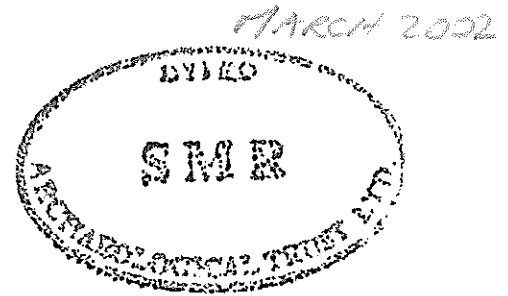
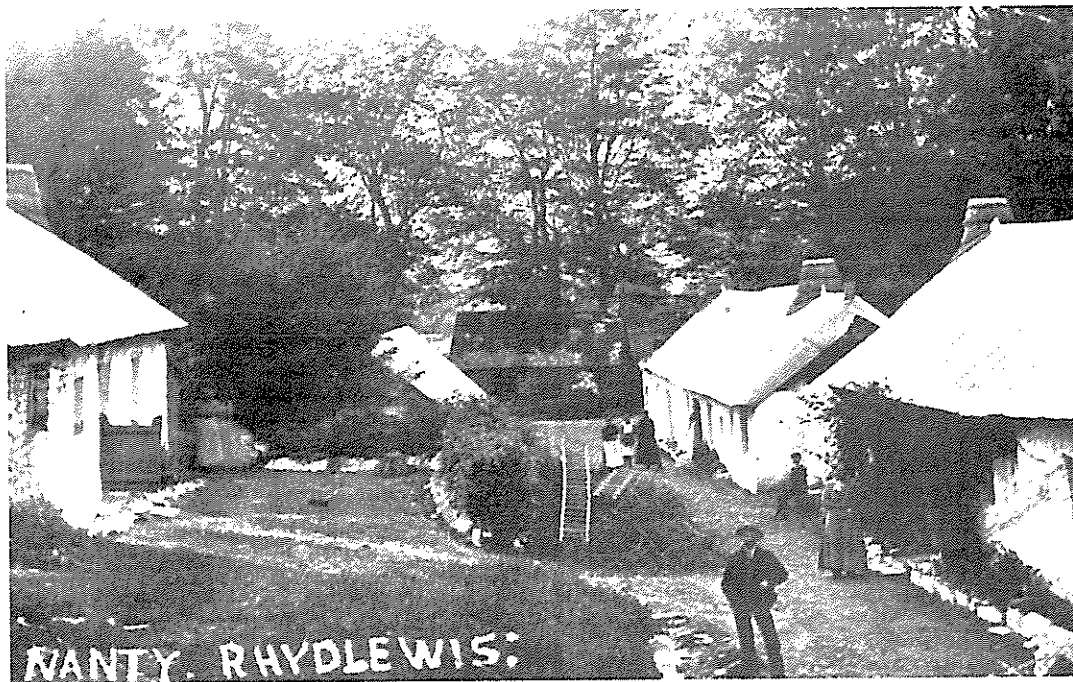


**Gwernant Home Farm  
W/11/1595**



**Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report**



Report No. 2002/33

Report Prepared for:  
Countryside Council for Wales

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY  
REPORT NO. 2002/33  
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Gwernant Home Farm  
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

By  
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## **INTRODUCTION**

This report is intended to provide a statement on the condition and recommended management of all known archaeological and historical sites and features on this farm at the time it was visited by Cambria Archaeology. This information will be used to inform the Tir Gofal Management Agreement for the farm.

### **Method Statement**

The farm visit consisted of two phases:

Phase 1 was a rapid search of all readily available documentary, cartographic and published sources to try to understand the historical development of the farm and the wider landscape and to identify new sites of archaeological interest. The searches undertaken include information held in the regional Sites and Monuments Record, the relevant County Records Office and the National Library of Wales. New sites, or areas of interest were plotted onto a Geographical Information Systems based map for use during the field survey and for the final report.

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

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF FARM

The farm of Gwernant (PRN 44580) has an interesting history and a rich collection of archaeological remains. It includes the derelict mansion of Plas Gwernant (PRN 17398), and the associated home farm (PRN 6619), where the current farm is based. It has been suggested that the home farm complex may contain medieval remains (RCAHMW 1983). The derelict mansion makes an impressive ruin and is testament to the resources of John Lloyd-Williams, who built the house, and the wealth his wife brought to the family. In addition there is the possible site of an earlier mansion (PRN 44593), the predecessor of Plas Gwernant, to the north of the existing house, which is supported by a reference by G.E. Evans in *Cardiganshire* that the 'mansion... formerly stood in the hollow' (Jones, 2002, p141).

There are vestiges of the historic parkland and ornamental woodland still surviving on the farm, including specimen and ornamental trees, and also the former walled garden (PRN 44590). In addition there are many other features, which form part of the estate signature, these include impressive stone banks, used for field boundaries and also defining track ways. These are often constructed with stone in a herringbone pattern.

The evidence of the infrastructure of a wealthy, working estate survives on the modern farm. These include two dams (PRNs 44583 and 44584), which are immense engineering structures in their own right and were presumably constructed to ensure a constant water supply for the estate.

