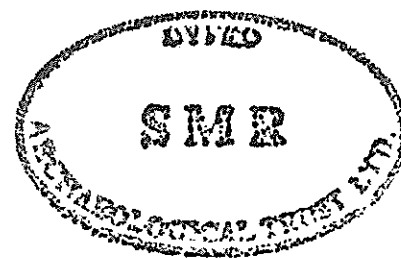


APRIL 2002



Brynele Home Farm W/11/1795

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



Report No. 2002/41

Report Prepared for:
Countryside Council for Wales



A R C H A E O L O G

CAMBRIA

A R C H A E O L O G Y

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2002/41
PROJECT RECORD NO. 41691

April 13 2002

Brynele Home Farm
W/11/1795
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

By

Neil Ludlow

Cambria Archaeology is the marketing name of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited.

The report has been prepared for the specific use of the client. The Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd can accept no responsibility for its use by any other person or persons who may read it or rely on the information it contains.

ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF
Ffôn: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121
Adran Rheoli Trefladaeth 01558 823131
Ffacs: 01558 823133
Ebost: cambria@acadat.com Gwefan: www.acadat.com

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited
The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131
Fax: 01558 823133
Email: cambria@acadat.com Website: www.acadat.com

The Trust is both a Limited Company (No. 1198990) and a Registered Charity (No. 504616)
CADEIRYDD CHAIRMAN: B.C.BURNHAM, MA PHD FSA MIFA. CYFARWYDDWR DIRECTOR: E G HUGHES BA MIFA

CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Method Statement	3
General Description of farm	4
Main Management Recommendations	6
Gazetteer of Sites and Monuments	8
Site and Area Status Glossary	30
References	31
Farm Map	

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

Brynele Home Farm, Ceredigion (PRN 44816) is a large holding occupying an upland location. Much of the holding, particularly in the southern half, lies on boggy, peaty ground while much of the northern half comprises fairly steep hillslopes. Some of this northern area is improved pasture, but the majority of the land is unimproved pasture. An exception are the five fields immediately surrounding the early 20th century 'gentry house' at the centre of the holding, Plas Brynele (PRN 44820), which are improved pasture. These fields are defined by boundaries, with substantial banks and ditches, supporting planted standard trees (now mature) and in good condition – all in contrast with the rest of the holding. The banks appear to have limestone rubble dry-stone cores. Around the south and east perimeters of these enclosures is an external, 3 metre wide 'causeway' of 'cobbles' set in turf, to provide a hard stand over the boggy ground on these sides. The bridge/dam PRN 44844 carries this 'causeway' over a substantial drainage ditch.

Other field boundaries vary. Some are very substantial banks, employing much limestone rubble, up to 1 metre tall. Others are less substantial banks. In the boggy areas, the banks are accompanied by substantial drainage ditches. More recent boundaries are represented by post-and-wire fences. Many banks, particularly on the higher ground, do not now support hedges, but some of these support some gorse. Other banks have low, intermittent thorn hedges. Few are by themselves stockproof, and nearly all are supplemented with post-and-wire, or wire-mesh fencing.

Drainage has always been the primary concern, particularly in the southern half. There is physical evidence of ridge-and-furrow ploughing (PRN 44824) in one of the southwestern fields, running north-south towards leat PRN 44821 and the natural stream. It is fairly 'narrow rig', ie. it measures approximately 2.5 metres from ridge-to-ridge, and it may be post-medieval in date, resulting from steam-ploughing. There is also physical evidence, in the form of slight linear depressions, of a gridded drainage system in the central three fields on the southern side of the holding, of (later) post-medieval date. Substantial drainage ditches of recent date have also been cut through the boggy areas.

Brynele has a long history of occupation. At the core of the holding is the farm, a home farm since c.1906 when Plas Brynele (PRN 44820) was erected within an enclosure at the centre of the holding. The enclosure was created out of the eastern half of a large field depicted on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891; the house, but not the enclosure, is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1906. However, Brynele's gentrification was a continuation of an earlier tradition. The farmstead was a minor gentry house which appears to have had its origins in the late 17th century (Jones 2000, 33-4). The present farmhouse (PRN 44817) is of late 18th-early 19th century character, but is not shown on the Nantcwnlle tithe map of 1839 and so may be a little later and in conservative style. Only one traditional farm building – possibly a cow shed – now survives (PRN 44819). However, a row of tenant/farmworker cottages, of probable early 19th century date (PRN 44818), were converted into a milking parlour in the mid-late 20th century. Both these buildings, and at least two others - one of which may have been the original farmhouse - were depicted in 1839. By 1891 the farmstead had very much assumed its present layout and the present farmhouse had been built. However, the 20th century has seen the introduction of a number of steel-framed farm buildings, and breeze-block silage/slurry pits, some of which have been

erected over the sites of the earlier buildings, the physical evidence for which they have possibly removed.

Most of the enclosures within the southern half of the farm had been established by 1839 and some of them, particularly those with substantial banks, may be as early as the 17th century. However, the northern half of the holding remained unenclosed until the later 19th century and was probably common moorland throughout most of the post-medieval period. Evidence for occupation of this moorland, by the rural poor, comes in the form of a number of Deserted Rural Settlement sites. The evidence for these dwellings and homesteads can be observed in the form of low turf/rubble banks which mark the sites of their walls. They are particularly concentrated on the sheltered, east-facing hillslope which forms the northeast quarter of the holding. The presence of at least one longhut (PRN 44836) suggests that this 'squatter' occupation began early in the post-medieval period. Few of these dwellings are accompanied by any evidence of encroachment in the form of associated enclosures or field boundaries. However plough marks, represented by a pattern of close, narrow, shallow linear depressions, are associated with a number of these sites, particularly on the eastern flank.

