

Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report

Ffosfach Uchaf Farm

W/12/1690

ACA Report Number 2001/27

ACA Project Record No 37595

**Report prepared for CCW
by ACA**

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Tir Gofal Application Number W/12/1690

Address Ffosfach Uchaf Farm
Heol Pencoed Isaf, Bynea, Llanelli

NGR SN55829938

TG Project Officer Ann Marie McDevitt, Llandeilo

Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology Project Record Number 37595

Visit Officer Anwen Cooper

Visit Date 15/02/01

TIR GOFAL FARM VISIT REPORT

This report is intended to provide a statement on the condition and recommended management of all known archaeological and historical sites and features on this farm at the time it was visited by Cambria Archaeology. This information will be used to inform the Tir Gofal Management Agreement for the farm. The report structure is as follows:

- explanation of archaeological site status and management categories used in the gazetteer.
- a brief statement on the historical background to the farm which enables the reader to put the specific sites into context.
- the main body of the report is a gazetteer of sites previously known or identified during the visit. The gazetteer identifies sites by their Primary Record Number (PRN) which is the reference number used in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). It also locates them by National Grid Reference (NGR).
- list of sources consulted during the research for this project.
- explanation of colour coding used on the report map(s).
- site location maps identifying by PRN the location of each site in the gazetteer.
- photographs of specific sites are included where the author considers it useful in order to identify a site or stress a particular management issue.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE STATUS

The following terms which are used in gazetteer refer to site status categories.

SAM Scheduled Ancient Monument.

SAMs are notified under section 1 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The register of SAMs is maintained and administered by Cadw.

LBI, LBII* & LBII Listed Building categories.

Listed buildings are notified under section 1 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The list is maintained and administered by Cadw. Local Authorities are statutory consultees for listed buildings.

HLW Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales.

Defined by the *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales*, Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales: Part 2.1 Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest; Part 2.2 Landscape of Special Historic Interest. The register is advisory only and has no statutory powers. The register was compiled by Cadw in partnership with the Countryside Council for Wales and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

HGP Register of Historic Gardens & Parks.

Defined by the *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales*, Part 1 Parks & Gardens. The register is advisory only and has no statutory powers. The register was compiled by Cadw in partnership with the Countryside Council for Wales and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

TIR GOFAL SITE MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

As used in accompanying gazetteer.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Category A | Sites and Monuments of National Importance |
| Category B | Sites and Monuments of Regional Importance |
| Category C | Sites/Features of Local Importance |
| Category D | Sites/Features needing further investigation (including damaged sites or sites with no physical definition). |

Description of Ffosfach Uchaf Farm, PRN 42316

Ffosfach Uchaf Farm lies on a south-facing slope overlooking salt marsh at the southern end of the Lougher Estuary. It is situated about 5km to the east of Llanelli. The archaeology of the farm is dominated by the extensive evidence of industrial activity which dates from the seventeenth century onwards and includes features relating to lead working, copper working, coal mining and quarrying. The original farm buildings were demolished in the late twentieth century. The rubble from these building has been built into the walls of the current farmhouse but little now remains of the agricultural heritage of the farm. Both the agricultural and industrial histories of the farm are extremely well documented. The land at Ffosfach Uchaf appears to have originally belonged to Ffosfach Farm which lies about 500m to the southwest, as it was recorded on an undated late eighteenth century estate map. An early nineteenth century map of the same area refers to Ffosfach Ucha as the principal farm and mentions the old farm at Ffosfach, which appears to have been deserted by this time. The field system that is depicted on these maps is of particular interest and appears to have consisted of a shared system of strip fields bearing the old Welsh name of Rhandir which may be derived from pre-Norman times (PRN 42317). The basic structure of the fields has changed very little since this time. The earliest record of industrial activity in the area is in 1618 when a reference was made to mining at Ffosfach (Symmons MV, 1979). The earliest map evidence is provided by a Plan of Directions for ships to come in safe into Burry in 1757 on which Pencoed lead works (PRN 30662) which lies just to the south of Ffosfach Uchaf was depicted. A series of documentary references and historical maps record various agreements and attempts to extract coal from the area during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the traces of which can be found across the holding (PRN 8767). In the early nineteenth century, after various unsuccessful attempts to extract coal from the land within the holding, the focus of activity switched to mines elsewhere and a copper works that was built to the south at Spitty Bank. The leadworks were deserted and re-used as farm buildings and the coal shafts were largely abandoned. The two railway lines that cross the holding (PRN 30662, 30739) and the reservoirs that lie to the north of the farm (PRN 42310, 42311) provide relate to this later activity. Most of the archaeological evidence on the holding remains relatively undisturbed. The owner has an active interest in the historical aspects of the farm itself and the area as a whole.

