

PENTIR-WYLFA OVERHEAD LINE
REFURBISHMENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Supplement to report 332

Prepared for
THE NATIONAL GRID COMPANY plc

MAY 2000

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

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By
D Hopewell

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT 332

1 INTRODUCTION

The National Grid Company plc (hereafter NGC) is proposing to refurbish its existing 400Kv overhead line between Wylfa substation on Anglesey and Pentir substation on the mainland. The refurbishment of the line entails the replacement of conductors, insulators, fittings and foundation muffs. Working arrangements for the conductor replacement will require the formation of new accesses as well as the upgrading of existing accesses. NGC has commissioned The Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Contracts Section (hereafter GAT) to carry out an archaeological assessment of the line route, in order to determine the impact of the proposals upon the archaeology, and to recommend ways to mitigate the impact. A report was produced (GAT report number 332, July 1999) but further details were needed before mitigatory measures could be recommended for works around pylons 97, 103 and 104. This report contains recommendations for mitigatory measures for these three areas and should be viewed as a supplement to the earlier report.

2 ASSESSMENT BRIEF

The aims of the archaeological assessment were to identify and record the cultural heritage of the area concerned and to evaluate the importance of what was identified, both as a cultural landscape and as individual features which make up that landscape. Recommendations would be made to minimise the impact of the proposed works on the cultural heritage.

3 METHODOLOGY

A field visit was undertaken on 25th May 200 by Martin Eagles of NGC and David Hopewell of GAT in order to further assess the archaeological potential of the three areas and to discuss in detail the works to be carried out.

Recommendations for further assessment and mitigatory measures were made in accordance with the categories set out in report 332.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Revised details and recommendations

PYLON 97

52. Earthwork – possibly modern, NW of Ty'n-y-Lon SH54277074

Location: 30m SW of pylon 97

Category: C Impact: None

PRN 5727 Rectangular earthwork, may be a disused and overgrown railway siding. A site visit revealed uneven stony ground in the vicinity of site 52 indicating further activity. There was no direct evidence to show that this was a railway siding.

Recommendation for further assessment: none

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Works are unlikely to impact on this site as the winching apparatus is to be sited in the field to the north-west. Ground disturbance to access routes and tower environs should be avoided, apart from the excavation of previously disturbed ground necessary for foundation muff renewal.

PYLONS 103 and 104

55. Field System, Gors y Brithdir SH55656905

Location: pylon 103 is within the extended field system

Category: B Impact: None

PRN 3178 Area of field system associated with Gors y Brithdir Romano British settlement and field system.

Recommendation for further assessment: None.

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Ground disturbance to access routes and tower environs should be avoided, apart from the excavation of previously disturbed ground necessary for foundation muff renewal.

56. Gors y Brithdir Field System SH55566888

Location: 40m W of pylon 104

Category: A Impact: None

PRN 792 Roundhouse and field system consisting of a single ruined enclosed hut, numerous lengths of dry-stone walling and substantial Lynchets. Scheduled.

Recommendation for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Access routes and contractors should avoid the scheduled area. Ground disturbance to access routes and tower environs should be avoided (apart from the excavation of previously disturbed ground necessary for foundation muff renewal) as the area of archaeological interest extends beyond the scheduled area.

5 SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Site No	Pylon No	Site name	Importance	Impact	Evaluation	Mitigation
52	97	Earthwork possibly modern, NW of Ty'n-y-Lon (Map 8 report 332)	C	None	None	Avoid disturbance to the earthwork and its environs
55	103	Field system, Gors y Brithdir (Map 9 report 332)	B	None	None	No ground disturbance apart from foundation muff renewal.
56	104	Gors y Brithdir field system (Map 9 report 332)	A	None	None	No ground disturbance apart from foundation muff renewal. Complete avoidance of scheduled area.

6. SUMMARY OF MITIGATORY MEASURES

Site 52. The site is a post-medieval earthwork of unknown function. A winching platform will be sited in the field to the north-west and it is therefore expected that the works on pylon 97 will have no impact on the site. Ground disturbance to access routes and tower environs should be avoided, apart from the excavation of previously disturbed ground necessary for foundation muff renewal.

Site 56, Gors y Brithdir Romano-British field system, is a scheduled ancient monument and as such should not be disturbed without Scheduled Monument Consent. Sites 55 and 58 are associated with the field system but fall outside the scheduled area. Fig 1 shows the extent of the scheduled area and the additional area of archaeological interest defined by the outer field system.

