

Glynhenllan Uchaf

W/13/0752

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report Call Out



Report No. 2004/41

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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report
Call Out

By

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Introduction

A farm visit was undertaken at the request of the Countryside Council for Wales to address specific management issues on this farm. The aim of this report is to make an assessment of these issues in order to provide management recommendations to be incorporated into the Tir Gofal Management Plan. This report is not intended to assess the structural condition or stability of any given site.

The Call Out Report responds to management concerns regarding specific sites, it does not provide management advice for all known sites on the farm, for these recommendations please refer to the Historic Environment Report 1 (He1).

General Description of Farm

Glynhenllan Uchaf lies just outside Rhoshill, south of Cardigan. The farm was visited by Cambria Archaeology on March 31st, 2004.

The farmstead consists of three traditional buildings – the farmhouse itself, a cartshed and cowhouse range and some form of service range running at right angles to the house. A modern well-house is also sited inside the farmyard. Unusually, the buildings all have datestones, with the house dating to 1811 (re-built 1873), the cowhouse to 1812 and the range to 1813. These dates are quite early for this part of Wales, and the buildings are all well-constructed with an eye for decorative detail. It is likely that this farm was of a high social standing.

Statement of Condition / Proposed Works

Cowhouse

The cowhouse/cartshed runs northwest-southeast, with a large cart entrance in the northwest gable. The rest of the building seems to have been intended hay or grain storage and animal housing.

The building is of roughly coursed stone slabs, with large, dressed quoins. It faces northeast, into a small enclosed paddock or foldyard which was seen on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map and is still in use today.

Like the house and the range next to it, the cowhouse is well constructed and contains decorative elements. Fine, dressed stone arches top most of the openings, and a projecting string course of slate slabs runs above the cart entrance.

The cowhouse is generally in good to fair condition. Some of the stonework has been lost from parts of the rear wall, and one of the internal walls is also in need of repair. The landowner intends to re-build these sections of the cowhouse in stone, using stone from the derelict single storey building near the house.



Plate 1 (above) *The cart entrance in the northwest gable. Note the dressed stone archway and the projecting slate course above it. These appear to be a kind of architectural 'signature' of Glynhenllan Uchaf.*

Plate 2 (below) *The cowshed is generally in good condition and is still in use.*



Service Building

This is a decorated and well-constructed range, running at right angles to the farmhouse and connected to it by a stone archway. At the north end the building is derelict and roofless. The south end is roofed in corrugated metal.

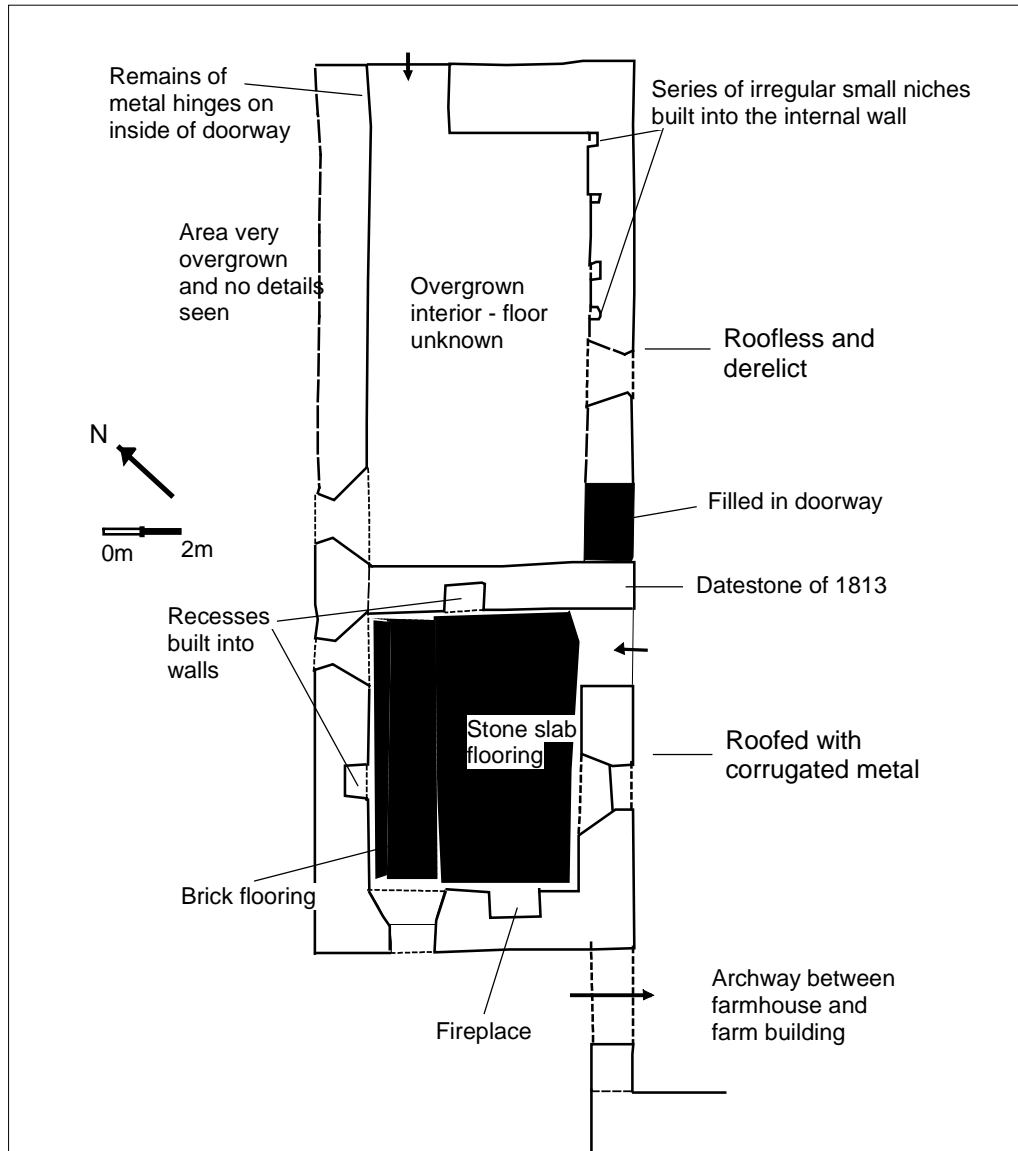


Plate 3 Plan of the service building showing the main features. Photographs of the building are included in the appendix.

