Talhardd Farm, Llandeilo Rural, Carmathernshire

to include: Building Recording, Archaeological Observation and Limited Evaluation

Report No. 2002 - 08 - 13

NGR SN 6216 2021



Border Archaeology, PO Box 36, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 OYQ

CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.	BRIEF HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	5
3.	GEOLOGY	6
4.	METHODOLOGIES	7
5.	BUILDING RECORDING	9
6.	LIMITED EVALUATION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION	23
7.	SUMMARY OF LIMITED EVALUATION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION	28
8.	BIBLIOGRAPHY .	28
9.	COPYRIGHT	20

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURE 1. SITE LOCATION	12		
FIGURE 2. PLAN OF TALHARDD - AND INCLUDING THE RCHAM[W] PLAN	13		
FIGURE 3. AREA C - SOUTH-FACING INTERNAL ELEVATION FEATURE	14		
FIGURE 4. AREA C - WEST-FACING INTERNAL WALL	15		
FIGURE 5. AREA C: NORTH-FACING INTERNAL ELEVATION AND FIREPLACE	16		
FIGURE 6. AREA B: NORTH-FACING INTERNAL ELEVATION	17		
FIGURE 7. NORTH-FACING EXTERNAL ELEVATION	18		
FIGURE 8. AREA B: EAST-FACING INTERNAL WALL AND DOOR OPENINGS	19		
FIGURE 9. AREA B: WEST-FACING ELEVATION	20		
FIGURE 10. AREA B: EAST-FACING ELEVATION	21		
FIGURE 11. AREA A: NORTH-FACING INTERNAL WALL AND FIREPLACE	22		
FIGURE 12. PLAN OF AREA A - KITCHEN AND SERVICE ROOM	25		
FIGURE 13. TRENCH LOCATION IN AREA B	26		
FIGURE 14. EXPOSED AND RECORDED SECTION IN AREA C	27		
LIST OF PLATES			
PLATE 1 KITCHEN AREA LOOKING EAST	29		
PLATE 2 CHIMNEY CUT INTO SOUTHERN GABLE FORMING AN EXTERNAL STACK	29		
PLATE 3 GREAT HALL LOOKING WEST SHOWING DOOR AND WINDOW OPENINGS	30		
PLATE 4 19th CENTURY FARMHOUSE FACADE	30		
PLATE 5 KITCHEN AREA SHOWING FLOOR - FLAGSTONES REMOVED	31		
PLATE 6 DAIRY WASHROOM ABUITING THE SOUTHERN GABLE-END	31		
PLATE 7 SOUTHERN ELEVATION SHOWING ENTRANCE TO 1st FLOOR	32		
PLATE 8 DETAIL OF DOOR OPENING LEADING TO A STONE STAIRWAY	32		
PLATE 9 CLEANED-BACK HALL AREA - LOOKING WEST	33		
PLATE 10 CLEANED-BACK AREA WITH FOOTING TRENCH - LOOKING SOUTH	33		

Cover: Interior southern gable (kitchen area) looking south

Standing Building Recording, Archaeological Observation and Limited Evaluation at Talhardd Farm, Llandeilo Rural, Carmarthenshire

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Border Archaeology was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Mainwaring of Talhardd Farm, Liandeilo, Carmarthenshire, to conduct a building recording survey, archaeological observation and limited evaluation on a building development (planning application ref. TO/01073) at Talhardd Farm house (NGR SN 6216 2021). A method statement detailing a programme of work, as agreed at a site meeting attended by Ms Rowley-Williams of Cambria Archaeology, Mr Mainwaring and N. Shurety of Border Archaeology, was sent to the monitoring authority by e-mail and approved.
- 1.2 Current legislation and policy framework: The 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act is the primary legislation for cultural heritage remains and, among other issues, it deals with Scheduled Ancient Monuments and their protection. Presently, the archaeological work is set within the non-statutory guidelines of planning legislation 09/96 issued by the Welsh Assembly (formerly the Welsh Office). This national legislation sets our guidance from the Secretary of State regarding development-prompted archaeological issues in relation to Local Planning Authority (LPA) procedure. The guidance given to the LPA provides recommendations on how archaeology can be incorporated into the planning procedure.
- 1.3 In the opinion of the monitoring authority, Talhardd Farm is of regional and national importance. The farmhouse, dating to the 14th century, was partially destroyed by fire in the mid 1990s and the programme of building recording reflects this later physical condition.
- 1.4 A copy of this report will be submitted to Mr and Mrs Mainwaring and Cambria Archaeology. Further copies will be deposited with the Regional Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).
- 1.5 The archaeological programme of work complies with standards set by the Health and Safety Executive.
- 1.6 The archaeological observation and evaluation were completed by July 30th 2002. The on-site watching brief and evaluation were undertaken by Nicola Hancox, James Archer and Thomas Wellicome (Staff Project Archaeologists). The photographic survey was undertaken by Dr George Nash.

2.0 BRIEF HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A number of reports outlining the regional and national importance of Talhardd Farm have been produced, including a sub-surface field evaluation report undertaken by Cambria Archaeology in 1995 (Page 1995). This report was written following severe fire damage to the farm building in the mid 1990s. RCHAM[W] also undertook a building recording survey of the main farm building in 1994. Prior to, and as a result of, the fire the building has been comprehensively photographed. Some of the elevations of the main building have also been drawn.¹
- 2.2 Talhardd Farm is located on the site of a Medieval manor house, some 3km south of the market town of Llandeilo. The site, located within the valley of the Afon Cennen, has been designated a Grade II Listed Building. Much of the Medieval building fabric is incorporated into the farmhouse. The farmhouse sits within a small enclosed valley. To the west of the site, and running roughly north-south, is a sharp U-shaped depression which has been interpreted as part of a moat or ditch that would once have surrounded the main building. This feature is now considered to be natural.
- 2.3 Preliminary analysis of the site by RCHAM[W] in May 1994 dated the earliest parts of the building, the ground-floor hall and cross-wing, to the late 14th century. A gallery and lateral fireplace were inserted into the hall c.1500. The ceiling of the hall (now destroyed) and rearrangement of the partitions in the building to create a three unit 'sub medieval' plan date to c.1600. Further alteration took place in the 18th (continuing into the 19th) century with the raising of the level of the gallery, the insertion of a staircase and passageway partition and the reduction of the lateral fireplace. Also within this period, the lateral wall of the cross-wing was reconstructed and a rear bake-house added. The Medieval roof was replaced and the north-east oricl demolished. The RCHAM[W] report stressed that Talhardd Farm house was only one of five manor houses in the Llandeilo area dating to the Medieval period.
- 2.4 In 1855, the site was visited by the Cambrians [Society], who described the building as having 'some internal arches of considerable antiquity'. In 1914, the Carmarthen Antiquarian Society and Field Club Transactions described some of the house features and noted that much of the building had been 'rebuilt a few years ago'.
- 2.5 A small-scale archaeological field evaluation was carried out by Dyfed Archaeological Trust (now Cambria Archaeology) in September 1995. A total of four trial holes were located in the main hall, the kitchen, outside the south-eastern wall and in the orchard to the north of the house. The rationale for this evaluation was to locate [Medieval and Post-Medieval] floors and walls. Results from the evaluation showed several surviving Medieval floor layers below the floor in the main hall. The test pit in the kitchen area did not reveal any substantial remains. A third test pit, in the south-east corner of the site, revealed a surface of large stones embedded in clay. This surface, according to Page (1995), may be associated with a garderobe. The final pit, located within the orchard, revealed natural gravel deposits.
- 2.6 There are four phases of identifiable construction within the remaining building of Talhardd, phase I being represented by the surviving Medieval fabric. Phase I is present in the hall at the west-end of the north elevation and partially at the mid-point of the west elevation; the south elevation is entirely made up of Phase I construction where, within a spacious recess spanned by a semi-elliptical arch

