

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

*Brecon Highway Infrastructure Phase III,
Market Street Link Road*
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT



CPAT Report No 374

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Market Street Link Road*
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

N W Jones
July 2000

Report for Powys County Council, Highways and Property Design Group

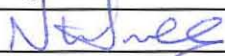
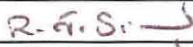

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In April 2000 the Contracts Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (henceforth CPAT Contracts) was invited by Powys County Council Highways and Property Design Group to submit a quotation and specification for an archaeological assessment of the proposed Brecon Highway Infrastructure Phase III, Market Street Link Road.
- 1.2 Information held within the Regional Sites and Monuments Record indicates that the proposed development lies within the historic core of Brecon (Silvester 1993), and may impact upon both known and previously unrecorded archaeological deposits. Accordingly a brief (ASB 378) was prepared by the Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, acting in their capacity as advisors to the Powys County Council, detailing a programme of archaeological assessment.
- 1.3 The Brief required a three-stage assessment consisting of a desk-top study followed by field survey and building survey.

2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND SOILS

- 2.1 The study area (Fig. 1) lies on the western fringe of the town centre of Brecon, occupying a corridor of varying width which runs from the southern end of High Street Superior, westward onto Ship Street and the eastern end of Watergate, then north along Market Street, crossing Castle Street and Chapel Street before terminating at The Struet car park. The corridor includes six standing buildings, together with the existing highways, pavements, and areas of car parking.
- 2.3 The underlying solid geology consists of Silurian Old Red Sandstones of the Pridoli Series.

3 DESK TOP STUDY

- 3.1 The desk top study was undertaken according to the requirements of the Curatorial Brief and included an examination of all readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial and photographic sources at the following repositories: County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, Welshpool; National Library of Wales (NLW), Aberystwyth; Powys County Archives, Powys County Council, Llandrindod Wells; National Monuments Record, Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW), Aberystwyth; Brecon Library. Information from these sources has been used to produce the following historical framework.

Brecon Town

- 3.2 The origins of the present town are closely associated with the founding of the castle and its subsequent development as the *caput*, or principle settlement, for one of the great lordships in south Wales, functioning not only as a stronghold, but also as an administrative centre for a large region. The original castle is thought to have been constructed before, or immediately after, 1093 when Bernard de Neufmarche defeated and killed the local Welsh ruler Bleddyn ap Maenarch and his supporters in a battle close by (Thomas 1991, 4).
- 3.3 The earliest urban development is assumed to have been located within the castle bailey on the west bank of the Honddu, with the Benedictine priory of St. John the Evangelist founded soon after. At some later time a town developed to the east of the Honddu, probably with associated defences. In 1217 the town was besieged by Llwelyn ap Iorwerth, and although he was bought off by the burgesses on that occasion, he returned in 1231 and again in 1233, burning the town on both occasions (Thomas 1991, 11). The town was also besieged by Glyndwr in 1403.
- 3.4 The town received its first charter in 1276, with a second sometime between 1277 and 1282, subsequent charters in 1308 and 1412 (Thomas 1991, 17-22). At the time of the 1412 charter 86 burgesses were recorded and by 1443 this number had risen to 121. As the town developed it became an important market centre with twice weekly markets and three annual fairs (Silvester 1993, 3).

- 3.5 By the 16th century Brecon had become an important urban centre and under the Act of Union of 1536 it was designated as one of the four regional administrative centres for Wales. There have been suggestions that by the mid-16th century the population may have been at least two thousand, leading to the development of extra-mural settlements in Oldport, Llanfaes and Watton (Silvester 1993, 3-4).

Town Defences

- 3.6 There is no documentary evidence suggesting the foundation of the town defences, but it would seem likely that they originated as earthwork and timber barricades associated with the development of the early settlement during the 12th century. The defences are first mentioned in 1314 and there are records of the ditch being cleared out in 1399 and the gates, walls and ditches being fortified in 1405 (Colvin 1963, 575). In their final form the defences consisted of an encompassing stone wall with a substantial external ditch, ten towers and four gates. The defences followed an oval course from the castle postern gate along the line of Castle Street, running behind and roughly parallel to Lion Street to the Watton Gate and following the line of Captain's Walk to the West Gate adjacent to the Usk Bridge. The Watergate guarded the crossing of the Honddu, from where the defences appear to have run along the west side of Market Street and the east bank of the Honddu to Castle Bridge. The earliest surviving cartographic evidence for the defences, as well as for the town itself, is John Speed's map of 1610 (Fig. 2), when they are recorded as being in good repair. A map of 1761 (fig. 3) shows the walls still standing between the Watton Gate, which is also extant, and the Usk Bridge, with two towers shown along Captain's Walk. The walls appear to have been gradually robbed for building materials and the destruction of the gates was ordered in 1775. During the following century large sections were pulled down (Soulsby 1983, 82).
- 3.7 The majority of the defences have been either destroyed or built over, although in two places clear traces still survive. A section of medieval wall and earthen bank survives at Watton Mount, while on the south side of the circuit Captain's Walk lies atop a scarp with Danygaer Road below, presumably in the town ditch.
- 3.8 Excavations in the basement of 2 The Struet identified what was assumed to be a short section of the town ditch containing medieval pottery of 12th-15th century date (Dorling 1991). More recent excavations associated with the redevelopment of Bethel Square identified a substantial ditch at least 7m wide and 2m deep, assumed to be part of the town ditch (Locock 1996). The ditch showed evidence of early backfilling on the south side possibly indicating the replacement of an earthwork defence with a stone wall which required a less substantial ditch. A series of re-cuts and fills within the ditch indicated that it remained as a visible feature at least until the late 18th century.

Study Area

- 3.9 The earliest available cartographic source relating to the study area is John Speed's map of Brecon in 1610 (Figs 2 and 9A). This clearly depicts the medieval street pattern together with the town defences, including the West Gate, adjacent to the Usk Bridge, Water Gate, at the southern end of Market Street, and North Gate at the junction of the Struet and Castle Street. The defences themselves are shown running along the northern side of Castle Street to Castle Bridge. Although Speed does not reliably show individual buildings, the map does indicate that at this time Market Street was occupied by buildings on both sides, as was Watergate, Ship Street, High Street and the Struet, while Castle Street is shown with buildings along the southern side and the town wall on the north side. Outside the wall, the area between the Struet and the Honddu is shown as being undeveloped.
- 3.10 Two documents in the National Library of Wales refer to properties in Ship, or Sheep, Street in 1709 and between 1753 and 1760, giving details of rents and bills for repairs, although providing no specific evidence for any properties within the study area.
- 3.11 Meredith Jones' Ichnography of the Town of Brecknock in 1744 (Figs 3 and 9B) shows a situation little changed from that depicted by Speed, the only significant difference being the apparent lack of buildings along the western end of Castle Street, on the south side, and around the corner into Market Street.
- 3.12 Within twenty years the majority of the town defences appear to have been demolished, as indicated in a survey of 1761 (Fig. 4). All of the major street frontages now seem to be occupied, including the northern side of Castle Street. Interestingly, a possible building is shown in the middle of Castle Street at the east end of Castle Bridge, although its date and function is unknown.

- 3.13 The map of Brecon by John Wood in 1834 (Figs 5 and 9C) provides the earliest detailed plan which shows individual buildings. The medieval street pattern survives, with narrow streets almost entirely occupied by street frontage buildings. Interestingly, the corner of Castle Street and Market Street, then known as Horn Lane, appears to be unoccupied, as indicated by Jones in 1744, but not subsequently in the survey of 1761. The map clearly shows the row of buildings along the west side of Market Street, which includes the present 14 Market Street, as well as 14 Castle Street, although without its present rear wing. A weir is shown to the south of Castle Bridge, presumably leading to a mill on the west side of Market Street. The area between the Struet and the Honddu is now at least partly developed with several buildings and the area divided into plots.
- 3.14 The Tithe Survey of Brecon in 1840 (Fig. 6) provides no useful information for the study area, apart from indicating that the corner of Market Street and Castle Street is now occupied by buildings. These are presumably the existing 17-21 Castle Street, which may have been constructed after Castle Street was widened around 1838-40, following a donation of £200 by Lord Tredegar (Welsh Office 1976, 43). A drawing of around 1840 (Davies 2000, 55) shows Ship Street with what appears to be a jettied building at the corner of Market Street and Watergate, in approximately the position of the present 1 Watergate.
- 3.15 The Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2,500, surveyed in 1883 and published in 1889 (Fig. 7), provides the earliest accurate map of the town. Castle Street appears much as it does today, with 14 Castle Street shown as an inn, including a rear wing extending north to Chapel Street. Market Street includes the market building, built between 1838-41, and the Queen's Head Hotel on the east side, with a row of buildings along the west side, together with a tannery. The buildings shown on the corner of Watergate and Market Street are likely to be the existing Nos 1 and 2 Watergate and 14 Market Street. Ship Street at this date preserves its medieval appearance with both frontages occupied by buildings fronting directly onto the street. These appear in several photographs (Davies 2000, 51 and 55) which show a series of narrow buildings along the north side of the street, including a timber-framed jettied building on the corner with High Street Superior. To the north of Castle Street, a viaduct (Site 9) carries the Brecon to Merthyr Railway, which was opened in 1868 (Thomas 1993, 47). This appears in two photographs taken in 1933 (Davies 2000, 60), showing a series of sheds or workshops beneath the stone arches, with the railway carried over the Honddu on stone piers. At least one building (Site 12) along The Struet was demolished to make way for the viaduct. The railway was closed in the 1960s and the viaduct subsequently demolished. To the south of the viaduct a number of buildings are shown to the rear of properties fronting the Struet and also along Chapel Street. The 2nd edition 1:2,500 published in 1904 (Figs 8 and 9D) shows the study area essentially unchanged from its appearance in 1883.
- 3.16 It would appear that the majority of buildings shown on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition of 1904 survived well into the second half of the century. The row of buildings along the west side of Market Street, north of No. 14, were only demolished around 1970, as was the Queen's Head Hotel, while the mill which was fed by a weir south of Castle Bridge survived until the early 1990s.
- 3.17 The whole of the study area, lying within the confines of the medieval town, falls within a Conservation Area, defined by the local planning authority under the 1971 Town and Country Planning Act as an area of 'special architectural or historical interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'.

