

PHILBEACH FARMHOUSE, DALE, PEMBROKESHIRE: BUILDING RECORDING AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For: Mr Peter Smithies



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WATCHING BRIEF**

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SUMMARY

A planning application was submitted by Mr Peter Smithies (Planning Application Number NP 08/160) for the redevelopment of Philbeach Farmhouse (PRN 6884; NGR SM 8030 0780) an abandoned grade II listed dwelling which is considered to have medieval origins. The Local Planning Authority (LPA) acting on the advice of their archaeological advisors placed a Grampian condition on the application. The condition required two programmes of archaeological works to be undertaken during the redevelopment work of the dwelling; a record of both the internal and external fabric of the building and an archaeological watching brief on all major episodes of ground breaking during the development such as the removal of floors or the excavation of service trenches. To comply with the planning condition Mr Peter Smithies, the applicant, commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to undertake the specified programme of archaeological works.

Interior recording of the farmhouse identified that the earliest surviving part of the structure was centred around Room 2 which is considered to be a late medieval hall. However, whether the hall is contemporary with, pre dates or post dates the chimney is unclear. A surviving 16th century doorway was also identified. It is unclear whether the late medieval hall was a single stand alone structure or formed part of a larger structure, which was subsequently substantially demolished.

The internal building recording programme also identified a number of straight joints in the masonry indicating successive phases of building work at the property, but with a lack of any architectural detailing. Much of the surviving internal fittings of the house such as fireplaces, doors and windows appear to date from 19th century upgrading of the property.

Unfortunately it was not possible to record the exterior of the building following removal of the render.

During a watching brief on excavations below the floor of the late medieval hall a post medieval corn drier and footings of a partition wall of similar date were revealed.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

1.1.1 A planning application was submitted by Mr Peter Smithies (Planning Application Number NP 08/160) for the redevelopment of Philbeach Farmhouse (PRN 6884; NGR SM 8030 0780) an abandoned grade II listed dwelling which is considered to have medieval origins. The Local Planning Authority (LPA) acting on the advice of their archaeological advisors placed a Grampian condition on the application. The condition required two programmes of archaeological works to be undertaken during the redevelopment work of the dwelling; a record of both the internal and external fabric of the building and an archaeological watching brief on all major episodes of ground breaking during the development such as the removal of floors or the excavation of service trenches. To comply with the planning condition Mr Peter Smithies, the applicant, commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to undertake the specified programme of archaeological works.

1.2 Scope of the Project

1.2.1 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) for a two phase programme of archaeological works consisting of a photographic and written record of the internal and external walls of the farmhouse and secondly an archaeological watching brief on all major episodes of ground breaking activities such as floor removal as part of the redevelopment of the dwelling. The WSI was approved by the LPA.

1.3 Report Outline

1.3.1 This report describes the location of the site along with its archaeological background, and provides a summary and discussion of the archaeological evaluation and its results.

1.4 Abbreviations

1.4.1 Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record¹ (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services – DAT-FS; Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Heritage Management – GGAT-HM; Scheduled Ancient Monument – SAM; Written Scheme of Investigation – WSI

1.5 Illustrations

1.5.1 Photographic images are to be found at the back of the report. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale.

¹ Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Llandeilo, SA19 6AF.

2. THE SITE

2.1 Location

2.1.1 Philbeach farmhouse is located at NGR SM 8030 0780 on an unclassified road leading to Marloes and is c.550m to the west of the B4527 road to Dale. The site gradually slopes to the south and west with much of the surrounding area utilised for agriculture. The site lies within the boundaries of the Hoaten – Hasgurd Historic Landscape Categorisation Area (HLC).



Figure 1: Site Location map of site based on the Ordnance Survey.

Reproduced from the 2003 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background.

2.2.1 Philbeach Farmhouse is a substantial two storey Grade II Listed Building that has been uninhabited since the 1960s when the floors were removed and it was used as an agricultural store.

2.2.2 Documentary research has revealed that a dwelling has existed at Philbeach since the 13th century (Lloyd, 1986, 69). Originally the house would have been a gentry residence and during the 13th century was owned by the De Vale family who were overlords of the Dale area. During the course of its history the house has variously been documented with its earliest spelling being Filbech and Fulbuche before finally becoming Philbeach.

2.2.3 By the 15th century the house was the residence of Peter Barrett son of Joanna Filbetch and David Barrett of Dudwell. Between the late 16th century and the late 17th century Philbeach was owned by the Voyle family.

2.2.4 During the 18th century Philbeach was bought by the Wogan family of Boulston and in 1773 it was tenanted to 80 year old Alice Davids as part of a 197 acre holding. The house had passed to a Mr Cotton by 1790 and by 1802 Major Robert James Acland was owner, with Evan Parry as tenant. By 1840 Robert James Acland was owner with William Cale as tenant (Francis – Jones, 1996, 168-169). From the mid 19th century onwards the house was occupied by farmers.

2.2.5 Francis-Jones records that in 1811 the antiquarian Richard Fenton visited Philbeach and quotes him as describing Philbeach Farmhouse as

'In this old house till very lately remained the old baronial hall, with a long oak table placed across the floor at the upper end, raised as in college halls, on a dais or steep'

2.2.7 The house was abandoned as a residence in the 1960s and gradually fell into decay. The structure was latterly used as a potato store by previous owners of the farm²

Philbeach farm lies within the wider Hoaten – Hasguard HLC area which is described as follows:

