

MAY 2002



CLOS LLWYN, WHITLAND

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT



Report No. 2002/44

Report Prepared for:
GG & CA PERFECT

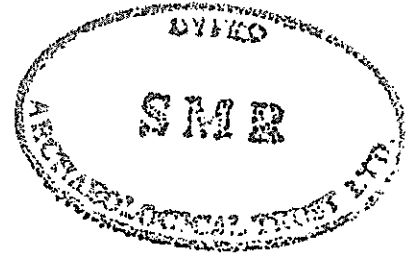


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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY
REPORT NO. 2002/44
PROJECT RECORD NO. 44943



MAY 2002

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

By

Neil Ludlow

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CLOS LLWYN, WHITLAND, CARMARTHENSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, MAY 2002

**Project Record No. 44943
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Development proposals

Cambria Archaeology Field Operations was invited, by GG & CA Perfect Property Developers to provide costings for an archaeological assessment of a proposed new housing development on land adjacent to Clos Ty Gwyn, Spring Gardens, Whitland, Carmarthenshire. Cambria Archaeology accordingly submitted a specification and quotation on 17 April 2002 and was awarded the contract on 7 May 2002.

The study area comprises the development plot, a small, empty parcel of land on the east side of Whitland town, and its immediate environs which contain two archaeological sites (see Section 2).

1.2 Project objectives

- 1.2.1 to assess the character, extent, significance and vulnerability of the archaeological resource within the proposed development plot.
- 1.2.2 to identify sites, features and deposits that require further archaeological investigation to fully assess their character, extent, significance and vulnerability.
- 1.2.3 the preparation of a report fully representative of the information recovered during 1.2.1 - 1.2.2, which places the archaeological resource of the study area within its local, regional and national contexts.
- 1.2.4 The preparation of a project archive.

1.3 Project methodology

- 1.3.1 a search of the County Sites and Monuments Record and the National Monuments Record for information of known sites within and around the study area.
- 1.3.2 a search of cartographic sources held in national and county records offices and other repositories for archaeological information.
- 1.3.3 a search of primary historic documents held in national and county records offices and other repositories.
- 1.3.4 a search of secondary, published sources.
- 1.3.5 the examination of relevant aerial photographic coverage.

1.4 Categorisation of archaeological sites and features

All sites and features identified within this report have been allocated a category which defines the archaeological importance of that site. The categories are as follows:-

