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CASTELL COCH
NEWTON NORTH, PEMBS
PRN 3616

AN HISTORICAL SUMMARY AND STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION

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Report prepared for Pembrokeshire County Council
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INTRODUCTION

Summary

Castell Coch (PRN 3616; SAM Pe 53) is a fine example of a semi-fortified but unvaulted first floor Hall-house of the 14th century that lies within a 'moated enclosure'. It was the centre of the Manor of Newhouse. The enclosure bank recieved at least one corner drum tower by *c.*1500. A late medieval fishpond lies to the east. Large first floor windows were added to the Hall-house during the 16th century, and in the 17th century a three-storeyed house was formed within the building. The site may have been abandoned by 1670.

The site was noted by the antiquary Richard Fenton in 1811. Published accounts can be found in *Archaeologia Cambrensis* volume for 1922, by Caroe and Phillips, and in the RCAHM(W) *Inventory* for Pembrokeshire of 1925. It is not mentioned by Smith in his *Houses of the Welsh Countryside*, possibly due to its semi-fortified character.

The house is now in a fair condition. The entire site is thickly overgrown and parts of it wooded and of the tree cover grows from the walls themselves. The eastern area was inaccessible at the time of the survey being completely overgrown with brambles. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, Pe 53.

Project methodologies and limitations

The brief, prepared by Pembrokeshire County Council, requested an archaeological survey of the site, comprising:

1. The undertaking of a physical measured survey including the presentation of plans and elevations of the structures and their immediate boundaries.

2. Accompanying documentary and historical research.

3. The production of a report based upon the information obtained in (1) and (2) above.

4. The production of 1 set of copy negatives of all drawings.

5. The production of 3 sets of dyeline prints of each drawing.

6. The production of a suite of photographs in colour print format

The project effectively represents the first stage of an on-going management strategy for the individual sites and buildings, to be supplemented by further investigative work.

The level of survey suggested by the client conformed broadly to Level 2, as defined by the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments (England), *Recording Historic Monuments: A Descriptive Specification*, 1990, as *'essentally a* visual *record, supplemented by the minimum information needed to identify the buildings location, age and type.'* The visual component is represented by a full photographic record of both interiors and exteriors of the individual buildings concerned, and plans and elevations drawn to 1:50 scale and output via AUTOCAD. Stone-by-stone recording was not requested. The record also includes a topographical survey and location plan of the structures, undertaken using an EDM theodolite and data recorder and reproduced at 1: 200 scale. The above will be submitted as a separate enclosures from this report.

The topographical survey was hampered by the vegetation, both soft and hard, that obscured much of the site. The eastern ecclosure was, in fact, completely innaccessible at the time of the survey. This must be borne in mind when drawing conclusions from the plan.

Further, more detailed survey is anticipated. This will be a component of the future archaeological study, detailed specifications for which will be drawn up as a result of the present study.

PART 1: CASTELL COCH - A HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Castell Coch was the administrative of Newhouse, a manor that appears to have been a member of the Lordship of Narberth through the majority of the medieval period, but intermittently under episcopal control. The manor appears to have been coterminous with the parish of Newton North. There is no specific mention of Newhouse before the 14th century and the manor appears to be a late creation.

Much of the general backround for this section has been obtained from Ludlow, 1996, *Narberth Castle*, commissioned by Pembs. County Council.

THE LORDSHIP OF NARBERTH

The Lordship of Narberth appears to have been coterminous with the pre-conquest commote of Arberth. The conquest of most of what is now Pembrokeshire under Roger de Montgomery and his son Arnulf, beginning with the establishment of Pembroke Castle in 1093, provides a context for the reorganisation of the commote on Anglo-Norman lines. At its height in the later medieval period, the Lordship was coterminous with the ecclesiastical parishes of Narberth North and South, Newton North, Crinow, Robeston Wathen, Mounton, Llanddewi Velfrey and Lampeter Velfrey.

The *caput* or head of the lordship was Narberth Castle. The first recorded reference to a castle at Narberth is in 1116, when it was burnt - and apparently taken - by a resurgent Welsh attacking force (Jones, 1952, 40). There is no accurate record of the name of the founder but it may have been a follower of Arnulf de Montgomery or an individual acting under the authority of Henry I.

At a subsequent but unknown date the lands comprising the former commote of Arberth were granted to Henry FitzRoy, a bastard son of Henry I via his mistress Nest - the daughter of Rhys ap Tewdwr (Howells, 1987, 81, citing NLW Slebech MS 3224; Thorpe, 1978, 189). Henry FitzRoy styled himself 'Lord of Narberth' (Lloyd, 1912, 495-7, citing Giraldus Cambrensis, *De Rebus*, I, 9) - presumably administering his estates from Narberth Castle. He may have held the Lordship of Narberth until his death in 1157 (Thorpe, 1978, 189-90).

The Lordship of Narberth appears to have been from the first semi-independent from crown authority as vested in the sheriff of Pembroke. Unlike the rest of the Pembroke territories Narberth does not appear in the royal accounts that make up the 'Pipe Roll' for the year 1130 - the sole surviving fiscal document for this early period in West Wales (Hunter, 1929 edn., 89). By extension the Lord was not answerable to the sheriff. Such a status seems to have persisted when, in 1138, the three former cantrefs were granted as a unit to Gilbert FitzGilbert de Clare, who was created Earl of Pembroke (Chibnall, 1963, 111-12). These lands were now formally defined as the Earldom of Pembroke and henceforth subject to palatine rule. The rights and privileges of the earls however, do not in these early years appear to have extended into the Lordship of Narberth. Henry FitzRoy's successors as 12th-13th century Lords of Narberth are not known.

Prior to the Norman conquest the commote of Efelffre (comprising Llanddewi Velfrey and Lampeter Velfrey parishes) formed part of Cantref Gwarthaf, representing what is now western Carmarthenshire. Its was to become united with Arberth and incorporated within the Lordship of Narberth; however, this union was later, being a product of the 13th century (Howells, 1987, 81, citing NLW Slebech MS 3224).

NEWTON - ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY

During this period, however, the Newhouse area may have been more closely associated with the ecclesiastical history of the region than with that of the Lordship of Narberth - an association that, later on, was to complicate its inheritance (see below, 8). A holding roughly corresponding to Newton North parish had, at some point during the medieval period but before 1326, been granted to the

Bishops of St Davids (Rees, 1932), possibly by the Lord of Narberth but the grant may be pre-conquest - the details and date of the grant are unknown.

The name Newton North is interesting - was the parish named after Newhouse and a possible associated settlement? This would tend to suggest that it was a rather late creation. The 'North' element may confirm this, suggesting that there was a pre-existing Newton, probably Manorbier Newton which, as its name suggests, was already a late-established settlement. At first, then, the grant may have been a tract of land, without settlement; it lies within the area once occupied by Narberth Forest (Owen, ed., 1897, 86) and now represented by Canaston Wood, and so was probably thickly wooded. Indeed, it has been suggested that as a manorial holding Newhouse was a very late creation, resulting from *assarting* (systematic clearance of woodland), probably during the land-hunger of the later 13th century (Walker, n.d.). If so, the Manor of Newhouse may have been a deliberate creation of the Mortimer Lords of Narberth (see below, 7).

However, the church of Newton North may have had earlier origins (its dedication is unknown and the church cannot be dated on this basis) and have been associated with a land-holding not formally organised as a parish. The 'chapel of Newton' appears in several lists and valuations of property belonging to St Dogmaels Abbey at the time of the Dissolution (reproduced in Pritchard, 1907, 101, 104-6, 173-183) and, with a chapel at 'Lisprant' (?Llys-y-fran), was valued at £3 13s 4d in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1540 (*ibid.*, 96) . Rees, however, considered it to be a parish church (Rees, 1932). It is unusual that a church located on episcopal land should be appropriated to a monastic house, and some doubt must remain as to whether it is Newton North church that is actually being referred to in the documents.

THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY

The death of King Henry II in 1189 initiated a major Welsh resurgence under Rhys ap Gruffudd, the 'Lord Rhys' and many Anglo-Norman held territories were lost. The Lordship of Narberth appears to have remained in Anglo-Norman hands throughout the first part of this period of upheaval but under Rhys' sons, and the Princes of Gwynedd, was at least ravaged.

It is not known who held tenure of the Lordship of Narberth during this period, and there is no information in the contemporary chronicles or accounts. However, it was at this point that there appeared on the scene the Anglo-Norman baron who was to be chiefly responsible for regaining the lost territories, William Marshal I. Formally created Earl of Pembroke in 1199, Marshal was granted Efelffre - presumably still in the gift of the crown - in 1200 (Lloyd, 1912, 619 citing Charter Roll 47) and was eventually absorbed within the Lordship of Narberth, doubling its size. It remained a 'Welshry' ie. subject to Welsh forms of tenure and law. Of Narberth the chronicles are again silent but the lordship possibly recognised Marshal's overall suzerainty.

The Lordship of Narberth with Efelffre remained in Marshal hands until 1247 when, with the death of the direct family line, the Marshal estates were divided among the numerous co-heirs. The precise relationship of the lordship to the Earldom (County Palatine) of Pembroke is not clear. A 20th century study (Walker, 1950) describes the Lordship of Narberth ('newly formed' in 1247) as a demesne manor of the Earls of Pembroke, but this is unlikely in the formal sense - the demesne manors of Pembroke existed solely by service to the earls and were concentrated on the Castlemartin peninsula (and see below). Nevertheless Narberth was subject to the earls' writ and in 1247 was subject to the partition of the Marshal estates. The Lordship fell to Roger Mortimer, Lord of Wigmore and with estates in Powys, through his marriage to Maud de Braose, daughter of Eva Marshal.

Roger Mortimer died in 1282, and although the Lordship of Narberth remained in Mortimer hands it appears to have been administered by the crown immediately following Roger's death (Owen, 1914, 75). However, the castle and lordship was to fall to his grandson Roger Mortimer III, Earl of March, along with his other estates in West Wales. Roger Mortimer III was one of the chief opponents of King Edward II and rose in open rebellion in 1321. As a result, the Lordship of Narberth was siezed in 1322, though nominally remaining a Mortimer possession (Owen, 1914, 76). It remained in the king's hands, however, for over 100 years and eventually came to be regarded as crown property.

THE MANOR OF NEWHOUSE

The Lordship of Narberth, though held of the crown, was still viewed by the Earls of Pembroke as falling as a whole within their jurisdiction and the subjects of the lords of Narberth continued to perform suit at the county court of the earls at Pembroke (Owen, 1897, 349). Any dues that were once rendered to Pembroke in the form of service or goods, however, appear to have ceased, if indeed they had ever been levied.

The *Inquisition post mortem* of Roger Mortimer held in 1282 demonstrates that at his death Mortimer's West Wales estates comprised 'the lordship and out-lordship of Narberth' (Owen, 1914, 74). The inlordship was represented by the former commote of Arberth, including the vills of Narberth itself, Templeton and Robeston Wathen, and rent of lands at Sodston. All these estates were held from the crown 'in chief' by knight-service for the defence of Carmarthen. The out-lordship comprised the commote of Efelffre, still a 'Welshry' and like Arberth held of the crown in chief.

Walker (1950) has claimed that it is from this period that the first reference to Newhouse is obtained; 'other documents show that there were demesne lands of the manor of Narberth at Camp Hill to the south of the town and at Atheston, and that the lordship also embraced the townships of Canaston, Castell Dwyran and Newhouse' (Walker, 1950, 348), but gives a reference to a 14th century source (*ibid.*, n.8). In an unpublished typescript Walker also terms one of the contemporary Mortimers 'Mortimer of Newhouse' who was dead by 1313, and was succeeded by a Llewelyn Mortimer (Walker, n.d.), but does not cite his primary source.

