

Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology

# **Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report**

## **Gorsddu Farm**

### **E/10/0263**

ACA Project Record 39858

Report prepared for CCW  
by ACA

October, 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** E/10/0263

**Address**

Gorsddu Farm

**NGR**

SN787241

Llanddeusant, Llangadog

**TG Project Officer** Rob Pearson, Llandrindod Wells

**Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology Project Record Number** 39858

**Visit Officer**

Nigel Page

**Visit Date**

29/09/00

## **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 Gorsddu Farm, PRN 40676**

Gorsddu is a farm of c.85 acres (34.5ha) on the north facing slope of Twyn Mawr, Llanddeusant, in southeast Carmarthenshire. The farm lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park at a height of 231m above Ordnance Datum (OD) and it is included in the Black Mountain Historic Landscape area (Cadw et al 1998; Murphy and Ludlow, 2000). To the south of the yard the ground rises to maximum height of c.336m OD on Twyn Mawr. The terrain varies considerably with enclosed former upland grazing on Twyn Mawr at the southern end of the farm, pasture, which forms the bulk of the land and the steep wooded slopes of Garwnant to the northeast. Estate maps of the Blaen Sawdde Estate, of which Gorsddu was formerly a part, show that the present layout of fields, tracks and buildings was established by 1744. The house dates from the earlier 17th century and in 1998 it was designated as a Grade II Listed Building. The listing includes the animal shed which was added to the north end during the 18th or 19th century and possibly the 19th century cart shed on the south end. A renovated farm building on the opposite side of the yard from the house is in the location of one shown on the 1744 estate map, but it is not certain if the current building is the one marked, or whether it is a later replacement. The location of the farm in the narrow Sawdde Valley is typical of this area at the foot of the Black Mountain, which is characterised by small irregular fields and dispersed farmsteads in the sheltered valleys. Most of the boundaries across the farm are low earth and stone banks topped with laid hedges. Some of the boundaries closest to the yard area are still fairly well maintained with laid hedges, but the majority are no longer stockproof. The southern boundary is a large bank with drystone facing on its southern, or outer, face. This boundary seems to be the historic divide between the enclosed land and the unenclosed upland common and it may date from the 16th century, or earlier.

### **Management Recommendations**

The southern boundary should be retained and maintained in its present condition. No new access points should be cut through it. Even though most of the original bank and laid hedge boundaries are no longer stockproof their continued survival does help to retain the historic character of the farm with its small irregular field system.

<b>PRN</b>	40671	<b>Site name</b>	GORSDDU FARM	<b>NGR</b>	SN78932363
<b>Site type</b>	CAIRN	<b>Period</b>	Prehistoric?; Bronze Age?	<b>Site Status</b>	

#### **Description**

A small cairn, 5m x 4m x 0.75m high, grass-covered and positioned towards the northwest end of a northwest-southeast ridge on the north facing slope of Twyn Mawr. The cairn is aligned along the ridge. It is probably prehistoric, most likely Bronze Age, and it forms part of a group that includes another cairn (PRN 40672) and a possible standing stone (PRN 40673) a short distance to the southeast. The cairn commands extensive views to the west and northwest along the Sawdde Valley. To the north the view is across the narrow Sawdde Valley to the heights of Mynydd y Llan. The cairn lies just below the shoulder of the ridge so the views to the east and south are obscured. The field in which the group is located is called Bryn y garn (The Cairn Hill) on the Llanddeusant tithe map of 1838.

#### **Recommendations**

This cairn, along with cairn PRN 40672 and standing stone PRN 40673, is part of an interesting and previously unrecorded group of prehistoric features. The group is considered to be of sufficient value to be of national importance. The current management regime of the site should be maintained. The site should be regularly grazed to prevent it becoming overgrown and to retain it as a visible feature. Stocking levels should be kept fairly low to avoid erosion of the mound and displacement of the stones. No stones should be removed or added to the site and the area containing the group of monuments should be excluded from all destructive operations such as ploughing. This area is to be included in a survey of all known prehistoric funerary and ritual sites in eastern Carmarthenshire that will be undertaken in 2001. These sites will be included in that inventory.

