Wetland Margins Survey
Cors Caron

Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For Cadw

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Wetland Margins Survey
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SUMMARY

This study has been undertaken as part of a Cadw funded project examining the archaeological potential of Ceredigion's wetlands. This report examining the inland raised bog system of Cors Caron in southern Ceredigion forms the second year of the study following the previous year's examination of the extensive estuarine raised bog of Cors Fochno in Northern Ceredigion. The huge archaeological potential of such areas was highlighted by the discovery of a Bronze Age wooden object as well as an Iron Age/Roman industrial site and medieval trackway between 2002-05 on the southern margins of Cors Fochno, all in association with organic elements preserved by the wetlands. Similar potential is indicated at Cors Caron by the antiquarian record of a bog body, along with excavated prehistoric burnt mounds and documented medieval activity around the wetland margins.

Through both documentary research and a programme of fieldwork an understanding has been developed of the known archaeological resource. This has been effectively mapped and catalogued through the use of Mapinfo GIS and the creation and integration of records with the Regional Historic Environment Record. Documentary research was undertaken in partnership with University of Wales Lampeter who had already amassed a significant amount of research into the medieval and post-medieval history of the area.

The fieldwork comprised a programme of archaeological trial trenching, auger surveys, geophysical surveys, topographical surveys and a walk-over survey of targeted areas, namely Llwyngwinau and Maesglas. At Llwyngwinau the well-preserved remains of an unscheduled castle site were revealed overlooking the bog along with associated pits, ditches and a second enclosure on lower ground. At Maesglas, an area highlighted as a medieval monastic grange centre and settlement, a series of earthworks on the very edge of the bog suggest possible arable cultivation and ponds associated with the grange or a later mansion site.

The project has also established links with some of the main stakeholders, namely the Countryside Commission for Wales who own and manage a large part of the bog, and encouraged involvement and active participation from local landowners and members of the local community, all of whom can actively influence and manage much of the historic environment resource.

A detailed account of the known and potential surviving archaeological resource associated with the wetlands is given in this report and future threats to this resource are outlined. The results of the study are presented in such a way as to enable their effective use by strategic decision makers and forward planners to ensure that this finite and non-renewable resource is appropriately considered when deciding on the future use and development of Ceredigion's wetlands.

INTRODUCTION

Project background and commission

The Ceredigion Wetland Margin Survey was developed following archaeological discoveries in 2002/5 at Cors Fochno raised bog that highlighted the huge archaeological potential of this type of environment. These discoveries included well-preserved Bronze Age artefacts, an Iron Age/Roman industrial site and a medieval trackway. The examination of the archaeological potential at Cors Fochno formed the first year of this study (DAT Report No. 2008/114). This years study focuses on the archaeological potential of the inland raised bog of Cors Caron. Wetland sites are of particular significance due to the excellent preservation of organic materials in waterlogged deposits and the valuable palaeoenvironmental information they provide.

Although much of the wetland margins area privately owned, large areas of Cors Caron are owned and managed by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) who have instigated a variety of wetland restoration and management schemes as well as encouraging research into the wetland areas. University of Wales Lampeter have also undertaken a programme of archaeological and historical investigations around the fringes of Cors Caron. Building upon these areas of research, this project was intended to develop an understanding of the archaeological resource, to identify areas of archaeological potential and the likely threats to that archaeological resource. This would subsequently help inform the future management of this wetland margin and allow for the better integration of the care of the natural and historic environment.

The project was designed to work in partnership with the owners and managers of the wetlands (in this case CCW as well as other smaller landholders) to consider the archaeological potential of the bog. Areas of archaeological potential were mapped through an assessment and analysis of available archaeological data, aerial photographs, historic maps and other available historic documentation as well as drawing on the wealth of knowledge and research that University of Wales Lampeter had amassed. These were then used to target the fieldwork such as auger survey, geophysical survey or evaluation excavation. The information gained identified vulnerable archaeological sites and highlighted their need for protection as part of any forward management plans.

The project also engaged with local communities encouraging their active participation in the collection of documentary data and in site surveys. It is hoped that long-term involvement in the management of the bog can also be encouraged. The results of the investigations have been fed back into onsite interpretations of the historic environment that are intended to inform visitors and connect the local community with their past. Dyfed Archaeological Trust was commissioned by Cadw to carry out this project in 2008.

Abbreviations used in this report

Any references to sites mentioned in the text and recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN), located by their National Grid Reference (NGR), and recorded for this report on Geographic Information System (GIS) maps. References to cartographic and documentary evidence and published sources are given in brackets throughout the text, with full details listed in the sources section at the rear of the report. Organisations have been abbreviated, Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT), the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), the Royal Commission of Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW). The National Monument Record for Wales (NMR) held by the RCAHMW is also referenced in places.

THE SCOPE AND AIMS OF THE WORK

The overall aim of the project is to provide a sufficient understanding of the archaeological resource of the wetland margins in order to offer a framework for its sustainable management.

In order to achieve this, the project objectives are to:

- Record and map the historic evolution of the raised bogs.
- Record and map as far as possible the surviving above and below ground archaeological remains and potential.
- Recommend guidance for managers to ensure the protection of the above and below ground archaeological resource.
- Provide baseline data useable for the interpretation and presentation of the historic development and historic environment of Cors Caron.

In addition the work undertaken will also enhance the archaeological data Dyfed Archaeological Trust currently holds within its Historic Environment Record (HER). It will help gain an understanding of the effects of peat in its varying stages of decay on the archaeological resource and how that also effects archaeological investigation. Furthermore the project will encourage partnerships and community involvement, raise the profile of archaeology in the area and bring together research from a variety of different sources.

METHODOLOGY

The project was planned in three phases, the initial desk-based assessment, the field survey and the final reporting. A brief outline of the methodology is provided below.

Phase 1 – Desk-Based Assessment
Making contact and holding meetings with managers, landowners and other relevant parties
Holding discussions with the relevant parties to establish the best approach and share knowledge and collect information

Exchanging information and GIS maps with University of Wales Lampeter
Documentary research
Air photo assessment and analysis
Assessment of the known resource
HER enhancement – validating, updating and creating new records
GIS mapping
Site visits and meetings with CCW and University of Wales Lampeter

Phase 2 – Field Survey
Archaeological fieldwork of targeted areas with opportunities for community involvement
Walk over survey
Geophysical survey
Auger survey
Topographic survey
Trial trenching

Phase 3 – Reporting and Feedback to partners and broader community
Draft reporting
Management advice
Stakeholders meeting to share results and obtain feedback
Final report

REPORT OUTLINE

The production of this report has developed as a unique project but has utilized best practice elsewhere and in part has drawn from similar surveys undertaken by Dyfed Archaeological Trust. The study has included the following work:

Phase 1 - Desk-Based Assessment

Documentary research and analysis of aerial photographs
A study of historic and modern cartographic sources and a variety of documentary sources was undertaken to gain as accurate an understanding of the history and development of the wetlands and associated human activity as possible. Much research is currently being undertaken by Jemma Bezant of the University of Wales Lampeter concerning the history and development of the Cors Caron area, specifically in relation to the medieval granges of Strata Florida Abbey that once extended throughout this area. Documentary research has also been undertaken by various local history research groups. Consequently to avoid duplication documentary research by the author was not exhaustive, but relied to some extent on research by other individuals.

Assessment of the known resource
A brief review of documentary sources, pictographic evidence and cartographic sources was undertaken, followed by a series of site visits and walk-over surveys across the Cors Caron area. This also included a review of previous archaeological work recorded within the study area. Due to the wealth of information available it was not possible to examine all the relevant sources, but where possible an attempt was made to identify the main holders of further information.

Historic Environment Record enhancement
The project comprises a review of existing information about the archaeological resource. Information recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HER) was assessed and combined into a single project database. The HER enhancement then involved validating, updating, and where required creating new HER records, related specifically to activity on, or on the margins of, the Cors Caron wetland. Where spatial data is available digital mapping of sites was undertaken. This work also involved integrating records held by other organisations, such as the RCAHMW, Cadw, University of Wales Lampeter and CCW. See Fig 4 and Appendix 4.

Digital Mapping
Extensive work has been undertaken to produce the layers of digital mapping. As part of the HER enhancement this has included:

- Point data showing the HER sites (see Fig 4 and Appendix 4).
- Point and polygon data showing designated sites within the study area, specifically Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments. (It is noted that any such digital data will not be taken as definitive and will be labelled accordingly). Areas of special environmental interest have also been provided by CCW, which also carry designations, such as SSSI, NNR etc (see Fig 5).

- Polygons showing the areas of previous archaeological investigations within the study area, suggesting where further information on specific areas may be found (see Fig 6).

As part of the work done in studying the history and development of the raised bog areas digital maps have been created primarily from historic and modern map sources illustrating:

- Historic extent of the wetlands
- Locations and extent of historic farmsteads
- Routes of traditional trackways and waterways
- Historic boundaries

The results of the fieldwork have also been presented in part in digital map format, including:

- Topographic surveys of the targeted areas
- Locations of geophysical surveys, auger surveys and trial trenches (see Appendix 1 & Appendix 2)

As part of the aim to identify areas of archaeological potential and threats to the archaeological resource digital maps have been produced illustrating:

- Areas of archaeological potential within the study area, both within the bog itself and on drained farmland and land that lies along the wetland margins (see Fig 7 and Table 1)

Phase 2 - Field Survey

Although walk-over surveys and site visits were undertaken throughout the Cors Caron area, two specific sites were targeted for more intensive fieldwork, namely Maesglas (NGR SN66956232) and Llwyngwinau (NGR SN66906345) - see Appendix 1 & Appendix 2.

Trial Trenches

Trial trenches were excavated at Maesglas. These trenches were excavated by hand, of varying dimensions between 7m by 2.5m to 1m by 1m test pits. In all trenches the turf and ploughsoil were removed by hand down to the top of the natural subsoil. During excavation all revealed deposits and features were described on context record forms and allocated their own individual context number. After excavation, all features were photographed again and then planned using a Trimble Total Station Theodolite (TST). Standard techniques were used to excavate and record the trench profiles and any archaeological features. The relative locations of the trenches were tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid.

Geophysical Surveys

Geophysical surveys using a Bartington Grad601-2 dual Fluxgate Gradiometer were undertaken on the two targeted areas, with great success. The machine picks up minute variations in the earths magnetic field to detect buried features such as ditches and areas of burning or metal etc. The surveys were laid out in grids and tied into the topographic surveys and ordnance survey grids.

Auger Surveys

An auger survey was carried out at Maesglas in order to map the subsurface ground deposits and identify areas of palaeoenvironmental potential. A transect was established using ranging poles and tapes. Augers were undertaken at 5m intervals, using a 30mm open chamber or gouge hand-auger. The auger provided a continuous profile through deposits that could be cleaned, observed, measured, and recorded on proforma record sheets. The results of augers demonstrated and characterized distinct changes in the underlying deposits. The location of each auger position was recorded using the Trimble TST.

Topographic Surveys
The ground surface within the targeted areas was the subject of a detailed contour survey. Coded 'strings' of data were recorded to locate significant breaks of slope within the survey area using a Trimble TST. This data was then supplemented with an array of data points across the survey area. The resulting contour map was generated using Geosite 5.1 software.

Community involvement
Volunteers were involved in all stages of the fieldwork, undertaking trial trench excavations and auger surveys and assisting in the topographical survey. Information and updates have been provided both to local landowners and local history groups.

Phase 3 - Reporting and feedback

Identification of archaeological potential
Through a study of known archaeological sites and an understanding of the development and use of the raised bog it is possible to highlight areas that have the potential to contain further archaeological remains that as yet have not been identified. A layer of digital mapping has been produced to illustrate the different areas of archaeological potential. The digital mapping is broken down into broad groups and areas of high, medium and low archaeological potential. Explanations of the archaeological potential are included within this report, see Archaeological Potential (p23) and descriptions of the individual areas of potential (Table 1, p28) as illustrated by the digital mapping (Fig 7).

Contacts and consultations
Initial contact was made with representatives of a variety of interest groups and stakeholders in the Cors Caron area including Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), University of Wales Lampeter and various other interested groups and individuals. Contact has continued throughout the project with the exchange of ideas, information, resources and links to other interested parties. It is hoped this association between the various parties will remain ongoing as a result of this project.

A guide to using the results of the study
General threats to the archaeological resource have been identified. The legislation and processes that protect and affect the archaeological resource have also been identified and explained, and the roles of various stakeholders operating within the study area are highlighted. Explanations are provided as to how this report could be of use, and could be used by the variety of different stakeholders and parties that may be interested in and affected by the archaeological resource within the wetlands area.

Archiving
Once the assessment has been completed, the paper and digital record generated will be archived in the following way.
- Paper records (written notes, photocopies, traced maps etc) will be organised.
- Any records that duplicate information stored in the HER or any other databases will be discarded.
- The remaining paper record and photographs will be stored in the HER/NMR.

Project Outcomes

In addition to the GIS mapped layers and this supporting report with guidance on their use, one of the main outcomes of the project will be to develop and maintain the working partnerships and links with key stakeholders, and to encourage the future use of the results of the study. It is hoped that this will also

result in the continuing enhancement of the HER. Another outcome of the project will be the widespread sharing and dissemination of information to all key stakeholders, with the aim of informing the planning process and contributing to the protection of the historic environment. The project has also seen community engagement, with local community groups who wished to contribute their time and knowledge to the project on a rolling basis. Further meetings/talks with stakeholders will be organized to demonstrate the results of the study and how the GIS layers can be used.

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THE STUDY AREA

Cors Caron is a complex of raised bogs along the Teifi valley between Tregaron and Pontrhydfendigaid, comprising three main peat domes surrounded by a range of reedbeds, wet grassland, rivers, streams, ponds, woodlands and farmland. It is said to be the most intact surviving example of a raised bog landscape (macrotope) in the UK, covering an area of *c*.330 hectares (816 acres).

The area was declared a National Nature Reserve (NNR) in 1955 and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a wetland of international importance (Ramsar site). The study area lies in the Upland Ceredigion Area of Outstanding Historic Interest. The NNR is managed by CCW but it is surrounded by farmland around the wetland margins and across an area of 'archaic' bog to the north-east the land is privately owned, drained and managed for agriculture.

In brief the site began to form towards the end of the last Ice Age *c*.12000 years ago, when retreating ice sheets left behind a shallow lake. Over the centuries this developed into a marshy area, then fen as silt and peat began to fill the lake. Trees within the area died out about 5000 years ago. The three main peat domes have all suffered damage from peat-cutting activities over several centuries as well as some agricultural drainage.

Wetlands did, and still do, provide valuable resources for human populations and contain a continuous record of human activity throughout the ages. The peat bog contains the potential for the excellent preservation of organic materials and valuable palaeoenvironmental information. A wide range of archaeological activities have been recorded around the wetland margins of Cors Caron, including prehistoric burnt mounds and hillforts, the find of a headless bog body discovered in 1811, medieval settlements and post-medieval farmsteads.

Photo 1. Looking west across one of the main peat domes of Cors Caron, with Maesllyn Farm in the foreground.

Defining the boundary of the study area

The boundary to the study area is somewhat fluid as the study is concerned not only with the area of raised bog itself, but in areas of archaic bog and the wetland fringes. Within these wetland fringes are areas of archaeological activity that have often been directly associated with the peat bog, and it is these activities that the study is primarily concerned with. Some archaeological sites that fall within the boundary have been deliberately omitted as they have little or no direct relationship with the peat bog.

Initially the area of peat bog itself was the focus of the study but it became apparent that important associated archaeological sites along the wetland fringes existed some distance beyond this main area of bog. In order to more easily define where such areas of related activity lay the University of Wales Lampeter undertook research to identify the traditional (medieval and post-medieval) property boundaries around those farms that once encompassed parts of the bog in their properties and this led to the final boundary of the study area being defined (Fig 3). A small selection of sites beyond this boundary have also been included where the sites display a link to the use of the wetlands. The boundaries of the Historic Landscape Character Areas (Cadw, CCW & ICOMOS UK 1998) were also used as a guide when defining the boundary of the study area.

THE KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

Historical Documentary Evidence

The examination of the documentary evidence relating to Cors Caron has not been exhaustive in the preparation of this report. The wide research undertaken by the University of Wales Lampeter including the detailed examination of the medieval landholdings and estates in and around Cors Caron is forthcoming. This research has not been duplicated in the publication of this report consequently the full wealth of this resource is unknown although clearly documentary references relating to the ownership of large areas of the study area by Strata Florida Abbey and subsequently the Nanteos and Crosswood estates exist.

Early references to the bog appear rare although it is mentioned briefly by Leland in the early 16th century and it is not until the 18th and 19th century that passing references to the bog begin to appear in diaries, itineries and county histories, such as Walter Davies' diary written whilst journeying through South Wales in 1802 and Meyrick's 'The History and Antiquities of the County of Cardigan' in 1810. Carlisle and Lewis' Topographical Dictionaries of Wales throughout the 19th century provide general descriptions of the parishes and the main economic activities within. The directories and census returns of the 19th and early 20th century also provide details of population levels and activity in and around Cors Caron. Some detailed descriptions of peat cutting at Cors Caron exist from the late 19th/early 20th century.

The first detailed cartographic sources of the area begin to appear as estate maps in the 18th century. By the mid 19th century tithe maps (see Fig 8) give a relatively good coverage of the area and the late 19th century/early 20th century Ordnance Survey maps give good indications as to the development and use of the bog.

Designated Sites

As well as the ecological and environmental designations covering the wetland area there are also numerous specific archaeological designations. The larger study area contains 26 Grade II listed buildings (1 of which is Grade II*), although these represent only one element of the wide range of historic standing structures that can be found within the study area. The listed buildings consist of a range of buildings, from domestic structures to agricultural buildings, churches, chapels, wells, bridges, banks and a phone box. Not all have specific links to the use of the wetlands and therefore only the relevant sites are included in the study, although all listed buildings are displayed in the associated GIS maps (see Fig 5).

Eight Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) are also included within the study area. These sites are situated on the wetland margins, and include a range of sites from prehistoric barrows, burnt mounds and hillforts to medieval castles and holy wells (see Fig 5).

Archaeological Sites

There are *c*.125 known archaeological sites recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) that can be related to activity on the bog or related to the use of the bog. In addition 74 new sites have been created during this project. Several sites not recorded within the HER were identified from other databases, such as the NMR or Cadw's listed building data but only those specifically relating to the use of the bog have been included in the 74 new sites. Both the 74 new sites and the 125 known sites have been included in a gazetteer to this rear of this report (see Fig 4 & Appendix 4), describing basic information about the name, date and location of each site along with a brief description. These sites demonstrate a broad date range, from Neolithic stone tools to 19th

century farmsteads, and all demonstrate a clear link to activity on or association with Cors Caron.

The regional HER is held and maintained by Dyfed Archaeological Trust and includes the most comprehensive source of information on archaeological sites and objects from within Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire. It covers all periods of human development from traces of the earliest prehistoric activity to Second World War defensive structures and includes information from Cadw on Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings. As well as designated sites of recognised national importance it also includes details of regionally and locally important remains. As well as information on individual sites the HER contains information on past landscapes and information from previous archaeological fieldwork.

The Record is a complex system of information based upon a computer database and digital mapping. For each entry on the record DAT hold key information such as the type of site, its name, its location and the period it dates from. Most records have bibliographic references and a description.

Archaeological Interventions
Archaeological investigations within the study area are in the main related to desk-top assessments and walk-over surveys of farmland in connection with the Tir Gofal agri-environmental scheme. In total 51 farms within the study area have had some degree of archaeological assessment as part of this scheme. In addition to this there has been photographic building recording of a barn conversion at Dolbeudiau Farm, building recording of an old bridge at Pont Glasffrwd prior to its replacement and archaeological watching briefs on the demolition of Gelli-Gron, Tregaron and on groundworks close to Afon Brennig. In 1980 an archaeological excavation was undertaken on the eroding remains of a Bronze Age burnt mound close to Fullbrook Mill, and in 2004 archaeological recording was undertaken on another exposed burnt mound at Pwllauduon Farm. An archaeological evaluation has also been undertaken ahead of development at Talbot Yard, Tregaron. More general archaeological landscape studies have been undertaken such as the Historic Landscape Characterisations projects, and a Welsh Heritage Assets Survey of the North Tywi area (see Fig 6).

University of Wales Lampeter
As part of their ongoing research centred on Strata Florida Abbey, University of Wales Lampeter has also been investigating the wider monastic landscape. Cors Caron formed an important part of the Abbey's land holdings and consequently a great deal of research, both documentary and field-based, has been undertaken on the wetland margins around Cors Caron. The amassed historical, archaeological and environmental data has also been illustrated in a GIS, which is allowing a reconstruction of the historic landscape from the early medieval period onwards. Fieldwork has so far included excavation, geophysical survey and walk-over surveys of farmland around Hen Fynachlog, Ty Mawr and Mynachdy farms. Future fieldwork is planned in the Maesglas area. The outcome of a great deal of this research is also available publicly on the Strata Florida Project website set up by the University of Wales Lampeter (www.strataflorida.org).

Environmental Surveys and Research
There have been a variety of environmental surveys undertaken throughout the wetlands of Cors Caron that can also be of archaeological use. Restoration work along the Afon Teifi has included an examination of palaeoenvironmental remains looking at environment change, undertaken by Aberystwyth University and the Centre for Catchment & Coastal Research. Research has also been undertaken examining the mire development at Cors Caron by Dr. Paul Hughes of Southampton University.

SITE HISTORY

Development of the bog

As the glaciers retreated at the end of the last Ice Age *c*.12,000 years ago they left behind them a large shallow inland lake at Cors Caron. From about 11,000 years ago sediment began to fill up the lake, washed down from the surrounding hills, which gradually turned the lake into marsh and fenland. Groups of hunter-gatherers are likely to have begun moving through the area as the ice retreated, no doubt making use of the resources offered initially by the lake and then subsequently by the marshes and fenland. There is little direct evidence of these groups in the immediate area of Cors Caron though such evidence of people throughout the Mesolithic period (10,000-4400BC) is often scarce as settlement sites are often temporary and there is little material culture. In the Cors Caron area especially it is possible that evidence of lakeside camps became gradually covered, and probably preserved, by peat and alluvial deposits as the lake gradually turned to marshland throughout this period.

Woodland developed across much of this area as the marsh and fen built up but increasing rainfall would have leached out many of the soil nutrients, raising water levels and increasing acidity. This encouraged the spread of sphagnum peat throughout the area and killed off much of the woodland cover by around 5000 years ago. Due to the presence of an active river and tributaries running through the area it is unlikely that peat build-up was constant, and resultant fluctuating water levels may have resulted in a variety of alluvial and peaty layers throughout the study area.

Photo 2. Afon Teifi running through Cors Caron.

Prehistoric activity

By the time the trees across Cors Caron had died out during the Neolithic period (4400BC to 2300BC) much of the physical landscape of today had been established, as sea levels would have reached near current levels and an extensive peat bog had formed at Cors Caron. By this period it is generally

considered that groups of people were beginning to establish more permanent settlements and starting to clear woodland and farm the land. The pollen record obtained from Cors Caron offers an invaluable insight into the effect people were having on the vegetation during this time. It would appear that tree clearance and cultivation may have been minimal in the area during this period but there is clear archaeological evidence of human activity around the wetland fringes, as can be seen in the discovery of Neolithic stone tools, such as a polished stone axe discovered in Pontrhydfendigaid and a flint arrowhead from close to Fullbrook Mill.

The appearance of burnt mounds and burials mounds in the general area may suggest settlement levels were increasing during the Bronze Age (2300 – 700 BC), or at least the physical evidence of their presence survives better. A change in funerary and ritual practices during this period led to the burial of presumably prominent individuals under earth or stone mounds. These burials could occur individually or in clusters but were generally sited in prominent locations. Several fine examples are visible in the hills surrounding Cors Caron and many more have been eroded and ploughed away over the centuries. There are reports from the early 20th century (Lewis 1933) of several such features in the hills around the farmstead of Crug las, and are presumably the origin of the farm name. These have now mostly disappeared due to more intensive 20th century agricultural practices. It is during the Bronze Age period that we also begin to see evidence of unusual ritual activities associated with water and wetland areas. Archaeological work at Flag Fen near Peterborough has revealed a causeway and platform out into the wetlands, surrounded by votive offerings dropped into the bog, interpreted as evidence of religious activity. Such remains have not been discovered at Cors Caron but wetland deposits offer a good environment for the preservation of any such votive offerings.
Evidence of perhaps more general day-to-day life in the Bronze Age can probably be seen in the relative proliferation of burnt mounds visible along streams and on the edge of the wetlands throughout the Cors Caron area. These features consist of large piles of burnt and fire-cracked stones mixed in with charcoal, and are generally believed to date from the Bronze Age, although they are not exclusive to this period. The function of these mounds is still subject to debate, but their occurrence adjacent to water sources suggests heated stones were used to heat up water containers that could then be used for a variety of functions such as cleaning and cooking or even the working of wood and leather. The size of many of these mounds could be an indication of a local settled population, although evidence of these settlements themselves are rare discoveries, but the location of activity on the edges of bogs probably offers some of the best potential for discovering well-preserved remains of Bronze Age settlement.

The Iron Age (700BC – 43AD) is often viewed as a period of unrest due to the proliferation of settlement enclosed in complex defences. This is shown in the large hillforts and smaller defended enclosures that form such a feature of the landscape of Southwest Wales during the Iron Age. Impressive hillforts encircle Cors Caron, suggesting the bog was an area of some importance during this period. These include Pen-y-ffrwd llwyd camp to the north of Ystrad Meurig, Castell Flemish on the south-east side of Cors Caron, Sunnyhill Camp overlooking Tregaron, Gaer hillfort occupying a low headland to the west of Pontrhydfendigaid and Gilfach y dwn fawr on the uplands to the east. This latter hillfort was only discovered as recently as 1999 during aerial reconnaissance work by the RCAHMW, which suggests even such prominent archaeological sites can remain hidden from view. The obvious presence of these impressive defended settlements probably gives a skewed militaristic view of the Iron Age and no doubt further, more peaceable activities remain to be discovered in the wetland fringes. Though not peaceable, one of the most famous archaeological discoveries from a peat bog is the well-preserved remains of an Iron Age man from Lindow Moss, Cheshire. Here the upper torso of a man, ritually killed, in his mid 20s was

discovered during peat extraction. Intriguingly there is a report from 1811 of a headless bog body being recovered by peat cutters working close to Dolbeudiau farm. Sadly there is not enough information within the report to determine the date of the body, which was subsequently reburied in Ystrad Meurig churchyard, but this may also have been an Iron Age ritual burial.

Photo 3. The impressive earthwork defences of the Iron Age hillfort of Castell Tregaron (PRN 5168). Photo ref: TAJ-AP-SN6860

Roman activity

The Iron Age traditionally ends with the Roman occupation of Britain in the 1st century AD. Curiously the evidence of Roman activity throughout much of southwest Wales is relatively scarce, although new discoveries are being made. As Roman control was established forts were constructed throughout Wales. One such fort is recorded several miles to the south of Cors Caron at Llanio. The suggested remains of a rectangular enclosure have been recorded lying a short distance to the west of Pontrhydfendigaid (PRN 9678). There are apparent similarities in size and layout to a known Roman fort site at Llandovery, although typically forts were constructed a days march apart, and at only 8 miles from Llanio this site is a relatively easy days walk. However, the establishment of Roman administration was followed by a prolonged period of settlement, as can be seen by the establishment of a town at Carmarthen, and a coordinated attempt to exploit the natural resources of Wales, demonstrated at the gold mines of Dolaucothi, Carmarthenshire. Roman lead mines are known throughout Wales and lead ores run through the hills surrounding Cors Caron. The area was accessible at the time; the major Roman road of Sarn Helen runs around the western side of the bog. Evidence has also come to light recently of a Roman villa less than 10 miles north of Cors Caron on the road to Aberystwyth demonstrating the area was considered attractive, peaceful and profitable enough for more traditional forms of Roman occupation.

Medieval activity

Following the end of Roman administration in Britain in 410AD there was a period of local conflict, along with foreign immigration and invasion from Ireland and later Viking attacks. The following centuries are not well documented but during this period Wales came to consist of large tribal districts with their own royal dynasties as a series of Welsh kingdoms were established. The Cors Caron area is likely to have been populated by pastoral communities in small dispersed settlements, although archaeological evidence of their existence is scarce. It is also during this early medieval period that the native Christian church was organised and developed, and it is evidence of this that provides the main clue to the focus of activity in the Cors Caron area. A group of inscribed stones stand within Tregaron churchyard, and antiquarian records indicate more once stood there, which date to various periods between the 6th and 9th centuries. The circular churchyard at Tregaron is also an indicator of early medieval origins to the religious site and combined with the inscribed stones this would suggest a religious site in Tregaron during the early medieval period, possibly surrounded by a small settlement. The churchyard of St John the Baptists in Ystrad Meurig also has a similar sub-circular layout that is suggestive of early, ie pre-Norman, origins although to date there is no other evidence to support this. The discovery of 10th-11th century wooden trackway crossing the bog at Cors Fochno testifies to activity within wetland areas during this period but similar evidence at Cors Caron has yet to come to light.

Towards the end of the 11th century we find the first evidence of turbulent Anglo-Norman incursions into Ceredigion. As the Anglo-Norman forces tried to establish permanent control in the area they constructed castles as fortified bases. Early castle sites are visible throughout the Cors Caron area, although they are not well documented. At the northern end of Cors Caron a small castle was established on the riverbank close to Cwm-meurig-isaf. This castle was probably built in the early years of the 12th century but was destroyed in *c*.1137 and rebuilt as a stronger castle at nearby Ystrad Meurig. A short distance to the northeast of this lies the remains of Penycastell, another early castle site although due to the fragmentary nature of its defences it may never have been completed. To the south, sited on a prominent ridge with extensive views across Cors Caron, lies Castell Llwyngwinau, which has the appearance of a castle ringwork that is also likely to have early origins. Such castle sites could often be accompanied by a small settlement but evidence of such settlement has yet to be discovered at these sites. Indeed subsequent settlement around Cors Caron does not appear to have required such prominent militaristic defences. Llwyngwinau is likely to have been abandoned by the end of the 12th century and Ystrad Meurig castle, despite being attacked by siege engines in 1193, appears to have been abandoned after 1208. Even the major settlement of Tregaron lacks a castle site, although the remains of a castle motte do stand on the roadside about a mile to the southwest.

Perhaps the main characteristic feature of the Cors Caron area in the medieval period was the establishment of a Cistercian Abbey at Strata Florida in 1164. The site of the original abbey foundation may have been located at Hen Fynachlog farm on the eastern edge of Cors Caron, but by the end of the 12th century it had moved to its current location *c*.1m to the east of Pontrhydfendigaid. The extensive abbey holdings extended throughout much of the Cors Caron area, which was divided into several granges, three of which (Blaenaeron, Pennardd and Mefenydd) converge on the bog, highlighting the importance of the peat bog as a resource to the Abbey. The administrative centres for these granges also appear to have been located in the area. Swyddffynnon has been highlighted as the administrative centre for the Mefenydd grange, as well as the site of a medieval mill and possible chapel, and is likely to have developed a small settlement during this period. Blaenaeron grange may have been centred on a

site at Maesglas on the south-western edge of Cors Caron, again close to a medieval mill site and possible settlement. Several other small settlements are suggested around the fringes of Cors Caron throughout the medieval period, probably with varying degrees of accuracy, but it is likely that the current villages and towns that surround the bog have their origins in this period, and were strongly influenced by events at Strata Florida. Many of the farmsteads also have their origins in this period. It seems likely that for Pennardd grange at least, which encompasses much of the eastern side of Cors Caron, the abbey divided the grange into farm holdings, with each farm's land stretching from the bog itself, across the fertile lower slopes, and up onto the valuable pastoral uplands to the east. The arrangement of farms on the western side of the bog is less clear but many farm names in this area are recorded in documents dating back as early as the 12th and 13th centuries. Peat-cutting on the bog was undoubtedly taking place during this period, and may have ranged from small-scale ad-hoc extraction by local farms and settlements to more organised extraction under the direction of the abbey itself.

Post-medieval activity

After the Dissolution of the Monasteries (1539) much of the abbey holdings passed to the Earl of Essex, although the crown may have retained large unenclosed areas such as Cors Caron itself. The land was soon passed on through a series of major estates, namely the Nanteos and Crosswood/Trawsgoed estates. The Vaughans of Trawsgoed were still the major landowner in the Cors Caron area until the later 20th century when they sold much of the area designated a NNR to CCW. These large estates continued to farm the Cors Caron area through the established farmsteads but new farmsteads may have developed. It is likely therefore that most of the farmsteads in the Cors Caron area have unusually early origins either as medieval or early estate farms. Tregaron, which had lain outside the area controlled by Strata Florida Abbey, lay on an important crossroad of drover's routes and this lead to a considerable period of expansion in the 18th and 19th centuries. There is evidence of considerable peat-extraction at the southern end of Cors Caron close to Tregaron and a complex of drains is likely to have been constructed throughout the wetlands as peat was extracted and land enclosed for agricultural purposes. By the early 19th century plans were put forward for the extensive drainage of Cors Caron although these were not comprehensively initiated.

The development of metal mines in the hills surrounding Cors Caron contributed to an influx of people into the area, although waste from these mines had damaging effects on the river life and ecology of the bog. By the mid 19th century Parliament was forced to start introducing measures to help limit this pollution and clean up the rivers. The opening of the Manchester to Milford railway in 1866 promoted further growth in the area, with stations established at Ystrad Meurig and Tregaron.

Photo 4. Water collects in former peat-cuttings around the fringes of one of the main peat domes. Such areas are now being managed to return them to a more natural peat bog state.

Modern times

In the 1920s there was an attempt to start commercial peat extraction at Cors Caron, and plans were even put forward to return the area to a lake for boating and fishing once the peat had been extracted. Thankfully this was never carried out but peat-cutting remained a major industry in the area until the NNR was first established in the 1950s. Since that period attempts have been underway to return much of the area to its natural peat-bog state. Although the damaging effects of the mining industry are no longer a major threat, agriculture and settlement expansion still exert pressure on the wetland landscape.

HISTORY, USE & IMPORTANCE OF PEAT

Over the thousands of years of its existence the peatlands of Cors Caron are likely to have been put to a variety of different uses. The peat provides nourishment for the establishment of a variety of natural food sources that are likely to have been exploited by human groups from the Neolithic period onwards. Peatlands are an important source of wild berries, such as Cloudberry, Crowberry, Cranberry and Bilberry, which are still harvested widely in northern Europe. As farming practices were being established during the Neolithic the peat would have provided good grazing land, a practice that still continues today.

The use of peat as a source of fuel has been recorded in Britain and Ireland since the early medieval period but it is likely it was used in this way long before then. Historically this tends to be the most common use for peat. In Ireland the use of peat for fuel was widespread until the 1930s when it began to decline, picking up again when coal became scarce during the 2nd world war. In general the lower layers of the peat yielded material more suitable for use as a fuel, with the upper layers producing peat moss that can be put to a number of other different uses. Traditionally peat would by cut by hand using special turf-spades, then stacked up to dry and finally removed via horse drawn carts. This would have been the common method for much of the peat cutting in Cors Caron, although methods changed when peat cutting became more of an industry in recent times up until the 1950s.

Peat fuel was mainly used for domestic heating and cooking, but has also been put to industrial use. In Ireland peat was used to power a linen factory and even power stations, although those powered by hand-cut peat ultimately proved uneconomical. Interestingly, through until the mid 19th century the charcoal from peat burning was used by many of the Irish rural blacksmiths who believed it helped create a more robust product. In Kilcock, County Kildare peat charcoal was produced commercially and was claimed to be superior to wood charcoal when used in the manufacture of iron ore and gunpowder. It was eventually surpassed when the establishment of railways made coal more easily available.

As well as providing pasture peat has also been added to animal feed, in the form of fine peat dust, as it was believed this would slow down the digestion time allowing more nutrients to pass from the food to the livestock. This peat dust was also used as a form of packing material by some countries. Peat moss has also been used as animal bedding. This is particularly true of peat with high sphagnum moss content as this increases its ability to absorb liquids and also works to absorb odours. During the early 20th century large volumes were used by the British army as stable litter for the cavalry. As well as an ability to dampen odours peat has also been used to filter impurities out of water and other liquids. In more recent years peat has been used in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries to filter gases, odours and liquids, and absorb impurities in liquids or gases, and also in the treatment of septic tanks.

Peat has been used in the construction of buildings. Examples are known from 17th and 18th century Ireland of poor families building houses from peat blocks. Such structures are unlikely to survive well in the archaeological record, other than their stone foundations. When mixed with material such as tar, peat has also been as an insulating material.

In some health resorts of continental Europe peat baths are believed to have therapeutic properties to treat a variety of ailments. The true benefit of these peat baths is still apparently under study and it is unclear if this treatment was ever employed in Britain.

Perhaps the most common use of peat today is in the horticultural industry. This is generally used as a fertiliser or soil for container plants and the cutting of peat for this purpose forms the greatest threat to areas of peat land in Britain today.

The nature of peat is well known for preserving organic and inorganic remains such as wood, material and skin that do not otherwise get preserved on archaeological sites. However, peat is also good at preserving palaeoenvironmental remains such as pollen and volcanic ash, which are excellent in constructing models of past environments of use to archaeologists and environmentalists alike. The plant remains in peat can be dated using carbon dating techniques. Pollen can often identify the parent plant and survives for many thousands of years, especially in peat. The occurrence and quantity of pollen therefore gives a good representation of the local environment at different stages. Dust can also settle in peat bogs that can be subsequently examined. Dust can be from huge global events such as volcanic eruptions, and the minerals within the dust can often be linked back to specific volcanoes. Some volcanic eruptions have lead to cooler, wetter periods, affecting the local vegetation that shows up in the peat record.

The most common archaeological material to be preserved in peat tends to be wood, from wooden stakes to trackways and logboats. Trackways can vary from simple brushwood overlying the wetter peats that provide shortcuts across the bog, or droveways for livestock, to more complicated engineering projects such as a wooden trackway, as has been discovered at Cors Fochno. Log boats, or indeed more sophisticated wooden boats, have been discovered in peat bogs in Ireland, the earliest dating back to the Neolithic. The Afon Teifi cuts through the centre of the Cors Caron area, itself fed by several smaller streams and rivers. The developing peat may therefore have preserved earlier wooden boats left along the riverside over its history.

Perhaps the most famous objects preserved by peat are bog bodies, such as Lindow man, mentioned above. Peat will preserve skin, hair, internal organs and clothing allowing archaeologists a unique opportunity to study past diets, diseases, practices, clothing, fashions, stitching techniques etc. These bodies can vary greatly from accidental deaths, to deliberate burials to victims of murder, but all can reveal unusual past practices. A headless body is recorded as being discovered by peat cutters in Cors Caron in 1811, but it was reburied in Ystrad Meurig churchyard so the opportunity to learn more about the preserved body has now gone.

Occasional finds of wooden tools, utensils and containers are also recovered from peat bogs. Such artefacts are likely to have been widely used in the past but do not generally survive in an archaeological context. One of the most common wooden objects to be recovered from peat bogs are carved tubs or kegs used for 'bog butter'. Not true butter, the substance appears to be some form of animal fat, possibly to be used in the production of butter or for cooking or wool spinning. Radiocarbon dates from examples in Scotland show this practice has existed since the 2nd or 3rd centuries AD, and examples are known across Scotland and Ireland. The true reason for burying this 'butter' in peat bogs is unclear but it is thought it may be to preserve surplus amounts produced during the summer months, or perhaps to improve the flavour or even for ritual reasons, although this is generally discounted.

RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION

The large area of Cors Caron incorporates a vast number of known and potential archaeological sites of all periods that would be worthy of further investigation. Clearly in one season of fieldwork it is only possible to sample a minority of these sites. It was hoped that by targeting selected sites for archaeological fieldwork information would not just be gathered on those particular sites but would also provide a framework to inform the bigger picture of archaeological potential in the Cors Caron area.

