appear on the design documents for the 1937/8 toilet block, so present assumption is that it was never constructed. The construction plans of 1914 do, however, provide a TAQ for the land drains, shed and stable.

The pound was maintained and contained the two internal buildings (shed and stable) through the inter-war years; indeed, these structures survived in part until the 1980s.

Phase 6: (1938-84) the construction of the toilet block in 1937/8 appears to have conformed very closely to the design document (GRO BC/S/1/32024; approved by the City of Cardiff Town Planning and Public Works Committee 10th June 1937). Evidence externally from the test pit and internally from the watching brief shows that the structure was built through/onto the clinker deposits that had formed the surface of the Pound. Although the shed and stable appear to have survived through until the 1980s, there was little archaeological evidence from this period. It is likely that drain (102) found in the Public excavation was constructed to replace the land drain system prior to the 1980s, but precisely when is not known.

The electricity substation was inserted into the Pound in 1962.

Phase 7: the extension to the toilet block constructed in c.1985 and garden were accompanied by a redesign of the toilets. The survey of the pre-existing structure is dated January 1985 and the services design for the new build is dated March 1985 (County of South Glamorgan/City of Cardiff drawings 1152/4 and 1152.3 respectively). The level of the ladies' toilets was raised to permit access on the flat from the now abandoned Pound rather than the inconvenient steps up from road level, and the entire block was refitted throughout. The toilet block was extended to the NE with disabled facilities and a street cleaners' compound. Deep excavations were undertaken to access, stabilise and strengthen the N corner of the raised Pound. These excavations were backfilled with rubble, much of it from the fittings and partitions of the 1937/8 toilets. Services to the extension and the reconstructed ladies' toilets were routed through the external area in the pound, rather than running through the inside of the block like the 1937/8 services.

After construction of the toilet block, the remainder of the Pound was formed into a garden with paved areas, concrete-edged flower beds, tree planting and the re-location of a 19th century locally-cast streetlamp (marked 18 D Evans Llandaff 89).

2 Watching brief: stratigraphic description

Within the Pound, the first phase of work was to extend slightly the existing concrete plinth for the substation. These groundworks were very shallow and almost entirely within disturbed ground

The second phase involved trenching alongside the plinth to expose the existing cabling. The trenches were dominantly cut through the backfill of the earlier cable trench, but became progressively larger than the original trenches as the cables became more deeply buried towards the NW.

Immediately adjacent to the substation plinth, these works revealed local survival of the late 19th century clinker surface of the Pound (224), as well as a section of one of the associated land drains (223) (the continuation of drain (037)). These overlay a thin brown-red soil with stone and mortar (225), typical of post-medieval soils elsewhere within the Pound, below that a reddish stony soil more typical of medieval deposits (226) and finally (at approximately 800mm below the level of the top of the substation plinth) a reddish clay deposit with very large stones (227) that continued in the floor of the trench through into the alley.

Within the 'alley' there was a multiplicity of brick-built features and drains. These necessitated the excavation being kept close to the eastern side of its expected course.

Farthest south, commencing just 1.6m from the corner of the castle wall, was a substantial brick-built inspection chamber (211), silted (212) almost brim-full, with at least three inlet pipes and a low-level outlet, capped with a Pennant Sandstone flagstone (213). The inlet pipes initially appeared to have provided surface drainage for the termination of the alley, although that area is now asphalted with no open gullies. The silt did, however, have a few plastic sweet papers on its upper surface suggesting at least some modern leakage into the system. As the works have progressed, this interpretation has been abandoned in

favour of seeing the inlet pipes as of sanitary origin, draining toilets or urinals. There were too many pipes entering the chamber for pragmatic surface drainage of such a small area.

The outlet pipe was a substantial (>200mm) salt-glaze pipe (214) that ran northwards along the alley (centreline 1.4m from the face of the castle wall). The pipe was broken by the groundworks towards the northern limit of its observation. The inspection chamber was closely abutted to the east by the base of a brick wall on a concrete footing (209). This wall passed NE, before turning NW under the stone column to the S of the Pound gateway. It ran NW with its eastern face close to the line of the external (west) face of the southern Pound wall until, probably, being truncated by the original cable trench. The deep-level drain (214) passed northwards below two further brick features: the southern wider and with a concrete footing (215), the northern narrower (218).

