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# Blaenblodau W/12/2320

## Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



Report No. 2002/35

Report Prepared for:  
CCW



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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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Blaenblodau  
W/12/2320  
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

By

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## INTRODUCTION

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.

### Method Statement

The farm visit consisted of two phases:

Phase 1 was a rapid search of all readily available documentary, cartographic and published sources to try to understand the historical development of the farm and the wider landscape and to identify new sites of archaeological interest. The searches undertaken include information held in the regional Sites and Monuments Record, the relevant County Records Office and the National Library of Wales. New sites, or areas of interest were plotted onto a Geographical Information Systems based map for use during the field survey and for the final report.

Phase 2 was a farm visit to assess the extent, character and current condition of the archaeological and historical sites identified during the research phase. Due to constraints recording is rapid and consists of photographs and sites notes. Some of the sites may not have been visited. The information gained during the visit has been used to determine their management recommendations.

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF FARM

Blaenblodau Farm (PRN 44755) consists of improved pasture on a gentle northwest facing slope down to the Afon Talog. The farmstead, which was the home farm of the adjacent Blaenblodau Hall (PRN 24910), consists of a complex of buildings, situated towards the east side of the present holding. The farmhouse is detached and stands in a prominent position overlooking the farmyard. The farm buildings chiefly comprise two parallel ranges of good-quality masonry buildings either side of the farmyard, which are now augmented with a number of 20<sup>th</sup> century steel-framed buildings. Blaenblodau Hall lies immediately south of the farmstead within a walled enclosure that is now derelict, overgrown and becoming ruinous.

The Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawing of 1811-12 shows a situation very different from that of today. The farmstead is shown as a cluster of buildings around an informal farmyard, and the site of the present hall was empty. The field pattern comprised smallish, regular enclosures, of a form that suggests that they were then a relatively recent creation. The entire holding was remodelled as a 'polite' landscape when the Hall was constructed between 1811 and 1842 (Tithe Map). It was transformed into the present pattern of large, regular enclosures enclosed within hedgebanks. A number of boundaries incorporate lanes and tracks, green lanes and shelter belts. A characteristic of the holding are the large cattle ponds constructed on the downhill slopes of four fields, to catch run-off from the fields (PRNs 44763, 44769, 447201 and 44772). These appear to be contemporary with the early 19<sup>th</sup> century landscape. The farmstead was remodelled at the same time, but the farmhouse was superficially remodelled in c.1900 when the north range was added. The present field pattern is largely unchanged from 1842. Only a few boundaries have been subsequently removed, and remaining boundaries are all in good condition. They comprise substantial hedgebanks, many of which have drystone facing.

Lying within the holding are three small farmsteads, Aber-nawmor, Dolwen-fach and Clawdd-gwyn (PRNs 44764 - 44766), of which the first two are shown on the 1811 map, while the latter had been established by 1842. They appear to have been smallholdings that were absorbed into the estate in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and the farmhouses are small, late 18<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings in the 'cottage' tradition.

The west end of the holding is bounded by the Afon Gwyddgrug which is crossed by an iron and concrete footbridge (PRN 44767), shown on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891. A silted leat, taken from the Gwyddgrug, runs through two adjacent fields and formerly supplied the waterwheel at the Sunnyhill Woollen Mill (PRN 16619), also shown in 1891. The mill itself lies outside the Tir Gofal management agreement area, as does Talog Mill (PRN 16617), a converted mill site with an associated leat also shown in 1891.

Also lying within the holding are two limestone quarries (PRNs 16614 and 16616) which appear to pre-date the early 19<sup>th</sup> century landscape, one of them being labelled 'Old Quarry' on the 1891 map. Also indicated on historic maps are a Pump House (PRN 44762) to the east of the present farmstead, and an unknown feature, associated with a trig point, labelled 'Pen-y-rhos' on the 1891 map (PRN 44771). Neither of these is now identifiable in the field.

The farm is of particular interest because of its association, as the home farm, with Blaenblodau Hall, and because of its re-organisation as a 'polite' landscape, in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. This involved the creation of new boundaries and tracks, shelter belts and green lanes, and the four large ponds which are such a distinctive – and unusual – feature of the farm.

