

FEB 2001



## TRECADWGAN FARM

TIR GOFAL

SITE VISIT

Report No. 2001/20  
Project Record No. 40456  
TG Reference No. W/12/0590

Report Prepared for:  
CCW

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2001/20

FEBRUARY 2001

TRECADWGAN FARM  
SITE VISIT  
W/12/0590

By

Anwen Cooper

*Cambria Archaeology is the marketing name of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited.*

*The report has been prepared for the specific use of the client. The Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd can accept no responsibility for its use by any other person or persons who may read it or rely on the information it contains.*

ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA  
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf  
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF  
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121  
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131  
Ffacs: 01558 823133  
Epost: cambria@acadat.com Gwefan: www.acadat.com

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY  
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited  
The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF  
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121  
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131  
Fax: 01558 823133  
Email: cambria@acadat.com Website: www.acadat.com

*The Trust is both a Limited Company (No. 1198990) and a Registered Charity (No. 504616)*  
CADEIRYDD CHAIRMAN: B.C.BURNHAM, MA PHD FSA MIFA. CYFARWYDDWR DIRECTOR: E G HUGHES BA MIFA

**TRECADWGAN FARM  
SITE VISIT  
W/12/0590**

**REPORT NO. 2001/20**

**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

## **Trecadwgan Farm (SN 3119 1814)**

Trecadwgan Farm lies in rolling pasture land about 1km to the southwest of Bancyfelin in Carmarthenshire. The farm was visited to assess the historic significance of the traditional farm buildings and to advise upon their restoration.

The history of Trecadwgan Farm is not well documented although it was clearly a holding of some importance during the nineteenth century. It was first documented in a schedule of title deeds dating from 1769-1849. The holding was recorded on the tithe survey of Llanfihangel Abercowin in 1841 as Trecadwgan Farm when it was owned and occupied by Richard Richards. At this time it was made up of a number of buildings, a garden and 79 acres of land which included several plantations. A fine, terraced garden formerly lay to the southeast of the house but was apparently removed in the mid twentieth century. This description suggests that the land around the holding was partly landscaped as well as being used for agricultural purposes. This ornamental theme is reflected in the ornate architecture of the buildings, all of which were recorded on the tithe survey. The layout of the farmyard has remained virtually unaltered since the nineteenth century although several breeze block buildings have been erected around the farmyard and the original buildings have fallen into disrepair.

The current owner has demolished several of the twentieth century brick-built structures which has considerably enhanced the appearance and condition of the farmyard. He has also constructed a ramp to promote the practicality of the building to the northwest of the farmyard.

### **Description of the buildings**

The current layout of the farmyard at Trecadwgan consists of a u-shaped arrangement of farm buildings around a central farmyard and a detached farmhouse some distance to the northeast. The farm buildings include a stable and cart shed to the northwest, an animal pen to the northeast and a cow house to the southwest.

#### **Stable and cart shed (plate 1)**

Two-storey, rubble and lime mortar farm building with dressed stone quoins and a gabled slate roof, forming the northwestern side of the farmyard at Trecadwgan Farm (orientation northeast-southwest). The exterior was formerly whitewashed. It includes a stable block to the southwest and a cart shed to the northeast. A building was first recorded in this position on the tithe survey of 1841. The entire building was converted into a milking parlour during the twentieth century.

The openings are uniformly headed with brick voussoirs. The ground floor level was accessed by seven, single-width doorways in the southeastern facing wall and a single arched cart entrance (plate 2) in the northeastern gable wall. The five doorways towards the southwestern end of the building are evenly spaced and probably accessed the stables (plate 3). Those towards the northeastern end are more irregularly spaced and probably accessed the cart shed. This ground floor was lit by a single window at the northeastern end of the southeast facing wall and ventilated by a series of five

ornate, oculi with brick surrounds (plate 4). The first floor was fenestrated by four openings in the southeast facing wall and at least two openings in the northwest facing wall. The northwest facing wall has been rendered in places and the location of the original openings is hard to determine. There is no evidence of the original access at first floor level suggesting that the loft level was reached via an internal stairway. All of the openings at first floor level have been blocked in. Several of those at ground floor level have also been blocked in or modified and the fittings in all of the remainder are either missing or modern (plate 5).

