

01/02/2000

Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology



Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

February 2000

PRN Number 40164

# **PEN-Y-MAEN PROPOSED WINDFARM**

## **PHASE 1**

Report prepared for: DULAS Ltd.  
by: Richard Jones BSc. and Kenneth Murphy BA MIFA  
*of*  
Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology  
The Shire Hall  
8 Carmarthen Street  
Llandeilo  
Carmarthenshire  
SA19 6AF  
Tel: (01558) 823121  
e-mail: 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

# **PEN-Y-MAEN WINDFARM**

## **AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

### **Phase 1**

**February 2000**

**Project Record No. 40164**

#### **CONTENTS**

<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1 Project objectives - phase 1	2
1.2 Documentary and Cartographic research - phase 1	2
1.3 Assessment and reporting - phase 1	2
 <b>2.0 RESULTS OF ASSESSMENT</b>	 <b>3</b>
2.1 Summary of the archaeological resource	3
2.2 Acknowledgements	4
 <b>3.0 GAZETTER OF SITES</b>	 <b>5</b>
3.1 Sites within proposed project area	5
3.2 Sites immediately beyond the proposed project area	11
3.3 A review of the sources consulted	15

#### **APPENDIX 1**

##### **Copies of selected map sources**

Orinance Survey 1:10000, of project area, 1981

## 2.0 RESULTS OF ASSESSMENT

### 2.1 Summary of the archaeological resource

This section contains brief descriptions of archaeological/historic sites, features, buildings and deposits within the project area, and relevant sites and features immediately beyond. They are listed by their type and individual Primary Record Number (or PRN) as allocated in the Dyfed Sites and Monuments Record.

**The project area lies within an area which has been registered within the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic interest in Wales, (Ucheldir Ceredigion/Upland Ceredigion HLW (D) 2, t./p.14)**

As mentioned in 1.2.1, *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology* have been responsible for an extensive initial survey and appraisal of the historic landscape of this area and this record will provide the main source during phase I. The survey '*Llyn Brienne, Upland Survey 1995*' (PRN 29800) was managed by Mr. Pete Crane of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd. The research consisted of a rapid survey of a 9.5km<sup>2</sup> area of upland during January and February 1995, this area correspond almost exactly to that proposed by the windfarm development. As a result of the survey 50 new sites were recorded and nine known sites were visited and recorded (plus two historical references to areas of common land). Most significant of the new sites found were four cairns/barrows, nine long huts/hafods/buildings, and seven peat-cutting areas. (Crane P 1995)

#### *Survey methodology*

The survey initially consisted of members of the research team walking 30m wide transects, two at a time. However due to the difficulty of the terrain for example boggy areas, the rigid approach was modified to one covering specific features of the landscape at a time. The larger areas of boggy ground were walked around and any undulations ridges noted and examined where possible. The survey did not record 'very modern features such as post-and -wire fences, modern farm tracks and the forestry track leading off the farm track from the road although this was plotted'. (Crane. P 1995),

It should be noted that position of each site was established by the use of large scale Ordinance Survey maps, prismatic compass, aerial photographs and Global Positioning System (GPS) plotting. Sites where it was impossible to plot an accurate position within the landscape due to the lack of identifiable landscape features, the location accuracy should be considered to be within a tolerance of  $\pm 50$  m the maximum achieved.

Cartographic research was confined to the area within and surrounding the proposed Pen-y-Maen Windfarm development. It was found that this area is not covered by the Ordinance Survey, County 6<sup>th</sup> Series for Cardiganshire for both the First Edition (1887) or the Second (1904). However the area surrounding Nant-y-Maen Farm is represented on the Tithe Map and Appointments for the Parish of Caron, (Section E) 1839, shows boundaries, cairns which act as boundary markers, and other sites such as long hut which may have acted as temporary dwelling used in the summer months as part of the practice of transhumance, for example Magwyn Ias (PRN 29805, NGR SN75335981). Eighteen and nineteenth century manuscript maps relating to Caron-Is-Clawdd show farms only on the valley floor and on the lower slopes of the hills. (*ibid.*)

Re-examination of aerial photographs used on the original survey did not reveal any new unidentified possible sites within the project area.

Research at the County Sites and Monuments Registry provided information of record 45 recorded sites which lie within or immediately outside the proposed project area, (30 within and 15 sites lying close to or

### 3.0 Gazetteer of sites

This section contains detailed descriptions of archaeological sites and features within the proposed project area, and descriptions of sites and features immediately beyond the corridor that may be relevant to the study.