Category A - Sites of national importance

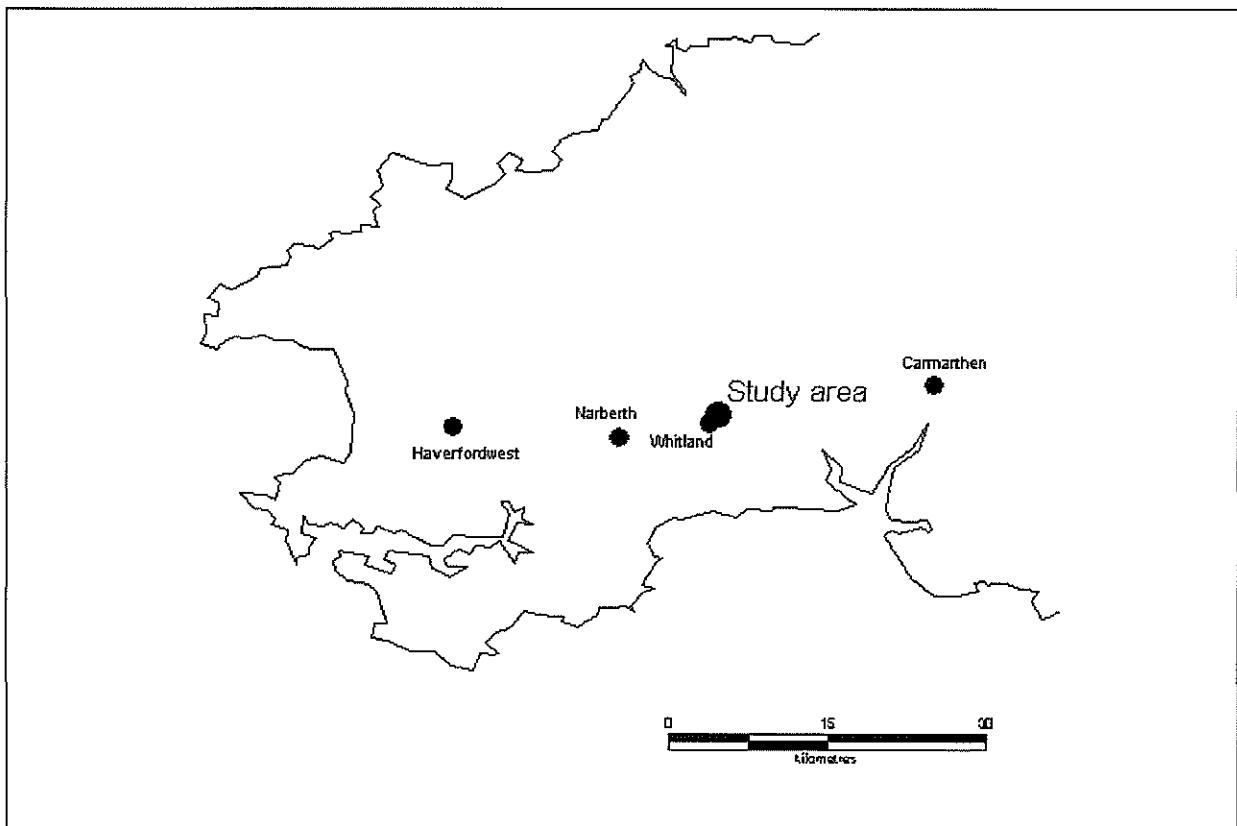
Category B - Sites of regional or county importance