4 FIELD SURVEY

- 4.1 A thorough walked survey of the study area was undertaken on 6th July 2000. The aim of the survey was to identify and record all visible archaeological features. A full written record was made for each site using proforma sheets, as well as a photographic record in 35mm format black and white and colour print and colour slide (see Site Archive, Appendix 2).
- 4.2 The following section includes only those sites lying within the study area, or associated with such sites. Sites lying within the immediate area, in particular listed buildings, have been included within the general assessment and are depicted in Fig. 10 and listed in Appendix 1.

Town defences

- 4.3 Although there is no known visible trace of the defences within the study area, there is good reason to suppose that significant sub-surface evidence may still survive. Indeed, it is possible that the rear yard of 14-17 Castle Street (plate 11) may have to some extent preserved a section of the town ditch, since the level of the yard is some 2m below that of Castle Street to the front, and 1.5m below Chapel Street to the rear. If this were so, it would suggest that the line of the town wall ran along the present northern street frontage of Castle Street, as indicated by Speed.
- 4.4 The sites of the East Gate (PRN 50654) and Watergate (PRN 25503) both lie within the study area, as does at least part of the line of the western and northern defences.

Buildings

- 4.5 Six standing buildings lie within the study area, each of which is discussed in detail as part of the building survey (see section 5 below). Other buildings and associated features adjacent to these buildings, but outside the study area, may be affected by the development. Two early 19th-century listed buildings flank 14 Castle Street and share dividing walls (plate 10). Nos 15/16 Castle Street (PRN 25131) are currently empty in a poor state of repair, while 13 Castle Street (PRN 25129) is occupied and in good repair, having been recently renovated. The three listed buildings, and indeed a fourth, 12 Castle Street (PRN 25128), are roughly contemporary and are identified as forming a group (Welsh Office 1976). To the rear, along Chapel Street, a listed boundary wall (PRN 25132) behind 15/16 Castle Street abuts the rear wing of 14 Castle Street, while on the opposite side of Chapel Street is another listed boundary wall (PRN 25498) along the northern side of Chapel Street (plates 12-13). The Castle Street frontage of 17 Castle Street is part of a contemporary row of buildings built around 1840 which includes 18-21, which are listed Grade II (PRN 25133), to the rear of which is a listed boundary wall (PRN 25134; plate 15).
- 4.6 Cartographic evidence indicates the former existence of a number of buildings within the study area for which there is now no visible trace, but there may be surviving subsurface features. The original street frontage along the north side of Ship Street (Site 1) was demolished during the 1960s, the position of the buildings now lying beneath the pavement and the new library (plate 1). Buildings are shown in this position by Speed in 1610; it seems likely that these, or later successors, replaced original medieval street frontage properties and it is known that at least some of the buildings which survived until demolition were of timber-frame construction and late medieval in character, similar to those which survive on the opposite side of the street (plate 2).
- 4.7 A row of buildings along the west side of Market Street (Site 2) was demolished around 1970. Buildings are shown in this position by Speed in 1610 and it seems likely that these, or later successors, replaced original medieval street frontage properties. The gable end of the southernmost building (PRN 20739; plate 3) survives as part of 14 Market Street (Site 4). The area is currently used for car parking.
- 4.8 Part of the street frontage along the Struet (Site 12) was demolished to make way for the viaduct (Site 9) on the Brecon to Merthyr Railway, which opened in 1868. A single building is shown in this position on John Wood's map of 1834 (Fig. 5, building no. 40). At present this forms the entrance to the Viaduct Car Park (plate 17) and there is a noticeable rise in the ground level along the line of the former street front, before the land falls to the west. It is possible the buried remains survive which may relate to buildings of post medieval or earlier date.
- 4.9 The tannery (Site 5) depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition of 1883 has since been demolished and is now beneath a car park (plate 4), as is the former Market Street Mill (PRN 20962) and Sawmill (PRN 20979), which were more latterly associated with William's Builders Merchants. The only surviving evidence consists of the weir (Site 11; plate 5) leading from Castle Bridge to a blocked sluice with adjacent steps at the northern end of the car park. The line of the town defences also runs through the car park, although no trace is now visible.
- 4.10 Castle Bridge (plates 6 and 16) linked the town with the Castle and was described by Samuel Lewis in 1833 as having 'two arches, and between them a very massive pier, that anciently sustained a drawbridge' (Thomas 1993, 31). It is mentioned as one of three bridges crossing the Honddu in 1407, and was damaged by flooding in 1853 when it lost one of its piers (Thomas 1993, 14-15). The existing bridge (PRN 6878) is listed Grade II and shows at least two main phases of construction, together with the later addition of concrete jetties on either side to widen the bridge. It is possible that at least part of the original medieval bridge (PRN 19438) survives within its core (Silvester 1993, 11).

5 BUILDING SURVEY

- 5.1 All buildings within the road corridor were examined externally and internally, with the exception of 17 Market Street, where no internal access was permitted, and the southern half and first floor of 14 Market Street, where access was blocked by stored goods. Recording was undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in a RCAHME level 2 building survey:

Written record to include the precise location, date recorded, name of recorder, description of the building type, function, materials and date, in so far as these details are discernible.

Drawn record to include a sketch plan, roughly dimensioned, together with plans (to scale or fully dimensioned) of all main floors.

Photographic record to include general views of the exterior, the overall appearance of principal rooms and circulation areas.

1 Watergate (PRN 25502; plate 6)

- 5.2 Grade II listed building of character, in good condition. Two-storey building of early to mid 19th-century construction with stuccoed cladding and slate hipped roof. Segmented headed window openings with moulded architraves originally containing sash windows without glazing bars except for east end ground floor window, now of plate glass. In the middle bay on ground floor is a later 19th-century shop window with pilasters, fascia and cornice on ornate trusses; modern chequerboard appliqué to left hand pilaster. The first floor front and east end windows are all modern replacements, although the west end window is an original sash.

- 5.3 Internally, the ground floor is divided into two main rooms, the east with a blocked fireplace, with a small passage/kitchen leading to the stairs and a side door to the west. A lean-to extension has been added to the west side to include a WC. The first floor has been converted into a self-contained flat consisting of an original bedroom at the east end, with blocked fireplace, and a later partitioned passage from the stairs, from which lead a second bedroom, kitchen and bathroom.

2 Watergate (Site 6; plate 7)

- 5.4 19th-century two-storey building, probably of brick construction, with modern cement render incised as masonry. The west side ground floor has a window and plain doorway at the north end, with the main entrance with timber pilasters and moulded cornice, and windows on either side. The south side has an inserted doorway, later partly blocked as a window. All windows are plain with modern PVC casements. The building is shown in several photographs (Davies 2000, 18, 88) of c. 1890 and 1900, with the former Fountain Inn to the west.

- 5.5 Internally, the building has been renovated and let as self-contained flats on each floor. The ground floor consists of two main rooms, a passage, kitchen and a bathroom at the rear. The first floor has two main rooms at the front, with a kitchen and bathroom at the rear.

14 Market Street (PRN 25130; plate 8)

- 5.6 Possibly originally of 17th or 18th-century date and of random stone construction. No original features survive externally, with the exception of a small window in the northern gable end wall, which itself shows architectural details of the adjacent property, now demolished (PRN 20739). The ground floor is used as store rooms and has a rough concrete floor and exposed ceiling joists, some with assembly marks. The southern half of the ground floor and the first floor were not investigated due to problems with access.

14A Market Street (Site 8; plate 9)

- 5.7 A small shop built in between 14 Market St and 1 Watergate. Single floor, roughly triangular in plan, with a large plate glass window and recessed doorway along street front and corrugated asbestos roof. Inserted partition to rear corner for WC. The north wall has two, now partitioned, openings into the adjacent building (14 Market St). Formerly a Ladies outfitters, and now a charity shop. Possibly of early 20th-century date.

14 Castle Street (PRN 25130; plates 10-13)

- 5.6 Grade II listed building, formerly the Black Lion public house. An early 19th-century facade of three storeys and two bays with pebbledashed cladding incised as masonry over random stone walling. The windows have plain painted reveals, with sash windows three panes wide on the upper floors. On the ground floor is a sash window and a flat-arched doorway with stuccoed architrave and cornice, and passage entrance on the west side. A rear two-storey wing in random stone projects as far as Chapel Street, with a slate hipped roof and sash windows with brick dressings. The rear wing appears to be a

later addition and is not shown on John Wood's map of 1834 (Fig. 5), although it does appear on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition, surveyed in 1883 (Fig. 7). The rear yard, which extends behind 15 and 16 Castle Street, is lower than both Castle Street and Chapel Street, and may be located within the ditch outside the town wall (see 4.3 above).

- 5.7 Internally, the building has been substantially altered in parts and has been damaged by a fire in the rear wing first floor. From the main entrance a passage leads to the rear yard of the property. To the east is a large room (front bar) extending to the rear of the main building, with two inserted doorways leading to a rear room (rear bar) with a large stone central fireplace and chimney, originally occupying the whole rear wing, but now subdivided with a kitchen to the rear. To the west, stairs lead down to the cellar (no access), up to the first floor, and with a doorway into the side passage leading to the rear yard. A brick extension at the rear, consisting of a toilet block, is built over the yard on a single pier with concrete lintels. The first floor front has a main bedroom to the east, extending to the rear of the main building, with a small bedroom to the west, both opening off the stair-well. The rear wing first floor, entered from the main landing, has a large room, badly damaged by fire, leading to a rear bedroom, now a bathroom, and small WC. The large central chimney rises between the main rooms, with a fireplace in each.

