

*WEST BARN  
CWARELAU FARM,  
NEWTON  
HEREFORDSHIRE.*



**CBNM-EV-18**

Archaeological Excavation



**THE**

**ARCHAEOLOGY  
COMPANY LTD**



WEST BARN,  
CWARELAU FARM,  
NEWTON,  
HEREOFRDSHIRE.

Evaluation Excavation

*for Denise Belken  
PJM Associates Limited*

*02<sup>nd</sup> September 2018*

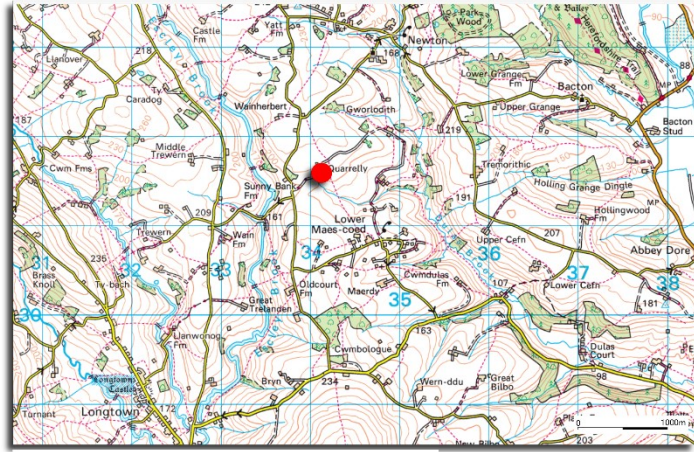
TAC Job No: CBNM-EV-002

NGR: SO 34135 31612

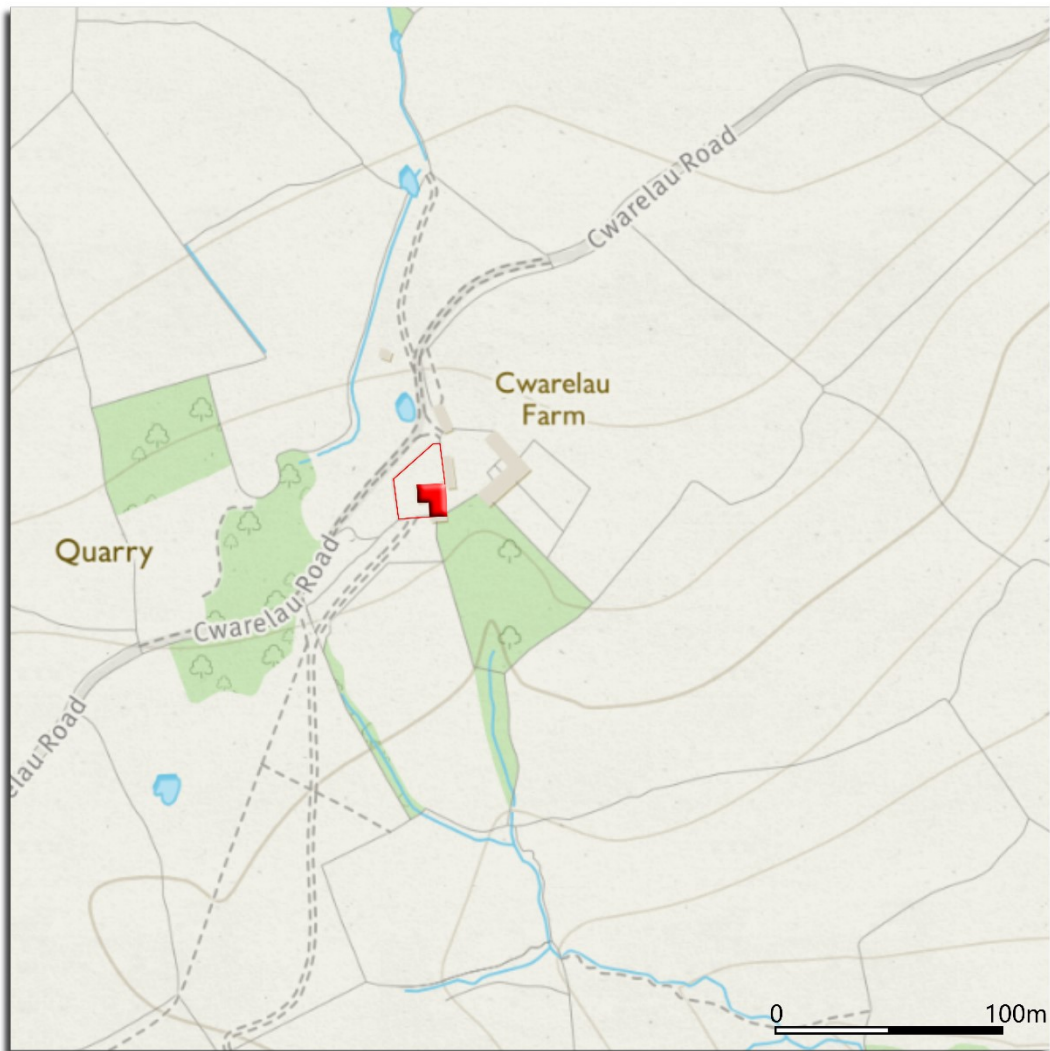
Council: Herefordshire County Council

Author: S.R.Mayes





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Illus. 1 Site location plan



## **Introduction**

A programme of Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken on the west barn at Cwarelau Farm in response to a request by the Historic Buildings Officer for Herefordshire county council to discuss/lead possible changes to the current design before the final application is considered (Planning Application 172857/F), in relation to the conversion of the west barn (Grade II Listing entry Number 1224504) in the curtilage of Cwarelau Farm (Grade II\* listed), into residential accommodation.

A site visit was undertaken on the 5<sup>h</sup> of August 2018, in which The Archaeological Company Ltd conducted a program archaeological of works, comprising the excavation of a small evaluation trench within the west barn to investigate the floor construction details of the existing floor surface.

The work was commissioned by Patrick McIlroy of PJM Associates Ltd. (Architect) acting as Agent to the Client, Denise Belken

## **Site Location**

The project site is located within the curtilage Cwarelau Farm, just to the south-west of Newton. Newton is a in the parish of Clodock, Hereford on the river Escley, approximately 4 miles west of Abbeydore and miles North-west of Pontrilas. (See Illus. 1)