## **MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Archaeological sites on the holding that require action are detailed below. For other management recommendations see the gazetteer of individual sites.

Farm boundaries should be retained and managed in a sustainable manner.

### **PRN 16614 - Quarry**

The quarry is in poor condition and has been used for the dumping of agricultural refuse. Ideally it should be cleaned out and maintained as a visible historic landscape feature, with vegetation control.

### **PRN 44759 - Farmyard building**

The building is ruinous and overgrown with saplings. The vegetation should be cut, with roots left in place, and carefully removed to expose the structure as a visible feature. Stumps should be treated to prevent re-growth.

### **PRN 44767 - Footbridge**

Conserve as an example of a small, late 19<sup>th</sup> century or earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century footbridge. The condition of the pier, which has displaced, should be examined and made good.

### **PRN 44768 - Leat**

The leat should be preserved as a visible feature. Cleaning and management should be periodical, minimal and ensure the least disturbance to wildlife. It is currently suffering from some livestock erosion. Livestock level management, or selective stockwire fencing may prevent further erosion of the banks.

### **PRN 44769 - Pond**

The pond should be maintained as existing, as a visual feature. Cleaning and management should be periodical, minimal and ensure the least disturbance to wildlife. It is currently suffering from some livestock erosion. Livestock level management or, if impractical, stockwire fencing may prevent further erosion of the banks.

### **PRN 44772 - Pond**

The banks on the north and east sides are field boundaries and actively managed. The bank on the west side is suffering from livestock erosion and levels of stock should be managed, or the bank protected by stockwire fencing.



## GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

<b>PRN</b>	16614	<b>Site Name</b>	Blaenblodau Farm	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN46003707
<b>Site Type</b>	Quarry	<b>Period</b>	Post Med		

### Description

Small limestone quarry, probably post-medieval and disused by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century; marked and labelled 'Old Quarry' on the 1891 Ordnance Survey 6" map. Circular quarry, approx. 30m in diameter and 10m deep, excavated into north facing slope with narrow entry to north. The outcrop appears to have been entirely worked out. The quarry is in poor condition. The earth sides are actively weathering and overgrown with saplings and other vegetation. It has been used for the dumping of agricultural refuse including black plastic sheeting, corrugated metal sheeting, containers and tyres.

### Recommendations

Ideally the quarry should be cleaned out and maintained as a visible historic landscape feature, with vegetation control.

**Site Category** C



Plate 1 – Quarry (PRN 16614) from the south



<b>PRN</b>	16616	<b>Site Name</b>	Blaenblodau Farm	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN46663775
<b>Site Type</b>	Quarry	<b>Period</b>	Post Med		

### Description

Small limestone quarry, probably post-medieval and disused by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century; marked but not labelled on the 1891 Ordnance Survey 6" map. Irregular outlined, approx. 50m north-south and 20m east-west, excavated into east facing slope from the banks of the Afon Talog. The quarry is in good condition, with limestone still outcropping throughout, supporting some saplings but with little other vegetation.

### Recommendations

Maintain as existing.

**Site Category** C



Plate 2 – Quarry (PRN 16616) from the southeast



Had to  
create  
this  
record?

16617

**Site  
Name  
Period**

Talog Mill  
Post Med

**Grid Reference** SN46293763

### Description

Site of post-medieval woollen mill, marked and labelled on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891. A dwelling now occupies the site, of apparent late 19<sup>th</sup> century construction but possibly altered from the mill structure, which was still operational in 1904 (Ordnance Survey 6" map). Not apparently marked on the tithe map of 1842. It is a typical two-storeyed, three-bayed dwelling with a slate gabled roof and end chimneys, rendered throughout, with a later extension to the rear (east). There is little evidence of its former function. The headrace leat ran parallel with Afon Talog for 300m northeast of the mill, but is only slightly discernible as a very faint depression on the ground. There is no evidence for the wheelpit. A masonry building, comprising one storey over a basement, lies immediately north of the dwelling; it also appears to be late 19<sup>th</sup> century and of a domestic character.

### Recommendations

Talog Mill lies outside the Tir Gofal management agreement scheme. However, the headrace leat lies within the scheme and should be maintained as existing.

