

01/01/2001



Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology

# **Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report**

## **Blaengorlech**

### **W/12/0786**

ACA Report Number 2001/14

ACA Project Record 40467

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/12/0786

**Address** Blaengorlech NGR SN546381  
Gwernogle, Carmarthenshire.

**TG Project Officer**

**Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology Project Record Number** 40467

**Visit Officer** Anwen Cooper

**Visit Date** 29/09/00

## **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.**

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## **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).

## **Description of Blaengorlech Farm, PRN 41970**

Blaengorlech Farm is made up of four separate plots of land which lie to either side of the Afon Blaengorlech, close to the village of Llidiad-Nenog. The area sits at around 1000m OD and is characterised by small farmsteads, forested slopes and moorland. Although there is ample evidence of prehistoric activity in the surrounding area, the earliest sign of human activity on the holding itself dates to the medieval period, when the mansion at Lletty yn y Llwyn was built. The land was occupied by five farmsteads during the later nineteenth century. Of these, only Blaengorlech itself survives.

The largest part of the holding including Blaengorlech farm is situated on the south-east facing slopes of Rhos Blaen-Gorlech. This includes an area of open moorland on the hilltop and small enclosed fields on the valley sides. The field boundaries in this area are defined by low earthen banks with hedges of hawthorn and ash. The earliest evidence of occupation in this area is provided by the tithe survey of Llanybyther parish in 1841. At this time, the current farmstead at Blaengorlech Fach (PRN 41970) was occupied by Daniel Williams but is not shown on the accompanying map. To the west of the Afon Gorlech, the farmstead of Blaengorlech (PRN 22555) was occupied by Jarred Evans. Just to the north of this, a small plot and drovers tavern by the name of Cross Inn (PRN 41449) were occupied and owned by William Davies. By the time of the 1st edition OS map of 1891 Cross Inn and land around it were deserted. The farmstead at Blaengorlech was occupied at the time of the 2nd edition OS map of 1907 but has also since been deserted. The farmstead at Blaengorlech Fach is still lived in by the owner.

A further piece of land surrounds the former medieval mansion house of Lletty-llwyn-chwith (PRN 25089). This is situated on east facing slopes to the south of the Afon Gorlech and is surrounded by conifer plantations. The field boundaries here are defined by low earthen banks which have been planted with hazels, beeches, sycamores and hawthorn. The earliest known owner of the house in the 14th century was Rees ap Ieuan. He and his descendents occupied the house until the mid eighteenth century after which they left or sold it. It was then lived in by John Lewis, whose daughter married the Revd. Rice Williams. At the time of the tithe survey in 1841 the land here was owned by the Revd Thomas Jones and leased by Daniel Williams (the occupant of Blaengorlech Fach), at which time the house itself was probably deserted. The mansion buildings were recorded on the 2nd edition OS map of 1907 but no trace remains of them now.

Two smaller blocks of the holding lie surrounded by common land to the west of Llidiad-Nenog. The occupation of both was first recorded on the tithe survey of 1841. At this time, the westernmost plot included the house and lands of Blaen-pant (PRN 41452) and was occupied by Mary Gower. The land in the block to the east was divided between the holdings of Waunyreuig, Maeslyn, Caeau y Mynnydd and Blaenholiu. By the time of the 1st edition OS map (1891), a small plot at the southern end of this eastern block was occupied by the house and land of Bwlchnewydd (PRN 41451). The fields boundaries that define these blocks consist of substantial earthen banks c.0.8m high with laid rubble facing and the remains of beech hedging in places.

## **Management Recommendations**

The archaeology on the farm is characterised by a high concentration of deserted buildings including cottages, a farm, a mansion and an Inn. Together, these mark out a densely populated and farmed nineteenth century landscape which deserves further investigation. The current farming regime is not intensive and is generally sympathetic to the survival of these sites. The question of their longer term management needs further consideration.

