



Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology

01/12/99

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report

Salthouse

W/12/710

ACA Project Record No 39300

Report prepared for CCW
by ACA

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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/12/710

Address Salthouse, Laugharne

NGR SN2909

TG Project Officer Ann Humble, Haverfordwest

Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology Project Record Number 39300

Visit Officer KM

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 Salthouse Farm & Environs

Salthouse Farm holding encompasses three distinct environments: reclaimed marsh, woodland on former sea cliffs, and hilly enclosed pasture. The reclaimed marsh is divided into two, The Lees, PRN 6294, which is still divided into shares owned by Laugharne Corporation, and other land, PRN 39280. Both types of land are pasture with marked ridge and furrow. The history of the marsh is well known: in the later prehistoric period down to Medieval 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 marsh in his own hands, as part of the demesne of the Lordship of Laugharne, as on his death in 1307 1000 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 on 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 their 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 was 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 1840s - 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 the use of the Dutch Plough. Drainage work continued in the 19th century. A large seawall armoured with stones 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 was built across the Witchett Brook. Watkins'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 southern eastern portion of this historic landscape character area.

The former cliff line is heavily wooded and masks the remains of several stone-built cottages. These, together with an abandoned building known as Salt House, the present Salthouse Farm and other former cottages are probably evidence for a squatter settlement of 18th-19th century date. The abandoned buildings were occupied until 1947. These dwellings are ^{both} either located on the steep slope above cliffs in woodland ^{and} or on at the foot of the former salt marsh. A scenic walk - New Walk - was constructed through the woods in the first half of the 19th century. Pasture land on the hills above the woods is divided into small, fairly regular fields by earth banks with hedges. The hedges generally very overgrown, or trimmed down to stumps. Wire fences alongside the hedges provide stock-proof boundaries. It is probable that this regular field system evolved out of a open- or strip-system - a lynchet or bank with stone-facing on the south side of the fields may be the remains of such a system.,

A cliff at the edge of the

PRN 6294	Site name LEES THE	NGR SN2909
Site type FIELD SYSTEM	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

The Lees field system lies 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 29940	Site name SALTHOUSE	NGR SN29970944
Site type DWELLING	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

This site is located immediately outside the sea wall 29941, and to the north of Railsgate Pill. It is recorded on the tithe map and apportionment of 1846 as 'Cottages and Gardens', with one building shown with its long axis north to south. By 1889, it seems to have been rebuilt as its long axis is east to west. It is now ruined. Parts of the stone-built walls still stand. The west gable is almost at full height. The plan of the building is difficult to appreciate as the site is very overgrown. It is rectangular and of at least two cells.

Recommendations

Maintain as existing.

Management Category B	Visited by KM	Visited On 22/11/99
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PRN 29941	Site name SALT HOUSE SEA DEFENCE	NGR SN29850963
Site type SEA WALL	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

This sea wall runs from Salt House Farm at the northern end, towards Railsgate Pill. It continues on the south side of Railsgate Pill as 29946. According to documents in the National Library of Wales, this sea defence was built in 1660 by Sir Sackville Crow of Westmead. The wall is earth-built, an up to 8m wide and 2-3m high. There is a ditch to the west of the bank.

Recommendations

Maintain as existing.

Management Category A	Visited by KM	Visited On 22/11/99
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PRN 29945	Site name SALT HOUSE PUMP	NGR SN299094
Site type PUMP	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

Pump at Salt House. A pump is labelled on the 1st edition OS adjacent to the Salt House. There was no trace of this pump in 1999.

Recommendations

There are no management recommendations for this site.

Management Category D	Visited by KM	Visited On 22/11/99
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Tir Gofal Scheme	Tir Gofal Application No W/12/710
Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites and Management Recommendations:	Salt House, Carmarthenshire

PRN 29946 *Site name* SALT HOUSE SEA DEFENCE *NGR* SN30110938
Site type SEA WALL *Period* Post Med *Site Status*

Description

This is principally a bank - sea wall - earth built, approximately 6m wide and 2m - 3m high. It runs from Railsgate Pill at the northern end to Laugharne Burrows - sand dunes - at the southern end. It is a continuation of the bank, PRN 29941, which lies on the north side of Railsgate Pill. Presumably there was originally a sluice gate on Railsgate Pill between these two lengths of bank. The bank was constructed in 1660 by Sir Sackville Crow of Westmead as part of the first drainage scheme on Laugharne Marsh. It was superseded by the larger sea wall, PRN 29945, in the early 19th-century.

