

**THE NORTHERN COURTYARD,  
LLANUNWAS, SOLVA  
(SM 7931 2441):  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
BUILDING RECORDING**



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## THE NORTHERN COURTYARD, LLANUNWAS, SOLVA: ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

Gan / By

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## THE NORTHERN COURTYARD, LLANUNWAS, SOLVA: ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

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## **THE NORTHERN COURTYARD, LLANUNWAS, SOLVA: ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING**

### **SUMMARY**

*A planning application (Planning Application Number NP 08/276) has been submitted for the sensitive redevelopment of the derelict buildings known as the northern courtyard at Llanunwas Farm, Solva, Pembrokeshire.*

*Llanunwas is a higher status improvement period farmstead of regional character, the extensive range of the farm buildings arranged formally to the north and west of a large double-pile Georgian mansion. Once a key regional dairy producer, the emphasis at the farm has shifted in recent decades towards conservation and finding diversified uses for the buildings. The main house has been central to a family residence and holiday let business since 1982, whilst much of the farmland has been sold or donated to the local community. Approximately 42 acres remain, including most of the original farm buildings. At the heart of the aspirations of the owners is a plan to restore the architectural integrity of the farm buildings which have become derelict and ruinous since falling out of use.*

*The principal elements in this vision are the development and conservation of the derelict buildings known as the northern courtyard and the malthouse. The malthouse was subject to an earlier programme of building recording in May 2010 in advance of construction. Work on the malthouse was already well progressed when the site was visited in July 2010.*

*Planning permission on the northern courtyard has been granted with a condition that an appropriate level of archaeological building recording is carried out to determine the historic significance of the structures, understand their development and create a record of the surviving elements. The buildings were archaeologically recorded to Level 2 complying with the standards as defined in the English Heritage Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good practice 2006 publication and meeting the relevant standards and guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA).*

*Despite the derelict and occasionally altered condition of the buildings, work in the northern courtyard was successful in reinterpreting the original functions of the nineteenth century buildings which include a threshing barn, engine house, stable, feed preparation room, cow sheds, stock sheds and a cart shed/stable/granary building, elaborate in design and the show piece of the complex. At 190 acres in 1840, Llanunwas would have been one of the larger farms within the region. In its courtyard plan and formalised division of space and layout the design was clearly influenced by the latest contemporary theories on the convenience of citing certain buildings in relation to others.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Project Background**

A planning application has been submitted for the residential and business development of the Northern Courtyard at Llanunwas farm complex near Solva (Planning Application Number NP 08/276).

Rob Davies, the applicant, appointed Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services (DAT-FS) to carry out a programme of historic building recording on the courtyard to fulfil a condition placed on the planning approval.

A written scheme of investigation for building recording was prepared by DAT-FS which was approved by Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority following advice from their archaeological advisors (Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management (DAT-HM)).

The condition was placed on the development because the buildings are seen as being of archaeological interest retaining group value as part of a near complete surviving complex of higher status improvement period farm buildings. The proposal was therefore considered to have the potential to damage or destroy any historically significant features of the buildings that may be present within the development area.

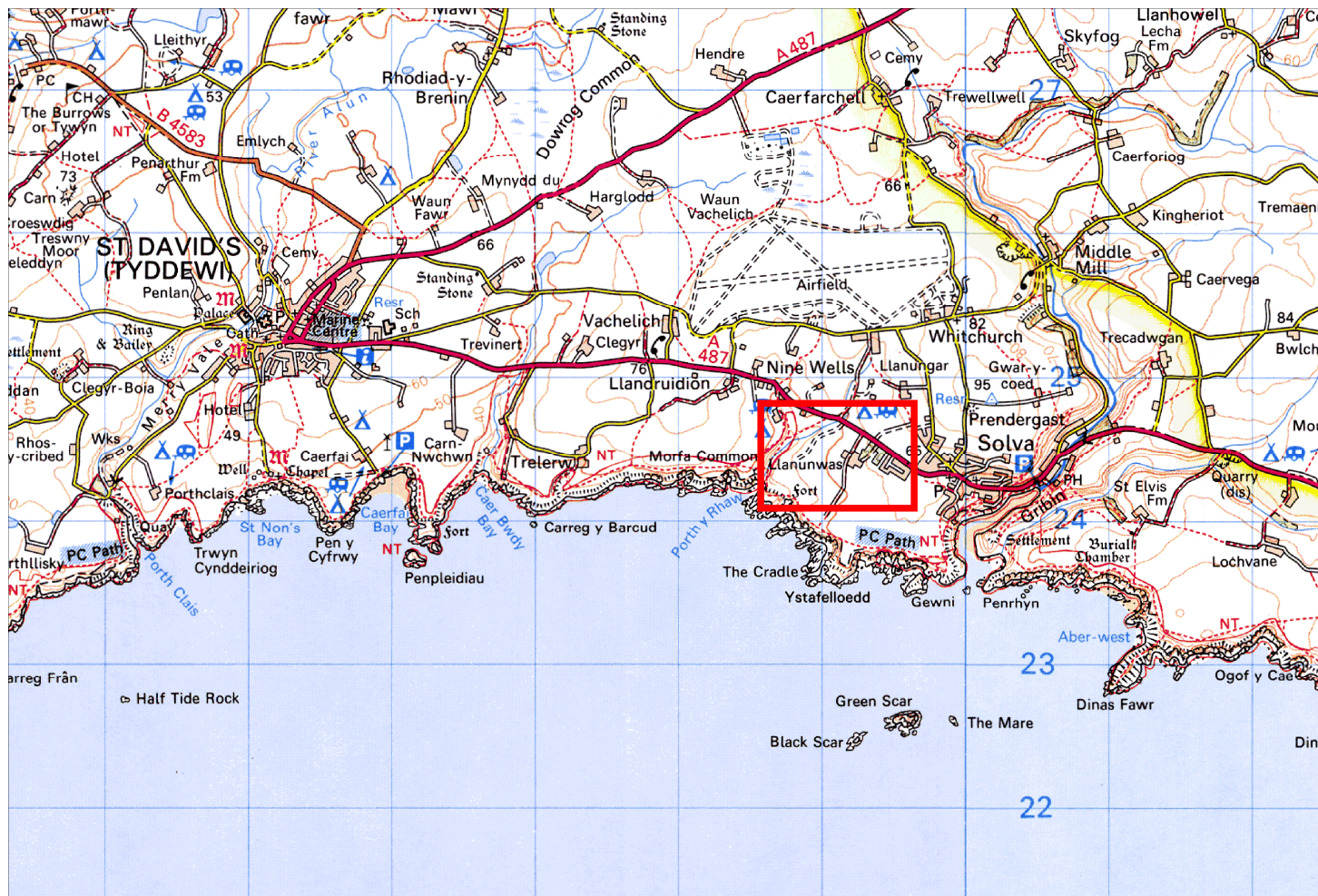
The programme of building recording was undertaken in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Building Recording (Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and defined in the document "Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good practice (English Heritage 2006).