<b>PRN</b> 17158	<b>Site name</b>	<b>NGR</b> SN54463801
<b>Site type</b> QUARRY	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

#### **Description**

Area of quarrying in the valley bottom of the Afon Gorlech, first recorded on the 2nd edition OS map of 1907. Formerly accessed by a trackway from Blaengorlech Farm. The ground in the valley bottom is now extremely marshy and the largest area of quarrying to the south of the Afon Gorlech was inaccessible. However, a small quarry, c.10m by 10m by 3m deep to the north of the river and a small rectangular c.3m by 5m building (?) platform to the south west of it were visible.

#### **Recommendations**

The quarry lies within a pasture field and is completely grassed over. It is overgrown with bracken but in a stable condition. It should be kept clear of rubbish.

<b>Management Category</b> D	<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 29/09/00
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<b>PRN</b> 22555	<b>Site name</b> BLAENGORLECH	<b>NGR</b> SN54153801
<b>Site type</b> FARMSTEAD	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

#### **Description**

The site of the former farmstead of Blaengorlech is approached from the road to the southwest by a narrow c.3m wide driveway defined by hedged stone and earth banks c.0.8m high. This leads into and runs along the southern side of two small enclosures, again defined by c.0.8m high hedged earth and stone banks. The uppermost of these enclosures now houses a corrugated tin shelter and is used for feeding cattle. The lower enclosure includes the platform and footings of the two-roomed dwelling of Blaengorlech, which is first recorded on the tithe survey of 1841. The platform is built up from the hillside and stands to a height of 0.6m. The rubble footings of the building stand to a max. height of 0.4m and are infilled with rubble from the collapsed walls. There is no evidence of its roofing material. An outbuilding to the southeast of the farmhouse is also recorded on the tithe survey of 1841. This is marked by a further small enclosure although no evidence remains of the building itself.

#### **Recommendations**

The former farmstead now stands in a pasture field and the enclosure in which it was built is used for sheltering and feeding cattle. This is causing some erosion to the enclosure banks. The site of the farmhouse itself is overgrown with nettles but is otherwise in a stable condition. The site should be kept clear of vegetation and rubbish and the condition of the banks should be monitored and maintained. The cattle trough should be relocated to minimize the damage caused to the ruins by cattle.

<b>Management Category</b> C	<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 29/09/00
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<b>PRN</b> 25089	<b>Site name</b> LLETTY-LLWYN-CHWITH	<b>NGR</b> SN55783708
<b>Site type</b> DWELLING	<b>Period</b> Mediaeval;Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

#### **Description**

The site of the former medieval mansion Lletty-llwyn-chwith is marked by a substantial platform cut into the east facing hill-slope which is surrounded by trees (plate 1). Although buildings were recorded here on the 2nd edition OS map of 1907, there is very little evidence left of the form and layout of the mansion. The area is littered with large stones, some of which are dressed and were probably from the mansion itself or its surrounding outbuildings. A series of irregularly shaped sunken enclosures c. 1.5m deep with stone and earth internal divisions lie to the south and east of the mansion site although their original function is unknown. A terraced trackway leads from the rear of the house platform and zig-zags uphill to the main drive to the north. This could be the remains of a former service entrance.

#### **Recommendations**

What remains of the mansion site is in a stable condition and should be kept clear of rubbish and intrusive vegetation. Any loose stones should be left in-situ. The history of the house and its desertion are important to the history of the local community and deserve further archaeological investigation.

<b>Management Category</b> B	<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 29/09/00
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<b>PRN</b> 41446	<b>Site name</b> LETTY-LLWYN-CHWITH	<b>NGR</b> SN55773708
<b>Site type</b> DRIVE	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

#### **Description**

The mansion house of Lletty-llwyn-chwith lay at the intersection of two, roughly surfaced driveways which would have provided different approaches or driveways towards the house. They form an integral part of the layout of the mansion grounds. The driveway leading northwards from the mansion is c.3m wide and terraced into the hillside, giving extensive views eastwards towards the Black Mountain. Its terraced edge to the west is faced with laid rubble and planted with beech, hawthorn, oak and sycamore. No evidence remains of the former plantation along its western side. The trackway leading north eastwards from the mansion is narrow (c.2.5m wide) with high (c.1.5m) earthen banks faced with laid rubble. Again it is planted with a mixture of hazels, beeches, sycamores and hawthorn. The terraced driveway that leads towards the house from the west is broad (c.4m wide) and open sided.