The groundworks passed around the NE margin of the wider structure but removed much of the northern. A higher-level drain (219), of which only a broken stub survived, passed through the northern brick structure. The brick-built inspection chamber with the Pennant slab appears to have been sketched in pencil onto the 1937 design drawings for the toilet block and the deep level drain appears on the drawings to the north of the area investigated.

3 Discussion

The features and deposits identified during this watching brief have particular impact upon two phases of the interpretation provided above – Phase 1 and Phase 5.

The multiplicity of Phase 5 brick structures (Figure 3) within the 'alley' was unexpected. Early OS mapping shows no divisions in the 'alley' in 1880, an apparently oblique division (associated with a structure against the SW wall of the Pound) in 1901, an orthogonal division almost at the mouth of the 'alley' in 1920 (still present in 1940 after construction of toilet block) and an open alley by 1954. The design plans for the urinals of 1914 show the mouth of the 'alley' to be sealed (in approximately the location on the 1920 and 1940 OS maps) by 'iron fencing'. The design plans for the toilet block of 1937 show no obstructions in the 'alley, but show an existing inspection pit close to the corner of the gatehouse, through which passes an existing drain, the source of which is not indicated, but the location of the cover (213) of pit (211) has been added in pencil.

The 1914 drawings indicate that the then entrance to the Pound was where the end wall of the later toilet block now stands. A new gate into the Pound was constructed as part of the 1937/8 works (the termination of the old wall by the southern gatepost was marked as new work on the design). The present pillar S of the gate lies 1.5m S of that indicated on the 1938 plan. This point lies almost adjacent to the N limit of 'L' shaped wall (209), which may or may not have been truncated by the electricity cable trench of 1962.

The age of the present S pillar of the gate is unknown. It is marked as existing on the 1985 design drawings, but presumably post-dates 1938 (although it is not impossible that the 1937 design was altered before implementation). One possibility is that the Pound gateway was widened when the substation was built in 1962. The key relative dating features from the present intervention is that the pillar overlay the remains of wall (209) which turned to run alongside the course of the Pound wall, and that both cover (213) and drain (214) appear to have existed prior to 1937.

The most likely interpretation of this seems to be that the urinals planned in 1914 were never built, but were replaced by urinals within the alley. The multiple inlet drains into pit (211) are hard to reconcile with any reasonable need for surface drainage within the end of the alley, but would be compatible with the needs of a sanitary installation of some sort. Whether they constructed in 1914 or rather later is unclear. However, they do not appear on the OS map of 1920, so potentially post-date that. They could, for instance have been constructed as a part of the reorganisation of The Green in 1924.

Water would have presumably been supplied via lead pipe (220) which wove its way between the brick features towards the back of the alley. Walls (215) and (209) would have formed a privacy screen, with the threshold of the toilet area itself formed by the cover (213).

The toilet did not, presumably last for long, since it is not indicated as an extant structure on the 1937design drawings for the toilet block. Whether it had been demolished long before 1937, or merely during preparatory works, is unclear. The high-level drain (219) and narrow wall (218) are of uncertain origin. They might well have formed part of an outer section of the 1920s toilet (perhaps with the drain exiting from a wash-basin), or they might possibly be from a separate phase of works entirely. It may be significant that the footing lies very close to the line of the blocking across the alley on the 1920 and 1940 maps, as well of the 'iron fencing' on the 1937 design drawing.

Features of phases 1 to 3 are illustrated in Figure 4. The deposit of cobbles with a clay matrix (221) examined in detail in the 'alley' and its presumed equivalent, viewed in the base of the trench beside the substation (227), are interpreted as being equivalent to deposit (170) observed in the watching brief of 2020. It is also possible that context (149) with the former gentlemen's toilet may also be related.

These contexts form a layer of at least approximately 0.5m in thickness, bounded (and retained) by the probable clay-cored wall/bank to the NE (of which walls (169) and (103) form the opposing facings). They mean even, in part at least, result from demolition of that structure. To the NW, they are retained by the 1m-thick mortared cobble wall (155), running along the southern edge of the modern lane.

