

## Llangibby Castle, Near Usk Monmouthshire, South Wales

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results



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# **Llangibby Castle, Near Usk, Monmouthshire, South Wales**

## **Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results**

### **Summary**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at Llangibby Castle, near Usk, Monmouthshire (NGR 33641 19739). The castle, which is a Scheduled Monument (Monument Number MM109), survives as an extensive walled enclosure with a massive keep gateway to the west, a second gateway on the south side, and a large residential tower at the north-west corner. No archaeological work has hitherto been undertaken on the castle, although surveys of the standing remains and of the documentary records have led to the conclusion that the castle was built in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century by Earl Gilbert III de Clare, replacing an earlier, 12<sup>th</sup> century motte and bailey ringwork which also survives, to the east of the castle (now known as the 'Bowling Green'). Documentary references to building repairs in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century are ambiguous, but could conceivably point to an earlier, pre-existing fortress on the same site. Construction work on the castle continued well into the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and resulted in an exceptionally large and well appointed residence, whose function, however, was probably not primarily defensive, but as a sumptuous hunting lodge.

The castle survived in a habitable condition until well into the 17<sup>th</sup> century; it was described as still garrisoned in 1645. The defences were re-used during the Civil War, accompanied by extensive landscaping. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century a large mansion was constructed nearby, known as New Llangibby Castle, and the remains of the medieval castle were incorporated into the gardens as a folly.

Ten evaluation trenches were excavated, concentrating on the western side of the castle, within the Great Gatehouse and West Gate, and inside the residential tower (the Lord's Tower), but with three trenches within the Inner Ward and one at the South Gate.

Interpretation of the results of the evaluation was hampered by the lack of datable finds, but one ditch in Trench 3, within the West Gate, produced late 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century pottery. This trench could not be directly related to the standing remains of the castle, and was of unknown function, but this evidence does provide some support for a pre-14<sup>th</sup> century foundation for the castle, albeit rather tenuous. At least two building phases were identified within Trenches 1, 8 and 10 on the basis of mortar colour, of which the earliest could relate to Early Gilbert III de Clare's construction of the castle.

A short article for publication is proposed, summarising the results of the evaluation and reviewing them against the known historical framework and proposed structural history of the castle; finds evidence will be incorporated where relevant in the text. This will be submitted to *Archaeologia Cambrensis*. A summary of work will also be submitted to *Archaeology in Wales*.

# **Llangibby Castle, Near Usk, Monmouthshire, South Wales**

## **Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results**

### **Acknowledgements**

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The geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater, Emma Wood and Jimmy Adcock of GSB Prospection. The field survey was undertaken by Henry Chapman, University of Birmingham. The excavation strategy was devised by Mick Aston. The on-site recording was co-ordinated by Steve Thompson with on-site finds processing by Sue Nelson, both of Wessex Archaeology.

The excavations were undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists, Phil Harding (Wessex Archaeology), Ian Powlesland, Faye Simpson, Naomi Sewpaul and Matt Williams, assisted by Angela McCall, Catherine Rees, Ifan Edwards, Matt Jones, Meredith Wiggins, Scarlett McGrail, Anne Marie Lo, Anne Leaver and Charlie Draper. On-site pottery identification was carried out by Steve Clarke

The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment and analysis undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. This report was compiled by Steve Thompson with initial historical research by Jim Mower and Louise Ord (Videotext Communications) and specialist reports prepared by Lorraine Mephram (finds) and Jessica Grimm (animal bone). The illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The post-excavation project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Lorraine Mephram

The work benefited from discussion with Mick Aston of Bristol University, Phil Harding of Wessex Archaeology, Oliver Creighton of Exeter University and Rick Turner of Cadw.

Finally thanks are extended to David Addams Williams and family for allowing access to Llangibby Castle for geophysical survey and evaluation, and to the farm estate staff for their considerable assistance during the course of this programme of works.

# **Llangibby Castle, Near Usk, Monmouthshire, South Wales**

## **Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results**

### **1 BACKGROUND**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at Llangibby Castle, near Usk, Monmouthshire, South Wales (hereafter the 'Site') (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 This report documents the results of archaeological survey and evaluation undertaken by Time Team, and presents an assessment of the results of these works, focusing on the sub-surface archaeology and geophysical results with some reference to the standing remains. This report does not contain detailed descriptions of the standing remains.

#### **1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology**

1.2.1 The Site is approximately 8km north-west of Caerleon and approximately 5km south-east of Usk, centred at NGR 33641 19739 at a height of approximately 100m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). It comprises an extensive walled enclosure of an irregular quadrilateral shape, covering an internal area of 3.5 hectares, aligned east to west, with a massive keep gatehouse (the Great Gatehouse) at its south-west corner, guarding the West Gate, and an equally large residential tower (the Lord's Tower) at its north-west corner. Remains have also been found of what appears to be a small, twin-towered gatehouse at its south-east corner (the South Gate).

1.2.2 To the east of the castle is an earlier, 12<sup>th</sup> century motte and bailey earthwork known as the 'Bowling Green'.

1.2.3 The underlying geology consists of Raglan Marl with outcrops of limestone and sandstone (BGS Sheet 249).

1.2.4 The Site is owned and managed on behalf of Trustees by David Addams Williams, with the land currently part of a farm estate, with managed woodland, cattle farming and limited public access. It is considered of national importance and has been designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Monument Number MM109).

#### **1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

1.3.1 The following Archaeological and Historical background is summarised from the Project Design for the programme of works (Videotext Communications 2009), and *Three Castles of the Clare Family in Monmouthshire during the Thirteenth and Fourteenth centuries* (Priestley and Turner 2005).

### *Tenurial History*

- 1.3.2 The castle and associated manor was known throughout the medieval period as 'Tregruk', taking its name from the commote (or *cwmwd*, a Welsh secular division of land) of Tref-y-Grug in which it stands, before taking the name Llangibby. The castle was first mentioned in an account of Humphrey de Bohun, earl of Hereford, who acted as keeper of the Clare lands after the death of Richard de Clare around 1262-3.
- 1.3.3 Richard's son, Gilbert II de Clare (d. 1295), the renowned 'Red Earl' and builder of Caerphilly, took possession of his father's inheritance in 1263. At some time before 1284, Earl Gilbert granted Llangibby to his brother, Bogo de Clare (d. 1294). Bogo de Clare was a powerful, ostentatiously wealthy ecclesiastic and notorious pluralist, holding offices of chancellor of Llandaff, treasurer of York and as many as twenty benefices. A number of his household accounts have survived for the years 1284-6, and these show that he resided fairly frequently at Llangibby during this time.
- 1.3.4 Upon Bogo's death in 1294, the castle and manor of Llangibby reverted back to his brother Earl Gilbert, who died the following year. It then passed to Gilbert's widow, Joan of Acre, daughter of Edward I, who held it until her death in 1307. Llangibby then came into the hands of her son, Gilbert III de Clare, who was now old enough to succeed her. After Gilbert's death in 1314, Llangibby came into the hands of his widow, the Countess Matilda, who retained it in dower until her death in 1320. The castle then passed into the possession of Elizabeth de Burgh, sister and heir of Earl Gilbert III, and her husband Roger Dammory.

### *Castle Buildings*

- 1.3.5 Little is known about Bogo de Clare's building activities at Llangibby, either from his household accounts or other sources. The first secure reference to building works at Llangibby occurs in an account of the reeve of Tregruk for 1301-02 (during the tenure of Gilbert II's, widow, Joan of Acre), which alludes to a payment of 43s 3d for the repair and rebuilding of 'a certain tower burnt by the war'. It seems likely that this phrase refers to the great rebellion of Madog ap Llywelyn and his supporters in 1294-5. Evidence of further damage caused during the rebellion appears in the following year's account when a mason was employed in mending a breach in the castle wall. More extensive repairs were carried out in 1305-6; this account is especially important as it contains the first references to domestic buildings in the castle – repairs were made to the roof of the hall, the timberwork of the stable, bakehouse and kitchen. A sum was also spent covering an unspecified tower roof with lead.
- 1.3.6 Thereafter there are a series of manorial accounts, originally dated to 1282-87 (King and Perks 1956), but now redated to the period 1315-1321, during the tenure of Gilbert III's widow, the Countess Matilda (Priestley and Turner 2005, 21). A reeve's account for 1315-16 contains further references to buildings existing in the castle at that time. The account suggests another possible assault on the castle, causing some damage. Money was spent to repair a breach in the curtain wall, possibly caused either during the rebellion of the native Welsh of Glamorgan in 1314, or by an assault led by the Welsh lord Llewelyn Bren in 1316. Numerous castles belonging to the de Clares were besieged by Llewelyn, and Llangibby was garrisoned and provisioned by Countess Matilda against possible attack. This seems a more



likely explanation than that of continuing repairs after the destruction caused during the revolt of 1294-5 (see above), not least because this would imply that Llangibby Castle was not built on a virgin site, but occupied the site of a pre-existing fortress (Priestley and Turner 2005, 24)

- 1.3.7 The reeve's account also mentions a castle gate and a portcullis, which could refer either to the Great Gatehouse (at the West Gate) or to the smaller south-east gatehouse. Domestic buildings and a well are also mentioned. The well is located 30m east of the Great Gatehouse on Morrice's plan of the castle, published in William Coxe's 'Tour of Monmouthshire' in 1801.
- 1.3.8 The point at which these documentary references cease to refer to the 12<sup>th</sup> century 'Bowling Green' motte and bailey, and instead refer to the more substantial, stone-built castle, is not altogether clear, but the conclusion reached by Priestley and Turner (2005, 37) is that Earl Gilbert III de Clare was responsible for the construction of the Great Gatehouse, soon after 1307, and that it was probably completed before his death in 1314, although the curtain wall was not. Gilbert III is also likely to have started construction of the residential Lord's Tower, but this was not completed until 1318-21. A range of new lodgings was built by Elizabeth de Burgh in 1341-2, and the castle seems to have remained in frequent occupation at least until c.1350.

#### *The function of Llangibby Castle*

- 1.3.9 Despite its great size and defensive appearance, it has been suggested that Llangibby's prime purpose was to act as a sumptuous hunting lodge. Gilbert III de Clare and his widow seem to have used buildings of a military form to create imaginative new types of domestic accommodation. These were of a quality which had not been seen in the castles of the Welsh Marches. Royal hunting lodges were often of a scale far beyond what was necessary for the functional requirements of this most favoured of medieval pastimes. Llangibby Castle is a little known but important example of what a great magnate of Edward II's reign could achieve on his marcher estates.

#### *Later Period*

- 1.3.10 During the 17<sup>th</sup> century the castle defences were reused in the Civil War; this was accompanied by extensive landscaping. Priestly and Turner (2005, 37) state *'although there is little evidence of repairs to the castle in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, it would seem to have remained in a habitable state until well into the seventeenth century. The Royalist diarist and antiquary Richard Symonds (writing in 1645) described Llangibby as 'strong and inhabited and fortified' with a garrison of sixty men'*.
- 1.3.11 To the east of the castle and west of the 'Bowling Green', a new building known as New Llangibby Castle was constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century; this large house incorporated the remains of the older castle into the grounds of Llangibby estate as a folly within managed gardens. During World War II the interior of the castle was used for growing crops and by 1952 New Llangibby Castle was demolished.