The interior has been extensively modified to accommodate stalls, a cow passage and machinery for a milking parlour. The floor is concreted, the walls are rendered and the loft floor has been removed. There is no evidence for the internal divide between the stable block and cart shed. However, the joist ends and some complete joists do survive and suggest that the loft level was open for the entire length of the building.

### **Management recommendations**

The owner would like to restore the exterior of this building as part of his Tir Gofal Agreement. The building was obviously designed with some care and deserves to be protected. The walls are in reasonable condition although the stonework requires repointing and is loose around some of the modified openings. Any loose stonework should be consolidated. The roof is also in reasonable condition but some of the slates are loose or missing (particularly at the southeastern end) and these should be replaced. If possible the render should be removed from the northwestern facing wall. The original openings should be retained and ideally restored in a way that is sympathetic to the character of the original building. The fittings for the openings should be replaced using traditional materials.

### **Animal shed (plate 6)**

Single-storey rubble and lime mortar farm building with dressed stone quoins and a gabled slate roof forming the northeastern side of the farmyard at Trecadwgan (orientation northwest-southeast). The exterior was formerly whitewashed. It includes a stable to the northwest and an animal pen to the southeast. The building is less elaborate than the stable block and cart shed to the northwest of the farmyard and appears to have been an earlier construction (see below for an explanation). A building was first recorded here on the tithe survey of 1841.

All of the openings have been modified and are variously defined with slate, timber and stone lintels or brick voussoirs. The fittings are either missing or modern. The stable was accessed by a double width doorway at the northwestern end of the northeastern wall. The animal pen was accessed by a centrally positioned single width doorway in the southwestern wall. It was lit by a large opening in the southeastern gable wall and a small, centrally positioned square opening in the southwestern wall. Ventilation was provided by a substantial stone loop in the northwestern gable wall and two, irregularly positioned oculi (like those in the stable block to the northwest) in the northeastern facing wall. The stonework around the latter is uneven which suggests that they may have been added at a later date, perhaps when the stable and cart shed to the northwest were built. The interior is open to roof height. It is

whitewashed and has a recent concrete floor. Some original internal features survive including a storage recess in the southwestern wall. There is no evidence of the former divide between the stable and the animal pen.

#### **Management recommendations**

The building is in reasonable condition and the owner would like to restore it as part of his Tir Gofal Agreement. The walls are generally well maintained although they are overgrown in places and some of the stonework along the northeastern wall is loose. Any loose stonework should be consolidated and the vegetation should be removed. The roof is generally in reasonable repair. The timbers are in good condition but some of the slates are loose and need replacing. Ideally, the fittings should be replaced using traditional materials. A breeze-block structure has been constructed along the southwestern wall and detracts from the appearance of the building itself and the farmyard as a whole. This is no longer in use and if possible should be demolished.

#### **Cow house (plates 7 & 8)**

Two storey rubble and lime mortar cow house with dressed stone quoins and a gabled slate roof to the southwest of the farmyard at Tregadwgan (orientation northwest-southeast). The exterior was formerly whitewashed. A building was first recorded in this position on the tithe survey of 1841. The cow house has been extensively modified to accommodate a milking parlour and is now in a poor state of repair.

Most of the openings have been modified and/or blocked in and have modern fittings. The original openings appear to have been headed with brick voussoirs. The building was accessed at ground floor level by three single-width doorways in the northeastern facing wall and a single doorway in the southwestern facing wall. Access to loft level was provided by an opening in the northwestern gable wall (plate 8). All of the current fenestration is modern. The exterior has been rendered to the northeast and partly to the southwest and the location of the original openings is hard to determine. The interior is now open to roof height and no evidence survives of the loft floor other than a ridge at first floor height. The walls are fully rendered but appear to have formerly been whitewashed. The floor is concreted. None of the original fittings survive.

#### **Management recommendations**

The cow house is in poor condition. The walls are overgrown with ivy and young shrubs. They are structurally unstable and have been rebuilt with breeze blocks in places. The roof is also in poor repair. The roof timbers are in reasonable condition but many of the slates are missing. The renovation of this building would require considerable financial investment and the owner would like to demolish it. He has offered to donate the stone from it for historic building purposes. Alternative funding sources to assist with its renovation should be investigated. Further archaeological advice should be sought prior to demolition.

