

ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

LLANSAWEL - TALLEY GAS PIPELINE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
SEPT-OCT 1999
REPORT MARCH 2000

Project Record No. 39019

Report for RSK Environment Limited
by ACA Field Operations

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**LLANSAWEL - TALLEY GAS PIPELINE,
CARMARTHENSHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF, SEPT-OCT 1999
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in September-October 1999 by Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology Field Operations during the groundworks excavation for the Llansawel - Talley gas pipeline renewal soon after turf and topsoil stripping had been carried out and again during pipe-trench excavation.

The archaeological impact of the scheme had been assessed earlier in 1999 when three sites were considered to be affected. Watching briefs were recommended on the topsoil-strip in the area of -

- 2 below-ground, post-medieval dwelling sites/cottages, both of which had been abandoned by the early 20th century
- 32 of the 43 field boundaries which crossed the area
- a possible Bronze Age round barrow (initially thought to be affected by the scheme, but avoided)

The watching brief resulted in -

- the observation of possible demolition debris or collapse, and 18th-19th century pottery, at one of the dwelling sites. The other was largely unaffected.
- The recording of the cut sections of the 32 field boundaries. Most were found to be entirely of earth. Only 2 of the boundary banks that were seen in section contained any rubble, and it is apparent from consultation of historic maps that most field boundaries within the project area were established between 1838 and 1887.
- No archaeological features were observed in the vicinity of the ?barrow site.

1.2 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS AND BRIEF

Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology submitted specifications to by RSK Environment Limited for an archaeological watching brief on the groundworks associated with the laying of a gas pipeline route between Llansawel and Talley, Carmarthenshire, on August 14 1999. The specifications were drawn up according to the recommendations contained within the desk-top assessment and walkover survey (Ludlow, N D, *Llansawel-Talley-Halfway Gas Pipeline: An Archaeological Assessment, July 1999; Project Record No. 38345* - unpublished *Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology* client report; copy held with Sites and Monuments Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire), and following consultation with the archaeological curator.

RSK Environment Limited (on behalf of Transco) accepted the specifications and *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology* were invited to undertake the watching brief 24 August 1999. The fieldwork was undertaken during September and October 1999.

1.3 ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

Sites recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire (SMR) will be identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR).

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

2.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site description and history are taken from Ludlow, N D, *Llansawel-Talley-Halfway Gas Pipeline: An Archaeological Assessment, July 1999, Project Record No. 38345*, with some additional material.

The project area lies within NGR grid square SN 63. It is a linear area running from the village of Llansawel to the north, to a point south-east of Talley, and in the main closely follows the line of the B4337 and the B4302.

It occupies a variety of geological landscapes. All are Palaeozoic in origin but have been modified by glaciation. The area is dominated by the River Cothi, a tributary of the River Tywi. Llansawel, at the north end of the project area, stands just above the confluence of the Afon Marlais, a tributary of the Cothi, and Afon Melindwr at a height of 120 metres OD, and the route crosses the narrow floodplain of the Marlais. From Llansawel the route follows the B4337 south-east towards the Cothi, climbing to 180 metres OD to flank the north-west side of Pen-y-dinas hill, which has been extensively quarried, before dropping back to 90 metres to cross the Cothi floodplain. The solid geology of this section comprises undivided Silurian shales and limestones of the Llandovery Series (British Geological Survey, 1994), the southern limit of which is a fault followed by the River Cothi.

The route crosses the floodplain to follow the B4302 south-south-eastwards through Talley village, along the east side of a fairly narrow glacial valley occupied by, to the north, two glacial lakes (Upper and Lower Talley Lakes) which supply a tributary of the Cothi, and the southward-flowing Afon Ddu. The route here has an average altitude of 100 metres OD. The solid geology of this section primarily comprises Ordovician shales of the Ashgill Series (British Geological Survey, 1994).

Glacial deposition has created a landscape that, in areas, features landforms that resemble artificial earthworks. This is particularly marked in fields just south of the B4302 near Edwinsford, which exhibit regular platforms separated by shallow 'valleys', with glacial erratics lying loose on the surface.

Soils are typical brown podzols (611c Manod) with typical brown earths (541v Rheidol) and cambic stagnogley soils (713e Brickfield) in the valleys (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1980), giving rise to Grade 4 land throughout (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 1990).

The area lies just south of the mid-Wales ESA. It is now all pasture, subject to a low-intensity agricultural regime of grazing with some hay-cutting. It is probable, but unproven within the project area, that some agriculture was carried out until the later post-medieval period.

North of the Cothi, it lies entirely within the parish of Llansawel, and to the south, the parish of Talley, the boundaries of which had been fixed by the early post-medieval period at least.

The area is not included within the Cadw/ICOMOS register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales.

2.2 HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

The environs of the project area and the surrounding region are dominated by the former Premonstratensian abbey at Talley, which was the major landowner within the region during the medieval period, and by the post-medieval Edwinsford estate.

Within the confines of the project area, the archaeological resource is mainly represented by the agricultural landscape - its fields, hedges and boundaries - which are largely creations of the later post-medieval period. Nevertheless, the region has been subject to human settlement from prehistory onwards.

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

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

The project area lies within a region rich in prehistoric archaeology represented by, for example, a possible stone circle of neolithic/bronze age date at Cefn-blaidd, one mile east of Talley (PRN 8090), and bronze age (2500 BC - 700 BC) standing stones, including a good example at Edwinsford (PRN 1892) immediately west of the project area. The route crosses an earthen mound at Garn-wen (PRN 38348) which may be a bronze age burial mound ('barrow'); the name 'Garn-wen' itself has previously been thought to indicate a possible barrow and had been given the PRN 4896.

Palaeoenvironmental analysis of pollen samples from Talley Lakes, to the west of the assessment area, suggests a major woodland clearance phase that may be of Bronze Age date (Butler, 1984, 10). None of the work revealed evidence of Iron Age (700 BC - 1st century AD) or Roman (1st century AD - c.400 AD) occupation (*ibid.*). However, the surrounding region is characterised by a number of Iron Age hillforts, including a possible site on Pen-y-dinas just east of the project area near Llansawel (PRN 1872), but now much-quarried. Meanwhile, there was a considerable Roman presence at Pumsaint, six miles to the north, which was the location of a fort and a complex of gold mines. Nevertheless it has been noted above that the major landscape divisions all appear to be later post-medieval creations.

