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# Llwynpur W/12/2839

## Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



Report No. 2003/18

Report Prepared for:  
Countryside Council for Wales

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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Llwynpur  
W/12/2839  
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

By

William Steele

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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 System 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 time 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**

The farmstead of Llwynpur (PRN 47367) consists of 84 hectares of improved pasture on a hill flanking the Teifi Valley around one and a half kilometres to the south of the village of Maesycrugiau. The majority of the land holding consists of an irregular layout of medium sized fields on steeply sloping ground. Existing field boundaries are composed of hedges on stone revetted earthen banks, in various stages of being grown out, and barbed wire and netting fencing. The present field pattern retains elements of the layout shown on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map, although some field boundaries have been removed to create larger fields. Parkland providing the setting for Maesycrugiau Hall is a recent addition to Llwynpur and comprises three large land parcels totalling 22 hectares on level ground to the northeast of the farmstead. The extent of the parkland is defined by steep sided low stone revetted banks. Shelter belts survive as remnants of more extensive treeplanting, which would have given Maesycrugiau a feeling of woody seclusion and defined the parkland against the surrounding landscape from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

The Llanllwni parish tithe apportionment, shows that Llwynpur was made up of three separate holdings in 1841. David Francis Nicholls owned Llwynpur, which then formed the central block of the present holding with Cwmdu Mawr to the south of this. These holdings were occupied by John Davies and John Jones respectively. The parkland formed part of the Maesycrugiau Demesne at this time.

The earliest map evidence of Llwynpur farmstead is the 1831 Ordnance Survey Old Series map although its layout is shown more clearly on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map. The buildings are shown to be laid out around a central farmyard in a U-shaped arrangement with the house in the centre between a carhouse/ granary (PRN 47368) to the northeast and a cowshed (PRN 47369) to the southwest. The original layout shown on these early maps remains today, although additional buildings of breeze block and corrugated sheet box section construction have been added to the southwest and northeast of the original farmstead.

Llwynpur farmstead is rich in archaeology. Part of the Manchester to Milford railway (PRN 28222) bisects the western extent of the landholding, and comprises an important element of the historic industrial landscape. The field names "Caemaen sion" and "Cae carnau" on the 1841 tithe apportionment suggest much earlier prehistoric activity, whilst the earthworks of Castell Pyr (PRN 1830) to the west of the holding survives as a fine example of an Iron Age promontory hillfort.

## MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Field boundaries are an important element of the historic landscape and should be retained and managed in a sustainable manner.

### **PRN 25580 Park; Parkland to the north and east of Maesycrugiau.**

Existing parkland features should be retained. Surviving shelter belts and driveway avenues should be retained. The parkland boundary bank should be maintained and preserved. Tree planting should be avoided on the parkland boundary banks.

Any tree planting should be in keeping with existing landscape character and the historic parkland layout shown on the early Ordnance Survey maps.

### **PRN 1830 Hillfort; Castell Pyr**

The following recommendations are based on advice given by the CADW Field Monument Warden, Louise Mees, following a site visit in August 2000.

“Castell Pyr is a fine example of an Iron Age promontory hill fort. Unfortunately, the recent increase in vegetation over the site partially obscures the spectacular defensive banks and ditches. The spread of scrub vegetation over the defensive banks inevitably also leads to disturbance of underlying archaeological features and stratigraphy. At Castell Pyr the scrub growth has also resulted in severe shading of the ground surface. This has caused a loss of grass cover in places and some severe erosion.

#### **1) Interior.**

i) To west of road. The severe slope in the field has prevented ploughing and the pasture is well maintained and grazed by cattle. There is a good potential for the preservation of archaeological features here, such as hut circles, storage pits, iron-working remains etc. A big bale feeder remains in the field, presumably used for winter feeding. Several large patches of nettles may indicate former positions of the feeder. Due to the severe slope in the field it is impossible for the farmer to position the feeder outside of the scheduled area. However, care should be taken to move the feeder occasionally, to prevent erosion of the ground surface (this appears to have been practised). The interior should not be ploughed, farming practices should continue unchanged.

ii) To east of road. The pasture here appears to be well maintained and recently lightly grazed. A slight plough scar, at the base of the inner elevation of the inner defensive bank, suggests that the site has been ploughed in the past. The interior has not been ploughed within the past 6 years. Ploughing is now prohibited.

