

# **POWYS**

## **CWMFFWRN, ABBEY CWMHIR, Powys (SO0237971987)**

In June 2023 and July 2023 Trysor led a community excavation of part of an earthwork platform at the request of the Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust. The site is recorded in the regional Historic Environment Record under Heneb CPA PRN 143677, and the excavation event PRN is 218166.

The earthwork platform is located to the eastern side of the modern farmyard at Cwmffwrn, at SO0237971987, 6 kilometres to the northeast of Rhayader, Powys. An upper platform aligned west-northwest to east southeast is cut into the steep slope at its west-northwest end. A lower platform continues the alignment to the east-southeast.

The excavation was part of an ongoing investigation of the landscape around Abbey Cwmhir by the Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust. In 2023, limited excavation was undertaken over 2 days on the west-northwest and central parts of the platform. In 2024, further excavation was undertaken over 4 days of parts of both the upper and lower platforms.

It has been established that any building on the upper platform was of timber, and not of stone or brick. There were no indications of stone foundations, or robber trenches where stone foundations had been removed and no brick was found on site. Although the layout of a timber building has yet to be established, some postholes or potential postholes were identified and a possible beam slot across the end of the upper platform as well as clay lumps which may be the remains of daub from wattle and daub panels between a timber frame.

A radiocarbon date from charcoal in the makeup of the lower platform gave a date range of between 1510 to 1668 Cal AD (87%), suggesting that the lower platform was created in the 16th/17th century. It is not known yet if the lower platform was later or contemporary with the upper platform.

The western end of the upper end of the platform is now waterlogged and water runs freely down the gully to the south side of the platform. The depth of this gully suggests water always needed to be controlled around the platform, as does the presence of curving stone drain on the platform itself.

There are still elements on the platforms to be explored, such as the several stone spreads and possible postholes or pits.