Evidence for the human support which was required in the effective running of the estate, survives with the last remaining cottage (PRN 9883) of the settlement of Nant y Gwernant (PRN 44588) which was built by the Lloyd Williams family to house estate workers (Jones, 2002, p143).

The field pattern itself is composed of medium to large fields of fairly regular square shape. This pattern appears to have been established at least by the time of the Tithe survey in 1837. Some additional field boundaries, which were recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891, appear to have been removed.

The owners have a keen interest in the history of the farm and have gathered together an invaluable collection of old photographs (see frontispiece), documentation and oral history relating the farm and estate. The repairs they have been systematically carrying out on the mansion of Plas Gwernant and the farm buildings demonstrate their concern for the survival of the historic buildings.

## **MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

There is an exceptional array of historic buildings and structures on this farm, which survive in various states of preservation. The mansion of Plas Gwernant would appear to be the most vulnerable of these buildings, added to which it appears that there is little information recorded about the structure. It would seem logical therefore, to bring this significant building to the attention of the Royal Commission of Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales in order to make a record of the structure in advance of any further decay.

There would appear to be opportunities to present the former settlement of Nant y Gwernant to the public or for educational access.

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

### **PRN 6619 Gwernant Farmhouse and farm buildings**

These buildings should continue to be maintained in a stable and watertight condition. The south range appears to need structural repairs which should be undertaken at the earliest possible opportunity.

Care should be taken to retain the historic internal fittings including the feed racks, and any machinery associated with the waterwheel.

### **PRN 9883 Nant y Gwernant Cottage**

This little ruin is the last surviving remains of the settlement of Nant y Gwernant and a type of cottage that, although once abundant, are fast disappearing. It is important that the ruin is stabilized as far as possible, therefore intrusive vegetation should be controlled and the wall tops consolidated in sympathetic materials.

### **PRN 17398 Plas y Gwernant**

The substantial ruin of the Plas Gwernant mansion is an impressive feature of the landscape which unfortunately has fallen into a perilous condition. In order to stop the rapid decay of the fabric, essential consolidation works should be carried out. The most important aspect of this is to control the vegetation which has become established amongst the ruins, and this should ideally be combined with consolidation of the masonry wall tops. Preferably the existing roof structure should be repaired and retained where possible.

The terraced area to the north of the mansion should be cleared of the existing wood pile to enhance the visibility of the ruins.

In the event that further historic fabric is lost through decay or the process of consolidation, it is essential that an archaeological survey is undertaken to record the structure.

#### **PRN 44581 Cart Shed**

The cart shed should continue to be maintained in a stable and watertight condition using traditional materials. The ivy, which is beginning to grow over the east corner, should be cut and allowed to die before removal.

#### **PRN 44583 & 44584 Dams**

These impressive stone structures would appear to have been constructed to provide a constant water supply for the Gwernant Estate. The structures are beginning to deteriorate and urgent works are required to remove the intrusive vegetation, this should be cut back and allowed to die. The masonry should then be repaired and consolidated. Care should be taken to control the vegetation, and where it has become embedded in the masonry it may be better to treat the roots to prevent any grow back.

#### **PRN 44586 Slate boundary**

It would appear that this finely constructed stone bank is a relic of the earlier parkland and should be retained and maintained in a stable condition as far as possible. Encroaching brambles should be cleared to expose this feature. The re-instatement of the hedge may prevent animals from climbing on the bank and contributing to the erosion.

#### **PRN 44588 Nant y Gwernant**

The area once occupied by the settlement of Nant y Gwernant would seem to offer a good opportunity for educational or public access. The settlement is situated beside the road and is easily accessible to the public, which could perhaps be enhanced by the addition of an interpretation panel.

Sensitive archaeological deposits undoubtedly survive in this area, therefore no ground intrusive activities should take place within this area (see attached map).

The area would also benefit from vegetation control to enhance the visibility of the area.

#### **PRN 44590 Walled Garden**

In order to prevent the further decay of this significant structure, it is important that the vegetation is brought under control. This will involve cutting vegetation and allowing it to die, and the roots may need to be treated to prevent regrowth. Any removal of the vegetation should be undertaken with care and in conjunction with the consolidation of the masonry.

#### **PRN 44592 Gwernant-isaf**

This structure, although heavily modified for agricultural use, retains some interesting features relating to its earlier use as a dwelling. It should therefore be retained and maintained to prevent any further loss of the historic fabric. This will involve the repair of the roof, the control of intrusive vegetation and some consolidation of the masonry. In the event that further fabric of the building will be lost through decay, archaeological advice should be sought.

## GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

<b>PRN</b>	6619	<b>Site Name</b>	Gwernant Farmhouse	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33644613
<b>Site Type</b>	Farmhouse and farm buildings	<b>Period</b>	Medieval? Post medieval	<b>Site status</b>	LB2

### Description

The following account is taken from the listed building description, Cadw 1963; Probably 18th century and built round a court. Colour-washed stone with slated roofs. Central gatehouse with segmental arches and of two storeys with hipped roof. House on left of gatehouse, two storeys. Stone stacks. Sashes. Two-window front. Outbuildings. Two storeys and one storey. Segmental arches at south-east. The core may well be earlier than would appear at first sight (Cadw 1963).

