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**TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN:
HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION**

(Call Out)

**Prepared for:
Llwyncolfa Coed**



**Tir Gofal Reference No:
W/11/1945**

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41710**

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Call Out Visit

A visit was undertaken at the request of the Tir Gofal Project Officer to address specific issues at Llwyncolfa farmstead.

Description

A call out visit was undertaken on two occasions. A site meeting took place on the 5th September 2007 with the Tir Gofal Project Officer, Cambria Archaeology Tir Gofal Archaeologist and the landowner in order to assess the condition of and works to buildings within the farmstead. Of primary concern was the structural stability of a clom (earth) wall. In the light of these discussions it was resolved that the clom wall would have to be taken down due to its structural instability. A further call out visit was also carried on the 19th October 2007 out to record the clom wall and observe its dismantling in order to further record its structural make up.

Farmstead

The farmstead comprises the farmhouse, a substantial detached double fronted building built in the Georgian tradition of stone construction, slate roof and original sliding sash windows with margin lights. Externally its original features are intact and would appear to correspond with the datestone over the front door of 1897. The farmhouse lies at the top of the farmstead overlooking the farmyard. A long combination farm building lies down-the-slope, including at the upper end a stable with lofted granary above and beyond a one-storey cow shed.



The stable with granary above.

The farmstead retains the character of a historic working farm. All the farm buildings except the farm house are likely to date from the 19th century and are certainly recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1890. Modifications taking place

in the 19th and 20th centuries have not had a significantly detrimental impact and instead demonstrate the changing nature of the farming economy over the past century. The sympathetic management of the buildings maintains the historic integrity; including the consistent use of red oxide coloured paintwork on the joinery, including all doors, windows and rainwater goods.

Recommendations for building restoration

Opportunities for restoration of the buildings within the farmstead should be welcomed. In particular the stable and granary roof would benefit from repairs in order to maintain the building in a sound and weatherproof condition. The following guidelines should be observed in any restoration works:

- Any repairs should retain as much of the original material as possible.
- Where replacement is unavoidable materials should be used which match the original as closely as possible.
- Particular attention should be given to replicate the original slates in size and colour and the coursing technique.

Stable / Granary

The stable with granary above is built in local random rubble stone with large stone quoins. External stone steps at the gable end provide access to the granary above. The internal arrangement of stalls and loose boxes have been removed, however the order of openings in the front southwestern wall suggest that a loose box lay at the north end of the building with stalls arranged along the rear wall below.

Cow Shed

The cow shed is a simple single storey long range with two modern lean-tos on the front wall incorporating a dairy unit. Although somewhat modified in the 20th century, with the internal stalls reordered to incorporate a long feed passage against the rear wall, the cow shed retains much of its historic character.



The cow shed has been added to in the 20th century to accommodate milking equipment

Cart Shed

A detached building, at the foot of the farmstead and adjacent to the public road, is a small cart shed. This building is constructed of a mixture of building materials, largely stone and slate, with brick used for dressings and most significantly clom or earth makes up the pine end of the building. This would appear to be a relic survival of a building material which was more widely used on the farmstead. The landowner, whose family have been living on the farm since the 19th century recalls how buildings of clom in previous generations have been replaced gradually by stone. Unfortunately when the clom wall was observed in September 2007, it was so significantly eroded at its base it was deemed to be potentially dangerous and irreparable. It was therefore considered that a record should be made prior to its removal.



The cart shed lies at the bottom of the farmstead

The cart shed is a single storey building with two double cart entrances offset to the northern end of the southwest facing wall, with an adjacent window at the southern end. Within the apex of the northern gable end is a single opening. The cart shed has been extended to the northeast with a stone and brick built corrugated iron roofed lean-to. The original northeastern wall has been removed and its load bearing role replaced by two wooden posts supporting the roof. Brick has been used extensively in the construction of this building, largely around the openings and for other dressings and also substantially in the construction of the lean- to walls. The roof trusses are of simple A-frame type.

Clom walling

The clom wall is built upon a stone plinth c0.4m high. The wall has a section of 0.5m at its widest, but the lower section has been severely eroded away by stock rubbing against the building. Within the clom walling there are significant horizontal building lifts visible, with sections of mud laid down between 0.4 - 0.5m high indicating the

construction sequence. These lifts are clearly visible as differential colours of mud, suggesting different mixes of material for each construction episode.



The clom walling demonstrates the constructional sequence, with horizontal building 'lifts' clearly visible

The composition of the clom is largely clay with a substantial quantity of organic matter, including chopped straw and leaves, this became apparent as the wall was dismantled, as the organic remains had obviously decomposed and eroded in the external surface of the wall, however within the matrix of the walling organic matter still survives. Forty litres of earth walling were collected for further analysis of its composition. Fine shale stone was also a substantial component of the matrix, comprising up to 40% of the walling material. The shale was no larger than 14cm in size and very angular. Little river worn gravel was apparent within the walling.

At the time of demolition a record was made comprising:

- a sketch elevation, showing dimensions and building lifts,
- high quality digital photographs
- a sample of 40 litres of clom was collected

A copy of this report along with the archival material will be stored in Cambria Archaeology's archive store.