

01/01/2001



Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology

# **Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report**

## **Pengelli**

### **W/11/1026**

ACA Report Number 2001/6

ACA Project Record 40436

Report prepared for CCW  
by ACA

January, 2001

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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/11/1026

**Address** Pengelli **NGR** SN686788  
Taleisin, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 8PU.

**TG Project Officer** Jon Turner, Aberystwyth

**Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology Project Record Number** 40436

**Visit Officer** Anwen Cooper **Visit Date** 31/10/00

## **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).

## **Pengelli Farm**

Pengelli Farm is made up of three separate holdings; one at Tanyrallt, just to the south of Tre-Taliesin, one at Pant-glas, to the north of Tre-Taliesin and the third at Aber-ffrwd. Only the farm at Aber-ffrwd was visited.

### **Description of Aber-ffrwd Farm, PRN 42073**

Aber-ffrwd Farm lies to the south of the Afon Rheidol, about 12km to the east of Aberystwyth. The holding sits at the base of the steep-sided wooded valley to the east of a fast-flowing stream and covers an area of about 22.5ha which includes woodland on the valley sides and pastureland on the flood-plain. The landscape around the farm is dominated by evidence of its nineteenth century agricultural and industrial occupation.

The farm was first recorded on the tithe survey of Llanbadarn Fawr in 1843. At this time, the current farmhouse at Aber-ffrwd farm (which is now separately owned) and a single farm building to the west of it (now demolished) had been established. These buildings were surrounded by a system of small irregular fields. By the time of the 1st edition OS map in 1891 an additional farm building had been built immediately to the south of the farmhouse (PRN 42075) and a detached group of farm buildings had been established further to the south (PRN 42074). A small cottage had also been built in the southern part of the current holding at Pant-y-gaseg (PRN 42082). The character of the area was drastically altered by the construction of the Vale of Rheidol Light Railway in the late nineteenth century which runs through the southern part of the holding and was first recorded on the 2nd edition OS map of 1906. By this time the cottage at Pant-y-gaseg had been abandoned. Over the course of the twentieth century, the layout of the farm has remained virtually unchanged, although some hedge boundaries have been removed and most of the buildings have been heavily modified.

The holding also includes evidence for nineteenth century lead and copper mining. Aber-ffrwd Mine was first recorded on the tithe survey of 1843 when it was made up of two buildings, situated just to the south of Aber-ffrwd Farm (PRN 25883). This was abandoned by the time of the 2nd edition OS map in 1906. A rapid field survey by R Protheroe Jones in 1992 identified a further group of mine workings upslope to the west of this, just beyond the boundaries of the current holding. The evidence within the holding forms a small part of a great density of nineteenth century mine workings along the Rheidol Valley and the industrial development of the area as a whole deserves further investigation.

### **Management Recommendations**

Much of the archaeological interest within the holding lies within woodland and is not threatened by current farming practices. However, the nineteenth century farm buildings and the twentieth century station house are in poor condition and require immediate attention.

<b>PRN</b> 19155	<b>Site name</b> ABER-FFRWD	<b>NGR</b> SN68717874
<b>Site type</b> RAILWAY STATION	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

**Description**

Single storey timber building on brick and breeze block stilts with an asbestos roof to the south west of Aberffrwd Farm. A building was first recorded on this site on the tithe survey of Llanbadarn Fawr in 1843, although this building is clearly later. It was first recorded as a station building on the 2nd edition OS map of 1906 and appears to be of early twentieth century origin. The building was clearly used for domestic purposes and may have provided accommodation for a station master. The internal decor and a brick and iron fireplace survive although the floor is in poor condition. A corrugated tin garage survives to the west of the dwelling (plate 1).

**Recommendations**

The station house is in poor condition and its state is rapidly deteriorating. The area around it is completely overgrown. The building should be fully recorded before its condition deteriorates further.

<b>Management Category</b> B	<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 31/10/00
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<b>PRN</b> 25883	<b>Site name</b> ABERFFRWD MINE	<b>NGR</b> SN688788
<b>Site type</b> METAL MINE-COPPER LEAD	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

**Description**

Site of Aberffrwd Copper Mine, first recorded on the tithe survey of 1843. The workings lie in a strip of woodland to the south of Aberffrwd Farm alongside the remains of a former trackway (PRN 42081). The area includes a rock cut level (PRN 42077), a shaft (PRN 42078), tips (PRN 42079), a magazine (PRN 42080) and a mine building (PRN 42076). Total copper ore output-10 tons; total lead ore output-300 tons (Protheoe-Jones, 1992). See individual site descriptions for more details.

