

**Plot 2, Old Pine Workshop,  
Llanwnnen, Ceredigion.**

Archaeological Watching Brief



*By*

**Richard Scott Jones (BA Hons, MA, MIFA)**

November 2010

HRSWales  
Report No: 127

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

## Plot 2, Old Pine Workshop, Llanwnnen, Ceredigion.

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*On behalf of:*

*Date:* November 2010

HRSW Report No: 127

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# Non Technical Summary

*The following report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales (HRSW) during ground work in preparation for the construction of a new residential dwelling and garage on land adjacent to the scheduled ancient monument of the Castell Ddu ringwork, Llanwnnen, near Lampeter, Ceredigion.*

*The watching brief was designed to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.*

*The watching brief revealed that the greater part of the development area appeared to have been cleared and landscaped at some time in the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century.*

*The watching brief managed to record the existence of a short length of early 18<sup>th</sup> century garden wall or curbing. This feature was dated from several fragments of early 18<sup>th</sup> century glazed Dyfed Gravel Tempered Ware and several fragments of early 18<sup>th</sup> century clay tobacco pipe, which were lodged within and around the feature. Other than this feature no other features were exposed during the groundwork. Regards finds recovered from the groundwork, other than the stratified fragments of 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery, two further unstratified fragments of medieval local Gravel tempered Ware were also recovered with a date range of between the 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century.*

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The following report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales (HRSW) during ground work in preparation for the construction of a new residential dwelling and garage on land adjacent to the scheduled ancient monument of the Castell Ddu ringwork, Llanwnnen, near Lampeter, Ceredigion.
- 1.2 The watching brief was designed to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.
- 1.3 After being contacted by Mr Patrick Campion, Talgarreg, Llandysul, HRSW submitted a project specification to Dyfed Archaeological Trust, the regional Archaeological Trust in Llandeilo, detailing the schedule of works in October 2010. This specification was approved and the watching brief work was undertaken in November 2010.
- 1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and guidance: for an archaeological watching brief*, and current Health and Safety legislation.

### Planning Background

- 1.4 Outline planning permission was granted by Ceredigion County Council for the proposed construction (*Ref: A100391*) subject to an archaeological condition as laid out below.

### Planning Permission Condition

Condition: *"The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeologist is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area, so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted..."*

Reason: *'To ensure the protection of items of archaeological importance'.*

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

- 1.5 The location of the proposed development lies in an area of land approximately 20-30m 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 near the south-western corner of the Llanwnnen crossroads. To the east the land drops down steeply whereupon meeting the River Grannel. The proposed new dwelling is to be built on an area of land at the rear of the newly constructed Pine Workshop located to the west.

### **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. Gwynnin 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) and is in fact a ringwork and not a mound. It is a concentric ringwork, possibly dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The mound is within a small enclosure, c. 65' by 50', resting on steep slopes that run down to the Afon Grannell. The ringwork has been identified as 'Castell Ddu', a farm further southwest having seemingly adopted the name at some time in its past. The monument is defined by banks up to 4.2m high externally. Although evidence of outer ditches appear to have been levelled, there is slight evidence of a ditch on the northwest side. The ringwork has an entrance to the west and a possible building platform in the northern part.
- 1.10 Three archaeological evaluations and a watching brief have already been undertaken within the area of the proposed development and all three reports have been submitted and approved by Dyfed Archaeological Trust (HRSW Report No's. 113 / 118 /121 / 124) between 2008 -2010. The results of each of these projects showed negative evidence of any medieval features associated with the medieval ring work, and in each case no archaeological finds, features or deposits encountered were earlier than the late post medieval periods.