'A large character area lying on the north side of the Milford Haven waterway, in the parishes of Hasguard, Marloes, St Bride's, and Walwyn's Castle, which lay within the medieval Barony of Walwyn's Castle. It also includes most of the parish of St Ishmael's, roughly coterminous with the Sublordship of St Ishmael's which was a member of the Lordship of Haverford. The majority of the present farms and landholdings can be identified with medieval manors, which were subject to a complex process of division and sub-infeudation following the break-up of the Earldom of Pembroke in 1247. Mullock and Bicton farms are the successors of detached holdings, lying within the Sublordship of St Ishmael's, representing the ½ knight's fee held of the Lordship of Pembroke by the Lords of Dale from at least 1247. By the late 13th century, Great Hoaten and Little Hoaten each amounted to ¼ knight's fee, held of St Ishmaels, when rents from the former were assessed at £4 3s 10¼d. Sandy Haven represented ¼ knight's fee, also held of St Ishmaels. Held of the Barony of Walwyn's Castle were the caput itself at Walwyn's Castle village, with its ringwork castle and parish church, 1 knight's fee at Hasguard (adjacent to the parish church and glebe), ½ knight's fee at St Brides and 9/10ths knight's fee at Ripperston. Different individuals held all these manors, while Butterhill was the property of Haverfordwest Priory. However, the various ownerships did not result in differing tenurial arrangements, and there was a homogenous pattern of enclosure. By the 17th century, a

² http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/south_west/7428062.stm

number of these holdings had been acquired by the Allen family who became the major landowners in the area.

The earliest maps of this area, which date to the mid to late 18th century, show a landscape almost identical to that of today. Virtually every farm had by then been established and the landscape of large regular fields laid out. Land holdings were substantial, and the farmers clearly wealthy as many could afford to commission estate maps that depicted all the details of their estates, including gardens, orchards and parks. The situation has changed little over the past two and a half centuries, as is shown by 19th century estate maps, tithe maps and Ordnance Survey maps. The origin of the 19th century and modern landscape is not clear. It is possible that the medieval hamlets employed open field systems that were engrossed into single holdings and the land enclosed in the late medieval period or early modern period. A group of small farms to the west of St Ishmael's – Whiteholm's Farm, Slatehill, The Gann – do not fit this pattern and appear to have been carved out of common land perhaps in the 18th century, as early 19th century maps show these as apparently newly created small-holdings. Also, the farm-names West Lodge and Newfoundland indicate similar late origins, and neither is mentioned until the 18th century, while Kensington Place was established by the 19th century owners of St Brides mansion.

This is a large historic landscape character area lying between the coast of the Milford Haven waterway and the coast of St Brides Bay. Essentially it is a plateau between 30m and 60m which is dissected by small, narrow valleys. It is an agricultural landscape, and apart from small stands of deciduous woodland on some of the steeper valley sides, occasional standards in hedges and shelterbelts around settlements, it is virtually treeless. Farming is highly intensive, of both arable and improved pasture, with very little rough or under-utilised land. Fields are large and regular, and bounded by high earth banks topped by hedges. Hedges are generally well maintained, and because of the windswept nature of the area are rarely overgrown. In more exposed locations the hedges are very low, but are more substantial in some of the sheltered valleys. Towards St Brides Bay there are occasional mortared walls, but these are rare. The settlement pattern is one of dispersed farms. Farmhouses and outbuildings are generally large, a reflection of the past and present relative agricultural wealth of the area. Stone is used almost exclusively in both the older dwelling and older farm buildings. These buildings have machine cut slate roofs, although a few examples of stone tile roofs, possibly of local origin, survive. Many of the houses are cement rendered, but a few examples of slate-hung walls are present, particularly in the more exposed locations. Most houses are two-storey and possess features that indicate that they were remodelled or constructed in the late 18th century or early 19th century in the Georgian tradition. However, many houses have features which indicate earlier origins. such as Sandy Haven Farm.

Included in this area are very substantial houses such as the semi-derelict early 18th century and 19th century mansion of Butterhill, the similar house at Pearson with its walled garden, and the house at Windmill Park which is grade II listed. Smaller farmhouses and other older dwellings are present and are generally of late 18th century or 19th century date, with examples in both the vernacular and the polite Georgian tradition. Included in this area is the hamlet of Sandy Haven with several 19th century and 20th century houses. This was originally a small fishing/boat-building hamlet, although there are no formal quays or jetties. Substantial ranges of stone-built outbuildings usually accompany the larger farms, often set around a courtyard. Very large collections of late 20th century farm buildings are a distinctive feature of the landscape.

Some farms have reused World War 2 military structures as outbuildings such as reconstructed aircraft hangars. In general the smaller farms have less

substantial old and modern outbuildings. There are no settlement clusters in the area and few modern houses. An exception are the mid 20th century houses at Walwyn's Castle. Apart from the medieval church of St James at Walwyn's Castle with its substantial tower, religious buildings are not a major component of the historic landscape. However, of note is the derelict church of St Peters at Hasguard which is grade B listed, and a small 19th century chapel on an arm of the Sandy Haven inlet. Individual archaeological sites provide only a minor component of the historic landscape, but they include iron age forts, bronze age standing stones, round barrows and burnt mounds, several prehistoric flint working floors, and traces of a windmill at Windmill Park from the post-medieval period.' (Murphy & Ludlow, 2003).

2.3 Cartographic Information

1811 Ordnance Survey Map

2.3.1 The 1811 edition of the Ordnance Survey Map of the area marks Philbeach as 'Fillbatch' and shows a cluster of buildings arranged around a central yard area but very little detail is discernable.

1876 1:2500 scale Ordnance Survey Map (see Figure 2)

2.3.2 The 1876 Ordnance Survey Map of the area shows that the main house is outwardly unchanged from the present day structure. A substantial north – south aligned range of out buildings lie immediately to the southwest with a further range of buildings to the southeast and east of the house.