Management Recommendations

See individual site recommendations.

PRN 8767 **Site name** FFOSFACH PIT **NGR** SS55839932
Site type COALMINE **Period** Post Med **Site Status**

Description

Area of coal mining, first mentioned in 1618 although most of the workings within the holding of Ffosfach Uchaf itself date to the eighteenth century. The shafts were sunk to exploit what was referred to (c.1755-1761) as the 'Marsh Vein' of the 'Swansea Five Feet Vein' that runs from Swansea westwards towards Llanelli. The shafts within the holding (PRNs 42306, 42309, 42313, 42314) represent various separate attempts to work this vein over the course of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, most of which were unsuccessful. Much of this exploitation was probably opportunistic and small-scale. Many of the earlier shafts and workings have been infilled or destroyed and are no longer identifiable on the ground. See individual site descriptions for more details.

Recommendations

See individual site recommendations for more detail.

Management Category C **Visited by** AJC **Visited On** 15/02/01

PRN 15960 **Site name** FFOSFACH UCHAF FARM **NGR** SS560996
Site type QUARRY **Period** Post Med **Site Status**

Description

Large quarry (c.0.25ha), situated immediately to the east of Ffosfach Uchaf Farm. It was first recorded on the 1st edition OS map of 1878 although an eighteenth century coal shaft is located on its northern side (PRN 42309) and it is likely that some quarrying occurred here before the late nineteenth century (plate 1). The quarrying may have been associated with the construction of the nearby Llangennech and Llanelly railways in the early nineteenth century. A large pool of water in the southeastern corner could mark the site of a well that was recorded on the 1st edition OS map in 1878.

Recommendations

The quarry has been used by previous owners for dumping large quantities of rubbish and a substantial (c.9m by 12m) steel girder and breeze block structure has been constructed at its centre for storing heavy plant machinery. The quarry faces are relatively stable and are overgrown. The rubbish should be cleared. The quarry faces should be left undisturbed.

Management Category C **Visited by** AJC **Visited On** 15/02/01

PRN 30662 **Site name** PENCOED LEADWORKS**NGR** SS56069954**Site type** LEAD SMELTING HOUSE **Period** Post Med**Site Status** SAM**Description**

Pencoed lead works, first established at the initiative of Sir Thomas Stepney in 1754-5. It was first recorded on a 'Plan of directions for ships to come in safe to Burry' in 1757. Local coal was used to smelt the lead ore which was shipped up the Lougher Estuary to an adjacent quay. An associated canal was planned by William Fenton in 1770 but was never realised. References suggest that the leadworks were financially unsuccessful and the works closed in the 1770's. The 'Old lead house at Pencoed' was leased to General George Warde in 1802 and the building may have been briefly reused for copper smelting in the early nineteenth century. It was later reused as Ty-coch Farmhouse and was recorded as such on the 1st edition OS map of 1878. The southeastern end of the building was destroyed by the construction of the modern route of the Llanelly railway to the south after 1905. The standing remains include a large rectangular building to the north (orientation east-west) and a lower, abutting structure to the south (orientation north-south) forming an L-shape in plan (plate 2). Both are of rubble and lime construction with dressed stone quoins and gabled roofs. The southern and western walls of the northern part stand to roof height. The footings of the northern wall stand to a height of 0.5m and are overgrown. The western gable wall has two doorways and a tall central window with vertical oval oculi to either side. The interior is overgrown with ivy and young trees and has been used more recently for dipping sheep and dumping farm machinery. The scheduling information (1996) also records the survival of a nineteenth century boiler within this area. The southern gable wall of the building to the south stands to roof height and has a large blocked-in window. The remaining walls are lower (c.0.6m) and the interior is extremely overgrown with bracken. The area around the buildings is uneven and may contain the subsurface remains of watercourses, tracks and spoil tips.

Map evidence suggests that the leadworks may also have been associated with a counting house which is depicted on a late eighteenth century map of the area immediately to the north. Both the tower and lead works are depicted in a similar style on contemporary maps with distinctive crosses on their rooves. The foundations of the counting house now lie in a piece of land just to the north of the holding.

Recommendations

The lead works is one of the earliest non-ferrous metal smelting sites in Wales with upstanding remains. It has been identified as being of national importance and was designated as a scheduled ancient monument in 1996. The buildings are ruinous and structurally unstable. The walls are overgrown with ivy and several of the dressed stone quoins and lintels have been robbed. Some concrete lintels were inserted by CADW in 1996 to arrest decay, but the condition of the buildings appears to have deteriorated since this date. The ivy should be cut and the walls consolidated to ensure its survival as a standing structure. The interior should be cleared of rubbish and any intrusive vegetation should be controlled to minimise further damage to the structure. The surrounding area should not be disturbed. The association between the leadworks and the counting tower should be investigated further.