**Site Category** C



Plate 3 – Talog Mill and leat (PRN 16617) from the east



<b>PRN</b>	24910	<b>Site Name</b>	Blaenblodau Hall	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN46863725
<b>Site Type</b>	Major dwelling	<b>Period</b>	Post Med	<b>Site status</b>	LBII

### **Description**

Mansion house set in walled enclosure immediately south of Blaenblodau Farm (PRN 44755). The house appears to have been built new between 1811 (Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawing) and 1842 (Tithe Map) in a late-Georgian style. It was apparently once owned by the Mansels of Maesycrugiau (NMR Record) but had been acquired by the Jones family before 1906, by which time the farm was in the occupation of William Thomas (Jones 1987, 9). By the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century it was the possession of the Knights of Llandeilo, with whom it remained until the early 1990s. It was apparently sold in 2001.

The house has been empty for over 10 years and is derelict, and becoming ruinous. It is a two-storey and basement structure, in rubble, with a slate roof on wide boarded eaves. The main, west front is three-bayed has a first floor sill band, broad end pilaster strips and 16-pane sash windows with rubble voussoirs. This elevation was originally symmetrical around a central, semicircular-headed entrance within a bowed projection, with a 6-panel door and traceried fanlight. To this was later added a two-storeyed, pebbledashed, gabled porch, open to the ground floor. To the west is a railed area containing steps down to the basement doorway, and a 20<sup>th</sup> century kitchen extension. The gable ends have 12-pane sash windows and cement-rendered chimney stacks. The rear, east elevation is two-bayed and symmetrical with two matching, full-height bowed projections with similar glazing; sill band and pilasters similar to west elevation. The interior retains many original features including the late-Georgian staircase, 6-panel doors, panelled shutters and moulded cornices. The rear (east) half of both floors is occupied by a full-width room with original sliding partitions, a simple applied 'Adamesque' detail being applied to the ground floor ceiling.

The house lies within an enclosure with low rubble walls. The main entrance is to the southwest, between concrete gateposts, leading to a driveway to the main west entry. There are also entrances to the northwest and north, also accessed from drives between which, to the west, lay a fountain and ponds. There is a former lawned area to the east of the house. All elements are now under heavy vegetation including laurel and difficult to discern, while the conifers planted around the east side of the enclosure are now very large.

### **Recommendations**

Blaenblodau Hall lies outside the Tir Gofal management agreement scheme. However, work on any structures abutting the enclosure may fall within the listed building curtilage and will need to be discussed with the conservation officer of the Local Planning Authority.

**Site Category**     B

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Plate 4 – Blaenblodau Hall (PRN 24910) from the east

<b>PRN</b>	44756	<b>Site Name</b>	Blaenblodau Farm	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN46853721
<b>Site Type</b>	Farmhouse	<b>Period</b>	Post Med		

### Description

Farmhouse occupying a prominent position forming the west end of the farmyard. The house is of two-storeys and gabled. The main elevation faces east. The asymmetrical nature of this three-bayed elevation suggests that the house dates from between 1811 and 1842 (Tithe Map), when it was probably new-built, apparently not being shown on the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawing of 1811-12. However, the openings all appear to have been rebuilt, with segmental heads, in c.1900 when the external rendered finish was applied, and the small walled yard built to the east. The gable ends carry brick chimneys and the gabled roof is slated. There is a single storey, later 20<sup>th</sup> century extension to the south.

### Recommendations

The farmhouse lies outside the Tir Gofal management agreement scheme.

