

PARC CYNOG WIND CLUSTER
DAT PROJECT RECORD 30538

CONTENTS

1	SUMMARY
2	INTRODUCTION
3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
4	METHODOLOGY
5	RESULTS
	5.1 The historic landscape
	5.2 Register of archaeological sites
6	EVALUATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE
7	IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE
8	RECOMMENDATIONS
9	SOURCES CONSULTED
10	FIGURES
	1. Location map (supplied by Farm Power)
	2. Scheduled area of Parc Cynog Iron Age Fort

SUMMARY

- 1.1 A detailed archaeological survey, including original research and fieldwork, has been carried out in an area of a proposed wind cluster at Parc Cynog, Dyfed. Data collected enhances information on known archaeological sites. No previously unrecorded sites were identified in the course of the survey. The only archaeological site that will be affected by the proposal is Parc Cynog Iron Age Fort - the wind farm will have a visual impact on the setting of this site.

- 2.1 On 8 November 1994, the Field Section of Dyfed Archaeological Trust received notification that Farm Power hoped to develop a site at Parc Cynog, Dyfed, for wind turbines. Farm Power had been notified by the local planning authority that an archaeological assessment of the site would be necessary prior to submitting a formal planning application. Farm Power submitted a brief (compiled by the Heritage Management section of Dyfed Archaeological Trust) to the Field Section together with a request for costings and a detailed specification. This request was complied with and the tender was accepted by Farm Power in a letter dated 3 April 1995. The assessment was carried out in late May and early June 1995.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The aims of this study are:

to enhance and add to the archaeological record in the area of the proposed wind cluster

to provide an evaluation of individual sites

to suggest mitigation strategies to allow for the preservation of the archaeology

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 Two elements comprise this archaeological study. The first consists of a desk-top study; the second field visits and survey.
- 4.2 As a starting point for the desk-top study records housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust and the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments (Wales) were consulted. Printed maps, manuscript maps and documents deposited with the Carmarthenshire Record Office and the National Library of Wales were then examined and searches made of relevant published material. Commercially-flown vertical aerial photographs and oblique aerial photographs taken specifically for archaeological purposes were analysed.
- 4.3 Field visits to all the sites identified in the desk-top study were made in order to report on the current condition of the archaeological resource. In addition, the study area was searched for previously unrecorded archaeological sites.
- 4.4 At the time of the site visits all the fields in the area of the proposed wind farm were under permanent pasture. Most of these had recently been cut for silage and so conditions were ideal for the identification of archaeological sites manifest as low earthworks.
- 4.5 No geophysical survey was carried out for the purpose of this assessment.

5 RESULTS

5.1 The historic landscape

The present-day landscape is characterised by large regularly-shaped fields and scattered farms. The fields are defined by hedgebanks; these are massive, up to 1.5m high and 4m wide, though slighter on the south side of the proposed development area, and topped with cut hedges. All the fields are of improved pasture.

The earliest large scale maps of the area, the particulars of the Westmead estate of c1831 and the Laugharne parish tithe map of 1841, show a landscape virtually identical to the present one. There is nothing in the documentary record to indicate the origin and development of this landscape. However, analysis of historic landscapes at Marros (Murphy 1988), 5km to the west, and Laugharne (Davies 1955), 5km to the east, demonstrated that in the medieval period open or strip field systems were in operation (at Laugharne an open field system is still used). It is considered that generally in south-west Carmarthenshire the rise in private ownership in the 16th and 17th centuries witnessed the engrossing of individual strips within the open fields into large parcels of land which were later enclosed into large fields held in severality. The settlement recorded at Merthyr Cynog (possibly synonymous with Cynog's Well) in 1307 (NLW 10118E) and in later documents (NLW Noyadd 172) was certainly agricultural and probably farmed under an open field system. It seems likely that this open field system was enclosed and so converted to resemble the modern landscape in the 16th and 17th centuries.

