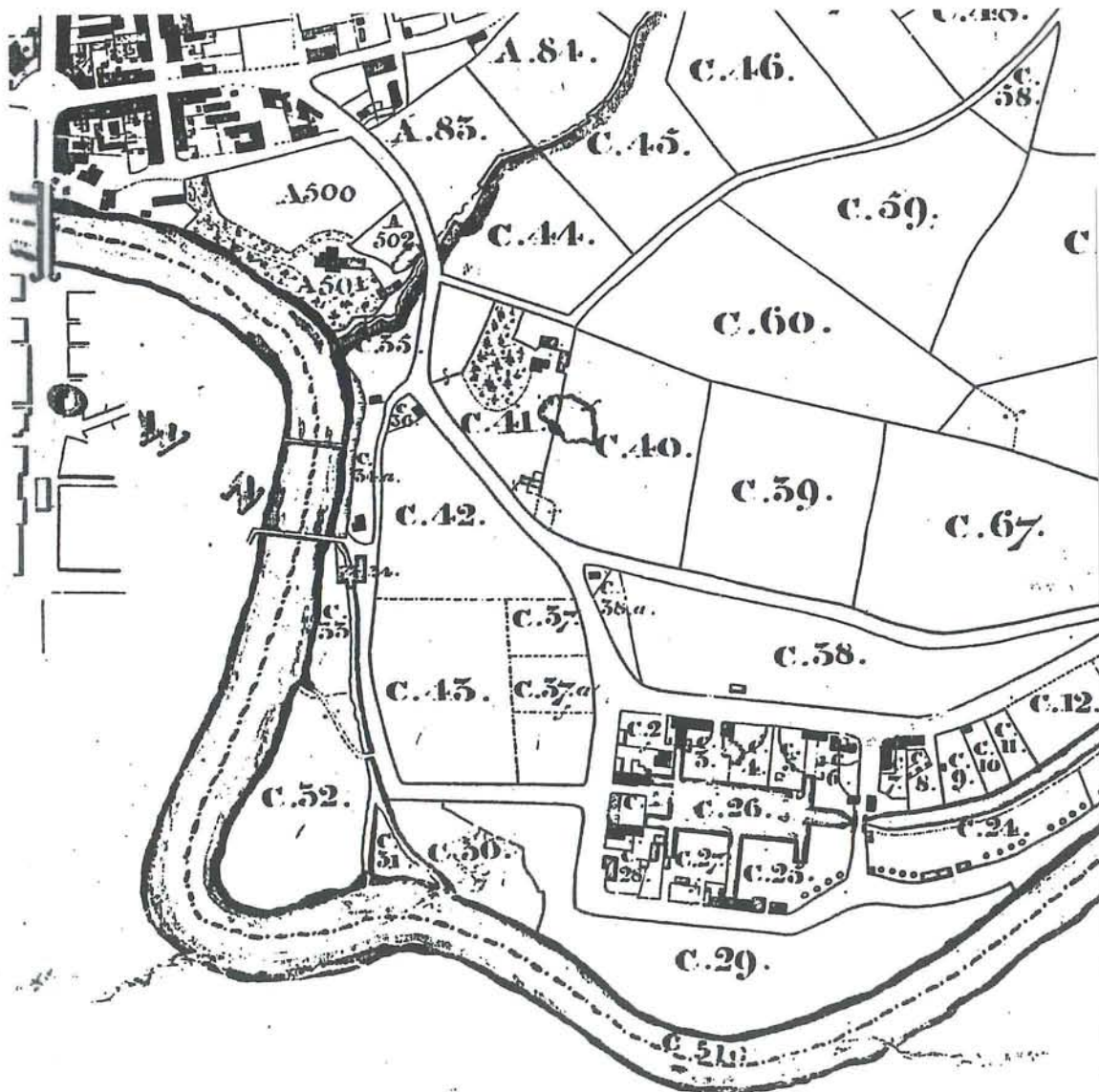


THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

12 Lower Canal Road, Newtown, Powys

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT



CPAT Report No 629

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**12 Lower Canal Road, Newtown,
Powys**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

N Jones & R Hankinson
April 2004

Report for Mr D Hughes

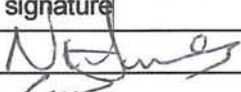
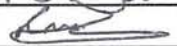
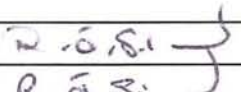

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CPAT Report Record

Report and status

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CPAT Project Name	12 Lower Canal Road		
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2004 the Contracts Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was invited by Mr D Hughes to prepare a specification and quotation for undertaking an archaeological assessment at 12 Lower Canal Road, Newtown, Powys. The pre-planning assessment was the subject of a brief drawn up by Mr M Walters of the Curatorial Section of CPAT (dated 20 February 2004), acting in his capacity as archaeological curator for the region, which identified the need for a detailed desktop study and field examination. The specification and quotation were duly accepted and the assessment was undertaken during April 2004.
- 1.2 The site lies in the area of the former terminus and wharfage of the Montgomeryshire Canal (Western Branch). Information held by the Regional Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) indicates the presence of a number of listed buildings in the area and there has also been some suggestion that the plot could contain remains of a tramway and associated industrial buildings.

2 LOCATION

- 2.1 The area of the assessment lies on the south side of Lower Canal Road, Newtown, occupying one of the original plots along the north side of the canal basin (SO 11309175). The area measures approximately 40 x 35m and is presently in private ownership. A range of buildings along the western side includes three houses, two of which (Nos 10 & 11) face the street frontage and are unoccupied. The remaining house (No 12) is to the rear, while the southern end of the plot is occupied by a large modern shed. The remainder of the area consists of a yard with an adjoining garden enclosed by a brick wall along the street front.

3 DESKTOP STUDY

- 3.1 Stage One of the assessment involved the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, and photographic sources. Repositories consulted included: the Regional Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) held by CPAT in Welshpool; the National Monuments Record held by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW) in Aberystwyth; the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth.
- 3.2 A search of the SMR identified a number of significant archaeological sites within the immediate area, including seven Grade II Listed Buildings (PRNs 31004-5, 40420 and 40159-62), the canal basin (PRN 85922) and a series of limekilns (PRNs 85917-8). A gazetteer of recorded sites is provided in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 Historically known as the Shropshire Union Canal and subsequently as the Montgomeryshire Canal (Hughes 1988), the now-named Montgomery Canal, runs for approximately 53km from its junction with the Llangollen Canal at Lower Frankton in Shropshire to Newtown in Powys. The waterway was constructed in stages between 1794 and 1821 and originally consisted of four distinct schemes, which have only been linked together in name under modern ownership; three of these lengths were originally constructed to carry and distribute lime for agricultural purposes from the Llanymynech Quarries (Hughes 1988, 9).
- 3.4 Newtown has its origins in the medieval period, with the main street pattern retaining the grid plan of the original planned town. From the early 19th century the town developed rapidly as a centre for the woollen trade with the majority of this expansion occurring outside the core of the town in an area known as Penygloddfa, on the opposite, northern, bank of the Severn. With the arrival of the canal in 1821 a new suburb of Newtown began to develop to the east of the town, around the canal basin. During the 1840s and 1850s the canal basin was surrounded by a large number of associated buildings: 45 wharf-houses; two shops and a pub; at least six warehouses; one granary; and 21 stables. Major industrial sites, such as the Oversevern, Cambrian and Commercial textile mills (respectively PRNs 37505, 85923 and 85915), as well as a foundry (PRN 85931), also developed close to the canal terminus (Hughes 1981, 126).

