

01/05/2000



Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report

Merryborough

W/13/262

ACA Project Record 39460

Report prepared for CCW
by ACA

May, 2000

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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/13/262

Address Merryborough

NGR

SM99721704

TG Project Officer Ann Humble, Haverfordwest

Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology Project Record Number 39460

Visit Officer Nigel Page

Visit Date 09/05/00

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 Merryborough Farm

Modern Merryborough is roughly 172 acres (70ha) which is approximately half the size it was when the tithe map was produced in the 1840s. It occupies a gently sloping location dropping north from a high point of c.80m OD in the southeast corner to its lowest point c.30m along the north boundary of the farm which follows Fenton Brook. Merryborough covers an area of former glebe land belonging to St. Mary's Church Wiston and it is from this that it derives its name. In the early 12th century the area now occupied by the farm was known as Mons Sanctae Marie (Charles 1992 458). The first recorded use of the name in its more recognizable form dates from the 13th century when the area was known as terra de sancta Maria Bergha. The modern spelling appears to date from the 18th century. On the Wiston parish tithe map (1843) the yard area of the farm consisted of three rectangular buildings, the house, an animal shed with loft (PRN 40648) and a smaller building to the southeast, all aligned northwest-southeast. Several changes had been made by 1891, a new cowhouse and stable (PRN 40647) had been built to the northwest, a pigsty (now demolished) was built and the house had been extended. The house seems to have developed from a longhouse-type structure. Further changes occurred between 1891 and 1908, a small cowhouse (PRN 40646) had been built just north of the house the smaller building shown on the tithe map had been removed and several smaller structures were erected around the yard. The mid-19th century layout is still traceable within the yard today, although only parts of the original buildings survive. The current field pattern was well established by the time of the tithe survey and it is probably at least a century older than that. Boundaries on the farm are earth banks with mature hedges, stone walls and stone-built rounded field entrances.

PRN 10389	Site name MERRYBOROUGH FARM	NGR SM99541710
Site type MOAT	Period Mediaeval;Post Med?	Site Status SAM

Description

Moated platform in broad valley bottom. It is 37m square with a centre ditch on average 3.5m wide. There are outer and inner banks to the ditch measuring between 2.5-3.5m wide and standing up to 1m high. CADW 1994. A small stream that ran into the ditch at the southwest corner has been re-routed away from the monument and the erosion scars caused by the stream have grassed over.

Recommendations

The enclosure is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and is therefore protected from deliberate damage. It is in a pasture field and the stocking levels are sufficiently low to avoid significant damage, although cattle should be excluded from the monument during very wet periods.

Management Category A	Visited by NAP	Visited On 09/05/00
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PRN 14246	Site name MERRYBOROUGH	NGR SM996167
Site type UNKNOWN	Period Unknown	Site Status

Description

A cropmark identified from aerial photographs. Possibly a concentric antenna enclosure consisting of an inner enclosure with a funnelled entrance which extends around the inner enclosure as an outer enclosure. There is no visible evidence for such an enclosure on the ground.

Recommendations

The cropmarks extend into two fields, the southernmost of which is ploughed yearly, the northern field is pasture. The extent of the cropmarks should be accurately plotted and the area in the southern field excluded from further ploughing.

Management Category D	Visited by NAP	Visited On 09/05/00
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PRN 40645	Site name MERRYBOROUGH	NGR SM996167
Site type FARM	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

Recommendations

The farm is currently operating in a manner sympathetic to the surviving historic structures and features.

Management Category C	Visited by NAP	Visited On 09/05/00
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PRN 40646	Site name MERRYBOROUGH	NGR SM996167
Site type COWSHED	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

Two-storey cowshed with loft over constructed from uncoursed random rubble with a corrugated asbestos gable roof. This is the surviving south end of a longer building first shown on the tithe map of 1843: the rest of the building was rebuilt in the 1950s. The west front elevation has a central door with a narrow vent loop to the north and a small square window to the south. The window was adapted from a vent loop that matched the surviving one. The loft has two square pitching eyes these are matched in the rear east wall. All the openings are square headed. Possibly originally used as a calf shed the ground floor now houses grain grinding machinery including a belt driven mill.

Recommendations

The surviving section is in a good state of repair and it should be maintained in its present condition.

Management Category C	Visited by NAP	Visited On 09/05/00
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<i>PRN</i> 40647	<i>Site name</i> MERRYBOROUGH	<i>NGR</i> SM996167
<i>Site type</i> STABLE	<i>Period</i> Post Med	<i>Site Status</i>

Description

A small stone built and whitewashed stable with a slate gable roof. This originally formed the south end of a long cowhouse which has been demolished and replaced with a modern cattle shed. The stable/cowhouse was first shown on the OS 1st edition 1:10560 map of 1891. The roof has been rebuilt.

Recommendations

The building is in a reasonable state of repair and it should be maintained in its present condition.

<i>Management Category</i> C	<i>Visited by</i> NAP	<i>Visited On</i> 09/05/00
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<i>PRN</i> 40648	<i>Site name</i> MERRYBOROUGH	<i>NGR</i> SM996167
<i>Site type</i> COWSHED	<i>Period</i> Post Med	<i>Site Status</i>

Description

Late 19th century single-storey stone-built cowshed with a cement washed slate gable roof. The south gable wall has been removed. The slates are attached by a wooden peg that is hooked over thin withy type batons. The east wall has two doors and three windows arranged WDWDW.

