

archenfield archaeology ltd

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Llancillo Hall, Herefordshire:
archaeological monitoring

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2004

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archenfield archaeology ltd

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Archenfield Archaeology Ltd is a multidisciplinary archaeological consultancy, offering a complete range of archaeological advice and services to the public and private sector. We specialise in giving archaeological advice to developers, housing associations and private individuals. We also undertake archaeological intervention, from monitoring to full-scale excavation; building survey; landscape and geophysical surveys and community-based historical and archaeological projects.

*Llancillo Hall, Herefordshire: archaeological monitoring
2004*

*The author would like to acknowledge the help and support of the staff of the Herefordshire
County Record Office and Hereford City Library.*

Client: Mrs E Bailey, Llancillo Hall owner

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Cover Photograph: Llancillo Hall



Contents

Summary	3
1.0 Introduction	4
2.0 Geological, historical and archaeological background	6
2.1 Geological background	6
2.2 Historical background.....	6
2.3 Archaeological background	7
3.0 Project aims and objectives	9
4.0 Methodology	9
4.1 Field methodology.....	9
4.2 Processing methodology	9
5.0 The results	10
5.1 Brief description of the hall and outbuildings	10
5.2 Archaeological monitoring	13
Access way	13
West boundary wall.....	14
Modern pig pen	14
South stone boundary wall.....	15
Swimming pool courtyard.....	15
6.0 Conclusions	18
7.0 Archive deposition	18
8.0 Publication and dissemination proposals	18
Bibliography	19
Cartographic material	19

Figures

Figure 1: Location plan	4
Figure 2: Site plan.....	5
Figure 3: Tithe map of 1839, showing Llancillo Hall and surrounding land.....	6
Figure 4: 1904 Ordnance Survey map	7

Plates

Plate 1: Llancillo Hall	10
Plate 2: Coping stones on wall of southern stone pig pen	11
Plate 3: Timber-frame doorway into the old pig pens.....	12
Plate 4: Cleared area for new track way to provide access to swimming pool area	13
Plate 5: West boundary wall where it met existing stone boundary wall.....	14
Plate 6: Modern pig pen with curved tin sheeting roof	14
Plate 7: Pipe feature inside the old pig pens	16
Plate 8: Stone opening for feeding shute, as seen from the garden	17

Summary

Archenfield Archaeology were commissioned by Mrs E Bailey (the client) to conduct a programme of archaeological monitoring and building survey at Llancillo Hall, Llancillo, Herefordshire, preceding the construction of an indoor pool enclosure. In August 2004, the hall and its outbuildings were surveyed, and any modern additions and restoration work recorded. All intrusive excavation that took place on site was monitored and recorded, but this only exposed bedrock directly beneath the surface. The only significant features were details of architectural interest within the buildings. The finds were sparse and were of relatively modern date, and none were of any particular archaeological interest.

