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# CROESFFORDD, LLANDYSUL, CEREDIGION

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

Report No. 2002/10

Report Prepared for:  
RPS CHAPMAN WARREN



A R C H A E O L O G Y

CAMBRIA

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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2002/10  
PROJECT RECORD NO. 44298

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CROESFFORDD, LLANDYSUL, CEREDIGION  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

By

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# **ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT CROESFFORDD, LLANDYSUL**

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## SUMMARY

*As part of the preparation of the Ceredigion Unitary Development Plan it was recognised that land suitable for development for local employment opportunities was required at Llandysul, Ceredigion. Two sites were selected for appraisal and the current site at Croesffordd was the favoured option. This assessment was part of an Environmental Assessment of the site for potential development for light industrial use.*

*The proposed development site lies close to the remains of a small, defended settlement of probable Iron Age date within an area that was enclosed during the later 18<sup>th</sup> or the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Apart from hedgerows of this period, there are no known features of archaeological interest within the proposed development site.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 PROJECT PROPOSALS AND COMMISSION

The Ceredigion Unitary Development Plan (in preparation) recognises the need for a local employment site at Llandysul, Ceredigion. The Plan identified two sites close to the town, with Croesffordd being the preferred option. An Environmental Assessment in support of the necessary planning applications required an archaeological assessment of the potential of the site and the likely impacts of any future development. Therefore, RPS Chapman Warren commissioned Cambria Archaeology to carry out that assessment. The work was undertaken in January 2002.

### 1.2 REPORT OUTLINE

This report describes the physical environment and the historical landscape of the study area (Section 2) before summarising the archaeological resource (Section 3) and the likely impact of the proposed scheme on that resource (Section 4). Suggested mitigation measures based on the results of Sections 3 and 4 are given in Section 5.

### 1.3 ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

All archaeological sites recorded on the county Sites and Monuments Record are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Sites and features recorded during this project have also been assigned a PRN and located by their NGR. References to primary cartographic and documentary evidence and published sources are given in brackets; full details will be found in Appendix Two.

## 2. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA

### 2.1 LOCATION

The proposed development area, centred on SN40504195, occupies two fields and covers c.8ha (c.20 acres) on the south side of the A486 Llandysul – New Quay road at Croesffordd, on the northwest outskirts of the town of Llandysul, Ceredigion. It is located on the north side of the Teifi Valley within the Cardiganshire upland massif, which comprises, for the most part, Ordovician shales of the Ashgill Series (British geological Survey 1994; Ludlow 2001, 13). The soils across the site are typical brown earths of the 541j, Denbigh 1, group (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1980) and the land is currently under pasture and classified as Grade 4 (MAFF 1990; Ludlow 2001, 13).

Site investigation data revealed thin topsoil and gravely sand deposits across the site, which varied in depth from c.0.2m – 0.5m in depth overlying the weathered bedrock. No buried surfaces, or areas that may contain deeper sequences of deposits were noted (information supplied by Bradley Associates).

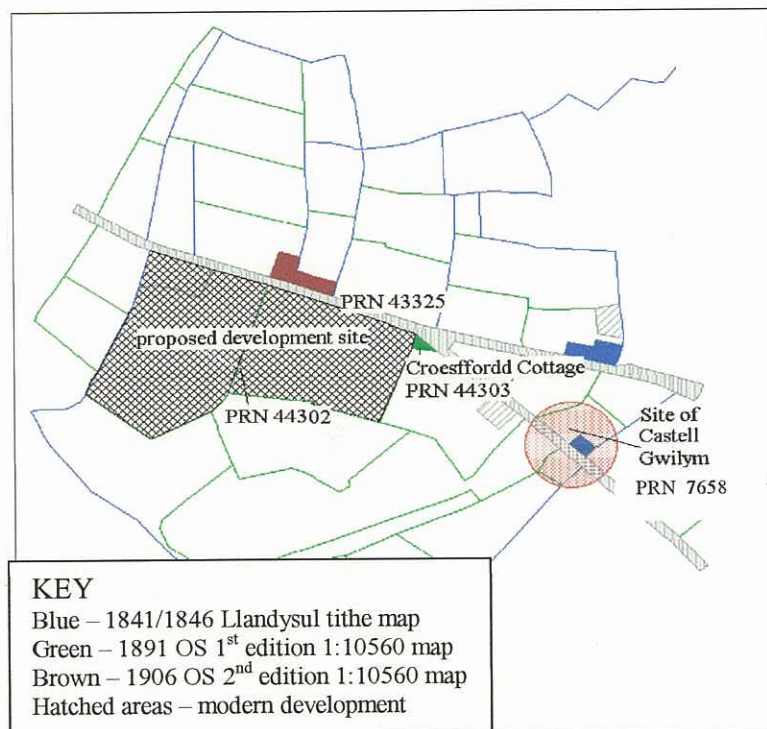


Figure 1: plan of proposed development site showing sites mentioned in the text.

