

# NEUADD, LLANON, CEREDIGION, BUILDING RECORDING & COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION 2013

## VOLUME I



Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu  
Gwledig: Ewrop yn Buddsoddi  
mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig  
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**NEUADD, LLANON,  
CEREDIGION, BUILDING RECORDING &  
COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EXCAVATION 2013  
VOLUME I**

Gan / By

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**NEUADD, LLANON, CEREDIGION:  
BUILDING RECORDING &  
COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION**

**SUMMARY**

*Llanon village lies on the A487 between Aberaeron and Aberystwyth. It is famous for its association with St Non and St David. The name Llanon derives from St Non, mother of the patron saint of Wales, St David (Llanon meaning 'Church of Non'). Llanon is also notable for the large area of surviving medieval strip fields or 'slangs' that lie between the village and the sea, particularly between the rivers Clydan and Peris.*

*In the village of Llanon a ruined medieval building known as Neuadd, or 'hall' in English, survives surrounded and somewhat hemmed in by smaller post medieval cottages, including one of the last remaining cottages in west Wales with original straw rope underthatch. Neuadd, the 19<sup>th</sup> century cottage with rope underthatch and a nearby area of pasture or 'slang' were left to Ceredigion Museum by Mr Alex Cameron in memory of his wife in 1987.*

*Neuadd is thought, from its architectural style, to be the remains of a Hall House with original chimney dated to the middle of the 16th Century. Early 17<sup>th</sup> century historical documents refer to a Neuadd in Llanon and list its occupants. Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was owned by the Jones family, divided into two cottages, and by 1894 we know that Neuadd was a ruin.*

*In recent years the ruins have been wrongly identified and confused with a chapel of St Non that probably lay some 50 metres away in what is now the garden of Homerton House. This confusion was exacerbated by the discovery of a stoup for holy water, now in Llansantffraed church, which was said to have been found in the ruins and the identification of the low arch and stone corbel in the north wall as features one would find in a chapel or church.*

*In 2013 the walls of Neuadd were mostly in ruins; the walls having collapsed inwards. The full extent of the surviving walls was difficult to see as they were covered in ivy, brambles and obscured by trees. Rubble from the collapsed walls and the accumulated rubbish of many years had filled the ruins of the building.*

*Ceredigion Museum initiated a scheme grant aided by Cynnal y Cardi to remove the vegetation and the accumulated rubbish and rubble from Neuadd ruins to allow the walls to be consolidated in order to protect them from further deterioration. Once the consolidation was completed it was proposed that Neuadd would be opened to the public as an open ruin with interpretation panels explaining the history of the site.*

*Dyfed Archaeological Trust were commissioned to undertake a project involving members of the local community in the clearance of vegetation from the building, recording the exposed facades of the walls prior to consolidation and the excavation within the footprint of the building. It was intended that a bilingual report on the project be produced.*

*In April 2013 work to clear the vegetation began as did the initial phase of building recording by a team of Trust staff and volunteers. Following consolidation by the conservation building team to make the walls safe, a 3 week excavation in the internal area of the building was undertaken with Trust staff and volunteers from the local community. A large deposit of overburden was first removed from within the ruined building by machine. During the 3 weeks over 30 volunteers joined the project; excavating material within the building to reveal floor layers, recording the wall elevations, processing finds and undertaking research into the history of Neuadd.*

*Our findings suggest that the 16th century hall was altered in the late 18th early 19th century and that the floor layer exposed during excavation was consistent with this later date. Possibly as part of the same alteration process the lateral fireplace was blocked, as was the opposing doorway in the north wall, the hall divided into two rooms, a new fireplace put into the eastern wall and the old floors dug out before laying new floors. During the 19th century it would appear that the east room was used as a small work/repair shop, its floor worn away and patched up, in contrast to the west room where the floor remained in good condition. Historic sources note that Neuadd is a ruin by 1894.*

*Small trenches were excavated through the exposed floor layer in both rooms. Only in the west room was a small section of an earlier floor layer seen and from this a small fragment of probable 18th century pottery was recovered. Even earlier features were exposed below this floor layer including a stone wall on a completely different alignment to the Neuadd; suggesting pre 16th century occupation of the site.*



## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Commission**

- 1.1.1 This report has been prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services in response to a request by Amgueddfa Ceredigion Museum following a successful tender for a project to carry out recording and excavation of the building known as Neuadd in Llanon, Ceredigion.
- 1.1.2 The building known as Neuadd (SN 5147 6684) lies within a group of small post-medieval buildings that form the former nucleus of the village of Llanon that lies on the A487 between Aberaeron and Aberystwyth.
- 1.1.3 Ceredigion Museum commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to undertake the archaeological building recording and community excavation.

### **1.2 Scope of the Project**

- 1.2.1 The project comprised the clearance of a ruined building known as Neuadd of vegetation, accumulated rubbish and overburden before the walls of the ruin could be recorded and the internal area of the building excavated. The building measures approximately 17.0m east-west by 7.0m north-south.
- 1.2.2 The walls of the building were recorded in detail to head height.
- 1.2.3 The internal area of the building was excavated to expose the upper levels of archaeology, with only smaller investigations into underlying layers.
- 1.2.4 The excavation work aimed to determine the internal layout of the structure and supplement information obtained from the building recording. It was hoped information would be obtained on the date of the structure, its functions and developmental history.
- 1.2.5 Following the fieldwork the data recovered was checked, sorted and catalogued effectively. Finds were cleaned, catalogued and stored appropriately.
- 1.2.6 A final report has been produced (this document), including detailed elevations of the internal faces of the walls and plans of the excavation area.
- 1.2.7 The evidence gained from the site will be used to inform the future presentation of the Neuadd ruin; as the site will be accessible to the public after its consolidation is completed.
- 1.2.8 A project archive will be produced. This archive, including all artefacts will be deposited with Amgueddfa Ceredigion Museum.

### **1.3 Report Outline**

- 1.3.1 This report describes the location of the site along with its historical and archaeological background and summarises the results of the archaeological building recording and excavation that was undertaken.

## **1.4 Abbreviations**

- 1.4.1 Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record<sup>1</sup> (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR).

## **1.5 Illustrations**

- 1.5.1 Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale.

## **1.6 Timeline**

- 1.6.1 The following table illustrates the approximate dates for the archaeological periods discussed in this report:

PERIOD	APPROXIMATE DATE
PALAEOLITHIC	c.120,000 BC – c.10,000 BC
MESOLITHIC	c.10,000 BC – c.4400 BC
NEOLITHIC	c.4400 BC – c.2300 BC
BRONZE AGE	c.2300 BC – c.700 BC
IRON AGE	c.700 BC – c.43 AD
ROMAN	c.43 AD – c.410 AD
EARLY MEDIEVAL	c.410 AD - c.1066
MEDIEVAL	c.1066 - c.1536
POST MEDIEVAL	c.1536 – c.1750
MODERN	c.1900 onwards

**Table 1:** Archaeological and historical timeline

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<sup>1</sup> Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Llandeilo.

## **2. THE SITE**

### **2.1 Location**

- 2.1.1 The village of Llanon lies 5 miles north of Aberaeron and 11 miles south of Aberystwyth on the A487 in the county of Ceredigion. It is part of the parish of Llansantffraed, which consists of three communities - Llanon, Llansantffraed and Nebo (Figure 1).
- 2.1.2 The settlements of Llanon and Llansantffraed sit between the two rivers Afon Peris and Afon Cledan before they flow into Cardigan Bay.
- 2.1.3 The ruined Neuadd lies on a narrow lane called Heol Non, just after its junction with the A487. It lies on level ground at 30.0m above sea level, approximately 65.0m away from the Afon Cledan. The building is now surrounded and somewhat hemmed in by later, smaller 19th century cottages.
- 2.1.4 The underlying geology comprises the Mynydd Bach Formation - Sandstone and Mudstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 428 to 443 million years ago in the Silurian Period.
- 2.1.5 The superficial geology comprises glacial till, sometimes called boulder clay; that material deposited directly by a glacier. Its content may vary from clays to mixtures of clay, sand, gravel and boulders.
- 2.1.6 Low boulder clay cliffs are found along the coast between Aberaeron and Llanrhystud.



**Photo 1:** View of the overgrown ruined Neuadd in 2013 from Heol Non.

## **2.2 The condition of the Neuadd ruins**

- 2.2.1 At the beginning of 2013 the ruins were extremely overgrown and it was very difficult to judge the condition of the masonry (Photo 1).
- 2.2.2 Small trees and shrubs were growing out of the walls and ivy covered the majority of the masonry (Photo 2).



**Photo 2:** *View of the ruined Neuadd in early 2013 looking southwest.*

- 2.2.3 The line of the southern wall was not visible as it was covered in overburden and vegetation.
- 2.2.4 It was clear that the vegetation obscured how much overburden had accumulated over the site. This appeared to be greater towards the western end of the building's interior.
- 2.2.5 Some architectural features were visible, including the blocked lateral fire place (Photo 3).
- 2.2.6 A lower splayed window found towards the northeast corner of the Neuadd in the north wall was also visible. Remarkably the inserted wooden window frame had survived (Photo 4).

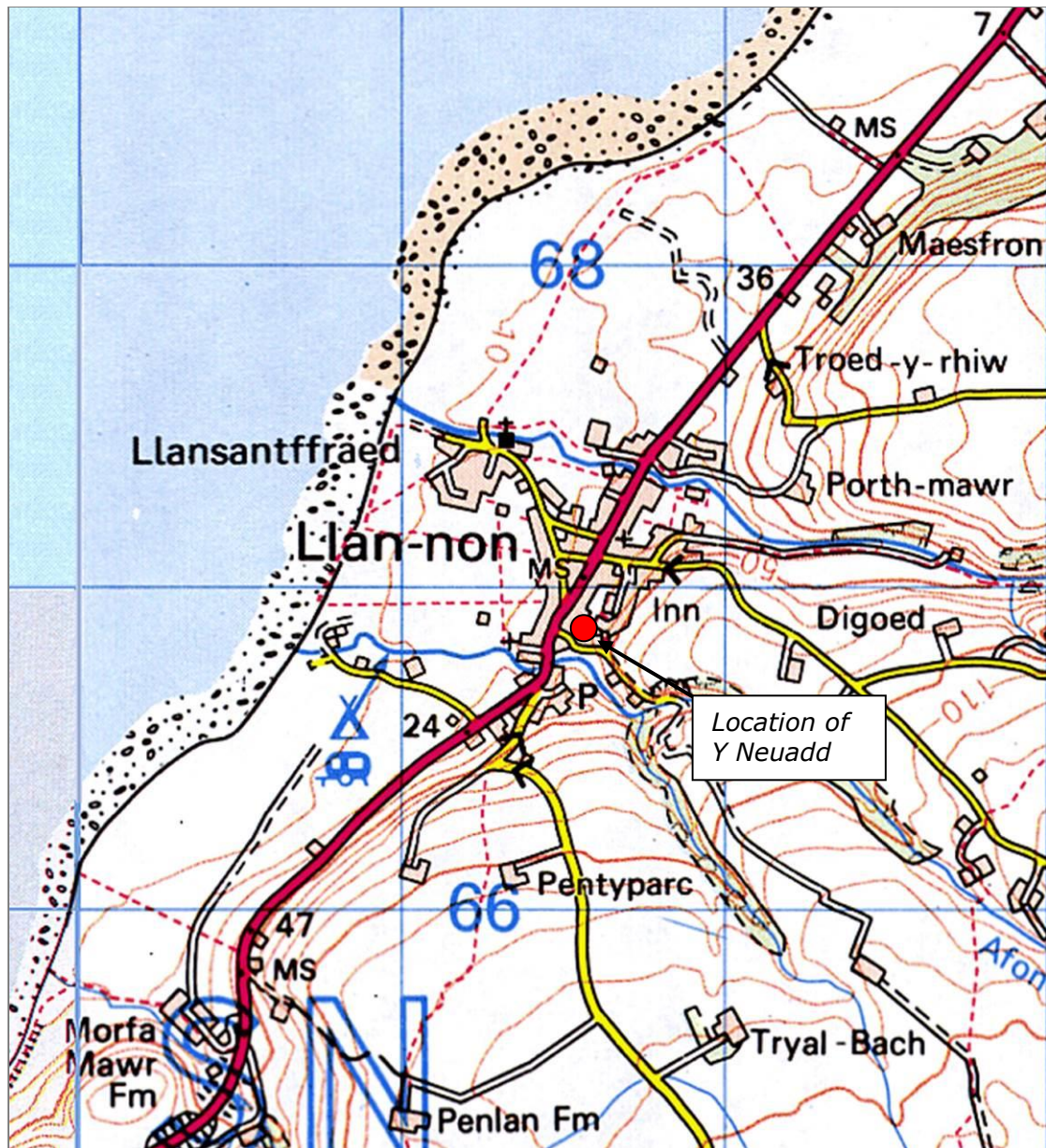




**Photo 3:** above. View of the ruined north wall of the Neuadd in 2013, showing the blocked fire place to the left and to the right of the shorter 1m ranging rod is the second lower splayed window. Detail shown in photo below

