

Archaeolog Cambria  
Neuadd y Sir  
Stryd Caerfyrddin  
Llandeilo  
Sir Gaerfyrddin  
SA19 6AF

Ffon 01558 823131  
Ffacs 01558 823133  
Eboost: cambria@acadat.com

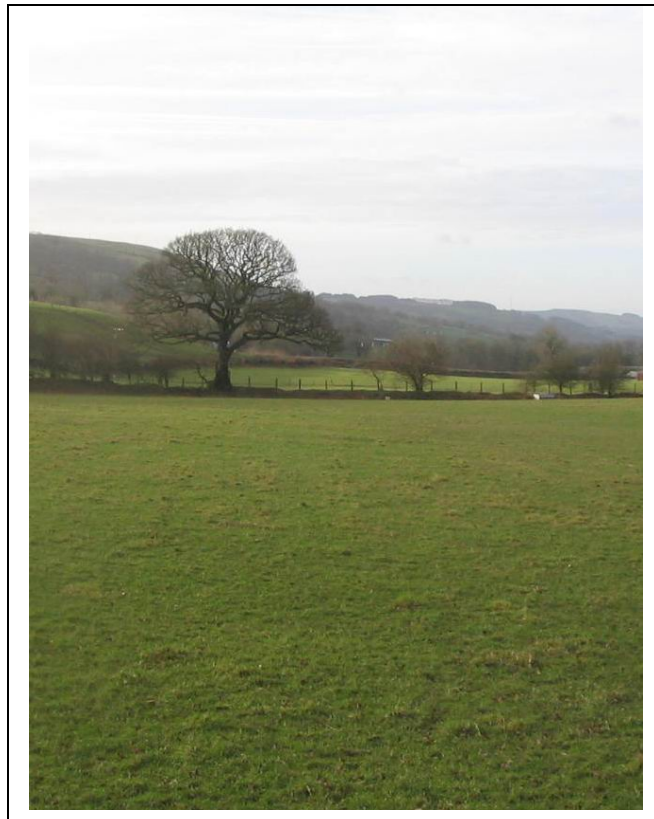


Cambria Archaeology  
The Shire Hall  
Carmarthen Street  
Llandeilo  
Carmarthenshire  
SA19 6AF

Telephone 01558 823131  
Fax 01558 823133  
Email: cambria@acadat.com

## **TIR GOFAL HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT: CALL OUT VISIT**

Prepared for:  
**Llanfair-fawr**  
W/11/4634



Prepared by  
**Will Steele**

Report No. 2005/11  
Project No. 49534

## **Call Out Visit**

A farm visit was undertaken at the request of the Countryside Council for Wales to comment on the impact of an arable rotation on the Roman road which passes through several low lying fields at Llanfair-fawr home farm. Information gathered is used to outline management recommendations to be incorporated into the Tir Gofal Management Plan.

The Call Out Report responds to management concerns regarding specific sites, it does not provide management advice for all known sites on the farm. For these recommendations please refer to the Historic Environment Report 1 (He1).



The line of the Roman road. No obvious earthwork traces survive.

## Assessment Of The Site

The area in question comprises seven flat low lying fields on a terrace above the flood plain of the Afon Teifi.

The road (PRN 51950) appears as a 500m long cropmark in four fields in the north of the farm. Proceeding south the route is less distinct. A projected southsouthwest line, linking with a southwest aligned cropmark at Pentre continues south towards Carmarthen. There is a popular belief that a second route diverges to the southeast to following the line of an unclassified road, before crossing the Nant Clywedog and eventually joining the Sarn Helen. Locals remember the road showing as a parchmark during haymaking in the dry summer of 1976.

No obvious earthwork traces of the road were identified during the farm visit. These fields have a history of cultivation with cereals, fodder crops (sweed, fodder beat) and ley pasture grown in rotation.

Earthwork remains of the road have been planed flat and buried remains have undoubtedly been disturbed and damaged. It is likely that undisturbed archaeological deposits lie beneath the maximum depth of cultivation however.



Vegetation changes may mark the course of the road in the north of the holding.

## **Discussion**

The ideal management option is to remove these fields from cultivation. This is the only means of preventing further cultivation damage and degradation of remains in the ploughsoil. Following consultation with the landowner it was decided that this option is unacceptable given his present farming needs.

The compromise of continued cultivation without increasing plough depth is acceptable in this instance. The risk of continued degradation of archaeological deposits is low as the fields are flat. Thinning of ploughsoil and increasing cultivation of sub-soil is unlikely to be a significant threat.

## **Proposals**

It is proposed that cultivation will continue within these fields under arable options offered within the Tir Gofal scheme. Oats, swedes and ley pasture will be grown in rotation.