## 2 Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 In accordance with IfA's *Standards and guidance*, the aims of an archaeological watching brief were:
- to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.
  - to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

- 2.2 The watching brief was not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and was intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.
- 2.3 The objective of the watching brief was to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

### 3 Methodology

- 3.1 With regards the watching brief, the ground work was undertaken by the contractor using a mechanical digger with both a 1.5m and 0.50m wide grading bucket and hand shovel, when deemed necessary, under the guidance of the qualified supervising archaeologist.
- 3.2 Following the initial top soil stripping of the entire development area, the area was inspected for any potentially significant exposed archaeological finds, features and deposits. Following this the groundwork continued to the required depth for the footings of the proposed new dwelling and the garage.
- 3.3 Where features were present limited excavation was undertaken to establish the date, depth, preservation, extent, function and relationship to other features, but in this case no features or finds became evident.
- 3.4 Recording of the exposed features was undertaken in three formats:
- i) *Photographic record* - Photographs were appropriated in digital format using a 10 mega-pixel camera and recording in SHQ resolution JPEG files.
  - 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, where deemed necessary, 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 watching brief* and current Health and Safety legislation.

### 4 Results of Watching Brief (see Figs 8 and 9)

- 4.1 In the following, numbers contained within brackets ( ), refer to context numbers allocated to each posthole during the watching brief.
- 4.2 Work commenced with the removal of the turf and top soil (100) from the entire development area. Following this the stripped area was walked over and investigated for any archaeological features or finds. All pottery fragments recovered from beneath the turf and top soil were late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century in date, these were not retained. However, toward the far southwest of the cleared area, in the line of one of the proposed footings, the top of a series of laid stones became exposed (102). In order to identify the character, form, extent and date of this feature, a 2m x 1m area around the feature was excavated. Removal of the sub soil (101 – mid brown



garden soil of clay/sand/silt/grit mix with small stone inclusions) showed that the feature consisted of a single course of a line of stones running northwest to southeast for approximately 2m. Around the edges and between the laid stones several fragments of early 18<sup>th</sup> century glazed Dyfed Gravel Tempered Ware were recovered, along with several fragments of early 18<sup>th</sup> century clay tobacco pipe, dateable from a fragment of pipe base and two fragments of stem. The form and character of the *wall* gave the impression that the feature was most likely a garden feature such as a garden *curb* possibly delineating a former flower or vegetable patch and nothing more. All of the stones had been laid directly onto the same earth sub soil (101), which in turn was lying on a natural compacted clay/sand and gravel deposit (103) at a depth of approximately 0.40m below the surface. Once the feature had been excavated and identified the feature was then recorded in plan and photographed and then each of the stones was lifted and removed. No further features or dateable finds or deposits were identified beneath the stones.

- 4.3 Once the area had been entirely stripped of top soil and a site walkover confirmed that there were no further buried archaeological features or finds in the stripped area, the cutting of the foundation trenches was begun.
- 4.4 Throughout the entire cutting of all of the foundation trenches no further archaeological features or deposits were encountered, which seemed to confirm that the greater part of the area appears to have seen continuous use as either a meadow, a pasture or in part a garden area. This interpretation supports the interpretations made from earlier archaeological investigations in this area. All deposits encountered below the light brown/grey sub soil (101) were natural deposits of sands, gravels, shales and silts to a depth of approximately 1.30m (103, 104, 105 and 106).
- 4.5 Regards finds recovered from the groundwork, other than the pottery fragments recovered from around the 18<sup>th</sup> century stone curb feature (102), several further fragments of 18<sup>th</sup> century glazed Dyfed Gravel Tempered Ware were recovered, including a part of a large pot rim and the handle from a jug. These were all recovered from within the sub soil (101) during the cutting for the footings. Within the same sub soil deposit, two fragments of unglazed local Gravel Tempered Ware were also recovered, with a possible date range of between 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century. As these two fragments were recovered from the same sub soil where 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery fragments were present, this may imply that the area may also have seen some ploughing activity over the centuries and given that the Castell Ddu ringwork is potentially 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century in date, these two fragments are likely contemporary in date.

