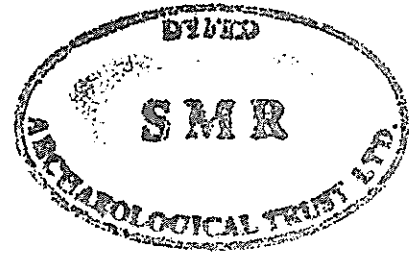


FEB 2001



NANTYFEN FARM

TIR GOFAL

SITE VISIT

Report No. 2001/19
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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO.2001/19

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By

Anwen Cooper

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**NANTYFEN FARM
SITE VISIT
W/12/1382**

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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 Louise Austin 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

Nantfen Farm (SN 3850 3209)

Historical Background

Nantfen Farm lies on the southeast facing slopes of the Afon Duad valley, about 1.5km to the northeast of Cwmdud in Carmarthenshire. The farm was visited to assess the condition and historic significance of the traditional farm buildings and to advise upon their restoration.

The history of the farm is not well documented. The earliest evidence for its occupation is provided by the tithe survey of Cwnwyl Elfed parish in 1840 when it consisted of four detached buildings arranged irregularly in the same area that the current farm buildings now occupy. At this time, the holding was owned by Richard Richards, occupied by David Davies and included 226 hectares of land. By the time of the 1st edition OS map in 1891 the current layout of the farm with detached buildings on three sides of a central farmyard had been established. The building to the north of the farmyard had been extended to the west by the time of the 2nd edition OS map although the layout of the farmyard remained unchanged.

Description of the farm buildings

The farm now consists of detached farm buildings on three sides of a central farmyard, with a pigsty, stable, threshing barn and cart shed to the north (plate 1), a farmhouse and cottage to the east (plate 9) and a cow house to the south (plate 10). Most of the buildings are in good working condition and have been sensitively managed.

Pigsty - Single storey rubble and lime mortar pigsty with a gabled slate roof at the western end of the building that makes up the northern side of the farmyard at Nantfen Farm (plate 2). It is not recorded on any historic maps and is probably of twentieth century date. It consists of two small covered pens to the north and open runs to the south. The wall that defines them to the south has been capped with concrete. The openings are headed with slate lintels. The openings to the pens and the wall that divides them are defined by large slate slabs. The pens are accessed via wrought iron gates.

Management recommendations

The pigsty is in very good condition and is now used as a kennel. The walls have recently been pointed and the roof is in good condition. It should be maintained in its current state. Any alterations and repairs should be made using appropriate traditional materials in a way that is sympathetic to the character of the original building.

Stable - Two-storey rubble and lime mortar stable with dressed stone quoins and a gabled slate and tin roof to the western side of the range of buildings that make up the northern side of the farmyard at Nantfen Farm (plates 3, 4 and 5). It was first recorded on the 2nd edition OS map of 1906 and is probably of late nineteenth century date. The openings are headed with stone voussoirs at ground floor level, are directly under the eaves at first floor level and all have slate sills. The fittings for these survive in poor condition. It is fenestrated to the south by four symmetrically positioned windows with fairly elaborate fittings, placed to either side of the doorways at ground and first floor levels. This gives the building the appearance of a domestic dwelling (plate 3).

It is accessed at ground floor level by a single-width, centrally positioned doorway in the southern wall. The interior at ground floor level is in excellent condition and many of the original fittings have been retained, including the pitched stone floor, horse stalls, hooks for tack and the stone supports for a trough which ran along the northern wall (plate 5). The building is still used for farm purposes and the owners have modified it sensitively in order to retain these original features. Railway sleepers have been laid over the pitched stone floor. These have both protected the original floor and make it easier to manage. The stone stands for the trough are used to support a more recent wooden hay stall.

