

# **Great Canaston MPP 21**

## **Historic Environment Report**



Report No. 2003/136

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Forestry Commission

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2003/136  
PROJECT RECORD NO. 49979

Great Canaston  
Historic Environment Report

By

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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 at the time they were visited by Cambria Archaeology. These recommendations will be used to inform the management plan.

### **Method Statement**

The 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 area and the wider landscape and to identify new sites of archaeological interest. The searches include information held in the regional Sites and Monuments Record. 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 field visit to assess the extent, character and current condition of the archaeological and historical sites identified during the research phase. Recording is rapid and consists of photographs and sites notes. The information gained during the visit has been used to determine their management recommendations.

## **GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

Great Canaston Farm lies within Slebech community in Pembrokeshire with parcels of woodland on the farm scattered to the east and west of the farm. An archaeological site visit was undertaken by Cambria Archaeology on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2003 on those woodland parcels marked 1a/b and 7a on the attached map.

The farm lies on the edge of the Historic Landscape Character Area for Canaston and Minwere Woods (330). Historic Landscape Character Areas identify distinctive characteristics of the historic landscape in order to help those involved in land management to make informed decisions. The area of Canaston and Minwere Woods is distinctive for the large amounts of deciduous woodland which cover the lower valley sides and hills around the Eastern Cleddau.

There are several parcels which fall within the application area for Great Canaston Farm. Although no recorded archaeology was located within any of the application areas a visit was required in order to investigate some potential earthworks in the woodland parcel 1a and 1b, called Atheston Wood and a further parcel (7a) which lies in close proximity to Blackpool Mill.

### **Compartments 1a and 1b - Atheston Wood**

This area is shown on the Robeston Wathen tithe map (1845) as divided into four blocks. These land divisions are still marked on the current Ordnance Survey mapping although in reality this area is now one large block of woodland. The wood appears to have been unmanaged for some time and the interior is covered with a large amount of bramble understorey making access difficult.

The tithe map of (1845) and its accompanying apportionment (1843) record the name and state of cultivation for each land parcel. The largest enclosure to the north is named as 'Woods'; also describing its landuse. To the southeast the parcel is identified as 'Woodside' and identified as pasture, the two southern blocks are named 'Moor' and their status is described as moory pasture. There are two historic features which have been identified; a clay pit Prn 50028 and a relic boundary bank Prn 50029, which are described in the following gazetteer with specific management recommendations appended.

### **Compartment 7a**

This stretch of woodland which lines the north side of the road to Blackpool Mill also has evidence of previous boundary banks. The tithe map of 1843 records this area as pasture; it is not until the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 that it is recorded as woodland.

At the southwestern end of the woodland is an L-shaped bank, approximately 1 metre high and 2 metres wide at the base. This may be a relic trackway leading downslope to the watercourse. A further boundary bank which appears to have formed the southwestern extent of the woodland on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map is also visible cutting across the woodland from the roadside to the watercourse. This continues to the northeast, lining the edge of the watercourse.

## **MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

The woodlands visited retain substantial evidence of earlier boundaries; usually these have been superseded by modern fencing or have become completely redundant. Indeed in compartment 7a these are clearly visible around the edges of the woodland and divisions shown on the tithe map and the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map still survive within the wood itself. These boundary banks will be particularly susceptible to damage from machinery and care should be taken to avoid tracking over banks; existing access points should be used where possible.

## GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

<b>PRN</b>	<b>50028</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Grid Reference</b>	<b>SN07621465</b>
<b>Site Type</b>	<b>CLAY PIT</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Post</b>	<b>Medieval</b>

### Description

The clay pit lies just beyond the post and wire fencing which now encloses the enlarged area of Atheston Wood. The site is now quite densely grown over and apparently occupied by badgers. However, an extraction pit still seems to survive.

### Recommendations

Retain as a historic landscape feature.

**Site Category** C



Prn 50028 – the earthwork remains of a clay extraction pit survive just beyond the modern fence line.

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<b>PRN</b>	<b>50029</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>ATHESTON WOOD</b>	<b>Grid Reference</b>	<b>SN07551476; SN07471482; SN07651459</b>
<b>Site Type</b>	<b>BOUNDARY BANK</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Post Medieval</b>		

### **Description**

The current boundary of the woodland is wooden posts with a double strand of barbed wire. However on the southwestern edge, below the current field boundary is what appears to be the earlier boundary. A substantial earth bank with large regularly spaced oaks survives along the southwestern edge of the wood, running parallel with the current boundary but sometimes diverging from it. This boundary extends around the northwestern edge of the woodland and probably extends around the whole parcel. At the southern end the bank is wider and flatter, approximately 3.5 metres wide at the base and 0.5 m high on the up slope (southwest) and 1.2 m on the downslope, here the oaks appear to be spaced between every 5-6 metres. Towards the north end of the wood the boundary appears to be more pronounced, commonly over 1 metre high with almost vertical sides.

