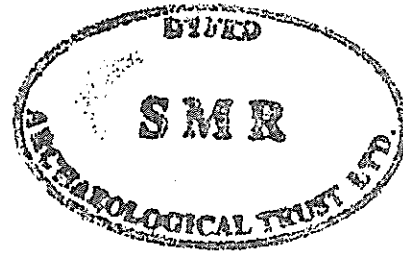


FEB 2001



CILGELL UCHAF FARM

TIR GOFAL

SITE VISIT

Report No. 2001/23
Project Record No. 39477
TG Reference No. W/12/0076

Report Prepared for:
CCW

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2001/23

FEBRUARY 2001

CILGELL UCHAF FARM
SITE VISIT
W/12/0076

By

Anwen Cooper

Cambria Archaeology is the marketing name of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited.

The report has been prepared for the specific use of the client. The Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd can accept no responsibility for its use by any other person or persons who may read it or rely on the information it contains.

ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121
Adran Rheoli Trefnadaeth 01558 823131
Ffacs: 01558 823133
Epost: cambria@acadat.com Gwefan: www.acadat.com

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited
The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131
Fax: 01558 823133
Email: cambria@acadat.com Website: www.acadat.com

The Trust is both a Limited Company (No. 1198990) and a Registered Charity (No. 504616)
CADEIRYDD CHAIRMAN: B.C.BURNHAM, MA PHD FSA MIFA. CYFARWYDDWR DIRECTOR: E G HUGHES BA MIFA

**CILGELL UCHAF FARM
SITE VISIT
W/12/0076**

REPORT NO 2001/23

FEBRUARY 2001

This report has been prepared by Anwen Cooper

Position Project Officer

Signature  Date 26/02/01

This report has been checked and approved by Louise Austin on behalf of Cambria Archaeology,
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position Principal Archaeological Officer (Curatorial)

Signature  Date 27/02/01

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may have
on the content or presentation of this report

Cilgell Uchaf Farm (SN 5698 4532)

Location and historical background

Cilgell Uchaf Farm lies on the northern fringe of Mynydd Pencarreg alongside Nant Hol about 3km to the south of Lampeter. The farm was visited to assess the general condition and historic significance of the traditional farm buildings and advise upon the restoration of the mill wheel and threshing barn.

The earliest evidence for the occupation of the farm is provided by the tithe survey of Pencarreg parish in 1842 when the farm consisted of two ranges of farm buildings to the east and west of the farmyard. By the time of the 1st edition OS map in 1887, an additional range of buildings had been built along the northern side of the yard. The basic layout of the farmyard has not changed since this time.

Description of the Farm Buildings

The current farmyard consists of three ranges of farm buildings set in a triangular arrangement around a central yard. This includes a farmhouse to the west, a cow house and animal sheds to the north and a threshing barn and mill wheel to the east. The present farmhouse was built in the early twentieth century but part of the eastern wall of the original longhouse has been retained and reused as a garden wall. The footings and ruins of several other earlier buildings survive in the fields to the east of the farmyard and immediately to the north of the farmhouse. All of the standing buildings are in good condition and have been well maintained.

The threshing barn (plate 1) - Two storey rubble and lime mortar threshing barn with dressed stone quoins and a gabled slate roof with decorated ceramic ridge tiles. It lies to the east of the farmyard, orientation north-south. It was first recorded on the tithe survey of 1840 and is probably one of the original farm buildings. It is accessed by opposing, full height, square-headed double doors, positioned towards the southern end of the building. The entrance to the east has been blocked in with a low (c.1.2m) breeze block wall and a corrugated tin and PVC window (plate 2). The traditional wooden fittings have been retained in the entrance to the west. The barn is lit by a small, square window at the eastern end of the northern gable wall and a centrally positioned window in the east-facing wall at loft level. These openings are square headed with stone lintels and sills. Their original fittings survive but are in poor condition. The barn is ventilated by two, c.1.5m high loops in the west facing wall, a single loop in the east-facing wall and a smaller (c.1m high) loop in the northern gable wall at loft level. The interior is open to roof height at the southern end and lofted to the north of the entrances. The loft floor is in reasonable condition. There is no evidence of the original means of access to this level. The original flagged floor has been retained between the entrances at ground floor level although elsewhere the floor is concreted. Remarkably, the original threshing machine and fittings for the waterwheel to the north survive in-situ against the eastern wall of the