**Recommendations**

The mine workings lie in a wooded area and are unlikely to be disturbed by current farming practices. See individual site descriptions for more detailed recommendations.

<b>Management Category</b> B	<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 31/10/00
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<b>PRN</b> 42073	<b>Site name</b> ABERFFRWD FARM	<b>NGR</b> SN68857892
<b>Site type</b> FARMSTEAD	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

**Description**

See farm description at front of report.

**Recommendations**

See individual site recommendations for more details.

<b>Management Category</b> C	<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 31/10/00
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<b>PRN</b> 42074	<b>Site name</b> ABERFFRWD FARM	<b>NGR</b> SN68837885
<b>Site type</b> FARM BUILDING	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

**Description**

Single storey rubble and lime-mortar farm building with a hipped slate roof in a cluster of farm buildings to the south west of Aberffwrdd Farm (plate 2). Orientation north-south. First recorded on the 1st edition OS map of 1891. Very little of the original structure survives. Much of it has been rebuilt and none of the original openings survive. Whitewashed exterior. The interior was not examined.

**Recommendations**

The building has been considerably modified but what remains of the original structure is in reasonable condition. No specific management recommendations.

<b>Management Category</b> D	<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 31/10/00
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<b>PRN</b> 42075	<b>Site name</b> ABERFFRWD FARM	<b>NGR</b> SN68847891
<b>Site type</b> CART SHED	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

**Description**

Two-storey whitewashed rubble cartshed with a gabled slate roof to the southwest of the farmyard at Aberffwrdd Farm (plate 3). First recorded on the 1st edition OS map of 1891. Orientation east-west. Parts of the building have been rebuilt with breeze block and brick and most of the openings have been modified. Accessed at ground floor level by a double width entrance in the north-facing wall, now with a concrete lintel. Accessed at first floor level via a brick and concrete stairway against the eastern gable wall through a low door with a square head and timber lintel. The interior was inaccessible. The roof was in a poor state of repair.

**Recommendations**

The cartshed is generally in reasonable working condition although its roof is sagging and needs urgent repair. It should otherwise be maintained in its current state and any repairs or alterations should be carried out in a way that is sympathetic to the character of the original building.

<b>Management Category</b> C	<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 31/10/00
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<b>PRN</b> 42076	<b>Site name</b> ABERFFRWD MINE	<b>NGR</b> SN68877883
<b>Site type</b> MINE BUILDING	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

**Description**

Ruined four-roomed mine building c.5m by 15m to the west of the trackway (PRN 42081) that runs through Aberffwrdd mine (plate 4). First recorded on the tithe survey of 1843. Orientation northwest-southeast. Rubble and soil construction. The footings stand to a maximum height of 1m. The roof does not survive although there were loose slate tiles amongst the rubble which may originate from the roof. A brick and iron fireplace survives in the internal wall of the southernmost room. The area is slightly overgrown with young trees, some of which are disturbing the footings.

**Recommendations**

The footings of the mine building are in a stable condition although they are being damaged by young tree growth in places. It should be maintained as a stable ruin and kept clear of rubbish and intrusive vegetation. Any loose stone should be left in-situ.

<b>Management Category</b> B	<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 31/10/00
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<b>PRN</b> 42077	<b>Site name</b> ABERFFRWD MINE	<b>NGR</b> SN68907885
<b>Site type</b> LEVEL	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

**Description**

Rock cut level c.5m deep by 2m wide, alongside Nant yr Aber the east of Aberffrwd mine (plate 5). The top and side of the level are overgrown with gorse, ivy and young trees.

**Recommendations**

The level is in a stable condition. No specific management recommendations.

<b>Management Category</b> B	<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 31/10/00
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<b>PRN</b> 42078	<b>Site name</b> ABERFFRWD MINE	<b>NGR</b> SN68887884
<b>Site type</b> MINE SHAFT	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

**Description**

Open mine shaft of Aberffrwd Mine (PRN 25883) c.1m high by 2m wide, beneath a rocky ledge to the west of Nant yr Aber (plate 6). The entrance to the shaft is open and infilled with rubbish. The area is overgrown and wet.

**Recommendations**

The mouth of the shaft is filled with rubble and rubbish but appears to be stable. The rubbish should be cleared.