17 Castle Street/1-3 Berkeley Place (Site 3; plates 14-15)

- 5.8 Built around 1840 on the corner of Castle Street and Market Street the main elevation is structurally part of the row comprising 18-21 Castle Street (PRN 25133), all of which are listed Grade II. The three-storey block is rendered and incised as masonry with giant pilasters and bands at second floor and first floor sill level, with a slate hipped roof with curved corner bay. The windows are original with sash on the ground and second floors and large transomed casements on the second floor.
- 5.9 The rear wing, fronting Market Street, may be contemporary with a single giant pilaster but no banding. Originally with three sash windows on the ground and first floors, and four on the second floor, two of the first floor windows and three on the second floor are now blocked. Narrow casements between floors indicate the position of stair-wells. The rear elevation has two sash windows on each floor, one of which is blocked on the ground floor. The rear two bays have dressed, coursed stonework at the base along the market Street frontage. A rear doorway leads to a cellar latterly used as a shop.

6 SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

- 6.1 Each site within the study area, or potentially affected by the proposed scheme, has been classified according to its perceived significance. The categories are those given in the Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments draft *Archaeology and the Trunk Road Programme in Wales: a Manual of Best Practice*.

Category A Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings and those sites which meet the criteria for scheduling or listing. It is presumed that sites in this category will be preserved and protected *in situ*.

Category B Sites of regional or county importance which do not quite meet the criteria for scheduling or listing. Preservation *in situ* is the preferred option for these sites, but if loss or damage is unavoidable, appropriate detailed recording should be undertaken.

Category C Sites of district or local importance which are not of sufficient importance to justify preservation if threatened, but which merit adequate recording in advance of loss or damage.

Category D Minor and damaged sites which do not merit inclusion in a higher category, and for which rapid recording should be sufficient.

Category E Sites whose importance could not be fully determined as a result of the assessment and may warrant further evaluation.

- 6.2 A number of grade II listed buildings lie within the study area. The list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest is compiled by the National Assembly (formerly the Secretary of State for Wales) on advice from Cadw, according to section 1 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and

Conservation Areas Act 1990. Under the Act, Grade II listed buildings are defined as those of 'special interest'.

Site 1	Ship Street former street frontage Type: Building Form: Document Category: E	NGR: SO04422861 Period: Medieval ? Condition: Unknown
Site 2	Market Street former street frontage Type: Building Form: Document Category: E	NGR: SO0435528670 Period: Medieval ? Condition: Unknown
Site 3	17 Castle Street Type: Building Form: Building Category: B	NGR: SO04382873 Period: Post Medieval Condition: Intact
Site 4	14 Market Street Type: House Form: Building Category: C	NGR: SO04362864 Period: Post Medieval Condition: Damaged
Site 5	Market Street tannery Type: Tannery Form: Document Category: D	NGR: SO04352870 Period: Post Medieval Condition: Destroyed
Site 6	2 Watergate Type: House Form: Building Category: C	NGR: SO04352863 Period: Post Medieval Condition: Intact
Site 7	Watergate Street building Type: Building Form: Building Category: E	NGR: SO04362862 Period: Medieval ? Condition: Destroyed
Site 8	Market Street Type: Shop Form: Building Category: C	NGR: SO04362864 Period: Post Medieval Condition: Intact
Site 9	Brecon railway viaduct Type: Viaduct Form: Document Category: D	NGR: SO04432879 Period: Post Medieval Condition: Destroyed
Site 10	Brecon, rear of 102 The Struet Type: House ? Form: Document Category: E	NGR: SO044202877 Period: Post Medieval Condition: Destroyed
Site 11	Brecon, Honddu weir Type: Weir Form: Structure Category: C	NGR: SO0436728750 Period: Post Medieval Condition: Damaged
Site 12	Brecon, The Struet building Type: Building Form: Document	NGR: SO04462876 Period: Unknown Condition: Unknown

Category: E

PRN 604	Brecon Town Defences Type: Town defences Form: Structure Category: E	NGR: SO0428 Period: Medieval Condition: Unknown
PRN 6878	Brecon, Castle Bridge (post medieval) Type: Bridge Form: Structure Category: A	NGR: SO04372876 Period: Post Medieval Condition: Intact Listing: Grade II
PRN 19438	Brecon, Castle Bridge (medieval) Type: Bridge Form: Structure Category: A	NGR: SO04372876 Period: Medieval 5/227 Condition: Damaged Listing: Grade II
PRN 20739	Brecon, Market St building Type: House Form: Building Category: D	NGR: SO0436028642 Period: Post Medieval Condition: Near destroyed
PRN 20962	Brecon, Market Street Mill Type: Mill Form: Building Category: D	NGR: SO04352871 Period: Post Medieval Condition: Destroyed
PRN 20979	Brecon, Market Street Sawmill Type: Mill (saw) Form: Building Category: D	NGR: SO04342870 Period: Post Medieval Condition: Destroyed
PRN 25129	Brecon, Castle St 13 Type: House Form: Building Category: A	NGR: SO04402875 Period: Post Medieval Condition: Intact Listing: Grade II
PRN 25130	Brecon, Castle St 14 Type: Public house Form: Building Category: A	NGR: SO04392875 Period: Post Medieval Condition: Intact Listing: Grade II
PRN 25131	Brecon, Castle St 15-16 Type: Building Form: Building Category: A	NGR: SO04382876 Period: Post Medieval Condition: Intact Listing: Grade II
PRN 25132	Brecon, Castle St 15 rear garden wall Type: Wall Form: Structure Category: A	NGR: SO04372877 Period: Post Medieval Condition: Intact Listing: Grade II
PRN 25133	Brecon, Castle Street 18-21 Type: House Form: Building Category: A	NGR: SO04392873 Period: Post Medieval Condition: Intact Listing: Grade II
PRN 25134	Brecon, Castle Street 18-21 rear wall Type: Wall Form: Structure Category: A	NGR: SO04392873 Period: Post Medieval Condition: Intact Listing: Grade II

PRN 25404 Brecon, Market St 'Queen's Head Hotel'	NGR: SO04372871
Type: Building	Period: Post Medieval
Form: Building	Condition: Destroyed
Category: D	Listing: Grade II
PRN 25405 Brecon, seat	NGR: SO04372871
Type: Seat	Period: Post Medieval
Form: Structure	Condition: Destroyed
Category: D	Listing: Grade II
PRN 25498 Brecon, The Struet 102 rear garden wall	NGR: SO04402876
Type: Wall	Period: Post Medieval
Form: Building	Condition: Intact
Category: A	Listing: Grade II
PRN 25502 Brecon, Watergate 1	NGR: SO04362862
Type: Building	Period: Post Medieval
Form: Building	Condition: Unknown
Category: A	Listing: Grade II
PRN 50654 Brecon Town Defences, West Gate	NGR: SO04342861
Type: Gate	Period: Medieval
Form: Document	Condition: Unknown
Category: E	
PRN 50655 Brecon Town Defences, Watergate	NGR: SO04332863
Type: Gate	Period: Medieval
Form: Document	Condition: Unknown
Category: E	

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The archaeological assessment has demonstrated that the proposed development will have an impact on the architectural heritage of the study area, and may also have an impact on the buried archaeological resource (Fig. 11).
- 7.2 The proposed road scheme would involve the demolition of two Grade II listed buildings and part of a listed boundary wall, as well as alterations to Castle Bridge, which is also listed Grade II, and the demolition of four unlisted buildings, all of which lie within a conservation area. While it is clear that the intention of the scheme is to improve both the traffic flow and the overall appearance of the area, the loss of the standing buildings would undoubtedly affect the character of Watergate, Market Street and Castle Street. The listed buildings are of particular concern since the presumption, according to the Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments draft *Archaeology and the Trunk Road Programme in Wales: a Manual of Best Practice*, would be for their preservation *in situ*, and the loss of these buildings, together with 17 Castle Street, which is an integral part of a row, the rest of which is listed, would have a detrimental effect on the general appearance of the street frontages of which they are a part. The potential loss of 2 Watergate and 14 Market Street and its adjoining shop, is of less concern as, unlike those properties listed above, none is listed and they do not have significant group value in association with the surrounding buildings.
- 7.3 The location of the study area within the medieval town means that there is inevitably a significant potential for buried archaeological deposits. With the exception of the existing Viaduct Car Park to the rear of The Struet and Chapel Street, the study area consists of streets whose origins date to the medieval period, and which had associated street frontage buildings and yard areas to the rear, as demonstrated by Speed's plan of the town in 1610. In addition, the area also includes the line of the town defences along the northern side of Castle Street and to the west of Market Street. The assumption is, therefore, that buried archaeological deposits relating to both the medieval occupation and the town defences may survive within the study area. Those areas where significant buried archaeological deposits are thought likely are depicted in Fig. 11. In particular, this includes the

former street frontages along Ship Street (Site 1), Market Street (Site 2) and The Struet (Site 12), the sites of the West Gate (PRN 50654) and the Water Gate (PRN 50655), the line of the town defences along Market Street and Castle Street (604), and Castle Bridge (PRN 6878), as well as those buildings which are to be demolished (PRNs 25502, 20739, 25130 and 25498; Sites 3, 4, 6 and 7).

- 7.4 The potential impact of the proposed scheme on these deposits will depend on the depth of ground disturbance, although any excavation beneath either the existing road make-up or the base of topsoil anywhere within the study area may disturb archaeological deposits. However, for much of the area occupied by existing streets and pavements it would appear that the proposed scheme is likely to have limited impact on the buried archaeology since the proposals seem to involve little more than resurfacing. The exceptions are likely to be in association with the demolition of existing buildings and at the entrance to the Viaduct Car Park where levels will need to be reduced to conform to that of The Struet.
- 7.5 The proposals to alter Castle Bridge (PRN 6878) may impact upon the surviving medieval and post-medieval structure as well as revealing significant new information relating to its construction and history.
- 7.6 At the time of the building survey, it was not possible to gain access to 17 Castle Street, the cellar and rear basement of 14 Castle Street and part of 14 Market Street, all of which have therefore not been recorded.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 The author would like to thank the following for their assistance: Glyn Owen and Richard Hankinson, CPAT, for assistance with the desk top study; Jenny Mitcham, SMR Officer, CPAT; the staff of the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; the staff of the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales, Aberystwyth; Bruce Pucknell, Powys County Council; Jonathan Guscott, Brecon Beacons National Park.

