

ROCK CASTLE WEST/BLAEN Y GLYN PROPOSED OPEN CAST COAL SITE

Preliminary Archaeological Assessment

Dyfed Archaeological Trust (Curatorial Section)

The Old Palace, Abergwili, Carmarthen, Dyfed SA31 2 JG

November 1992

PROJECT RECORD 32118

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Assessment Brief

The scope of the assessment agreed with British Coal Opencast comprises:

- A 'desk-top' study involving consultation of Dyfed Archaeological Trust's Sites and Monuments' Record, a survey of historic map sources and a preliminary survey of historic documentary sources, a survey of available aerial photographic collections.
- A rapid field survey of the area.
- Preliminary comments on the archaeological implications.

1.2 Definition of the Archaeological Resource

This is broadly defined as all those physical traces, known and potential, surviving in the present landscape of human activity over the past 10,000 years. Not all this evidence is of equal importance. However a total approach to the historic landscape in the Preliminary Consultation Area is justified because of the nature of the proposals. These involve the near total removal of the existing landform and the eventual recreation of a new landscape within the area finally to be opencasted. The archaeological resource is manifest in the existing landscape in three ways:

- As **survivals** in the landscape in an eroded form and with their associated features obliterated by subsequent landuse. This is particularly true of pre-historic features (for example Bronze Age burial monuments) but might equally apply to more recent features or monuments of industrial archaeological significance for example.
- As **relict landscapes** where groups of associated features (for example pre-historic hut circles and parts of their associated field system) survive within later landscapes.
- As **working components** within the present landscape - for example ancient boundary banks still utilised as part of the existing agricultural system or old buildings still in use.

1.3 Evaluation of the Archaeological Resource

This is easier to define in the context of individual features which will be valued according to their rarity, their state of preservation and their representative value as examples of a class of monument or site type. Under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979 the Secretary of State for Wales is empowered to compile and maintain a Schedule of Ancient Monuments. This work is carried out in Wales by Cadw-Welsh Historic Monuments. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the Preliminary Consultation Area.

However it is recognized that the Schedule is not and cannot be a complete record of archaeological sites. Unscheduled sites are mapped on the Dyfed Archaeological Trust's Sites and Monuments Record defined as a County Record under Welsh Office Planning Policy Guideline 16 'Archaeology and Planning'. It is also recognized that the the List of Buildings of Architectural and Historical Importance cannot ever contain the total of those worthy of preservation, or full record if preservation is not possible.

Buildings records are held, maintained and enhanced by the National Monuments Record and the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments (Wales), Aberystwyth although the legal responsibility for Listing is carried out By Cadw-Welsh Historic Monuments.

Dyfed County Structure Plan Policy EN1A makes a presumption in favour of preservation of unscheduled sites and their settings:

- "It is the policy of the County Council to protect and conserve wherever possible unscheduled archaeological, historical and architectural features or areas of importance. Where permission is granted for development, conditions will be included if necessary, to provide adequate opportunities for the recording and where desirable, the excavation of such sites. The protection of areas in close proximity to these sites will always be an important planning consideration."

The list of individual sites within the Preliminary Consultation Area is therefore based on the Sites and Monuments Record with new material added as a result of the Desk Top study conducted for this Assessment. The National Monuments Record has also been checked for coverage of the area but has no material other than records of the now demolished 17th C mansion of Piodau Fawr.

Evaluation of Historic Landscapes is more difficult since there are no agreed guidelines on identification and definition of components or on assessing relative importance. In 1991 English Heritage issued a consultation paper on a proposed *Register of Landscapes of Historic Importance* which is also being circulated in Wales. Comments made in this preliminary Assessment on defining historic landscapes within the study area use some of the criteria proposed in the consultation paper.

British Coal Opencast has always followed fully consultation procedures, as these have developed, with environmental bodies. It subscribes to the CBI's *Archaeological Investigations: Code of Practice for Mineral Operators* April 1991. Environmental Assessment procedures in operation since 1988 (see *Environmental Assessment: A Guide to the Procedures*, DOE Welsh Office, 1989) are more rigorous than those required when planning permissions were given for those parts of the Preliminary Assessment Area already opencasted and landscaped. Environmental bodies now define their concerns more widely than before; for archaeologists this means a concern for historic landscape features as well as specific sites and for architectural historians a wider range of structures beyond Listed Buildings. Although therefore the due consultation procedures were followed by British Coal Opencast with regard to the areas previously opencasted, a fuller record is now considered necessary by archaeologists and architectural historians than that made by them in the early 1970s. Some sites and buildings were removed then virtually without record. This does in our view place a higher value on what remains at present unaffected by opencast operations within the Preliminary Assessment Area.

1.4 Structure and Content of the Assessment Report

The report is structured in a broadly chronological sequence although some themes (2.7 Communications) are multi-period. Each section is accompanied by a key map summarising the main elements. Reference is made to features or information pertaining to areas already opencasted and now wholly remodelled when these illustrate

or interpret sites within the Preliminary Consultation Area.

It has been considered necessary to go into some detail on the landscape history of the Preliminary Consultation Area. There is a high degree of continuity of settlement from the early Middle Ages over all the Preliminary Consultation Area east of the B4297. Documentary sources alone can never provide a full history or indeed a full record if the landscape is massively altered. Archaeological and paleo-environmental evidence must also be used through detailed fieldwork, sampling and, if necessary, excavation. The landscape is itself a 'document' and one of great complexity. Each area is unique. Wildlife and plant habitats can to a greater or lesser degree be replicated - historic landscapes, by their very nature, cannot.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTENT OF THE STUDY AREA

2.1 Prehistory

Of the three known prehistoric sites within the Preliminary Consultation Area (two Bronze Age 'burnt mounds' and an Iron Age Defended Enclosure) only one burnt mound survives, the other sites having been destroyed in previous open cast mining without record.

