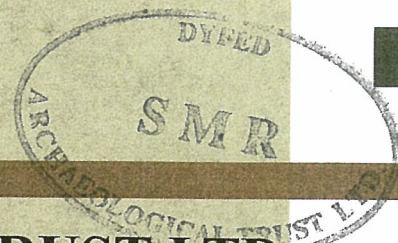


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LLAWHADEN HOSPICE EXCAVATIONS 1992 AND 1993

Vol I

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Commissioned by: Cadw

Report by: Pete Crane BA (Hons)
of
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd
The Shire Hall
8 Carmarthen Street
Llandeilo
Dyfed SA19 6AF

Tel (01558) 823121

Fax (01558) 823133



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Summary

Three minor excavations and a geophysical survey took place on Llawhaden Hospice. An earlier building, possibly for the main accommodation, was located under and to the west of the surviving late medieval "chapel". Immediately to the east of this building the original east end of the chapel was located, with altar dais, painted wall plaster and a quantity of painted window glass. Probable south, west and north boundaries of the site were identified. Within this area at least one other building was located, along with a number of ditches, some of which probably relate to burgage plots. A few post holes and pits were also recorded.

Throughout this report the site is referred to as a hospice rather than a hospital, given the major caring and hostelry role of medieval hospitals, rather than purely medical. The standing medieval building is referred to as the "chapel", although it is now considered more likely to be partly an accommodation hall or possibly a refectory hall. Record numbers used in the report are the same as issued on site.

Purpose

To assess the archaeology in response to planning application (D3/360/92) by the South Pembrokeshire District Council for a car park and amenity area adjacent to the Llawhaden Young Farmers' Club Hall. Later trial trenching took place in advance of landscaping and extension to the Club Hall. Costs for the excavations and reports have been shared by Cadw and SPDC/SPARC.

Location and Site Description

The site of the hospice is located below and adjacent to the Young Farmers' Club Hall situated at the western end of the village (figure 1). The Ordnance Survey grid reference is SN06691728. The Dyfed Archaeological Trust's Primary Record Number is PRN3577 and the Scheduled Ancient Monument number is SAM PEMB 162. The only standing hospice building to be seen on the site lies at the rear of the Club Hall (figure 6). Throughout this report this building is referred to as the "chapel". This building is a single structure with an equilateral-shaped arched vault. There is a small single doorway in the north side, one small splayed window in both the south and north walls towards the eastern end, a piscina in the south-east corner, and at the east end a large archway (figure 3); all of these openings appear to be original. On the north interior face, there are suggestions in the wall plaster of a former bench. Both in the small doorway and at the west end there are indications of a possible floor level. Offset footings on the interior of the north wall, either for this "chapel" building or an earlier structure, also indicate the present internal level is below that of the original floor.

Prominent earthworks are situated in the field to the south and west of this site. These comprise: a low bank approximately 0.6m high, parallel to and some ten

metres south of the road (the ground between the road and amenity area has now been landscaped); a distinct terrace to the south of the "chapel" (figure 6) with a wide hollow on its south side; a series of very low, widely spaced ridges running north-south down the fields.

Site History

The location of Llawhaden is probably partly due to the crossing of the Eastern Cleddau adjacent to the parish church of Llawhaden. This Norman route may be influenced by the Roman road that can now be traced, subject to confirmation, crossing slightly further to the north of the castle (pers comm., Drew 1994).

In the late 13th century Bishop Beck enlarged the castle into a large fortified mansion. At the same time he created the borough of Llawhaden by laying out properties (burgages) and encouraging immigration. By 1326, 174½ burgage plots are in existence (held by 126 people), and Llawhaden had become the most important of the bishopric's boroughs, outstripping St David's (Soulsby 1983, p177). By the later Middle Ages, however, Llawhaden is little more than a village.

The hospice was one element in Bishop Beck's plan for Llawhaden Borough but there are very few contemporary records. It was founded in 1287, although there appears to have been an oratory (small chapel) on the site before this (Fenton 1903). The hospice dedication was to St Mary the Virgin, St Thomas the Martyr and King Edward and the foundation was for pilgrims, poor orphans, the aged infirm, the sick and other feeble people (Knowles and Hadcock 1953). Bishop Thomas Beck endowed the hospice with land called Cotland, purchased by himself, in the territory of Llawhaden, 2 bovates of land in Kylvane bought by the same bishop from Adam Knethel, 1½ bovates of land bought from Gwenllian, the daughter of the said Adam Knethel, 1 bovat of land bought from Eva, daughter of the said Adam, 4½ bovates of the bishop's own desmone lands in Llawhaden, and the church of Kevyn (Llandycefn) in Pembrokeshire (Green and Barker 1916, p49-50). There appears to be a further endowment a little later, in 1291: "September 18 Devizes. To the kings bailiffs and subjects, etc. Notification that the king has granted Thomas, bishop of St Davids, and the master of the Hospital of St. Edward that they shall have for ever common in all the Kings demesne woods in the county of Kardigan, so that they may fell and carry underwood, oak for timber, and other trees therein at their pleasure and make their advantage thereof as may seem most expedient to them" (Cule 1977, p110, with reference to Cal. of Various Chancery Rolls, p333, *vide* Cal. of Welsh Rolls. 19 Edward I m. 6 1291).

At its foundation, the hospice was placed under the rule of a Friar William, a warden or possibly a Prior who, with his brethren, was to wear a distinctive habit of their calling. Only a few of the Priors or wardens are known (see appendices and Green and Barker 1916, p49-50). By

1403 it appears to be under a Prior, Sir Richard Whylock (possibly Whythlokes), appointed after the death of John ap Morgan (Episcopal Register 1397-1518). In 1406-7 Prior Whylock is found to be absent with his mistress, Gladusa Meuric, living in Tenby, and being commanded to return to the priory without mistress. Absent priors of hospitals at this period were not that uncommon (Clay 1909); this is probably representative of the decline in importance of such establishments and the way in which and to whom such posts were awarded. The hospice appears still to be functioning in 1447 as in September of that year there was a grant to John Launcell "chaplain of the Hospital or free chapel of Llawhaden, in the diocese of St Davids, in the Kings gift by reason of voidance of the bishopric" (Cule 1977, p110, citing Cal. Patent Rolls, 26 Henry VI, Pt I m. 28 1447). The hospice appears subsequently to have declined, as in 1501 it was transferred to the chancellor of St David's (Knowles and Hadcock 1953, p185) and at this point it probably ceases to function as a hospice. The chapel, however, may continue, as at the Dissolution in 1535 it is recorded as the free Chapel of the Blessed Mary, with no reference to the hospice.

In post-medieval times the site was visited by a number of Antiquarians, who described the ruined nature of the standing structure (Fenton 1903, p171) and at the beginning of this century the standing building of the hospital was used as a stable (RCAHM 1925, p143).

Aims and Objectives

The aims of these projects were to assess the archaeological remains, preserve where possible and make adequate records, using limited resources. The objective was to gain an understanding of the extent and complexity of this archaeological site, especially its relationship to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the standing medieval building.

Methodologies and Results

Due to the scope for error, it was thought unwise, at this stage, to attempt to impose uniformity of context numbers across three excavations. Context numbers 101-164 apply solely to the summer 1993 excavations. For a full list of contexts used refer to Murphy (1993) and appendices.

The geophysical survey

Before any excavation took place on the site magnetometer and resistivity surveys were commissioned from Geophysical Surveys, Bradford (Report No. 92/97). A summary of this survey, taken from Murphy's earlier excavation report (1993), is reproduced below.

"Interference from a water pipe, scaffolding and wire fences has masked areas of archaeological interest recorded by the magnetometer. Several areas of interest are however recorded on the magnetic data. Two north-south aligned ditches are clearly shown joined by shorter east-

west ditches so forming a series of rectilinear enclosures. Discreet magnetic anomalies within the enclosures and to the west may be caused by pits. The presumed large ditch to the south of the Medieval building "chapel" was not detected [figure 2 in this report].

The water pipe has also caused interference on the resistance data. Two possible walls were detected, one running west from the north-west corner of the "chapel" and the other along the terrace to the south of the building. Other areas of high resistance may be caused by geological factors, though there may be another wall, north-south aligned, towards the northern end of the survey."

The geophysical survey would have been misleading, if used alone and without checking by trial trenching. The wall from the south-east corner of the "chapel" was missed, along with a significant gully (Trench 2 context 3, Trench 3 context 2; context 156). Along with this gully are associated post holes that a geophysical survey could not be expected to record. In the north-eastern area of the survey there are some shallow walls (T2 context 8; NT contexts 7, 25 and 26; context 162) which were also not picked up by the geophysical survey.

The surface survey, above ground observation and APs

A surface survey was made and a contour plan produced (Murphy 1993), and most of the earthworks mentioned in the site description are visible on figures 2 and 5. A terrace and hollow to the south of the "chapel" is very clear on oblique aerial photographs (figure 6); this has been interpreted as the silted-up remains of a wide ditch or moat.

