# Pricaston Farmhouse, Castlemartin, Pembrokeshire

Archaeological Watching Brief & Historic Building Record



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#### **Summary**

Comisiynwyd Archeoleg Mynydd Du Cyf gan JOP Limited ar ran Landmarc Support Services Ltd i gynnal brîff gwylio archaeolegol a chofnod adeiladu hanesyddol yn ystod atgyweiriadau cadwraeth ar Fferm Pricaston, Castellmartin, Sir Benfro (SMPe451/LB16604). Darparodd Mann Williams Werthusiad Strwythurol Strategol o Ffermdy ac Adeiladau Allanol Pricaston, a nododd yr ardaloedd strwythurol hynny o risg uchel, gan arwain at strategaeth gadwraeth. Lleihawyd llystyfiant ar draws y safle a chynhaliodd Russell Geomatics arolwg laser a ffotogrametrig safle cyfan.

Darparodd Cadw Ganiatâd Heneb Gofrestredig (SMC) ar gyfer y gwaith cadwraeth a chyflyru briff gwylio archaeolegol a chofnod adeiladu hanesyddol yn ystod gwaith atgyweirio i Leoliadau 13 (yn ystafell wasanaeth y gogledd-orllewin) a 15 (yn y tŵr/cegin), lle'r oedd linteli pren wedi'u diraddio. tynnu, a Lleoliad 16 (hefyd yn y tŵr), lle clirio llystyfiant ei gynnal cyn y sefydlogi y lle tân gegin a simnai.

Mae'r adroddiad presennol yn nodi canlyniadau'r briff gwylio archaeolegol a'r cofnod adeiladau hanesyddol yn unol â Safon Sefydliad Siartredig yr Archeolegwyr a chanllawiau ar gyfer briff gwylio archaeolegol (cyhoeddwyd 2014, diwygiwyd 2020), Safon a chanllawiau ar gyfer ymchwilio a chofnodi archaeolegol. adeiladau neu strwythurau sefydlog (cyhoeddwyd 2014, 2020); a Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice (2016) a Chanllawiau Arfer Da ar gyfer Ceisiadau Ffotogrametreg ar gyfer Treftadaeth Ddiwylliannol (cyhoeddwyd 2017).

Black Mountains Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by JOP Limited on behalf of Landmarc Support Services Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief and historic building record during conservation repairs at Pricaston Farm, Castlemartin, Pembrokeshire (SMPe451/LB16604). Mann Williams provided a Strategic Structural Appraisal of Pricaston Farmhouse and Outbuildings, which identified those structural areas of high risk, resulting in a conservation strategy. Vegetation was reduced across the site and Russell Geomatics undertook a whole site laser and photogrammetric survey.

Cadw provided Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent (SMC) for the conservation works and conditioned an archaeological watching brief and historic building record during repairs to Locations 13 (in the northwest service room) and 15 (in the tower/kitchen), where degraded timber lintels were removed, and Location 16 (also in the tower), where vegetation clearance was conducted before the stabilisation of the kitchen fireplace and chimney.

The present report sets out the results of the archaeological watching brief and historic building record in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (published 2014, revised 2020), Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (published 2014, 2020); and Historic England's Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice (2016) and Photogrammetric Applications for Cultural Heritage Guidance for Good Practice (published 2017).

#### **Acknowledgements and Copyright**

The project was managed, and the fieldwork, 3D photogrammetric modelling and reporting prepared by Richard Lewis BA MCIfA. Dr Rhys Morgan PhD prepared the archaeological background for the report and the Welsh translations. Ross Cook FSA (ArchaeoDomus) provided specialist input on the assessment of timbers for dendrochronological analysis, and mortar analysis, and also provided historic building consultancy advice. Figures 1-4 are

reproduced with kind permission of Russell Geomatics and Mann Williams. The author is grateful to Robin Badham (Landmarc Support Services Ltd), Kathryn Sayner (Historic Buildings Advisor DIO), Dave Coleman and team (JOP Limited), Pat Ruddock (Mann Williams), Andy Russell (Russel Geomatics) and Ross Cook for their help and support during this project. The copyright of this report is held by Black Mountains Archaeology Ltd, who have granted an exclusive licence to Landmarc Support Services Ltd and their agents enabling then to use and reproduce the material it contains. Ordnance Survey maps where published are reproduced under licence 100058761. Black Mountains Archaeology Ltd retain copyright of any annotations.

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#### **Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Black Mountains Archaeology Ltd/*Archaeoleg Mynydd Du Cyf* were commissioned by JOP Limited on behalf of Landmarc Support Services Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief and historic building record during conservation repairs at Pricaston Farm, Castlemartin, Pembrokeshire (SMPe451/LB16604) (Figure 1). Mann Williams provided a Strategic Structural Appraisal of Pricaston Farmhouse and Outbuildings, which identified those structural areas of high risk, resulting in a conservation strategy. Vegetation was reduced across the site and Russell Geomatics undertook a whole site laser and photogrammetric survey.
- 1.1.2 Cadw provided Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent (SMC) for the conservation works and conditioned an archaeological watching brief and historic building record during repairs to Locations 13 (in the northwest service room) and 15 (in the tower/kitchen), where degraded timber lintels were removed, and Location 16 (also in the tower), where vegetation clearance was conducted before the stabilisation of the kitchen fireplace and chimney.
- 1.1.3 The timber lintels from Location 13 and 15 were recovered and assessed for dendrochronological dating potential by ArchaeoDomus Archaeological and Heritage Services.
- 1.1.4 The present report sets out the results of the archaeological watching brief and historic building record in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (published 2014, revised 2020), Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (published 2014, 2020); and Historic England's Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice (2016) and Photogrammetric Applications for Cultural Heritage Guidance for Good Practice (published 2017).
- 1.1.5 The archaeological watching brief and historic building record was undertaken on the  $12^{th}$ ,  $17^{th}$  and  $23^{rd}$  August 2021.

#### 2 Background

- 2.1.1 Pricaston Farm is a Scheduled Monument (SMPe451) and Grade II\* Listed Building (LB 16604). A detailed historic description of Pricaston Farmhouse has previously been outlined by Wessex Archaeology (Cutland 2003) and Dyfed Archaeological Trust (Pyper and Wilson 2009), which has been summarised here.
- 2.1.2 The first recorded owners of Pricaston Farm are John le Prikker, tenant of the Earl of Pembroke, and his family, who were recorded in 1325 as owning and occupying the land on which the farm was built. It appears the establishment of the farm occurred in conjunction with significant alterations to land holding and organisation brought about during the 14<sup>th</sup> century following the effects of plague and famine. Later, the Lort Family of the Stackpole Estate in southeast Pembrokeshire, owned the farm between *circa* 1600–1800. In an indenture between George and Henry Lort dating to 1687, the name of the farm is recorded in anglicised form as 'Prikaston'. However, the farm is also referred to by the name 'Prickeston' in the 1860s. Significant remodelling of Pricaston Farm occurred in around 1783, which was likely commissioned by the Lort

Family (Pyper and Wilson 2009, 8). During the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the farm is recorded as being owned by the Earl of Cawdor (John Campbell), who was leasing the property to the Hancock family. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Pricaston Farm was still owned by the Campbell Family and the Earl of Cawdor. By 1939, ownership of Pricaston Farm, as well as the surrounding areas nearby, was passed to the British Armed Forces. As a result, Pricaston Farm became part of the Headquarters of the Armoured Fighting Vehicle Range.