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9.2 Cartographic Sources

1610 map of Brecon by John Speed

Meredith Jones' Ichnography of the Town of Brecknock, 1744

A survey of the Hon. William Morgan Esquire's Estates in the Parishes of St John the Evangelist and St David, Breconshire, 1761. Tredegar Estate Collection 1046, NLW

A survey of the Hon. William Morgan Esquire's Estates in the Parishes of St John the Evangelist and St David, Breconshire, 1761. Tredegar Estate Collection 671, NLW

A survey of the Hon. William Morgan Esquire's Estates in the Parishes of St John the Evangelist and St David, Breconshire. Tredegar Estate Collection 659 Map III, NLW

1834 Map of Brecon by John Wood

Brecon Tithe Map 1840

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2,500 1889, surveyed 1883 (Brec. 28.9 and 13)

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:500 1888

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1:2,500 1904 (Brec. 28.13)

9.3 Documentary sources

Michael Wilson Deposition, Pencader 27, p3. Memorandum Book of Samuel Owsley of the town of Brecon, including a survey of Sheepstreet Ward, July 25th 1709. NLW

Penpont documents 898-903, relating to the Swan Inn, Ship Street, 1753-60. NLW

The Bucks' print of Brecon Castle, 1741

APPENDIX 1

GAZETTEER OF PREVIOUSLY RECORDED SITES (source SMR)

PRN	Name	Type	Period	Grid reference
601	Brecon Castle, Ely Tower	Masonry castle	Medieval	SO0433528798
604	Brecon Town Defences	Town defences	Medieval	SO0428
6878	Brecon, Castle Bridge (post medieval)	Bridge	Post Medieval	SO04372876
6885	Brecon Town Defences, 2 The Struet	Town defences?	Medieval	SO04472871
16633	Brecon, Watergate St Chapel (Baptist)	Chapel	Not recorded	SO04332867
19438	Brecon, Castle Bridge (medieval)	Bridge	Medieval	SO04372876
19449	Brecon, Castle Bridge wier	Weir	Post Medieval	SO0438528780
20737	Brecon, The Street 102	House	Post Medieval	SO04462875
20739	Brecon, Market St	House	Post Medieval	SO0436028642
20956	Brecon, Market Hall	Market hall	Post Medieval	SO04392869
20962	Brecon, Market Street Mill	Mill	Post Medieval	SO04352871
20979	Brecon, Market Street Sawmill	Mill (saw)	Post Medieval	SO04342870
25128	Brecon, Castle St 12	House	Post Medieval	SO04402874
25129	Brecon, Castle St 13	House	Post Medieval	SO04402875
25130	Brecon, Castle St 14	Public house	Post Medieval	SO04392875
25131	Brecon, Castle St 15-16	Building	Post Medieval	SO04382876
25132	Brecon, Castle St 15 rear garden wall	Wall	Post Medieval	SO0439528767
25133	Brecon, Castle St 18-21	House	Post Medieval	SO04392873
25134	Brecon, Castle St 18-21 rear garden walls	Wall	Post Medieval	SO04392871
25368	Brecon, High St Superior 29	Public house	Post Medieval	SO04441865
25369	Brecon, High St Superior 32	House	Post Medieval	SO04452862
25370	Brecon, High St Superior 33	Building	Post Medieval	SO04442861
25371	Brecon, High St Superior 34	Building	Post Medieval	SO04442861
25372	Brecon, High St Inferior 38	Building	Post Medieval	SO04462860
25373	Brecon, High St Inferior 41	Building	Post Medieval	SO04462861
25374	Brecon, High St Inferior 39	House	Post Medieval	SO04442862
25375	Brecon, High St Inferior 40	Building	Post Medieval	SO04462862
25376	Brecon, High St Inferior 43-43A	Building	Post Medieval	SO04452858
25377	Brecon, High St Inferior 44-45	Building	Post Medieval	SO04462858
25404	Brecon, Market St 'Queen's Head Hotel'	Building	Post Medieval	SO04372871
25405	Brecon, seat	Seat	Post Medieval	SO04372871
25448	Brecon, Ship St 8	Building	Post Medieval	SO04382862
25449	Brecon, Ship St 9	House	Post Medieval	SO04382863
25450	Brecon, Ship St 10	House	Post Medieval	SO04372863
25451	Brecon, Ship St 11	Building	Post Medieval	SO04372860
25452	Brecon, Ship St 14	House	Post Medieval	SO04392860
25453	Brecon, Ship St 15	House	Post Medieval	SO04392859
25454	Brecon, Ship St 16	Building	Post Medieval	SO04402860
25455	Brecon, Ship St 17	Building	Post Medieval	SO04412859
25456	Brecon, Ship St 18	Building	Post Medieval	SO04412859
25457	Brecon, Ship St 19	Building	Post Medieval	SO04422859
25458	Brecon, Ship St 20	Building	Post Medieval	SO04432859
25462	Brecon, The Struet 4-5	Building	Post Medieval	SO04472873
25463	Brecon, The Struet 6	Building	Post Medieval	SO04482874
25464	Brecon, The Struet 7	Building	Post Medieval	SO04492877
25496	Brecon, The Struet 101	Building	Post Medieval	SO04462878
25497	Brecon, The Struet 102	House	Post Medieval	SO04472880
25498	Brecon, The Struet 102 rear garden wall	Wall	Post Medieval	SO04402876
25499	Brecon, The Struet 103-103A	Building	Post Medieval	SO04452873
25502	Brecon, Watergate 1	Building	Post Medieval	SO04362862
25503	Brecon, Watergate 4-7	House	Post Medieval	SO04332865
25508	Brecon, Watergate 10-11	Building	Post Medieval	SO04332862
25509	Brecon, Watergate 12	Public house	Post Medieval	SO04352860
25510	Brecon, Watergate 13	Building	Post Medieval	SO04342860

31099	Brecon, Ship St 12-13A	House	Post Medieval	SO04382860
50653	Brecon Town Defences, North Gate	Gate	Medieval	SO04462870
50654	Brecon Town Defences, West Gate	Gate	Medieval	SO04342861
50655	Brecon Town Defences, Watergate	Gate	Medieval	SO04332863

APPENDIX 2

BRECON HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE PHASE III, MARKET STREET LINK ROAD SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT BY CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The proposed development involves the construction of a link road between Ship Street and The Struet in Brecon town centre (SO 04352869), with associated improved car parking and pedestrian access .
- 1.2 This area lies within the historic core of Brecon as defined by Silvester (1993), and the development may impact upon archaeological deposits associated with the medieval town and its defences, together with a number of listed and unlisted buildings.
- 1.3 The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological trust in their capacity as advisors to Brecon Beacons National Park, have determined that an archaeological assessment is necessary to assess the implications of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. Accordingly a brief (No ASB 378 dated 18/04/00) has been prepared by MJ Walters, which describes the scheme of archaeological works required.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the assessment are:
 - 2.1.1 to locate and describe all archaeological features within the development area by means of a combination of desk-top study, field survey and building survey.
 - 2.1.2 to prepare a report outlining the results of the field evaluation and incorporating sufficient information on the archaeological resource for a reasonable planning decision to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the area affected by the proposed development;
 - 2.1.3 to identify and recommendations options for the management of the archaeological resource, including any further provision for that resource where it is considered necessary.

3 Methods

Desk-top study

- 3.1 Stage one of the assessment will involve the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, photographic and oral sources. Repositories consulted will include the following: County SMR, CPAT, Welshpool; the National Monuments Record, RCAHMS, Aberystwyth; the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; Powys County Archives, Llandrindod Wells; Brecon Museum; Brecon Town Library.
- 3.2 A full and detailed map regression analysis will be completed with copies of the relevant maps included in the report.

Field Survey

- 3.3 Stage two will take the form of a walked survey of the study area, including any wayleave or easement boundary and potential contractors compound locations. The aim will be to identify and record all visible archaeological features. Each site identified will be recorded on proforma sheets, using a unique numbering system, and including an 8 figure grid reference, full written description, an estimate of condition, importance and vulnerability, together with a sketch survey with dimensions. Each site will also be photographed in 35mm format black and white and colour print and colour slide, with each view including a photographic scale where possible.

Building Surveys

- 3.4 All buildings within the road corridor will be examined internally and externally in accordance with the methodology set out in a RCAHME level 2 building survey:
- Written record* to include the precise location, date recorded, name of recorder, description of the building type, function, materials, date, in so far as these details are discernible.
 - Drawn record* to include a sketch plan, roughly dimensioned, together with plans (to scale or fully dimensioned) of all main floors.
 - Photographic record* to include general views of the exterior, the overall appearance of principal rooms and circulation areas.

Report

- 3.5 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared according to the principles laid out in the Curatorial Brief (section 8). A draft version will be forwarded to the client, curator and planning authority, and approved by the curator, prior to the submission of the final report.
- 3.6 The site archive will be prepared to specifications laid out in Appendix 3 in the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991).

4 Resources and Programming

- 4.1 The assessment will be undertaken by a small team of skilled archaeologists under the direct supervision of Nigel Jones, an experienced field archaeologist and member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. Overall supervision will be by Mr RJ Silvester, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 4.2 All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist who conducted the evaluation.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that the assessment will take no more than 10 days in all and that the subsequent report would be prepared immediately thereafter, dependent on the client's instructions and the arrangement of a suitable timetable. The date of commencement, at the time of writing, has yet to be agreed with the client, and may be dependent on negotiated access for the field and building surveys. The archaeological curator will be informed of the detailed timetable and staffing levels when agreement has been reached with the client.
- 4.4 Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 4.5 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance.

