

01/06/92

TREFLOYNE GOLF COURSE - ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Preamble

South Pembrokeshire District Council consulted Dyfed Archaeological Trust on the archaeological implications of the application (D3/806/91) by F.H. Gilman & Sons to construct an 18 hole Golf Course at Trefloyne Farm, on Cadw's recommendation following consultation on the Scheduled Ancient Monuments adjacent to the site.

The Trust recommended to SPDC on 24 April 1992 that they require the applicant to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to any determination of the application as recommended by Planning Policy Guideline no. 16 on Archaeology and Planning, paras. 21 and 22. This was accepted by SPDC, the application was deferred until 3rd June and Mr A.M. Woodward of Gilman & Sons contacted DAT to arrange for a site visit and an evaluation to take place. The short timespan has not allowed for an exhaustive evaluation but the Trust is confident that the Recommendations that are made at the end of this report are sufficient to safeguard the archaeological features and potential of the site.

Summary of the Archaeological and Historical Importance of Trefloyne

Trefloyne Farm is of considerable archaeological and historical significance for two reasons:

1. Within and around the environs of the application area surviving sites, past records of finds, recent archaeological excavations and historical sources provide evidence of human occupation and activity from the Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age) Neolithic, Dark Age, Medieval and Civil War periods.

2. The area of the Ritec Valley is one of continuity of settlement forms and thus the historic landscape contains elements of great antiquity.

Thus the evidence of the past so far recovered from the area justifies a concern for the archaeological potential of the remainder of the development site itself.

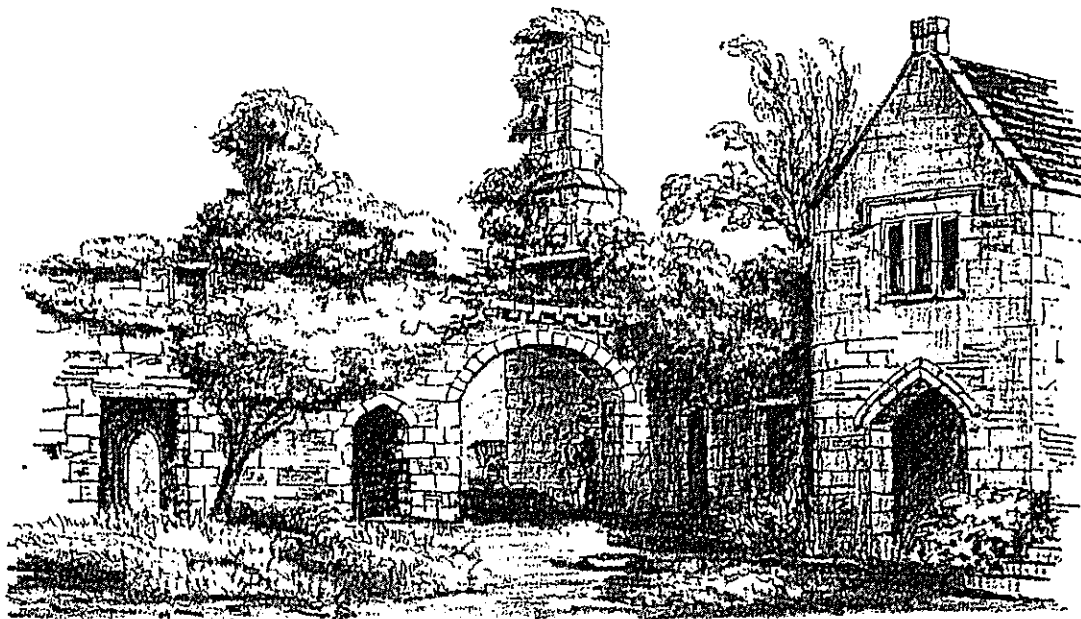
The Archaeological and Historical Evidence for Trefloyne and its environs

Two Scheduled Ancient Monuments are adjacent to the application area: Hoyles Mouth Cave and Little Hoyle. Numerous finds extend through the whole prehistoric period: there are animal bones and flints of the Paleolithic period, flint implements and a stone axe of the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, Bronze Age Iron Age and Roman pottery, and evidence of prehistoric metal working. Important finds of early medieval date during recent excavations at Little Hoyle by Dr Stephen Green of the National Museum of Wales prompted further excavation at Longbury Bank.

Excavations at Longbury Bank produced finds of imported Mediterranean pottery of 5th and 6th century date and fragments of Merovingian glass of 7th century date from France. The excavators, Drs Alan Lane and Euan Campbell of University College Cardiff conclude that an important high status early medieval settlement must be sited in the vicinity of Longbury Bank perhaps complementary to the major Celtic monastery of Penally, a kilometre away.

