

# **Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report**

**Bryndias**

**W/12/1697**

**Report Number 2002/3**

**Report prepared for  
CCW**



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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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BRYNDIAS  
TIR GOFAL FARM VISIT REPORT

By

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**Tir Gofal Application Number** W/12/1697  
**Address** Bryndias  
Pinged, Burry Port, Carmarthenshire, SA16 0JP  
  
**National Grid Reference** SN43000300  
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**Visit Date** 09/11/01

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This report is intended to provide a statement on the condition and recommended management of all known archaeological and historical sites and features on the 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.

### **Method Statement**

The farm visit consisted of two phases.

Phase 1 was a rapid search of all readily available documentary, cartographic and published sources to try to understand the historical development of the farm and the wider landscape and to identify new sites of archaeological interest. The searches undertaken for this visit include information held in the regional Sites and Monuments Record, the relevant County Records Office and the National Library of Wales. New sites, or areas of interest were plotted onto a GIS-based map for use in the field and for the final report.

Phase 2 was a site visit to assess the extent, character and current condition of the archaeological and historical sites identified during the research phase, although because of constraints, recording is rapid, usually photographs and site notes, and some of the sites may not have been visited. The information gained during the visit has been used to assign the farm and its individual sites to a management category, which have determined the management recommendations for each site.

## General Description of Farm

Bryndias farmstead is found on the lower north-west facing slopes at the south-western end of Mynydd Penbre. The historic town of Cydweli and its well-preserved Norman castle can be seen from the farmhouse and from a number of viewpoints on the holding.

In terms of the landscape history of the immediate locality, it has been postulated that Bryndias and several neighbouring holdings possibly originated as squatter settlements in the 18th or 19th centuries, carved out of the edge of what was formerly Waun Baglam common. Certainly, early 19th century maps show that Bryndias was a small settlement, much smaller than the well established farmsteads of the area in terms of area and the range of buildings around the present (the 1839 parish tithe survey shows just two small buildings and gives an acreage of 42 acres. Clearly the expansion of the farmyard complex at Bryndias occurred after 1839 and later 19th century OS maps show a complex of buildings not dissimilar to that of the present farmyard morphology.

The field pattern shown in 1839 is also undeveloped in comparison with the picture shown on OS maps at the turn of the 20th century. It is clear that further subdivision of field plots occurred, including the appearance of a small orchard (PRN 43809) to the south-west of the farmyard. At least one parcel of land (field no. 1241) is shown as woodland on the 1839 tithe map, and this wood has survived to the present day despite some mining activity.

When first visited by Dyfed Archaeological Trust in 1994, Bryndias was in the ownership of British Coal in an area earmarked for possible opencast mining. It was recorded as being an "abandoned farmhouse and outbuildings. House bricked up but in fairly good condition. Large, possibly 18th century farmhouse. Outbuildings include a longhouse, converted into a modern dairy and cowshed. Downslope to the south of house lie the remains of two small stone buildings not marked on 6" map."

When revisited in November 2001, it was found that the holding had been sold into private hands. The new Bryndias farmstead comprised the farmhouse (PRN 43795) and its associated outbuildings, with c.40 acres of land. Much of the land had become woodland or scrub during the period when it had been left unfarmed.

At the time of this second visit the farmhouse and some outbuildings were undergoing renovation. Map evidence tends to suggest that the whole, or much of, the complex dates to the second half of the 19th century. The 1839 parish tithe map only shows two buildings, neither of which correspond with any standing structure within the complex as seen today.

However, builders have excavated the foundations of two sides of what appears to be a rectilinear building (PRN 43805) immediately south of the present farmhouse. The alignment and position of these foundations suggest they may mark the site of one of the buildings (the northernmost) shown on the tithe map. The second (southernmost) of the buildings shown on the tithe map may be the present ruined stable building or another lost and unidentified building.

The second visit also allowed for a reinterpretation of the outbuildings. It is evident that the main building range is not a traditional longhouse and byre. Three abutting buildings stand in a linear arrangement on a north-south axis. The southernmost is a stone built shed or byre (PRN 43796) which is now used as a workshop. This building is not in pristine condition, but remains roofed and usable.

The central building (PRN 43797) is a stone and brick built cottage which is roofless and ruined.

The northernmost building (PRN 43798) is the largest of the three. It was last used as a milking parlour, but has been largely gutted and is in the process of conversion into an office. Prior to the present renovation a small lean-to stood against the northern gable which was presumably a generator room and/or coolhouse for the dairy. This lean-to has been demolished.