Recommendations

The roof is a poor state and will require a significant amount of work to repair it. The rest of the structure is in good condition. This is an altered late 19th century building of limited historical value, but it does form part of a group of 19th century farm buildings and the roof should be made safe and waterproof to protect the surviving structure.

<i>Management Category</i> C	<i>Visited by</i> NAP	<i>Visited On</i> 09/05/00
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Map

Tithe Map, 1843, Wiston parish tithe map and apportionment, -
Ordnance Survey, 1891, 1st edition 1:10560, Pembs.XXVIII.NW
Ordnance Survey, 1908, 2nd edition 1:10560, Pembs.XXVIII.NW

Written Description

CADW, 1994, AM107, -
Page NA, 2000, Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report Merryborough Farm, -
Charles BG, 1992, The Place-names of Pembrokeshire Vol 2, p.458

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Merryborough
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not to scale

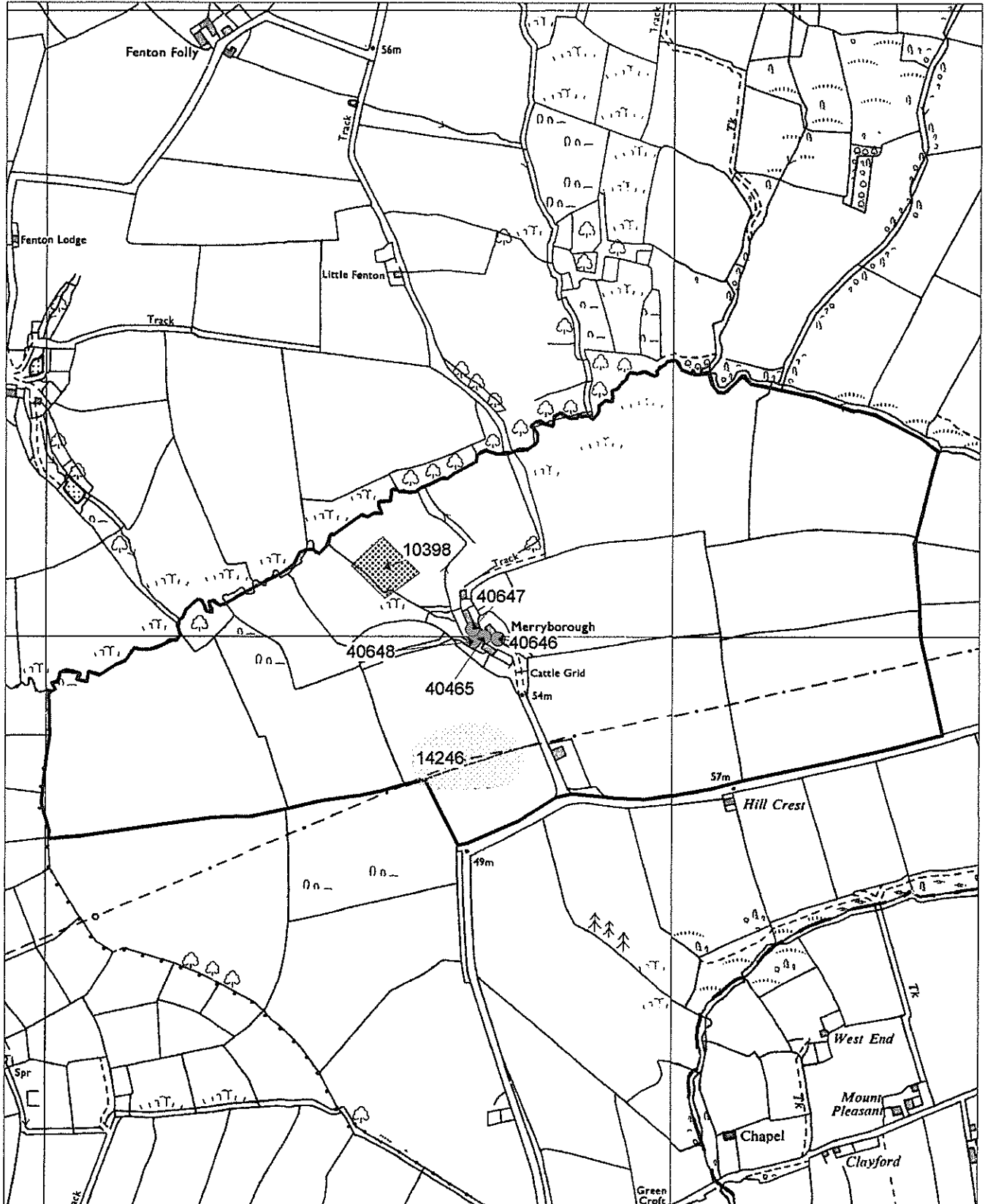




Plate 1: PRN 10389 - view north across the medieval moated enclosure



Plate 2: PRN 40646 - Surviving cowhouse with loft.