

THE SHOWGROUND SITE, CARDIGAN: ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT



Paratowyd gan Archaeoleg Cambria
Ar gyfer John Taylor Architects (Eatonfield
Holdings)

Prepared by Cambria Archaeology
For John Taylor Architects (Eatonfield Holdings)



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Gan / By

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SUMMARY

This archaeological desk-based assessment of the Showground Site, Cardigan, has demonstrated that there is no archaeological dimension to plans to develop the site. There are no known archaeological sites within the proposed development area and, indeed, there are no known sites within 300m. The immediate historic landscape of fields is a product of mid 19th century enclosure of common land.

INTRODUCTION

Cambria Archaeology has undertaken this desk-based archaeological assessment at the request of John Taylor Architects acting on behalf of Eatonfield Holdings. Ceredigion County Council required an archaeological desk-based assessment in order to determine whether or not there is an archaeological dimension to plans to develop the Showground Site on the outskirts of Cardigan.

The assessment has been guided by *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1999).

THE STUDY AREA

The Showground Site lies on the eastern fringe of Cardigan (SN190470). It is bounded by mixed species hedges (predominantly hawthorn) on earth banks. A minor road runs along the west side of the site and the A487(T) along the south side. The proposed development site itself consists of a single field of improved pasture. There is a gradual slope down from east to west, and the ground undulates. On aerial photographs taken in 1953 these undulations are clearly former stream courses or springs, although apparently dry. They might be glacial or fluvio-glacial channels. At the day of the site visit (11 May 2005) conditions were ideal for the identification of archaeological earthwork sites as a crop of silage had been freshly removed from the field.

METHODOLOGY

This is essentially a desk-based study. The following sources have been consulted:

- The County Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology.

- Cartographic sources and other material held by Cambria Archaeology.

- Databases compiled by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW) and Cadw.

- Vertical and oblique aerial photographs held by the RCAHMW and Cambria Archaeology.

A site visit was undertaken. As the site lies adjacent to a public road and is visible from the road entry onto the site itself was not necessary. The purpose of the visit was to:

- Review the current state of archaeological features and deposits identified during the documentary research.

- Identify new archaeological features and deposits, or areas that may contain them.

- Carry out rapid recording of archaeological sites, features and deposits by photography, site notes and sketch plans, if required.

- Assess the vulnerability of archaeological sites, features and deposits to the proposed redevelopment of the site.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

Prehistoric sites

There are no recorded prehistoric sites within 500m of the proposed development.

Roman sites

There are no recorded Roman sites within 500m of the proposed development.

Medieval sites

There are no recorded medieval sites within 500m of the proposed development.

Post-medieval sites

A corn mill, New Mill is the only recorded post-Medieval site within 500m of the proposed development. It lies approximately 350m to the north.

The historic landscape and Cardigan Common

The proposed development lies in the centre of what was formerly Cardigan Common, owned and administered by Cardigan Corporation. Its 19th century extent is shown on early to mid 19th century maps (Maps 2 to 4). Established during the medieval period, the common would have been much more extensive than that shown on the 19th century maps, but gradual encroachment and enclosure over centuries slowly reduced its size. This process of enclosure continued during the second half of the 19th century, and in 1860 Fenton (1860, 58) described the common as 'now Inclosed', although a small remnant of common was shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1891 (surveyed in 1883-87). The proposed development area is shown on this map divided into three fields. These fields are also shown on the 1906 map. Very recently these three fields have been merged into one field.

Enclosure of common land in the county had been a hotly and at times violently contested issue since at least the 18th century, with the peak of enclosure reached during the early- to mid-19th century. There were a number of factors fuelling the quest for new land throughout the county, increasing population, expansion of the large estates and the need to increase the acreage of cultivatable land. In the case of Cardigan Common the expansion of the town was also a significant factor in the loss of the common, with development spreading northwest from the town centre along the line of the present A487 during the later 19th century. In addition, planted settlement also occurred, with several new farms and holdings such as the terraced houses at New Town, Argoed Farm and Myrtle Hill Cottages, also being established on what was part of Cardigan Common between 1846 and 1891. Housing and other developments during the later 20th century have pushed the limits of town close to the eastern boundary of the proposed development.

Designated sites

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Listed Buildings within the proposed development area.