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

The medieval period is characterised by the religious settlement of the area.

early medieval (c.400 - c.1100 AD)

Pre-Norman administration of West Wales was based on small kingdoms or *gwledydd*, which had been established before the 8th century AD. One such *gwlad* was Ystrad Tywi (literally 'Tywi Valley'). Ystrad Tywi later became part of the kingdom of Deheubarth which occupied most of South-west Wales (Rees, n.d., 19). Within each *gwlad* were smaller units of administration or estates which were represented by *cantrefi* (groups of 100 vills), further subdivided into *cwmwdau* ('commotes'), but the origin of these particular divisions may post-date the Norman conquest of Wales, when the project area lay within the commote of Caio, in Cantref Mawr, which appears to have been coterminous with the present parishes of Caio, Llanycrwys, Llansawel and Talley (Rees, n.d., 24-5; Richards, 1969, 25).

Roman mining activity at Pumsaint lent a status to the surrounding region, including the project area, which may have persisted into the post-Roman period. Caio commote may represent the *patria* of St Paulinus, the reputed teacher of St David. The commote moreover appears to have formed the core of the patrimony of the Princes of Deheubarth; Gruffydd ap Rhys, son of Rhys

ap Tewdwr, the King of Deheubarth slain by the Normans in 1093, was allowed to retain the commote by Henry I (Ab Ithel 1860) and it was important enough to be mentioned in the *marginalia* of the 9th century Book of St Chad (Jones 1994, 88).

The project area lies within Llansawel and Talley parishes both of which are late medieval or early post-medieval creations. During the greater part of the medieval period, Llansawel was a chapel-of-ease to Caio parish, which may have perpetuated a relationship that begun during the pre-Conquest period. However, the church at Llansawel (PRN 1870) stands within a circular churchyard and has a dedication to a native Welsh saint, St Sawyl (Ludlow, 1999). Taken together, the two features are generally thought to indicate pre-Conquest origins but it has been suggested that the 'Sawyl' dedication may not be original (Yates, 1973, 68), despite the former presence of a holy well - 'Pistyll Sawyl' (PRN 1871) - west of the village. There has been much speculation, but without firm evidence, as to whether Talley Abbey (PRN 1897) may have pre-Conquest origins as a native monastic or 'clas' church; at any rate, it represents a continuation of the pre-Conquest religious significance of the area.

Whilst discussion continues on the nature and extent of pre-Norman administration, in terms of physical archaeology there is little record for this period within the region, and indeed Carmarthenshire as a whole.

later medieval (c.1100 - 1500 AD)

Norman possession of what is now Carmarthenshire began in 1093 but Cantref Mawr remained a possession of the native princes until the mid-13th century. Native systems of tenure and administration survived, in a modified form, into the early post-medieval period - despite the fact that the area was re-organised as the County of Carmarthenshire by the Statute of Rhuddlan in 1284.

An abbey of the Premonstratensian order was founded at Talley by Rhys ap Gruffydd - 'The Lord Rhys' - Prince of Deheubarth and Justiciar of Wales for Henry II, probably during the 1180s-90s (PRN 1897). Extensive grants of land both accompanied and followed the foundation. The surrounding area, and almost the entire project area, belonged directly to the abbey, while neighbouring granges included Trallwng Elgan (or 'Traethnelgan'). The later Manorial Roll of Talley, of 1633 (Owen, 1894, 92-107), gives the location and extent of all of Talley's granges except Trallwng Elgan which has given rise to some controversy as to its location. William Rees, in his map of 14th century Wales (Rees, 1932) located it on the site of the later Edwinsford estate (see below), within the project area, and Ian Jack, in his study of Welsh fulling mills, went as far as to say that the grange 'can be identified as on the modern estate of Edwinsford' (Jack, 1981, 125). However, Melville Richards, in his study of the Talley possessions, put the grange in an entirely different location, several miles to the east of the project area, a site that was developed as the post-medieval Glanrannell mansion and estate (Richards, 1974, 114).

It appears that the landscape around Talley in the medieval period was still largely one of dense forest for in the early 13th century Giraldus Cambrensis wrote that Talley Abbey had been established 'in a rough and sterile spot, surrounded by woods on every side and beyond measure inaccessible' (Butler, 1984, 12). This is supported by palaeoenvironmental evidence which suggests that woodland was cleared during the medieval period (*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 a product of the 19th century (see below).

Nevertheless, much legend relates to Talley and in particular to the two lakes that lie just west of the project area. A short article written by Arthur S. Thomas in 1892 after a visit to Talley by the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society noted that '*up to the present day the belief is common amongst the peasantry that Talley was once a great and populous town, standing on the site of the lakes, and that it was either engulfed by a violent earthquake, or in an unaccountable manner*

submerged by water. It is said that some of the walls of the town can now be traced in the lake nearest the village' (Butler, 1984, 3). A wall is marked in the lake on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500, Second Edition of 1906, but there is no foundation for such legends.

Talley abbey also served the needs of the laity functioning, in addition, as a parish church. The church at Llansawel (PRN 1870) - later a parish church - has possible pre-conquest origins (see above) and 14th century fabric including squints (Ludlow, 1999). The village of Llansawel (PRN 29413) also has origins within the medieval period; it was the site of a mill in c.1326 (Sambrook and Page, 1995b, 18) and was marked as a village on Saxton's map of 1578 (British Museum, Maps C.7, c.1). Talley village (PRN 29414) is almost entirely post-medieval, but Cil-y-llyn-fach farm (PRN 24972) may have medieval origins.

A chapel of Talley Abbey, known either as Capel Crist or Capel Mair (PRN 1899) apparently stood to the east of the Edwinsford Arms (PRN 29707), north of the B4302, to the east of the project area. It was accompanied by a cemetery but there has been no record of any burials uncovered during recent construction work on the site, and it is unlikely that any cemetery would extend into the pipeline route. A second chapel, also known as Capel Crist, apparently existed on Trallwng Elgan Grange (PRN 12746), but its location is entirely unknown.

The present B4302 and B4337 are thought to perpetuate the line of a medieval routeway between Llansawel and Talley (Rees, 1932). South of Talley, the B4302 may have post-medieval origins.