#### *Terminology*

Form/Condition: This term refers to the form and the present condition of a site, which is designated a letter to signify condition A,B,C,D,E,R,M,U.

A	Intact
B	Substantially intact (slight damage, some erosion)
C	Damaged (e.g. in the case of an enclosure, interior ploughed)
D	Substantially destroyed
E	Destroyed
R	Reconstructed or Restored
M	Moved
U	Unknown

#### 3.1 Sites within the proposed project area

##### **PRN 5552 - NGR SN76715833 - CEFN CERRIG**

<i>Site type</i>	ROUND BARROW
<i>Period</i>	Bronze Age
<i>Site Status</i>	
<i>Form/Condition</i>	Earthwork/C
<i>Altitude</i>	480
<i>Descriptive Type</i>	Cairn-circular
<i>Description</i>	Cairn partly constructed on outcrop on top of ridge. Cairn has suffered damage on south side recently the stone removed has been used to place a small walkers cairn of 1.2m high on top of cairn to lay out disc of stones to the south-east and a line of stones resembling a wall. There is possibly other modern construction around this cairn. There is a little quartz or quartz covered stone in construction. Cairn diameter 7.5m+ and approx. 1.3 high. Damage to cairn pre-1992 as appears on AP7792267.

##### **PRN 5553 - NGR SN76175830 - NANT-Y-MAEN**

<i>Site type</i>	STANDING STONE
<i>Period</i>	Bronze Age
<i>Site Status</i>	
<i>Form/Condition</i>	O.Struct/U
<i>Altitude</i>	412
<i>Descriptive Type</i>	Monolith
<i>Description</i>	Inclined standing stone a little animal disturbance around the base.

**PRN 29804 - NGR SN75285978 - None**

*Site type* OUTBUILDING  
*Period* Mediaeval;Post Med  
*Site Status*  
*Form/Condition* Building/U  
*Altitude* 450  
*Descriptive Type* Building-Rectangular  
*Description* GPS Grid reference 75291 59798 good position quite accurate.  
Short stone built hut aligned NW-SE 2.2m X 4m X 1m high cut into hillside.  
Possible outbuilding for PRN 29805 approx. 35m to the east. There is a possible outbuilding adjacent on north side.

**PRN 29805 - NGR SN75335981 - MAGWYN IAS**

*Site type* LONG HUT;DWELLING  
*Period* Mediaeval;Post Med  
*Site Status*  
*Form/Condition* Building/C  
*Altitude* 455  
*Descriptive Type* Building-Rectangular  
*Description* GPS Grid reference SN75331 59805 good. Long hut aligned NE-SW 8.8m X 5.2m X 0.6m high. Probable entrance in SE side. Drystone with stones laid flat. Possible extension lean-to on NE end approx. 5m of earth bank only. Probably recorded as PRN 9018 which would have been given the wrong grid reference. Marked on tithe map as Magwyr Ias - Enclosure green.

**PRN 29808 - NGR SN75456021 - None**

*Site type* CAIRN  
*Period* Bronze Age  
*Site Status*  
*Form/Condition* Earthwork/C  
*Altitude* 485  
*Descriptive Type* Cairn-Circular  
*Description* Grid position only by GPS but good fix. GPS grid ref. SN7545060210. Possible cairn with cist. Constructed on top end of small sub promontory. A few stones with one long flat stone with adjacent hollow (cist?). Suggestions of barrow outline. Diameter 3.5m. Length of cist 0.7m X 0.5m. Aligned N-S.

**PRN 29812 - NGR SN75475934 - None**

*Site type* CAIRN?  
*Period* Bronze Age  
*Site Status*  
*Form/Condition* Earthwork/D  
*Altitude* 495  
*Descriptive Type* Cairn-Circular  
*Description* Grid ref. from GPS only a fair fix. GPS grid ref. SN75468 59341. Possible remains of cairn of 9 stones mainly flat stone size 0.3-0.6m. Approx. diameter 1.5m.

**PRN 29813 - NGR SN75505927 - None**

*Site type* CAIRN  
*Period* Bronze Age  
*Site Status*  
*Form/Condition* Earthwork/D  
*Altitude* 490  
*Descriptive Type* Cairn-Circular  
*Description* Position plot poor and by GPS only. GPS grid ref. SN75490 59275 SN75500 59264 SN75561 59274. Cairn with central N-S cist and signs of ring ditch. Cairn max. height 0.4m diameter 4.5m. Cist 1m long width approx. 0.5m.

