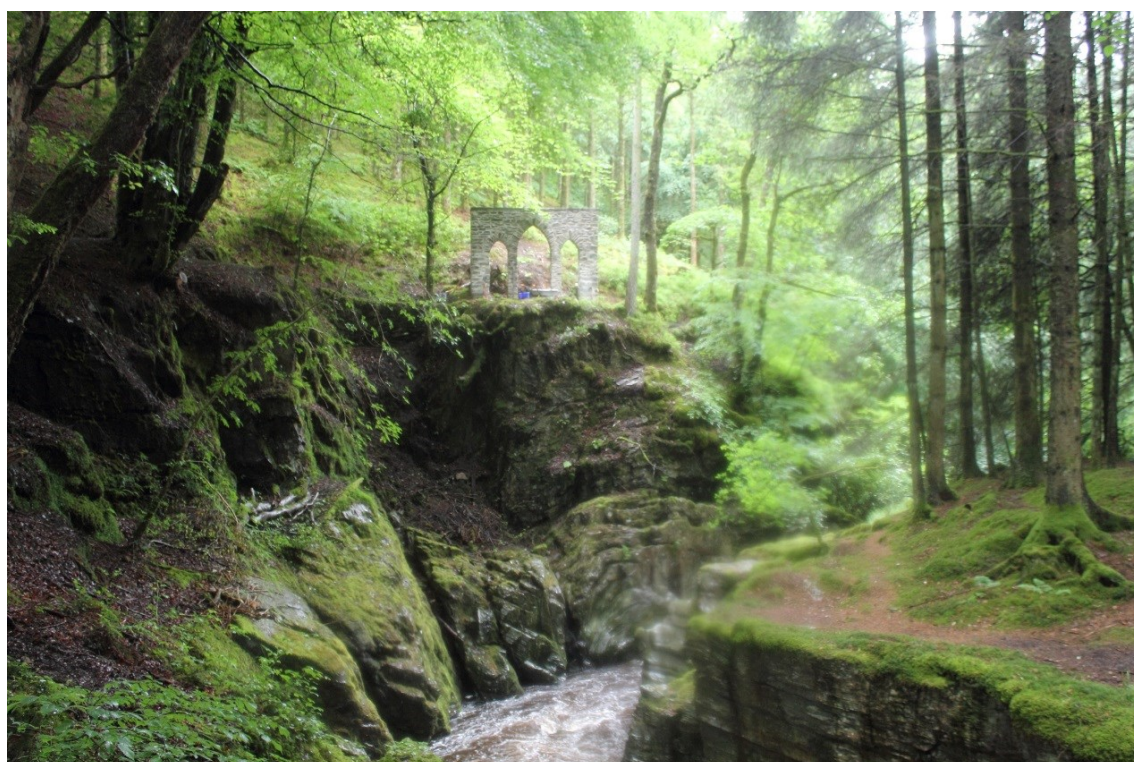


**GOTHIC ARCADE, HAFOD,
CEREDIGION:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF 2016
(NGR SN77437355)**



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
For: The Hafod Trust



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Mehefin 2016

June 2016



**GOTHIC ARCADE, HAFOD, CEREDIGION:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
2016**

Gan / By

Fran Murphy

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GOTHIC ARCADE, HAFOD, CEREDIGION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2016

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**GOTHIC ARCADE, HAFOD, CEREDIGION:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2016**

SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by David Newnham, on behalf of The Hafod Trust, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with clearance work at the Gothic Arcade, Hafod, Ceredigion (NGR SN 7743173560).

The Gothic Arcade (PRN 33026, SAM CD172) is a scheduled ancient monument that lies within an estate designed in the late eighteenth century by Thomas Johnes. He built a new house in this remote location and laid out its grounds in the "Picturesque" style which was fashionable at the time. Hafod soon became an essential destination for visitors in search of "wild nature" and the paths, views, gardens and mansion were the subject of numerous contemporary accounts. The Gothic Arcade is not a well-documented site. The only known illustration, by John Piper in 1939, is titled *Hafod: Nash Folly and Ystwyth gorge* and shows a structure of three gothic arches, the central one slightly larger than those flanking it. In 2003 the surviving remains consisted of two square masonry piers 0.6m square and 2.2m - 2.4m high with very low remains of two smaller piers, c.0.3m square, between them, located on a rubble strewn terrace cut into a steep slope on the edge of a narrow gorge of the Ystwyth. It seems highly likely that this was a summerhouse with a three-arched gothic arcade façade, from which fine views up the Ystwyth towards the chain bridge (PRN 33025) were obtained.

The arcade structure has now been restored and the Hafod Trust wished to excavate within the arcade, removing the build-up of leaf mould, soil and stone to identify any surviving floor levels and/or masonry. Polly Groom, Inspector of Ancient Monuments Cadw, requested as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during the works to identify and record any archaeological remains exposed by the works.