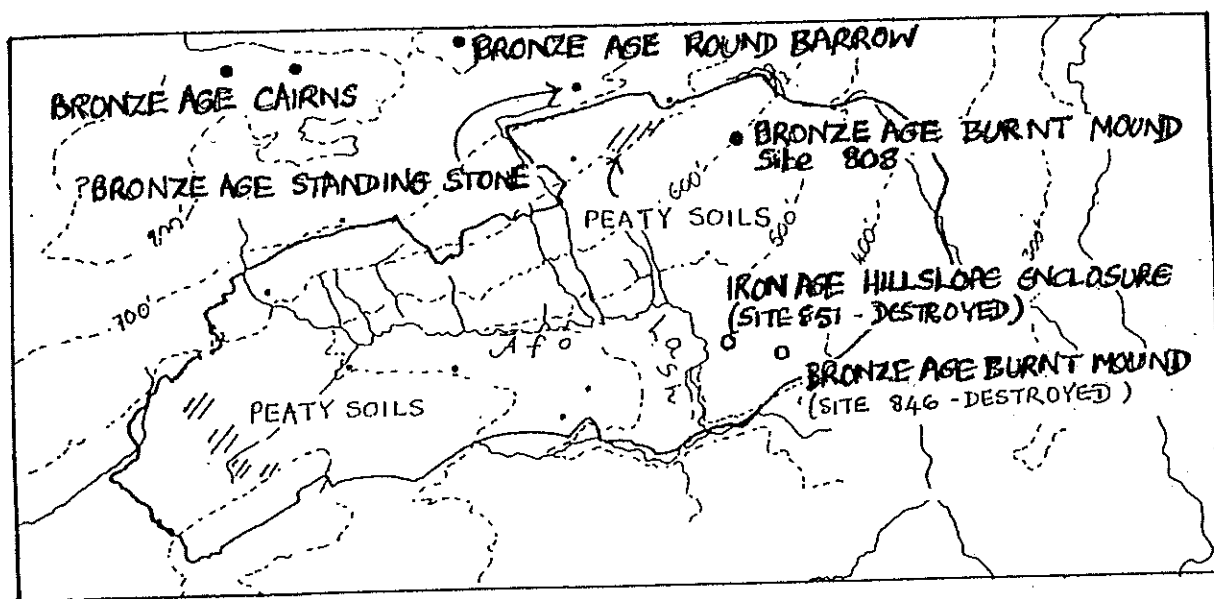


Fig. 1: Known Prehistoric sites and sites of paleobotanical potential

The Bronze Age (2,500 - 1200 BC) spanned a period of climatic change in Britain. Warmer, drier weather that allowed exploitation of the uplands both for grazing and farming gave way c. 1100 BC to colder wetter weather conditions. This caused vegetational changes such as the formation of blanket bogs in upland areas. Bronze Age ritual monuments in the form of cairns, and standing stones, together with traces of field systems, survive along the whole of the limestone and gritstone ridge of high ground extending south-westward from the Black Mountain to north of Kidwelly. Those nearest to the Preliminary Consultation Area are shown on the map below. Casual finds of Bronze Age metal work (most recently through systematic search of the Gwendraeth Valleys by metal detectorists) demonstrate that valley slopes and bottoms adjacent to the high ground were also exploited. The only known Bronze Age sites in the Preliminary Consultation Area are the so-called **burnt mounds**.

Burnt mounds or **prehistoric hearths** are invariably sited on marshy ground and close to streams. They are low crescent shaped mounds of small to medium sized burnt stones, thought to be the residue of heating water in pits for cooking or for a primitive form of sauna. They may have been used by seasonal hunting groups or they may indicate more permanent settlement in their vicinity. Few datable artefacts are found with them but the majority are of Bronze Age date.

The single surviving example in the Preliminary Consultation Area is prn 808. Another site (prn 846) was recorded south east of Tir Eionon, but no record was made of this site

before it was quarried away. It is possible that an exhaustive field search might uncover more examples or that they may be exposed in site working but none have been identified from rapid survey.

Iron Age sites are poorly represented in the archaeological record for south east Dyfed it may be that population levels declined with climatic deterioration. However an Iron Age site (prn 851) existed within the Preliminary Consultation Area south east of Tir Einion which was quarried away without record. This was a single ditched hillslope enclosure about 70 m. in diameter with a single entrance on the downslope side. This was probably an Iron Age farmstead.

The known prehistoric evidence therefore indicates only that there was occupation within the Preliminary Consultation Area, its nature and density cannot be assessed. However there are potential valuable 'reservoirs' of **paleobotanical information** in the **peat deposits** identified in the Preliminary Ecological Assessment west of the B4297 and on the north east edge of the area. Sample columns taken through such peat deposits by environmental archaeologists can identify the changing patterns and frequency of plant species. The different 'horizons' can be dated by radio-carbon determination. It may be possible therefore to assess the relative importance of tree and scrub cover in relation to open grazing land and the proximity of arable cultivation from the prehistoric periods through the Middle Ages to the present day. The peat deposits on the north east side of the Preliminary Consultation Area are particularly valuable because of their proximity to known Bronze Age sites and therefore their potential in revealing how the landscape was being used and exploited in the Bronze Age and later.

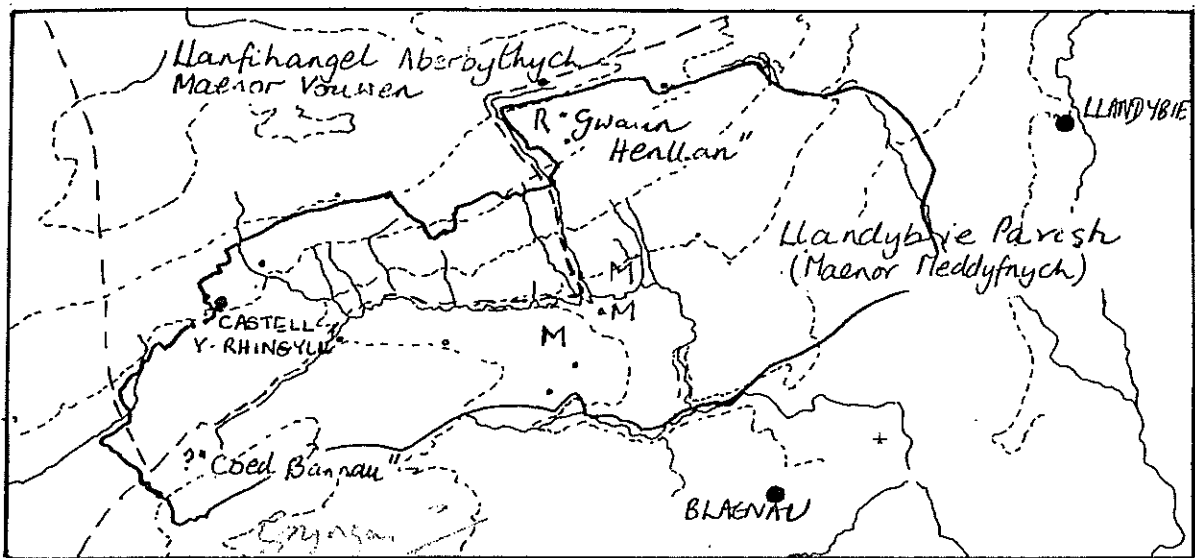
2.2 Historical evidence for the 'Dark Ages' 400 - 1200 AD