2.1.3 Pricaston Farmhouse is a complicated structure with rustic masonry along with more elaborate architectural details such as arched doorways and vaults. The building has it's origins in the medieval period, probably dating to the 16<sup>th</sup> century but an earlier 14<sup>th</sup> century foundation cannot be discounted. Pricaston Farmhouse began as a crosspassage hall house, which incorporated a service quarter on its ground floor, separated from the main hall by a cross passage, and a solar or parlour at first floor level. The farmhouse also incorporated a tower towards the rear, interpreted as a non-defensive tower house. Sometime prior to 1783, a stair turret was built into the tower and the connection between the ground floor service rooms was blocked. It is also possible that the northeast range was added to the farmhouse during this period. In 1783, the Pricaston Farm witnessed major remodelling, commissioned by the Lort Family. During this period, a southward extension to the northeast range was constructed, in which a diary and scullery were located; a dining room was added to the southern end of the main hall; and an additional stair tower was built towards the eastern end of the dining room. A second storey was raised over the hall and the façade remodelled in the Georgian symmetrical style. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, further remodelling was conducted, resulting in the construction of a kitchen range to the south of the service rooms and a front porch to the north of the building. To the exterior of the farmhouse, a latrine and oven were also constructed during this period and a water tank was installed.

#### 3 Location, Topography and Geology

- 3.1.1 Pricaston Farm is located in Castlemartin towards the southern end of Pembrokeshire and is surrounded by open fields. To the south of the site is the Castlemartin firing and artillery ranges, which covers much of the southern coast of Pembrokeshire. To the southeast of the site is Flimston Chapel, while immediately to the northeast are the parishes of Warren and Merrion. Topographically, the immediate area is relatively low-lying, but is bounded to the north by hill ranges, on top of which the village centre of Castlemartin is located.
- 3.1.2 Superficial soil deposits include freely draining clay loams. The underlying bedrock comprises the Pembroke Limestone Group, a sedimentary bedrock forming approximately 329 to 350 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period (BGS 2021).

#### 4 Objectives

4.1.1 The *definition* of an archaeological Watching Brief as set out by the *Chartered Institute* for Archaeologists (CIfA) is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there

is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.

- 4.1.2 The purpose of an archaeological watching brief (as defined CIfA 2014) is:
  - to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.
  - to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.
- 4.1.3 A watching brief is not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.
- 4.1.4 The objective of a watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on a site.
- 4.1.5 (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (published 2014, revised 2020).
- 4.1.6 The *definition* of an archaeological **Building Investigation and Recording** as set out by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists* (CIfA) is a programme of work intended to establish the character, history, dating, form and archaeological development of a specified building, structures, heritage assets or complexes and its setting, including buried components, on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater.
- 4.1.7 The *purpose* of an archaeological Building Investigation and Recording is to examine a specified building, structures, heritage assets or complexes, and its setting, in order to inform:
  - the formulation of a strategy for the conservation, alteration, demolition, repair or management of a building, or structure, or complex and its setting.
  - or
  - to seek a better understanding, compile a lasting record, analyse the findings/record, and then disseminate the result.
- 4.1.8 (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures. Published 2014, revised 2020)
- 4.1.9 The archaeological building survey work was undertaken to Historic England's Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice (2016), the only nationally (UK) recognised building recording standard. The present building record is a descriptive record with the structures seen, described and photographed. The examination of the structures will produce an analysis of its development and use and the record will include the conclusions reached, but it will not discuss in detail the evidence on which this analysis is based. A plan and sometimes other drawings may be made included but the drawn record will normally not be comprehensive and may be tailored to the scope of a wider project. The presentation of these observations in

- a written report, taking account of related documentary and historical evidence. The preparation of an archive of digital data recovered and records made as a result of the project, and the deposition of this archive in a suitable receiving museum or similar institution.
- 4.1.10 The Research Framework for Wales sets out the knowledge base of past research and sets out a rationale for future studies (<a href="https://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/index.html">https://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/index.html</a>). The present investigations were undertaken considering the key themes and where there are limitations in current knowledge, particularly where the present investigations can enhance our understanding of some of these key areas. For example, current themes relating to the architectural history of Southwest Wales where there are weaknesses in the knowledge base are: the origin of the medieval vernacular style, the landscape context of medieval architecture, excavations of Postmedieval settlement sites and the ceramic assemblages of abandoned farm sites. An opportunity exists to pursue an avenue of research in the study of medieval buildings via modern archaeological techniques (including photogrammetry and analytic fabric analysis) and the preservation of Post-medieval settlement sites in consideration of the unremitting rate of attrition of these particular resources.

#### 5 Legislative Framework

- 5.1.1 Any works affecting an ancient monument and its setting are protected through implementation of the *Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*. In Wales the 1979 Act has been strengthened by *The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016*. The 2016 Act makes important improvements for the protection and management of the Welsh historic environment. It also stands at the centre of an integrated package of secondary legislation (Annexes 1-6), new and updated planning policy and advice, and best-practice guidance on a wide range of topics (*TAN 24 Historic Environment*). Taken together, these support and promote the careful management of change in the historic environment in accordance with current conservation philosophy and practice.
- 5.1.2 The Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 sets out a presumption in favour of preservation in-situ concerning sites and monuments of national importance (scheduled/listed), and there exists in the current Planning Policy Wales (Chapter 6) a presumption in favour of preservation in-situ of all types of heritage assets.

#### 6 Methodology

- 6.1.1 The archaeological watching brief and historic building record observed repair work and vegetation clearance within Locations 13, 15 and 16 (Figure 1). Location 13 is situated within the northwest service room of the ground floor, the construction of which occurred during the first phase of the farmhouse during the medieval period, possibly in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Location 15 and 16 are located in a kitchen or wash room, which was added to the projecting tower during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The construction of this tower also belongs to the medieval period, however, much of its extant elements belong to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 6.1.2 The archaeological recording techniques conformed to the best industry standard. All excavated sections were cleaned by hand. All deposits were recorded using a single continuous context numbering system pro forma (summarised in Appendix III). All

