

NOV 2001



Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report

Penback

W/13/1892

Report Number 2001/63

**Report prepared for
CCW**



A R C H A E O L O G
CAMBRIA
A R C H A E O L O G Y

14 August 2002

Bryan Wells
Llandissilio
Clunderwen
Pembrokeshire
SA66 7UP

Penback Tir Gofal Historic Environment Report

Dear Bryan

I had a telephone call yesterday afternoon from Rob Scourfield of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority regarding the buildings at Penback. Rob drew to my attention the mistake regarding the map in the Tir Gofal Historic Environment Report. The buildings on your farm are not listed according to our latest information from Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, the organisation responsible for listing buildings. The buildings were mistakenly identified in blue on the report map and this suggested that they are listed. In fact, they should have been identified in red.

I apologise for this mistake and any inconvenience it may have caused you. I will inform Countryside Council for Wales of the error in the report.

If you have any other comments or queries regarding the report and the archaeology of your farm please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Eleanor Breen
Heritage Management Archaeologist – Tir Gofal

Email Eleanor@acadat.com

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2001/63
PROJECT RECORD NO. 41585

November 2001

PENBACK
TIR GOFAL FARM VISIT REPORT

By

Nigel Page

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Tir Gofal Application Number W/13/1892

Address Penback

National Grid Reference SN13772296

CCW Tir Gofal Project Officer Anne Marie McDevitt, Llandeilo

CA Tir Gofal Archaeologist Nigel Page

Visit Date 06/11/01

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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

Penback occupies a promontory above a small steep-sided stream valley. The present holding covers c.23.5ha (c.58 acres) and slopes from the northwest towards the stream valley that forms the south and east boundaries. The house and yard occupy a terrace cut into the steep slope of the valley. The origins of Penback are unclear, it was shown in its present form on the Llandissilio parish tithe map of 1839, but it probably dates from the 18th century or possibly earlier. Originally the yard comprised of a small house with an attached cowshed, a stable and a cartshed. A new house was built onto the west side of the original house during the 19th century. The boundaries across the farm are earth banks topped with mature hedges. Some boundaries extend down the steep sides of the stream valley, although these are very eroded and are no longer effective boundaries.

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The overall farming regime is sympathetic to the historic fabric of the farm and its landscape.

The farm buildings (PRNs 43769; 43770; 43771) are potentially of national importance and they should be subject to further, more detailed survey to try to establish their date, to record any original fixtures and fittings and to fully assess their current condition.

The site of Blaenwaun cottage (PRN 43774) should be maintained in its present condition through controlled grazing.

The tracks that cross the areas of woodland (PRNs 43772 and 43773) and the pasture field (43779) to the south of the yard should be maintained in their present condition. Consideration could be given to opening the paths and linking with any existing footpaths in the area.

The banked tracks (PRNs 43776 and 43776) should be maintained in their present condition.