2) Inner Bank. The western elevation is completely overgrown with gorse. The photographs and report from the 1994 Field Monument Warden visit show some gorse, but mostly bracken, along this elevation. The gorse should be completely removed. The eastern elevation is grown over with small trees and an understorey of scrub. The ground surface is shaded out, resulting in a loss of grass cover and erosion at the southern end.

I would recommend that the understorey is removed, stumps poisoned and the area re-seeded if necessary. The trees should be left.

3) Inner Ditch. This is mostly in a good condition with good grass cover. There is some development of scrub at the southern end, which should be removed.

4) Outer defensive bank.

i) The western elevation is severely overgrown. The scrub should be cleared, stumps poisoned and the area re-seeded if necessary. The large trees should be left. Towards the northern end some oak and birch have become established. These should be thinned.

ii) Several mature oaks are growing at the northern end and they appear to be in a stable condition, with a healthy grass cover under. At the southern end there is more scrub with some bare earth exposed. The scrub should be removed leaving the oaks and larger hawthorns. Re-seed if necessary.

5) External Ditch. The most serious area of erosion on the site has occurred under the scrub growing on the outer slope of the ditch, at the southern end. The scrub should be removed and the area re-seeded. The remainder of the ditch is in a good condition with good grass cover.

6) A stock-proof fence runs along the eastern side of the site. The fort appears to be grazed as part of the field to the east. Stock can be excluded by closing the gate on the north. The site is grazed sensitively. This regime will be useful for allowing the regeneration of grass when scrub has been cut and removed.

The work as Castell Pyr should be undertaken when conditions are dry – to prevent damage to the ground surface. Scrub should be cut at ground level leaving roots in-situ. There should be no breaking of the ground surface. All debris should be removed from the site. Subsequent management of the site will be required to maintain a good grass cover and prevent the regeneration of weeds and scrub. This should include sympathetic grazing by sheep and cattle and the mechanical cutting of vegetation on the interior, banks and ditches" (Louise Mees, August 2000).

The condition of the monument was much the same as that recorded following the August 2000 visit and this management recommendation is still applicable.

The circular bale feeder was not present during the most recent farm visit. Any future use of the feeder at this location should follow the management recommendations outlined above.

The landowner has recently cleared much of the heavy gorse growth on the western elevation of the inner bank. This, followed up by sympathetic grazing should help to re-establish grass cover.

The aim of the management should be to create a good grass cover over the site with no erosion or breaking of the ground surface.

The landowner has expressed an interest in providing public access to the hillfort. Cambria Archaeology would be grateful for details of any proposed car parking arrangements in order to assess the implications to any sub-surface archaeological deposits.

## GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN	25580	Site Name	LLWYNPUR	Grid Reference	SN47854067
Site Type	PARK	Period	Post Medieval	Site status	PGW(Dy)3(CAM)

### Description

The parkland area comprises the three most northerly land parcels of the holding, to the north and west of Maesycrugiau Manor. It is first shown on the 1842 Llanllwni Parish tithe map, although its extent and details are more clearly outlined on the 1891 and 1906 Ordnance Survey maps where it is characterised by tree rings and scattered parkland trees. Narrow shelterbelts are shown to line the north and eastern limits of the parkland, whilst a narrow strip of woodland, "Allt Maesycrugiau" is shown to border the southeast and southwestern extent. Anavenued western drive appears to have been part of the original parkland layout, whilst a northern drive was built sometime around 1904. These characteristics would have given Maesycrugiau a feel of woody seclusion and defined the parkland against its surrounding landscape. This parkland layout persisted on the 1964 Ordnance Survey map.

The parkland fields are presently improved pasture and no traces of the tree rings or specimen parkland trees survive. A shelter belt to the north of the manor survives, although the woodland "Allt Maesycrugiau" to the south has been removed. A shelter belt in the southwest also survives. The three land parcels are defined by a low, steep sided, stone revetted bank which can still be traced around much of the extent, although it is in various phases of being grown out.