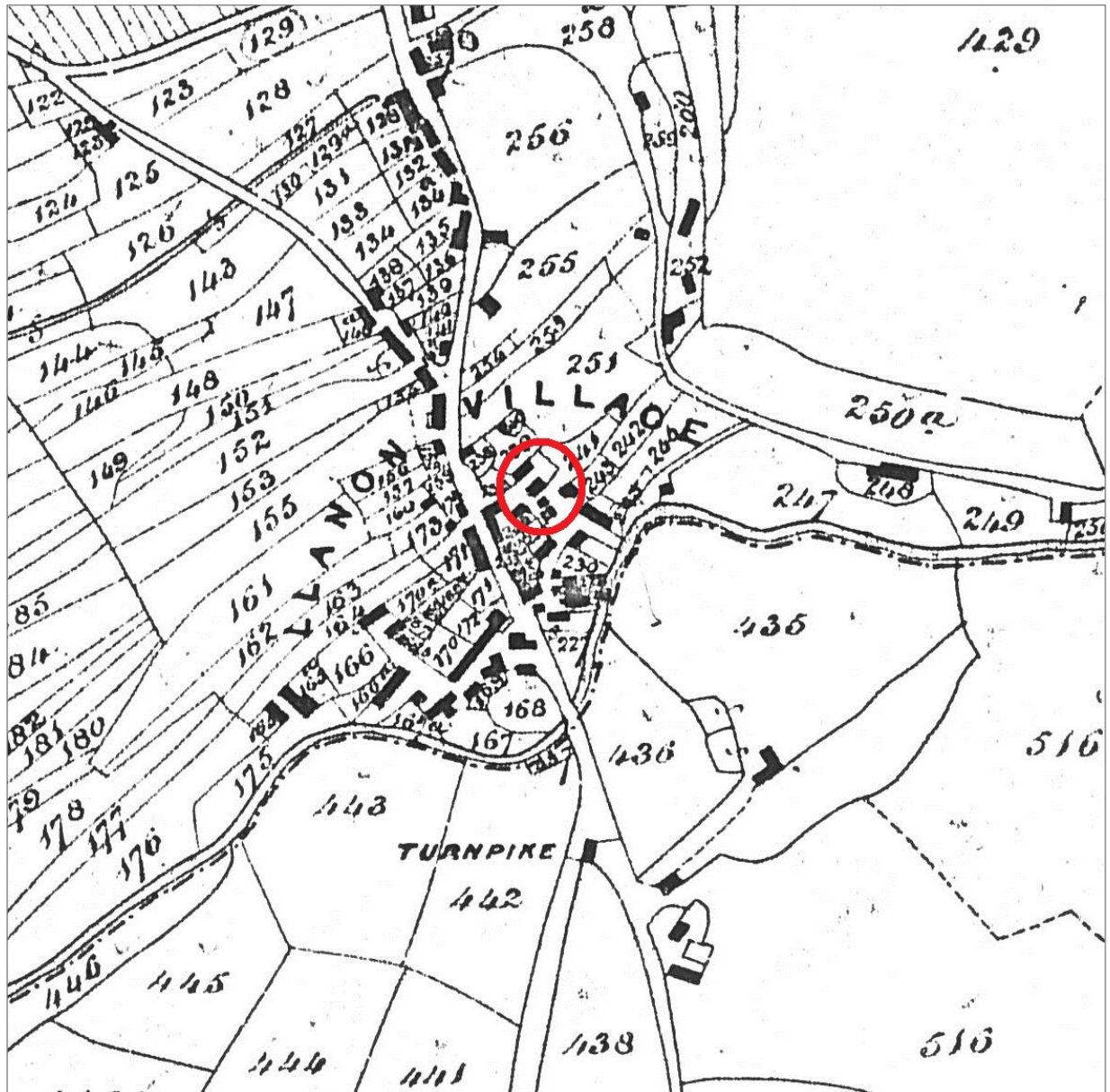
**Photo 4:** below. Detail of the splayed window in the north wall, showing the inserted wooden window frame that has in later years been filled with blocking stones.





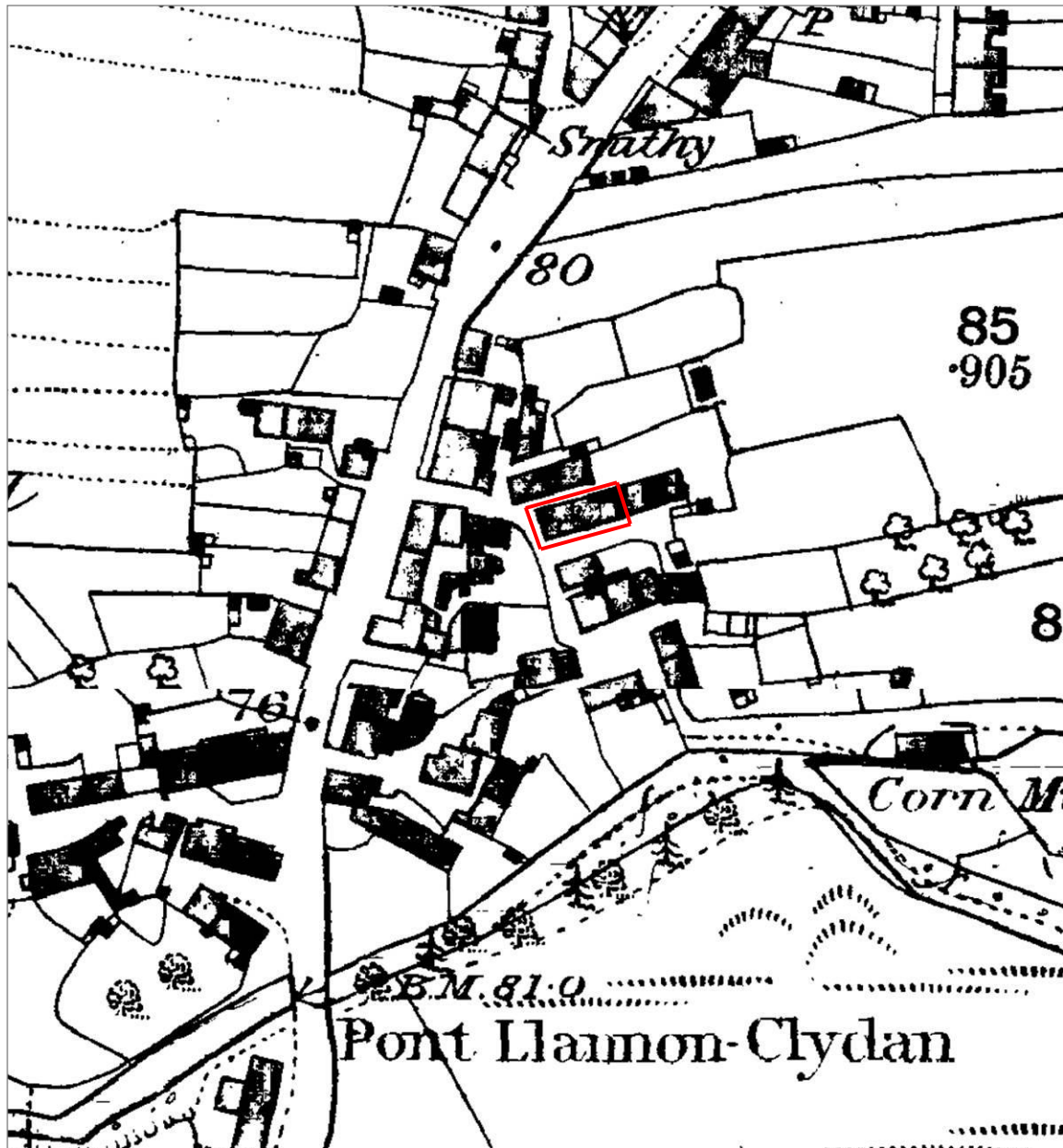
**Figure 1:** Location map based on the Ordnance Survey.

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No 100020930

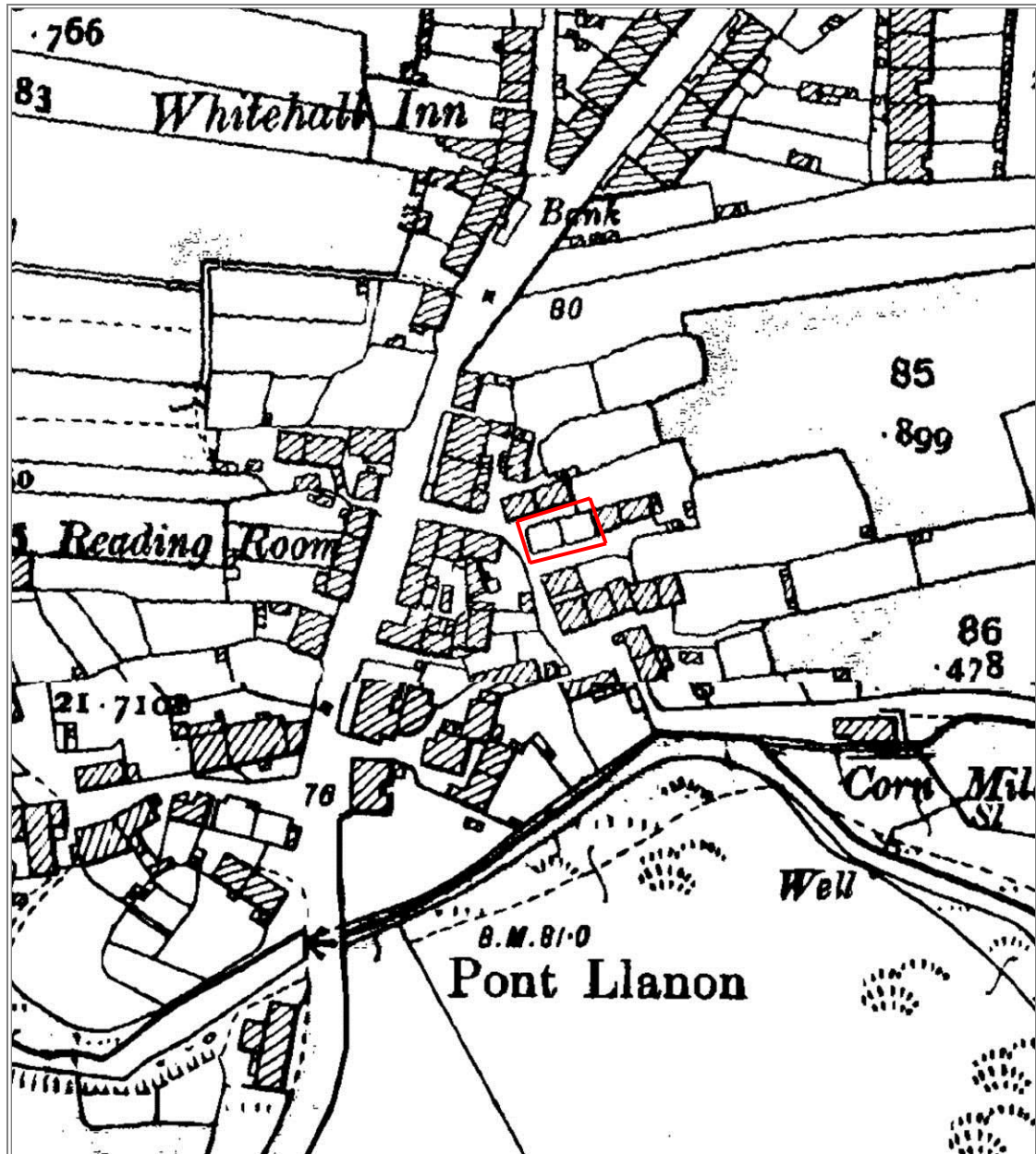


**Figure 2:** An extract from the tithe map dated 1844. The location of Neuadd is shown circled in red.





**Figure 3:** An extract from the 1888 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map.  
The location of Neuadd is shown outlined in red.



**Figure 4:** An extract from the 1905 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map.  
The location of Neuadd is shown outlined in red.

