Llwyn Celyn Stanton Cwmyoy Crucorney Fawr Gwent

NGR: SO 309 218



Doorhead off the screen's passage to services.

An Architectural & Archaeological Analysis

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Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. The Setting	5
3. Outline History	7
4. Building Identification	11
5. The Farmhouse	13
6. The Farm Buildings	54
7. Appendix: The Survey Drawings	89
8. References	109
9. List of Illustrations	110
10. Appendix	118

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Crynodeb

Mae Llwyn Celyn yn un o'r tai mwyaf nodedig o'r oesoedd canol yn Ne Cymru, a chydnabyddir hyn yn ei statws fel adeilad rhestredig Gradd I. Serch hynny, roedd diffyg gwaith cadw a chynnal ers mwy na hanner canrif wedi gadael ei effaith, ac erbyn diwedd yr 20^{fed} ganrif roedd y tŷ'n dechrau mynd â'i ben iddo; prin y gellid defnyddio mwy nag un neu ddwy ystafell ynddo. Roedd wedi'i amgylchynu â sgaffaldwaith i'w ddiogelu rhag dadfeilio ymhellach nes i'r Landmark Trust dderbyn cais i weld a oedd modd iddi achub yr adeilad gan dynnu ar ei gwybodaeth arbenigol a'i phrofiad maith o godi arian a chyflawni gwaith adnewyddu mewn prosiectau tebyg.

Ar ddiwedd trafodaethau hirfaith — a hynny'n rhannol oherwydd statws rhestredig yr adeilad a'i leoliad o fewn Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog — daeth y Landmark Trust i feddiannu Llwyn Celyn yn 2014 a dechrau cyflawni prosiect adnewyddu o bwys ar y tŷ ei hun a'r adeiladau fferm cyfagos gyda chefnogaeth Cronfa Treftadaeth y Loteri, cyrff eraill sy'n dyfarnu grantiau cynorthwyol a rhoddion gan unigolion. Rhoddwyd Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig gan y Parc Cenedlaethol, yn ddibynnol ar nifer o amodau, gan gynnwys rhai sy'n ymwneud ag archeoleg a chofnodi adeiladau (15/12533/LBC).

Gorffenwyd y gwaith yn yr hydref 2018 ac mae'r tŷ bellach yn un o'r llu o adeiladau a osodir gan y Landmark Trust ar gyfer gwyliau; defnyddir adeiladau'r fferm i wahanol ddibenion cymunedol ac ar gyfer arddangosfeydd. Mae'r tŷ wedi cael ei adfer yn llwyr; un o brif ddyheadau'r prosiect oedd gwrthdroi rhai o'r newidiadau amheus a wnaed yn ddiweddar er mwyn creu awyrgylch tebyg i'r hyn a oedd ynddo tua'r flwyddyn 1700, gan gadw'n ddigon hyblyg wrth fynd ati i adael i elfennau o gyfnodau arwyddocaol eraill gael eu dangos yn ogystal – y to canoloesol godidog dros y Neuadd, er enghraifft.

Cynhaliwyd asesiad cychwynnol o adeiladau'r safle i'r Landmark Trust gan yr Ymgynghorfa hon yn 2009, ond ymgymerwyd ag asesiad manylach yn 2013 ynghyd â Chynllun Cadwraeth a Rheoli a chofnod ffotograffig tra manwl. Cyflawnwyd gwaith ymchwil hanesyddol gan nifer o unigolion, ond yn enwedig ar y dechrau gan David Austin ac, yn ystod y prosiect, gan Caroline Stanford o'r Landmark Trust. Defnyddiwyd llawer o'u gwaith hwy yn yr adroddiad hwn.

Cyflogwyd yr Ymgynghorfa hon gan y Landmark Trust i weithredu fel ymgynghorwyr archeolegol i'r prosiect, gan fonitro'r gwaith a gyflawnwyd ar y ffermdy a'r adeiladau eraill ar y safle ac ymgysylltu â chwmni Headland Archaeology, a ymgymerodd â briff gwylio archeolegol ar y gwaith tir cyfyng.

Saif Llwyn Celyn ar ymylon pentrefyn Stanton, ym mhlwyf Cwm-Iou. Mae yn union o fewn ffiniau gogledd-ddwyreiniol Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog, ac yn agos iawn at y ffin â Lloegr. Saif ar ben isaf cwm troellog serth ei ochrau o'r enw Dyffryn Ewias, yn union lle y cwrdd hwnnw â Chwm bychan Coed-y-cerig. Mae'r cwm yma yn un o'r rhai mwyaf gogleddol o gyfres o gymoedd dwfn sy'n torri trwy Fynydd Du rhwng Dyffryn Gwy tua'r gogledd a Dyffryn Mynwy tua'r de.

Daeth yr ardal hon yn rhan o ystad helaeth Abaty Llanddewi Nant Hodni, a sefydlwyd ar ddechrau'r 12^{fed} ganrif; aflonydd fu ei hanes braidd oherwydd ei lleoliad ar y gororau, ac yn ystod un cyfnod ansefydlog penderfynodd y canoniaid encilio i safle newydd yng Nghaerloyw, lle sefydlwyd Abaty Llanthony Secunda a ddatblygodd gyda thraul amser i fod yn bwysicach o lawer na'r abaty gwreiddiol.

Mae dyddio cylchoedd coeden wedi dangos y gellir dyddio'r rhan hynaf o Lwyn Celyn i gyfnod 1420, sydd gryn dipyn yn gynharach na'r hyn a dybid yn wreiddiol. Ar yr adeg gynnar honno cynhwysai'r tŷ Neuadd agored gyda choridor traws, gwasanaethau ar ei hyd ar y pen 'isaf', ac adain draws neu Heulfa ar y pen 'uchaf', gan greu cynllun ar siâp L estynedig. Adeiladwyd y tŷ o gerrig llanw, a bu rendrad esmwyth 'menyn'amdano o'r cychwyn cyntaf.

Nodwedd sy'n eithaf anghyffredin yn yr ardal hon yw presenoldeb bwa ategol plaen sy'n ffurfio'r rhaniad rhwng y coridor gwasanaeth a'r Neuadd; darniwyd hon yn ddiweddarach wrth i'r simdde bresennol gael ei hychwanegu. Yn wreiddiol roedd y Neuadd i'r gorllewin o'r coridor gwasanaeth yn agored i fyny at gopa'r to tair cilfach braf, du gan fwg, wedi'i graffrwymo rhag y gwynt. Nodwedd arall sy'n anghyffredin yn Ne Cymru yw ategu rhag y gwynt, er y'i gwelir yn aml dros y ffin yn Lloegr. Ar un ochr i'r coridor gwasanaeth ar ben 'isaf' y Neuadd roedd yna bâr o ddrysau canolog ac iddynt bennau pigfain addurnol, wedi'u gosod mewn croesfur â ffrâm bren.

Arweiniai'r rhain i mewn i ystafelloedd gwasanaeth ar yr ochr ddwyreiniol, a wahenid unwaith gan groesffrâm – y llaethdy a'r pantri. Uwchben y mae un siambr fawr; mae'n debyg y gellid mynd iddi drwy ddringo ysgol, neu efallai drwy oriel uwchben y coridor traws y cyrhaeddid iddi'n uniongyrchol o'r Neuadd – ond ystyrir yr ail theori yma'n annhebyg. Mae'n debyg bod gan yr ystafell uwch yma fasn ymolchi wedi'i fewnosod, ac iddo big sydd, er syndod mawr, yn dal i ymestyn allan heddiw trwy dalcen y tŷ.

Gwahenid y wal agored oddi ar yr Heulfa gan ffrâm bren ag ategrwym to ar ei phen; roedd yna esgynlawr ar ben 'uchaf' y Neuadd, gyferbyn â choridor y gwasanaethau, â chanopi cilfwaog drosto; gallai nodwedd o'r fath esbonio rhai o'r hynodion ymddangosol yn y man lle mae'r Neuadd a'r Heulfa'n cwrdd, a'r gwahaniaeth yn lleoliadau'r pared ffrâm bren yng nghefn pen 'uchaf' y Neuadd ac ar dalcen gorllewinol ei tho. Drws yn unig oedd ar ben deheuol sgrîn yr esgynlawr sydd wedi goroesi; mae iddi ffrâm bigfain wedi'i cherfio'n gain, â thariannau yn y sbandreli.

Ar lawr isaf yr Heulfa roedd yna ystafell allanol yn y ddau draean deheuol; rhwng hon a'r ystafell fewnol safai croesffrâm bren; drws yn y ffrâm oedd yr unig fynedfa. Yn ddigon rhyfedd, roedd y ffrâm hon yn strwythur ar wahân i'r brif ffrâm ar y llawr uchaf a wahanai'r brif Heulfa ac iddi do tair cilfach godidog wedi'i graffrwymo rhag y gwynt, oddi ar ystafell ogleddol lai o faint a chanddi groglofft fach efallai. Tua diwedd cyfnod y prosiect fe ddaethpwyd o hyd i ddrws pryfoclyd o ddiddorol ger pen 'uchaf' y Neuadd; awgrymai fodolaeth grisiau o fewn y wal yn arwain i fyny at lawr uchaf yr Heulfa, neu risiau bargodol efallai wedi'u gosod unwaith yn yr ongl rhwng y Neuadd a'r Heulfa. Dyna'r unig agoriad lle roedd pen dau ganol bwaog i'w weld o hyd.

Gwnaed newidiadau sylweddol y tu mewn i'r tŷ canoloesol gwreiddiol tua diwedd yr 17eg ganrif: adeiladwyd simdde yn rhannol o fewn y bwa ategol ger y coridor gwasanaeth, a gosodwyd ail lawr uwchben y coridor a'r Neuadd. Ychwanegwyd lloft lawn hefyd yn yr Heulfa. Mae tystiolaeth i awgrymu bod grisiau wedi cael eu gosod ar ochr ogleddol y simdde newydd, a'u hadleoli wedyn ar yr ochr ddeheuol. Adeiladwyd asgell gegin ar ochr ogleddol y gwasanaethau, ynghyd â thai allan eraill. Nid yw'n amlwg faint o amser gymerodd y newidiadau hyn, nac ychwaith pa bryd y bu angen ail-adeiladu talcen flaen yr Heulfa.

Ymddengys mai ychydig iawn o newidiadau o bwys a wnaed i'r tŷ wedyn, ar wahân i nifer o fân addasiadau ac atgyweiriadau strwythurol tua diwedd y 19eg ganrif. Arhosodd y tŷ'n rhan o Ystad Llanthony tan 1958, pan gafodd ei brynu gan y tenant mewn meddiant, Mr Powell. Fe'i trosglwyddwyd i'w ddau fab, ond roedd y costau cadw a chynnal mor uchel nes iddo ddirywio i'r fath raddau fel nad oedd modd byw ond mewn rhannau cyfyngedig ohono. Dyna pryd y'i hachubwyd o'r diwedd gan y Landmark Trust. Derbyniodd yr Ymddiriedolaeth gyfrifoldeb hefyd dros yr hen adeiladau fferm niferus a oedd wedi cael eu haltro'n sylweddol, gan gynnwys ysgubor ddyrnu, tŷ seidr, stablau a beudy. Mae'r rhain i gyd wedi cael eu hadnewyddu'n ofalus neu eu cyfnerthu fel rhan o'r prif gynllun adfer ac adnewyddu.

Summary

Llwyn Celyn is one of the most significant medieval houses in south Wales, as recognized in its Grade I listed status. However, it had suffered from little maintenance for over half a century and by the end of the 20^{th} century was semi-derelict with only a couple of rooms being usable; it was covered in scaffolding to protect it from further decay until, eventually, the Landmark Trust were approach to see if they could use their expertise in fund-raising and restoration on similar projects in order to save the building.

After protracted negotiations – due partly to the listed status of the building and its location within the Brecon Beacons National Park – the Landmark Trust took possession of the building in 2014 and began a major restoration of the house and the adjacent farm buildings, supported by the Heritage Lottery fund and other grant-aiding bodies and individual donations. Listed Building Consent was granted by the National Park subject to several conditions, including those related to archaeology and building recording (15/12533/LBC).

The work was finished in the autumn of 2018 and the house is now of the Landmark Trust's holiday lets; the farm buildings are used for a variety of display and community purposes. The house has been fully restored, the main aspiration to reverse some of the poorer quality recent changes in order to create a feeling of the house as it was around 1700 – with sufficient flexibility in this approach to allow other significant phases – such as the fine medieval roof over the hall – to be expressed as well.

An initial assessment of the buildings on the site was made by this consultancy for the Trust in 2009 but a more detailed assessment was produced in 2013 in conjunction with a Conservation Management Plan, along with a detailed photographic record. Historical research was undertaken by a number of individuals, but especially initially by David Austin and, during the project, the Landmark Trust's Caroline Stanford – much of which has been used in this report.

This Consultancy was retained by the Landmark Trust as the archaeological consultant for the project, monitoring the works on the farmhouse and the other standing buildings and liaising with Headland Archaeology, which undertook an archaeological watching brief on the limited groundworks.

Llwyn Celyn lies just outside the hamlet of Stanton, in the parish of Cwmyoy. It is just inside the north-eastern boundary of the Brecon Beacons National Park, and close to the border with England. It lies at the bottom end of the sinuous and steep sided Vale of Ewyas at its junction with the small Cwm Coed-y-cerig. The Vale is one of the northernmost of a series of deep valleys cutting through the Black Mountains between the vales of the Wye to the north and the Monnow to the south.

This area became part of the extensive estate of Llanthony Abbey, founded at the start of the 12th century; it had fluctuating fortunes due to its position in the often troubled borderlands and at one time the canons retreated to a new site in Gloucester, which developed as Llanthony Secunda – eventually becoming far more powerful than the original abbey.

Tree-ring dating shows that the earliest portion of Llwyn Celyn dates to around 1420, much earlier than original thought. The house then consisted of an open hall with cross-passage, in-line services at the 'low' end and a cross wing or solar at the 'high' end, creating an elongated 'L-shaped' plan. It was built of rubblestone, evidently butter rendered from the start.

Unusually, in a regional context, the division between the screen's passage and the hall was marked by a plain spere truss, subsequently mutilated by the insertion of the present stack. The hall west of the screens passage was originally open to the apex of the fine smoke-blackened three-bay wind-braced roof; wind-bracing is another unusual feature in southern Wales, though common over the English border. Off the screen's passage at the 'low' end of the hall was a central pair of doorways with ornate ogee-arched heads set into a timber-framed cross-wall.

These would have led into service rooms to the east once separated by a cross-frame - the buttery and pantry. Above is a single large chamber, probably originally reached by a ladder or possibly from a gallery above the cross-passage accessed directly from the hall — although this latter theory is generally thought to be unlikely. The first-floor room probably had a built-in laver, the spout of which, a remarkable survival, projects from the gable wall.

The open wall was separated from the solar by a timber frame topped by a roof truss; there would have been a dais at the 'high' end of the hall opposite the screen's passage and this could have been topped by a coved dais canopy; such a feature could explain some of the apparent oddities in the junction between the Hall and Solar ranges and the different positions of the timber-framed partition at the back of the high end of the hall and the western gable end of its roof. There was a doorway only at the south end of the dais screen, which survives and has a finely carved ogee-headed frame with shields in the spandrels.

The ground floor of the solar consisted of an outer room in the southern two-thirds separated by a timber cross-frame from an inner room; the only access was through a doorway in the frame. This frame, curiously, was structurally separate from a primary frame on the first floor which separated a main solar with a fine three-bay window-braced roof from a smaller northern room which may have always had a small crog loft over it.

An intriguing doorway discovered late in the project off the 'high' end of the hall suggested either a mural stair up to the first-floor of the solar or the former existence of a stair oriel in the angle between hall and solar. That was the only opening still with a two-centre arched head.

The medieval house was considerably altered internally in the later-17th century when a stack was built partly within the spere truss by the passage and both the passage and the open hall had first-floors inserted into them. A full loft was also inserted into the Solar. Evidence suggested that a stair was introduced to the north of the inserted stack and then re-positioned to the south. A kitchen wing was added on the north side of the services, as well as other outbuildings. It is unclear how long these changes took, or when the front gable of the Solar had to be rebuilt.

Few major changes seem to have taken place to the house subsequently, apart from some minor modifications and structural repairs in the later-19th century. The house remained part of the Llanthony Estate until 1958 when it was bought by the sitting tenant, Mr Powell. It passed to his two sons but the costs of maintaining the property led to it deteriorating to such an extent that only parts were habitable when it was finally rescued by the Landmark Trust. The Trust also took on the former farm buildings, a large number of much altered structures including a threshing barn, cider house, stables, and byre. All of these have also been carefully restored or consolidated as part of the major restoration scheme.

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1. Introduction

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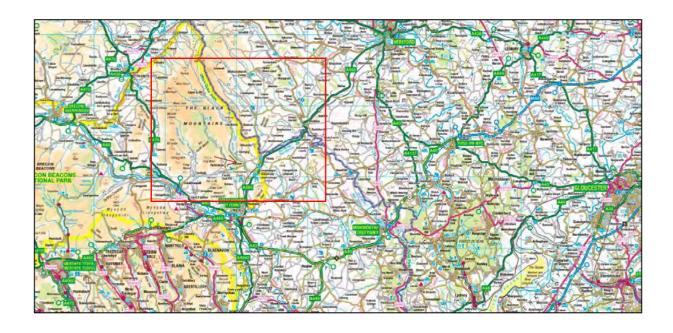
A three-volume photographic archive was generated – one of the house and another of the farm buildings prior to works starting, and a third volume of buildings during and after the restoration. Copies of these are held at the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales, Aberystwyth, and the Glamorgan-Gwent Heritage Environment Record.

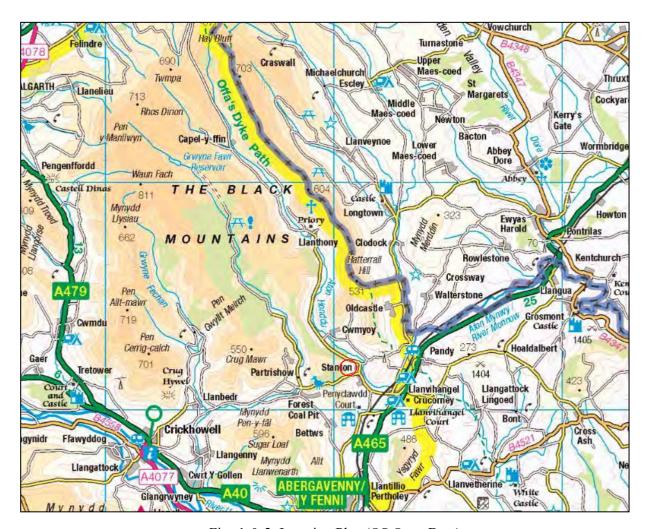
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This Consultancy was retained by the Landmark Trust as the archaeological consultant for the project, monitoring the works on the farmhouse and the other standing buildings and liaising with Headland Archaeology, which undertook an archaeological watching brief on the limited groundworks. This report is an update of the original assessment of the buildings produced in 2013, and incorporates the additional information discovered during the opening up of the buildings, additional documentary work and, above all, the pioneering dendro-isotope sampling undertaken by a joint team from the Universities of Swansea and Oxford.

¹ Morriss, R K, 2013, *Llwyn Celyn: An Architectural & Archaeological Assessment* (Mercian Heritage Series No.630); Morriss, R K, 2013, *Llwyn Celyn: A Conservation Management Plan*.





Figs.1 & 2: Location Plan (OS Open Data).

2. The Setting

Llwyn Celyn lies just outside the hamlet of Stanton, in the parish of Cwmyoy. It is just inside the north-eastern boundary of the Brecon Beacons National Park, and close to the border with England. It lies at the bottom end of the sinuous and steep sided Vale of Ewyas at its junction with the small Cwm Coed-y-cerig. The Vale is one of the northernmost of a series of deep valleys cutting through the Black Mountains between the vales of the Wye to the north and the Monnow to the south.

The underlying geology is of Old Red Sandstone with Red Marls on the valley floors and the lower slopes, especially towards the southern end of the Vale. The valley floor is quite fertile, whilst the valley slopes are too steep for most forms of arable farming and the ridge tops too bleak.

The name would suggest that sheep have for centuries been an important part of the local economy – as it is derived from 'ewig', an Old Welsh name for sheep, and means 'sheep district'.²

Through the Vale flows the Afon Honddu. On the west side the Ffwddog ridge is the watershed between this valley and that of the Afon Grwyne Fawr. On the east side, the Hatterall ridge is the watershed between the Vale and the virtually parallel Olchon valley, over the English border in Herefordshire.

It is a fairly remote place, especially higher up the Vale to where Llanthony Priory was founded and beyond, up and over the Gospel Pass past Hay Bluff and towards the valley of the River Wye.

In the late-12th century, Giraldus de Barri (or 'Cambrensis') wrote of the Vale that the sun seldom shone into the valley before midday and '*The rains which mountainous places usually produce, are here very frequent; the winds exceeding fierce, and the Winters almost continually cloudy*.' In his *Polyobion* of 1622, the poet Michael Drayton wrote:

'Mongst Hatterill's lofty hills, that with the clouds are crown'd, The valley Ewias lies, immure'd so deep and round'.

Llwyn Celyn sits on an uneven terrace on the west side of the valley of the Afon Honddu and just above its confluence with a diminutive brook, the Nant Ddu – or dark stream. Despite its small size this brook was an important boundary for centuries, possibly being the southern boundary of the Welsh kingdom of Ewyas and certainly being the southern boundary of the lands of Llanthony Priory, an Augustinian house founded further up the Vale of Ewyas at the start of the 12th century.

² Ekwall, E, 1970, The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names, 171

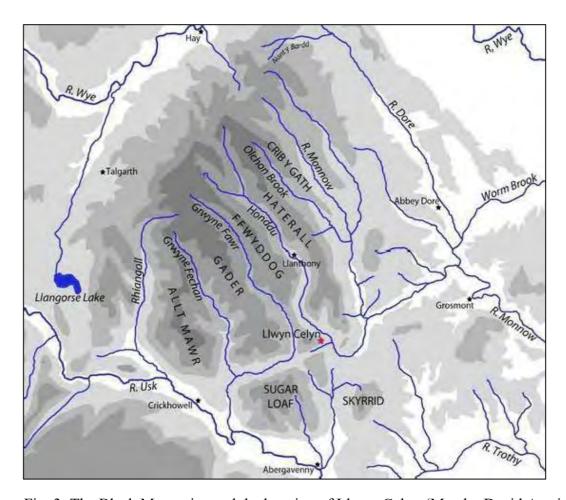


Fig. 3: The Black Mountains and the location of Llwyn Celyn (Map by David Austin)



Pl.1: View north-east from Llwyn Celyn to Cymyoy – in April.