<b>Management Category</b> B	<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 31/10/00
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<b>PRN</b> 42079	<b>Site name</b> ABERFFRWD MINE	<b>NGR</b> SN68887884
<b>Site type</b> SPOIL HEAP	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

**Description**

Tip area c.5m long by 2m wide by 1m high, associated with Aberffrwd Mine (PRN 25883), to the east of the trackway (PRN 42081) that runs through the mine workings. The area is grassed over and in a stable condition.

**Recommendations**

The tips are in a stable condition. They should be left in their current state and kept clear of intrusive vegetation.

<b>Management Category</b> B	<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 31/10/00
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<b>PRN</b> 42080	<b>Site name</b> ABERFFRWD MINE	<b>NGR</b> SN68887882
<b>Site type</b> MAGAZINE	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

**Description**

Rubble-built semi-circular structure c.1.5m wide and 0.8m high to the south east of the mine shaft (PRN 42078) at Aberffrwd mine (plate 7). Recorded on the 2nd edition 1:2500 OS map of 1906.

**Recommendations**

The remains of the magazine are in a stable condition. It should be maintained as a stable ruin and any loose stone in this area should be left in-situ.

<b>Management Category</b> B	<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 31/10/00
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<b>PRN</b> 42081	<b>Site name</b> ABERFFRWD MINE	<b>NGR</b> SN68887883
<b>Site type</b> TRACKWAY	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

**Description**

Terraced trackway c.3m wide, associated with Aberffrwd Mine (PRN 25883). Runs from north to south from the mine workings and was first recorded on the tithe survey of 1843. Cut at its southern end by the later railway. Defined by low, (c.0.5m high) stone-faced earthen banks where it passes through the mine workings.

**Recommendations**

The trackway is in reasonable condition but is somewhat overgrown. It is no longer used as an access route, but should be kept clear of vegetation.

<b>Management Category</b> B	<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 31/10/00
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<b>PRN</b> 42082	<b>Site name</b> PANT-Y-GASEG COTTAGE	<b>NGR</b> SN68887861
<b>Site type</b> DWELLING	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

**Description**

Site of Pant-y-gaseg cottage, first recorded on the 1st edition OS map of 1891. The footings of the building c.2m by 4m, survive to a height of 0.4m. They stand at the southern side of a small terraced platform c.5m by 8m cut into the north-facing slope. The area is now overgrown with bracken and has been used for dumping farm waste.

**Recommendations**

The area around the ruined cottage is overgrown and has been used for dumping farm waste. It should be cleared of intrusive vegetation and rubbish. The building footings are in a stable condition and should be maintained as stable ruins. Any loose stone in this area should be left in-situ.

<b>Management Category</b> C	<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 31/10/00
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**Map**

Tithe Map, 1843, Tithe map and apportionment, Llanbadarn Fawr Parish

Ordnance Survey, 1891, Cardiganshire Sheet XI.NW, 1:10560

Ordnance Survey, 1901, Cardiganshire Sheet I.16, 1:2500

Ordnance Survey, 1905, Cardiganshire Sheet XI.11, 1:2500

Ordnance Survey, 1964, -, SN67NE

**Plan**

Protheroe-Jones R, 1993, Annotated surface plan of mine with notes, SMR record file

**Written Description**

Francis A, 1874, History of the Cardiganshire Mines, p.84

Jones OT, 1922, Lead & Zinc:N.Cardiganshire & W.Montgomeryshire, p.128-129

Foster-Smith JR, 1979, Mines of Cardiganshire, p.24

Burt R., Waite P, Burnley R, 1986, Mines of Cardiganshire, p.1

Hughes SJS, 1987, George Green, British Mining

Rural Surveys Research Unit, 1988, The Common Lands of England and Wales, Cards 299 old unit

Clouston B & partners, 1988, Cambrian Mountains Metal Mines Project, No.A22

Protheroe-Jones R, 1992, Sheet No.25, SMR record file

**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 - 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 - Amber</b>	<i>Sites and Monuments of Regional Importance Grade 2 Listed and Other Buildings of Regional Importance</i>
<b>Category C - Green</b>	<i>Sites / Features of Local Importance Buildings of Local Importance</i>
<b>Category D - 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.**