¹ for further detailed information concerning the history of the building, see RCHAMW report (1995).

² the site is located 0.4km north of the banks of the Afon Cennen

of stone, are two doorways. The west doorway, of dressed stone, leads to a partly deteriorated stone staircase and the east doorway, of dressed stone, leads directly into a small chamber, which is now blocked-in but may have originally adjoined another chamber - the garderobe(?). These doorways are similar to those of the cross-passage. The south elevation Phase 1 continues west, forming the southern arched doorway entrance, adjacent to the kitchen. What remains of the east elevation is now only a small projection adjoining the north-facing exterior wall of the east dressed stone doorway. To the western side of the hall is the cross-passage running north-south, which lies adjacent to the eastern elevations of what was the service room and kitchen.

- 2.7 The service room and kitchen no longer have the divide remaining, although, on the eastern elevation, the Phase 1 wall is still present, with two doorways leading from the cross-passage; the northern doorway retains five dressed stone, hollow chamfered blocks at the base. The dressed stone of the adjacent doorway has been completely removed, probably for the insertion of a 19th-century architrave frame. The rear faces of both doorways display segmental heads with stone voussoirs. The south elevation, to the east and west of the large open fireplace,, are of Phase 1 fabric, as is the northern corner of the service room.
- 2.8 Phase 2 constitutes the remaining late Medieval fabric, which exists only in the kitchen at the south elevation, where the large open fireplace is recessed back from the Phase 1 walls directly to the east and west.
- 2.9 Phase 3 is represented by the restored Medieval fabric, which is present only in the service room and kitchen, at the base of the west elevation and running along its whole length. Previous to the fire, a Phase 3 wall/divide would have run eastwest from the remaining Phase 1 doorways leading off from the cross-passage. It should be noted that, prior to the fire, the north elevation of the hall, to its eastern end, would also have revealed Phase 3 fabric, possibly forming a protruding wing(?).
- 2.10 Phase 4 is represented by the Post-Medieval fabric of the building, which, in the hall, exists only at the north elevation, joining together the remaining Phase 1 construction and forming the northern, arched doorway entrance to the cross-passage. In the service room and kitchen, the whole west elevation consists of Phase 3 fabric, again tying-in the remaining Phase 1 construction.
- 2.11 What remains of the standing building has suffered considerable fire damage, the fire having destroyed any remains of wooden structures. The remaining elevations rise above the second storey, but are now open rather than enclosed by floors and roofing. The north elevation of the hall has probably suffered the most damage, the whole eastern corner being completely destroyed, as was the majority of the east elevation.

3.0 GEOLOGY

- 3.1 Talhardd Farm lies some 3km south of Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, close to the northern bank of the Afon Cennen. The land south of the farm slopes to the south. The Afon Cennen converges with the Afon Tywi approximately 2km to the north.
- 3.2 The drift geology around Talhardd Farm is a SPORTSMANS 713b, consisting of slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged, fine loamy soils. There are some similar soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Some soils with wet peaty surface horizons are found on areas of high ground. The solid geology consists of Palaeozoic sandstone, slate and mudstone.

4.0 METHODOLOGIES

4.1 STANDARD BUILDING RECORDING STRATEGY

- 4.2 The aim of the programme of archaeological work was to allow for the preservation by record of architectural remains and any remains the presence and/or nature of which could not be established in advance of development.
- 4.3 Primary and secondary documentary sources (where applicable) were used in order to properly assess the historic importance of the building. The building phases for Talhardd were previously recorded by RCHAM[W] in a survey of the site in 1994.
- 4.4 Guidelines and standards for standing building recording were set by the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments (England) [RCHME] now English Heritage. Following these criteria, Cambria Archaeology instructed Border Archaeology to undertake the equivalent of a Level 2/3 building survey. This level of recording included a detailed written description of each room, where original features were present; a limited photographic and drawn survey of all significant internal and external features (including all arches, door- and window-openings, fireplaces and external elevations) and frontage elevations incorporating all major phases of building activity.
- 4.5 A full graphic, photographic and written record of the various elements of the building was made. Plans were drawn to a scale of 1:50 and 1:20 (as appropriate). The majority of internal features were drawn to a scale of 1:20 (including fireplaces and door- and widow-openings (Figures 1 -14).
- 4.6 A 35mm format was used for the photographic record, which included monochrome, colour negative and colour transparency film. Individual features were photographed as separate items and in detail. Each feature was also photographed and placed within a wider context, i.e. the surrounding elevation (Plates 1 10).

4.7 ARCHAEOLOGICALOBSERVATION

- 4.8 The aim of the archaeological observation was to locate and record any archaeological remains revealed during the ground works phase.
- 4.9 The aim of the observation phase was to excavate new foundation trenches for the house. Trenches were excavated under strict archaeological supervision using a mini-digger with toothless bucket and hand-shovel. It was hoped that foundations belonging to the existing building would be located.
- 4.10 All spoil was scanned for artefacts.
- 4.11 The depth and complexity of deposits was assessed. A written record of areas containing archaeology was maintained. Photographic records of significant machine-excavated areas where archaeology was present were made in accordance with bestarchaeological practice.

4.12 LIMITEDEVALUATION

4.13 Three floor areas within the footprint of the existing building were evaluated. Each area was tied into existing Ordnance Survey digitised mapping (Figure 1). Recording of the areas in plan was at a scale of 1:20. All archaeological deposits, features and structures were included. All deposits, features and structures

- within all trenches were photographed using monochrome, colour print and colour transparency film (where applicable).
- 4.14 The evaluation of each area included a detailed stratigraphic record using a context numbering system (001) (003) [Area A]; (101) (104) [Area B]; (200) [211] [Area C]. All areas were manually cleaned back to reveal any underlying archaeology.
- 4.15 All spoil was scanned for artefacts, recorded as un-stratified.
- 4.16 Full written and drawn records of all excavated contexts were made in accordance with archaeological practices set out by the IFA and using the MoLas single-context planning system (where applicable).
- 4.17 One temporary benchmark (TBM) was established on the site with a relative value of 10m. From this point, all surveying was undertaken.

