

The Pine Workshop, Llanwnnen, Lampeter.

Archaeological Field Evaluation



By
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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On behalf of:

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Non Technical Summary

The following report is the result of archaeological work undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales for Mr Stuart Huckfield, owner of 'The Pinework Workshop', Llanwnnen, Ceredigion. The work was part of a condition for an archaeological evaluation prior to the construction of a new workshop, flat and associated parking at the site of the pine workshop, Llanwnnen, near Lampeter, Ceredigion.

The evaluation was designed to assess the presence or absence of archaeological material within the footprint of the development and evaluate its character, condition and relative significance.

Two evaluation trenches were dug within the footprint of the proposed new workshop and flat. The first of these trenches exposed what appeared to be the remains of an 18th century fire pit. This feature was characterised by a series of medium to large rounded stones, which appeared to line the western side of the pit. The pit was filled with a mixture of compacted brown/yellow sandy soil with charcoal inclusions. Patches of reddened burnt ground were also evident within the fill. The feature was quarter sectioned so as to ascertain its character, form and date. Recovered dateable material from the pit included fragments of late 18th century pottery.

No features associated with the medieval motte and bailey were exposed within the area of the proposed development.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The following text details the results of an archaeological field evaluation undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales (HRSW) on an area of land within the village of Llanwnnen. The land is to be developed with a new workshop, flat and car parking area, The Pine Workshop, Llanwnnen, near Lampeter. The site is located approx. 100m northwest of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) known as 'Castell Ddu', a Norman Motte (PRN: 721 / SAM CD 117).
- 1.2 After being approached by Mr Stuart Huckfield to undertake the archaeological evaluation, HRSW submitted a project specification to Cambria Archaeology, the regional Archaeological Trust in Llandeilo, detailing the schedule of works in May 2007. This specification was approved and the evaluation work was undertaken on 26th May 2007.
- 1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and guidance: for an archaeological field evaluation*, and current Health and Safety legislation.

Planning Background

- 1.4 Planning permission was granted by Ceredigion County Council (*Application numbers: A /061116*) to Mr Stuart Huckfield, owner of The Pine Workshop, Llanwnnen, Ceredigion, to build a new workshop, flat and car parking area (NGR: SN 5331 4717) in an area of land 100m northwest of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) known as 'Castell Ddu' (PRN: 721 / SAM CD 117). A condition for an archaeological scheme of works was attached to this permission. This archaeological scheme entailed an archaeological evaluation within the footprint of the proposed new workshop and flat.

Site Description (*see Figs 1, 2, & 3*)

- 1.5 The location of the proposed development lies in an area of land approximately 100m northwest of the Scheduled Ancient Monument known as 'Castell Ddu' (NGR: SN 5331 4717). The site lies at approx. 120m O.D on a flat area of land on the south-eastern corner of Llanwnnen crossroads. To the east the land drops down to steeply whereupon meeting the River Grannel. The proposed new workshop and flat is to be built on an area of land that had already been occupied by a former workshop which had been demolished in readiness for the new development.

Geology

- 1.6 The geology of the area is a sedimentary rock of an Undivided Llandovery series. Local geology indicates an area of sandy gravels.

Brief Historical & Archaeological Background

- 1.7 The village of Llanwnnen is described by Samuel Lewis in his Topographical Dictionary of Wales dated 1833 as such:

"LLANWNNEN (LLAN-WNEN), a parish in the upper division of the hundred of MOYTHEN, county of CARDIGAN, SOUTH WALES, 3 1/4 miles (W. by S.) from Lampeter, containing 328 inhabitants. This parish is bounded on the south by the river Teifi, and is intersected by the Granell, which flows into the Vale of Teifi, to its confluence with the superior stream, and on the turnpike road from, Lampeter to Cardigan. The surrounding scenery is beautifully picturesque, and the views of the adjacent country comprehend many objects of interest and features of pleasing character. On the bank of the Granell is a moated mound, called Castell Dû which was probably crowned with a fort for defending the river and the pass of the vale, but which now serves only to give name to the farm on which it is situated; and there is also a small encampment on the hill. In a field attached to a farm, called Cevn Llew Trêv, some curious silver coins were dug up a few years since. About a mile from the turnpike road, and in the vale of the Granell, is Llwyn y Groes, the deserted seat of the family of Jones of Neuadd, in the adjoining parish. The mansion, which is spacious and handsome, is finely situated in the midst of flourishing plantations, and the grounds comprehend much beautiful scenery. A fair is held on December 13th. The living is a discharged vicarage, with which that of Silian is consolidated, in the archdeaconry of Cardigan, and diocese of St. David's, rated in the king's books at £3.4.9 1/2 endowed with £400 royal bounty, and £400 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the Bishop, to whom two-thirds of the tithes are appropriated, the other third belonging to the vicar. The church, dedicated to St. Gwynin, is a small edifice, without either tower or spire, and possessing no architectural details of importance. There is a place of worship for Unitarians. The average annual expenditure for the maintenance of the poor is £ 159." (Samuel Lewis 1833.)

