

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report

Glanrheidol

W/11/2204

Report Number 2002/14

**Report prepared for
CCW**



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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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GLANRHEIDOL
TIR GOFAL FARM VISIT REPORT

By

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CONTENTS

Introduction

Method Statement

General Description of Farm

Main Management Recommendations

Key to Management Categories

Site and Area Designations

Farm Maps

Gazetteer of Sites and Monuments, including Individual Management Recommendations

References

Photographs

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 current Glanrheidol farmstead incorporates the mansion house of Glanrheidol (PRN 7061) and its associated historic buildings. These include the stable block (PRN 43956) now converted to residential use, a cart shed (PRN 43955) to the east of the mansion, and a further open shed to the north (PRN 43954). The farm also includes the historic gardens, pleasure grounds and parkland related to the mansion house.

The first documented map evidence appears on the Old Series Ordnance Survey map of 1837 which names the house of Glan Rheidol. It indicates the extent of gardens and parkland which included the fields either side of the entrance drive.

The Tithe map and apportionment for Llanbadawn Fawr parish dated 1845, shows the farm extending to the north east and including the farm buildings which are now called Troedrhiwlwba. The apportionment lists the house along with 'Gardens Yards Pleasure Grounds and Pools'. At this time the farm was owned and occupied by James Hughes, a founder of the Roberts and Evans solicitors in Aberystwyth. The Tithe map shows two ponds to the south of the house surrounded by a plantation of deciduous and fir trees. To the west of the plantation an enclosure is indicated but not identified in the apportionment (PRN 43957). A square enclosure to the east of the house suggests a walled formal garden (PRN 43959). Within it is a wide border with a square structure at each corner.

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 indicates the layout of the farm has changed little over the last century. The two pools are labelled fish ponds to the south of the house. The square walled garden to the east has the appearance of a formal garden with paths along each axis dividing the garden into quarters. The parkland is also indicated by specimen trees, which may well have been surveyed in with some accuracy.

The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906 also has the extent of the parkland identified, again with specimen parkland trees identified. In addition there is a boat house (PRN 43964) marked to the south of one of the fish ponds.

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The farm is of particular interest because of the historic garden and pleasure grounds associated with the mansion house of Glanrheidol. The landscape and related structures survive largely intact and every effort should be made to retain these historic features. The farm presents an excellent opportunity to provide public access or educational visits.

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

PRN 44324 - Parkland

It would be highly desirable to reinstate the parkland, most notably the specimen tree planting which is so characteristic of parkland landscape. The Ordnance Survey mapping would be a useful tool in recreating the 19th century landscape with the accurate positioning of parkland trees. A key element in the parkland landscape is the uninterrupted vista, and where post and wire fencing has been introduced, these should be removed. Should restoration of the parkland/garden features be undertaken it is recommended that advice is sought from a historic gardens specialist.

PRN 43954 - Shed

The vegetation which is engulfing the shed should be carefully cut back and allowed to die before removal, and the masonry consolidated using traditional materials.

PRN 43955 - Cart shed

This cart shed needs structural repairs undertaking to support the west elevation above the entrance. These repairs should be carried out using traditional materials.

PRN 43959 - Walled Garden

This garden would appear to be the remains of an early 19th century (possibly earlier) formal walled garden. It is an important historical element in the setting of the Glanrheidol house and it would be very valuable to undertake a record of the garden. Although there is no visible indication of its' earlier layout, there are probably sensitive archaeological deposits surviving, therefore no ground disturbing activities should be undertaken in this area.

PRN 43960 - Privy House

The privy house should be conserved to prevent further deterioration and maintained using traditional materials.

PRN 43961 - Clom wall

This wall is a rare survival of the use of clom or mud construction in the context of a formal walled garden. The wall is degrading rapidly because the core construction is exposed to the elements and details, such as the sockets mentioned in the description, will be lost. Therefore it is recommended that a scheme of archaeological recording takes place as soon as possible.

