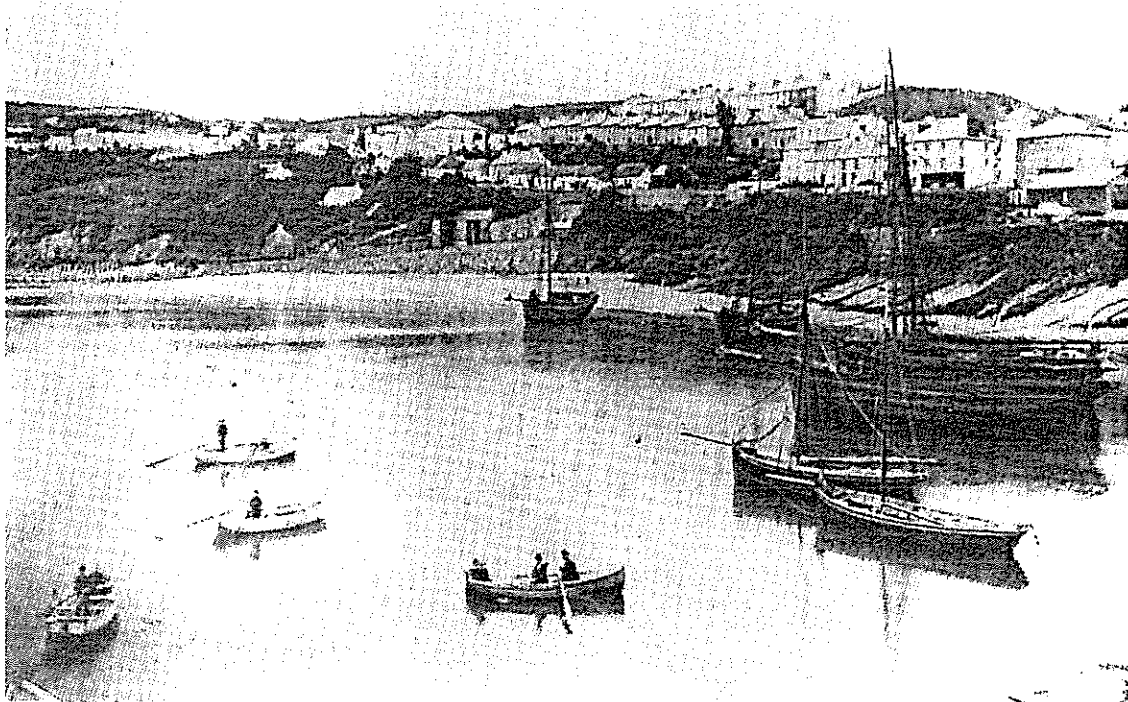


**THE PATENT SLIPWAY
NEW QUAY
CEREDIGION**

**WATCHING BRIEF JUNE 2004
INTERIM REPORT**



Paratowyd gan Archaeoleg Cambria
Ar gyfer Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion
Prepared by Cambria Archaeology
For Ceredigion County Council



A R C H A E O L E G
CAMBRIA
A R C H A E O L O G Y

ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2004/72
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 51399

Gorfenhaf 2004
July 2004

THE PATENT SLIPWAY NEW QUAY CEREDIGION

Gan / By

Pete Crane BA Hons MIFA

*Archaeoleg Cambria yw enw marchnata Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyfyngedig.
Cambria Archaeology is the marketing name of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited.*

*Paratowyd yr adroddiad yma at ddefnydd y cwsmer yn unig. Ni dderbynnir cyfrifoldeb gan Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed am ei ddefnyddio
gan unrhyw berson na phersonau eraill a fydd yn ei ddarllen neu ddibynnu ar y gwybodaeth y mae'n ei gynnwys*

*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
Epost: 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

Cwmni cyfyngedig (1198990) ynghyd ag elusen gofrestredig (504616) yw'r Ymddiriedolaeth. 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 MIF

**THE PATENT SLIPWAY, NEW QUAY,
CEREDIGION**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF,
JUNE 2004**

INTERIM REPORT

Project Record No. 51399

CONTENTS

1.0	SUMMARY	1
2.0	INTRODUCTION.....	2
3.0	RESULTS.....	2
4.0	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	3
5.0	REFERENCES.....	4
6.0	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	4
	FIGURES	5
	PHOTOGRAPHS.....	7