Management Category A**Visited by** AJC**Visited On** 15/02/01

PRN 30739 **Site name** LLANGENNECH COAL COMPANY'S **NGR** SN561007;SS
Site type TRAMROAD **RAILWAY** **Period** Post Med **Site Status** 5

Description

Section of the Llangennech Coal Company's railway which ran from Llangennech Quay to Spitty Bank. The railway was built in 1826/27 to alleviate transportation difficulties between Llangennech Quay (where coal was delivered) and Spitty Bank Copper Works. Its construction restricted local access to the marshes and caused great controversy. Its use was consequently short-lived and it was abandoned in 1829 when the landowners lease was surrendered. Two sections of the former railway lie within the boundaries of Ffosfach Uchaf Farm.

The section which runs across the holding from northeast to southwest to the north of the later Llanelly railway was identified during previous surveys as a possible sea defence (PRN 31607). Most of this section survives as a substantial raised embankment (c.2m high by 5m wide), except at its northeastern end where it is cut into natural rock. A fine stone-built bridge crosses a culvert beneath the railway line midway along its length. This section was reused by the Llanelly Railway and Dock Company for their Llanelli/Llandeilo Railway (PRN 30866) in the late nineteenth century and is now cut by the modern Llanelly railway at either end. The section to the south of the Llanelly railway line runs from north to south across marshland. It was reputedly constructed from copper slag from the Spitty copper works. Access rights to the River Lougher dictated that the railway ran along the high water mark for most of its length. This section of the railway was known locally as the bulwark and following its abandonment acted as a sea defence. It now survives as a low (c.0.7m high by 2.5m wide) embankment.

Recommendations

The section of the railway to the north of the modern Llanelly Railway line is in good condition and part of it is still used as a footpath/trackway. It is completely grassed over and the sides are overgrown with brambles, reeds and thorn. Some piles of rubble have been left along its sides and the bridge over the culvert has been repaired with concrete. The top of the embankment should be kept clear and the rubble removed from along it. Any further repairs or alterations to the bridge should be carried out using appropriate traditional materials.

Management Category C

Visited by AJC

Visited On 15/02/01

PRN 30866 **Site name** LLANELLY RAILWAY **NGR** SS5398;SS54
Site type RAILWAY **Period** Post Med **Site Status** 9

Description

Section of the Llanelly Railway and Dock Company railway, where it runs through the holding of Ffosfach Uchaf. It was built from Llanelli to the Ammanford district between 1828 and 1842 and was subsequently continued to Llandeilo and the Tywi valley. Its original route overlay that of the earlier Llangennech Coal Company railway (PRN 30739) to the north of the current Llanelly railway line and the earlier lead works at Pencoed (PRN 30662). It was recorded in this location on the 1st edition OS map of 1878. Some time after the 2nd edition OS map of 1905, the line was diverted to its current route that cuts across the site of Pencoed lead works (PRN 30662). This bend in the railway was locally renowned as a drop-off point for luxury food goods during wartime rationing and it is reputed that a pig was once slaughtered on the line here.

Recommendations

The railway is still used as a mainline route and the owner is not responsible for its management. No specific management recommendations.

Management Category D

Visited by AJC

Visited On 15/02/01

Tir Gofal Scheme	Tir Gofal Application No W/12/1690
Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites and Management Recommendations: Ffosfach Uchaf, Carmarthenshire	

PRN 31607 **Site name** FFOSFACH UCHAF **NGR** SS55829936
Site type SEA DEFENCES **Period** Post Med **Site Status**

Description

Sea defence recorded in an archaeological assessment of the Llanelli and Loughor Wetlands in 1997. No earthworks were visible. No earthworks of this nature were visible in the area at the time of the farm visit.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations.

Management Category D	Visited by AJC	Visited On 15/02/01
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PRN 31608 **Site name** FFOSFACH UCHAF **NGR** SS55879934
Site type PILLBOX **Period** Post Med **Site Status**

Description

Pillbox recorded during an archaeological assessment of the Llanelli and Lougher wetlands in 1997. No evidence of a structure of this nature was visible during the farm visit.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations.