PRN 43962 - Entrance to mansion drive

The low ashlar wall should be repaired and the iron railings reinstated.

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.

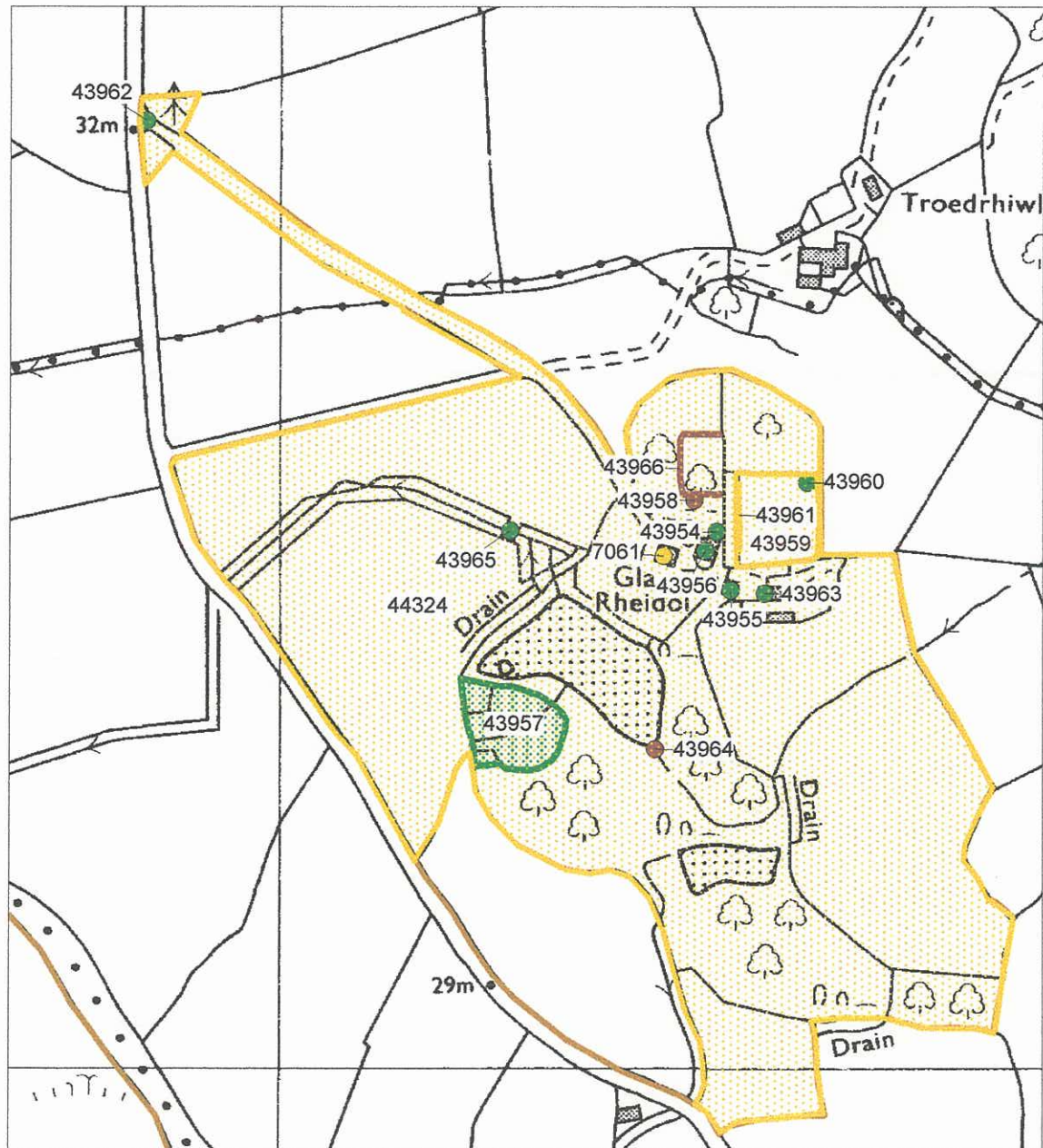
HLW Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales

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)

Glanrheidol Farm Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
Countryside Council for Wales Reference Number W/11/2204
Cambria Archaeology Reference Number 41690
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GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN 7061 **Site name** GLAN RHEIDOL **NGR** SN66287935

Site type DWELLING **Period** Post Med **Site Status** LB2

Description

The Cadw Listing Description from 1964 states: Probably early 19th century. A country house of medium size and irregular plan. Stone with slated roof and brick stacks. Two storeys. Sashes. Four-window front. Doorway has coupled wood Doric columns and fanlight. Panelled door. Two-storeyed porch at rear.

The north east facing facade has a symmetrical front with a central double doorway and a semi-circular fanlight of radiating glazing bars. Two large windows each side of the doorway have 12 pane sashes, repeated on the first floor with an additional central window over the door.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations

Management Category * **Visited by** AMP **Visited On** 31/01/02

PRN 43954 **Site name** GLANRHEIDOL **NGR** SN66327929

Site type SHED **Period** Post Med **Site Status**

Description

A stone built shed is situated up a bank to the north east of the house (plate 1). It is constructed with square stone piers at each corner (except at the north east corner which has a cast iron column) and at each midpoint including a central internal pier. The north end of the shed is open. The south end is infilled with rubble stone walling to eaves level. The gable ends are boarded over. It has a slate covered pitched roof supported by an A frame truss and the tie beam is supported by a central middle pier. The shed is currently in use as a store, however it may originally have been a cart shed or machinery shed. It is in a poor condition, overgrown with ivy in places and the south roof truss is starting to rot.

Recommendations

The vegetation which is engulfing the shed should be carefully cut back and allowed to die before removal, and the masonry consolidated using traditional materials.

Management Category C **Visited by** AMP **Visited On** 31/01/02

PRN 43955 **Site name** GLANRHEIDOL

NGR SN66337935

Site type CART SHED

Period Post Med

Site Status

Description

A cart shed is situated to the east of the house (plate 2). It is constructed in slate rubble walling with a slate covered pyramidal roof and a weather vane on top. The west elevation has a large double door entrance (although the doors do not survive) with a large timber lintel. To the south of the entrance a window has been inserted with a wooden lintel and slate sill. Above the entrance is a doorway with a plank door. The south elevation has two doorways at ground level. To the west is a doorway with a 6 panelled door with drilled ventilation holes. The east doorway is inserted. The roof is in good condition, however the west wall has large structural cracks above the double entrance.

Recommendations

This cart shed needs structural repairs undertaking to support the west elevation above the entrance. These repairs should be carried out using traditional materials.

Management Category C

Visited by AMP

Visited On 31/01/02

PRN 43956 **Site name** GLANRHEIDOL

NGR SN66317938

Site type DWELLING

Period Post Med

Site Status

Description

To the east of Glanrheidol house is a low square building constructed in rubble walling with a slate pitched roof hipped at each end. The main south facing facade has a central doorway with windows and blocked doorways to either side. In addition there are three dormer windows. The west facing elevation has two low wide brick arches, now blocked and a central bell turret above. Presumably this building was originally a stable block and has now been converted for residential use.

Recommendations

This building is currently the home of the owner therefore no management recommendations apply.

Management Category *

Visited by AMP

Visited On 31/01/02

PRN 43957 **Site name** GLANRHEIDOL

NGR SN66177925

Site type ENCLOSURE

Period Post Med

Site Status

Description

An enclosure is marked on the Tithe map of 1845 although not identified in the apportionment. It is visible now as earthwork features. A holloway about 0.5m deep indicates the entrance to the enclosure which is bounded by low stone and earth banks. The enclosure is roughly D-shaped and approximately 75 metres by 60 metres. Along the western edge are two roughly rectangular enclosures. The Tithe also indicates the location of a building within the enclosure although this is no longer visible.

