

**Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report**  
**Lower Hopshill**  
**W/13/2040**

**Report Number 2002/21**

**Report prepared for  
CCW**



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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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LOWER HOPSHILL  
TIR GOFAL FARM VISIT REPORT

By

Alice Pyper

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**Tir Gofal Application Number** W/13/2040  
**Address** Lower Hopshill  
Hopshill Lane, Saundersfoot, SA89 9EU  
  
**National Grid Reference** SN12300420  
**CCW Tir Gofal Project Officer** Kevin Taylor, Llandeilo  
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**Visit Date** 17/01/01

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This report is intended to provide a statement on the condition and recommended management of all known archaeological and historical sites and features on the 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.

### **Method Statement**

The farm visit consisted of two phases.

Phase 1 was a rapid search of all readily available documentary, cartographic and published sources to try to understand the historical development of the farm and the wider landscape and to identify new sites of archaeological interest. The searches undertaken for this visit include information held in the regional Sites and Monuments Record, the relevant County Records Office and the National Library of Wales. New sites, or areas of interest were plotted onto a GIS-based map for use in the field and for the final report.

Phase 2 was a site visit to assess the extent, character and current condition of the archaeological and historical sites identified during the research phase, although because of constraints, recording is rapid, usually photographs and site notes, and some of the sites may not have been visited. The information gained during the visit has been used to assign the farm and its individual sites to a management category, which have determined the management recommendations for each site.

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF FARM

Lower Hopshill farm consists of two land holdings, situated on undulating countryside to the west of Saundersfoot. The larger land holding is centred on the farmstead of Lower Hopshill. It consists of rolling pasture land, with medium to large fields on the higher ground and a smaller irregular patchwork of fields in the valleys. The field boundaries are composed largely of hedges on low earth banks that are fenced and trimmed, however in some places the hedgerows have become overgrown. The farm is currently owned by Mr. Merriman whose family have lived on the farm since 1952.

The earliest documentary evidence is an estate map and schedule held in the National Library of Wales that dates from 1787. The field layout appears to correspond to those that exist today. Field names include a field called Kiln park (PRN 19933) and Forge park (PRN 44341) although no structures are identified on the map. The farmstead is shown as a group of buildings, a long range positioned on a north west-south east axis which roughly corresponds to the position of the farmhouse today. Two buildings positioned opposite and parallel to the farmhouse have been superseded by large modern agricultural buildings. The estate map shows that the modern farmstead had been established as an agricultural entity by this time and the layout of the field boundaries remains almost unchanged. Some land has been lost to the holding, notably a parcel of land to the south of the farmstead that falls between the Tenby road and the Saundersfoot road. A cottage on the north side of the Saundersfoot road called Bray's Moor is no longer part of the farm.

The Tithe survey of St. Issell's in 1839 shows the farm buildings in the same arrangement, with the loss of one of the buildings opposite the farmhouse. The apportionment records that William Thomas occupied the farm, however the name of the owner could not be discerned. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 indicates that the farmstead had taken on its current layout and was composed of a long range of buildings running south west-north east and the farmhouse arranged north west-south east. In addition a pair of cottages are first recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map to the north east of the farmstead, however they no longer belong to the holding. By the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map strips of land to the east of the Tenby road had been sold off for the construction of the Bethesda Chapel and other cottages.

The second land holding is situated to the south west of Lower Hopshill, on the west side of the A478. The farms of North and South Watson are situated to the extreme western edge of the land holding but are not included within it. The land consists of four large rectangular fields bisected by the railway running north south. The estate map of 1787 shows that this area was part of a wider system of narrow strip fields, derived from the medieval open field system. The north west corner of the holding adjacent to North Watson Farm appears to be enclosed by a vaguely rectangular enclosure (PRN 44345) which also appears to have smaller enclosures attached to the south west and east sides. These enclosures are also shown on the Tithe survey of East Williamson in the Parish of Begelly in 1841, where they are identified as 'Garden', 'House and Yard', 'Haggard' and 'Courts'(?). At this time the holding belonged to Edward Lovedon Pryd and was occupied by David Thomas.