## **Geology**

The solid geology of the site consists of an Argillaceous rock and subordinate sandstone of the ST Maughans formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 93 to 419 million years ago in the Devonian Period, indicating a local environment dominated by rivers. No superficial deposits are recorded. (mapapps.bgs.ac.uk)

## **Objectives**

The objective of the archaeological evaluation excavation was to gather primary information relating to the construction of the existing floor surface within the west barn, while examining issues relating to the proposed conversion into residential accommodation that had been raised by the Historic Buildings Officer for Herefordshire County Council.

## **Method**

### **Site works**

The Existing floor surface was cleaned and a photogrammetric recorded was created prior to the evaluation works. (See *Plate.2*)

The existing stone floor surface was removed by hand and stored next to the evaluation excavation, allowing this and area approximately 1.20m by 0.60m was excavation by hand to a depth of 0.45m below present floor level.

### **Recording**

All recording followed the CIFA Standards and Guidance for Conducting Archaeological Excavations. Archaeological features and deposits were hand excavated and recorded using standard archaeological methods and pro-forma record sheets. A complete record of the contexts can be found in the Context Register (Appendix I).

A site plan including the location of the evaluation excavation was recorded digitally using a Leica TS16 and CS20 controller and related to the existing building ground plan.

A series of digital images were taken for illustrative purposes. In addition, the evaluation area was recorded in 3D using photogrammetry. (*See Plate. 4*)

### **Archaeological and Background History**

A comprehensive Historical analysis of the building has been undertaken by Patrick McIlroy (Historical Analysis of the Farmhouse & Tallet at Cwarelau, Newton ST. Margret's 2017) the results of which are summarised below;