## 5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The watching brief on land adjacent to Castell Ddu ringwork, for the development of a new residential dwelling and garage, exposed the remains of a length of early 18<sup>th</sup> century rough stone built curbing which likely delineated an area of former garden. Finds recovered from around this feature, including fragments of clay tobacco pipe stems and fragments of glazed Dyfed Gravel Tempered Ware, would appear to date this feature to no earlier than the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Further fragments of the same pottery type were recovered from the sub soil in the same area as this feature during the cutting of the footings. As well as these 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery fragments, two further fragments of local unglazed Dyfed Gravel Tempered Ware were also recovered from within the sub soil. These fragments, although tempered with gravel, were different in fabric type and colour, being a much paler pink and fired more heavily and suggest a medieval date, possibly 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5.2 The results from the watching brief and previous evaluations seem to support the interpretation that any potential features associated with the ringwork or associated settlement that may have

been present have since been either ploughed out or else the land has been used as pasture or meadow land.

- 5.3 Although no features associated with the medieval ringwork and potential bailey were not exposed during the watching brief, this doesn't mean however that no such features exist in other immediate areas around the monument.

## **6 Acknowledgements**

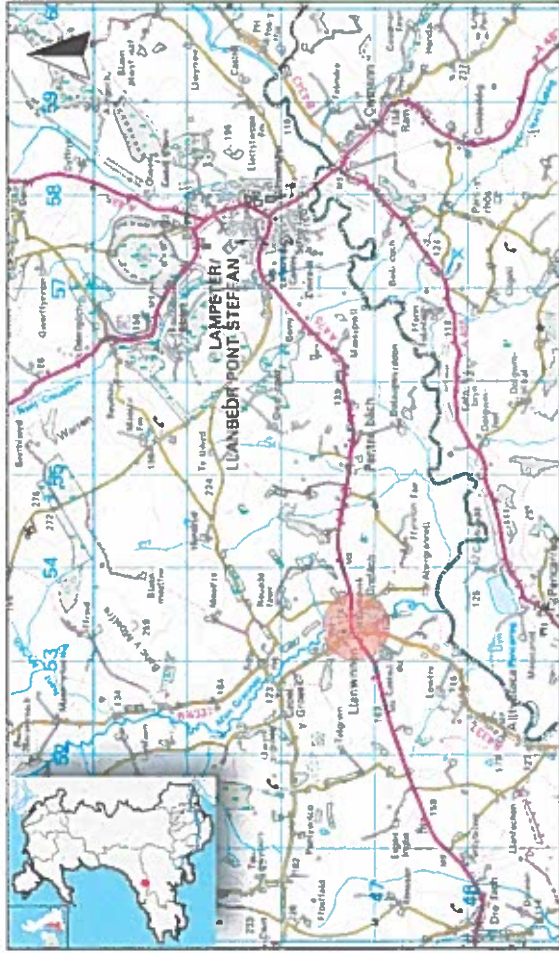
Thanks to; Mr P. Campion for her patience during the ground work and archaeological recording work.

## **7 Bibliography**

Samuel Lewis 1833 Topographical Dictionary of Wales.

