THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

A483 Trunk Road at Llanfair-ar-y-bryn, Carmarthenshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

A483 Trunk Road at Llanfair-ar-y-bryn, Carmarthenshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

R. J. Silvester August 2004

Report for Mott MacDonald Ltd

CPAT Report Record

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The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust 7a Church Street Welshpool Powys SY21 7DL tel (01938) 553670, fax 552179 © CPAT

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Mott MacDonald Ltd, of Fitzalan House, Fitzalan Road, Cardiff are currently engaged in planning the improvement of a short stretch of the A483 trunk road, immediately to the north-east of Llandovery in Carmarthenshire in the immediate vicinity of the church at Llanfair-ar-y-bryn (SN 7698 3517). In late April 2004 Mott MacDonald asked the contracting section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (henceforward CPAT Contracting) to conduct an archaeological assessment of the area in and around the proposed road improvement corridor to establish its archaeological and historic sensitivity. For the purposes of this study the corridor and the area around it are termed the 'Area of Interest'.
- 1.2 An Environmental Scoping report for the scheme had earlier been produced by Gwent Consultancy incorporating information provided by Cambria Archaeology from the regional Sites and Monuments Record. This study takes the assessment of the archaeology and allied elements of the historic environment a stage further through the compilation of a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment as defined in the Department of Environment, Transport and Regions' Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Volume 11 Section 3 Part 2, Section 8/1 (1993). The Design Manual lays out the procedures for conducting a Stage 1 assessment and the report that follows conforms to these guidelines, except in one specific aspect.
- 1.3 The objective of such a Stage 1 exercise is 'to identify the known archaeological constraints within [the] route corridor to ensure that proper regard is given to the potential archaeological resource during route selection' (*DMRB* Vol 11 Section 3 Part 2, Section 8/11), and 'to undertake sufficient assessment to identify the constraints, caused by the presence of historic buildings' (*DMRB* Vol 11 Section 3 Part 2, Section 13.4).
- 1.4 The procedures for a Stage 1 assessment should include both a desk-top study and a rapid assessment of the archaeology in the field (through what is generally termed a walkover survey) for the road corridor, in order to inform the report. Because of the sensitivity of the development it has not been possible at this stage to examine the proposed route on the ground. The report that follows is thus based on the desk-top study together with an extremely superficial examination of some of the area of interest from public rights of way.
- 1.5 The desk-based element of the study was completed in the week beginning 14 June 2004, and a draft report was prepared immediately thereafter.

2 LAND USE, SOIL AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1 The area of interest is defined here by the river to the south-east, the railway line and a stream to the north-west, and arbitrary boundaries based on field divisions to the north-east and south-west.
- 2.2 The proposed road extends along a low ridge at a height of around 80m OD, a portion of the narrowing spur created by the confluence of Afon Tywi (the River Towy) and its tributary, Afon Bran. This corridor keeps to the higher ground, but to the east and within the area of interest, the land drops away to the valley floor of the Bran, while to the west there is a subsidiary valley carrying the Bawddwr Brook. The ridge rises slightly higher to around 90m OD and it is this knoll that was encompassed by the Roman fort (see below) and on which the church now sits.

- 2.3 The soils of area of interest appear to fall under three headings. The soils of the ridge are largely categorised within the Brickfield 1 Association (Rudeforth *et al* 1984, 94), described as slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged fine loamy soils, together with soils of the better drained Manod Association (Rudeforth *et al* 1984, 183), which are fine loamy and sly deposits over rock. The valley floor of the Bran carries soils of the Teme Association (Rudeforth *et al* 1984, 237), which is river alluvium with deep, stoneless, permeable silty soils. It is assumed that the proposed road corridor is largely founded on soils of the Brickfield 1 Association.
- 2.3 Cursory examination of the area suggests that beyond the built-up area around Llanfair-ary-bryn church and the gardens accompanying the settlement, modern land use is generally given over to permanent pasture. The presence of ridge and furrow, however, indicates that arable farming has occurred in the past.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The basis of the assessment as determined in the *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges* Volume 11 Section 3 Part 2, Section 8/12 (1993) require the following:
 - i) the collation of all data held in the regional SMR;
 - ii) a review of readily available vertical and oblique aerial photographic information;
 - iii) a review of first edition Ordnance Survey maps and other readily available historic maps;
 - iv) field visits to determine the present condition of all known sites, but as noted above current circumstances militated against this element of the assessment;

and to these may be added:

- v) identification of any statutory or non-statutory designations of features or landscapes specific to the historic environment
- 3.2 The following archives and repositories were consulted in person:
 - the regional Sites and Monuments Records (SMR) held by the Cambria Archaeology; sites already identified during the preliminary enquiry (see para 1.2 above) were confirmed; a statement on listed buildings, supplied by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments to Cambria Archaeology was consulted, some other information on local designations was provided;
 - ii) the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth; for early Ordnance Survey maps and other readily available historic maps; and the Carmarthenshire Record Office in Camarthen for any other early maps that might exist;
 - iii) the National Monuments Record, a department of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW), in Aberystwyth; for site records

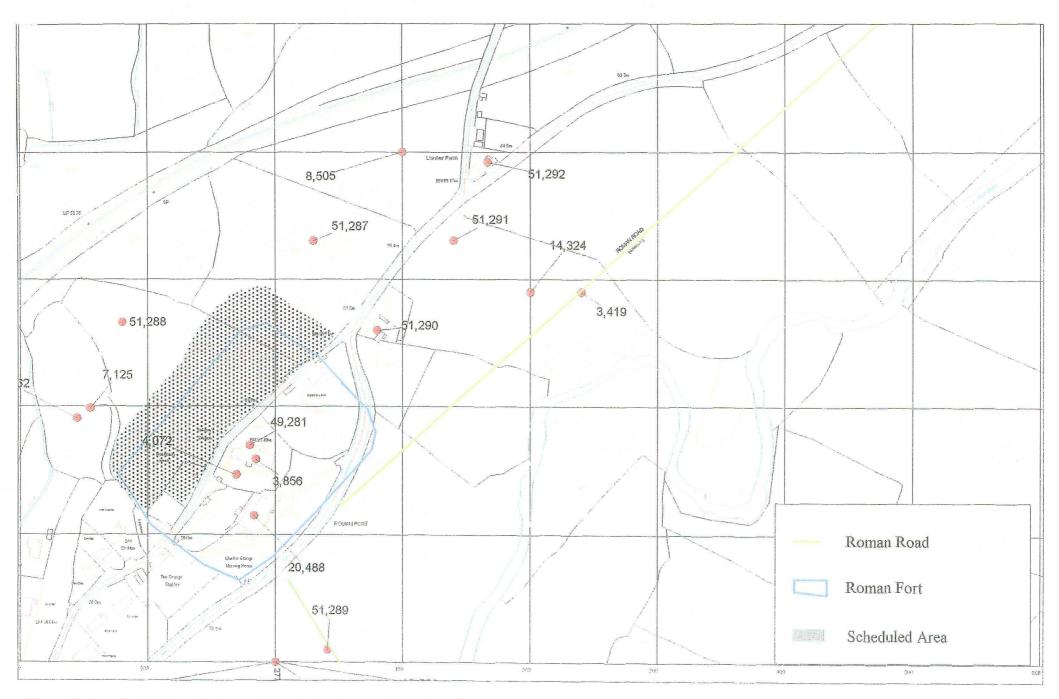


Fig 1: Archaeological sites in the vicinity of the proposed A483 trunk road improvement at Llanfair-ar-y-bryn

and for access to vertical aerial photography held by itself and also by the Central Register of Air Photography for Wales, a section of the Welsh Assembly in Cardiff.

- 3.3 All of the sites recorded during the desk-top and cursory field examination were entered into a Foxpro database and, where appropriate, mapped in relation to the corridor using MapInfo software. Archaeological sites are distinguished by a single dot which gives no guide to the overall size of the site that it denotes, while significant linear features, if present, are indicated by lines.
- 3.5 Only those archaeological sites which are within, or on the perimeter of the area of interest have been shown on the accompanying plan. Cambria Archaeology's system of numbering sites and other features by a unique P(rimary) R(ecord) N(umber) has been adopted here.