1.0 Introduction

NGR **SO 3616 2514**

Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record - Event No **32138**

Hereford City Museum Accession No **2002-42**

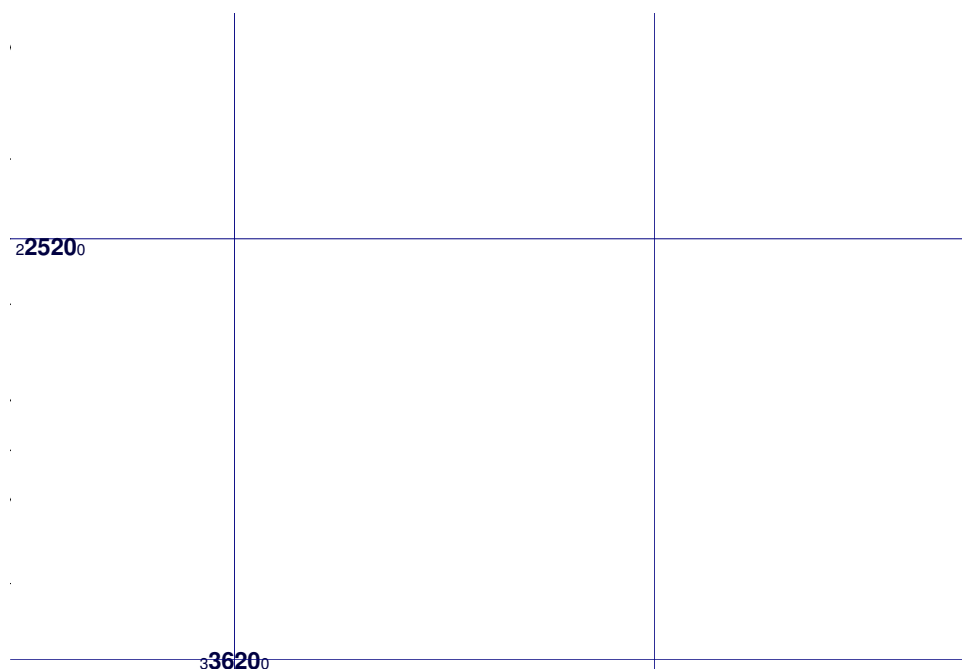
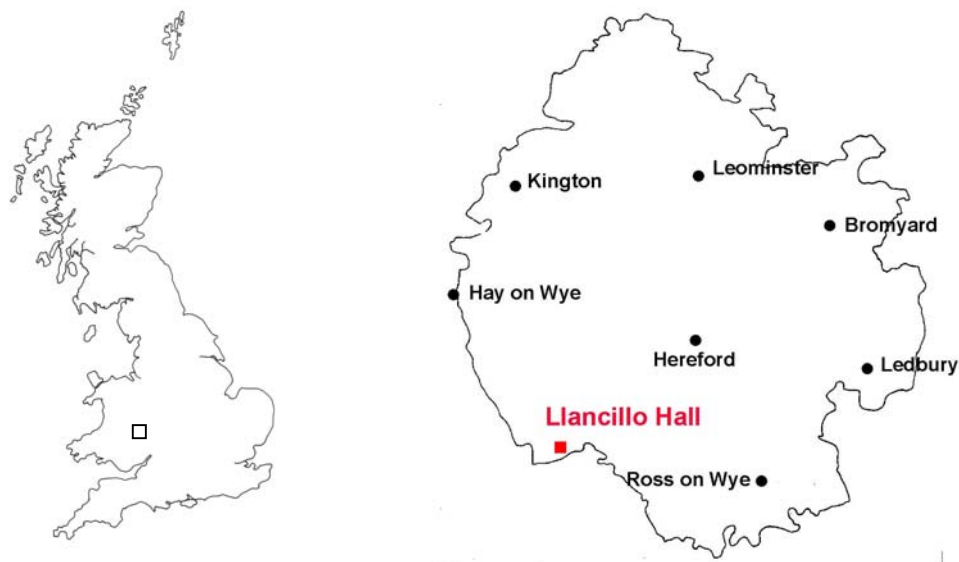


Figure 1: Location plan

Mrs E Bailey (the client) commissioned a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording in accordance with a brief issued by the Herefordshire Council Archaeology Service. This was issued in response to planning application SW2001/0153/L for permission to erect a building to form an indoor pool enclosure.