- 3.5 The earliest relevant cartographic source for the area is a map of the proposed canal (NLW Map 6420), dated 1814. At this stage there were no plans for a canal basin, but a proposed road link to a nearby mill is shown. By 1820, when a second map of the area (NLW Harrison Vol. 6) was produced for a local landowner, construction of the canal was nearing completion. This later map shows the canal basin divided into plots, although none of these had yet been occupied by buildings.
- 3.6 The first detailed plan of the Newtown canal basin was drawn up in 1833 (Fig. 2). This depicts the rectangular canal basin, which measured around 95m long by 32m wide, with projecting arms on each corner. The area surrounding the basin is divided into a number of plots, each of which is annotated with a tenant or owner on the map, although not all the names are legible. A number of buildings occupy some of the plots, all of which were presumably associated with the canal trade, probably offices, warehouses and also some workers' housing. At the east corner of the basin a bank of six limekilns is shown, with further kilns arranged in four banks between the canal and river. Within the proposed development plot a range of buildings is depicted along the west side which would appear to correspond to the existing buildings. No further structures are shown within the remainder of the plot, between Lower Canal Road and the canal basin, possibly suggesting that the area was no more than a yard for the storage, loading and unloading of materials. The plot has been annotated with a name, possibly R Jones, while the plot to the west is labelled Wynn Jones.
- 3.7 The Tithe Survey Map for Llanllwchaiarn parish of 1842 (Fig. 3) shows a similar situation to that depicted in 1833. Hughes (1981, 127-8) has described the various structures surrounding the basin at the time of the tithe survey and identifies the two houses at the west corner of the development plot as nos 10 and 11 Lower Canal Road. These are minute early-19th century brick cottages, possibly converted from open timber-storage sheds. Buildings adjoining the rear include two stables. A reconstruction drawing of the canal basin shows how the area may have looked in the mid-19th century (Fig. 4). The development plot is depicted with a range of buildings along the western side, a narrow boat along the canal wharf and stacks of merchandise in the wharf yard. The plot is described in the tithe schedule as containing a 'house, buildings and wharf, owned by the 'proprietors of the Western Branch of the Montgomeryshire Canal' and tenanted by Richard Jones.
- 3.8 A plan (Fig. 5) believed to date from the 1850s shows further developments around the canal basin. The plan was drawn in connection with proposals to convert the entire canal to a railway. Unfortunately, the provenance of this plan is presently unknown, with the available copy having been identified in a collection of documents relating to the canal which were stored at the Powysland Museum, Welshpool. A number of modifications had evidently been made to the canal basin by this time, with more buildings in evidence. Within the proposed development plot, the only addition appears to be a curving boundary, possibly alongside an access route, which divides the road frontage from what may be a yard area to the rear.
- 3.9 The varying fortunes of the trade carried out using the canal are demonstrated by a statement of accounts, dated August 1871, for a company known as 'Savin & Co.', who ran the limestone quarries at Llanymynech. This mentions that a large number of the kilns on the canal at Newtown had recently closed down, and it appears that the closed kilns were the property of the Newtown and South Wales Coal and Lime Company.
- 3.10 The first edition Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map, surveyed in 1885 and published in 1886 (Fig. 6), shows minor changes to the buildings surrounding the basin, including the abandonment of some of the limekilns, and a number of seemingly temporary structures, perhaps storage sheds. The larger scale 1:500 map of 1885 (Montgomery 36.15.18) is more detailed but has no additional information for the development area.

4 SITE VISIT

- 4.1 A field visit to the site was undertaken on 2 April. In addition to an examination of the development area itself, this included a brief appraisal of the remaining structures which relate to the wider area of the canal basin.

- 4.2 No 12 Canal Road adjoins the rear of Nos 10 and 11, both of which are listed buildings, noted above in para 3.6. It has the external appearance of a 20th-century dwelling, with cement rendered walls and modern windows, but its roof of slate with ceramic ridge tiles is of identical material to those of Nos 10 and 11, as is its single brick chimney. This, combined with a small section of brickwork visible near the join with No 11, suggests strongly that No 12 is a largely intact building which was an original part of the structures constructed around the canal basin. The present plan of the building is the same as that depicted on the 1833 and 1842 maps. The brick wall which forms the street frontage of No 12 appears to be structurally similar to this group of buildings and is also likely to be that depicted on the 1833 and 1842 maps.
- 4.3 In contrast to the original buildings, none of the smaller structures which were depicted in the development area on the 1886 Ordnance Survey mapping could be found. These buildings belong to later phases of 19th-century activity at the canal basin, but it seems that they have all been demolished. This may be explained by the form of their depiction, which seems to suggest that most were temporary in nature. The existing garden of No 12 is effectively the same as that depicted on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map. No evidence of any transport infrastructure is apparent on the ground or from any of the cartographic sources and it is evident that goods were moved to and from the commercial plots surrounding the canal basin by horse-drawn vehicles.
- 4.4 In the wider area of the canal basin, most of the original buildings depicted on the map of 1833 are still extant within areas of later development. This development has included the filling in of the basin itself and the construction there of new dwellings. The location of the bank of limekilns at the eastern corner of the basin is now occupied by a row of bungalows, although these have a raised siting, and sub-surface remains of the kilns may survive. At the north-east end of the former basin, part of one of the canal bridges survives as a brick abutment with stone coping.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The development plot lies within the area of the commercial premises constructed around the canal basin, following the arrival of the Montgomery Canal in Newtown in the early 1820s. These premises generally consisted of a storage yard adjoining a wharf on the canal basin, with a varying number of associated buildings within the yard area, some of which were probably used as warehouses. The arrangement of the premises is depicted on a map of 1833 (Fig. 2).
- 5.2 The main buildings on the development site, namely Nos 10-12 Lower Canal Road, are depicted on the 1833 plan of the canal basin and therefore appear to belong to the first phase of construction activity. Nos 10 and 11 are listed buildings and the plan of the proposal provided suggests that these will be retained. It appears, however, that No 12 will not be retained as part of the proposed development. The brick wall which forms the street frontage of No 12 is likely to have defined the associated storage yard, and appears to be an original feature of the canal basin.
- 5.3 A small number of subsidiary buildings, possibly of a temporary nature, were present in the storage yard area when the first edition Ordnance Survey map was drawn in 1885. None of these buildings now survive, and there is no evidence to suggest that they represent original structures. Absolutely no evidence of any permanent transport infrastructure (tramways etc) has been revealed by either the desk-top assessment or the field visit and it appears that horse-drawn vehicles were used for transporting goods throughout the history of the canal basin.
- 5.4 Many of the original buildings in the wider area of the canal basin still survive, generally with only minor modern improvements. The same cannot be said of either the canal basin itself, which has been filled in and redeveloped for housing, or the bank of limekilns which adjoined the basin and has suffered a similar fate. Despite this and other modern development in the area, it is still possible to discern something of the original layout of the canal basin and its associated structures.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1 The writers would like to thank the following people for their assistance during the project: Bob Silvester, CPAT; the staff of the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; and the staff of the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.