The whole of the first millenium AD is very much a 'Dark Age' in terms of archaeological and historical evidence for settlement and landuse in Wales. The rare survival in the form of marginal notes recording the ninth century bounds of a large estate (Meddynfych) in a Gospel Book originally belonging to the Celtic monastery of Llandeilo throws a shaft of light on part of the Preliminary Consultation Area. Most of the bounds can be identified with surviving places or topographical features and the whole estate, with two additions, became the medieval ecclesiastical parish of Llandybie. The document has been the subject of a detailed study by Professor Emeritus Glanville Jones, who is the leading expert on early Welsh settlement forms. He discerns a stable pattern of territorial organisation and mixed landuse with elements of some antiquity even in the ninth century.

There are two significant elements relevant to the Preliminary Consultation Area. One of the bounds is *Gwaun Henllan*, which can without doubt be identified with Glyn-yr-Henllan. The 'henllan' element may be translated as llan or enclosure of the old church or may just mean old enclosure, but the fact that it was old by the 9th century is of significance. The area of the Waun or meadow can be determined on the ground today since it survived as a unit through the centuries. The other significant boundary name is *Coed Bannau* (wood of the summits) which may be applied to the westernmost part of the Preliminary Consultation Area between the headwaters of the Lash to the east and the Gwendraeth Fawr. This, as we shall see was common land (Mynydd Mawr) until Enclosure in the early 19th century. The placename evidence here as in other parts of the estate is indicative of tracts of ancient woodland not just in valley bottoms but on upland slopes.

Other placename elements indicative of **relict landscape** features in the Preliminary Consultation Area dating from the early medieval period are the elements *hendre* or *hendref* (old settlement) as in *Hendre Agored*. This holding lies north-east of Glyn Henllan. Field names found in the Tithe Schedule of 1840 for Llandybie, but traceable in many instances back to earlier centuries containing the elements *rhandir* (shareland) and *maes* (field). These are relicts within the enclosed single farm units east of the B4297 in the Lash valley of earlier medieval arrangements where lands were held by kindreds. Individuals held shares or strips mixed together in *rhandiroedd*. These might be sited in large arable fields (*meusydd*). There is evidence for intermixed shares of the marshy meadow land on the lower slopes of the Lash valley. These names are plotted onto the modern 1:2500 Map (Map 7) accompanying this assessment report.

Fig 2: Dark Age and Medieval Sites and Administrative Units; R = 'rhandir' field names, M = 'maes' field names from Tithe and Estate Maps of 18th & 19th centuries



2.3 The Middle Ages 1200-1500 AD

In Dyfed as elsewhere in Wales the most important medieval territorial and administrative units - namely the ecclesiastical parishes - had their roots in much older territorial divisions. We have seen how the large Dark Age estate of Meddyfnych became the parish of Llandybie. The study area is divided between the ecclesiastical parishes of Llandybie and Llanfihangel Aberbythych. The **boundaries** between the two within the Preliminary Consultation Area follow the course of the Afon Lash and turn northwards along the tributary stream which forms the western boundary of Bryn Gwyn Farm. The fact that these boundaries follow the natural features of rivers and streams may be taken as evidence of their antiquity. Where parishes, and within them, manorial lordships met in areas of upland common land, boundaries were often marked by lines of stones. In some cases existing Bronze Age Standing Stones or burial cairns were utilized as markers in the landscape. When the Enclosure Commissioners settled boundaries between manors and awarded shares in the former Common of Mynydd Mawr and Mynydd Pentregwenlais they utilised a pre-existing line of boundary stones. (see Map 3, Appendix 1) Rapid field search has failed to locate any of these but if open cast extraction takes place over this area more detailed recording of the stones or their sites should take place. These ancient boundaries exist therefore as physical elements

within the landscape and are worthy of preservation in their own right. In broader terms the whole area was part of the medieval commote of Iscennen. The commote, Welsh *cwmwd* was a local administrative and territorial unit. The relevance of this to the Preliminary Consultation Area is that the commote of Iscennen came very late under Anglo-Norman control and therefore native Welsh systems of law, tenure, and kinship structures were preserved. As a result continuity in the landscape is greater than those lowland, coastal areas to the south (Gower, Kidwelly) remodelled by the Anglo-Norman incomers from the 12th century onwards. It is against this backcloth that the remaining parts of the Preliminary Consultation Area not already totally remodelled after earlier open cast operations need to be evaluated.

Glyn yr Henllan

It is generally reported in local histories that there was an old church or chapel on this site. Edward Lhuyd gathered information in 1696 about a Bryn Eglwys, a circle of stones where the old church of Llandybie had stood. This was equated with Henllan on good place name grounds. There is an early nineteenth century report of chapel ruins. There are two platform sites with signs of stone footings south east of Hendre Agored farm which might account for the local traditions. The placename suggests but does not prove the existence of an earlier chapel. But such a chapel would not be unlikely in an outlying part of a Dark Age estate, perhaps originating as an Early Christian burial ground and surviving into the Middle Ages as a chapel of ease. On the 2 inch to the mile surveyors' maps of the early 19th century the present day Penfarch is called Henllan and Glyn yr Henllan simply Glyn (see Map 2, Appendix 1). But this may have been an error since the 'Waun henllan' is very firmly to be located in the large marshy area of meadow south east of Glyn yr Henllan. More detailed field work is required in this area.

