

Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology

01/03/2000

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report

Esgairgraig

W/11/967

ACA Project Record No 39432

Report prepared for CCW
by ACA

March, 2000

Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology
Shire Hall,
8, Carmarthen Street,
Llandeilo,
Carmarthenshire
SA19 6AF
Tel: (01558) 823121/823131
Fax: (01558) 823133
Email: cambria@acadat.com



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Tir Gofal Application Number W/11/967

Address Esgairgraig, Beulau, Newcastle Emlyn,
Ceredigion

NGR SN30164666

TG Project Officer Fiona Lanc, Haverfordwest

Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology Project Record Number 39432

Visit Officer Nigel Page

Visit Date 16/03/00

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 Red Banding	<i>Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest 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 Esgairgraig Farm

Esgairgraig is a small farm of some 62 acres (25ha) located on the slopes of the narrow valley of the Afon Medeni which formed the northern boundary of the farm before the neighbouring Esgair-Bettws property was acquired. It is made up from two mid-19th century holdings, Esgairgraig itself and the neighbouring smallholding Esgair-Bettws (PRN 39379). The mid-19th, century layout appears unplanned and consisted of the house and two other buildings, the house being detached from the yard and located some 60-70m to the south. By the later-19th century the yard buildings had been extended and the present layout was achieved by the early years of the 20th century. Only the farmhouse survives from the original farm buildings, the ranges in the yard were demolished in the 1970s and replaced with modern block and steel structures. The present Esgairgraig holding extends across two historic parishes, Troed yr Aur and Betws Evan, and examination of the tithe maps for both parishes has shown that the field pattern was already established by the mid-19th century, but it is likely to be much earlier and date from at least the early- to mid-18th century. Field boundaries are typically earth banks topped with a mature hedge and most are in fairly good condition. Around the house and yard area some of the walls are constructed using slivers of stone (the underlying shale bedrock splinters this way naturally) which are laid with their ends pointing outwards. This technique has been noted on another farm in the region and it may be a local tradition.

Management Recommendations for Esgairgraig Farm

The present management system operating on the farm is maintaining the surviving historic features and preserving the farm's character. Recommendations for individual sites and features have been made throughout this report.

Tir Gofal Scheme	Tir Gofal Application No W/11/967
Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites and Management Recommendations:	Esgairgraig, Ceredigion

PRN 12118 Site name ESGAIR-GRAIG NGR SN30284633
Site type UNKNOWN Period Unknown Site Status

Description

Circular cropmark spotted on aerial photographs. Nothing visible on the ground.

Recommendations

The field containing this feature should be excluded from deep ploughing, otherwise no specific management is required.

Management Category D Visited by NAP Visited On 16/03/00

PRN 39378 Site name ESGAIRGRAIG FARM NGR SN30164666
Site type FARM Period Post Med Site Status

Description

See description of the farm.

Recommendations

See farm recommendations.

Management Category C Visited by NAP Visited On 16/03/00

PRN 39379 Site name ESGAIR-BETTWS NGR SN30344670
Site type DRS Period Post Med Site Status

Description

Esgair-bettws was a smallholding shown on the tithe map of 1841 when it consisted of two rectangular buildings and five fields. On the 1st edition OS map of 1891 only one of the buildings was shown and by the time of the second edition (1906) the surviving building had been reduced in length by roughly half. This suggests that the surviving building may have been a house with an attached barn or animal house which was no longer required as Esgair-bettws lands became incorporated into the Esgairgraig holding. The site is now levelled but the name Esgair-bettws has been revived on a modern house nearby.

Recommendations

There are no surviving above ground traces of either building that were shown on the tithe map. However there is a good chance that some buried remains survive on the site and this area should be excluded from ploughing, or any other ground breaking operations.

Management Category D Visited by NAP Visited On 16/03/00

PRN 39380 Site name ESGAIRGRAIG FARM NGR SN30314640
Site type QUARRY Period Post Med Site Status

Description

Small quarry cut into a steep north facing bank, c.25m x 10m. The quarry was marked as an old quarry on the 1st edition OS map of 1891 but it was not shown on the 2nd edition map of 1906. It is clear of rubbish and sometimes still used as source of stone for works around the farm.