### 3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 Llanon village

- 3.1.1 Llanon derives its name from St Non, mother of the patron saint of Wales, St David (Llanon meaning 'Church of Non') and St David is fabled to have been brought up here.
- 3.1.2 One of the most distinctive features of this area is the surviving medieval strip fields, known locally as 'slangs' that lie on the highly productive, well drained flat land that stretches along about 2 miles of coast between Llanon and Llansantffraed (Photo 1). It was divided into 3 parts, one to the north of the Afon Peris, including the church, one between the Afon Peris and the Afon Clydan, including most of the settlements of Llanon and Llansantffraed known as Morfa Esgob (Bishop's Land), and one to the south of the Afon Clydan known as Morfa Mawr.
- 3.1.3 The central section, Morfa Esgob (Bishop's Land), between the two rivers is traditionally said to have been owned by St David but was given to the Bishop of St David's by Rhys ap Gruffydd after about 1215.
- 3.1.4 Many of the constituent strips fields or slangs still remain, although some have been amalgamated and others are overlain by the recreation ground and housing
- 3.1.5 Though common in medieval England, this system of dividing land fairly amongst villagers was not common in Wales.



**Photo 5:** Aerial photograph of the strip fields or 'slangs' that are still visible between the villages of Llanon and Llansantffraed and the sea.  
(DAT AP TAJ-AP-SN5167)



- 3.1.6 The coastal foreshore between Aberaeron and Llansantffraed is notable for the number of stone fish traps that can be seen at low tide. Those near Aberarth were allegedly owned by the monks of Strata Florida Abbey. These traps were constructed using large stones from the beach to create a v-shaped wall from the high tide line which is totally submerged at high tide. As the tide recedes, fish are trapped in the pools but do not die, as they are retained in the shallow water by the walls. A number of stone built fish traps can be seen on the foreshore between Llanon and Llansantffraed. The fish trap pictured in Photo 6 is located on the foreshore to the west of Llanon village. The stone wall runs for approximately 140m in a gentle curve and there are several sluice gates in the wall where the fish would have been collected.

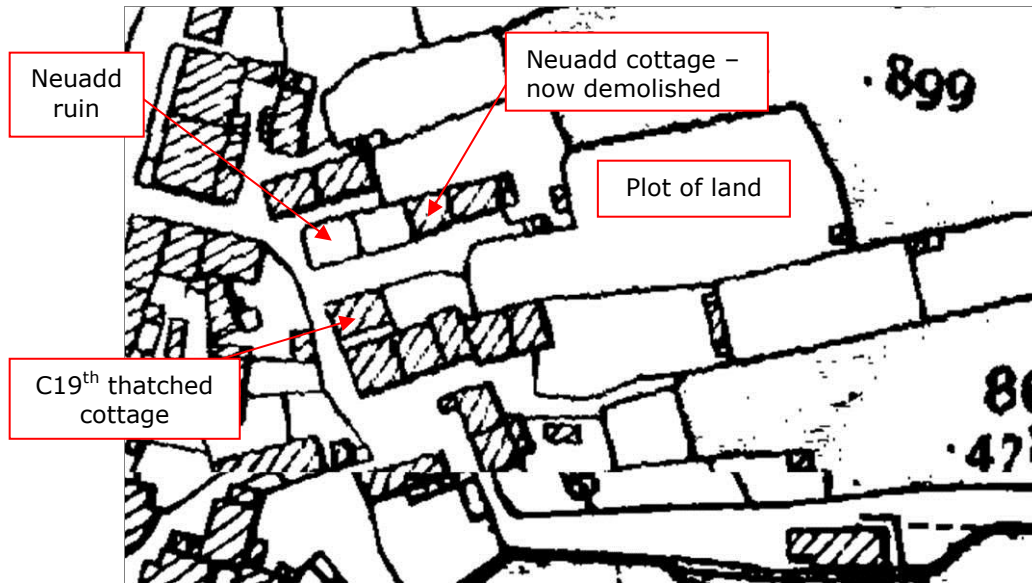


**Photo 6:** *A stone built fish trap located on the foreshore to the west of Llanon village that is visible at low tide.*

- 3.1.7 The village prospered in the 18th century and 19th century with industries rooted in the land and on the sea; with many ships built in the villages of Llansantffraed and Llanon.

### **3.2 Neuadd**

3.2.1 In the village of Llanon the ruined Neuadd (Neuadd meaning 'hall') survives surrounded and somewhat hemmed in by later, smaller 19<sup>th</sup> century cottages, including one of the last remaining cottages in west Wales with original straw rope underthatch.



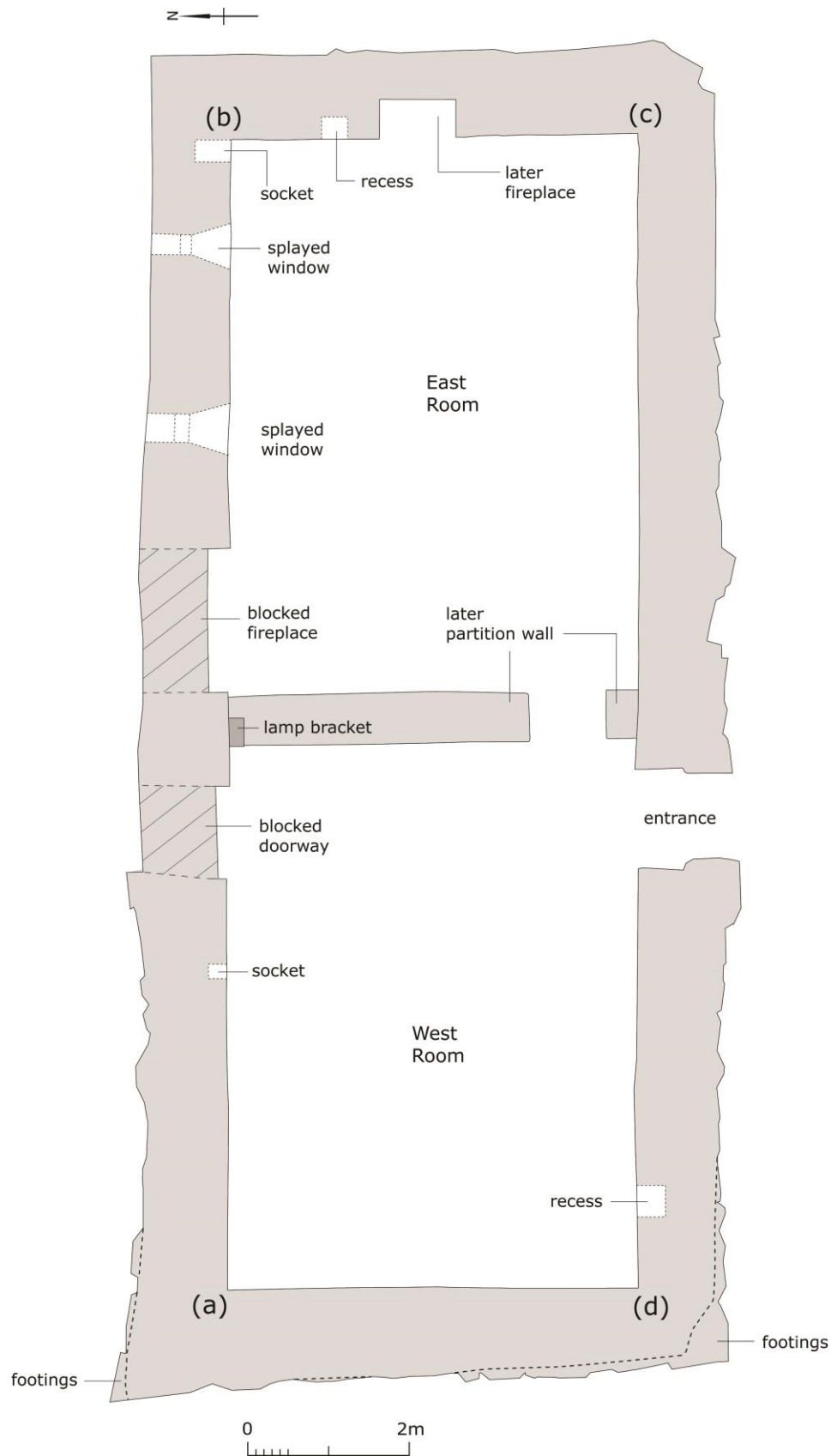
**Figure 5:** An extract from the 1905 Ordnance Survey map showing the location of Neuadd and the surrounding buildings.

- 3.2.2 The ruins of Neuadd, as well as the small 19<sup>th</sup> century thatched cottage that lies opposite and a plot of land situated nearby, (Figure 5) were given to Ceredigion District Council in 1987 by Mr A.D Cameron in memory of his late wife, a native of Llanon.
- 3.2.3 During the 19<sup>th</sup> century confusion arose between the site of the chapel of St Non that once stood in Llanon and the ruined building Neuadd. It is now clear that the chapel of St Non stood where the garden of Homerton House now is (about 50 metres away) which is evidenced by the deeds of Homerton that make reference to the site as 'a messuage....commonly called Chapel House otherwise Capel Non'. The chapel was demolished in 1905.
- 3.2.4 This attribution to St Non caused confusion into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This opinion was augmented by the alleged discovery of a 15<sup>th</sup> century stone stoup for holding holy water from Neuadd ruins, now in Llansantffraed church, and the view that the lateral fireplace was a tomb recess with an ecclesiastical corbel shelf to the left of it.
- 3.2.5 Neuadd is referred to in a number of historical documents and in recent years Irene Phillips of Llansantffraed History Society has carried out extensive research into the historical documents and her initial findings can be found in Appendix V.
- 3.2.6 It is clear from the above research that from the 17<sup>th</sup> until the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries the term *Neuadd* came to mean the collection of houses that were built in the vicinity of the earliest building; Neuadd Fawr (large hall), that we now call and refer to in this report as Neuadd.

- 3.2.7 References have been found in early 17<sup>th</sup> century documents to Neuadd. It is probable that Neuadd is the property referred to in the will of David Griffith ap Ievan dated 1610 and that of Rees ap Morgan dated 1649. In both a "Noyadd fawr" in Llanon is referred to. These may refer to Neuadd but the use of the word "fawr" implies that there were at least two neuadds.
- 3.2.8 After these 17<sup>th</sup> century documents there is a gap in the historical record until a will dated 1805 of Jenkins Jones Porthmawr lists that upon his death "Neuadd Fawr" is to be divided between his wife Catherine Jones and his son Daniel. From then on throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century Neuadd remains in the Jones family. By 1894 Neuadd is a ruin.
- 3.3.9 The 1901 census lists Neuadd as unoccupied whereas the little 19<sup>th</sup> century cottage to the south (Neuadd Fach), the cottage built on the eastern side of Neuadd (called Neuadd Cottage) and one of the 2 cottages just to the north (Neuadd Wen 1) are all listed as occupied (Figure 5).
- 3.3.10 A note published in 1894 in *Yr Haul* (The Sun), a denominational and church welsh periodical, describes Neuadd as a ruin of an old chapel, part of which is described as having recently been used as a day school. The description of the ruin includes references to a door opening 5ft high and 3.5ft wide and in the "pointed style", an internal arch half the width of the wall depth and a "recess" such as seen in old churches. Interestingly a comment is made about the wood timbers of the top roof as being all of oak and of great size; indicating the significant nature of the building's construction.



**Photo 7:** The ruins of Neuadd in c.1900. Neuadd Cottage can be seen in the background. (By permission of The National Library of Wales)



**Figure 6:** Plan drawn in 2013 of the Neuadd ruin labelled with identifiable architectural features. The lower case letters refer to the drawn elevations.

#### **4. ARCHITECTURAL BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Richard Suggett of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) considers Neuadd to be the remains of a Hall House with original chimney dated to the middle of the 16th Century.