Castell y Rhingyll

This poorly preserved monument is nevertheless of importance in reconstructing the medieval landscape of the Preliminary Consultation Area. The fortunate survival of its name in the small present day settlement allows us to better interpret the significance of the site. The *rhingyll* or beadle was a local official not of a feudal Norman lordship but of the more ancient Welsh territorial and administrative division of the commote. He enforced the law, collected rents and tributes through the commotal court and was to be found wherever there were unfree or bond tenants, who tended to live in hamlets rather than the dispersed settlements of the freemen. Very little of the site survives. Study of aerial photographs suggests that it may have been a moated site rather than the motte proposed by earlier fieldworkers. What is left is not threatened by open cast operations since it is immediately adjacent to Castell y Rhingyll house and grounds. The site is located at what may have been the junction between the partly enclosed and communally cultivated lands and meadows either side of the valley of the Lash and the open common lands of Mynydd Mawr.

2.4 The Emergence of Farms and Gentry Estates 1500-1840.

The later Middle Ages and particularly the 16th century saw the emergence of the modern pattern of settlement of individual farms with their own enclosed fields, forming parts of gentry estates both large and small. These farms were created partly by encroachment upon former commons and woodland, partly by consolidation of sharelands. Although the earliest references to some of the application's farmsteads

located so far are early 16th century it is possible that some are late medieval in origin. Some of the farm names may be derived from earlier names denoting the area where they were sited, others from individuals (such as Tir Eion, earlier known as Tir David Eion). The names also convey a strong impression of the landscape and vegetation of the area. The common element 'glyn', denoting wooded valley and 'blaen' the source area of springs and rivers characterize the area even today. Names such as Maes yr Onnen (ash tree) and Derwen (oak) are further evidence of the ancient woodland of the valley. As Map 5, Appendix 1 shows, the similar siting of the farms, their position along a possibly pre-existing routeway, their shares of different kinds of land argues for their emergence at about the same time.

Early deeds in the Cawdor/Vaughan archives at Carmarthen Record Office give an idea of the process. A deed of 1547 concerns two 'parcels' of land at 'Goweyn Henllan', their position being described by reference to a third individual's lands. This shows that Waun Henllan was still a large marshy meadow divided between a number of landholders. The deed also shows the process of transfer and consolidation into single ownership taking place. Another deed of 1557 grants 'part of a meadow at Henllan'. By 1561 'Gweyne henllan' was bought as a single holding with 'Tyre Rosser' for £20 by Rosser ap Rees, yeoman of Llanfihangel Aberbythych from Maurice ap Rees of Kydwelly esq. The Piode estate included most of the farms and lands in the Lash valley. The earliest known owners were the Gwyns, and the estate came to the Vaughans of Golden Grove by descent from one of 3 joint heiresses. Detailed rentals of the shares of each of the early 18th century heiresses are given in an Abstract of Title of John Vaughan dated 1778. Among many points of interest is the description of an area called 'Blaendery Cross' formerly one holding but by the early 18th century subdivided into 3 separate tenements one of which was Pen Deri Groes. A similar subdivision may have created the adjacent farms of Glyn and Blaen-y-glyn. An exhaustive search of all available documentary sources has not been carried out for this preliminary assessment, but the table below, derived mainly from the Cawdor Vaughan deeds in the Carmarthen Record Office, gives an idea of the antiquity of the present pattern of farms in the valley. Only references for those still extant are given. A similar table could be produced for those farms south and south east of the Lash removed in earlier open cast operations.

<i>Farm Name</i>	<i>Earliest Documentary Reference</i>
Blaen Glyn	? 1685 Glyn 30 yr lease
Bryn Gwyn	1554 land at 'Brynegwinne' 1758 lease
Castell y Rhingyll	medieval site & name 1754 colliery at C.R.
Derwen	1779 lease of 'Dorwen'
Glyn yr Henllan	9th c. boundary name 1547 'goweyn henllan' 1667 Glyn Henllan
Glyn Lash	1744 Tir Lash alias Glan Lash
Hendre Agored	Hendre name element 1580 lease of Hendre Gorrett
Llwyn yr ynn	?1549 Tir y yllyn 1773 lease of Llwyn yr Ynn
Maes Gwaed	maes: medieval common field name,
Maes yr Onnen	?1619 Gwyn Bryn yr Onn,
Penfarch	no doc sources yet found
Tir Eion	1581 & 1639 Tir Eynon. 18thc Tir David Eion

2.5 The Enclosure of Mynydd Mawr 1813 - 20.

Mynydd Pentregwenlais Common

The possibility of some at least of the boundary marker stones noted by the Enclosure Commissioners in 1813 being of ancient origin has been discussed above (section 2.3). Undoubtedly by the time of enclosure of Mynydd Mawr in 1820 there had been considerable encroachment on the edges of the Common and within it reducing its extent. The process had begun much earlier: by 1609, in a survey of the Duchy of Lancaster's Lordship of Kidwelly it was reported that had been numerous "incroachments".

The northern boundaries of the enclosed fields of Hendre Gored and Glyn yr Henllan are likely to represent the medieval limits of enclosure up to the edge of the Common of Mynydd Pentregwenlais. The fields and cottages (now largely gone) north of the road between Castell y Rhingyll and Carmel probably represent successive encroachment upon the Common. The road itself was constructed in the 1820s or 1830s. It is possible that some if not all of the farms west of Glyn yr Henllan along the 600' contour line (Penfarch, Blaen-y-Glyn, Bryn Gwyn, Llwynrynn) originate in medieval holdings which may have been located at the junction of open common grazing lands to the north and enclosed meadows and fields to the south.