## 2.2 THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

The present landscape is the direct result of human settlement from the later prehistoric period onwards. A number of Bronze Age burial mounds and associated ritual cairns recorded within 1km of the site suggest a settled landscape (Murphy 1999, 10), but no evidence for Bronze Age settlement has been recovered from within the survey area. A gold bar torc, reputed to have come from Llandysul, which may be another indicator of Bronze Age settlement in the vicinity, is of doubtful provenance (Briggs 1994, 157) and it should be treated with caution.

The first evidence for settlement is the Castell Gwilym earthwork enclosure (PRN 7658), 200m to the southeast of the proposed development site. Castell Gwilym survives as a low curving section of bank, with a possible ditch, visible in the field north of Castell Gwilym cottage. The line of the bank is crossed by the Croesffordd – Llandysul road, which goes over a pronounced rise at this point. There have been no archaeological investigations of the site so its true nature, extent and form are unknown, although it is likely that the surviving section of bank represents the north edge of a small defended enclosure, possibly an inland hillfort, of probable Iron Age date. Similar sites are known from throughout the region, although its size, c.0.3-0.4ha, is smaller than the average 0.6ha assumed by Davies and Hogg, (1994, 237), but well within the smaller end of the size range.

A local tradition asserts that Castell Gwilym was a medieval foundation and the seat of a local nobleman named *Meudwy*, a name continued in the neighbouring settlement of Cwm Meudwy. However, there does not appear to be any evidence to support the claim and until such evidence comes to light the most likely interpretation is that Castell Gwilym is Iron Age in date.

There are no identifiable traces of any fields, roads or other enclosures associated with Castell Gwilym. It appears that, besides the survival of the short length of bank and possible ditch, any influence it may have had on the landscape has been lost through the later post-medieval and modern enclosure and landscape divisions. The present landscape was created by the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure of what appears to have been an area of common land.

The area appears to be unenclosed on the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawings (Sheet 186) of 1811 as the A486 seems to be shown as an unfenced road crossing open land. By the time the Ordnance Survey, Old Series was produced in 1831, the A486 was shown as a formalised road and some enclosure had clearly taken place. However, it is difficult to be certain of the extent of the enclosure as the Old Series maps do not show boundaries in any detail. It is on the Llandysul tithe map (1846?) that the first useful depiction of the landscape emerges, although, even this must be used with caution as it appears to show the different holdings only as blocks of land and it does not necessarily include all the individual field boundaries within those holdings. The present layout of fields and boundaries had been established by the later 19<sup>th</sup> century when the Ordnance Survey published its 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1:10560 maps.

Within the proposed development site, only the western boundary and the line of the A486 are shown on the tithe map of 1846, but all are shown on the Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1:10560 map (1891). The regular straight-sided fields within the site were clearly established during a programme of fairly late enclosure, either in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century or the 19<sup>th</sup> century, although the probable exclusion of individual boundaries on the tithe map makes it impossible to be certain of their date. There are no parliamentary enclosure awards recorded for Llandysul, so enclosure was a piecemeal affair carried by local landowners, often by simply moving their boundary fences (Moore-Collyer 1998, 21; Murphy 1999, 15; Ludlow 2001, 17).

The lines of the A486 and the road that runs southeast from Croesffordd to Llandysul are shown on the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawings of 1811. Both roads appear to predate the field pattern. The line of the A486 is also shown as a medieval route by William Rees on his map of South Wales and the Borders in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century (1932).

There are no buildings within the proposed development site, but study of the historic maps shows that development in close proximity to the site occurred largely during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early – mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### 3. SUMMARY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

#### 3.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERESTS WITHIN THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SITE

The only known feature of interest within the proposed development site is a single field boundary (PRN 44302). All the boundaries in this area, including PRN 44302, are of probable late 18<sup>th</sup> century or 19<sup>th</sup> century date. It is possible that buried features associated with the Castell Gwilym (PRN 7658) enclosure may survive towards the eastern end of the site.

These interests have been assessed using a classification system that assigns each one to categories for their condition and value.

