

Doorway Unblocking at
Plas Machen,
Lower Machen, Newport

Level 2 Historic Buildings Record

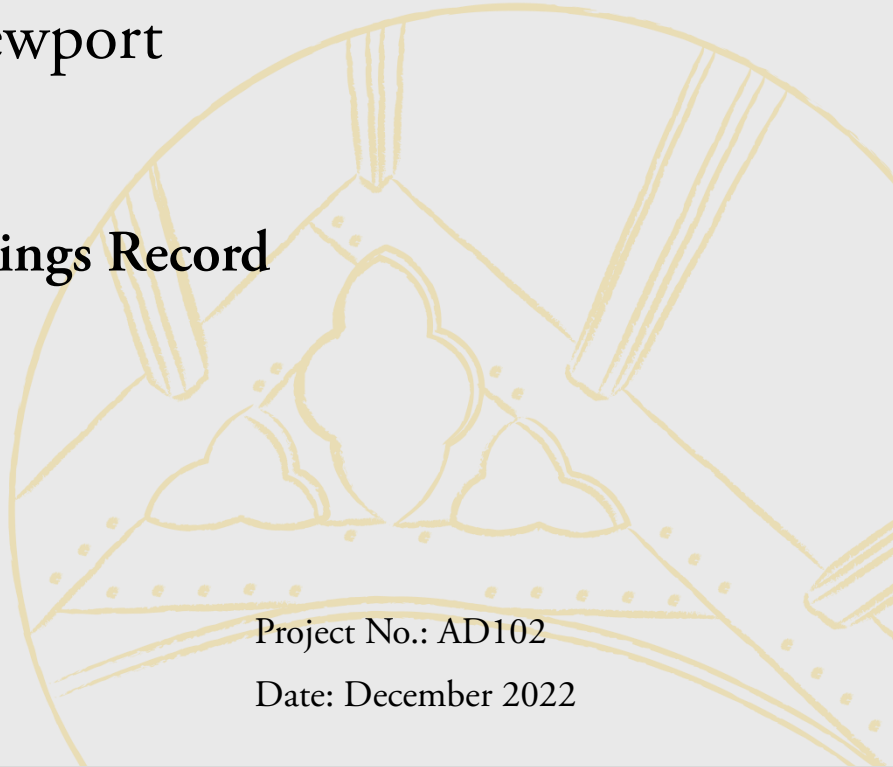
Ross Cook FSA

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Prepared for:

Aiden Dickson,

Plas Machen, Lower Machen, Newport, NP10 8GW

Project No:

By:

ArchaeoDomus - Archaeological & Heritage Services

LGF09, Creuddyn, Pontfaen Road, Lampeter, Ceredigion, SA48 7BN

Tel: +44 (0) 1570 429 539 +44 (0) 7910 213 557

Email: ross.cook@archaeodomus.co.uk

www.archaeodomus.co.uk

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Acknowledgements

With thanks to Aiden Dickson for commissioning this historic buildings record.

Abbreviations

HER	- Historic Environment Record.
LPA	- Local Planning Authority.
NGR	- National Grid Reference.
NMR	- National Monuments Record.
OS	- Ordnance Survey.

All other abbreviations will be referred to in text.

Project Team

Ross Cook FSA – A buildings archaeologist and dendrochronologist with a background in archaeology and buildings conservation. He has undertaken archaeological fieldwork throughout Wales and has also worked to produce detailed surveys of a wide range of Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings throughout Wales and England; this has included Neath Abbey, Llansteffan Castle, Tretower Castle, Cilgerran Castle, Newport Castle Pembrokeshire, Picton Castle, and Brymbo Ironworks. Ross is the Cathedral Archaeologist to St Davids Cathedral, and Consultant Archaeologist to Christchurch Priory, Dorset. He previously worked for the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales as a Historic Buildings Investigator (Archaeology), where he recorded buildings and Monuments, and provided advice on historic buildings at a national level. Currently he is involved with project work with Cadw, The Brymbo Heritage Group, and The Buildings of Medieval and Ottoman Palestine Research Project.

Ross also works as an Associate Dendrochronologist with the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory, through which he has undertaken work on sites such as Hampton Court Palace, Winchester Cathedral, Queens House Greenwich, The Tower of London, Christ Church and Magdalen College Oxford, Llwyn Celyn (Mons), and many other smaller listed buildings and scheduled sites throughout Wales and England.

ArchaeoDomus Archaeological & Heritage Services is the trading name of Ross Cook, an affiliate member of the Cifa, and adheres to the Cifa codes of conduct.

In November 2022, Ross was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

Cert. in Buildings Archaeology – University of Sussex, CCE.

PGCert. Social Anthropology – University of Wales, Lampeter

BA Joint Honours Archaeology & Anthropology – University of Wales, Lampeter

Plas Machen, Lower Machen, Newport

Level 2 Historic Buildings Record

Summary

ArchaeoDomus were commissioned by Aiden Dickson to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation, and undertake a Level 2 Historic Buildings Record during a programme of works to unblock two doorways. The aim of this work has been to produce a record of the doorways, which can be incorporated into a larger Level 3 report when a larger scheme of works is planned.

The Historic Buildings Record was undertaken on 14th June 2021 and concluded 9th February 2022. The results of this work have been this Level 2 Historic Buildings Record, including interpreted drawing and a photographic archive.

The historic building record has shown that the two doorways were blocked during the refurbishment works of circa 1869. Materials from the alteration of the drawing room window, and any remaining rubble from the Elizabethan wing, were used to block both doorways, with most plaster and dressed stonework coming from doorway A. The materials recovered correspond with other great houses of the 16th century, and helps to demonstrate the close nature of the gentry from this period and their adoption of particular architectural fashions for the ornamentation of windows and doorways, and plasterwork. In particular, the plasterwork provides an insight into how the interior of Plas Machen must have looked from the Elizabethan period to the 19th century. All give a clear illustration of the Morgan's status and wealth in being able to afford such elaborate and sophisticated decoration.

**Plas Machen,
Lower Machen, Casnewydd**

Cofnod Adeiladau Hanesyddol Lefel 2

Crynodeb

Comisiynwyd ArchaeoDomus gan Aiden Dickson i baratoi Cynllun Ymchwilio Ysgrifenedig, ac ymgymryd â Chofnod Adeiladau Hanesyddol Lefel 2 yn ystod rhaglen o waith i ddad-gloi dwy ddrws. Nod y gwaith hwn oedd cynhyrchu cofnod o'r norwyau, y gellir eu hymgorffori mewn adroddiad Lefel 3 mwy pan fydd cynllun mwy o waith wedi'i gynllunio.

Cynhaliwyd y Cofnod Adeiladau Hanesyddol ar 14 Mehefin 2021 gan orffen yn 9 Chwefror 2022. Canlyniadau'r gwaith hwn oedd Cofnod Adeiladau Hanesyddol Lefel 2 hwn, gan gynnwys lluniadu wedi ei ddehongli ac archif ffotograffig.

Mae'r cofnod adeiladu hanesyddol wedi dangos bod y ddau ddrws wedi'u rhwystro yn ystod gwaith adnewyddu tua 1869. Defnyddiwyd deunyddiau o newid ffenestr yr ystafell ddarlunio, ac unrhyw rwbel oedd yn weddill o'r adain Elisabethaidd, i rwystro'r ddwy drws, gyda'r rhan fwyaf o blasty a gwaith cerrig wedi'u gwisgo yn dod o ddrws A. Mae'r deunyddiau a adenillwyd yn cyfateb â thai mawr eraill o'r 16eg ganrif, ac yn helpu i ddangos natur agos y bonedd o'r cyfnod hwn a'u mabwysiadu o ffasiynau pensaernïol penodol ar gyfer addurno ffenestri a drwsiau, a gwaith plastr. Yn benodol, mae'r gwaith plasdy'n rhoi cipolwg ar sut mae'n rhaid bod tu mewn Plas Machen wedi edrych o'r cyfnod Elisabethaidd i'r 19eg ganrif. Mae'r cyfan yn rhoi darlun clir o status a chyfoeth y Morgan o ran gallu fforddio addurn mor gywrain a soffistigedig.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 ArchaeoDomus were commissioned to undertake an archaeological programme of recording and investigation during the opening up of two historic doorways at the Grade II* listed Plas Machen, Lower Machen, Newport (hereafter also referred to as ‘the site’). This work included a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ArchaeoDomus 2020) and this *Level 2 Historic Buildings Record* (HE 2016). The programme has monitored the reopening of two former doorways, and recorded these on completion.



