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Llangwathen W/13/2021

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



Report No. 2002/34

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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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Llangwathen
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Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

By

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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 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.

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 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 Geographical Information Systems based map for use during the field survey and for the final report.

Phase 2 was a farm visit to assess the extent, character and current condition of the archaeological and historical sites identified during the research phase. Due to constraints recording is rapid and consists of photographs and sites notes. Some of the sites may not have been visited. The information gained during the visit has been used to determine their management recommendations.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF FARM

The farm of Llangwathen (PRN 44537) consists of two separate holdings; the holding that incorporates the farmstead of Llangwathen is situated 2.5 km to the east of Narberth on the south side of the Afon Marlais. The holding of Llangwathen consists of 35 hectares and has been bisected by the railway running in an east west direction. The second holding of Hendre is situated to the 3.5 km north west of Whitland. This holding was not visited.

The farmstead of Llangwathen appears to have a very rich and interesting history. Prehistoric activity has been identified by way of flint flakes found during the excavation of a pipeline adjacent to the motte and the only Lower Palaeolithic hand axe to be found in Dyfed. The 'llan' element of the place name offers indications of an early Christian site, possibly a church, chapel or cemetery (Charles, 1992, Vol. II p499). The earliest identified structure on the farm is the medieval motte which gives an indication of the strategic value of this site in the medieval period. This would have undoubtedly have been accompanied by other medieval structures in the near vicinity, the upstanding remains of which may be incorporated into the farmstead itself.

The farmhouse is largely 18th century in appearance and has a date of 1757 carved into a roof truss. However, there may very likely be earlier elements to it. The farm buildings appear to be of a later period of construction and the owners have identified a date of 1867 carved into the roof timbers of one of the buildings.

The farm boundaries are largely stone and earth banks lined with hedges which have grown out in most places. The layout of the fields appear to have changed little since the Tithe survey of the parish of Lampeter Velfrey taken in 1842, with the exception of the insertion of the railway which runs through the holding. At this time the farm was owned by John Northy and occupied by John Frizzell.

The farm is currently owned by Mr and Mrs Lewis, who take a great interest in the history of the Llangwathen and have previously carried out research of the historical documents relating to the farm.

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The area around the farmstead and medieval motte has a high potential for archaeological remains. It should be stressed that the area of archaeological sensitivity will extend beyond the scheduled area (either as it stands or with any additional extension) and is not restricted to the individual features identified in this report. Any further works in the vicinity of the farmstead and motte should be undertaken with archaeological consultation.

Archaeological sites on the holding which require action are detailed below, for other management recommendations see the gazetteer of individual sites.

PRN 9918 Motte and bailey

It is important that this feature has a scheme of active woodland management put in place which will prevent tree fall from damaging the structure. This includes not only the motte itself but also the surrounding area which most likely contains sensitive archaeological deposits. Clearance of scrub growth on the motte will also enhance the visibility of the structure.

The patches of erosion to the south side should be covered with netting or chicken wire to keep the stock off and allow the turf to regenerate. It may also be necessary to reduce stock numbers to help prevent this kind of damage.

PRN 44538 Sluice

The accumulated debris, which has built up against the face of the sluice, should be removed to allow a free flow of water through the structure. Also the vegetation growing in the structure should be carefully removed and the masonry consolidated. Mrs Lewis mentioned that the structure is gradually deteriorating with each winter. It would therefore be beneficial that an archaeological record is made of the structure.

PRN 44539 Pond/sluice

The owners hope to reinstate the pond and raise the water level. Archaeological advice should be sought if a sluice structure is to be inserted to raise the level of the pond, likewise if the pond is to be dredged. The proximity of the pond to the motte makes this area archaeologically very sensitive. If this structure is to be placed within the scheduled area it will also require scheduled monument consent.