### **Site Location**

The farm of Llanunwas is centred on NGR SM 7931 2441 in the community of Solva, Pembrokeshire lying just off the A487, the main road between Solva and St. Davids.

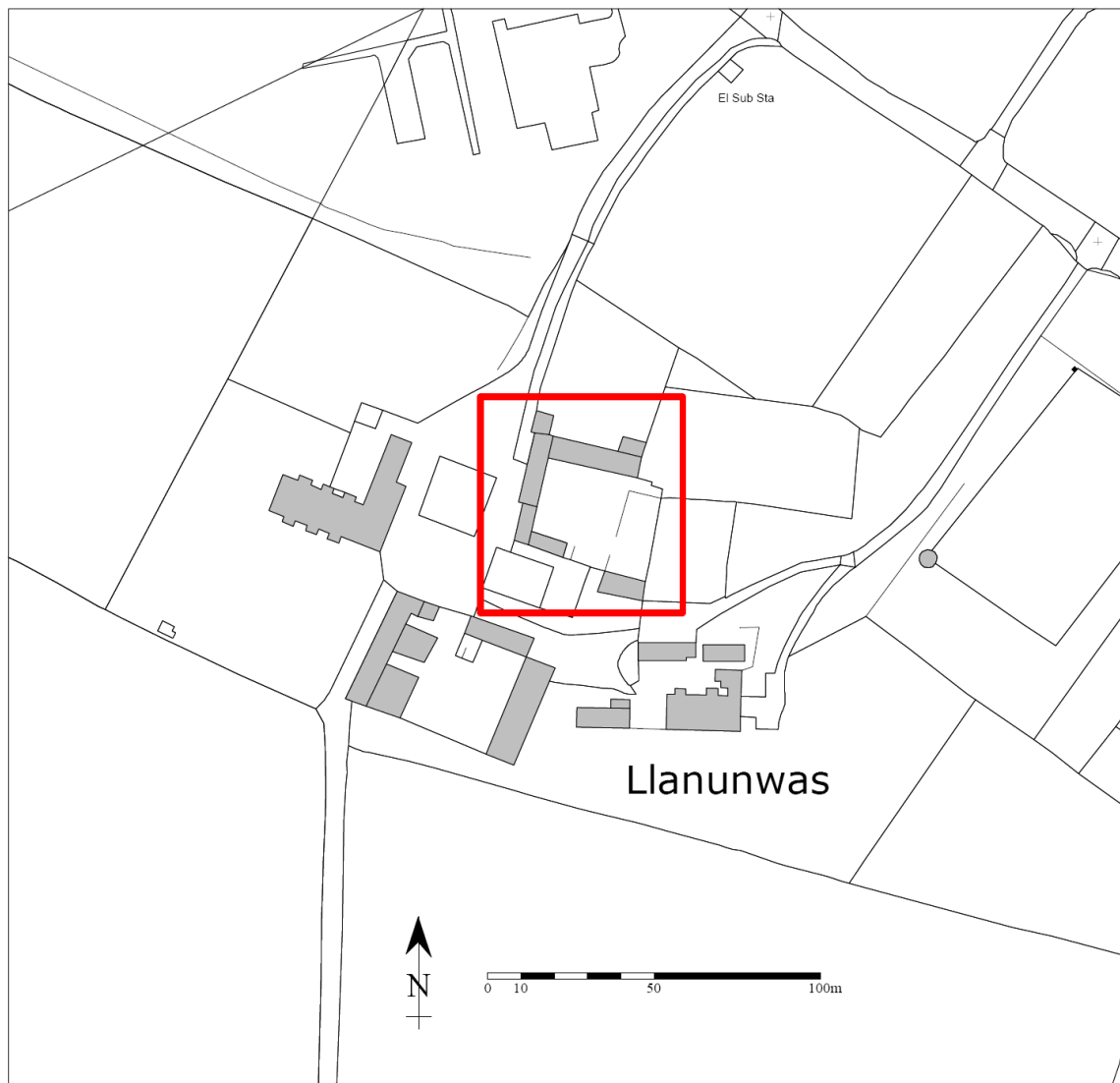
The farm is situated at the south-eastern end of the St. Davids Peninsula with a coastal plateau overlooking St. Brides Bay, within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.





**Figure 1:** Location plan of Llanunwas, based on Ordnance Survey

Reproduced from the 2003 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A



**Figure 2:** Location plan of the northern courtyard

## **METHODOLOGY**

The following methodology is taken from the written scheme of investigation prepared by DAT-FS. The works comply with the standards as defined in the English Heritage Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good practice 2006 publication and meeting the relevant standards and guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA).