3. Outline History

3.1 Early History

The earliest evidence of settlement in this area is Twyn-y-Gaer, an Iron Age hillfort at the southern end of the Ffwyddog ridge that overlooks Llwyn Celyn. By the 7th century this area was part of the British or Welsh kingdom of Ewyas, the full extent and development of which is still subject to historical debate and research.

By the Norman Conquest there was still a discrete entity called Ewyas which, after initially remaining with the Welsh occupant, was given by William I to the powerful border baron, William de Lacy.

3.2 Llanthony Priory

At the end of the 11th century, William de Lacy, a relative of the then Lord of Ewyas, Hugh, is said, when hunting, to have come across a small ruined chapel dedicated to St. David high up the Vale and became a hermit; in 1103 he was joined by Ersinius, a former chaplain to Queen Matilda, and the two men developed a small and deliberately isolated religious community which, in about 1118, became a much larger house of Augustinian canons – endowed with virtually all of the Vale of Ewyas, from ridge to ridge by Hugh de Lacy.

Llwyn Celyn was at the southern edge of the priory's estate. The priory initially prospered and by 1125 it had around forty canons. After the death of Henry I in 1135 there was a major uprising of the Welsh against the Norman invaders and the priory was attacked; the canons were forced to abandon it and were granted refuge in Hereford, whose bishop, Robert de Béthune, had previously been their prior. He persuaded Milo, Earl of Hereford and Constable of Gloucester, to provide land for the displaced canons close to the latter city, and a new priory – later known as Llanthony Secunda - was begun there in 1136.

The original priory revived in the early-13th century but then began to decline again later on and by the 14th century had only a handful of canons; the area was also devastated during the uprising led by Owain Glyndŵr at the start of the 15th century, during which Abergavenny was burnt in 1404 and Llanthony Abbey was sacked in 1405. In contrast, Llanthony Secunda, by now a separate entity, had prospered and in 1481 effectively took over the original priory.

Henry VIII forced through an Act of Union between England and Wales in 1536. Presumably because of its links with the Priory, the Vale of Ewyas became part of the new county of Monmouthshire - until recently considered to be an English county.

With the boundary between Herefordshire and Breconshire to the north-west also formalised by the 1536 Act, Fothock (or Fwthog) to the west of the Vale of Ewyas remained an isolated portion of Herefordshire and did so until as late as 1893. In 1852 the Vale was transferred from the diocese of St. David's to the new diocese of Llandaff.



Pl.2: The ruins of Llanthony Abbey.



Pl.3: Some of the surviving late-medieval buildings of Llanthony Secunda, Gloucester.

3.3 The Llanthony Estate

Both Llanthony priories were 'dissolved' by Henry in 1538. At that time, Llanthony Prima had revenues of just £89 a year, whilst Llanthony Secunda was worth £649 a year. Llanthony Prima, the original priory, was acquired by Nicholas Arnold, helped by Arthur Porter, a former under steward of the Llanthony Secunda – who also acquired that site.

The Arnold family held the estate until 1726, when it was bought by Edward Harley, the second son of Sir Edward Harley of Brampton Bryan. In 1799 the estate was sold on to Sir Mark Wood of Surrey and then, in 1807, to the poet Walter Savage Landor.

Then only in his early-30's, Landor planned to build a house near the Priory ruins and to write – but although spending large sums of money in landscaping and other improvement he still lived mainly in Bath, where he married in 1811.

Continuing to fall out with the local gentry and his own tenantry, the estate was placed in the hands of trustees in 1814 and soon afterwards Landor left Britain, and his wife, and spent much of the rest of his time abroad. The Llanthony estate was placed in the care of his mother and then passed to other members of the family until finally being sold off in 1958.

3.4 Llwyn Celyn

The name Llwyn Celyn is probably derived from Old Welsh – '*llwyn*' (a grove) and '*celyn*', (holly) – hence 'holly grove'. It seems to have been a part of the manor of Stanton, a name of distinctly English, rather than Welsh, origin, reflecting the complex historical development of this border area.

The architectural evidence shows that Llwyn Celyn was built before the dissolution of the Priory; it was thus built on what was then still Priory land. However, the earliest specific reference to the property occurs in 1597; the unusual nature of the type of copyhold tenure used in the former priory's estate – effectively of four lives – has allowed for a logical surmise that the 1597 lease reflects a much older holding.

The type of copyhold, far more English in nature than Welsh, also allowed for a greater security of tenure in comparison to ordinary tenancies and this could enable those with the ambition and resources to accumulate adjacent blocks of land to build up fairly sizeable farms — and, as a result, at least aspire to gentry status, and to reflect that aspiration in their houses. This certainly seems to have been the case with the builder of Llwyn Celyn.

In 1597 the new lease was granted to William John Richard who may well have been the sitting tenant. Not long afterwards he assigned the copyhold to William George ap David – who dropped the patronym to become plain William George and was termed 'gent.' in his will. After his death in 1656 the house went to William Watkin; in 1711 Thomas and William Watkins, probably father and son, were both said to be 'of Llwyn Kelin' and were clearly fairly prosperous. However, in 1762 James Watkins was in financial difficulties and surrendered the lease to the Harleys; he was later described as being 'late of Loynkelling'.

As the farm was now back in the hands of the Harleys, they could change the manner in which it was held and charge much higher rents; the tenancies were, technically, now less secure and there seems to have been less enthusiasm shown by the tenants to repair and alter the premises — as clearly shown in the effective end to significant changes to the farmhouse, whose long and gradual decline can be dated to this period.

David Price was the tenant in 1775, paying £50 a year; that had risen to £70 a year by 1799 when it was held by Thomas William. William and Mary Morgan farmed Llwyn Celyn in the early-19th century before it passed briefly to Ben Davies and then Thomas Griffiths who farmed *Llancellan* at the time of the 1851 census. He farmed 140 acres - a sizeable farm for this area - and lived with his widowed mother Mary, aged 83, his wife Blanch (59), and their four children, William (21), Thomas (19), Charlotte (16) and Mary (14).

Shortly afterwards it was tenanted by Michael Jasper, who had been farming 30 acres at nearby Little Llwygy farm in 1851. The Jasper family remained as tenants for a nearly a century until Jack Jasper fell out with the owners and the tenancy was passed to his brother-in-law, James Powell, in 1944.

When the estate was sold off in 1958, Powell bought the freehold of the farm -176 acres in all - and this then passed to his two sons, Trefor and Lyndon. By the later- 20^{th} century the house was in a poor and deteriorating condition, covered in emergency scaffolding and sheeting – the brothers living in just two or three rooms.

The Landmark Trust were approached to see of they could save the property and, after protracted negotiations the Trust took possession in 2014, the brothers still farming the land but living in a new farmhouse built close by. The house and key buildings of the farmstead were then carefully restored, much of the grant aid being from the Heritage Lottery Fund; it was finally re-opened in October 2018.



Pl.4: Llwyn Celyn from the south-east, before being swathed in protective scaffolding.

4. Building ID

The focal point of the farmstead is the former farmhouse, a 15th century hall house that is Grade I listed, placing it in the highest category of listed buildings in the country. Associated with it are several farm buildings, ranging in date from the 17th to the 20th century – though the most recent buildings were removed during the recent restoration programme.

Like the farmhouse, the farm buildings are mostly built of the local sandstone rubblestone; the agricultural buildings seem, superficially, to be spread around the farmhouse in a fairly haphazard manner.

Underlying the layout of the farm, however, is a series of small terraced areas with revetment walls that are quite substantial structures in their own right. These terraces, along with the rest of the stone boundary walls within the site, are an important part of its general character and a unifying element in the farmstead. The different levels were also important in the way that several of the farm buildings were designed and used.

The individual buildings in the farmstead have been identified alphabetically and assigned names that are not necessarily historical.

These are:

- Building A: The Farmhouse
 - Building A1: Hall Range
 - Building A2: Solar Range
 - Building A3: Kitchen Wing
- Building B: The Infill (or Malt Kiln)
- Building C: The Cider House
- Building D: The Lean-to
- Building E: The Stables
- Building F: The Beast House
- Building G: The Shelter Shed
- Building H: The Piggery
- Building I: The Corn Drier
- Building J: The Threshing Barn
- Building K: The Threshing Barn Northern Extensions
- Building L: The Threshing Barn Southern Extensions
- Building M: The Granary

The identification of the buildings is shown on the following aerial photograph, probably taken in the early-1970's.



Pl.5: Identification of the farm buildings, the aerial photograph probably dating from the early-1970's.

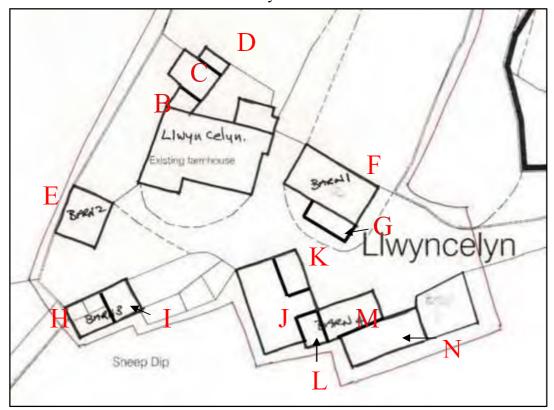


Fig.4: Sketch plan showing building locations.

5. The Farmhouse

5.1 Description

The late-medieval house is the obvious focal point of the farmstead and by far the most important building within it – as demonstrated by its Grade I listed status. The original house was made up of the two main components laid out on an 'L- shaped' footprint – the long 'stem', aligned west-east and containing the central Hall Range (Building A1) – containing both the original hall and the in-line services - and the projecting Solar (Building A2) at the other making up the 'foot' of the 'L'. To the rear of the medieval buildings is a later Kitchen (Building A3).

The outer walls of both the original house and the later additions are built of local red sandstone rubblestone with slightly larger and better worked blocks used as quoins. It was almost certainly designed to be 'butter rendered' and lime-washed, and a thin layer of render and limewash still adhered to most of the exterior prior to the recent works. These works included restoring the original character of the external finish to the building.

The Hall and Solar ranges appear to be contemporary rubblestone built structures of fairly high status and of the same height - with no obvious construction breaks between and no masonry dividing wall between the two sections. Curiously the south walls of both appear to be, at just over 1m wide, thicker than the northern walls, which are about 700mm wide. Where the two join, the partition is of timber-framing instead.



Pl.6: The restored Llwyn Celyn from the south-west, with the Hall Range (A1) to the right and the Solar (A2) to the left.

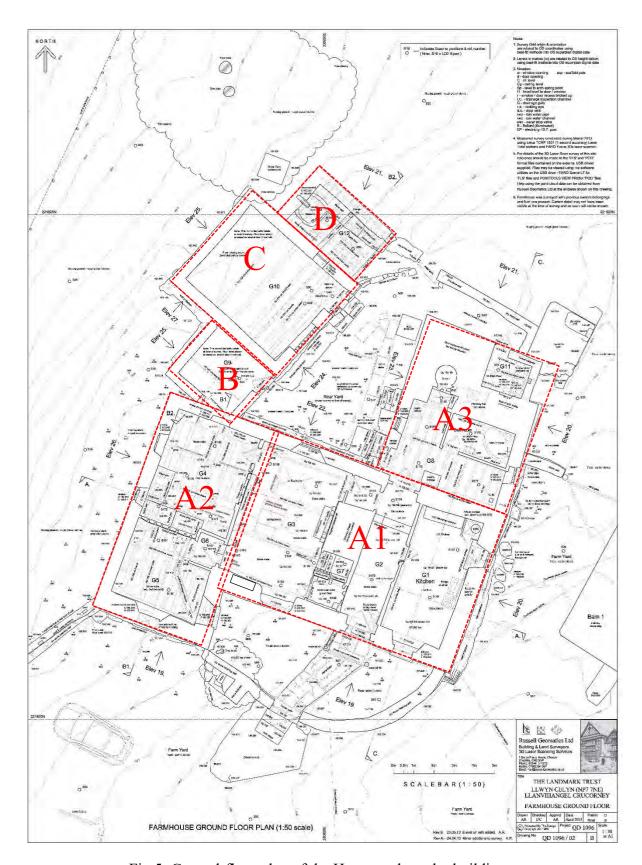


Fig.5: Ground-floor plan of the House and nearby buildings.

5.1.1 Building A1: The Hall Range

5.1.1.01 The Exterior

The Hall and the Services are housed in a single west-east rectangular range, separated internally by a timber-framed cross wall. This section is aligned down the slope, requiring a substantial battered plinth at the east gable end.

The Front, or South, Elevation

The front, or south, elevation of this portion of the building has the main primary entrance set slightly to the right of centre; this leads into the former cross-passage. A partly derelict timber porch, probably of late-19th has recently been removed. The doorway has a flat head and a substantial recessed timber frame containing the strap-hung plank door, ledged internally but not braced. This is not original but is early; the shape of the original door-head is now known.

To the left, the single window lighting the ground floor of the ground floor hall is quite modest and has a flat head with a mid-20th century concrete lintel. Above, embedded in the masonry, is an earlier timber lintel immediately beneath a flat weathering of projecting tile-stones; the first-floor window above rises up into a mono-pitched dormer. Neither window is primary and both probably date from the flooring-in of the original open hall within.

To the right of the entrance, lighting the two floors of the former service section, are vertically aligned square-headed windows of post-medieval form that possibly relate to primary window positions; there are two courses of brick below the sill of the upper opening. Internally these have splayed reveals and sills.

Just to the left of the entrance is a blocked inserted square-headed window opening, infilled in painted red brick; it is positioned midway between the main floors and would once have lit the landing of the inserted stairs. The window itself was thus inserted.

Arguably the biggest surprise of the restoration work on the house was the discovery, late into the project, of a primary doorway at the western, or left-hand, extremity of this elevation. This was found on the inner face of the wall and there were no indications of any opening externally, possibly suggesting that the whole outer leaf of masonry had been carefully rebuilt.

Internally, where plaster and paint were removed, the outlines of the opening emerged and it was then carefully exposed (*see below*). Investigations externally, included archaeological monitoring of drainage works, demonstrated that there had been significant disturbance in this vicinity and there were no surviving medieval deposits.

The Rear, or North, Elevation

The rear elevation is contiguous with the north gable of the Solar Range (Building A2), but its eastern half is abutted by the later Rear Kitchen (A3) and no longer external. Within that section is the square-headed north doorway to the passage which leads into the Kitchen Wing.



Pl.7: The restored Llwyn Celyn from the south-east, east gable of the Hall in the foreground.



Pl.8: The rear elevations of Llwyn Celyn from the north, during restoration, 2017.

Towards the right-hand, or western, end of the elevation is a square-headed ground-floor window and, lighting the upper floor, a similar window set partly within a masonry dormer gable. Neither of these is primary and both are presumably associated with the inserted first-floor within the former open hall.

The East Gable End

As outlined above, the lie of the land means that the east gable end of this range rises from a crude plinth. This is built of large undressed rough stone blocks laid down the slope from the north; the rubblestone above is then levelled up in roughly horizontal courses. It is possible that the larger and cruder stone blocks in the plinth were not meant to be visible.

There are single square-headed windows at both floor levels in this elevation, but not vertically aligned; these have crude projecting stone lintels and sills and casements. It is unclear if either is in a primary position but both may well be given the lack of evidence of any other windows openings in the elevation.

Projecting from just to the south, and below the sill of, the centrally positioned upper window is a projecting stone spout, cantilevered from the masonry wall; this appears to be a primary feature but nothing remained within to indicate whether it was associated with a laver of some kind – just a patch of repaired masonry in the walling.

5.1.1.02 The Roof

The roof is plain-gabled and covered in tilestone. Structurally, it is of five bays – three over the original open hall, one over the screens passage, and two more over the services – though the latter two are the result of a rebuilding. The trusses and rafter feet are supported on paired wall-plates, the inner ones originally projecting from the wall faces and supported on short timber corbels, most later cut back flush with wall.

The two intermediate trusses over the former hall are arch-braced and consisted of principal rafters and collars, with lower sections of bracing rising from the inwardly projecting wall-plates and the upper sections from the soffits of the principals to the soffits of the collars. The braces are fully tenoned and pegged.

At the 'high', or western, end of the former hall section the truss had been mutilated in the past through the removal of its tie-beam. Originally, evidence of pegged mortises in the surviving timbers indicate that it had a collar and a central stud from tie to collar, possibly flanked by curving braces; the principal rafters and cambered collar survive.

Externally, the truss was hidden by later brickwork, rising from a crude timber partly supported on the rafters of the adjacent Solar roof. It is possible that the truss tie may originally have been utilized to support the top of a dais canopy. The present gable end of the roof had been replaced in brickwork and there was originally no linking roof from it to the adjacent slope of the roof over the Solar.



Pl.9: Arch-braced trusses and wind-bracing in the restored roof over the Hall Range.



Pl.10: The south slope of the Hall Range roof, under repair in 2016.

That suggested design of collared truss survives in the surviving spere truss at the 'low' end of the former hall. The truss on top of the cross-frame separating the screens passage bay from the former services was similar – but lacked the flanking curving braces and was, like the frame below it, originally infilled in wattle-and-daub.

Over the former hall and screens passage, the trusses carry three tiers of butt purlins and a ridge-piece. The lower purlins are set low down the roof slope; the upper two tiers were stiffened by bold curving wind-braces forming two-centred arched patterns in each bay; most of the wind-braces survive. There is a considerable degree of smoke-blackening above the former hall – though it seems that a large percentage of the common rafters had been replaced and consequently there were no surviving indications of the position any smoke louvre.

The two bays over the former services at the eastern end of this range have a very different roof design, with an ephemeral truss set close to the east gable wall. This is evidently not medieval and there was evidence of fire damage in this area – which led to the replacement of most of the first-floor structure and probably accounted for scorching on the east face of the last of the medieval trusses.

It appears, therefore, that the present roof structure over this section is relatively modern. The gap between the roof slope and the south gable end of the Kitchen range to the north (Building A3) is now infilled by a continuation of the roof line of that later structure. This is also probably post-fire, because when the Kitchen was added, it had its own masonry south gable built on top of the wall of the Hall – minimizing any impact on the earlier roof slope.



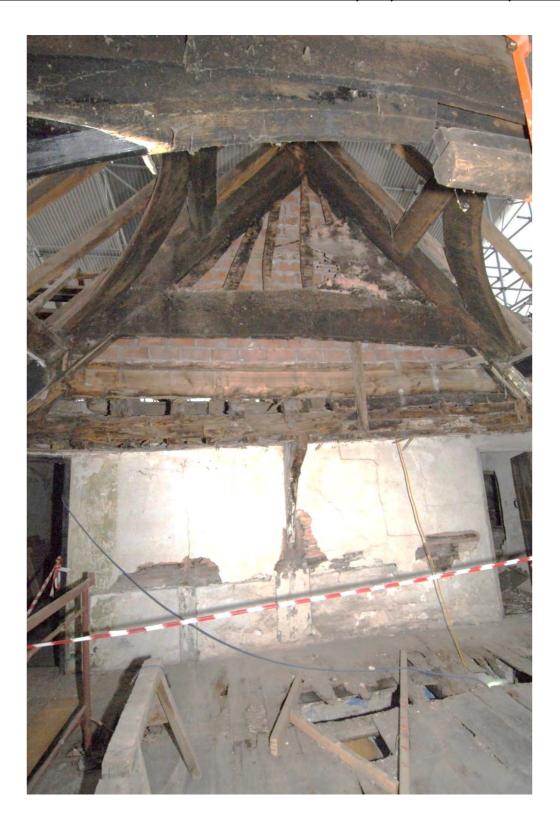
Pl.11: Closed truss between the screens passage bay and the services, from the west, 2016.



Pl.12: The bay of the roof above the screens passage, spere truss to right.



Pl.13: Detail of surviving corbelled inner wall-plate on the north side of the Hall Range.



Pl.14: The west end of the roof over the Hall Range after the removal of the inserted first floor ceiling and corridors. This shows the smoke-blackened end truss, with a later brick skin externally. The timber below its collar is the (replaced) outer wall-plate of the roof of the Solar Range, supported mid-way by a primary bracket tenoned into the cross-frame between the two ranges.

5.1.1.03 The Interior

The present internal arrangements are the result of considerable changes made over several centuries and in distinct phases. The most radical change involved the insertion of a first floor over the original open hall and its screens passage; the service section to the east was always of two storeys.

The Ground Floor

The Screens Passage

The main entrance on the south side leads into a cross-passage across the building to a doorway in the rear elevation – once external but now leading into the Kitchen wing (Building A3). The lie of the land means that there are steps up to that doorway from the passage.

On the east side of the passage is the remnant of the original cross-frame between the screens passage and the services — covered in wall-paper at the time restoration began, fixed to boarding and lath-and-plaster. A single primary doorway in this elevation had a primary carved ogee-arched head; careful investigation early in the restoration project uncovered a second identical doorway next to it — the two being a pair in the centre of the frame and evidently once leading into separate rooms in the service end.

The west side of the passage was formed partly by the back of the large inserted rubblestone stack at the east end of the ground-floor hall and butting against and into the spere truss (*see below*). North of this – and the northern spere post - is a doorway leading from the crosspassage into the hall; to the south was lath-and-plastered studwork affixed to what proved to be an earlier blocked doorway to the south of the south spere truss. To the west of this is the present stair case – accessed from the hall - which would have made the doorway unusable.

Most of the spere truss survived, despite the insertion of the fireplace. The west side of the passageway was lined with lath-and-plaster which was removed to reveal more of the structure of the spere. The surviving chamfered primary sections included the two aisle posts, linked by a well-crafted and neatly jointed collar over the central opening, and primary rails over the aisles about 2m above ground-floor level. Above was the truss already referred to.

Tenoned between the aisle posts of the spere truss was another long rail which supported the axial joists of the first floor above the screens passage. It is octagonal in section but cannot be original. Apart from interfering with views from the hall to the service doorways, it is also not properly jointed to the spere posts. One side does have a flush mortise and tenon joint; the other is cut into the flank of the post – the rail being slightly too long for the span.

