

01/01/2001



Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report

Pant-y-fen

W/12/0128

ACA Report Number 2001/8

ACA Project Record 39469

**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/12/0128

Address Pantyfen

NGR SN57214293

TG Project Officer Bethan Williams, Llandeilo

Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology Project Record Number 39469

Visit Officer Anwen Cooper

Visit Date 19/10/00

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.

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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 Pantyfen Farm, PRN 42286

Pantyfen farm lies on the south eastern slopes of Mynydd Pencarreg in north Carmarthenshire, commanding spectacular views on all sides. The holding now covers an area of 163 hectares, all of which is pasture land. The current farm is an amalgamation of several smaller holdings, most of which were built in the late nineteenth century and occupied for a very short time.

The earliest occupation of this area dates to the Bronze Age, when an extensive barrow cemetery was built upon the slopes of Mynydd Pencarreg. Evidence for the more recent occupation of the land is first provided by the tithe map of Pencarreg Parish from 1841. This shows most of the current holding to have been allocated as common land. At that time, the fields including and immediately around the later farm at Pantyfen belonged to the adjacent estates of Blaenbydernyn and Castell. The only building within the holding was the homestead of Blaenbydernyn Lodge which (as its name implies) belonged to the nearby estate. By contrast, the 1st Edition OS map of 1891 shows the area to have been occupied by a further three farms at Pantyfen, Victoria Park and Maes-y-llan and a small cottage at Nant-yr-yrfe. These farmsteads and the enclosed and improved land on the slopes of Mynydd Carreg that surround them, probably originate from the time of the Pencarreg Enclosure Award in 1850. The boundaries that were laid out at this time (PRN 41420) are defined by low banks planted with beech trees, which give the area a very distinctive character.

This sudden late nineteenth century expansion onto Pencarreg Mountain was short-lived. Of the five dwellings that are shown on the 2nd Edition OS map of 1906, only Maes-y-llan and Pantyfen are now occupied. Maes-y-llan has been sold and is no longer part of Pantyfen Farm. Victoria Farm was deserted and burnt to the ground in the 1950's. Blaenbydernyn lodge and Nant-yr-yrfa were similarly recorded as deserted the 1970's at which time they had probably been abandoned for some time. The farm buildings at Pantyfen survive in good condition and are well maintained as working buildings.

Management Recommendations

The farm is characterised by its distinctive nineteenth century enclosed landscape which is both well preserved and maintained. The evidence for prehistoric occupation on the slopes of Mynydd Pencarreg deserves further investigation and protection against future damage.

PRN 1192	Site name VICTORIA PARK FARM BARROW	NGR SN57904300
Site type ROUND BARROW	Period Bronze Age	Site Status

Description

Low, grassy stone and earthen mound, c. 0.4m high and 3m in diameter located on a prominent plateau with spectacular views on all sides. Possibly the last surviving example of a once extensive Bronze Age cairnfield that extended across the upper slopes of Mynydd Pencarreg. Little remains of the cairn and the placement of a trigpoint on its summit has damaged it further. The condition of this particular cairn and the cairnfield in general have deteriorated significantly since they were recorded in 1917 when it was described as "the ruins of a fine cairn" and the remains of other cairns on the hillside were also mentioned (plate 1).

Recommendations

The cairn is in a prominent position on the route of a planned footpath. The trigpoint on it will provide a further attraction for walkers to stand and admire the view. The survival of the monument is therefore threatened. Further survey work is needed to assess the survival of the cairnfield as a whole and to identify other features of the prehistoric landscape in the area.

Management Category B	Visited by AJC	Visited On 19/10/00
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PRN 7008	Site name BLAEN BYDERNIN	NGR SN56464317
Site type COTTAGE	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

The two storey dwelling of Blaen Bydernin Lodge, a cluster of outbuildings and a raised garden stand within a small, earth-banked enclosure on the south western side of Pantyfen farm (plate 2). The dwelling was approached from the road to the north by a narrow driveway that runs along the southeastern side of the enclosure. It was first recorded on the Pencarreg Tithe survey of 1841 when it was part of the Blaen Bydernyn Estate, although the last occupants were reputedly buried in Pencarreg churchyard in 1816.