University of Wales Lampeter have instigated a programme of continual research associated with their long-running programme of investigations at Strata Florida Abbey, the medieval landlords of Cors Caron. This work has involved walk-over surveys, geophysical surveys, environmental sampling and excavations. To date this has included an examination of the archaeological landscape around Hen Fynachlog Farm on the eastern side of Cors Caron, and Ty Mawr and Mynachdy on the north-western side of Cors Caron. With these examples in mind the current programme of fieldwork concentrated on Llwyngwinau and Maesglas farms on the south-western edge of Cors Caron (see Fig 1).

The fieldwork also involved a mixed programme of geophysical survey, walk-over survey, environmental sampling and excavation. This work involved a mixture of professional archaeologists and local volunteers.

A summary of the fieldwork is given in here but for a full archaeological report on each site investigated please see Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

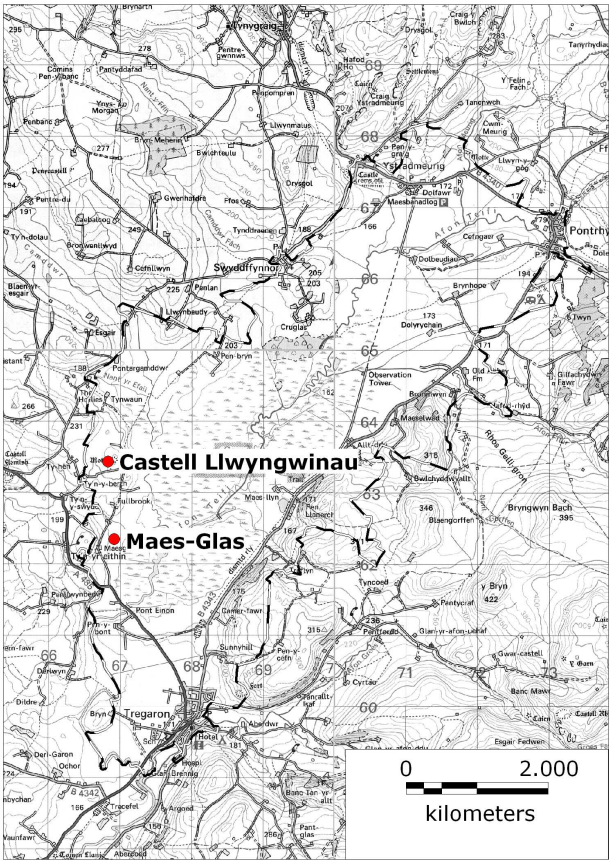

Fig 1. Location map of targeted areas, based on the Ordnance Survey.

Castell Llwyngwinau

As part of the wider project examining the archaeological potential of the wetland margins of Ceredigion a geophysical and topographical survey was undertaken at Llwyngwinau 'motte', near Tregaron (NGR SN66906345). The site (PRN 6160) is recorded as a medieval castle motte overlooking the extensive wetland area of Cors Caron, and is clearly visible on aerial photographs but has not been archaeologically investigated and there is no known history attached. Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services undertook a survey of the site in September 2009. The geophysical survey was undertaken using a fluxgate magnetometer (gradiometer).

The survey demonstrated that vestiges of this site still survive below ground. The site consisted of a wide external ditch with possible accompanying internal and external banks and a north-eastern entrance with a possible entranceway structure. Internally there was a sub-circular structure, possibly stone built with heating activity on its southern side. Speculative analysis suggests this is the site of a medieval ringwork castle.

Other archaeological features not visible on aerial photography were also recorded. The main entrance route to the site appears to have been along the ridge from the northeast. On lower ground to the northwest lies a possible square sided enclosure, which predates the current field layout and may be contemporary with the castle site. A bank extends to the west of the castle site that may represent an earlier field boundary but appears to respect the castle site. To the south lies faint traces of further linear archaeological features and possible pits and postholes lie throughout the surveyed area, these however are somewhat obscured by more recent agricultural features and natural features.

All interpretation at this stage is speculative and further archaeological investigation would be required in order to obtain a better understanding of the function and date of these archaeological features.

Photo 5. The site of Castell Llwyngwinau, looking south.

Maesglas earthworks

As part of the wider project examining the archaeological potential of the wetland margins of Ceredigion a geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation were undertaken on land to the east of Maesglas, near Tregaron (NGR SN66956232). Several unexplained earthwork banks are visible within two fields, lying at the edge of the peat bog of Cors Caron. Medieval activity is recorded at both Maesglas and Felin Fullbrook nearby. Prehistoric burnt mounds have also been recorded in the area and a Neolithic flint scatter has been recovered from around Felin Fullbrook. Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services undertook a geophysical survey of the site in February 2010. The geophysical survey was undertaken using a fluxgate magnetometer (gradiometer). An archaeological evaluation followed in March 2010, undertaken with the assistance of local volunteers.

The geophysical survey recorded several features of possible archaeological interest that proved difficult to interpret on the survey results alone. At the southern end of the area a prominent curving earthwork was revealed by survey to consist of a rectangular platform running roughly north – south, at right angle to which ran a bank, separated by a probable trackway. The survey appeared to show natural geology coming close to the surface by the remaining earthwork banks to the north west, which was cut by two parallel linear ditches to the north. A zigzagging linear feature at the eastern end of the survey area was interpreted as a ferrous or highly fired ceramic pipeline. To the south two distinct areas of dipolar readings were recorded, cut by a modern drainage trench, initially interpreted as the site of a possible burnt mound that had previously been recorded in this area (PRN 8995), although this was disproved by further evaluation. Faint linear features were also recorded in this area that appeared to correspond with field boundaries visible on the tithe map of 1843.

Two trenches were hand-excavated in the northern field, and two in the southern field. One trench was opened over the rectangular platform, which appeared to demonstrate this was a naturally occurring bank/platform modified by human activity. No specific archaeological features were revealed although a small amount of medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from overlying deposits. It was also shown to mark the limit of the former peat bog in this area. A second small trench was opened up in the area of the zigzagging linear feature but the feature was not located within this trench.

Two trenches were excavated to the south of the field boundary over the two distinct areas of dipolar responses. Modern ferrous detritus suggests these features were probably caused by modern activity, associated with a drainage trench. However medieval pottery and charcoal were also recorded in lower soil levels.

Together with a detailed topographical and auger survey the evaluation appears to demonstrate possible arable agriculture on terraces on the edge of the bog. Platforms and trackways leading onto the bog also suggest various activities on the peat bog itself, although auger samples demonstrated the peat was unsuitable for extraction for burning in this area. A possible pond also appears to have been constructed on the margins between dry and wetland. A small scattering of pottery fragments suggest a medieval or post-medieval date to this activity, which may therefore be associated with the activities of Cistercian monks at the nearby grange, or the later mansion house that formerly stood in the yard at Maesglas.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

In addition to the known archaeological and historic landscape evidence previously described this study has considered evidence for further buried or otherwise un-noted archaeological evidence that still remains to be identified, revealed, recorded, protected and promoted. Although it is impossible to be certain of what this comprises, and where it lies, there is much that can be done to gauge the potential of any area for the survival of important archaeological or otherwise unsuspected historic environment remains. Using the information and data which has been collected as part of the research, digital recording and fieldwork for this study it has been possible to build up a picture of the potential for archaeological remains within the study area.

As archaeological sites are under continual threat from a variety of different factors it is important to highlight areas of differing archaeological potential that may not be initially apparent, in order to inform best management practice to help protect this diminishing resource.

Excavations in 2003-05 on the wetlands of Cors Fochno not only investigated the trackway visible on the surface but also revealed extensive archaeological deposits that were previously unknown. The excavation also demonstrated that the trackway was beginning to deteriorate at a fairly rapid rate. Such excavations are therefore of enormous importance in both illustrating the archaeological potential of the area and highlighting the continual threat that these sites are under. One of the principal aims of this study is therefore is to ensure that such areas of archaeological potential that lie within the area of Cors Caron or on its wetland margins are recognised and defined.

Environmental Potential

In addition to the direct evidence of human occupation at Cors Caron the bog also incorporates evidence about the changing environment of the area as it has developed over the millennia. The history of the area's vegetation is preserved within the waterlogged deposits of the bog in the form of macro and micro plant remains including pollen grains. This evidence is not necessarily associated directly with distinct archaeological sites but can provide evidence of the impact of human activity on the immediate environment. This environmental context is extremely important in understanding and interpreting more direct archaeological evidence.

The palaeoenvironmental importance of the deposits at Cors Caron is recognised in its numerous designations and the important environmental studies that have been undertaken here, which are of national relevance.

Changes in the Extent of the Wetland Area

Wetland deposits have been building up across Cors Caron for around 11000 years, up to almost 10m deep in places, this both masks the underlying topography but also acts to preserve earlier ground surfaces from the weathering and erosion that might be expected on more exposed sites. A great deal of environmental research has been undertaken at Cors Caron although the results of this research has not been examined in close detail during the course of this study.

Throughout much of its early history Cors Caron was a lake, developing into marsh and fen with extensive woodland cover and subsequently into sphagnum peat. Excavation at Maesglas has shown that alluvial and mixed organic clays, possibly deposited as lakebed sediments and marshy deposits, extended some distance onto what is now considered dry land. Several rivers and streams would

also have fed this lake, marsh and fen. Such locations were attractive places for human activity, offering access to land and water and the variety of resources they contained. Temporary settlement sites may have been set up to exploit these resources, as discovered along the Severn Estuary where evidence of prehistoric settlement, including tools and even footprints, has been preserved in wetland deposits (Bell, in Cox et al 1995, pp49-61). However, without a greater understanding of the underlying topography it is difficult to gauge an accurate picture of the potential for such zones of activity to exist beneath the peat and other alluvial deposits at Cors Caron.

Approximately 5000 years ago much of the woodland cover at Cors Caron had died off. Peat then began to form and expand during the Neolithic and early Bronze Age periods, which coincided with an expanding and more settled human population. Peat levels may still have been significantly lower than today, offering larger areas of dry land for human occupation, the evidence of which may now lie under later peat accumulations. Further dating work across Cors Caron would facilitate a more accurate understanding of where areas of possible prehistoric activity may lie preserved beneath the peat.

Woodland clearance and cultivation of the upper slopes around Cors Caron appears to have been underway by the mid Bronze Age, and the discovery of numerous burnt mounds around the wetland margins suggest people were engaged in a variety of activities on the fringes of the bog. The build up of clays and peaty-gley soils over the early Bronze Age burnt mound excavated at Fullbrook (Benson et al 1985) shows the extent of the wetlands was greater than that of today. By the Iron Age clearance and cultivation had spread to valley bottoms and excavation at Cors Fochno further north has demonstrated extensive Iron Age activity on the edges of the peat bog, now buried by both encroaching peat bog and more recent agricultural cultivation. It is believed that as much as 75-90% of prehistoric structures and artefacts were made from organic materials (Coles 1984), which as already stated do not normally survive in the archaeological record but for which the wetlands of Cors Caron offer great potential for preservation.

By the Roman period much of the woodland clearance was virtually complete and pollen and macrofossil evidence from the peat bog demonstrates a general increase in land use intensity since that period, although there is likely to have been a slight hiatus from the end of Roman administration until the establishment of Cistercian control and organisation in the 12th century. It is possible the peat bog had reached its greatest extent at this time, as the Cistercian management of the area may have resulted in increased levels of peat-cutting and agricultural drainage as farmland was reclaimed from these marginal areas. Direct evidence of the intensity of Cistercian management of the peat bog is still being researched. Although peat cutting is likely to have taken place during this period, exactly where and how much was taken is unclear. Certainly by the time Leland noted it in *c.*1536 peat cutting appeared to be undertaken on a rather ad-hoc basis by local inhabitants. However, many of the surrounding farm holdings were established during this period, so agricultural drainage of wetland fringes is likely to have begun in earnest during this period.

Estate maps of the 18th century begin to give a more accurate indication of the extent of the wetlands in more recent times, although it is likely during this period that a more systematic and extensive approach to peat extraction was adopted, resulting in a shrinkage of the peat lands and an expansion of drained and cultivated land onto former wetland areas.

Preservation Factors

A variety of factors influence the preservation of the archaeological resource. For wetlands sites such as Cors Caron the main factors are a high water table, acidity, peat growth and sedimentation. The high water table creates the anaerobic conditions that prevent or minimize natural decay caused by insects, bacteria and other biological agents. It also tends to prevent damage from burrowing animals and natural erosion is also often rare. The quality of the preservation is often enhanced by the presence of tannic acid, which reinforces the cell-structure of organic materials in waterlogged deposits.

Different level of acidity can have differing effects on a variety of organic materials. This is perhaps best illustrated by the following diagram (Fig 2), taken from Van de Noort & Davies 1993 (originally reproduced from Darvill 1987).

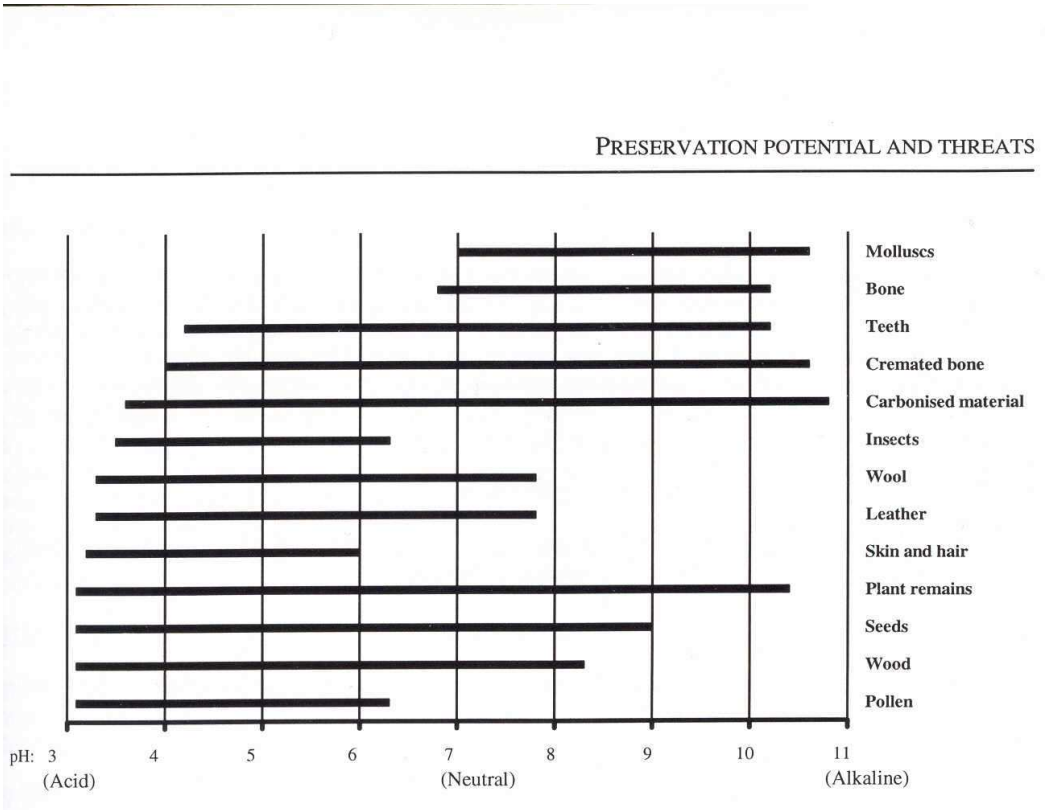

Fig 2. Acidity and archaeological survival (black lines) of organic materials in anaerobic environments (taken from Van de Noort & Davies 1993 (originally reproduced from Darvill 1987)).

The growth of peat helps to protect archaeological sites and features from weathering and erosion, and the layers of peat itself provides unique environmental evidence over time.

In such a former lake and river-fed site as Cors Caron, however, peat will not be the only deposit to aid in the preservation of archaeological sites and features. Sedimentation build-up caused by the many rivers that feed this area and the lake are often also waterlogged and protect sites from post-depositional weathering and erosion in much the same way as peat, as well as having an enhanced stratigraphy.

Past Land Use

In areas of peat bog and high water tables the past land use is likely to have been predominantly pastoral. Ploughing will therefore have had only a limited impact over much of this area. On the wetland margins where the land can be relatively easily drained, good quality soils provide ideal ground for arable cultivation and it is these wetland margins that have been the location of the most intensive human activity during the history of the bog. Despite the detrimental impact of drainage and ploughing on the archaeological resource the wetland edges still contain the highest levels of surviving archaeological evidence. However, the resource continues to be eroded and destroyed by on-going agricultural activities.

Excavation at Maesglas indicates that areas of peat extend some distance on to what is now improved pasture. Further pockets of peat and waterlogged deposits may also still survive within the drained and cultivated areas of the bog margin.

From the 18th century onwards extensive drainage works were undertaken across Cors Caron to bring larger areas into agricultural use and to extract peat. These drains caused extensive damage to the peat, drying it out and causing it to shrink, which is likely to have had a large impact on the survival of the archaeological resource.

Small scale peat cutting has probably been carried out at Cors Caron since very early times but the 18th century and later drainage works enabled it's removal to be undertaken in a more organized and commercial manner. Aerial photography, LIDAR survey and historic mapping indicate that large areas have been used for peat-cutting.

Photo 6. One of the many large drainage channels on Cors Caron, likely to date to 19th or early 20th century attempts to drain large areas for cultivation or peat cutting.

Levels of Potential

The bog and its margins have been divided into a series of areas of known and potential archaeological interest, which have then been mapped in a GIS. A variety of different factors have been employed in establishing these different areas of archaeological potential, where archaeological sites and features are likely or known to exist and where such sites and features are likely to be best preserved.

Archaeological potential has been divided into three basic categories, High, Medium and Low. 'Low' indicates and area where archaeological features, sites and deposits related to wetland use are unlikely to exist or survive, either because the area has been heavily developed, there are no known or suspected sites, or only minor sites have been recorded. 'Medium' indicates an area where archaeological sites, features and deposits related to wetland use may survive but there may be little information about them, or they may be relatively minor sites. 'High' indicates an area where good surviving archaeology is known, or strongly suspected.

The areas have been arranged according to this system of archaeological potential, but the different levels of palaeoenvironmental potential are also included within the table. These two sets of potential may not necessarily tarry, as some areas of thick peat or important wetland deposits may occur in areas of unlikely archaeological activity. However, such areas would contain some of the greatest time-depths of undisturbed waterlogged deposits offering unique palaeoenvironmental evidence. So similarly the palaeoenvironmental potential is also divided into the three categories of High, Medium and Low. 'Low' indicates an area where the palaeoenvironmental evidence is unlikely to exist or survive, either because the area has been heavily drained or otherwise disturbed, or waterlogged deposits are unlikely to have formed. 'Medium' indicates an area where palaeoenvironmental evidence may survive but there may be little information about it, or the area may have seen some degree of drainage and disturbance. 'High' indicates an area where good palaeoenvironmental evidence is known about, or strongly suspected.

Areas of high archaeological potential include regions such as the lower farmed slopes on the wetland fringe on the south-western edge of Cors Caron. Historical research and archaeological work has indicated this is an area of intense and potentially important medieval activity, not to mention the known prehistoric finds and post-medieval mansion and farmstead sites that exist in this area. Such a wealth of archaeology illustrates that the interface of wetland and dry land areas are sites of important human activity, giving good access to both resources. Where such resources are so easily accessible this is likely to attract human activity and therefore be of both great archaeological potential and areas under increasing threat. These wetland fringe areas have moved as peat had accumulated and shrunk which may lead to areas of high potential now lying under peat and offering important palaeoenvironmental potential.

Gaining an accurate understanding of the underlying topography and therefore being able to gauge accurately where the archaeology is likely to be is difficult and for this reason large areas of Cors Caron fall into the areas of Medium archaeological potential. However, it must be remembered that there is a real possibility that significant archaeology is present in these areas, just that our current knowledge is lacking.

The following table (Table 1) sets out these different areas of archaeological potential to be used in conjunction with the map provided (see Fig 7), which is also available as a digital map in the accompanying CD.

Table 1. Areas of Archaeological Potential

No	Area Name	Area Type	Archaeological Potential	Palaeo-environmental Potential	Description *Area description, potential descriptions and main threats.*
1	Tregaron	Settlement	High	Low	• An area (45.26ha) drawn around the settlement of Tregaron. This is the main settlement on the fringes of the Cors Caron wetlands. • The town has possible origins in the early medieval period, centred on the likely early foundation of Tregaron Church. Bronze Age finds have also been recorded within this area. The town was granted the privilege of holding a weekly market and two annual fairs in 1290 and developed from this, becoming a centre of the drovers trade. The 19th century saw considerable expansion in the town and current archaeological sites range from Bronze Age finds to modern telephone boxes. The area includes 7 listed buildings. • There is high potential for the survival of archaeological remains relating to the centuries of settlement at Tregaron, although later and present settlement is likely to have damaged much of the archaeology and waterlogged preservation is unlikely. • Continuing development is the main threat to the archaeological resource.
2	Cors Caron 1	Peat Dome	Medium	High	• An area (226.2ha) of peat bog forming one of the three main raised domes of Cors Caron wetlands. The dome is bordered to the northwest by the Teifi, and encircled by drains. • During the medieval period this was part of the Pennardd Grange of Strata Florida Abbey, and more recently was part of the extensive Trawscoed estates. The area appears to have been mostly unenclosed throughout much of its history although peat cutting is likely to have occurred from an early date, and evidence of peat cutting is still clearly visible on aerial photographs around most of its perimeter. • No archaeological sites are specifically recorded in this area but there is high palaeoenvironmental potential and the peat could also be preserving prehistoric landscapes and as yet unrecorded archaeological features. • Although suffering from drainage and peat cutting in the past, which may still cause continued problems, this dome is now part of the SSSI, PSAC, Ramsar and NNR and is being restored to its natural state.

3	Cors Caron 2	Peat Dome	Medium	High	• The southern of the three main peat domes (123.9ha) forming Cors Caron wetlands. Bordered to the west by the Teifi, to the east by the B4343 and to the north and south by drainage ditches. • This area of peat appears to have lain outside the medieval granges of Strata Florida Abbey and therefore its medieval history is unknown. By the 19th century it may have formed part of the Herbert estates (although this has not been researched) but large areas of peat cutting are already being depicted on 19th century map sources. This area appears to have seen the most intensive peat extraction, lying closer to the main settlement of Tregaron, and mechanical peat cutting was undertaken in this area in the early 20th century. • Recorded archaeology in this area is limited to the evidence of peat cutting itself but there is a high palaeoenvironmental potential and the peat could also be preserving prehistoric landscapes and as yet unrecorded archaeological features. • Although suffering drainage and peat cutting in the past, which may still cause continued problems, this dome is now part of the SSSI, PSAC, Ramsar and NNR and is being restored to its natural state.
4	Cors Caron 3	Peat Dome	Medium	High	• A large area (266.3ha) of peat bog lying to the west of the Afon Teifi, forming one of the three main raised peat domes of Cors Caron. Bordered by the Teifi to the east and the Camddwr to the west, and to the north by farmland and drains. • During the medieval period this was part of the Mefenydd Grange of Strata Florida Abbey. The area appears to have been generally unenclosed throughout much of its history, with some field division marked on the mid 19th century tithe maps at its northern limits. Peat extraction is likely to have had a long history in this area, especially given the ease of access from land to the west, and evidence of peat cutting all along its western edge is clearly visible on aerial photographs. • No archaeological sites are specifically recorded in this area but there is high palaeoenvironmental potential and the peat could also be preserving prehistoric landscapes and as yet unrecorded archaeological features. • Although suffering drainage and peat cutting in the past, which may still cause continued problems, this dome is now part of the SSSI, PSAC, Ramsar and NNR and is being restored to its natural state.

5	Pontrhydfendigaid	Settlement	High	Medium	• An area (20.18ha) drawn around the settlement of Pontrhydfendigaid, lying on the north-eastern fringes of the Cors Caron area. • This settlement appears to have its origins in the medieval period, possibly forming around a water mill and fulling mill recorded in the area. During this period it was part of the Mefenydd Grange of Strata Florida Abbey and may have had close links with the abbey lying only a mile to the east. The village appears to have expanded along the main roads during the 18th and 19th century, spurred on by the agricultural and lead mining industries. • Archaeological records refer mainly to the medieval mills and post-medieval development. As with all settlement sites with early origins there is a high potential for the survival of archaeological remains related to the centuries of settlement, although later settlement activity is likely to have damaged much of the previous archaeology. As this settlement lies closer to previous wetland deposits there is a greater potential for waterlogged preservation. The area includes 8 listed buildings. • Continuing development is the main threat to the archaeological resource.
6	Ystrad Meurig	Settlement	High	Low	• A relatively small area (9.05ha) drawn around the settlement of Ystrad Meurig on the north-western fringe of Cors Caron. The village consists of a small collection of buildings but includes a church and public house. • The village is centred on a motte and bailey castle established in *c*.1116 and a church site granted to the Knights Hospitallers of Slebech as a possible new foundation in *c*.1158. There is some suggestion, however, that the church may have early medieval origins. The castle site was relatively short-lived and was demolished in 1207, and there is no indication of the size of settlement that may have surrounded it. A small settlement was in place by the later post-medieval period and only minor expansion has taken place in recent years. • An Iron Age spindle whorl has been discovered at Hen Blas but generally the archaeology records relate to the important medieval castle and church sites, along with substantial 18th and 19th century buildings. This small area includes one Scheduled Ancient Monument and three listed buildings. There is strong potential for important medieval and post-medieval archaeology to be discovered here, although waterlogged deposits may be scarce. • Continuing development and agricultural activity close to the village are the main threats to the archaeological resource.

7	Swyddffynnon	Settlement	High	Medium	• An area (13.11ha) drawn around the settlement of Swyddffynnon on the north-western edge of Cors Caron. This small settlement is clustered around the head of the Camddwr Fach, and includes two former chapels and a school. • The village is believed to have medieval origins and may have been the site of the administrative centre of the Mefenydd Grange of Strata Florida Abbey. The remains of a medieval mill are still visible on the banks of Camddwr Fach and the medieval settlement was possibly focussed to the south of the stream. The current village, consisting of a collection of mainly 19th century structures, is focussed on the northern banks. • There is high potential for the survival of important medieval archaeological remains in this area, possibly focused in fields around a farm and former chapel site to the south of the stream. Waterlogged deposits may also be preserved in the small valley of the Camddwr Fach. Despite an impressive collection of traditional buildings and standing remains none are statutorily protected. • Continuing development and agricultural activity close to the village are the main threats to the archaeological resource.
8	Ystrad Caron	Farmland	Low	High (in places)	• An area (255.4ha) of regularly enclosed farmland, consisting predominantly of improved pasture, to the west of Tregaron. The farmsteads of Ystrad Caron and Pen y Bont lie in this area. • This area of land was probably granted to the town of Tregaron during the medieval period, and may have formed common land, as it remained relatively unenclosed until the 18th century. The current field boundaries were established during the 18th and 19th century when it was part of the Herbert and Nanteos estates. • Archaeological sites are limited to the historic farmsteads that lie in the area and a bridge (grade II listed) at the northern edge of the area. Areas of peat and alluvial deposits exist along the northern and western edges, offering good potential for palaeoenvironmental preservation, and a section of wetland alluvial to the southwest forms part of the Gwaun Ystrad Caron SSSI. • Agricultural activity and further drainage of the wetland margins are the main threats to this area.

9	Cors Caron 4	Drained peat bog	Medium	High	• An area (142ha) of peat dome forming part of Cors Caron bog but currently drained and grazed. It lies along the western banks of the Camddwr and encompasses areas of peat and alluvial wetlands, part privately owned and part NNR. The main block of peat to the south is also part of the SSSI, PSAC, Ramsar. • During the medieval period this formed part of the Blaenaeron grange of Strata Florida Abbey. Along with much of the unenclosed wetlands this area probably passed to the crown after the Dissolution and by the 19th century it was mainly owned by the Trawscoed estate, with a block of land belonging to Fullbrook farm. 18th century estate maps shows that the area had been divided up by large drains, many of which are still in place. The area is also cut by minor streams feeding the Camddwr. • Recorded archaeological sites are limited to the small abandoned 19th century farmstead of Ty Newydd and a road bridge (Grade II listed). However, archaeological work in the area has shown that many of the subsidiary streams, and possibly the Camddwr itself, are ideal locations for Bronze Age burnt mounds and despite drainage works there is a strong possibility of good preservation of palaeoenvironmental evidence. • Continued drainage of these wetlands is likely to result in further degradation of possible palaeoenvironmental evidence.
10	Cors Goch	Drained peat bog	High	High	• A large area (243.8ha) of wetlands forming the northern part of Cors Caron. Much of this area is still part of the SSSI, PSAC, Ramsar and NNR but it has been extensively enclosed and drained in relatively recent history. Large areas of peat and alluvium do still survive, peat tends to predominate to the west of the former railway line, but wetland deposits also extend up shallow valleys running off to the east. The area is bordered to the west by the Teifi, to the south by better-preserved peat domes, and to the east and north by farmland on rising ground. • During the medieval period this area formed part of the Pennardd grange of Strata Florida Abbey. Relatively easy access to this land has resulted in extensive peat cutting and attempts at agricultural reclamation. • Archaeological remains are varied but potentially very significant. The bog body discovered in 1811 is believed to have come from this area, close to Dol-beudiau farm. An undated trackway also crosses the bog, roughly between Crug-las and Dolyrychain farms. The remaining recorded archaeological sites are post-medieval, and include evidence of peat cutting activity, an abandoned farmstead and the line of the Manchester to Milford railway. • The restoration of large parts of this wetland area is likely to help the preservation of potentially important archaeological evidence but continued drainage and agricultural activity are still threats to the archaeological resource in many areas.

11	Gors Dol-fawr	Drained peat bog	Medium	High	• An area (79.57ha) of drained wetland very similar to Area 10 but divided from it by the Afon Teifi. This river also formed the medieval boundary between the Pennardd and Mefenydd granges of Strata Florida Abbey
12	Gors Crug-las	Peat bog woodland	Medium	High	• A large area (130.7ha) of peat bog forming part of Cors Caron, although tree coverage throughout demonstrates this is a dryer area of peat land. This area is bounded to the east by the Afon Teifi but also extends up shallow stream valleys to the west. The main area of bog woodland is included in the SSSI, PSAC, Ramsar and NNR. • During the medieval period this area formed part of the Mefenydd grange of Strata Florida. By the 19th century it had become part of the extensive Trawscoed estates. Relatively easy access from farmland to the west would suggest extensive peat cutting and possible drainage in this area although this is difficult to identify amongst the vegetation coverage. • Recorded archaeological remains are sparse in this area although potential extensive Bronze Age activity has been recorded around Crug-las farm that borders this area. The trackway noted in Area 10 also crosses this area, heading for a small but prominent rock outcrop close to Crug-las. • Although vegetation coverage suggests a drier area of peat bog the landscape appears fairly stable in this area and there is a good possibility of important palaeoenvironmental evidence surviving, possibly in association with prehistoric archaeology.
13	Sunny Hill & Old Abbey Farm	Farmland	High	Medium	• A large area (305.5ha) spread along the lower slopes on the eastern fringes of Cors Caron. The area is bordered to the west by the peat bog, and to the east by land rising steeply into upland areas. The landscape is one of farmsteads and dispersed dwellings set amongst mainly pasture fields. • During the medieval period much of this area lay within the Pennardd grange of Strata Florida Abbey. By the later medieval period this was probably divided into several farms, each farming land extending from the upland to the east down onto the peat bog itself. This pattern is still visible today; suggesting many of the farms may have early origins. Hen Fynachlog farm is also traditionally the site of the original abbey foundations. After the Dissolution these lands passed to the earl of Essex and then into the Trawscoed and Nanteos estates. • This area contains a large concentration of archaeological sites ranging from the Iron Age through to the post-medieval period, including Iron Age Sunnyhill camp, medieval farmsteads, abbey, mill sites and boundaries and post-medieval farmsteads and railway. The area includes one Scheduled Ancient Monument and one listed building. • Although some archaeological remains are protected by statute and some areas lie in relatively untouched upland settings, continued agricultural activity and the development of farmstead sites pose a significant threat.

14	Fullbrook	Farmland	High	Medium	• An area (188.5ha) covering the lower western hills stretching from Maesglas to Llwyngwinau. The area consists of an irregular layout of fields around several farmsteads and a former mill site, also including a block of common land at the northern end. The wetlands of Cors Caron form the eastern boundary, with gradually rising ground to the west. • This area formed part of the Blaenaeron Grange of Strata Florida Abbey, which may have been centred on a collection of buildings at Maesglas. The farm name is first recorded in the 12th century, as is Llwyngwinau to the north, which stands in close proximity to a probable medieval castle site. Fullbrook mill also has medieval origins, which point to extensive medieval settlement throughout this area. At the Dissolution these lands were granted to the Earl of Essex but soon passed to the Lloyds of Ffosybleiddiaid, later becoming part of the Trawscoed and Nanteos estates. 18th century estate maps show much of the current pattern of field divisions and farmsteads had been established by that time, although a mansion house with formal gardens stood at Maesglas, which moved and became two adjacent t farmsteads by the mid 19th century. • This area is currently under investigation as a potentially significant area of medieval settlement and activity. Significant Neolithic and Bronze age archaeology is also well recorded in this area, as are post-medieval mansion and farmstead sites. • Much of this area is under pastoral agriculture which has a relatively low immediate impact on the archaeological resource but continued agricultural activity and farmstead development is likely to damage these extensive, and unprotected, archaeological sites.

15	Heolfryn, Dolbeudiau & Brynhope	Farmland	High	Medium	• An area (270.9ha) of undulating ground and low craggy ridges on the north-eastern edge of Cors Caron. Generally an area of improved pasture in a regular layout of fields around dispersed farmstead, but pockets of wet peaty ground may also survive. The area is bordered by the lower lying Cors Caron to the west, the Afon Teifi to the north and by rising ground to the south and east. • During the medieval period this area lay within the Pennardd grange of Strata Florida Abbey, before passing to the Earl of Essex after the Dissolution. The lands then became part of the Trawscoed estate. 18th century estate maps show many of the dispersed farmsteads in this area had been established, surrounded by large areas of open land. This was enclosed in the late 18th/19th century to form the landscape visible today. • This area contains some potentially very important archaeological remains. The faint traces of an Iron Age hillfort are still visible close to Cefn Gaer farm, and an uncharacterised enclosure containing a cottage called 'Castell' also lies nearby. A rectangular enclosure recorded close to Pontrhydfendigaid also bears similarities to Roman forts noted elsewhere. Various post-medieval farmsteads form the bulk of the recorded archaeology. Areas of peat, although extensively drained, still offer potentially important palaeoenvironmental remains. • Continued agricultural activity poses the greatest threat, especially on the potentially important but uncharacterised and little understood archaeological sites in this area.
16	Cwm Meurig Isaf	Farmland	High	Medium	• A small area (59.73ha) of farmland on the north side of the Afon Teifi essentially similar in character to Area 15 but separated by the river. This area also contains the Scheduled remains of Cwm Meurig Isaf motte, a medieval castle site believed to be a 12th century castle site that was later transferred to the more visible remains at Ystrad Meurig.

17	Maesbanadlog & Mynachdy	Farmland	High	Medium	• An area (130.7ha) on the northwestern side of Cors Caron consisting of irregular pasture fields around the farmsteads of Maesbanadlog and Mynachdy. This area is defined mainly by the HLC area 40 'Ystradmeurig'. • The nearby church of St John the Baptist was granted to the Knights Hospitallers of Slebech in the 12th century and this area may have formed part of their property, with a potential hospice site at Mynachdy. The farm name may also refer to use by the monks of Strata Florida Abbey and the area may have been part of one of their granges. Maesbanadlog farm is first recorded in the 16th century, and the irregular field pattern suggests a gradual development over many centuries. • Archaeological records include the recently recorded site of a prehistoric burnt mound. Medieval activity is suggested at Mynachdy, and the remaining archaeological sites refer to post-medieval farmsteads, including a grade II listed building at Maesbanadlog. There is the possibility of small areas of peat deposit surviving in this area. • Continuing agricultural activity forms the main threat to the archaeological resource.
18	Swydd & Crug-las	Farmland	High	Medium	• An area of farmland (137.2ha) on the western edge of Cors Caron. This area consists of undulating ground gradually rising to the west, bordered by the peat bog to the east, higher ground and the settlement of Swyddffynnon to the west. The area is defined largely by the HLCV area 26 'Swyddffynnon'. • During the medieval period this area formed part of the Mefenydd grange of Strata Florida Abbey. The administrative centre of the grange may have been located at nearby Swyddffynnon (see Area 7), including a small settlement. There is a record of a medieval settlement centred on Swydd farm but this is likely to refer to Swyddffynnon itself. After passing to the earl of Essex on the Dissolution these lands appears to have been purchased by the Lloyds of Ffosybleiddiaid, later becoming part of the Trawscoed estate. The arrangement of farms and surrounding fields is likely to have relatively early origins and was in place by the mid 19th century. • Important Prehistoric remains possibly surround Crug-las farm, with references from the early 20th century to several 'tumuli' in this area, possible Bronze Age burial mounds that are no longer visible. Outlying medieval activity may also surround the settlement of Swyddffynnon and the remaining archaeological sites refer mainly to post-medieval farmsteads and buildings. • Continuing agricultural activity forms the main threat to the archaeological resource.

19	Ynys-y-Bont	Farmland	High	High	• An area (191.4ha) of undulating farmland including outlying areas of wetland in the low Camddwr valley on the western side of Cors Caron. This area consists of an irregular layout of pasture fields around dispersed farmsteads, bordered to the east by Cors Caron, to the south by common land and to the north and west by gradually rising ground. • During the medieval period this area was split between the Mefenydd and Blaenaeron granges of Strata Florida Abbey, the boundary running down the Camddwr. After the Dissolution the area passed to the earls of Essex, then the Lloyds of Ffosybleidiaid and then to the Trawscoed estate. Many of the farm names, such as Llwynbeudy, Ynys-y-bont and Ynys-y-berfedd are recorded as early as the 16th and 17th century. The field system had been established by the mid 19th century. • Areas of alluvial and peaty deposits lie along the Camddwr valley and around the small 'island' upon which Ynys-y-bont stands which offers good potential for palaeoenvironmental evidence. There is a record of a prehistoric burnt mound on the banks of one the streams feeding the Camddwr, and the suggestion of a possible prehistoric standing stone close by. The remaining archaeological sites refer to post-medieval farmsteads. • Continuing agricultural activity and drainage are the main threats to the archaeological resource.
20	Pen Llanerch	Upland	Low	Low	• An upland area (153.1ha) that forms part of the upland holdings of farms along the eastern edge of Cors Caron. These craggy uplands are divided into privately owned large enclosures. • During the medieval period this area formed part of the Pennardd grange of Strata Florida Abbey but it is likely that it was subdivided into individual farms by the later medieval period. These farms were regularly spaced and each owned areas of upland sheepwalk as well as lower peat bog, consequently early land divisions exist in this area. After the Dissolution the lands passed to the Earl of Essex and then to the Trawscoed estate, ultimately being purchased by the Nanteos estate. • The only recorded archaeological site in this area is a medieval boundary, although further early boundaries are also likely to cross this area. Possible squatter settlements are also known in similar upland landscapes. • There is little known threat to the scantily recorded archaeological resource in this upland area.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE IDENTIFIED HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RESOURCE

This study, also comprising information and data held within the GIS MapInfo tables accompanying this report, has been designed as a tool to assist those that use and actively influence the wetlands and its margins (such as conservationists, farmers, other land managers, the local community, planners, strategic decision makers and developers) in understanding the archaeological resource associated with Cors Caron and the issues and implications associated with any proposed land-use changes.

