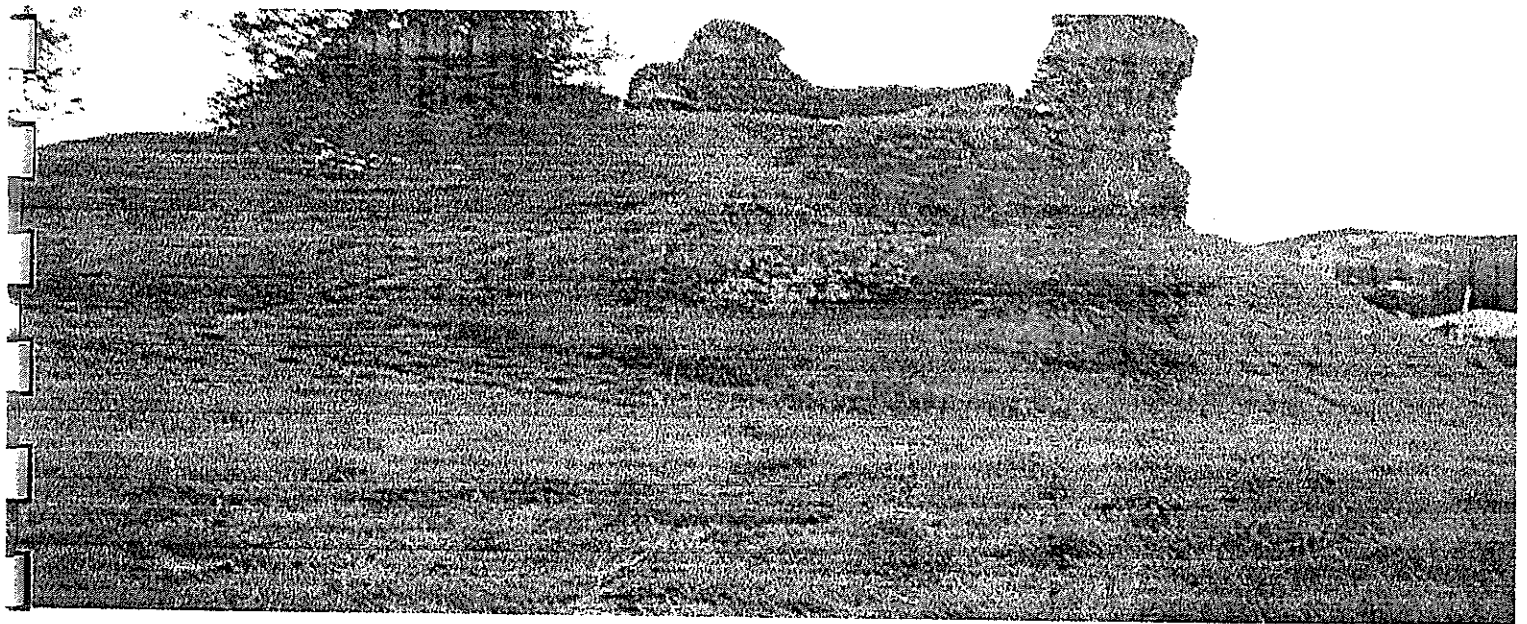


PRN 41364

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD OPERATIONS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
LLYWELYN AP GRUFFYDD MEMORIAL  
LLANDOVERY CASTLE



A R C H A E O L O G Y

CAMBRIA

A R C H A E O L O G Y

Report prepared for ACTT  
by Cambria Archaeology Field Operations  
August 2000

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
LLYWELYN AP GRUFFYDD FYCHAN MEMORIAL  
LLANDOVERY CASTLE  
LLANDOVERY**

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
Summary	1
1. Introduction	2
2. Summary of watching brief results	3
Appendix One: Catalogue of watching brief archive	5
References	6
Figure One: Location plan	
Figure Two	

## SUMMARY

Plans to erect a memorial to Llywelyn ap Gruffydd Fychan on the bailey of Llandovery Castle (PRN 4727; SAM Cm015) are currently being developed by Antur Cwm Taf/Tywi Ltd. The castle, which is located to the south of the main street at NGR SN76783423, is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and as the proposed site for the memorial is within the scheduled area an application has been made to Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments for Scheduled Monument Consent. In order to process the application Cadw required information on the depth, extent and, if possible, the nature of any surviving below ground archaeological features or deposits. Therefore, Cambria Archaeology were commissioned to undertake a small-scale evaluation on the proposed site for the memorial.

The evaluation consisted of a single hand-dug trial trench, 1m<sup>2</sup>, which revealed a spread of what appeared to be demolition debris of probable post-medieval date.