Front Cover: Photograph c. 1880, showing the Patent Slipway in the background

1.0 SUMMARY

A limited watching brief was undertaken during the clearance of the northern revetment wall of the Patent Slipway at New Quay that collapsed during the winter of 2003/4. The base of the wall had completely shifted and only part of the cut in the bedrock for the base for the wall was uncovered. Further work is anticipated here later in the year.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

This report provides a description of the archaeological recording at New Quay Slipway undertaken by Cambria Archaeology in June 2004. This phase proved to be very limited in its archaeological results. It follows an earlier phase of recording (Schlee 2004). This earlier report provides greater detail and interpretation relating to the slipway and this is not repeated here.

2.1 Abbreviations used in this report

Sites recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire (SMR) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR).

2.2 Site description and background history

See earlier report (Schlee 2004)

The Patent Slipway at New Quay (SN38995994) (PRN3077⁷~~3~~), was constructed at the southern side of the bay in 1863. It was required for making repairs, but also for lengthening of ships in order to increase their carrying capacity.

The north wall collapsed overnight during the winter of 2003/4. This occurred during work that had entailed digging into the bedrock, with a large jackhammer on a mechanical digger, immediately in front of the wall. A deep section, over 2m below the surface of the slipway, had been excavated in front of the eastern end of the north wall (photo 1) for a proposed toilet block (figure 1). No archaeological monitoring or recording was undertaken during these groundworks. The upper part of the collapse had been consolidated by pinning and covering in wire mesh (photos 2-3).

2.3 Development proposals and brief

The proposal for this phase was the attempted removal of the collapse to ascertain the engineering options for long-term stability of this section, which may affect the choice of rebuilding and visual conformity to the remains of the slipway. As the work was undertaken at short notice, due to the availability of suitable tides to take material from the site across the beach, no formal brief was prepared or specifications submitted. Louise Austin, Head of Heritage Management for Cambria Archaeology, gave a verbal brief to record what was possible and safe.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Excavation of the collapsed wall and landslip

Excavation was undertaken by the direct labour force of Ceredigion County Council under the supervision of Andrew Hale, engineer for Capita Symonds. A JCB-type excavator was used, utilising a toothed bucket on a back-actor to drag the material back, and break up the masonry into manageable lumps, before carrying away with the front bucket.

3.2 Material from the collapse

The massive stones were separated from the collapsed material, as were the masonry lumps. These have been deposited at the local council depot so that there is the option of using most of the stonework in the rebuild.

3.3 Nature of the wall

The wall appeared to have been constructed by cutting into the base of the shaley bedrock and then material, including artefacts of late post-medieval to modern date, being deposited behind the wall. This wall appears to have been bonded or keyed, partly at least, with the eastern wall (photo 4), although it was only butted against the tall retaining wall to the west.

The masonry was all cement- and lime-mortared, with significant flecks of lime. Various inspections of the mortared material were made and it was all very consistent, indicating that this northern wall was all of one build. At least two holes for the ends of timber were seen in the collapsed masonry. These also appeared to be part of the primary construction (photo 5). These holes may have been those for the roof supports for the winching house but their original locations are uncertain due to the collapse. The wall was between 620mm to 680mm wide with the probability that the slightly thinner walling is from the upper part. A number of massive stones were separated from the collapsed masonry (photos 6, 7 and 8). Three of these stones will have come from the lintels of the three recesses near the base of the wall (photo 9 and figure 2), but it is obvious that there were a number of other massive stones in the wall face. Several of these massive stones had c. 50mm diameter holes bored through them. One stone had two holes, but only one of which (on the left of photo 10) was bored through.

3.4 Damage

The footings for the winch mechanism appear to have been removed during the works immediately prior to the collapse of the north wall. The excavation for the toilet block (figure 1) cutting deep into the bedrock (photo 4) will have probably destroyed all archaeological remains in that area. The wall collapse may have been due to, or caused, shifting of the bedrock shelf onto which the wall was constructed. The whole of the north wall had either collapsed or shifted. The only possible *in situ* remains is the stub of the north wall bonded into the east inner side of the east slipway wall.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Because of safety issues it was not possible to investigate the base of the collapsed north wall or the area immediately in front. It was apparent that the whole of the north wall has collapsed or moved and therefore it will not be possible to incorporate the base of the original wall in the rebuild. The form of the wall to be rebuilt needs consideration. We recommend that the wall be rebuilt in the original location and reflects its appearance and dimensions using, wherever possible, the original stones that were recovered. The recommendations are the same as those in the earlier report. In summary: it is of vital importance for the understanding of this part of the slipway

that archaeological recording is incorporated in the programme for the rebuild. The extent of the recent disturbance will need to be recorded so that it is not confused at a later date with features relating to the slipway's operation. It will also be necessary to clear, clean and record where and how the north wall was constructed and if any evidence now survives for the base of the winch mechanism.

