



**Old Beaupre Castle,
Cowbridge,
South Glamorgan
CF71 7LT.**

Archaeological Building Investigation & Recording



By

Richard Scott Jones (*BA, MA, MCIfA*)

June 2023

HRS Wales
Report No: 272
(V1)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING INVESTIGATION & RECORDING

**Old Beaupre Castle,
Cowbridge,
South Glamorgan
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By

Richard Scott Jones (*BA Hons, MA, MCIfA*)

Prepared for:

Jonathan Berry
Cadw

On behalf of:

Date: July 2023

HRSW Report No: 272 (V1)



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Non Technical Summary

This report details the results of a small program of archaeological building investigation and recording (ABIR) undertaken at the scheduled monument of Old Beaupre Castle, Cowbridge, South Glamorgan (NGR: ST 009 721) prior to letting in of a new header stone in the doorway of the west room of the Outer Gatehouse.

The specific objective of the work was to create a lasting record of the doorway in the west room of the Outer Gatehouse at Old Beaupre.

The investigation and recording of the doorway into the west room of the Outer Gatehouse revealed that the original header stone has broken off and only a small section on the southern side still remains. A browse through the report catalogue of loose architectural fragments made in 2009 (CAP Report 562) shows that the missing fragment is not stored in the former gatehouse room in the southern range.

Investigation of the missing stone slot also revealed that there is a long oak lintel on the internal side of the doorway that appears to be contemporary with the dressed stones on the outer face.

The archaeological Investigation and recording of the west room doorway of the Outer Gatehouse at Old Beaupre has managed to create a lasting record of doorway prior to the letting in of a new header stone and as such adds to the record and archive of the development and demise of the manor since the 17th Century.

Crynoledb Annhechnolegol

Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn manylu ar ganlyniadau rhaglen fach o ymchwilio a chofnodi adeiladau archeolegol (ABIR) a gynhaliwyd ar heneb gofrestredig Hen Gastell Beaupre, Cowbridge, De Morgannwg (NGR: ST 009 721) cyn gosod carreg bennawd newydd yn yr adeilad. drws ystafell orllewinol y Porthdy Allanol.

Amcan penodol y gwaith oedd creu cofnod parhaol o'r drws yn ystafell orllewinol y Porthdy Allanol yn Old Beaupre.

Datgelodd yr archwiliad a'r recordiad o'r drws i ystafell orllewinol y Porthdy Allanol fod y garreg bennawd wreiddiol wedi torri i ffwrdd a dim ond rhan fechan ar yr ochr ddeheuol sydd ar ôl. Mae pori trwy gatalog yr adroddiad o ddarnau pensaernïol rhydd a wnaed yn 2009 (Adroddiad CAP 562) yn dangos nad yw'r darn coll yn cael ei storio yn yr hen ystafell borthdy yn y rhes ddeheuol.

Datgelodd ymchwiliad i'r slot carreg coll hefyd fod yna lintel derw hir ar ochr fewnol y drws sy'n ymddangos yn gyfoes â'r cerrig nadd ar yr wyneb allanol.

Mae'r gwaith archwilio a chofnodi archaeolegol o ddrws ystafell orllewinol y Porthdy Allanol yn Old Beaupre wedi llwyddo i greu cofnod parhaol o'r drws cyn gosod carreg bennawd newydd ac felly'n ychwanegu at gofnod ac archif y datblygiad a'r tranc. y faenor er yr 17eg Ganrif.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report details the results of a small program of archaeological building investigation and recording (ABIR) undertaken at the scheduled monument of Old Beaupre Castle, Cowbridge, South Glamorgan (NGR: ST 009 721) prior to letting in of a new header stone in the west room doorway of the Outer Gatehouse..
- 1.2 This report has been prepared by Richard Scott Jones (*BA, MA, MCIfA*) of Heritage Recording Services Wales (henceforth HRS Wales) for Cadw.
- 1.3 The specific objective of the work was to:
- Create a lasting record of the doorway in the west room of the Outer Gatehouse at Old Beaupre Castle.
- 1.4 The Technical Appendices for this report contains the following information:
- *Appendix I: Figures;*
 - *Appendix II: Photo plates*
 - *Appendix III: Archive Cover Sheet*

Site Location & Description (*Figures 1-4*)

