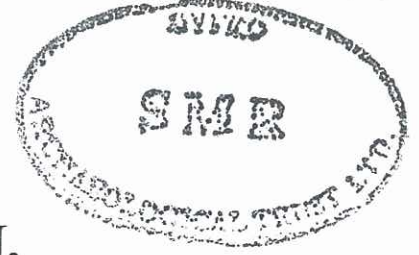


JAN 2003 (1)



LLANWENDA CHURCH, LLANWENDA, PEMBROKESHIRE

THE RECORDING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES AT THE CHURCH



Report No.
2003/17

Report Prepared for:
WYN JONES ARCHITECTS

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY
REPORT NO. 2003/17
PROJECT RECORD NO. 47393

JANUARY 2003

LLANWNTA CHURCH, PEMBROKESHIRE
THE RECORDING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

By

Duncan Schlee MSc

Cambria Archaeology is the marketing name of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited.

The report has been prepared for the specific use of the client. The Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd can accept no responsibility for its use by any other person or persons who may read it or rely on the information it contains.

ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131
Ffacs: 01558 823133
Ebost: cambria@acadat.com Gwefan: www.acadat.com

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited
The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131
Fax: 01558 823133
Email: cambria@acadat.com Website: www.acadat.com

The Trust is both a Limited Company (No. 1198990) and a Registered Charity (No. 504616)
CADEIRYDD CHAIRMAN: B.C.BURNHAM, MA PHD FSA MIFA. CYFARWYDDWR DIRECTOR: E G HUGHES BA MIFA

LLANWENDA CHURCH
LLANWENDA, PEMBROKESHIRE

THE RECORDING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Painted Wall Plaster
- 3.0 Excavation of Electricity Cable Trench
- 4.0 Slate lined 'duct'

ILLUSTRATIONS

- Photo 1:** Wall of south aisle showing location of painted wall plaster
- Photo 2:** Detail of painted wall plaster (fragment A)
- Photo 3:** Cable trench (looking south)
- Photo 4:** East facing section of cable trench (north end)
- Photo 5:** Northern half of cable trench (looking north)

- Figure 1:** Painted wall plaster fragment A
- Figure 2:** Painted wall plaster fragment B
- Figure 3:** Painted wall plaster fragment C
- Figure 4:** Location of painted wall plaster fragments
- Figure 5:** East facing side of cable trench
- Figure 6:** Plan of cable trench

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING AT LLANWNDA CHURCH, PEMBROKESHIRE. JANUARY 2003

1.0 Introduction

Llanwnda Church (NGR: SM 9321 3958, PRN: 2523) is a small parish church of possible early medieval origin, standing within a subrectangular churchyard. During current repairs to the fabric of the church fragments of original wall plaster with painted lettering were encountered. In addition, a trench to contain electricity cables was to be dug within the churchyard. This might disturb burials that would require archaeological recording.

A site visit was made to the church on 31st January 2003 by Duncan Schlee on behalf of Cambria Archaeology in order to undertake the recording of the archaeologically significant discoveries. The recording work was commissioned by Wyn Jones Architects. This report presents a brief record of the nature and character of the archaeologically significant findings.

2.0 Painted Wall Plaster

Inside the church, a small area of original wall surface was uncovered during the removal of later rendering from the wall of the south aisle. It is probable that the majority of the original wall plaster had been removed during previous re-rendering of the wall. Some of the original plaster may, however, have been removed during the current repairs. The surviving fragments of painted plaster are restricted to the area between the eastern window in the south aisle wall, and the corner with the east wall of the south aisle.

The original wall surface consisted of a thin layer of lime plaster applied to the lime mortared stonework, with numerous layers of limewash. Some patches of surviving limewash showed traces of painted lettering in gothic script. The patches of surviving wall plaster are in a fragile condition and will require conservation. It is hoped that these remnants of the original interior decoration of the church can be consolidated and displayed. Unfortunately insufficient amounts of the writing have survived to enable it to be read. During the recording it was noted that a few more traces of the writing are likely to exist beneath later layers of limewash. Careful removal of the later limewash during consolidation is likely to reveal a few more fragments of the painted script, but owing to the fragmented survival of the earlier wall surface overall, it is unlikely that these would add greatly to the understanding of the writing that is visible at present.