There were three separate excavations: 1992 (November) under the direction of K Murphy; 1993 (March/April) under the direction of R Ramsey; and 1993 (June) under the direction of P Crane. These excavations were mainly trial trenches, along with a small area excavation undertaken as part of the work by R Ramsey. (See figure 5.)

All of the excavations suffered from wet weather conditions, with trenches totally filling with rain water.

1992 November Excavation

The first excavation under the direction of Ken Murphy, assisted by three project staff, was for 10 days. In this time ten trial trenches were dug, mostly excavated by machine before hand cleaning. These are reported in detail in his report (Murphy 1993).

In trenches T1, T5 and T6 (figure 5) the footings for an earlier hall were found to the north and west of the standing "chapel". These footings survive up to at least two courses in places. Within this hall there do not appear to be any surviving floor surfaces, with rubble overlying a buried soil or subsoil. The impression is one of this hall

being dismantled and the floor removed before the construction of the "chapel" building (figure 3). In the far south of T6 there may be an *in situ* cobble surface. A ditch was found (T5 un-numbered, T4 context 4, and possibly T9 context 4) cutting the north wall footings of the hall (figure 5), which produced two sherds of pottery dating to the 13th-15th century; however the ditch could be post medieval. This ditch was not found in the northernmost trenches. Trench T4 produced no features other than a modern water pipe trench and the ditch already mentioned.

Trench 1 (figure 5) immediately to the north of the "chapel" produced only modern material from the top soil (T1 context 1). Below was a mortar layer (T1 context 3) against the hospice "chapel" wall which has been interpreted as re-pointing debris. There are two layers of rubble and mortar (T1 contexts 4 and 6). The lower of these layers contained material dated 13th-15th century, along with a fragment of glazed ridge tile and three fragments of painted plaster. Whether this plaster derives from the interior or exterior of the standing "chapel" or from the earlier building beneath cannot be ascertained. Below these rubble layers was a buried soil layer (T1 context 17) partly overlying wall footings (T1 context 18).

In trenches T2 and T3, further to the north and west of the "chapel" (figure 5), possibly the earliest feature located was a wall towards the northern end of trench 2 (T2 context 8), although this is by no means certain. To the north of this wall was a rounded-section ditch (T2 context 10), which may be contemporary with a bank constructed over the remains of the wall (figures 2 and 5). In T3, on a similar alignment to that of the ditch (context 10) in T2, there is a flat-bottomed ditch (T3 context 14) possibly cut by a later steep-sided flat-bottomed ditch (T3 context 15), which may have been for a palisade. Later a trackway, with some surviving metalling, was constructed over part of the silted-up and backfilled ditch. This trackway (T2 context 14 and T3 context 8) may relate to a hedgebank (T2 context 9 and T3 context 10), which was found in both trenches and could be post medieval.

At the southern edge of the bank (T2 context 6, T3 context 11), within the area T3 (figure 5), two large post holes were found (T3 contexts 5 and 6); these could be for the inner revetment of the bank, or part of a building structure. Further towards the south a gully was found in both T2 and T3. To the south of this in T3, two shallow smaller post holes were found (T3 contexts 3 and 4); these are probably for a fence, but could be for a building if associated with the larger post holes further to the north (T3 contexts 5 and 6).

At the northern end of trenches T7 and T8 to the south of the "chapel" (figure 5) was an east-west ditch (T7 context 6, T8 context 4), with a possible bank (T7 context 9). To the south of this bank is a probable revetment wall (T7 context 11), possibly later in date. There was no

indication of a large ditch or moat, although one appears to be indicated on aerial photographs (figure 6). Further to the south in T7 there are two shallow ditches (T7 contexts 13 and 14), which run parallel to the ditch, bank and wall.

To the west of trenches T7 and T8, trench T9 (figure 5), as already mentioned, contained the probable continuation of the late medieval or post medieval ditch found in trenches T4 and T5. No other features were found.

The westernmost trench T10 (figure 5) revealed at the northern end an east-west aligned ditch (T10 context 4), the upper fill of which produced four sherds of Dyfed Gravel-tempered ware, while the lower fill produced one. This pottery is of 13th-15th century date. Two possible shallow pits of unknown date were found. Towards the southern end of this trench was a ditch (T10 context 10), running at an oblique angle. This ditch appears to be associated with a bank on its east side.

1993 March/April Excavation

This excavation was directed by Richard Ramsey, assisted by two project staff, and ran for 30 days. A limited area was cleared at the far north of the site (North Trench, figure 5) along with two machine-dug trenches. Four small trenches were excavated at the east end of the "chapel" (Tr1-4, figure 5). One un-numbered trench was excavated to the east of the Young Farmers Club Hall. Before and during this excavation some possible archaeological damage was sustained due to the activities of the contractor, and these areas were also recorded.

North Trench Area and the Machine Trenches

This area was split into east and west areas for recording purposes.

A little more of the trackway (T2 context 14, T3 context 8; NTe context 11), which could be later medieval or post medieval, was traced but no area of it was uncovered.

The series of probable recut ditches that were found in the 1992 excavation were revealed further. However, the defensive nature of the ditch cuts apparent in trench T3 to the north of the bank (figure 5) does not appear to continue far to the east. A large but relatively shallow pit (NTe context 16) was found, pre-dating at least one of the ditch cuts; this pit may have been used for cooking, before being used for rubbish.

The wall found in trench T2 (context 8) of the 1992 excavation was also traced (NTe context 7) (figure 5). Of this wall, or wall footings, only the bottom course remained, and there was no trace of any mortar. The wall continued for only 0.5m to the west of trench T2 before apparently terminating. No further trace of this wall or building to the west could be found, although only a limited area was excavated, and little stratigraphy remained. To the east of trench T2 this wall turned a right angle to the south, and could be traced for a short distance

as a robber trench, before a dogleg to the east (NTE context 26). It was traced to the southern edge of this area and some of the east face of the dogleg wall (NTE context 26) remained. On a slightly different north-south alignment 1m to the east of the southern arm of the dogleg a short length of wall was located (NTE context 25) (figure 5). Only one course of this wall remained and was in poor condition. Again there was no trace of any mortar.

Trench to the east of the Young Farmers Club Hall

A 9.5m by 1m trench was rapidly excavated and backfilled to the east of the Club Hall (figure 5). Below the modern upper deposit there were some large stones with some evidence of decayed mortar; this layer was above a geological subsoil. No archaeological features were seen cutting the subsoil.

Trenches to the east of the Hospice "chapel"

Four small trenches were excavated, partly in the archway and to the east of the standing medieval "chapel" (Tr1-4, figure 4).

All of the trenches excavated had an upper layer, either deposited or disturbed in very recent times, probably within the two years preceding excavation. These trenches were partially excavated, mainly being taken down to the surviving medieval deposits.

The last trench (Tr4) was rapidly excavated and revealed the continuation of the south wall (Tr3 context 14). No other contexts were recorded in Tr4.

Trenches Tr1, Tr2 and Tr3 were similar in phases: topsoil above demolition, above remaining construction, above buried soil. Below the topsoil (Tr1 context 2, Tr3 context 15) was a layer (Tr1 context 3, also probably Tr2 context 8, Tr3 context 20): in Tr1 this layer was double recorded, occurring both as final demolition layer (of late medieval date) above and filling internal structural features of mortar (Tr1 context 4), but also as a make-up layer below. It is probable that this layer (Tr1 context 3) was originally laid down as a floor make-up, disturbed during demolitions, and then partly redeposited above the remains of internal features.

A series of parallel mortar lines running north-south were recorded (Tr1 context 4, also probably Tr 2 context 25, Tr3 context 21); these are probably all contemporary, but may represent a number of separate features (figure 4). The mortar lines are probably the remains of make-up placed around timbers before a floor, or some other structure, was laid. These probable timber slots were later filled with a mixture of disturbed floor make-up and demolition material containing some wall plaster. The timber features were possibly sleeper beam slots for the base of a wooden screen, stairs, or possible choir-type stalls. There are also single small recesses in the interiors of both the north and south walls (figure 4), possibly suggesting that a screen or similar structure is more

likely. The mortar lines around the timber features are set in a clayish make-up (Tr1 Context 3, double recorded), which is above a buried soil (disturbed) or an earlier levelling-up layer (Tr1 context 5, Tr3 context 22).

In the northern trench Tr2 there are the remains of a northern wall and wall footings (Tr2 context 13). There was no trace of either a robbing or construction trench for this wall. The footings continue west under the standing "chapel".

In the southern trench Tr3 there are the remains of a southern wall (Tr3 context 14). Visible on the exterior face of this wall is a block of soil 0.8m wide, between the footings and the stone wall above; although this is not apparent internally, this soil may indicate a blocked doorway (no excavation of the wall or possible block-ing was undertaken). On the internal side of the building within this trench, there are indications of an east-west linear structure (Tr3 context 24) which may be associated with the possible step/stairs or screen features (Tr1 context 4, also probably Tr 2 context 25, Tr3 context 21).

Inside the Hospice "chapel"

A very limited amount of work was conducted inside the standing building, recording the offset footings on the interior of the north wall. The present interior level would appear to be lower than that of the probable medieval floor level.