- 1.5 Old Beaupre Castle is located southeast of Cowbridge and just southwest of the village of St. Hilary (NGR: ST 009 721). Old Beaupre was a medieval and then a Tudor manor house positioned in a rustic rural idyll on the east bank of the River Thaw. The house was built around two courtyards. The earliest medieval part dates from about 1300 and consisted of a group of buildings loosely arranged around the southern-most, or inner court. In the 16th century an extensive program of rebuilding was undertaken, started by Sir Rice Mansel, but continued by William Bassett and finished by his son Richard. The Bassett phase of work added the northern-most buildings around the middle court, and included the building of Old Beaupre's most important feature, the outer gatehouse and the storeyed porch. Both these late 16th Century structures are remarkably well preserved, despite the ruinous state of most of the other buildings around them.
- 1.6 The following text has been extracted from the Cadw official guide:

“From the outside the manor appears tall and rather gaunt, with few windows; with the exception of the outer gatehouse, it was mainly inward-facing. The visitor enters over a stile in the walled outer court and encounters the three-storeyed outer gatehouse and embattled curtain wall, which were part of the great Tudor rebuilding. The main feature is the arched entrance with its pseudo-classical decorative surround. Over the columns can just be made out the capitals R B (Richard Bassett), C B (Catherine Bassett, his first wife), 1586, and R B. Above the doorway is a heraldic panel which includes the motto of the Bassett family, which reads 'Better death than dishonor'. The middle court within is completely enclosed by a high curtain wall with a wall-walk around the top which was rather curiously suspended between

two parallel walls on the east side. Below this side is a raised terrace which was probably a garden feature. The tall, narrow building in the northeast corner is of unknown purpose.

The south range and tall gabled block to the north-east is the oldest part of the manor. This was originally the northern side of a court to the south, which is now a private garden. The original gatehouse can be made out to the left of the porch where there is a blocked arch with a Tudor window inserted into it. In the Tudor building, this was converted into two rooms. The ground floor is not open to the public, but the first floor can be reached up some steep stairs to the left of the present entrance, or through a Tudor door into the northeast block from the east wall-walk. Tiny stairs lead to a small privy and a now floorless upper level. The entrance porch leads straight into the 14th-century hall, now open to the sky. Like the rest of the range it was much altered, particularly with the insertion of bigger windows in the 16th century, but it retains its magnificent heraldic 14th-century fireplace, possibly moved to its present position from the west wall in the Tudor rebuilding. A modern wooden walkway leads across the east end at first-floor level where there may originally have been a gallery. The fine six-light window facing the inner court is 16th century. The other 14th-century buildings ranged around the court are not open to the public. At the west end of the court, overlooking the valley, is a garden terrace, probably added in the 16th century.

Along the west side of the middle court is a large block which is the earliest part of the Tudor additions, built probably by Sir Rice Mansel in about 1540. It is a three-storey building, now roofless and floorless, which was evidently luxurious living accommodation judging from the large windows, fireplaces and in particular the stairs and privies. The stairs were innovative - their lower, stone treads survive in a great square stair well with a central pillar, which still stands to its full height. The privies were numerous and were all housed at the north end of the building, with a running water drain which still survives.

The last and architecturally most important feature at Old Beaupre is the great storeyed porch. The contrast between the porch's smooth yellow ashlar stonework and the surrounding rough local stone is stark but misleading. Originally, all the walls were rendered with the same fake ashlar. The porch is built to a very high standard, and its details, except for the lozenges at the base, are very well preserved. In typical Tudor fashion it combines a number of styles, with its Tudor archway, classical columns and strapwork decoration. The north face is divided into three stages, with pairs of columns, in the classically correct ascending order of Doric, Ionic and Corinthian, flanking the entrance. Above them are heraldic panels and a blocked window. The panel is another celebration of the Bassett family, and below is an inscription in three small panels which states that Richard Bassett built this porch in 1600 at an age of 65. The earliest known use of brick in Glamorgan is in the inner facing of the porch, the surface of which is grooved to simulate rustication. The chimney to the right of the porch, now lacking its top half, was probably built at the same time. Thereafter Old Beaupre was little altered. After the Civil War the family's fortunes declined, and by the time it was sold at the beginning of the 18th century only part was still habitable" (Whittle 1992).

Conservation Works

- 1.8 As part of the conservation works on the western chamber range (Madam Bassetts Chamber), a new header stone is to be cut and let into the doorway of the west room of the Outer Gatehouse at Old Beaupre Castle.

