

# **Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report**

**Bachygwyddil**

**W/12/2058**

**Report Number 2002/6**

**Report prepared for  
CCW**



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BACHYGWYDDIL  
TIR GOFAL FARM VISIT REPORT

By

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**Tir Gofal Application Number** W/12/2058  
**Address** Bachygwyddil  
Cwmpencraig, Drefach, Velindre, Llandysul,  
Carmarthenshire, SA44 5HX  
**National Grid Reference** SN35093661  
**CCW Tir Gofal Project Officer** Anne Marie McDevitt, Llandeilo  
**CA Tir Gofal Archaeologist** Alice Pyper  
**Visit Date** 07/12/01

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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

Bachygyddil is a small farm of around 20 acres positioned on the east side of the steep sided valley above the village of Cwmpencraig, approximately 2km to the south of Drefach and Felindre. This area is remarkable for its long history of woollen manufacturing from the middle ages through to the 20th century. In the 19th century this region became an industrial enclave within this predominantly rural area of Wales.

The farmstead consists of a cluster of buildings positioned at the top of the steep farm track above the village of Cwmpengraig. At the east end of the farmyard is a late 19th century, two-storey farmhouse which overlooks the farmstead. At the lower, west end of the farmyard is a recently restored one-storey farmhouse, which may have been a longhouse originally. To the north side of the farmyard is a small one-storey building (PRN 43942) and adjoining it is a small pigsty (PRN 43941), to the south of the farmyard is a range of two buildings, a two storey building to the east (PRN 43940) and a long one-storey building to the west (PRN 43939). To the south of the farmyard is a dutch barn (PRN 43943). The site of a small cottage is situated to the north of the farmyard (PRN 35484), which although overgrown, survives as low masonry walls.

The farm is recorded on the original surveyors drawings of 1811-12 and although little detail of the farm layout can be discerned, a track way is indicated which runs east - west through the farmyard itself and beyond to the Penboyr road. This track is still visible as a hollow way to the east of the farm.

The farm is recorded as 'Buch y gwiddel' in the tithe survey of Penboyr Parish in 1838, and shows the farm consisting of a long strip of land extending from the village and valley bottom to the west, forming a narrow slip of land which extends to the east. Two additional fields slightly further to the north extend the farm boundary to the Penboyr road. Also included in the holding is a thin strip of land to the west of the road into the village of Cwmpengraig. At this time the farm was owned by Morris Jones and tenanted by Hannah Jones. Today the holding incorporates a further four fields to the north, but four fields to the east no longer form part of the farm.

The farm boundaries have survived in the same layout as those shown on the tithe map with a pattern formed of regularly shaped fields. The boundaries themselves are commonly high banks topped with overgrown hedges. The banks themselves are usually constructed in earth. Where the banks enclose the track way to the north of the farm, they are constructed in stone, vertically laid, sometimes in a herringbone pattern, with high battered sides (plate 1).

## MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The main area of archaeological interest on the farm lies in its association with the woollen manufacturing industry which was such a characteristic of this area in the 19th century. The buildings survive today where the processing of wool would have taken place, although the fittings or related machinery do not appear to remain. The current owners of the farm, the Dyfed Permaculture Farm Trust, share an interest in the history of the farm, which is run partly as an educational organisation. This would seem to be a perfect opportunity to use the buildings as an educational resource to provide information about the history of the farm in the context of the woollen industry within the region.

If any intervention to the buildings is undertaken the buildings should be further investigated and recorded prior to works being carried out. The works should also maintain the historic fabric intact and the existing openings should be retained. Archaeological consultation should be sought if work of this nature is to be undertaken.

The farm boundaries and trackways, which form an important historical characteristic of the farm, should be maintained in a stable condition.

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

PRN 35484. The site of Pantgwyn cottage should be carefully cleared of brambles and vegetation. The saplings that are becoming established on the site should be cut back and treated to prevent new growth.

PRN 43941. The roof of the pigsties should be repaired to prevent water ingress, and the masonry consolidated.

PRN 43942. The roof to the dyeng shed should be repaired to prevent further damage to the structure and the masonry walls should be repaired and consolidated using traditional materials.

PRN 43943. The dutch barn, although relatively modern in comparison to the other farm buildings, is also a historic feature of the farmstead and ideally the roof should be repaired and the building retained.