### **Documentary research**

The following sources have been used to provide information about the historic background of the farm:

- Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record;
- Royal Commission on the Archaeological and Historic Monuments of Wales National Monuments Record (NMR); and
- Historical Cartographic Sources

### **Investigation**

- Field investigation entailed a thorough observation of all of the courtyard buildings external and internal fabric in order to ascertain details about their form, function, date and development.
- Vegetation clearance was necessary in advance of recording some of the buildings. Excessive tree and scrub growth prevented access to the ruinous remains of the eastern courtyard range and the interpretation of this part of the courtyard is based on cartographic evidence alone.
- Access was not possible into all of the courtyard buildings (carhouse, granary, stable) whilst stored goods obscured some of the internal detail in others (stable to west of threshing barn).

### **Survey and drawings**

The drawn record comprised the following elements:

- A measured sketch plan of all the buildings roughly dimensioned to 1:100 scale;
- Measured sketch elevations of walls only where vegetation limited the capture of important details by photograph, roughly dimensioned to 1:50 scale;
- Measured drawings showing the form of architectural features where they provide an aid to dating; and
- Provision of neat, annotated copies of field drawings (both paper and scanned digital copies) as an archive record.

### **Photography**

The photographic record comprised the following elements:

- A full photographic record of all the buildings and significant features within them. The photographs were taken on a digital SLR camera and have been downloaded in the archive stable TIFF format. For the purposes of compiling this report they have also been converted to a smaller -JPG format; and
- The photographic record included general views of the buildings, oblique and elevation views of the exterior of the buildings and any internal or external detail which is useful to understanding of the building's design, development or use.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Llanunwas is situated at the south-eastern end of the St. Davids Peninsula. The peninsula contains extensive and well preserved evidence of land use and intense ritual and religious activity from the prehistoric period onwards, from Neolithic chambered tombs and settlement to Bronze Age round barrows, Iron Age forts and the early medieval cult centre of St. Davids, St. Davids cathedral close and city.

Llanunwas lay within the medieval parish of Whitchurch in the hundred of Dewisland. It has been suggested as a putative chapel site (Rees 1932, Ludlow 2003) although this is based on place name evidence alone and no other sources are available to corroborate this. It would seem strange that there should be another *llan* name so near (Llanwngar, the neighbouring farm) yet there is no further evidence to indicate the presence of a chapel at Llanunwas. Documentary sources indicate a settlement there since at least the 12<sup>th</sup> century but there is no known medieval fabric surviving within the buildings of Llanunwas itself.

According to Francis Jones (1996, 119), "The earliest known family at Llanunwas was Crunn, recorded in western Dewisland from 1326 onwards. In 1597 Thomas William Crunn, yeoman, granted (in consideration of the marriage of his son John to Elizabeth daughter of John Bowen Cadigan of Henry's Moat) to Thomas Symmons of Martel, gent. And William James Harry of St. Davids parish, yeoman, three messuages and lands in the village and fields in Llanunwas-Ucha and -Isha, and Lethgell, and in Whitchurch parish, to be held to grantor for life, and then to the said John and Elizabeth."

The name persisted until the union of Anne Crunn to Francis Laugharne of Llanreithan in 1670. In 1716 the estate consisted of the two messuages of Llanunwas, the mill called Felin Porth-y-rhaw in Whitchurch and other properties within the parishes of St. Davids and Llandeloy.

Francis Laugharne was succeeded by his son, the Reverend Arthur Laugharne, rector of Dinas and Prebendary of Caerfai who married Jane Lloyd of Cards. His son, the Reverend William Laugharne was rector of Dinas, Manordivy and Llanllawer and died unmarried in February 1784-5. The inventory attached to his will gives us an insight into the state of the farmstead at the time, with a description of the outbuildings including: carthouse; poultry house; calves house; little stable; stoneloft, barn; malthouse; little loft; brewhouse; and the garden little house.

Llanunwas was sold on and in 1786 was owned and occupied by Gilbert James. The farm was passed down to his granddaughter Jane James who in 1799 married Joseph Harries of Priskilly, who then settled at Llanunwas. Their son, Gilbert James Harries, a Justice of the Peace and one time Deputy Lieutenant for country Pembrokeshire inherited the property and lived there with his wife Cecilia Anne Eliza Allen-Phillips from about 1830. The Harries family remained at Llanunwas until Gilbert Henry James Harries sold the estate in 1926.

The tithe map of 1839 records Llanunwas at 190 acres when belonging to Gilbert Samuel Harries (Figure 3). In 1875 85% of all holdings within the country were less than one hundred acres in size, with 3/5 of these being under twenty acres. Less than 1.5% were more than 300 acres (Nash 1989, 22). From this detail it is evident that only a few decades before, Llanunwas would have been one of the much larger farm units within the county, well within the top 20% of its grouping.

In 1935 the estate was purchased by Ewan Gibson-Davies, the grandfather of the present owners, and became an important dairy producer, especially during the war years. A state of the art red brick Alfa Laval dairy building from that era still stands on the western side of the farmstead today.

Numbers referring to the Plan.	NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF LANDS AND PREMISES.	STATE OF CULTIVATION.	QUANTITIES IN STATUTE MEASURE.			Amount of Rent-Charge apportioned upon the several Lands, and payable to the Heir		
257	Park well-wood	Meadow	7	1	34	1	10	6
258	Garden			2	18		7	1
259	Plantation	Plantation	1	1	4			
260	Park & dorch	Meadow	3				10	7
261	Dryden rhyd	Arable	7	3	20	1	3	4
262	Clyn	Pasture	13	3	16		19	1
263	Wergle felyn	Pasture	8	2	2	1	10	1
266	Old incampment	Pasture	2	2	6		2	10
267	Watson's place	Pasture		1	34			8
268	Park & felyn	Arable	7	2	24		16	3
269	Park & fog	Arable	4	2		1	6	11
270	Wergle felyn	Pasture	7	1	28	1	6	3
271	Llanunwas foch	Pasture	8		35	1	9	5
272	Llanunwas house garden	Horticulture	7	2	26	1	1	3
273	Park & gegin	Meadow	8	3	10	1	17	6
274	Park focher	Pasture	9	2		1	4	6
275	Park point	Arable	8	2	10		14	5
276	Pasture	Pasture	7				9	11
277	Cleft	Cleft		2				
278	Loch Warren	Pasture & cleft	12	1	32		9	2
279	Park Cwel	Pasture	10	1	10	1	3	4
280	Park cefn nolia	Pasture	5	1	24		10	3
281	Park Cadus	Pasture	7	2	32		17	8
282	Potatoe Garden	Pasture		2	35		2	1
283	Park Nolia	Arable	7	2	2	1	2	4
284	Part of mynydd idia	Pasture	5	3	1		17	
285	Part of mynydd idia	Pasture	8	2	22	1	1	7
286	Part of mynydd idia	Arable & cleft	11		24	1	2	
301	Spring	Spring		2				4
360	Garden				7			
392	Garden				7			
416	Waste	Pasture			15			
			196	2	44	24	1	4