It has been suggested above that the Manor of Newhouse was a late creation. And, in fact, the first clear reference to Newhouse occurs in a 1326 survey, undertaken four years after the lordship was confiscated from Roger Mortimer III but referring to an earlier situation. It forms part of a general survey of the Bishop of St David's holdings called *The Black Book of St David's* and appears under the general heading of Country of Lawhaden, sub-heading Undivisible Knight's Fees (Willis Bund 1902, 159):

> *'Item, Sir Roger de Mortimer holds the lands of Lyspraust and Newhouse as 2½ carucates of land, and pays yearly at Easter and Michaelmas 8 marks.'*

The holding referred to can be regarded as a manor although ther is no information regarding its extent in terms of knights' fees. The eight marks that had been paid by Mortimer appears to be *scutage*; commutation for military service; the 2½ carucates referred to represent about 300 acres of ploughland.

It is unlikely that Roger resided at Newhouse, in whatever form the manor then took; the Mortimers had extensive holdings elsewhere, both in Wales and beyond, and within the lordship his main seat was at Narberth Castle. The land of Lyspraust and Newhouse was probably let to sub-tenants. The form of a knight's residence in south-west Wales is unknown; it is likely that Newhouse had its foundation as one, likewise the now lost site of Lyspraust. The development of the present Castell Coch will be discussed in Part 2 below.

It must be stressed that the precise relationship between the episcopal interest in Newton North, and that of the Lordship of Narberth, is not known. However, it is clear from this document that the Bishopric of St Davids, under Bishop David Martin, was relinquishing its interest in its Newton North holdings. As overall Lord of Narberth it is not surprising that Mortimer should have an interest in the manor; however, it will be seen below that episcopal interest never entirely ceased.

THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY

Later in 1326 the Lordship of Narberth was granted - on behalf of the crown - to Sir Rhys ap Gruffydd, Justiciar of South Wales, who held them on and off until 1354 (Griffiths, 1972, 100). However, as a part of the Mortimer inheritance the lordship was twice briefly placed under the custody of Bishop Henry de Gower of St Davids, in 1331 and 1337 (Walker, n.d.). There was,

apparently, some initial uncertainty as to whether Newhouse belonged to the Lordship of Narberth but it too was eventually vested in the Bishopric.

A further Roger Mortimer, grandson of the Earl of March, regained the Lordship of Narberth in 1354 and later in the same year recovered Newhouse from the Bishop of St Davids without opposition (Walker, n.d. citing Patent Roll 154, 239).

The lordship was briefly granted to the Bishop of Winchester in 1359 but the grant was soon revoked and the lands assigned to Mortimer's widow, Philippa (Owen, 1914, 81-2); it is apparent that the gift was still very much at royal discretion and was short-lived. The Mortimer heir, Roger, was never confirmed in his inheritance; the Lordship of Narberth was later to be claimed by a further Mortimer kinsman but was again witheld (Owen, 1914, 90-91).

THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY

In 1404 Sir Thomas Carew, of the nearby Carew Castle, was granted 'custody' of the Lordship of Narberth for life, but remained a crown functionary (Owen, 1914, 86-7). He was, however, permitted to receive the issues and profits of the lordship in return for maintaining 10 men-at-arms and 20 bowmen for the king's service, as a response to the Owain Glyndwr threat. The Bishops of St David's, however maintained an interest in the holding; in 1413-14 the then Lord of Narberth, another Roger Mortimer, paid £8 for the rent of Newhouse to the bishop for three terms; for the same year a total of £6 13s had been collected by the Reeve of Newhouse (Owen, 1914, 89) - the occupant of Castell Coch itself?

The Lordship was granted to a Mortimer descendant, Richard, Duke of York, by Henry VI some time before 1449 (Owen, 1914, 92) when he mortgaged 'the castle, town and lordship' of Narberth to John de la Bere, Bishop of St Davids, and Gruffydd ap Nicholas, Sheriff of Carmarthenshire and Deputy Justice for South Wales (Griffiths, 1972, 203). Gruffydd ap Nicholas apparently considered himself Lord of Narberth (Rees, 1990, 3) but there is no suggestion that this was ever formally recognised. Newhouse remained in the Lordship and under Gruffydd's control, for in 1451 it was recorded that Gruffydd was detained from 'his land' at Lyesprans and Newhouse (Griffiths 1993, 161). Following this detention, Bishop John de la Bere clearly believed that he had a claim to the property and instituted proceedings against Gryffydd in the Court of Common Pleas in 1454-55 for possession of half of 'Lyesprans and Newhouse' (Griffiths 1993, 161). It is not clear if his suit was sucessful; Newhouse, however, remained in the lordship of Narberth. Further records of the mid 15th century and the mid 16th century confirm the manorial status of Newhouse, though they do not indicate who dwelt at the house (National Library of Wales, Slebech 92, 94, 95; Owen 1914, 115).

In 1477 the Lordship of Narberth was granted, along with extensive lands in Wales, by Edward IV to his son Edward, Prince of Wales. Upon succeeding to the throne as Edward V in 1483 he in turn granted them to Henry, Duke of Buckingham and Lord of Brecon (Owen, 1914, 94). Buckingham was executed later in the same year and Narberth once again reverted to the crown.

In 1515 Henry VIII granted the lordship to his father's friend and ally Sir Rhys ap Thomas (Rees, 1987, 31), grandson of Gruffydd ap Nicholas (see above) . Rhys ap Thomas was a ruthless estate builder and held extensive lands and offices - Justice of the Principality of South Wales, Steward, Reciever and Chancellor of the Crown Lordship of Haverfordwest, Lord of Carew and Knight of the Garter. He held Narberth until his death in 1525.

His lands and possessions largely fell to his grandson, the 17 year old Rhys ap Gruffydd (Rees, 1987, 33). Documents relating to a grant of 1601 (see below) state that Newhouse 'and Newton' were late in the possession of Katherine, Countess of Bridgewater and 'Rice Griffith' ie. Rhys ap Gruffudd (NLW Slebech 351, 390). He was arrested for alleged treason in 1529 to be executed in 1531 and the Lordship of Narberth again reverted to the crown, from 1532-8 under the stewardship of Morris Parry (Griffuths, 1972, 225). It would therefore seem that Newhouse previously had again become part of the Mortimer inheritance, and so part of the Lordship of Narberth, until the death of Rhys ap

Gruffydd and that on his death his holdings were granted to his wife Katherine, Countess of Bridgewater.

THE ACT OF UNION

The term lordship is most often used in contemporary accounts to describe the status of Narberth, but it is described as a Barony at least once, in a 16th century source (Owen, 1897, 374). The terms in this case may be rather arbitrary; moreover, in 1536 the Lordship of Narberth as a feudal marcher lordship ceased to be.

In the Act of Union that was passed in that year the Marcher Lordships were abolished, and replaced by shires. In SW Dyfed the former County Palatine of Pembroke (including the whole of the Lordship of Narberth, ie with Efelffre) was united with Pebidiog and Cemais to the north to form the county of Pembrokeshire, as it exists today. Feudal rights, priviliges and obligations ostensibly ceased to operate within its borders, and its various administrations were reorganised on civil lines.

As the head of a new hundred Narberth remained an administrative centre and indeed manorial courts were held within the castle. Furthermore the 'Lordship of Narberth' remained a territorial as well as a purely titular entity and the demesne lands were retained as well as a number of privileges. The 'Lordship, manor and forest of Narberth' remained with the crown but with Newhouse were leased to several individuals from the 1530s to the 1550s. In a Minister's Account of 1532-3 by John Cole, reeve of Newhouse, the rents of assize of 'New House, alias Newton', were worth £100 (Owen, 1914, 100-101); the document also mentions ten tenements and a fulling mill. In 1545-6 the rents totalled £103 6½d (*ibid.*, 115).

In 1547 Sir Walter Rice, Knight, held a freehold property in Newton for which he paid £6 5s per annum, presumably Newhouse (Owen, 1914, 120) but by 1550 the lordship, with Newhouse, had been leased to Sir John Vaughan. Manorial courts of the Lordship of Narberth were held at Newhouse as well as at Narberth Castle; for instance in 1550 Sir John was admitted to 5 acres of land in Narberth and 7 acres of land in Mounton for 5s per annum, at Newhouse (NLW, Slebech 94). It appears then that the manor house, certainly represented by the present Castell Coch, functioned as an administrative centre as well as the residence of the reeve.

THE BARLOWS ACQUIRE NEWHOUSE

In 1565 Newhouse, 'otherwise Newton', was leased from the crown by John Barlow of Slebech, as recorded in NLW Slebech -/96, a significant document as it records the growing influence of the Barlows in this part of Pembrokeshire. John was the son of Roger Barlow who had purchased from the crown the Commandery of the Knights Hospitaller at Slebech in 1546, shortly after the dissolution of the order (Charles, 1948, 184 citing NLW Slebech MS 12462). The Hospitaller estates included much of the upper end of the Eastern Cleddau estuary and formed the nucleus of what were to become vast family estates in Pembrokeshire. The Barlow family became typical members of the Tudor Pembrokeshire squirearchy. Further evidence of their influence in and around Newhouse is evidenced in a document of 1583 when the Barlows leased a messuage in Newton to John Gybbe of Newhouse, 'husbandman' (NLW Slebech, 402). Newhouse remained with the Slebech Estate until the present century.

In 1617 the Lordship and Castle of Narberth were granted to the Prince of Wales, the future Charles I (Charles, 1948, 187). The grant did not include the Manor of 'Newton and Newhouse', nor Efelffre, Robeston Wathen and Canaston which had, in 1601-2, been acquired by George Barlow, son of John Barlow - '*nova domus*, otherwise Newhouse' was granted by John Thyme senior of Longleate and Henry Best of London (NLW Slebech, 353). A legal battle followed between Barlow and the Prince over ownership, boundaries generally, and rights. In the end Barlow was forced to purchase the Lordship of Narberth itself in order to have a compact estate.

The present name Castell Coch is first suggested in a survey of woodland made in 1609 in which 'Newhouse *alias* Redcastle' is twice referred to in passing (Owen, 1914, 142-143).

THE CIVIL WAR

Newhouse is not mentioned in the *Inquisition Post Mortem* of John Barlow who died in 1613 (Green 1913, 131) although it clearly formed part of the Slebech Estate, which is doubtless the context for its modernisation by the addition of the cross-wall and fireplaces (see Part 2 below). It was recognised as a house of some status - it is shown, as 'Redcastle' on the Speed Map of *c.*1610 and similarly on the John Blaeu map of a similar date (Pritchard, 1907).

It is probable that Newhouse was leased out throughout most of the 17th century, but as a residence and occasionally to members of the Barlow family. However, in 1613 it was the residence of one Philip FitzPhilip, gent. (Laws, 1888, 306). The estate had passed to John Barlow's grandson, another John, when the Civil War broke out. The Barlows were Royalists. Consequently, in 1648 the Slebech Estate was taken away from them and granted to Major-General Laugharne. Laugharne permitted Col. Lewis Thomas to reside at Newhouse (Caroe & Phillips 1922, 478). Thomas was excuted in 1648 for fighting on the Royalist side, but his widow was permitted to continue to live at Newhouse.

By 1657 John Barlow, had recovered Newhouse. He appears to have resided chiefly at Martletwy, for he is described as of that place in an inventory of his effects made after his death in 1671 (Green, 1913, 143). Nonetheless, Newhouse was kept in the family - in 1657-8 Newhouse 'formerly Redd Castle' was leased to Lewis Barlow, gent., his fifth son, for 99 years (NLW Slebech 396).