1906 1:250 scale Ordnance Survey Map (see Figure 3)

2.3.3 No change is visible in the main house on the 1906 Ordnance Survey Map of the area. However, substantial redevelopment work has occurred in the area of the outbuildings with the buildings to the southeast and east of the structure demolished and replaced with a single smaller structure. The north – south aligned building to the southwest of the house has also been demolished and replaced with a new range of buildings arranged around a central courtyard. Two further structures are also marked to the west of the house.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Standing Building Recording Methodology

3.1.1 The standing building recording of the fabric of Philbeach Farmhouse was to be undertaken in two phases, both when the render of the building had been removed and following the removal of render internally. The first phase of the work was undertaken during a single site visit in 2010 when the internal structure of the building was recorded with a combination of digital photography and detailed site notes.

3.1.2 The internal recording of the building commenced within the cellar before moving to the ground floor level and working northwards. The first floor was recorded using the same method. Each room on the ground and first floor has been numbered for ease of reference (see Figures 4 – 5).

3.1.3 Using this methodology it was possible to record the interior of each of the rooms of the property. However, it was not possible to access the northernmost rooms of the structure as these were locked and only accessible from the outside.

3.1.4 Unfortunately, there was no opportunity to record the exterior of the building following removal of the external render.

3.2 Archaeological Watching Brief Methodology

3.2.1 A single visit was made during the removal of existing floors on the ground floor of the building. Small test pits were dug through the underlying layers to identify if any archaeological deposits were present. Digital photographs and site notes were made.

4. RESULTS OF HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

4.1 Details of Lower Ground Floor Internal Fabric

Cellar (see photos 1 - 2)

4.1.1 The cellar was accessed from Room 5 by a flight of stone steps (photo 1) located along the south wall to the east of which was a blocked arched opening representing the position of a former window (photo 2). To the rear of the steps was located a small space probably utilised for storage. Access to the main cellar space was by means of a single doorway piercing a limewashed stone wall. The cellar walls were obscured by limewash with a further blocked opening, comparable to that identified at the foot of the steps, centrally placed on the east wall of the space.

4.1.2 The floor of the cellar was shattered old red sandstone bedrock with no evidence for any features cut into its surface.

4.2 Details of Ground Floor Internal Fabric

Room 1 (see photo 3)

4.2.1 Room 1 was a single storied stone built lean-to structure measuring 2.26m x 5.4m and located at the far south end of the building. The east wall of the room contained a partially blocked doorway with red brick jambs and timber supporting lintel. A rough timber board door survives within the doorway and was hung on handmade wrought iron hinges secured by square headed handmade wrought iron clout nails (see photo 3).

4.2.2 The west wall of the space has been rebuilt in concrete block and contained a single centrally placed doorway. The room was open to the elements at the time of the survey, but retained its timber roof trusses.

Room 2 (see photos 4 - 7)

4.2.3 Room 2 was accessed from the adjacent lean-to structure through a centrally placed doorway in the south wall with modern timber lintel above. The east wall contained a single window with supporting timber lintel. A second window, now blocked, was identified to the south of the current window, above which was a further small recess (photo 4).

4.2.4 The north wall contained a substantial area of red brick infill that marks the rear of a later range inserted into the adjacent room (photo 5). A doorway, with modern timber supporting lintel, located in the northeast corner of the hall led into the adjoining room. A further area of red brick infill with modern timber lintel above was located in the west wall of the room and marks the site of a later oven (see photo 6). Adjacent on the south side of this later oven was a substantial fireplace with an opening 1.95m long and 1.82m supported by a modern chamfered timber bressumer. The internal depth of the fireplace was 1.2m (see photos 6 & 7).

4.2.5 A large circular chimney with tapering smoke chamber and rectangular flue above, sat above the fireplace. A large stone set at an angle of c.45° was set on the west side at the mouth of the chimney flue. This stone may have acted as a basic chimney cap used to control downdrafts. Such chimneys are considered to date from the 16th century, when enclosed fireplaces became more widely used. In Pembrokeshire, however, it has been suggested that this style of chimney may pre-date this period, perhaps copying the chimneys of the greater houses and castles (Smith 1988, 20).

4.2.6 Whilst dates of 16th century or earlier have been offered for such chimneys it is unreliable to use this evidence to date the structure of the entire building since in many cases in Pembrokeshire a chimney may have been added to an existing house or the house may have been added to a chimney surviving from an earlier structure (*ibid*, 21).

Room 3 (see photos 8 – 10)

4.2.7 In the southwest corner of the room the connecting door between Room 3 and Room 2 consisted of a substantial chamfered pointed dressed stone door head, with dressed stone jamb on the east side (photo 8). The door jamb on the west side of the doorway was obscured by concrete render. Stylistically the doorway is considered to date from the 16th century and is comparable with an example located at the Tudor Merchants House in Tenby. The example at Philbeach farmhouse would have formed a principal doorway³ which suggests that the south wall of Room 3 probably dates from this period.

4.2.8 To the west of the doorway a single surviving chamfered stone may mark the position of a further former doorway into Room 1. Alternatively the chamfered stone may indicate the remains of a former window. The insertion of a range probably dating to the 19th century has removed any further evidence for a doorway or window.

4.2.9 The east wall of the room contained a single splayed window with modern concrete lintel above. At the north end of the wall a doorway connected the entrance hall and outbuilding beyond. A modern staircase occupied the north wall with much of the remainder of the wall obscured by render and paintwork. It was possible to identify the former ceiling level of the room surviving as a series of joist holes which appear to have been recently blocked and were set at a lower level than the present ceiling. In the northwest corner, a doorway, with surviving timber frame and supporting timber lintel above, led into the adjoining room.

4.2.10 In the northwest corner of Room 3 a straight joint visible in the masonry suggests that the rooms beyond were a later addition (photo 9). Two doors (photo 10) pierced the west wall. The southernmost doorway had a red brickwork arch and contained a simple boarded wooden door with a 19th – 20th century lock, suggesting this door was probably inserted during the 19th – 20th centuries. The remaining slightly smaller doorway retained its timber doorframe, but no architectural detailing was discernable. The floor of Room 3 consisted of slate slabs.

