

## Alice Pyper

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**From:** Alice Pyper  
**Sent:** 05 April 2022 15:07  
**To:** Evans, Emma-Jayne  
**Cc:** Rosie Carmichael (RACarmichael@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** RE: Brownhill  
**Attachments:** Roman\_Road.zip

Dear Emma,

Thank you for organising the site visit to Brownhill with Rosie to look at the proposals for the site. I have seen, and I support Rosie's comments.

Regarding the Historic Environment Records for the site, I have updated the HER based on our site visit and have the following further comments:

- PRN 33974 Roman Road

A segment of Roman road RR623 between Llandeilo and Llandovey, identified as a parchmark between SN69922968 and SN70583057 from aerial photographs. DS.09.2004.

The line of the Roman road runs through pasture at the time of the visit and was difficult to ascertain its course with confidence; there is no obvious earthwork to pick out. Therefore, I have attached a zip file with Esri shapefiles to show of the course of the Roman Road which has been plotted from 1992-96 aerial photographs (Roman\_Certain\_polyline, Roman\_Certain\_region), and the line of the road where its course can be projected with confidence between those plotted sections (Roman\_Probable\_polyline). The course of the road, and its projected line should be protected from any ground breaking activities, including any tree planting. A buffer of at least 10 metres either side of its centre line, 20 metres in total would be appropriate. There are opportunities with the proposed public access of the site to raise awareness of this feature and incorporate it into the overall design.

- PRN 127853 Post Medieval Footbridge SN70442979

A footbridge is marked on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map (1906) over what appears to be a relic watercourse joining the Afon Tywi. A Pyper 2022.

There is no indication of a structure at this location, though the line of a small watercourse running into the Tywi is still apparent and a modern trackway runs across it. A Pyper 2022

- PRN 127867 Unknown Causeway SN70172978

A bank or causeway across a low-lying area on the Tywi floodplain, is approx. 37m long and 3.5m wide. Visible on 2009 aerial photograph. A Pyper 2022

This feature should be protected from damage including any tree planting.

Regarding the proposals for tree planting, I would reinforce Rosie's comments. The proposal lies within the Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, Tywi Valley (HLW (D) 5, ICOMOS, Cadw) which is described thus, 'The principal significance of the valley is as setting for a unique group of planned parks and gardens, and its historic, artistic associations with the Picturesque'

Full description - [https://cadwpublic-](https://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/historiclandscape/FullReport?lang=&id=HLW%20(D)%205)

[api.azurewebsites.net/reports/historiclandscape/FullReport?lang=&id=HLW%20\(D\)%205](https://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/historiclandscape/FullReport?lang=&id=HLW%20(D)%205)

The registered landscape has been further assessed and broken down into component historic landscape character areas, and as I mentioned in my previous comments, this lies within Ystrad Tywi: Llangadog – Llandoverly (HLCA 208) <https://dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/HLC/HLCTowy/area/area208.htm>

A notable comment in the description again reinforces the parkland aspect to the floodplain, 'Many hedges possess distinctive hedgerow trees, and these, together with isolated trees and small copses lend a parkland aspect to the area. This may be a planned effect, designed to merge with the parks on the north side of the valley associated with gentry houses.'

There are a number of parklands in the immediate vicinity; Abermarlais to the west of the A40 was a significant house from the 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards with a deerpark, and although the house was rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century it retained a designed parkland landscape and walled garden until the 20<sup>th</sup> century when the park became degraded (shown in green on the map below), and the mansion house demolished. We have a copy of the estate plan which may be of interest to you. To the south is Dan-yr-allt mansion, again the house is ruinous now, but the relic

parkland survives and is a distinctive feature of this section of the valley. Further parks feature up the valley and many of the farms have replicated a 'parkland character'— Llwyn Dewi which lies immediately to the east of the river and adjoins the consultation area, is recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map (1887) with clusters of broadleaved trees, though these have largely been lost in subsequent years. It is notable that there are no plantations of conifer in the valley floor, these are restricted to the valley sides, but there are occasional conifers planted as specimen trees.

Any tree planting in this section of the valley floor must be designed sensitively and sympathetically with the historic landscape character and careful consideration must be given to the species, density, and location of new planting. Plantations, particularly of conifer, would be visually jarring in this landscape, and as I said at our site meeting, any planting **must not** be like a commercial plantation, which in due course would necessitate the associated infrastructure of tracks, turning and loading areas etc.