**Figure 3:** Relevant extract of the Tithe apportionment for Whitchurch Parish 1838 comprising the farm and lands of Llanunwas, as owned and occupied by Gilbert Samuel Harries



## CARTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The courtyard has seen many phases of building and rebuilding throughout its history which would have been influenced by the agricultural trends of the time and the latest theories in design. Although the general sequence is clear, associating these developments with particular dates and periods is based solely on available map evidence, and the structural evidence; stylistic characteristics and analysis of the fixtures and fittings. Further examination of estate records, beyond the scope of this report might unearth additional evidence relating to the development of the farm.

The earliest map examined is the tithe map and apportionment for Whitchurch parish of 1839 (Figure 4). This map is a schematic representation which shows a layout similar to that of today with the main elements of mansion, malthouse and northern range identified. The northern range is depicted with an incomplete U-plan layout at that time.



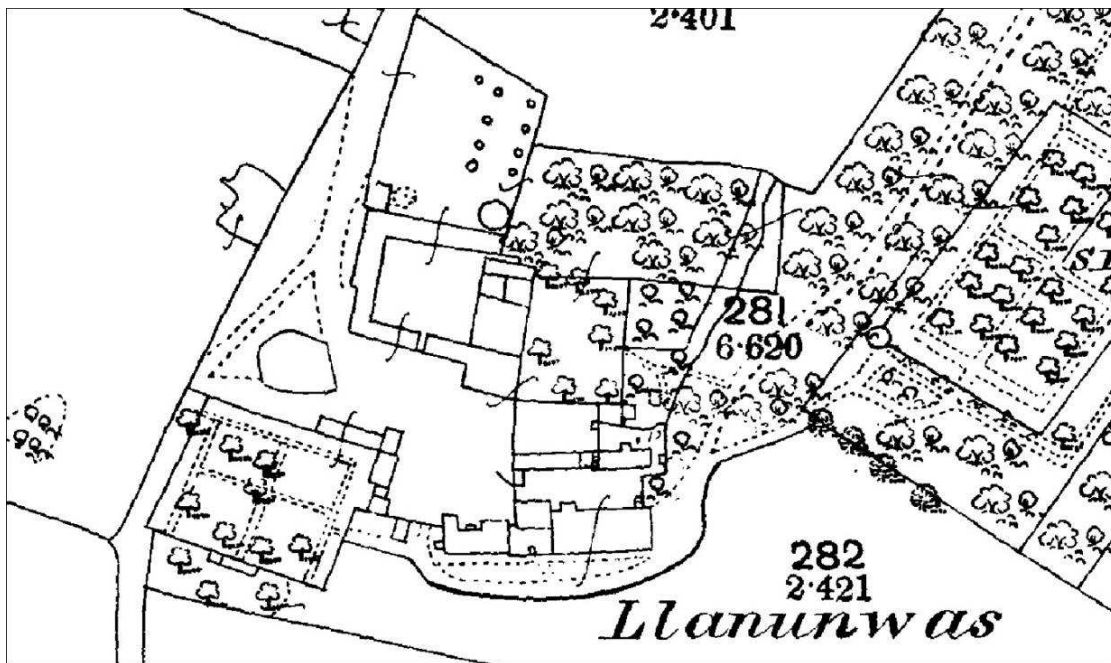
**Figure 4:** Tithe apportionment for Whitchurch parish 1839

The present, familiar farmstead layout first appears with the publication of the Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition map in 1889 (Figure 5), giving an accurate insight into the planning of the farmstead in terms of how the buildings were organised into associated functional groups.

Substantial ranges of buildings exist to the north and west of the mansion including; immediately to the north a long narrow range (?former stables, converted); a large building in line with the mansion to the west (malthouse, converted); and the walled garden and garden buildings beyond (converted). An enclosed formal orchard is shown some distance to the north-east of the mansion which is passed by on the main drive in.

