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**TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN:
HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION
(Call Out Report)**

**Prepared for:
Llanfair**

**Tir Gofal Reference No:
W/11/377**

**Report Number: 2005/53
Project Record Number: 45910**

**Prepared by
Alice Pyper**

Call Out Visit

An archaeological farm visit was undertaken to Llanfair farm on the 22 March 2005. A site meeting was arranged to discuss the progress of an archaeological excavation of the earthwork enclosure site (PRN 11818). The excavation forms part of a doctoral research project by Jemma Bezant, a student of Lampeter University. The meeting was attended by; Jemma Bezant (Lampeter University), Ken Murphy (Cambria Archaeology), Heather Scott (Countryside Council for Wales) and Alice Pyper (Cambria Archaeology).

Llanfair Enclosure PRN 11818

The site currently under investigation is recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record held by Cambria Archaeology with the identification number PRN 11818. It was first recorded in 1984 through aerial reconnaissance by TA James of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust (now Cambria Archaeology). It was noted that the earthworks of a sub-circular defended enclosure lay in the Teifi valley 100 metres west of Llanfair farm (James 1984, 23) and it had been ascribed a possible Iron Age or Roman date (600BC – 410AD).

The site has recently been included in the desk-top assessment of Prehistoric Defended Enclosures in Southwest Wales, a project which aims, over the next 3 years to visit each site of this type to assess classification and significance (Murphy 2004, 1).

Following documentary research Jemma Bezant has suggested in her Research Project Design that there maybe Medieval activity associated with the Llanfair estate and has undertaken a geophysical survey of the site in order to clarify the nature of the archaeological deposits (Bezant 2005a). The results of the survey have been outlined in her Project Design and indicate that the site has a number of phases. Intriguingly there appears to be a feature, possibly a building, at the centre of the enclosure. In the light of these survey results a series of excavated trial trenches were proposed.

The site also lies within parkland forming the visual setting for the mansion of Llanfair. The current parkland extends to the south and west of the mansion, but it is clear that parkland at one time also extended into the field to the northwest of the mansion.



A view of the enclosure PRN 11818 looking northwest showing two excavation trenches

Site Visit

At the time of the site visit there were two trenches open on the site, one sited across the centre of the enclosure, where a rectangular feature had been identified from the geophysical survey (Trench 2). A further trench was located across one of the banks in the southwestern quadrant of the enclosure (Trench 3). Another trench positioned across an outer ditch had already been excavated, backfilled and the turf reinstated (Trench 1).

The two open trenches (Trenches 2 and 3) were in the early stages of excavation. Deturfing of the central trench had revealed post medieval slate roof tiles and a stony deposit, but no *in situ* structural elements had been revealed. The trench through the enclosure bank (Trench 3) had also not yet exposed the full makeup and nature of the bank construction.

Photographs and descriptions from Jemma Bezant of the earlier trench (Trench 1) through the outer ditch had given a convincing section through a deep, almost vertical sided narrow ditch, which suggested a foundation trench for a palisade.

The nature of the archaeology had yet to be clarified at the time of the site visit, however undoubtedly there is much to be learnt about this site through both careful excavation, topographical survey and researching documentary sources.

Aerial photographs of the site have also indicated that other structures lie within the field to the north of the enclosure. It is hoped that as part of the research currently in progress, including further geophysical survey, the character and extent of any archaeology in this field will be illuminated.

Recommendations

Further work is currently being proposed; including two new trenches and extensions to those which are all ready open (Bezant, 2005b). Whilst Cambria Archaeology is fully supportive of the investigation and research of this landscape and in particular the enclosure PRN 11818, there does need to be assurances that the current excavation will not compromise the survival of archaeological deposits for further investigation in the future. While the proposed sampling of the enclosure ditches will add a great deal to our understanding of the enclosure at little expense of the material remains, there is the possibility that by extending the central trench (Trench 2) that the structure at the centre of the enclosure would be completely excavated. Therefore Cambria Archaeology would wish to have more specific detail regarding the extent of this central trench and the proposed sampling method of this structure.

Inevitably the results of on-going work at Llanfair will have implications for the future management of the site, particularly in view of the fact that the Tir Gofal agreement for the farm soon reaches the five year break clause where a review and further negotiation of farm management will be undertaken. Therefore it is recommended that the following steps are taken;

- The results of the current excavation and further research on the site should be deposited with the regional Sites and Monuments Record at Cambria Archaeology as stated in the Project Design.
- The results from further assessment and evaluation of those features which lie within the field to the north of the enclosure are considered as part of the 5 year review of the Tir Gofal management agreement. It may also be appropriate that this area is reclassified as parkland.
- That any further opening up of areas of excavation, either on the enclosure PRN 11818, or on other features within the farm are carried out in consultation with both the Countryside Council for Wales and Cambria Archaeology at the project planning stage.
- That all of the excavated areas are reinstated to their former condition. The previously excavated trench has re-established well and is not easily identified from the surrounding parkland landscape.

REFERENCES

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