

# Outer Bailey Curtain Wall, Cilgerran Castle, Pembrokeshire

## Archaeological Record

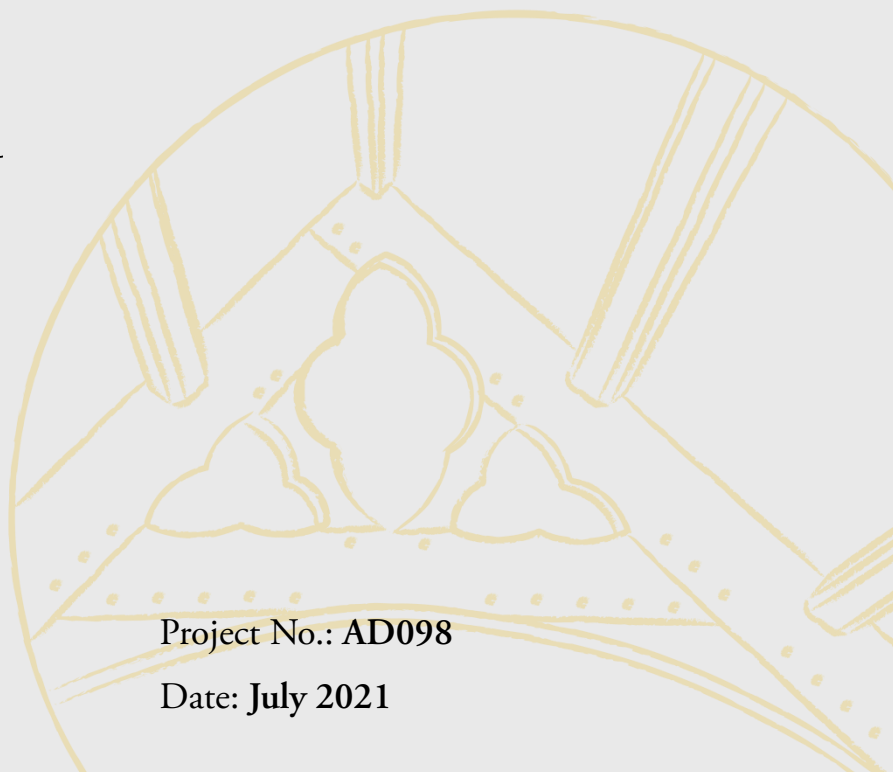
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Project No.: AD098

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## Acknowledgements

With thanks to Louise Mees, Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Cadw, for commissioning this programme of archaeological recording, and Joseph Cliff, Cadw, for providing post-work photos. Thanks to Karen Davies for proofreading the report.

## Abbreviations used in this report

HER	- Historic Environment Record.
DAT-DM	- Dyfed Archaeological Trust Development Management
LPA	- Local Planning Authority.
NGR	- National Grid Reference.
NMR	- National Monuments Record.
OS	- Ordnance Survey.
BHT	- Brymbo Heritage Trust.

All other abbreviations will be referred to in text.

## Project Team

**Ross Cook** – A buildings archaeologist and dendrochronologist with a background in archaeology and buildings conservation. Ross graduated from the University of Wales, Lampeter, in 2008 and has been working in conservation and archaeology since this time. In 2012, he started work with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, where he worked as an Investigator specialising in historic buildings. In 2014, Ross left the Commission and started ArchaeoDomus, a practice specialising in the recording and interpretation of historic buildings and monuments in England and Wales, but also undertaking the more traditional fieldwork associated with archaeology. Through the practice, he has undertaken work on buildings from small peasant cottages to castles and cathedrals, and is now the Cathedral Archaeologist at St Davids in Pembrokeshire, and Consultant Archaeologist to Christchurch Priory in Dorset. He has worked at Winchester and Christ Church Cathedrals, Westminster Abbey, The Tower of London, Kensington Palace, Hampton Court Palace, and Ludlow, Chirk, and Usk Castle, amongst many others. Ross works regularly with Cadw and local authority archaeologists in both England and Wales.

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

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

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## Cilgerran Castle, Cilgerran, Pembrokeshire

### Archaeological Record

#### Summary

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*ArchaeoDomus was commissioned by Cadw to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation for a Level 2 Historic Buildings Record and an Archaeological Watching Brief during works to rebuild a modern section of walling at Cilgerran Castle, which had collapsed and exposed the core of the medieval castle's curtain wall. The aim of this work has been to produce a record of the historic core of the curtain wall prior to works and to allow for the development to be undertaken whilst monitoring for any potential archaeological resource.*

*The works at Cilgerran Castle reinstated a section of modern wall, which collapsed in mid-2020, exposing the core of the castle's outer bailey curtain wall.*

*The archaeological record was undertaken on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020, which produced a photogrammetric model of the affected area, including the exposed top and west face of the wall, visible within the outer bailey. Reinstatement works were commenced without notification and meant that the proposed scope of the watching brief was reduced to recording the progress of work at the time of visit on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The post-work record was undertaken by Joseph Cliff, Cadw, on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The result of this work is presented in this report.*

*Due to the limited information recorded during the course of this project, the proposed Level 2 Historic Building Record has been reduced to an Archaeological Record, which details the materials, form and potential dating of the materials identified during the course of the programme of work.*

*This work has demonstrated that the outer bailey curtain wall was probably built by William Marshal (b.1190 – d.1231) after his refortification of the position after he successfully captured it from Llywelyn the Great (b.1173 – d.1240) in 1223. The use of an earth-clay mortar to bond the masonry is the same form as seen at Cardigan, Nevern and Newport castles, and reflects a vernacular form of construction, possibly demonstrating the use of Welsh labour in its construction.*

## Castell Cilgerran, Cilgerran, Sir Benfro

Cofnod Archeolegol a bugeilio archeolegol

### Crynodeb

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*Comisiynwyd ArchaeoDomus gan Louise Mees er mwyn paratoi Cynllun Ymchwilio Ysgrifenedig ar gyfer Cofnod Adeiladau Hanesyddol Lefel II a Briff Gwylio Archeolegol yn ystod gwaith i ailadeiladu adran modern o waliau yng Nghastell Cilgerran, a oedd wedi cwmpo a datgelwyd craidd llenfur y cestyll canoloesol. Nod y gwaith hwn yw i gynhyrchu cofnod o graidd hanesyddol y llenfur cyn y gwaith a chaniatáu i'r datblygiad gael ei wneud wrth fonitro am unrhyw adnodd archeolegol posibl.*

*Adferwyd y gwaith yng Nghastell Cilgerran ran o wal fodern, a guympodd yng nghanol 2020, gan ddatgelu craidd llenfur beili allanol y castell.*

*Ymgwymerwyd â'r cofnod archeolegol ar 9fed Rhagfyr 2020, a gynhyrchoedd fodel ffotogrammetrig o'r ardal yr effeithir arni, gan gynnwys wyneb agored ac wyneb gorllewinol y wal, sydd i'w gweld yn y beili allanol. Dechreuwyd y waith adfer heb hysbysiad, a olygai fod cwmpas arfaethedig y briff gwylio yn cael ei leihau i gofnodi cynnydd y gwaith ar adeg yr ymweliad ar 14eg Ionawr 2021. Ymgwymerwyd â'r cofnod ôl-waith gan Joseph Cliff, Cadw, ar 9 Gorffennaf 2021. Cyflwynir canlyniad y gwaith yn yr adroddiad hwn.*

*Oherwydd y wybodaeth gyfyngedig a gofnodwyd yn ystod y prosiect hwn, mae'r Cofnod Adeiladu Hanesyddol Lefel 2 arfaethedig wedi'i leihau i Gofnod Archeolegol, sy'n rhoi manylion deunyddiau, ffurf a dyddiad posibl y deunyddiau a nodwyd yn ystod y rhaglen waith. Dangoswyd y gwaith bod o'n tebygol bod wal y beili allanol wedi'i hadeiladu gan William Marshal (e.1190 – m.1231) ar ôl iddo ailddatgan y sefyllfa ar ôl lwyddo i'w gipio o Llywelyn Fawr (e.1173 – m.1240). Mae'r defnydd o forter clai daear i fondio'r gwaith maen yr un ffurf ag a welir yng nghastellau Aberteifi, Nevern a Chasnewydd, ac mae'n adlewyrchu ffurf gynhenid o adeiladu, gan ddangos o bosibl y defnydd o lafur Cymreig wrth ei adeiladu.*

