



Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology

01/10/99

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report

Llanllyr

W/11/810

ACA Project Record No 39020

Report prepared for CCW
by ACA

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Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology
Shire Hall,
8, Carmarthen Street,
Llandeilo,
Carmarthenshire
SA19 6AF
Tel: (01558) 823121/823131
Fax: (01558) 823133
Email: cambria@acadat.com



A R C H A E O L E G
CAMBRIA
A R C H A E O L O G Y

Tir Gofal Application Number W/11/810

Address Llanllyr, Talsarn, Ceredigion

NGR SN5455

TG Project Officer Arfon Williams, Aberystwyth

Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology Project Record Number 39020

Visit Officer Ken Murphy

Visit Date 27/09/99

TIR GOFAL SITE MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

As used in accompanying site gazetteer.

Category A - Sites and Monuments of National Importance

Category B - Sites and Monuments of Regional Importance

Category C - Sites/Features of Local Importance

Category D - Sites/Features needing further investigation (including damaged sites or sites with no defined physical presence).

TIR GOFAL COLOUR CODING

As used on accompanying holding maps.

Category A - Blue	<i>Scheduled Ancient Monuments Grade 1 and 2* Listed Building</i>
Red	<i>Other Sites and Monuments of National Importance Other Buildings of National Importance</i>
Red toning	<i>Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest</i>
Red Banding	<i>Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest</i>
Category B - Amber	<i>Sites and Monuments of Regional Importance Grade 2 Listed and Other Buildings of Regional Importance</i>
Category C - Green	<i>Sites / Features of Local Importance Buildings of Local Importance</i>
Category D - Grey	<i>Sites / Features of Unknown Importance</i>

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE STATUS

Terms used in gazetteer.

SAM.

Scheduled Ancient Monument. SAMs are notified under section 1 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The register of SAMs is maintained and administered by Cadw.

LB1, LB2* & LB2.

Listed Building categories. Listed buildings are notified under section 1 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The list is maintained and administered by Cadw.

HL - Landscapes of Exceptional and Great Historic Interest.

Defined by the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales: Part 2.1 Landscapes of Exceptional and Great Historic Interest. The register is advisory only, and has no statutory powers. The register is being compiled by Cadw in partnership with the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and is concerned with man-made, historic elements of the landscape.

HGP - Register of Historic Gardens & Parks.

Defined by the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales: Part 1 - Parks & Gardens. The register is advisory only, and has no statutory powers. The register is being compiled by Cadw in partnership with the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and is concerned with man-made, historic elements of the landscape.

PRN 4580	Site name TALSARN	NGR SN54255606
Site type CHAPEL	Period Mediaeval	Site Status

Description

The location of this site as marked by the Ordnance Survey is in a pasture field to the north of the post-dissolution mansion and to the northwest of the present mansion. In 1999 there were no surface indications for a chapel. In an article written in 1971 the author states that his grandfather remembers a tower standing here, though when the field was levelled no trace of foundations were found. An estate map of 1768 shows a building in this location, which may be this chapel.

Recommendations

This is potentially a very important site. It is recommended that no works involving ground disturbance are carried out on or close to the site of the former chapel.

Management Category D	Visited by KM	Visited On 27/09/99
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PRN 4781	Site name TESQUITUS STONE	NGR SN54345588
Site type INSCRIBED STONE	Period Dark Age	Site Status SAM

Description

This stone has now been mounted in a niche in a wall in the restored gardens of Llanllyr. It is available for inspection by the public by appointment.

Recommendations

As this monument has been recently mounted and is made available for public inspection, no further management recommendations are suggested.

Management Category A	Visited by KM	Visited On 27/09/99
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PRN 4786	Site name LLANLLYR; ABBATISSA DE LALLER; LANLERE	NGR SN54355590
Site type NUNNERY	Period Mediaeval	Site Status

Description

Llanllyr Nunnery was founded in c. 1180 by Rhys ap Gryffydd as a daughter house of Strata Florida. It was suppressed in 1535. The exact site of the nunnery is not known though it is assumed to have lain close to or beneath the present mansion and farm buildings. The owners of the site states that a large stone-built arched drain leads from the present mansion towards the river and that parts of the rear of the mansion incorporate earlier buildings - both these elements may have been part of the nunnery, although a 1684 drawing of the old mansion, PRN 39022, suggests that older elements, possibly part of the nunnery may be incorporated in it. The presumed chapel of the nunnery seems to have been situated a little way to the north of the mansion site - PRN 4580

Recommendations

Because of the problems in exactly locating this potentially highly important site, no specific management recommendations can be formulated.