The surviving fragments of plaster bearing painted lettering were traced *insitu* onto drafting film and were recorded photographically. Photo 1 shows the south aisle wall with surviving patches of plaster at the top of the wall to the left of the window. Photograph 2 shows the largest fragment of plaster with painted lettering. Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4, represent the main fragments of lettering and an indication of their locations.

3.0 Excavation of Electricity Cable Trench

Outside the church a trench had been dug to contain electricity cables. The trench ran along the western edge of the path leading from the gateway in the churchyard wall to the entrance porch of the church. This pathway slopes down towards the church and is approximately 0.50m below the ground level of the churchyard on either side of the path. It was presumed that the area of the pathway was less likely to contain burials. When the visit was made, the cable trench had already been hand dug by the building contractors and was approximately 0.35m wide, 0.45m deep, and 13.20m long.

Although human skeletal remains had been encountered during the excavation of the trench, the contractors stated that they appeared to be redeposited rather than articulated. Examination of the trench indicated that the northern half of the trench was cut through disturbed top and subsoil into apparently natural silty clay, while the southern half was entirely within the top and subsoil. The east facing trench side was examined and several cuts (probably intercutting graves) were visible in the northern half of the section where cut into the natural clay. The base of the trench was below the level of the cuts in the northern half. In the southern half of the trench no natural clay was visible and any grave cuts were hard to discern. Some fragments of human bone were however visible in the section. It was not possible to ascertain whether the bones visible in the trench edge were *in situ* or not, although an apparently *in situ* human skull was visible in the east section of the trench. Figures 5 and 6 sketch plans and sections of the trench indicating the nature of the stratigraphy and the locations in which bones and cuts were observed.

The section appears to indicate that the church itself is built upon an area of raised natural clay 'platform'. This is probably a natural feature, but could be an artificial feature constructed from re-deposited clay. If so, this event cannot at present be dated.

4.0 Slate lined 'duct'

Against the exterior of the church wall it was discovered that a slate lined void has been constructed at some time in the past. It is presumed that this was intended as a drain, or as a means of allowing ventilation between the wall and the raised ground level of the churchyard which reaches the window sills on the south side. At the time of the visit soil was being dug away to reveal the slate capping stones of this duct to prevent damp penetrating the wall of the south aisle.



Photo 1: The east end of the south aisle wall showing the area of surviving painted plaster at the top of the wall, to the left of the window.



Photo 2: Detail of the largest fragment of painted wall plaster (see figure 1).



Photo 3: Cable trench looking south.



Photo 4: Part of the trench edge (northern half) showing probable grave cuts into natural clay.



Photo 5: Northern half of cable trench.