In addition the Hafod Trust requested DAT Archaeological Services undertake the archaeological recording of a recently located corn drying kiln in woodland. This is associated with PRN 26543, the farmstead of Cefn yr Esgair.

The watching brief was undertaken and completed on 13th June 2016 during a day of heavy rain. The excavation of the soil and rubble from within the Gothic Arcade was undertaken by David Newnham and staff colleagues from the Hafod Trust. Approximately 0.60m of soil and rubble was removed from the rear of the Gothic Arcade. This material appeared to have originated from the collapse of a rear dry stone retaining wall built into the artificially cut slope.

No evidence of any internal floor surfaces was revealed during the excavation and it is probable that the exposed bedrock comprised the floor of the arcade. No evidence of any roofing material was recovered from the excavation.

The earthwork of the corn drier was located within dense conifer woodland approximately 200m NNW of the Gothic Arcade, somewhat terraced into the south facing slope. The corn drier is 'teardrop' shaped and aligned N-S with the flue at the southern narrow end of the 'teardrop'. The earthwork is now recorded as PRN 109380 in the Historic Environment Record.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological services were commissioned by David Newnham, Hafod Estate manager, on behalf of the Hafod Trust to provide an archaeological scheme of works to address the potential impacts of ground works associated with clearance work at the Gothic Arcade, Hafod, Ceredigion (centered on NGR SN7743173560; Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The Gothic Arcade (PRN 33026, SAM CD172) is a scheduled ancient monument. It is not a well-documented site. The only known illustration, by John Piper in 1939, is titled Hafod: Nash Folly and Ystwyth gorge and shows a structure of three gothic arches, the central one slightly larger than those flanking it.
- 1.1.3 In 2003 the surviving remains consisted of two square masonry piers 0.6m square and 2.2m - 2.4m high with very low remains of two smaller piers, c.0.3m square, between them, located on a rubble strewn terrace cut into a steep slope on the edge of a narrow gorge of the Ystwyth. It seems highly likely that this was a summerhouse with a three-arched gothic arcade façade, from which fine views up the Ystwyth towards the chain bridge were obtained (Murphy 2003).
- 1.1.4 In recent years the masonry structure has undergone restoration and following this work there was the wish to excavate within the arcade, removing the build-up of leaf mould and soil, to identify any surviving floor levels and/or masonry.
- 1.1.5 This excavation was carried out by volunteers but at the request of Polly Groom (Inspector of Ancient Monuments Cadw) an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent.
- 1.1.6 The condition was placed on the consent, as there was a strong possibility that the proposed works would uncover archaeological material associated with the original construction of the Gothic Arcade, such as floors, paths and structural elements and that these deposits and/or features would require archaeological recording during the proposed works.
- 1.1.7 The purpose of a watching brief, as laid down in the IFA S&G AWB is:
 - To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.
 - To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment.

1.2 Scope of Project

- 1.2.1 A Written Specification of Works for the watching brief was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services prior to the commencement of works. The specification outlined the methodologies by which the watching brief should be undertaken including those:
 - To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.

- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

1.3 Report Outline

- 1.3.1 This report describes the location of the development works along with its archaeological background, and provides a summary and discussion of the archaeological watching brief and its results.

1.4 Abbreviations

- 1.4.1 Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record¹ (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services – DAT-FS; Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management – DAT-HM; Scheduled Ancient Monument – SAM; Written Scheme of Investigation – WSI; RCAHMW – Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

1.5 Illustrations

- 1.5.1 Printed map extracts are not necessarily produced to their original scale.

1.6 Timeline

- 1.6.1 The following timeline (Table 1) is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text.

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 1086	
Medieval Period –	1086 – 1536	
Post-Medieval Period ² –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20 th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales.

¹ Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo SA19 6AF.

² The post-medieval and industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional Historic Environment Record as held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust

2. THE SITE

2.1 Location and Topography

- 2.1.1 The Gothic Arcade is an element of the Ystwyth Gorge Walk. This spectacular route takes the walker on a long, narrow loop up one side of the Ystwyth gorge and down the other.
- 2.1.2 For approximately 55m west of the Gothic Arcade the walk runs on a rock-cut shelf, gently rising to the east. It was designed so that when approached from the west the arcade itself is hidden behind a rock outcrop and is not revealed until the walker is just a few metres away. At the Gothic Arcade the path widens onto a terrace on which the structure is constructed (Photo 1).



Photo 1: The view from the Ystwyth Gorge Walk towards the Gothic Arcade – looking roughly northwest.

- 2.1.3 Fine views to the east up the narrowest point of the Ystwyth gorge towards and beyond the chain bridge 35m away are obtained from the Gothic Arcade. The path then continues along a rock-cut shelf towards the Chain Bridge (Photo 2).
- 2.1.4 The bedrock of the area is mudstone and sandstone of the Devil's Bridge Formation. This is an interbedded sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 428 to 444 million years ago in the Silurian Period (based on information from the British Geological Survey <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed on 27/01/2016). The superficial geology is not recorded.