**PRN 29826 - NGR SN76275921 - None**

*Site type* TRACKWAY?;PEAT CUTTING AREA?  
*Period* Post Med  
*Site Status*  
*Form/Condition* Earthwork/C  
*Altitude* 455  
*Descriptive Type* Depression-Linear  
*Description* Position from GPS grid ref. good fix SN7627459210 and from AP. Probable trackway approx. 3m wide by 0.8m deep. Aligned NNW-SSE and length 70m. Note 2m ranging rod can almost be completely pushed into the peat bog in the bottom of this feature. No plan of photos due to precipitation.

**PRN 29827 - NGR SN76275899 - None**

*Site type* PEAT CUTTING AREA  
*Period* Post Med  
*Site Status*  
*Form/Condition* Earthwork/B  
*Altitude* 445  
*Descriptive Type* Depression-'L' Shaped  
*Description* Peat cutting area "L" shaped depth approx. 0.5m. There may be more evidence of peat cutting in this low lying area but it has been the wettest summer since 1948 in Britain and the wettest recorded in Cardiff.

**PRN 29828 - NGR SN77255966 - None**

*Site type* BOUNDARY DITCH  
*Period* Post Med;Modern  
*Site Status*  
*Form/Condition* Earthwork/B  
*Altitude* 520  
*Descriptive Type* Ditch-'L' Shaped  
*Description* GPS grid ref. SW corner SN7703959264 north end on forestry fence line SN7724859659 fair fix. Linear boundary with corner. Possible boundary marked by large "plough" and almost certainly modern. Disappears where it runs into forestry area. Probably marking out for forestry area.

**PRN 29829 - NGR SN77325887- None**

*Site type* CAIRN  
*Period* Bronze Age  
*Site Status*  
*Form/Condition* Earthwork/D  
*Altitude* 527  
*Descriptive Type* Cairn-Circular  
*Description* Positioned from GPS plots and marked on ridge which is in evident on map. GPS grid ref. fair fixes SN7730058860 77342. Slight remains of very probable cairn. External diameter 4.0m with internal hollow possibly excavated or robbed 1.5m diameter height of bank 0.3m. Only very little stone showing through grass. Probably the same as PRN9019 which is plotted in the wrong position.

**PRN 29830 - NGR SN76545804 - None**

*Site type* CAIRN  
*Period* Bronze Age  
*Site Status*  
*Form/Condition* Earthwork/D  
*Altitude* 448  
*Descriptive Type* Cairn-Circular  
*Description* Very slight cairn 65m to ENE of cairn PRN 8524. Construction of medium sized stone some quartz these just showing through grass. Diameter approx. 5.5m length 0.4-0.5m.

**PRN 29848 - NGR SN76165845 - NANT-Y-MAEN**

**Site type** FARMSTEAD  
**Period** Post Med;Modern  
**Site Status**  
**Form/Condition** Building/A  
**Altitude** 405  
**Descriptive Type** Building-00  
**Description** Farmhouse exterior appears modernised with at least seven out buildings some modern. Detailed report not undertaken as farm extensively in use and probable lambing season.

**PRN 29849 - NGR SN75005932 - None**

**Site type** TRACKWAY  
**Period** Mediaeval?;Post Med;Moder  
**Site Status**  
**Form/Condition** Earthwork/A  
**Altitude** 420  
**Descriptive Type** Trackway-Curvilinear  
**Description** Trackway basically follows contours. Probably pre post med may even have prehistoric element as it passes several cairns. Trackway runs eastwards from Nant-y Maen farm and is still in use.

*3..2 Relevant sites immediately beyond the proposed project area*

**PRN 5550 - NGR SN74445952 - BRYN COSYN I**

**Site type** ROUND BARROW  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Site type** ROUND BARROW  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Site Status**  
**Form/Condition** Earthwork/C  
**Altitude** 427  
**Descriptive Type** Cairn-circular  
**Description** Cairn in poor condition central stone cist showing. Cist aligned north-south length 1.25m x 0.50m 0.30m deep.

**PRN 5551 - NGR SN75165891 - BLAEN CAMDDWR**

**Site type** Round Barrow  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Site Status**  
**Form/Condition** Earthwork/D  
**Altitude** 427  
**Descriptive Type** Cairn  
**Description** Cairn in poor condition central stone cist showing. Cist aligned north-south length 1.25m x 0.50m 0.30m deep.