The courtyard complex forms an impressive array of farm buildings, with an impressive south west façade with turreted gatehouse (plate 1). It is constructed in coursed rubble stone with pitched roofs covered in slate to the north and elsewhere in corrugated asbestos and dark clay tiles. The openings are generally built with low stone arches and slate sills. The exterior of the courtyard was only visible to the south west. The ground surface appears to have been cobbled to the south of the courtyard, in some areas the yard has been concreted and what appears to be natural bedrock outcrops elsewhere.

The north west range is composed of the two-storied farmhouse to the west and a low one-storey cow shed to the east. The south east facing wall has three doorways and six windows, four of which have been filled in with block work.

The north east range consists of a two-storey range with a granary at the north end accessed by external stone steps. Beneath is a with a wide doorway to the ground floor. To the south is a barn open to the roof. Apparently to the east of the barn there was a waterwheel, driven by water collected in various holding ponds which were originally situated to the east of the farm in an area which is currently occupied by large agricultural sheds.

The south east range of farm buildings is composed of a cow shed to the east with a central doorway and ventilation slits to either side. To the west is a stable with a higher roof line, also with a central doorway and two square windows either side. At the extreme west of the range is a wide entrance with a segmental arch to a cart shed. Some wooden fittings exist in the south range, including loose boxes and feed racks.

The south west range is two storey and includes the farmhouse at the north end, and a cart house at the south with two segmental arched cart entrances, one of which is blocked.

This range of buildings survives largely intact, with only some modifications. The structure is largely in good condition although the south range appears to be suffering some structural failings and has been supported with props. The owners have obviously taken trouble to maintain the buildings which is a substantial undertaking.

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### Recommendations

These buildings should continue to be maintained in a stable and watertight condition. The south range requires structural repairs which should be undertaken at the earliest possible opportunity.

Care should be taken to retain the historic internal fittings including the feed racks, and any machinery associated with the waterwheel.

### Site Category B

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<b>PRN</b>	9883	<b>Site Name</b>	Nant y Gwernant	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33734617
<b>Site Type</b>	Cottage	<b>Period</b>	Post medieval		

### Description

The following description is taken from a record undertaken by the RCAHMW in 1981; Small derelict cottage close to a stream; embanked garden adjacent. Walls of split slatey rubble (naturally breaking roughly rectangular) in clay; clay wall head. Wooden lintels; one small sash window, one casement. Partitions of boarding under rough beams; very good strap-hinges to the partition door. Boarded loft (? ladder access opposite main doorway); wickerwork fireplace hood collapsed, inserted stone oven in corner. Roof thatched (now covered in corrugated iron); corduroy of branches below heather, then straw thatch over. Top thatch and any roping has perished. No sign of an eaves roll; no evidence for ridge detail. Chimney appears to have been thatched. Rough collar-beam trusses. (RCAHMW, 1981)

The cottage has deteriorated considerably since this record was taken (plate 2). The tin roof described has fallen in completely and the clay wall heads have since eroded away. The masonry is also now beginning to collapse. A photograph (of unknown date) in the possession of the owners shows this hamlet when all the cottages were inhabited and well kept (see frontispiece). This particular cottage, like the rest, did indeed have a thatched chimney and the roof may also have been thatch with a corrugated tin roof overlaid. To the south the cottage was also attached to another building, also possibly a cottage.

### Recommendations

This little ruin is the last surviving remains of the settlement of Nant y Gwernant and a type of cottage that, although once abundant, are fast disappearing. It is important that the ruin is stabilized as far as possible, therefore intrusive vegetation should be controlled and the wall tops consolidated in sympathetic materials.

### Site Category B

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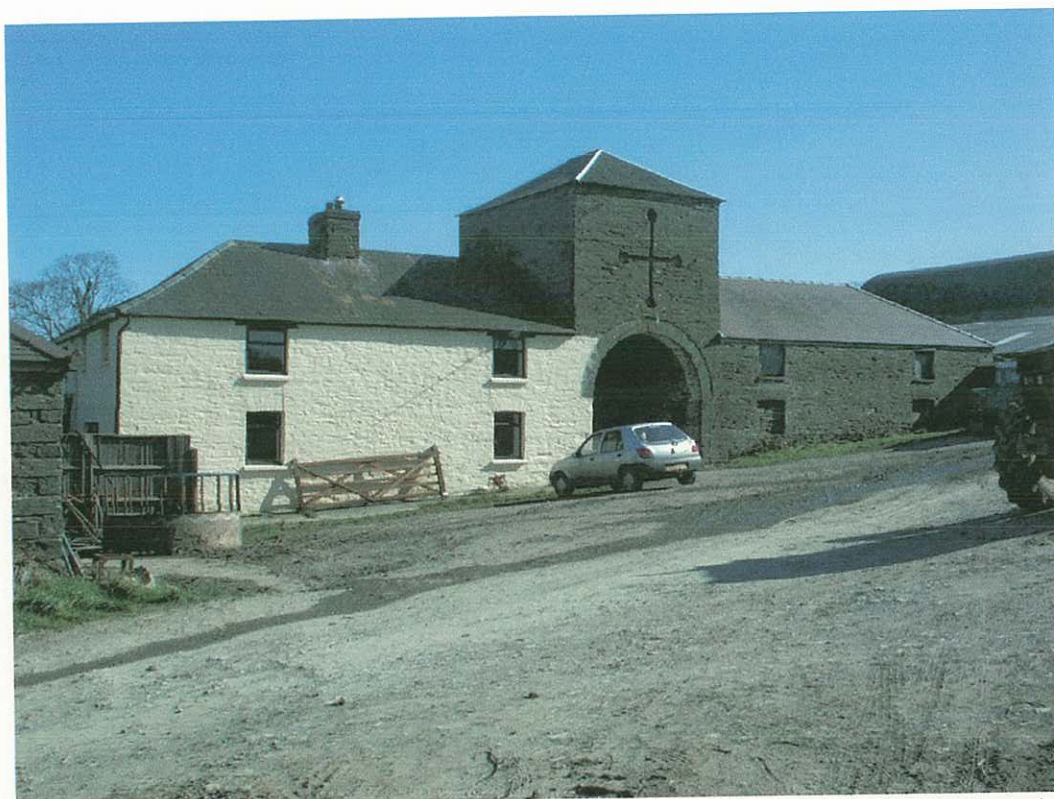