This rail also has a series of cuts in its flanks which were difficult to decipher. It is possible that it was the transom for a wooden mullioned and transomed window – but there is no indication of a window anywhere near as wide in the building that it could have come from. It seems of too great a scantling to have been the mid-rail of some plank-and-muntin wainscot (very rare but not unknown in the sub-medieval period). Another possibility is that it may have been the newel for a small spiral stair.



Pl.15: The screens passage, looking north, during the restoration work. On the left is the back of the stack inserted between the aisle posts of the spere truss.



Pl.16: The restored pair of original service doorways in the east wall of the screens passage.

The Hall

The present hall is a full-width space, lit by windows in the side walls. Projecting into it from the east is a large masonry stack with well-worked flanks. A mid-20th century glazed brick chimney-piece was removed during the restoration work to expose a series of earlier fireplace phases, the earliest a typically broad and deep rectangular rubble-backed recess with slightly splayed reveals beneath a substantial timber lintel.

At a later date a well-crafted stone-vaulted bread oven had been inserted into the south-eastern corner of the fireplace. There is some evidence that an attempt was made to slightly narrow the size of the fireplace by introducing break cheeks to either side, probably in the 18th century, but most traces were removed by a more ambitious attempt to improve the fireplace by using grey-blue brick piers and an a narrower throat in the centre – associated with a lower timber lintel above the resultant recess. This presumably also contained some form of cast-iron grate to the fireplace itself; the dating of this appeared to be of the mid-19th century.

A century later another phase was introduced with the further reduction of the hearth size and the blocking of the recess by an 'off-the-shelf' glazed brick chimney piece – typical of the mid-20th century. That was relatively short lived and by the end of the century a freestanding multifuel cast-iron stove had been placed in front of it.

In the floor of the hall in front of the fireplace archaeologists encountered an ash pit – sometimes known as an 'uffern' [i.e. 'hell'] in Welsh - of unknown but almost certainly post-medieval date, possible associated with the introduction of the stack.

The splayed southern window is assumed to date from the flooring in of the original open hall. The re-discovered doorway is to its west. This has a high threshold of stone slabs and a two-centred arched head; the surround is of carefully cut ashlar with a simple external chamfer and a rebate on the inside of the recess. This suggests a doorway opening away from the room rather than it being an external doorway opening into it. Such a doorway would be odd at the dais end anyway.

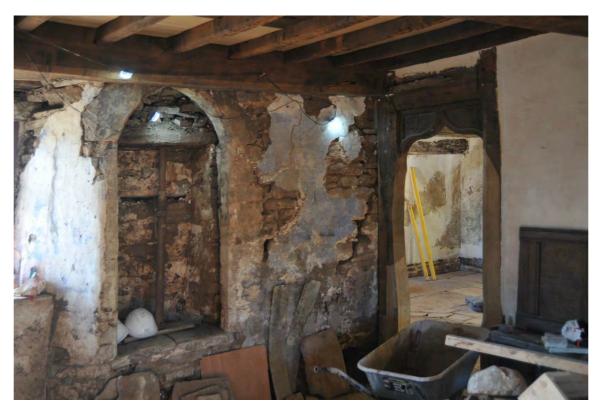
The opening was blocked in rubblestone and plastered over. When this was carefully removed, there remained rather crude masonry at the back and sides of the resultant recess, butting against the door frame itself. There was evidence of limewash on the rear of the rebated doorway that probably predated these masonry walls which were, in turn, also limewashed.

There are no indications of any pintles for the strap hinges of a doorway and, as outlined above, no indications of an opening on the outer face of the masonry. It is just possible it led into a very tight mural stair up to the first-floor of the Solar (Building A2).

The frame between this section and the Solar (A2) was structural and rose the full height of the building, incorporating the inner wall-plate of the Solar roof; it was later adapted to support the inserted floor. It consists of substantial timber posts linked by mortised and tenoned mid-rails to create a three-bay wide pattern three rows high. The resultant large panels were infilled by pairs of smaller scantling studs and the infills were of wattle-and-daub.



Pl.17: The hall during restoration, looking west; note the timber-framed partition at the dais end and the inserted first-floor; the door on the south wall had yet to be rediscovered.



Pl.18: The south-west corner of the hall in 2017, showing the recently re-discovered doorway, left, and its relationship with the door into the Solar wing.

There were two doorways into the Solar at this level, one to either end of the timber-framed partition between the two sections. That towards the northern end was evidently inserted. The one at the southern end is primary and has an ogee head with shields in the spandrels; it was quite deformed but has been carefully restored and brought back more to 'true'. Between the doors is a long dais bench with wainscot back; this is presumably associated with the long table known to have existed in the hall – sold later to the hotel at Llanthony Abbey; it is probably of 17th century date.

To the south of the stack are the present stairs, separated from the hall by some re-set plank-and-muntin panelling which has some surviving castellated bratticing; it is likely that part of the hall – perhaps at the back of the dais – was decorated with this at one time. The inserted first-floor structure to the west of the spere truss and stack is supported on four evenly spaced simply chamfered axial beams – the outer ones set close to the inner face of the side walls.

At their eastern ends these were supported either by added beams from the corners of the inserted stack to the side walls or, in one case, directly by the masonry of the stack. At their western ends they were supported by the cross-frame between hall and solar, though rails in this had to be adapted and re-set to take the weight of the floor. The joists between the bridging beams were neatly stop-chamfered, indicating that they were originally designed to be seen; they are similar to those in the first-floor of the Kitchen (Building A3). At a later date, perhaps in the 19th century, they had been ceiled over in lath- and-plaster.



Pl.19: The east end of the hall during the early stages of the restoration, showing the opened up fireplace with the bread oven within. To the right is re-used plank-and-muntin boxing in the secondary stairs. Note that the ceiling joists are plastered over at this time.

The Former Buttery and Pantry

As described above, there is a surviving pair of primary doorways with ogee-arched heads centrally positioned on the ground-floor of the cross-frame on the east side of the former screens passage.

In the recent past the southern one of these had been blocked, and it may have been at that time that the former axial partition between the two rooms east of the frame was removed to create one single full-width space.

This had been effectively the main living room cum kitchen in the last years of the farmhouse era and was devoid of most fixtures and fittings of note. Above the modern ceilings there were, however, surviving floor joists and the line of the partition has been restored to recreate the original layout.

Towards the southern end of the east gable wall the remains of a small blocked fireplace were encountered after the stripping of decorative finishes; this relates to the remnants of a stack on the floor above and a chimney on old photographs. Also within the inner masonry were some odd bricks – perhaps indicating a degree of post-fire repairs to the wall.

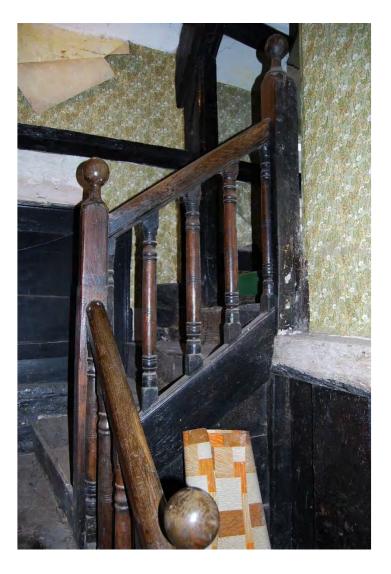


Pl.20: The ground-floor of the former services was the main living room in 2009.

The Stairs

The present stairs appear to be associated with the present first floor inserted into the hall, but could possibly have been re-set – perhaps from the opposite side of the stack where there certainly had been an earlier set of stairs that cut through the tie-beam of the spere truss. In their present location they would have blocked a doorway from the screens passage, cut through the original south aisle of the spere truss to the south of the inserted stack.

They are of an open well design with three sets of risers and two quarter landings; this allows them to cope with the difference in the first-floor levels. The stairs have square newels with ball finials and the balustrades have solid strings, moulded handrails and turned balusters. The general design is indicative of a date in the later- 17th or early-18th centuries.



Pl.21: Detail of the stairs in 2009, prior to the restoration project.

The First Floor

The stairs have a rather awkward quarter landing from which short flights lead east and west – to the first-floors above the service end and hall respectively. This was once lit by an inserted window in the south wall, but that has been blocked and the recess converted into a cupboard.

Above the hall section of this range a corridor, lit by an inserted dormer window, had been inserted against the south wall through the insertion of a lath-and-plastered stud wall. A similar stud wall continued this along the west wall next to the cross-frame between the Hall and Solar ranges to create a second corridor.

In between these was the main first-floor bedroom, occupying the area between that western corridor and the line of the spere truss and inserted stack. This was ceiled and lit by an inserted dormer window in the north wall. The lath-and-plaster partitions were probably of the 19th century and were removed as part of the recent restoration program to better express the character of the medieval building and its early post-medieval phase.

Above the former screen's passage was a lobby area from the stair landing on the south side – the rest being a small chamber with, curiously, some feed preparation apparatus of unknown date or purpose. The remainder of the space over the former services, separated from the rest by the upper part of the cross-frame and truss, was occupied by a single full-width chamber.



Pl.22: The first-floor bedroom in the Hall Range prior to restoration.



Pl.23: First-floor corridor on south side of Hall Range IN 2009, prior to restoration.



Pl.24: The first-floor room over the services looking north during restoration.

5.1.2 Building A2: The Solar

The Solar portion of the original building is contemporary with the Hall section (Building A1). It is built of the same originally butter-render rubblestone with better worked quoins. The rear, or north, walls of the two are contiguous and aligned. At the south end the Solar section projects slightly forward. At the junction within between the two is a full-height timber cross- frame.

5.1.2.01 The Exterior

The South Gable & East Return

The south gable of the Solar forms the left-hand end of the main front elevation of the house. It looked slightly odd at the time of the original survey as, despite the available fine views down the valley, it had no window openings. It did have a clearly blocked window opening on the ground floor – square-headed beneath a projecting plain stone drip-mould; the infilling was of rubblestone and the plastered splayed reveal was expressed internally.

There was no sign of a similar window at first-floor level, but when the limewash and render was removed, vertical construction breaks in the masonry were identified. Following on from this, investigations internally demonstrated that there was indeed a window opening with a splayed reveal at this level to which, as part of the restoration projection, was carefully reinstated.

The two windows had not been precisely aligned vertically and in their present forms, post-medieval rather than medieval in proportion; however, there was also some indication in the exposed inner masonry of the gable end of a degree of rebuilding.

At each floor level in the eastern return of this projecting portion of the wing are inserted square-headed windows with iron casements. These appear to have replaced those in the gable end as part of the reorganization of the interior.

The North Gable

All but the top section of the north gable elevation is abutted by the Infill range. It had blocked square-headed windows at both main floor levels as well as an opening in the gable lighting the present attic space.

The West Side Wall

The lower part of the western side elevation of the Solar had been partly buried by the slippage in the adjacent bank and this needed to be excavated for drainage purposes – the work being carried out under archaeological monitoring. That work demonstrated that the wall had been built up from ground level and that the slipping of the soil onto it was much later in date.



Pl.25: The Solar (Building A2) from the south-west during the restoration work.



Pl.26: The south-eastern corner of the Solar during the restoration work.

The elevation has two ground-floor windows with square timber lintels and projecting stone sills; these were inserted and the two-light timber casements within them even later. They have been restored and re-windows.

On the first-floor is an odd window detail – a wide single window with splayed reveals bisected, unequally, by the cross-frame at this level; a thin rubblestone pier masks the end of the frame externally. The reasons why this was formed in this manner is unclear, but it certainly seems to have been inserted. The windows were timber casements of uncertain date.

Also added to this elevation are the shallow projecting stacks serving the fireplaces on the first floor. These are of plain rubblestone and are corbelled out from the original wall face just below first-floor level.



Pl.27: The north gable of the Solar, viewed from within the Infill Range (Building B).

5.1.2.01 The Roof

The roof is plain-gabled and covered in tilestones; it is at right-angles to that of the Hall range, but the two were not connected – there being a plain gable at the western end of the latter. Structurally it is of two distinct sections – a three-bay portion in the southern two-thirds and a single bay section to the north.

Originally there seem to have been double wall-plates and most survive. There is a slight discrepancy between the setting out of the plates and the angles of the masonry at the southern end of the range; it is just possible these relate to a degree of possible rebuild in the gable wall (see above).

One structural oddity assumed to be primary is on the eastern side of the roof. The double wall-plates at the southern end of this side are on top of the masonry return from the south gable to the south wall of the Hall Range wall plates and are positioned in the same manner as those on the west side wall. However, where the wall-plates are at the junction between the Solar and the Hall ranges, there is no masonry wall (*see above*), there being a timber-framed partition instead.

In this section the inner wall-plate is on top of the cross-frame, whilst the outer plate was effectively a bressumer, supported at either end by the masonry returns from the gable ends and given additional support by a central bracket from a post in the cross-frame. This had been dismissed initially as a repair, but closer examination shows it was properly tenoned into the post and thus primary.

At either end of the roof the purlins are supported by ephemeral trusses set immediately inside the gable masonry. These consist of tie-beams, partly given added support by timber corbels, principal rafters and a collar.

At the junction between the two parts of the roof is a full truss on top of the first-floor cross-frame below. This consists of principal rafters and a collar, with a single king strut from tie to collar. This was a closed truss with surviving split-lath and wattle and daub infill above the collar; a small doorway had been formed through the truss, presumably when the attic in the southern bays were formed.

The intermediate trusses in the three bays section were arch-braced trusses but had been mutilated by the removal of most of the braces and the soffits of the collars – all presumably part of improving headroom and access through the trusses after the attic had been formed.

In these three bays the trusses carried three tiers of butt purlins, the upper two tiers being wind-braced. It is not clear if the ridge-piece was an original element. There was evidence of what seemed, superficially, to be smoke-blackening. The single northern bay of the roof had just two tiers of butt purlins and these were not wind-braced. Many of the common rafters are quite substantial and could be primary.



Pl.28: The roof over the southern part of the Solar, showing a mutilated arch-braced truss in the foreground and the gable truss beyond. The attic floor is inserted.



Pl.29: The closed truss separated the south and north portions of the roof.

5.1.2.02 The Interior

The interior is now on three floors – including a small disused attic or loft. It does seem that the original layout was, like the roof structure, divided into two unequal parts by the one timber-framed cross-frame.

The Ground Floor

The ground floor was a very low space, its floor stepped up from that of the Hall Range, and it has been considered that the first-floor in the southern section has been inserted. ¹⁴ However, the evidence exposed during the restoration does not support this hypothesis.

The first-floor structure is supported on substantial roughly chamfered or square-sectioned joists running axially between the girding beam of the cross-frame and a girding beam set against the inside of the masonry gable end and given additional support by a pair of timber corbels. This odd design replicates the way in which the end trusses are supported from the gable walls and echoes the corbelled out inner wall-plates of the Hall Range.

To the south of the cross frame the floor structure is of similar axial joists between a girding beam against the south gable masonry and the cross-frame, with additional support from a bridging beam mid-way between the two that the joists over-sail. The joists are generally of just two sections despite the length of the wing and the manner in which they relate to the cross-frame and intermediate bridging beam suggest the first-floor is of one build and probably primary.

Prior to the restoration, the layout was clearly not original. The ground-floor framing of the original cross-frame had been removed below the girding beam and a later partition had been inserted more centrally within the range; this was of lath-and-plastered studwork and probably of 18th or 19th century date.

To the south the main room was accessed by way of a plank door off a small lobby area reached by the primary door position at the southern end of the former hall in the Hall Range (see above). The room was lit by the inserted window in the east wall; the earlier window with broad splayed reveals in the south gable wall was blocked. This space had a stone-flagged floor which incorporates an open stone gulley, exiting at the south-eastern angle of the range, indicating that by the time the floor was laid the room was no longer domestic. It was extremely wet.

The northern ground-floor room at that time was accessed by an inserted doorway at the northern end of the west wall of the hall. This also has a stone-flagged floor. In the north gable wall was a blocked window opening and there was a blocked window towards the northern end of the west wall. The height of the surviving girding beam of the cross-frame created headroom problems and part of its soffit had been cut away at the eastern end.

In the restoration the original room parameters – of two spaces separated by a timber cross-frame with a single doorway at the eastern end – were restored and the inserted partition and small inserted lobby were both removed. Blocked windows were also re-opened.



Pl.30: View of the ground-floor of the Solar, looking north-west, after initial strip-out; the large beam to the right forms the remains of the original cross-frame.



Pl.31: The north end of the ground floor in 2009; note corbel-supported end beam supporting the axial floor joists and blocked window.

The First Floor

Access to the first-floor of the Solar was through the Hall Range's inserted first-floor corridor. This was evidently inserted, given the fact that that first-floor of the Hall was inserted. The original access between floor levels is unclear; the possible mural stair at the south-western corner of the Hall Range has been discussed (*see above*) but there may have been a simpler ladder-stair solution within the range.

Curiously, investigations of the cross frame (beneath the closed truss) at this level, which had been lined with lath-and-plaster, demonstrated that it was structurally separate to the remains of the frame on the ground floor.

At the east end its end post or stud has no connection with the adjacent stud in the end frame of the Hall section. At the west end the end stud has no connection with the masonry of the west wall – though at a later date a timber bracket or corbel had been introduced, partly lodged on a cut back in the stud and partly half-lapped around it.

Most of the frame survived and was of two rows of panels just three panels wide, the westernmost 'panel' being the blocked original doorway, neatly rebated for a door opening into the northern room. A replacement doorway had been inserted at the opposite end of the frame – possibly when the window in the west wall had been inserted – but it too had later been blocked. The floor joists for the north attic are supported on top of a timber nailed to the side of the top plate. The floor structure consists of substantial axial joists that, at the gable ends, are tenoned into beams set against the masonry and given additional support by timber corbels. The joists over-sail the girding beam of the former cross-frame and the bridging beam in the southern section of the range.

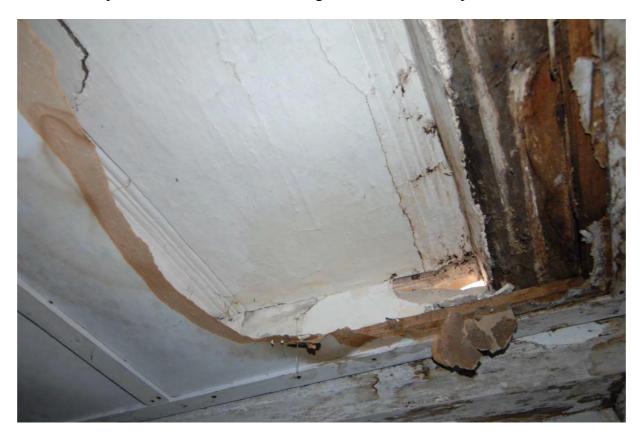
The original layout at first-floor level has been restored; previously, the large southern room—under the more decorative three-bay wind-braced section of the roof—had been divided into two by an inserted lath-and-plastered partition creating a small and narrow full-width room at the southern end, lit by the inserted window in the eastern side wall. This may have been designed to create a bedroom with attached dressing room. The larger space has a door of two large fielded panels hung of 'L-shaped' hinges, possibly of 18th century date and latterly had a mid-20th century glazed brick chimney-piece.

Prior to the partition, an attic floor had been inserted, hiding the roof structure. This was based on joists spanning the width of the range. These were originally chamfered but at a slightly later phase, had been plastered over and a scheme of simple 'finger-run' fluted moulding between the joists and on their edges had been introduced. This also predated the inserted partition and has been carefully restored and replicated where necessary.

Careful removal of plaster on the west side proved that the central window bisected by the cross-frame was inserted, as were both of the small fireplaces on the west wall which once heated the two earlier spaces and were served by the corbelled stacks visible on the exterior. Both had a rather unusual detail of carved false voussoirs above them, and both were of such small size that they were probably design to burn coal rather than wood. There was an inserted corridor between the timber cross-frame separating the Hall and Solar ranges, and an inserted lath-and-plastered stud partition below the line of the end truss of the Hall Range.



Pl.32: South part of first-floor of Solar looking towards the inserted partition, now removed.



Pl.33: Detail of surviving fluted ceiling and earlier chamfered joist in south first-floor room.

The northernmost room had a very dangerous floor structure which has been replaced. It appeared to occupy the original parameters of a first-floor space to the north of the surviving cross-frame. There was a blocked inserted doorway through the north gable into the Infill Range (Building B). The room had an inserted fireplace in the inserted stack on the west side – identical to that in the adjacent room - and is spanned by the joists of the inserted loft floor; these are aligned axially and are tenoned into an intermediate bridging beam. This construction is thus different to that of the inserted attic over the southern portion of the range and could be primary – perhaps a crog-loft.

The Attic

The structure of the attic floor is different to either side of the original cross frame. To the north it is supported on axial joists between the tie-beam of the cross-frame and the end truss inside the gable wall, with an additional bridging beam between them. To the south of the cross-frame, the attic floor is supported by substantial and virtually square joists running between inserted wall-plates on either side. Throughout the attic the floor is of broad deals.

The attic is divided into two spaces by the closed truss of the roof structure, through which a doorway was inserted to link them. Access to this level was presumably only by way of a ladder or ladder steps, but the manner in which the arched braces of the trusses were cut back to increase head room suggests that it was a fairly well-used space.



Pl.34: Reveal of partly surviving timber mullioned first-floor window in north gable.



Pl.35: Inner face of the west wall of the north first-floor room of the Solar, showing inserted window and blocked inserted fireplace.



Pl.36: The southern first-floor room of the Solar as restored, with gable window renewed.

5.1.3 Building A3: The Kitchen Wing

The Kitchen Wing was added to the eastern end of the north side of the Hall Range (Building A1), largely against the side of the service section but accessed through the northern doorway of the original cross-passage.

5.1.3.01 The Exterior

It is a rectangular one and a half storey range built in the same local rubblestone as the rest of the complex; there is a clear vertical construction break on the east side between it and the earlier building, though the eastern walls of the two are aligned.

The East Wall

The condition of the east wall was not good when the Trust took the building over and has been carefully repaired. Within it there are small square-headed windows with crude timber lintels at ground and first-floor levels, though not vertically aligned.

The ground-floor glazing was probably of the later-19th century; the first-floor or loft window had an older, and possibly primary, two-light timber casement with a pair of inward-opening strap-hung internal plank shutters.

The West Wall

The west wall faces the rear courtyard. It has a doorway, possibly primary, at the western, or right-hand, extremity at ground-floor level with a small square-headed window to the east of it. Further to the east is a doorway leading to the loft floor, which cuts through the line of the floor within; it was evidently inserted.