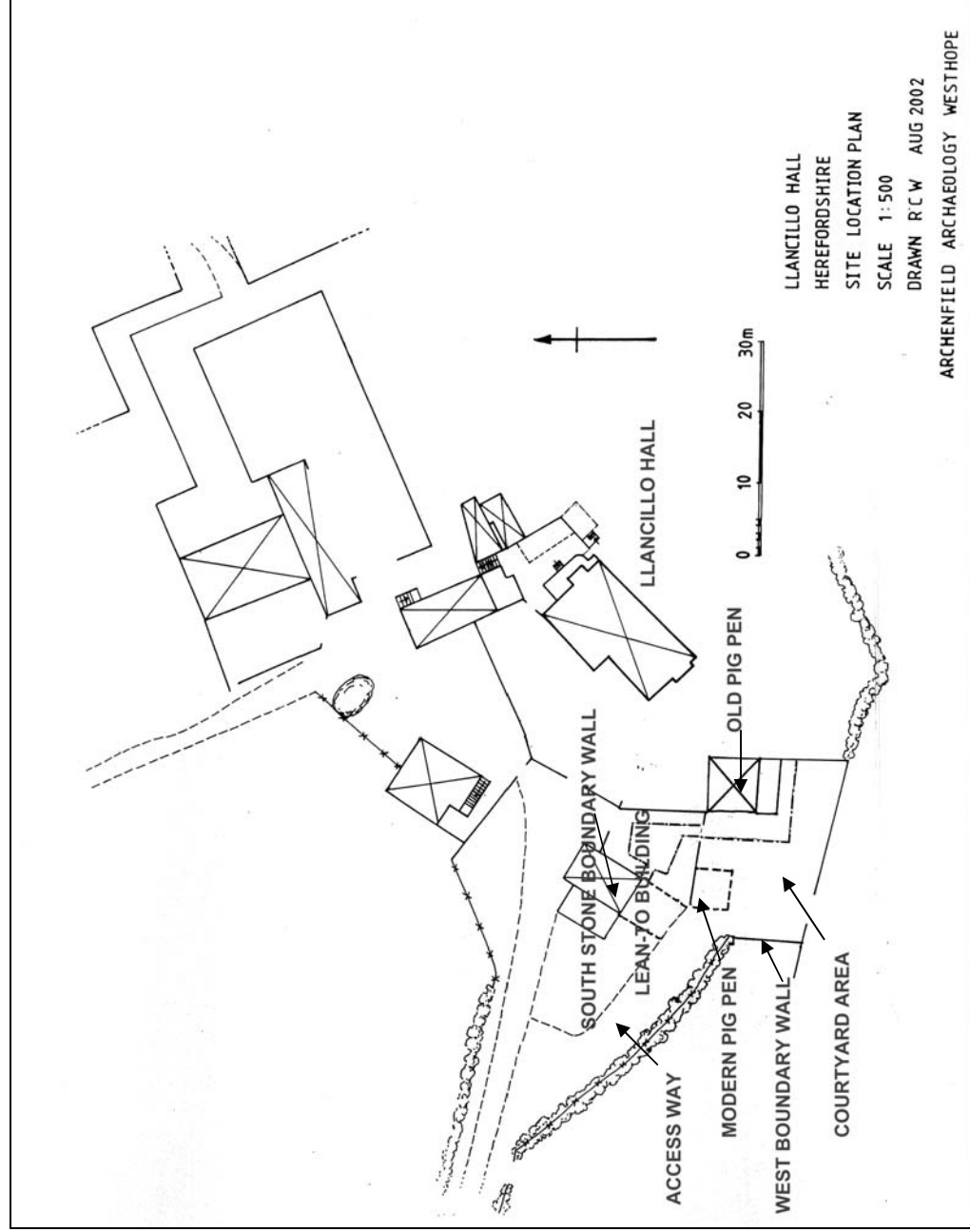


Figure 2: Site plan

2.0 Geological, historical and archaeological background

2.1 Geological background

The solid geology of the area consists of the Lower Old Red Sandstone (OS Geological Survey 1979).

2.2 Historical background

Llancillo is the site of an estate, Lann Sulbio - *podum Lann Suluiu*, which was granted to bishop Ufulfyw by King Meurig (Evans, 1893, p160). Wendy Davies (1979, p103) considers it likely that Meurig is Meurig ap Tewdrig, thus dating it to the early 7th century. The saint here is St Tyssilio who had another church in modern Herefordshire at Sellack, possibly one at Titley, and was the leading saint of Powys (Coplestone-Crow, 1989).

After the Norman Conquest, the Welsh territory to the east of the Black Mountains was occupied by Walter de Lacy who had been authorised to take and hold what he could. This area, which includes the parish of Llancillo, thereafter became known as Ewyas Lacy.

Although Llancillo does not appear in Domesday, Henry de Ferieres, one of the smaller Herefordshire tenants-in-chief, held three churches in Cutestorn Hundred within the jurisdiction of Ewyas Harold castle. Roger (probably Roger de Lacy, son of Walter) held these under him (Thorne and Thorne, 1983). One of these is very likely to be Llancillo, as this church, together with Rowlstone and neighbouring Walterstone, was later given to Llanthony Abbey by the de Lacys.

Roger de Lacy himself held the territory which comprised the parishes of Llancillo and Rowlstone. This was held under him by two Normans named William and Osbern, one of whom, or their successors, would have been responsible for the construction of the castle at Llancillo (Marshall, 1938, p148).

The tithe apportionment records '*Llancillow Hall Farm*' as being owned and occupied by James Gilbert Price. It is interesting to note the spelling '*Llancillow*' on the tithe apportionment, '*Llansillo*' on the tithe map, and the modern day spelling '*Llancillo*'.