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

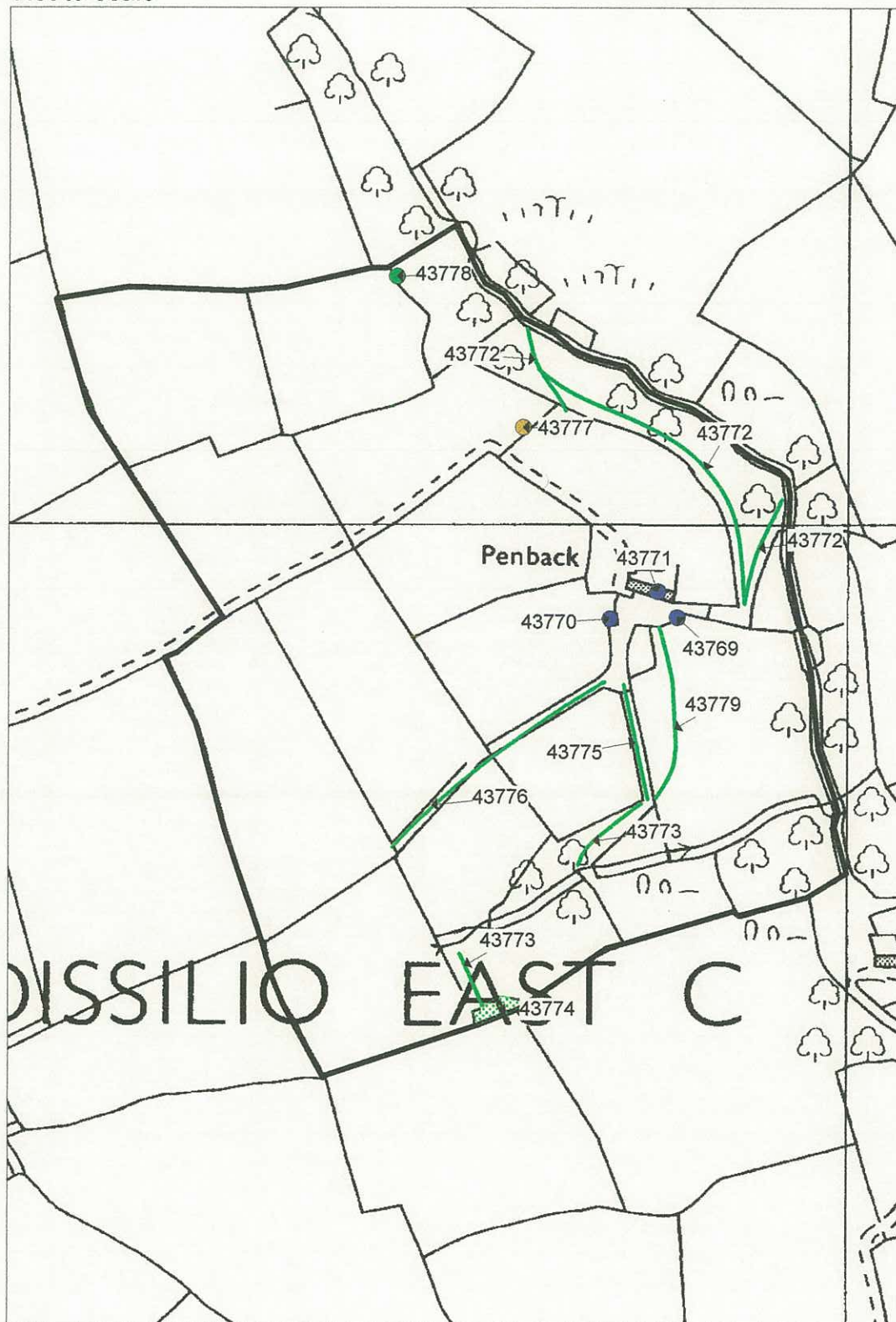
Defined by the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Part 1 Parks and Gardens. The register is advisory only and has no statutory powers. The register was compiled by Cadw in partnership with the Countryside Council for Wales and the International Council on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

Tir Gofal farm visit report
Penback
Cambria Archaeology report No.2001/67

OS sheet SN12SW

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Not to scale



GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN 43769	Site name PENBACK	NGR SN13882293
Site type STABLE	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

Stable with loft over, constructed from random rubble, including some very large boulders, with a gabled slate roof. There is a later, full-length extension along the east wall. The extension is constructed from rubble and thin shale slabs, built to courses, with a single pitched slate roof. Both roofs are currently cement washed, and the exterior of the original stable is whitewashed. Access to the loft is via a door at loft height in the north gable wall. There are no external steps, suggesting that access was probably gained by removable ladder. The original stable building is probably of 18th century date, and associated with a cartshed (PRN 43770) to the west, with the extension added during the 19th century. The roof structure was not accessible during the site visit, but the roofline suggests that it is suffering severe movement. The cement wash on both roofs has made them temporarily watertight, but long-term problems with gaps between the tiles will eventually lead to significant deterioration. The walls of the original stable are in poor condition, especially the south gable, which is showing signs of movement.

Recommendations

This building is potentially of national importance, particularly as part of a group with the cartshed (PRN 43770) and the cowshed (PRN 43771). It should be subject to further, more detailed survey to try to establish its construction date, to record any surviving original fittings and to fully assess its current condition. Urgent remedial works are required to make the roof watertight and to consolidate the walls.

Management Category A	Visited by NAP	Visited On 06/11/01
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PRN 43770	Site name PENBACK	NGR SN13832292
Site type CART SHED	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

A small rectangular, 18th? century, end-entry single cartshed of random rubble construction with a gabled slate roof. The east wall was constructed on a foundation of large boulders. The cart entry in the front (south) wall has been rebuilt in modern blocks and cement. A single door in the north end of the east wall, gives access via a set of external steps from the yard area, which is lower than the cart entry on the south side. The roof is an A-frame structure with sawn tree trunk collars, which may be a fairly modern and cost-effective repair. The walls have an external and internal whitewash finish. The cartshed is terraced into the hillslope on its west side. It is associated with the stable (PRN 43769) to the east. The roof is showing signs of significant movement and there is some water ingress between the slates. The west wall is suffering from severe damp problems, which are having a significant effect on the structural stability of the building. Creeping vegetation is becoming established on the west wall, through gaps in the roof and along the top of the wall.