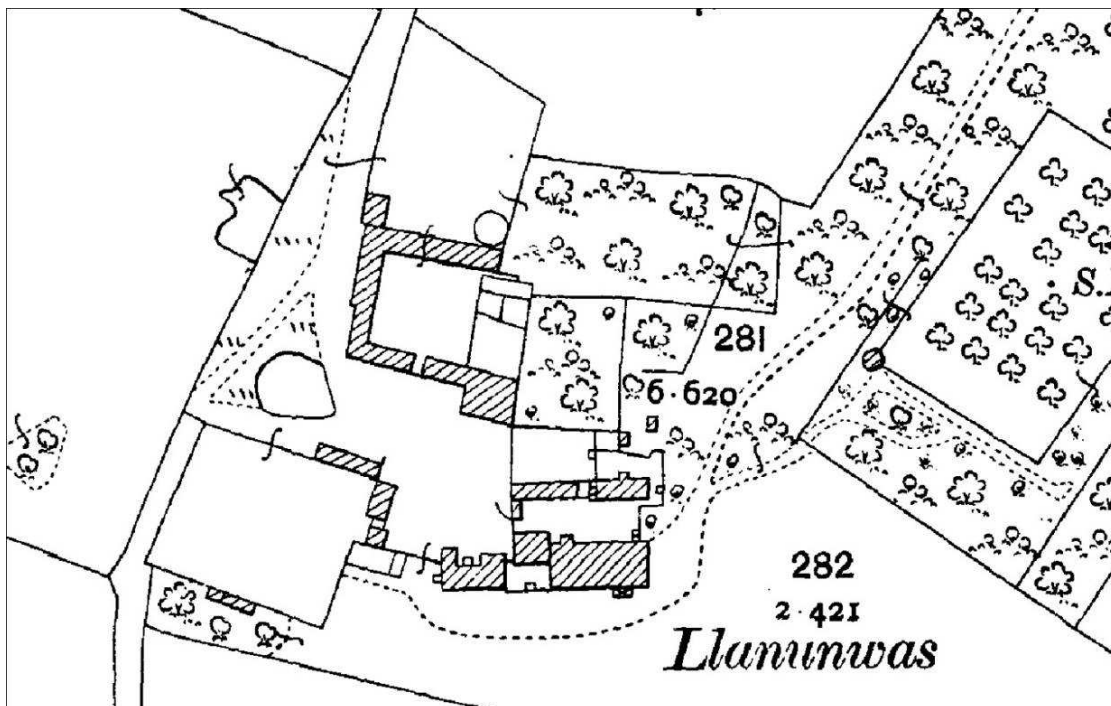
Set away from the house, garden and service buildings to the north and recorded with its enclosed layout for the first time, is the courtyard. A large enclosure behind is a rick yard, shown with two large circular features (horse ginny rings) and two parallel lines of smaller features (probably rick stands). The courtyard is enclosed by buildings on the north, west and south sides. The eastern side is

defined by an east-west aligned building with a pair of linking enclosures and another enclosure to the south.



**Figure 5:** Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition map of 1889.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1908 (Figure 6) shows this layout basically unaltered, although with the rick stands and one of the horse ginny rings now missing. The eastern building and second ginny ring are marked in outline suggesting that they were roofless and had fallen out of use by that time.



**Figure 6:** Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map of 1908.

## BUILDING DESCRIPTION

### Courtyard Layout

At 190 acres in 1839, Llanunwas would have been one of the larger farms within the region. In its courtyard plan and formalised division of space and layout the design was clearly influenced by the latest contemporary theories on the convenience of citing certain buildings in relation to others.

This layout, recorded in accurate detail for the first time on the Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition (1889) map, remains essentially unaltered today although dereliction and the invasion of trees and scrub growth have affected parts of the complex. Conversion has led to the loss of original pattern of openings in the stable on the north side. Despite such loss of detail, much can still be learned about the function of the original buildings. The layout of the existing courtyard and identification and function of structures is included on Figure 7.

### The North Range

On the north side of the courtyard is the **threshing barn**, a large two storey building, aligned east-west of stone rubble brought to rough courses (Photo 1). The barn has a corrugated concrete roof over replacement (non-original) A-frame softwood trusses, some of which show signs of having been repaired.

The barn has opposing doorways which are offset towards the left (west) end of the building; a small winnowing door in the south wall, and a high cart entrance in the north. The doorways face each other across a slate slab threshing floor. High up in the walls are seven, parallel evenly spaced pairs of ventilation slits, now blocked, which would have provided ventilation to the extensive storage and processing areas to the right of the doors.

Abutting the rear (north) wall of the threshing barn is an early 20<sup>th</sup> century **engine house** of random stone rubble construction (Photos 2), with roughly squared quoins with a single pitch corrugated concrete roof. The engine house has a wide entrance in the west wall and two window openings in the north wall. Inserted red brick dressings and use of concrete replacing lime mortar indicate that these openings have been modified in the past. Nothing remains of the engine although a small square opening for an axle shaft is situated approximately two metres high up in the south wall, linking to the threshing barn.

The present rectangular engine house replaced an earlier, circular structure depicted on the Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of 1906. A curved section of walling visible externally in the east wall is probably a remnant of this earlier building. The circular form suggests a likely function as a covered horse engine in a location where horses would have provided a more reliable source of motive power than, say water powered machinery, given the lack of suitable water supply.

In line with the threshing barn and adjoining it to the left (west) is a long, low building, today much modified although retaining enough original features to suggest that it was a **stable** (Photos 3 & 4). The stable is of stone rubble construction with a corrugated concrete roof. The front wall was substantially rebuilt in modern brick meaning that the pattern of original openings is now altered (Photo 3). Original doorways, with red brick heads, remain in the middle of the front wall and at the left (west) end of the range. Three window openings spaced between the doorways with heads of modern brick are recent additions. The rear wall is also substantially modified and a doorway and two windows to either side are later additions (Photo 4). A blocked door opening to the left with original red brick head indicates the position of one of the original doorways (Photo 4).



The internal fixtures and partitions have been removed and the original stalling arrangements cannot now be recovered in detail. The cobble floor remains and the pattern of cobbles indicating that horses were housed in stalls against the back wall (Photo 5). A drainage passage of river worn cobbles runs parallel to the front wall. Cobbles around the doorways show evidence of chipping, probably from damage by horse shoes.

### The West Range

Adjoining the stables at right angles is a roofless and overgrown **cow shed**, aligned north – south (Photos 6, 7 & 8). The cow shed is of rubble stone construction, brought to courses and would have had a slate roof originally. Doorways have red brick heads in a similar fashion to the adjoining stable. The building interior is heavily overgrown and the original internal layout now difficult to discern.

It has, from left (south): three high window openings then a wide doorway (Photo 6), then four wide window openings then a wide doorway (Photo 7) (Figure 8). Another doorway exists in the south wall, offset to the left (west). The opposite north end of the building leads directly to a feed preparation room. Despite the loss of the historic stalling and tethering arrangements internally, some idea of the original layout can be inferred by the pattern of openings. Thus, it is likely that cattle were stalled facing across the length of the building onto a feed passage which ran the length of the rear wall. A doorway leads into the feed passage on the western side of the southern façade of the building (Photo 9).