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

The post-medieval history of the region is dominated by the dissolution of Talley Abbey in 1536, and the rise of the gentry house at Edwinsford (PRN 6943), midway between Llansawel and Talley and just west of the project area. However, in the absence of a description of Trallwng Elgan Grange in 1633 (see above), it is not clear just how directly linked the two events were. At the dissolution, a large portion of the estates in close proximity to the abbey were retained by the crown to form the Royal Manor of Talley (Robinson and Platt, 1992, 21), while most of Talley's other possessions were leased to Sir Thomas Jones of Abermarlais, near Llandovery (Sambrook and Page, 1995b, 21). The greater part of Trallwng Elgan grange was leased by the crown to Walter Jones (Owen, 1894, 103-105) whilst it is clear that the occupants of Edwinsford had styled themselves 'Williams' from the 16th century onwards (Jones, 1987, 61) leaving room for doubt as to whether Edwinsford *does* represent the site of the grange.

The earliest section of Edwinsford house is 'a square structure built around a central chimney stack, probably of the Elizabethan period' (*ibid.*). By the 18th century the Edwinsford estate took in most of the surrounding region, as had Talley Abbey previously. To the house belonged a home farm (PRN 6940) and a stable and coach-house block (PRN 25730) and several lodges, of which 'Iron Gates' (PRN 6939), Moelfryn Lodge (PRN 9751) and PRN 18524 lie just west of the study area. The impact of the estate upon the landscape was profound involving tree-planting on an extensive scale, in particular oak and elm planting during the 18th and 19th centuries including an oak avenue leading to the mansion house (Lewis, 1833).

Samuel Lewis, in 1833, noted that 'the lands (of Llansawel parish) are for the greater part enclosed and in a state of good cultivation' (*ibid.*). Nevertheless, it is clear that most of the enclosure within the project area and its environs occurred between 1838 and 1887 (Ordnance Survey 1:2500 First Edition). The tithe maps for Llansawel and Talley parishes, of 1838, show boundaries defining much larger fields than at present, more like blocks of open land, that were subdivided into the present fields doubtless largely under the impetus of Edwinsford estate management. The acquisition of common land by enclosure was one of the less noble characteristics of the 18th and early 19th century aristocracy, and the Edwinsford estate appear

to have acquired a section of common land east of Talley and within the project area (PRN 38355) between 1812 and 1838.

Of equal impact was the effect of the estate upon communications. Until the late 18th century a drive passed through Edwinsford Park from what became the entrance to 'Iron Gates' (NGR SN 6335 3425), over a two-arched masonry bridge of late medieval date, to the site of 'The Coach House' (NGR SN 6315 3480). However, in 1783 the bridge was demolished, and replaced with the present single-span structure (PRN 18683) designed by Edwards of Pontypridd (Jones, 1987, 61). The B4337 crosses the Cothi via a 20th century bridge lying just east of an earlier bridge, 'Pont Pwll-du', which has now gone but itself replaced the medieval - earlier post-medieval 'Edwin's Ford' or Rhyd-odyn (PRN 12745).

In 1809 the antiquarian Richard Fenton passed through Llansawel and Talley - '*Hence to Llansawel, a small village with two or three public houses... pass Edwinsford, an old mansion, pretty large, lying low on the banks of the Cothy, which winds under the beautifully wooded hills near it... a little farther on opens the Vale of Talley or Tal y llychau, taking its name for its situation near two lakes... the water belongs to Edwinsford, and fish for their own consumption, but the property besides in the fishing is in Admiral Foley as Lord of Llandsadwrn. The road about a mile... farther on takes its course on the declivity of the hill through fine woods belonging to one Nicholas, and Taliaris (a mansion on the way to Llandeilo)...*' (Fisher, 1917, 54). Benjamin Heath Malkin, two years previously, had employed almost the same adjectives in his description of the route (Malkin, 1807, 467-9).

Although it is now hardly more than a large village, and despite Fenton's comment, it is evident that by the 18th century Llansawel (PRN 29413) had developed into an important local market town (Sambrook and Page, 1995b, 18) referred to as the '*well-whitened village*' by the tourer J. T. Barber in 1803. It stood on one of the main droving routes from the west and '*a well-travelled route for Cardiganshire farmers on their way to the lime kilns and coal suppliers of eastern Carmarthenshire*' (*ibid.*). No less than five toll gates ringed the town, one on each road (*ibid.*). Its importance is reflected in the fact that by the end of the 19th century there were eight public houses, a town hall, a Grammar School, a Board School and a Police Station. In common with many other towns and villages in this part of Carmarthenshire, Llansawel underwent substantial rebuilding during the mid and late 19th century; memories of local inhabitants recorded in 1898 describe the town thus '*...nearly all the houses were straw-thatched, many being hardly better than huts. Gradually, however, they gave way to larger and slate-covered dwellings*' (*ibid.*)

It is apparent that apart from the nucleation of Talley, the area has seen a population decline since the early 19th century. The Ordnance Survey 1" Old Series of 1831, and the tithe map of 1838, show a number of outlying houses and cottages for which there is now no structural evidence. This is a situation only too typical of rural Wales.

The chancel of Talley Abbey church was spared from destruction at the dissolution and continued in use as the parish church (Robinson and Platt, 1992, 35); the other abbey buildings were allowed to decay. The chancel was adapted in the 17th-18th centuries by the construction of a smaller church within, but in 1772 a new parish church - the present church (PRN 1891) - was constructed to the north of the abbey. With the exception of an irregular agglomeration of cottages around the church, shown on the tithe map of 1838, Talley did not exist as a village until the later 19th century. The present village centre around the Edwinsford Arms (PRN 29707), called 'Cross Inn' in the earlier 19th century, was not developed until the late 19th century when the former Post Office (PRN 29793) was established. Most of the settlement along the B4302 dates from the later 20th century.

The effects of Forestry Commission planting in the hills around the project area are reflected by pollen analysis from Talley Lakes in which increased amounts of *Picea* sp. and *Pinus* sp. pollen were noted (Butler, 1984, 13).

3.0 METHODOLOGIES AND RESULTS

3.1 METHODOLOGIES

The provision of the gas pipeline between NGR SN 6235 3645, near Llansawel, and NGR SN 6355 3287, near Talley, involved the mechanical topsoil-strip of a corridor 15 metres wide, to a maximum depth of 0.5 metres where cut into sloping ground to provide a level terrace. Within the corridor, the pipeline trench itself was mechanically excavated to a depth of 3 metres, and a width of 1 metre.

A number of recommended responses to the potential archaeological impact of the scheme were set out in the desk-top assessment and walkover survey (Ludlow, N D, *Cwm-Ifor-Manordeilo Gas Pipeline: An Archaeological Assessment, July 1999, Project Record No. 38345*). Some of these impacts were mitigated by changes in the pipeline route. The remainder of the responses mainly consisted of watching briefs on the topsoil strip and the pipeline trench excavation.