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 shows the enclosures no longer survive in any coherent form and just one small building is identified (PRN 44344) by the time of the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey (1907).

## MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The associated documentary evidence indicates that the layout of the holdings at both Lower Hopshill and at North Watson Farm have changed little over the last 200 years. In particular the holding at North Watson Farm has the vestiges of an even earlier field system preserved within the field boundaries and the characteristic undulations of ridge and furrow survive in the field to the west of the railway (PRN 44346).

The field boundaries should be maintained and preserved as intrinsic elements of the historic landscape.

Archaeological sites on the holding which require action are detailed below, for other management recommendations see the gazetteer of individual sites.

### PRN 44342 Cow shed

The roof of the cow shed should be repaired to prevent water ingress damaging the structure and the building should be maintained using traditional materials. Mr. Merriman, the owner, states that although partially used as a store the cow shed is largely redundant. If alternative uses are considered which would involve alterations to the structure these should preserve the historic fabric as far as possible and retain the existing openings.

### PRN 44344 Cart house, North Watson Farm

This cart shed should be preserved as a visible feature; the ivy should be cut and allowed to die before removal. Ideally the masonry should be consolidated to prevent further collapse.

See gazetteer for detailed management recommendations.

## KEY TO MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES

Category	Importance	Colour on map	Detail
Category A	Sites and Monuments of National Importance	Blue	Scheduled Ancient Monuments Grade 1 and 2* Listed Buildings
		Red	Other Sites and Monuments of National Importance Other Buildings Of National Importance
		Red Toning	Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest
		Red Banding	Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest
Category B	Sites and Monuments of Regional Importance	Amber	Sites and Monuments of Regional Importance Grade 2 Listed Buildings and Other Buildings of Regional Importance
Category C	Sites and Monuments of Local Importance	Green	Sites and Features of Local Importance Buildings of Local Importance
Category D	Sites and Monuments of Unknown Importance	Brown	Sites and Features needing further investigation includings damaged sites or sites with no physical definition

## **SITE AND AREA DESIGNATIONS**

The following abbreviations are used in the gazetteer to refer to site and area status designations.

### **SAM** Scheduled Ancient Monument

SAMs are notified under Section 1 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

The schedule of SAMs is maintained and administered by Cadw.

### **LB1, LB2\* and LB2** Listed Buildings

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. Local Authorities are statutory consultees for listed buildings.