#### *Archaeological Background*

- 1.3.12 To date no archaeological work has been carried out on site. Llangibby Castle is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Monument Number MM109). No study of Llangibby, however, can overlook the work of King and Perks

(1956) which remains the standard account of the architectural and historical development of the castle. This work is particularly important as the castle was more complete and less overgrown in the 1950s. King and Perks' conclusions in regard to who built the castle may be accepted to a certain extent. However, misdating of several key documents (see above, **1.3.6**) leads their proposed chronology to be rejected and their focus on an assessment of the castle from a defensive standpoint results in a failure to realise the importance of Llangibby's internal plan and decoration – keys to understanding its function.

- 1.3.13 More recent work by Priestly and Turner (2005) has provided an expanded documentary history, leading to a reassessment of the role played by Llangibby Castle in the Clare estates as a whole, as well as considering the particular function of the Great Gatehouse and the Lord's Tower.

## **2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled (Videotext Communications 2008), providing full details of the research aims and methods. A brief summary is provided here.
- 2.1.2 The principle aim of the project was to determine the date, nature, extent, quality and preservation of any underlying archaeological remains with the specific aim of refining a chronology for three areas of investigation:
- The Great Gatehouse and West Gate
  - The Inner Ward
  - The garderobe shaft in the southern tower of the Great Gatehouse

## **3 METHODS**

- 3.1.1 Prior to any archaeological works being undertaken, Scheduled Monument Consent was granted by Cadw which allowed non-intrusive geophysical survey and metal detecting in accordance with Section 42 of the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, and intrusive evaluation trenches in accordance with Section 2 and Schedule 1 of the Act (Ref. A-CAM001-02-Qa753979, dated 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009).

### **3.2 Geophysical Survey**

- 3.2.1 Prior to the excavation of evaluation trenches, a geophysical survey was carried out across the Site by GSB Prospection Ltd, using resistance survey. The survey grid was set out by Dr Henry Chapman and tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid using a Trimble real time differential GPS system.

### **3.3 Evaluation Trenches**

- 3.3.1 The Scheduled Monument Consent by Cadw granted the excavation of up to seven evaluation trenches, with no individual trench exceeding 40m<sup>2</sup> in plan, and the total area excavated not exceeding 150m<sup>2</sup>. Following the excavation of seven trenches; a further three trenches were proposed by Cadw

representative Rick Turner and subsequently excavated. The total excavated area did not exceed the 150m<sup>2</sup> limit.

- 3.3.2 The ten trenches, of varying sizes, were positioned primarily to answer the research aims stated in the project design (**Figure 1**).
- 3.3.3 The trenches were excavated using a combination of machine and hand digging. All machine trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological remains. When machine excavation had ceased all trenches were cleaned by hand and archaeological deposits investigated.
- 3.3.4 At various stages during excavation the deposits were scanned by a metal detector and signals marked in order to facilitate investigation. The excavated up-cast was scanned by metal detector.
- 3.3.5 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Trenches were located using a Trimble Real Time Differential GPS survey system and Total Station. All archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 with sections drawn at 1:10. All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.
- 3.3.6 A full photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained, utilising digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeology revealed and the Site as a whole.
- 3.3.7 At the completion of the work, all trenches were reinstated using the excavated soil.
- 3.3.8 The work was carried out between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April 2009. The archive and all artefacts were subsequently transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury where they were processed and assessed for this report. The archive is held under the Wessex Archaeology project code 71500.

## **4 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

- 4.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features, the full geophysical report (GSB 2009), details of artefactual and environmental assessments, are retained in the archive. Details of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1**.

### **4.2 Geophysical Survey**

#### *Introduction*

- 4.2.1 Conditions for survey were far from ideal; although the trees had been cut down and the bulk of the wood removed from the interior of the castle, the stumps still remained and numerous branches were strewn across the site (the more prominent stumps are visible as gaps in the survey location). Vehicle tracks and uneven ground further complicated data collection. Prior

to the clearance of the vegetation, the area contained wire mesh fences for pheasants; these became buried in the disturbed ground and (with the tree stumps, etc) made magnetic survey impossible due to the ferrous disturbance and the difficulties of walking at a constant pace.

#### *Resistance Survey*

- 4.2.2 Due to the difficult ground conditions and the constraints of filming, it was not possible to achieve total coverage of the interior of the castle in the time available. As a consequence, interpretation of the results is somewhat compromised and the picture remains incomplete. This fact should be borne in mind when considering the interpretation that follows.
- 4.2.3 High resistance readings (1) around the western edge of the survey area simply reflect stone and rubble collapse from the standing walls; there are no indications in the data of any walls or a range of buildings occupying the area between the two towers.
- 4.2.4 However, there are two low resistance anomalies (2 and 3) that follow a curved course, which appears to bear no relationship to the castle itself. The resistance results indicate possible ditches. However, on excavation the curved line was revealed to coincide with a band of natural clay geology within the natural bedrock and it is probable that this is the cause of the anomaly. By coincidence, a shallow ditch was observed cutting the band of natural clay at this point. The easternmost anomaly was not investigated through trenching.
- 4.2.5 High resistance readings at (4), and elsewhere throughout the survey area, are difficult to interpret. Initially it was felt that the results could indicate a number of differing factors: the dense network of tree roots still in the ground; natural variations in the soils and bedrock; rubble spreads from buildings or possibly compacted / cobbled courtyards. In the light of another trial trench, it would seem that the first two factors account for the bulk variations in resistance. No artefacts, stone or rubble were identified and, in fact, the lack of anthropogenic material was quite remarkable given the location inside the heart of a 'castle'. In the absence of any clear building plans it would seem reasonable to assume that the other areas of high resistance also largely reflect natural variations. Despite the rectilinear trends around (5) and a distinct increase in the volume of near-surface stone around high resistance zone (6) (both factors which might normally elevate the potential for archaeological deposits being present) the more recent use of the site, which includes potato crops, quashes any definitive interpretation. Low readings at (7) are thought to be an effect of water pooling on the lower slopes of the castle interior; it was not possible to confirm local conjecture that this was the site of a well.
- 4.2.6 In the eastern half of the site, two further low resistance anomalies (8 and 9) are intriguing. They indicate the presence of further possible ditches crossing the site; however, these are likely to be a continuation of the geological band identified as anomaly 2/3.
- 4.2.7 The survey was extended right to the eastern extremity of the site in an attempt to verify whether the curtain wall of the castle was originally built along this line – it is not clear from the earthworks or the documents (H. Geake pers comm.) whether the circuit was ever completed. (It should be noted that on **Figure 1** the OS mapping for the eastern limits of the castle is



### *Conclusions*

- 4.2.8 Poor ground conditions hindered data collection and quality, and precluded a total survey of the interior in the time available. Both factors have affected the interpretation of the results, but the geophysical evidence, as it stands, suggests a lack of stone-built structures inside the courtyard of the castle. Furthermore, the resistance survey has failed to confirm, or otherwise, whether the curtain wall was originally a complete circuit.

## **4.3 Evaluation Trenches**

### *Introduction*

- 4.3.1 Trench 1 was positioned at the main entrance into the castle through the west gate. Prior to excavation of Trench 1, analysis of the surviving stone towers and the approach through the walls into the Inner Ward revealed that considerable alteration to the original entrance had occurred. Examination of the standing remains identified that the original ground surface of the castle was some 2m higher than it is today and would have been level with the Inner Ward. This was revealed by two parallel masonry shelves constructed within the entrance walls (104/204) and (105/203/310), at the same level as the floors of the northern and southern gate towers. These shelves would have acted as joist supports to take a raised wooden bridging floor. Further confirmation of the raised floor came from the identification of the portcullis slots in walls (104/204) and (105/204/310) which did not extend further than the joist-supporting shelves. The identification of these architectural features influenced the interpretation of the archaeology revealed within Trenches 1, 2 and 3.

### *Trench 1 - The West Gate (Figure 2)*

- 4.3.2 Wall footing (111) represented the earliest recorded archaeology within Trench 1 (**Figure 2, Plate 1**). It supported the main northern wall (104) of the entrance (the southern wall of the north tower), which had levelling/backfill material (110) banked up against it. Walls (111) and (104) were constructed of lime mortar with a greenish hue and (110) contained green stone inclusions with green mortar fragments. The structures built using this green mortar were interpreted as the first phase of castle building; these included wall (105), the southern entrance wall and northern wall of the southern gate tower (**Figure 2, Plate 3**).
- 4.3.3 The second phase of construction saw the complete removal and rebuilding of the northern gate tower and the establishment of outer defences to the castle gate. Construction cut (108) for the new build was observed as a clear scar cutting through wall (104) (**Figure 2, Plate 1**). Constructed within (108) was wall (112) which was subsequently keyed into (104). Contemporaneous with (112) and bonded to it was (106); these walls together formed part of new northern gate tower (**Figure 2, Plate 3**). Wall (106) would initially have extended to the height of the joist-supporting shelf (see above), and formed the threshold into the castle. These walls were constructed with light pinky-white mortar, in contrast to the first phase greenish mortar. Construction cut (108) was subsequently filled with a series of deliberate backfill deposits

(118), (117) and (115). It was clear that wall (106) would have been free-standing with a void behind it, which would have created a possible cellar or storage area beneath the raised floor.

- 4.3.4 Contemporaneous with the construction of the new north tower was the digging of the drawbridge pit (107) to the west of the main entrance and the construction of the drawbridge-supporting structure (113) within the pit (**Figure 2, Plates 1-3**).
- 4.3.5 The date for this rebuilding is unclear from the archaeological evidence and the architectural details. However, from analysis of the historical documents, it is possibly 14<sup>th</sup> century.
- 4.3.6 The third phase of activity saw the excavation of a large feature to the east of wall (106), which cut through (115). Feature (114) was filled with (109); its date and function are unknown, but it pre-dates the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- 4.3.7 The final phase of activity recorded within Trench 1 comprised the wholesale modification of the approach and entrance into the castle through the West Gate; this was possibly associated with activity within the castle during the Civil War. The drawbridge pit (107), and walls (113), (106) and (112) were all affected by cut (119) (**Figure 2, Plates 2 and 3**), a large landscaping event which reduced the ground surface to the west of the entrance and removed walls (113) and (106).
- 4.3.8 Following this demolition the remains of the drawbridge pit were backfilled with (116) and (103), and then overlain by (102), a metalled surface providing new access into the Inner Ward. There were few finds recovered from these backfill deposits, but a single clay pipe bowl from (103) was dated to c.1640-60, and provides a possible link with the Civil War period. The metalled surface (102), overlain by topsoil (101), forms the present day approach leading into the castle.

*Trench 2 – The West Gate (**Figure 1**)*

- 4.3.9 Trench 2 was located within the approach through the gateway of the West Gate. It revealed a post-demolition deposit (202) between walls (203) (equivalent to 105) and (204) (equivalent to 104); this layer had been rammed to create a surface into the castle contemporary with (102).

