

# The Tudor Mansion, Neath Abbey (Phase 3).

## APPENDIX III

### Context Register

*Context numbers start from 445 onwards, thereby continuing from already ascribed Phase 1 contexts that ended at 444. For all contexts from 1 - 444 see Context Register in Phase 1 and Phase 2 reports.*

### Archaeological Building Investigation & Recording

*Context (Feature) No.*

- 445. Abbots House - Small square niche at top of North wall of Abbots House within courtyard area. Possible former roof beam slot or blocked chimney associated with voussoirs feature below 446. Projects inward by approximately 20cm. No evidence of flue although possible entire top walling has been rebuilt by MoW.
- 446. Abbots House - Voussoirs feature with square opening positioned at first floor level of Abbots House but on external face? Investigation of feature shows that its entire infill is wall core and not a core fill, suggesting that the feature is not a former fireplace, but may represent the position of a former plaque. Feature cuts through string course at its base suggesting that it post dates the late 15th century and as such may also be post 1536. Two small diagonal timber slots flank either side of the feature at its shoulders, possibly having once held some kind of hood or canopy, suggestive of a fireplace?
- 447. Abbots House - Late 15th Century window opening.
- 448. Abbots House - Late 15th Century window opening.
- 449. Abbots House - Late 15th Century window opening.
- 450. Abbots House - String course of Bathstone between two late 15th century window openings at first floor level.
- 451. Abbots House - Late 15th Century window opening.
- 452. Latrine Range- Exposed wall core from partially blocked arch into Latrine Range
- 453. Latrine Range - Remains of vaulted ceiling ribbing.
- 454. Abbots House - Base skirt or mantle at base of Abbots House north facing wall in courtyard area. Consists of three courses of dressed Sutton stones with upper string course. Appears to be contemporary with Abbots House, but given that the stones used are Sutton Stone rather than Bathstone, which appears to be the favoured decorative stone used in the Abbots House construction, this section of walling is of interest. Wall covers part of the archway into the Latrine Range.
- 455. Latrine Range - First floor window in west wall of Latrine Range. Consists of mullion and jambs of Sutton stone. Post 1536. Same as Context 5.
- 456. Abbots House - Late 15th Century window opening.
- 457. Abbots House - Late 15th Century window opening.
- 458. Abbots House - Late 15th Century window opening.
- 459. Abbots House - Late 15th Century window opening.
- 460. Latrine Range - N-S Cross wall.
- 461. Abbots House - Window jambs of window 456.
- 462. Latrine Range - Former opening in N-S cross wall. Possibly either a former window or else an opening made giving access from Abbots House in late 15th Century.
- 463. Latrine Range - Projecting ledge marking position and height of original vaulted ceiling.
- 464. Latrine Range - Window opening at first floor level.
- 465. Latrine Range - Remains of window jamb at first floor level representative of former 14th century window extent. Later filled by reduced window.
- 466. Latrine Range - Small blocked attic window directly above former Latrine Channel. Likely 17th-18th century in date.
- 467. Latrine Range - Joint marking position of former 14th Century first floor window in south wall.
- 468. Latrine Range - Ground floor window in south wall.
- 469. Latrine Range - Remains of vaulted ceiling corbel.