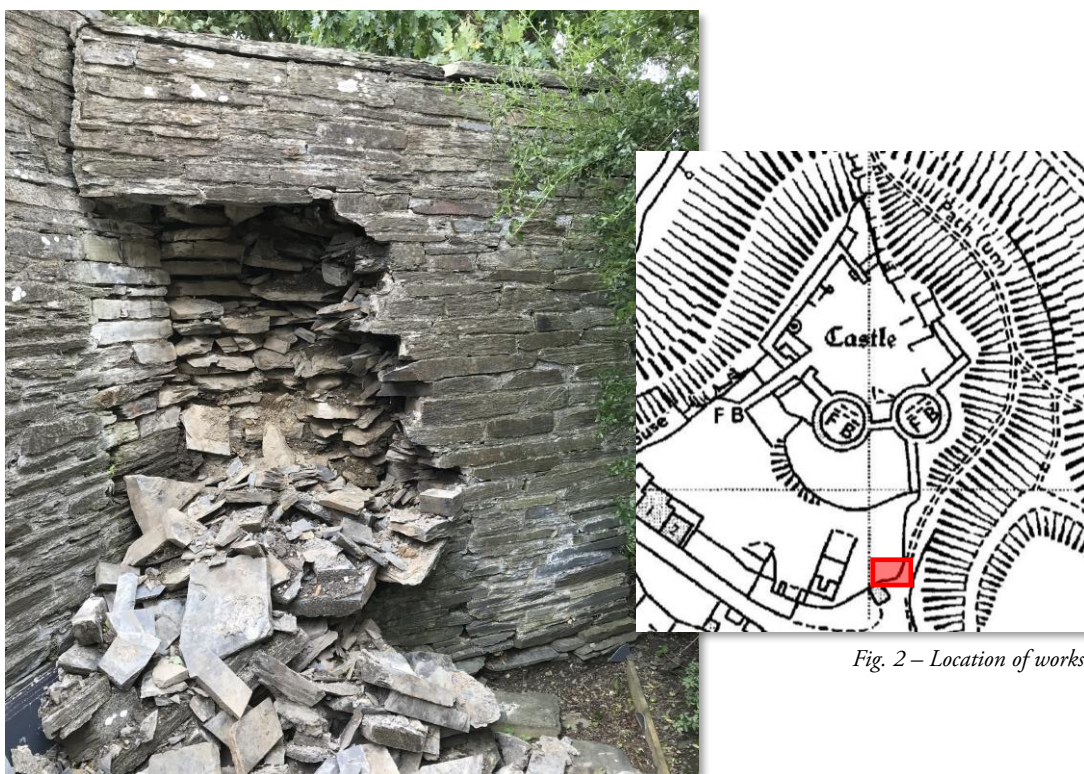


## 1 INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 General

- 1.1.1 ArchaeoDomus were commissioned by Louise Mees, Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Cadw, to prepare a WSI and undertake a Level 2 Historic Buildings Record and an Archaeological Watching Brief. This work was to record and monitor repair and stabilisation works to a section of wall collapsed modern wall (Fig. 1), which had exposed the core of the outer ward curtain wall at Cilgerran Castle, Pembrokeshire (SAM PE002).



*Fig. 1 – Area of collapse. Photo courtesy of Louise Mees.*

*Fig. 2 – Location of works.*

- 1.1.2 The commissioning of this programme was to enable the dismantling of a modern section of wall and the reinstatement of this, whilst making provision for an archaeological record of the exposed historic material it uncovers. The aim of this record has been to document the works and provide an account of the exposed medieval masonry core of the outer ward curtain wall, with the output being deposited with the National Monuments Record and Regional Historic Environment. This is designed to enhance our understanding of the site and to produce a lasting record of such works.
- 1.1.3 Most of the outer ward curtain wall was lost following collapse in 1863, caused by quarrying and robbing of stone. Therefore, this work has provided a valuable opportunity for the understanding and recording of the historic masonry and materials used in its construction.
- 1.1.4 As the works were concerned with the stabilisation and reconstruction of the modern wall, no scheduled monument consent has been required. The Cadw reference is Cilgerran Castle Wall Collapse.

- 1.1.5 Cilgerran Castle is owned by the National Trust, who acquired the castle in 1938.
- 1.1.6 Requirement for programmes of archaeological works is laid out in *Planning Policy Wales, Section 6.1* (Edition 10, Dec 2018). Further guidance is provided by *TAN 24: The Historic Environment* (2017). This framework ensures that designated and undesignated heritage assets, archaeological remains and deposits are fully investigated, recorded, and catalogued if they are to be affected as a result of activities associated with the development.
- 1.1.7 Due to the limited information recorded during the project, the results of this work have been produced as this Archaeological Record instead of the proposed Level 2 Historic Building Record (AD098 – WSI – Cilgerran Castle, ArchaeoDomus 2020). This report presents the materials, form and potential dating of the materials and structures identified during the programme of work.
- 1.1.8 This report has been prepared by Ross Cook, Buildings Archaeologist and Dendrochronologist at ArchaeoDomus, at the request of Louise Mees. Its aim is to provide information on the methodology and archaeological practice used during the programme of archaeological investigation.
- 1.1.9 All work was undertaken by qualified staff and in accordance with Historic England's *Understanding Historic Buildings; A guide to good practice* (2016) and the standards and guidance laid down by and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).

## 1.2 Commencement

- 1.2.1 Unfortunately, the watching brief to monitor the dismantling of unstable masonry was not maintained as ArchaeoDomus was not made aware of commencement on site.
- 1.2.2 A meeting was arranged on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to view the works and determine the best way forward. On inspection, it was concluded that whilst the work should have been monitored, the removal of newly instated wall and fill would risk destabilising the historic curtain wall. Works to date were then recorded and the reinstatement allowed to continue.
- 1.2.3 As a result of this, this report does not contain results of a watching brief, as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AD098 – WSI – Cilgerran Castle, ArchaeoDomus 2020).

## 2 SITE AND LOCATION

### 2.1 General

2.1.1 Cilgerran Castle is located at the northern point of the village of Cilgerran in the county of Pembrokeshire. The castle is located on a natural, craggy promontory overlooking the Afon Teifi to the northeast of the castle, and the Afon Plysgog to the northwest. The village of Cilgerran bounds the castle to the south, and a wood to the east. Access is provided to the site by a small street called Heol Pump Porth, which leads off the High Street to the south, and from Castle Square/Church Street to the north. Cilgerran sits within the Registered Historic Landscape of the Lower Teifi Valley (HLW (D) 14). St Llawddog's is the nearest church, located some 350m to the west. The site sits at 41m above sea level and is centred around NGR SN 19503 43078 / 52°03'24"N 4°38'03"W / What3Words sublet.segmented.outlined.



*Fig. 3 – Location – Cilgerran.  
Contains Ordnance Survey OpenData © Crown copyright and database right 2020*



*Fig. 4 – Location – Cilgerran Castle.  
Contains Ordnance Survey OpenData © Crown copyright and database right 2020.*

## **2.2 Geology**

- 2.2.1 The underlying geology is formed of the Nantmel Mudstone Formation (BGS) with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS). The local soil type is a freely draining, slightly acidic and loamy soil (UKSO), classified as Cambisols (UKSO).

## 3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

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### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Cilgerran Castle is just one of many castles built by the Anglo-Normans after their piecemeal conquest of South Wales from the late 11<sup>th</sup> and early 12<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 3.1.2 The location of the castles sits at the tidal limit of the Teifi and at a natural crossing point on the river, allowing the fortification to control passage on both water and land.
- 3.1.3 Cilgerran Castle designated a Scheduled Monument in 1915 under ID PE002. The monument was scheduled as a site of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of medieval defensive practice.

*The monument consists of the remains of a castle, dating to the medieval period. Cilgerran castle is situated on a precipitous rocky promontory above the River Teifi. It comprises an outer ward separated by a defensive ditch from an inner ward defended by two strong towers and a main gatehouse. The castle may be the site of 'Cenarth Bychan' where a Welsh attack of 1109 resulted in Nest the wife of Gerald of Windsor absconding with Owain the son of the Prince of Powys the name is first mentioned in 1164, when captured by the Lord Rhys. It was recaptured by William Marshal, earl of Pembroke, in 1204 and then retaken by the Welsh during Llewellyn the Great's campaigns during 1215. William's son, another William, regained control eight years later and it is likely the present masonry castle is his work. The form of the castle may reflect the earliest earthwork castle as the bank and ditch cutting off the promontory and enclosing the outer ward might be the site of the original bailey. The outer ward has a gatehouse surviving as low footings but its date is uncertain, the ward wall is a modern rebuild following the collapse of the original wall due to quarrying on the cliff below. The inner ward William fortified in stone with two towers and a gatehouse. The strong, plain round towers protrude well beyond the curtain wall and the outer defensive parts are thicker than the inner, as series of arrow slits are the only openings on the outer side. Both towers have a ground floor and three upper storeys. The eastern tower entered at first-floor level from the courtyard by a door leading to a newel stair had a separate entrance to the ground floor and the upper floors were probably accessed by a trapdoor. The west tower originally also had a first-floor entrance this reached by a stair from the inner ward. The ground floor must have been reached by a trap door and possibly functioning as a strong room or dungeon. Later a door was inserted together with a newel stair to provide access to above and a cross wall so that a portion could remain as a strong room. The gatehouse, now collapsed, has a gate passage with portcullis grooves and draw bar holes. Above was a vaulted room, perhaps a chapel, and above this a passage in the curtain wall connected with the two round towers, these could also be reached from the curtain wall walk. Along the northeast and northwest sides of the inner ward the curtain wall and the remains of buildings date to the second half of the thirteenth century by which time the castle had passed through*

