

ROMAN MILITARY ROADS, FORTS AND VIGI IN SOUTHWEST WALES SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATIONS 2005



Paratowyd gan Archaeoleg Cambria
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RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2004/115
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 51964

Ionawr 2005
January 2005

ROMAN MILITARY ROADS, FORTS AND VICI IN SOUTHWEST WALES SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATIONS 2005

Gan / By

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THE ROMAN MILITARY ROADS, FORTS AND VICI OF SOUTH WEST WALES

SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATIONS

January 2005

Project Record No. 51964

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1.0 SUMMARY

This Scheduling Recommendations document forms part of a larger Cadw-funded project on the Roman military roads, forts and *vici* of southwest Wales. Similar projects have been undertaken by the other three Welsh Archaeological Trusts. The project has enabled new and existing records to be assessed, enhanced, updated and fully integrated into the SMR. The project has also included a geophysical survey of the Roman fort environs at Llandovery, providing useful evidence for the existence of several phases of fortifications and a probable *vicus*.

This body of work now provides a useful resource for the future study of the Roman road network, for education and planning development control and for informing agri-environment schemes in the region. It has also provided an opportunity to identify and assess stretches of the Roman military road network that survive in a reasonable state of preservation (or which exhibit features of special interest or significance), with a view to recommending them for scheduling.

To date, only one segment of Roman road in the region is scheduled. In this document, four more segments or groups of segments are proposed for scheduling. In addition it is proposed that the current scheduled area at Llandovery fort is enlarged to include the remains revealed through geophysical survey.

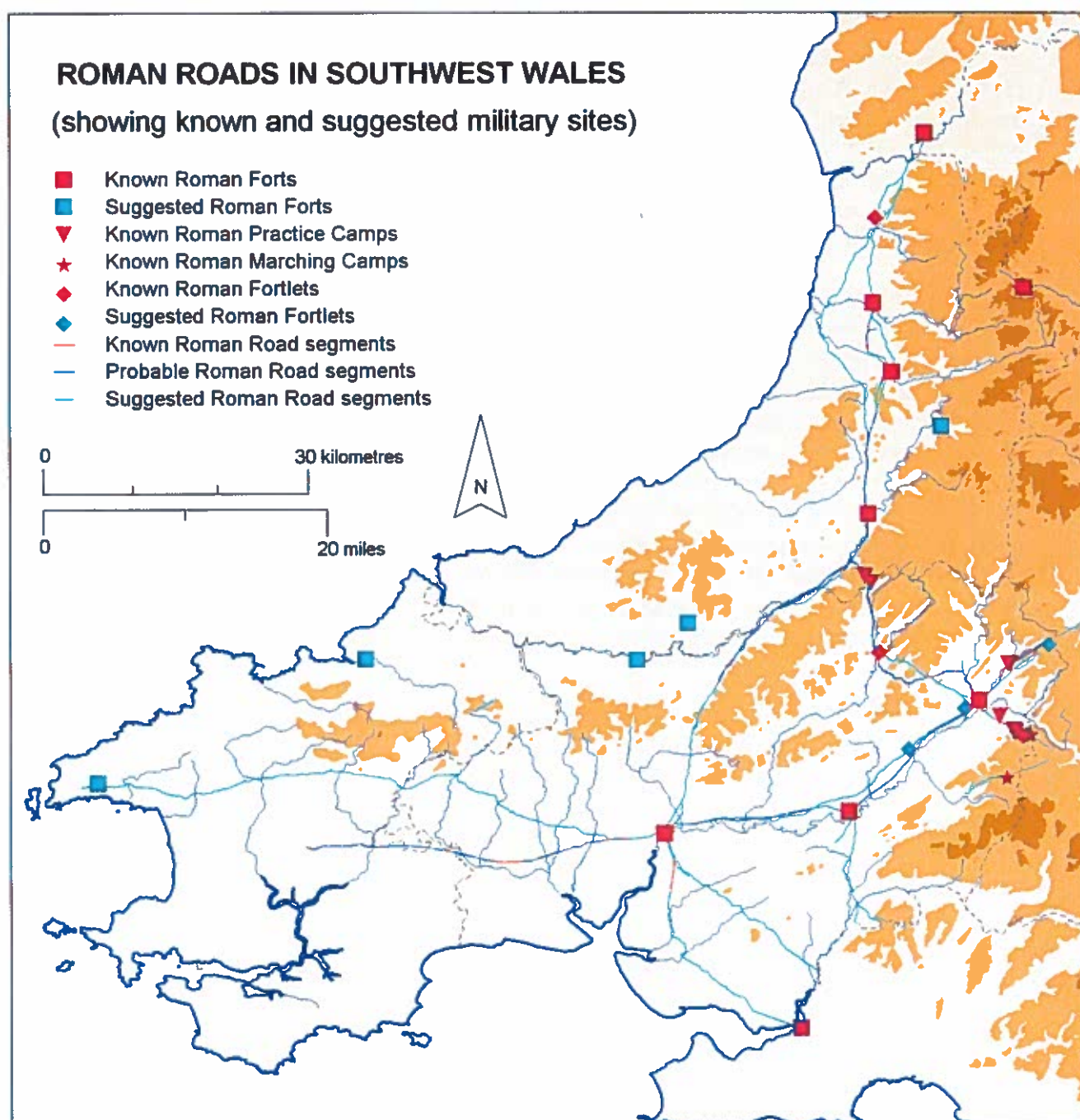


Figure 1: Map showing the known and suggested Roman roads of southwest Wales in relation to other known or suggested Roman military sites.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

It is generally accepted that the conquest of west Wales occurred as part of the Flavian campaigns of AD74 and 75. The network of roads across the region would originally have been constructed by the military for the rapid deployment of troops and supplies between the forts established during the conquest. After their initial construction for military purposes, the roads and forts would have seen a broader range of traffic, forming part of a larger network of transport, communications, administration and settlement established throughout Wales.

A general reduction and virtual withdrawal of many military garrisons from Wales is thought to have taken place by AD120 (Davies 2000, 24). With the ultimate withdrawal of the Roman army from Britain in the 5th century and subsequent breakdown of centralised government, the importance of long distance travel and communication may have been reduced. While some sections of Roman road continued to be used into the historic period, others fell out of use. As a result the coherence and integrity of the road system would have declined eventually becoming broken up and absorbed by later landscape and land-use changes.