The categories are:

##### Condition

- A – Intact.
- B – Substantially intact, but with some damage or loss.
- C – Largely destroyed, but with some surviving elements.
- D – Destroyed, no above ground remains.
- U – Unknown potential, buried sites in particular.

##### Value

- A - National importance: Scheduled Monuments; Listed Buildings or sites worthy of consideration for Scheduling of Listing.
- B - Regional importance: sites not considered worthy of scheduling or listing, but which should be retained where possible.
- C - Local importance: sites that are considered important to an understanding of the development of a local area, or are characteristic of that particular area.
- D – Minor sites, or sites which are heavily damaged, or where too little remains for inclusion in a higher category.
- U – Sites of unknown potential, including buried sites, which could be subject to further assessment to determine whether or not they should be assigned to a different category.

The assigned value for each site or feature indicates the appropriate archaeological response to their potential damage or loss. Table 1, below, outlines the archaeological interests within the proposed development area and assesses their current condition and their relative importance in local and national contexts.

PRN	TYPE	PERIOD / DATE	CONDITION	VALUE
44302	Field boundary	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> or 19 <sup>th</sup> century	A	D
	Area of possible buried features associated with Castell Gwilym.	Iron Age?	UE	U

Table 1: archaeological interests within the proposed development site.



### 3.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERESTS CLOSE TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SITE

A number of known archaeological interests are recorded close to the site. They include the Castell Gwilym enclosure (PRN 7658), which may have associated buried features within the site. Other previously recorded interests are the line of the A486 (PRN 43326), which was a medieval route, and the unclassified road from Croesffordd to Llandysul, which predates the present late 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century field pattern. The southern boundary (PRN 43325) of the A486, which is a low scarp with a modern fence, forms the northern limit of the proposed development site.

The following table (Table 2) outlines the sites close to the site that may have an affect on, or be affected by the proposed development.

PRN	TYPE	PERIOD / DATE	CONDITION	VALUE
7658	Hillfort/defended enclosure	Iron Age?	C	A
43326	Road	Medieval? Post-medieval	A	B
43325	Field boundary	Post-medieval Modern	B	D
44303	Croesffordd cottage	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	A	C

Table 2: archaeological interests close to the proposed development site.

## 4. IMPACT OF PROPOSED SCHEME ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

### 4.1 ASSESSING THE LIKELY IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

The nature of the development will inevitably cause the loss of some of the field boundaries and others will be partially removed. The eastern end of the site, which may contain buried features or deposits associated with the nearby Castell Gwilym enclosure, will be affected by new road construction and landscaping.

The likely implications and impacts of the proposed development on the archaeological resource can be categorised into four main areas of concern. These are:

1. Total loss or significant damage (damage to greater than 50% of the feature)
2. Partial loss or damage (damage to less than 50% of the feature)
3. Site or feature remains intact, but its setting may be affected. This category includes those sites close to, but outside the proposed development site.
4. Sites or features of unknown potential.

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4
44302	43325	7658	Area of possible buried features associated with Castell Gwilym.
		43326	
		44303	

Table 3: Potential impact on the archaeological resource.

## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1 SUGGESTED MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measures are suggestions only. The regional archaeological curator, in consultation with the Local Planning Authority, will make all final decisions regarding the future of the archaeological resource of the site. However, the measures suggested below are considered to be an appropriate response to the threats posed by the proposed development. The categories used to assess the archaeological sites in section 3 will form the basis for the following responses. It is worth re-emphasising here the criteria for assigning a site a particular value and therefore the suggested archaeological response. The suggested response is shown in bold type.

- A - National importance: Scheduled Monuments; Listed Buildings or sites worthy of consideration for Scheduling or Listing. **There will be a presumption in favour of preservation *in situ* for Category A sites.**
- B - Regional importance: sites not considered worthy of scheduling or listing, but that should be retained where possible. **There will be a presumption in favour of preservation *in situ* for Category B sites. If this is not practical then these sites should be subject to full and adequate archaeological recording.**
- C - Local importance: sites or features that are considered important to an understanding of the development of a local area, or are characteristic of that particular area. **If preservation *in situ* is not possible for these sites, then they should be subject to adequate archaeological recording prior to and during removal.**
- D - Minor features or features that are heavily damaged, or where too little remains for inclusion in a higher category. **These sites should be subject to adequate recording during removal.**
- U - Sites of unknown potential, including buried sites. **These sites may be subject to further assessment to enable them to be assigned to a higher category.**

#### 5.1.1 FUTURE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROGRAMME

Using the criteria set out above it is possible to devise a programme of archaeological works to be carried out during construction. The programme should consist of an archaeological watching brief carried out during the topsoil stripping along the new road lines at the eastern end of the site to record any buried deposits or features that may be associated with Castell Gwilym.