DECLINE AND DISUSE

John Barlow was succeeded by his son, another John, later Sir John Barlow and sheriff of Pembrokeshire in 1681. His son George inherited the estate; as Sir George Barlow he was briefly MP for Haverfordwest Boroughs in 1715. He appears to have been succeeded by his only son George who died without issue in France in 1741, and who was described in his will as residing at Kirmond le Mire, Lincs. (Green, 1913, 149). The will contains no reference to the ownership of the Slebech estate. It was assumed by Green that the elder George Barlow gifted Slebech to his brother John Barlow of Colby; his marriage deed mentions that certain manors and lands were conveyed to John but unfortunately does not name them (Green, 1913, 150). He died in 1739 and was succeeded by his son George, who, at the baptism of his daughter, was described as 'George Barlow of Slebetch' (Green, 1913, 151). It appears that the Barlows had ceased to use Newhouse as a residence, and it is not shown on the Bowen map of 1729 (NLW, Emmanuel Bowen, 1729). It may have been abandoned as early as 1670 - no Barlow was liable for Hearth Tax in Newton North parish for that year, and no properties were assessed at more than one hearth (Green, 1926, 135).

George Barlow, Sheriff of Pembrokeshire in 1752, and MP for Haverfordwest Boroughs in 1743, died in 1757. George's daughter Anne married John Symmons of Llanstinan in 1773 (Pembs. R.O, Tyler-Jones, 1990; Jones, 1996, 118) who sold it, in 1786, to William Knox of Soho Square, W1, for £70,000 (NLW Slebech, 822-823). In 1792 Knox sold Slebech estate to Nathaniel Phillips of Gloucester Place (NLW, Slebech 565), High Sheriff of Pembrokeshire in 1796. Nathaniel Phillips' daughter Mary Dorothea had married Charles Frederick, Baron de Rutzen, in 1822 (Pembs. R.O, Tyler-Jones, 1990), and Slebech, with Newhouse Farm, was in his hands by 1831.

It appears that Newhouse had been in decline through most of the 18th century and may have been abandoned at some point during the century. 'Newhouse' is mentioned just twice, in 1767, when Anne Barlow leased it to Richard Thomas, yeoman, and then, in 1786, to Isaac Llewellyn for three lives (NLW, Slebech 588). However, this does not prove that the building itself was inhabited, and in fact the leases may refer to the present Newhouse Farm which was established before 1790 - the farm is depicted on an estate map of that date (NLW, Slebech 40). Newhouse/Castell Coch is not depicted and the map, in common with further estate maps, suggests the site was already wooded. The site is now part of the Picton Castle Estate

Newhouse/Castell Coch was in ruins when seen by the antiquarian Richard Fenton in 1811 (Fenton, 1903 edn., 164), and by 1846 when the site was owned by de Rutzen 'in hand' it comprised nothing but woodland, as today (NLW, Tithe map, 1846); the Llewellyns were still tenants, of Newhouse Farm. The ruins were not mentioned by Lewis in his the *Topographical Dictionary of Wales* (Lewis, 1833).

Newhouse/Castell Coch is depicted on the OS, 1:2500 First Edition of 1889 as 'Newhouse' and as a roofless ruin. The fishpond to the east is also shown. It is also termed 'Newhouse' on the Second Edition of 1907, but by the 1:2500 of 1969 it is termed 'Castell Coch'.

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PART 2 : CASTELL COCH - A STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION

LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

Castell Coch (NGR SN 0712 1368) is situated upon the north-east facing slope of a spur lying between two streams, Penglyn Brook to the west and an unnamed sream to the east. Both join the Eastern Cleddau 1400m north-west of the site defining the small parish of Newton North.

The site slopes downhill from south-west to north-east to the eastern of the two stream, which forms its north-eastern boundary. It lies between 60m and 70m OD. The solid geology comprises Devonian Old Red Sandstones which have weathered to a fine, rich workable and fertile soil.

The entire area now lies beneath broadleaved woodland. The north-eastern quarter of the site forms part of Canaston Wood (though not under the Forestry Commission) and was wooded from the 18th century; the south-eastern three-quarters of the site appear not to have been wooded until the present century.

THE SITE - GENERAL

Castell Coch occupies an approximately rectangular area, its long axis trending WNW-ESE, with overall dimensions of 220m E-W and 80m N-S and thus a total area of 17600m^2 (1.7ha). It is now in a poor-fair condition, but most of its elements can still be discerned if not so readily interpreted. As it now survives, and thus as it existed during its final phase of occupation, the site features one, possibly two enclosures; these are, however, the only earthwork features now discernible. There is now no visible evidence for any underlying landscape or occupational features but such features may exist below ground and the present picture of the site is probably incomplete.

The western, moated enclosure forms a regular square and has a deep, 'V'-shaped dry moat. Within the central platform lies a large, rectangular unvaulted masonry building - the Hall-house. The platform edge exhibits the slight remains of a further masonry feature, possibly a corner tower. It appears that few constructional phases are represented.The eastern area is altogether more vague and is scarcely discernible on the ground; it may have been an enclosure proper, and formerly featured a possible fishpond. There is now no evidence for any further enclosures or other associated features.

The main building is in fair condition, roofless and has been subject to some collapse. It is somewhat overgrown with both ivy and saplings. Indeed, the entire site lies beneath dense vegetation, both hard and soft, rendering the identification of slighter archaeological features problematical. The eastern area, in fact, was innaccessible at the time of the survey, due to the dense undergrowth, and its features were not seen, offering a considerable impediment to the correct interpretation of the site.

All masonry is of the local Carboniferous Limestone rubble except where otherwise stated.

THE MOATED ENCLOSURE

The moated enclosure lies to the west of the site. It forms a regular, slightly oblong square aligned NNE-SSW, with overall dimensions of 95m north-south and 80m east-west. The ground level slopes downhill to the north-east in this area, with a fall of 7m.

The central platform is surrounded by a deep, 'V'-shaped ditch, which, due to the topography, would always have been dry. It is of two clear phases. Initially it was a simple moated central platform, which was later made level with the addition of banks to the south and east, and the massive counterscarp banks were possibly established at the same time.

The ditch averages 14m in width, and 3.5m in depth, and exposes sandstone bedrock at the south-west corner. Much of the depth, however, is caused by the presence of the counterscarp bank which is

11m wide and 2.5m tall, except to the south where built against the slope. The platform on this side accordingly exhibits a bank 5m wide and 2m high; there is a slightly lower bank on the the east side. The counterscarp banks compensate for the fact that the bottom of the ditch to the north, west and east is at much the same level as the surrounding area.

The entrance appears always to have been to the south-east, where thare is a gap in both countercarp and platform banks. The gap in the platform bank is 12m wide and is simple, with no surviving physical evidence for any associated gateway structure although an isolated mound lies just east of the southern bank terminal. The counterscarp bank at this point has been subject to recent disturbance and it appears that at least some of the material that now forms a 'causeway' across the ditch is derived from this disturbance; the original arrangements of the crossing are not known.

Four more gaps occur in the counterscarp bank, to the north-east, north, north-west and west. All of them appear to be later features despite their association with earthen ramps up to the central platform, and may have been cut through for agricultural purposes.

The square central platform also forms a regular, slightly oblong square aligned NNE-SSW, measuring 40m north-south and 36m east-west internally, and with an internal area of 1440m^2. It was secondarily raised above the surrounding area, up to 3m higher in its northern half, to form a roughly level area.

The western bank of the platform displays the remains of masonry (revetment?) walling towards the south; more significantly, the bank at the south-west corner is produced out into the ditch as a 'D'-shaped 'bastion', whose level summit measures 4m by 4m. Substantial masonry remains at the south-east corner of this bastion, comprising mortared limestone and Old Red Sandstone rubble facework, follow a curving line and appear to represent the remains of a 'D'-shaped tower erected upon the bastion and of similar dimensions. A depression opposite the western counterscarp gap may represent the site of an entry, if not a gate structure. These defences may be contemporary with the establishment of the bank.

A number of earthwork features survive on the platform summit. A low bank runs north-south from the south-east corner of the building towards the main entry; this appears to represent the division of the platform into definable units. Two similar low banks in the north-eastern quarter, one containing much rubble, lie at right angles and partially enclose this part of the platform where it lies opposite two sallyports. The banks then may have served a defensive purpose.

A great depth of material - up to 2.3m deep - lies against the south wall of the building obscuring its ground floor openings. It is clearly secondary but appears to contain rather more material than can have been derived from building debris. It is not known what the material comprises; it may represent post-disuse dumping.

THE HALL-HOUSE

The building occupying the centre of the platform is of two storeys, constructed from well coursed, medium-large sized Carboniferous Limestone rubble from a local source. It is unvaulted. A second floor and cross-wall were inserted during the post-medieval period. Its overall internal dimensions are 22.6m east-west and 10.6m north-south. The side walls rise to a height of 9m while the cross-wall gable summit is 13.6m high. The outside walls are 1.6m thick and feature a spiral stair shaft in the south-west corner. The building has been robbed of nearly all of its dressed stone, with the exception of a simple slit light at the south-west corner. With the exception of the inserted internal cross-wall, it appears to be predominantly of a single build. There are the remains of external and internal finishes. The floor is now of earth, but appears to reflect original floor level fairly closely. A shallow central depression in the western half of the building may mark the site of an unknown original feature.

Domestic in purpose, the building is a fine example of a medieval first floor Hall-house which is more-or-less complete and in fair condition. Both external gables have gone, the eastern truncated to

half height, and the upper sections of walling above some of the first floor openings have been lost. Crude, secondary breaches have been made through the outside walls and there are substantial areas of exposed corework. There is much plant growth, predominantly ivy but also some saplings whose root action has cracked the fabric in areas.

The north wall

The north wall is in fair condition, but the north-east corner has gone and corework is exposed where the dressed stone has been robbed from opening surrounds. Its present height of of 9m appears to closely reflect the original height. Footings may be exposed at the east end of the external face. Both faces are ivied.

There are two distinct areas of external facework, with a regular horizontal interface 3.4m from ground level.This is pronounced in the western half of the building but less evident to the east. The facework above this line if much thinner and as a result the coursing is more defined. A similar change occurs internally, but at a height of 6m and with an irreular interface. It is not suggested that two seperate builds are represented (although internally, part of the upper area may have been later refaced); the building follows a very unified design, evidently of a single phase, and the two kinds of facework may be purely decorative. There are the very slight remains of an external lime finish; this is more pronounced internally, particularly within the openings.

There is a pronounced external batter, rising to a height of 1.3m. Internally, first floor level is indicated by a line of joist sockets 3.5m up from present ground level. These are 0.2m square and about the same in depth. There are few further sockets and the external ones may be putlog-holes for scaffolding.

The ground floor

There are a number of ground floor openings, not all of them primary. To the west is a is a much altered and weathered opening, now in the form of a crude entry, 2m tall. The surviving, eastern reveal is well quoined and there is a sill just above ground level. The head has been robbed of its (rubble?) voussoirs and now follows a ragged arched profile. The entire western half of the opening is occupied by masonry ?blocking, but with a matching reveal, which has left an opening just 0.6m wide. The original western stop is marked by a vertical joint which has weathered. The original form of this opening is difficult to decipher; both sill and eastern reveal appear to be primary and to indicate a ground floor entry.

To the east is a rectangular, masonry-lintelled slit light, which appears to be a primary feature, whose external surround has been robbed out. However, a projecting stone may represent the remains of an external sill. The weathered embrasure, 1.8m tall and 1.6m wide, is splayed beneath a rear arch with a shallow, rounded two-centred profile; the intrados exhibits the remains of a lime render finish. The weathered sill is at present ground level.