The North Gable

The ground-floor of the north gable is abutted by a substantial rubblestone lean-to structure, much of worth contains the hearths and flues of later fireplaces and ovens accessed from the kitchen within. At the eastern end is a single chamber with a doorway in the north wall – possibly once a privy.

The lean-to is evidently an addition and, at the eastern end, led to the blocking of a primary window opening; this was protected by a plain projecting stone drip-mould and retained a simple timber-mullioned window, probably primary to the building. There are no openings in the gable above, which is topped by a ridge chimney.



Pl.37: The Kitchen Wing (Building A3) from the north-east.



Pl.38: Surviving mullioned window in the north gable of the Kitchen Wing.

The South Gable

The Kitchen relied on the existing wall of the original house on the south side, but a new masonry gable was built on top of its masonry. Below this gable was a opening, now blocked. Its date is unclear, as is its function.

It may have been a primary window, blocked when the Kitchen was built, or perhaps initially converted into a doorway. Alternatively, it may have been a doorway inserted when the Kitchen was built.



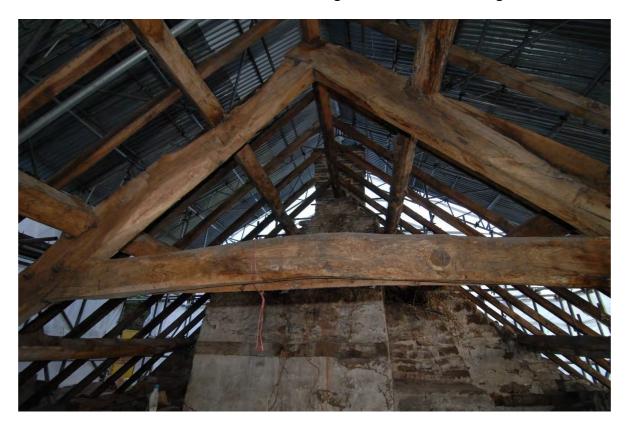
Pl.39: The west elevation of the Kitchen Wing during the restoration project.

5.1.3.02 The Roof

The roof is plain-gabled and covered in tilestone. Structurally, it is of two bays between its gables, the intermediate truss being of simple but well-crafted 'A-frame' design with a pair of principal rafters linked by a slightly cambered collar. The truss and gables support three tiers of trenched purlins.



Pl.40: The inner face of the south gable of the Kitchen Wing.



Pl.41: The roof truss in the Kitchen Wing, looking north with the stack beyond.

5.1.3.03 The Interior

The interior had, and now has again, single full-width spaces at each floor level. Modern light-weight partitions had been added in the later-20th century but these have been removed. The ground floor is accessed by doorways in the south-western corner – one to the passage the other to the yard – and lit by windows in the side walls.

In the north wall is a complex sequence of hearths and fireplaces – the original hearth being spanned by a massive timber lintel occupying the western two-thirds of the width of the building. The latest phase of alteration seemed to date to the later-19th century.

The stone flagged floor has been repaired. The room is spanned by a substantial bridging beam and the axial joists tenoned into that have their other ends tenoned into beams just inside the end walls. The joists have simple chamfers with run-out stops.

The first-floor or loft is now accessed by the external doorway from the yard and up a flight of steps. There is a blocked opening in the south side that presumably led into the first-floor of the service section of the Hall Range, or may simply have been a primary window in that range. There is a window in the east wall.



Pl.42: The restored ground-floor of the Kitchen, looking north-east.

5.2 Discussion & Phasing

The opening up works required for the restoration work, and additional information that came to light during the works, has refined the original outline phasing suggested in the original 2013 report. The dating of the phases has subsequently been refined further by the dendrochronology, though certain aspects of the building's history and development remain to be fully resolved.

5.2.1 Phase I: The Late Medieval House, circa 1420

The original house was made up of the two main components laid out on an 'L- shaped' footprint – the long 'stem', aligned west-east and containing the central Hall Range (Building A1) – containing both the original hall and the in-line services - and the projecting Solar (Building A2) at the other making up the 'foot' of the 'L'.

The outer walls of both the original house were built of local red sandstone rubblestone with slightly larger blocks used as quoins. It was almost certainly designed to be 'butter rendered' and lime-washed, and a thin layer of render and limewash still adheres to most of the exterior. The Hall and the Services are housed in a single west-east range and separated internally by a timber-framed cross wall. This section is aligned down the slope, requiring a fairly substantial battered plinth at the east gable end.

Opposing doors in the side walls of the Hall Range (A1), probably with two-centre arched heads, led into the screen's or cross-passage separating the great hall to the west from the service rooms to the east. Unusually, in a regional context, the division between the screen's passage and the hall was marked by a plain spere truss, subsequently mutilated by the insertion of the present stack. Such features are found in the English counties bordering Wales but are a rarity in the Principality itself and generally confined to the north-east; this example at Llwyn Celyn is the only one identified so far in the south.³

The hall west of the screens passage was originally open to the apex of the fine three-bay wind-braced roof; wind-bracing is another unusual feature in southern Wales, though common over the English border.⁴

The hall was lit by large windows in each side wall; their design is unclear, though perhaps with cusped heads to their lights. It would have been heated by a fire in an open hearth in the centre of the floor. Whilst there is ample evidence of smoke blackening of the visible timbers of the roof structure, there was no visible evidence of the position of a smoke louvre.

There would have been a dais at the 'high' end of the hall opposite the screen's passage and this could have been topped by a coved dais canopy; such a feature could explain some of the apparent oddities in the junction between the Hall and Solar ranges and the different positions of the timber-framed partition at the back of the high end of the hall and the western gable end of its roof. There was a doorway only at the south end of the dais screen, which survives and has a finely carved ogee-headed frame with shields in the spandrels.

³ See Smith, op. cit., 423-4

⁴ See Smith, op. cit., 412-3

The intriguing discovery of a doorway in the south wall right next to the junction with the Solar range has yet to be properly resolved. It seems primary and is the only two-centre arched opening surviving in the building. The fact that it is rebated on the side away from the room indicated it could not be an external doorway; it would also not be a recess or aumbry – which could only work with rebates on the room side. Two other possibilities are that it led into a lost oriel in the angle between the Hall and Solar ranges, of which there are no obvious remains, or that it led into a very narrow mural stair through the thickness of the wall leading up to the upper floor of the Solar.⁵

The Solar range, at the 'high' end of the Hall Range, was always of two storeys — with the possible exception of a crog-loft over the northern end. It originally contained two rooms at ground and first-floor levels separated by a cross-frame — most of the ground-floor section of which had been removed. Curiously, the ground and first-floor frames were of separate construction.

At each level, the smaller northern room could only be accessed through the larger one. The main southern ground-floor space was reached off the dais end of the hall through the fine surviving ogee-arche headed doorway; the raised shields in the spandrels designed for heraldic painting are further evidence of the ambition of the builder. It would have been lit by a window in the gable end but there are no indications of a fireplace. Clearly there could not have been an open hearth, and one possibility is that the room was heated by a brazier – or not heated at all.

With no access into the smaller room from the hall, the northern room at ground floor level was probably a private inner room – or store - associated with the larger space to the south. The larger of the first-floor rooms was possibly the 'solar' itself, open to a fine three-bay roof and lit by a window in the south gable; it is unclear if there were others in the west elevation.

There is no evidence of a primary fireplace and the issue of original heating is problematic – especially as there was some apparent evidence of smoke blackening in the roof timbers. A brazier is a possibility. Another method of heating a grand upper room like this was an open hearth on a stone pier rising from the ground floor – though there is no evidence for this.

It is possible that the northern section, accessed from the larger room through a doorway at the western end of the cross-frame, could always have been of three floors, with a loft above the first-floor room. The first-floor room was probably a bedchamber as, perhaps, was the attic space above, - a crog-loft accessed by a ladder.

Off the screen's passage at the 'low' end of the hall was a central pair of doorways with fine ogee-arched heads set into a timber-framed cross-wall. These would have led into service rooms to the east separated by a cross-frame - the buttery and pantry – for dry and wet stores respectively. That frame was removed quite recently to create one single room and one of the doorways was blocked and its head hidden; the layout was restored in the recent restoration.

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⁵ Hendy, Llantilio Crossenny, has similarities with Llwyn Celyn, with in-line services and a solar wing projecting on one side of the hall range in between. This does have mural stairs from the hall to the upper part of that solar projection – though Fox and Raglane thought this area had been rebuilt – see Fox, C & Ragland, Lord, 1951, Monmouthshire Houses: Part I: Medieval 84 and fig. 48.

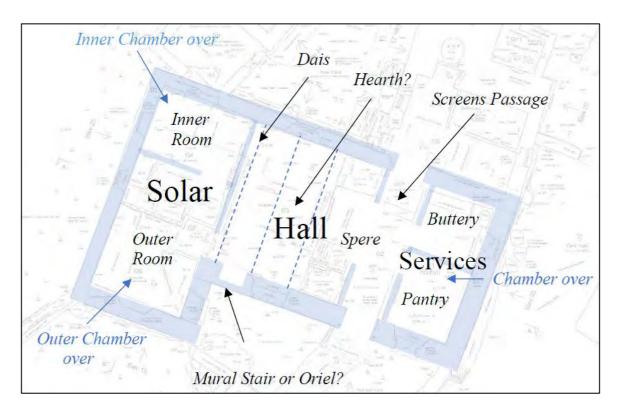


Fig.6: Suggested medieval ground-floor plan, superimposed on a plan of 2013.

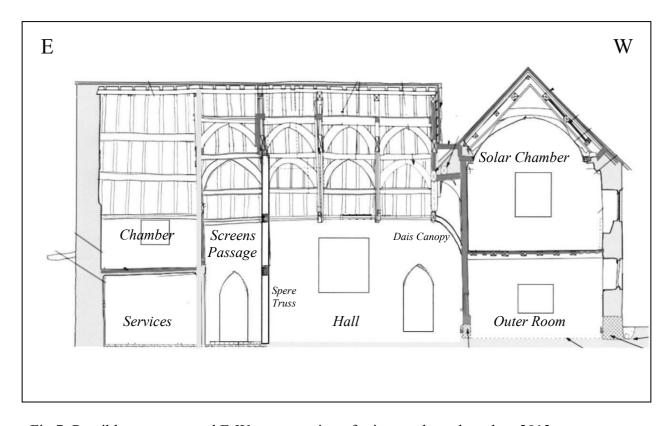


Fig.7: Possible reconstructed E-W cross-section of primary phase, based on 2013 survey.

Above these specialist service rooms was and is a single large chamber, probably originally reached by a ladder or possibly from a gallery above the cross-passage accessed directly from the hall – although this latter theory is generally thought to be unlikely. The first-floor room probably had a built-in laver, the spout of which, a remarkable survival, projects from the gable wall.

The general plan form and the surviving structural and decorative detailing of this first phase of construction suggested a date towards the very end of the 15th century, a time when the ogee arch was back in vogue in Wales and the borders. Such a date would also fit the various other structural and decorative primary elements of the building and would be when it was still the property of Llanthony Priory.

The building reflects, in its design and construction, aspects of the architecture of neighbouring Herefordshire but in a masonry, rather than timber-framed, tradition. The quality and size of the property suggests a high-status property and a wealthy occupant with secure tenure and aspirations to gentry status.

One of the surprises of the many different investigations undertaken by the Landmark Trust during the restoration programme were the results of the innovative dendro-isotope dating of timbers undertaken by Swansea and Oxford universities, which indicated felling dates for the timbers used in the Solar to be winter 1418-19 and in the Hall of 1420-21. The two were contemporary and the timbers would have been used soon after felling. The date for this first phase of Llwyn Celyn is then at least half a century earlier than originally thought – and such a date would have been in the immediate aftermath of the chaotic times of the Glyndwr rebellion.

5.2.2 Phase II: The Late-17th Century, circa 1690

The house was radically altered towards the end of the 17th century, which is probably when the open hall was floored over; the large stack was inserted within the spere truss at its 'low' end; the new stairs added; the main upper room in the Solar ceiled; and the Kitchen Wing added to the north-east of the house – accessed by the former screens passage. These changes also led to alterations to the windows of the exterior – including perhaps the dormer gables on either side of the Hall range - and some changes to the circulation pattern within.

However, these changes do not seem to have all occurred at the same time. The character of the first floor over the screens passage is quite different to that inserted into the formerly open hall – which suggests two different dates. The opening up of this area showed that the tie-beam of the spere truss had been cut into on the northern side of the stack in the same manner as it was later cut at the south side – in each case to improve head-room for a doorway.

At the same time, there was evidence for a doorway off the screens passage inserted to the south of the stack which was subsequently blocked when the present stairs were built and replaced by the present doorway to the north of the stack. There was also limited evidence - in a rebate in the jamb of the blocked doorway - to indicate that there was at that time a doorway across the southern end of the screens passage, suggesting a lobby immediately within the main, south, entrance to the rearranged property.

The evidence suggests that for probably a short time the access arrangements in this area were different — with the doorway to the hall from an inserted lobby at the south end of the passage and the stairs to the north of the inserted stack. This situation was then reversed, forming the present arrangement. There is some evidence in the construction of the present stairs that could suggest that these have been re-set — perhaps being originally those to the north of the stack.

Whatever the case the evidence now suggests two rather than one phases of flooring over the hall and associated stair access to the new first floor – both possibly in the 17th century. It is just possible that the stack was inserted first, along with the floor only over the passage, but that the hall initially remained open to the roof and its first-floor was only inserted slightly later –creating what would have been a full-width 'great chamber' at the new level. This could then have been superseded by the flooring in of the rest of the hall.

The medieval doorway in the south wall of the hall was evidently blocked and it was plastered over. It is possible that the second doorway from the hall to the ground-floor of the Solar was added at this time.

In the Solar wing an attic was inserted above the southern first-floor chamber; the date is unclear but traces of simple fluted 'finger' decoration was found to survive — in poor condition — above the modern fibre-board ceiling. Such decoration is typical of the 17th century but there was evidence that the joists were neatly chamfered. Again, there appears to have been two phases of alterations. Both of the rooms on the first-floor of the Solar were provided with new fireplaces in their west walls, indicating they would have been bedchambers. The ground floor rooms remained unheated and could have become ancillary buildings rather than integral parts of the house.

The major addition to the house was the Kitchen Wing (A3) attached to the north-east of the house and accessed through the northern doorway of the cross-passage; that may have been one of the reasons why the inserted stack backed onto the cross passage rather than being built within it. This allowed the passage to be used for direct access to the kitchen rather than introducing a baffle entry layout. It contained the kitchen on the ground floor and accommodation on the floor above. Its floor joists are similar to those used in both the main body of the hall and in the attic of the main first-floor room in the Solar.

The dendro-isotope results on joists over the Hall and of the lintel of the fireplace in the inserted stack indicated a felling date of *circa* 1690. This accords with a fine 13 foot long 'high table', dated to 1690 and known to have been in the house at the start of the 20th century but later accepted in lieu of rent by the Llanthony Estate and taken to Llanthony Abbey House – now the Abbey Hotel. At this time Llwyn Celyn was evidently a prosperous farm held on cheap rent by the Watkins family.

The somewhat belated modernization of the house from a medieval one to a more comfortable and fashionable post-medieval and quite high-status dwelling was probably undertaken at the same time as improvements to the farmstead and the construction of some of the existing farm buildings – including the Cider House, the Beast House and, possible, the main Barn.

5.2.3 Phase III: The Later-19th Century

Changes made since the start of the 18th century have been fairly minor. At some point – perhaps as late as the mid-19th century – a passage was created by the addition of a lath-and- plastered stud partition parallel to the south wall to link the rooms in the Solar with the stairs and giving privacy to the main bedroom. A second passage was formed at right-angles to it to access the northern room in the Solar. The western gable of the Hall Range was clad in brick.

A series of alterations were made to the ground floor of the Solar, which seems definitely to have gone out of domestic use by this date. It had a raised stone floor with a surface drain which could be associated with some 'wet' process – dairying, cheese-making, salting and such-like. A new window was added in the eastern return at this level. At first-floor level, the southern room was partitioned to form a closet along the south gable – the window in which was blocked and also replaced by one in the eastern return.

Later changes in the 19th century included the creation of a larger bread oven in the Kitchen block, the addition of a privy, and further minor changes to doorways and partitions. One of the few interesting features of this period was the use of metal-framed windows with distinctive 'clenched fist' handles – used on other properties on the estate; these are, however, a fairly common design.

At some date in this period there appears to have been a fire in the eastern end of the Hall Range that led to its re-roofing and the partial replacement of the first floor - but the precise details of this have not been uncovered.

5.2.4 Phase IV: The Later-20th Century

Since the mid-20th century changes included the blocking of some fireplaces and changes to others, the re-raftering of at least some of the roof over the Hall Range, the replacement of at least some of the first-floor in the Service Wing, the removal of the original ground-floor partition in that wing and consequent blocking of an original doorway off the screens passage, and modern partitions in the Kitchen block that incorporated a bathroom – never properly plumbed in.

5.2.5 Phase V: The Early-21st Century, 2013-2018

The most radical changes to the building since the late-17th century have been made by the Landmark Trust, rescuing the building from dereliction and near-certain collapse, and carefully restoring it to its present condition as a holiday let. Ironically, these most radical changes have resulted in the least obvious change to the character of the building.

The less attractive accretions, particularly of the more recent past, have been removed. A general philosophy of approach has taken the building back, in spirit, to its late-17th century phase but in a manner flexible enough to allow for the removal of the ceiling of the first-floor of the Hall to expose the fine medieval roof and to keep the medieval doorway encountered late on in the south wall of the hall below on view as well.

6. The Farm Buildings

6.1 Building B: The Malt Kiln or Infill Range

6.1.1 Description

The Malt Kiln range is a small rubblestone building in the irregular gap between the north of the main house and the Cider House (Building C). It has a curious junction with the side of the house – even using a part of the house's masonry as part of its own walling and blocking the gable end windows in the process.

6.1.1.01 The Exterior

In the front, or east, wall there is a single doorway but the rear wall is built into the adjacent bank and is effectively a revetment wall with no openings which could pre-date it. The only other opening into the building is one inserted through the first-floor of the adjacent Cider House.

6.1.1.02 The Roof

It has a simple plain gabled roof covered with graded tilestones which runs into the southern slope of the roof of the Cider House at one end and then butts against the north wall of the house at the other.

6.1.1.03 The Interior

Although latterly a single ground-floor room open to the roof, internally there is evidence of plaster on the upper section and indications of a lost first floor. There is also evidence for a flue built against the wall of the wing of the house. Large number of perforated ceramictiles were located within the debris internally - of a type used for both malting or possibly corn drying. There was no excavation into the crude concreted floor, which was devoid of features and this space has been left cleared but unused – apart from housing a freestanding bat roost.

6.1.2 Discussion

The combination of evidence for a stack or flue against the house wall, an upper floor, plastered walls, and the perforated tiles suggests that some form of drying process was being undertaken in this building with a heat source on the ground floor.

The obvious conclusion would be that was used for corn drying, but, given that there seems to be a larger grain dryer elsewhere on the farmstead, it is possible that this was a small kiln for roasting barley for malt instead. It is difficult to date – but is perhaps of the later 18th or early-19th century.



Pl.43: The east elevations of the Infill (B, left) and Cider House (C) in 2016.



Pl.44: The south-western corner of the Infill.

6.2 Building C: The Cider House

6.2.1 Description

To the north of the solar wing of the house, and physically linked to it by the later Infill or Malt Kiln Range (Building B), is a well-built and relatively unaltered two-storey rectangular rubblestone building. A terraced area had to be cut into the bank to allow it to be built and on the north side.

6.2.1.01 The Exterior

The east gable elevation is the main elevation of the building and faces into the rear yard area of the property. It is built of worked but roughly coursed rubblestone with longer blocks for the quoins.

On the ground floor there is a square-headed primary doorway at the northern, or right-hand, end with a stepped threshold and dowelled timber frame; the present plank door is not original.

To the left of the doorway is a primary window opening. The wooden window frame itself seems to be primary and is of seven narrow lights divided by diamond-set timber mullions.

Centrally positioned beneath the gable at first-floor level is a second window, once of similar design but of five lights, much altered and partly replaced by a glazed window, possibly reused. At this level the protecting drip mould above it has survived virtually intact.

Because the west gable is built into the bank, only its upper section is visible. This has a single blocked window opening – or low taking-in doorway. The north wall fronted a narrow continuation of the terrace on which this range was built, which is now mainly infilled by the lean-to.

There is a small window opening towards the eastern end and indication of a possible blocked opening towards the west – though access to that section is not possible at present. The south wall is now not external because of the construction of the Infill Range. There seem to have been no original openings in it, but there is now a doorway at the eastern end of the first-floor into the Infill Range which is presumably inserted.

6.2.1.02 The Roof

The roof is of two bays and mainly covered with roughly graded tilestones, although there are also areas of repairs in corrugated iron sheeting. It is of two bays with a single intermediate truss – a simple 'A-frame' design of a pair of principal rafters and a collar. These timbers are well-wrought but the two tiers of trenched purlins are quite crude with waney edge or bark; there is also a slender ridge piece. The common rafters could be original.



Pl.45: The restored Cider House from the north.



Pl.46: The rear, or west, gable of the Cider House, revetted against the bank.

6.2.1.03 The Interior

The ground and first floors are single spaces with no obvious indications to suggest that there were former partitions or fireplaces. One intriguing feature is a hole drilled into the soffit of one of the beams associated with a straightening of the timber; this appears to have been deliberately made to take the top bearing of a vertical shaft of some kind.

Below there is an area of roughly circular paving probably associated with a ring for a small pony to operate a vertical axle and there is also a hint of some former trough of some kind against one of the walls.

Once the piles of debris were removed from the loft floor, it was apparent that the boards had been covered in a thick and substantial plaster surface, and there were also remnants of plaster and limewash adhering to the base of the walls.

6.2.2 Discussion

Despite its proximity to the house, and being fairly well-built, there is no link between them. The absence of a fireplace, internal sub-divisions or stair access between its floors all suggest that it was not designed for domestic use. It seems to have a ground floor too low even for cattle or oxen and the size and number of windows would be incompatible with such a use.

Dating is difficult. The windows are of a type that were in use in upland parts of Wales from the mid-16th century and throughout most of the 17th century – and even, in agricultural buildings, well into the 18th century. The windows are similar to those of the Beast House (Building F, *see below*).

It seems possible that it may have been a cider house. The missing shaft, in that case, could have been the shaft of a cider press powered either by man or beast in which the apples were crushed – hence the paved 'ring' in the floor - whilst the trough remnants could have been associated with a press where the 'cheeses' – bags of crushed apples – were squeezed to extract the liquid.