4 DESIGNATIONS AND CONSTRAINTS

- 4.1 In accordance with the *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges* Volume 11 Section 3 Part 2, Section 13.5 (i) (1993), the following designations have been considered and/or identified:
 - i) Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales. All of the area of interest falls within the Tywi Valley Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (area no. 7) (Cadw 1998, 25).
 - ii) Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. No such parks or gardens have been recognized in the area of interest.
 - iii) Conservation Area. There is no conservation area currently designated for the area around Llanfair-ar-y-bryn church (information from source at Brecon Beacons National Park).
 - iv) Scheduled Ancient Monuments. A significant portion of the Roman fort is scheduled as Cm188.
 - v) Listed buildings. The area of interest includes the church of St Mary which carries a Grade I listing, and two monuments in the churchyard which are listed as Grade II.
 - vi) National Trust inalienable land. It has not been possible in the time available to establish whether any inalienable land is present in the area of interest.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPONENT OF THE CORRIDOR

- 5.1 There is a significant amount of archaeological interest on and around this relatively short road corridor (listed in Table 1 and detailed in Appendix 1), with one of the denser concentrations of archaeological monuments in the region.
- 5.2 Chronologically, the earliest features are the Roman roads and the Roman fort, known to all as the Llandovery fort, even though it is at Llanfair-ar-y-bryn (see Fig 1¹). The fort lies at the heart of a series of roads, although the complete communications pattern around

Llandovery has yet to be established. The main road known as the Via Julia Montana (PRN 3419) ran north-eastwards up the valley of Afon Bran. It is marked on modern Ordnance Survey maps in the vicinity of the fort, probably as a result of having been identified as a linear cropmark in the 1960s, although there is some limited evidence to suggest it may have survived as an earthwork into the immediate post-Second World War years. A second road running south-south-eastwards from very near to the southern corner of the fort, and immediately outside the area of interest is not so well-recorded but again has appeared as a linear cropmark in the past.

- 5.3 Llandovery fort (PRN 4072) extends over about 2.4ha, its outline well-defined, but little of its internal layout known. Its significance is indicated, however, by the fact that a large proportion of the sites is scheduled as a monument of national importance. The modern A483 clips the southern-eastern side and eastern corner of its defences at the point where the proposed road corridor commences.
- Many permanent Roman forts acted as magnets for civilian occupation which gradually accreted around the forts. Such occupation would consist of houses, workshops, roads and other features associated with established communities, the whole area around any fort being known as a *vicus*. That a *vicus* existed at Llandovery there can be no doubt and more or less tangible evidence has come to light in the form of earthworks (PRN 51287) cropmarks (PRN 14324) and sporadic finds (PRN 8505). But the full extent of the *vicus* remains uncertain, although potentially any area in the vicinity of the fort sufficiently level to accommodate houses could have been used. Existing roads would always have been attractive, and it is logical to assume that elements of the *vicus* would have edged Via Julia Montana. In addition other military elements would also have lain outside the fort. The bath house seems to have been to the north-west, assuming the 18th-century record about the vicarage is correct (PRN 7125) and one Roman cemetery is already known under the Maesglas housing estate to the south of the fort, but others might be anticipated.
- 5.5 The date at which a church was first established within the abandoned defences of the Roman fort cannot be established with any precision, but the location itself might suggest that a pre-Norman foundation was likely. The present building certainly has fabric that goes back to the 12th century.
- 5.6 Whether a settlement grew around the church in the Middle Ages is also unknown. There is the tradition that a monastic grange (or farm) was established here, but the argument in its favour seems more a wishful reaction to the establishment of a 19th-century house of that name than to any medieval documentation. But the appearance of what appear to be, at least from aerial photographs, broad cultivation ridges to both the north-west (PRN 51288) and south-east (PRN 12284) of the fort signals arable cultivation in this area in the Middle Ages and could suggest some nearby medieval settlement.
- 5.7 In more recent centuries farms have developed. Llanfair Farm emerged in the mid 19th century having previously been an inn or public house, while another, unnamed agricultural holding which may have originated as a cottage lay against the bend in the road near the church (PRN 51290). Llanfair House immediately to the north-east of the church was certainly in existence in 1840, but Llanfair Grange on the other side had yet to be built at that time. The railway cut though this landscape in the later 19th century and, just outside the area of interest the Llandovery Union Workhouse had been established by the 1880s some 350m to the south-west of the church.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE

- 6.1 The archaeology of the area of interest is classified according to its perceived significance (Table 1 below and Appendix 1). The categories, with the exception of Category E, are based on those given in the Department of Environment, Transport and Regions' *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges* Volume 11 Section 3 Part 2 (1993). Category E has been introduced to cover archaeological sites and monuments whose existence went unacknowledged in the Design Manual.
 - i) Category A sites are those which are considered by CPAT to be of primary significance, either potentially of national importance or already designated by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments as being of scheduled ancient monument status and thus of national importance. Three sites in this category have been identified in the area of interest or its immediate vicinity.
 - ii) Category B sites are sites of regional importance. These sites are not of sufficient importance to justify scheduling, but are nevertheless important in aiding the understanding and interpretation of the archaeology of the region. Two sites in this category have been identified in the area of interest or its immediate vicinity.

Table 1: Archaeological features within the area of interest

PRN	Direct impact	Name	Site Type	Site Period	Category
	from current				
	road proposal				
3419	Possible	Via Julia Montana	Road	Roman	В
3856		St Mary's Church,	Church	Medieval	A
		Llanfair-ar-y-bryn			
4072	Possible	Llandovery fort	Fort	Roman	A
7125		Vicarage House	House	Post Medieval	E
8505		Llanfair Farm	Finds	Roman	E
		occupation debris	scatter		
10410		Llanfair grange	Grange	Medieval	E
10562		Llandovery Roman	Bath house	Roman	Е
		bath-house			
10568		Quernstone	Find	Roman?	E
12284		Llanfair ridge and	Ridge and	Medieval?	C
		furrow I	furrow		
14324	Probable	Llanfair building	Building	Roman?	E
20488		Llanfair Grange	House	Post Medieval	C
49281		St Mary's churchyard,	Churchyard	Medieval	A
51287		Llandovery fort vicus	Earthworks	Roman	Е
51288		Llanfair ridge and	Ridge and	Medieval?	С
		furrow II	furrow		
51289		Llanfair Roman Road	Road	Roman	В
51290	Certain	Llanfair buildings	Building	Post Medieval	E
51291	Certain	Llanfair earthworks	Earthwork	Unknown	E
51292		Llanfair Farm	Building	Post Medieval	С

- iii) Category C sites are sites of local importance. These sites are of lesser importance, but are nevertheless useful in aiding the understanding and interpretation of the archaeology of the local area. Four sites in this category have been identified in the area of interest or its immediate vicinity.
- iv) Category D sites are either sites of minor importance or those which are so badly damaged that too little now remains to justify their inclusion in a higher grade. However, no sites in this category has been identified in the area of interest.
- v) Category E sites are sites which have been identified, but whose importance cannot be assessed from fieldwork and desk-top study alone. An archaeological evaluation would generally be required to categorise such a site more accurately if the proposal was likely to affect it in any way. Nine sites in this category have been identified in the area of interest or its immediate vicinity.