- 1.8 Kelly's Directory of South Wales of 1895 also describes the village of Llanwnnen as follows:

"Llanwnnen is a parish in the county of Cardigan on the road from Cardigan to Lampeter, and is 3 miles south-west-by-west from Lampeter station on the Manchester and Milford railway, 33 south from Aberystwith and 265 from London, in Moyddyn hundred, Lampeter union and county court district, Upper Moyddyn petty sessional division, and in the rural deanery of Lampeter, archdeaconry of Cardigan and diocese of St. David's.

The church of St. Gwynnyn is an ancient building of stone, in the Gothic style of the 15th century, consisting of chancel and nave, and a western tower with short spire, containing one bell: the church was restored in 1873, at a cost of £883, and affords 140 sittings. The register of baptisms dates from the year 1799, marriages, 1763; and burials, 1796. The living is a vicarage, with the chapelry of Silian annexed, tithe rent-charge £244, average £180, with 41 acres of glebe, net income £193, in the gift of the Bishop of St. David's, and held since 1878 by the Rev. David Morris, who resides at Silian.

The principal landowner is Thomas Hugh Rice Hughes esq. D.L., J.P.

The soil and subsoil is gravel and slate. The area comprises 2,545 acres, of which 3 are water; rateable value, £1,077; the population in 1891 was 269.

Post Office.—Titus Evans, sub-postmaster. Letters through Llanybyther R.S.O. Carmarthenshire are received at 8.30 a.m.; dispatched at 2.45 p.m, Postal orders are issued

here, but not paid. The nearest money order & telegraph office is at Llanybyther.

School (Mixed), built for 120 children; average attendance, 60 “(from *Kelly's Directory of South Wales 1895*).

- 1.9 The medieval mound or ‘motte’ known as Castell Ddu, as mentioned by Samuel Lewis in 1833 is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM / CD 117). It is a concentric ringwork, possibly dating from the 12th century. The mound is within a small enclosure, c. 65' by 50', resting on steep slopes that run down to the Afon Grannell. The mound has been identified as ‘Castell Ddu’, a farm further southwest having seemingly adopted the name at some time in its past. Defined by banks up to 4.2m high externally. Any ditch has been levelled, whilst there is an entrance to the W. and a possible building platform in the N. part.

2 Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 In accordance with IFA's *Standards and guidance*, the aims of an archaeological field evaluation are to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following:
- the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource.
 - the formulation of a strategy to initiate a threat to the archaeological resource.
 - the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.
- 2.2 An archaeological field evaluation will determine, as far as it is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the projects, and comply with the Code of conduct, Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology, and other relevant by-laws of the IFA.

3 Methodology

- 3.1 With regards the evaluation, ground work was undertaken by the contractor using a mechanical digger with a 2 meter wide grading bucket and hand shovel, when deemed necessary, under the guidance of the qualified supervising archaeologist. Initially the overlying top soil was removed in 4 meter long increments and if any archaeology became exposed it was excavated to ascertain its character, recorded and left in situ, whilst digging of the trench continued along its length.
- 3.2 After the ground work had been completed limited cleaning of the trench was undertaken in order to ascertain the existence or non existence of any archaeological features.
- 3.3 Where features were present limited excavation was undertaken to establish the date, depth, preservation, extent, function and relationship to other features.
- 3.4 Recording of the trench was undertaken in three formats:
- i) *Photographic record* - Photographs were taken in digital format using a 5 mega-pixel camera recording in high resolution JPEG files. Where deemed necessary standard 35 mm film format Transparency and Black and White were also appropriated.
 - ii) *Drawn record* - Site drawings, plans and sections, were produced at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 on drafting film, where deemed necessary. Finished drawings have been related to Ordnance Survey

datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

- iii) *Written record* - Written records were produced using a continuous numbering sequence for all contexts.