The loft could have been for storage – of apples and other crop – and perhaps, given the thick plaster surface added on top of the original boards, later used as a germination or wetting floor associated with the possible malt kiln in the Infill Range to the south.

Apple growing and cider production did take place in this part of Wales – though surviving buildings related to it are extremely rare. The best-preserved cider house in the region dates from the mid-18th century and is only about two miles to the south-east of Llwyn Celyn, at Cwm Farm, near Llangattock Lingoed, which is Grade II* listed. There is another listed example dating from the 19th century a bit further away at Upper White Castle, Llantilio Crossenny.



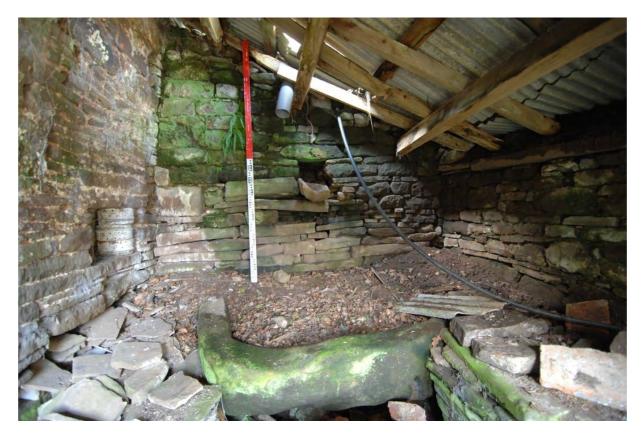
Pl.47: Part of the attic and roof structure of the Cider House prior to restoration.



Pl.48: The inner face of the south side wall of the Cider House in 2013.

6.3 Building D: The Lean-to

The lean-to structure built against the northern wall of the Cider House (Building C) largely infills the formerly open narrow section of terraced area in between that building and the revetment wall to the north. It is fairly crude and could date to as late as the 19th century. The intriguing feature is a massive stone set into its west wall, part of a natural water supply from the hill and a collecting trough.



Pl.49: The interior of the Lean-to, showing the trough and water supply at the rear, or west, of the building where it is built into the bank.

6.4 Building E: The Stables

6.4.1 Description

The Stables lie to the south-west of the house and on the western edge of the farmstead; it is built into the bank, so that its eastern wall is taller than the western wall – the lower part of the latter acting as a revetment wall.

It was considerably altered in the later-20th century by the father of the present owners of the property when the original roof was removed and replaced by a monopitched one. As part of the restoration work, the profile of the earlier roof has been restored.

6.4.1.01 The Exterior

The building is of one and a half storeys, rectangular in plan, and aligned approximately north-south. It is built of roughly coursed rubblestone with longer and better worked stones used in the quoins.

The Front, or East, Elevation

The front elevation was to the east, facing into the main farmstead. This wall has a doorway and small window towards its right-hand, or northern, end beneath a shared timber lintel. Towards the southern end of the wall is a better crafted window with an ashlared stone lintel and projecting stone sill.

The Rear, or West, Elevation

The lower part of the rear elevation is a revetment wall to the higher ground on this side of the building where the adjacent field slopes steeply upwards to the west. This section of the wall is thus not external. At the southern end of the wall is a doorway at loft level accessed directly from the higher ground level on this side of the building.

The North Gable

Most of the exposed section of the north gable wall seems to have been built quite recently when the configuration of the original roof structure was radically altered, though it does retain a possibly original stone-framed loop. The topmost section was restored to the elevation as part of the recent restoration work.

In the south gable wall is a ground- floor doorway towards the right-hand end with a well worked stone lintel – like that of the window at the south end of the east wall - and a narrow loop to the west of it; there is a second loop at first-floor level.



Pl.50: The front, or east, elevation of the Stable (Building E) prior to restoration.



Pl.51: The south gable of the Stable prior to restoration.

6.4.1.02 The Roof

The roof is again plain gabled, its profile based on the visible evidence left when the earlier roof was reduced in height and replaced by a shallow monopitch in the later-20th century.

6.4.1.03 The Interior

The ground floor is divided into two by a substantial stone cross-wall wall, and the first-floor structure appears to have been inserted or rebuilt; it has been repaired as part of the recent works to the site.

6.4.2 Discussion

The Stables had clearly been rebuilt since the 1960's - when it still had a plain gabled and apparently tilestoned roof. Dating is difficult but the relatively good quality stone lintels differ from other structures on the farm and could indicate that it is later than most – possibly of the early-19th century.

It seems to have been to house animals on the ground floor, with feed storage above — and given the generous head rooms on the ground floor and the size of the loft it seems likely to have been a stable. Because of the recent radical alterations made to it much of its architectural significance has been eroded — but it still forms a fairly important element of the farmstead and the restoration of a pitched roof has enhanced its appearance and the setting of the farmstead.



Pl.52: The Stable restored to its original form.

6.5 Building F: The Beast House/Tŷ'r Anifeiliaid

6.5.1 Description

Apart from the farmhouse, the Beast House is the only other listed building on the site - listed Grade II. It is a one and a half storey rectangular structure aligned west-east and thus built down the prevailing slope in this part of the steading; as a result, the western end ground level is higher than the rest.

6.5.1.01 The Exterior

It is built of randomly coursed and presumably locally derived grey-coloured red sandstone rubblestone; attached to the right-hand or eastern half of its south side is the much-altered former Shelter Shed (Building G).

The Front, or South, Elevation

The south elevation has a long and low rectangular window with timber-mullioned frame towards the eastern end – latterly facing into the Shelter Shed and blocked. To the west, or left, of the Shelter Shed are two broad doorways of different sizes and levels, separated by a rather massive sloping buttress – presumably a later addition to provide a degree of structural stability.

The eastern doorway is the earlier of the two and the smaller; it is protected by a projecting crude and flat stone drip-mould. The larger western doorway may be associated with the creation of an early-20th century garage; there is a second, smaller, buttress of similar crude design to the east of the eastern doorway.

Towards the eastern, or right-hand, end of the elevation, latterly hidden by the Shelter Shed, is an erratic vertical construction break in the masonry, matched by a similar feature opposite in the north wall (*see below*).

The Rear, or North, Elevation

The rear, or north, wall had hardly been altered since it was first built, although towards the eastern, or left-hand, end of the wall was an irregular vertical construction break at which point the character of the rubblestone changed (*see below*).

The elevation has two tiers of three tall but plain vent loops with splayed reveals. Whilst these are built to regular row heights, there was no serious attempt to match the vertical alignment of the vents of the two different levels.

The wall had been suffering from instability for many years and was in imminent danger of collapse – so much so that much of it had to be carefully taken down and rebuilt as part of the restoration project.



Pl.53: The north-east corner of the Beast House (Building F); note how the coursing changes to the left of the arrows, suggesting the gable has been rebuilt.



Pl.54: The south elevation of the Beast House after the removal of the Shelter Shed (G).

The West Gable

The west gable is evidently contemporary with the side walls. It is plain, apart from what appears to be a primary taking-in doorway at attic floor level. This has a simple timber lintel and must always have been reached by ladder, as there is no evidence for fixed external steps of any kind. Because of the topography, it is not as tall externally as the east gable.

The East Gable

The lower part of this gable has survived and is a symmetrical composition with doorways at both ends and a central square-headed window, all protected by a crude but continuous projecting stone drip-mould running the entire width of the building. Whilst the doors have changed, the window retains its original timber frame; this is five un-glazed narrow lights with diamond-set mullions.

The original upper part of the east gable seems to have been removed and to be replaced by corrugated steel-sheeting fixed to studwork. However, this may have been the result of instability in the wall either before or after it appears to have been rebuilt.

Its masonry returns on the two side walls, as far as the vertical construction breaks on each side referred to above, suggesting that all of the masonry east of the construction breaks is of a later phase than the rest of the building – presumably replacing an earlier gable. It is possible that the timber mullioned window – which is identical to that in the south wall – may have been taken from the original gable wall and re-used in the rebuilding.

6.5.1.02 The Roof

The steeply pitched roof is plain gabled and was latterly covered with rusting corrugated iron sheets from the early-mid 20th century. It is assumed that the original roof covering would have been of graded tile-stones and these have been introduced as part of the restoration scheme.

It is of four bays with simple timber trusses consisting solely of tie-beams and principal rafters, all joined with pegged mortise and tenons. A handful of carpenters' marks survived and these were of neatly chisel-cut Roman numerals.

The trusses support three tiers of trenched purlins and a ridge-piece. All the timbers are rather crude and some could have been re-used. However, most of the common rafters are pegged to the purlins, have well-crafted 'bird's mouth' junctions with the wall-plates, and have or had neatly scalloped feet overhanging the eaves.



Pl.55: The west gable end of the North Barn or Beast House.



Pl.56: Part of the ground-floor of the Beast House, looking north.

6.5.1.03 The Interior

The building is of one a half storeys. Because of the prevailing slope, the level of the ground floor at the western end is higher than the rest, the two sections separated by a crude partition rising from a rubblestone revetment wall.

This western section had the remains of a well-formed floor of pitched cobbles tightly set and assumed to be designed for vehicles and machinery rather than for animals; it related to the large doorway in the south side.

The rest of the lower floor was divided in two by a fragmentary cross-frame. In the longer section to the east of that partition there were remnants of ephemeral timber stallage, removed during the restoration works.

The flooring beneath was of crude cobbles but had three linear features – a raised stone manger close to the northern wall, a concave open trough quite close to the south of it, and a shallow open trough just inside the south wall. There was some evidence to indicate that the raised manger once continued to the west of the partition but had been lowered to ground level.

These linear features seemed to relate to the present design of the east gable end – with the side doors providing access for a feed passage along the north aside and for the cattle access on the south side, the beasts being tethered across the building.

The loft floor has taking-in doorways respectively in the west and the re-ordered east gable walls and is one large single attic space – but the truss ties are just above its floor level – though all but the westernmost section of the floor structure appears to be primary.

6.5.2 Discussion

Superficially it appears always to have been of one storey with loft, notwithstanding the awkwardness introduced on the upper floor by the tie beams of the trusses. It also seems that the ground floor was always on two different levels – a main section and a smaller section at the western end – and that both levels had narrow ventilation loops. Evidently the ground-floor was for animals – perhaps with cart storage at the west end – whilst the upper floor was for feed storage.

Dating is difficult because there are distinct contradictions between the general structural character of the building and its plan form. In the context of this area, the basic structural evidence of the roof and the timber mullioned windows would suggest a broad date range from the late-17th to the late-18th century. The windows are very similar to the windows in the North-West Range (Building C) to the rear of the farmhouse.

The paired doorways flanking a window in the east gable wall are similar to the openings required in a typical cow house, or 'beast house', with a central feed passage; the cattle entered by the doorways and were then tethered with their heads facing the mangers and hay racks in the central feed passage.

Usually, however, that feed passage would itself be accessible by a third doorway in the gable end rather than just being lit by a window – and this type of cowhouse only seems to have become popular in the mid-19th century.

The potential discrepancy in dates could be explained by the evidence suggesting that the east gable end was rebuilt. This may well have been for structural reasons and may account for the fact that it was either not rebuilt to its original full height in masonry – or it was found necessary to reduce the weight even after rebuilding.

If it was rebuilt, for whatever reason, the rebuilding could have allowed for the adoption of a more up-to-date layout for the byre – and the central window could simply have been re-used from the earlier gable.



Pl.57: The restored interior of the Beast House, looking east.

6.6 Building G: The Shelter Shed

6.6.1 Description

The lean-to building against the eastern end of the south wall of the Beast House appears, superficially, to be a simple structure built of concrete blockwork. However, it proved to be somewhat more complex during the restoration works.

6.6.1.01 The Exterior

The front, or south, wall of the building was mainly built of blockwork which was pierced by two 'Crittal-style' steel-framed windows. The blockwork returned on the west side, though was covered up internally in render and externally by corrugated sheeting – hiding an unexpected surviving frame (*see below*).

The east wall, however, was of rubblestone and there were traces of rendered rubblestone in the west wall as well internally, it was evident that the blockwork had resulted in the radical remodelling of an earlier structure.

6.6.1.02 The Roof

The roof was a simple lean-to covered structure, with rusting sheets of corrugated iron, pierced by a single roof light. However, the purlins supporting the corrugated sheeting had been added above two earlier waney purlins presumed to be associated with a lower roof since removed.

6.6.1.03 The Interior

The interior had a concrete floor and a concrete trough along the north side; it was divided into three stalls by tubular galvanized steel stall dividers. These elements were contemporary with the blockwork of the front elevation.

6.6.2 Discussion

This was clearly a much-rebuilt structure that seems to have started as an open-fronted shelter shed. By the mid-20th century any arcaded opening has been infilled with timber match-boarding, as shown in old photographs of the site. That, in turn, has been replaced in concrete blockwork, leaving only the east gable masonry of the original build.

The building was not considered to be of any great significance and the proposals resulted in a radical rebuilding to meet the requirements of the site. During the works, an ephemeral timber frame was exposed at the western end once modern walling was removed on the inside of it and the corrugated sheeting on the exterior.



Pl.58: The south elevation of the Shelter Shed (Building G), 2016.



Pl.59: The interior of the Shelter Shed.

The frame fitted the basic cross-section of the present building. It was a very simple construction consisting of a slightly cambered tie-beam, one end embedded in the masonry and the other supported on a slightly angled post; a carefully worked principal rafter was tenoned into the tie-beam – this junction set back somewhat from the outwards end – and its head was also embedded in the masonry. The principal latterly supported three tiers of relatively thin scantling purlins of uncertain date.

At the wall end of the assemblage, a vertical stud rose from the tie to the top of the rafter, but this seemed to be secondary. There were no indications – in the form of stave holes or grooves - that the frame was infilled. The discovery of the timber frame completely altered the understanding of the development of the lean-to. The frame probably formed part of an open-sided and fronted lean-to pentice of some kind.

Dating is difficult, based on the evidence of just a single frame, but the general character of the frame could suggest a date as early as the 17th century and probably no later than the mid-18th; it is thus possible that it was contemporary with the adjacent Beast House.

Subsequently, it was rebuilt on at least two occasions – initially with stone side walls, perhaps in the 19th century; the front section was infilled in ephemeral timber studwork and sheeting in the mid-20th century and then the range was more radically in concrete blockwork in the later-20th century to form cattle accommodation. Bearing these changes in mind, the survival of the ephemeral frame is quite surprising. As a part of the restoration work it was repaired and has been re-set within the rebuilt structure.



Pl.60: The exposed side frame of the Shelter Shed, discovered during the restoration works.

6.7 Building H: The Piggery

6.7.1 Description

This range was latterly a piggery – certainly on its upper floor. It was built at right- angles to, and abuts, the earlier Grain Drier (Building I) to the east but there is no connection between the two.

6.7.1.01 The Exterior

It is built of the roughly coursed local rubblestone; the building does have better-worked and square masonry at the south-western corner. As it is built into the bank, the main internal floor level is effectively on the first floor, which is level with the adjacent farmyard to the north. The south, or rear, wall is devoid of openings. Part of the top of the gable of the west wall has been removed; there are three irregularly positioned loops in the elevation but no other openings.

The northern part of the range appears to have been altered in order to create a series of open yards serving pig sties to the south – at the effective first-floor level of the building due to the sloping ground. In the resulting spine wall there are doorways into the pig houses at each extremity.

6.7.1.02 The Roof

The building may originally have had a low-pitched and plain-gabled roof, but most of the northern slope seems to have been removed as part of the creation of the open yards. The rest of the roof is in very poor condition and covered with roughly graded tilestones with overhanging eaves and verges.

6.7.1.03 The Interior

The interior was a single space, possibly once partitioned, and it was open to the roof. There were no surviving fixtures or fittings of note.

6.7.2 Discussion

This building clearly post-dated the adjacent Corn Drier structure and was built next to the old lane running through the farmstead. It may originally have been built as a cow house of sorts and later converted into a piggery with covered sties and open yards — but the building is currently too dangerous to access properly.

It probably dated to the late-18th or early-19th century but has few dateable features. As part of the restoration and re-use of the farmstead the surviving upper fragments of the building were taken down to create an attractive walled terrace area with views down the valley.



Pl.61: The north wall of the Piggery (Building H) showing the openings to the sties; the yard walls in front have largely been removed.



Pl.62: The Piggery from the south-west with the Corn Drier beyond.

6.8 Building I: The Corn Drier

6.8.1 Description

This range lies immediately to the east of, and is abutted by, the Piggery (Building H), and built at right-angles to it. It is a two-storey structure aligned north-south and built into the bank. As a result, at the northern end the first-floor level is at the prevailing yard level.

6.8.1.01 The Exterior

It is built of roughly coursed rubblestone with larger and better worked blocks at the corners. There is a doorway at ground floor level in its east wall but no other openings in its side walls. There is a single doorway – at first-floor level and thus off the main yard – in the north gable wall and a window high up in the south gable.

6.8.1.02 The Roof

The plain gabled roof has a fairly shallow pitch and is covered in roughly graded tilestones. Structurally it is of two bays, with a central truss. This is a simple design - consisting of tiebeams, principal rafters and a pair of thin 'V-braces' from tie to principals.

The braces are jointed to the northern faces of the larger timbers by half-lapped nailed dovetails. The truss, and the masonry of the gable ends, support two tiers of roughly, and shallowly, trenched purlins and a ridge-piece.

6.8.1.03 The Interior

The northern end of the ground floor is occupied by a substantial stone -built kiln with a hearth recess on the south side and a set of derelict steps up between it and the east wall. The top of the kiln at the first-floor level was covered with loose timber boards. The first floor is a single space open to the roof.

6.8.2 Discussion

Dating is virtually impossible – other than suggesting somewhere within a broad later-18th to early-19th century period. It was clearly a building used for drying grain; grain would have been loaded through the doorway from the yard and spread on top of the drying floor with the kiln below. The dried grain could then be processed in the nearby Threshing Barn (Building J). It is also possible that the kiln could have been used in the malting process.



Pl.63: The south elevation of the Corn Drier.



Pl.64: The north elevation of the Corn Drier (Building I).



Pl.65: The interior of the first floor of the Corn Drier.

6.9 Building J: The Threshing Barn/Yr Ysgubor

6.9.1 Description

The former Threshing Barn is a long rectangular single-storey structure with a contemporary eastern porch, built down the slope on the south side of the main farm complex; it was restored as part of the project to be a usable events space.

6.9.1.01 The Exterior

The Barn is aligned roughly north-south and built of roughly coursed rubblestone, with larger blocks of the same material at the corners. There are ventilation loops on all four walls - tall and narrow with very plain surrounds; internally they have splayed reveals topped by fairly substantial timber lintels. Because of the topography, the lower section of its northern gable wall acts as a revetment for the higher ground level within the yard.

The East, or Front, Elevation

The main entrance, protected by the projecting and contemporary porch, is on the east side. The front elevation is largely obscured by later structures built to either side of the porch. The porch consists just of the two side walls projecting from the main part of the barn, their outward ends acting as the jambs of the opening.

In the northern side wall of the porch is a large blocked doorway opening of uncertain date with a rather skinny timber lintel; at the western end of this wall is a small square window, also with a timber lintel and also probably inserted. On the opposite side wall is a doorway with a timber lintel, probably inserted, leading into the South-East Extension.

The West Elevation

The main opening in the west elevation is large double-doorway opposite the east porch. Despite its position and the use of larger rubble blocks for its jambs, it is just possible that this was inserted.

The South Gable

The south gable is the tallest section of the building because of the sloping ground level. It was clearly reduced slightly in height when the roof was renewed and its pitch – and ridge – lowered (*see below*). It is otherwise little altered – although a taking-in doorway high in the gable has been infilled.



Pl.66: The Barn (Building J) from the south-west prior to restoration.



Pl.67: The Barn from the north-west.

The North Gable

The north gable may have once been similar to the south gable, but not as tall because of the terrain. There is evidence to suggest that the ground level of the farm yard next to it has been raised further since it was first built. This gable has an inserted taking-in doorway with brick jambs and a timber lintel.

6.9.1.02 The Roof

The roof of the Barn has been replaced, probably in the early-mid 20th century, and its pitch – and ridge height – have been lowered. It is plain gabled and the trusses are of trussed iron or steel sections which have been carefully restored.

It was covered in corrugated asbestos cement sheeting, with two plain fanlights in the western slope. The roof over the porch – at right- angles to it – was covered by the same sheeting.

6.9.1.03 The Interior

The interior is and probably always was one large single space open to the roof; however, the floor level in the western section is much lower than that in the rest of the building and there is a low reverment wall between the two levels.

There is a broad primary doorway between the porch and the main body of the building, but no signs of any of the typically ephemeral timber-framed partitions that probably separated the threshing floor from the storage bays to either side of it.

6.9.2 Discussion

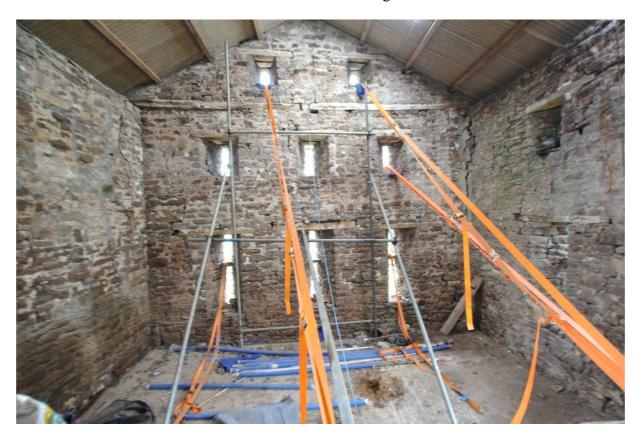
At one time this would have been the main focal point of the agricultural buildings of the farmstead – and the largest. It originally would have had a threshing floor, protected by the porch on the east side; this may have had large opposing doorways on each side to allow cart access and, just as importantly, natural light and draughts to assist the winnowing and threshing processes being carried out on the floor.

Typically, the floor would have been flanked by ephemeral timber frame partitions, usually directly beneath roof trusses. These separated the threshing floor from the storage area to either side used both for storing crops awaiting processing and, depending on the individual arrangements of the farm, those that had been processed. The storage areas had tall narrow ventilation loops.

The original roof would have been taller and more steeply gabled than its replacement – probably similar in its profile to that surviving on the North Barn (Building F) and probably covered in tile-stones. The present steel-trussed roof is of the mid-20th century and has eroded much of the original character of the building; otherwise it has been little altered since it was built.