Plate 1 – the farmhouse and farm buildings (PRN 6619) arranged in a courtyard plan.



Plate 2 – the last remaining cottage at Nant y Gwernant (PRN 9883).

<b>PRN</b>	17398	<b>Site Name</b>	Plas y Gwernant	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33424603
<b>Site Type</b>	Mansion House	<b>Period</b>	Post medieval		

### Description

The following description is taken from a record undertaken by the RCAHMW in 1983; Plas Gwernant was a substantial mansion probably early 19th century in date consisting of a central double-pile residential block between two service units. It must at one time have constituted an imposing group. The whole is now in a state of ruin, and as the front of the mansion facing south collapsed it is impossible to make out any details of the plan. The surviving rear wall has a central pediment. The windows were of the vertical sliding sash type set in reveals. (RCAHMW, 1983)

The building was apparently built in 1811 for John Lloyd Williams who married the daughter of the Earl of Aldborough, whose large dowry largely helped to pay for the lavish mansion. (Jones 2000, p142). The original surveyors drawings of 1811 indicate that the mansion was given the English name 'Alderbrook Hall' and that 'Gwernant' – the same name in Welsh – was actually applied to the former farmstead of Gwernant-isaf (PRN 44592). At the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 the mansion was called Plas y Gwernant.

A photograph of the mansion shows that the north west facing elevation also had a projecting pedimented front which was demolished in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century for safety reasons. The wings to either side of the mansion survive to full height in most places and some roof structure survives on the east and west wings, exhibiting a pegged slate roof covering. In many areas the ruins are becoming overgrown with ivy and brambles although the owners have been carrying some consolidation works and capping of wall tops in places. To the north of the mansion is a terraced area which has been used to store wood and other materials (plate 3).

### Recommendations

The substantial ruin of the Plas Gwernant mansion is an impressive feature of the landscape, which unfortunately has fallen into a perilous condition. In order to stop the rapid decay of the fabric, essential consolidation works should be carried out. The most important aspect of this is to control the vegetation which has become established amongst the ruins, and this should ideally be combined with consolidation of the masonry wall tops. Preferably the existing roof structure should be repaired and retained where possible.

The terraced area to the north of the mansion should be cleared of the existing wood pile to enhance the visibility of the ruins.

In the event that further historic fabric is lost through decay or the process of consolidation, it is essential that an archaeological survey is undertaken to record the structure.

**Site Category** B

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<b>PRN</b>	18015	<b>Site Name</b>	Gwernant	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33624622
<b>Site Type</b>	Quarry	<b>Period</b>	Post medieval		

**Description**

This substantial stone quarry is probably where the stone for the mansion was extracted. It is identified on the original surveyors drawings of 1811. The quarry is visible located to the side of the road, set within woodland.

**Recommendations**

The quarry should be kept open and clear of debris.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	40384	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33694647
<b>Site Type</b>	Cottage	<b>Period</b>	Post medieval		

**Description**

The site of a cottage has been identified from the original surveyors drawings of 1811. Subsequent mapping evidence does not identify any structures or enclosures in this location and no visible traces were identified during the farm visit.

**Recommendations**

Although there may be no visible trace of any building, there may well be sensitive archaeological deposits which survive below ground level. It is therefore recommended that no ground intrusive work is carried out in this area.

**Site Category** D

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<b>PRN</b>	40385	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33804664
<b>Site Type</b>	Cottage	<b>Period</b>	Post medieval		

**Description**

The site of a cottage has been identified from the original surveyors drawings of 1811. Subsequent mapping evidence does not identify any structures or enclosures in this location and no visible traces were identified during the farm visit.

**Recommendations**

Although there may be no visible trace of any building, there may well be sensitive archaeological deposits which survive below ground level. It is therefore recommended that no ground intrusive work is carried out in this area.