The other main archaeological interest at Brynele is the survival of a number of features which appear to represent prehistoric funerary and ritual sites. Two circular features (PRNs 44822 and 44825) in the southern half of the holding may be bronze age round barrows (burial mounds); however, there is the possibility that they mark the site of post-medieval goose-pens, although there is no visible evidence of accompanying settlement. A further rubble feature, PRN 44826, is perhaps a better barrow candidate whilst a rubble mound on the summit of a low hill north of the farmstead, PRN 44830, is visible from a great distance and may represent a ritual cairn site.

Other features are mainly post-medieval and domestic. However, there are two quarry sites (PRNs 44829 and 44841), probably both post medieval, while the holding is crossed by a leat (PRN 4421) that supplied the post-medieval mill of Felin Rhyd-y-groes. In addition, three cropmark sites have been observed on aerial photographs (PRNs 6003-6005), but were not identified in the field.

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Field boundaries should be retained and managed in a sustainable manner.

PRN 6003 – Unknown

Any intrusive groundworks for drainage, or other purposes, should avoid this site.

PRN 6004 – Unknown

Any intrusive groundworks for drainage, or other purposes, should avoid this site.

PRN 6005 – Unknown

Any intrusive groundworks for drainage, or other purposes, should avoid this site.

PRN 9923 – Cottage

Preservation of the associated plough-marks may be encouraged through stock-level management. Further ploughing should be avoided.

PRN 44818 – Cottages/milking parlour

The buildings require sensitive consolidation using traditional materials. Primarily, they need to be made weatherproof. This may involve replacement of some of the roof timbers, and the replacement of the sheet-metal roofing with more sympathetic materials. The loose masonry in the northern building needs to be made good. As the milking parlour has become disused, consideration may be given to removing the breeze-block wall to the farmyard, which cuts the buildings off from the context of the yard.

PRN 44827 – Sheep pens

Any intrusive groundworks should avoid this site.

PRN 44829 – Quarry

Maintain any remains in current condition. Do not infill or remove spoil tips.

PRN 44830 – Ritual cairn? Round barrow?

Preservation of the remaining section of the feature may be encouraged through stock-level management.

PRN 44831 – Building

Preservation of the remains of the building may be encouraged through stock-level management.

PRN 44839 – Buildings

There is potential for surviving buried archaeological remains associated with the buildings and no intrusive groundworks should be undertaken in this area. Maintain as existing.

PRN 44840 – Building?

There is potential for surviving buried archaeological remains associated with the ?building and no intrusive groundworks should be undertaken in this area. Superficial clearance of the gorse, from above the roots, should be undertaken to expose more of the feature. Preservation of the associated plough-marks may be encouraged through stock-level management. Further ploughing should be avoided.

PRN 44841 – Quarry

Ideally the quarry should be cleaned out and maintained as a visible historic landscape feature, with vegetation control.

SN SS NE

GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN	6003	Site Name	Bryn-haidd	Grid Reference	SN570596
Site Type	Unknown	Period	Unknown		

Description

Circular cropmark feature of unknown significance, noted on aerial photographs. Not observed in the field, unless it is represented by PRN 44822 (ring barrow?). See PRN 44822. The feature occupies an area currently undergoing drainage trenching.

Recommendations

Any intrusive groundworks for drainage, or other purposes, should avoid this site.

Site Category D

PRN	6004	Site Name	Bryn-haidd	Grid Reference	SN56795963
Site Type	Unknown	Period	Unknown		

Description

Circular cropmark feature of unknown significance, noted on aerial photographs. Not observed in the field. It is possible that the noted feature does not relate to surviving archaeological remains. The feature occupies an area currently undergoing drainage trenching.

Recommendations

Any intrusive groundworks for drainage, or other purposes, should avoid this site.

Site Category D

PRN	6005	Site Name	Felin Rhyd-y-groes	Grid Reference	SN56625988
Site Type	Unknown	Period	Unknown		

Description

Circular cropmark feature of unknown significance, noted on aerial photographs. Not observed in the field. It is possible that the noted feature does not relate to surviving archaeological remains. The feature occupies an area currently undergoing drainage trenching.

Recommendations

Any intrusive groundworks for drainage, or other purposes, should avoid this site.

Site Category D

SN 56 SE

PRN	9223	Site Name	Banc-du	Grid Reference	SN56926086
Site Type	Cottage	Period	Post Med		

Description

Site of dwelling, demolished – to be used as hardcore on Brynele farmstead - during the early 1970s. It is now represented only by an amorphous spread of rubble approximately 15 metres in diameter, on a slight raised knoll in a steep, south facing hillslope. It was presumably of crude, drystone construction. The building probably originally derived from squatter settlement when this part of the holding was still unenclosed, common moorland ie. during the 17th-mid 19th centuries. There is no visible physical evidence for any accompanying enclosure. However, the adjacent west-facing hillslope exhibits a pattern of close, narrow, shallow linear depressions, presumably plough-marks. The farmer states that a spring is also associated with the site, but this was not observed during the farm visit. The site is not marked on either the Ordnance Survey 1" map of 1834 or the Nantcwnlle tithe map of 1839, but is marked and named on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891 where it is depicted as associated with a yard, for which there is now no visible physical evidence.