<b>Management Category</b>	A	<b>Visited by</b>	NAP	<b>Visited On</b>	29/09/00
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<b>PRN</b>	40672	<b>Site name</b>	GORSDDU FARM	<b>NGR</b>	SN79052362
<b>Site type</b>	CAIRN	<b>Period</b>	Prehistoric	<b>Site Status</b>	

#### **Description**

Small cairn, 9m x 6m x 0.75m high, grass-covered with a central hollow, c.5m x 3m x 0.4m deep. It consists of angular and rounded stones, those nearer the top of the mound, around the edge of the central hollow are more exposed than those towards the base of the mound. A large recumbent stone, which measures 1m x 0.7m at its south end and c.0.3m wide at the north end, lies on the north side of the mound. A line of four stones arranged along the inner edge of the north end of the hollow may be the remains of kerbing around the interior. This cairn, which like PRN 40671 is probably Bronze Age in date, is positioned on the highest point of Gorsddu land with excellent views to the northwest along the Sawdde Valley and southeast towards Cefn Nant Lygoes. Mynydd y Llan dominates the northern aspect and south the view is towards the summit of Twyn Mawr.

#### **Recommendations**

A cairn of probable Bronze Age date which is part of a group that also includes cairn PRN 40671 and possible standing stone PRN 40673. The group is of sufficient interest and value to be of national importance. At present the cairn is grass-covered and this should be maintained. The site should be regularly grazed to prevent it becoming overgrown and to retain it as a visible feature. Stocking levels should be kept fairly low to avoid erosion of the mound and displacement of the stones. No stones should be removed, or added to the site and the area containing the group of monuments should be excluded from all destructive operations such as ploughing. This area is to be included in a survey of all known prehistoric funerary and ritual sites in eastern Carmarthenshire that will be undertaken in 2001. These sites will be included in that inventory.

<b>Management Category</b>	A	<b>Visited by</b>	NAP	<b>Visited On</b>	29/09/00
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<b>PRN</b> 40673	<b>Site name</b> GORSDDU FARM	<b>NGR</b> SN79062364
<b>Site type</b> STANDING STONE?	<b>Period</b> Prehistoric	<b>Site Status</b>

#### **Description**

Upright stone, 1m long x 0.4m wide, which stands to a height of 0.6m. The stone appears to be set on its side, rather than upright. It is set in a shallow hollow, 0.1m deep. Two stones visible in the base of the hollow may be packing stones. The stone is positioned c.20m northeast of cairn PRN 40672. Although standing stones are very difficult to date, its small size would suggest that it is not a post-medieval cattle rubbing stone, and its association with the cairns would indicate a probable Bronze Age date.

#### **Recommendations**

This stone forms part of a group of probable Bronze Age features which is considered to be of national importance. Standing stones frequently have a range of buried features such as pits associated with them. Therefore, the stone itself and the area surrounding it should be excluded from destructive operations such as ploughing. The area containing the group should be regularly grazed so that the cairns (PRNs 40671 & 40672) and the stone remain visible landscape features. Stocking levels should be kept fairly low to prevent erosion and trampling by grazing animals. This area is to be included in a survey of all known prehistoric funerary and ritual sites in eastern Carmarthenshire that will be undertaken in 2001. These sites will be included in that inventory..

<b>Management Category</b> A	<b>Visited by</b> NAP	<b>Visited On</b> 29/09/00
<b>PRN</b> 40674	<b>Site name</b> GORSDDU FARM	<b>NGR</b> SN79232397
<b>Site type</b> DRS?	<b>Period</b> Mediaeval;Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

#### **Description**

Area of large boulders and stones which may be the remains of a drystone structure, although, there is no clear evidence of any surviving structural elements. The stones are in two main groups. The first group consists of large boulders along the south and west sides of a shallow hollow; the east side of the hollow is bounded by a boulder boundary wall. A group of smaller stones a short distance to the west of the boulders appears to be a ruined drystone facing for a small bank. The amount and distribution of the stones makes it difficult to be certain if there were any structures in this area, but it does seem likely.

#### **Recommendations**

This site may be the remains of a former structure, possibly a dwelling, and it is important that no stones are removed or added to the site. It is in a location that is not likely to be ploughed or damaged by normal farm management operations and it should be retained in its present condition. The groups of stones should be kept clear of vegetation to stop them becoming overgrown.