5.0 BUILDING RECORDING³

- 5.1 A number of important features and structures were recorded within the fabric of the building. Many of these have previously been recorded by the RCHAM[W]. However, due to the catastrophic nature of the fire, some of the features and structures may have been damaged. It was therefore proposed by the monitoring authority that all features and structures directly impacted should be recorded. Border Archaeology therefore recorded photographically and graphically 12 features and structures, which included elevations and door- and window-openings.
- 5.2 The following account and description of the various components of the house are taken from the 1994 RCHAM[W] report. The overall plan of the building is rectangular. Phasing dates from the late 14th century. Substantial alterations to the building from Medieval manor house to Post-Medieval farmhouse occur during the 16th and 17th centuries. Further alterations and extensions, including a facade, were carried out during the 19th century. The walls of the Medieval part of the building are constructed of random rubble stone which is bonded using lime mortar. The majority of the roof has now gone but, prior to the fire, the roofing was a mixture of stone slab4 and slate.
- 5.3 The exterior elevations are complex and consist of a number of chronological phases of construction. The western elevation, which faces an open farmyard, is 19th century (**Plate 4**). This elevation may replace an earlier wall. A late 19th century red-brick chimney stack is located on the eastern gable.
- Area C south-facing interior door opening, located in the southern area of the building (Figure 3). The infill of this feature has its base constructed of brick. Above this, the infill is of slate blocking. The infill surface is uneven. Surrounding the opening, the elevation has several Post-Medieval bricks embedded, suggesting repair. The opening surround consisted of roughly-hewn quoins. A concrete lintel spans the top of the blocked opening.
- Area C west-facing interior elevation blocked-in door-opening and window-opening, located in the southern area of the building (Figure 4). In the north corner of the door-opening is a concrete/brick feature that appears to be associated with modern activity within the dairy/utility. To the south of this feature is a recess 0.13m deep. Adjacent to this recess is a small lead pipe. The window opening has a concrete lintel, suggesting that the wooden lintel has decayed and been replaced. This section of the elevation also shows evidence of repointing hydrated lime overlies an earlier pink-creamy lime mortar. The window-opening is probably Post-Medieval and replaces an earlier opening. The surrounds are of red unfrogged brick rather than stone. The blocked-in door-opening, supported by a wooden lintel, has recent 'float-and-skim' plaster over the blocked-in stone.
- Area C within the south gable of the dairy(?) is an impressive open fireplace, located in the southern area of the building (**Figure 5**). A large chamfered timber lintel spans the top of the fireplace. The timber shows some scorch marks on the western side. The stonework surround also shows fire damage on the western side. There are two ovens which are directly associated with the chimney. The east-facing oven is 0.94m from the base of the fireplace and the west-facing oven is 0.73m from the base of the fireplace. There is also a corner shelf on the east inner side constructed of stone. An iron bar is present, being positioned at a right angle to the large timber lintel. This was fitted with a four-

³ also recorded graphically but not published in this report were the south and east external elevations. These will be retained for the site archive.

⁴ a stone-slab roof, probably 17th century in date, existed on both the main wing and cross-wing

- pronged meat hook and chain, which are still attached. Traces of red/pink paint remain on the stonework on each side of the fireplace. This impressive feature probably dates to the later Medieval period.
- 5.7 Area B north-facing interior elevation (**Figure 6**). Located within the surviving Medieval fabric of the building, and within the open hall, on a north-facing wall, are a number of features, among them several door- and window-openings, including a recently-exposed entrance (**Plates 7 and 10**). The fireplace can be considered later than the surrounding fabric. The door- and window-openings show signs of successive alteration to this Medieval elevation. Present on this elevation are occasional sections of Post-Medieval [horse-hair] plaster. Within the centre of the elevation are two small recesses of unknown use. All openings have stone surrounds, including the large and impressive entrance (**Plate 1**).
- 5.8 Area C north-facing exterior gable (Figure 7). This elevation comprises a door- and window-opening. The window opening is a recent replacement and has a wooden lintel. The door-opening surrounds and arch are constructed of local stone. Both features are set within the Post-Medieval fabric of the building
- Area B east-facing interior elevation (**Figure 8**). Within this internal elevation are two door-openings retaining much of their original stonework (**Plate 9**). The best preserved of these is the northern door-opening, which still has some of the decorative slate archway. Located at the base of this opening are the remains of the door surround, in the form of five cut-and-dressed stones. The base is similar to other door-openings within the building, especially those in the east-and west-facing sections of area B. These features date to the Medieval period and form part of the earliest phase of construction. The inner cavity of the elevation, either side of both openings, consists of cemented rough stone and slate. At the base of the southern door opening was a heavily burnt timber, possibly forming a threshold. This timber measured 0.70m in length and 0.10m in width. From the kitchen area, the threshold continues (**Plate 3**). The northern door opening was in-filled with soil and stone, a result of recent deposition.
- 5.10 Area B west-facing elevation (**Figure 9**). Forming part of the earliest phase of building activity and located within the open hall is a recessed stone-arched door-opening. The arch of this opening is constructed of dressed stone. At the base of the door, underlying building debris, was a broken slate slab, possibly forming a threshold. The stonework is pointed with modern hydrated lime plaster. This door-opening, together with **Figure-10**, are typical of ecclesiastical architecture of the 13th and 14th centuries.
- Area B east-facing elevation (Figure 10). Located on the east-facing elevation and forming part of the earliest phase of building activity is a recessed stone-arched door-opening. The arch and surrounds of this opening were of worked stone. At the base of this doorway, was a slate slab stone surface, possibly forming a threshold. Above the arch, the stonework was arranged into a fan which surrounded the upper section of the door-opening. The stonework to the north of the arch was pointed with modern lime mortar (Plate 8).
- 5.12 Area A north-facing interior elevation and fireplace (Figure 11). Located within the kitchen and cut into the southern gable was a large open fireplace which would once have housed a range (Plate 2). Above the fireplace was a large wooden lintel, which was fire-damaged, especially in the central area. The walls above the beam retain modern plaster, some of which had fallen and become lodged behind the timber lintel. There was a recess in the stonework to the west of the fireplace, which retained two layers of lead-based paint. The stonework to the east of the fireplace had been heavily skimmed and pointed with modern lime plaster. The stonework at the base of the fireplace retained

modern plaster and a pinkish-red paint topcoat. The fireplace itself was constructed mainly of cut stone [slate/shale]. Externally, this feature, along with the chimney formed an external stack and was recessed from the main building (Plate 6). The RCHAM[W] report suggest that it is late Medieval in date.

