

**BRYNAWEL, LLANBOIDY,
CARMARTHENSHIRE
(SN 22098 22461)
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

April 2010



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For: Mr .C Eynon



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BRYNAWEL, LLANBOIDY, CARMARTHENSHIRE, ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Gan / By

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SUMMARY

Planning permission was granted for the construction of a new dwelling at Brynawel, Llanboidy, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN 22098 22461; Planning Application Number W/22204). A condition on planning permission required that an archaeological watching brief was to be undertaken during groundworks at the site following advice from the archaeological advisors to the planning authority. Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were commissioned to undertake the watching brief by Mr Celt Eynon, the applicant, in April 2010.

The planning condition was placed on the development due to the building plot lying in close proximity to a number of Bronze Age round barrows, known as the Lan Round Barrows. The aim of the watching brief was to identify and record any archaeological remains that may have been exposed, damaged or destroyed by the development.

The footprint of the proposed building was machine excavated down to the natural subsoil with a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision. The excavated building plot measured 16m x 16m square. A single modern gravel track-way was revealed, as was a modern pit. No other archaeological features were revealed during the watching brief. Although the development at Brynawel, Llanboidy did not impact upon any significant archaeological remains, there is still the potential for archaeological remains to exist in the vicinity of the site, some of which may possibly be associated with the Lan Round Barrows.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

1.1.1 Planning permission was granted for the construction of a new dwelling at Brynawel, Llanboidy, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN 22098 22461; Planning Application Number W/22204). A requirement for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during groundworks at the site was placed on the planning permission following advice from Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management (DAT-HM), the archaeological advisors to the planning authority. Mr Celt Eynon, the applicant, commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services (DAT-FS) to carry out the watching brief in April 2010.

1.1.2 The planning condition was placed on the development due to the building plot lying in close proximity to a number of Bronze Age round barrows.

1.1.3 A written scheme of investigation was prepared by DAT-FS and approved by DAT-HM prior to the groundworks commencing.

1.2 Scope of the Project

1.2.1 The aim of the watching brief was to record any features or deposits of archaeological significance that might be exposed, damaged or destroyed by the ground works within the footprint of the proposed building.

1.3 Report Outline

1.3.1 This report describes the location of the site along with its archaeological background before summarising the watching brief results and the conclusions based on those results.

1.4 Abbreviations

1.4.1 Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER¹) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR).

1.5 Illustrations

1.5.1 Record photographs are included at back of the report. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale and are illustrative only.

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

2 THE SITE

2.1 Location

2.1.1 The building plot of Brynawel is located 1.5km north west of the village of Llanboidy, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN 22098 22461). The plot is located on the crest of a linear hill situated c.180m above sea level.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.2.1 The area surrounding the building plot contains a number of sites of archaeological and historical interest. Within a 480m circular radius of the development plot, five Bronze Age barrows are situated, which follow the natural topography of the crest of the hill which are known as the Lan Round Barrows group. Rees describes them as being "a fine linear group of five mounds with one outlier to the north" (Rees, 1992, p213). The presence of the round barrows indicates prehistoric activity within the immediate area surrounding the development site and thus that there is the potential for hitherto unknown prehistoric archaeological features being present within the development plot. Listed below are a summary of each of the barrows with PRN and NGR (Please refer to figure 1 for map location).

2.2.2 Bronze Age round barrow (PRN 3951, NGR SN 2095 2465) is the closest site in proximity to the development, situated only 38m to the north west. It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

2.2.1 Bronze Age round barrow (PRN 3950, NGR SN 2081 2464) is situated c.150m to the west of the development site, and is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (photo 5).

2.2.3 Bronze Age round barrow (PRN 3949, NGR SN 2071 2464) is located c.270m to the west of Brynawel and is a designated Scheduled Ancient Monument.