barn. These are in poor condition but the owners plan to leave them undisturbed. The building is now used as a storage space and workshop. Several later outbuildings have been built against the northern, southern and western walls of the barn, all of which have been modified or are of twentieth century date.

Management recommendations - The barn is generally in very good condition. The walls have been repointed and the fittings are well maintained. The roof to the east of the building has recently deteriorated in condition and several of the slates are now missing. The owners would like to re-roof this side of the barn which would considerably improve its condition and survival. The fittings in the windows are also in poor condition and the owners would like to replace these as part of their Tir Gofal Agreement. These repairs should be carried out using appropriate traditional materials in a way that is sympathetic to the character of the original building. The owners would like to retain the breeze block and plastic fittings that now occupy the eastern entrance to the barn. The walls to the east of the building are overgrown with ivy and this should be cleared.

The watermill - Fine, nineteenth century watermill, to the east of the farmyard at Cilgell Uchaf Farm. It consists of a possible millpond, a weir, a waterwheel and leats which were first recorded in their current arrangement on the 1st edition OS map of 1891.

A possible millpond lies alongside the approach road to the farm about 100m to the southeast of the farmyard (plate 3). It consists of a shallow, c.10m by 10m by 0.6m deep hollow which is apparently dammed by a substantial earthen bank along its western side. The area is now overgrown and infilled with rubbish. There is no evidence of sluices. The pond is not clearly marked on any historic maps although a large rectilinear structure is marked in this position on the second edition OS map of 1906. The stream braids just to the west of the millpond and the northern branch is dammed about 30m further to the west by a small, rubble-built weir (plate 4) from which an overflow channel runs. The head race (c.1.5m wide and 0.4m deep) runs from this point, beneath the trackway to the north and across a pasture field to the east of the farmyard (plate 5). It turns sharply about 40m to the east of the mill wheel and from this point onwards runs along a substantial raised platform (c.1m high by 2m wide) (plate 6). This is faced with a drystone wall into which stone steps have been built for access (plate 7). The owners have rebuilt the wall for most of this length, but the section closest to the waterwheel is unstable and surrounded by fallen rubble. The final 10m of the head race runs along a wooden launder that raises the water to the overshot wheel (plate 8). The wooden launder is rotten and appears to have sunk from its original position above the height of the wheel. It may formerly have been supported on a series of wooden stilts. The cast iron overshot water wheel (c.2.5m in diameter) stands in-situ within a rubble-built wheel pit (c. 4m by 1m by 1.5m deep) (plate 9). The walls of the wheel pit are unstable and overgrown. The tail race runs underground from the base of the wheel pit and resurfaces in the northwestern corner of the farmyard. There are several large slabs of stone in this area which may formerly have provided a bridge over the leat between the farmyard and the field to the north. The

open tail race then runs northwards for c.50m through a pasture field, before turning sharply and returning to the stream c.100m further to the west.

Management recommendations - The survival of the entire system of the watermill is unusual and deserves protection. The owners would like to restore the mill as part of their Tir Gofal Agreement. This would promote the survival and maintenance of this rare feature. Advice should be sought from an architectural conservationist for the programme of restoration (see list enclosed) and an archaeological record should be made of the work. Historic map evidence should be consulted further to establish the original form and layout of the pond.