**PRN 8551 - NGR SN773601 - ESGAIR LLYN DU**

**Site type** STANDING STONE?  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Site Status**  
**Form/Condition** O.Struct/E  
**Altitude** 510  
**Descriptive Type** Monolith  
**Description**

**PRN 29811 - NGR SN75355870 - None**

*Site type* LONG HUT?  
*Period* Mediaeval;Post Med  
*Site Status*  
*Form/Condition* Building/D  
*Altitude* 415  
*Descriptive Type* Building-Sub-rectangular  
*Description* GPS grid ref. SN75351 38698 good fix. Probably complete in plan. Long hut? Dug into side of hill at bottom of slope. Sub-rectangular of oval in shape. Building aligned E-W 6m long 4.8m wide 0.6m high. Stone construction but no walls remain in situ above surface.

**PRN 29814 - NGR SN75385862 - None**

*Site type* LONG HUT?;QUARRY?;BUILDING?  
*Period* Bronze Age  
*Site Status*  
*Form/Condition* Earthwork/C  
*Altitude* 410  
*Descriptive Type* Hollow-'L'Shaped  
*Description* GPS grid ref. 75380 38620 good fix. "L" shaped in plan with hollow interior and exterior banks except where cut into side of hill. Probably associated with PRN29810 as out building or quarry and possibly with track way PRN29815. May have remains of wall? or floor? in lower interior lot of stone left over for a quarry which it probably is or it may be a structure either incomplete or destroyed. Banks approx. 1m high. Arms aligned NNE-SSW length 8m and ENE-SSW length 8m.

**PRN 29815 - NGR SN75405860 - None**

*Site type* TRACKWAY  
*Period* Mediaeval;Post Med  
*Site Status*  
*Form/Condition* Earthwork/B  
*Altitude* 410  
*Descriptive Type* Trackway-Linear  
*Description* GPS grid ref. SN7540058540 fair SN7547058650 fair. Probable trackway aligned approx. NE-SW probably also aligned with and associated with PRN2980 and may be associated with possible quarry or outbuilding PRN29814. This feature could be a peat digging but thought unlikely. Shows well on AP. Abrupt termination at northern end of trackway. Length 96m width 5m depth approx. 0.5m. Now in tussock grass. Probably connected long hut to trackway PRN29849 still used on north side of valley.

**PRN 29820 - NGR SN760579 - None**

*Site type* DRAINAGE SYSTEM  
*Period* Post Med  
*Site Status*  
*Form/Condition* Earthwork/B  
*Altitude* 390  
*Descriptive Type* Bank-Linear;Ditch-Linear  
*Description* Drainage system banks as seen would be too small for a field boundary. There are three ditches enclosing a sub-triangular area but with the upper part of two of the ditches extending higher up. The ditch on the north-west side is later in date. Most of these ditches are still active although the upper part of north east ditch is obscured and was not traced. Ditches approx. 0.75 wide 0.5m deep. Banks approx. 1m wide 0.3m high. Accurately plotted on AP 77 92 265.

**PRN 29822 - NGR SN75905883 - None**

*Site type* FIELD BOUNDARY  
*Period* Post Med  
*Site Status*  
*Form/Condition* Earthwork/D  
*Altitude* 400  
*Descriptive Type* Bank-Linear; Ditch-Linear  
*Description* Wide bank slight sign of ditch on north and west sides. Approx. height 0.5m and 1.5m wide bank. Accurate on AP.



### **3.3 List of sources consulted**

#### **Databases**

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

#### **Manuscript maps**

National Library of Wales, Parish of Caron, Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1839.

ICMOS UK/CADW/CCW. 1998, Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic interest in Wales,

#### **Published maps**

Ordnance Survey, 1" to the mile Old Series, Sheet 41, 1831.

Ordnance Survey, 1:10000, Sheets SN 76 SW and SE; SN 75 NE and NW, 1964.

#### **Aerial photographs**

Airphoto Group 1992, scale 1:10000, numbers 77 92 265; 77 92 268; 76 92 010; 118 92 105; 76 92 009; 77 92 266; 77 92 267.

#### **Unpublished works**

Crane. P. 1995, Dyfed Archaeological Trust, , *Llyn Brianne Upland Survey*, Archaeological Resource Survey for The Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments for Wales.

Murphy, K (*et al*), 1999, *Upland Ceridigion: Historic landscape characterisation*, Report by ACA

PEN Y MAEN WINDFARM PROJECT  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE OF AREA

Reproduced from the 1981 Ordnance Survey 1:10000 map  
with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office,  
© Crown copyright Archaeology Cambria,  
The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo,  
Carmarthenshire  
Licence Number AL 51842A