*Trench 3 – The West Gate/ Inner Ward (**Figure 3**)*

- 4.3.10 Trench 3 was positioned against the southern wall of the approach through the West Gate where it opens out into the Inner Ward of the castle. Ditch (306) appears to represent the stratigraphically earliest feature within the trench (**Figure 3, Plate 5**); this cut the natural geology (304), and the fills (304, 305, 308) contained pottery dating to the late 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century, and a single residual sherd of prehistoric pottery. Ditch (306) was not fully excavated and so its exact function is unknown.
- 4.3.11 The relationship between ditch (306) and the walls of the southern tower is unclear; wall (310) (equivalent to walls 105 and 203) was bonded to (312) the eastern wall of the tower, but was not investigated further. Wall (310) was partially stepped out and formed part of the joist-supporting shelf to hold the raised bridging floor (**Figure 3, Plate 4**). This was overlain by mortar layer (311), possibly also associated with the bridging floor.

- 4.3.12 The Civil War activity may have been represented by two metallised surfaces (302) and (307), possibly equivalent to (102) and (202).

*Trench 4 – The Garderobe (Figure 4)*

- 4.3.13 Trench 4 was located within the garderobe shaft, which was fed from the latrine in the southern gatehouse tower. The shaft could be entered from a small platform through a low arch from the exterior of the gatehouse tower.

- 4.3.14 The base of the garderobe comprised a limestone rubble floor (406) which butted the northern and eastern walls of the shaft (405) and (407) (**Figure 4, Plate 6**). This was overlain by a series of backfill/post-demolition deposits (404), (403) and (402), which contained post-medieval pottery.

- 4.3.15 No deposits associated with the original use of the garderobe were encountered; it had been thoroughly cleaned out.

*Trench 5 – The Inner Ward (Figure 5)*

- 4.3.16 Trench 5 was positioned to investigate geophysical anomaly (4), but the anomaly appeared to represent cornbrash-type natural geology which had been heavily disturbed by later post-medieval and modern activity. No archaeological features were observed cutting the natural geology (**Figure 5, Plates 7 and 8**).

*Trench 6 – The Inner Ward (Figure 6)*

- 4.3.17 Trench 6 was sited within the Inner Ward of the castle, opposite the South Gate.

- 4.3.18 Stratigraphically earliest within the trench was (606), a terrace cut into the natural geology (613) in order to create a level road surface leading to the South Gate (**Figure 6, Plate 9**). No surface to the road was revealed, but material had been removed down to the top of the solid bedrock to create a firm base, and this was associated with possible kerb material (608). The road was also revealed in Trench 9 (see below). The road was overlain by remnants of the surface material.

- 4.3.19 To the west of the road was a foundation trench (607) for some form of revetment – this had been heavily robbed. It was unclear as to what phase of activity within the Inner Ward this structure related.

*Trench 7 – The Inner Ward (Figure 7)*

- 4.3.20 Trench 7 was positioned to investigate geophysical anomaly (2). The anomaly turned out to be caused by a band of natural clay within the natural bedrock and was not archaeological in origin. Coincidentally, however, the band of clay was cut by a very shallow ditch (703) which contained sherds of 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> pottery and fragments of medieval ceramic roof tile (**Figure 7, Plate 10**).

*Trench 8 – Lord's Tower (Figure 8)*

- 4.3.21 Trench 8 was sited within a hexagonal room interpreted as the Lady's Chamber within the Lord's Tower, at the north-western corner of the castle complex (**Figure 8, Plate 12**). Within the trench a flagged floor (802) was revealed, set into mortar (803) against wall (804). The mortar (803) was pinky-white in colour and identical in appearance to the mortar bonding walls (112), (113) and (106) in Trench 1 (i.e. relating to the second phase of

building). Wall (804) incorporated a series of steps leading to a window seat overlooking the Inner Ward (**Figure 8, Plate 11**).

*Trench 9 – The South Gate (Figure 9)*

4.3.22 Trench 9 was located across the junction between the southern gatehouse tower and the Inner Ward. It revealed a metallised surface (905), part of the medieval approach into the Inner Ward through the South Gate (**Figure 9, Plate 15**). Surface (905) appeared to be equivalent to (606) in Trench 6 (see above).

4.3.23 Surface (905) was sealed beneath layer (904), an accumulation layer containing sherds of 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century German stoneware, i.e. possibly associated with Civil War activity. This layer was sealed by (903), a compact layer of rounded stones creating a road surface. Sealing (903) was (902); a post-demolition mortar deposit from the robbing of the southern gatehouse tower.

*Trench 10 – Lord's Tower/Inner Ward (Figure 10)*

4.3.24 Trench 10 was located within the entrance into the Lord's Tower from the Inner Ward (**Figure 8, Plate 12**). A pinky-white mortar layer (1003) sealed (1002), which formed the base for flagged surface (1006) (**Figure 8, Plate 13**). Surface (1006) was equivalent to (802) in Trench 8, and (1003) equivalent to (803), and also to the mortar bonding walls (112), (113) and (106) in Trench 1 (i.e. the second phase of building).

4.3.25 Wall (1005), the northern curtain wall, was also investigated. It was clearly butted by (1004), the northern wall of the entrance into the Lord's Tower, and equivalent to (804), containing the window seat from the Lady's Chamber (Trench 8).

4.3.26 Wall (1004) partially overlay flagged floor (1006) and had been heavily robbed, but it was clear that the entrance into the Lord's Tower consisted of two doors either side of a portcullis, as indicated from the two door jambs and the portcullis slot (**Figure 8, Plate 14**).

## 5 FINDS

5.1.1 Finds were recovered from all of the ten trenches excavated; but with very few finds from Trenches 2, 5 and 8. Most material was concentrated in Trenches 6 (the Inner Ward) and 9 (the South Gate). The assemblage is largely medieval or post-medieval in date, with some possible residual prehistoric and Romano-British finds.

5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and totals by material type and by trench are presented in **Table 1**. Subsequent to quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned in order to gain an overall idea of the range of types present, their condition, and their potential date range. Spot dates have been recorded for selected material types as appropriate (pottery, ceramic building material, clay pipes). All finds data are currently held on an Access database.

5.1.3 This section presents an overview of the finds assemblage, on which is based an assessment of the potential of this assemblage to contribute to an



understanding of the site in its local and regional context, with particular reference to the construction and occupation of the medieval castle.

## 5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 The pottery assemblage includes sherds of Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval date, with one possible prehistoric sherd. Condition overall is fair to good, with sherds relatively unabraded, although the medieval sherds are noticeably abraded.

5.2.2 The whole assemblage has been quantified by ware type within each context, and the presence of diagnostic sherds noted. Pottery totals by ware type are given in **Table 2**.

### *Pre-medieval*

5.2.3 One possible prehistoric, and one Romano-British sherd were identified. The possible prehistoric sherd, from ditch (306), is in a coarse fabric containing shelly limestone inclusions, but has only one surviving surface and could just be a fragment of fired clay. The Romano-British sherd is in a coarse greyware; this is a plain body sherd noticeably more abraded than the other sherds from Trench 2 topsoil.

### *Medieval*

5.2.4 There are relatively few medieval sherds, and these fall into three main fabric groups: coarsewares almost certainly of local origin, and of 12<sup>th</sup> century date or later; glazed sandy wares of 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century date; and finer, sandy glazed wares of 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> century date.

5.2.5 It is generally considered that ceramics were introduced to south Wales in the immediate post-conquest period, and at first (in the later 11<sup>th</sup> century) consisted exclusively of imported English wares, from adjacent counties (Papazian 1990; Clarke 1991; Papazian and Campbell 1992). There is no evidence for such wares at Llangibby. Indigenous wares appeared from the beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> century (seen, for example, at Chepstow), but the scale of production initially appears to have been very small. Pottery supplies were augmented throughout the medieval period by English sources, particularly Bristol.

5.2.6 A few sherds from Llangibby occur in a moderately coarse sandy ware which can be equated with the local Gwent Penhow ware, also identified at Chepstow as fabric Ha1. At Chepstow this ware was dated from the late 12<sup>th</sup> to the later 13<sup>th</sup> century (Vince 1991, 95-7). There are no diagnostic vessel forms from Llangibby.

5.2.7 More common are other sandy wares, all glazed, and generally in finer fabrics. Some of these may also derive from local sources, but they may also include other English wares (probably from the Bristol area); none are diagnostic although most if not all are likely to derive from jugs of 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century date.

5.2.8 Later medieval wares are scarce; there are six sherds in fine sandy wares which are likely to date to the 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> century.

### *Post-Medieval*

- 5.2.9 Coarse redwares are predominant amongst the post-medieval assemblage, and these clearly represent the products of more than one source; some sherds are visibly micaceous. Many sherds are glazed, and glaze colour ranges from orange-red through olive green to dark brown, although there are no examples of early post-medieval black-glazed or 'Cistercian-type' wares here. Vessel forms consist largely of open forms (bowls and dishes), with some jugs, but are not closely datable.
- 5.2.10 Alongside the redwares are a few German stonewares (Cologne or Frechen types), from layers (604), (605) and (904), and one modern refined whiteware (Trench 6 topsoil).

### **5.3 Ceramic and Stone Building Material and Mortar**

- 5.3.1 Building material was well represented on the site, both ceramic and stone, almost all of which was recovered from Trench 1 and is likely to be of medieval date.

#### *Ceramic*

- 5.3.2 The ceramic building material (CBM) represents a very restricted range, with an unusual predominance of decorative roof tile. Out of 59 pieces recovered, 39 are from glazed ridge tiles. Most of these appear to be in variants of a single fabric type – relatively fine, and containing sparse fine quartz and iron oxides, reduced grey with oxidised surfaces. Glaze is thin, unevenly applied and sometimes patchy; colour ranges from light to dark olive green. No complete examples survive, but five fragments from ditch (703) join to give a partial profile (in an inverted V shape), with an applied, pierced crest and curvilinear incised decoration on the flat face(s). There are other, similar crested pieces in Trench 3 topsoil, and a number of other fragments show linear or curvilinear incised or tooled decoration.
- 5.3.3 This decoration and style of crest is paralleled amongst the Redcliffe-ware tiles from Bristol (Williams and Ponsford 1988, fig. 24, no. 1), but the fabric appears finer than the Redcliffe fabrics. Crested tiles in Bristol are thought to date no earlier than 1250 (Ponsford 1998, 157); the examples from ditch (703) were associated with 13<sup>th</sup>/14th century pottery, while other examples came from contexts dated by pottery to the 13<sup>th</sup> century or later.
- 5.3.4 Ridge tiles are generally considered as indicative of high status buildings, and this certainly seems to be the case in south-east Wales, where the distribution of ridge tiles is biased towards ecclesiastical and castle sites (Papazian 1990, 23). Similar examples were found at the medieval site of Harold's House, Portskewett, about 13km to the south-east of Llangibby (Wessex Archaeology 2007).
- 5.3.5 Unglazed flat (peg) roof tiles are notable by their scarcity, presumably because these were supplied instead in stone (see below); there are seven examples from post-medieval contexts (topsoil in Trenches 6 and 9; Trench 7 subsoil), which could be either medieval or post-medieval. There is one definite pantile (Trench 6 topsoil).