A secondary entry lies centrally, now 2.7m tall and 2.2m wide. The surround and reveals have been completely robbed out, leaving an opening that resembles a crude, roughly semi-circular outlined breach. However, one voussoir survives internally and infill around the opening can be seen externally, demonstrating that it was a deliberate insertion.

At the west end is a further slit light. It is similar to that described above, and appears to be primary. Much of the external quoining survives; the rear arch is rather depressed.

The first floor

At the west end of the first floor is a narrow entry, 2.3m tall and 1m wide. Both sills, and the outer arch, have been robbed. The rear arch is segmental. The western reveal features a pronounced rebate not mirrored in the eastern reveal. The entry appears to be primary. A vertical crack beneath the sill runs right through the wall thickness to ground level.

This first floor entry was reached by an external stair. Physical evidence for the masonry stairwell survives in the form of keystones that project from the north-west corner of the external face up to a height of 3.5m., and the buried foundations for the stair base. In plan, these form a northwards continuation of the west wall for 3m, which then turn at right-angles to run eastwards for 7m.

There are three large windows in the wall, all at different levels. Two are badly weathered and their form difficult to reconstruct, and none displays any dressings or remains of tracery bars. The window west of centre is very badly weathered, having lost its head and the walling above, but appears to have always been the largest of the three. Its embrasure is 1.7 wide and is slightly splayed. The sill is weathered and obscured by debris.

East of centre is a smaller window, its embrasure measuring 2.5m in height and 1.4m in width, set slightly lower in the wall. Its external opening and outer arch have been completely robbed/weathered, and likewise the rear-arch. The profile of the intrados however survives in the corework and is a rounded 2-centred arch, somewhat depressed. There are weathered remains of shallow splays and sill.

The eastern window is markedly lower than the other two, its weathered sill lying at first floor level. Its embrasure measuring 2.4m in height and 1.25m in width. The rear arch and all surrounding facework have gone, but the outer arch - which here is a continuation of the intrados - survives as a tall, assymmetrical two-centred arch. The splays are very slight, and there is a jamb or rebate in the western splay.

In the absence of dressings etc is impossible to assign precise dates to the window openings. There is also no physical evidence for secondary insertion. However, their size and general form suggest that while the two eastern windows are probably primary, the western window may be a insertion/adaptation of the late medieval/early post-medieval period.

Two sockets in the western half of the internal face, 2.8m up from first floor level, reflect the line of the second floor that was inserted during the post-medieval period (see below, 24). However, they seem rather few in number to be joist-sockets.

The west wall

The west wall is in poor condition, surviving to a maximum height of 8.2m. Corework is exposed where the dressed stone has been robbed from opening surrounds. The external face is thickly ivied.

There is no evidence of any changes in the external facework, but this may be concealed beneath the ivy. Internally the interface between the two types is at the same level as in the north wall. There are the very slight remains of an external lime finish but again this is more pronounced internally. The external batter is slight.

Internally, first floor level is indicated by a large socket 3m up from present ground level, 0.4m square, within which lay the end of a massive through-joist which ran the former length of the building.

The ground floor

There is only one ground floor opening, in the centre of the wall where a former slit light similar to those in the north wall and probably primary was later broken through as a crude entry. Only the northern voussoirs of the depressed two-centred rear arch, height 1.9m, part of its splay and possibly part of the ground-level sill survive; the rest of the irregular outlined opening is exposed corework.

The first floor

There is similarly only one first floor opening, a central window which is in very poor condition. Its head has gone, along with the entire gable above side-wall level, however it appears to have been 3m

tall and 1.7m wide, a large window without splays and possibly secondarily adapted/inserted, like the similar north wall window (see above, 20). Its sill is at first floor level.

A internal socket north of the window, 3m up from first floor level, may reflect the line of the second floor that was inserted during the post-medieval period (see below, 24).It is not possible to assign a function to the four sockets lower down the same face; they form a regular pattern which appears to be more deliberate than necessary for mere scaffold sockets.

The spiral stair

The south-west corner is occupied by a cylindrical spiral stair shaft which ascends the full height of the building and has an internal diameter of 1.6m. It lies within the thickness of the wall, the internal face of which is carried diagonally across the internal angle but slopes back to the corner 7.4m up from ground level, presumably over a vault (not seen). This diagonal wall has largely weathered out but preserves the eastern jamb and lintel or voussoir socket, 1.6m up, of a ground floor doorway, its sill just above ground level; there is a drawbar socket on the stair side of the jamb, presumably defensive. The position of the first floor doorway is suggested by a possible weathered eastern jamb.

There are two small rectangular slit lights into the shaft at ground floor level. One opens through the south wall and is largely intact, its square splayed embrasure measuring 0.5m in height and 0.4m in width, but contains no dressed stone. The other opens through the west wall and has completely weathered out to leave a crude rectangular opening 0.9m tall and 0.5m wide; it displays, however, a mortar lining with the impression of a secondary timber frame. A similar slit light pierces the south wall at first floor level. Its embrasure measures 0.75m in height and 0.5m in width, and the slit itself has a squared oolite freestone surround - the only freestone to have survived at Castell Coch.

The newel has gone and the masonry steps have largely weathered out, but their line is preserved by their truncated ends and vaulting; they appear to ascend to roof height suggesting the forner presence of a parapet. The whole is primary work.

The east wall

The east wall is in very poor condition, being truncated to a height of just 4.4m meaning that the first floor, and any evidence for it, has been lost. The north-east corner has gone, and the quoining from the south-east corner. Much of the facework has been lost from both faces, particularly externally. Ivy, and young trees, grow from the wall which is highly unstable, particularly over the entry.

Any evidence of changes in the facework has been lost, similarly for former finishes. It is not possible to discern any external batter.

There is only one ground floor opening, in the centre of the wall. It is in the form of a very crude breach, 2.3m tall and 2.2m wide, with an irregular outline exposing cortework all round. It is secondary, cut through as a result of the construction of the cross wall which demanded access into the eastren chamber so formed, but may be an adaptation of a slit light such as that present in the west wall.

The south wall

The south wall is in fair condition, the best in fact of all the external walls. The walling has survived above all first floor openings, and most openings are intact; however the upper part of the south-east corner has gone and corework is exposed where the dressed stone has been robbed from opening surrounds where they are exposed. Its present height of of 8.5m appears to closely reflect the original height. Much of the lower part of the external face lies beneath the dumping noted above, 18, which may preserve the surrounds of the two ground floor slit lights. Only the external face is ivied.

There are two distinct areas of external facework as in the north wall, but here the regular horizontal interface is much higher at 5.8m from ground level with a vertical rise to 6.2m at the east end.

Internally there is a similar interface at 7.3m. There are the very slight remains of lime finishes, more pronounced internally as in the other walls.

Any external batter may be concealed beneath the dumping. Internally, first floor level is indicated by a line of joist sockets 3.5m up from present ground level similar to those in the north wall. There appears to be only one further socket, on the external face.

The ground floor

There are three ground floor openings and all appear primary, in addition to the spiral stair light mentioned above. A central entry, 2.5m tall and 1.7m wide, has segmental rear and outer arches, most of the rubble voussoirs having been robbed from the outer arch. Both jambs survive to a height of 1.7m. Though on the ground floor, the entry appaers to be a primary feature - there is no evidence that it was adapted from an earlier light, there is no visible sign of any infill that might be expected around an insertion, and a segmental relieving arch is situated 1.1m above the outer arch within unarguably primary masonry.

In the middle of each wall face either side of the entry is a slit light similar to those on the other three walls. The weathered sills, however, are 0.7m above ground level, and the rear arches are rounded and tend towards the segmental. The splayed embrasures are 1.8m tall and 1.7m wide. Their external openings are concealed beneath the dumping mentioned above, and so may have retained their (?dressed) surrounds. The eastern of the two is partially obscured by the later internal cross wall and oddly was not blocked prior to its insertion.

The first floor

There are four openings through the wall on the first floor, in addition to the slit light onto the spiral stair. To the west is a lancet, 1.4m tall and 1.3m wide, with a two centred outer arch. The sill and surround are weathered but appear never to have incorporated any dressings. The voussoirs of the two-centred rear arch are obscured by the lime finish. Beneath it is a wide, slayed embrasure 1.7m wide and 2.4m tall, with a deeply plunging sill. The opening is clearly primary in its entirety.

There is a large window to the east, lying almost above the ground floor entry. It is similar to the large, ?secondary windows in the north and west walls but the intrados, at least, retained its depressed segmental head; both rear and outer arches have gone. The reveals are unsplayed. The sill has weathered away but enough remains to demonstrate that it lay at first floor level and that the overall dimensions of the window were 3.1m in height and 1.65m in width.

Towards the east end is a smaller opening with a lower segmental head. The surround and a large area of neighbouring external masonry have been robbed and weathered out, but internally the opening is more-or-less complete. The segmental rear arch exhibits rubble voussoirs, the reveals are slightly splayed and the sloping sill lies just beneath first floor level; internal dimensions are 3.1m in height and 1.9m in width. The opening appears to have been a doorway rather than a window; there is a socket in each reveal which may represent draw-bar holes, and jambs will have been lost in the robbing. However, it may have been adapted from a window when the cross wall was inserted.

At the far west end is a second lancet which is, stylistically, rather different from the one to the west, is set higher in the wall and is complete. Externally it has a rounded segmental head with obscured voussoirs, and lacks dressings; the light is 0.85m tall and 0.2m wide. The splayed embrasure measures 1.9m in height and 0.95m in width beneath a rounded segmental rear arch, its voussoirs obscured by moss, and has a deeply plunging sill 1.5m above first floor level. It is clearly all primary work.

The internal cross-wall

The internal cross-wall was inserted during the earlier post-medieval period, partially blocking a primary opening in the north wall. It survives, complete with a chimney, to a height of 13.6m (gable

apex). The construction of the wall was accompanied by the division of the internal space into three stories, which involved lowering first floor level by 0.6m.

The wall is in fair condition and the west face is almost complete. It carries little vegetation. The east face however lies beneath a thick growth of ivy on substantial stems. The east face comprises a battery of fireplaces which survive to varying degrees; the chimney is substantially intact but ivied.

Facework is consistent throughout and is like the lower courses of the outside walls. The east face of the cross-wall appears, from what is visible, to be completely featureless save a couple of small sockets of unknown function. This description of the wall then applies solely to the west face.

A substantial offset in the west face, 0.3m wide, marks the level of the new first floor 3m above present ground level. Four massive sockets, 0.4m tall and 0.5m wide, supported the second floor joists at a height of 6.4m. There are, curiously, no corresponding sockets in the opposite, west wall (see below, 29-30).

The ground floor

A fireplace lies just south of the centre of the west face. Its quoins have been robbed or weathered out, along with its lintel and the walling above including any hood that may have been present. There is no breast. It is 1.8m wide, 0.7m deep and original lintel level was probably at around 1.9m. It is otherwise featureless.

There is a line of small sockets in this west face, 0.15m square and 2.25m above present ground level, of unknown function.

The first floor

At first floor level the west face exhibits two fireplaces of identical nature and substantially complete. Each is 1.7m tall, 1.35m wide and 0.45m deep, with a slightly segmental head that may be due to weathering - the sockets for the former ?timber lintels can be seen at a height of 1.25m. The sills are 0.28m above first floor level. There are no breasts.

The second floor

Two fireplaces also lie in the west wall at second floor level. They are smaller versions of the first floor fireplaces measuring 1.5m in height and 0.95m in width, with a depth of 0.25m. Like the ones below, the fireplaces display sockets for former ?timber lintels 1.1m up, but the walling has weathered away above the southern one. The sills are at second floor level.

