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Pwllau'r Eurych W/12/2298

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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Pwllau'r Eurych
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

By

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INTRODUCTION

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.

Method Statement

The farm visit consisted of two phases:

Phase 1 was a rapid search of all readily available documentary, cartographic and published sources to try to understand the historical development of the farm and the wider landscape and to identify new sites of archaeological interest. The searches undertaken include information held in the regional Sites and Monuments Record, the relevant County Records Office and the National Library of Wales. New sites, or areas of interest were plotted onto a Geographical Information Systems based map for use during the field survey and for the final report.

Phase 2 was a farm visit to assess the extent, character and current condition of the archaeological and historical sites identified during the research phase. Due to constraints recording is rapid and consists of photographs and sites notes. Some of the sites may not have been visited. The information gained during the visit has been used to determine their management recommendations.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF FARM

Pwllau'r Eurych is in north Carmarthenshire, about 5km to the north of Llansawel at SN 6130 4020 and in total is a holding of some 82 hectares. The farm lies on rolling pasture land and rough grazing at the end of a ridge and includes part of the top of this ridge and the valley sides to the north west, along with part of the lower land to streams along the west and north boundaries of the farm. The upper areas of the pasture fields of the farm have been improved by reseeded. There is one area of boggy ground on the higher part of the farm along with more in the lower areas especially on the fields adjacent to the west and north boundaries. Gareth Evans has owned the farm for about the last twenty-five years.

The history of the farm is not well documented. It was first recorded on Ordnance Survey Surveyor's Drawings of 1811-12, when the farm and buildings were located in the south west corner of the holding. The tithe map of 1838 for Llansawel Hamlet of Wen is apportioned by holdings and field boundaries are not shown. The field pattern is typically post medieval and is first indicated on the Ordnance Survey map of 1890, surveyed in 1886. The farmhouse was abandoned relatively recently and a modern bungalow and farm sheds constructed nearer the road in the northwestern edge of the holding. The old farmhouse and adjacent cart shed retain a number of good architectural features. There was another farmstead on this holding, named Bennoeth or Pennoeth, two named cottages Pant Y Fedwen and Bwlch Newydd, and two other possible cottages. Of these only the farmstead has above ground remains and there is little or no visible trace of the others. A burnt mound, considered to normally date to the Bronze Age, was found during this Tir Gofal farm visit.

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Pwllau'r Eurych farmstead has a number of archaeological resources including a Bronze Age Burnt Mound, the former farmhouse and out buildings and elsewhere the substantial remains of a former farmstead.

Sites that require action are detailed below, for other management recommendations see the gazetteer of individual sites.

PRN 37624 –Farm House

Clear and make safe. Temporary re-roof with a view to repair and re-occupation using traditional materials.

PRN 37626 –Farmstead

Clear scrub. Cut leaving roots in place. Treat stumps to prevent regrowth

PRN 44885 – Burnt Mound

Do not disturb in any way.

PRN 4888 –Cart Shed

Clear make safe. Make good stonewalls was using traditional materials. Re-roof or at least put on temporary roof.

PRN 44910 –Shed

Clear and make safe. Make good stonewalls using traditional materials.

GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN	37624	Site Name	Pwllau'r Eurych	Grid Reference	SN61543961
Site Type	Farmstead	Period	Post medieval		

Description

Small farmhouse, probably dating to the eighteenth century and abandoned in the later twentieth century. Now partly ruinous but retaining most architectural features. The front ground floor window frames are particularly interesting.

This farmhouse is built on a wall-fronted platform cut into the lower slope of the hillside and raising it above the trackway. Only partial access to ground floor and exterior could be made. The building is aligned north-south with the front door to the west. Walls are constructed of stone and bonded with lime mortar and the frontage at least is covered in a number of coats of lime wash. Final coat is white but had been ochre at one time. The quoin stones of the building are larger than the wall stones. The front door is no longer attached but the doorframe is *in situ*. The doorway is located slightly towards the south of the building and gives access straight into the main room. Two front windows of nine panes, with the upper three in a horned sash, light the main room, with another similar window into the south smaller room. The lower windows and front door have brick vousoirs in a very slight arch. There are two upper front windows. The one to the south of the door has nine panes and is side-hinged. The other to the north is smaller, of four panes and side-hinged. Both of the tops of these upper windows are at eaves level. The glass in nearly all of these front windows is intact. The roof appeared to have been stripped of slates; nearly all of the rafters and some of the battens are still in place along with some ceiling boards. There are chimneystacks at either end of the main roof, the one to the north has TV aerials: both are in poor condition.