2.2.4 Bronze Age round barrow (PRN 3948, NGR SN 2055 2463) which is located 400m to the west of the proposed development site and is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

2.2.4 Situated at the extremity of the inclusion zone is a Scheduled Bronze Age round barrow (PRN 8870, NGR SN 2050 2468), which is located 470m to the west of the development area.

2.2.5 The First Edition (1891) and second edition (1906) Ordnance Survey maps both indicate the development area as being located within arable fields. No archaeological or historical features are depicted within the field's boundaries.

3 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

3.1 Watching brief methodology

3.1.1 The watching brief comprised a single site visit on 20th April 2010 to monitor the removal of the topsoil and subsoil from the footprint of the building.

3.1.2 The soils were removed by machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. This resulted in the exposed ground surface being fairly clean and it was therefore easy to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features.

3.2 Results

3.2.1 The building plot was located on a crest of a linear hill with good views to the east and the south.

3.2.1 The topsoil was a dark brown silty clay, which contained small sub angular stones and measured c.0.11m in depth.

3.2.2 Following the removal of the topsoil a mid brown silty clay subsoil was revealed which contained pieces of post medieval glass and had a thickness of c.0.14m.

3.2.3 The underlying natural undisturbed substrata comprised a mid-yellowish grey silty clay, which was observed at a depth of 0.25m below ground level, being fairly even across the footprint of the proposed development plot.

3.2.4 A linear 16m long gravel track-way was discovered running in an east-west alignment across the exposed footprint of the building. This had apparently been used as a track-way for livestock.

3.2.5 At the western end of the track-way a modern pit was revealed, which was filled with animal dung and grass. The pit was not investigated further.

4 CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the development of a new dwelling at Brynawel, Llanboidy revealed a track way and pit of modern date. These features are not considered to be archaeologically significant, being associated with agricultural use of the area in recent years.

4.2 No evidence for prehistoric archaeology was revealed within the development area. No indications of barrows or other funerary activity was revealed within the site. No settlement evidence of this date was revealed either, perhaps indicating that the upper slopes of the hills were used for funerary and burial activity as opposed to habitation.

4.3 The footprint of the building had been stripped using a toothless bucket, resulting in a good clean surface which is ideal for determining the presence or absence of archaeological remains.

4.4 No significant archaeological features were revealed during the watching brief at Brynawel, Llanboidy. The potential for archaeological remains to be present within surrounding areas cannot be discounted, some of which may be associated with the Lan Round Barrow group.