The hay loft at first floor level is accessed via a single-width doorway from the threshing barn to the east and opposing half-height loft doors, centrally positioned in the northern and southern walls. The floor of the hay loft is significantly higher than that of the threshing barn to the east and these buildings were presumably at one time connected by a timber stairway. The loft timbers and joists are in excellent condition and have recently been replaced by the owner. A pair of small openings headed with stone lintels are positioned in the northern wall at first floor level (plate 4). Their form and location, suggests that they were associated with some sort of machinery rather than being for ventilation purposes.

Management recommendations

The building is in good working condition. Some of the roof-slates are missing and the northern side of the roof has been replaced with tin (plate 4). The owner would like to reroof this section with slate and replace the windows and doors as part of her Tir Gofal Agreement. This work and any further repairs and alterations should be carried out using appropriate traditional materials. The original internal fittings should be retained and the current use of railway sleepers should be continued to protect the floor and help with its management.

Farm building - One and a half storey rubble and lime mortar farm building with dressed stone quoins and a gabled slate roof at the eastern end of the range of buildings that make up the northern side of the farmyard at Nantfen Farm. It includes a threshing barn to the west, a cart shed to the east and a half-storey engine house to the north. It was first recorded on the tithe survey of 1840 and appears to be the earliest surviving farm building. The openings vary (see individual descriptions). The original fittings for these survive but are in poor condition.

Threshing barn - The threshing barn forms the western end of the building at the eastern end of the northern range of farm buildings at Nantfen Farm (plates 6 and 7). It is ventilated by a single, centrally positioned loop in the southern wall and accessed via opposing single-width doorways at the western end of the northern and southern walls. The door to the north is headed with stone voussoirs, that to the south is square headed with a timber lintel. The door to the south is raised above ground level and approached via a rubble-built stairway which has partly collapsed. The doorway is now accessed by a ramp constructed of wooden railway sleepers and the stairway has been repaired with breeze blocks. The interior is open to roof height. It was formerly whitewashed and now has a concrete floor. Some of the original internal fittings survive, including two disfunctional threshing machines. The roof and southern wall are in very poor condition.

Cart shed - The cart shed forms the eastern end of the building at the eastern end of the northern range of farm buildings at Nantfen Farm (plates 6 and 7). It is accessed at ground floor level by opposing double-width arched entrances, headed with curved timber lintels to the north and south. The loft level was accessed by a half-height single-width loft door in the eastern gable wall. The interior is filled with rubbish and the loft floor has collapsed. The roof and walls are in reasonable condition in this part of the building.

Engine house - Narrow, 1/2 storey rubble and lime mortar extension to the north of the building at the eastern end of the northern range of farm buildings at Nantfen Farm.(plate 7). It appears to have been a later addition to this building although its date of construction is hard to determine. It is accessed by a low, single-width doorway in the western gable wall and through a double-width, arched opening from the cart shed. The openings through to the waterwheel survive in the northern wall. The walls stand to roof height but are unstable, particularly at the western end around the door. The roof has collapsed and the roof timbers and slates are missing. No internal fittings survive and the interior has been used for dumping rubbish.

Management recommendations

The building is now in poor condition. The roof has partly collapsed, the roofing timbers are rotten and many of the slates are missing. The southern wall is structurally unstable and the remaining walls need consolidating. The owners would like to reconstruct the southern wall of the barn and cart shed, reroof it and replace the doors and windows as part of their Tir Gofal Agreement. This would considerably improve the appearance of the farmyard and would promote the survival and maintenance of the oldest building on the farm. The engine house should be retained and restored as part of this renovation work and the stone stairway to the south should be rebuilt with rubble. The owner would like to erect some form of barrier at the top of this stairway to make it less hazardous for animals. This would improve the practicality of the building for working purposes. Advice should be sought from an architectural conservationist for the restoration of the building (see list enclosed). The work should be carried out using appropriate traditional materials and in a way that is sympathetic to the design of the original building. The original internal fittings should be retained.

Waterwheel - A wheelpit (c.3m by 1m by 1.5m deep) and iron inlet pipe for a waterwheel lie to the north of the engine house at Nantufen Farm. The wheelpit is slightly overgrown with young trees and ferns and has been partly infilled with rubbish (plate 8). The millpond and head race that once fed the waterwheel have been infilled.