7 REFERENCES

Published sources

Hughes, S R, 1981. *The Industrial Archaeology of the Montgomeryshire Canal*.

Cartographic sources

1814 Map of a proposed canal. National Library of Wales Map 6420

1820 Map of farms, tenements and lands.....belonging to David Pugh. National Library of Wales Harrison Vol. 6

1833 Plan of Newtown Canal Basin. British Waterways Museum, Stoke Bruerne WM/74/108

1842 Tithe Survey for Llanllwchaiarn parish, Penygloddfa Township

1850s Plan of the Montgomeryshire Canal

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:500 map. Montgomery 36.15.18, surveyed 1884, published 1885

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2,500 map, Montgomery 36.15, surveyed 1885, published 1886

Oblique aerial photography held by CPAT

CPAT 03-C-293 to 298

APPENDIX 1

GAZETTEER OF SITES

PRN	Name	Type	Listed building status	Grid reference
13132	Newtown, Canal Road, National School	School		SO11329178
31004	Newtown, Lower Canal Rd 4	House	Grade II	SO1124991750
31005	Newtown, Lower Canal Rd 10	House	Grade II	SO1127891759
40159	Newtown, Lower Canal Rd 5	House	Grade II	SO1125491750
40160	Newtown, Lower Canal Rd 6	House	Grade II	SO1125991754
40161	Newtown, Lower Canal Rd 7	House	Grade II	SO1126491757
40162	Newtown, Lower Canal Rd 8	House	Grade II	SO1126991758
40420	Newtown, Lower Canal Rd 11	House	Grade II	SO1128291760
85921	Newtown limekilns V	Lime kiln		SO1152291880
85917	Newtown limekilns I	Lime kiln		SO1137791694
85922	Newtown Canal Basin	Canal basin		SO1129891707
85923	Newtown Cambrian Mill (flannel and tweed)	Mill (flannel and tweed)		SO1116091708
85924	Newtown Oversevern Mill race	Leat		SO1107391665
85920	Newtown limekilns IV	Lime kiln		SO1150091844
85919	Newtown limekilns III	Lime kiln		SO1146691777
85931	Newtown canal foundry	Foundry		SO1155291936
85932	Newtown canal wharf I	Wharf		SO1155892001
85933	Newtown canal wharf II	Wharf		SO1160092082
85947	Canal Basin building I	House		SO11339178
85948	Canal Basin building II	House		SO11359178
85949	Canal Basin bridge	Bridge		SO11389174
85950	Canal Basin building III	House		SO11339166
85951	Canal Basin building IV	Building		SO11249167
85952	Canal Basin building V	House		SO11239170
85953	Canal Basin building VI	Building		SO11259172
85954	Newtown, Lower Canal Rd 12	House		SO11299174

APPENDIX 2

12 LOWER CANAL ROAD NEWTOWN, POWYS SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Contracting Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust has been invited to prepare a specification of works for undertaking an archaeological evaluation on land at 12 Lower Canal Road, Newtown, Powys. The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, acting as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, have determined that an archaeological evaluation should be undertaken to assess the potential impact of the proposals on the archaeological resource.
- 1.2 The site lies in the area of the former terminus and wharfage of the Montgomeryshire Canal. It is therefore anticipated that significant buried archaeological deposits may survive within the area.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the evaluation are:
 - 2.1.1 to reveal by means of a desktop study and field evaluation, the nature, condition, significance and, where possible, the chronology of the archaeology within the area of the proposed development in so far as these aims are possible;
 - 2.1.2 to record any archaeological sites identified during the field evaluation;
 - 2.1.3 to prepare a report outlining the results of the assessment, incorporating sufficient information on the archaeological resource for a reasonable planning decision to be taken regarding the future management of the archaeology.

3 Methods

- 3.1 The evaluation will be undertaken in two stages, with the results from the first stage of desktop study informing the number and positioning of evaluation trenches in stage two. As a result, it is not possible at present to determine the cost of the second stage, for which a separate quotation will be prepared once the scheme of works has been approved by the client and curator.
- 3.2 Stage one of the evaluation will involve the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, and photographic sources at the County Records Office, Llandrindod Wells; the County Sites and Monuments Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, Welshpool; the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; and the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 3.3 All cartographic sources consulted will be included within the desktop section of the report, together with transcriptions of relevant documents and copies of plans, maps and photographs containing relevant information. A draft of the results from stage one will be presented to the curator in order to determine the nature of the second stage works.
- 3.4 Following discussions with the curator and client the field evaluation will consist of an agreed number of trenches, the positions of which will be determined following discussions with the client and curator. The excavations will be undertaken using a machine excavator with a toothless bucket to remove modern overburden down to the level of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. Thereafter, all excavation will be conducted by hand unless otherwise agreed with the Curator in advance. The evaluation will be essentially non-destructive and designed to determine the nature and extent of archaeological deposits, together with their condition and significance. The depth of natural deposits will be determined to assess the extent of any stratified deposits which may be encountered.

- 3.5 Contexts will be recorded on individual record forms and be drawn and photographed as appropriate. All photography will be in 35mm format black and white print and colour slide. All features will be located as accurately as possible with respect to buildings and boundaries identified on modern Ordnance Survey maps and levels will be related to Ordnance Datum where possible.
- 3.6 All artefacts will be related to their contexts from which they were derived and treated in a manner appropriate to their composition and will be processed by trained CPAT staff.
- 3.7 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared in A4 format, containing conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Archaeological Background; Evaluation; Conclusions and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives and finds.
- 3.8 The site archive will be prepared to specifications laid out in Appendix 3 in the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991), to be deposited with the Regional Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). All artefacts will, subject to the permission of the owner, be deposited with the Powysland Museum, Welshpool.