Room 4 (see photos 11 – 12)

4.2.11 A heavily modified fireplace occupied much of the south wall of Room 4. The original fireplace appeared to have been a larger structure that was subsequently reduced in size with a brick arch and rubble and red brick infill, with a partially tiled slate hearth beneath. Immediately to the west of the fireplace set at height of c.1m above the present floor level was a former window that had been blocked recently with concrete blockwork (photo 11).

4.2.12 The north wall was pierced by two doorways, the eastern doorway was square headed, retained a moulded timber lintel, traces of lath and plaster work and was set c.0.5m above the present floor level. The doorway to the west was set at present floor level and had a surviving moulded plaster arched head. A second centrally placed fireplace was situated between the doorways and consisted of a red brick lined opening, arched over, with cast iron lintel inserted

³ R. Suggett RCAHMW personal email 11th March 2010.

below. The fireplace appears to have been reduced in size by almost half from the original by the insertion of red brick infill (photo 12).

4.2.13 A substantial splayed window was present within the west wall, with supporting lintel over. Surviving within the opening was a damaged six pane sash window with horns. To the south of the window a large modern double doorway that extended to ceiling height had been cut through the wall. The east wall of Room 4 had recently been lime rendered obscuring any detail for much its length. However, it was possible to identify a blocked window, retaining its timber lintel, in the southeast corner of the room

Room 5 (see photo 13).

4.2.14 Room 5 was only partially accessible, due to the majority of the floor being missing. A doorway blocked with ply wood sheeting was present in the east wall that exited outside. Adjacent, on the north side of the doorway was a splayed window that internally extended down to floor level. A modern concrete lintel and block-work had been inserted above the window. The north wall contained a single centrally placed fireplace with a single course of red brick inserted above. Above the red brick-work an area of disturbance in the wall fabric may represent relining of the chimney flue or subsidence due to the failure of the original lintel that was subsequently replaced with the red brick (photo 13).

4.2.15 A stairway in the southwest corner of the room provided access to the cellar below.

Room 6

4.2.15 It was not possible to access Room 6.

Room 7 (see photos 14 – 16).

4.2.16 The south wall of Room 7 contained a single doorway that originally provided access to adjacent Room 8. The doorway was in-filled with recent concrete blockwork with a concrete supporting lintel.

4.2.17 The eastern wall of the room was much disturbed with lead piping protruding from the wall suggesting the presence of a former sink. Above this was a centrally placed rectangular splayed window. In the southeast corner of the wall a slight recess that appeared to extend up into Room 13 was present (photo 14).

4.2.18 Two splayed rectangular windows pierced the north wall of Room 7, both of which appeared to have been reduced in size as evidenced by joints in the masonry. A possible straight joint was identified in the northeast corner of the wall, further evidence of which was visible above in Room 13 (photo 15). The west wall of Room 7 was obscured by recently applied lime render (photo 16).

Room 8 (see photos 17 – 18)

4.2.19 A doorway, with modern stone infill and concrete lintel, was identified in the west wall of Room 8, which provided access to Room 3 (see 4.2.16). An oblique line with yellow paintwork below and brown paintwork above visible in the west wall of the room (photo 17), may be evidence for a possible former stairway leading to a now vanished upper floor. In the north wall a further doorway, now blocked with concrete block, provided access to Room 7. Scarring of a former floor line was also visible in the north wall of the room.

4.2.20 Two splayed rectangular windows that retained their original timber lintels were visible in the south wall of the room that was constructed of rough uncoursed stone, bonded with a poor quality mortar containing very low quantities of lime.

4.2.21 A single arched doorway of redbrick construction pierced the east wall of Room 8 and provided access to Room 9. Further red brick-work visible on the south side of the doorway may represent a blocked former opening. Scarring for a former floor level was also visible on the east wall of the room, as was a centrally placed small square opening retaining its original timber shutter set at roof height (photo 18).

Room 9 (see photo 19)

4.2.22 Room 9 was accessed by a single doorway from Room 8. A single, centrally placed window containing a mid to late 20th century timber window frame, was present in the north wall of the room. The central area of the north wall appears to have been the subject of piecemeal possible repair work with the addition of red brick and concrete block infill. A number of substantial stones were visible at floor level set into the north wall. Towards the east end of the north wall a substantial batter was visible.

4.2.23 At the east end of the room was a substantial single coursed red brick plinth, behind which the wall was soot-covered suggesting a range had formerly occupied this location (photo 19). Lime render still adhered to the northern part of the east wall of the room.

4.2.25 A substantial opening through the south wall of Room 9 suggests the presence of a double doorway. Brickwork and concrete block lining both sides of the opening suggests this was a later addition. In the southwest corner of the room a straight joint was visible which suggests that Room 9 has been enlarged.

4.3 Details of First Floor Internal Fabric

Room 10 (see photos 20 – 22).

4.3.1 A centrally placed partially blocked fireplace with stone bressumer occupied the south wall of Room 10 (photo 20). The north wall contained stone in-filling which may suggest the presence of a chimney.

4.3.2 A single window was present in the east wall of the room, which had been recently blocked with concrete block in-fill and a concrete lintel inserted above and red brick in-fill below. Immediately to the south of this window was an earlier window which had been blocked with stone and retained what is considered to be its original timber lintel, now rotted (photo 21). Plasterwork still remained *in-situ* on the reveal of the earlier window. At the junction between the east and south walls a straight joint was visible which corresponded to that previously identified in Room 3 below. Towards the north end of the east wall, a possible relieving arch was present which was partially obscured by the present floor level. No trace of the relieving arch was visible in Room 3 below.