Both ground floor rooms have quarry tile floors and were separated by a planked partition wall. The south room has the remains of a modern fireplace with indications of an earlier opening behind. In the main room there are the remains of a range and an iron fronted bread oven. There is a considerable amount of modern rubbish within. The stairway is in the northwest corner of the main room and appears to be relatively intact. However part of the first floor ceiling has collapsed on this side. There is an eastern doorway from the main room giving access to the rear two rooms (access now blocked by debris). These rooms appear to be stone constructed and to have had a slate roof. These rooms are divided into two by a stone wall with a wood lintelled doorway. The southern of these rooms has a slate slab shelf at its southern end and the room was possibly used as a dairy or larder.

Against the north end of the farmhouse there are the remains of a corrugated iron lean-to. On the south end there are the almost intact remains of a stone and lime mortar constructed lean-to. The stones, especially the quoins, are larger than those of the house. The front wall is slightly angled back from the line of the house. The south wall contains a steel-framed three-pane window with partial brick surround and lintel. There is a leaning brick chimneystack.

The immediate surroundings of the house are overgrown with scrub that was becoming quite established.

The associated farm buildings are recorded separately.

Recommendations

In the short term the surrounding area should be cleared of scrub; the roof timbers need to be treated and made good and then a temporary roofing put in place; the interior made safe and cleared of rubbish. In the long term, repair and reoccupation would ensure the preservation of the building. Before any major repairs, a full photographic survey should be made and archived. However, if re-occupation cannot be achieved, then the building should be cleared and recorded by drawings and photographs. There can be little hope of this farmhouse surviving unless it is repaired and re-occupied.

Site Category C



PRN 37624 Pwllau'r Eurych, view NE

PRN 37625 **Site Name** Unknown **Grid Reference** SN61523971

Site Type Farmstead?
Cottage **Period** Post medieval

Description

Cottage site noted on the Ordnance Survey 1907 Carmarthenshire map sheet XVI NE. No surface remains seen. The site of the building may be located in the same place as the modern breeze block walled barn with arched corrugated iron roof.

Recommendations

Remains may be nearby and/or below ground. Avoid ground disturbances in this area.

Site Category D

PRN 37626 **Site Name** Bennoeth; **Grid Reference** SN62433980

Site Type Farmstead **Period** Pennoeth
Post medieval

Description

Longhouse farmstead ruin. Probably dating from the eighteenth century. The back wall, end walls and dividing walls stand to almost their original heights and retain some architectural features. The front wall has been destroyed, and scrub trees are taking hold of the structure and surrounding the ruin.

This longhouse is oriented east-west with the front to the south where there appears to be the outline of a garden. The walls are made of flat stones and appear to be lime mortar bonded. The main dwelling room, at the east end, is c 8m long. Its pine end wall is 0.6m wide, stands to c. 4.5m high and contains a flush fireplace. The north wall stands up to 2m high and 0.55m wide and contains a window aperture 0.9m wide near the centre of the room. At the west end of this room there are the remains of, possibly, an inglenook fireplace against a wall 0.6m thick and c. 4m high. Immediately to the west of this there is a doorway 1m wide in the north wall. This mid section is approximately 11m long and could be the remains of the byre. It appears to be contemporary with the dwelling. Butted against the west end of the byre is a single cell c. 2.5 m wide; this gave access to another cell c 1.5m wide through its west wall, the north wall of which is set in from the main wall line. The south wall of this latter cell is also set further back than the probable line of the front wall. The walls of these western two cells are constructed of more rounded stones.