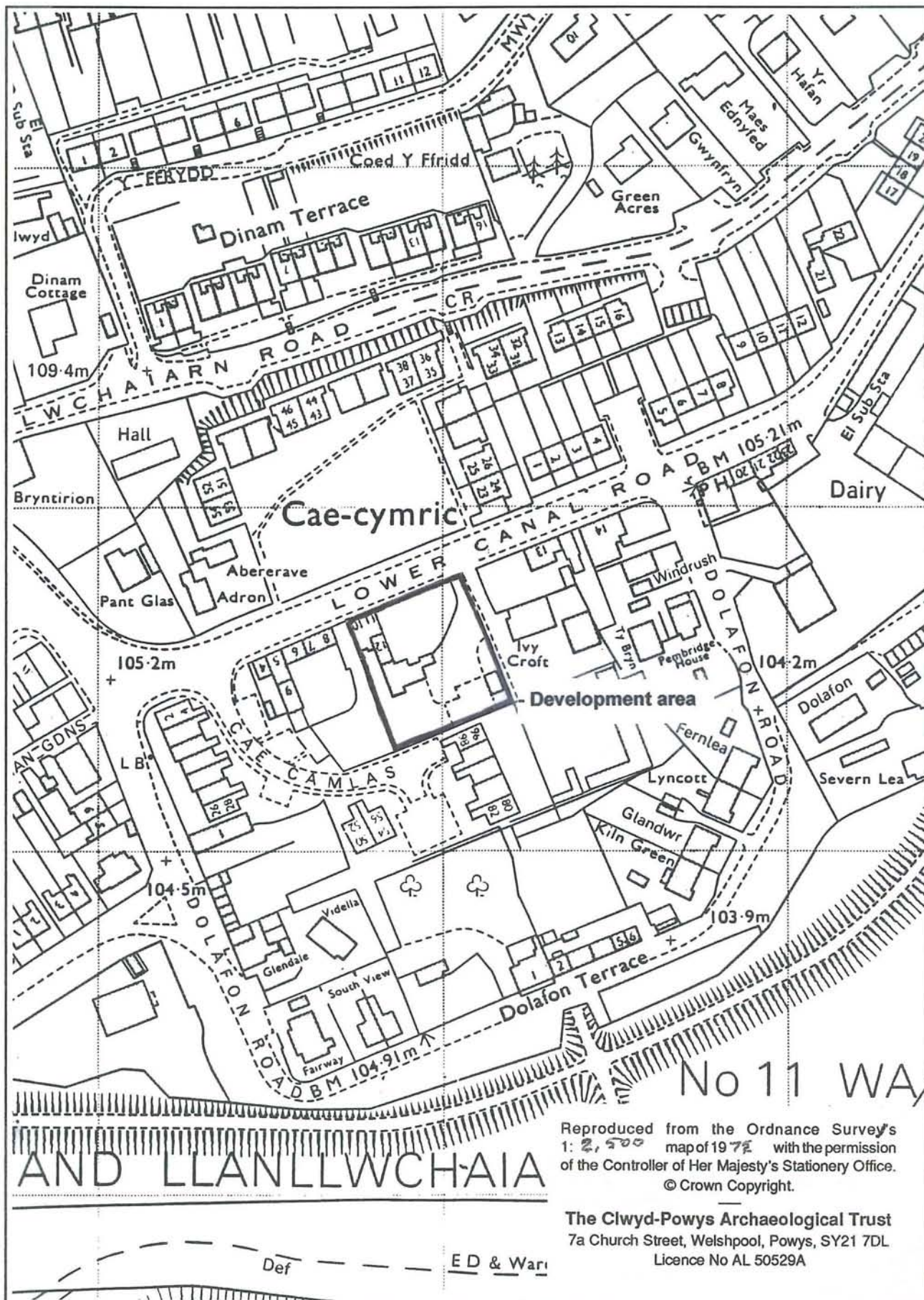
4 Resources and Programming

- 4.1 The evaluation will be undertaken by a small team of skilled archaeologists under the overall supervision of Mr RJ Silvester, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). CPAT is an IFA Registered Organisation.
- 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 desktop study will be completed within 5 days. A draft report will be presented to the curator within one week of the completion of the desktop study. A final report will be prepared following the completion of the field evaluation. Copies of the report will be provided to the client and the Regional SMR. The Curator will be informed of the timetable in order to arrange for monitoring if required. At present, CPAT would be in a position to undertake the work during April 2004.
- 4.4 The following contingency sums have been allowed in accordance with section 10 of the curatorial brief. The need for such contingencies, and their potential cost, would be subject to discussions between CPAT, the client and the curator once the fieldwork has been completed. The following figures are therefore only for guidance and the final cost, should any of the services be required, may be more or less than the estimates provided.

Finds analysis	in house at no additional charge
Finds conservation etc	£200
Museum deposition and storage	Powysland Museum, Welshpool, no charge
Publication	<i>Archaeology in Wales</i> at no additional charge

- 4.5 Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 4.6 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance.

N.W. Jones
23rd February 2004



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Fig. 1 Site location, 1:2,500