It was recorded by RCAHMW in 1979 as a "ruined two-storey cottage, rubble in clay with rough quoins, some cut. Had wickerwork fireplace hood". Small fireplaces with slate lintels stand in both gable walls. The sockets that held the wicker fireplace hood also survive in the eastern gable wall. The dwelling was accessed through a centrally positioned doorway in the northern wall (now blocked). The gable walls survive to roof height, the northern wall stands to a height of 1.8m and the southern wall has been completely demolished. No roofing material survives. The footings of a square, c.2m by 2m building with a southeasterly-facing entrance stand to a height of 0.5m to the northwest of the dwelling. A raised stone-faced platform c.10m by 5m by 0.8m high lies to the southeast of the dwelling and may mark the position of a former garden. The footings of another small c.2m by 5m building foundation stand to a height of 0.5m at the southern corner of the enclosure. The boundaries of the enclosure are defined by low, earthen banks planted with beech trees.

Recommendations

The cottage and the surrounding earthworks are in a ruinous but stable condition. The owner would like to renovate the property when finances allow it but has previously been refused planning permission to do so. The dwelling should be consolidated and maintained as a stable ruin. Restoration work should be carried out in a way that is sympathetic to the character of the original building. The enclosure should be maintained in its current state and kept clear of rubbish and intrusive vegetation.

Management Category C	Visited by AJC	Visited On 19/10/00
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PRN 8317	Site name NANT-YR-YRFA	NGR SN57914205
Site type DWELLING	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

The site of former cottage, Nant-yr-yrfa is marked by a low rectangular hollow, c.20m by 30m by 0.4m deep, set within a small, rectangular c.30m by 20m enclosure at the southern end of Pantyfen farm. The enclosure is defined by low (c.0.4m high), earthen banks planted with hawthorn. It was first recorded on the 1st Edition OS map of 1891.

Recommendations

The earthworks and surrounding hedged bank are in a stable condition and under a light grazing regime. They should be maintained in their current condition.

Management Category C	Visited by AJC	Visited On 19/10/00
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PRN 17179	Site name	NGR SN57694285
Site type GRAVEL PIT	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

Small, rectangular quarry c.40m by 10m beside farm track. A pile of brick rubble has been dumped at its south eastern end.

Recommendations

The quarry is in a stable condition. It should be cleared of rubble and rubbish.

Management Category D	Visited by AJC	Visited On 19/10/00
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PRN 17180	Site name	NGR SN58704241
Site type QUARRY	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

Small c.5m by 3m by 3m high, irregular quarry cut into the steep south east facing slopes of Mynydd Pencarreg.

Recommendations

The quarry surface is now grassed over and in a stable condition. It should be maintained in its current state and kept clear of rubbish.

Management Category D	Visited by AJC	Visited On 19/10/00
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PRN 41373	Site name	NGR SN58694241
Site type QUARRY	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

Small c.10m by 10m by 3m high, circular, rubble-filled quarry, cut into the side of the south facing slope of Mynydd Pencarreg.

Recommendations

The quarry should be maintained in its current condition and kept clear of rubbish and intrusive vegetation.