Management Category D	Visited by KM	Visited On 27/09/99
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PRN 5879	Site name CILBWN	NGR SN538569
Site type UNKNOWN	Period Unknown	Site Status

Description

Vague cropmarks were noted by the Ordnance Survey but on field inspection they considered these to have been caused by rushes in marshy ground. The area is now one large field which in 1999 was under arable cultivation.

Recommendations

There are no management recommendations for this possible cropmark site.

Management Category	Visited by KM	Visited On 27/09/99
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PRN 5880	Site name LLAN-LLYR	NGR SN547558
Site type UNKNOWN	Period Unknown	Site Status

Description

These possible cropmarks were noted by the Ordnance Survey but as they are on ground that was formerly marshy they suggest that they could be caused by rushes. There is no surface evidence for them. The small field in which they were recorded has been amalgamated into a larger one which is now improved pasture.

Recommendations

There are no management recommendations for this possible site.

Management Category D	Visited by KM	Visited On 27/09/99
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PRN 9675	Site name LLANLLYR	NGR SN54405594
Site type MANSION	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

According to the present owners the mansion was built in about 1830 in a 19th century tudor-gothic style. Major rebuilding took place in the 1870s. The house and gardens have been restored under the present owners. However the tithe map of 1843 shows the old mansion - PRN 39022 - with no trace of this house.

Recommendations

Management Category A	Visited by KM	Visited On 27/09/99
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PRN 39021	Site name LLANLLYR	NGR SN543559
Site type WALLED GARDEN	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

The key element of this garden are the clom or earth walls. These rest on a foundation of stone are capped with slate and are colour-washed. The walls and garden that they surround have been restored by the current owners of Llanllyr. New planting, pond creation and the construction of a summer house and bridges has also taken place outside the confines of the walls. The date of the walled garden is unclear. Walled gardens are shown on an estate map of 1768 and on the 1843 tithe map in association with the old mansion - PRN 39022 - and although it is difficult to reconcile these maps with the modern landscape it would seem that at least a large part of the walled garden was in existence by 1768 and therefore may date to the late 16th century.

Recommendations

No management recommendations are suggested for the Tir Gofal application.

Management Category A	Visited by KM	Visited On 27/09/99
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PRN 39022	Site name LLANLLYR	NGR SN542559
Site type MANSION	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

It is likely that a mansion house was built on the site of the former nunnery at Llanllyr in the late 16th century by the Lloyd family. A drawing identified by Tom Lloyd as Llanllyr shows an 'Elizabethan' mansion of several elements possibly incorporating earlier structures set in formal gardens. An estate map of 1768 indicates that the mansion faced west from which direction a tree-lined drive led. Walled gardens - possibly 39021 - lay to the east of the house. In 1696 the house was decayed but according to the present owners was not pulled down until 1830 when the present mansion was built. However the tithe map of 1843 seems to show the old mansion with no trace of the new. There is now no trace of the mansion. Its site lies partly under pasture, partly under woodland, partly under a pig foraging area and partly under modern farm buildings.

Recommendations

It is likely that remains of this mansion survive beneath fields and woodland. It is important therefore that no works that involve ground disturbance are undertaken in these two areas.

Management Category D	Visited by KM	Visited On 27/09/99
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<i>PRN</i> 39023	<i>Site name</i> LLANLLYR	<i>NGR</i> SN54295597
<i>Site type</i> STABLE	<i>Period</i> Post Med	<i>Site Status</i>

Description

This is the only substantially intact old farm building in a farmyard of predominantly late 20th century structures. It is stone-built two-storey with a slate roof. It seems to have functioned as a stable with a possible pigeon-loft over, but all the internal fittings and first floor have been removed as has the north end wall. One of the roof trusses is dated 1845.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this site.

<i>Management Category</i> B	<i>Visited by</i> KM	<i>Visited On</i> 27/09/99
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<i>PRN</i> 39024	<i>Site name</i> LLANLLYR	<i>NGR</i> SN53965576
<i>Site type</i> ROUND BARROW	<i>Period</i> Bronze Age	<i>Site Status</i>

Description

A circular earthwork mound with a flatish top. It is approximately 35m diameter and 1.5m high. To the north lies low-lying marshy ground; to the south the land rises gently onto drier pasture. Though not certain this earthwork has the appearance of a round barrow lowered by ploughing.

Recommendations

No work involving ground disturbance should be undertaken on this site, and it should be taken out of any ploughing regime.