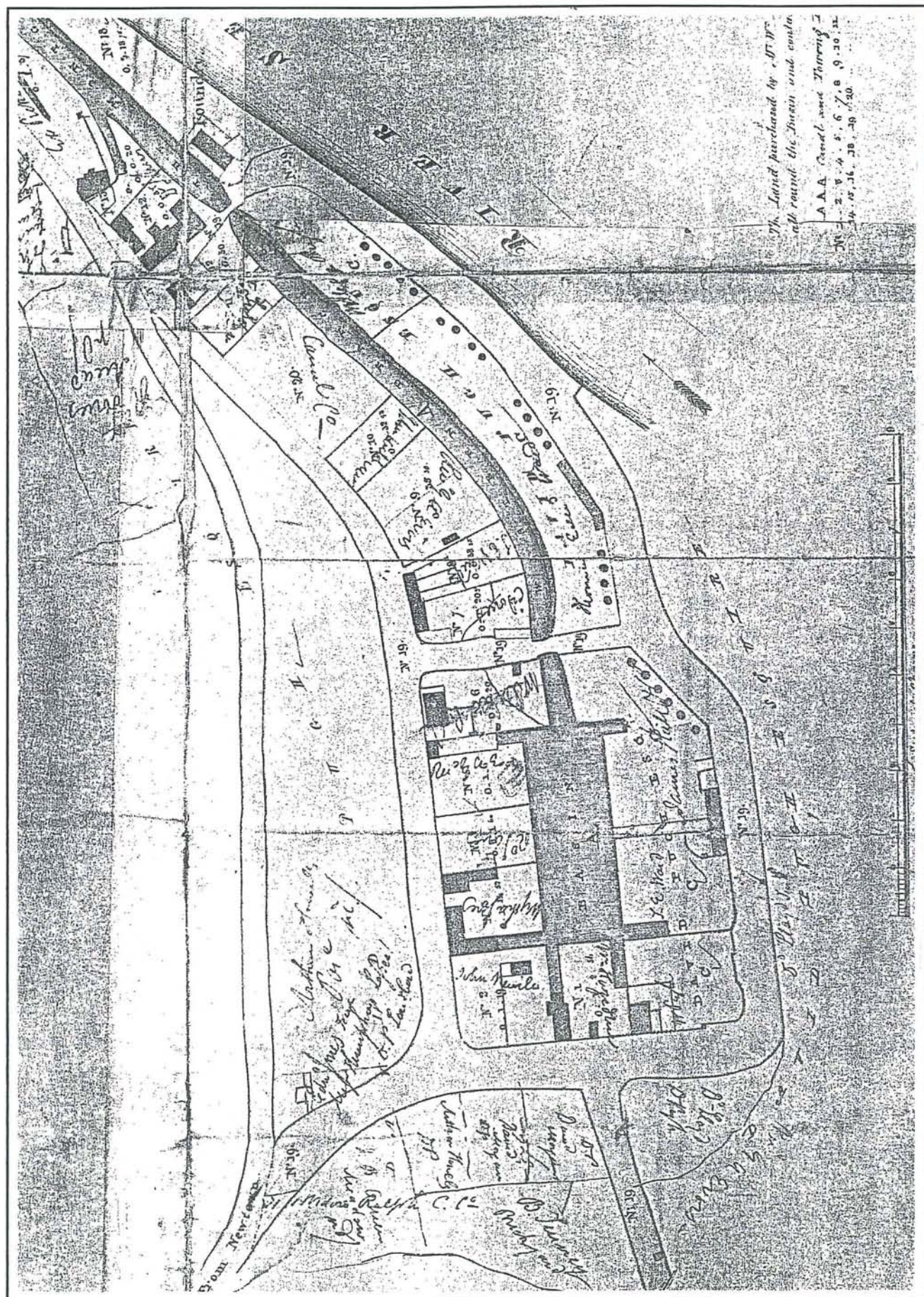


Fig. 2 Plan of Newtown Canal Basin, 1833

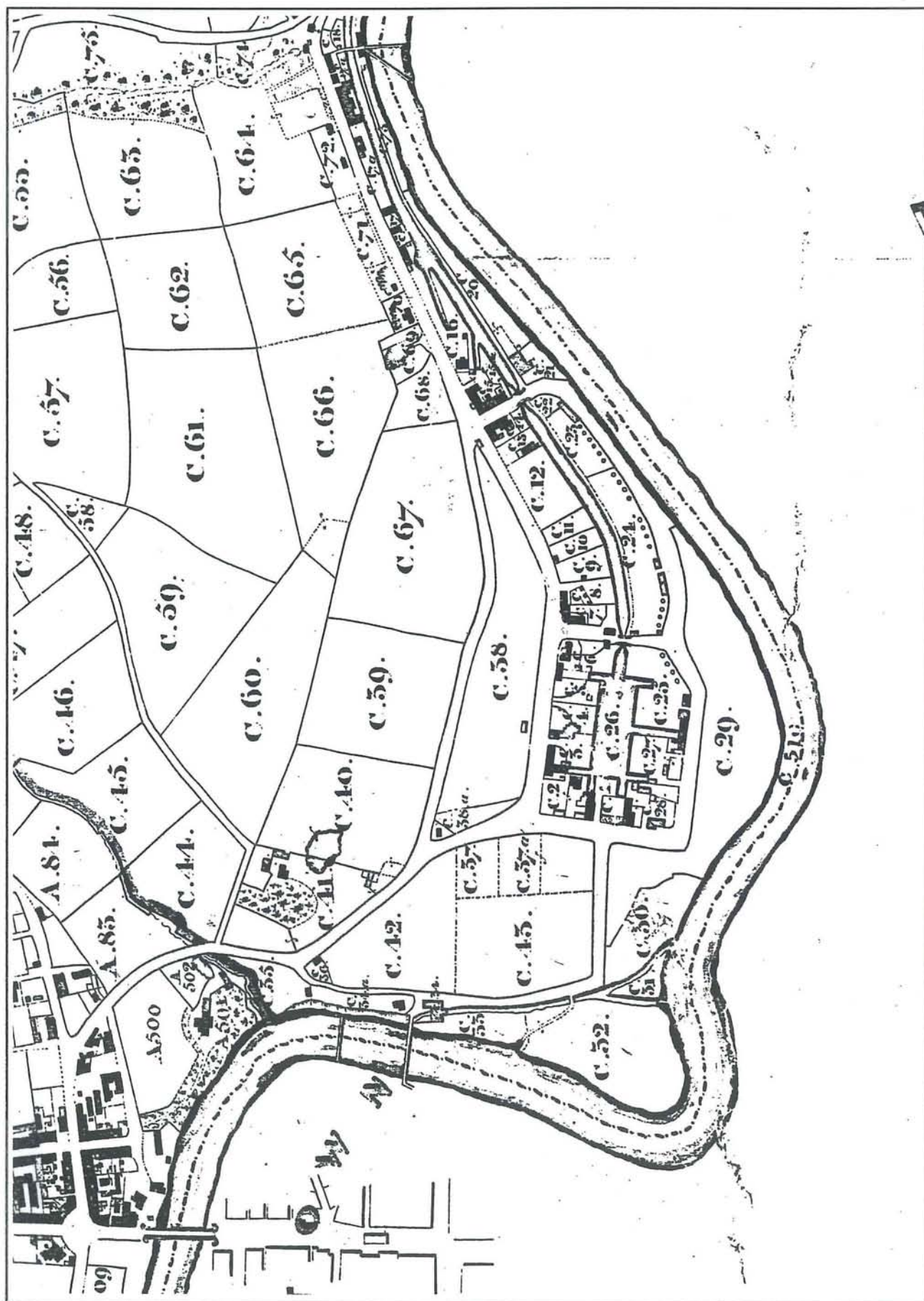


Fig. 3 Tithe Survey for Llanllwchaiarn parish, 1842