July Excavation 1993

This excavation was conducted by the author with two project staff for 15 days. During this time two trial trenches were excavated: trench T11 in advance of a proposed fence to the east of the "chapel", and trench T12 over the area of the foundation trench for the extension to the west of the Young Farmers Club Hall (figure 5).

Trench to the east of the "chapel" (figure 4)

Trench T11, in advance of the proposed fence, was positioned on the fence line 5.5m to the east of the standing "chapel", and was approximately 0.7m wide.

There was a thin skim of modern chippings and some very recent disturbance over some of the trench area. At the northern end of the trench was the continuation of the north wall, found in trench Tr2 (context 13) in the earlier excavation. Here this wall (context 119) was located 50mm below the ground surface. There were also indications of a robber trench (context 110, fill 109).

Later a small part of this trench was extended eastwards to locate the north-east corner of this building (the southern corner was under a contractors' tip for most of the excavation period). The north-east corner and part of the east wall (context 120) were uncovered (figure 4). Three stones of the outside face of this east wall were partially showing through the ground surface prior to excavation, although this was only confirmed when the wall was uncovered. The north-east corner stone of this

building (see figure 4) was missing, and can only have been removed since building work commenced immediately prior to the 1993 excavations.

There was no indication of a construction trench showing in the exterior surface around the north-east corner; given that there are projecting footings (context 121) for the north wall, which are likely to continue, it is probable that the surface layer (context 137), possibly medieval topsoil, was deposited after construction of the building. All of the footings and wall construction seen here appear to be clay-bonded.

At the far north of this trench there is a north-south revetment wall (context 122), which butts the north wall (context 119), and is constructed over the footings (context 121). On the western side of the trench there appears to be a ditch or gully (context 123) dug after the construction of the building, but before the revetment wall was constructed. This ditch had an upper fill (context 111) with a considerable amount of rubble, which is likely to derive from the demolition of the north wall. A lower fill (context 125), not necessarily the bottom fill, of this ditch was uncovered, but not excavated due to lack of space. This lower fill may partially derive from midden-type deposits; there are a number of fish bones (and possibly fish scales) in good condition, indicating excellent potential for the survival of environmental evidence. The lower fill appears to post-date the revetment wall, therefore the ditch (or gully) and the revetment wall are likely to be contemporary in function.

In the central area of the trench a firm layer of densely packed stone bonded with clay (context 131) was found. This area was faced with plaster on both the north and south sides, with the latter showing some signs of painted red lines. Due to this feature's position at the eastern end of the building, it has been interpreted as a probable altar dais. The highest surviving stone of this dais was only 60mm below the surface, although most were 200-400mm down, and a mixed rubble layer of post medieval or modern date lay above the lower parts of the dais. In this mixed rubble layer there were a few, probably very recent, disturbances (contexts 106, 105) which also cut the altar dais (context 131).

Between the altar dais and the wall to the north, the mixed rubble layer (context 113), found over the altar dais, continued up to the wall. Below this layer was another rubble and soil layer (context 112), which was probably deposited at the time of the demolition of the roof and the surrounding walls. A coin was found in this layer (object 252, an Edward III Halfpenny, 1344-51, poorly struck, but little worn). This demolition was above another layer (context 118), which probably represents the internal demolition and the remains of floor make-up, after removal of the flooring (which was probably of stone, as no floor tile has been found anywhere on site). Within this earlier demolition layer (context 118) there was a fair amount of wall plaster, some with signs of painting and

a silver ring (object 253). Painted plaster was found on the interior of the north wall (figure 4), and it is probable that most of the painted plaster derives from the interior walls and ceiling. On the east side of the trench, and butted by the lower demolition layer, there was a north-south line of plaster (figure 4). This plaster (context 127) appears to be fronting undisturbed clay floor make-up (context 128); it is possible that this is the remains of a step up at the far east of the building. However, this material was just inside, and in line with, the section edge, making interpretation tentative. Below the lower demolition layer (context 118) and clay floor or step make-up, there is a layer of slightly loamy clay, which may be a geological buried soil, possibly disturbed; this layer was not excavated.

The north wall lay approximately 1.3m from the north side of the dais, and at a similar distance from the south side was a pit or robber trench, cutting down onto probable wall footings (figure 4). It would seem more likely that this is a robber trench for the south wall of the building, rather than a pit. The sides of this probable robber trench (context 108) were indistinct in places and it is possible that this trench was left open and the sides eroded. The fill (context 107) of this feature contained a sherd of German stoneware (Westerwald), with a late 17th-18th century date; therefore it appears that this building was possibly being robbed for stone some considerable time after the Dissolution. The stone footings (context 133) were not excavated.

Between the southern footings and the altar dais (figure 4) there did not appear to be the same amount of rubble representing the late medieval or post medieval demolition of the walls, as found on the north side (context 112). The upper post medieval or later layer (context 113) did continue over part of this layer, although its relationship with the possible robber trench/pit cut (context 108) was unclear; possibly layer 113 also fills the robber trench, but was not seen outside the interior of the building.

Context 114, below 113, appeared to be made of three or more lenses or thin layers. The upper lens/layer was of rubble and could be equivalent to the rubble layer (context 112) found on the north side of the altar dais. The middle lens/layer contained a considerable amount of roof slate, which may represent the removal, or collapse, of the roof of the building. As no large stone rubble was found below this slate layer, it is likely that this east end building had a timber roof rather than a stone vault. The lower lens/layer, contained a dressed purple stone (possibly Caerbwly stone), which is likely to have been internal and decorative, as there were no apparent signs of weathering. Two fragments of a copper alloy object, or objects, were recovered (object 251). A very large quantity of window glass, some painted, was also recovered, together with some window lead. (Some of this window glass was so fragmented as to be irretrievable; some of this fragmentation is likely to have been caused by the large lorries delivering materials for the recent work.)

This lower window glass lens/layer represents the demolition of internal fittings and the windows after removal of the floor, as there was no sign of any remaining floor surface below.

In the trench, on the western side between the footings and the altar dais, there does appear to be some floor make-up or levelling material (contexts 134, 135). In the east section there is a possibility of a higher clay make-up layer (context 138), which could be similar to the possible step (contexts 127, 128) seen on the northern side of the altar dais. The bottom of the trench here appears to be a buried soil, although it could be all levelling up for a floor.

Towards the southern end of the trench, south of the footings, there was the continuation of the topsoil and chipping layer (context 102), and below this there was a lower, less disturbed topsoil (context 103). Below the lower topsoil was a mortary layer (context 115), which may be due to demolition of the building to the north. Below the mortary layer was another possible demolition-type deposit (context 116), with far more roof slate. The definition between these last two layers was unclear. Below these layers there was a layer of possible medieval topsoil (context 117), but this was not excavated. The far southern end of this trench had been wheel-rutted by contractors' vehicles.

This trench was only partially excavated and figure 4 represents the plan of the site as left before backfilling.

The finding of all this compact archaeology, together with the window glass and painted plaster, indicate that this is the east end of the chapel. It was therefore decided that no fence is to be constructed across this area, but a Pembrokeshire hedge will probably be built on top.

Trial trench in advance of extension of the Club Hall

A trial trench T12 (figure 5) was excavated on the western side of the Young Farmers Club Hall, in advance of an extension. The trench was positioned over the line of the proposed footings. The interior of this area was not trial trenched, as it was not proposed to disturb this part below topsoil depth.

At the northern end of the trench, part of the wall (context 162) uncovered in the earlier excavation (NTE context 25) was immediately below the surface and mostly only one course thick. Only a few extra stones were added to the plan as the wall and all signs of it to the south have disappeared.

Slightly to the south of the wall at the north end of the trench the probable continuation of the gully (T2 context 3, T3 context 2) was excavated. This gully appears to drain from east to west and is probably associated with the post holes found immediately to the south (contexts 158, 159). These post holes may be a continuation of a line, as similarly located post holes were found in T3 (figure 5).

Here these post holes appear to be of smaller size, and a fence-type structure appears more likely than a building; however, these holes may be the small lower remains of larger post holes. There was no sign of any stone packing.

In the southern part of the trench there was very recent disturbance with topsoil above topsoil (context 151), which also contained modern material. Below this was a spread layer of fragmented roof slate (context 154), which probably represents the demolition of a medieval roof. It is considered that this slate material is spread too far away to be from the "chapel" roof, although it may have come from the earlier hall, if this were a much taller building. Another building, for which there is no other evidence, is therefore a possibility. There was only a thin deposit of buried soil (context 161) below this slate layer, and it is possible that some former surface (courtyard?) was removed before demolition. The buried soil appears to be above a geological deposit.

Finds from the excavations

A full account of the finds is given in the appendices.

Pottery sherds date from the 12th century to the present day, with 172 sherds recovered.

272 fragments of wall plaster, including some painted and a few angled corner pieces, were found around the "chapel" and the earlier building to the east. Most painted fragments have straight red lines on cream and a few pieces have designs in red and black. The probable date is 13th-14th century. These painted plaster fragments are probably from internal features, due to the location of their contexts.

