

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report

Horse Park

W/13/1725

Report Number 2001/56

**Report prepared for
CCW**



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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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HORSE PARK
TIR GOFAL FARM VISIT REPORT

By

Nigel Page

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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

Horseparks Farm consists of two holdings with a combined area of 65.75ha (171.6 acres). The main block of land is around Horseparks itself, with a detached block 1km to the north. The name Horseparks was first recorded in the early - mid 19th century (Charles 1992, 495) and a building called Horseparks (PRN 43618) was marked 300m to the east of the present farmhouse on the Jeffreston parish tithe map of 1842 and on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1891. The present yard complex was constructed sometime between 1891 and 1906, and it was first shown on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map published in 1906. The field pattern was shown in a late 18th century map book, but it probably dates from at least the beginning of that century. The field boundaries are a mixture of earth banks topped with mature hedges, modern fencing, and blocks of mature woodland. There is only one traditional building in the yard. It is a two-storey former cowshed with loft over constructed from whitewashed, random rubble with a slate gabled roof. The building has been much altered and now has a large single opening in the front to allow vehicle parking. There is small dairy attached to the east end. The most numerous forms of monument are the remains of many shafts and pits associated with 18th and early 19th century coal mining activities. There are extensive remains across the farm, particularly in the blocks of woodland in the central and southwestern areas (PRNs 43620 and 43621). The farm layout survives in its 18th century form and most of the boundaries are in good condition. Most of the coal mining remains are in areas of woodland and so have been protected from most farm operations.

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The farm boundaries should be maintained in their present condition.

Individual recommendations for the coal mining remains are given throughout the report, but in general they should be maintained in their present condition and archaeological advice should be sought if there are plans for active woodland management such as tree removal or new planting. Most of the coal workings are in areas well away from public rights of way and in areas of woodland, making them difficult to access for presentation, or education. However, the workings (PRN 43620) could be accessed from Brince along the recently cleared trackway.

The area of the former Horseparks site should be excluded from ploughing to protect buried archaeological remains and stocking levels maintained at their present levels to avoid erosion.

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

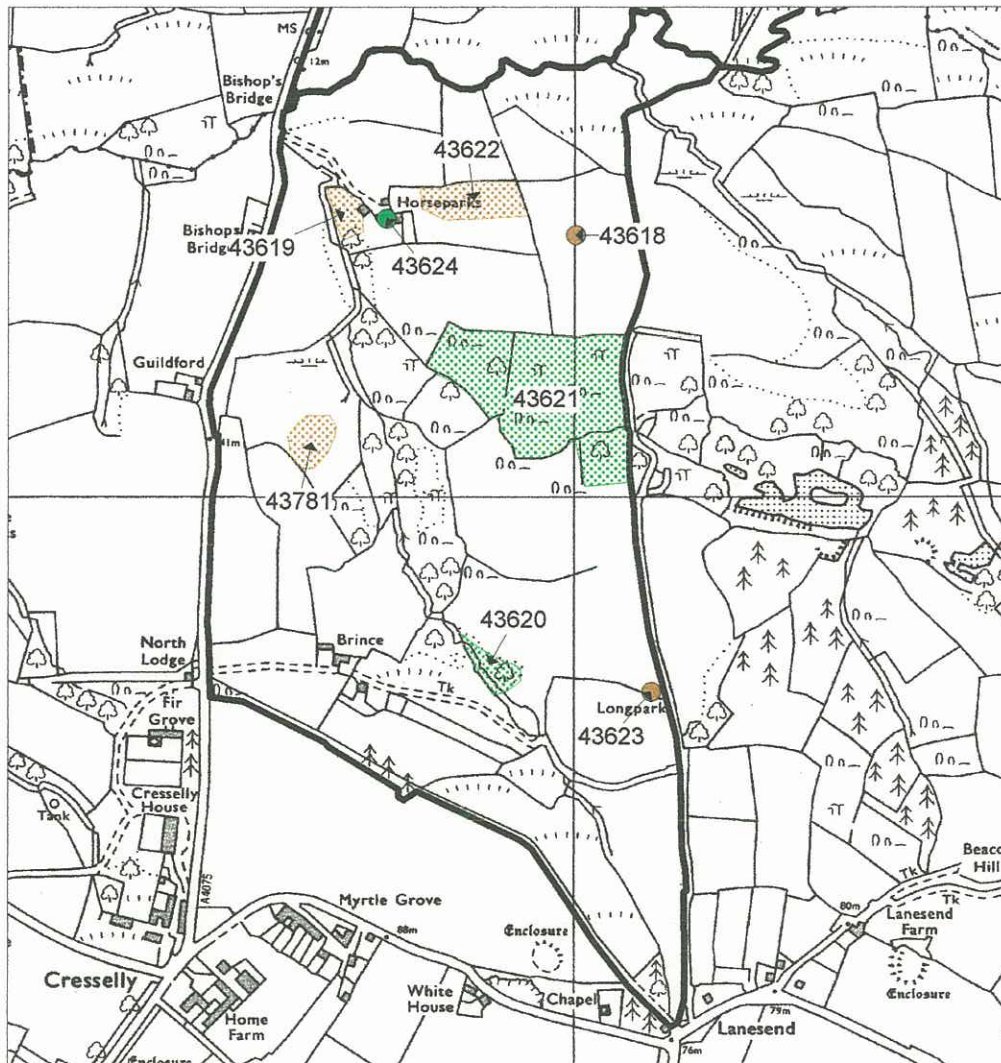
Defined by the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Part 1 Parks and Gardens. The register is advisory only and has no statutory powers. The register was compiled by Cadw in partnership with the Countryside Council for Wales and the International Council on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

