



Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology

01/12/99

# **Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report**

## **Brynteg**

## **W/12/678**

ACA Project Record No 39418

Report prepared for CCW  
by ACA

December, 1999

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ARCHAEOLEG  
**CAMBRIA**  
ARCHAEOLOGY

**Tir Gofal Application Number** W/12/678

**Address** Brynteg, Cwrt-y-Cadno, Pumsaint

**NGR**

SN68544354

**TG Project Officer** Arfon Williams, Aberystwyth

**Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology Project Record Number** 39418

**Visit Officer** Louise Austin

**Visit Date**

10/11/99

## **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.

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

## **Brynteg Farm**

### **Introduction**

The farm lies within the Dolaucothi Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales, identified by Cadw, CCW and ICOMOS UK in their register produced in 1998. The Dolaucothi area comprises the middle reaches of the Cothi Valley west of Mynydd Mallaen and includes part of a landed estate containing well preserved evidence for gold working from Roman and recent times. The area includes surface and underground workings and an unique system of leats. In addition there is historical documentary evidence of 9th century land holding.

As part of the post-medieval historic landscape of the Dolaucothi Estate the farm is typical of an estate farm in its architectural style and form. The farmhouse forms a very important group with the rest of the farm outbuildings, and is one of the best surviving examples of an estate farm from the Dolaucothi Estate, retaining much of the associated field pattern relating to the estate management. A ruin of a deserted dwelling site, its garden, associated plots and other features are still recognisable within the landscape and remain accessible along the system of old trackways which now form attractive green lanes providing access along the river valley. In addition to the field systems within the bottom of the valley evidence of the exploitation of the upland also survives. A significant element in understanding the use and management of the upland medieval and post-medieval landscape is the evidence of peat cutting.

The potential of the farm for presenting part of this outstanding historic landscape to the public is considered to be extremely high. Within the pattern of a mid-nineteenth century estate is a rich and varied collection of archaeological evidence surviving from prehistoric through to modern times, providing an opportunity to view and consider the changing land-use, management and exploitation of this historic landscape over the last four millennia.

<b>✓</b>	<b>PRN</b> 1947	<b>Site name</b> DOLAU COTHI AQUEDUCT;COTHI LEAT	<b>NGR</b> SN64SE
	<b>Site type</b> AQUEDUCT;LEAT	<b>Period</b> Roman	<b>Site Status</b> SAM

**Description**

The Cothi leat is partly scheduled as Carm 200. The leat is, in general, clearly visible as a break in slope which in places is up to 2m wide and in part has been used as a trackway. In places the leat is rock cut.

**Recommendations**

The leat passes through an area of relatively mature conifer plantation in the west and then through an area recently planted with mixed broadleaf as part of a bracken challenge scheme. Further east are mature broadleaf trees. Along the eastern part of the leat a number of trees have fallen across its line with windblow uprooting trees and causing some damage. Clearance of fallen trees and timber, and management of the trees along the line of the leat reducing such damage occurring in the future is recommended. The method of harvesting the conifer plantation will need to endure the protection of the leat from damage by machinery.

<b>Management Category</b> A	<b>Visited by</b> LA	<b>Visited On</b> 10/11/99
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<b>✓</b>	<b>PRN</b> 1962	<b>Site name</b> BANC MAES-YR-HAIDD	<b>NGR</b> SN69544288
	<b>Site type</b> ROUND BARROW	<b>Period</b> Bronze Age	<b>Site Status</b>

**Description**

This barrow comprises a grass covered earth and stone bowl shaped mound with traces of a possible stone kerb. It measures c. 20m in diameter and stands to a height of c. 1.8m. Some erosion by stock is evident on the south side of the mound.

**Recommendations**

Good grass cover over the mound should be promoted to prevent any increase in levels of erosion. Stocking levels should be kept low to encourage the present scar to grass over. Feeding points for stock should be kept away from the mounds.

<b>Management Category</b> A	<b>Visited by</b> LA	<b>Visited On</b> 10/11/99
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<b>✓</b>	<b>PRN</b> 1963	<b>Site name</b> BANC MAES-YR-HAIDD	<b>NGR</b> SN69604299
	<b>Site type</b> ROUND BARROW	<b>Period</b> Bronze Age	<b>Site Status</b>

**Description**

An apparently undisturbed earthwork barrow comprising a grass covered bowl shaped mound c. 14m in diameter and 0.7m high.