Management Category D	Visited by AJC	Visited On 15/02/01
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PRN 31614 **Site name** FFOSFACH UCHAF **NGR** SS55859916
Site type SLUICE **Period** Post Med **Site Status**

Description

Site of a sluice, first recorded on the 1st edition OS map of 1878. It was more recently recorded during an archaeological assessment of the Llanelli and Lougher wetlands in 1997. Part of an iron and wooden structure survive within the drain at this point and probably represent the remains of this sluice. The underground drain which surfaces here holds a narrow iron pipe like that of the pipeline that runs alongside the Llangennech Coal Company Railway to the east of Ffosfach Uchaf Farm. It is possible that this sluice and drain form part of the extensive pipeline (PRN42307) that linked the reservoirs to the north of the farm to the Spitty copper works and later Bynea steel works on marshland to the south.

Recommendations

The remains of the sluice and underground drain should be left in-situ.

Management Category C	Visited by AJC	Visited On 15/02/01
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PRN 42306 **Site name** FFOSFACH UCHAF **NGR** SS55889961
Site type QUARRY;COALMINE **Period** Post Med **Site Status**

Description

Area of eighteenth century mining and quarrying set in open deciduous woodland to the west of Ffosfach Uchaf Farm. An old pit was recorded just to the south of here on an estate map of 1772 and early nineteenth century estate maps describe the area as wood and quarry. It may form part of a wider area of eighteenth century quarrying around Ffosfach which exploited the Swansea Five Feet Vein (PRN 8767). The evidence consists of a series of at least six rock-cut hollows which run along the south-facing slope. A narrow (c.3m wide) trackway runs to the south of these. The quarries range in size from c.4m by 3m by 1.8m deep to 15m by 15m by 8m deep.

Recommendations

The quarries are overgrown with bracken and young trees but are in a stable condition. They should be kept clear of rubbish and otherwise maintained in their current state.

Management Category C **Visited by** AJC **Visited On** 15/02/01

PRN 42307 **Site name** FFOSFACH UCHAF **NGR** SS56029960
Site type PIPELINE **Period** Post Med **Site Status**

Description

Extensive system of water pipes connecting the reservoirs to the north of Ffosfach Uchaf (PRNs 42310, 42311) to eighteenth and nineteenth century industrial plants on the salt marshes to the south. The section immediately to the southeast of Ffosfach Farm (PRN 15960) runs parallel to the Llangennech Coal Company's Railway on substantial (c. 1.5m by 1.5m by 4m tall) rubble and lime mortar pillars. It crosses the railway line further to the west. The water was carried in a narrow (c.0.3m in diameter) iron pipe. Some of the original pillars that supported the pipe have been replaced with brick versions. The remainder of the system presumably ran underground or has otherwise been removed. A similar pipe runs beneath ground to the sluice (PRN 31614) that drains onto the marshes further to the south. The exact purpose of the pipeline is unclear. However, the owner thinks that it formerly ran to the eighteenth century copperworks at Spitty bank and was later reused to supply water to the Bynea Steel works.

Recommendations

The upstanding section of the pipeline is in poor condition. The stonework on the pillars is crumbling and several are overgrown with ivy. The pipe itself is breached where it crosses the gateway to the quarry (PRN 15960). The ivy should be cut to prevent further damage and the stonework should be consolidated. The system should be retained as an integral part of the eighteenth and nineteenth century industrial history of the area.

Management Category C **Visited by** AJC **Visited On** 15/02/01

PRN 42308 **Site name** FFOSFACH UCHAF **NGR** SS56149966
Site type LANDING POINT **Period** Post Med **Site Status**

Description

Site of Thomas Bowen's Shipping Place, first recorded on an estate map of 1756. Thomas Bowen leased the coal seam at Ffosfach between 1748 and 1752 although most of his sinkings were unsuccessful (see PRN 42313, 42314). There is no clear evidence of the shipping place on the ground although the water channel that it probably stood upon survives.

Recommendations

The ground in this area should not be disturbed.

Management Category D **Visited by** AJC **Visited On** 15/02/01

PRN 42309 **Site name** FFOSFACH UCHAF **NGR** SN56049961
Site type COALMINE **Period** Post Med **Site Status**

Description

Coal shaft cut into an open rock face on the northern side of the quarry (PRN 15690) just to the east of Ffosfach Uchaf Farm. It forms part of an extensive area of quarrying that exploited the 'Marsh Vein' of the 'Swansea Five Feet Vein' (PRN 8767). This particular shaft is not recorded on any historic maps and its date of origin is uncertain. The entrance stands c. 10m up the quarry face and is defined by a c. 2m wide by 1m high opening which reputedly continues for some 75m into the hillside. A narrow gully (c.3m long by 0.4m wide) runs southwards from it and may have been associated with some sort of winding or hauling machinery. A low brick wall has been constructed about 1m inside the entrance to the shaft.