5.2 Register of archaeological sites

The site record numbers quoted below are taken from the Dyfed Sites and Monuments Record.

3843. (Scheduled Ancient Monument Carm 138) Parc Cynog Iron Age Hillfort. The fort is situated on the edge of a steep north-facing slope. This steep slope forms a natural defence to the north. The man-made defences comprise two concentric banks and ditches that define a roughly D-shaped area approximately 70m by 60m. The inner bank stands to 2-2.3m high; the outer bank is slightly less substantial and is now only present for about one-third of its original circuit, though part of it may be incorporated in the large hedgebank to the north-east side of the fort. Small scale excavations in the 1960s (de Quincey, 1969) examined the nature of the defensive circuit, but no dating evidence was discovered. The fort is in good condition. There is some scrub growth on the banks; the interior is covered with long grass. The fort is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Carm 138). The extent of the scheduled area is shown on Figure 2.

9688. Merthyr Cynog Medieval Settlement (not marked on Fig. 1). This site is known from documentary sources only. It is first recorded in 1307 (NLW 10118E). Some authorities (Thomas 1969) consider that this settlement may have been a small nucleated village or hamlet. This was probably not the case; it is more likely that the settlement mentioned in 1307 comprised a series of scattered farmsteads. Parc Cynog Farm and Cynog's Well Farm are likely locations for two of these medieval farmsteads. There is a wealth of post-medieval documentation relating to the area and though of little use in exactly locating the settlements it does demonstrate the intensively populated nature of the land. For instance, in 1593 (NLW Noyadd 172) the manor of Castle Lloyd and Merthyr Cynog comprised 1703 acres divided between 16 tenants.

11621 St. Cynog's Well (not marked on Fig. 1). This site is known from documentary sources only. It is a dark age and/or medieval holy site dedicated to a local saint, Cynog. Its is referred to as *Merther Kenang* in 1307 (NLW 10118E). This is a key reference (the Welsh *merthyr* synonymous with the English *martyr*) and presumably refers to a site of some importance: perhaps a pre-Norman burial ground that did not develop into a church site. The exact location of St. Cynog's Well is unknown.

25554 Cynog's Well Farmstead. The first recording of this farm on a map is on Ordnance Survey drawings of 1809-10, though as mentioned above the site of the farmstead is almost certainly much older. The farmstead is now abandoned and the buildings falling into disrepair. The house is late-19th century, though built around earlier elements including a massive chimney. The outbuildings are late-19th century.

30537 Parc Cynog Farmstead. The first recording of this farm is on map is on Ordnance Survey drawings of 1809-10, though as mentioned above the site of the farmstead is almost certainly much older. The house is not now lived in, though it is in a reasonable state of repair. Externally the house appears to be of 19th century date, though it may contain slightly earlier elements. Modern farm buildings surround the house.

6 EVALUATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

6.1 The five categories used in the assessment of importance are:

Major: the highest status of site eg. Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings Grade I and II*

Average: the bulk of the sites with reasonable evidence of occupation, ritual, industry, etc, Listed Buildings Grade II

Minor: sites with some evidence of human activity, but in a fragmentary or poor state, buildings of local importance

Unimportant: destroyed, non-antiquities, random stray finds, buildings of no merit

Uncertain: insufficient evidence available to judge importance.

6.2 *Major:* 3843 Parc Cynog Iron Age Fort; 9688 Merthyr Cynog Medieval Settlement; 11621 St. Cynog's Well

Average: 25554 Cynog's Well Farmstead; 30537 Parc Cynog Farmstead

Minor: no sites in this category

Unimportant: no sites in this category

Uncertain: no sites in this category

It should also be noted that the proposed wind cluster lies with a proposed Special Landscape Area (Carmarthen District Council).