Two small sockets in between the fireplaces are of unknown function. However, a line of similar sockets (0.15m square) at side wall top level, 8.7m up, may indicate the position of a ceiling (rather than an attic floor).

The wall carries a square chimney at the summit, rising approximately 0.6m above the gable apex. Little of the chimney was seen due to ivy growth.

THE EASTERN AREA *(Illus. 1 and 2)*

The Eastern Area was inaccessible at the time of the survey, and this brief account is based primarily on map sources. It is now completely overgrown with brambles, masking all features; it appears, moreover, that there has been some recent earth-moving, but outside the scheduled area which is confined to the pond (se below, 31).). It may, however, be suitable for winter survey work when the undergrowth has died back.

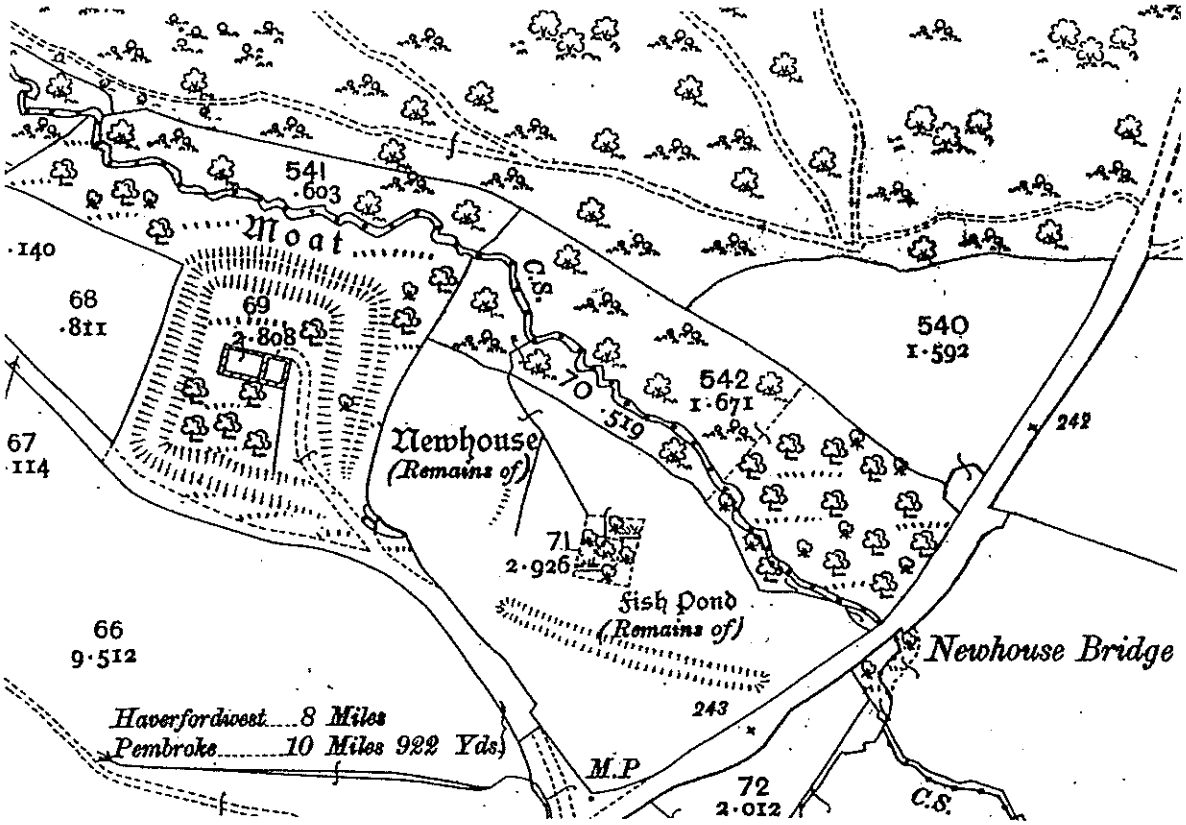
The area forms a rough rectangle bounded by the moated enclosure to the west, the A4075 Canaston Bridge-Carew road to the east, the stream to the north, and the present field boundary and trackway

to the south. The area within measures 160m east-west and 90m north-south, and is comparatively level in its northern half, and rather marshy. The area thus defined does not necessarily represent the actual boundaries of the Eastern Area *per se*; indeed, the area may not have lain within formal earthwork boundaries.

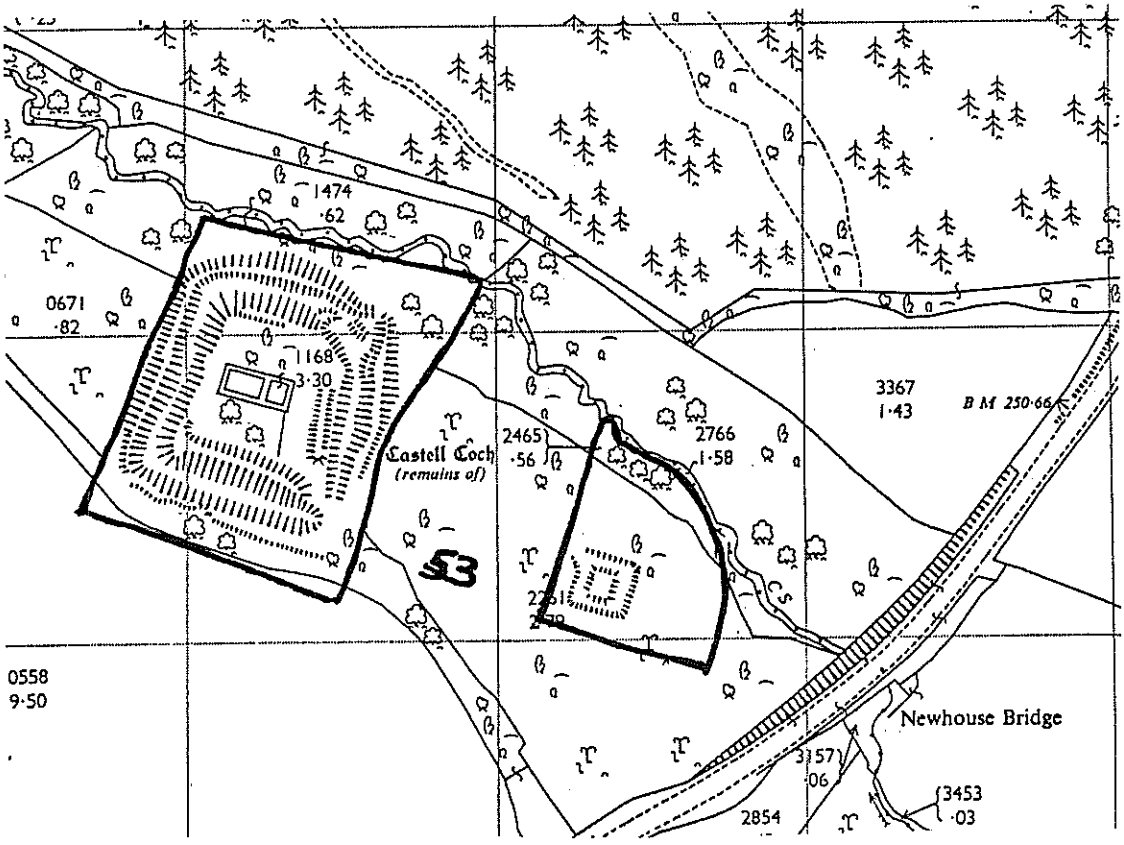
Three earthwork features are depicted within the Eastern Area on the map sources. What appears to be a bank running east-west along the southern side of the area, 10m to the north of the southern trackway, is shown on the OS 1:2500 First and Second Editions of 1889 and 1907 (*Illus. 1*). This may or may not represent part of an enclosure bank around the Eastern Area. A break of slope, downhill to the east, is shown on the same maps 50m east of the moated enclosure; this was observed in the field and is the area in which earth-moving ie. some mechanical excavation has recntly occurred. The same maps depict a square, marshy area, right at the centre of the Eastern area, labelled 'Fishpond'. This feature is shown on the OS 1:2500 of 1969 as a regular square ditch, 100m^2, enclosing a square island 25m^2 (*Illus. 2*). This ?pond area was so completely overgrown in 1997 as to be invisible. It, and an arbitrary area around it, form a detached part of the scheduled area (*Illus. 2*).

The southern trackway is a pronounced holloway which may represent the original approach to the moated enclosure. If so, then the Eastern Area does not represent an 'outer ward' to the moated site. The present field boundary, following the southern side of the holloway, is comparatively recent and does not feature a bank.

Castell Coch in 1907
(from Ordnance survey 1:2500, Second Edition, Pembrokeshire Sheet XXIX.9)



Castell Coch showing scheduled area
(from Ordnance survey 1:2500, 1969)



DISCUSSION

Castell Coch is a fine example of a medieval first floor Hall-house, unvaulted, situated within a 'moated enclosure' surrounded by a dry ditch. The Manor of Newhouse, it has been argued above, 5, was a relatively late creation and this suggests that the site was empty prior to c.1300. The manor was in existence, however, by at least 1326 and there is no reason to suppose that the manor house was located anywhere but at the Castell Coch site. This is the context, then, in which to view the establishment of Castell Coch.

The medieval site

What was the nature of the site as established? The moat is certainly a serious defensive feature, and indeed the entire site as it now exists has a semi-fortified flavour and can be compared with the fortified manor houses (as distinct from castles proper) that were established throughout Britain during the medieval period and particularly from *c.*1250 onwards. But do any of the present features relate to the establishment of the manor house?

The site, as it exists above ground at present, comprises five main features:
a) the moated enclosure itself
b) the banks, tower and masonry defences
c) the Hall-house building
d) the outlying features to the east
Many or none of these features may be contemporary.

The moated enclosure was clearly in existence when the building was constructed. The regular square plan and 'V'-shaped profile of the ditch are characteristic of late medieval defended enclosures, but can be earlier (Taylor, 1978, 5) while few of the actual earthworks themselves have been closely dated. However, similar enclosures to Castell Coch have 13th century buildings lying within them, and there is no reason to suppose that the enclosure was not established from the first. The enclosure however poses a question.

The central platform was later raised above the surrounding area, up to 3m higher in its northern half, and surrounded by a massive bank, posing the question - where did the quantity of spoil required come from?

Too little survives of the possible corner tower and associated masonry features to offer any realistic interpretation of their form or date, beyond assuming them to be contemporary with the central platform bank and possibly with the counterscarp banks. Suffice it to say that the regular square plan of the Castell Coch site, coupled with the presence of one corner tower and a gateway that may have been a simple gap, are characteristic of later (semi) fortified sites in which the defences are as often intended for show as they are as a serious deterrent (cf Caistor, Norfolk, and a number of Scottish tower-house sites). Such sites were usually established after *c.*1350 and are characteristic of what historians have termed 'bastard feudalism', ie. a return to the insecurities of the immediate post-conquest period, and the acquisition of liveried retainers, that followed the Black Death of 1348-9.

Pembrokeshire, however, always appears to have been a special case. Additional tensions were at work in the region during the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries. The threat of French invasion was never far away and was, in fact, realised in 1404. In addition, piracy appears to have been rife around ite coastline. Numerous landowners, from magnates to yeoman farmers, were fortifying their holdings during this period, often with little more than a small masonry tower-house. The masonry defences at Castell Coch in fact rather resemble those of 'The Old Rectory' at Angle (Ludlow, 1997) which appears to have had a rectanguler (wet) moat, and one corner tower (possibly more, but one larger). The tower itself at Angle is probably *c.*1500. The Castell Coch masonry defences may be just as late, in which case they may post-date the Hall-house (see below). However, it must be stressed that they may be as early as *c.*1350. Angle provides further parallels - a separate later medieval building, called 'The Castle', is very similar in form to the Hall-house at Castell Coch (Ludlow, 1997).

