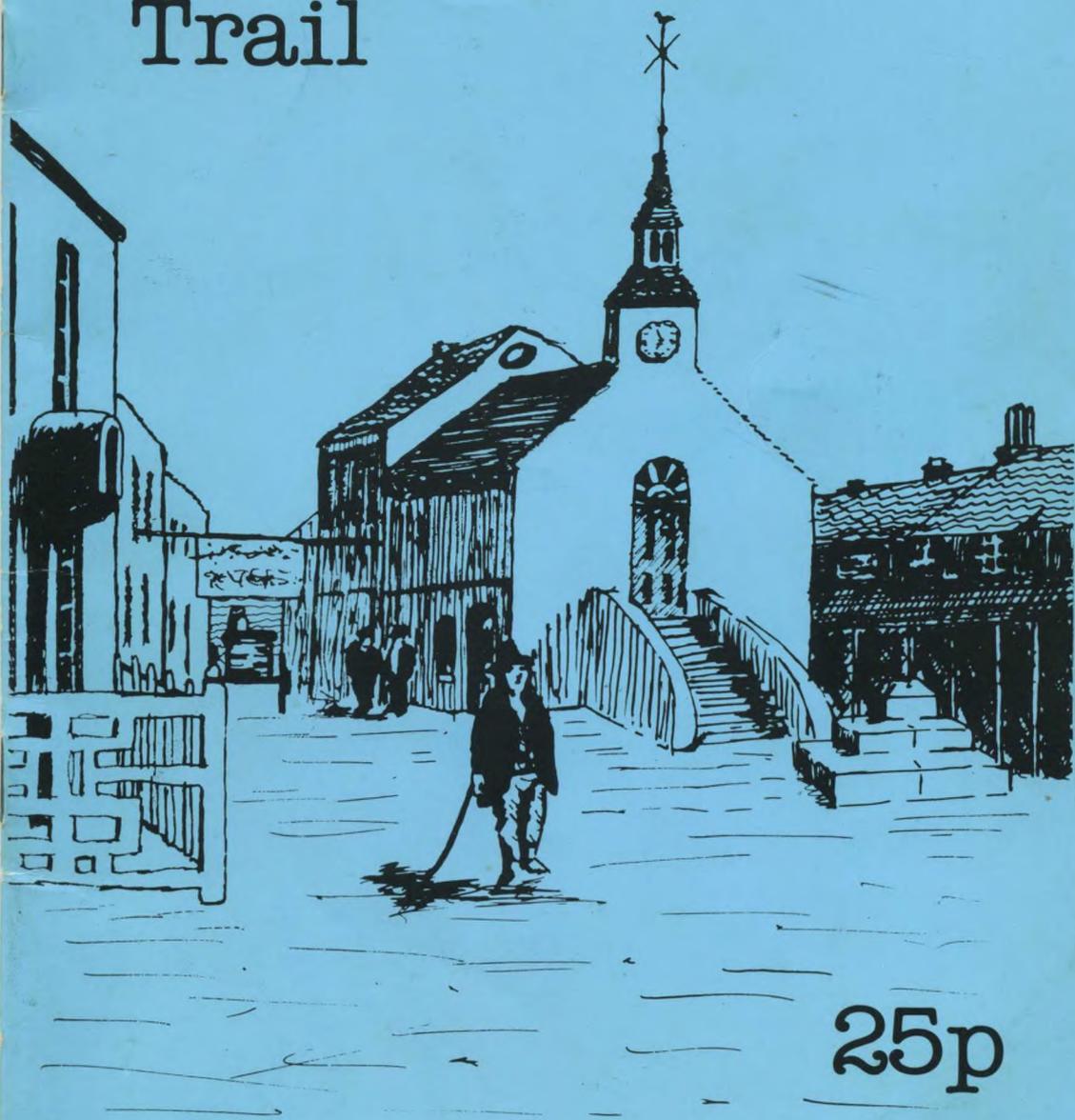


# Cowbridge Town Trail



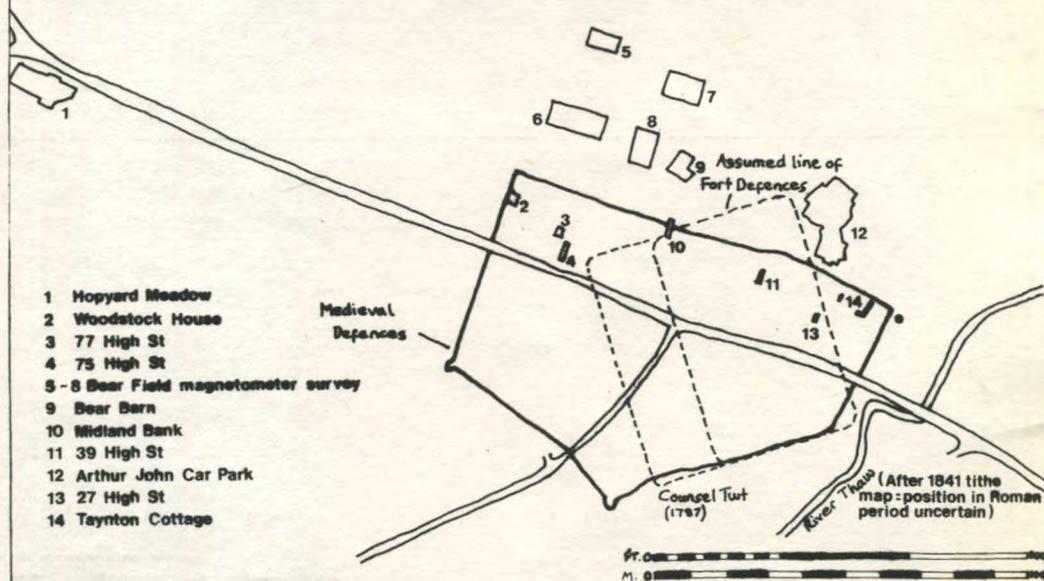
25p

## COWBRIDGE - An outline of its history

**ROMAN COWBRIDGE** Cowbridge is one of the oldest towns in Wales. Its origins are in the first Century A.D. and lie in its central location in the fertile Vale of Glamorgan along the Roman road from Carmarthen to Caerleon. Though definite structural, military remains have not yet been found, it is increasingly thought that the missing Roman fort of Bomium, a 5 - 6 acres camp, may have been here at Cowbridge. The town was half-way between the Roman administrative centres at Caerwent and Carmarthen and opposite Caer Dynnaf, the large hill fort on Llanblethian Hill of the local Celtic tribe, the Silures. They had vigorously resisted the Roman advance through South Wales, and Caer Dynnaf has been described as "the first capital of the Vale". A widening range of Roman discoveries suggest the Roman fort generated an urban settlement to administer the surplus produce of the 3 dozen farmstead-villas already discovered in the Vale. It is thought that Roman Cowbridge may have extended for some 800 metres along a main road corresponding to the present road. Remains have been found at Hopyard Meadow, Westgate, and behind the Town Hall. It was probably a "vicus" the smallest unit of urban administration, and seems to have thrived from the end of the first century A.D., to approximately 350 A.D. By 400 A.D. only three Roman garrisons remained in Wales. These urbanised forts facilitated the control of the natives, the exploitation of local resources, and permitted surplus agricultural produce to be marketed.