5.0 REFERENCES

Schlee D 2004 *New Quay Slipway, Ceredigion: Watching Brief*. Unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology for Ceredigion County Council. Copy held by Cambria Archaeology SMR. Report No 2004/51

6.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Andrew Hale of Capita Symons, engineer on site for his support and photographs.

FIGURES

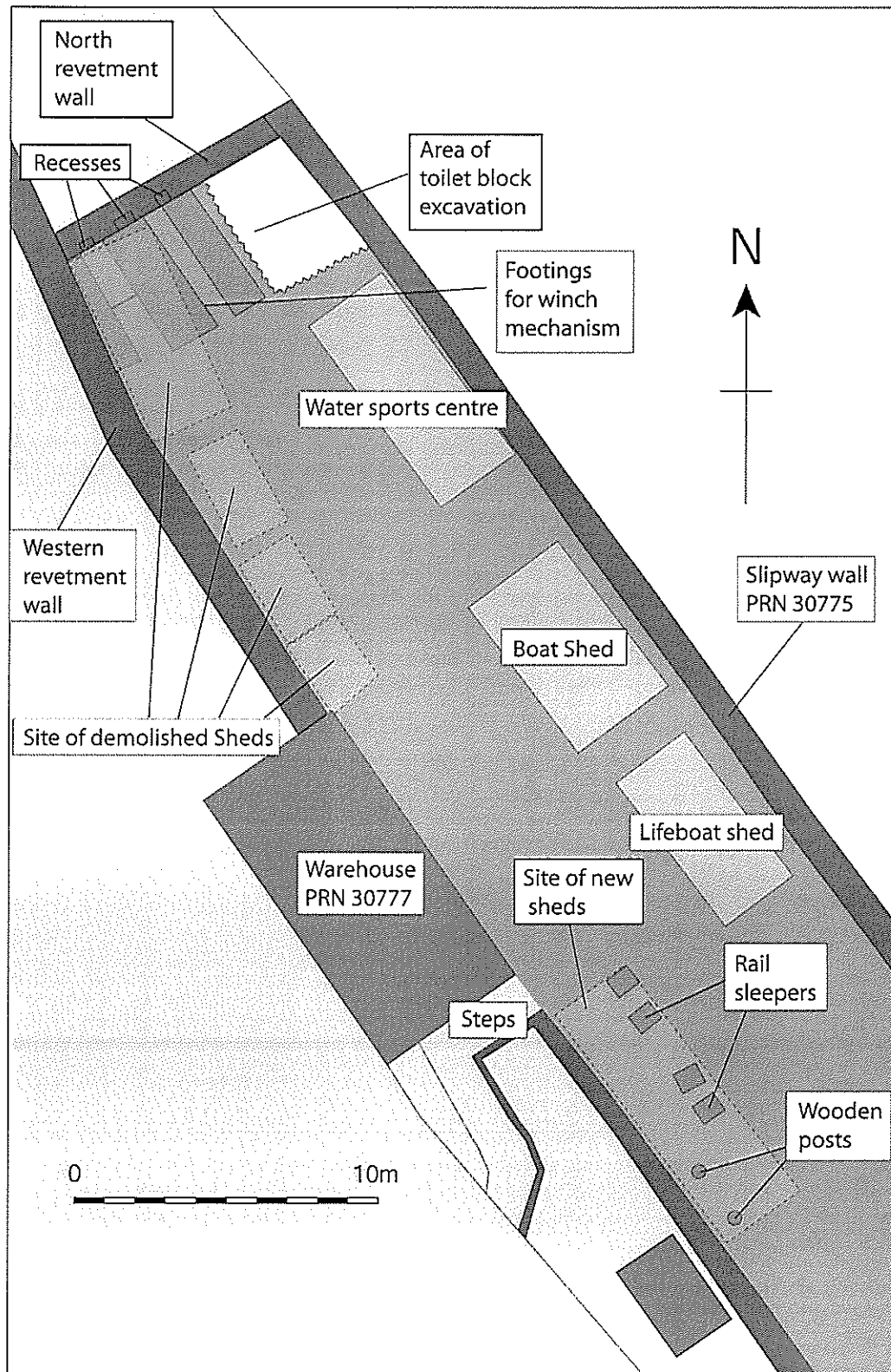


Figure 1: Plan of New Quay slipway showing locations of features associated with the Patent Slipway revealed