Recommendations

Preservation of the plough-marks may be encouraged through stock-level management. Further ploughing should be avoided.

Site Category C

PRN	44817	Site Name	Brynele	Grid Reference	SN56686034
Site Type	Farmhouse	Period	Post Med		

SN 56 SE

Description

The farmstead was a minor gentry house which appears to have had its origins in the late 17th century. The earlier farmhouse appears however not to have occupied the site of the present house which is of late 18th-early 19th century character, but is not shown on the Nantcwnlle tithe map of 1839 and so may be a little later and in conservative style. It is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891 and lies at the north end of the farmyard facing south. It is in the local vernacular, of whitewashed rubble masonry, with two storeys beneath a slate gable roof, and masonry end chimneys. The 3-bayed elevations are asymmetrical, the bay to the east of the central entry being wider, to accommodate a large fireplace; this more than anything else gives the house its early or conservative appearance. Openings are simple and square-headed, beneath lintel-stones. The present gabled porch may be a later addition. There is small, walled terraced yard/garden along the south side of the house.

Recommendations

The farmhouse is not included in the Tir Gofal management agreement as it is occupied as a dwelling.

Site Category C



Plate 1 – The farmhouse (PRN 44817) from the south

PRN	44818	Site Name	Brynele	Grid Reference	SN56656032
Site Type	Cottages/milking parlour	Period	Post Med		SN56SE

Description

Long, north-south row of buildings forming the west side of the farmyard. The row comprises four separate buildings, but they now lie beneath a continuous gable roof. All are in whitewashed rubble masonry. The southern building is slated; over the remainder the roof is corrugated metal sheeting. All buildings now comprise a single storey, with a deep loft-space over the southern three, and appear never to have been larger. The southernmost building retains the most original features, including a fireplace and masonry chimney in its southern (gable) wall. The external southeast corner has a pronounced bevel at ground level. Internally, this building is divided into two areas. In the southern half is a domestic room, with the fireplace, and a simple window in the east wall. The northern half is accessed through a large, vehicular entry in the east wall and appears to have been a cart shed. Both openings have segmental masonry heads, and the window has an original slate sill. The remainder of the buildings have been converted. The central two buildings are now a milking parlour (recently disused and used for storage). The stalls, concrete floor and breeze-block divides are mid-late 20th century. However, its east wall retains its central doorway with two flanking windows, similar to those in the southernmost building although the windows have simple lintels. The original form of the north-central building is more difficult to establish and a lean-to corrugated sheet-metal building (formerly a dairy?) has been erected against the east wall. The northernmost building lies higher up the slope and its floor level higher, effectively meaning that the building is lower. It is very simple and has a simple square doorway, its head at eaves level, in the east wall. It may always have been an ancillary building. However, as a whole, the buildings appear to represent a row of tenant/farmworker cottages, of probable early 19th century date. It is depicted on the Nantcwnlle tithe map of 1839. The whole row now lies behind (west of) a north-south breeze-block wall, which obscures them from the farmyard. The buildings are now in fair condition only. The roofs are only just weatherproof, and the roof timbers – which, except in the southernmost building, are probably late 19th – early 20th century – appear damp. Door and window frames are similarly in poor-fair condition, whilst some of the masonry facework in the northernmost building appears loose.

Recommendations

The buildings require sensitive consolidation using traditional materials. Primarily, they need to be made weatherproof. This may involve replacement of some of the roof timbers, and the replacement of the sheet-metal roofing with more sympathetic materials. The loose masonry in the northern building needs to be made good. As the milking parlour has become disused, consideration may be given to removing the breeze-block wall to the farmyard, which cuts the buildings off from the context of the yard.

Site Category C



Plate 2 – the cottages/milking parlour (PRN 44818) from the northeast



Plate 3 – the cottages/milking parlour (PRN 44818) from the southeast

PRN	44819	Site Name	Brynele	Grid Reference	SN56696031
Site Type	Cow shed?	Period	Post Med		SNS6SE

Description

North-south rectangular masonry building, forming the east side of the farmyard, which is depicted on the Nantcwnlle tithe map of 1839. It comprises a large ground floor space with a loft over. Much of the northern half of the building, including the west wall, has been rebuilt in breeze-block in the mid-late 20th century, but the slate gabled roof structure appears to be earlier and spans the entire building. There is an original ground floor entry in each side wall, both of which are fairly narrow, and two original ground floor windows lie in the east wall, and one in the west wall. All openings are simple, with square heads of voussoirs or lintels. The loft is lit by a window in the west wall, with its head at eaves level. The original function of the building is now difficult to discern, but the presence of a loft suggests that it was either a stable or – more likely a cow shed, and a wider ground floor entry (or entries) may have formerly existed in the rebuilt northern half of the east wall. The building is in fair-good condition.

Recommendations

Maintain as existing, using traditional materials.

Site Category C



Plate 4 – the ?cow shed (PRN 44819) from the west

PRN	44820	Site Name	Plas Brynele	Grid Reference	SN56996022
Site Type	Major dwelling	Period	Post Med		SN56SE

Description

House, within square lawned enclosure. The house itself is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1906 but the enclosure, which was created out of the eastern half of a large, pre-existing field, is not. The house was presumably new in 1906 and is somewhat eclectic, being 'Arts & Crafts' in spirit but also informed by the Edwardian taste for the 'Scottish baronial', in rubble masonry with a variety of roof styles. The enclosure comprises a lawn, within which the house lies, and a paddock to the south, divided from the surrounding fields by planted tree-belts and avenues.