Despite the increasing volume of evidence from wetland research in the last 30 years, and great advances in environmental assessment during the same period, archaeological considerations and complexities are not regularly considered during restoration or development work concerning wetlands. Wetland restoration often does not require formal planning consent or Environmental Impact Assessments, therefore archaeology may not have had a place in the conservationist agendas and there are no formal obligations to mitigate against potential destruction by funding archaeological work (Cox et al 1995, p120). Wetlands can also be seriously affected by changes in land management and land-use that lie outside the planning process.

The historic environment is an asset and an economic resource, which can provide opportunities for present and future generations. It contributes to our sense of place and cultural identity. It enhances our quality of life and adds to regional and local distinctiveness. It is one of our most important social assets, linking people with places and forging community identity and cohesion.

However, the historic environment is a fragile resource. Once elements have been destroyed or altered they can seldom be recovered, and the character and quality of the whole is eroded easily by thoughtless actions. We have a duty to protect those historic assets that are valued and manage change in the wider historic environment sensitively and sustainably to retain what is significant and pass it on to future generations. The Welsh Historic Environment – Towards a Strategic Statement DRAFT, Produced by the Historic Environment Group, an advisory forum of the Welsh Assembly Government, states:-

> "The historic environment makes a significant contribution to the strategic agenda of the Welsh Assembly Government, as expressed in *One Wales* and *People, Places, Futures: The Wales Spatial Plan*. *One Wales* recognizes the geographical, social, linguistic and cultural diversity of Wales, which is embedded within the historic environment. Pride in history forms the bedrock of a strong and confident nation. Exploration of our environment promotes a healthy future; for example, in encouraging Walking to Health. *One Wales* makes reference to the need to draw upon our unique culture and history in the promotion of Wales and recognizes the role that this can play in creating a prosperous society. Pride in place and recognition of historic character foster living communities. Learning for life through the stimulus of the historic environment benefits from an understanding of our place in the world, 'looking to the past in order to deliver a better future for the people of Wales'. Heritage and cultural fabric are resources for regeneration, encouraging citizenship and the creation of a fair and just society. A sustainable environment can grow from managing and protecting historic assets. *One Wales* recognizes the need to 'celebrate and conserve Wales's outstanding heritage', to promote a sense of ownership and identity and to highlight those elements that give Wales a distinctive place in the world. In short, the historic environment lies at the core of our rich and

> diverse culture. The historic environment helps to deliver each of the guiding themes of the *Spatial Plan*. This recognizes our environment as a crucial asset, highlighting the benefits of Wales's high-quality landscapes and its 'wealth of archaeological sites and historic monuments' and asserting that valuing our environment must include safeguarding and enhancing the natural and the built heritage. It states that 'we need to maintain and support the distinctive character of the Welsh historic environment', as celebrating and respecting distinctiveness is 'central to promoting Wales to the world'. Building sustainable communities relies on attractive places to live and work; and the same attractiveness promotes a sustainable economy."

The unique and irreplaceable archaeological evidence that preserved organic deposits provide is dependent to a large extent on the waterlogged soils. Once these deposits dry out then that unique archaeological evidence is lost. Wetlands throughout the UK have suffered over the years with much of the associated palaeoenvironmental and archaeological evidence lost.

Alterations to the level of water in these wetland sites can have varying degrees of impact on the survival of organic remains. For example, if wood becomes exposed above the water table then it may suffer from bacterial attack but not necessarily dry out. Leather, textile and insect remains on the other hand are far more susceptible to even a brief change in the anaerobic environment (Van de Noort & Davies 1993, pp 106-118).

On wetland sites such as Cors Caron there is therefore general recognition that archaeological conservation has clear common interests with nature and environmental conservation. The preservation of wetland sites for biological or palaeogeomorphological reasons will also benefit the preservation of organic archaeological remains and historic landscapes, and preserving areas of historic significance can deliver significant rewards for the flora and fauna (Van de Noort & Davies 1993).

Using the results of the study

This guidance largely relates to the buried archaeological resource, though consideration also needs to be given to listed and unlisted buildings, settlements and rural morphology and topography as well as the historic landscape features. All of these archaeological remains are a finite and non-renewable resource. They are vulnerable to land-use change and modern development and can, within a short space of time, be entirely destroyed by modern machinery and building methods.

Users

It is hoped that a wide range of individuals and organisations will both have access to and an interest in using the results of this study. These include;
Countryside Council for Wales
The Regional Archaeological Curator – Planning Archaeologist
Specialist interest groups and individuals
Local interest groups and individuals
Cadw
Environment Agency
Community Councils
Environmental Groups
Farmers
Local landowners

Specific Threats to the Archaeological Resource

Drying
Dewatering and drying continue to impact the bog due to the major drainage ditches and also through more minor field drains. Associated shrinkage subsidence of the bog margins has a knock on effect, increasing runoff rates from the central domes and causing degradation of the bog vegetation (including tree colonisation) to spread. Shrinkage will also bring deeper deposits closer to potential surface disturbance such as ploughing, and cracks will also appear exposing further deposits and features to decay.

Works to enable re-wetting
Such works can include both the stripping of peat down to wetter levels as well as the blocking of ditches and drainage channels and the creation of bunds to retain water. Peat stripping has obvious detrimental impacts if archaeological deposits are contained within that level of peat, possibly damaging or exposing archaeological remains. Some inorganic materials may deteriorate further if rewetted, especially iron, this may affect archaeological sites that are known to have dried out but are going to be affected by wetland restoration programmes. Raising water levels can also reduce access to archaeological sites, making them less visible to the general public but also harder to carry out further archaeological investigations.

Development
Both settlement and industrial development pose a threat. Around Cors Caron several villages border the wetland area increasing pressure on marginal sites as well as introducing potential pollutants. Ground-breaking activities and further drainage involved in development has a direct detrimental impact on underlying and surrounding archaeological features and deposits, especially given such developments are often within areas of most archaeological potential. Other factors also need to be taken into considerations associated with developments, such as conifer planting to screen developments, which can lead to changes in the water levels (Rippon, in Cox et al 1995, p72).

Intensive Farming
To make wetland areas more suitable both for arable and improved pasture the land is first drained which causes damage through drying. Turning wetland into arable also introduces the threat of ploughing damaging archaeological and environmental remains in the plough margins. The introduction of fertilisers and pesticides can also alter the chemical makeup of waterlogged deposits. As soils become more alkaline organic remains dependent on acidic anaerobic conditions, including insect cases, pollen, leather, wool, skin and hair and sometimes wood will degrade and disappear. More traditional pastoral farming practices, involving less artificial land improvement, can have a beneficial effect however, by controlling damaging vegetation growth.

Peat Cutting
Peat cuttings are well recorded and clearly visible around Cors Caron, and are likely to have been both long-standing and extensive. This is potentially damaging to the archaeological resource, both in directly damaging archaeological remains during the cutting, but also in affecting the palaeoenvironmental potential through associated drainage. The extensive use of peat in the horticultural industry still poses a threat for many peatlands unless protected.
Such areas of peat cutting do however pose contradictory problems for archaeological preservation, as the peat-cutting evidence itself can be regarded as an important historic industrial landscape worthy of conservation, and such

areas can be damaged by the blocking of drainage and raising water levels over areas of peat cutting.

Tourism
Well-used footpaths and trackways can cause damaging erosion to archaeological sites, this especially needs to be taken into consideration if the trackway itself is an archaeological feature.

Neglect
The colonisation of tree and gorse onto areas of bog can alter the water supply as they extract more moisture from the soils, drying out areas of peat. Without the active management of groups such as CCW surrounding agricultural activity and old drainage systems will continue to drain water from the bog allowing the peat to dry.

Climate change
Periods of drought can lead to falls in the water level and reduce the ability to recharge water levels through rainfall. Works associated with this threat, such as embankments could affect buried deposits or open up new areas to river erosion.
The effect of acid rain is unclear, although a survey of its possible effect on freshwater SSSIs (Rimes 1992) found that much of Wales would be heavily affected. Resultant changes in acidity may lead to vegetation changes, soil and water chemistry changes, all of which could threaten the stability of the preservative effects of the wetlands.

Pollution
Pollution of the water supply can lead to changes in the vegetation which could have knock on effects for water levels, as well as the ability of wetland deposits to preserve inorganic remains. Such pollution could have several sources in the Cors Caron area, from agricultural fertilisers, sewage treatment works and even archaeological sites such as disused metal mines.

Recommendations for Potential Mitigation

Bunds, dams and sluices

CCW are currently engaged in the active management of large areas of Cors Caron to address problems associated with drying, neglect and climate change, the results of which will also have a beneficial impact on archaeological preservation in these areas. One of the main methods employed is to block old drainage ditches and retain water using peat bunds, to either prevent or slow water loss. Similar practice is common elsewhere as a method of slowing water loss and raising water levels, including the use of clay and polythene bunds and dams. Care should be taken when addressing water levels that neighbouring areas do not unintentionally become flooded or adversely affected, and water levels need to be regularly monitored. Similar problems in Holland and Ireland have shown that when polythene bunds are used the sheeting does not need to go down into the underlying subsoils, but can be driven into differing lower peat horizons (Coles 1995, p81-2). Care has to be taken in the design and positioning of such bunds to allow them to cope with the subsequent build-up of pressure as water-levels rise. As such bunds need to be created on the advice of appropriate water engineers to prevent them collapsing.

Pumping

In some cases, such as the Somerset Levels (Coles 1995, pp77-79), pumps have been installed to manually change water levels at specific times. In this case pumps were used to pump water along the length of a waterlogged Neolithic trackway during periods of dry weather when the water table dropped to below the level of the trackway. Clay bunds were used on the Somerset Levels to retain the pumped water.

Care also needs to be taken to ensure the water source is both sustainable and of the appropriate quality, legal requirements may also need to be considered. Advice from hydrologists should be sought, as the hydrology can vary considerably, both from one type of wetland to another, but also within a specific wetland system. However pumping may not be a sustainable long-term solution to problems of fluctuating water levels.

Monitoring

Water levels are susceptible to seasonal as well as long-term alterations. It is crucial to maintain an understanding of the changing water levels, especially around areas of known organic archaeological remains as even short periods of drying out can have a permanent detrimental impact.

Vegetation Control

Vegetation should be controlled as some scrub and trees, other than perhaps birch, are not natural components of a raised bog. Managing the vegetation can be labour intensive work unless it can be achieved through flooding the area. The general use of herbicides should be avoided as this may change the chemical makeup of the water and long-terms effects may be unknown, although spot treatment may be possible.

Consideration has been given to the use of fire, combined with appropriate water level management, as a tool for vegetation control on bogs. In examining the raised bogs of Thorne and Hatfield Moors in South Yorkshire investigations (Eversham, Buckland & Dinnin in Cox et al 1995, p79) have suggested that fire, at the right time of year when the water table was high enough to avoid prolonged and deep burning, could prove a cheap and effective way to control birch and scrub encroachment. This was considered preferable to use of herbicides, excessive flooding which could damage wildlife interests and an uncontrolled fluctuating water table that could be destructive of both natural and archaeological interests.

Positive Agricultural Regimes

Work on the Gwent levels has highlighted the fact that the managed and farmed wetlands is a dynamic landscape, and protecting it does not necessarily mean turning it into a museum piece, but instead maintaining it as a working landscape but mitigating against certain destructive farming practices (Rippon in Cox et al 1995, p72). Here management agreements have been established with the farmers working within the SSSI to stop under soil drainage to maintain the traditional system of ditches and sluices, or reens and grips. Cattle, and other grazing animals, can also be useful for scrub control, as well as providing natural fertilisers, although cattle are apparently more prone to falling into ditches.

Archaeological Work

If known archaeological sites that have dried out are going to be effected by wetland restoration programmes then selective excavation may be beneficial due to the deterioration of inorganic deposits, especially iron, if re-wetted (Coles 1995, pp106-9). Similarly detailed topographical surveys could record relict landscapes such as areas of old peat cuttings prior to their submersion during wetland restoration programmes.

Outreach work

The interest and involvement of the local community, landowners and managers in the cultural heritage of wetlands may help to encourage understanding, appreciation and respect of the wetlands. This could be achieved through the promotion and dissemination of the results of wetland research.

An intrinsic element of wetland restoration programmes elsewhere containing important archaeological remains has been to get those archaeological remains on display. This has often involved either the removal of damaged and excavated archaeological features to be placed in locations where they can be better preserved and observed, or the reconstruction of excavated archaeological features in more publically accessible areas. No appropriate archaeological remains have yet been uncovered at Cors Caron, but these wetlands do benefit from extensive walkways and a public display centre on the bog itself.

Statutory Protection
The designations protecting archaeological sites are outlined below, although as can be seen these are not always appropriate for ensuring the survival of the unique aspects of archaeological survival in wetland environments.

All archaeological sites, buildings and structures which are currently protected by legislation have been mapped within the GIS and include Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) and Listed Buildings of Special Architectural and Historic Interest (LBs) (see Fig 5). The designation consent procedures for works affecting SAMs are the responsibility of Cadw. While LBs are designated by Cadw the Local Planning Authorities administer the consent procedures for works affecting them.

Protection	Current Legislation or Guidance
Statutory protection	The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, as amended by the National Heritage Act 1983
	The Town and Country Planning Act 1990
	The Planning and Compensation Act 1991
	Statutory Instrument 1199, the Town and Country Planning (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1988
	The General Development Procedure Order 1995
Non Statutory Protection	Planning Policy Wales, March 2002
	Welsh Office Circular 60/96, *Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology*, December 1996
	Welsh Office Circular 61/96, *Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas*, December 1996
	Agri-environmental schemes, such as Tir Gofal, Tir Cynal & EAAFG

Table 2. Statutory and non-statutory designations protecting archaeological sites.

Archaeology in Future Management Programmes

In dividing the study area into specific areas of archaeological potential this study has examined the various individual characteristics of each area, such as the level of knowledge about the archaeology, the state of preservation, threats to the resource, importance of the resource and so on. It is hoped that by bringing together this knowledge this can help to highlight areas of specific concern that are affected by both current and possible future management programmes, either in terms of wetland restoration or agricultural management and development. It is also hoped that this will then allow archaeological concerns to be more readily considered and addressed by positive management.

Management Information
Linked with the HER are series of GIS layers of information. Some include data taken directly from historical mapping while others contain the results of the interpretation of a variety of historical and archaeological sources. These are intended to provide a synthesis of available data. Of particular importance is the layer that explains archaeological potential (see Fig 7 & Table 1). This is intended to provide an indication of the archaeological issues within each defined area.

It will flag up at an early point in management processes whether there are historic environment assets that need to be considered and where appropriate properly integrated as part of proposals for change.

Management Decision Making

This understanding will need to be included as part of any statutory and non-statutory planning or management decision process. These should follow the best practice set out within the Terrestrial Planning Process. In Planning Policy Wales (2002) the Welsh Assembly Government set out their objectives for the conservation of the historic environment in Wales.

- preserve and enhance the historic environment, recognizing its contribution to economic vitality and culture, civic pride and the quality of life, and its importance as a resource for future generations; and specifically to

- protect archaeological remains, which are a finite and non-renewable resource, part of the historical and cultural identity of Wales, and valuable both for their own sake and for their role in education, leisure and the economy, particularly tourism;

- ensure that the character of historic buildings is safeguarded from alterations, extensions or demolition that would compromise a building's special architectural and historic interest; and to

- ensure that conservation areas are protected and enhanced, while at the same time remaining alive and prosperous, avoiding unnecessarily detailed controls over businesses and householders.

Specific Historic Environment Consultation

This guidance does not replace the need for any strategic planning or decision making body to seek the professional heritage management advice of Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Heritage Management, the regional archaeological curator, along with other statutory consultees. Through the established mechanism of the statutory land-use planning process and other best practice, Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Heritage Management provides a comprehensive service available to all the identified bodies and organisations as well as to prospective developers and other interested organisations and individuals.

The most important tool we possess to inform the conservation and preservation of the physical remains of our past is our accumulated knowledge of them. Records of these remains are held in the extensive databases of the regional Historic Environment Records. On behalf of the Unitary Authorities in South-west Wales, Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Heritage Management maintains *c*.50,000 records of archaeological and historical interest. For Ceredigion these records have been formally adopted by resolution of Ceredigion County Council for the purposes of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995. This legislation provides the rationale and context for deploying this important source of information in the statutory land-use planning processes.

In terms of archaeological development control the HER, together with the information brought together in this study, will be the key advisory sources for the protection of the historical and archaeological inheritance of Cors Caron.

Early consultation by developers in advance of drawing up detailed development proposals is best practice. Developers should discuss their preliminary plans with the relevant bodies, organisations and authorities and Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Heritage Management as the regional archaeological adviser. A first step will be to consult the HER, which will provide information about the locations where

archaeological remains are known or thought likely to exist. Professional archaeological staff in Dyfed Archaeological Trust are trained and experienced in the interrogation of these records and accordingly can provide appropriate interpretation and advice.

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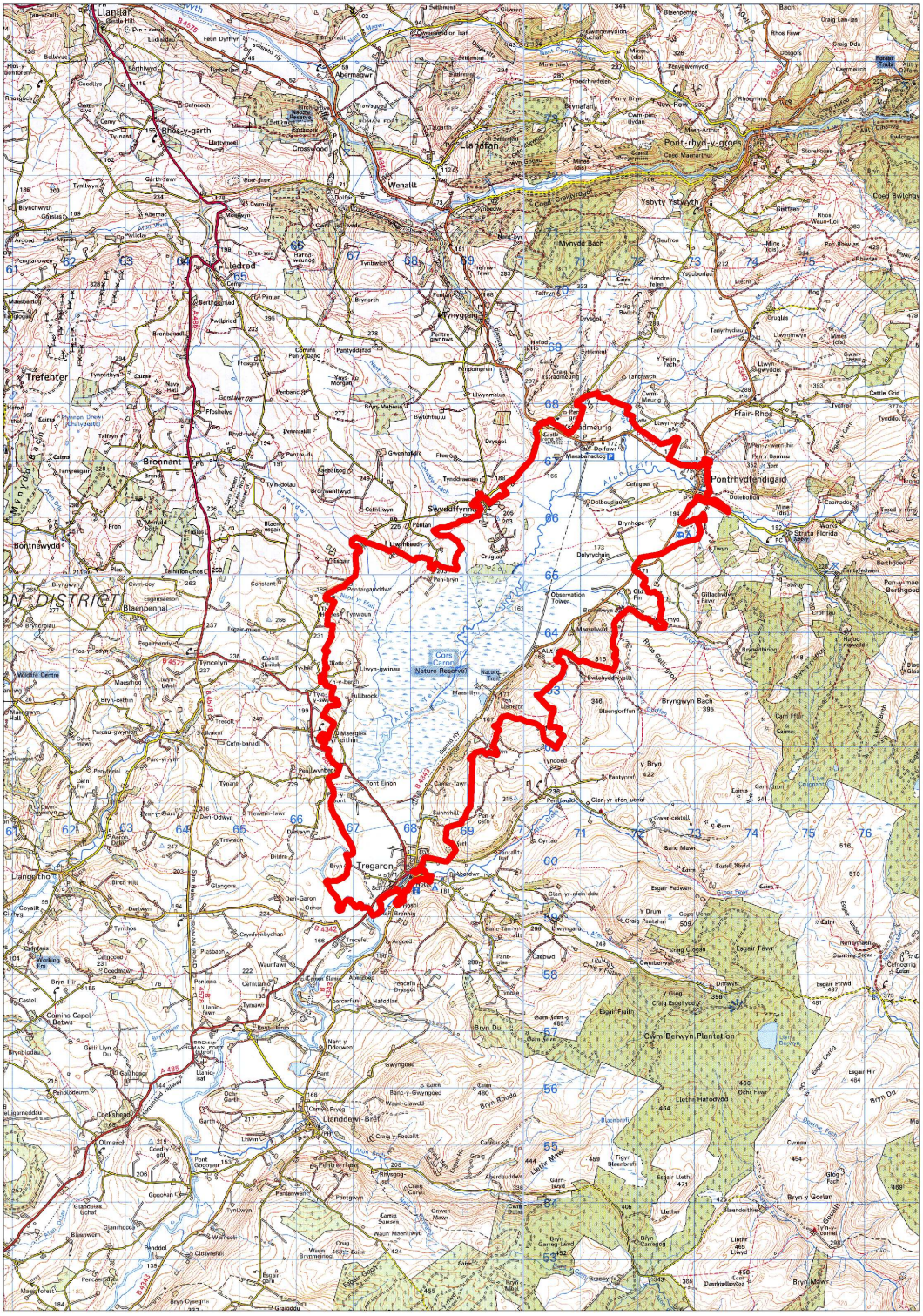

Fig 3. Location map based on the Ordnance Survey. Study area is outlined in red.

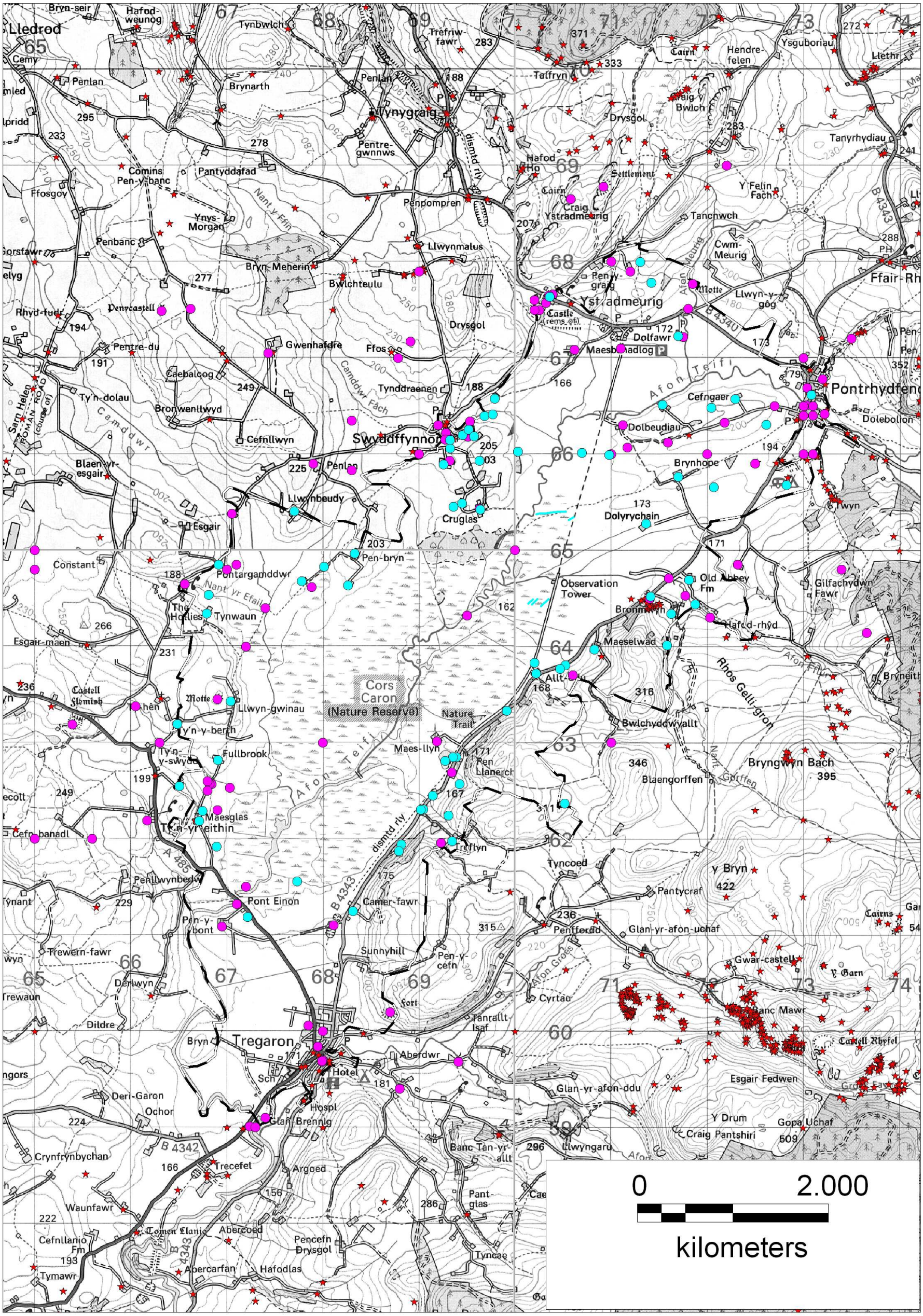

Fig 4. Map of the Cors Caron area showing archaeological sites recorded in the HER associated with the wetlands (in pink), and new sites recorded and added to the HER during this study (in blue). General archaeological sites recorded in the HER for Ceredigion are shown as red stars.

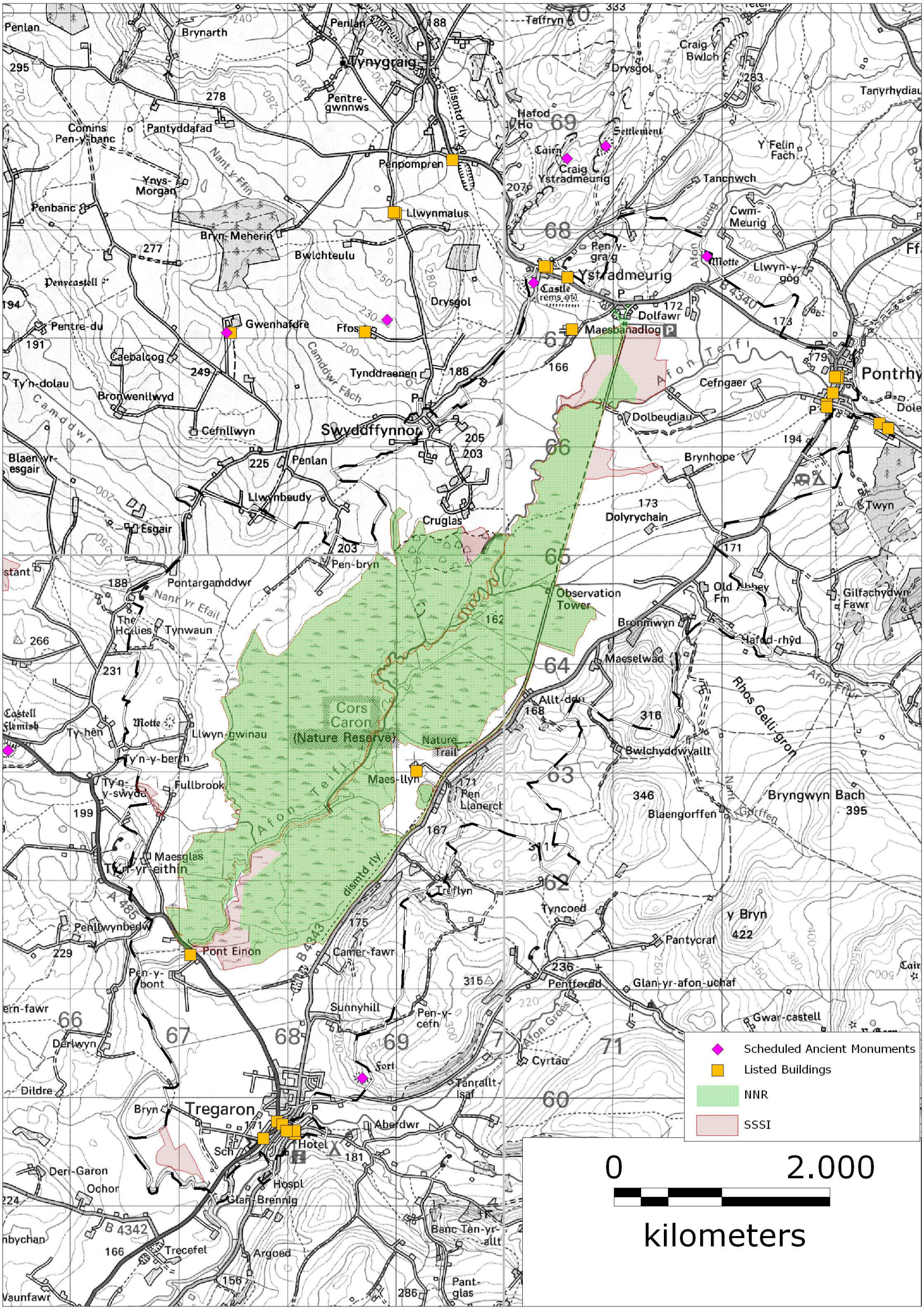

Fig 5. Map of Cors Caron showing both archaeologically and environmentally designated sites and areas.

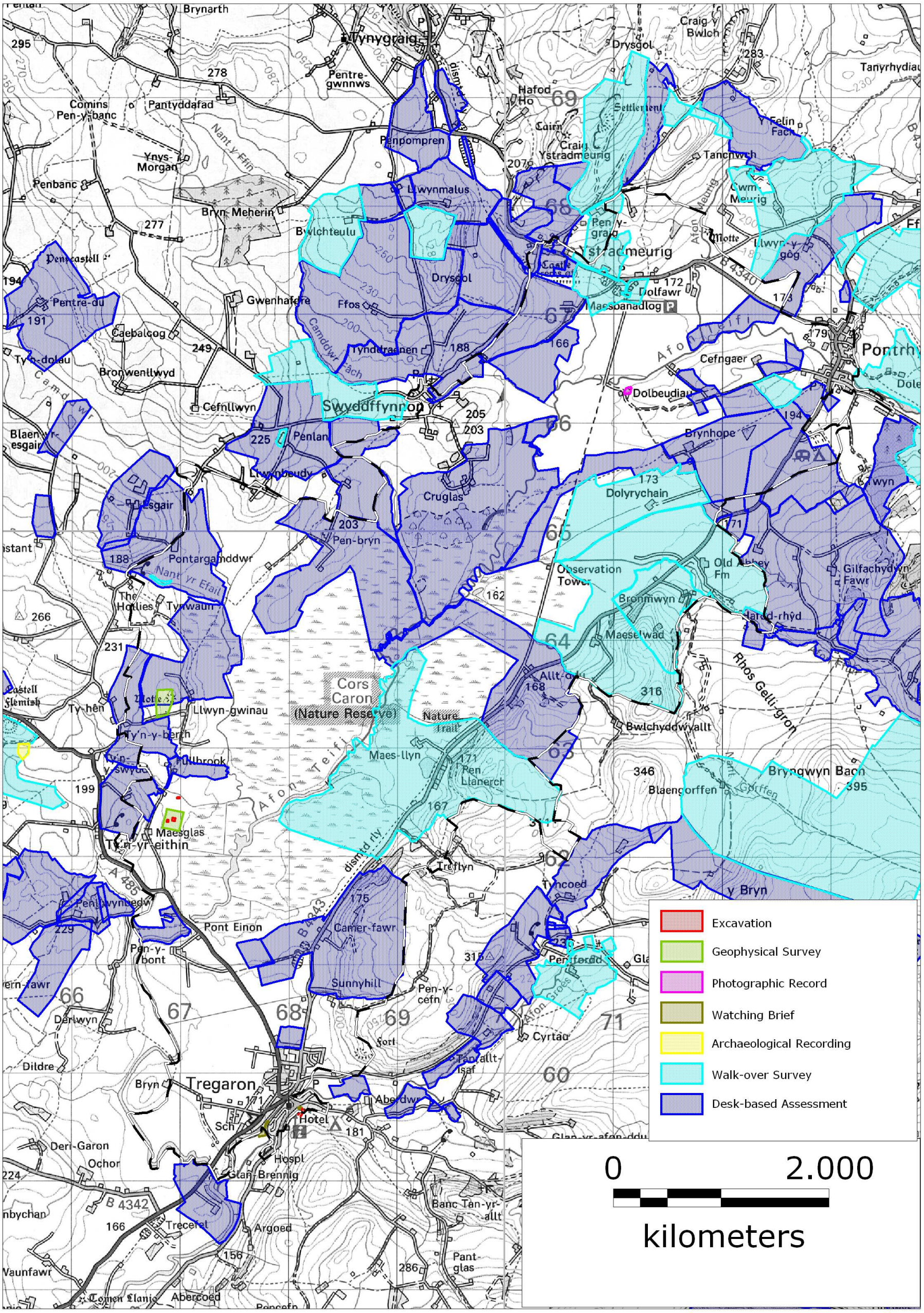

Fig 6. Map of Cors Caron showing areas of previous archaeological investigations.

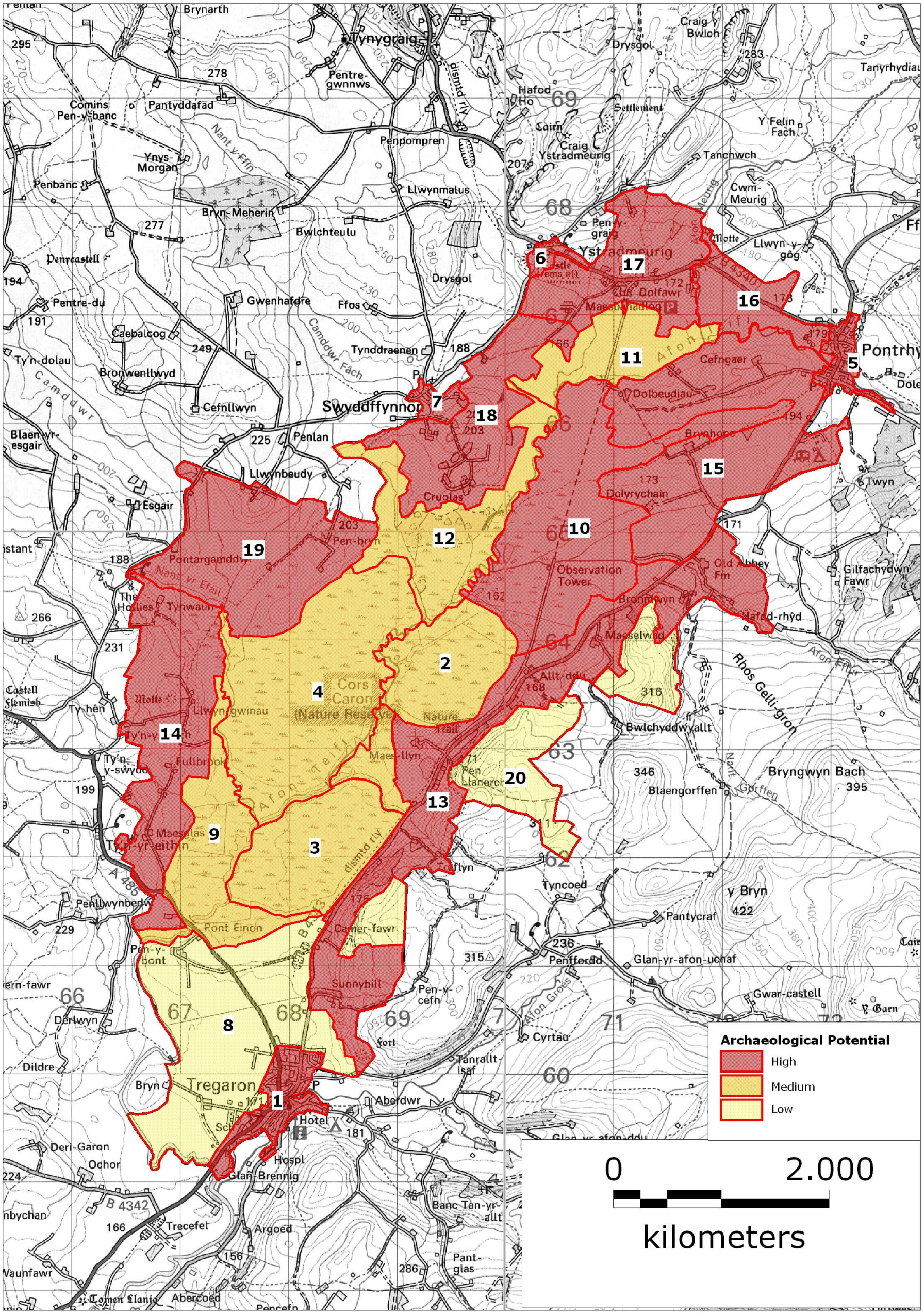

Fig 7. Map showing areas of archaeological potential throughout the study area.

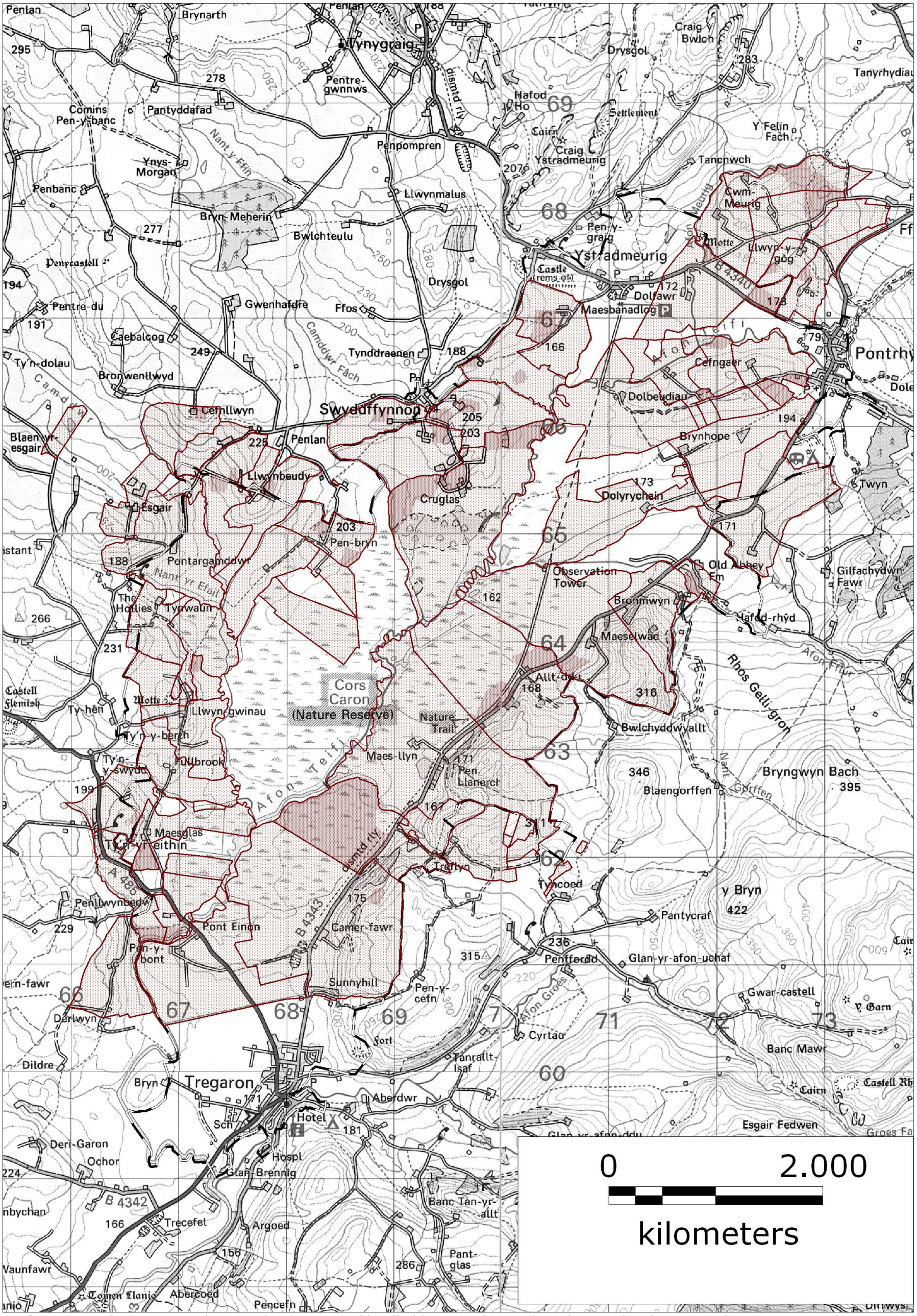

Fig 8. Map of Cors Caron showing the divisions of landholdings as depicted on the parish tithe maps of 1843-47. Significant fieldnames are highlighted in darker brown.