Photo 2: The view from the Gothic Arcade upstream towards the Chain Bridge (PRN 33025).

2.2 Historical Background and Archaeological Potential

- 2.2.1 The locations of known archaeological sites within close vicinity of the Gothic Arcade are shown in Figure 3. Details of the sites are listed in Table 2. These sites are some of the large number of sites recorded by Dyfed Archaeological Trust during fieldwork in the late 1990s (Ludlow 1999).
- 2.2.3 The history of Hafod has been well documented but the site of the Gothic Arcade is poorly documented. The name Gothic Arcade is a recent title and it is not known whether the ruin was named in the past. The following summary of the history of the site is from Murphy (2003):

*George Cumberland in his **An Attempt to Describe Hafod**, published in 1796, describes an unfinished walk (the New Walk) on the south bank of the Ystwyth, and although he does not mention the Gothic Arcade he records:*

'we should descend to the point where the whole Ystwyth is seen, pouring through one of the noblest masses of rock that can be imagined, worn, by the winters' floods, into a pleasingly irregular form'.

A star indicating a fine point of view is marked in the approximate position of the Gothic Arcade on the map accompanying Cumberland's description. Both Cumberland and the map have the walk continuing upstream past the Gothic Arcade. His viewpoint might either be an earthwork platform situated 8m to the west and 4m above the Gothic Arcade or a rocky platform, now mainly removed by Ystwyth floods, within the rocky gorge below. As one had to descend to it, the latter is the more likely.

The Rev. Henry Thomas Payne in 1815 provides the only description of the Gothic Arcade:

'Pass under a rude arch of stone where a pretty scene opens, and proceed till you cross a curious chain bridge from which you command a Cascade. We then pursue the same line downwards but on the opposite bank of the River'.

Thomas Johnes reported in a letter of 1804 (*A Documented History of Hafod*, Letters vii) that he had finished the New Walk, and that he was planning the chain bridge or swing bridge referred to by Payne. However, 1815 is the last reference to the New Walk (and the Chain Bridge), and it is therefore likely that this circuit began to fall into disuse from this date. Thomas Johnes died in 1816. The New Walk on the south and north banks of the Ystwyth is shown on the 1st Edition 1:2500 map of 1888, although the section on the south side stops 70m short of the Gothic Arcade and that on the north side terminates at the Chain Bridge – the bridge itself is not shown.

John Piper's *Hafod: Nash Folly and Ystwyth Gorge* 1939 (Ingrams and Piper 1983, illus 109) is the only known illustration of the Gothic Arcade (Figure 1). This small highly stylised oil painting shows a grey structure of three gothic arches. The central arch is slightly wider and taller than those flanking it and shading seems to show a bow-fronted structure.



Figure 1: John Piper's *Hafod: Nash Folly and Ystwyth Gorge* 1939, reproduced from Ingrams and Piper 1983, illus 109.

