

**INNER COURTYARD, NEWTON HOUSE,
LLANDEILO, CARMARTHENSHIRE
(SN 61418 22474)**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

April 2010



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For: The National Trust



ymddiriedolaeth archaeolegol
DYFED
archaeological trust

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2010/40
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 99811

Gorffennaf 2010
July 2010

INNER COURTYARD, NEWTON HOUSE, LLANDEILO, CARMARTHENSHIRE, ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Gan / By

Andrew Shobbrook and Simon Ratty

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

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

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir Gaerfyrddin
SA19 6AF
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131
Ffacs: 01558 823133
Ebost: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Gwefan: www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited
The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire
SA19 6AF
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131
Fax: 01558 823133
Email: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Website: www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

Cwmni cyfyngedig (1198990) ynghyd ag elusen gofrestredig (504616) yw'r Ymddiriedolaeth. The Trust is both a Limited Company (No. 1198990) and a Registered Charity (No. 504616)

CADEIRYDD CHAIRMAN: C R MUSSON MBE B Arch FSA MIFA. CYFARWYDDWR
DIRECTOR: K MURPHY BA MIFA

CONTENTS

	SUMMARY	1
1	INTRODUCTION	2
	1.1 Project Commission	2
	1.2 Scope of the Project	2
	1.3 Report Outline	2
	1.4 Abbreviations	2
	1.5 Illustrations	2
2	THE SITE	3
	2.1 Location	3
	2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background	3
3	WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS	4
	3.1 Watching brief methodology	4
	3.2 Results	4
4	CONCLUSIONS	5
5	SOURCES	6

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1:	Location map, based on the Ordnance Survey	7
Figure 2:	Extract of 1 st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 showing site location	8
Figure 3:	Extract of Ordnance Survey map of 1907 showing site location	9
Figure 4:	1912 Drainage map of Inner courtyard depicting game larder	10

TABLES

Table 1:	Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales	11
-----------------	--	----

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1:	View south of cobbles situated at north-western corner of courtyard with drain visible	12
Photo 2:	View west of cobbles situated at north-western corner of courtyard	12
Photo 3:	View north-west of cobbles situated at north-western corner of courtyard	13
Photo 4:	Vertical view of cobbled surface situated at north-western corner of courtyard	13
Photo 5:	View north of flagstone foundation	14
Photo 6:	View west of flagstone path foundation	14
Photo 7:	View east of second pitched cobble surface	15

Photo 8:	View north of second cobbled surface, with bricks in backfilled service trench showing in top right hand corner of picture	15
Photo 9:	View west of excavated game larder	16
Photo 10:	Close up view of excavated game larder	16
Photo 11:	View of the game larder in the mid 1970s	17
Photo 11:	View south-west of finished gravel surface	17

**INNER COURTYARD, NEWTON HOUSE, LLANDEILO, CARMARTHENSHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

SUMMARY

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were commissioned by the National Trust to undertake a watching brief in April 2010 during groundworks associated with resurfacing the Inner Courtyard at Newton House, a Grade II Listed Building. The aim of the watching brief was to observe and record any earlier courtyard surfaces and other features that might be exposed during the removal of the existing grass and gravel surfaces present within the courtyard. Following removal of the grass and gravel a new gravel surface was then laid across the entire courtyard area.*

The watching brief requirement was placed on the proposed groundworks by the National Trust archaeologist Emma Plunkett-Dillon

The internal size of the courtyard measured 31m along its eastern and western wings and 25m across its northern and southern wings. Two pitched cobble surfaces were observed and recorded, with several modern services also noted. The best-preserved pitched cobble surface was located in the north-western part of the courtyard. A possible foundation for a flagstone pavement was also recorded which protruded from the entrance of the north wing into the courtyard. The foundation cut for the game larder was also observed.

The groundworks caused minimal below ground disturbance, removing only thin layers of gravel and turves from the courtyard. All exposed features and former surfaces (including the two areas of cobbling) were preserved beneath the newly laid gravel surface.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the resurfacing of the Inner Courtyard at Newton House was requested by Emma Plunkett-Dillon, the National Trust Archaeologist. The requirement for the work was considered necessary due to the Inner Courtyard being a Grade II* Listed Building and there was potential for the proposed groundworks to expose significant archaeological features or deposits associated with earlier phases of building or occupation of the site.