- 4.2 He has described the ruins below (please refer to Figure 6):

*This ruined structure has been regarded as the site of St Non's chapel. However, it is quite clear from a close examination of the fabric and the historic plan form that the building is domestic in origin, as its name 'Neuadd' suggests. The structure occupies a sloping site characteristic of many late medieval or sub-medieval dwellings.*

*The interpretation of Neuadd as a house depends on the function of the blocked recess in the north lateral wall. This recess, which is about six-feet wide and with an impressive cambered head of voussoirs (wedge-shaped stones that are used with others to construct an arch or vault), has been interpreted as a 'tomb recess'. However, careful probing indicates that the recess is in fact a blocked fireplace with flue. Once the recess has been interpreted as a fireplace the rest of the domestic plan falls into place.*

*Immediately below the fireplace is a clearly defined cross-passage providing the entry into the hall. The hall, heated by the lateral fireplace, is set between inner and outer bays. The openings in the north wall give the unmistakable rhythm of an early house: cross passage doorway – hall – fireplace – upper end (dais) window, inner room window. The narrow but deeply splayed window openings appear to be unaltered and the blocking of the upper window may incorporate the remains of a timber mullion.*

*Neuadd belongs to a well-defined class of lateral-chimneyed houses which preserve the medieval hall house plan. These dwellings, generally dating from the second half of the sixteenth century, have a scattered distribution along the west coast from Caernarvonshire to Pembrokeshire, where there was a notable concentration around St Davids. However, no examples have been discovered in Cardiganshire. Neuadd is therefore an important addition to this group of first-generation houses with fireplaces. In a county where few early houses have survived, Neuadd is particularly important and it appears to be the earliest purpose-built chimneyed house in the county. Its situation alongside a characteristic later vernacular (crog-lofft) cottage makes the grouping at Neuadd of outstanding interest.*



## 5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 During the 1970s Douglas Hague, an investigator on the staff of the RCAHMS, 1948-1981, excavated 2 trenches within the east room of Neuadd (Photos 8 & 9). One was parallel to and just east of the wall which divided the building into two, close to the blocked lateral fireplace and the other was located in the northeast corner of the room.
- 5.2 No record of this excavation has been discovered but some of his unsorted papers survive in the archives of the RCAHMS in Aberystwyth and include 4 photographs of his time at the site. In Photos 8 and 9 below a small cast iron saucepan can be seen situated against the internal wall that divided the building into two. This saucepan was identified as 19<sup>th</sup> century in date. It lies above an area of rough stone paving which was later revealed in 2013.
- 5.3 In Photo 8 the photographer was facing the fireplace. Within the area of the blocked up fireplace the excavated trench reveals large stones firmly stacked up against the blocking stonework, not the disordered rubble one would expect from a general accumulation over the years.
- 5.4 No explanation can be given for this as unfortunately in the 1990s an employment work scheme was tasked with removing stones from within the east room and using them to build secondary walls around the Neuadd garden.



**Photo 8:** (left) A trench excavated in the 1970s in the east room in the area of the blocked fireplace. Note the stones firmly stacked up against the blocking stonework. Facing north. **Photo 9:** (right) The same 1970s trench viewed from above looking west. Note the small iron saucepan found on the stone flag floor.

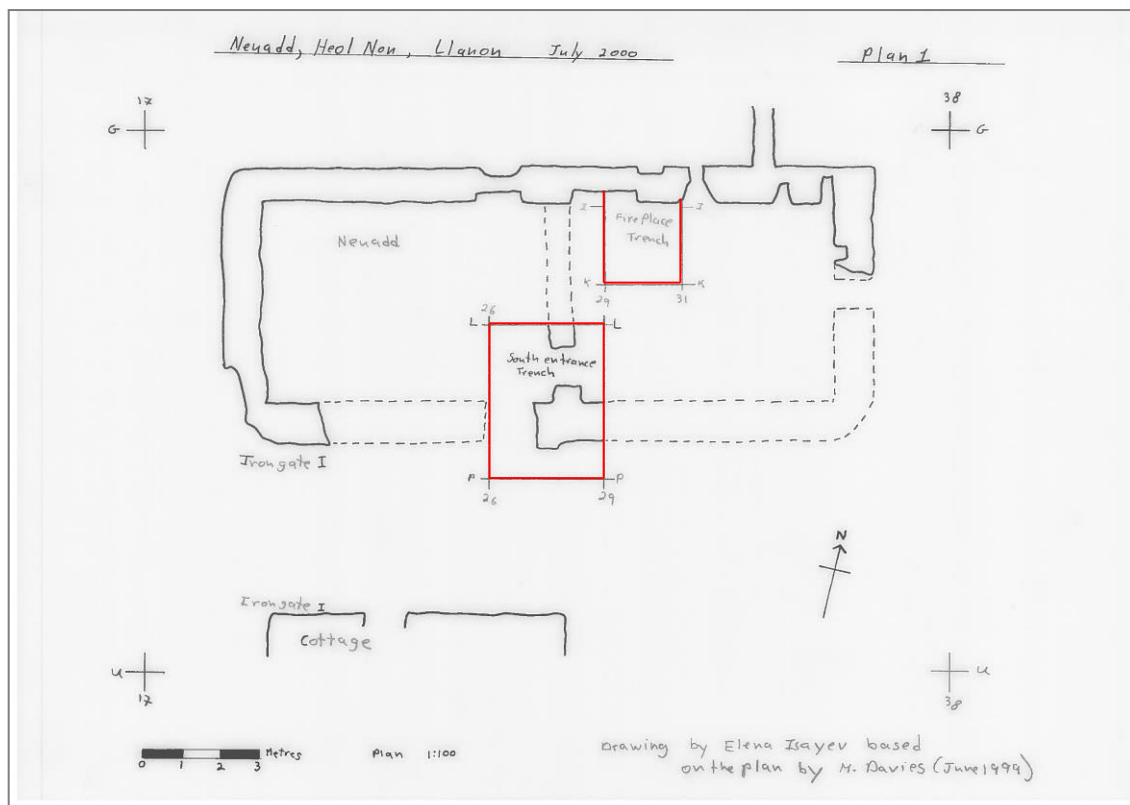
(© Crown copyright: Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales© Hawlfraint y Goron: Comisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru)

- 5.5 In July 2000 two small trenches were excavated (Figure 7 & Photo 10) on behalf of Ceredigion Museum under the direction of Elena Isayev with the help of local volunteers. The excavation revealed the substantial amount of rubbish that had accumulated over the site since it was last used. Nevertheless it was felt that some archaeological stratigraphy survived. After the removal of modern 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century overburden, a rubble

layer containing stones, pieces of mortar, brick, and chunks of clay was excavated. This lay above a more solid clay layer that was interpreted as the original floor and ground level of the site into which the foundations of the walls were dug.



**Photo 10:** Photograph of the trench excavated in 2000 within the area of Neuadd south doorway. Looking east. (Amgueddfa Ceredigion Museum).



**Figure 7:** Plan of the two trenches excavated in 2000 within the interior of Neuadd (Amgueddfa Ceredigion Museum).

## 6. METHODOLOGY

6.1 The written scheme of investigation produced by DAT for this project proposed 3 phases of archaeological work.

### 6.2 ***Phase 1: Clearing vegetation and initial building recording***

6.2.1 Initially the main bulk of the ivy that obscured the walls had to be removed to allow an assessment of the condition of the walls to be made by the conservation building team. Trust staff and volunteers removed the weight of ivy branches from the faces of the wall but did not remove any roots that were growing out of the walls, particularly those growing out of the tops of the walls.

6.2.2 The exposed facades of the walls were recorded to head height prior to the full removal of ivy and before any consolidation of the walls was carried out. This was completed by Trust staff assisted by volunteers. This included a mix of hand drawn elevations and details, photographic survey and measured survey (using an Electronic Distance Measurer).

6.2.3 Building Recording was undertaken using the recording systems used by Dyfed Archaeological Trust and to the relevant standards and guidance as laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA).

6.2.4 Once the majority of the vegetation was cleared, but during the initial phase of recording, there followed a period of conservation work during which the consolidation of the walls was started.

6.2.5 The clearance of the vegetation revealed the large deposit of non-archaeologically significant overburden within the ruined building, particularly in the west room. It was decided to remove this overburden by machine and not by hand. A watching brief was carried out by a Trust staff member during the machining.

### 6.3 ***Phase 2: Community excavation and further building recording***

6.3.1 Once the process of consolidation had reached a stage whereby all the walls had been made safe a 3, week community excavation within the footprint of the building commenced.

6.3.2 The excavation work aimed to determine the internal layout of the structure. As the proposed works to lay a gravel floor across the structure were unlikely to be very damaging, it was intended that the excavation would expose the upper archaeological deposits and would stop at an agreed level; the level at which the gravel floor would be laid. Narrow trenches were excavated across the internal area of the building to investigate underlying layers.

6.3.3 During the excavation the Phase 1 building recording was updated and enhanced, adding any features exposed by consolidation or revealed beneath vegetation roots.

6.3.4 Excavation was undertaken by two members of Trust staff and up to 10 volunteers on-site at a time. This was an optimum number of people on-site and prevented overcrowding within the excavation area and enabled adequate supervision of and training for volunteers.

6.3.5 Deep excavations were not undertaken adjacent to the standing walls to prevent them from being undermined.

- 6.3.6 Following the clearance of the overburden by machine, the excavation area was hand cleaned and a selection of features excavated to an appropriate standard to elucidate the character, distribution and extent of the archaeological remains.
- 6.3.7 All deposits were recorded by archaeological context record sheet, scale drawing, photography and site notebooks. All individual deposits were numbered using the open-ended numbering system in accordance with Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services' Recording Manual<sup>2</sup>. Trench plans and sections were recorded by means of measured sketches, scale drawings and accurate surveying using an EDM. A photographic record was maintained using digital cameras.
- 6.3.8 Trench locations were accurately surveyed using an EDM, related to Ordnance Datum and existing boundaries.
- 6.3.9 Archaeological layers were, in the main, left undisturbed once identified but some archaeologically significant artefacts were recovered, consisting mainly of pottery fragments and metal objects. These finds have been temporarily stored by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services in stable conditions.
- 6.3.10 Excavations were undertaken using the recording systems used by Dyfed Archaeological Trust and to the standards and guidance for excavations as laid down by the IfA.
- 6.3.11 During Phase 1 and Phase 2 work Trust staff and the conservation building team liaised closely together as both were often on site at the same time. It was necessary to co-ordinate the timings of certain tasks particularly in relation to the health and safety of working on site in conjunction with volunteers.

#### **6.4 Phase 3: Post excavation and dissemination**

- 6.4.1 Following all the stages of work the archive and report were compiled and a report prepared upon the results.
- 6.4.2 The report included an assessment of all records; digitising of all plans and preparation of illustrations; analysis of pottery and other finds that would aid in determining the latest use of the building.
- 6.4.3 Finds recovered from the site were processed (washed, marked and bagged) by volunteers on-site.
- 6.4.4 The report has been prepared to the relevant standards and guidance of the IfA.
- 6.4.5 The main text of this report has been produced bilingually and it is intended that it and all the finds are deposited at Amgueddfa Ceredigion Museum.

#### **6.5 Community participation**

- 6.5.1 The project was as inclusive as possible for the local community, providing opportunities for them to get involved in all aspects of the work. Weekends were worked to enable more volunteers to be involved in the excavations.

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<sup>2</sup> Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services use the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology.

- 6.5.2 Trust community education staff worked in conjunction with Llansantffraed History Society and Ceredigion Museum to co-ordinate the involvement of the local community. Llanon Primary School and Aberystwyth Young Archaeologists Club were contacted and involved in the project.
- 6.5.3 The Trust's database of volunteers was accessed to provide contacts across a wider area and the project was well advertised locally and in Trust newsletters, at events and on the Trust website.
- 6.5.4 Trust staff liaised and sort advice from the RCAHMW based in Aberystwyth. Staff from the RCAHMW visited the site during the excavation and provided invaluable advice on the building's architectural history and building conservation methods.
- 6.5.5 Volunteers could express an interest in taking part in a range of tasks from building recording and excavation to historical research. During the excavation any interest or ability from those who volunteered was encouraged.



## **7. RESULTS**

### **7.1 Clearing vegetation and initial building recording**

- 7.1.1 At the end of April Trust staff with the aid of volunteers began the task of removing the vegetation from the ruined Neuadd (Photo 11). Vegetation at ground level was cut down and the weight of the ivy removed from the faces of the walls. Ivy or shrub roots growing out from the walls, particularly the tops of the walls were not removed.



**Photo 11:** *Hubert Wilson  
(Dyfed Archaeological Trust)  
and Irene Phillips (Volunteer)  
clearing the vegetation from  
the ruined Neuadd in April  
2013.*

- 7.1.2 As soon as it became possible the first phase of the building recording was started. Volunteers worked with Trust staff to record the main details of the stonework before conservation work began (Photo 12).
- 7.1.3 Upon the removal of the vegetation it became apparent that the walls were in a worse condition than had originally been thought. In particular the southwest and northeast corners of the building were in a poor state.
- 7.1.4 The clearance work also revealed the amount of rubbish dumped within the ruin, as well as the very large quantity of overburden that existed, predominantly at the western end of the building (Photo 13).





**Photo 12:** *Volunteers and Trust staff begin the task of recording the north wall of Neuadd*



**Photo 13:** *Looking west after much of the vegetation has been cleared from Neuadd. Note the large amount of overburden at the western end of the building.*



- 7.1.5 The conservation building team continued the removal of the vegetation when they began work in early May. During this process the poor state of the walls became obvious and much detailed work had to be carried out to make the walls safe. In places the walls had to be rebuilt (Photo 14). Trust staff worked closely with the conservation building team, using their records to make sure that walls were rebuilt as closely as possible to the original design.