<i>Management Category</i> A	<i>Visited by</i> KM	<i>Visited On</i> 27/09/99
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<i>PRN</i> 39025	<i>Site name</i> LLANLLYR	<i>NGR</i> SN54215575
<i>Site type</i> POND	<i>Period</i> Unknown	<i>Site Status</i>

Description

A small rectangular pond approximately 10m by 5m lies in woodland under a thick covering of undergrowth. The pond is now dry. There is no documentary or cartographic evidence for this pond - it may be of relatively recent date.

Recommendations

Care should be taken that this pond is not infilled or damaged during the cleaning of adjacent drainage ditches, otherwise maintain in current condition.

<i>Management Category</i> C	<i>Visited by</i> KM	<i>Visited On</i> 27/09/99
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<i>PRN</i> 39026	<i>Site name</i> LLANLLYR	<i>NGR</i> SN54245984
<i>Site type</i> BUILDING	<i>Period</i> Post Med	<i>Site Status</i>

Description

This building is not marked on an 18th century estate map or on the 1843 tithe map and therefore presumably dates to the later part of the 19th century. It is built of clom - earth - on a stone foundation. The latest roof was of tin but this has all but gone. It is derelict but enough survives to indicate that it was open fronted to the east and therefore seems to have been a cart house.

Recommendations

This small earth building is probably beyond repair. Care should be taken not to cause unnecessary damage to the surviving remains.

<i>Management Category</i> B	<i>Visited by</i> KM	<i>Visited On</i> 27/09/99
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PRN	39027	Site name	LLANLLYR	NGR	SN54235986
Site type	PILLOW MOUND?	Period	Mediaeval; Post Med	Site Status	

Description

A regular-shaped rectangular mound 14m long 3m wide and just 0.5m high may be a pillow mound or rabbit warren. This designation is not, however, certain owing to the ephemeral nature of the earthworks.

Recommendations

Care should be taken during woodland management not to cause damage to this site.

Management Category	B	Visited by	KM	Visited On	27/09/99
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PRN	39028	Site name	LLANLLYR	NGR	SN54265590
Site type	POND	Period	Post Med	Site Status	

Description

A small pond some 10m by 8m and 2m deep. It is now almost dry. There are no indications for sluices or other water management features. Two trees have taken root in the side of the pond and a stone wall has been built partly across it. Associated with a mill - PRN 39030.

Recommendations

It may be possible to restore this small pond. If so care must be taken not to damage possible sluices which may be currently hidden.

Management Category	B	Visited by	KM	Visited On	27/09/99
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PRN	39029	Site name	LLANLLYR	NGR	SN54265989
Site type	MILL?	Period	Post Med	Site Status	

Description

An earthwork platform 10m by 6m may be the site of a mill. Immediately downstream to the north lies a small pond - 39028 and to the west and south are watercourses. Though this may be a mill it is difficult given the sluggish nature of the watercourses how a sufficient head of water could have been achieved to power machinery. The mill designation is therefore tentative.

Recommendations

Though this is not a certain site, care should be taken not to cause undue damage to the earthwork during woodland management and during watercourse and pond clearance.

Management Category	D	Visited by	KM	Visited On	27/09/99
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PRN	39030	Site name	LLANLLYR	NGR	SN54205595
Site type	POND	Period	Mediaeval; Post Med	Site Status	

Description

In an area of woodland and dense undergrowth are numerous earthwork banks, some of which may be dams, and boggy patches which are probably silted ponds. However, at the time of the site visit in September the undergrowth was very dense and no coherent plan could be seen. These ponds may be associated with the Medieval nunnery - PRN 4786 - the post-Medieval mansion - PRN 39022 - or both.

Recommendations

It is likely that the silted ponds contain important palaeoenvironmental evidence, and therefore no attempt should be made to restore them. Care should be taken during woodland management not to cause damage to the surviving earthworks. There has been some recent rubble dumping to the south of the ponds; this should be discouraged.

Management Category	B	Visited by	KM	Visited On	27/09/99
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PRN 39031	Site name LLANLLYR	NGR SN539562
Site type ROAD	Period Mediaeval;Post Med	Site Status

Description

Prior to the reorganisation of the landscape with the building of the new Llanllyr Mansion - PRN 9675 - in the 1830s, the old Mansion - PRN 39022 - and possibly the Medieval Nunnery - PRN 4786 - were served by a road that ran to the west. It is clearly shown on an 18th century estate map and the 1843 tithe map. On these maps it is shown tree lined. It now survives as a causeway some 7-8m wide and up to 1m high on the south side of the Afon Llan-Llyr. Land on either side is still subject to flooding.