N.W.Jones
8 May 2000

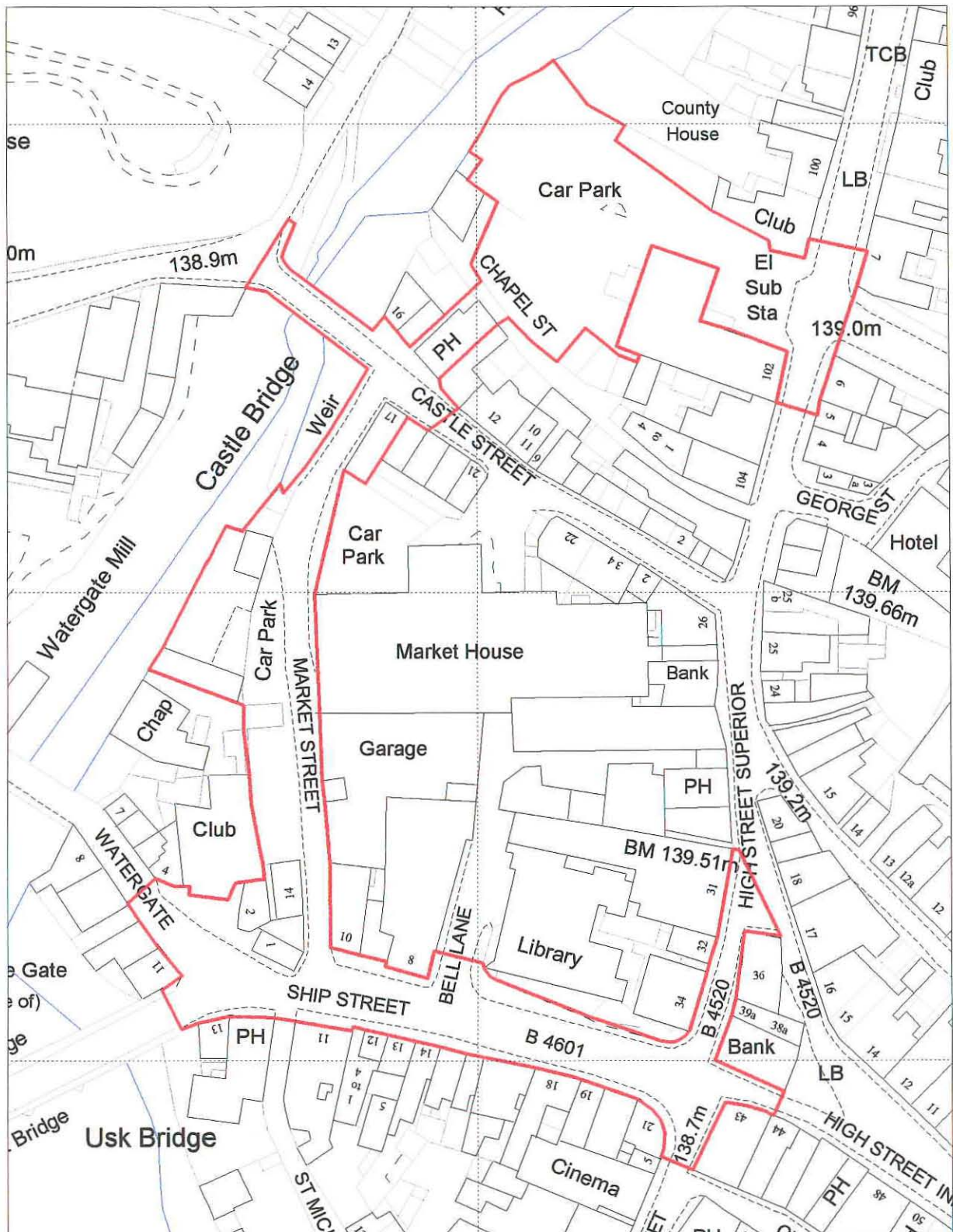
APPENDIX 3

SITE ARCHIVE

2 black and white negative films, contacts and archive prints, film nos 975, 976
2 colour slide films, film nos CS00/40 and CS00/42
2 colour print films, film nos 973 and 977
Photographic catalogue

4 A1 drawings, nos 1-4, 1:50: 1 Watergate; 2 Watergate; 14 Market Street; 14 Castle Street
Descriptive text included in SMR entries

Plans, correspondence, report master



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 Archaeological data supplied by County Sites and Monuments Record, CPAT, Welshpool. Cpyright CPAT 2000