Recommendations

The house, which is occupied as a dwelling, and enclosure are not included in the Tir Gofal management agreement.

Site Category C

PRN	44821	Site Name	Brynele	Grid Reference	SN567597
Site Type	Leat	Period	Post Med		SN56NE

Description

Leat, now largely dry, which supplied Felin Rhyd-y-groes just to the west of the holding. Mill and leat are shown on the Nantcwnlle tithe map of 1839, but do not appear to be shown on the Ordnance Survey 1" map of 1834. The leat is now a linear area of marshy ground, 1.5 metres wide, running from east to west alongside a natural stream. The stream supplied a pond, now dry, which in turn supplied the leat from its east end. The pond is also now represented by an area of marshy ground measuring approximately 100 metres east-west and 40 metres north-south. The steep north side of this pond may have been enhanced by cutting back the natural north-facing hillside. Leat and pond are in fair-good condition with little livestock erosion.

Recommendations

The leat and pond should be preserved as visible features.

Site Category C

PRN 44822 Site Name Brynele Grid Reference SN56095960

Site Type Ring barrow? Period Bronze Age? Post Med? SN55NE

Description

Circular earthwork feature, approximately 5 metres in diameter, within an area of boggy ground on a north-facing hillslope. The earthwork stands approximately 0.1 metres above its surroundings, and has a saucer-shaped depression in the centre, measuring approximately 3 metres in diameter. The feature may be a bronze age ring barrow and its location, overlooked by its surroundings and also by ?ritual cairn PRN 44830, is consistent with such an interpretation (Leighton 1997, 74). However, there is evidence of a gridded drainage system in this and neighbouring fields, of (later) post-medieval date, which appears not to affect the feature. This may suggest that the feature is contemporary and possibly represents a goose-pen. This feature may be the same as PRN 6003. The feature is in fair-good condition with little livestock erosion.

Recommendations

The possible ring barrow should be preserved as a visible feature. There is potential for surviving buried archaeological remains associated with such a barrow and no intrusive groundworks should be undertaken in this area.

Site Category C

PRN 44823 Site Name Brynele Grid Reference SN56655971

Site Type Platform? Period Unknown SN55NE

Description

Possible platform, function and date unknown, represented by a possible rectangular area, measuring approximately 20 metres east-west and 3 metres north-south, raised slightly above the surrounding boggy ground. The feature is in fair-good condition with little livestock erosion.

Recommendations

The platform should be preserved as a visible feature. There is potential for surviving buried archaeological remains associated with the platform and no intrusive groundworks should be undertaken in this area. Maintain as existing.

Site Category D

PRN	44824	Site Name	Brynele	Grid Reference	SN566598
Site Type	Ridge-and-furrow	Period	Post Med?		SNSSNE

Description

A pattern of linear north-south ridges, approximately 0.05 metres high. They appear to represent ridge-and-furrow ploughing, running south towards leat PRN 44821 and the natural stream. The pattern is fairly 'narrow rig', ie. it measures approximately 2.5 metres from ridge-to-ridge, and it may be post-medieval in date, resulting from steam-ploughing. The pattern is in fair-good condition with little livestock erosion.

Recommendations

The pattern should be preserved as a visible feature. No intrusive groundworks should be undertaken in this area. Maintain as existing.

Site Category C

PRN	44825	Site Name	Brynele	Grid Reference	SN56725992
Site Type	Round barrow?	Period	Bronze Age? Post Med?		SNSSNE

Description

Circular earthwork feature, approximately 4.5 metres in diameter, within an area of boggy ground on a south-facing hillslope. The earthwork stands approximately 0.1 metres above its surroundings. The feature may be a bronze age round- or ring barrow and its location, overlooked by its surroundings and also by ?ritual cairn PRN 44830, is consistent with such an interpretation (Leighton 1997, 74). However, it lies within ridge-and-furrow PRN 44824 which appears not to affect the feature- which may then be contemporary, possibly representing a goose-pen? The feature is in fair-good condition with little livestock erosion.

Recommendations

The ?barrow should be preserved as a visible feature. There is potential for surviving buried archaeological remains associated with the barrow and no intrusive groundworks should be undertaken in this area. Maintain as existing.

Site Category C

PRN	44826	Site Name	Brynele	Grid Reference	SN56825996
Site Type	Round barrow? Ritual cairn?	Period	Bronze Age?		SN55NE

Description

Suboval feature, measuring approximately 6 metres east-west and 3 metres north-south. It comprises a mound of medium sized, angular limestone rubble which is largely exposed but, around the periphery of the feature, lies beneath the turf. A small hawthorn tree has become established in this turf area. The summit of the mound is approximately 0.2 metres above the surrounding ground. The feature appears formerly to have been circular but lies at what is now the interface between a dry north-facing slope and the boggy ground at its foot. The southern part of the feature, where it occupies the boggy ground, appears to have been lost. The feature may then represent a bronze age round barrow or ritual cairn, over which a turf may have formed throughout, but has been disturbed. The feature is in fair-good condition with little livestock erosion.

Recommendations

The ?barrow should be preserved as a visible feature. There is potential for surviving buried archaeological remains associated with the barrow and no intrusive groundworks should be undertaken in this area. Maintain as existing.

Site Category B

PRN	44827	Site Name	Brynele	Grid Reference	SN57046028
Site Type	Sheep pens	Period	Post Med		SN56SE

Description

Sheep pens marked to the north of Plas Brynele on the Ordnance Survey landline data. There is now no visible physical evidence for the pens.