#### **Recommendations**

The driveways leading northwards and westwards from the mansion are in a good state of repair. The narrower trackway that leads northeastwards from the mansion is very wet, overgrown and its banks are loose and crumbling. The driveways should be kept clear of vegetation and maintained in a stable condition. Any loose stonework should be consolidated.

<b>Management Category</b> D	<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 29/09/00
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<b>PRN</b> 41447	<b>Site name</b> LLETTY-LLWYN-CHWITH	<b>NGR</b> SN55903718
<b>Site type</b> ENCLOSURE	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

#### **Description**

Small enclosure (c.10m by 20m) in a dog-leg of the trackway (PRN 41446) that leads north-eastwards from the mansion house at Lletty-llwyn-chwith. Defined by low earthen banks (c.0.5m high) planted with hazels, beeches, sycamores and hawthorn. There is no evidence of any structures within the enclosure.

#### **Recommendations**

The enclosure should be kept clear of vegetation and rubbish and otherwise maintained in its current condition.

<b>Management Category</b> D	<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 29/09/00
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<b>PRN</b> 41448	<b>Site name</b> LETTY-LLWYN-CHWITH	<b>NGR</b> SN55773708
<b>Site type</b> FIELD SYSTEM	<b>Period</b> Mediaeval;Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

#### **Description**

The land around the former mansion of Lletty-llwyn-chwith is divided into a distinctive system of fields, defined by low earthen banks (c.0.6m high) with overgrown hedges of beech, sycamore, hawthorn and hazel trees. The area is now completely surrounded by forestry plantations.

#### **Recommendations**

The boundaries have not been maintained and are no longer functional as stock enclosures. The banks that define them are eroded in places. They should be retained as an integral part of the Lletty Llwyn Chwith landscape and maintained in a stable condition.

<b>Management Category</b> D	<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 29/09/00
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<b>PRN</b> 41449	<b>Site name</b> CROSS INN	<b>NGR</b> SN54053817
<b>Site type</b> PUBLIC HOUSE	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

#### **Description**

The site of the nineteenth century establishment of Cross Inn lies at the corner of a field at the intersection of two roads to the west of Blaengorlech Fach Farm (plate 2). It is first recorded on the tithe survey of 1841 and was deserted by the time of the 1st edition OS map of 1891. Its position is now marked by a single length of stone and earth bank c.0.8m high which protrudes from the field bank to the west and defines a small enclosure. The footings of the building itself are marked by a low rectangular platform c. 0.3m high. This is completely grassed over although loose rubble from the footings is visible in places.

#### **Recommendations**

The site of the former inn is in a stable condition and lies within a lightly grazed pasture field. The bank that encloses it should be retained and maintained in its current condition.

<b>Management Category</b> C	<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 29/09/00
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<b>PRN</b> 41450	<b>Site name</b> BLAENGORLECH	<b>NGR</b> SN54193843
<b>Site type</b> ROAD	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

#### **Description**

Route of the former road towards Rhydcymrau, which has since been diverted via the farmstead of Blaen Cwm. Defined by hedged stone and earth banks c.0.8m high. The width of the trackway varies, broadening considerably in places.

#### **Recommendations**

The road is now grassed over. The banks are in a reasonable condition but are eroded in places by livestock. The banks should be retained and maintained in their current condition.