- 3.5 An environmental sampling and sampling and processing strategy was in place should the archaeological deposits warrant it. However, in this instance it was not felt that the deposits encountered required sampling.
- 3.6 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and guidance: for an archaeological field evaluation* and current Health and Safety legislation.

4 Cartographic Sources (see Figs 4–6)

- 4.1 As part of the preliminary assessment a rapid study was made of all readily available maps was undertaken. This included the Tithe Map of 1840 and the early Ordnance Survey maps of 1887–1903. None of the early maps show the mound of Castell Ddu, but do name the farm to the southwest as Castell Ddu.

Tithe Map for the Parish of Llanwnnen 1840

- 4.2 Study of the Tithe Map of 1840 for the parish of Llanwnnen shows that there wasn't a building in the location of the former Pine Workshop at this time, but the area was known as 'Tyn Porth', which literally translates as 'Cottage of the Gateway'. This appears to relate to an existing building further north at the point of the Llanwnnen crossroads.

OS First Edition Map of 1887

- 4.3 By 1887 a building appears in the area of the proposed development. This is likely the former Pine Workshop, since demolished. Personal communication as well as debris in the form of shoes and clogs recovered following the demolition of the original building seems to imply that the building was once used as a cobblers.

OS Second Edition Map of 1906

- 4.4 This map edition shows a small building added on to the building that appeared on the map of 1887. Again, this building is likely part of the earlier workshop building and former cobblers.

5 Results of the Field Evaluation (see Figs 3, 7 and 8)

- 5.1 In the following, numbers contained within brackets (), refer to context numbers allocated during the watching brief. A detailed list of all contexts is given in Appendix III of this report.

Trench 1

- 5.2 Trench 1 was positioned north-south within the footprint of the proposed new workshop / flat. It measured approx. 5m in length x 2m in width and averaged approx. 0.50m in depth. Once the overburden / top soil (100) had been removed a dark-brown sub soil was exposed (101). This averaged a depth of approx. 0.20m. Below this was an orange sand mixed with a natural pea-grit/gravel, with small quantities of charcoal, averaging 0.5% of the entire deposit (102). Again, the depth of this deposit averaged approx. 0.20m. Below this deposit was a compact natural orange pea-grit/gravel inter-mixed with an orange sand (103). Cut (104) through this natural deposit at the far north end was the remains of a partially stone filled

pit (105). This *square* feature was characterised by a series of stones appearing to line its far west end. The fill of the pit, as well as the rounded stones of varying size consisted of the same natural orange sand and pea-grit as exposed in context 102, with the same charcoal inclusions, however these inclusions now made up at least 1% of the fill. The feature was quarter-sectioned at the north-east end in order to ascertain the features character, form, date and extent. The fill reached a depth of approx. 0.20m before hitting the natural sandy / gravel deposit (103). The fill consisted of reddened patches of sand and further burnt remains implying a fire had been present in this area. From the lower part of the fill of this feature was recovered a few small samples of late 18th century pottery.

Trench 2

- 5.3 Trench 2 was positioned east-west within the footprint of the proposed new workshop/flat, adjacent to Trench 1. This trench measured approx. 7.30m in length x 2m wide and was approx. 0.50m in depth. Once the overburden / top soil (200) had been removed a dark brown sub soil was exposed (201). This averaged a depth of approx. 0.20m. Below this was an orange sand mixed with a natural pea-grit/gravel(202). Again, similar to Trench 1, the depth of this deposit averaged approx. 0.20m. Below this deposit was a natural orange pea-grit/gravel inter-mixed with an orange sand (203).
- 5.4 Within Trench 2, no archaeological features or finds were present.