Category C - Sites of district or local importance

Category D - Minor or damaged sites

Category E - Sites needing further investigation

Fig. 1: The study area - location map



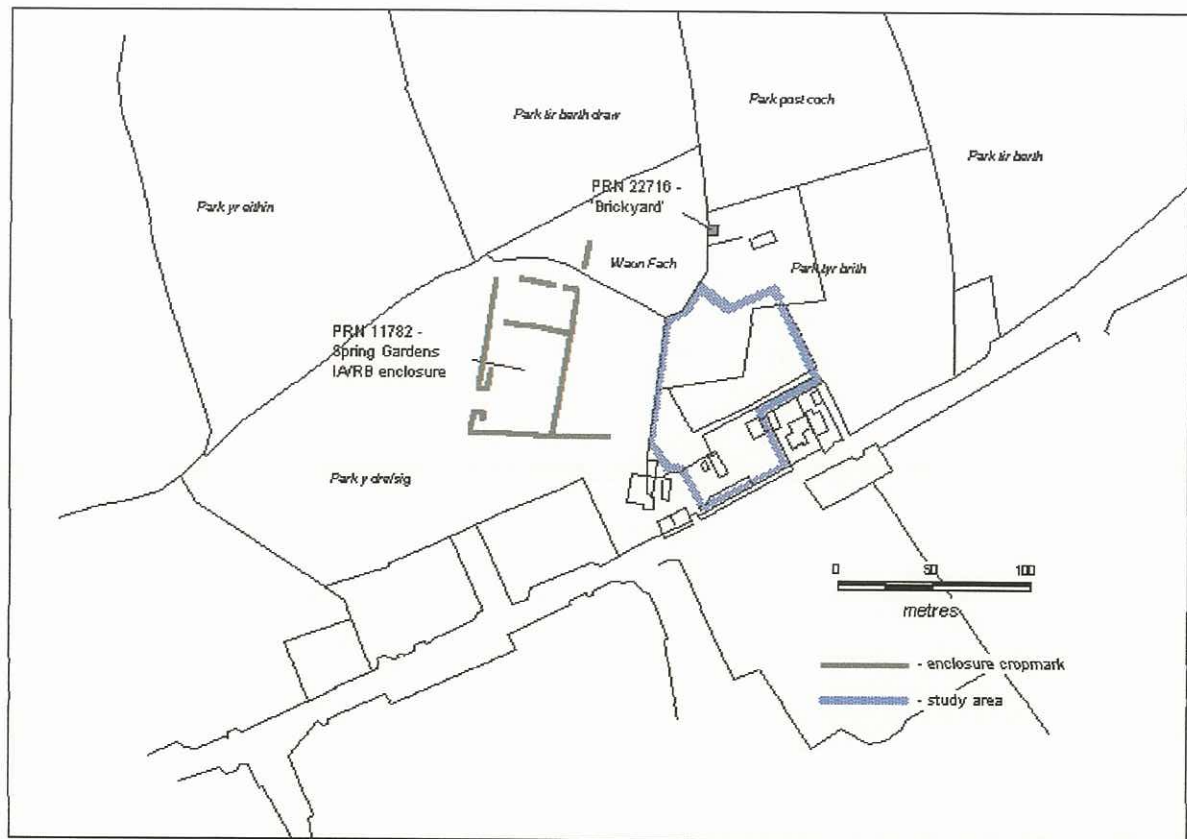


Fig. 2: The study area- the archaeological resource

2.0 RESULTS OF ASSESSMENT

2.1 The archaeological resource

This section contains brief descriptions of archaeological/historic sites, features, buildings and deposits within the study area, namely the development plot and its immediate environs. They are listed by their type and individual Primary Record Number (or PRN) as allocated in the Sites and Monuments Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire.

Refer to Fig. 2 for PRNs given for the purpose of this project. Categories are as defined in Section 1.4.

PRN 11782 – Spring Gardens – NGR SN 208 169

Enclosure – Iron Age? Roman? – Category B

A rectilinear cropmark enclosure, discovered in the field west of the development plot, during aerial photographic reconnaissance by Dyfed Archaeological Trust on 3 August 1984 (Figs 2 and 3). It was described by its discoverer as 'a faint cropmark in grazing land, formed a perfect rectangle, estimated to be 50m E-W by 82m N-S. About midway down the E side were two apparent post pits along the uninterrupted course of the cropmark, marking a probable gateway. The site was bisected by a cross-ditch about one third from the N perimeter, and a gap in the W side of this may represent an entry. The NW side of the enclosure was not at all clear. The function and date of this site cannot be ascertained without excavation; on present evidence it is probably best viewed as a Romano-British farmstead. Its size is comparable with the site discovered 1 mile north of Whitland Abbey, although it does not appear to be as complex' (James 1984, 17).



*Fig. 3: Aerial photograph of cropmark PRN 11782, looking south
(© Cambria Archaeology, DAT AP-84-113.2)*

The enclosure may be a little more complex. The aerial photograph of the enclosure (Fig. 3) shows the two entrances in the east and west sides. The ditches (represented by the cropmark) either side of the west entrance appear to turn into the enclosure and double back on themselves (shown in Fig. 2). The east side of the enclosure appears to continue northwards, beyond the 'annexe' formed by the cross-ditch, while the southern side appears to continue eastwards towards the development plot, which is only 47 metres east of the enclosure. It is not uncommon for associated trackways, enclosures, possible structures etc. to lie immediately beyond enclosures of this kind, and other such features may be present at Spring Gardens. This may be of particular concern given the possible entrance on the east side of the enclosure, and the eastwards continuation of its southern side.

PRN 22716 – Brickyard – NGR SN 2091 1700

Brickyard? Brick field? – Post Medieval – Category E

Place-name 'Brickyard' recorded on the Ordnance Survey 6" maps of 1891 and 1908 (surveyed 1887 and 1906). It appears to relate to a building – located 30m north of the development plot – which appears, from its depiction on the two maps (see Figs. 7 and 8), to have been a dwelling. A building is still standing on the site.