There is a wonderful opportunity with this site to demonstrate a sensitive approach to new woodland planting. It is important that views across the site are taken into consideration, both from the A40 which is the main thoroughfare which runs along the west boundary of the site, and also from the railway which runs to the east. The site also provides a rare opportunity for public access to the valley floor and the river, which elsewhere is largely restricted to crossing points, and as such the site again provides views outwards, up the valley and across to the Brecon Beacons.

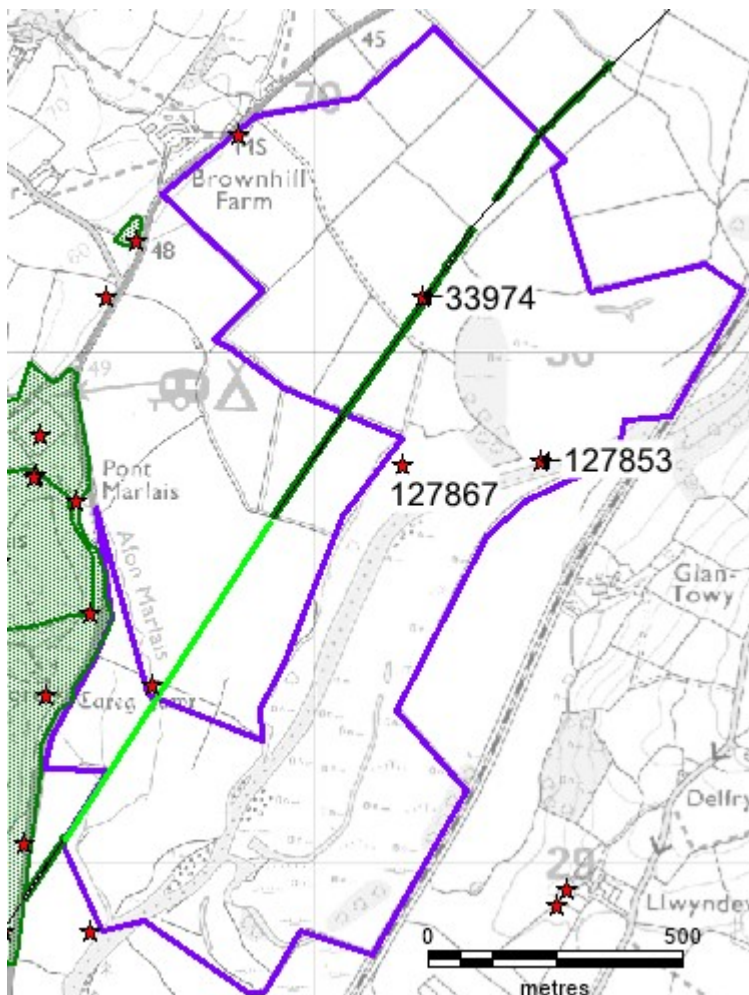
I hope these comments are helpful and I look forward to further discussion as the plans develop. With such an opportunity I wonder if other specialists have been brought in, for instance within NRW, Jill Bullen is a Landscape Specialist? I could also raise it with Cadw who in Lisa Fiddes have a specialist in Historic parklands. You may also be interested in the Aberystwyth University Geomorphology studies which have researched and plotted the many and various palaeochannels, they are downloadable from our webpage:

<https://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/tywi/changingvalley.html>

with best wishes

Alice

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**From:** Evans, Emma-Jayne <emma-jayne.evans@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 01 April 2022 13:10

**To:** Alice Pyper <A.Pyper@DYFEDARCHAEOLOGY.ORG.UK>

**Subject:** Brownhill

Alice,

How are you? All well my end.

I am still yet to find time for a trek to the library to do some research on the site, things have been so busy.

As I'm in the process of collating our stakeholder engagement feedback I thought of you and Rosie, I'm going to be reporting back to my colleagues next week, if you have some thoughts it would be great to incorporate them.

Happy to discuss if anything needs further clarification.

Hope you have a really good weekend,  
 Emma

Emma-Jayne Evans

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Correspondence in Welsh is welcomed, and we will respond in Welsh without it leading to a delay.