Summary of results

- 5.5 The evaluation trench at the Pine Workshop, Llanwnnen, for the development of the new workshop and flat, did not expose any significant archaeology in any of the evaluation trenches. The feature exposed in Trench 1, as the small sample of pottery recovered from the fill is evident, appears to be late 18th century in date. Because of the burnt areas and charcoal inclusions it seems fair to say that this feature was probably a fire pit of some description.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 The evaluation trenches at The Pine Workshop, Llanwnnen, for the development of the new workshop and flat, did not expose any significant archaeology in either of the trenches apart from the remains of what appears to be an 18th century fire-pit in Trench 1. The earliest dateable material recovered from the same trench was late 18th century in date.
- 6.2 The rapid desk-based assessment of the area shows that there doesn't appear to have been a building in this location until after 1840, the date of the Tithe Map for the Llanwnnen parish. The area at this time was known as 'Tyn Porth', or 'Cottage of the Gateway', which relates to another building further north near the corner of the Llanwnnen crossroads.
- 6.3 No features associated with the medieval motte and potential bailey were exposed within the area of the proposed development.

7 Acknowledgements

Thanks to; Mr Huckfield , the owner of the Pine Workshop, Llanwnnen, for his patience during the ground work and archaeological recording work.

8 Bibliography

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Cartographic Sources

- Tithe Map of 1840 for Parish of Llanwnnen (NLW)
- Ordnance Survey First Edition Six inch series 1887 Sheet No XXXIV (NLW)
- Ordnance Survey Second Edition Six inch series 1906 Sheet No XXXIV (NLW)



APPENDIX I: Figs & Illustrations

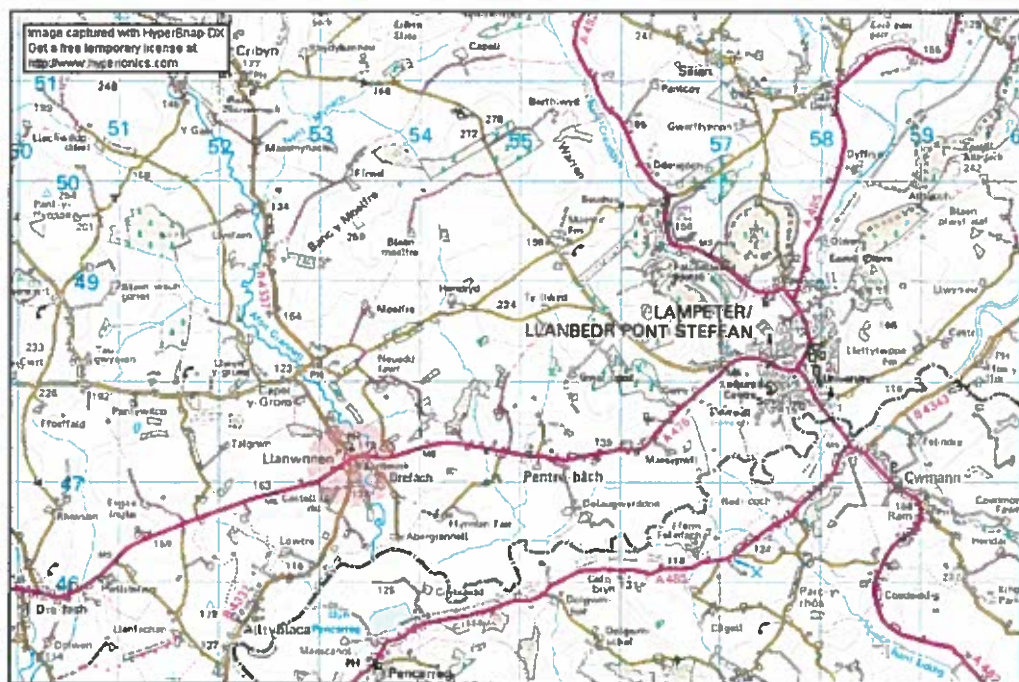


Figure 1. Location map showing site of The Pine Workshop, Llanwnnen, Ceredigion.
(OS 1:25000 map)