Recommendations

This is a fairly robust landscape feature, and therefore no management recommendations are provided.

Management Category B	Visited by KM	Visited On 27/09/99
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PRN 39032	Site name LLANLLYR MILL	NGR SN54435612
Site type CORN MILL	Period Mediaeval;Post Med	Site Status

Description

This is the mill that served the Medieval Nunnery of Llanllyr. It is mentioned in the dissolution documents of 1537. It survived down to the 19th century but seems to have been swept away by 1887. A mid 18th century estate map shows two buildings on the site. The area is now partly improved pasture and partly scrubby woodland. No trace now survives. A leat - PRN 39033 - served this mill.

Recommendations

Buried remains associated with this mill are of potential interest. No works that involve ground disturbance should be carried out on this site.

Management Category D	Visited by KM	Visited On 27/09/99
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PRN 39033	Site name LLANLLYR MILL	NGR SN545560
Site type LEAT	Period Mediaeval;Post Med	Site Status

Description

This leat served the mill, PRN 39032. Its course is shown on a late 18th century estate map and on the 1843 tithe map. It had gone by 1887 when the Ordnance Survey surveyed the area. This leat now crosses a field of improved pasture and is marked by a low break of slope. Occasional mature trees lie on this earthwork.

Recommendations

There are no management recommendations for this site.

Management Category D	Visited by KM	Visited On 27/09/99
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PRN 39034	Site name LLANLLYR LODGE	NGR SN54405608
Site type LODGE	Period Post Med	Site Status LB2

Description

Single storey lodge. Possibly in existence in 1758? as it is marked on an estate map.

Recommendations

There are no management recommendations for this site.

Management Category A	Visited by KM	Visited On 27/09/99
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PRN 39035	Site name LLANLLYR	NGR SN540598
Site type FIELD SYSTEM	Period Mediaeval; Post Med	Site Status

Description

This is a most unusual field system as it has been created by a series of canalised, north-to-south flowing streams - the Afon Ty-cam, the Nant-Cleifon and the Nant Llan-Llyr. The long narrow divisions created by these streams are sub-divided by east-west boundaries, most of which consist of ditched streams. Alongside every stream/ditch is a boundary bank. Every bank was once topped by a hedge but these are now in various stages of decay; few are stock-proof and most consist of straggling bushes. However, every bank is topped with mature trees at intervals of 10 - 20m. Some scrubby woodland has developed alongside some of the boundaries but the main land-use is pasture, which is improved in some of the drier areas and unimproved and rushy elsewhere. At the time of the visit standing water was everywhere. Most of the area has been subjected to land drainage - as shown on a map supplied by the owners of Llanllyr and evidenced by drains in the side of ditches - and a pond has recently been created. In the side of most ditches, a 30cm thick peat deposit is visible 0.70m to 1.00 below the surface covered with colluvial deposits and resting on a white/grey clay. This field system has been established by 1758 but its origin is unknown. It may be of Medieval origin and associated with the Llanllyr Nunnery - 4786 - or created when the post-Medieval estate was established in the late 16th century.

Recommendations

This field system is an important historic landscape element. Every effort should be made to preserve it. Some of its components - the hedges in particular - have suffered degradation and it is probably too late to save them, but it is vital that ditches are maintained and boundary banks retained. A pond has been recently excavated in this area which has destroyed an area of buried peats. Further pond digging should be avoided or carefully sited to prevent more damage to these peats.

Management Category B	Visited by KM	Visited On 27/09/99
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PRN 39036	Site name AFON AERON CANALISATION	NGR SN530569
Site type CANAL	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

Canalised length of the Afon Aeron from Pont Talsarn to Pont Fawr just over 2 km. According to Lewis, this was carried out in the mid 17th century.

Recommendations

There are no management recommendations for this site.

