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Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report
Llystyn
W/12/0719

ACA Project Record 40442

Report prepared for CCW
by ACA

October, 2000

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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/12/0719

Address Llystyn

NGR SN530309

TG Project Officer

Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology Project Record Number 40442

Visit Officer Nigel Page

Visit Date 08/09/00

TIR GOFAL FARM VISIT REPORT

This report is intended to provide a statement on the condition and recommended management of all known archaeological and historical sites and features on this farm at the time it was visited by Cambria Archaeology. This information will be used to inform the Tir Gofal Management Agreement for the farm.

The report structure is as follows:

- explanation of archaeological site status and management categories used in the gazetteer.
- a brief statement on the historical background to the farm which enables the reader to put the specific sites into context.
- the main body of the report is a gazetteer of sites previously known or identified during the visit. The gazetteer identifies sites by their Primary Record Number (PRN) which is the reference number used in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). It also locates them by National Grid Reference (NGR).
- list of sources consulted during the research for this project.
- explanation of colour coding used on the map.
- site location maps identifying by PRN the location of each site in the gazetteer.
- photographs of specific sites are included where the author considers it useful in order to identify a site or stress a particular management issue.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE STATUS

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 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 historic elements of the landscape.

TIR GOFAL SITE MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

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).

Description of Llystyn, PRN 37515

Llystyn occupies 210 acres (85.4ha) of a prominent east-west ridge in the interfluvium of the Afon Clydach, Afon Cothi and Afon Marlais north of the village of Brechfa. From a high point of c.160m above Ordnance Datum (OD) just north of Allt Llystyn Plantation the land drops steeply to c.100m OD to the north and c.90m OD to the south. The house and yard are situated on the south facing slope at c.140m OD overlooking Brechfa. Llystyn has been reduced in size since the mid 19th century when the farm owned more land to the southeast. Since that time most of that land has been disposed of and land to the north obtained from the neighbouring farm, Fforest. The origins of the farm are unclear, but a rental agreement of 1738 names a farm called Llys Tyn David amongst the properties of the Taliaris estate which may refer to Llystyn. Early 19th century maps show Llystyn, but not in sufficient detail to allow any discussion of its early development. By the time the Llanfihangel Rhos y Corn tithe map was produced in 1844 the present landscape was already well established. At that time the house and yard consisted of the house in the southeast corner, the now converted range of cowsheds and a barn (PRN 40657) to the north. A small outbuilding is also shown to the south of the house, but this had been removed by the later 19th century. The yard then remained unchanged until some modern sheds were constructed during the 1940s and 1950s. The field system appears to have largely developed in a piecemeal fashion, probably during the 18th century. Field boundaries are a mix of earth banks topped with mature hedges and trees, hedges, and modern fences.

Management Recommendations

The current farm management regime is sympathetic to the historic landscape. Historic plantations are still wooded and managed and nearly all of the mid 19th century boundaries survive. All existing boundaries should be retained. Some of the farm buildings have been converted into holiday cottages, but the conversion has been sympathetic to the historic character of the buildings. Any future renovations to surviving buildings should retain as many original features as possible and maintain the character and general appearance of the buildings.

PRN	29732	Site name	BRECHFA BRICKWORKS	NGR	SN5230
Site type	BRICKWORKS	Period	Post Med	Site Status	

Description

A field name on the Llanfihangel Rhos y Corn tithe map (1844) recorded as 'Brick Yard'. This is the only known reference to a brick yard, or brick works in this area and no evidence of any structures has ever been recorded. The general area within which the site is supposed to be located is low lying, wooded and very wet. There are one or two mounds of higher, dry, ground within this wet area which may have been part of the brickworks site.

Recommendations

The exact site of the brickworks is at present unknown, so there are no specific management recommendations for the site. However, if the woodland which currently covers the site is to be brought under active management in the future archaeological advice should be sought to try to limit the potential impact on any surviving below ground remains of the brickworks.

Management Category	D	Visited by	NAP	Visited On	16/09/00
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PRN	37515	Site name	LLYSTYN	NGR	SN53003094
Site type	FARMSTEAD	Period	Post Med	Site Status	

Description

See description at front of the report.

Recommendations

See management recommendations at front of report.

Management Category	C	Visited by	NAP	Visited On	16/09/00
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PRN	37516	Site name	LLYSTYN	NGR	SN53003092
Site type	TRACKWAY	Period	Post Med	Site Status	

Description

Main trackway to Llystyn Farm. The track runs from the road past Bwlch Gwyn. For most of its length the track is banked and hedged on both sides, but a short section just north of Bwlch Gwyn has been rerouted and now runs along the edge of a field. The track enters Llystyn from the south.

Recommendations

This track is currently the main approach to the farm and it should be maintained in its present condition.