*marriage from the Marshalls first to the de Cantelupes and then to the Hastings family. Footings remain of a hall and private apartments and a kitchen against the west wall. In the 1370's an invasion from France was feared, and Edward III ordered that the now rather derelict castle be refortified and a large tower at the northwest corner probably belongs to this period. After 1389, when the Hastings family died out, the castle passed to the crown. It may have been captured and held for a short time in 1405 during Glyndwr's wars of independence, it was certainly damaged during the attack. After that the castle's active military service came to an end. In the Tudor period, the Vaughan family were granted the castle by Henry VII, and they continued to occupy it until the early 17th century, when they built a new house nearby. The castle fell into ruin, but its picturesque setting made it an early favourite among tourists, who from the 18th century, could visit by boat from Cardigan.'*

- 3.1.4 The castle is also a Grade I Listed Building under ID 14491. It was designated as such on 15th April 1994.

*'C13 Castle rebuilt after 1223 by William Marshal II, Earl of Pembroke, probably replacing an early C12 castle built by Gerald of Windsor; but the identification of Cilgerran with Gerald's castle of Cenarth Bychan is unproven. The castle named as Cilgerran is first mentioned when it was taken by Lord Rhys in 1164-5. It was retaken by William Marshal I, Earl of Pembroke in 1204, recovered by Llewellyn the Great in 1213, and retaken by William Marshal II in 1223. Cilgerran remained an independent Marcher lordship under the Marshals to 1245, the de Cantelupes of Abergavenny to 1273 and by descent to the Hastings family (Earls of Pembroke from 1339) to 1389, when it passed to the crown in default of heirs. It was possibly briefly captured by Owen Glyndwr in 1405. The castle was already stripped of furnishings in 1275, and said to be ruinous in 1325, though some repairs were carried out for the Crown in 1388-90; it was said to have been laid waste in 1405.'*

- 3.1.5 On 31st August 1972, area ID PE384 was designated after new evidence came to light which demonstrated that the area had been part of the castles outer ditch and masonry defences.
- 3.1.6 The Royal Commission records the castle under NPRN 95037.

## 3.2 Historical Background

- 3.2.1 Cilgerran Castle is located in the parish of Cilgerran. The parish is in the medieval Welsh Commote of Cuch and Cantref of Emlyn, part of the kingdom of Deheubarth.
- 3.2.2 It is thought that the castle was the first of a number of fortifications built in timber by Gerald of Windsor (b.1075 – d.1135), between 1108 to 1115, on lands taken from the Welsh kingdom of Deheubarth. Some historians have associated this early castle with the recorded 'Cenarth Bychan', an Anglo-Norman castle, the location of which is not known; the large motte at Comen Fawr,

Cenarth is the other main contender. Cenarth Bychan was the setting for the story of Nest (b.1086 – d.1136), the ‘Helen of Wales’. In the story, Nest, famed for her beauty, was willingly abducted by her second cousin, Owain ap Cadwgan (b.1085 – d.1116). After this event, Nest became the mistress of a number of lovers, including Henry I, which gave her the name ‘Helen of Wales’.

- 3.2.3 The first certain record of a castle at this location is associated with the reconquests of Welsh land by Rhys ap Gruffydd (b.1132 – d.1197), when a partially stone-built stronghold called Cilgerran was taken in 1165. With his capture of the castle, Rhys also captured Nest’s son, Robert Fitz Stephen.
- 3.2.4 In the following year, 1166, an army of Anglo-Normans and Flemish troops attempted to retake the castle on two occasions, but retreated after suffering large losses, leaving Cilgerran in Welsh hands under the kingdom of Deheubarth.
- 3.2.5 In 1172, Henry II (b.1133 – d.1189) sought to settle the political situation and concluded a settlement with Rhys ap Gruffydd, which led to a truce. In the truce, Lord Rhys was recognised as ‘justice on his behalf in Deheubarth’.
- 3.2.6 The death of Rhys ap Gruffydd in 1197 and the infighting of his heirs weakened the kingdom of Deheubarth. This culminated with the seizure of Rhys’ successor, Gruffudd, by his brother, Maelgwyn, who handed him over to the English.
- 3.2.7 The following year, 1198, the English released Gruffudd, who regained Cilgerran, but his brother sold the castle to King John for 200 marks and assurances of Royal protection.
- 3.2.8 Over the following years, the Anglo-Normans were able to capitalise on the death of Rhys ap Gruffydd, and recaptured large areas of the West Wales. Cilgerran was taken in 1204, when William Marshal (b.1146 – d.1219), the first Earl of Pembroke, forced out Maelgwn ap Rhys (b.1170 – d.1230), son of Rhys ap Gruffydd. Marshal made repairs to the castle and had it garrisoned.
- 3.2.9 In 1215, Marshal’s works to repair the castle were shown to be inadequate, when Llywelyn the Great (b.1173 – d.1240), in league with the princes of Deheubarth, was able to recapture the stronghold in a day-long battle.
- 3.2.10 The castle then remained in Welsh hands until 1223, when the eldest son of Marshal, also a William (b.1190 – d.1231) and often referred to as William Marshal the Younger, regained the castle using forces from Ireland. Learning from previous losses, William undertook a large programme of works to rebuild and extend the fortifications of the castle. Only retaining early masonry of the castle survives underlying the Marshal works. His work included the great keep-like twin round towers and curtain walls, although several phases can be identified within these. This work proved to be prudent, as the castle was never taken by the Welsh again.
- 3.2.11 The castle remained in the Marshal family until 1245, when the death of Ansel (also Anselm) Marshal (b.1208 – d.1245), the sixth Earl of Pembroke, saw the castle pass to the de Cantilupe

family. Their works appear to have been limited, but they may have been responsible for a range of buildings to the north and west walls, including a hall, private apartments and a kitchen.

- 3.2.12 In 1257, the castles defences were put to the test when Llewellyn ap Gruffudd, with his alliance of Welsh princes, attack Cilgerran. The castle held and remained in English hands.
- 3.2.13 Another change of hands occurred in 1273, when Cilgerran passed from the de Cantelupes to the Hastings family. Although the castle was retained by the Crown during the minority of Lord Hastings.
- 3.2.14 A report in 1275 stated that the castle was in poor repair.
- 3.2.15 Cilgerran was 'bypassed' in 1275, during the 'first war or Welsh independence'.
- 3.2.16 By 1326, the castle had fallen into a state of disrepair and was described as close to ruin, being reputedly 'worth nothing' in rent.
- 3.2.17 During the early-14<sup>th</sup> century, the large northwest tower was built as domestic accommodation.
- 3.2.18 In 1377, sparked by fears of a French invasion after John de Hastings (b.1347 – d.1375), Earl of Pembroke, was defeated at La Rochelle, Edward III (b.1327 – d.1377) ordered that Cilgerran be refortified.
- 3.2.19 When the Hastings family line ended in 1379, the castle formally passed to the crown, who undertook repairs.
- 3.2.20 Although not certain, the castle is reputed to have been held for a short period by supporters of Owain Glyndwr (b.1359 – d.1415) during his War of Independence (1400-1415). If not held by the Welsh, the castle was certainly damaged during the attack. This saw the end of Cilgerran's use as an active stronghold.
- 3.2.21 In 1496, when Henry VII granted Cilgerran Castle to William Vaughan, who was rewarded with the title of Lord of Cilgerran.
- 3.2.22 In 1509, the king appointed William as Constable of Cilgerran Castle.
- 3.2.23 At the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the descendant of William, Robert Vaughan, moved the family from the Castle to a new residence called Glandovan.
- 3.2.24 The Vaughans continued to occupy the castle until the early-17<sup>th</sup> century, after which the castle became a popular picturesque location. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the castle became a popular romantic ruin and was visited by many artists, including Turner.
- 3.2.25 By 1685, the castle passed into the ownership of the Pryse family.



- 3.2.26 The 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the ditch turned into a pond and the effects of quarrying caused the curtain wall of the bailey to collapse in 1863.
- 3.2.27 In 1938, Mrs Colby bought the castle and gifted it to the National Trust.
- 3.2.28 In 1943, the ruins were handed over to the State and are now managed by Cadw.