### Recommendations

Existing parkland features should be retained. Surviving shelter belts and driveway avenues should be retained. The parkland boundary bank should be maintained and preserved. Tree planting should be avoided on the parkland boundary banks. Any tree planting should be in keeping with existing landscape character and the historic parkland layout shown on the early Ordnance Survey maps.

**Site Category** C

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Plate 1- The parkland at Maesycrugiau looking north (PRN 25580)



Plate 2- Part of the parkland boundary bank (PRN 25580)



<b>PRN</b>	47364	<b>Site Name</b>	LLWYNPUR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN47864071
<b>Site Type</b>	STANDING STONE?	<b>Period</b>	Bronze Age?, Post Medieval?		

#### **Description**

“Stone” shown on Ordnance Survey maps from 1891 to 1964, 40 metres to the west of the northern drive at Maesycrugiau. The historical significance of the stone is not known. It is not known whether it is an Edwardian parkland feature put in place during the landscape planning of the 1840s, or whether it was of a much earlier prehistoric date. The stone is no longer visible at this location.

#### **Recommendations**

Although there are no visible traces of a standing stone at this location, there may be archaeological deposits surviving below ground level. Please consult Cambria Archaeology if any ground intrusive works are to be undertaken in this area.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	47362	<b>Site Name</b>	LLWYNPUR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN47743999
<b>Site Type</b>	COTTAGE	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval		

#### **Description**

The fieldname “Caerodyn and cottage” is shown on the 1841 tithe apportionment. This field has since been cultivated and no evidence of a cottage or enclosure could be identified. A substantial stone revetted field bank survives and may have defined the northern extent of the enclosure. Some large masonry blocks survive in the hedgerow. “Caerodyn” suggests the presence of a limekiln. No traces of a limekiln were visible.

#### **Recommendations**

Although there are no visible remains of this cottage surviving, there may be archaeological deposits surviving below ground level. Please consult Cambria Archaeology if any ground intrusive works are to be undertaken in this area.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	5390	<b>Site Name</b>	LLYNPUR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN47673985
<b>Site Type</b>	STANDING STONE?	<b>Period</b>	BRONZE AGE		

#### **Description**

The fieldname "Cae maension" shown on the 1841 tithe apportionment indicates a standing stone. However, there were no traces of a standing stone at this location.

#### **Recommendations**

Although there are no visible traces of a standing stone, there may be archaeological deposits surviving below ground level. Please consult Cambria Archaeology if any ground intrusive works are to be undertaken in this area.

**Site Category** C

<b>PRN</b>	47363	<b>Site Name</b>	LLYNPUR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN47603993
<b>Site Type</b>	ROUND BARROW?	<b>Period</b>	BRONZE AGE; IRON AGE		

#### **Description**

The fieldname "Cae carnau" is shown on the 1841 tithe apportionment and implies the presence of a possible burial mound or barrow. The field has since been cultivated and no evidence of a burial mound could be identified.

#### **Recommendations**

Although there are no visible traces of a burial mound, there may be archaeological deposits surviving below ground level. Please consult Cambria Archaeology if any ground intrusive works are to be undertaken in this area.

**Site Category** C

<b>PRN</b>	47365	<b>Site Name</b>	LLWYNPUR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN47744035
<b>Site Type</b>	QUARRY	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval		

### **Description**

The quarry first appears on the 1906 Ordnance Survey map and is still visible today. It is accessed by a trackway running NE/SW alongside the lower field boundary of "Allt Maesycrugiau". It appears to have been used recently.

### **Recommendations**

The quarry should not be infilled. Spoil tips should not be removed.

**Site Category** C

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Plate 3- the quarry (PRN 47365) to the south of Maesycrugiau Hall

<b>PRN</b>	18179	<b>Site Name</b>	LLWYNPUR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN47404019
<b>Site Type</b>	GRAVEL PIT	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval		

**Description**

The gravel pit, first shown on the 1906 Ordnance Survey map is still visible today as a scar in the hillside.