4.3.3 A single window with brick infill and supporting timber lintel pierced the west wall of Room 10. On the south side of this window near the doorway providing access to Room 11, a small blocked window was identified that still retained its original timber lintel. This window appeared very similar in form and size to that previously identified in Room 4 below. The present floor of this room partially obscured the window suggesting that the floor level has changed. A former roofline was also identified along with a possible redundant chimney within

the fabric of the west wall of Room 10 suggesting that the gable end of an earlier structure has been incorporated into the present farmhouse (photo 22).

Room 11 (see photos 23 – 25)

4.3.4 The north wall of Room 11 had a doorway at its eastern end that provided access to Room 12. A centrally placed fireplace with stone bressumer over and stone hearth, also occupied the north wall (photo 23). The presence of brick infill at the rear of the fireplace suggests modification or repairs of probable 19th century date.

4.3.5 The south wall also contained a centrally placed fireplace, but this is considered to be heavily reworked given the presence of 19th century brickwork and it is possible that it originally was similar to that found in the north wall.

4.3.6 Approximately 50% of the length of the east wall of Room 11 had been recently lime rendered obscuring any architectural features, but the doorway leading into Room 13 remained (photo 24). At the northern end of the wall a single splayed window opening containing a four paned sash window of probable 19th century date was present. The edges of the window consisted of red brick suggesting reworking of the opening. The west wall of the room contained two further windows both containing 19th century sash frames and brick edging comparable to that found in the east wall. A blocked window retaining traces of plaster and a timber lintel was present between the two windows in the west wall of the room (photo 25).

Room 12 (see photos 26 – 28)

4.3.7 The current floor level of Room 12 was c.1m above that found in the adjacent Room 11. The north wall of the room contained a centrally placed fireplace arched over in red brick with cast iron decorated fireplace of probable 19th century date (photo 26).

4.3.8 A void in the southwest corner of the room suggests that a staircase may have once been located here providing access between first and second floors of the building (photo 27). Much of the south wall of the room still retained lime render and blue paint.

4.3.9 The east wall contained two splayed window openings with replacement concrete lintels above. Both openings contained four-pane sash windows which appear to be of 19th century date (photo 28).

4.3.10 No architectural features were identified in the west wall of Room 12.

Room 13 (see photo 29).

4.3.11 It was not possible to fully access Room 13 as the floor had been removed. The room was viewed from the connecting door between it and Room 11.

4.3.12 The north wall of the room contained a single centrally placed splayed window opening containing a sash window of 19th century date. In the northeast corner of the room a straight joint with evidence of roughly dressed quoins suggests that the room incorporates elements of an earlier structure. Further evidence for this joint was visible in Room 7 below.

4.3.13 A single partially blocked window or small doorway with timber supporting lintel was present in the south wall of the room and may have originally provided access to Room 8. The east wall contained a single splayed window with concrete

supporting lintel and inserted concrete block-work, but retaining a 19th century four-pane sash window (photo 29). The west wall was completely obscured by recent lime render.

5. ARHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

5.1 Results.

5.1.1 A single site visit was made to monitor excavation of the floors of Rooms 2 and 3.

5.1.2 Excavations in Room 2 revealed a post-medieval corn drier in the southeast corner of the room. The corn drier measured 2.3m in length and was 1.35m wide. It was aligned north-south. The corn drier was constructed of mortared stone with earthenware tiles forming the base of the flue. 5.1.3 On the west side of the doorway, a north-south aligned wall footing 0.95m in length was revealed. This wall may have originally turned to connect with the substantial fireplace within the room, enclosing a 1.2m space. The purpose of the enclosed space was unclear, but it may indicate the presence of a storage room.

5.1.4 Substantial deposits of hearth waste containing occasional 19th century ceramic fragments was present in the uneven sub-floor deposits. This suggests that at some point there was no formal floor surface in this room. The owner reported that two mill stones had been set into the former concrete floor.

5.1.4 Excavation of the floor in Room 3 revealed shattered old red sandstone bedrock with no trace of any archaeological features or deposits cutting into it.

6. CONCLUSIONS.

6.1 Historic Building Recording.

6.1.1 The earliest part of Philbeach Farmhouse is considered to be centred around Room 2 with its substantial fireplace, chimney and doorway in the south wall of Room 3. Stylistically these architectural details are generally thought to date from the 16th century. However, it is possible that the fireplace and chimney could either pre-date or post-date the existing fabric. The connecting doorway is however more securely dateable and has parallels with an example at the Tudor Merchants House in Tenby that has been dated to the same period. The likelihood must therefore be considered that an earlier 16th century structure has been incorporated into the structure as it exists today.

6.1.2 It is considered that Room 2 represents an early post-medieval hall, but whether it was a stand alone structure such as the example at Carswell near St Florence, Tenby, or formed part of a larger building is unclear from the surviving fabric.

6.1.3 Straight joints within the fabric of the building to the north of the medieval hall indicate successive phases of building at Philbeach. These are difficult to date as much of the fabric is devoid of any dateable detailing other than extensive early 19th century modifications. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to date the fabric of the later structural additions with any certainty other than they date from at least the early 19th century.

6.1.4 The 19th and early 20th century mapping of the area shows that the house has changed little since the latter part of the 19th century. However the maps do indicate that substantial redevelopment work was undertaken on the outbuildings and it is considered likely that the interior of the house was remodelled around the same time with the insertion of new windows and fireplaces.

6.2 Archaeological Watching Brief.

6.2.1 Two structures of archaeological interest were revealed during the course of floor excavations within Room 2.

6.2.2 A corn drier and partition wall were revealed suggesting the late medieval hall had become a processing area for agricultural produce. Both features are considered to be of post medieval date.

6.2.3 Excavation of the floor in Room 3 revealed shattered old red sandstone bedrock and no archaeological features and deposits.