### 3.3 Cartographic Sources

- 3.3.1 The surveyors map of 1810 from the Ordnance Survey, draughted by Thomas Budgen, unfortunately shows no depiction of Cilgerran Caste.
- 3.3.2 The first clear depiction of the castle comes with the First Edition 25-inch to One Mile Ordnance Survey Map of 1888 (Fig. 6). At this time, the area of the wall we are concerned with is depicted as a surviving element of the outer ward curtain wall. This is replicated on the Second Edition of 1906 (Fig. 7), but is not shown on the 1976 edition (Fig. 8).

## 4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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### 4.1 Historic Buildings Record

- 4.1.1 The aim of the buildings record was to investigate and record the monument, with the production of a lasting record prior to any interventions required through a programme works, defined by the CIFA (2020: 3) as:

*A programme of archaeological building investigation and recording will determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource associated with a specified building, structure or complex. It will draw*

*on existing records (both archaeological and historical sources) and fieldwork. It will be undertaken using appropriate methods and practices which satisfy the stated aims of the project, and which comply with the Code of conduct, Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in archaeology, and other relevant by-laws of the CIfA. The programme will result in the production of drawings, an ordered accessible archive and a report'*

4.1.2 Produce a descriptive, drawn and photographic record of the monument prior to any alterations and interventions made to the monument through the planned programme of works.

4.1.3 Supplement the descriptive and photographic record with accurate drawn records, where and as these are required.

4.1.4 The results of the investigation and report will aim

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

4.1.5 And to provide an account of all and any alterations made to the Monument, so that future generations can understand the changes to the building. That is to say, how this programme of stabilisation works alters the fabric of the building.

## 5 METHODOLOGY

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### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 All archaeological works have been conducted by a qualified archaeologist, or under the direction of the qualified archaeologist, in accordance with the methodology set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ArchaeoDomus 2021) and in line with the *Standards and Guidance* from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

### 5.2 Survey Record

5.2.1 A photogrammetric survey of the wall was made prior to commencement of works. The methodology for this can be found in section 6.

5.2.2 Drawings were produced at a scale of 1:1 in CAD and supplied at 1:25 at A3 in PDF and JPG formats.

5.2.3 The drawn record has been appended to this report (**Appendix II**)

### 5.3 Photographic Recording

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

- ❖ Elevations.
- ❖ Details of the masonry and its materials.
- ❖ Record of interventions.

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

5.3.3 Photographs were taken with a standard Canon 760D 24-megapixel camera with 18-50mm standard or 10-22mm wide angle lens, or by mobile phone, with sensors no less than 13 megapixels.

5.3.4 All photographs have been named using the project code, in this instance AD098, which are followed by a reference and number. The reference codes used are as follows:

- ❖ HBR – Historic Buildings Record

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

#### **5.4 Documentary Research**

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

#### **5.5 Reporting**

5.5.1 This report has been written and compiled by Ross Cook.

5.5.2 This report has been written in Microsoft Word 2016 and uses Adobe Garamond Pro as its typeface.

#### **5.6 Health and Safety**

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

## **6 PHOTOGRAMMETRY METHODOLOGY AND OUTPUT**

---

### **6.1 Introduction**

6.1.1 The survey of the collapsed section of wall was undertaken on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

6.1.2 The aim of the survey was to capture the area of the monument using controlled 3D capture (photogrammetry), to enable the production of high-resolution orthographic images of the area of collapsed and its surrounding area prior to the commencement of works.

### **6.2 Method**

6.2.1 The structure was captured using a Canon 760D and Huawei P20 Pro. The settings, including ISO, f/stop and exposure were manually set during recording to enable the highest quality images for modelling. Photographs were taken from all angles and heights around the monument.

6.2.2 Control points were set around the monument and measurements were taken between set points using a tape and Disto.

6.2.3 Models were produced using proprietary photogrammetry software, into which 455 photographs of the monument were loaded for processing: Sparse point cloud → Dense point cloud → Mesh → Texture → Orthomosaic.

6.2.4 Dimensional control was then applied to the processed model using the scale bars set between markers placed on the monument. The model was then reprocessed using the new parameters and optimised cameras, which produced a model with RMS error of 0.69mm.

6.2.5 High face count meshes were produced to retain the integrity of the original object, and then textured to 8,094 pixels (OBJ).

6.2.6 On completion of each model, models were exported to OBJ format. Orthographic renders were exported and scaled in JPG format.

6.2.7 Scaled output from this is appended to this report (**Appendix II**)

### 6.3 Results

AD098 – Cilgerran Castle Wall Collapse – Photogrammetric Model		
<b>Photographs</b>	<b>File Size</b>	<b>Dense Point Cloud</b>
350	448 MB	55,666,938 points
<b>Mesh Face Count</b>	<b>Texture Size (pixels)</b>	<b>RMS Error (mm)</b>
7,638,270	8,094 x 8,094	0.69mm

## 7 RECORD OF INTERVENTIONS

---

### 7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 This section provides a breakdown of events and interventions made during the programme of works to reinstate the retaining wall.
- 7.1.2 Physical interventions to the monument took place between 4<sup>th</sup> January and 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021.
- 7.1.3 The contractor was Tree & Sons.

### 7.2 Event Timeline

- ❖ *27<sup>th</sup> August 2020:* Initial contact and project scope.
- ❖ *9<sup>th</sup> December 2020:* Pre-works photogrammetric survey.
- ❖ *4<sup>th</sup> January 2021:* Commencement of works.
- ❖ *14<sup>th</sup> January 2021:* Site meeting – after commencement.
- ❖ *9<sup>th</sup> July 2021:* Post-works record.

### 7.3 Pre-Works

- 7.3.1 Prior to all works commencing on site, on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020, an initial digital metric survey was undertaken to produce a full record of the affected area for the creation of an archaeological record. This took the form of a photogrammetric model, from which orthographic images were taken (**Appendix II**).
- 7.3.2 Samples of the mortar were taken from the core of the wall (AD098-MS01), and have been retained by ArchaeoDomus.
- 7.3.3 At this time, a photographic record was also made of the area.

### 7.4 Reinstatement Works

- 7.4.1 Commencement of works began on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021, without the communication of dates to ArchaeoDomus for attendance to maintain the planned watching brief during the dismantling of masonry prior to reinstatement. As such, the planned watching brief was not maintained.

7.4.2 Between 4<sup>th</sup> January and 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021, the area of collapse was dismantled to ground level. All stone was retained and reused.

7.4.3 Between, 12<sup>th</sup> January and 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021, the retaining wall was rebuilt using retained masonry from the collapse and dismantling. The existing foundations were used to rebuild the wall and new stainless-steel ties were used to anchor the modern masonry together.

## 7.5 **Post-Works Record**

7.5.1 On completion of the project the wall was recorded photographically by Joseph Cliff, Cadw. These photographs were provided to ArchaeoDomus for use in this report.

7.5.2 This report combines the information recorded through all elements of the project and seeks to provide a lasting account of the information recorded on site.



## 8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD

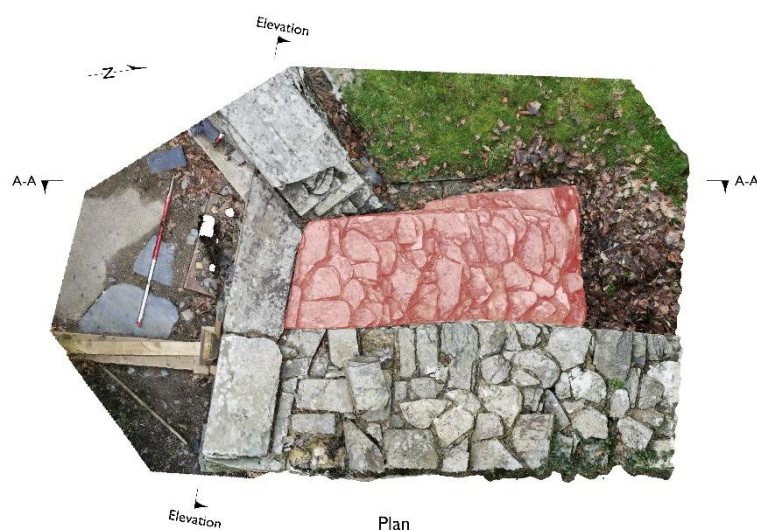
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### 8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 This section provides a descriptive and phased account of the location of collapse.
- 8.1.2 This record was undertaken on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020, and comprised a visual inspection, photographic record, and photogrammetric survey.
- 8.1.3 A planned watching brief was not able to be maintained as work commenced on dismantling without notice for the attendance to site.
- 8.1.4 A mortar sample was collected from the wall (AD098-MS-01).
- 8.1.5 The survey record is available in **Appendix II** and the photographic record in **Appendix III**.