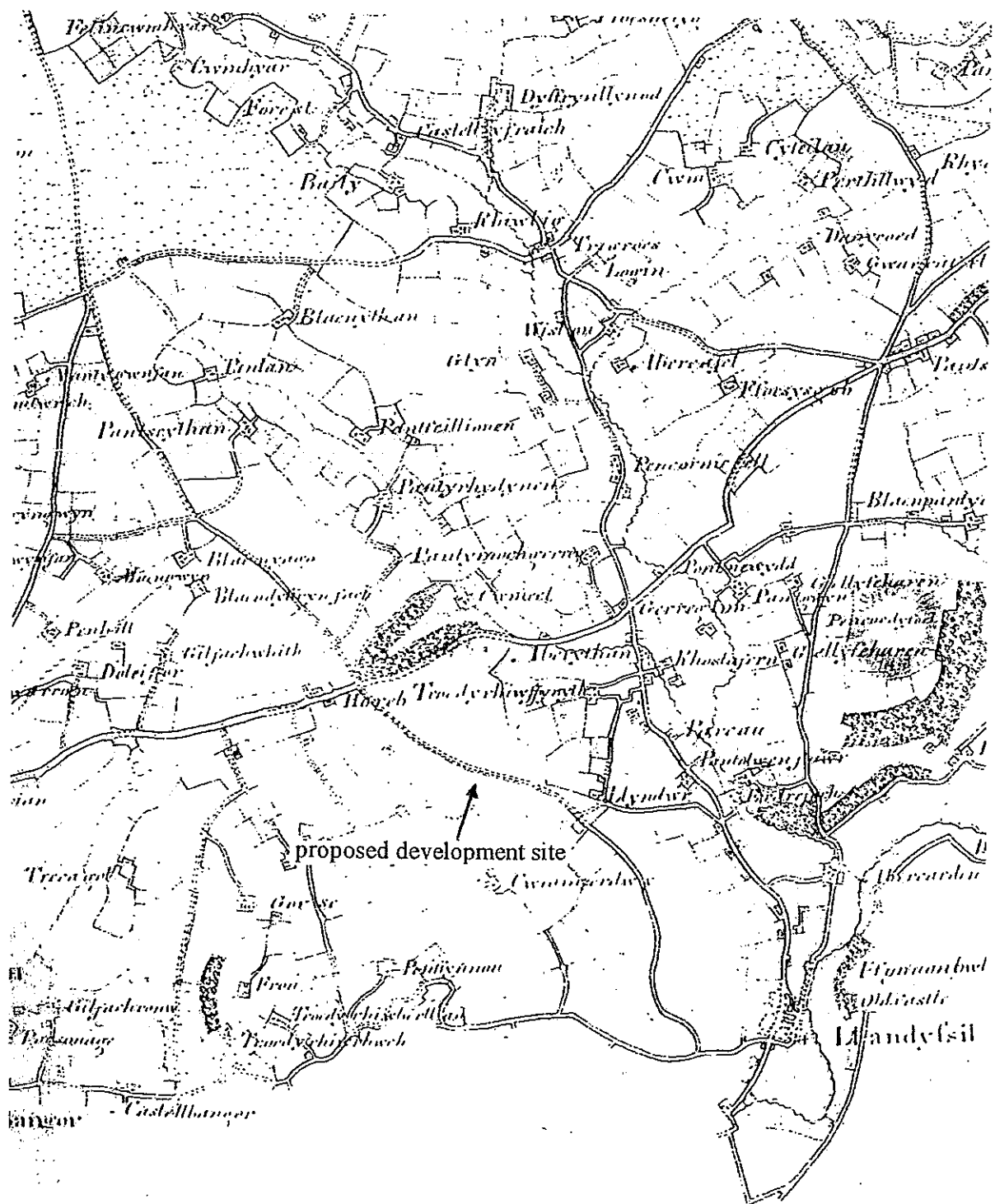


Figure 2: Copy of Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawings, 2" to 1 mile.  
Sheet 186, 1811