<b>Management Category</b> D	<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 29/09/00
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<b>PRN</b> 41451	<b>Site name</b> BWLCHNEWYDD	<b>NGR</b> SN53823750
<b>Site type</b> FARMSTEAD	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

#### **Description**

The site of the former dwelling and garden of Bwlchnewydd lie in an elongated, rectangular stone and earth banked enclosure to the west of Llidiad-Nenog. It was first recorded on the 1st edition OS map in 1891 and appears to have replaced the earlier dwelling of Blaenholliu which lay just to the south and was recorded on the tithe survey in 1841. The surrounding enclosure would have been approached from the east and entered from the south where the original gateposts survive. The enclosure banks are faced with laid rubble, planted with beech, alder, hawthorn and fruit trees and stand to a height of 1.2m. The substantial footings of a two-roomed dwelling stand centrally within it and survive to a height of 0.8m. The footings of a small outhouse lie to the north of this. There is no evidence of its roofing material. The area around the dwelling is divided by low earthen banks and includes a raised platform (possible garden?) to the west. The fields that surround it are also defined by stone and earth banks which are faced with laid rubble, planted with beech, alder hawthorn and fruit trees and stand to a height of 1.2m.

#### **Recommendations**

The site is in a stable condition and its survival is not threatened by current farming practices. It should be maintained in its current condition and kept clear of intrusive vegetation. Any loose stones should be left in-situ.

<b>Management Category</b> C	<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 29/09/00
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<b>PRN</b> 41452	<b>Site name</b> BLAEN-PANT	<b>NGR</b> SN53513761
<b>Site type</b> FARMSTEAD	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

#### **Description**

The deserted farmstead of Blaen-pant lies about 1km to the west of Llidiad-Nenog in an isolated patch of enclosed fields. The farm was approached from a track to the southeast and entered via a narrow (c.2.5m wide) drive defined by high (c.1.5m) hedged stone and earth banks, faced with laid rubble (plate 3). The drive runs into an enclosure in which the remains of a dwelling, at least one outbuilding a raised garden area and an animal pen(?) survive.

The dwelling was first recorded on the tithe survey of 1841 when it was occupied by Mary Gower. The single-storey rubble structure is made up of a linear arrangement of three rooms and survives in places to gable height (plate 4). No evidence remains of the roofing material. The main door to the house was on the southern wall of the central room. The western room was accessed via the central room and contains the remains of iron and brick fireplaces in the gable end and internal dividing walls. The easternmost room was accessed separately by an opening in the eastern gable wall. There is no evidence of any fenestration and the rooms are now rubble-filled and overgrown. The footings of a small, detached rectangular building c.2.5m by 1.5m, lie to the east of the house and stand to a height of 0.5m. A rectangular pile of rubble against the western gable wall may mark the position of another former outbuilding. The enclosure and fields that surround the farmstead are defined by low, hedged earth and stone banks c.0.8m high.

#### **Recommendations**

Whilst the internal walls of the dwelling stand to gable height, the external walls are far lower and some sections of it are unstable. The interior of the building is overgrown and filled with rubble. The walls should be consolidated and the building should be maintained as a stable ruin. The area should be kept clear of rubbish and vegetation and any loose stones should be left in-situ.

<b>Management Category</b> C		<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 29/09/00
<b>PRN</b> 41453	<b>Site name</b> BLAENGORLECH FACH	<b>NGR</b> SN54633806	
<b>Site type</b> FARMHOUSE	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>	

#### **Description**

Two storey, slate roofed late eighteenth century farmhouse, cut into the south-facing slopes of the Gorlech valley. First recorded in its current location on the 1st edition OS map of 1891 although the holding is mentioned on the tithe apportionment of 1841. The house has now been completely rendered and modernized.

#### **Recommendations**

The house is well maintained and occupied by the owner.