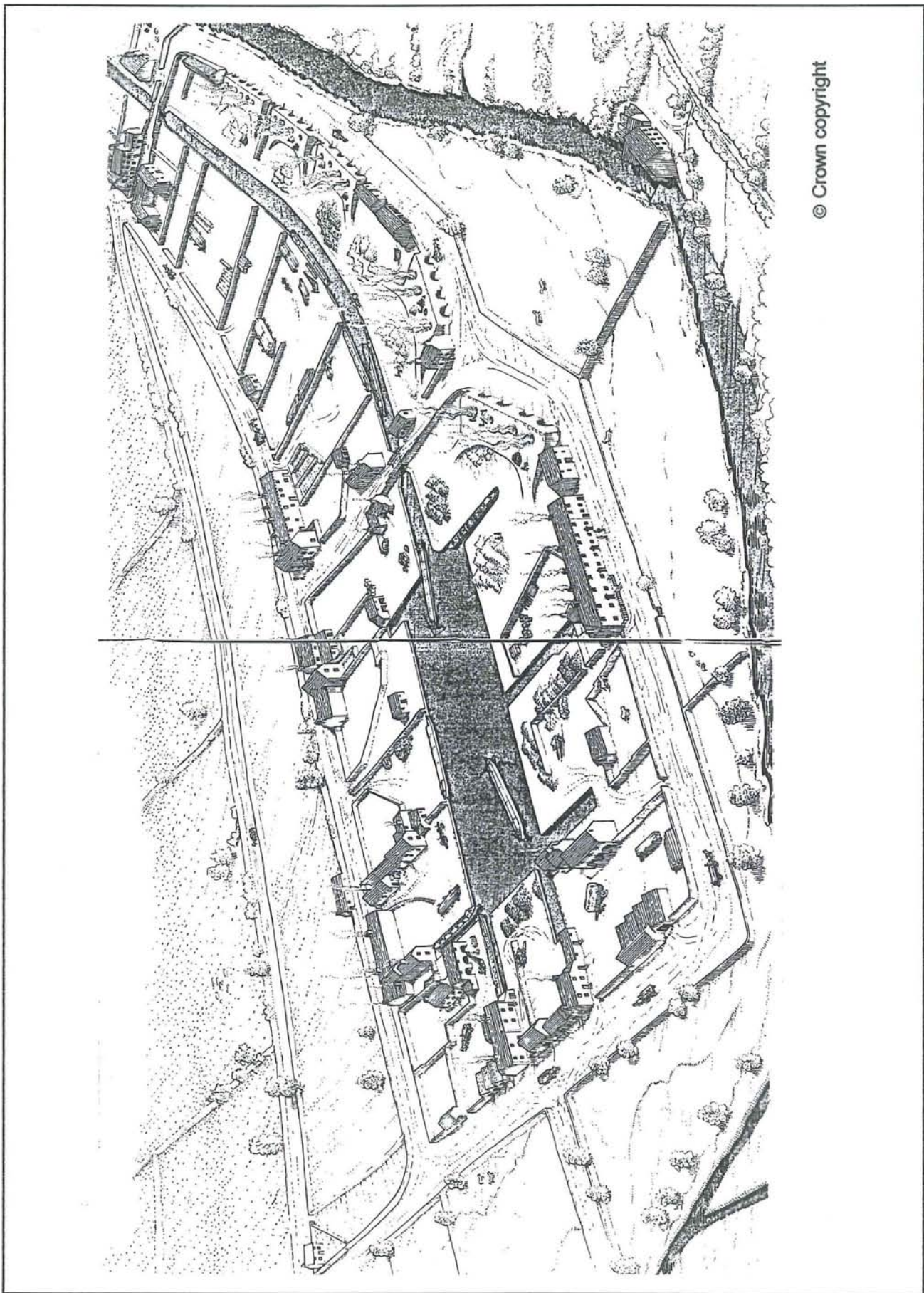


Fig. 4 Reconstruction drawing of Newtown canal basin in the mid 19th century (from Hughes 1981)