### PLAN 1

### **Location of Sites and Possible Extent of Roman Fort**



by kind permission of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust.

**THE MIDDLE AGES** The unstable conditions of the post-Roman period, the Dark Ages, may explain the lack of archaeological evidence of any substantial settlement at Cowbridge. Celtic society was non-urban and civilisation may have retreated to higher ground in the vicinity. However, following the spread of the Norman occupation from the end of the 11th Century, the new Borough of Cowbridge, "Longa Villa", was founded in 1254 by Richard de Clare, who became perhaps the greatest magnate in England. It was unique in South Wales in being an economic venture developed without the immediate protection of a castle. It was "a planted town" within a newly acquired manor, the Castle at Llanblethian not being commenced until 1307. The new town did, however, have protective walls and ditches with 4 entry gates. These walls enclosed 13½ acres of the 85 acre Borough. Such medieval towns have been described "as non feudal islands in the feudal seas" (Poston) of the surrounding manorial system. The inhabitants or burgesses were freemen who enjoyed a monopoly of trade within the towns and enjoyed a degree of self-government and privilege.

Cowbridge would appear to have been a planned town, laid out in burgage or property strips. These narrow strips, rented from de Clare by the burgesses, straddled the old Roman road and their form is still evident in the layout of the town 500 years later. Initially some 80 to 90 plots may have been constructed within the town walls but the success of the venture is reflected by the 276 plots existing in 1314. By this time it seems probable that plots had developed outside both the west and the east walls, and the shape of the present town has largely been determined by its medieval plan. Space was saved by having the market area and shambles (slaughter house) located alongside the Old Guildhall in the middle of High Street. At its peak in the 1320's population must have reached 1200 persons, a figure not exceeded again until this century. Cowbridge was among the largest and most flourishing towns in Wales for only Cardiff was distinctly bigger.

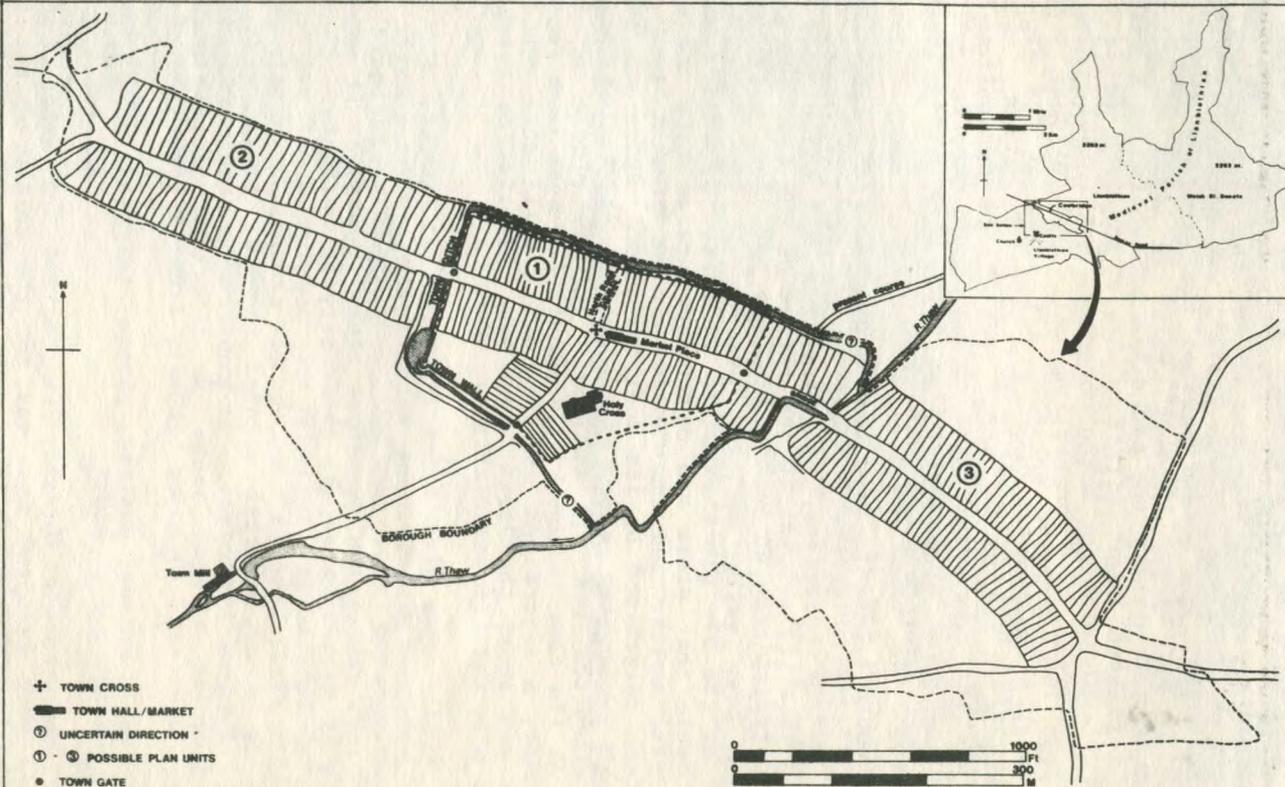
The late Middle Ages were times of political unrest, economic recession, and, from 1348, the Black Death. Consequently the development of the town was not continuous. Eastgate was developed and, though the number of plots increased, it appears probable that many were empty, especially in Westgate. Overall there was a substantial fall in the population of the town. However, the fact that a degree of prosperity remained is indicated by a new Charter granted in 1421 to Cowbridge by Beauchamp, Lord of Glamorgan. It confirms 4 previous Charters which had given a wide range of liberties to the town's burgesses. They were to enjoy immunity from :

"toll, murage, pontage, panage, terrage,  
quayage and picage,"

throughout Beauchamp's Lordship in England and Wales. This meant they were exempted from tax for the upkeep of the town walls, a toll to cross a bridge, and were able to pasture pigs in the lord's woods, to occupy ground at a fair or market, and had the right to break ground to put up a stall. They also did

**PLAN 2**

*Location and conjectural reconstruction of Medieval Cowbridge.*



*Reproduced by kind permission of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust.*

not have to pay quay dues or the dues levied at markets for the upkeep of roads and bridges. The Charter was recently discovered in Somerset after being lost for 300 years.

In the Charter of 1460 the origins were established of the administrative system which was to guide the affairs of the town into the 19th Century. The Charter allowed the creation of 12 aldermen for the town and the annual nomination by its burgesses of the 2 bailiffs to serve as town magistrates. Under the latter's presidency the aldermen really controlled the business of the Borough as the Lord's representative, the Constable, was somewhat remote in Cardiff. Remains of buildings which date from the medieval period are still visible, in parts of the Bear Hotel, The South Gate and Town Wall, and, especially, Holy Cross Church, which dates from the early 14th Century.

"the shire runneth directly westward, and giveth entrance and passage to one river, upon which more within, standeth Cowbridge, mercate town. (William Camden 1610)"

In the 17TH CENTURY the population rose slowly and did not exceed 500 persons, yet Cowbridge was one of only 4 sizeable towns in Glamorgan. The Century was one of quietly advancing prosperity for the town, the Civil War had little impact and many buildings in High Street originated in this period. Cowbridge School was founded in 1608 by Sir Edward Stradling and later sustained by Sir Leoline Jenkins, an old boy of the school, who became Secretary of State under Charles II. In 1681 the latter granted a Charter of incorporation to the "very ancient and populous" town. A self-perpetuating Corporation was established with the addition of 12 elected burgesses to the aldermen to form a Court of Common Council, and the mayoralty of Cowbridge was separated from Cardiff. Control of the town by the Corporation was to last until 1886.