PRNs 44540, 44541, 44542 Farm buildings

Mr and Mrs Lewis hope to repair the farm buildings. Currently the roofs to the cow sheds are beginning to fail. It is recommended that the roof repairs are undertaken as soon as possible before water ingress damages the masonry structures. Some consolidation of the masonry will need to be carried out in conjunction with the careful removal of ivy. If possible the wooden doors and windows should be retained and repaired.

PRN 44545 Gateway

The vegetation should be carefully cleared from the gate piers and the masonry consolidated using traditional materials.

PRN 44546 Trackway to the Lime Quarry

This track way would benefit from the restoration of the hedgerow and banks. Care should be taken not to damage any historic surfacing (none was seen on visit).

PRN 44547 Ruins of a building

The vegetation, which is engulfing the ruins, should be cut back and treated to prevent regrowth. Ideally the stonework should be consolidated.

GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN	9918	Site Name	Llangwathen	Grid Reference	SN13401530
Site Type	Motte	Period	Medieval	Site status	SAM

Description

The castle mound is roughly circular in shape and approximately 20 metres in diameter and between 1.5 to 2 metres high with steeply sloping sides (plate 1). To the north the remains of a ditch around 3 metres wide and 0.25 metres deep surround the motte. A low bank to the north west of the mound and another bank to the north east would appear to suggest that the bailey may have extended to the north of the mound. The bank to the north east is rather irregular and has some stonework outcropping in places.

Currently the mound and the adjoining area to the north are partly wooded and the mound has an under storey of thorn bushes. Some patches of erosion caused by sheep were observed on the south side of the motte.

Further buried remains associated with the motte and bailey may lie to the south and west.

Recommendations

It is important that this feature has a scheme of active woodland management put in place which will prevent tree fall from damaging the structure. This includes not only the motte itself but also the surrounding area which most likely contains sensitive archaeological deposits. Clearance of scrub growth on the motte will also enhance the visibility of the structure.

The patches of erosion to the south side should be covered with netting or chicken wire to keep the stock off and allow the turf to regenerate. It may also be necessary to reduce stock numbers to help prevent this kind of damage.

Site Category A



Plate 1 – the motte (PRN 9918) and the pond (PRN 44539) in the foreground.

PRN	44538	Site Name	Llangwathen	Grid Reference	SN13361536
Site Type	Sluice	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

Within the stream to the north west of the motte is a large stone sluice composed of two large masonry piers to either side of a central channel (plate 2). It is well constructed out of roughly squared stone, built to courses with substantial stone jambs. The face of the stone piers are convex in shape with the stream now running around the sides. The rebates for the sluice gate are visible however there do not appear to be any remains of the gate or paddle itself.

There is a large amount of wood and debris which has built up against the central sluice way. This is of concern to the owners since it is redirecting the force of the stream to the south, around the structure and undermining the stream banks. There is also a considerable amount of vegetation growing out of the structure. This structure is locally known as a sheep wash; however the owners believe it may relate to a scheme of redirecting the water towards the motte.

Recommendations

The accumulated debris, which has built up against the face of the sluice, should be removed to allow a free flow of water through the structure. The vegetation in the structure should be carefully removed and the masonry consolidated. Mrs Lewis mentioned that the structure is gradually deteriorating with each winter. It would therefore be beneficial that an archaeological record is made of the structure.

Site Category C



Plate 2 – the sluice (PRN 44538) showing the accumulated debris against the sluice channel.

PRN	44539	Site Name	Llangwathen	Grid Reference	SN13381527
Site Type	Pond	Period	Medieval / Post Medieval		

Description

To the south west of the motte is the remains of an irregularly shaped pond approximately 20 metres long and 10 metres wide (plate 1). At the south east end is a spring which the owners believe may be the holy well of St. Deilo.

The pond no longer has standing water but is now a waterlogged area.

Recommendations

The owners hope to reinstate the pond and raise the water level. Archaeological advice should be sought if a sluice structure is to be inserted to raise the level of the pond, likewise if the pond is to be dredged. The proximity of the pond to the motte makes this area archaeologically very sensitive. If this structure is to be placed within the scheduled area it will also require scheduled monument consent.