#### *Stone*

- 5.3.6 Apart from one object (a possible whetstone from ditch 306), all of the stone recovered from the site consists of building material, and this includes a high

proportion of sandstone roof tile, mostly in micaceous variants. No complete tiles were recovered, but several had surviving nail holes. The source for these micaceous sandstones is likely to lie in either the Lower Old Red Sandstone which outcrops locally, or the Upper Carboniferous, for example the Pennant measures of the Forest of Dean. Very similar lithologies were noted from amongst the medieval assemblage retrieved from the foreshore at Magor Pill, about 10km to the south of Llangibby (Allen 2003, 90).

- 5.3.7 The distribution of these tiles on the site largely coincided with that of the ceramic tiles, and it is likely that both types were in contemporaneous use, possibly on the same building(s) - stone-roofed buildings with ceramic crests are known or suspected from Bristol, for example (Ponsford 1998, 157).

- 5.3.8 Other stone building material includes several slate roof tiles (Trench 1 topsoil), and various fragments and roughly shaped blocks of micaceous sandstone (again, probably Lower Old Red Sandstone) and limestone.

#### *Mortar*

- 5.3.9 Building material is also present in the form of a small quantity of mortar, all from Trench 6, none from *in situ* structural elements (topsoil and layer 603).

### **5.4 Clay Pipes**

- 5.4.1 Amongst the small quantity of clay tobacco pipe fragments are one complete bowl, dated c. 1640-60 (layer 103), and two bowl fragments with incuse heel stamps. The first of these, from Trench 9 topsoil, comprises the initials RB, divided by a dagger over a heart; this is the mark of Richard Berryman (or Berriman) of Bristol, who was working in 1619 and who had died by 1649 (Jackson and Price 1974, 32, 18, nos. 13-14; Oswald 1975, fig. 9, 2). The second, from layer 904, features a Tudor rose surmounted by fleur-de-lys; the maker is unknown but the pipe is likely to be of 17<sup>th</sup> century date.

### **5.5 Glass**

- 5.5.1 None of the glass can be dated as medieval. There are several fragments of window glass, some badly degraded and probably, therefore, of relatively early post-medieval date. Vessel fragments are all from green wine bottles of late 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century date.

### **5.6 Slag**

- 5.6.1 All of the slag recovered is iron smithing slag. Associated dating material indicates a medieval date for most if not all of this material. However, the slag did not necessarily originate on site. Given the relative proximity of the Forest of Dean, an area of intensive ironworking from the Roman period onwards, and the known redistribution of waste slag as hard core, the slag found at Llangibby could well have been introduced to the site from elsewhere. Certainly the quantity of slag recovered here is insufficient to postulate on-site ironworking.

### **5.7 Metalwork**

- 5.7.1 Metalwork includes objects of copper alloy, iron and lead. No coins were recovered.

### *Copper Alloy*

- 5.7.2 Some of the ten copper alloy objects are identifiable, although few are particularly chronologically diagnostic. Two hexfoil, domed studs from topsoil in Trench 9 could have been used either for upholstery, particularly in the 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> centuries (Margeson 1993, 83), or as harness fittings (Ellis 1995, figs. 111-12). A seven-pointed rowel from a rowel spur came from topsoil in Trench 6. Rowel spurs first appeared in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and became the most common type by the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century; without the overall form of the spur, this item cannot be closely dated. A small fragment from topsoil in Trench 3 is probably from a cast vessel rim. Other identifiable objects comprise one plain, domed stud (again with several possible functions) and two small discs or stud heads. All the copper alloy objects came from topsoil contexts, apart from a small strip fragment in layer (403) (backfill of garderobe shaft).

### *Iron*

- 5.7.3 The ironwork consists almost entirely of nails (55 examples) and other structural items. Some of the nails can be identified as horseshoe nails. Other identifiable objects include a rectangular buckle, a length of chain, a horseshoe fragment, two large pegs, a sickle, and a modern padlock. Apart from the padlock, none of these objects are chronologically distinctive, and could be either of medieval or post-medieval date.
- 5.7.4 Three objects, however, are of more interest. The first is an arrowhead (Trench 3 topsoil). This has a triangular head and is of a type which could have been used either for hunting or in warfare; it has a wide medieval date range, from 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century (Jessop 1997, 2, fig. 6). The other two objects are later in date, and almost certainly relate to the Civil War activity at the Castle; these are a forked musket rest and part of a spherical grenade with a small circular perforation (A. Robertshaw, pers. comm.). Both objects came from topsoil, in Trenches 6 and 7 respectively. The musket rest can be compared to an example from Camber Castle, East Sussex (Scott 2001, fig. 5.3, 115), although more sharply forked and without the screw thread.

### *Lead*

- 5.7.5 Amongst the lead objects are seven shot (three musket, two pistol and two modern pellets) and one window frame fragment. The musket balls are of a size commensurate with use during the Civil War period. The remainder of the lead comprises waste fragments and offcuts. Again, most objects came from topsoil.

## **5.8 Animal Bone**

- 5.8.1 A total of 152 bones was mainly hand-recovered from the Site, augmented by bones extracted from sieved soil samples. All bones derive from mammals and birds; no bones from fish or amphibians were present. Conjoining fragments that were demonstrably from the same bone were counted as one bone in order to minimise distortion (and so numbers do not correspond with the raw fragment counts given in **Table 1**). No fragments were recorded as 'medium mammal' or 'large mammal'; these were instead consigned to the unidentified category.

### *Condition and preservation*

- 5.8.2 Almost all animal bone fragments are in fair or good condition. Six bones show signs of butchery, indicating that the remains contain food waste



(**Table 3**). The gnawed bones show that dogs had access to the bones prior to deposition. No loose but matching epiphyses or articulating bones were found. This might indicate that most bones come from re-worked contexts or secondary deposits.

#### *Animal husbandry*

- 5.8.3 The identified bones in this small assemblage derive from horse (n=7), cattle (56), sheep/goat (28), pig (14) and bird (2). The bird bones probably represent a young corvid and a chicken.
- 5.8.4 Although most cattle bones derive from adult cattle, some clearly derived from calves. All sheep/goat bones represent adult animals. The ageable pig jaws derive from a 6-10 month old animal and from three animals aged around two years old (Habermehl 1975). The latter represent animals that were butchered at an optimal age for meat yield. A pig maxilla and a loose canine are both from boars. The loose canine has a rounded tip and is very glossy, suggesting frequent human handling.
- 5.8.5 A complete cattle humerus from layer (103) measures 345 mm in length, giving a height at the withers of 1.43 m (Matolcsi 1970), a measurement consistent with a medieval/post-medieval date. Trench 9 topsoil contained a cattle metatarsus with signs of beginning spavin. This suggests that animals were used for draught activities, but ultimately ended on the table.

#### *Consumption and deposition*

- 5.8.6 The small assemblage contains a wide range of skeletal elements and this suggests that the animals were butchered nearby. Trench 9 topsoil contained a set of three butchered cattle scapulae. This might represent a dump of butchery waste.

### **5.9 Other Finds**

- 5.9.1 Other finds comprise a small quantity of undiagnostic fired clay, of uncertain date and function; and a small quantity of oyster shell.

### **5.10 Potential and further recommendations**

- 5.10.1 This is a relatively small finds assemblage, of which a high proportion (just under half the assemblage) derived from topsoil contexts. What evidence there is suggests activity from the late 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> century (the earliest documentary reference to the castle falls in the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century), continuing into the later medieval period, although the quantity of identifiable medieval artefacts is small, and most appear to be residual in later contexts. The Civil War period is represented by an iron musket rest, an iron grenade fragment, and several lead musket balls. Two of the dated clay pipes, and perhaps some of the bottle glass, could also belong to this episode in the castle's history. The very limited range of post-medieval pottery types suggests that there was little activity here beyond the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5.10.2 The range of material culture overall is fairly limited, only pottery, animal bone and roof tiles (both ceramic and stone) occurring in any quantity. Pottery appears to have been supplied largely from local sources, at least from the late 12<sup>th</sup> century, but this consists largely of coarsewares, while finewares were supplied mainly by regional sources, of which Bristol was the most important. Building material, both stone and ceramic, may also have

- 5.10.3 The finds have been recorded to minimum archive standard and, given the quantities involved, and the stratigraphic integrity of the excavated contexts, no further work is proposed. Some finds categories, such as the stone building material, could be targeted for selective discard prior to archive deposition.

## **6 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

### **6.1 Introduction and methods**

- 6.1.1 Three bulk samples were taken respectively from three trenches (ditch (306) in Trench 3; the fill of the garderobe shaft in Trench 4, and layer (604) in Trench 6) and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains, wood charcoal and molluscs.
- 6.1.2 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 4**) to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant, wood charcoal and mollusc remains. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) and Kerney (1999).

### **6.2 Results**

- 6.2.1 The flots varied in size, with abundant rooty material, which may be indicative of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation. No charred cereal remains were observed. The very few weed seeds noted were all of goosefoots (*Chenopodium* spp.) and are likely to be modern. The sparse charred assemblages provide no confirmation of the suggested dates of the samples.
- 6.2.2 Wood charcoal fragments were retrieved in quantity from ditch (306) and layer (604). The charcoal fragments were mainly mature wood pieces. A few pieces of coal were also observed in layer (604).
- 6.2.3 A few molluscs were recorded in ditch (306). These included the open country species *Vallonia* sp. and the intermediate species *Cochlicopa* sp. as well as a species of the freshwater group of Planorbids. Layer (604) contained more molluscs, including the open country species *Vallonia* spp., *Vertigo pygmaea* and *Pupilla muscorum*, the intermediate species *Trichia hispida* and the shade-loving species *Discus rotundatus*, *Aegopinella* spp.

and *Vitrea* spp. The assemblages are too small to provide any detailed information on the local environment.

### **6.3 Potential and further recommendations**

- 6.3.1 There is no potential for gaining any information about the site by further analysis of these samples, due to the paucity of remains recovered from the site. No further work is therefore proposed.

## **7 DISCUSSION**

### **7.1 Introduction**

- 7.1.1 The evaluation within Llangibby Castle was only partially successful in its stated aims of determining the date, nature, extent, quality and preservation of the underlying archaeological remains. Refinement of the chronological sequence was hampered by the paucity of finds and by the extent of the later disturbance and robbing, but also by the general lack of archaeological remains within the Inner Ward. Later activity could be more securely dated, but for the early periods and especially the founding of the castle, the evaluation provided virtually no evidence.

- 7.1.2 The earliest structures within the castle were identified by their relative position in the stratigraphical sequence observed within the trenches, supported by limited information from diagnostic finds. Some structural information was gained which supplements Priestley and Turner's review of the castle's structural history (2005).

### **7.2 Prehistoric to Roman**

- 7.2.1 A few sherds of pre-medieval pottery were recovered, but these were largely residual in later contexts. The finds do, however, indicate the possibility of activity on the Site at this time. The single sherd of prehistoric pottery from ditch (306) could suggest a date for the construction of that feature (whose function in relation to the upstanding castle remains was uncertain), but this seems very unlikely given that it was clearly backfilled during the medieval period.