Sources

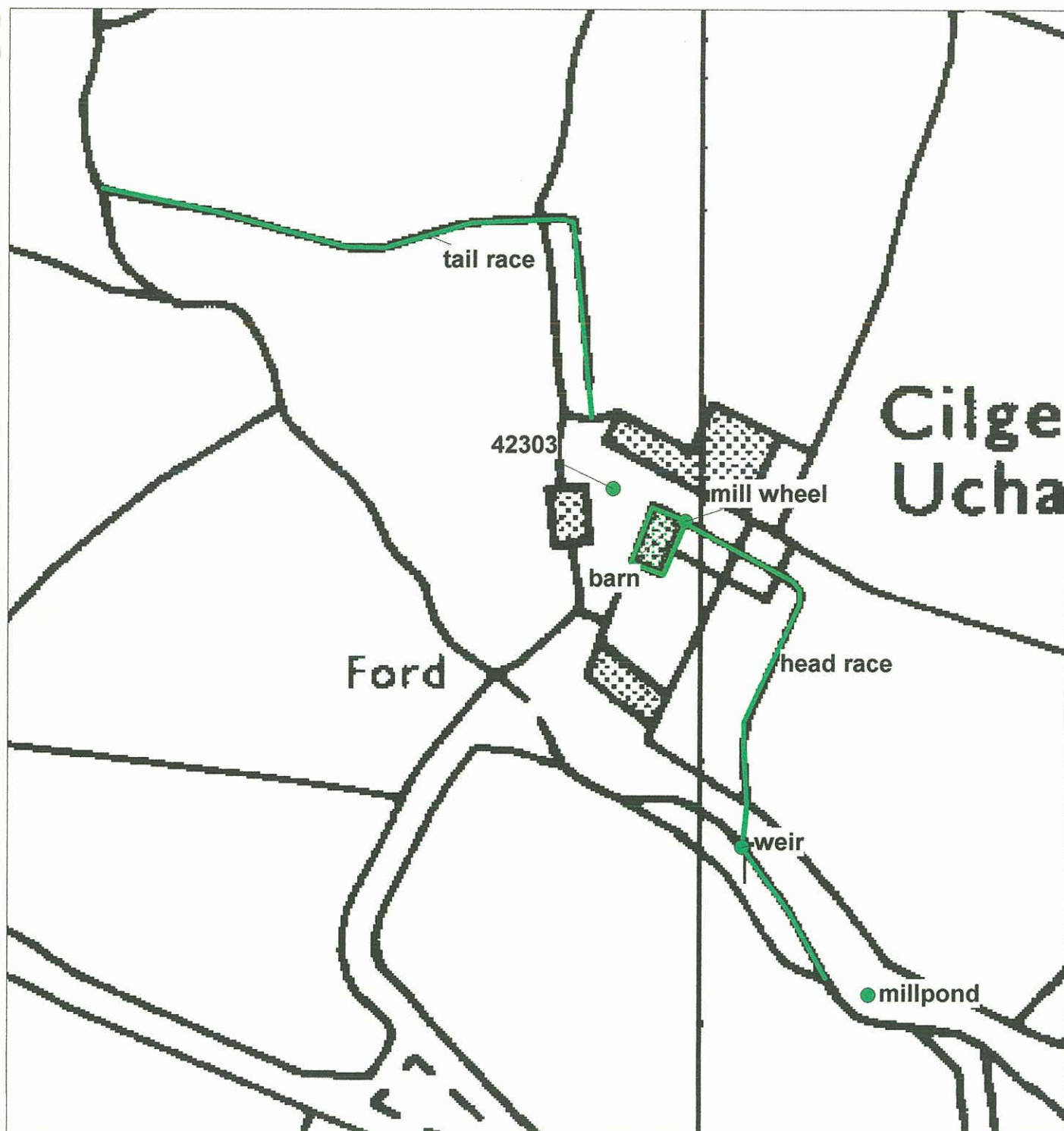
Tithe survey and apportionment, Pencarreg Parish, 1842

Ordnance Survey 1st edition map, 1891, Carns. Sheet VIII NW, 1:10560 scale

Ordnance Survey, 2nd edition map, 1906, Cards. Sheet VIII NW, 1:10560 scale

Tir Gofal Site Visit
Cilgell Uchaf Farm
ACA Report No.2001/23
SN54NE
Scale 1:1500

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey map
with the kind permission of the Controller of
Her Majesty's Stationary Office.
Crown Copyright reserved.
Countryside Council for Wales
Licence No.GD272825G



Plates



Plate 1 - the threshing barn from the west.