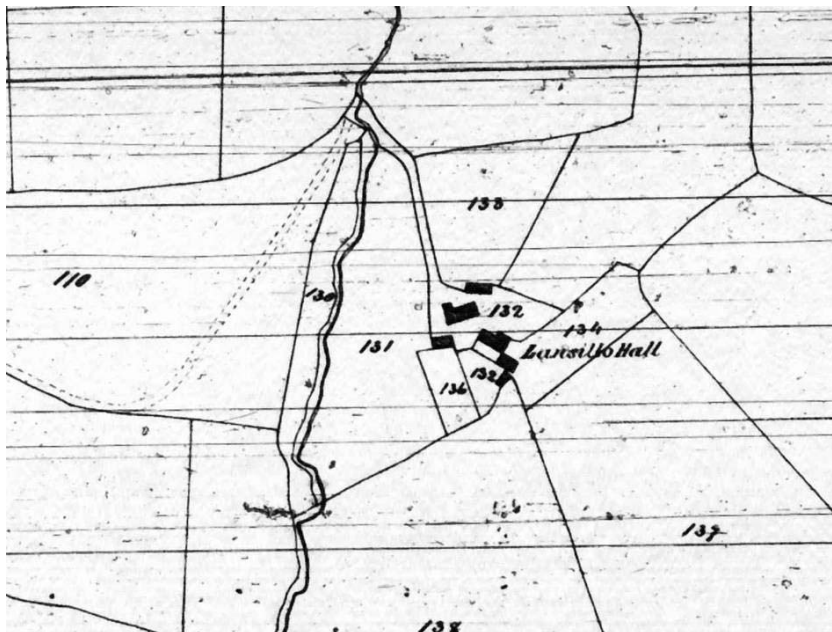


Figure 3:
Tithe map
of 1839,
showing
Llancillo
Hall and
surroundin
g land

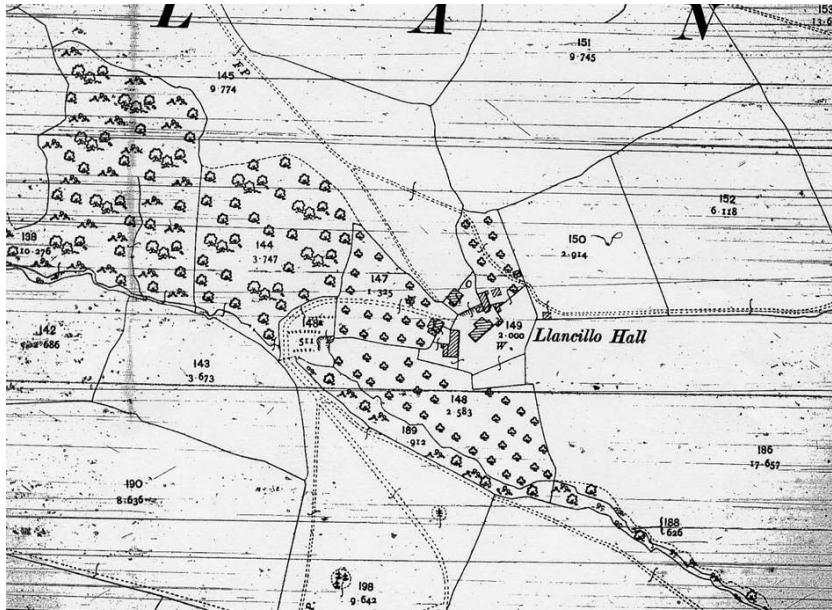


Figure 4: 1904 Ordnance Survey map

The former Welsh parishes in this area were transferred from the diocese of St David's to that of Hereford in 1852 (Marshall, 1938, p142).

2.3 Archaeological background

Llancillo is the site of an important group of monuments. The earliest known habitation site is the Iron Age hill fort of Walterstone Camp.¹ There is also a Roman villa site at Coed-y-grafel where considerable vestiges of tessellated Roman pavement were found.²

Llancillo Hall itself is listed building and recorded on the Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record (6196). 600 metres to the north-east of Llancillo Hall, a group of monuments form a classic manor house and church site. A motte with the remains of a shell keep³ is sited just to the east of the parish church of St Peter's.⁴ The chancel of the church is dated to the 11th or 12th centuries (DOE, 1986). A 14th century cross stands in the churchyard.⁵ To the east of the motte is Llancillo Court (SMR), dating to the 17th century.⁶

A forge existed on the tributary of the Monnow here from about 1645 to beginning of the 19th century. At various periods during its existence it was in possession of the Foleys of Stoke Edith. A large mound of slag & clinker was discovered on the site, together with a weathered stone building that might have been part of the forge, or alternatively a pair of workers cottages. There is little evidence for the forge itself on the ground.⁷

Very little archaeological work has taken place in Llancillo.

