

ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

**AFON BEDW, PENBRYN,
CEREDIGION**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE
PROPOSED WINDFARM SITE, MARCH 1999**

Project Record No. 37400

Report prepared for Dulas Limited
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National Library of Wales, Parish of Penbryn, Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1838.

Ordnance Survey, 1:10560, Cardiganshire Sheet XXXI NE, First Edition, 1891.

Ordnance Survey, 1:10560, Cardiganshire Sheet XXXI NE, Second Edition, 1906.

APPENDIX 3

Copy of project specification

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Development proposals and brief

Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology were invited, by Dulas Limited, to tender for an archaeological assessment of a proposed small windfarm site at Afon Bedw, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, on 19 December 1998. *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology* accordingly submitted a specification and quotation on 24 December 1998. The tender was successful tender and *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology* were awarded the contract which was signed on 4 March 1999.

1.2 Project objectives

- 1.2.1 to assess the character, extent, significance and vulnerability of the archaeological resource within the survey area
- 1.2.2 to identify new archaeological sites, features and deposits within the survey area, and to assess their character, significance and vulnerability
- 1.2.3 to identify sites, features and deposits that require further archaeological investigation to fully assess their character, extent, significance and vulnerability
- 1.2.4 the preparation of a report fully representative of the information recovered during 1.2.1 - 1.2.3, which places the archaeological resource of the survey area within its local, regional and national contexts.
- 1.2.5 The preparation of a project archive

1.3 Project methodology

- 1.3.1 a search of the County Sites and Monuments Record and the National Monuments Record for information of known sites within and around the survey area
- 1.3.2 a search of cartographic sources held in national and county records offices and other repositories for archaeological information
- 1.3.3 a search of primary historic documents held in national and county records offices and other repositories
- 1.3.4 a search of secondary, published sources
- 1.3.5 the examination of relevant aerial photographic coverage
- 1.3.6 a field visit to review the current state of archaeological sites, features and deposits identified during the searches, to identify archaeological new sites, features and deposits or areas that may contain them, to undertake rapid recording of archaeological sites, features and deposits by photography, site notes and sketch plans, and to assess their vulnerability.

1.4 Categorisation of archaeological sites and features

All sites and features identified within this report have been allocated a category. The allocation of a site to a category defines the archaeological importance of that site. The categories are listed below.

Category A - Sites of national importance

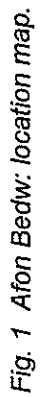
Category B - Sites of regional or county importance

Category C - Sites of district or local importance

Category D - Minor or damaged sites

Category E - Sites needing further investigation

Eastern Generation plc



Afon Bedw Wind Cluster

Turbine Locations:

- ⊙₁ SN 3445 5113
- ⊙₂ SN 3465 5116
- ⊙₃ SN 3485 5118

Scale: 1:10 000

Date: 4th March 1999

Prepared by: AR
Dulas Ltd



Client:
Eastern Generation Ltd

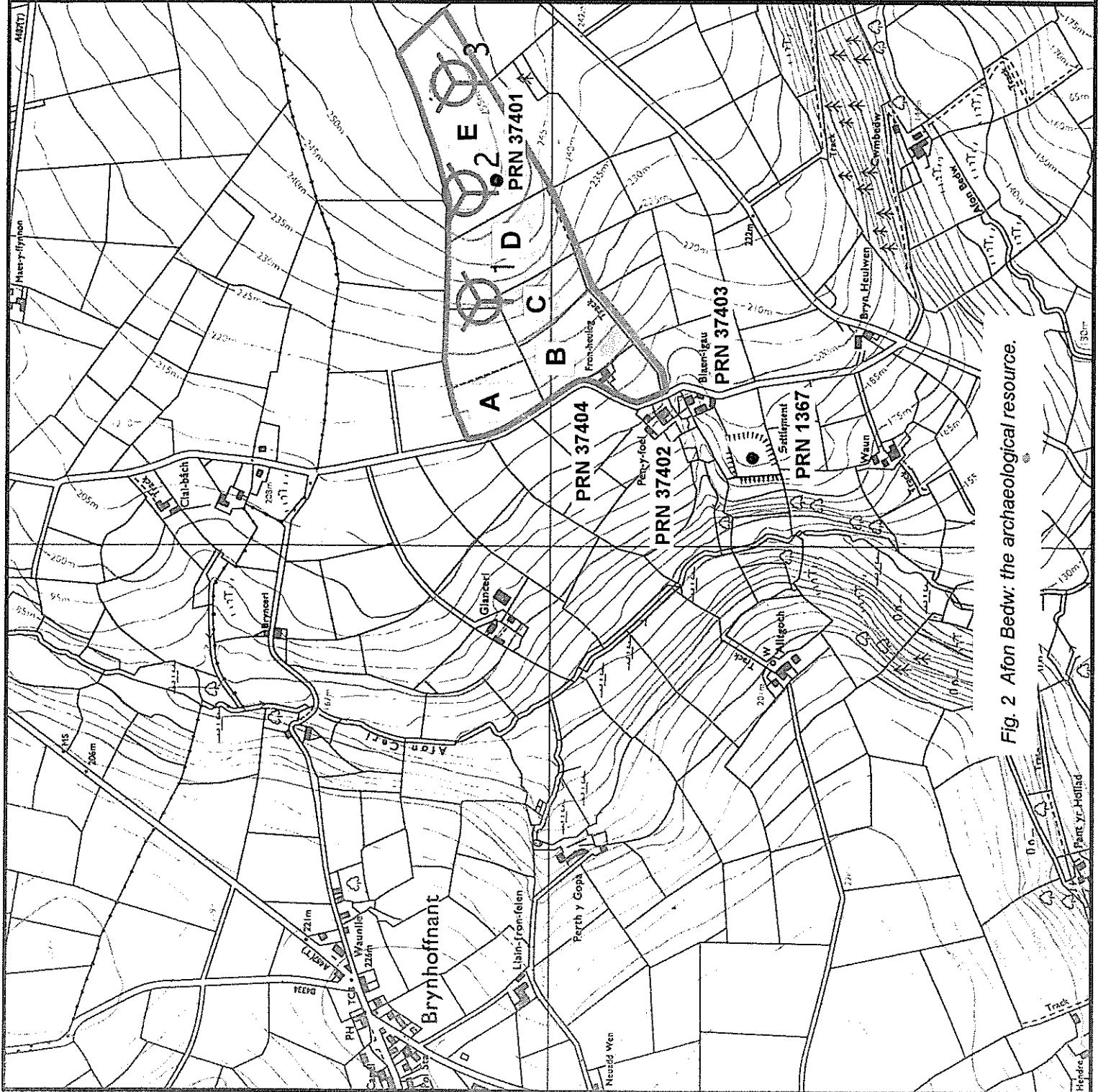


Fig. 2 Afon Bedw: the archaeological resource.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 Summary of the archaeological resource

This section contains brief descriptions of archaeological/historic sites, features, buildings and deposits, within and in the immediate environs of the project area. They are listed by their type and individual Primary Record Number (or PRN) as allocated in the Sites and Monuments Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire.

Refer to Fig. 2 for PRNs and field numbers given for the purpose of this project. Categories are as defined in Section 1.4.

See Section 3.3. for a gazetteer and detailed descriptions of sites.

2.1.1 Sites within the project area

PRN 37401 - SN 347 515 - FRON-HEULOG CROPMARK
cropmark; Category E

2.1.2 Sites immediately beyond the project area

PRN 1367 - SN 3415 5060 - CASTELL BLAEN-IGAU
earthwork; Iron Age; good condition; Category A; Scheduled Ancient Monument Card 89.

PRN 37402 - SN 3425 5080 - PEN-Y-FOEL FARM
Structure; post-medieval; condition good; Category D

PRN 37403 - SN 3427 5072 - BLAEN-IGAU FARM
Structure; post-medieval; condition good; Category D

PRN 37404 - SN 3430 5090 - FRON-HEULOG FARM
Structure; post-medieval; condition good; Category D

2.1.3 Field boundaries

All field boundaries within the project area are low, straight earth banks with thorn hedges, and were established between the mid 18th century and 1891.