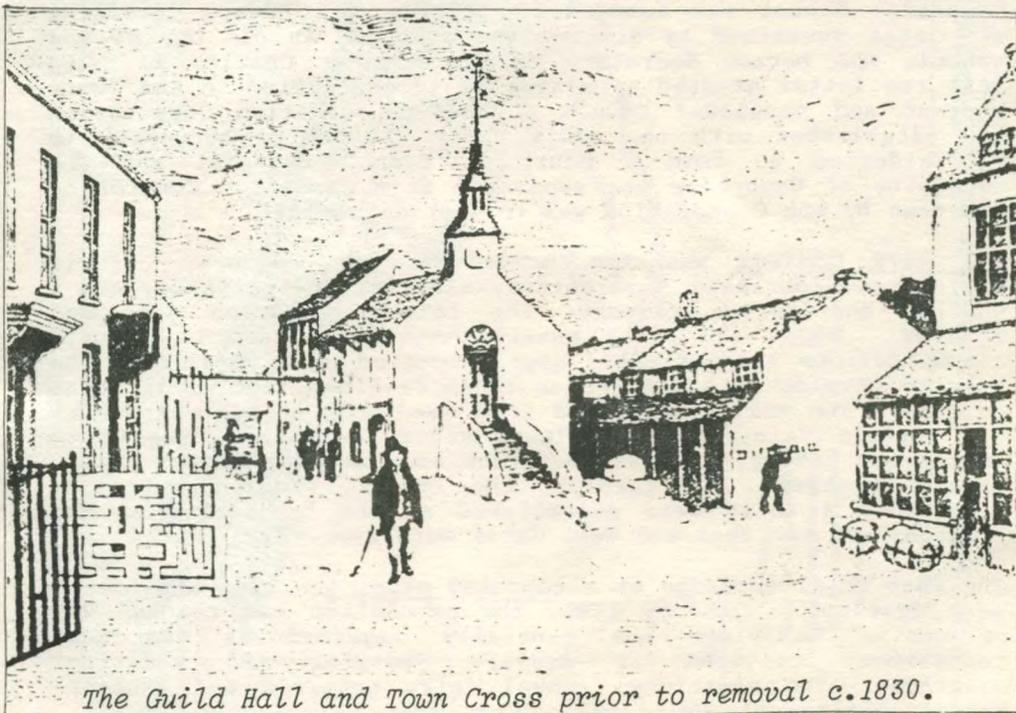
THE 18TH CENTURY was the heyday of the Borough. Small businesses flourished - maltsters, flour mills, smithies, and a woollen and tallow factory, the latter producing soap and candles. Shops and other establishments expanded. Improved communications and increased sophistication of life allowed the town to develop as a centre for local fashions, social life and culture. The wealth generated from new forms of agriculture in the fertile Vale, gave the local gentry additional wealth to build town houses, such as Woodstock and Caercady House, and to embellish others. To exploit the improved road and trading conditions 4 tolls were established at the boundaries of the Borough, and the East and West Gates were removed.

The Bear Hotel expanded as a coaching stop, new inns and hotels were developed, and, by 1781, the population had reached 705 persons. Cowbridge was generally regarded as the most convenient location for social, judicial and political meetings. Two additional annual fairs occurred and Eastgate became continuously built up.

However, the opulence that existed in the town did not give the whole picture. In 1789 a visitor described the town:

"Cowbridge is distinguished by its Grammar School, which is the most flourishing of any in Glamorgan. The Town Hall, in which the assizes for the County are sometimes held is a tolerable building; but as it stands in the High Street, it inconveniently narrows a part of it. The Church is a heavy, ill-built structure with a tower resembling that of a castle. There are many good houses in this town but these are frequently disgraced by the immediate propinquity of wretched hovels."

**THE 19TH CENTURY** The Census of 1801 indicated a population of 759 persons which, by 1821, had risen by 46% to 1107 persons. The removal of the County Gaol to Swansea in 1829 allowed the inhabitants to modernise the town by purchasing and enlarging the former House of Correction into the present Town Hall, and removing the Old Guildhall and shambles from High Street. These building operations were supervised by Isaiah Verity. Ironically the long awaited improvements in local communications seem to have given a greater fillip to Bridgend, which prospered from the diversion of the main road through Bridgend (1832) and the arrival of the South Wales Railway in 1850. Cowbridge had lost its coaching trade by 1850 and also



*The Guild Hall and Town Cross prior to removal c.1830.*

its livestock market predominance. The growth of the large industrial towns of the County, such as Merthyr and Cardiff, eroded other functions of Cowbridge. By 1850 the Quarterly Sessions' visits to Cowbridge had ended as had the Assize Court visits earlier in the Century. The opposition of the Corporation to accepting the route of the main London-Swansea railway (1850) confirmed that Cowbridge would become a backwater in the County. Writing of the town in 1860, David Jones contrasted the rest of the week with the busy market day, Tuesday,

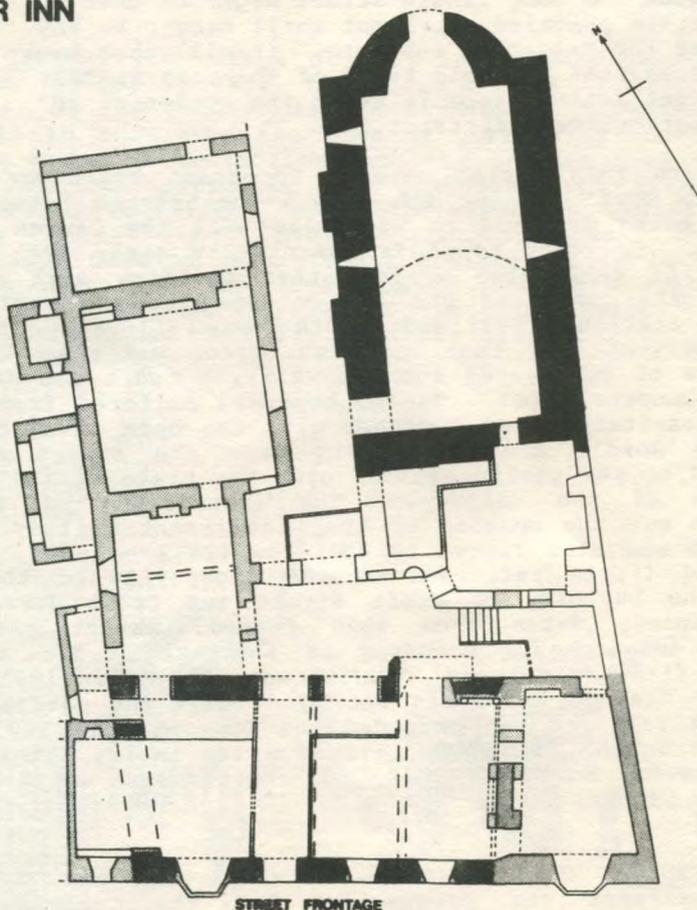
"when all come who have farming stock and produce to sell, or require to buy household necessities, on the remaining 6 days of the week the long single street might be used for rifle practice, with but small danger to any of her Majesty's subjects. It will thus be seen that the sole trade of the town is only that derived from it being the centre of an agricultural district."