Individual Archaeological Sites

There are no known archaeological sites in the development area.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED SCHEME ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

A range of criteria has been used to consider the importance of the archaeological resource and the likely impacts on that resource in order to determine the significance of the impact and suggest possible mitigation measures.

Importance

The importance of all sites visited will be categorised according to the following criteria:

- A** - sites of national importance - usually Scheduled Ancient Monuments and listed buildings
- B** - sites of regional or county importance
- C** - sites of district or local importance
- D** - minor sites or sites so badly damaged that too little now remains to justify their inclusion in a higher grade
- E** - sites about insufficient is known to assign them to a higher grade

Likely impacts

The likely physical impacts of the proposed road on each site have been assessed according to the following criteria:

- Total** - complete destruction of the site
- Very severe** - loss of most of the major components of a site
- Severe** - loss of some of the major components of a site
- Medium** - loss of some components of a site
- Slight** - some loss of some minor components of a site
- None**
- Beneficial**
- Unknown**

Impact assessment

<i>Site PRN</i>	<i>Importance</i>	<i>Likely Impact of The development</i>	<i>Recommendation for further work</i>
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No known archaeological sites lie within the proposed development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No further archaeological work is required.

SOURCES

Databases

The Regional Sites and Monuments Record, housed with Cambria Archaeology

CARN - Core Archaeological Record Index hosted by the Royal Commission of Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales

Maps

St Mary, Cardigan, tithe map and apportionment, 1846

Ordnance Survey 1810, Original Surveyors' Drawings, 2" to 1 mile, Sheet 185

Ordnance Survey 1819, 1" to 1 mile, sheet 58

Ordnance Survey 1891, 6" to 1 mile, Cardigan XXXVIII.NW, 1st Edition, surveyed 183-87

Ordnance Survey 1906, 6" to 1 mile, Cardigan XXXVIII.NW, 2nd Edition, revised 1904

Aerial photographs

All in the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.

540/993 frames 51-52, 20 Jan 1953

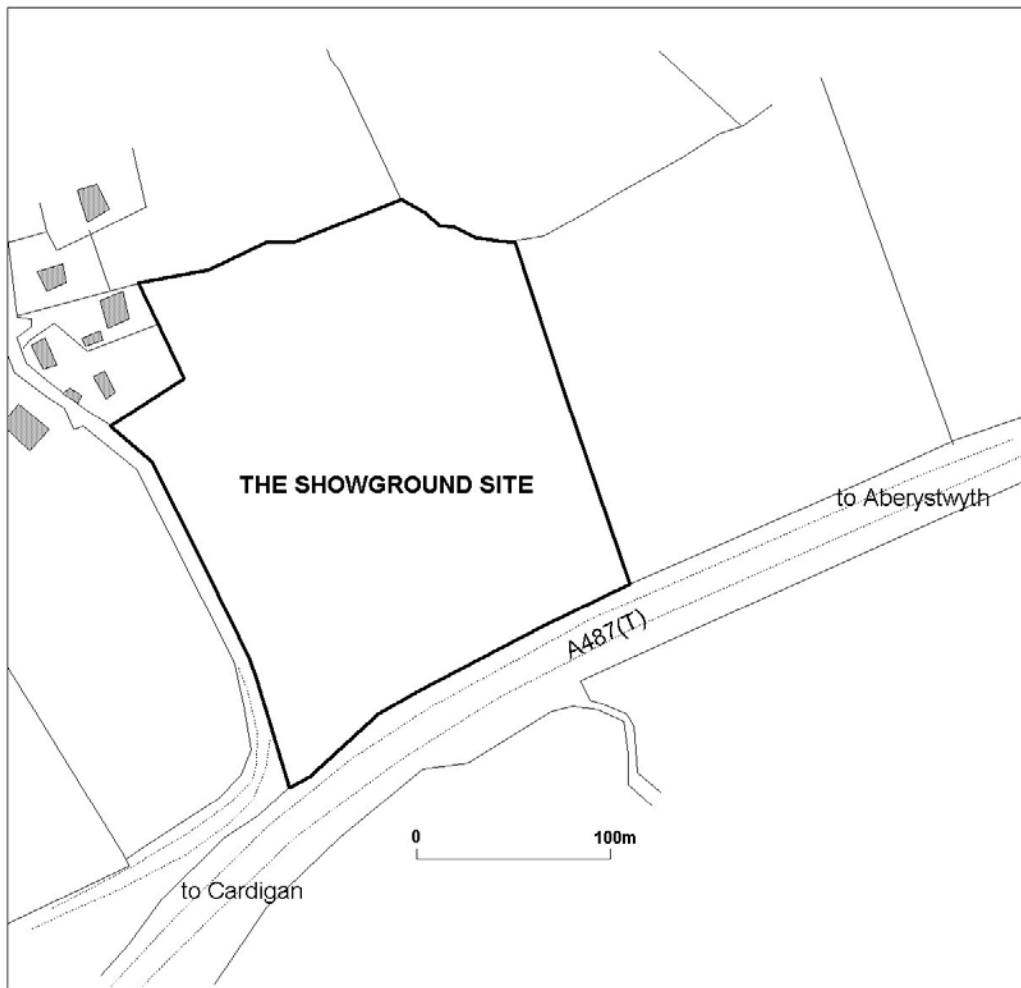
106G/UK/1424 frames 4019-20, 15 April 1946

