



Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology

01/12/99

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report

Causeway Farm

W/12/1384

ACA Project Record No 39283

Report prepared for CCW
by ACA

November, 1999

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A R C H A E O L E G
CAMBRIA
A R C H A E O L O G Y

Tir Gofal Application Number W/12/1384

Address Causeway Farm, Laugharne

NGR SN288092

TG Project Officer Kevin Taylor, Llandeilo

Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology Project Record Number 39283

Visit Officer Ken Murphy

Visit Date 22/11/99

TIR GOFAL SITE MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

As used in accompanying site 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 defined physical presence).

TIR GOFAL COLOUR CODING

As used on accompanying holding maps.

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE STATUS

Terms used in gazetteer.

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.

LB1, LB2* & LB2.

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.

HL - Landscapes of Exceptional and Great Historic Interest.

Defined by the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales: Part 2.1 Landscapes of Exceptional and Great Historic Interest. The register is advisory only, and has no statutory powers. The register is being compiled by Cadw in partnership with the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and is concerned with man-made, historic elements of the landscape.

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 is being compiled by Cadw in partnership with the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and is concerned with man-made, historic elements of the landscape.

Description of Causeway Farm & Environs

Causeway Farm consists of the farmstead, PRN 39278, and three distinct environments - reclaimed marsh, woodland on steep slopes and enclosed land on low hills. The history of the marsh is well known: in the later prehistoric period down to Mediaeval times, this area probably comprised salt marsh and patches of rough pasture on marginally higher ground, interspersed with fresh and brackish water lagoons. In a borough charter of 1278-82, it is stated that Sir Guy de Brian granted certain privileges and rights to the burgess of Laugharne in the marsh of Talacharn called Menecors. However, it is clear that Sir Guy kept the greater part of the march in his own hands, as part of the demesne of the Lordship of Laugharne, as on his death in 1307, 1,000 acres of pasture in "le Marcis" were recorded in an Inquisition post Mortem. In 1595, the first record of habitations occurs, when the "dairies" of Hurst House, East House and Brook House were noted in a survey. These three dwellings are either on the fringes of the marsh or islands of higher ground. The term "dairy" indicates pasture, perhaps on a seasonal basis, as it is likely that the marsh was subjected to flooding and tidal inundation in the winter months. Prior to 1595, Sir John Perrot, Lord of Laugharne, cheated the burgesses of Laugharne out of their share of the marsh, adding it to the demesne established by Guy de Brian. Sir John used the marsh for large-scale sheep farming. However, a small part of the marsh known as the Lees remained in the hands of the burgesses and cultivated using an open or strip field system. The Lees is still owned by Laugharne corporation, though in character it is indistinguishable from the rest of the marsh. It was not until 1660 when Sir Sackville Crow came into possession of the marsh that a scheme of drainage was initiated with the construction of sea walls. Drainage allowed for the establishment of new farms - a process that was complete by the tithe survey of the 1840's - and by the late 18th century Laugharne Marsh comprised the best farmland in the county. Charles Hassall described how the land could be made more productive by ridging-up the land by use of the Dutch Plough. Drainage work continued in the 19th century. A large seawall armoured with stone, and a quay, were constructed at the east end of the marsh in 1800-10 by George Watkins of Broadway and connected to Coygan Quarry by a tramway, and in c. 1840, a wall across the Witchett Brook was built. Watkin's work seems to have been part of wide-ranging improvements as most of the farms (all part of Broadway estate) were rebuilt in c.1820 in a "Georgian" style and provided with good ranges of outbuildings. A Ministry of Defence research establishment has been founded across part of the south and south eastern portion of this historic landscape character area. Enclosed hill land comprises a regular field system enclosed by walls and hedges, PRN 39282, and an enclosed strip-field system, PRN 39278.

PRN 3917	Site name BROADWAY STONE;PORT LAND	NGR SN29491005
Site type RUBBING STONE	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

This stone measures 1.3m high, 0.6m wide and 0.2m thick. It stands towards the lower end of a pasture field. There is some ground disturbance at the foot of the stone caused by cattle/sheep. In 1917, RCAHM considered that this was not the usual type of rubbing stone, and therefore, was a Bronze Age standing stone. This designation is suspect; its size and slab-like form suggest a rubbing stone. Also the field in which the stone lies - PRN 39278 - is enclosed from a Medieval strip field and the stone is located on the long linear earthwork of one of the former strips. Therefore, the stone post-dates the use of the Medieval strip fields and is likely to have been erected when the field was hedged-in.