Fig. 1 – Plas Machen.

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 Planning permission was granted on the 15th June 2018 under application number 18/0267. Permission allows for the ‘*Removal of external WC and minor internal alterations*’. With permission Archaeological Conditions were recommended by Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Planning Services (GGAT-PS) to the Local Planning Authority, in line with *Planning Policy Wales section 6.5.7*, and *TAN 24 sections 4.13 and 4.14*. The conditions states:

2. No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured agreement for a written scheme of historic environment mitigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority. The written scheme of historic environment mitigation shall include archaeological supervision of the proposed works and a level 3 survey for any new works. Thereafter, the programme of work and supervision shall be fully carried out in accordance with the requirements and standards of the written scheme.

Reason: To identify and record any features of archaeological interest discovered during the works, in order to mitigate the impact of the works on the archaeological resource.

- 1.2.2 This historic buildings record has been undertaken to a Level 2 standard. The scope covers the unblocking of two doorways. The purpose of this record is to provide a written and illustrated account of the work and findings, which can be included in a Level 3 record when more comprehensive schemes of work are undertaken at the property.
- 1.2.3 The installation of a new partition screen within the garden room and new cabinets in the kitchen were not observed as fixings were to be made to the walls, and would not provide additional information on the historic asset.
- 1.2.4 The Local Planning Authority is Newport City Council, full documentation relating to the application is available on request from the authority. A general works plan can be found in **Appendix III**.
- 1.2.5 Plas Machen is a Grade II* listed building (ID 2905), designated as a substantial Elizabethan house of one of the principal families of the county of Glamorgan.

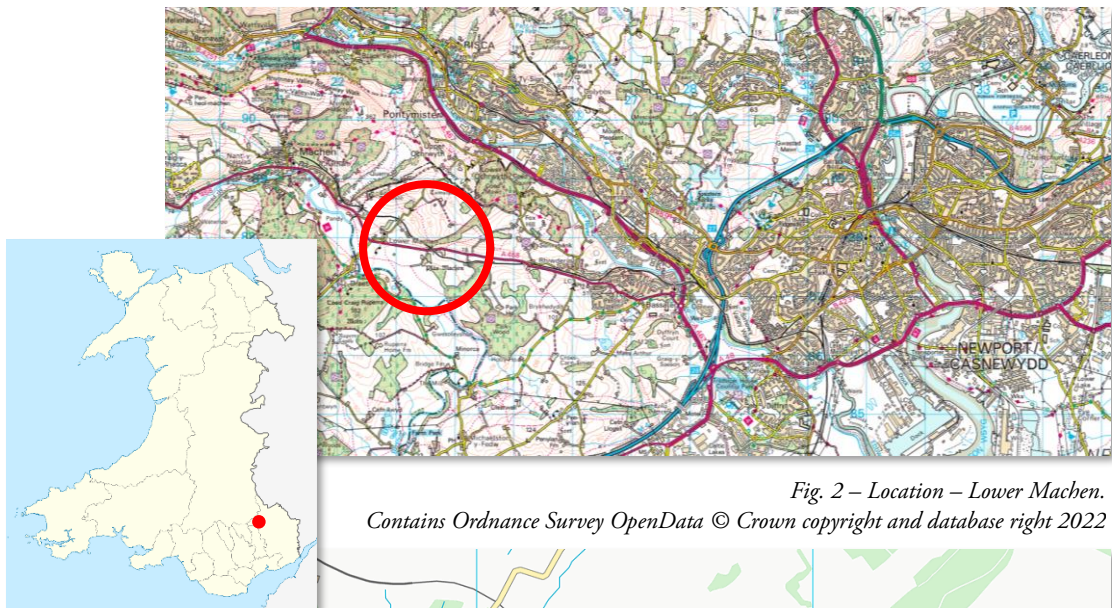
1.3 Fieldwork

- 1.3.1 The fieldwork was commenced on 14th June 2021 and concluded 9th February 2022, in accordance with the guidance laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, CIfA *Standards and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings* (2014; updated 2020), Historic England's *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good practice* (2016).
- 1.3.2 This report documents the results of the Historic Buildings Record.

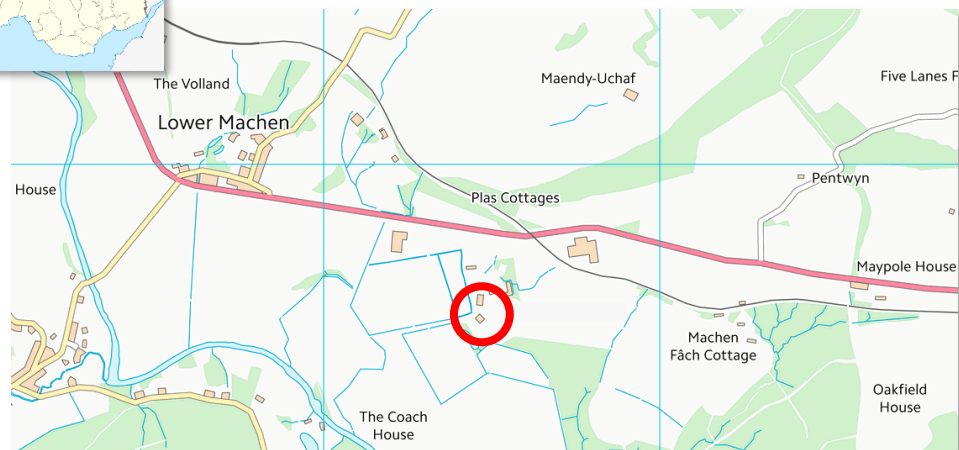
2 SITE AND LOCATION

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 Plas Machen is a substantial house located in the community of Lower Machen in Graig, one of the Wards of Newport City. The property is formed of a small cluster of buildings, which includes several barns and stables. The dwelling lies 800m south-east of the village of Lower Machen and 7.6km west of the centre of the city of Newport. St Michael and All Angels is the nearest Church, located 835m to the north-west, in Lower Machen. Access is provided by a small shared driveway from the north, which connects to the A468. Several small streams to the southeast and southwest flow into the Rhymney River, some 500m to the south-west. The site is centred around ST 23455 87531/ 51°34'53"N 3°6'22"W / What3Words blotches.harvest.surcharge.



*Fig. 2 – Location – Lower Machen.
Contains Ordnance Survey OpenData © Crown copyright and database right 2022*



*Fig. 3 – Location – Plas Machen.
Contains Ordnance Survey OpenData © Crown copyright and database right 2022.*

2.2 Geology

- 2.2.1 The underlying geology is formed of a sandstone known as the Llynfi Member (BGS) with glaciofluvial ice contact deposits of Devensian sand and gravel superficial deposits recorded (BGS). The local soil type is unclassified (UKSO), is unsurveyed on the world reference base (UKSO).

3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 This historical background uses a HER search (**Ref. 6411**) radius of 200m to identify sites of archaeological and historical importance.
- 3.1.2 Plas Machen is located in the parish of Machen. The parish is in the medieval Welsh Commote of Machen and Cantref of Gwynllwg.

3.2 Previous Archaeological Events

- 3.2.1 There are no previous archaeological events recorded within the search area.

3.3 HER Search Results

- 3.3.1 The HER search showed there to be 2 Listed Buildings. No Scheduled Monuments were recorded.
- 3.3.2 Plas Machen itself is recorded in the HER under **GGAT00025g**, along with its garden under **GGAT06129g**.
- 3.3.3 Plas Cottages are the only other site recorded in the HER search area, registered under **GGAT06129g**. They are listed as a well-preserved row of 19th century estate cottages.

3.4 Site Specific

- 3.4.1 The Morgan family rose to prominence in South Wales after Henry Tudor at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. John Morgan (1428-1491) was an early supporter of Henry, which bought him land and titles after Henry's victory. On 7th November 1485, John Morgan was appointed by Henry VII to the office of 'Sheriff of Wentloog and Newport' and made 'Steward of Machen Commote'. It is at this time that the Morgan's acquired land in Machen. By 1490, John had begun the construction of a new house at Tredegar of which a single wing still exists today.
- 3.4.2 Plas Machen was built by Sir Thomas Machen (1482-1538), the second son of Sir John Morgan (1428-1491), who we know was likely in residence by 1536 when he was referred to as 'of Machen'. Thomas acted as 'Esquire to the body of King Henry VII', placing a second generation of the Morgan's close to the centre of power. This clearly worked to the benefit of Thomas, as he was able to build a new house for himself and his line of the family, known as the cadet branch of Plas Machen. Although an exact date is not certain, the form and style of the building places its date of construction to somewhere between 1530-1560. This cadet branch of the family would become the senior branch of the Morgan's when, in 1578, Miles Morgan drowned at sea and left no heir.