The Hall-house can, on the basis of stylistic evidence, fairly safely be dated to the mid-late 14th century, and was probably constructed after Roger Mortimer regained the Mortimer estates in 1357. There is no evidence to suggest that the two types of facework employed both externally and internally represent two phases of construction; they may be decorative, but are more likely to represent a short break in construction. In the absence of dressings, window tracery etc it is impossible to assign precise dates to the openings but the general form of the earliest of those that survive unaltered is consistent with such a date. In addition, in its original state the building lacked a fireplace. A firepit must have lain on the first floor, suggesting that at least an area of the floor was flagged over the boards.

In their initial state the majority of ground floor openings were the slit lights with narrow external openings present in each wall (some later altered), and were defensive in style if not in practise. However, there are two ground floor openings that may have been entries from the first. The central southern doorway exhibits no evidence of either alteration from a window, or insertion, while the westernmost entry in the north wall has been so altered as to make it impossible to date with any certainty - it too, however, shows no sign of insertion. And, indeed, the two surviving first floor doorways are rather low-key affairs lacking the grandeur that one might expect from the main entrance into a substantial manor house. It may be that one of the larger first floor windows has been modified from a first floor door, possibly on the south wall which appears to have been the main show front.

How seriously, then, were the defensive aspects of the Hall-house intended to be taken? The only surviving gable is on the central cross-wall, a post-medieval insertion. It is suggested below, 30, that the end walls were never gabled. The spiral stair, though not examined closely in its upper reaches, appears to climb higher than first floor level suggesting the former presence of a parapet and at 1.6m, the walls are thick enough to have carried a wall-walk. Was the parapet crenellated? The larger windows at first floor level have the appearance of being secondary adaptations or insertions and display segmental heads of a type not seen elsewhere in the building, though in the absence of dressed stone cannot be closely dated. The north-west first floor doorway had a fairly substantial external stair within what practically amounts to a forebuilding. And the south wall first floor entry, and the spiral stair doorway, were protected by draw-bars. Set against this is the ground floor doorway(s). Were these defensive aspects merely for show?

The low north-south bank south of the house defines an enclosure to the east. There is no gap in the bank and diverts passage around to the north-east of the building, to the first floor entry in the north wall. However, the south wall appears to have been a 'show' front, and exhibits the ground floor entry already noted. Might the enclosure have been a garden or 'pleasance', enhancing the show aspect of this facade?

The lack of an original fireplace is unusual for a 14th century building and indicates, for example, that the kitchen was a detached building located elsewhere within the enclosure; it might have been expected to occupy the ground floor. The enclosure would probably have been occupied by further ancillary buildings, but no physical evidence for them was visible in 1997 in what was an overgrown site.

In summary, the moat may have been excavated as early as *c.*1300, the hall-house constructed *c.*1350-1400, and the masonry ?enclosure defences established by *c.*1500

Later alterations

The hall-house was probably both residential and administrative from the first. Certainly by the 16th century manorial courts of the Lordship of Narberth were holding sessions at Newhouse, and during much of this period the house was probably occupied by the Reeve of Newhouse manor. In this aspect the house has much in common with the 'Palace' at Lydstep, a similar first floor hall though vaulted and with a less defensive aspect (Ludlow, 1996). The Lords of the Manor of Newhouse were generally also Lords of Narberth and it is unlikely that any of them resided at Newhouse, particularly the influential Mortimers who held vast estates throughout Britain.

The size and general form of the large first floor windows suggest that they were introduced during this 16th century period, probably under one of the more influential tenants of the 1540s-1550s such as Sir Walter Rice or Sir John Vaughan (see above, 10).

The Eastern Area, lying to one side of the holloway - the probable main approach to the moated enclosure - would appear not to represent an 'outer ward' and is probably a secondary adjunct to the site. However, the bank suggested on early OS maps may define a ?partially enclosed area. The central square feature, not observed in 1997, is labelled a fishpond on the early maps and their is no reason why it should not be. It is very regular in plan and features a central island - resembling a small moated site itself. However, square fishponds with central islands are not unknown from the medieval period, but again few have been closely dated (Dennison and Iles, 1985, 34-52). It is here suggested that the feature at Castell Coch is rather late.

The Hall-house cross-wall can stylistically be dated to the post-medieval period, probably to the 17th century when the house was known to be leased to resident individuals. The conversion has some curious aspects. It was accompanied by the lowering of first floor level and the introduction of a second floor, and a what appear to be the sockets for a ceiling. Firstly, the inserted second floor interrupts the existing large windows. In addition, there are large sockets for the floor through-joists in th cross-wall but no corresponding sockets in the opposite (west) end wall. Might only the eastern half of the chamber have been used? A partition of some description might have crossed the chamber, possibly represented by the central depression in the present ground surface. Certainly the eastern chamber formed by the insertion of the cross wall does not appear to have been utilised: the east face of the cross-wall is featureless, and the ground floor entry adapted from a slit light in the east wall is very crude and may not be contemporary. This may explain the lack of end wall gables - none were ever built.

The Hall-house may have been abandoned as early as the late 17th century.
The great depth of material against the south wall of the building is clearly secondary but appears to contain rather more material than can have been derived from building debris. It is not known what the material comprises; it may represent post-disuse dumping.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Castell Coch is a fine example of a semi-fortified medieval first floor Hall-house, unvaulted, situated within a 'moated enclosure' surrounded by a dry ditch. The Manor of Newhouse was a late creation but was in existence by 1326. The moat may have been excavated as early as *c.*1300, and the hall-house constructed *c.*1350-1400. It has two storeys, possibly carried a crenellated parapet and featured two first floor entries; however, there appears to have been at least one ground floor entry. The central platform upon which it stands would have featured ancillary enclosures and buildings; physical evidence of the former survives but none is visible for the latter. An enclosure bank with masonry defences in the form of at least one corner tower was added by *c.*1500. The site was approached from the south-east via a surviving holloway. A late medieval fishpond lies to the north of this.

There is neither physical nor documentary evidence for any use of the site prior to *c.*1300, nor for any further contemporary enclosures or features.

The site served as both a residence and administrative/judicial centre for the both the Manor of Newhouse and the Lordship of Pembroke. The house received three large first floor windows during the 16th century. It was leased to residential individuals during the 17th century, when at least one cross-wall was inserted to form a three-storey house within the building. The site may have been abandoned by 1670.

The house is now in a fair condition. The entire site is thickly overgrown and parts of it wooded and of the tree cover grows from the walls themselves. Prior to any consolidation, the superficial vegetation will require clearance and a themed, detailed survey undertaken, possibly to a stone-by-stone level (RCHME Level 4), of the standing remains; survey will also be required of their setting and context. The eastern area was inaccessible at the time of the survey being completely overgrown with brambles, masking all features; it appears, moreover, that there has been some recent earth-moving, but outside the scheduled area. It may, however, be suitable for winter survey work when the undergrowth has died back. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, Pe 53, but the scheduled area includes only the moated enclosure and a small, detached and rather arbitrary area around the fishpond. Information regarding environmental constraints, any Tree Preservation Orders etc, however, lies beyond the scope of this report.

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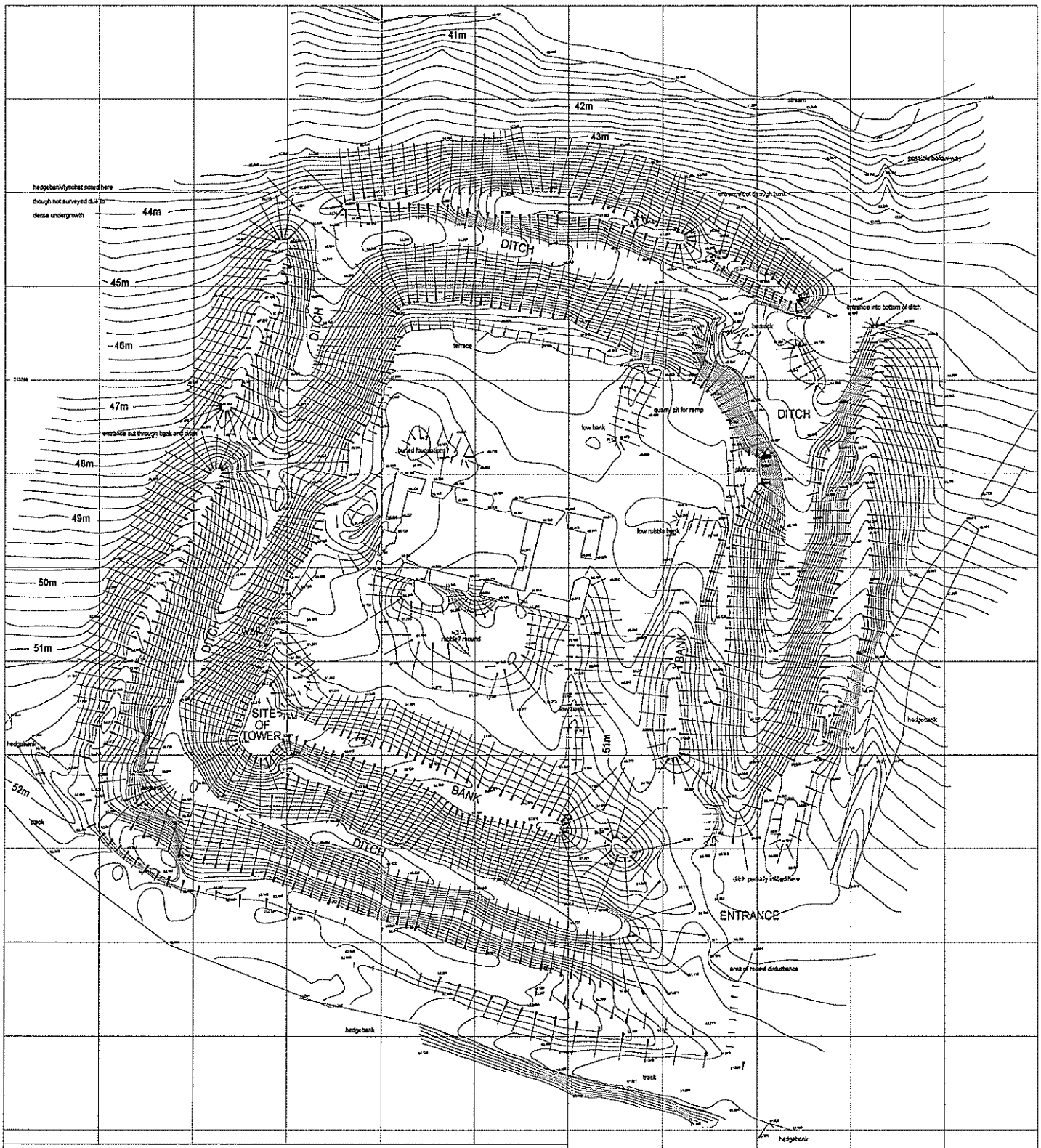