- Records indicate that Quarely Farm formed part of the Ewyas Lacy Estate in the 1700's being part of the parish of Clodock & Longtown.
- Ewyas Lacy records indicated that the property was occupied by the Pritchard Family who paid 1-shilling rent in the early to mid-1700's. No indication as to whether this was for all buildings present or not, i.e. both properties.
- The property then seems to have been passed from Pritchard to Thomas Pearce in the mid to late 1700's however no records were identified of the transaction under the Pearce family or Ewyas Lacy Estate records.
- Deeds relating to Quarely Farm are present between 1798 – 1906.
- In 1798 at a court held for the Manor of Ewyas Lacy, Thomas Pearce was admitted to 51 acres of copyhold land. This he added to Quarely Farm, which consisted of part copyhold and part freehold land.
- In 1827 Pearce conveyed the farm to Elizabeth Pearce, who by her will of 1850 bequeathed to property to Daniel Pearce. There are references to the Pearce family being of Stretton Court.
- Land and property ownership/occupation records show that in 1844 the Owner of the Homestead was a Mary Pearce (believed to be the sister of Elizabeth) with David Hawkins being the occupier. The property and land are marked on the attached map as parcels 483, 484, 486 & 489.
- The same records also show that in 1844 the Building & Yard, reference to the map as parcel 485, was owned and occupied by a Thomas Sanders.



- There are no records earlier than 1844 stating whether Thomas Sanders had always owned this part of the property or whether it was sold to him by the Pearce Family.
- Daniel Pearce added a small piece of land to the Homestead and then sold it in 1868 to David Watkins for £1,000. The Homestead was then sold in 1906 to James Straker of Abergavenny.

## EVALUATION EXCAVATION

The existing floor surface within the building consists of three distinctive areas, the larger part of the floor is formed of large laid flag stones, an area of vertically laid thin stones forms a sloping run off area flowing in to a lower level large gully formed of very large rectangular flag stones. Within the building the stone floor surface is raised above the level of the south end of the building by approximately 0.45m, the floor surface within the southern end of the building appears to be formed of earth. The change in floor construction corresponds with a vertical construction break indicating that the building has been extended. During the evaluation works the area of the existing fireplace was cleaned of debris, the removal of this material identified the original level of the hearthstone.



*Illus. 2 showing location of the evaluation excavation within the building.*

## Method

A single test pit was excavated within the floor surface of the west barn measuring approximately 1.20m in length with a width of 0.60m the test pit was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.44m (maximum) at which level a natural geological stratum was encountered. The test pit was positioned to investigate a change in the construction of the existing floor surface. (See *Illus. 2*)