2 Mitigation

Aims & Objectives

- 2.1 The specific objective of this work was to undertake a program of archaeological standing building investigation and recording of the doorway into the west room of the Outer Gatehouse prior to the letting in of a new header stone in the west room doorway of the Outer Gatehouse.
- 2.2 In order to mitigate against any potential negative effects as a result of the conservation works, the proposed archaeological works consisted of one element:

- 1) **Level 3** Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings. This is typically a photographic and a descriptive record. Each architectural feature is described and was recorded photographically and graphically. The record presents conclusions regarding each architectural feature. Interpretative plans of each architectural element were also made.

The reasons for the standing building recording are:

- to seek a better understanding, compile a lasting record, analyse the findings/record, and then disseminate the results.

3 Methodology

- 3.1 The archaeological building investigation and recording was undertaken by HRS Wales staff using current best practice on the 26th June 2023.
- 3.2 All work was undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist with relevant level membership of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and followed the CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings (CIfA 2014). Richard Scott Jones (*BA, MA, MCIfA*) undertook and managed the project.
- 3.3 Recording was carried out using HRS Wales recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc), using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.
- 3.4 Any required plans and sections were either drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.
- 3.5 All features identified will be tied in to the both the OS National Grid and all local site and ground plans.

3.6 Photographs were appropriated in digital format, using a 24 mega-pixel DSLR camera, with photographs stored in both RAW and high quality JPEG formats. All RAW formats were exported into TIFF files in preparation for archiving.

4. Cartographic Sources (see Figures 9 - 16)

4.1 *Tithe Map and apportionment of the parish of St. Hilary (1841)*

4.2 This mid 19th Century map for the parish of Saint Hilary shows the buildings at Old Beaupre as roofed (No. 166).

4.3 *Ordnance Survey First Edition Map (1885)*

4.4 Old Beaupre Castle is shown on the OS First Edition map of 1885 as being in ruins but the southernmost farm buildings are still in use as a dwelling known as Old Beaupre

4.5 *Ordnance Survey Second Edition Map (1900)*

4.6 Much the same as the earlier map series

4.7 *Ordnance Survey 1921 Edition Map*

4.8 Much the same as the earlier map series

5 Results of Archaeological Building Investigation and Recording (See Figures 9 – 17)

5.1 The ABIR was undertaken at Level III

5.2 *General Description*

5.3 The specific objective of this work was to undertake a program of archaeological standing building investigation and recording of the doorway into the west room of the Outer Gatehouse prior to the letting in of a new header stone in the west room doorway of the Outer Gatehouse. and thus Create a lasting record.

5.4 The investigation and recording of the doorway into the west room of the Outer Gatehouse revealed that the original header stone has broken off and only a small section on the southern side still remains. A browse through the report catalogue of loose architectural fragments made in 2009 (CAP Report 562) shows that the missing fragment is not stored in the former gatehouse room in the southern range.

5.5 Investigation of the missing stone slot also revealed that there is a long oak lintel on the internal side of the doorway that appears to be contemporary with the dressed stones on the outer face.

6 Conclusions

6.1 The archaeological Investigation and recording of the west room doorway of the Outer Gatehouse at Old Beaupre has managed to create a lasting record of doorway prior to the letting in of a new header

stone and as such adds to the record and archive of the development and demise of the manor since the 17th Century.

7 Acknowledgements

Thanks to: Gareth Williams and the Cadw team for allowing access to the manor for investigation and recording and hence the compilation of a lasting record of the building for historical archiving purposes.

8 Bibliography & References

LEWIS, S. 1849. *Topographical Dictionary of Wales*.

TURNER, R. 2009. *The Development of Old Beaupre and its Gardens*. Cadw publication.

WHITTLE, E. 1992. *A Guide to Ancient and Historic Wales – Glamorgan and Gwent*. London: HMSO

Cartographic Sources

- *Tithe Map and apportionment of the parish of St. Hilary's (1841)*
- *Ordnance Survey First Edition Map (1885)*
- *Ordnance Survey Second Edition Map (1900)*
- *Ordnance Survey 1921 Edition Map*
- *OS Landranger (1:50,000)*
- *OS Explorer (1:25,000)*
- *OS Aerial Photo (OS 2022)*

APPENDIX I:

Figures



Project Title: Old Beaupre Castle, Cowbridge	
Date: 14th June 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
Drawn by:	Drawing No.:

Figure 1.
Location Map (OS 1:50,000 Landranger)





Project Title: Old Beaupre Castle, Cowbridge	
Date: 14th June 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
Drawn by:	Drawing No.