- contexts were recorded in section and plan at scale. All contexts were photographed in digital using a Canon EOS 2000D DSLR camera with a 24.7mp, 22.3mm x 14.9mm CMOS sensor. The ground investigations were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum using an EMLID Reach GNSS/Glonass (GPS) Receiver and data logger with a <20mm tolerance.
- 6.1.3 All classes of finds were retained (cleaned and catalogued) and arrangements for final deposition agreed as set out in the requirements of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials (2011) and the Museums and Galleries Commission' Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (1994). The archive of archaeological records and artefacts has been prepared to the guidelines set out in Historic England's Management of Archaeological Projects (1991) Appendix 3. The final archive of records relating to the preparation of the report has been prepared to Historic England's guidelines set out in the Management of Archaeological Projects (1991), Appendix 6 and the National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017.
- 6.1.4 When substantial quantities of undiagnostic, residual or modern material were recovered, an on-site recording and discard policy for these classes of find was employed. However, sufficient material was retained to understand the nature, date and function of the deposit from which it was recovered. Specialist artefact advice and analysis for finds assemblages was sought and the results by fabric type can be found in Section 7. No items were recovered that are subject to *The Treasure Act* 1996 (2003 as amended). The site archive will either be retained by the landowner, or with the landowners permission, deposited with Pembroke Museum for permanent curation. An accession number will be generated on submission
- 6.1.5 Environmental recording and sampling (mortar) followed the principles set out in Historic England's Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology (2011) and Science for Historic Industries: Guidelines for the Investigation of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19th Century Industries (2018). Five mortar samples were recovered from Location 13, the Northwest Service Room, during the removal of timber (w006) for further analysis.
- 6.1.6 The capture, processing and output of 3D models conformed to professional industry standards and best practice guidelines set out by Historic England's *Photogrammetric Applications for Cultural Heritage Guidance for Good Practice* (2017). All 3D models were produced using proprietary photogrammetry software and aligned using known ground control points (GCPs). Dimensional control was then applied to each model and then reprocessed using the new parameters and optimised cameras to create dense point cloud and high face count meshes. Models were then exported to OBJ format. A rapid 3D photogrammetric survey was undertaken of Location 13, 15 and 16 before conservation work commenced: Northwest Service Room (Location 13) <a href="https://p3d.in/GI31U">https://p3d.in/GI31U</a> and Tower (Location 15 and 16) <a href="https://p3d.in/ZOBAp">https://p3d.in/ZOBAp</a>. Post timber removal rapid 3D photogrammetric surveys were then carried out: Northwest Service Room (Location 13) <a href="https://p3d.in/ks589">https://p3d.in/ks589</a>.
- 6.1.7 The report and archive conform to the professional standards as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (published 2014, revised 2020), and the Standard and guidance for the

- archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (published 2014, 2020), as well as the *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environmental Records* (HERs) (2018).
- 6.1.8 Following formal approval, a digital copy of the report and archive summary will be supplied to the client, Cadw, regional HER and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. All data will be digitally stored in appropriate formats (SHP, DXF, TIFF, RAW, JPEG, PDF etc) with the archive destination in mind. All data will be submitted to the relevant archives in accordance with the RCAHMW's *Guidelines for Digital Archaeological Archives* (2015).

#### 7 Results

- 7.1.1 The archaeological watching brief and historic building record observed repair work and vegetation clearance within Locations 13, 15 and 16 (Figure 1). Location 13 is situated within the northwest service room of the ground floor, the construction of which occurred during the first phase of the farmhouse during the medieval period, possibly in the 14<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> century. Location 15 and 16 are located in a kitchen or wash room, which was added to the projecting tower during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The construction of this tower also belongs to the medieval period, however, much of its extant elements belong to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 7.1.2 Rapid 3D photogrammetric survey was undertaken of Location 13, 15 and 16 before conservation work commenced: Northwest Service Room (Location 13) <a href="https://p3d.in/GI31U">https://p3d.in/GI31U</a> and Tower (Location 15 and 16) <a href="https://p3d.in/ZOBAp">https://p3d.in/ZOBAp</a>. Post timber removal rapid 3D photogrammetric surveys were then carried out: Northwest Service Room (Location 13) <a href="https://p3d.in/WVhDL">https://p3d.in/ks589</a>.
- 7.1.3 Location 13 Medieval Northwest Service Room. Figures 1-2, Plates 1-6, 16-17, 21-22, 24-26, 28-32
- 7.1.4 Initial recording in the northwest service room was carried out on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021. Fallen timbers were collected (w001 and w002) from the floor of the vaulted room and timber (w006) recorded whilst still *in-situ* in the SW wall [1307].
- On the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021 the large timber (w006) was carefully removed from the SW 7.1.5 wall [1307] of the northwest service room. A total of five timbers were recovered or identified from this location, of which two timbers (w001 and w002) belonged to the large timber (w006), having previously fallen off the timber to the ground. Over half of the timber's width had been lost. The reused timber (w006) had been inserted above a former hearth or fireplace and was found in an advanced stage of decay. A hard grey pozzolan ash (wood) mortar (1302/\*02), with stone aggregate inclusions, was found overlying the west end of timber (w006) and an identical mortar (1308/\*04) was used as a mortar bed for timber (w006), both mortars dating to 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century. During removal the timber (w006) fell apart into four pieces, despite significant care being taken. The timber was notched at a right angle at one end and then chamfered to a point. A total of four peg holes were present and three additional pegs were found in-situ. A small timber (w007) was found resting on top of the large timber (w006) and a timber (w008) was noted wedged between masonry in what would later be understood as a chimney flue. After removing timber (w006), a loose friable black-brown coloured (dusty) fill (1301) was recorded behind the timber that

contained clay pipe stems and small animal bones. One of the clay pipe stems dated quite securely to between 1760-1840, probably manufactured around 1780–1790 (T Morgan of Liverpool). The ceiling at this point and vault was becoming unstable so three acro props were installed to shore up the stonework to prevent any potential collapse.

- 7.1.6 On Monday 23rd August 2021, the structural stability of Location 13 was investigated by Mann Williams and conservation design solutions discussed. The acro props were removed and two stones (<0.3m diameter) and smaller rubble fragments forming part of the medieval gable wall [1307] came down under control and the stones recovered for conservation. The intervention was required to identify those elements of the vault and gable wall with surviving structural stability to enable conservation (repair) and had the added benefit of revealing the phasing of this area that was up until this point suspected but unproven due to the obstruction by several of the large stones in the gable wall. Each intervention (acro prop removal) was recorded in detail (photographs and photogrammetry) and phasing noted. The third acro prop was left *in-situ* supporting a stone forming part of the western end of the vaulted ceiling. This area was unstable due to the insertion of the door after 1783, which removed some of the vault's supporting stonework. The most significant discovery made at this time being a probable *in-situ* medieval chimney flue [1305].
- The SW gable wall [1307] of the medieval NW service room shows several phases of development. On first inspection, the interior wall appeared in the form of a hearth or fireplace but with no chimney flue, so it was initially thought that this was medieval cold storage shelves for perishables such as milk, butter etc but the inverted hearth stone at the lower end of the wall tended to suggest a fireplace. The discovery of a chimney flue [1305] directly above the inverted hearth stone confirmed that the gable wall [1307] was a fairly early fireplace/hearth. Following removal of the acro props and several large stones the chimney flue was visible, partially obscured by the later inserted door (post-1783), modern timber door lintels [1309] and masonry infilling [1308]. The flue was positioned wholly in the gable wall [1307] and flush to the vaulted arched ceiling of the service room; the visible internal dimensions were 0.57m long by 0.38m wide. The gable wall [1307] was constructed in stone with an earth core, which is a common practice in medieval Pembrokeshire buildings, often with a lime bonded or pointed face. The stonework of the chimney flue [1305] on its eastern side was indistinguishable from that of the gable wall [1307]. A 16th to 17th century soft white render (\*03; 1306) with very small (<2mm) black stone aggregate flecks and straw bonding was recovered from the interior surface of the chimney flue [1305]. The lack of smoke blackening suggests that this internal flue render was only in-situ for short period of time before the blocking of the flue occurred. This blocking event is characterised by the insertion of timber shuttering (w008) and a rubble fill (1304) stopped at the base of the flue by a deposit or wedge of pinkish-buff coloured earthbound mortar (1303/\*03) dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- 7.1.8 Significant remodelling of Pricaston Farm occurred in around 1783, which was likely commissioned by the Lort Family. The inserted door into the NW service chamber is one such alteration, significantly altering the hearth area. Timber (w006) is very likely to have been inserted at this time. Another insertion at this time is the internal wall return at the NW end of the NW service room ,adjacent to door in western wall. Pyper