The responses were -

- A watching brief was recommended, and undertaken, on the topsoil-strip through 'Dablen-aur', (PRN 38351), a below-ground house site unavoidably crossed by the route.
- A watching brief was recommended, and undertaken, in the area of a second below-ground house site (PRN 38350).
- The topsoil-strip was observed in its environs of Garn-wen earthwork (PRN 38348), a possible Bronze Age round barrow (burial mound) which was initially thought to be affected by the scheme, but was avoided.
- All field boundaries cut by the scheme were recorded during the initial topsoil-strip. Field boundaries are an integral part of the total historic landscape and were subject only to superficial investigation during the 1999 walkover survey.

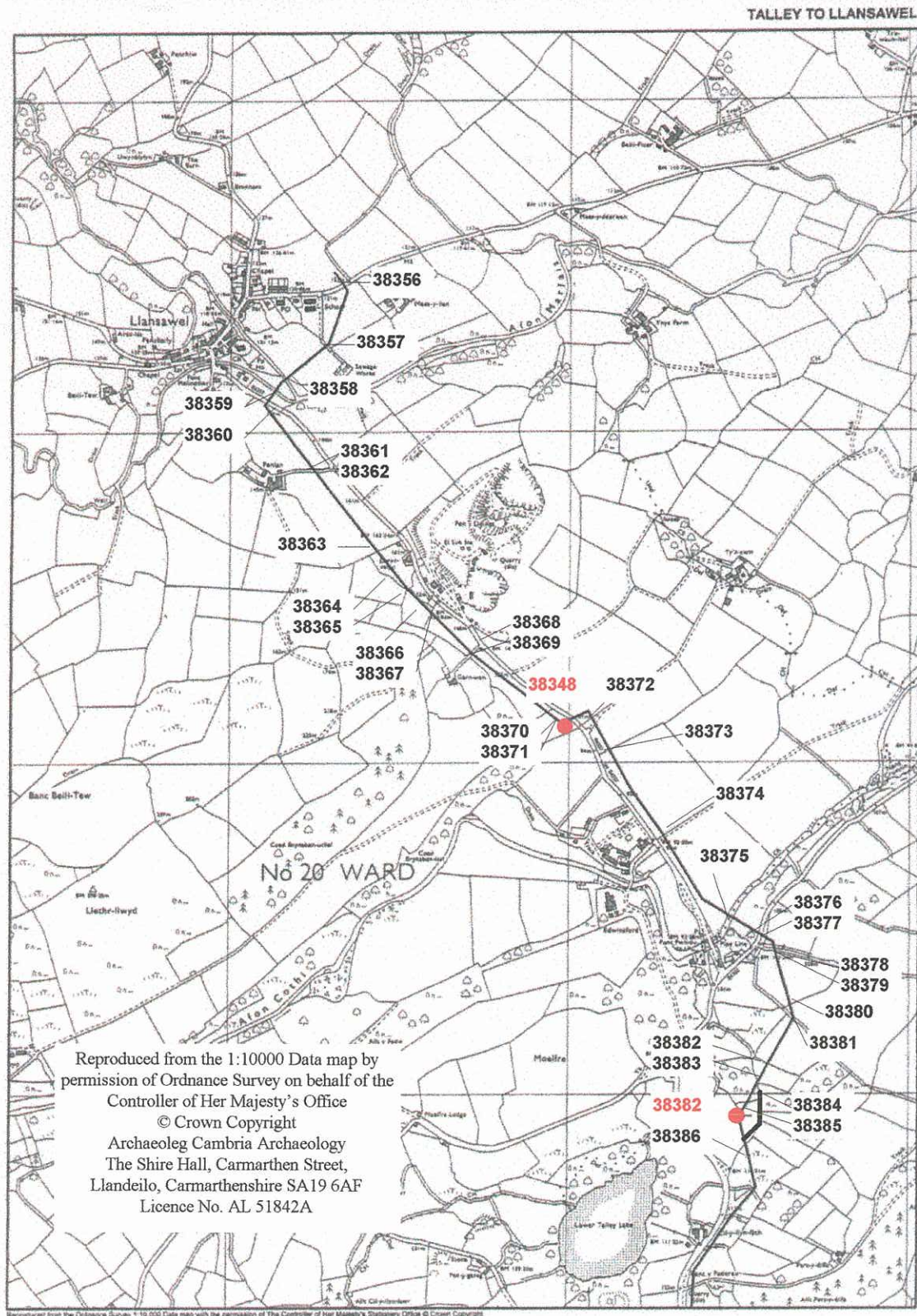


Fig. 1a:
Llansawel-Talley - location of features

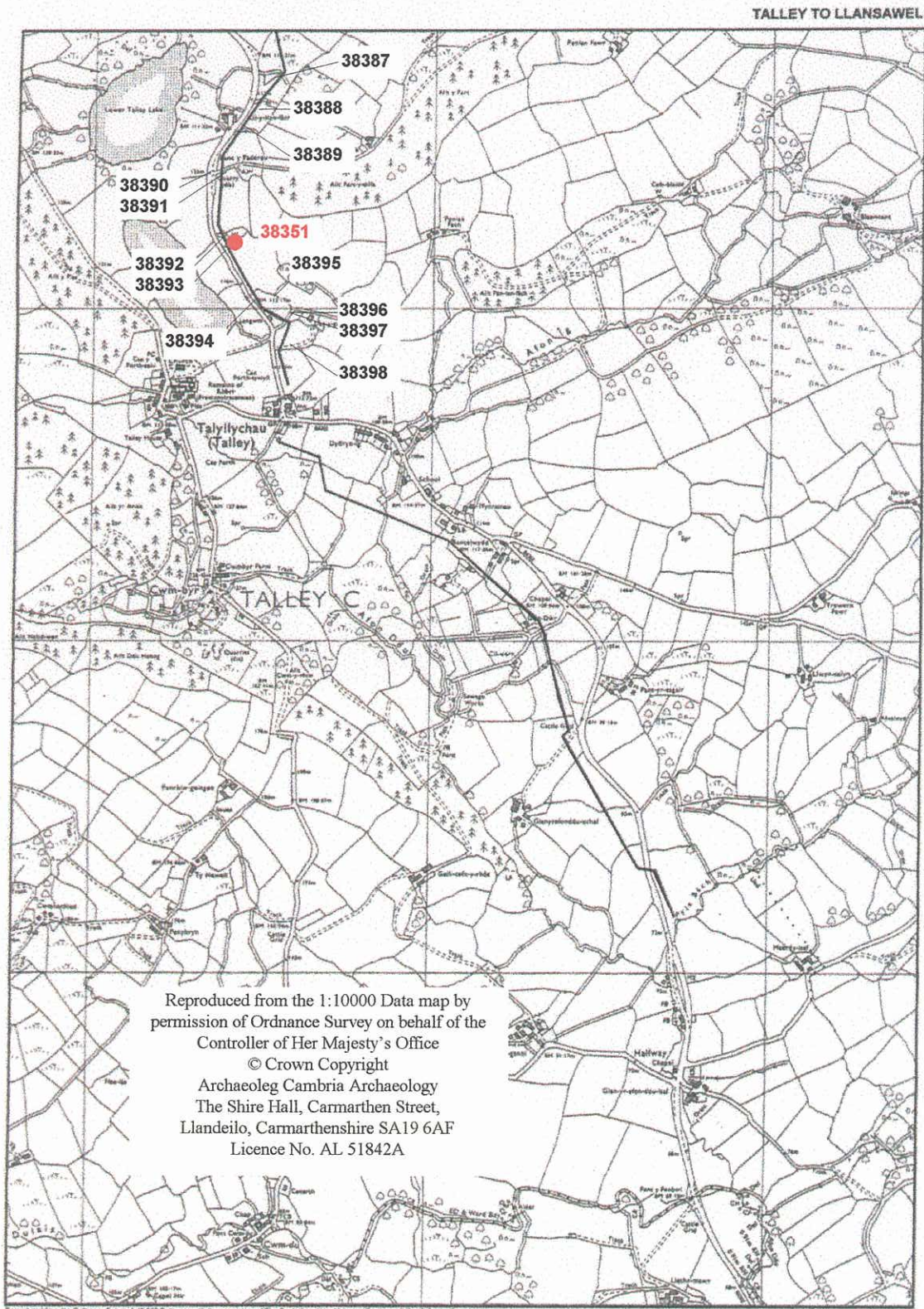


Fig. 1b:
Llansawel-Talley - location of features

3.2 OBSERVATIONS

3.2.1 Dablen-aur dwelling (PRN 38351)

A documented post-medieval dwelling site, at NGR SN 6337 3320, now gone and therefore a Category E site in September 1999 (site needing further investigation).

Two buildings are shown on the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawings, Sheet 187 of 1812 and the Ordnance Survey 1", Old Series, of 1831, lying east of the small overgrown enclosure defined by boundaries PRN 38392 and 38393, and labelled 'Tablenaur'. On the Talley tithe map of 1838 they are 'Dablenaur House and Garden', owned by the Edwinsford estate and occupied by one David Davies. They were still present in 1906, when they were labelled 'Dablen-aur' (Ordnance Survey 1:2500, Second Edition), and a well is indicated on recent Ordnance Survey maps, but the site is now heavily overgrown.

However, a low, linear mound was visible in 1999, within the area marked as general site of the buildings on the 19th century maps. It trended east-west and was approximately 6 metres wide. The topsoil-stripped corridor cut through the mound to a depth of 1 metre revealing it to be composed of loose, medium-large limestone rubble, with mortar, in a loose soil matrix, associated with a mortar spread and an area of smaller stones. The material appears to be demolition debris/collapse derived from one of the buildings. A number of sherds of 18th-19th century pottery were also revealed in the immediate vicinity (see Section 4.0).

(See also boundaries PRNs 38392 and 38393.)

*Photo 1:
Earthwork (site of dwelling PRN 38351?), west-facing section*



3.2.2 Former house and garden (PRN 38350)

A documented post-medieval dwelling site, at NGR SN 6351 3394, now gone and therefore a Category E site in September 1999 (site needing further investigation).