However, from this period several important buildings can be noted. The Boys' Grammar School was constructed between 1847 and 1852, being designed to harmonise with the Church and the South Gate. Caercady House is essentially early 19th Century following its rebuilding whilst other building work occurred along Westgate; examples are the cottages to the south side, the Police Station (1862) and Ramoth Chapel (1828). From 1800 the area between Bear Lane and High Street was also developed in the form of courtyards such as Verity's Court and Malthouse Yard (now Coopers Yard). These, however, suffered from a lack of proper sanitation and together with the open ditch or drain (now North Road), and the debris from the street markets, contributed to the public scandal over the state of the town in the middle of the century. The last fling of the old Corporation was the opening of the Llantrisant Railway (1866 - 1951) which was also linked to Aberthaw (1892 - 1930), but the railway had little influence on the prosperity of the town. However, the building of Croft Street and Croft Terrace, as railway houses, dates from this period, whilst associated commercial developments occurred in Eastgate, e.g. Edmondes Arms. The first ratepayers' Council was elected in 1881 and it immediately drained the Butts Pool and built the cattle market (1888), and restored and expanded the Town Hall in 1895. The Girl's High School opened in 1896 as a fee paying Intermediate School between Board Schools and University, with a few scholarship pupils.

THE 20TH CENTURY Only since the 1950's, with the growth of private transport and prosperity, has the Cowbridge area revived. It is now an important District shopping centre and commuter settlement. The population of the old Borough area in 1981 was 1200, not having increased greatly in 150 years, but adjoining areas have been swallowed up by suburban houses as the town expanded beyond the old burgage plots. Llanblethian's population has tripled in the last 30 years to 2700. With the opening of the town by-pass in 1965, the Roman road had been superseded after 1900 years of almost continuous use.

The long history of the town, however, is reflected in its present buildings, and their importance by the designation in 1973 of most of the old Borough as one of only 2 towns in Glamorgan containing an outstanding Conservation Area. Conservation Areas are defined as "areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance". (1971 Town and Country Planning Act) Llantwit Major was also defined as an outstanding conservation area before the use of the classification was discontinued in 1980. The accompanying walk seeks to outline the history of Cowbridge through the more important of its remaining buildings and land marks.

**PLAN 3  
BEAR INN**



?medieval  
  late medieval  
  16th  
  modern  
  uncertain date



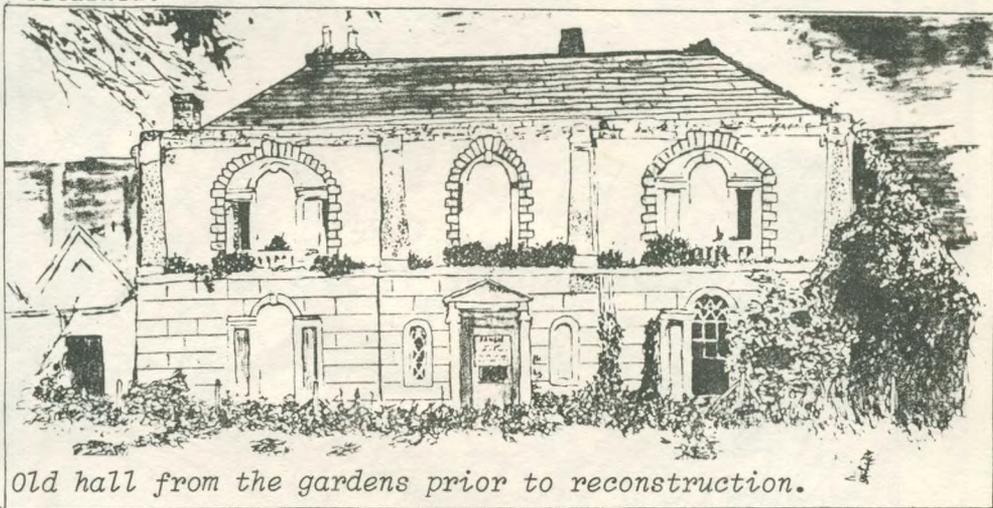
Reproduced by kind permission of  
the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust

(After RCAHM)

## THE WALK

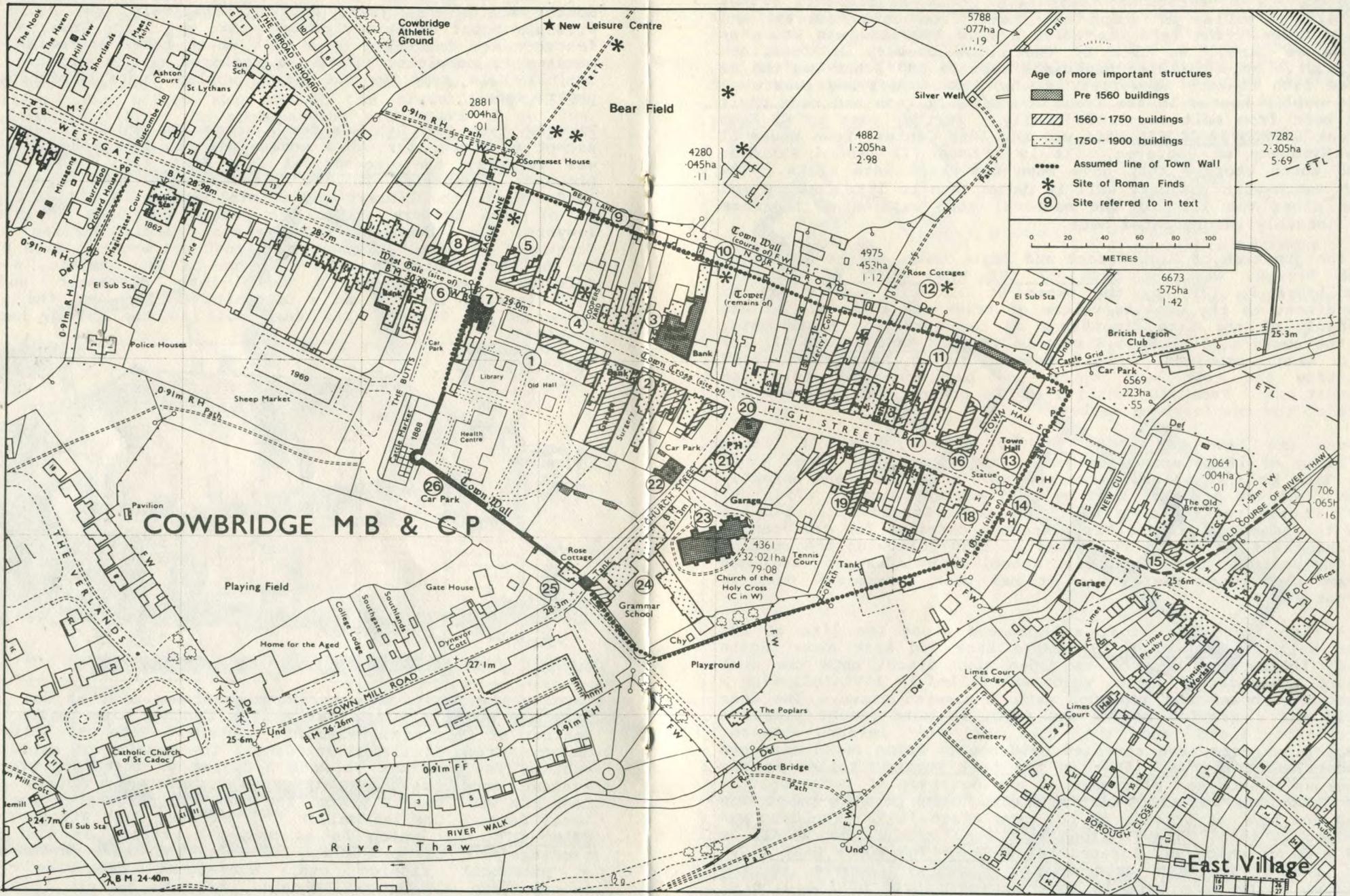
The walk starts from the Town Wall car park outside the old South wall of the town, but, alternatively, one could begin from any point on this circular walk, e.g., the Town Hall. 26 features are described in a walk which takes approximately 40 minutes to complete. Features numbered on the map are picked out in bold type in the text, whilst route directions are underlined.