20m south of the farmhouse stands a ruined building (PRN 43799) of which its original function is unknown. It appears to be shown on the 1891 6" OS map, but not on the 1841 parish tithe map. The present owner was aware that previous owners had used this building as a stable around the time of the Second World War and, latterly, a tractor shed. Although

the walls of the southern half of the building stand almost to wallplate and gable height, ruination is so advanced that nothing can be said of the original character of the building, beyond that it is stone built and the southern gable has the appearance of having been repaired and perhaps raised at some time. A small zinc-roofed lean-to stood against the southern gable wall and is now very derelict.

South of this stable building, and downslope of it, was a pigsty (PRN 43800) and another undefined building (PRN 43801). Both are shown clearly on the 1905 6" OS map, but had not been built at the time of the 1891 map. By now they are reduced to foundations and obscured by vegetation.

Two glasshouses (PRN 43802) formerly stood to the south-east of the old milking parlour. These are shown on the 1905 6" OS map but were derelict by the 1990s. The present owner reported that their remains were levelled and possibly partly buried in the late 1990s.

It is worth noting that a cellar (PRN 43803) had been uncovered beneath the house, comprising 2 vaulted rooms, off which an arched tunnel (PRN 43804) apparently ran southwards from the house. This tunnel had collapsed some 5m from the cellar, but groundwork on the farmyard, near the western gable end of the old byre and some 20m from the point of collapse, broke into the top of an underground chamber or tunnel which is presumed to be a continuation of that which runs off the cellar. No explanation can be offered as to the significance of this feature.

## **MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

The farmhouse and some outbuildings at Bryndias were under renovation at time of visit and the work already carried out appeared to be largely sympathetic to the original architecture and layout of the complex. It is desirable that any future renovation is also undertaken sympathetically.

The most significant historical theme relating to Bryndias is that of the 18th and 19th century coal mining that was carried out near the farmhouse, particularly in relation to the activities of George Bowser, who was a prominent industrialist in the area in the late 18th century. The wooded parcel to the east of the house is full of mining remains, including coal pits and their associated spoil heaps (see PRNs 16238, 28332, 43806, 43807, 43808). The protection of these mining features is considered to be of great importance, as this is a relatively rare, undisturbed mining landscape, despite being largely obscured by vegetation and trees. The possibility of allowing public access to this area should be explored.

See gazetteer for detailed management recommendations.

## KEY TO MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES

Category	Importance	Colour on map	Detail
Category A	Sites and Monuments of National Importance	Blue	Scheduled Ancient Monuments Grade 1 and 2* Listed Buildings
		Red	Other Sites and Monuments of National Importance Other Buildings Of National Importance
		Red Toning	Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest
		Red Banding	Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest
Category B	Sites and Monuments of Regional Importance	Amber	Sites and Monuments of Regional Importance Grade 2 Listed Buildings and Other Buildings of Regional Importance
Category C	Sites and Monuments of Local Importance	Green	Sites and Features of Local Importance Buildings of Local Importance
Category D	Sites and Monuments of Unknown Importance	Brown	Sites and Features needing further investigation includings damaged sites or sites with no physical definition

## **SITE AND AREA DESIGNATIONS**

The following abbreviations are used in the gazetteer to refer to site and area status designations.

### **SAM** Scheduled Ancient Monument

SAMs are notified under Section 1 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The schedule of SAMs is maintained and administered by Cadw.

### **LB1, LB2\* and LB2** Listed Buildings

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. Local Authorities are statutory consultees for listed buildings.