2.2 Conclusions and recommendations

2.2.1 Conclusions

The project area contains no major archaeological sites, features, structures or deposits with the exception of the cropmark site (PRN 37401) which, however, requires further investigation. It may be a post-medieval enclosure associated with a deserted settlement.

The immediate environs of the project area contain a Scheduled Ancient Monument, Castell Blaen-igau (PRN 1367), an Iron Age hillfort. No associated field systems etc have been recorded.

The area falls outside the Ceredigion ESA, and is not included within the Cadw/ICOMOS register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales.

2.2.2 Recommendations

Sites within the project area fall within two categories:-

- those sites that will be physically affected, ie. damaged by the proposed development.

Table 1: Sites that will be physically affected by the proposed development

site	nature of threat	archaeological response
cropmark (PRN 37401)	turbine site	evaluation
hedgebank - Fields A & D	turbine site	-
other hedgebanks	groundworks	-

The cropmark (PRN 37401) is a Category E site for which archaeological evaluation is the standard response.

- those sites upon which the proposed development will have a visual impact

The proposed windfarm will have a visual impact on *above-ground* sites. However, there is only one such site, immediately beyond the project area -

Castell Blaen-igau Iron Age hillfort (PRN 1367)

2.3 Acknowledgements

This report was written by Neil Ludlow of *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology*. Acknowledgements to: Richard Ramsey, *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology*, for undertaking the fieldwork and much of the documentary research; to Graham Pugh, Howell Woods, Gwndwn, Plwmp, for permitting access to the project area; staff of the National Library of Wales and the National Monuments Record for their assistance.

2.4 Archive deposition

The archive, indexed according to the National Monuments Record (NMR) material categories, will be deposited with the Sites and Monuments Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire, curated by *Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology*, Shire Hall, 8 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire. It contains the following:-

A.1. Copy of the final report

A.4. Disk copy of report

B.4. Field notebooks

D.1. Catalogue of site photographs

D.2. Colour slides

D.3. Mono prints and negs

G.1. Source documentation

I.4. Final report - manuscript

I.4. Final report - typescript

I.4. Final report - disk

I.4. Proofs

I.4. Paste-ups

L.1. Project research design/specification

L.4. General admin.

M.1. Non-archaeological correspondence

There is no material for classes C, E, F, H, J, K and N.

2.5 List of sources consulted

Databases

National Monuments Record, curated by The Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments (Wales), Crown Buildings, Plas Crug, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion.

Sites and Monuments Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire, curated by *Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology*, Shire Hall, 8 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire.

Manuscript maps

National Library of Wales, Map Book Vol. 39, *The Estates of Edward Lovedon Lovedon, Esq., in Cardiganshire and Pembrokeshire*, 1787.

National Library of Wales, Map of Cardiganshire by J. Blaeu, 1648.

National Library of Wales, Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawings, 2" to the mile, Sheet 186, 1811 (revised 1832).

National Library of Wales, Parish of Penbryn, Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1838.

Published maps

Ordnance Survey, 1" to the mile Old Series, Sheet 57, 1834.

Ordnance Survey, 1:10560, Cardiganshire Sheet XXXI NE, First Edition, 1891.

Ordnance Survey, 1:10560, Cardiganshire Sheet XXXI NE, Second Edition, 1906.

Ordnance Survey, 1:10000, Sheet SN 35 SW, 1964.

Rees, W., 1932, *South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century*.

Aerial photographs

RAF 106G/UK/1424 & 1470, 1948 (National Monuments Record).

RAF 541/5, 1948 (National Monuments Record).

Ordnance Survey, sortie 72-237, 1970 (National Monuments Record).

Ordnance Survey, sortie 73-177, 1970 (National Monuments Record).