**Site Category** D

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<b>PRN</b>	40386	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33814689
<b>Site Type</b>	Cottage	<b>Period</b>	Post medieval		

**Description**

The site of a cottage has been identified from the original surveyors drawings of 1811. Subsequent mapping evidence does not identify any structures or enclosures in this location and no visible traces were identified during the farm visit.

**Recommendations**

Although there may be no visible trace of any building, there may well be sensitive archaeological deposits which survive below ground level. It is therefore recommended that no ground intrusive work is carried out in this area.

**Site Category** D

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<b>PRN</b>	44581	<b>Site</b>	Gwernant	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33634613
		<b>Name</b>	Home Farm		
<b>Site Type</b>	Cart shed	<b>Period</b>	Post medieval	<b>Site status</b>	LB2

### **Description**

The following description is taken from the listed building description, Cadw 1963; Probably 18th century, colour-washed stone with slated roof. Plain stone pillars in front. Group value. (Cadw 1963)

The cart shed does not appear on the Tithe map of 1837 suggesting that it may have been a later addition to the farmyard. Nevertheless it contributes to the historic farmyard complex, which is recognised by its status as a listed building. The cart shed is currently in use as a store and workshop. It is in good structural condition although some ivy is beginning to encroach up the east corner (plate 4). The roof has recently been renewed in clay tile.

### **Recommendations**

The cart shed should continue to be maintained in a stable and watertight condition using traditional materials. The ivy, which is beginning to grow over the east corner, should be cut and allowed to die before removal.

**Site Category** B

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Plate 3 – the ruined Plas Gwernant (PRN 17398) showing the surviving north east wing.



Plate 4 – the cart shed (PRN 44581) located to the west of the main farm buildings.

<b>PRN</b>	44582	<b>Site Name</b>	Gwernant	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33274594
<b>Site Type</b>	Parkland	<b>Period</b>	Post medieval		

### **Description**

The original surveyors drawings indicate that the parkland associated with Plas Gwernant mansion extended either side of the mansion and to the south east, up the valley. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps indicate the extent of the parkland, and this is identified on the attached map. It has been recorded that John Lloyd-Williams, who spent much of his working life in India, arranged the parkland trees to represent the positions of troops during an Indian campaign (Jones, 2000, p142).

The map evidence suggests that the parkland consisted of open park to the north west with isolated specimen trees, some of which still survive. The front of the house (the south east) elevation appeared to face an elliptical open park, flanked by woodland on all sides. There is still evident the ornamental tree specimens surviving in the existing woodland.

### **Recommendations**

The park and associated woodland should be carefully managed to retain the parkland character. Should any further tree planting be undertaken to recreate the parkland landscape the 19th century Ordnance Survey mapping would be a useful tool to locate the accurate positions of parkland trees. Should restoration of the parkland/garden features be undertaken it is recommended that advice is sought from a historic gardens specialist.

**Site Category** B

<b>PRN</b>	44583	<b>Site Name</b>	Gwernant	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33924518
<b>Site Type</b>	Dam	<b>Period</b>	Post medieval		

### **Description**

In the valley above Gwernant Home Farm a watercourse issues which runs down through the deserted settlement of Nant y Gwernant. At the head of the watercourse a massive dam has been constructed. It is approximately 40 metres across with a concave face to the south east. The dam wall is constructed in rubble stone walling and is approximately 8-10 metres on the down slope side. The holding pond is approximately 60 metres long by 40 metres wide and is largely dry. A central vertical channel in the dam provides a for a paddle sluice.

Mature trees have now become established within the dam, and to the west part of the dam facing has collapsed.

### **Recommendations**

This impressive stone structure would appear to have been constructed to provide a constant

water supply for the Gwernant Estate. The condition of the structure is beginning to deteriorate and urgent works are required to remove the intrusive vegetation, this should be cut back and allowed to die. The masonry should then be repaired and consolidated. Care should be taken to control the vegetation, and where it has become embedded in the masonry it may better to treat the roots to prevent any grow back.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	44584	<b>Site Name</b>	Gwernant	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33874590
<b>Site Type</b>	Dam	<b>Period</b>	Post medieval		

#### **Description**

A second smaller dam is situated further down the watercourse. This is also constructed in rubble stone; its pond to the south east is partially cut into the natural bedrock to the west. The dam is approximately 18 metres wide and 3 metres high. At the higher end of the pond is a stone cistern approximately 1.2 metres square.

The dam is currently structurally intact although the dam face is bulging to the east and there is some collapse around a tree growing within the stone facing. The greatest threat is the intrusive vegetation, which has become established within the masonry.

#### **Recommendations**

The condition of the structure is beginning to deteriorate and works are required to remove the intrusive vegetation, this should be cut back and allowed to die. The masonry should then be repaired and consolidated. Care should be taken to control the vegetation, and where it has become embedded in the masonry it may better to treat the roots to prevent any grow back.

**Site Category** C

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Plate 5 – the south east face of the dam (PRN 44583), showing collapse at the west side.



Plate 6 – showing the holding pond and dam (PRN 44584) above Gwernant Home Farm.