1.1.2 Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were commissioned by the National Trust to undertake the watching brief in April 2010.

1.2 Scope of the Project

1.2.1 The aim of the watching brief was to record any features or deposits of archaeological significance that might be exposed, damaged or destroyed by the ground works within the footprint of the proposed building. Such features were expected to include earlier surfaces of the courtyard.

1.3 Report Outline

1.3.1 This report describes the location of the site along with its archaeological background before summarising the watching brief results and the conclusions based on those results.

1.4 Abbreviations

1.4.1 Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER¹) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR).

1.5 Illustrations

1.5.1 Record photographs are included at back of the report. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale and are illustrative only.

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

2 THE SITE

2.1 Location

2.1.1 The Inner Courtyard is situated to the immediate south-west of Newton House, Dinefwr Park, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN 61418 22474; Figure 1).

2.1.2 Newton House is located 1.5km to the west of the centre of the town of Llandeilo.

2.1.3 The courtyard is one of a pair that are associated with Newton House

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.2.1 The Inner Courtyard is a Grade II* Listed Post Medieval building (PRN 60,799, NGR SN 61418 22474). The Inner Courtyard, sometimes referred to as the North Courtyard, is considered to have been constructed in 1720 and was thought to have incorporated earlier buildings, a view which appears to have originated with Cyril Fox's correspondence with Lord Dynevor in 1934. Two paintings dated around 1700 show a large barn and a service building in the location of the Inner Courtyard (see Figs 2 & 3) and would appear to correspond with the location of the South and North Wings respectively. Recent observation of the roof structures in these wings by the RCAHMW and Cadw has confirmed that the evidence would point to seventeenth century date.

2.2.2 The East Wing was thought to have been constructed by Griffith Rice II in 1720 when the house was also renovated (Dignam et al. 1989) and the Home Farm moved to 'Little Newton'. Recent interpretations of the fixtures and fittings within the East Wing have suggested a refit in the nineteenth century date (Pyper *et al*, 2007, 4).

2.2.3 The layout of the courtyards can be clearly seen on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 (Figure 2) and the second edition map of 1906 (Figure 3).

3 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

3.1 Watching brief methodology

3.1.1 The watching brief comprised three site visits to monitor the removal of the grass topsoil and gravel trackways, which covered the entirety of the Inner Courtyard (28th, 29th and 30th April 2010). The topsoil and gravel was removed by mini excavator, using a toothless bucket.

3.2 Results

3.2.1 A pitched cobble surface and a path of flagstones were observed and recorded situated in the north-western corner of the Inner Courtyard (photos 1 – 6). The path consisted of flagstones laid two abreast, and continued in an east-west alignment leading to the doorway entering the western wing of the courtyard. The pathway measured 3.10m long by 1.60m wide and the each flagstone measured 0.40m x 0.40m square. The pathway abutted the pitched cobble surface along its northern edge.

3.2.2 The pitched cobble surface was constructed of small rectangular blocks of local stone (photos 1 – 4). The average size of each stone was 0.15m long by 0.06m wide in plan and many were well worn in places. The sets were roughly hewn and some variation in size and colour was apparent across the surface. The stones were linearly set with a slight curve in the layout towards the west. A drain had been laid through the surface, continuing diagonally across the cobbles, commencing at the base of the wall of the western courtyard wing and leading northeast towards a drain abutting the eastern kerbing of the floor surface (photo 1). It is possible that this drain is a later addition to the pitched cobble surface. The surviving area of the cobbled surface measured 5.6m in length and protruded 3.10 in width from the wall of the west wing of the Inner Courtyard.

3.2.2 In the north-eastern corner of the courtyard a similar cobbled surface was revealed (photo 7 & 8). The cobbles were of similar size as the cobbles found in the first cobbled surface, although the second surface has not been laid in a linear pattern as the first was and are more irregularly placed. A modern brick lined service cuts part of the northern extremity of the cobbled surface. The material used in the construction of this surface consisted of roughly sub rounded and sub linear stones.