Recommendations

Management Category A *Visited by* KM *Visited On* 22/11/99

PRN 30891 *Site name* SIR JOHN'S HILL *NGR* SN30040987
Site type ROYAL OBSERVER CORPS POST *Period* Modern *Site Status*

Description

Orlit Type B Royal Observer Corps Post. Concrete post remains of this structure stand in the corner of a field. The site seems to have been used in more recent times as an installation for agricultural machinery.

Recommendations

Maintain as existing.

Management Category B *Visited by* KM *Visited On* 22/11/99

PRN 39280 *Site name* LAUGHARNE MARSH *NGR* SN2808
Site type FIELD SYSTEM *Period* Post Med *Site Status*

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.

Management Category A *Visited by* KM *Visited On* 22/11/99

PRN 39284 *Site name* SALT HOUSE FARM;SALTHOUSE FARM *NGR* SN29840965
Site type FARMSTEAD *Period* Post Med *Site Status*

Description

According to A Gale there was a dwelling here in 1706, the dwelling is built on the extreme northern end of a sea wall (29941), where it meets an old cliff line. A house is recorded in 1846 on the tithe map. The current house is stone built, two-storeys and three bays, with an outshot to the rear. It is probably of late 19th-century date. Outbuildings to the east of the house are mostly modern, some incorporate stone walls of earlier structures.

Recommendations

There are no management recommendations for this site.

Management Category B *Visited by* KM *Visited On* 22/11/99

Tir Gofal Scheme	Tir Gofal Application No W/12/710
Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites and Management Recommendations:	Salt House, Carmarthenshire

PRN 39285 *Site name* SOUTH HILL COTTAGES *NGR* SN29880965
Site type DWELLING *Period* Post Med *Site Status*

Description

This house lay immediately to the east of the dwelling now called Salthouse, PRN 39284. It is recorded on the 1846 tithe map, but seems to have gone by 1889. The site of the house is under the farmyard/buildings of Salt House Farm.

Recommendations

There are no management recommendations for this site.

Management Category D *Visited by* KM *Visited On* 22/11/99

PRN 39286 *Site name* SOUTH HILL COTTAGES *NGR* SN29900967
Site type DWELLING *Period* Post Med *Site Status*

Description

A 'House and Garden' is recorded here on the tithe survey of 1846. The house was still standing in 1906. The site of it is now occupied by the yard and buildings of Salt House Farm.

Recommendations

There are no management recommendations for this site.

Management Category D *Visited by* KM *Visited On* 22/11/99

PRN 39287 *Site name* REDROCK *NGR* SN30060973
Site type DWELLING *Period* Post Med *Site Status*

Description

Redrock 'House and Garden & c' is recorded on the 1846 tithe map. By 1889, the house had been abandoned. It is now represented by stone walls up to 1m high. It measures approximately 9m by 4m, and is aligned with its long axis east to west - across the slope - and is constructed on a terrace cut into the hillside. There is a door in the north wall but no other detail. It sits within a paddock or close defined by low stony banks, now derelict. The tithe map records two other plots attached to this property, in one is a small building. This is still present, but abandoned in 1889. The site of this building was not examined in the 1999 survey.

Recommendations

This is a good example of the small farmstead or small-holding of 19th century date. The present regime of grazing over this site should be maintained to prevent the growth of scrub and/or trees. Care should be exercised to ensure the low walls are not damaged.