<b>PRN</b>	44585	<b>Site Name</b>	Gwernant	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33194583
<b>Site Type</b>	Tank/Cistern	<b>Period</b>	Post medieval / Modern		

**Description**

Immediately below the dam (PRN 44585) is a stone tank. It is constructed with rubble stone walls approximately 0.5 metres wide and lined with cement. The remains of a pitched corrugated iron roof have collapsed on top of the structure and the tank is largely silted up. The structure is approximately 2.80 x 5 metres and has a cast iron pipe emerging from the dam to a valve within the tank.

**Recommendations**

This cistern or tank should be retained and kept clear of intrusive vegetation.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	44586	<b>Site Name</b>	Gwernant	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33684569 SN33854553
<b>Site Type</b>	Slate boundary	<b>Period</b>	Post medieval		

### Description

The remains of a slate boundary can still be seen in the existing field boundary to the south of Plas Gwernant. The stone bank is approximately 1.80 metre wide and 1.20 metre high and has been constructed with rubble stone walling and faced with vertical slate slabs (plate 7). The hedgerow lining the top of the bank has largely grown out and in some areas the banks have eroded.

Elsewhere the banks have become engulfed in brambles.

The original surveyors drawings of 1811 identify this boundary as the extent of the original parkland.

### Recommendations

It would appear that this finely constructed stone bank is a relic of the earlier parkland and should be retained and maintained in a stable condition as far as possible. Encroaching brambles should be cleared to expose this feature. The re-instatement of the hedge may prevent animals from climbing on the bank and contributing to the erosion.

**Site Category** C



Plate 7 – the remains of a slate boundary bank (PRN 44586) which may have defined the extent of the parkland.

<b>PRN</b>	44587	<b>Site Name</b>	Gwernant Home Farm	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33644609
<b>Site Type</b>	Barn	<b>Period</b>	Modern		

### Description

To the south east of the courtyard of farm buildings (PRN 6619) is a large round topped barn, with two large outshoots to either side. It is covered with corrugated iron and appears to be in good condition.

### Recommendations

This barn should be retained as existing.

**Site Category** C

<b>PRN</b>	44588	<b>Site Name</b>	Nant y Gwernant	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33734617
<b>Site Type</b>	Deserted Settlement	<b>Period</b>	Post medieval		

### Description

A small settlement of approximately 8 dwellings (of which the derelict cottage PRN 9883 and smithy PRN 44589 forms part) existed to the east of Gwernant Home Farm (see frontispiece). The Lloyd-Williams family apparently built the cottages for estate workers (Jones, 2002, p143). The settlement is identified on the original surveyors drawings of 1811 although the number of cottages is not defined. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map (1906) show that the cottages survived until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This edition shows a continuous terrace of cottages on the east side of the stream and three separate structures to the west. The map shows gardens extending up the valley sides.

Today the only obvious upstanding remains are those of the cottage PRN 9883. However although the ground is overgrown there are traces of the garden walls, which survive at a low level. The plots to the east of the stream appear to be approximately 18 metres wide. The area is covered with sparse woodland and a dense layer of low brambles.

### Recommendations

The area once occupied by the settlement of Nant y Gwernant would seem to offer a good opportunity for educational or public access. The settlement is situated beside the road and is easily accessible to the public, which could perhaps be enhanced by the addition of an interpretation panel.

Sensitive archaeological deposits undoubtedly survive in this area, therefore no ground intrusive activities should take place within this area (see attached map). The area would also benefit from vegetation control to enhance the visibility of the area.

**Site Category** D

<b>PRN</b>	44589	<b>Site Name</b>	Nant y Gwernant	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33714620
<b>Site Type</b>	Smithy	<b>Period</b>	Post medieval		

### **Description**

The remains of a building occupy the roadside opposite the settlement of Nant y Gwernant. Masonry remains just within the adjacent field may be the vestiges of this structure. An old photograph of Nant y Gwernant (see frontispiece) clearly shows the building although little detail can be ascertained. The owner recalls it was a blacksmiths shop.

### **Recommendations**

To protect any buried archaeological remains, ground intrusive works should be avoided in this area.

**Site Category** D

<b>PRN</b>	44590	<b>Site Name</b>	Gwernant	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33654629
<b>Site Type</b>	Walled Garden	<b>Period</b>	Post medieval		

### **Description**

A walled garden survives in the field to the north of the settlement of Nant y Gwernant. The garden is rectangular, orientated east-west, with a possible entrance gateway in the west end and a small doorway in the south wall. It is constructed with a rubble stone wall and at its full height stands to approximately 4 metres and is capped with slabs offset. At the south east corner a small rectangular building is built against the external wall. This has a fireplace at either end and the remains of a stone stair rising in the centre. A window and a doorway open on to the garden and an external doorway is positioned in the south end.

Some sections of the garden wall survive intact and others have completely collapsed. Ivy is engulfing the east end and in places trees have begun to grow close to, or within the masonry (plate 8).

### **Recommendations**

In order to prevent the further decay of this significant structure, it is important that the vegetation is brought under control. This will involve cutting vegetation and allowing it to die, and the roots may need to be treated to prevent regrowth. Any removal of the vegetation should be undertaken with care and in conjunction with the consolidation of the masonry.

**Site Category** C





Plate 8 – the north wall of the walled garden (PRN 44590), which survives to its full height at the east end.