**Site Category** C

<b>PRN</b>	44757	<b>Site Name</b>	Blaenblodau Farm	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN46863723
<b>Site Type</b>	Cowshed/ cart house	<b>Period</b>	Post Med		

### Description

Long masonry block forming the north range of the farmyard. It is probably of locally quarried limestone rubble construction, of two storeys throughout, and gabled with a continuous slated roof. Openings are simple, many of them with segmental, yellow brick heads, and the entire building appears to be an addition, built between 1887 (Ordnance Survey 6" map, 1891) and 1904 (Ordnance Survey 6" map, 1907). It has been little altered. The eastern two-thirds of the building comprise a long chamber, with a loft over, with two wide ground floor entries from the farmyard ie. in the south wall, beneath segmental, yellow brick heads. There are two small, square windows, with similar heads but with modern, 2-pane glazing, in the same wall. The interior was not seen, but this part of the building appears to have been a cowshed. The loft over is lit by three small, square windows at eaves level in the south wall, glazed as in the ground floor, and has a gabled loft door in the same wall. The northern third of the building is defined by a transverse, masonry stair to the loft. It is also of two storeys, with similar detail to the rest but without the brickwork. The impressions of three, wide blocked arches can be seen in the south wall suggesting that it was originally a cart shed. These were subsequently blocked (in the early-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century?) and this part of the building perhaps converted into a dwelling, entered from the farmyard through a ground floor doorway in the south wall, with a concrete lintel, in the central infilled arch, and lit by a square window with a concrete lintel, and contemporary 6-pane glazing, in both the blocked flanking arches. The first floor was also a loft and has similar lights to those to the east, but one is



now a shuttered opening – original? A single-storey brick lean-to in the middle of the south wall may have been a dairy, added in the early-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Recommendations**

The building is currently in good order and its openings and detail have been little altered since it was constructed in 1887-1904, although the timberwork and glazing are more recent. It should be continued to be maintained in this condition. Any repairs should be carried out using traditional materials.

**Site Category**     C

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Plate 5 – The cowshed/cart house (PRN 44757) from the southeast

<b>PRN</b>	44758	<b>Site</b>	Blaenblodau	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN46873721
		<b>Name</b>	Farm		
<b>Site Type</b>	Barn/stable	<b>Period</b>	Post Med		

### Description

Long masonry block forming the south range side of the farmyard. It is of locally quarried limestone rubble construction, and gabled with a continuous slated roof. Openings are simple, mostly with timber lintels, and the entire building appears to be from the 1811-1842 period of re-organisation when the farm became the home farm of the Blaenblodau estate; it is suggested on the tithe map of 1842 (shown properly on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891). It has been little altered. The eastern half of the building comprises a large, single storeyed chamber, entered from the farmyard through a wide, full-height opening in the north wall; there are no further external openings in this wall. The interior was not seen, but this part of the building appears to have been a barn, with a threshing-door to the yard. A single-storey brick lean-to against the north wall appears to have been an engine-house for machine-threshing, added in the early-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. The western half is of two storeys, and is entered from the farmyard through a large opening in the north wall with a segmental head; it is lit by a simple square window in the same wall with modern 2-pane glazing. It appears to have been a stable, with a loft over, reached from an external masonry stair against the west gable wall. The loft is lit by a similar window at eaves level. A two-storeyed extension was subsequently added against the east end of the range (before 1904), apparently representing a further stable with a large entry at ground floor level, with a segmental brick head, and a loft reached from an external masonry stair against the north wall. The loft is ventilated by a slit in the east, gable wall and both floors are lit by small square windows with brick heads and modern 2-pane glazing.

### Recommendations

The building is currently in good order and its openings and detail have been little altered since it was constructed in 1811-1904, although the timberwork and glazing are more recent. It should be continued to be maintained in this condition. Any repairs should be carried out using traditional materials.

**Site Category** C

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Plate 6 –The barn/stable (PRN 44758) from the northeast

<b>PRN</b>	44759	<b>Site Name</b>	Blaenblodau Farm	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN46883723
<b>Site Type</b>	Building	<b>Period</b>	Post Med		

### Description

Ruined masonry building at the east end of the farmyard. It appears to have been a L-shaped, ?single storey structure with a doorway in the south (end) wall. It is first clearly shown on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891. Only the north, west and south walls survive, in a ruinous condition, overgrown with saplings, and the original function of the building is unknown.

### Recommendations

The vegetation should be cut, with roots left in place, and carefully removed to expose the structure as a visible feature. Stumps should be treated to prevent re-growth.