3.2.3 A possible flagstone path foundation was discovered protruding 1.36m from the edge of the doorway of the northern wing headed in a east\west alignment for 1.60m. The limestone blocks were bedded onto bedrock. The bonding material appears to be made up of a lime mortar mixture. The remains of a glass bottle was found within the flagstone pavement foundation which appears to date to the late 18th century through to the early 19th century.

3.2.4 The foundation for a game larder was found within the centre of the courtyard. The foundation consisted of a square cut into the natural geology which measured 1.5 metres square (Photo 9 & 10). The game larder can be seen in a photograph taken in the mid-seventies, prior to its demolition (Photo 12). The game larder can also be seen depicted on the 1912 drainage map of the inner courtyard, please see (Figure 4).

4 CONCLUSION

4.1 The archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the laying of a new gravel surface at the Inner Courtyard at Newton House, Llandeilo revealed a number of features of archaeological interest. These included two separate pitched cobble surfaces. The surfaces were made of well-laid cobbles.

4.2 A foundation cut for a game larder was found within the centre of the courtyard. The foundation was of a minimal size, representing the base of the stone plinth on top of which was set the timber larder.

4.3 A layer of lime mortared stones which formed the foundation for a flagstone path or surface were also revealed.

4.4 All the features revealed are considered to be of a later post-medieval date (probably of 19th century date).

4.5 Numerous modern services were also revealed during ground clearance in the courtyard, one of which had truncated the patch of cobbles situated in the north eastern corner of the courtyard.

4.6 Through viewing the 1912 drainage map of the inner courtyard of Newton House (Figure 4), it appears that the drain located at the north western side of the courtyard set within the cobbled area (see picture 1 & 2) is probably associated with the former Brew House and is likely to represent an outflow for waste produce. Two other drainage gullies are also depicted on the 1912 map, the first is located at the northern end of the courtyard outside the scullery, the second is situated on the western side of the courtyard outside the still room. Both would have been for waste water. Depicted in the centre of the yard is a soft water tank which has a pipe connected leading to the still room and is probably associated with the production process involved in distillation.

4.7 The majority of the courtyard area showed no evidence for a cobbled yard surface, presumably as it had been significantly truncated from later activity and service installation.

4.8 The groundworks caused minimal below ground disturbance, removing only thin layers of gravel and turfs from the courtyard. All exposed features and former surfaces (including the two areas of cobbles) were preserved beneath the new laid gravel surface (Photo 12).

5 SOURCES

Map

Ordnance Survey, 1891, Carmarthenshire Sheet XXXII SE 1st edition 1:10,560

Ordnance Survey, 1907, Carmarthenshire Sheet XXXII SE 2nd edition 1:10,560

Ordnance Survey, 1996, Swansea and the Gower. 1:50 000 Landranger Sht. 159

1912 drainage map of inner courtyard (Courtesy of the National Trust)

Photographic Sources

Photo of the game larder within inner courtyard (Courtesy of the National Trust)

Unpublished Sources

Pyper, A., Schlee, D., Wilson, H., 2007. *Historical Analysis of The East Wing, Inner Courtyard, Newton House*, Cambria Archaeology, Report No.2007/20