### 8.2 Description (Plates 1-13; Fig. 5 & 10)

- 8.2.1 The area of wall is simple in form, comprising the earlier curtain wall truncated by a later retaining wall, which retains the historic core of the earlier. Figure 10 highlights the areas of historic interest.
- 8.2.2 The curtain wall runs on a roughly northeast-southwest alignment and is visible in the south-east corner of the outer bailey of the castle (highlighted red Fig. 5). The wall is formed of medium to large, laid limestone blocks bedded with an earth-clay mortar, with roughly shaped and coursed face. The earth-clay mortar contains aggregate of varying size, which is mainly rounded river gravel.



*Fig. 5 – 13<sup>th</sup> century retaining wall (red), against 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century retaining walls (uncoloured).*

- 8.2.3 The modern retaining runs on an east-west alignment across the end of the medieval curtain wall, which then returns to the north-east. It is formed of medium to large flat limestone blocks, bedded with a cementitious mortar.

### 8.3 Development

- 8.3.1 **Phase 1 – Early-13<sup>th</sup> Century:** The curtain wall was constructed, albeit in several distinct phases, as part of the works undertaken by William Marshal (b.1190 – d.1231), which are known to have improved and expanded the fortifications.

- 8.3.2 **Phase 2 – 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries:** The retaining wall was built and truncated the curtain wall.

### 8.4 Damage

- 8.4.1 In mid-2020, the retaining wall collapsed and exposed the core of the earlier curtain wall (**Plates 1-6; Fig. 9**). This caused the loss of a small amount of historic mortar from the core of the medieval curtain wall.

## 9 DISCUSSION

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- 9.1.1 The historic core exposed by the collapse of the late-20<sup>th</sup> century retaining wall demonstrates that the curtain wall is of a single phase of construction. It was constructed with a laid rubble stone face and core, with the core bedded in an earth-clay mortar. The stone was likely to have been quarried from the bedrock on which the castle is built.
- 9.1.2 The bonding of an earth-clay mortar observed in the curtain wall, is the same in its form of construction as that seen regionally at Cardigan and Nevern castles, and possibly at Newport as reported by Cathcart King, though the latter has not been substantiated. In the *Brut y Tywysogion*, it is noted that the Lord Rhys was building his castle at Cardigan in stone and mortar, which from observed evidence only bears a partial truth as the cores are earth-clay bonded. The use of an earth-clay mortar reflects a regional, vernacular form of construction and demonstrates the possible use of Welsh labour in its construction. Further to this, it could also reveal the scarcity of quicklime and the need to have constructed the fortifications quickly in a volatile region, with any lime-based mortar possibly being reserved for pointing or areas considered to require additional strength in its bonding. This discovery also raises the question of whether other elements of the castle masonry were also bonded in an earth-clay mortar, prior to later consolidation, particularly by the Ministry of Works in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 9.1.3 William Marshal (b.1190 – d.1231), was probably responsible for the construction of the outer bailey curtain walls, built as part of his strengthening of the castle following its capture from Llywelyn the Great (b.1173 – d.1240), in 1223. His improvements to the castle were considerable enough for it to remain in English hands until its redundancy.
- 9.1.4 In 1863, the effects of quarrying caused the outer bailey curtain wall to collapse, reducing most of the medieval wall to the east side of the bailey to ground level. A retaining wall was built to secure the remaining structure and raised ground of the outer bailey.
- 9.1.5 Sometime between 1906 and 1976, part of the outer bailey curtain wall was truncated to the height seen today, with the retaining wall built to protect the core and remains of the curtain wall.

## 10 ARCHIVING

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

## 11 SOURCES

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### 11.1 Written Sources

- 11.1.1 **Bogart, D.** Undated. *The Turnpike Roads of England and Wales*. Cambridge University.
- 11.1.2 **Caple, C.** 2015. *Nevern Castle: Searching for the first masonry castle in Wales*, in *Medieval Archaeology* 55 (1), Pg. 326-334. Taylor Francis, UK.
- 11.1.3 **Craster, O. E.** 1964. *Cilgerran Castle, Pembrokeshire*. H.M. Stationery Office, London.
- 11.1.4 **Hilling, J. B.** 2000. *Cilgerran Castle, St Dogmaels Abbey, Pentre Ifan Burial Chamber, Carreg Coetan Arthur Burial Chamber*. Cadw Guidebooks. Cadw, Cardiff.
- 11.1.5 **CIFA**, 2014, *Standards and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*.
- 11.1.6 **CIFA**, 2014, *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*.
- 11.1.7 **Welsh Government**, 2017, *Planning Policy Wales; Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment*. Crown Copyright.

### 11.2 Online Sources

#### 11.2.1 British Geological Survey

Accessed: December 2020

[www.bsg.ac.uk](http://www.bsg.ac.uk)

### 11.2.2 UK Soil Observatory

Accessed: December 2020

[www.ukso.org.uk](http://www.ukso.org.uk)

## 11.3 Maps

11.3.1 1888 OS 25 Inch to One Mile Map First Edition - Pembrokeshire

11.3.2 1906 OS 25 Inch to One Mile Map Second Edition - Pembrokeshire

11.3.3 1976 OS 1:25,000 Map - Pembrokeshire

# APPENDIX I

Location

&

Mapping

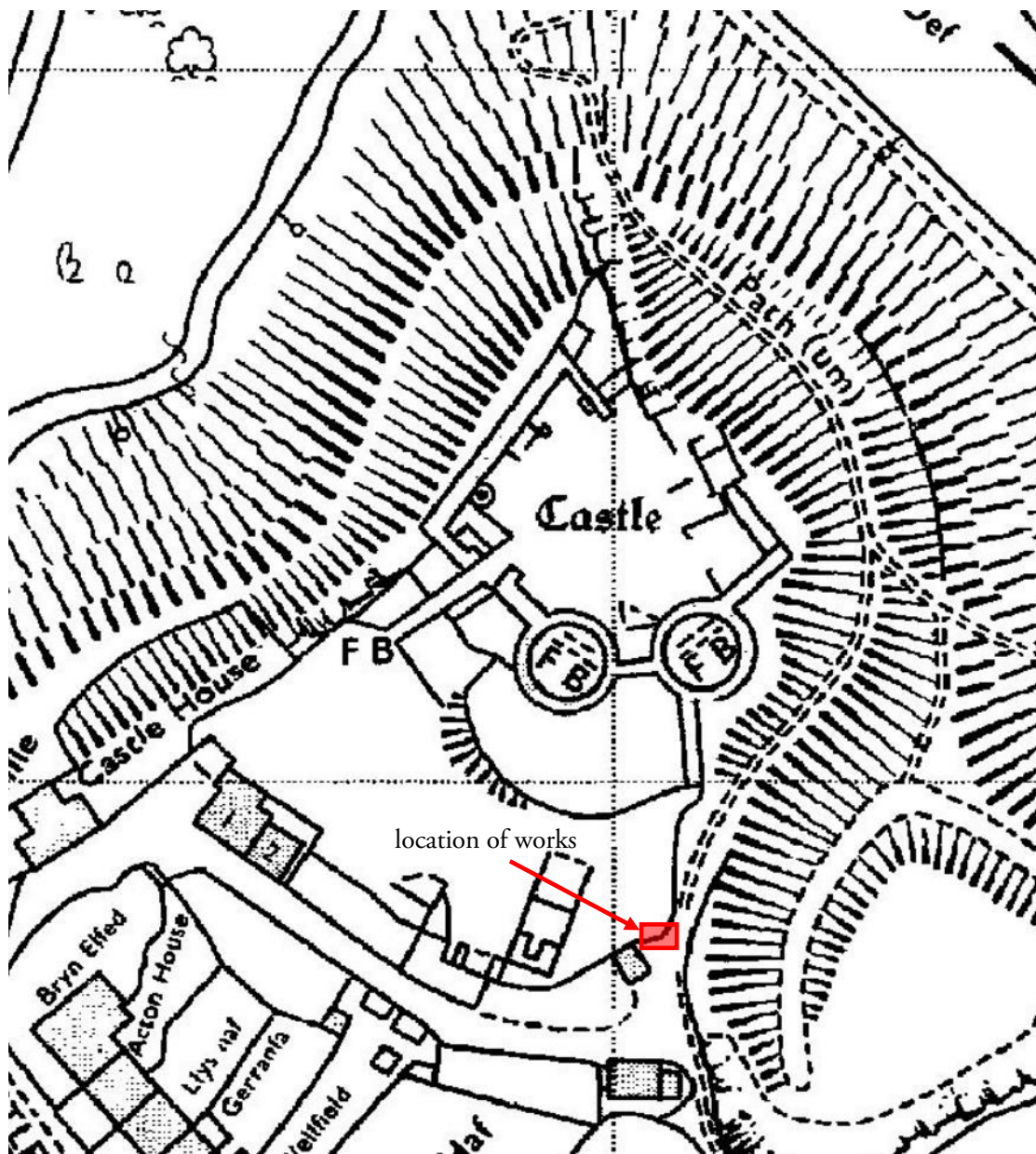


Fig. 6 – Location of works.