APPENDIX 1

Llwyngwinau Geophysical Survey 2009

Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For Cadw

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DYFED
archaeological trust

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 96704

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APPENDIX 1
Llwyngwinau Geophysical Survey 2009

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SUMMARY

As part of a wider project examining the archaeological potential of the wetland margins of Ceredigion a geophysical and topographical survey was undertaken at Llwyngwinau 'motte', near Tregaron (NGR SN66906345). The site (PRN 6160) is recorded as a medieval castle motte overlooking the extensive wetland area of Cors Caron, and is clearly visible on aerial photographs but has not been archaeologically investigated and there is no known history attached. Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services undertook a survey of the site in September 2009. The geophysical survey was undertaken using a fluxgate magnetometer (gradiometer).

The survey demonstrated that vestiges of this site still survive below ground. The site consisted of a wide external ditch with possible accompanying internal and external banks and a north-eastern entrance with a possible entranceway structure. Internally there was a sub-circular structure, possibly stone built with heating activity on its southern side. Speculative analysis suggests this is the site of a medieval ringwork castle.

Other archaeological features not visible on aerial photography were also recorded. The main entrance route to the site appears to have been along the ridge from the northeast. On lower ground to the northwest lies a possible square sided enclosure, which predates the current field layout and may be contemporary with the castle site. A bank extends to the west of the castle site that may represent an earlier field boundary but appears to respect the castle site. To the south lie faint traces of further linear features and possible pits and postholes lie throughout the surveyed area, these however are somewhat obscured by more recent agricultural activity and the natural topography.

All interpretation at this stage is speculative and further archaeological investigation would be required in order to obtain a better understanding of the function and date of these archaeological features.

INTRODUCTION

Project commission

A topographical and geophysical survey was undertaken using a fluxgate magnetometer (gradiometer) on Llwyngwinau motte (NGR SN66906345) as part of a larger project examining the archaeological potential of the wetland margins of Ceredigion. Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services carried out the topographical and geophysical survey fieldwork in September 2009.

Scope of the project

The project was designed to reveal underground archaeological remains by geophysical survey, using a gradiometer, and to place these features in their current context by topographical survey, using a Trimble TST.

Report outline

This report describes the location of the site before summarising the geophysical survey results and the conclusions based on those results. Because of the limited nature of this project this report is restricted mainly to the results of the geophysical survey.

Abbreviations

Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER[1]) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM). Gradiometer readings are measured in nanoTesla (nT).

[1] Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Shire Hall, Llandeilo.

THE SITE

Location and Archaeological Potential

The site (PRN 6160) is located in the corner of an improved pasture field on a long ridge overlooking Cors Caron to the eastand sited a short distance west of Llwyngwinau farmstead (NGR SN66906345) (Fig 1). It sits on the highest point of the ridge at *c*.220m above sea level, with ground dropping steadily to the east, and more gradually in all other directions. It has extensive views all around, especially over the wide expanse of Cors Caron.

Although clearly visible on aerial photographs (see Photos 1 & 2), at ground level the site is now only visible as a low circular flat-topped earthwork mound *c*.0.5m high and *c*.18m across. The site was previously described by the Ordnance Survey in 1978 as 'a castle mound, 33.0m in diameter, and 1.6m in height. On the top, which is flat, is a poached ring of grass, showing some stone, 2.0m broad…. indicating the buried foundations of a substantial wall. On the northeast side is an 'in situ' grey slate step to an entrance. It is 1.2m in length, and at least 0.3m wide, and 0.1m high, the rest is earthfast.'

The site has clearly lost definition since that description by the Ordnance Survey, although the 'grey slate step' they mention is still visible and has been marked by a wooden post.

Archaeological Background

No previous archaeological work has been undertaken and there is no known history attached to this site but it has been interpreted as the remains of a medieval castle motte and labelled as such on various Ordnance Survey maps (Fig 2). However, the original Ordnance Surveyors drawings of 1813 label the site as 'carn', suggesting it appeared to them more akin to a Bronze Age barrow. Both Bronze Age and medieval activity is recorded in the area. To the north records indicate a cluster of Bronze Age burial mounds around the aptly named Cruglas farm, although few of these sites now survive as visible earthworks. To the south between Fullbrook and Maesglas farms several burnt mounds have also been recorded, often useful indicators of Bronze Age activity in the area. Neighbouring Llwyngwinau and nearby Maesglas farms both appear to have early origins, their names seemingly recorded in documents of the 12th century. It has recently been suspected that Strata Florida Abbey may also have maintained one of its estate offices in this area, all of which hint at a site of medieval importance in the immediate vicinity. Some field boundaries in this area also appear early in origin, enclosing an area stretching from Fullbrook mill to the south, to the former common land of Cors Llwyngwynau and Tyn Waun to the north, bisected by a central trackway. Llwyngwinau motte lies at the highest point roughly halfway along this area and it is tempting to view this as a boundary that may have enclosed a former medieval settlement, giving access to a range of resources including the mill and common land. The mill itself is recorded from at least the 16th century, and Llwyngwinau farm comprises both Llwyngwinau Ucha and Llwyngwinau Isaf situated adjacent to one another, a pattern seen in reduced medieval settlements elsewhere in southwest Wales.

The underlying geology includes sandstones with interbedded green mudstones, overlain by brown earths.

METHODOLOGY

A fluxgate magnetometer (gradiometer) was used for the survey. This detects variations in the earth's magnetic field (full specifications are in Appendix 1A). Readings were taken on traverses 1m wide and every 0.25m within a 20m x 20m grid across the whole site. In total an area of *c*.2.4ha was surveyed.
A topographical survey of the site was undertaken using a Trimble TST.

RESULTS

Limitations

The survey was undertaken over 5 days in September 2009 under fair weather conditions. The majority of the site was under fairly short grass but incorporated some moderately steep slopes. Guidelines were used to enable consistent readings. The field was bounded by post and wire fencing, readings from which may have obscured finer details in their immediate vicinity.

The underlying geology includes sandstones with interbedded green mudstones, overlain by brown earths, these did not appear to cause any geological distortions of the geophysical survey results.

Processing and presentation

Processing was performed using *ArchaeoSurveyor 2*, detailed explanation of the processes involved are described in Appendix 1A. The data is presented with a minimum of processing but the presence of high values caused by underground services, large ferrous objects and wire fencing tends to hide fine details and obscure archaeological features, thus the values were 'clipped' to a range from 10nT to –10nT to remove the extreme values allowing the finer details to show through. During the survey various processes such as changes to instrument set-up, instrument drift and variations in orientation amongst others can cause directional effects that are inherent to magnetometers that result in 'striping' of the processed data, thus much of the survey was 'destriped'.

The processed data is presented as grey-scale plots overlaid on local topographical features. The main magnetic anomalies have been identified and plotted onto the grey-scale plots as a level of interpretation.

Topographical features were surveyed in using a Trimble TST, and a contour map produced with contours at 1m intervals.

All measurements given are approximate as accurate measurements are difficult to determine from fluxgate gradiometer surveys. The width and length of identified feature can be affected by its relative depth and magnetic strength.

Geophysical interpretation

(Results interpretation Figs 3 to 5)

The geophysical survey clearly shows a complex range of archaeological activity throughout the surveyed area, therefore only the major features are discussed. Any interpretation from these geophysical results is by its nature speculative and precise details about the context, function, state of preservation and date of any archaeological features would require further intrusive investigation.

The numbers in bold relate to features shown on Figure 5.

1

Located on the very summit of a ridge the geophysical survey shows the remains of a large circular feature *c*.34m in diameter. This is formed by a wide curvilinear anomaly with a higher magnetic response than the surrounding soil, typical of a buried ditch, which also corresponds to what is visible on aerial photographs (Photos 1-3). Accompanying this ditch around its outer edge, and also alongside much of its inner edge are curvilinear anomalies with a lower magnetic response that, in contrast to the ditch, may suggest an accompanying internal and external bank.

There is a break in this circuit *c*.6m wide to the northeast indicating a likely entranceway. Strong positive magnetic responses at the ditch terminals suggest possible large postholes within the ditch at this point or a concentration of more magnetically positive deposits. Also visible at this 'entranceway' are four small discrete areas of higher magnetic responses, typical of cut features that in this context may represent large postholes of a possible gateway structure, or associated pits.

Set centrally within this circular ditched enclosure is a smaller less-distinct sub-circular enclosure *c*.15-18m in diameter. Negative magnetic responses indicate either a bank or the stone footings of a wall form this enclosure. A large worked stone is still visible on the ground surface along the north-eastern edge of this line (mentioned by the Ordnance Survey in 1978, see p.58), which supports the likelihood of stone footings.

Further small areas of positive magnetic responses within the northern part of the enclosure indicate further archaeological activity, possibly pits. To the south similar sized features gave strong dipolar responses (strong positive magnetic responses with associated strong negative magnetic responses). Such response can be indicative of ferrous objects or heat-affected areas. Given the possible context these may represent areas of burning associated with occupation activity, such as hearths or fireplaces.

2

Running NNE along the crest of the ridge from the entranceway to the enclosure is a broad linear area with a general absence of anomalies. This appears to be flanked along its western edge by positive linear responses that may represent ditches. Such responses may be indicative or a rough roadway leading to the enclosure (**1**).

3

Laying some *c*.60m to the northwest of the enclosure and on relatively level ground at the base of the ridge, are a series of further magnetically positive linear anomalies. An L-shaped linear extends in a SSW direction for *c*.30m before turning 90° to run WNW for another *c*.40m then fading out. This anomaly appears to represent a straight-sided enclosure or boundary ditch. No corresponding feature is shown on 19th or 20th century map sources and it appears out of alignment with the current field system.

Within this possible enclosure a curvilinear positive anomaly suggests possible internal features. This anomaly may represent a ditch or gully of unknown function and date on the edge of the area surveyed.
Within this general area are numerous discrete areas of positive responses, both inside and outside the possible enclosure. Such responses are likely to represent buried cut features, however, due to their scattered occurrence across this area they may represent a mixture of naturally occurring phenomena such as buried tree bowls or geological processes, as well as archaeological features such as pits.

4
Running roughly east-west across the northern field is a linear negative anomaly. As mentioned such negative anomalies may represent buried banks or walls built of material with a lower magnetic response than the surrounding subsoil. This anomaly runs from the western extent of the surveyed area and up the lower slopes of the ridge, before kinking to the north to head for the northern end of the main circular enclosure (**1**), although there also appears to be faint traces of a straight eastwards continuation.

5
Several linear anomalies of both positive and negative responses are visible throughout the southern field. All the straight linear anomalies appear to either respect or run parallel to modern field boundaries and therefore it is likely these features represent a series of relatively modern agricultural features such as drainage ditches and clay pipes.

6
Within this southern field are very faint traces of curvilinear features that may be separate from the series of relatively modern agricultural features (**5**). Located fairly centrally within the field is a faint positive curvilinear feature *c*.55m long with a northwards curve. Such a feature may represent the remains of a buried bank of unknown date and function.

Traces of further linear anomalies and small areas of positive readings are spread throughout the survey area which may be indicative of a wider spread of archaeological activity, although many are also likely to be the results of more natural activities caused by underlying geology and previous vegetation.

CONCLUSIONS

'Llwyngwinau motte' is clearly visible on the geophysical survey results. It appears as a circular ditched enclosure with an entrance to the northeast. Possible postholes or pits around the entranceway suggest some form of entranceway structure. Internally there is a 2nd enclosure, the width of the boundary response and the presence of a worked stone on the ground surface would suggest that this is a stone wall, indicating a sub-circular stone-built structure within a strong ditched enclosure. Dipolar responses also suggest possible hearths or fireplaces on the southern side of the structure. Such responses give a strong impression of a medieval castle site. The presence of the internal structure at this level would suggest this is a ringwork site rather than a castle motte, and a stone built structure would suggest a date of the late 12th century or later. However, to confirm its function and date would require more intrusive archaeological investigation, any conclusion based on the geophysical results is speculative and therefore the possibility still remains that this could represent a prehistoric structure.

The main access to the circular enclosure appears to have been along the ridge from the north, as shown by the arrangement of possible ditches and general magnetic responses in this area.

There is no clear evidence of an outer enclosure connected to the circular enclosure, although an apparent bank appears to run westwards from the circular enclosure down the ridge-slope and beyond. This bank may represent a later field boundary, although one that appears to respect the remains of the circular enclosure.

On the lower ground to the northwest lies a possible square-sided enclosure. Unfortunately only a small fragment of this enclosure lay within the survey area, but it clearly predates the current field layout, which itself is at least early 19th century in origin. It appears that the east side of this enclosure is on a similar alignment to the ditches of the entranceway to the circular ditched 'castle' and therefore may be contemporary, although this can only be proved through further intrusive archaeological investigation.

Faint traces of further linear anomalies and possible pits lie throughout the survey area suggesting a more complex arrangement of archaeological features. However, the presence of more recent agricultural anomalies along with the natural topography and changes in the underlying geology obscure any further identification.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Simon Ratty and Phil Poucher undertook the survey. I am indebted to the landowners Mr & Mrs Edwards of Llwyngwinau and Mr Jones of Ty'n-y-berth for allowing access on to their land.

ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive will initially be held by DAT, before being passed to the National Monument Record, Aberystwyth.

SOURCES

British Geological Survey 1994 *The Rocks of Wales* 1:250,000

Clark A J 1996 *Seeing Beneath the Soil* (2nd edition). Batsford, London

Ordnance Survey 1889 *1st edition 1;2500 Cardiganshire XXI.5*

APPENDIX 1A: METHODOLOGY AND INSTRUMENTATION

Geophysical Survey Instrumentation

A fluxgate gradiometer survey provides a relatively swift and completely non-invasive method of surveying large areas.

The survey was carried out using a Bartington Grad601-2 dual Fluxgate Gradiometer, which uses a pair of Grad-01-100 sensors. These are high stability fluxgate gradient sensors with a 1.0m separation between the sensing elements, giving a strong response to deeper anomalies.

The instrument detects variations in the earth's magnetic field caused by the presence of iron in the soil. This is usually in the form of weakly magnetised iron oxides, which tend to be concentrated in the topsoil. Features cut into the subsoil and backfilled or silted with topsoil therefore contain greater amounts of iron and can therefore be detected with the gradiometer. There are, however, other processes and materials that can produce detectable anomalies. The most obvious is the presence of pieces of iron in the soil or immediate environs that usually produce very high readings and can mask the relatively weak readings produced by variations in the soil. Archaeological features such as hearths or kilns also produce strong readings because fired clay acquires a permanent thermo-remnant magnetic field upon cooling. This material can also get spread into the surrounding soil leading to a more generalised magnetic enhancement around settlement sites.

Not all surveys produce good results as anomalies can also be masked by large magnetic variations in the bedrock or soil or high levels of natural background "noise" (interference consisting of random signals produced by material within the soil). In some cases, there may be little variation between the topsoil and subsoil resulting in features being un-detectable. It must therefore be stressed that a lack of detectable anomalies cannot be taken to mean that that there are no below ground archaeological features.

The Bartington Grad601 is a hand-held instrument and readings can be taken automatically as the operator walks at a constant speed along a series of fixed length traverses. The sensor consists of two vertically aligned fluxgates set 1.0m apart. Their Mumetal cores are driven in and out of magnetic saturation by an alternating current passing through two opposing driver coils. As the cores come out of saturation, the external magnetic field can enter them producing an electrical pulse proportional to the field strength in a sensor coil. The high frequency of the detection cycle produces what is in effect a continuous output (Clark 1996).

The gradiometer can detect anomalies down to a depth of approximately one metre. The magnetic variations are measured in nanoTeslas (nT). The earth's magnetic field strength is about 48,000 nT; typical archaeological features produce readings of below 15nT although burnt features and iron objects can result in changes of several hundred nT. The instrument is capable of detecting changes as low as 0.1nT.

Geophysical Survey Data Collection

The gradiometer includes an on-board data-logger. Readings in the surveys were taken along parallel traverses of one axis of a grid made up of 20m x 20m squares. The traverse intervals were either 0.5m or 1.0m apart. Readings were logged at intervals of 0.25m along each traverse giving 3200 readings per grid

square (medium resolution on 0.5m traverses), or 1600 readings per grid square (low resolution on 1.0m traverses).

Geophysical Survey Data presentation

The data was transferred from the data-logger to a computer where it was compiled and processed using ArchaeoSurveyor 2 software. The data is presented as grey-scale plot where data values are represented by modulation of the intensity of a grey scale within a rectangular area corresponding to the data collection point within the grid. This produces a plan view of the survey and allows subtle changes in the data to be displayed. A separate grey-scale plot with interpretation of the main features is also included as necessary.

Geophysical Survey Data Processing

The data is presented with a minimum of processing although corrections are made to compensate for instrument drift and other data collection inconsistencies. High readings caused by stray pieces of iron, fences, etc are usually modified on the grey scale plot as they have a tendency to compress the rest of the data. The data is however carefully examined before this procedure is carried out as kilns and other burnt features can produce similar readings. The data on some noisy or very complex sites can benefit from 'smoothing'. Grey-scale plots are always somewhat pixellated due to the resolution of the survey. This at times makes it difficult to see less obvious anomalies. The readings in the plots can therefore be interpolated thus producing more but smaller pixels and a small amount of low pass filtering can be applied. This reduces the perceived effects of background noise thus making anomalies easier to see. Any further processing is noted in relation to the individual plot.

Reliability

Geophysical survey is an immensely useful tool but it should be realised that while a survey will detect a wide range of features, it may not detect *all* buried features. A gradiometer survey detects changes in magnetic flux density and relies on there being a detectable difference between the archaeology and the substrate. This may not occur for many reasons (e.g. a cut feature being backfilled with subsoil). It must therefore be stressed that a lack of archaeological responses from a geophysical survey does not prove that there is no archaeology present.

Grid locations

The survey grids were located by measurements to fixed points such as known field boundaries located during the survey (Fig 4: A2, B and B2).

Bibliography

Clark A J 1996 *Seeing Beneath the Soil* (2nd edition). Batsford, London

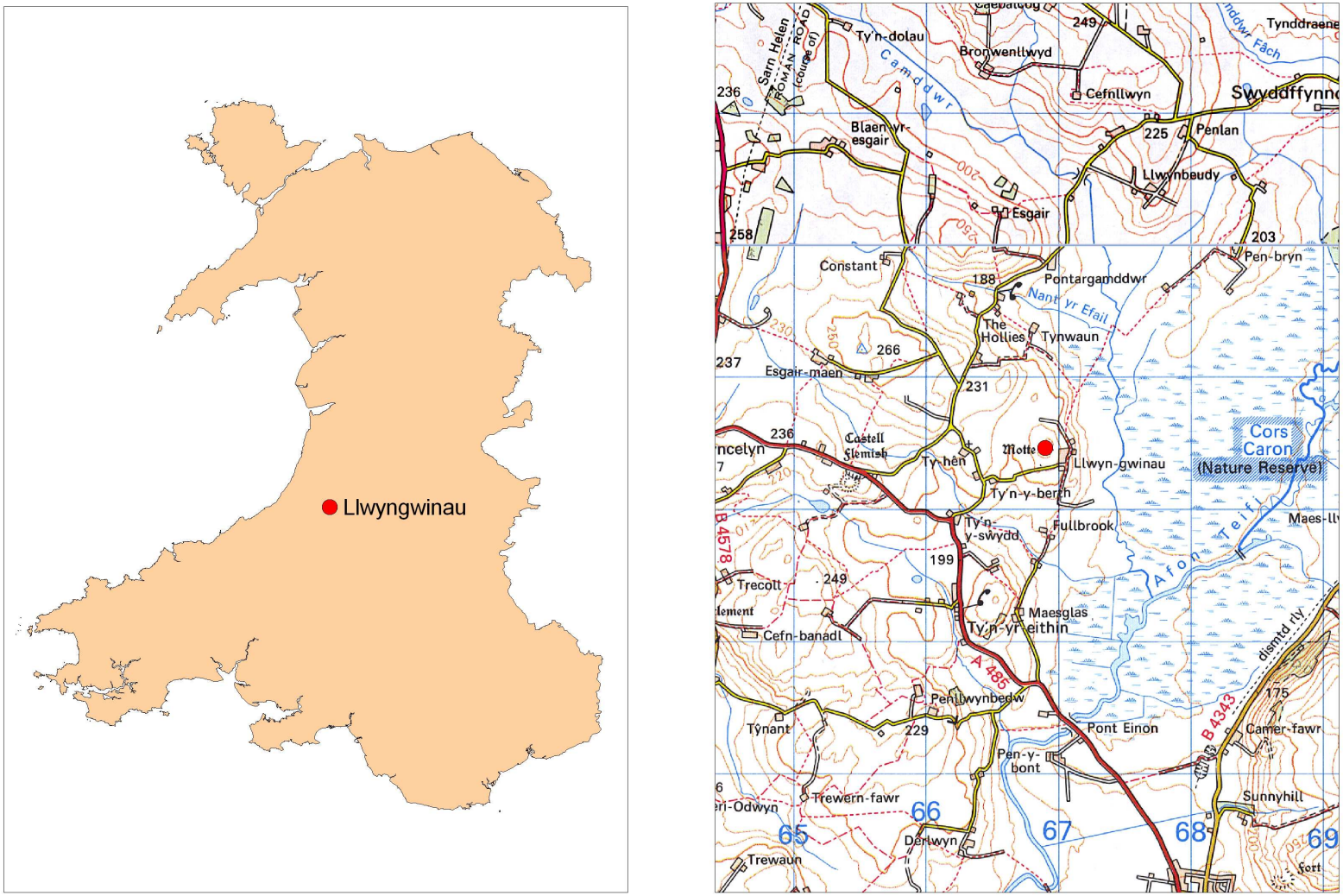

Figure 1: Location map, based on the Ordnance Survey.

Photo 1: Aerial photograph of the site taken looking southeast. Photo Ref: AP89 –B32.

Photo 2: Aerial photograph of the site taken looking northwest. Photo Ref: AP89 –B32.

Photo 3: View of the 'motte' site taken looking south.

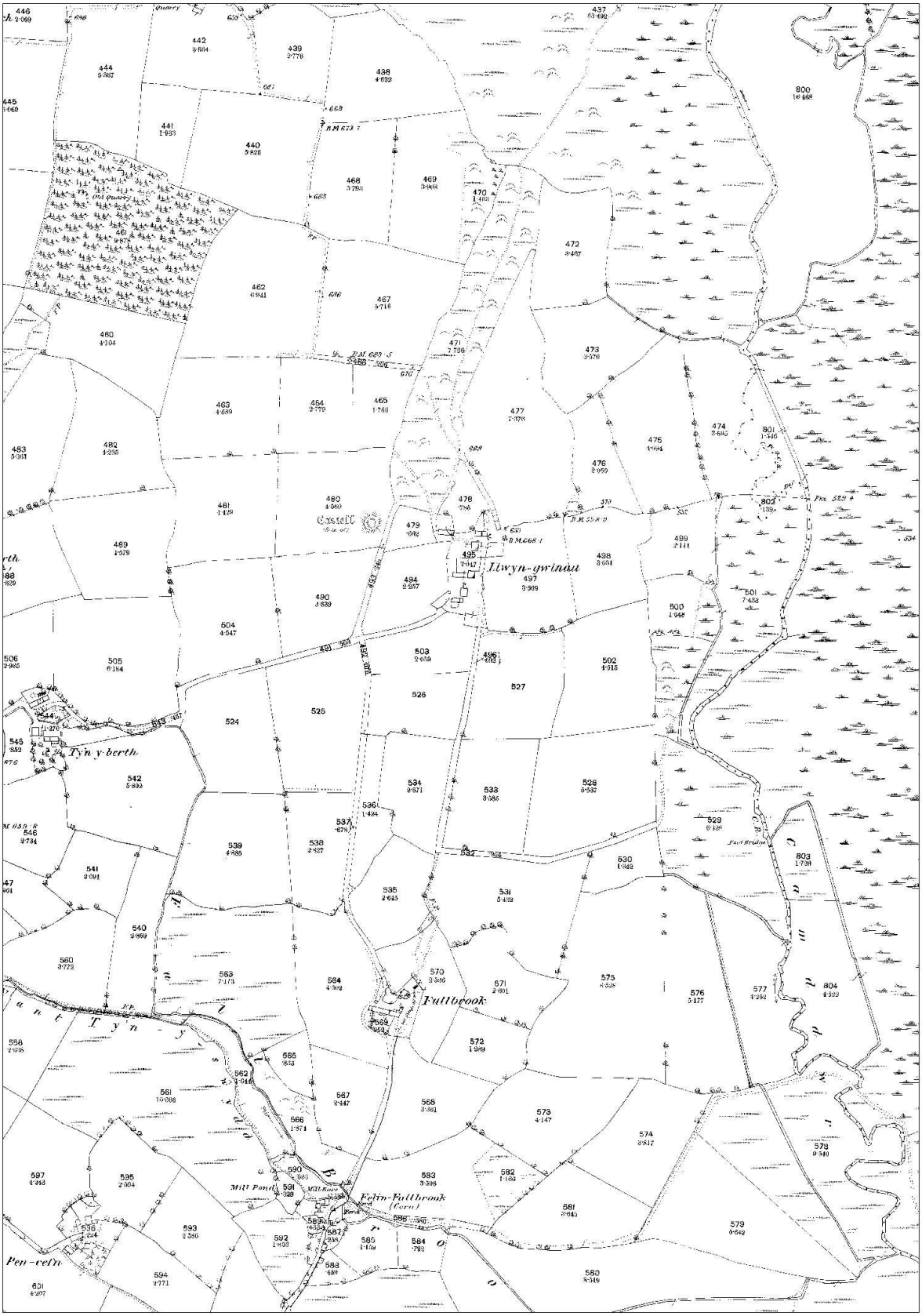

Figure 2: Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 showing Castell Llwyngwinau.

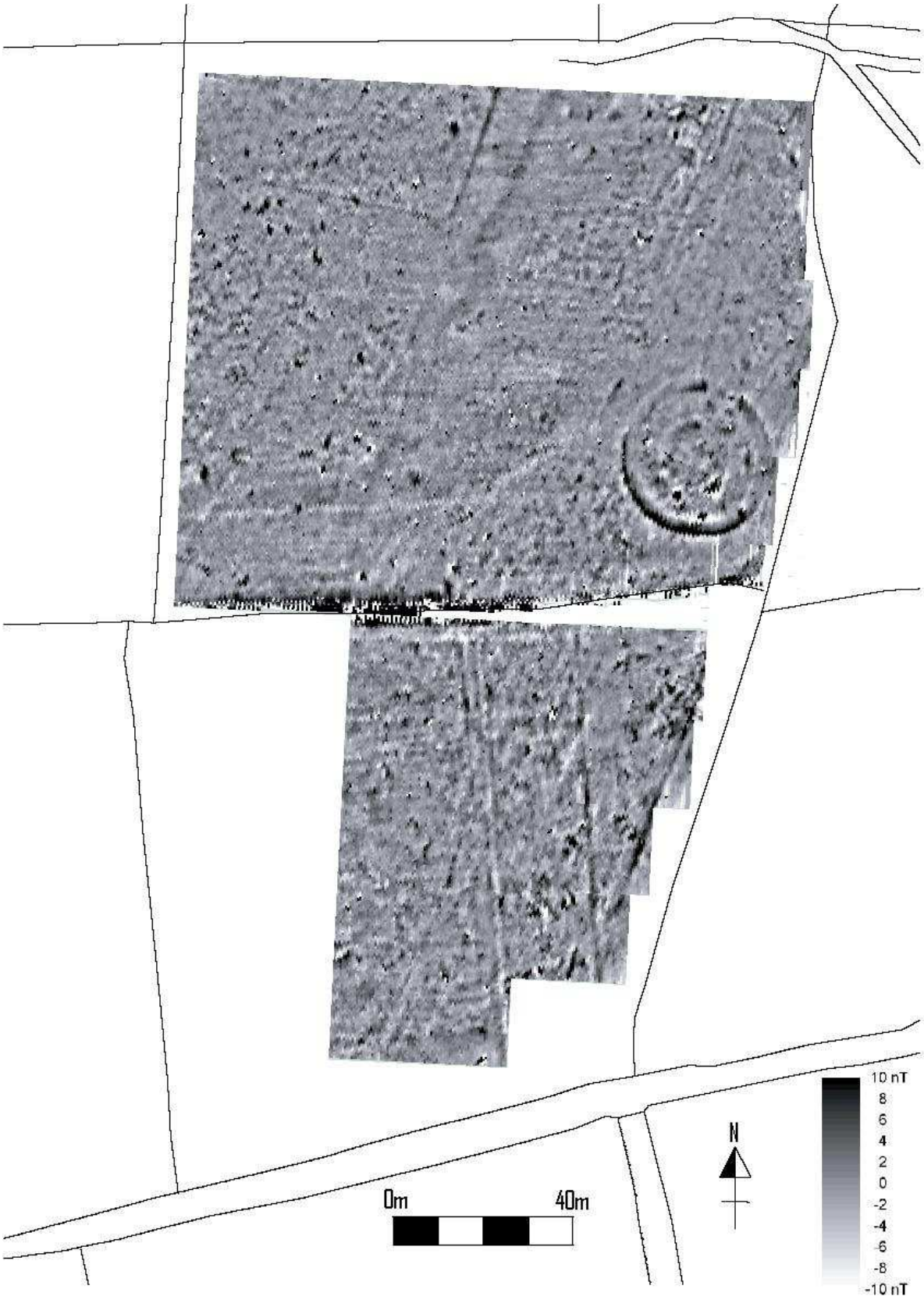

Figure 3: Processed gradiometer survey, grey-scale, overlaid on local geographical features.

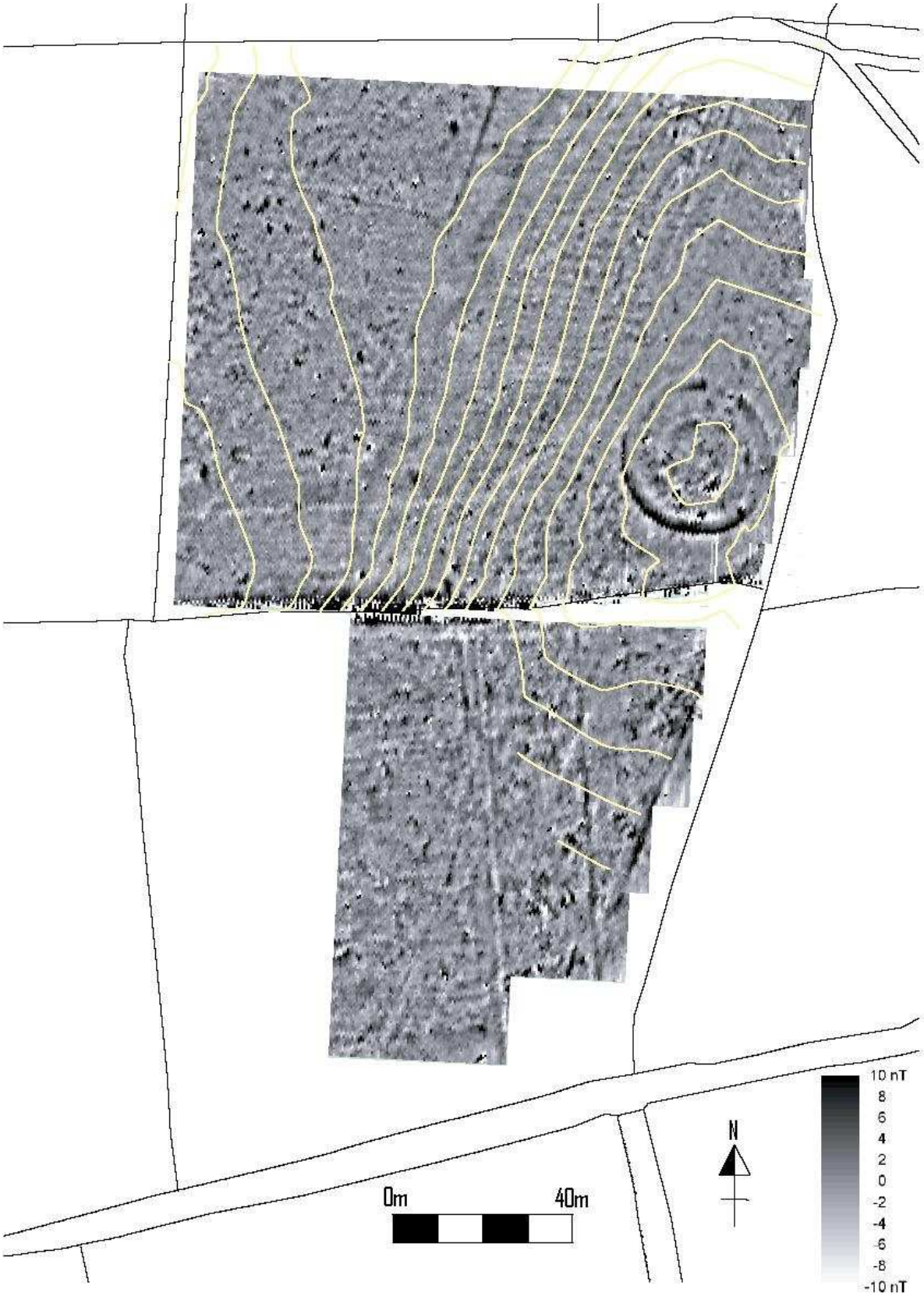

Figure 4: Processed gradiometer survey, grey-scale, overlaid with contour lines at 1m intervals.

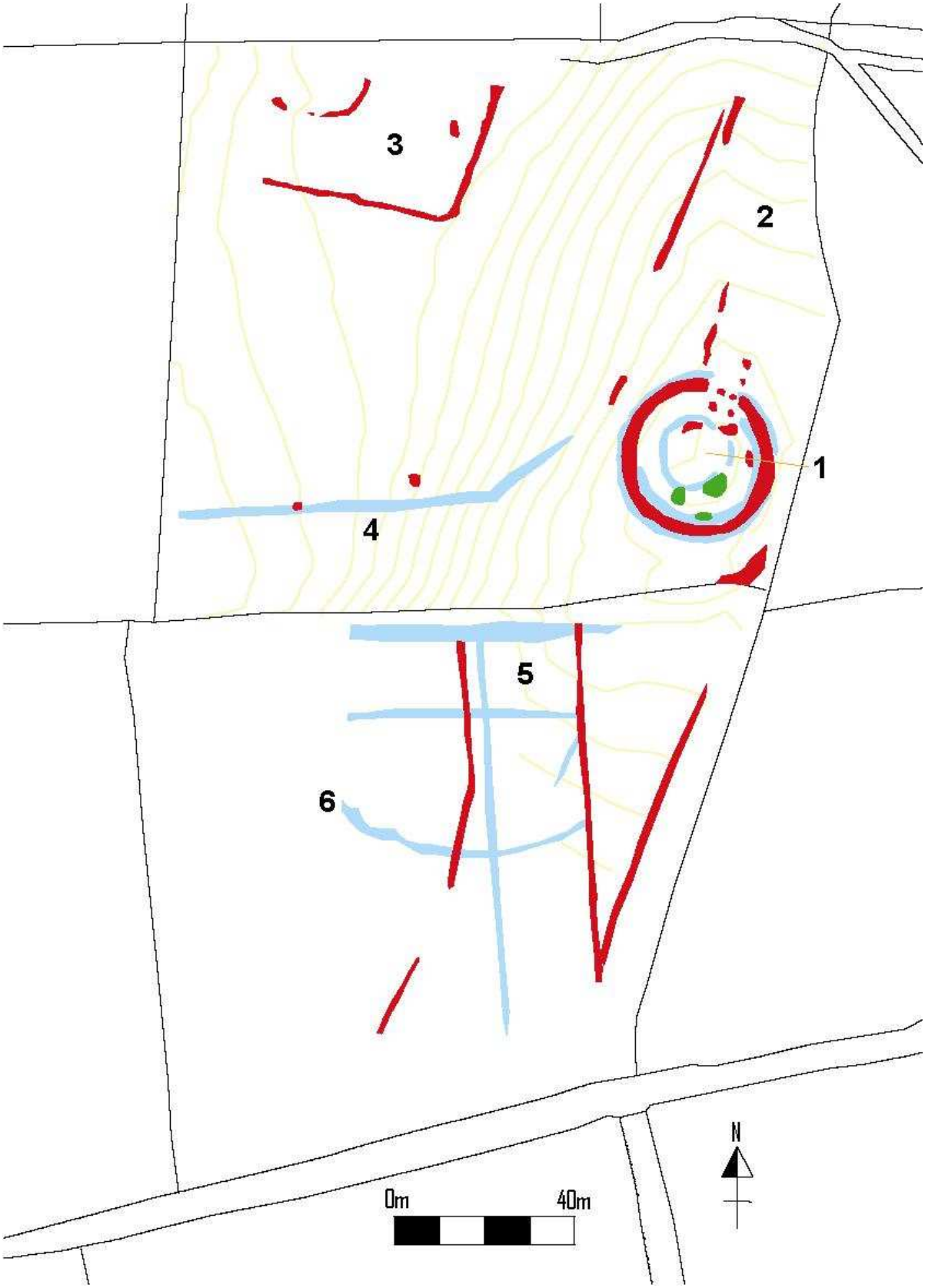

Figure 5: Interpretation of the geophysical survey. Numbers relate to 'Geophysical Interpretation' section in the main text, red highlights the main positive magnetic anomalies, blue highlights the main negative magnetic anomalies and green the main dipolar anomalies

APPENDIX 2

Maesglas Geophysical Survey & Archaeological Field Evaluation 2010

Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust For Cadw

ymddiriedolaeth archaeolegol DYFED archaeological trust

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 96704

Mawrth 2010
March 2010

APPENDIX 2
Maesglas Geophysical Survey & Archaeological Field Evaluation 2010

Gan / By

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SUMMARY

As part of a wider project examining the archaeological potential of the wetland margins of Ceredigion a geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land to the east of Maesglas, near Tregaron (NGR SN66956232). Several unexplained earthwork banks are visible within two fields that lie at the western edge of the peat bog of Cors Caron. Medieval activity has been recorded at both Maesglas and the nearby Felin Fullbrook. Prehistoric burnt mounds have also been recorded in the area and a Neolithic flint scatter has been recovered from around Felin Fullbrook. Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services undertook a geophysical survey of the site in February 2010. The geophysical survey was undertaken using a fluxgate magnetometer (gradiometer). An archaeological evaluation followed in March 2010, undertaken with the assistance of local volunteers.

The geophysical survey recorded several features of possible archaeological interest that proved difficult to interpret on the survey results alone. At the southern end of the survey area a prominent curving earthwork was revealed to consist of a rectangular platform running roughly north-south, and a bank running at right angles, separated by a probable trackway. The survey appeared to show natural geology approaching the surface in the area of the remaining earthwork banks to the northwest, which was cut by a double-ditched linear anomaly to the north. A zigzagging linear feature at the eastern end of the survey area was interpreted as a ferrous or highly fired clay pipe. To the south two distinct areas of dipolar readings were recorded, cut by a modern drainage trench, initially interpreted as the site of a possible burnt mound that had previously been recorded in this area (PRN 8995). Faint linear features were also recorded in this area that appeared to correspond with field boundaries visible on the tithe map of the 1840s.

Two trenches were hand-excavated in the northern field, and two in the southern field. One trench was opened over the rectangular platform, which appeared to demonstrate that this was a naturally occurring bank/platform modified by later human activity. No specific archaeological features were revealed although a small amount of medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from overlying deposits. It was also shown to mark the limit of the former peat bog in this area. A second small trench was opened up on the line of the zigzagging linear but the feature was not located within this trench.

Two trenches were excavated to the south of the field boundary over the two distinct areas of dipolar responses. Modern ferrous detritus suggests these features were probably caused by modern activity, associated with a drainage trench. However medieval pottery and charcoal were also recorded in lower soil levels.