# **APPENDIX I:**

## **Figs & Illustrations**



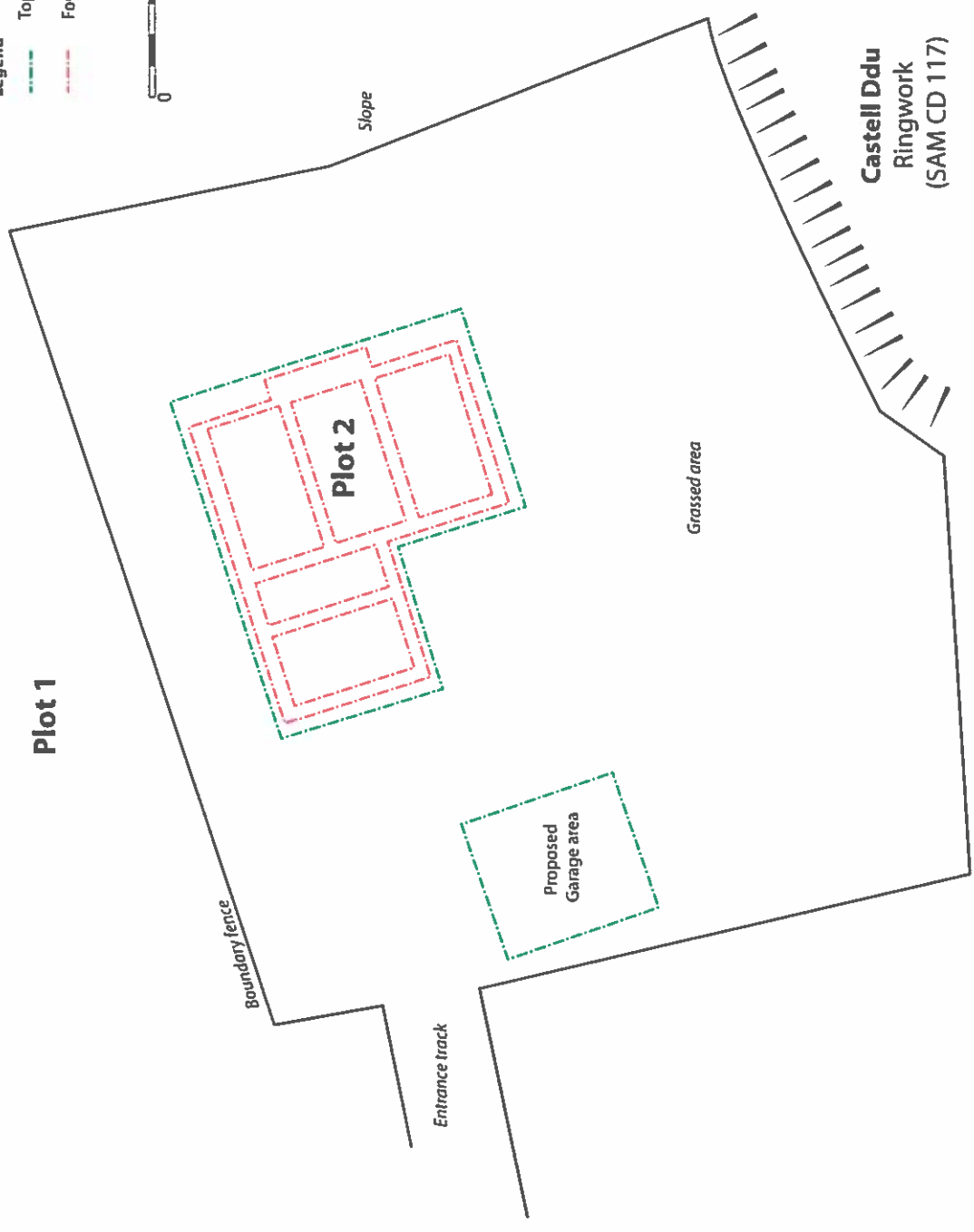
<b>Project Title:</b> Plot 2, Llanwnnen <b>Date:</b> Nov 2010 <b>Drawn by:</b> Richard Scott Jones	<b>Scale:</b> Original 1:25000 <b>Figure No.</b>	<b>Figure Title:</b> Site location map	<b>Heritage</b> Recording Services Wales
	<b>Figure No.</b>		
	<b>Drawing No.</b>		





**Legend**

- Top soil stripped area
- Foundation trenches



**Project Title:** Plot 2, Llanwnnen

**Date:** Nov 2010

**Drawn by:** Richard Scott Jones

**Scale:**

**Figure No. 3**

**Drawing No.**

**Figure Title:**

Site plan showing area of top soil stripping and foundation trenches.