**Photo 14:** *The north face of the north wall of Neuadd during conservation work.*

- 7.1.6 It was decided to remove the overburden by machine and a watching brief was undertaken by Trust staff during its removal (Photo 15 & 16)
- 7.1.7 The overburden was a mixture of soil, collapsed stone from the walls, a good quantity of predominantly 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery (chiefly found along the west wall), glass, plastic, food wrappers and modern plastic or metal broken objects. This large deposit varied in compactness. In places pits had been dug through it to either remove quantities of stone or deposit more rubbish.
- 7.1.8 Once the machining was completed, the conservation building team continued to rebuild and repoint the walls. The tops of walls were made safe in order that the archaeological excavation could start in early July.
- 7.1.9 The clearance revealed the stone walls of a rectangular building measuring approximately 16.6m in length (E-W) by 7.5m width (N-S). All the architectural features described in previous accounts were present and their positions are shown in Figure 6.





**Photo15:** *The removal by machine of the overburden within the interior of Neuadd.*



**Photo 16:** *Neuadd interior after the majority of the accumulated overburden had been removed by machine.*



## **7.2 Community excavation**

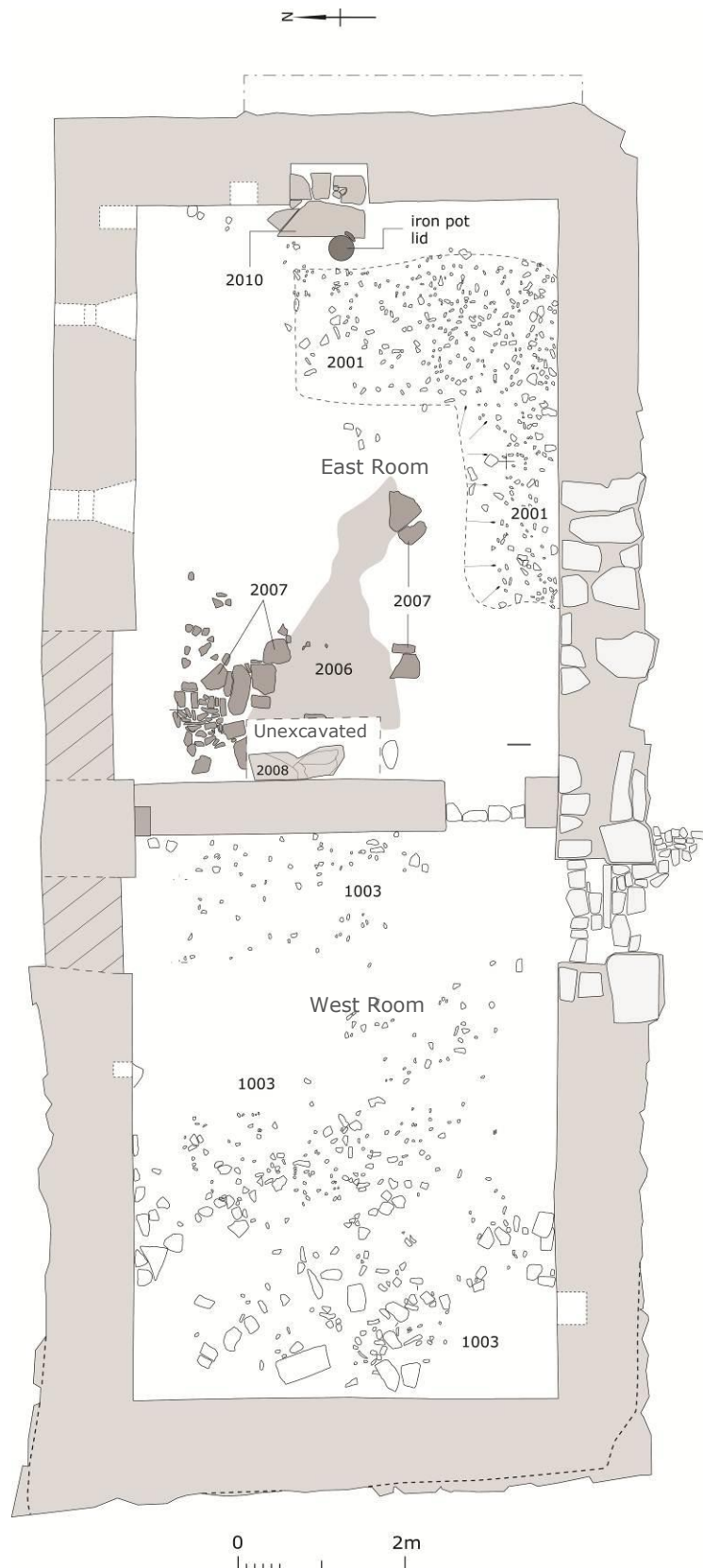
- 7.2.1 The community excavation and the next stage of the building recording ran for 3 weeks from 1<sup>st</sup> July until 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013.
- 7.2.2 The weather for the 3 weeks was extremely hot and dry, causing the ground surface to bake so hard that it was extremely difficult to differentiate between archaeological layers and excavate carefully.
- 7.2.3 The conservation building team had made all the walls safe but continued to work on site during the first week.
- 7.2.4 Over the 3 weeks approximately 35 people volunteered on the excavation. Some only came for a day whilst others participated every day. Volunteers ranged in age from 15 to 74 years.
- 7.2.5 Over the 3 weeks numerous visitors came to see what was happening, including many residents of Llanon who came each day. Some visitors even came back and volunteered.
- 7.2.6 In the second week Trust staff ran 2 activity days for children of all ages from Llanon Community Primary School (Photo 17) and a weekend morning of activities for the Aberystwyth Young Archaeologists Club.



**Photo17:** *Ed Davies (Dyfed Archaeological Trust) talking to the older years from Llanon Community Primary School on their activity day.*

- 7.2.7 The edges of the trenches excavated in 2000 were ascertained and the material they had been backfilled with was removed. The northeast corner of the east room was heavily disturbed which may have been a result of the trench dug in the 1970s exacerbated by modern intrusion.
- 7.2.8 Unfortunately because of the trench excavated in 2000 in the area of the doorway (Figure 7) the relationship between the deposits in both rooms has been lost.

- 7.2.9 All archaeological contexts (layers or features) recorded during the excavation were given a unique context number. In the following descriptions the context numbers are shown within [] brackets. A list of all the context numbers is given in Appendix II.



**Figure 8:** Plan of the 2 rooms of Neuadd showing the floor surfaces and associated archaeological contexts revealed after the removal of rubble layers.



### **7.3 West Room (Figures 8 & 9)**

- 7.3.1 After the removal of the overburden [1000] by machine the remaining vestiges of this deposit were removed by hand, mainly in the corners of the room and across the south wall (Photo 18).



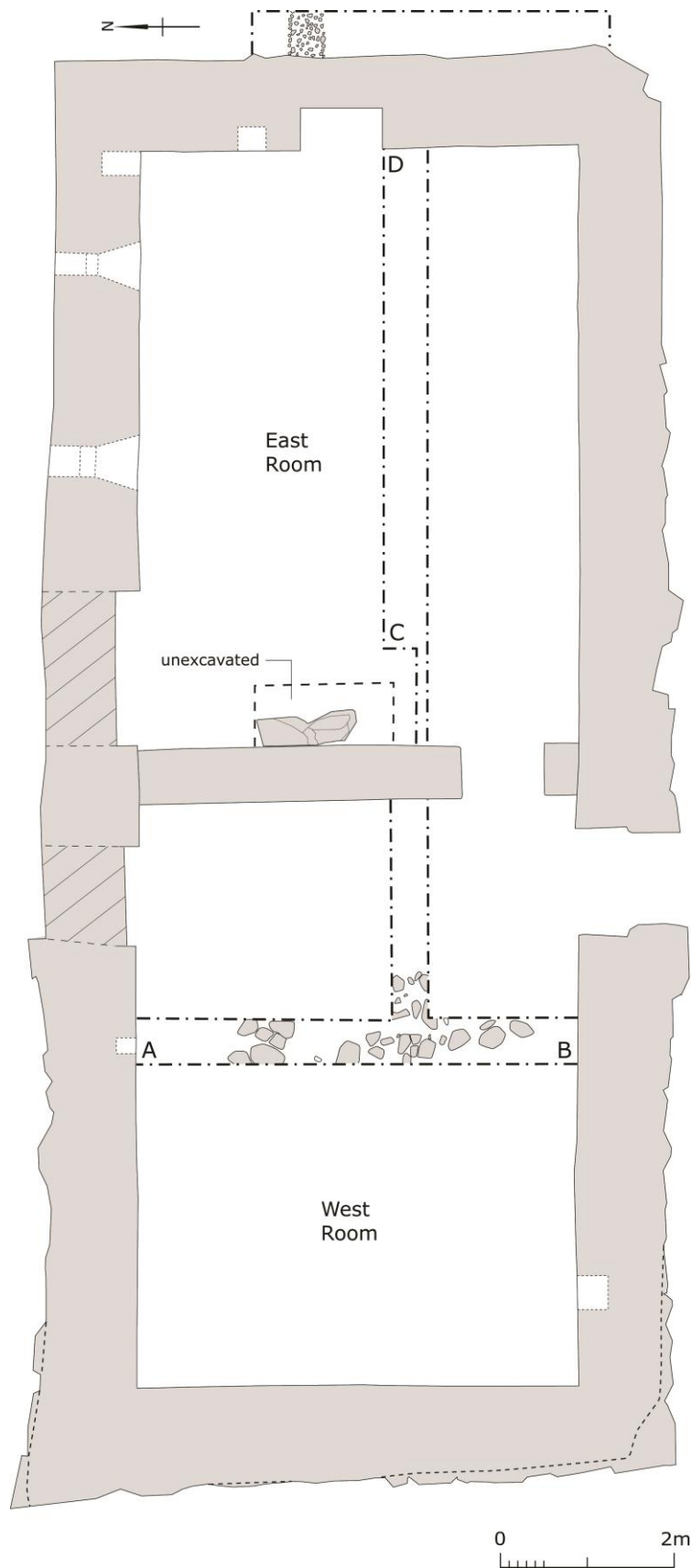
**Photo 18:** Removing the last remnants of the overburden [1000] in the west room.

- 7.3.2 Beneath the overburden was a compacted layer of yellow/brown clay [1001]. This layer contained stone from the collapsed walls, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds, animal bones showing butchery marks, pieces of clay pipe, as well as much broken glass. [1001] varied in thickness across the west room but had an average depth of 0.11m.
- 7.3.3 After the removal of [1001] a thin layer of dark brown silty loam [1002] was revealed. This layer contained a large amount of 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery, as well as other finds such as limpet and winkle shells, animal bones with butchery marks, pieces of coal, broken glass and two buttons but no fragments of any metal objects. This layer varied in depth across the site but had an average thickness of 0.01-0.04m.
- 7.3.4 Layer [1002] extended across the area of the west room but faded away towards the east side of the room before it reached the internal north-south wall.
- 7.3.5 Under layer [1002] was a very hard floor surface [1003] constructed from compacted yellow clay, numerous small pebbles and crushed pottery fragments.



**Photo 19:** Looking southwest across the Neuadd west room showing the clay floor surface [1003]. The dark feature seen towards the west wall has been caused by the roots of a former tree.

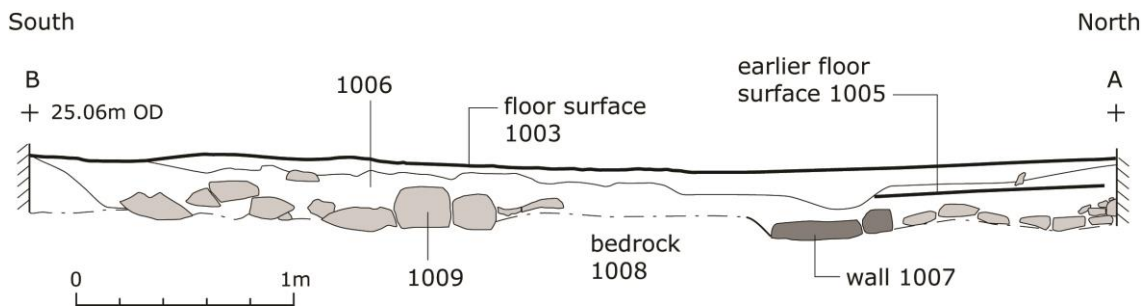
- 7.3.6 As with [1002] this floor layer [1003] faded towards the east side of the room becoming cleaner with far fewer stones. It is possible that this change indicated an internal north-south division across the room but because of the extremely hot weather during the excavation such slight changes in soil colour were near impossible to plan.
- 7.3.7 It was decided that the excavation would stop at this floor surface [1003] but two narrow trenches (Figure 9) were excavated at right angles to each other through [1003] to look at underlying archaeological layers.
- 7.3.8 The stone walls of Neuadd are constructed from a locally derived stone. As can be seen in Photo 19 above the foundation stones are very large rounded boulders, some as wide as the wall itself; c. 0.70-1.0m wide. Some of the stones have been worked and are faced and there are traces of a residual lime mortar in places.