All of the window glass comes from one small context (114). 307 fragments were recoverable, 55 of which are painted. These painted pieces bear parts of a foliated pattern in a red-brown colour. The overall design is unclear but a 14th century date is likely. Due to there being less painted glass than first envisaged on excavation and the fragmented condition, a specialist report has not been undertaken. Some glass bottle fragments were found but they are all of post medieval date.

An incomplete silver finger ring with chisel-engraved zig-zag lines was found in a demolition deposit. The decorative technique is early 13th-15th century. One silver coin of Edward III was found, date 1344-1351, London mint, "florin" coinage, poorly struck but little worn. Copper alloy objects consist of possible binding fragments with engraved decoration typical of the 13th-14th century, and a post medieval buckle.

Possible medieval iron objects discovered were an iron grill and a weed-hoe. Only 17 iron nails were kept, and it is likely that the roof slates were fixed with wooden pegs. Most of the metal recovered was window lead; 80 fragments were found, all with "H" sections, and in association with window glass. A few fragments of

medieval furnace or hearth lining were found. Roofing material of slate and phyllite with peg-holes were partly discarded on site, and only a small sample was kept.

Discussion

History

Before the establishment of hospitals, care for the sick was normally undertaken at home (Cule 1977, p97) and supported by the patient's relatives. However there were circumstances, especially in the medieval period, when home care was impossible or impractical, as when people were destitute (frequently through chronic illness or living beyond a workable age and without family support), orphans, and especially pilgrims, some of whom, already sick, were undertaking journeys to visit holy relics for well attested miraculous cures. Many pilgrims would also have been vulnerable to sickness, travelling with insufficient funds to support themselves and relying on alms.

Hospitals not only looked after the sick but also functioned as a hostel for weary travellers. At Llawhaden it is probable that the care of pilgrims would have been considered its primary purpose, especially as most of the pilgrims passing this way would have been travelling to or from St David's, Bishop Beck's seat.

From the early medieval period in Britain only the clergy were trained in care of the sick (Clay 1909). At Canterbury Saint Aldhelm made reference to medicine being included in the curriculum, and the Venerable Bede records that Bishop Cynehard of Winchester had medical libraries (Cule 1977, p78). Closer in date and location to Llawhaden Hospice, Prior Henlaw of Llanton, later Bishop of St David's, in the 12th century was "skilled in Medicine" and was consulted by Archbishop Hubert Walters (Cule 1977, p99).

As part of their consecration vows, bishops were to be given to hospitality and a large proportion of medieval hospitals were founded under such inspiration. Therefore the activities of these hospitals were greatly affected by their ecclesiastical origins, with the preparation of the soul for eternity given greater importance than the care of the body. However, with caring for the sick, a certain number of skills, such as a knowledge of herbs, letting of blood and simple remedies are likely to have been acquired over time (Clay 1909). It is becoming increasingly clear from archaeological work such as that undertaken at Soutra (Ewart and Moffat 1988, 1989, Hawkes 1994) that medical and surgical care was more sophisticated than has previously been recognised.

The need for hospitals appears to decrease with the decline in pilgrimages during the medieval period. During the late 13th to late 15th centuries pilgrims were often indistinguishable from vagrants, who had increasingly become a nuisance. During this period pilgrimage vows were, to some extent at least, being undertaken by proxy (Clay 1909). The effects of the Black Death and economic

decline in the 14th century depleted the resources of the church, which was therefore keen that charity went to people in genuine need.

By the end of the medieval period pilgrimages appear to be no longer of any importance, although vagabonds and beggars were still a problem (Clay 1909). Surviving records for hospital occupation indicate that they were well below capacity and the buildings were in a poor state of repair.

At Llawhaden the decline of the hospital probably mirrored that of the borough. To some extent this was probably due to decreasing pilgrimages, but more to do with the general economic decline of the church and Llawhaden's failure to prosper as a town.

Perimeter of the Hospice site

The northern and southern boundaries of the site are possibly represented by the later bank to the north and the bank and possible curtilage wall to the south (figures 2 and 5). The western boundary may be represented by the anomaly on the far west side of the geophysical survey (figure 2), but this is far from certain. The eastern side of the hospice site is possibly the north-south road, to the east (figures 1 and 6). There is some evidence that the burgrave layout post-dates the hospital, although this is far from clear (Murphy 1993). An early ditch found on the north side of the site may have been for a palisade. This feature was not traced further along, possibly due to an entrance located within the area, evidence for which may be supported by the termination of a wall (NTE context 7). A semi-defensive or substantial boundary around the site would be likely.

Building Construction Techniques

Other than the standing "chapel" all trace of building walls were either robber trenches, footings or the very bottom two courses of wall. All of the walls and lower footings appear to be clay-bonded. No foundation trenches were seen and it appears the footings or bases of walls were constructed onto the subsoil, possibly after removal of the topsoil, which may have been replaced on the outside of the buildings after construction.

The construction of the standing "chapel" was not investigated as part of this project. Where seen the walls appear to be mortar-bonded.

The Hall

The main early building recorded is probably the infirmary hall (figure 3). Dimensions for this are 28m? long x 9.5m wide. Only the footings or bottom course of this building were seen. There does not appear to be any external buttressing and there was no evidence of any collapsed roof vault, therefore a timber roof is probable. No internal features were uncovered but little of the interior was excavated. The size does not indicate whether this hall was aisled or not. The infirmary hall at St John's, Cirencester (Leach 1977), with south and north aisles, is

26m x 12m. At Strood, Kent, Newark Hospital had an aisleless hall at least 14.6m long x 7.3m wide (Harrison 1967). However, given the size of this building it is most likely to be the main residential hall.

The standing Hospice “chapel”

This standing building is almost completely intact and was consolidated by contractors as part of the general enhancement of the landscaped area. Other than general photographs and basic drawings, no detailed recording of this structure had been undertaken before consolidation. The recording of this building, other than minor excavation within, was not part of the brief being undertaken by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

The dimensions of this building are 10m long x 7.5m wide (figure 3). All of the openings appear to be original, as does the piscina in the south-east corner. Without removal of rendering and detailed analysis, however, none of this is certain. The doorway on the northern side is likely to have faced across a courtyard towards a possible gatehouse (figure 5). A sleeper wall/footing was found in Tr1 (figure 4) within the east arch and both appear to be of original construction. The rendering on the south side of the interior of the arch is another indicator that this arch is original and there are no signs that this was ever a door.

Within the chapel there are a number of apparently original putlog holes (figure 3). These could have been for vault construction or to support a loft. The position of just two windows in the eastern part of the “chapel” may indicate that the function was likely to be different at that end. Indications are that this “chapel” replaced the earlier hall, which was most likely to have been the main accommodation for the hospice; it is therefore likely that part of this new building was also used for that purpose.

Painted plaster was found just outside the north doorway and it is probable that this came from the interior of this building.

This building was later used as a stable (RCAHM 1925, p143), and the internal surface level has also been lowered at some time. This probably means that the interior of this building below ground retains little of archaeological value.

Earlier Building at the East End

The building located at the east end of the standing “chapel” is earlier and likely to be contemporary, or near-contemporary, in construction with the hall (figure 3).

This building is 7.2m wide and 7.5m long up to the east end of the standing “chapel”. The footings for this building appear to extend below the “chapel” on the north side, so it may have been longer, but how far they extend and where they meet the earlier hall is unknown. On the southern side, trench Tr3 was inconclusive as there was a probable doorway, later blocked, immediately to the

east of the “chapel”, and the western part of trench Tr3 was only partly excavated (figure 4).

The window glass, wall plaster and the layout of the internal features all point to this being the chapel. It would be difficult to interpret the platform at the eastern end as anything other than the altar dais. There also appear to be other internal features just to the east of the standing “chapel”, which may be the remains of small north-south sleeper timbers (figure 4), possibly for a screen and/or choir stalls.

There is no evidence for the date of this building, although it is likely to be the original hospital chapel. It is unknown whether this may be the original oratory or built on the site of it.

The coin (object 252) found in what appears to be demolition rubble indicates that the date of demolition of this building must be post 1344-51; however this destruction could be much later. The demolition of the building appears to have been systematic, with no signs of it being left open after the removal of the flooring. Evidence from the demolition layers indicates that the roof was of timber construction. The robbing of the wall below ground level is likely to be later than the late 17th-18th century.

It would be difficult to see the present standing building functioning as a chapel without the structure at the east end. It is possible that it would have been considered desirable to retain the altar site in any rebuilding, but there is no proof of this. If the standing building and the earlier eastern end were operating together, then they will at least have been butt jointed on the inside, and probably on the outside, although most of the outer corner stones of the standing building are missing. There is also no evidence of any roof line in the east end wall of the standing building; however, the roofs may have been at the same height or the roof line has disappeared over the course of time.

Other Buildings

The minor remains of walls found at the north end of the site (figure 5) could be part of a gatehouse. Although these are not necessarily all contemporary, they are probably in the right kind of location. There is also a change in some of the ditches to the north and west of these walls which may support the idea of an entrance in this area at some period.

Within a hospital complex there are likely to have been other buildings of which no trace has been found to date, such as a kitchen, garderobe, and warden or prior's lodging (although he may have been accommodated in the gatehouse). There was also probable provision for a stable and store buildings.