### **HLW** Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales

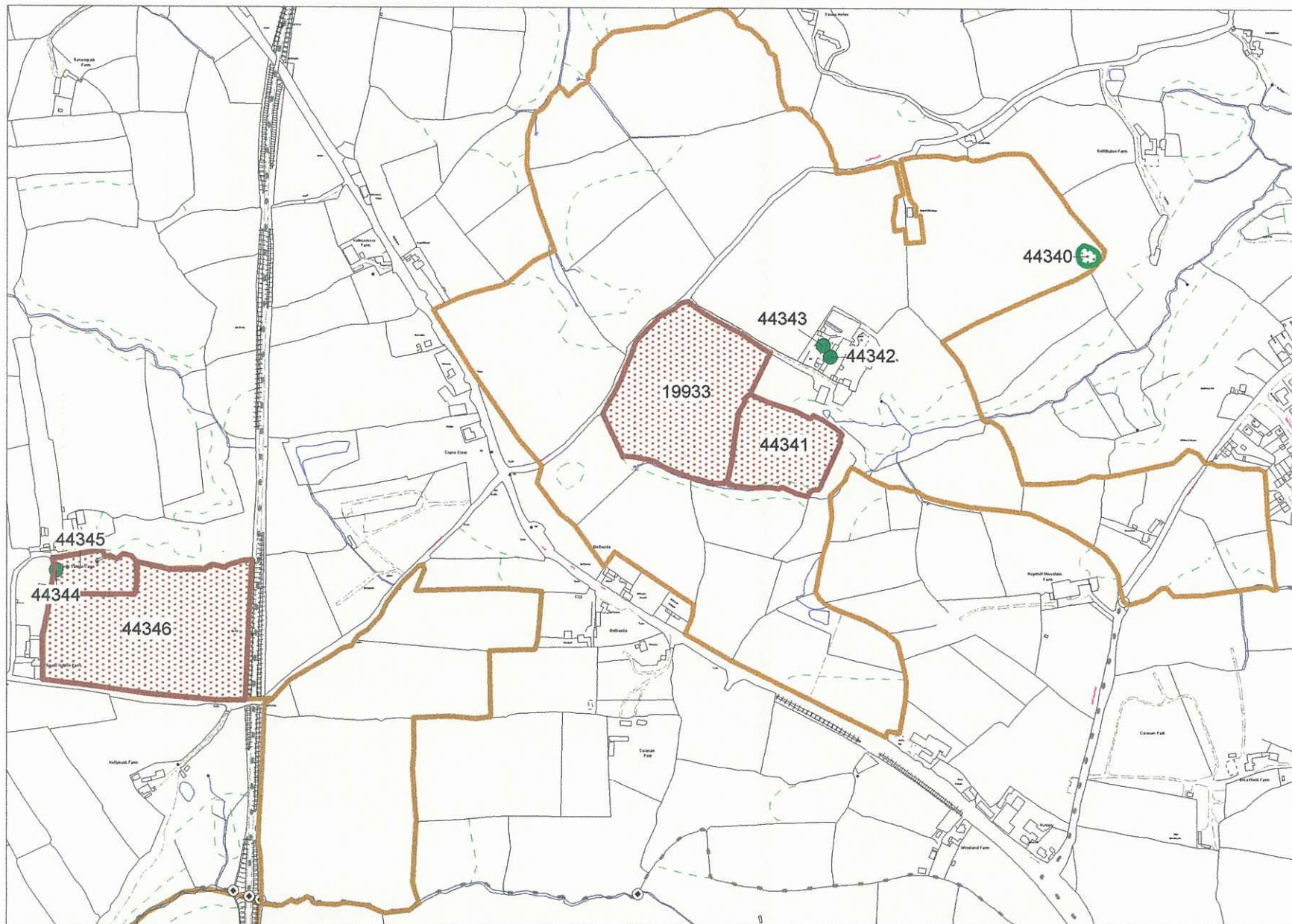
Defined by the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales: Part 2.1 Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest; Part 2.2 Landscapes of Special Historic Interest. The register is advisory only and has no statutory powers. The register was compiled by Cadw in partnership with the Countryside Council for Wales and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)

### **HGP** Register of Historic Gardens and Parks

Defined by the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Part 1 Parks and Gardens. The register is advisory only and has no statutory powers. The register was compiled by Cadw in partnership with the Countryside Council for Wales and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)



**Lower Hopshill Farm Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation   Countryside Council for Wales Reference Number W/13/2040  
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## GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

*PRN* 19933      *Site name* KILN PARK      *NGR* SN121042

*Site type* LIME KILN?      *Period* Post Med      *Site Status*

### *Description*

Field name occurring on a 1787 plan of Hopshill and Maysland and tithe apportionment for the parish of St Issells dated 1839. No evidence for the existence of a lime kiln was discovered during field work. Observations by S.Bishop (DAT) Jan 1994.

### *Recommendations*

Although no upstanding remains of a kiln have been identified in the farm visits or any previous visits, there may be archaeological remains below ground. Ground disturbing activities should be avoided in this area. However in the event of works being undertaken which may potentially damage sensitive remains then archaeological advice should be sought.

*Management Category* D      *Visited by* AMP      *Visited On* 17/01/02

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*PRN* 44340      *Site name*      *NGR* SN12700444

*Site type* QUARRY      *Period* Post Med      *Site Status*

### *Description*

On the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 to the east of the holding an 'Old Quarry' is recorded. The quarry has now been largely filled and has thorn bushes and brambles growing to the west side of it (plate 1). It is approximately 34m east west by 20m north south.