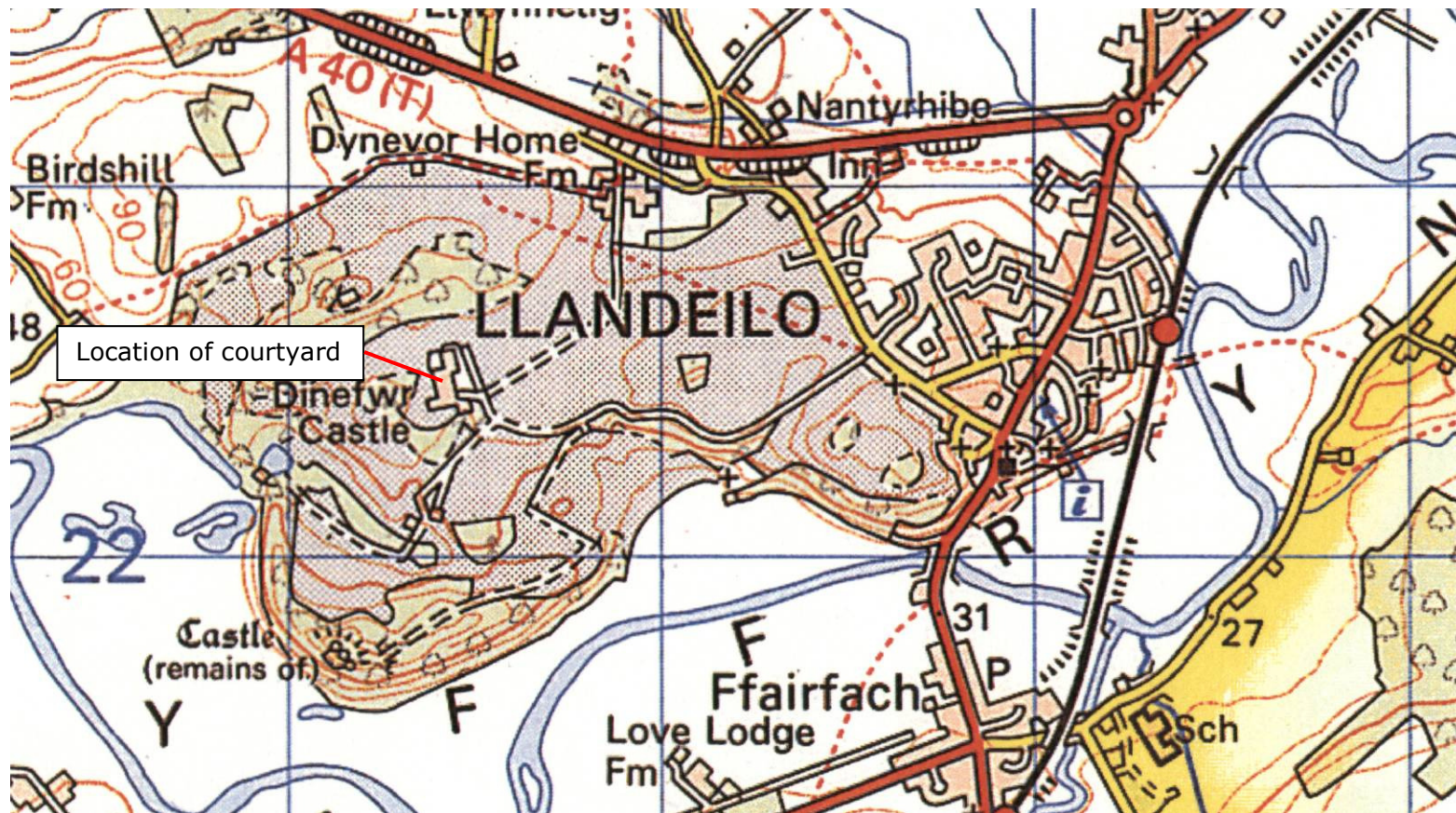


Figure 1: Location map, based on the Ordnance Survey

Reproduced from the 1995 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 Ltd., The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A