<b>Management Category</b> D	<b>Visited by</b> NAP	<b>Visited On</b> 29/09/00
<b>PRN</b> 40675	<b>Site name</b> GORSDDU FARM	<b>NGR</b> SN78892419
<b>Site type</b> DRS?	<b>Period</b> Mediaeval;Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

#### **Description**

A small enclosure, c.15m x 15m, on the south bank of the Afon Sawdde. The enclosure is made up on its east and south sides by a low earth and stone bank, 0.6m high x 1.5m wide, and a boulder wall on its northwest and west sides; the Afon Sawdde forms part of the north edge of the enclosure. The enclosure lies on a small river terrace at the edge of a small wooded area. The remnants of a boulder wall extend from the northeast corner of the enclosure into the wooded area. Other possible boulder walls are also present within the wooded area. This site represents the remains of a former dwelling and associated garden plots, although no obvious evidence of the building survives. The garden was still being cultivated within living memory.

#### **Recommendations**

This site lies outside the area of normal farm operations and it should be maintained in its present condition. The visible enclosure banks should be kept clear of vegetation and retained as visible features.

<b>Management Category</b> D	<b>Visited by</b> NAP	<b>Visited On</b> 29/09/00
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Tir Gofal Scheme	Tir Gofal Application No E/10/0263
Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites and Management Recommendations:	Gorsddu, Llangadog, Carmar

*PRN* 40676      *Site name* GORSDDU      *NGR* SN78752408

*Site type* FARM      *Period* Post Med      *Site Status*

**Description**

See description at front of report.

**Recommendations**

See description at front of report.

*Management Category* B      *Visited by* NAP      *Visited On* 29/09/00

**Map**

WGRO, 1744, D-DGW-E1 Plan of Gorsddu Farm, -  
WGRO, 1808, D-DGW-E4 Plan of Gorsddu Farm, -  
WGRO, 1845, D-DGW-E7 Plan of Gorsddu Farm, -  
Tithe Map, 1841, Llanddeusant tithe map and apportionment, -  
Ordnance Survey, 1891, 1st ed 1:10560, sheet Carms.XXXV.SW  
Ordnance Survey, 1907, 2nd ed 1:10560, sheet Carms.XXXV.SW

**Written Description**

Cadw/ICOMOS, 1998, Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historical Interest in Wales, -  
Ludlow, N & Murphy, K, 2000, Carmarthenshire Historic Landscape Characterisation, -



**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.

<b>Category A -</b>	<b>Blue</b>	<i>Scheduled Ancient Monuments Grade 1 and 2* Listed Building</i>
	<b>Red</b>	<i>Other Sites and Monuments of National Importance Other Buildings of National Importance</i>
	<b>Red toning</b>	<i>Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest</i>
	<b>Red Banding</b>	<i>Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest</i>
<b>Category B -</b>	<b>Amber</b>	<i>Sites and Monuments of Regional Importance Grade 2 Listed and Other Buildings of Regional Importance</i>
<b>Category C -</b>	<b>Green</b>	<i>Sites / Features of Local Importance Buildings of Local Importance</i>
<b>Category D -</b>	<b>Grey</b>	<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.**

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**HL - Landscapes of Exceptional and Great Historic Interest.**