7 MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The potential impact of the proposed road corridor on the known archaeology has been assessed on the basis of its depiction on Drawing no. 75578-04 provided by the consultants, Mott MacDonald Ltd, and appropriate mitigation measures are outlined below in both tabulated form and as free text. It should be stressed, however, that considerations are outlined in the free text (paras 7.4-7.7) which cannot be not tabulated because they do not form components of the known archaeological resource. These recommendations are offered solely for the guidance of the Design Organisation by their archaeological advisor (in this instance, CPAT Contracting) and they should be aware that the archaeological curator for the region might offer other recommendations in the event that she/he were to be consulted.
- 7.2 It hardly needs to be stressed that any alteration to the line of that road corridor will have undoubted implications for both the archaeology and the historic landscape of the area. Furthermore any works associated with the proposed road such as work compounds, access lines, etc, could have an impact outside the corridor, and would need to be considered in the light of Table 2.
- 7.3 **Terminology.** The following standard archaeological terms are used below as recommended mitigation measures.
 - i) Preservation in situ: where a site is considered to be of sufficient significance it may be considered appropriate to preserve the site in its present form, condition and location.
 - ii) Preservation by record: where proposals will inevitably lead to the loss of a site, sufficient recording should be undertaken to provide a full, accurate and permanent record of its nature, form, significance and dating. Preservation by record can take a number of forms, depending on the nature of the site in question, and may be achieved with or without excavation and could include any or all of the following: written record; drawn record; photographic record; artefactual record; survey and environmental sampling.
 - iii) Evaluation: where insufficient information exists for a decision to be made regarding an archaeological sites future management, a programme of investigative work may be

proposed. Such investigation may include geophysical survey, topographical survey and trial excavation.

- iv) Watching brief: a watching brief may be recommended to include archaeological monitoring of all relevant groundworks, including topsoiling, in order to identify and record any previously unknown archaeological remains which may be revealed. Sufficient time should be allowed for adequate recording of any remains that are encountered.
- v) Landscape Assessment: where a proposed development occurs within an area designated as a landscape of historic interest in either of the two published Registers of historic landscapes (Cadw 1998; Cadw 2001), an assessment known as an Assessment of the Significance of Impact of Development on Historic Landscape Areas (ASIDOHL) should be conducted (Cadw 2003). Where a proposed development occurs outside any of the designated areas an ASIDOHL may still be advisable, depending on the scale of the development.
- vi) Visual mitigation: visual impact is to some degree a subjective element of any assessment, if only because of personal perceptions, but is deemed to be a material consideration for scheduled monuments, and by extension those monuments that are of similar significance but not scheduled. Mitigation measures may be suggested but direct contact between the development agency and Cadw and/or other organizations involved directly in the preservation and protection of the historic environment may be beneficial.
- 7.4 The proposed road line cuts across an area of pasture which lies immediately to the north-east of the Roman fort and very close to the projected line of the Roman road known as the Via Julia Montana (PRN 3419). While the presence here of the Roman *vicus* cannot be confirmed with certainly, it is more than likely that this gently sloping area was favoured for civilian settlement, and the presence of building remains known only from cropmarks (PRN 14324), together with other evidence from nearby (PRN 51287) strengthens the contention. It is suggested that initial mitigation might include geophysics along the line of the corridor to establish the presence and density of archaeology. Geophysics can at best only provide a guide and is not infallible, so in the event that elements of the *vicus* are identified or suspected the possible options would appear to be to move the proposed road line or to preserve by record through total excavation in advance of the roadworks.
- 7.5 Several features along the line of the road have been noted from the adjacent trunk but not yet examined on the ground because of access restrictions. These will need to be examined in more detail before any mitigation can be recommended.
- 7.6 The area of interest as a whole falls within a designated Landscape of Special Historic Interest and this should be considered as a significant constraint. An ASIDOHL will be required for this development to conform with advice currently being given by Cadw; Welsh Historic Monuments and the Countryside Council for Wales.
- 7.7 The proposed road will have a visual impact on some elements of the known archaeology identified here, but this impact will vary according to the nature and location of the archaeological site. Of most importance are those sites categorized as of national (A) and regional importance (B). For the scheduled ancient monument of Llandovery Roman fort (PRN 4072), it is recommended that the development agency discuss with Cadw, through their regional inspector, the potential visual impact, and whether there are means of reducing it.

Arguably the other Category A sites – the church (PRN 3856) and churchyard (PRN 49281) - are already screened from the proposed road line but this matter should be examined further. Because of their nature the Category B sites may not require further consideration in this context.