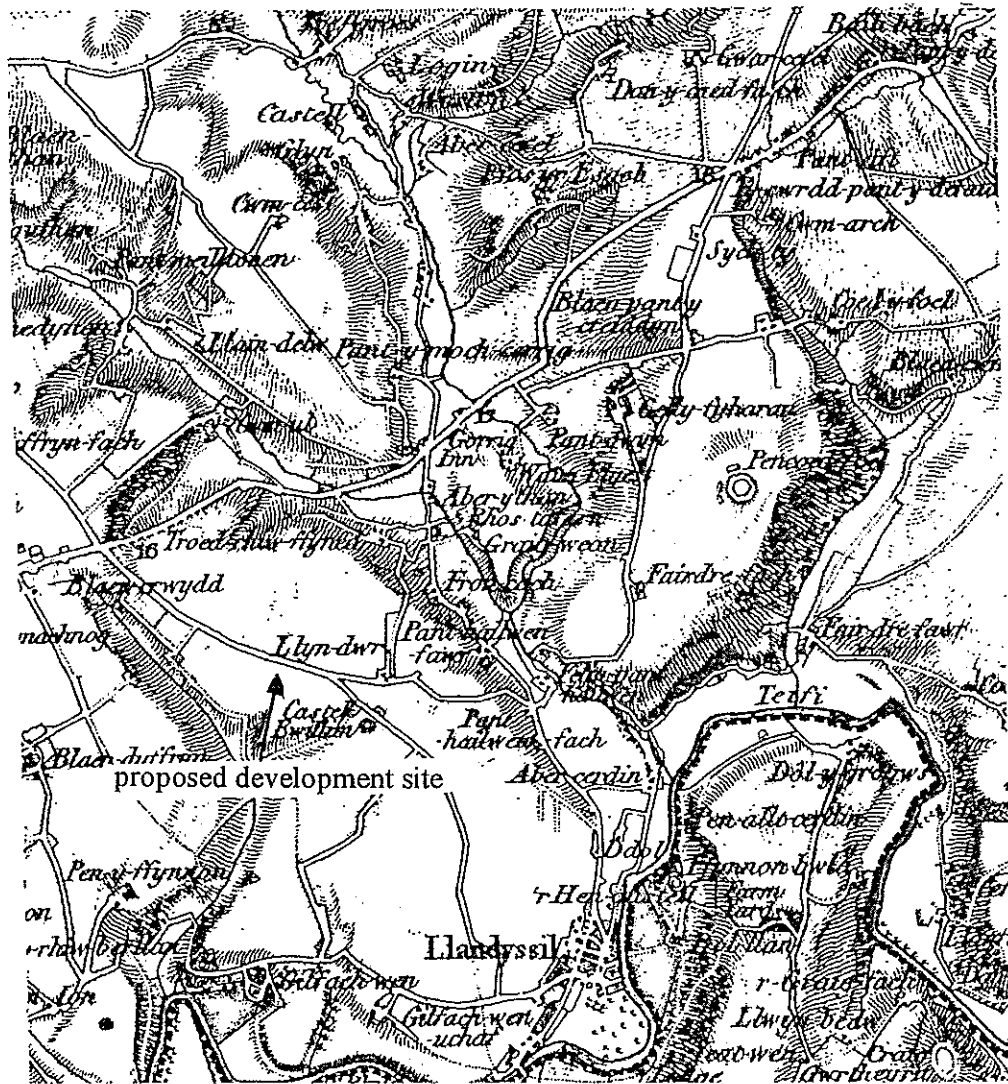


Figure 3: Copy of Ordnance Survey Old Series, 1" to 1 mile. Sheet 41, 1831

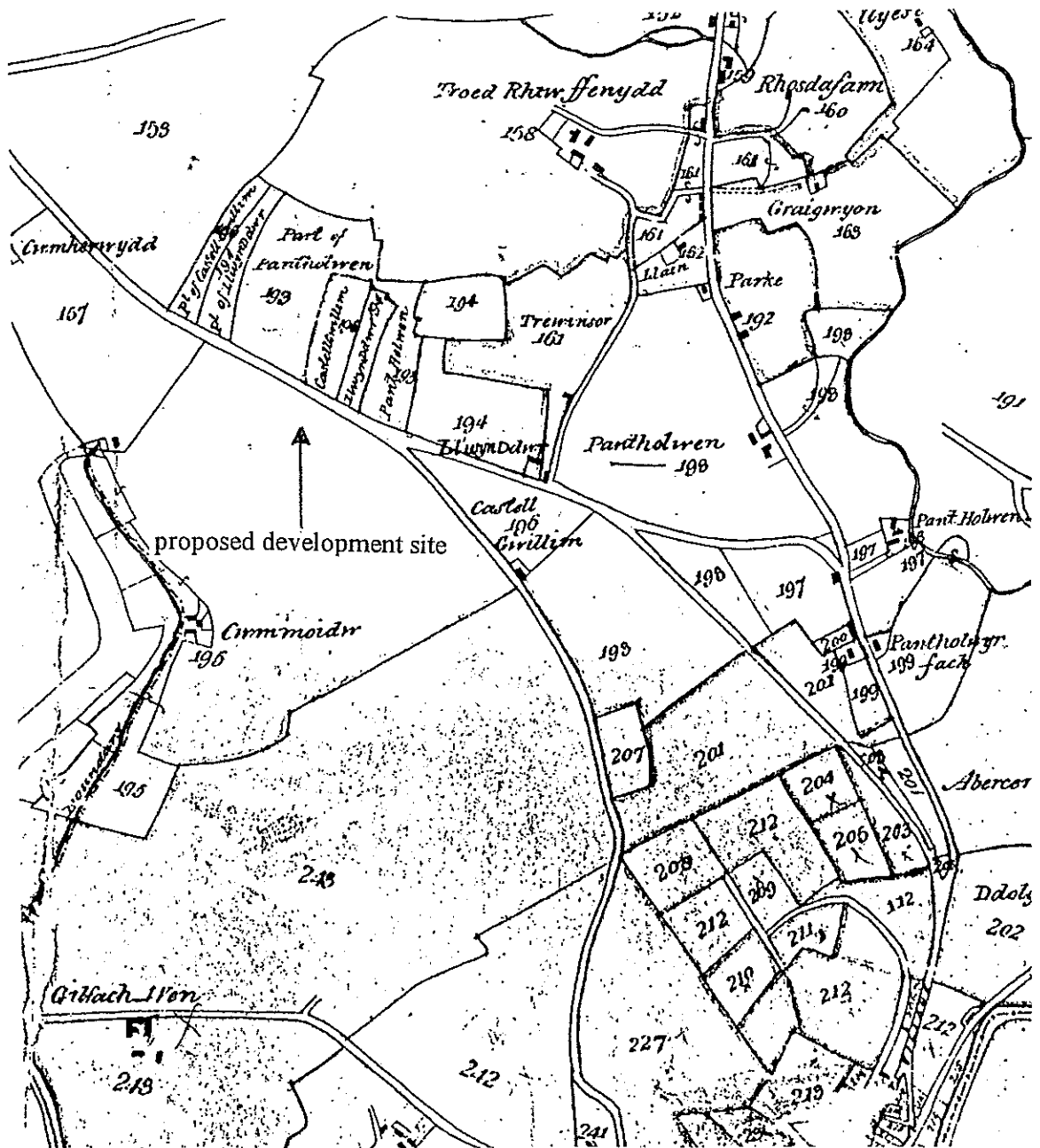