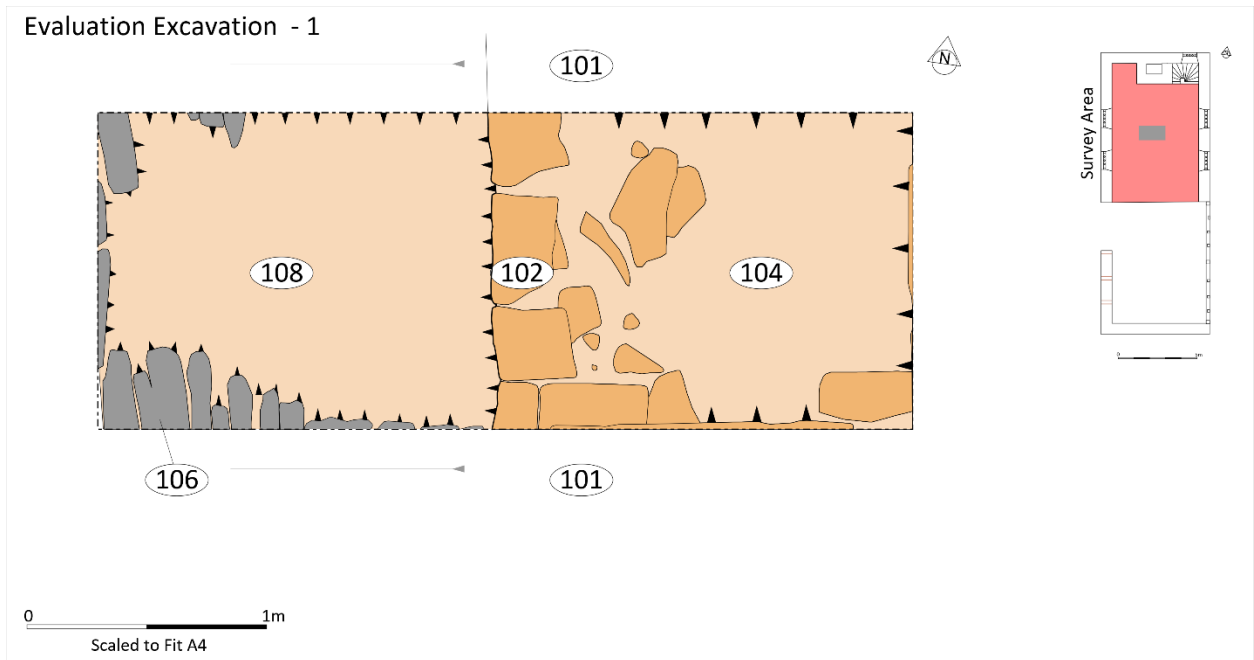
## Results

The removal of the floor surfaces (101) and (106) exposed two different floor levelling deposits separated by a retaining wall, (102). (102) consisted of an unbonded stone structure of approximately four courses, constructed from flat angular stones laid in an interlocking pattern, aligned north-south and following the division line in the floor surfaces between (101) and (106). (See Plate. 1, *Illus. 3*)



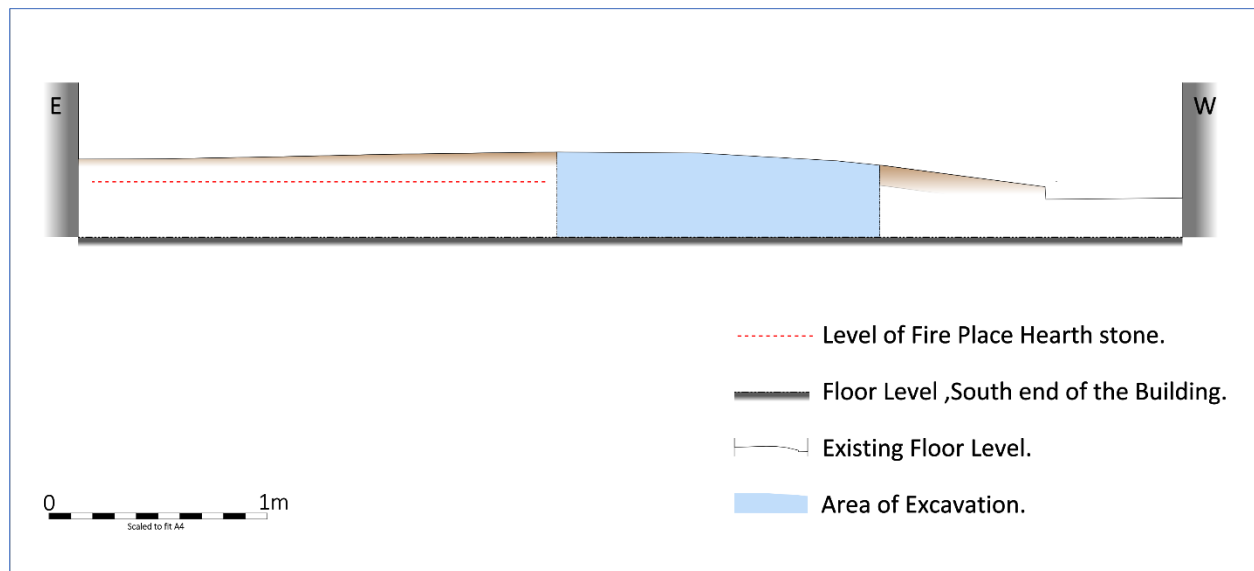
*Plate. 1 Overview of the evaluation excavation showing the retaining wall and levelling deposit.*

To the east of 102 a stone deposit (105), comprise an orange brown silt clay loam with frequent inclusions of fragmented flat and thin angular stones. (105) formed a hard-packed levelling deposit with a depth of approximately 0.30m overlaying a natural geological archaeological sterile horizon of a red brown silt clay with occasional small flat angular stones (104). 104 was partially excavated to a depth of 0.45m below present floor level, matching the existing and lower ground level seen within the southern half of the west barn, no change was observed (See *Illus. 3*). it was considered that any further excavation would be unnecessary as the excavated base level was 0.25m below the recently identified hearthstone within the existing fire place.



Illus. 3 Plan showing evaluation excavation details.

Towards the west of (102) a noticeable change in the floor construction was observed during the excavation. Floor surface (106) consisted of vertically laid stones set in a red brown silty loam (105) overlaying the natural geological (108). Examination of (108) concluded that it was the same geological deposit as (104).



Illus. 4 Profile showing change in floor levels.

## Discussion

The evaluation identified that no evidence for an original floor surfaces remained below the existing floor surface, however the opportunity to excavate within the building revealed the construction details of the existing floor surface. From the evidence observed the original floor surface was removed and a new floor surface was constructed at a higher level.