In September 1995, H Smith visited Llancillo Hall during renovation work. The flagstone floor in the hall had been lifted to reveal a red compacted clay. Beneath this clay again appeared to be an earlier floor of stone/stone rubble. A '+' shaped

¹ Herefordshire Sites & Monuments Record number 1586

² HSMR number 1454

³ HSMR number 1477

⁴ HSMR number 6781

⁵ HSMR number 1478

⁶ HSMR number 6195

⁷ HSMR number 1487

stone appeared to be associated with this floor and was provisionally interpreted as the support for a timber upright of some sort.⁸

⁸ Record sheet in Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record.

3.0 Project aims and objectives

The aims of the project were: -

- To monitor all groundwork undertaken by the contractor.
- To make a record of the extent and depth of all such groundwork.
- To make a record of any archaeological features or deposits exposed.
- To record the presence of archaeological material within the trenches and in the spoil removed during excavation, and to retrieve any potential dating evidence.
- To make a record of all finds and any environmental material recovered.
- To ensure that if any environmental evidence was preserved, that a sufficient sample be retained to allow for further analysis.
- To ensure that the location and of the area excavated was accurately recorded on a suitably scaled plan.
- To record negative evidence and to consider its implications.
- To make a photographic and written record of any buildings which were to be affected by building or demolition work.

4.0 Methodology

4.1 Field methodology

The following methodology was employed: -

- Suitably qualified archaeologists monitored all activity that involved disturbance of the ground surface.
- An assessment of the archaeological significance of finds, structures and deposits was made and appropriate action taken.
- Structures and stratigraphic sequences observed were recorded on scaled drawings and the position of all work disturbing the ground, and any archaeological features, was located on them.
- The presence of artefacts was recorded (in this case only a few sherds of modern pottery) with a description of their type, quantity and original location. The spoil was scanned for significant finds but in fact none were observed.
- All descriptions of structures, photographic records and drawing numbers were recorded on the relevant data capture documents in accordance with Archenfield Archaeology's standard site recording procedures.
- Photographic and written records were made of buildings prior to demolition.
- Staff carrying out the monitoring of the groundwork followed the guidelines laid down in the Archenfield Archaeology Health and Safety Policy.
- Archenfield Archaeology conforms to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual arrangements in Field Archaeology. All projects are, where applicable, carried out in accordance with IFA Standards and Guidance or Draft Standards and Guidance.

4.2 Processing methodology

All data were entered into a Microsoft ©Access relational database

5.0 The results

5.1 Brief description of the hall and outbuildings



Plate 1: Llancillo Hall

Llancillo hall dates from the late 15th or early 16th century, but it has been considerably altered and modernised. The hall is L-shape in plan, with wings extending to the south-west and north-west. The north-west wing probably dates to the 17th century (RCHME 1931).

A modern single storey extension has been added to the north elevation of the hall, with a lean-to roof covered in stone slates. Timber framing has been used on the north elevation, but this is of modern origin.

All of the windows are modern, and in recent years the hall has been re-roofed in modern Welsh slate. Inside the building, on the ground floor, the rooms in the north-west wing have exposed chamfered beams.

The outbuildings have had major rebuilding and new pointing work applied to the stonework, along with new roofs. The barn directly north-west of the hall was reputedly built by prisoners of war, and the upper floor is now in use as an art studio. At the south entrance to the barn is an inscription which reads 'RPA 1935'. The barn north of the art studio also has an inscription 'JLW 1909', at the top of the stone wall on the southern elevation. The inscriptions probably relate to repair work rather than to the dates they were built.

There are some old stone pig pens in the north-east area of the southernmost courtyard (designated swimming pool area). At the time of monitoring they were in a ruinous state, and comprised of one building separated into four pens, two to the north and two to the south. These are built of stone, and the two northern pens still have evidence of stone roof tiles. The two southern pens seem to have had no roof coverings as the tops of the walls are capped with coping stones (see plate 2), and wall is only 1.3 metres high. The northern pens have a lean-to roof with timbers that are either modern or have been reused. Access to the pens is from a

wooden framed doorway set in the west wall. In the east wall is a window with part of the frame still *in situ*, positioned at head height (plate 3).