**Recommendations**

The mound is currently in good condition. Continued good grass cover should be encouraged.

<b>Management Category</b> A	<b>Visited by</b> LA	<b>Visited On</b> 10/11/99
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<b>✓</b>	<b>PRN</b> 6229	<b>Site name</b> CEFN Y BRYN	<b>NGR</b> SN705427
	<b>Site type</b> PEAT CUTTING AREA?	<b>Period</b> Post Med?	<b>Site Status</b>

**Description**

Area of probable peat cutting. Apparent piecemeal digging, no clearly traceable cuttings.

**Recommendations**

Peat cutting is an important part of the more recent history of this landscape. Surviving remnants of this activity should be protected. Maintain grass cover.

<b>Management Category</b> C	<b>Visited by</b> LA	<b>Visited On</b> 10/11/99
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<b>PRN</b> 8883	<b>Site name</b> ANNELL AQUEDUCT (NORTH); GWENLAIS/ANNELL LEAT	<b>NGR</b> SN69904275	
<b>Site type</b> AQUEDUCT; LEAT	<b>Period</b> Roman	<b>Site Status</b> SAM	

**Description**

SAM Carm 211. This feature was originally considered to be the line of a Roman aqueduct taking water from the River Annell to the Dolaucothi gold mines. Recent survey and research has recognised that a channel running a considerable distance across unenclosed land supplied water to the scheduled section of the feature and it could not have been fed from the Annell. The multiple channels have been explained as a result of the severe change of gradient needed to bring water around this route. Either the channel had to be rebuilt a number of times or the flow was split between channels. Recent investigation suggests that one or more of the channels may have been cart tracks. It has been postulated that the upper channel might be an ancient excavation along the back of a mineral load, the leat could then have supplied water for hushing. The leat may have followed the contours of Cefn-y-Bryn north and east almost to Rhiw Garegog, before dumping its load in a tributary of the Cothi just below this point. A maximum of four channels are visible within the Scheduled section of the feature.

**Recommendations**

The four channels all continue across into the project area, although not as visible as in the neighbouring field, and survive well under rough pasture. Water collects within the channels above a later boundary bank which cuts across the channels. Maintenance of a good grass cover will help to protect the features. Feeders should not be placed near to these features in this part of the field.

<b>Management Category</b> A	<b>Visited by</b> LA	<b>Visited On</b> 10/11/99
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<b>PRN</b> 8884	<b>Site name</b> COTHI AQUEDUCT; UPPER COTHI LEAT	<b>NGR</b> SN6842	
<b>Site type</b> AQUEDUCT; LEAT	<b>Period</b> Roman	<b>Site Status</b> SAM	

**Description**

SAM Carm 213. The Upper Cothi Leat runs approximately 30m above the Cothi leat. Clearly visible on the north-west facing slope of Banc Llwyn-y-ceiliog it is partly incorporated into field boundaries. In places it survives c.2m across and 0.5m deep. To the north east it is possible that the leat partly follows the northern edge of Coed Maes-yr-Haidd.

**Recommendations**

It is difficult to trace this feature convincingly on the ground but the map evidence suggests that the feature has been preserved within some field and enclosure boundaries while in other parts has been seriously eroded. Any works within this area should consider the possibility of buried remains relating to the leat still surviving even if there are no obvious visible remains.

<b>Management Category</b> A	<b>Visited by</b> LA	<b>Visited On</b> 10/11/99
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<b>PRN</b> 18895	<b>Site name</b> BRYNTEG	<b>NGR</b> SN68594353	
<b>Site type</b> MILL; BARN	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b> LB2	

**Description**

Described in the Cadw listing description as a barn range the building also incorporated a water powered mill. The building comprises a mid 19th century barn range contemporary with the farmhouse which is dated to 1843. It includes a rubble built high-door barn range with square quoins, a slate roof and slated barges. The barn door is at the southern end of the yard facing wall while there are two cart arches in the northern part. At the north end of the building is a flight of stone steps up to a loft door. A water wheel survived on the east wall of the building until c.1950, this drove agricultural machinery (pers. com. Mr Mercer). Two infilled arched openings are still visible in the east wall associated with the mill.