The **feed preparation room** adjoins the cow shed to the north, forming a right angle to the stable to the east (Photos 10, 11, 12 & 13). The building is now derelict with the roof in a state of semi-collapse. It is of random rubble stone construction with wooden pegged slates brought to diminishing courses over rough A-frames (Photo 13). It is a small single storey building, with a small axle shaft opening in the east wall (Photo 10), a wide cart entrance in the north wall (Photo 11) and blind in the west wall, although a small window has since been filled in (Photo 12). The large wooden lintel over the cart opening shows evidence of re-use in cut off wooden pegs and nail holes.

That this building was a feed preparation room can be inferred by its proximity to the cow shed and threshing barn, as well as the evidence for horse powered machinery indicated by factors such as the engine shaft opening and cast supporting bracket. A circular feature is marked in outline on the Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition (1889) map is thought to indicate an outdoor horse engine or “ginny ring” used to power a gorse mill or chaff cutter, further indicating the structure was a feed preparation room. No surface evidence of the former ginny ring remains.

Abutting the opposite (south) end of the cow shed is a small, low building of rubble stone construction with a wooden pegged grouted slate roof, brought to diminishing courses over wooden pegged A-frame trusses. The building shows evidence of re-use and modernisation over the years although latterly was a **loose box** and **stable** (Photos 14, 15, 16, 17 & 18). The building appears to have been truncated when the later adjoining cow house was built. Later stone courses indicate that the wall tops were raised by about 0.4m sometime in the past. Door and windows openings have unpainted wooden lintels.

Loose boxes provided open housing for young stock or fat stock. The example at Llanunwas has a manger running along the west wall. A former hayrack above the manger is evidenced by an impression in the layers of limewash (Photo 18).

The loose box was lofted originally and had a doorway and two windows to the right (north) in the front wall. The windows were partially blocked to form ventilation slits but the original doorway remains (Photo 15).

The **stable** is to the south of the loose box, entered from the farmyard in the south wall (Photos 16 & 17) and has a small window in the west wall (Photo 15). In common with the loose box the roof is of rubble stone construction with a wooden pegged grouted slate roof, brought to diminishing courses over wooden pegged A-frame trusses and follows a hipped design. The smallest unit within the group, it has a manger and hay rack against the south wall (Photo 18).

### The South Ranges

On either side of the main entrance on the south side of the courtyard are two buildings of roughly equal size. The buildings are ruinous meaning that their original function is now difficult to discern.

The western range is roofless and stands to eaves height. It has two wide doorways in the front wall and a manger along the back wall. A step-up of approximately 0.3m separates the building interior from the level of the courtyard outside. This building would have been a **stock shed** in which cattle were housed loose, penned behind gates (Figure 19).

The eastern range is now a ruin and only the rubble covered wall bases survive (Photo 20). Having similar dimensions to the western range, it may have been a second stock shed. Our knowledge of this building may be enhanced when the rubble is cleared in future.

### The Eastern Side of the Courtyard

The eastern side of the courtyard is ruinous and overgrown. Dense scrub and vegetation prevented its recording and interpretation.

The historic maps (Ordnance Survey 1889, 1908) show a building aligned east-west at the north end with a pair of linking enclosures and another larger enclosure to the south. The building is marked in outline on these maps suggesting that it had already become redundant by that time. A conjectural interpretation of this layout of a building with adjoining enclosures fits with the standard for shelter sheds where cattle could enter or leave at will. This type of building was typically found on larger farms with an emphasis on cattle production. Vegetation and rubble clearance in future may elicit a better understanding of this part of the farm courtyard.

### The Cart Shed/ Stable/ Granary

The derelict, roofless cart shed/ stable/ granary is situated outside the farm courtyard to the south (Photos 21, 22 & 23). It is a two storey building of rubble stone construction brought to rough courses with roughly squared quoins. The show piece of the farmstead complex, the building shows greater elaboration in design than the others within the group in the fine cut stone arch to the cart shed and red brick dovecote (nesting holes) in the west gable wall, situated around an ornate arched brick window opening (Photo 21).

The west gable wall has a wide arched entrance in dressed stone giving access to the **cart shed** (Photo 21). A recess positioned centrally above possibly would have held a date stone.

The rest of the ground floor provided stabling. The south wall has a doorway then a window at the right end (Photo 22). Three evenly spaced ventilation slits

provided additional ventilation (Photo 22). This arrangement is mirrored in the opposite (north) wall (Photo 23). The interior of the building was not seen.

Above was the **granary** loft, accessed by a doorway at first floor level in the end (east) gable wall. No steps remain and none are depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1889 or 1908 maps. It is possible that the granary was accessed via a set of wooden steps. Granary openings include three windows spaced evenly in the south wall (Photo 22) and two opposite windows at either end of the north wall (Photo 23). In the west wall is an ornate arched brick window opening (photo 21). The window is positioned centrally within an end-gable pigeon loft, made up of nine courses of red brick nest boxes.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Phasing and development**

The courtyard has seen several phases of building and re-building throughout its history.

We know from documentary records that there has been a settlement at Llanunwas since at least the 14<sup>th</sup> century. However nothing of the farmstead itself is reported until the inventory attached to the will of the Reverend William Laugharne in 1784-5. The inventory lists the outbuildings including a "carthouse, poultry house, calves house, little stable, stoneloft, barn, malthouse, little loft, brewhouse and the garden little house" (after Jones 1996, 119). The detail is insufficient to permit comparison with the existing buildings. The tithe map (1839) is a schematic representation only and does not identify individual buildings in accurate detail so is of limited use in understanding the evolution of the farmstead. As such we are left with only the structural evidence by which to interpret its development.