**Site Category** C



<b>PRN</b>	44760	<b>Site Name</b>	Blaenblodau Farm	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN46833724
<b>Site Type</b>	Cowshed?	<b>Period</b>	Post Med		

### Description

Low, single-storey detached masonry building lying to the northwest of the farmyard. It is probably of locally quarried limestone rubble construction, and gabled with a continuous slated roof. The interior was not seen, but appears to have comprised a single chamber with large entries in the south wall. These have been altered and now comprise two full-height openings with concrete lintels. However, the outlines of two similar openings can be seen between them, with later 20<sup>th</sup> century breeze-block infill. The building, which is first clearly shown on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891, may have been constructed as a cowshed, and the square opening in the west gable wall, at eaves level, may originally have been the pitching hole of a loft reached from an internal stair.

### Recommendations

The building is currently in reasonable order, and should be continued to be maintained in this condition. Any repairs should be carried out using traditional materials.

**Site Category** C



Plate 7 – The possible cowshed (PRN 44760) from the southwest

<b>PRN</b>	44761	<b>Site Name</b>	Blaenblodau Hall	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN46783717
<b>Site Type</b>	Dwelling	<b>Period</b>	Post Med		

#### **Description**

Dwelling lying in the northwest corner of the enclosure around Blaenblodau Hall (PRN 24910). It appears to have been built between 1887 (Ordnance Survey 6" map, 1891) and 1904 (Ordnance Survey 6" map, 1907), probably to house a family member of the then owners of the hall. It is a typical late 19<sup>th</sup> century two-storeyed, three-bayed dwelling in limestone rubble, with yellow-brick surrounds and quoins, with a slate-gabled roof. There is a 20<sup>th</sup> century extension on the rear (north) wall, which like the east and west end walls, is rendered.

#### **Recommendations**

The dwelling, which is currently inhabited, lies outside the Tir Gofal management agreement scheme. It forms part of the complex associated with Blaenblodau Hall (PRN 24910).

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	44762	<b>Site Name</b>	Blaenblodau Farm	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN46963719
<b>Site Type</b>	Pump house	<b>Period</b>	Post Med		

#### **Description**

Pump house marked and labelled on the Ordnance Survey 10k data, the CCW consultation map, and suggested on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891, but not on the 1907 edition. The site indicated lies against a field boundary immediately to the west of the farmyard, but there is now no physical evidence for a structure in this location.

#### **Recommendations**

The pump house appears to have been demolished and has left no physical evidence. Therefore maintain as existing.

**Site Category** D

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<b>PRN</b>	44763	<b>Site Name</b>	Blaenblodau Farm	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN46573766
<b>Site Type</b>	Pond	<b>Period</b>	Post Med		

### Description

The largest of the four ponds on the holding. It now lies within a shelter belt 500m to the north of the farmstead, and consists of a regular, rectangular area, approx. 50m east-west and 20m north-south, defined by substantial banks on the (downhill) north, east and west sides to catch run-off from the field. The banks are 2m wide and 1m high, with vertical sides and with a rubble core. There does not appear to have been any masonry lining. The pond is now dry. It appears to date from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century landscape re-organisation, suggesting that the shelter belt was a later planting; however it comprises mature Scots Pines which have also been planted within the pond banks.

### Recommendations

The pond banks are in good condition and although now supporting many mature standard trees, have not been subject to livestock erosion. Nevertheless, vegetation should be monitored and controlled, and protected from livestock erosion through stock level management or, if impractical, with stockwire fencing.

**Site Category** C



Plate 8 – The large pond (PRN 44763) from the north



<b>PRN</b>	44764	<b>Site Name</b>	Dolwen-fach	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN46123725
<b>Site Type</b>	Farmstead	<b>Period</b>	Post Med		

### **Description**

Small farmstead dwelling shown on the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawing of 1811-12. It appears to have been a smallholding that was absorbed into the Blaenblodau estate in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The dwelling is a small, late 18<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings in the 'cottage' tradition. There are later 19<sup>th</sup> century extensions, of an agricultural character, to east and west, but no detached traditional farm buildings. The dwelling is also marked on the tithe map of 1842 on which, however, the present lane leading to the dwelling from the south is not suggested.