### **HLW** Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales

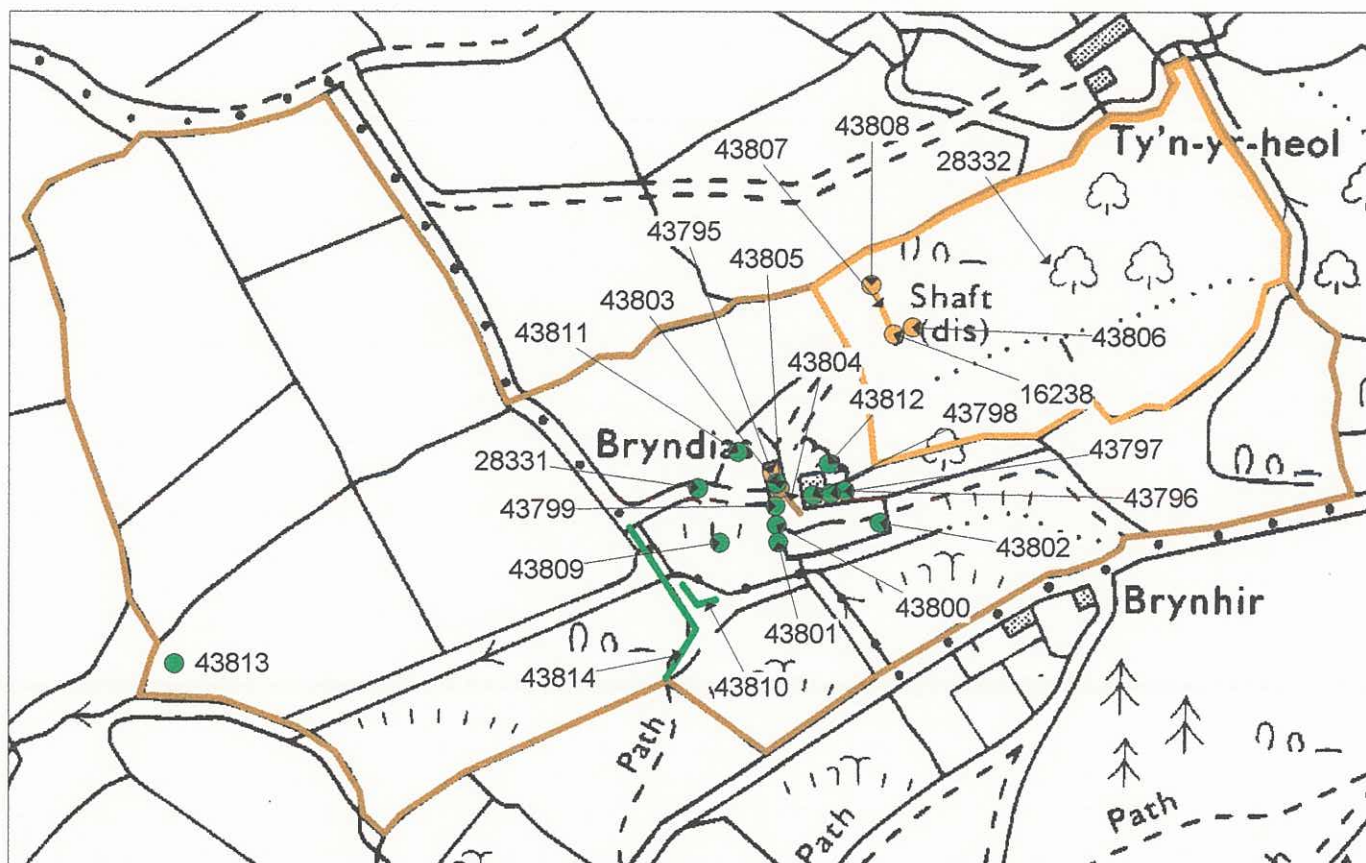
Defined by the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales: Part 2.1 Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest; Part 2.2 Landscapes of Special Historic Interest. The register is advisory only and has no statutory powers. The register was compiled by Cadw in partnership with the Countryside Council for Wales and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)

### **HGP** Register of Historic Gardens and Parks

Defined by the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Part 1 Parks and Gardens. The register is advisory only and has no statutory powers. The register was compiled by Cadw in partnership with the Countryside Council for Wales and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report  
Bryndias Farm  
Map 1  
ACA Report No.2002/3  
SN4303  
Scale 1:4000

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## GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

**PRN** 16238      **Site name** BRYNDIAS

**NGR** SN43580352

**Site type** MINE SHAFT

**Period** Post Med

**Site Status**

### **Description**

This disused mine shaft is shown as an "Old Coalpit" on the 1891 OS 6" map, and an "Old Shaft" on the 1905 version of the map. It is possible that the coal pit was associated with early 19th century activity and that a late 19th century phase of activity saw the opening of a new shaft at the same site. There is a record of a Bryndias Colliery operating during the early years of the 19th century, owned by George Bowser, who built the Bowser Canals and Burry Port Harbour. It is significant that there are a series of coal pits and possible slants and spoil tips across the whole hillside and these may well represent Bowser's mining activities, or in some cases be earlier.

Immediately to the east of the shaft is a possible blocked slant or trial working and 10m east of that is a concrete plinth (PRN 43806) which measures c. 7m long x 1.5m and stands c.0.5m high. This plinth appears to be an engine housing and may be associated with winding gear either for the shaft or the possible slant. It appears to be of later rather than earlier 19th century date and supports the idea of the site being reworked after the OS survey's carried out for the 1891 and 1905 6" map editions.