Plate 2: Coping stones on wall of southern stone pig pen



Plate 3: Timber-frame doorway into the old pig pens

5.2 Archaeological monitoring

The following work was to be carried out on site:

- New track to be inserted for access onto the site
- West boundary wall of swimming pool courtyard area to be demolished
- Modern pig pen north-west of courtyard to be demolished
- Topsoil to be taken off swimming pool courtyard area using JCB
- Lean-to building directly north of swimming pool to be demolished
- South stone wall gable of barn north of the courtyard to be taken down

Access way



Plate 4: Cleared area for new track way to provide access to swimming pool area

An access way was needed into the site for parking and storage of lorries and heavy plant material. Digging began using a JCB with a toothless bucket. Topsoil was removed to an average depth of 0.2 metres along an existing track way south-west of the hall as indicated on the site plan (figure 2). Beneath the topsoil was a clean mid-brown silty soil with no intrusions. This was natural, and excavation revealed bedrock directly below the surface. Very little was observed within the topsoil; the finds included five fragments of 20th century pottery, plastic bags, fragments of brick and worked slate.

The new track way leading into the swimming pool courtyard was surfaced with scalpings.

West boundary wall



The western wall of the swimming pool courtyard was taken down using a JCB. This wall ran in a north-south direction and was of modern build. The wall was built of breeze blocks, and the southern end had been bonded into the existing stone boundary wall. This was damaged slightly during removal of the modern wall.

Plate 5: West boundary wall where it met existing stone boundary wall

Modern pig pen



Plate 6: Modern pig pen with curved tin sheeting roof

The modern pig pen with breeze block pillars and curved tin sheeting roof was dismantled. This building was set on a 0.1 metre bed of concrete, which was also removed. The lean-to building directly south of the barn was also dismantled. On

the western side of the swimming pool courtyard a metal entrance gate and modern breeze block pillars were also removed.

South stone boundary wall



The south stone boundary wall of the barn to the north of the courtyard area needed to be taken down and rebuilt, as it was a poor state.

Swimming pool courtyard





The courtyard area was cleared of all trees and shrubs. The surface was removed using a toothless bucket, and went directly onto bedrock. The architect had already commissioned two trial trenches which also revealed bedrock. The stone pig pens in the north-east corner of this courtyard were exposed and unfortunately partly knocked down. One interesting feature was a pipe in the north-east corner of the pens. From the garden of the hall, which is at a much higher level, a stone opening in the boundary wall was seen. It appears that the pigs were fed scraps of food through this opening, down a chute within the wall into the pens, thus saving the household from going down the steps to the pens.

Plate 7: Pipe feature inside the old pig pens



Plate 8: Stone opening for feeding shute, as seen from the garden

6.0 Conclusions

Llancillo Hall has had much restoration work both internally and externally, especially within the last five years, as have the outbuildings that surround the hall. Externally the barns have been re-roofed using slate, although there are some that have stone tiles, probably re-used in restoration work. Many of the common rafters have also been replaced. There are many patches of new pointing work, and modernisation internally, especially to the new art studio and another barn converted into a guest house situated to the west of the hall. Modern metal-framed barns have also been added to the north of the existing stone barns.

All work that took place on site was monitored and recorded, but excavation only exposed bedrock directly beneath the surface. The only significant features were details of architectural interest within the buildings, such as the pipe in the old pig pens. The finds were sparse and were all modern, and none were of any particular archaeological interest.

7.0 Archive deposition

The primary project archive, consisting of the excavated material and any original paper records, will be prepared and stored in accordance with the guidelines laid down in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' guidelines for the preparation and storage of archives. The primary archive will be stored with Hereford Museum.

A copy of the digital archive, stored on CD and consisting of context, artefact and ecofact data, together with the site plan and selected photographs, will accompany the primary archive.

The client, in consultation with the project manager, will make provision for the deposition of all finds from the excavation with the Hereford Museum. On completion of the fieldwork and the processing, collation, recording and analysis of the finds from the excavation all finds will be handed over to the museum staff, along with the project archive. Arrangements will be made with the museum for the transfer of title.

8.0 Publication and dissemination proposals

Paper copies of this report will be lodged with the Archaeological Adviser to Herefordshire Council, Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record and Hereford City Library. A short note on the project will be prepared for publication in *Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists Club*.

CDs of this report, together with the supporting archival material will be available from Archenfield Archaeology.

The complete photographic record, including the negatives, will be retained by Archenfield Archaeology.

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