The level of the recently identified hearthstone within the existing fireplace would suggest that the floor level was raised up by a minimum of at least 0.25m however for the original floor surface to correspond with the northern door way the original floor surface would have been at least 0.30m below the existing floor surface. (*See Illus. 4*)

Evidence for the evaluation excavation identified that the existing flagged floor area was laid upon a mixture of silty clay containing a large amount of fragmented stone that formed a solid levelling deposit, the extent of the levelling deposit and flagged flooring towards the west was bounded by and constructed upon a small retaining wall structure, respectively. The treating wall was consisting of unbonded angular stone fragments, similar to the stone seen in the levelling deposit and laid three to four courses high. The use a small retaining wall would suggest that the flagged floor surface was constructed before the run off area.

The considerable work involved in the raising the flagged floor surface must have been necessary to create the curved run off area and the large gully running parallel to the west wall as the level of the gully needed to relate to the door level within the north wall for the purposes of cleaning out the area.

It is also interesting to note that the extent of the floor area within the building corresponds with the construction break associated with the southern extension to the building and removal of the original south gable wall. The extent of the stone floor surface and the alignment of the construction break would suggest that the floor surface was constructed before the removal of the gable wall. Although difficult to prove it, is not beyond reasonable doubt to suggest that the flag stones used in the currnet floor surface are in fact reused material from the original floor level of the building.

During the evaluation excavation no material was observed to conclusively date the alteration to the floor levels.

## Bibliography

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<http://www.magic.gov.uk/>

National Library of Scotland (<http://maps.nls.uk>)

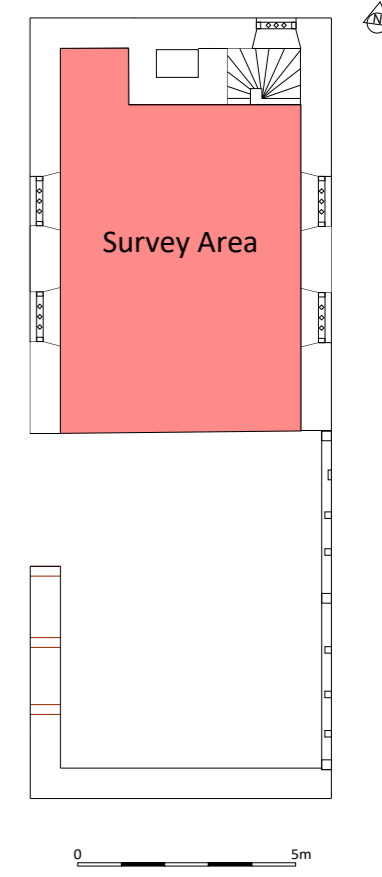



Plate.2 Photogrammetric record of existing floor surface.



APPENDIX I – Context Register

<b>Evaluation Excavation</b>	1				
<b>Sample Section Length</b>	-	<b>Excavated Depth</b>	0.55m avg		
<b>Minimum Depth to level of archaeological horizon</b>	-	<b>Maximum Depth to level of archaeological horizon</b>	-		
<b>Datum height</b>	-				
<b>Dimensions</b>	4.65m by 2.70m max depth 0.52m, minimum depth 0.38m				
<b>Context No</b>	<b>Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)</b>	<b>Dimensions (as appropriate)</b>			
		<b>Diameter</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>
(101)	Existing stone flagged floor area	-	-	-	0.10m
(102)	Dry stone retaining wall line -unbonded, stacked flat angular stones, three courses, edge on west face, sloping into east portion of eval trench, used to contain (103) and raise floor level.	-	-	-	0.35m
(103)	Rubble deposit, flat angular stones laid in a silty clay loam, function as a levelling deposit for (101).	-	-	-	0.35m
(104)	Red-brown silty clay deposit, occasional angular stones, small, flat 5%- possibly geological horizon. SAME AS (108) -located to east of (102).	-	-	-	-
(105)	Orange-red-silty clay deposit used to level stone area (106)- overlaying (108).	-	-	-	0.45m
(106)	Area within floor surface- vertical laid large flat stones forming sloping area of flooring – water, animal waste run off.	-	-	-	-
(107)	-	-	-	-	-
(108)	Red-brown silty clay deposit, occasional angular stones, small, flat 5%- possibly geological horizon. SAME AS (104)-Located west of (102).	-	-	-	-
<b>Interpretation</b>					
-					