### **7.3 Medieval**

#### *Phase 1*

- 7.3.1 The earliest historical reference to the castle was in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century, following the death of Richard de Clare around 1262-3; given the proposed chronology of construction given by Priestley and Turner (2005, 37; and see above, 1.3.8), this must refer to the 12<sup>th</sup> century motte and bailey (the 'Bowling Green'), although there is a faint possibility that Llangibby Castle may have had a 13<sup>th</sup> century origin. The earliest dated pottery recovered from the Site, from ditch (306), dates to the late 12<sup>th</sup> to early 13<sup>th</sup> century. The function of the ditch is unknown, but this is the first archaeological evidence to suggest activity on the Site at this time.
- 7.3.2 There was no direct association between the structures recorded in the evaluation trenches and datable finds. The earliest upstanding structures were identified as those bonded with pale greenish mortar - the curtain wall

(1005), walls (105/203/310) and (312) of the south tower of the West Gate, and walls (104/204) forming part of the north tower of the West Gate. These may tentatively be attributed to Earl Gilbert III de Clare's building programme at the castle (c. 1307-14); alternatively, they may belong to a pre-existing structure later extensively remodelled by Earl Gilbert.

#### *Phase 2*

- 7.3.3 The second phase of medieval activity saw the complete rebuild and reorganisation of the Great Gatehouse and West Gate with the establishment of the entrance across the drawbridge (recorded in Trench 1); the drawbridge pit was recorded, as well as traces of a bridging floor, supporting King and Perks' survey, and supplementing that of Priestley and Turner (King and Perks 1956; Priestley and Turner 2005, 27). This new approach into the castle would have had a defensive function but would also have created an imposing entrance for anyone approaching. The second construction phase as identified was characterised by structures built using a light pinky-white mortar, and again have been tentatively attributed to Earl Gilbert's building programme.
- 7.3.4 Probably contemporaneous with this remodelled Great Gatehouse was the Lord's Tower, containing the Lady's Chamber, in the north-west corner of the castle. This structure was bonded into the northern curtain wall and was therefore clearly later; as the remodelled gatehouse, it was constructed with pinky-white mortar. Priestley and Turner had already noted similarities of form and detailing between the Lord's Tower and remodelled Great Gatehouse, suggesting contemporaneity (2005, 31). From the evidence in Trenches 8 and 10, it seems that the Lord's Tower was defensive - the entrance from the Inner Ward was defended by two doors either side of a portcullis. However, the presence of the large window (next to the window seat) would perhaps have compromised this defensibility.
- 7.3.5 The entrance through the South Gate was investigated in Trenches 6 and 9, but the tower itself was not, due to the extent of the collapse/demolition. It is unclear as to what phase this tower belongs, as the discarded mortar from the demolished structures was neither pinky-white nor greenish, but light yellow in colour.
- 7.3.6 The 1315-16 reeve's account also records the castle gate, and the portcullis for that gate. This could refer to the Great Gatehouse, or possibly to the smaller gatehouse at the South Gate (Priestley and Turner 2005, 24). The latter possibility may be supported by the evidence from Trench 9, where the recovery of light yellow mortar rubble implied a different construction phase (perhaps later?) to the two phases identified in other trenches. This may be also be supported by the reeve's account for 1319-20 which reveals that large scale building work was in progress at Llangibby at that time. Work which began during Countess Matilda's control (1314-20) was continued by Elizabeth de Burgh, Earl Gilbert III's sister.
- 7.3.7 The 1319-20 account recalls two pits excavated and sea coal dug and brought to the castle for the burning of lime, and the purchase of a pick *'to break up stones for work on the tower'*. In 1320-21 an account describes the continuing work on the construction of this tower, and makes it clear that it was to be intended as a residential building several storeys high – Priestley and Turner concluded that this must refer to the Lord's Tower, as the only



other possibility, the Great Gatehouse, was probably complete by 1315 (Priestley and Turner 2005, 24).

- 7.3.8 To summarise, the archaeological evidence supports the identification of at least two phases of building at the castle, the most extensive of which involved the remodelling of the Great Gatehouse and construction of the Lord's Tower. The lack of dating evidence has hampered definitive correlation with the documentary references, but there is nothing to contradict Priestley and Turner's supposition that Earl Gilbert III de Clare was primarily responsible for the stone-built castle (while retaining the faint possibility of an earlier structure on the same site), and that his work was continued by his successors, probably into the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century.

## **7.4 Civil War and Later**

- 7.4.1 During the Civil War period, landscaping took place on the western side of the castle, and a new entrance was established through the West Gate.
- 7.4.2 The ground surface on the western side of the castle was reduced by approximately 2m in height, truncating the drawbridge pit, and removing wall (106) to form the existing entrance. This activity was dated by the recovery of a single clay pipe bowl of c. 1640-1660. At the same time a large quarry was established to the west of the castle and possible earthen bastions constructed at the north-western and north-eastern corners (see **Figure 1**; S. Ainsworth pers. comm.). This drastic alteration of the access and defensive nature of the castle was probably a response to the inadequacies of the existing medieval structure.
- 7.4.3 At the southern entrance (Trench 9) it was clear that the approach had been used in the 17<sup>th</sup> century from the recovery of German stoneware, sealed beneath a later metallised surface – this could relate either to the Civil War period or perhaps later, when the castle remains were incorporated into the gardens of the 18<sup>th</sup> century mansion known as New Llangibby Castle.

## **8 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1.1 The results of the evaluation have proved largely supportive of the structural history of the castle as presented by Priestley and Turner (2005), with some minor additional details, but definitive dating, and therefore any attempted correlation with the documentary sources, is extremely limited. Furthermore, very little detail of the interior of the castle (the Inner Ward) was recovered.
- 8.1.2 For these reasons a lengthy and detailed publication report is not considered to be justified, and no further analysis of either the stratigraphy, or the finds and palaeoenvironmental material, is recommended. Instead a short article is proposed, summarising the results of the evaluation and reviewing them against the known historical framework and proposed structural history of the castle; finds evidence will be incorporated where relevant in the text. This will be accompanied by 3-4 illustrations (combining plans/sections with photographs). This publication article will be submitted to *Archaeologia Cambrensis*. A summary of work will also be submitted to *Archaeology in Wales*.

## **9        ARCHIVE**

- 9.1.1    The excavated material and archive, including plans, photographs, written records and digital data, are currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code 71500. It is intended that the archive should ultimately be deposited with the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.

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**Table 1: Finds totals by material type and by trench (number / weight in grammes)**

	Great Gatehouse & West Gate			G'robe shaft	Inner Ward			The Lord's Tower		South Gate	
	Tr 1	Tr 2	Tr 3		Tr 4	Tr 5	Tr 6	Tr 7	Tr 8	Tr 9	Total
Pottery	2/24	3/13	11/99	5/34	-	-	49/1301	32/181	-	65/2595	176/4538
Prehistoric	-	-	1/3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/3
Romano-British	-	1/6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/6
Medieval	-	2/7	10/96	3/20	-	-	1/2	31/151	-	-	49/295
Post-Medieval	2/24	-	-	2/14	-	-	48/1299	1/30	-	65/2595	125/4234
Ceramic Building Mat,	2/37	5/135	18/726	2/124	-	-	11/219	14/662	-	6/765	59/2691
Mortar	-	-	-	-	-	-	2/237	-	-	-	2/237
Fired Clay	1/12	-	3/33	2/15	1/39	-	-	-	-	-	7/99
Clay Pipe	3/13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15/37	18/50
Stone	14/15703	-	5/148117	21/5762	-	-	2/217	-	3/6600	7/4814	60/183075
Glass	-	-	-	-	-	-	3/43	-	-	6/39	9/82
Slag	1/22	-	19/377	-	-	-	1/795	-	-	-	21/1194
Metalwork	15	-	30	5	-	-	35	7	-	13	121
Copper Alloy	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	1	-	3	10
Iron	13	-	20	1	-	-	27	5	-	6	74
Lead	2	-	9	3	-	-	6	1	-	4	37
Animal Bone	21/997	1/14	21/399	22/86	-	-	67/692	1/37	-	52/988	189/3812
Shell	1/18	-	-	-	-	-	6/46	-	-	32/412	39/476



**Table 2: Chronological breakdown of pottery assemblage by ware type**

PERIOD	Ware	No. sherds	Weight (g)
?PREHISTORIC	Calcareous	1	3
ROMAN	Greyware	1	6
MEDIEVAL	Sandy coarsewares (Gwent)	6	69
	Glazed sandy ware	37	191
	Late medieval fine sandy wares	6	35
	<i>sub-total medieval</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>295</i>
POST-MEDIEVAL	Redware	119	4119
	German stoneware	5	109
	Refined whiteware	1	6
	<i>sub-total post-medieval</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>4234</i>
	<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>4538</b>

**Table 3: Animal bone condition**

Context	Unid.	Loose teeth	Gnawed	Measure-able	Ageable	Butchered	Total no. frags
all	45	3	11	21	25	6	152

**Table 4: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal**

Samples				Flot							
Feature	Context	Sample	Litres	Flot (ml)	% roots	Grain	Chaff	Charred other	Seeds	Charcoal >4/2mm	Other
Trench 3 – medieval ditch											
306	309	2	40	90	70	-	-	C	<i>Chenopodium</i> (prob. modern)	12/8 ml	Moll-t (C), Moll-f (C)
Trench 4 – garderobe shaft											
-	404	3	6	30	70	-	-	C	<i>Chenopodium</i> (prob. modern)	-	Fungal sclerotia
Trench 6 – 17 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup> century layer											
-	604	1	30	400	70	-	-	C	<i>Chenopodium</i> (prob. modern)	80/20 ml	Moll-t (A) Coal

Key: A\*\*\* = exceptional, A\*\* = 100+, A\* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5  
Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Moll-f = freshwater molluscs;

## APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

bgl = below ground level

CBM = ceramic building material (brick and tile)

TRENCH 1			Type:	Machine and Hand Excavated	
Dimensions: 10.4 x 4.4m		Max. depth: 1m	Ground level:		
Context	Description			depth	
101	Topsoil	Dark grey, loose silty loam; heavily bioturbated and leaf litter rich. Organic topsoil deposit within the entrance through the West Gate of the castle.			0-0.19m
102	Surface	Light to mid grey silty clay with abundant c.99% rubble inclusions, formerly a metalled surface through the gateway of the castle. 10m long by 2.40m wide and 0.14m thick; sealed beneath (101) and overlies (103). Roadway probably 17 <sup>th</sup> century or later in date, put in following removal of main western wall (106) of gatehouse by cut (119). Trackway inserted following large scale landscaping and quarrying event to west of main gate, which reduced the original ground level; original entrance level now c.2m higher than present ground surface. Quarrying and trackway possibly part of Civil War defences, with the creation of bastions at the western side of the castle; or may be part of late 17 <sup>th</sup> early 18 <sup>th</sup> garden features and carriageways put in place when 'New Llangibby Castle' occupied.			0.14m thick
103	Layer	Light reddish silty clay with rare subangular stone fragments, and ashlar worked stone fragments. Post-demolition accumulation deposit. Deliberate dump of stone work and pinkish mortar which fills large draw-bridge pit at western entrance to castle; partially overlies earlier demolition material (109) and (116). (103) associated with (119); derived from demolition of walls (106) and (113);laid down prior to the formation of new trackway (102).			0.40m thick
104	Wall	Main northern wall of the castle entrance. Walls possibly originally below ground surface of castle, forming part of cellar beneath entrance. Built of rough limestone blocks with greenish-white sandy mortar, in irregular horizontal courses. Possibly earliest phase of castle building observed in Trench 1, contemporary with wall (105). (104) sits on foundation material (111), and was been cut through by large construction cut (108) for rebuilding of northern gatehouse tower.			3m high +
105	Wall	Southern wall of castle entrance; contemporary with wall (104) and equivalent to wall (310) in Trench 3. Wall (105) not investigated through excavation and only observed as standing remains.			-
106	Wall	Western wall of castle entrance, located between walls (104) and (105). Part of the second phase of gatehouse building, within cut (108) and contemporary with (113) and (112). Top of wall would have initially formed original ground surface of castle. 1.60m long by 1.50m wide and 0.70 high; constructed of rough limestone blocks in a light pinky-white lime mortar, in rough horizontal courses. Would initially have been free-standing with the draw-bridge pit to the west and cellar located behind it to the east. Wall cut through by (119) during the reworking of the Great Gatehouse in the 17 <sup>th</sup> or 18 <sup>th</sup> century.			-
107	Cut	Cut of large pit located on the exterior of the western entrance into the castle and interpreted as the draw-bridge pit. 4m long and 4m wide; over 1m deep. Feature not fully excavated. Draw-bridge pit has situated within it wall (113), interpreted as main load bearing wall supporting bridge across pit, and as wall constructed in the same manner and from same materials as (106), (107) has been interpreted as being part of second phase of construction and associated with (108). Possibly 14 <sup>th</sup> century in date.			1m + deep