- 3.4.3 For six years from 1536, John Leland (Leyland) made a six year tour of the Kingdom of England and Wales to record the abbeys, colleges and other places in which he may find antiquarian records. As part of this work, Leland noted the large houses of the manors and counties of the kingdom, and records Maghen (Machen) of the Morgan family, describing them as having a ‘fair house’ here.
- 3.4.4 The mansion was extended and altered in the 17th and 18th centuries. However, much of the family’s focus changed when, in the 1660s, they formally moved their seat to Tredegar. This left Plas Machen as one of a number of properties in the Morgan’s estate and one of the oldest too, which was then inhabited by branch lines of the family. Despite the historic significance of the mansion to this line of the Morgan’s, the family had deserted the house by 1800, by which time it was in use as a farmhouse.
- 3.4.5 An engraving of circa 1800 from Coxe’s *Tour of Monmouthshire*, shows Plas Machen at its fullest extent, with a large south wing, which has since been largely demolished.



Fig. 4 – Machen Place, from Coxe’s *Tour of Monmouthshire*, 1801.

Coxe writes on Plas Machen, though to him known as Machen Place,

This once respectable seat, now a farm house, hastening to decay, still exhibits a few traces of past grandeur: a circular apartment, called the hunting room, is decorated with a rich stuccoed ceiling, representing the figure of Diana in the middle, with seats, churches, and hunting parties, in twelve surrounding compartments. A pair of andirons weighing three hundred pounds, which were not unusually employed in roasting an ox whole, with a large oak table on which it was served, convey a recollection of former times and former hospitality. (Coxe, 1801: 67-68)

- 3.4.6 The date for the demolition of the Elizabethan wing is not entirely clear, but mapping evidence suggests it happened between 1801 and the Tithe of 1842, and was replaced by the smaller wing that remains today.
- 3.4.7 In 1869, architects Habershon and Pite were appointed by the Tredegar Estate to refurbish the house at Machen. This work reorganised the house into the plan as seen today and responsible for the blocking up of the doorways that are to be reopened.

3.5 Cartographic

- 3.5.1 The earliest drawn record of Plas Machen is on the Ordnance Surveyors Map of 1811 by Thomas Budgen, where it is labelled as Machen Place. However, it does not clearly show the form of the house, and no meaningful information can be drawn from this.
- 3.5.2 The Tithe Map of 1842, again records Machen Place, which records it as largely as it is seen today.
- 3.5.3 The Ordnance Survey First, Second and Third Editions of 1883, 1901 and 1920, all record it similarly.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 Historic Buildings Record

- 4.1.1 The aim of the buildings report is to produce a lasting record of the property prior to any development and alterations, defined by the CIfA (2014, updated 2020: 3) as:

A programme of archaeological building investigation and recording will determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource associated with a specified building, structure or complex. It will draw on existing records (both archaeological and historical sources) and fieldwork. It will be undertaken using appropriate methods and practices which satisfy the stated aims of the project, and which comply with the Code of conduct, Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in archaeology, and other relevant by-laws of the CIfA. The programme will result in the production of drawings, an ordered accessible archive and a report.

- 4.1.2 Monitor the reopening works to identify and recover any architectural fragments that may have been incorporated into the fill material.
- 4.1.3 Produce a descriptive and photographic record of the doorways, prior to and after opening works.
- 4.1.4 Supplement the descriptive and photographic record with drawn records, when and where these are required.
- 4.1.5 The results of the investigation and report will aim

'to seek a better understanding, compile a lasting record, analyse the findings/record, and then disseminate the results.' (CIfA 2014: 3)

4.2 Report and Archive

- 4.2.1 To communicate the results of the archaeological investigation to the client in the form of an illustrated report, and to provide digital copies to the Regional HER and the NMRW.
- 4.2.2 To prepare a digital archive of the projects report, photographic archive, all drawn elements for deposition with the National Monuments Record of Wales, and the Regional HER held by the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 All archaeological works have been conducted by a qualified archaeologist in accordance with the methodology set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ArchaeoDomus 2020) and in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for Recording Historic Buildings and Structures* (2014; updated 2020) from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

5.2 Measured Survey and Drawn Record

5.2.1 A Level 2 Historic Buildings Record, in line with Historic England *Understanding Historic Buildings; a guide to good practice* (2016), was undertaken to record the building and understand its development.

5.2.2 Plans prepared by the architect, Andrew Faulkner, were used to locate the areas of work.

5.2.3 Survey was undertaken of doorway B using LiDAR equipped camera to produce a 3D point cloud.

5.2.4 Doorway A was not surveyed due to its simple nature and lack of architectural detail.

5.2.5 The interpreted plans were produced in Rhino 7.

5.3 Photographic Recording

5.3.1 A photographic record was made of the building, which included:

- ❖ Pre-works record
- ❖ Post-works record
- ❖ Recovered materials

5.3.2 The photographic record has been compiled into an archive, which has been appended to this report (**Appendix II**).

5.3.3 Photographs were taken with a camera of no less than 12-megapixel sensor.

5.3.4 All photographs have been named using the project code, in this instance AD102, which are followed by a reference and number. The reference codes used are as follows:

- ❖ HBR – Historic Buildings Record

5.3.5 All photographs in this report are watermarked with the photographs' name, code, and number.

5.4 Documentary Research

5.4.1 Documentary research was undertaken using readily available resources with additional research aided by map regression and Tithe Map searches. Further research was undertaken using unpublished and published sources.

5.5 Reporting

5.5.1 This report has been written and compiled by Ross Cook, following the guidance provided by Historic England's *Understanding Historic Buildings; a guide to good practice* (2016) and the CIfA's *Standards and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2011).

5.5.2 This report has been written in Microsoft Word and uses Adobe Garamond Pro as its typeface.

5.6 Health and Safety

5.6.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and Health and Safety Advice in Archaeology (BAJR 2005).

6 HISTORIC BUILDINGS RECORD

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The historic buildings record was undertaken on 14th June 2021 and concluded 9th February 2022. This comprised a visual investigation, measured survey, and photographic record during a programme of work to unblock two doorways.
- 6.1.2 The house forms part of a range of buildings, which also include barns, cart sheds and stables.
- 6.1.3 The scope of the historic buildings record is to provide a written, drawn, and photographic account of the buildings to a Level 2 Record as specified by Historic England (2016), prior to the commencement of a planned programme of works.
- 6.1.4 The drawn record is available in **Appendix II** and the photographic in **Appendix III**.

6.2 Doorway A (Plates 1-13)



Fig. 5 – Location of works.

- 6.2.1 To allow communication between the drawing room and sitting room 1, a blocked doorway was reopened. Unblocking works revealed an opening measuring 3m high by 1.4m wide, with the wall being 0.9m deep. Square cut oak lintels form the main head of the doorway, which support earlier lintels, and support the masonry over. The threshold is formed of cobbles and stone pavers. The masonry of the wall was of quarried rubblestone and the fill of a mix of rubblestone with moulded lime and architectural fragments, bonded in a lime mortar.

- 6.2.2 The unblocking works demonstrated three periods of construction and alteration, which are outlined below.
- 6.2.3 **Phase I – Late-16th Century** – the doorway was probably made to allow access into the Elizabethan wing that was added during this period, when the earlier house was remodelled. Evidence recovered from the later blocking, demonstrates the Elizabethan house had elaborate plasterwork schemes.
- 6.2.4 **Phase II – 1800-1850** – the doorway was narrowed with a skin of brickwork built up against the south reveal, this also supported a new lower lintel for a door head on the sitting room side.
- 6.2.5 **Phase III – 1869** – the doorway was blocked when the house was remodelled by Habershon and Pite for the Tredegar Estate. This incorporated materials from the house, including 16th century moulded plasterwork and window jambs. The walls were then finished with lathe-and-plaster, battened off the masonry walls of the room.