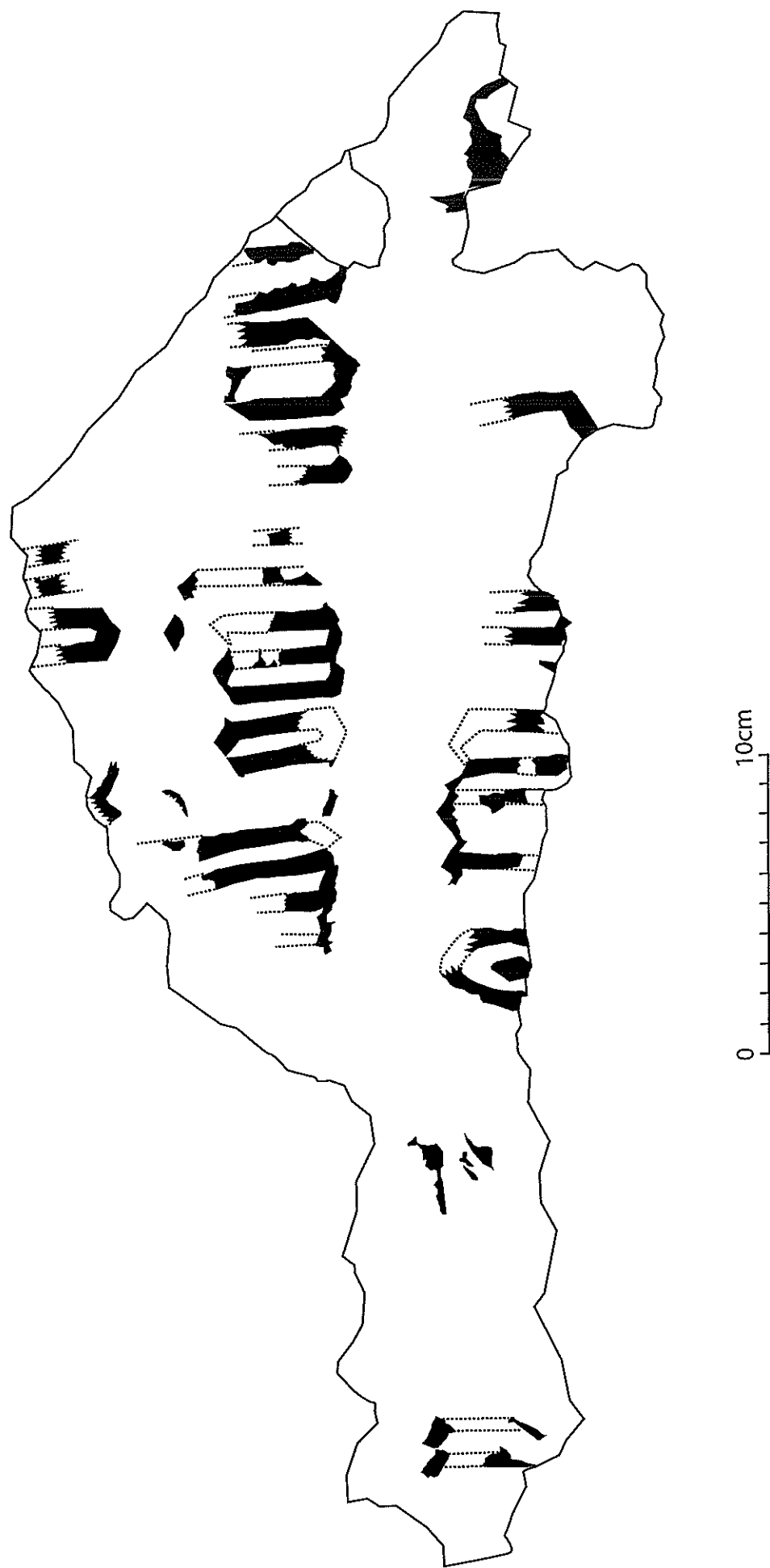


Figure 1: Painted wall plaster fragment A.