108	<i>Cut</i>	Construction cut for rebuilding of northern tower of gatehouse entrance; cuts through the original wall (104) (and physically cuts footing (111) and backfill material (110) as well). Filled with wall (112), the new rebuild of the northern wall, which is bonded to and contemporary with wall (106). The scar of cut (108) is clearly visible cutting (104), with the new build (112) keyed into (104), and overlying foundation (111). 3m long by 1.40m wide.	-
109	<i>Fill</i>	Light to mid grey silty clay with common small limestone inclusions. Fill of (114) which cuts (115) up against wall (112) and (106). Post-dates second phase of building and predates the 17 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup> century demolition and trackway (102). Deliberate backfill of a feature of unknown function.	0.15m deep
110	<i>Layer</i>	Mid to light green-grey silty clay with small stone inclusions. Deliberate deposit of material banked up against footing (111) for wall (104). First phase of construction of gatehouse, physically cut through by (104). Deliberate deposit of waste mortar and stone work.	0.60m thick
111	<i>Footing</i>	Footing for first phase wall (104); 3m long by 0.40m wide and 1m high; constructed of roughly shaped limestone blocks in light green-grey sandy mortar. Layer (110) banked up against it.	1m thick
112	<i>Wall</i>	Second phase wall for complete replacement of northern tower of gatehouse, possibly 14 <sup>th</sup> century in date. Contained within (108); contemporary with and bonded to (106). This rebuild clearly different to (104) and (105), as constructed from well shaped limestone blocks in a pinky-white lime mortar compared to rough blocks in a green-grey mortar.	4m+ high
113	<i>Wall</i>	Base of north-south aligned structure built of rough, unworked limestone blocks in pinky-white lime mortar. 2.3m long by 0.72m wide and 0.92m high. Located within the draw-bridge pit (107). (113) formed support for draw-bridge as it spanned draw-bridge pit.	0.92m high
114	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of feature which cuts backfill material (115) up against wall (112) and (106). Post-dates second phase of building and predates the 17 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup> century demolition and trackway (102). 1.6m long by 0.7m wide and 0.4m deep. Feature of unknown function.	0.40m deep
115	<i>Fill</i>	Mid to light grey silty clay with abundant mid grey limestone blocks, backfill of (108) which seals (118) against (112) and (106).	0.14m thick
116	<i>Fill</i>	Mid reddish-brown silty loam with abundant large limestone blocks, deliberate large-scale backfill of draw-bridge pit (107) and packed around (113). Material derived from demolition of walls (106) and (113) within the entrance-way, following punching of hole (119) through western wall (106). (116) used to fill (107), following (119) and prior to the laying down of track way (102).	0.60m thick
117	<i>Layer</i>	Mid grey silty clay with abundant small to medium limestone blocks with purple stone fragments. Deliberate rubble backfill overlying (118), against (112) and (106) in (108). Waste material from building of (112) and (106).	0.20m thick
118	<i>Layer</i>	Mid grey silty loam with abundant limestone blocks. Deliberate backfill against (112) and (106); sealed beneath (117) in (108).	0.18m thick
119	<i>Cut</i>	Large cut for removal of large portion of (106); can be seen cutting upstanding remains (112) and (105). Associated with large landscaping event which truncated draw-bridge pit (107), during formation of quarry to west of gatehouse and formation of bastions to front of castle during Civil War. (119) reduced the original ground surface of castle exterior.	-

TRENCH 2			Type:	Hand Excavated	
Dimensions: 2.5m x 1.90m		Max. depth: 0.60m	Ground level:		
Context	Description			depth	
201	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown, loose silty loam, very humic leaf litter rich topsoil.			0-0.19m
202	Layer	Very compact mid brown mortar-rich deposit, post-demolition accumulation deposit incorporated into a track-way leading through the castle entrance. 17 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> century in date, similar to if not the same as trackway (102) in Trench 1.			0.19-0.33m
203	Wall	Main southern wall of entrance through castle gate. Equivalent to (105) in Trench 1.			-
204	Wall	Main northern wall of entrance through castle gate. Equivalent to (104) in Trench 1.			-

TRENCH 3			Type:	Machine and hand excavated	
Dimensions: 7 x 4.2m		Max. depth: 0.60m		Ground level:	
Context	Description			depth	
301	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown, very loose silty loam, with common small green stone fragments. Current topsoil and leaf litter rich material within Inner Ward and into gateway entrance.			0-0.41m
302	Surface	Mid grey silty loam with abundant subangular stone inclusions, forming possible metallised surface butting against wall (310). Sealed by (303), late surface potentially 17 <sup>th</sup> or 18 <sup>th</sup> century in date. Unclear if the same surface as (307).			0.29m thick
303	Subsoil	Mixed and mottled, light to mid brown, very loose silty loam with frequent subangular stone fragments. Mix of topsoil-derived material and material dragged up by plough in Inner Ward.			0.14m thick
304	Natural	Mid to light greenish silty clay. Natural basal geology. Cut by (306).			-
305	Fill	Reddish-brown with mottled green patches, silty sand fill of ditch (306), latest recorded fill of ditch; probable mix of deliberate infilling and natural silting. Overlies (308) and is sealed by (303).			-
306	Cut	Cut of east-west ditch, only partially revealed in Trench 3; 2m+ long by 1.2m+ wide and 0.60m+ deep; feature not fully excavated. Function unclear. Contained three fills (305), (308) and (309), a mix of deliberate and natural erosion material.			0.60m deep+
307	Surface	Mid brown, compact, fine sandy silt with abundant stone fragments, forming possible trackway surface within entrance to castle. Equivalent to (102) in Trench 1. 17 <sup>th</sup> century in date.			-
308	Fill	Light green-brown sandy silt fill of (306), loose deposit. Overlies (309) and sealed by (305).			-
309	Fill	Medium red sandy silt; earliest recorded fill of ditch (306); feature not bottomed and so unclear if earliest fill in reality. Unclear if deliberate or natural infilling. Sealed by (308).			-
310	Wall	Main southern wall of castle entrance through West Gate. Equivalent to (105) in Trench 1; bonded to wall (312) which faces into the Inner Ward. Wall steps out slightly and sealed by mortar surface (311). This is level of original floor surface, truncated in 17 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> century.			-
311	Surface	Mortar surface, overlying stepped foundation in wall (310). Mortar possibly associated with a wooden floor now gone which spanned the gateway entrance, and which would have sealed a cellar beneath, as indicated from wall (1060 in Trench 1.			-
312	Wall	Main eastern wall of southern gatehouse tower. Wall bonded to and contemporary with (310). Not investigated further.			-

TRENCH 4			Type:	Hand Excavated	
Dimensions: 9 x 1.75m		Max. depth: 0.90m	Ground level:		
context	Description			depth	
401	Topsoil	Dark brown humic silty loam, leaf litter rich topsoil, highly bioturbated.			0-0.20m
402	Layer	Mid brown-orange, mortar-rich, silty loam rubble deposit beneath (401), upper fill of deliberate backfill material within the garderobe shaft.			
403	Layer	Light brown yellow compact mortar rich silty loam with mix of mortar lumps, CBM fragments and fragments of dressed stonework, deliberate backfill deposit of garderobe shaft, sealed by (402) and overlying (404).			
404	Layer	Dark brown humic silty loam, deliberate fill of garderobe shaft, possibly incorporating final human waste material deposited towards end of garderobe use. Overlies (406), base of garderobe shaft.			0.60m
405	Wall	Ashlar limestone blocks in horizontal coursing, the main eastern wall of the garderobe shaft, extending to south with stepped foundation; keyed and bonded into (407) the main northern wall of the shaft. Wall is butted by floor surface (406).			-
406	Floor	Limestone rubble and mid to dark yellow sandy mortar layer, disturbed floor surface at base of garderobe shaft, extending from the interior of the shaft to the exterior. Possibly formed small platform on which carts could remove the night soil.			-
407	Wall	Main north wall of the garderobe shaft, sloping gently from north. Small ledge or shelf at the point of stepped out foundation. Wall butted by (406).			0.30m

TRENCH 5			Type:	Machine excavated	
Dimensions: 10.8m x 1.80m		Max. depth: 0.43m	Ground level:		
context	Description			depth	
501	Topsoil	Dark grey, loose silty loam; heavily bioturbated and leaf litter rich organic topsoil deposit, modern disturbance within the Inner Ward.			0-0.30m
502	Subsoil	Compact mid brown silty clay with decayed and disturbed natural mixed with topsoil material			0.30-0.43
503	Natural	Natural basal geology, mixed and disturbed cornbrash-type bedrock, with patches of clay and silty clay, cut by a number of modern tree root holes. NB Inner Ward used in 17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> century as garden when 'New Llangibby Castle' was occupied; also used in the Civil War. During 20 <sup>th</sup> century used for growing potatoes and later corn. The natural has therefore been heavily disturbed. No archaeological features were observed.			0.43m+