Recommendations

The cartshed could potentially be of national importance, particularly as part of a group with the stable (PRN 43769) and the cowshed (PRN 43771). It should be subject to further, more detailed survey to try to establish its construction date, to record any surviving original fittings and to fully assess its current condition. Urgent remedial works are required to make the roof watertight and to ensure the walls are stabilised and consolidated. The modern rebuild could be removed and the cart entry rebuilt in stone using materials to match the existing. Vegetation should be controlled. 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.

Management Category A	Visited by NAP	Visited On 06/11/01
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PRN 43771 **Site name** PENBACK

NGR SN13662294

Site type COW SHED

Period Post Med

Site Status

Description

Single storey cowshed attached to the east end of the original Penback farmhouse. The cowshed is of rubble construction with a gabled slate roof. Lights have been inserted into the roof. Like the stable (PRN 43769) and the cartshed (PRN 43770), large boulders have been incorporated into the walls of the cowshed. The exterior is whitewashed. Internally there are six double stalls arranged longitudinally, with a feeding passage on the east side. There is a drive shaft fixed to the east gable wall of the interior of the cowshed, which was driven originally by a horse engine on the north side of the building, and later by a steam engine positioned on the south side. The shaft drove chaff cutting machinery, which was housed in a small extension on the east end of the cowshed. The extension was constructed from rubble and thin shale slabs, in the same style as the extension to the stable, and it probably dates from the 19th century. The cut chaff was fed through a square hatch into the cowshed for feeding the stalled cattle. The cowshed appears to be contemporary with the original house, which may be of 17th century date. The cowshed has been re-roofed and the chaff shed has been partially rebuilt following movement of the cowshed. Two buttresses have been built in the chaff shed to support the east gable wall of the cowshed in an effort to halt the movement of the structure. The rebuilding works have ensured that the building is in a good condition.

Recommendations

The cowshed and the original house could be of National importance, particularly as part of a group with the stable (PRN 43769) and the cartshed (PRN 43771). It should be subject to further, more detailed survey to try to establish its construction date, to record any surviving original fittings and to fully assess its current condition.

Management Category A

Visited by NAP

Visited On 06/11/01

PRN 43772 **Site name** PENBACK

NGR SN13762315

Site type TRACKWAY

Period Post Med

Site Status

Description

A series of terraced tracks through the woodland east of the yard. The tracks are rock-cut into the steep sides of the small stream valley that marks the east boundary of the farm. The tracks are a mixture of cart-width tracks, which lead from the yard and from the quarry (PRN 43777) down towards the valley bottom, and a narrower, single-width, footpath, which follows the contour around the hillside. Although not closely dateable the tracks appear to be part of complex network of tracks that connected the various farmsteads and cottages that once stood in the area. There are remnants of stonework facing the banks alongside the tracks immediately east of the yard. Some of the facing is in a herringbone pattern, which is also present in the banks of the original farm access track (PRN 43776) to the west of the yard. The tracks are still clearly visible and it is possible to follow them for some distance. They are generally clear of vegetation. Silting, caused by hill-wash, is occurring along some of the single-width footpath.

Recommendations

The tracks should be kept clear of vegetation. It may be possible to open some of the paths for public access and to link them with any existing footpaths in the area.

Management Category C

Visited by NAP

Visited On 06/11/01

PRN 43773 **Site name** PENBACK

NGR SN13722266

Site type TRACKWAY

Period Post Med

Site Status

Description

Track leading from the end of banked track (PRN 43775) towards the bottom of the small stream, which crosses the southern part of the farm. This cart-width track eventually joins with a single width track leading to abandoned settlement at Blaenwaun (PRN 43774). The track is rock cut into the steep valley side. The track survives in good condition.

Recommendations

The tracks should be kept clear of vegetation. and maintained in their present condition.

Management Category C

Visited by NAP

Visited On 06/11/01

PRN 43774 **Site name** BLAENWAUN

NGR SN13732263

Site type DESERTED RURAL
SETTLEMENT

Period Post Med

Site Status

Description

Blaenwaun is the site of a now demolished cottage in a small ovoid garden enclosure. The construction date is unknown, but an 18th century date seems reasonable. Blaenwaun appears on the Llandissilio parish tithe map of 1839. By 1851 it was occupied by the James family. Daniel James was a clog maker, probably using wood taken from the woodland on the sides of the stream valley that bounds part of Penback. The cottage was abandoned sometime around the turn of the 20th century. There is no stone, or other construction materials from the cottage visible on the site, suggesting that perhaps it was constructed from clay on a low stone foundation. There are no standing remains of the cottage, although the low earth bank around the enclosure survives in places. A few grass-covered mounds inside the enclosure may be traces of the cottage walls. The enclosure is clear of vegetation and has a good grass cover.