Pl.68: The Barn from the north-east following removal of extensions.

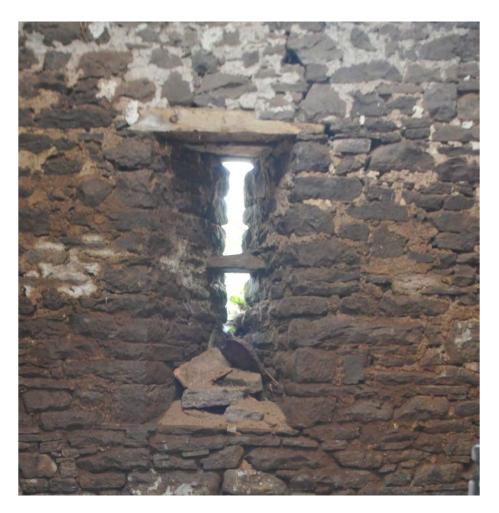


Pl.69: Interior of the Barn under restoration.

Dating is difficult, especially because of the replacement of the roof. In more upland areas, many barns are dated to the later-18th and early-19th centuries, a time of farm improvements coinciding with an increased demand for home produced food due in no small part to the disruption of European imports because of the Napoleonic Wars.

This barn could date to that period but similar structures were being built throughout the 18th century and the prosperity of Llwyn Celyn at the end of the 17th century, reflected in the modernization of the house, could even suggest it was built as early as that period.

Despite the re-roofing and the various accretions added onto it, the Threshing Barn remains one of the key buildings on the farm in terms of its architecture and its position within the farmstead. It was carefully restored during the project, with particular emphasis given to the severe structural problems of the northern end of the building.



Pl.70: Detail of inner reveal of a loop in the Barn.

6.10 Building K: The Threshing Barn Northern Extensions

6.10.1 Description

Two extensions were added in the angle between the northern end of the east wall of the Threshing Barn (Building J) and the north wall of its eastern porch. Although two separate structures they were clearly built soon after each other. Both are simple lean- to structures built of concrete blocks under monopitched roofs – of slightly different angles - covered in corrugated asbestos cement sheeting. Each contains a single space with limewashed walls, presumably for cattle accommodation.

The southern one (Building K1) is slightly earlier and slightly larger and has a doorway at the southern end of its east wall and a 'Crittal-style' steel-framed window at the northern end. The other (Building K2) has a blocked window in the east elevation and a doorway at the eastern end of its north wall.

6.10.2 Discussion

These accretions are of no architectural value and of limited historical significance, merely a reminder of the continuing and rather *ad hoc* evolution of a farmstead of this size and type. They have the disadvantage of impacting adversely on the setting of the Threshing Barn. However, it is possible that the masonry wall between the two is older than either. Consequently, this was restored and re-used for the gable wall of a new lean-to structure replacing the southern extension. The site of the northern extension has been left open.



Pl.71: The now-demolished Northern Extensions of the Barn.

6.11 Building L: The Link, or Threshing Barn Southern Extension

6.11.1 Description

This range is a small rectangular rubblestone structure built in the angle between the southern end of the Threshing Barn's east wall and the south wall of its porch. It is built of roughly coursed rubblestone and projects slightly further southwards than the south gable end of the Barn.

6.11.1.01 The Exterior

At the eastern end of its south elevation is an apparently primary doorway infilled in concrete blockwork, with a simple two-light timber casement window incorporated into the blocking. The lower part of its east wall was incorporated into the west gable of the adjacent Granary (Building M). This made a primary window in the wall redundant and it has been blocked.

6.11.1.02 The Roof

The roof was a simple mono-pitch against the wall of the porch and is covered with roughly graded tile-stones.

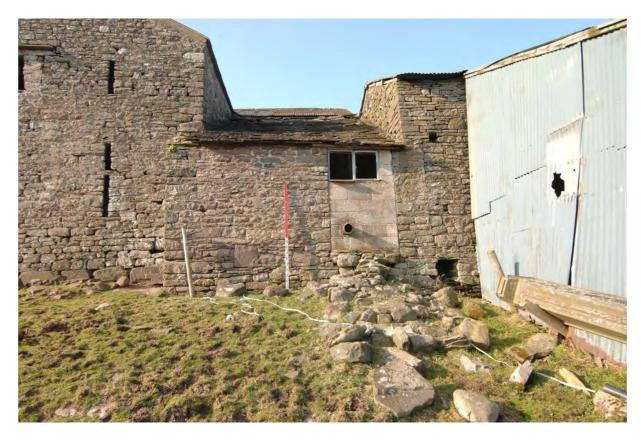
6.11.1.03 The Interior

Inside is a single space open to the roof and latterly divided into two by a tubular galvanised steel stall divider; it has rendered and limewashed walls and a concrete floor.

6.11.2 Discussion

This range appears to have been built as a loose box. Dating is difficult and confused by the re-use of materials – including at least one timber which was dated by dendro-isotope to the end of the 17th century and a re-used section of masonry associated with a medieval spout of some kind. However, archaeologically, it evidently post-dated the Barn but pre-dated the Granary. A date in the 18th or even early-19th century seems likely but there has been much debate about this little structure.

Subsequently it had been altered internally – and has been converted into a more usable space as part of the recent restoration work - but the external envelope has been little altered. It has a degree of significance within the farmstead that remains to be properly understood.



P1.72: South elevation of the Threshing Barn Southern Extension (Building L).



Pl.73: East wall of the Southern Extension, viewed from within the Granary (Building M).

6.12 Building M: The Lower Barn or Granary

6.12.1 Description

The Lower Barn or Granary is a long one and a half storey rectangular structure on the southern flank of the main farmyard, its west end butting against the Threshing Barn's Southern Extension (Building L). The lie of the land, dropping steeply away to the east, means that the access to both floor levels is from the sloping farmyard.

6.12.1.01 The Exterior

The building is mainly built of roughly coursed rubblestone, but the east gable was completely open at ground floor level beneath a massive, and bending, timber lintel or first-floor bridging beam.

Above, this elevation was once faced in horizontal boards fixed to vertical studwork at first-floor level. Most of the boards had fallen off and the interior of the studwork is covered with corrugated iron sheeting.

There is a doorway on the north side from the yard, with its threshold about a metre above the present ground level, to the attic level within, and that level also has two former taking-in doorways high on the south side – which was latterly obscured by a large corrugated-iron sheeted lean-to extension.

6.12.1.02 The Roof

The roof was plain gabled, fairly low-pitched, and covered in corrugated iron sheeting. Structurally it is of four bays. The truss are simply pairs of principal rafters, their feet embedded in the wall; these meet at crude scissor-braced apex junctions and support two tiers of roughly trenched purlins – little more than tree trunks. They may once have had collars, since removed perhaps to improve headroom.

6.12.1.03 The Interior

The ground floor is accessed through the open east gable end and was a single long full-width space. The first floor is more accurately a half floor or attic. It is one large full-width and full-length space open to the apex of the roof and accessed up a short slight of timber steps from the adjacent yard to the north.

The inner faces of the walls at this level have been rendered and limewashed in the past and it is probably that the roof was once ceiled with lath-and-plaster as well – though no traces of this survive.



Pl.74: The north wall of the Granary (Building M).



Pl.75: The east gable of the Granary.

6.12.2 Discussion

This appears to have been built in the 19th century as a rather unusual version of a traditional building on most farms of any size – the cart shed with granary above. Usually the cart shed would have an open ground floor arcade along one of the long sides for ease of access.

Above, the granary would be reached through a doorway in a gable end accessed by an external flight of steps. In this case, perhaps because of the lie of the land, the access to the ground floor is through a large opening in the east gable, whilst the granary above is accessed by a first-floor doorway in a side wall reached directly off the farmstead.

The building has been restored and adapted to be used as a bunkhouse; the eastern gable end partition has been rebuilt in a modern manner respecting the character of the earlier work, and the large modern shed on the south side has been removed.



Pl.78: The loft floor of the Granary, looking south-east.

7. Appendix: The Survey Drawings

A full drawn record of the buildings was undertaken by Russell Geometrics for the Landmark Trust in 2013 and augmented when more of the fabric was exposed with the dropping of the external protective scaffolding and a degree of internal opening up of the farmhouse and other buildings.

These have been checked for archaeological accuracy and proved to be extremely accurate indeed. They are reproduced in much reduced form in this appendix, reducing the quality of their reproduction — which is best seen in the larger scale versions in the archive.

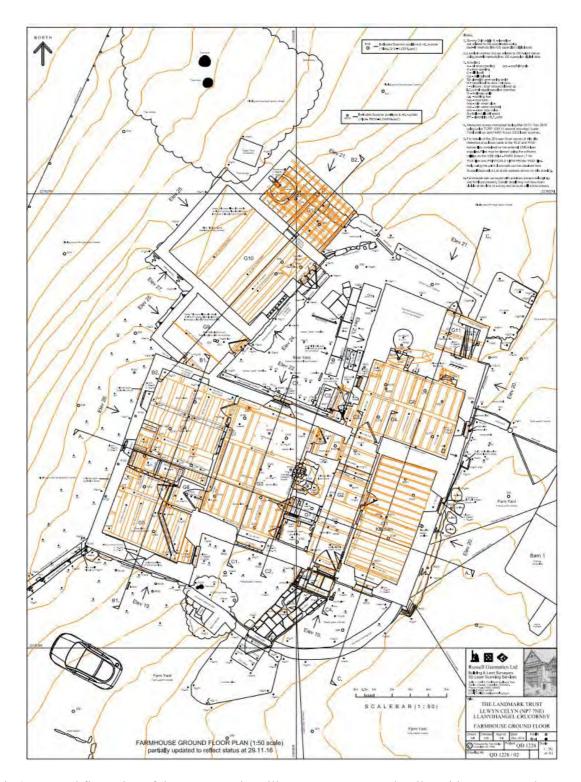


Fig.8: Ground floor plan of the House and ancillary structures – Malt Kiln, Cider House and Lean-to.

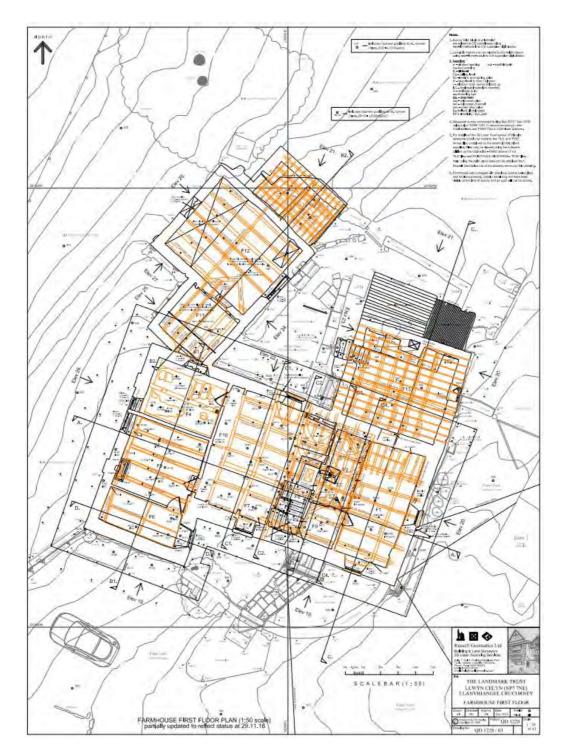


Fig.9: First-floor plan of the main house and ancillary buildings.

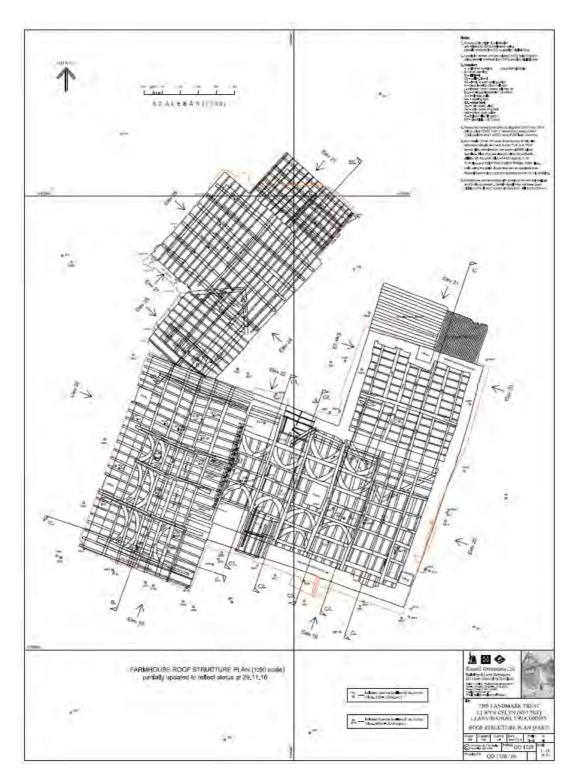


Fig. 10: Roof plan of the main house and ancillary buildings.

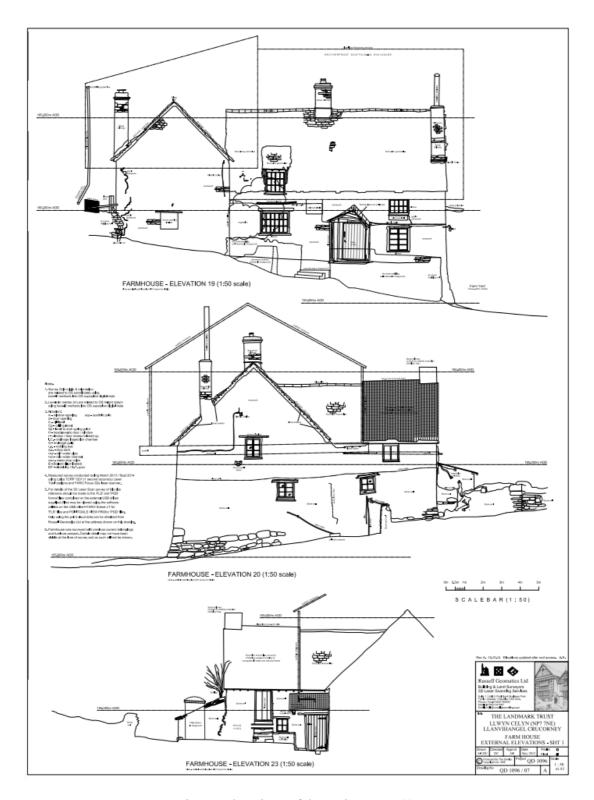


Fig.11: Elevations of the main House (I).

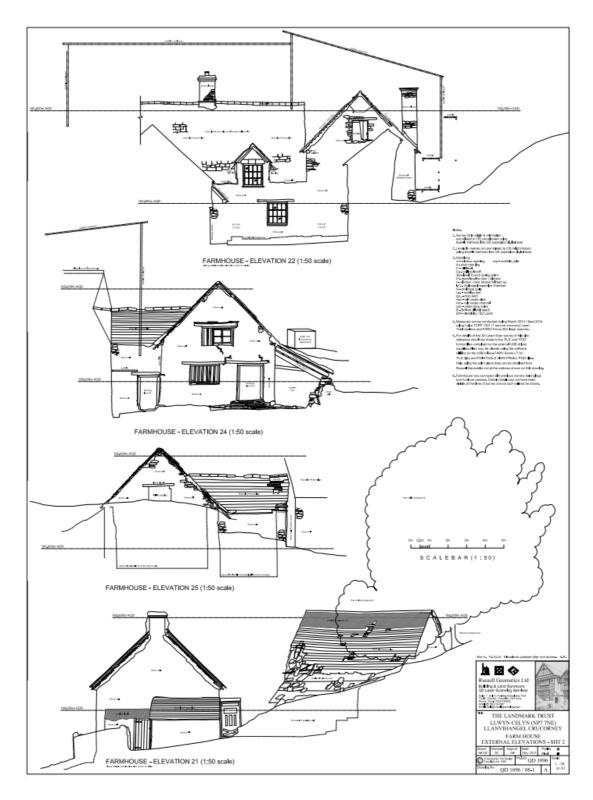


Fig. 12: Elevations of the main House (II).

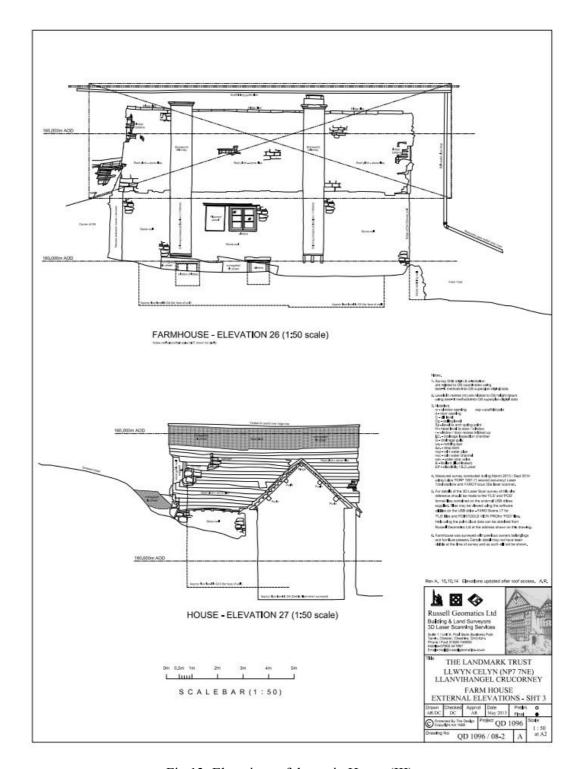


Fig.13: Elevations of the main House (III).

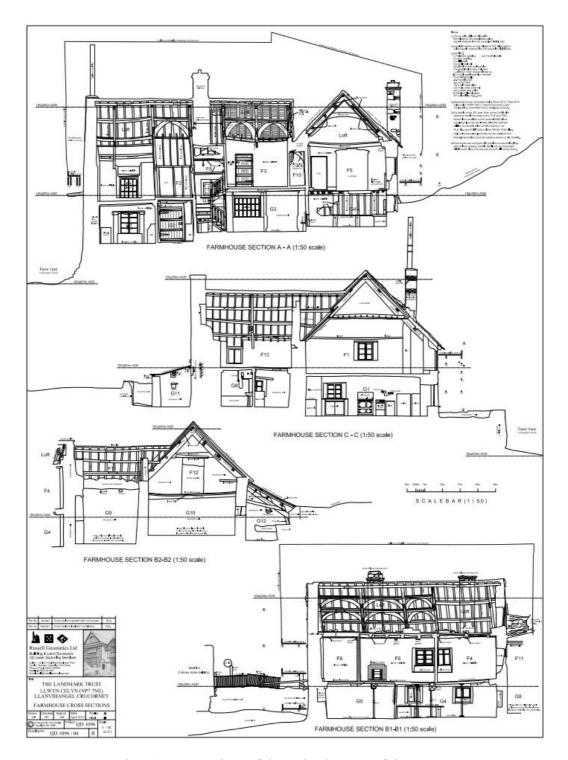


Fig.14: Long sections of the main elements of the House.

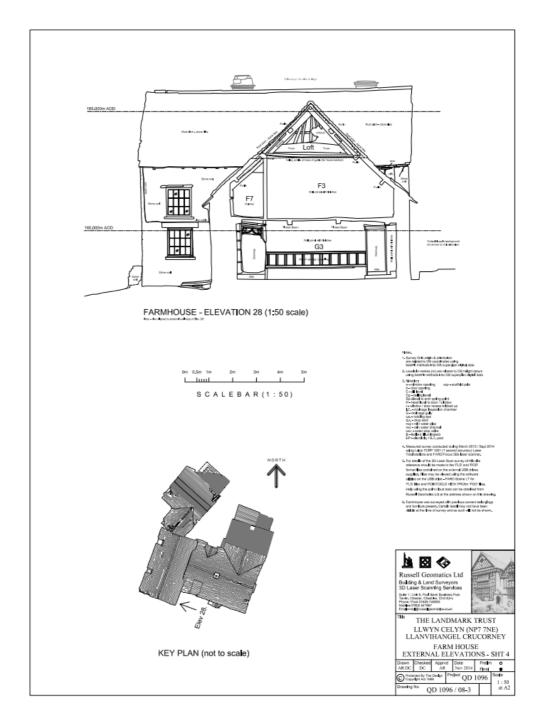


Fig.15: Cross-section through the Hall Range of the House, plus east elevation of Solar.



Fig.16: Cross-sections of the main House.

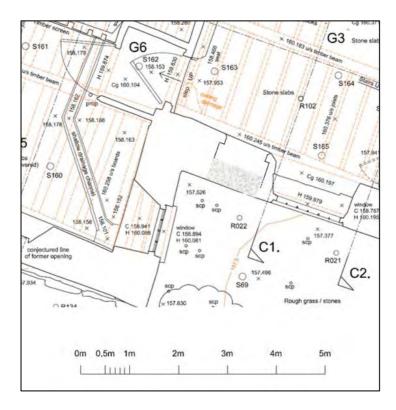


Fig.17: Location and threshold plan of medieval doorway at south end of dais end of the Hall (G3).