TRENCH 6			Type:	Machine excavated	
Dimensions: 16.4 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.90m	Ground level:		
context	Description			depth	
601	Topsoil	Mid to very dark grey-brown humic silty loam, current topsoil and leaf litter rich material within Inner Ward. Topsoil very disturbed as a result of Inner Ward's use for agriculture in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century.			0-0.28m
602	Subsoil	Mid to dark silty loam, heavily disturbed and bioturbated, overlies (603), (610) and (612).			0.34m thick
603	Layer	Mid yellow sandy loam deposits. Remnant of robbed road surface make up material; similar to that observed in Trench 9, or possibly part of the roadside kerb which lined the approach to the southern gatehouse. Overlies (605) and is sealed by (602).			0.14m thick
604	Layer	Very dark brown-black silty loam layer with common charcoal inclusions. Possibly equivalent to (904) in Trench 9, which is also sealed by mortar collapse and is probably 17 <sup>th</sup> or 18 <sup>th</sup> century in date.			0.11m thick



		part of Civil War alterations to the castle or from its use as a garden feature later on. Accumulation deposit following the probable robbing of the road surface and kerb of entrance to southern gateway. Overlies (608) and is sealed by (603).	
605	<i>Layer</i>	Mid yellow, sandy silt loose mortar layer; butts (608) and probably derived from (608).	-
<b>606</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Cut of terrace for level roadway leading into Inner Ward from southern gate way; possibly revetted with ?kerb structure (608). No road surface revealed, just evidence of stripped natural. Roadway revealed in Trench 9 (see below); it appears to have been robbed in Trench 6.</b>	-
<b>607</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Cut of foundation trench for revetment of wall, now robbed. 1.80m long by 0.84m wide and 0.37m deep, and visible cutting natural (613). No corresponding wall footing trench observed; therefore interpreted as revetment, perhaps for garden features within Inner Ward. Unknown date. Infilled with discarded mortar (610).</b>	<b>0.37m deep</b>
608	<i>Layer</i>	Remnant of mid yellow-brown sandy loam, mortar-rich layer against edge of roadway cut (606). Mortar either represents remains of a kerb to road or remains of bedding layer for metalled surface similar to the mortar associated with (905) in Trench 5.	-
609	<i>Topsoil</i>	Equivalent to (601).	-
610	<i>Fill</i>	Mixed and mottled, mid orange-brown and pinky-red silty clay with sandy pockets. Remains of robbed mortar and bedding material from the wall which sat in (607). Now fills cut, following robbing of wall.	-
<b>611</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Cut of small tree throw,</b>	-
612	<i>Fill</i>	Mid grey-brown silty clay; fill of small tree throw.	-
613	<i>Natural</i>	Natural basal geology; mix of solid bedrock and silty clay material.	-

TRENCH 7			Type:	Machine excavated.	
Dimensions: 8.8 x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.90m	Ground level:		
context	Description			depth	
701	Topsoil	Mid to very dark grey-brown humic silty loam, current topsoil and leaf litter rich material within Inner Ward. Topsoil very disturbed as a result of Inner Ward's use for agriculture in 20 <sup>th</sup> century.			0-0.20m
702	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay loam with occasional small sub angular stones and root disturbance.			0.20-0.50m
703	Cut	Cut of roughly north-south ditch which cut band of natural clay (706) within the natural cornbrash-type bedrock (705). Corresponded with a geophysical anomaly. Feature was over-excavated but revealed as 1.80m long by 1.20m wide and 0.38m deep, with steep concave sides and a concave base. Contained single fill (704), which contained 13 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> century pottery and CBM.			0.38m deep
704	Fill	Light yellow-brown silty clay fill of (703). Appears to be mix of natural erosion from feature edges and surrounding natural clay. (706).			0.38m thick
705	Natural	Natural bedrock, cornbrash-type limestone material.			-
706	Natural	Band of natural clay within the limestone natural (705); possible ice wedge.			-

TRENCH 8			Type:	Hand Excavated	
Dimensions: 2.0 x 0.5m		Max. depth: 0.35m	Ground level:		
context	Description			depth	
801	Topsoil	Mid to very dark grey-brown humic silty loam, current topsoil and leaf litter rich material within the interior of hexagonal room at north-east corner of Lord's Tower.			0-0.28m
802	Surface	Flagged floor consisting of large limestone flags set into pinky mortar (803). Interior floor to room, located at the same height m aOD as			0.06m thick

		floor (1006) in the main entrance from Inner Ward into Lord's Tower.	
803	<i>Layer</i>	Mid pinky-red to yellow silty clay lime mortar; bedding layer for flagged floor (802). Material very similar if not identical to the mortar within walls (112), (113) and (106) in Trench 1.	-
804	<i>Wall</i>	The south-east wall of hexagonal room at north-east corner of Lord's Tower. Series of steps leading to a window seat set into it, overlooking Inner Ward; interpreted as a lady's chamber. Wall is butted by (803), bedding layer for (802).	-

TRENCH 9			Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 7.0 x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.65m	Ground level:	
context	Description		depth	
901	<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid to very dark grey-brown, humic silty loam, current topsoil and leaf litter rich material within Inner Ward. Topsoil very disturbed as a result of Inner Ward's use for agriculture in in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century.	0.44m thick	
902	<i>Layer</i>	Mid to light yellow sandy loam, post-demolition accumulation deposit derived from the robbing of useable stonework for recycling, and the subsequent discarding of mortar. Material derived from southern gatehouse towers. Sealed by (901) and overlies (903).	0.18m thick	
903	<i>Surface</i>	Compact layer of subangular and sub-rounded stone used as metalled surface into the castle. Post-medieval in date and relating to the Civil War period or later. Sealed by (902) and overlies (904).	-	
904	<i>Layer</i>	Dark brown silty loam layer beneath (903); interpreted as an accumulation deposit, overlying medieval roadway surface (905). Dates to 17 <sup>th</sup> century.	0.04m thick	
905	<i>Surface</i>	Metalled surface beneath accumulation deposit (904). Probably medieval trackway leading from southern gate into Inner Ward; associated with (606) in Trench 6.	-	
906	<i>Surface</i>	Later trackway leading into Inner Ward; material is identical to (902), but more compact; has a number of flattened stones laid into it to act as paving. Probably post-medieval trackway constructed following demolition of gatehouse towers.	-	

TRENCH 10			Type:	Machine and Hand Excavated
Dimensions: 6.6 x 4.4m		Max. depth: 0.40m	Ground level:	
context	Description		depth	
1001	<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid to very dark grey-brown humic silty loam, current topsoil and leaf litter rich material within Inner Ward.	0.30m thick	
1002	<i>Layer</i>	Layer of unworked limestone rubble set into mortar layer (1003) within entrance of Lord's Tower from Inner Ward. Probably acted as make-up layer and initial working platform for building works as opposed to proper floor, and subsequently acted as make-up material for stone flagged floor (1006).	-	
1003	<i>Layer</i>	Pinky-yellow mortar bedding layer for make-up layer (1002). Mortar is identical to that found in the walls (112), (113) and (106) in Trench 1; therefore assumed to be contemporary.	-	
1004	<i>Wall</i>	Northern wall of the entrance into the Lord's Tower from Inner Ward. Wall heavily robbed of upper portions but portcullis slot and two door jambs clearly visible. Wall sits upon floor surface (1006).	3m + high	
1005	<i>Wall</i>	The northern curtain wall of the castle, butted by (1004), an indication that the curtain wall pre-dates the Lord's Tower and that the Lord's Tower belongs to second phase of construction activity within castle.	-	
1006	<i>Floor</i>	Flagged floor surface composed of thick limestone flags, which are similar to (802) in Trench 8. Floor sits directly upon the make-up layer (1002) and sealed beneath wall (1004).	0.10m thick	



Figure 1







Trench 3 plan



Plate 4: Trench 3 from the east



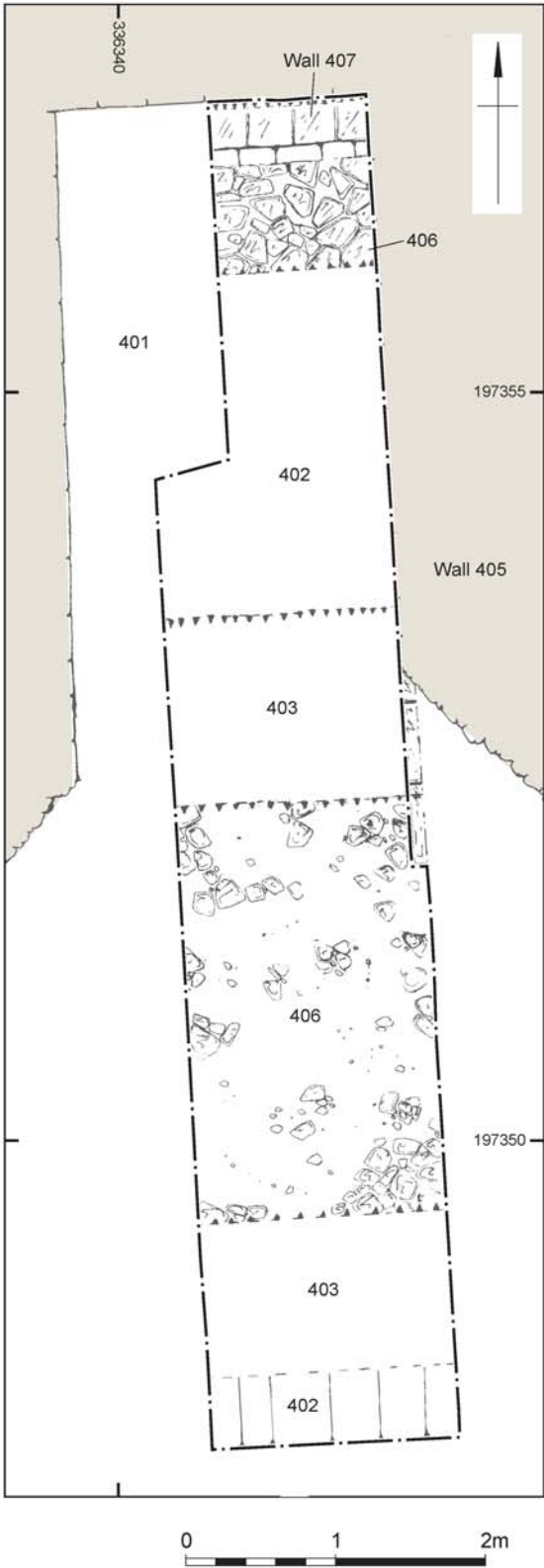
Plate 5: Ditch 306, west facing section

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			Scale: Plan 1:40	Illustrator: KL
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Plate 6: Northern end of Trench 4, view from south-east