### **Recommendations**

Dolwen-fach, which is occupied, lies outside the Tir Gofal management agreement scheme, and there appear to be no associated features in the adjacent farmland.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	44765	<b>Site Name</b>	Clawdd-gwyn	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN45743692
<b>Site Type</b>	Farmstead	<b>Period</b>	Post Med		

### **Description**

Small farmstead dwelling, not shown on the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawing of 1811-12 but marked on the tithe map of 1842. It appears either to have been a smallholding that was absorbed into the Blaenblodau estate in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, or a cottage for estate workers. The dwelling is a small, early 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings in the 'cottage' tradition. There are later 19<sup>th</sup> century extensions, of an agricultural character, to the east, but no associated traditional farm buildings. The present lane leading to the dwelling from the south is not suggested on the tithe map of 1842.

### **Recommendations**

Clawdd-gwyn, which is occupied, lies outside the Tir Gofal management agreement scheme, and there appear to be no associated features in the adjacent farmland.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	44766	<b>Site Name</b>	Aber-nawmor	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN45283640
<b>Site Type</b>	Farmstead	<b>Period</b>	Post Med		

### **Description**

Small farmstead shown on the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawing of 1811-12. It appears to have been a smallholding that was absorbed into the Blaenblodau estate in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The dwelling is a small, late 18<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings in the 'cottage' tradition. There are later 19<sup>th</sup> century traditional farm buildings around a farmyard to the north of the dwelling. The dwelling is also marked on the tithe map of 1842 as is the present lane leading to the farmstead from the south-east.

### **Recommendations**

Aber-nawmor, which is occupied, lies outside the Tir Gofal management agreement scheme, and there appear to be no associated features in the adjacent farmland.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	44767	<b>Site Name</b>	Blaenblodau	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN45233633
<b>Site Type</b>	Footbridge	<b>Period</b>	Post Med		

### **Description**

Small footbridge over the Afon Gwyddgrug marked on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891. The bridge comprises two iron rails supporting a concrete footway, with an iron handrail on one side. There is a pier only at the north end, which appears to have been replaced by a concrete pier; both are now displaced. In its present form, the bridge may be earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Recommendations**

Conserve as an example of a small, late 19<sup>th</sup> century or earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century footbridge. The condition of the pier should be examined and made good.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	44768	<b>Site Name</b>	Sunnyhill Woollen Mill	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN454362
<b>Site Type</b>	Leat	<b>Period</b>	Post Med		

### Description

Silted leat running WNW-ESE from the Afon Gwyddgrug across two fields, to supply the former Sunnyhill Woollen Mill (PRN 16619), which lies outside Blaenblodau holding to the southeast. The line of the leat is clearly visible though the channel, which is approx. 1.5m wide, is now practically dry, and supports a marsh vegetation of rushes etc. The channel lies between two low banks, each approx. 2m wide, which have been eroded by livestock in areas.

### Recommendations

The leat should be preserved as a visible feature. Cleaning and management should be periodical, minimal and ensure the least disturbance to wildlife. It is currently suffering from some livestock erosion. Livestock level management, or selective stockwire fencing may prevent further erosion of the banks.

**Site Category** C



Plate 9 – The mill leat (PRN 44768) from the northwest



<b>PRN</b>	44769	<b>Site</b>	Blaenblodau	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN45923656
		<b>Name</b>	Farm		
<b>Site Type</b>	Pond	<b>Period</b>	Post Med		

### Description

The least well-preserved of the four ponds on the holding. It lies against a field boundary that forms its east side, to catch run-off from the downhill slope of the field to the west. It is still wet. It consists of a regular, rectangular area, approx. 20m north-south and 15m east-west, defined by low banks to the north and south. These were once higher and have been ploughed or bulldozed out, leaving them as irregular spreads, up to 5m wide, featuring much loose limestone derived from the rubble core. There does not appear to have been any masonry lining. The pond appears to date from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century landscape re-organisation.

### Recommendations

The pond should be maintained as existing, as a visual feature. Cleaning and management should be periodical, minimal and ensure the least disturbance to wildlife. It is currently suffering from some livestock erosion. Livestock level management or, if impractical, stockwire fencing may prevent further erosion of the banks.