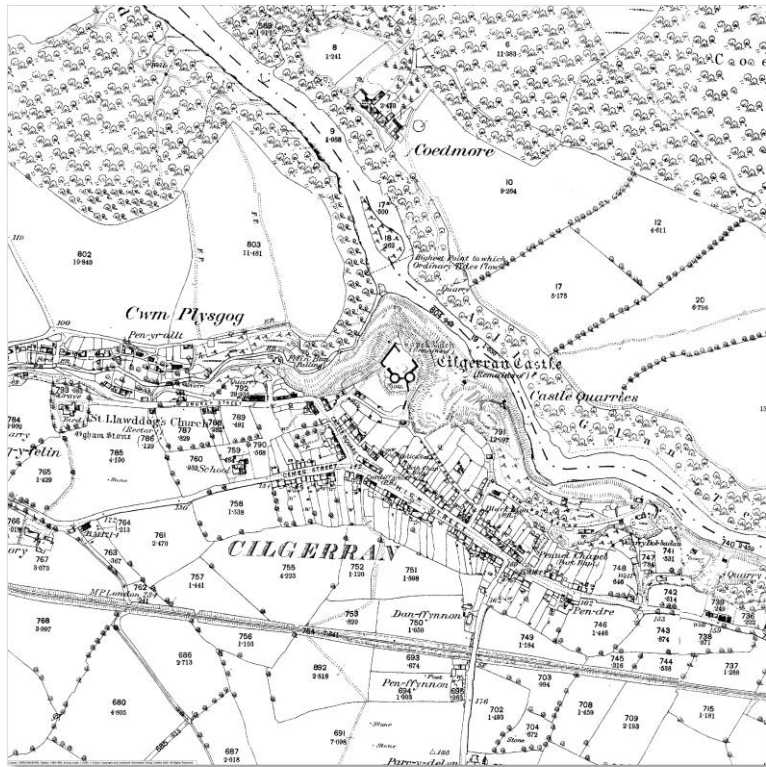


Fig. 7 – 1888 25 Inch to One Mile, OS.  
© Landmark Information Group Limited 2020.

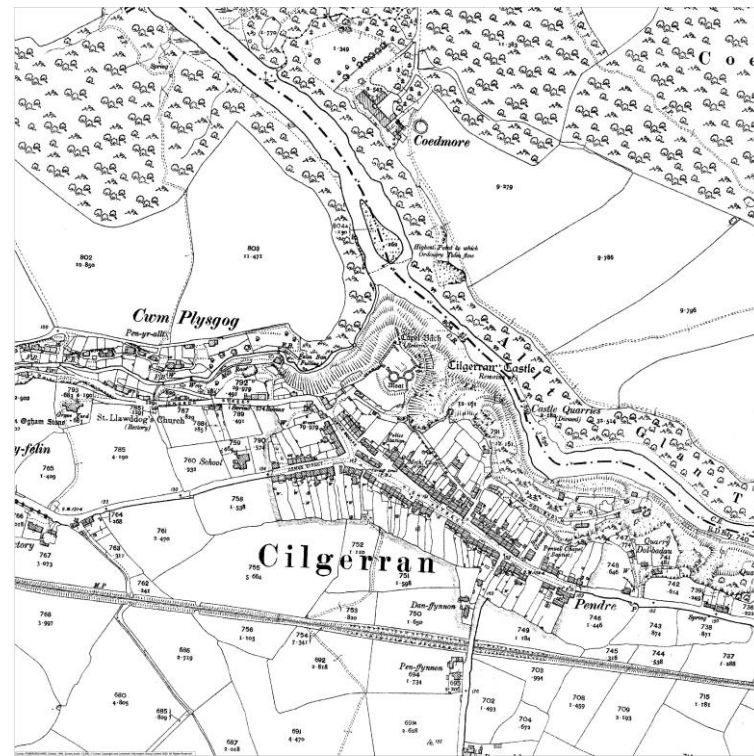


Fig. 8 – 1906 25 Inch to One Mile, OS.  
© Landmark Information Group Limited 2020.

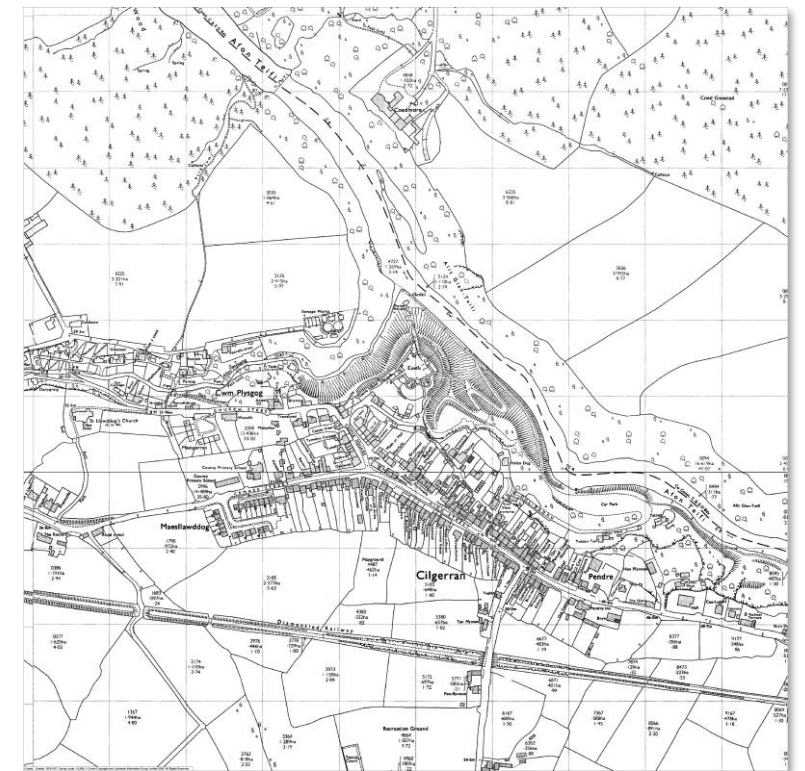


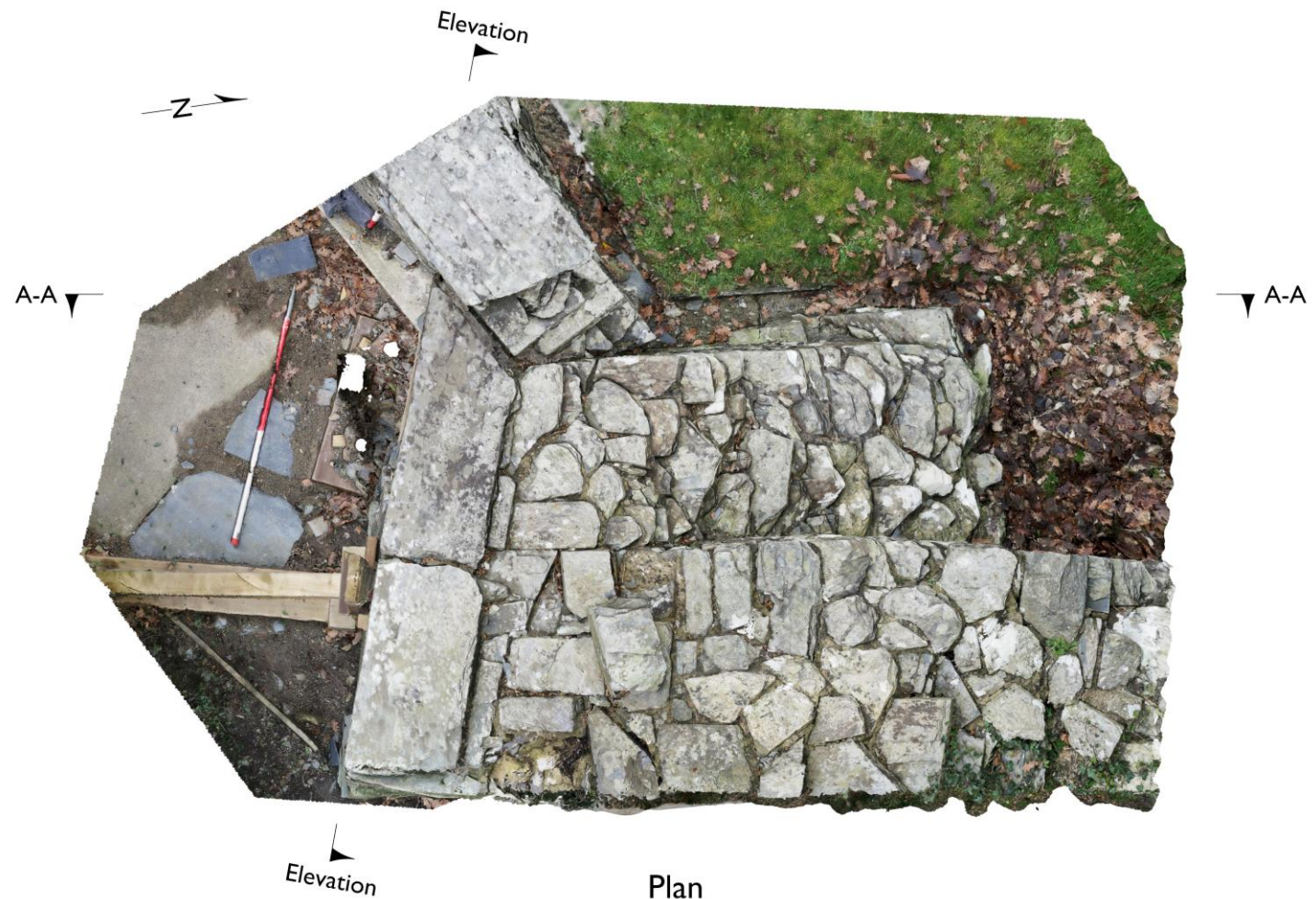
Fig. 9 – 1976 25 Inch to One Mile, OS.  
© Landmark Information Group Limited 2020.