Management Category D	Visited by AJC	Visited On 19/10/00
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PRN 41407	Site name VICTORIA PARK FARM	NGR SN57434293
Site type FARMSTEAD	Period Post Med	Site Status

duplicate prn → 42372

Description

Ruined farmstead of Victoria Park Farm, consisting of an L-shaped arrangement of ruined farm buildings, a cottage, a garden, a mill pond and a well set within a triangular, earthen-banked enclosure to the northeast of Pantyfen Farm. The enclosure is approached from the road to the east by a broad driveway, defined by low (c.0.5m high) banks to either side (plate 3) and planted with beech trees. It is bordered to the south by an arrangement of small, enclosed paddocks. The farm was first recorded on the 1st Edition OS map of 1891 when it included land to the south and east. The fields here are defined by low earthen banks which are planted with beech trees and give the area a very distinctive appearance. The entire farmstead probably dates to the enclosure of Mynydd Pencarreg in 1850. It was reputedly burnt down by local army trainees in the 1950's. The building footings stand to a maximum height of c. 0.5m and are completely grassed over. The circular mill pond is defined by low (c.0.6m high) rubble banks which survive in a reasonable condition. The garden includes a fine yew tree and is defined by low earth and stone banks (c.0.4m high).

Recommendations

The remains of the farmstead should be maintained in their current condition and kept clear of vegetation. The walls of the millpond should be consolidated. The surviving gateposts should be retained in their current positions. Any loose rubble should be left in-situ. The farm stands alongside a public road and the route of a proposed footpath. It would be an ideal site for the installation of an interpretation board, outlining the history of the occupation of Mynydd Pencarreg.

Management Category C	Visited by AJC	Visited On 19/10/00
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PRN 41415	Site name PANTYFEN FARM	NGR SN56174347
Site type FARM BUILDING	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

Mid nineteenth century 2-storey farmhouse and single storey barn forming the western side of a u-shaped arrangement of farm buildings at Pantyfen Farm. The farmhouse has recently been rendered and is lived in by the owner. Part of the barn has been converted into a farm office although the remainder is still used for storage purposes. Both buildings are of random rubble construction with gabled slate roofs. The original square-headed, timber-lintelled entrances to the barn on its eastern side have been narrowed and replaced with windows.

Recommendations

The farmer plans to repair the roof of the former barn which is leaking and sagging at its northern end. This would considerably improve its appearance and condition. The farmhouse is in fine condition.

Management Category C	Visited by AJC	Visited On 19/10/00
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PRN 41416	Site name	NGR SN57864278
Site type DWELLING?	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

Low, terraced platform c.5m by 3m, set within a narrow, triangular enclosure on the south eastern side of Pantyfen Farm. No evidence of a building remains and the site is not recorded on any historical maps. The enclosure is defined by low earthen banks (c. 0.4m high) with a beech hedge. Possible site of eighteenth century building.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations.

Management Category D	Visited by AJC	Visited On 19/10/00
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PRN 41417	Site name	NGR SN57124258
Site type CHAMBERED TOMB?	Period	Site Status

Description

Two parallel rows of large, tabular stones set on their sides, beside a natural rock outcrop. Their form is clearly different to that of the natural rock formation although there was no evidence of a distinct cist (plate 4). Possible late neolithic burial monument.

Recommendations

The stones should be left in-situ and the site should be re-examined as part of a wider survey of the prehistoric landscape on Mynydd Pencarreg.

Management Category D	Visited by AJC	Visited On 19/10/00
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PRN 41418	Site name PANTYFEN FARM	NGR SN56174347
Site type FARM BUILDING	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

Mid to late-nineteenth century cowhouse, chaff room and stable, forming the southern side of a u-shaped arrangement of farm buildings at Pantyfen Farm (plate 5). Whitewashed rubble construction with a gabled slate roof. The openings vary in style and appear to have been modified on several occasions. All of the openings are located in the north facing wall. The stable is entered at ground floor level via a single width, square-headed door with a timber lintel. The chaff room is entered via a double width door, headed with brick voussoirs. The cowhouse is accessed via a single width door, again headed with brick voussoirs. The ground floor windows are all headed with brick voussoirs. The first floor loft is accessed by a stone and slate stairway attached to the western gable wall via a single width, square headed door with a timber lintel. The windows at first floor level are positioned directly beneath the eaves. None of the original internal fittings survive.