FIGURE 1. SITE LOCATION

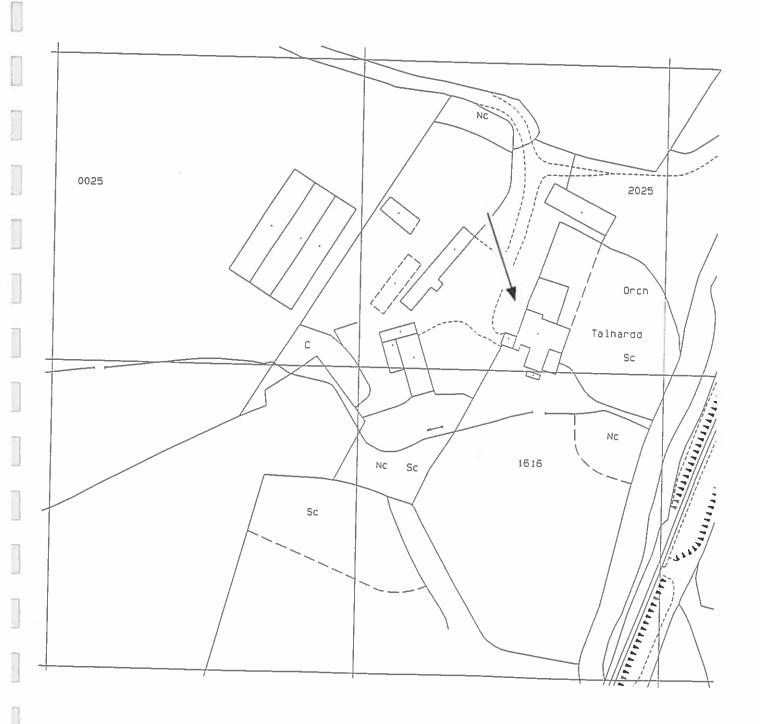


FIGURE 2. PLAN OF TALHARDD - AND INCLUDING THE RCHAM[W] PLAN Plate 1 Plate 4 Plate 3 Plate 10 Area B Plate 9 Area A Plate 7 Plate 2 Plate 8 Plate 5 Area C SERVICE Room Plate 6 WITCHEN SURVIVING MEDIEVAL FABRIC