Two buildings shown lying east of the B4302 north of Talley, on the overgrown plot defined by boundaries PRN 38384 and 38385, on the Talley tithe map of 1838, and possibly on the Ordnance Survey 1", Old Series, of 1831. The schedule terms them 'house' and the field as the accompanying garden, owned by the Edwinsford estate and occupied by one Timothy John. The buildings had gone by 1906 (Ordnance Survey 1:2500, Second Edition).

No physical evidence of the buildings was visible prior to the topsoil-strip in 1999. The pipeline route corridor passed approx. 5 metres east of the site of the buildings and the topsoil-strip revealed only natural soil. Contractor's vegetation debris obscured much of the site.

The boundary (PRN 38385) immediately south of the dwelling site, mainly represented by a stream, exhibited 5 discrete raised, grassy mounds up to 0.50 metres high, over a distance of 10 metres, possibly representing upcast from clearance of the stream.

(See also boundaries PRN 38384 and 38385.)

*Photo 2:
Site of dwelling PRN 38350 and boundary PRN 38385, from the south*



3.2.3 Garn-wen earthwork (PRN 38348)

A low mound at NGR SN 6298 3510, in good condition but of unknown nature. It is therefore a Category E site (site needing further investigation).

It lies immediately west of field boundary PRN 36369 (see below), with a basal diameter of c.4-5 metres and 0.5 metres high. It may be the remains of a tree-stump; a large stump lies immediately north-east. However, it possibly lies too far within the field to be a stump and may be either natural, or an archaeological site - a Bronze Age round barrow? (burial mound).

The topsoil-strip avoided the earthwork itself by 8 metres. No associated archaeological features were visible within the stripped area.

The existence of a barrow on Garn-wen Farm has long been suspected due to the place-name, which was even given a PRN, 4896. The present earthwork has been given a separate PRN.

*Photo 3:
Garn-wen earthwork (PRN 38348) from the west.*



3.2.4 Field boundaries

The route pipeline affected a total of 43 field boundaries (PRNs 38356 - 38398), of which 32 were cut. Land-use descriptions refer to the area lying *south* and *south-east* of the boundaries described. Descriptions are as in Ludlow, N D, *Llansawel-Talley-Halfway Gas Pipeline: An Archaeological Assessment, July 1999, Project Record No. 38345*, with some additional material.

Only 2 of the boundary banks observed in section, PRNs 38394 and 38398, both towards the southern, Talley end of the pipeline, exhibited any rubble. Other banks observed in section were entirely of earth.

It is apparent from consultation of the tithe maps, from 1838, of Llansawel and Talley parishes, and the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 First Edition, that most field boundaries within the project area were established between 1838 and 1887. Both tithe maps omit field names and usage details, but ownership is given, and Edwinstford estate land in 1838 is noted below.