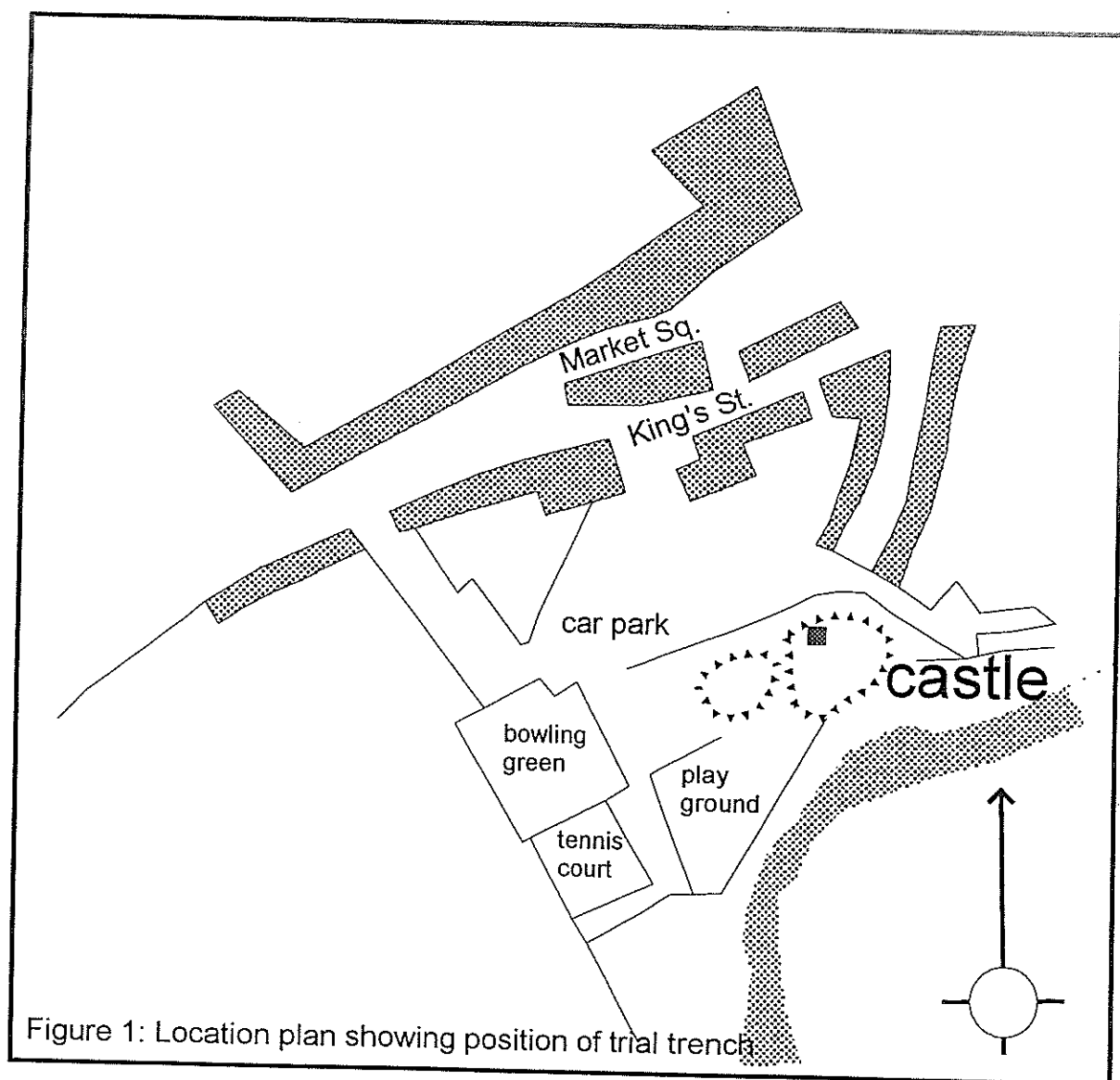


Figure 1: Location plan showing position of trial trench

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 PROJECT COMMISSION**

Antur Cwm Taf/Tywi Ltd. (ACTT) are currently facilitating the erection of a memorial statue to Llywelyn ap Gruffydd Fychan in the bailey of Llandovery Castle, a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Therefore, Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments requested that a small evaluation be carried out on the proposed site of the memorial to assess the potential of any surviving archaeological remains and the impact the memorial may have on those remains. Cambria Archaeology Field Operations were commissioned by ACTT to carry out the evaluation.

### **1.2 SCOPE OF PROJECT**

The project objectives were straightforward and specific, to excavate a small trial trench down to the top of undisturbed archaeological deposits to establish their depth and to assess, if possible, their nature.

### **1.3 ABBREVIATIONS**

Sites recorded on the county Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) will be identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR).

Archaeological features and contexts will be referred to using the continuous open-ended numbering system (e.g.001; 010; 100) employed by Cambria Archaeology Field Operations.

## 2. SUMMARY OF EVALUATION RESULTS

### 2.1 LOCATION (fig 1)

The trial trench was located within the bailey of Llandovery Castle, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (PRN 4727; SAM Cm015) which lies in the car park to the south of the main street at NGR SN76783423. The bailey is grass covered and occupies the northeast end of a rock outcrop above the Afon Brân. It is separated from a motte to the southwest by a shallow hollow which is the line of a former ditch and now the line of footpath. The surface of the bailey is undulating and the trial trench was positioned in a flat area on the north edge, approximately 3m from the edge of the bailey bank which slopes steeply to the north.