73-177 frames 50-51, 1973

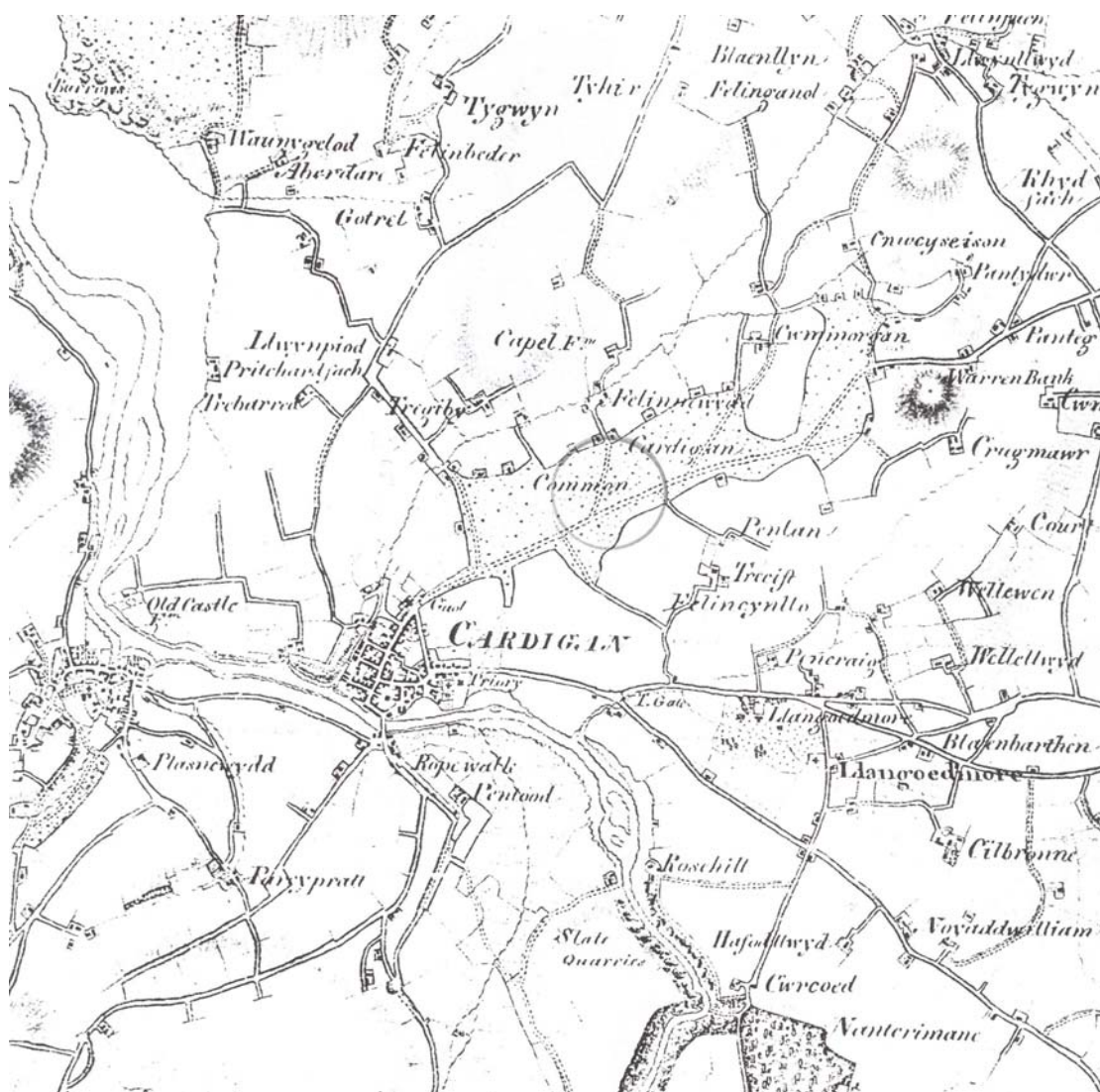
74-004 frames 002-3, 21 March 1974

Published sources

Fenton J 1860 Correspondence. *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, 6, 58-61.