Plate 2 - the threshing barn from the east showing the blocked in entrance, ivy growth and poor roof condition.



Plate 3- the possible millpond, now completely infilled and overgrown.

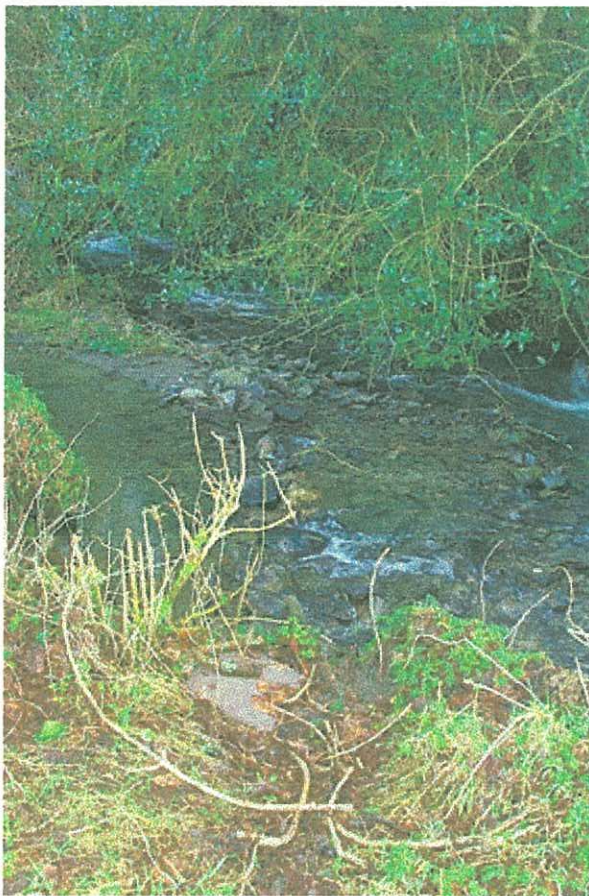


Plate 4 - the weir and start of the head race.

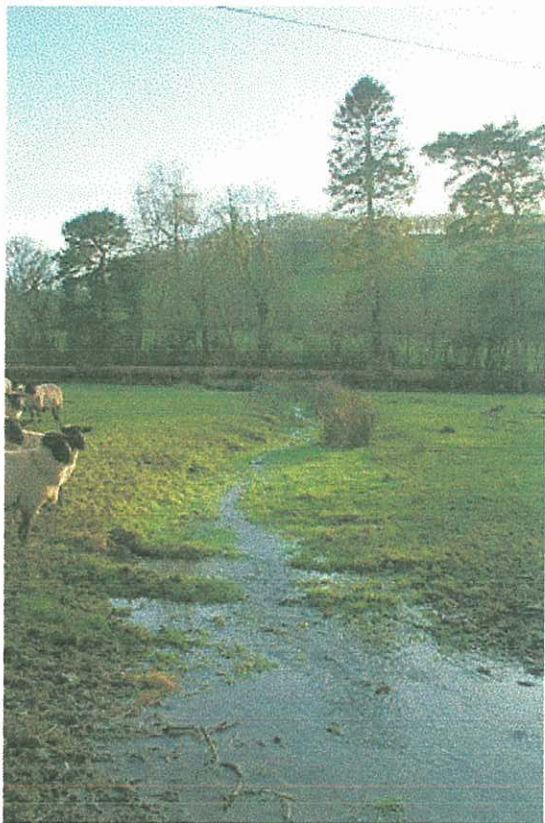


Plate 5 - the open head race where it crosses a pasture field to the east of the farmyard.