6.3 Doorway B (Plates 14-25)

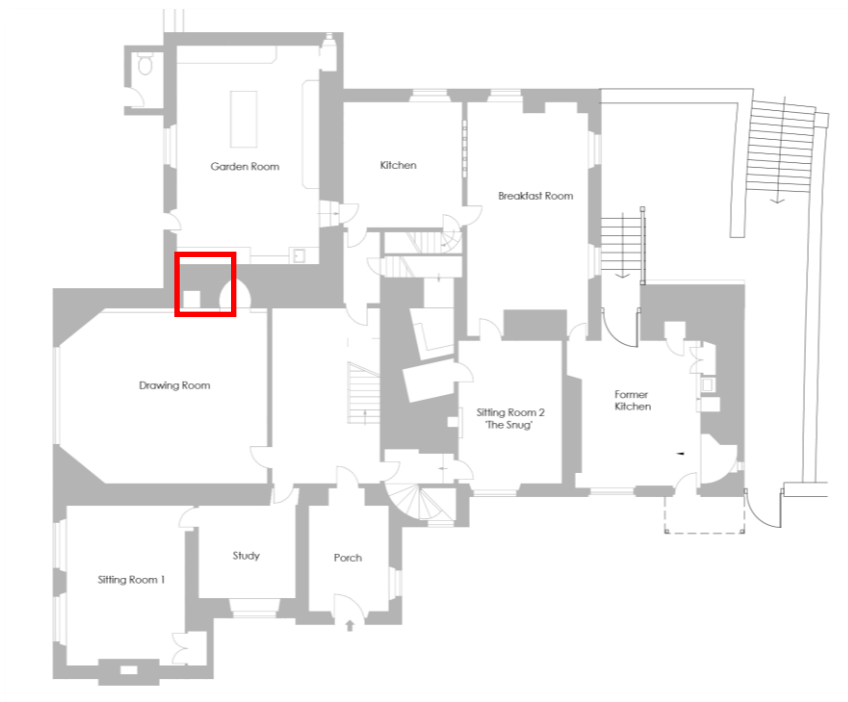


Fig. 6 – Location of works.

- 6.3.1 To allow communication between the drawing room and the garden room, a blocked doorway was reopened. The stone jamb of the doorway was visible from within the garden room, and the entrance from the drawing room remained extant, to provide access to an intermural stair to the first floor. The walls were constructed of rubble and dressed stonework for architectural details, all were set in a lime mortar and finished with limewash.

- 6.3.2 The unblocking works demonstrated two periods associated with this area, which are outlined below.
- 6.3.3 **Phase I – Early-16th Century** – The four-centred doorway with deep chamfer and straight-cut stop and the stone intermural steps remain largely intact from this earliest period of development at Plas Machen. A draw bar socket remains open to the garden room side and demonstrates that it was the garden room that was the inner and higher status of the two, when first conceived.
- 6.3.4 **Phase II – 1869** – the doorway was blocked when the house was remodelled by Habershon and Pite for the Tredegar Estate. This incorporated materials from the house, including 16th century moulded plasterwork and window jambs.
- 6.4 Small Finds (Plates 26-32)**
- 6.4.1 All finds were retained on site and will form a part of the client's own archive.
- 6.4.2 Plasterwork items relating to a geometric ceiling were recovered from doorway A, their profiles have been recorded (**Plates 26-27; Fig. 11 – a. and b.**). The scheme incorporated a studded fleur de lis (**Plate 26**).
- 6.4.3 Dressed and moulded window mullions and jambs were recovered from doorways A and B, the mullion profiles have been recorded (**Plates 28-32; Fig. 11 – a. and b.**). These represent two different moulding types: sunk chamfer and hollow chamfer with bead. Each type have glazing rebates.

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1.1 The historic buildings record was undertaken on 14th June 2021 and concluded 9th February 2022. This made a pre-works and post-works record of the unblocking works, and monitored the works to recover any artefacts relating to the buildings development.
- 7.1.2 The blocked doorways were part of the construction and expansion of the house during the early- and late-16th century. Whilst doorway A had no material from this early period surviving, doorway B preserved its early-16th century dressed door jamb and part of the house built for Sir Thomas Morgan.
- 7.1.3 The early-16th century door jamb is ornamented with deep chamfers and diagonal stops presenting into the intermural passage, and a door rebate to its rear face. Its drawbar socket remains open to its rear face, indicating that the garden room was an inner room, likely to have originally had a more private or higher status function, such as a parlour.
- 7.1.4 The decoration and form of the door jamb of doorway B are common in the early- and mid-16th century gentry houses, and are seen throughout Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire. Examples of these can be seen in Old Beaupre, Llanmihangel Place, Sker House, and any number of other large gentry houses of the period.
- 7.1.5 The recovered window mullions from doorway A date to the mid- to late-16th century, and are probably those that once fenestrated the now demolished Elizabethan wing. The sunk chamfers of a. are like those now in the smaller front wing containing the sitting room, which may be reused from the large Elizabethan wing it replaced. The sunk and hollow chamfers that the mullions carry were, like the door jambs, common throughout Monmouthshire and Glamorgan. Most notably, these are similar to the houses of Old Beaupre, Llanmihangel Place, Y Fan, and St Fagans Castle. Each carry glazing rebated, demonstrating the windows held glass.
- 7.1.6 The recovered plasterwork is late-16th century in date, and almost certainly part of a scheme when Plas Machen was upgraded during this period. It likely originated in from the hall or parlour, and once formed a ribbed ceiling with a panelled and geometric pattern. Two ornamental pieces recovered are parts of a fleur de lis, which would have decorated the corners of the larger panels. Although a later reconstruction (post-1945) of an earlier ceiling, the drawing room roof of St Fagans Castle offers a glimpse of how that at Plas Machen may have once looked.
- 7.1.7 Overall, the historic building record has shown that the two doorways were blocked during the refurbishment works of circa 1869. Materials from the alteration of the drawing room window, and any remaining rubble from the Elizabethan wing, were used to block both doorways, with most plaster and dressed stonework coming from doorway A. The materials recovered correspond with other great houses of the 16th century, and helps to demonstrate the close nature of the gentry from this period and their adoption of particular architectural fashions for the ornamentation of windows and doorways, and plasterwork. In particular, the plasterwork provides an insight into how the interior of Plas Machen must have looked from the Elizabethan period to the 19th century. All give a clear illustration of the Morgan's status and wealth in being able to afford such elaborate and sophisticated decoration.

8 ARCHIVING

- 8.1 The results of the Historic Buildings Record and Watching Brief are this written report, interpreted survey, and photographic archive. This will be held by and will be deposited with the regional HER and the NMR. A PDF copy of the report will be made available from www.archaeodomus.co.uk.

9 SOURCES

9.1 Written Sources

- 9.1.1 **Newman, J. et al.** 2000, *The Buildings of Gwent/Monmouthshire*. Penguin Books. University of Wales Press.
- 9.1.2 **Coxe W.** 1801. *An Historical Tour in Monmouthshire*. London.
- 9.1.3 **RCAHMW.** 1981, *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Glamorgan Volume IV: Domestic Architecture from the Reformation to the Industrial Revolution. Part I: The Greater Houses*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London.
- 9.1.4 **Smith, P.** 1988, *Houses of the Welsh Countryside: A study in historical geography*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London.
- 9.1.5 **Toulmin Smith, L.** 1906, *Leland's Itinerary in England and Wales*. George Bell & Sons. Britain.
- 9.1.6 **Historic England.** 2016, *Understanding historic Buildings; A guide to good practice*.
- 9.1.7 **CIFA,** 2014, *Standards and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*.
- 9.1.8 **CIFA,** 2014, *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*.
- 9.1.9 **Welsh Government,** 2017, *Planning Policy Wales; Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment*. Crown Copyright.

