

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report

Pwllcymbyd

W/12/1765

Report Number 2001/61

**Report prepared for
CCW**



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CAMBRIA

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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2001/61

PROJECT RECORD NO. 41483

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PWLLCYMBYD

TIR GOFAL FARM VISIT REPORT

By

Alice Pyper

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Tir Gofal Application Number	W/12/1765
Address	Pwllcymbyd Rhydcymerau, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 7RA
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Visit Date	05/10/01

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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

The farm holding of Pwllcymbyd (PRN 43645) lies to the south west of the village of Rhydcymerau, and is now enclosed by forestry to the south, east and west. It extends around the south and east facing slope of Coed Pwll-cymbyd, with the farmstead of Pwllcymbyd positioned at the centre. At its southern extent it crosses the valley bottom and extends up the north facing slope to include part of the deserted farmstead of Trawsgoed. The farm is mostly semi-improved pasture with some woodland. Areas of gorse extend along the higher limits of the holding while low lying land is waterlogged and marshy. The upper limits of the holding and the farm track follow the contours of the hillside with field divisions running down the slope. The boundaries are typically earthen banks with overgrown hedgerow species, many of which now form mature trees. The tithe survey of Llansawel Parish in 1838 records Pwllcymbyd house and land as being owned and occupied by Henry Jenkins. The tithe map shows two buildings at right angles to each other, probably the farmhouse and barn. Further structures to the south west indicate the position and layout of a water wheel with associated leats, which appear to correspond with the existing visible features to the south west of the farmstead. That the site has earlier origins is suggested by references to a watermill at Pwllkinbeth on Rees' map of South Wales and the Border in the 14th century. Both the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps show the layout of the farm boundaries as existing almost entirely in their current pattern.

The present farmstead of Pwllcymbyd consists of a farm house, two rows of parallel farm buildings (PRN 43638 & 43639) and a pig sty (PRN 43640). To the south west of the farm buildings and to the south of the farm track is an enclosure which contains the remains of a water wheel (PRN 43643) and pond (PRN 43642). Also within the enclosure positioned along its south east boundary is a hay barn and outshoot constructed of timber posts and a corrugated iron roof (PRN 43641).

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The owner has expressed an interest in renovating the waterwheel, which is situated beside a public right of way. This would provide an excellent opportunity for education and public interest and should also include the complex of features associated with the waterwheel. This area would be worthy of further investigation and interpretation and it would be beneficial therefore to clear some of the intrusive vegetation and scrub, and introduce a light grazing regime to keep the vegetation under control. With regard to the management recommendations in this report please note that the removal of vegetation such as ivy or trees from buildings and other structures should not be undertaken where there is any danger that such action may result in damage to the structure. In such cases the vegetation should be cut and allowed to die before removal. It may be necessary to undertake consolidation works at the same time because in extreme cases the vegetation may be supporting structurally unsound masonry. Archaeological sites on the holding which require action are detailed below, for other management recommendations see the gazetteer of individual sites.

PRN 43639 - The wheel pit identified on the south west side of the barn should be cleared of scrub growth and kept clear as a visible feature. The removal of scrub growth may enable the identification of further features associated with the wheel pit.

PRN 43640 - The pig sties are becoming overgrown, the vegetation should be cut, left in place, and the roots treated to prevent new growth. The stonework should be consolidated.

PRN 43642 - The pond area should be excluded from ploughing, or any other form of ground breaking operations to protect the earthworks and any surviving buried remains. Clear intrusive vegetation and scrub growth and introduce a light grazing regime to keep the vegetation down.

PRN 43643 - Clear vegetation from the paddles of the waterwheel. Intrusive vegetation in the stonework of the wheel pit should be cut, left in place, and the roots treated to prevent new growth. Consolidate stonework in the wheel pit.