## APPENDIX II – Photographic Register

PHOTO NUMBER	DIGITAL NUMBER	DIRECTION FACING	DESCRIPTION
01	DSC-5127	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
02	DSC-5128	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
03	DSC-5129	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
04	DSC-5130	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
05	DSC-5132	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
06	DSC-5132	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
07	DSC-5133	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
08	DSC-5134	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
09	DSC-5135	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
10	DSC-5136	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
11	DSC-5137	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
12	DSC-5138	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
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91	DSC-5227	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
92	DSC-5228	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
93	DSC-5229	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
94	DSC-5230	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
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99	DSC-5232	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
100	DSC-5233	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
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104	DSC-5237	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
105	DSC-5238	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
106	DSC-5239	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
107	DSC-5240	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
108	DSC-5241	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
109	DSC-5242	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
110	DSC-5243	-	Internal- 3D model data recording existing Floor.
111	DSC-5244	W	Internal, Pre-Ex, showing area of test-pit 1.
112	DSC-5245	W	Internal, Pre-Ex, showing area of test-pit 1.
113	DSC-5246	S	Internal, Pre-Ex, showing area of test-pit 1.
114	DSC-5247	E	Internal, Pre-Ex, showing area of test-pit 1.
115	DSC-5248	W	Internal, Pre-Ex, showing area of test-pit 1.
116	DSC-5249	NW	Internal, stone floor removed, test-pit, showing rubble makeup.
117	DSC-5250	E	Internal, stone floor removed, test-pit, showing rubble makeup.

<b>118</b>	DSC-5251	E	Internal, stone floor removed, stone boundary edge to level floor area
<b>119</b>	DSC-5252	E	Internal, stone floor removed, stone boundary edge to level floor area
<b>120</b>	DSC-5253	E	Internal, stone floor removed, stone boundary edge to level floor area
<b>121</b>	DSC-5254	W	Internal, stone floor removed, stone boundary edge small sondage excavated to investigate floor makeup deposits.
<b>122</b>	DSC-5255	S	Internal, stone floor removed, stone boundary edge small sondage excavated to investigate floor makeup deposits.
<b>123</b>	DSC-5256	N	Internal, detail, running section through test pit.
<b>124</b>	DSC-5257	N	Internal, detail, running section through test pit.
<b>125</b>	DSC-5258	N	Internal, detail, running section through test pit.
<b>126</b>	DSC-5259	N	Internal, detail, running section through test pit.
<b>127</b>	DSC-5260	N	Internal, detail, running section through test pit.
<b>128</b>	DSC-5261	N	Internal, detail, running section through test pit.
<b>129</b>	DSC-5262	E	Internal, Overview of fully excavated test pit.
<b>130</b>	DSC-5263	S	Internal, Overview of fully excavated test pit.
<b>131</b>	DSC-5264	S	Internal, Overview of fully excavated test pit.
<b>132</b>	DSC-5265	W	Internal, Overview of fully excavated test pit.

## Appendix II Listed Building Summary

### *BARN ABOUT 40 YARDS WEST OF CWARELAU*

#### *List Entry Summary*

*This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.*

*Name: BARN ABOUT 40 YARDS WEST OF CWARELAU*

*List entry Number: 1224504*

#### *Location*

*District: County of Herefordshire*

*District Type: Unitary Authority*

*Parish: Newton*

*Grade: II*

*Date first listed: 12-Nov-1984*

#### *List entry Description*

*SO 33 SW NEWTON CP -*

*4/85 Barn about 40 yards west of Cwarelau -*

*GV II*

*Farmhouse, now barn. Probably C17. Timber-frame and rubble, corrugated asbestos roof. Longitudinal plan aligned north/south, with gable access. East elevation: 2 storeys, two 5-light diamond section oak mullioned windows to righthand side; first floor has similar windows, but of 4 lights, placed above the others. To left is timber-framed part probably of 3 bays with large ledged opposed door beneath weather boarded upper zone which retains timber posts. Rear elevation has lean-to C20 breeze-block extension protecting diamond-section mullioned window to west wall of north part. North gable has similar window and chamfered door frame. Interior not inspected.*

*Listing NGR: SO3413531612*

*Selected Sources*





