



01/06/2000

Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report

Home Farm

W/11/48

ACA Project Record 39448

Report prepared for CCW
by ACA

June, 2000

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



ARCHAEOLEG
CAMBRIA
ARCHAEOLOGY

Tir Gofal Application Number W/11/48

Address Home Farm **NGR** SN5918452383

TG Project Officer Arfon Williams, Aberystwyth

Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology Project Record Number 39448

Visit Officer Nigel Page

Visit Date 30/05/00

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	<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 the Ponds

A series of ponds constructed across the course of a small stream as part of the 18th century park designed by Humphrey Repton. The ponds are arranged in a northwest-southeast line with the upper pond feeding the middle pond which fed the lower pond; the third pond empties into a stone-lined channel which formerly led to a saw mill. Water flowed out of the ponds over weirs which provided a decorative cascading effect. A boat house had been built on the bank of the middle pond sometime between 1891 and 1906 (OS 1st and 2nd edition 1:10560 maps). The third and lowest pond is crossed by a stone-built single span bridge which was described by Samuel Lewis in 1833 as a 'bridge of handsome design'. The lower pond is stone-lined and the other ponds are banked, and possibly stone-lined. There are a number of stone walls in the area of the lower pond, which presumably had some form of water management function when first built, but their exact arrangement and function is unknown. The bridge is a single span stone-built structure with large decorative circular openings, which extend through both sides of the bridge, either side of the central arch. A smaller arch at the NE end empties into a stone-built structure on the SE side of the bridge. The structure, which may be a culvert, is partially covered by a bank and its extent is unknown. The ponds are silted up and very overgrown with mature trees and shrubs, although the watercourse still runs and feeds out through the channel past the saw mill. The bridge is in generally good condition, the parapets have suffered some damage, but the fabric appears reasonably sound.

Management of the Ponds

The ponds and associated structures are part of the garden and parkland designed by Humphrey Repton in the late 18th century. They were designed to be one of the key features of the landscape and they are an important survival of Repton's work. Repton gardens are not common in Wales and these ponds should be surveyed to produce a ground plan of the surviving features and to assess the condition and long-term management of the ponds and their associated structures. The ponds are worthy of consideration for scheduling.

PRN 6060	Site name CWM COCH	NGR SN59252
Site type UNKNOWN	Period Unknown	Site Status

Description

Cropmark identified by the Ordnance Survey from aerial photographs taken in 1946. Nothing visible on the ground.

Recommendations

Further aerial photographic coverage should be checked for evidence of this feature. The extent of the cropmark should be defined and this area excluded from ploughing, or other ground breaking operations

Management Category D	Visited by NAP	Visited On 30/05/00
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PRN 6065	Site name DERRY ORMOND	NGR SN5930523
Site type UNKNOWN	Period Unknown	Site Status

Description

Oval cropmark, possible ditch, c.80m x 30m. Nothing visible on the ground

Recommendations

This feature is currently in a pasture field and the area around the cropmark should be left grass covered to protect the below ground remains

Management Category D	Visited by NAP	Visited On 30/05/00
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PRN 39448	Site name HOME FARM	NGR SN591845238
Site type PROJECT RECORD	Period	Site Status

Description

Recommendations

Management Category	Visited by NAP	Visited On 30/05/00
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PRN 40649	Site name HOME FARM	NGR SN5930523
Site type FARM	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

Home Farm covers an area of approximately 90 acres (36.5ha) of what used to be the demesne and parkland of Derry-Ormond mansion. It is located on a south facing slope above Bettws Bledrws and it slopes from a high point at its north of over 200m OD end to its lowest point, c.150m OD, alongside the A485 in the south. The parkland landscape was designed by Humphrey Repton sometime in the later 18th century, although its exact date is not known. Repton's last work in Wales was started in 1803 (Whittle 1992, 62). There are still many surviving traces of Repton's garden, the most notable of which is the series of three ponds (PRN 40650) which occupy the south west corner of the former park.

Recommendations

The farm covers part of the late 18th century parkland layout of the Derry Ormond estate gardens. The gardens and parks were designed by Humphrey Repton, one of the best-known landscape designers of the period. At present the area is under pasture and retains its parkland character. Where possible the character of the area should be maintained by preserving all existing boundaries and not introducing new ones to break up the landscape.

Management Category A	Visited by NAP	Visited On 30/05/00
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PRN	40650	Site name	HOME FARM	NGR	SN5930523
Site type	POND	Period	Post Med	Site Status	

Description

See full description at front of report.

Recommendations

The ponds and associated structures are part of the garden and parkland designed by Humphrey Repton in the late 18th century. They were designed to be one of the key features of the landscape and they are an important survival of Repton's work. Repton gardens are not common in Wales and these ponds should be surveyed to produce a ground plan of the surviving features and to assess the condition and long-term management of the ponds and their associated structures. The ponds are worthy of consideration for scheduling

Management Category	A	Visited by	NAP	Visited On	30/05/00
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PRN	40651	Site name	HOME FARM	NGR	SN5930523
Site type	PARK	Period	Post Med	Site Status	

Description

Part of the late 18th century parkland landscape designed by Humphrey Repton for the Derry Ormond estate. Originally the park included terraces in front of the house which had a picturesque view across the ponds (PRN 40650) to a folly, a Doric column on a ridge opposite (Whittle 1992, 62)

Recommendations

Humphrey Repton was one of the best known landscape designers working in Britain during the later 19th century. He undertook a number of works in Wales, of which Derry Ormond is a partial, but interesting survival.

Management Category	A	Visited by	NAP	Visited On	30/05/00
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Map

Tithe Map, 1844, Betws Bledrws tithe map and apportionment, -

Ordnance Survey, 1891, 1st edition 1:10560, sheet Cards.XXXIV.NW

Ordnance Survey, 1906, 2nd edition 1:10560, sheet Cards.XXXIV.NW

Written Description

Whittle E, 1992, The Historic Gardens of Wales, p62

Lewis S, 1833, Topographical Dictionary of Wales, Bewts-Bledrws paris

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report
Home Farm, Betws Bledrws
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not to scale