Despite this process of re-absorption into the landscape, traces of the courses of Roman roads survive to varying degrees as cropmarks, earthworks, and landscape features such as field boundaries, tracks, roads and other topographical features. Although in some cases the course of Roman roads can be read in landscape features, the majority of the actual surviving fabric of the road network has been subject to considerable destruction and is under considerable threat.

Natural causes such as erosion by changing river courses and land slippage account for some of the loss. Stretches that have been followed by later road routes are also likely to have been severely damaged if not destroyed. Where field boundaries follow the line of Roman roads, there is damage from hedge and tree growth as well as ditch clearance and damage by livestock. The biggest threats however, come from ploughing, drainage, forestry and land-use change generally.

These processes have already resulted in the fragmentation and degradation of the road network as a whole, to the extent that most of the routes are represented by the ploughed out remains of the road foundations, which are only visible as cropmarks or parch marks from the air. Even the few relatively well-preserved segments that have been proposed for scheduling in this report have been damaged or are being threatened by various agencies.

It is possible that some stretches of the Roman road fabric are preserved below ground by colluvial and alluvial deposition or where cuttings and banks have collapsed or been levelled off. The extent to which this may have occurred is uncertain due to the difficulty of identifying such processes in the field.

The criteria used for potential for scheduling were primarily based on subjective evaluation of preservation from the visibility and clarity of surviving extant earthworks. Also considered was the length of the road segments. Some segments, although reasonably preserved, were considered too short or fragmented for scheduling to be justified. Another consideration was the landscape setting for the

road segment in relation to what technical and constructional aspects of Roman road construction it might exhibit.

As a consequence of the observations made above, most of the sections of road that have been suggested for scheduling consist of several 'segments'. In isolation these segments may appear insignificant, but as a group they provide examples of the construction techniques and technological details used in the construction of the road network over different terrain and ground conditions.

Scheduling short road segments in isolation, in the long term risks losing the integrity and coherence of the network as a whole. It is the large-scale structure of the roads that made them effective and impressive both functionally and as symbols and monuments when they were first constructed.

At present only one segment of Roman road in the region is scheduled. This is at Bryn Farm (PRN28128) near Whitland, where excavations were undertaken in 1994 and 1995. In this document four more segments or groups of segments are proposed for scheduling. In addition, following the results of recent geophysical survey undertaken as part of the Roman Military Roads Forts and *Vici* Project, it is proposed that the current scheduled area of Llandovery fort is enlarged to include the new discoveries.

3.0 KEY TO MAPS

Red lines

Red lines indicate segments of the Roman road identified and plotted from aerial photographs or from maps. The evidence is either in the form of crop marks, parch marks or extant earthworks.

Dark blue lines

These lines indicate the probable course of the Roman road between two known stretches of cropmark evidence. The absence of visible evidence for the road in these areas does not necessarily imply that there is no surviving physical evidence.

Light green polygons

Light green polygons have been drawn around road segments that are proposed for scheduling on the grounds of the survival of good physical survival of features.

Dark green polygons

Dark green polygons have been drawn around road segments that are proposed for inclusion in the scheduled area on the grounds of group value. They may or may not be less well preserved, but may be less clearly defined as visible surface features.

Pink polygons

The pink polygon in figure 6 indicates the limits of the existing scheduled area.

4.0 SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Roman road segments near Porth-y-rhyd

PRNs 33995(=30208) and 51966; 51961; 33994)
SITE NAME: Porth-y-rhyd
SITE TYPE: Roman road
NGR: SN71403777
MAP SHEET: SN73NW
FORM/CONDITION: Earthwork/B
COMMUNITY: Cilycwm
PART OF: 51972
LANDUSE: Pasture; Forestry

SOURCES:

Mm AP oblique/ RCAHMW/ 1995/ colour slide/ 2399-2400, 2613-14, 0443, 2397,2612; Mm AP oblique/ RCAHMW/ 1995/ BW print/ 955122-60, 67-70, 955205-53, 955218-42; Mm AP oblique/ RCAHMW/ 1995// AP95-72.32-34, AP95-70.24, 71.30; Mm Map/ DAT/ Murphy K/ 1996/ plot of aerial photos for RCAHMW now in GIS layers; Pm Desc Text// Burnham H and B/2004/ Dolaucothi-Pumsaint, Survey and excavations at a Roman Gold-mining Complex 1987-1999/ App.5; Mm Desc Text/ DAT/ Toller, H// A Roman Road between Llandovery and Pumpsaint/ DRF; Mm Desc Text/ DAT/ Schlee, D/ 2004/ Roman Military Roads, Forts and Vici/ Report no 2004-95, ACA Report.

DESCRIPTION:

A lengthy segment of the Roman road RR62c (PRN51972) from Llandovery to Pumsaint, running between SN70703760 and SN72343802. Identified as parchmarks from aerial photographs but also identifiable as raised causeway (agger) and other earthworks along significant stretches. Toller notes that at the western end of this segment the road has been eroded by weathering and partly obscured by soil slippage. Occasional roadside quarries have been identified from aerial photographs along this stretch, especially at the west and east ends. To the east at SN72563813, PRN 51966 is a segment of agger reportedly surviving within the forestry. PRN33994 are earthworks and parchmarks on the crest of the hill at SN72993836. PRN 51964 are quarries associated with the road construction. DS.09.2004.

SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATIONS: (see figure 2 and photos 1 and 2)

This segment of the road has been suggested for scheduling due to the exceptional extent to which the agger survives as an uninterrupted upstanding feature crossing several fields along the valley floor. Two other road segments and quarries (PRNs 51966, 33994 and 51964) located on the crest and slope of the hill to the west are also suggested for inclusion as they represent the engineering techniques employed where the road traverses hillier terrain. At SN72923834 the road alters course slightly. This was probably an important sighting point for the westward continuation of the road. Elsewhere, lesser course changes can be discerned. Parts of the route are currently under forestry, other parts are suffering slight erosion by livestock.

OWNERSHIP DETAILS: Not known. Various?