Management Category	C	Visited by	NAP	Visited On	16/09/00
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PRN	37517	Site name	LLYSTYN	NGR	SN53043079
Site type	FOOTPATH	Period	Post Med	Site Status	

Description

Footpath from trackway PRN 37516 towards Maes y Groes, which was still in everyday use until the recent past. The line of the path is still traceable as a slight hollow way and a small terrace across the fields between Llystyn and Maes y Groes.

Recommendations

The surviving earthworks in the field to the north of Maes y Groes should be excluded from ploughing, otherwise no specific management recommendations are required for this feature.

Management Category	C	Visited by	NAP	Visited On	16/09/00
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<i>PRN</i>	37518	<i>Site name</i>		<i>NGR</i>	SN53053095
<i>Site type</i>	TRACKWAY	<i>Period</i>	Post Med	<i>Site Status</i>	

Description

Trackway leading from Llystyn Farm to the road north of Pen y Bont. For most of its line across Llystyn land the track is double banked and hedged.

Recommendations

The track is still open and it should be maintained in its present condition.

<i>Management Category</i>	C	<i>Visited by</i>	NAP	<i>Visited On</i>	16/09/00
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<i>PRN</i>	37519	<i>Site name</i>	LLYSTYN FARM	<i>NGR</i>	SN52933097
<i>Site type</i>	FOOTPATH	<i>Period</i>	Post Med	<i>Site Status</i>	

Description

Footpath between Fforest and Llystyn shown on OS 1st edition 1:10560 map (1891). Nothing visible on ground.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations necessary.

<i>Management Category</i>	D	<i>Visited by</i>	NAP	<i>Visited On</i>	16/09/00
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<i>PRN</i>	37520	<i>Site name</i>	LLYSTYN FARM	<i>NGR</i>	SN52813069
<i>Site type</i>	ENCLOSURE;COTTAGE?	<i>Period</i>	Post Med	<i>Site Status</i>	

Description

Two field names on the Llanfihangel Rhos y Corn tithe map, 'Cae y ten hen ucha' and 'Cae y ty hen isa', close to a small rectangular enclosure suggest that there may once have been a cottage in the enclosure. The fact that the tithe apportionment calls it 'ty hen' (old house) and no cottage appears on the tithe map suggests that it had already been abandoned and possibly demolished by 1844. This suggests that if there was a cottage formerly on the site it would probably date from the 18th century. There is no visible evidence of any form of structure in this area, although the present layout of boundaries and fences preserves the enclosure shown on the tithe map.

Recommendations

The enclosure should be excluded from ploughing, or any other ground breaking operations to preserve any surviving below ground remains of the cottage that may be present on the site.

<i>Management Category</i>	D	<i>Visited by</i>	NAP	<i>Visited On</i>	16/09/00
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<i>PRN</i>	37521	<i>Site name</i>	LLYSTYN	<i>NGR</i>	SN53033096
<i>Site type</i>	WELL	<i>Period</i>	Post Med	<i>Site Status</i>	

Description

Spring located in a bank above the farmyard. The spring appears to have some stones arranged around its southern and western edges, presumably to reinforce the ground around the spring edge.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations required.

<i>Management Category</i>	D	<i>Visited by</i>	NAP	<i>Visited On</i>	16/09/00
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PRN 37522	Site name LLYSTYN	NGR SN52933099
Site type WATER WHEEL?	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

The owner of the farm stated that the previous occupant had removed a water wheel from this location. There is no surviving evidence of a waterwheel in the supposed area, although a spring, which supplies water to farm, has been dammed possibly to provide enough of a head of water to drive a wheel.

Recommendations

The spring which may have provided water to drive the wheel is the water supply to the farm and so it is constantly maintained in good condition. There is no evidence of the supposed waterwheel so no specific management recommendations are required.

Management Category D	Visited by NAP	Visited On 16/09/00
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PRN 37523	Site name LLYSTYN	NGR SN53023059
Site type ENCLOSURE	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

A small sub-rectangular enclosure shown on the OS 1st edition 1:10560 map published in 1891. The shape of the enclosure suggests that it may have been the site of now demolished cottage. Nothing visible on the ground.

Recommendations

No specific recommendations required.

Management Category D	Visited by NAP	Visited On 16/09/00
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PRN 37524	Site name FFOREST	NGR SN52413102
Site type TRACKWAY	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

A track leading northeast from Fforest to the top of the hill, terminating just to the east of Allt Llystyn Plantation. There is no evidence to suggest that the track ever continued any further to the northeast. The track was originally double banked, but some of the northern bank has been ploughed out. The surviving sections of double banked track are c.5m wide with the banks surviving to c.1m high in places x 1-2m wide. There are a number of large mature beech trees on the surviving banks. The track was probably an access track, albeit a substantial one, to the upper fields from Fforest.