## **APPENDIX II**

### **Survey Record**

**Cilgerran Castle, Pembrokeshire**




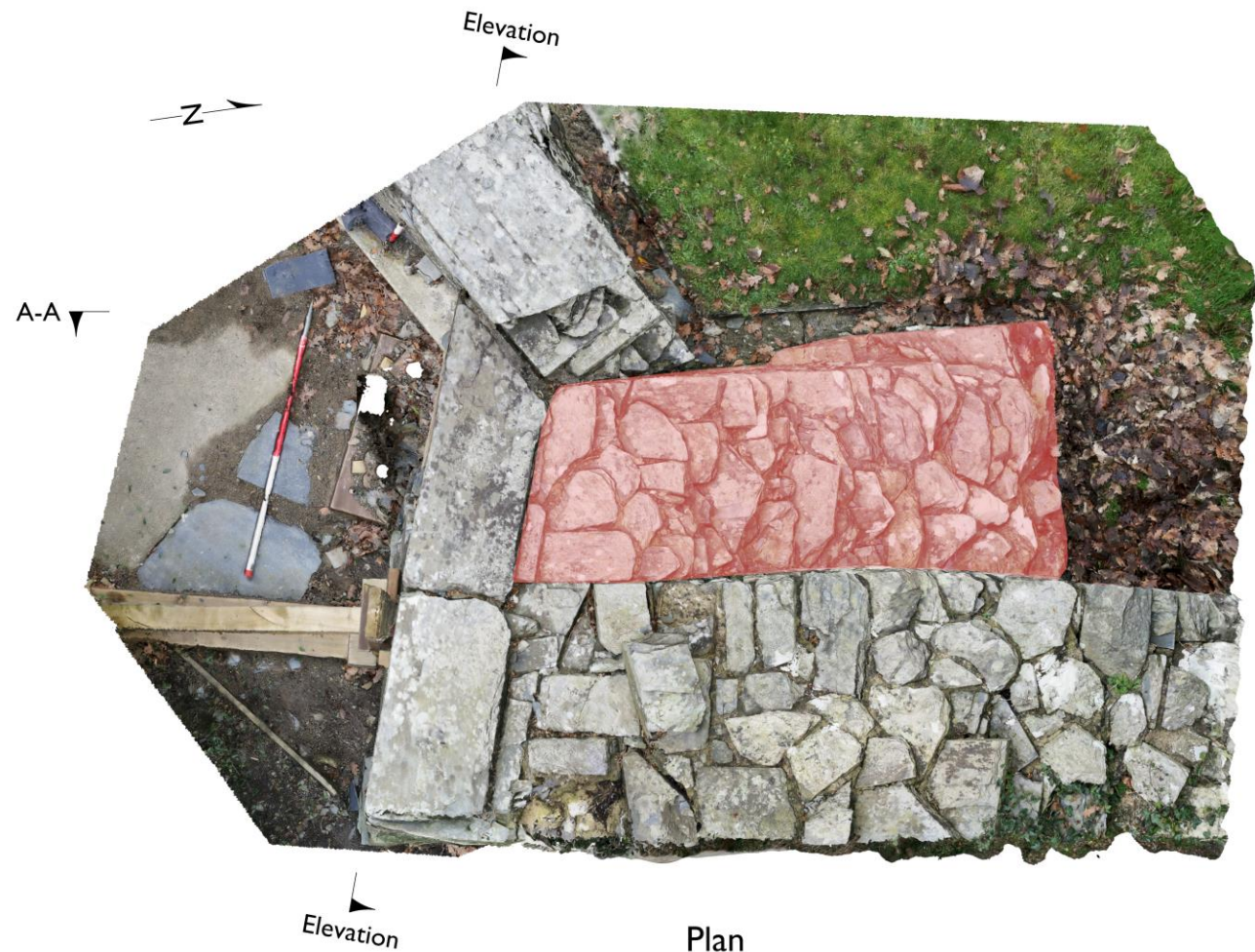
 Archaeological & Heritage Services <small>3 Cynod-y-Coid, Cemunn, Lampeter, Carmarthenshire, SA48 8DN                  Tel: 01570 218048 / 07910 212057 Email: ross_cook@archaeodomus.co.uk                  www.archaeodomus.co.uk</small>			
<b>Project</b>			
Survey of Cilgerran Castle Outer Bailey Curtain Wall Collapse			
<b>Drawing Title</b>			
Orthographic Elevation, Sections and Plan as Existing			
<b>Surveyor</b>		<b>Drawn</b>	
Ross Cook		Ross Cook	
<b>Drawing No.</b>	<b>Revision</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Date</b>
AD115-1	0	1:25 @ A3	Aug. 2021



Fig. 10 – Orthographic Elevation, Section and Plan as Existing.

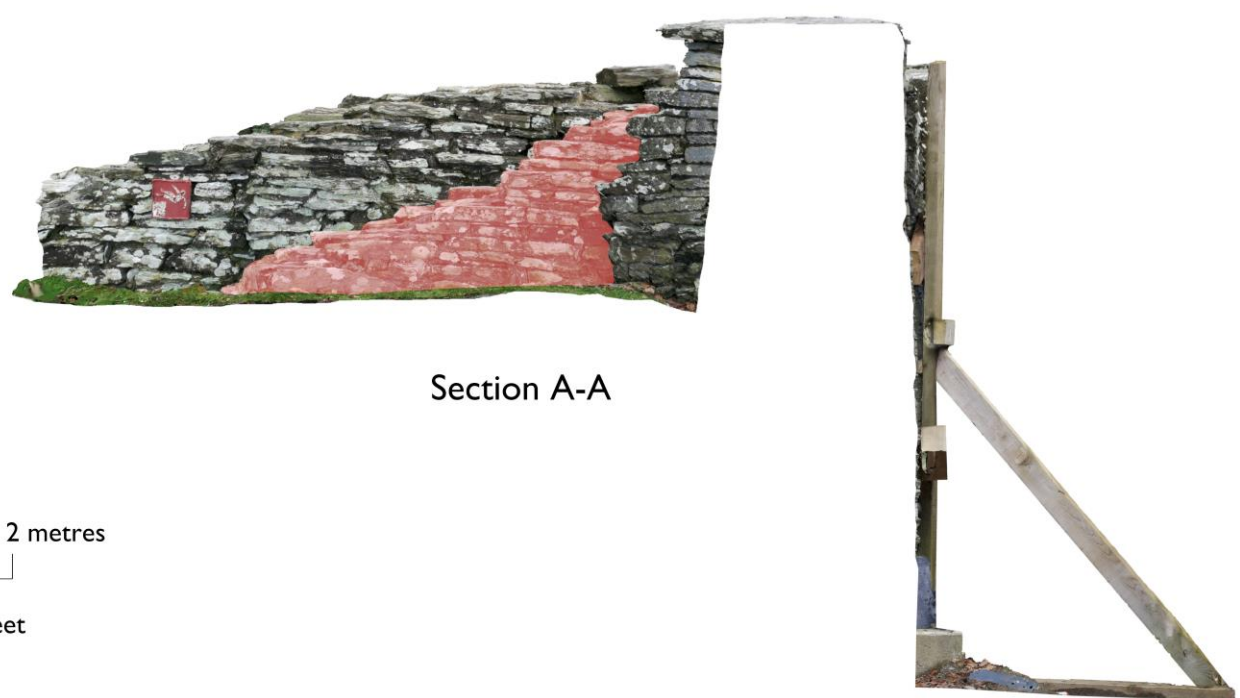
**Cilgerran Castle, Pembrokeshire**



Plan



Elevation



Section A-A

<p><b>ArchaeoDomus</b> Archaeological &amp; Heritage Services</p> <p><small>3 Cynogod-y-Coid, Cwmann, Lampeter, Carmarthenshire, SA48 8DN Tel: 01570 218048 / 07910 213557 Email: ross_cook@archaeodomus.co.uk www.archaeodomus.co.uk</small></p>			
<b>Project</b>			
Survey of Cilgerran Castle Outer Bailey Curtain Wall Collapse			
<b>Drawing Title</b>			
Annotated Orthographic Elevation, Sections and Plan as Existing			
<b>Surveyor</b>		<b>Drawn</b>	
Ross Cook		Ross Cook	
<b>Drawing No.</b>	<b>Revision</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Date</b>
AD115-2	0	1:25 @ A3	Aug. 2021

Early-13th Century  
 Unshaded - C19th & C20th



Fig. 11 – Annotated Orthographic Elevation, Section and Plan as Existing.