9.2 Online Sources

- 9.2.1 **British Geological Survey**

Accessed: November 2020

www.bsg.ac.uk

9.2.2 UK Soil Observatory

Accessed: November 2020

www.ukso.org.uk

9.3 Maps

9.3.1 1883 OS 25 Inch to One Mile Map First Edition

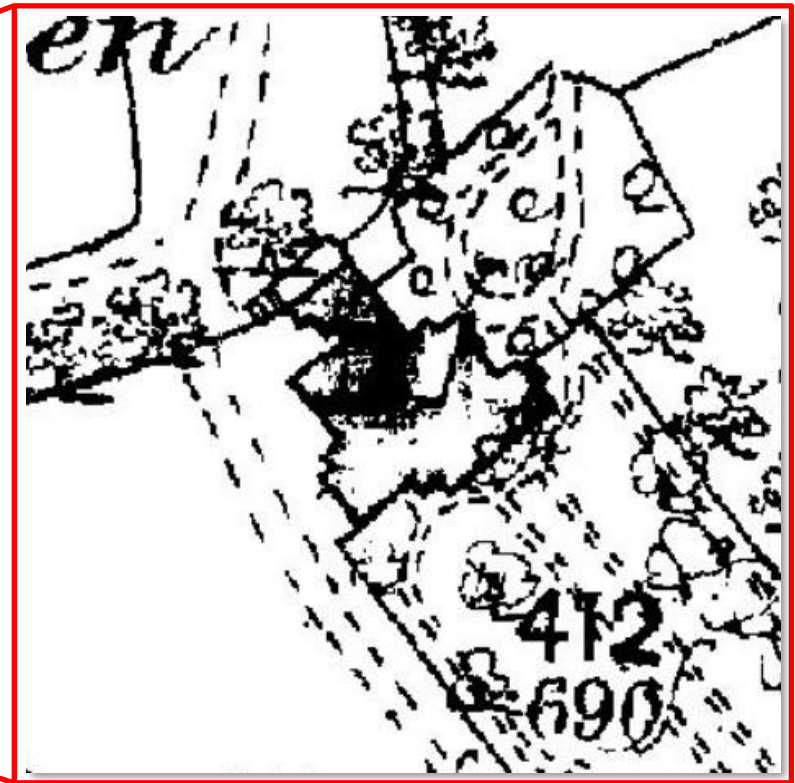
9.3.2 1901 OS 25 Inch to One Mile Map Second Edition

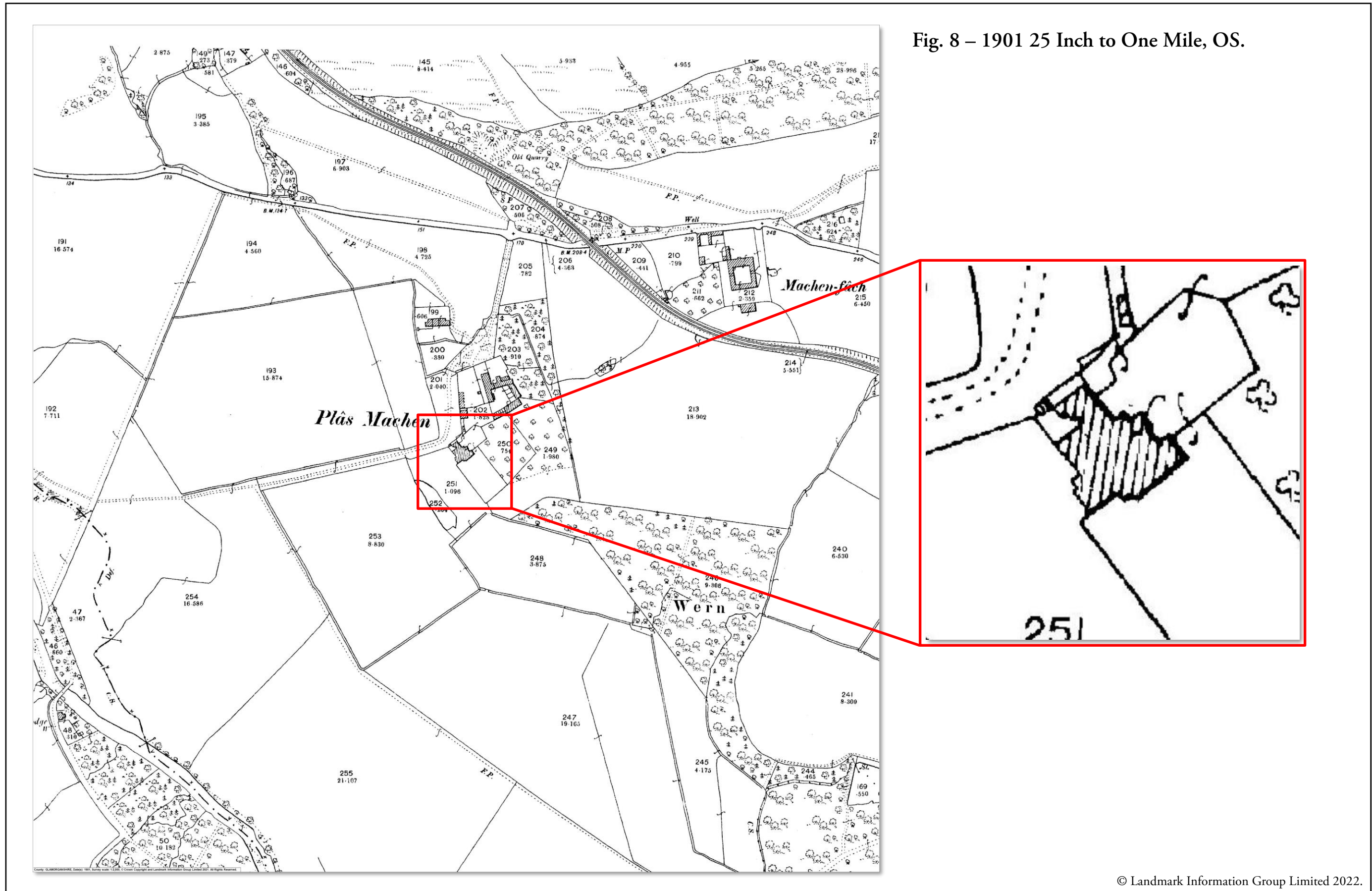
9.3.3 1920 OS 25 Inch to One Mile Map Third Edition

APPENDIX I

Historic Mapping

Fig. 7 – 1883 25 Inch to One Mile, OS.