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

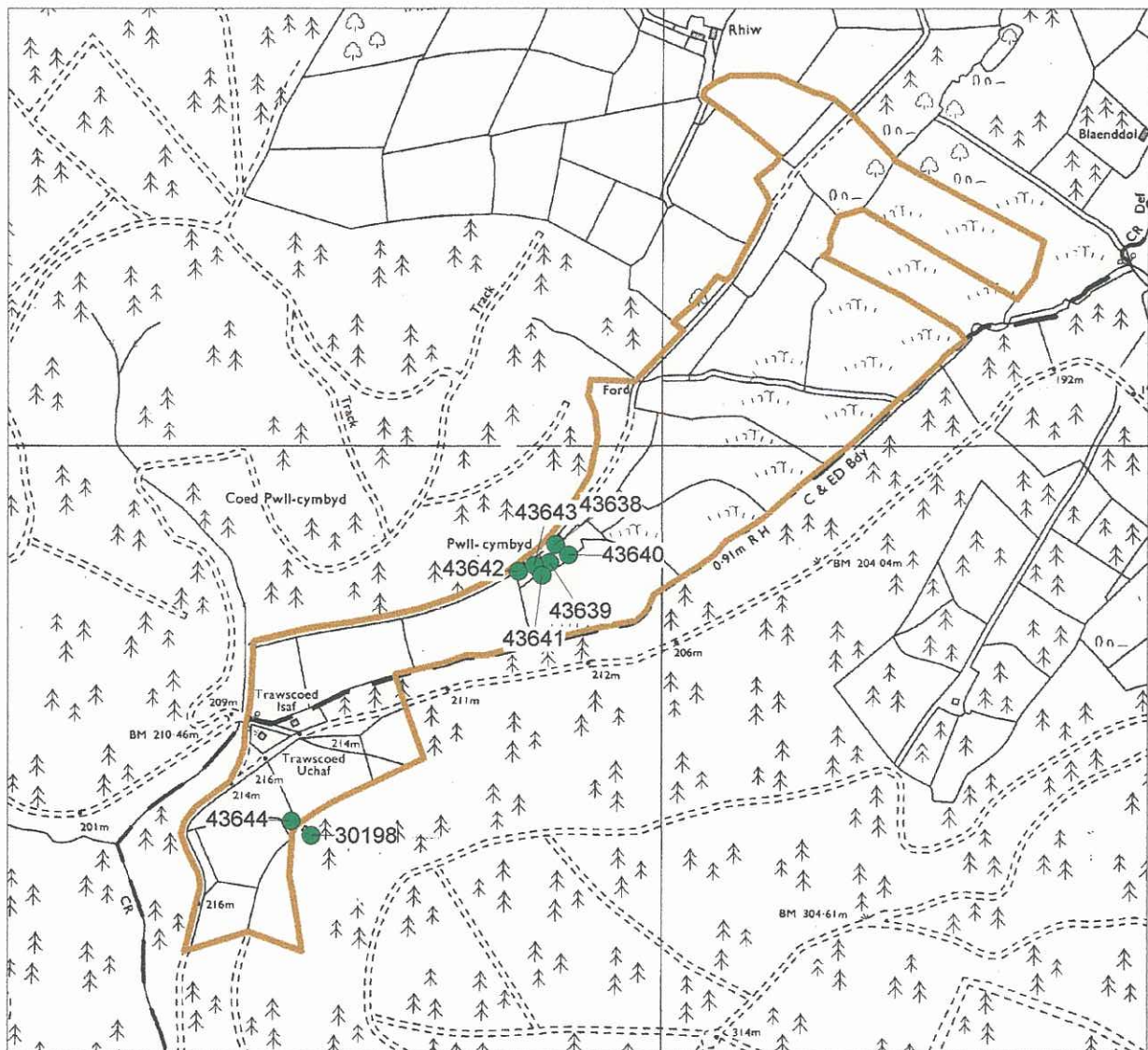
Defined by the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales: Part 2.1 Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest; Part 2.2 Landscapes of Special Historic Interest. The register is advisory only and has no statutory powers. 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
Pwllcymbyd Farm
Map 1
ACA Report No.2001/61
SN570380
Scale 1:10000

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey map
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GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN 12727 **Site name** PWLLKINBETH **NGR** SN569378
Site type WATER MILL **Period** Medieval **Site Status**

Description

The watermill referred to at Pwllkinbeth may be on the site of the current farm of Pwllcymbyd (PRN 25645), however no evidence is currently available to confirm this.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations.

Management Category D **Visited by** AMP **Visited On** 05/10/01

PRN 43638 **Site name** PWLL CYMBYD **NGR** SN56853786
Site type BARN **Period** Post Med **Site Status**

Description

The northern row of buildings is a one-storey rubble walled cart shed and cow house with a pitched, corrugated asbestos roof, (plate 1). The south eastern end has stalls with a feed passage running across the cow house. There are two low doorways in the south elevation one providing access to the feed passage and a second to the manure passage. Internally the building is open to the roof and some of the wooden stall partitions still remain. Two windows in the north east facing elevation and another in the south east gable provide ventilation to the cowhouse. To the north west end a pair of double doors in the south west facing elevation provide access into the cart shed. A further low doorway gives access into the upper end of the building which is currently used as a workshop. The cow house is in good condition, the masonry appears to be intact and the roof watertight.

Recommendations

No specific action required, but the building should be maintained using sympathetic materials. Where original internal fixtures survive, such as the timber stall partitions, these should be retained.

Management Category C **Visited by** AMP **Visited On** 05/10/01

PRN 43639 **Site name** PWLL CYMBYD **NGR** SN56843784
Site type BARN **Period** Post Med **Site Status**

Description

The southern range of buildings consist of a cow house and granary constructed in rubble masonry with a pitched slate roof. The north east facing elevation has two low doorways flanking a centrally positioned double doorway. A large area of breeze block infill extends over opposing double doors on the south west side. There are two narrow ventilation slits, one almost directly over the other positioned centrally in this elevation. The lower (south east) end has a longitudinal feed passage against the south west wall accessed by a doorway on the south east end. Internally the building is partitioned into three, two thirds at the south east end are open to the roof. The north west third has a granary which is accessed by external stone steps. The roof structure is a simple A-frame truss with wooden pegs, the collar over the granary is inscribed with the initials and date M x H x J 1839. To the south west of the barn is a narrow, deep, depression now largely overgrown, apparently the remains of a wheel pit (plate 2). A small square opening at ground level in the barn wall may be the position of the wheel axle. However this area is quite overgrown and it is difficult to establish the form of this feature.