**Recommendations**

The gravel pit should be maintained as a visible historic landscape feature. It should not be infilled. Spoil tips should not be removed.

**Site Category** C

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Plate 4- the gravel pit to the southeast of Llwynpur Farmstead (PRN 18179)

<b>PRN</b>	28222	<b>Site Name</b>	LLWYNPUR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN47404019
<b>Site Type</b>	RAILWAY	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval		

### **Description**

“The railway line from Pencader Junction north to Lampeter was opened by the infamous Manchester to Milford Railway Co. on 1 June 1886 with a station at Llanybyther. The company’s ambitious plan was for a railway link between Manchester and the new deep water port at Milford Haven via Crewe, Mid Wales and Carmarthen; however when the company went into liquidation in 1880 the line extended no further north than Aberystwyth. The company continued operations under the control of the receiver, running 4 trains daily between Pencader and Aberystwyth, until it was absorbed into the GWR network in 1906. The line ceased carrying passenger traffic in 1965; however freight services continued until 28 September 1973 when the entire line was finally closed.” (Ludlow 1994)

A 300-metre railway cutting is still visible at the eastern extent of the holding following the line of the road. Although within an area of mature woodland, the banks are still visible and survive in a stable condition. An additional 100-metre length of disused railway to the north of the farmstead is still shown on recent map sources. This was not viewed during the farm visit.

### **Recommendations**

The Manchester to Milford Railway is an important element of the historic industrial landscape and should be preserved. Any surviving earthwork remains should not be subjected to any ground intrusive activity, and should not be used as a location for feeding livestock.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	47368	<b>Site Name</b>	LLWYNPUR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN47294029
<b>Site Type</b>	COMBINATION FARM BUILDING	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval		

### Description

This two-storey carthouse, granary building is situated immediately to the northeast of the farm house and is aligned northeast to southwest along its long axis. It is constructed of uncoursed stone with a pitched slate roof. The southwest elevation has a northwest entrance with a brick arch, a southeast entrance with a shallow arched brick voussoir, and a central entrance with a modern sliding door. The ground floor has a window with a brick arch to the northwest, whilst the upper floor has windows with brick arches at either end. An upper storey loading door is visible in the south east gable wall.

A modern cowshed has been built against the rear of the building and detailed examination of the northeast elevation was not possible. The building, which is likely to be of a nineteenth century date, is currently in good condition.

### Recommendations

The building should continue to be maintained in a stable condition using traditional materials.

**Site Category** C



Plate 5- the carthouse; granary (PRN 47368) to the northeast of the farmhouse



PRN	47369	Site Name	LLWYNPUR	Grid Reference	SN47274027
Site Type	COWSHED	Period	Post Medieval		

### Description

This single storey building is aligned northeast to southwest along its long axis. It is constructed of uncoursed rubble with a pitched slate roof. A garage has been built against the southeast end of the northeast elevation. Three evenly spaced windows with brick arches are visible in the northwest end of this elevation and appear to have been created by blocking up the lower half of the original doorways. A large building of breeze block and corrugated sheet box section construction has been built against the southwest lateral wall and further assessment of the character of this building was not possible. The building, which is likely to be of a nineteenth century date, is currently in good condition.

### Recommendations

The building should continue to be maintained in a stable condition using traditional materials.

Site Category C



Plate 6- the northeastern elevation of the cowshed (PRN 47369)

<b>PRN</b>	1830	<b>Site Name</b>	LLWYNPUR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN46944001
<b>Site Type</b>	HILLFORT	<b>Period</b>	Iron Age	<b>Site Status</b>	SAM (Cm 081)

### **Description**

Castell Pyr hillfort occupies a westward-facing promontory overlooking the confluence of the Nant- Cwm-du and the Teifi. The steepest slopes are those to the Teifi to the north where there are no obvious defences although the road and later boundaries might have altered or destroyed any that survived. The area to the west of the road appears to have been levelled in the past and nothing remains apart from the steep, south-west facing scarp above the Nant Cwm-du.