Mynydd Mawr Commons

The historic landscape in the Preliminary Consultation Area west of the Castell y Rhingyll to Pen-y-Groes road is completely different to that to the east. It is a classic enclosure landscape overlain by the remains of late 19th century small to medium scale colliery activity. (see Maps 2,3 & 4 Appendix 1) Until the early 19th century it formed part of the large Mynydd Mawr Common. There were three Enclosure Acts for Mynydd Mawr between 1800 and 1820. The area within the opencast application was divided in characteristic geometric fashion between the principal landowners. Map 4, from the first edition of the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey of 1876 shows the process of subdivision of the landowners' strips into small squarish fields. This was presumably to help drain the land by ditching around the fields but it was always poor land and was never properly drained. No doubt this was due to the fact that the predominant interest in the land was for its coal reserves not for its grazing or arable potential. Only one farmstead, Bryn Melyn, was constructed within the newly enclosed area. It is a general feature of the coal mining areas of south east Dyfed that small, essentially 'uneconomic', or 'unimproved' farms survived longer than in other areas of the county because it was always possible to supplement incomes by working in the coal mines.

2.6 Coal Mining

The anthracite coal of the Amman coalfield was being mined on a small scale from the early 16th century, to fuel the steadily growing numbers of lime kilns in the area. These resources were regarded as part of the freeholders' 'rights of common' in areas like Mynydd Mawr. But increasingly, as the value of the mineral reserves became apparent, landowners, notably the Vaughans, asserted their rights to them as Lords of the relevant manors. The earliest reference discovered for the Preliminary Consultation Area is an Agreement of 1754 between John Vaughan of Golden Grove esq., and John Hopkin of Llanfihangel Aberbythych 'to work a colliery at Castell y Rhigill'. This is probably

Cwm yr Nant where 'Old Shafts' are noted both on 18th century Estate maps and on the First Edition 1:2500. Place name evidence, such as Cwm Mwyn near Gorslas, west of the Preliminary Consultation Area, strongly suggests that the extent of mineral workings on the open commons before Enclosure is under-represented in the Enclosure maps and documents. These sites (where they survive outside the previously open casted areas) of early coal shafts and mines and associated tramways are of industrial archaeological value, and are part of the total history of the area. Most particularly the tramroad across the area west of the B4297 should be recorded in detail if that area is to be open casted.

2.7 Communications.

The pattern of communications which has developed over a long period of time is a 'document' in its own right. The accompanying map gives a preliminary overview of its various components. It does not necessarily follow that the most recent elements are the best preserved. Development in the second half of the twentieth century has obliterated much of the industrial pattern of tramways and mineral railways, whereas footpaths and bridlepaths may preserve much more ancient medieval, and even conceivably prehistoric routeways. Roads, tracks, footpaths are the linking features of historic landscape elements and are self evidently unique in their particular configurations to the area. Remove them totally and individual sites become isolated islands robbed of all context. It is regrettable in view of its architectural importance that Piodau mansion had finally to be demolished due to dereliction and vandalism, although it was initially excluded from opencast operations. But a case might equally have been made for its preservation as the historic estate centre for most of the Preliminary Assessment Area and therefore a focus of routes and key to understanding the communications pattern.

2.8 Buildings

Only a superficial survey has been carried out of all the buildings within the Preliminary Consultation Area which might be demolished prior to open casting. The oldest building, the fine 17th century double pile house of Piode has now gone. There are no other Listed Buildings within the Preliminary Consultation Area. In general farm-houses and particularly farm buildings are of much more recent date than the farm holdings. Farm buildings at Glyn yr Henllan and Hendre Gored may be of 16th or 17th century origin but their present appearance and their associated farm buildings are of early 19th century date. It is apparent that Maes yr Onnen, now derelict, is a structure of several phases of build.

Of the remaining farms Penfarch is a large 'L' shaped building with good outbuildings, possibly of 18th century date. However if any of the farms are to be abandoned and demolished to make way for open cast operations it is likely that detailed recording of the buildings and demolition under archaeological supervision might reveal earlier features.