Recommendations

Maintain as existing.

Management Category C	Visited by KM	Visited On 22/11/99
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PRN 6294	Site name LEES, THE	NGR SN2909
Site type FIELD SYSTEM	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

The Lees field system lies on reclaimed marsh a few metres above sea level. The land which is owned by Laugharne Corporation is divided into strips or shares. These are rented out to individual burgesses of the Corporation. In theory, each share is held and farmed separately but now the shares are bundled into groups and farmed by Mr Harries of Causeway Farm and Mr Stevens of Salthouse. On the ground each share is represented by a ridge. It is clear that this ridging - ridge and furrow - was formed by ploughing, but now the system, is and has been for some time, under permanent pasture. It is clear that ploughing could not have taken place prior to the construction of sea walls and the draining of the marsh. The earliest sea wall dates to c. 1660, the formation of The Lees strip/ridge and furrow system must be later.

Recommendations

The Lees is a very important component of the historic landscape. It is the only site in south Wales where a communal strip field farming system can be equated with ridge and furrow. It is therefore vital that the earthworks that form the system are maintained in their current condition.

Management Category A	Visited by KM	Visited On 22/11/99
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PRN 29943	Site name COYGEN TRAMWAY	NGR SN30060940
Site type TRAMWAY	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

This tramway was constructed in 1800-1810 by George Watkins of Broadway. It linked Coygen Quarry to the west with a small quay built at the eastern end of Railsgate Pill. One of its primary purposes may have been to transport stone to the sea wall, PRN 29945, then under construction on the Taf estuary. The tramway lies on a specially built causeway approximately 3-4m wide. At the west end, the causeway is virtually non-existent but it increases in height to over 2m at the east end where it runs along the south side of Railsgate Pill. Here it also may have served as a sea defence. Mr Harries of Causeway farm reports that rails are visible at certain locations, but none were seen in 1999.

Recommendations

Maintain as existing.

Management Category B	Visited by KM	Visited On 22/11/99
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<i>PRN</i>	39278	<i>Site name</i>	PORT LAND	<i>NGR</i>	SN295100
<i>Site type</i>	FIELD SYSTEM	<i>Period</i>	Mediaeval; Post Med	<i>Site Status</i>	

Description

The remains of a former strip field system can be detected in the modern field patterning and topography. Though only a single field was examined in a visit in 1999, it is likely that further evidence for strip fields lies in neighbouring areas. The currently identified site consists of a long narrow field running down a slope from south to north. It is defined by hedges on substantial stony-earth banks on all sides except the north where there is modern roadside housing. Running the full length of the field are three low ridges. These are the remains of three shares or strips in the former open fields of Laugharne. Low earthworks to the northeast corner of the field indicate that at some point this was divided into a small close. The date of the cessation of open field farming and the creation of the current field is not known, but is likely to have taken place in the 16th- or 17th-century.

Recommendations

Maintain as existing.

<i>Management Category</i>	B	<i>Visited by</i>	KM	<i>Visited On</i>	22/11/99
<i>PRN</i>	39279	<i>Site name</i>	CAUSEWAY FARM	<i>NGR</i>	SN28780918
<i>Site type</i>	FARMSTEAD	<i>Period</i>	Post Med	<i>Site Status</i>	

Description

Causeway Farm was established following the draining of Laugharne Marsh in c. 1660. A date stone of 1819 records the rebuilding of the house by Watkins of the Broadway estate. The house is stone-built, two-storeys and three bays, with a symmetrical front elevation - central door and two later 19th-century windows either side and one above. A rear wing to the house may incorporate earlier elements. A two-storey range of farm buildings continues the line of the rear wing. Other farm buildings are arranged formally around a yard. It is likely that all these buildings were constructed at the same time as the house - 1819 - as they are shown on the tithe map. Modern farm buildings lie to the north of the older buildings. The farmhouse and associated outbuildings are very well maintained.