### 2.2 METHODOLOGY

A single hand-dug trial trench, 1m<sup>2</sup>, was excavated to the top of the first identifiable archaeological deposits. All exposed deposits were recorded using pro-forma Cambria Archaeology Field Operations context recording sheets and assigned a unique identifying number (e.g. 001; 010; 100). Significant deposits were recorded by scale drawing and photography. Throughout the descriptions and discussions below, context numbers are only used to link illustrations to the text.

### 2.3 RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION (plate 2)

Removal of the turf and dark brown loam topsoil, 0.15m thick, and a layer - 0.1m-0.15m thick, of loose brown loam revealed a layer of fairly compacted brown loam which contained c.10% small angular stone fragments and 2% charcoal flecks (004) and a layer of loose dark brown loam containing 20% angular stones and 2% charcoal flecks (003). Layer 003 spread along the west and south sides of the trench and produced a small quantity of post-medieval or modern pottery sherds and two nail fragments. A small spread of dark brown loam with similar inclusions to 003 was also noted extending into the north side of the trench.

Excavation revealed that layers 003 and 004 were the upper parts of a layer that got stonier with depth, until it was composed of c.30% angular stones, up to 0.1m x 0.1m x 0.08m, 2-3% charcoal and small lumps of what appeared to be burnt clay (006). This layer contained iron nails, possibly machine-made brick and tile fragments of later post-medieval date and some pottery sherds. A narrow slot, 0.2m wide was excavated through 006 to the top of the underlying deposit. This was a mixed deposit of light brown/buff gritty clay and dark brown loam with c.20% rounded stones (cobbles) and 2% charcoal (007).

The excavation was halted at a depth of 0.5m.

### 2.4 CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation revealed archaeological deposits at a depth of c.0.25m-0.3m below the present ground surface. The exact nature of the deposits was not established, but they are thought to represent demolition debris, either from buildings which stood on the

Llywelyn ap Gruffydd Fychan Memorial  
Llandovery Castle  
archaeological evaluation

---

bailey or from elsewhere in the town. Some plans of the castle held by the county SMR have been annotated to show footings in the middle of the bailey and possible towers on the northwest and southwest corners<sup>1</sup>; it is not clear when these plans were drawn. Recent aerial photographs of the castle, taken by Cambria Archaeology, clearly show rectilinear hollows that appear to be the footprint of a building in the centre of the bailey which match the positions of the footings. It is probable that the building was post-medieval in date, and the demolition material encountered in the trial trench may derive from the removal of this building, although the small size of the sample area should be taken into account in any attempt at interpretation.

Traces of other buildings have been recorded on the bailey. For example, earlier monitoring works associated with the installation of benches along the southeast edge of the bailey identified some possible structural remains. This consisted of an area of stone that may have been either a short stretch of wall footing or the edge of a worn floor of a timber building (Burnham 1987). No buildings are shown on the bailey on any maps examined during this project, the earliest being an estate map of 1786 (CRO ref: Cawdor maps vol.1), which suggests that they had been removed by the later 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Even though the evaluation did not provide unequivocal evidence for the nature of the deposits in this area of the bailey it did show that excavation to a depth greater than c.0.25m-0.3m will have an impact on the below ground archaeological resource. This should be considered when finalising construction plans for the foundation for the memorial.

---

<sup>1</sup> information from SAM consent application maps and assorted plans held in the SMR, Llandeilo.

## **APPENDIX ONE: CATALOGUE OF EVALUATION ARCHIVE**

The project archive has been indexed and catalogued according to National Monument Record (NMR) categories and contains the following:

- A. Copy of final report.
- B. Site records, including context record sheets and site notebook.
- D. Site photographs - catalogue, colour slide and B/W contact sheets.
- I. Archive report and draft copies of final report.
- M. Miscellaneous correspondence.

There is no material in categories C, E, F, G, H, J, K, L and N.

The archive is currently held by Cambria Archaeology Field Operations, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, as project number 41364.

## REFERENCES

### CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- 1786 Map of Llandovery Castle. CRO ref: Cawdor maps vol 1.  
1840 Llandingat parish tithe map and apportionment (1839).  
1888 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2500, sheet Carms.XVIII.13.  
1907 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1:2500, sheet Carms.XVIII.13.  
Various annotated maps held in the SAM and DRF files in the SMR, Llandeilo.

### UNPUBLISHED SOURCES

- Burnham H B 1987 Cadw Scheduled Monument Record: SAM visit Description  
Text. Copy held in SAM file in the SMR, Llandeilo.





Plate 1: General shot of area prior to excavation. The trial trench was located in the flat area in the foreground.



Plate 2: Demolition debris exposed in trial trench.