CASTELL COCH, NEWTON NORTH

survey by K Murphy and M Trethowan

scale 1:200	April 1997	record no. 3616

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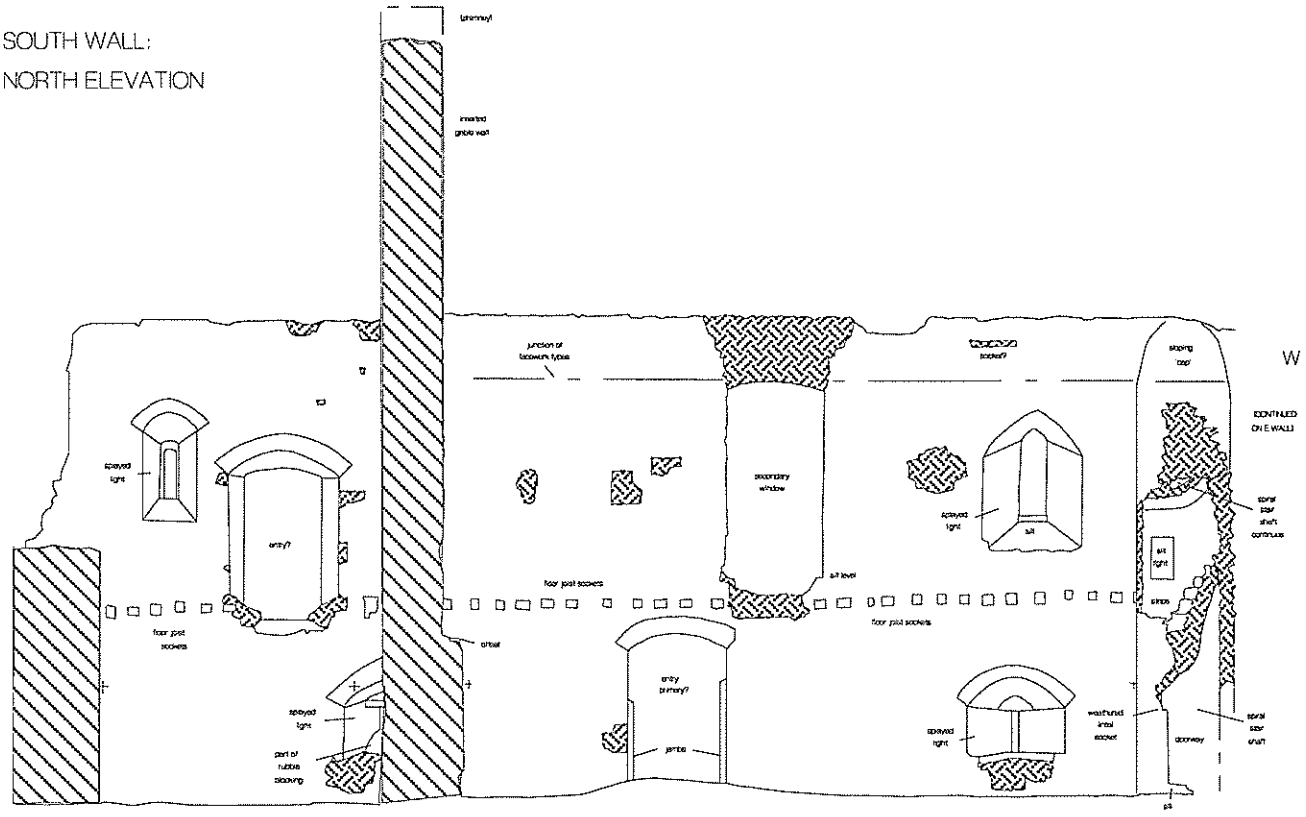
SOUTH WALL:
NORTH ELEVATION



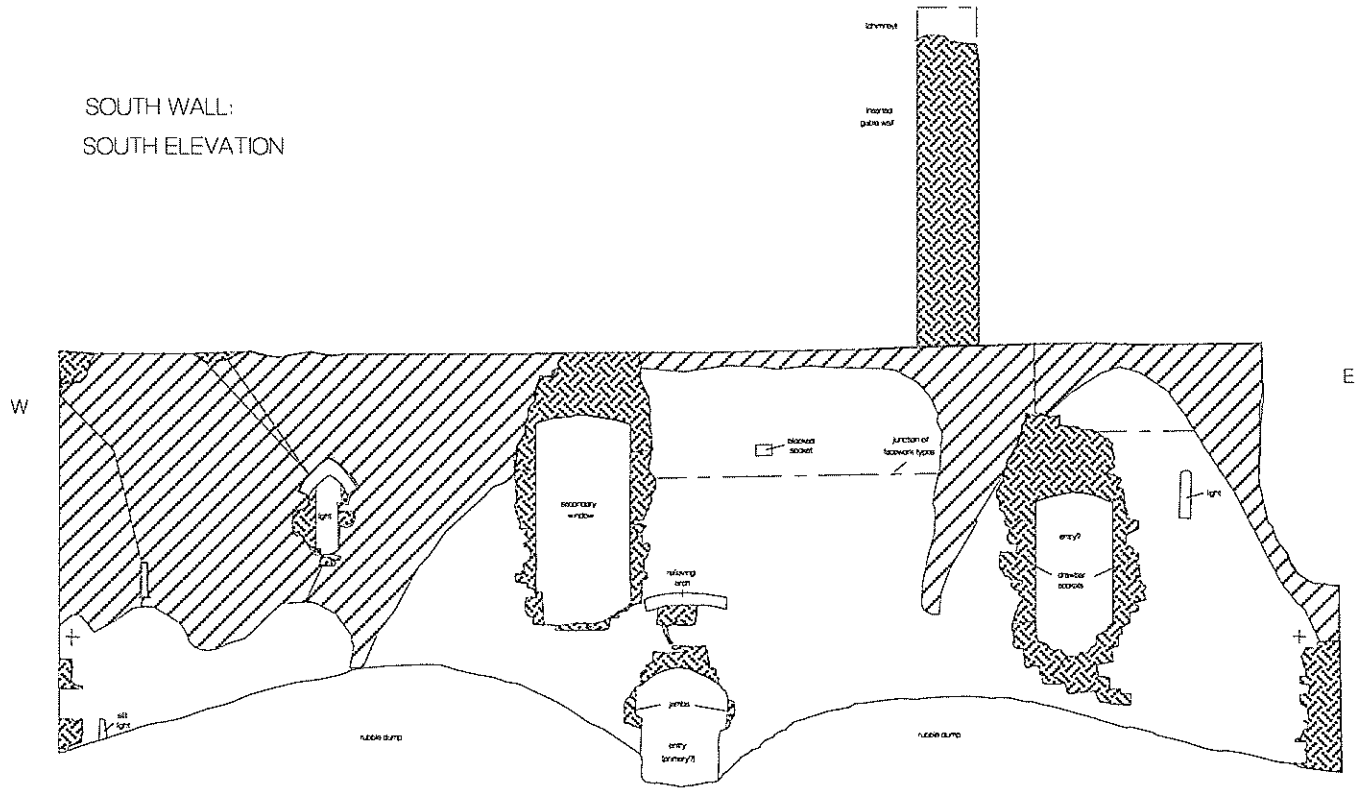
CASTELL COCH, NEWTON NORTH		
Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology		
Survey by: M Trethowan & H Wilson		
Scale 1:50	May 1997	Record No. 3616

wall in section

corework

ground line

SOUTH WALL:
SOUTH ELEVATION



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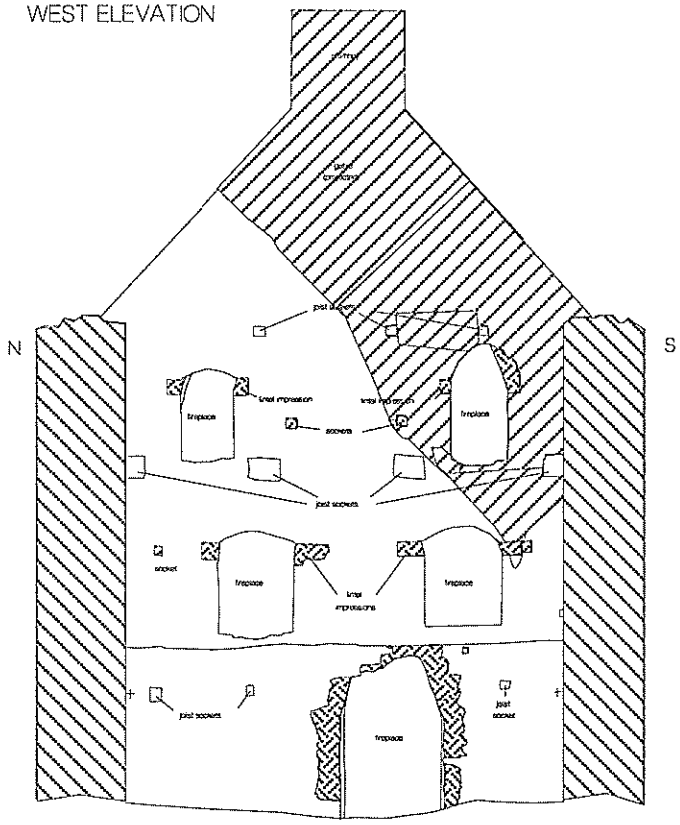
Survey by: M Trethowan & H Wilson		
Scale 1:50	May 1997	Record No. 3616

wall in section
corework
ground line
extent of vegetation

CROSS WALL:
WEST ELEVATION



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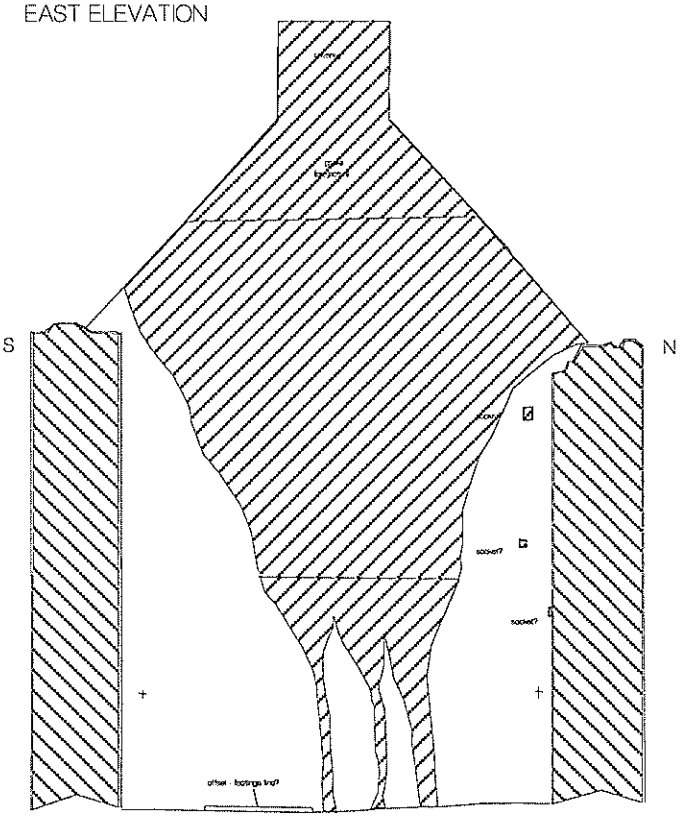

CASTELL COCH, NEWTON NORTH

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Survey by: M Trethowan & H Wilson