Recommendations

The building is well maintained and in good working condition. It should be maintained in its current state. Any alterations and repairs should be carried out in a way that is sympathetic to the character of the original building.

Management Category C	Visited by AJC	Visited On 19/10/00
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PRN 41419	Site name PANTYFEN FARM	NGR SN56174347	
Site type FARM BUILDING	Period Post Med	Site Status	

Description

Mid to late nineteenth century single-storey pigsty and brewhouse forming the southern part of the eastern side of a u-shaped arrangement of farm buildings at Pantyfen Farm. The building is of whitewashed random rubble construction with a gabled asbestos roof and square-headed, timber-lintelled openings. The brewhouse chimney stack stands on the southern gable end. A later lean-to against the northern gable wall of the pigsty has a sloping asbestos roof. This extension has undergone considerable modification and its original form and purpose are hard to determine.

Recommendations

The farmer plans to reroof the pigsty and brewhouse in slate. This would considerably improve the appearance and condition of the building. It should otherwise be maintained in its current condition.

Management Category C	Visited by AJC	Visited On 19/10/00
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PRN 42071	Site name PANTYFEN FARM	NGR SN56174347	
Site type FARM BUILDING	Period Post Med	Site Status	

Description

Mid to late nineteenth century detached cartshed forming the northern end of the eastern side of the u-shaped arrangement of farm buildings at Pantyfen Farm. First recorded on the 1st edition OS map of 1891. It is of random rubble construction with a dutch barn-style tin roof.

Recommendations

The building is in reasonable working condition. It should be maintained in its current condition.

Management Category C	Visited by AJC	Visited On 19/10/00
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PRN 42286	Site name PANTYFEN FARM	NGR SN56174347	
Site type FARMSTEAD	Period Post Med	Site Status	

Duplicate PRN → 42373

Description

See farm description at front of report for more details.

Recommendations

See individual site recommendations for more details.

Management Category	Visited by AJC	Visited On 19/10/00
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Aerial Photograph

RAF, 1946, -, 106G-UK-1471 2048-52

Map

Tithe Map, 1841, Tithe map and apportionment, Pencarreg Parish
Ordnance Survey, 1891, Carms. sheet VIII SW, 1:10560 1st edition
Ordnance Survey, 1906, Carms. sheet VIII SW, 1:10560 2nd edition
Ordnance Survey, 1964, -, SN54SE

Written Description

RCAHMW, 1917, Carm, No.689(iii)p.233
Eyre-Evans G, 1925, Transactions of the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society, Vol.18 p.27
UCWL Archaeological Society, 1979, Archaeology in Wales, N0.19

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.

Category A - Blue	<i>Scheduled Ancient Monuments Grade 1 and 2* Listed Building</i>
Red	<i>Other Sites and Monuments of National Importance Other Buildings of National Importance</i>
Red toning	<i>Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest</i>
Red Banding	<i>Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest</i>
Category B - Amber	<i>Sites and Monuments of Regional Importance Grade 2 Listed and Other Buildings of Regional Importance</i>
Category C - Green	<i>Sites / Features of Local Importance Buildings of Local Importance</i>
Category D - Grey	<i>Sites / Features of Unknown Importance</i>

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE STATUS

Terms used in gazetteer.

SAM.

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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.