**Recommendations**

The building appears to be in reasonable condition. It is important that the roof is kept water tight to ensure its long term preservation.

<b>Management Category</b> B	<b>Visited by</b> LA	<b>Visited On</b> 10/11/99
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PRN 29862 Site name NGR SN71184352  
Site type TRACKWAY Period Mediaeval?;Post Med? Site Status

**Description**

A trackway. Identified as part of the Mynydd Mallaen archaeological survey running from SN71394300 to SN71184352

**Recommendations**

No recommendations.

Management Category C Visited by LA Visited On 10/11/99

PRN 29863 Site name NGR SN71254314  
Site type BOUNDARY BANK AND DITCH Period Mediaeval;Post Med? Site Status

**Description**

The boundary includes a bank and ditch. In the south it emerges from an area of bog at SN71254314 and runs north-east to be crossed by track 29862 before it turns to run north-north-west for 70m where it turns again to run west-north-west where it is crossed again by 29862. It then continues to the west. It comprises of a 2m wide bank 0.5m high with a ditch 0.3m deep to the west of the bank.

**Recommendations**

Although the fence line no longer follows all of the earthwork boundary it is important that the old boundary line is not destroyed.

Management Category C Visited by LA Visited On 10/11/99

PRN 29865 Site name NGR SN71184352  
Site type TRACKWAY Period Mediaeval;Post Med? Site Status

**Description**

A well defined trackway. Shows on 1st edition O.S. map as a path. Runs SW-NE across Cefn y Bryn.

**Recommendations**

No recommendations.

Management Category C Visited by LA Visited On 10/11/99

PRN 29871 Site name NGR SN71214322  
Site type RING BARROW Period Bronze Age Site Status

**Description**

The site comprises an earthen ring cairn, slightly oval, measuring 21m by 18m. It is located within enclosed land but close to the boundary with the common. It is constructed on relatively flat ground which has been further flattened by artificial terracing. A slight slope falling off to the south serves to enhance the visibility of the ring. The earthen bank forming the ring varies in clarity due to variable accumulation of soil around it but is complete other than for a single break in the southern side. This entranceway is flanked by two short lengths of bank. The circular mound is c.0.5m high. Initially identified following a fire the circular mound is now under long tussocky grass and more difficult to locate.

**Recommendations**

The grass cover over this site should be maintained and stock should not be fed on or adjacent to the site.

Management Category A Visited by LA Visited On 10/11/99

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PRN 29875	Site name		NGR SN71064322
	Site type UNKNOWN	Period Unknown		Site Status

**Description**

On ground sloping to the south. Area grassy. To the north-east of the broader area of linear feature 29874 are three irregular, measuring between 1.4m and at least 4m across, in a triangular arrangement some 10m x 15m. The south-eastern may be elongated towards the east to some 12m long. Probably natural. GW. 1995.  
 Not identified. LA&EB. 1999.

**Recommendations**

No Recommendation.

Management Category D	Visited by LA	Visited On 10/11/99
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PRN 29876	Site name		NGR SN71104311
	Site type PEAT CUTTING?	Period Mediaeval?;Post Med?		Site Status

**Description**

Peat bog, sloping to south. An area of probable peat cutting. A raised area of peat, on a north-south axis, appears to be cut into various levels on the south-east and also on the west, forming an oval area of cuttings some 70m long. The cuttings are relatively shallow (0.5m deep) but their regularity and concentration around a raised area suggest they are artificial rather than peat sinkage. Further cutting or natural sinkage continues to the south as a narrow bevel/face. GW. 1995.

**Recommendations**

A significant element in understanding the use of this historic landscape, peat cutting is no longer practised in this area and such remnants of the process should be protected. Maintaining the grass cover should ensure good preservation.

Management Category C	Visited by LA	Visited On 10/11/99
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PRN 39407	Site name BRYNTEG FARM		NGR SN68544354
	Site type FARMHOUSE	Period Post Med		Site Status LB2

**Description**

At the location of Brynteg the Parish Tithe Map of 1841 identifies 'Prenteg house and land'. This appears to have been replaced soon after. A plaque on the house identifies it as having been built in 1843 and its design was used elsewhere on the Dolaucothi Estate. The farm was part of the Estate until the sale of farms to tenants prior to its hand over to the National Trust. Rubble built the farmhouse has a slate roof, broad wooden soffits and bargeboards with a two storey 3-bay symmetrical facade, the centre bay projecting and gabled. The four pane transom and mullion windows with latticed cast iron glazing are original.