MEDIEVAL FABRIC RESTORED

13

LATER

Border Archaeology 2002 - 08 - 13

FIGURE 3. AREA C SOUTH-FACING INTERNAL ELEVATION FEATURE

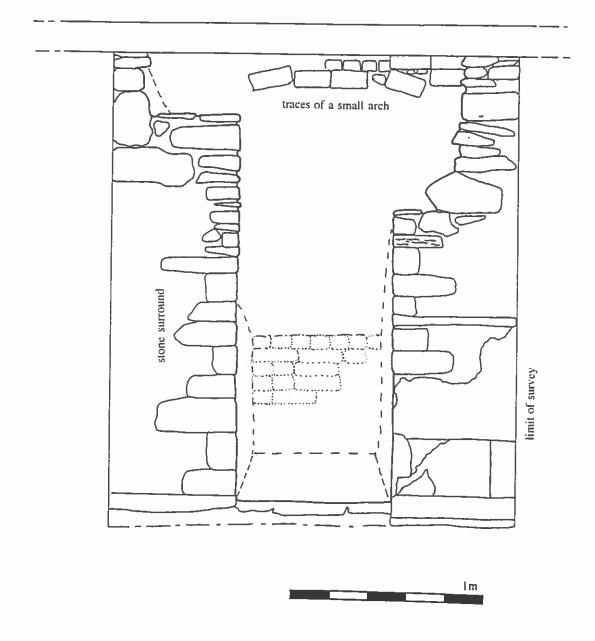


FIGURE 4. AREA C: WEST-FACING INTERNAL ELEVATION, BLOCKED-UP DOOR AND WINDOW OPENINGS

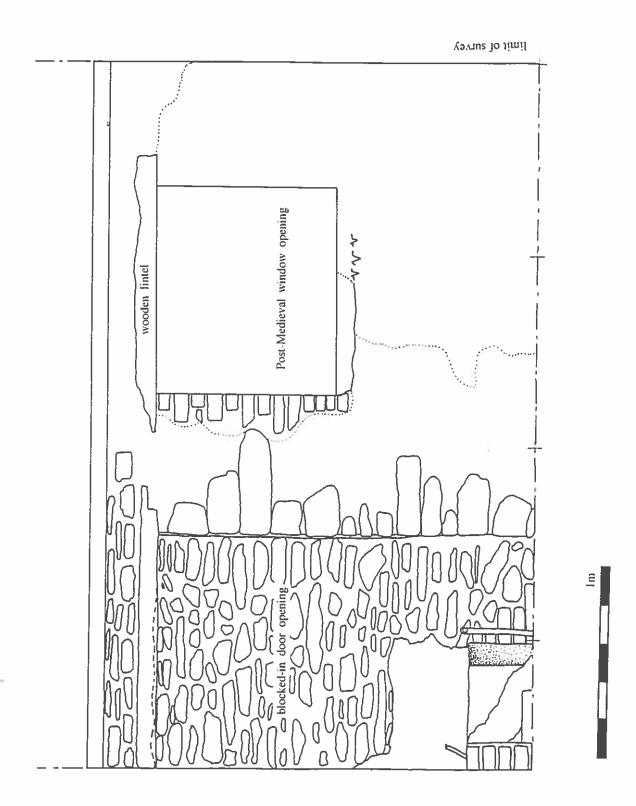


FIGURE 5. AREA C: NORTH-FACING INTERNAL ELEVATION AND FIREPLACE

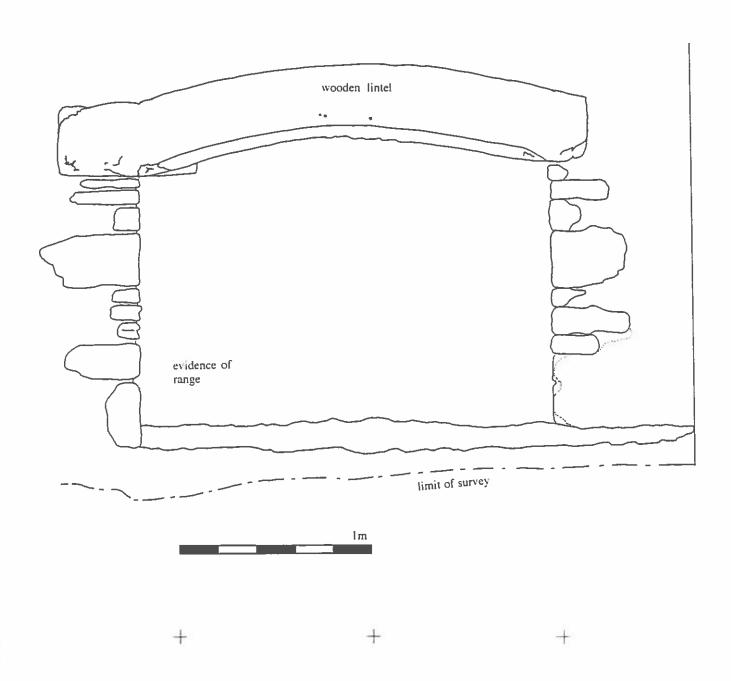


FIGURE 6. AREA B: NORTH-FACING INTERNAL ELEVATION

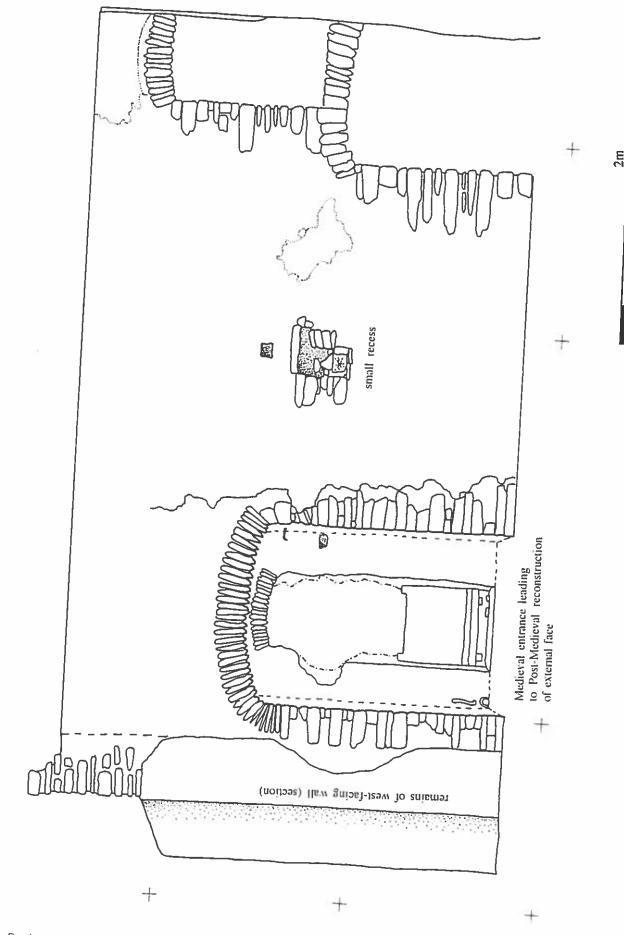
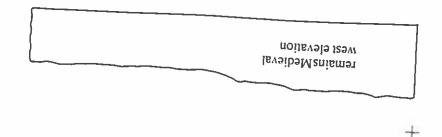
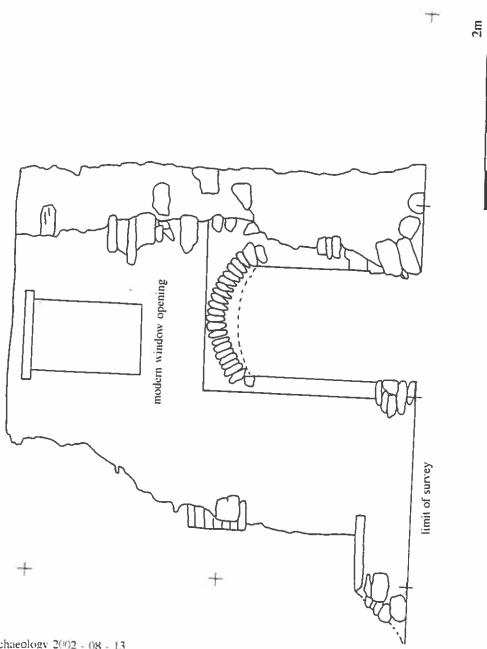


FIGURE 7. NORTH-FACING EXTERNAL ELEVATION





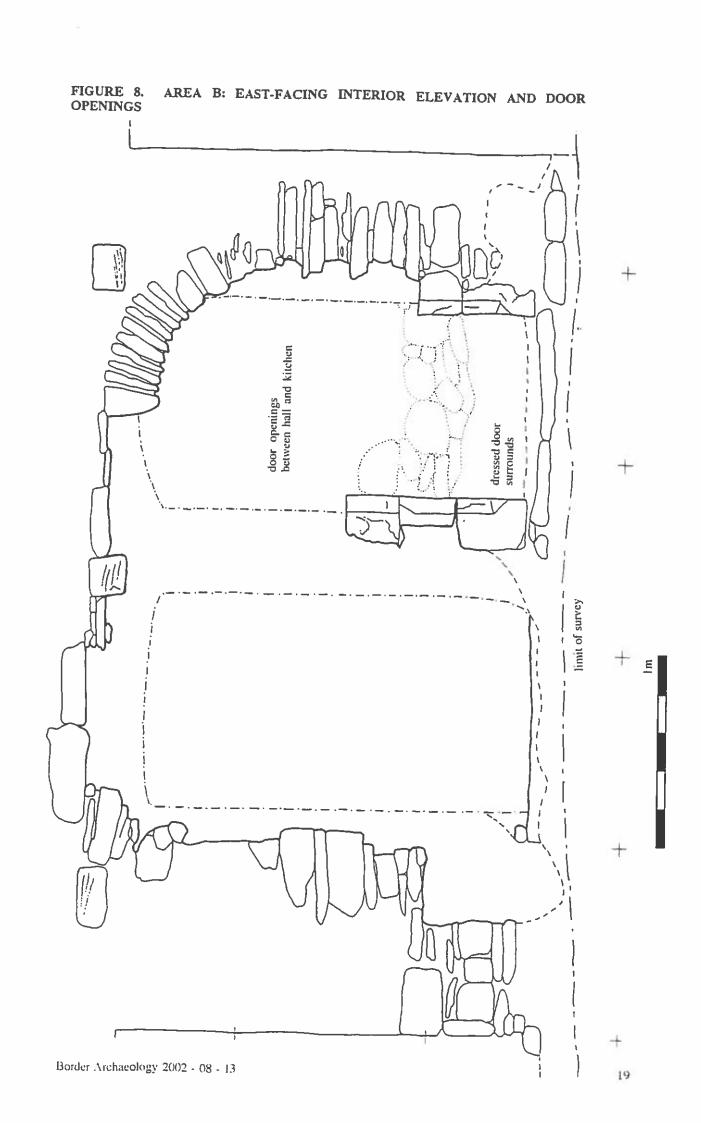
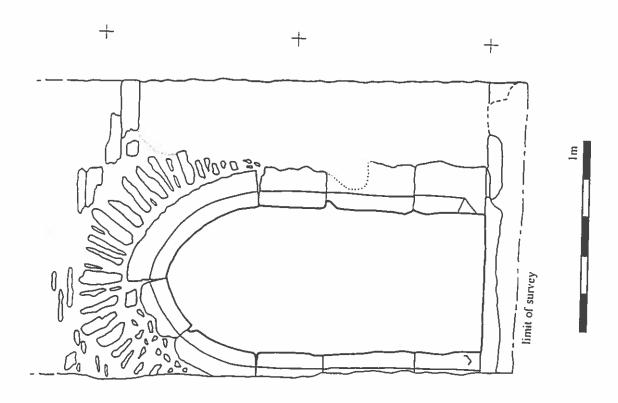
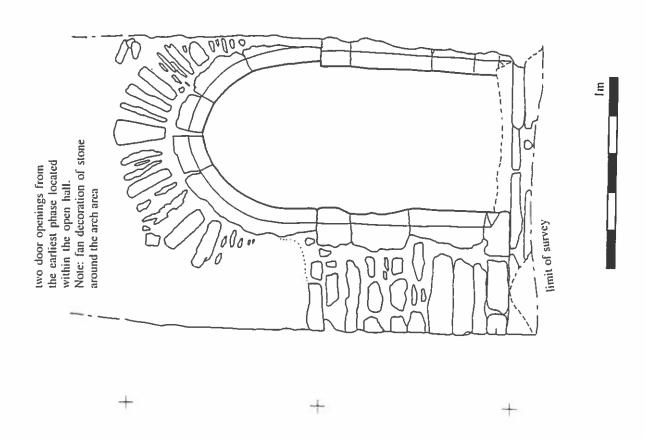