To the east of the road, the remains are much more substantial. An inner bank, about 2 metres, follows the line of the scarp and may indicate an original enclosure. Running parallel to it to the east is a much larger outer bank, 3-4 metres high, which appears to have been built predominantly from material excavated from a substantial outer ditch. The effect of this ditch is increased as the outer edge is built into the slope of the hill. Both banks stop short of the scarp at the northern end. There are traces of a north-facing scarp running eastwards away from the site. It is suggested that an entrance trackway lay at this point. The southern half of the eastern defences is heavily overgrown with tress and scrub and belongs to Castell Pyr cottage. It lies outside of the application area.

The area to the west of the road is currently well maintained under a stable grass sward and is grazed by cattle. Some areas of concern have, however been identified around the eastern defences and a programme of targeted scrub control is necessary if the monument is to be maintained in a stable condition necessary for its long term survival.

Hillforts are generally recorded as having being constructed in the Iron Age (circa 600 BC - 100AD) but scientific dating of some archaeologically excavated sites has indicated that they may have their origins in the Bronze Age (c2000 - 500BC). Hillforts are usually viewed as defensive structures built with the intention of defending and securing property. They are also locations for dwellings that were used on a seasonal or permanent basis. Sites such as these may have been used over very long periods of time and, therefore, were probably put to many different uses.

### **Recommendations**

The following recommendations are based on advice given by the CADW Field Monument Warden, Louise Mees, following a site visit in August 2000.

“Castell Pyr is a fine example of an Iron Age promontory hill fort. Unfortunately, the recent increase in vegetation over the site partially obscures the spectacular defensive banks and ditches. The spread of scrub vegetation over the defensive banks inevitably also leads to disturbance of underlying archaeological features and stratigraphy. At Castell Pyr the scrub growth has also resulted in severe shading of the ground surface. This has caused a loss of grass cover in places and some severe erosion.

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2) Inner Bank. The western elevation is completely overgrown with gorse. The photographs and report from the 1994 Field Monument Warden visit show some gorse, but mostly bracken, along this elevation. The gorse should be completely removed. The eastern elevation is grown over with small trees and an understorey of scrub. The ground surface is shaded out, resulting in a loss of grass cover and erosion at the southern end. I would recommend that the understorey is removed, stumps poisoned and the area re-seeded if necessary. The trees should be left.

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management of the site will be required to maintain a good grass cover and prevent the regeneration of weeds and scrub. This should include sympathetic grazing by sheep and cattle and the mechanical cutting of vegetation on the interior, banks and ditches" (Louise Mees, August 2000).

The condition of the monument was much the same as that recorded above following the visit in August 2000 and this management recommendation is still applicable.

The circular bale feeder was not present during the most recent farm visit. Any future use of the feeder at this location should follow the management recommendations outlined above.

The landowner has recently cleared much of the heavy gorse growth on the western elevation of the inner bank. This, followed up by sympathetic grazing should help to re-establish grass cover. The aim of the management should be to create a good grass cover over the site with no erosion or breaking of the ground surface.

The landowner has expressed an interest in providing public access to the hillfort. Cambria Archaeology would be grateful for details of any proposed car parking arrangements in order to assess the implications to any sub-surface archaeological deposits.

#### **Site Category    A**

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Plate 7- the interior ditch of Castell Pyr looking north showing heavy scrub growth on the western elevation of the outer defensive bank.





Plate 8- The external ditch of Castell Pyr looking north, showing mature trees on the eastern elevation of the outer defensive bank.



Plate 9- south facing view of the external ditch, showing scrub growth on the outer slope and eastern elevation of the outer defensive bank.