The site appears to be empty on the Ordnance Survey original surveyor's drawing of 1811-12, on the Ordnance Survey 1" first edition of 1819, and on the Llanboidy tithe map of 1839 (see Figs 4, 5 and 6). No brickworks buildings are suggested on any of the historic maps and the name may refer to brick-clay extraction in one of the adjoining fields. However, this is not suggested on the tithe map, on which the field names (Fig. 2) are not particularly significant ('Park post coch' contains the element 'red' but this is not conclusive in itself). No brickmakers are listed at Whitland in any of the 18 Trade Directories, spanning the period 1822-1914, that were consulted. Other sources consulted included – the index of the *Transactions of the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society*, *The Carmarthenshire Antiquary* and *The Carmarthenshire Historian*, Thomas (1868) *The History of Whitland*, and Price (1986) *The Pembroke and Tenby Railway* which discusses the railway extension to Whitland in terms of its industries. None of these sources mentions a brickworks at Whitland. However, this may be due to the relative lack of research undertaken on the local brick trade; studies of brick-making in Wales generally are scarce and none appear in http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/david_cufley/, a website containing an extensive bibliography of bricks and brick-making.

However, as the name 'Brickyard' appears to refer to a dwelling, it may refer to a much earlier, and short-lived brickworks/brickfield – possibly 18th century. Alternatively, the slight possibility exists that the name was given to the dwelling – which was built between 1839 and 1887 – by a retired brick manufacturer.

2.2 Conclusions and recommendations

2.2.1 Conclusions

The proposed development plot is now empty, apart from shed(s), and in itself contains no archaeological sites, features or structures. However two archaeological lie immediately beyond the plot -

- Elements associated with the cropmark enclosure (PRN 11782) may extend into the development plot. These may include extensions/annexes from the enclosure itself, other enclosures, associated trackways and possibly structures.
- There is some evidence to suggest that the site of the possible dwelling, 'Brickyard' (PRN 22716), may occupy the site of an early brickworks or brick-clay extraction field. However, the evidence is not good. The building itself is located 30m north of the development plot, while the extent of any suggested brickworks/brickfield is entirely unknown.

The area has no statutory archaeological conditions and is not included within the Cadw/ICOMOS register of Landscapes of Outstanding or Special Historic Interest in Wales.

2.2.2 Recommendations

These recommendations have been prepared following consultation with the Development Control Officer of Cambria Archaeology who provides archaeological advice to the local Planning Authority.

- The evidence for a brickworks or brickfield at PRN 22716 is highly equivocal and no recommendation can be made. However, it is likely that, even if clay extraction was undertaken, it did not extend into the development plot.
- Possible features associated with the cropmark enclosure may extend into the development plot. Therefore it is suggested that the archaeological monitoring, requested in a brief drawn up by Cambria Archaeology Heritage Management, dated 05/04/2002, be targeted to observe any such features - which may extend throughout the development plot. It may even be that dating evidence, and evidence to indicate the function of the enclosure, will be recovered.
The recommended monitoring is a refinement of that suggested in a specification supplied by Cambria Archaeology field Operations dated 17/04/2002. It will consist of **Stage 1** - Monitoring of the excavation of the trench for storm water storage. This trench will be excavated under archaeological supervision. Topsoil should first be stripped using a toothless ditching bucket and the resulting exposed subsoil surface examined for archaeological features and if necessary archaeologically cleaned and further examined. A sample of exposed archaeological features should be examined to determine their character and extent. Following this investigation the trench should be dug to its full depth, again under archaeological supervision, and all archaeological features recorded. Features containing deposits of environmental or technological significance will be sampled. It is essential that for sufficient time is allowed during machine excavation for the adequate examination and recording of archaeological features. Following Stage 1 it will be necessary for the archaeological advisor to the planning authority, the client and the archaeological contractor to review the results of the assessment and evaluation before agreeing on the necessity for any Stage 2 works.

Stage 2 - This is will be dependent on the findings of Stage 1. If limited archaeological deposits were revealed in Stage 1, then Stage 2 should consist of a watching brief during construction. If significant archaeological remains were discovered in Stage 1, then Stage 2 should consist of archaeological evaluation/excavation to ensure that the remains are properly recorded. However, if no archaeological deposits are revealed during Stage 1, then Stage 2 will be unnecessary.