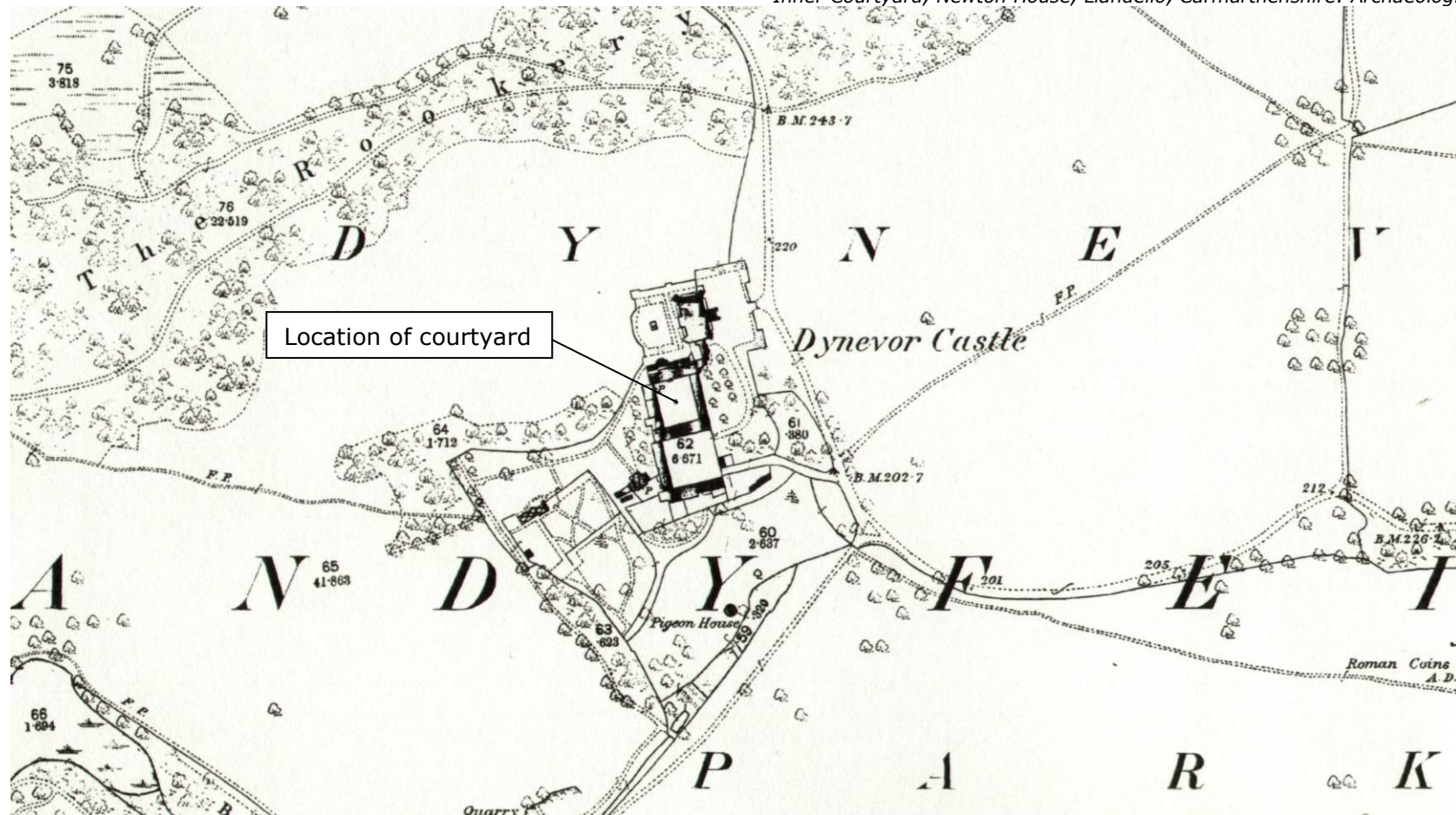


Figure 2: Extract of 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 showing location of courtyard.

