Castell y Gelli: Hanes Cythryblus

Hay Castle: A Turbulent History

Un o nifer mawr o gestyll ar hyd y Gororau yw Castell y Gelli, ond yr hyn sy'n ei wneud yn arbennig yw bod rhywun wedi bod yn byw ynddo'n ddi-dor ers 800 o flynyddoedd. Mae ganddo orthwr preswyl o *circa* 1200 a phorth o'r drydedd neu'r bedwaredd ganrif ar ddeg gyda mynedfa fwaog bigfain a rhigol ar gyfer porthcwlis. Roedd y Castell yn ganolbwynt i arglwyddiaeth werthfawr y Gelli Seisnig (Hay Anglicana) a'i thref farchnad gaerog lewyrchus. Bu hanes y Castell yn un cythryblus ac fe'i cipiwyd sawl gwaith yn y drydedd ganrif ar ddeg ac ym 1322. Llosgodd Llywelyn ab Iorwerth y dref i lawr ym 1231 ac mae'n bosibl iddo wneud difrod i'r Castell. Ym 1232 a 1237 rhoddodd Harri III hawliau i fwrdeisiaid y Gelli i dreth arbennig i dalu am fur i'r dref. Derbyniodd y Castell gyflenwadau ym 1403 i wrthsefyll cyrchoedd Owain Glyn Dŵr. Collodd ei swyddogaethau amddiffynnol yn raddol a daeth yn adeilad preswyl yn unig pan godwyd Tŷ'r Castell yn yr ail ganrif ar bymtheg.

Hay Castle is one of numerous castles in the March, but it is exceptional in that it has been continuously occupied for the last 800 years. It has a residential keep of *circa* 1200 with a thirteenth or fourteenth-century gateway with pointed archway and portcullis slot. The Castle was the centre of the valuable lordship of English Hay (Hay Anglicana) and its prosperous walled market town. The Castle has had a turbulent history and was taken several times in the thirteenth century and in 1322. Llywelyn ab Iorwerth burnt the town in 1231 and he may have damaged the Castle. In 1232 and 1237 Henry III granted the burgesses of Hay the rights to a special toll to pay for a town wall. The Castle was provisioned against Owain Glyndŵr in 1403. It gradually lost its defensive functions and became purely residential with the building of Castle House in the seventeenth century.

