

# Cloddio yn fila Rufeinig Abermagwr

## Excavations at Abermagwr Roman villa



Disgyblion o Ysgol Llanafan yn ymweld â'r cloddiadau.

Pupils of Llanafan School visiting the excavations.



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Trosolwg o olion y fila o'r gogledd, gan ddangos sylfeini clai a cherrig waliau'r fila a phentwr o deils cerrig y to yn y tu blaen ar y chwith. O amgylch yr adeilad yr oedd iard goblog daclus. Yn yr ystafell ganol (Ystafell 2) gosodwyd llawr o glai ac ynddo aelwyd fawr ag ymylon o gerrig. Cawsai sawl aelwyd arall lai o faint eu codi yn yr un ystafell, ac o un ohonynt cafwyd crochan o tua diwedd y 3edd ganrif-dechrau'r 4edd ganrif a gawsai ei dorri yn y fan a'r lle. Ni chafwyd tystiolaeth bendant eto fod yno unrhyw lawr tesellog na mosaig na plastr wal.

Overview of the villa remains from the north, showing clay and stone foundations of the villa walls and a pile of stone roofing tiles in the left foreground. A neatly cobbled yard surrounded the building. The central room (Room 2) was floored with clay into which was set a large stone-edged hearth. Several other, smaller hearths had been built in the same room, one of which yielded a cooking-pot of later 3rd-earlier 4th century date which had been broken *in situ*. No convincing evidence has yet been found of any tessellated floors, mosaics or wall plaster.

Mae gwaith cloddio ger Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, wedi cadarnhau mai fila Frythonig-Rufeinig yw'r adeilad a godwyd o gerrig, o fewn ffos ddwbl, ac sydd wedi bod ar goll dan dir ffermio yn Abermagwr tan yn ddiweddar iawn. Mae'r darganfyddiad yn dangos i un ystâd ffermio Frythonig-Rufeinig, o leiaf, gael ei sefydlu ymhell y tu hwnt i'r tiroedd yng Nghymru y gwyddem gynt i filâu gael eu codi arnynt. Mae hynny'n codi cwestiynau newydd a phwysig am economi a chymdeithas y Canolbarth tua diwedd oes y Rhufeiniaid ac yn golygu ei bod yn fwy na thebyg y ceir hyd i filâu eraill yn y Canolbarth.

Yr oedd filâu Rhufeinig yn eiddo i dirfeddianwyr cyfoethog. Maent yn gyffredin yn y de-ddwyrain a cheir ambell un yn siroedd Caerfyrddin a Phenfro ac un tua chanol dyffryn Wysg. Pan dalodd Cymdeithas Hynafiaethau Cymru a'r Comisiwn Brenhinol, gyda chymorth Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed, am waith cloddio arbrofol gan Jeffrey Davies a Toby Driver yn 2010, gwelwyd bod i fila Abermagwr holl nodweddion y filâu sefydledig a geir mewn manau eraill, gan gynnwys ffenestri gwydrog a tho o deils cerrig addurnol. Yr oedd prif flocc – domus – i'r adeilad, a thair prif ystafell a fesurai 22m o'r dwyrain i'r gorllewin wrth 8m o'r gogledd i'r de, a feranda a dwy adain neu ala ymwithiol ar yr ochr ddeheuol. Cafodd ystafell fach a fesurai 5m x 4m ei hychwanegu at gefn yr adeilad yn ddiweddarach. Cafodd y cerrig y gellid eu defnyddio eu dwyn o'r adeilad a hynny, mae'n fwy na thebyg, adeg codi plasty Trawsgoed gerllaw. Y sylfeini coblog yn unig sydd wedi goroesi. Efallai i'r llawr uchaf (os bu un) fod â ffrâm o bren ac wedi'i blastro.

Excavations near Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, have confirmed that a stone building set within a double ditched enclosure, hitherto lost beneath farmland at Abermagwr, is indeed a Romano-British villa. The discovery shows that at least one Romano-British farming estate was established far beyond the previously known limits of villa-building in Wales, and raises significant new questions about the regional economy and society in late Roman mid-Wales. It also raises the probability of other villa discoveries in the heartlands of mid Wales.

Roman villas were high-status homes of wealthy landowners. They are common in south-east Wales, with a few outliers in Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire and one in the middle reaches of the Usk valley. Trial excavations in 2010 by Jeffrey Davies and Toby Driver, funded by the Cambrian Archaeological Association and the Royal Commission with assistance from the Dyfed Archaeological Trust, showed that the Abermagwr villa had all the trappings of established villas elsewhere, including a decorative stone-tiled roof and glazed windows. The building had a main block, the *domus*, with three main rooms measuring 22m east-west by 8m north-south, a verandah and two projecting *alae* or wings on the south side. A small room measuring 5m x 4m was appended to the rear of the building at a later date. The building had been robbed of usable stone, probably during the construction of the nearby Trawsgoed mansion, and only the cobble footings survived. The upper storey (if such existed) may possibly have been timber-framed and plastered.



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Ar lawr clai yn y fila cafwyd hyd i ddarn arian Rhufeinig diweddar o deyrnasiad Cystennin I, darn a fathwyd yn Lyon, OC 314-15. Mae hwnnw, ynghyd â darnau arian eraill a chrochenwaith o'r un cyfnod o swyddi Rhydychen a Dorset, yn awgrymu bod y wlad yn dal i fod ym meddiant y Rhufeiniaid yn ystod chwarter cyntaf y 4edd ganrif OC.

Late Roman coin of Constantine I, minted in Lyons, AD 314-15, found on a clay floor in the villa. Together with other coins and pottery of the later 3rd-mid-4th century from Oxfordshire and Dorset, it suggests occupation within the first quarter of the 4th century AD.



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Darnau o grochan llathredig du o Dorset o tua diwedd oes y Rhufeiniaid, wedi'u torri i mewn i aelwyd yn y brif ystafell.

Parts of a late Roman Black-burnished ware cooking pot from Dorset, broken into a hearth in the main room.

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Teils cerrig pumonglog lleol oedd t'r fila ac fe'u cafwyd o ddygwympiad clir yn y to uwchben Ystafelloedd 2 a 6 ac o bentwr o deils a adawyd yng nghefn yr adeilad.

The villa was roofed with local stone tiles of pentagonal form, recovered from a well-defined roof collapse over Rooms 2 and 6 and from a pile of tiles left at the rear of the building.