- 7 IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED WIND CLUSTER ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE
- 7.1 No archaeological sites are directly affected by the proposed development. The impact of the proposed development on two sites of *potential* major importance, 9688 Merthyr Cynog Medieval Settlement and 11621 St. Cynog's Well, cannot be assessed as their exact locations are unknown, though they may be within the development area.
- 7.2 The development will have a visual impact upon the setting of site 3843 Parc Cynog Iron Age Fort, a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Welsh Office Circular 61/81 states (para 26) that: 'Where application is made to the local planning authority for planning permission to carry out development which would affect any monument, whether scheduled or unscheduled, the desirability of preserving the monument and its setting is a material consideration.'. The nearest turbine will be over 70m from the scheduled area of Parc Cynog Iron Age Fort. The positions service roads and underground works and other installations were not supplied by Farm Power.
- 7.3 Some damage will be done to elements of the historic landscape, for instance hedgebanks.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 It is recommended that any new service roads, underground works and other installations are designed so as to cause minimal damage to elements of the historic landscape, and to cause minimal impact on the setting of the historic landscape.
- 8.2 Given the presence of an important iron age fort in the area of the proposed wind cluster and the potential for further major sites in the vicinity, it is possible that an archaeological watching brief may be required during construction of the wind cluster. The need for, and extent of, any such watching brief will be determined by the exact location and scope of new service roads, underground works and other installations.
- 8.3 Parc Cynog Iron Age Fort is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and therefore it is recommended that the opinions and advice of Cadw - Welsh Historic Monuments are sought concerning the visual impact of the proposed development on the setting of this site.

9 SOURCES CONSULTED

9.1 Aerial photographs

Vertical: 106/UK/3048-3097; 106/UK/1629 3065-3097;
106/UK/1625 1202-1156; CPE/UK/2264 5069-5100; Meridian
Airmaps 220/200 37594-6

Oblique: B/W 955116 frames 51-2; colour slide 95-CS-1253-5

9.2 Unpublished

Anon, c1831 *Particulars of the Westmead Estate*, printed sale document.

Dyfed Sites and Monuments Record, housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust

National Monuments Record, housed with Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments (Wales)

Ordnance Survey, 1809-10 *Original Survey Drawings*, 2" to the mile, sheet 181

Laugharne Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1841

Schedules of documents in the National Library of Wales and specific documents: Noyadd 172, final concord dated 1593; 10118E vol 1, Inquisition post-mortem 1 Edward II - Sir Guy de Brian (1307)

Schedules of documents in the Carmarthen Record Office

9.3 Published

de Quincey, A B, 1969 A promontory fort at Parc Cynog, Carmarthenshire, *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, 68, 73-85

Carmarthen District Council, 1993 *Carmarthen District Local Plan*, First Consultation Draft

Davies, M, 1955 The open fields of Laugharne, *Geography*, 40, 169-177

Jones, F, 1992 *The Holy Wells of Wales*. Cardiff: University of Wales Press

Lloyd, J E (ed), 1935 *A History of Carmarthenshire*, 2 vols. Cardiff: London Carmarthenshire Society

Ordnance Survey, 1891 *6" to a mile 1st edition*, Carmarthenshire sheets 44 SE and 51 NE & SE. Southampton: OS

Murphy, K, 1988 a medieval relict field system on Marros

Mountain, Dyfed, *Carmarthenshire Antiquary*, 24, 23-32

Ordnance Survey, 1906 *1:2500 2nd edition*, Carmarthenshire 44.16. Southampton: OS

Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments and Constructions in Wales and Monmouthshire, 1917 *V - County of Carmarthen*. London: HMSO

Thomas, W S G, 1969 Lost villages in south-west Carmarthenshire, *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 47, 191-203

1. Location map (supplied by Farm Power)
2. Scheduled area of Parc Cynog Iron Age Fort

Unit 1, Whitebridge,
Semley, Shaftesbury,
Dorset, U.K. SP7 9JT.
Turbines you can trust. Advice you can count on.