Together with a detailed topographical and auger survey the evaluation appears to demonstrate possible arable agriculture on terraces at the edge of the bog. Platforms and trackways leading onto the bog also suggest various activities were taking place on the peat bog itself, although auger samples demonstrated that the peat in this area was unsuitable for extraction for burning. A possible pond also appears to have been constructed on the margins of dry and wetland. A small scattering of pottery fragments suggest a medieval or post-medieval date for this activity, which may therefore be associated with the activities of Cistercian monks at the nearby grange, or the later mansion house that formerly stood in the yard at Maesglas.

INTRODUCTION

Project commission

A geophysical survey, topographical survey, auger survey and archaeological evaluation were undertaken on a series of undulating earthworks visible on land to the east of Maesglas (NGR SN66956232), on the edge of Cors Caron bog. This work was undertaken as part of a larger project examining the archaeological potential of the wetland margins of Ceredigion. Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services carried out the fieldwork in February and March 2010.

Scope of the project

The project was designed to reveal underground archaeological remains by undertaking a geophysical survey using a gradiometer and by archaeological evaluation, and to place these features in their current context by topographical survey using a Trimble TST.

Report outline

This report describes the location of the site before summarising the results of the geophysical, topographical and auger surveys, as well as the findings of the archaeological evaluation and finally the conclusions drawn from this fieldwork.

Abbreviations

Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER[1]) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM). Gradiometer readings are measured in nanoTesla (nT).

[1] Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Shire Hall, Llandeilo.

THE SITE

Location and Archaeological Potential

The site lies in two fields of improved pasture separated by a modern post and wire fence, both lying to the east of Maesglas on the southwest edge of Cors Caron, *c*.2.5km to the northwest of Tregaron (Fig 1). The fields fall gradually, through a series of undulations, to the east. The site is bounded at its lower eastern end by a post and wire fence separating it from flat reclaimed peat bog, beyond which lies the Camddwr and more extensive peat bog. To the north it is bounded by a hedge and ditch, beyond which lies the Nant Tyn-y-swydd and Felin Fullbrook. To the south a hedgebank separates it from further fields along the bog edge. To the west lie the farmhouse and work sheds of Maesglas and the track to Fullbrook.

The underlying geology includes interbedded green and grey turbidite mudstones, overlain by brown earths with loamy and clayey floodplain soils and peats.

Archaeological Background

Prehistoric activity has been recorded from within this area. A scatter of Neolithic worked flint tools (PRNs 8986 & 8987) were recovered from the area around Felin Fullbrook, which lies *c*.150m to the northwest of the site. In 1980 a burnt mound (PRN 8983) was excavated on the banks of Nant Tyn-y-swydd *c*.160m north of the site; radiocarbon dated to the early Bronze Age. A second burnt mound (PRN 8984) was discovered further up the stream and a local farmer reported coming across a third burnt mound (PRN 8985) during ditching work within the fields being investigated by this evaluation.

The name Maesglas is first recorded in the 12th century, and during the medieval period it has been suggested that Maesglas was the centre of an estate office for the Blaenaeron grange of Strata Florida Abbey (J.Bezant, pers comm), and may have been the site of a small medieval settlement. Felin Fullbrook is also believed to have medieval origins, first mentioned in the 16th century but formerly believed to have been a grist mill for Strata Florida Abbey. No medieval remains have yet been revealed although several medieval finds (PRN 8989) have been discovered around Felin Fullbrook.

After Strata Florida Abbey was abolished in 16th century this area was granted to the Earl of Essex but soon passed to the Lloyds of Ffosybleiddiaid and later became part of the Trawscoed and Nanteos estates. It appears a mansion house was built at Maesglas at some point prior to the 18th century, slightly to the east of the current farmhouse in an area now containing large agricultural sheds.

Some of the earliest map evidence for this area comes from an estate map of the 18th century (Fig 2). Maesglas mansion is shown in its former location, consisting of several buildings with a formal garden to one side suggesting a residence of some status. Land to the east was divided between smaller fields, under two different owners, with a trackway leading out towards the Camddwr. The western boundary of the current evaluation area had been established by this time.

The fields appear to have been further subdivided by the time of the tithe map of 1843 (Fig 3) but by this time Maesglas appears to have been rebuilt as a farmstead in its current location and a smaller farmstead, called Tan-y-graig, established on the site of the former mansion. By the late 19th century many of the fields had been amalgamated, and all the current field boundaries were in place. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 (Fig 4) shows that land to the east was being drained, although the northern field is still shown as a wet field.

The fields have since been drained further and turned into improved pasture although not extensively ploughed. It is likely the fields were ploughed during the 2nd World War, along with large areas of marginal land, and a rusting potato-planter can still be seen in the farmyard to the north. Large agricultural sheds have been built in the area of the former mansion house of Maesglas and Tan-y-graig farmstead and no trace of earlier buildings are visible although scrub covers the area and piles of handmade bricks are visible amongst the hedgebanks.

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS

Methodology

A fluxgate magnetometer (gradiometer) was used for the initial geophysical survey. This detects variations in the earth's magnetic field (full specifications are in appendix 1). Readings were taken on traverses 0.5m wide and every 0.25m within a 20m x 20m grid across the whole site. In total an area of *c*.1.6ha was surveyed.
A series of four hand-excavated trenches were opened up on some of the main features identified by the geophysical survey.
An auger survey was undertaken across 135m of the field, from Trench 1 eastwards. Auger samples were taken at 5m intervals.
A topographical survey of the site was undertaken using a Trimble TST and the trench locations and auger sample locations were tied in to this survey.

Limitations

The survey was undertaken over 2 days in February 2010 under mixed weather conditions. The site was under short grass with relatively gentle undulations, guidelines were used to enable consistent readings. The survey area was divided by post and wire fencing, readings from which may have obscured finer details in their immediate vicinity.

The underlying geology includes interbedded green and grey turbidite mudstones, overlain by brown earths with loamy and clayey floodplain soils and peats, these did not appear to cause any geological distortions of the geophysical survey results.

Processing and presentation

Processing was performed using *ArchaeoSurveyor 2*, detailed explanation of the processes involved are described in Appendix 1. The data is presented with a minimum of processing but the presence of high values caused by underground services, large ferrous objects and wire fencing tends to hide fine details and obscure archaeological features, thus the values were 'clipped' to a range from 15nT to –15nT to remove the extreme values allowing the finer details to show through. During the survey various processes such as changes to instrument set-up, instrument drift, variations in orientation amongst others cause directional effects that are inherent to magnetometers that can produce 'striping' in the processed data, thus much of the survey was 'destriped'.

The processed data is presented as grey-scale plots overlaid on local topographical features. The main magnetic anomalies have been identified and plotted onto the grey-scale plots as a level of interpretation.

All measurements given are approximate as accurate measurements are difficult to determine from fluxgate gradiometer surveys. The width and length of identified feature can be affected by its relative depth and magnetic strength.

Geophysical interpretation (Fig 8)

The geophysical survey clearly shows a complex range of archaeological activity throughout the surveyed area, therefore only the major features are discussed. Any interpretation from these geophysical results is by its nature speculative and precise details about the context, function, state of preservation and date of any archaeological features would require further intrusive investigation.

Numbers in bold relate to those shown on Figure 8.

1
A rectangular feature measuring *c*.23m by 12m and aligned NNW-SSE. The eastern and western sides of this feature appear to be defined by bands of positive magnetic readings, which can often be representative of cut features such as ditches. However, these readings appear relatively weak, although stronger in places to the east. This feature is visible on the surface as a prominent earthwork that forms one side of a rounded L-shape. There is a suggestion of a similar feature immediately to the south, consisting of a smaller sub-rectangular feature defined by linear positive readings, aligned roughly east–west. Unfortunately a post and wire fence crosses the feature preventing survey. This feature is also visible as a raised earthwork, but with no clearly defined edges. The regular nature of these earthworks would suggest they are not naturally occurring and may form artificially raised platforms of unknown function.

2
Immediately to the north of feature **1** is a series of linear anomalies running in a NE-SW direction parallel with the northern side of the raised earthwork. There is a suggestion that these linear features continue to the southwest within the area surveyed. Such an arrangement of linear features may be indicative of gullies and banks created by a former trackway. This is visible on the raised earthwork as a ledge along its northern edge, although the trackway appears to extend beyond the limits of the raised earthwork.

3
Towards the northwest of the area surveyed is a large area of mixed positive and negative readings. This appears to be caused by the underlying geology coming close to the ground surface, and corresponds to a slope visible in the field. However, several linear features appear to run through this area, the most prominent of which consists of two parallel positive linear anomalies running in a roughly east–west direction. Such features are often indicative of cut features, such as ditches, or the linear anomalies may be evidence of ploughing in the area, caused by the plough cutting into the underlying bedrock lying close to the surface. It is possible that they represent attempts to drain the area, as the ground to the west still holds water in places.

4
Along the eastern side of the surveyed area are several linear anomalies with dipolar responses (giving both positive and negative magnetic readings). Such dipolar responses are often indicative of ferrous objects, such as metal pipes or wiring. It is also possible they may represent highly fired clay piping. It is unclear what these features may represent. Ferrous linear objects such as this are often associated with modern services but that is unlikely in this location. It is possible they may represent agricultural drainage but the general ground slope is from west to east and these features appear aligned on a more north – south alignment.

5
Along the southern side of the fence line are two large areas of strong dipolar readings. The easternmost appears to consist of a larger spread of both positive and negative readings. This may relate to an area of general ground disturbance or archaeological activity. This feature is visible as a raised roughly circular earthwork and lies in close proximity to the supposed site of a burnt mound recorded in 1980 (Benson 1985). The westernmost spread appears to be a more concentrated feature consisting of very strong dipolar readings. Such strong dipolar readings are often indicative of ferrous objects, often modern in origin.
These two features are also intersected by a linear anomaly running parallel to the fence line, visible as a gully on the surface of the field. This feature is likely to relate to a modern drainage ditch.

6
Underlying the strong readings given by feature **5** are a series of fainter positive linear anomalies, often indicative of buried ditches or gullies. These readings are obscured by feature **5** but appear to form a possible rectangular feature. There is no surface indication of what these anomalies may represent although the ground does drop away immediately to the east.

7
To the south of the surveyed area are traces of positive linear anomalies, indicative of buried ditches. One linear anomaly runs in a NE–SW direction for *c.*35m before turning south and extending beyond the area surveyed. Where it turns south it is joined by another parallel linear anomaly to the east forming what appears to be a double ditch/trackway. This feature appears to align with field boundaries visible on the tithe map of 1843.

8
Various amorphous readings along the western edge of the area surveyed correspond to a change in slope and would appear to represent the underlying geology as it comes close to the ground surface.

A series of small discrete areas of both positive and dipolar responses are visible spread throughout the area surveyed. These features may represent a variety of both archaeological and natural features or ferrous objects such as bits of farm machinery.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

Methodology

The geophysical survey was used to locate the site of four trenches (Fig 9). These trenches were opened by hand. Standard techniques were used to excavate and record the trench profiles and any archaeological features present. The trenches were planned and tied into a local topographical survey using a Trimble TST.

Trench 1 (Photos 1 – 6)
This trench measured 7m by 2.5m and was located on the site of a possible raised platform identified by the geophysical survey (Fig 8, **1**). Initially the topsoil (101) was removed to a depth of 0.15m revealing a stony subsoil (102) that appeared devoid of archaeological features. A sondage 2m by 1.2m was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.54m in the northeastern corner of the trench which revealed 102 overlay a thick silty deposit (103) in turn overlying thin degraded peat deposits (104 & 105) on clays (106).

The soil sequence is therefore:

Layer 101
Mid grey-brown, friable, clayey-silt topsoil and turf with occasional small sub-rounded pebbles. Typically 0.1m thick, at most 0.15m thick. Contained rare sub-angular fragments of medieval and post-medieval pottery.

Layer 102
Mid grey-brown, compact, clayey-silt with abundant sub-rounded small to medium pebbles. Typically 0.1m thick, although thinning at the north-western corner, and the interface with 103 was indistinct at the eastern end of the trench. Contained no finds, charcoal or other evidence of human activity.

Layer 103
Mid brown, friable, clayey-silt. A finely mixed thick silty deposit with very few small pebble inclusions and no finds or charcoal visible. This deposit was only revealed in the sondage, where it was typically 0.23m thick overlying peaty deposits and natural clays, but is not evident at the western end of the trench where layer 102 directly overlays natural gravelly clays.

Layer 104
Dark brown/black, friable, organic layer. Typically 0.04m thick, and extending 1.1m into the trench from the west. A fine degraded peaty layer that extends partway up the natural slope from the lower ground to the west.

Layer 105
Dark grey, compact, peaty-clay. Typically 0.03m thick extending *c*.0.8m into the trench from the west, directly underlying layer 105. Contains occasional fragments of orange iron pan. A more mixed clayey-peat layer overlying clays.

Layer 106
Light grey, cemented, sandy-clay flecked with orange patches. This layer was not excavated, interpreted as undisturbed fluvial or glacial clays. The deposit changed colour becoming more orange to the west in areas that were not overlaid by organic layers 104 and 105.

Layer 107
Mid orange, friable, sandy-gravel. This layer was not excavated, interpreted as undisturbed fluvial or glacial deposits occurring below layer 102 on the higher

ground at the western end of the trench. The relationship between layers 106 and 107 was not established.

Trench 2 (Photos 7 & 8)
This trench measured 3m by 3m and was located on a sub-circular raised area that appears on the geophysical results as a spread of mixed magnetic readings (Fig 8, **5** – east feature). This was initially interpreted as the possible site of the burnt mound recorded in 1980 (Benson 1985). The trench was hand-excavated removing the topsoil (201) to reveal a stony deposit (202). A further sondage measuring 1.2m by 0.7m and 0.42m deep was excavated in the north-eastern corner of the trench, revealing a further sequence of deposits down to a gravel deposit assumed to be undisturbed glacial gravels.

The soil sequence is therefore:

Layer 201
Light grey-brown, friable, clayey-silt topsoil and turf with occasional small to medium sub-rounded pebbles. Typically 0.07m thick. Contained occasion sub-angular fragments of post-medieval pottery.

Layer 202
Mid grey-brown, compact, clayey-silt with abundant medium sub-angular pebbles and very rare charcoal flecks. Typically 0.1m thick. Contained one sub-angular fragment of unglazed medieval gravel-tempered ware. This compact stony layer is very similar to deposit 102 seen in Trench 1 and was initially assumed to be a naturally occurring deposit. However, on further excavation it was shown to contain, albeit rare, fragments of charcoal and one small piece of medieval pottery.

Layer 203
Mid brown, friable, clayey-silt, typically 0.12m thick. Appears initially similar to layer 202 but without the stone inclusions. No charcoal, finds or evidence of human activity.

Layer 204
Mid grey, compact, silty-sand with abundant small to medium sub-angular pebbles. Typically 0.08m thick although the underlying layer (205) does undulate. A very gravelly deposit, reddish in patches.

Layer 205
Mid orange, compact, sandy-gravel. Not excavated and assumed to be an undisturbed glacial gravel deposit. The surface undulated across the area excavated, and a small clump of charcoal had collected within one of these hollows, seeming to underlie layer 204.

Trench 3 (Photos 9 & 10)
Trench 3 was a small test pit measuring 1m by 1m, excavated to a maximum depth of 0.25m. This trench was located in an attempt to identify linear features identified by the geophysical survey (Fig 8, **4**) but unfortunately this feature could not be accurately located in the time given. Only two deposits were noted within the trench:

Layer 301
Dark grey-brown, compact, clayey-silt containing rare small sub-rounded pebbles. Typically 0.22m thick. No charcoal or finds recovered.

Layer 302
Mid grey, compact, clay containing rare medium to large sub-angular stones. This deposit appears typical of the underlying grey fluvial or glacial clays noted in this area.

Trench 4
Trench 4 was a small test pit measuring 1m by 1m, excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m. This trench was located in an area of strong dipolar readings recorded during the geophysical survey (Fig 8, **5** - west feature). A very thick topsoil deposit (401) was recorded within this trench. Upon excavation of the topsoil the cause of the strong readings was discovered to be modern ferrous items buried within it.
Layer 401
Mid grey-brown, friable, clayey-silt with occasional medium sub-rounded pebbles and rare small charcoal flecks. A depth of 0.5m was reached but underlying deposits were not conclusively revealed, although patches of mid brown, more organic clayey-silt, were noted at this depth. This deposit contained a large (0.15m by 0.5m) rectangular iron object and fragments of metal wiring.

Discussion
All four trenches were targeted to categorize specific features identified during the geophysical survey (Fig 9). However, only the westernmost feature **5** in Trench 4 was identified, as modern ferrous objects buried within the topsoil, possibly buried during the construction of a drainage pipe visible on the geophysical survey results. This drainage pipe also passes through the easternmost feature **5** over which Trench 2 was excavated. Prior to excavation this feature was initially interpreted as evidence of a burnt mound, however, no evidence of a burnt mound was revealed during the excavation. Given the modern origin to the spread of readings in Trench 4 it is possible the readings in Trench 2 may also have a modern origin, spread throughout the topsoil.

Trench 1 showed that the rectangular platform identified on the geophysical survey consisted of naturally deposited gravels. There was no evidence of human activity revealed within the trench, although its regular appearance on the geophysical survey results is still compelling evidence of some form of human influence.

Sub-angular fragments of medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered from the upper deposits within Trenches 1 and 2. Although infrequent they would suggest possible manuring and ploughing activity within this area during the medieval and post-medieval periods. The post-medieval pottery also appeared to stop short of the 20th century, indicating a possible change to a more pastoral land use in modern times. The extent of the former peat bog was revealed in Trench 1, evidenced by organic layers 104 and 105 extending partway up the slope of the earthwork but not on the gradually higher ground to the west. Layer 105 would appear to indicate a period of more active fluvial activity resulting in higher clay content, layer 104 appears more typical of a more stable peat bog conditions.

Trenches 1 and 3 revealed a base deposit of grey sandy clays, this may be an indication of the base of the post-glacial lake. Base deposits on higher ground appeared to consist of more gravely deposits.

AUGER SURVEY RESULTS

Methodology

An auger survey was carried out within the fields investigated in an attempt to map the sub-surface deposits and identify areas of peat build-up and survival. Due to time constraints a single transect was laid out extending from the eastern edge of Trench 1 for 135m to the northeast (Figs 7 & 9), across undulating ground towards the lower lying peat bog. Auger samples were taken at 5m intervals along the transect, using a 30mm open chamber or gouge hand-auger.

Results

Auger hole 1 was taken 5m to the east of the eastern edge of Trench 1, with the remaining auger samples taken at 5m intervals running in a northeasterly direction towards the corner of the field. The auger results are as follows:

Auger hole 1 (AH1) – Ground surface (GS)

GS	to	0.15m	Loose, mid grey-brown, silty-loam topsoil
0.15m	to	0.32m	Friable, dark brown, clay-loam
0.32m	to	0.4m	Loose, light brown, sandy-loam with occasional small sub-angular pebbles.
0.4m	to	0.45m	Compact, dark brown/black, peaty-loam.
0.45m	to	0.53m	Friable, dark brown, clay-loam
0.53m+			Compact, mid grey, clay

Auger hole 2 (AH2) –

GS	to	0.16m	Friable, mid brown, silty-clay topsoil
0.16m	to	0.22m+	Compact, mottled yellow-grey, sandy-clay with occasional, small, sub-rounded pebbles.

Auger hole 3 (AH3) –

GS	to	0.13m	Friable, mid brown, silty-clay loam topsoil
0.13m	to	0.21m	Compact, mid grey-yellow, clay.
0.21m+			Compact, reddish yellow-grey, sandy-clay with iron pan.

Auger hole 4 (AH4) –

GS	to	0.14m	Friable, mid brown, silty-loam topsoil with occasional sub-angular small pebbles.
0.14m	to	0.26m	Friable, light brown, silty-clay
0.26m+			Compact, light grey, clay

Auger hole 5 (AH5) –

GS	to	0.12m	Friable, mid brown, clay-loam topsoil
0.12m+			Compact, light grey, sandy-clay with iron pan

Auger hole 6 (AH6) –

GS	to	0.15m	Friable, mid brown, sandy-loam topsoi
0.15m+			Compact, light brown-grey, sandy-clay with possible organic inclusions

Auger hole 7 (AH7) –

GS	to	0.18m	Friable, mid brown, clay-loam topsoil
0.18m+			Friable, light yellow-orange, sandy-clay

Auger hole 8 (AH8) –

GS	to	0.19m	Loose, dark brown, peaty-loam topsoil
0.19m	to	0.27m	Friable, light grey-brown, clay
0.27m+			Compact, light grey, clay

Auger hole 9 (AH9) –

GS	to	0.11m	Friable, mid brown, silty-peaty-loam topsoil
0.11m	to	0.20m	Friable, dark brown/black, peaty-loam
0.20m	to	0.34m	Friable, mid brown, peaty-loam
0.34m	to	0.42m	Friable, dark grey-brown, peaty-clay
0.42m	to	0.62m	Compact, mid brown-grey, slightly peaty-clay
0.62m+			Compact, light grey, sandy-clay

Auger hole 10 (AH10) –

GS	to	0.12m	Loose, dark brown, peaty-loam topsoil
0.12m	to	0.19m	Friable, dark brown/black, peaty-loam
0.19m	to	0.23m	Friable, mid brown, peaty-clay-loam
0.23m+			Compact, mid brown-grey, sandy-clay

Auger hole 11 (AH11) –

GS	to	0.12m	Loose, dark brown, peaty-loam topsoil.
0.12m	to	0.27m	Friable, mid brown, sandy-peaty-loam
0.27m	to	0.38m	Compact, mid brown-grey, sandy-clay
0.38m+			Compact, light grey, clay

Auger hole 12 (AH12) –

GS	to	0.07m	Friable, mid brown, silty-clay topsoil
0.07m	to	0.29m	Loose, dark brown, peaty-loam
0.29m	to	0.41m	Friable, light brown, slightly peaty-clay
0.41m	to	0.51m	Friable, dark brown, peaty-loam
0.51m	to	0.56m	Compact, dark brown-grey, peaty-clay
0.56m+			Compact, light grey, clay

Auger hole 13 (AH13) –

GS	to	0.06m	Friable, mid brown, silty-clay topsoil with occasional sub-angular small pebbles.

0.06m	to	0.16m	Friable, dark brown/black, peaty-loam
0.16m	to	0.24m	Friable, light brown, sandy-peaty-loam
0.24m	to	0.34m	Compact, dark brown-grey, silty-clay
0.34m+			Compact, light grey, clay

Auger hole 14 (AH14) –

GS	to	0.05m	Friable, mid brown, silty-loam topsoil with occasional sub-angular small pebbles.
0.05m	to	0.15m	Friable, dark brown, silty-peaty-loam
0.15m	to	0.23m	Friable, light grey-brown, slightly peaty sandy-clay
0.23m	to	0.25m	Compact, mid brown, peaty-clay
0.25m+			Compact, light grey, clay

Auger hole 15 (AH15) –

GS	to	0.10m	Friable, mid brown, silty-loam topsoil with occasional sub-angular small pebbles.
0.10m	to	0.24m	Friable, mid brown, silty-peaty-loam
0.24m	to	0.47	Friable, light grey-brown, slightly peaty sandy-clay
0.47m+			Compact, light grey, clay

Auger hole 16 (AH16) –

GS	to	0.12m	Friable, mid brown, silty-loam topsoil with occasional sub-angular small pebbles.
0.12m	to	0.19m	Loose, dark brown, peaty-loam
0.19m	to	0.26m	Friable, mid brown, soft peaty-clay
0.26m	to	0.32m	Friable, light brown, sandy-peaty-clay
0.32m	to	0.45m	Friable, dark brown, sandy-peaty-clay
0.45m+			Compact, light grey, clay

Auger hole 17 (AH17) –

GS	to	0.15m	Friable, mid brown, silty-loam topsoil with occasional sub-angular small pebbles.
0.15m	to	0.28m	Loose, dark brown, peaty-loam
0.28m	to	0.47m	Friable, mid brown, peaty-clay with occasional small wood/root inclusions
0.47m	to	0.6m	Friable, dark brown, wet slightly peaty-clay
0.6m	to	0.64m	Compact, dark brown/black, slightly clayey-peat
0.64m+			Compact, light grey, clay

Auger hole 18 (AH18) –

GS	to	0.10m	Friable, mid brown, silty-loam topsoil with occasional sub-angular small pebbles.

0.10m	to	0.15m	Friable, dark brown, silty-peaty-loam
0.15m	to	0.24m	Loose, dark brown, peaty-loam
0.24m	to	0.44m	Friable, dark brown-grey, slightly peaty sandy-clay
0.44m	to	0.46m	Compact, mid grey, sandy-clay
0.46m	to	0.50m	Compact, dark grey-brown, sandy-clay
0.50m+			Compact, dark orange-brown, clayey-sand

Auger hole 19 (AH19) –

GS	to	0.10m	Friable, mid brown, silty-loam topsoil with occasional sub-angular small pebbles.
0.10m	to	0.16m	Friable, dark brown, silty-peaty-loam
0.16m	to	0.30m	Compact, light brown, clayey-silt-sand
0.30m+			Compact, light grey, clay

Auger hole 20 (AH20) –

GS	to	0.07m	Friable, mid brown, silty-loam topsoil with occasional sub-angular small pebbles.
0.07m	to	0.16m	Friable, dark brown, silty-peaty-loam
0.16m	to	0.18m	Compact, mid brown, slightly peaty silty-clay
0.18m+			Compact, light grey, clay

Auger hole 21 (AH21) –

GS	to	0.05m	Friable, mid brown, silty-loam topsoil with occasional sub-angular small pebbles.
0.05m	to	0.12m	Loose, dark brown, peaty-loam
0.12m	to	0.17m	Compact, mid brown, slightly peaty silty-clay
0.17m+			Cemented, light grey, clay

Auger hole 22 (AH22) –

GS	to	0.16m	Friable, mid brown, silty-loam topsoil with occasional sub-angular small pebbles.
0.16m	to	0.27m	Loose, dark brown, peaty-loam
0.27m	to	0.29m	Compact, dark grey-brown, sandy-clay
0.29m+			Compact, light orange-grey, clay

Auger hole 23 (AH23) –

GS	to	0.12m	Friable, mid brown, silty-loam topsoil with occasional sub-angular small pebbles.
0.12m	to	0.29m	Friable, dark brown, silty-peaty-loam
0.29m	to	0.31m	Compact, dark grey-brown, sandy-clay
0.31m+			Compact, light grey, clay

Auger hole 24 (AH24) –

GS	to	0.18m	Friable, mid brown, silty-loam topsoil with occasional sub-angular small pebbles.
0.18m	to	0.31m	Friable, dark brown, silty-peaty-loam
0.31m+			Compact, light grey, clay

Auger hole 25 (AH25) –

GS	to	0.05m	Friable, mid brown, silty-loam topsoil with occasional sub-angular small pebbles.
0.05m	to	0.16m	Friable, dark grey, sandy-clay with common, small, sub-angular grit
0.16m	to	0.19m	Compact, dark brown, silty-peaty-loam
0.19m	to	0.21m	Compact, dark grey-brown, sandy-clay
0.26m+			Compact, light grey, clay

Discussion

The combined auger and trench excavation results suggest that peat deposits once covered the lower section of this field, appearing to extend as far as the series of curvilinear earthworks. As the ground level rises to the west, although it is wet in places and no regular augering has taken place, the soil deposits appear to lack an organic element. The peat deposits themselves are relatively thin and degraded, although pockets of deeper wetter deposits do occur. This suggests that the preservation of waterlogged organic remains throughout this area is likely to be sporadic at best. The basal deposit reached by the auger is generally a grey sandy-clay, although orange sandier deposits appear to have built up in places, mirrored by undulations in the current ground surface. This would appear to be a fluvial deposit, possibly consistent with the occurrence of a post-glacial lake that originally formed the Cors Caron area. Where the ground begins to rise to the west excavation has shown a transition to more gravelly basal deposits that would have required more powerful fluvial activity, presumably a result of retreating glaciers.

Many of the lower deposits overlying these clays and gravels consist of clays with an organic element. These indicate marshy conditions may have developed but with continual fluvial activity, possibly on the edge of the lake as it silted up. Generally peatier deposits occur above these clays, indicating more settled wet conditions allowing peat bog vegetation to develop. In areas some of the peat contains wood remains, suggesting small stands of wetland trees such as alder. The peat recorded in these samples has clearly degraded, presumably through many centuries of drainage in this area. There is no indication as to when drainage began, although thick silty deposits overlie the peat in Trench 2, which in turn is overlain by deposits containing fragments of medieval pottery. These fragments of pottery suggest that land to the west of the earthworks may have been ploughed at some point in the medieval and post-medieval periods. The thickness of the topsoil immediately in front of Maesglas at the western end of the field suggests more intensive ploughing at that location. To the east of the earthworks there is little indication of ploughing, and the augering suggests that here there were areas of wetter, possibly submerged, ground between higher raised areas of land.

TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY RESULTS

Methodology
A topographical survey was undertaken using a Trimble TST, producing a contour map of the area investigated. Due to time constraints it was only possible to effectively survey the northern field, although mapping evidence such as the LIDAR data can be used to illustrate the changing topography in the southern field.

Results (Figs 6 & 7)
In surveying the area it was possible to identify a series of earthworks, although not possible to distinguish the natural from the artificial. Towards the western end of the field the ground falls in a series of large steps, forming terrace like topography. This then changes to form a series of curving earthwork banks that appear to mark the division between silty-clay loams and more organic peaty deposits on the lower ground. Trench 2 would appear to suggest these banks might be natural in origin, although its regular nature suggests some form of human-influenced modification. A curving bank to the north appears to mirror the line of a ditch marking the northern edge of the field. Map evidence would suggest that this is at least partly a manmade ditch and therefore this bank could date to a similar time of construction. That date is unknown although it was in place by the time of the tithe map of 1843.

To the east the ground undulates in a more irregular, but still prominent fashion. It is possible that some of these earthworks may form the boundaries to sub-circular depressions, as may be expected from a series of pools or ponds. These earthworks fade out to the south, and are not at all visible on the grazed peat bog to the east. Land to the north is covered in thicker undergrowth that may obscure further earthworks; land to the west continues to rise smoothly onto higher ground.

CONCLUSION

Trial trenching and an auger survey, combined with the detailed topographical survey, have demonstrated peat and other wetland deposits once extended some distance across the lower ground into these fields in front of Maesglas farmstead. These wetland deposits appear to have extended as far as a series of curving earthworks beyond which the ground rises steadily in a series of rough terraces and the soil type changes to a silty-clay. These curving earthworks consist of fluvial gravels and sandy-clays, which would appear to be from natural fluvial processes at the edge of an active lake or riverside environment, or remnants of the retreating glacier *c.*12000 years ago. However, the geophysical survey clearly demonstrated an unnatural regularity to one of these curving earthworks indicating likely human activity in altering, if not creating, some of these earthworks to form platforms and banks on the very edge of the wetlands. The date and function of these activities remains unclear although several possibilities present themselves.

Previous archaeological investigations in the area clearly attest to a Prehistoric presence in the immediate vicinity of Maesglas. Neolithic flint scatters indicate groups were moving through the locality at that time, and Bronze Age burnt mounds have been recorded by a nearby stream. The occurrence of three such burnt mounds in close proximity suggest some intensity of activity in the area. One particular burnt mound (PRN 8995) had initially been recorded within the area investigated and one of the main initial aims of this archaeological evaluation was to investigate this mound and determine if the earthworks were the result of further Prehistoric activity. However, no evidence was recovered of Prehistoric activity and the burnt mound (PRN 8995) must lie elsewhere within this field. The archaeological work did demonstrate that the wetland areas suitable for the location of a burnt mound did extend nearly halfway up into the field.

The presence of small fragments of medieval pottery in the upper soil layers appears to be an indication of medieval activity on these wetland fringes. Historical research demonstrates medieval settlement in the vicinity. Medieval pottery has previously been recovered from Fullbrook Mill and it is believed that Maesglas may have been the administrative centre for the Blaenaeron grange of Strata Florida Abbey, therefore it would also seem likely that medieval activity within the area investigated is closely connected to the management of the monastic grange. Typically within this general area medieval arable cultivation was undertaken on the higher slopes, with pasture on these lower wetland margins. However, the spread of small fragments of broken pottery throughout the investigated area may be an indication of ploughing and arable cultivation on the wetland fringes in the immediate vicinity of Maesglas. The rough terracing visible within the fields may also be evidence of attempts to improve the land for arable cultivation. Trench 4 indicates a good depth of plough soil on the upper 'terrace' closest to Maesglas, whilst medieval pottery within the compacted stony soil layers within Trench 2 indicates poor arable soil and an area that may not have been as intensively cultivated. It is suggested elsewhere around Cors Caron that some farms within the monastic granges were assigned particular functions, such as for cattle stock, horse stabling and so on, therefore it may be possible that land around Maesglas was assigned to arable cultivation, although more extensive research would be required to confirm this.

Peat extraction is known from Cors Caron during the medieval period, and access onto the peat bog appears to have been relatively easy from Maesglas. Auger samples indicate however that peat deposits within these fields were unlikely to have been intensively extracted, providing neither the depth nor quality of peat

deposits available a short distance further east. Peat may still have been extracted however, as even desiccated and unstructured peat still has a variety of uses, such as animal feed, stable litter and horticultural compost that may have been used to increase fertility of the neighbouring fields.

There is an indication in the topographical survey that some of these curving earthworks may also have enclosed rough pools or ponds on the wetland margins. Unfortunately there is no clear evidence that these were artificially created but the possibility does exist that these could have formed part of a managed landscape, functioning as fishponds for example, that could be part of a medieval monastic grange landscape.

Fragments of post-medieval pottery were also recovered from many of the upper soil levels. Although not closely dated this pottery assemblage appears 18th and 19th century in date, and possibly earlier, but lacked typical later 19th and 20th century pottery. It is clear from 18th century map evidence that a relatively high status house once stood at Maesglas, as suggested by the presence of a formal garden in its grounds. This 18th century map also shows a series of smaller fields and trackways in the wetland fringe area that corresponds to many of the features visible on the geophysical survey. It is possible therefore that much of the possible arable activity and the alteration or creation of the earthworks may relate to a period of landscape management associated with a high status dwelling at Maesglas in the post-medieval period. No ponds are marked on the 18th century map, but such features may have fallen out of use by that time. The existence of a trackway running out along some of the banks towards the bog also suggests some exploitation of the wetland resources at this time. As previously mentioned the peat was of insufficient quality to burn but would have provided useful fertilizer for the formal gardens.

The lack of distinctive later 19th and 20th century pottery within the small assemblage may be an indication of a change in land use to more typical pastoral lands by this period, also coinciding with the move of Maesglas from the high status house to the current farmstead site, and the creation of other small farmsteads in this wetland margin area. Later 19th century map sources also indicate an amalgamation of the smaller fields within the area investigated.

It is likely that the land was ploughed, along with a great deal of marginal land, during the 2nd World War, and indeed a rusting potato-ploughing machine lies in the nearby farmyard. The distribution of medieval and post-medieval pottery fragments halfway down the field does however suggest a longer period of ploughing and it is unlikely to have spread so far during that short modern period of agricultural activity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Ratty, Andy Shobbrook, Mike Ings, Terry Bailey and Phil Poucher. I am indebted to the landowners Mr & Mrs Rees of Maesglas for allowing access on to their land and Mr Wright for allowing use of his land for additional parking.

ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive will initially be held by DAT, before being passed to the National Monument Record, Aberystwyth.

SOURCES

Anon 1843 *Caron Parish Tithe Map & Apportionments*

Delin, Henry Mercier 18th century *Estate map (Nanteos Estate?) showing Maesglas*

British Geological Survey 1994 *The Rocks of Wales* 1:250,000

Clark A J 1996 *Seeing Beneath the Soil* (2nd edition). Batsford, London

Ordnance Survey 1889 *1st edition 1;2500 Cardiganshire XXI.9*

Ordnance Survey 1905 2nd *edition 1;2500 Cardiganshire XXI.9*

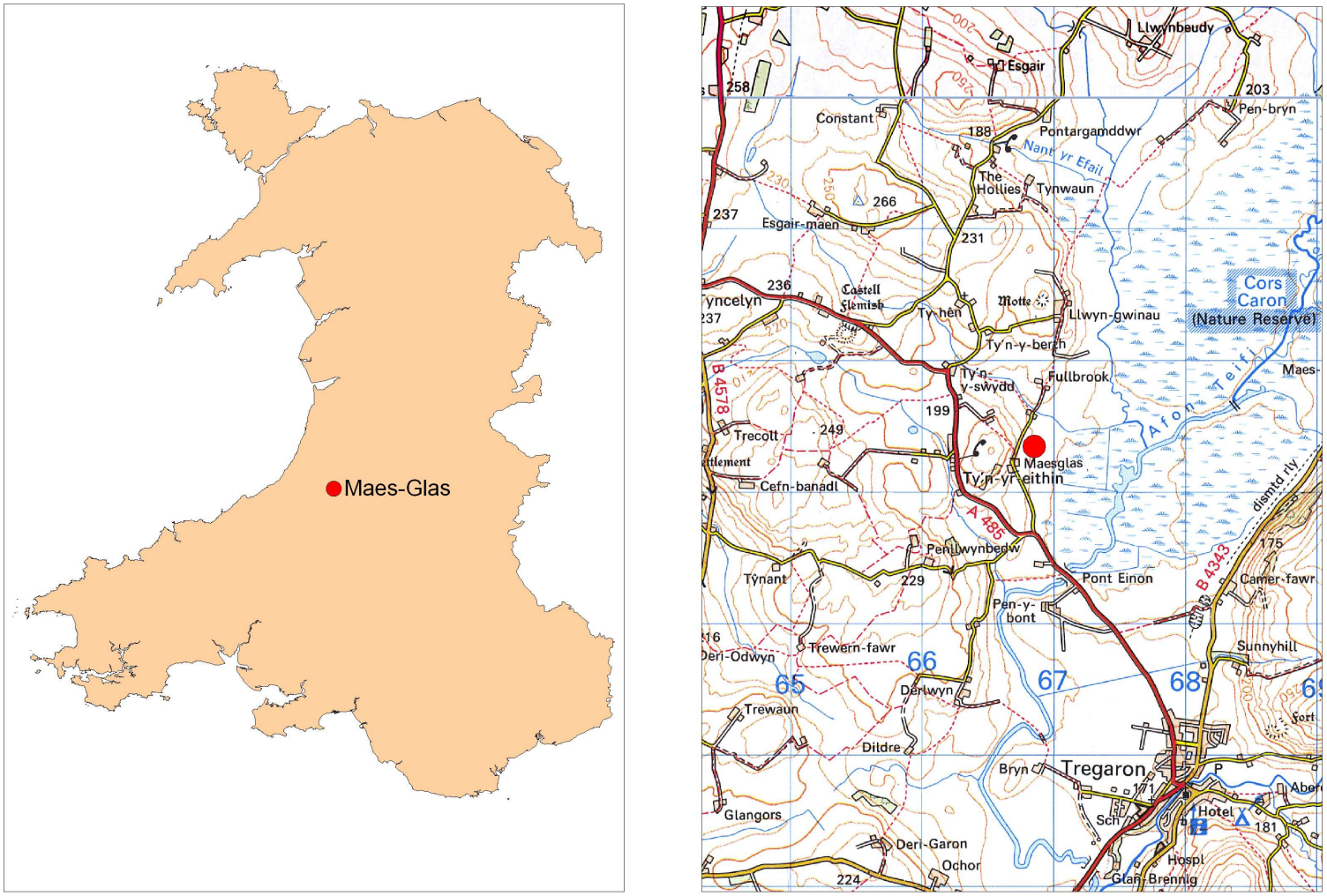

Figure 1: Location map, based on the Ordnance Survey.