5 SOURCES

Map

Ordnance Survey, 1891, Carmarthenshire Sheet XXIX SW 1st edition 1:10,560

Ordnance Survey, 1907, Carmarthenshire Sheet XXIX SW 2nd edition 1:10,560

Ordnance Survey, 1996, Cardigan and Mynydd Preseli. 1:50 000

Published Sources

Rees, 1992. A guide to ancient and historic Wales, Dyfed. London: HMSO

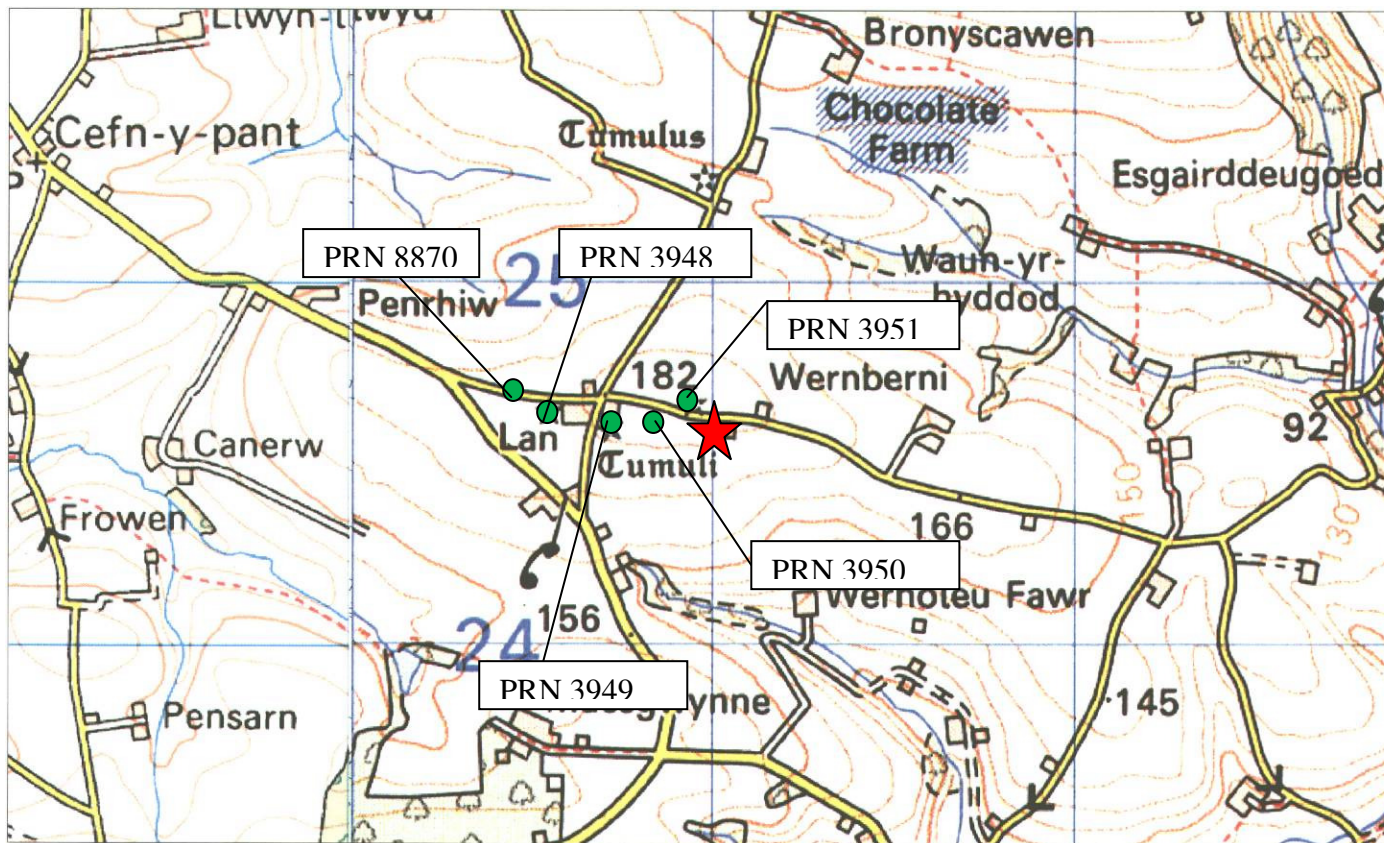


Figure 1: Location map, based on the Ordnance Survey. Red star shows location of the site and the green circles represent the location of the round barrows with PRNs.