Recommendations

Any intrusive groundworks should avoid this site.

Site Category D

PRN	44828	Site Name	Brynele	Grid Reference	SN56576028
Site Type	Pond	Period	Post Med		SN56SE

Description

Small pond immediately south-west of Brynele farmstead, measuring approximately 50 metres east-west and 25 metres north-south. It appears to have become dry by 1964 when it was marked on the Ordnance Survey 6" map as an area of marshy ground. It has been partially re-excavated as an ornamental feature in recent years. It dates from after 1891 – it is not marked on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of that year – and it may have been an ornamental or sporting feature constructed under the tenure of Plas Brynele.

Recommendations

None.

Site Category D

PRN	44829	Site Name	Brynele	Grid Reference	SN56806039
Site Type	Quarry	Period	Post Med		SN56SE

Description

'Old quarry' marked on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891. Not observed during farm visit. Now marked as a pond on the Ordnance Survey landline data.

Recommendations

Maintain any remains in current condition. Do not infill or remove spoil tips.

Site Category C

PRN	44830	Site Name	Brynele	Grid Reference	SN56756043
Site Type	Ritual cairn? Round barrow?	Period	Bronze Age?		SN56756

Description

Irregular, grassy earth-rubble mound, roughly suboval in plan, measuring approximately 4 metres east-west and 1.5 metres north-south, standing to a height of 0.30 metres. It is much eroded on all sides and undoubtedly only part of the feature now survives. It occupies a very prominent position on the skyline and may represent a damaged bronze age ritual cairn. The feature is heavily poached.

Recommendations

Preservation of the remaining section of the feature may be encouraged through stock-level management. There is also potential for surviving buried archaeological remains associated with the feature and no intrusive groundworks should be undertaken in this area.

Site Category B

PRN	44831	Site Name	Brynele	Grid Reference	SN56836042
Site Type	Building	Period	Post Med		SN56836

Description

Very fragmentary remains of rectangular building, measuring approximately 5 metres north-south and 3 metres east-west, on the fringe of boggy ground to the northeast of Brynele farmstead. The building is represented by low, turf banks, only 0.2 metres high at most, containing limestone rubble, and was presumably of crude, drystone construction. There is no evidence for any internal partitions. The building probably derives from squatter settlement when this part of the holding was still unenclosed, common moorland ie. during the 17th-mid 19th centuries, and may have been a dwelling. There is no visible physical evidence for any accompanying enclosure and the nature of the settlement may have been pastoral (but note plough-marks associated with other post-medieval Deserted Rural Settlement sites on the holding). The site is not marked on either the Ordnance Survey 1" map of 1834, the Nantcwnlle tithe map of 1839 or the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891. The site is heavily poached.

Recommendations

Preservation of the remains of the building may be encouraged through stock-level management. There is also potential for surviving buried archaeological remains associated with the building and no intrusive groundworks should be undertaken in this area.

Site Category C

PRN	44832	Site Name	Brynele	Grid Reference	SN56876034
Site Type	Deserted Rural Settlement/Buildings	Period	Post Med		5N56SE

Description

Very fragmentary remains of 3 ?rectangular buildings. They lie next to each other, in an east-west line on the north side of a trackway along the fringe of boggy ground to the northeast of Brynele farmstead. The buildings are represented by low, intermittent turf banks, 0.1 metres high at most, containing limestone rubble, and their original form is now difficult to discern. Their average size seems to have been approximately 5 metres by 4 metres and they were presumably of crude, drystone construction. There is no evidence for any internal partitions. The buildings may be classed as belonging to a Deserted Rural Settlement site, probably associated with squatter settlement when this part of the holding was still unenclosed, common moorland ie. during the 17th-mid 19th centuries, and may have been a dwelling. There is no visible physical evidence for any accompanying enclosure and the nature of the settlement may have been pastoral (but note plough-marks associated with other post-medieval Deserted Rural Settlement sites on the holding). The site is not marked on either the Ordnance Survey 1" map of 1834, the Nantcwnlle tithe map of 1839 or the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891. The site is in fair-good condition with little livestock erosion.

Recommendations

The remains should be preserved as a visible feature. There is also potential for surviving buried archaeological remains associated with the buildings and no intrusive groundworks should be undertaken in this area. Maintain as existing.

Site Category C

PRN	44833	Site Name	Quarry-bach	Grid Reference	SN57296088
Site Type	Dwelling	Period	Post Med		SN5656

Description

Site of demolished dwelling, represented by a rectangular area of limestone rubble at the highest point of the north side of the holding. It measures approximately 30 metres northeast-southwest and 3 metres wide, but not significantly raised above the surrounding ground. It is presumably derived from a crude, drystone building. The dwelling was probably originally associated with squatter settlement when this part of the holding was still unenclosed, common moorland ie. during the 17th-mid 19th centuries. There is no visible physical evidence for any accompanying enclosure and the nature of the settlement may have been pastoral (but note plough-marks associated with other post-medieval Deserted Rural Settlement sites on the holding). The site is not marked on either the Ordnance Survey 1" map of 1834 or the Nantcwnlle tithe map of 1839, but is marked and named on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891 where it is depicted as associated with a yard, for which there is now no visible physical evidence. However, a small, circular stony area 100 metres southwest, 1.5 metres in diameter, is said by the farmer to mark the site of a spring. Despite the name of the holding, there is no direct evidence of the presence of an abandoned quarry although a cutting in the hillside to the west may have been extractive in origin. The site is in fair-good condition with little livestock erosion.

