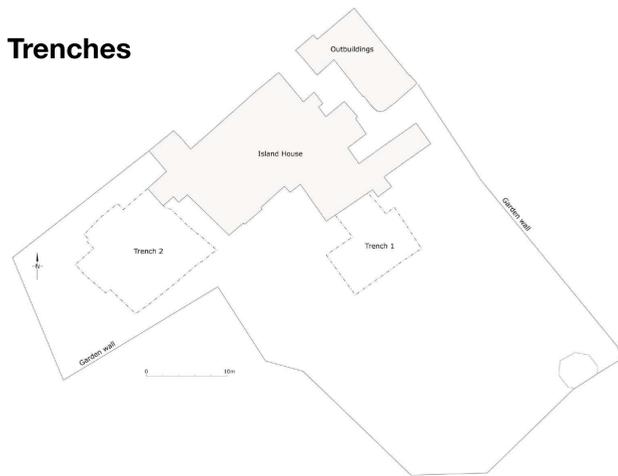


Archaeology

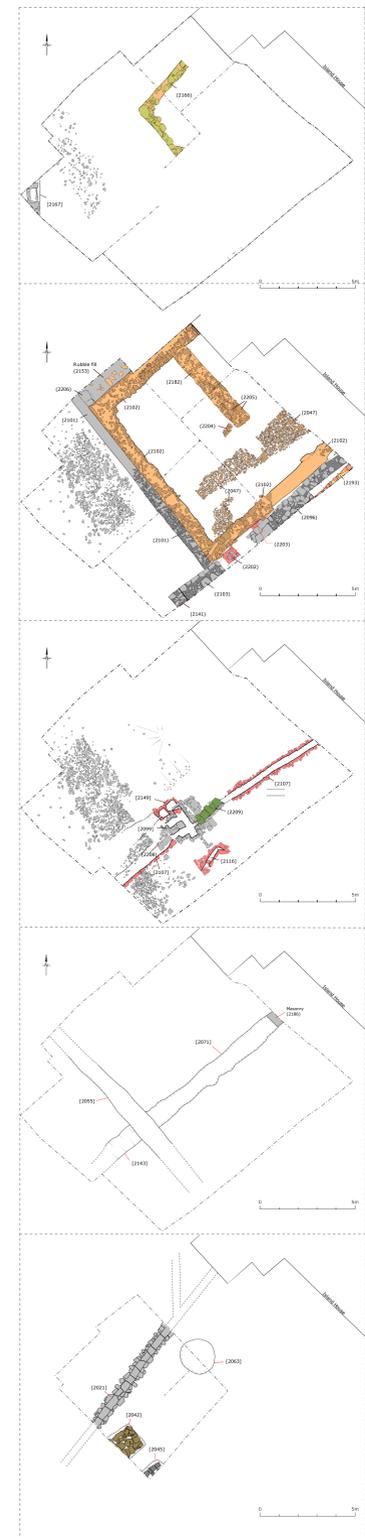
Location Of Trenches



Trench 2

Trench 2 is located west of Island House. As with Trench 1 it was positioned within an area that was thought to contain a previously demolished wing of the house shown in an etching by antiquarian Maris Curtis circa 1856 (top right).

Below is a summary of findings for each Phase. Please refer to the full report for detailed information



Phase 1 (13th to 14th Century)

Only two features were recorded. A large stone drain (2167), which although silted up still has flowing water. The drain was cut through natural gravel layers, formed in slate and pinkish sandstone.

A section of wall (2166) was uncovered, it has been truncated by later activity. The wall is clay bonded and constructed of a local pinkish sandstone. The wall may have been part of a retaining wall with clay used as a water resistant barrier.

Phase 2 (13th to 17th Centuries)

Expansion of a sequence of stone walled buildings in use between 300-400 years. Again, evidence of clay packed behind walls to create a water-resistant barrier. Suggested sequence of construction. (A) (2202) and (2203). (B) (2193) (C) (2096), (2103) and (2141) (D) (2102), (2182) stone floor (2204) and cobbled surface (2047) (E) (2206) (F) (2101)

Within the rubble (2128) of wall (2101) were sherds from a salt (salt cellar) most likely modelled in the form of a woman. A complete one was found in Cardiff which was dated c.1530, an English import.

Phase 3 (17th & 18th Centuries)

This period postdates the demolition of walls in the previous phase. The demolition included leveling of the area and evidence of light industry, which appears to be some sort of drying and/or heating. Stone edged drain (2107) connected to a capped flue (2209). A stone lined structure (2149) has been created in wall (2101). (2116) is a separate flue/channel which also cut through wall (2101). Possibility that this was all part of a larger flue system. The majority of finds include fragments of wine bottles, window glass, pottery and clay pipes. Perhaps of greatest interest is a small apothecary phial, likely to originally contain pharmaceuticals (right).

Phase 4 (18th Century)

Demolition, leveling and clearance was carried out probably early-mid-18th century. Rubble was spread across the site. The rubble comprised 18th century wine bottle glass and pottery dating late 16th century. A fragment of 18th century Chinese porcelain was found. (2071) is the line of an old foundation and (2186) is the remains of the wall, this lines up with the spine wall of Island House, lending support to the theory of a once larger building. The fill material for the foundation comprised pottery, clay pipe fragments and ceramic roof tile.