In west Wales compared with other parts of the country, farmsteads tend to be of fairly late date and few pre-nineteenth century examples survive (Wiliam 1986, 42). Wooden pegged A-frame trusses with peg hung slates on split oak battens in the feed preparation room and loose box/stable range are the earliest diagnostic features at Llanunwas. These probably date from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. A-frame trusses above the threshing barn and stable ranges are also wooden pegged, but lack any further diagnostic detail since the whole northern part of the courtyard was re-covered with modern materials. Evidence of roofing is entirely absent in all of the other courtyard buildings. These buildings share other similar stylistic traits in having wooden door and window lintels, whilst they also have in common evidence of later alterations; to the feed preparation room when the axle shaft opening was inserted and a window was blocked; and in the loose box when the windows were part blocked to form ventilation slits and the loft was removed.

It is possible that these buildings were modified in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century as part of a programme of remodelling when the complex took on its courtyard plan. The farmstead was not an entirely new set of buildings as was advocated by the agricultural improvers of the time, but perhaps comprised new structures incorporated into the existing complex.

Red brick door and window heads define this phase which sees the appearance of the cow house, stable and cart shed/stable/granary ranges. Its use was not restricted to the northern courtyard. Similar door heads as well as arches are also present in the malthouse and the carthouses adjoining the walled garden. The conversion of the other buildings within the farmstead group has meant a loss of information hindering further analysis. The use of red brick here indicates a later 19<sup>th</sup> century date for this phase of building, although it had evidently been completed before the Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition map was published in 1889.

The Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition mapping (1889, 1908) indicates that the farmstead changed little over the turn of the century although the covered engine house behind the threshing barn and the eastern courtyard building became roofless and fell out of use in the intervening years.

The final phase in the historic development of the farmyard came during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when the engine house was replaced by a rectangular lean to structure which likely would have housed an oil or diesel engine.

## CONCLUSION

Towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century we see the courtyard benefitting from the evolution of an organised arrangement around a planned yard, laid out in such a way as to facilitate the greatest economy in the use of labour.

The threshing barn backed onto the rickyard where the crop would have been stored in ricks, the sheaves being brought into the barn for threshing as and when required. Sited between the threshing barn and the feed preparation room, the stable would have benefitted from good access to both fodder and bedding. At right angles to the stable, and next to the feed preparation room was the cow shed which has cattle tied in one row facing across the building onto a feed passage was common in areas of later 19<sup>th</sup> century rebuilding (William 1986, 95). The stock shed (?sheds) of the south range would have housed the loose cattle and tended to be associated with the larger farms with a greater emphasis on beef cattle.

What then were the causes of the farms remodelling during the 19<sup>th</sup> century? In order to understand these developments it is important to consider Llanunwas against the backdrop of agricultural change of the time. Arable production was obviously an important consideration, as is evidenced by the threshing barn and large rickyard, although arguably cattle came to play an increasingly important role in the economy of the farm. The second half the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw a wider trend of arable giving way to pasture and cattle rearing with dairying increasing after the 1860s with the arrival of the railways (Nash 1989, 30).

This emphasis may be mirrored by the historical evidence at Llanunwas as the 1784-5 will inventory mentions little about cattle housing, yet by the time the tithe apportionment was completed in (1839) approximately 120 acres of pasture and meadow land were recorded with less than 50 acres of arable.

Cattle farming was still important 100 years later when Ewan Gibson-Davies acquired the estate. Llanunwas became a progressive dairy farm, becoming a major agricultural producer especially during the war years. A state of the art red brick Alfa Laval dairy building still stands on the western side of the farmyard today.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Parts of the courtyard were not visible due to vegetation growth or being covered over by building rubble, but can be expected to retain additional structural or other information which will provide useful detail to enhance the understanding of the buildings. Ideally these areas should be photographed by the applicant as the site is cleared prior to construction work commencing.

Bearing in mind the above conclusions, and the degree of recording undertaken for this report, no need for further, professional recording of the buildings has been identified.

## **REFERENCES**

### **Maps**

Tithe Map & Apportionment for Whitchurch Parish (1839)

Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition (1889) Pembrokeshire Sheet 21.01, 25"