Site Survival and Potential

Trial trenching of this site could not possibly give adequate answers to all the questions that may be asked

of it. However, these trenches were designed to record whether there was any surviving archaeology and at what depth, not to provide archaeological interpretation.

Only two medieval hospital sites have been substantially excavated in Britain in recent years, at Soutra and Brough on Humber. These excavations have only just been completed and full reports are pending. Therefore, although medieval hospitals are not rare (Knowles and Hadcock 1953), extensive excavation and information is scarce. Most of the area of Llawhaden Hospice has survived until recently, except for one house constructed on its eastern side (figure 6). The construction of the Young Farmers Club Hall (figures 2 and 5) will probably have destroyed all remaining archaeology where the exterior walls have been constructed; however, archaeological features in the subsoil are likely to exist below the floor of the Club Hall.

In many areas there was very little soil cover over the surviving archaeology, especially to the east of the standing "chapel", where in places the demolished east wall is showing through the ground surface. Within the landscaping for the play area, to the west of the Young Farmers Club Hall, the archaeology should still survive, including that which was protected by the bank to the north (figures 2 and 5). The remains of the walls found at the north end of the site have also been left *in situ*, although they are very close to the surface.

There is likely to be evidence of other buildings on this site, and there is a suggestion that at least one may lie below the Young Farmers Club Hall, from the slate spread found on the west side, and mortary rubble found in a test trench on the east side.

Due partly to the wet nature of the site there is a good possibility of recovering environmental and organic samples. This is being done at Soutra (Ewart and Moffat 1988, 1989), where there is not only environmental and organic evidence indicating medical practices, but survival of blood deposits and recoverable DNA evidence (Hawkes 1994).

After the 1992 excavations some archaeological damage was done to the site by the landscaping and consolidation contractor. This was partly due to the very wet conditions, but also due to lack of guidelines within his brief.

Conclusion

The work undertaken has identified the archaeological remains and enabled them to remain intact, as much as possible within the landscaping and building work being done.

These excavations confirmed those features recorded by the geophysical survey and revealed others. Of particular importance are the walls at the north end of the site which may be part of an early gatehouse, the main earlier hall,

to the west of the standing "chapel", and the east end of the original hospice chapel.

The standing building on the site should now be considered to be a smaller replacement of the hall, and likely to have provided accommodation. The eastern part of this building was probably functioning alongside the original eastern end of the hospice chapel.

It is recommended that the scheduled area be extended from that of the standing building, to include the whole hospice site. If that is not deemed necessary, then at least an area in and around the Hall and original east end should be protected. The original east end is particularly vulnerable, and its archaeological survival prospects in the long term are poor. This area should either have further soil deposited and a surface added over it. Alternatively, the area should be totally excavated. Any further excavation on the site within the positions of the trial trenches should cover reasonable areas, not small trenches.

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Ken Murphy of DAT for use of his report and drawings. Phil Waite of DAT. Dee Brennan of DAT for finds. Sue Rider of University College, Cardiff conservation laboratory. Carmarthen Museum for coin conservation. Edward Besley for coin identification. Ian Darke assisted on all the excavations and prepared the illustrations for this report. Hubert Wilson assisted on all of the excavations.

Archive Deposition

This will be with The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments (Wales), Crown Buildings, Plas Crug, Aberystwyth SY23 1NJ.

Finds will probably be deposited at Scolton Manor Museum, Haverfordwest, Dyfed.

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Appendices

Wardens and Priors of Llawhaden Hospice

(From Green and Barker 1916)

Wardens of Llawhaden

1287 William

1293 Jul. 17 Ralph de Broghton

1295 John de Hibernia

1501 James Rogers

1535-6 Thomas Lange

In addition, John ap Morgan pre-1403 and Sir Richard Wylock 1403 to at least 1406-7 (references in the Episcopal Register of the Diocese of St David's, 1397-1518).

1447 Sept 22 John Launcell was chaplain of the hospital or free chapel of Llawhaden (Cule 1977).

Levels

The Temporary Site Benchmark was located on the manhole cover near the south-east corner of the hall. Value used 104.06

Contexts for November 1992 excavation

Archived in Murphy (1993)

Contexts for spring excavation 1993. Director Richard Ramsey

North Trench West End

Context	Category	Interpretive Comments	Provisional Date
1	Topsoil	Topsoil	Modern
2	Topsoil	Base of topsoil	Modern
3	Fill	Upper of ditch 5	Medieval
4	Fill	Lower of ditch 5	Medieval
5	Ditch	Same as T3/13	Medieval

Northern Trench East End

Context	Category	Interpretive Comments	Provisional Date
1	Topsoil	Topsoil	Modern
6	Topsoil	Base of topsoil	Modern
7	Wall	Same as T2/8	Medieval
8	Layer	Rubble	Medieval
9	Fill	Fill of 10	Medieval
10	Posthole	Posthole	Medieval
11	Cobbling	Trackway	Medieval?
12	Layer	Bank	Medieval
13	Layer	Buried soil	Medieval
14	Fill	Upper fill of 16	Medieval
15	Fill	Lower fill of 16	Medieval
16	Pit	Pit	Medieval
17	Fill	Upper fill of 5	Medieval

18	Fill	Lower fill of 24	Medieval
19	Fill	Of 16 or lower 24	Medieval
20	Fill	Primary fill of 24	Medieval
21	Layer	Buried soil "B"	Medieval?
22	Layer	Buried soil "C"	Natural
23	Fill	Upper fill of 16	Medieval
24	Ditch	First phase ditch	Medieval
25	Wall	N-S same as 162	Medieval
26	Wall	Associated with 7?	Medieval

North Trench East End Machine Trench B

Context	Category	Interpretive Comments	Provisional Date
11	Cobbling	Same as T2 14	Medieval

Eastern Trenches (to the east of chapel)

Trench Tr1

Context	Category	Interpretive Comments	Provisional Date
1	Layer	Stone chippings	Modern
2	Layer	Topsoil	Modern
3	Layer	Demolition as 20?	Dissolution? Late Med
4	Footings?	Internal as 25? and 21?	Medieval
5	Layer	Makeup for 4, as 22	Medieval
6	Footings	Standing "chapel"	Later Medieval

Trench Tr2

Context	Category	Interpretive Comments	Provisional Date
1	Layer	Stone chippings	Modern
7	Layer	Demolition?	Dissolution?
8	Layer	Demolition	Dissolution?
9	Layer	Construction	Medieval
10	Layer	Buried soil "A"	Medieval?
11	Layer	Buried soil "B"	Medieval?
12	Layer	Subsoil "C"	Geological?
13	Wall/ Footings	Chapel as 119, 121	c1287
25	Structure	Internal as 4? and 21?	Medieval

Trench Tr3

Context	Category	Interpretive Comments	Provisional Date
14	Wall/ Footings	Possibly also part of a blocked doorway	c1289 & Later Med
15	Layer	Topsoil	Modern
16	Layer	Demolition	Dissolution? Late Med
17	Layer	Demolition/construction	Med/Late Med
18	Layer	Construction	c1289?
19	Layer	Buried soil	Geological?
20	Layer	Demolition as 3?	Dissolution? Late Med
21	Footings?	Internal as 4?	Medieval
22	Layer	Makeup for 21, as 5?	Medieval
23	Layer	Burnt Construction	Medieval
24	Structure	Linear, associated 21?	Medieval

Trench Tr4

No context numbers given, but revealed continuation of wall 14

Trench to the west of the Young Farmers Club Hall

This trench was rapidly excavated and backfilled. Below modern material there was a layer of rubble with some evidence of decayed mortar, overlying geological subsoil.

Summer Excavation 1993. Director P Crane

Site sub-division 11

Context	Category	Interpretive Comments	Provisional Date
101	Unstratified	None found	
102	Topsoil	Topsoil	Modern
103	Layer	Lower topsoil	Modern
104	Fill	Fill of 105	Modern
105	Pit	Modern pit	Modern
106	Pit	Filled by 102	Modern
107	Fill	Robber trench fill	Post 17-18C
108	Robber Trench	Robber trench	Post 17-18C
109	Fill	Robber trench fill	Post Med
110	Robber Trench	Robber trench	Post Med
111	Fill	Fill of ditch 123	Dissolution? Late Med
112	Layer	Demolition layer?	Dissolution? Late Med
113	Layer	Mixed rubble	Post Med Modern
114	Layer	Demolition layer	Dissolution? Late Med
115	Layer	Demolition layer?	Dissolution? Late Med
116	Layer	Demolition layer?	Dissolution? Late Med
117	Layer	Buried topsoil	Medieval
118	Layer	Demolition layer	Dissolution? Late Med
119	Wall	North original chapel	c1287
120	Wall	East original chapel	c1287
121	Footings	Footings for 119	c1287
122	Wall	Retaining wall N-S	Medieval
123	Ditch?	Drainage ditch?	Medieval
124	Layer	Ditch fill or construct.	Medieval
125	Fill	Lower fill in ditch 123	Medieval
126	Wall Plaster	Painted plaster on 119	Medieval
127	Wall Plaster?	Plastered step	Medieval
128	Layer	Step make-up	Medieval
129	Layer	Natural?	
130	Wall Plaster	Plaster on altar dais	Medieval
131	Dais	Altar dais	Medieval
132	Wall Plaster	Plaster on altar dais	Medieval
133	Footings	For original south wall	c1287
134	Lens	Levelling for floor?	Medieval
135	Layer	Make-up for floor?	Medieval
136	Layer	Demolition layer	Dissolution? Late Med
137	Layer	Buried topsoil?	Medieval?
138	Layer	Step make-up?	Medieval