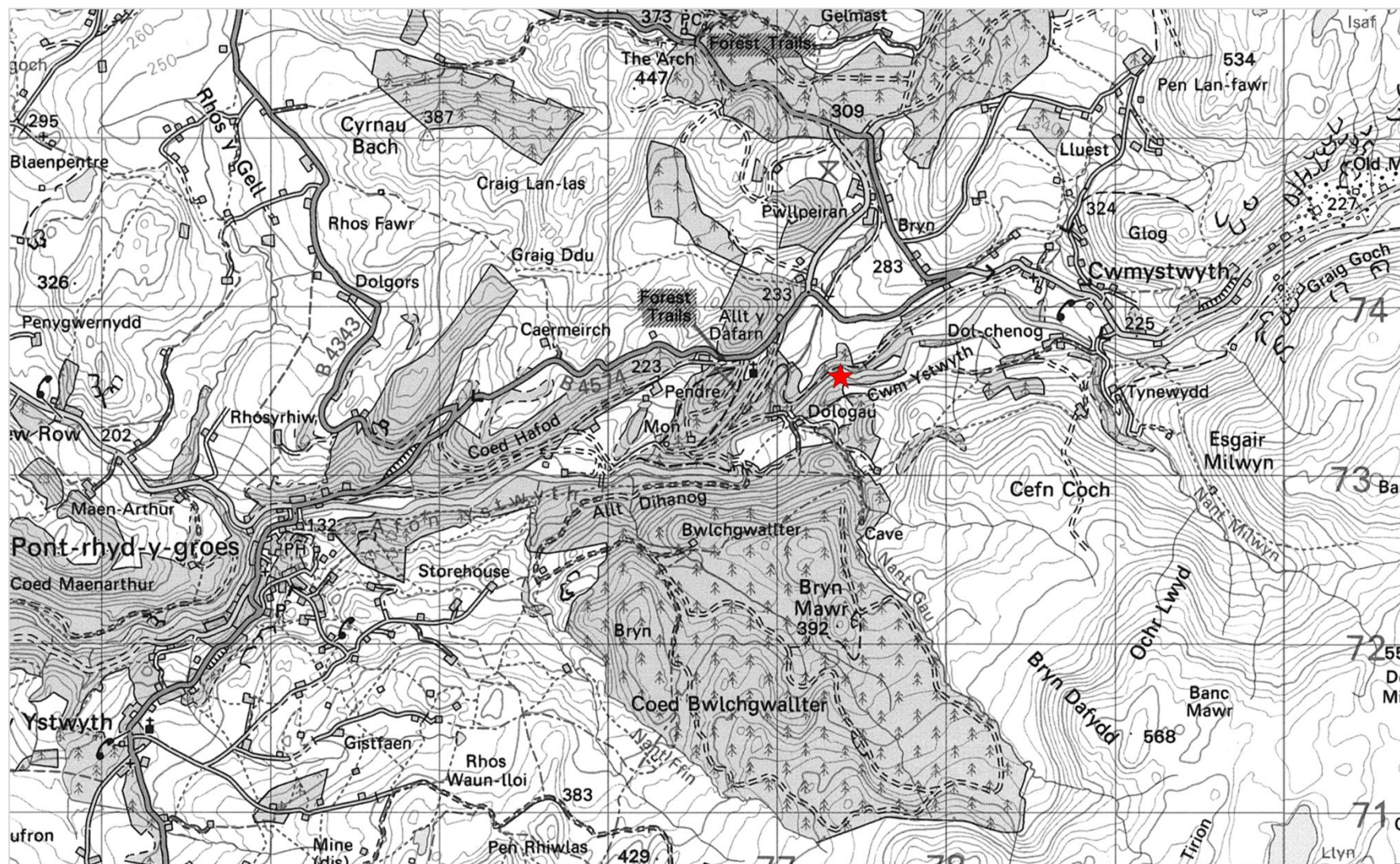


Figure 2: Map showing the location of the Gothic Arcade (within red star) based on the Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map.

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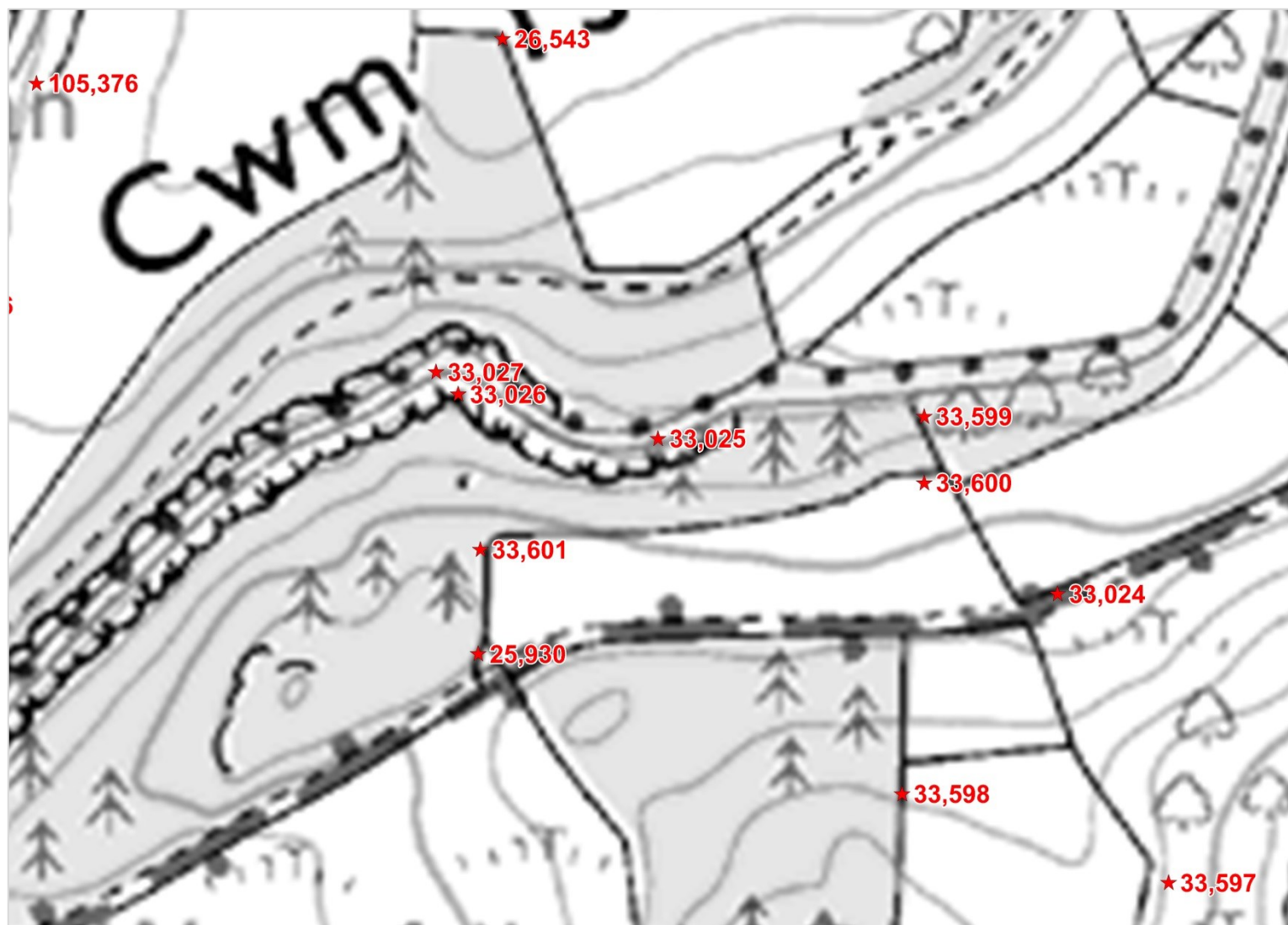