Unpublished works

Ludlow, N., 1998, 'St Michael, Penbryn', *The Welsh Historic Churches Project, Ceredigion* (unpublished *Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology* client report; copy held with Sites and Monuments Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire).

Murphy, K., 1999, *Upland Ceredigion: Historic Landscape Characterisation* (unpublished Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology client report; copy held with Sites and Monuments Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire).

Sambrook, P., 1997, *Medieval or Later Deserted Rural Settlements Survey: 1996-7 Pilot Study* (unpublished Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology client report; copy held with Sites and Monuments Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire).

Sambrook, P., and Ramsey, R., 1998, *Medieval or Later Deserted Rural Settlements Survey: 1997-8 Survey* (unpublished Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology client report; copy held with Sites and Monuments Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire).

Sambrook, P., and Ramsey, R., 1999, *Medieval or Later Deserted Rural Settlements Survey: 1998-9 Survey* (unpublished Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology client report; copy held with Sites and Monuments Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire).

Published works

Briggs, C. S., 1994, 'The Bronze Age in Cardiganshire', in Davies, J. L., and Kirby, D. P. (eds.), *Cardiganshire County History*, Vol. 1.

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Lewis, S., 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales*, Vol II.

Meyrick, S. R., 1810, *The History and Antiquities of Cardiganshire*.

Moore-Colyer, R. J., 1998, 'Agriculture and Land Occupation in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Cardiganshire', in Jenkins, G. H., and Jones, I. G. (eds.), *Cardiganshire County History*, Vol. 3.

Nash-Williams, V. E., 1933, 'An Early Iron Age Hill-Fort at Llanmelin, near Caerwent, Monmouthshire', *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, Vol. LXXXVIII.

Owen, E., 1894, 'The History of the Premonstratensian Abbey of Talley', *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, Vol. XI, Fifth Series.

Price, D. L., 1879, 'Talley Abbey, Carmarthenshire', *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, Vol. X, Fourth Series.

Richards, M., 1969, *Welsh Administrative and Territorial Units*.

3.0 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

3.1 Site location and topography

The proposed development site occupies a parcel of land comprising five fields lying within National Grid squares SN 340 500 and SN 340 510, and bounded to the west and south-west by roadways/trackways. The ground slopes fairly steeply downhill from west to east across the project area, which lies between 200 metres and 260 metres OD, eventually reaching the valley of the Afon Ceri 400 metres west of the area.

The underlying solid geology comprises Palaeozoic shales with little or no drift deposits, giving rise to a relatively poor natural soil suitable only pasture; however, as with much of the surrounding area, the land has been improved to Grade C.

The project area and its environs have traditionally been subject to a low-intensity agricultural regime and all fields are, at present, under pasture. At least one field, however (Field E) has recently been ploughed (Graham Pugh, landowner, *pers. comm.*).

The project area lies entirely within the parish of Penbryn, the boundary of which had been fixed by the post-medieval period at least.

The area falls outside the Ceredigion ESA, and is not included within the Cadw/ICOMOS register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales.

It is understood from a conversation with the landowner, Mr Graham Pugh, that Fronheulog Farm and the field immediately to the south, are incorrectly shown as part of the development area on plans provided by Dulas Limited

3.2 Landscape history and development

The project area and its surrounding region have been subject to human settlement from prehistory onwards; settlement, however, later declined and was not to rise again until the post-medieval period. Thus, whilst prehistoric sites are fairly widespread in the region, the relatively low population levels during the historic period are reflected by the paucity of its medieval and early post-medieval archaeology - an area of research that is only beginning to be fully studied, let alone fully understood.

Very little recorded archaeology is represented within the project area and the present study has been able to add few new sites; in addition, the agricultural landscape of the area - its fields, hedges and boundaries - are a relatively recent creation.

For detailed descriptions of sites and field boundaries see Section 3.3 below.