Recommendations

Remove and clear trees and scrub from around walls. Carefully cut leaving roots in place. Treat stumps to prevent re-growth

Site Category C



PRN 37626 Bennoeth Farmstead, view E

PRN	37627	Site Name	Unknown	Grid Reference	SN62204028; SN62173818
Site Type	Footpath	Period	Post medieval		

Description

Footpath, still partly sign posted but little used. Appears in the past to have curved round to the northwest to join the trackway 37631. Now continues straight north. To the south joins with the trackway to Pant-mawr farm. Sources Ordnance Survey, drawings 1811-2 sheet 187 and Ordnance Survey, 1890, Carmarthenshire Sheet XVI NE

Recommendations

Retain footpath route.

Site Category C

PRN	37628	Site Name	Pwllau'r Eurych	Grid Reference	SN61533970 SN61823992
Site Type	Footpath; Trackway	Period	Post medieval		

Description

Footpath first noted on Ordnance Survey, 1890, Carmarthenshire Sheet XVI NE. Mainly unsurfaced rutted trackway, partly metalled with local small stones, and grass central ridge. Leads from Pwllau'r Eurych old farmhouse PRN 37624 northwards

Recommendations

Retain current nature of surface.

Site Category C

PRN	37629	Site Name	Unknown	Grid Reference	SN61533970; SN61823992
Site Type	Footpath	Period	Post medieval		

Description

Footpath first noted on Ordnance Survey, 1890, Carmarthenshire Sheet XVI NE. Only the lower, southwest, part of this route has any slight surface traces.

Recommendations

Unless a new through route is created there is no reason to reinstate this short footpath.

Site Category D

PRN	37630	Site Name	Unknown	Grid Reference	SN61583979
Site Type	Cottage	Period	Post medieval		

Description

A cottage site noted on Ordnance Survey, drawings 1811-2 sheet 187. The visible remains comprise a flat area adjacent to the field boundary.

Recommendations

Avoid below-ground disturbance.

Site Category D

PRN	37631	Site Name	Bennoeth; Pennoeth	Grid Reference	SN61294017 SN62703970
Site Type	Trackway	Period	Post medieval		

Description

Trackway noted from the Ordnance Survey, drawings 1811-2 sheet 187. The trackway leads from or past the former farmstead of Bennoeth/ Pennoeth to the minor road connecting Llansawel to Esgerdawe. The lower part is more metalled without a central ridge and is well used from west of the modern farm buildings to the road. The mid section has larger stones forming the surface and a central ridge and is partly re-routed around an abandoned sunken section that indicated a lot of use in the past (photo, left of current route). The upper sector may have been un-metalled. The trackway is now little used.

Recommendations

Retain current nature of middle and upper sectors of trackway east of modern farm buildings.

Site Category D



PRN 37631. Note sunken way left of fence, view W

PRN 37632 **Site Name** Unknown **Grid Reference** SN62623969

Site Type Cottage?;Barn? **Period** Post medieval

Description

Probable site of a small barn, rather than a cottage, as indicated on Ordnance Survey 1890 map. Building not on Ordnance Survey 1907 map. Trapezoid enclosure in west corner of field. Enclosure approximately 30m x 18m, earth banks 0.75-1.0m high. No surface evidence within small enclosure, now a small tree plantation.

Recommendations

Avoid ground disturbance in southwest corner of enclosure. Maintain enclosure boundaries etc.

Site Category D



PRN 37632 Enclosure, view E

PRN 37633 **Site Name** Pant Y Fedwen **Grid Reference** SN61734034

Site Type Cottage **Period** Post medieval

Description

Cottage site identified from Ordnance Survey, drawings 1811-2 sheet 187. Named and shown on the Ordnance Survey 1890 map but only vague partial outline was identified on the 1907 edition. There are no visible remains except for some undulations in the approximate location. There are no indications of the location of walls.

Recommendations

Avoid ground disturbance at location.