Recommendations

The enclosure is an interesting component to the historic landscape at Glanrheidol and the earthworks should be maintained as visible features. There are probably sensitive archaeological remains below ground surface, therefore it is important that no ground breaking activities are undertaken in this area.

Management Category C

Visited by AMP

Visited On 31/01/02

PRN 43958

Site name GLANRHEIDOL

NGR SN66307942

Site type UNKNOWN

Period Post Med

Site Status

Description

In the enclosure to the north of the house is a roughly square stone feature set in the ground surface and largely obscured by turf. It is approximately 2m by 2.5m and composed of quartz, slate and cobble kerbs around a slightly sunken interior.

Recommendations

This stone feature should be retained. It would be desirable if this feature could be investigated and recorded to determine its original form and function. Archaeological advice should be sought before undertaking any investigation of the feature.

Management Category D

Visited by AMP

Visited On 31/01/02

PRN 43959

Site name GLANRHEIDOL

NGR SN66367940

Site type WALLED GARDEN

Period Post Med

Site Status

Description

The Tithe map of 1845 records the walled garden as rectangular with a wide border (plate 3). Unusually it suggests that within the border, at each corner, is a large square structure. By the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1891) the garden is recorded with paths dividing it into quadrants with a building at the north east corner (PRN 43960). The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map no longer shows the axial paths but the four internal structures survive. There is also an indication of trees placed in the east and west border.

The garden is currently under pasture. There are no visible structures except part of a clom wall (PRN 43961) and a building (PRN 43960). The north and east boundaries are now largely hedged and fenced.

Recommendations

This garden would appear to be the remains of an early 19th century (possibly earlier) formal walled garden. It is an important historical element in the setting of the Glanrheidol house and it would be very valuable to undertake a record of the garden. Although there is no visible indication of its' earlier layout, there are probably sensitive archaeological deposits surviving, therefore no ground disturbing activities should be undertaken in this area.

Management Category B

Visited by AMP

Visited On 31/01/02

PRN 43960 **Site name** GLANRHEIDOL

NGR SN66387943

Site type PRIVY HOUSE

Period Post Med

Site Status

Description

In the north east corner of the walled garden (PRN 43959) is a square built structure (plate 4), although not shown on the Tithe map of 1845 it appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891. The structure survives to a height of about 1.8 metres except the east wall has collapsed much further. It is about 3.5 metres east-west and 2.2 metres north-south. It is constructed in slate rubble built to courses. There are two doorways in the south elevation and a small window high in the east wall. The structure is bonded with lime mortar and internally there are the remains of a lime finish on the south wall which also suggests the position of a partition. Together with the remains of two water tanks inside the evidence suggests that this was a privy house.

Recommendations

The privy house should be conserved to prevent further deterioration and maintained using traditional materials.

Management Category C

Visited by AMP

Visited On 31/01/02

PRN 43961 **Site name** GLANRHEIDOL

NGR SN66337940

Site type WALL

Period Post Med

Site Status

Description

The remains of a clom or mud wall survive along the west edge of the walled garden (plate 5). The wall survives to a height of approximately 2 metres and in two sections, approximately 13 metres and 10 metres long. The ground level adjoining the wall is raised in relation to the surrounding ground surface, which appears to be due to the collapse of the wall. The wall is largely composed of mud with straw and stone inclusions. At a level of about 0.4 metre from the ground surface there is a horizontal row of round sockets, which in places penetrate the width of the wall. One socket at least has a wooden peg in situ, suggesting a structure was fixed against the wall.

Recommendations

This wall is a rare survival of the use of clom or mud construction in the context of a formal garden. The wall is degrading rapidly because the core construction is exposed to the elements and details, such as the sockets mentioned in the description, will inevitably be lost. Therefore it is recommended that a scheme of archaeological recording takes place as soon as possible.