Site sub-division 12

Context	Category	Interpretive Comments	Provisional Date
151	Topsoil	Topsoil+	Modern
152	Fill	Fill of 153	Modern
153	Pit	Sub-rectangular	Modern
154	Layer	Demolition	Dissolution? Late Med
155	Fill	Fill of gully 156	Medieval
156	Gully	W-E gully	Medieval

157	Fill	Fill of PH 158	Medieval
158	Post Hole	Post hole	Medieval
159	Post Hole	Post hole	Medieval
160	Pit	Irregular	Unknown pos. Med
161	Layer	Buried topsoil	Medieval
162	Wall	N-S same as NT 25	Medieval
163	Fill	Fill of PH 159	Medieval
164	Fill	Fill of pit 160	Medieval

Llawhaden Hospice 1992/3

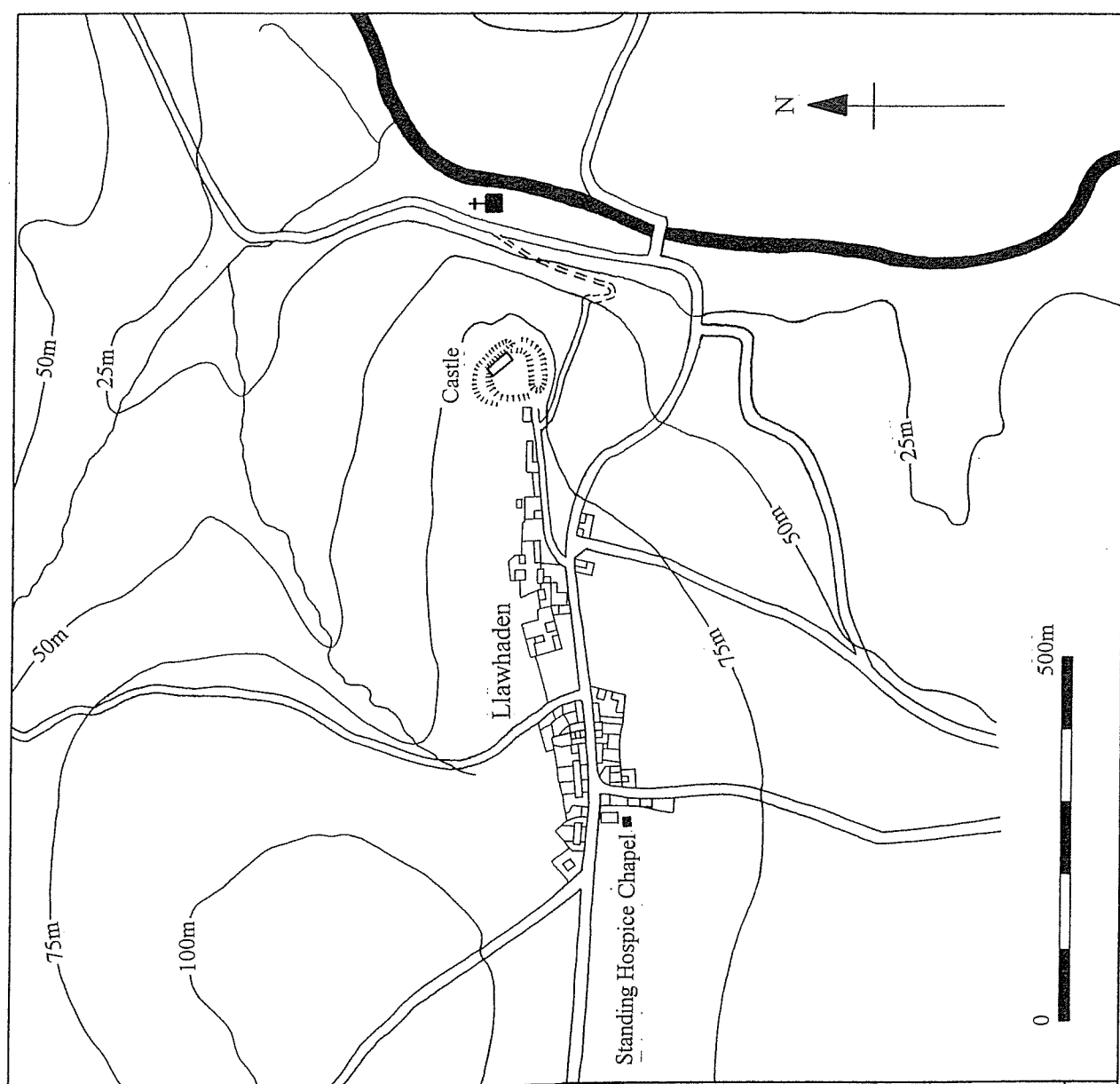
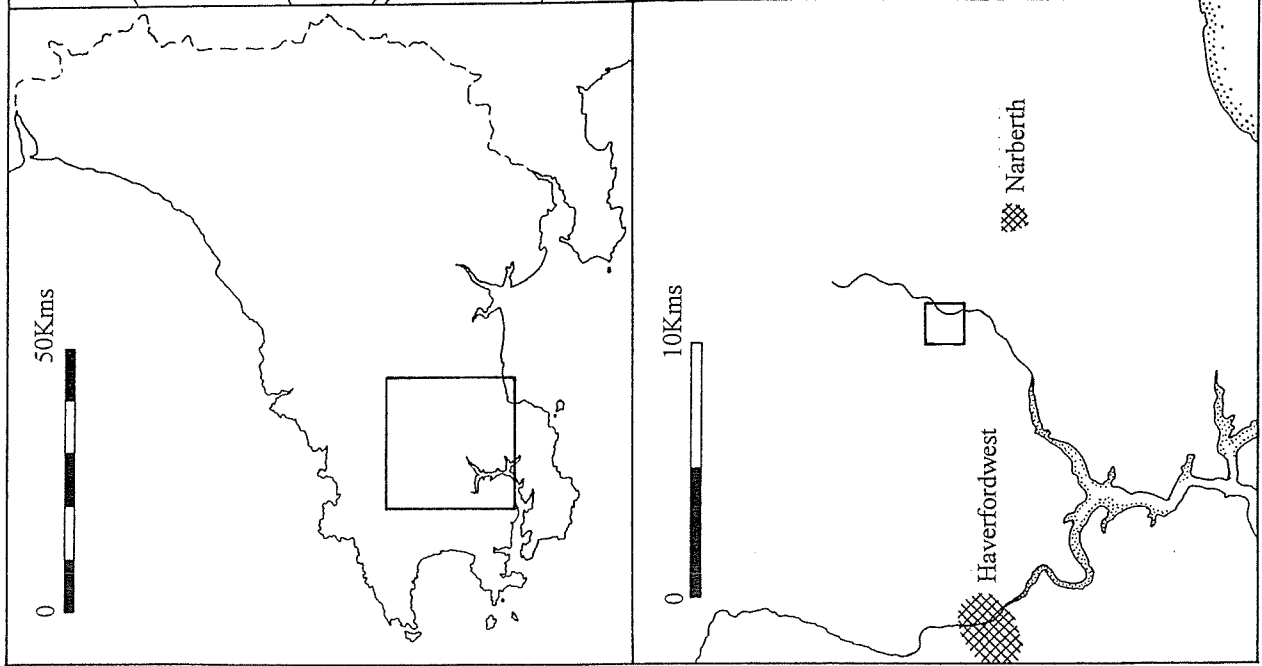