Recommendations

Maintain old farm buildings as existing.

<i>Management Category</i>	A	<i>Visited by</i>	KM	<i>Visited On</i>	22/11/99
<i>PRN</i>	39280	<i>Site name</i>	LAUGHARNE MARSH	<i>NGR</i>	SN2808
<i>Site type</i>	FIELD SYSTEM	<i>Period</i>	Post Med	<i>Site Status</i>	

Description

A very extensive field system that covers the whole of Laugharne Marsh from Pendine in the west to the sea walls of the Taf estuary in the east. The whole area is divided into fields by drainage ditches. Low scrubby hedges run alongside some the ditches. Ridge and furrow - perhaps better termed ridge and drain - earthworks lie within every field. The ridges are straight, and now often cut by minor ditches. Though not substantial the earthworks are nevertheless a very prominent feature of the landscape. The system was established, following the draining of the marsh, in c. 1660. Virtually the whole area is now pasture.

Recommendations

The drainage system and ridge and furrow earthworks are an important element of the historic landscape; it is important that they are maintained and not damaged in any way.

<i>Management Category</i>	A	<i>Visited by</i>	KM	<i>Visited On</i>	22/11/99
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<i>PRN</i> 39281	<i>Site name</i> SIR JOHN'S HILL	<i>NGR</i> SN297098
<i>Site type</i> FIELD SYSTEM	<i>Period</i> Post Med	<i>Site Status</i>

Description

A regular field system on the crest of Sir John's Hill is defined by mortared walls and hedges. The walls seem to form the major divisions the hedges subsidiary boundaries. The walls are in a poor state of repair; some have collapsed over long stretches and most are now covered with scrubby hedges. Wire fences against the walls provide the stock-proof boundaries. Hedges of this system lie on low banks and are well maintained. The date of creation of this system is unknown, but the walls are likely to be estate work, perhaps the Broadway estate and therefore of late 18th- or early-19th century date. The extent of the stone wall field system has not been established. It does not continue further east or south, but land to the north and west was not examined in 1999.

Recommendations

Fields divided by mortared walls are extremely rare in Carmarthenshire. Consideration should be given to the maintenance and/or repair of the walls under the Tir Gofal programme of works.

<i>Management Category</i> B	<i>Visited by</i> KM	<i>Visited On</i> 22/11/99
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<i>PRN</i> 39283	<i>Site name</i> CAUSEWAY FARM	<i>NGR</i> SN2909
<i>Site type</i> PROJECT RECORD	<i>Period</i> General	<i>Site Status</i>

Description

Recommendations

<i>Management Category</i>	<i>Visited by</i> KM	<i>Visited On</i> 22/11/99
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Map

Tithe Map, 1842 Tithe Map & Apport Llansadurnen Ph, Schedule Nos.203-244 "The Leese"