**Legend**

Top soil stripped area

Foundation trenches



0 15 meters

**Project Title:** Plot 2, Llanwnnen

**Date:** Nov 2010

**Drawn by:** Richard Scott Jones

**Scale:**

**Figure No.,** 4

**Drawing No.**

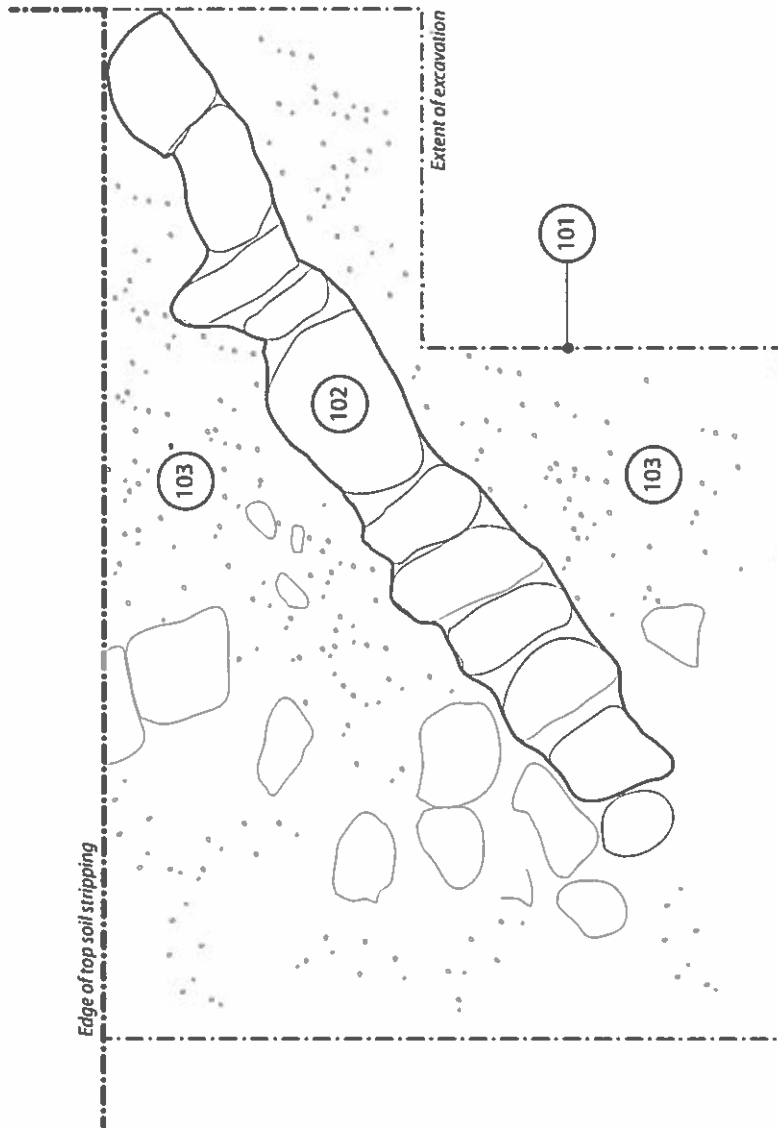
**Figure Title:**

Site plan showing position of 18th century stone wall or curb exposed following top soil stripping (context 102).



### Contexts

- 100 = Grass and top soil
- 101 = Sub soil
- 102 = 18th century wall/curb
- 103 = Natural shale/clay/sand/grit mix



0 1 meter

Project Title: Plot 2, Llanwnnen

Date: Nov 2010

Drawn by: Richard Scott Jones

Scale:

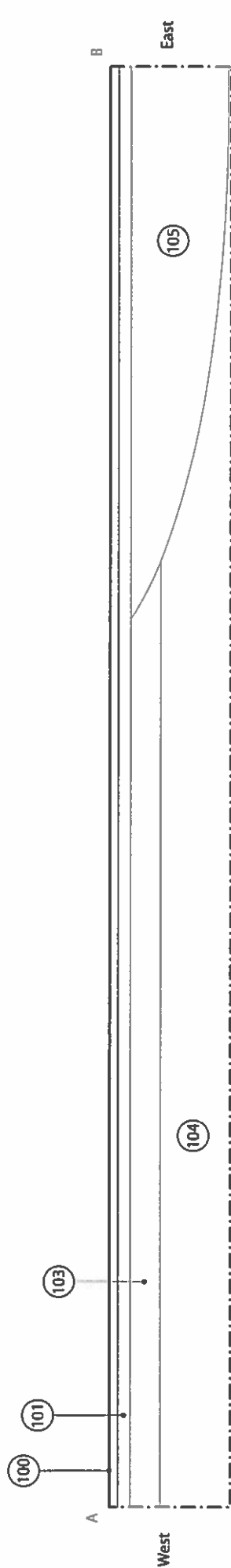
Figure No. 5

Drawing No.

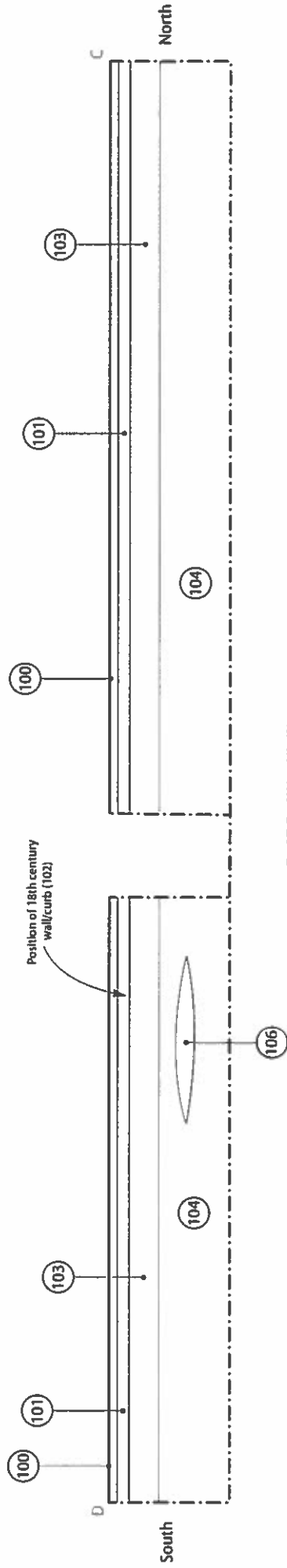
Figure Title:

Length of 18th century walling (CN: 102).





SOUTH FACING SECTION A-B



EAST FACING SECTION C-D

**Contexts**

- 100 = Grass and top soil
- 101 = Sub soil (mid brown garden soil with sand/clay/silt/grit mix)
- 102 = Eighteenth century stone wall/curb feature.
- 103 = Orange/buff/beige clay/sand/silt/shale deposit (Natural)
- 104 = Orange silt/sand/shale deposit (Natural)
- 105 = Orange/brown silt sand (Natural)
- 106 = lens of alluvial grit (Natural)



Project Title: Plot 2, Llanwnnen		Figure Title: Sections A-B and C-D	
Date: Nov 2010	Scale: Figure No. 6	Heritage Recording Services Wales	
Drawn by: Richard Scott Jones	Drawing No.		

## **APPENDIX II:**

### Photo plates



Plate 1. Area of proposed dwelling, Plot 1, Llanwnnen. Looking south towards Castell Ddu ringwork.



Plate 3. Area of top soil stripped. Looking southeast toward Castell Ddu ringwork.



Plate 2. Working shot during top soil stripping. Looking northwest.



Plate 4. Working shot during groundwork for foundation trenches. Looking eastwards.

<b>Project Title:</b> Plot 2, Llanwnnen.	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Title:</b> Views of area of proposed development.
<b>Date:</b> November 2010	<b>Plate No's.</b> 1 - 4	
<b>Taken by:</b> Richard Scott Jones	<b>Drawing No.</b>	





Plate 5. Eighteenth century stone wall/curb feature. Context 102. Looking westward.



Plate 6. Eighteenth century stone wall/curb feature. Context 102. Looking north.



Plate 7. Eighteenth century stone wall/curb feature. Context 102. Looking westward.