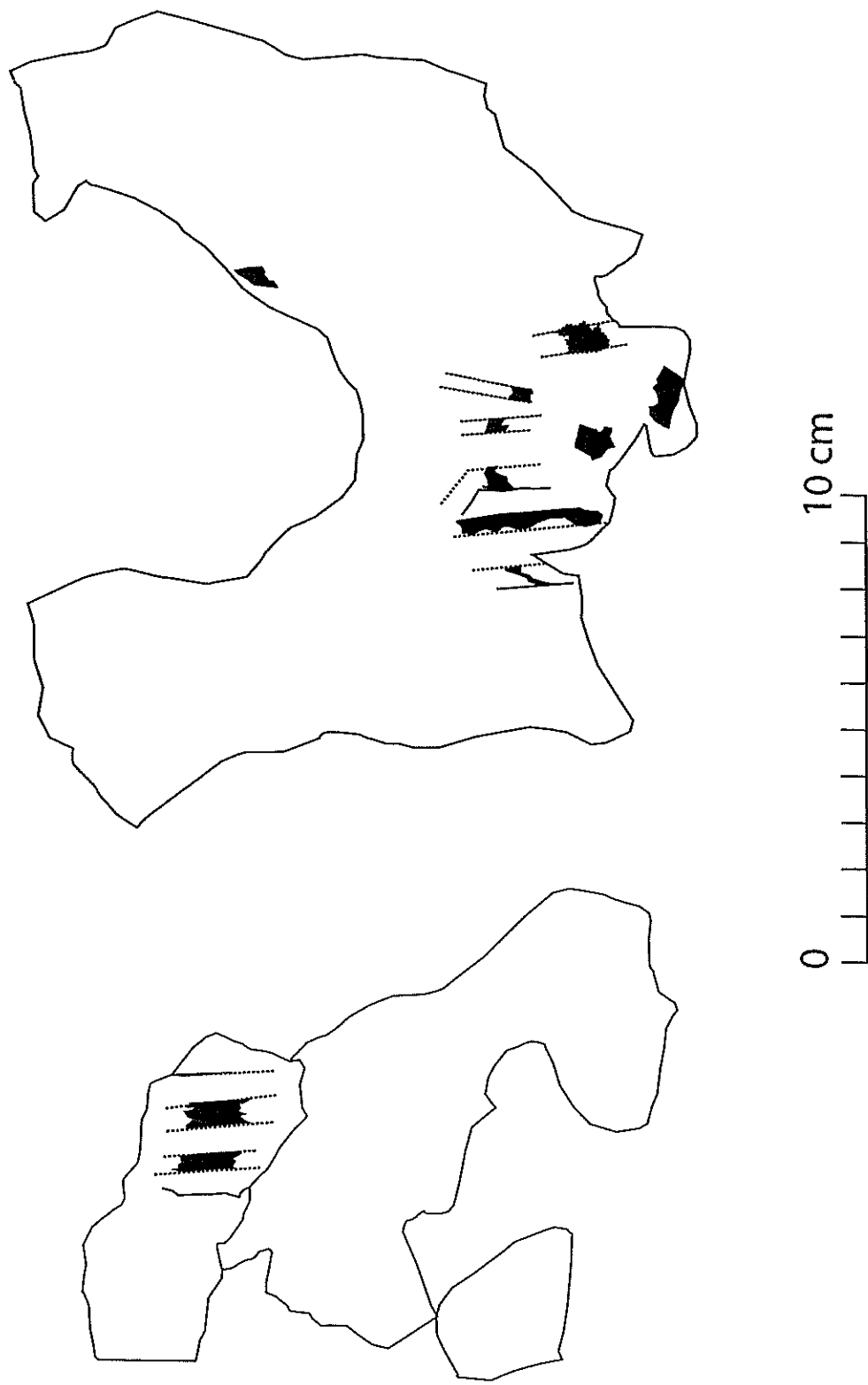


Figure 2: Painted wall plaster fragment B.

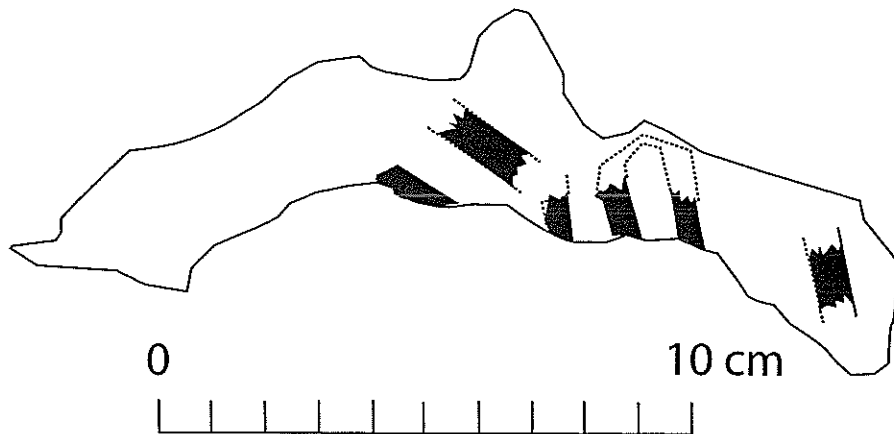


Figure 3: Painted wall plaster fragment C.