<b>Management Category</b> C		<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 29/09/00
<b>PRN</b> 41454	<b>Site name</b> BLAENGORLECH FACH	<b>NGR</b> SN54613806	
<b>Site type</b> COW HOUSE	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>	

#### **Description**

Single storey random rubble and mortar cowhouse with a gabled tin roof, built into a steep south-facing slope on Blaengorlech Fach Farm. Orientation east-west. First recorded on the 1st edition OS map of 1891. Square headed openings with replaced timber lintels. Accessed by three original doorways symmetrically placed along its southern wall. A small square window in the eastern gable wall provides the only fenestration. The original stone cobbling survives around the entrances to the building (and possibly within it). The interior was not examined.

#### **Recommendations**

The building should be maintained in its current condition and any alterations or repair work should be carried out using materials that are sympathetic to the character of the original building.

<b>Management Category</b> C		<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 29/09/00
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<b>PRN</b> 41455	<b>Site name</b> BLAENGORLECH FACH	<b>NGR</b> SN54623808
<b>Site type</b> BARN	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

**Description**

Two storey random uncoursed rubble construction with a gabled asbestos roof, built into the south facing hillside at Blaengorlech Fach Farm. Orientation north-south. First recorded on the 1st edition OS map of 1891. The western wall has been considerably modified and rebuilt with breeze blocks and its original form is hard to determine (plate 5). The original openings survive on the eastern and northern gable walls and are square headed with timber lintels (plate 6). It is accessed at ground floor level via a double width door in its eastern wall and at loft level from the hillside to the north via a low door in the northern gable wall. A large stone-faced platform lies along the eastern wall of the barn and may have provided a 'yard' area.

**Recommendations**

The barn should be maintained in its current condition as a working building. Any further repairs or alterations should be carried out with materials that are sympathetic to the character of the original building.

<b>Management Category</b> C	<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 29/09/00
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<b>PRN</b> 41970	<b>Site name</b> BLAENGORLECH FACH	<b>NGR</b> SN54633807
<b>Site type</b> FARMSTEAD	<b>Period</b> Post Med	<b>Site Status</b>

**Description**

Blaengorlech farmstead consists of an irregular arrangement of farm buildings including a house (PRN 41453), barn (PRN 41454) and cowhouse (PRN 41455), situated on south-facing slopes to the north of the Afon Gorlech. They were first recorded in their current form on the 1st edition OS map of 1891. See farm description at front of report and individual site descriptions for more details.

**Recommendations**

See individual site recommendations.

<b>Management Category</b> C	<b>Visited by</b> AJC	<b>Visited On</b> 29/09/00
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**Map**

Tithe Map, 1841, Tithe survey and apportionment, Llanybyther Parish

Ordnance Survey, 1891, Carms. sheet XV NE, 1:10560 1st edition

Ordnance Survey, 1907, Carms. sheet XV NE, 1:10560 2nd edition

Ordnance Survey, 1964, -, SN53NW

**Written Description**

Curtis M, 1880, The Antiquities of Laugharne Pendine and their Neighbourhoods, -

Smith P, 1966, Archaeology in Wales, No.6 p.28

Jones F, 1987, Historic Carmarthenshire Homes, p.113

Rural Surveys Research Unit, 1988, The Common Lands of England and Wales, Carms 132

**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.

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**HGP - Register of Historic Gardens & Parks.**