A linear spoil tip (PRN 43807) runs northwards from the shaft area towards an unusual upstanding structure (PRN 43808) some 50m away. This comprises two parallel stone walls, c.2m high x 1.5m thick x 6.5m long, set 2m apart. They may represent a loading bay and be associated with either the earlier or later phase of mining.

There has apparently been some collapse and widening around the now closed shaft mouth as the site now bears more resemblance to a quarry pit, approx. 20m x 15m, although the original coal pit may have been responsible for this quarry like appearance.

### **Recommendations**

This feature does have potential safety problems. It is not possible to assess how safe the feature is and caution should be exercised if any work is undertaken within the pit at the shaft mouth.

As it now lies in woodland and will remain largely undisturbed, with no intention to allow animals to graze, it is not thought essential that it should be fenced off, although this is an issue that may be discussed further with the landowner, especially if public access is allowed in future.

A number of old cars and vehicles have been tipped into the pit. Their presence is not in any way damaging to the archaeology of the site and not greatly obtrusive. Their removal is not seen as essential (they will of course continue to degrade) and it would be preferable not to take lifting machinery close to the mineshaft area, although if future public access is encouraged, their removal may be considered preferable.

**Management Category** B

**Visited by** RPS

**Visited On** 09/11/01

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**PRN** 28332      **Site name** BRYNDIAS COLLIERY

**NGR** SN43700357

**Site type** COALMINE

**Period** Post Med

**Site Status**

### **Description**

It is recorded that George Bowser, the developer of Burry Port Harbour, owned a colliery at Bryndias in the early 19th century. The colliery was connected by tramline to the Bowser Western Canal, which allowed the coal to be taken to the coast for export out of the locality. It is possible that the old shaft (PRN 16238) is the site of this working and that the linear embankment or spoil tip (PRN 43807) which runs north from the shaft area is part of the tramline associated with Bowser's venture. This is however speculative as thick vegetation makes full investigation of the site difficult to undertake.

The coal workings at Bryndias includes up to nine separate sites at which small quarry scoops and possible slants and their spoil heaps can be seen to follow an outcrop of coal along the hillslope to the north of the farmhouse. Some or all of these may be associated with George Bowser's mining activity at Bryndias. Only one working, PRN 16238, mentioned above is a substantial excavation, marked as a shaft on the 1905 6" OS map and as a coalpit on the 1891 version of the map. The others are far less significant earthworks, the largest include spoil heaps of between 11 and 17m in diameter or length.

### **Recommendations**

The best preserved area of coal workings is that in field parcel 6958 (as numbered on modern 1:2500 maps) which is shown as field parcels 1241 (Wood) and 1242 (Gwaun Ty'n Coed) on the 1839 parish tithe map. This whole field is now characterised by woodland and scrub. The more open areas are more often than not covered with thick bramble and other vegetation.

A narrow path cut across Gwaun Ty'n Coed by the present owner is the only easy access into this parcel. The wooded slope at the southern side of Gwaun Ty'n y Coed has some areas which are overgrown, but where mature trees form a complete canopy undergrowth is markedly less of a problem and a variety of features associated with coal working are visible.

The landowner hopes to maintain the present woodland area and allow an extension of the woodland into Gwaun Ty'n y Coed. From the perspective of the most effective management strategy of the surviving coal workings in this land parcel, the expansion of the wooded area does not pose a problem as long as the process is managed to ensure that trees are not planted or allowed to root directly on coal pits, slants or spoil tips and any other associated features. If an expansion of the woodland occurs and the undergrowth reduced across the parcel, access will become much easier and the archaeological features hopefully easier to interpret. This could open the area up for public access.

The fact that Bryndias is associated with George Bowser and his early industrial endeavours certainly makes the coal workings here features of regional interest and their retention and enhancement desirable. Future access to, and interpretation of, the features should be considered.

**Management Category** B

**Visited by** RPS

**Visited On** 09/11/01

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**PRN** 43795      **Site name** BRYNDIAS

**NGR** SN43520345

**Site type** FARMHOUSE

**Period** Post Med

**Site Status**

### **Description**

Large 19th century farmhouse. Undergoing reconstruction in 2001. It is possible that a smaller building preceded the present house and was substantially added to at some time during the early or mid-19th century. The front (NW facing) lateral wall has markedly Georgian characteristics but does not appear to be on the site of either of the two buildings shown on the 1839 parish tithe map. It may well be mid-19th century in date and have replaced an earlier house. The cellar and tunnel beneath the house presumably also date to the same period.