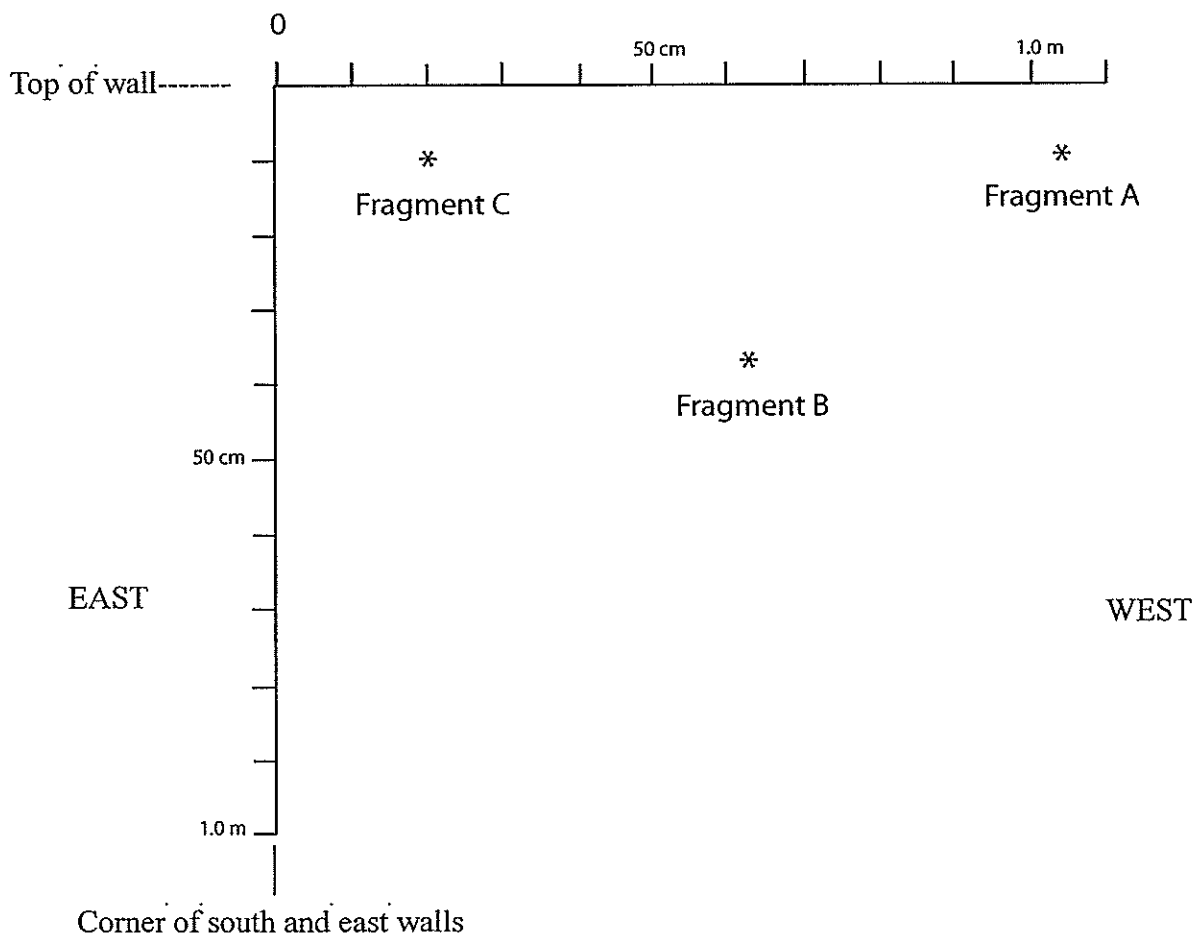


Figure 4: Location of Painted wall plaster fragments on east corner of south aisle wall face.

LLANWNTA CHURCH, PEMBROKESHIRE
THE RECORDING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

REPORT NUMBER 2003/17

JANUARY 2003

This report has been prepared by Duncan Schlee

Position : Archaeologist

Signature

Date

 2/2/03

This report has been checked and approved by
Archaeological Trust Ltd.

NEIL LUDLOW


on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed

Position

PROJECT MANAGER

Signature

Date

 2/2/03

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