Establishment methods for these crops will be similar to those used previously and the depth of cultivation will not increase. The swede is intended as a fodder crop and will not be harvested. Sub-soiling will not be undertaken.

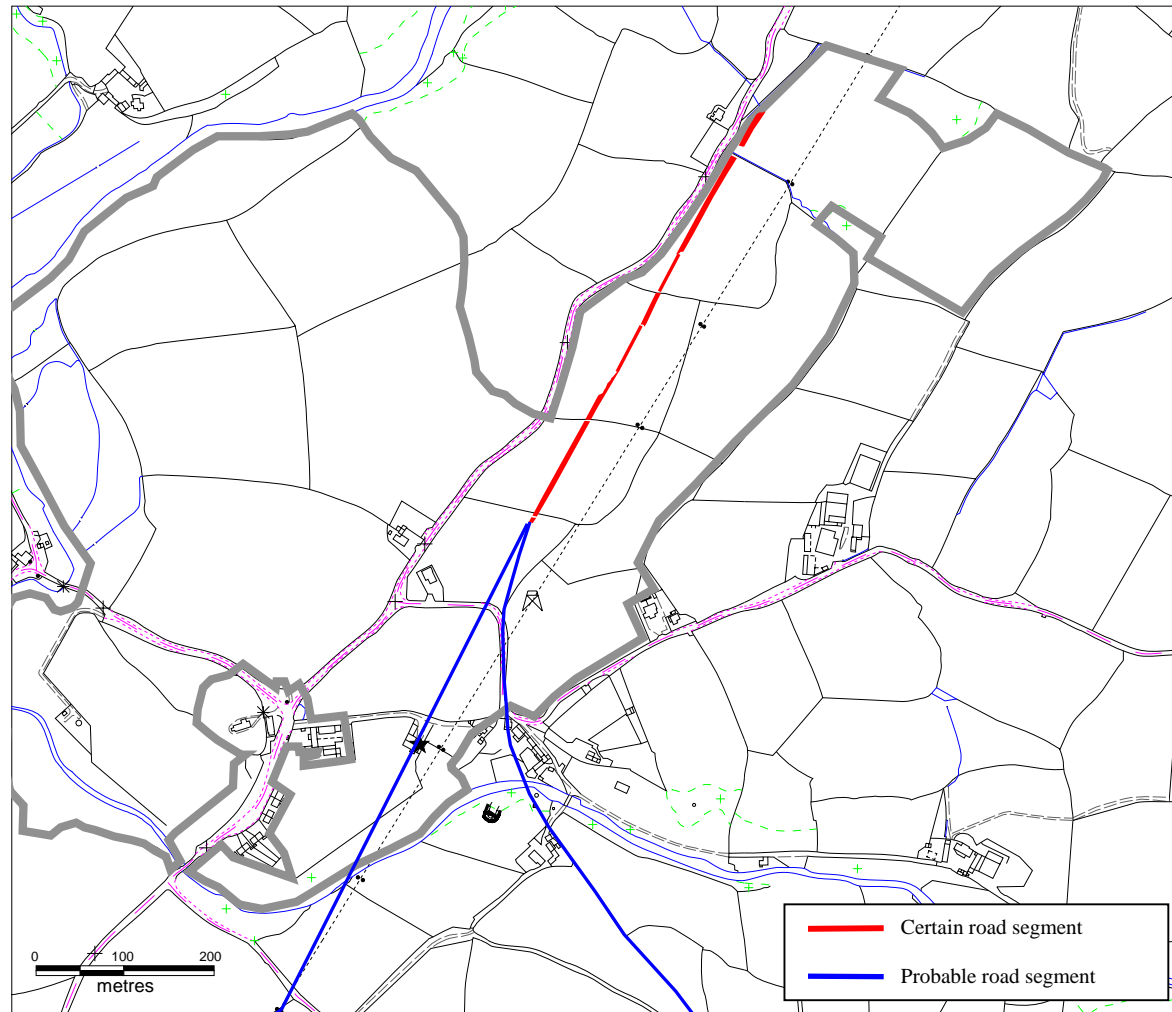
Generic management prescriptions also apply. Please refer to the Historic Environment Report 1 (He1).

**Sources Consulted**

James, H, 1991 The Roman roads of Carmarthenshire, in *Sir Gar: Studies in Carmarthenshire History*. Carmarthenshire Antiquary Society Monograph Series vol 4, 53-77

Schlee, D, 2005 Roman Military Roads, Forts and Vici in Southwest Wales Project 2005. Report prepared by Cambria Archaeology for Cadw.

## The Roman road at Llanfair-fawr



This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by the National Assembly for Wales with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence number: GD272825G