

Land to the rear of Hendy Gwyn, (formerly Hen Dy'r Gof)

Llangorse. Powys

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Report No. Pow1701

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Summary

Mr & Mrs A Howes commissioned G A Makepeace to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief on land to the rear of Hendy Gwyn, Llangorse.

No archaeological deposits-material were found.

Acknowledgement

The Archaeological Contractor (G A Makepeace) wishes to thank S Rees (Building Contractor) for his help at all times and to Mr & A Mrs Howes for their kind hospitality.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Development Proposal and Commission

Mr & Mrs A M M Howes commissioned G A Makepeace to undertake an archaeological Watching Brief to the rear of Hendy Gwyn, Llangorse formerly known as Hen Dy'r Gof, Llangorse. CPAT SWAT 414. BBNP Planning Application P17122.

1.2 Location

The site is located on the south side of the main road, opposite the Castle Inn, SO13482753, at c168.5m OD.

1.3 Scope of the Report

The report describes the background, the findings and offers an explanation, together with the appropriate appendices.

1.4 Date of Operation

Dates of operation. 2-3rd August and 20th September 2001

2.0 Background

2.1 Physical Setting

Most of the geology around Llangorse is Old Red Sandstone with a covering of boulder clay or till in places. Llangorse lies on the Nant Cui, a small stream which issues from springs under Mynydd Troed, flowing into Llangorse Lake (Llyn Syfiddan). The lake was certainly much larger than it is today, probably the 160m datum may mark its greatest extent. Llangorse Lake (Llynfi Basin) was formed during the Pleistocene (Glacial Period) when glaciers from the north-northwest flowed from Central Wales southwards, after which the basin filled with melt water, forming Llangorse Lake.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

Llangorse is surrounded by a number of archaeological sites such as the hillforts at Cwrt y Gaer, Cockit Hill and Allt yr Esgair, the Neolithic longbarrow at Mynydd Troed and a whole series of early Bronze Age barrows on Cefn Moel. Closeby is the early medieval crannog site in Llangorse Lake and the present church (St Paulinus) probably date from c1300 as does the font. Only a few fragmentary 15th century pieces remain, as the church was

heavily restored in the 19th century. Inside the church are three early Christian stones of the 7-9th century, 10-11th century and 11-12th century respectively which may testify to an earlier establishment of a church here at Llangorse.

The crannog may have been the site of a Royal centre of the Brycheiniog dynasty. It was attacked in AD916 by Aethelflaed (Lady of the Mercians) who captured the kings wife and other memmbers of the court.

Hendy Gwyn (formerly Hen Dy'r Gof) appears to have been formerly two cottages one being the old blacksmith's house. The rear gardens may have been orchards for some considerable time.

3.0 Fieldwork Results

3.1 Site Visit

Two visits covered the initial clearance for driveway and the removal of the top soil (2-3rd August) whilst the final visit covered the excavation of the footings, drains etc., (20th September).

3.2 Extent of Inspection

The extent of the inspection was limited to the removal of the top soil (01) and the excavation for the footings being excavated down to the natural marls (02). The depth of the footings etc., varied between 0.6-1.20m and the width 0.6-1.0m wide. A metal detector was used throughout the clearance and excavating operations.

3.3 Site Record

No site record was made as no archaeological deposits-features were encountered, only the contexts being recorded.

3.4 Archaeological Record

No archaeological record was made as no material earlier than the twentieth century was found.

4.0 *Fieldwork Results*

4.1 *Contexts-Features*

01 *Top Soil* *Possibly former plough-garden soil, varying between c30-60cms in thickness, dark brown-purple, inclusions varied between rounded boulders-pebbles up to 0.4m across to broken angular sandstones. Friable with a marly content close to the base. Pockets or small pits of building material (slate, brick, glass) and domestic rubbish were excavated into the top part of this context.*

Small fragments of lead, one very corroded half-penny, two broken metal buttons (late) and sherds of broken bottles-jars and china (20th century).

02 *Red Marls* *Red-pinky marl, clayey, friable with rounded weathered sandstones up to 0.5m across.- glacial (natural soils).*

5.0 *Conclusion*

Little activity could be deduced from the excavations apart from the slight undulations in the soil profile which may indicate the bases of former tree boles (orchard) and rubbish pits dug into the upper part of context 01. Context (01) may be a result of former 'agricultural' activities related to the former cottage orchard-garden.