Reproduced from the 1995 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office,
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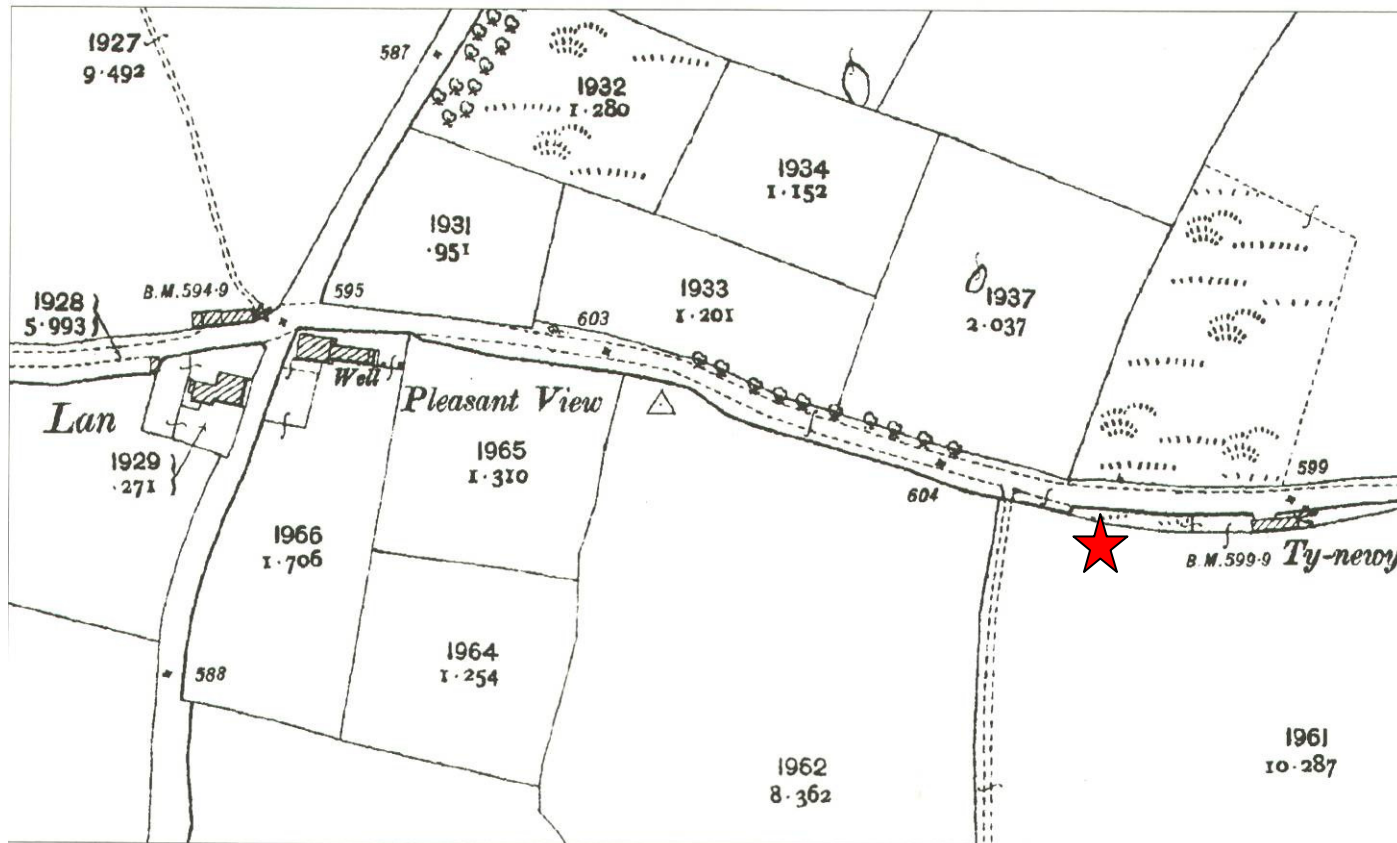


Figure 2: Extract of 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 showing site location.