Recommendations

The surviving sections of the track and banks should be maintained in their current condition.

Management Category C	Visited by NAP	Visited On 16/09/00
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PRN 37525	Site name FFOREST	NGR SN52233099
Site type TRACKWAY	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

Two rectangular embanked features to the east Fforest, The first is east-west, with the second extending south at 90 degrees from the east end of the first feature. The two features are separated by a field entrance. The 1st edition 1:10560 OS map of 1891 shows these areas as wooded, although it is not clear whether the trees as depicted were confined to the banks in a similar fashion to trackway PRN 37524, or if the whole of the embanked areas were wooded. The features do not appear to have ever been connected. The north-south feature ends at the beginning of the trackway from Fforest to Llystyn (PRN 37519).

Recommendations

The features are currently lightly wooded and the banks are in good condition. These features should be retained in their present condition.

Management Category C	Visited by NAP	Visited On 16/09/00
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PRN 37526	Site name FFOREST	NGR SN52343098
Site type POND	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

A pond, c.30m x 20m. The pond is banked on its west, downslope side. It is currently fairly silted and overgrown. There is no evidence to suggest that this was anything other than a decorative pond associated with Fforest Farm.

Recommendations

The pond is currently silted and partially overgrown. Archaeological advice should be sought if there are plans to clear the pond at any time in the future.

Management Category C	Visited by NAP	Visited On 16/09/00
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PRN 37527	Site name FFOREST	NGR SN52193099
Site type TRACKWAY	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

Trackway leading northeast from Fforest recorded on the OS 1st edition 1:10560 map of 1891. The track was shown as terminating in the wooded area close to the presumed site of the brickworks. The line of the track is visible as a break in slope, although its original terrace has been infilled.

Recommendations

Although previously infilled the line of the track is visible running across the steep north facing slope and it should be maintained in its present condition.

Management Category C	Visited by NAP	Visited On 16/09/00
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PRN 37528	Site name FFOREST	NGR SN52763096
Site type PLANTATION	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

Allt Llystyn Plantation is first known from the early 19th century OS original surveyor's drawings (1811), which suggests that it dates from at least the 18th century. A rectangular plantation which covers two former fields, a low earth field boundary is visible running north-south through the wood. The plantation is embanked on its west, south and east sides. There are two small terraced platforms towards the south edge of the wood. The original function of the platforms is unknown, but they may be the depressions left by the removal of tree boles. The plantation was clear felled in 1917, but is currently well wooded.

Recommendations

The plantation is an ancient one and any management should avoid damage to the boundary banks.

Management Category C	Visited by NAP	Visited On 16/09/00
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PRN 37529	Site name LLYSTYN FARM	NGR SN525305
Site type FIELD PATTERN	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

While many elements of this field pattern have changed since the tithe map of 1844 the map evidence suggests that some of the boundaries, particularly those near Fforest Farm, reflect the focal point of the Fforest estate being close to Fforest House. It would also appear that this farm is in an area which was part of the Medieval Forest of Glyncothi.

Recommendations

All existing boundaries and tracks should be retained. Damaged banks and hedges could be repaired.

Management Category C	Visited by NAP	Visited On 16/09/00
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PRN 40657	Site name LLYSTYN FARM	NGR SN52983096
Site type BARN	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

Single-storey stone built barn with a slate gabled roof. Internally divided into two halves, each half being identical with two opposing, full height, double width entrances flanked on either side by a vent loop. The northern half of the building was latterly converted into a cowhouse. In both halves the entrances in the west wall had been reduced in width and height into single doorways. The entrance in the east wall of the northern half had also been blocked and made into a single doorway. The entrance in the east wall of the southern half has recently been rebuilt to its original dimensions.

Recommendations

This is the only original and largely unaltered building in the yard. This building may be renovated to some degree in the future. Any works should respect the surviving fabric of the building and be sympathetic to its historic character.

Management Category C	Visited by NAP	Visited On 16/09/00
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Map

Tithe Map, 1844, Tithe Map And Apportionments Llanfihangel Rhos Y Corn, -
Ordnance Survey, 1811, Surveyors Drawings Sheet 187, -
Ordnance Survey, 1831, Old Series Sheet 41, -
Ordnance Survey, 1891, Carmarthenshire Sheet XXIV.SE, Surveyed 1886-87

Written Description

Sambrook,P & Page,N, 1995, Dinefwr Historic Settlements Project - Gazetteer Of Settlements, -
Davies,B, 1927, Diwydionnau Coll Ardal Brechfa, CYMRU CYFROL LXXII
Jones,F, 1992, Carmarthenshire Homes And Their Families, -
Jones,F, 1995, Glyncothi Forest, Carmarthenshire Antiquarian

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.