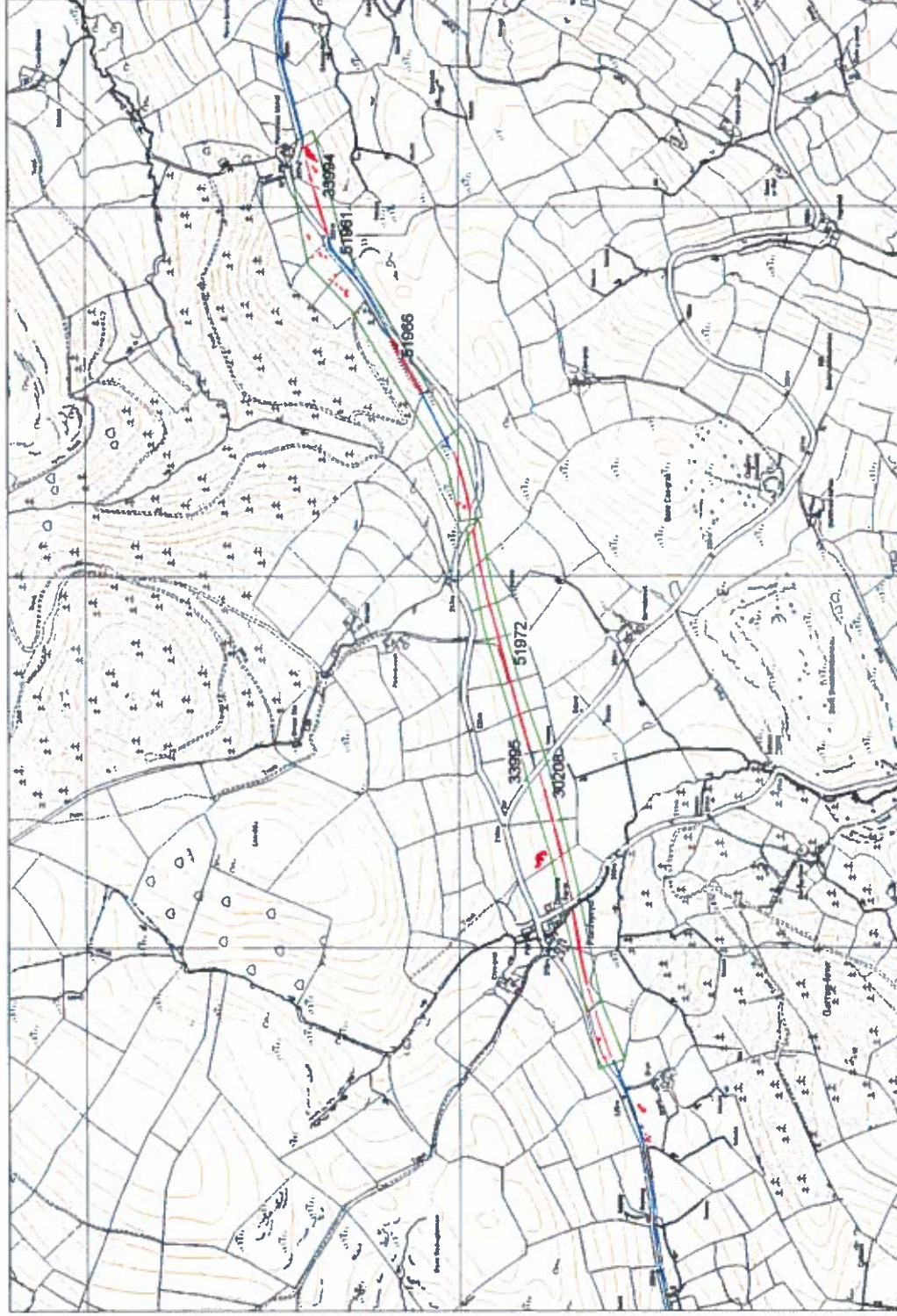


Figure 2: Map extract showing PRNs, road lines, and segments recommended for scheduling.



Photo 1: The line of the road is visible traversing the fields behind the hedge trees viewed from road looking southwest



Photo 2: The road line crosses the field left to right in the mid-ground. Viewed from road looking south

4.2 Roman road segments near Dolauhirion Farm

PRN: 4076; 33895; 33983; 33984
SITE NAME: Dolauhirion Farm
SITE TYPE: Roman road
NGR: SN762364
MAP SHEET: SN73NE
FORM/CONDITION: Earthwork/C; Cropmark
COMMUNITY: Cynwyl Gaeo
PART OF: 51972
LANDUSE: Pasture

SOURCES:

Mm List/ OS/ OS/ 1968// SN73 NE7; Mm AP Vertical/ OS/ RAF/ 1946// 106G-UK-1471 3189-90; Ph Mention// Rees,W/ 1873/ Archaeologia Cambrensis/ 4th Series, Vol.4, p.132; Mm List/ DAT/ OS/ 1976/ DRF/ OS108; Pm Mention// Jones,GDB/ 1971/ Carmarthenshire Antiquary/ Vol.7, p.15; Mm AP Vertical/ DAT/ Meridian Airmaps/ 1955// 270-230 29734-5; Ph List// Lewis, S/ 1833/ Topographical Dictionary of Wales/ Llandingat; Ph List// Nicholas,T/ 1872/ County Families of Wales/ Vol.1, p.303; Mm AP Oblique/ DAT/ James,T/ 1984/ AP 8415,20/ Monoprint of section around Dolau Hirion in DRF; Mm Database/ DAT/ Murphy, K/ 1997/ RROAD.DBf/ FoxPro 2.6 and FastMAP; Mm AP oblique/ RCAHMW/ 1992/ BW print/ 925022-33; Mm AP oblique/ RCAHMW// 1995/BW print/ 955122-61, 955205-47, 955217-55; Mm AP oblique/ RCAHMW// 1992/ colour slide/ 0440-41; Mm AP oblique/ RCAHMW// 1995/ colour slide/ 2393, 2605-06; Mm AP oblique/ RCAHMW/ 1995// AP95-83-33-34, AP95-82.31; Mm Map/ DAT/ Murphy K/ 1996/ plot of aerial photos for RCAHMW now in GIS layers; Pm Desc Text// Burnham, H and B/ 2004/ Dolaucothi-Pumsaint, Survey and exc. at a Roman Gold-mining Complex 1987-1999/ App.5.6; Mm Desc Text/ DAT/ Schlee,D/ 2004/ Rom. Military Roads, Forts and Vici/ Rep. no 2004-95, ACA Reports.

DESCRIPTION:

A well-preserved segment of the Roman road RR62c running between Llandovery and Pumsaint. Visible as a raised causeway running northwestwards from Dolauhirion Farm between SN76083665 and SN76273621. To the southeast of the farm the line of the road survives as a parchmark. At SN76673547, PRN33984 is an earthwork cutting into the hillslope marking the course of the road as it approaches Llandovery fort. DS. Sept 2004.

SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATIONS: (see figure 3 and photos 3, 4 and 5)

This stretch of the Roman road is recommended for scheduling because of the exceptional survival of the agger in the three fields to the north of Dolauhirion farm. In addition, the curved cropmark to the southeast is suggested for inclusion as it illustrates how the course of the road was dictated by earlier courses of the river to the west and other topographic features. Earthwork cutting PRN33984 is also suggested for inclusion as an example of a hillside cutting and due to its excellent state of preservation, public access and visibility.

OWNERSHIP DETAILS: Not known.

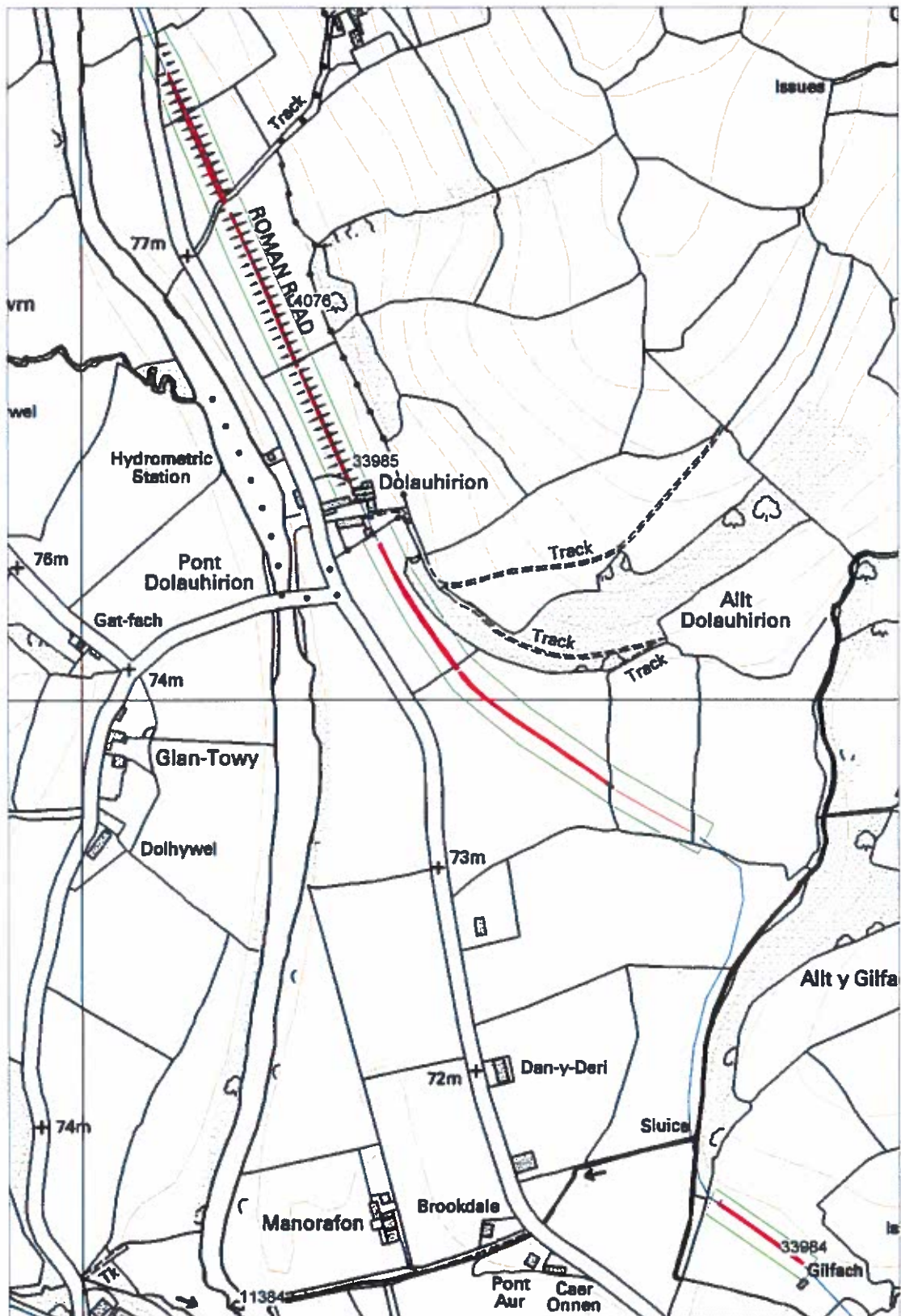


Figure 3: Map extract showing the course of the road respecting topographic features.



Photo 3: An aerial photograph of the road from Llandovery to Pumsaint, facing to the southeast. The segment in the centre of the frame survives as an extant agger. Beyond the farm the road curves round to the left.



Photo 4: The Roman road RR62c (PRN33984) survives as a cutting in the hill slope at SN76663547 (facing northeast).



Photo 5: The line of the road can be seen as a raised hump running towards the farm.

4.3 Roman road segments at Gilwen Farm

PRN: 33993; 51960
SITE NAME: Gilwen
SITE TYPE: Roman road
NGR: SN74333843
MAP SHEET: SN73NW
FORM/CONDITION: Cropmark; Earthwork
COMMUNITY: Cilycwm
LANDUSE: Pasture
PART OF: 51972

SOURCES:

Mm AP oblique/ RCAHMW/ RCAHMW/ 1992/BW print/ 925022-34; Mm AP oblique/ RCAHMW/ RCAHMW/ 1995/ BW print/ 955205-50-51; Mm AP oblique/ RCAHMW/ RCAHMW/ 1992/ colour slide/ 0442; Mm AP oblique/ RCAHMW/ RCAHMW/ 1995/ colour slide/ 2396, 2610; Mm AP oblique/ RCAHMW/ RCAHMW/ 1995// AP95-71; 27-28; Mm Map/ DAT/ Murphy K/ 1996/ plot of aerial photos for RCAHMW now in GIS layers; Pm Desc Text// Burnham H and B/ 2004/ Dolaucothi-Pumsaint, Survey and excavations at a Roman Gold-mining Complex 1987-1999/ App.5; Mm Desc Text/ DAT/ Schlee, D/ 2004/ Roman Military Roads, Forts and Vici/ Report no 2004-95, ACA Reports

DESCRIPTION:

A segment of Roman road RR62c (PRN51972) from Llandovery to Pumsaint, on an east-west alignment between SN73893843 and SN74913843, identified as parchmarks across pasture from aerial photographs. Between SN74673842 and SN73903842 (PRN 50663) the agger is a well-preserved earthwork about 8.0m wide clearly visible across marshy ground for about 100m. Westward of here the agger is much reduced but is still visible as a low linear rise within the field. A break in the cropmark at the eastern end may be the result of a shifting watercourse. To the north are clusters of possible quarries associated with the road. To the west, between SN73893843 and SN73173841 the line of the Roman road is followed by the modern road. DS.09.2004. To the east, degree of survival is not known.

SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATIONS: (see figure 4 and photo 6)

This segment of Roman road is recommended for scheduling due to the exceptional preservation of the agger between SN74673842 and SN73903842. Here the land is marshy, accounting for the good preservation but also offering good potential for waterlogged preservation of environmental data and any drainage structures that may have formed part of the road construction. Elsewhere along this stretch, ploughing has reduced the clarity of the road, although its line can still be traced as a low linear rise. The land is currently in a Tir Gofal agreement.

OWNERSHIP DETAILS: Mr. And Mrs Jones, Gilwen Farm Cilycwm, Llandovery.

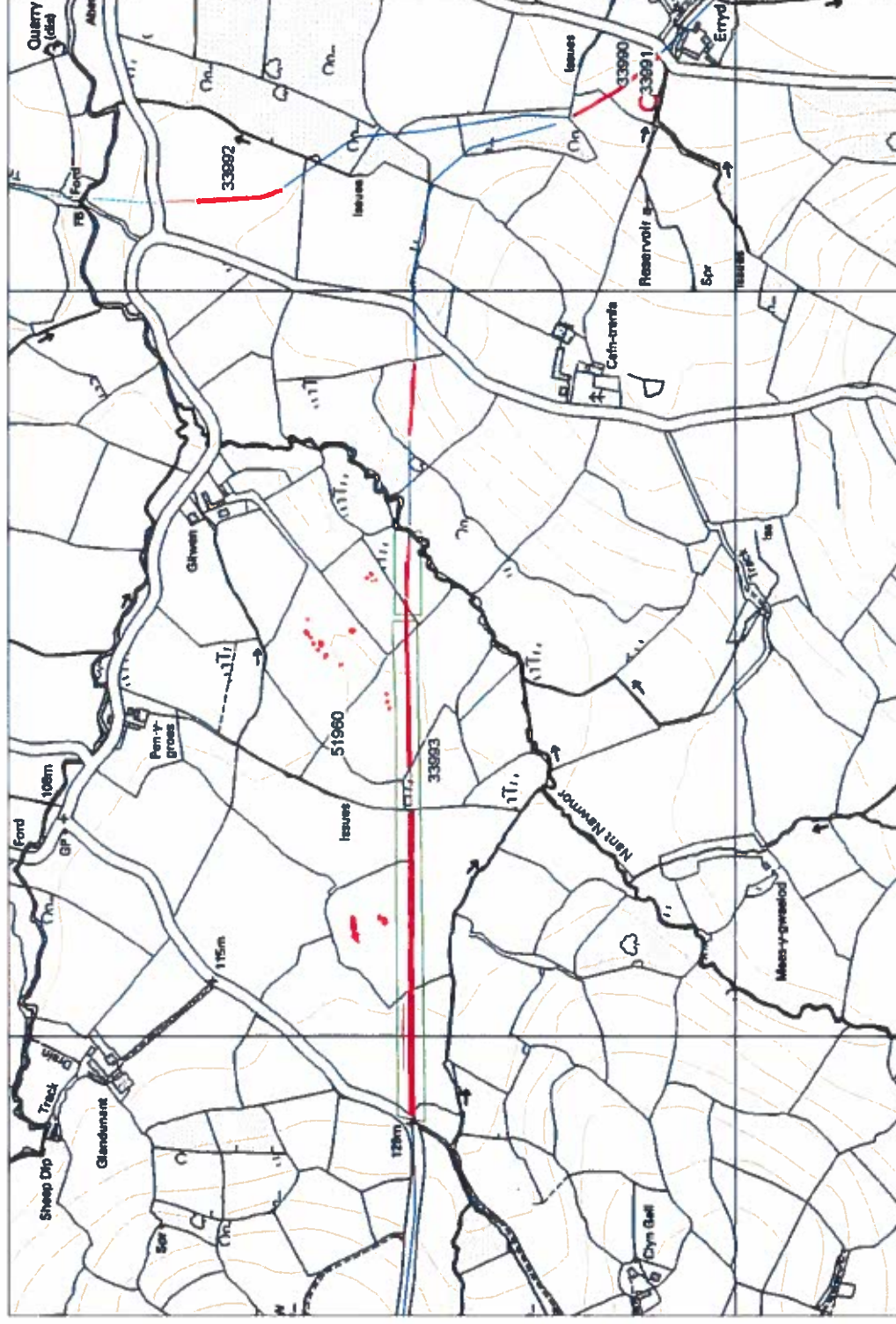


Figure 4: Map extract showing the extent of the cropmark (dark green) and the raised section of agger (light green).



Photo 6: The raised agger is visible in the centre of the shot (left of dog). View facing east.

4.4 Roman road segments near Llanfair-ar-y-bryn

PRN: 33982; 34114
SITE NAME: Various
SITE TYPE: Roman road
NGR: SN79813855
MAP SHEET: SN73NE
FORM/CONDITION: Earthwork/C
COMMUNITY: Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn
PART OF: 3419
LANDUSE: Pasture

SOURCES:

Mm AP oblique/ RCAHMW// 1995/ BW print/ 955217-51-53; Mm AP oblique/ RCAHMW/ 1995/ colour slide/ 2600-01, 2601, 2602-03; Mm AP oblique/ RCAHMW/ 1995// AP95-70.22; Mm Map/ DAT/ Murphy K/ 1996/ plot of aerial photos for RCAHMW now in GIS layers; Mm Desc Text/ DAT/ Schlee, D/ 2004/ Rom. Military Roads, Forts and Vici/ Rep. no 2004-95, ACA Reports.

DESCRIPTION:

An extensive segment of Roman road RR623 between Llandovery and Castell Collen (PRN 3419), visible as parchmarks and extant agger on the northern side of the A483 between SN79433765 and SN80473928. There is a distinct change of direction at SN79943875, presumably to respect the course of the river. The road is currently being actively eroded by the river at several points to the north. The northern parts of this segment are only visible as parchmarks, while to the south the road can be traced as a raised causeway in several locations. Close to the northern end of this segment the road changes direction in order to join with the next known segment PRN 34114 which runs across pasture between SN81353966 and SN81533975, identified from aerial photographs. The course of the road southwest of this segment is uncertain until SN80473928. This segment and associated quarries can be traced clearly on the ground as earthwork features. The continuation northeastwards, across bracken-covered heath, and following the ridge, is less easy to trace but may also be extant and is respected by several field boundaries. DS.09.2004.

SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATIONS: (see figure 5 and photos 7 and 8)

This segment of Roman road is proposed for scheduling due to the good survival of extant agger surviving at Dolau Bran (SN79533793) at the southern end of the extensive cropmark. In the central portion, the road is less easy to trace and may be being actively eroded by the river. The site of two marching camps is located close to where the road changes course to climb and follow the crest of a pronounced ridge towards the northeast. Here clear earthwork remains of the road and associated quarries are visible in pasture at Rhydins Farm, further northeast the ground is rougher and covered in bracken. This may obscure well-preserved segments of agger (see photo 8).

OWNERSHIP DETAILS: The eastern end of PRN34115 is farmed by Mr. & Mrs Davies, Nanllydir Farm, Cynghordy, Llandovery. Other landowners are not known.

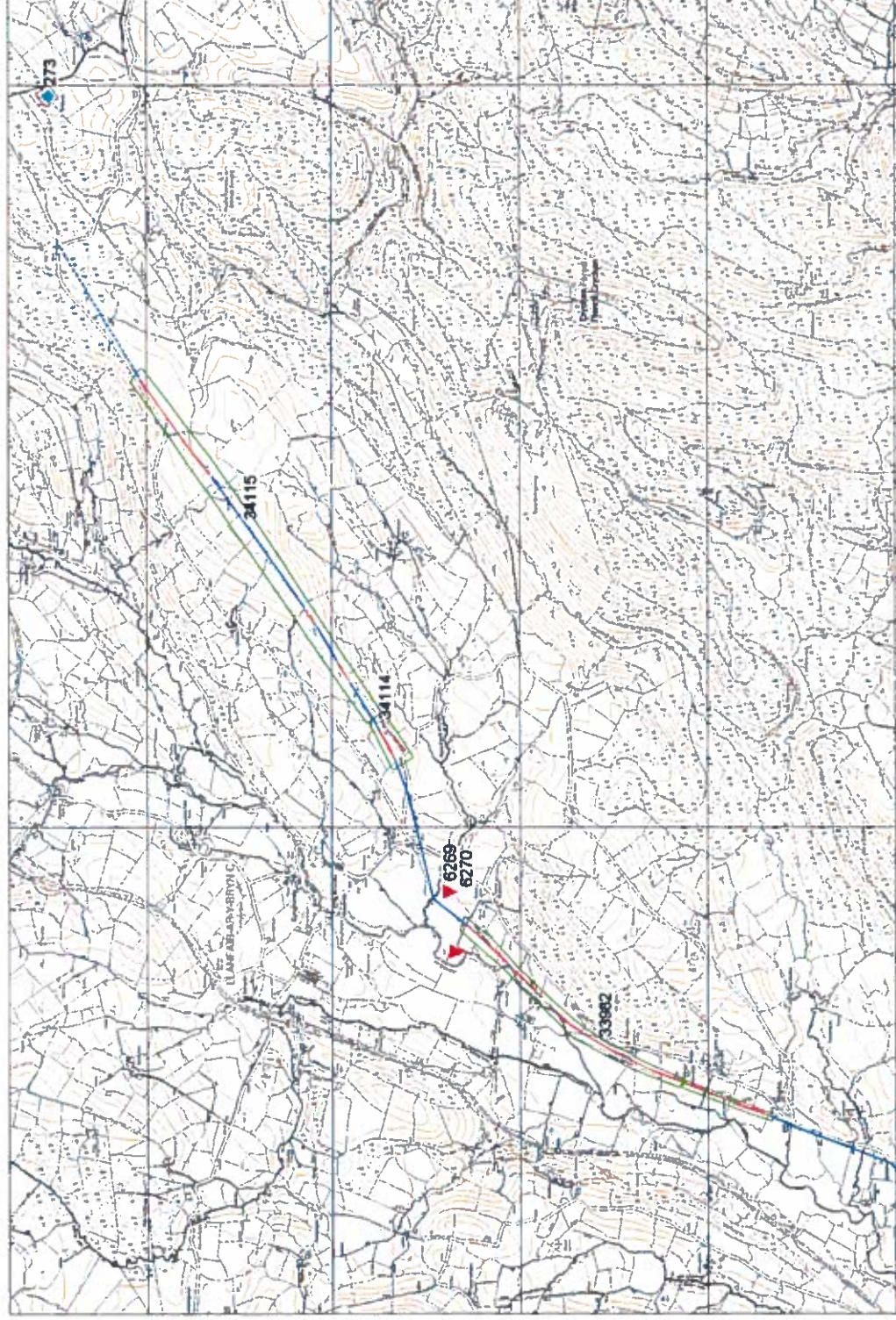


Figure 5: Map extract showing road segment PRNs 33982 and 34114 proposed for scheduling.



Photo 7: Well preserved agger at Dolau Bran. The stables are built on the road



Photo 8: Probable agger at SN83274094 looking southwest.

4.5 Llandovery fort

PRN: 4072; 8505; 33981; 14324
SITE NAME: Llandovery fort
SITE TYPE: Roman fort and vicus
NGR: SN76963517
MAP SHEET: SN73NE
FORM/CONDITION: Earthwork/D
COMMUNITY: Llandovery
PART OF:
LANDUSE: Pasture

SOURCES:

Ph Mention// Lhuyd, E/ 1695/ Camden's Britannia/ ed. Gibson, Col.751; Ph List// Lewis, S/ 1833/ Topographical Dictionary of Wales/ Llandingat, Llandovery, Llanycrwys, Llanfair ar y Bryn; Ph Desc Text// Rees, W/ 1873/ Archaeologia Cambrensis/ 4th Series, Vol.4, p.113; Pm Mention// Haverfield, F/ 1908-9/ THSC/ p.112; Pm List// RCAHM/ 1917/ Carm/ no. 275, p.92-4, Fig. 97; Pm Mention/// 1922/ TCASFC/ Vol.16, p.17, 30, 34; Pm List// Nash-Williams, VE/ 1928/ Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies/ Vol.4, Pt.III, p.253; Pm Map// Rees, W/ 1932/ S.Wales & Border in 14th c./ SW Sheet; Pm Mention/// 1933/ Archaeologia Cambrensis/ Vol. 89, p.195; Pm Desc Text// Nash-Williams, VE/ 1954/ Roman Frontier in Wales/ p.67-8; Mm List/ OS/ OS/ 1968// SN73 NE3; Pm Mention// Hughes, IT/ 1957/ Ceredigion/ Vol. III, Pt.II, p.104; Pm Mention// Davies, WH/ 1961/ Ceredigion/ Vol.IV, Pt.II, p.88; Pm Desc Text// Jarrett, MG/ 1961/ Archaeology in Wales/ No.1, p.7; Pm Excav Report// Jarrett, MG/ 1962/ Archaeology in Wales/ No.2,p.9; Pm Excavation Report/// 1962/ Journal of Roman Studies/ Vol.52, p.161-2; Pm Desc Text// Nash-Williams, VE/ 1969/ Roman Frontier in Wales/ 2nd edition, rev. MG Jarrett, p.95-6; Pm Mention/ Jones, GDB/ 1971/ Carmarthenshire Antiquary/ Vol.7, p.13-6, plate Va; Pm Map/// 1973/ Archaeologia Cambrensis/ Vol.122, p.9; Pm Mention// Soulsby & Jones/ 1977/ Hist. Towns, Dinefwr/ Nos.6.1.2, 6.2.8, 6.3.2-3, p.25-7; Mm List/ DAT/ DAT/1976/ CR/ 4087, 4095, 8505, 10409, 10562, 10568; Mm Letter/ DAT// 1975-6//; Mm List/ DAT/ OS/ 1976/ DRF/ OS 108; Mm AP Vertical/ OS/RAF/ 1946// 106G-UK-1471 1396; Mm AP Oblique/ Cambridge/ St. Joseph, JK//; Mm AP oblique/ DAT/ James, TA/ 1979/ TAJ-AP-SN7635/ Colour slide; Mm AP Oblique/ DAT/ James, TA/ 1979/ SN7635/ Colour slide; Mm List/ RCAHM/ RCAHM/ 1981// 4b,CM; Mm Letter/ DAT/ Various/ 1982/ DRF/ Numerous letters regarding WWA Mm AP Oblique/ DAT/ James, TA/ 1979/ SN73NE/ Colour slide; Mm Desc Text/ DAT/ CADW/ 1986// Carm SAM No.188; Mm File/ DAT/ Many/ 1988/ P.A. Extension, Llanfair Grange, Llandovery/ DRF; Mm Letter/ DAT/ CBA/ 1982/ SMC - installation of pipe/ SAM File; Mm File/ DAT/ Many/ 1984/ Excavation report and correspondence Ph Mention// Lhuyd, E/ 1695/ Camden's Britannia/ ed. Gibson, Col.751; Ph List// Lewis, S/1833/ Topographical Dictionary of Wales/ Llandingat, Llandovery, Llanycrwys, Llanfairar y Bryn; Ph Desc Text// Rees, W/ 1873/ Archaeologia Cambrensis/ 4th Series, Vol.4, p.113; Pm Mention// Haverfield, F/1908-9/ THSC/ p.112;Pm List// RCAHM/ 1917/ Carm/ No.275, p.92-4, Fig.97; Pm Mention/// 1922/ CASFC/ Vol.16, p.17, 30, 34; Pm List// Nash-Williams, VE/ 1928/ Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies/ Vol.4, Pt. III, p.253; Pm Map// Rees, W/ 1932/ S. Wales & Border in 14th c./ SW Sheet; Pm Mention/// 1933/ Archaeologia Cambrensis/ Vol. 89, p.195; Pm Desc Text// Nash-Williams, VE/ 1954/ Roman

Frontier in Wales/ p.67-8; Mm List/ OS/ OS/ 1968// SN73 NE3; Pm Mention// Hughes, I T/ 1957/ Ceredigion/ Vol. III, Pt.II, p.104; Pm Mention// Davies, WH/ 1961/ Ceredigion/ Vol. IV, Pt. II, p.88; Pm Desc Text// Jarrett, MG/ 1961/ Archaeology in Wales/ No.1,p.7; Pm Excavation Report// Jarrett, MG/ 1962/ Archaeology in Wales/ No.2, p.9; Pm Excavation Report/// 1962/ Journal of Rom VE/ 1969/ Roman Frontier in Wales/ 2nd edition, rev. MG Jarrett, p.95-6; Pm Mention// Jones, GDB/ 1971/ Carmarthenshire Antiquary/ Vol.7, p.13-6, plate Va; Pm Map/// 1973/ Archaeologia Cambrensis/ Vol.122, p.9; Pm Mention// Soulsby & Jones/1977/ Hist. Towns, re. residential development at Llanfair Hill/ Report, correspondence, photographs, context record sheets, DRF; Mm Desc. Text/ DAT/ CADW/ 1992/ AM107/ SAM file, Cm 188; Mm Section/ DAT/DAT/ 1983// Section on south side of overflow pipe trench, 1:50 SMR vertical plan chest; Mm Desc. Text/ DAT/ CADW/ 1998/ AM107/ SAM file, CM188 (CAM); Mm File/ DAT/ Many/ 1983/ Planning file for proposed overflow/ 48172 48172; Mm Desc. Text/ DAT/ DAT/ 1983/ Watching Brief Rep/ PRN for event 48172; Mm Desc. Text/ DAT/ Schlee, D/ 2004/ Roman Military Roads, Forts and *Vici*/ Report no 2004-95, ACA Reports. main-laying; Mm Desc Text/ DAT/ Rees, SE/ 1982/ Carm. SAMs/ No.188; Pm Mention/ DAT// 1983/ Britannia/ Copy in DRF; Mm Letter/ DAT/ Dinefwr DC/ 1983/ DRF/ Proposed development; Mm Letter/ DAT/ Benson, DG/ 1983/ DRF/ Proposed development; Pm List// DAT/ 1983/ Archaeology in Wales/ No.23, p.34, No.73; Mm Letter/ DAT// 1984/ DRF/ Re planning application; Mm List/ DAT/ DAT/ 1984/ CR/ 11658; Pm List// DAT/ 1984/ Archaeology in Wales/ No.24,p.51, No.48; Mm AP Oblique/ DAT/ James,T/13,7,84/ AP 84116, 25;

DESCRIPTION:

The Roman fort at Llandovery (Alabum?) was possibly established in the AD50s, based on ceramic and stratigraphic evidence. The fort is located on high ground immediately to the north of Roman road RR623 (PRN 3419). Parts of the northeast and northwest sides of the fort survive as earthwork banks in pasture, but much of the rest of the fort has been built upon. It appears to measure approximately 170m by 120m. A modern minor road runs through the fort, probably on the line of a Roman street. Following recent geophysical survey, there is evidence of a possible second fort, annexe or reduced fort on the same site. There is also evidence of a *vicus* (PRN 8505) running along the north side of the A483 from aerial photographs DS.27.10.2004.

SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATIONS:

In the light of the geophysical results showing stratified structural features along the north side of the A483 as far as Llanfair Farm (figure 7), it is recommended that the existing scheduled area is enlarged to encompass the area in which buried remains have been detected. In addition it is recommended that part of the fields to the south of the road are scheduled. Access to this land was not given for the recent geophysical survey, but aerial photographs (photo 9) clearly show parchmarks indicating structural features running along the southern edge of the road for an uncertain distance eastwards. Further survey would be required to ascertain the eastern limit of the *vicus*.

OWNERSHIP DETAILS:

Two fields (nos. 0231 and 0939) are owned by Carmarthenshire County Council:

Dorian Davies, Corporate Property, Carmarthenshire County Council, 3 Spillman Street, Carmarthen, SA31 1LE.

The tenant farmer is:

Mr Alun Davies, Ffawydd, Llanfair Hill, Llandovery, SA20 0YF.

One field (no. 9221) is owned by:

Mr Alan Walters, Bro Melys, Llanfair Road, Llandovery, SA20 0YG.

Mr Wyn Price (01550 777274) owns the field to the south of the road (no. 2425) to which access was denied for the geophysical survey - he wanted compensation.



Photo 9: An aerial photograph of Llandovery fort (left) and probable *vicus* area (centre) shot facing north. The fields to the north of the road were included in the recent geophysical survey. Note the cropmarks visible in the field south of the road (centre). This area was not included in the recent survey.

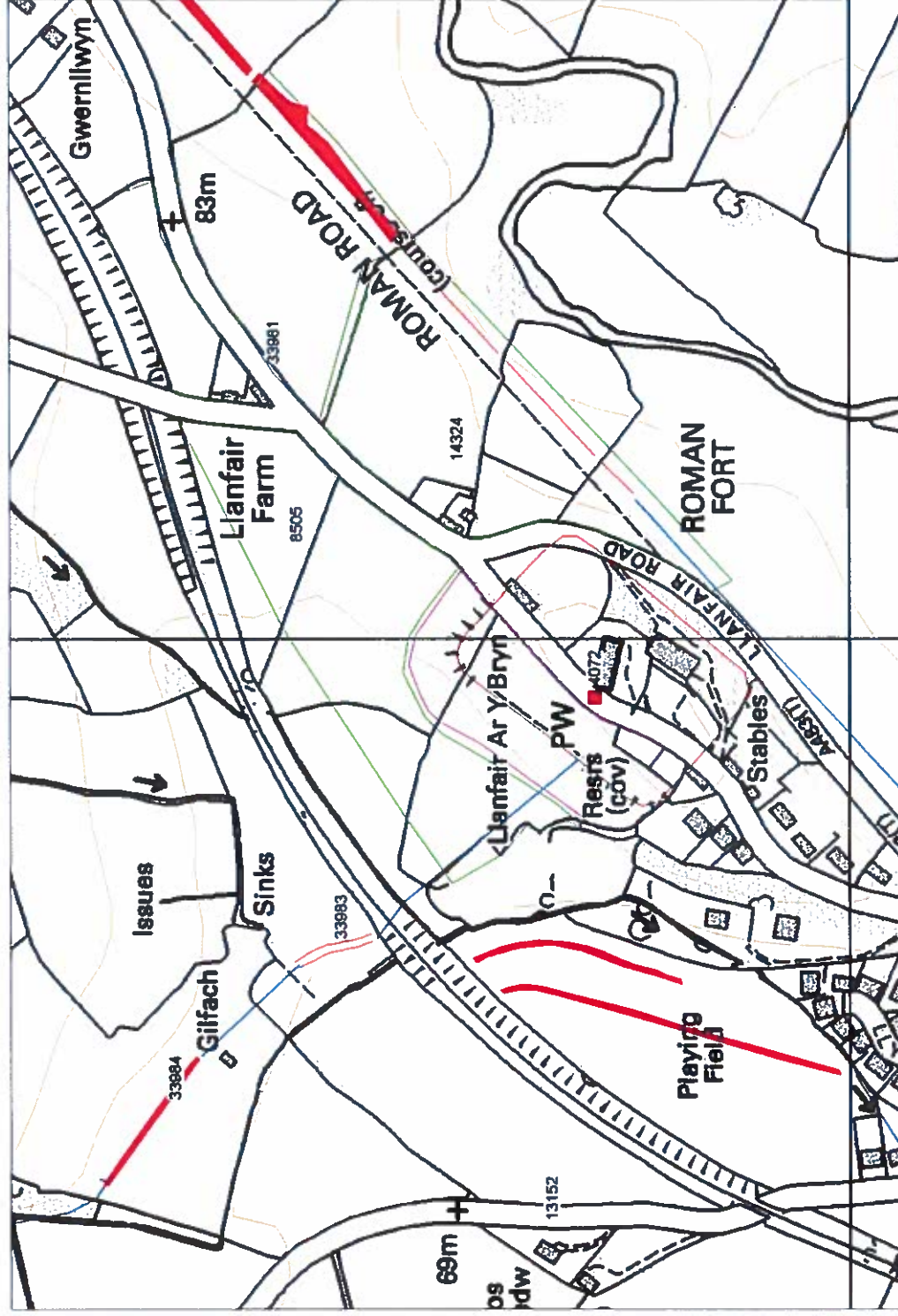


Figure 6: Map extract showing existing scheduled area and recommended extensions to the area



Figure 7: Geophysical survey of Llandovery fort

**ROMAN MILITARY
ROADS FORTS AND VICI
IN SOUTHWEST WALES
SCHEDULING RECCOMENDATIONS 2005**

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2004/115

**Ionawr 2005
January 2005**

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by Duncan Schlee

Swydd / Position: Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date 10/01/2005

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
This report has been checked and approved by

Ken Murphy

ar ran Archaeoleg Cambria, Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Principal Archaeologist-Field Services

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date 10/01/2005

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau sydd gennych ar
gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

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