Table 2: Archaeology and Historic Landscape on line of corridor: recommended mitigation

PRN	Name	Category	Impact	Mitigation
3419	Via Julia Montana	В	Limited potential direct impact	Evaluate; re-assess roadline as necessary
3856	St Mary's Church, Llanfair-ar-y-bryn	A	Visual impact	Screen road as appropriate
4072	Llandovery Roman fort	A	Potential direct impact; visual impact	Evaluate; re-assess roadline if necessary
7125	Vicarage House	E	None anticipated	
8505	Llanfair Farm Roman occupation debris	Е	None anticipated	
10410	Llanfair grange	E	Unknown	
10562	Llandovery Roman bath-house	Е	None anticipated	
10568	Quernstone	Е	None anticipated	
12284	Llanfair ridge and furrow I	С	None anticipated	
14324	Llanfair building	Е	Potential direct impact	Evaluate; geophysics; preservation by record
20488	Llanfair Grange	C	None anticipated	
49281	St Mary's churchyard	A	Visual impact	Screen road as appropriate
51287	Llandovery fort vicus	Е	None anticipated	
51288	Llanfair ridge and furrow II	С	None anticipated	
51289	Llanfair Roman Road	В	None anticipated	
51290	Llanfair buildings	Е	Potential direct impact	Fieldwork assessment; preservation by record
51291	Llanfair earthworks	Е	Potential direct impact	Fieldwork assessment; preservation by record
51292	Llanfair Farm	С	None anticipated	

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

8.1 The writer would particularly like to thank the staff of: the Regional Sites and Monuments Record at Cambria Archaeology in Llandeilo and particularly Mrs M Manwaring, of the National Monument Record in Aberystwyth; and of the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth.

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Turvey, R K, 1990, Llandovery Castle and the Pipe Rolls, *Carmarthen Antiquary* 26, 5-12

9.2 Cartographic sources (printed)

c.1820 OS surveyor's draft map

1886 First edition Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map (Carmarthen 18.13) published 1888

1983 Soils of England and Wales (Sheet 2 - Wales) Soil Survey of England and Wales map and legend.

9.3 Cartographic sources (manuscript)

1840 Tithe survey: Llandingad Within

Estate Maps

1782 NLW - Llwyn y Brain Deposit Volume (of no relevance)

1829 NLW - Estate Maps: Vol 79

9.4.1 Aerial photographic sources (verticals)

Meridian Airmaps Ltd 270/230/29830-1; dated 1955

9.4.2 Aerial photographic sources (obliques)

DAT/SN73NE2; not dated

RCAHMW 003501-21/22; dated 25/01/2000

Notes

- The accompanying figure depicts the known archaeology of the area, but the following caveats need to be taken into account.
 - a) all the archaeological and historical features, other than those mentioned below, are depicted by single red dots regardless of their size, whether known or potential. No deductions regarding their areal extent can be gauged from the plan.
 - b) the course of the main Roman road is depicted here as shown on modern Ordnance Survey maps. Recent work by Cambria Archaeology indicates that there are minor variations from this generalised alignment and thus the line as shown should not be considered as precisely metrically accurate.
 - c) The precise perimeter of the Roman fort has not been established, particularly at the north-east corner. The depiction on the map is for general guidance only.
 - d) the scheduled area relating to the Roman fort as shown is for general guidance only. Cadw, on behalf of the National Assembly, are responsible for a precise definition of the protected area and should be consulted for a definitive statement.

Appendix 1: Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites

PRN 3419 SN77243529

Via Julia Montana

A major Roman road running north-eastwards from (or past) the fort of Llandovery. In the vicinity of Llanfair-ar-y-bryn it is usually seen as a cropmark, but there is circumstantial evidence to suggest that it may still have been apparent as an earthwork after the Second World War.

PRN 3856 SN76983516

St Mary's Church, Llanfair-ar-y-bryn

Important medieval church set within the Roman fort of Llanfair (Llandovery), its earliest fabric from the 12th century. Possibly it has pre-Norman Conquest origins, but a suggestion that it is set on an artificial mound of early Norman date (see Arber-Cooke 1994, 45) are unsubstantiated.