Management Category B *Visited by* KM *Visited On* 22/11/99

PRN 39288 *Site name* SOUTH HILL COTTAGES *NGR* SN29980970
Site type DWELLING *Period* Post Med *Site Status*

Description

An abandoned house on a steep slope on the edge of a cliff in dense woodland alongside a public footpath. The house was in existence in 1846. According to R Stevens of Salt House Farm, it was still lived in 1947. It is two-storeys, stone-built and three-bayed. It has an asymmetrical appearance, but with a roughly centrally-placed front door and two windows either side. There is a substantial chimney in the west gable, with bread oven to the south side of fireplace. The east gable has collapsed. An outshot to the rear contains a very substantial chimney. The rear of the house is built into a high bank/cliff. There is a small walled garden plot to the front. Trees have now rooted on the walls.

Recommendations

If there is to be woodland management carried out under the Tir Gofal programme then it is recommended that the trees and saplings rooted in and close to this building are removed and the stumps killed.

Management Category B *Visited by* KM *Visited On* 22/11/99

Tir Gofal Scheme	Tir Gofal Application No W/12/710
Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites and Management Recommendations:	Salt House, Carmarthenshire

PRN 39289 Site name SOUTH HILL COTTAGES NGR SN29970971
Site type DWELLING Period Post Med Site Status

Description

This house is built on a steep slope on the edge of a cliff in dense woodland alongside a public footpath. It was in existence in 1846 and according to R Stevens of Salthouse Farm it was still occupied in 1947. It lies immediately to the west of 39288. It is one-and-a-half to two-storeys, stone built and three bays. A large chimney in the west gable has clearly survived from an earlier phase of building. The east gable has collapsed. Low brick centering over the windows indicate later 19th-century date or later for the construction of the house. Trees have rooted into the walls.

Recommendations

If there is to be woodland management under the Tir Gofal programme then it is recommended that the trees and saplings that have rooted on this site are removed and the stumps killed.

Management Category B Visited by KM Visited On 22/11/99

PRN 39290 Site name SOUTH HILL COTTAGES NGR SN30000973
Site type DWELLING Period Post Med Site Status

Description

What was probably a house is recorded in this position on the 1846 tithe map. It is still present on the first two editions of the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 maps. According to R Stevens of Salthouse Farm, dwellings in this area were lived in until 1947. This building was not examined in the 1999 survey of the area - it must lie in deep woodland.

Recommendations

As this site was not located, no management recommendations are provided. If standing building remains are however found to be present, it is suggested that they are dealt with in a similar fashion to those at sites 39288-89.

Management Category D Visited by KM Visited On 22/11/99

PRN 39291 Site name RAILGATE PILL SEA WALL NGR SN301095
Site type SEA WALL Period Post Med Site Status

Description

This short length of sea defence bank encloses two fields. It runs out to the seaward side of sea wall 29941. It is built of earth and is approximately 4m wide and 1.5m - 2m high. It has several breaches in it. It is clearly later than the sea wall 29941, which was built in 1660, but lies with and so predates the later sea wall and bridge, PRN's 39296-97, built in 1881.

Recommendations

Maintain as existing.

Management Category B Visited by KM Visited On 22/11/99

PRN 39292 Site name SALT HOUSE NGR SN30020966
Site type QUARRY Period Unknown Site Status

Description

Quarry dug into Old Red Sandstone of former sea cliff. It is approximately 50m across and 30m high. Date unknown, but probably a source of stone for Laugharne town in the Medieval and post-Medieval Periods.

Recommendations

Maintain as existing.

Management Category C Visited by KM Visited On 22/11/99

Tir Gofal Scheme	Tir Gofal Application No W/12/710
Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites and Management Recommendations:	Salt House, Carmarthenshire

PRN 39293 Site name SALT HOUSE NGR SN30270969
Site type QUARRY Period Unknown Site Status

Description

Quarry dug into Old Red Sandstone of former sea cliff. It is approximately 50m across and 30m high. Date unknown, but probably a source of stone for Laugharne town in the Medieval and post-Medieval Periods.

Recommendations

Maintain as existing.

Management Category C Visited by KM Visited On 22/11/99

PRN 39294 Site name NEW WALK NGR SN30481028
Site type QUARRY Period Unknown Site Status

Description

Quarry dug into Old Red Sandstone on wooded slopes. It is approximately 50m long and 8m high. Date unknown, but probably a source of stone for Laugharne town in the Medieval and post-Medieval Periods.

Recommendations

Maintain as existing.