RECOMMENDATIONS

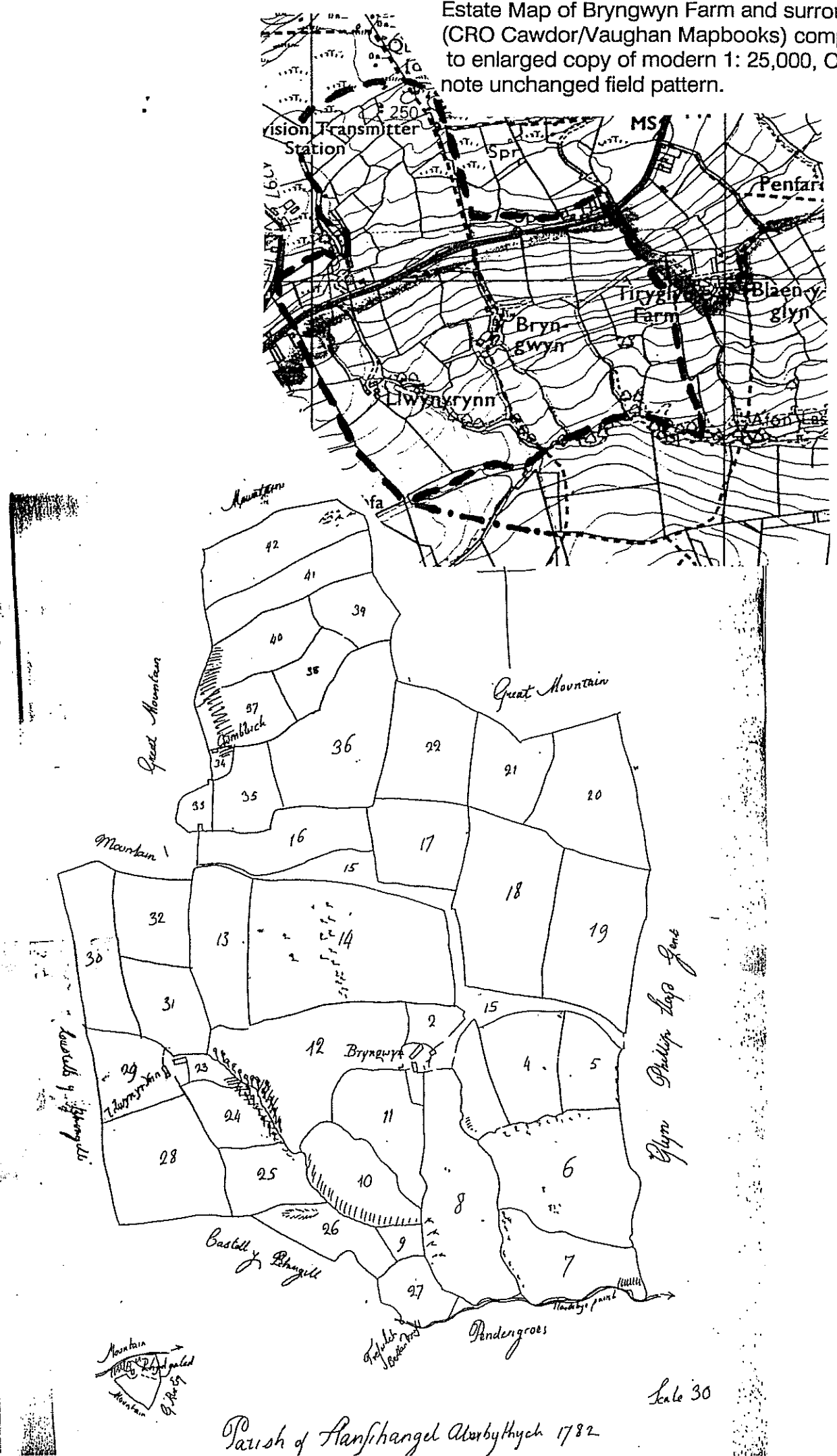
1. Preservation

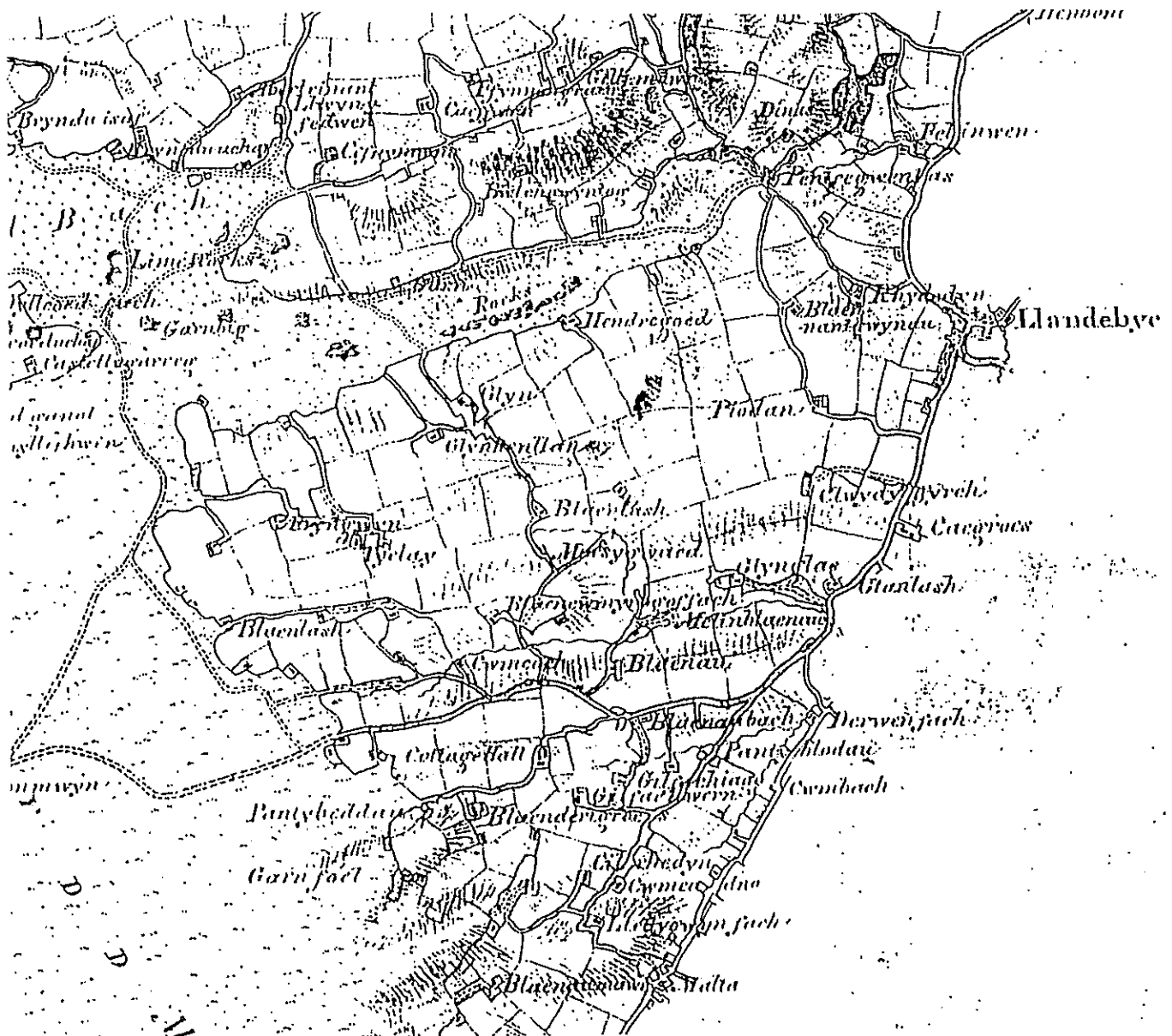
The Trust recommends that part at least of the Preliminary Consultation Area be left undisturbed by open cast operations. This is justified by the intrinsic historic landscape value of the Preliminary Consultation Area and by the fact that a considerable part of its historic landscape has already been wholly removed by previous operations. This gives higher value to what remains. What is preserved should form a coherent bloc in historic landscape terms and possibly be selected on the basis of combining historic landscape features with areas of high ecological value.