**Recommendations**

Forms a very important group with the rest of the farm outbuildings, one of the best surviving examples of an estate farm on the Dolaucothi Estate. Potential for informative presentation of the farm complex for the public.

Management Category B	Visited by LA	Visited On 10/11/99
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PRN 39408	Site name BRYNTEG		NGR SN68544353
	Site type STABLE?	Period Post Med		Site Status

**Description**

The western range of outbuilding includes, in the southern part two arched entrances-possibly calf or pig stalls with store/stables in northern part.

**Recommendations**

Important part of farm complex.

Management Category B	Visited by LA	Visited On 10/11/99
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<b>PRN</b> 39409	<b>Site name</b> BRYNTEG	<b>NGR</b> SN68554355
<b>Site type</b> MOUNTING BLOCK	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

**Description**

A circular, rubble built structure, c. 2.5m across and up to 1.0m high. A horse mounting block now with a chestnut tree growing in the top of it. Probably contemporary with the house.

**Recommendations**

Should be retained as part of farm complex.

<b>Management Category</b> B	<b>Visited by</b> LA	<b>Visited On</b> 10/11/99
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<b>PRN</b> 39410	<b>Site name</b> BRYNTEG	<b>NGR</b> SN68524357
<b>Site type</b> MILL POND	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

**Description**

Situated directly to the rear (north) of Brynteg Farm the, pond has been created by the construction of a dam which stands 2.5m high on the downslope side and 5-6m wide. A sluice system at the eastern end of the dam controlled the water flow down to the mill wheel at the rear of the range of outbuildings to the south.

**Recommendations**

The pond is currently silted up with vegetation growing within it. Clearance of the vegetation and some of the silts combined with repair of the sluice system would enable the pond to hold water again and would be a positive enhancement of the site. Any clearance would need to respect the original profile of the pond and dam.

<b>Management Category</b> B	<b>Visited by</b> LA	<b>Visited On</b> 10/11/99
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<b>PRN</b> 39411	<b>Site name</b> MAES-YR-HAIDD	<b>NGR</b> SN69184355
<b>Site type</b> DWELLING	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

**Description**

Identified on the Parish Tithe Map of 1841 and the OS 1st, ed. 6" map. The only visible masonry structure comprises partly upstanding low ruined walls up to c.0.25m high. The garden plot and associated field boundaries are still present. Also associated with the dwelling is the access trackway which survives as a greenlane hollow way with overgrown hedgerows.

**Recommendations**

The ruin, plot and associated features are accessible along the system of old trackways which now form attractive green lanes. The potential of this site and most of the others on the farm for presentation as part of a scheme identifying not only the specific archaeology and surviving historic landscape features on the farm but specifically presenting an understanding of the time depth of the land management processes, perhaps specifically relating it to the development of the Dolaucothi Estate.

<b>Management Category</b> B	<b>Visited by</b> LA	<b>Visited On</b> 10/11/99
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<b>PRN</b> 39412	<b>Site name</b>	<b>NGR</b> SN70984307
<b>Site type</b> TRACKWAY;PEAT CUTTING AREA?	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

**Description**

Identified from aerial photographs as a linear feature running roughly south-west for approximately 200m. It has been interpreted as a length of trackway. There are three sub-rectangular features on the south-eastern side of this linear feature suggesting episodes of peat cutting.

**Recommendations**

A significant element in understanding the use of this historic landscape peat cutting is no longer, practised in this area and such remnants of the process should be protected. Maintaining the grass cover should ensure good preservation.

<b>Management Category</b> C	<b>Visited by</b> LA	<b>Visited On</b> 10/11/99
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<b>PRN</b> 39413	<b>Site name</b>	<b>NGR</b> SN68584319	
<b>Site type</b> TRACKWAY;ROAD	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>	

**Description**

The road ran from Llwyn-y-ceiliog NE to Pant-Glas and beyond providing access to a number of properties to the south of the River Cothi including Macs-yr-haidd.