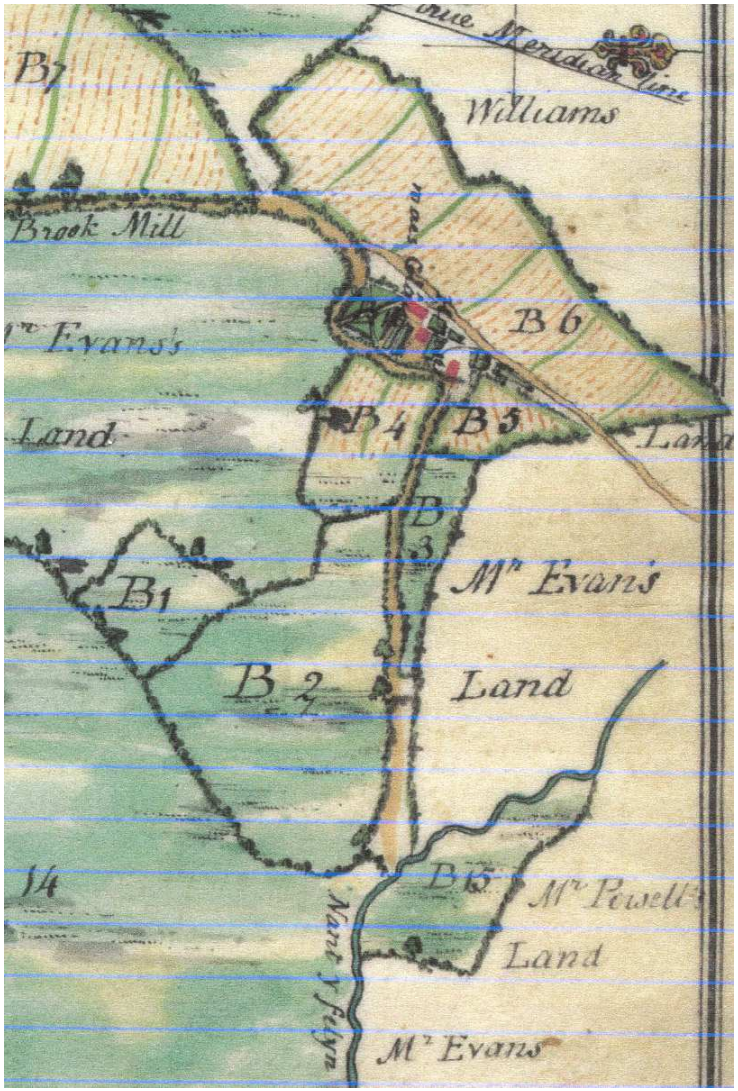

Figure 2: Section of the 18th century estate map showing Maesglas farm and area of evaluation below. North is to the right.

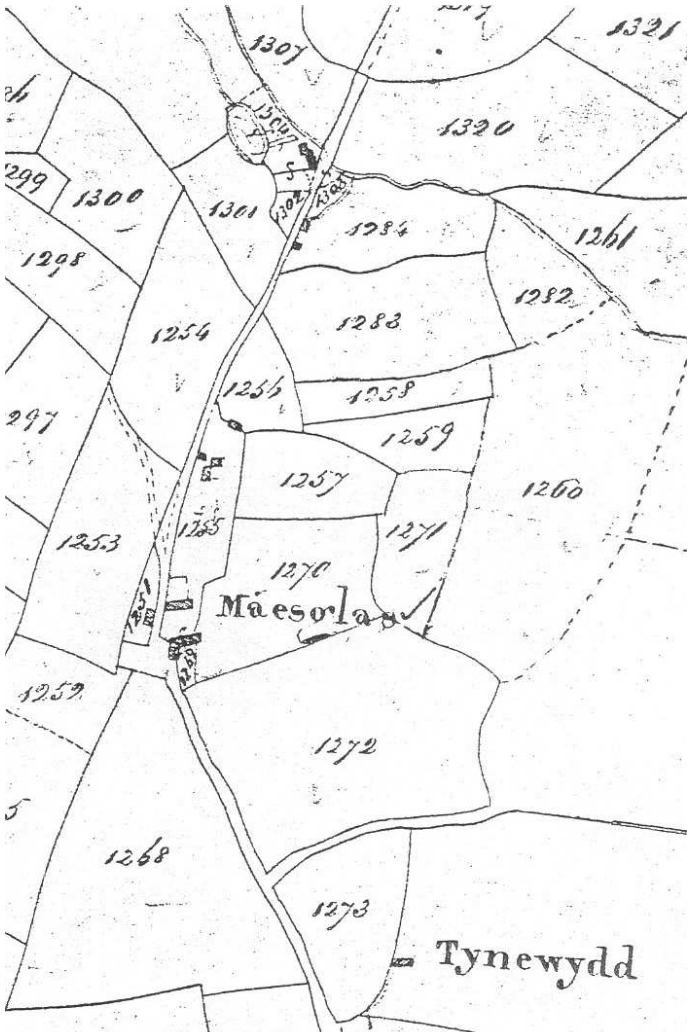

Figure 3: Section of the 1843 parish tithe map showing Maesglas farm and area of evaluation to the east.

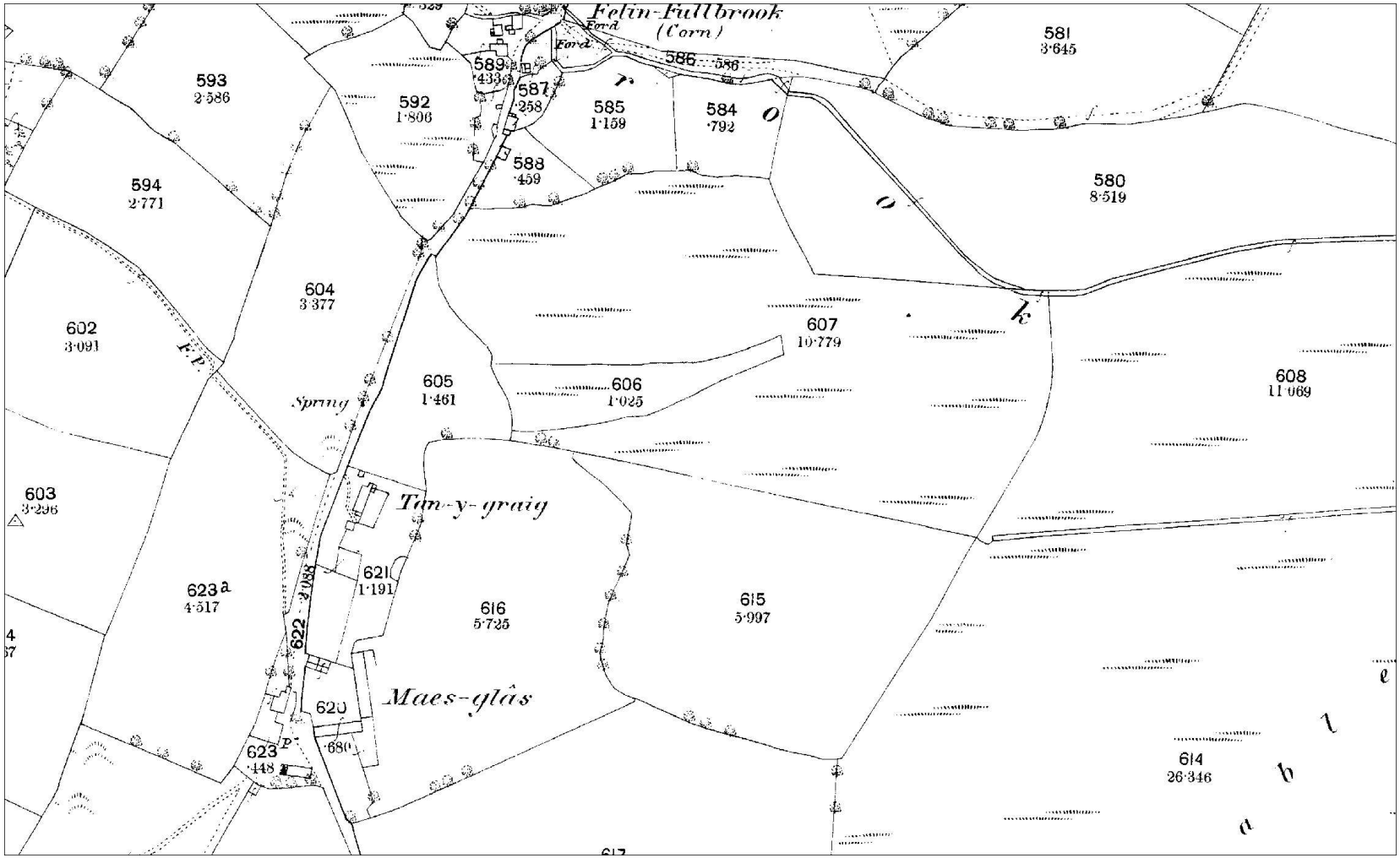

Figure 4: 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889

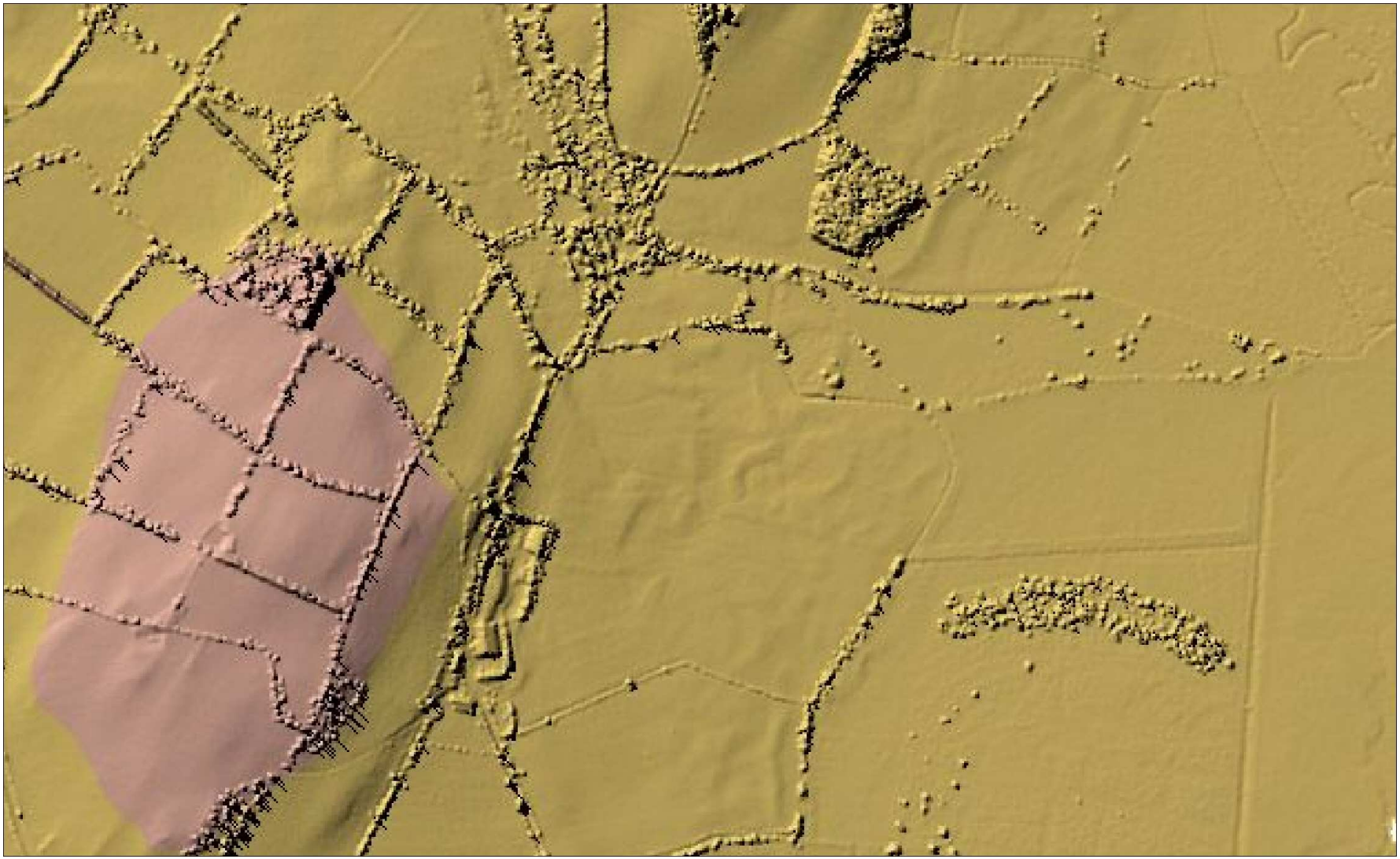

Figure 5: An extract from the Environment Agency LiDAR data showing the series of earthworks spread across the fields to the east of Maesglas.

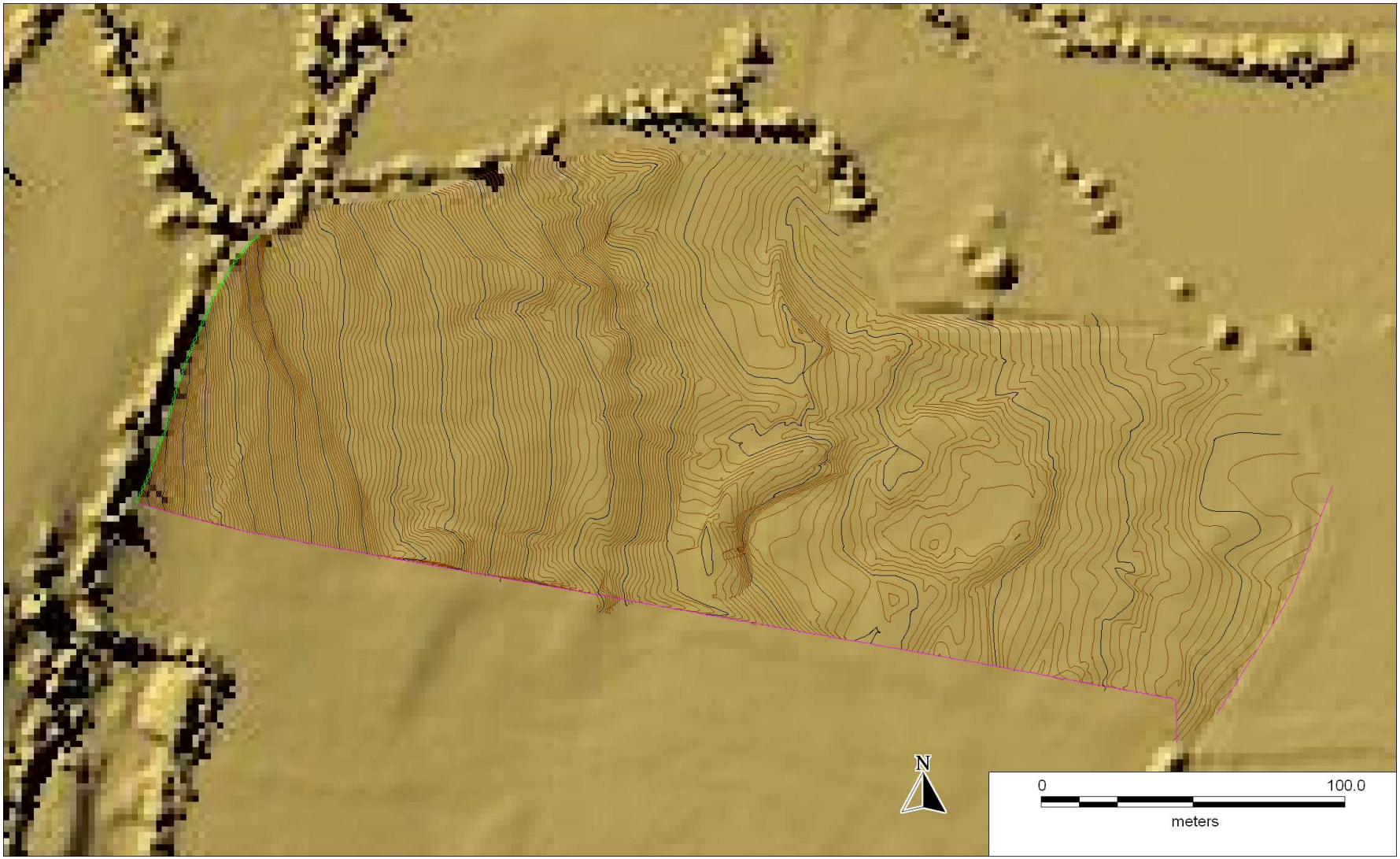

Figure 6: Topographical survey results overlaid on the Environment Agency LiDAR data.

Figure 7: Topographical survey results overlaid on the geophysical survey to give an indication of the location of the geophysical survey in relation to local topographical features. The top (dotted blue lines) and bottom (dotted orange lines) of the major topographical features in both fields are also depicted. The locations of the evaluation trenches and the auger transect are highlighted in red.

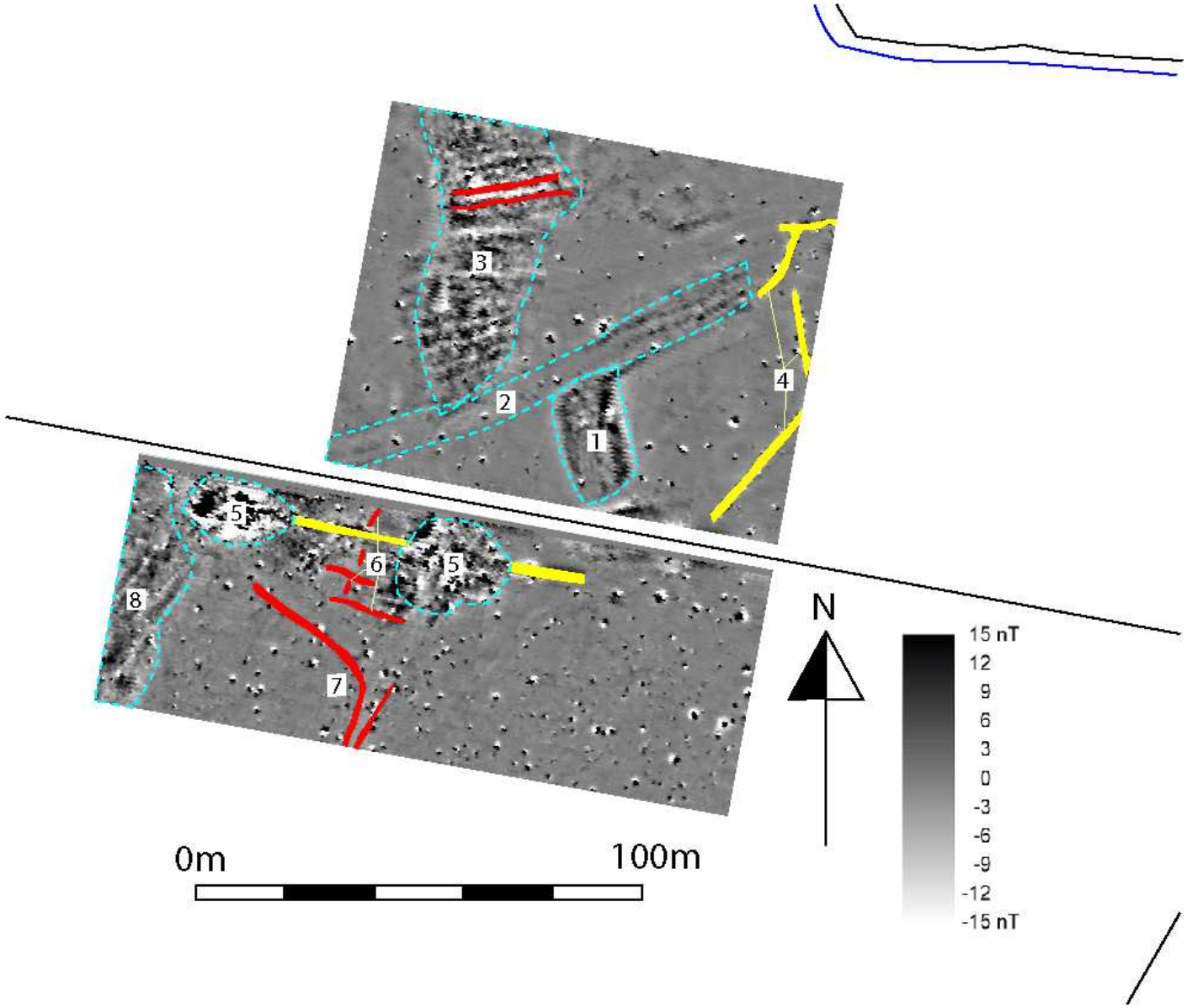

Figure 8: Processed geophysical survey results with interpretation.

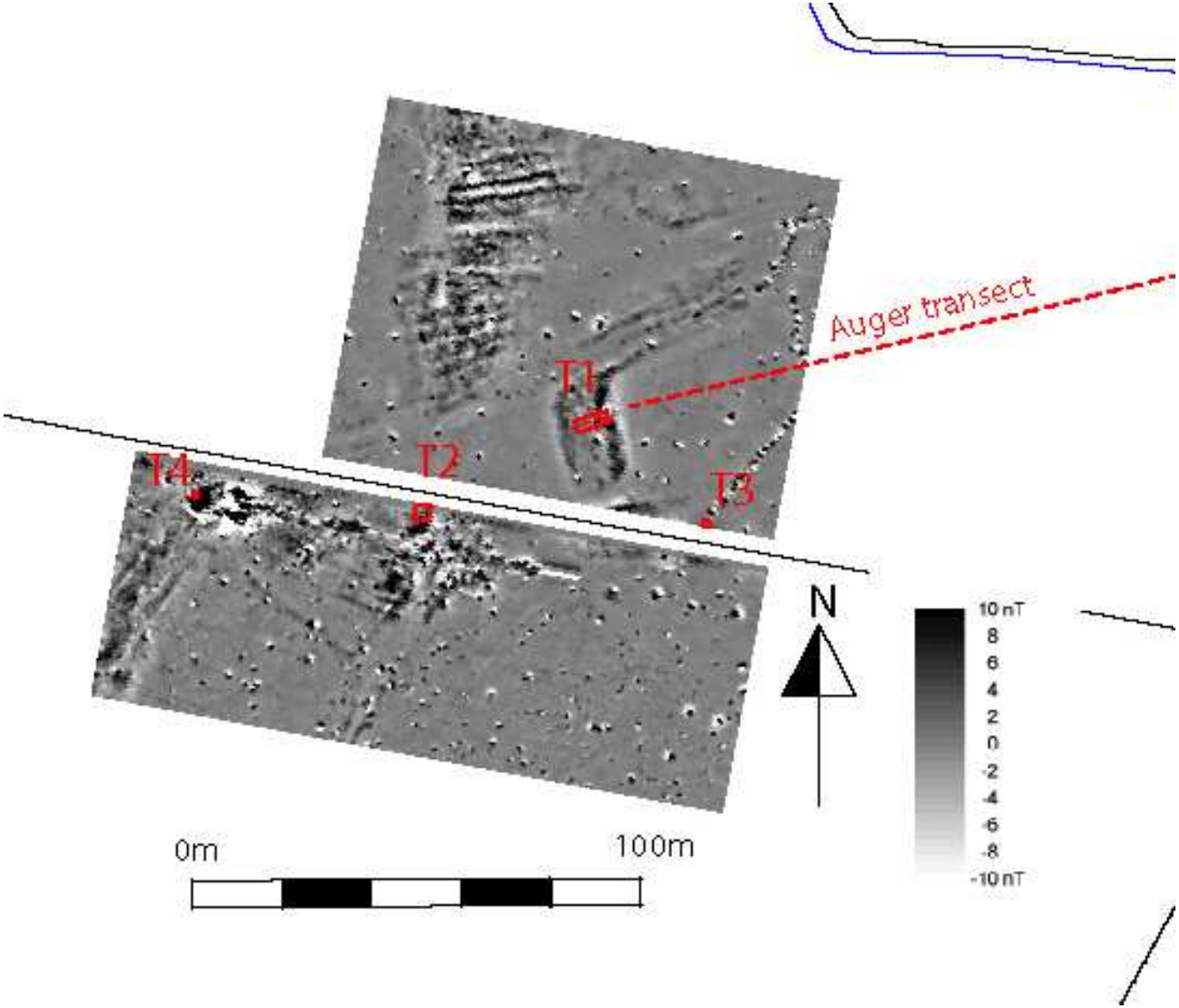

Figure 9: Processed geophysical survey results, overlaid with trench and auger location in red.

Photo 1: View NE across Trench 1 with Cors Caron in the background.

Photo 2: View SW across Trench 1 and the curving earthwork with Maesglas in the background.

Photo 3: View NE of Trench 1. 2 x 1m scales.

Photo 4: View SW of sondage in Trench 1, showing remnants of peaty deposits. 2 x 1m scales.

Photo 5: View NW of section in Trench 1. 2 x 1m scales.

Photo 6: View NE of section in Trench 1. 2 x 1m scales.

Photo 7: View W of Trench 2. 2 x 1m scales.

Photo 8: View E of sondage section in Trench 2 - 2 x 1m scales.

Photo 9: View E of Trench 3. 2 x 1m scales.

Photo 10: View E of section of Trench 3. 1 x 1m scale.

APPENDIX 3
GIS LAYERS - MAPINFO TABLES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL (See Fig 7 main report)

Areas of Archaeological Potential
The Areas of Archaeological Potential mapinfo table consists of polygonal data identifying differing areas of archaeological potential within the study area.
The accompanying tables contain standard information but also explain the specific archaeological potential, the palaeoenvironmental potential, threats, current land-use and possible further work required to refine the potential.
This layer is an accumulation of the desk-based research and fieldwork associated with this project.

DESIGNATED SITES & AREAS (See Fig 5 main report)

SAMs
Point and polygon data showing designated Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the study area. The accompanying tables record information such as site type, name, period, location and record number.
Information taken from Cadw digital databases provided through END Exchange.

LBs (Listed Buildings)
Point and polygon data showing designated listed buildings within the study area. The accompanying tables records information such as site type, name, period, location and record number.
Information taken from Cadw digital databases provided through END Exchange.

SSSI
Polygons showing the area of the SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) within the study area. Basic information is provided in the accompanying table.
Layer taken from a series of mapinfo layers created by CCW.

NNR
Polygons showing the areas of the National Nature Reserve within Cors Caron. Basic information is provided in the accompanying table.
Layer taken from a series of mapinfo layers created by CCW.

PSAC
Polygons showing the areas of the Cors Caron PSAC (Possible Special Area of Conservation). Basic information is provided in the accompanying table.
Layer taken from a series of mapinfo layers created by CCW.

RAMSAR
Polygons showing the areas of Cors Caron included in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. Basic information is provided in the accompanying table.
Layer taken from a series of mapinfo layers created by CCW.

KNOWN SITES (See Fig 4 main report)

All HER sites in study area
Point data showing archaeological sites and features recorded in the regional Historic Environment Record at DAT. This table includes all sites currently recorded in the Historic Environment Record within the bounds of the study area regardless of their association to wetland archaeology. The accompanying table records information such as site type, name, period, location, description and PRN.

HER wetland sites
As above this table includes point data showing archaeological sites and features recorded in the regional Historic Environment Record at DAT. However, these sites are limited to archaeological sites that can be related to the archaeology of the wetlands, either by association with a direct historic use of the wetlands or through a historic association with the wetlands. The accompanying table records information such as site type, name, period, location, description and PRN. This table relates to those records included in Appendix 4.

New sites
This table includes point data showing archaeological sites and features that have been recently recorded and added to the regional Historic Environment Record at DAT through the course of this project. These sites are limited to archaeological sites that can be related to the archaeology of the wetlands, either by association with a direct historic use of the wetlands or through a historic association with the wetlands. The accompanying table records information such as site type, name, period, location, description and PRN. This table relates to those records also included in Appendix 4.

NMW
Point data showing find spots recorded by the National Museum of Wales. The accompanying tables records information such as site type, location and record number.
Information taken from National Museum of Wales digital databases provided through END Exchange.

RCAHMW Cors Caron
Point data showing sites recorded on the National Monuments Record by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales within the study area. The accompanying tables records information such as site type, name, period, location and NPRN.
Information taken from RCAHMW digital databases provided through END Exchange.

Site polygons
A layer of polygonal, linear and point data recording information about various sites within the study used to both inform 'HER wetland sites' and 'New sites' tables, but also to show the full area encompassed by those sites that are not necessarily depicted in the point data accompanying those two tables. The accompanying table records information such as site type, name, period, location, description and PRN.

LLWYNGWINAU
(See Appendix 1)

This folder contains the results of the topographical survey of the area around Castell Llwyngwinau converted into a variety of mapinfo tables, including field boundaries and contours. These tables have been registered and located on the Ordnance Survey national grid.

MAESGLAS
(See Appendix 2)

This folder contains the results of the topographical survey of the field to the east of Maesglas, the site of an archaeological evaluation, converted into a variety of mapinfo tables, including field boundaries, trench locations and contours. These tables have been registered and located on the Ordnance Survey national grid

PREVIOUS ARCH INVESTIGATIONS
(See Fig 6 main report)

Archaeological Investigations
Polygons showing areas of previous archaeological investigations within the study area. Each polygon is accompanied with basic information that also states what type of archaeological investigation it is depicting. These investigations range from desk-based assessments and walk-over survey, many associated with agri-environmental schemes, to geophysical surveys, photographic records and excavations.

PROJECT SPECIFIC

Drift geology
A general reference table with polygons showing different deposits of drift geology throughout the study area, such as areas of peat and alluvium. The accompanying table records basic information on the type of drift geology and the original sources from which the information was taken.
The information is taken from a variety of sources, including the British Geological Survey 1;50,000 series 'Solid with Drift Geology' map (1994), the Soil Survey of England and Wales 1;63,360 map (1969), various sources displayed on the British Geological Survey website (www.bgs.ac.uk) and online maps from the National Soil Resources Institute at Cranfield University (www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes).

Early C20 bog
Polygons showing areas of wetland depicted on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906. Although by no means definitive it is intended to give an indication of the extent of the wetland areas in the early 20th century. The accompanying table includes basic information about the areas and the sources used.
The information was taken mainly from the 1;2500 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1906.

Historic farms
Polygons showing the location and extent of pre-20th century farmsteads within the study area. They also show the pre-20th century houses and cottages and the extent of the main settlements of Swyddffynnon, Ystrad Meurig, Pontrhydfendigaid and Tregaron, as well as picking out some of the main

medieval settlement features. The accompanying tables include basic information on the name and type of site as well as the main sources used.
The information comes mainly from the tithe maps of the 1840s and the 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps of the 1880s.

Mid C19 bog
Polygons showing areas of wetland depicted on the tithe maps of the 1840s. Although by no means definitive it is intended to give an indication of the extent of the wetland areas in the mid 19th century. The maps themselves do not necessarily depict wetland areas, therefore a combination of landuse and field names have been used, but the resultant coverage is patchy. The accompanying table includes basic information about the areas and the sources used.

Modern bog
Polygons showing areas of wetland depicted on modern Ordnance Survey maps and soil maps. Although by no means definitive it is intended to give an indication of the current extent of the wetland areas. The accompanying table includes basic information about the areas and the sources used.
The information was taken mainly from the current 1;10000 Ordnance Survey maps and various geological map sources (see Drift Geology).

Old waterways
Linear data recording the routes of rivers, streams and ditches throughout the study area recorded on mid to late 19th century map sources. The accompanying tables records basic information about the type of waterway, the map source used and the accuracy of that source.

Soils
A general reference table with polygons depicting different areas of soil type throughout the study area, such as peat, alluvium and brown earths. The accompanying tables records basic information about the type of soils and the sources used to provide this data.
The information is taken from a variety of sources, including the British Geological Survey 1;50,000 series 'Solid with Drift Geology' map (1994), the Soil Survey of England and Wales 1;63,360 map (1969), various sources displayed on the British Geological Survey website (www.bgs.ac.uk) and online maps from the National Soil Resources Institute at Cranfield University (www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes).

Solid geology
A general reference table with polygons showing the different types of underlying solid geology throughout the study area. The accompanying tables records basic information about the type of geology and the sources used to gather this data.
Polygons showing different deposits of drift geology throughout the study area, such as areas of peat and alluvium. The accompanying table records basic information on the type of drift geology and the original sources from which the information was taken.
The information is taken from a variety of sources, including the British Geological Survey 1;50,000 series 'Solid with Drift Geology' map (1994), the Soil Survey of England and Wales 1;63,360 map (1969), various sources displayed on the British Geological Survey website (www.bgs.ac.uk) and online maps from the National Soil Resources Institute at Cranfield University (www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes).

Tithe maps
Polygons showing the extent of various farms throughout the study area as depicted on the tithe maps of the 1840s (see Fig 8). This records the area listed

as being part of each farm, but does not depict individual fields with the exception of fields given significant names. The accompanying table records information about the name of the farm, the owners and occupiers and the source used.
This information was taken from the tithe maps and apportionments of the 1840s.

Trackways
Linear data attempting to show some of the main pre-20th century tracks and routes throughout the study area to highlight the main traditional thoroughfares, some of which may have medieval origins. Basic information about the sources used is provided in the accompanying tables.
This information was taken from a variety of 19th century map sources.

STUDY AREA BOUNDARIES

Study area
A polygon showing the main area examined as part of this study.

Study area at 170m contour
A polygon following the 170m contour line, depicting one of the initial areas used as a focus for the area to be examined during this project.

Study area contour +500m
A polygon following the 170m contour line but subsequently buffered by 500m, depicting one of the initial areas used as a focus for the area to be examined during this project.

Study area contour +1000m
A polygon following the 170m contour line but subsequently buffered by 1000m, depicting one of the initial areas used as a focus for the area to be examined during this project.

Study area contour +2000m
A polygon following the 170m contour line but subsequently buffered by 2000m, depicting one of the initial areas used as a focus for the area to be examined during this project.

Study area cultural
Linear data following various property boundaries of farms involved in the exploitation of the wetland areas. This is taken from information provided by Jemma Bezant of Lampeter University who has identified the main property boundaries of medieval and early post-medieval farms and landholdings for which the wetlands formed an important part of their agricultural economy. This was used as one of the initial areas used as a focus for the area to be examined during this project.

APPENDIX 4
GAZETTEER OF SITES

PRN: 1975 **NGR:** SN68916717
SITE NAME: FFOS-Y-BLEIDDIAID
SITE TYPE: BURNT MOUND
PERIOD: Prehistoric
SITE STATUS: SAM CD160
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: B
SUMMARY: A large, crescentric mound of burnt stone and charcoal, measuring 12m north-south and 14m east-west, standing up to 1.2m high. JH based on CADW 1996

PRN: 1976 **NGR:** SN66326749
SITE NAME: PENYCASTELL
SITE TYPE: MOTTE?
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: C
SUMMARY: A small medieval motte, which may not have been finished as the defences are incomplete, although this may of course be due to their destruction. The ditched and counterscarped motte has a summit diameter of *c*.22m.

PRN: 1977 **NGR:** SN66626751
SITE NAME: BRYN-Y-MAEN
SITE TYPE: STANDING STONE?
PERIOD: Bronze Age
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: The Ordnance Survey map of 1835 appears to show a standing stone here and this would explain the origin of the name. There is now no trace of such a stone.

PRN: 1980 **NGR:** SN68306635
SITE NAME: YSTRAD-MEURIG
SITE TYPE: BURNT MOUND?
PERIOD: Prehistoric
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: The site of a damaged burnt mound recorded in 1911 and described by the Ordnance Survey in 1974. No burnt mound was identified during a field survey in 1995; a mound in the vicinity was augered but found to be natural.

PRN: 1981 **NGR:** SN68306583
SITE NAME: YSTRAD-MEURIG
SITE TYPE: BURNT MOUND?
PERIOD: Prehistoric
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: The site of a burnt mound recorded in 1911 and described by the Ordnance Survey in 1974 although it could not be identified on the ground.

PRN: 2034 **NGR:** SN71596612
SITE NAME: GAER
SITE TYPE: NATURAL FEATURE?
PERIOD: Unknown
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: D
SUMMARY: Site of uncertain nature. In 1950 it was recorded that a stone scatter here may have been a destroyed barrow, but the existence of any monument here has been subsequently questioned.

PRN: 2037 **NGR:** SN70926878
SITE NAME: PEN-Y-FFRWYD LLWYD CAMP
SITE TYPE: HILLFORT
PERIOD: Iron Age
SITE STATUS: SAM CD033
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: B
SUMMARY: A hillfort sited on a prominent crag to the north of Ystrad Meurig church, commanding views across the northern fringes of Cors Caron. The fort is oval in plan, *c*.188m northeast-southwest by *c*.80m, defended by a double line of bank and ditch defences, with an entrance to the northeast. An outwork stands to the northwest of the entrance, possibly forming an annex. Differences between the inner and outer lines of defences may suggest different phases, and an early medieval/medieval re-use of this Iron Age site has also been suggested. Three probably hut platforms have been identified within, with the suggestion of further internal terracing. PP based on T.Driver 2005.

PRN: 2038 **NGR:** SN70256750
SITE NAME: YSTRAD MEURIG CASTLE
SITE TYPE: CASTLE
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS: SAM CD032
FORM: Building
CONDITION: D
SUMMARY: This is the later of the two castles at Ystrad Meurig, probably built to replace the early 12th century motte on the valley floor. Recorded by King (1956) as being founded by Richard de Clare in 1113. This was a stronger castle with a stone keep. It was attacked by Maelgwn ap Rhys on Christmas Eve, 1193, when he employed siege engines in his assault. The castle was destroyed by Maelgwn in 1208, when Llywelyn Fawr of Gwynedd threatened it.
The remains now consist of an enclosure site at the southern end of a ridge defended by scarps above steep natural slopes with a bank and ditch across the more level ground to the north. The remains of a rectangular stone tower up to

20m across lie in the northern part of the enclosure with an inner oval enclosure to the south.

PRN: 2039 **NGR:** SN71856777
SITE NAME: CWM MEURIG ISAF
SITE TYPE: MOTTE
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS: SAM CD031
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: B
SUMMARY: Small medieval motte *c.*23m in diameter (10m at the summit) and 5m high, surrounded by a ditch. There are possible indications of a curvilinear enclosure *c.*50m across to the north (RCAHMW). This is probably the original castle at Ystrad Meurig, built in the early 12th century by the Normans and destroyed *c.*1137. A stronger castle was built after this close to the present village of Ystrad Meurig (PRN2038).

PRN: 2045 **NGR:** SN70586865
SITE NAME: CRAIG YSTRADMEURIG
SITE TYPE: ROUND BARROW
PERIOD: Bronze Age
SITE STATUS: SAM CD214
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: B
SUMMARY: A burial cairn, *c.*10m in diameter and up to 1.8m high, sited on a high natural outcrop.

PRN: 2046 **NGR:** SN7168
SITE NAME: YSTRAD MEURIG
SITE TYPE: HOSPICE
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: In 1160AD the Order of the Knights Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem, based at Slebech, Pembrokeshire, were granted the church and some land at Ystrad Meurig, by Roger, Earl of Clare. It is thought that this became the site of the hospice of Ysbyty Ieuan.