Recommendations

The remains should be preserved as a visible feature. There is also potential for surviving buried archaeological remains associated with the dwelling and no intrusive groundworks should be undertaken in this area. Maintain as existing.

Site Category C

PRN	44834	Site Name	Brynele	Grid Reference	SN57486074
Site Type	Deserted Rural Settlement/Dwelling	Period	Post Med		SN56SE

Description

Site of rectangular building, now represented by low, turf banks, at most only 0.1 metres high, containing limestone rubble and presumably of crude, drystone construction. It measures approximately 4 metres east-west and 2 metres north-south, being set longitudinally on the east-facing hillslope at the northeast edge of the holding. Similar low banks to the north define a yard measuring approximately 8 metres north-south and 4 metres east-west. The site probably derives from squatter settlement when this part of the holding was still unenclosed, common moorland ie. during the 17th-mid 19th centuries, and may have been a dwelling. There is no visible physical evidence for any accompanying enclosure and the nature of the settlement may have been pastoral (but note plough-marks associated with other post-medieval Deserted Rural Settlement sites on the holding). The site is not marked on either the Ordnance Survey 1" map of 1834, the Nantcwnlle tithe map of 1839 or the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891. The site is in fair-good condition with little livestock erosion.

Recommendations

The remains should be preserved as a visible feature. There is also potential for surviving buried archaeological remains associated with the dwelling and no intrusive groundworks should be undertaken in this area. Maintain as existing.

Site Category C

PRN 44835 Site Name Brynele Grid Reference SN57536081
 Site Type Longhut? Period Post Med SN563E

Description

Rectangular depression, but forming a platform along its eastern side, measuring approximately 3 metres north-south and 1 metre east-west, set transversely on the east-facing hillslope at the northeast edge of the holding. The eastern half of the feature appears to be truncated by a path/sheepwalk. The feature may represent a longhut, suggesting that it belongs to early post-medieval settlement when this part of the holding was still unenclosed, common moorland. There is no visible physical evidence for any accompanying enclosure and the nature of the settlement may have been pastoral (but nb. plough-marks associated with other post-medieval Deserted Rural Settlement (DRS) sites on the holding). The site is not marked on either the Ordnance Survey 1" map of 1834, the Nantcwnlle tithe map of 1839 or the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891. The site is in fair-good condition with little livestock erosion.

Recommendations

The remains should be preserved as a visible feature. There is potential for surviving buried archaeological remains associated with the possible longhut site and no intrusive groundworks should be undertaken in this area. Maintain as existing.

Site Category C

PRN	44836	Site Name	Brynele	Grid Reference	SN57536070
Site Type	Longhut?	Period	Post Med		SNS6SE

Description

Possible building/longhut site, defined by, at its west end, a vertical rock outcrop 1 metre high and 3 metres north-south, on the east-facing hillslope at the northeast edge of the holding. Leading eastwards from the exposure, for 3.5 metres, are two low earth/rubble banks that are 0.2 metres high and 2 metres apart. They may represent the north and south walls of a structure, but there is now no visible evidence for an east wall. The structure may have been a longhut, suggesting that it belongs to early post-medieval settlement when this part of the holding was still unenclosed, common moorland. There is no visible physical evidence for any accompanying enclosure and the nature of the settlement may have been pastoral (but note plough-marks associated with other post-medieval Deserted Rural Settlement sites on the holding). The site is not marked on either the Ordnance Survey 1" map of 1834, the Nantcwnlle tithe map of 1839 or the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891. The site is in fair-good condition with little livestock erosion.

Recommendations

The remains should be preserved as a visible feature. There is also potential for surviving buried archaeological remains associated with the possible longhut and no intrusive groundworks should be undertaken in this area. Maintain as existing.

Site Category C

PRN	44837	Site Name	Brynele	Grid Reference	SN57536069
Site Type	Dwelling?	Period	Post Med		SN56SE

Description

Short stretch of dry limestone rubble walling, measuring 3 metres east-west, 1.5 metres high and 0.5 metres wide, that formed the south wall of an east-west, rectangular building that is marked on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891. The walling, which is a continuation of an east-west field boundary bank, exhibits no features such as openings. There is in addition now no evidence for the yard depicted to the south of the building in 1891, which appears to have been a dwelling. The site probably derives from squatter settlement when this part of the holding was still unenclosed, common moorland ie. during the 17th-mid 19th centuries, and may have been a dwelling. There is no visible physical evidence for any accompanying enclosure and the nature of the settlement may have been pastoral (but nb. plough-marks associated with other post-medieval Deserted Rural Settlement (DRS) sites on the holding). The site is not marked on either the Ordnance Survey 1" map of 1834 or the Nantcwnlle tithe map of 1839. The site is in fair-good condition with little livestock erosion.

Recommendations

The remains should be preserved as a visible feature. There is also potential for surviving buried archaeological remains associated with the possible dwelling and no intrusive groundworks should be undertaken in this area. Maintain as existing.

Site Category C

PRN	44838	Site Name	Blaen-pant	Grid Reference	SN57566063
Site Type	Farmstead	Period	Post Med		SN56SE

Description

Site of farmstead, marked and labelled on the Ordnance Survey 1" map of 1834, the Nantcwnlle tithe map of 1839 and the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891. However, there is now no visible physical evidence for either of the two buildings depicted, or the associated system of yards/boundaries.