### **Recommendations**

Nice example of a 19th century farmhouse but undergoing substantial alterations. Further evaluation is beyond the scope of this survey.

**Management Category** B

**Visited by** RPS

**Visited On** 09/11/01

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PRN 43796

Site name BRYNDIAS

NGR SN43550344

Site type OUTBUILDING

Period Post Med

Site Status

**Description**

The main outbuilding range at Bryndias comprises of three abutting buildings stand in a linear arrangement on an east-west axis. The easternmost of the three is a stone built shed or byre which is now used as a workshop. This building is not in pristine condition, but remains intact and usable.

**Recommendations**

Maintain and sympathetically renovate in conjunction with the cottage and former milking parlour which form the rest of this building range. This is the long term intention of the present owner.

Management Category C

Visited by RPS

Visited On 09/11/01

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PRN 43797

Site name BRYNDIAS

NGR SN43540344

Site type COTTAGE

Period Post Med

Site Status

**Description**

The central building of the main outbuilding range at Bryndias is a stone and brick built cottage which is roofless and ruined. The red-brick voussoirs around the door and window spaces suggest that this is a late 19th century building and comparison of the 1891 and 1905 6" OS maps suggests that it was built during this period.

**Recommendations**

The owner has a long term intention to rebuild or replace this building. The degree of ruination is such that reconstruction is not possible, but it would be appropriate to suggest that the blend of local stone and red-brick used in the original facade be replicated if any rebuilding is undertaken.

Management Category C

Visited by RPS

Visited On 09/11/01

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PRN 43798

Site name BRYNDIAS

NGR SN43530344

Site type OUTBUILDING

Period Post Med

Site Status

**Description**

The former milking parlour is the largest building of the three that make up the main outbuilding range at Bryndias. It was last used as a milking parlour, but has been largely gutted and is in the process of conversion into an office. Prior to the present renovation a small lean-to stood against the northern gable which was presumably a generator room and/or coolhouse for the dairy. This lean-to has been demolished. This building is not shown on the 1839 parish tithe map and therefore post-dates its survey. It does appear on the 1891 6" OS map and by 1905 the OS survey shows that two buildings have been abutted to its eastern end (PRNs 4376-7).

**Recommendations**

No specific recommendations are appropriate as the building has already been largely renovated. The renovation does appear to have been carried out in a sympathetic fashion as far as the external appearance of the building is concerned.

Management Category C

Visited by RPS

Visited On 09/11/01

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PRN 43799

Site name BRYNDIAS

NGR SN43520344

Site type OUTBUILDING

Period Post Med

Site Status

### Description

20m south of Bryndias farmhouse stands a ruined building of which its original function is unknown. It appears to be shown on the 1891 6" OS map, but not on the 1841 parish tithe map. The present owner was aware that previous owners had used this building as a stable around the time of the Second World War and, latterly, a tractor shed. Although the walls of the southern half of the building stand almost to wallplate and gable height, ruination is so advanced that nothing can be said of the original character of the building, beyond that it is stone built and the southern gable has the appearance of having been repaired and perhaps raised at some time. A small zinc-roofed lean-to stood against the southern gable wall and is now very derelict.

### Recommendations

Ruination makes it difficult to make specific recommendations relating to this building. Ideally, some reconstruction may be undertaken in future. However, other options may include making the ruins safe or incorporating the remaining masonry into a garden feature or new building. This building appears on both the 1881 and 1905 6" OS maps, but apparently not on the 1839 parish tithe map, which it must post-date.

Management Category C

Visited by RPS

Visited On 09/11/01

PRN 43800

Site name BRYNDIAS

NGR SN43520343

Site type PIGSTY

Period Post Med

Site Status

### Description

South of the Bryndias stable building (PRN 43799) and downslope of it, was a pigsty and another undefined building (PRN 43801). Both are shown clearly on the 1905 6" OS map, but had not been built at the time of the 1891 map. By now they are reduced to foundations and obscured by vegetation.

### Recommendations

The foundations of the pigsty should be retained in their present condition and the encroachment of trees and vegetation discouraged.

Management Category C

Visited by RPS

Visited On 09/11/01

PRN 43801

Site name BRYNDIAS

NGR SN43520342

Site type OUTBUILDING

Period Post Med

Site Status

### Description

South of the Bryndias stable building (PRN 43799), and downslope of it, was a pigsty (PRN 43800) and this undefined building. Both are shown clearly on the 1905 6" OS map, but had not been built at the time of the 1891 map. By now they are reduced to foundations and obscured by vegetation.