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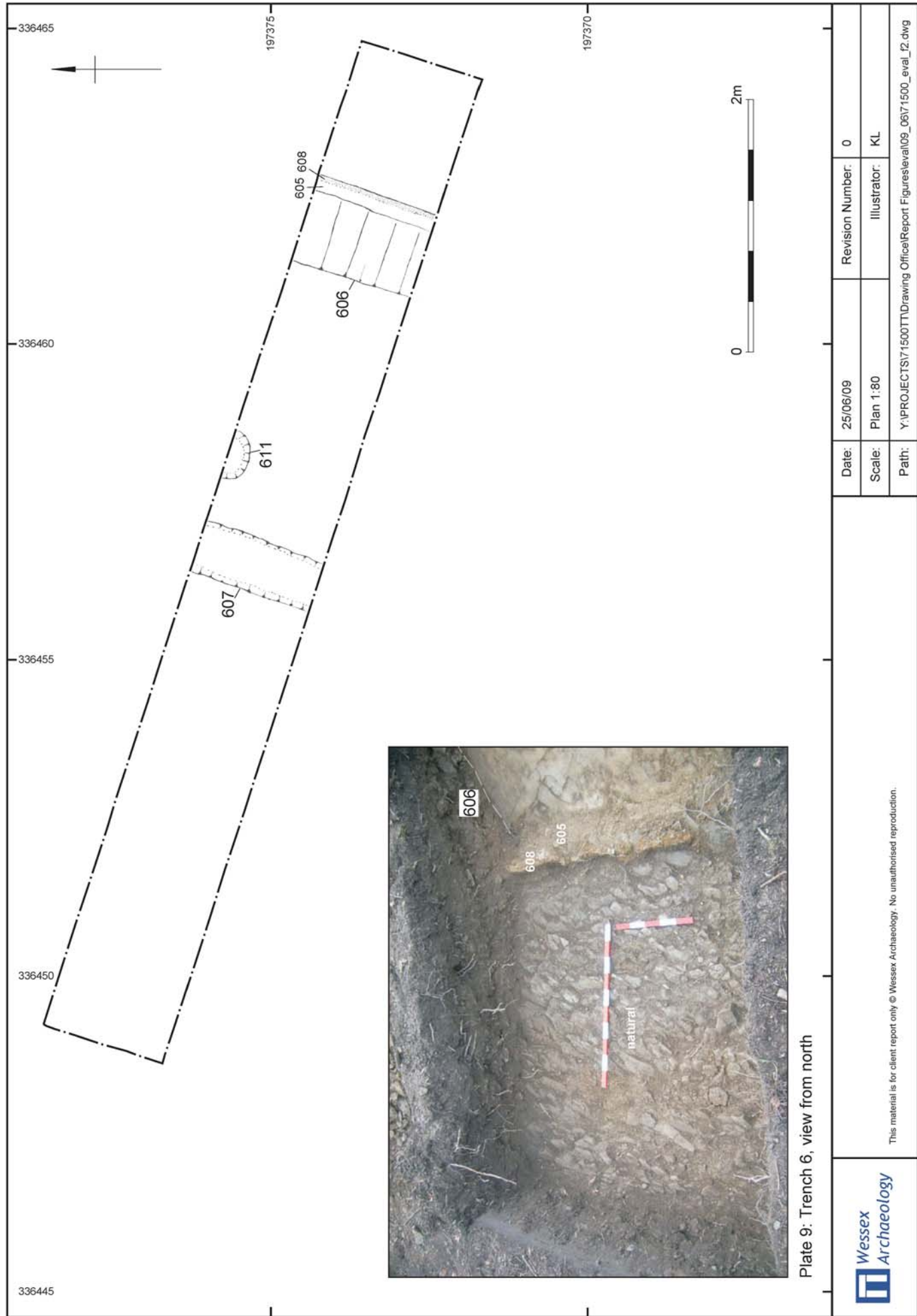
Plate 7: Trench 5, view from east



Plate 8: Trench 5, south facing section

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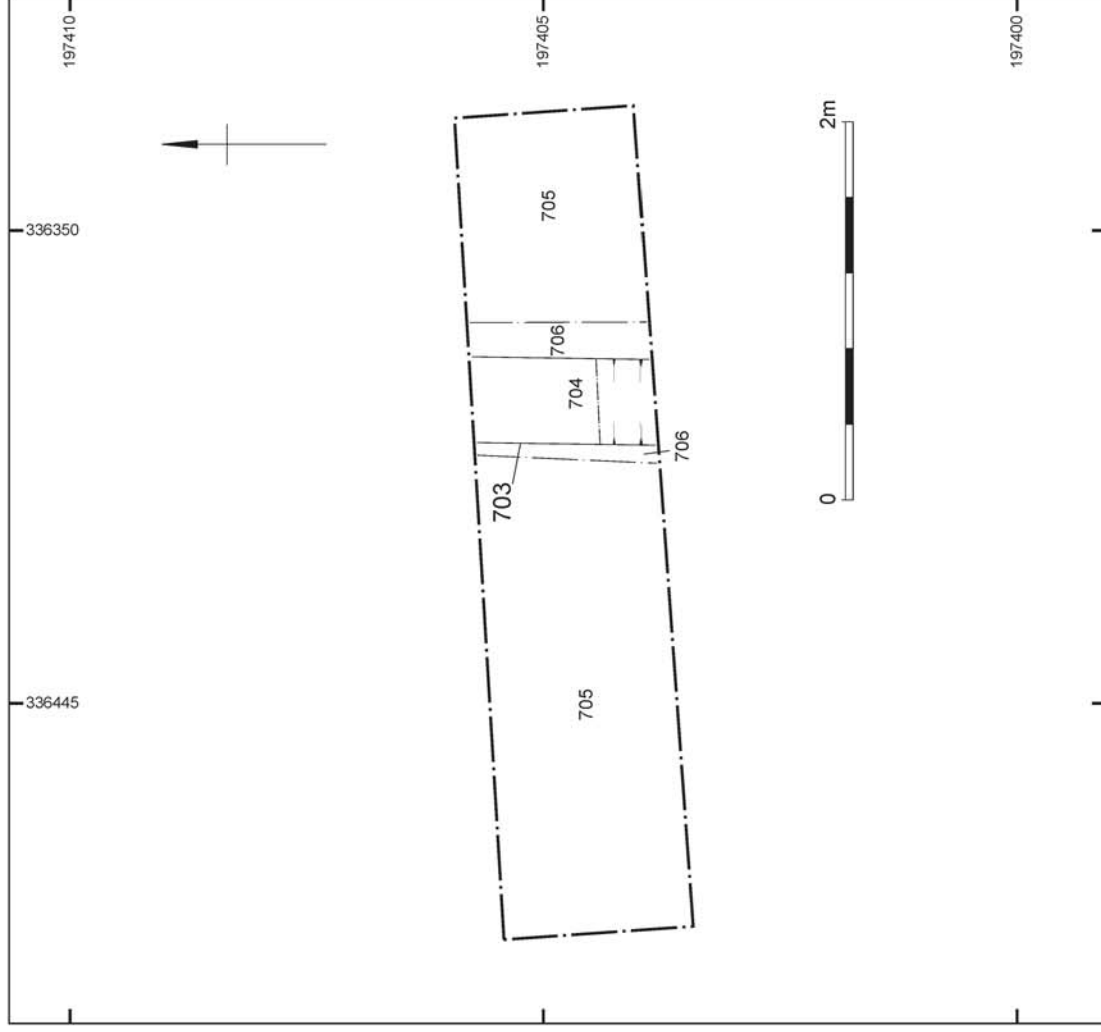




Trench 6: plan and photograph



Plate 10: Trench 7, view from east



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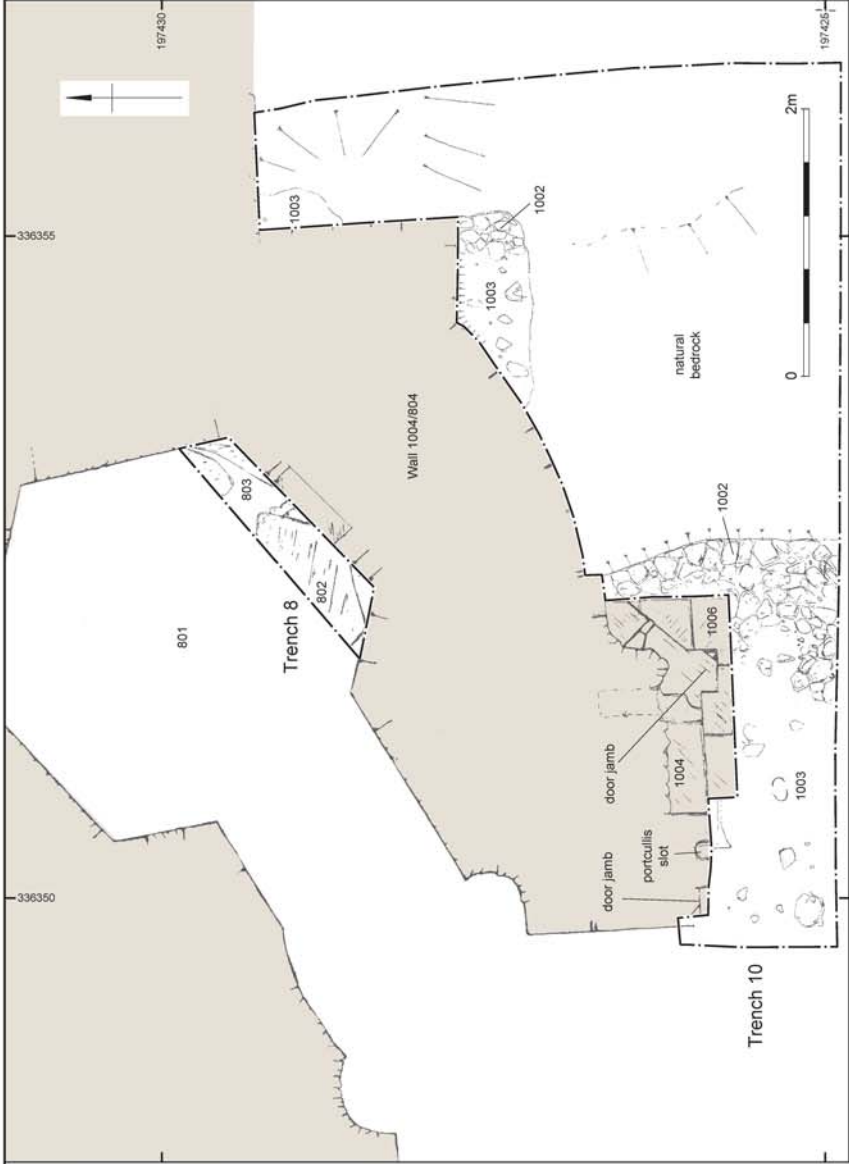


Plate 12: Trenches 8 and 10, view from east



Plate 13: Trench 10, view from south-east



Plate 11: Trench 8, view from south-west



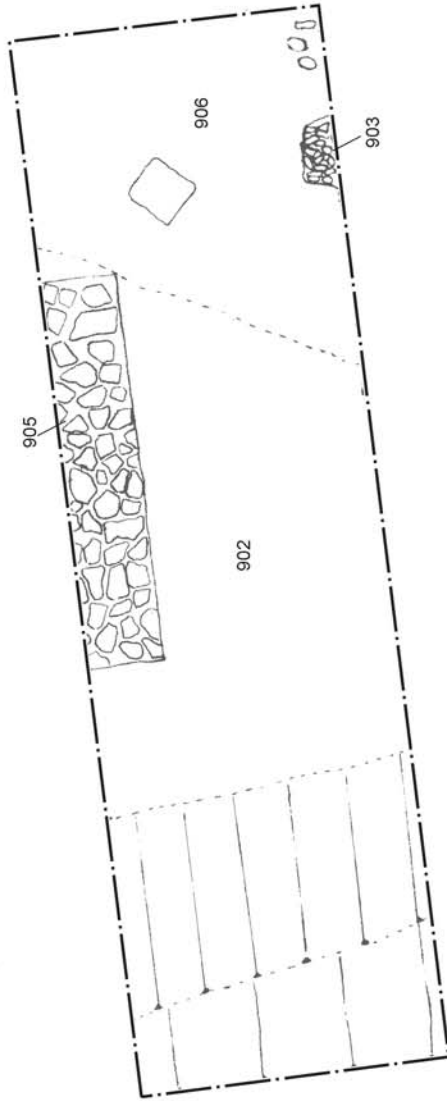
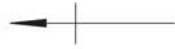
Plate 14: Trench 10, south facing elevation wall

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197355



Plate 15: Trench 6, view from west

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