Fig. 1 Study area, scale 1:1,250

Fig. 2 John Speed's map of Brecon, 1610

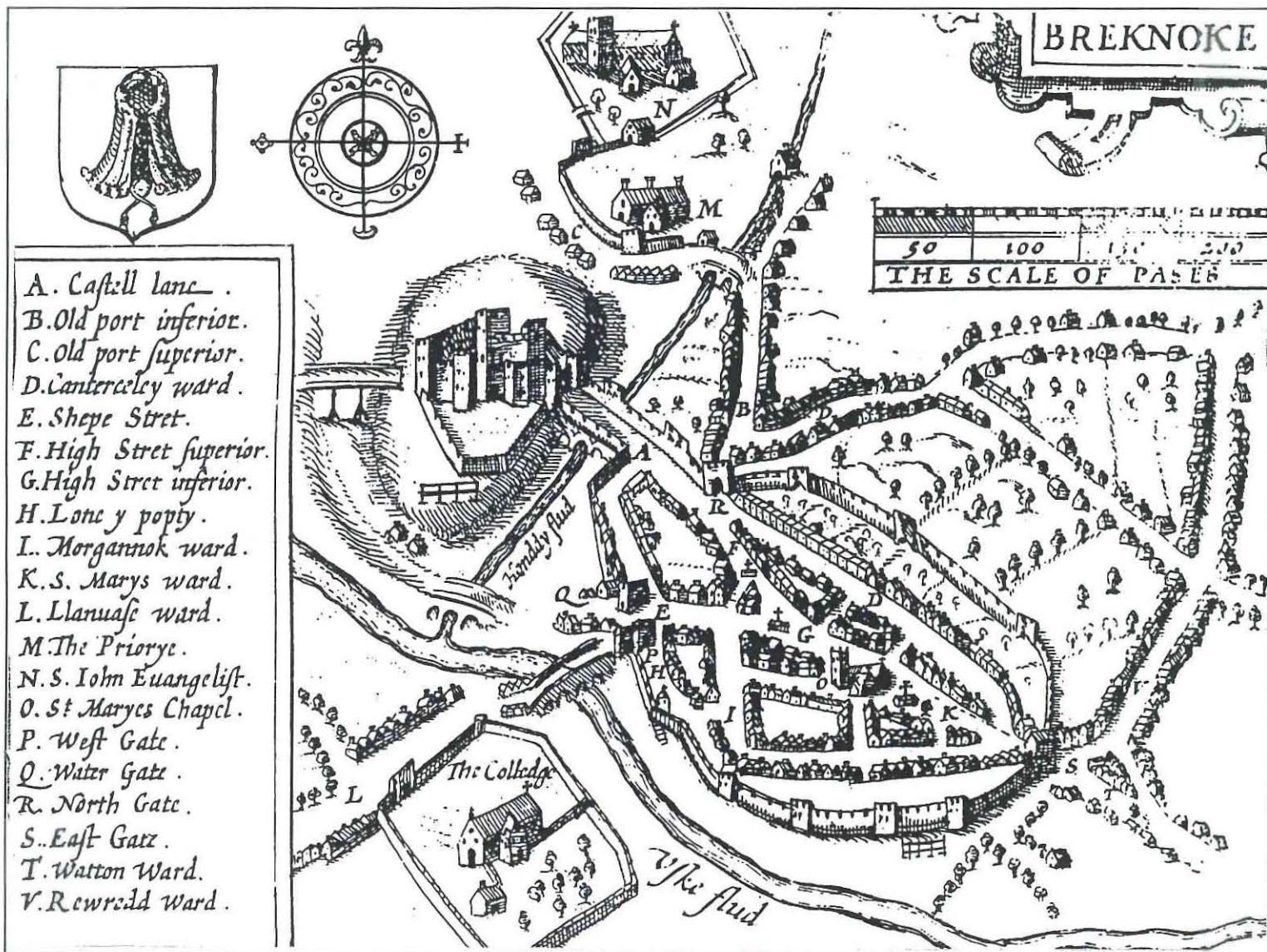




Fig. 3 Meredith Jones Ichnography of the Town of Brecknock, 1744

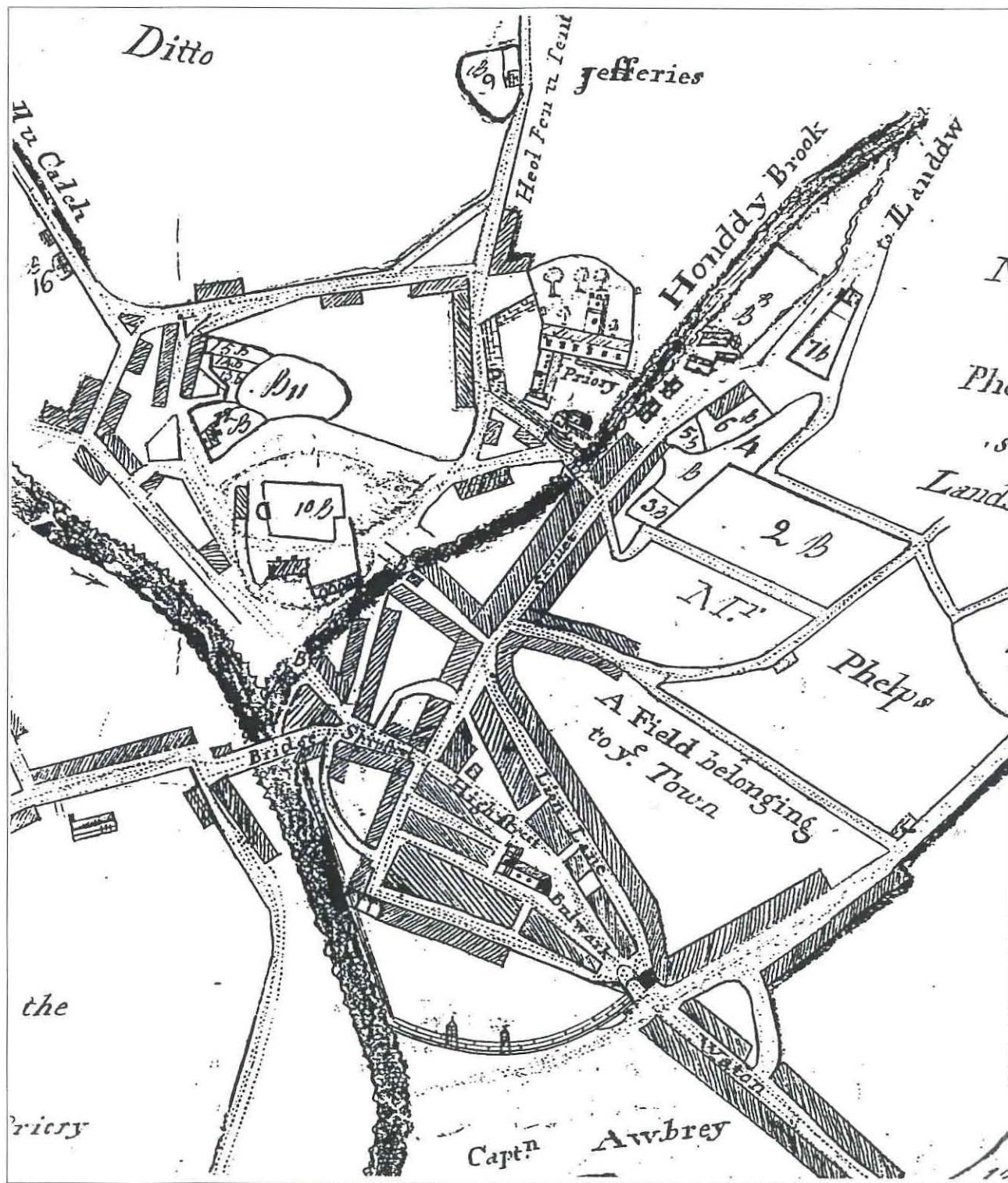


Fig. 4 Map of Brecon in 1761 from the Tredegar Estate Collection

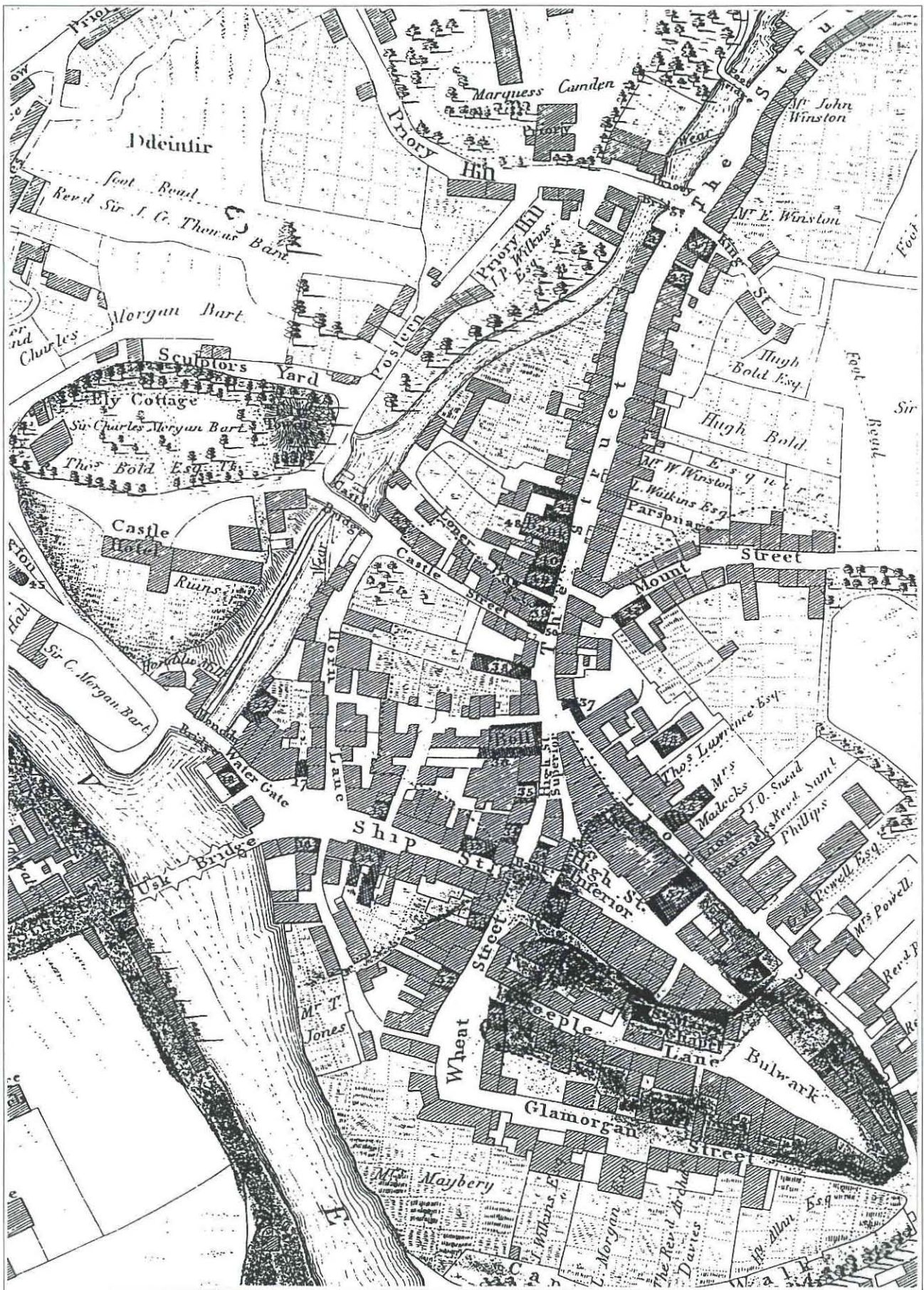


Fig. 5 John Wood's Map of Brecon, 1834