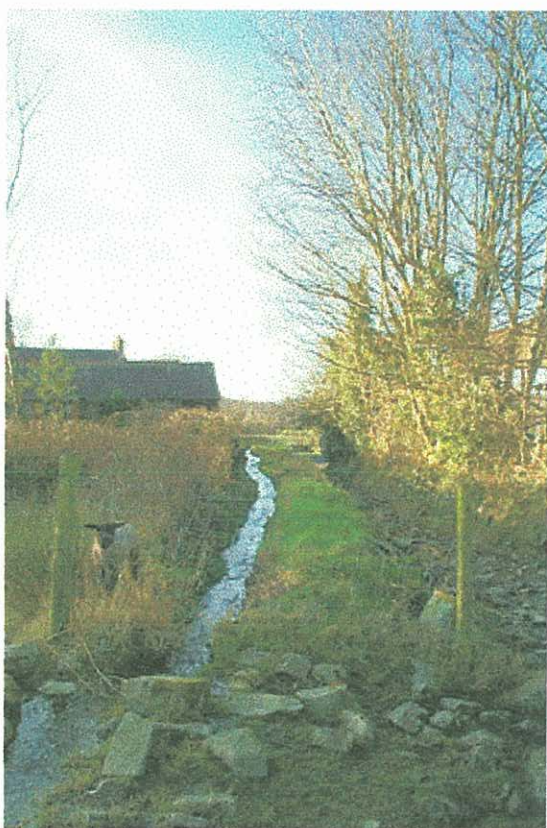


Plate 6 - the head race from the east as it runs on a raised platform towards the mill wheel.



Plate 7 - the drystone wall alongside the raised head race, showing the recently repaired section to the left and the section in need of repair to the right.



Plate 8 - the wooden launder immediately to the east of the mill wheel.



Plate 9 - the overshot water wheel and overgrown wheel pit.

Tir Gofal list of contact numbers for building conservation

The following organisations may be able to provide further information or advice to assist with the conservation and restoration of buildings of historic interest:

St Fagans, Welsh Rural Life Museum - can provide up to date information and advice about contractors and suppliers that deal with traditional buildings and materials.

Contact: Gerallt Nash, tel. (02920) 573445

Ty Mawr Lime Ltd. - suppliers and manufacturers of traditional and natural building materials as well as providing advice, support and training about the use of lime products and other natural building materials for mortars, plasters, renders and paints.

Contact: Nigel and Joyce Gervis, Ty Mawr Lime Limited, Ty Mawr Farm, Llangasty, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7PJ, tel. (01874) 658249, e-mail: tymawr@lime.org.uk

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings - a nationwide organisation providing publications and advice about architectural conservation.

Contact: Philippa Soodeen, 40 Woodville Road, Mumbles, Swansea, SA3 4AE, tel. (01792) 526337 or e-mail: info@spab.org.uk

South Pembrokeshire partnership for Action in Rural Communities (SPARC) - provide advice about the restoration of historic farm buildings and information about local building contractors that specialise in traditional methods of restoration.

Contact: Richard Tree (Heritage Officer), tel. (01834) 860965

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) - provide detailed archaeological and architectural advice about buildings of historic interest in Wales.

Contact: Crown Building, Plas Crug, Aberystwyth, Dyfed, SY23 1NJ
tel. (01437) 720861, www.rcahmw.org.uk/wms

Local Authority Buildings Conservation Officers - provide advice and information about buildings of historic interest, in particular Listed Buildings.

Carmarthenshire (01267) 234567

Contact: David Priest (Head of Conservation), John Llewelyn, Adrian Griffiths

Pembrokeshire (01437) 764551 ext no. 5720

Contact: Ian Bartlet

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (01437) 764636

Contact: Rob Scourfield

CADW (general enquiries) - provide information about the maintenance and restoration of Listed Buildings.

(02920) 500200

Melin (Welsh Mills Society) - offers information sheets and practical advice about the recording and conservation of mills.

Contact: Hilary Malaws, Y Felin, Tynygraig, Ystrad Meurig, Ceredigion, Wales, SY25 6AE, tel. (01437) 720861, www.rcahmw.org.uk/wms