Management recommendations

The wheel pit should be cleared of rubbish and intrusive vegetation. The rubble walls that surround it should be consolidated and maintained.

Cow house - Double-breasted rubble and lime mortar cow house with a gabled slate roof and dressed stone quoins, forming the southern side of the farmyard at Nantufen Farm (orientation east-west), (plate 10). It consists of a two-storey cow house to the north and a later(?) single storey structure to the south. A building is first recorded in this position on the tithe survey of 1840. It is accessed at ground floor level by four single-width doorways in the north-facing wall, a single doorway in the southern wall and a single-width doorway in the southern part of the western gable wall. First floor level is accessed by two half-height loft doors in the eastern gable wall. A modern brick dairy has been constructed midway along the northern wall. The openings at ground floor level vary. Most have been modified but all have original slate sills. The original fittings for these have been replaced and are in poor condition. The openings at first floor level are directly under the eaves. The original fittings for these do survive but are in poor condition. The interior has been modified to accommodate modern farming practices. The walls have been concreted to head height, the floor has also been concreted and the original wooden stalls have been replaced with steel. The loft floor survives in good condition. The roof is also in good condition.

Management recommendations

The cow house is in good working condition and should be maintained in its current state. Any alterations and repairs should be carried out using appropriate traditional materials in a way that is sympathetic to the character of the original building. The owner would like to replace the windows and doors with traditional wooden fittings as part of her Tir Gofal Agreement. This would considerably improve the appearance and condition of the building.

Sources

Map

Tithe survey an apportionment, Conwill in Elvit Parish, 1840

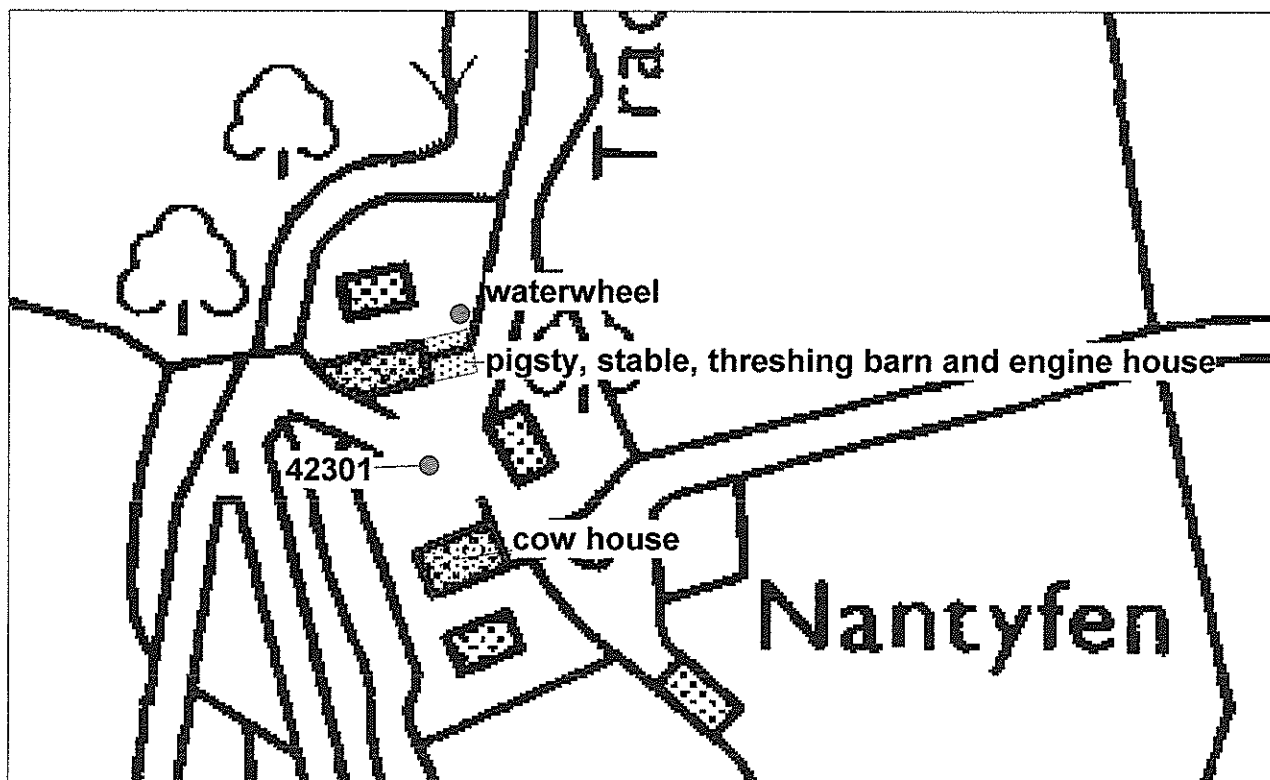
Ordnance survey (1891) 1st edition map, 1:10560 scale, Carms sheet XXIISW