## APPENDIX III

### Photographic Archive



Plate 1 – View towards north, showing area of collapsed. Photo rotated 90° anticlockwise.



Plate 2 – View north, showing coursed rubble fill of wall core, with earth-clay bedding mortar.  
Photo rotated 90° anticlockwise.



Plate 3 – View north, showing earth-clay mortar of bonding matrix of curtain wall.



Plate 4 – View north, showing mortar *in situ* between coursed rubble fill of curtain wall core.



Plate 5 – View east, showing encasing modern retaining wall. Photo rotated 90° anticlockwise.



Plate 6 – View north-west, showing joint between modern retaining wall and historic core.  
Photo rotated 90° anticlockwise.



Plate 7 – View north, showing rebuilding of new retaining wall to historic core.  
Photo rotated 90° anticlockwise.



Plate 8 – View north, showing full width of rebuild, including stainless steel ties.





Plate 9 – View north-west, showing insertion of stainless-steel tie and introduction of lime mortar.  
Photo rotated 90° anticlockwise.



Plate 10 – View north, showing completed rebuild or retaining wall.  
Photo rotated 90° anticlockwise. Photo courtesy of Joseph Cliff, Cadw.



Plate 11 – View north, showing drainage holes to base of new retaining wall.  
Photo courtesy of Joseph Cliff, Cadw.



Plate 12 - View north-west, showing repair to south-west corner of retaining wall.  
Photo courtesy of Joseph Cliff, Cadw.



Plate 13 – View south, showing the modern retaining wall capping.

## **APPENDIX IV**

**Scheduled Monuments**

**&**

**Listed Buildings**

<b>Monument Description</b>	Cilgerran Castle	<b>Cadw ID</b>	PE002
<b>Status</b>	Designated	<b>Community</b>	Cilgerran
<b>Date Scheduled</b>	1915	<b>County</b>	Pembrokeshire
<b>Easting / Northing</b>	219493 243117	<b>Period</b>	Medieval
<b>Broad Class</b>	Defence	<b>Site Type</b>	Castle

#### Summary Description and Reason for Designation

The following provides a general description of the Scheduled Ancient Monument. The monument consists of the remains of a castle, dating to the medieval period. Cilgerran castle is situated on a precipitous rocky promontory above the River Teifi. It comprises an outer ward separated by a defensive ditch from an inner ward defended by two strong towers and a main gatehouse. The castle may be the site of 'Cenarth Bychan' where a Welsh attack of 1109 resulted in Nest the wife of Gerald of Windsor absconding with Owain the son of the Prince of Powys the name is first mentioned in 1164, when captured by the Lord Rhys. It was recaptured by William Marshal, earl of Pembroke, in 1204 and then retaken by the Welsh during Llewellyn the Great's campaigns during 1215. William's son, another William, regained control eight years later and it is likely the present masonry castle is his work. The form of the castle may reflect the earliest earthwork castle as the bank and ditch cutting off the promontory and enclosing the outer ward might be the site of the original bailey. The outer ward has a gatehouse surviving as low footings but its date is uncertain, the ward wall is a modern rebuild following the collapse of the original wall due to quarrying on the cliff below. The inner ward William fortified in stone with two towers and a gatehouse. The strong, plain round towers protrude well beyond the curtain wall and the outer defensive parts are thicker than the inner, as series of arrow slits are the only openings on the outer side. Both towers have a ground floor and three upper storeys. The eastern tower entered at first-floor level from the courtyard by a door leading to a newel stair had a separate entrance to the ground floor and the upper floors were probably accessed by a trapdoor. The west tower originally also had a first-floor entrance this reached by a stair from the inner ward. The ground floor must have been reached by a trap door and possibly functioning as a strong room or dungeon. Later a door was inserted together with a newel stair to provide access to above and a cross wall so that a portion could remain as a strong room. The gatehouse, now collapsed, has a gate passage with portcullis grooves and draw bar holes. Above was a vaulted room, perhaps a chapel, and above this a passage in the curtain wall connected with the two round towers, these could also be reached from the curtain wall walk. Along the northeast and northwest sides of the inner ward the curtain wall and the remains of buildings date to the second half of the thirteenth century by which time the castle had passed through marriage from the Marshalls first to the de Cantelupes and then to the Hastings family. Footings remain of a hall and private apartments and a kitchen against the west wall. In the 1370's an invasion from France was feared, and Edward III ordered that the now rather derelict castle be refortified and a large tower at the northwest corner probably belongs to this period. After 1389, when the Hastings family died out, the castle passed to the crown. It may have been captured and held for a short time in 1405 during Glyndwr's wars of independence, it was certainly damaged during the attack. After that the castle's active military service came to an end. In the Tudor period, the Vaughan family were granted the castle by Henry VII, and they continued to occupy it until the early 17th century, when they built a new house nearby. The castle fell into ruin, but its picturesque setting made it an early favourite among tourists, who from the 18th century, could visit by boat from Cardigan. The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of medieval defensive practices. The monument is well-preserved and an

important relic of the medieval landscape. It retains significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability of the presence of both structural evidence and intact associated deposits. The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive.

<b>Monument Description</b>	Cilgerran Castle	<b>Cadw ID</b>	PE384
<b>Status</b>	Designated	<b>Community</b>	Cilgerran
<b>Date Scheduled</b>	1972	<b>County</b>	Pembrokeshire
<b>Easting / Northing</b>	219466 243078	<b>Period</b>	Medieval
<b>Broad Class</b>	Defence	<b>Site Type</b>	Castle

**Summary Description and Reason for Designation**

The following provides a general description of the Scheduled Ancient Monument. The monument consists of a part of the remains of a castle, dating to the medieval period. It comprises a part of the original ditch that protected the bailey of the early castle at Cilgerran and which later formed part of the defences of the outer ward, together with an area of the castle's gatehouse, parts of which survive as low wall footings. The gatehouse's date is uncertain though it is thought to be early in the castle's history. The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of medieval defensive practices. The monument is well-preserved and an important relic of the medieval landscape. It retains significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability of the presence of both structural evidence and intact associated deposits. The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive and is an addition to the scheduling of the majority of Cilgerran Castle as scheduled monument CM002.

<b>Building Description</b>	Cilgerran Castle	<b>Cadw ID</b>	14491
<b>Grade</b>	I	<b>Community</b>	Cilgerran
<b>Date Listed</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> April 1995	<b>County</b>	Pembrokeshire
<b>Easting / Northing</b>	219498 243135	<b>Postcode</b>	
<b>History</b>			
<p>C13 Castle rebuilt after 1223 by William Marshal II, Earl of Pembroke, probably replacing an early C12 castle built by Gerald of Windsor; but the identification of Cilgerran with Gerald's castle of Cenarth Bychan is unproven. The castle named as Cilgerran is first mentioned when it was taken by Lord Rhys in 1164-5. It was retaken by William Marshal I, Earl of Pembroke in 1204, recovered by Llewellyn the Great in 1213, and retaken by William Marshal II in 1223. Cilgerran remained an independent Marcher lordship under the Marshals to 1245, the de Cantelupes of Abergavenny to 1273 and by descent to the Hastings family (Earls of Pembroke from 1339) to 1389, when it passed to the crown in default of heirs. It was possibly briefly captured by Owen Glyndwr in 1405. The castle was already stripped of furnishings in 1275, and said to be ruinous in 1325, though some repairs were carried out for the Crown in 1388-90; it was said to have been laid waste in 1405.</p>			
<b>Exterior</b>			
<p>The ruins chiefly surround the inner ward, with two massive early C13 circular towers on the S side joined by curtain wall. To the W was the early C13 gatehouse of which the outer part has gone. The chapel may have been on the first floor. The W curtain wall over the steep drop to the Afon Plysgog is said to date to the later C13, and the partial remains of a NW tower possibly to the later C14. Insubstantial remains close the N side, above the Teifi. Scheduled Ancient Monument Pe 2.</p>			

ArchaeoDomus Archaeological & Heritage Services

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Social/Cymdeithasol: www.twitter.com/archaeodomus  
www.facebook.com/archaeodomus