3.2.1 The prehistoric and Roman periods (8500 BC - c.400 AD)

Like many primarily upland Welsh landscapes, the project area and its environs have preserved much evidence of prehistoric activity, chiefly in the form of standing earthworks from the bronze age (2500 - 700 BC), and iron age (700 BC - 1st century AD). Preservation has been assisted by the low-intensity agricultural regimes traditionally practised within the region. Nevertheless, the distribution of such sites is not dense in the environs of the project area, although more may be revealed by future fieldwork. Evidence for earlier prehistoric activity within Ceredigion as a whole is mainly limited to knowledge obtained through examination of palaeoenvironmental evidence from peat deposits (Murphy, 1999, 10).

A number of bronze age burial mounds, usually in the form of stone cairns, and contemporary ritual cairns, have been recorded within a kilometre radius of the project area. The occurrence of large numbers of bronze age sites, in what is now considered to be a quite remote area, indicates a settled population (Murphy, 1999, 10); however none occur within the project area or its immediate environs.

The earliest surviving evidence for human activity that has been recorded within the project area and its environs is the Iron Age hillfort of Blaen-Igau (PRN 1367) which lies 250 meters south-west of the project area and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. With an area of 3 - 4 hectares, it is slightly smaller than the average for Southern Ceredigion which is 0.6 hectares (Davies and Hogg, 1994, 237), but it has substantial defences with a stone revetment. No obvious patterns of coincidence between hillforts and later territorial units can be discerned in Ceredigion (Murphy, 1999, 10), nor can any present pattern of fields and boundaries within the environs of the project area be assigned origins within this period.

A rectilinear cropmark of unknown form or date has been observed on aerial photographs within Field E in the eastern part of the project area (PRN 37401). However, whilst it is possible that the cropmark may have a prehistoric, or medieval origin, it is probable that it is associated with post-medieval settlement (see 3.2.3)

3.2.2 The medieval period (c.400 - 1500 AD)

The medieval period in Ceredigion is characterised by a serious population decline reaching a low during the later medieval period.

early medieval (c.400 - 1110 AD)

Pre-Norman administration of southern Ceredigion was represented by the 'cantref' of Is Aeron (Richards, 1969, 285), which was further divided into four commotes. The Afon Bedw area lay within the commote of Iscoed, in the further subdivision of Uwch Hirwern. The development of formal administrative units in the region, however, was probably a late occurrence within the early medieval period.

The project area also lies entirely within the parish of Penbryn. Formal parish administration was similarly an Anglo-Norman introduction into Ceredigion where it was not firmly fixed until the post-medieval period. However, the parish church of St Michael, Penbryn, was an earlier medieval, pre-Norman foundation (Ludlow, 1998) and the parish may have succeeded an earlier administrative unit. The boundary between the Iscoed and the adjoining commote to the east, Caerwedros, may have followed the same line as the parish boundary (Rees, 1932; Richards, 1969, 285); the remaining ecclesiastical parishes of Uwch Hirwern - Aberporth, Blaenporth, Betws Ifan, Brongwyn and Troed-yr-Aur - may be relatively recent creations (ie. late medieval - post medieval).

Whilst much speculation can be undertaken on the nature and extent of pre-Norman administration, there is scant record for this period in terms of physical archaeology within the region of the project area, and none in the immediate environs. This absence is a characteristic of upland Ceredigion as a whole.

later medieval (1110 - 1500 AD)

The administrative framework in the project area at first persisted from the early medieval period within which, as has been noted, it was probably a late development. From 1110 onwards Ceredigion was an Anglo-Norman lordship, the Lordship of Cardigan, under the de Clare earls,

with periods of reversion to Welsh rule. However, the changes of master appear to have had little effect on the earlier systems of tenure which persisted, albeit in a modified form, into the early post-medieval period - despite the fact that the area was re-organised as the County of Cardiganshire by the Statute of Rhuddlan in 1284.

By the end of the medieval period, at least, Penbryn parish comprised 3 formal '*trefydd*' (or townships) - Blaenceri, Hoffnant, Wyrion Hywel and Ystumcoed (Richards, 1969, 172). It is not always possible to define the exact locations or boundaries of these *trefydd* and it is not known where the project area lies in relationship to them. The administrative framework did not survive into the 19th century as it did within so many Cardiganshire parishes (National Library of Wales, Parish of Penbryn, Tithe Map, 1838); however, those in which it did persist were normally very large and townships represented a useful subdivision.