Site Category D

PRN 37634 **Site Name** Bwlch Newydd **Grid Reference** SN61384019

Site Type Cottage **Period** Post medieval

Description

Cottage site noted on Ordnance Survey, 1890, Carmarthenshire Sheet XVI NE. No visible remains but area now part of new farm buildings and bungalow. Owner reports barn demolished nearby but on other side of track than indicated on map of 1890. Not indicated on Ordnance Survey 1907 map.

Recommendations

Any further ground disturbance in area should be monitored for signs of former cottage.

Site Category D

PRN 37635 **Site Name** Pwllau'r Eurych **Grid Reference** 61543961

Site Type Field pattern **Period** Post medieval

Description

The pattern of the farms field boundaries survives to a great extent as indicated on the Ordnance Survey 1890 map. The boundaries generally comprise hedges and hedgebanks.

Recommendations

Field boundaries should be maintained using materials and techniques appropriate to the locality.

Site Category C

TG pre-appl project record JH

PRN	44884	Site Name	Pant Y Fedwen	Grid Reference	SN61684019 SN61724033
Site Type	Footpath	Period	Post medieval		

Description

No surface evidence. Shown on Ordnance Survey 1890 map but not on later editions.

Recommendations

Unless a new through route is created there is no reason to reinstate this short footpath.

Site Category D

PRN	44885	Site Name	Pwllau'r Eurych	Grid Reference	SN61324025
Site Type	Burnt Mound	Period	Bronze Age		

Description

Small burnt mound. Semi circular, of 8m to 9m diameter and c. 0.5m high maximum. Cut on the southwest side by meander of small stream that has created a vertical bank at this point. In the top of this bank there is an exposed 0.4m depth of very dark charcoal rich soil and fire-cracked stone. There were several larger mounds in this field and the adjacent field to the northeast; although most probably natural, these could also be burnt mounds.

These are some 300 of these burnt mounds in southwest Wales. Most of these sites are in southern Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire, probably reflecting the major survey work done in the earlier 1900's. These sites can date from the Bronze Age (c2000 - 500BC) to the post medieval period. It is debated whether these are cooking mound sites, saunas or sweat lodges, or have an industrial purpose.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the mound should not be disturbed in any way. However, it should still be grazed to discourage large plants establishing themselves and causing root disturbance. The stream erosion needs to be monitored and if it continues then archaeological sampling and/or excavation may be appropriate.

Disturbance to the other mounds in both this and the adjacent field should be avoided. If similar dark soil and fire cracked stone is seen on any of these mounds then they should be reported as archaeological sites.

Site Category B



PRN 44885 Burnt mound. Exposed section in stream bank, view E



PRN 44885 Burnt mound. view SW

PRN	44886	Site Name	Pwllau'r Eurych	Grid Reference	SN61543958
Site Type	Dam	Period	Post medieval		

Description

Small dam or earth bank, in fair condition, associated with pond PRN 44887 just to the south west of the old farmstead.

Recommendations

No action necessary but should not be allowed to become overgrown.

Site Category C



PRN 44886 and 44887 Dam and pond, view N

PRN	44887	Site Name	Pwllau'r Eurych	Grid Reference	SN61553958
Site Type	Pond	Period	Post medieval		

Description

Smallish pond, partly overgrown, associated with dam or earth bank PRN 44886 just to the south west of the old farmstead.

Recommendations

No action necessary but should not be allowed to become totally overgrown.

Site Category C

PRN	44888	Site Name	Pwllau'r Eurych	Grid Reference	SN61563961
Site Type	Cart Shed	Period	Post medieval		

Description

Abandoned stone walled cart shed with double doorways front and rear. Collapsed corrugated iron lean-to to rear, used corrugated iron extension to south.

Stonewalls of cart shed are lime bonded and nearly all intact. There are the remains of double split front stable doors. Vent slits are on either side of the front doorway (east). One vent is below a hayloft hatch in the south wall. There is also one large vent to north of rear doorway (west), another possibly to the south of doorway where a "fume" cupboard? Has been inserted. Roof timbers still remain but no roof covering.