Recommendations

Regular, but controlled grazing would prevent vegetation growth and maintain the site in its present condition.

Management Category C

Visited by NAP

Visited On 06/11/01

PRN 43775 **Site name** PENBACK

NGR SN13832288

Site type TRACKWAY

Period Post Med

Site Status

Description

A track leading south from the yard to the stream valley where it linked with track PRN 43773. The track is c.4m wide and flanked on either side by earth banks, c.2m wide at the base and up to 2m high. The east bank is topped with a mature hedge, which includes some grown out coppice stools and some mature standard trees. The banks have eroded over time and the base of the track is becoming silted in places, but overall it survives in good condition.

Recommendations

Maintain the track in its present condition.

Management Category C

Visited by NAP

Visited On 06/11/01

PRN 43776 **Site name** PENBACK

NGR SN13662276

Site type TRACKWAY

Period Post Med

Site Status

Description

A track leading west from the yard that was formerly the main access track to the farm. The track survives as a hollow-way, c.3m wide, flanked by earth and shale banks up to 2.3m high. A number of inverted V-shaped slate drains through the south bank indicate the original level of the track, some 1.5m higher than today. There are remnants of herringbone pattern stone facings alongside the track. The condition of the track varies, the section nearest the yard is becoming overgrown and water is flowing along its base. The westernmost section survives at its original depth, with low earth banks on either side.

Recommendations

The vegetation could be controlled and cut back in the section close to the yard.

Management Category C

Visited by NAP

Visited On 06/11/01

PRN 43777 **Site name** PARC QUARRY

NGR SN13752307

Site type QUARRY

Period Post Med

Site Status

Description

A field named Parc Quarry on the Llandissilio parish tithe map published in 1839. Today there is an area of uneven ground that may be the remains of a small quarry. The possible site of the quarry has good grass cover.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations are required for this site and it should be maintained in its present condition.

Management Category D

Visited by NAP

Visited On 06/11/01

PRN 43778 **Site name** PARC FFYNNON

NGR SN13662319

Site type WELL

Period Post Med

Site Status

Description

Well in corner of a field marked as Parc Ffynnon on the Llandissilio parish tithe map published in 1839. The well is a small spring that feeds water from the high ground to the northwest of the farm. The water is collected in a concrete trough, from where it is presumably piped to the house or yard. The trough holds water and water still runs from the spring.

Recommendations

Maintain this site in its present condition.

Management Category C

Visited by NAP

Visited On 06/11/01

PRN 43779 **Site name** PENBACK

NGR SN13662319

Site type TRACKWAY

Period Post Med

Site Status

Description

A track that leads south from the yard to link with the tracks in the woods to the south (PRN 43773). The track is visible as a narrow terrace running through a pasture field, but its southern end is not well defined. The track is still traceable across the field.

Recommendations

The track should be maintained in its present condition. It should be excluded from ploughing, or any other ground breaking operations.

Management Category C

Visited by NAP

Visited On 06/11/01

REFERENCES

Map

Tithe Map, 1839, Llandisilio parish tithe map and apportionment, -

Ordnance Survey, 1891, Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:10560 Carms .XXVIII.SE, -

Ordnance Survey, 1906, Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1:10560 Carms.XXVIII.SE, -



Plate 1: PRN 43769 – stable showing the differences in construction between the original 18th century whitewashed stable and the 19th century extension.



Plate 2: PRN 43770 - 18th century cartshed. The uneven roofline is caused by severe movement within the roof structure.



Plate 3: PRN 43771 –The house and cowshed may date from the 17th century.



Plate 4: PRN 43772 – one of a series of rock-cut pathways along the sides of the stream valley to the east of the farm. This shot shows a well-defined single-width footpath.



Plate 5: PRN 43774 – The remains of the enclosure of Blaenwaun cottage.



Plate 6: PRN 43776 – the overgrown line of the original farm entrance track.

**PENBACK
TIR GOFAL FARM VISIT REPORT**

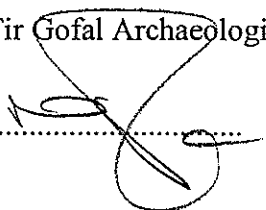
REPORT NUMBER 2001/63

November 2001

This report has been prepared by Nigel Page

Position: Tir Gofal Archaeologist

Signature.....



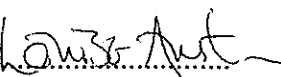
Date.....

23/1/02

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.....



Date.....

28/11/01

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.