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Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report

Felindre, Maesycrugiau

W/12/127

ACA Project Record 39470

Report prepared for CCW
by ACA

September, 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/12/127

Address Felindre, Maesycrugiau

NGR

SN47644115

TG Project Officer Rhys Williams, Llandeilo

Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology Project Record Number 39470

Visit Officer Nigel Page

Visit Date

20/07/00

TIR GOFAL FARM VISIT REPORT

This report is intended to provide a statement on the condition and recommended management of all known archaeological and historical sites and features on this farm at the time it was visited by Cambria Archaeology. This information will be used to inform the Tir Gofal Management Agreement for the farm.

The report structure is as follows:

- explanation of archaeological site status and management categories used in the gazetteer.
- a brief statement on the historical background to the farm which enables the reader to put the specific sites into context.
- the main body of the report is a gazetteer of sites previously known or identified during the visit. The gazetteer identifies sites by their Primary Record Number (PRN) which is the reference number used in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). It also locates them by National Grid Reference (NGR).
- list of sources consulted during the research for this project.
- explanation of colour coding used on the map.
- site location maps identifying by PRN the location of each site in the gazetteer.
- photographs of specific sites are included where the author considers it useful in order to identify a site or stress a particular management issue.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE STATUS

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 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 historic elements of the landscape.

TIR GOFAL SITE MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

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).

Description of Felindre Farm, Maesycrugiau, PRN 40652

Maesycrugiau is a small farm of 18.87ha (46.64 acres) on the banks of the Afon Teifi in north Carmarthenshire. The farm occupies gently sloping land that falls from a high point of c.90m above Ordnance Datum (OD) in the southeast corner to its lowest point, 85m OD along the northeast edge of the farm, on the banks of the Afon Teifi. The northeastern boundary is also the south boundary of St. Llonio's Church and the adjacent medieval motte. The farm is called Felindre on the tithe map of 1839 and Felindre-isaf on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map (1906) suggesting that there may have been a mill on the site at some time. A pond is shown just to the southwest of the yard on the 2nd edition OS map, although there is nothing to suggest that the pond was ever a mill pond, or that there was ever a mill on the site. It is not clear when the farm took the name Maesycrugiau which was formerly applied to a mansion house and estate a short distance to the south. The farm was originally part of the Maesycrugiau estate which has its origins in the later medieval period. When the tithe map was published (1839) the farmyard area consisted of two ranges of buildings, the house and cartshed on the northeast side of the yard and a cowshed and barn along the southeast, forming an L-shaped arrangement along two sides of the yard. This arrangement survives today, although the cartshed and house have been extensively altered. The layout of fields and tracks was well established by the mid 19th century and probably dates from the 18th century, although the boundaries around the church are probably medieval or earlier. A cist cemetery discovered when the graveyard was extended in 1877 and a possible Celtic dedication suggest a pre-Norman foundation for the church. The boundaries across the farm are typically earth banks with pitched stone facing and topped by a mature hedge. There is great variety in the stones used for the facing suggesting that they were picked up locally, possibly from the bed of the Teifi.

Management Recommendations

The farm is not farmed or managed intensively with low stocking levels and some hay cutting taking place. There are no plans to remove any existing boundaries or to reroute or to modify the tracks and footpaths, and they should where possible be retained. However, the farm buildings themselves have undergone, or are earmarked for, extensive renovation and rebuilding. The northeast range, which included the house and cartshed, was almost totally demolished and rebuilt. The current owners are considering plans to renovate the cowshed and barn, which again will require extensive rebuilding because it is presently in fairly unstable condition. So far the rebuilding and modernisation of the buildings has been sympathetic to the style of the buildings and this approach should be maintained for any future rebuilding. There are plans to create a pond and waterside habitats from an area of boggy ground to the south of the house, but this is not considered to have significant archaeological implications.

Tir Gofal Scheme	Tir Gofal Application No W/12/127
Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites and Management Recommendations:	Felindre, Maesycrugiau, Carmar

PRN 40652 Site name MAESCRUGIAU NGR SN47644115

Site type FARM Period Post Med Site Status

Description

Recommendations

Management Category C Visited by NAP Visited On 20/07/00

PRN 40653 Site name MAESCRUGIAU NGR SN47644115

Site type RAILWAY Period Post Med Site Status

Description

Section of the former Manchester and Milford Railway which opened during the mid 19th century. The line runs through a deep cutting, c.70m long x 10m deep x 10m wide, where it enters Maesycrugiau land in the southwest corner of the farm. From the point the line leaves the cutting it runs on a terrace, c.6-7m wide x 1-2m high, made up from imported material, including bottles and other refuse. Modern houses have been built over the line to the northeast of the farm. The line is very overgrown with trees and it now forms a narrow band of woodland.

Recommendations

Maintain the cutting and terrace in their present condition. Stock should be excluded to prevent erosion of the terrace sides and to stop cattle poaching of the wet areas of the track bed.

Management Category C Visited by NAP Visited On 20/07/00

Map

Tithe Map, 1839, Llanllwni tithe map and apportionment, No.343

Ordnance Survey, 1906, Ordnance Survey 2nd edition, Carms.VII.SW

Ordnance Survey, 1906, Ordnance Survey 2nd edition, Carms.VII.SW

Ordnance Survey, 1906, Ordnance Survey 2nd edition, Carms.XV.NW

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.

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HGP - Register of Historic Gardens & Parks.

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Maesycrugiau
Archaeoleg Cambria Project Record No.39470

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not to scale

