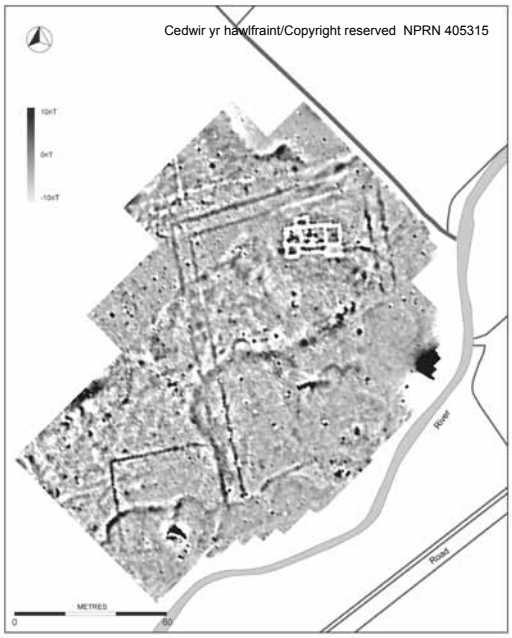
Darganfod fila Rufeinig Abermagwr

Discovering Abermagwr Roman Villa



Mae archaeolegwyr sy'n gweithio i'r Comisiwn Brenhinol wedi dod o hyd i fila Frythonig-Rufeinig o dan dir yn Abermagwr ger Aberystwyth. Does yr un fila Rufeinig yn hysbys yng Ngheredigion ar hyn o bryd, na'r un mor bell i'r gogledd a'r gorllewin â hyn yng Nghymru. Ym 1979, archaeolegwyr-o'r-awyr o Gaergrawnt oedd y cyntaf i sylwi ar olion cnydau lloc anarferol. Dangosodd awyrluniau newydd gan y Comisiwn Brenhinol yn 2006 fod yno loc mawr a chymhleth a bod fferm amddiffynedig o'r Oes Haearn gerllaw. Ysgogodd hynny wneud arolwg geoffisegol yn 2009, a datgelodd hwnnw fod yno sylfeini fila Frythonig-Rufeinig. Yn ystod oes y Rhufeiniaid rhwng OC 43 ac OC 400 y codwyd y fila ac y bu pobl yn byw ynddi ond fe ddiflannodd pan drowyd y pridd.

Archaeologists working for the Royal Commission have discovered a buried Romano-British villa near Aberystwyth, at Abermagwr. There are no Roman villas currently known in Ceredigion, and none this far north or west in Wales. Cropmarks of an unusual enclosure were first recognised by aerial archaeologists from Cambridge University in 1979. New aerial photography in 2006 by the Royal Commission revealed a large and complicated enclosure, with an Iron Age defended farm nearby. This prompted a geophysical survey in 2009 which revealed the buried footings of a plough-levelled Romano-British villa, built and occupied during the Roman occupation of Britain between AD 43 and AD 400.

Chwith: Arolwg geoffisegol fila Abermagwr gan David Hopewell, Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd, ar gyfer y Comisiwn Brenhinol. Mae'n dangos lloc mawr y fila, y ddwy ffos, anecs tua'r gwaelod ar y chwith, a chynllun llawr y fila ar y dde uchaf.

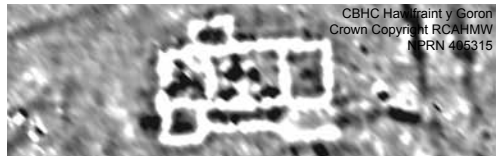
Left: Abermagwr villa geophysical survey by David Hopewell, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, for the Royal Commission, showing the great double-ditched villa enclosure, an annex lower left, and the floor plan of the villa upper right.

Uchod: Fila Rufeinig Abermagwr. Awyrlun a dynnwyd adeg sychder 2006. Mae'n dangos ôl cnydau lloc mawr petryal y fila (a) gwaelod, de, wrth yr afon, ac mae sylfeini'r fila (b) a'r anecs (c) hefyd i'w gweld. Uchod chwith (d), gwelir ôl cnydau fferm gron ac amddiffynedig o'r Oes Haearn a godwyd cyn y fila.

Above: Abermagwr Roman villa. An aerial view taken in the drought of 2006, showing cropmarks of the large rectangular villa enclosure (a) bottom right, by the river, with the villa footings (b) and annex (c) also visible. Cropmarks of a circular Iron Age defended farm, which pre-dates the villa, can be seen upper left (d).

Uchod: Adluniad dychmygus o olwg bosibl fila Rufeinig Abermagwr yn gynnar yn y 4edd ganrif OC. Mae'r llun yn dangos yr adeilad yn un gornel o iard goblog, a safleoedd tebygol ysgubor y stad ac adeiladau eraill o goed a allai fod wedi sefyll ar weddill y rhannau o'r iard helaethach a amgaewyd.

Above: An imaginative reconstruction of the Abermagwr Roman villa as it may have appeared in the early 4th century AD. The drawing shows the building occupying one corner of a cobbled yard, and the likely positions of an estate barn and other timber buildings which may well have occupied the remaining parts of the larger enclosed courtyard.



Uchod: Dangosodd yr arolwg ffisegol gynllun llawr adeilad nodweddiadol ac iddo sylfeini cerrig a dwy aden ymestynnol, a chadarnhaodd gwaith cloddio mai fila Frythonig-Rufeinig oedd yno. Mae'r adeilad yn debyg i'r enghreifftiau o filâu Rhufeinig â 'choridor adeiniog' yn ne Cymru ac yn Lloegr. Mae'n wynebu'n union tua'r de er mwyn i gymaint â phosibl o heulwen lifo i'r coridor a'r ffenestri blaen. Mae'r 'tyllau' du sydd i'w gweld yn yr ystafell ganolog i'w cael mewn aelwydydd a osodwyd mewn clai.

Above: Geophysical survey revealed the tell-tale floor plan of a building with stone foundations and two projecting wings, confirmed by excavation as a Romano-British villa. The building is similar to excavated examples of 'winged-corridor' Roman villas in south Wales and England. The building faces due south, maximising sunlight to the front corridor and rooms. The black 'holes' visible in the central room were found to be hearths set into a clay floor.

Comisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru
Cofnod Henebion Cenedlaethol Cymru

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