### Recommendations

Maintain foundations in present condition and discourage tree and vegetation spread across the site of the building.

Management Category C

Visited by RPS

Visited On 09/11/01

**PRN** 43802      **Site name** BRYNDIAS

**NGR** SN43570343

**Site type** OUTBUILDING

**Period** Post Med

**Site Status**

**Description**

Two glasshouses (PRN 43802) formerly stood to the south-east of the old milking parlour. These are shown on the 1905 6" OS map but were derelict by the 1990s. The present owner reported that their remains were levelled and possibly partly buried in the late 1990s.

**Recommendations**

No specific recommendations

**Management Category** C

**Visited by** RPS

**Visited On** 09/11/01

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**PRN** 43803      **Site name** BRYNDIAS

**NGR** SN43520345

**Site type** CELLAR

**Period** Post Med

**Site Status**

**Description**

The cellar beneath Bryndias farmhouse is accessed via a stone staircase in the floor to the left of the rear entrance into the house (in the south facing lateral wall). It comprised 2 vaulted rooms, off which an arched tunnel (PRN 43804) apparently ran southwards from the house. The rooms are c.1.5m high, but a build up of debris and floor earth has probably left them slightly lower than they would have originally been. It is assumed that the cellar is mid-19th century in date and dates to the period that the present farmhouse was built.

**Recommendations**

Maintain in present condition.

**Management Category** C

**Visited by** RPS

**Visited On** 09/11/01

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**PRN** 43804      **Site name** BRYNDIAS

**NGR** SN43520345

**Site type** TUNNEL

**Period** Post Med

**Site Status**

**Description**

The cellar (PRN 43803) uncovered beneath Bryndias farmhouse, leads to an arched tunnel running southwards from the house. This tunnel had collapsed within a few metres of the cellar and is blocked. However, groundwork on the farmyard, near the western gable end of the old milking parlour (PRN 43800) and some 20m from the cellar, broke into the top of an underground passage which has been presumed to be a continuation of the same tunnel. No explanation can be offered as to the significance of this feature.

**Recommendations**

Further examination is needed to fully understand these underground features. Care must be taken not to break into the passage from above. It is already proposed by the owners to seal and make safe the breach near the house and that near the old milking parlour has been sealed and buried.

**Management Category** D

**Visited by** RPS

**Visited On** 09/11/01

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PRN 43805      Site name BRYNDIAS

NGR SN43520344

Site type BUILDING

Period Post Med

Site Status

#### Description

Builders have excavated the foundations of two sides of what appears to be a rectilinear building immediately south of the present Bryndias farmhouse. The alignment and position of these foundations suggest they may mark the site of one of the buildings (the northernmost) shown on the tithe map. The second (southernmost) of the buildings shown on the tithe map may be the present ruined stable building or another lost and unidentified building.

#### Recommendations

The present owner intends to preserve the visible foundations as features of interest. It is important that the stone foundations and any archaeological layers associated with them are sealed and protected from erosion by human activity or natural erosion.

Management Category C

Visited by RPS

Visited On 09/11/01

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PRN 43806      Site name BRYNDIAS

NGR SN43590353

Site type MINING FEATURE

Period Post Med

Site Status

#### Description

Immediately to the east of the shaft (PRN 16238) is a possible blocked slant or trial working (part of PRN 28332) and 10m east of that is a concrete plinth (PRN 43806) which measures c. 7m long x 1.5m and stands c.0.5m high. This plinth has a number of iron bolts set into its upper side and may be an engine mounting associated with winding gear either for the shaft or the possible slant. It appears to be of later rather than earlier 19th century date and supports the idea of the site being reworked after the OS survey's carried out for the 1891 and 1905 6" map editions.

#### Recommendations

This feature is of some importance as one of the few structural remains associated with the coal workings at Bryndias. It should be retained and kept free of vegetation. As a thick concrete slab there is little threat to its survival other than gradual natural erosion.

Management Category B

Visited by RPS

Visited On 09/11/01

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PRN 43807      Site name BRYNDIAS

NGR SN43580353

Site type TRAMWAY?;SPOIL TIP?

Period Post Med

Site Status

#### Description

A linear spoil tip or possible tramway bed runs northwards from the area of mine shaft PRN 16238 towards an unusual upstanding structure (PRN 43808) some 50m away,, which may represent a loading bay. The feature is raised over 1m high and appears to be c.5m wide, but thick vegetation obscures most of its course and no meaningful assessment of its character could be made.