470. Latrine Range - Remains of vaulted ceiling corbel. Same as 522.
471. Latrine Range - Remains of arch pier in west wall.
472. Latrine Range - Blocked doorway opening within former window opening in south wall. Blocked with faced stones on external face and coarse ones on internal side.
473. Latrine Range - Former window opening in east wall of range allowing light and venting to Latrine Channel.
474. Latrine Range - Doorway with dressed side jambs and lintel. Style suggestive of late 15th Century, but may have reused jambs and inserted post 1536, thereby using an existing opening into Latrine Channel.
475. Latrine Range - N-S Cross wall. East wall of Latrine Channel.
476. Latrine Range - Corner buttress.
477. Latrine Range - Exposed wall core of N-S Cross wall. East wall of Latrine Channel.
478. Abbots House - String course at first floor level on south wall external south facing elevation
479. Abbots House - Reused former window transom bases as string course at first floor level on south wall external south facing elevation.
480. Abbots House - Buttress against south facing external elevation against south wall.
481. Abbots House - String course on buttress against south facing external elevation against south wall.
482. Latrine Range - Residual roof line at first floor level of Latrine Range in south wall external elevation.
483. Latrine Range - Archway into Latrine Range in West wall.
484. Latrine Range - Central fireplace
485. Latrine Range - Side jambs within fireplace. Marking position of post 1536 fireplace.
486. Latrine Range - Partial blocking in of fireplace and former doorway. Possible 17th or 18th century re-use of chimney.
487. Latrine Range - Partially blocked archway into Latrine Range in West wall.
488. Latrine Range - Remains of blocked wall of arch.
489. Latrine Range - Structural crack in west wall of range. Pinned as part of 2020 conservation program.
490. Latrine Range - Window at first floor level in west wall of Latrine Range.
491. Latrine Range - Apotropaic ritual/witches mark on window jamb of first floor window. 16th century.
492. Latrine Range - Apotropaic ritual/witches mark on window jamb of first floor window. 16th century.
493. Latrine Range - Fabric change marking extension floor level on top of former Reredorter first floor.
494. Latrine Range - Upper floor attic window.
495. Latrine Range & Abbots House - Blocked former 14th century arch.
496. Latrine Range & Abbots House - Blocked former doorway that allowed access into Latrine Range from Undercroft. Possibly 14th - 15th century.
497. Latrine Range & Abbots House - Moulded Sutton stone marking former doorway into Latrine Range. Possibly positioned by MoW.
498. Latrine Range & Abbots House - Moulded Sutton stone marking former doorway into Latrine Range. Possibly positioned by MoW.
499. Latrine Range - Projecting ledge and second floor level. Support ledge for floor beams for extension floor. Post 1536.
500. Latrine Range - Possible position of former 14th century window at first floor level. Delineated by joint and fissure lines in fabric.
501. Latrine Range - Projecting ledge and first floor level. Ledge marks position of former vaulted ceiling height extent.
502. Latrine Range - East to west cross wall marking continuation of bridge south wall.
503. Latrine Range - Remnant of vaulted ceiling at far southern end of Latrine Range against west wall.
504. Latrine Range - Remains of vaulted ceiling corbel.
505. Latrine Range - Remains of vaulted ceiling corbel.
506. Latrine Range - Exposed wall core blocking in former archway at S end of west wall.
507. Latrine Range - Remains of possible stone steps that may once have given access to and from Abbots House into Latrine Range ground floor. Covered by blocked walling. Feature sits over former 14th arch pier suggesting it post dates 14th century.
508. Latrine Range - Remains of former low narrow stone step or stair case positioned within former archway. Possible late 15th century date associated with Abbots House.
509. Latrine Range - Remains of former 14th century arch pier support at far S end of Latrine Range.
510. Latrine Range - Projecting ledge over voussoirs of archway.
511. Latrine Range - Remains of vaulted ceiling ribbing.
512. Latrine Range - Projecting ledge over voussoirs of archway.
513. Latrine Range - Remains of vaulted ceiling ribbing.
514. Latrine Range - Projecting ledge over voussoirs of archway.
515. Latrine Range - Remains of vaulted ceiling corbel.