Plate 8. Eighteenth century stone wall/curb feature. Context 102. Looking south.

<b>Project Title:</b> Plot 2, Llanwnnen. <b>Date:</b> November 2010 <b>Taken by:</b> Richard Scott Jones	<b>Title:</b> Views of eighteenth century stone wall/curb feature.	
	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Plate No's:</b> 5-8
	<b>Drawing No.</b>	





Plate 9. Eighteenth century stone wall/curb feature. Context 102. Vertical view.



Plate 10. Eighteenth century stone wall/curb feature in context. Context 102. Looking northwards.



Plate 11. Section of typical stratigraphy in northern trench. Looking eastwards.



Plate 12. Section of typical stratigraphy in northern trench. Looking westwards.

<b>Project Title:</b> Plot 2, Llanwnnen.	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Title:</b>
	<b>Date:</b> November 2010	
	<b>Taken by:</b> Richard Scott Jones	<b>Drawing No.</b>

The logo for Heritage Recording Services Wales is located in the bottom right corner. It features the word "Heritage" in a large, red, serif font, with "Recording Services Wales" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font underneath. To the right of the text is a stylized, light grey illustration of a castle or fortress.



Plate 13. Section of typical stratigraphy in northern trench. Looking westwards.



Plate 14. ESection of typical stratigraphy in eastern trench. Looking north.



Plate 15. Section of typical stratigraphy in northern trench. Looking north.



Plate 16. Section of typical stratigraphy in northern trench. Looking north.

Project Title: Plot 2, Llanwnnen.		Title:	
Date: November 2010	Scale:	Plate No's. 13-16	Views of foundation trench stratigraphy.
Taken by: Richard Scott Jones		Drawing No.	

## **APPENDIX III:**

### Context Register

## CONTEXT REGISTER

- 100. Top soil and Turf
- 101. Mid brown sub soil (clay/sand/grit/silt mix) with small stone inclusions and 19<sup>th</sup> century material
- 102. 18<sup>th</sup> century stone wall/curb
- 103. Shale/sand/grit/silt/gravel (Natural)
- 104. Shale (Natural)
- 105. Orange/brown silt/sand deposit (Natural)
- 106. Lens of alluvial grit.



## **APPENDIX IV:**

### **Finds Register**

## FINDS REGISTER

### Context 101

#### *Pottery*

2 x small fragments of Dyfed Gravel Tempered Ware (Date range: 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century).

6 x fragments of glazed Dyfed Gravel Tempered Ware (inc. part of a rim and a handle) (Date Range: 18<sup>th</sup> century).

#### *Misc.*

3 x Clay tobacco pipe stems (Date Range: AD 1710-1730).

1 x Clay tobacco pipe bowl base/heel (Date Range: AD 1710-1730).

**APPENDIX V:**  
Archive Cover Sheet

# ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

**Land adjacent to Castell Ddu ringwork, Llanwnnen**

**ARCHIVE DESTINATION – Ceredigion Mudeum**

Site Name:	<b>Land adjacent to Castell Ddu ringwork, Llanwnnen</b>
Site Code:	<b>P2L/2010/WB</b>
PRN:	
NPRN :	<b>N/A</b>
SAM:	<b>N/A</b>
Other Ref No:	<b>HRSW Report No. 127</b>
NGR:	<b>SN 5335 4720</b>
Site Type:	<b>Medieval ringwork</b>
Project Type:	<b>Watching Brief</b>
Project Manager:	<b>Richard Scott Jones</b>
Project Dates:	<b>November 2010</b>
Categories Present:	<b>N/A</b>
Location of Original Archive:	<b>Ceredigion Museum</b>
Location of duplicate Archives:	<b>HRS Wales and DAT</b>
Number of Finds Boxes:	<b>1</b>
Location of Finds:	<b>Ceredigion Museum</b>
Museum Reference:	
Copyright:	<b>HRS Wales</b>
Restrictions to access:	<b>None</b>