<b>PRN</b>	44591	<b>Site Name</b>	Gwernant	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33674629
<b>Site Type</b>	Enclosure	<b>Period</b>	Post medieval		

### Description

The enclosure in which the walled garden is located also contains the potential for a number of other historical remains. On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps (1891 and 1906) at least two other buildings are indicated to the south of the walled garden. Today there are no visible remains of these structures. The stream, which runs into the field on the south side, has been channelled towards the west side of the walled garden, and is culverted under the garden.

### Recommendations

There would appear to be the potential for various archaeological deposits with in this area. It is therefore recommended that no ground intrusive work is undertaken with in this area.

**Site Category** D

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<b>PRN</b>	44592	<b>Site Name</b>	Gwernant-isaf	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33464663
<b>Site Type</b>	Farmhouse	<b>Period</b>	Post medieval		

### Description

The remains of a former farmhouse have been modified for use as a barn. The building is constructed in roughly coursed rubble stone with offset quoins. Only the northern half of the building is roofed with a single pitch corrugated iron sheeting. Although it has been considerably modified a number of historic features survive, including a bread oven in the south east corner, the corbelling for a stone stair and ground and 1<sup>st</sup> floor fireplaces in the west wall. Some of the corrugated iron roofing sheets have become displaced at the west end, and vegetation is becoming established within the masonry (plate 9).

### Recommendations

This structure, although heavily modified for agricultural use, retains some interesting features relating to its earlier use as a dwelling. It should therefore be retained and maintained to prevent any further loss of the historic fabric. This will involve the repair of the roof, the control of intrusive vegetation and some consolidation of the masonry. In the event that further fabric of the building will be lost through decay, archaeological advice should be sought.

**Site Category** C



Plate 9 – the remains of the former farmhouse (PRN 44592) at Gwernant-isaf

<b>PRN</b>	44593	<b>Site Name</b>	Gwernant?	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33444690
<b>Site Type</b>	Mansion?	<b>Period</b>	Post medieval?		

### Description

The owners have identified a site to the north of the farm of Gwernant-isaf, which they believe is the site of a 17<sup>th</sup> century mansion house, possibly the predecessor to Plas Gwernant. The owners have ploughed this site in the past and have noted a large area of stonework with dressed pieces of stone.

Although there are no upstanding remains visible, there does appear to be a flat area, approximately 30 metres square, which is slightly raised above ground surface.

### Recommendations

This field is currently under pasture, a management regime that presents no threat to the archaeological deposits which may survive here. In order to protect sensitive archaeological remains, it is recommended that no ground intrusive activities are carried out in this area.

**Site Category** D

<b>PRN</b>	44594	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33644674
<b>Site Type</b>	Earthworks?	<b>Period</b>	Unknown		

### Description

In the fields to the south and south east of the supposed mansion site (PRN 44593), are various earthworks of an amorphous nature. The earthworks consist of banks approximately 0.5 metre high in the field to the east. To the west is a wide gully, approximately 5 metres wide and up to a metre in depth. It is possible that these earthworks may be landscape features associated with the site of the former mansion (PRN 44593). However, within the remit of this brief visit it was difficult to make assessment of their form and it is possible that they may be natural features such as relic water channels.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that these features are retained undisturbed. These fields are currently under pasture, a management regime that presents no threat to the possible archaeological deposits which may survive here. In order to protect these features, it is recommended that no ground intrusive activities are carried out in this area.

**Site Category** D



<b>PRN</b>	44595	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33494690
<b>Site Type</b>	Culvert	<b>Period</b>	Post medieval		

**Description**

A small stone arched culvert, approximately 0.30 metre wide and of unknown depth, is visible in the hedge line.

**Recommendations**

This small culvert should be retained and kept clear from debris and vegetation.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	44596	<b>Site Name</b>	Gwernant	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33474647 SN33634659
<b>Site Type</b>	Track way	<b>Period</b>	Post medieval		

### Description

An impressive track way with stone banks to either side (plate 10), leads from the road down to Gwernant-isaf where it dog-legs to the east and north. The northerly end has now become overgrown and impenetrable. The southern end, which leads from the road to Gwernant-isaf, is approximately 7-8 metres wide, with substantial herringbone patterned stone banks to either side. The tops of the banks are lined with mature trees, which appear to have grown out from a laid hedge.

### Recommendations

This track should be maintained. Care should be taken to prevent damage through tree fall as the mature trees may be blown over.

**Site Category** C



Plate 10 – the track way (PRN 44596) leading from the road to Gwernant-isaf

<b>PRN</b>	44597	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33364645
<b>Site Type</b>	Clay pit	<b>Period</b>	Post medieval		

#### **Description**

The owners of Gwernant Home Farm have identified the site of an old clay pit. A spinney of trees now occupies the site.

#### **Recommendations**

No specific management recommendations; maintain as existing.

**Site Category** C

<b>PRN</b>	44598	<b>Site Name</b>	Iet-goch	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN33504634
<b>Site Type</b>	Cottage site?	<b>Period</b>	Post medieval		

#### **Description**

A dwelling called Iet-goch is identified on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps (1891 and 1906). Today only a fragment of stone bank with a mature hedgerow tree on top survives.