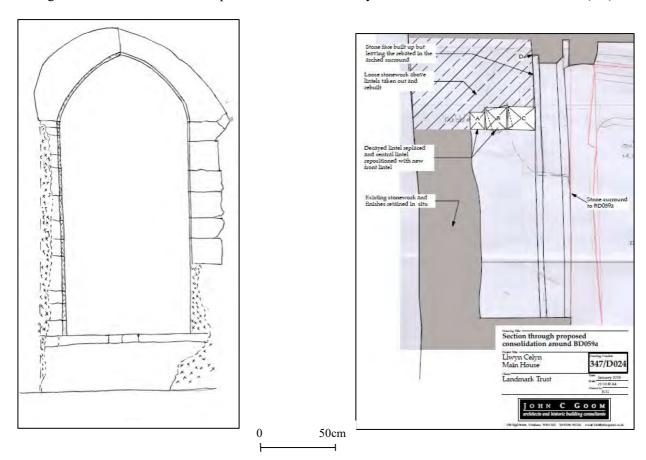
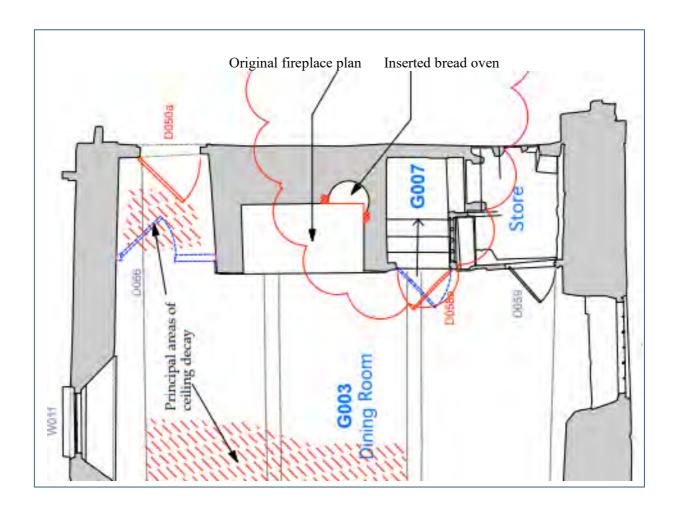
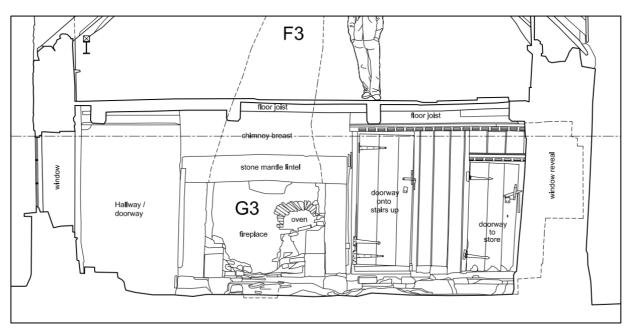


Fig.18: Internal elevation of the doorway.

Fig.19: Cross-section of the doorway.





Figs.20 and 21: Plan and elevation of the fireplace in the Hall following clearance.

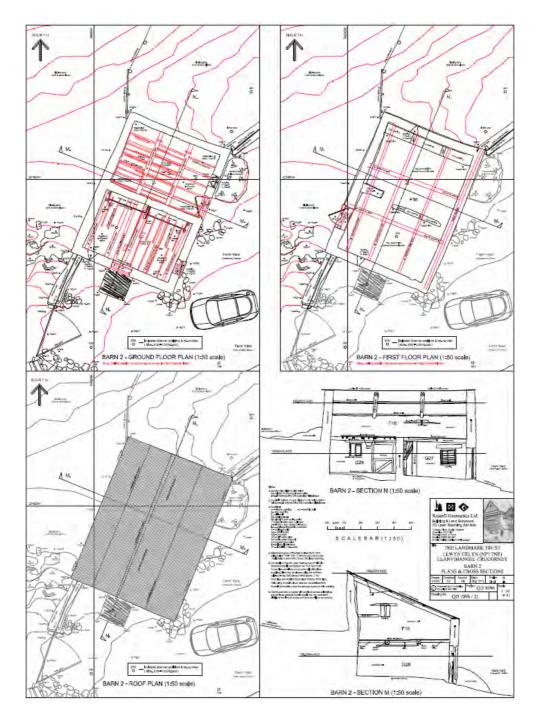


Fig.22: Plans and cross-section of the Stable (Building E; Barn 2).

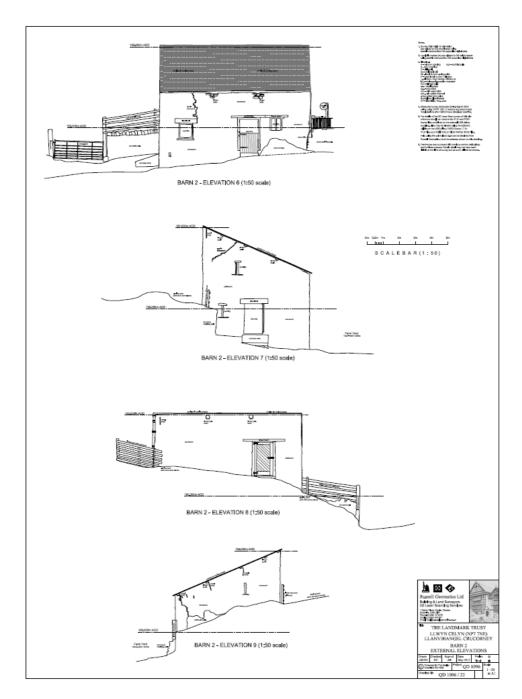
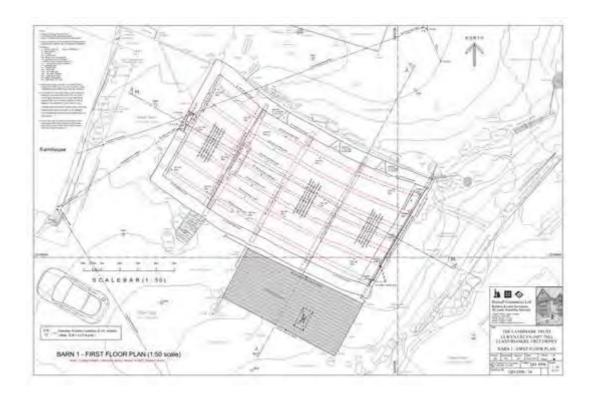


Fig.23: Elevations of the Stable.



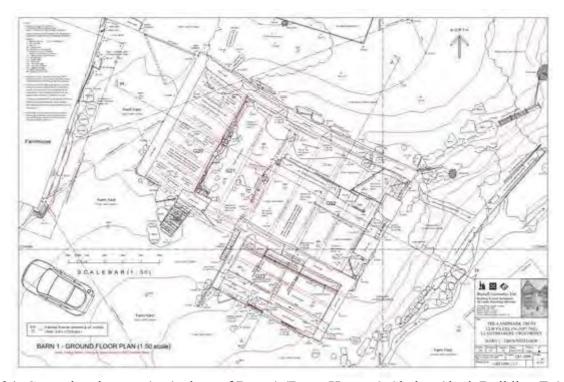


Fig.24: Ground and upper (top) plans of Barn 1 (Beast House & Shelter Shed, Building F & G).

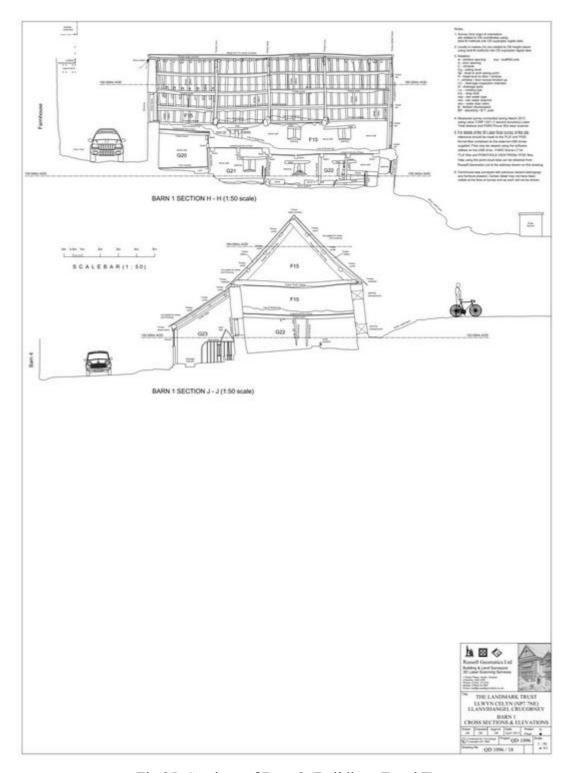
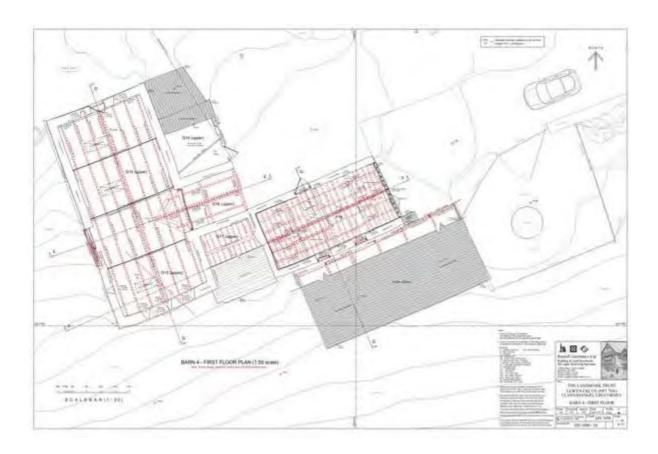


Fig.25: Sections of Barn 2 (Buildings E and F).



Fig.26: Survey drawings of Barn 3 (Buildings H and I)



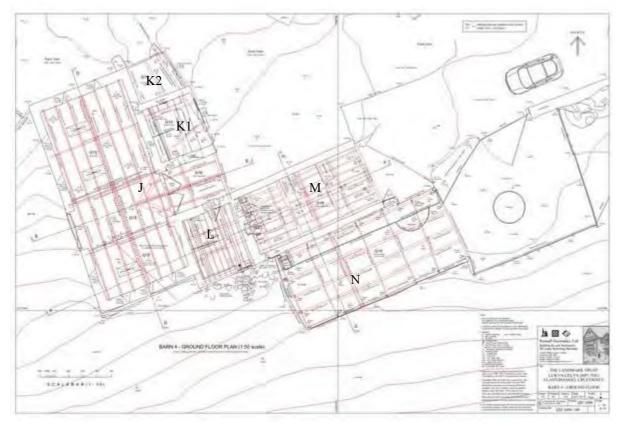


Fig.27: Ground and upper (top) plans of Barn 4 (Buildings J to N).

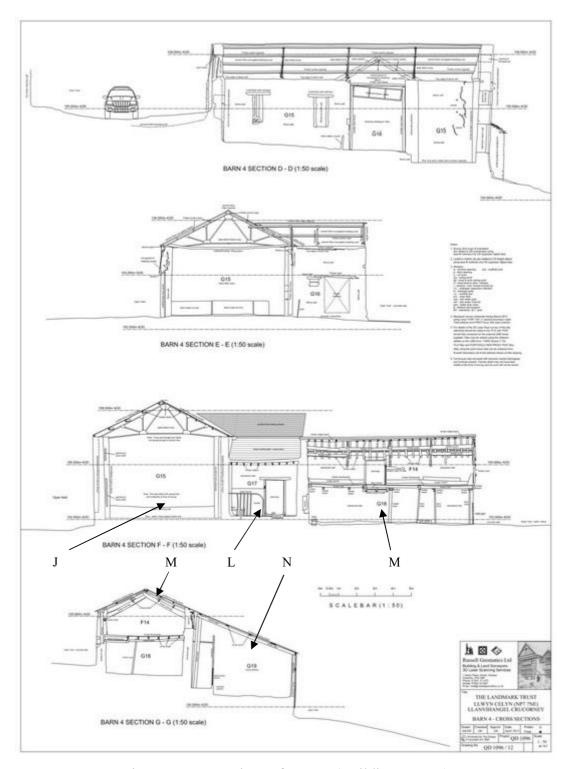


Fig.28: Cross-sections of Barn 4 (Buildings J to N).

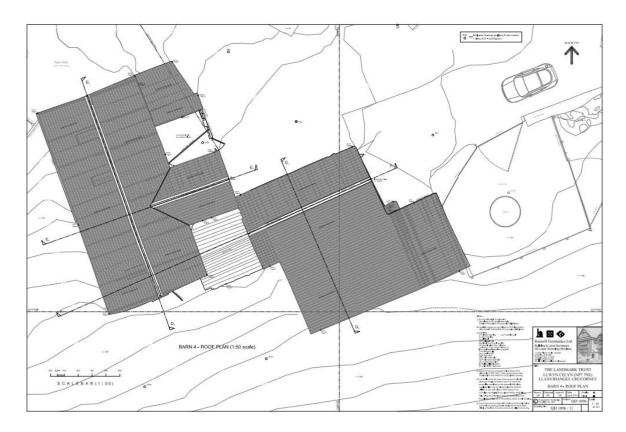


Fig.27: Roof plan of Barn 4.

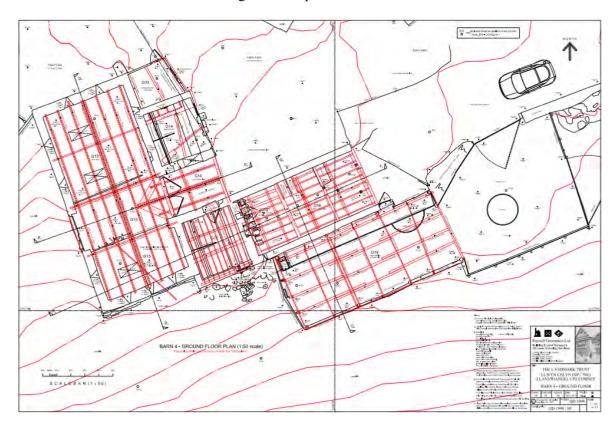


Fig.30: Plan of Barn 4.

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9. Lists of Figures and Photographs

9.1 List of Figures

- Figs. 1 & 2: Location Plan (OS Open Data).
- Fig.3: The Black Mountains and the location of Llwyn Celyn (Map by David Austin)
- Fig.4: Sketch plan showing building locations.
- Fig.5: Ground-floor plan of the House and nearby buildings.
- Fig.6: Suggested medieval ground-floor plan, superimposed on a plan of 2013.
- Fig.7: Possible reconstructed E-W cross-section of primary phase, based on 2013 survey.
- Fig.8: Ground floor plan of House and ancillary structures.
- Fig.9: First-floor plan of the main house and ancillary buildings.
- Fig. 10: Roof plan of the main house and ancillary buildings.
- Fig.11: Elevations of the main House (I).
- Fig.12: Elevations of the main House (II).
- Fig.13: Elevations of the main House (III).
- Fig.14: Long sections of the main elements of the House.
- Fig.15: Cross-section through the Hall Range of the House, plus east elevation of Solar.
- Fig.16: Cross-sections of the main House.
- Fig.17: Location and plan of medieval doorway at south end of dais end of the Hall (G3).
- Fig. 18: Internal elevation of the medieval doorway.
- Fig. 19: Cross-section of the medieval doorway.
- Fig.20: Plan of the Hall fireplace following clearance.
- Fig.21: Elevation of Hall fireplace following clearance.
- Fig.22: Plans and cross-section of the Stable (Building E; Barn 2).
- Fig.23: Elevations of the Stable.
- Fig.24: Ground and upper (top) plans of Barn 1 (Beast House & Shelter Shed, Building F/G.
- Fig.25: Sections of Barn 2 (Buildings E and F).
- Fig.26: Survey drawings of Barn 3 (Buildings H and I)
- Fig.27: Ground and upper (top) plans of Barn 4 (Buildings J to N).
- Fig. 28: Cross-sections of Barn 4 (Buildings J to N).
- Fig.29: Roof plan of Barn 4 (Buildings J to N).
- Fig. 30: Plan of Barn 4 (Buildings J to N).

9.2 List of Photographs

As well as the photographs used to illustrate the main narrative of the report, there are also three sets of additional archival photographs of the property in appendix volumes – two, of the Main House and the Farm Buildings, produced prior to the works starting and a third, a compilation of views taken during the restoration process. Each has its own sequence of plate numbers.

9.2.1 List of Photographs in the Report

- Pl.1: View north-east from Llwyn Celyn to Cymyoy in April.
- Pl.2: The ruins of Llanthony Abbey.
- Pl.3: Some of the surviving late-medieval buildings of Llanthony Secunda, Gloucester.
- Pl.4: Llwyn Celyn from the south-east,
- Pl.5: Identification of the farm buildings, on circa 1970's aerial photograph.
- Pl.6: The restored Llwyn Celyn from the south-west, with the Hall Range (A1) to the right.
- Pl.7: The restored Llwyn Celyn from the south-east, east gable of the Hall in the foreground.
- Pl.8: The rear elevations of Llwyn Celyn from the north, during restoration, 2017.
- Pl.9: Arch-braced trusses and wind-bracing in the restored roof over the Hall Range.
- Pl.10: The south slope of the Hall Range roof, under repair in 2016.
- Pl.11: Closed truss between the screens passage bay and the services, from the west, 2016.
- Pl.12: The bay of the roof above the screens passage, spere truss to right.
- Pl.13: Detail of surviving corbelled inner wall-plate on the north side of the Hall Range.
- Pl.14: The west end of the roof over the Hall Range after the removal of the inserted first floor.
- Pl.15: The screens passage, looking north, during the restoration work.
- Pl.16: The restored pair of original service doorways in the east wall of the screens passage.
- Pl.17: The Hall during restoration, looking west.
- Pl.18: The south-west corner of the hall in 2017, showing the recently re-discovered doorway, left.
- Pl.19: The east end of the hall during the early stages of the restoration.
- Pl.20: The ground-floor of the former services was the main living room in 2009.
- Pl.21: Detail of the stairs in 2009, prior to the restoration project.
- Pl.22: The first-floor bedroom in the Hall Range prior to restoration.
- Pl.23: First-floor corridor on south side of Hall Range iN 2009, prior to restoration.
- Pl.24: The first-floor room over the services looking north during restoration.
- Pl.25: The Solar (Building A2) from the south-west during the restoration work.
- Pl.26: The south-eastern corner of the Solar during the restoration work.
- Pl.27: The north gable of the Solar, viewed from within the Infill Range (Building B).
- Pl.28: The roof over the southern part of the Solar.
- Pl.29: The closed truss separated the south and north portions of the roof.
- Pl.30: View of the ground-floor of the Solar, looking north-west, after initial strip-out.
- Pl.31: The north end of the ground floor in 2009.
- Pl.32: South part of first-floor of Solar looking towards the inserted partition, now removed.
- Pl.33: Detail of surviving fluted ceiling and earlier chamfered joist in south first-floor room.
- Pl.34: Reveal of partly surviving timber mullioned first-floor window in north gable.
- Pl.35: Inner face of the west wall of the north first-floor room of the Solar
- Pl.36: The southern first-floor room of the Solar as restored, with gable window renewed.
- Pl.37: The Kitchen Wing (Building A3) from the north-east.
- Pl.38: Surviving mullioned window in the north gable of the Kitchen Wing.
- Pl.39: The west elevation of the Kitchen Wing during the restoration project.
- Pl.40: The inner face of the south gable of the Kitchen Wing.

- Pl.41: The roof truss in the Kitchen Wing, looking north with the stack beyond.
- Pl.42: The restored ground-floor of the Kitchen, looking north-east.
- Pl.43: The east elevations of the Infill (B, left) and Cider House (C) in 2016.
- Pl.44: The south-western corner of the Infill.
- Pl.45: The restored Cider House from the north.
- Pl.46: The rear, or west, gable of the Cider House, revetted against the bank.
- Pl.47: Part of the attic and roof structure of the Cider House prior to restoration.
- Pl.48: The inner face of the south side wall of the Cider House in 2013.
- Pl.49: The interior of the Lean-to, showing the trough and water supply at the rear.
- Pl.50: The front, or east, elevation of the Stable (Building E) prior to restoration.
- Pl.51: The south gable of the Stable prior to restoration.
- Pl.52: The Stable restored to its original form.
- Pl.53: The north-east corner of the Beast House (Building F).
- Pl.54: The south elevation of the Beast House after the removal of the Shelter Shed (G).
- Pl.55: The west gable end of the North Barn or Beast House.
- Pl.56: Part of the ground-floor of the Beast House, looking north.
- Pl.57: The restored interior of the Beast House, looking east.
- Pl.58: The south elevation of the Shelter Shed (Building G), 2016.
- Pl.59: The interior of the Shelter Shed.
- Pl.60: The exposed side frame of the Shelter Shed, discovered during the restoration works.
- Pl.61: The north wall of the Piggery (Building H) showing the openings to the sties.
- Pl.62: The Piggery from the south-west with the Corn Drier beyond.
- Pl.63: The south elevation of the Corn Drier.
- Pl.64: The north elevation of the Corn Drier (Building I).
- Pl.65: The interior of the first floor of the Corn Drier.
- Pl.66: The Barn (Building J) from the south-west prior to restoration.
- Pl.67: The Barn from the north-west.
- Pl.68: The Barn from the north-east following removal of extensions.
- Pl.69: Interior of the Barn under restoration.
- Pl.70: Detail of inner reveal of a loop in the Barn.
- Pl.71: The now-demolished Northern Extensions of the Barn.
- P1.72: South elevation of the Threshing Barn Southern Extension (Building L).
- Pl.73: East wall of the Southern Extension, viewed from within the Granary (Building M).
- Pl.74: The north wall of the Granary (Building M).
- Pl.75: The east gable of the Granary.
- Pl.78: The loft floor of the Granary, looking south-east.

9.2.2 List of Pre-Start Photographs of the Main House

- Pl.1: Llwyn Celyn from the south-east, before being swathed in protective scaffolding.
- Pl.2: The rear yard of the house in the 1960's.
- Pl.3: The scaffolded house from the south-east in 2016.
- Pl.4: The house from the south-west.
- Pl.5: The lower portion of the east gable and the adjacent rear wing.
- Pl.6: The front, or south, wall of the main hall section, porch to the right.
- Pl.7: Detail of the porch and main entrance.
- Pl.8: The lower part of the east elevation, showing first-floor laver spout.
- Pl.9: The east elevation showing junction between original build and later Rear Wing.