Management Category B	Visited by KM	Visited On 27/09/99
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PRN 39037	Site name AFON LLAN-LLYR FIELD SYSTEM	NGR SN538566
Site type FIELD SYSTEM	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

The Afon Aeron formerly meandered across a wide flood plain between Pont Talsarn and Pont Fawr 2 km down stream. The river was straightened and its course moved to its present position several hundred metres to the north in the mid 16th-century - PRN 39036. It is probable that prior to this straightening, the flood plain of the Aeron was just that and therefore the system of fairly small regular fields that were in existence up to 20-30 years ago were laid out contemporaneously with or later than the straightening. The fields were probably always wet - post World War 2 they are recorded as rushy. In the 1970s they were comprehensively drained and the former course of the Aeron which was then still visible was erased. Since the draining and the conversion of the fields into good quality pasture and arable there has been a degradation of the field boundaries. The system of small irregular fields established in the 16th century has all but gone and wire fences provide most divisors. Where historic boundaries survive they are of earth banks topped with hedges and are generally derelict but do contain distinctive trees. Where the boundaries have been removed the distinctive trees usually remain. Alongside roads the boundaries survive in good condition and are well maintained.

Recommendations

This field system is very degraded. Therefore no recommendations are made here for its preservation/retention.

Management Category B	Visited by KM	Visited On 27/09/99
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PRN 39038	Site name LLANLLYR	NGR SN545557
Site type FIELD SYSTEM	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

This field system lies to the east of Llanllyr House. According to a mid 18th-century estate map and the tithe map of 1843, this area was divided into a system of small irregular fields. The date of creation of this system is unknown. Considerable changes had taken place when the Ordnance Survey surveyed the area in 1887. By then the landscape had been reorganised into parkland and divided into very large enclosures with isolated standard trees. Interestingly, the standard trees were the remains of the former field system - a careful examination of the OS six inch first edition map reveals that the trees are in sinuous lines which match the boundaries shown on the tithe map. In field examination, the course of some of the old boundaries can still be detected in the lines of extant trees. The parkland was laid out following the building of the new Llanllyr Mansion - 9675 - in c. 1830 or during additions to it in the 1870s. In recent years even the regular field system of the parkland has been removed though isolated trees remain. The system now essentially consists of three large enclosures surrounded by well maintained hedges on earth banks. Of note is a band of woodland alongside the road to the north of the mansion which contains fine specimens of yew. Planting of shrubs and trees as part of garden recreation to the north of the house has also recently been undertaken.

Recommendations

There has been some degradation in recent years of what is essentially a 19th century parkland landscape. Restoration of the parkland with careful tree planting would be desirable.

Management Category B	Visited by KM	Visited On 27/09/99
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PRN 39039	Site name TALSARN	NGR SN545564
Site type FIELD SYSTEM	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

An extensive system of small irregular fields. The fields are divided by earth banks topped with hedges. Banks and hedges are generally in good condition though some gaps in hedges are developing. The date of the creation of this system is not known though it was in place by 1840 and has changed little since.

Recommendations

It is desirable that the boundaries of this field system are maintained in their current condition, and if necessary repair work undertaken on hedges where there is some degradation.

Management Category B	Visited by KM	Visited On 27/09/99
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PRN 39040	Site name LLANLLYR	NGR SN54405607
Site type BUILDING	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

Two buildings are marked on historic maps at this location. A drive to Llanllyr farmyard has now been driven across the site. There is no trace of the buildings on the ground.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

Management Category D	Visited by KM	Visited On 27/09/99
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Map

Rees W, 1932 S.Wales & Border in 14th c., NW Sheet

Saxton C, 1578 Cardigan,

Tithe Map, 1843 Llanfihangel Ystrad tithe map,

Estate Map, 1768 Llanlleir Demesne, estate map with owners of Llanllyr

Tithe Map, 1840 Trefilan tithe map,

Aerial Photograph

RAF, 1946 , 106G-UK-1470 4403-4

Written Description

Macalister RAS, 1927 Transactions of the Cardiganshire Antiquarian Society, Vol.5 p.10

Lloyd JE, History of Wales, Vol.11 p.603

Knowles & Hadcock, 1953 Medieval religious houses in England and Wales, p.224

Lewes JH, 1971 Journal of the Cardiganshire Antiquarian Society Vol.VI Number 4 Llanllyr 1180-1980,

TIR GOFAL APPLICATION: LLANLLYR, CEREDIGION
COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS



Presumed site of old mansion, 39022, looking northeast.



Northeast portion of field system 39035

TIR GOFAL APPLICATION: LLANLLYR, CEREDIGION
COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS



View across field system/parkland 39038 towards the mansion looking towards the north.



Building 39026

TIR GOFAL APPLICATION: LLANLLYR, CEREDIGION
COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS



Field system 39037 showing a removed hedgebank.



Agricultural building 39023.

TIR GOFAL APPLICATION: LLANLLYR, CEREDIGION
COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS



Early Christian Monument, 4781.

Report prepared for CCW

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