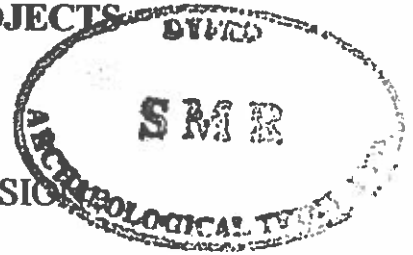


CAMBRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS



ABERGLASNEY GARDENS AND MANSION

INTERIM REPORT ON AN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF THE

UPPER WALLED GARDEN WATER FEATURE

Phil Evans BA

**ABERGLASNEY MANSION AND GARDENS:
INTERIM REPORT ON AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON THE
UPPER WALLED GARDEN WATER FEATURE**

Phil Evans BA

Prepared for:
**Aberglasney Restoration Trust
Baliffs Lodge
Llangarthen
Carmarthen
SA32 8QH**

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**Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd
Waen Old Farmhouse
Llidiartywaen
Llanidloes
Powys SY18 6JT
Telephone/Fax: 01686 413857
E-mail: cambarch@dircon.co.uk**

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December 1998

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd has been approached by the Aberglasney Restoration Trust to prepare a report on archaeological work required at Aberglasney Gardens and Mansion during the development of the project in 1998.
- 1.2 A report detailing the proposed archaeological scheme of investigation of the various elements of the site has already been submitted to The Aberglasney Restoration Trust (CAP Report no 39).
- 1.3 The present report details recording undertaken on a small water feature in the Upper Walled Garden.
- 1.4 Prior to the evaluation the water feature was revealed by minor excavation works undertaken by Capps & Capps Ltd to aid their restoration work on the eastern wall of the garden.
- 1.5 This report provides an interim statement of the results of excavations to establish the date, construction, and any other archaeological features associated with the water feature.

2 Site and methodology

- 2.1 In order to establish the information laid out in section 1.5 a three metre square trench was excavated around the water feature (Fig. 1).
- 2.2 Accurate plans and sections were made of all layers and features.
- 2.3 Context records were kept for all significant layers and features (Appendix I). All numbers that appear in brackets hereafter refer to a specific context.
- 2.4 The trench was cleaned and photographed.
- 2.5 The fieldwork was undertaken from the 7-9 December 1998. The site code was AB98WF and the site archive will be held at the offices of The Aberglasney Restoration Trust.
- 2.6 The trench was excavated by hand.

3 The Archaeological Features

- 3.1 After the removal of the overburden (1) excavation revealed a semi-circular cut in the natural bedrock (8) which was surrounded by a stone wall (3) and yellow clay (4) (Fig. 2). The interior of the feature was filled with fine silt (2) and a stone culvert (5) was located cut into the natural bedrock leading out into the garden to the west.
- 3.2 Six water-worn limestone fragments also revealed during the excavation. Two of which were lying on the top of the stone wall and the others lying in the interior of the feature.
- 3.3 A natural spring entering the feature underneath the eastern wall of the garden filled the feature with water up to the level of the stone culvert.

4 Conclusions:

- 4.1 Excavation revealed a water feature cut into the natural bedrock lined by a stone wall which in turn was lined with waterproofing clay. This was filled by means of a natural spring to a depth of c.0.6m below the present ground surface. The water then drained away from the pool out through a stone culvert to the west.
- 4.2 Considering that two of the water-worn stones are lying on top of the pool wall it is probable that all of these stones could once have been placed around the top of the wall as a decorative feature.
- 4.3 No evidence to establish the date of the feature was located.