Figure 4: Copy of part of the Llandysul tithe map, 1841

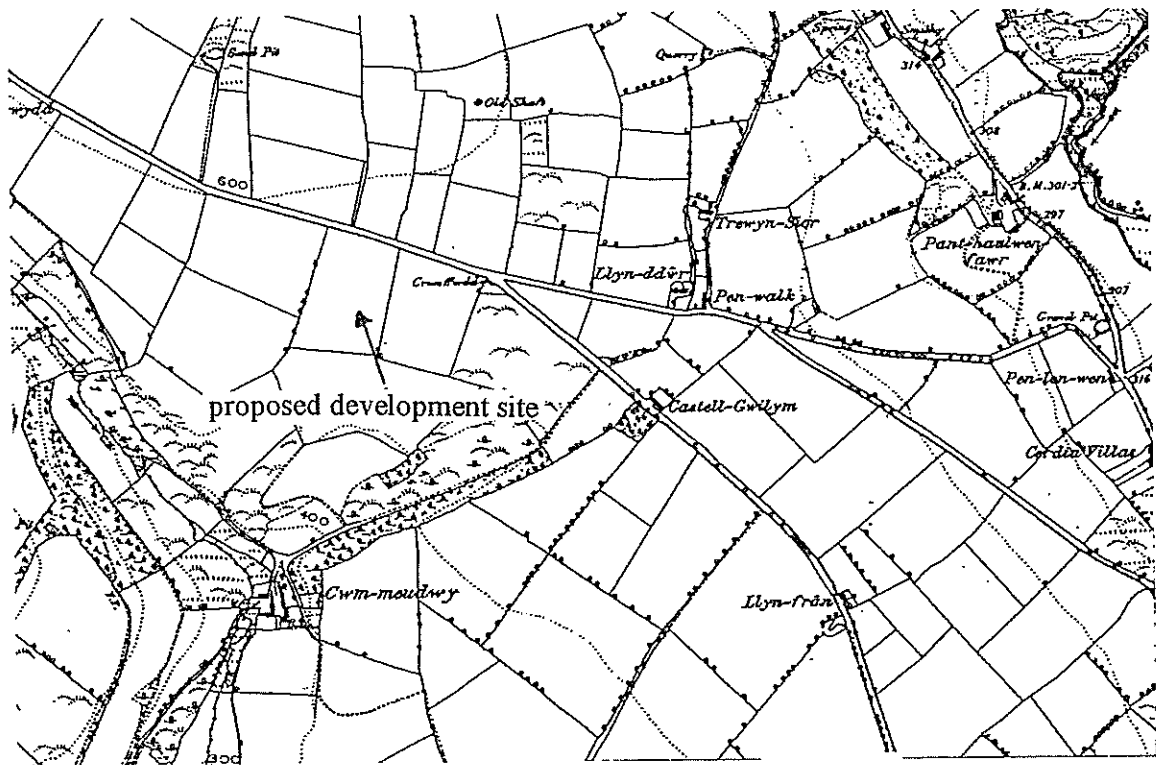


Figure 5: Extract from Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1:10560 map. Sheet Cards.XL.SW, 1891