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<br>Grade 1 and 2* Listed Buildings  |
|            |  | Red           | Other Sites and Monuments of National Importance<br>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<br>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<br>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)



**Bachygwyddil Farm Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation**  
**Countryside Council for Wales Reference Number W/12/2058**  
**Cambria Archaeology Reference Number 41670**  
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**Scale 1:2500**



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# GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

**PRN** 35484      **Site name** PANTGWYN      **NGR** SN35083661

**Site type** COTTAGE;WEAVERS      **Period** Post Med      **Site Status**  
COTTAGE

## Description

The remains of Pantgwyn cottage are currently overgrown with brambles and young trees and largely inaccessible, however the walls of the cottage still stand up to approximately 0.5 metre high (plate 2). The masonry appears to be roughly coursed slate with occasional limestone fragments and the bonding lime mortar is very eroded. The remains of the cottage indicate a rectangular building orientated on a north - south axis with an entrance visible within the west wall. The tithe map indicates the cottage was positioned within a roughly triangular enclosure in the south west corner of the field. The 1891 edition Ordnance Survey map indicates that the cottage was L-shaped, with extensions to the north, east and south; these features are not visible under current conditions. This edition also shows the cottage within an enclosure, but additionally with a separate rectangular enclosure, marked as an orchard, to the west. The 1907 edition Ordnance Survey map indicates the same layout, however the enclosure is no longer identified as an orchard.

One of the current owners records that a woman called Mari Jones lived and worked as a knitter in the cottage in the 19th century. Knitters were perceived to be wealthy people, and when she died, at the turn of the century, her cottage was reputedly ransacked by people looking for gold. The cottage has never been occupied since. It is also said that the enclosure to the west of the cottage was a damson orchard although the fruit trees are now largely gone. The boundaries to the enclosure are old hedge banks that in some places the hedges have grown out into mature trees. Elsewhere the hedge has been coppiced.

## Recommendations

The site of Pantgwyn cottage should be carefully cleared of brambles and vegetation. The saplings that are becoming established on the site should be cut back and treated to prevent new growth.

**Management Category** C      **Visited by** AMP      **Visited On** 07/12/01

**PRN** 43939      **Site name** BACHYGWYDDIL      **NGR** SN35043657

**Site type** WEAVING SHED;BARN      **Period** Post Med      **Site Status**

## Description

This long low one storey building is constructed in roughly coursed rubble with a corrugated iron roof (plate 3). It has two low doorways, with timber lintels, in the north elevation with a small square opening to the east. Internally the barn has four bays with timber pegged trusses. Some of the trusses are upper cruck construction, with curved feet to the principal rafters which are carried on the stone wall (plate 4). These trusses have been modified to raise the pitch to the existing height of the roof. At the lower, west end of the building, large tie beams span the building at a low level which provides a half loft. At the eastern end of the building a narrow slit which has been inserted into the adjoining building (PRN 43940). The existence of fixtures and fittings can not be ruled out although none were identified during the farm visit, since the building is currently used as a store. The current owners believe that this building was used for weaving and that the narrowing opening into the adjoining building may have been access for a drive belt. This may also tie in with the small square opening in the north wall beside the doorway. There is no longer any evidence for the machinery associated with this.

## Recommendations

The weaving shed/barn should be maintained in a stable condition using traditional materials.

**Management Category** C      **Visited by** AMP      **Visited On** 07/12/01

PRN 43940      Site name BACHYGWYDDIL      NGR SN35043657

Site type STABLE;GRANARY      Period Post Med      Site Status

#### Description

This two-storey building adjoins the weaving shed/barn (PRN 43939) to the east (plate 3). It is also constructed in coursed rubble and has a recently repaired pitched slate roof. The north elevation has a stable door to the east and a small square window, both with timber lintels, which open into a stable. Internally a feed trough and a hayrack still survive against the south wall. To the west is a large cart entrance which has a reused timber lintel.

Above is a granary which is accessed by external stone steps up the east gable wall. The first floor is lit by two glazed windows, one a dormer, on the north elevation. The owners believe that this floor provided accommodation for the labourers.

This building has been recently repaired and the roof and structure is in good condition.

#### Recommendations

This stable and granary should continue to be maintained in a stable condition using tradition materials. The internal wooden stable fittings should be retained as important historical features of the building.