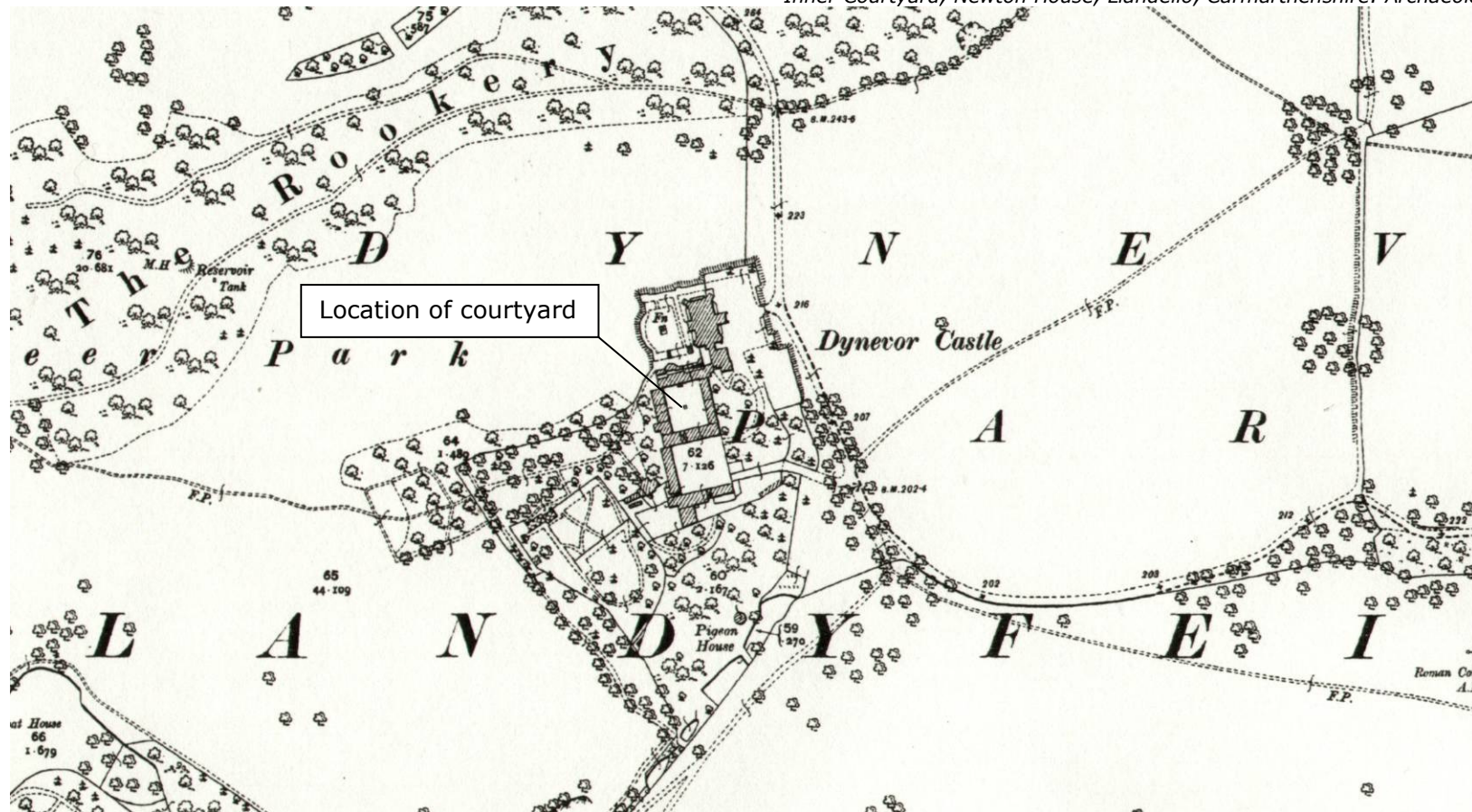


Figure 3: Extract of 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906 showing location of courtyard.