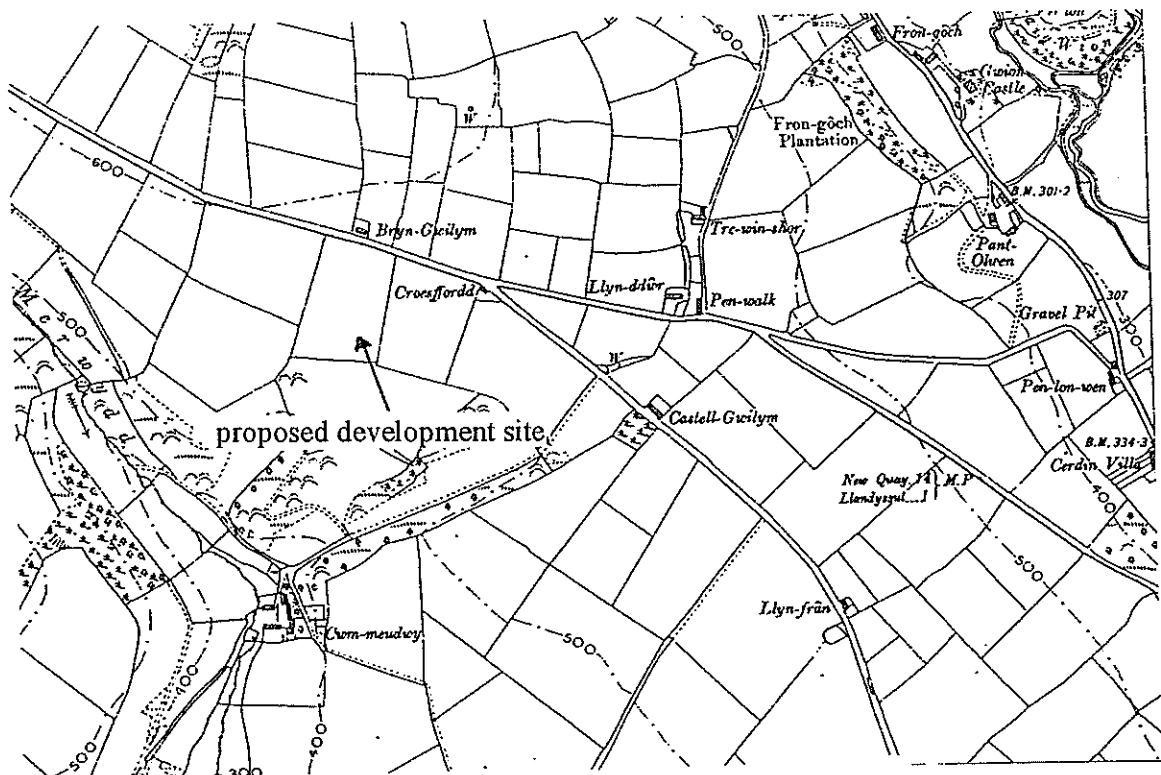


Figure 6: Extract from Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 1:10560 map. Sheet Cards.XL.SW, 1906