Proceed into Old Hall Gardens, access to which is available, except at night, through a modern gate in the walls. The area was formerly the grounds of OLD HALL (1). The medieval property boundaries in the gardens have been lost in its landscaping, the library and clinic opening in 1974. Old Hall is of 16th Century origin, it became the home of prominent lawyers, the Edmondes, whose motto "Vincit Veritas" (Truth Conquers) is displayed over its front entrance on High Street. In the 19th Century it was the home of Dr. Malkin, a social reformer, but later it fell into disrepair and was reconstructed in 1974 as a Community College and the stables converted to flats. The rear wall to the garden has been retained.



*Old hall from the gardens prior to reconstruction.*

Turn to the right, on entering High Street and, at No. 58, is CAERCADY HOUSE (2) the early 19th Century town house of the squires of Caercady, Welsh St. Donats. Note the doric porch on this Grade II Listed Building. The placing of buildings on such a list provides it with a degree of statutory protection against development or alteration. The door plate reveals Caercady was, for 50 years, the home and surgery of the famous local Doctor, Charles Meller. Cross over High Street to THE BEAR HOTEL (3) which is of medieval origin, in its central frontage and rear connecting building, and has been extended in a piecemeal fashion over subsequent centuries. The accompanying plan also indicates that the eastern frontage is 16th Century. The Inn later flourished as a coaching centre while its long room was used for religious Dissenters' meetings. It is a Grade II Listed Building.



**Age of more important structures**

- Pre 1560 buildings
- 1560 - 1750 buildings
- 1750 - 1900 buildings
- Assumed line of Town Wall
- \* Site of Roman Finds
- Site referred to in text

0 20 40 60 80 100  
METRES

**COWBRIDGE MB & CP**

East Village

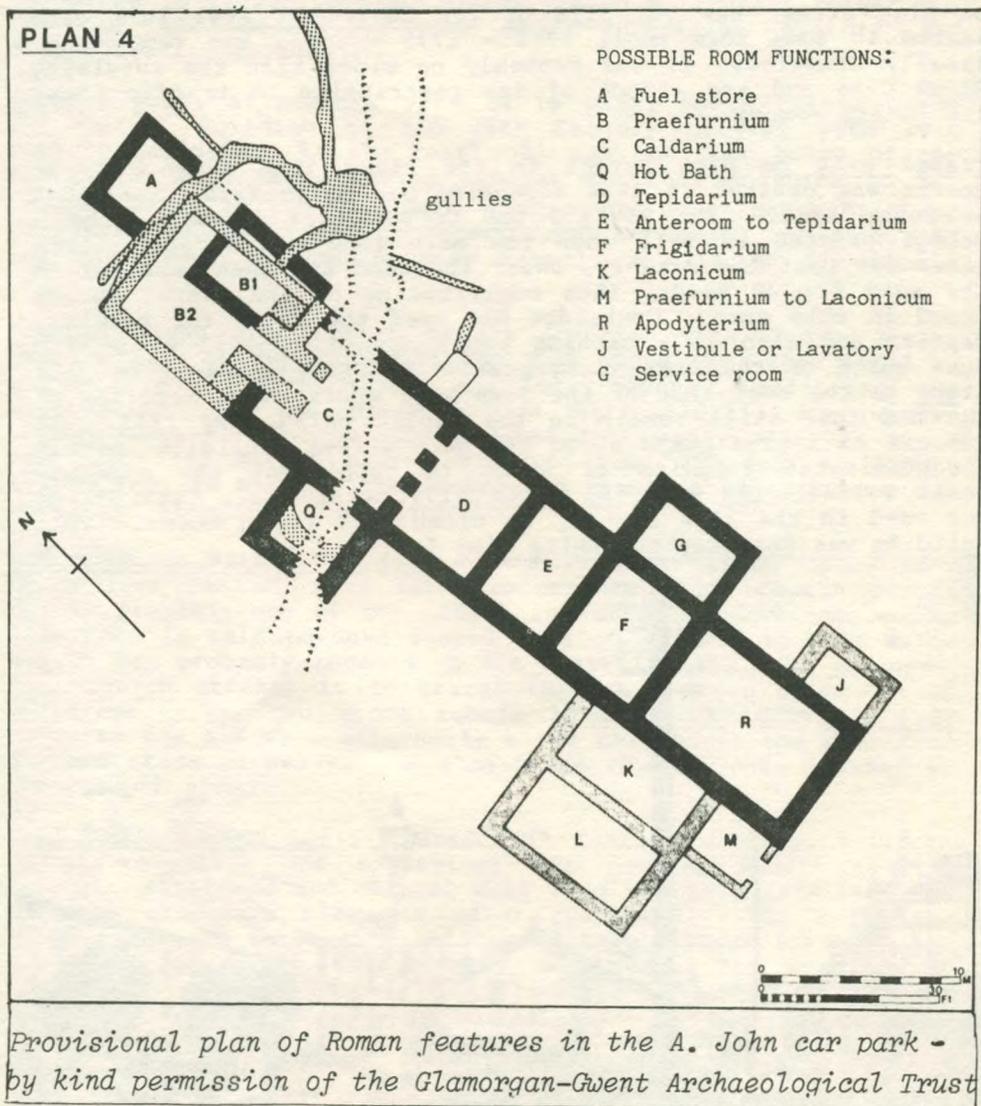
Proceed towards Westgate until reaching COOPERS YARD (4) Archaeological excavations here in 1977 proved conclusive evidence of a relatively extensive Roman settlement. They revealed a series of shops and homes from both medieval and Roman times. The Yard was built around 1800 and was known as Malthouse Lane, the site of the first brewery in Cowbridge (c.1830). This building was demolished in 1977, but was one of three 19th Century breweries in the Town, supplying twenty or more public houses in the Town. Previously inns had made their own beer from malt supplied locally. Further west at 83 High Street is WOODSTOCK (5) This was the 18th Century Town house of the Wyndhams of Dunraven. It is a Grade II Listed Building with three storeys that have been converted into flats. The high north-west boundary wall is dated 18th to 19th Century and runs along the line of the medieval town wall whose footings are possibly incorporated here.