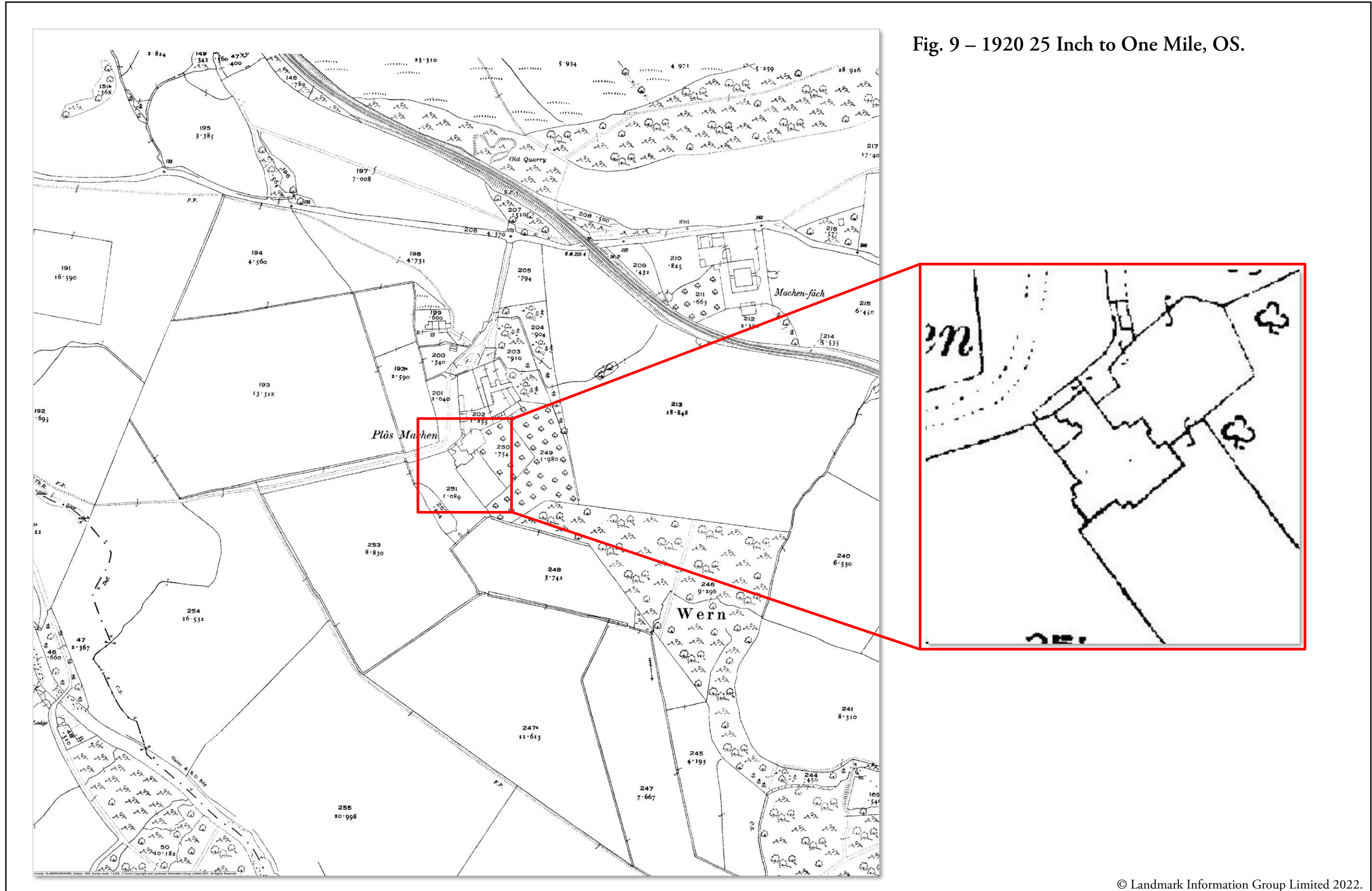


Fig. 9 – 1920 25 Inch to One Mile, OS.

APPENDIX II

Plans

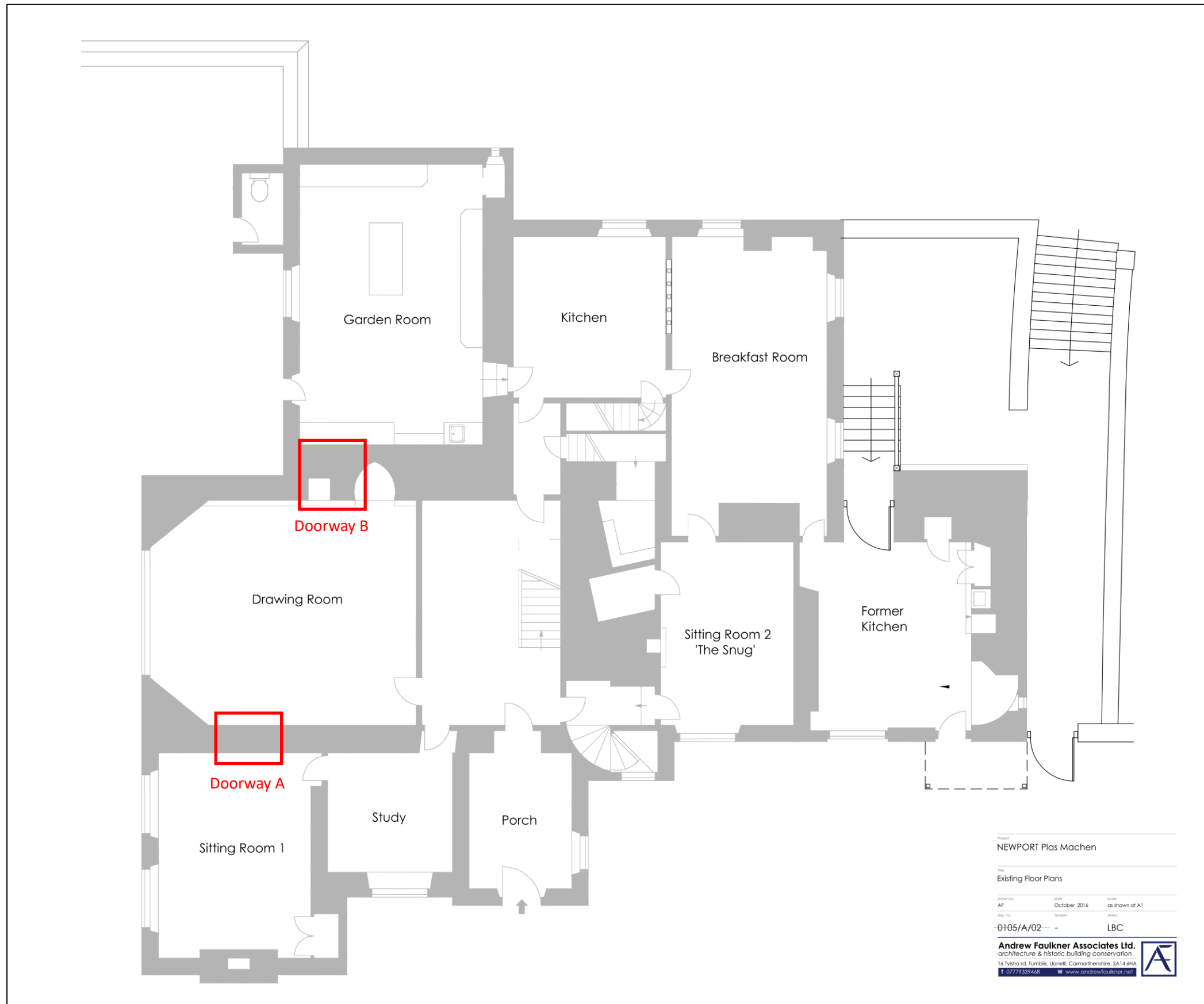


Fig. 10 – Ground Floor Plan – Locations of work.

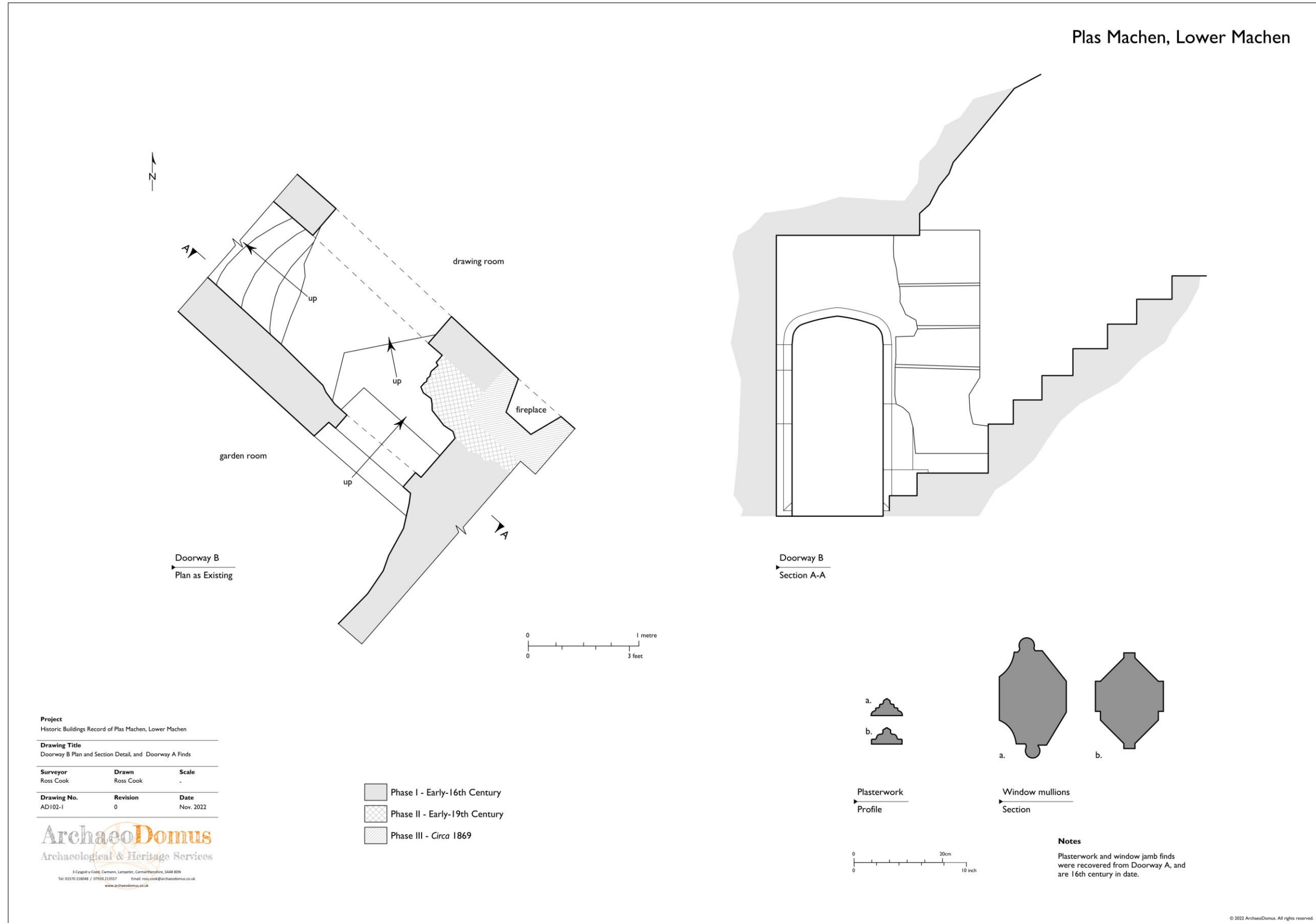


Fig. 11 – Doorway B plan and section, and doorway A finds.