2. Archaeological Evaluation

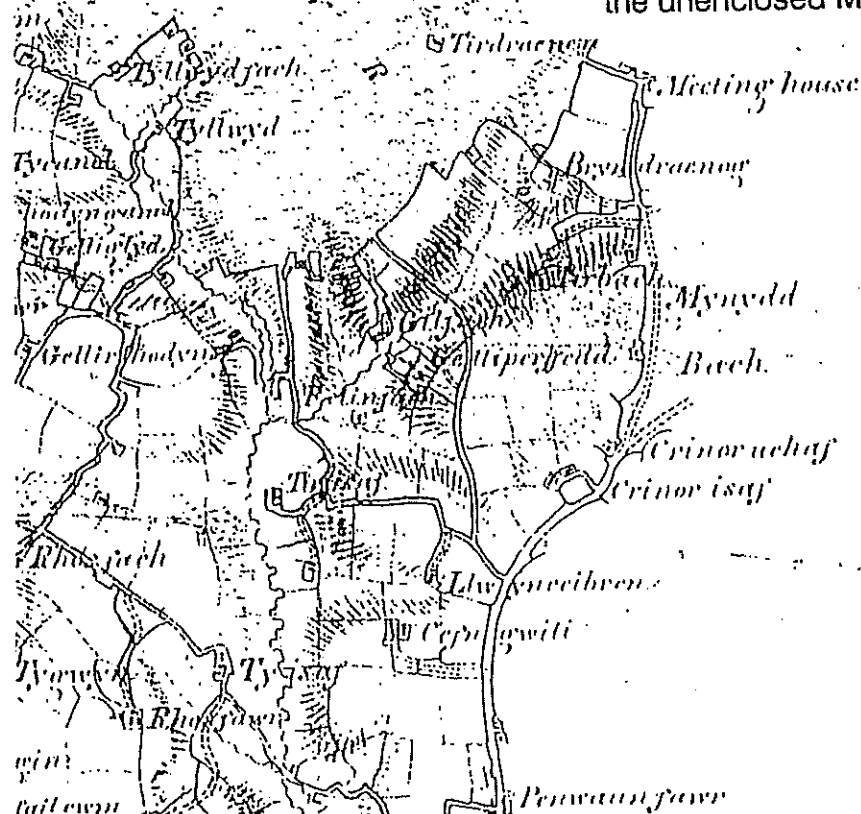
If and when an application is submitted for Planning Consent for a working site within the Preliminary Consultation Area, the Trust recommends that this be subject to more detailed field evaluation than has been appropriate for this Preliminary 'Desk Top' Assessment. Such an evaluation might include geophysical survey and trial trenching, also rapid survey to provide more detailed specifications for the recording of any buildings which might be demolished. This is in accord with procedures recommended in Welsh Office Planning Policy Guideline 16 'Archaeology and Planning'. The evaluation should provide sufficient information for more detailed specifications to be prepared for such excavation, recording and environmental sampling work as may be necessary.

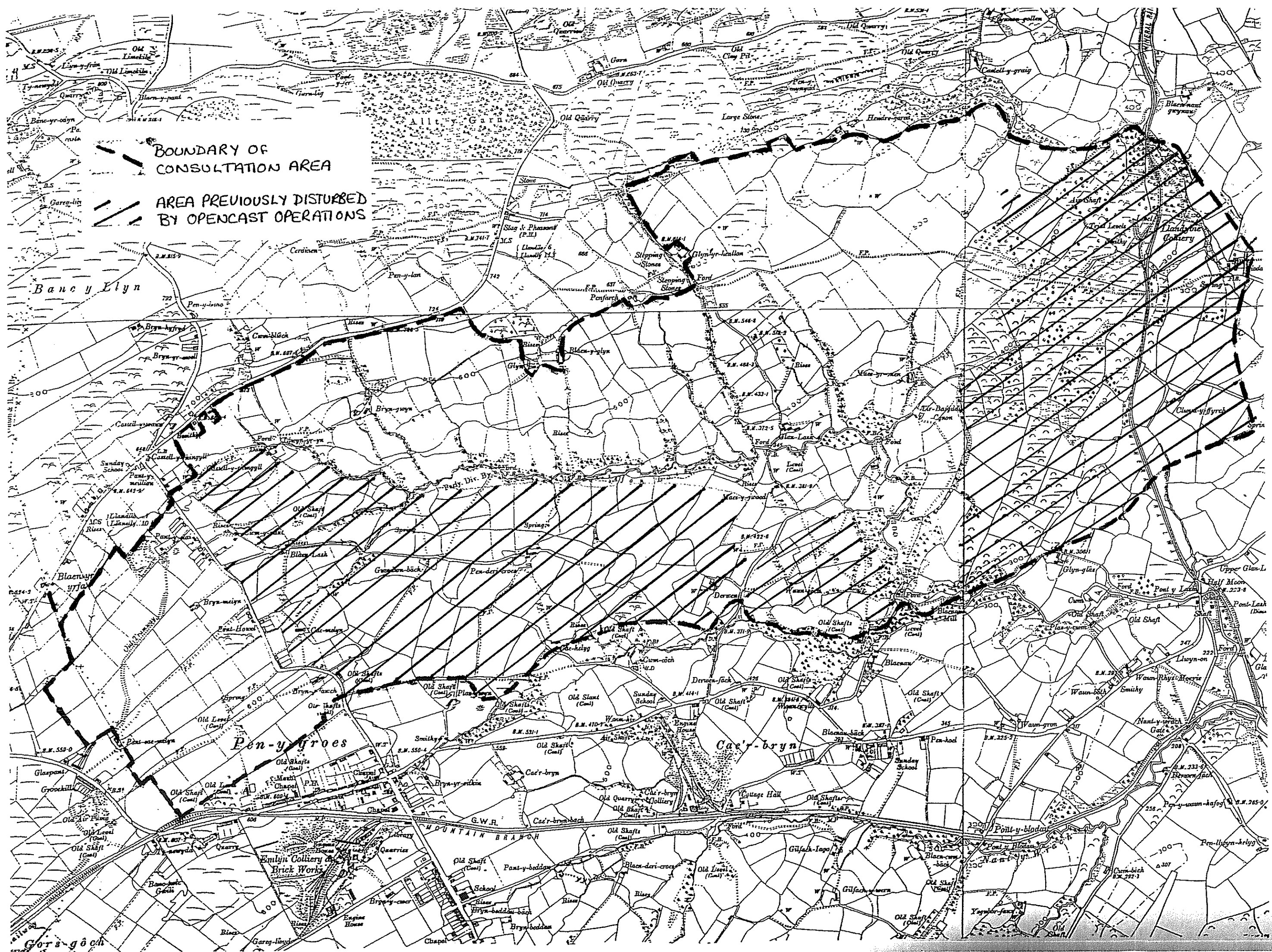
MAP 1. Reduced copy of tracing of 18th century Estate Map of Bryngwyn Farm and surrounds (CRO Cawdor/Vaughan Mapbooks) compared to enlarged copy of modern 1: 25,000, OS map. note unchanged field pattern.