Tir Gofal farm visit report
Horseparks
Cambria Archaeology report No.2001/56

OS sheet SN00NE

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Scale: 1:10000



GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN 43618	Site name HORSEPARKS	NGR SN07000738
Site type DESERTED RURAL SETTLEMENT	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

The original site of Horseparks farm. A single building with associated enclosures was shown on the Jeffreston parish tithe map published in 1842 and again on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1891. The building was aligned east west and probably consisted of a dwelling with an attached cattle shed. There are no standing remains of the building, which occupied a position on the edge of a slight ridge, which sloped away to the north. Today the site consists of a flattish area, with some small mounds and hollows, on the ridge, which appears to have been the site of the building. The site is well grassed and does not appear to have been ploughed, nor is there any evidence of erosion or trampling due to over stocking. There are likely to be extensive below ground remains.

Recommendations

The area should be maintained in its present condition and should not be ploughed. Stock levels should be maintained at their present levels.

Management Category D	Visited by NAP	Visited On 16/10/01
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PRN 43619	Site name HORSEPARKS FARM	NGR SN06700740
Site type COAL WORKINGS	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

A shaft was marked in this location on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map published in 1891, which by 1906, when the 2nd edition map was produced, was labelled as 'old shaft'. A level, which had been driven between 1891 and 1906, was also shown on the 2nd edition map. The exact positions of the shaft and level are not known and this area is now partially occupied by the house and yard and a small block of woodland. Earthworks and hollows in the woodland may be the remains of the shaft and level, and other coal workings, but the covering vegetation made proper identification impossible. The woodland is very overgrown with heavy vegetation obscuring most of the area. There has also been some modern dumping in this area, including rubble and masonry, presumably from a demolished building from elsewhere on the farm.

Recommendations

This area should be cleared of modern rubbish and archaeological advice should be sought if there is to any form of active woodland management, to ensure that any surviving remains are identified and protected.

Management Category D	Visited by NAP	Visited On 16/10/01
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PRN 43620	Site name HORSEPARKS FARM	NGR SN06950680
Site type COAL WORKINGS	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

Area of old coal workings on the banks of a small stream, which flows south - north through a small wooded valley from just east of Brince. The workings in this area consist of bell-pits, a large quarry, a small trench, possibly from 'crop-working', and spoil tips. They spread across c.50m of the valley side and are now in an area of woodland. The two bell-pits consist of a small hollows (4m diameter and 6m x 4m) surrounded by upcast spoil, giving them a banked appearance. The larger of the two pits was up to 2m deep and almost vertically sided. The trench was a wet linear hollow, c.10m x 4m x up to 1m deep, with a flattish base. The east side was cut into the slope and the west side was defined by a low bank, 0.75m high, that appears to be made up of spoil thrown up during the working of the level. It is possible that the trench was created by 'crop-working' where outcrops of coal were worked from the surface. The quarry, which measured 10m x 6m x 3m deep, was the largest of the features. It was vertical-sided and it had a large spoil tip around its northern and northeast sides. The spoil contained large lumps of stone, suggesting that coal, or possibly iron ore were the main objectives. All of these features are becoming overgrown. The bell-pits have substantial mature trees growing on them, but the trench is free of trees. The quarry has trees growing around its edges, but is clear of trees at the moment. All of the features are free of rubbish. There is potential to provide access to this group of workings for presentation of the remains of early coal mining industry.

