

# Parce W/11/2045

## Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report Call Out



*Parce farmstead, looking north*

Report No. 2003/96

Report Prepared for:  
Countryside Council for Wales

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2003/96  
PROJECT RECORD NO. 41413

Parce  
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report  
Call Out

By

Alice Pyper

*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

## **CONTENTS**

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>General Description of Farm</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Survey</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Exterior</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Interior</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Current Condition</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Farm Map</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Quality Assurance Report</b>	<b>12</b>

### **Introduction**

A farm visit was undertaken at the request of the Countryside Council for Wales to address specific management issues on this farm. This report is not intended to assess the structural condition or stability of any given site.

The Call Out Report responds to management concerns regarding specific sites, it does not provide management advice for all known sites on the farm, for these recommendations please refer to the Historic Environment Report 1 (He1).

### **General Description of Farm**

Parce farm lies within the community of Beulah in Ceredigion, approximately 4 km northwest of Newcastle Emlyn. The farm has a single holding of just under 47 hectares occupying a northwest facing slope, with the farmstead occupying a central position within the holding.

The holding demonstrates a field pattern of medium sized fields of irregular shape, and except for some small scale boundary loss it appears little changed from that represented on the tithe map of 1846. At that time the farm formed part of a holding named Parke, with a number of unnamed cottages and gardens within it, and it is not clear in which of these if any, the owner Ruth Davies lived. The tithe apportionment, assembled in 1844, refers to the farmstead of Parce as 'Houses' suggesting that there may have been more than one residence here. The map shows the farmstead with three buildings, the largest of them being an L-shaped building at the north end of the yard, opposite this, to the south are two smaller square buildings.

A few modifications to the buildings had taken place by the time the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 was surveyed but the layout of the farmstead is basically unchanged. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century the farmstead is modified and considerably enlarged with further buildings constructed to the east and further to the northwest of the pre-existing farm buildings.

Today the farmstead consists of a large two storey farmhouse to the south, a long range of cow sheds to the east, a stone farm building to the north, and further large agricultural sheds to the northwest.

## **Survey**

A call out was requested to Parce farm in order to carry out a survey of a farm building, possibly a stable with overhead granary, at the north end of the farmyard which is of some structural concern and which may have to be dismantled. A general photographic survey was taken of the building, including exterior and interior in addition to a ground floor plan drawn at a scale of 1:20.

## **Exterior**

The building is situated to the north of the farmyard and consists of a two storey range with a pitched roof, covered with asbestos tile to the front (south) and corrugated asbestos to the rear (north). The building is constructed with local rubble stone with flat brick arches over the openings. The sides of the openings, the jambs, are constructed with roughly squared rubble stone. The quoins or corner stones are large and are also constructed in roughly squared rubble stone. The building is constructed with lime mortar bonding and appears to have had a lime render finish on the exterior at some stage, although this has been lost to a great extent. At the west gable end is a red brick chimney (plate 1).



Plate 1 – the south elevation and west gable

In plan the building is approximately 9.4 metres long by 5.85 wide. At the west gable end, constructed in brick, are external steps to access the first floor. The front (south) wall extends to the east 2 more metres and has been heavily modified in its incorporation with the adjoining one storey building (figure 1).