See Fig. 1 for the location of boundaries, past and present. Photographs of the sections of all boundaries cut by the pipeline form part of the project archive, curated under Project Record No. 39019 in the Sites and Monuments Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire. The archive also includes a numbered field recording sheet for each boundary.

Boundary PRN 38356 (NGR SN 6235 3645)

Marked in 1838 - Yes
Marked in 1887 - Yes
Marked in 1906 - Yes
Nature of boundary - Bank, 0.60 metres high and 2.00 metres wide, with hazel/holly/sycamore hedge.
Current land use - Not recorded. Evidence of possible watercourse along route on aerial photographs (RAF 106G/UK/1471/3375, 1946; Sites and Monuments Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire)

Boundary PRN 38357 (NGR SN 6225 3625)

Marked in 1838 - ?
Marked in 1887 - Yes
Marked in 1906 - Yes
Nature of boundary - Bank, 0.80 metres high and 3.00 metres wide, with no hedge - fenced only.
Current land use - Not recorded. Evidence of possible watercourse along route on aerial photographs (RAF 106G/UK/1471/3375, 1946; Sites and Monuments Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire)

Boundary PRN 38358 (NGR SN 6218 3618)

Marked in 1838 - Yes
Marked in 1887 - Yes
Marked in 1906 - Yes
Nature of boundary - (not recorded - unaffected by works)
Current land use - The confluence of the Afon Marlais and the Afon Melindwr lies to south, and is lined by broadleaved standards.

Boundary PRN 38359 (NGR SN 6212 3609)

Marked in 1838 - Yes
Marked in 1887 - Yes
Marked in 1906 - Yes
Nature of boundary - Steep slope up from Afon Melindwr, 5 - 6 metres high, with mature oak standards and lower hazel and hawthorn; no real hedge. Unaffected by works.
Current land use - Tarmacked road (B4337) into Llansawel; a road followed this line from at least 1812 (National Library of Wales, Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawings, Sheet 187) and probably earlier. See PRN 38360.

Boundary PRN 38360 (NGR SN 6212 3607)

Marked in 1838 - Yes

Marked in 1887 - Yes

Marked in 1906 - Yes

Nature of boundary - Steep drop of 2.5 metres from field to south to B4337, topped by low hedge of immature ash and hazel. Unaffected by works.

Current land use - Pasture.

Boundary PRN 38361 (NGR SN 6225 3590)

Marked in 1838 - Yes

Marked in 1887 - Yes

Marked in 1906 - Yes

Nature of boundary - Bank c.0.60 metres high and 1.20 metres wide, with unmaintained hazel and elder hedge.

Current land use - Gravel track to Penlan Farm; a track followed this line from at least 1812 (National Library of Wales, Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawings, Sheet 187). See PRN 38362.

Boundary PRN 38362 (NGR SN 6225 3588)

Marked in 1838 - Yes

Marked in 1887 - Yes

Marked in 1906 - Yes

Nature of boundary - Bank c.0.75 metres high and 3.00 metres wide, with unmaintained ash, hazel and elder hedge.

Current land use - Rough pasture.

Boundary PRN 38363 (NGR SN 6240 3565)

Marked in 1838 - No

Marked in 1887 - Yes

Marked in 1906 - Yes

Nature of boundary - Low, straight intermittent bank, 0.80 metres high and 3.50 metres wide, with unmaintained willow/hazel hedge. Shallow stream on north side.

Current land use - Rough pasture.

Boundary PRN 38364 (NGR SN 625 355)

Marked in 1838 - No

Marked in 1887 - Yes

Marked in 1906 - Yes

Nature of boundary - No bank. Intermittent hedge with 1 x young oak standard. Unaffected by works.

Current land use - See PRN 38363.

Boundary PRN 38365 (NGR SN 6255 3550)

Marked in 1838 - Yes

Marked in 1887 - Yes

Marked in 1906 - Yes

Nature of boundary - No bank. Unmaintained willow hedge. Unaffected by works.

Current land use - Rough, very overgrown plot (Edwinsford in 1838).

Boundary PRN 38366 (NGR SN 6255 3545)

Marked in 1838 - No

Marked in 1887 - Yes

Marked in 1906 - Yes

Nature of boundary - No bank. Unmaintained willow hedge. Unaffected by works.

Current land use - Rough, very overgrown plot associated with PRN 38347 (Edwinsford in 1838).

Boundary PRN 38367 (NGR SN 6270 3542)

Marked in 1838 - No

Marked in 1887 - Yes

Marked in 1906 - Yes

Nature of boundary - Bank, 2 metres wide and 0.5 metres high. Unmaintained willow hedge with 1 x mature holly. Unaffected by works.

Current land use - Rough pasture, much bracken (Edwinsford in 1838).

Boundary PRN 38368 (NGR SN 6277 3535)

Marked in 1838 - Yes

Marked in 1887 - Yes

Marked in 1906 - Yes

Nature of boundary - No visible bank. Hazel and hawthorn hedge. Unaffected by works.

Current land use - Partly gravelled track to Garn-wen Farm; a track followed this line from at least 1812 when the farm was named 'Gwarcwm' (National Library of Wales, Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawings, Sheet 187). See PRN 38369.

Boundary PRN 38369 (NGR SN 6277 3533)

Marked in 1838 - Yes

Marked in 1887 - Yes

Marked in 1906 - Yes

Nature of boundary - No visible bank. Hazel and hawthorn hedge. Unaffected by works.

Current land use - Rough pasture, much bracken. The NE - SW boundary shown crossing the SE third of this field on recent maps has gone and has left no physical evidence. Nb. possible earthwork PRN 38348 lies within this field.

Boundary PRN 38370 (NGR SN 6300 3511)

Marked in 1838 - Yes

Marked in 1887 - Yes

Marked in 1906 - Yes

Nature of boundary - Bank 0.5 - 2 metres high where road is at a lower level than the neighbouring field (higher to NW), and up to 5 metres wide. Mature oak standards, with hazel and beech saplings, with some hawthorn and willow.

Current land use - Tarmacked road (B4337); a road followed this line from at least 1812 (National Library of Wales, Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawings, Sheet 187) and probably earlier. See PRN 38371. Nb. possible earthwork PRN 38348 lies just west of this boundary.