7. SOURCES.

Cartographic

Ordnance Survey 1811 Milford Haven accessed at
<http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/ordsurvdraw/m/002osd000000021u00139000.html>

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Murphy, K & Ludlow, N, 2003 *Historic Landscape characterisation Hoaten - Hasguard*. Dyfed Archaeological Trust Report for CADW

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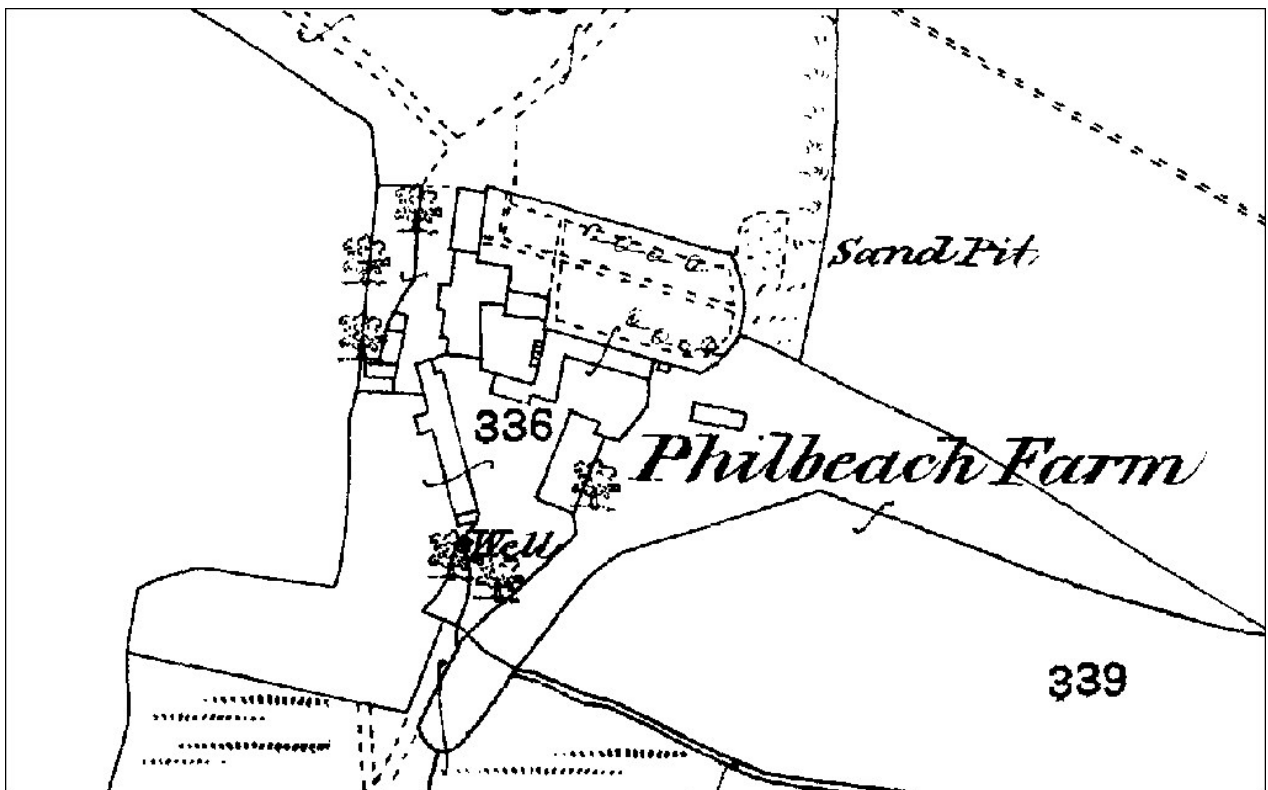


Figure 2: Extract of 1876 OS map of area showing layout of Philbeach Farm.