Figure 3: An extract of the Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map showing the locations of known archaeological sites within close vicinity of the Gothic Arcade (PRN 33026). The sites are listed in Table 2 below.

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PRN	Name	Type	Period	Summary	NGR
25930	DOLOGAU; LOGAULAS NEW; PONTYSTWYTH; HAFOD	Metal Mine	Post-medieval	19th century metal mine workings. A shaft or adit c. 3m dia and 2m deep, a 2m wide 15m long trench, and low spoil heaps lie in forestry. KM, DAT, 1999	SN7738973473
26543	CAEGLAS GAWEN - CEFN YR ESGAIR	Farmstead	Medieval/Post-medieval	Farm depopulated after 1796. CS.Briggs & CR.Kerkham 1988. The location of this farmstead was not examined in the 1996 survey. This farmstead is marked on a 1781 estate map, but had disappeared by the tithe survey. Now marked by rubble spread and a wall foundation. KM, DAT, 1999	SN77407375
33024	CAE PANT Y RHEDIG	Trackway	Post-medieval	A 3m wide track that for part of its course runs on an earthwork terrace. It is still used. KM DAT 1996	SN77657350
33025	YSTWYTH CHAIN BRIDGE	Bridge	Post-medieval	Thomas Johnes built this bridge as part of this picturesque landscape at Hafod. This bridge is not referred to by Cumberland in 1795 when the New Walk then continued upstream past this site to the east. It was constructed by 1806, providing a means by which the walker could cross the Ystwyth and return downstream along a new walk on the north bank. In 1991, Kerkham and Briggs (p.171) drew attention to Wood, who in 1813 described it as: a bridge formed of chains, with planks laid across, hanging over a rocky chasm, and to Rees (1815) who saw it as an elevated chain bridge. In 1998, Salvatore Garfi carried out a small excavation and survey of this site for the Hafod Trust. The following description is based on information in his report. The remains of the bridge comprise two pairs of neo-classical columns on opposite banks of the Ystwyth. A rectangular fitting is positioned between each pair of columns. Set back and in line with the columns and rectangular fittings are three anchor pins each with a horizontal rod and eyelet attached. Remains of cables (30mm diameter) attached to the eyelets are guided through the fittings for the columns and the central rectangular fitting. From historical descriptions it is assumed that the cables replaced chains. Gangway wires or cables would have been tensioned on the eyelets on the columns. Columns, fittings and anchor pins are located in holes drilled in the bedrock and held fast by poured lead. Clay silt and gravel laid over bedrock provided the foundation for a path consisting of fine- to medium-gravel in a silt and fine sand matrix. The Ystwyth at this point runs in a narrow gorge. The bridge would have been 7.4m long and 0.9m wide, with the decking approximately 7m above the water. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The bridge has now been fully restored and is one of the highlights of a visit to Hafod. K Murphy 25 July 2012 Described by Kerkham and Briggs (p171). Two cast iron posts for a suspension or chain bridge with smaller posts for restraining cables survive on either bank of the Ystwyth where the river flows through a gorge. In existence by 1813. KM DAT 1996	SN77477357
33026	GOTHIC ARCADE; NEW WALK SUMMERHOUSE	Summerhouse	Post-medieval	Thomas Johnes of Hafod probably built this as part of his picturesque landscape. It is a very ill-documented site. Its name is a recent coinage. Payne in 1815 refers to passing under a rude arch of stone, but his description has it on the north bank of the Ystwyth, not the south. The only known illustration, by John	SN77397370