FIGURE 9. AREA B: WEST-FACING ELEVATION





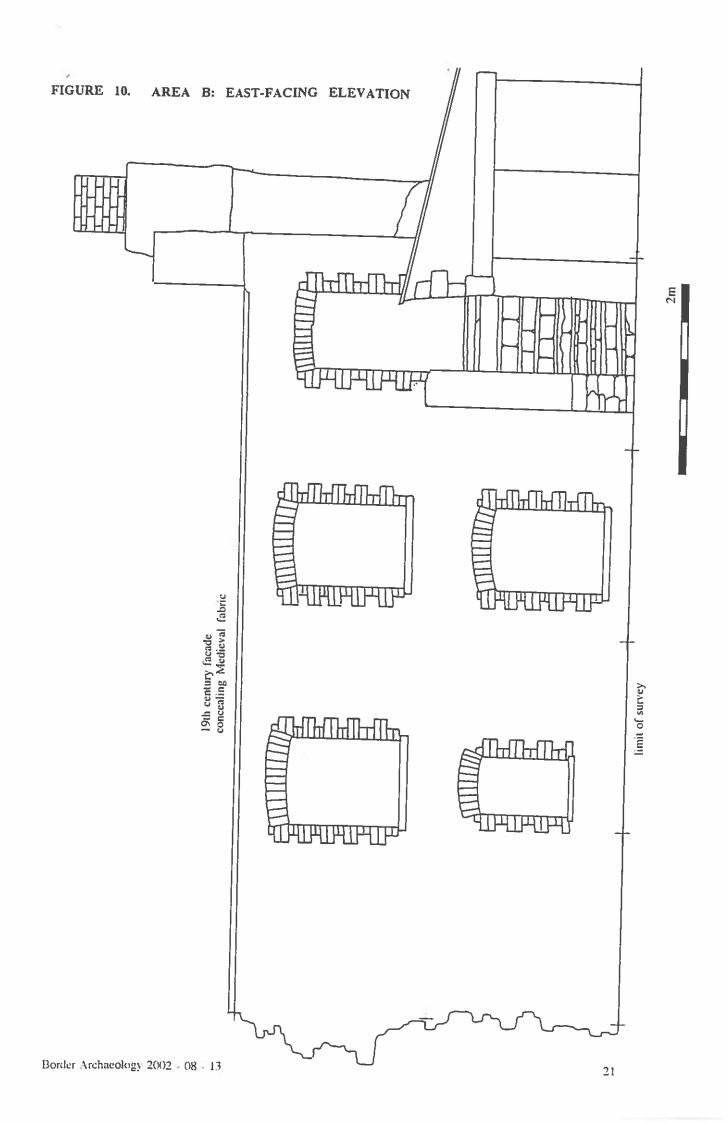
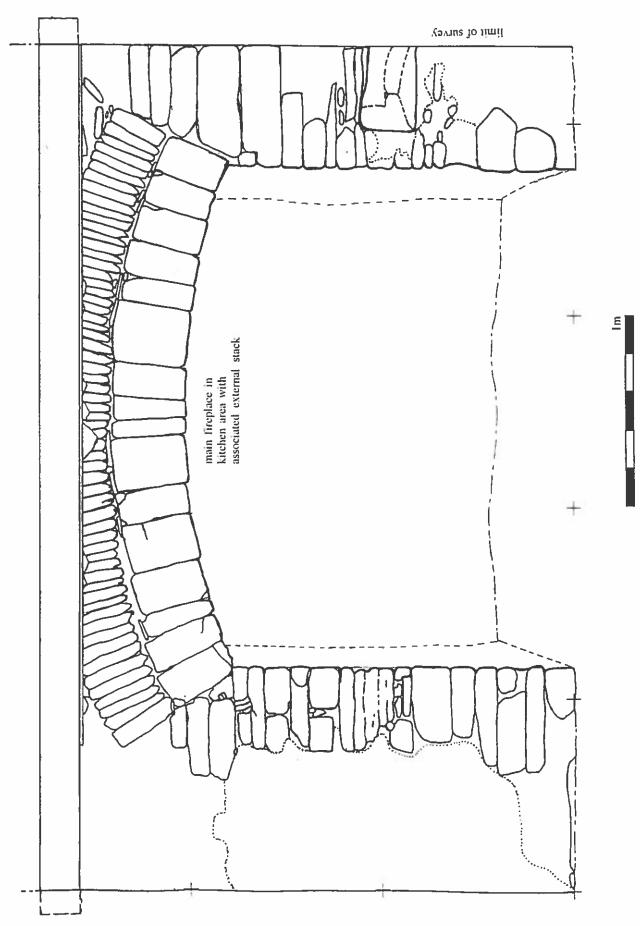


FIGURE 11. AREA A: NORTH-FACING INTERNAL ELEVATION AND FIREPLACE



6.0 LIMITED EVALUATION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

Three areas of the site were identified for further investigation. These were labelled A, B, and C. Area A was located within the western wing of the house (previously the kitchen), area B within the north-eastern part of the house (previously the main hall) and area C within the southern half of the building (the south wing).