Like the cowshed, this building is constructed of roughly coursed stone slabs bound with lime mortar. The fine, dressed stone archways above the openings are the same as those seen on both the cowhouse and the farmhouse, providing a sense of unity throughout the farmyard. A projecting slate string-course runs along the front (east) elevation and the north gable, again providing an architectural 'link' between this building and the cowhouse. Above the string-course, the stonework is more regular, with formally coursed blocks. A number of niches, formed by occasionally missing stones from the course, create a decorative pattern along this level. These may have been ventilation shafts, or could have served as nest-boxes. At the north end, where the roof has been lost, a projecting row of slate capping along the top of the wall finishes the building. This presumably would have continued for the whole length of the wall, but has been lost at the south end when the building was re-roofed.

The function of the building is not known. However, the pattern of openings, the small fireplace at the south end, and the building's proximity to the farmhouse suggest that it principally domestic rather than agricultural, and it may have been constructed as a service building for the house. Ancillary buildings like dairies, meat-stores, laundries and brew-houses were often separate from the main house. The fact that the farm was probably of quite high status would make this interpretation more likely. From the middle of the 18th century onwards more planned and formal Welsh farmhouses began to be built – such as the one at Glynhenllan Uchaf. As the longhouse tradition slowly died out in many parts of Wales, the service rooms began to be added to the farmhouse as a small wing, forming a 'T' or 'L'-shaped plan (Wiliam,E:1986:22). Although these were often behind the farmhouse, in this case the service building was clearly architecturally designed to complement the house.

The building is currently in poor condition. The north end is roofless and derelict, and appears to be structurally unsound. Parts of the stonework have collapsed, and the rear wall is heavily overgrown. The south end is in a better state, roofed in corrugated metal and appearing to be relatively sound and weatherproof. Through Tir Gofal the landowner has agreed that the north end will be partially taken down to provide stone for restoration works on the cowshed and the well-house. The south end is to be retained.

The Well-House

A small, modern well-house made of breeze-block set on stone footings. A pump or well is shown on historic maps, and the well is still the source of water for the farmhouse. The landowner intends to rebuild the well-house through Tir Gofal, using stone from the service building and finishing it with a slate roof.



Plate 4 *The well-house, viewed from the northeast.*

Management Recommendations

The Cowhouse

Repairs to this building are to be welcomed, and the replacement of modern breeze-block with stone will have a positive impact on the integrity of the whole farmyard. The works should be carried out using a lime mortar which matches as closely as possible the one used in the original construction of the building.

The Service Range

Under most circumstances the practise of taking stone from one building to repair another is not one which would be encouraged. However, the north end of the service range is in poor condition and it seems that there is now no viable way to save it. The preferred option is always to retain and repair buildings; especially where they are of an early date, of architectural interest, or have substantial group value. In this case, the loss of part of the building will ‘unbalance’ the overall appearance both of this building and of the house.

However, the decision to carry out the work was taken prior to the Tir Gofal agreement being signed. This archaeological call-out visit was therefore undertaken in order to make a record of the building prior to any stone being removed. A ground-plan and a photographic survey were produced (see figure 3 and the appendix) which provide a basic record of the construction and architectural interest of the building.

The south end of the building is to be retained. No material should be removed from this area.

The Well-House

Although historic maps show that there has long been a well or pump in this location, there is no real evidence to suggest what any building or structure may have looked like. Consequently, it is suggested that any new building should be low-key and of unobtrusive appearance. The use of stone from the service building, and of a suitable lime mortar will ensure that the new well-house ‘blends in’ with the farmyard.

Appendix – photographs

These photographs are selected to show the principle elevations and details of the building. All photographs taken on the field visit are stored at Cambria Archaeology, film number: DAT 2004-22.



DAT 2004-22.1 (above) General view of the building from the southwest

DAT 2004-22.2 (below) View showing how the service building relates to the main house





DAT 2004-22.3 (above) Northwest corner of the building

DAT 2004-22.4 (below) Main (southeast) elevation, north end





DAT 2004-22.5 (above) Main (southeast) elevation of the building, south end.
DAT 2004-22.6 (below) Southwest gable end, house to right of picture.





DAT 2004-22.7 (above) Rear (northwest) elevation, south end.

DAT 2004-22.8 (below) Rear (northwest) elevation, north end.





DAT 2004-22.9 (above) Northeast gable end.

DAT 2004-22.10 (below) Detail of the filled in doorway and decorative coursing above.





DAT 2004-22.11 Interior of the north room of the building.

DAT 2004-22.12 Looking south along the building, towards the house.



References

Cadw:2004: Notes on Glynhenllan Uchaf (stored in Regional Sites and Monuments Record)
Ordnance Survey 1891 Pembrokeshire VII.NW
Wiliam,E:1986:The Historical Farm Buildings of Wales

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This report has been checked and approved by Louise Austin on behalf of Cambria Archaeology,
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