## Sources

### Map

Tithe survey an apportionment, Llanfihangel Abercowin Parish, 1841

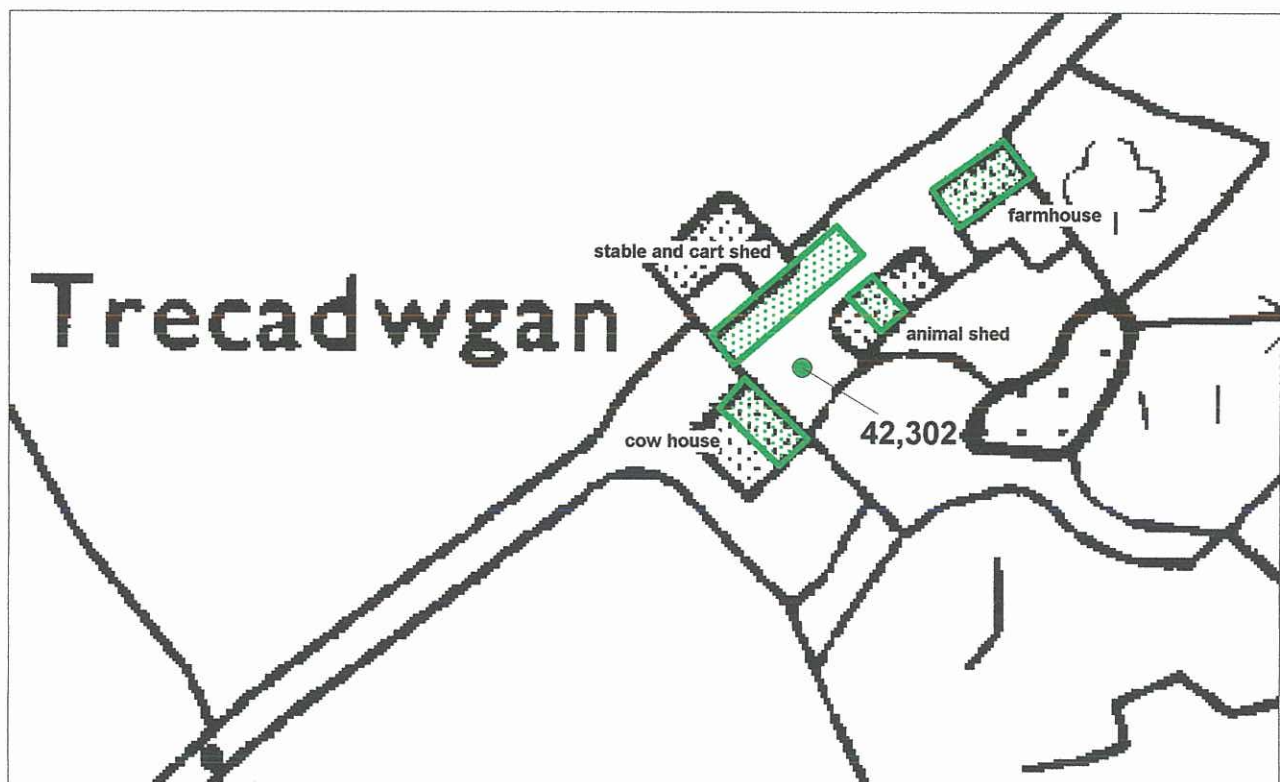
Ordnance survey (1891) 1st edition map, 1:10560 scale, Carms sheet XXXVIII SW

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

Tir Gofal Site Visit  
Trecadwgan Farm  
ACA Report No. 2001/20  
SN31NW

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey map  
with the kind permission of the Controller of  
Her Majesty's Stationary Office.  
Crown Copyright reserved.  
Countryside Council for Wales  
Licence No.GD272825G

Scale 1:1500





## Plates



Plate 1 - farm building to the northwest of the farmyard including a stable block and cart shed.



Plate 2 - the cart entrance at the northeastern end of the stable block.





Plate 3 - symmetrically arranged doorways to the stable block.



Plate 4 - ventilation oculus with brick surround on the stable block.





Plate 5 - modified entrances to the stable block.



Plate 6 - farm building including the animal shed and stable.





Plate 7 - the cow house from the northeast, showing the poor roof repair and modified exterior and openings.



Plate 8 - cowhouse from the southeast showing poor roof repair, overgrown walls and modified openings.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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