Management Category C Visited by KM Visited On 22/11/99

PRN 39295 Site name NEW WALK NGR SN30441037
Site type WALK Period Post Med Site Status

Description

New Walk leads up from the foreshore at Laugharne through woods to a viewing point overlooking Laugharne Marsh and Carmarthen Bay. It is built on an earthwork terrace or ledge. At SN30471029 is a commemorative stone recording the construction of the walk. It is now virtually illegible. The date recorded may be 1835.

Recommendations

Maintain as existing.

Management Category B Visited by KM Visited On 22/11/99

PRN 39296 Site name THOMAS BROADWOOD'S SEA WALL NGR SN304097
Site type SEA WALL Period Post Med Site Status

Description

This short length of sea defence bank runs from a former cliff line on the north side, across Railsgate Pill to meet the sea wall PRN 29945. The construction of the wall is somewhat similar to PRN 29945, suggesting a similar period of construction - 1800-1810 - but Railsgate Pill is crossed by a bridge, PRN 39297, dated 1881, which may indicate that this sea wall was built at this time. A track runs along the crest of the bank and over the bridge.

Recommendations

Maintain as existing.

Management Category B Visited by KM Visited On 22/11/99

Tir Gofal Scheme	Tir Gofal Application No W/12/710
Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites and Management Recommendations:	Salt House, Carmarthenshire

PRN 39297 Site name THOMAS BROADWOOD'S BRIDGE NGR SN30410972
Site type BRIDGE;SLUICE Period Post Med Site Status

Description

This bridge forms part of the sea defence system of sea wall, PRN 39296. The bridge is stone-built with a single-arched, culvert-like opening. Heavy steel sluice gates hang on the seaward side of the arch. A date stone records: 'ERECTED BY THOS. BROADWOOD ESQ 1881'.

Recommendations

This bridge lies outside the Tir Gofal application area.

Management Category B Visited by KM Visited On 22/11/99

PRN 39299 Site name SIR JOHN'S HILL NGR SN30260983
Site type POND Period Post Med Site Status

Description

A small pond built onto a hillside. Originally it may have been a small quarry pit, which was converted to a pond by building a low dam on the down slope side of the pit.

Recommendations

Maintain as existing.

Management Category C Visited by KM Visited On 22/11/99

PRN 39300 Site name SALT HOUSE FARM NGR SN2909
Site type PROJECT RECORD Period General Site Status

Description

Recommendations

Management Category Visited by KM Visited On 22/11/99

Map

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

Tithe Map, 1846 Laugharne Township Tithe Map and Apportionment, allotment 855 'House and Garden

Ordnance Survey, 1889 Carmarthenshire Sheet XLV.11, 1st Ed 1:2500

Ordnance Survey, 1889 Carmarthenshire XLV.14,

Ordnance Survey, 1906 Carmarthenshire Sheet XLV.11, 2nd Ed 1:2500

Ordnance Survey, 1906 Carmarthenshire XLV.14,

Aerial Photograph

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

Meridian Airmaps, 1955 , 220-220 37589-90 37599-600

Written Description

Jones TIJ, 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

Gale A, 1995 Between Tides A Coastal Survey of Carmarthen Bay:A Pilot Project,

TIR GOFAL - SALT HOUSE, CARMARTHENSHIRE
GROUND PHOTOGRAPHS



Ground Photograph looking southeast at the sea wall 29941.



Ground Photograph of the remains of Redrock, 39287.

TIR GOFAL - SALT HOUSE, CARMARTHENSHIRE
GROUND PHOTOGRAPHS



Ground Photograph of The Lees, 6294, showing the ridge and furrow of the strips or shares.



Ground Photograph looking across Salt House Farm to The Lees, 6294.

TIR GOFAL - SALTHOUSE CARMARTHENSHIRE
GROUND PHOTOGRAPHS



Ground Photograph showing the remains of the Old Salthouse, 29940, from the east.



Ground Photograph of sea wall 39291, showing earth construction.

TIR GOFAL APPLICATION: SALT HOUSE FARM, LAUGHARNE, CARMARTHENSHIRE

ACA Project Record No. 39300

Report prepared for CCW

Map scale 1:10,000

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

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