Tel: 0747830 557
Fax: 0747830 767
Int: +44 747830 557
+44 747830 767

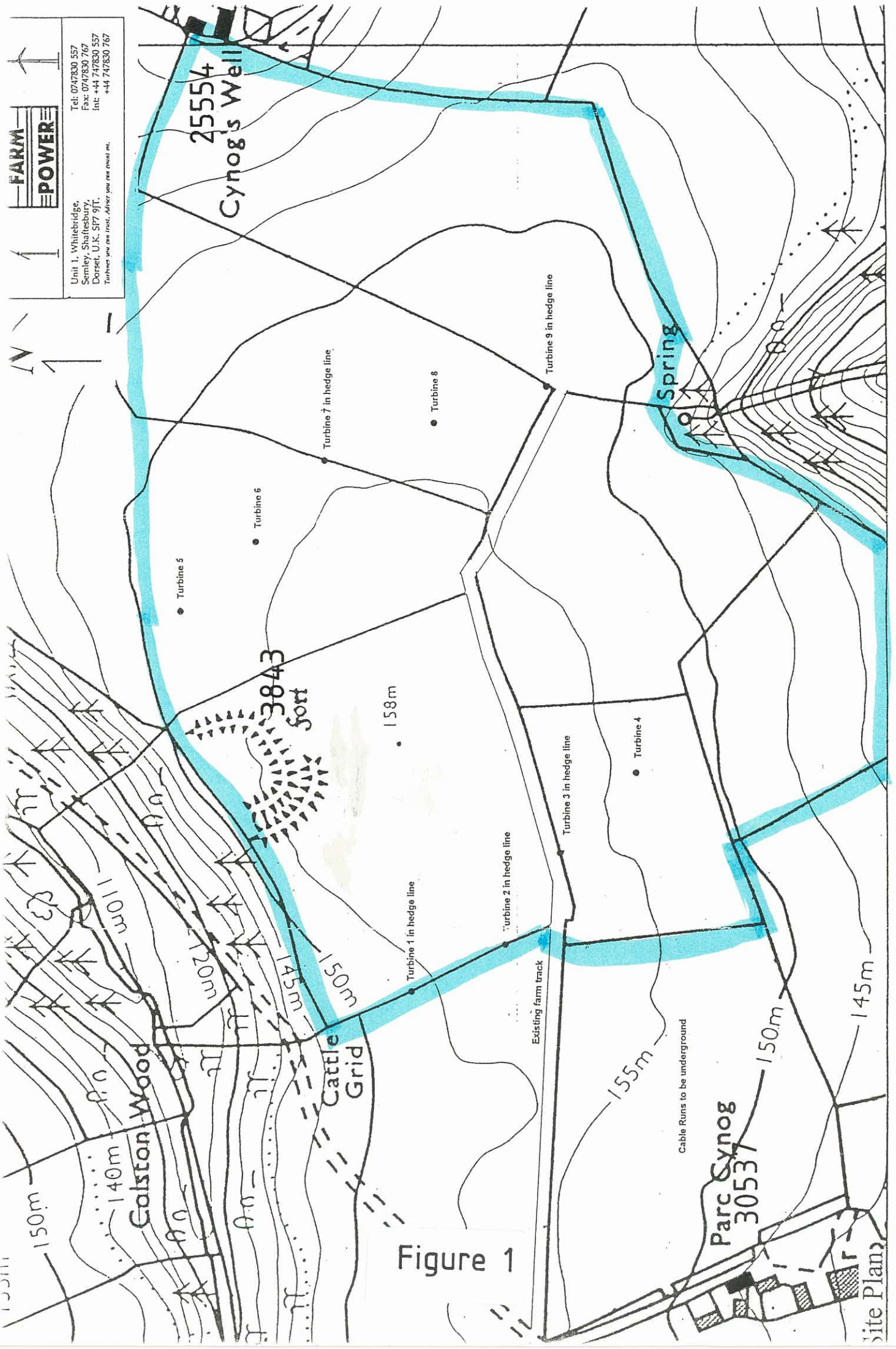


Figure 1

CARMARTHEN R D