The electricity cable trench was only just above (Figure 2) the extrapolated level of the top of the stone culvert (109), which is predicted to have passed just below the northern end of the trench. The precise relationship of the culvert (109), wall (155) and the corner of the gatehouse is not known.

As a further feature of significance, the level of the floor of the basement of the NE tower of the gatehouse is not precisely known but is interpreted to lie quite close to that of the top of the culvert. This raises the question of the nature of the surface upon which the tower was originally constructed. Where seen in 2019, the top of the culvert was abutted by soft clay-rich deposits, but these were not themselves excavated, so it is unclear into what the culvert had been placed. No natural has been encountered in any of the interventions to date. It is assumed that the gatehouse tower would have been founded on solid geology, but

the present evidence suggests that the gatehouse basement was not entirely an excavated feature, but to the NE at least may have been constructed upon or near a pre-existing ground level.

4 Archive

The archive from the watching brief is currently stored by GeoArch. It will be merged with the archive from the other components of the project and finds from all phases of work on the site will be examined together to ensure a seamless integration between the investigations.

A suitable eventual stable repository for the combined archive will be determined following formal assessment of the finds from the public project.

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Table 1: summary catalogue of contexts observed during Watching Brief.

Number	Type	Description	over	under	part of	phase	equivalent	notes
200	s	undifferentiated asphalt/cement/aggregate surfacing to alley	203	surface		7		
201	s	new paving	202	surface		7		
202	s	sandy cement bedding for new paving	203	202		7		
203	s	concrete surrounding drain, with polystyrene liner	204	202		7		
204	c	cut for drain	206	203		7		
205	d	fill of cable trench	205	204		6		
206	c	cut for cable trench	217	205		6		
207	c	cut for pillar footings	209	208		6		
208	s	pillar	209	surface		6		
209	s	'L'-shaped brick wall footings and concrete beneath	210	207		5		
210	c	cut for 'L'-shaped footings	217	209		5		
211	s	brick inspection chamber	216	212		5		
212	d	fill of chamber	211	surface		5 to 7		
213	s	Pennant slab over brick chamber	211	200		5		
214	s	deep drain	216	217		5		
215	s	brick plinth	217	200		5		
216	c	cut for drain/inspection chamber	221	211, 214		5		
217	d	undifferentiated fill over deep drain	214	200		5		
218	s	narrow wall	214	200		5		
219	s	high level drain	214	214		5		
220	s	lead water pipe	214	214		5		
221	d	medieval deposit - clay with boulders	limit	216		1	170, 227	
222	d	disturbed topsoil, 140mm in thickness	224	surface		7		
223	s	ceramic land-drain	226	cut		5		
224	d	clinker-rich dark deposit 60mm in thickness	225	222		5	012, 145?	
225	d	brownish red soil with stones and mortar fragments, 100mm thick	226	224		4	048?	
226	d	red stony soil	227	225		1?	168?	
227	d	soil containing large stones	limit	226		1	221, 170	only top seen