Recommendations

The shaft is now overgrown, but otherwise appears to be stable. The interior was not examined. The entrance should be kept clear of rubbish and some form of fencing should be considered to discourage access to the mine which may be dangerous.

Management Category C **Visited by** AJC **Visited On** 15/02/01

Tir Gofal Scheme	Tir Gofal Application No W/12/1690
Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites and Management Recommendations: Ffosfach Uchaf, Carmarthenshire	

PRN 42310 **Site name** FFOSFACH UCHAF **NGR** SN55749975
Site type RESERVOIR **Period** Post Med **Site Status**

Description

Large reservoir (c.0.6ha in area) situated to the north of Ffosfach Uchaf Farm. It was first recorded on the 1st edition OS map of 1878 although its date of construction may be earlier. According to the owner, it was constructed to provide water to the Bynea Steel works that lay on marshland about 1km to the south. It consists of a sluice at its western end, a reservoir, and a substantial dam and overflow at its eastern end. The site of the sluice is now marked by a pile of rubble in the inlet channel to the west of the reservoir. The dam consists of a substantial (c.5-8m wide) concrete and rubble bank. The overflow channel is situated in the southeastern corner of the reservoir. It is defined by rubble walls at its western end and runs steeply downslope into a channel that feeds an earlier reservoir (PRN 42311) further to the east. An iron pipe runs from the base of the dam and presumable links to the pipeline that runs through Ffosfach Uchaf Farm (PRN 42307). A small jetty and fishing piers are situated along the southern side of the reservoir and presumably relate to its later use. A narrow trackway (c.3m wide) runs along the southern side of the reservoir and may also be later.

Recommendations

The reservoir is in good condition and is not affected by current landuse practices. The loose rubble at the site of the former sluice should be left in-situ. The walls of the overflow channel should be maintained in a stable condition. The top of the dam is overgrown and if possible the vegetation in this area should be controlled.

Management Category C **Visited by** AJC **Visited On** 15/02/01

PRN 42311 **Site name** FFOSFACH UCHAF **NGR** SN55889974
Site type RESERVOIR **Period** Post Med **Site Status**

Description

Small reservoir (c.0.05ha in area) situated in woodland to the north of Ffosfach Uchaf Farm and to the east of the later Bynea steelworks reservoir (PRN 42310). It was first recorded on the 1st edition OS map of 1878 although it is probably earlier. According to the owner, it was built to supply water to the Spitty Copper works that lay some 1.5km to the south and were constructed by John Symmons in 1807. It may at one time have been connected to the pipeline that runs across Ffosfach Uchaf Farm and onto the marsh to the south (PRN 42307). The reservoir is now inaccessible. It appears to be completely silted up and overgrown.

Recommendations

The reservoir lies in woodland and is not affected by current landuse practices. It should be left undisturbed and kept clear of rubbish.

Management Category C **Visited by** AJC **Visited On** 15/02/01

Tir Gofal Scheme	Tir Gofal Application No W/12/1690
Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites and Management Recommendations: Ffosfach Uchaf, Carmarthenshire	

PRN 42312 **Site name** FFOSFACH UCHAF **NGR** SN55819923
Site type SEA DEFENCES **Period** Post Med **Site Status**

Description

Low curvilinear bank c.120m long by 0.5m high by 1m wide, skirting the southern side of a drain on marshland to the south of Ffosfach Uchaf Farm. It was first recorded on the 2nd edition OS map of 1905.

Recommendations

The sea defence is grassed over and in a stable condition. However the bank is being eroded by the horses that graze the entire salt marsh and the condition of this earthwork should be monitored.

Management Category C **Visited by** AJC **Visited On** 15/02/01

PRN 42313 **Site name** FFOSFACH UCHAF **NGR** SN55839933
Site type MINE SHAFT **Period** Post Med **Site Status**

Description

Disused mine shaft on salt marsh to the south of Ffosfach Uchaf Farm. The shaft is one of several sinkings that were made by Thomas Bowen who leased the land between 1748 and 1752. It forms part of an extensive area of small-scale mining round Ffosfach Farm that exploited the 'Marsh Vein' of the Swansea Five Feet Vein (PRN 8767). This particular cluster of shafts are described on a plan of 1772 as 'Pits sunk by Mr Bowen in order to make a new winning but was prevented by water'. The shaft has been covered with a brick and concrete structure. The overgrown footings of a rubble building (c.8m by 10m by 0.5m high) which may relate to the working of the shaft lie immediately to the south of this. A large lump of slag lies a further 10m to the south.

Recommendations

The shaft itself is now covered over and in a safe condition. The area to the south of it including the footings of the building is extremely wet and overgrown and the ground here is being eroded by horses. Any rubbish in the area should be removed and intrusive vegetation should be controlled in order to prevent further damage to the building footings. The condition of this site should be monitored.