				Piper in 1939, is titled Hafod: Nash Folly and Ystwyth gorge and shows a structure of three gothic arches, the central one slightly larger than those flanking it. The surviving remains consist of two square masonry piers 0.6m square and 2.2m 2.4m high with very low remains of two smaller piers, c.0.3m square, between them, located on a rubble strewn terrace cut into a steep slope on the edge of a narrow gorge of the Ystwyth. It seems highly likely that this was a summerhouse with a three-arched Gothic arcade facade, from which fine views up the Ystwyth towards the chain bridge were obtained. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The site was fully recorded in 2003 (Murphy) in advance of conservation. K Murphy 25 July 2012 Date uncertain, but possibly late 18th century or early 19th century. Two pillars, clad in polythene and supported in 1996, are the only above ground remains of this summerhouse. KM, DAT, 1999 Described by Kerkham and Briggs (p170). Two pillars, clad in polythene and supported in 1996, are the only above ground remains of this summerhouse. KM DAT 1996	
33027	NEW WALK, YSTWYTH GORGE WALK	Path	Post-medieval	Path under construction in 1786 some 5m above the Ystwyth where the river is cut into a gorge. The path is on a terrace c.1m wide which is revetted in short stretches with dry-stone walling. Land slippage has eroded long stretches of the path, and in some areas it has completely gone. KM DAT 1999	SN77377360
33597	CAE PETHERIN	Boundary bank	Post-medieval	Earth bank 0.3m high with the remains of stonework at its North end. It is topped with hawthorn and blackthorn and a wire fence. KM DAT 1996	SN77707337
33598	CAE PETHERIN	Boundary bank	Post-medieval	Earth and stone built bank approximately 0.2 - 0.3m high. KM DAT 1996	SN77587341
33599	GWASTAD COED	Earthwork	Post-medieval	Low earth bank topped by a collapsed rubble wall. KM DAT 1996	SN77587341
33600	GWASTAD COED	Boundary wall	Post-medieval	This is an earth bank 0.8m high faced with very large upright stone slabs. KM DAT 1996	SN77597355
33601	GWASTAD COED	Boundary wall	Post-medieval	Drystone wall, generally in good condition. KM DAT 1996	SN77397352
105376	RHAEADR PEIRAN - PEIRAN MILL	Mill race	Post-medieval	Mill-race associated with medieval corn mill (PRN 14802) and surviving as an earthwork (M.Ings, 2013) The site was visited as part of the Cadw funded Mills Survey of 2012-13. The mill-race is within woodland, running parallel and above the Nant Peiran, linking the river to the mill-pond (PRN 105375). The line of the leat is still evident as it runs along the line of the valley slope, with an outer bank standing some 0.30m high , although parts are now very overgrown and it is heavily silted M.Ings, 2013)	SN77197373

Table 2: Summary of archaeological assets within the vicinity of the Gothic Arcade; as shown in Figure 3.



Figure 4: An extract of the 1888 1st edition 25" OS map showing the location of the Gothic Arcade (PRN 33026). The location of the Corn Drying Kiln (PRN 109380) recorded for the first time during the watching brief is shown to the north.

3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 A watching brief was undertaken during initial groundworks at the site which had the potential to expose, damage or destroy underlying archaeological remains.
- 3.1.2 All archaeological deposits revealed during the groundworks were examined and recorded to an appropriate level.
- 3.1.3 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual³ used by DAT Archaeological Services.
- 3.1.4 In addition to the watching brief a corn drying kiln located in woodland to the north of the Gothic Arcade was recorded. This site had not been recorded before but appears to be associated with PRN 26543, the farmstead of Cefn yr Esgair. The site was located, photographed and a brief written description undertaken.

3.2 Timetabling of Fieldwork

- 3.2.1 The watching brief took place on the 13th June 2016. The weather during the day was one of continuous heavy rain.

3.3 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving

- 3.3.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork will be collated into a site archive structured in accordance with specifications in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2007), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 3.3.2 The results of the fieldwork have been assessed in local, regional and wider contexts. The report includes a desk-based research element to ensure that the site is placed within its wider archaeological context.
- 3.3.3 A report fully representative of the results of the fieldwork has been prepared.

³ Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services have adopted the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available on-site for inspection if required.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Gothic Arcade (PRN 33026)

- 4.1.1 The structure is built on a 5.5m wide terrace, with a path (Ystwyth Gorge Walk) running between it and the cliff edge to the east, roughly 11m above the Afon Ystwyth; with fine views to the Chain Bridge. The platform on which the arcade was constructed was created by excavating into the eastern face of the valley side.
- 4.1.2 An archaeologist was on site during the excavation of material within the gothic arcade in order to reduce the ground surface inside the arcade down to the same level as that of the nearby path (Photo 3).



Photo 3: Removing the moss at the beginning of the excavation – looking northwest.

- 4.1.3 After a thick layer of sphagnum moss was removed (Photo 3) a loose dark silty soil containing a large number of small and medium stones and rotting leaf mould was revealed (Photo 4). The deposit would appear to have been a result of soil subsiding into the internal area of the arcade from the steeply sloping bank to the rear.
- 4.1.4 This deposit was not particularly thick and its quick removal rapidly exposed a lighter yellow/brown silty clay soil matrix containing very large amounts of large and medium flat angular stones of local mudstone/siltstone.
- 4.1.5 Careful removal of this stone deposit showed this material was a result of the collapse of a dry stone revetment wall that had been built at the rear of the arcade into the east facing slope..
- 4.1.6 Surviving remnants of the dry stone walling could still be seen in situ. Composed in part of large slabs, the wall appeared quite crudely built. The walling ran from each of the larger piers back into the artificially cut slope creating a rectangular area behind the stone piers, measuring approximately 3.9m by 1.4m (Figure 5).