OS, 1889 Carms Sheet XLV.11, 1st Ed 1:2500

OS, 1906 Carms Sheet XLV.11, 2nd Ed 1:2500

OS 1891 Carms Sheet XLV.11 NW
OS 1908 Carms Sheet XLV.11 NW+SW

Aerial Photograph

RAF, 1946 , 106G-UK-1625 1185-6

RAF, 1946 , 106G-UK-1625 1186-8

Meridian Airmaps, 1955 , 220-200 37589-90

DAT, 1985 SMR, 80-21 80-22

Written Description

Jones TJJ, 1948 BBCS, Vol.VIII p.28

Davies M, 1955 Geography, Vol.XI p.169

Davies M, 1973 Field Systems in Britain, Ed.Baker & Butlin p.512-3

TIR GOFAL APPLICATION: CAUSEWAY FARM, LAUGHARNE, CARMARTHENSHIRE

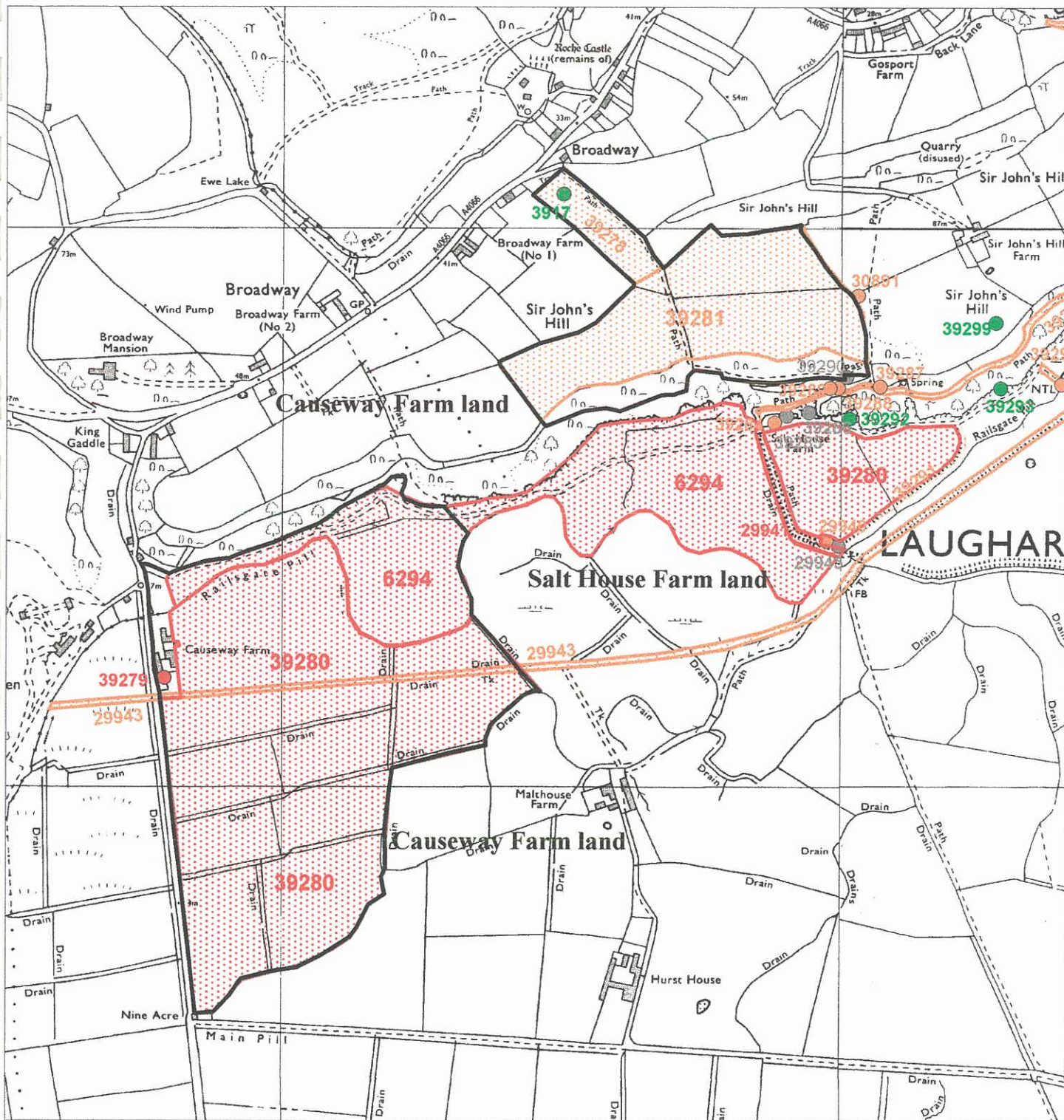
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Report prepared for CCW

Map scale 1:10,000

Note: the whole of Causeway Farm lies within the Taf and Tywi Estuary area on the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales

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TIR GOFAL - CAUSEWAY, CARMARTHENSHIRE
GROUND PHOTOGRAPHS



Ground Photograph - general view of Laugharne Marsh showing system of drainage ditches, and ridge and furrow.



Ground Photograph of Causeway Farm, 39279, showing one range of the early 19th-century farm buildings.

TIR GOFAL - CAUSEWAY, CARMARTHENSHIRE
GROUND PHOTOGRAPHS



Ground Photograph looking along the tramway causeway, 29943.



Ground Photograph showing a field wall of field system 39281.