Recommendations

There is potential for surviving buried archaeological remains associated with the farmstead and no intrusive groundworks should be undertaken in this area. Maintain as existing.

Site Category C

PRN	44839	Site Name	Brynele	Grid Reference	SN57576058
Site Type	Buildings	Period	Post Med		SN56SE

Description

In the same enclosure as Blaenpant, 50m to the south, a complex of at least two buildings is marked on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891. They appear to represent the site of a homestead which may have split from Blaen-pant in the late 19th century – the buildings are not marked on the Ordnance Survey 1" map of 1834 or the Nantcwnlle tithe map of 1839. There is now no visible physical evidence for either of the buildings depicted, or the associated yard.

Recommendations

There is potential for surviving buried archaeological remains associated with the buildings and no intrusive groundworks should be undertaken in this area. Maintain as existing.

Site Category C

PRN	44840	Site Name	Brynele	Grid Reference	SN57436053
Site Type	Building?	Period	Post Med		SN56SE

Description

An amorphous limestone rubble spread, occupying a 15 square metre area of the steep east-facing hillslope at the northeast edge of the holding, that appears to represent the site of a demolished building, presumably of crude, drystone construction. No form or structure can now be defined. The building probably originally derived from squatter settlement when this part of the holding was still unenclosed, common moorland ie. during the 17th-mid 19th centuries. There is no visible physical evidence for any accompanying enclosure. However, the entire hillslope to the south, as far as PRN 44843, exhibits a pattern of close, narrow, shallow linear depressions, presumably plough-marks. The site is not marked on either the Nantcwnlle tithe map of 1839 or the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891, but it may be depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1" map of 1834 (see PRNs 44842 and 44843). The area of the possible building lies under thick gorse.

Recommendations

There is potential for surviving buried archaeological remains associated with the possible building and no intrusive groundworks should be undertaken in this area. Superficial clearance of the gorse, from above the roots, should be undertaken to expose more of the feature. Preservation of the plough-marks may be encouraged through stock-level management. Further ploughing should be avoided.

Site Category C

PRN	44841	Site Name	Brynele	Grid Reference	SN57306029
Site Type	Quarry	Period	Post Med		SN56SE

Description

Limestone quarry in the steep east-facing hillslope at the northeast edge of the holding. It is fairly narrow, measuring approximately 10 metres from north to south, but extends westwards into the hillslope for approximately 100 metres. It is not marked on either the Ordnance Survey 1" map of 1834, the Nantcwnlle tithe map of 1839 or the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891. The quarry has been used for dumping scrap cars, parts and other metal and is now entirely choked.

Recommendations

Ideally the quarry should be cleaned out and maintained as a visible historic landscape feature, with vegetation control.

Site Category C

PRN	44842	Site Name	Brynele	Grid Reference	SN57316024
Site Type	Dwelling?	Period	Post Med		SN56SE

Description

Very fragmentary remains of a rectangular building represented by low, intermittent turf banks, 0.3 metres high at most, and some areas of limestone rubble. It measures approximately 3m east-west and 4 metres north-south. The building probably derives from squatter settlement when this part of the holding was still unenclosed, common moorland ie. during the 17th-mid 19th centuries, and may have been a dwelling. There is no visible physical evidence for any accompanying enclosure and the nature of the settlement may have been pastoral (but note plough-marks associated with other post-medieval Deserted Rural Settlement sites on the holding). The site is not marked on either the Nantcwnlle tithe map of 1839 or the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891, but it may be depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1" map of 1834 1834 (see PRNs 44840 and 44843).

Recommendations

The remains should be preserved as a visible feature. There is also potential for surviving buried archaeological remains associated with the building and no intrusive groundworks should be undertaken in this area. Maintain as existing.

Site Category C

PRN	44843	Site Name	Brynele	Grid Reference	SN57256027
Site Type	Dwelling?	Period	Post Med		SN56SE

Description

Very fragmentary remains of a rectangular building represented by low, intermittent turf banks, 0.3 metres high at most, and some areas of limestone rubble. It measures approximately 4m northeast-southwest and 4 metres northwest-southeast, and is set longitudinally in the east-facing hillslope at the northeast edge of the holding. The building probably derives from squatter settlement when this part of the holding was still unenclosed, common moorland ie. during the 17th-mid 19th centuries, and may have been a dwelling. There is no visible physical evidence for any accompanying enclosure. However, the entire hillslope to the north, as far as PRN 44840, exhibits a pattern of close, narrow, shallow linear depressions, presumably plough-marks. The site is not marked on either the Nantcwnlle tithe map of 1839 or the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891, but it may be depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1" map of 1834 (see PRNs 44840 and 44842).

Recommendations

The remains should be preserved as a visible feature. There is also potential for surviving buried archaeological remains associated with the visible remains and no intrusive groundworks should be undertaken in this area. Maintain as existing.

Site Category C

PRN	44844	Site Name	Brynele	Grid Reference	SN57256010
Site Type	Bridge/culvert	Period	Post Med		SN56SE

Description

Substantial mortared limestone rubble revetment. It carries the 'causeway' that runs around the perimeter of the nuclear Plas Brynele fields over a deep drainage ditch/watercourse. The structure (and causeway) is 3 metres wide (north-south), 4 metres long (east-west) and approximately 2.5 metres high. It contains a small, square culvert that is set above the level of the drainage ditch, deliberately causing the water to cascade, presumably as an ornamental feature. The structure (and causeway) is probably contemporary with Plas Brynele ie. early 20th century. The structure is in good condition.