**Site Category** C

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Plate 10 – Pond (PRN 44769) from the southwest

<b>PRN</b>	44770	<b>Site</b>	Blaenblodau	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN46503680
		<b>Name</b>	Farm		
<b>Site Type</b>	Pond	<b>Period</b>	Post Med		

### Description

One of the four ponds on the holding. It is still wet, and lies against a field boundary that forms its east side, to catch run-off from the downhill slope of the field to the south. It is still wet. It consists of a regular, rectangular area, approx. 20m north-south and 15m east-west, defined by low banks to the north and west. These now support hedgerows and their construction cannot be seen. The pond has internal masonry lining. It appears to date from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century landscape re-organisation, and is still in active use now being entered by livestock from the southeast via a modern gate.

### Recommendations

Maintain as existing.

**Site Category** C



Plate 11 – Pond (PRN 44770) from the southeast

<b>PRN</b>	44771	<b>Site Name</b>	Pen-y-rhos	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN46703689
<b>Site Type</b>	Unknown	<b>Period</b>	Unknown		

#### **Description**

Circular feature, in the centre of a field, marked and labelled 'Pen-y-rhos' on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891 when it was associated with a trig point. Only the trig point is shown on the 1907 edition. There is now no physical evidence for the feature, whose nature is entirely unknown – possibly a copse?

#### **Recommendations**

There is no visible physical evidence for the feature. Therefore maintain as existing.

**Site Category** D

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<b>PRN</b>	44772	<b>Site Name</b>	Blaenblodau Farm	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN46883703
<b>Site Type</b>	Pond	<b>Period</b>	Post Med		

#### **Description**

The best-preserved of the four ponds on the holding. It is still wet, and lies against two field boundaries that form its north and east sides, to catch run-off from the downhill slope of the field to the south. It is still wet. It consists of a regular, square area, approx. 15m x 15m, defined by a low bank to the west. All banks now support standard trees. The pond has internal masonry lining. It appears to date from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century landscape re-organisation, and is still in use.

#### **Recommendations**

The banks on the north and east sides are field boundaries and actively managed. The bank on the west side is suffering from livestock erosion and levels of stock should be managed, or the bank protected by stockwire fencing.

**Site Category** C

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Plate 12 – Pond (PRN 44772) from the southwest

## **SITE AND AREA STATUS GLOSSARY**

The following abbreviations are used in the gazetteer to refer to site and area status. These schedules, lists and registers are compiled and maintained by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments.

### **SAM - Scheduled Ancient Monument**

This is a statutory designation. Scheduled Ancient Monuments are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

### **LB1, LB2\* & LB2 – Listed Building 1, 2\* & 2**

This is a statutory designation. Listed buildings are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

### **HLW - Historic Landscapes of Wales**

Historic Landscapes of Wales are defined by the *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales: Part 2.1 Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest and Part 2.2 Landscapes of Special Historic Interest*. The register is advisory and has no statutory powers.

### **PGW - Parks and Gardens of Wales**

Parks and Gardens of Wales are defined by the *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales: Part 1 Parks and Gardens*. The register is advisory and has no statutory powers.

## **REFERENCES**

### **Map**

Ordnance Survey, 1811-12, Original Surveyors' Drawings, Sheet 187

Llanfihangel-ar-arth parish, tithe map and apportionment, 1842

Ordnance Survey, 1891, Carmarthenshire Sheet XIV SE, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, 1:10560

Ordnance Survey, 1891, Carmarthenshire Sheet XV SW, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, 1:10560

Ordnance Survey, 1907, Carmarthenshire Sheet XIV SE, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1:10560

Ordnance Survey, 1907, Carmarthenshire Sheet XV SW, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1:10560

### **Written description**

F Jones, 1987, Historic Carmarthenshire Homes and their Families, p.9

National Monuments Record, 1992, Description of Blaenblodau Hall

J D Wood and Co., 1989, Estate Agents description of Blaenblodau Hall







Blaenblodau  
W/12/2320  
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report


**REPORT NUMBER 2002/35**

**April 2002**

This report has been prepared by Neil Ludlow

Position: Project manager

Signature

 Date 31/05/02

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 31/05/02

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