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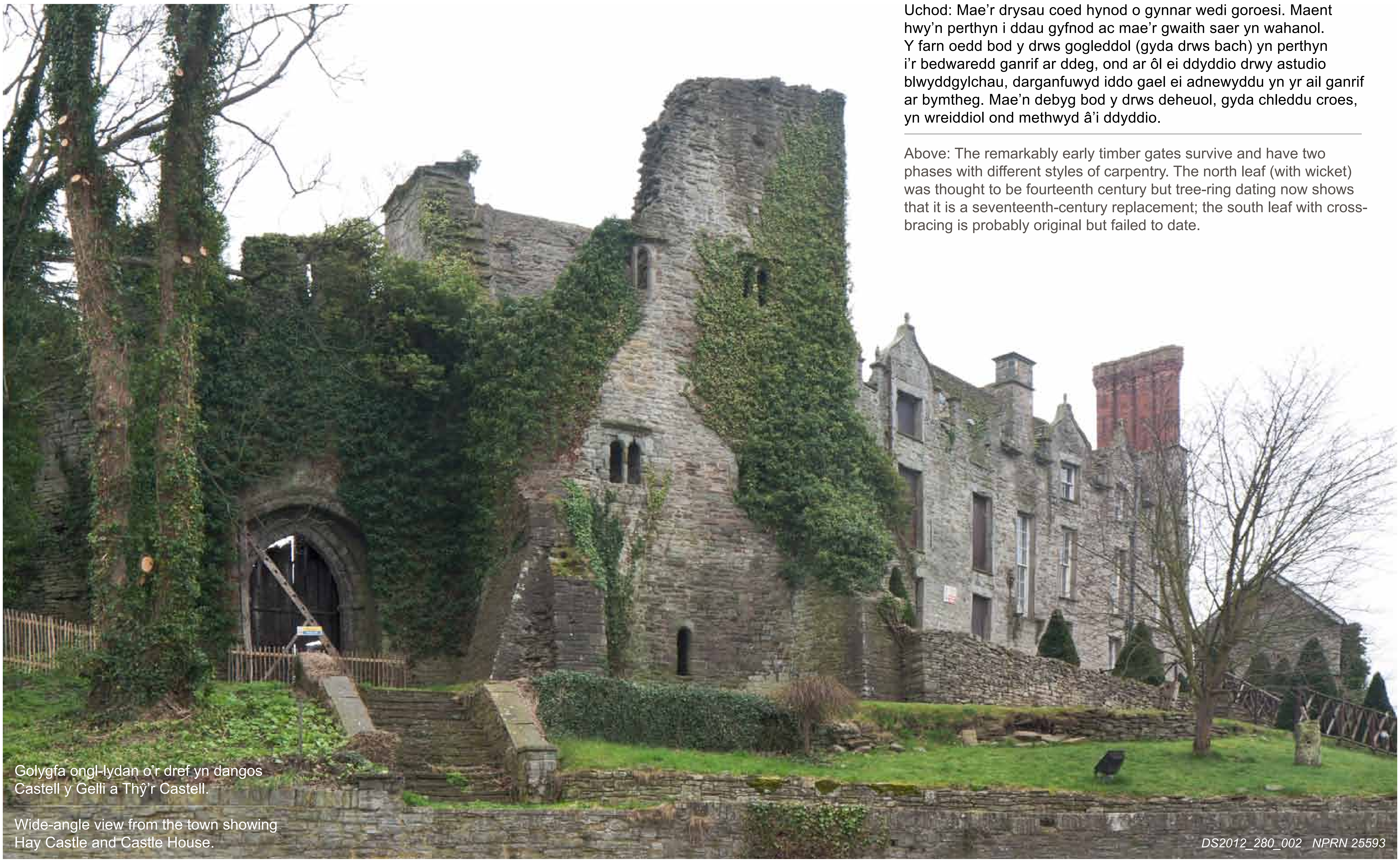
Chwith: Tŵr preswyl tri llawr, heb do bellach, yw'r gorthwr. Mae ganddo islawr a gâi ei ddefnyddio'n garchar y dref hyd 1812. Yn wreiddiol, roedd gan y ffenestr Normanaidd â phen crwn ar ail lawr y Gorthwr ddau agoriad a mwliwn rhyngddynt. Mae craig folcanig (twffa) wedi cael ei defnyddio fel nodwedd addurnol i wella golwg y pen-ffenestr hanner crwn.

Left: The keep is a three-storey residential tower, now unroofed, with a basement which was used until 1812 as the town prison. The round-headed Norman window on the second storey of the Keep originally had two lights with a central mullion. Volcanic rock (tufa) has been used for decorative effect to enhance the semi-circular window-head.

DS2012_280_016 NPRN 25593

Uchod: Mae'r drysau coed hynod o gynnar wedi goroesi. Maent hwy'n perthyn i ddau gyfnod ac mae'r gwaith saer yn wahanol. Y farn oedd bod y drws gogleddol (gyda drws bach) yn perthyn i'r bedwaredd ganrif ar ddeg, ond ar ôl ei ddyddio drwy astudio blwyddgylchau, darganfuwyd iddo gael ei adnewyddu yn yr ail ganrif ar bymtheg. Mae'n debyg bod y drws deheuol, gyda chleddu croes, yn wreiddiol ond methwyd â'i ddyddio.

Above: The remarkably early timber gates survive and have two phases with different styles of carpentry. The north leaf (with wicket) was thought to be fourteenth century but tree-ring dating now shows that it is a seventeenth-century replacement; the south leaf with cross-bracing is probably original but failed to date.



Golygfa ongl-lydan o'r dref yn dangos Castell y Gelli a Thŷ'r Castell.

Wide-angle view from the town showing Hay Castle and Castle House.

DS2012_280_002 NPRN 25593

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Cofnod Henebion Cenedlaethol Cymru

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales
National Monuments Record of Wales

Plas Crug, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 1NJ

Ffôn/ Telephone: 01970 621200

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