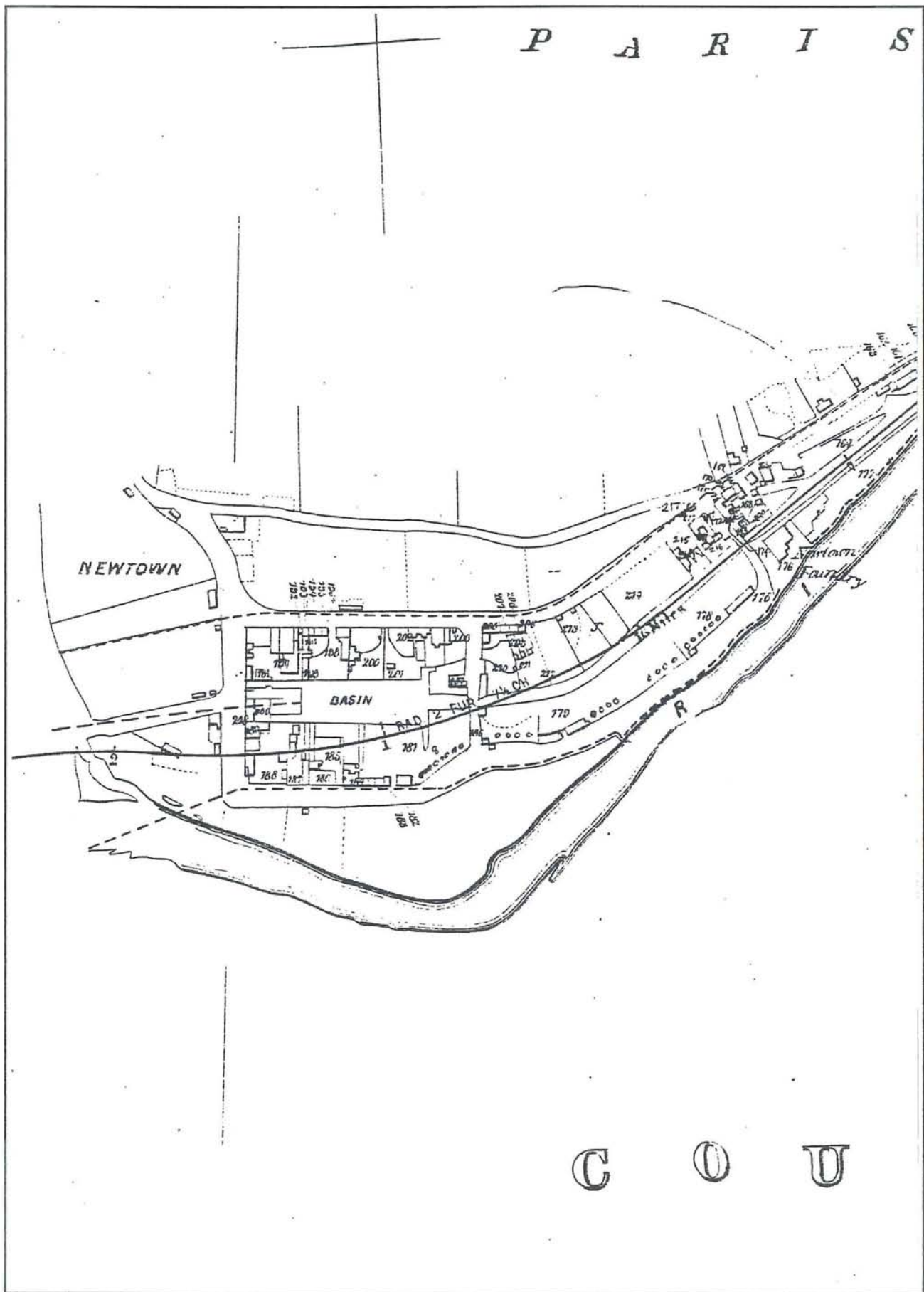


Fig. 5 1850s plan of the canal basin

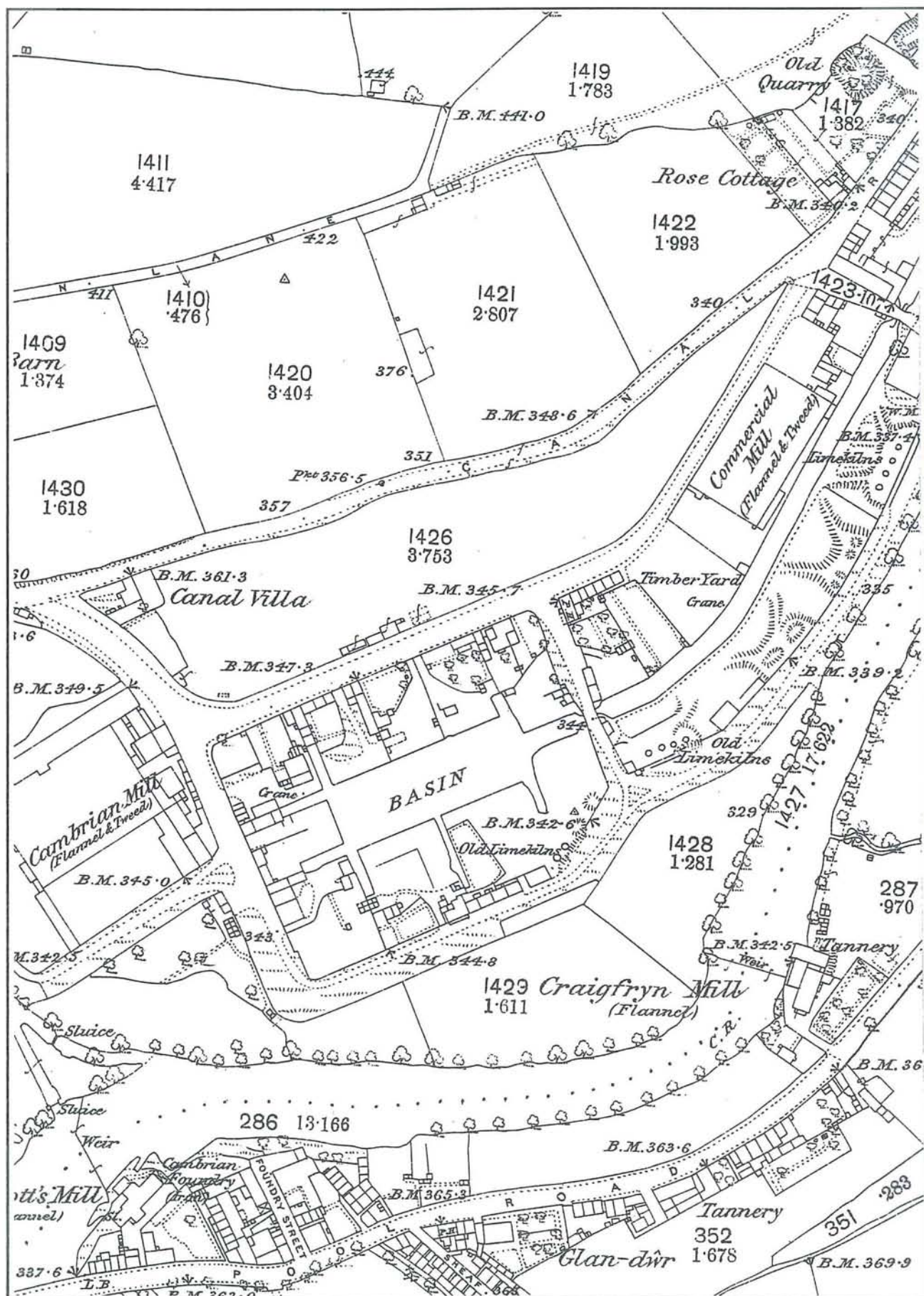


Fig. 6 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2,500 (Montgomery 36.15), surveyed 1885, published 1886