**Figure 9:** Plan of Neuadd showing positions of excavated trenches,  
including trench (E-F) located parallel to the east wall



7.3.8 Figure 10 shows the east facing section (A-B) of the north-south trench. Below floor surface [1003] a small fragment of an earlier compressed clay floor surface [1005] could be seen in section at the north end of the trench, although it was not visible when excavating the trench. One piece of pre 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery (Dyfed gravel tempered ware) came from just above this floor layer. Below [1005] and running below [1003] was a very clean and compacted grey/brown silty clay layer. It was very similar to the natural boulder clay [1008] but between it and [1008] were a number of large and medium sized flat stones [1009]. At first it was thought that these stones were a natural deposit but on investigating them further and cutting the edge of the section back a little more at the northern end of the section, the base of a wall [1007] was discovered running in an approximate east-west direction (Photo 20).



**Figure 10:** East facing section of the north-south trench excavated in the Neuadd west room, showing the layers below floor surface [1003].

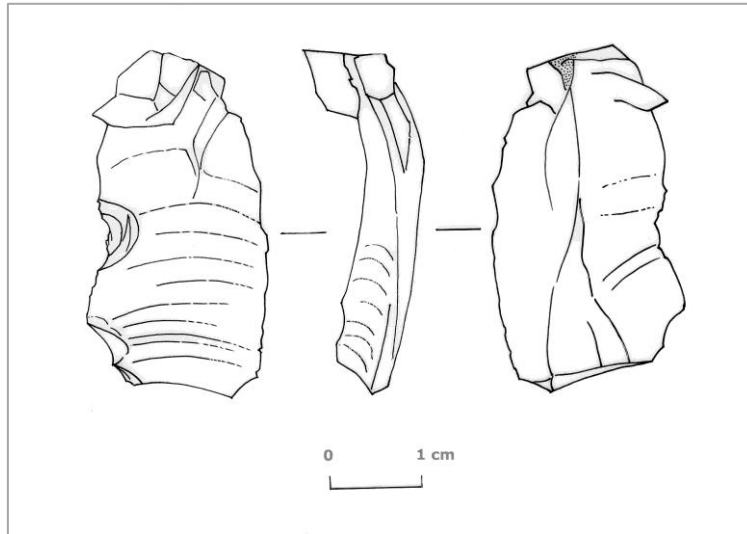


**Photo 20:** The base of a wall [1007] revealed in the narrow trench excavated below floor surface [1003].



7.3.9 Although the wall was not excavated it appeared to sit within a shallow foundation cut within the natural boulder clay.

7.3.10 One prehistoric flint flake was found during the removal of some of the stone [1009] from the northern end of the north-south trench.



**Figure 11:** A prehistoric flint flake found during removal of stone [1009] from the northern end of the north-south trench excavated through the west room.

7.3.11 The photograph below shows how the foundations of the Neuadd north wall sit on layer [1006] that lies above the spread of stone [1009], proving that the stones are of earlier date than the construction of Neuadd.



**Photo 21:** Taken facing north this photograph shows how the foundations of the Neuadd north wall are constructed upon layer [1006]. The lower spread of stones [1009] sits on the natural boulder clay [1008].

#### 7.4 East Room (Figures 8 & 9)

- 7.4.1 After the removal of the overburden [2000] by machine the remaining vestiges of this deposit were removed by hand.
- 7.4.2 This process revealed how different the character of the east room was from the west. The visible deposits across the room were very mixed and areas of compacted clay floor surfaces were visible.
- 7.4.3 A clearly defined area of compacted yellow/brown clay [2001] was plainly visible (Figure 8) in the southeast area of the room. It had an average thickness of 0.09m. Evident within this clay layer were numerous corroded iron objects, including such items as a key, door and window furniture, a file, hinges, straps, staples; the majority of them being incomplete or broken. On the edge of the layer just in front of the east wall fireplace was a very large iron pot lid (Figure 8 & Photo 22).



**Photo 22:** *The large iron pot lid being uncovered in front of the east wall fireplace. The pot lid lay within clay layer [2001].*

- 7.4.4 The edges of the spread of clay layer [2001] (Figure 8 & Photo 23) were very distinct and possibly represent an internal barrier or division that once existed in the east room.





**Photo 23:** Looking east at the Neuadd east room after all overburden [2000] had been removed and the area trowelled.

- 7.4.5 Layer [2006] was a loose dark brown ash like silt (Figure 8) containing fragments of lime mortar, slag, coal, 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery, glass and iron. It varied in depth from a few centimetres thick to 0.12m where it filled a depression to the east of the large stone block [2008]. It did not extend across the whole of the room and did not cover the area of layer [2001] but overlay the the stone flags [2007] situated to the south of the blocked lateral fireplace (Photo 23).
- 7.4.6 Partially covered by [2006] was an area of crudely laid flag stones of various sizes. These flags ran underneath a large stone block[2008] (Figure 8 & Photo 24). Around the eastern edge of the stone flags was a worn depression that was filled by layer [2006] (Photo 25).
- 7.4.7 The large stone block [2008] had been positioned on the east side of the internal wall and had been levelled using small stones (Photo 24). It had a maximum length of 1.23m and height 0.41m.
- 7.4.8 The removal of layers [2001] and [2006] revealed a rough uneven light yellowish brown clay surface [2009]. In places, towards the edges of the room and in the southeast corner, the clay surface was unbroken, level and very compacted but within the middle of the room the clay had been heavily disturbed and churned up.
- 7.4.9 In the southeast corner of the room and along the south and east wall above [1009] lay deposits of lime mortar (Photo 26). This would appear to have fallen from the walls where traces of it still remain in situ.
- 7.4.10 The removal of [2001] also revealed the hearthstone in front of the east wall fireplace (Figure 8 & Photo 27).





**Photo 24:** Photograph taken facing west showing the stone flags [2007] beneath the large stone block[2008]. Note the small stones that have been used to level the stone block (seen on the right). The earth block surrounding most of the stone was left in place because the stone block was unstable and starting to crack.



**Photo 25:** Photograph taken facing west showing the worn area to the east of stone flags [2007].





**Photo 26:** Taken facing north this photograph shows the lime mortar deposit [2012] in the southeast corner of the east room of Neuadd.

7.4.11 A narrow east-west trench was excavated across the east room to look at the underlying deposits (Figure 9). This showed that layer [2009] lay directly on natural gravel [2016] (Photo 27) and that the Neuadd east wall was built directly upon the natural gravel.



**Photo 27:** Taken facing east this photograph shows how the foundations of the Neuadd east wall sit directly upon the natural gravel [2013].



## 7.5 Trench (E-F) - Neuadd east wall (Figures 9 & 11).

- 7.5.1 A narrow trench was excavated along the exterior edge of the east wall to investigate whether there was any evidence of the Neuadd Cottage that existed to the east of the Neuadd and is shown on the 1905 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 5) and in an early 20<sup>th</sup> century photograph (Photo 7).
- 7.5.2 Upon removal of a thick deposit of loose silt [2002] containing modern 20<sup>th</sup> century plastic, wire, milk bottles and pottery fragments, a hard clay and small pebble floor surface [2004] was exposed. To the north of this was a tumbled heap of stone, and iron items [2003] covered in dark ashy silt. This tumble was positioned on the other side of the wall from the east wall fireplace. The iron objects included a small saucepan and parts of an old kitchen range and flue as well as a few pieces of 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery (Photo 28).



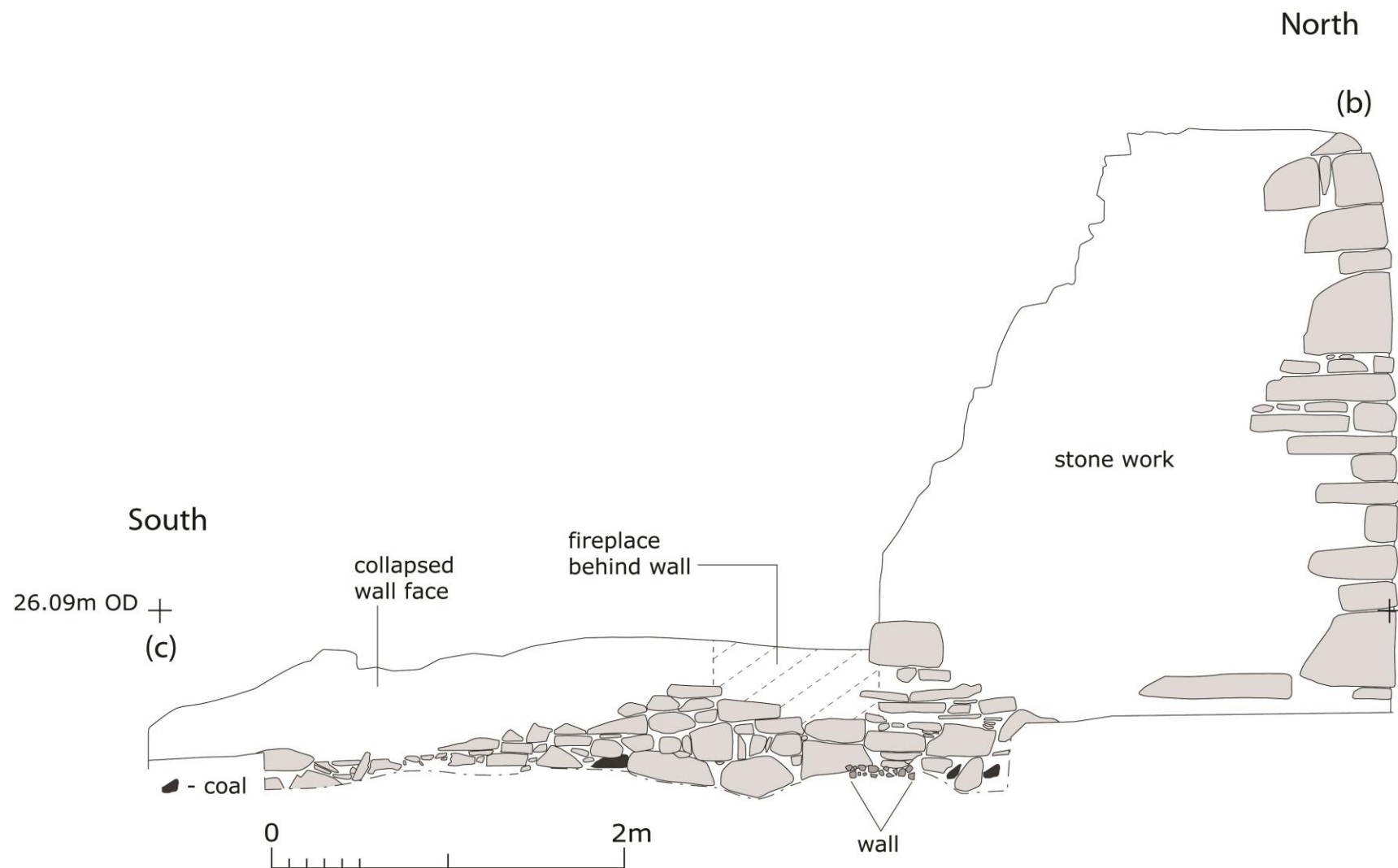
**Photo 28:** Looking west at the narrow trench (E-F) excavated against the exterior of the Neuadd east wall. The photograph shows the clay floor surface [2002] to the left and the tumbled stone and iron objects [2003] to the right.

- 7.5.3 Below the tumble a foundation for a narrow wall [2005] was discovered (Figures 9 & 11, Photo 29). The clay and stone foundation measured roughly 0.40m wide and ran eastwards from the Neuadd east wall that it abutted.
- 7.5.4 To the north of this foundation wall was evidence of a pit (Photo 29). It was not possible to fully excavate this pit.
- 7.5.5 The length of the trench could not be extended to the south far enough to investigate whether a parallel wall to [2005] existed.



**Photo 29:** *Looking west at the narrow trench (E-F) excavated along the exterior of the Neuadd east wall. The photograph shows the foundations of a wall [2005] running east at right angle to the east wall and evidence of a pit to the north of the wall foundation that was not fully excavated.*





**Figure 12:** The east facing elevation of the east wall of the Neuadd showing the position of the trench (E-F) excavated against the face of the east wall.

## **7.6 Building recording**

- 7.6.1 As the 3 week excavation progressed work continued on recording the interior faces of the Neuadd walls; drawing all architectural features in detail and all stonework up to head height.
- 7.6.2 Volunteers were trained in drawing techniques and then worked in pairs drawing and measuring the stonework.