APPENDIX I: Summary of observed context

- 1 Overburden
- 2 Fine black silt
- 3 Feature wall
- 4 Yellow clay/puddling
- 5 Stone culvert
- 6 Eastern wall of garden
- 7 Water-worn limestone fragments
- 8 Natural bedrock (mudstone)
- 9 Recently cut drainage channel

APPENDIX II: Summary of finds

- 1 fragment of clay pipe bowl (context 2)

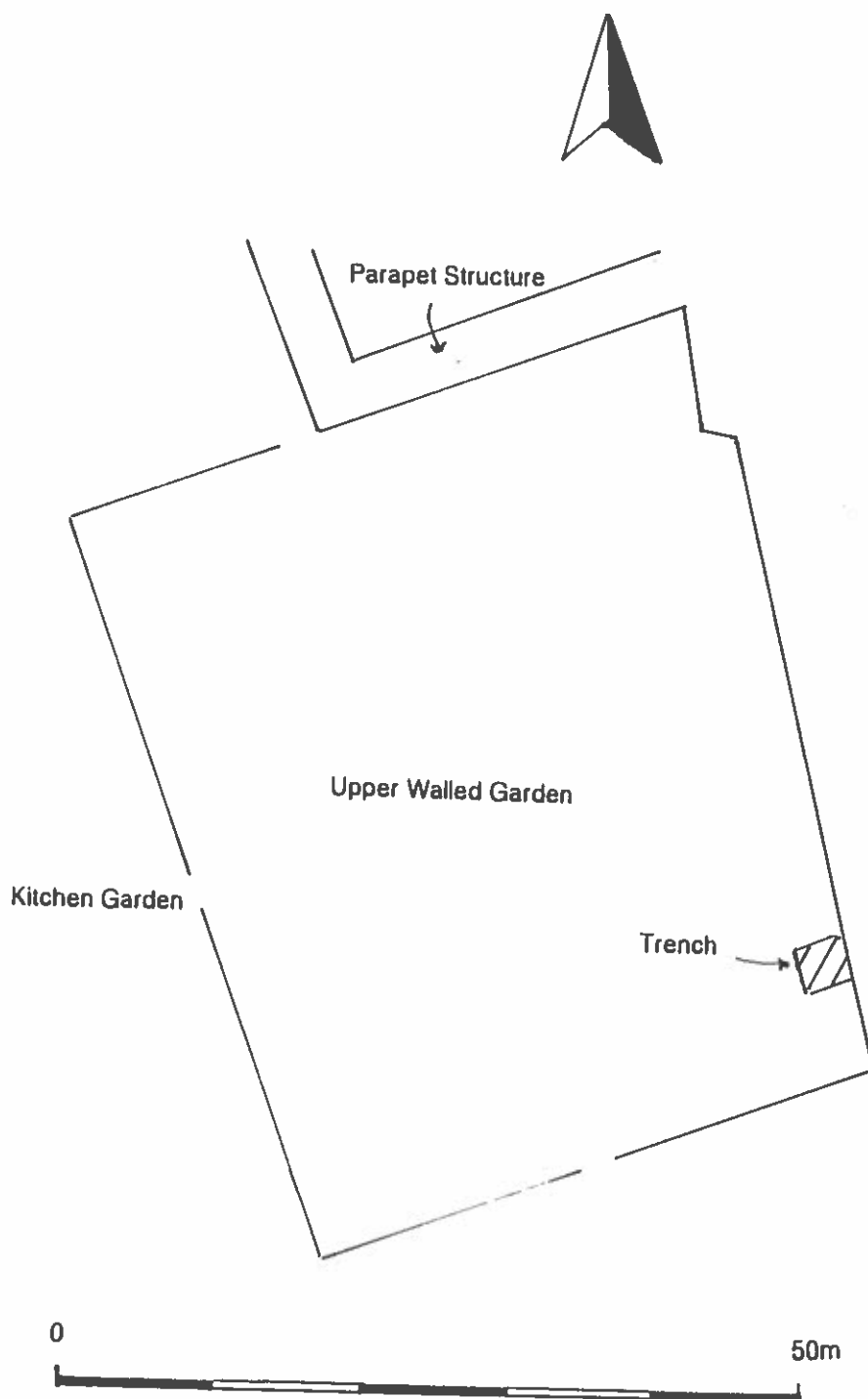


Fig 1. Location plan

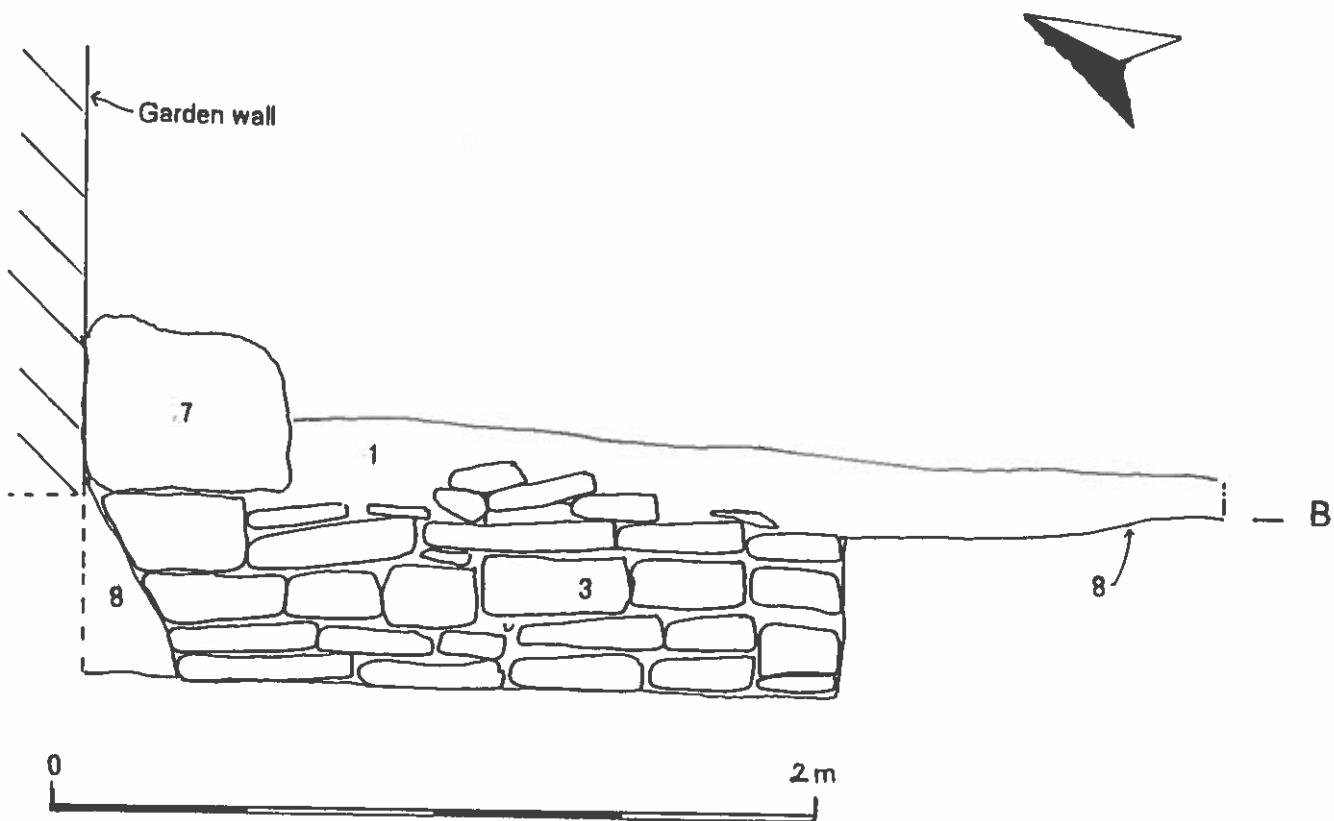
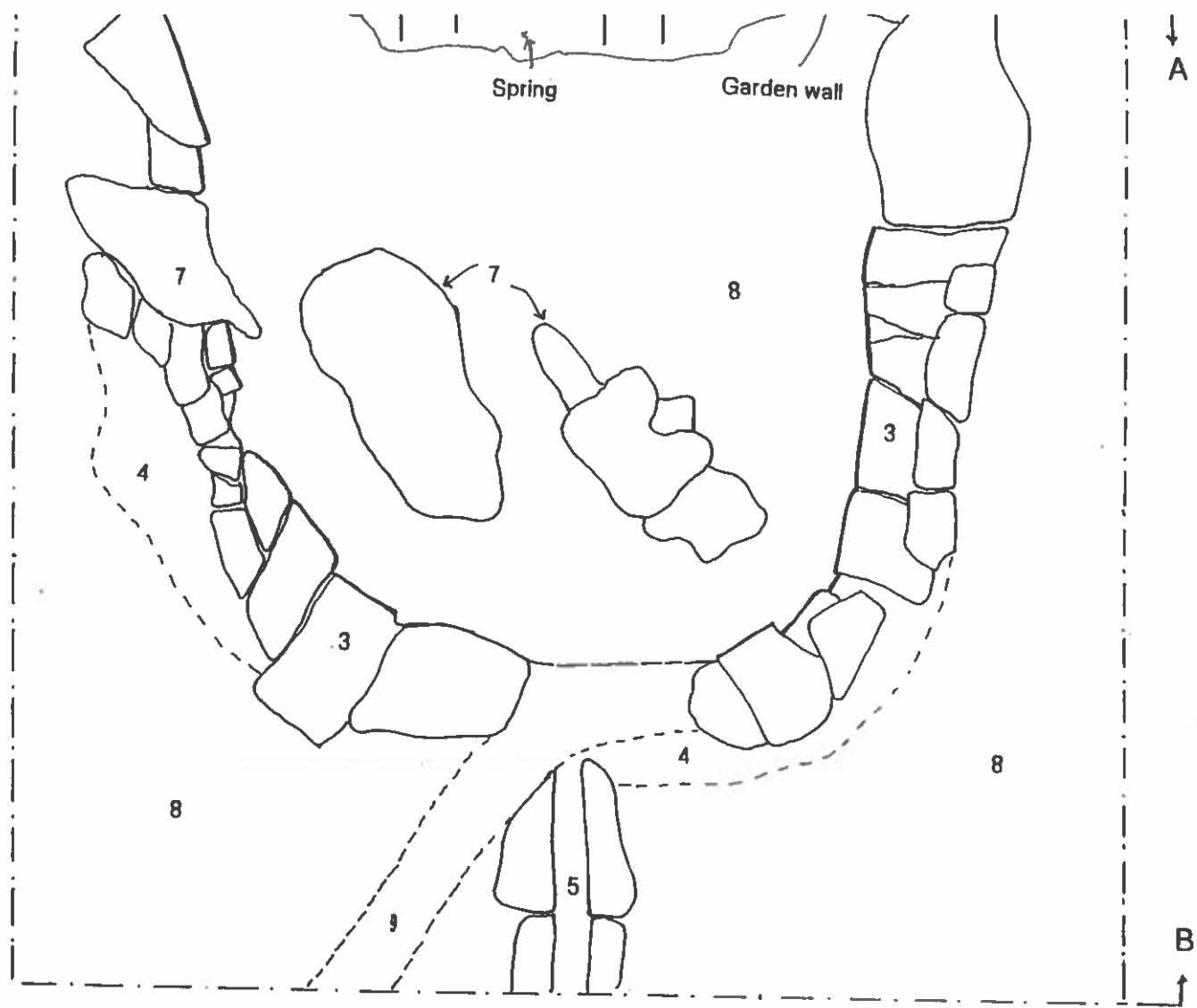


Fig. 2 Plan and Section