At the junction of High Street and Eagle Lane, in the middle of High Street, was the SITE OF THE WEST GATE (6) It was demolished in 1753 by the owner of Old Hall as it was an impediment to the growing volume of trade and traffic. It was probably of the same dimensions as the surviving South Gate. On the south side of High Street is YE OLDE MASONS ARMS (7) Its main wing comprises a hall house, dating from Circa 1400 abutting the town wall which has been combined into its foundations. From 1806 until 1966 the present car park was the site of the town's sheep market.

Across the lane THE EAGLE (8) is another Grade II Listed Building of 16th Century origin, with a rear hall added along the lane by 1720 which became the town's ballroom and assembly room. It was probably used by John Wesley twice in 1758. By 1805 it had ceased to be the fashionable Spread Eagle Inn but was the renowned private Eagle Academy catering for children of artisans and farmers. It closed in 1880 following the opening of the Board or Local Authority school in Broadway in 1876, and became a private dwelling. It has been modernised only in recent years.

Turn right into the Lane, and proceed along the line of the Town Wall to BEAR LANE (9) Eagle Lane and Bear Lane (North Road) follow the line of the open town ditch, once the moat around the medieval walls, which was filled in 1853 following a typhoid outbreak and replaced with a covered drain. The Bear Field was a grazing meadow and also, in more recent times, a recreation field and the home of the leisure centre. Excavations here have revealed evidence of Roman settlement and industry. Off these lanes in the past workmen toiled in the numerous courts and alleyways at a wide range of rural crafts. The Cowbridge Athletic Club's field, below the by-pass, has been the home of cricket in the town since 1895. The Club was founded in 1913. Travel along Bear Lane to the Bear Hotel, at the side of which was located THE SITE OF THE NORTH GATE (10), the town's smallest gate giving "footway" access to the meadows. The lane here is some 14 feet north of the line of the old wall which was 25 feet high and 14 feet thick. Its stone has been combined into many later buildings in this area.

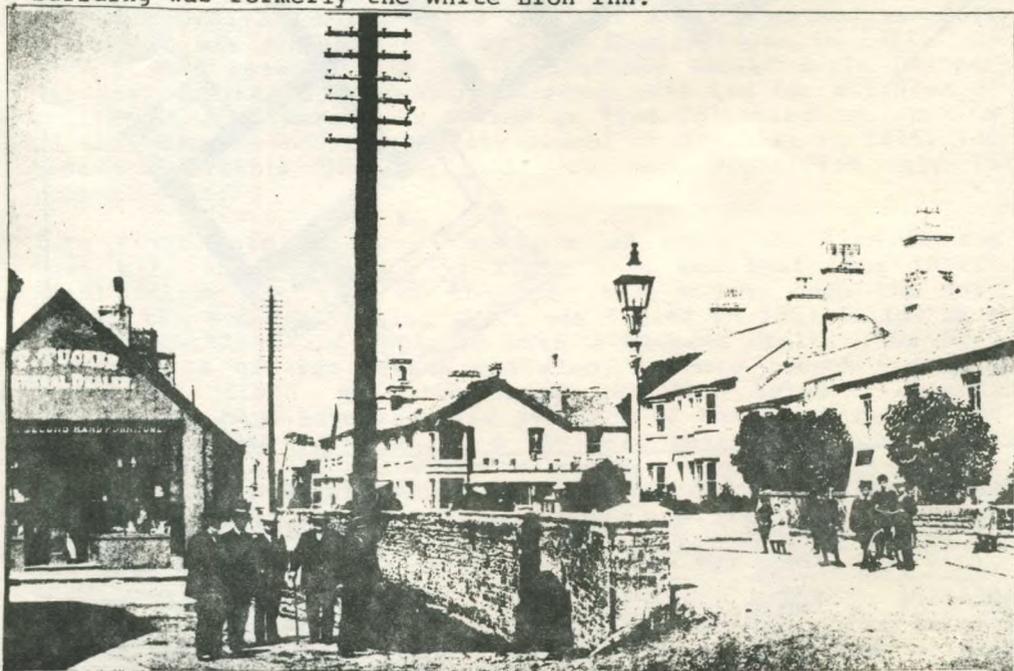
Further along Bear Lane, the pattern of the medieval BURGAGE PLOTS (11), or building units, is still visible. The plot tenures were available at an annual rent from the Lordship and the long gardens, here some 220 feet in length, were used for livestock or gardening with a narrow house frontage direct to the commercial area in High Street in order to save space. The car park area of the agricultural stores, to the north of the lane, was excavated prior to development and revealed extensive



reminders of ROMAN COWBRIDGE (12). Finds included a 13 room building which may have been a community bath-house. Roman finds in Bear Field suggest the main Roman settlement may have been aligned along this area above the river's course.

At the end of the Lane turn right and proceed to the front of the TOWN HALL (13) The cells and facade of the County Prison (closed 1829) were incorporated by Isaiah Verity, into a new Town Hall, built in 1830 to replace the Guildhall in High Street. It was restored and enlarged in 1895 and renovated in 1974. Note the inscribed clock and the cupola which were presented in 1836 by the Bishop of Llandaff. The cells of the old prison now house the town's history museum. It is a Grade II Listed Building. Immediately to the east of the Town Hall, on High Street was THE SITE OF THE EAST GATE (14) This gate lasted in some form until 1768 - 1775 when it was removed or finally crumbled. It was probably no wider than the surviving South Gate and the effect of its restriction on traffic flows led to its removal.

Travel east on High Street to the River Thaw whose present course was created in 1954 alongside Old Mason Yard, now known as Penny Lane. The RIVER'S OLD COURSE (15) is marked by a bridge erected in 1911 when the main road was widened. The river ran past the Brewery, under the road and then parallel to the road for 40 yards, thus contributing to the annual spring flood in this area. Cowbridge has used the river for brewing, baptism and also as a bathing pool, opened in 1911 at a site just north of the present by-pass. Turnback and retrace your steps to the west side of the Town Hall where other memories of the old town still remain in the public WATER PUMP (16). It was one of 3 or 4 pumps along the main street providing largely uncontaminated supplies of water to supplement the numerous local wells. THE MOUNTING BLOCK (17) outside 27, High Street was used in the 18th Century to climb onto one's horse. This building was formerly the White Lion Inn.



Cowbridge : c. 1914 showing the old course of the River Thaw.

Take the pedestrian crossing at the Town Hall to the south side of High Street. Number 14 is the site of the recently demolished HOME OF IOLO MORGANNWG 1747 - 1826 (18) to whose memory the wall plaque was erected by the local division of the National Union of Welsh Societies. He was a poet, manuscript collector, bookseller, and as the most learned Welshman of his day, the leader of a thriving literary circle in the town. The first printing press in Glamorgan had been established in Cowbridge in 1770. He was, however, also a literary forger and inventor who bedevilled the study of Welsh history and literature for decades.