Ordnance survey (1907) 2nd edition map, 1:10560 scale, Carms sheet XXIISW

Tir Gofal Call Out Visit
Nantufen Farm
ACA Report No.2001/19
SN33SE

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Scale 1:1500



Plates



Plate 1 - the northern range of farm buildings at Nantufen Farm including the pigsty, stable, threshing barn and cart shed.



Plate 2 - the pigsty from the south.



Plate 3 - the stable from the south showing the original wooden fittings to be replaced.



Plate 4 - the stable from the north showing the roof due for replacement.

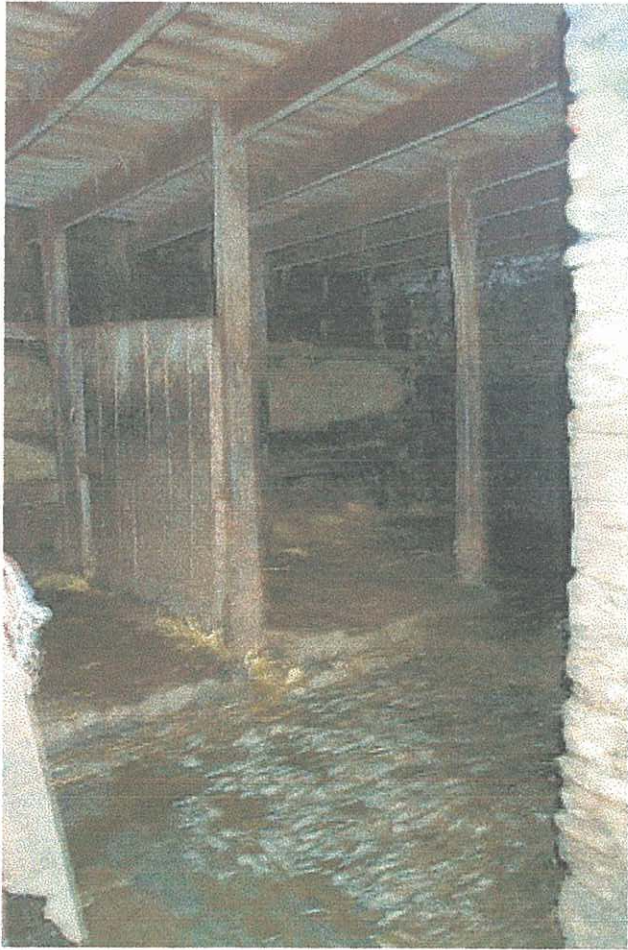


Plate 5 - the barn interior showing the original pitched stone floor and stalls.



Plate 6 - the threshing barn and cart shed from the south showing the wall to be rebuilt and the roof to be replaced.



Plate 7 - the threshing barn and engine house from the north.



Plate 8 - the overgrown wheelpit to the north of the threshing barn.



Plate 9 - the farmhouse and cottage from the east.



Plate 10 - the cow house to the south of the farmyard at Nantufen Farm.

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