**Photo 30:** *Volunteers Luke and Christine measuring and drawing the south face of the Neuadd north wall.*

- 7.6.3 A stone by stone measured hand drawing of the south face of the north wall of the Neuadd was completed during the 3 week excavation but there was not enough time to finish the others to that level of detail. Where necessary scaled photographs were taken and used during the post excavation stage to fill any detail missing (Photo 31).
- 7.6.4 The final elevation drawings of all the interior faces of the Neuadd walls are shown in Figures 12 to 16.
- 7.6.5 The walls survived to varying heights; the maximum surviving height was in the northeast corner at c.3.0m, whereas the south wall was nearly completely dismantled and for most of its length only survived as a single course of stone.
- 7.6.6 Neuadd was positioned roughly at right angles to the gentle east-west slope. Therefore the east end of the building, the dais end, was roughly 0.40m higher than the west end.





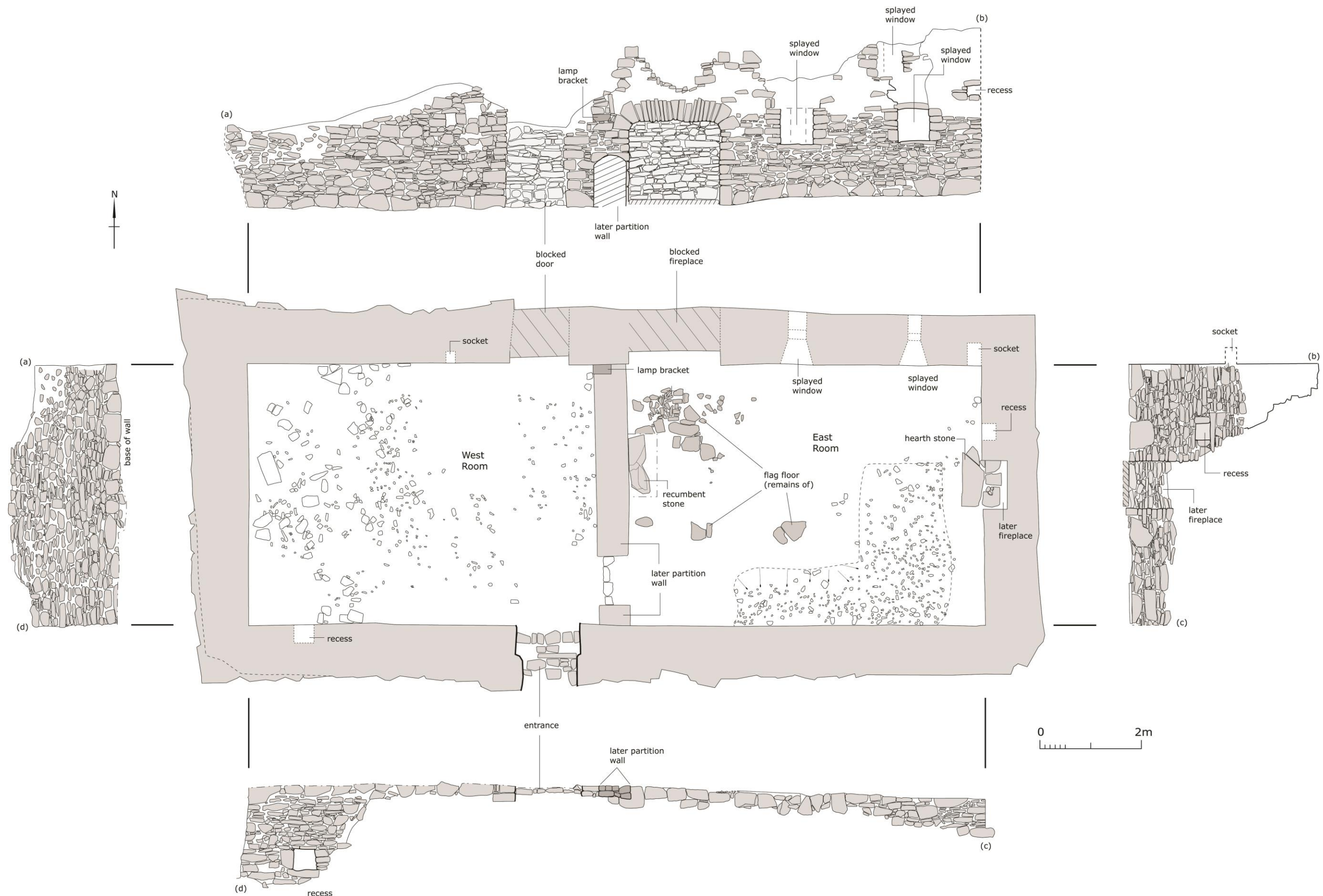
**Photo 31:** Volunteers Luke and Neil holding a 1m square frame whilst the detail of a recess in the Neuadd east wall is photographed.

7.6.7 Of great interest was the oven that was revealed in the north face of the north wall, behind the fireplace (Photo 32).

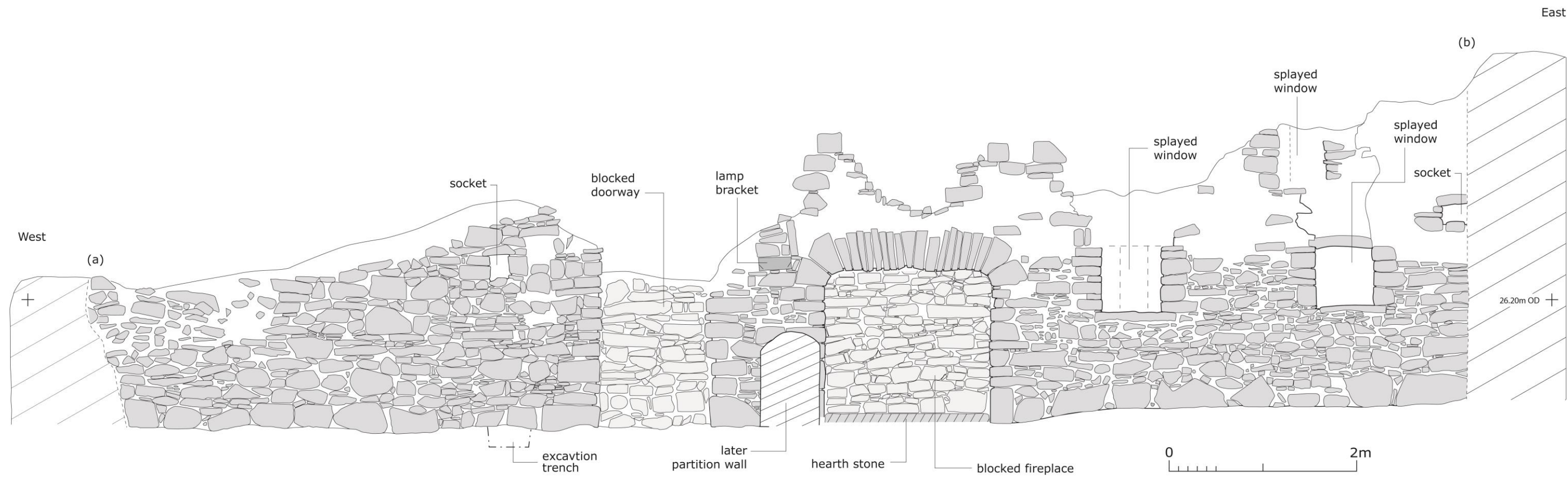


**Photo 32:** The oven (prior to conservation) revealed in the north face of the north wall after vegetation clearance.



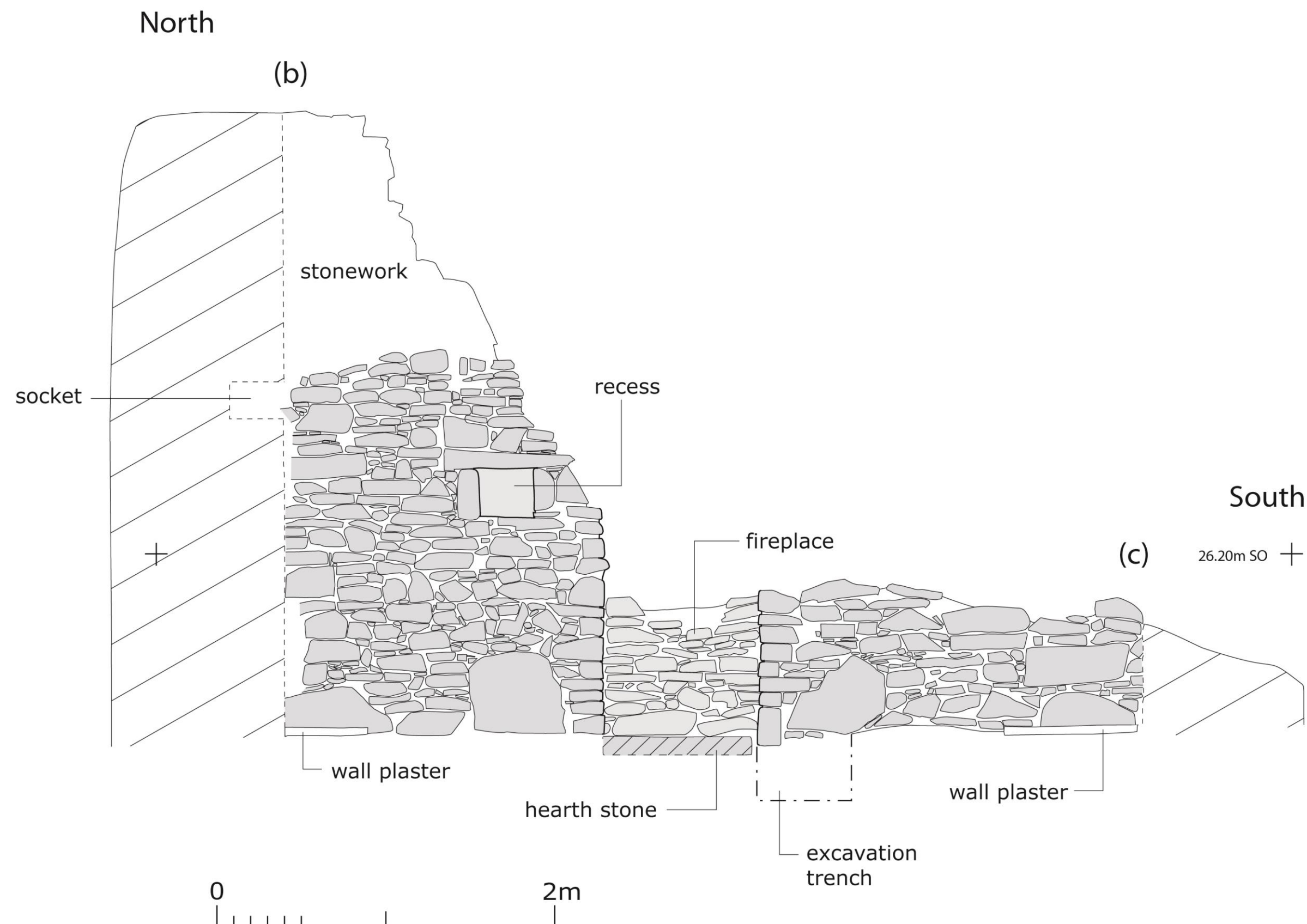


**Figure 13:** Combined final plan and elevations of the Neuadd building in 2013.



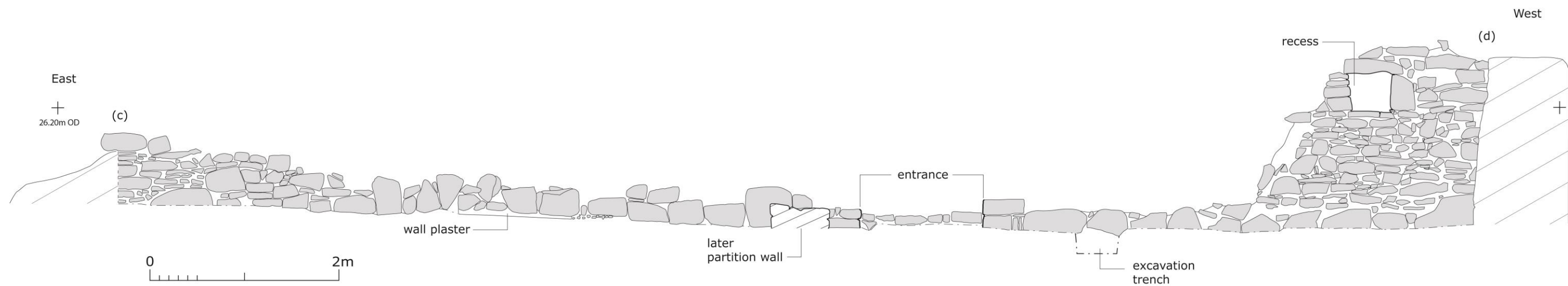
**Figure 14:** Elevation drawing of the south face of the Neuadd north wall.