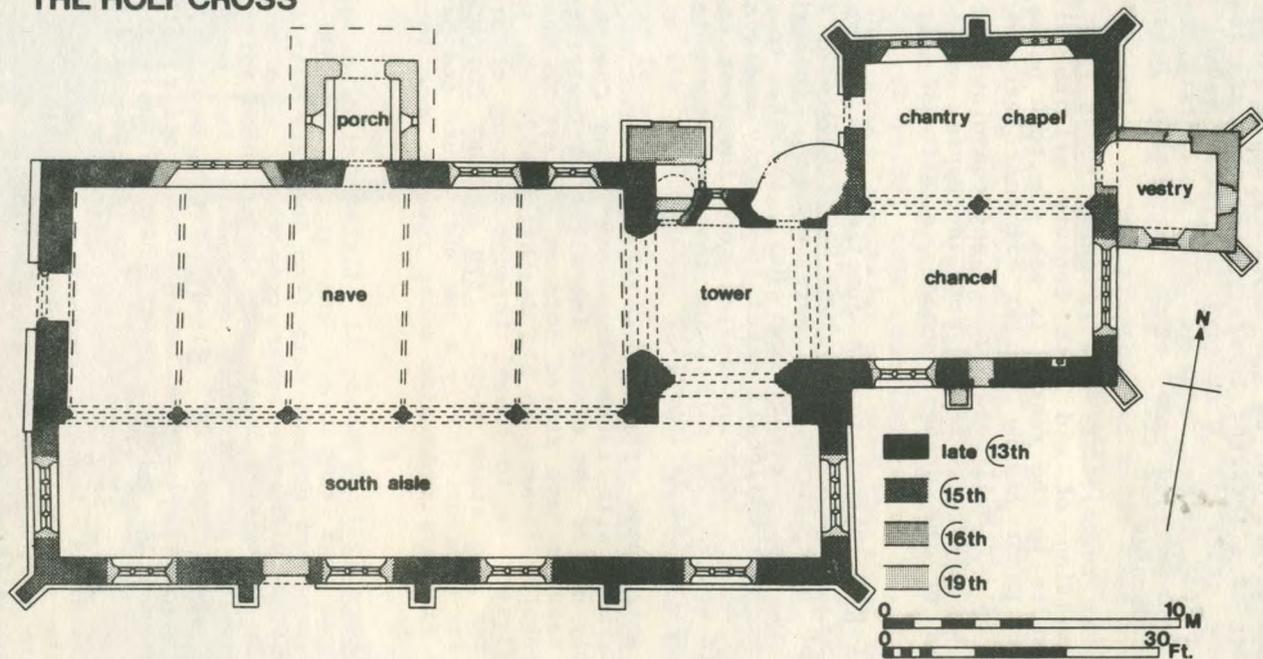
Further west, at numbers 32 - 34 is GREAT HOUSE (19) a Grade II\* Listed Building of mid 16th Century origins with 18th Century extensions to the rear. It was the town house of the Carnes of Nash Manor having similar external features to St. Fagans Castle in its mullioned windows and conjoined gables and parapet. In the 1920's it became Franklen House, an additional boarding house of the grammar school, a gift of Sir Thomas Franklen.

Proceed along High Street to its junction with Church Street and the SITE OF THE GUILDHALL AND TOWN CROSS (20) They stood in the middle of High Street and were removed, following the construction of the present Town Hall (1830), to improve communications. The Guildhall dated from early medieval times and, with the market house, measured some 100 feet in length and 25 feet in width. The market and shambles (slaughter area) were held alongside the Guildhall.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON (21) has a frontage which dates from early 16th Century with later extensions along Church Street and is probably one of the oldest inn sites in Cowbridge. The Iron Duke is said to have stayed here on a visit to West Wales and it was probably renamed on his death in 1852. To journey down Church Street, is to travel through a group of protected buildings. The two stone rubble 16TH CENTURY COTTAGES (22) opposite the Inn were originally a two unit house and have fine dressed stone archways. An alms-house row was once located to their south side.

HOLY CROSS CHURCH (23), a Grade II\* Listed Building, reflects in its erection and extensions the growing wealth of the Borough. The nave and chancel date from the late 13th Century, but the cruciform plan was never completed. The north and south transepts were never built, nor the intended spire on the tower as prosperity subsequently declined. The south aisle (1473) and chantry chapel date from the 15th Century, whilst the tower was remodelled and a semi-circular stair turret and buttress were added at a later date. Restoration work to the Church was undertaken by the architect, John Prichard between 1848 and 1853, and, in 1926 the interior nave's roof was replaced. Numerous local dignitaries are buried in the Churchyard; the Churchyard walls and gates, which are also protected, date from an Act of Vestry (1815) necessitating the enclosure of burial grounds.

**PLAN 5**  
**CHURCH OF**  
**THE HOLY CROSS**



[After R.C.A.H.M.]

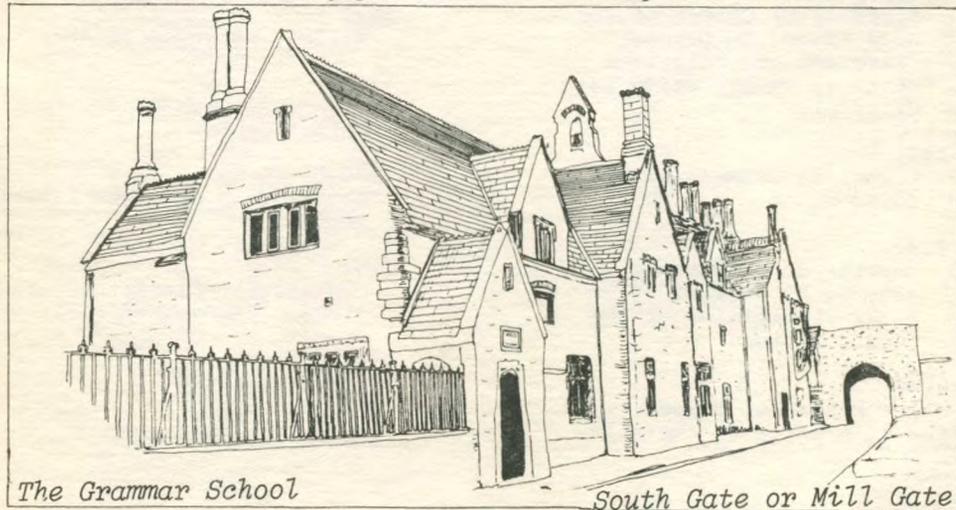
*Holy Cross Church. The later additions to the 13th century structure are readily apparent.*

*by kind permission of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust.*

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL (24) was founded in 1608 by the Stradlings of St. Donats and has occupied its present site from 1617. The present buildings date from 1847 - 1852, Prichard achieving a pleasant harmony between the adjoining Church and South Gate, so that all 3 buildings are listed, Grade II\*. It catered for pupils "of mature age and members of wealthy families" and from 1685 - 1919 was under the governorship of Jesus College, Oxford. It is used today as a youth centre, a new comprehensive school having opened in 1974. At the end of Church Street is THE SOUTH GATE (25) which is the only existing medieval town gate in Glamorgan. It possibly dates from the early 14th Century and it has been extensively repaired in 1805, 1962, 1983 and 1984. It was originally vaulted, being some 19 feet wide, 20 feet high and 21 feet deep. The Town Mill was located some 200 yards south of this gate. Pass through the Gate. The adjoining building on the east of the gate is the old Boot House of the Grammar School and dates from c.1745. Rose Cottage, to the west of the gate, is also a Listed Building being a 19th Century cottage built against the line of, or incorporating the structure of THE MEDIEVAL SOUTH WALL (26) It is not certain to what extent the town walls behind the car park are original. In part they appear to be garden walls of 18th Century origin comprising elements of the old wall. However, a surviving section of the wall and its bastion is clearly revealed in the south west wing. Formerly the walls rose to 25 feet in height but they have, however, been much altered, the cattle market being added in 1888. To the south west of the walls, on Llanblethian Hill is the iron age fort of the Silures, which may have been one reason for the establishment of the Roman settlement.