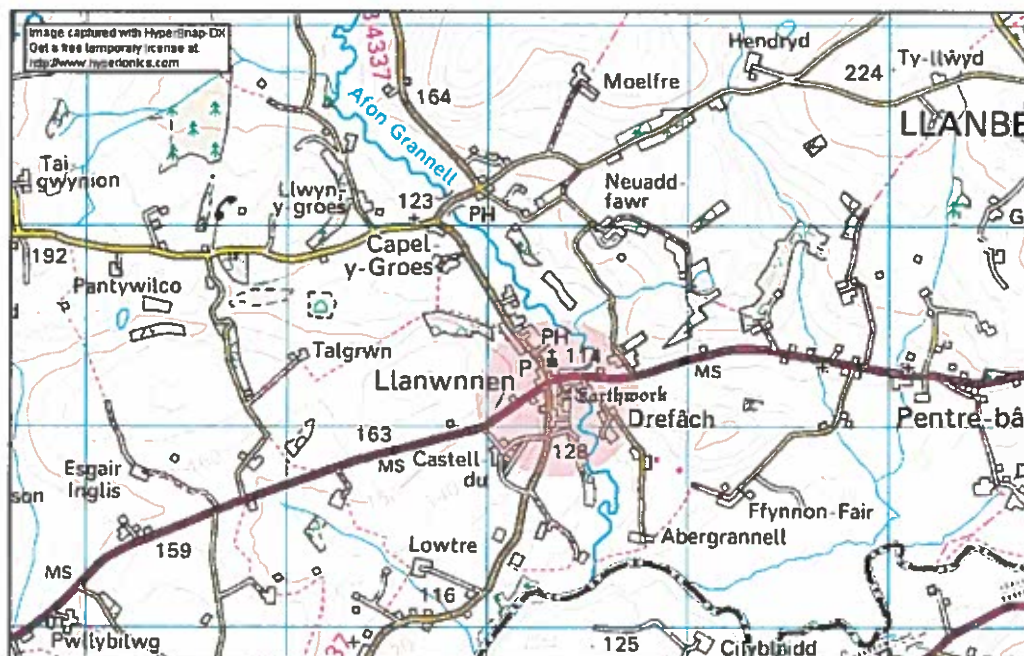


Figure 2. Enlarged view of location map showing site of The Pine Workshop, Llanwnnen, Ceredigion.
(OS 1:25000 map)



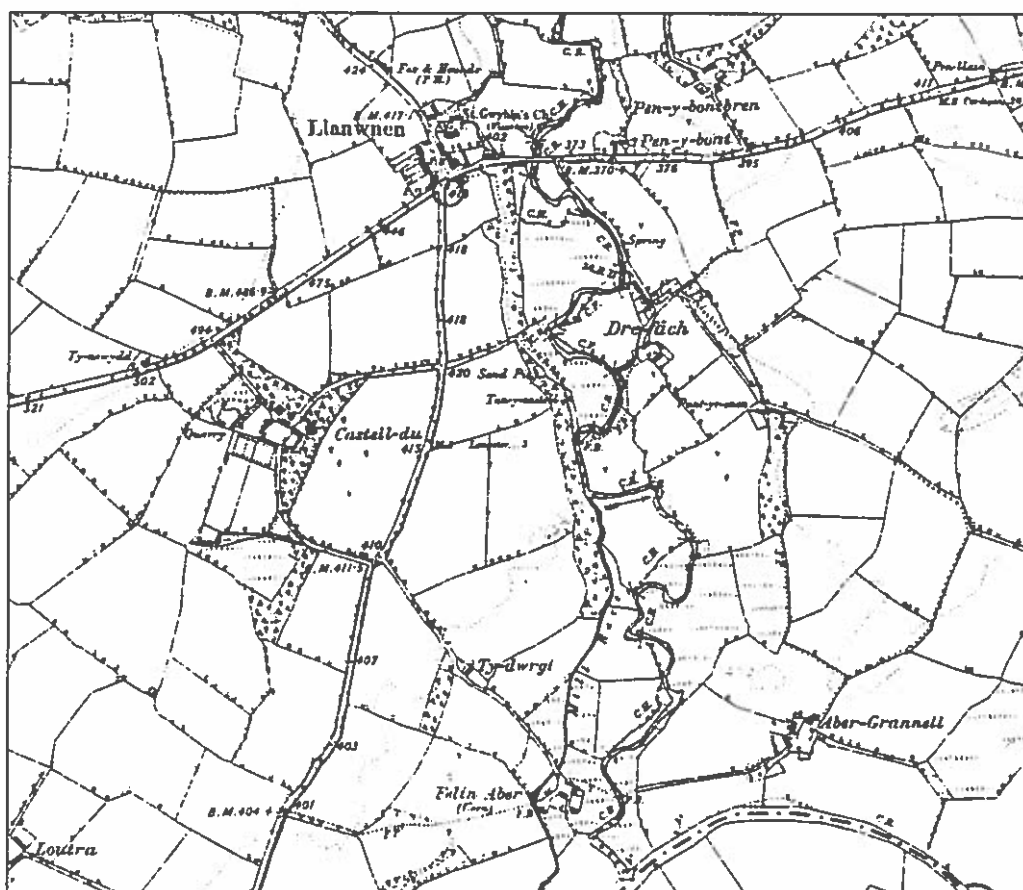


Figure 5. OS First Edition Map of 1887 (site location highlighted).