Site Category C

PRN	44540	Site Name	Llangwathen	Grid Reference	SN13311522
Site Type	Cow Shed	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

To the west side of the farmyard is a long row of cow sheds, divided into two sections. The range of buildings are built across the slope so the southern building is considerably higher than that to the north. Both buildings are constructed out of rubble stone walling with low brick arches over the openings and corrugated asbestos roofs. The southern cow shed has three doorways in the east elevation, at the south end is a large inserted window (plate 3). Two further windows are placed high into this elevation. The southern third of the cow shed has three bays of cow stalls across the transverse wall. The northern two thirds has a feed passage running along the west lateral wall.

The north cow shed butts up to the south cow shed (plate 4). It is subdivided at the north end which is used as a grain store. To the south end of the cow shed is a feed passage running along the west lateral wall. There are two doorways in the east elevation and three windows opening into the cow shed. The grain store at the north end is accessed by one wide doorway. To the north of this doorway is a scar of an adjacent building, which has since been demolished.

The roofs to the cow sheds have begun to deteriorate, the north cow shed has a very uneven roof line which may indicate some of the roof structure is rotten (the trusses themselves appeared to be intact). There is also substantial ivy growth penetrating the structure from the west elevation.

Recommendations

Mr and Mrs Lewis hope to repair the farm buildings. It is recommended that the roof repairs are undertaken as soon as possible before water ingress damages the masonry structures. Some consolidation of the masonry will need to be carried out in conjunction with the careful removal of ivy. If possible the wooden doors and windows should be retained and repaired.

Site Category C



Plate 3 – the southern cow shed (PRN 44540) to the west of the farm yard.



Plate 4 – the northern cow shed (PRN 44540)

PRN	44541	Site Name	Llangwathen	Grid Reference	SN13301526
Site Type	Cow Shed	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

An L-shaped range of cow sheds are situated to the north west of the farmstead. These are arranged around the north and west sides of a modern concrete fold yard. These buildings were inaccessible but appear to be of similar construction to the other farm buildings. There is a hole in the roof at the east end of the cow shed which is allowing water to penetrate the gable wall (plate 5).

Recommendations

The roof of the cow shed should be repaired and the structure made watertight.

Site Category C



Plate 5 – the L-shaped cow shed (PRN 44541) in the north west corner of the farm yard.

PRN	44542	Site Name	Llangwathen	Grid Reference	SN13341524
Site Type	Cow Shed / Granary	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A cow shed with a cart shed and granary at the east end are positioned on an east west orientation to the east of the farmyard (plate 6). The roof is largely covered with slate except an area to the north which has been replaced with square sectioned corrugated sheeting. The west end has been heavily modified with concrete windows and doorway and a breeze block outshoot has been attached to the south elevation. A doorway to the west of this outshoot is constructed with a low stone arch and jambs. To the east is a wide cart entrance also constructed with stone voussoirs and jambs. The east end of this range is two storeys with wooden steps leading to the upper storey from the cart shed. The east gable wall has a stable doorway and window in the ground floor and a central window above.

The cart shed and granary has a considerable amount of ivy growing over the west gable end, and some roof slates have been lost on the east end.

Recommendations

The roof to this cow/cart shed and granary should be repaired and made watertight and the masonry consolidated.

Site Category C



Plate 6 – the combined cow shed, cart shed and granary (PRN 44532).

PRN	44543	Site Name	Llangwathen	Grid Reference	SN13351525
Site Type	Dutch barn	Period	Modern		

Description

To the north of the range of buildings is a very dilapidated Dutch barn positioned on a north south axis with two outshoots to either side. The whole structure appears to be raking to the north.

Recommendations

If possible this barn should be retained. However the condition of the structure is probably too unstable for this to be a safe option.

Site Category C

PRN	44544	Site Name	Llangwathen	Grid Reference	SN13591527; SN13391526; 13761527
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Site Type	Trackway	Period	Medieval / Post Medieval
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Description

A substantial trackway at one time which led to "White Mill". This trackway although largely waterlogged and silted over, has a metalled surface.