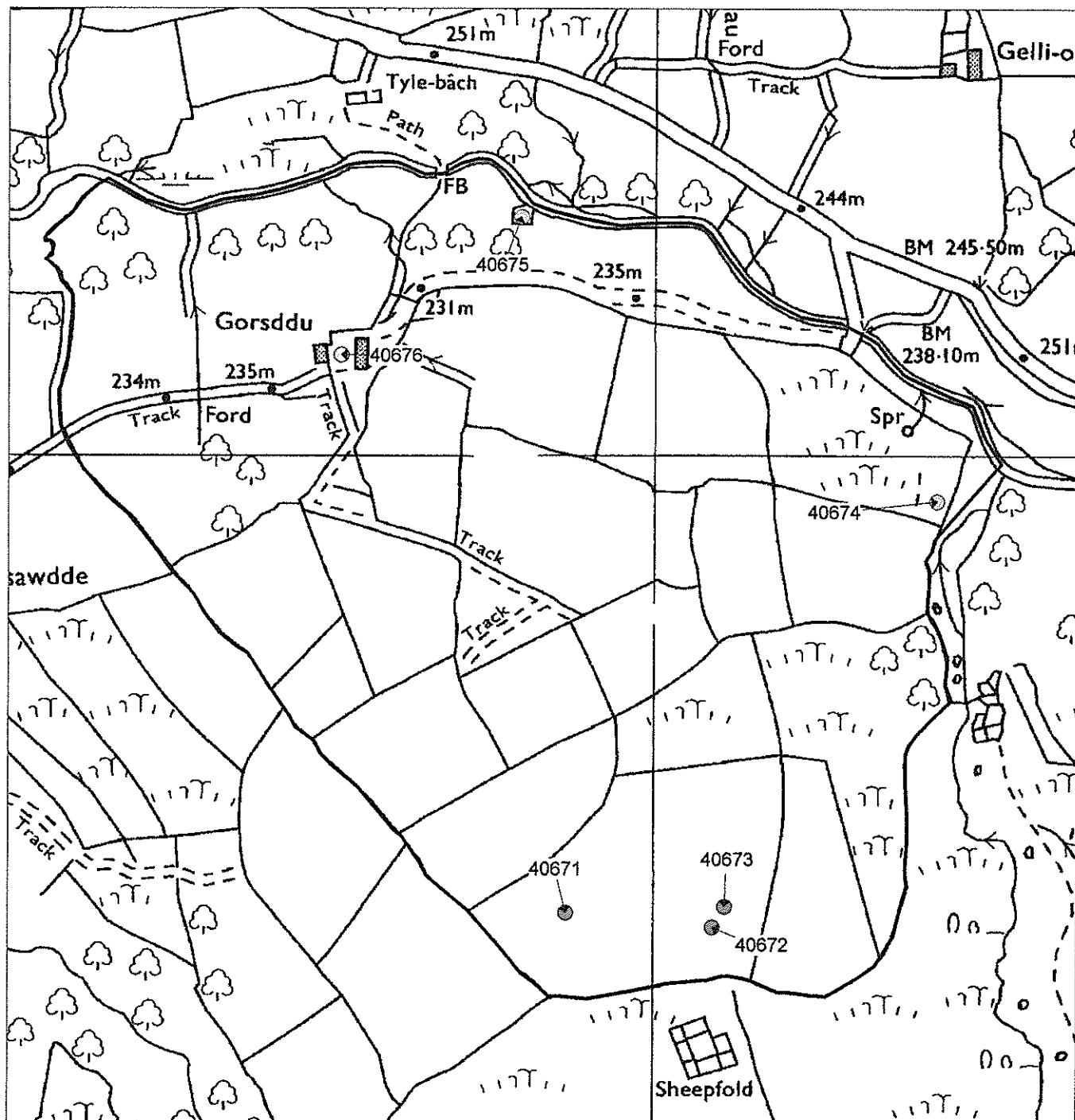
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**HGP - Register of Historic Gardens & Parks.**

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report  
 Gorsddu  
 Cambria Archaeology Project Record No.39858

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not to scale



**TIR GOFAL FARM VISIT REPORT: GORSDDU FARM**

**PROJECT RECORD NUMBER 39858**

**OCTOBER 2000**

This report has been prepared by Nigel Page

Position Project Manager

Signature  Date 12/10/2000

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

Position Field Operations Manager

Signature  Date 12/10/00

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



Plate 1: PRN 40671 - Bronze Age cairn, viewed from the north.



Plate 2: PRN 40672: Bronze Age cairn, viewed from the northwest





Plate 3: PRN 40673: Possible Bronze Age standing stone with cairn PRN 40672 in the background.



Plate 4: PRN 40675 - garden enclosure of an abandoned medieval or post-medieval settlement.

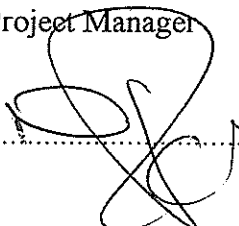
**TIR GOFAL FARM VISIT REPORT: GORSDDU FARM**

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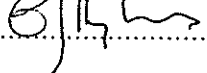
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