Recommendations

Maintain as existing. Any repairs should be undertaken using traditional materials.

Site Category C

PRN	44845	Site Name	Brynele	Grid Reference	SN56646051
Site Type	Clearance cairn?	Period	Bronze Age?		SN5652

Description

Possible clearance cairn observed by Tir Gofal Project Officer. Not observed during farm visit.

Recommendations

The possible clearance cairn should be preserved as a visible landscape feature.

Site Category C

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, 1819, Original Surveyors' Drawings, Sheet 308

Ordnance Survey, 1834, 1" mile Old Series, Sheet LVII

Nantcwnlle parish, tithe map and apportionment, 1839

Ordnance Survey, 1891, Cardiganshire Sheet XX SW, 1st edition, 1:10560

Ordnance Survey, 1891, Cardiganshire Sheet XXVI NW, 1st edition, 1:10560

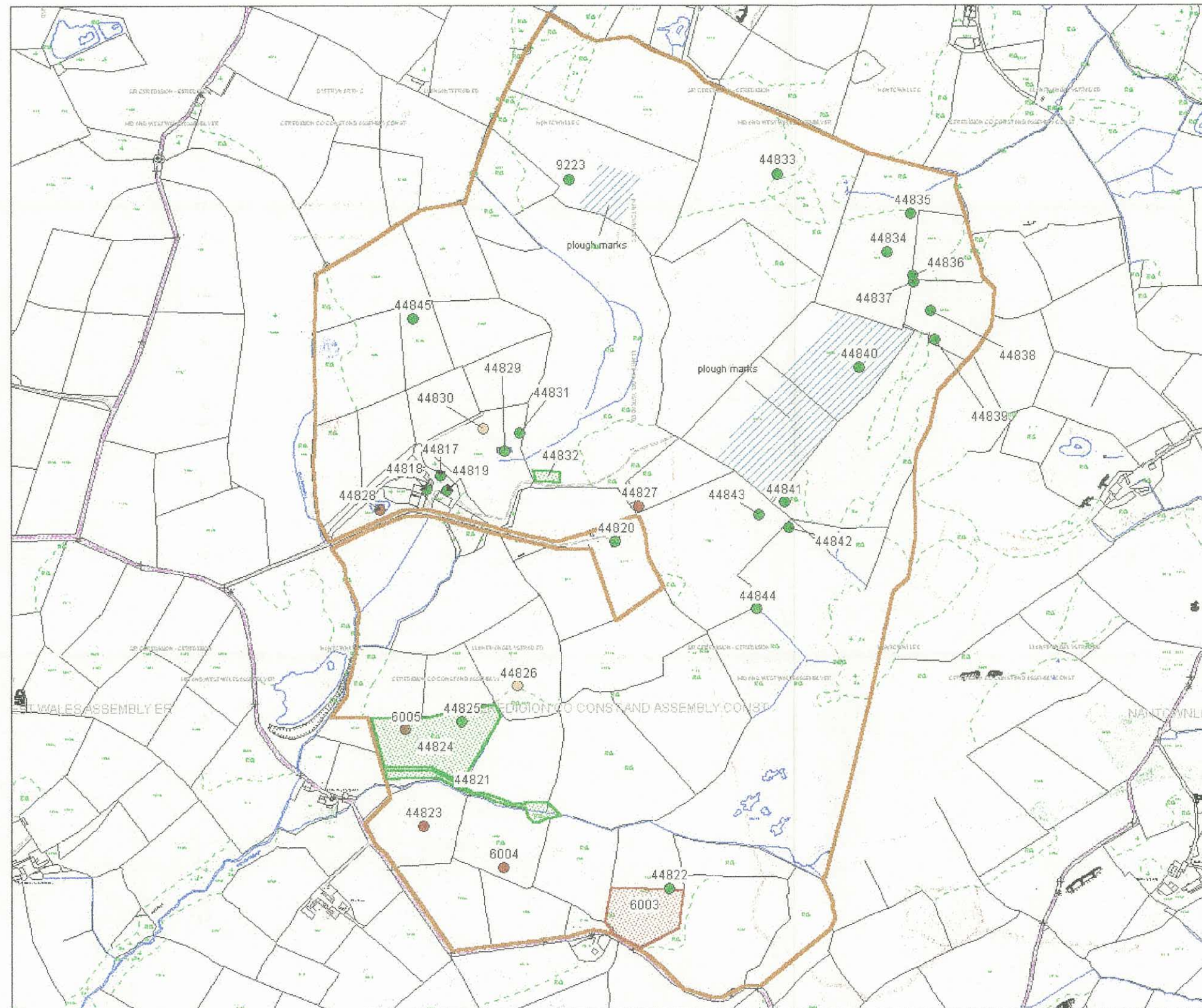
Ordnance Survey, 1906, Cardiganshire Sheet XX SW, 2nd edition, 1:10560

Ordnance Survey, 1906, Cardiganshire Sheet XXVI NW, 2nd edition, 1:10560

Written description

F Jones, 2000, Historic Cadiganshire Homes and their Families, p.33-4

D Leighton 1997, Mynydd Ddu and Fforest Fawr: The Evolution of an Upland Landscape in South Wales



Brynele Farm
 Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/11/1795
 Cambria Archaeology Reference Number 41691
 National Grid Reference SN56996028
 Scale 1:7200

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.

**Brynele Home Farm
W/11/1795
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report**

REPORT NUMBER 2002/41

April 2002

This report has been prepared by Neil Ludlow

Position: Project Manager

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