- 4.1.7 The retaining wall survived to a maximum height of 1.30m at its south west corner but elsewhere it had collapsed with the surviving wall having an average height of 0.60-0.70m (Photos 5 to 10). The wall was not tied into the stone piers.
- 4.1.8 At the bottom of the stone rubble a number of large rectangular stones were revealed that could have possibly been coping stones for the top of the retaining wall (Photo 11). At this point the excavation was halted as the level of the outside path had been reached (Photos 12 and 13). No evidence of any internal floor surfaces was revealed during the excavation and although the excavation ceased at this point, it did appear that bedrock had all but been reached. It is probable that there the floor of the arcade was just exposed bedrock.
- 4.1.9 It has been suggested that the arcade was roofed but no evidence of any roofing material was recovered from the excavation and no other artefacts were recovered.



Photo 4: The loose dark silty soil lying above the collapsed stone of the retaining wall – looking northwest.

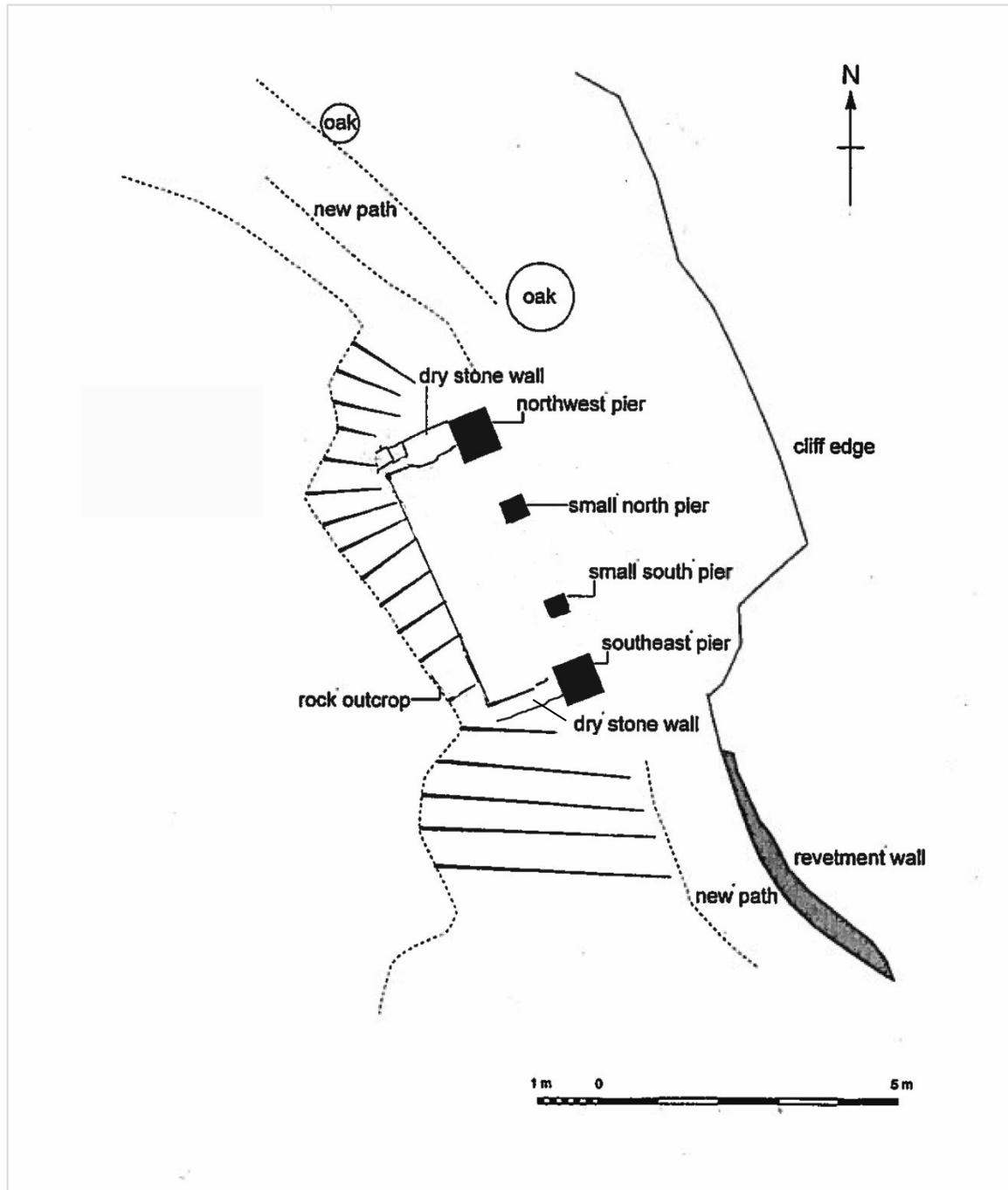


Figure 5: The site plan of the Gothic Arcade as recorded in 2003 amended to show the position of the rear retaining wall.