Recommendations

There should not be any ground disturbing activities along the line of this trackway.

Site Category C

PRN	44545	Site Name	Llangwathen	Grid Reference	
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Site Type	Gateway	Period		Site status	Delete if not applicable
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Description

To the east of the motte is an impressive stone gateway, situated across the line of the trackway (PRN 44544). The gateway is constructed with large stone piers approximately 1.6 metres high built to courses with large rough stone blocks (plate 7). The piers are rounded with stone rebates to hold the iron gate. The gate piers are becoming overgrown with ivy and some woody growth is beginning to get established in the masonry.

Recommendations

The vegetation should be carefully cleared from the gate piers and the masonry consolidated using traditional materials.

Site Category C



Plate 7 – the stone gateway (PRN 44535) and the line of trackway beyond (PRN 44534).

PRN	44546	Site Name	Llangwathen	Grid Reference	SN13181530; SN13061533; SN13271527
Site Type	Trackway	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

Earth banks bound the track to the Lime Quarry to either side. The bank to the south reaches 2 metres in height, that to the north however is slightly lower which may in part be due to stock erosion. Both banks have overgrown hedgerows, which have largely developed into mature trees.

Recommendations

This trackway would benefit from the restoration of the hedgerow and banks. Care should be taken not to damage any historic surfacing (none was seen on visit).

Site Category C

PRN	44547	Site Name	Llangwathen	Grid Reference	SN13361526
Site Type	Building	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The remains of a building can be seen to the north of the farmstead. Only the south and west walls remain to a height of approximately 1.8 metres. The building is constructed out of rubble stone walling and appears to be c. 7 metres long by 4 metres wide. The ruins of this building are becoming engulfed by vegetation.

Recommendations

The vegetation should be cut back and treated to prevent regrowth. Ideally the stonework should be consolidated.

Site Category C



Plate 8 – the remains of a building to the north of the farmstead (PRN 44537).

SITE AND AREA STATUS GLOSSARY

The following abbreviations are used in the gazetteer to refer to site and area status. These schedules, lists and registers are compiled and maintained by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments.

SAM - Scheduled Ancient Monument

This is a statutory designation. Scheduled Ancient Monuments are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

LB1, LB2* & LB2 – Listed Building 1, 2* & 2

This is a statutory designation. Listed buildings are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

HLW - Historic Landscapes of Wales

Historic Landscapes of Wales are defined by the *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales: Part 2.1 Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest and Part 2.2 Landscapes of Special Historic Interest*. The register is advisory and has no statutory powers.

PGW - Parks and Gardens of Wales

Parks and Gardens of Wales are defined by the *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales: Part 1 Parks and Gardens*. The register is advisory and has no statutory powers.

REFERENCES

Map

Ordnance Survey, 1891, Pembrokeshire Sheet XXIX.NE

Ordnance Survey, 1907, Pembrokeshire Sheet XXIX.NE



Tithe Map and Apportionment of the Parish of Lampeter Velfrey, 1842

Written Description





Charles, B G, 1992, The Place-names of Pembrokeshire Vol II

Llangwathen
Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/13/2021
Cambria Archaeology Reference Number 41594
National Grid Reference SN13301530
Scale 1:5000


Key

-  Farm Boundary
-  Historic Landscape Character Area


Site Category A - National Importance

- | | |
|---|--|
|  | Scheduled Ancient Monuments
Grade 1 and Grade 2* Listed Buildings |
|  | Sites and Buildings of National Importance without a statutory designation |
|  | Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest |
|  | Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest |


Site Category B - Regional Importance

-  **Sites and Buildings of Regional Importance including Grade 2 listed buildings**

Site Category C - Local Importance

- 
- ### Sites and buildings of Local Importance

Site Category D - Unknown Importance

-  Sites requiring further investigation and sites with no physical definition.

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Llangwathen W/13/2021

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25th March 2002

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on the content or presentation of this report