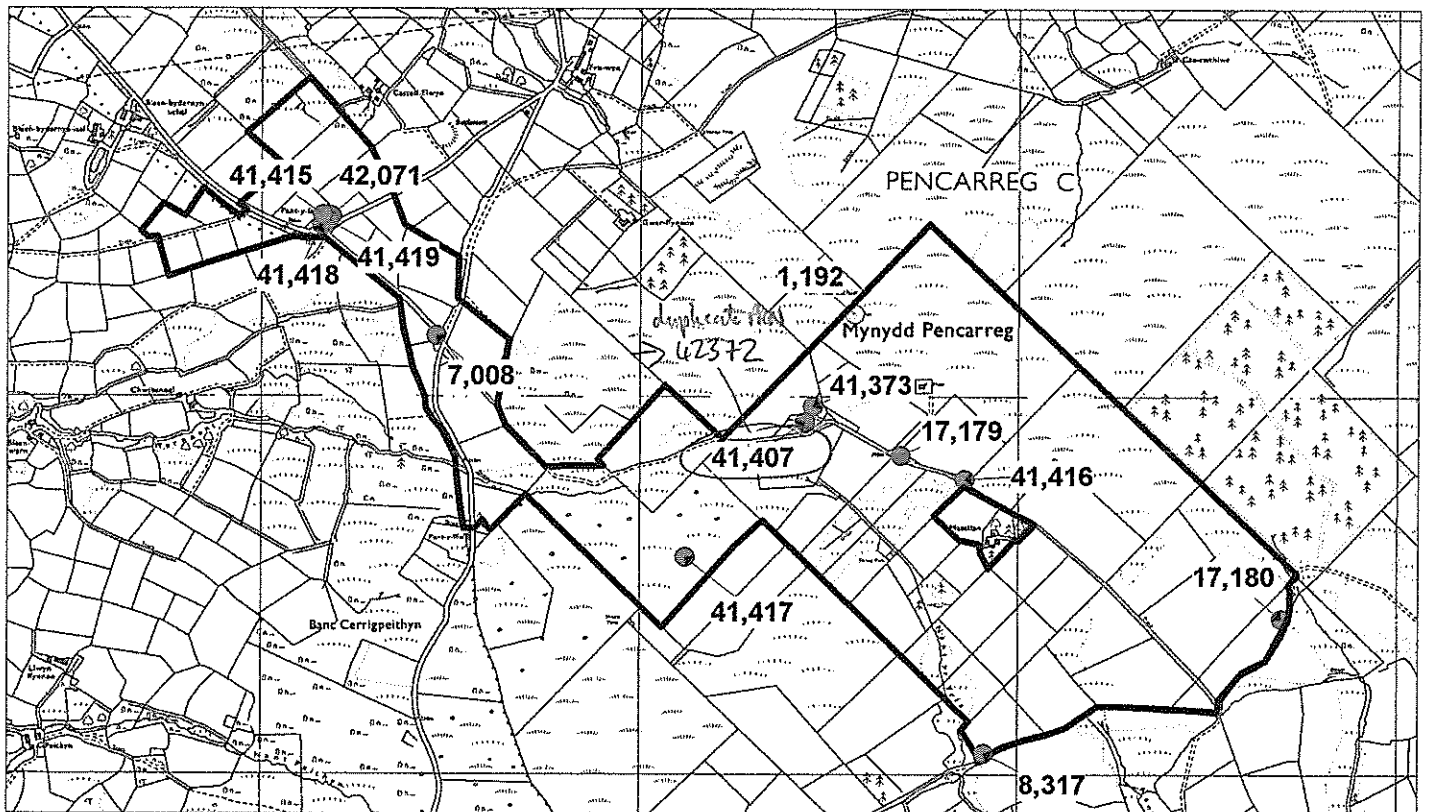
HL - Landscapes of Exceptional and Great Historic Interest.