Fig. 4: Copy of National Library of Wales, Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawings, 2" to the mile, Sheet 180, 1811-12

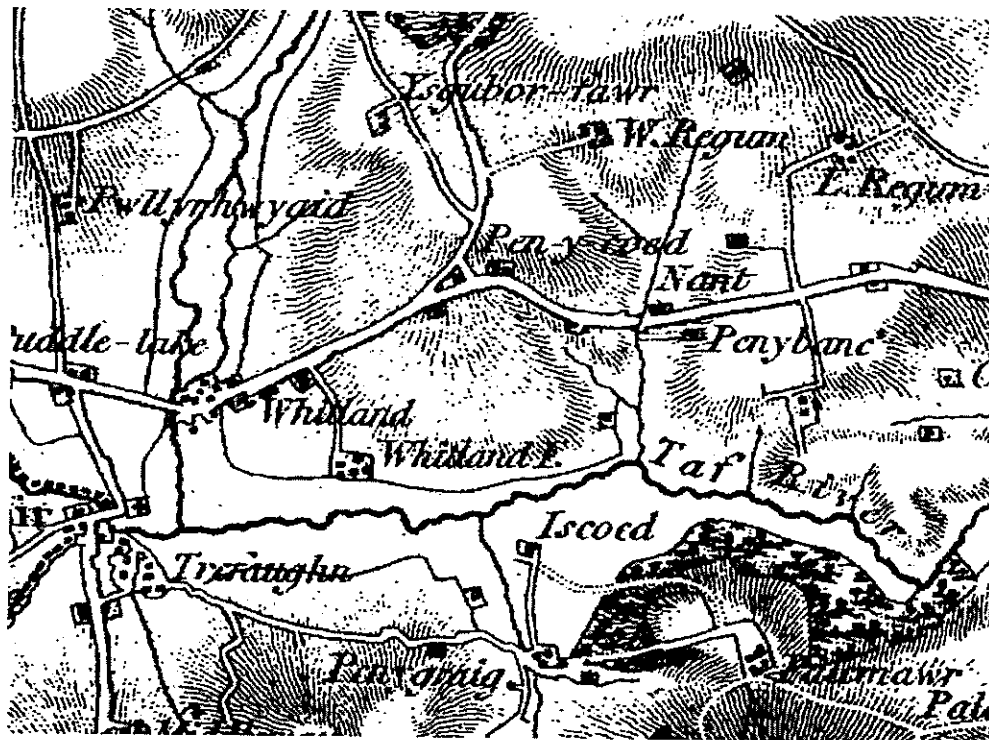


Fig. 5: Copy of Ordnance Survey 1" to the mile, Old Series, Sheet XL, 1819