- and Wilson (2009) have this wall as medieval in their phasing but it's clearly Post-medieval and probably post-1783.
- 7.1.9 Location 15 and 16 Medieval Tower/19<sup>th</sup> Kitchen. Figures 1, 3-4, Plates 7-15, 18-20, 23, 27
- 7.1.10 Initial recording at Location 15 and 16, medieval tower/19<sup>th</sup> century kitchen room, was carried out on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021 following vegetation removal. The room was recorded in detail (photographs and photogrammetry) before timber (w004) was removed.
- 7.1.11 Timber (w004) was located in the NE facing internal medieval tower and later 19<sup>th</sup> century kitchen wall [1501]. A blocked medieval doorway [1504] and [1505] is partly visible as is a blocked first floor window and another door or perhaps fireplace to the west. Timber (w004) was carefully lifted out of the wall [1501] on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The timber (w004) was roughly sawn and recovered from within the masonry of the northeast facing wall, with bark and sapwood present on one narrow edge. A split through the timber was noted at one end. Overall, the timber was in a poor state of preservation. During mortar and stone removal to free timber (w004), two further timbers were recovered. The first, timber (w003), had been inserted over timber (w004) and positioned perpendicular and into wall [1501]. Timber (w003) is the possible remains of a tenon, with two pegs surviving *in-situ*. The timber's origins are possibly a timber building but not likely the farmhouse itself. The second timber (w005) was a small sawn roundwood with a right-angle notch on one end and a handmade wrought iron nail hammered into the notch. The timber was found hidden behind a hard grey lime mortar (1502), with frequent tiny dark stone flecks.
- 7.1.12 The phasing around the timber (w004) in Location 15 is a hotchpotch of later infilling but the earlier medieval tower wall core (1503) was noted once the timber and later in-filling was removed. The medieval tower wall core was bonded by pinkish-buff earthbound lime mortar (1503) with infrequent white lime flecks and moderately frequent gravel. Timber (w004) was mortared in place with a hard grey lime mortar with frequent tiny dark stone flecks, likely dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century (1502). This hard mortar was found both inside the wall's core and on the wall's internal side.
- 7.1.13 A photographic record of the fireplace and chimney in Location 16, medieval tower/19<sup>th</sup> Kitchen, was made following vegetation removal. The chimney is squat and may have been reduced in height in the past. A former roofline is visible halfway up the chimney breast. The chimney itself appeared stable, constructed with large internal limestone flagstones visible on the interior of the flue. The fireplace is a simple wide stone arched structured and has been pointed with cement in the past resulting in the loss of some of the stones around the top of the arch. To the SW and forming part of the fireplace is a large intact stone and brick roofed bread oven. To the NE and connected via a low brick arch though the fireplace wall is a laundry copper stone hearth made of brick pillars and surmounted by a concrete seat (for the copper). This feature is a nice later survival and would suggest they were still washing clothes by this method just before abandonment.

#### 7.2 Timber, Dendrochronological and Radiocarbon Dating Assessment

7.2.1 A total of seven timbers and fragments were recovered for dating assessment from two areas within standing masonry: the medieval NW Service Room (Location 13) and

the former medieval tower later converted to a kitchen (Location 15). See Appendix III.

- 7.2.2 Generally, the material is poorly degraded, and offers little chance of dating as the sapwood and heartwood/sapwood boundary are missing or rotten. As a result, these would only produce a *terminus post quem* if they were to date. There were also insufficient rings in almost all the timbers; ideally, we are looking for more than 80 rings in a sample to confidently date, which is even more important in Pembrokeshire, where we have little material to date against. Of the timber assessed, (w004) was the only one that had some very limited potential. Timber (w006) was too degraded and fragmentary. As a result, we would not recommend any further investigation at this time.
- 7.2.3 Find (w003), is the remains of a tenon reused in the medieval tower wall (Location 15) directly above timber (w004). Its size and being in Pembrokeshire, suggests that it may have been a queen post or strut from a roof truss. At least, this is the most likely source from the house itself, it may have come from an outbuilding, but even then, its likely to be a truss or truss partition.
- 7.2.4 Find (w004) is a roughly sawn timber recovered from within the masonry internal northeast facing wall of the former medieval tower in Location 15. Bark and sapwood is present on one narrow edge. A split through the timber is noted at one end. Overall, the timber is in a poor state of preservation.
- 7.2.5 Find (w006) is a worked timber recovered from the medieval Northwest Service Room in the northeast facing internal wall. The reused timber had been inserted above a former hearth or fireplace and was found in an advanced stage of decay. During removal the timber fell apart into four pieces, despite significant care being taken. The timber was notched at a right angle at one end and then chamfered to a point. A total of four peg holes are present and three additional pegs were found *in-situ*. Over half of the timber's width has been lost with unstratified Timbers (w001) and (w002) found on the floor of the service room almost certainly belonging to Timber (w006). The timber is reused and its original function is unclear, it may have originally served as part of a screen or partition either in the farmhouse or one of the outbuildings.
- 7.2.6 All timbers will likely radiocarbon date and one (w004) recovered from Location 15 has some bark and sapwood visible suggesting a closer date maybe possible. However, the statistical probability at 95% will likely return a meaningless date as firstly the timbers have been reused in their present position and secondly any statistical date range will likely overlap the principal phasing of the farmhouse rendering the date unusable.

#### 7.3 Mortar Assessment

7.3.1 A total of five mortar samples were recovered from Location 13, the Northwest Service Room, during the removal of timber (w006). All mortar samples numbers are prefixed with a star, e.g. \*01. The mortar samples were examined macroscopically under x30 magnification. The earliest mortar is likely to be the earthen core of the medieval Northwest Service Room's southwest wall (\*05; 1307). It was a common practice in medieval Pembrokeshire buildings to have earth cores with a lime bonded or pointed face. A 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century soft white render (\*03; 1306) with very small (<2mm) black stone aggregate flecks and straw bonding was recovered from the interior of chimney flue [1305]. The lack of smoke blackening suggests that this

internal flue render was only *in-situ* for short period of time before the blocking of the flue occurred. This blocking event is characterised by a deposit or wedge of pinkish-buff coloured earthbound mortar (\*01; 1303) recovered from the infilled base of the chimney flue [1305] dating to the  $17^{th} - 18^{th}$  century. Mortar samples \*02 (1302) and \*04 (1308) were found to be identical, a hard grey pozzolan ash (wood) mortar with stone aggregate inclusions dating to the  $18^{th} - 19^{th}$  century. Sample \*02 was found overlying the west end of timber (w006) and sample \*04 formed a mortar bed for timber (w006) in the medieval NW Service Room.