#### Recommendations

This feature should not be disturbed. The spread of woodland across the area (proposed by the landowner) may eventually reduce the undergrowth of bramble and bracken and make the feature more easily seen. The selective removal of trees or shrubs which have taken root on the feature should be carried out over the 10 year period of the Tir Gofal scheme. This will hopefully make the link between the mineshaft (PRN 16238) and the "loading bay" (PRN 43808) clear in the field.

Management Category B

Visited by RPS

Visited On 09/11/01

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**PRN** 43808

**Site name** BRYNDIAS

**NGR** SN43570355

**Site type** MINING FEATURE;LOADING **Period** Post Med

**Site Status**

**Description**

At the northern end of the linear spoil tip (PRN 43807) which runs northwards from the area of mine shaft PRN 16238 stands this unusual upstanding structure (PRN 43808) some 50m away. It comprises two parallel stone walls, c.2m high x 1.5m thick x 6.5m long, set 2m apart. It may represent a loading stage and be associated with either the earlier or later phase of mining. It is possible (and should be considered likely) that a trackway ran NEE-SWW at right-angles to this structure, but thick vegetation obscures the area too greatly to be certain.

**Recommendations**

This is one of very standing structures associated with the Bryndias coalworkings and must be protected. It is recommended that consideration be given to removing or managing the thick ivy which covers parts of the stonework, although care will have to be taken not to damage the stonework. The structure should be kept free of ivy and other vegetation in future. A tree is also growing between the two walls at the southern end of the structure. This tree should be removed carefully.

**Management Category** B

**Visited by** RPS

**Visited On** 09/11/01

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**PRN** 43809

**Site name** BRYNDIAS

**NGR** SN43490342

**Site type** ORCHARD

**Period** Post Med

**Site Status**

**Description**

An orchard is said to have existed to the south-west of the farmyard at Bryndias. It was apparently ploughed and turned into a garden at some point during the second half of the 20th century and no trees associated with any orchard survive. The parcel is now mostly wooded. The 1891 6" OS map shows this area as open rough pasture, apart from a small wooded area adjacent to the trackway which enters Bryndias farmyard from the west. By the time of the 1905 6" OS map, the whole field parcel is shown as wooded and it has been subdivided by a NW-SE running bank.

**Recommendations**

No specific recommendations

**Management Category** C

**Visited by** RPS

**Visited On** 09/11/01

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**PRN** 43810

**Site name** BRYNDIAS

**NGR** SN43470338

**Site type** DITCH

**Period** Post Med

**Site Status**

**Description**

In the field parcel west of the former orchard to the south-west of Bryndias farmyard. this simple drainage ditch was created, it would seem, to redirect a stream away from the centre of the field to create a drier environment in the centre of the parcel. The stream is now running along the course shown on the 1891 and 1905 6" OS maps and only some water passes along this ditch. There is no way of knowing when the ditch was cut, but it may predate the above named OS maps. The field is not shown as being wooded on the 1891 OS map.

**Recommendations**

No specific recommendation

**Management Category** C

**Visited by** RPS

**Visited On** 09/11/01

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**PRN** 43811      **Site name** BRYNDIAS

**NGR** SN43490346

**Site type** OUTBUILDING

**Period** Post Med

**Site Status**

**Description**

No more than a stone scatter in a hollow in a steep slope to the north of Bryndias farmhouse. Until recently it is said that the coursed stone walls of a small building, possibly an outside toilet or some other small building of unknown function could be seen here. The stone was robbed for repairs to other buildings in the farmstead complex.

**Recommendations**

No specific recommendation

**Management Category** C

**Visited by** RPS

**Visited On** 09/11/01

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**PRN** 43812      **Site name** BRYNDIAS

**NGR** SN43540346

**Site type** QUARRY

**Period** Post Med

**Site Status**

**Description**

Minor, disused quarry. Shown as an "Old Quarry" on the 1891 6" OS map, but working at the time of the 1905 edition of the map and apparently rather bigger than shown on previous map. The quarry may well have been reused to provide building stone for the construction or repair of buildings in the Bryndias farmstead complex.

**Recommendations**

No specific recommendations

**Management Category** C

**Visited by** RPS

**Visited On** 09/11/01

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**PRN** 43813      **Site name** BRYNDIAS

**NGR** SN43200335

**Site type** QUARRY?

**Period** Post Med

**Site Status**

**Description**

Small cut, no more than 10m x 5m, into the edge of a low hillock. Creates a bank-like effect on its southern side. Possibly a minor quarry cut or a clay working (the adjacent ground is wet and ill-drained).