MAP 2: Copy of early 19th C. surveyors' 2 inch to the mile drawings, preparatory for the first edition of the Ordnance survey's one inch maps. This shows the unenclosed Mynydd Mawr common lands.





COMMUNICATION PATTERNS: Base Map Second Edition 6 inch OS.

KEY

- = Mineral railways & tramways and coal shafts & colliery sites
- = Roads, tracks and footpaths of all periods
- = Nodal points of communications

Present day minor road crossing the application area - probably the oldest north-south, cross valley route




Note how route links to Pioda, the main estate centre in 16th & 17th C.

'North-south' routes, one per farm linking the mountain pastures, the farm and the riverside meadows. Note how these easily cross the Lash.

Note how railway and colliery links cut across earlier agricultural routes linking farms to common pastures on Mynydd Fferws

Blaenau - one of the township units of Llandybie, site of the only known Mill in the application area.

KEY

-  = Mineral railways & tramways and coal shafts & colliery sites
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Present day minor road crossing the application area - probably the oldest north-south, cross valley route

Remains of a continuous track cuts across earlier fields.
linking farms along 600' contour -
? originates in the medieval
boundary between enclosed &
common lands?

'North-south' routes, one per farm linking the mountain pastures, the farm and the riverside meadows. Note how these easily cross the Lash.

Note how route links to Piode,
the main estate centre in 16th & 17th C.

Earlier-route marking pre-Enclosure
edge of enclosed land

Blaenau - one of the township units of Llandybie, site of the only known Mill in the application area.

Note how railway and colliery links cut across earlier agricultural routes linking farms to common pastures on Mynydd Fferrws

APPENDIX 1: Selected historic maps:

MAP 1. Reduced copy of tracing of 18th century Estate Map of Bryngwyn Farm and surrounds (CRO Cawdor/Vaughan Mapbooks) compared to enlarged copy of modern 1: 25,000, note unchanged field pattern.

Map 2. Copy of 2 inch to the mile surveyors' survey, preparatory to the first edition of the OS one inch map, early 19th century. NB shows Mynydd Mawr open common lands.

3. Reduced copy of the Enclosure Map of the Great Mountain (Mynydd Mawr) 1813, showing former bounds of enclosed land now east of Gate Road.

4. Detail from First Edition 1878 1:2500 of newly enclosed land, west of Gate Road, showing Enclosure Award allotments (pink) and later field divisions (green).

5. Reduced composite map from 2nd edition 6 inch OS maps showing the developed communications pattern at maximum extent, compare with following Map 6 which shows areas already opencasted.

6. Reduced 2nd edn. 6 inch showing extent of removal of historic landscapes in previous open cast operations within the application area.

7. Die-line copies of BOC's 1:2500 area maps with main sites, historic landscape features and earlier administrative divisions plotted.

APPENDIX 2 : REFERENCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abbreviations used in text:

CRO = Carmarthen Record Office NLW = National Library of Wales OS
= Ordnance Survey

Unpublished

Extensive use was made of Dyfed Archaeological Trust's Sites and Monuments Records.

Estate Maps in the Carmarthen Record Office

Cawdor Vaughan Mapbooks 1782-1787 Vol.I; C/V -/8660

(1783).Blaen Nantgwineu, Llandeibie

(1782).Bryngwyn, parish of Llanfihangel Aberbythych

(1783).Hendregored and Castell y graig in the parish of Llandeibie

(1782).Llanfernach, parish of Llanfihangel Aberbythych

(1783).Penderigroes and Waun y Plasgwyn in Llandeibie

Dynevor Map Bundle 5;

p26 (1779).Blaen y Glyn situate in the Parish of Llanvihangel Carmarthenshire

p91 (n.d.).Caemelyn in the Parish of Llandybie; Cwm Seison in the Parish of Llandybie

p106(1833).A plan of the Allotments near Caerbryn, Faenlas, & Cae Melyn in the Parish of Llandybie Carmarthenshire

p94 (n.d.).Derwen in the Parish of Llandybie

p80 (n.d.).Glyn and Maes-yr-Onnen in the Parish of Llandybie

p95 (1826).Tir Dafydd Eynon in the Parish of Llandybie Carmarthenshire

Maps of the Golden Grove Estate. Vol II;

p79-80 (1783).Blaennant Gwynau

p83-84 (1783).Hendre Gored & Castell y Graig
p99-100 (1783).Penderigroes

Other Maps in the National Library of Wales

(1847).Tithe map and schedule for Llanarthney parish

(1849).Tithe map and schedule for Llandybie parish

(1839).Tithe map and schedule for Llanfihangel Aberbythych parish

Other Maps in Carmarthen Record Office

ACC 4588;

(1813).A map of the Great Mountain shewing the boundaries of the manors or lordships as determined by the Commissioners

CRO AE17. Map A;

(1820).Great Mountain Enclosure Award. Dated 31st May 1820

Dynevor Map Bundle 4,6;

(1915).Tracing of the Award Map at Carmarthen

Ordnance Survey,(1878) 1:2500 First Edition, Carmarthenshire sheet
XLI.15. Southampton

Ordnance Survey,(1887) 1:2500 First Edition, Carmarthenshire sheet
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Ordnance Survey,(1889) 1:2500 First Edition, Carmarthenshire sheets
XLVIII.1, XLVIII.2. Southampton

Ordnance Survey,(1906) 1:2500 Second Edition, Carmarthenshire sheets
XLVIII.2, XLVIII.3, XLI.14, XLI.15, XLIII.1.

Southampton

Ordnance Survey,(1915) 1:2500 Edition of 1915, Carmarthenshire sheets
XLVIII.3, XLVIII.5, XLVIII.6. Southampton

Ordnance Survey,(1916) 1:2500 Edition of 1916, Carmarthenshire sheet
XLVIII.1. Southampton

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