516. Latrine Range - Cross wall at ground level in central area of Latrine Range.
517. Latrine Range - Projecting corbel stone on S side of fireplace 486 for fireplace hood.
518. Latrine Range - Projecting corbel stone on N side of fireplace 486 for fireplace hood.
519. Latrine Range - Opening/Doorway toward N end of range in E wall. Likely position of former 14th century ground floor window but later adapted.
520. Latrine Range - Remains of vaulting corbel. Same as 470.
521. Latrine Range - Remains of vaulting corbel.
522. Latrine Range - Remains of vaulting corbel.
523. Latrine Range - 14th century window opening.
524. Latrine Range - Remains of vaulted ceiling at S end of range.
525. Latrine Range - Projecting ledge forming vaulted arch. Supported vaulted ceiling. Projects c. 12cm from main wall.
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527. Latrine Range - Projecting ledge forming vaulted arch. Supported vaulted ceiling. Projects c. 12cm from main wall.
528. Latrine Range - Remains of former vaulted arch.
529. Latrine Range - Remains of former vaulted arch.
530. Latrine Range - Remains of former vaulted arch.
531. Latrine Range - Recessed c.5cm deep slot at base of wall Possible former timber slot for screen or partition.
532. Latrine Range - Stone steps positioned at N end of Latrine Range. Give access to doorway opening in cross wall. Post 1536.
533. Latrine Range - Doorway through E-W cross wall in central area of range. Post 1536.
534. Latrine Range - Cross wall dividing Latrine Channel. Likely former service opening allowing access to channel.
535. Latrine Channel - Base of wall marking threshold of doorway/opening 474. Walling covers latrine channel and likely has an arch through running to the south.
536. Latrine Channel - Scarring in main wall, indicative of re-facing . Post 1536.
537. Latrine Range - Projecting ledge at top of buttress.
538. Latrine Range - Remains of upper section of former N-S cross wall.
539. Latrine Channel – Raised recessed area in walling at N end of channel. Positioned within remains of buttress on external wall, suggesting that this recess may or may not be the remains of a stone stairwell built into the buttress that allowed access to the upper floor area of the latrine.
540. Latrine Channel - Doorway/opening at N end of channel corridor. Likely former service opening to gain access to channel.
541. Latrine Channel - Exposed wall core from cross wall across channel.
542. Latrine Channel - Exposed wall core.
543. Latrine Range - String course absent at upper level of corner buttress.
544. Latrine Range - Low cross wall.
545. Latrine Range - Small curving diagonal wall butting up against external east facing wall of range. Function unknown. Post 1536.
546. Latrine Range - Remains of buttress at N end of range.
547. Latrine Range - Remains of buttress at N end of range.
548. Latrine Range - Base of buttress has been refaced. Post 1536.
549. Latrine Range - N-S east cross wall of Latrine Range.
550. Abbots House/Latrine Range - Possible remnant of early voussoir arch. Only two small stones remain and each are set at a diagonal and keyed into E-W cross wall. Both stones occupy the same early Cistercian fabric of the Latrine Range. Not conclusive and neither stones relate to existing voussoirs immediately to north of same internal elevation.
551. Latrine Range - Exposed wall core.
552. Latrine Range - Arch ribbing support corbel.
553. Latrine Range - Arch ribbing support corbel.
554. Latrine Range - Vaulted ceiling support corbel.
555. Latrine Range - Vaulted ceiling support corbel.
556. Latrine Range - Arch ribbing support corbel.
557. Latrine Range - Vaulted ceiling support corbel.
558. Latrine Channel – Projecting sandstone block.

## **Trial Trenches within Latrine Channel**

*Context (Feature) No.*

### **Trench 1**

- 100. Thin layer of hoggin.
- 101. Thin deposit of organic silt intermixed with lime plaster.
- 102. Tipped material from 1920s and 1930s abbey clearance excavation. Contains rubble, plaster, render, pottery fragments with date range from 13th - 18th Century.
- 103. Dark silt (waterlogged). Poss. depth of 1.5 - 2 meters. Pottery fragments with date range from 13th - 17th Century.

### **Trench 2**

- 100. Rubble stone

## **Trial Trenches within Latrine Range**

*Context (Feature) No*

### **Trench 1**

- 100. Dark brown soil intermixed with roots (c.2cm).
- 101. Deposit of broken pieces of pennant stone and other smaller pieces of rubble stone. Possible former temporary floor covering or else a scatter of fallen masonry.
- 102. Compact sandy orange clay deposit with irregular shaped stones embedded within its surface. Interpreted as a former underlying floor surface.

### **Trench 2**

- 200. Thin layer of dark brown soil (c.2cm) intermixed with roots.
- 201. Thin deposit of grey lime mortar (c.2cm).
- 202. Light buff and grey coloured silt deposit (c.5cm).
- 203. Compact yellow/buff coloured lime deposit (203), possible former construction deposit (c.1cm).
- 204. Compact sandy orange clay deposit.

### **Trench 3**

- 300. Thin layer of dark brown soil (c.2cm)
- 301. Thin deposit of grey lime mortar (c.2cm).

## **Evaluation Trench against South Wall of Latrine Range to help inform Drainage Solutions**

*Context (Feature) No*

### **Trench 1**

- 100. Turf
- 101. Deposit of dry soil intermixed with small stones and lime mortar.
- 102. Pile of stones
- 103. Pit or hollow area absent of stones for approximately 0.40m in depth. Filled by 101. Possible post-hole?