Recommendations

The quarry should be kept clear of rubbish, but no specific management is required.

Management Category D Visited by NAP Visited On 16/03/00

<i>PRN</i>	39381	<i>Site name</i>	ESGAIRGRIAG FARM	<i>NGR</i>	SN30344670
<i>Site type</i>	QUARRY	<i>Period</i>	Post Med	<i>Site Status</i>	

Description

Small quarry alongside track leading to Esgairgraig Farm. The quarry is c.4m x 3m and is located just south of the site of the former smallholding Esgair-bettws (PRN39379). It is now overgrown with brambles.

Recommendations

No specific management required.

<i>Management Category</i>	D	<i>Visited by</i>	NAP	<i>Visited On</i>	16/03/00
<i>PRN</i>	39382	<i>Site name</i>	ESGAIRGRIAG FARM	<i>NGR</i>	SN30114662
<i>Site type</i>	QUARRY	<i>Period</i>	Post Med	<i>Site Status</i>	

Description

Quarry, 10m x 5m, cut into the track leading northeast from the farm. The quarry is now overgrown and has a well established pond in it.

Recommendations

No specific management required.

<i>Management Category</i>	D	<i>Visited by</i>	NAP	<i>Visited On</i>	16/03/00
<i>PRN</i>	39383	<i>Site name</i>	ESGAIRGRIAG FARM	<i>NGR</i>	SN30224672
<i>Site type</i>	WHEEL PIT	<i>Period</i>	Post Med	<i>Site Status</i>	

Description

Filled in rectangular wheel pit, visible as a shallow depression, c.4m x 2m, with some masonry showing through the grass cover on the northeast corner. The wheel was powered by water fed via a leat (now infilled) from a mill pond (PRN 39384) some 20-30m to the northwest. The wheel would have supplied power to machinery housed in the original yard buildings, and part of the drive shaft has been recovered and is now stored in the yard.

Recommendations

The complex of the wheel-pit, leat and mill pond is an interesting group and the field in which they are located should be left as rough pasture in order to protect the surviving remains.

<i>Management Category</i>	D	<i>Visited by</i>	NAP	<i>Visited On</i>	16/03/00
<i>PRN</i>	39384	<i>Site name</i>	ESGAIRGRIAG FARM	<i>NGR</i>	SN30144679
<i>Site type</i>	MILL POND	<i>Period</i>	Post Med	<i>Site Status</i>	

Description

Mill pond used to supply water to the water wheel which formerly operated in wheel pit (PRN 39383). The pond has stone-faced earth banks and is now very overgrown. It does not appear to be shown on the OS 1st edition map of 1891, but it is shown on the 2nd edition map of 1906.

Recommendations

The complex of the wheel-pit, leat and mill pond is an interesting group and the field in which they are located should be left as rough pasture in order to protect the surviving remains.

<i>Management Category</i>	D	<i>Visited by</i>	NAP	<i>Visited On</i>	16/03/00
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Tir Gofal Scheme	Tir Gofal Application No W/11/967
Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites and Management Recommendations:	Esgairgraig, Ceredigion