Figure 1

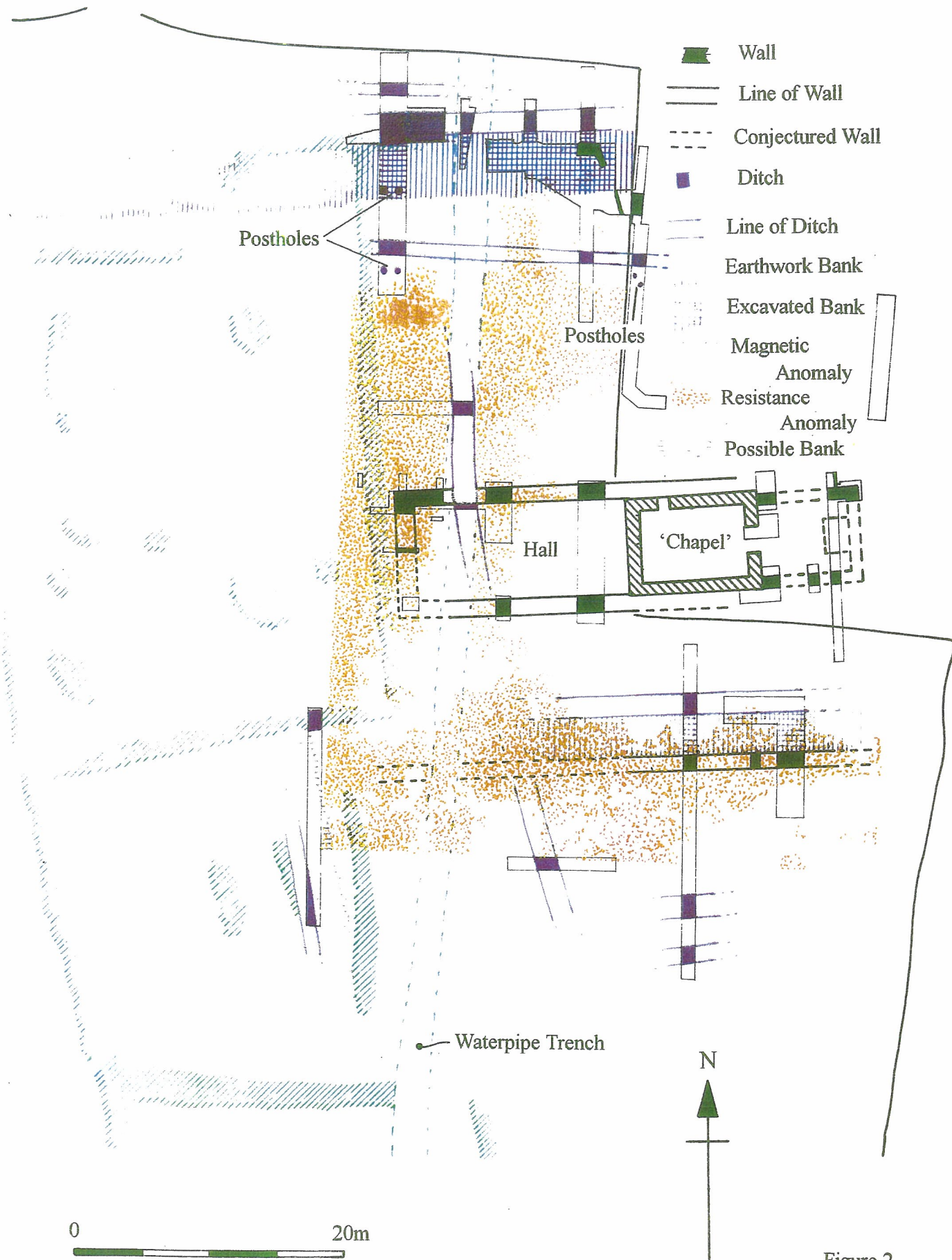


Figure 2

Llawhaden Hospice 1992/3

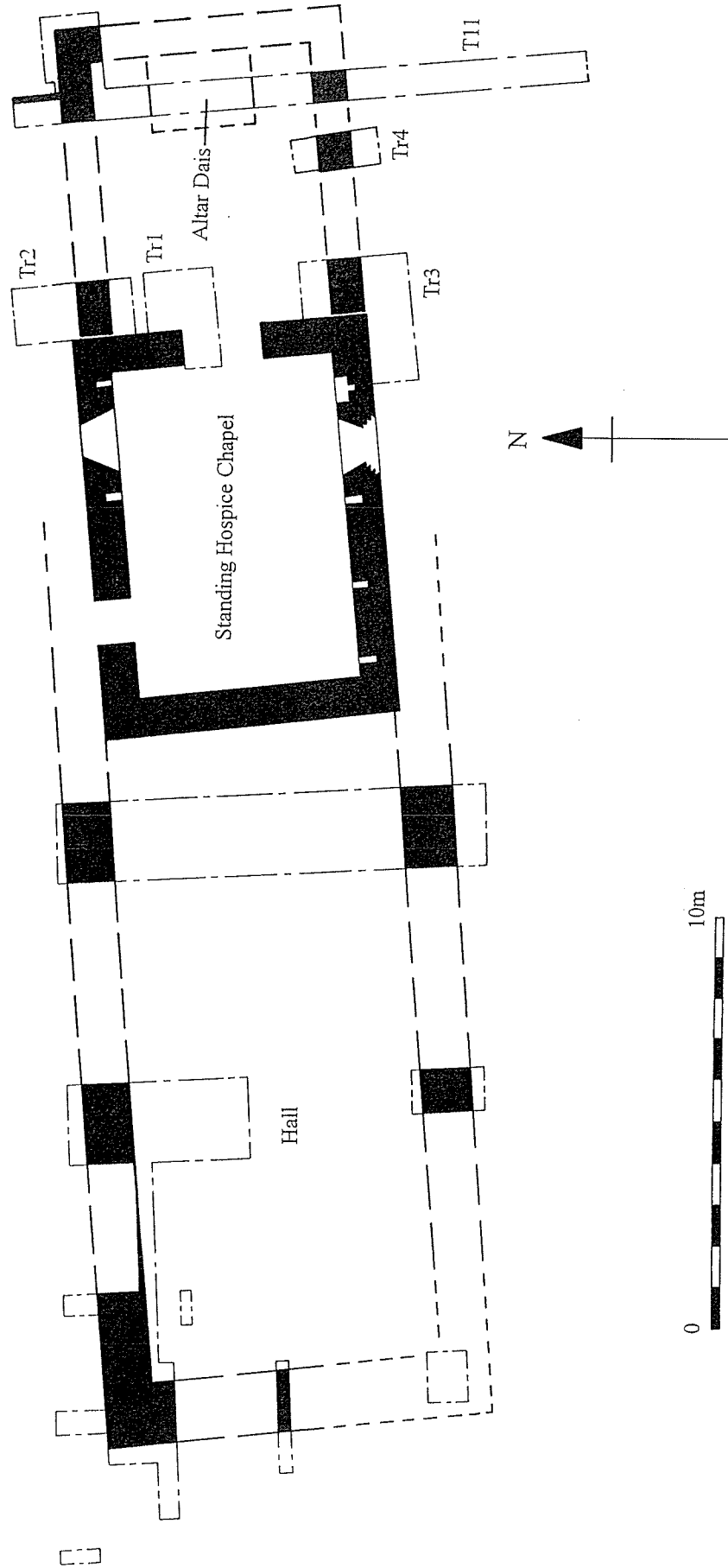


Figure 3

Llawhaden Hospice 1992/3