Penbryn parish church, like Aberporth parish church which also lay within the sub-commote of Hirwern, was, with a surrounding land-holding, a possession of the Premonstratensian Abbey at Talley, Carmarthenshire (Ludlow, 1998, *et. al*). They had probably been granted to the abbey in the late 12th century but the claim was always disputed by the Bishops of St Davids who also held Blaenporth parish church and the then chapelry at Betws Ifan (*ibid.*) which suggests an established ecclesiastical interest in Uwch Hirwern, an interest which may even have origins in the early medieval period. However, the majority of Penbryn parish - including the project area - appears never to have been subject to ecclesiastical ownership and the other demonstrably medieval parish church in the sub-commote, Troed-yr-Aur, was a possession of the Anglo-Norman Knights Hospitaller (*ibid.*). Brongwyn church may have a post-medieval origin (*ibid.*).

Again, however, the later medieval period is difficult to detect within the landscape of the environs of the project area, within which the field boundaries etc. are predominantly the product of the later post-medieval period. It appears that the region suffered a serious population decline and became marginalised through the later prehistoric period, reaching a low during in the later medieval period, and upland settlement as a whole did not intensify until the well into the post-medieval period (Murphy, 1999, 12).

William Rees, in his historical map of 1932, depicts Castell Blaen-Igau (PRN 1367) as a medieval castle site abandoned by the 14th century (Rees, 1932); there appears to be no justification for this attribution.

3.2.3 The post-medieval period (1500 - 2000 AD)

The post-medieval period in Ceredigion is characterised by a rapid population acceleration from at least the mid 18th century, reaching a high point in 1871; there has subsequently been a steady decline (Murphy, 1999, 12).

The population increase has left its mark on the landscape in many forms, chiefly the enclosure of moorland and common land, often including its cultivation, and the establishment of new settlements on the fringes of marginal land (*ibid.*). The result of both of these trends can be seen within the project area.

The process of enclosure of the Cardiganshire landscape has its origins within the prehistoric period, but the vast majority of present field systems have their origins within the 18th and 19th centuries, a phenomenon common to many predominantly upland areas. The driving mechanism took a number of forms - parliamentary enclosure, enclosure by estates, enclosure by private individuals and enclosure by squatters on the fringes of common land (Murphy, 1999, 15-16).

The possible cropmark site in Field E to the east of the project area, PRN 37401 noted in Section 3.2.1, may be a result of the population expansion, possibly representing a phase of post-

medieval settlement. 'Deserted rural settlement' (DRS) sites survive within the present landscape often as ruined dry-stone dwellings, enclosures and sheep-folds; however, more ephemeral site types occur such as the rapidly constructed turf-walled houses often built as '*tai unnos*', ie. constructed in a day to claim settlement rights on common land. The eastern half of the project area was part of the unenclosed common of 'Pen-y-foel Ddu' until the mid 19th century (National Library of Wales, Parish of Penbryn, Tithe Map, 1838) which may, in the earlier post-medieval period, have been considerably more extensive; the cropmark may represent enclosure by squatters on the fringes of the common, and a system of linear cropmark boundaries, which cannot be related to historic maps, also shows up on aerial photographs. Whilst there is a tendency to discuss DRS sites in a medieval context, most of the Ceredigion examples are demonstratively post-medieval in date (Sambrook, 1999). If the cropmark does indicate a DRS, it had been abandoned by 1787 at the latest (not shown on National Library of Wales, Map Book Vol. 39, 1787).