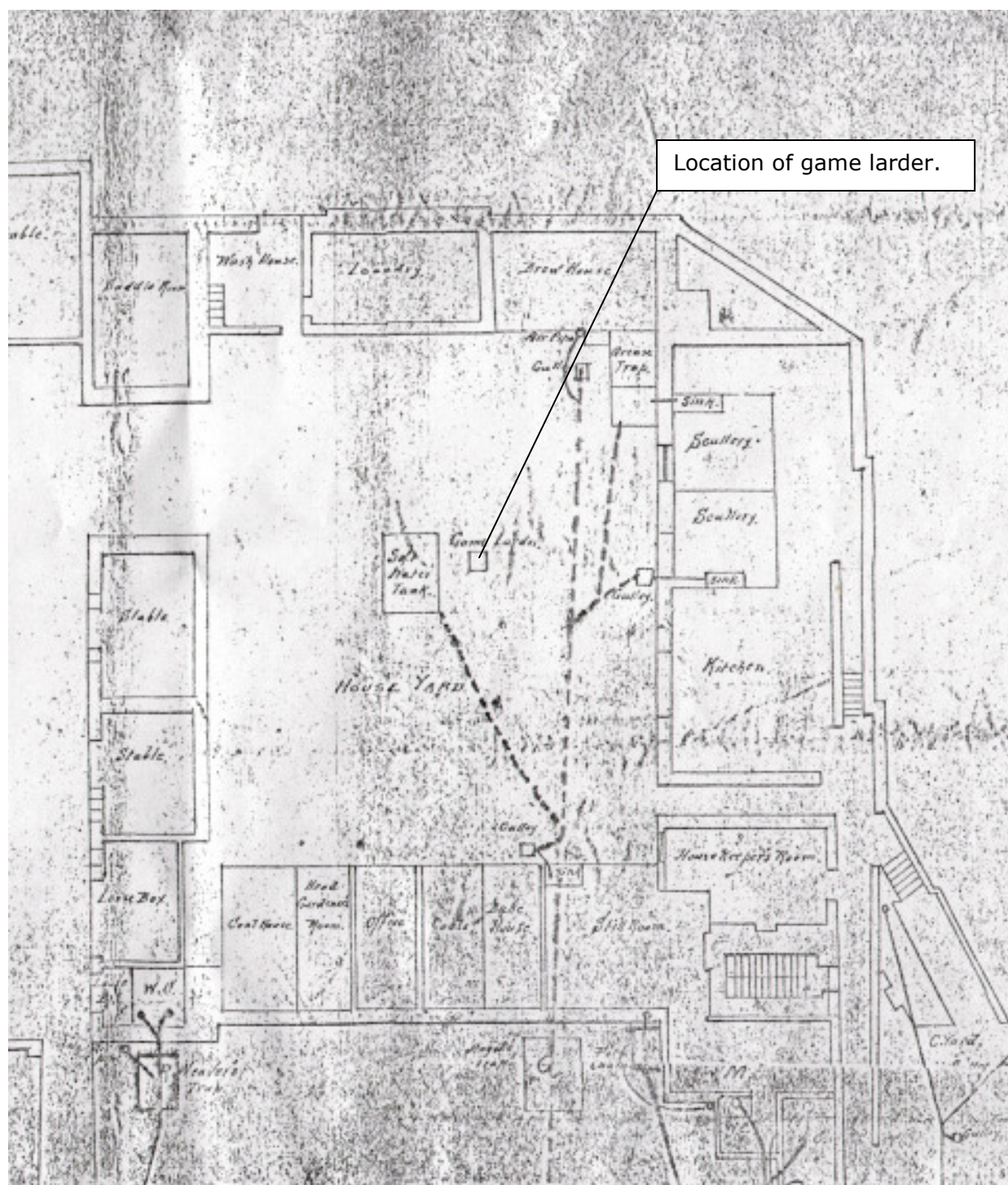


Figure 4: 1912 Drainage map of Inner courtyard depicting game larder

<i>Period</i>	<i>Approximate Date</i>
Palaeolithic	c.225,000 BC – 10,000 BC
Mesolithic	c.10,000 BC – c.3500 BC
Neolithic	c.3500 BC – c.2000 BC
Bronze Age	c.2000 BC – c.600 BC
Iron Age	c.600 BC – 43 AD
Roman	43 AD – 410 AD
Early Medieval	410 AD - 1066
Medieval	1066 - 1485
Post Medieval	1485 – c.1900
Modern	c.1900 onwards

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales.



Photo 1: View south of cobbles situated at north-western corner of courtyard with drain visible



Photo 2: View west of cobbles situated at north-western corner of courtyard



Photo 3: View north-west of cobbles situated at north-western corner of courtyard



Photo 4: Vertical view of pitched cobble surface situated at north-western corner of courtyard



Photo 5: View north of flagstone foundation



Photo 6: View west of flagstone path foundation



Photo 7: View east of second pitched cobble surface



Photo 8: View north of second pitched cobble surface, with bricks in backfilled service trench showing in top right hand corner of picture



Photo 9: View west of excavated game larder



Photo 10: Close up view of excavated game larder.



Photo 11: View of the game larder in the mid 1970s



Photo 12: View south-west of finished gravel surface.

**INNER COURTYARD, NEWTON HOUSE,
LLANDEILO, CARMARTHENSHIRE
(SN 61417 22473)
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2010/40
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 99811

Gorffennaf 2010
July 2010

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

Andrew Shobbrook

Swydd / Position: Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature Date

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

James Meek

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

Swydd / Position: Head of Field Services

Llofnod / Signature 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*