Sample	Context	Weight grams	Description/Detail	Period
*01	1303 Location 13	248	Pinkish buff coloured earthbound mortar recovered from the infilled base of chimney flue [1305] in the medieval NW Service Room. Likely 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century date range.	17 <sup>th</sup> - 18 <sup>th</sup> century
*02	1302 Location 13	66	Hard grey pozzolan ash (wood) mortar with stone aggregate inclusions overlying the west end of timber (w006) in the medieval NW Service Room. Dating to 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century.	18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> century
*03	1306 Location 13	37	Soft white render applied to the interior of chimney flue [1305]. Very small (<2mm) black stone aggregate flecks and straw bonding. Lack of smoke blackening suggest only <i>insitu</i> for short period of time before blocking occurred.	16 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup> century
*04	1308 Location 13	36	Hard grey pozzolan ash (wood) mortar with stone aggregate inclusions forming mortar bed for timber (w006) in the medieval NW Service Room. Dating to 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century.	18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> century
*05	1307	113	Earth core of the medieval NW Service Room SW wall. It is a common practice in medieval Pembrokeshire buildings to have earthen core with lime bonded or pointed face.	14 <sup>th</sup> Century
Total		500		

#### 7.4 Small Finds

- 7.4.1 Artefactual evidence was recovered from two contexts and included the identification and recording of four Pembrokeshire roofing slates (1502), several small bones (1301), two very corroded iron fragments (1502), one possibly a cooking pot, and interestingly two clay pipe stems (1301), one with a stamp in relief.
- 7.4.2 The back-fill (1301) behind the inserted timber (w006) produced two clay pipe stems. The longer piece is stamped in relief with "T Morgan Liverpool". The pipe makers of Liverpool generally used relief lettering from around the 1760s to the 1840s. Gore's Liverpool trade directory of 1790 and 1796 includes several Morgans listed as pipe makers. In 1790 Thomas Morgan is listed at 33 John Street. By 1796 Thomas Morgan is listed at 9 Cooke Street with two workshops on the north and south sides of the street, with a '1' added to the relief stamp to differentiate the workshops. The long stem from (1301) is snapped partway through the last letter in Liverpool so we cannot identify which workshop it was manufactured in. Thomas is not listed in the 1821 directory so may have ceased trading by that time.
- 7.4.3 The roofing slate fragments were recorded but not retained.

Context	Weight grams	Туре	Description/Detail	Period
1301	8	Ceramic clay pipe	Two clay pipe stem fragments. The longer piece is stamped in relief with "T·Morgan·Liverpool" with a broad production period dating to between 1760-1840. Dimensions 95mm long by 7mm thick. The smaller piece is broken at the back of the bowl. Dimensions 23mm long by 7mm thick.	Post-Medieval
1301	3	Bone	Small mammal ( <i>Rattus</i> humerus?) and a hollow unidentified bone (avian?) were recovered.  Mammal bone dimensions 28mm long and unidentified bone 90mm by 5mm thick.	Post-Medieval
1502	Not retained	Slate	Four fragments of Pembrokeshire roof slate found inserted horizontally into the wall [1501] below timber (w004). The two smaller pieces have the worn remains of nail holes. Largest 240mm by 16mm and smallest 100mm by 100mm.	Post-Medieval
1502	503	Iron (fe)	Two corroded fragments of iron. One appears to be the remains of a strap and the other a curved fragment of a bowl or cooking pot. Recovered from within wall [1501] behind timber (w004).	Post-Medieval
Total	514	10		

#### 8 Conclusions

- 8.1.1 The archaeological watching brief and historic building record observed repair work and vegetation clearance within Locations 13, 15 and 16 (Figure 1). Location 13 is situated within the northwest service room of the ground floor, the construction of which occurred during the first phase of the farmhouse during the medieval period, possibly in the 14<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> century. Location 15 and 16 are located in a kitchen or washroom, which was added to the projecting tower during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The construction of this tower also belongs to the medieval period, however, much of its extant elements belong to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 8.1.2 All of the timbers removed from the NW Service Room and Kitchen/Tower were later insertions of reused timbers. The discovery of a chimney flue [1305] in the NW service room is significant. The flue must date to at least the 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century based on the presence of a soft staw bonded white render (\*03; 1306) identified on the interior surface of the chimney flue. However, as the flue appears to extend through the large medieval gable wall it seems unlikely that a flue would have been inserted here after the wall was built and could therefore indicate that the flue was built as an integral feature of the medieval gable wall. The fireplace and chimney flue may have been used until the late 18th century when this area was partially demolished to allow for an oblique external door to be built though the NW service room wall. At this time timber (w006) was inserted above what was left of the fireplace, possibly replacing a larger timber that had to be moved to make room for the new door. The chimney flue was likely blocked up at this point with timber shuttering (w008) and a rubble fill (1304) stopped at the base of the flue by a deposit or wedge of pinkish-buff coloured earthbound mortar (1303/\*03).

- 8.1.3 The reason for the insertion of timber (w004) in the tower/kitchen (Location 15) is unclear. The phasing around the timber (w004) is a hotchpotch of later infilling but the earlier medieval tower wall core (1503) was noted once the timber and later infilling was removed. The medieval tower wall core was bonded by pinkish-buff earthbound lime mortar (1503), which was in contrast to the mortar used to bed timber (w004) into place. This was a hard grey lime mortar likely dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century (1502). This hard mortar was found both inside the wall's core and on the wall's internal side. While significant elements of the medieval tower's structure do survive, the room has been the subject of later building work including pointing and lime washing using the hard lime mortar noted inside the void left by the removal of timber (w004).
- 8.1.4 The vegetation removal in the tower/kitchen revealed both medieval (chimney breast) and later phases right up to abandonment. The pointing of the fireplace with cement in the past has resulted in the loss of some of the stones around the top of the arch. The bread oven is a nice Post-medieval survival and elements (lower internal stonework) may be older. The identification of a laundry copper stone hearth surmounted by a concrete seat (for the copper) following vegetation removal is a nice later survival and would suggest they were still washing clothes by this method just before abandonment.

#### 9 Bibliography

- Cadw, 2011, Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales, Cardiff.
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#### **Other Sources**

British Geological Survey (BGS), 2021, http://www.bgs.ac.uk, accessed 01/04/21

# 10 Appendix I – Figures



Figure 1. Pricaston Farmhouse phase plan (after Pyper and Wilson 2009). Base map (c) Russell Geomatics 2021.