Figure Captions

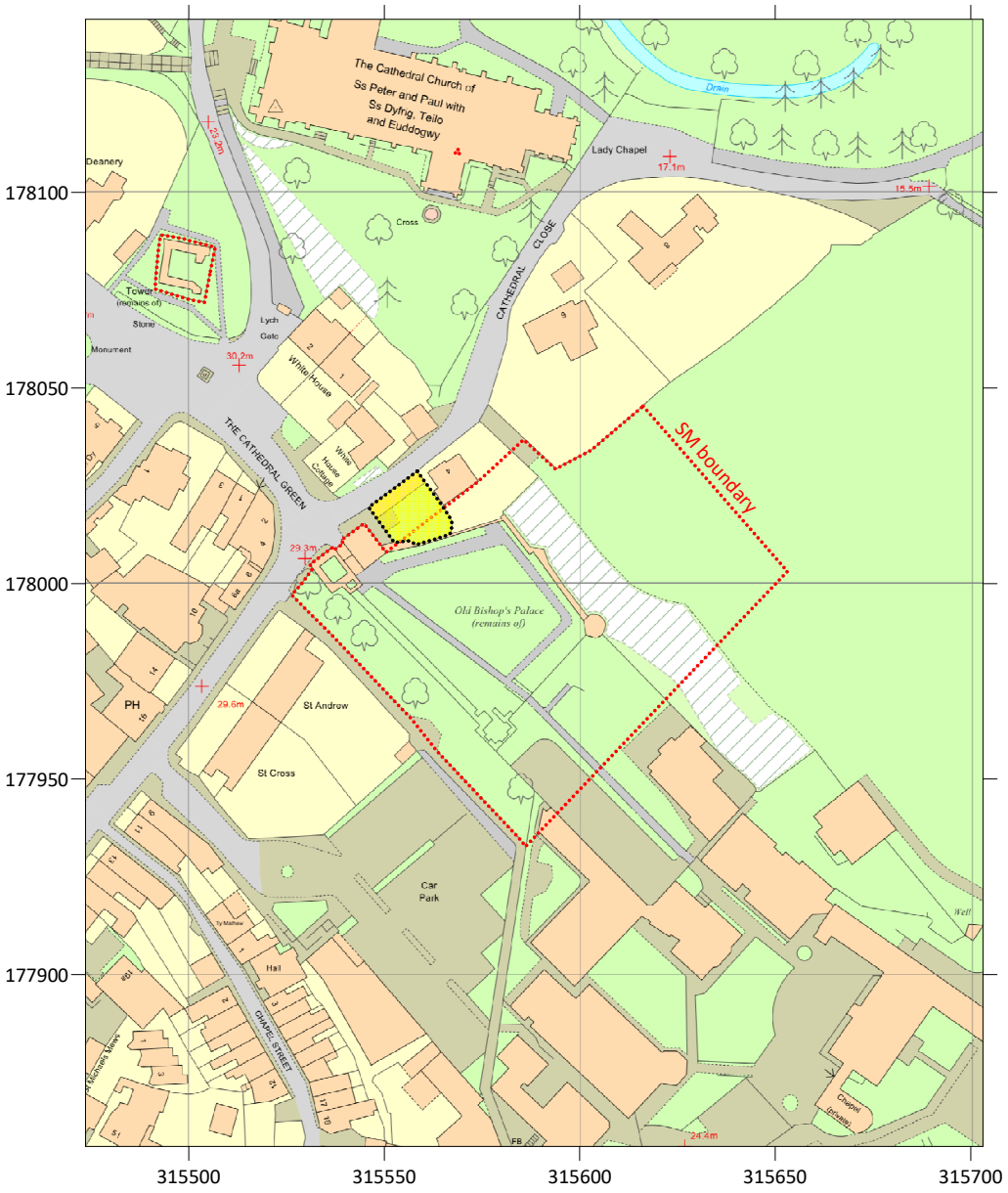
Figure 1. Location of Llandaff Pound, extent in yellow. The 'alley' is the narrow strip of land immediately to its SW. Base mapping: OS Mastermap © Ordnance Survey; Licence No.: 100041040

Figure 2. Synthetic SW-NE cross section of site and adjacent previously investigated areas. From SW to NE the segments are:
- This study, the 'alley'
- This study, the NW side of the substation plinth
- Young 2020, Watching Brief Area 5
- Public project, main trench

Figure 3. Plans of area around the Pound, showing features interpreted to be of Phase 5 age (late 19th century to 1938). Modern buildings shown in grey tone. Cross hatch = modern inspection covers, green circle – heritage lamp post.
Phase 5 walls shown in red tones (dull – surviving fragments of Phase 5 Pound wall; bright – brick structures, this report). Yellow tone, investigated fragments of late 19th century Pound surface and overlying clinker deposits. Orange – phase 5 land drains.

Figure 4. Plans of area around the Pound, showing features interpreted to be of Phase 1-3 age (medieval). Modern buildings shown in grey tone. Cross hatch = modern inspection covers, green circle – heritage lamp post.
Black - castle walls, pale grey removed curtain wall.:
Phase 1: yellow tone – composite wall/bank (1009), retaining clay with cobbles, orange. Pink – mortared wall (155). Blue – culvert (109)
Phase 3 – house in bright green, rear dividing wall in dull green.