Plate 10- Castell Pyr from the west looking towards the inner and outer defensive bank



## 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.

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- Ordnance Survey 1906 Carmarthenshire. Sheet XV N.W.
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- Tithe Apportionment 1841 Llanllwni Parish
- Tithe Map 1842 Llanllwni Parish


## Llwynpur


Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation  
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/12/2839  
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN45633  
 National Grid Reference SN47274031

 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

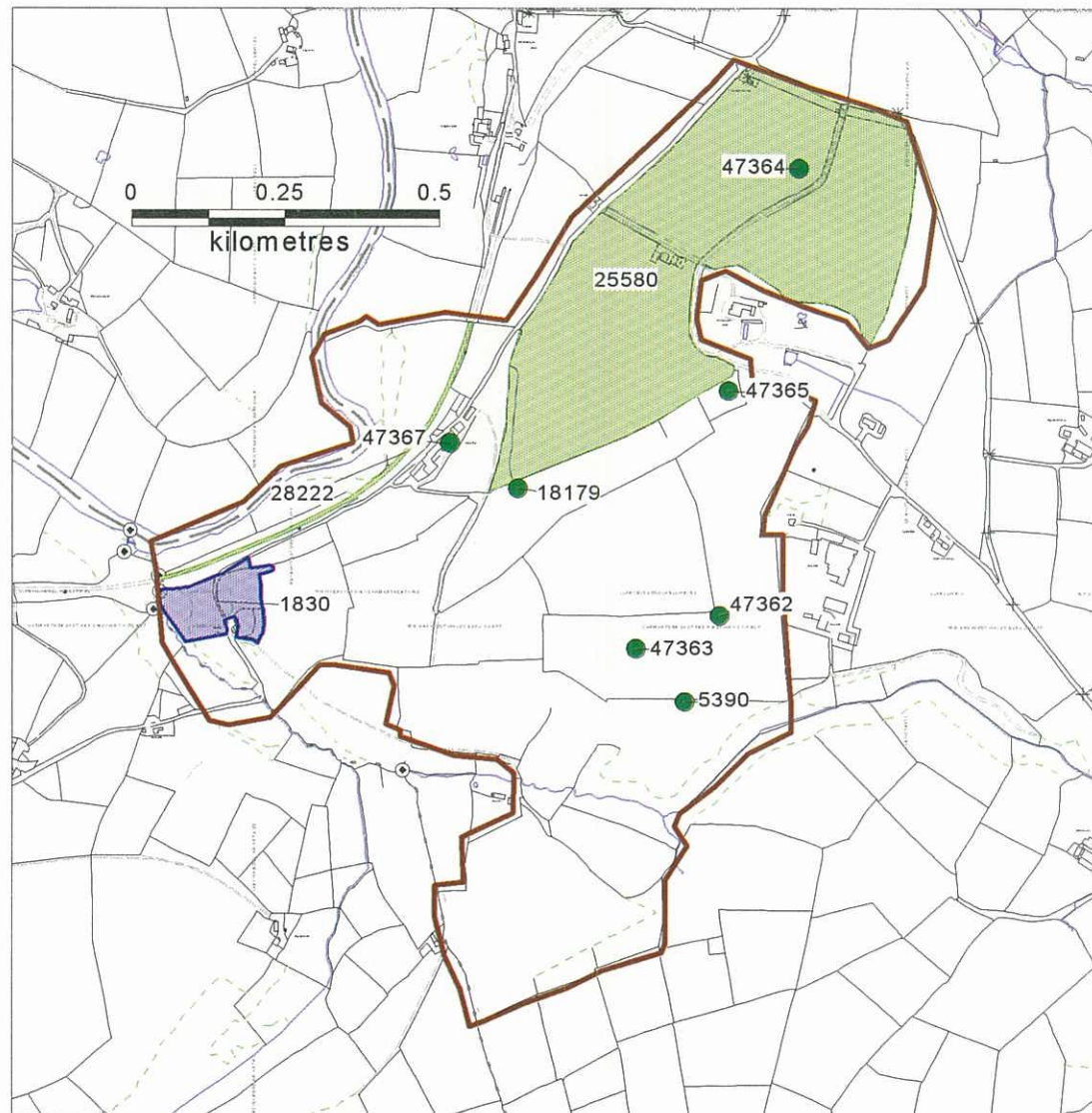
### Site Category C - Local Importance

 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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**Llwynpur  
W/12/2839**

**REPORT NUMBER 2003/18**

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This report has been prepared by William Steele.

Position: Archaeologist (Tir Gofal)

Signature W Steele Date 11/3/2003

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

Position: Principal Archaeologist (Curatorial)

Signature Louise Austin Date 18/03/03

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