The formal enclosure of the project area was undertaken by the Pryse family of the Plas Gogerddan estate, near Aberystwyth, who had acquired extensive landholdings in the region by 1787. An estate map of this date (*ibid.*) shows that the enclosure of the western half of the project area had already begun. This had hitherto probably been also part of Pen-y-foel Ddu common, a tract of unenclosed land typical of 18th century Ceredigion and which probably extended west to the roadway which forms the western edge of the project area. Unenclosed land was considered to be the property of the crown but as crown agents were few and far between, land claims were made by Ceredigion's landed families by the 'simple expedient of pushing back boundary fences onto moor or common' (Murphy, 1999, 15). The estate map shows the new fields which include Fields A and B within the project area, and several more to the south also lying east of the roadway; in addition, Pen-y-foel farmstead (PRN 37402) had been established.

The Pryse claim to that part of the common represented by the eastern half of the project area had not, by 1839, been accompanied by enclosure (National Library of Wales, Parish of Penbryn, Tithe Map, 1838) but the entire area was enclosed by 1891 (Ordnance Survey, 1:10560, Cardiganshire Sheet XXXI NE, First Edition, 1891) by which time Blaen-igau farmstead (PRN 37403) had been established, and the trackway running along the southern edge of the project area. Fron-heulog farmstead (PRN 37404) was not constructed until 1891-1906 1891 (Ordnance Survey, 1:10560, Cardiganshire Sheet XXXI NE, Second Edition, 1906)

3.3 Gazetteer of sites

This section contains detailed descriptions of archaeological/historic sites, features, buildings and deposits, listed by their individual Primary Record Number (or PRN) as allocated in the Sites and Monuments Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire (SMR).

Refer to Fig. 2 for PRNs and field numbers allocated for the purpose of the project (see Section 3.3.3 below).

Refer to Appendix 2 for copies of selected map sources.

The project area was fieldwalked on 30 March 1999.

3.3.1 Sites within the project area

PRN 37401 - SN 347 515 - FRON-HEULOG CROPMARK cropmark; Category E

A rectilinear cropmark appearing to form a square, rectangular enclosure measuring 100 metres east-west by 80 metres north-south, noted in Field E on aerial photographs (RAF 106G/UK/1424 & 1470, 1948), of unknown date or purpose. It may represent a prehistoric site; however it is more likely to be associated with a post-medieval 'Deserted rural settlement' (DRS). Field E formed part of the unenclosed common of 'Pen-y-foel Ddu' until the mid 19th century (National Library of Wales, Parish of Penbryn, Tithe Map, 1838) and the cropmark may represent enclosure by squatters, and a system of linear cropmark boundaries, which cannot be related to historic maps also show up on aerial photographs (see Section 3.3.3 below). If the cropmark does indicate a DRS, it had been abandoned by 1787 at the latest (not shown on National Library of Wales, Map Book Vol. 39, 1787). No evidence was visible on the ground in March 1999 when the field was pasture, but had been recently ploughed (Graham Pugh, landowner, *pers. comm.*).

3.3.2 Sites immediately beyond the project area

PRN 1367 - SN 3415 5060 - CASTELL BLAEN-IGAU earthwork; Iron Age; good condition; Category A; Scheduled Ancient Monument Card 89.

A univallate Iron Age hillfort (Nash-Williams, 1933, 325-7) lying at the west end of the field immediately south-west of Blaen-igau farmstead, 250 meters south-west of the project area. A subrectangular enclosure, bounded on the north and west, where the ground falls steeply, by a scarp some 2 metres high, and on the south and east by a bank and ditch 15 metres across and 3 metres high. There are gaps at the north corner and near the middle of the south side; the latter was probably the entrance (description from Davies and Hogg, 1994, 247). Davies and Hogg give the area of the fort as 0.3 hectares, while the SMR gives it as 0.4 hectares; either area is slightly smaller than the average for Southern Ceredigion which is 0.6 hectares (Davies and Hogg, 1994, 237). The SMR also mentions that the bank has a stone revetment. The field was arable in 1977 (SMR). No associated Iron Age field or boundary systems have been recorded.