during the recent groundworks. NB. Locations and dimensions not exact (after Schlee 2004).

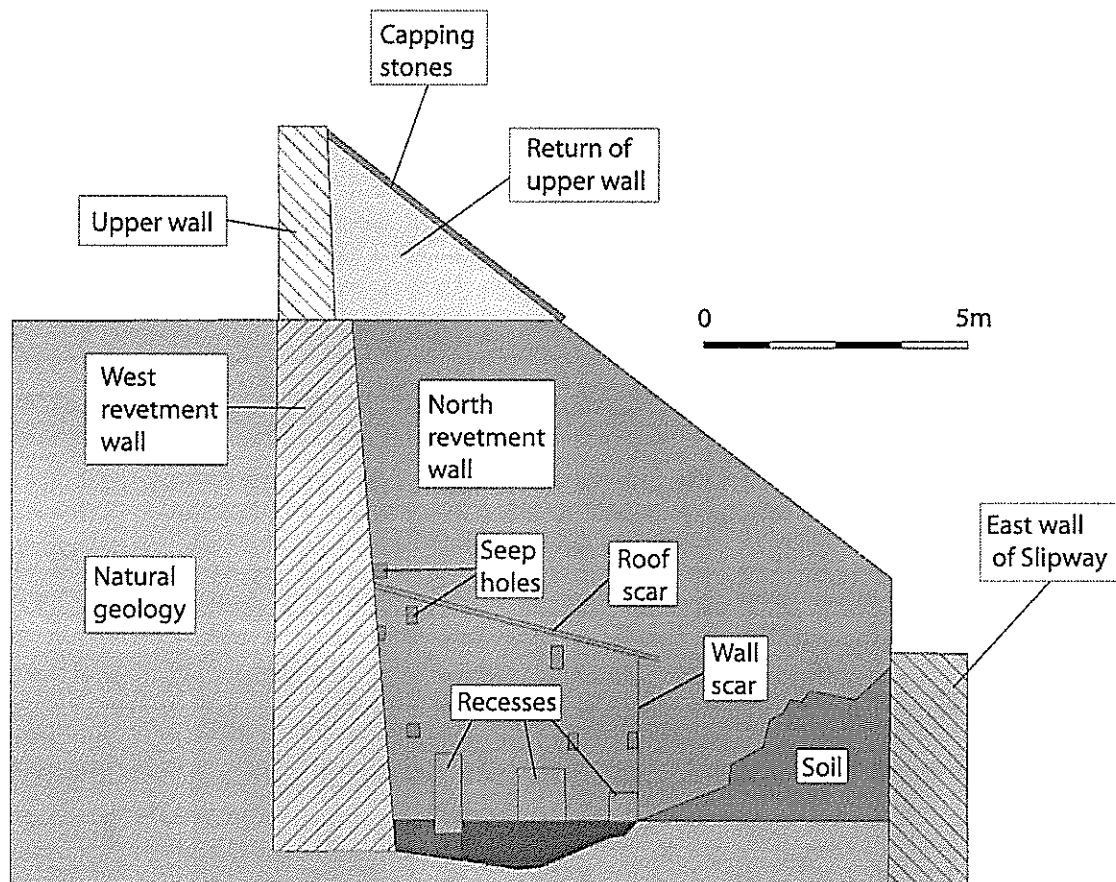


Figure 2: Elevation of the northern revetment wall. NB. Horizontal distances are measured, but vertical distances are estimated. The width of walls in section are not known (from Schlee 2004)

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Part of hole excavated for toilet block. View NE. Scale 1.5m. The north wall was to the left, the east wall PRN 30775 is behind the scale.