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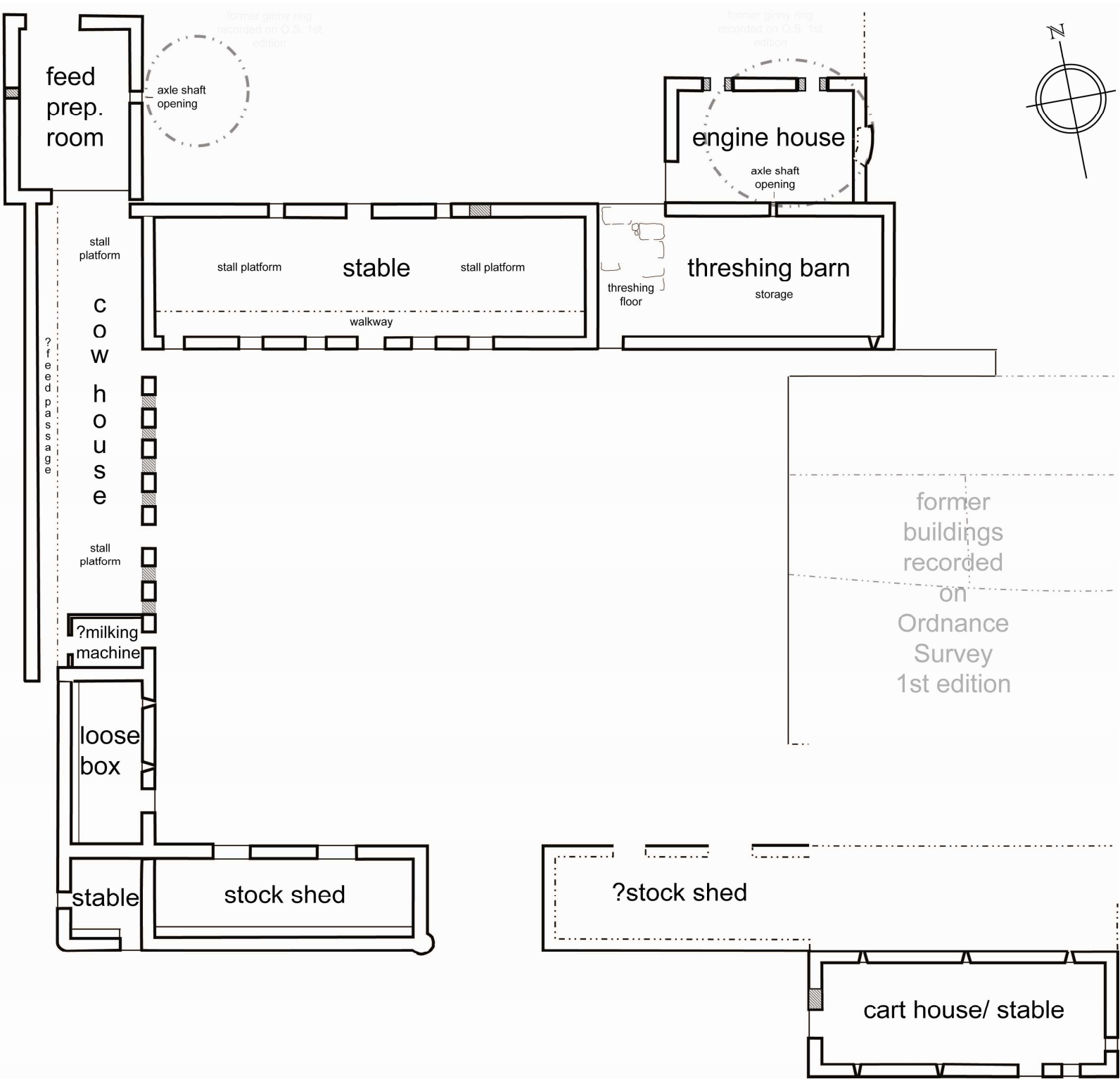
Rees, W 1932 Reconstruction Map of Wales and Border in the 14<sup>th</sup> century





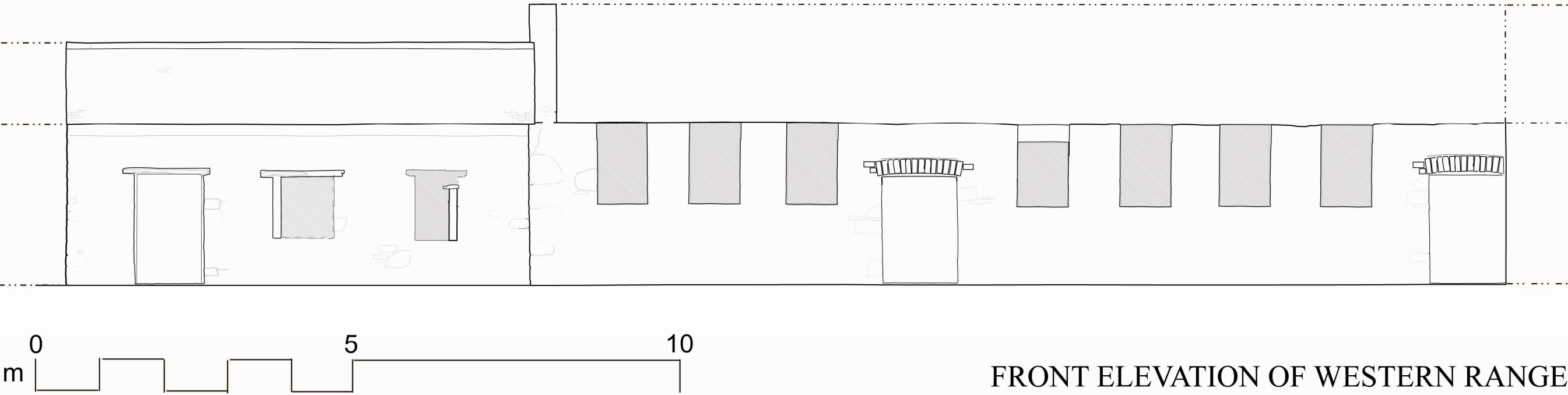
# The Northern Courtyard Llanunwas Solva

NGR SN79312441  
Scale: 1:100 (approx.)



# The Northern Courtyard Llanunwas Solva

NGR SN79312441  
Scale: 1:50 (approx.)



## PHOTOGRAPHS



**Photo 1:** South facing wall of threshing barn



**Photo 2:** North elevation of threshing barn and engine house





**Photo 3:** South elevation of stable



**Photo 4:** North elevation of stable





**Photo 5:** Stable floor - stall platform, gutter and river worn cobbles



**Photo 6:** East elevation of cow house (north)





**Photo 7:** East elevation of cow house (south)



**Photo 8:** Rear wall of cow house - facing north





**Photo 9:** Cow shed detail - feed passage doorway



**Photo 10:** East elevation of feed preparation room





**Photo 11:** North elevation of feed preparation room



**Photo 12:** West facing elevation of feed preparation room





**Photo 13:** Feed preparation room interior -peg hung slates on split oak battens



**Photo 14:** East elevation of loose box





**Photo 15:** West elevation of loose box



**Photo 16:** South elevation of stable





**Photo 17:** Detail of stable - south elevation



**Photo 18:** Stable interior - facing north





**Photo 19:** North elevation of stock shed



**Photo 20:** North elevation of former building to west of stock shed





**Photo 21:** West facing elevation of cart house/ stable/ granary



**Photo 22:** South elevation of cart house/ stable/ granary





**Photo 23:** Rear wall of cart house, stable, granary - facing south east



**Photo 24:** Modern dairy buildings to west of northern courtyard


# THE NORTHERN COURTYARD, LLANUNWAS, SOLVA: ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2010/36  
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 99808

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by

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Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith  
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*Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau  
sydd gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn*

**As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any  
comments you may have on the content or presentation of this report**