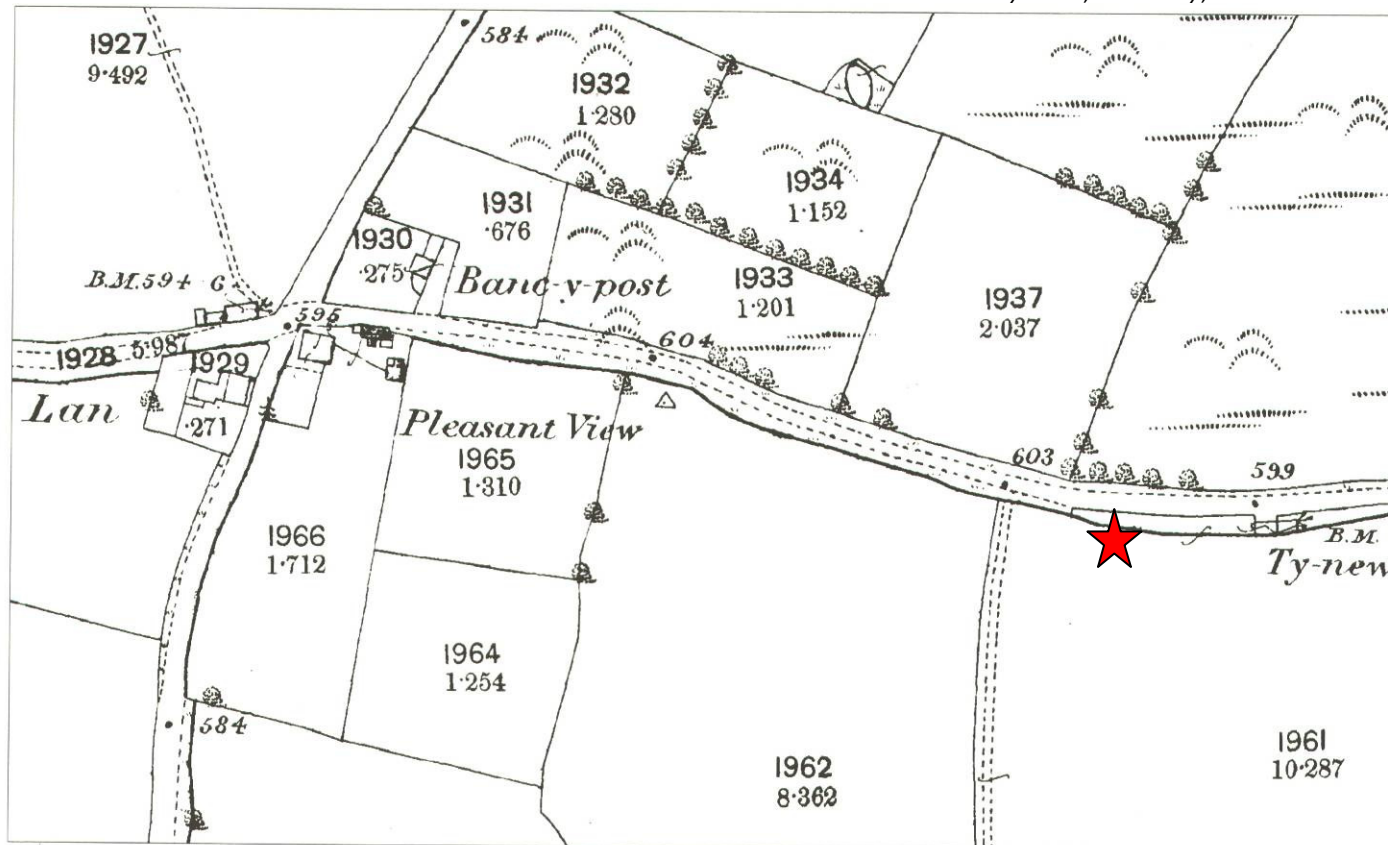


Figure 3: Extract of Ordnance Survey map of 1907 showing site location.

<i>Period</i>	<i>Approximate Date</i>
Palaeolithic	c.225,000 BC – 10,000 BC
Mesolithic	c.10,000 BC – c.3500 BC
Neolithic	c.3500 BC – c.2000 BC
Bronze Age	c.2000 BC – c.600 BC
Iron Age	c.600 BC – 43 AD
Roman	43 AD – 410 AD
Early Medieval	410 AD - 1066
Medieval	1066 - 1485
Post Medieval	1485 – c.1900
Modern	c.1900 onwards

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales.



Photo 1: Pre-ex photo showing development site and initial clearance.



Photo 2: Photo showing modern pit.



Photo 3: Photo looking east at modern trackway for livestock.



Photo 4: Photo looking south east at excavated footprint of building.



Photo.5: Photo looking west at Bronze Age round barrow PRN 3950.

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Andrew Shobbrook

Swydd / Position: Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature Date

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

James Meek

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

Swydd / Position: Head of Field Services

Llofnod / Signature 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*