Figure 2. Location Map (OS 1:25,000 Explorer)





Project Title: Old Beaupre Castle, Cowbridge	
Date: 14th June 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
Drawn by:	Drawing No.:

Figure 3.
Tithe Map for parish of St. Hilarys (1841) showing Old Beaupre Castle.

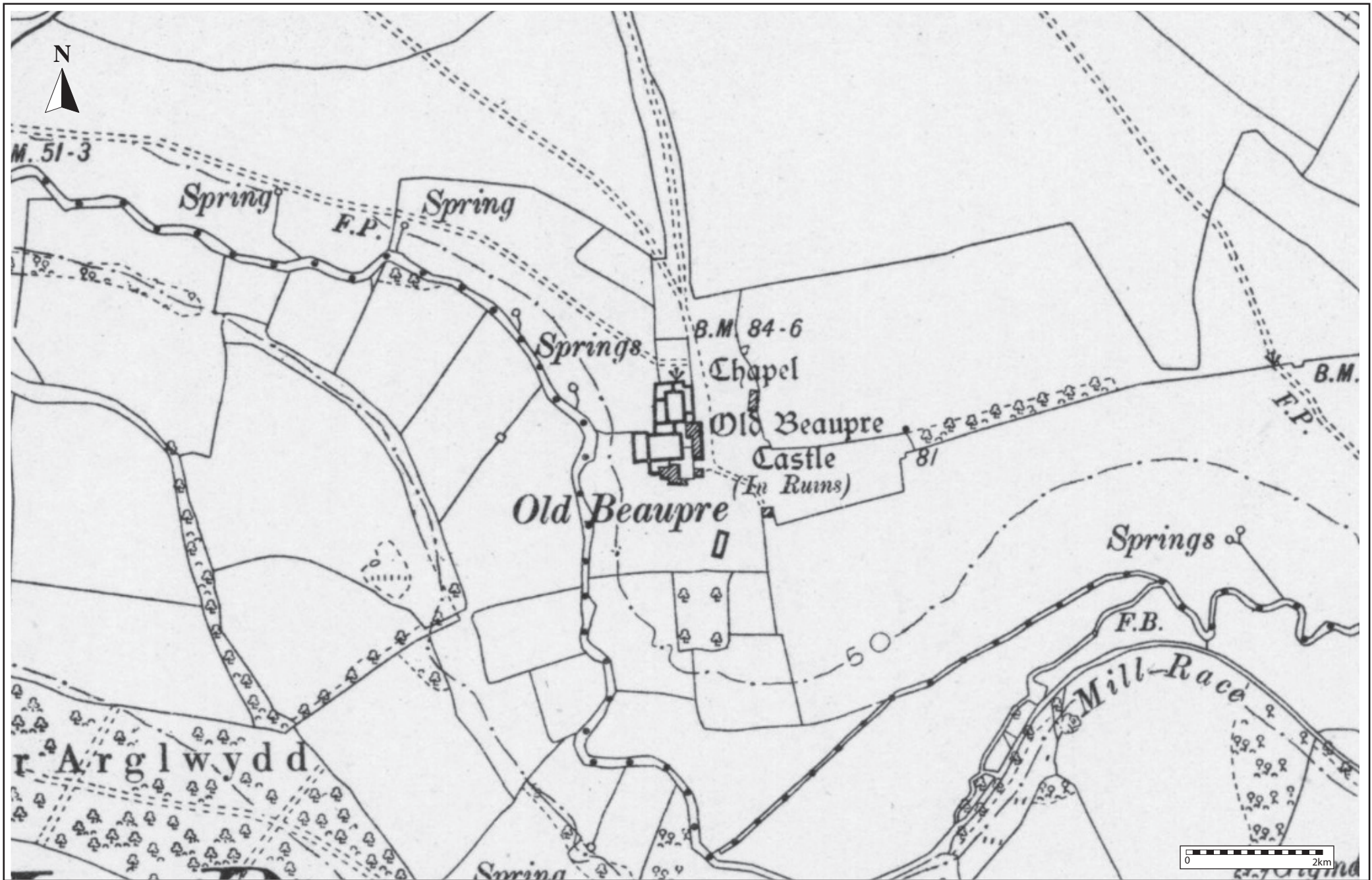




Project Title: Old Beaupre Castle, Cowbridge	
Date: 14th June 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
Drawn by:	Drawing No.:

Figure 4.
Ordnance Survey First Edition Map (1886)





Project Title: Old Beaupre Castle, Cowbridge

Date: 14th June 2023

Drawn by:

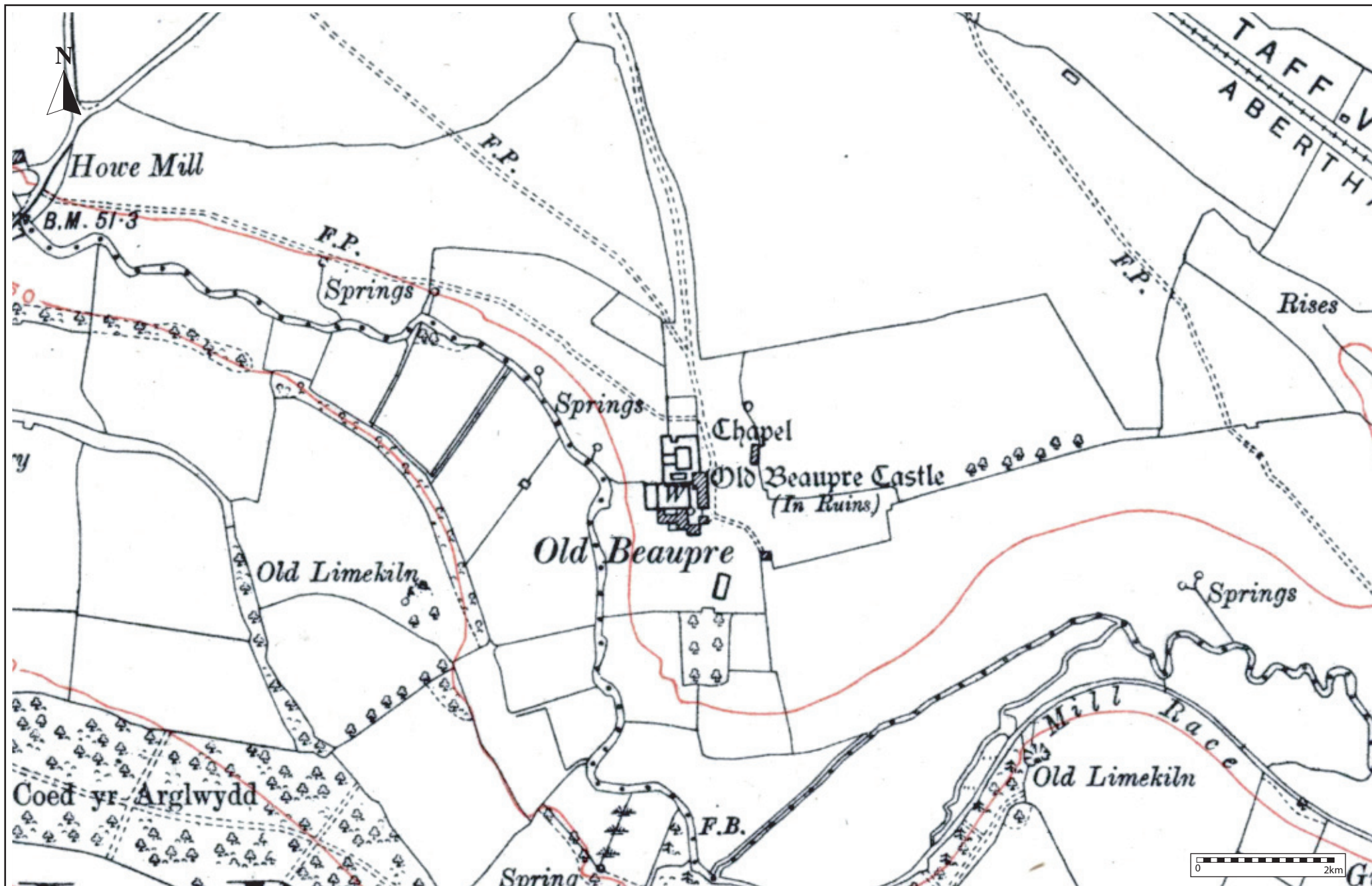
Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Figure 5.

