

DESCRIPTIVE TEXT = This is complex cropmark, first discovered during the drought of 1984, with an associated field enclosure attached to its SE side discovered in 1989. The main features show as positive cropmarks, thus indicating either buried ditches or wall lines. The latter seems unlikely since a computer plot shows the cropmarks in some places to be up to 5m wide (although during a site visit in 1984 they were recorded as being about 2m wide). The principal elements of the cropmark seem to comprise a block of straight sided contiguous enclosures basically of rectangular form, measuring about 110 metres by 70 metres. An entrance into the complex on the SE facing flank is assumed, but by no means certain from the air photos. The approach to the entrance is flanked by a linear boundary ditch which forms the SW facing flank of a field enclosure that extends into the adjacent modern field. The eastern side of the entrance approach has an adjoining square enclosure (possibly with an internal SW-NE division). The main enclosure and this side square 'annexe' are marked by well defined sharp approximately right angled corners, although the long axis is slightly wedge-shaped. The one non-right angled northern corner is formed by two angle changes of 45 degrees, reminiscent of Roman military works. Traces of an inner enclosure approximately 55m x 45m can be seen within the northern part of the enclosure; the north flank is manifest as a wide rich cropmark, possibly indicating deeper soil or some sunken feature. There are hints of field boundaries around the complex, but these are not conclusive due to the plethora of natural cropmarks. Evidence for a hollow-way has been noted in the south corner of the field curving towards the line of the entrance approach. The one positive field enclosure extends off the SE side of the main site extending over an area that measures about 150m each way, although it is by no means square. The cropmark of the east flank is discontinuous, but this probably joined as a curving line. This projection had a mill or fishpond built over it at some time in the Middle Ages or Post Medieval period. It is difficult to assign a function or period to such a site without close parallels. However it is best viewed as a farmstead of the Romano-British period, perhaps starting life in the later Prehistoric period as a univallate less regular enclosure represented by the inner cropmark of the main site. There is evidence for two phases, as a fine linear cropmark cuts or is cut by the SW facing flank of the outer field enclosure, and it is possible that this cropmark belongs to the earlier phase of activity on the site. In terms of evolution one can postulate the enlargement of this enclosure by its adsorption into a more regular, straight sided enclosure, which also had additions planted to the exterior east of the entrance, and contemporary field enclosure attached to the SE side. The regularity of the site and the one 'aberrant' corner hint at influences of the Roman period placing the site in the context of a local villa-type farmstead. A note of caution to the suggested dating is the lack of any good evidence for dating other rectilinear cropmarks discovered during air survey, which are now a fairly common site type in Dyfed. Why so few similar sites survive as earthworks might indicate a greater antiquity that perhaps their regular straight sites might otherwise suggest. TAJ 31-10-89.

AUTHORITY

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