**Recommendations**

No specific recommendation

**Management Category** C

**Visited by** RPS

**Visited On** 09/11/01

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**PRN** 43814      **Site name** BRYNDIAS

**NGR** SN43440342

**Site type** TRACKWAY

**Period** Post Med

**Site Status**

**Description**

Length of trackway, over 100m long, through wood and scrub which appears to link the access road to Bryndias farm with fields higher up on the slopes of Mynydd Penbre. Used as a footpath by owners to continue on up onto a minor metalled road 50m above end of trackway. This trackway does not appear on any map before the 1905 6" OS map.

**Recommendations**

Maintain as a landscape feature and keep open as a trackway.

**Management Category** C

**Visited by** RPS

**Visited On** 09/11/01

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## REFERENCES

### Map

Ordnance Survey, 1971, -, SN40SW

### Written Description

Lewis S, 1833, Topographical Dictionary of Wales, Pembrey



Plate 1: The cellar (PRN43803) below Bryndias farmhouse, looking towards the collapsed tunnel that appears to cross beneath the farmyard.



Plate 2: The rear of the Bryndias farmhouse (PRN43795) showing the foundations of what may be a demolished building (PRN43805).

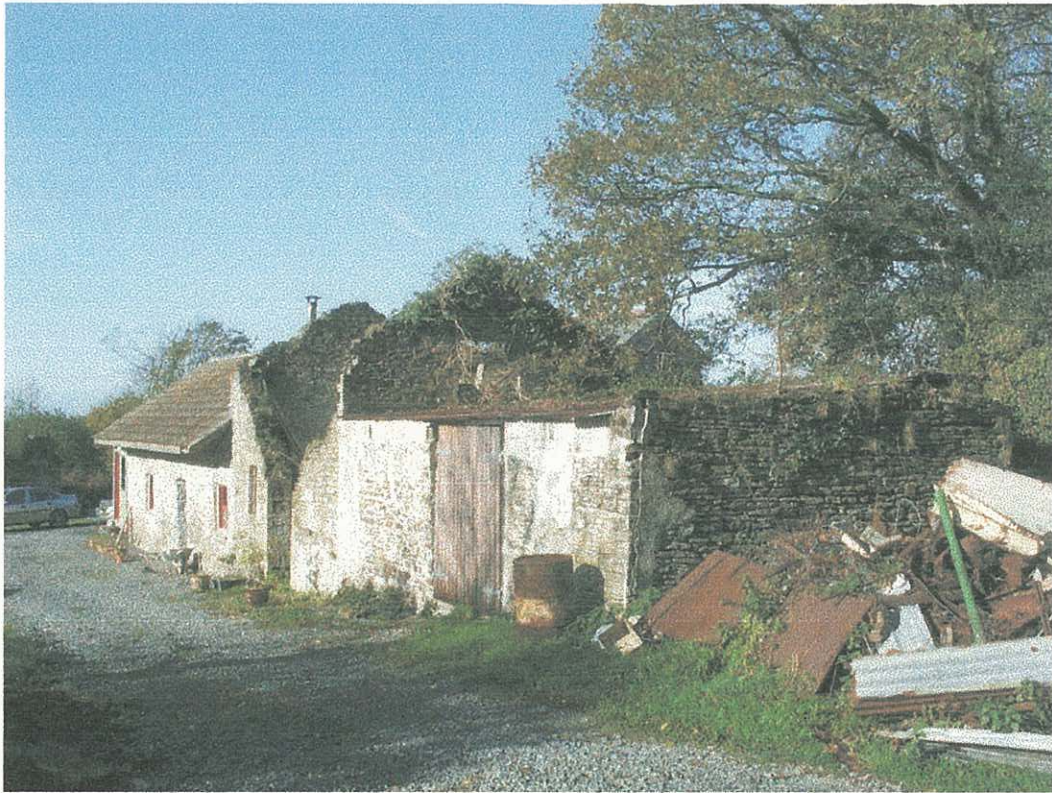


Plate 3: The main outbuilding range at Bryndias farmhouse, viewed from the east.  
Components from right to left: Outbuilding PRN43796; Cottage PRN43797; Outbuilding PRN43798



Plate 4: The possible loading stage (PRN43808) associated with the Bryndias colliery site.

**BRYNDIAS  
TIR GOFAL FARM VISIT REPORT**

**REPORT NUMBER 2002/3**

**March 2002**

This report has been prepared by Paul Sambrook

Position: Tir Gofal Archaeologist

Signature.....*P. P. Sambrook*..... Date.....*6/3/02*.....

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.....*11/03/02*.....

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.