Ordnance Survey Second Edition Map (1900)





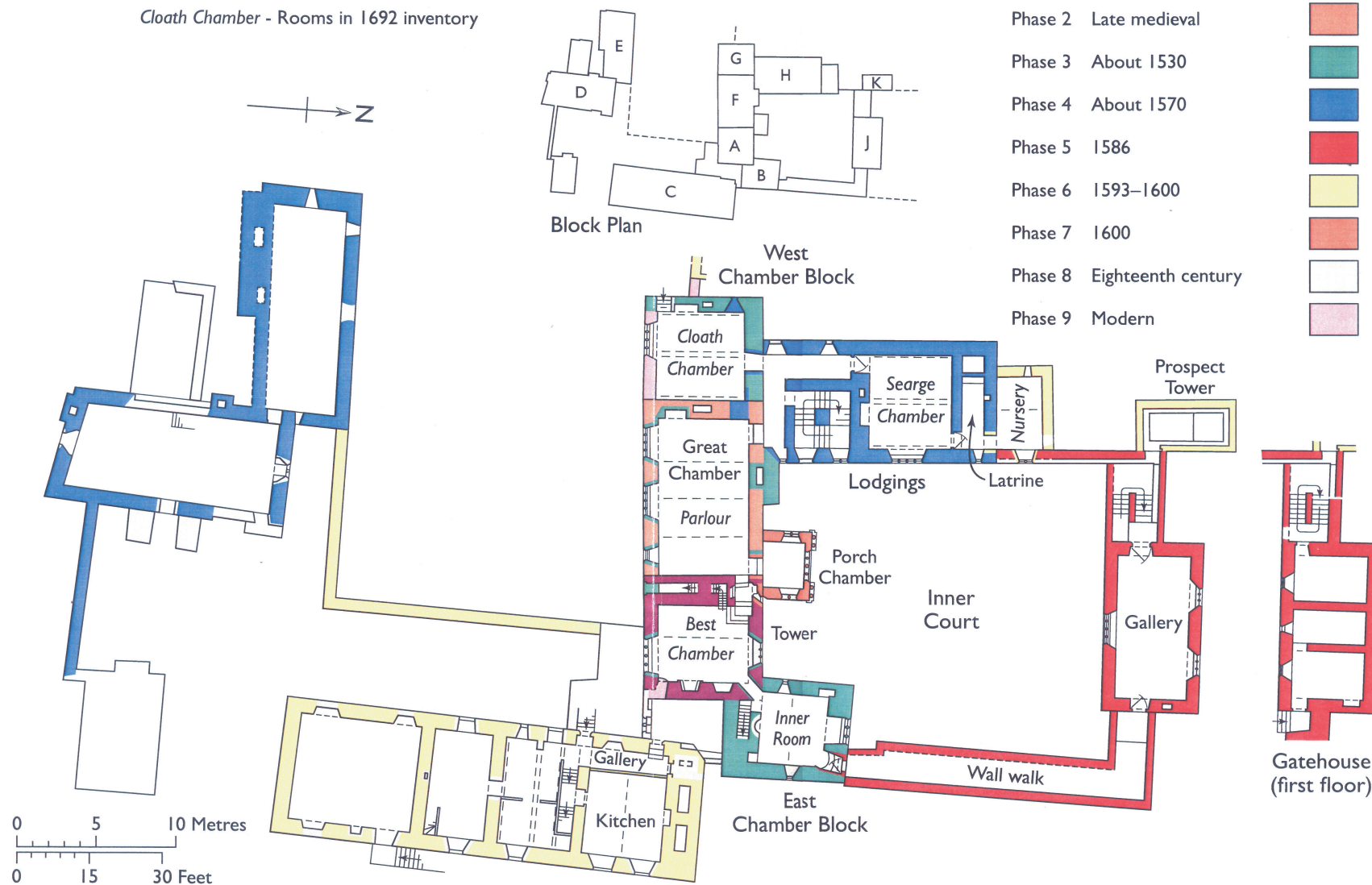
Project Title: Old Beaupre Castle, Cowbridge	
Date: 14th June 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
Drawn by:	Drawing No.:

Figure 6. Ordnance Survey 1921 Edition Map



Great Chamber - Names in text

Cloath Chamber - Rooms in 1692 inventory



Project Title: Old Beaupre Castle, Cowbridge

Date: 14th June 2023

Drawn by:

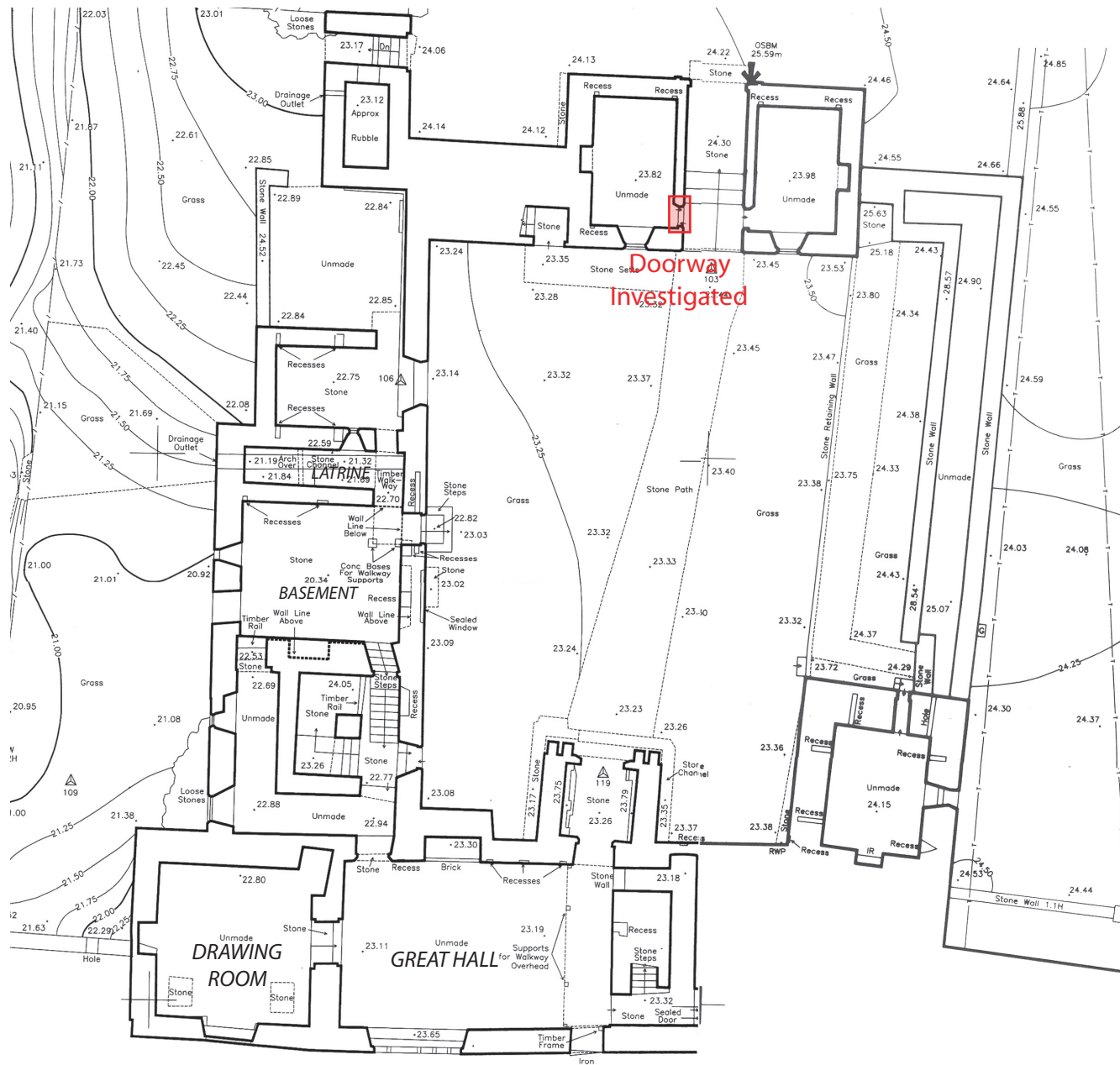
Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Figure 7.

Phased Ground Plan of Old Beaupre Castle.





Project Title: Old Beaupre Castle, Cowbridge

Date: 26th July 2023

Drawn by:

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Figure 8.

Topographic Survey Plan of Old Beaupre Castle. Shows location of Archaeological Building Investigation & Recording Survey of doorway into western room of Outer Gatehouse.