Management Category B

Visited by AMP

Visited On 31/01/02

PRN 43962 **Site name** GLANRHEIDOL

NGR SN65907969

Site type GATEWAY;WALL

Period Post Med

Site Status

Description

The entrance gateway to Glanrheidol is flanked by low, ashlar stone walls with iron railings. To the north the stone wall has collapsed and some of the railings are displaced.

Recommendations

The low ashlar wall should be repaired and the iron railings reinstated.

Management Category C

Visited by AMP

Visited On 31/01/02

PRN 43963 **Site name** GLANRHEIDOL **NGR** SN66357935

Site type COW SHED **Period** Post Med **Site Status**

Description

A low one-storey building is situated to the east of the farmstead. It is constructed with brick to the east and stone to the west. The west elevation has a central door with a window to either side. The openings have brick dressings and concrete lintels and sills. The roof is pitched and covered with corrugated asbestos. This building is in reasonable condition.

Recommendations

This cow shed should be maintained in a stable condition.

Management Category C **Visited by** AMP **Visited On** 31/01/02

PRN 43964 **Site name** GLANRHEIDOL **NGR** SN66277923

Site type BOAT HOUSE **Period** Post Med **Site Status**

Description

The position of a boat house is first identified on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906. No trace of the boat house could be identified on the farm visit.

Recommendations

Although no trace of the boat house could be identified on the farm visit, this area has dense shrub cover and the remains of the boat house may still survive. If any clearance is undertaken in this area care should be taken to identify any structures.

Management Category D **Visited by** AMP **Visited On** 31/01/02

PRN 43965 **Site name** GLANRHEIDOL **NGR** SN66167939

Site type BRIDGE **Period** Post Med **Site Status**

Description

A stone bridge constructed over the stream which runs through a culvert beneath. The bridge is approximately 2 metres wide.

Recommendations

The bridge should continue to be maintained in a stable condition.

Management Category C **Visited by** AMP **Visited On** 31/01/02

PRN 43966 **Site name** GLANRHEIDOL **NGR** SN66297944

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

Description

The remains of an earthwork is visible in the enclosure to the north of the house. It consists of a rectangular raised bank, approximately 14 metres east-west and 30 metres north-south.

Recommendations

This very slight earthwork should be retained. No ground breaking activities should be undertaken in this area.

Management Category D **Visited by** AMP **Visited On** 31/01/02

PRN 44324

Site name GLANRHEIDOL

NGR SN66277929

Site type PARK

Period Post Med

Site Status

Description

The historic parkland is identified on both the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps (1891 and 1906) which have marked the position of specimen trees. Many of these specimen trees have since gone and the parkland is now under pasture. The boundaries which appear on the early mapping survive intact. The fish ponds and surrounding shrubberies and woodland also survive, although somewhat overgrown.

Recommendations

It would be highly desirable to reinstate the parkland, most notably the specimen tree planting which is so characteristic of the parkland landscape. The Ordnance Survey mapping would be a useful tool in recreating the 19th century landscape with the positioning of parkland trees. A key element in the parkland landscape is the uninterrupted vista, and where post and wire fencing has been introduced, these should be removed. Should restoration of the parkland/garden features be undertaken it is recommended that advice is sought from a historic gardens specialist.

Management Category B

Visited by AMP

Visited On 31/01/02

Plates



Plate 1 – an open shed (PRN 43954) to the north of Glanrheidol house



Plate 2 – the cart shed (PRN 43955) to the east of Glanrheidol house



Plate 3 – the walled garden looking north east (PRN 43959)



Plate 4 – the remains of a privy house (PRN 43960) in the north east corner of the walled garden



Plate 5 – the remains of a clom or mud wall (PRN 43961)

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**GLANRHEIDOL
TIR GOFAL FARM VISIT REPORT**

REPORT NUMBER 2002/14

February 2002

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Signature Alice Pyper..... Date 1/3/02.....

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 28/02/02.....

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