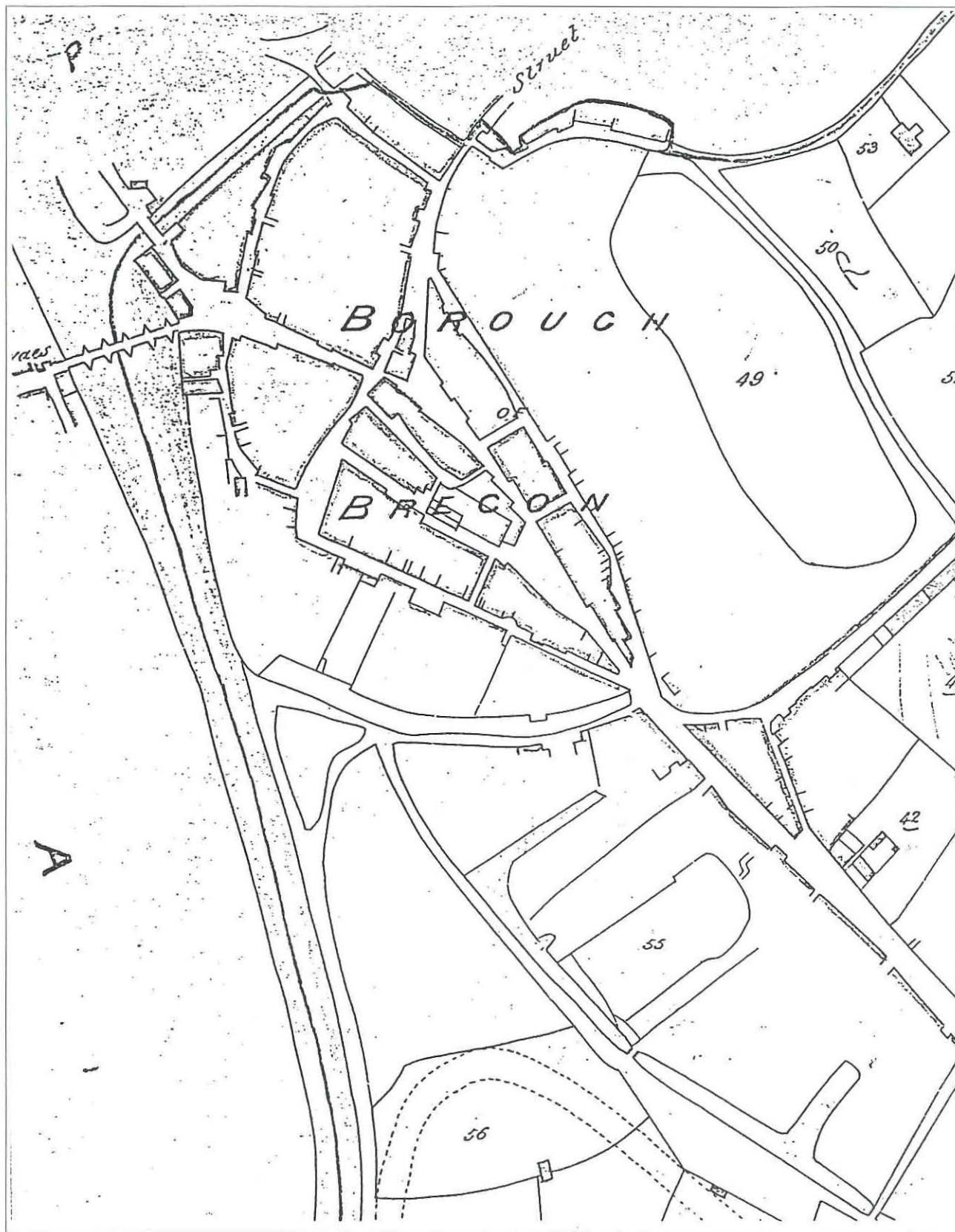


Fig. 6 Brecon Tithe Map 1840

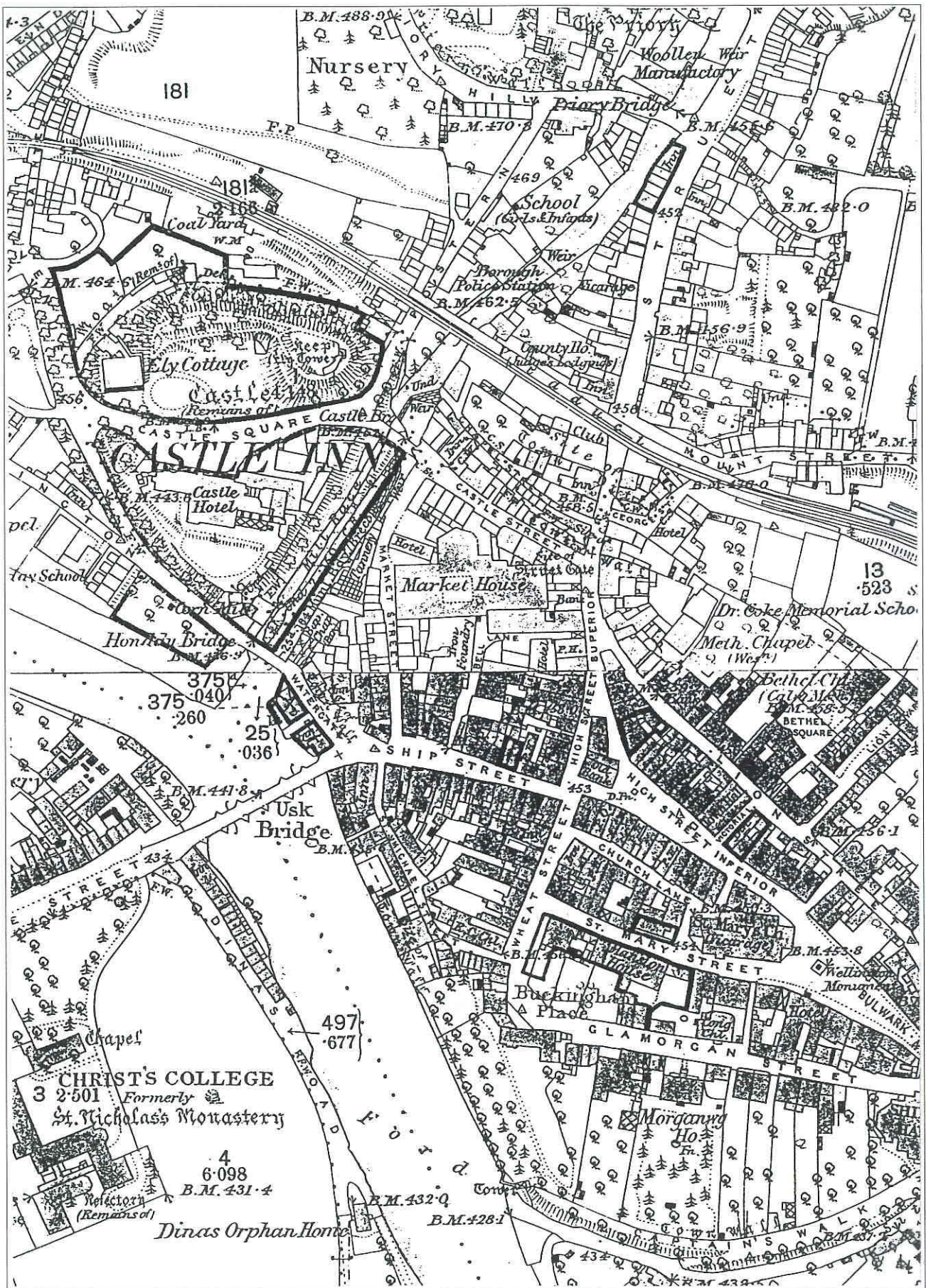


Fig. 7 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2,500 1889, surveyed 1883 (Brec. 28.9 and 13)

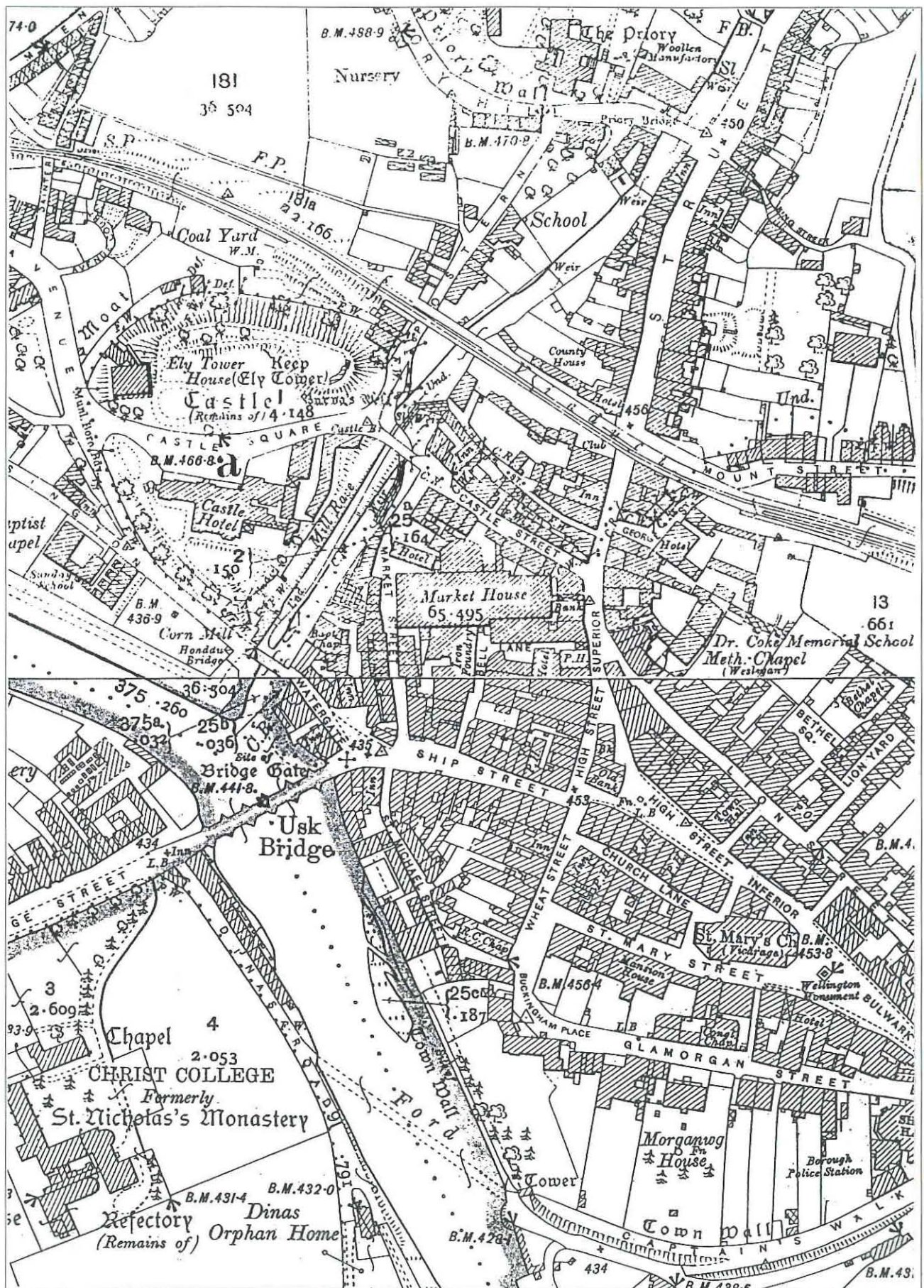
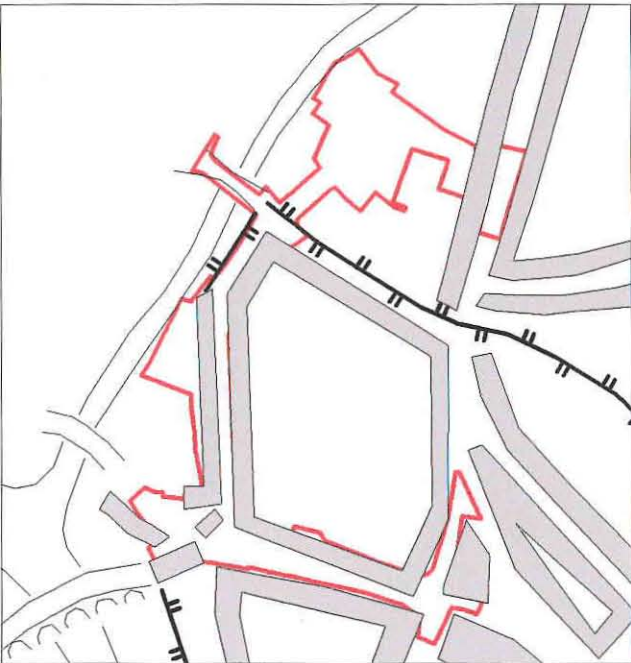
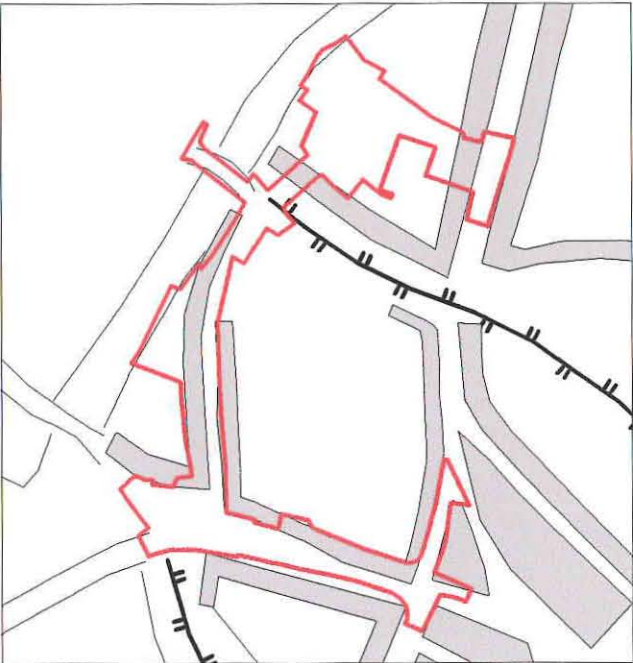