Phase 5 (mid 18th - mid 19th centuries)

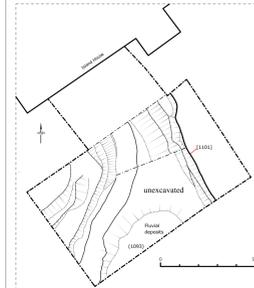
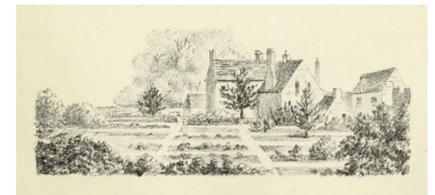
Stone drain (2021) which ran across the trench to serve the privy of Island House. It was constructed of pinkish sandstone. Two 19th century rectangular garden features were found, (2042 & 2045). Both later covered over with rubble material. The rubble contained 18th Century wine bottle glass, iron nails and a wide range of medieval pottery including industrially produced tableware of 19th/20th century. A circular pit (2063) was located, filled with animal bones, 18th century wine bottle glass and post medieval pottery. A copper halfpenny coin from the reign of George I dated 1718,



Trench 1

Trench 1 is located to the south of Island House. It was positioned within an area that was thought to contain a previously demolished wing of the house shown in an etching by antiquarian Mary Curtis circa 1856 (Right).

Below is a summary of findings for each Phase. Please refer to the full report for detailed information

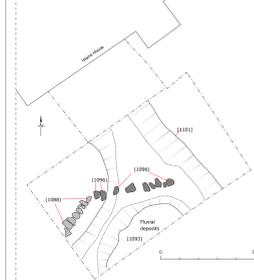


Phase 1

Evidence of a watercourse which ran South-East underneath Island House (before it was constructed). Likely one of the channels that drained into the estuary photo (right)



Flint Core (left) likely dating to Mesolithic or Neolithic Period (8000 to 4000 BC). Suggesting some level of activity in the area



Phase 2a (12th and 13th centuries)

Area used as a midden or rubbish dump, waste likely from nearby castle or town. Evidence of animal bone, slag, iron nails and fragments of iron or copper objects. Pottery discovered, wares such as Ham Green Ware Jugs (right). Likely associated with the construction of the castle. Stepping stones (1096, 1066, left) were put down whilst the area was still used as a midden. Their use appears to have been short lived.

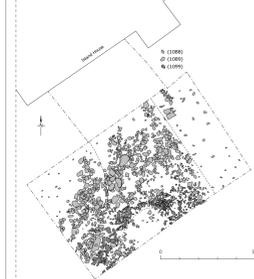


Phase 2b (12th and 13th centuries)

This stage comprises stony deposits; a result perhaps of an attempt to fill the wet boggy area. The deposits contained large amounts of animal bone, broken pottery and ferrous objects.



Copper alloy trinket, lead deposits, knife blades and pottery (Wiltshire Minety Ware and Saintonge Wares found



Phase 3a (13th to 15th Centuries)

First identifiable phase of building ((1025), left). Higher areas have large deposits of Cockle Shells, likely a by product of processing; an established local industry. A Stone built rectangular building, built directly over the former watercourse. Its extent likely goes under Island House. Internal floor to the building was compacted clay (right). Evidence of more cockle processing around the walls.

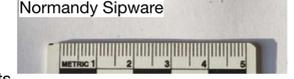


Pottery discovered dating 12th to 13th centuries from local wares, western England and France (right)

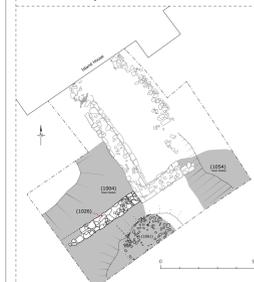
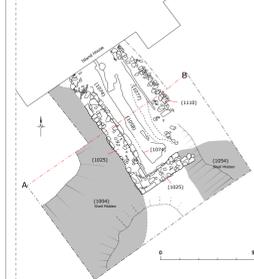


Phase 3b & 3c (13th to 15th Centuries)

Further evidence of cockle processing around the building. Later wall (shown lower left, (1026)) appears to have been built on the soft ground. During 15th century the building was leveled and the area flattened, possibly into a yard surface. The deposits contained animal bone, pottery and cooking deposits. Some sherds (ceramics) indicating possible 16th century date.



Pottery, mostly jugs and cooking pots from local sources and western England including Dyfed Gravel-Tempered and West Wales Calcareous wares as well as Wiltshire Minty and Ham wares.



Phase 4 (16th to 17th Centuries)

Evidence of later foundation cuts for a wall. The wall has been robbed of stone. ((1033), left below). A post hole was cut through the surface ((1020), left) Surviving evidence of a former cobble surface north of the wall (1006) old cobble surface North of the wall (1006). Several unusual finds were recovered from layer 91006) including two clay figurines, a pair of clay pipe bowls, a penknife, a musket ball and iron tool.



Phase 5 (17th to 18th Centuries)

Phase of demolition and levelling of the site, after which a deep layer of garden soil (1002) was deposited.

Phase 6 (18th to 19th Centuries)

Only identifiable action during this period was a foundation cut parallel with the existing south wall. The cut was probably tied with the rebuilding of the south range gable wall. Excavation in this area exposed the foundations of the current building sitting directly over Phase 3 building (1025) noted above.