Recommendations

The barn is in reasonable condition, no specific management recommendations except to maintain the building using sympathetic materials. The wheel pit identified on the south west side of the barn should be cleared of scrub growth and kept clear as a visible feature. The removal of scrub growth may enable the identification of further features associated with the wheel pit.

Management Category C **Visited by** AMP **Visited On** 05/10/01

PRN 43640	Site name PWLL CYMBYD	NGR SN56873785
Site type PIGSTY	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

A single storey pig sty is situated to the south east of the farm yard (plate 3). The sty is rubble walled with a whitewashed finish and a corrugated iron pitched roof. It is divided into two units with enclosed yards to the front, the walls of which are capped with large chunks of quartz. The entrance jambs are constructed with some dressed stone, which may be reused. The front wall to the sty is covered with lime render and crudely inscribed as ashlar.

Recommendations

The pig sties are becoming overgrown, the vegetation should be cut, left in place, and the roots treated to prevent new growth. The stonework should be consolidated.

Management Category C	Visited by AMP	Visited On 05/10/01
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PRN 43641	Site name PWLL CYMBYD	NGR SN56833782
Site type BARN	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

A hay barn of timber posts with a pitched corrugated iron roof is situated along the south east boundary of the enclosure to the south west of the farm. The barn is currently in use as a store.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations.

Management Category C	Visited by AMP	Visited On 05/10/01
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PRN 43642	Site name PWLL CYMBYD	NGR SN56803783
Site type MILL POND	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

The remains of the mill pond are sited in the western corner of the enclosure to the south west of the farm buildings. The mill pond is roughly rectangular in shape, it currently does not hold water, but is defined by earth banks which stand approximately a metre high (plate 4).

Recommendations

This area should be excluded from ploughing, or any other form of ground breaking operations to protect the earthworks and any surviving buried remains. Clear intrusive vegetation and scrub growth and introduce a light grazing regime to keep the vegetation down.

Management Category C	Visited by AMP	Visited On 05/10/01
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PRN 43643	Site name PWLL CYMBYD	NGR SN56803783
Site type WATER WHEEL	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

An overshot water wheel is positioned well away from the buildings to the southwest, set in a stone lined pit (plate 5). The wheel is entirely constructed of iron with an iron top race directing water from the millpond (PRN 43642) above. A linear depression leads from the wheel's axle towards barn PRN 43639, however this has become quite overgrown. The waterwheel is currently intact, however where vegetation has become established within the paddles the iron is corroding.

Recommendations

Clear vegetation from the paddles of the waterwheel. Intrusive vegetation in the stonework of the wheel pit should be cut, left in place, and the roots treated to prevent new growth. Consolidate stonework in the wheel pit.

Management Category C	Visited by AMP	Visited On 05/10/01
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PRN 43644 **Site name** TRAWSGOED **NGR** SN56483747
Site type ENCLOSURE **Period** Post Med **Site Status**

Description

The remains of an enclosure associated with the derelict farm of Trawsgoed (PRN 30198), which lies outside the farm boundary. The enclosure is visible as earth banks of up to a metre high and with the remnants of an overgrown hedgerow on top (plate 6). The enclosure is roughly rectangular with a track leading from the south corner. The farm of Trawsgoed is depicted on the tithe map and recorded as owned by Reverend Thomas Jones and occupied by John Williams. The farm itself is shown as two parallel ranges of buildings at the end of a track, however there is no indication of the layout of the enclosure or associated field boundaries. The enclosure and field boundaries are shown on the 1st edition OS map with the track leading from the farm to the south.

Recommendations

The enclosure, trackway and field boundaries should be retained as visible features and maintained in a stable condition.

Management Category C **Visited by** AMP **Visited On** 05/10/01

Plates



Plate 1 – cow house and cart shed to the north east of the farmyard (PRN 43638)



Plate 2 – south west elevation of barn with adjoining wheel pit (PRN 43639)



Plate 3 – pig sty to south east of farm yard (PRN 43640)



Plate 4 – north east end of mill pond (PRN 43642)



Plate 5 – water wheel and stone lined wheel pit, facing west (PRN 43643)



Plate 6 – enclosure at Trawsgoed (PRN 43644)

REFERENCES

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PWLLCYMBYD
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REPORT NUMBER 2001/61

November 2001

This report has been prepared by Alice Pyper

Position: Tir Gofal Archaeologist

Signature Alice Pyper.....

Date 12/11/01.....

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

Position: Principal Archaeological Officer (Curatorial)

Signature Louise Austin.....

Date 12/11/01.....

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on the content or presentation of this report.