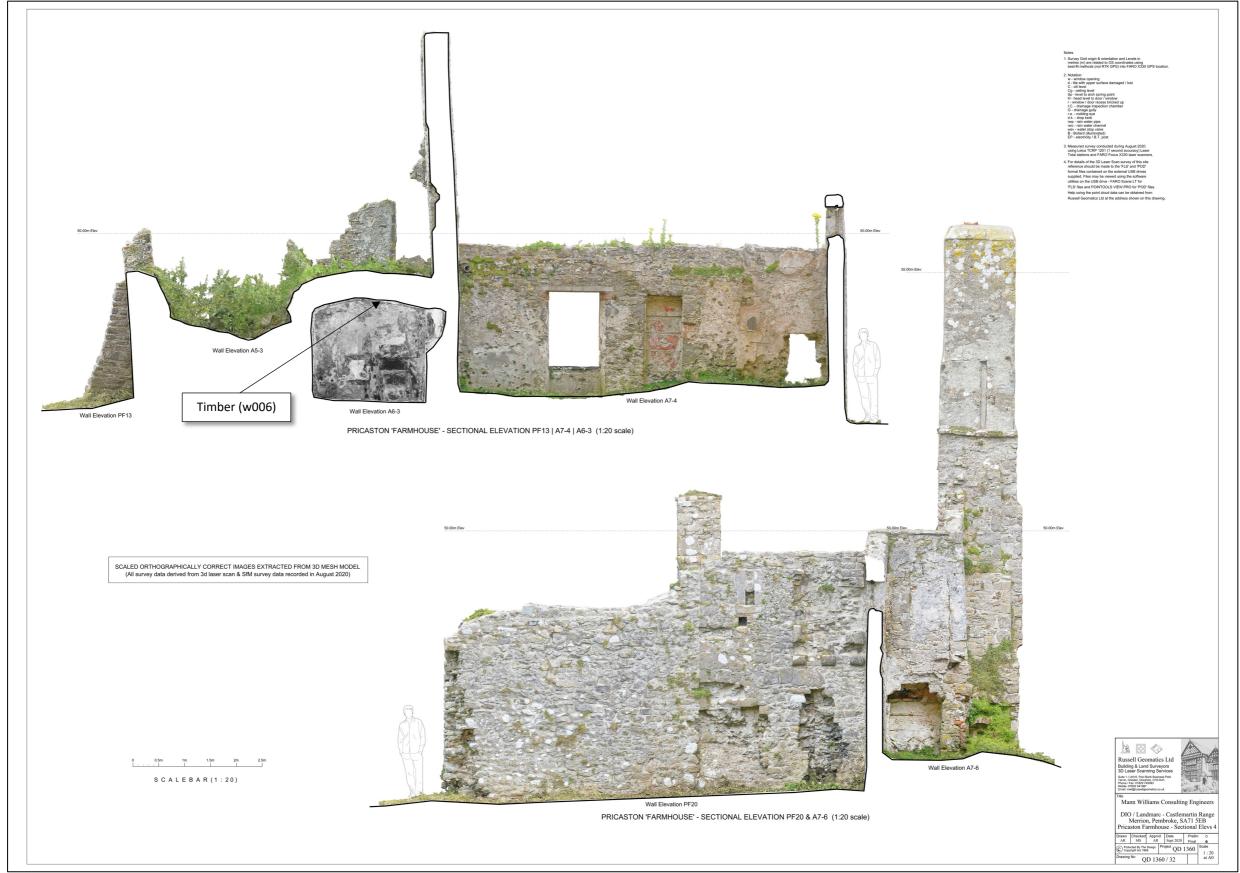


Figure 2. Laser and photogrammetric sections of Location 13, the NW Service Room (top left) before timber removal. (c) Russell Geomatics 2021.



Figure 3. Laser and photogrammetric sections of Location 15, the medieval Tower ) before timber removal. (c) Russell Geomatics 2021.

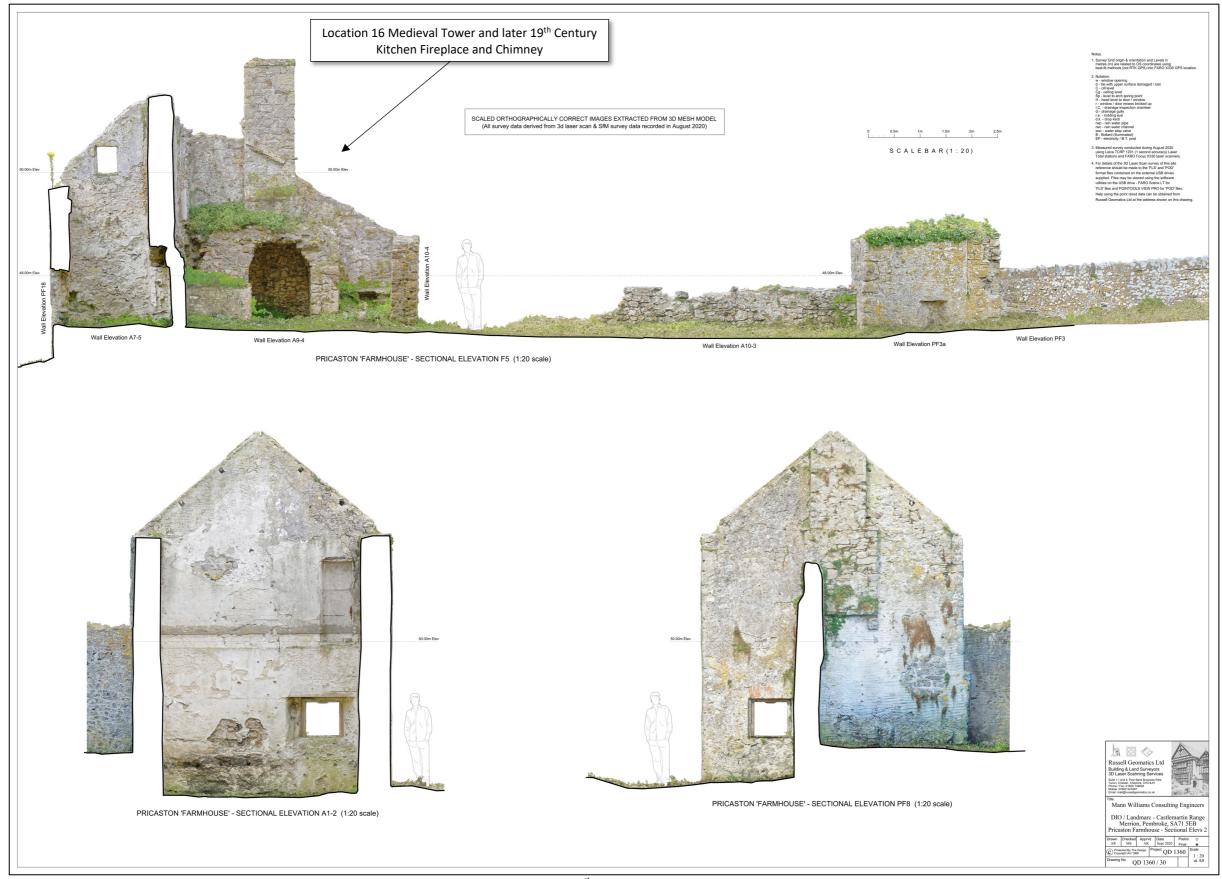


Figure 4. Laser and photogrammetric sections of Location 16, the Medieval Tower and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Kitchen Fireplace and Chimney following vegetation removal. (c) Russell Geomatics 2021.

# 11 Appendix II – Plates

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Plate 1. Location 13 NW Service Room, view to SW of hearth/fireplace, Timber (w006) and U/S Timbers (w001) and (w002) recovered from the floor.



Plate 2. Location 13 NW Service Room, view to SW of Timber (w006).



Plate 3. Location 13, view to W of medieval cross passage. Three two-centred stone arched doors leading to vaulted service rooms and Solar room above.



Plate 4. Location 13 NW Service Room, view to SW of hearth/fireplace following removal of Timber (w006).