The boundary banks which are still evident on the ground today are recorded on the tithe survey of 1843, however they may be much older. Indeed the field pattern of this area is probably derived from the medieval system of strip fields which is particularly evident to the north of Little Canaston Farm.

### **Recommendations**

The management of this area of woodland should take care to retain the evidence of previous boundaries. These are clearly visible on the edges of the woodland and previous divisions shown on the tithe map and the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map may still survive within the wood itself. These boundary banks will be particularly susceptible to damage from machinery and care should be taken to avoid tracking over banks, existing access points should be used where possible.

**Site Category** C



Prn 50029 – a large earthwork bank appears to be the former woodland boundary, lying within the line of the modern fence.

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## **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.

## **REFERENCES**

Ordnance Survey 1891 Pembrokeshire XXIX.NW


Ordnance Survey 1907 Pembrokeshire XXIX.NW


Tithe Map and Apportionment of Robeston Wathen Parish 1845

Great Canaston  
 Historic Environment Consultation  
 Reference MPP 21  
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN 49979  
 National Grid Reference SN06931477


Boundary

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


Site Category B - Regional Importance

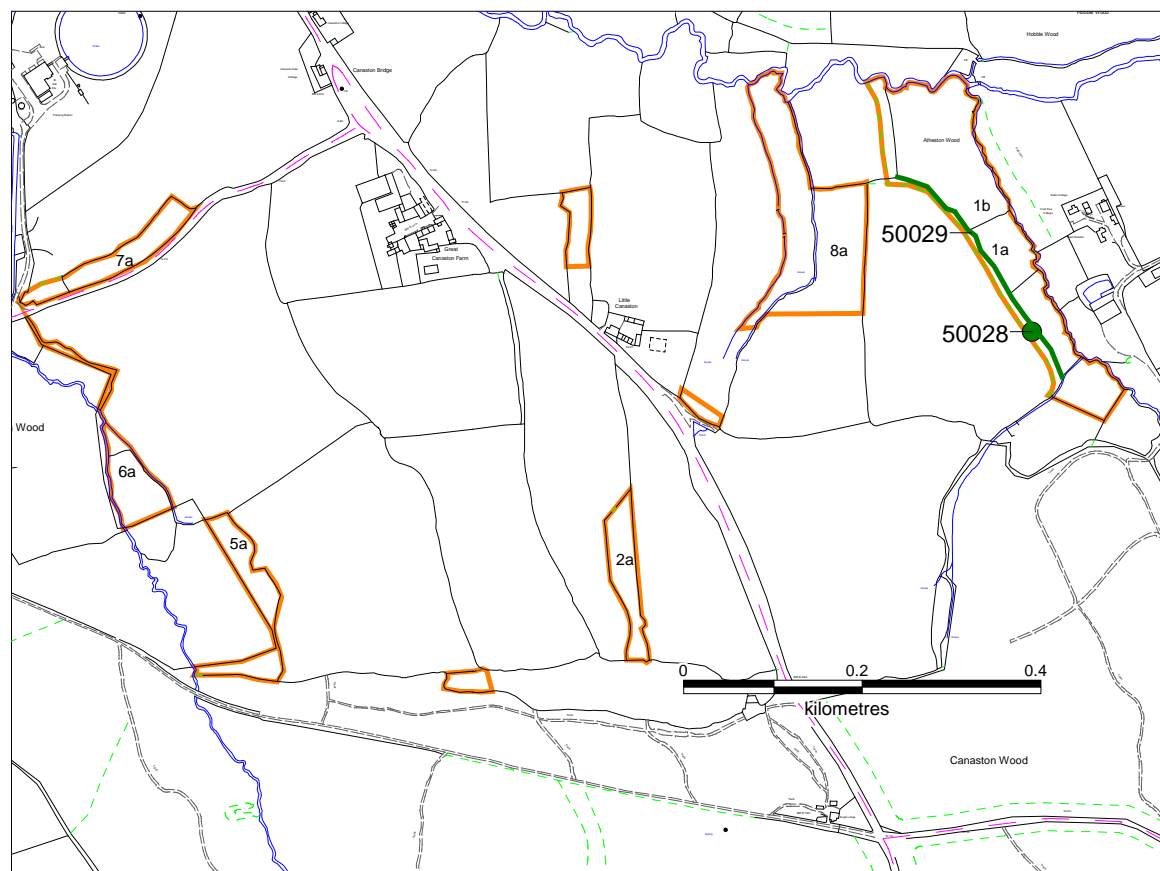
 Sites and Buildings of Regional Importance  
 including Grade 2 listed buildings

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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MPP 21**

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