Photo 5: A remnant of the rear retaining wall emerging during excavation of the stone rubble – looking southwest. 0.5m scale



Photo 6: The southwest corner of the retaining wall during excavation of the stone rubble – looking roughly southeast.



Photo 7: The southwest corner of the retaining wall at the end of the excavation of the stone rubble – looking roughly southeast. 1m & 0.5m scales



Photo 8: The surviving remnant of the rear retaining wall – looking southwest. 0.5m scale



Photo 9: The northwest corner of the retaining wall at the end of the excavation – looking northwest. Note how the bottom section of the wall has collapsed inwards. 1m scale



Photo 10: The northwest corner retaining wall at the end of the excavation showing the basic nature of the wall construction – looking roughly west



Photo 11: A selection of the roughly worked stone slabs used to construct the wall.



Photo 12: The cleared Gothic Arcade at the end of the excavation – looking south.



Photo 13: The cleared Gothic Arcade at the end of the excavation – looking south.

4.2 Corn drier (PRN 109380)

- 4.2.1 In addition the Hafod Trust requested that DAT Archaeological Services undertake the archaeological recording of a recently located corn drying kiln in woodland. This was associated with PRN 26543, the farmstead of Cefn yr Esgair.
- 4.2.2 The earthwork of the corn drier was located approximately 200m NNW of the Gothic Arcade within dense conifer woodland at NGR SN77387358 on a south facing slope (Figure 4). It has been recorded as PRN 109380 on the Dyfed HER.
- 4.2.3 The corn drier is 'teardrop' shaped and aligned N-S with the flue at the southern narrow end of the 'teardrop'. It is somewhat terraced into the hill slope. The earthwork is visible as a slightly raised sub-circular outer bank surrounding a similarly shaped depression in the ground (Photo 14). At the southern end is a 1.7m wide x 3.2m long flue that is still extant and constructed from mudstone (Photo 15). The sub circular depression measures from the northern inner edge to the northern edge of the flue 3.60m with a maximum width of 2.30m (inner edge to inner edge). The large flue allows for the circulation of warm area below a platform on which corn was placed to dry.



Photo 14: The sub-circular depression within the surrounding earthwork bank of corn drier (PRN 109380).



Photo 15: The south facing stone built flue of corn drier (PRN 109380).

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out during ground works associated with clearance work at the Gothic Arcade, Hafod, Ceredigion.
- 5.2 The arcade structure has now been restored and the Hafod Trust wished to excavate within the arcade, removing the build-up of leaf mould, soil and stone to identify any surviving floor levels and/or masonry. An archaeological watching brief was requested by Cadw as a condition on Scheduled Monument Consent granted for the work, in order that any archaeological remains exposed could be appropriately recorded.
- 5.3 Approximately 0.60m of soil and rubble was removed from the rear of the Gothic Arcade. This material appeared to have originated from the collapse of a rear dry stone retaining wall built into the artificially cut east facing slope.
- 5.4 At the bottom of the stone rubble a number of large rectangular stones were revealed that could have possibly been coping stones from the top of the retaining wall.
- 5.5 No evidence of any internal floor surfaces was revealed during the excavation and it is probable that exposed bedrock comprised the floor of the arcade.
- 5.6 It has been suggested that the arcade was roofed but no evidence of any roofing material was recovered from the excavation. No other artefacts were recovered during the excavation.
- 5.7 The earthwork of the corn drier was located within dense conifer woodland approximately 200m NNW of the Gothic Arcade, somewhat terraced into the south facing slope. The corn drier is 'teardrop' shaped and aligned N-S with the flue at the southern narrow end of the 'teardrop'. The earthwork is now recorded as PRN 109380 in the Historic Environment Record.

6. SOURCES

6.1 Publications

Published

Brown, D H, 2007, *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*. Institute of Field Archaeologists

Unpublished

Ludlow, N, 1999 *Hafod Mansion - An Archaeological Audit Jan-Feb 1999*, DAT Unpublished Report – Project Record No 37050

Murphy, K, 2003 *The Gothic Arcade, Hafod. Archaeological Recording & Investigation*, DAT Unpublished Report No 2003/7

6.2 Database

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record, The Shire Hall, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AF

RCAHMW Coflein Database <http://www.coflein.gov.uk/>

Cof Cymru - National Historic Assets of Wales
<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/recordsv1/cof-cymru/?lang=en>

6.3 Map

Ordnance Survey 1888 1st edition 1:2500 map of Ceredigion

GOTHIC ARCADE, CEREDIGION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2016

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2016/36
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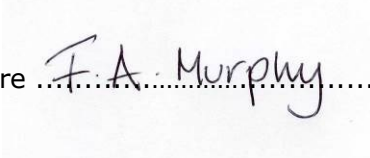
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Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by

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Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
This report has been checked and approved by

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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