PRN 37402 - SN 3425 5080 - PEN-Y-FOEL FARM Structure; post-medieval; condition good; Category D

Pen-y-foel Farm had been established by 1787 (National Library of Wales, Map Book Vol. 39, 1787) but was probably relatively recent, accompanying the enclosure of Pen-y-foel Ddu that had been recently undertaken by the Pryse family of Plas Gogerddan, and is named 'Pen y Foel' after the common from which the farm was carved. It is not a historic building and the map evidence suggests that it was rebuilt between 1838 (National Library of Wales, Parish of Penbryn, Tithe Map, 1838) and 1891 (Ordnance Survey, 1:10560, Cardiganshire Sheet XXXI NE, First Edition, 1891).

PRN 37403 - SN 3427 5072 - BLAEN-IGAU FARM Structure; post-medieval; condition good; Category D

Blaen-igau Farm was established between 1838 (National Library of Wales, Parish of Penbryn, Tithe Map, 1838) and 1891 (Ordnance Survey, 1:10560, Cardiganshire Sheet XXXI NE, First Edition, 1891). It is not a historic building.

PRN 37404 - SN 3430 5090 - FRON-HEULOG FARM Structure; post-medieval; condition good; Category D

Fron-heulog Farm was established between 1891 (Ordnance Survey, 1:10560, Cardiganshire Sheet XXXI NE, First Edition, 1891) and 1906 (Ordnance Survey, 1:10560, Cardiganshire Sheet XXXI NE, Second Edition, 1906). It is not a historic building.

3.3.3 Field boundaries and usage

Each field within the project area was allocated a number for the purpose of this project. See Fig. 2 for field numbers.

The nature of the field boundaries is noted, but they were subject only to rapid recording.

The western two fields, Fields A and B, had been established by 1787 (National Library of Wales, Map Book Vol. 39, 1787) but were probably relatively recent enclosures by the Pryses of Gogerddan suggested by their low, straight boundaries. The remainder were established between 1838 (National Library of Wales, Parish of Penbryn, Tithe Map, 1838) and 1891 (Ordnance Survey, 1:10560, Cardiganshire Sheet XXXI NE, First Edition, 1891), and have similar boundaries. In addition, three linear cropmark ?boundaries, of unknown nature, were observed within three fields on aerial photographs (RAF 106G/UK/1424 & 1470, 1948) but are not suggested on the historic maps; it is possible, but unlikely, that they are associated with the possible DRS site PRN 37401 (see Section 3.3.1 above).

The 1838 field names have been taken from National Library of Wales, Parish of Penbryn, tithe map and apportionment, 1838, on which only Fields A and B had been enclosed; along with rest of the project area they were named 'Pen y Foel' after the common from which they were carved. The tithe map omits usage details.

Some boundaries are eroding badly and will require double-fencing.

Field A (NGR SN 343 511)

Name in 1838 - Pen-y-foel
Usage in 1839 - ?
Current usage - Pasture
Boundaries - Low earth bank with thorn hedge. North-south cropmark ?boundary visible on aerial photographs. .
Western boundary followed by trackway to Fron-heulog Farm, shown in 1787

Field B (NGR SN 343 510)

Name in 1838 - Pen-y-foel
Usage in 1839 - ?
Current usage - Pasture
Boundaries - Low earth bank with thorn hedge. Shown with an east-west subdivision on 1906 and 1964 maps, for which there is now no physical evidence. Western boundary followed by trackway to Fron-heulog Farm, shown in 1787. Southern boundary followed by trackway first shown in 1891

Field C (NGR SN 344 510)

Name in 1838 - Pen-y-foel
Usage in 1839 - ?
Current usage - Pasture
Boundaries - Low earth bank with thorn hedge. Southern boundary followed by trackway first shown in 1891

Field D (NGR SN 345 511)

Name in 1838 - Pen-y-foel
Usage in 1839 - ?
Current usage - Pasture
Boundaries - Low earth bank with thorn hedge. East-west cropmark ?boundary visible on aerial photographs

Field E (NGR SN 348 512)

Name in 1838 - Pen-y-foel
Usage in 1839 - ?
Current usage - Pasture
Boundaries - Low earth bank with thorn hedge. North-south cropmark ?boundary visible on aerial photographs