#### **Recommendations**

Although there may be no visible trace of any building, there may well be sensitive archaeological deposits which survive below ground level. It is therefore recommended that no ground intrusive work is carried out in this area.

**Site Category** D

## **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.

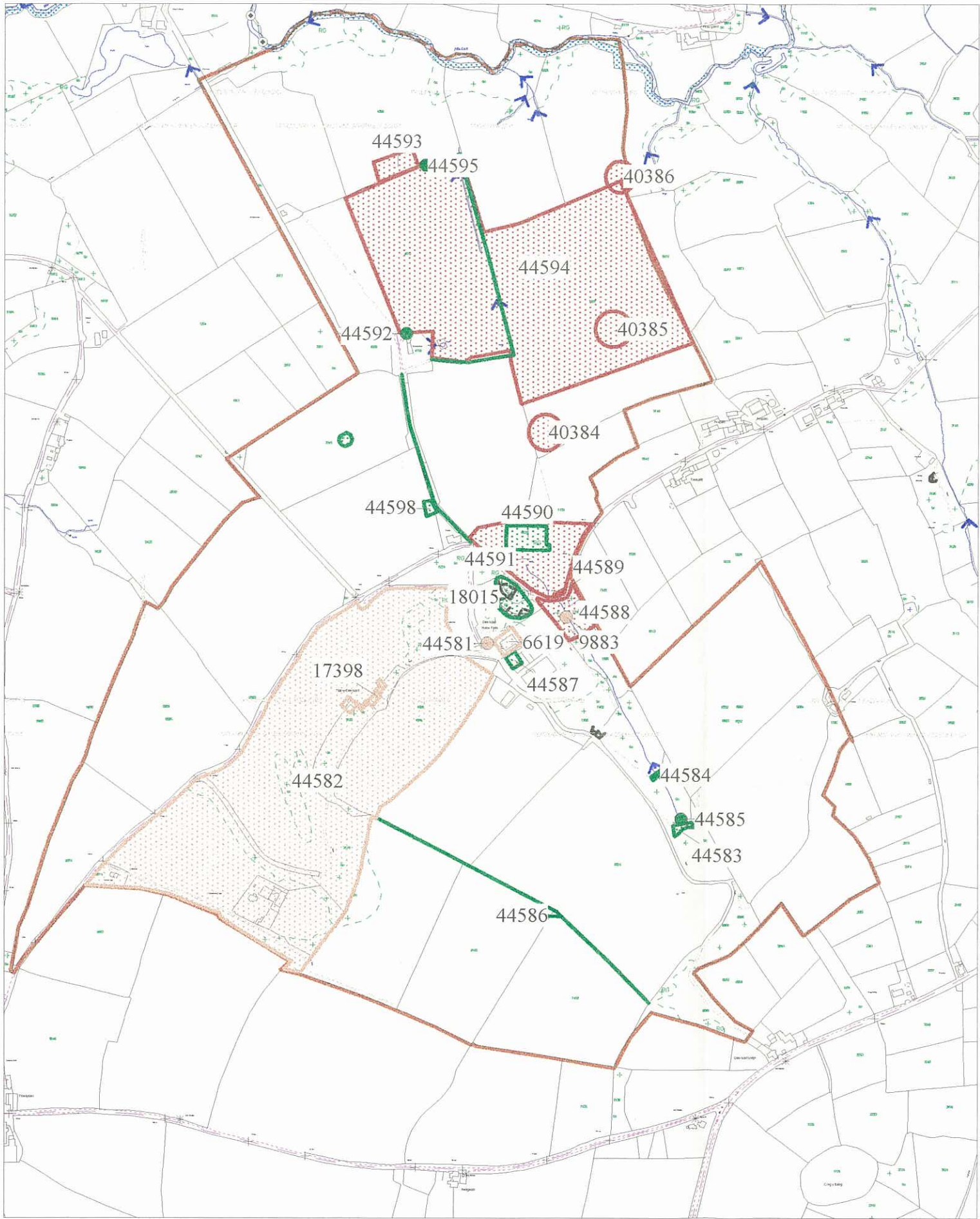
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Gwernant Home Farm  
Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation  
Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/11/1595  
Cambria Archaeology Reference Number 41703  
National Grid Reference SN33644613  
Scale 1:8000



**Key**

— Farm Boundary

— Historic Landscape Character Area

**Site Category A - National Importance**

● Scheduled Ancient Monuments  
Grade 1 and Grade 2\* Listed Buildings

● Sites and Buildings of National  
Importance without a statutory  
designation

Registered Parks and Gardens of  
Historic Interest

Registered Landscapes of Historic  
Interest

**Site Category B - Regional Importance**

● Sites and Buildings of Regional  
Importance including Grade 2  
listed buildings

**Site Category C - Local Importance**

● Sites and buildings of Local  
Importance

**Site Category D - Unknown Importance**

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

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**Gwernant Home Farm  
W/11/1595**

**REPORT NUMBER 2002/33**

**14<sup>th</sup> March 2002**

This report has been prepared by Alice Pyper

Position: Archaeologist (Tir Gofal )

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 Louise Austin Date 23/05/02

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may have  
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