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.**

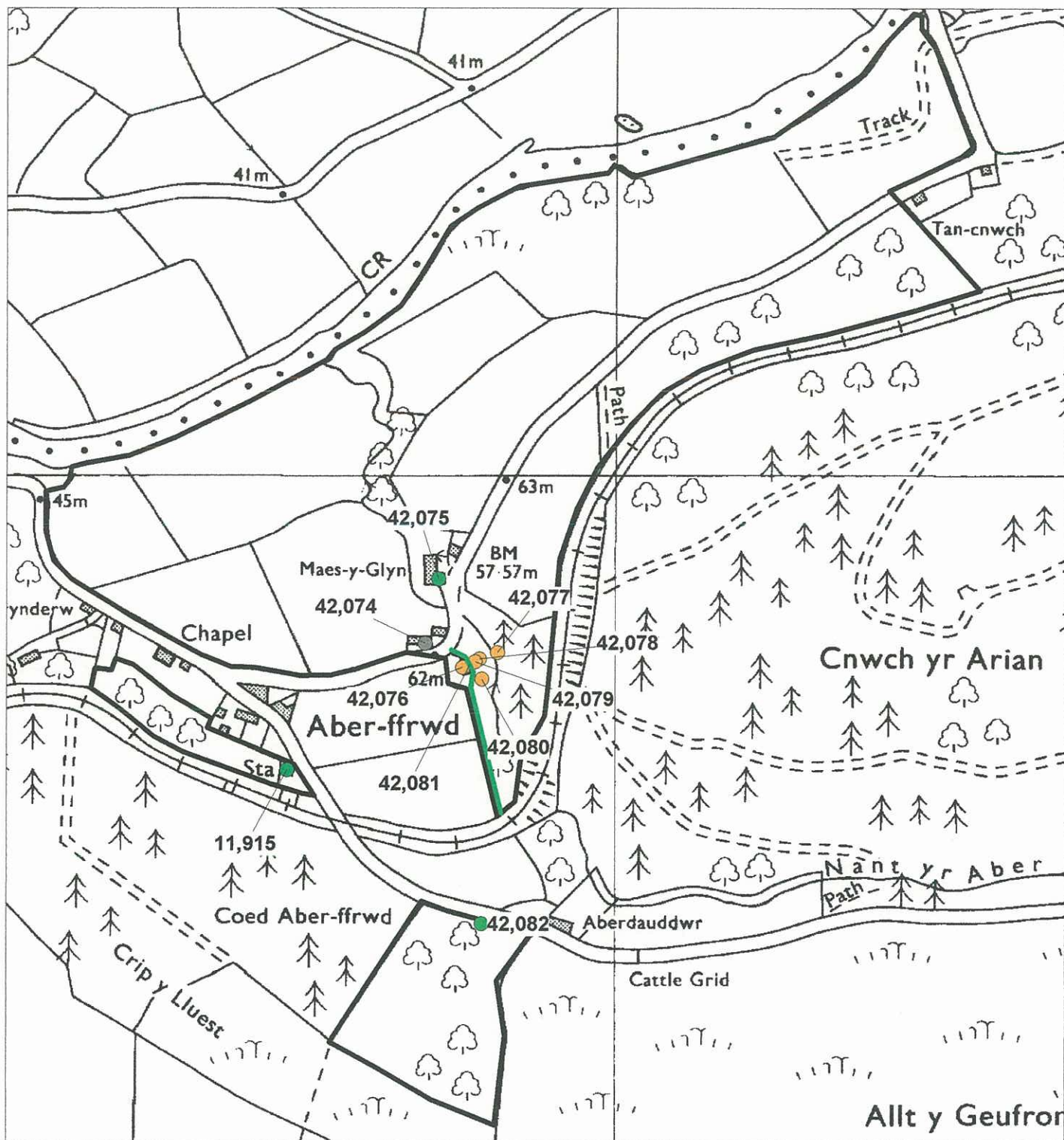
Defined by the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales: Part 2.1 Landscapes of Exceptional and Great Historic Interest. The register is advisory only, and has no statutory powers. The register is being compiled by Cadw in partnership with the International Council 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 man-made, historic elements of the landscape.

Scale 1:5000





## Plates



Plate 1 - the old station house at Aberffrwd (PRN 19155).



Plate 2 - late nineteenth century farm building (PRN 42074).





Plate 3 – late nineteenth cart shed building (PRN 42075).



Plate 4 - mine building at Aberffrw mine (PRN 42076).





Plate 5 - level for Aberffrwd mine workings (PRN 42077).



Plate 6 - mine shaft at Aberffrwd mine (PRN 42078).





Plate 7 - magazine at Aberffrwd mine (PRN 42080).



**PENGELLI FARM**

**PROJECT RECORD NUMBER 40436**

**JANUARY 2001**

This report has been prepared by Anwen Cooper

Position Project Officer

Signature .....  ..... Date 22/01/01 .....

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 24/01/01 .....

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