PRN: 2047 **NGR:** SN72186633
SITE NAME: GAER Y
SITE TYPE: HILLFORT
PERIOD: Iron Age
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: D
SUMMARY: An oval enclosure now virtually ploughed out, only slight surface remains can now be seen. In 1974 it was recorded as partly bivallate and *c.*100m east-west. It occupies a ridge extending out onto the lowlands of northern Cors Caron, overlooked by other more prominent hillforts in the surrounding mountains. PP based on T.Driver 2005

PRN: 5038 **NGR:** SN712679
SITE NAME: MYNACHDY
SITE TYPE: MONASTIC LAND;GRANGE
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Place-name
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: An area of monastic land including the place-name 'Mynachty' at NGR SN 7120 6792, representing part of the extensive Mefenydd Grange, which belonged to the Cistercian Strata Florida Abbey (Williams 1990, 57, 108). NDL 2004
Mynachdy is a modern dwelling, but its name suggests a medieval ecclesiastical origin. It may be the site of the medieval hospice of Ysbyty Ieuan (PRN 2046). RPS 2003

PRN: 5136 **NGR:** SN67995969
SITE NAME: TREGARON PARISH CHURCH;ST CARON'S
SITE TYPE: CHURCH
PERIOD: Medieval; Post Med
SITE STATUS: LB2 Ref 9909
FORM: Building
CONDITION: R
SUMMARY: Medieval parish church, medium sized. The chancel/nave, without structural division, was entirely rebuilt in c.1826-77 when the vestry/boilerhouse was built, only the west tower having been retained from the medieval building. See early medieval predecessor PRN 50161 for site description and discussion. NDL 2004

PRN: 5156 **NGR:** SN67126134
SITE NAME: PONT EINION
SITE TYPE: BRIDGE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS: LB2 Ref 9910
FORM: O.Struct
CONDITION: B
SUMMARY: A stone-built three arched road bridge over the Afon Teifi. According to a mounted tablet it was built in 1805 but may be late 18th century in date. Although still standing it has now been superseded by an new adjacent concrete and steel bridge. PP based on Cadw 1997/RCAHMW 2006

PRN: 5159 **NGR:** SN6565
SITE NAME: CARON-IS-CLAWDD
SITE TYPE: FINDS
PERIOD: Bronze Age
SITE STATUS:
FORM: OBJECT
CONDITION:
SUMMARY:

PRN: 5167 **NGR:** SN65396319
SITE NAME: CASTELL FFLEMISH
SITE TYPE: HILLFORT
PERIOD: Iron Age
SITE STATUS: SAM CD021
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: C
SUMMARY: Castell Flemish is a well-preserved hillfort, probably of Iron Age date. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Cd 21) comprising a roughly circular, flattish area of land, around 110m in diameter, bounded by a large bank and ditch. Another small section of earthwork bank lies just west of the main hillfort. It is not clear how this related to the main defences, but it is clearly an artificial, rather than natural feature and seems to be associated with the hillfort. The main bank is generally well preserved, and is up to 3.5m above the base of the ditch, and 2m above the internal ground surface. A simple entrance in the southeast is probably the original entrance, but there are other (probably modern) gaps in the bank, including one in the southwest. The majority of the hillfort is very open, with little scrub growth on the banks. There are a number of small patches of gorse, and a few small trees and bushes have become established on the north and east sides of the site. A few sheep scrapes are becoming established underneath some of the young gorse bushes. Castell Flemish is suffering from quite severe erosion in several places - most noticeably a large patch on the outside of the west side of the bank, and another area around the entrance in the southeast. The erosion is most severe on the west side, and is caused by stock making paths up the banks. A contributing factor is a gateway in the fence immediately west of the banks - this acts as a `pinch-point' for stock since the gate opens almost directly onto the bank, giving animals little choice but to climb the bank in front of them. The erosion has caused a cliff edge to form along the top of the bank, and there is a partially bald area beneath where the stone and earth of the bank is exposed. Some grass is trying to regenerate in this area, but the scar is still visible and severe. Sheep paths running diagonally up the banks are forming active erosion faces about half-way up the banks. There is also a severe erosion problem on both the north and south sides of the entrance on the southeast of the hillfort. The erosion here is slightly different, consisting of a series of ledges running up the bank. Much of the vegetation cover between the erosion ledges has also been lost. This erosion is caused by two factors - stock and rabbit burrowing. Another cause of isolated pockets of erosion is the formation of sheep scrapes behind (upslope of) isolated semi-mature trees growing in the banks. On the south side, a fenceline runs across the hillfort. Previous reports comment that there are also areas of erosion along the fenceline, where sheep were getting through or under the fence. This is still true, although the situation seems to have improved since the last Cadw report in 1999. Despite the erosion problems Castell Flemish is an impressive and well-preserved monument, and it is comparatively rare to see a hillfort with banks still standing to this height. PG November 2003.

PRN: 5168 **NGR:** SN687602
SITE NAME: CASTELL TREGARON;SUNNYHILL CASTELL
SITE TYPE: HILLFORT
PERIOD: Iron Age
SITE STATUS: SAM CD108
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: C
SUMMARY: A substantial fort constructed on the summit of a high flat-topped promontory. Steep slopes provide a natural defence on most sides. The more easily approachable side is defended by two lines of rampart. K Murphy 2004.

PRN: 5560 **NGR:** SN7367
SITE NAME: CWM MAWR
SITE TYPE: CREMATION BURIAL?
PERIOD: Bronze Age
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Finds
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Recorded find of a fragment of a Bronze Age cremation urn, first reported in 1879. The fragment has been lost.

PRN: 5562 **NGR:** SN73036651
SITE NAME: PONTRHYDFENDIGAID BRIDGE
SITE TYPE: BRIDGE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS: LB2 Ref 9911
FORM: Building
CONDITION: A
SUMMARY: An attractive stone bridge with a single arch in Pontrhydfendigaid village.

PRN: 6138 **NGR:** SN69636543
SITE NAME: CRUG LAS
SITE TYPE: ROUND BARROW?
PERIOD: Bronze Age
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Place-name
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: The antiquarian Lewis who visited the area in 1933 recorded that "several tumuli (are) observable in the adjacent hills." There is at present no recorded evidence of any such sites on land around Crug-las farmstead itself but the "crug" place-name element (PRNs 6138, 6161) implies a strong possibility that such sites may exist in the vicinity. Four fields (PRN 51566) to the south-west of the farmstead with the "Carreg" name element (Lledrod parish tithe apportionment 1843) imply the presence of further prehistoric features. (WS 2004)

PRN: 6139 **NGR:** SN68786700
SITE NAME: FFOSYBLEIDDAID
SITE TYPE: MANSION;FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Medieval; Post Med
SITE STATUS: LB2
FORM: Documents; Building
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Ffosybleiddiaid is now a farmstead at the site of an earlier mansion. It was the home to the Lloyd family since the 16th century, the first mention dates to 1550. The Lloyds were a prominent family and a branch became the Lloyd-Phillipps of Pentypark in Pembrokeshire. The mansion had 4 hearths in 1670. The current farmhouse dates to the late 18th/early 19th century. It was sold to the Crosswood/Trawscoed estate in 1886 and subsequently improved. Most of the farm buildings appear to date to the early 19th century and have been altered since. One lofted stable range carries a date stone of 1897. A water mill used to provide the power for the threshing barn.

PRN: 6160 **NGR:** SN66906345
SITE NAME: CASTELL LLWYN-GWINAU
SITE TYPE: MOTTE; RINGWORK
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: C
SUMMARY: A large circular bank with a wide external ditch encloses an area of *c*.33m in diameter. There is an entrance to the northeast, and possible remains of a stone circular tower within, revealed on aerial photographs and a recent geophysical survey. Evidence of other internal features, such as pits and hearths also appear on the geophysical survey. The results appear to show the remains of a ringwork castle, possibly of later 12th century date.
There appears to be no clear documentary reference to a castle site here, although Wmffre (2004) does suggest a possible association to a reference in 1184 to 'Dinas Drit Wir' and again in *c*.1246 and *c*.1282 to a 'Dinas Digwyr/Dritwyr' which he believes to be referring to a fortified site in the area.
The site has been denuded over the years but is still visible as a low fat-topped mound *c*.1.5m high situated on the top of a ridge overlooking Cors Caron to the east.

PRN: 6161 **NGR:** SN69506432
SITE NAME: RHYD Y CRUGLAS
SITE TYPE: ROUND BARROW?
PERIOD: Bronze Age
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Place-name
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Initially recorded as a "crug" place-name that may indicate the position of a Bronze Age burial mound. However, this place-name appears to merely associate this ford across the Teifi to the nearby farmstead of Cruglas as a short footpath connects the two. The ford itself is marked on the Ordnance Survey original surveyors drawings in 1820-22. The area around the farmstead, or an outcrop close to the river further to the north, appear more likely locations for possible round barrows (see PRNs 6138, 6161 & 98803).

PRN: 6230 **NGR:** SN71776453
SITE NAME: HEN FYNACHLOG
SITE TYPE: ABBEY
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Place-name; Document
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Farm, named Hen Fynachlog (`Old Monastery'), which occupies the initial site of the Cistercian community that later moved to Strata Florida (PRN 2043). It was founded in 1164 by the `Lord' Rhys ap Gruffudd ie. was a Welsh foundation, and moved to Strata Florida in 1184. It appears to have been a virgin site, and there is no current evidence for an earlier ecclesiastical establishment on the site. NDL 2004

PRN: 6316 **NGR:** SN688594
SITE NAME: FLEINOG
SITE TYPE: STANDING STONE?
PERIOD: Bronze Age
SITE STATUS:
FORM:
CONDITION:
SUMMARY:

PRN: 6871 **NGR:** SN69146305
SITE NAME: MAES-LLYN
SITE TYPE: FARMHOUSE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS: LB2 Ref 18481
FORM: Building
CONDITION: A
SUMMARY: A large stone farmhouse built in a Renaissance style, with a datestone of 1815. 'Maes Tref Linn' is first recorded in 1184 (Wmffre 2004) and a water mill is recorded here in 1682.

PRN: 8110 **NGR:** SN67995969
SITE NAME: POTENINA STONE;TREGARON PARISH CHURCH
SITE TYPE: INSCRIBED STONE
PERIOD: Early Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: O.Struct
CONDITION: M
SUMMARY: Fragmentary Group I ECM (Latin-inscribed stone), of probable 6th century date, now in the National Museum and Gallery of Wales (NMGW), Cardiff. The inscription translates as `Potenina wife'. The stone was first recorded in 1804 when it was built into the south wall of Tregaron parish church (PRN 5136). The church was repaired 1804-5 when Samuel Meyrick removed the stone and took it to his home, Goodrich Hall in Herefordshire. It was donated to NMGW in 1935. What remains of the stone is in two adjoining fragments, the surviving remnants being in good condition. NDL 2004, from N Edwards forthcoming

PRN: 8111 **NGR:** SN67995968
SITE NAME: ENEVERI STONE;TREGARON PARISH CHURCH
SITE TYPE: INSCRIBED STONE
PERIOD: Early medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: O.Struct
CONDITION: M
SUMMARY: Group II or Group III ECM (cross-carved stone with inscription), with a possible date-range from the 7th to the 11th centuries, now in the National Museum and Gallery of Wales, Cardiff. The inscription translates as `of Enevir'. The stone was first recorded in 1804 when it was built into the south wall of Tregaron parish church (PRN 5136). The church was repaired 1804-5 when Samuel Meyrick removed the stone and took it to his home, Goodrich Hall in Herefordshire. It was donated to NMGW in 1935. The stone is slightly damaged but otherwise in good condition. NDL 2004, from N Edwards forthcoming

PRN: 8112 **NGR:** SN67995969
SITE NAME: TREGARON PARISH CHURCH
SITE TYPE: INSCRIBED STONE
PERIOD: Early Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: O.Struct
CONDITION: E
SUMMARY: Lost Group II ECM (cross-carved stone), of probable 7th - 9th century date. It was incised with a linear Latin ring-cross. The stone was first recorded in 1805 after which it appears to have been lost. NDL 2004, from N Edwards forthcoming

PRN: 8113 **NGR:** SN67995968
SITE NAME: TREGARON PARISH CHURCH
SITE TYPE: INSCRIBED STONE
PERIOD: Unknown
SITE STATUS:
FORM: O.Struct
CONDITION: E
SUMMARY: Lost stone, apparently from Tregaron parish churchyard (PRN 50161), which is described as a Group II ECM in the sources, but is not listed in Dr N. Edwards recent survey of ECMs. Not early medieval? NDL 2004

PRN: 8151 **NGR:** SN656620
SITE NAME: GRAIGDDU
SITE TYPE: LONG HUT
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Wall bases of a rectangular building measuring 6 x 3.5m, cut into slope of the hill, was noted by Lampeter students in 1979. Nothing seen at this grid reference or in the near vicinity. The farmer says that she has heard of, via her father many years ago, of a Cae'r Ty Bach but the building, she says, is long gone. RR March 2003

PRN: 8306 **NGR:** SN7065
SITE NAME: YSTRAD FFIN
SITE TYPE: TRACKWAY
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: O.Struct
CONDITION: B
SUMMARY: Record of a medieval trackway along the historic communication route from Caron-uwch-clawdd into Northern Carmarthenshire, via Ystrad Ffin. The monks of Strata Florida used this route to export wool and produce through the port of Carmarthen.
The exact route of this trackway is unclear.

PRN: 8321 **NGR:** SN6860
SITE NAME: TREGARON
SITE TYPE: FINDS
PERIOD: Bronze Age
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Finds
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: 19th century record of two flat bronze axes and a bronze socketed, double-looped spearhead, apparently discovered by a shepherd somewhere near Tregaron.

PRN: 8322 **NGR:** SN702675
SITE NAME: HEN BLAS
SITE TYPE: FINDS
PERIOD: Bronze Age
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Finds
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: The findspot of a bronze dagger mentioned by Samuel Meyrick in 1808. The location of the dagger is not known.

PRN: 8420 **NGR:** SN6863
SITE NAME: TREGARON BOG
SITE TYPE: PEAT BOG
PERIOD: General
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Landform
CONDITION:
SUMMARY: The natural peat bog of Cors Caron. This is an upland raised peat bog bisected by the Afon Teifi and covers an area of *c*.330 hectares (816 acres). The peat bog began to form towards the end of the last Ice Age *c*.12000 years ago, when retreating ice sheets left behind a shallow lake. This gradually silted up and peat began to form. Trees died out *c*.5000 years ago. The peat has long been cut for fuel and provided grazing for livestock. During the medieval period it largely fell into the granges of the Cistercian abbey of Strata Florida. Commercial peat extraction was considered in the late 19th century and mechanically extraction was undertaken in the early 20th century but this was short lived. More local small-scale extraction continued and remains of peat-cuttings are still clearly visible. Extraction stopped in the 1960s and the area is now largely a National Nature Reserve managed by the Countryside Council for Wales.

PRN: 8544 **NGR:** SN73666414
SITE NAME: CIL GARN
SITE TYPE: ROUND BARROW
PERIOD: Bronze Age
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: E
SUMMARY: A hilltop cairn seen as a cropmark on aerial photographs. The area has been ploughed and reseeded and the cairn is though to have been lost.

PRN: 8733 **NGR:** SN69326616
SITE NAME: SWYDDFFYNNON MILL
SITE TYPE: CORN MILL
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: B
SUMMARY: An historic corn mill in Swyddffynnon village. The building has largely been demolished although structural remains can still be seen standing adjacent to the former mill house. The wheel pit still contains the wooden shaft from an overshot waterwheel and a corn drying kiln building lies nearby.
Associated with the mill is an overgrown and in-filled elongated millpond to the west. A stone partition runs across the midway point dividing the pond in two. The leat can be traced northwest for a short distance and must have been taken off the Camdddwr Fach further upstream.

PRN: 8734 **NGR:** SN69326615
SITE NAME: SWYDDFFYNNON VILLAGE
SITE TYPE: SETTLEMENT
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: B
SUMMARY: A record of the village settlement at Swyddffynnon. Many of the current buildings of Swyddffynnon date to the 18th and 19th centuries, and the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 shows three chapels, a school, smithy and corn mill amongst the small collection of dwellings. The village is believed to have medieval origins (PRN 10930), possibly focussed just to the south of the current settlement between the remains of the former corn mill (PRN 8733) and a former medieval chapel site (PRN 98859).

PRN: 8983 **NGR:** SN67036253
SITE NAME: FELIN FULBROOK
SITE TYPE: BURNT MOUND
PERIOD: Bronze Age
SITE STATUS:
FORM: O.Struct
CONDITION: D
SUMMARY: A burnt mound on the banks of a stream excavated by Dyfed Archaeological Trust in 1980. The site was being eroded, excavation revealed a mound 3m by 3.5m, 0.18m deep. It consisted of burnt stone, charcoal, wood fragment and organic matter. Radio carbon dating returned a date of 1925 B.C. ± 70, placing the mound in the early Bronze Age. Pollen samples were also taken. The mound appears to have been relatively short-lived, possibly only one seasons use. Two further burnt mounds and a scattering of Neolithic flint is recorded in the vicinity. PP based on Benson et al 1985.

PRN: 8984 **NGR:** SN66806260
SITE NAME: FELIN FULBROOK
SITE TYPE: BURNT MOUND
PERIOD: Bronze Age
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A burnt mound revealed during the digging of a soakaway next to Felin Fullbrook in *c.*1980. The mound was 1.5m down, consisting of burnt stone associated with a buried soil. A broken flint arrowhead was also recovered. Benson et al 1985

PRN: 8985 **NGR:** SN66826257
SITE NAME: FELIN FULBROOK
SITE TYPE: MILL
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: R
SUMMARY: The standing remains of an early 19th century mill, built on an earlier (possibly medieval) site. It is rubble built with a slate roof with evidence of an overshot wheel.

PRN: 8986 **NGR:** SN668625
SITE NAME: FELIN FULLBROOK
SITE TYPE: FLINT WORKING SITE
PERIOD: Neolithic/Bronze Age?
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Finds
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: From the area around Felin Fullbrook several worked flints were recovered in *c.*1980, including part of a barbed and tanged arrowhead, a petit tranchet derivative arrowhead, 3 waste flakes, a core and a shale spindle whorl. PP based on Benson et al 1985

PRN: 8987 **NGR:** SN668625
SITE NAME: MILL POND
SITE TYPE: FINDSPOT
PERIOD: Neolithic
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Finds
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A Neolithic arrowhead, possibly associated with possible flint working site PRN 8986. NAP 2004.

PRN: 8988 **NGR:** SN668625
SITE NAME: FELIN FULLBROOK
SITE TYPE: FINDS
PERIOD: Iron Age?; Roman?
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Finds
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A shale spindle whorl discovered in the area around Felin Fullbrook. PP based on Benson et al 1985

PRN: 8989 **NGR:** SN668625
SITE NAME: FELIN FULLBROOK
SITE TYPE: FINDS
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Finds
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Sherds of medieval pottery discovered in the area around Felin Fullbrook. PP based on Benson et al 1985.

PRN: 8990 **NGR:** SN668625
SITE NAME: FELIN FULLBROOK
SITE TYPE: FINDS
PERIOD: Unknown
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Finds
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: An undated glass bead discovered in the area around Felin Fullbrook. PP based on Benson et al 1985

PRN: 8991 **NGR:** SN680597
SITE NAME: TREGARON CHURCHYARD
SITE TYPE: FINDS
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Finds
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A metal brooch, apparently recovered from the area around Tregaron churchyard and now in private hands. The source for this information is unknown.

PRN: 8992 **NGR:** SN680597
SITE NAME: TREGARON CHURCHYARD
SITE TYPE: FINDS
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Finds
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A metal object, possibly a medieval pilgrimage badge, apparently recovered from the area around Tregaron churchyard and now in private hands. The source for this information is unknown.

PRN: 8994 **NGR:** SN670648
SITE NAME: PONTARGAMDDWR
SITE TYPE: BURNT MOUND
PERIOD: Prehistoric
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY:

PRN: 8995 **NGR:** SN669623
SITE NAME: MAESGLAS
SITE TYPE: BURNT MOUND
PERIOD: Prehistoric
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A burnt mound discovered during ditching work in *c*.1980 in a field to the east of Maesglas farm. The field lies on the edge of Cors Caron peat bog in an area of unusual undulations, although not currently on the banks of a stream. (Benson et al 1985).
The area was investigated during the course of this project but remains of this mound were not located at the given grid reference.

PRN: 9066 **NGR:** SN67056538
SITE NAME: TY'N-CAE
SITE TYPE: COTTAGE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: B
SUMMARY: Ruined drystone cottage, with drystone enclosure. The cottage is marked on J.Singer's map of 1803 and subsequently on the parish tithe map and 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.

PRN: 9140 **NGR:** SN66056338
SITE NAME: RHYD-DDU
SITE TYPE: RESERVOIR
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: C
SUMMARY:

PRN: 9311 **NGR:** SN71176607
SITE NAME: DOL-BEUDIAU
SITE TYPE: COTTAGE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: C
SUMMARY: A cottage site marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 and recorded as a ruined drystone cottage in 1979. More recently a building platform and related earthworks have been recorded *c*.200m to the south of Dol-Beudiau farmstead with a second smaller possible platform c.80m to the northwest of that. PP based on Stapley (RCAHMW 2000).

PRN: 9678 **NGR:** SN727665
SITE NAME: CEFN-Y-GAER
SITE TYPE: FORT?
PERIOD: Roman?
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: D
SUMMARY: A small rectangular earthwork enclosure lying between Cefn y Gaer and Pontrhydfendigaid. It has been suggested this may represent a Roman fort due to apparent similarities to the earthwork remains of a Roman fort near Llandovery.

PRN: 9717 **NGR:** SN674591
SITE NAME: FFYNNON GARON
SITE TYPE: HOLY WELL
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Landform
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY:

PRN: 10067 **NGR:** SN70326757
SITE NAME: HENBLAS
SITE TYPE: MAJOR DWELLING
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: B
SUMMARY: Name suggests this to be an old mansion or "plas" located adjacent to the parish church at Ystrad Meurig. Recorded as being in less than perfect condition by RCAHMW in 1981. Present condition unknown. RPS October 2001.

PRN: 10504 **NGR:** SN668626
SITE NAME: FELIN FULLBROOK
SITE TYPE: CORN MILL;FULLING MILL
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A medieval mill site, now occupied by the remains of a 19th century mill building (PRN 8985). This is believed to be a medieval mill belonging to Strata Florida Abbey. The name is believed by some to indicate this was a fulling mill, although it is recorded as water corn mill in the early 17th century and the name may refer to the dark peaty water of the adjacent stream (ie. foul brook).

PRN: 10579 **NGR:** SN7366
SITE NAME: PONTRHYDFENDIGAID
SITE TYPE: FINDSPOT
PERIOD: Neolithic
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Finds
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A ground and partially polished greenstone axe, with a pointed butt. The axe measures 21.8cm x 7cm x 5cm thick. NAP 2004.

PRN: 10587 **NGR:** SN730665
SITE NAME: PONTRHYDFENDIGAID
SITE TYPE: FINDSPOT
PERIOD: Prehistoric
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Finds
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Two polished pebbles, one of which had an edge polished into a blade. NAP 2004.

PRN: 10695 **NGR:** SN67955984
SITE NAME: LLYS-EINON
SITE TYPE: LLYS?
PERIOD: Early Medieval?; Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Place-name
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A 'Llys' place-name that may refer to the site of an early medieval or medieval llys.

PRN: 10929 **NGR:** SN69326593
SITE NAME: SWYDD;SWYD
SITE TYPE: SETTLEMENT
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A record of the medieval settlement of Swydd, made by William Rees on his map of South Wales and the Borders in the 14th century, published in 1932. This may refer to the medieval origins for the current village of Swyddffynnon (PRNs 8734 & 10930), lying only a short distance to the north of the farmstead of Swydd.

PRN: 10930 **NGR:** SN69286622
SITE NAME: TREFFYNON
SITE TYPE: SETTLEMENT
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A record of the medieval settlement of Treffynnon, made by William Rees on his map of South Wales and the Borders in the 14th century, published in 1932. This appears to be the medieval origins to the current village of Swyddffynnon (PRN 8734). This settlement is believed to be the site of the administrative centre for the Mefenydd grange of Strata Florida Abbey, and may have been focussed around Ty Mawr farm and a former chapel site (PRN 98859) slightly to the south of the current village.

PRN: 10931 **NGR:** SN71756722
SITE NAME: DOLVAWR;DOL-FAWR
SITE TYPE: SETTLEMENT
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A medieval settlement shown on William Rees's map of South Wales and the Borders in the 14th century, published in 1932.

PRN: 10934 **NGR:** SN69236196
SITE NAME: TREFLYN
SITE TYPE: SETTLEMENT
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A medieval settlement shown on William Rees's map of South Wales and the Borders in the 14th century, published in 1932. The name Treflyn, now attached to a farmstead, was recorded in the 13th century (Wmffre 2004), and the prefix 'Tref' suggests a possible settlement.

PRN: 10935 **NGR:** SN66176219
SITE NAME: MAES GLAS
SITE TYPE: SETTLEMENT
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A medieval settlement shown on William Rees's map of South Wales and the Borders in the 14th century, published in 1932. The name Maesglas is recorded as early as the late 12th century (Wmffre 2004) and this is believed to have served as the administrative centre for the Blaenaeron Grange of Strata Florida Abbey.

PRN: 11256 **NGR:** SN702676
SITE NAME: HEN BLAS
SITE TYPE: FINDS
PERIOD: Iron Age?
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A stone spindle whorl of reputed Iron Age date was reported from here in 1923.

PRN: 11497 **NGR:** SN7166
SITE NAME: DOLFAWRFAIR;GORS DOLFAWR
SITE TYPE: BOG BURIAL?
PERIOD: Iron Age
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: In 1811, the headless body of an adult male was found by peat cutters in this area. The body, which may well have been that of a prehistoric or early historic man, was reburied at Ystrad Meurig church.

PRN: 11852 **NGR:** SN672615
SITE NAME: NOYADD-LAS
SITE TYPE: FINDSPOT
PERIOD: Prehistoric
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Finds
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Several undated arrowheads, possibly of flint, were recovered from the vicinity of Cors Goch. NAP 2004.

PRN: 11968 **NGR:** SN7065
SITE NAME: PENARDD GRANGE
SITE TYPE: WATER MILL
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A medieval corn mill shown on William Rees's map of South Wales and the Borders in the 14th century, published in 1932.

PRN: 12199 **NGR:** SN7163
SITE NAME: BWLCHYDDWYALLT
SITE TYPE: FINDSPOT
PERIOD: Bronze Age
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Finds
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: An axe of diabase, 15.7cm x 4.4cm x 3.4cm thick. The axe was a narrow elongated type with a flattened oval section, a pointed butt and a slightly splayed cutting edge. NAP 2004.

PRN: 12201 **NGR:** SN679659
SITE NAME: PENLAN
SITE TYPE: FINDSPOT
PERIOD: Bronze Age
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Finds
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Two stone axes, one of preselite and one of picrite, which were taken to Tregaron County School. The axes, of which only half of one now survives, were found sometime before 1927. NAP 2004.

PRN: 12209 **NGR:** SN673590
SITE NAME: PONT TRECAVEL
SITE TYPE: FINDS
PERIOD: Bronze Age
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Finds
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: An antiquarian record of a fragment of a Bronze Age urn discovered near Pont Trecavel.

PRN: 12432 **NGR:** SN6562
SITE NAME: BLAENAERON GRANGE
SITE TYPE: GRANGE
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: PRN given to area occupied by medieval grange of Strata Florida Abbey (Williams 1990, 56). Its eastern boundary was formed by the Afon Camddwr. A place-name `bron-y-capel' was recorded in the grange in the 16th century; site of grange chapel?. Other place-names include `Mynachty' at NGR SN 637 628. There was a watermill at Fulbrook (SN 668 626), and a fulling-mill at SN 66 62. (The grange was not associated with `Blaen Aeron' farm name in Blaenpennal parish, at SN 617 637). See also PRN 12430, also part of Blaenaeron Grange. NDL 2004
The administrative centre for this grange is believed to have been sited at Maesglas farm (see PRN 10935).

PRN: 12449 **NGR:** SN73226642
SITE NAME: TROED-RHIW-DOLAU
SITE TYPE: FORD
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A medieval ford shown on William Rees's map of South Wales and the Borders in the 14th century, published in 1932.

PRN: 12450 **NGR:** SN7266
SITE NAME: GRANGE DE VADO BENEDICTO
SITE TYPE: MONASTIC LAND;GRANGE
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: An area of monastic land representing part of the extensive Mefenydd Grange, which belonged to the Cistercian Strata Florida Abbey (Williams 1990, 57, 108). NDL 2004
A medieval monastic grange in the possession of Strata Florida Abbey shown on William Rees's map of South Wales and the Borders in the 14th century, published in 1932. RPS 2003

PRN: 12451 **NGR:** SN70396766
SITE NAME: YSTRAD MEURIG PARISH CHURCH;ST JOHN THE BAPTIST'S
SITE TYPE: CHURCH
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Medieval parish church, now in Gwnws Issa parish. It was entirely (re)built in 1898, as PRN 19648, on the same site, and on the foundations of its predecessor, but nothing was retained from the earlier fabric. It was not listed the `Taxatio' of 1291 when it may yet to have been raised to parish church status. The church was granted, as the church of `Stratmeuric' to the Knights Hospitaller of Slebech by Earl Roger de Clare, Lord of Cardigan, in *c*.1158 as a new foundation?; it was closely associated with motte-&-bailey castle (PRN 2038), established by the Anglo-Normans in *c*.1116, taken and rebuilt by Welsh 1137-1151, and under Anglo-Norman occupation *c*.1158 - 1160. It is also associated with a possible hospice site. Nevertheless, the possibility remains that it was a pre-existing foundation, possibly a Welsh foundation from 1137-1151. The sub-oval churchyard is nuclear to a ?medieval field system. The dedication to St John the Baptist is demonstrably post-Conquest. There is no current evidence for an early medieval date. NDL 2004

PRN: 12452 **NGR:** SN6966
SITE NAME: ST FRIDE'S WELL
SITE TYPE: HOLY WELL
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A holy well is shown on William Rees's Map of South Wales and the Borders in the 14th Century, published in 1932.

PRN: 12846 **NGR:** SN7065
SITE NAME: PENNARDD
SITE TYPE: GRANGE;MONASTIC LAND
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: PRN given to the extensive Pennardd Grange, which belonged to the Cistercians of Strata Florida Abbey (Williams 1990, 56). It included the site of the abbey itself (PRN 2043). NDL 2004

PRN: 12880 **NGR:** SN66956109
SITE NAME: PEN Y BONT;CAMER UCHAF
SITE TYPE: MANSION?
PERIOD: Medieval?; Post Med?
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A large 18th century farmhouse (see PRN 17459) that may have been a former mansion site with possible medieval origins. It was originally part of the Herbert estate who began acquiring land in the area in the 16th century. It passed into the hands of Thomas Johnes and was the home of John Jones, Thomas Johnes's Hafod agent in the 18th century (Rees 1936, 54).

PRN: 12955 **NGR:** SN731665
SITE NAME: MEFENYDD;MELYN IRRYD VENDIGID
SITE TYPE: CORN MILL;FULLING MILL
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A medieval corn mill mentioned in early documents.

PRN: 12967 **NGR:** SN680597
SITE NAME: TREGARON
SITE TYPE: TOWN
PERIOD: Medieval; Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents; Topo
CONDITION: A
SUMMARY: A small market town lying on the Afon Brennig at the southern end of Cors Caron, Ceredigion. 6th to 9th century inscribed stones within the circular churchyard of Tregaron church may be an indicator of early medieval origins to settlement here. Medieval settlement is recorded but the town increased in size and importance during the 18th and 19th centuries as an important place on the main drovers routes through the area. The Manchester to Milford railway passed through the town in 1866, and Tregaron is also notable as the 19th century home of Henry Richard MP, chiefly known as an advocate of peace.

PRN: 13632 **NGR:** SN663630
SITE NAME: TY'N Y SWYDD COMMON
SITE TYPE: COMMON LAND
PERIOD: Medieval; Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Topog
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY:

PRN: 13633 **NGR:** SN650648
SITE NAME: ESGAIR MAEN FAWR
SITE TYPE: COMMON LAND
PERIOD: Medieval; Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Topog
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY:

PRN: 13653 **NGR:** SN672640
SITE NAME: CORS LLWYNGWYNAU & TYN WAUN
SITE TYPE: COMMON LAND
PERIOD: Medieval; Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Topog
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY:

PRN: 13660 **NGR:** SN674644
SITE NAME: GORS GOCH
SITE TYPE: COMMON LAND
PERIOD: Medieval; Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Topog
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY:

PRN: 14821 **NGR:** SN67436705
SITE NAME: ST FFRAEDS WELL;GWENHAFDRE ISAF
SITE TYPE: HOLY WELL
PERIOD: Medieval?
SITE STATUS: SAM CD157(CER)
FORM: O.Struct
CONDITION: B
SUMMARY: A simple rectangular chamber set into a slight scarp is enclosed by heavy walling to a thickness of 1m each side of its entrance. Above a large flat lintel stone lies over this entrance, the well chamber is roofed with a pyramidal corbelled structure of local shale slabs. Ray K 1988

PRN: 17432 **NGR:** SN71806751
SITE NAME: PONT AFON MEURIG
SITE TYPE: BRIDGE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: O.Struct
CONDITION: A
SUMMARY: A road bridge which carries the B4340 over the Afon Meurig. It was built, of lattice girder construction, by the Horsehay Company of Shropshire in 1892 (Malaws 1996 (RCAHMW)).

PRN: 17459 **NGR:** SN66956109
SITE NAME: PEN Y BONT;CAMER UCHAF
SITE TYPE: MANSION
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A substantial 18th century farmhouse that may have medieval origins (see PRN 12880). Pen-y-bont farm was originally part of the Herbert estate who began acquiring estates in the area in the 16th century. It passed into the hands of Thomas Johnes and was the home of John Jones, Thomas Johnes's Hafod agent in the 18th century (Rees 1936, 54). The house is shown on Bowens map of 1729 and is shown as a farmstead on the parish tithe map of 1843. By the late 19th century the farmstead had been rearranged in to a typical 19th century house and courtyard arrangement.

PRN: 19020 **NGR:** SN67245901
SITE NAME: PONT TRE-CEFEL
SITE TYPE: BRIDGE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: O.Struct
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Tre-Cefel bridge used to carry the main road into Tregaron. It is understood to be a post-medieval structure, although there may be structures in the vicinity which pre-date this.

PRN: 19023 **NGR:** SN69415968
SITE NAME: PEN-PONTBREN
SITE TYPE: BRIDGE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: O.Struct
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY:

PRN: 19167 **NGR:** SN69006790
SITE NAME: LLWYNMALIS;LISBURNE WEST;LLWYN MALEES
SITE TYPE: LEAD MINE;ZINC MINE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A small 19th century lead and zinc mine believed to have started at sometime shortly prior to 1840, operating until 1853, with a steam-powered pumping engine installed in 1850. Further work was undertaken in 1856-57, 1862-67 and in *c.*1870 when a second steam engine was installed. Traces of buildings and remains of a Cornish boiler mark the main working area. A shaft mouth and several tips can also be seen, and an associated wheel pit and flat-rod gully route lie close to Nant-y-ffin. PP based on Wiles 2002 (RCAHMW).

PRN: 19175 **NGR:** SN69276615
SITE NAME: EFAIL SWYDDFFYNNON
SITE TYPE: BLACKSMITHS WORKSHOP
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Smithy in Swyddffynnon village, visible on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. Present condition and use unknown.

PRN: 19240 **NGR:** SN67856006
SITE NAME: TREGARON STATION
SITE TYPE: RAILWAY STATION
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A former train station in Tregaron on the Manchester & Milford Railway between Carmarthen and Aberystwyth, which was opened in 1866.

PRN: 19314 **NGR:** SN66566465
SITE NAME: EFAIL-FACH
SITE TYPE: BLACKSMITHS WORKSHOP?
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Place-name
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Place names evidence suggesting the presence of a former smithy. The name first appears in 1814 (Wmffre 2004).

PRN: 19316 **NGR:** SN67106485
SITE NAME: PONTARGAMDDWR
SITE TYPE: BRIDGE?
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Place-name
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: The Ordnance Survey original surveyors drawings of 1820-22 label the bridge crossing to the north at SN87166553 as Pont ar Gamddwr. Presumably the farm picked up the name later. The bridge is also labelled on Bowens map of 1729.

PRN: 19318 **NGR:** SN67886462
SITE NAME: YNYS-Y-BONT
SITE TYPE: BRIDGE?
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Place-name
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Ynys y Bont is a farm. The origin of the "bont" element in the place name is unknown.

PRN: 19324 **NGR:** SN69346269
SITE NAME: TREFLYN FACH
SITE TYPE: CHAPEL;COTTAGE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: B
SUMMARY: The record is of a chapel at this location although it appears to be shown as a cottage called Treflyn Fach from the original surveyors drawings of 1820 through to the 1st edition 1;2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1889. The building is still standing although abandoned. The walls are concrete rendered with a slate roof, and curved door and window headings with suggestions of tracery windows that may suggest this was a former chapel building in more recent years.

PRN: 19325 **NGR:** SN68116110
SITE NAME: PONT-CAMMER
SITE TYPE: BRIDGE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: O.Struct
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY:

PRN: 19414 **NGR:** SN714645
SITE NAME: BRONMWYN MINE
SITE TYPE: LEAD MINE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Extensive disused lead mine workings are shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. The mining remains lie either side of the road from Tregaron to Pontrhydfendiad. To the east of the road at least 5 separate shafts are recorded along with various buddle pits, wheel pits and spoil heaps. To the west of the road a large rectangular building extends parallel to the field boundary. At the time of the farm visit this area was under pasture, to the west of the road there is no trace of any building but a fine stone arched entrance, with 1870 inscribed on the key stone, leads to a level under the road. To the east of the road much of the mining remains have turfed over. However, the shafts are still visible and masonry wheel pits, and buddle pits survive. At the time of the farm visit (December 2004) there was some erosion around the lower buddle pit and poaching of the ground surface by cattle

PRN: 19415 **NGR:** SN71606471
SITE NAME: PONT FFLUR
SITE TYPE: BRIDGE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: O.Struct
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A road bridge that carries the B4343 over the Afon Fflur.

PRN: 19419 **NGR:** SN72326485
SITE NAME: WERN FELEN
SITE TYPE: AQUEDUCT
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: O.Struct
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: An aqueduct shown on the 1963 Ordnance Survey map.

PRN: 19420 **NGR:** SN72036430
SITE NAME: FELIN FFLUR
SITE TYPE: CORN MILL
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A corn mill probably built as an estate mill for the Lisburne Estate in the early 19th century. The building was built of mortared rubble masonry with dressed quoins and voussoir arches. An overshot waterwheel lay against the south gable wall.

PRN: 19648 **NGR:** SN70356765
SITE NAME: ST JOHN THE BAPTISTS CHURCH
SITE TYPE: CHURCH
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS: LB2 Ref 82037
FORM: Building
CONDITION: A
SUMMARY: Ystrad Meurig parish church. The present building dates to 1898, but it stands on the site of the medieval parish church. Listed as a well-designed late Gothic church with good interior on a historical site and for historic interest as memorial to Edward Richards. Group value with adjacent school. CADW 2003
See also PRN 12451.

PRN: 19669 **NGR:** SN71106710
SITE NAME: STRATA FLORIDA STATION
SITE TYPE: RAILWAY STATION
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: C
SUMMARY: Former railway station on the Manchester & Milford Railway line between Carmarthen and Aberystwyth which was opened in 1866. It consisted of two platforms with station buildings and a signal box but has now been demolished.

PRN: 19682 **NGR:** SN73206678
SITE NAME: WERN
SITE TYPE: WOOLLEN MILL
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: D
SUMMARY: A former woollen factory site shown as a new factory on the 1888 Ordnance Survey map. An iron waterwheel on the north side was fed via a leat from the nearby stream. The site has since been demolished and built over.

PRN: 19683 **NGR:** SN73046669
SITE NAME: PONTRHYDFENDIGAID
SITE TYPE: BLACKSMITHS WORKSHOP
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Former smithy in Pontrhydfendigaid village shown on 1964 Ordnance Survey map.

PRN: 19685 **NGR:** SN73006640
SITE NAME: PONTRHYDFENDIGAID
SITE TYPE: BLACKSMITHS WORKSHOP
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Former smithy at the south end of Pontrhydfendigaid village. Present usage and condition unknown.