**Recommendations**

There is some tree fall etc. blocking part of the route which needs to be cleared and the hedgerows managed. This is an attractive route forming an important part of the historic landscape. It could provide spinal access within the farmland for interpretive or themed tours or walks.

<b>Management Category</b> B	<b>Visited by</b> LA	<b>Visited On</b> 10/11/99
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<b>PRN</b> 39414	<b>Site name</b>	<b>NGR</b> SN68564348	
<b>Site type</b> TRACKWAY	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>	

**Description**

A trackway and footpath identified on the 1st ed. OS 6" map running from Brynteg Farm south across the river Cothi to join the roadway running along the southern side of the Cothi.

**Recommendations**

As part of the historic track and footpath network around the farm it has potential for inclusion in any interpretive walk or trail.

<b>Management Category</b> C	<b>Visited by</b> LA	<b>Visited On</b> 10/11/99
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<b>PRN</b> 39415	<b>Site name</b>	<b>NGR</b> SN699428	
<b>Site type</b> HUSH?	<b>Period</b> Roman?;Prehistoric?	<b>Site Status</b>	

**Description**

This west facing hill slope has a number of what appear to be roughly parallel water worn gullies giving an appearance of irregular ridge and furrow running down the hillside. These appear to be cut through by the Anell Leat. It is possible that these features are the result of intentional prospecting for mineral bearing rock. By using collected water, possibly using a system of small tanks or dams and washing away the soil and or mineral within gullies down the hillside.

**Recommendations**

If the remains are of early Roman or pre-Roman date they are undoubtedly of national importance and should be considered for scheduling, forming an important part of the Dolaucothi early mining complex. Good grass cover should be maintained on the site.

<b>Management Category</b> A?	<b>Visited by</b> LA	<b>Visited On</b> 10/11/99
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<b>PRN</b> 39416	<b>Site name</b> BRYNTEG	<b>NGR</b> SN68544356	
<b>Site type</b> MILL RACE	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>	

**Description**

A mill race carrying water from the mill pond above Brynteg to the former location of the wheel on the rear of the barn range of outbuildings.

**Recommendations**

Should not be diverted.

<b>Management Category</b> B	<b>Visited by</b> LA	<b>Visited On</b> 10/11/99
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<b>PRN</b>	39417	<b>Site name</b>		<b>NGR</b>	SN68724345
<b>Site type</b>	FORD	<b>Period</b>	Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>	

**Description**

The location of a ford through the Cothi River where it is crossed by trackway PRN 39414.

**Recommendations**

No recommendation.

<b>Management Category</b>	C	<b>Visited by</b>	LA	<b>Visited On</b>	10/11/99
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### Map

Tithe Map, 1841 Tithe Map for the parish of Cynwyl Gaeo,  
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### Aerial Photograph

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 Jones Blakey & Macpherson, 1960 Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies, Vol.19 Pt.I p.71-80  
 Jones, G D B & Lewis, P R, 1974 Roman Gold Mines at Dolaucothi, p.6 Map  
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 Bick, 1995 Archaeology in Wales Volume 35 p.50-52,  
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 Page, N, 1997 Coed Maes Yr Haidd, Bryn Teg, Archaeological Survey, Project record number 35510  
 Plunkett Dillon, E & Swanson, C, 1998 The National Trust Survey The Dolaucothi Estate p.113 129 130 132,



**PRN 1947 - Cothi Leat**

*A rock cut section of the leat passing through broadleaf woodland.*



**PRN 1962 Banc Maes-yr-haidd**

*Grass covered mound with on-going erosion as a result of a sheep scrape adjacent to the horizontal scale*





**PRN 39415 & PRN 8883**

*Swinging down round the hillside are the four channels of the Gwenlais/Annell Leat, these cut across what appear to be roughly parallel water worn gullies, in the left part of the photograph, which are interpreted as hushes.*



**PRN 39415**

*A closer view of the form of the gullies of the hushes and surviving ridges between them.*





**PRN 18895 Eastern Range of Farm Buildings at Brynteg**

*The rear wall of the barn range/mill building showing blocked openings associated with the mill wheel.*



**PRN 39410 - Mill Pond**

*Silted pond with Brynteg Farm in the background*



TIR GOFAL APPLICATION: BRYNTEG, CWRT Y CADNO, W/12/678

ACA Project Record No 39418. Report prepared for CCW

Map Scale 1:10,000

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