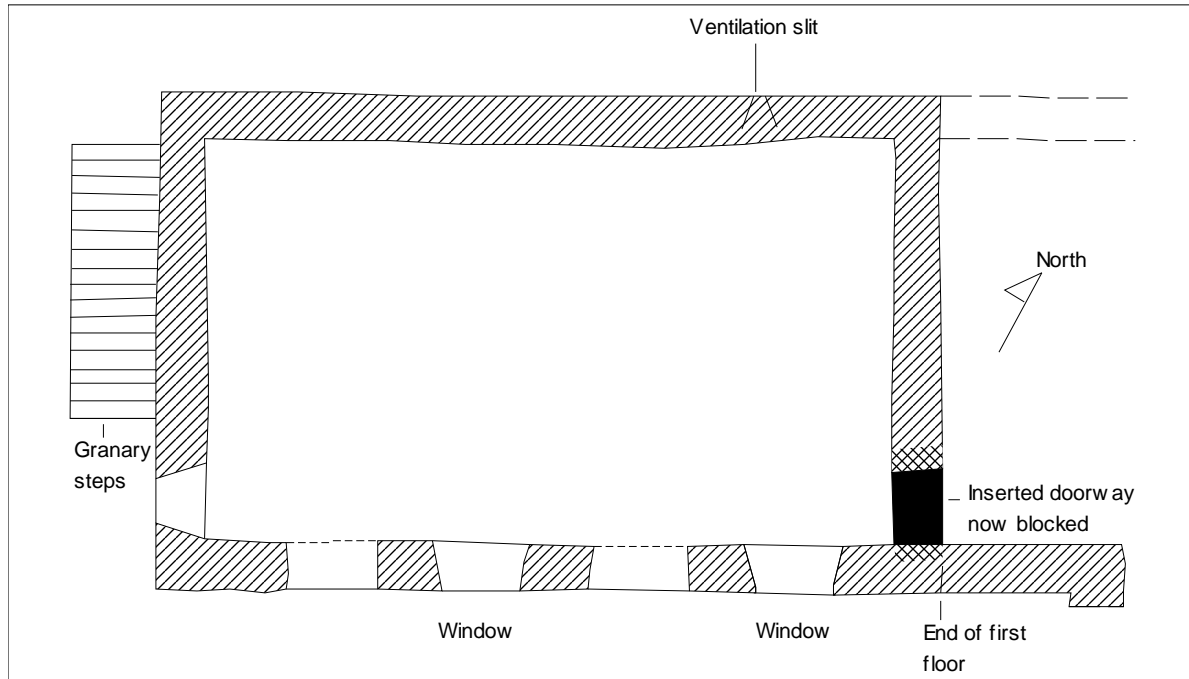


Figure 1 – Ground plan (not to scale)

On the ground floor there are four openings in the front (south) elevation, two doors and two windows alternately placed (plate 1). The windows have both been partially blocked with red brick to reduce their size and now have replacement metal half-hopper style windows. In the west gable end is another window against the southwest corner. The rear elevation (north) has no visible openings in the wall face, however there is evidence of a blocked ventilation slit towards the east end (plate 2 & 3). The east gable end has an inserted doorway against the south corner and this has subsequently been blocked.





Plate 2 – the north elevation, showing loss of facing stone at the eastern end.



Plate 3 – the exposed wall core on the north elevation, showing blocked ventilation slit (right of centre at base of the wall), also sockets for the first floor joists.

On the first floor there is a central window in the front (south) elevation with a timber lintel. A further window in the west gable, positioned above the ground floor window, had a flat brick arch, however this has been lost. A doorway in the west gable wall accessed from the external stone steps is constructed with a timber lintel and rough stone sides or jambs.

**Interior**

The interior walls are covered over by cement render which obscures any further features and the floor is concreted (Plate 4). The ground floor has modern partitions subdividing the space into pens.



Plate 4 – the interior of the ground floor (west end).

The first floor is supported on a longitudinal beam and transverse joists. The first floor is completely undivided and open to the roof.

The roof is constructed with four A frame trusses jointed with iron pins and two sets of continuous purlins on either side (Plate 5). The south side of the roof also has rafters and battens to support the asbestos tiles





Plate 5 – the interior of the first floor showing the roof trusses

### **Current Condition**

The building is currently in use as a hen house, never-the-less it is in a poor condition. There are several areas of structural concern.

The southwest corner of the building has lost its facing stonework and all the quoins, or corner stones, above the ground floor are missing. The red brick arch over the first floor window in the gable end has collapsed. It is unknown what may have caused the loss of stonework here, but it is possible at this location by the side of a gateway, that the quoins may have been dislodged by passing machinery.

A large area of facing stone in the front elevation, extending from the ground floor window and doorway up to the wall plate/eaves has fallen away, and the wall core is exposed. It is possible that this loss of facing stone was precipitated by the collapse of the brick window arches and the unsupported masonry has fallen away.

To the rear of the building a further large area of collapsed stonework is visible. The exterior of the northeast corner and the wall from ground level to eaves at the eastern end of the building has lost all facing stonework. It appears that the core has also gone and the internal face is all that survives, and it is possible that this remains only because of the cement render on the interior. It is unclear what may have caused this collapse and it is likely that it was due to a number of failings.

### **Summary**

The origin of the building is unclear, undoubtedly there was a building in this location in the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when the tithe map was surveyed. However, the current

building appears to have been constructed incorporating red brick for the window and door arches which would suggest a somewhat later date, perhaps late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This would suggest that the building has been either extensively modified or completely rebuilt on the site of an earlier building.

The original function of the building is somewhat ambiguous, particularly with the chimney at the west gable end which is suggestive of a domestic function. There is no trace of a fireplace on either the ground or first floor and in all other respects, i.e. the arrangement of the openings and the ventilation slit to the rear of the building, the building has the appearance of accommodation for animals, rather than people. The appearance of the building, with the large window openings and external steps, would suggest a stable with a first floor granary. Perhaps, at one time, there was a copper or range for heating mash, however there is no trace surviving.

It is understood that there are concerns about the safety of the building, particularly due to its close proximity to a public right of way, and that it has reached a stage where it is too great a liability to keep. Generally there should be a presumption in favour of retaining historic buildings in the farmstead; each building forms part of the story of the farm and its development over the centuries. However, this building is undoubtedly in poor structural condition; restoration would inevitably be a costly undertaking, and it is understood that there are insufficient funds available. Therefore a basic photographic record has been carried out of the building and a ground plan drawn in order to have an adequate record of the building at the current time.