Management Category C **Visited by** AJC **Visited On** 15/02/01

PRN 42314 **Site name** FFOSFACH UCHAF **NGR** SN55839921
Site type MINE SHAFT **Period** Post Med **Site Status**

Description

Site of disused mine shaft on salt marsh to the south of Ffosfach Uchaf Farm. The shaft is one of several sinkings that were made by Thomas Bowen who leased the land between 1748 and 1752. It forms part of an extensive area of small-scale mining round Ffosfach Farm that exploited the 'Marsh Vein' of the Swansea Five Feet Vein (PRN 8767). This particular cluster of shafts are described on a plan of 1772 as 'Pits sunk by Mr Bowen in order to make a new winning but was prevented by water'. The shaft has now been completely infilled and its site is now marked by an area of disturbed ground and the footings of several, small brick and breeze block structures which may relate to later activity in the area.

Recommendations

The former shaft has been infilled and should be in a stable condition. The ground in this area should be left undisturbed.

Management Category C **Visited by** AJC **Visited On** 15/02/01

Tir Gofal Scheme	Tir Gofal Application No W/12/1690
Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites and Management Recommendations: Ffosfach Uchaf, Carmarthenshire	

PRN 42315 **Site name** FFOSFACH UCHAF **NGR** SN56099960
Site type QUARRY **Period** Post Med **Site Status**

Description

Small quarry/coal working (c.20m by 3m by 5m deep) alongside the line of the Llangennech Coal Company Railway to the east of Ffosfach Uchaf Farm. It is not recorded on any historic maps and was reputedly used for opportunistic coal extraction during the strikes in the 1970's and 80's.

Recommendations

The quarry is overgrown with bramble and bracken and is in a stable condition. It should be maintained in its current state and kept clear of rubbish.

Management Category D **Visited by** AJC **Visited On** 15/02/01

PRN 42316 **Site name** FFOSFACH UCHAF **NGR** SN55989956
Site type FARMSTEAD **Period** Post Med **Site Status**

Description

See description of farm at beginning of report.

Recommendations

See individual site recommendations for more details.

Management Category C **Visited by** AJC **Visited On** 15/02/01

PRN 42317 **Site name** FFOSFACH UCHAF **NGR** SN55989956
Site type FIELD SYSTEM **Period** Post Med **Site Status**

Description

Relict system of strip fields, first recorded on late eighteenth and early nineteenth century estate maps of Ffosfach and Ffosfach Ucha Farms. Some of the fields that lie within the current holding are associated with the old Welsh term Rhandir (shared field) which may relate to a pre-Norman system of land tenure. The basic structure of fields has changed very little since this time. The current field boundaries consist of low, stone and earth banks (c.0.4-0.6m high) which are faced with laid rubble in places. They are now lined with mature trees.

Recommendations

The traditional field boundaries have not been actively maintained for some time. The hedges are overgrown and the banks are eroded in places. The survival of this early system of shared fields is rare and all of the existing boundaries should be retained and maintained in a stable condition.

Management Category C **Visited by** AJC **Visited On** 15/02/01

Map

Unknown, 1757, Plan of Directions for ships to come in safe into Burry, -
Ceibbin Wattee, 1785, Enclosure of the Lougher Estuary Marsh, -
Lieut.H.M.Denham, 1830, Bristol Channel Burry or Llanelly Inlet, 1:44000
Tithe Map, 1841, Tithe Map and Apportionment for the parish of Llanelly, -
Ordnance Survey, 1878, Carmarthenshire sheet LIX NW, 1:10560 1st edition
Ordnance Survey, 1878, Carmarthenshire sheet LIX SW, 1:10560 1st edition
Ordnance Survey, 1974, -, SS59NE