## APPENDIX ONE: GAZETTEER OF SITES

**PRN** 44302  
**NGR** SN40434205;40374188  
**NAME** Croesffordd  
**TYPE** Field boundary  
**PERIOD** late 18<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> century  
**DESCRIPTION**

**PRN** 7658  
**NGR** SN40804185  
**NAME** Castell Gwilym  
**TYPE** Defended enclosure/hillfort  
**PERIOD** Iron Age? Roman?  
**DESCRIPTION**

[Earthwork feature described by Hogg in 1994 as 'a slight bank, with no visible ditch, apparently forming the corner of a rectilinear enclosure'. The site was then overgrown. It was visited in June 2001 when a curving earthwork bank - with a ditch - suggesting a more circular enclosure, were observed 50m W and NW of Castell Gwilym cottage, being crossed by the Llandysul-Croesffordd road. Castell Gwilym cottage (PRN 43223) appears to lie in the middle of the enclosure. Interestingly, however, the OS 1" of 1831 placed the enclosure immediately to the south of the Llandysul-Croesffordd road.

**PRN** 43325  
**NGR** SN40954192  
**NAME** Castell Gwilym  
**TYPE** Field boundary  
**PERIOD** 19<sup>th</sup> century?  
**DESCRIPTION**  
Southern boundary of A486.

**PRN** 43326  
**NGR** SN40954193  
**NAME** Croesffordd  
**TYPE** Road  
**PERIOD** Post medieval  
**DESCRIPTION**  
Line of the A486 Llandysul – New Quay road. Probable medieval road line.

**PRN** 44303  
**NGR** SN  
**NAME** Croesffordd Cottage  
**TYPE** Dwelling  
**PERIOD** Post medieval  
**DESCRIPTION**  
Cottage first shown on OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition map (1891).



## APPENDIX TWO: SOURCES CONSULTED

### MAPS

1841 – 1846 Llandysul parish tithe map and apportionment  
1891 Ordnance Survey 1:10560 1<sup>st</sup> edition sheet Cards.XL.SW  
1906 Ordnance Survey 1:10560 2<sup>nd</sup> edition sheet Cards.XL.SW  
1964 Ordnance Survey provisional edition

### AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

1946 - RAF 106G/UK/1471/4244-4245  
1955 - Meridian Airmaps SN44SW 34853-34854

### UNPUBLISHED SOURCES

- Jones R S      2000 *The Llandysul Bypass: desk-top assessment and field search.* Cambrian Archaeological Projects report No. 122, copy held in regional Sites and Monuments Record, Llandeilo.
- Ludlow N      2001 *Pentrellwyn, Ceredigion: archaeological assessment.* Cambria Archaeology report. Report No.2001/44, copy held in the regional Sites and Monuments Record, Llandeilo.
- Murphy K      1999 *Upland Ceredigion: Historic Landscape Characterisation.* Cambria Archaeology report, copy held in the regional Sites and Monuments Record, Llandeilo.

### PUBLISHED SOURCES

- Briggs C S      1994 'The Bronze Age'. In Davies J L and Kirby D P (Eds) 1994, 124-218.
- Chapman J      1992 *A Guide to parliamentary Enclosure.* University of Wales Press. Cardiff.
- Davies J L &      1994 'The Iron Age'. In Davies J L and Kirby D P (Eds) 1994, 219-  
Hogg A H A      274.
- Davies J L &      1994 *Cardiganshire County History Volume 1: from the Earliest  
Kirby D P      Times to the Coming of the Normans.* University of Wales Press. Cardiff.
- Jenkins G H      1998 *Cardiganshire County History Volume 1: Cardiganshire in  
& Jones I G      Modern Times.* University of Wales Press. Cardiff.
- Moore-Collyer R 1998 Agriculture and Land Occupation. In Jenkins G H and Jones I G (Eds) 1998, 19-50.

### **APPENDIX THREE: CATALOGUE OF RESEARCH ARCHIVE**

The project archive has been indexed and catalogued according to National Monument Record (NMR) categories and contains the following:

- A.** Copy of the report.
- B.** Notes from site visits.
- D.** Site photographs - catalogue, colour slides, B/W contact sheets.
- G.** Documentary data, including primary and published sources.
- I.** Draft copies of report.
- J.** Publication drawings.
- M.** Miscellaneous correspondence

There is no material for classes **C, E, F, H, K, L** and **N**.

The project archive is currently held by Cambria Archaeology Field Operations, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, as project number 44298.