No activity earlier than the 20th century could be found.

6.0 *Bibliography*

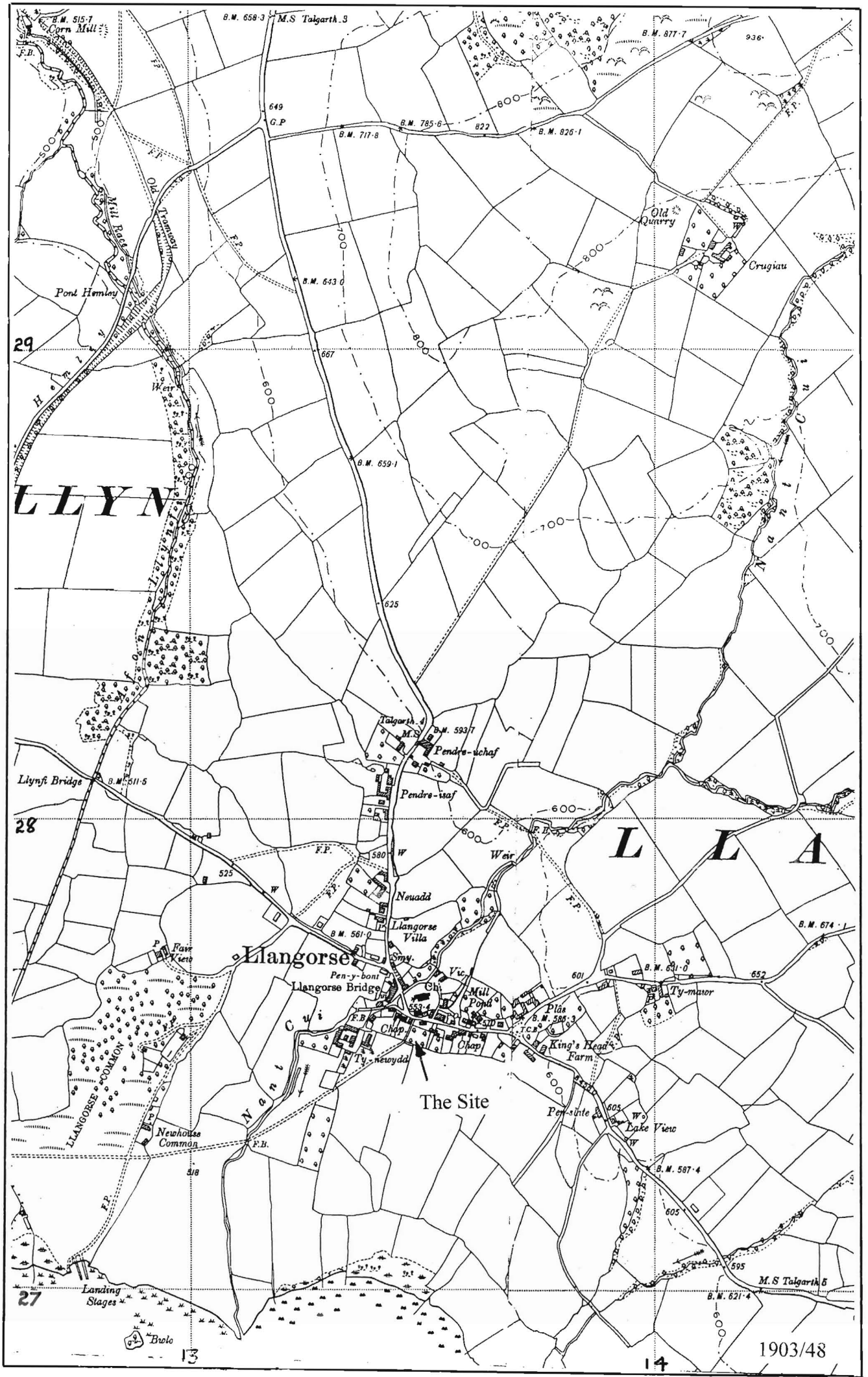
1842 Tithe Map

1903/1948 6" OS Map Brecknockshire 28SE

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Appendices





Land to the rear of Hendy Gwyn - the garden-orchard