Boundary PRN 38371 (NGR SN 6300 3513)

Marked in 1838 - Yes

Marked in 1887 - (yes)

Marked in 1906 - Yes

Nature of boundary - Bank, 3.00 metres wide and 0.5 - 1 metre high where road is at a lower level than the neighbouring field, with young willow and hazel, overgrown.

Current land use - Improved pasture (east of B4337). Edwinsford in 1838.

Boundary PRN 38372 (NGR SN 6307 3511)

Marked in 1838 - Yes

Marked in 1887 - (yes)

Marked in 1906 - Yes

Nature of boundary - The boundary shown on Ordnance Survey maps has gone in the area of the route, but is represented by a hawthorn hedge further east. To the south of the former boundary is a loose gravel track, also shown in 1838, on a slight terrace (Edwinsford in 1838). 1 x mature oak standard just west of route midline. Not affected by the works.

Current land use - Pasture. Cropmark ?boundary observed crossing field from east to west on aerial photographs (RAF 106G/UK/1471/3375, 1946; Sites and Monuments Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire).

Boundary PRN 38373 (NGR SN 6317 3505)

Marked in 1838 - No

Marked in 1887 - (yes)

Marked in 1906 - Yes

Nature of boundary - Very low bank with tall, unmaintained hawthorn hedge. Shallow, dry overgrown ditch, 0.50 metres deep, on the north side.

Current land use - Pasture, recently cut for hay 28/7/99 (Edwinsford in 1838).

Boundary PRN 38374 (NGR SN 6327 3580)

Marked in 1838 - No

Marked in 1887 - (yes)

Marked in 1906 - Yes

Nature of boundary - Very low bank, 0.50 metres high and 1.60 metres wide, with intermittent, unmaintained hawthorn hedge.

Current land use - Pasture (Edwinsford in 1838).

Boundary PRN 38375 (NGR SN 6348 3450)

Marked in 1838 - Yes

Marked in 1887 - (yes)

Marked in 1906 - Yes

Nature of boundary - River Cothi, with mature broadleaved standards either side. Pipeline taken beneath the River Cothi.

Current land use - Overgrown area along southern bank of Cothi (Edwinsford in 1838).

Boundary PRN 38376 (NGR SN 6355 3448)

Marked in 1838 - Yes
Marked in 1887 - (yes)
Marked in 1906 - Yes
Nature of boundary - Earthen bank 0.5 metres high, with intermittent hazel hedge which has been partly laid. Not affected by works.
Current land use - Tarmacked road (B4302); a road followed this line from at least 1812 (National Library of Wales, Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawings, Sheet 187) and probably earlier. See PRN 38377.

Boundary PRN 38377 (NGR SN 6356 3446)

Marked in 1838 - Yes
Marked in 1887 - (yes)
Marked in 1906 - Yes
Nature of boundary - Earthen bank 0.25 metres high, overgrown but with mature oak standards. Lying parallel and c.3.5 metres to the north is an equally low bank of more recent construction, associated with a slightly altered? (narrowed?) road line, with immature hazel and ash. Not affected by works.
Current land use - Pasture, overgrown (Edwinsford in 1838).

Boundary PRN 38378 (NGR SN 6360 3441)

Marked in 1838 - ?
Marked in 1887 - ?
Marked in 1906 - Yes
Nature of boundary - Earthen bank 0.80 metres high and 1.8- metres wide, with close, maintained willow, alder and holly hedge. Dry ditch, 1.00 metres deep and 1.5 metres wide, along north side.
Current land use - Unclassified tarmacked lane, marked on Talley tithe map of 1838. See PRN 38379.

Boundary PRN 38379 (NGR SN 6360 3439)

Marked in 1838 - ?
Marked in 1887 - ?
Marked in 1906 - Yes
Nature of boundary - No bank. Intermittent young willow and alder standards, no real hedge.
Current land use - Close pasture (Edwinsford in 1838).

Boundary PRN 38380 (NGR SN 6367 3422)

Marked in 1838 - Yes
Marked in 1887 - (yes)
Marked in 1906 - Yes
Nature of boundary - Stream, partly straightened?/enhanced?, slightly sinuous, c.2 metres wide and c.1 metre deep with steep sides. Dry. Young - mature standards, including beech, mainly along southern bank.
Current land use - Pasture (Edwinsford in 1838).

Boundary PRN 38381 (NGR SN 6367 3420)

Marked in 1838 - Yes
Marked in 1887 - (yes)
Marked in 1906 - Yes
Nature of boundary - Stream, partly straightened?/enhanced?, slightly sinuous, c.2.5 metres wide and c.1.75 metres deep with steep-vertical sides. Wet but still. Mature oak and holly standards, mainly along southern bank.
Current land use - Pasture. Field crossed by former track, shown in 1838, represented by linear depression (Edwinsford in 1838).

Boundary PRN 38382 (NGR SN 6360 3410)

Marked in 1838 - No
Marked in 1887 - ?
Marked in 1906 - Yes
Nature of boundary - Low earthen bank, c.0.50 metres high and c.1.50 metres wide, with young, shrubby alder and willow.
Current land use - Pasture (Edwinsford in 1838).

Boundary PRN 38383 (NGR SN 6355 3405)

Marked in 1838 - No
Marked in 1887 - ?
Marked in 1906 - Yes
Nature of boundary - Intersection of two boundaries, neither present in 1838.
N-S boundary is a low earthen bank, c.0.50 metres high to west, but level to east, and c.1.50 metres wide. No hedge; young hazel, holly and willow.
E-W boundary is a well-defined bank with some rubble, c.1.25 metres high and c.2 metres wide, with unmaintained hazel/hawthorn hedge.
Current land use - Hazel/hornbeam carr, very damp (Edwinsford in 1838).

Boundary PRN 38384 (NGR SN 6350 3396)

Marked in 1838 - Yes

Marked in 1887 - (yes)

Marked in 1906 - Yes

Nature of boundary - Steep slope downhill to north, c.2 metres high, with a bank 0.70 metres high and 2.00 metres wide, supporting willow and holly, down to hazel/hornbeam carr. 1 x mature oak standard on pipeline route midline.

Current land use - Pasture; much bracken and rushes. Part of Edwingsford estate in 1838, when it was a garden to PRN 38350.

Boundary PRN 38385 (NGR SN 6349 3390)

Marked in 1838 - Yes

Marked in 1887 - (yes)

Marked in 1906 - Yes

Nature of boundary - Stream, sinuous, c.1 metre deep. Wet but still. Young ash, hazel and willow mainly along southern bank. Immediately south of the site of the former dwelling PRN 38350 are 5 discrete raised, grassy mounds over a distance of 10 metres, possibly representing upcast from cleaning out the stream.