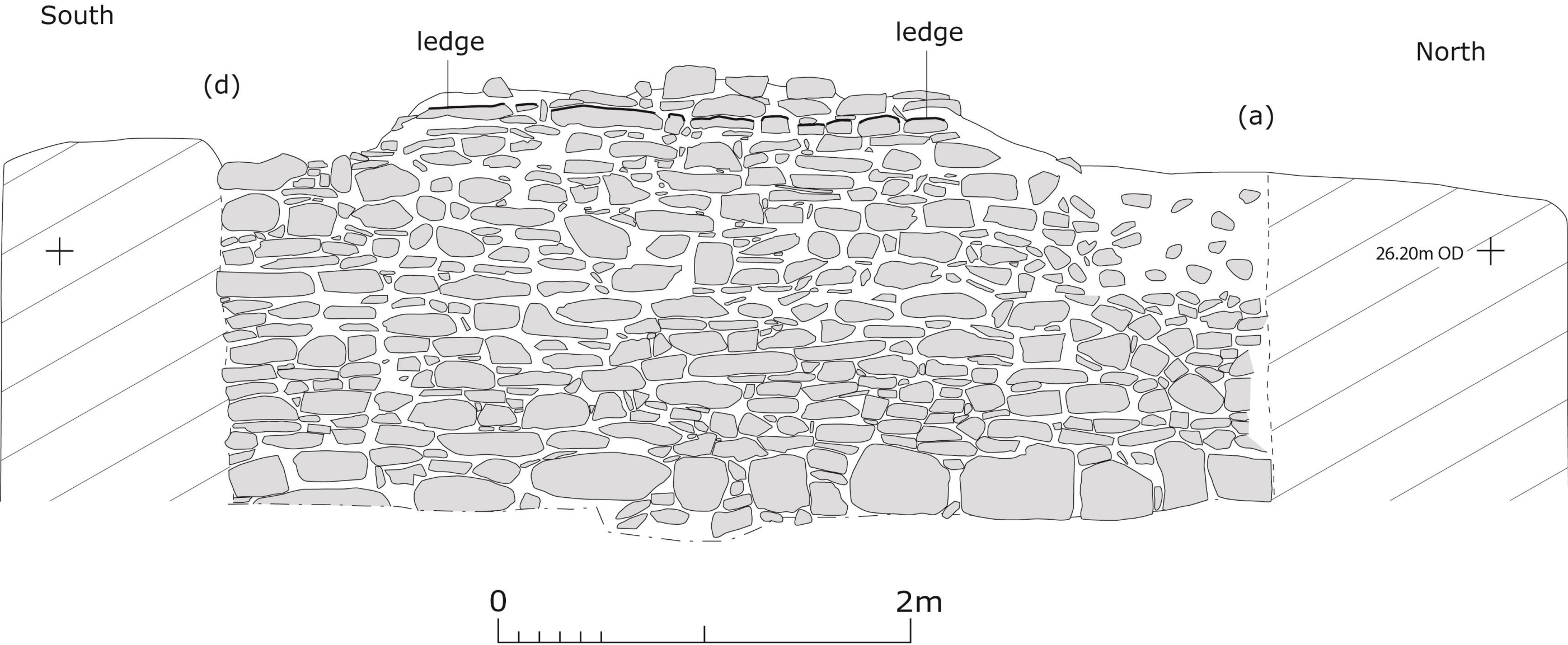


**Figure 15:** Elevation drawing of the west face of the Neuadd east wall.





**Figure 16:** Elevation drawing of the north face of the Neuadd south wall.



**Figure 17:** Elevation drawing of the east face of the Neuadd west wall.

## **8. DISCUSSION**

- 8.1 The excavation undertaken at Neuadd in Llanon was a rare opportunity to examine the only known site of its kind in Ceredigion. Comparable sites are known in Wales and a few have been excavated in Powys at Tyddyn Llwydion (Britnell & Suggett 2002) and Tŷ-draw, Llanarmon Mynydd Mawr (Britnell *et al*, 2008) and in Montgomery at Tŷ-mawr (Britnell 2001).
- 8.2 Neuadd was built in agriculturally rich land close to a water source and the sea. Its architectural features strongly suggest that it was constructed in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century. A well-constructed hall house with massive foundation stones; this was a home for a prosperous household. The hall measured approximately 16.6m by 7.5m and its wide dry stone walls were built directly upon the natural boulder clays and gravels. The walls had an average width of 0.7m-1.0m. A cross passage provided entry into the hall with a doorway at either end of the passage in the north and south walls.
- 8.3 The hall was heated by a lateral arched fireplace, with a stone bracket possibly to hold a lamp or candle to the west of it. Towards the higher eastern end would have been a raised area or dais. Here important family members would have dined, a surviving window in the north wall would have lit the area. Between the dais and the east end wall was an inner room lit by one window in the north wall that still incorporates a timber mullion. Purpose built recesses within the walls provided space for storage.
- 8.4 The lower western end of the hall may well have been where animals were stalled.
- 8.5 Regrettably no evidence of timber partitions or a roof structure survives. The article published in 1894 in *Yr Haul*, a denominational and church Welsh periodical, describes Neuadd as a ruin but comments that some oak timbers of the top roof still remain and are of great size; indicating the significant nature of the building's construction. There is some suggestion that there was a first floor at the eastern end of the hall, a timber socket can be seen in the north wall at its eastern end at the approximate height a first floor would be expected, but there are no other sockets further along the wall that would corroborate this.
- 8.6 The oven discovered behind the fireplace in the north wall confirms the domestic nature of the building.
- 8.7 However, Neuadd is not the first development on this site, as evidence was found for an earlier structure. The foundation of a stone wall and the spread of stone that surrounds it discovered below Neuadd in the west room are sealed by a deposit that the Neuadd foundations sit upon. They are of unknown date but one flint flake was found close by at the same level indicating possible prehistoric activity in the area.
- 8.8 We do not know who built Neuadd but the earliest known documentary evidence specifies the property in wills dated 1610 and 1649. There is then a large gap in the written record (as far as we know) until it is mentioned in the later 18<sup>th</sup> century and then throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century it remains in the same Jones family who also occupied Neuadd from c.1805 to 1880. During the later 18<sup>th</sup> and throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century Neuadd becomes surrounded and somewhat hemmed in by numerous small cottages.
- 8.9 The archaeological evidence would suggest that during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, corresponding somewhat with the documentary evidence providing an owner's name for Neuadd after a gap of many years, the building is remodelled or renovated removing any evidence of the original Tudor floor levels.
- 8.10 Possibly in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century the original floors were dug out down to the natural boulder clay that the walls were constructed upon. An internal wall was



then built dividing the hall into 2 rooms. New beaten clay floors were laid. One small sherd of pottery found from the earliest floor layer (1005) is typical of Dyfed gravel-tempered ware. It is definitely post-medieval in date, though likely to be pre 19<sup>th</sup> century. The north doorway is blocked up, as is the lateral fireplace. The main entrance into the building is now in the south wall and a new fireplace is inserted into the east wall.

- 8.11 It is not possible to tell whether all these events happened exactly at the same time or whether they were part of a process carried out over a period of time; adapting the building to more modern requirements, a process still carried out today. There are some indications in both rooms that at some point partitions, perhaps constructed from wood, divided the rooms into separate areas but the evidence was so slight and the weather conditions so unhelpful it was impossible to record.
- 8.12 Probably sometime in the 19<sup>th</sup> century the east room becomes a small scale workshop, possibly comprising the repair of domestic or agricultural metal tools. A large stone block possibly used to support a work surface or bench (the upper surfaces of the stone shows no wear) is carefully positioned against the east face of the internal wall, upon an area of stone flags. Around the flags the ground is heavily worn and dark ash containing small pieces of slag like material fills the worn depressions. Elsewhere the floor surface is also greatly dilapidated, patched and repaired. When abandoned the room's floor is strewn with broken pieces of metal; the detritus from a small scale metal repair shop in the 19th century. The majority of pieces are from broken vessels – shattered fragments both of wrought and cast iron, items that have been discarded and are of no value.
- 8.13 In contrast the west room's floor is clean and in good condition, and shows little signs of wear. Perhaps this room was always used for habitation even towards the end of Neuadd's life.
- 8.14 By 1894 Neuadd is photographed as a dilapidated ruin with no roof remaining, although an intact Neuadd Cottage can be seen in the background (Photo 7). It is possible that the floor found in the trench excavated along the outer face of the east wall is associated with this cottage.
- 8.15 Once Neuadd becomes redundant it would have been a ready source of building material for use elsewhere, perhaps in the growing number of cottages being built in Llanon in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The south wall was virtually dismantled over time and the building became a dumping ground for domestic rubbish.
- 8.16 The majority of pottery assemblage recovered from the layers above the 18<sup>th</sup> century floor is possibly associated with the latest period of occupation at Neuadd, most of it dating to the second half of the 19th century and the early part of the 20th century. In this context, it is a modest array of wares with nothing of rarity or of great monetary value. Whilst some of the pottery may have been derived from occupation of the building itself, the very latest material is likely to have been discarded from nearby properties. The few sherds that pre-date the 19th century indicate earlier occupation during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18th centuries.
- 8.17 The pottery and other finds are a good indicator of the domestic practices of the people who lived in the area. The vessels included jars, for preserves, household bottles for inks and beverages, many teapots and large bowls, as well as plates, bowls and cups in mass-produced whitewares. A number of dinner plates, with regular scalloped edges, show a moulded grass design. This was a very popular design between the 1820s and the 1890s. Of interest is part of an ornamental bone china vase, bought or presented as a souvenir, found in context [2006] with joining sherds from context [2013]. The vase shows two women in traditional

Welsh dress with the words 'Welsh Costume' beneath and is of probable early 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

- 8.18 The most striking thing about the metalwork collected from the Neuadd during the excavation was that roughly 90% of it comes from the east room. In the east room the metalwork was found in contexts sitting directly upon the damaged floor surface and in layer (2006), the dark ashy layer found overlying and surrounding the stone flag surface. Whereas in the west room any metalwork was recovered only from a rubble layer that post-dates the use of the room. This confirms the very different uses of the two rooms in the 19<sup>th</sup> century towards the end of Neuadd's life.
- 8.19 Other finds include pieces of clay pipe, a fragment of a bone comb, metal saucepans, a large cast iron pot lid, keys, window furniture, buttons, a bone knife handle and parts of a kitchen range. There was also a large amount of 19th and 20th century broken glass across the whole site.
- 8.20 As for what the people were eating a study of the animal bone has shown that just over half of the identifiable animals bones were from sheep, the remaining bones were mainly from cow and pig. A good number of the animals were juveniles and their bones showed clear evidence of having been sawn or chopped during butchery. They also nearly all showed indications of having been gnawed by other animals after being discarded. Limpet and winkle shells were also evident across the site often found in neat deposits, as though dropped in a pile after having a quick snack.
- 8.21 Although the excavation did not discover any surviving floor levels associated with the original Tudor construction of Neuadd, it has revealed details of its later history, when for much of the 19<sup>th</sup> century it remained in the ownership of the Jones family.
- 8.22 From his will of 1828 Daniel Jones is clearly a prosperous man owning Neuadd, the adjoining 'slang', and several of its surrounding houses and outhouses, as well as 3 other properties, another 'slang' and various other possessions. His daughter Elizabeth Jones inherits Neuadd on her mother's death in 1841 provided that she cares for her brother Jenkin, who is given the title 'imbecile' and is obviously not capable of looking after himself. Elizabeth continues to live at Neuadd until her death aged 76 in 1880, long after Jenkin's death in 1857. Elizabeth is at various times described as an 'idiot' and receives poor relief at many times in her life. From such prosperous beginnings Elizabeth dies a pauper and it is possible to see the demise of Neuadd as a reflection of its owner's reduced circumstances.
- 8.23 Above all the excavation and building recording project at Neuadd was a highly successful community project, allowing for the involvement and training of many members of the local community. For many of the volunteers Neuadd was an overgrown bit of wasteland that they had passed by many times but by the end it had emerged as a building with a fascinating story to tell.

## **9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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The report was written by Frances Murphy and the plans and drawings were produced by Hubert Wilson.



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# **NEUADD, LLANON, CEREDIGION, BUILDING RECORDING & COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION 2013 VOLUME I**

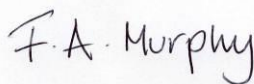
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Medi 2013  
September 2013

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan /  
This report has been prepared by: Fran Murphy

Swydd / Position: Project Manager

Llofnod / Signature



Dyddiad / Date 10/01/2014

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith /  
This report has been checked and approved by: James Meek

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf. /  
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Head of Field Services

Llofnod / Signature



Dyddiad / Date 10/01/2014

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sydd gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn*

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