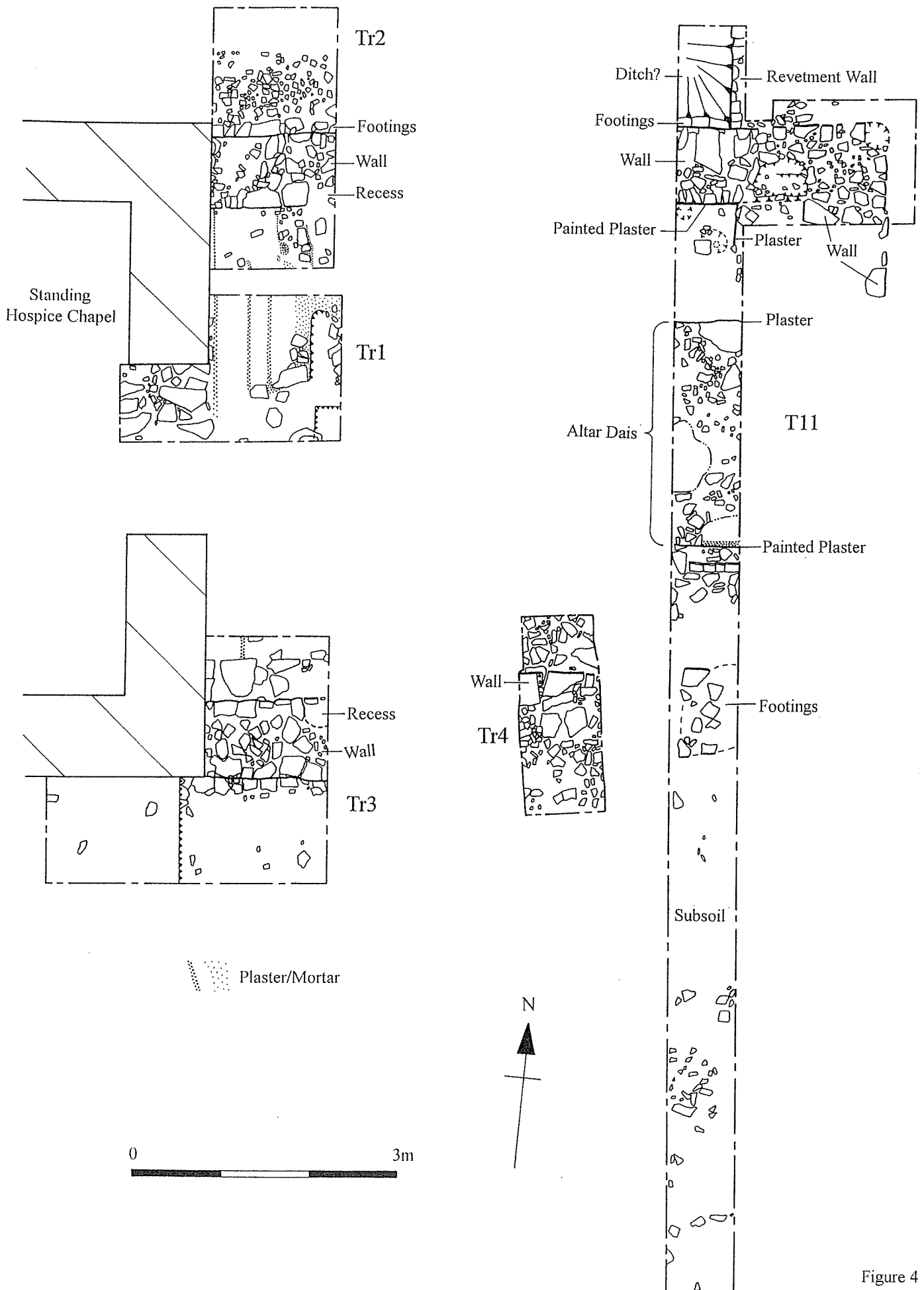


Figure 4

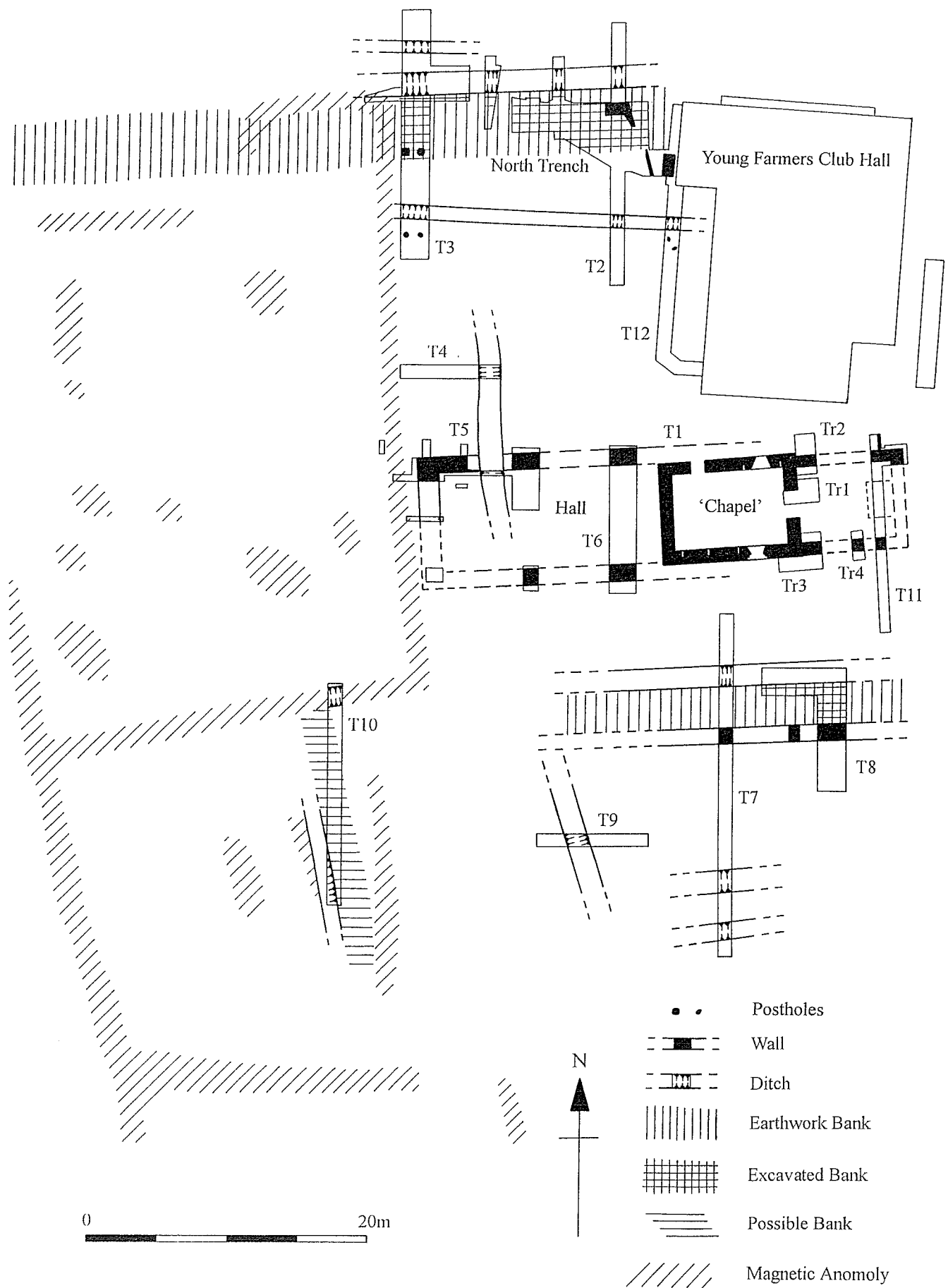


Figure 5

Llawhaden Hospice 1992/3

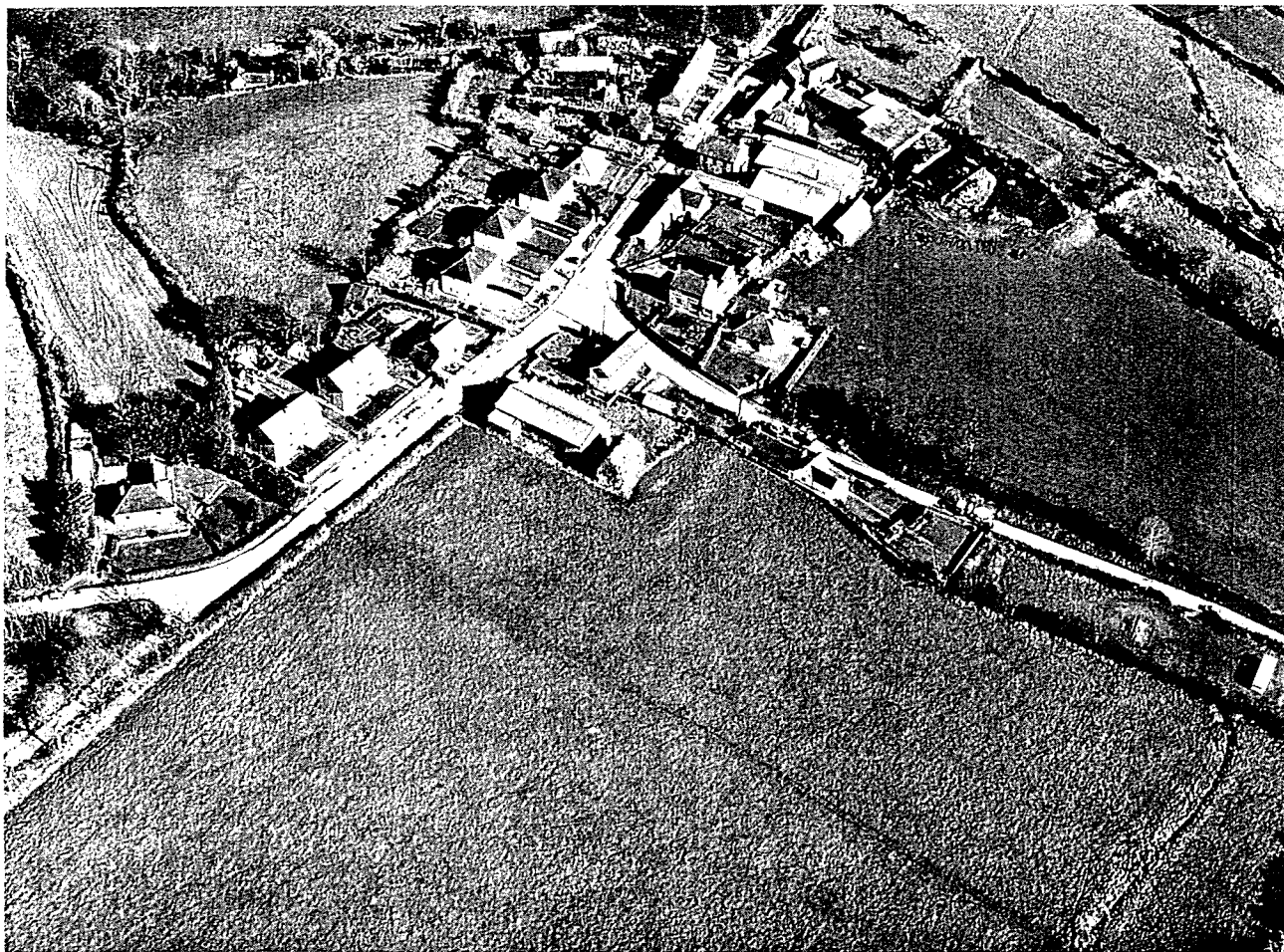


Figure 6