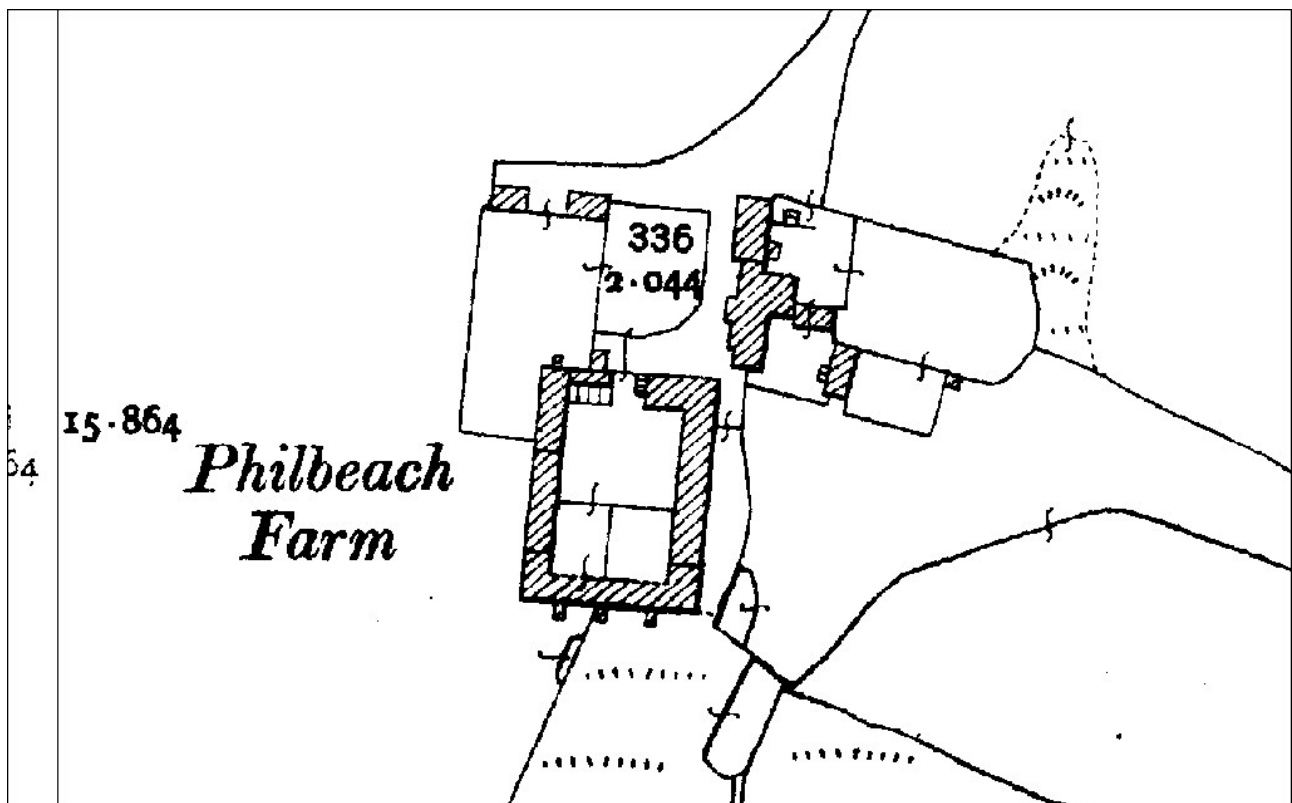


Figure 3: Extract of 1908 OS map showing substantial redevelopment of Philbeach Farm.

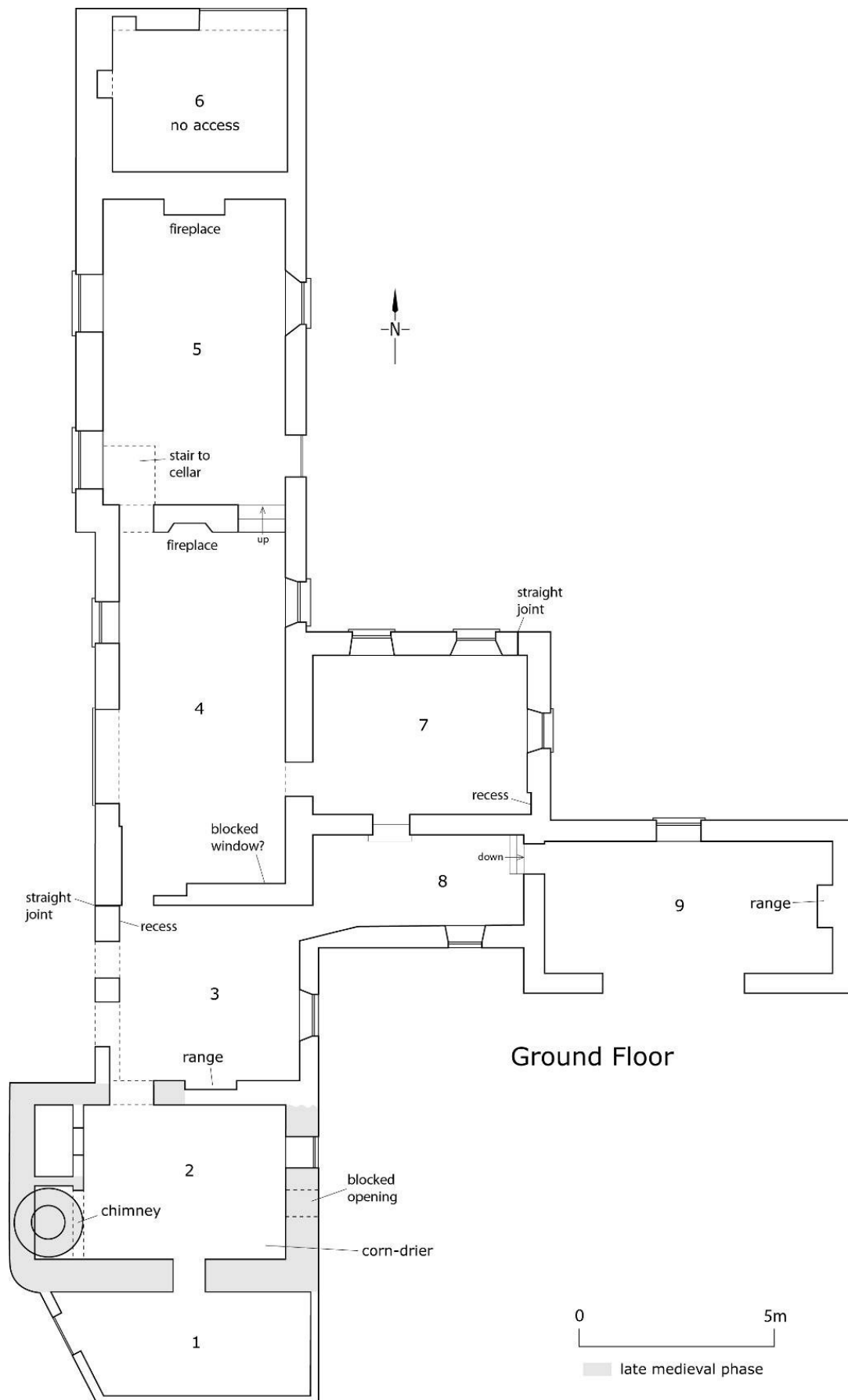


Figure 4: Ground floor plan of Philbeach Farmhouse.