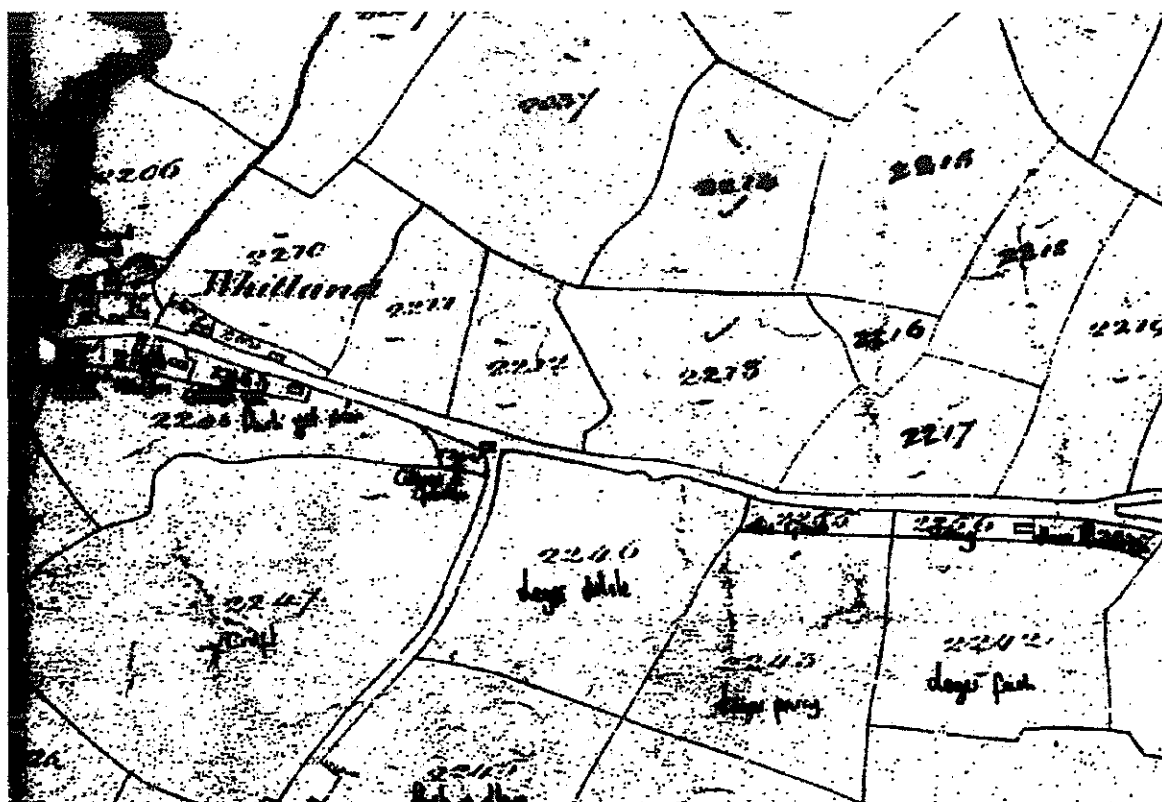


Fig. 6: Copy of National Library of Wales, Parish of Llanboidy Tithe Map, 1839

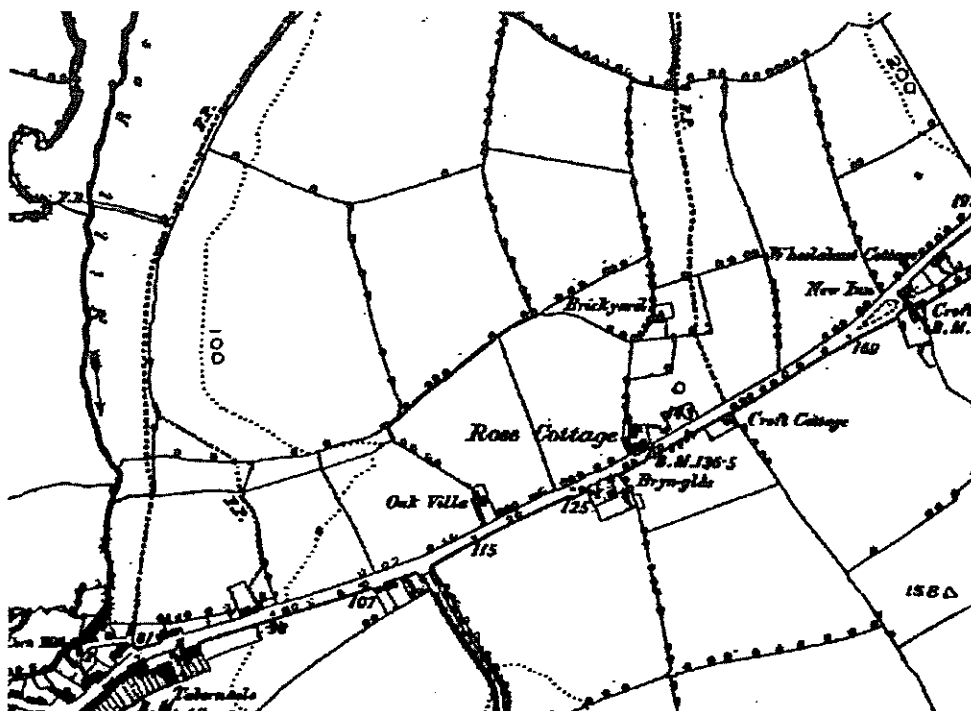


Fig. 7: Copy of Ordnance Survey, 1:10560, Carmarthenshire Sheet XXXVII.SW, First Edition, 1891