Fig. 8 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1:2,500 1904 (Brec. 28.13)

A: Speed's Map of 1610



B: Meredith Jones map of 1744



C: John Wood's map of 1834



D: 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 1910



Fig. 9 Map regression analysis. Scale 1:3000

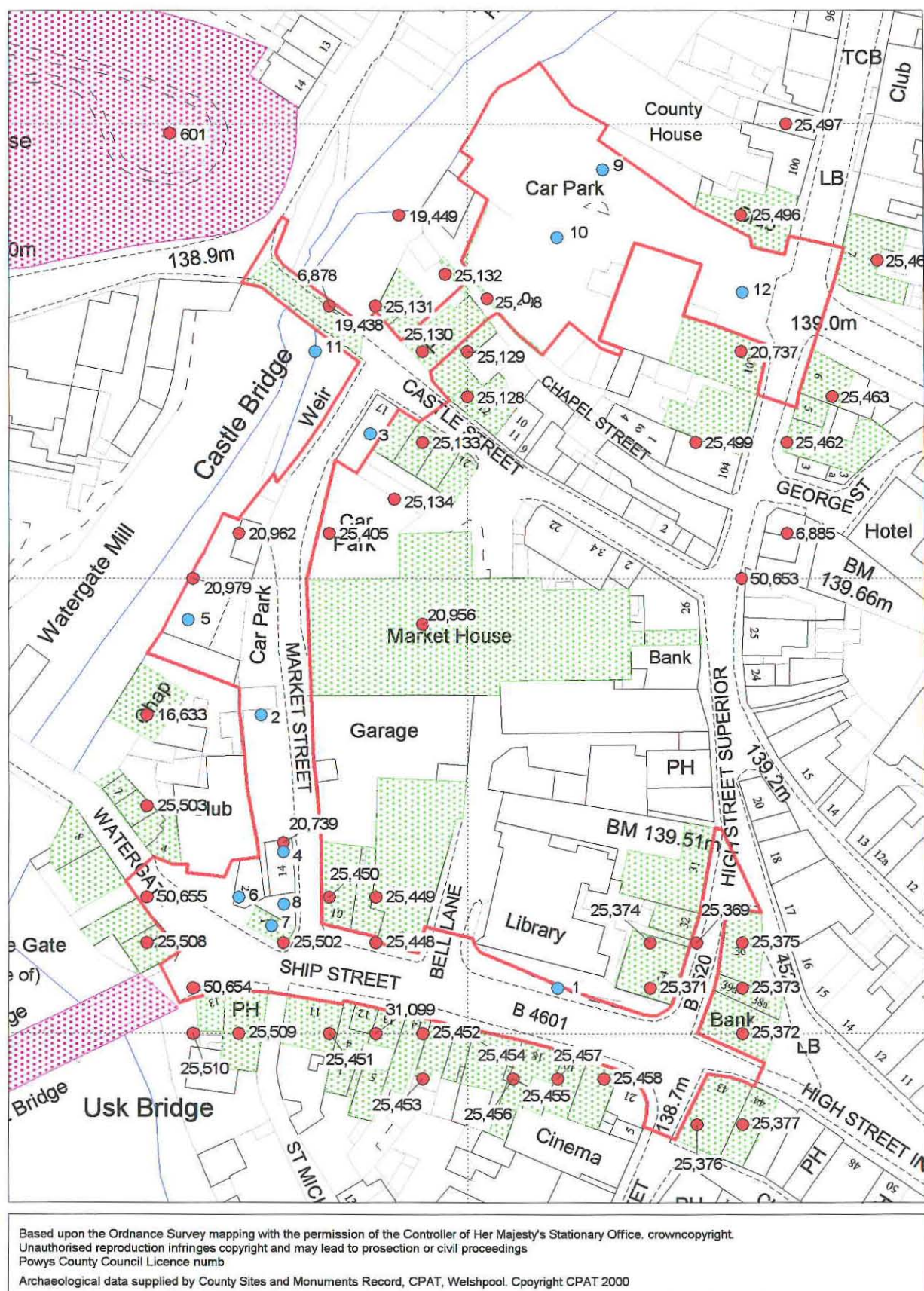


Fig. 10 Archaeology and Listed buildings, scale 1:1,250

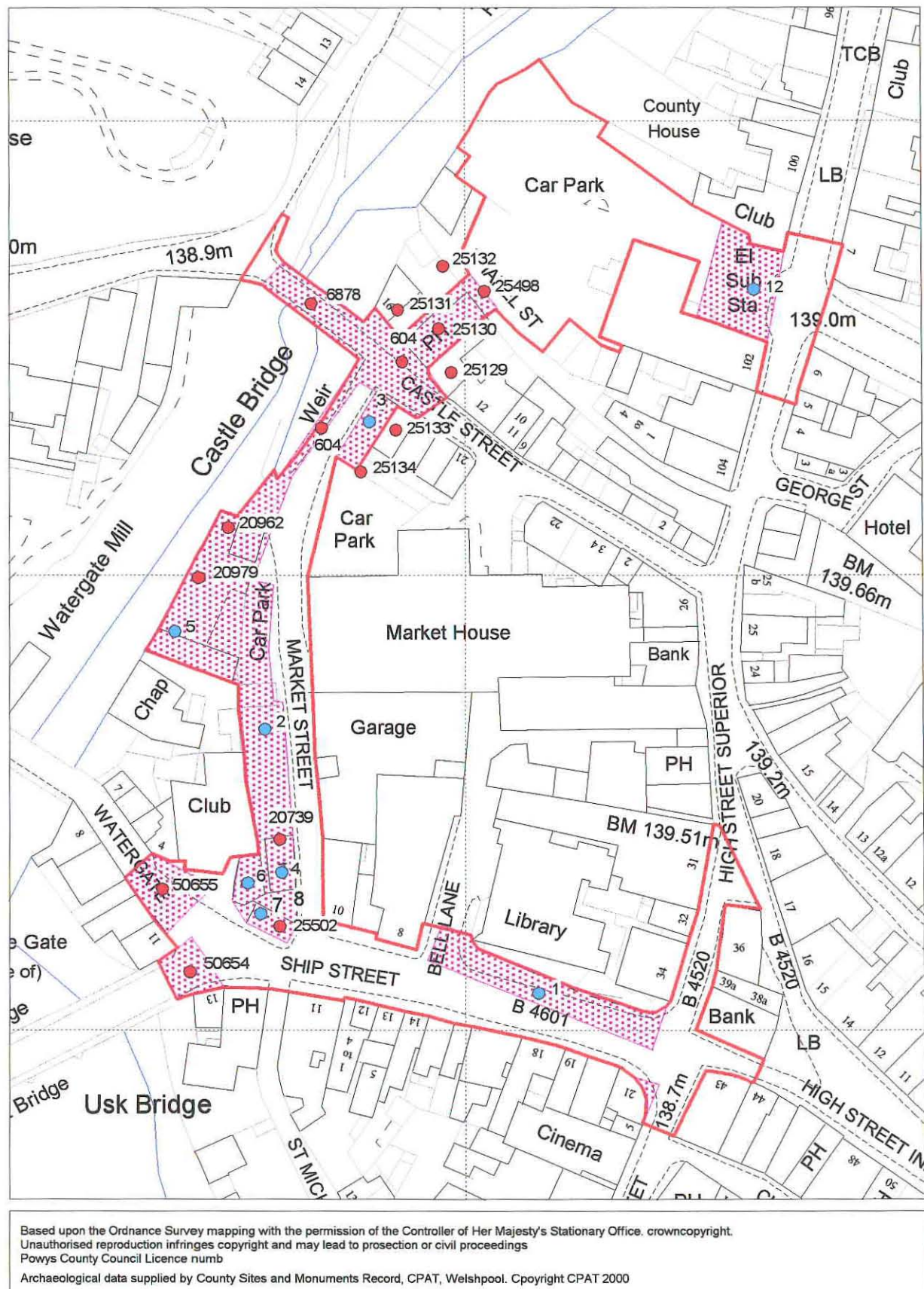


Fig. 11 Archaeologically sensitive areas, scale 1:1,250



Plate 1 Ship Street north side and Brecon Library. Photo CPAT 973.9



Plate 2 Ship Street south side. Photo CPAT 973.10



Plate 3 Market Street west side: former street frontage and PRN 20739. Photo CPAT 973.18



Plate 4 Market Street car park. Photo CPAT 973.20



Plate 5 Castle Bridge (PRN 6878) and weir (Site 11) Photo CPAT 973.22



Plate 6 No. 1 Watergate PRN 25502. Photo CPAT 973.12



Plate 7 No. 2 Watergate (Site 6). Photo CPAT 973.15



Plate 8 No. 14 Market Street (Site 4). Photo CPAT 973.17



Plate 9 No. 14A Market Street (Site 8). Photo CPAT 973.16



Plate 10 No. 14 Castle Street (PRN 25130). Photo CPAT 973.24



Plate 11 No. 14 Castle Street (PRN 25130) rear wing and yard. Photo CPAT 977.15



Plate 12 Rear of Nos 13-15 Castle Street and boundary wall (PRN 25498). Photo CPAT 973.1



Plate 13 Chapel Street showing rear of 14 Castle Street and boundary wall (PRN 25498).
Photo CPAT 973.33



Plate 14 No. 17 Castle Street (Site 3) and 18-21 Castle Street (PRN 25133). Photo CPAT 973.33



Plate 15 No. 17 Castle Street rear (Site 3) and 18-21 Castle Street rear wall (PRN 25134).
Photo CPAT 973.30



Plate 16 Castle Street looking towards Castle Bridge. Photo CPAT 973.36



Plate 17 Entrance to Viaduct Car Park off The Struet. Photo CPAT 973.3