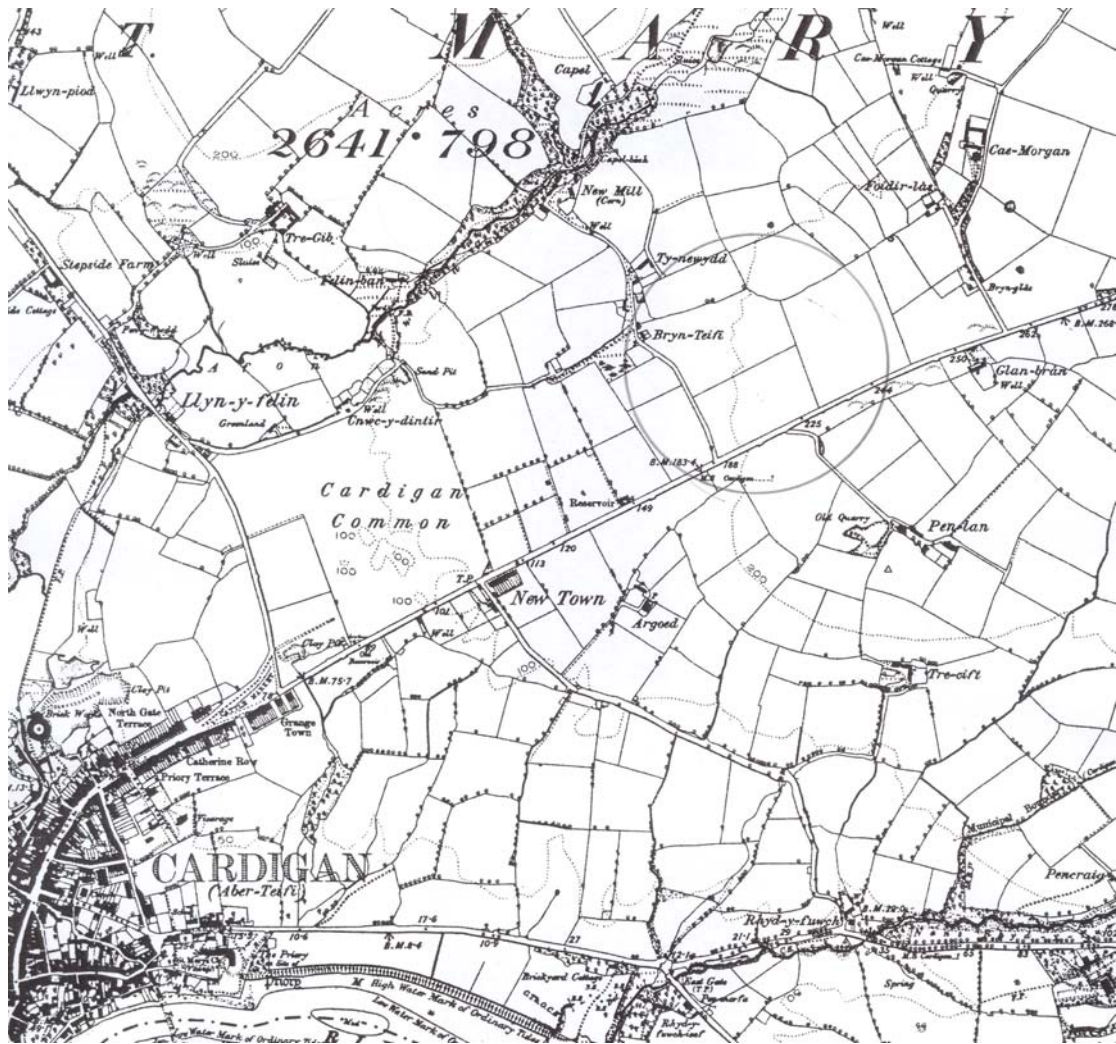
Map 1. Location of proposed development



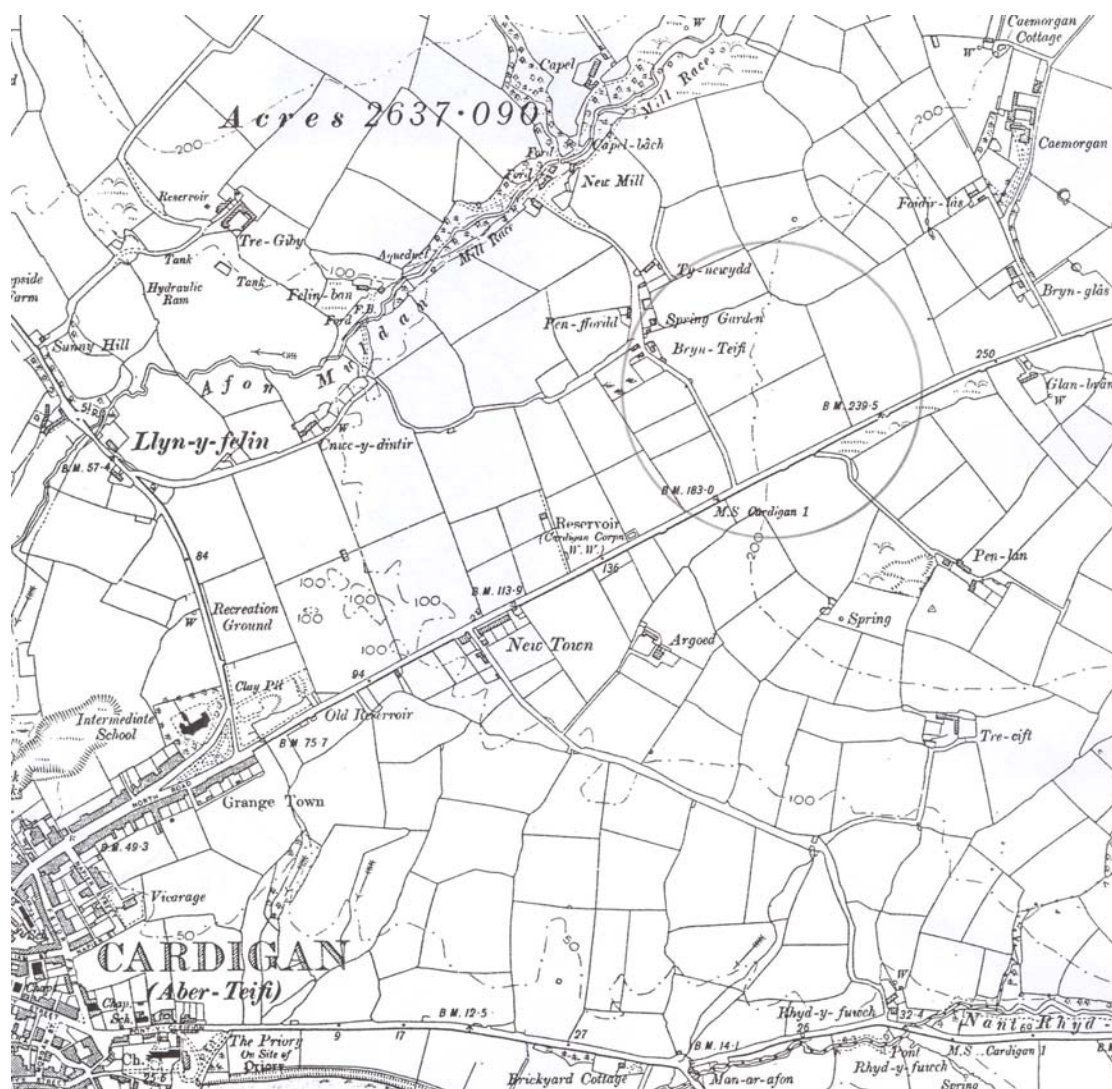
Map 2. Extract from the 1810 Ordnance Survey map



Map 3. Extract from the 1846 tithe map



Map 4. Extract from the 1891 Ordnance Survey map



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**Mai 2005
May 2005**

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

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on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Trust Director

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

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