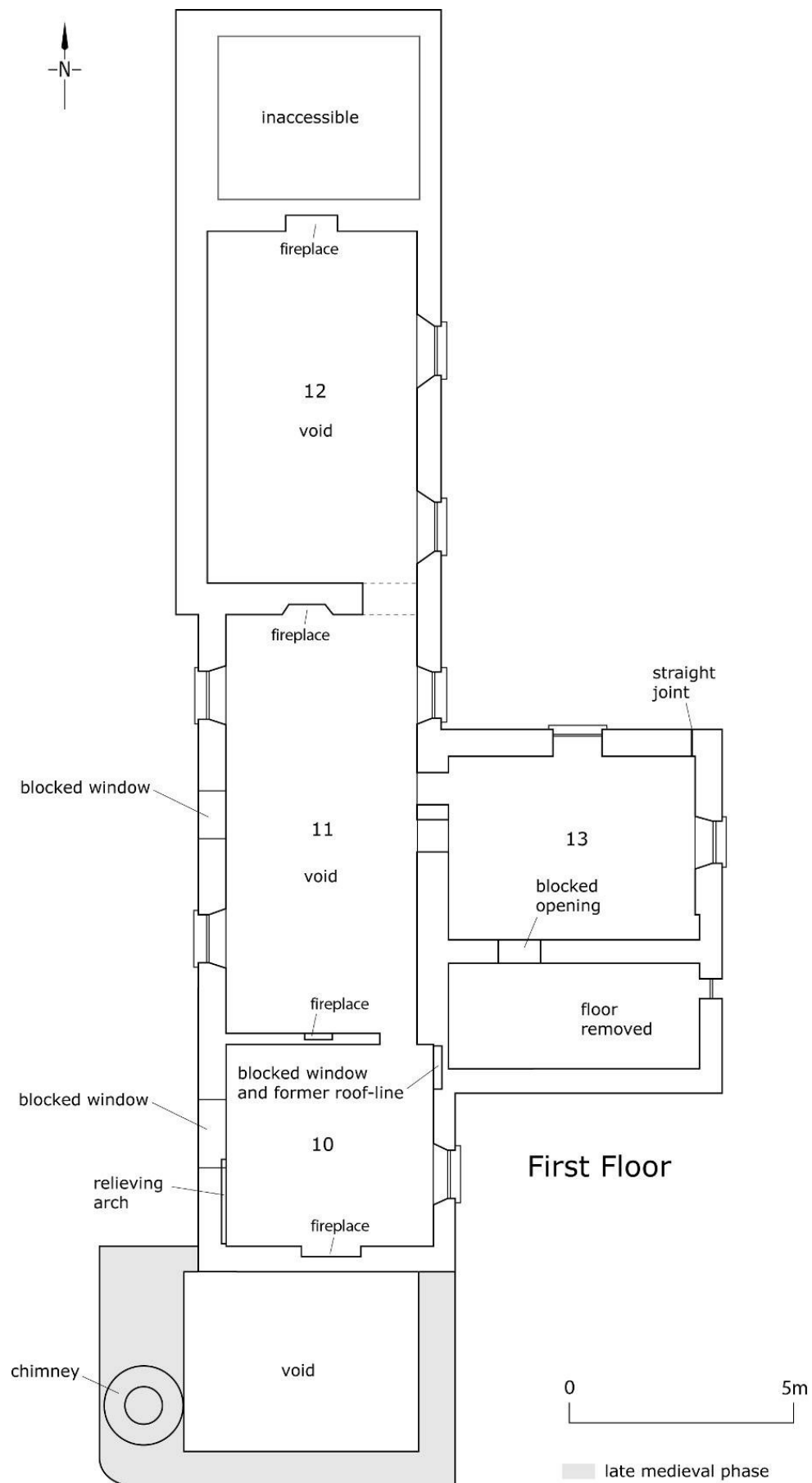


Figure 5: First floor plan of Philbeach Farmhouse

BUILDING RECORDING PHOTOGRAPHS

Cellar



Photo 1: Blocked window in cellar



Photo 2: Access steps to cellar

Room 1



Photo 3: Boarded doorway east wall, Room 2

Room 2



Photo 4: Window in east wall Room 2,
blocked opening highlighted with arrow



Photo 5: Brick infill and doorway, north wall room 2



Photo 6: Fireplace Room 2, later oven to right



Photo 7: Fireplace with chimney, Room 2

Room 3



Photo 8: Late medieval doorway and later range, Room 3



Photo 9: Straight joint in masonry with recess, Room 3



Photo 10: Doorways in west wall, Room 3

Room 4



Photo 11: Fireplace, doorway and blocked opening, south wall Room 4



Photo 12: Doorways and central fireplace, north wall Room 4

Room 5



Photo 13: Fireplace, chimney reworking highlighted by arrow, north wall Room 5

Room 7



Photo 14: Recess in east wall Room 7



Photo 15: Possible straight joint in north wall, Room 7



Photo 16: Recently rendered west wall, Room 7

Room 8



Photo 17: West wall Room 8 showing former position of staircase



Photo 18: East wall, Room 8

Room 9



Photo 19: Room 9 looking towards site of range

Room 10



Photo 20: Fireplace north wall Room 10



Photo 21: East wall Room 10 showing blocked windows and relieving arch



Photo 22: Detail of blocked window and former roof line, west wall Room 10

Room 11



Photo 23: Fireplace, north wall, Room 11



Photo 24: Lime rendered east wall, Room 11



Photo 25: Blocked window, west wall, Room 11

Room 12



Photo 26: 19th century cast iron fireplace, north wall Room 12



Photo 27: Room 12 facing south showing position of former staircase



Photo 28: Four paned sash window, east wall Room 11

Room 13



Photo 29: Four paned sash window, east wall Room 13

WATCHING BRIEF PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 30: Corn drier in south east corner of Room 2



Photo 31: Detail of corn drier, Room 2

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 94527

Mehefin 2011
June 2011

**PHILBEACH FARMHOUSE, DALE,
PEMBROKESHIRE:
BUILDING RECORDING AND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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

Swydd / Position:

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

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

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position:

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

*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*