APPENDIX III

Historic Building Record

Photographic Archive



Plate 1 – Doorway A – View south-west, showing north-east elevation.



Plate 2 – Doorway A – View south-west, showing north-east elevation.



Plate 3 – Doorway A – View north-east, showing south-west elevation.



Plate 4 – Doorway A – View north-east, showing south-west elevation.

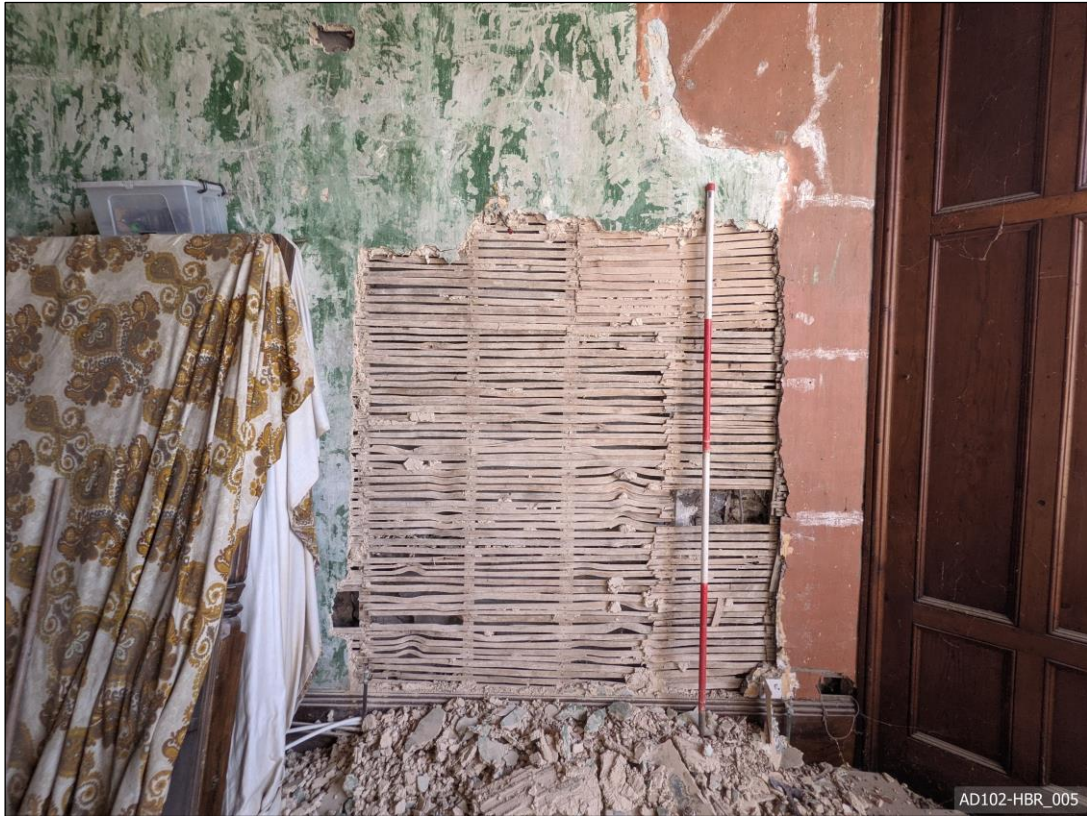


Plate 5 – Doorway A – View north-east, showing laths on removal of plaster.



Plate 6 – Doorway A – View north-west, showing removal of lath-and-plaster.



Plate 7 – View south-west, showing removal of plaster.



Plate 8 – Doorway A – View north-east, showing early-19th century lath-and-plaster of door passage head.



Plate 9 – Doorway A – View north-east, showing opened doorway.



Plate 10 – Doorway A – View north, showing north reveal of doorway.



Plate 11 – Doorway A – View south, showing south reveal of doorway with brick lining.



Plate 12 – Doorway A – View south-west, showing opened doorway with lower head.



Plate 13 – Doorway A – Threshold of doorway.



Plate 14 – Doorway B – View south-west, showing north-east elevation.



Plate 15 – Doorway B – View south-west, showing north-east elevation.



Plate 16 – Doorway B – View south-west, showing intermural steps and stair.



Plate 17 – Doorway B – View north-east, showing south-west elevation.

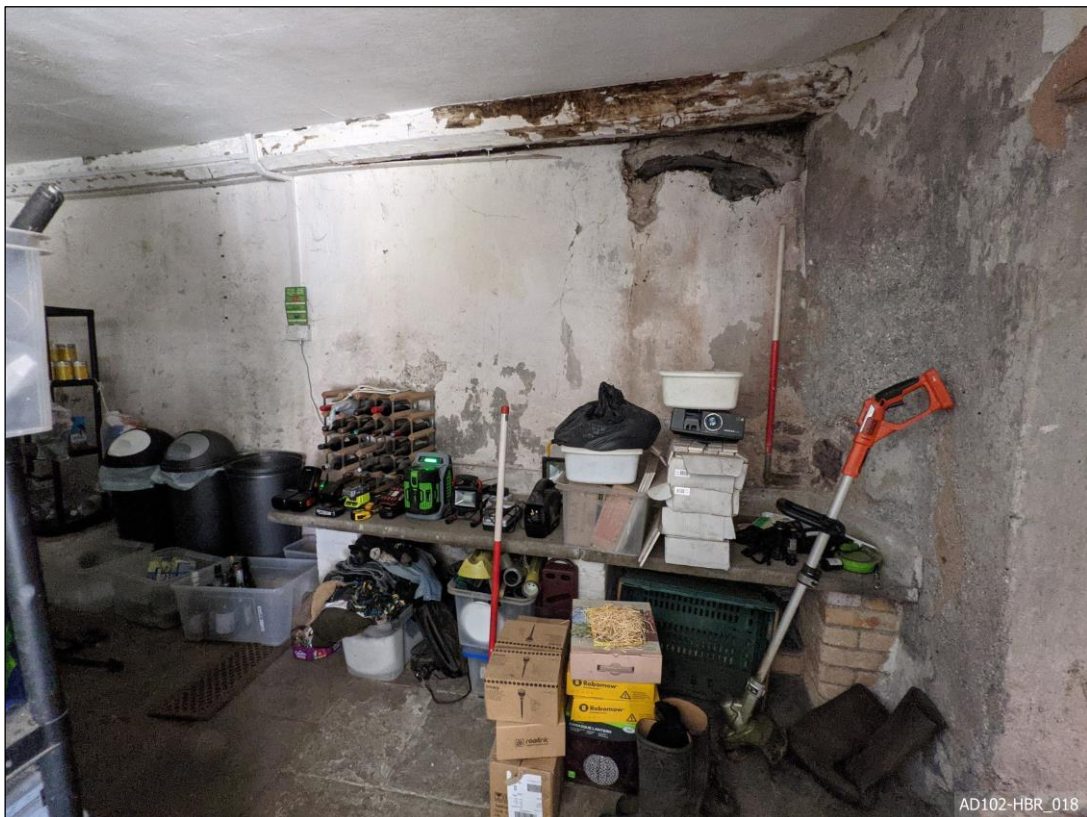


Plate 18 – Doorway B – View south-east, showing south-west elevation.



Plate 19 – Doorway B – View north, showing reused screen head as lintel in doorway from drawing room.