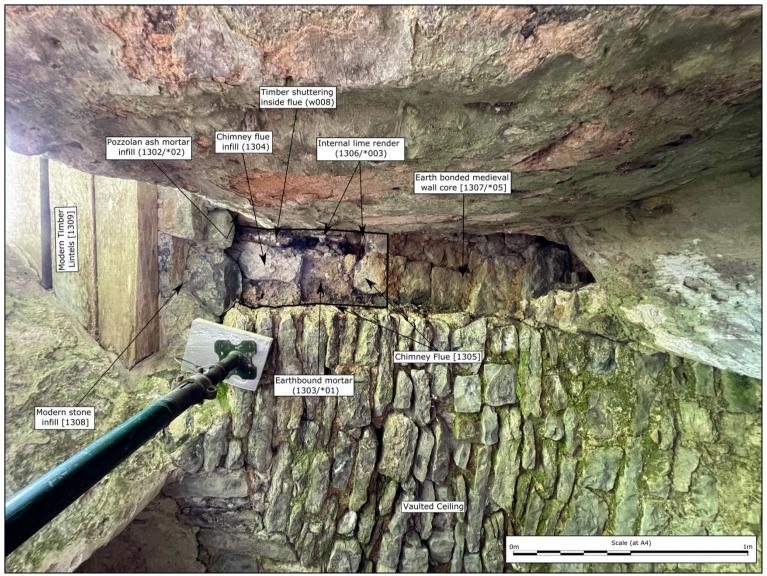


Plate 5. Location 13 NW Service Room, vertical view of hearth/fireplace chimney flue following removal of Timber (w006).



Plate 6. Location 13 NW Service Room, close view of chimney flue [1305], internal lime render (1306) and earthbound mortar infill (1303).

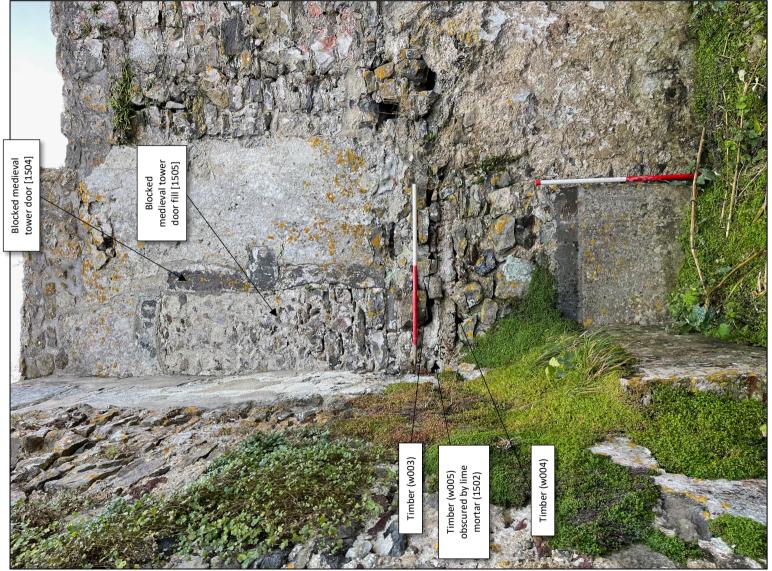


Plate 7. Location 15 Medieval Tower/19th Century Kitchen, view of NE facing wall with Timber (w004) in-situ.

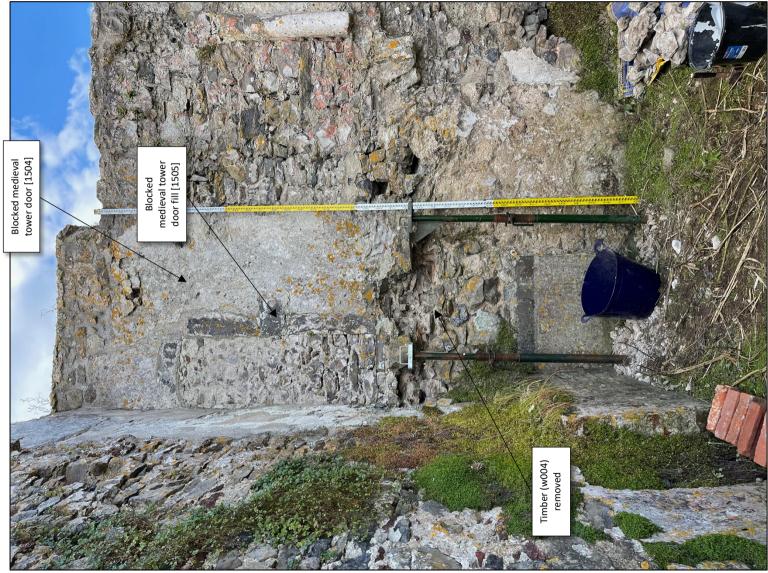


Plate 8. Location 15 Medieval Tower/19<sup>th</sup> Century Kitchen, view of NE facing wall with Timber (w004) removed.



Plate 9. Location 15 Medieval Tower/19th Century Kitchen, view of NE facing wall core.



Plate 10. Location 15 Medieval Tower/19<sup>th</sup> Century Kitchen, view of NE facing wall repaired.



Plate 11. Location 15 Medieval Tower/19<sup>th</sup> Century Kitchen, view of SE facing fireplace and chimney.



Plate 12. Location 15 Medieval Tower/19<sup>th</sup> Century Kitchen, view of SE facing fireplace and chimney, laundry copper stone hearth (right) and bread oven (left).



Plate 13. Location 15 Medieval Tower/19<sup>th</sup> Century Kitchen, view SW of bread oven.



Plate 14. Location 15 Medieval Tower/19<sup>th</sup> Century Kitchen, view of laundry copper stone hearth.



Plate 15. Location 15 Medieval Tower/19<sup>th</sup> Century Kitchen, view of internal fireplace and chimney flue.



Plate 16. Location 13 NW Service Room, U/S Timber (w001), likely part of Timber (w006).



Plate 17. Location 13 NW Service Room, U/S Timber (w002), likely part of Timber (w006).



Plate 18. Location 15 Medieval Tower/19<sup>th</sup> Century Kitchen, tenon reused in the wall (15) directly above timber (w004).



Plate 19. Location 15 Medieval Tower/19<sup>th</sup> Century Kitchen, reused sawn timber (w004) recovered from within the masonry internal NE facing wall of the former medieval tower [1501].



Plate 20. Location 15 Medieval Tower/19<sup>th</sup> Century Kitchen, reused sawn timber (w005) recovered from above timber (w004) within the former medieval tower [1501].



Plate 21. Location 13 NW Service Room, worked timber (w006) reused inserted above a former hearth or fireplace and was found in an advanced stage of decay.



Plate 22. Location 13 NW Service Room, small square sawn timber wedged on top of large, worked timber (w006).



Plate 23. Location 15 Medieval Tower/19<sup>th</sup> Century Kitchen, four fragments of Pembrokeshire roof slate with nail holes found inserted horizontally into the wall [1501] below timber (w004).



Plate 24. Location 13 NW Service Room, small mammal (*Rattus* humerus?) and a hollow unidentified bone (avian?) were recovered from loose fill behind worked timber (w006).



Plate 25. Location 13 NW Service Room, two clay pipe stem fragments were recovered from loose fill behind worked timber (w006). The longer piece is stamped in relief with "T·Morgan·Liverpool" (1760-1840).



Plate 26. Location 13 NW Service Room, clay pipe stem fragment stamped in relief with "T-Morgan-Liverpool" (1760-1840).

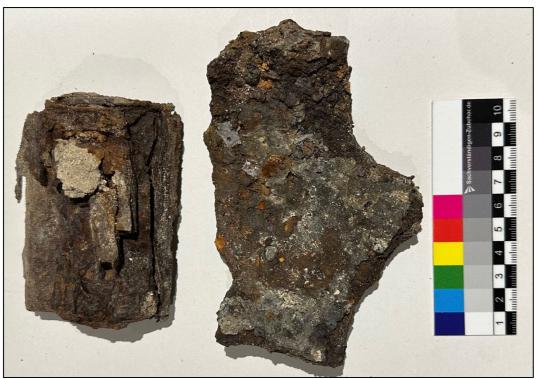


Plate 27. Location 15 Medieval Tower/19<sup>th</sup> Century Kitchen, two corroded fragments of iron. One appears to be the remains of a strap and the other a curved fragment of a bowl or cooking pot (1502).