Recommendations

Archaeological advice should be sought if active woodland management is planned for this area. The features should be kept clear of rubbish, and some of the understorey vegetation could be cleared to open up the features and make them more prominent. The provision of access to this group via Brince and along the recently cleared trackway should be considered.

Management Category C	Visited by NAP	Visited On 16/10/01
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PRN 43621	Site name HORSEPARKS FARM	NGR SN07000715
Site type COAL WORKINGS	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

Large area of shafts and pits, labelled 'old coal pits' and 'old coal shafts' on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map published in 1891. By the time of the 2nd edition (1906) Ordnance Survey map, the workings are shown as disused earthworks. A late 18th century estate map shows this area as 'Old coal pits'. Today the area is largely wooded, although some of the remains extend into the field to the south. The most prominent of these is a linear earthwork, c.30m x 10m x 1m high, which is shown on the OS maps extending northwards from three - four bell pits. The nature of the linear feature is unclear, it may be a spoil tip, but it may be a raised causeway to transport coal from the bell pits, presumably to carts waiting a short distance to the north. Within the wooded area are many small hollows and mounds indicating workings and spoil tips. The former bell pits in the field to the south of the linear feature have been all but ploughed flat, the infilled workings are only just visible as very shallow depressions. The linear feature itself survives in good condition, although it appears to have been reduced in height, probably by ploughing. Some of the remains are in a cleared area which is used as an access track, which has caused some erosion from vehicles, but the traffic use is not heavy enough to be causing large-scale damage. The features within the woodland are becoming overgrown, and many of the earthworks have mature trees growing on them. There has also been some modern dumping along the southern edge of this area.

Recommendations

The linear feature should be excluded from all ground-breaking operations, including ploughing. Archaeological advice should be sought if active woodland management is to undertaken in this area in order to ensure the remains are properly identified and protected.

Management Category C	Visited by NAP	Visited On 16/10/01
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PRN 43622	Site name HORSEPARKS FARM	NGR SN06850740
Site type COAL WORKINGS	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

Three circular earthworks shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1891), but not shown on the 2nd edition published in 1906. It seems likely that they were three small bell pits, which had been abandoned for a long time by the time the area was surveyed for the OS 1st edition maps. There are some very shallow hollows in this area today, but it is difficult to be certain if they are the workings depicted by the Ordnance Survey

Recommendations

This area should be excluded from ploughing and other ground breaking operations to protect the slight remains.

Management Category D	Visited by NAP	Visited On 16/10/01
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PRN 43623	Site name LONGPARK	NGR SN07110668
Site type DESERTED RURAL SETTLEMENT	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

Early 19th century building shown as Longpark on the Jeffreston tithe map published in 1842. Longpark consisted of a single building, constructed from random rubble with a gabled corrugated zinc roof, set within a small enclosure. It was abandoned sometime during the early - mid 20th century. The building is derelict, only the north gable stands to full height. The whole site is very overgrown and the standing structure is very unstable. Some internal fixtures and fittings may survive. If it is not stabilised the structure will collapse.

Recommendations

This area should be kept clear of modern rubbish and some of the vegetation could be cut and cleared from the structure. The building should be surveyed to record structural and internal details before it collapses.

Management Category D	Visited by NAP	Visited On 16/10/01
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PRN 43781	Site name HORSEPARKS	NGR SN06600710
Site type COALMINE	Period Post Med	Site Status

Description

A small group of coal pits and shafts marked on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map published in 1891. Not seen during the farm visit.

Recommendations

Any surviving earthworks should be excluded from ploughing or any other form of ground breaking operations.

Management Category D	Visited by NAP	Visited On 16/10/01
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**HORSE PARK
TIR GOFAL FARM VISIT REPORT**

REPORT NUMBER 2001/56

November 2001

This report has been prepared by Nigel Page

Position: Tir Gofal Archaeologist

Signature.....

Date.....

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.....

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.

**HORSE PARK
TIR GOFAL FARM VISIT REPORT**

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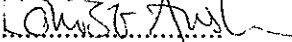
Position: Tir Gofal Archaeologist

Signature.....

Date.....8/11/2001.....

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.....6th November 2001.....

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on the content or presentation of this report.