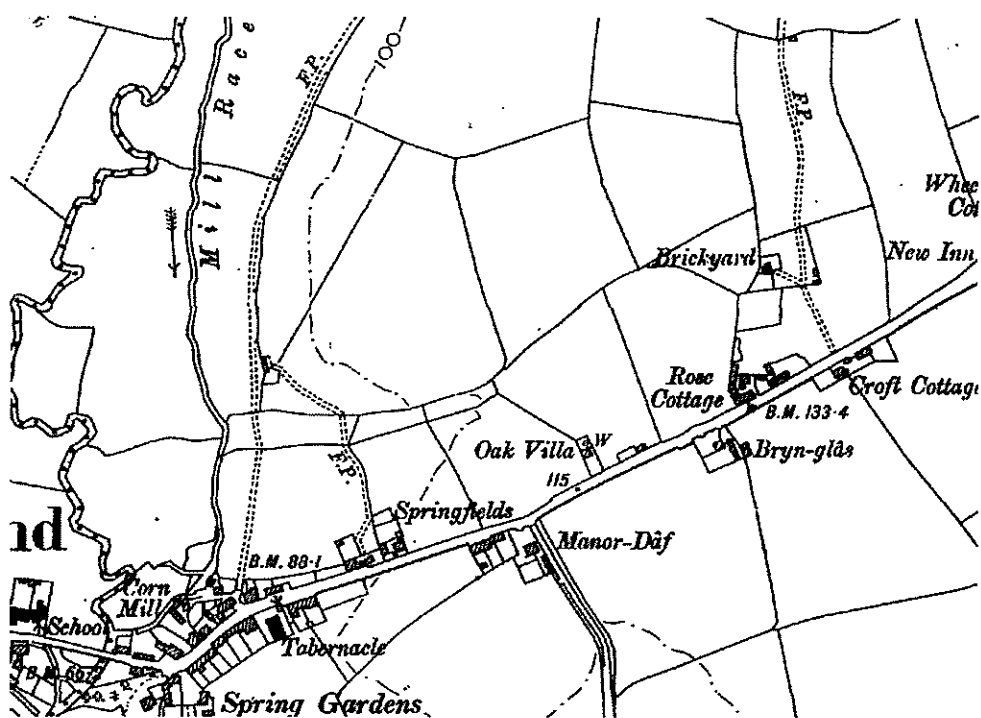


Fig. 8: Copy of Ordnance Survey, 1:10560, Carmarthenshire Sheet XXXVII.SW, Second Edition, 1908

2.3 Acknowledgements

This report was researched and written by Neil Ludlow of Cambria Archaeology. Acknowledgements to: colleagues at Cambria Archaeology, and the National Library of Wales for their assistance.

2.4 Archive deposition

The archive, indexed according to the National Monuments Record (NMR) material categories, will be deposited with the Sites and Monuments Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire, curated by Cambria Archaeology, Shire Hall, 8 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire. It contains the following:-

A.1. Copy of the final report
A.4. Disk copy of report

B.4. Field notebooks

D.1. Catalogue of site photographs
D.2. Colour slides
D.3. Mono prints and negs

G.1. Source documentation

I.4. Final report - manuscript
I.4. Final report - typescript
I.4. Final report - disk
I.4. Proofs

L.1. Project research design/specification
L.4. General admin.

M.1. Non-archaeological correspondence

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

2.5 List of sources consulted

Databases

Sites and Monuments Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire, curated by Cambria Archaeology, Shire Hall, 8 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire.

Websites

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/david_cufley/ (website containing a bibliography of bricks and brickmaking)

Manuscript maps

National Library of Wales, Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawings, 2" to the mile, Sheet 180, 1811-12.

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

Published maps

Ordnance Survey, 1" to the mile Old Series, Sheet XL, 1819.

Ordnance Survey, 1:10560, Carmarthenshire Sheet XXXVII SW, First Edition, 1891.

Ordnance Survey, 1:10560, Carmarthenshire Sheet XXXVII SW, Second Edition, 1908.

Aerial photographs

DAT AP-84-113.2 (SN2016), Cambria Archaeology, Shire Hall, 8 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire.

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This report has been prepared by Neil Ludlow

Position Project Manager

Signature Date 23/5/02

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

Position Deputy Director

Signature Date 23 05 02

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