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LB1, LB2* & LB2.

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not to scale

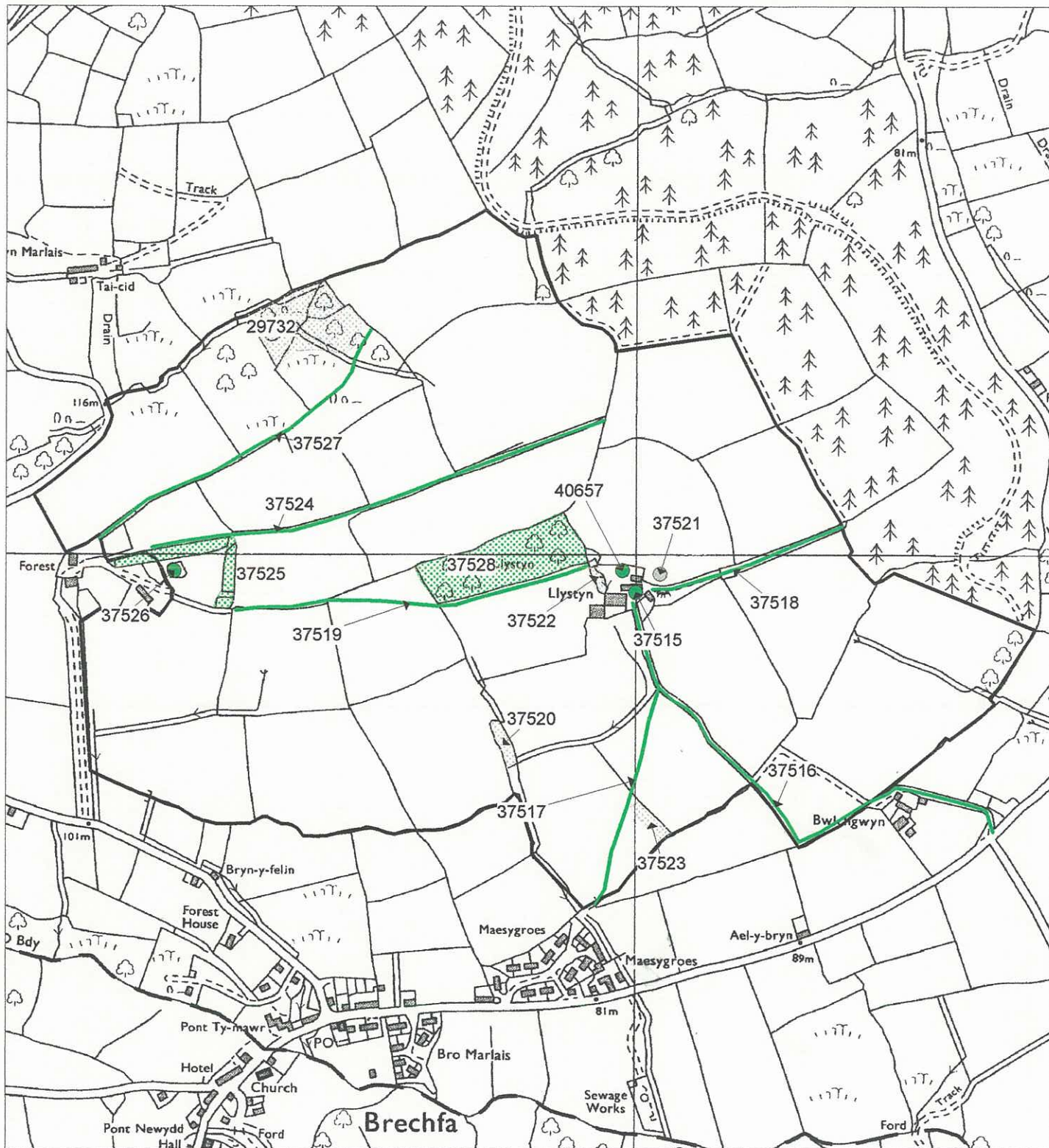




Plate 1: PRN 29732 - raised platform, possible site of brickworks.



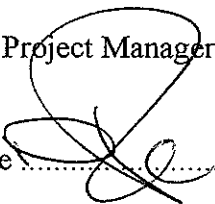
Plate 2: PRN 27524 - Embanked trackway leading northeast from Fforest.

PROJECT RECORD NUMBER 40442

OCTOBER 2000

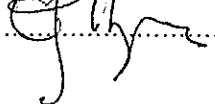
This report has been prepared by Nigel Page

Position Project Manager

Signature  Date 10/10/2000

This report has been checked and approved by Gwilym Hughes on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position Director

Signature  Date 10/10/2000

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or presentation of this report