Plate 28. Location 13 NW Service Room, pinkish buff coloured earthbound mortar (\*01) recovered from the infilled base of chimney flue [1305], 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century.



Plate 29. Location 13 NW Service Room, hard grey pozzolan ash (wood) mortar (\*02) with stone aggregate inclusions overlying the west end of timber (w006), 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century.



Plate 30. Location 13 NW Service Room, soft white render (\*03) applied to the interior of chimney flue [1305] with small black stone aggregate flecks and straw bonding. Lack of smoke blackening suggest only *insitu* for short period of time before blocking occurred, 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> century.

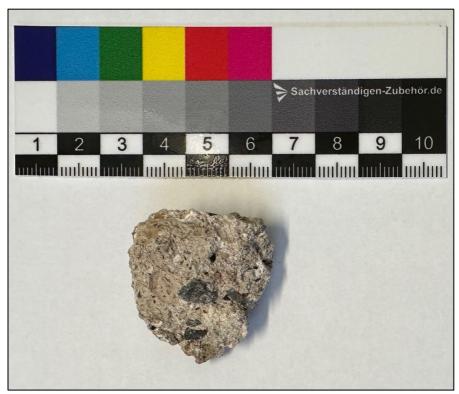


Plate 31. Location 13 NW Service Room, hard grey pozzolan ash (wood) mortar (\*04) with stone aggregate inclusions forming mortar bed for timber (w006), 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century.



Plate 32. Location 13, earth core of NW Service Room SW medieval wall (\*05) [1307], 14<sup>th</sup> century.

# 12 Appendix III – Context and Wood Inventory

Context	Туре	Location	Description	Period
w001	Timber	13	Worked timber, two sawn edges, containing three decayed peg holes and one peg in-situ recovered from the floor of Location 13. Timber measures 0.65m long, 0.14m and 0.12m wide on each surviving face. Timbers (w001) and (w002) almost certainly belonging to Timber (w006) after decaying and falling out of the wall. Possibly originally remains of a partition or screen?	u/s
w002	Timber	13	Small piece of sawn timber with two small nails (fe) present. The piece measures 0.61m long, by 0.12m and 0.05m wide. Timbers (w001) and (w002) almost certainly belonging to Timber (w006) after decaying and falling out of the wall. Possibly originally remains of a partition or screen?	U/S
w003	Timber	15	Possible remains of a tenon reused in the wall (15) directly above timber (w004). Two pegs surviving in-situ. Origins possibly a timber building but not likely the farmhouse itself.	Post-medieval
w004	Timber	15	Roughly sawn timber recovered from within the masonry internal NE facing wall of the former medieval tower in Location 15. Bark and sapwood present on narrow edge. Split recorded at one end. Overall poor state of preservation. Dimensions 1.07m long, 0.17m wide and 0.23m thick narrowing at one end to 0.11m.	Reuse Post- medieval
w005	Timber	15	Small sawn roundwood 0.45m long by 0.04m thick, with a right angle notch on one end. Handmade wrought iron nail hammered into notch. Reused timber.	Post-medieval
w006	Timber	13	Worked timber recovered from the medieval NW Service Room NE facing internal wall. The reused timber had been inserted above a former hearth or fireplace and was found in an advanced stage of decay. During removal the timber fell apart into four pieces, despite significant care being taken. The timber was notched at a right angle at one end and then chamfered to a point. A total of four peg holes are present and three additional pegs were found in-situ. Over half of the timber's width has been lost/removed, probably to make a better fit when the timber was inserted above the fireplace. The timber is reused and its original function is unclear, it may have originally served as part of a screen or partition. Dimensions 1.48m long, 0.2m wide and 0.18m thick.	Reuse Post- medieval
w007	Timber	13	Small square sawn timber, measuring 0.26m long, 0.06m and 0.07m wide, wedged on top of large, worked timber (w006).	Post-medieval
w008	Timber	13	Timber shuttering inside chimney flue [1305]. Left <i>in-situ</i> in chimney flue.	Post-medieval
1301	Deposit	13	Loose friable black-brown coloured fill behind Timber (w006). Contains clay pipe stems and small bones.	Post-medieval
1302	Deposit	13	Hard grey pozzolan ash (wood) mortar with stone aggregate inclusions overlying the west end of timber (w006) in the medieval NW Service Room. Dating to 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century. Sample *02.	Post-medieval
1303	Deposit	13	Pinkish buff coloured earthbound mortar recovered from the infilled base of chimney flue [1305] in the medieval NW Service Room. Likely 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century date range.	Post-medieval
1304	Deposit	13	Stone and mortar infilling of chimney flue [1305].	Post-medieval
1305	Structure	13	Chimney identified in the SW wall of the medieval NW Service Room. Visible dimensions 0.57m long by 0.38m wide. Flue has rendered interior surface (1306), lack of smoke blackening suggest only <i>in-situ</i> for short period of time before blocking occurred. 16 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> century.	Medieval/Post- medieval
1306	Deposit	13	Soft white render applied to the interior of chimney flue [1305]. Very small (<2mm) black stone aggregate flecks and straw	Post-medieval

Context	Туре	Location	Description	Period
			bonding. Lack of smoke blackening suggest only <i>in-situ</i> for short period of time before blocking occurred.	
1307	Structure	13	Medieval NW Service Room SW wall. Contains earth core (sample *05). It is a common practice in medieval Pembrokeshire buildings to have earthen core with lime bonded or pointed face.	Medieval
1308	Deposit	13	Mortar bed for timber (w006) in the medieval NW Service Room, sample $*04$ . Hard grey pozzolan ash (wood) mortar with stone aggregate inclusions. $18^{th} - 19^{th}$ century.	Post-medieval
1309	Structure	13	Modern timber lintels above door inserted into medieval NW Service Room.	Post-medieval
1501	Structure	15	NE facing internal medieval tower and later 19 <sup>th</sup> century kitchen wall. A blocked medieval doorway [1504] is partly visible as is a blocked first floor window and another door or perhaps fireplace.	Medieval
1502	Deposit	15	Hard grey lime mortar with frequent tiny dark stone flecks found blocking Timber (w003) and behind removed Timber (w004) in wall [1501].	Post-medieval
1503	Deposit	15	Pinkish buff earthbound lime mortar with infrequent white lime flecks and moderately frequent stones/gravel forming the core of the medieval tower wall [1501].	Medieval/Post- medieval
1504	Structure	15	Blocked door in NE facing internal wall [1501] of the former medieval tower.	Medieval
1505	Structure	15	Blocking stone fill of door in NE facing internal wall [1501] of the former medieval tower.	Post-medieval



# - BLACK MOUNTAINS ARCHAEOLOGY - ARCHAEOLEG MYNYDD DU -

Yn rhan o'n hawydd i wella ansawdd ein gwasanaeth, rydym yn croesawu unrhyw adborth y gallwch ei ddarparu.

As part of our desire to improve our quality of service we welcome any feedback you are able to provide.

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