Figure 1



Base mapping: OS Mastermap © Ordnance Survey; Licence No.: 100041040

Figure 2

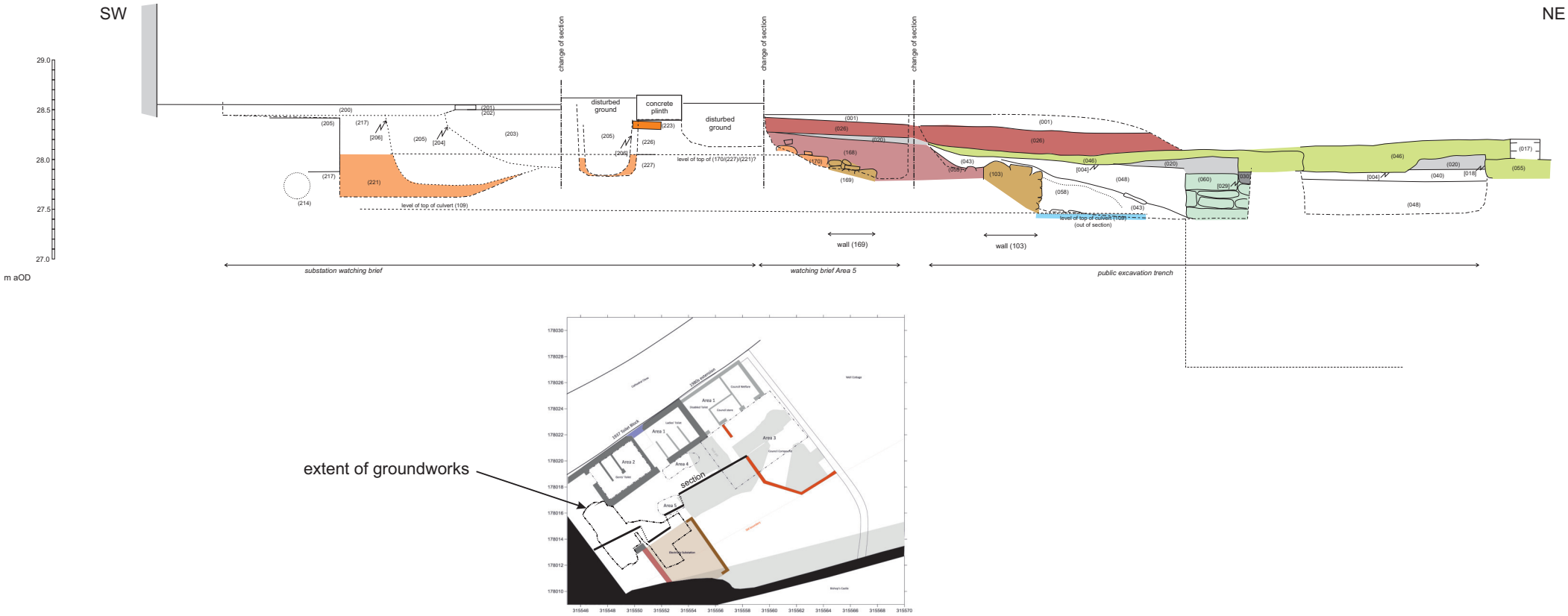
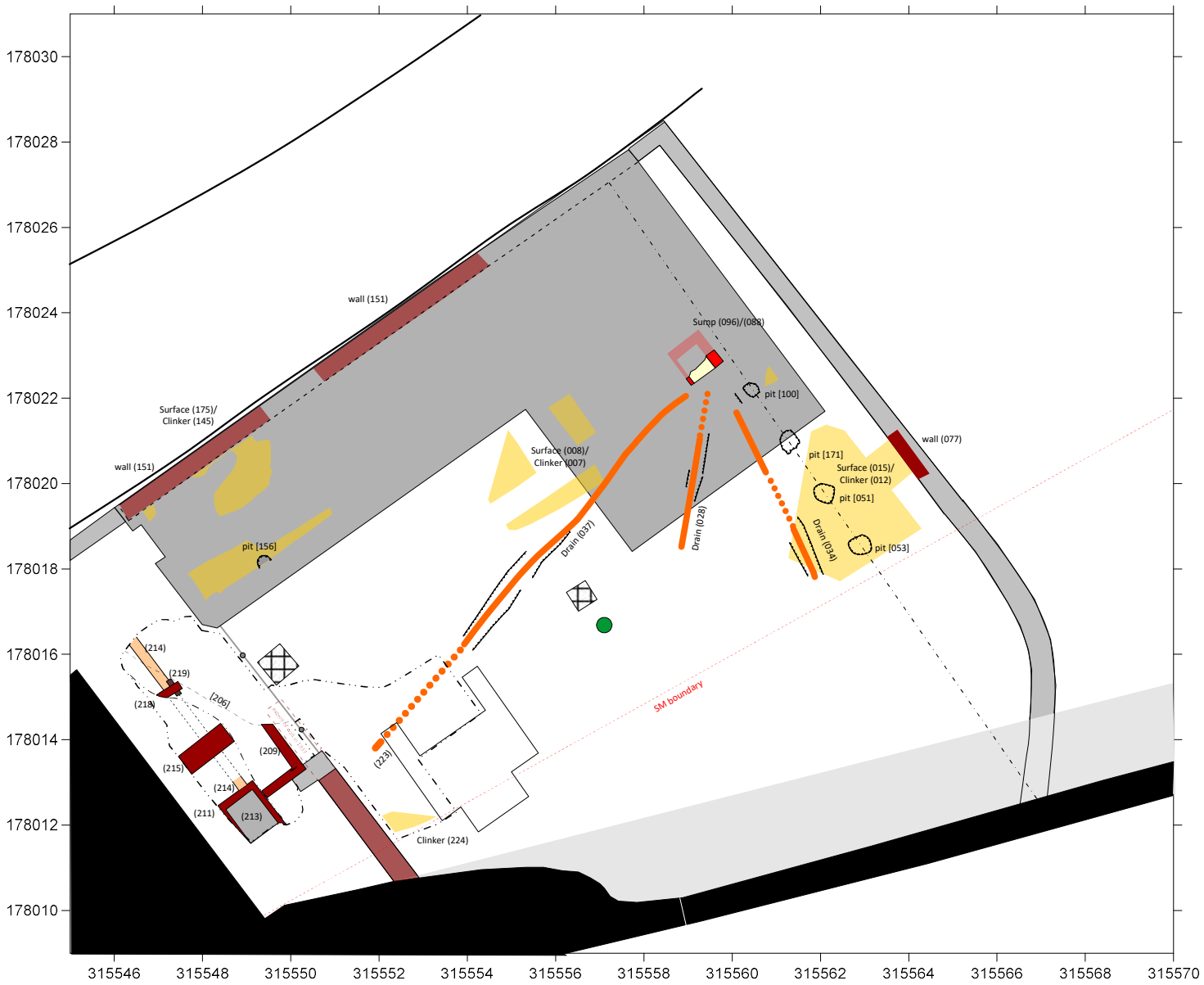

SW
NE
29.0
28.5
28.0
27.5
27.0
m aOD
change of section
change of section
change of section
disturbed ground
concrete plinth
disturbed ground
level of top of (170/(227)/(221)?
level of top of culvert (109)
level of top of culvert (109) (out of section)
wall (169)
wall (103)
substation watching brief
watching brief Area 5
public excavation trench
extent of groundworks
section
Area 1
Area 2
Area 3
Area 4
Area 5

Figure 3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315568
315570
wall (151)
Surface (175)/
Clinker (145)
wall (151)
pit [156]
Surface (008)/
Clinker (007)
Sump (096)/(088)
pit [100]
pit [171]
Surface (015)/
Clinker (012)
pit [051]
pit [053]
wall (077)
Drain (037)
Drain (028)
Drain (034)
SM boundary
(214)
(219)
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(209)
(215)
(214)
(211)
(213)
(223)
Clinker (224)

Figure 4

178030
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315562
315564
315566
315568
315570
wall (155)
(149)
wall (165)
Clay-cored boulder faced wall/bank (1009)
wall (060)
wall (064)
culvert [109]
wall (169)
(170)
wall (109)
(221)
(227)
SM boundary

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