Suitable refreshments are at hand in the Old Mason's Arms or any of the numerous oases in the Town. Market day, Tuesday, still brings the whole town to life with the advantage of extended licensing hours!

However, this walk has only explored the core area of the Town. An amble though the town outside this area is to be encouraged for it also will bring pleasure to the imaginative walker.



*The Grammar School*

*South Gate or Mill Gate*

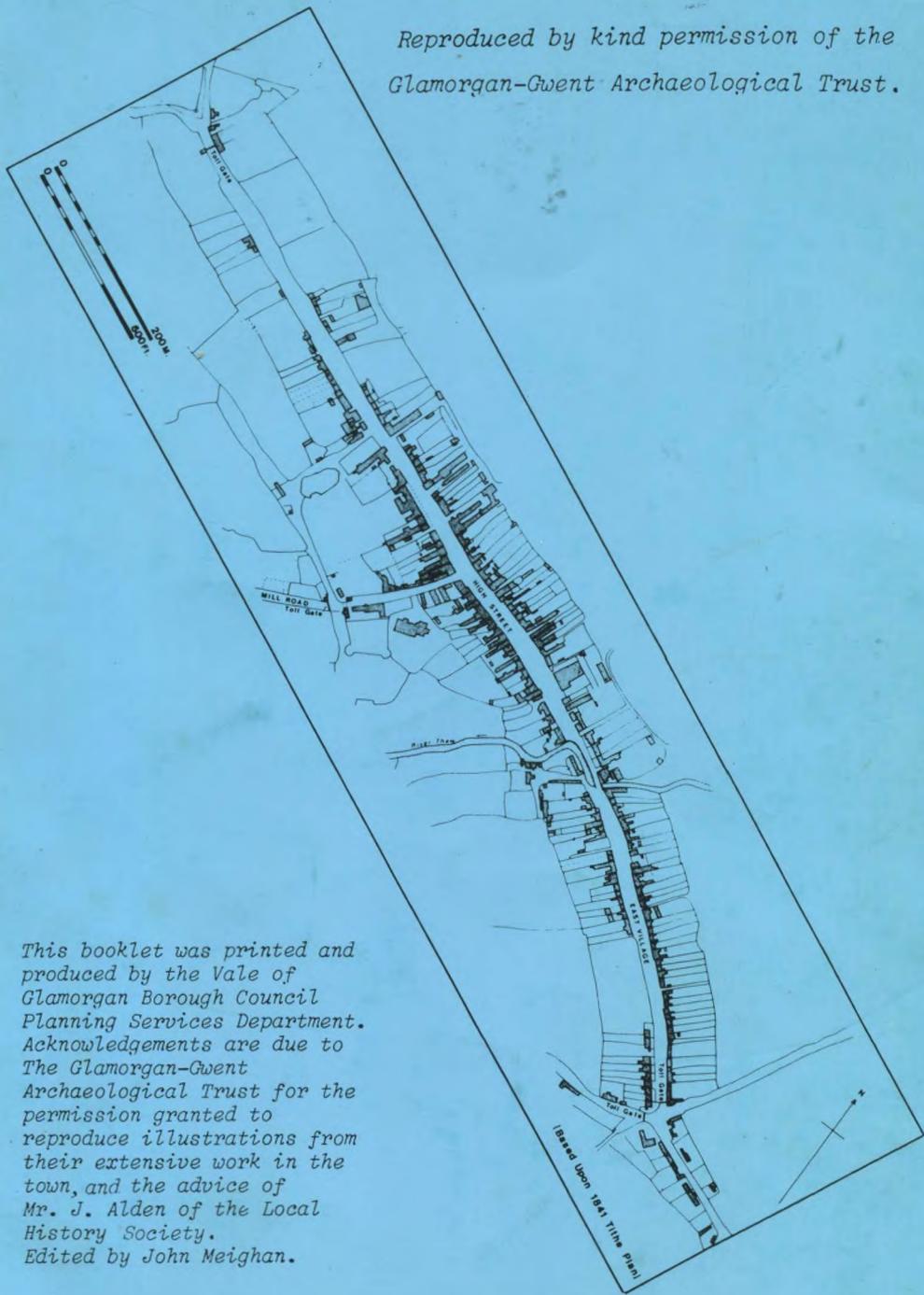
# The History of Cowbridge

- 1600 - 500 B.C.  
Bronze age settlement in Cowbridge area. Dagger and skeleton found in grounds of High School : standing stone in garden of Rhoscelyn, Eastgate.
- 500 B.C. - 400 A.D.  
Possible Iron age and later occupation of Llanblethian Hill Fort; also smaller hill fort at Llanquian Wood.
- 50 - 350 A.D.  
Roman settlement - possibly on site of Cowbridge High Street, from the river to Old Hall.
- 400 - 1250  
The dark ages - no evidence of settlement at Cowbridge.
- 1254  
Cowbridge founded as a Borough by Richard de Clare
- 1300  
Building of Town walls.
- 1307 - 1314  
Beginning of St. Quentin's Castle. Completion not confirmed, but may have been finished by 1375.
- Late 13th Century to 15th Century  
Building of Church of the Holy Cross, Cowbridge. (Nave and chancel, 13th Century; Tower, early 14th Century).
- 1608  
Cowbridge Grammar School founded.
- 1681  
Charter of incorporation granted by Charles II - final recognition of the Town's status.
- 1749  
First Methodist Chapel in the Vale built at Aberthin.
- 1753  
West Gate demolished.
- 1768 - 1775  
East Gate demolished.
- 1805 (and 1862)  
South Gate repaired.
- 1828  
Date of Ramoth Chapel
- 1830  
The House of Correction enlarged to become the present Town Hall.
- 1832  
The first Bank in Cowbridge opened; then a branch of the National Provincial Bank, now Barclays.
- 1847 - 1852  
Cowbridge Grammar School Buildings constructed.
- 1850  
Cardiff - Swansea railway opened (by passing Cowbridge).
- 1862  
Police station built.
- 1865  
Cowbridge to Llantrisant Railway opened.
- 1892  
Railway extended to Aberthaw
- 1896  
Cowbridge High School for Girls opened.
- 1930  
Cowbridge - Aberthaw Railway closed.
- 1951  
Cowbridge - Llantrisant line closed 30th November, 1951.
- 1965  
By-pass opened

# notes

Cowbridge in 1841 - before the Llantrisant Railway (1865).

Reproduced by kind permission of the  
Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust.



This booklet was printed and produced by the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council Planning Services Department. Acknowledgements are due to The Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust for the permission granted to reproduce illustrations from their extensive work in the town, and the advice of Mr. J. Alden of the Local History Society.  
Edited by John Meighan.