6.2 Area A (Figure 12)

6.3 The clean-back in area A (the kitchen) revealed no archaeological features. The moderately compacted, orange-brown sandy loam (002) revealed was considered to be a natural soil. No evidence of the flooring described in the 1995 Dyfed Archaeological Trust evaluation was found. At the northern end of this part of the building the contractors excavated a foundation trench. This trench was excavated to a depth of 0.92m below existing ground level. Three contexts were observed. A loosely compacted, orange-brown sandy loam (001), the present topsoil/ rubble layer (0-0.10m below existing ground level), overlay a moderately compacted, orange-brown sandy loam (002) (0.10-0.52m below existing ground level). Two fragments of Post-Medieval pottery were found on the surface of this context. Context (002) overlay a tightly compacted, stony, orange-brown sandy loam (003) with frequent large shale stones. This context was present between 0.52m and 0.92m below existing ground level. Both (002) and (003) were considered natural deposits. No foundations were found for the original wall that had stood above this trench and it appears that the house was built directly above the underlying natural geology. A thin scattering of fragmented shale was noted in the western end of this area, along the path of the old foundations. These were interpreted as part of the lowest layers of the demolished/collapsed northern wall of the house. Within the large fireplace in the southern wall some ash and burnt organic deposits were observed. However, these probably represent the remains of the recent fire that partially destroyed the building, rather than evidence of earlier activity.

6.4 Area B (Figure 13)

- The clean-back in area B (the main hall) revealed a single context across most of the area, with possibly a second, poorly-defined, deposit along the southern and western walls (Plate 5). The clearly visible context was a moderately compacted, orange-brown, sandy loam soil with occasional fragments of stone, plaster, charcoal flecking and animal bone on the surface (102). These fragments had been compressed into the soil., as had a fragment of floor tile, an iron (Fe) nail and a copper belt buckle. The contractor excavated a foundation trench, to 0.80m below existing ground level, across the centre of the area, confirming that this context was a natural deposit and the same as (002). Context (102) extended up to 0.40m below existing ground level. Underlying (102), between 0.40m and 0.80m below existing ground level, was (104) a tightly compacted, orange-brown soil with frequent stone inclusions (same as (003).
- The second, poorly-defined context a moderately compacted, orange-brown sandy loam with occasional stone inclusions was tentatively labelled (103). Context (103) was present up to 1.20m from the southern and western walls adjacent to area B. The context was distinguished from (102) by a very subtle colour change and the foundation trench across this area revealed no clearly defined feature.
- 6.7 As with area A, a foundation trench was excavated along the line of the original wall (now collapsed). This revealed a similar stratigraphy to that identified

elsewhere. Context (102) overlay (104). As with the foundation trench in area A, a thin layer of fragmented shale overlay (102) under the line of the original wall. This was particularly evident near the surviving section of the eastern wall.

6.8 Area C (Figure 14)

- The clean-back within area C (southern wing) revealed nine contexts. In the north-eastern corner of the main room was a small brick structure (202) abutting the eastern wall of the house (201). The bricks showed evidence of being exposed to burning and, in places, were coated with a greenish-blue (turquoise) paint. Underlying (202) was a layer of concrete measuring 0.40m x 0.40m (203). Contexts (202) and (203) were considered to comprise part of the internal wall. Context (203) overlay a shallow pit within [211]. This pit was filled with a loosely compacted, dark brown gritty silty soil with a high proportion of burnt organic material and occasional medium-sized shale inclusions (205). Also included within this deposit were a fragment of domestic cow tibia and one riverwashed stone. The pit was extremely shallow to the west (0.05m in depth) before deepening to 0.15m (below existing floor level) near the eastern wall of the house, around (203).
- 6.10 On the surface of this area, and cut by [211], was a deposit of moderately-to-loosely compacted, orange-brown sandy clay soil (204) and a tightly compacted, orange-brown clay deposit. These were present in the south-eastern and south-western areas of the room respectively. Compacted into the centre of (204), and overlying it, was a loosely compacted, creamy-white mortar deposit (206).
- 6.11 Context [211] also cut into a moderately-to-loosely compacted, medium brown mixture of silty soil and clay with frequent mortar flecking (208) at the southern end of the corridor between areas B and C. Adjacent to (208), at the northern end of this corridor, was a moderately compacted, greyish-brown silty soil (209) that overlay a layer of rounded stones measuring 0.80m x 0.60m (210). These stones were bonded using a lime mortar and were interpreted as part of the original flooring of the building.

