

36 Main Street, Pembroke SA71 4NP

Proposed Opening in Town Wall

Design and Access Statement

- 1/ 36 Main Street is grade 11 listed (reference no 6403)
- 2/ The separately listed Town Wall is on the Northern boundary of its burgage plot.
- 3/ Currently, access to 36 Main Street is by two doors from Main Street at ground level.
- 4/ The proposal is to form an opening in the Town Wall to give access from 36 Main Street to Pembroke River and to the property from Mill Pond Walk.
- 5/ This access would be for pedestrians and garden machinery to enable cultivation of the extensive burgage plot and to enable residential development of the rear part of that plot.
- 6/ The Town Walls were established in 13th Century: "No documentary evidence survives but it is likely that the defences are the work of William Marshal in the first years of the 13th Century" - The Buildings of Wales, Pembrokeshire, Lloyd, Orbach and Scourfield.
- 7/ The same source continues: "... along Millpond Walk, much of the wall is later and stands downslope of the original".
- 8/ From this and inspection it would seem that the present wall, although important as a physical reminder of the ancient medieval wall, is not the original either in actuality or exact location.
- 9/ A brief survey reveals that about 50% of the burgage plots backing onto Mill Pond Walk have openings onto the Walk.
- 10/ It is obvious that these openings were not ancient, but came into being in the 17th, 18th or 19th centuries, when the defensive function of the Town Wall had become obsolete and the Town's civic fortunes were in the ascendant.
- 11/ Although the present Town Wall at the rear of 36 betrays no evidence of a former opening, it is just as likely to have had one during those centuries as not.
- 12/ The adaptation of relics to serve a new pattern of use is of historical importance in itself.
- 13/ The proposal enhances this probability and preserves the possibility that all properties backing onto Mill Pond Walk at one time had access to the river.

Pembrokeshire County Council
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DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT