

Nanthenfoel W/11/2129

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



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NANTHENFOEL
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 Nanthenfoel (PRN 44561) is a single large holding consisting of 178 hectares of land on the south west side of Creuddyn Bridge. The Williams family has owned it since 1945, when Mr. Chris Williams grandfather bought the property. The family shows a great interest in the historic aspects of the farm and have identified some previously unrecorded sites.

The countryside is gently undulating with exposed hilltops reaching 260 metres above Ordnance Datum. In exposed areas the Williams family have planted conifer shelter belts to provide protection for the farm animals. The farm boundaries are generally earth banks with hedges on top. The hedges vary in extent; in places they are trimmed and maintained, elsewhere they have grown out into mature trees. Currently the field pattern is formed by medium sized fields largely of a regular shape, particularly on the higher ground which appears to have been enclosed at a later date. The field boundaries shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 are still visible although some are no longer stock proof.

Historically the land is listed as forming part of the grange of Hafodwen in the Tithe map and apportionment of 1843. At this time the Earl Vaughan Lisburne of Crosswood owned the holding which was composed of the four settlements of Nanthenfoel, Nanthenfoelfach, Penlan and Pant y Ginbach (?). At this time the Tithe map indicates that the higher ground appeared to be unenclosed. The 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1891 and 1906 indicate the general decline of these peripheral settlements, the later map shows that only Nanthenfoel farmstead and Bryn-glâs (PRN 44569) were occupied at this time. At least two further enclosures, which may be former settlements, have been recorded during this visit, which are not identified on the historic maps (PRN 44570 and 44573).

Nanthenfoel farmstead consists of a range of buildings arranged around a square yard with the farmhouse occupying the upper, north west end of the farm yard. The two historic farm buildings (PRNs 44562 and 44563) oppose each other on either side of the farmyard. Formally a small boiler house was situated at the lower, south east end now occupied by a corrugated asbestos shed. To the north of the farmyard various large modern agricultural buildings have been erected.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Nanthenfoel farmstead has a rich archaeological resource consisting of at least five definite deserted settlements with a further two potential settlement sites. The visible remains of enclosures indicate the changing pattern of settlements within the landscape since the 19th century, which is also demonstrated by the historic map evidence.

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

PRN 44563 – Former Cow Shed

The roof of the cow shed requires repairs in some areas where roofing slates have slipped and the masonry to the north east side also requires consolidation. All repairs and further maintenance should be carried out using traditional materials.

PRN 44564 – Former Cow Shed

The roof of the former cow shed should be repaired and made watertight.

PRN 44565 – Former Cart Shed

Ideally the gable wall should be retained as a visible historic feature. This would require works to stabilize the structure. However, in the event that no funding is available to consolidate the structure and it becomes unsafe then an archaeological record should be made in advance of any demolition work.

PRN 44566 – Wheel Pit

The intrusive vegetation, which is becoming established within the wheel pit, should be cut back and allowed to die before removal. The masonry should then be consolidated.

GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN	18696	Site Name	Pont-Rhyd-y-gof	Grid Reference	SN54905283
Site Type	Bridge	Period	Post Medieval / Modern		

Description

The bridge has been recently modified on the south west side of the A 482 from Lampeter to Aberaeron. The embankment to the north has been strengthened and the watercourse channelled into a corrugated iron culvert. The south west side has been fenced in and planted with conifers. No remains of an earlier masonry structure were observed on this side, unlike the north east side which still retains a masonry parapet.

Recommendations

The culvert is currently in a stable condition. However, should any further works be planned on the bridge then archaeological advice should be sought prior to work being undertaken.

Site Category C

PRN	44562	Site Name	Nanthenfoel	Grid Reference	SN54555175
Site Type	Barn	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

To the south side of the farmyard is a barn approximately 20 metres long by 6 metres wide, orientated on a north west by south east axis (plate 1). The barn is constructed from slate rubble roughly coursed and bonded with a lime mortar mix. The north east elevation has a large double doorway inserted in the centre and to the north of this entrance it has largely been rebuilt in breeze block. The roof was originally a pitched slate roof which apparently collapsed and was subsequently replaced with a round topped corrugated iron roof. An original opening survives in the form of a ventilation slit in the south east gable wall. A doorway is positioned in the north west facing gable to provide access to a first floor granary. Along the south west side of the barn is a stone lined wheel pit (PRN 44566), however no associated machinery survives. The barn is currently in a stable and watertight condition.

Recommendations

The barn should continue to be maintained in a stable condition using tradition materials and preserving the historic fabric as far as possible.

Site Category C



Plate 1 – the north elevation of barn (PRN 44562).

PRN 44563 **Site Name** Nanthenfoel **Grid Reference** SN54545176

Site Type Cow Shed **Period** Post Medieval

Description

To the north of the farm yard, parallel to the barn (PRN 44562) is a cow shed (plate 2). The basic building construction is similar to that of the barn, i.e. slate rubble roughly coursed. The cow shed has subsequently been altered to accommodate machinery. Consequently the south east elevation has largely been removed and steel struts and an RSJ now support the roof. The roof is pitched, covered with slate and is hipped at the south east end. At the north east end is a first floor granary accessed by a door in the gable end. The north east elevation has a two doorways and a small square opening at the north end presumably lighting the ground floor room. For the most part the building is in a stable condition, although some roof slates have slipped on the north east side and some areas of masonry are beginning to collapse.

Recommendations

The roof of the cow shed requires repairs in some areas where roofing slates have slipped and the masonry to the north east side also requires consolidation. All repairs and further maintenance should be carried out using traditional materials.

Site Category C



Plate 2 – the former cow shed (PRN 44563), now converted into a machine store.

PRN	44564	Site Name	Nanthenfoel	Grid Reference	SN54535177
Site Type	Cow shed	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

To the north east of the farmhouse, and parallel to it is a former cow shed (plate 3). The building is constructed in slate rubble roughly coursed and rendered over. The north west facing wall has been removed to convert it into a garage. The roof is pitched slate to the north west and square sectioned corrugated iron to the south east. The south east elevation has two original doorways at either end. At the north end the doorway was presumably reached by shallow steps which have now been removed. At the north end of the north west elevation a brick built dairy and an engine room has been constructed. The former cow shed is in reasonable condition, although some roof slates are missing to the north west.

Recommendations

The roof of the former cow shed should be repaired and made watertight.

Site Category C



Plate 3 – the south east facing elevation of the cow shed (PRN 44564).

PRN	44565	Site Name	Nanthenfoel	Grid Reference	SN54525177
Site Type	Cart shed	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The north west gable end of a cart shed still survives to the rear of the farmhouse (plate 4). Mr. Williams removed this building some time in the 1970's. Apparently it originally butted up to the farmhouse. The gable survives to its full height and is of similar construction to the other farm buildings. The gable has no foundations and the ground level to the south east has been reduced, consequently the underlying soil is eroding and undermining the masonry.

Recommendations

Ideally the gable wall should be retained as a visible historic feature. This would require works to stabilize the structure. However, in the event that no funding is available to consolidate the structure and it becomes unsafe then an archaeological record should be made in advance of any demolition work.

Site Category C



Plate 4 – the surviving north west gable end of a cart shed (PRN 44565).

PRN 44566 **Site Name** Nanthenfoel **Grid Reference** SN54545172

Site Type Wheel pit **Period** Post Medieval

Description

To the south west of the barn (PRN 44562) are the remains of a stone lined wheel pit 1 metre wide and 0.8 metres deep (plate 5). The pit is constructed out of slate rubble with massive slate slabs set on either side. Timbers to the north east side are all that remains of the wheel and the associated gearing. Mr. Williams remembers using the water wheel on one or two occasions with little success. Apparently the quantity of water which could be collected in the holding pond was insufficient to drive the water wheel. The wheel pit survives intact although quite silted up and overgrown with young saplings which are becoming established within the masonry.

Recommendations

The intrusive vegetation, which is becoming established within the wheel pit, should be cut back and allowed to die before removal. The masonry should then be consolidated.

Site Category C



Plate 5 – the stone lined wheel pit (PRN 44566) to the south west of barn (PRN 44562).

PRN	44567	Site Name	Nanthenfoel	Grid Reference	SN54495179; SN54835183; SN54505173
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Site Type	Leat	Period	Post Medieval
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Description

The route of this leat is shown on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1891 and 1906, and it can still be clearly identified on the ground running along the fence line of the field to the north west of the farmhouse (plate 6). It survives as a depression approximately 0.4 metres deep and between 1.5 and 2 metres wide.

Recommendations

This water leat should be retained as a visible historic landscape feature.

Site Category C



Plate 6 – the water leat (PRN 44567) running south from the holding pond (PRN 44568).

PRN	44568	Site Name	Nanthenfoel	Grid Reference	SN54475188
Site Type	Holding pond	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The holding pond, which supplied the water wheel (PRN 44566) at the farmstead, is first recorded on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1891 and 1906. The pond survives although largely silted up. A masonry sluice is visible at the southern end. The pond has been incorporated into an enclosure which has been planted with mixture of broad leaved and fir trees.

Recommendations

The holding pond is currently in a stable condition although somewhat silted up. The woodland which now surrounds it should be managed to prevent the area becoming overgrown.

Site Category C

PRN	44569	Site Name	Bryn-glâs Ben nebo	Grid Reference	SN54035272
Site Type	Settlement	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The Tithe map of 1843 indicates a small enclosure and a building on a north east to south west axis. On the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1891 and 1906, an enclosure is shown, with a rectangular building positioned along the south east edge identified as Bryn-glâs. The Williams record that this dwelling was known as Ben nebo.

Currently there are no visible remains of any buildings which would appear to have been dismantled and ploughed flat (plate 7). Three sides of the enclosure survive as low earth banks no greater than 0.4 metres high and with overgrown hedgerow trees upon them.

Recommendations

Although there are no visible remains of the buildings associated with the settlement of Bryn-glâs/Ben nebo there may well be sensitive archaeological remains surviving below ground level. It is therefore advised that no further ground disturbing activities take place in this area.

Site Category C

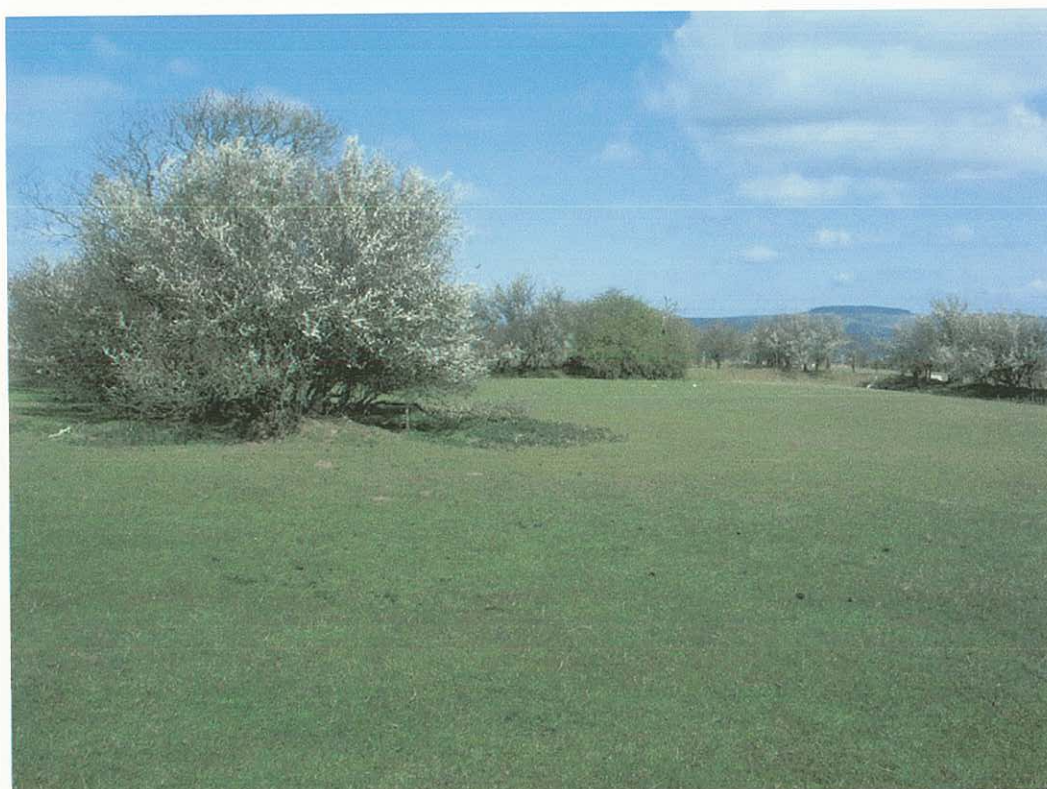


Plate 7 – the enclosure banks are the only visible remains of the settlement of Bryn-glâs (PRN 44569).

PRN	44570	Site Name	Grid Reference SN53615254
Site Type	Settlement	Period	Post Medieval

Description

This enclosure is not identified on the Tithe map of 1843 and is only shown on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1891 and 1906 as a three sided enclosure at the north end of the field boundary. Three sides of the enclosure survive as low earth banks no greater than 0.4 metres high and 2 metres across with overgrown hedgerow trees upon them (plate 8). The interior of the enclosure is very overgrown with thorn trees and the ground surface eroded by sheep that use the enclosure for shelter.

Recommendations

There may well be sensitive archaeological remains surviving below ground level within this enclosure. It is therefore advised that no ground disturbing activities take place in this area. It is also recommended that the dense scrub is thinned out to enhance the visibility of the site.

Site Category C



Plate 8 – the remains of the enclosure (PRN 44570) from the west side.

PRN	44571	Site Name	PantyGinbach(?)	Grid Reference	SN54955276
Site Type	Settlement	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A square enclosure is identified on the Tithe map of 1843 with a building fronting the road. The Tithe apportionment lists the property as owned by the Earl Vaughan Lisburne of Crosswood and occupied by Thomas Jones. The 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1891 and 1906 show the enclosures but the buildings appear to be no longer occupied. Today this area is rough ground and the enclosures are no longer visible on the ground surface. The only surviving indication of these enclosures is a fragmentary length of a stone bank with overgrown hedgerow trees on top positioned at right angles to the road.

Recommendations

Although there are few visible remains of this settlement there may well be sensitive archaeological remains surviving below ground level. It is therefore advised that no ground disturbing activities take place in this area.

Site Category C

PRN	44572	Site Name	Penlan	Grid Reference	SN55115209
Site Type	Settlement	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A rectangular enclosure and a building within it is identified on the Tithe map of 1843. It is listed as part of Nanthenfoel and occupied by John Enoch. The enclosure is recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 although its name is not recorded, suggesting it may well have been abandoned by this time. When the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map was published in 1906 there is no indication of the enclosure at all. Today there is little visible sign of the enclosure or building which once occupied this site. A slight rectangular depression in the ground level (approximately 15 x 8 metres) may indicate the position of a building or enclosure.

Recommendations

Although there are few visible remains of this settlement there may well be sensitive archaeological remains surviving below ground level. It is therefore advised that no ground disturbing activities take place in this area.

Site Category C

PRN	44573	Site Name		Grid Reference	SN54215203
Site Type	Enclosure	Period	Post Medieval?		

Description

A rectangular enclosure is situated to the north east side of an existing field boundary. This enclosure is not recorded on any of the early maps, suggesting that it pre-dates them. The enclosure is defined by low earth banks approximately 2.4 metres across and 0.3 metres high (plate 9). The interior of the enclosure has some raised areas which may indicate the position of buildings or other structures. This may have been a small settlement site of a similar nature to other settlements identified on the farm holding.

The enclosure is partially covered with gorse, but otherwise appears to be in a stable condition.

Recommendations

There may well be sensitive archaeological remains surviving below ground level within and adjacent to this enclosure. It is therefore advised that no ground disturbing activities take place in this area. The gorse which is encroaching on the north corner of the enclosure should be monitored and cut back if it becomes invasive.

Site Category C



Plate 9 – the remains of an enclosure (PRN 44573) looking north.

PRN 44574 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN55005222

Site Type Quarry **Period** Post Medieval

Description

An old quarry is situated adjacent to a relic field boundary. The quarry is approximately 9 metres in diameter with a slight spoil tip to the down slope (north east) side. Apart from being slightly overgrown with gorse this feature is otherwise stable.

Recommendations

This quarry should be retained as a visible landscape feature.

Site Category C

PRN 44575 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN54215186

Site Type Quarry **Period** Post Medieval

Description

This quarry is first recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 as an 'old quarry'. Today the quarry has been completely filled in and the ground surface is levelled off.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations.

Site Category C

PRN	44576	Site Name	Nanthen-foelfach	Grid Reference	SN54825181
Site Type	Settlement	Period	Post Med		

Description

Two enclosures and a building are identified on the Tithe map of 1843 as Nanthenfoelfach. The apportionment records that it was occupied by Evan Richards who was also tenant of the farmstead of Nanthenfoel. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 still identifies the settlement with one long rectangular building on an east – west axis and possibly two small minor buildings to the east. By the time the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map was produced in 1906 the settlement has been abandoned and only the bare outline of the enclosure remains.

Currently there is little visible evidence to suggest that a settlement was located in this area. A possible level area to the west of the surviving hedge line would indicate the position of the building recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. To the east of the hedge line other levelled areas and the fragmentary remains of a boundary bank may suggest the outline of various enclosures or yards (plate 10).

Recommendations

Although there are few visible remains of the settlement of Nanthenfoelfach there may well be sensitive archaeological remains surviving below ground level. It is therefore advised that no ground disturbing activities take place in this area.

Site Category C



Plate 10 – the site of enclosures associated with the former settlement (PRN 44576).

SITE AND AREA DESIGNATIONS

The following abbreviations are used in the gazetteer to refer to site and area status designations.

SAM.

Scheduled Ancient Monument. SAMs are notified under section 1 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The register of SAMs is maintained and administered by Cadw.

LB1, LB2* & LB2.

Listed Building categories. Listed buildings are notified under section 1 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The list is maintained and administered by Cadw.

HL - Landscapes of Exceptional and Great Historic Interest.

Defined by the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales: Part 2.1 Landscapes of Exceptional and Great Historic Interest. The register is advisory only and has no statutory powers. The register is being compiled by Cadw in partnership with the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and is concerned with historic elements of the landscape.

HGP - Register of Historic Gardens & Parks.

Defined by the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales: Part 1 - Parks & Gardens. The register is advisory only and has no statutory powers. The register is being compiled by Cadw in partnership with the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and is concerned with historic elements of the landscape.

REFERENCES

Ordnance Survey, 1811, Original Surveyors Drawings, Sheet 186

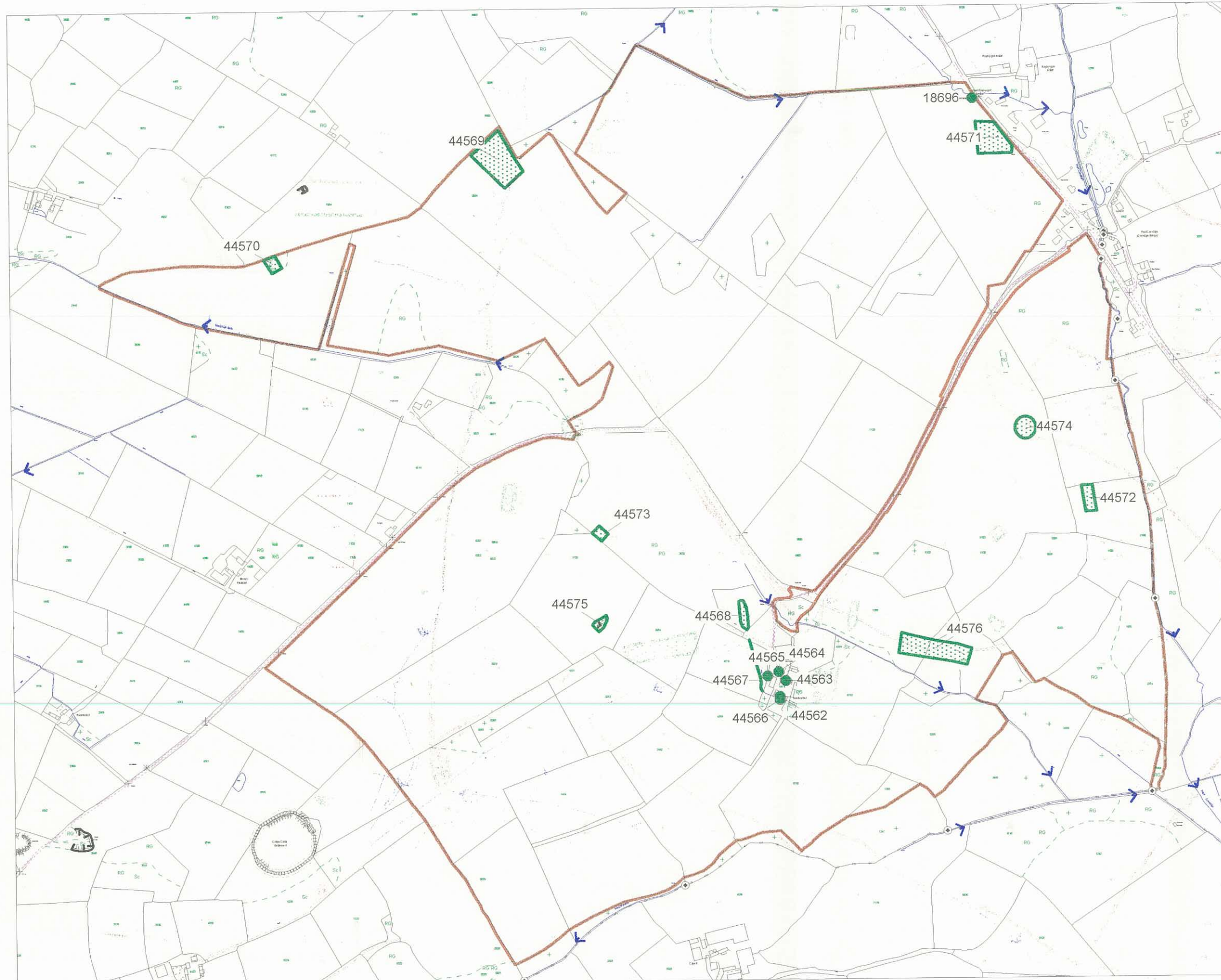
Ordnance Survey, 1834, Old Series, p58

Ordnance Survey, 1891, Cardiganshire Sheet XXXIII.NE

Ordnance Survey, 1906, Cardiganshire Sheet XXXIII.NE

Tithe Map, 1843, Tithe Map and Apportionment for the Parish of Llanfihangel Ystrad.

Nanthenfoel
 Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/11/2129
 Cambria Archaeology Reference Number 41743
 National Grid Reference SN54185180
 Scale 1:7500



- 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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REPORT NUMBER 2002/29

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Position: Tir Gofal Archaeologist

Signature Alice Pyper Date 23rd April 2002

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 30/04/02

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