FIGURE 12. PLAN OF AREA A - KITCHEN AND SERVICE ROOM

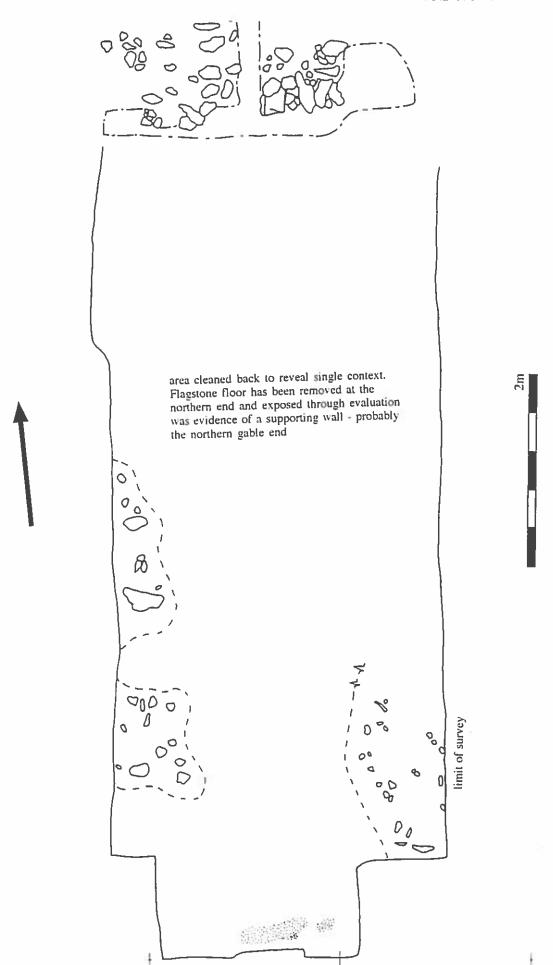


FIGURE 13. TRENCH LOCATION IN AREA B

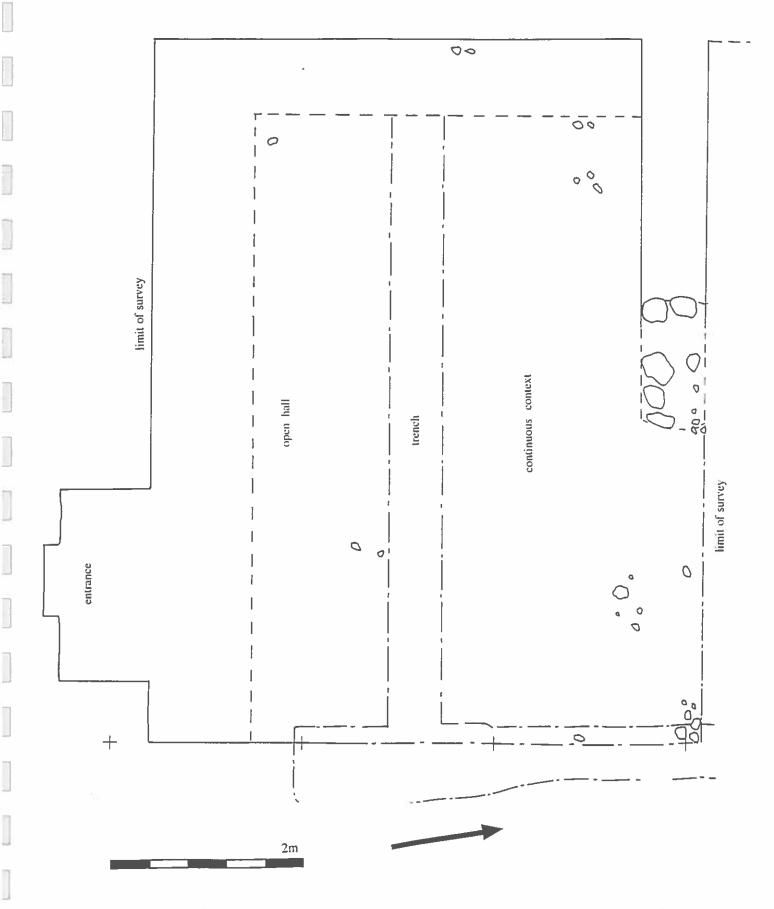
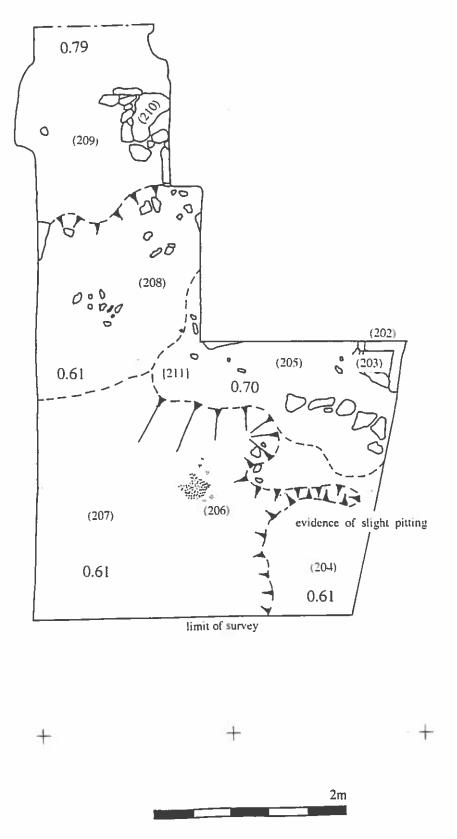


FIGURE 14. EXPOSED AND RECORDED SECTION IN AREA C



7.0 SUMMARY OF LIMITED EVALUATION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

- 7.1 Prior to the three phases of work, the site was reconnoitred by Dr George Nash. The substantial removal of deposits from all three areas was noted. This, together with archive photographs of flagstone floors present throughout the three areas prior to the fire, supports the assumption that very little archaeology has survived.
- 7.2 The limited evaluation and archaeological observation carried out at Talhardd Farm revealed extremely limited archaeological remains in the floor areas of the farm. The observation did, however, confirm that the structure was built directly onto natural soils, with little or no foundation. Evaluation in areas A and B revealed only natural deposits; while in area C a small, shallow pit, and a section of potentially original flooring were noted in the corridor between areas B and C. Finds were limited, with only fragments of Staffordshire earthenware, Post-Medieval brick, one fragment of Post-Medieval floor tile, a copper belt buckle and two fragments of Post-Medieval pottery being recovered. No finds of an earlier date were discovered during this phase.

8.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ninth Annual Meeting: Llandeilo Fawr, Archaeologia Cambresis, I, 3rd Series (1855).

Page, N.A. (1995) Restoration Work at Talhardd House, Golden Grove, Dyfed Archaeological Field Evaluation by Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

RCHAM[W] Survey. May 1994.

Soil Survey of England and Wales. 1983. Silsoe (1:25,000).

Williams, P. J. 1914. Talhardd, Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society and Field Club Transactions X (1914-1915):10.

9.0 COPYRIGHT

9.1 Border Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of the report by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

PLATE I KITCHEN AREA LOOKING EAST



PLATE 2 CHIMNEY CUT INTO SOUTHERN GABLE FORMING THE LOWER SECTION OF AN EXTERNAL STACK



PLATE 3 GREAT HALL LOOKING WEST SHOWING DOOR AND WINDOW OPENINGS



PLATE 4 19th CENTURY FARMHOUSE FACADE



PLATE 5 KITCHEN AREA SHOWING FLOOR - FLAGSTONES ARE REMOVED



PLATE 6 DAIRY/WASH ROOM ABUTTING THE SOUTHERN GABLE END



PLATE 7 SOUTHERN ELEVATION SHOWING ENTRANCE TO 1st FLOOR



PLATE 8 DETAIL OF DOOR OPENING LEADING TO A STONE STAIRWAY



PLATE 9 CLEANED BACK HALL AREA - LOOKING WEST

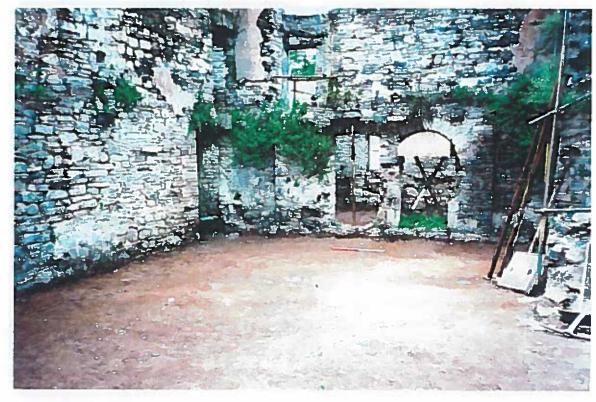


PLATE 10 CLEANED-BACK AREA WITH FOOTING TRENCH - LOOKING SOUTH