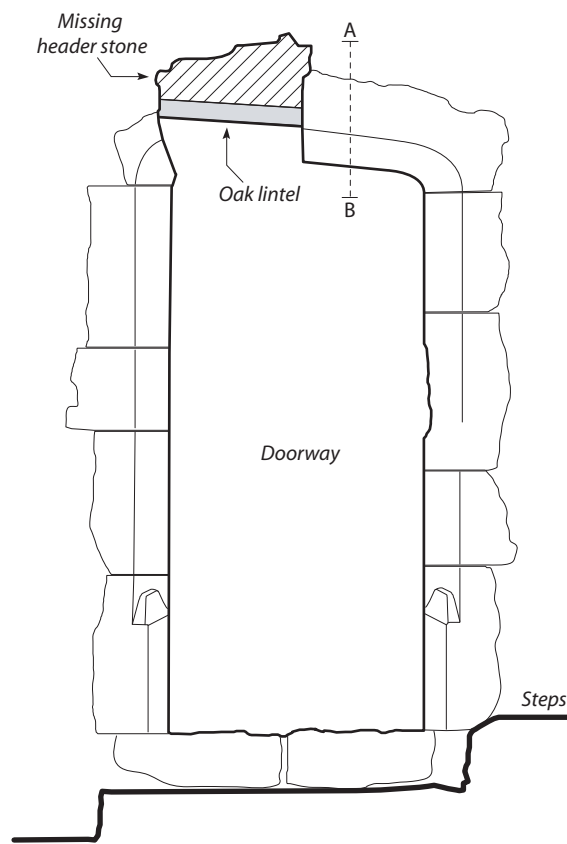


Meters

Meters



Profile A - B



OUTER GATEHOUSE

- Doorway in east facing external elevation of West Room in Outer Gatehouse -

APPENDIX II:
Photo plates



Plate 01. Old Beaupre - View of front elevation of Outer Gatehouse. Looking southeast.



Plate 02. Old Beaupre - View of entrance into Gatehouse from Middle Court. Looking NW.



Plate 03. Old Beaupre - View of doorway into western room of Gatehouse. Looking NW.

Project Title: Old Beaupre, Cowbridge, South Glamorgan	
Date Taken: 28th June 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.

Photo Plates

1 - 3





Plate 04. Old Beaupre - View of doorway into western room of Gatehouse. Looking SW.



Plate 05. Old Beaupre - View of doorway from inside of room on west side of Gatehouse. Looking E.



Plate 06. Old Beaupre - View of doorway from inside of room on west side of Gatehouse. Looking E.



Plate 07. Old Beaupre - View of doorway into western room of Gatehouse. Looking W.

Project Title: Old Beaupre, Cowbridge, South Glamorgan	
Date Taken: 28th June 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.

Photo Plates

4 - 7





Plate 08. Old Beaupre - View of missing header stone in doorway into western room of Gatehouse. Looking W.



Plate 09. Old Beaupre - View of missing header stone in doorway into western room of Gatehouse. Looking W.


Project Title: Old Beaupre, Cowbridge, South Glamorgan		Photo Plates 8 - 9	
Date Taken: 28th June 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 10. Old Beaupre - View of missing header stone in doorway into western room of Gatehouse. Looking SW.



Plate 11. Old Beaupre - View of stop end in doorway into western room of Gatehouse. Looking W.

Project Title: Old Beaupre, Cowbridge, South Glamorgan	
Date Taken: 28th June 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.

Photo Plates

10 - 11



APPENDIX III:
Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Old Beaupre Castle, Cowbridge, South Glamorgan

ARCHIVE DESTINATION - RCAHMW

Site Name:	Old Beaupre Castle, Cowbridge, South Glamorgan
Site Code:	OB/2023/ABIR
NPRN:	19428
PRN:	
SAM No.	GM1
Listed Building:	Grade I (13171)
Other Ref No.	HRSW Rpt No. 272
NGR:	ST 009 / 721
Site Type:	14th - 17th Century mansion
Project Type:	Archaeological Building Investigation & Recording
Project Manager:	Richard Scott Jones
Project Date(s):	July 2023
Categories Present:	None
Location of Original Archive:	Cadw
Location of Duplicate Archive:	RCAHMW
Number of Find Boxes:	N/A
Location of Finds:	N/A
Museum Ref:	N/A
Copyright:	HRS Wales
Restrictions to Access:	None



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