PRN 39432 *Site name* ESGAIRGRAIG FARM *NGR* SN30164666

Site type PROJECT RECORD *Period* *Site Status*

Description

Recommendations

Management Category

Visited by NAP

Visited On 16/03/00

Map

Tithe Map, 1840 Troed yr Aur parish tithe map and apportionment no.44, -

Ordnance Survey, 1891 OS 1st edition 1:10560, Sheet Cards.XXXIX.NW

Ordnance Survey, 1906 OS 2nd edition 1:10560, Sheet Cards.XXXIX.NW

Aerial Photograph

Meridian Airmaps, 1955 -, 230-240 18101-2

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not to scale

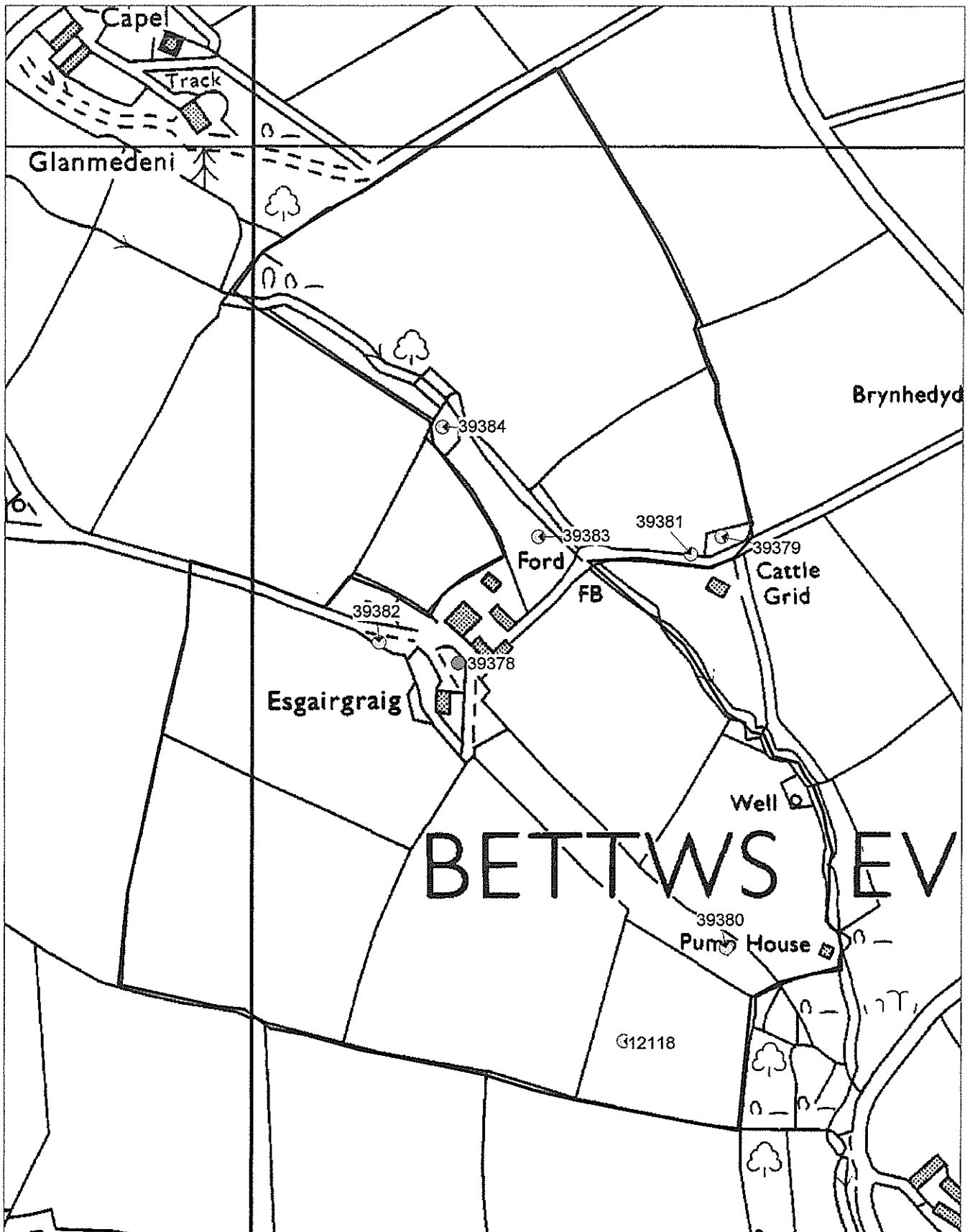




Plate 1: PRN 39382 - small quarry, now a pond



Plate 2: PRN 39383 - old wheel pit, infilled and grass covered