The rear lean-to of corrugated iron has collapsed. There is some farm machinery including a fixed shaft and belt drive wheels. The part of the lean-to to the north of this is still standing and contains old farm equipment.

The corrugated extension to the south is of timber construction with wood and corrugated iron cladding and corrugated iron roof and rear extension are of similar construction. Some modern farm equipment was stored in this section.

Modern rubbish has been dumped to the rear (west) of these structures.

Recommendations

The internal areas need to be cleared of debris. The buildings and the old farm machinery need rapid recording, with these records being deposited in an appropriate archive. A secure home needs to be found for the better pieces of old farm equipment. The cart shed should be re-roofed and the walls made good. The extension to the south should be maintained. Dumped rubbish to rear should be disposed of.

Site Category C



PRN 44888 Cart shed, view NW



PRN 44888 machinery to north of rear lean-to for the cart shed, view N

PRN	44910	Site Name	Pwllau'r Eurych	Grid Reference	SN61563962
Site Type	Shed	Period	Post medieval		

Description

Collapsed shed with intact rear wall. The rear wall is of mortared stone construction with window apertures higher up. The front was probably open fronted pole construction. The whole of the roof has collapsed. A stone built lean-to to rear contains two animal pens to the rear (west). This rear part is still roofed with corrugated iron.

Recommendations

The collapsed debris should be cleared any internal features below should be left intact if possible but at least recorded. The rear wall needs to be made good and the lean-to to rear maintained.

Site Category C



PRN 44910, Shed with collapsed frontage and roof, view W

PRN	44911	Site Name	Pwllau'r Eurych	Grid Reference	Sn61553962
Site Type	Shed Pole Barn	Period	Modern		

Description

Modern pole barn probably dating to the mid 1900's and still used as a hay and equipment store.

The barn is constructed with re-used railway rails as poles. The rear (west) part is arched roof and a slight inclined roof joins it to the lean-to behind PRN 44910. All of the cladding and roof is of corrugated iron. This is a nice example of this type of barn and still in fair to good condition.

Within the barn is an old hay elevator in good condition.

Recommendations

This barn should be used and maintained. If the elevator is no longer used it should be stored or be found a good home.

Site Category C



PRN 44911 Pole Barn, view SW

SITE AND AREA STATUS GLOSSARY

The following abbreviations are used in the gazetteer to refer to site and area status. These schedules, lists and registers are compiled and maintained by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments.

SAM - Scheduled Ancient Monument

This is a statutory designation. Scheduled Ancient Monuments are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

LB1, LB2* & LB2 – Listed Building 1, 2* & 2

This is a statutory designation. Listed buildings are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

HLW - Historic Landscapes of Wales

Historic Landscapes of Wales are defined by the *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales: Part 2.1 Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest and Part 2.2 Landscapes of Special Historic Interest*. The register is advisory and has no statutory powers.

PGW - Parks and Gardens of Wales

Parks and Gardens of Wales are defined by the *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales: Part 1 Parks and Gardens*. The register is advisory and has no statutory powers.



REFERENCES

Maps





- Ordnance Survey, drawings 1811-2 sheet 187
- Ordnance Survey, 1831, 1 inch sheet 41
- Ordnance Survey, 1890, Carmarthenshire Sheet XVI NE
- Ordnance Survey, 1907, Carmarthenshire Sheet XVI NE

Pwllau'r Eurych
Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/12/2298
Cambria Archaeology Reference Number 41760
National Grid Reference SN61304020
Scale 1:5000


Key

-  Farm Boundary
-  Historic Landscape Character Area


Site Category A - National Importance

-  Scheduled Ancient Monuments
Grade 1 and Grade 2* Listed Buildings
-  Sites and Buildings of National Importance without a statutory designation
-  Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest
-  Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest


Site Category B - Regional Importance

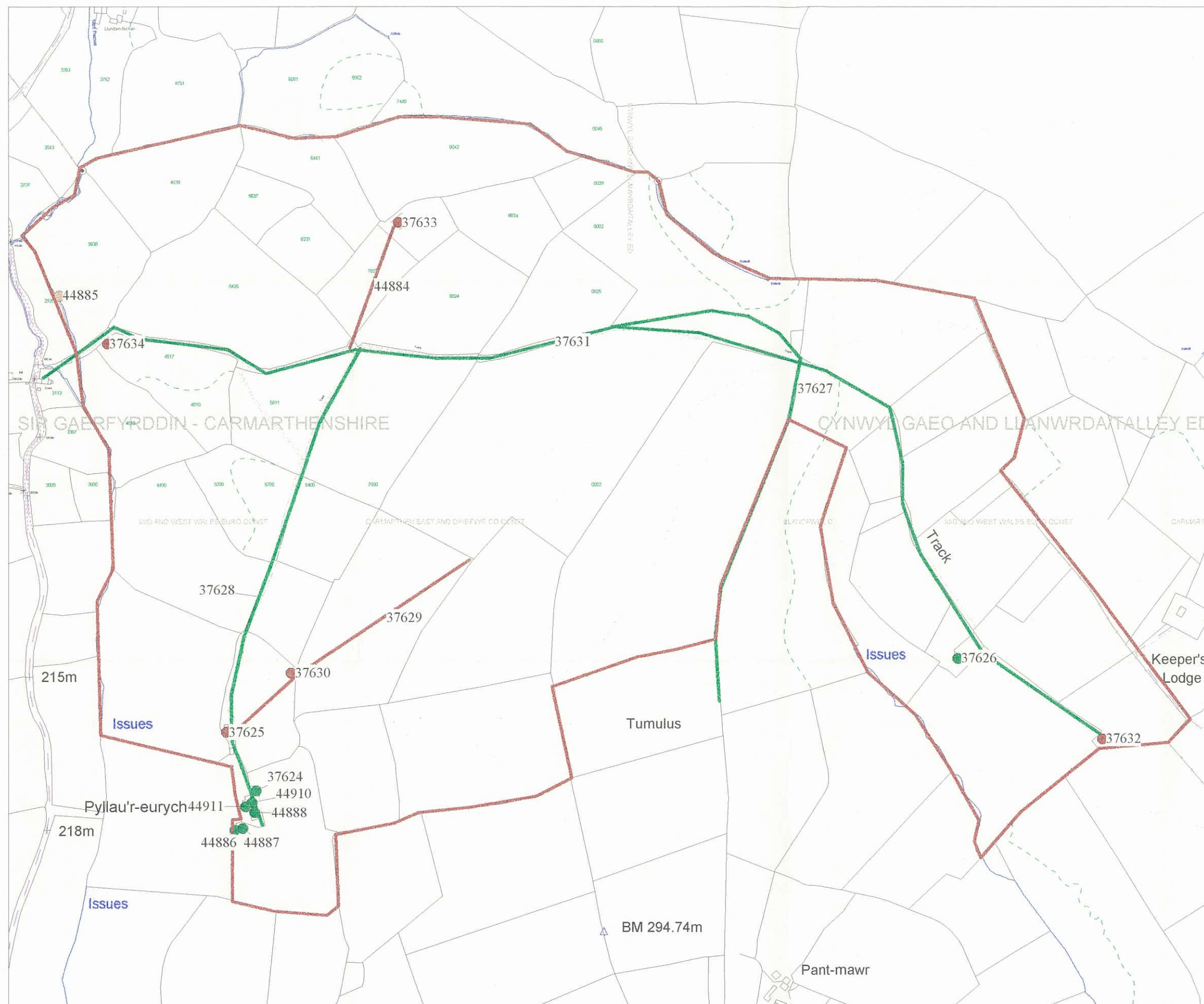
-  Sites and Buildings of Regional Importance including Grade 2 listed buildings

Site Category C - Local Importance

-  Sites and buildings of Local Importance

Site Category D - Unknown Importance

-  Sites requiring further investigation and sites with no physical definition.



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May 2002

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Position: Senior Archaeologist

Signature Pete Crane Date 15 July 2002

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

Position Principal Archaeological Officer (Curatorial)

Signature Louise Austin Date 04/07/02

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