Scale 1:50	May 1997	Record No. 3616

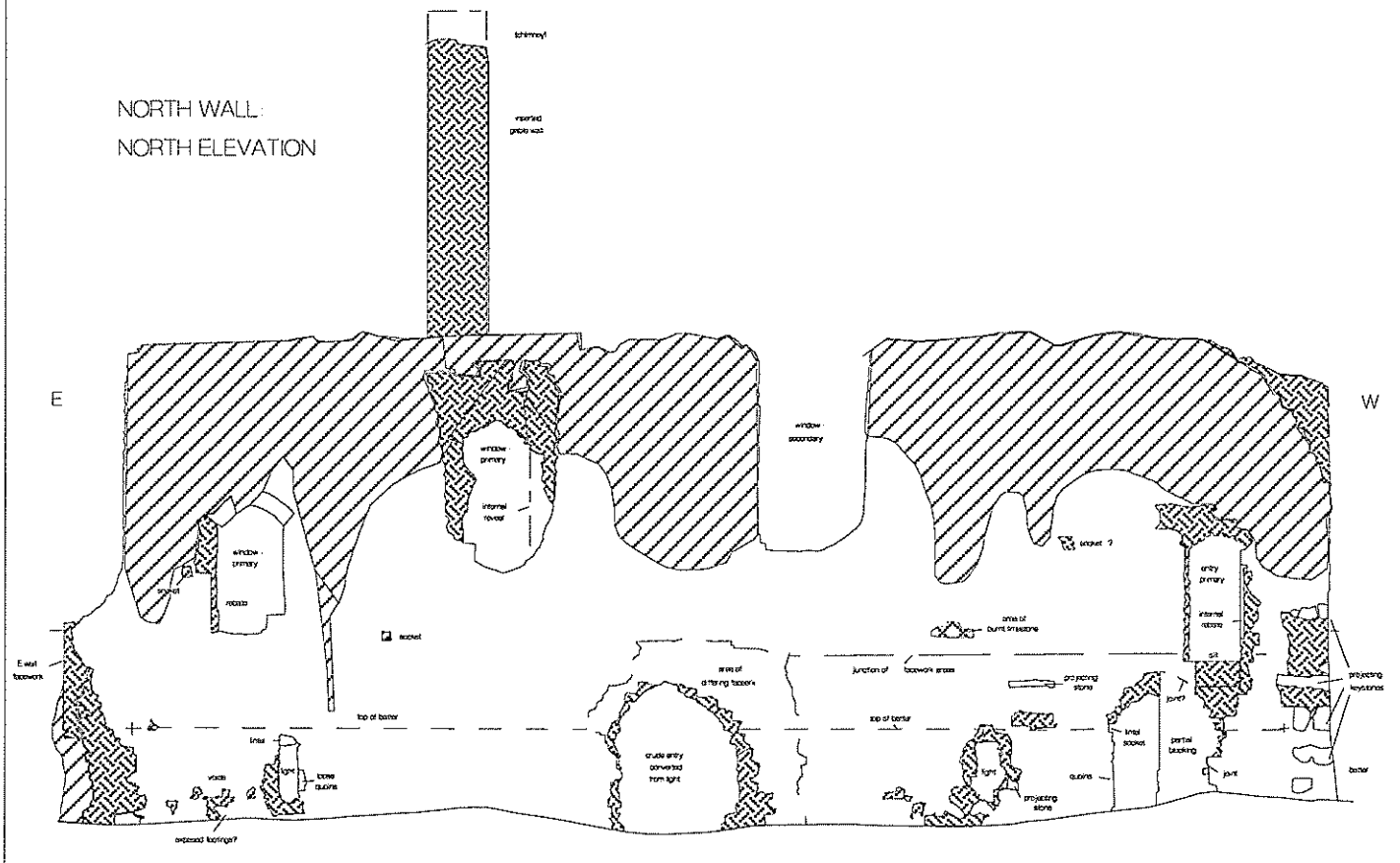
wall in section

corework

ground line

extent of vegetation

NORTH WALL:
NORTH ELEVATION



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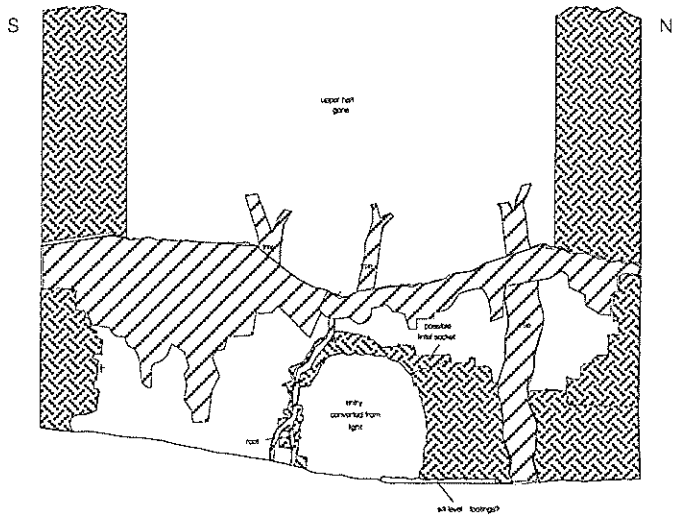
wall in section

corework

ground line

extent of vegetation

EAST WALL:
EAST ELEVATION



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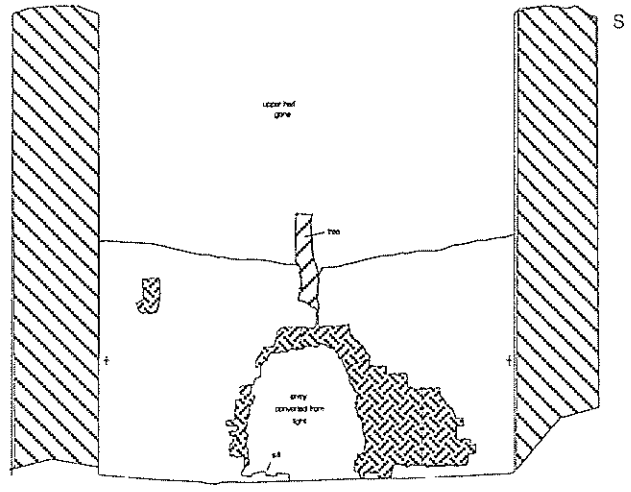

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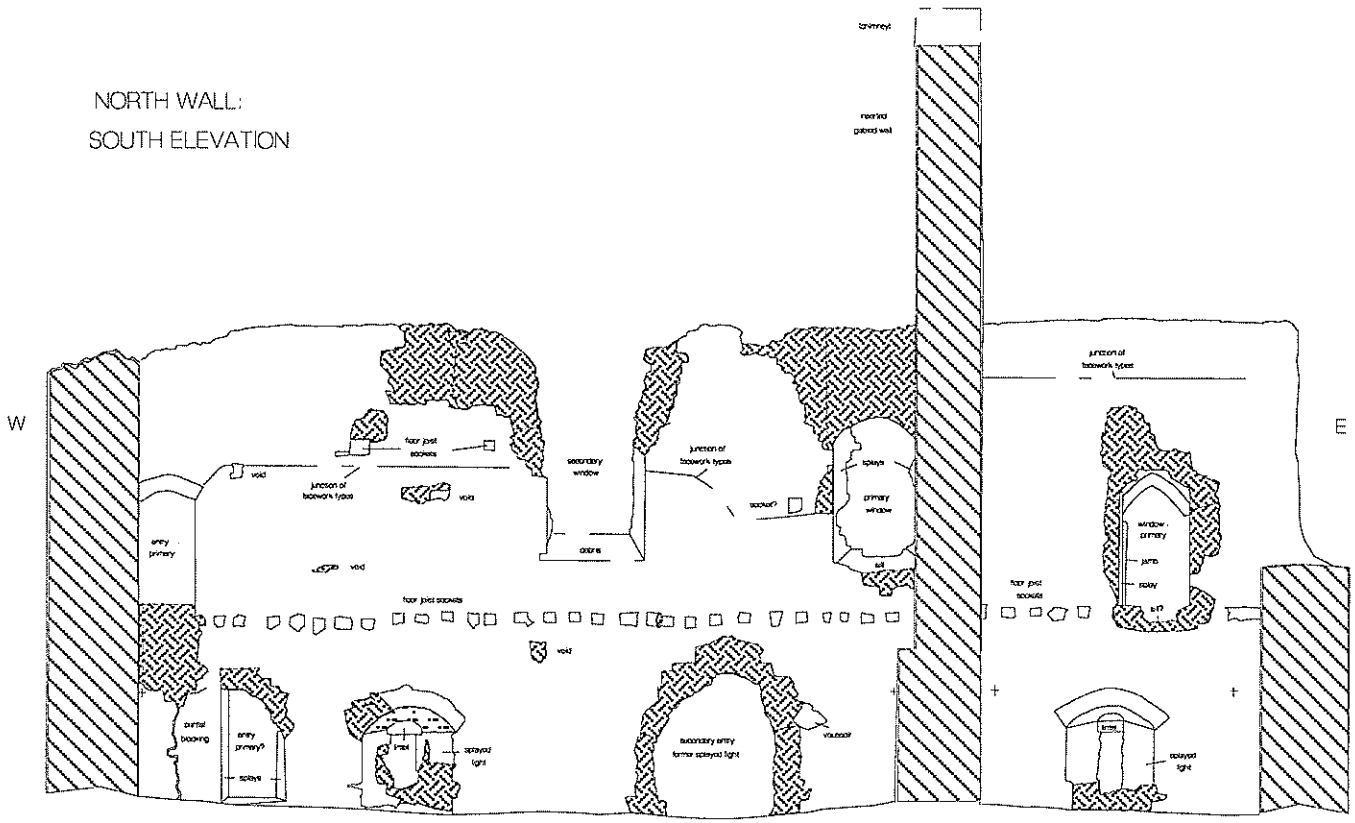
Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology		
Survey by: M Trethowan & H Wilson		
Scale 1:50	May 1997	Record No. 3616

wall in section
corework
ground line
extent of vegetation

NORTH WALL:
SOUTH ELEVATION



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wall in section
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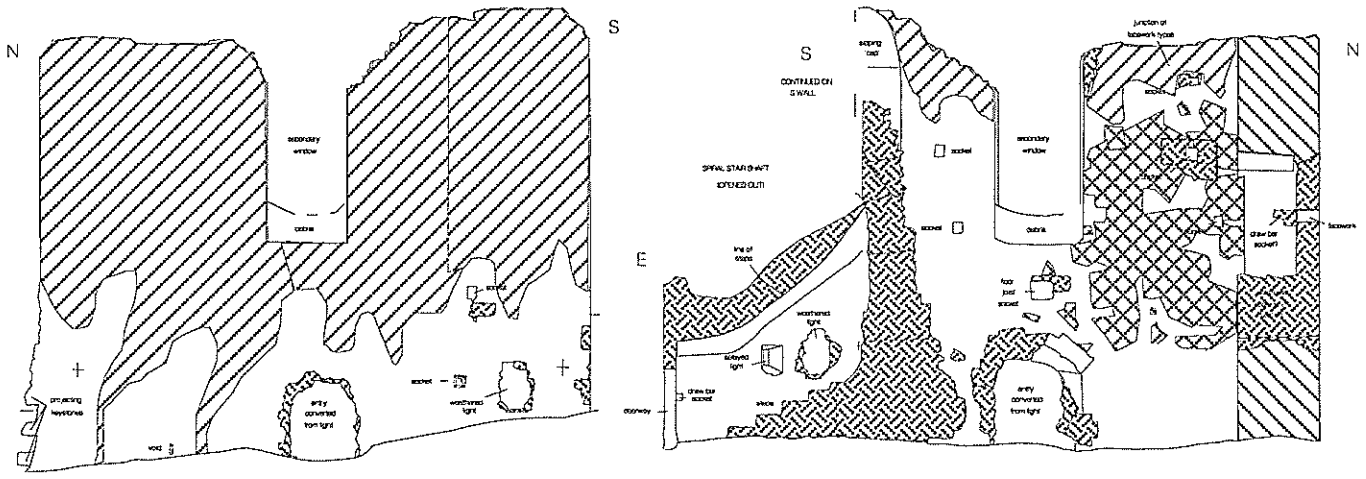
ground line
extent of vegetation

WEST WALL:
WEST ELEVATION

WEST WALL:
EAST ELEVATION



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wall in section
corework
render finish
ground line
extent of vegetation