Current land use - Pasture (Edwingsford in 1838).

Boundary PRN 38386 (NGR SN 6349 3390)

Marked in 1838 - Yes

Marked in 1887 - (yes)

Marked in 1906 - Yes

Nature of boundary - Very low earthen bank, c.0.30 metres high scarp downhill to west, with 2.00 metre wide, intermittent 'hedge' of young hazel, hawthorn and willow.

Current land use - Recently planted, ripening rye crop (Edwingsford in 1838).

Boundary PRN 38387 (NGR SN 6353 3375)

Marked in 1838 - Yes

Marked in 1887 - (yes)

Marked in 1906 - Yes

Nature of boundary - Stream, partly straightened/enhanced?, slightly sinuous, c.1.75 metres deep with near-vertical sides. Dry. Mature oak standards along southern side on a low bank 0.80 metres high and 2.60 metres wide.

Current land use - Pasture, many rushes and an area of willow carr within a natural dingle (Edwingsford in 1838).

Boundary PRN 38388 (NGR SN 6355 3355)

Marked in 1838 - No

Marked in 1887 - ?

Marked in 1906 - Yes

Nature of boundary - Stream, slightly sinuous, shallow and overgrown, with young willows on a very slight bank 1.50 metres wide and 0.35 metres high.

Current land use - Pasture (Edwingsford in 1838).

Boundary PRN 38389 (NGR SN 6340 3350)

Marked in 1838 - No

Marked in 1887 - ?

Marked in 1906 - Yes

Nature of boundary - Stream, slightly sinuous, shallow and overgrown with a low, c.0.50 metre high bank along its northern edge, 1.80 metres wide, supporting an intermittent hazel/willow 'hedge' and some larger boles.

Current land use - Pasture (Edwingsford in 1838).

Boundary PRN 38390 (NGR SN 6335 3345)

Marked in 1838 - Yes

Marked in 1887 - (yes)

Marked in 1906 - Yes

Nature of boundary - Scarp, drops 1.00 metres down to field to north, with an asymmetrical, c.1.00 metre wide bank supporting a close, maintained mixed hedge.

Current land use - Tarmacked lane to former quarry (PRN 18527) and Parc-y-dilfa farm; a track followed this line from at least 1831 (Ordnance Survey, 1" mile, Old Series, sheet 41). See PRN 38391.

Boundary PRN 38391 (NGR SN 6335 3343)

Marked in 1838 - Yes

Marked in 1887 - (yes)

Marked in 1906 - Yes

Nature of boundary - Scarp, drops 1.00 metres down from the field to the south to the lane, with a c.0.80 metre wide bank supporting a close, maintained hazel/hawthorn hedge.

Current land use - Pasture (Edwingsford in 1838).

Boundary PRN 38392 (NGR SN 6338 3325)

Marked in 1838 - Yes
Marked in 1887 - (yes)
Marked in 1906 - Yes
Nature of boundary - Bank, c.1.25 metres high and c.1.75 metres wide, with overgrown willow 'hedge' and mature oak standard just east of route midline. Not affected by the works.
Current land use - Overgrown. Part of Edwinsford estate in 1838, when it was occupied by PRN 38351 'Dablen-aur'. See PRN 38393.

Boundary PRN 38393 (NGR SN 6338 3320)

Marked in 1838 - Yes
Marked in 1887 - (yes)
Marked in 1906 - Yes
Nature of boundary - Scarp, c.3m down from field to south. Heavily overgrown with hazel and willow. Not affected by the works.
Current land use - Pasture, entirely overgrown with bracken (Edwinsford in 1838).

Boundary PRN 38394 (NGR SN 6348 3305)

Marked in 1838 - Yes
Marked in 1887 - (yes)
Marked in 1906 - Yes
Nature of boundary - Bank, c.1.00 metres high and c.3.00 metres wide, with a rubble core, supporting an overgrown, intermittent willow 'hedge' with some holly.
Current land use - Pasture belonging to 'Llangwm' (PRN 38352). See PRN 38395.

Boundary PRN 38395 (NGR SN 6355 3295)

Marked in 1838 - No
Marked in 1887 - ?
Marked in 1906 - Yes
Nature of boundary - Shallow scarp downhill to south-west, 0.60m high, 2.20 metres wide, without any hedge but with some blackthorn/hazel/willow.
Current land use - Defines present eastern boundary of 'Llangwm' (PRN 38352). See PRN 38396.

Boundary PRN 38396 (NGR SN 6360 3295)

Marked in 1838 - Yes
Marked in 1887 - (yes)
Marked in 1906 - Yes
Nature of boundary - Bank, 1.00 metres high and 2.00 metres wide, supporting unmaintained hazel/willow/hawthorn hedge, overgrown.
Current land use - Green lane, much overgrown. Line of a track since at least 1831 (Ordnance Survey 1", Old Series, Sheet 41). See PRN 38397

Boundary PRN 38397 (NGR SN 6360 3291)

Marked in 1838 - Yes
Marked in 1887 - (yes)
Marked in 1906 - Yes
Nature of boundary - Bank, 0.75 metres high and 1.50 metres wide, supporting unmaintained hazel/willow/hawthorn hedge, overgrown. Shallow, narrow ditch along south side.
Current land use - Pasture (Edwinsford in 1838). Mature ash standard on route midline.

Boundary PRN 38398 (NGR SN 6355 3287)

Marked in 1838 - Yes
Marked in 1887 - (yes)
Marked in 1906 - Yes
Nature of boundary - Bank, c.0.60 metres high and c.1.5 metres wide, with turf capping, and rubble facing on the north side. Supports a low, close maintained hazel/willow/hawthorn hedge. Gravel track along north side, marked in 1906 (Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 Second Edition)
Current land use - Pasture (Edwinsford in 1838).

4.0 THE FINDS

Four sherds of transfer-printed ware, and two stoneware sherds were retrieved from the topsoil strip of Dablen-aur dwelling site (PRN 38351). All are of late 18th-19th century date. They were not retained.

5.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive, which will be indexed according to the National Monuments Record (NMR) material categories, is held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Llandeilo, and contains the following:-

- A. Copy of the final report and disk
- B. Field notes
- C. Copies of planning specifications
- G. List of references
- J. Final drawings
- L. General administrative notes
- M. Project correspondence

There is no material for classes D, E, F, H, I, K and N.

6.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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7.0 REFERENCES

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