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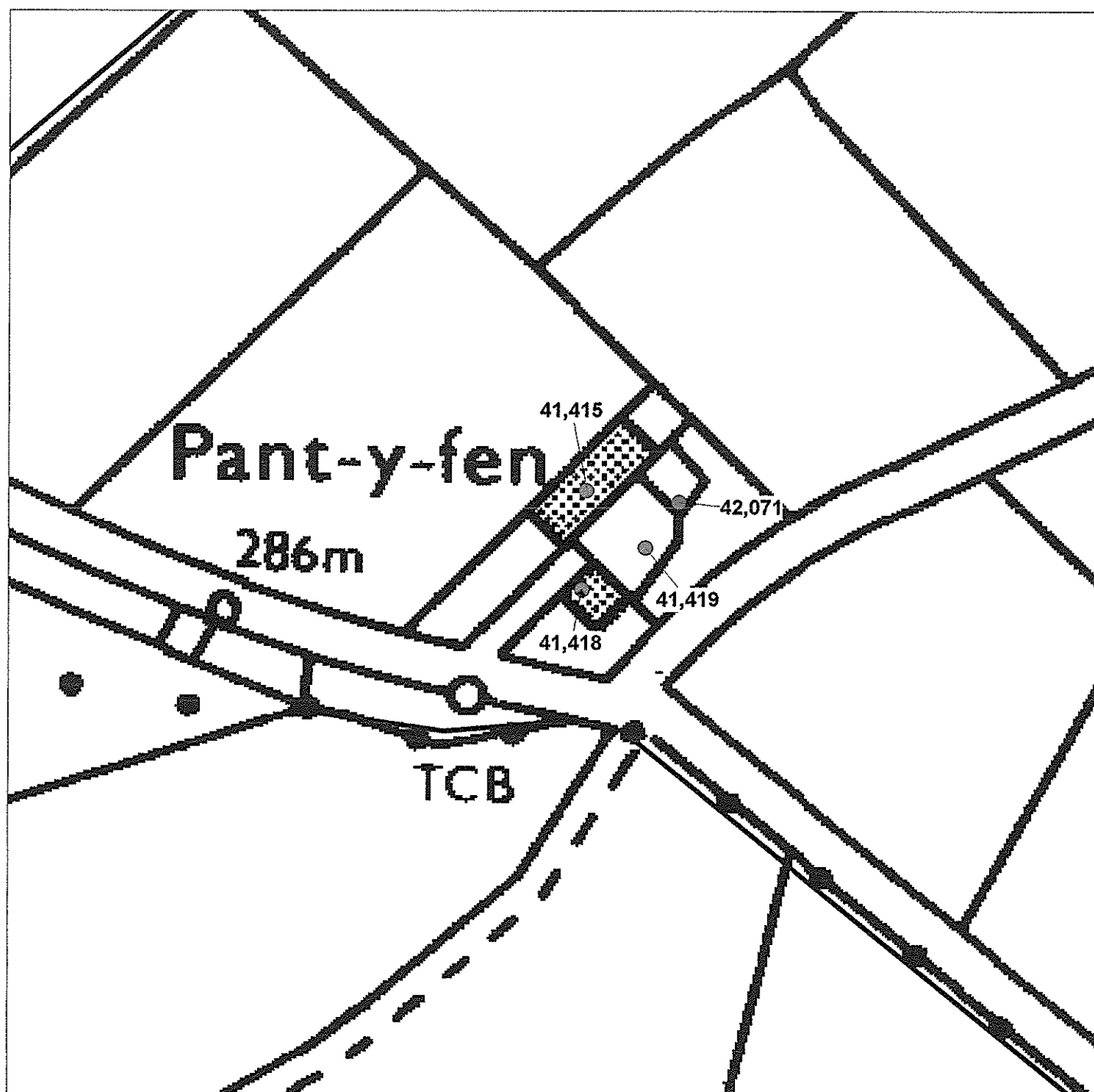
Scale 1:20000



Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report
Pantyfen
ACA Report No.2001/8
Map 2
SN54SE

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Scale 1:1500



Plates



Plate 1 - Bronze Age barrow on Mynydd Pencarreg (PRN 1192).



Plate 2 - the ruined cottage of Blaenbydernyn Lodge (PRN 7008).



Plate 3 - the driveway to Victoria Park Farm (PRN41407).



Plate 4 - possible chambered tomb (PRN 41417).



Plate 5 - late nineteenth century farm building at Pantyfen Farm (PRN 42071).

PANTYFEN FARM

PROJECT RECORD NUMBER 39469

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