Written Description

Symons MV, 1979, Coal Mining in the Llanelly area - 16th century to 1829, -

TIR GOFAL COLOUR CODING

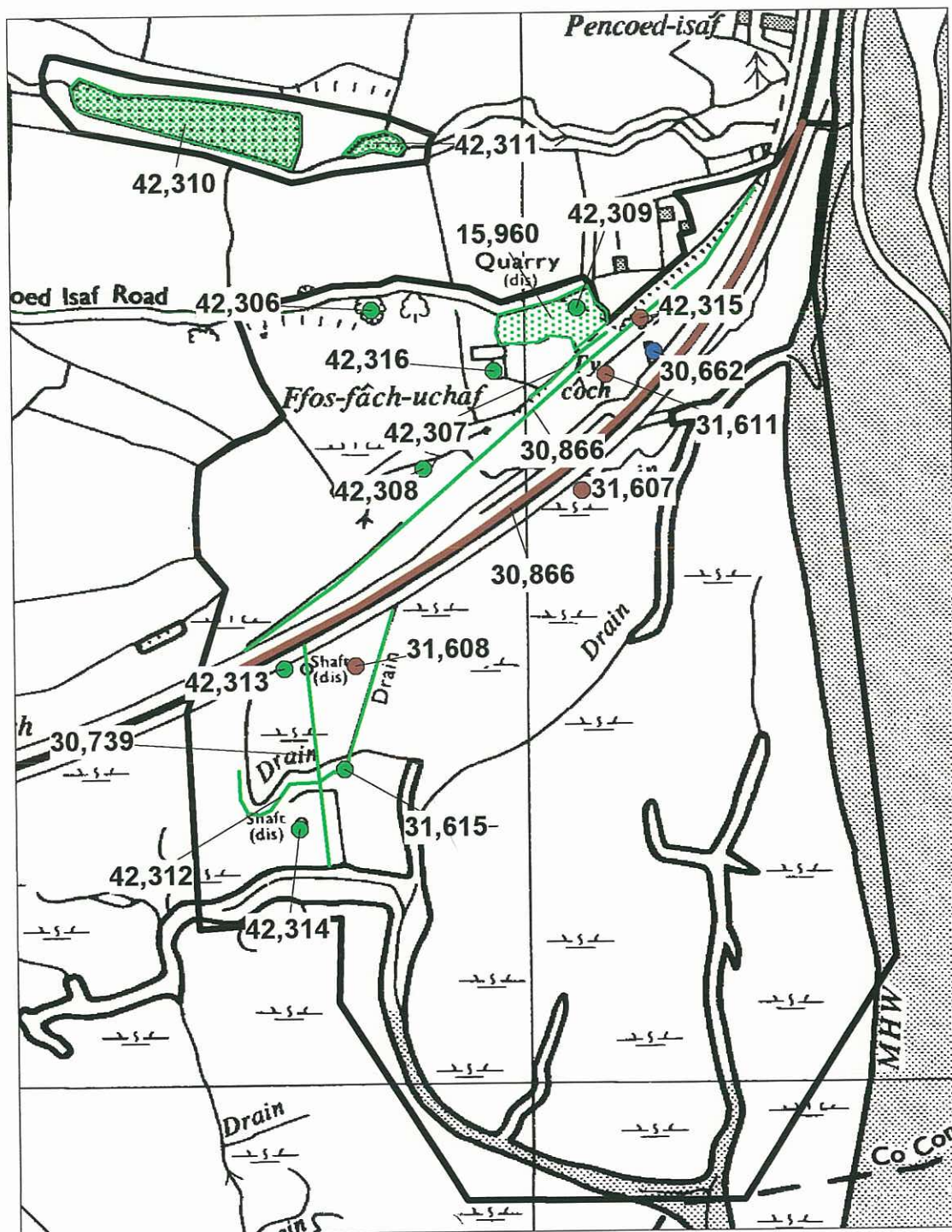
As used on accompanying report maps.

Category A	Blue	Scheduled Ancient Monuments Grade 1 and 2* Listed Building
	Red	Other Sites and Monuments of National Importance Other Buildings of National Importance
	Red toning Red Banding	Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest
Category B	Amber	Sites and Monuments of Regional Importance Grade 2 Listed and Other Buildings of Regional Importance
Category C	Green	Sites / Features of Local Importance Buildings of Local Importance
Category D	Brown	Sites / Features of Unknown Importance

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report
 Ffosfach Uchaf Farm
 ACA Report No.2001/27
 Map 1
 SS59NE/NW