Trefloyne Farm was a gentry seat of the Bowen family in the 16th, 17th and 18th century from whom it passed to the Philipps family of Picton castle. It was a medieval manorial centre and is undoubtedly the pre-Norman *Villa Luin Teiliau* and *Eccluis* (church) *guiniau* mentioned in a charter of c.1025 in the Book of Llandaff. The conjunction of this documentary evidence and the rare Dark Age finds in the Longbury Bank area make the site extremely significant for Wales as a whole. Did a native Welsh high status site at Trefloyne succeed one of 5-7th century date near Longbury Bank? Is there also a Dark Age church site close to the present Trefloyne Farm? The field name Castell Gwynn for the field in front of the house seems to perpetuate the name and thus possibly the site of the *eccluis guiniau* of the Llandaff Charters.

Our knowledge of the medieval manorial buildings which predated the present farmhouse and outbuildings is sketchy. A drawing of the ruins published in 1804 is difficult to relate to the present layout. In addition there is evidence that defences and alterations were made during the Civil War when it was held by the Earl of Carbery for the King and attacked by the parliamentary forces. However the ruined buildings and earlier foundations in the woods on the upslope side of the present farmhouse and outbuildings may be of medieval date and indicate a greater extent to the original manorial complex than that covered by the more modern buildings.



- Trellwyn -

Drawing of the ruins of Trefloyne manor in 1804, published in *Arch Camb.* 1877

Trefloyne or Trellwyn was probably the most important of the estate centres in the Ritec valley. Many of them are equally likely to be of early medieval origin. It is unlikely therefore that there ever was a system of medieval 'open field' farming and that the fields were enclosed from an early date. Although it is clear that many hedges have been removed since the Tithe Commissioners mapped the parish of Penally in the 1840s the surviving pattern of field boundaries, areas of woodland, roads, tracks and bridleways is likely to be of great antiquity and worthy of conservation for its historic landscape value.

The solid geology of the application area is limestone. Archaeologically, the consequences are that the soil conditions (unlike most of west Wales) are favourable to the preservation of bone (hence the important finds of extinct animals and of more recent human and animal bone in the caves). If there was an early medieval church and/or cemetery site in the vicinity of Trefloyne as the Llandaff Charter evidence suggests, then bone survival would be likely. It is clear that the area is covered in caves, fissures and sink holes in the limestone. The excavations at Longbury bank demonstrated the potential for survival of earlier deposits and material (flint, stone tools, bone, pottery, glass, metal working debris in sink-holes whereas centuries of ploughing over the thinly covered plateaux will have destroyed and eroded much of the evidence for earlier structures and material.

The Archaeological Implications of the proposed Development

1. The construction of tees, greens, bunkers and areas of rough may involve disturbance and displacement, if not outright removal, of existing 'historic landscape' components like field boundaries, footpaths, bridleways, and areas of ancient woodland.

2. Construction of the above, together with a pond and subsoiling necessary for laying a piped water system for watering the greens, also construction of raised greens or tees with imported material (possibly topsoil derived from sinkholes etc areas identified by borehole survey within the application area) might both reveal, disturb or destroy archaeological evidence of the prehistoric and medieval periods.

3. Conversion of the Farm and Outbuildings as a Clubhouse and any new services, or surfaced areas (i.e. a car-park) required might both reveal, disturb or destroy any sub-surface remains of the medieval and post-medieval manor house and a possible Dark Age precursor.

Recommendations

Although parts of the application area and its environs are demonstrably of archaeological importance and the archaeological potential of the whole application area makes it archaeologically sensitive, Dyfed Archaeological Trust does not recommend that the application be refused on archaeological grounds.

However the Trust does recommend that should South Pembrokeshire District Council be minded to give consent to this application they should require that the detailed design of the course and its service works and buildings cause as little disturbance to the existing landforms and historic landscape features as possible. Sensitive areas are marked on the accompanying map. The Trust recommends that South Pembrokeshire District Council consult with the Trust again once a detailed design has been drawn up.

In order to ensure that any archaeological evidence of structures or finds which may be revealed during construction of the course be recognized, recorded and that advice be given to minimise their destruction, the Trust recommends that South Pembrokeshire District Council include a condition in any consent it may be minded to give requiring that the applicant make satisfactory provision for a watching brief to be maintained by a professional archaeologist during the construction of the course and its ancillary works.

References:

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Ice Age Hunters: Neanderthals and Early Modern Hunters in Wales, S. Green & E.
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1st June 1992.

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Application for an 18 Hole Golf course at Trefloyne by F.H.Gilman