Photo 2: Collapse. View NE. Scale 2m



Photo 3: Collapse. View W. Scale 2m

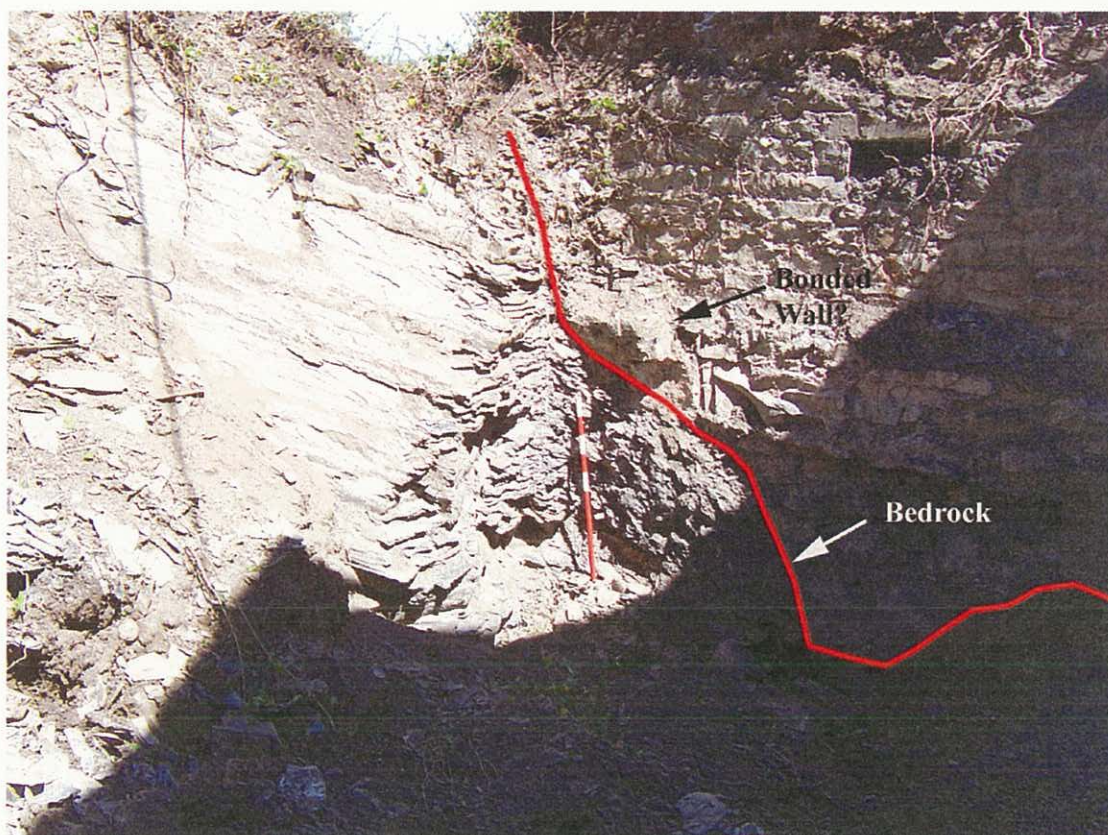


Photo 4: In hole for toilet block, stub of north wall bonded to eastern? View N. Scale 1m



Photo 5: Masonry from collapse, original socket for timber. Scale 0.5m



Photo 6: Massive stones being moved. © Andrew Hale



Photo 7: Massive stones now at depot. Scale 1m



Photo 8: Massive stones now at depot



Photo 9: The north revetment wall of slipway showing the various features in the wall and the roof line scar. View NW



Photo 10: Massive stone with two bored holes, only the left goes through stone. Stones now at depot

**THE PATENT SLIPWAY
NEW QUAY
CEREDIGION**

**WATCHING BRIEF JUNE 2004
INTERIM REPORT**

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2004/72

Gorfenhaf 2004
July 2004

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

Swydd / Position: Senior Archaeologist

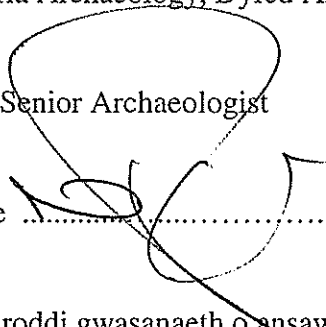
Llofnod / Signature  Dyddiad / Date 26/07/2004

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

Nigel Page

ar ran Archaeoleg Cambria, Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Senior Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature  Dyddiad / Date 26/07/2004

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