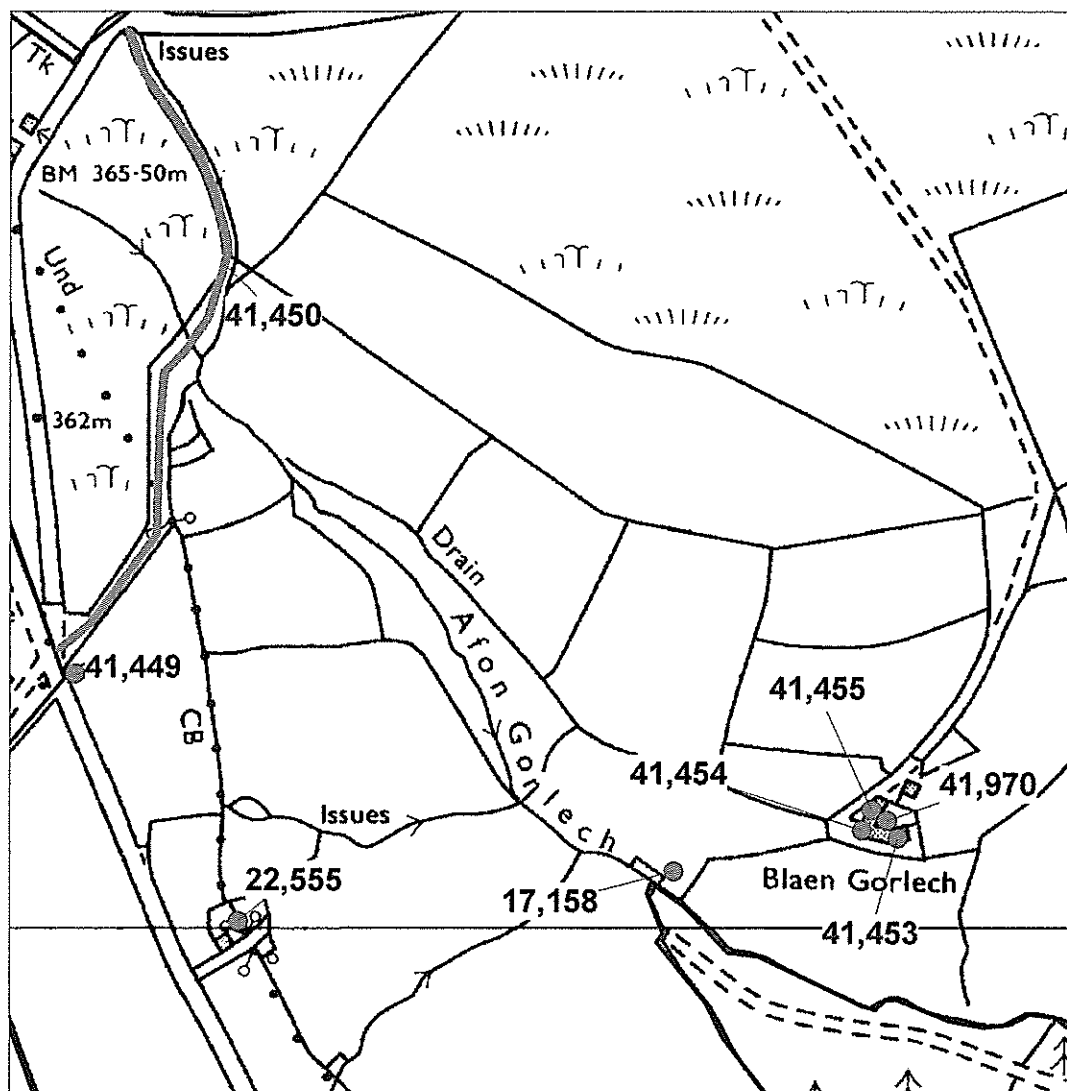
Defined by the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales: Part 1 - Parks & Gardens. The register is advisory only, and has no statutory powers. The register is being compiled by Cadw in partnership with the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and is concerned with man-made, historic elements of the landscape.

Scale 1:20000

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report  
Blaengorlech Farm  
ACA Report No.2001/14  
Map 2  
SN53NE/NW

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey map  
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Licence No.GD272825G

Scale 1:5000





## Plates



Plate 1 - the site of Lletty-llwyn-chwith mansion (PRN 25089).



Plate 2 - The site of Cross Inn (PRN 41449).





Plate 3 - the approach to Blaen-pant (PRN 41452).



Plate 4 - Blaen-pant deserted cottage (PRN 41452).





Plate 5 - Blaengorlech Fach barn from the west (PRN 41455).



Plate 6 - Blaengorlech Fach barn from the east (PRN 41455).

**BLAENGORLECH FARM**

**PROJECT RECORD NUMBER 40467**

**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