### *Recommendations*

The farmer, Mr Merriman, has expressed an interest in opening up this quarry to obtain stone, this would be preferable to opening up new quarries elsewhere.

*Management Category* C      *Visited by* AMP      *Visited On* 17/01/02

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*PRN* 44341      *Site name* FORGE PARK      *NGR* SN12300419

*Site type* FORGE?      *Period* Post Med      *Site Status*

### *Description*

Field name occurring on a 1787 plan of Hopshill and Maysland. No evidence for a structure was identified during the farm visit.

### *Recommendations*

Although no upstanding remains of a kiln have been identified in the farm visits or any previous visits, there may be archaeological remains below ground. Ground disturbing activities should be avoided in this area. However in the event of works being undertaken which may potentially damage sensitive remains then archaeological advice should be sought.

*Management Category* D      *Visited by* AMP      *Visited On* 17/01/02

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**PRN** 44342

**Site name** LOWER HOPSHILL

**NGR** SN12350432

**Site type** COW SHED

**Period** Post Med

**Site Status**

**Description**

This long range of buildings is positioned on a north east south west axis, constructed out of whitewashed rubble walling built to courses with roughly squared quoins (plate 2). The roof is pitched and covered with corrugated iron. The cow shed extends across a slight gradient; with the lower, south west, end of the building two storeys high. The south west gable end has double garage doors at ground floor level, a central window above and three rows of nesting boxes built into the apex. Access to the 1st floor is gained through external stone steps on the south east elevation. A stone and block work lean-to is built against the south east end. There are nine doorways in the south east facing elevation alternately spaced with windows which have all been modified with concrete lintels and sills, in addition a single ventilation slit is positioned towards the lower end.

The documentary evidence suggests that the south west end of this range dates from the late 18th century. This could not be confirmed during the limited investigations of the farm visit, and it is possible that the whole range was rebuilt at a later stage in the 19th century. It seems that the building had taken its current form by the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map in 1891. This building is currently in reasonable condition although there is a hole in the apex of the roof at the north east end.

**Recommendations**

The roof of the cow shed should be repaired to prevent water ingress damaging the structure and the building should be maintained using traditional materials. Mr. Merriman, the owner, states that although partially used as a store the cow shed is largely redundant. If alternative uses are considered which would involve alterations to the structure these should preserve the historic fabric as far as possible and retain the existing openings.

**Management Category** C

**Visited by** AMP

**Visited On** 17/01/02

**PRN** 44343

**Site name** UPPER COWSLAND

**NGR** SN12350432

**Site type** BARN

**Period** Modern

**Site Status**

**Description**

A round topped, Dutch barn with lean-tos to either side is situated to the north west of the cow shed. The barn and lean-tos are covered with corrugated iron.

**Recommendations**

The Dutch barn, although not as old as other farm buildings, is nevertheless a characteristic feature of the agricultural landscape which should be retained.

**Management Category** C

**Visited by** AMP

**Visited On** 17/01/02

**PRN** 44344

**Site name** NORTH VATSON FARM

**NGR** SN11330402

**Site type** CART SHED

**Period** Post Med

**Site Status**

**Description**

To the south of North Watson farm and adjacent to the western field boundary are the remains of a small stone built structure (plate 3). The building is approximately 5m by 6m, the only wall standing to full height is the south gable wall. The building is orientated on a north west to south east axis, constructed out of stone rubble walling and a lime mortar. A blocked cart entrance is visible within the southern gable wall. There may have been a cart entrance in the north gable end, however the masonry has collapsed to ground level and it is therefore uncertain. The roof was pitched and latterly covered with corrugated iron, indicated by the sheeting which lies strewn about. A small stone built recess is situated in the south east internal corner.

The cart shed is in a ruinous state; the south west gable is the only wall still standing to its full height and this is very overgrown with ivy.

**Recommendations**

This cart shed should be preserved as a visible feature; the ivy should be cut and allowed to die before removal. Ideally the masonry should be consolidated to prevent further collapse.