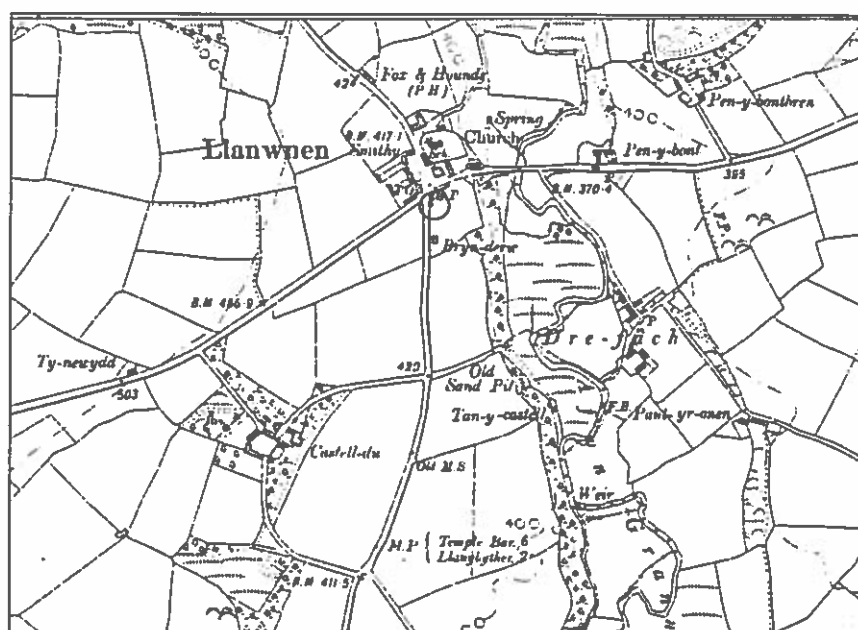


Figure 6. OS Second Edition Map of 1906 (site location highlighted).



APPENDIX II:

Photo plates



Plate 1. Area of proposed new dwelling at the Pine Workshop, Llanwnnen. Looking northwest.



Plate 2. Trench 1. Looking north.



Plate 3. Trench 1. Looking south.



Plate 4. Trench 1. Feature 104 / 105. Looking east.



Plate 5. Trench 1. Feature 104 / 105. Looking west.



Plate 6. Trench 2. Looking east.



Plate 7. Trench 2. Looking west.



APPENDIX III: Context Register

SUMMARY OF CONTEXTS

The Pine Workshop, Llanwnnen, Ceredigion.

CONTEXTS

Trench 1

- 100. Top soil and overburden.
- 101. Dark brown sub soil
- 102. Orange sand/pea-grit with charcoal inclusions
- 103. Compact orange sand/pea-grit (natural).
- 104. Cut through 103.
- 105. Fill of 104 (Sand/pea-grit with charcoal inclusions).

Trench 2

- 200. Top soil/overburden.
- 201. Dark brown sub soil.
- 202. Orange sand/pea-grit.
- 203. Compact orange sand/pea-grit/gravel mix (natural).



APPENDIX IV: Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

The Pine Workshop, Llanwnnen, Ceredigion.

ARCHIVE DESTINATION – DAT, Llandeilo

Site Name:	The Pine Workshop, Llanwnnen, Ceredigion.
Site Code:	PWL/07/FE
PRN:	
NPRN :	N/A
SAM:	N/A
Other Ref No:	HRSW Report No. 113
NGR:	SN 5331 4717
Site Type:	Medieval Motte
Project Type:	Field Evaluation
Project Officer:	Richard Scott Jones
Project Dates:	May 26th 2007
Categories Present:	N/A
Location of Original Archive:	HRSW
Location of duplicate Archives:	DAT, Llandeilo
Number of Finds Boxes:	N/A
Location of Finds:	N/A
Museum Reference:	N/A
Copyright:	HRSW
Restrictions to access:	None