

## **Llanddowror – Site Visit 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023**

DAT HM were invited to a site visit at Llanddowror to look at a standing stone (PRN 3904) and the removal of hedgerows.

The standing stone was recorded in the Historic Environment Record in 2001 as part of the Cadw-funded Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites project (see description below). Whilst not designated as a scheduled monument it is a good example of a Bronze Age monument of a class which is usually protected as a designated site. It appears to have been physically undamaged at this point in time, although it has clearly been covered by slurry/muck in a recent muck spreading event.

Whilst the standing stone itself will predate the field boundaries it now has a radically different environmental context; it now stands within a larger field and is vulnerable to flooding events which may bring debris and strong water currents. It must be remembered that the standing stone is an indicator of extensive archaeological remains below ground surface – the extent is at present unknown, however excavations at similar sites have revealed burials, pits and pavements which indicate extensive use and reuse of these sites. These subsurface deposits are especially vulnerable to ploughing which may take place when land is being agriculturally improved. We would recommend that a buffer of at least 5 meters radius around the stone is left undisturbed and that preferably the field in which the stone sits would be left as permanent pasture.

The field boundaries are clearly identified on the Tithe Map of Llanddowror parish which dates to 1845 (Figure 1); this is the earliest reference where the boundaries are clearly identified, though there may be earlier estate maps which take their date back further. Their form is distinctive – long and narrow – and this is suggestive that they are relics of a former open field system, possibly associated with the medieval village of Llanddowror, which have been subsequently enclosed thus preserving the form of an earlier field system within the current field pattern. There are two other areas around the village of Llanddowror which exhibit strip fields, and these lie to the west of the village.

The removal of the field boundaries in their entirety is of concern as this represents a significant loss of a piece of the historic landscape and a field pattern which might be indicative of an earlier agricultural system. Whatever their origin the field boundaries are historic, having been recorded on the Parish tithe map of 1845. In addition to being historic landscape features in their own right field boundaries also preserve a relic landsurface beneath them, encapsulating the ground at the time which the field banks were constructed. This too is now vulnerable and may well have been damaged from the removal of the field boundaries.

### **PRN 3904**

#### **Bronze Age Standing Stone**

#### **SN2563214872**

#### **Description:**

A tall and tapering standing stone, 1.3m high, 0.5m at its base and narrowing to 0.25m at its top, with a breadth of 0.5m. The stone stands in a flat pasture field, in long grass and is orientated NW-SE on its narrow sides, and NE-SW for its larger flat faces. On past field visits by DAT this stone has wrongly been confused with PRN 8046, which is located in an adjacent field and of which there is no trace. N Bestley PFRS 2001

Standing stone PRN3904



Site visit photo 2001



Site visit photo 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023



Figure 1 - Plan of Llandowror parish in the county of Carmarthen 1845

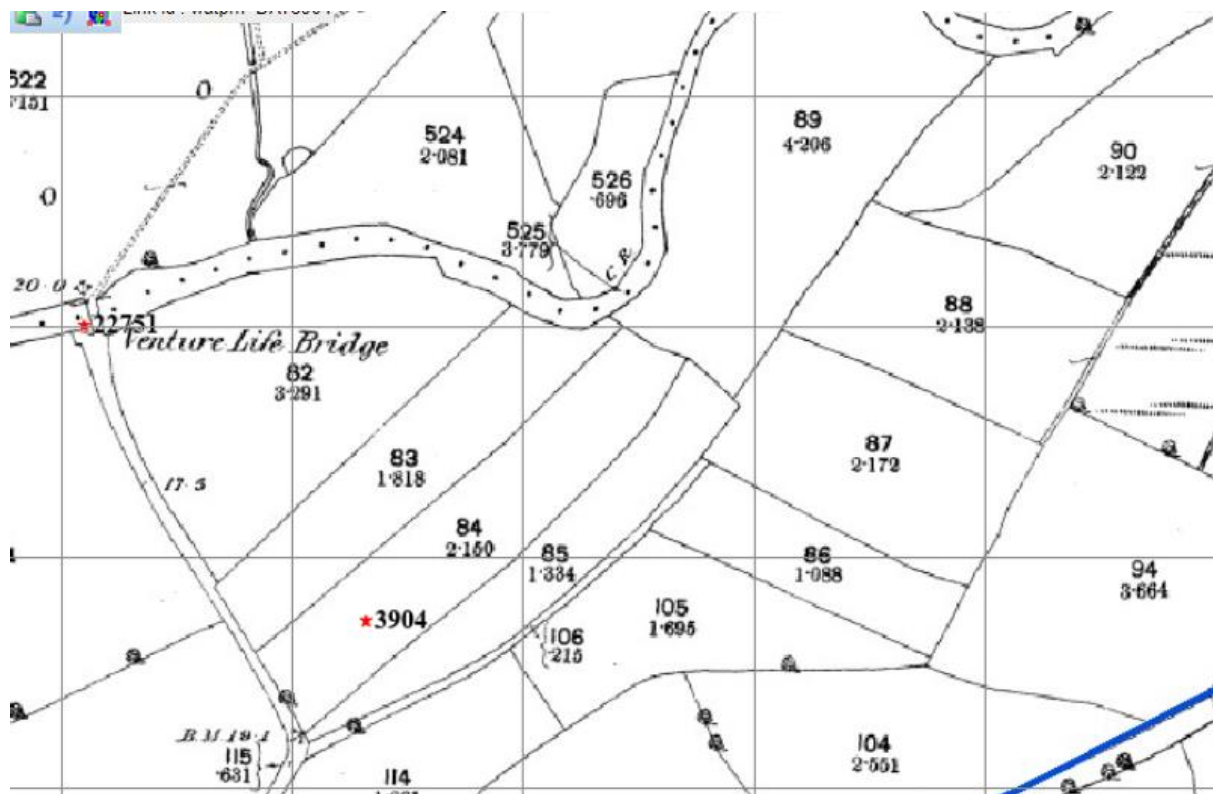
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Figure 2 - Plan of Llandowror parish in the county of Carmarthen 1845

[https://places.library.wales/browse/51.805/-4.528/14?page=1&alt=&alt=&leaflet-base-layers\\_64=on](https://places.library.wales/browse/51.805/-4.528/14?page=1&alt=&alt=&leaflet-base-layers_64=on)





1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map Carmarthenshire sheet 44.04 (1888)



Line of former field boundary, looking northeast



Line of former field boundary looking southwest



Field boundaries shaded green have been removed.