**Management Category** C

**Visited by** AMP

**Visited On** 17/01/02

**PRN** 44345

**Site name** NORTH VATSON FARM

**NGR** SN11380401

**Site type** ENCLOSURE

**Period** Medieval;Post Med

**Site Status**

**Description**

In the north east corner of the field, close to North Watson farm, is the L-shaped low earth bank of an enclosure (plate 4) together with other anomalous earthworks. The enclosure survives as a low bank approximately 21m east west by 27m north south. This earthwork appears to be shown on the 1787 map and identified in the associated schedule as 'Houses, gardens &c' although no built structures remain visible. The Tithe map also indicates various smaller enclosures that are referred to as 'House and Yard', 'Garden' and 'Haggard'.

The earthworks and associated documentary evidence suggests that there was once a much larger complex of buildings centred at North Watson farm. In addition the survival of ridge and furrow (PRN 44346) in the adjoining field indicates that this complex may have medieval origins. This area is currently under pasture.

**Recommendations**

The survival of this earthwork indicates that sensitive archaeological remains are likely to exist below ground level. These upstanding earthworks should be protected from any damaging activity. No ground disturbing activities should take place in this area to protect the archaeological remains.

**Management Category** D

**Visited by** AMP

**Visited On** 17/01/02

**PRN** 44346

**Site name** NORTH VATSON FARM

**NGR** SN11470394

**Site type** FIELD SYSTEM

**Period** Medieval;Post Med

**Site Status**

**Description**

The remains of ridge and furrow survive in the field to the east of the enclosure PRN 44345 (plate 5). They are particularly noticeable towards the centre of this large field running in a north south direction. The best-preserved examples are on average c.3.5m wide and approximately 0.3m in height/depth.

These earthworks demonstrate that this area was farmed in the medieval system of strip fields, which can also be seen preserved within the field boundaries in the wider landscape.

**Recommendations**

This field should be excluded from all activities that would damage the profile of the ground surface, such as ploughing or heavy erosion by livestock.

**Management Category** C

**Visited by** AMP

**Visited On** 17/01/02

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## **REFERENCES**

### **Map**

Estate Map, 1787, Hopshill and Maysland, NLW Vol 39 pp84-5

Tithe Map, 1839, Tithe Map for the parish of St Issells, -

Tithe Map, 1841, Tithe Map and Apportionment for the parish of Begelly and the Hamlet of East

Ordnance Survey, 1891, Pembrokeshire Sheet XLI.NW, 1st edition 1:10560

Ordnance Survey, 1891, Pembrokeshire Sheet XLI.NE, 1st edition 1:10560

Ordnance Survey, 1907, Pembrokeshire Sheet XLI.2, 2nd edition 1:2500

Ordnance Survey, 1907, Pembrokeshire Sheet XLI.3, 2nd edition 1:2500

Ordnance Survey, 1907, Pembrokeshire Sheet XLI.NE, 2nd edition 1:10560

Ordnance Survey, 1907, Pembrokeshire Sheet XLI.NW, 2nd edition 1:10560

### **Written Description**

DAT, 1994, Report on the Archaeological Impact of the proposed Saundersfoot to Tenby Sewer L



## Plates



Plate 1 – the old quarry (PRN 44340) which has largely been infilled.



Plate 2 – the south eastern elevation of the cow shed (PRN 44342).





Plate 3 – the remains of a cart shed (PRN 44344) to the south of North Watson farm.



Plate 4 - the low rectangular earthwork (PRN 44345) near North Watson Farm, looking west.





Plate 5 – Ridge and furrow (PRN 44346) which can be seen to the south east of North Vatson Farm.

**LOWER HOPSHILL  
TIR GOFAL FARM VISIT REPORT**

**REPORT NUMBER 2002/21**

**March 2002**

This report has been prepared by Alice Pyper

Position: Tir Gofal Archaeologist

Signature. *Alice Pyper*.....

Date *12/04/2002*.....

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. *Louise Aust*.....

Date *28/03/02*.....

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on the content or presentation of this report.