- Pl.10: Part of the west elevation of the Solar wing.
- Pl.11: Detail of limewashed butter-pointed render finish.
- Pl.12: The south slope of the roof over the Hall and Service sections, looking west.
- Pl.13: The dormer in the south slope of the Hall roof.
- Pl.14: The east slope of the roof of the Solar, looking north.
- Pl.15: The west slope of the roof of the Solar.
- Pl.16: Underside of north slope of roof over the screen's passage at the east end of the Hall.
- Pl.17: The east face of the spere truss in the Hall range.
- Pl.18: Northern arched brace over the Hall section.
- Pl.19: Decorative detail at base of arch-brace in Hall section.
- Pl.20: The underside of the south slope of the roof over the Service end.
- Pl.21: Part of the Solar roof structure viewed through a broken ceiling.
- Pl.22: The southern end of the Solar wing roof, looking south.
- Pl.23: Lower wind-bracing on the west slope of the Solar wing roof.
- Pl.24: The north gable truss of the Solar wing roof.
- Pl.25: The closed truss of the Solar wing roof from the north.
- Pl.26: The entrance hall (G2) in 2009.
- Pl.27: The entrance hall looking north.
- Pl.28: The former services (G1) looking south-east.
- Pl.29: The former services looking north-west.
- Pl.30: The hall (G3) in 2009, looking south-east.
- Pl.31: Initial phase of fireplace explorations in the hall in 2015.
- Pl.32: The hall looking south-west.
- Pl.33: Detail of the dais bench at the west end of the hall.
- Pl.34: Detail of the boxing to the stairs.
- Pl.35: Detail of the window to the hall (G3).
- Pl.36: Detail of doorway at the southern end of the dais end of the hall (G3).
- Pl.37: The north closet in the Solar wing (G4).
- Pl.38: View southwards in the ground floor of the Solar wing.
- Pl.39: The inner south-east corner of the ground floor room in the Solar (G5).
- Pl.40: The north-east corner of G5, showing lobby off the adjacent hall (G3).
- Pl.41: The top quarter landing of the stairs.
- Pl.42: Looking down the stairs from the top quarter landing.
- Pl.43: General view of the stairs from the top landing in the Hall section.
- Pl.44: View west from the first-floor 'lobby', F9.
- Pl.45: The main first floor corridor, looking east (F7).
- Pl.46: The store above the former cross passage (F2).
- Pl.47: General view looking north in the east first floor room (F1).
- Pl.48: The east side of the timber-framed west wall of the east first floor room (F1).
- Pl.49: The bedroom (F3) above the hall, looking north-west in 2009.
- Pl.50: The first-floor cross-corridor (F10) linking the rooms in the Solar wing, looking north.
- Pl.51: The southern first floor room (F6) in the Solar wing, looking north.
- Pl.52: Detail of ceiling in F6).
- Pl.53: The central first floor room (F5) in the Solar wing, looking north-west in 2009.
- Pl.54: The west wall of the central first floor room in the Solar wing after clearance.
- Pl.55: The south-eastern corner of F5.
- Pl.56: The north first floor room (F4) in the Solar wing, looking west.
- Pl.57: Detail of doorway in the north wall of F4.
- Pl.58: The rear wing from the north-east.
- Pl.59: The east elevation of the Rear Wing (Building A3).

- Pl.60: The west, or courtyard elevation of the Rear Wing, with bread oven lean-to to left.
- Pl.61: The north gable of the Rear Wing.
- Pl.62: The northern end of the ground floor (G8) in the Rear Wing in 2009.
- Pl.63: The exposed fireplace and bread oven in G8).
- Pl.64: The west wall of G8.
- Pl.65: The upper floor of the Rear Wing. Looking south-east.
- Pl.66: The bread oven lean-to attached to the north gable of the Rear Wing.
- Pl.67: The interior of the east end of the bread oven lean-to.

9.2.3 List of Pre-Start Photographs of the Farm Buildings

- Pl.1: Front, or east, elevation of the Infill Range (Building B), with the Apple Store, right.
- Pl.2: The south-west corner of the Infill Range with the end of the Solar to the right.
- Pl.3: Interior of Infill Range, looking south to the end gable of the Solar wing of main house.
- Pl.4: The inner face of the front wall of the Infill Range (B).
- Pl.5: North wall of the Infill Range the south wall of the adjacent Apple Store (Building C).
- Pl.6: The roof structure of the Infill Range.
- Pl.7: The front, or east, elevation of the Apple Store (Building C).
- Pl.8: The rear, or west, gable of the Apple Store, revetted against the bank.
- Pl.9: The north wall of the Apple Store, seen from within the Lean-to (Building D).
- Pl.10: The inner face of the south side wall of the Apple Store.
- Pl.11: Part of the attic and roof structure of the Apple Store.
- Pl.12: The east elevation of the Lean-to (Building D).
- Pl.13: Interior of the Lean-to, showing the trough and water supply at the rear.
- Pl.14: The front, or east, elevation of the West Barn or Stable (Building E).
- Pl.15: The rear, or west, elevation of the West Barn, partly built into the bank.
- Pl.16: The south gable end of the West Barn.
- Pl.17: The north gable of the West Barn.
- Pl.18: The northern end of the ground floor or the West Barn, from the north-east.
- Pl.19: The northern ground-floor portion of the West Barn, looking east.
- Pl.20: Detail of graffiti on the east door of the West Barn.
- Pl.21: The southern section of the ground floor of the West Barn, looking north.
- Pl.22: The loft of the West Barn, from the south-west.
- Pl.23: The east gable end of the North Barn or Beast House (Building F).
- Pl.24: South elevation of North Barn or Beast House and attached Shelter Shed (Building G).
- Pl.25: The north elevation of the North Barn or Beast House.
- Pl.26: The west gable end of the North Barn or Beast House.
- Pl.27: The southern end of the ground floor of the North Barn or Beast House, looking south.
- Pl.28: The partitioned off western end of the North Barn or Beast House from the south.
- Pl.29: The roof structure of the North Barn or Beast House and ephemeral loft, from the west.
- Pl.30: Detail of the east window of the North Barn or Beast House.
- Pl.31: The south elevation of the Shelter Shed (Building G).
- Pl.32: Interior of Shelter Shed, showing south wall of adjacent North Barn of Beast House.
- Pl.33: View of the Piggery (Building H, right) and Corn Drier (I, left) from the north-west.
- Pl.34: The north wall of the Piggery (Building H) showing the openings to the sties.
- Pl.35: The Piggery from the south-west with the Corn Drier beyond.
- Pl.36: The south wall of the Piggery.
- Pl.37: The interior of the first-floor of the Piggery.
- Pl.38: The north elevation of the Corn Drier (Building I).

- Pl.39: The interior of the first floor of the Corn Drier.
- Pl.40: The south gable end of the Corn Drier (Building I)
- Pl.41: Yard area to the east of the Corn Drier.
- Pl.42: The Threshing Barn (Building J) from the east.
- Pl.43: The west elevation of the Threshing Barn.
- Pl.44: The north gable of the Threshing Barn.
- Pl.45: The Threshing Barn from the north-west.
- Pl.46: The south gable of the Threshing Barn.
- Pl.47: The interior of the Threshing Barn, looking north.
- Pl.48: The interior of the Threshing Barn from the south-west.
- Pl.49: The east elevation of the Threshing Barn Northern Extension (Building K).
- Pl.50: Interior of the Northern Extension, looking to the side wall of the Threshing Barn (J).
- Pl.51: South elevation of the Threshing Barn Southern Extension (Building L).
- Pl.52: East wall of the Southern Extension, viewed from within the Granary (Building M).
- Pl.53: Interior of the Southern Extension, looking south with Threshing Barn wall to right.
- Pl.54: The north wall of the Granary (Building M).
- Pl.55: The east gable of the Granary.
- Pl.56: Interior of the ground floor of the Granary, looking west.
- Pl.57: The loft floor of the Granary, looking south-east.
- Pl.58: 20th Century sheeted lean-to against the Granary, from the south-west.
- Pl.59: Concrete portal framed Dutch barn and earlier sheeted garage, north of the farmhouse.
- Pl.60: General view northwards out of the farmstead.
- Pl.61: Revetment wall to the north of the house, with the Apple Store (C) beyond.
- Pl.62: Revetment wall between the house (right) and the West Barn or Stable (Building E).
- Pl.63: General view to the south.

9.2.4 List of Photographs Taken During the Restoration Works

- Pl.1: The restored house from the south-east, 2018.
- Pl.2: Blocked first-floor window opening discovered in south gable of Solar, now opened.
- Pl.3: South elevation of the restored house, 2018.
- Pl.4: West elevation of the Solar, 2017.
- Pl.5: The restored house from the north-east, 2018.
- Pl.6: Rear, or north, elevation of the restored house, 2018.
- Pl.7: South slope of roof of Hall Range stripped, 2016.
- Pl.8: Part of the roof over the former hall in the Hall Range, 2016.
- Pl.9: West end of Hall roof, with possible dais canopy traces.
- Pl.10: Surviving section on inner wall-plate of Hall roof, north of main stack.
- Pl.11: Top of spere truss and blocked inserted doorway through it, north of stack.
- Pl.12: Exposed and restored roof over the Hall range, looking east.
- Pl.13: Remodelled roof over the Services, looking north-west, 2016.
- Pl.14: Exposed east gable of the roof over the Services, 2016.
- Pl.15: South-western corner of the Solar roof, stripped ready for repair, 2016.
- Pl.15: Central section of the west slope of the Solar roof.
- Pl.16: The entrance hall (G2), looking north in 2016.
- Pl.17: The entrance hall, looking south, 2016.
- Pl.18: Detail of re-used moulded beam/mullion infilling the spere truss.
- Pl.19: Rear of inserted stack between the spere truss posts.
- Pl.20: Restored heads of paired doorways to the services, 2017.

115 | Page

- Pl.21: The service doors, 2018.
- Pl.22: The former services looking to the paired screens passage doorways, 2016.
- Pl.23: Dais end of the hall early in the project.
- Pl.24: The hall, looking west to the exposed dais end frame.
- Pl.25: The hall, looking east 2016.
- Pl.26: Evolution of the hall fireplace, Phases I and II.
- Pl.27: The Phase III arrangements, probably of the later-19th century.
- Pl.28: The Phase IV mid-20th century chimneypiece and later-20th century stove of Phase V.
- Pl.29: Doorway found on the inner face of the south wall near the dais end of the hall, 2017.
- Pl.30: The doorway.
- Pl.31: Detail of blocking of the top of the doorway.
- Pl.32: The doorway once the main infill had been removed.
- Pl.33: The doorway as restored and expressed, 2018.
- Pl.34: Remains of inserted blocked doorway for stairs through north side of spere truss.
- Pl.35: Present almost identical doorway for the present stair landing through south side.
- Pl.36: Upper portion of the Hall section during repairs, looking east, side corridor removed.
- Pl.37: Western portion of the Hall section at first-floor level after removal of cross-corridor.
- Pl.38: Chamber over hall prior to removal of partitions.
- Pl.39: West end of first-floor over hall after removal of corridors.
- Pl.40: Bedroom over services after clearance but in advance of repairs.
- Pl.41: Northern ground-floor room in solar wing, looking east to the hall.
- Pl.42: South-western corner of the eastern Solar room, 2016.
- Pl.43: Ground-floor of solar, looking north-west after removal of inserted partitions, 2017.
- Pl.44: South end of the south ground-floor room in the solar, 2017.
- Pl.45: East side of the south ground floor room in the solar, the door lobby led to the hall.
- Pl.46: North wall of south ground-floor room of the solar prior to removal, 2016.
- Pl.47: The restored cross-frame between the two ground-floor solar rooms, 2018.
- Pl.48: Exposed inner masonry of the western first-floor wall of the solar, south end., 2017.
- Pl.49: Exposed inner masonry of the western first-floor room of the solar, middle, 2017.
- Pl.50: Exposed inner masonry of the western first-floor room of the solar, north end, 2017.
- Pl.51: Early inserted fireplace in the west wall of the solar at first-floor level with incised head.
- Pl.52: Norther first-floor room in solar, looking east into the hall range, 2017.
- Pl.53: Western end of cross-frame at first-floor level in the solar range.
- Pl.54: South end of first-floor solar room, with restored window opening in gable end, 2017.
- Pl.55: Work in progress on north gable end.
- Pl.56: Rediscovered mullioned window in north gable end.
- Pl.57: East roof slope of Rear Wing after de-slating, 2017.
- Pl.58: South gable of Rear Wing roof, built up from north wall of the original house.
- Pl.59: Roof truss of the Rear Wing.
- Pl.60: Beginning of internal strip of north gable wall (G8) in the Rear Wing, 2017.
- Pl.61: Stripping out work continuing, ground-floor, looking north.
- Pl.62: Upper floor or loft of Rear Wing, looking south towards the original house.
- Pl.63: Upper floor of Rear Wing looking north to stack and gable.
- Pl.64: Dormer gable in east slope of the roof of the Rear Wing.
- Pl.65: Rear of farmhouse in 2017, with Apple Store (Building C) to right.
- Pl.66: Restored front of Apple Store, 2017.
- Pl.67: Restored and raised West Barn or Stable, Building E, from the east.
- Pl.68: Restored Stable from the north; note raised gable.
- Pl.69: South side of Beast House (Building F) during works, Shelter Shed largely removed.
- P1.70: The Beast House from the north-west, 2016, works in progress on roof. 116 \mid P a g e

- Pl.71: South slope of Beast House roof after being stripped.
- Pl.72: Beast House roof, internal view prior to removal of covering.
- Pl.73: Northern bay of Beast House prior to restoration.
- Pl.74: View west in Beast House to revetment wall and boarded cross frame, 2016.
- Pl.75: Internal view of the east gable frame of the Beast House at ground-floor level, 2016.
- Pl.76: Detail of internal reveal of east gable window of the Beast House.
- Pl.77: Restored Beast House and rebuilt Shelter Shed (Building G) from the south-west.
- Pl.78: Restored Beast House from the north-west, 2017.
- Pl.79: East gable of restored Beast House.
- Pl.80: The restored interior of the Beast House.
- Pl.81: The rebuilt Shelter Shed (Building G).
- Pl.82: Re-set truss and part frame of earlier structure of Shelter Shed.
- Pl.83: View of the Corn Drier (I, left) and site of Piggery (Building H) from the north-west.
- Pl.84: General view westwards towards the restored Corn Drier.
- Pl.85: Threshing Barn (Building J) from the east under restoration.
- Pl.86: Stabilisation works within the Threshing Barn, looking north.
- Pl.87: The north gable of the restored Threshing Barn.
- Pl.88: View of the eastern farm buildings from the east.

10. Appendix

Llwyn Celyn Stanton Cwmyoy Crucorney Fawr Gwent NGR: SO 309 218

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)

For

Building Recording & Archaeological Watching Brief On Standing Fabric

prepared by

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March 2016

118 | P a g e

Llwyn Celyn Stanton Cwmyoy Crucorney Fawr Gwent

NGR: SO 309 218

1. Introduction

Llwyn Celyn is a farmstead at the foot of the valley of the Honddu in the Black Mountains, just on the Welsh side of the border with England. Its focal point is the Grade I listed farmhouse, considered to be one of the most important survivals of its date and type in the region.

Despite the changes made subsequently to the building, the basic core remains late-medieval and substantially intact. Stone-built, it originally consisted of a Hall Range containing the formerly open hall with the storied services and the 'low' end and a contemporary cross-wing - Solar Range - at the 'high end'. Subsequently a stack and a full first-floor had been established by the end of the 17th century but later changes have been minor.

It is, unfortunately, in a very poor state of repair and desperately in need of restoration. After several years of negotiation, the Landmark Trust purchased the house and farmstead in 2014 and are developing plans to convert it into one of their well-known and well-respected specialist holiday lets. After a considerable amount of preparation work, the restoration work and the conversion will begin in April 2016.

2. Aims & Objectives

Prior to and since the ownership of the property by the Landmark Trust a considerable amount of work has been undertaken on the recording and analysis of the main house in order to further the proposed restoration of the property and to ensure that the works will enhance and not impact adversely upon its heritage values. This consultancy produced its initial analysis of the buildings in 2009 (Mercian Heritage Series No.458) and was latterly involved in the Conservation Management Plan of 2014.

A detailed digital survey of all of the buildings on the site was commissioned by the Landmark Trust and utilised in these original reports. Until safe access to all of the buildings – and, in particular, to parts of the interior of the main house – was possible detailed archaeological analysis and recording was limited.

The aim of this study is to record as much archaeological evidence and detail as possible as each element of the site is made safe for access. This will ensure the objective of an appropriate record of the buildings in their present state and also assist in further elucidation of their archaeological and architectural development.

3. Specifications

Given the significance of Llwyn Celyn the building recording and analysis will be targeted at the English Heritage (now Historic England and previously the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments [England]) level 4. These guidelines, set out in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* are generally accepted and used throughout the UK.

A Level 4 survey is described as:

'a comprehensive analytical record and is appropriate for buildings of special importance. Whereas Level 3 analysis and interpretation will clarify the building's history in so far as it may be deduced from the structure itself, the record at Level 4 will draw on the full range of available resources and discuss the building's significance in terms of architectural, social, regional or economic history'.

3.1 Documentary Research

A considerable amount of research on the documentary sources and on the significance of the building(s) has been undertaken and is included in the Conservation Management Plan, but this will continue to be augmented during the course of the present programme of works and incorporated into an updated analysis and assessment of the site.

3.2 Building Recording

The house has also been the subject of fairly intense archaeological analysis but, given its poor state of repair and the fact that much potential information is clearly hidden, has considerable potential for additional information as the consolidation and then restoration works get underway.

The main recording works will involve adding archaeological details and evidence to the detailed digital surveys of the exterior and interior. This will involve the accurate plotting, by hand, onto scaled copies of digital drawings; that information will then be added digitally to the base plots and double checked before being included as a revision of them. The additional information will also be recorded as part of the ongoing digital photographic record of the works in accordance to the WSI for photographic recording.

The additional information identified and recorded as part of this process will be used to update and refine the archaeological and architectural analysis of the building, and to generate appropriately detailed phased plans of its development.

The same approach will be applied to each of the farm buildings, though these are generally far less complicated and have far fewer hidden elements. A relatively full archaeological and architectural analysis has been undertaken on the farm buildings as well as a detailed photographic record. This will be augmented, though the additional information is not likely to be as significant as that generated by the additional works on the house.

3.3 Archaeological Watching Briefs on Standing Fabric

In several areas of the building(s) there will be a degree of appropriate archaeological watching brief as areas and/or features are exposed. Each of these areas, once identified, will be recorded in advance of and during the key stages of exposure and/or removal to ensure an appropriate degree of preservation by record and understanding of phasing and function.

If necessary, more detailed recording in plan, elevation and section may be required and produced as a separate annexe to the main file of surveys. Such wors would be accompanied by detailed photographic recording as well.

3.4 Photography

A detailed and comprehensive photographic record was made of all of the buildings of the site prior to the commencement of works. Additional photographic recording throughout the restoration programme will form a key element in the building recording and analysis and will be to the same standards.

Additional photography will be undertaken mainly on professional grade Nikon DSLR cameras with a minimum of 12mp resolution using both uncompressed RAW/NEFF and compressed jpeg file formats. The digital images will be archived on 'gold' archival DVD-Rs with a guaranteed 100 year life-span.

Scales (generally of 2m, but longer or shorter as required) will be used as appropriate – and, given the condition of the buildings – as possible. Where necessary and possible, on longer elevations, individual files will be 'stitched' to provide a more complete panoramic view to complement the individual details.

A selection of the digital images will also be used in the site narrative(s) accompanying the archive. A register sheet will accompany the archive and be related to the file numbers. The location and direction of photographs will be recorded on the appropriate plans.

3.5 General

All of the works will abide by the general guidelines set out in the relevant documentation on building recording standards produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. The building recording will be running parallel with the 'below ground' archaeological recording and appropriate liaison processes will be put in place.

In the unlikely case of significant finds being uncovered in the building recording process these will be given to the 'below ground' team for assessment and processing as part of their ongoing programme to avoid duplication of effort.

4. Reporting

A bound A4 report of the work will be produced within the consultancy's in-house *Mercian Heritage Series* (latest report, No.935). It will concentrate on the building recording aspects of the works and will include:

- Introduction to the site including its location, grid references, statutory designations
- An outline of the updated historical information regarding the site
- A detailed description and analysis of each of the buildings on the site
- A selection of the photographs to illustrate the report
- Appropriate plans, surveys and cross-sections of each of the buildings
- Appropriate phased plans, elevations, cross-sections, etc.
- An updated narrative analysis of the site
- Upon completion of the project an OASIS form will be completed to deposit the digital report.
- A copy will also be deposited with the Historic Environment Record at GGAT

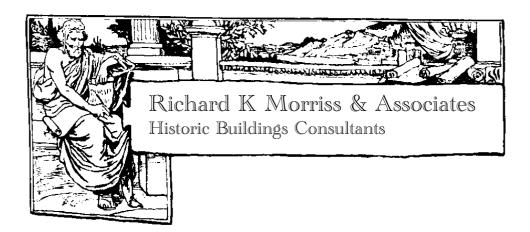
5. The Archive

The report will be produced as a hard copy but also as a .pdf. Hard copies of that written report will also be deposited with the archive and distributed to the planning authority and the client as requested. The drawn and photographic archive will be digital and archived accordingly. The archive will be deposited within 6 months of the site work.

6. Staffing

Appropriately experienced field staff will be used for this project but most of the work will be undertaken by Richard K Morriss MA(Hons) MSocSc who founded the Consultancy in 1995. He had previously spent eight years as Assistant Director of the Hereford Archaeology Unit, developing its buildings archaeology team, and has also worked for English Heritage, the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust and the Ironbridge Institute of Birmingham University.

He is a Member, Archaeological Consultant to four cathedrals, former Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and of the Association of Diocesan & Cathedral Archaeologists, a part-time lecturer, and the author of many articles and of 20 books, including *Archaeology of Buildings* (Tempus 2000). He has wide experience of buildings of all ages and their recording – and is an experienced architectural photographer. He was a member of the project team on the long-term restoration and adaptive reuse of Astley Castle, Warwickshire – a Landmark Trust project which won the RIBA Sterling prize in 2013. He has been involved in the Llwyn Celyn project since its early days and co-authored the Conservation Management Plan.



The Consultancy

Richard K Morriss founded this Consultancy in 1995 after previously working for English Heritage and the Ironbridge Institute of the University of Birmingham and spending eight years as Assistant Director of the Hereford Archaeology Unit. Although Shropshire-based the Consultancy works throughout the UK on a wide variety of historic buildings for clients that include the National Trust, the Landmark Trust, English Heritage, the Crown Estates, owners, architects, planning consultants and developers. It specialises in the archaeological and architectural analysis of historic buildings of all periods and planning advice related to them. It also undertakes broader area appraisals and Conservation Management Plans.

Richard Morriss is a former Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and of the Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists, archaeological advisor to four cathedrals, occasional lecturer at Bristol and Birmingham universities, and author of many academic papers and of 20 books, mainly on architecture and archaeology, including The Archaeology of Buildings (Tempus 2000), The Archaeology of Railways (Tempus 1999); Roads: Archaeology & Architecture (Tempus 2006) and ten in the Buildings of series: Bath, Chester, Ludlow, Salisbury, Shrewsbury, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick, Winchester, Windsor, Worcester (Sutton 1993-1994). The latest work is an Historic England funded monograph on the Houses of Hereford (Oxbow 2018). He was a member of the project team assembled by the Landmark Trust responsible for the restoration of Astley Castle, Warwickshire, winner of the 2013 RIBA Stirling Prize.



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