PRN: 21331 **NGR:** SN69516618
SITE NAME: TY-MAWR
SITE TYPE: DWELLING
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Historic home mentioned by SR Meyrick in his 1810 volume "History of Cardiganshire." RPS October 2001

PRN: 21394 **NGR:** SN69536634
SITE NAME: SWYDDFFYNNON
SITE TYPE: WOOLLEN MILL
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: D
SUMMARY: A former woollen factory located at the edge of Swyddffynnon, now ruinous. It is not shown on the tithe map of 1844 but is marked on the 1st edition OS map in 1891. By the time of the 2nd edition OS map in 1906 it was marked as disused. The ruin consists of a roofless, two celled building measuring 18 by 6 metres overall. The eastern gable survives to its maximum two-storey height and there is an overgrown wheel pit running along this end of the building. This is fed by a leat that runs westwards for a length of *c*.150 metres where it meets the Camddwr Fach. B James, C Berrell, G Davies &, C Shean (Lampeter University) 2009.

PRN: 25934 **NGR:** SN722690
SITE NAME: CLODDIAU;BRONCARADOC;BRONCARADOG
SITE TYPE: LEAD MINE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A small-scale lead mine marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888. The recorded lead ore output was trivial.

PRN: 25939 **NGR:** SN692663
SITE NAME: SWYDDFFYNNON;SWYDD-FFYNON
SITE TYPE: LEAD MINE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Minor 19th century metal mine working.

PRN: 25943 **NGR:** SN735672
SITE NAME: CWMMAWR;CWM MAWR;CWM MAWR NO.1 MINE
SITE TYPE: LEAD MINE;ZINC MINE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: 19th century metal mine working.

PRN: 25944 **NGR:** SN725659
SITE NAME: BRYNHOPE;LISBURNE NEW(?);CARON
SITE TYPE: LEAD MINE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A small 19th century metal mine working. It was being worked in 1850 but appears to have gone out of use by 1865, briefly reopened in 1875. Two shafts are marked on Ordnance Survey maps although only one is still visible as a semi-circular earthwork bank.

PRN: 25945 **NGR:** SN731660
SITE NAME: BENDIGAED;FLORIDA WEST;CARDIGAN SOUTH BOG;BRYN CRACH
SITE TYPE: LEAD MINE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Minor 19th century metal mine working. Recorded lead ore output of 30 tons.

PRN: 25946 **NGR:** SN706637
SITE NAME: BWLCH-Y-DDWYALLT
SITE TYPE: METAL MINE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Minor 19th century metal mine working, very little is known about this site. It appears the site is visible on the 1st edition (1891) Ordnance Survey map although nothing can be seen in this location, which suggests the grid reference may be wrong. Bowen marks lead mines in this general area on his map of 1729.

PRN: 26565 **NGR:**SN731664
SITE NAME: PONTRHYDFENDIGAID
SITE TYPE: LEAD MINE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Minor 19th century metal mine working. Not recorded on 1st edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey (1885 survey).

PRN: 28222 **NGR:**
SITE NAME: MANCHEST TO MILFORD RAILWAY COMPANY
SITE TYPE: RAILWAY
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork; O.Struct
CONDITION: C
SUMMARY: The line of the former Manchester & Milford railway line, shown on the 1st (1891) and 2nd (1906) edition Ordnance Survey maps. The railway line operated between 1866 and 1964 and ran between Carmarthen and Aberystwyth.

PRN: 45059 **NGR:** SN71126630
SITE NAME: DOLBEUDIAU FARM
SITE TYPE: BARN
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: B
SUMMARY: U-shaped courtyard of farm buildings, north and south ranges shown on Tithe map of 1843. LRW 2002
The farmstead is also marked on the Ordnance Survey original surveyors drawings of 1820-22.

PRN: 50161 **NGR:** SN67995969
SITE NAME: TREGARON PARISH CHURCH;ST CARON'S
SITE TYPE: CHURCH
PERIOD: Early Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: A
SUMMARY: Early medieval B site, ie. medium-probability early medieval origins. Churchyard occupied by the medieval Tregaron parish church PRN 5136 (now divided as Caron-is-clawdd parish). The church was listed, as `Carnoun' or `Caraoun', in the `Taxatio' of 1291, and had been recorded in 1284. The church was probably a Welsh foundation, Ceredigion remaining in Welsh hands during most of the 12th and 13th centuries. However, it may have earlier origins. The oval/subcircular churchyard is considerably raised above its surroundings, while the church stands on a pronounced mound. This may be a re-used bronze age round barrow, but given its valley-floor location is probably more likely to represent a natural, glacial drumlin. A Group I ECM (PRN 8110) and two Group II ECMs (PRNs 8111-8112) were first recorded within the church and/or churchyard, where they may have been +/- in situ?. The churchyard is central, and nuclear to the medieval `town' of Tregaron (PRN 12967), which has the informal, Welsh morphology typical of a `treflan'. The large parish may or may not be coterminous with a pre-Conquest parochium. NDL 2004,

PRN: 52078 **NGR:** SN73406480
SITE NAME: GILFACH Y DWN FAWR
SITE TYPE: DEFENDED ENCLOSURE
PERIOD: Iron Age
SITE STATUS: SAM CD269
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: C
SUMMARY: Hillfort, *c.*150m x 100m, enclosing prominent outcrop with southwest facing entrance, well defended by naturally steep slopes. Artificial defences comprise a denuded rampart around the south side of the outcrop with an inturned entrance inside on the southwest. The northeast extents of the fort are defined by a substantial cut terrace. At least 9 house platforms are visible inside. Discovered during RCAHMW aerial reconnaissance on 11th January 1999. T Driver 2004.

PRN: 58180 **NGR:** SN7062067087
SITE NAME: MAESBANADLOG
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS: LB2 Ref 82955
FORM: Building
CONDITION: A
SUMMARY: A farmstead shown on the Ordnance Survey original surveyors drawings of 1820-22. Also shown on the tithe map of 1843, but rearranged by the time it was recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. The name is first recorded in the 16th century (Wmffre 2004). The farmhouse is now grade II listed.

PRN: 98795 **NGR:** SN70226373
SITE NAME: ALLT-DDU; MAES SULIEAN
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: A
SUMMARY: The farmstead is recorded on Colby's Map of 1831, although Francis Jones records occupants of Allt ddu as far back as the late 17th century. The tithe map of 1842 shows two buildings forming the farmstead, although it is unclear if this records the full layout or if any elements survive. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1891) shows the farmstead comprising of four, possibly five buildings. By the time of the 2nd edition (1906) a large L shaped range had been added. The farmhouse and some traditional buildings remain, and the farm is still in use.

PRN: 98796 **NGR:** SN70536381
SITE NAME: TY NEWYDD
SITE TYPE: COTTAGE
PERIOD: Post Med; Modern
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A single cottage called Ty-newydd is shown on the road side, first recorded on the tithe map of 1842 but also shown on the 1st (1891) and 2nd (1906) edition Ordnance Survey maps.

PRN: 98797 **NGR:** SN69916334
SITE NAME: ALLT-DDU COTTAGE
SITE TYPE: COTTAGE
PERIOD: Post Med; Modern
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map shows a single cottage aligned roughly North-South against the road. By the time of the 2nd edition OS map a 2nd building had been built opposite between the road and the railway line. No building is shown on the earlier tithe map.

PRN: 98798 **NGR:** SN71706577
SITE NAME: BRYN HOPE
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents; Building
CONDITION: A
SUMMARY: A farmstead complex marked on late 18th century estate maps of the Crosswood estate. There is the possibility that the farmstead may have its origins in the late Medieval/early Post Medieval period. Wmffre (2004) records references to 'Brunhop' and 'Bryn Hop' in the 14th and 15TH centuries. The layout of farm buildings marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 suggest the farmstead was rearranged in the late 18th/early 19th century.

PRN: 98799 **NGR:** SN72076566
SITE NAME:
SITE TYPE: BUILDING PLATFORM
PERIOD: Post Med?
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: The RCAHMW record a possible building platform visible from aerial photography. They describe it as a rectangular enclosure possibly representing an ancillary farm building. An earthwork bank lying 250m to the NE forms a right angle to the partial enclosure, possibly part of an earlier field system. PP based on Stapley (RCAHMW) 2000.

PRN: 98800 **NGR:** SN68266464
SITE NAME: YNYS-Y-BERFEDD; YNYS-Y-GARN
SITE TYPE: COTTAGE/ FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM:
CONDITION:
SUMMARY: Two adjacent cottages or houses visible on the tithe map of 1844 and the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. Wmffre (2004) records the name 'Ynis y Bervedd' as far back as the mid 17th century.

PRN: 98801 **NGR:** SN68376497
SITE NAME: PEN BRYN
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A farmstead first marked on Bowens map of 1729, although visible in more detail on the parish tithe map (1844) and later Ordnance Survey maps.

PRN: 98802 **NGR:** SN69456549
SITE NAME:
SITE TYPE: COTTAGE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A building is marked here on the Lledrod parish tithe map (1844) and identified as cottage and garden on the apportionment. It is absent from later maps.

PRN: 98803 **NGR:** SN69366545
SITE NAME:
SITE TYPE: ROUND BARROW?
PERIOD: Bronze Age
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Four fields are identified on the Lledrod parish tithe apportionment (1843) with the "carreg" place-name. This suggests potential for a round barrow in the vicinity but could alternatively be a reference to stony ground. They lie to the southwest of Crug-las farmstead and the antiquarian Lewis who visited the area in 1933 recorded that "several tumuli (are) observable in the adjacent hills." There is at present no recorded evidence of any such sites on land around Crug-las farmstead itself but the "crug" place-name element (PRNs 6138, 6161) implies a strong possibility that such sites may exist in the vicinity.

PRN: 98804 **NGR:** SN69646542
SITE NAME: CRUGLAS
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents; Building
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A large farmstead with a 19th century stone-built farmhouse on the edge of Cors Goch Glan Teifi (part of Tregaron bog). It appears on the Old Series map (1834) and parish tithe map (1844) with several parallel buildings shown, but is modified to include a rectangular farmyard with the farm house detached to the east by the time of the Ordnance Survey 1st edition (1889). Shelter plantations and a horse gin are also shown.
Wmffre (2004) records the name 'Tiddin … Kricklas' as far back as 1577 indicating a farmstead has early origins here.

PRN: 98805 **NGR:** SN66916282
SITE NAME: FULLBROOK
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents; Building
CONDITION: A
SUMMARY: An impressive 19th century stone built two-storey farmhouse with a central portico. A courtyard arrangement of farm buildings lies to the northwest. The farmhouse was (re?)built by Lisburne estate in the early 19th century.

PRN: 98806 **NGR:** SN66506255
SITE NAME: PEN-CEFN
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents; Building
CONDITION: A
SUMMARY: A 19th century farmstead complex that includes one interesting earlier building called Y Fagwrni. This stone-built building carries a date inscription of 1689, making it the oldest dated farm building in Ceredigion. It appears to have been built originally as a threshing barn, with four bays and was later used as a Sunday School.

PRN: 98807 **NGR:** SN66486320
SITE NAME: TY-N-Y-BERTH
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A small farmstead complex seen on tithe map (1842) and Ordnance Survey maps. On the 1891 Ordnance Survey map, a formalised garden is clearly seen to the south of the farmstead.

PRN: 98808 **NGR:** SN68326126
SITE NAME: CAMMER FAWR
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents; Building
CONDITION: A
SUMMARY: Farmstead identified from the 1889 1st edition Ordnance Survey map as a courtyard complex of buildings and enclosures, including a substantial farmhouse with attached garden and a long range. A second range appears to have been added by the time of the 2nd edition (1906) and, although the complex has changed since the end of the 19th Century, many traditional buildings are still identifiable on modern mapping.
The name 'Tythyn Kammer' is recorded as early as 1680 (Wmffre 2004) and the farmstead is also marked on Bowens map of 1729.

PRN: 98809 **NGR:** SN72826568
SITE NAME: BRYN-Y-GORS
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents; Earthwork
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A small L-shaped farmhouse complex visible on the Ordnance Survey original surveyors drawings of 1820. The site is still shown on the 1889 Ordnance Survey map but had presumably been abandoned by the time of the 2nd edition map of 1906. No standing remains are visible, although nearby Bryn-y-Gors cottage may be associated. The RCAHMW recorded the remains consisting of a rectangular earthwork enclosed by a curving rectangular scarp (Stapley 2000).

PRN: 98810 **NGR:** SN71416453
SITE NAME: PEN Y GARN
SITE TYPE: COTTAGE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: D
SUMMARY: A cottage is marked on the 1889 and 1905 Ordnance Survey maps (sheet XXI.07). There is no visible trace of the cottage remains.

PRN: 98811 **NGR:** SN71636434
SITE NAME: BRONMWYN
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: A
SUMMARY: Bronmwyn farmstead currently consists of the farmhouse and cow shed and forms part of a continuous range of buildings. Above the farmhouse is a small outbuilding and opposite, not quite parallel, is the barn and stable. At the lower end of the farmstead, on the other side of the stream is a shelter shed. The stream was diverted above the farmstead and a leat carried water to a water wheel situated between the cow shed and stream. This is clearly shown on the Ordnance Survey map (1905). The water wheel was removed after the stream flooded in 1946.

PRN: 98812 **NGR:** SN71586402
SITE NAME:
SITE TYPE: MINE SHAFT
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: O.Struct
CONDITION: B
SUMMARY: A mine shaft is located at the very bottom of the valley on the west side of the stream. A cavernous opening has been cut into the hillside, leading to a level that is said to join up with the level below the Tregaron and Pontrhydfendigaid road.

PRN: 98813 **NGR:** SN72616631
SITE NAME: CASTELL
SITE TYPE: ENCLOSURE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents; Earthwork
CONDITION: C
SUMMARY: The site of a cottage and enclosure is marked on the tithe map of Caron parish of 1842. It is named 'Castell' in the associated apportionment. The following Ordnance Survey maps of 1889 and 1905 (sheet XXI.03) show only the enclosure, the cottage is no longer marked. The enclosure survives as a low earthwork bank with a few isolated grown out hedgerow trees. The site of the cottage also survives as a distinctive building platform. This area is under permanent pasture.
The enclosure is surrounded by several linear features, possibly remnants of an earlier field system.

PRN: 98814 **NGR:** SN71876444
SITE NAME: TY'N LLIDIART
SITE TYPE: COTTAGE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM:
CONDITION:
SUMMARY: A cottage and outbuilding lie to the SE of Hen Fynachlog as recorded by the Ordnance Survey in 1889. Only the grassed over wall footings of Ty'n Llidiart remain in the corner of the field. WS 2006.

PRN: 98815 **NGR:** SN70826397
SITE NAME: MAES ALWAD
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents; Building
CONDITION: A
SUMMARY: Working farmstead comprising a traditional stone farmhouse and outbuildings centred on a rectangular yard in a typical nineteenth century layout, recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1889. Flanking the house are two parallel ranges of outbuildings. One range containing a lofted granary, the other cow sheds with a range of further ?cow sheds behind, both now modified. A separate ?threshing barn to the west (marked with a circular feature, possibly a horse gin, on the 1st edition map) has been destroyed. Modern buildings have also been added to the complex. Changes in farming practice has seen changes to the buildings and corrugated tin has been used as a substitute for slate in part. The house has also been modernised.

PRN: 98816 **NGR:** SN71816470
SITE NAME: HEN FYNACHLOG/OLD ABBEY FARM
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: A
SUMMARY: Working farmstead, formerly belonging to the Lisburne Estate. Comprises an L-plan stone built farmhouse and an extensive and well ordered range of outbuildings positioned around a large rectangular yard. The current layout is basically unchanged from that shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map(1889). Comprises a large later nineteenth century range of cow sheds with fold yard to the north, and substantial L-plan range on the east incorporating lofted stables, cart sheds and threshing barn. At least two phases of construction are present. Other buildings to the east marked on Ordnance Survey 1st edition have been replaced by modern sheds. The farmstead retains good historic character despite some modifications. Buildings are well maintained.

PRN: 98817 **NGR:** SN66816454
SITE NAME:
SITE TYPE: EARTHWORK
PERIOD: UNKNOWN
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: B
SUMMARY: An earthwork bank is situated in a field to the south of the farmstead of Pantargamddwr, in a field that is bounded to the southwest by the Nant yr Efail. The earthwork is situated between the 170m – 180m contours, and lies in a roughly crescent shape along the southwestern and southeastern edges of the field. The northwestern end of the bank merges into the banks above the stream which forms the boundary to southwest and south. At the streamside there are eroded banks which reveal a makeup of river gravels. The stream banks are sparsely wooded with scattered loose rocks, one of which is particularly large at *c*.1.8 x 1.1m wide and roughly rhombus shaped.
Around the southeastern side of the field, the bank is approximately 4-5m high, and from the highest point slopes gently to the northwest into a hollow approximately 0.5m deep before rising again into the general field slope. At its highest along the southeastern side the bank is more pronounced in profile, reaching up to 8m in height. At its eastern end the bank stops short of a track and gateway which lead into the field to the east. Here the bank almost appears to turn back on itself.
The bank is certainly a prominent feature and its origin is unknown, indeed it is not altogether clear whether it is a man-made or a natural geological feature. It maybe that the bank is the result of natural geological processes, however, it appears to exist in isolation, there were no further features observed to compare to it, which tends to weigh in favour of the bank being artificial. It is notable that the field itself is improved but the area below the bank is still marshy with rushes growing in patches. The bank therefore almost seems to mark the extent of the good quality land. It is possible that this field represents the margin between the low lying marshy land bordering the Cors Caron, land which appears only to have been drained in the late 18th or early 19th centuries, and the useful cultivatable land of the valley sides. The bank may have been formed by artificial processes but influenced by the topography of the area. The current landowner only knows of this field being ploughed once and it was discovered to be very stony. However in previous centuries, when pressure on land was greater, there may have been attempts to cultivate this field. Indeed the large loose stones which lie to the southwest may be represent the clearing of the field for cultivation. It is suggested

therefore, that the bank maybe a headland where the plough turned and deposited a greater quantity of stone and spoil. AP 2003

PRN: 98818 **NGR:** SN67216119
SITE NAME: PICCADILLY
SITE TYPE: COTTAGE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A cottage first recorded in the early 19th century (Wmffre 2004) and marked on the tithe map (1843) and 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps (1889) but now gone.

PRN: 98819 **NGR:** SN69346198
SITE NAME: TREFLYN
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents; Building
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A farmstead complex marked on tithe map of 1843. The complex had expanded by the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 into a house with an opposing range. The farm is still in use.
The origins of the farmstead are unclear. Although marked on 19th century maps Wmffre (2004) records the name 'Treflyn' as far back as the 13th century, and again in the 17th century.

PRN: 98820 **NGR:** SN68826194
SITE NAME: COED; TYCOED
SITE TYPE: COTTAGE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents; Building
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Cottages marked on the Ordnance Survey original surveyors drawings of 1820, possibly built as quarrymen's cottages. The buildings still appear on current maps although their surrounding enclosures have been altered during the 19th century.

PRN: 98821 **NGR:** SN68796188
SITE NAME: COED
SITE TYPE: COTTAGE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: Part of the same cluster of cottages as PRN 98820 that may have been built as quarrymen's cottages in the early 19th century, but this cottage has since been abandoned.

PRN: 98822 **NGR:** SN66906192
SITE NAME: TY NEWYDD
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD /LONGHOUSE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: D
SUMMARY: A small farmhouse that appears to be based on a longhouse construction. Not visible on 18th century maps of the area but it had been constructed by the time of the tithe map of 1843. It appears to have been abandoned during the 20th century and no obvious above-ground remains now exist.

PRN: 98823 **NGR:** SN66716219
SITE NAME: MAESGLAS
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents; Building
CONDITION: A
SUMMARY: Maesglas is believed to be the site of the administrative centre for the Blaenaeron Grange of Strata Florida Abbey during the medieval period, although no visible remains of medieval date now exist.
An 18th century estate map shows Maesglas consisting of a mansion site with outbuildings and a formal garden to the west. At some point in the late 18th/early 19th century this was abandoned and a new farmhouse was built in its current location. This is visible on the tithe map of 1843, with the beginnings of a courtyard arrangement of farm buildings to the south, constructed on the site of the formal gardens. The mansion house area had become a 2nd small farmstead called Tan y Graig. It is unclear if the mansion building was retained in this farmstead but this farmstead appears to have been abandoned during the 20th century as Maesglas expanded its range of farm buildings and increased the size of the farmhouse.
The farmstead is still in use and large sheds have been constructed to the east of the traditional farm buildings removing any above-ground trace of the former Maesglas mansion and Tan y Graig farmstead.

PRN: 98824 **NGR:** SN66746229
SITE NAME: TAN-Y-GRAIG
SITE TYPE: HOUSE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents; Building
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A house and outbuilding are marked on the tithe map of 1843, although the site was rearranged and expanded by the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889.

PRN: 98825 **NGR:** SN69056231
SITE NAME: TY CAM
SITE TYPE: HOUSE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A house first recorded in 1807 (Wmffre 2004) and marked on the tithe map of 1843. It appears to have been subsequently rebuilt by the late 19th century and eventually abandoned during the 20th century. No visible evidence remains above ground.

PRN: 98826 **NGR:** SN69156245
SITE NAME: MAES-LLYN COTTAGE; GLAN GORS
SITE TYPE: COTTAGE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A cottage marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. A building still exists on the site but appears modern in construction.

PRN: 98827 **NGR:** SN69396286
SITE NAME: TYN-Y-LLYN
SITE TYPE: HOUSE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents; Building
CONDITION: A
SUMMARY: A house marked on the 1st edition map of 1889 and still in occupation.

PRN: 98828 **NGR:** SN67046344
SITE NAME: LLWYNGWINE UCHA; LLWYNGINAU UCHAF; LLWYN GWYN
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: A
SUMMARY: The northernmost of two adjacent farmstead complexes, still in use as a working farmstead. The complex of buildings appears to be mainly 19th century but may have much earlier origins. A medieval ringwork castle (PRN 6160) stood on the hill behind the farmstead and it is possible a small settlement would have accompanied this castle in this area, which lies midway between an area of common land to the north and the medieval mill at Fullbrook to the south. The castle may not have been existence for long but a 'Lloyn Guyney' is recorded in 1577 (Wmffre 2004) suggesting some form of settlement may have become established on this site. The farmstead is first recorded in detail in much of its current form on the tithe map of 1843.

PRN: 98829 **NGR:** SN66796435
SITE NAME: TY'N-Y-WAUN; TYNWAUN
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A farmstead complex first recorded on a late 18th century estate map. It is shown on tithe map of 1843 consisting of a complex of dispersed farm buildings. The complex has expanded since then and is still in occupation.

PRN: 98830 **NGR:** SN67786468
SITE NAME: YNYS-Y-BONT
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A farmstead complex shown on the tithe map of 1843 as a house and range. The name 'Ynis y Bont' is recorded as early as 1690 (Wmffre 2004) although it is uncertain if it refers to a farmstead. The farmstead is still in occupation.

PRN: 98831 **NGR:** SN67706541
SITE NAME: LLWYN-BEUDY
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: The name 'Lloyn y Beidy iugha' is recorded in 1577 and again throughout the 17th century (Wmffre 2004). It is possible this farm may have medieval origins, established by the Cistercian Abbey of Strata Florida, although no medieval remains have yet been identified here.
The farmstead complex is shown on the tithe map of 1843, there was some rearrangement to much of its current set up by the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889.

PRN: 98832 **NGR:** SN71366528
SITE NAME: DOL-Y-YCHAIN
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A house with outbuildings shown on the Ordnance Survey original surveyors drawings of 1820-22. The house is still in occupation.

PRN: 98833 **NGR:** SN70706602
SITE NAME: DOL-GLAN-TEIFI
SITE TYPE: COTTAGE/FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: C
SUMMARY: A cottage or small farmstead complex shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889, presumably built at some point after the construction of the railway in 1866. The site has since been abandoned and is now ruinous.

PRN: 98834 **NGR:** SN69256590
SITE NAME: SWYDD
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A farmstead complex marked on the tithe map of 1843. The site consists of a house with a detached semi-courtyard and range, still in occupation. The farm name may be related to the medieval administrative centre of the Mefenydd Grange of Strata Florida Abbey, and has also been highlighted as the possible site of a medieval settlement, although this is currently thought to now be centred further to the northeast around Ty Mawr.

PRN: 98835 **NGR:** SN69466620
SITE NAME: CWM COTTAGE
SITE TYPE: HOUSE/COTTAGE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: B
SUMMARY: A ruined, stone-built building standing west of Ty Mawr Farm. The building is roofless and stands to a maximum surviving height of c. 2m though the northern long wall is completely lost. There are no surviving door or window openings. The building measures 9 by 6 metres but appears to be longer on the 1843 tithe and is locally believed to have been a row of cottages. Stood within a 'D' shaped enclosure (within a field known as Cae'r Court) with other buildings, now gone.

PRN: 98836 **NGR:** SN72296658
SITE NAME: CEFN-Y-GAER; CEFNGAER; LLWYNTIVY UCHA
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents; Building
CONDITION:
SUMMARY: House and opposing range shown on tithe map of 1843, when it was called Llwyntivy ucha. The farmstead in still in occupation having changed its name to Cefn-y-gaer.

PRN: 98837 **NGR:** SN72046649
SITE NAME: LLWYNTIVY ISSA; CEFN-Y-GAER
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents; Earthwork
CONDITION: D
SUMMARY: A small farmstead complex consisting of a house and opposing range shown on the tithe map of 1843. The name 'Llwyn Gwynne ycha' is first recorded in 1756. By the late 19th century the farm buildings appear to have gone out of use, with the house abandoned at some point in the 20th century.
The site now consists of a small enclosure, *c*.50m by 25m, set within a larger enclosure, with a partial oval enclosure to the south.

PRN: 98838 **NGR:** SN71536652
SITE NAME: TY GWYN
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A small farmstead complex shown on the Ordnance Survey original surveyors drawings of 1820-22. The farmstead is still in occupation.

PRN: 98839 **NGR:** SN69786658
SITE NAME: TY'N-Y-BANAL; TYN-Y-BANADL
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: The name of this farmstead is recorded as far back as 1690 (Wmffre 2004), and appears throughout the 18th century. The tithe map of 1843 shows a house with opposing ranges. The site is still in occupation.

PRN: 98840 **NGR:** SN71696723
SITE NAME: DOL-FAWR
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: The name Dolwaur or Dolmaur is recorded as early as the 12th and 13th centuries (Wmffre 2004) but it is not until the 19th century that a farmstead is definitely recorded at this site. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map shows a house and outbuildings, fronted by a two-sided courtyard. The farmstead is still in use.

PRN: 98841 **NGR:** SN70366764
SITE NAME: YSTRAD MEURIG
SITE TYPE: SETTLEMENT
PERIOD: Medieval; Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A small village close to the north-western edge of Cors Caron. It would appear that the settlement has medieval origins, probably associated with the establishment of a Norman castle (PRN 2038) here in the 12th century. A medieval church (PRN 12451) provides the other main focus for early settlement. The extent of any medieval settlement is unclear, but the village was formerly a corporation town, with some privileges remaining until late, such as the right to hold a fair, exact tolls and elect a mayor. A small group of substantial 18th- and early 19th-century stone built dwellings at Ystrad Meurig and the foundation of a grammar school in the churchyard in 1803 testify to the growth of a community in the later post-Medieval Period.

PRN: 98842 **NGR:** SN68016483
SITE NAME:
SITE TYPE: COTTAGE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A cottage shown on the tithe map of 1843 but abandoned by the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889.

PRN: 98843 **NGR:** SN69316224
SITE NAME: PENYGRAIGISSA
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A small farmstead complex marked on the Ordnance Survey original surveyors drawings of 1820. By the time of the tithe map in 1843 only a single building is shown, possibly a longhouse, which has been abandoned by the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889.

PRN: 98844 **NGR:** SN69026231
SITE NAME:
SITE TYPE: COTTAGE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: D
SUMMARY: A cottage shown on the tithe map of 1843 but abandoned by the late 19th century. There is no trace of the building above ground.

PRN: 98845 **NGR:** SN69426557
SITE NAME:
SITE TYPE: HOUSE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A house marked on the tithe map of 1843 but abandoned by the late 19th century.

PRN: 98846 **NGR:** SN69356285
SITE NAME:
SITE TYPE: BUILDING
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: D
SUMMARY: A single building, possibly a cottage, shown on the tithe map of 1843. The building had gone by the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889.

PRN: 98847 **NGR:** SN70986599
SITE NAME:
SITE TYPE: BUILDING
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A building of unknown function shown on the tithe map of 1843. It appears to have been removed by the late 19th century.

PRN: 98848 **NGR:** SN70476377
SITE NAME: TY NEWYDD
SITE TYPE: COTTAGE
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A cottage first mentioned in 1839 (Wmffre 2004) and shown on the tithe map of 1843 and the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. It was abandoned at some point during the 20th century.

PRN: 98849 **NGR:** SN70316446
SITE NAME:
SITE TYPE: BANK
PERIOD: Medieval?; Post Med?
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: B
SUMMARY: A wide bank running northeast-southwest, possibly associated with post medieval peat cutting activity or general enclosure on Cors Caron.

PRN: 98850 **NGR:** SN70206447
SITE NAME:
SITE TYPE: BANK
PERIOD: Post Med?
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: B
SUMMARY: One of a series of low but wide banks running out into the peat bog of Cors Caron, possibly associated with peat cutting activities, old cuttings are visible in this area.

PRN: 98851 **NGR:** SN70166447
SITE NAME:
SITE TYPE: BANK
PERIOD: Post Med?
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: B
SUMMARY: One of a series of roughly parallel banks running into the bog, possibly associated with nearby visible peat cutting activity.

PRN: 98852 **NGR:** SN70586533
SITE NAME:
SITE TYPE: WALL
PERIOD: Post Med?
SITE STATUS:
FORM: O.Struct
CONDITION: B
SUMMARY: A ruined drystone wall running northeast-southwest into the wetlands of Cors Caron, presumably an old field boundary wall. It measures up to 1m wide and 0.5m high.

PRN: 98853 **NGR:** SN70376539
SITE NAME:
SITE TYPE: TRACKWAY
PERIOD: Unknown
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: B
SUMMARY: A raised bank and former footpath running out across Cors Caron at one of its narrower points. The trackway is of unknown date but runs roughly in the direction of Dolyrychain to the east, and towards a prominent raised mound close to Cruglas on the other side of the Teifi. The river is fordable at several points here as gravels collect in the bends, but a short distance to the southwest are the remains of a stone revetment in the riverbanks that may indicate a former footbridge.
CCW have recently placed sections of boardwalk across some of the boggier stretches.

PRN: 98854 **NGR:** SN70526237
SITE NAME: CWYS YR YCHEN BANNEG; CWYS YR YCHAIN BANOG
SITE TYPE: BANK
PERIOD: Medieval?
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents; Earthwork
CONDITION: B
SUMMARY: A bank shown on the Ordnance Survey original surveyors drawing of 1820 with a note stating a local historian, the Rev. John Williams of Ystrad Meurig, suggests it is an ancient British road or boundary between two British tribes. It also states that it is supposed to run from sea to sea, although it was only traced in the survey from Maesllyn on the edge of Cors Caron to Carn Gron to the east (SN 7400 6105). The actual date of this feature is unknown but the line of this bank can still be traced across some of the upland areas but is now uncertain west of Parc.
The name suggests a possible connection with old droving routes. Cwys=furrow, ych bannog=horned ox, or it may be associated with long medieval boundaries established when this area was part of the granges of Strata Florida Abbey throughout the medieval period.

PRN: 98855 **NGR:** SN69286281
SITE NAME: LLYN MAESLLYN; LLYN VATHEY CRINGLACE
SITE TYPE: POND
PERIOD: Unknown
SITE STATUS:
FORM:
CONDITION: A
SUMMARY: A pond shown as early as the 1820 Ordnance Survey original surveyors drawings. The name suggests it may predate the adjacent farmstead of Maesllyn (PRN 6871), and the Cwys yr Ychen Bannog (PRN 98854) appears to head straight for it.
It is possible that this lake formed an important watering hole associated with the drovers routes through this area. Bowen, on his map of 1729, shows a large lake in this area, possibly reflecting its significance rather than its actual size.

PRN: 98856 **NGR:** SN67736156
SITE NAME:
SITE TYPE: PEAT CUTTINGS
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM:
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: An area of turbary marked on the Ordnance Survey original surveyors drawings of 1820-22.

PRN: 98857 **NGR:** SN66926486
SITE NAME: PONT AR GAMDDWR
SITE TYPE: FARMSTEAD
PERIOD: Post Med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: A farmstead complex marked on the Ordnance Survey original surveyors drawings of 1820-22.

PRN: 98858 **NGR:** SN73086662
SITE NAME: PONTRHYDENDIGAID
SITE TYPE: SETTLEMENT
PERIOD: Medieval?
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: The history of this village has not been researched. In the Medieval Period, Pontrhydfendigaid lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Mefenydd Grange. A water mill and fulling mill is recorded by Williams (1990, 57). It is possible that these industries formed the focus of a small settlement. On the Dissolution the grange was granted to the Earl of Essex, and, in 1630, was purchased by the Vaughan family of Crosswood. The earliest large-scale map of the area is from the Crosswood collection of 1781 (NLW Crosswood Vol 2, 1), and shows linear development on both sides of the road, with some buildings added by a later hand. The impression from the map is of a developing settlement; this is supported by limited documentary sources - a chapel was constructed in 1794 (Percival 1998, 523). In the 19th century the village provided housing for workers in the local lead mining industry, and for those engaged in rural crafts: wool collecting, drying and preparation; hatting, basketry and candle manufacturing (Jones 1974, 72-80). Major 20th century development has been the construction of exhibition and sports facilities (Cadw, CCW & ICOMOS UK – Upland Ceredigion 1998).

PRN: 98859 **NGR:** SN69326606
SITE NAME: CAPEL Y GROES
SITE TYPE: CHAPEL
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: C
SUMMARY: The site of a medieval grange chapel known as 'Capel Crofs' (Capel y Groes) in 1843 when it was marked on the Lledrod tithe map as 'houses and gardens', and the adjacent field is known as Cae'r Court. In 1840, Elizabeth Morgan lived here with her husband (a tailor), Morgan, plus Margaret Thomas and her husband, a butcher. Also indicated as Capel-groes on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6 inch map (1889), which shows a 12 by 6 metre building oriented northeast-southwest adjacent to an access trackway and small triangular enclosure. There is nothing visible of the site now. This lies opposite the farm track to Pengwndwn that locally is believed to have been the original roadway through Swyddffynnon village. Swyddffynnon was part of the core estate granted to Cistercian Strata Florida Abbey in 1184 by Rhys ap Gruffudd (Pryce 2005: 171-5). Swyddffynnon was probably the monastic administrative centre for the Mefenydd grange. J Bezant 2009

PRN: 98860 **NGR:** SN69516625
SITE NAME: COURT
SITE TYPE: BUILDINGS
PERIOD: Medieval? Post-med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: C
SUMMARY: The site of a group of three small, square buildings just northwest of Ty Mawr Farm. Buildings indicated on the 1843 tithe and labelled 'Court' on the Ordnance survey 1st edition 6 inch map (1889). The westernmost building is lost in debris behind a modern shed and the two easternmost now only visible as very

slight earthworks on the level edge of a steep slope to the south of the Camddwr Fach. Court is perhaps an indicator of this holding's status in the Medieval period when Swyddffynnon was the demense centre of Mefenydd, a grange of Strata Florida Abbey. Court (later, Ty Mawr) may have been the administrative centre. J Bezant 2009

PRN: 98861 **NGR:** SN69576618
SITE NAME: FFYNNON OER
SITE TYPE: GRANGE
PERIOD: Medieval
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Documents
CONDITION: U
SUMMARY: The site at Ty Mawr of Finnaun Oyer mentioned as part of the earliest surviving grant to Strata Florida Abbey between 1165 and 1182 (Pryce 2005: 167). Mentioned in subsequent grants in 1184, 1198, 1202, 1280x1282, In Dissolution surveys in 1540, 1546 and by 1577 is known as Monachty Ffynnon Oer and the 4th part of Lletty Hen. Wmffre (2004: 835) puts the medieval centre of Ffynnon Oer just west of Ty Mawr at Swydd Farm though a medieval chapel and 'Court' place name at Ty Mawr lend this the greater status. J Bezant 2009

PRN: 98862 **NGR:** SN70026602
SITE NAME: TY MAWR
SITE TYPE: BURNT MOUND
PERIOD: Bronze Age
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: C
SUMMARY: A substantial spread of burnt stony material on the wetland-dryland edge of Cors Caron at Ty Mawr Farm. According to the farmer, the site has been levelled and the surrounding boggy areas have been drained. Magnetic survey and coring have established that the single site measures some 30 by 20 metres with a dense core at the centre where a turn in the fence line that bisects it can be seen. J Bezant & N Nayling 2009

PRN: 98863 **NGR:** SN69686640
SITE NAME: TY MAWR; TY'N BONTBREN
SITE TYPE: EARTHWORK; COTTAGE
PERIOD: post med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: C
SUMMARY: Very faint earthworks on the south bank of the Camddwr Fach at Ty Mawr Farm. This is the site of a small square enclosure with square building attached marked in the field named Cae Pont Pren on the 1843 tithe apportionment. This is likely to be the Ty'n bontbren recorded in the 1841 census which was occupied by David Williams and family. He was described as a millwright and may have worked at either the nearby woollen factory or at the corn mill in the village. J Bezant 2009

PRN: 98864 **NGR:** SN69766641
SITE NAME: TY MAWR
SITE TYPE: EARTHWORK
PERIOD: Medieval? Post med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: C
SUMMARY: A raised, 'D' shaped earthwork providing a level platform on the south bank of the Afon Camddwr Fach at Ty Mawr Farm. The feature measures roughly 20 metres across and although there is no discernible structure - some stone rubble remains and the fenceline that bisects the sites has partial stone wall construction. Possibly associated with PRN 98863. J Bezant 2009

PRN: 98865 **NGR:** SN69626593
SITE NAME: TY MAWR
SITE TYPE: QUARRY
PERIOD: Post med
SITE STATUS:
FORM:
CONDITION: A
SUMMARY: A stone quarry taking advantage of a natural stone outcrop just southeast of Ty Mawr Farm. The quarry provides shale-gravel for track surfacing but also to provide drainage material for a series of herringbone style drainage ditches laid out in the eastern part of the farm where it fronts Cors Caron wetland. G Rees & J Robertson (Lampeter University) 2009

PRN: 98866 **NGR:** SN69326614
SITE NAME:
SITE TYPE: CORN DRYING KILN
PERIOD: Post med
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Building
CONDITION: B
SUMMARY: A two-storey roofed building measuring 7 by 4 metres. Stone under slate with a pitched roof construction to the southeast of Swyddffynnon Mill. A furnace below would have dried corn spread on the wooden floor above - this was loaded through an upper storey doorway on the northern gable. J Bezant 2009

PRN: 98867 **NGR:** SN71306799
SITE NAME: MYNACHDY FARM
SITE TYPE: BURNT MOUND
PERIOD: Bronze age
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: C
SUMMARY: A spread of burnt stony material east of Mynachdy Farm. This is north of Cors Caron but in an elevated position at *c*.230m. This burnt mound formerly sat on a spring line but the field has been drained and ploughed to provide improved pasture. The site is now invisible above ground. J Bezant 2009

PRN: 98868 **NGR:** SN71416778
SITE NAME: MYNACHDY FARM
SITE TYPE: ENCLOSURE
PERIOD: Prehistoric?
SITE STATUS:
FORM: Earthwork
CONDITION: B
SUMMARY: An enclosure formed by two earthwork banks diverging around a bedrock outcrop measuring up to 100 metres long by 20 metres wide. This sits on a level plateau at the edge of a steep bank giving good views over Cors Caron and a medieval motte to the east. The enclosure is enigmatic - settlement inside would be difficult because of the tilted geology. A flint scraper was recovered from eroded surfaces from within the interior of the enclosure - probably Bronze Age in date. J Bezant 2009

Wetland Margins Survey – Cors Caron

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

Philip Poucher

Swydd / Position: Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature  Dyddiad / Date 30/3/10

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

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position:

Llofnod / Signature ..... Dyddiad / Date

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

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