The agreed access route falls outside the scheduled area but passes through the outer part of the field system (site 55). It is recommended that no ground disturbance occurs along this access route. Contractors should be made aware of the Scheduled area and the area should be totally avoided by all vehicles and machinery.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Kelly R. S. 1979, Field work and excavation along the route of a gas pipeline from Pentir to Llanfairpwll, Gwynedd in 1976 *The Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies XXVII part III*

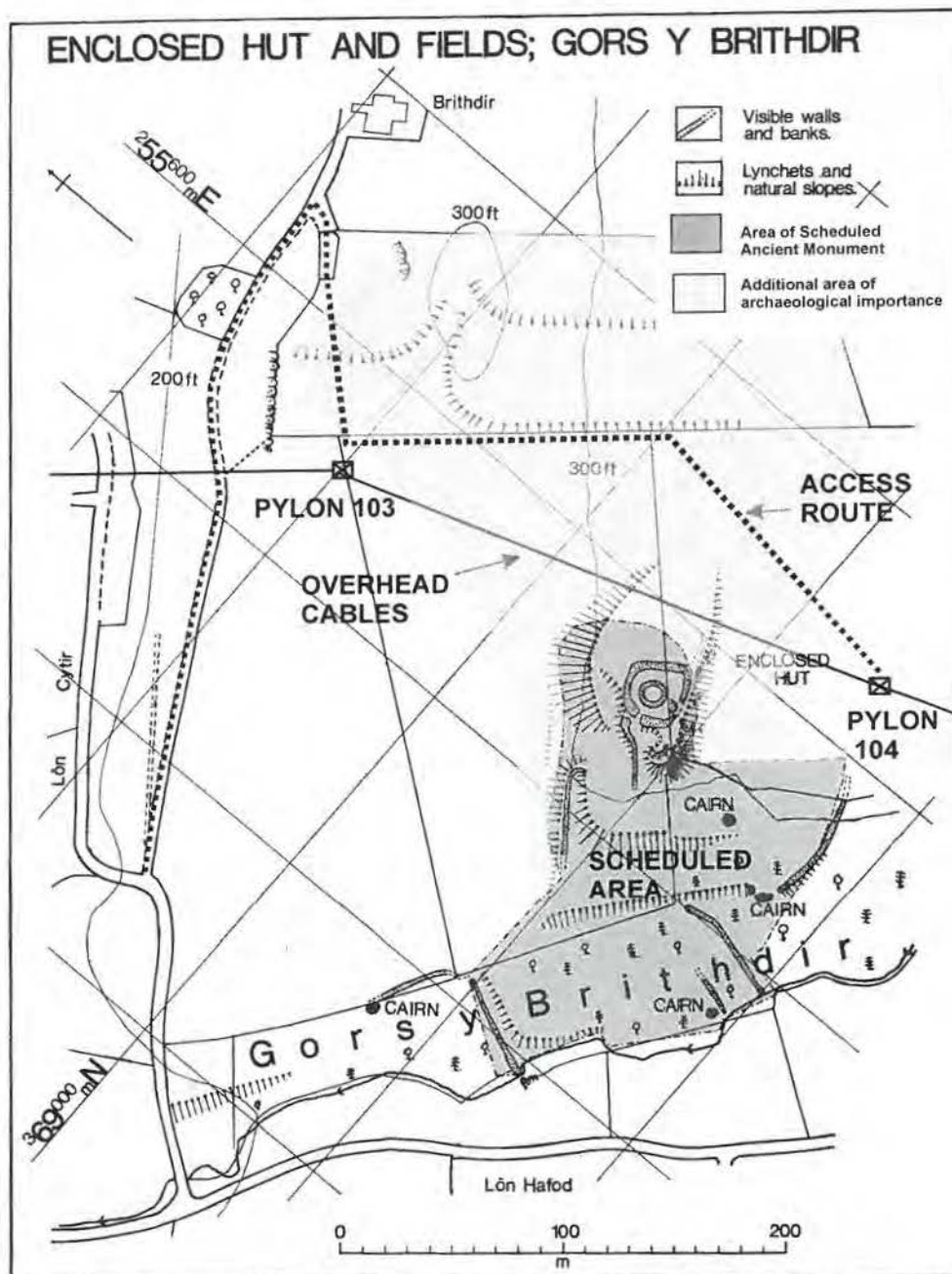


Fig 1 Details of Gors y Brithdir Field System (from Kelly, 1979) and access routes to pylons 103 and 104

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