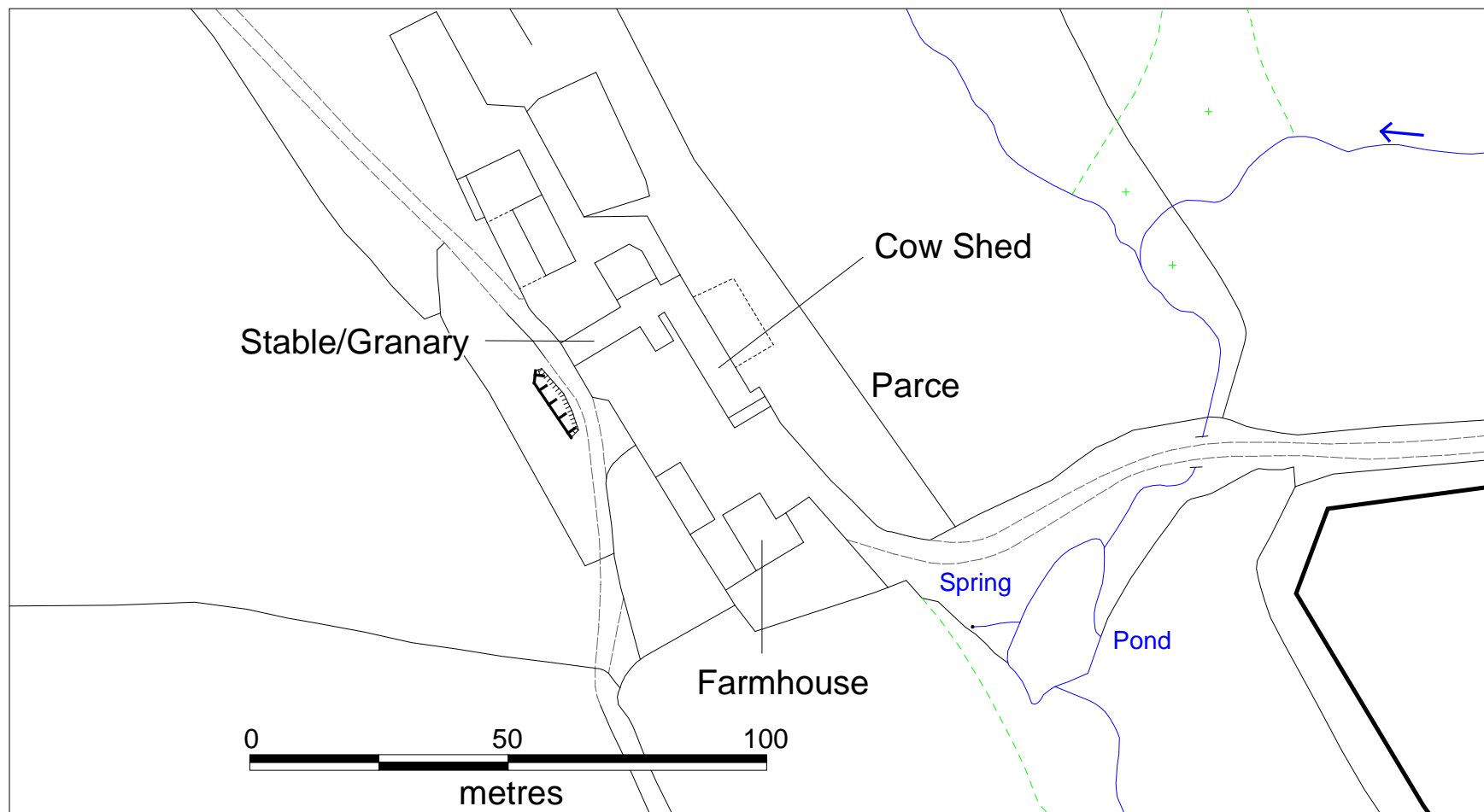
## **References**

Ordnance Survey 1891 Cardiganshire sheet XXXIX.SW  
Ordnance Survey 1906 Cardiganshire sheet XXXIX.SW  
Tithe Map of Brongwyn Parish 1846  
Tithe Apportionment of Brongwyn Parish 1844

Parce

Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation  
National Grid Reference SN28714427

Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/11/2045  
Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN 41413



This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by the National Assembly for Wales with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence number: GD272825G

# **Parce W/11/2045**

REPORT NO. 2003/96  
PROJECT RECORD NO. 41413

This report has been prepared by Alice Pyper

Position: Heritage Management Archaeologist (Tir Gofal)

Signature ..... Date .....

This report has been checked and approved by Louise Austin on behalf of Cambria  
Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position: Principal Archaeologist (Curatorial)

Signature ..... Date.....

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