PRN 4072 SN76963515

Llandovery Roman fort

Roman fort, sometimes considered to be the Alabum recorded in the Ravenna Cosmography and generally known now by the name of the nearby town of Llandovery. It is conventionally depicted as having the typical playing-card shape of the Roman fort and has been estimated to cover an area of around 2.4ha. A more recent plan implies that the earthworks of the fort are, however, rather more complex than had previously been considered. Excavations in 1961 and 1962 revealed four phases of construction, and suggested that it might have been occupied from pre-Flavian times through to the mid 2nd century AD.

PRN 7125 SN76853520

Vicarage House

The vicarage is said to have been built in the 18th century, possibly on the site of the Roman bath-house (see PRN 10562), or some other Roman building that lay outside the fort. Roman finds are also recorded as having come from close to the building. The vicarage is shown on late 19th-century and early 20th-century maps but seems to have been demolished, though when and why this happened has not been established.

PRN 8505 SN77103540

Llanfair Farm Roman ocupation debris

Roman occupation debris found in the field to the south-west of Llanfair Farm in 1979.

PRN 10410 SN770350

Llanfair grange

The presence of a medieval grange at Llanfair has been claimed by several authorities including William Rees (1932) but as yet no substantive evidence for its existence has come to light.

PRN 10562 SN768351

Llandovery Roman bath-house

A building of Roman date, believed to be the fort bath-house, or alternatively a mansio was destroyed in the building of the vicarage (see PRN 7125).

PRN 10568 SN7735

Ouernstone

A quernstone of presumed Roman date and a stone phallic symbol were found in 1986 but the precise location of the discovery is unclear.

PRN 12284

SN770350

Llanfair ridge and furrow I

Ridge and furrow has been identified from aerial photography in a field below and to the south-east of the fort close to Afon Bran. The photographer, G D B Jones, thought it might be associated with the medieval settlement of Llandovery.

PRN 14324

SN77203529

Llanfair building

The outline of possible buildings of Roman date were seen as cropmarks during aerial reconnaissance in 1983. It should be noted, too, that an authority, VE Nash-Williams, as early as 1929 an authority mentioned traces of buildings to the east of the fort.

PRN 20488

SN76983511

Llanfair Grange

The house known as Llanfair Grange was built in earlier part of the 19th century, for it is shown on Ordnance Surveyor's drawings of 1811x19. Previously it appears to have been known as St Mary's Cottage, while in 1841x6 it was known as Sackville Place. There is also a tradition that this was the site of a medieval grange (a monastic farm) but virtually no evidence to confirm that this was the case (see PRN 10410).

PRN 49281

SN76983517

St Mary's churchyard, Llanfair-ar-y-bryn

The churchyard is small, but may have its origins in the early medieval period.

PRN 51287

SN77033533

Llandovery fort vicus

Earthworks noted by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust in the two fields between the Roman fort and Llanfair Farm on the north side of the main road are considered to represent elements of the Roman vicus.

PRN 51288

SN76883526

Llanfair ridge and furrow II

Ridge and furrow has been identified from aerial photography in a field immediately to the north-west of he fort.

PRN 51289 SN

SN77043501

Llanfair Roman Road

A Roman road identified primarily as a cropmark, although a surviving agger has been claimed close to Afon Bran, runs south-south-eastwards from the southern corner of the Llandovery fort and across the river valley.

PRN 51290

SN77083526

Llanfair buildings

Extant agricultural buildings, now largely abandoned. Associated gardens? Shown on 1st edition of 25" map in 1888 and also Tithe survey of 1840.

PRN 51291

SN77143533

Llanfair earthworks

Minor earthworks are visible in adjacent fields, but their significance cannot as yet be established.

PRN 51292

SN77173539

Llanfair Farm

Now a dwelling, Llanfair Farm was known as such in the late 19th century. It apparently had its origins as a toll house of the Llandovery and Llangadock Trust soon after 1779, and the adjacent house became the Black Ox inn in the early part of the 19th century, but became a farm in the 1840s.