Management Category C      Visited by AMP      Visited On 07/12/01

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PRN 43941      Site name BACHYGWYDDIL      NGR SN35043659

Site type PIGSTY      Period Post Med      Site Status

#### Description

To the north side of the farmyard is a pair of pigsties constructed with coursed slate walls and a corrugated iron roof (plate 5). A monolithic slate wall divides the yard and the floors are also laid with slate. The feed trough to the west yard is cast iron, to the east it is concrete. The east end of the pigsty is very overgrown with ivy and the tin roof does not extend over the entire gable wall, here the masonry is beginning to deteriorate and the timber lintels over the doorways are also rotting.

#### Recommendations

The roof of the pigsties should be repaired to prevent water ingress, and the masonry consolidated.

Management Category C      Visited by AMP      Visited On 07/12/01

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PRN 43942      Site name BACHYGWYDDIL      NGR SN35043659

Site type DYEING SHED      Period Post Med      Site Status

#### Description

To the west of the pigsties (PRN 43941) is a single cell one storey outbuilding, constructed with roughly coursed rubble, and pitched slate roof. There is a central doorway in the south elevation with a plank door, to the east is a small square window with a timber lintel and slate sill and to the west is a tall narrow window which extends up into the eaves. It is further lit by a large window in the west gable end. The current owners believe that this building is the dyeing shed. Internally there are no fittings or fixtures remaining which indicate its function. The roof is in poor condition and the slates are loose and missing in places, and the masonry at the north west corner has collapsed.

#### Recommendations

The roof to the dyeing shed should be repaired to prevent further damage to the structure and the masonry walls should be repaired and consolidated using traditional materials.

Management Category C      Visited by AMP      Visited On 07/12/01

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**PRN** 43943      **Site name** BACHYGWYDDIL      **NGR** SN35053657

**Site type** BARN      **Period** Post Med      **Site Status**

**Description**

To the south of the farm buildings is a large dutch barn, constructed with a corrugated iron roof and an outshoot to the south. The central section of the roof is missing. A hoist remains suspended from the roof apex at the east end.

**Recommendations**

The dutch barn, although relatively modern in comparison to the other farm buildings, is also a historic feature of the farmstead and ideally the roof should be repaired and the building retained.

**Management Category** C      **Visited by** AMP      **Visited On** 07/12/01

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**PRN** 43944      **Site name** BACHYGWYDDIL      **NGR** SN35023673

**Site type** PLATFORM      **Period** Post Med?      **Site Status**

**Description**

To the north west extent of the farm where the land slopes steeply down to the track are two level platforms cut into the hill side. This area is now wooded and overgrown. Although there is no visible sign of any structures, they may have been the platforms for buildings associated with the quarry to the north or may have been the result of quarrying themselves.

**Recommendations**

These platforms within the hillside should be retained in their current stable state.

**Management Category** D      **Visited by** AMP      **Visited On** 07/12/01

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## **REFERENCES**

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Tithe Map, 1840, Tithe map for the parish of Penboyr, -  
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Ordnance Survey, 1988, Pathfinder 1034 (SN23-33, 1:25000

### **Written Description**

-, 1995, Leaflet for the Welsh Woollen Mill Trail, -



## Plates



Plate 1 – a boundary bank to the north of the farmyard, looking south east.



Plate 2 – the south west corner of Pantgwyn cottage (PRN 35484)





Plate 3 - showing the stable and granary in the foreground (PRN 43940) and the weaving shed/barn beyond (PRN 43939)



Plate 4 – the internal roof construction of the weaving shed/barn (PRN 43939)





Plate 5 – showing the pigsties in the foreground (PRN 43941) and the dyeing shed beyond (PRN 43942)



Plate 6 – the dutch barn to the south of the farmyard (PRN 43943)



**BACHYGWYDDIL  
TIR GOFAL FARM VISIT REPORT**

**REPORT NUMBER 2002/6**

**January 2002**

This report has been prepared by Alice Pyper

Position: Tir Gofal Archaeologist

Signature.....*Alice Pyper*.....

Date.....*1<sup>st</sup> February 2002*.....

This report has been checked and approved by Louise Austin on behalf of Cambria Archaeology,  
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Position: Principal Archaeological Officer (Curatorial)

Signature.....*Louise Austin*.....

Date.....*1<sup>st</sup> February 2002*.....

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