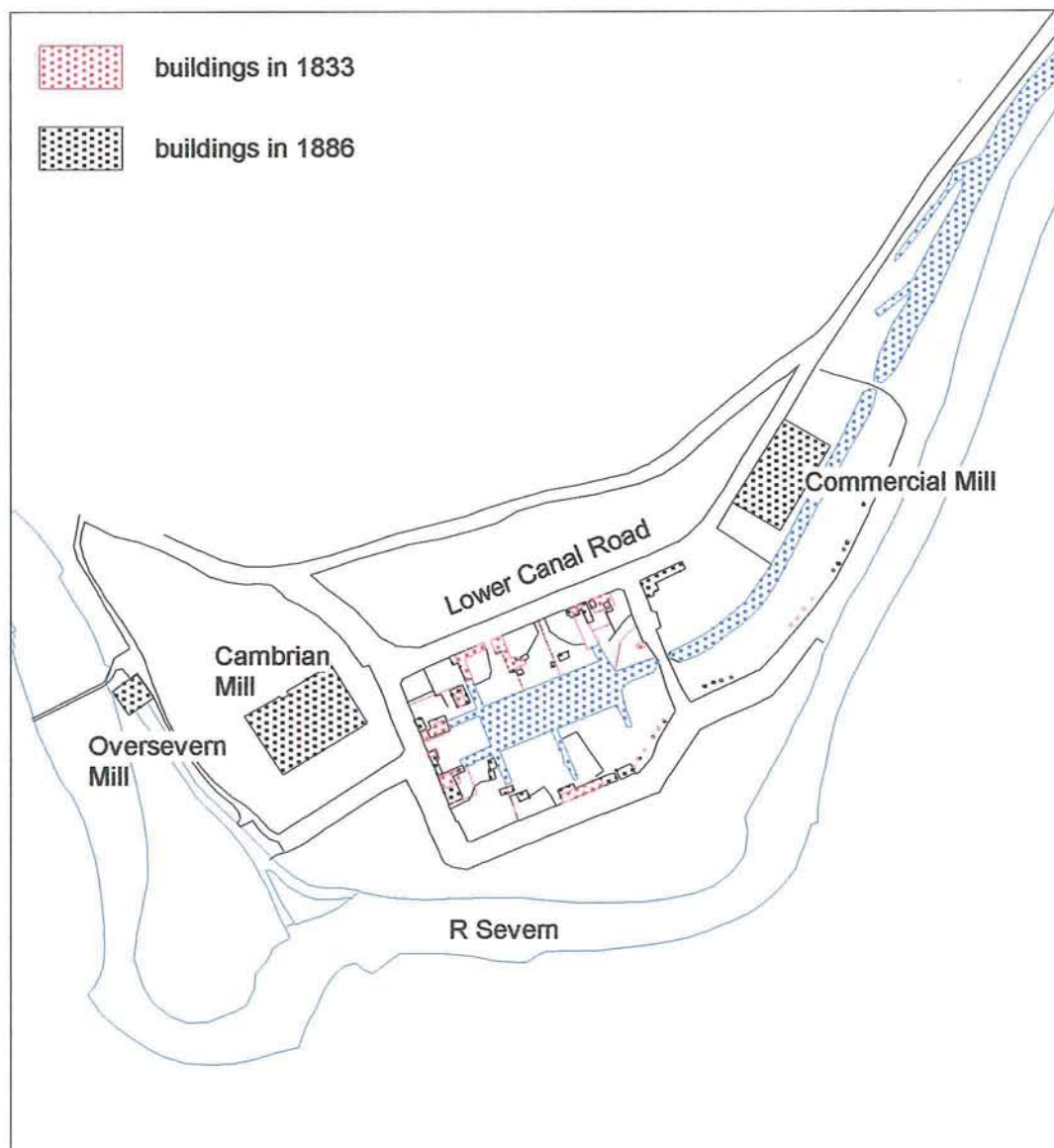


Fig. 7 Newtown Canal Basin in the mid 19th century, scale 1:5,000

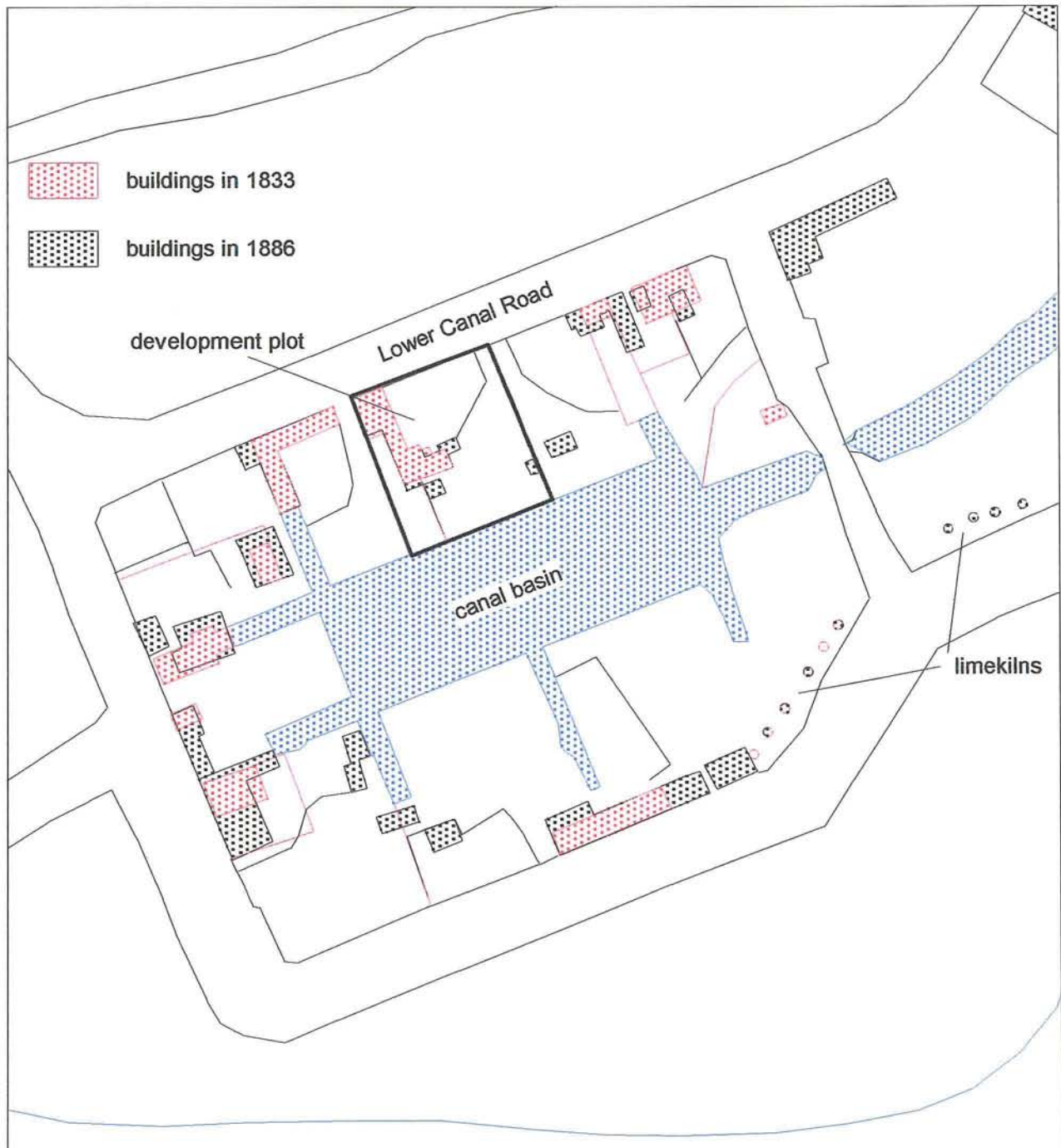


Fig. 8 Newtown Canal Basin in the mid 19th century, scale 1:1,500



Plate 1 Nos 10 & 11 Lower Canal Rd, together with the boundary wall of No 12. Photo CPAT 1624.02



Plate 2 No 12 Lower Canal Rd. Photo CPAT 1624.06