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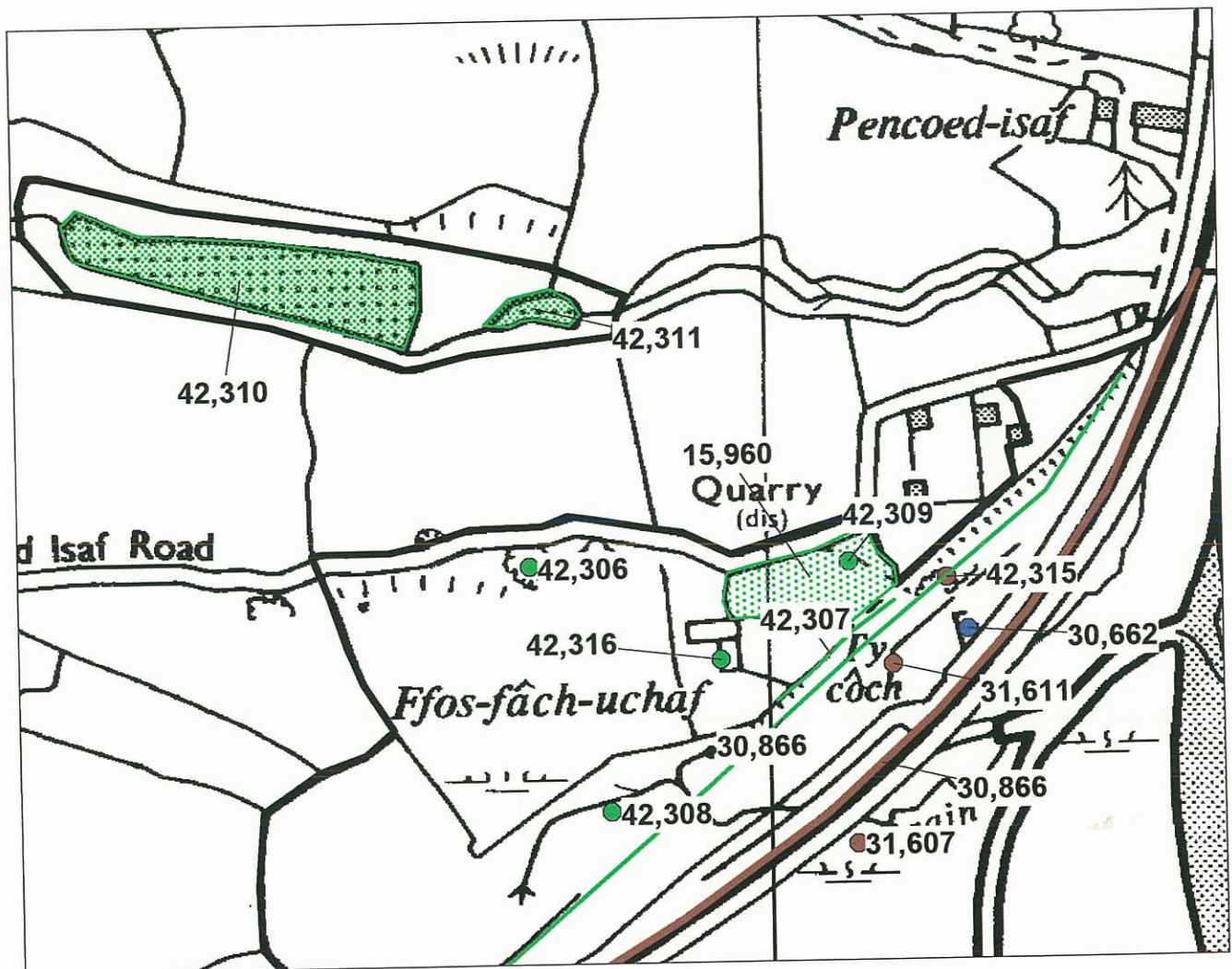
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Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report
Ffosfach Uchaf Farm
ACA Report No.2001/27
Map 2
SS59NE/NW

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Plates



Plate 1 - large quarry (PRN15960) to the east of the farm showing the modern building and rubbish that was dumped by the previous owner.



Plate 2 - Pencoed leadworks (PRN30662) showing overgrown ruins.



Plate 3 - remains of the Llangennech Coal Company Railway (PRN30739) as it crosses the marsh to the south of the holding.



Plate 4 - disused section of the Llanelli Railway (PRN30866), where it overlies the line of the earlier Llangennech Coal Company Railway.



Plate 5 - remains of possible sluice (PRN31614) on the salt marsh.



Plate 6 - rubble pillar supporting the pipeline (PRN42307) from the reservoir (PRN42310).



Plate 7 - reservoir (PRN42310) feeding the pipeline to Bynea Steelworks, showing the substantial dam at its eastern end.



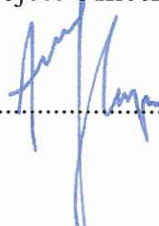
Plate 8 - waterlogged disused mine shaft and building footings (PRN42313) showing erosion caused by grazing and overgrown condition.

**FFOSFACH UCHAF
TIR GOFAL FARM VISIT REPORT**

**REPORT NUMBER 2001/27
PROJECT RECORD NUMBER 37595
MAY 2001**

This report has been prepared by Anwen Cooper

Position: Project Officer

Signature  Date 14/05/01

This report has been checked and approved by Louise Austin on behalf of Cambria Archaeology,
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position: Principal Archaeological Officer (Curatorial)

Signature  Date 15/05/01

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may have
on the content or presentation of this report