Plate 20 – Doorway B – View north-east, showing doorway unblocking.



Plate 21 – Doorway B – View north-east, showing doorway reopened.



Plate 22 – Doorway B – View south, showing draw bar socket.

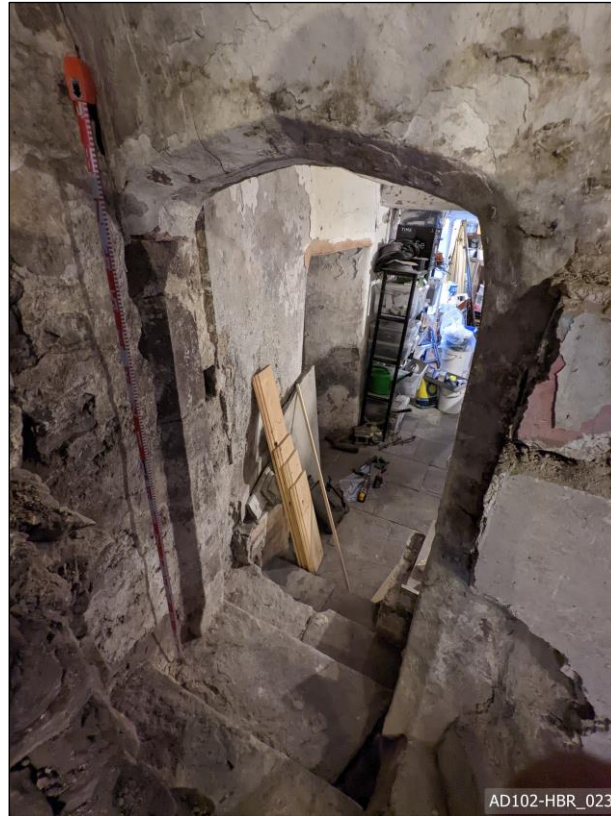


Plate 23 – Doorway B – View south-west, showing north-east elevation of unblocked doorway.



Plate 24 – Doorway B – View south, showing intermural stair passage.



Plate 25 – Doorway B – View showing steps.



Plate 26 – Doorway A – Recovered plasterwork fleur de lis.



Plate 27– Doorway A – Recovered moulding from geometric ceiling.



Plate 28 – Doorway A – Recovered window mullions and jambs.



Plate 29 – Doorway A – Recovered window mullions and jambs.



Plate 30 – Doorway B – Recovered architectural moulding from window or hearth.



Plate 31 – Doorway B – Recovered roll moulding, possibly from window.



Plate 32 – Doorway A – Recovered window mullions and jambs.

APPENDIX IV

Listing

Name	Plas Machen	Cadw ID	2905
Listed Status	Grade II*	Status	Designated
Date Listed	3 rd March 1952	Community	Graig
Easting / Northing	323467 / 187539	County	Newport
Broad Class	Domestic	Site Type	Dwelling
Description			
<p>History</p> <p>Remaining part of a substantial C16 mansion house, seat of the Morgan family until they moved to Tredegar House in the 1660s. A large part of the mansion was demolished in the earlier C19 and the remaining part restored by Habershon & Pite for the Tredegar estate c. 1869. Archdeacon Coxe's volume has an engraving of 1801 showing the whole building, the demolished part replaced by the wing coming forward to the left. The demolished part, as described by Coxe, had a circular room called the hunting room with a rich stuccoed ceiling depicting Diana in the middle with seats, churches and hunting parties in 12 surrounding compartments. Sir John Morgan, alive in 1491 had a second son Thomas, esquire to Henry VII, alive in 1536, and he was the first to be called of Machen. His son Rowland followed, High Sheriff in 1557, and during his time Machen was described as a 'fair house' by Leland, in 1575. Rowland's son Thomas was MP for the county 1588-93, High Sheriff 1581 and died 1603. Rowland Morgan had inherited also Tredegar on the death of Miles Morgan, and Machen became a subsidiary property, though occupied by the family. William Morgan was knighted in 1633. Thomas Morgan of Machen and Tredegar was MP for the county in 1654-5, his son William (died 1680) was MP 1659-79. John Morgan of Machen and Tredegar, died 1720, is buried in the church. The house was deserted by the family c. 1800.</p> <p>Exterior</p> <p>House, purple rubble stone originally lime-rendered, with stone-tiled roofs and numerous C19 brick chimneys each with red brick base and white brick square diagonally-set shafts. East front range has 2-shaft chimney at right end and axial 3-shaft chimney on ridge. Two storeys with two-storey gabled porch. Stone mullioned windows with leaded glazing and iron opening lights, the windows mostly Bath stone ashlar and possibly mostly renewed in C19. Hoodmoulds with square stops generally. The porch has a four-centred arched moulded entry with double wave mouldings and hoodmould, and board door with C19 strap hinges. One 4-light stone-mullion window above with hollow mouldings and Tudor-arched heads to lights, and hoodmould. Porch has right side C19 2-light matching window and corbelled chimney breast above, to C19 single-shaft chimney. Chamber within porch has square-headed diagonally-boarded door (panelled on inside). Range to right of porch has projecting lean-to stair with similar 2-light window and then 2-storey range with two 3-light mullion windows each floor. Windows are all similar to that on porch, but irregularly disposed. Door in C19 lean-to porch to right with stone-</p>			

tiles on 2 chamfered posts. C19 square-headed door. Left gable end has a small single light each floor, similar, but ground floor one with a diamond stop to the hoodmould. Set back to left of porch is slightly projected gable with 3-light flat-headed windows on 3 floors, all lights square-headed, the attic and first floor windows roll-moulded, the ground floor window ovolo-moulded. C19 projecting wing to left has massive E end-wall external chimneybreast with red brick quoins, top and two diagonal shafts. S side to garden is in 3 parts, the C19 wing to right has 3-light windows, one to first floor, 2 below, all recessed roll-moulded. Straight joint to gabled centre section (presumably the end of the main range) with pair of large C19 3-light mullion-and-transom windows to each floor, each with single hoodmould. Massive C16 external chimneybreast on left side wall with tapering rubble stone shaft with single big shaft above. Set-back wing to left has two 2-shaft stacks one at left end and the other on ridge to right. Two-storey and attic front with quite different mullioned windows of purple sandstone, hollow-moulded with sunk spandrels and incised crosses on small boss above each depressed-arched light, and heavy hoodmoulds. Two irregular bays, centre one with gable over attic 2-light, first floor 3-light and ground floor 4-light, all with hoodmoulds. To right is door with stone lintel, and in angle to the big chimneybreast two small square single light windows in chamfered frames one above the other, under eaves, the lower one of limestone. The rear is on a steep bank, with main rear wing projecting to right with lean-to against its left side. Spine range has stair-gable visible to left of main rear wing and step in roofing to left of the axial chimney. A smaller and later rear wing is to left, with short section of rear wall of main range to extreme left. This has blocked 2-light window to first floor, as those on front, and section of stone shelf to left over big corner buttress. There is a small stone-walled garden in angle between this and the smaller rear wing. Rear wing has W end single-shaft chimney-stack, N side 2 casement-pair windows, one with stone voussoirs one with timber lintel, and blocked basement door. Gable end has straight joint to right of centre, suggesting that this wing is later than lean-to on side of the main rear wing. Lean-to has door, C20 window above and loft window. One gabled dormer on side of main rear wing above lean-to. Square stair-turret in angle between lean-to and rear wing with battered base and stone top, the angle to the wing slightly splayed with one tiny loop light. End gable of wing has battered base, deep-set basement window with relieving arch over, ground floor deep-set narrow loop with stone slab lintel to splayed opening and blocked window to left of centre with relieving arch over. Two small attic windows with rebuilt sides.

Interior

Interior not fully inspected. The stair hall has earlier C19 open-well stair with stick balusters, column newels, closed string and ramped rails to banister. Six-panel doors. Stone-flagged floor. Two four-centred arched doorways to first floor rear and right. Stone winding stair in small stair turret beside entrance porch. Stone-vaulted basement to rear wing.

Reason for Designation

Graded II* as a substantial Elizabethan gentry house of one of the principal families of the county, with surviving detail including mullioned windows.

ArchaeoDomus Archaeological & Heritage Services

Tel/Ffôn: 01570 218048 / 07910 213557
Email/E-bost: ross.cook@archaeodomus.co.uk
Web/Gwefan: www.archaeodomus.co.uk
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